



GOVERNMENT  
OF MALTA



## Circular no 9/2026

20<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# Force Majeure Policy for Erasmus+ Mobilities Related to Cyprus and the Surrounding Region

## Purpose of this Notice

This policy outlines how the National Agency will support Erasmus+ and ESC beneficiaries when travel to unsafe countries or impossible to travel due to the ongoing regional conflict. It explains what qualifies as force majeure, which costs may be considered eligible, and the obligations of beneficiaries.

## 1. Definition of Force Majeure

For Erasmus+ mobility purposes, *force majeure* refers to unforeseeable and exceptional circumstances beyond the beneficiary's control that prevent the activity from taking place as planned.

In the context of the current situation, this includes:

- Armed conflict or escalation of hostilities.
- Airspace closures, flight cancellations, or significant travel restrictions issued by authorities.
- Official travel advisories discouraging or prohibiting travel.
- Any situation posing a demonstrable risk to the safety of participants.

 The OAKS Business Centre Level 3, Farsons Street, Hamrun HMR1325

 +356 25552330  eupa@gov.mt  <https://fondi.eu/eupa/>

 EUPA Malta - Erasmus+ & European Solidarity Corps  eupa.malta



# 1. Determining Affected Countries – Reference to MFA Travel Advisories

To ensure clarity and fairness, the National Agency will follow the travel classifications issued by the **Ministry for Foreign** on:

👉 <https://consularplus.gov.mt/travel-advice?lang=en>

A country will be considered *eligible for force majeure treatment* only if the MFA classifies it under:

- **Avoid All Travel**
- **Avoid All But Essential Travel**

In these cases, beneficiaries may be fully refunded for eligible costs, subject to documentation.

Situations in which **travel to Cyprus or nearby affected areas becomes unsafe or impossible due to the ongoing regional conflict** may also be considered under force majeure.

This policy outlines the conditions under which force majeure may be applied, the costs that may be deemed eligible, and the steps beneficiaries are required to follow.

## 2. Eligible Costs Under Force Majeure

If force majeure is approved, the National Agency may consider the following costs eligible:

- Non-refundable flights or travel bookings cancelled due to the conflict.
- Additional travel costs needed to return home safely or reroute.
- Accommodation expenses resulting from unavoidable delays or early return.
- Partial grants for mobilities that begin but cannot be completed.
- Costs linked to approved alternative arrangements, such as transfers to another host country.

All claims must include supporting documentation (receipts, airline notices, travel advisories, etc.).

## 3. Obligations of Beneficiaries

To remain eligible:

- Beneficiaries must *not* travel to destinations classified as high-risk.
- They must follow all MFA travel advisories and institutional guidance.

- They must immediately inform their sending institution if travel becomes unsafe or impossible.
- All documentation linked to cancellations or changes must be kept.
- Personal safety must take precedence at all times.

Failure to follow official guidance may result in ineligible costs.

## 4. Policy Updates

Given the evolving nature of the regional conflict, **this policy may be revised at any time** based on updated MFEA travel advisories or EU-level guidance.

Raphael Scerri