

# European Union Programmes Agency

## Annual Report

2025







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**European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA)**

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# foreword



**Mr Jonathan Vassallo**

Permanent Secretary

As I look back to 2025, it is clear that this has been a year of measurable progress for the European Union Programmes Agency in Malta, particularly in the delivery of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

The scale of activity reached this year is not incidental. It reflects our commitment to invest in education, skills, inclusion and youth participation, and to ensure that European programmes are used effectively to deliver tangible outcomes. The record levels of participation across sectors, youth, schools, vocational education and adult learning, demonstrate both strong demand and an increased national capacity to design and implement high-quality projects.

What is particularly notable is not only the growth in numbers, but the consistency in the type of outcomes being achieved. Across sectors, projects are addressing clearly defined priorities: mental health, digital skills, inclusion, sustainability and democratic participation. These are not abstract themes, they are areas where participants are acquiring practical competences and where institutions are adapting their practices in response to real societal and economic needs.

In the youth sector, the expansion in exchanges, participation activities and youth worker mobility has translated into broader access and stronger engagement. Young people are not only participating in mobility experiences, but are developing concrete skills, communication, resilience, teamwork and a clearer understanding of their role within their communities and within Europe.

In school education, the increase in mobility and partnerships is contributing directly to improved teaching practices and more modern learning environments. Educators are returning with new methodologies and digital competences, while students are gaining exposure to different systems, cultures and ways of learning. The impact is visible not only at classroom level, but across entire school communities.

Similarly, in vocational education and adult learning, the programme is strengthening employability and supporting lifelong learning. The increase in participation among first-time applicants and individuals facing barriers is particularly important. It indicates that access is widening and that the programme is reaching those who benefit most from these opportunities.

These outcomes are the result of coordinated effort. The Agency's role in outreach, guidance and quality assurance, combined with the commitment of educators, youth workers, organisations and participants, has been central in ensuring that projects are both relevant and effectively implemented.

Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps are not standalone initiatives. They form part of a broader framework through which Malta is strengthening its human capital, improving institutional capacity and maintaining active engagement within the European context. The link between European funding and national priorities is therefore direct and measurable.

Looking ahead, the focus remains clear: to sustain this level of delivery while continuing to improve quality, widen access and ensure that participation translates into long-term impact for individuals, for institutions and for Malta as a whole.

**by Mr Jonathan Vassallo**  
Permanent Secretary

# foreword



**Mr Raphael Scerri**

National Coordinator – CEO

The year 2025 stands out as a year of exceptional delivery and impact for the National Agency, with participation levels across most sectors meeting or significantly exceeding established targets. Overall, the Agency supported 7,115 participants across all programme sectors, a substantial achievement that reflects both the strong demand for EU-funded opportunities and the effectiveness of programme implementation at national level.

The Youth sector recorded the most remarkable performance in 2025, with 4,056 participants supported, almost double the original target of 2,200. This unprecedented level of participation highlights the growing relevance of youth mobility and cooperation actions in promoting inclusion, civic engagement, and skills development among young people. It also confirms the sector's role as a cornerstone of the Programme's national impact.

Strong results were also achieved in School Education, where 1,169 participants took part in programme activities, significantly surpassing the planned target of 715. This reflects the sustained engagement of schools and educators and the increasing recognition of European cooperation as a driver for quality and innovation in education.

In Higher Education, the Agency supported 1,286 participants across international and intra-European mobility actions, with 1,150 participants under KA131 and 136 under KA171. These figures represent a stable and meaningful contribution to internationalisation, student mobility, and institutional cooperation.

Participation in Adult Education reached 200 learners and staff, closely aligning with the annual target of 230 and demonstrating continued engagement in lifelong learning initiatives. Similarly, Vocational Education and Training actions supported 348 participants, maintaining programme continuity despite sector-specific challenges.

The Sport sector achieved notable growth, supporting 56 participants, more than two and a half times the original target of 22, confirming the increasing uptake of sport-related cooperation projects and their positive community impact.

Taken together, the 2025 results reflect a Programme that is both resilient and responsive, delivering high participation volumes while maintaining a strong focus on quality, inclusion, and impact. These achievements would not have been possible without the commitment of beneficiaries, partners, stakeholders, and the dedicated staff of the National Agency. As National Coordinator, I am confident that the momentum generated in 2025 provides a strong foundation for continued growth and alignment with national and European policy objectives in the years ahead.

In conclusion, the results achieved in 2025 stand as a clear testament to the National Agency's commitment to excellence, strategic implementation, and meaningful impact. The notable growth across sectors, particularly in Youth and School Education, reflects not only increased participation but also a deeper engagement with the Programme's core priorities of inclusion, quality, and innovation. Building on this strong performance, the Agency remains fully committed to further strengthening its outreach, enhancing the quality of supported actions, and maximising impact at both national and European levels. I extend my sincere appreciation to all beneficiaries, partners, stakeholders, and our dedicated team whose collective efforts have made these achievements possible. Together, we look ahead with confidence to sustaining this momentum and continuing to deliver tangible results for individuals, organisations, and society as a whole.

**by Mr Raphael Scerri**  
National Coordinator – CEO



# **list of abbreviations**

<b>abbreviations</b>	<b>definition</b>
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUPA</b>	European Union Programmes Agency
<b>AE</b>	Adult Education
<b>HED</b>	Higher Education
<b>SE</b>	School Education
<b>VET</b>	Vocational Education and Training
<b>YOU</b>	Youth
<b>SPO</b>	Sport
<b>ESC</b>	European Solidarity Corps
<b>HEIs</b>	Higher Education Institutions
<b>KA 120</b>	Erasmus Accreditation in the field of Education and Training
<b>KA 121</b>	Accredited projects
<b>KA 122</b>	Short-term Erasmus+ mobility projects for organisations without accreditation.
<b>KA 131</b>	Mobility of higher education students and staff supported by internal policy funds
<b>KA 171</b>	Mobility of higher education students and staff supported by external policy funds
<b>KA 150</b>	Erasmus accreditation in youth
<b>KA 151</b>	Accredited projects for youth mobility
<b>KA 152</b>	Mobility of young people
<b>KA 153</b>	Mobility of youth workers
<b>KA 154</b>	Youth participation activities
<b>KA 155</b>	DiscoverEU inclusion action
<b>KA 182</b>	Mobility of Sport Coaches and Staff
<b>KA 210</b>	Small-scale partnerships
<b>KA 220</b>	Cooperation partnerships
<b>ESC 30</b>	Solidarity projects
<b>ESC 50</b>	Quality label decentralised
<b>ESC 51</b>	Volunteering projects
<b>TCAs</b>	Training and Cooperation Activities
<b>NET</b>	Networking Activities
<b>LTA</b>	Long-term Activities
<b>NEETs</b>	Individuals who are not in education, employment, or training

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# executive summary

Throughout 2025, the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) continued to fulfil its mandate to promote, implement and manage the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes at the national level, on behalf of the European Commission.

Through these EU funding programmes, focusing on education, training, youth, sport and volunteering, EUPA continued to provide opportunities to a broad range of stakeholders, including educational institutions, non-governmental organisations, employers and other entities. These opportunities supported mobility, cooperation, participation and skills development at both individual and organisational levels.

In 2025, EUPA also maintained its outreach and guidance role through information sessions, workshops and support to applicants and beneficiaries. The comparative results for 2024 and 2025 show a clear increase in demand for Erasmus+ and a significantly larger contracted portfolio, while the European Solidarity Corps remained stable in project numbers and slightly higher in participant volumes. Across both years, the Agency continued to work in line with the programme's horizontal priorities: inclusion and diversity, digital transformation, environmental sustainability, and participation in democratic life.

## Comparative overview: key figures for 2024 and 2025

Indicator	2024	2025	Change	% change
Total submitted applications	417	476	<b>+59</b>	+14.1%
Erasmus+ applications	394	449	<b>+55</b>	+14.0%
European Solidarity Corps applications	23	27	<b>+4</b>	+17.4%
Education and Training applications	175	221	<b>+46</b>	+26.3%
Youth and Sport applications	219	228	<b>+9</b>	+4.1%
Erasmus+ contracted projects (KA1)	116	156	<b>+40</b>	+34.5%
Erasmus+ contracted projects (KA2)	30	47	<b>+17</b>	+56.7%
European Solidarity Corps contracted projects	14	14	<b>+0</b>	+0.0%
Erasmus+ contracted participants	4,589	7,559	<b>+2,970</b>	+64.7%
European Solidarity Corps contracted participants	91	94	<b>+3</b>	+3.3%

Accreditation and Quality Label results are presented in the dedicated section below.

## Applications and demand

In 2025, EUPA received 476 applications, compared with 417 in 2024, representing an increase of 59 applications. Erasmus+ applications rose from 394 to 449, while European Solidarity Corps applications increased from 23 to 27. This confirms that overall demand remained on an upward trajectory in 2025.

The strongest application growth was recorded in Education and Training, where submissions increased from 175 in 2024 to 221 in 2025. Youth and Sport applications also rose, from 219 in 2024 to 228 in 2025. Taken together, the figures indicate that 2025 was characterised by stronger demand across both sides of the Erasmus+ portfolio, with the sharpest relative expansion taking place in Education and Training.

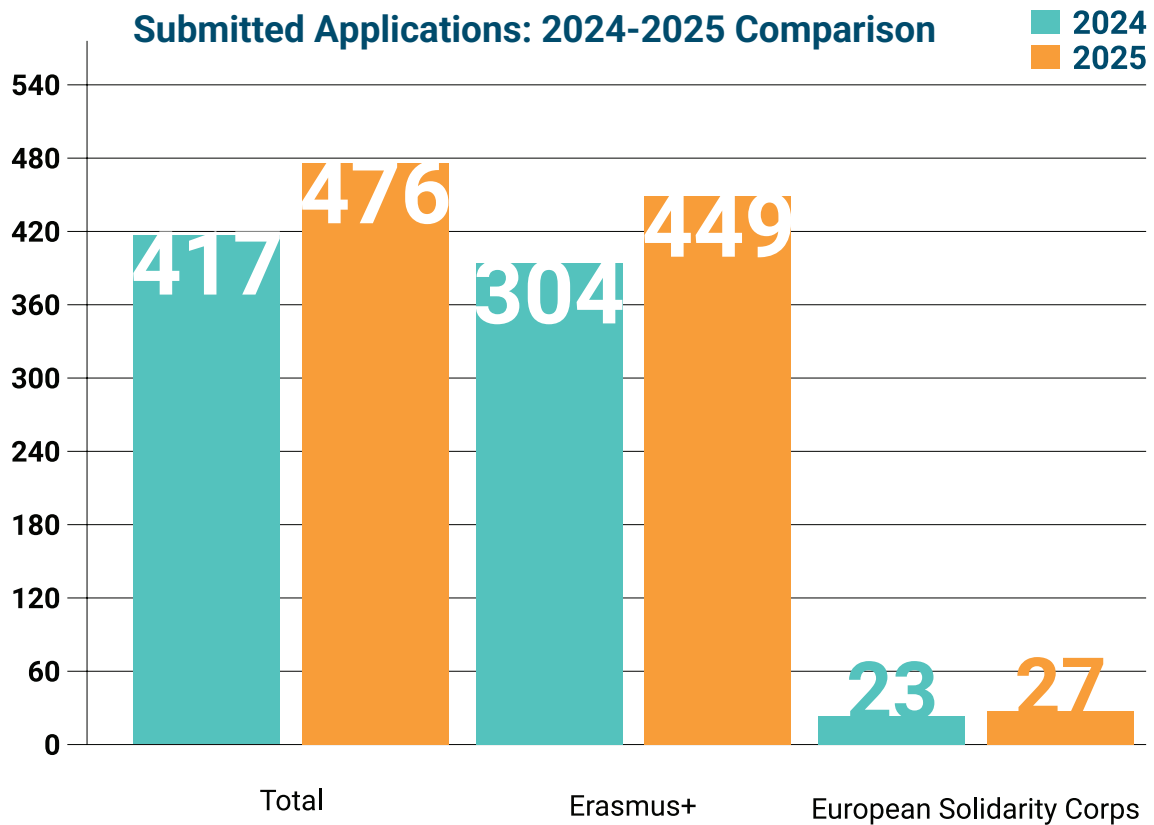


Figure 1. Submitted applications across the two programmes, 2024–2025.

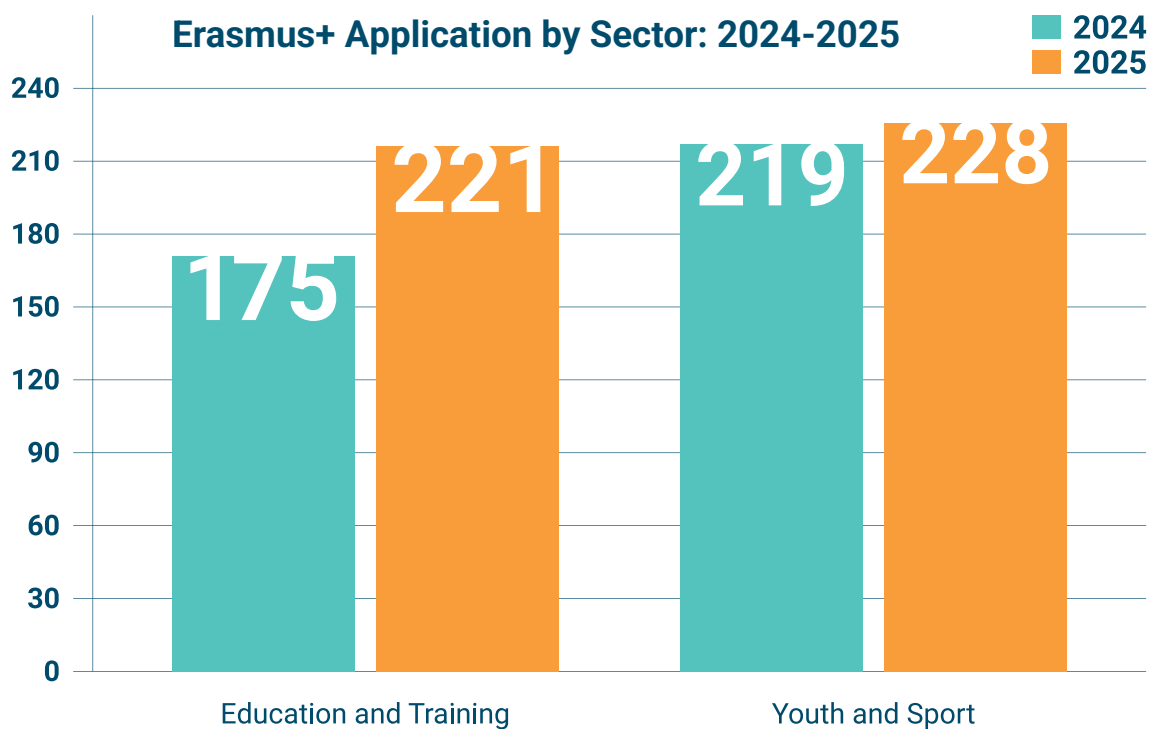


Figure 2. Erasmus+ applications by sector, 2024–2025.

## Contracted projects

Erasmus+ project contracting expanded significantly in 2025. Contracted projects under Key Action 1 increased from 116 in 2024 to 156 in 2025, while Key Action 2 projects rose from 30 to 47. The most pronounced project growth was recorded in KA210 Small-scale Partnerships, which more than doubled from 16 to 34 projects, followed by strong increases in KA122, KA154, KA153 and KA182.

Not all actions grew at the same pace. KA220 Cooperation Partnerships remained broadly stable, moving from 14 projects in 2024 to 13 in 2025, while KA152 declined slightly from 29 to 26 and KA151 from 3 to 2. Under the European Solidarity Corps, the number of contracted projects remained unchanged at 14 in both years, with 5 ESC51 projects and 9 ESC30 projects.

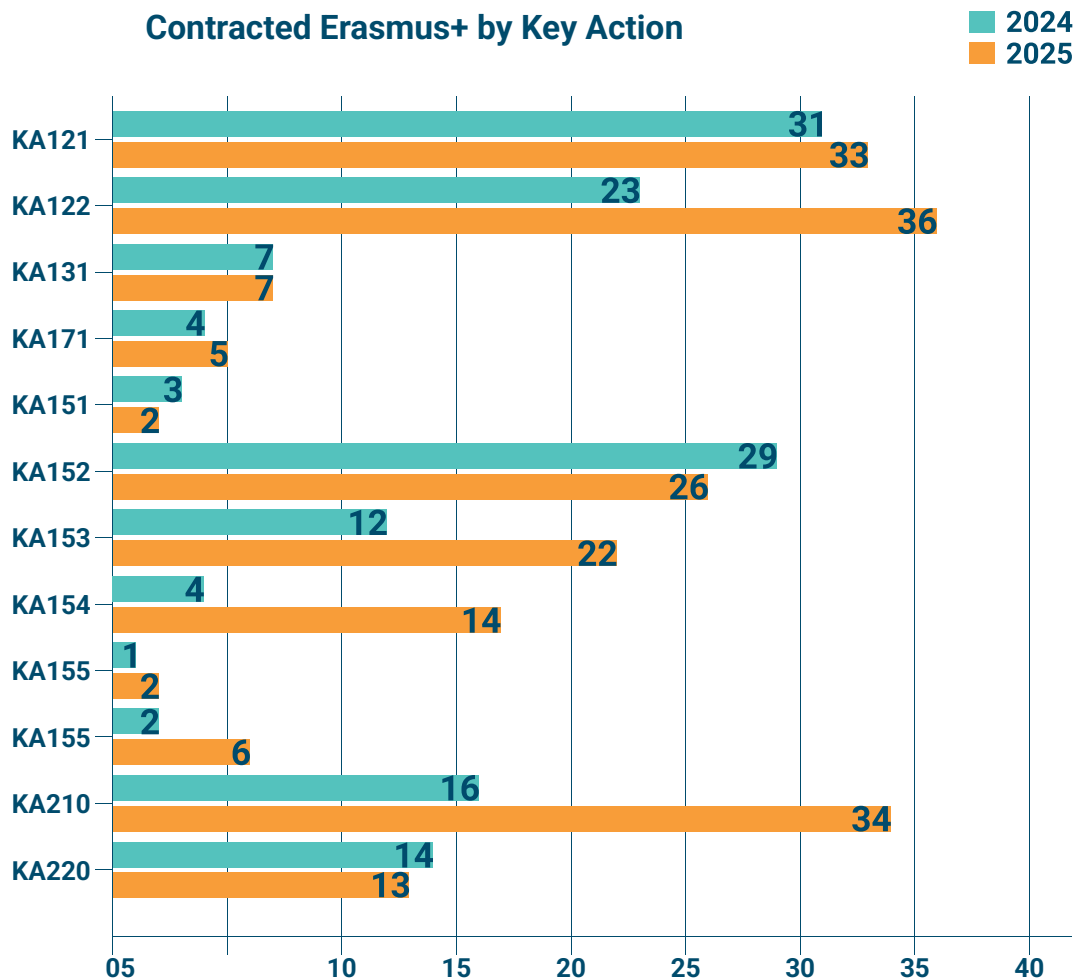


Figure 3. Contracted Erasmus+ projects by Key Action, 2024–2025.

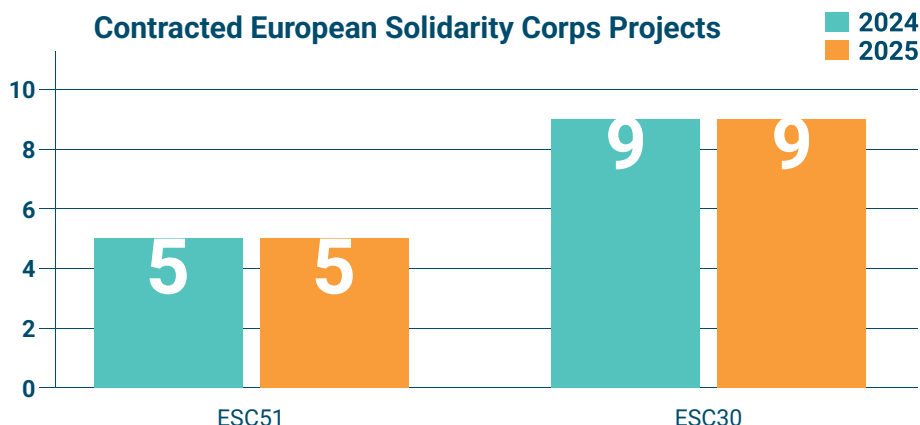


Figure 4. Contracted European Solidarity Corps projects, 2024–2025.

### Contracted participants

Participant volumes show the strongest year-on-year movement in the 2025 dataset. Contracted Erasmus+ participants increased from 4,589 in 2024 to 7,559 in 2025. The largest expansion was recorded in KA154, which rose from 559 participants to 2,611. Substantial increases were also registered in KA121, KA122, KA131 and KA153, indicating stronger reach in school education, higher education and youth participation activities.

Some actions recorded lower participant volumes than in 2024, notably KA171, KA152 and KA155. Even so, these declines were outweighed by the scale of growth elsewhere in the portfolio. In the European Solidarity Corps, contracted participants rose modestly from 91 in 2024 to 94 in 2025, reflecting continuity rather than structural change.

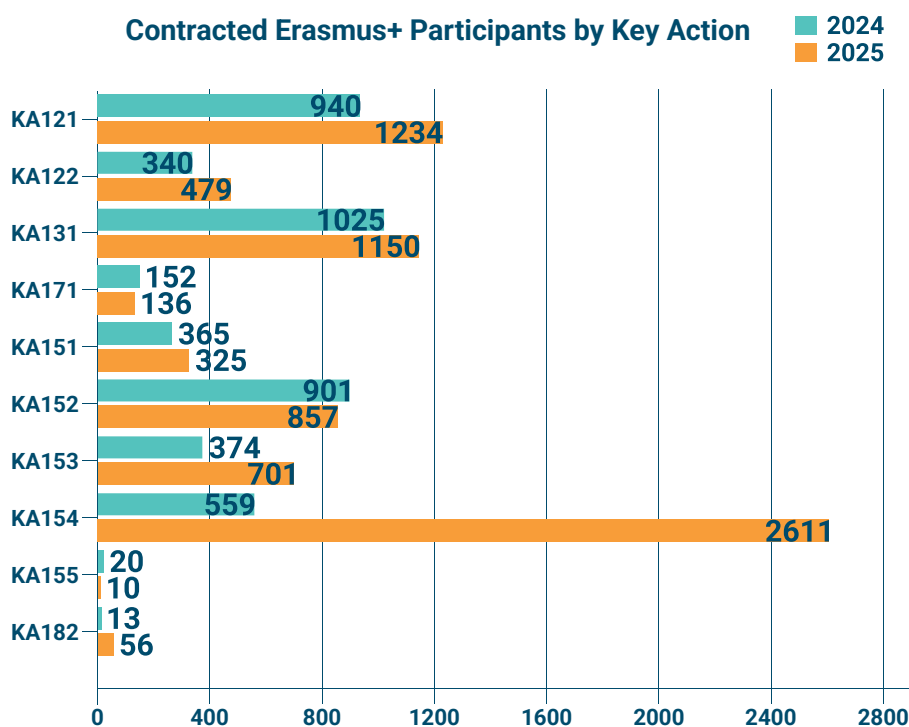


Figure 5. Contracted Erasmus+ participants by Key Action, 2024–2025.

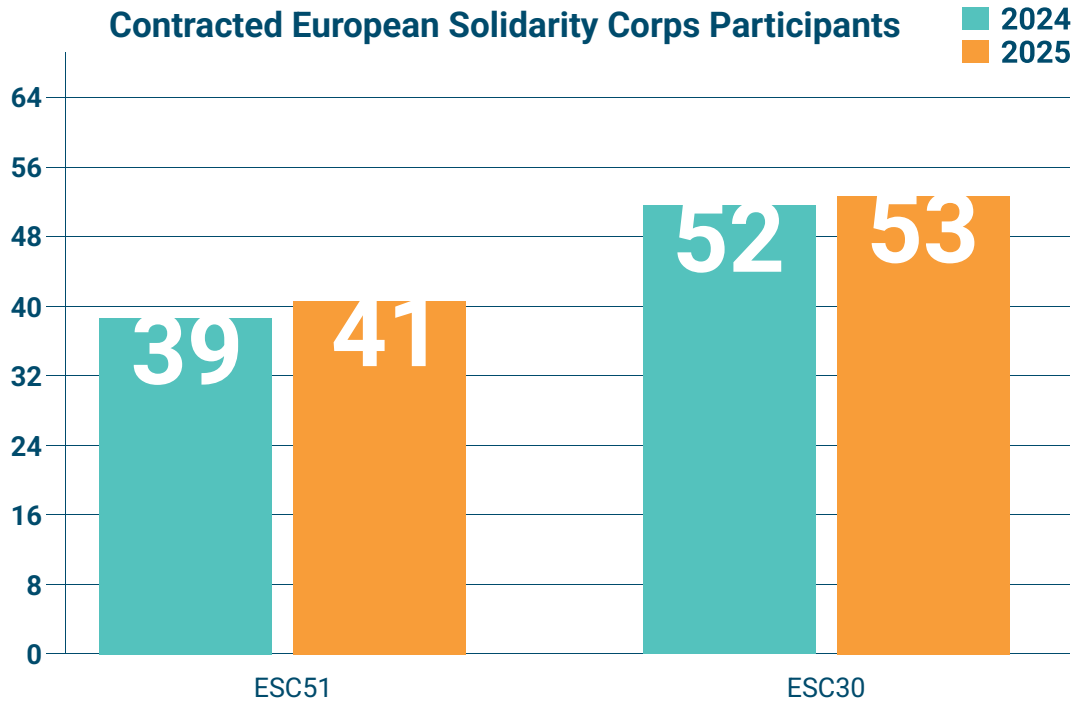


Figure 6. Contracted European Solidarity Corps participants, 2024–2025.

## Accreditations

In accreditation-related actions, the 2025 picture was mixed but ultimately positive. Erasmus+ accreditation submissions decreased from 13 in 2024 to 11 in 2025, yet the number of accreditations awarded increased sharply from 2 to 9. This reflects a much stronger conversion of submitted applications into accredited status in 2025.

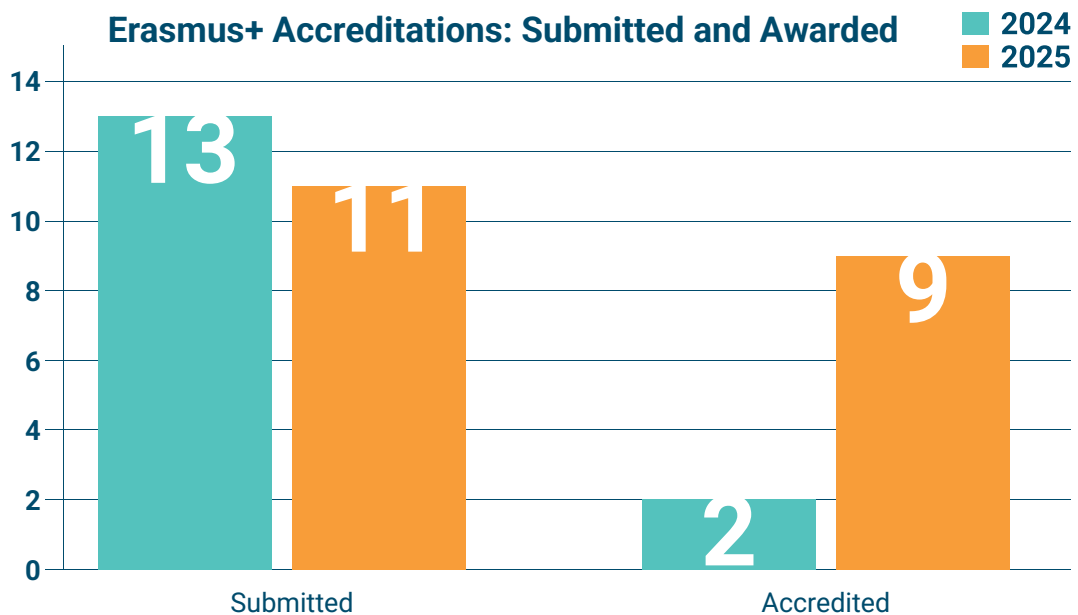


Figure 7. Erasmus+ accreditations submitted and awarded, 2024–2025.

Erasmus+ accreditation breakdown by year

Year	Submitted	Accredited
2024	13 (2 AE, 5 SE & 6 YOU)	2 (1 SE & 1 YOU + 2 SE on reserve list)
2025	11 (5 SE, 3 VET & 3 YOU)	9 (5 SE, 2 VET & 2 YOU)

## Quality Label

Within the European Solidarity Corps, Quality Label submissions increased from 6 in 2024 to 8 in 2025, while accredited Quality Labels rose from 2 to 4. These figures indicate a strengthening in organisational preparedness and programme-readiness, reflecting growing capacity among organisations to meet the standards required to implement high-quality solidarity activities.

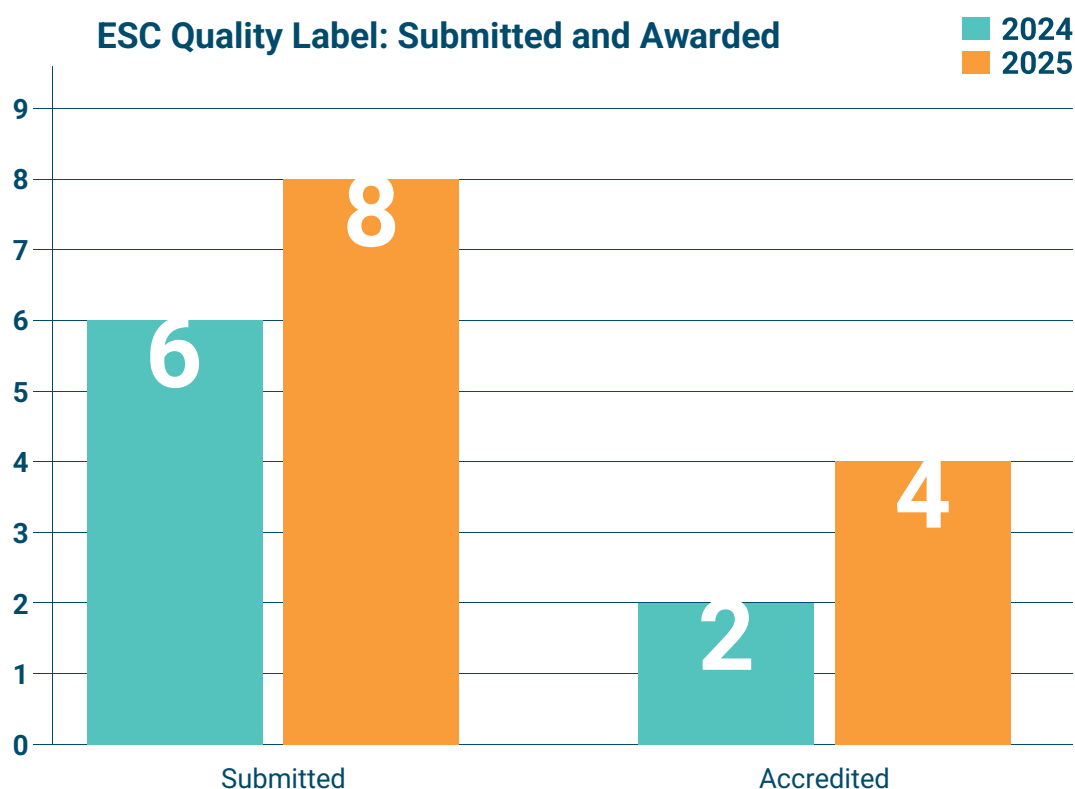


Figure 8. European Solidarity Corps Quality Label submissions and awards, 2024–2025.

The total financial allocation of Erasmus+ for year 2025 amounted to €11,196,622 for Key Action 1 projects and €5,500,000 for Key Action 2 projects. Under the European Solidarity Corps programme, €99,868 was committed to Solidarity Projects and €688,759 to Volunteering Projects

## Topics and priorities – Key Action 1 and Key Action 2

### Key Action 1

Compared with 2024, the 2025 Key Action 1 portfolio was not only larger in project and participant numbers, but also more clearly concentrated on scale, participation and institutional reach. The increase in KA121 and KA122 projects and participants points to stronger uptake of mobility in school education and other formal learning contexts, while the continued strength of KA131 confirms the central role of higher education mobility within the overall Erasmus+ portfolio.

The sharp growth in KA153 and KA154 suggests a stronger operational focus on youth participation, civic engagement and the quality of youth work. The increase in KA182 also indicates a wider use of mobility opportunities in sport. At the same time, the lower participant volumes in KA171, KA152 and KA155 show that expansion was not evenly distributed across all actions. Overall, the 2025 KA1 results indicate a broader delivery of the programme's priorities through mobility, with a stronger emphasis on inclusion, participation and skills development than in 2024.



### Key Action 2

In Key Action 2, the most important shift between 2024 and 2025 was the expansion of Small-scale Partnerships (KA210), which increased from 16 to 34 contracted projects. This suggests that the programme became more accessible to organisations seeking lighter cooperation formats and practical, manageable entry points into international collaboration. Cooperation Partnerships (KA220) remained broadly stable, shifting only from 14 to 13 projects, which points to continuity in larger-scale, longer-term collaboration.

Building on the thematic profile already visible in 2024, the 2025 KA2 portfolio continued to reflect the programme's core priorities: inclusion and diversity, digital education and digital skills, green competences and environmental sustainability, innovation in curricula and pedagogy, labour-market relevance, civic engagement and the quality of youth work. In this respect, 2025 appears less as a change in thematic direction and more as an expansion in volume, particularly through the growth of smaller partnership formats.

Across sectors, these priorities remained highly relevant. Adult Education projects continued to align with inclusion, active ageing, intergenerational learning and sustainability. In School Education, the portfolio remained closely linked to green skills, digital literacy, teacher development, curriculum innovation and inclusive learning environments. VET actions continued to focus on employability, digital and entrepreneurial skills and responsive curricula, while Higher Education cooperation remained associated with innovative learning, research and curricular development. In Youth, project priorities continued to include participation, common values, inclusion, employability, entrepreneurship and innovation in youth work.

## Overall comparative assessment

Overall, the comparison between 2024 and 2025 points to a year of expansion for EUPA. Application demand increased, Erasmus+ contracted projects grew substantially, participant volumes rose sharply, and accreditation and Quality Label outcomes strengthened. The strongest growth was recorded in Education and Training applications, KA210 partnerships, and participation-oriented actions such as KA153 and KA154, while the European Solidarity Corps remained stable in project numbers and modestly higher in participant volumes.







# indicators

## Erasmus+ Indicators

### Number of participants in learning mobility activities under Key Action 1

In 2025, Erasmus+ recorded 5,313 participants in learning mobility activities under Key Action 1, compared with 4,215 in 2024. This represents an increase of 1,098 participants (+26.0%) and places the programme 196 participants above the 2025 target of 5,117.

The strongest year-on-year growth was recorded in Youth, which increased from 1,751 to 2,330 participants (+579), and in School Education, which rose from 638 to 1,169 (+531). Sport also increased from 13 to 40 participants. These gains more than offset declines in VET (from 461 to 327), Adult Education (from 179 to 161) and Higher Education KA171 (from 152 to 136). Higher Education KA131 also increased, from 1,021 to 1,150, although it remained slightly below its 2025 target of 1,190.

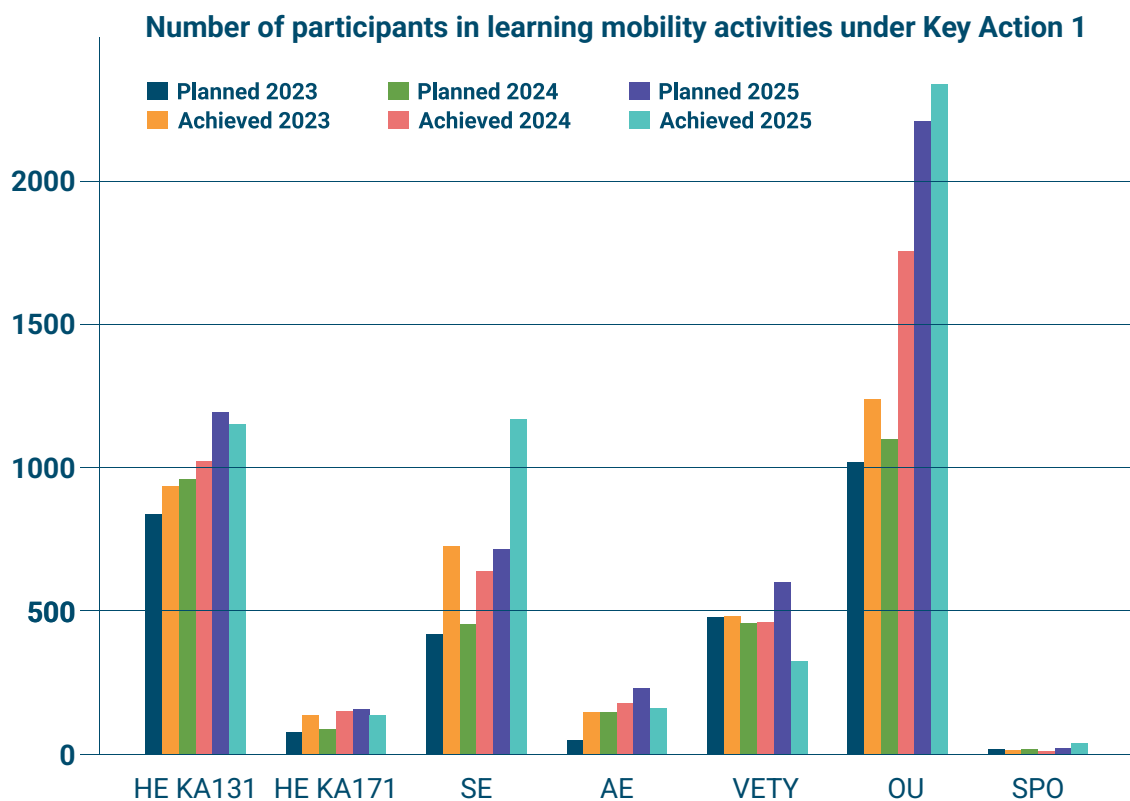


Figure 9 E01. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Number of participants in virtual learning activities under Key Action 1

The number of participants in virtual learning activities under Key Action 1 increased from 127 in 2024 to 201 in 2025, an increase of 74 participants (+58.3%). On the basis of the annual plan, 2025 performance was above target by 61 participants (201 achieved against a target of 140).

This improvement was concentrated in a small number of sectors rather than spread evenly across the programme. Higher Education KA131 rose from 105 to 146 participants and School Education from 12 to 52, while Adult Education fell from 10 to 3. Higher Education KA171, VET, Youth and Sport remained at zero in both 2024 and 2025. The indicator therefore improved overall, but delivery of virtual activities remained narrow and uneven.

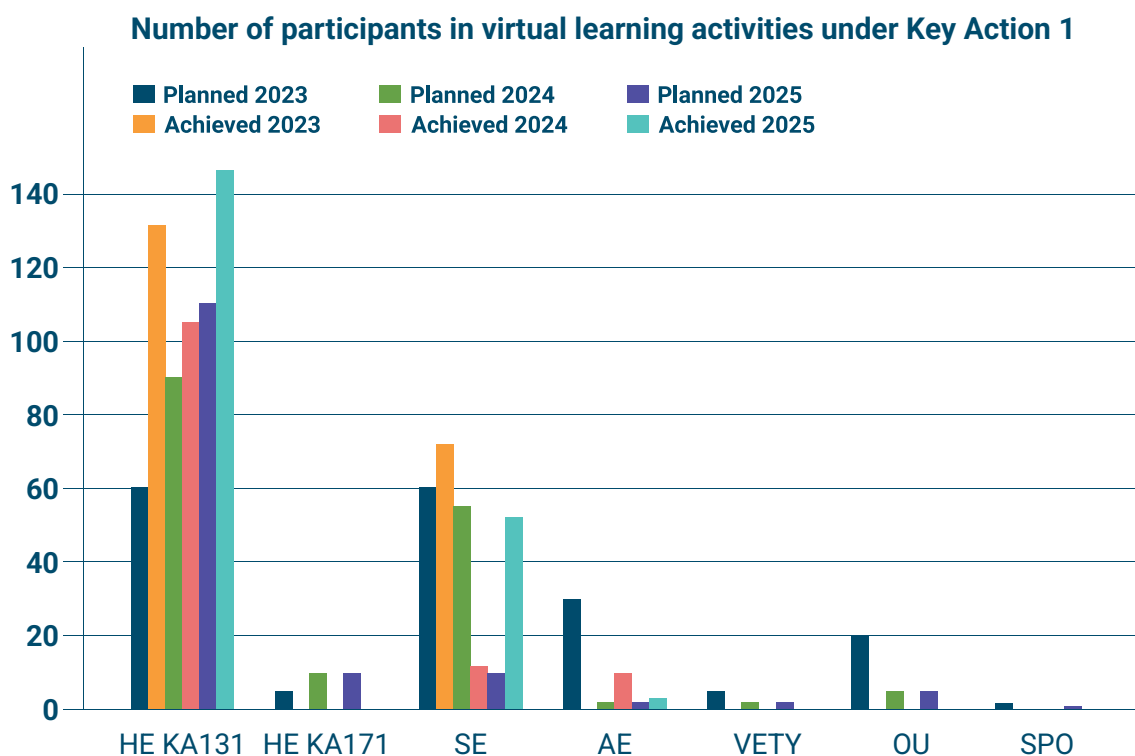


Figure 10 E02. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under Key Action 1

The number of organisations and institutions taking part in Erasmus+ under Key Action 1 increased from 254 in 2024 to 266 in 2025, a rise of 12 organisations (+4.7%). Despite this increase, the 2025 result remained below the annual target of 280.

Growth was led by School Education, which increased from 75 to 100 organisations, and by Sport, which rose from 2 to 4. Higher Education KA171 also increased from 4 to 5, while Higher Education KA131 and Adult Education remained stable at 7 and 8 respectively. The main areas of decline were Youth, which fell from 143 to 134 organisations, and VET, which fell from 15 to 8. This means that the overall increase in 2025 was real, but it was not broad-based across all sectors.

**Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under Key Action 1**

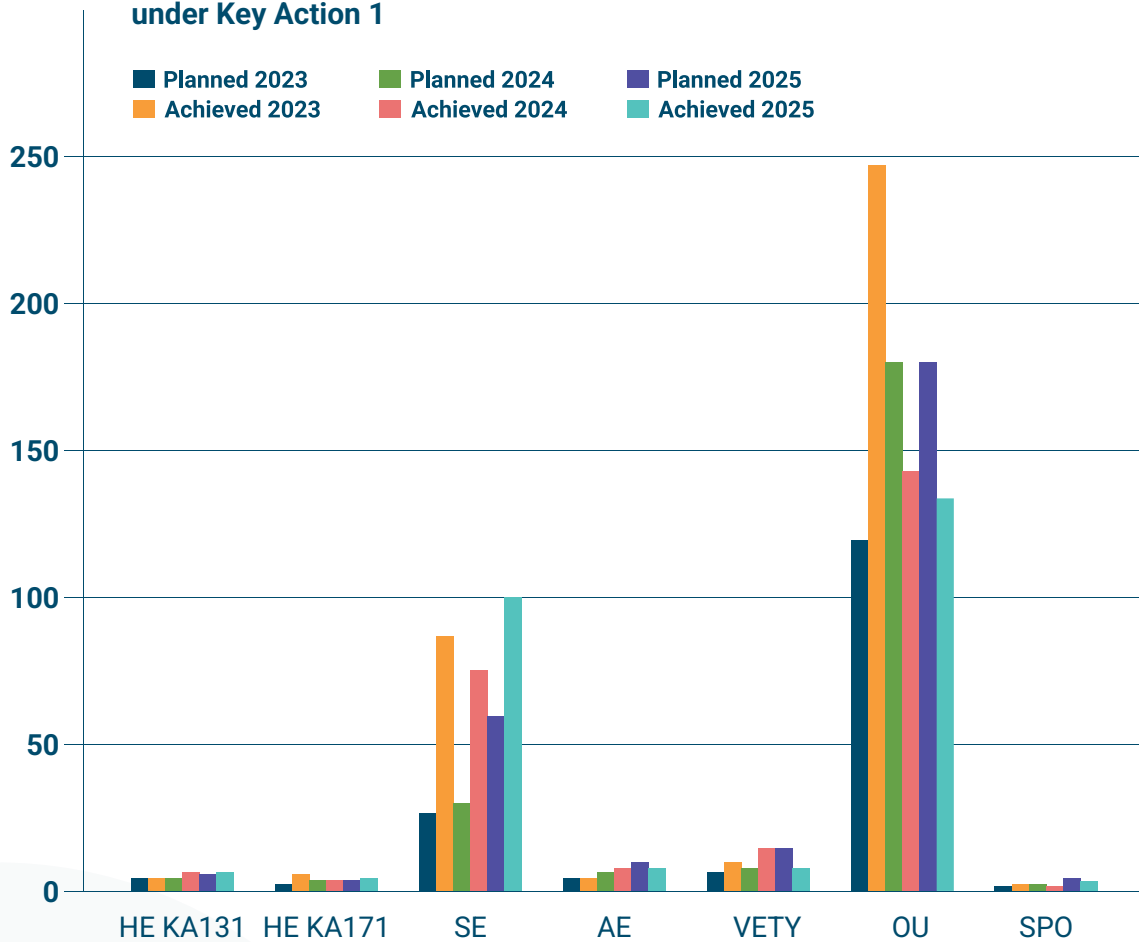


Figure 11 E03. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Share (%) of participants with fewer opportunities taking part in activities under Key Action 1

The share of participants with fewer opportunities under Key Action 1 changed unevenly between 2024 and 2025, with improvement in most sectors but deterioration in a small number of areas. Because this is a percentage indicator, the comparison is most reliable at sector level rather than as a programme-wide aggregate.

The strongest increases were recorded in Higher Education KA171, where the share rose from 30% to 44% (+14 pp), and in Youth, where it increased from 25% to 39% (+14 pp). VET also rose from 32% to 40% (+8 pp), Adult Education from 13% to 15% (+2 pp), and Sport from 0% to 3% (+3 pp). Higher Education KA131 declined from 96% to 89% (-7 pp), but still remained above its 2025 target of 80%. School Education fell from 8% to 4% (-4 pp), leaving it well below its 2025 target of 15%. Higher Education KA171 improved, but it also remained below its particularly high 2025 target of 80%.

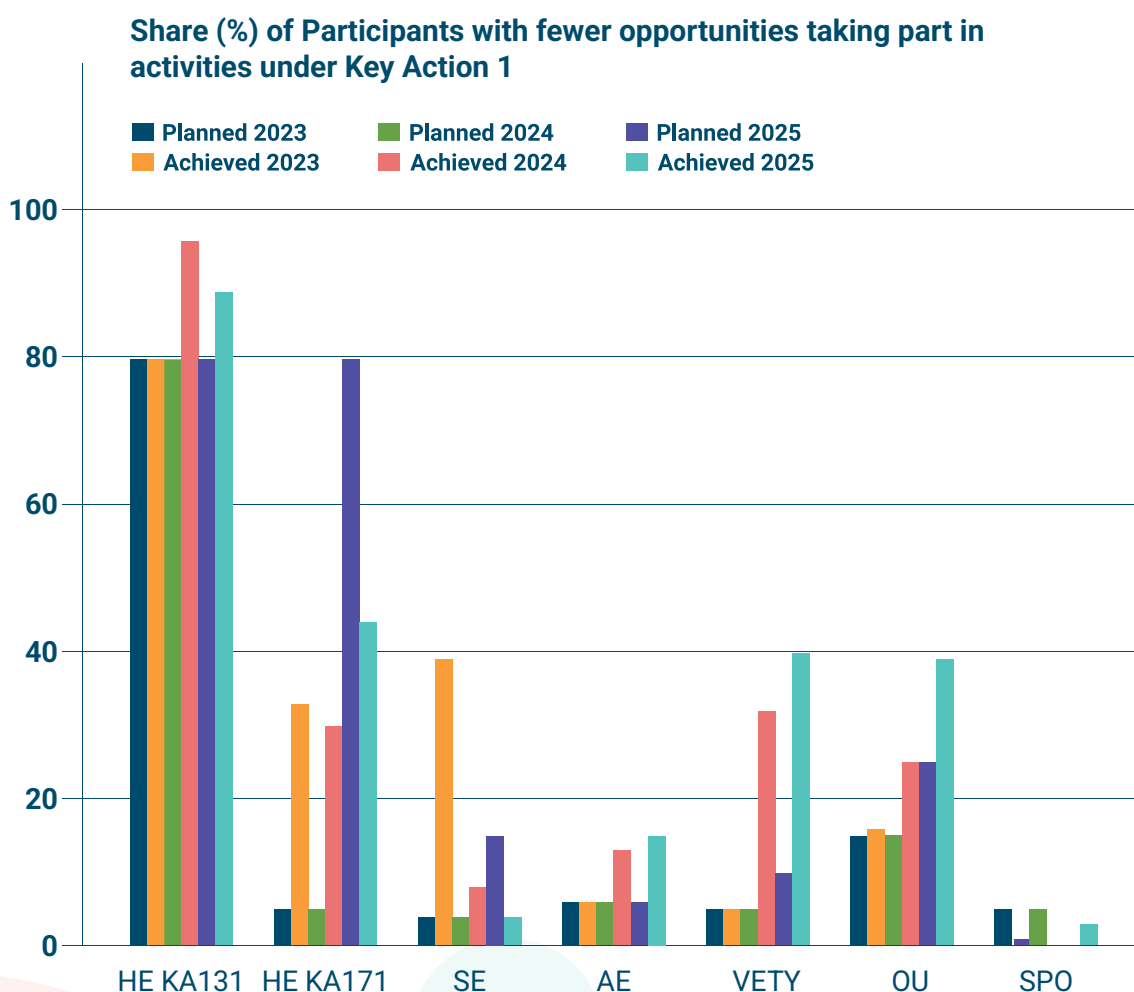


Figure 12 E04. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under Key Action 2

Under Key Action 2, the number of organisations and institutions taking part in the programme increased from 26 in 2024 to 32 in 2025, a rise of 6 organisations (+23.1%). The 2025 result therefore exceeded the annual target of 26.

The increase was driven mainly by VET, which doubled from 7 to 14 organisations, and by Higher Education, which increased from 1 to 3. School Education remained stable at 7 organisations and Youth also remained stable at 5. Adult Education, however, fell from 6 to 3. The indicator points to stronger cooperation activity in 2025, but with growth concentrated in VET

Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under Key Action 2

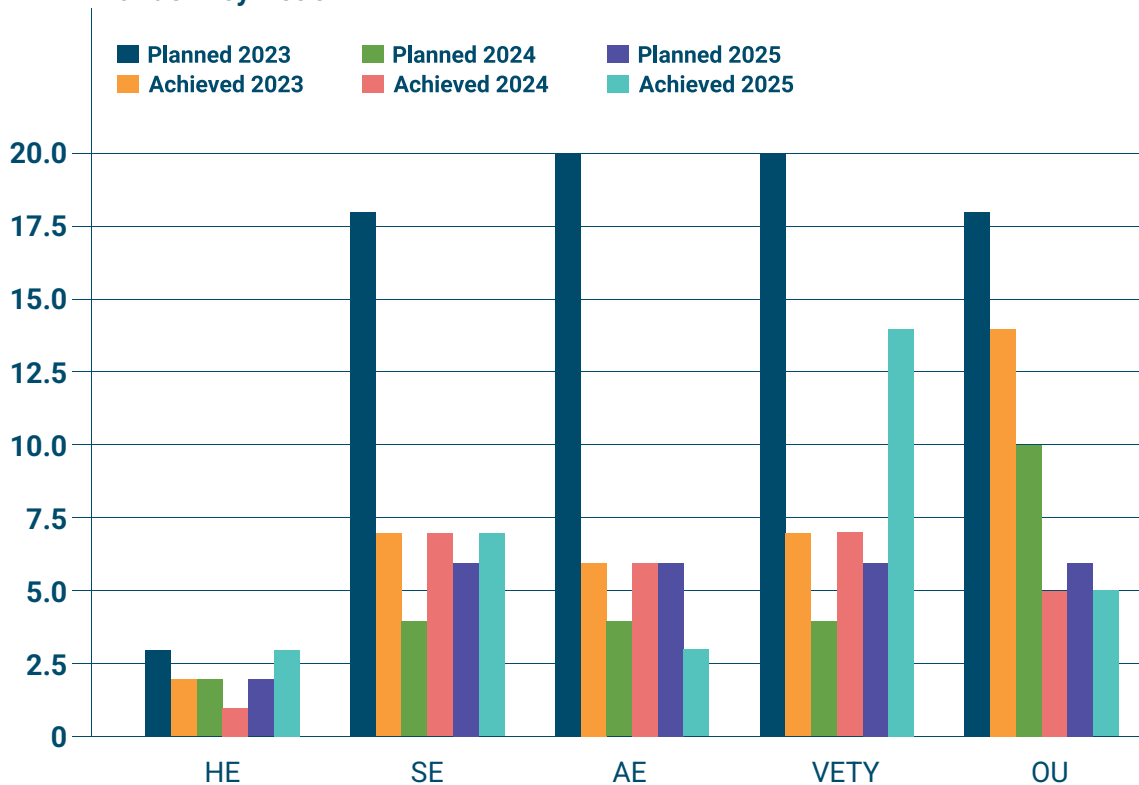


Figure 13 E05. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Number of newcomer organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under Key Actions 1 and 2

The number of newcomer organisations and institutions taking part in Key Actions 1 and 2 fell sharply from 60 in 2024 to 28 in 2025. This is a decline of 32 organisations (-53.3%) and leaves the programme 13 below the 2025 target of 41.

The decline was especially pronounced in Youth, where newcomer organisations fell from 34 to 13, in School Education, where they dropped from 13 to 4, and in Adult Education, where they fell from 5 to 1. VET remained unchanged at 7 newcomer organisations, while Higher Education increased from 1 to 3. The result suggests that the strong newcomer reach seen in 2024 was not sustained into 2025, particularly in Youth

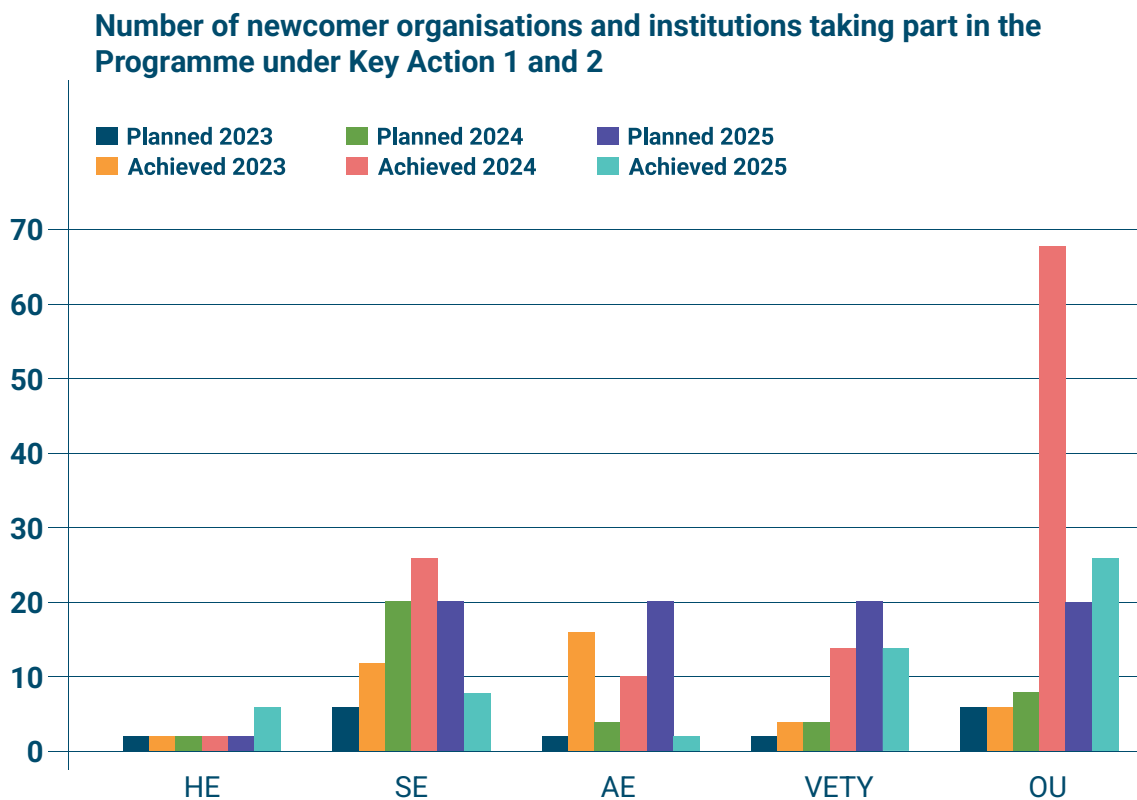


Figure 14 E06. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Share (%) of projects addressing climate objectives under Key Action 2

The share of projects addressing climate objectives under Key Action 2 weakened in most Erasmus+ sectors between 2024 and 2025. As a percentage indicator, this is best read sector by sector rather than as an aggregate figure.

Higher Education dropped from 67% in 2024 to 0% in 2025 (-67 pp), Adult Education from 50% to 0% (-50 pp), Youth from 25% to 0% (-25 pp), and School Education from 67% to 20% (-47 pp). VET was the only sector to improve, rising from 0% to 45% (+45 pp), and it was also the only sector to exceed its 2025 target of 25%. School Education remained active but below target (20% achieved against a 25% target), while Higher Education, Adult Education and Youth all recorded zero climate-related projects in 2025.

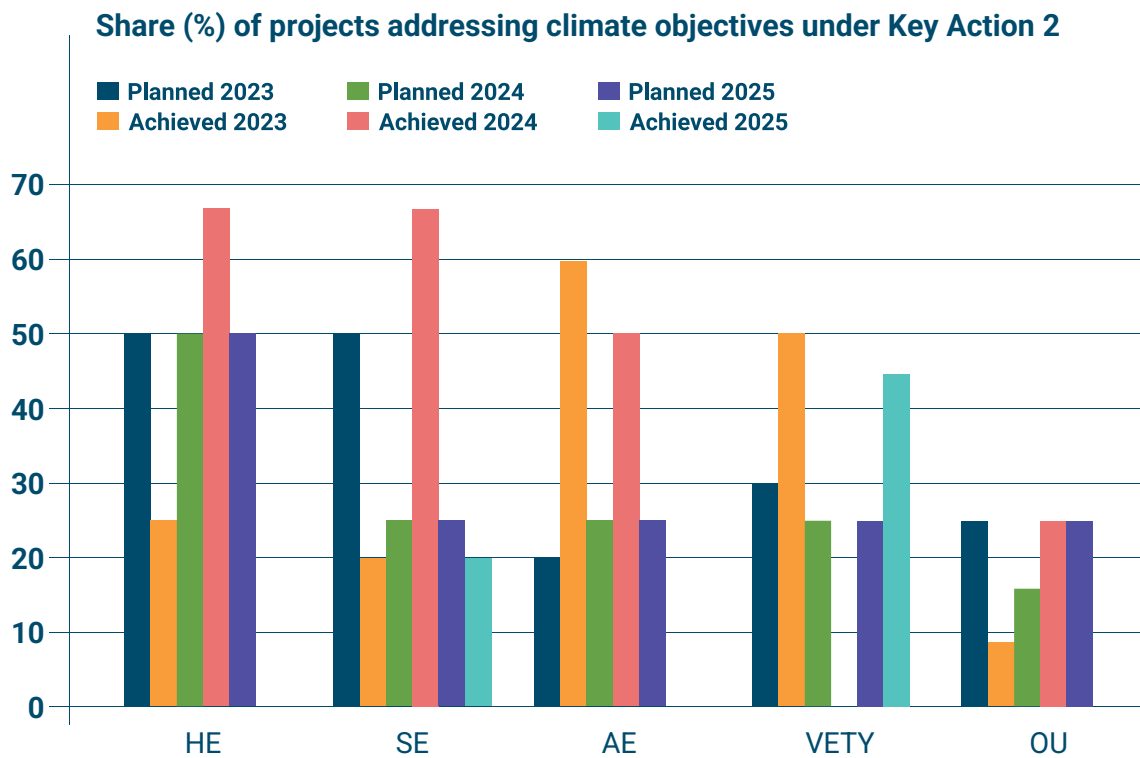


Figure 15 E07. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## European Solidarity Corps Indicators

### Number of participants in solidarity activities

The number of participants in ESC solidarity activities fell from 101 in 2024 to 78 in 2025, a decrease of 23 participants (-22.8%). Overall performance was also below the 2025 target of 110 participants.

The decline was entirely driven by Volunteering, which dropped from 49 to 25 participants (-24). By contrast, Solidarity Projects remained broadly stable, increasing slightly from 52 to 53 participants (+1). Even so, both actions remained below their individual 2025 targets, with Volunteering at 25 against a target of 45 and Solidarity Projects at 53 against a target of 65.

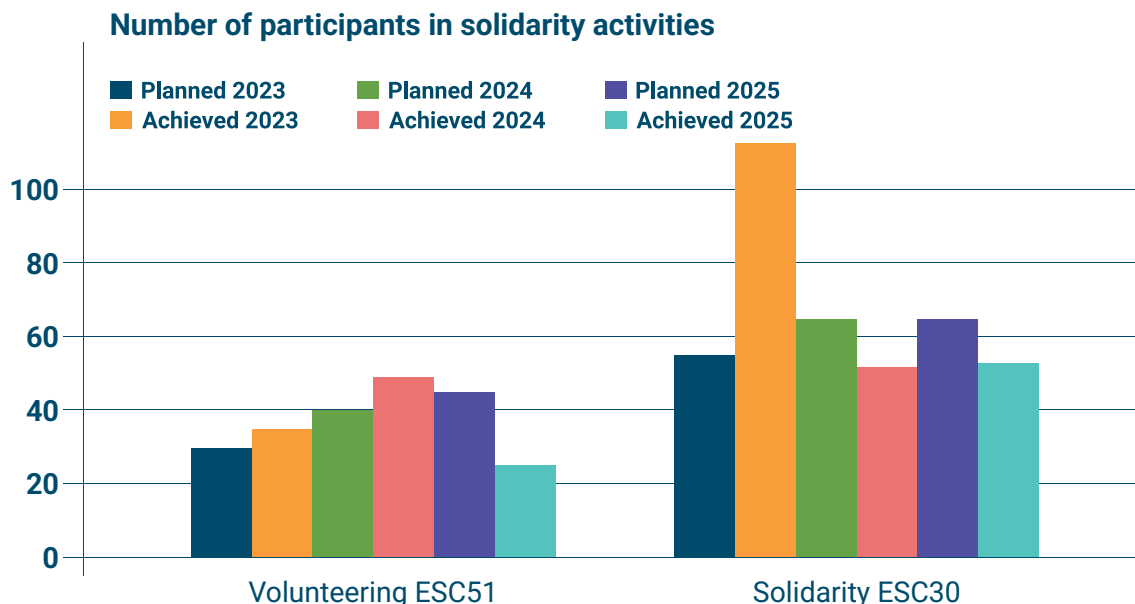


Figure 16 ESC01. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Share (%) of participants with fewer opportunities

The share of participants with fewer opportunities in ESC Volunteering improved strongly between 2024 and 2025, rising from 9% to 36% (+27 pp).

This represented not only a recovery from the lower 2024 result, but also a clear overachievement against the 2025 target of 20%. On this indicator, ESC performance improved materially in 2025.

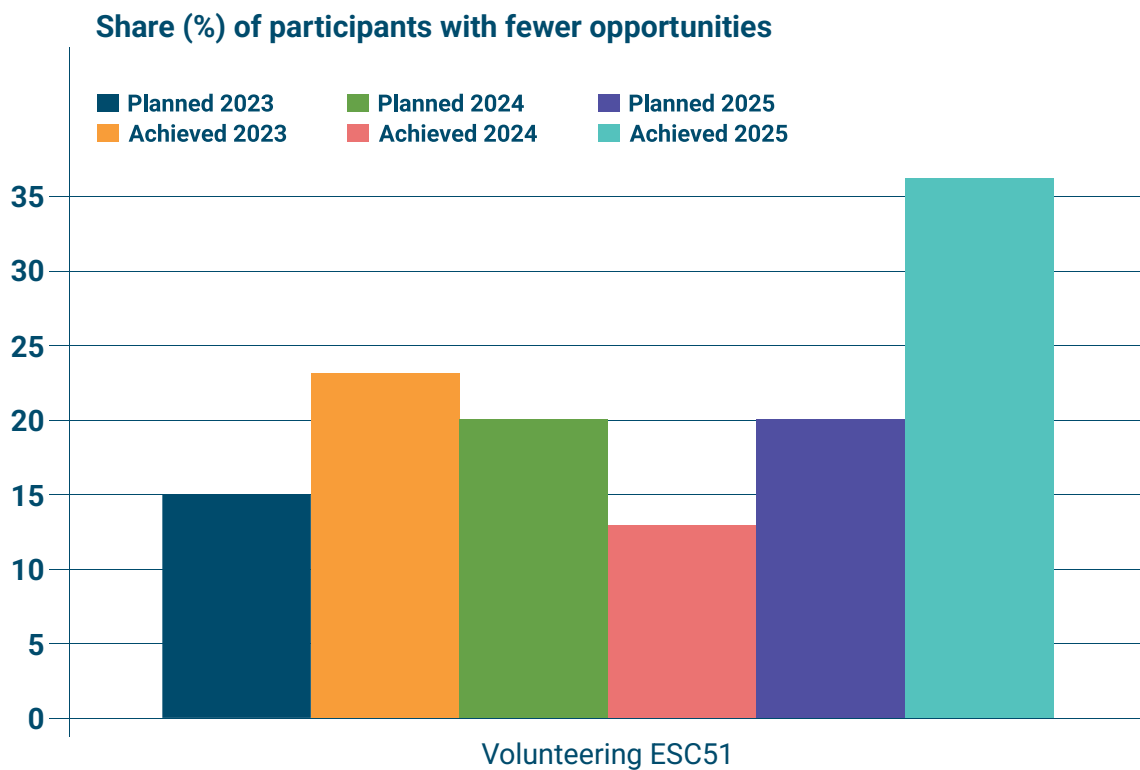


Figure 17 ESC02. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## Number of organisations who have received the European Solidarity Corps Quality Label

The number of organisations awarded the European Solidarity Corps Quality Label increased from 0 in 2024 to 3 in 2025.

This means that 2025 performance exceeded the annual target of 1 Quality Label award and reversed the absence of awards recorded in 2024.

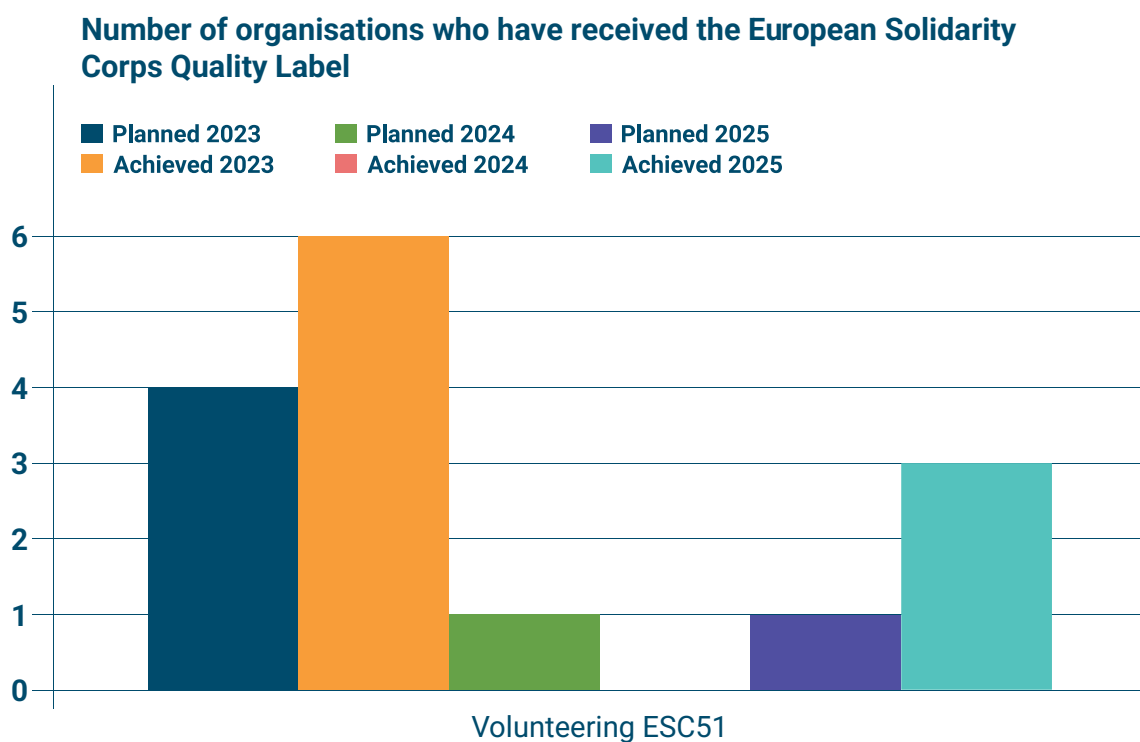


Figure 18 ESC03. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.

## The share of activities that address climate objectives

The share of ESC activities addressing climate objectives declined in both parts of the programme between 2024 and 2025.

In Volunteering, the share fell from 50% to 33% (-17 pp), while in Solidarity Projects it fell from 22% to 11% (-11 pp). Both actions therefore finished below their 2025 targets: 33% achieved against a 40% target in Volunteering, and 11% achieved against a 15% target in Solidarity Projects.

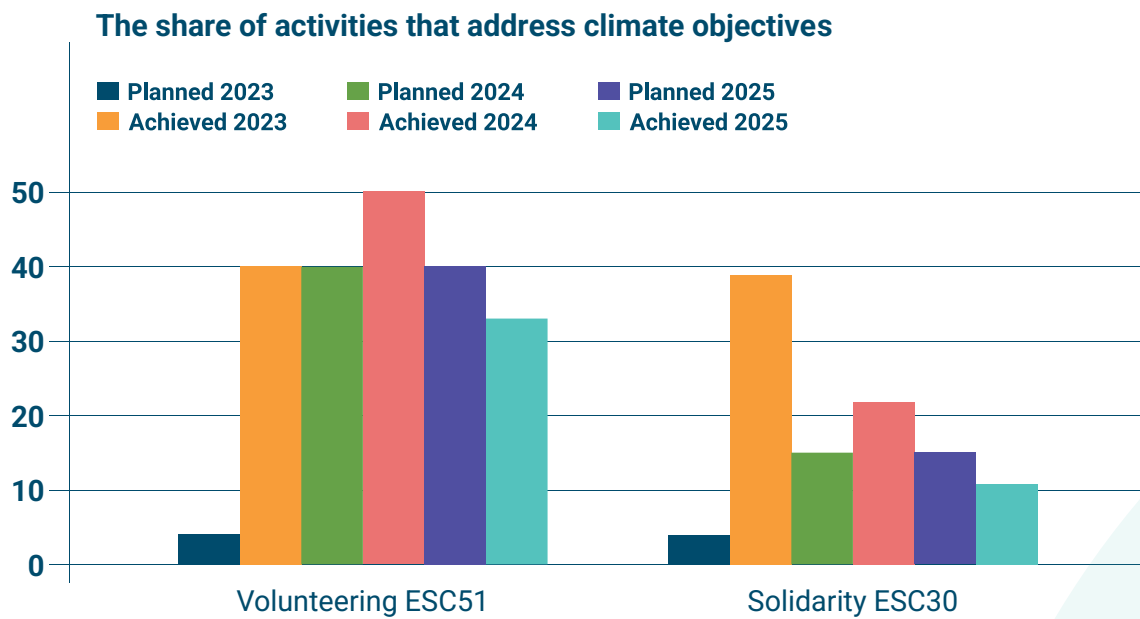


Figure 19 ESC04. Graph reproduced from data extracted from QlikSense Dashboard.







# surveys

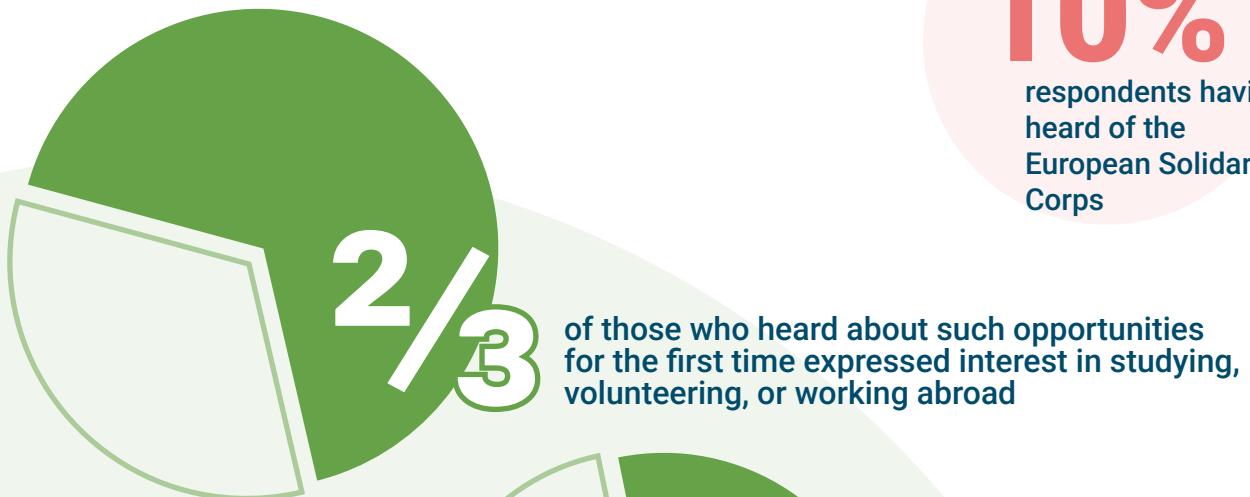
During 2025, EUPA carried out two surveys to better understand both public awareness of its programmes and stakeholder experience of its services. The EUPA Awareness Survey – Tell Us What You Know examined how well the general public knows Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and EUPA’s role as Malta’s National Agency, while the EUPA Quality of Service Survey focused on the experience of beneficiaries and stakeholders who had interacted with EUPA’s support, communication channels and processes. Together, the two surveys provided an important evidence base for future improvements in outreach, communication and service delivery.

The **Awareness Survey** received 302 responses and showed that awareness of Erasmus+ is relatively strong, with over 83% of respondents having heard of the programme. By contrast, awareness of the European Solidarity Corps was much lower, at 10%, while recognition of EUPA itself and of its role as Malta's National Agency remained limited. The findings also showed uneven knowledge of the opportunities available, with study abroad, internships and youth mobility being the most recognised Erasmus+ actions, while ESC opportunities such as volunteering and solidarity projects were far less known. At the same time, the survey revealed encouraging potential for future participation, as nearly two thirds of those hearing about such opportunities for the first time expressed interest in studying, volunteering or working abroad, and over half said they would like to receive updates from EUPA.

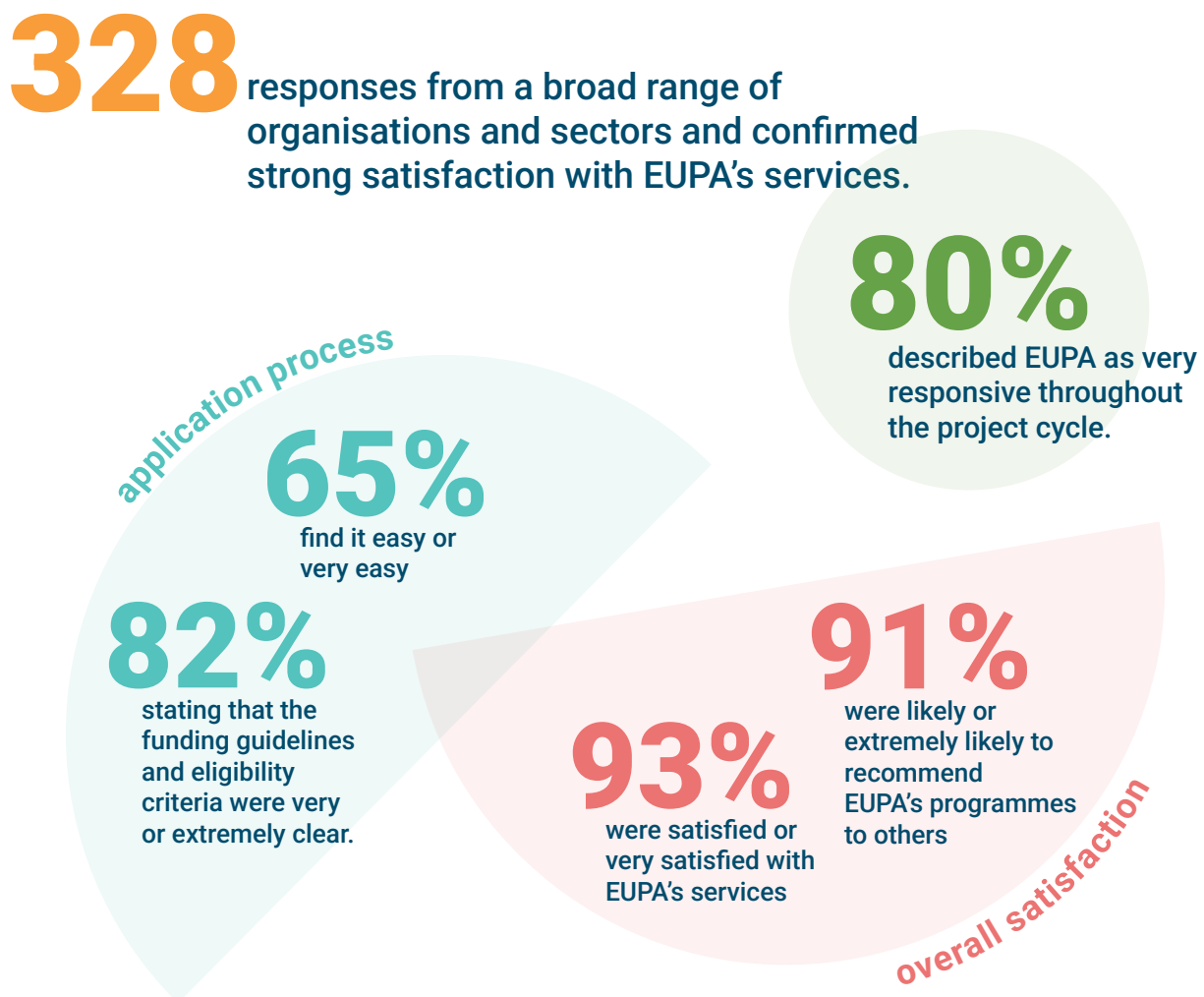
**302**  
responses

**83%**  
respondents having  
heard of the Erasmus+  
programme

**10%**  
respondents having  
heard of the  
European Solidarity  
Corps



The **Quality of Service Survey** received 328 responses from a broad range of organisations and sectors and confirmed strong satisfaction with EUPA's services. Most respondents rated the Agency's information as clear, accessible and relevant, and more than 80% described EUPA as very responsive throughout the project cycle. The application process was also viewed positively, with 65% finding it easy or very easy and 82% stating that the funding guidelines and eligibility criteria were very or extremely clear. Overall satisfaction levels were high, with 93% of respondents reporting that they were satisfied or very satisfied with EUPA's services, and 91% stating that they were likely or extremely likely to recommend EUPA's programmes to others. Respondents nevertheless identified areas for further improvement, particularly in relation to faster response times, clearer documentation, more user-friendly online platforms, and continued support and training.



Taken together, the two surveys confirmed both the strengths of EUPA's work and the areas where further effort is needed. While the findings point to high satisfaction among beneficiaries and stakeholders, they also underline the need to strengthen public awareness of the European Solidarity Corps, EUPA's role, and the opportunities available. These insights will help guide future communication, outreach and service improvements, with the aim of ensuring that more people and organisations across Malta can access and benefit from Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.





# strategy 2030

In 2025, EUPA adopted its Strategy 2025–2030, Skills for a Future-Ready Society, setting out the Agency’s long-term direction for strengthening education, training, youth engagement and community development in Malta and Gozo through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The Strategy reaffirms EUPA’s mission to promote, implement and manage these programmes at national level through the sound and efficient management of EU funds, with a view to achieving quality outcomes and meaningful impact. It also restates EUPA’s vision to inspire lifelong learning, knowledge, skills and personal development by facilitating EU funding opportunities across Malta and Gozo. At the centre of the Strategy is a clear strategic ambition for 2030: to contribute to the development of a dynamic, inclusive and resilient skills ecosystem in Malta, in which formal and informal learning opportunities empower people of all ages to participate actively in society, the labour market and civic life. The Strategy is aligned with key European and national frameworks, namely the Union of Skills, the Preparedness Union Strategy, the Malta Education Strategy 2024–2030, the National Employment Strategy 2021–2030, the National Youth Policy 2021–2030 and the forthcoming National Volunteering Strategy 2025–2030.

To deliver this vision, the Strategy is structured around four strategic pillars.

**Skills through Inclusion** focuses on widening access to Erasmus+ and ESC opportunities for underrepresented learners in formal education, NEETs, and people with fewer opportunities, including persons with disabilities and those from disadvantaged areas.



**Skills through Engagement and Solidarity**, strengthens non-formal learning and volunteering, particularly through the European Solidarity Corps, in order to promote civic engagement, active citizenship, intercultural understanding, social cohesion, and transversal competences such as leadership, initiative and resilience.



**Skills through Innovation and Digital Transformation**, supports the development of digital literacy, emerging technological competences, innovation in teaching, training and youth work, and digital inclusion for vulnerable learners and youth workers.



**Skills for Employability and Lifelong Learning**, promotes vocational, green and transversal skills, as well as entrepreneurship, problem-solving and adaptability, while encouraging stronger cooperation between educators, employers, civil society and government.



These pillars are underpinned by the horizontal priorities of inclusion and diversity, digital transformation, environment and the fight against climate change, and participation in democratic life, and are further reinforced through cross-cutting priorities relating to quality assurance and impact measurement, environmental sustainability, strategic communication and capacity building. Through this framework, EUPA aims that by 2030, it helps position Malta as a regional leader in leveraging EU programmes to build a resilient, skilled and engaged society, while ensuring that Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps remain dynamic tools for transformation, inclusion and opportunity.





# communication activities

## Publications

In its ongoing efforts to broaden the outreach of the programmes under its management, EUPA issued a number of communication outputs throughout 2025. These included the Annual Report, a quarterly newsletter, and press releases intended to keep stakeholders, beneficiaries and the wider public informed of key programme developments, funding opportunities, activities and recent events. Collectively, these outputs contributed to strengthening the visibility of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps in Malta.

## Website and Social Media

Throughout 2025, EUPA continued to use its website and social media platforms as key communication tools to promote the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes and to keep stakeholders informed of developments, opportunities, events and results.

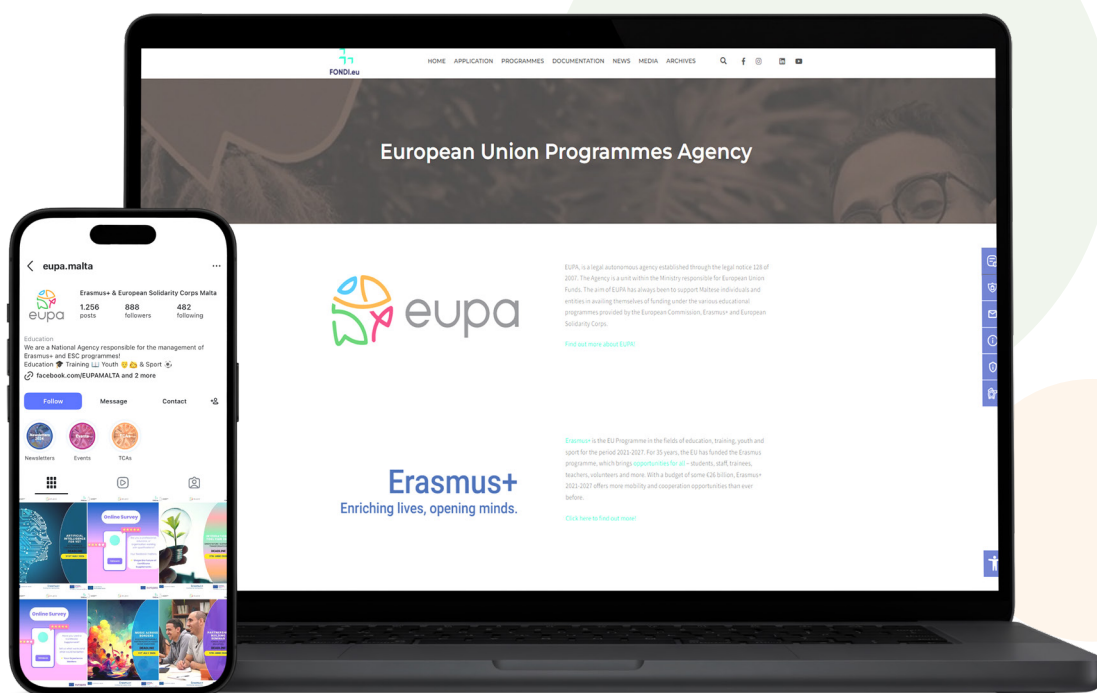
The website remained an important source of information for applicants, beneficiaries and the wider public. During 2025, the Erasmus+ Results page was the most visited section of the website, recording 23,562 views and 4,768 active users, followed by the EUPA homepage with 5,425 views and 3,282 active users. Other frequently accessed pages included programme information, funding opportunities and guidance materials, confirming the website’s role as an important reference point for users.

Facebook remained EUPA’s strongest social media channel, recording 477,661 visualisations, 4,491 content interactions, 2,402 link clicks, 38,061 visits, and 925 new followers in 2025. Although the platform metrics are not fully comparable with those reported in 2024, content interactions increased from 3,500 to 4,491, indicating stronger audience engagement.

Instagram also recorded positive results in 2025, generating 79,232 visualisations, reaching 8,816 accounts, and recording 554 content interactions, 2,647 visits, and 450 new followers. Compared to 2024, Instagram reach rose from 4,600 to 8,816, while content interactions increased from 500 to 554.

LinkedIn further supported EUPA’s professional outreach, recording 1,792 impressions, reaching 559 members, generating 130 clicks, and attracting 114 new followers, with an engagement rate of 7.8%.

Overall, these results highlight the continued importance of EUPA’s digital communication channels in maintaining stakeholder engagement and strengthening the visibility of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps in Malta.

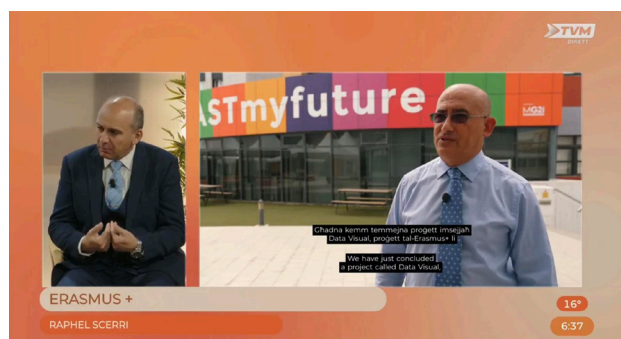


## Media Interventions and Promotional Campaigns

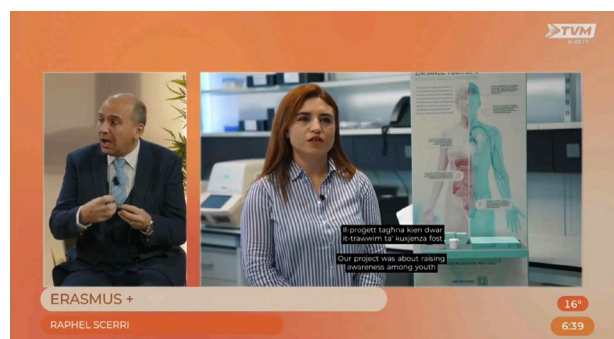
In 2025, EUPA strengthened its public visibility through a combination of media appearances, press activity and targeted promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the opportunities available through the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes.

In 2025, EUPA featured on three established informative programmes with broad public reach: Bil-Fatti on 24 June 2025, Campus Magazine on 14 October 2025, and TVAM on 17 December 2025. Press activity during the year included the announcement issued on 27 February 2025 regarding Malta's hosting of the 4th European Youth Work Convention, highlighting the importance of youth work and the contribution of institutions such as EUPA in supporting the sector through EU-funded opportunities, as well as the press release of 10 September 2025 confirming that over €14 million in European funding had been committed under Round 1 and Round 2 of 2025 for projects under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, while also encouraging prospective applicants to prepare for the next call.

In addition, EUPA implemented a targeted television advertising campaign on TVM and TVM+ through the Time Check segment, consisting of a 30-second spot broadcast immediately prior to scheduled daytime news bulletins in two phases, from 4 to 10 August 2025 and from 1 to 7 September 2025, for a total of 280 spots, promoting the October 2025 Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps application deadline. Further promotion was secured through participation in the MEA TV Programme, including a 30-second commercial advert slot broadcast across 26 programmes between October 2025 and April 2026. Taken together, these actions broadened EUPA's outreach, reinforced public awareness of its role, and supported wider access to information on EU-funded opportunities.



*Mr Raphael Scerri commenting about a good practice project implemented by MCAST*



*Mr Raphael Scerri commenting about a good practice project implemented by The BioArte Ltd.*



*Mr Raphael Scerri during an interview on TVAM*

## Information Sessions

As part of its ongoing efforts to engage target audiences and raise awareness of the opportunities available under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, EUPA organised 17 information sessions and workshops throughout 2025. These activities were designed to explain programme priorities, outline the objectives of the different actions, clarify award criteria, and provide practical guidance to prospective applicants on the application process. Several of these sessions were also held in collaboration with Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM), which presented the support services available to applicants.

The information sessions and workshops organised during the year included:

**16** January

*Bridging eTwinning and Erasmus+, which brought together 6 participants.*

**17** January

*Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Opportunities Session, delivered to a group of students attending Junior College and reaching 85 participants*

**22** January

*Get Set Write Erasmus+, a workshop specifically dedicated to Key Action 1 applications, including practical guidance on how to avoid common pitfalls based on feedback from previous applications, with 107 participants attending.*

**31** January

*From Concept to Collaboration, a workshop specifically dedicated to Key Action 2 applications, including practical guidance on how to avoid common pitfalls based on feedback from previous applications, attended by 54 participants*

**13** February

*Webinar: Study in Europe, organised in collaboration with Eurodesk, managed by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, and the Scholarships Section within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, which reached around 100 participants.*

**14** March

*Gozo Information Sessions, held in preparation for the May deadlines and including practical examples on how to avoid common pitfalls, with 10 participants attending.*

**24** March

*Malta Information Sessions, held in preparation for the May deadlines and including practical examples on how to avoid common pitfalls, reaching 17 participants.*

**4** April

*Local Councils' Information Session, held in preparation for the May and October deadlines.*

**15** April

*Participation in a webinar organised by Jobsplus, providing general information on available opportunities and reaching around 150 participants.*

19 May

*Online Training Session for Service Providers, providing information on opportunities within the Vocational Education and Training sector.*



*During an information session held in Gozo.*

22 July

*Online Information Session: Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Opportunities.*

25 July

*Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Information Session for Project Proposals Not Selected for Funding, held in preparation for the October deadlines and attended by 17 participants.*



*During an information session held in Malta.*

10 September

*Information Session for Band Clubs to promote opportunities under Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, which reached 37 participants.*



*Band club representatives attending an information session specifically tailored for band clubs.*

9 December

*Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Information Session for School Education, in preparation for the February 2026 deadlines, attended by 47 participants.*

9 December

*Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Information Session for Adult Education and VET, in preparation for the February 2026 deadlines, with 25 participants.*

12 December

*Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Information Session for Youth and the European Solidarity Corps, in preparation for the February 2026 deadlines, attended by 22 participants.*

12 December

*Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Information Session for Sport, in preparation for the February 2026 deadlines, with 25 participants.*

Through these activities, EUPA continued to strengthen its outreach efforts, provide targeted support to prospective applicants, and promote a wider understanding of the opportunities available under the programmes.

## Other Meetings

Throughout 2025, EUPA continued to provide direct and structured support to beneficiaries through a range of meetings held between programme officers and project representatives. These meetings formed an important part of EUPA's beneficiary support framework, enabling officers to provide guidance, monitor progress, address challenges, and promote the effective implementation of projects.

The meetings organised during the year included kick-off meetings, bilateral meetings, round table meetings, monitoring visits, and one-to-one meetings. Kick-off meetings were held to familiarise beneficiaries with their contractual obligations and to support the smooth management of projects from the outset. Bilateral meetings focused on project progress, the identification of risks, and the resolution of implementation challenges. Round table meetings provided a forum for beneficiaries to exchange experiences, discuss common challenges, and reflect on future development. Monitoring visits allowed EUPA to observe project activities on site and provide direct support where needed, while one-to-one meetings offered tailored guidance on issues related to implementation, reporting, financial management and compliance.

During 2025, EUPA held 95 kick-off meetings, 261 bilateral meetings, 15 monitoring visits in the areas of School Education and Vocational Education and Training (VET). In addition, 27 kick-off and bilateral meetings were held in Adult Education, 8 kick-off and bilateral meetings were held in Sport, and a further 6 monitoring visits were carried out in Adult Education and Sport. In the Higher Education 4 round table meetings were held. In the Youth Sector and European Solidarity Corps, the Agency held 49 kick-off meetings, 28 bilateral meetings and 7 monitoring visits. EUPA also held 48 one-to-one meetings, providing tailored support to beneficiaries and prospective applicants on specific project-related matters.

Through these meetings, EUPA continued to strengthen its support to beneficiaries and to contribute to the sound implementation of projects under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes.

	Education & Training	Youth & ESC
Kick-off meetings	95	49
Bilateral meetings	261	28
Monitoring visits	15	7
Round table meetings (only for Higher Education)	4	

## National Activities

Throughout 2025, EUPA participated in a range of national activities aimed at increasing public awareness of the opportunities available under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. These included three career-related events (including IChoose), two Europe Day celebrations, the Public Service Expo, and participation in five Freshers' Week events. Support was also provided to ErasmusDays and the eTwinning Awards. Together, these activities offered valuable opportunities to engage with students, educators, stakeholders and the wider public, while also promoting the Europass platform and its tools.

## Career Expos

EUPA participated in the Junior College Career Expo, held on 16 and 17 January 2025, and in the KSU Career Expo, held between 10 and 12 March 2025 at the University of Malta. During both events, the Agency engaged with students on potential educational and career pathways and highlighted how Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps can support personal, academic and professional development. EUPA also promoted Europass as a valuable tool for presenting skills and qualifications across Europe.



*Presentation of the opportunities available through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps during the Junior College Career Expo.*



*EUPA Communications Officer at the KSU Career Expo stand.*

## Europe Day

To mark Europe Day 2025, EUPA took part in two events held across Malta and Gozo, namely on 3 May at Villa Rundle in Gozo and on 9 May in Valletta. Through these activities, EUPA engaged with the general public and raised awareness of the wide range of opportunities available under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, while also promoting the Europass platform.



*Part of the setup for Europe Day celebration in Valletta.*



*EUPA stand at Europe Day in Gozo.*



*EUPA stand at Europe Day in Valletta*

## Public Service Expo

In 2025, EUPA participated for the second consecutive year in the Public Service Expo held at Ta' Qali between 21 and 25 May. During the event, numerous government entities and agencies showcased their services to the public. EUPA joined other EU funding divisions under Fondi.eu, with the aim of promoting the benefits of EU-supported projects across Malta and Gozo and highlighting the positive impact of EU initiatives on local communities.



*Secondary school students visiting the Public Service Expo.*



*EUPA Communications Officer explaining Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps opportunities to visitors at the stand.*

## IChoose

On 18 and 19 July 2025, EUPA took part in IChoose, an annual career fair targeting secondary school students who had recently received their O-Level results. The fair provided an important platform for engaging with students exploring their next educational and career steps. EUPA introduced participants to the wide range of opportunities available through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, aimed at supporting their educational development and employability. The Europass platform and its tools were also promoted as practical resources to help young people present their skills and qualifications effectively. During the event, EUPA also delivered a brief talk on Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps opportunities available to students and young people.



*EUPA Communications Officer delivering a presentation on Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps opportunities during IChoose careers fair.*



*Students attending the IChoose careers fair.*

## Freshers' Week

Between 24 September and 6 October 2025, EUPA participated in five Freshers' Week events across post-secondary and higher education institutions, namely Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School, G.F. Abela Junior College, the Institute of Tourism Studies, the University of Malta, and MCAST. Excluding the Institute of Tourism Studies, for which the student population was still pending at the time of reporting, these events were hosted at institutions with a combined student population of at least 22,165 students, highlighting the scale of the environments in which EUPA was able to strengthen its visibility.

During these events, EUPA engaged with students visiting its stand and provided information on the wide range of opportunities available through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The Europass platform was also promoted, highlighting its tools in support of young people transitioning from education to employment.



*EUPA Communications Officer at the KSU Career Expo stand.*



*EUPA Communications officer speaking about opportunities available during Freshers' Week at Junior College.*



*EUPA's stand during Freshers' Week at Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary.*



*EUPA Communications delivering information to students.*

## Work Plan 2026 Stakeholder Discussion

On 26 September 2025, EUPA's National Coordinator and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Raphael Scerri, together with sector managers, convened a strategic meeting with stakeholders from the Adult Education, Higher Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training, Youth, and Sport sectors. The session focused on discussing the 2026 Work Plan, reviewing programme goals under Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, and gathering stakeholder feedback to help shape the year ahead.



*EUPA CEO addressing the audience during the Gozo Stakeholders' Meeting.*



*Participants during Malta's 2nd Stakeholders' Meeting.*

## #ErasmusDays

From 13 to 18 October 2025, Malta joined the global celebration of the 9th annual #ErasmusDays, bringing together Erasmus+ beneficiaries and participants to highlight the impact of the programme. Activities held across Malta included information sessions, sharing of experiences, Erasmus+ info booth, international online assembly and themed assemblies, seminars, quizzes, a public exhibition, a digital campaign, presentations, networking events and sharing of testimonials amongst others.



*Educators from St Joseph Mater Boni Consilii School, Paola sharing their Erasmus+ School Accreditation mobility experience in Estonia during #Erasmusdays celebration event.*



*Teacher leading an educational activity with students at Sacred Heart Minor Seminary as part of #Erasmusdays celebrations in Malta.*



*Presentation by educators from St Joseph Mater Boni Consilii School, Paola on their Erasmus+ mobility in Estonia as part of the #Erasmusdays celebration at school.*



*A workshop being delivered to students at Sacred Heart Minor Seminary as part of #Erasmusdays celebrations in Malta.*



**PROUTIST**  
UNIVERSAL MALTA  
**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



*An exhibition hosted by Proutist Malta, as part of the #Erasmusdays, promoting non-formal education and cultural exchange under Erasmus+.*

## eTwinning

On 29 October 2025, EUPA participated in the eTwinning National Awards Ceremony, celebrating the achievements of educators across Malta. During the event, the School Education Sector delivered a presentation highlighting the synergies between Erasmus+ School Education projects and eTwinning, while also promoting Erasmus+ opportunities within the sector.

Overall, these national activities formed an important part of EUPA's outreach efforts during 2025, enabling the Agency to engage directly with diverse audiences, strengthen awareness of programme opportunities, and promote the added value of Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Europass.



*A winner receiving an award during the eTwinning National Awards 2025 ceremony held on 29 October 2025.*



*The eTwinning National Coordinator delivering a speech during the eTwinning National Awards 2025 ceremony.*



$$2 + x = 4$$

$$x = 4 - 2$$

$$x = 2$$

$$\pi : 62 = 12$$



# European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA)

In 2025, EUPA continued to support and promote excellence in education through the European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA), an initiative launched in 2021 as part of the European Education Area to recognise teachers, trainers, educators and their organisations for outstanding Erasmus+ projects that introduce innovative, interactive and inclusive teaching and learning practices. The Award seeks to celebrate the achievements of teachers and schools, raise the prestige of the teaching profession, identify and promote innovative educational approaches, and highlight the value of Erasmus+ in fostering collaboration and supporting the objectives of the European Education Area. Each year, the Award focuses on a theme linked to European Commission priorities, with Erasmus+ National Agencies selecting the best finalised projects under Key Action 1 Learning Mobility of Individuals or Key Action 2 Partnerships for Cooperation.

The theme for the 2025 edition was “Citizenship Education – Participation in Democratic Life, Common Values and Civic Engagement”, reflecting one of the key priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme. In a context marked by growing polarisation, disinformation and civic disengagement, the Award recognised projects that help learners develop critical thinking, media literacy, European awareness and the competences needed for active democratic participation. The official award event took place in Brussels on 8–9 December 2025, where 117 projects were recognised across five categories: early childhood education and care, school education, vocational education and training, adult education, and the European Language Label. Malta recorded a strong result, with four winning projects in four different categories:

*School Education*

**Blooming Schools –  
BirdLife Malta**

*Early Childhood  
Education and Care*

**Staff Training  
Experience 2024 –  
PA Holdings Ltd**



*Vocational Education  
and Training*

**Beyond Capital –  
Maltese Italian  
Chamber of Commerce**

*Adult Education*

**Let's Change the Pace: how  
are European trans and gender  
diverse children doing –  
The European Network of  
Parents of LGBTI+ Persons**

The winning organisations were also given the opportunity to produce short video clips about their projects, further increasing the visibility of their work and of the positive impact of Erasmus+ in Malta





# 4th European Youth Work Convention

The 4th European Youth Work Convention, held in Valletta, Malta in May 2025, marked an important milestone in the development of youth work across Europe. Bringing together more than 500 youth workers, policymakers, researchers, youth representatives and stakeholders from across Europe, the Convention provided a high-level platform for dialogue between policy and practice.

Organised by the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, and supported by European partners including the European Commission and the EU–Council of Europe Youth Partnership, the Convention was held under the theme “Youth Work Xcelerate”. Its aim was to strengthen the recognition, quality and sustainability of youth work, while contributing to the continued implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda.

The Convention focused on three main dimensions: Youth Work Core, Youth Work Environment, and Youth Work Systems. Discussions addressed the values, ethics and recognition of youth work; the professional development and support of youth workers and youth organisations; and the policy, funding and structural frameworks required to sustain youth work at local, national and European levels.

Key outcomes highlighted the need to increase the visibility and recognition of youth work, strengthen competence development for youth workers, improve quality assurance and evaluation mechanisms, and create more supportive and sustainable policy frameworks. The Convention also underlined the importance of safeguarding voluntary youth work, supporting youth organisations, and reinforcing cooperation across sectors and institutions.



*Mr Raphael Scerri engaging with participants*



*The setup at Aġenzija Żgħażaġh for the opening of the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Participants during the opening of the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Participants taking part in the opening celebration of the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Some of our distinguished guests attending the official Opening of the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Participants celebrating new connections ahead of the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Participants during day 2 of the convention*



*Some of our distinguished guests attending the official Opening of the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Participants during one of the workshops held as part of the programme for the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*A panel discussion during the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*A trainer delivering a workshop during the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Presentation of an official token to Ms Marvic-Ann Debono, Programme Manager for the Youth sector*



*Participants following a workshop during the 4th European Youth Work Convention*



*Participants attending the 4th European Youth Work Convention*

The discussions reaffirmed the central role of youth work in promoting democratic participation, inclusion, active citizenship and social cohesion. The Convention culminated in strategic conclusions and a European Roadmap, setting out concrete actions to guide future youth work development and support the continued implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda.





# **grant award ceremony**

On 24 October 2025, EUPA held the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Grant Award Ceremony, bringing together beneficiaries, stakeholders and public officials to recognise funded projects and highlight the wider impact of the programmes in Malta. The event opened with remarks by Mr Raphael Scerri, National Coordinator of EUPA, and a welcome address by Mr Jonathan Vassallo, Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme.



*Mr Jonathan Vassallo, Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for EU Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, delivering the welcome speech at the Award Ceremony.*



*Mr Raphael Scerri, National Coordinator at the European Union Programmes Agency, delivering the opening address during the Award Ceremony.*

The ceremony presented the results of Round 3 of 2024 for Youth and the European Solidarity Corps, together with Round 1 and Round 2 of 2025. It also celebrated success stories across Youth, Adult Education, Vocational Education and Training, School Education, Higher Education, Sport, and the European Solidarity Corps, including both Solidarity Projects and Volunteering Activities. Through short videos, testimonials and three panel discussions with beneficiary representatives, the event showcased the diversity, quality and impact of funded projects. Particular attention was also given to the Erasmus+ horizontal priorities, with four projects highlighted for their contribution to Inclusion and Diversity, Digital Transformation, Environmental Sustainability, and Participation in Democratic Life. The ceremony included the presentation of certificates to beneficiaries as well as the presentation of the European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA) certificates, and concluded with an address by Hon. Dr Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Minister for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme. Overall, the event served as an important occasion to recognise beneficiary achievement while reinforcing the strategic value and public visibility of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps in Malta.



*A panel discussion highlighting Erasmus+ Horizontal Priorities, featuring four projects addressing Inclusion and Diversity, Digital Transformation, Environmental Sustainability, and Participation in Democratic Life.*



*Participants and stakeholders attending the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Award Ceremony.*







# **projects classified as good practices**

## FoodRoam

Erasmus+ | Youth

Key Action 1 - DiscoverEU Inclusion Action

Ref. 2022-1-MT01-KA155-YOU-000103170

Beneficiary: Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ

**Summary:** FoodRoam was an inclusion-focused mobility project that gave 15 young people and 4 youth workers from the Youth.inc programme the opportunity to explore Europe through structured travel. It targeted young people with fewer opportunities and used mobility as a way to strengthen independence, European awareness, and personal development.

**Results and impact:** Participants developed practical skills in travel planning, budgeting, map reading, navigation, and intercultural communication, while gaining confidence through direct experience of moving across countries. The project also had organisational value as Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ's first Inclusion DiscoverEU initiative, helping the beneficiary build capacity for future mobility actions. Participants later shared their learning with peers, extending the project's impact beyond the immediate group.

**Tools/products produced:** No formal tools or products were reported. The project's main output was the participants' learning experience and the transfer of knowledge within the Youth.inc programme.

**Themes addressed:** Inclusion and diversity; cultural awareness; mobility and life skills.



*In Bratislava, prior to going on a walking tour around the old town*



*Roaming around Budapest*

## *Breaking Barriers: Empowering Business Students to become Future SME Leaders*

Erasmus+ | VET

Key Action 2 - Small-scale Partnership

Ref. 2023-2-MT01-KA210-VET-000176647

Beneficiary: Business Leaders (Malta) Limited

**Summary:** Breaking Barriers responded to the gap between vocational education and the realities faced by small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in relation to EU funding. The project combined applied learning, stakeholder engagement, and academic design to make business education more relevant to labour-market needs.

**Results and impact:** The project developed and accredited a Level 7 micro-credential worth 6 ECTS focused on EU funding and SME innovation, and it also launched the Funding Connect App. Together, these outputs strengthened participants' confidence, project-development skills, and understanding of funding opportunities. Its impact continues beyond the funded period through Knights College, which is carrying the learning model forward within its educational portfolio.

**Tools/products produced:** Level 7 micro-credential (6 ECTS); Funding Connect App; curriculum resources, reports, and dissemination materials supporting reuse and replication.

**Themes addressed:** Employability and skills development; digital transformation; labour-market relevance; inclusion and equal access.



*The Breaking Barriers Funding App*



*Mr Joe Tanti delivering a presentation as part of the project*

## ***E.A.S.E. - Easy, Accessible, Simple and Effective***

**Erasmus+ | Adult Education**

**Key Action 2 - Small-scale Partnership**

**Ref. 2023-2-MT01-KA210-ADU-000178946**

**Beneficiary: Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Malta**

**Summary:** E.A.S.E. was developed to improve access to clear and understandable information for people with disabilities. Through cooperation between Malta, Greece, Sweden, and Cyprus, the project combined research, training, and dissemination to strengthen the use of Easy Language across services and organisations.

**Results and impact:** The project delivered practical benefits for both service providers and end users. It improved professional capacity in accessible communication, strengthened awareness of Easy Language as a tool for inclusion, and created a multiplier effect through the certification of 28 trainers. Its impact extends beyond the project period by supporting continued dissemination of inclusive communication practices across sectors.

**Tools/products produced:** Easy Language guidelines; two research reports; three certified training modules; a train-the-trainer programme and certification framework; dissemination tools including a webpage, newsletters, and digital content.

**Themes addressed:** Inclusion and diversity; active participation and citizenship; adult education capacity building.



*A participant delivering a presentation as part of the project dissemination*



*A participant sharing her personal experience of the project*



*Participants during a panel discussion as part of the project*



*A participant sharing her personal experience of the project*

## Creating Safe Spaces and Youth Ministry

### European Solidarity Corps

#### ESC 51 - Volunteering Project

Ref. 2023-2-MT01-ESC51-VTJ-000179371

Beneficiary: Don Bosco Foundation

**Summary:** This European Solidarity Corps project brought together five international volunteers to support the Don Bosco Foundation's work with children and young people, particularly those with fewer opportunities. Volunteers contributed both to community-based youth programmes and to residential care support for vulnerable boys.

**Results and impact:** The project strengthened volunteers' skills in youth work, communication, teamwork, mentoring, and social care, while also creating more supportive and inclusive environments for the young people involved. It had visible impact at three levels: volunteer development, improved support for children and youth, and stronger organisational capacity within Don Bosco Foundation. The project showed how volunteering can generate both personal growth and concrete community benefits.

**Tools/products produced:** No formal tools or products were reported. The main outputs were volunteered activities, mentoring support, and strengthened organisational practice.

**Themes addressed:** Inclusion and diversity; solidarity; active citizenship; youth wellbeing and social care.



*A group photo of the participants*



*Participants during one of the project related activities*

## Adult Education Mobility Project

### Erasmus+ | Adult Education

#### Key Action 1 - Accredited project for mobility of learners and staff

Ref. 2024-1-MT01-KA121-ADU-000210982

Beneficiary: Down Syndrome Association Malta

**Summary:** This Adult Education mobility project used job-shadowing in France to strengthen the professional competences of staff and volunteers working in the disability sector. It involved 19 participants, including job-shadowing participants, accompanying persons, and an organisational representative.

**Results and impact:** Participants gained direct exposure to inclusive education and support practices used in another European context, which informed reflection, internal sharing, and the adaptation of approaches within the organisation. The mobility strengthened organisational capacity, improved professional confidence, and supported better-quality services for persons with disabilities. Its impact was therefore both individual and institutional, with expected benefits for service users as well.

**Tools/products produced:** Internal reports and reflections; sharing sessions and presentations; adapted practices and strategies for inclusive support; informal staff guidelines based on observed best practice.

**Themes addressed:** Inclusion and diversity; social inclusion of persons with disabilities; adult learning and professional development; equality and human rights.



*A group photo of the participants before heading off to their Erasmus+ experience*



*2 participants acquiring culinary skills*



*A group photo showing some participants during evaluation of one of the activities*

## *Upcycle It!*

**European Solidarity Corps**  
**ESC 30 - Solidarity Project**  
**Ref. 2024-2-MT01-ESC30-SOL-000258378**  
**Beneficiary: Green Crew**

**Summary:** Upcycle It! was a community-based environmental project that engaged children and young people aged 7 to 16 in practical workshops on reuse, creativity, and sustainable living. Led by Green Crew, the project used hands-on activities to turn environmental awareness into direct action.

**Results and impact:** Through workshops and community events, participants developed new upcycling skills, greater environmental responsibility, and a stronger sense of ownership over sustainable habits. The project also produced visible environmental results by repurposing materials that would otherwise have been discarded. Its impact lay in making sustainability concrete and accessible for younger participants while strengthening community engagement around greener practices.

**Tools/products produced:** Products created through the project included cork Christmas ornaments, tote bags made from thrifted T-shirts, and pallet sofas.

**Themes addressed:** Green skills; creativity, arts and culture; community development.



*The Green Crew team*



*Manufacturing a sofa from recycled pallets*

## DigiScan

Erasmus+ | VET

Key Action 1 - Short-term projects for mobility of learners and staff

Ref. VET-000230352

Beneficiary: Heritage Malta

**Summary:** DigiScan was a specialised mobility initiative between Heritage Malta and the UNESCO Chair on Digital Heritage at the Cyprus University of Technology. It involved an eight-person team from Heritage Malta's Department of Digitisation and focused on advanced 3D digitisation, metadata, and paradata practices in the cultural heritage sector.

**Results and impact:** The project combined hands-on fieldwork with academic exchange through EuroMed 2024 and contributed to the successful 3D digitisation of the Panagia Aimatousa Church. More importantly, it strengthened Heritage Malta's internal workflows, documentation standards, and technical methodologies, and informed work on the national collection and wider European projects. Its impact was strategic as well as technical, reinforcing long-term institutional capacity in digital heritage preservation.

**Tools/products produced:** Refined paradata documentation methods; integration of the VIGIE Study Complexity Charts; reinforced use of the Memory Twin approach; improved internal workflows for acquisition planning, processing, and quality control.

**Themes addressed:** Digital transformation; innovation; knowledge transfer; specialised skills development; international collaboration.



*Digitisation Fieldwork at Panagia Aimatousa Church*



*On-Site fieldwork in collaboration with Prof. Marinos Ioannides*



*Heritage Malta participants during the Euromed Conference*



*Heritage Malta and Cyprus University of Technology team during the digitisation fieldwork*



*Heritage Malta participants during the Euromed Conference*

## *Mobility of Higher Education Students and Staff Supported by Internal Policy Funds*

### **Erasmus+ | Higher Education**

#### **Key Action 1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals**

**Ref. 2023-1-MT01-KA131-HED-000146070**

**Beneficiary: Institute of Tourism Studies**

**Summary:** Under this Erasmus+ KA131 project, the Institute of Tourism Studies delivered a broad mobility programme for students and staff in tourism, hospitality, and culinary arts. The project recorded 106 participants overall, including 74 outgoing ITS participants and 32 incoming participants through the Institute's first Blended Intensive Programme.

**Results and impact:** The project strengthened academic, practical, and professional competences, reinforced ITS's internationalisation strategy, and deepened cooperation with both education and industry partners. A standout result was the successful implementation of ITS's first Blended Intensive Programme, alongside stronger digital mobility management through Erasmus Without Paper. The impact was visible at student, staff, and institutional levels, making mobility a driver of wider educational development rather than an isolated activity.

**Tools/products produced:** Blended Intensive Programme module and coordination framework; digital mobility management practices through Erasmus Without Paper; pre-departure guidance materials; outreach and visibility materials.

**Themes addressed:** Internationalisation and European cooperation; inclusion and intercultural dialogue; digital transformation; sustainability; higher education quality enhancement.



*2 participants from ITS during their Erasmus+ experience*



*Participants from ITS following a practical lesson during their mobility*



*A group photo of participants after finishing their mobility*

## *Sowing the S.E.E.D. with a Growth Mindset*

**Erasmus+ | School Education**

**Key Action 1 - Accredited project for mobility of learners and staff**

**Ref. 2024-1-MT01-KA121-SCH-000202532**

**Beneficiary: Kullegg Maria Regina**

**Summary:** This School Education mobility project was designed to support whole-college development around sustainable development, early leaving from education and training, growth mindset, diversity, wellbeing, and digital practice. It involved 42 participants across leadership, teaching, support roles, and student mobility.

**Results and impact:** The mobility activities helped translate strategic priorities into concrete practice through training, student mobility, and internal dissemination. The project strengthened the College's culture of continuous professional development and supported clearer action around wellbeing, inclusion, and school engagement. Its impact was visible in both institutional practice and the practical resources created for use across the College.

**Tools/products produced:** Mobility overview publication; Character Strength Cards; the Emotions Wheel wellbeing resource; banners promoting growth mindset and the 'Power of Yet'.

**Themes addressed:** Early leaving from education and training; inclusion and diversity; digital literacy and digital transformation; active participation; sustainable development; social inclusion.



*An activity focusing on a proactive approach: building emotional intelligence, empathy and trust as the foundations for student well-being*



*Maltese and Croatian students during a joint session which focused on the theme renewable energy, titled "Green Energy from Hydrogen"*

## *Mentoring Young People with Difficult Behaviour*

Erasmus+ | Youth

Key Action 1 - Mobility of Youth Workers

Ref. 2024-2-MT01-KA153-YOU-000258241

Beneficiary: National Federation of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco Malta

**Summary:** This training project brought together 27 youth workers and educators from nine European organisations to strengthen mentoring approaches for disadvantaged young people, particularly those facing homelessness, exclusion, or lack of family support. The project focused on practical mentoring competences rather than abstract discussion.

**Results and impact:** Participants reported stronger confidence, better mentoring skills, and increased motivation to support young people with complex needs. The project also reinforced organisational capacity through shared methods and stronger European networking, while improving the quality of support that youth workers can offer in their own contexts. Its impact therefore extended from individual professional development to better support systems for vulnerable young people.

**Tools/products produced:** Mentoring Toolkit focused on homeless youth and young people without family support; updated Mentoring Manual or Handbook reviewed with partner input.

**Themes addressed:** Inclusion and diversity; participatory non-formal learning; digital collaboration; youth support for vulnerable groups.



*A group photo of the participants during their mobility*



*Participants during a project related activity*

## *Mobilising Youth for Sustainable Urban Mobility*

**Erasmus+ | Youth**

**Key Action 2 - Small-scale Partnership**

**Ref. 2024-1-MT01-KA210-YOU-000250903**

**Beneficiary: Project Aegle Foundation**

**Summary:** Mobilising Youth for Sustainable Urban Mobility helped young people understand transport choices, urban planning, and the social and environmental effects of car dependency. Working with students aged 12 to 17, the project used workshops, participatory research, and digital tools to connect sustainable mobility with active citizenship.

**Results and impact:** The project reached 69 students across four schools and enabled participants to produce street design proposals for their communities while strengthening digital, STEM, analytical, and public-speaking skills. Its impact went beyond awareness-raising: some Maltese suggestions were reportedly taken up locally, and the learning model was designed for reuse by other schools. The project also strengthened school capacity to repeat the activities in future.

**Tools/products produced:** Walkability Toolkit; translated Greek version of the Walk21 Walkability App; student-generated street design proposals; open-access learning materials; media outputs including press releases.

**Themes addressed:** Sustainable mobility; youth participation; digital skills; STEM competences; social inclusion; active citizenship.



*A group of students delivering a presentation about as part of their mobility experience*



*During the opening of the final event of the project*

## Level Up for Community

Erasmus+ | Youth

Key Action 1 - Youth Exchange

Ref. 2024-1-MT01-KA152-YOU-000218496

Beneficiary: Projekta 360

**Summary:** Level Up for Community was a youth exchange that helped young people see how they can shape their communities through participation, analysis, and action. The project involved 21 young people and six youth workers or leaders and focused on problem-solving, engagement, and youth-led facilitation.

**Results and impact:** A major strength of the exchange was that each national group facilitated sessions for the others, giving participants real responsibility for planning, delivery, and reflection. The project strengthened confidence, communication, teamwork, public speaking, and project-planning skills, while also generating wider follow-on impact: a Swedish group went on to secure funding for and launch the Lead & Debate project. Visibility was further increased through public communication and a television interview by the Spanish partner organisation.

**Tools/products produced:** Level Up Resource Pack; Problem Tree and Opportunity Tree tools; Ladder of Participation; Theory of Change planning tool; facilitation guides; editable Canva-based resources.

**Themes addressed:** Digital youth work; quality and innovation in youth work; European identity, citizenship and values; active participation.



*A cultural visit as part of the project*



*A group photo of participants*



*Presenting the Theory of Change to the group*



*Participants during their visit to Malaga*

## *PUMP IT: Empowered through Sport*

Erasmus+ | Youth

Key Action 1 - Youth Participation Activities

Ref. 2024-3-MT01-KA154-YOU-000181528

Beneficiary: MOVE

**Summary:** PUMP IT used street sports and urban physical activities as a tool for youth participation, wellbeing, and inclusion. Implemented by MOVE in partnership with the Malta Street Sports Alliance, the project engaged young people through roadshows, workshops, and community events centred on BMX, skateboarding, parkour, panna, and street basketball.

**Results and impact:** The project involved 10 young people in the core group, reached 360 young people through outreach events, and brought 100 participants to the final dissemination event. Beyond promoting active lifestyles, it gave young people a structured opportunity to express their views on youth-friendly urban environments and present recommendations directly to policymakers, including the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works. Its impact lay in combining physical activity with civic participation and ongoing dialogue on safer, more inclusive public spaces.

**Tools/products produced:** No formal toolkit or product was reported. The main outputs were youth policy recommendations, outreach activities, and dissemination materials linked to the final dialogue event.

**Themes addressed:** Active participation; inclusion and diversity; youth wellbeing; community development.



*During a presentation as part of the project*



*Participants preparing props for their project*



*A young person satisfied after showcasing his skills during a project related activity*



*Participants ready for action*

## Stories in Motion

Erasmus+ | School Education

Key Action 2 - Small-scale Partnership

Ref. 2023-1-MT01-KA210-SCH-000157801

Beneficiary: SMC Cospicua Primary

**Summary:** Stories in Motion explored the use of Stop Motion animation as an innovative teaching and learning tool in School Education. Working with partners in Malta, Italy, and Spain, the project trained educators to use digital and creative methods that could improve engagement across subjects and age groups.

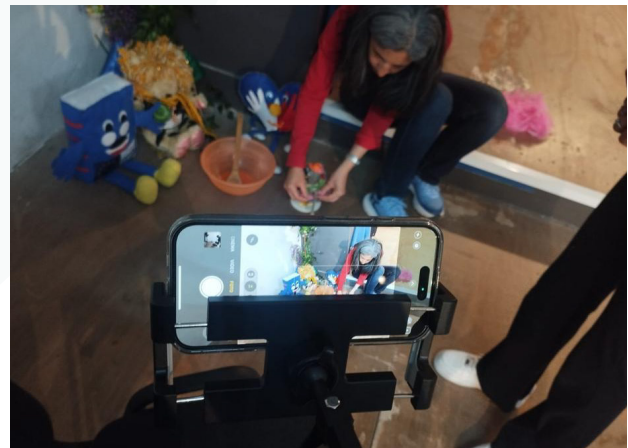
**Results and impact:** At least three educators from each participating school received training and later disseminated their learning internally, helping to expand the project's reach. The partnership produced original Stop Motion videos, strengthened cross-curricular collaboration, improved teacher confidence in technology-enhanced learning, and increased student engagement, particularly among learners less responsive to traditional methods. Its impact therefore combined teacher development, student participation, and stronger collaboration across schools and countries.

**Tools/products produced:** Teacher training package in Stop Motion methods; classroom animation activities and outputs; project website hosting final videos and shared resources.

**Themes addressed:** Inclusion and diversity; digital transformation; teacher development; creative learning



*Teacher training at Istituto Comprensivo Borgo Solesta'- Italy Cantalamessa*



*Working on the production of a stop motion feature*





# **implementation of eu networks**

## Eurodesk

Throughout 2025, Eurodesk Malta, implemented through Agenzija Żgħażaġħ, continued to promote learning mobility opportunities and European youth programmes among young people in Malta through a combination of digital outreach, direct engagement and thematic youth activities. Online dissemination remained a central strand of this work, with regular promotion of DiscoverEU, the European Solidarity Corps, the Opportunity Finder Tool and other mobility opportunities through social media platforms reaching around 14,000 followers. This digital activity was complemented by face-to-face outreach through the Meet, Greet, & Feed initiative, which brought Eurodesk into 31 youth events and spaces, including KSU Freshers' Week, the Career Opportunities Fair, Student Organisations Day and Playcon, collectively reaching more than 10,000 young people. To maintain regular communication, the monthly Eurodesk MT Newsletter was disseminated to 8,074 recipients, while Eurodesk-branded merchandise used during meetings and events reached an additional 5,000 young people. The Eurodesk 35th Anniversary Celebrations also brought together 215 participants, further strengthening visibility and engagement around youth mobility opportunities.

Eurodesk's work in 2025 also focused on linking mobility information with broader youth participation, wellbeing and digital citizenship. Activities addressed themes such as volunteering and mental health, digital literacy, and active citizenship, while the Time to Move campaign continued to promote learning mobility opportunities through online dissemination and direct outreach. Additional initiatives included the project Lense of Change: Capturing Activism Through Photography, as well as support for student-led activity on the University of Malta campus and the development of a board game designed to promote mobility opportunities among young people. Overall, Eurodesk Malta continued to strengthen awareness, participation and European connectivity among young people through a varied and engaging programme of information, outreach and youth-centred initiatives.

## National VET Team

In 2025, the National VET Team continued to support quality enhancement and system development in vocational education and training in Malta. A central part of its work focused on strengthening the national quality assurance and accreditation framework. This included the finalisation and publication of the Quality Assurance Guidelines for Online Learning Providers, following consultation and a stakeholder workshop held on 5 September 2025, as well as the continued development of the Programme Accreditation Standards for VET programmes at MQF Levels 1–4, aligned with the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET). These initiatives were aimed at improving consistency, transparency and continuous quality improvement across the VET sector, while supporting providers in adapting to evolving standards and expectations.

The National VET Team also invested in capacity building and peer learning throughout the year. A full-day in-person training session for VET providers was held on 22 September 2025, attracting 78 registered participants, while an online training session for peer reviewers on 2 December 2025 involved 49 experts from 22 countries. A final webinar held in December provided an overview of the year's work and reached 54 participants. In parallel, participation in European meetings and a study visit to Lund University from 6 to 10 October 2025 supported peer learning and international exchange on issues including admissions, recognition of prior learning, validation of non-formal and informal learning, micro-credentials and the use of artificial intelligence in higher education. Taken together, these activities strengthened Malta's efforts to modernise its VET quality framework and build stronger institutional capacity in vocational education and training.

## Europass

As in previous years, throughout 2025, EUPA continued to actively promote the Europass platform and its tools among students, job seekers and the wider public. The main objective remained to increase awareness and help individuals develop essential skills such as CV and cover letter writing, the presentation of qualifications, and the effective communication of their skills and experiences. These efforts aimed to ensure that learners and job seekers are better prepared to embark on their educational and professional journeys.

Information sessions and guidance activities were organised across secondary schools, post-secondary institutions and higher education establishments in Malta and Gozo, where EUPA staff provided practical support on CV writing and introduced the Europass platform and its tools. Europass was also promoted through public events and fairs, where branded material and flyers were distributed and attendees were guided on how to make best use of the platform to strengthen their employability. The yearly report confirms that Europass featured prominently in EUPA's participation at the Public Service Expo 2025, in career fairs such as the Junior College Career Expo, KSU Career Expo and IChoose, and during Freshers' events at Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, G.F. Abela Junior College, ITS, the University of Malta and MCAST, where students and staff were informed about Europass and its tools. The report also confirms that dedicated CV-writing sessions were held physically on request, while students were supported in identifying and showcasing their skills more effectively through Europass.



*A panel discussion during the Europass Annual Conference 2025.*



*During an interactive workshop carried out during the Europass Annual Conference 2025.*

Throughout the year, Europass was promoted during the Junior College Career Expo held on 16–17 January, the Study in Europe Webinar on 13 February, Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary Parents’ Day on 14 February, the KSU Career Expo held between 10 and 12 March, the Europe Day celebrations in Gozo on 3 May and in Valletta on 9 May, the Public Service Expo held between 21 and 25 May, and the IChoose Career Fair on 18 and 19 July, during which EUPA also delivered an information session on Europass tools and how students can maximise their use. From late September to early October, EUPA also maintained a strong Europass presence during Freshers’ Week activities at Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School (24–26 September), G.F. Abela Junior College (25–26 September), ITS (26 September), the University of Malta (29 September) and MCAST Paola Campus (6 October), reaching hundreds of students and encouraging them to begin building their professional profiles early. A major milestone during the year was the organisation of the Europass Business Breakfast on 31 October, held under the theme “Empowering Educators for the Future – Europass & Erasmus+ in the Digital World.” The event brought together career guidance practitioners and educators and featured a keynote speech by Dr Patrick Camilleri, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Leadership for Learning and Innovation within the Faculty of Education at the University of Malta, together with a panel discussion on Skills for the Future: Navigating the Digital World, the Labour Market and Opportunities for Growth, a contribution from a representative of the European Commission, and an interactive workshop. In addition to national outreach, EUPA also participated in the Europass NEC Meeting abroad and several webinars, ensuring that the Agency remained up to date with developments within the Europass network. Further targeted sessions were also delivered for students at the Archbishop’s Seminary, at Junior College, and during IChoose, helping to reinforce the practical value of Europass as a tool linking education, mobility and employability. Overall, Europass remained an important part of EUPA’s 2025 outreach activity, supporting young people and job seekers in developing the confidence and tools needed to progress towards further study and employment.









# volunteering and quality label

The Quality Label remains a prerequisite for organisations wishing to host or support volunteers under the European Solidarity Corps, as it confirms that the organisation meets the standards required to implement high-quality solidarity activities. In 2025, EUPA awarded the Quality Label to the following organisations:

- Missio Malta – Host organisation
- YMCA Malta – Lead organisation
- MSPCA – Lead organisation
- Jesuit Refugee Service Malta Foundation (JRS Malta) – Host organisation

Alongside accreditation, the National Agency continued to support volunteers through the Training and Evaluation Cycle. In 2025, four On-Arrival Trainings and three Mid-Term Meetings were organised, with 61 volunteers participating in groups of 10 to 15. The On-Arrival Trainings helped volunteers settle into life in Malta, understand the priorities of the European Solidarity Corps, and reflect on the purpose of their volunteering through non-formal and interactive activities. The same facilitators generally accompanied the groups throughout both stages of the cycle, ensuring continuity and consistent support. The Mid-Term Meetings built on this process by helping volunteers reflect on their progress, address challenges, maintain motivation and better understand the value of Youthpass. Together, these activities continued to play an important role in supporting volunteers' integration, learning and overall project experience.





# DiscoverEU

As part of the Erasmus+ programme, DiscoverEU gives 18-year-olds the opportunity to explore Europe by train, encouraging independence, intercultural learning and a stronger sense of European identity. In 2025, the initiative continued to attract strong interest from Maltese youth. During the first round of applications, 41 travel passes were awarded to participants from Malta, while a further 46 travel passes were granted in the second round. These results reflect continued enthusiasm among young people in Malta for opportunities that allow them to connect with their European peers and experience Europe's cultural diversity first-hand.

To support participants more effectively, EUPA also implemented a DiscoverEU Learning Cycle throughout the year. Following each application round, pre-departure meetings were organised to help participants connect, prepare for their journeys and share expectations and concerns. The first meeting was held on 8 February, while the second pre-departure cycle was delivered in two sessions on 20 June and 5 July. These meetings were complemented by an information wall using European Commission material and a digital info-kit developed by the National Agency through Padlet, containing practical information, travel tips, video tutorials and a Q&A section.

In 2025, the National Agency also organised two DiscoverEU meet-ups in Malta. The first, held from 20 to 23 April, brought together 23 DiscoverEU travellers from across the EU, together with 3 Maltese DiscoverEU Ambassadors and 6 DiscoverEU Inclusion participants. The second meet-up, held between 27 and 30 August, involved 10 DiscoverEU travellers, although participation was affected by peak-season travel costs and ticket availability. One post-travel meeting was also organised during the year. While ambassador participation remained modest, engagement among those attending was positive, and participants expressed interest in remaining involved in future activities. Overall, the DiscoverEU Learning Cycle continued to strengthen participant support before, during and after travel.





# DiscoverEU inclusion action

The DiscoverEU Inclusion Action complements the main DiscoverEU initiative by ensuring that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can also benefit from this mobility experience. In 2025, EUPA continued to promote this action as part of its wider commitment to inclusion and diversity. On 1 February 2025, an information session was held at Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, specifically targeting youth organisations active in the field of disability and focusing on Erasmus+ opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities.

During 2025, EUPA received and approved two applications under this call. The funded project includes two activities, involving 10 participants with fewer opportunities and 6 accompanying persons. Through this support, young people from marginalised backgrounds were given the opportunity to explore Europe in a safe, structured and inclusive environment. The participation of DiscoverEU Inclusion travellers in the April meet-up in Malta further reinforced this inclusive approach. Overall, the DiscoverEU Inclusion Action continued to demonstrate EUPA's commitment to widening access to European mobility opportunities and ensuring that these experiences are open to all young people, regardless of background or circumstance.





# training and cooperation activities (TCAs)

Throughout 2025, EUPA continued to lead and support a broad range of Training and Cooperation Activities (TCAs) aimed at strengthening capacity, improving project quality and fostering cooperation across the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. These activities included events hosted in Malta, participation in international activities abroad, and national initiatives targeting prospective applicants, beneficiaries and stakeholders across different sectors.

In the education and training sector, TCAs remained important tools for responding to the needs of applicants and beneficiaries and for supporting the effective implementation and impact of Erasmus+ projects. EUPA also continued to identify relevant TCA opportunities through SALTO and to encourage participants attending international activities to share the knowledge and skills gained with peers. At national level, EUPA organised a number of capacity-building and information events, including How accredited organisations can effectively evaluate the targets and objectives set out in their Erasmus Plan, national information sessions for VET and Sport, a session on capacity building for Adult Education institutions involving learners in the programme, and a national event on how to implement a good quality project for accredited organisations. In addition, EUPA organised a stakeholder event in the field of VET and Sport, focusing on Strengthening Project Practice: From Risk to Impact in EU-Funded Projects.

In the youth sector, EUPA remained strongly engaged in both transnational and national TCA activity. In collaboration with the North Macedonia National Agency and the SALTO European Solidarity Corps Resource Centre, EUPA hosted a NET transnational seminar for coaches in Solidarity Projects, bringing together 19 participants from eight countries to reflect on coaching approaches, exchange methods and strengthen their understanding of coaching in solidarity projects. EUPA also hosted a national youth work capacity-building activity in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, aimed at helping professionals adopt more holistic and youth-centred approaches when working with young people. Malta also hosted the European Youth Work Convention in 2025, which provided an important platform for dialogue on the recognition of youth work and its contribution to democratic life, social cohesion and policy development across Europe. In addition, the National Agency supported the participation of 41 participants in 27 TCAs, as well as 11 participants in seven NET activities, with final reports confirming strong benefits for both participants and their organisations. Overall, TCAs continued to serve as valuable tools for capacity building, peer learning, innovation and cross-border cooperation across all sectors.



*The trainer delivering a workshop during the TCA focusing on how to implement a good quality project for accredited organisations*



*Mr Raphael Scerri delivering the opening speech*



*Participants attending the TCA for accredited organisations*



*Participants during group work, learning how accredited organisations can effectively evaluate the targets and objectives set out in the Erasmus plan*



*During one of the workshops carried out during the MEDNET Meeting*



*A group photo of MEDNET Meeting participants*



*Participants during a workshop*



*Mr Scerri addressing MEDNET Meeting participants*

## Long-term Activities (LTAs)

Alongside its TCA work, EUPA remained actively involved in a number of Long-term Activities (LTAs), which provided a structured framework for sustained cross-national collaboration, strategic exchange and knowledge development. In 2025, EUPA was a partner in five LTAs focusing on Inclusion and Diversity, Sustainability, Pupil Mobility, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation, and Digital Pedagogy in the Age of AI. These long-term frameworks aligned closely with EUPA's strategic priorities and supported deeper cooperation beyond one-off activities.

Through the Inclusion and Diversity LTA, EUPA continued to promote ways of involving participants with fewer opportunities in the programme, while the Sustainability LTA supported greener national engagement, green mobility and environmentally sustainable practices within Erasmus+ projects. The Digital Pedagogy in the Age of AI LTA focused on the effective integration of digital tools into Erasmus+ activities, while the Impact Monitoring and Evaluation LTA aimed to strengthen the skills and tools needed by National Agency staff, assessors and beneficiaries to improve the programme's effectiveness and long-term results. The Pupil Mobility LTA also remained an important part of this strategic cooperation portfolio. In the youth field, EUPA continued to engage in wider European cooperation frameworks such as the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) and the Youth at Work Strategic National Agencies' Cooperation (SNAC), while also supporting cooperation linked to youSports and the RAY Learn Conference. Together, these LTAs strengthened EUPA's contribution to long-term policy development, strategic learning and the continuous improvement of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps implementation.





# the RAY network

## Research based analysis of European Youth Programmes

The RAY Network (Research-based Analysis of European Youth Programmes) is a transnational research partnership that brings together the National Agencies responsible for the Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes, along with their research partners, across 34 countries. Founded in 2008, the network seeks to monitor and assess how European youth programmes are implemented and what impact they have. Through a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research, the RAY Network generates evidence-based insights that support policy development and help strengthen the quality of youth work across Europe.

Malta actively contributes to several RAY research initiatives / studies, supporting the broader effort to better understand the outcomes of European youth programmes. Each of these research projects has produced detailed research reports offering insights into programme outcomes and highlighting potential areas for improvement. These publications are available on the RAY Network's website at [www.researchyouth.net/reports](http://www.researchyouth.net/reports).

In 2025, Malta participated in four research studies:

### ***1. RAY MON – Research project on the evidence-based analysis and monitoring of Erasmus+ Youth***

The RAY-MON (Research-based Analysis and Monitoring) study is an ongoing transnational research project of the RAY Network, designed to monitor and evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the Erasmus+ Youth Programme across 34 countries.

The latest RAY MON publication was the 2021–2023 report which provides insights into the experiences of participants and project teams, assessing the programme's effectiveness in fostering personal development, civic engagement, and organisational growth.

The findings show that participation in the programme led to improved competences among young people, particularly in intercultural understanding, communication, and civic engagement, while also strengthening the capacity, practices, and networks of participating organisations. Although the programme reached a diverse range of participants, challenges remain in ensuring access for young people with fewer opportunities. The positive impacts were found to be sustainable over time. The study therefore recommends strengthening support and training for project teams, promoting greater inclusivity, encouraging organisational learning and knowledge sharing, and improving monitoring and evaluation to enhance programme effectiveness.

Currently the latest cycle of monitoring surveys is about to come to a close. The first key transnational insights will be published during the second quarter of 2026.

Earlier and thematic research reports are regularly published and publicly available on the RAY Network's website.

### ***2. RAY SOC - Research-based analysis and monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps***

The RAY-SOC (Research-based Analysis and Monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps) study is an ongoing transnational research project carried out by the RAY Network across 34 countries. It aims to examine the implementation, outcomes, and long-term impact of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programme.

The latest publication on the 2021–2023 research cycle focused on assessing the personal, civic, and organisational effects of ESC projects involving both volunteers and solidarity project participants. The findings indicate that participation in the programme strengthened young people's competences, particularly in cooperation, empathy, intercultural skills, critical thinking, and civic engagement, while also fostering a stronger sense of European identity and community involvement. Participating organisations reported improved networks, stronger internal practices, and greater visibility of youth work. Projects were generally experienced as inclusive, safe, and meaningful. The study recommends expanding support and training for organisations, improving accessibility for young people with fewer opportunities, strengthening organisational learning and networking, and developing long-term monitoring systems to track programme outcomes.

Currently the latest cycle of monitoring surveys is about to come to a close. The first key transnational insights will be published during the second quarter of 2026.

Earlier and thematic research reports are regularly published and publicly available on the RAY Network's website.

### ***3.RAY DIGI – Research project on the role of digitalisation in youth work and non-formal learning in the context of the European Youth Programmes***

The RAY-DIGI research study explores how digitalisation influences youth work and non-formal learning within European youth programmes. Carried out in 41 countries, including Malta, the study investigated the ways digital technologies interact with youth work practices and produced recommendations to strengthen the digital dimension of youth work.

The first module of RAY DIGI focused on Literature review on the digital transformation of youth and civil society organisations. The findings of this module show that effective digital youth work combines technology with the relational, youth-centred principles of non-formal education. It often blends online and face-to-face activities while building on young people's existing digital experiences and promoting critical engagement with technology. To support this, the study recommends improved training for youth workers, supportive digitalisation policies, hybrid approaches, and better access to digital tools, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

In 2025, following the closure of the Module 1, Malta hosted the RAY DIGI working group meeting between the 1st and 2nd of July. The scope of the meeting was to discuss the 2nd Module focusing on best practice case studies on digital transformation.

The focus groups for the case studies were carried out between November 2025 – January 2026. Researchers examined successful digital transformation in youth work organisations.

The focus groups discussed several key topics, including:

- How digital strategies for youth work organisations are designed and implemented.
- The goals, visions, and attitudes toward digital transformation in youth work.
- How European, national, and organisational strategies align with each other.
- The role of youth work within national and European digital education ecosystems.
- How European youth programmes contribute to the digital transformation of youth work organisations.
- The needs of youth work organisations in Europe regarding digital transformation.

National reports have now been completed, and the transnational analysis has begun. A comparative report will be drawn up, identifying cross-cutting themes, divergences, and key implications for digital transformation in youth work organisations. The next working group meeting will take place in September 2026 in Helsinki to discuss the next module.

#### **4. RAY LEARN – Research project on organisational development and learning organisations in the European youth sector**

The RAY-LEARN research study is a longitudinal project exploring how youth organisations across Europe engage with the European Youth Programmes to foster organisational learning and development. Conducted in nine countries, the study combines qualitative and quantitative methods to understand the trajectories of various beneficiary organisations.

In November 2025, the RAY LEARN Conference was held in Budapest and co-hosted by the National Agencies of the European Youth Programmes from Finland (host), Belgium (Flemish Community), France, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden (co-hosts).

The conference brought together beneficiary organisations of the RAY LEARN research as well as national researchers and National Agency colleagues from the countries involved in the study. The scope of the conference was to celebrate, reward and expand participant's involvement in RAY LEARN. The sessions held also provided a space for beneficiaries to network, reflect and interact with the project findings to date.

#### **Key findings:**

The analysis showed that most organisations (62%) have an organisational development strategy focused on goals such as strengthening youth-led initiatives, improving staff and volunteer management, ensuring project sustainability, advancing digital engagement, promoting youth work recognition, and supporting inclusion and mental health. However, many organisations face challenges including high turnover among staff and volunteers and the need for stronger internal communication and management practices. Key resources include experienced and motivated members, while participation in European Youth Programmes supports organisational learning—particularly for project leaders. A major challenge is transferring learning from projects to the wider organisation. The study therefore recommends tailoring programme support to organisational needs, improving project sustainability and retention, creating platforms for knowledge exchange, and embedding organisational learning more clearly within programme frameworks.

The study is still ongoing, with the final round of interviews currently being completed and the national reports being finalised. The findings of RAY LEARN, together with the resulting recommendations, will be presented at the RAY Triangular Summit in October in Dublin.

#### **RAY DAY**

On the 20th of October 2025, we celebrated the European-wide day for communicating about RAY and disseminating RAY research, together with all the 36 partners of the network in 34 countries. The National Agency shared information about the RAY Network and RAY research outcomes on its social media platforms, and in our internal / external newsletters.

Additionally, the RAY team also live streamed an episode of the Youth Research Dialogues, presenting key insights, highlights, and surprising findings from 15 years of RAY research on European youth programmes. A guest speaker offered additional perspectives on the broader context of youth research, including current debates and emerging challenges. The discussion looked ahead to the future of youth research, exploring what types of research will be needed, how it should be conducted, and how youth work and policy stakeholders can better understand and use evidence-based knowledge.

A video was created by the RAY team to showcase the journey of RAY, the people involved, the work and activities that took place. The video can be accessed through this link: <https://vimeo.com/1128689687?fl=pl&fe=sh>





AGREEMENT

PROJECT PLAN  
Sale UP



# human resources

During 2025, EUPA continued to strengthen its organisational capacity through the work of its Human Resources function, which supports the Agency in the areas of recruitment, staff development, career progression, employee wellbeing, workplace policy, and the administration of compensation and benefits. The function remained central to ensuring that the Agency continues to operate effectively while investing in the people who contribute to its objectives.

Throughout the year, recruitment and selection procedures were carried out in line with Directive 7.3 issued by People and Standards within the Office of the Prime Minister. At the same time, EUPA maintained a strong focus on staff development, recognising the importance of investing in people as a key element of organisational effectiveness. In 2025, the Agency delivered a total of 112 training days, equivalent to an average of seven training days per employee. This investment contributed to the continued enhancement of staff competencies and supported employees in their professional growth and day-to-day responsibilities.

Employee wellbeing, motivation and engagement also remained important priorities during the year. The Human Resources function continued to promote supportive workplace practices, including the employee buddying system and strengths-based approaches, while also providing guidance on the interpretation of employment legislation and overseeing occupational health and safety matters. EUPA further supported staff wellbeing through the engagement of an organisational psychologist, reflecting the Agency's commitment to fostering a healthy and supportive working environment.

Another important initiative undertaken in 2025 was the coordination of the Employee Satisfaction Survey, launched in November 2025. The survey assessed five key areas, namely employee satisfaction, performance potential, service provision, management and employee relations, and relations with senior management. This exercise formed part of EUPA's ongoing efforts to better understand the employee experience and to identify areas for continued improvement within the organisation.

In the same year, the Human Resources function also launched the EUPA Bright Ideas Suggestion Scheme, aimed at encouraging staff participation, innovation and the sharing of constructive ideas within the workplace

## HR Quality Mark Award

A particularly significant achievement during 2025 was EUPA's attainment of the HR Quality Mark Award (2025–2028) from the Foundation for Human Resources Development (FHRD). This national recognition is awarded to organisations that demonstrate effective and professional human resource practices and acknowledges the competence, contribution and standards of the HR function within an organisation. For EUPA, the award represents an important milestone and a strong endorsement of its continued efforts to build a professional, supportive and forward-looking workplace. It reflects the Agency's commitment not only to sound human resource management, but also to creating an environment in which employees are supported, valued and empowered to contribute meaningfully to the Agency's mission.



*FHRD award presented to EUPA*



*Mr Raphael Scerri receiving the FHRD award on behalf of EUPA*





# Procurement Management





# finance and procurement

During 2025, EUPA's Finance function continued to play an essential role in supporting the Agency's operations and ensuring the sound management of public funds. Its responsibilities included financial planning and monitoring, budgetary control, the management of commitments and payments, payroll coordination, grant disbursement administration, reconciliations, year-end financial reporting, support in relation to audits, and the implementation of internal financial controls. Through these functions, the Finance team contributed to the effective, compliant and efficient administration of the Agency's financial resources.

The function worked closely with other units across the Agency to support the implementation of activities and projects, ensuring that expenditure was managed in line with applicable regulations, internal procedures and good financial governance principles. Throughout the year, particular importance continued to be placed on accuracy, accountability and the timely processing of financial transactions in support of the Agency's operational objectives.

## Internal Procurement and Purchasing Control

During 2025, the Procurement and Purchase Control Unit (PPCU) continued to provide essential support to the Agency by overseeing the procurement of services, supplies and works required across its various Units, in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations (L.N. 352 of 2016). The Unit supported the drafting, vetting and publication of tenders, coordinated evaluation committee meetings, and assisted in the award of contracts.

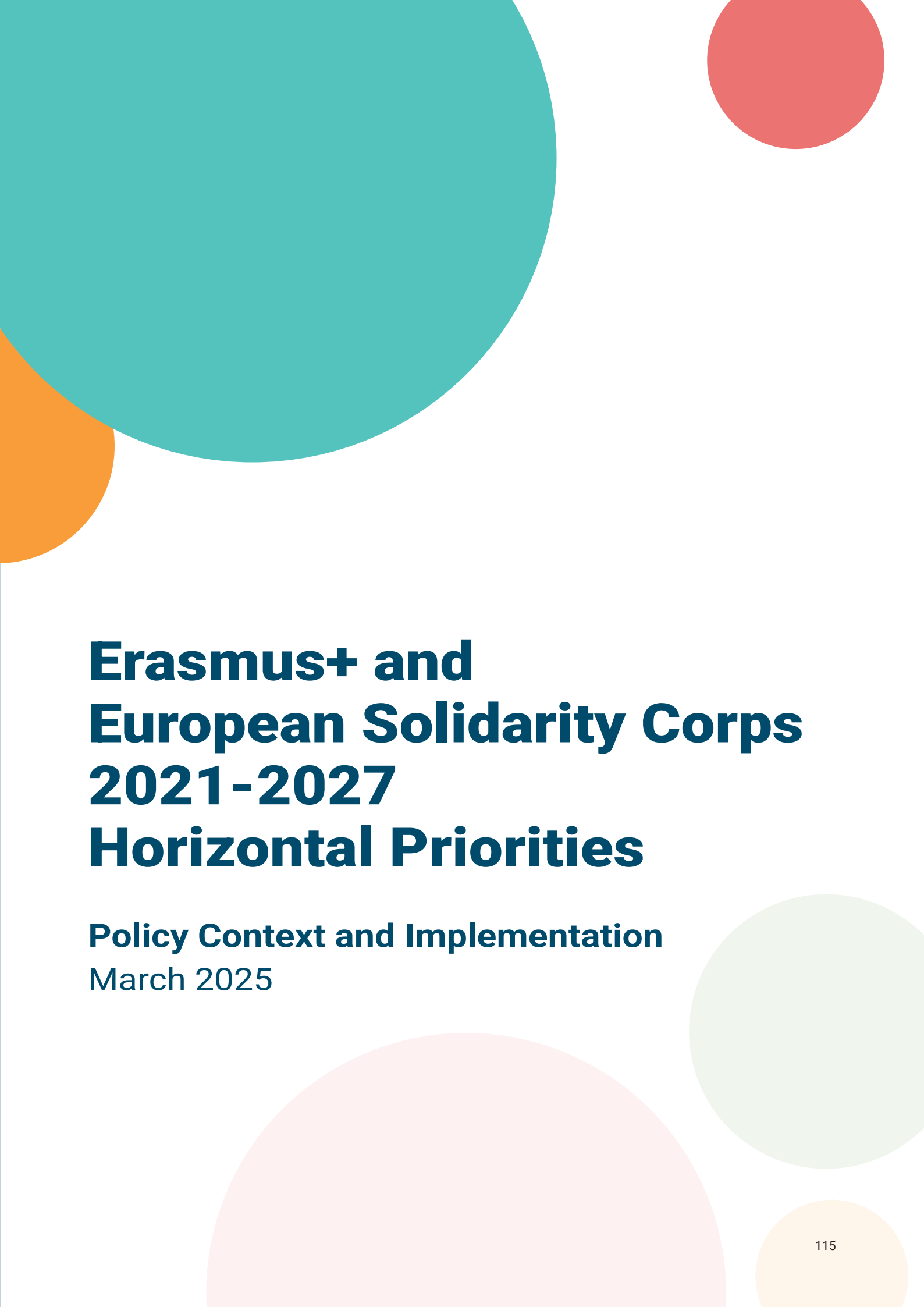
The PPCU also managed a number of post-contract procedures, including the preparation of addenda, the renewal of guarantees, and the handling of queries arising during contract execution. These functions were important in supporting compliant, efficient and well-coordinated procurement processes across the Agency.

In 2025, the Unit published two calls for tenders with multiple lots, of which one was awarded during the year. In addition, 291 calls for quotations were issued to support the Agency's operational needs.









# **Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027 Horizontal Priorities**

**Policy Context and Implementation**  
March 2025

In the current 2021-2027 programming period, the Erasmus+ (E+) and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes share four horizontal priorities which are integrated into every level of their design and implementation. These priorities reinforce shared European values and identify the core priorities across the EU's policy agenda. This brief report sets out to provide some background on each of these priorities, assessing their alignment with key policies at EU and national level, while also looking at how they have been reflected in Malta's implementation of both programmes to date.

## Horizontal Priority 1 – Inclusion and Diversity

Through this priority, both the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) 2021-2027 programmes are committed to making their benefits and actions as accessible as possible to people and organisations with fewer opportunities. Supporting the EU's key value of equality, this commitment translates into direct action at programme implementation level to increase the participation of beneficiary groups who may have been under-represented in previous programming periods.

This priority also reflects a Union-wide recognition of the need to respond decisively to deep social and economic changes across the Member States, as communities become more diverse, and societies more complex. In this challenging context, tangible action to support inclusion and diversity contributes to the EU's fundamental objective of stronger socio-economic cohesion.

The 2021 Regulations establishing each Programme clearly state the rationale for their shared focus on inclusion and diversity; tangible measures to integrate this priority into programme delivery are also highlighted.

### ERASMUS+ 2021-2027

*"In fulfilling its objectives, the Programme should be more inclusive by improving participation among people with fewer opportunities. A range of measures could help to increase the participation in the Programme of people with fewer opportunities, including better and more targeted outreach, communication, advice and assistance, simplified procedures, more flexible learning mobility formats, and increased engagement with small organisations, in particular newcomer organisations and community-based grassroots organisations that work directly with disadvantaged learners of all ages. It is important to recognise that low levels of participation among people with fewer opportunities stem from different causes and depend on different contexts. Therefore, within a Union-wide framework of such measures aimed at increasing participation among people with fewer opportunities, inclusion action plans should be developed and tailored to the target groups and specific circumstances in each Member State."*

*(Art. 18, Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021)*

## European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027

*“Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that solidarity activities are accessible to all young people, and in particular young people with fewer opportunities. Special measures should be put in place to promote social inclusion and, in particular, the participation of disadvantaged young people, including the provision of reasonable accommodation to enable people with disabilities to effectively participate in solidarity activities on an equal basis with others in accordance with Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and with Council Directive 2000/78/EC ( 18 ).”*

*(Art. 43, Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021)*

*‘Persons with fewer opportunities’ are defined in both Regulations as people who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, due to their migrant background, or for reasons such as disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could give rise to discrimination under Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, face obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme.*

### **Alignment with EU and National Policies and Strategies**

A cornerstone of the EU’s value-based policy agenda is the inclusion of people facing specific challenges to accessing social and economic opportunities. At a time of acute global transformation – not least, green and digital - it is also one that is increasingly essential to ensuring a just transition and securing social cohesion.

This rising importance is reflected in a sustained policy focus on inclusion and diversity, both in terms of guiding horizontal frameworks informing all EU actions and policies in the 2021-2027 period, as well as more vertical and targeted actions by sector. As might be expected, the education & training, youth, and sports sectors are seen as critical policy pillars in this context.

## **EU Strategic Policy Framework**

### **Overarching Policy Alignment**

#### **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)**

Launched in 2017, this comprehensive framework defines twenty principles and rights which work together for a 'strong Social Europe' and are intended to guide policy-setting in all sectors, both at EU and national level. A number of these principles relate to equal opportunities in education & training and access to employment; others cover the importance of the social inclusion and integration of all persons, regardless of any specific challenges or circumstances they may face. These areas are directly supported by E+ and ESC 2021-2027 actions. The EPSR is supported by a Plan looking ahead to 2030 which captures tangible measures to convert the principles into tangible actions

#### **EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027**

This Plan focuses on people with migrant backgrounds and proposes 'targeted and tailored' support to promote better social and economic integration and inclusion. Among the key measures proposed, actions supporting more inclusive education, training, and employment outcomes are highlighted – these are areas directly supported by Erasmus+.

#### **Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030**

This Strategy acknowledges that despite progress achieved in previous years, persons with disabilities continue to face significant inclusion barriers, resulting in a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion. It puts forward actions and initiatives in various sectors to support equal participation and accessibility. In the context of E+ and the ESC, these include robust inclusion measures in lifelong education & training, actions to drive better labour market outcomes for persons with disabilities, as well as grass-roots mobilisation at community level to build inclusion through more participation in social activities, particularly youth work and sports.

In addition, under the banner 'equality for all' the European Commission also launched the following initiatives:

- LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025
- EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025
- Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025

## Sector-Specific Policy Alignment

Education & Training	Youth	Sports
<b>European Education Area</b>	<b>EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027</b>	<b>EU Work Plan for Sports</b>
<p>Stresses the need for equitable access to good quality education in improving social cohesion and social mobility.</p> <p>Key objective is to support Member States in improving inclusion in their education &amp; training systems. Further amplified in the 2018 Council Recommendation on common values, inclusive education and the European dimension of teaching.</p>	<p>Prioritises social inclusion and diversity through its three core pillars—Engage, Connect, and Empower—aiming to ensure all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, have equal access to resources, education, and social participation. With direct reference to E+ and the ESC, it also champions the removal of barriers to youth mobility.</p>	<p>Successive workplans have increasingly prioritised inclusion in their proposed actions, working to ensure equal access to sport for all, particularly vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities. Emphasis is placed on support for grassroots sports and the important role of voluntary-based clubs in fostering social inclusion and cohesion. This is a focus of sports-based actions under E+ in both KA1 and KA2.</p>
<b>European Skills Agenda</b>	<b>2020 Council Resolution on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda</b>	
<p>A central pillar of this Agenda is ensuring social fairness by ensuring equal and equitable access to education, training, and lifelong learning for all. Skilling, reskilling, and upskilling opportunities provided through E+ are cited as a vital contributor to this process.</p>	<p>In setting out new youth work policies and practices, this Resolution focuses on outreach to young people from disadvantaged or diverse backgrounds. This approach is very evident in the youth sector initiatives funded through E+ and ESC 2021-2027.</p>	
<b>Union of Skills</b>		
<p>Highlights accessibility gaps in skills acquisition, identifying persons with fewer opportunities as the most likely to be at risk of exclusion</p>		

## National Strategic Policy Framework

A similar concern with inclusion and diversity is also evident in Malta's national policy landscape. This is a timely response to the rapid social, economic, and demographic changes that have impacted virtually all aspects of Maltese life and society over the last decade. Despite strong economic growth, inequalities in social outcomes persist, resulting in higher poverty and social exclusion risks for a number of vulnerable groups. Particular challenges are noted for low-skilled adults, Third Country Nationals, and persons with disabilities<sup>1</sup>. Improving the quality, reach, and effectiveness of Malta's education and training systems, including in adult education, is highlighted as a key action to mitigating these persistent opportunity gaps. This focus is closely aligned with the aims and objectives of Erasmus+ and the ESC programmes in Malta.

A new **National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion (2025-2035)** provides the umbrella policy framework for all government objectives in this area. This Strategy covers a range of recommendations across critical areas, notably education, training, and employment systems; inclusion and engagement measures for at-risk youths are also prioritised.

A similar cross-sectoral approach has been adopted in the latest **National Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030**. This aims to foster equality, independent living, and inclusion targeting 13 key areas. Aligned with both the E+ and ESC actions, these areas include rights and equality, accessibility, employment, and education. Facilitating and supporting active participation in community, cultural, sporting, and political life is another focus.

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<sup>1</sup>European Semester 2025 Malta Country Report; National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025-2035

## Sector-Specific Policy Alignment

Education & Training	Youth	Sports
<p><b>Policy on Inclusive Education in Schools/National Inclusive Education Framework</b></p>	<p><b>Towards 2030: Reaching out to, working with, and supporting young people</b></p>	<p><b>A National Policy for Sport in Malta &amp; Gozo 2017-2027</b></p>
<p>Both documents reflect a more ‘person-centered’ approach with a strategic orientation built on three pillars: growth &amp; empowerment, wellbeing, and equity &amp; inclusion. Under this third pillar, and in alignment with E+ aims in the education &amp; training sector, measures are being developed to ensure more inclusive educational spaces; importance is given to innovative teaching methods and targeted support initiatives.</p>	<p>This sets a number of strategic goals with the overarching aim of developing an inclusive national youth policy that is relevant to the realities and challenges of young people in Malta today and leading up to 2030. It is guided by the principles of ‘integration, inclusion, and equality.’ Advocates for an integrated and cross-sectoral approach. In line with E+ and ESC actions; inclusive accessibility to social opportunities, including international mobility, is emphasised. A central role is also assigned to youth work, emphasising the need for better quality and innovation in service delivery.</p>	<p>Aims to increase participation levels in all forms of sport and physical activity, ensuring universal accessibility and with specific actions tailored for harder-to-reach groups. Defines the strengthening of grassroots sports as core to this aim.</p>
<p><b>Early Leaving from Education and Training Strategy: The Way Forward 2023-2030</b></p>		<p><b>A Strategy for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity 2025-2030</b></p>
<p>Works to reduce educational inequalities and gaps in attainment through a holistic approach. Early identification of at-risk students is identified as essential, followed by holistic engagement and retention interventions.</p>		<p>Establishes physical activity as an integral part of a healthy lifestyle that should be open to all. Presses for an enabling environment that supports participation at local and community level. On this basis the Strategy identifies as a strategic objective the optimal use of community facilities for physical activity, including through active measures to boost participation in grassroots sport organisations.</p>
<p><b>National Lifelong Learning Strategy 2023-2030</b></p>		
<p>Targets educational opportunities for low-skilled adults. Emphasises the need for improvements in the quality of adult learning service provision, including the innovation of training methods and formats to increase engagement.</p>		

## Implementation Measures – Inclusion and Diversity Horizontal Priority

Through a co-creation process in their planning phase, the design of both the E+ and ESC 2021-2027 programmes built on the experiences gained and lessons learned from previous programmes to identify the core participation barriers affecting persons with fewer opportunities.

As seen below, eight main barriers to 'outreach and accessibility' are featured in the Commission's implementation strategy for this horizontal priority.<sup>2</sup>



Targeted mechanisms to address and mitigate these barriers in programme implementation are put forward. These include:

- Setting inclusion and diversity as priorities in the assessment and grant awarding process
- Increasing the accessibility and user-friendliness of the programmes
- Reinforced mentorship to support and facilitate the participation of persons with fewer opportunities
- Dedicated financial support to enable the participation of persons with fewer opportunities
- Increased accessibility for small, grassroots organisations

National Agencies have been assigned a key role in applying the inclusion and diversity priority in their implementation of both the E+ and ESC programmes. The first step required by the Commissions' Implementation Strategy was the preparation of a country-specific Inclusion and Diversity Strategy, adapted to the needs and realities of the national context.

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<sup>2</sup>European Commission. (2021). Implementation Guidelines: Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy.

## **Malta's Implementation of the Inclusion and Diversity Horizontal Priority – E+ and ESC 2021-2027**

### **Preparation of a National Strategy Plan for Inclusion and Diversity**

Both E+ and ESC 2021-2027 are being implemented in Malta in close alignment with the principles of inclusion and diversity laid down in the Implementation Strategy and reinforced in its annual work programmes.

As per the Inclusion and Diversity Implementation Strategy, the National Agency laid the groundwork for this in 2021 by developing a Strategy Plan for Inclusion and Diversity specific to local needs and realities. This Plan identified those groups with fewer opportunities in Malta which have so far been under-represented as programme beneficiaries and therefore require tailored focus and support to access funding opportunities. The main groups identified in the Strategy Plan were:

- Persons with physical, intellectual, mental, or health-related disabilities
- Persons with a low-income family background
- Low-skilled persons who are not in education, employment or training and therefore at risk of social and economic exclusion
- Persons facing discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, or sexual orientation.

Following this Plan, the National Agency has implemented a targeted strategy to reach these groups, and to widen participation of both individuals and organisations which have so far been under-represented. This entailed working to raise awareness of both programmes through tailored outreach activities, while providing the necessary hands-on assistance to drive engagement and subsequently support project application and implementation. As per the 2022 Plan, progress would be measured by four key performance targets:

- 20 percent increase in the number of organisations applying for funding by 2025
- 5 percent increase the number of persons with fewer opportunities participating in the E+ programme by 2025
- 3 percent increase in the number of persons with fewer opportunities participating in the ESC programme by 2025
- 10 percent increase in share of applications from Gozo by 2024

### **Key measures adopted by the National Agency**

- In line with the National Plan and the Commission's Inclusion and Diversity Implementation Strategy, the National Agency applied the following measures across all three sectors and actions:
- Applying the inclusion and diversity prioritisation in project selection and approval
- Targeted outreach and engagement, particularly with individuals and organisations who had never previously participated in either program (this included the appointment of a youth worker assigned to engage with harder-to-reach youths and organisations)
- Implementation of simplified procedures
- Reinforced guidance and assistance in the application and implementation stage for organisations with capacity challenges

## Results Achieved

### National Plan Indicators

- Increase in the number of organisations applying for funding by 2025
- Increase in the number of PWFO participating in E+ by 2025
- Increase in the number of PWFO participating in ESC by 2025
- Increase in the share of applications from Gozo by 2025

### Other Indicators

- Number of approved projects tackling inclusion and diversity as the primary priority (either 2021 2025 or 2025 only) – according to the spreadsheet supplied by the MTNA 16 projects fall in this category from 2021 to date. Is this correct?
- Share of beneficiaries identified as PWFO participating in E+ by year (by key action preferably)
- Share of beneficiaries identified as PWFO participating in ESC by year

### Project examples

Project Title	Europe Through the Eyes of an Immigrant
Key Action	Erasmus+ Key Action 152 (Youth Exchange)
Beneficiary	Proutist Universal Malta
Brief Overview	Using a proactive workshop format, this project brought together young people from six countries that experience migration and refugee-related challenges in different ways, creating an opportunity to share experiences and best practices. Tangible actions included the use of non-formal, empathy-based learning methods such as the Human Library, simulations, theatre-based activities, intercultural discussions, and direct engagement with local communities and schools.
Impact	The project achieved a clear and concrete impact by strengthening young people's awareness, attitudes, and competencies related to social inclusion, intercultural understanding, and the prevention of discrimination. At participant level, the project contributed to national objectives on inclusion and social cohesion by supporting young people to better understand migration and refugee-related challenges within their own national contexts. At community and organisational level, the project supported the implementation of national strategies on youth engagement and social integration by equipping participating organisations with practical methods to address discrimination and exclusion in youth work. Partner organisations integrated project experiences into their local activities, including workshops, school visits, awareness sessions, and online dissemination. This strengthened their ability to contribute to national policies that promote active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, and the social inclusion of migrants and refugees.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Enhancing job experience of staff working in drug rehabilitation</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 122 (Adult Education)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (Caritas Malta)</b>
Brief Overview	The Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (Caritas Malta) operates drug rehabilitation services for both adults and adolescents that include an Outreach service, a Family service, Residential Therapeutic Communities, an Evening Program, and an Aftercare Service. This mobility project sought to provide front-line staff working within these services with the opportunity to experience similar services across Europe in order to: (i) enrich their understanding of drug rehabilitation services and (ii) observe practices and tools in other therapeutic programs that could be implemented the sending organisation. v
Impact	<p>This mobility project highlighted a number of specific work practices observed at the host organisation which were considered appropriate for improving services at Caritas. Some of these practices were implemented right away and are currently being used, such as the use of an emotions chart for residents in the program. Other results of the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improvements in the communication of the therapeutic concepts of the rehabilitation program to residents.</li> <li>• Plans to address the need for low-threshold treatment programs, which is not yet offered in Caritas' services</li> <li>• Plans to introduce residential programmes for mothers with children</li> </ul>
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>To be culturally inclusive</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 122 (School Education)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>St Thomas More College Santa Lucia Secondary</b>
Brief Overview	The main objective of the project was to improve the participating school's ability to support and include students from diverse cultural backgrounds. By learning from best practices across Europe, the aim was to enhance staff awareness of cultural diversity, adopt inclusive teaching strategies, and improve communication with students and their families, creating a more welcoming and equitable school environment where all students feel valued.
Impact	The project led to increased staff awareness of cultural inclusion, improved teaching strategies to support foreign students, and better communication with families. It also strengthened collaboration among educators and reinforced the school's commitment to creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all students. The school also made significant progress in ensuring that all students are considered when planning lessons and activities. Educators are now more aware of the importance of representing diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences in the classroom. Teachers are also actively selecting resources that reflect a range of perspectives and promote critical thinking. These practices help all students feel recognised and respected, while also fostering a more inclusive and culturally aware learning environment.

## Horizontal Priority 2 – Digital Transformation

The EU is currently at the mid-point of its ‘Digital Decade’: an initiative launched in 2021 which mapped out an EU-wide transition towards a truly digital Europe by 2030. As economic, technological, and geopolitical change accelerates, the need to secure Europe’s digital future is increasingly fundamental to sustaining its economic growth and competitiveness. Two fundamental principles are underpinning this transition:

- **Inclusion:** an EU-wide effort to ensure that everyone can engage with, and benefit from, a Digital Europe
- **Sustainability:** working towards green, circular, and sustainable tech solutions to drive a mutually reinforcing green and digital transition

The EU’s digital focus is ramping up further following the 2024 Draghi report on the future of European competitiveness, which identified the **digital transition** as a critical, high-investment priority to reverse the European Union’s economic slowdown<sup>3</sup>. Draghi couples this with decarbonisation reflecting the ‘twin transition’ imperative referred to above.

A central pillar of this strategy is addressing the **skills gap**—specifically in digital literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)—through comprehensive reforms in education and training systems. Skills mobility and portability are also highlighted in the report as essential to narrowing this gap and maintaining the necessary momentum for transformation, particularly as the industrial sector moves to meet decarbonisation and digitalisation targets. The learning mobility and opportunities for the exchange of digital expertise and innovative practices enabled by Erasmus+ are a key component in working towards these objectives.

For this reason, digital transformation was selected as the second horizontal priority for both the E+ and ESC programmes at the start of the Digital Decade, with the governing Regulation establishing Erasmus+ stating that “The Programme should respond to the necessary digital transformation of education and training, youth, and sport.” The Regulation also emphasises the value of Erasmus+ in driving innovation and in strengthening future skills, including emergent technologies that are considered vital to Europe’s sustainable growth and competitiveness.

*“The Programme should be able to support any field of study and should, in particular, contribute to strengthening the Union’s innovation capacity by supporting activities that help people develop the knowledge, skills, competences and attitudes they need in forward-looking study fields or disciplines such as science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), climate change, environmental protection, sustainable development, clean energy, artificial intelligence, robotics, data analysis, design and architecture, and digital and media literacy.”*

*(Art. 15, Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021)*

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<sup>3</sup>Draghi, M. (2024). The Future of European Competitiveness – A Competitiveness Strategy for Europe

## Alignment with EU Strategies

### Overarching Policy Alignment

#### Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027

Through this horizontal priority, Erasmus+ aims to support the successful digital transition of education and training systems across Member States in line with the priorities and objectives set by the Digital Education Action Plan. This Plan provides a comprehensive framework for high-quality, inclusive, and accessible digital education which acts on two strategic levels:

- **Organisational & systemic:** Establishing a 'high performing digital education ecosystem' to support quality skills acquisition
- **Individual:** Enhancing the digital skills and competences required to drive the digital transition

Aligned with Erasmus+'s key actions and target beneficiaries, the Plan covers all formal sectors of education and training from a lifelong learning perspective and at all levels – from basic digital skills to advanced, cutting-edge technologies.

The Digital Education Action Plan is further reinforced by two complementary Council Recommendations which are relevant to Erasmus+.

#### Council Recommendation on the key enabling factors for successful digital education and training

This focuses on the key enablers required to ensure effective and fit-for-purpose digital education and training systems. Aiming for a coherent and consistent approach, it sets out a coordinated plan of action at national level to build the necessary capacity and governance structures to meet this objective.

## Council Recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills and competences in education and training

Maintaining this focus on coherence and complementarity, this second Recommendation stresses the importance of digital skills at all levels as a key competence for lifelong learning. The Recommendation therefore aims to support Member States in raising the quality and relevance of digital skills education and training, emphasising the need for accessibility and inclusion.

Given that the Plan and the Recommendations cover all areas of education and training, Erasmus+ is one of the key funding instruments positioned to support their implementation. It does this mainly by funding mobility and cooperation activities that:

- foster the development of digital skills and competences – from basic to advanced - at an individual and organisational level
- improve the quality of digital education and training
- boost teachers' professional development and capacity to use digital tools, services, and content to enhance student learning and engagement
- exchange best practices in the development of digital transformation plans for educational institutions
- facilitate digital research and innovation, particularly in the Higher education and VET fields
- Support inclusive digital education and training

## National Strategic Policy Framework

While Malta performs consistently above the EU average in the Digital Economy and Society Index, critical digital skills gaps remain a barrier to the country's effective digital transition, and therefore, future growth and competitiveness. Aligned with the Digital Education Action Plan, this highlights the need to improve the digital readiness of Malta's education and training system at all levels, extending from the all-important foundational early childhood and primary education stage to VET, Higher Education, and Adult Education. This is reflected in a current policy framework that addresses the key social and economic aspects of the digital transformation, including education, training, innovation, and employment.

### Malta's Digital Transformation – Key Policy Documents

<p><b>Digital Education Strategy 2024-2030</b></p>	<p><b>National Strategic Action Plan for Further and Higher Education 2022-2030</b></p>
<p>Sets a strategic path to integrating technology into education and training to foster a digitally proficient society, aiming for 80% digital literacy by 2030 in line with EU targets. It focuses on four pillars: nurturing digital citizens, empowering educators through training, improving access to digital infrastructure, and building community collaboration. Covering all areas of learning, the emphasis on promoting a digital school culture, primarily through teacher empowerment and professional development, is closely aligned with E+ actions. This focused Plan is reinforced by Malta's <b>National Education Plan 2024-2030</b> which calls for 'embedding digital skills' in the education and training ecosystem, with the professional development of educators in digital tools and technology-enhanced learning singled out as a key enabler.</p>	<p>Points to the need to strengthen STEM and digital learning capacity in all areas of further and higher education. This includes ensuring the ongoing relevance of skills development through closer collaboration with industry- a key objective of Erasmus+. This Plan highlights the value of internationalisation and mobility in this effort, particularly as a contributor to collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing.</p> <p><b>Malta Digitali 2022-2027</b></p> <p>Serves as the overall strategic framework for Malta's social and economic digital transformation. Highlights the importance of equitable access to digital skills acquisition to reach underserved segments of society. References the need to: "Invest further in the use, adoption and integration of digital technologies within the education sector. Re-skill and upskill educators and assist them in the creation of digital content."</p>
<p><b>National Employment Policy 2021-2030/National eSkills Strategy 2022-2025</b></p>	<p><b>National R&amp;I Strategic Plan 2023-2027 /Smart Specialisation Strategy</b></p>
<p>Both policy documents cite digital skills and competences as 'immediate social and economic priorities' for Malta's future competitiveness and social cohesion. In this context, they point to the need for extensive reforms in education and training systems, including realignment with industry needs. The National Employment Policy also references the need to address the relatively high share of unskilled or low-skilled adults through improved adult learning provision.</p>	<p>With a focus on the further and higher education sectors, both documents VET and Higher Education as key stakeholders in boosting Malta's digital innovation capacity and recommend strengthening Malta's research infrastructure through more international mobility and collaboration, closely aligned with E+ actions in these sectors</p>

## Implementation Measures – Digital Transformation Horizontal Priority

The Commission's implementation strategy for this horizontal priority clarifies how the digital dimension can be promoted at national level in both Erasmus+ and the ESC in the 2021-2027 programming period.<sup>4</sup>

Key to this is the selection of projects that directly address the digital priority. This can include:

- projects in all three fields and key actions that focus on the 'purposeful and meaningful' uses of digital and other emerging technologies'
- projects that enable digital skills development for learners, educators, and youths
- projects under Key Action 2 that advance cooperation partnerships with a digital component
- projects that enable capacity building in research, innovation, and access to emerging technologies
- ESC volunteering and solidarity projects that promote positive change through a digital

In addition, digital solutions to improve project design and implementation can be applied. These can include virtual components to complement physical mobility and cooperation initiatives, adding online communication to reinforce and extend the benefits of the exchange.

### How the Digital Priority can contribute to other E+ and ESC priorities

Digital transformation is a key driver in supporting the other three horizontal priorities in both programmes:

- Supporting the digital transformation of education & training, youth, and sports ecosystems can promote the use of more inclusive methods and formats, including participation options for persons who may otherwise be unable to engage in mobility initiatives
- Digital tools also facilitate participation for grassroots and newcomer organisations, overcoming some capacity constraints and widening programme accessibility
- From a 'twin transition' perspective, projects focused on the innovative application of tech to address climate and environmental issues are prioritised
- Projects that tackle the digital divide promote digital literacy, a skill that is increasingly vital for effective participation in democratic life.

<sup>4</sup>European Commission. (2021). Implementation Guidelines: Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Digital Strategy.

## **Malta's Implementation of the Digital Transformation Priority – E+ and ESC 2021-2027**

Malta's National Agency has awarded 99 projects which primarily tackled the digital priority in line with the Implementation Strategy.

The implementation of E+ in Malta in the 2021-2027 period has taken a multi-faceted approach to supporting the digital transformation priority across both its mobility and cooperation key actions. This support is evident in the selection of projects awarded which focus directly on tech innovation and application, and in a more indirect manner through the integration of digital skills development as a learning outcome in virtually all mobility or cooperation activities. Awarded projects that support this priority can be broadly categorised into three groups.

### **Projects with a tech innovation focus**

In the current programming period, the National Agency has awarded a number of projects in the Higher Education and VET sectors which focus on digital and tech innovation and application, including emerging technologies. In terms of mobility under Key Action 1, this funding allows learners and staff studying or teaching tech-related courses to gain exposure to emerging tech applications which can then generate research and innovation in the sending institution. In the case of learners this mobility can also highlight the options for further study, research, or employment in the tech sphere, encouraging advanced STEM careers. Both staff and learner mobilities also enables further networking and cooperation opportunities which can support future research and innovation collaboration. Under Key Action 2, E+ Malta has funded several cooperation initiatives with a tech focus in all education and training fields. These projects enable the sharing of knowledge and best practices, leading to improvements in the quality of digital education in the participating organisations. In line with the inclusion and diversity priority, these projects also integrate a focus on optimising accessibility to tackle digital exclusion in educational environments.

### **Development of digital skills and competences**

The opportunity to develop digital skills is integrated within all mobility and cooperation projects at an appropriate level, with this aim factoring into the key outcomes each project is designed to achieve. Participating individuals and organisations often report improved digital skills as a direct result of the experience. This contributes to wider digital literacy and confidence, narrowing the digital divide.

### **Promotion of innovative learning methods**

E+ Malta also works to promote and support innovative learning methods enabled by tech, such as online or blended learning. Apart from reinforcing the 'digital classroom' objective, these initiatives also support the accessibility and inclusion aspect of digital learning. They are also a core dimension of the borderless European education system envisaged under the European Education Area. This result was partly due to the National Agency's effective communication and outreach strategy, which amongst other objectives aims to proactively seek out and promote potential projects with a digital dimension. Once these were identified, applicants were provided with consistent hands-on support to develop a high-quality project design and application. This guidance included information sessions, one-to-one meetings, and in-depth project labs. Post-award assistance was also available to facilitate project implementation and ensure positive outcomes.

**Project examples**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>INA14SME</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 220 (VET)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Maltese Italian Chamber of Commerce (MICC)</b>
Brief Overview	Linking together the needs of SMEs and VET systems in Malta, this project developed a clear framework for integrating Artificial Intelligence in vocational training with the aim of developing the current and future skills needed by the SME sector.
Impact	The project resulted in a revised VET curriculum focused on an AI framework for SMEs. This included AI Training Modules which bridged material for SMEs and an adapted model for VET institutions. An Open Online Course Platform was also established to support the training. An e-Mentoring capability was also set up to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration between the targeted SMEs and VET learners.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>STEAM Education: Advancing Learning through Innovation and Collaboration</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 220 (School Education)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>St Nicholas College, Rabat Primary C</b>
Brief Overview	Identifying a gap in the current curriculum, this project developed an effective teaching approach for STEAM subjects at primary level. This focused on teaching practices and methods that encouraged students to engage with STEAM concepts in a hands-on, multidisciplinary manner that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. This was mainly achieved through the introduction of tailored digital tools and platforms into daily teaching practices, enhancing both student engagement and teacher capacity in digital education.
Impact	<p><b>Educators:</b> Educators across all partner institutions experienced meaningful professional development, gaining deeper pedagogical insight into integrating STEAM disciplines into classroom teaching. They also reported greater confidence in using digital tools. Collaborative networks established through the project are well established and are being maintained beyond the project's conclusion.</p> <p><b>Students:</b> Student performance data demonstrated improved engagement and performance in STEAM subjects compared to pre-intervention data.</p>

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>AI-Driven Youth Engagement: Empowering Youth Workers for the Digital era</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 153 (Youth)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Innovative Youth</b>
Brief Overview	This aimed to strengthen the digital competences of youth workers and equip them with the tools and knowledge to effectively use artificial intelligence (AI) in their professional practice. The goal was to help youth workers adapt to the rapidly evolving digital landscape and engage young people through innovative, inclusive, and ethical approaches.
Impact	<p>The competences acquired by the participating youth workers had a significant and measurable impact on both their daily youth work and the strategic direction of their organisations. The key result achieved was the integration of AI Tools (e.g., Canva AI, ChatGPT, language processing tools) into Youth Work Practice to create more engaging and innovative educational materials. The training also factored in the skills to use these tools to provide personalised support for young people with diverse needs.</p> <p>At an organisational level, increased motivation among staff to embrace digital innovation was also reported.</p>

## Horizontal Priority 3 – Green Transition and Sustainable Development

Environment and climate action are at the forefront of the EU's policy agenda; combined with digital transformation, the green restructuring of Europe's society and economy has been categorically identified as critical for a sustainable and competitive future.

This is clearly articulated in the 2019 European Green Deal, which is targeting the Union's climate neutrality by 2050, with a 55% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. This points to a pressing need to sustain a new sustainable economic path decoupled from carbon use; at the same time, and just as with digital transformation, this migration must be just and inclusive, leaving no individuals or social groups behind.

Within the 'twin transition' paradigm, the practical benefits of integrating Europe's green and digital transformations within a single, efficient framework, and reflecting a common inclusive approach, are increasingly clear. This is evident in the selection of both as horizontal priorities with equal importance in the E+ and ESC 2021-2027 programming period.

*"Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ( 17) and to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the Programme is intended to contribute to mainstreaming climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of 30 % of Union budget expenditure supporting climate." objectives.*

*(Art. 39, Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021)*

As with the digital priority, education and training systems have a critical role to play in advancing the EU's environment and climate goals. In his analysis of Europe's competitiveness challenges, Mario Draghi emphasises the need to develop green skills, particularly in renewable energy, sustainable manufacturing, and resource efficiency. Failing this, the goal of a decarbonised yet economically strong Europe will be impossible to achieve.

The design of both 2021-2027 programmes takes a similar dual-track approach to applying the green and digital priorities in their implementation, taking in both the objectives of projects awarded as well as the operation and implementation of the programmes.

Programme Outcomes	Programme Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of green skills and competences, from basic to advanced</li> <li>• Wider and deeper awareness of environmental and climate challenges</li> <li>• Empowerment of individuals and organisations to contribute to the green transitions</li> <li>• Development of greener education and training ecosystems</li> <li>• Fostering of relevant research and innovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of both programmes as best practice examples for the sustainable implementation of activities</li> <li>• Supporting the development of participating organisations in building their capacity for the sustainable implementation of their activity</li> </ul>

## Alignment with EU Strategies

### Overarching Policy Alignment

The European Green Deal, launched in 2019, sets a holistic roadmap for Europe's journey to climate neutrality, sustainability, and economic circularity. It takes in several key policy areas, from environmental protection, transport, and energy, to agriculture, research and innovation, and industry. Since its inception, it has been recalibrated and complemented by supporting regulations and measures in line with emerging developments.

Just as with the digital transition, the European Green Deal is clear that the availability of the required green skills is essential for enabling its implementation across various sectors. It also frames its strategic objectives within an inclusive lens, ensuring that the acquisition of these skills is accessible to all, including persons with fewer opportunities. Finally, and beyond job-specific skills, the Green Deal and complementary policies highlight the need to foster greater environmental and climate awareness within European society, empowering people from all walks of life to make more sustainable choices. These objectives are all aligned with Erasmus+ and ESC activities.

The European Green Deal calls for activating education and training systems at all levels to support the green transition. This objective has also been integrated within the **European Education Area** strategy, notably through the **Education for Climate Coalition**. This initiative brings together the education community across Member States to collaborate on developing green competences, providing the necessary resources for networking and information exchange. These activities focus on:

- Skills development
- Teacher training
- Bridging education and science
- Changing behaviours and awareness raising

The Green Deal is supported by four further policies which are all highly relevant to Erasmus+ and ESC activities and objectives.

### 2022 Council Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development

This defines learning for the green transition and sustainable development as a priority in education and training policies and programmes. States that this requires a 'systemic shift' in the sector and provides a strategic path for Member States to follow in working towards this aim.

### Green Competences Framework

This framework breaks down green and sustainability skills into 12 key competences and promotes strategies to integrate these competences in education systems and curricula.

### 2023 Council Conclusions on skills and competences for the green transition

This document is framed in the context of current and future skills gaps and focuses on the skills and competences required for the green transition; calls for the necessary strategies and investments at national level to meet these needs, including in the reskilling and upskilling of workers.

### Council Conclusions on fostering engagement among young people as actors of change in order to protect the environment

These conclusions point to the demand from young people for more environmental action, stating that responsive action should be taken at national and EU level to support sustainability initiatives in the youth sector. Highlighting the key role of youth workers and youth organisations in this effort, the policy also emphasises the benefits of international mobility, partnerships, and cooperation.

## National Strategic Policy Framework

As a small island state, Malta is among the more climate vulnerable Member States and faces complex environmental challenges which have a direct impact on its society and economy. It is also committed to meeting the climate targets set by the EU, requiring a comprehensive decarbonisation strategy in a number of critical sectors, and to safeguarding biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

These pressing concerns are reflected in a number of recent national policies which set out strategic roadmaps for environmental and climate actions that are specifically adapted for Malta’s realities. Some common themes are apparent: the urgent need to reform education and training systems to generate the skills and competences required for an effective green transition, the need to mobilise research and innovation in designing green solutions, and the value of adopting an inclusive, society-wide approach through increased environmental awareness. These themes are closely aligned with the activities and objectives of E+ and ESC 2021-2027

Malta’s Green Transition – Key Strategic Policies	
<b>Sustainable Development Strategy 2050</b>	<b>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2030</b>
<p>This framework document sets five strategic goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitioning towards a Climate Neutral Green and Blue Economy</li> <li>• Towards the preservation of sustainable urban development and cultural heritage</li> <li>• Ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing for all</li> <li>• Accelerating digital transformation, smart mobility, and connectivity</li> <li>• Achieving social fairness and prosperity</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy identifies a ‘high-quality and inclusive education and training system’ as being a key horizontal enabler for achieving these goals. In this context the Strategy recommends strengthening support and professional training opportunities for educators at all levels and the development of curricula that better reflect the emphasis on future skills, including green and digital. The Strategy also highlights a key role for education and training institutions in building greater awareness across learners and staff on sustainability and other environmental issues. All these aims are fully aligned with the priorities applied in E+ funded mobility and cooperation projects in the education and training sector.</p>	<p>Sets targets for actions in five policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserving and restoring nature;</li> <li>• Addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss;</li> <li>• Using biodiversity sustainably;</li> <li>• Mainstreaming and awareness raising; and</li> <li>• Enhancing implementation and cooperation</li> </ul> <p>The Plan includes actions aimed at raising awareness of environmental challenges to advance a ‘whole-of-society’ approach; the need for international cooperation and collaboration is also highlighted. These aims are closely aligned with those of E+ and ESC 2021-2027.</p>
	<b>National Employment Policy 2021-2030</b>
	<p>This policy cites green skills and competences as ‘immediate social and economic priorities’ for Malta’s future competitiveness and social cohesion. In this context, they point to the need for extensive reforms in education and training systems, including realignment with industry needs, particularly as this sector moves to decarbonise processes. The need to include green skilling, reskilling, and upskilling in improved training and adult education systems is also highlighted, with particular reference to Malta’s relatively high share of unskilled or low-skilled adults.</p>

### ***Implementation Measures – Environment and the fight against climate change***

The Commission's implementation strategy for this horizontal priority clarifies how the environmental dimension can be promoted at national level in both Erasmus+ and the ESC in the 2021-2027 programming period.<sup>5</sup>

Key to this is the selection of projects that directly address this priority. These can include projects aimed at:

- Developing green skills and competences for learners and educators alike
- Designing changes in teaching/training systems and curricula that support the generation of green skills
- Developing environmentally sustainable practices in education/training institutions, as well as in youth work and youth organisations
- Mobilising forward-looking research and innovation
- Creating networks and partnerships focused on environmental/climate action
- Promoting positive environmental change through information dissemination/awareness raising initiatives at a community level

In addition, both programmes lead by example in ensuring that sustainable travel options are the default in mobility projects.

### ***Malta's Implementation of the Environment Priority – E+ and ESC 2021-2027***

Malta's National Agency has awarded 56 projects which primarily tackled the green transition in line with the Implementation Strategy for this priority.

Similarly to the digital priority, the National Agency is achieving this result through a focused project selection process. A key element of this approach is the prioritisation of projects which deal directly with related areas of innovation, teaching, or learning. In addition, increased environmental awareness and improved sustainable behaviours are identified as key learning outcomes for all mobility or cooperation activities. Finally, the National Agency has also worked to promote sustainable transport modes and environmentally responsible practices in mobility project implementation, despite the challenges inherent in Malta's peripheral island status.

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<sup>5</sup>European Commission. (2021). Implementation Guidelines: Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Green Strategy

### Projects with exposure to green, forward-looking fields of study and/or training:

In the current programming period, the National Agency has awarded several projects in the Higher Education and VET sectors which focus on green innovation and application, including emerging technologies which can be applied to decarbonisation and other elements of the green transition. In terms of mobility under Key Action 1, this funding allows learners and staff to gain exposure to green innovation which can then generate further research in the sending institution. In the case of learners this mobility can also highlight the options for further study, research, or employment in the green and/or green tech sphere. Both staff and learner mobilities also enable further networking and cooperation opportunities which can support future research and innovation collaboration. Under Key Action 2, E+ Malta has funded several cooperation initiatives with a green focus in all education and training fields. These projects enable the sharing of knowledge and best practices, particularly in terms of strategies to support a whole-institution approach to sustainability.

### Development of green skills and competences:

E+ has enabled the implementation of a wide range of projects in the education and training sectors which support improved methods and practices for teaching and learning green skills, with a focus on establishing learning for the green transition and sustainable development as a priority area in education and training policies and programmes. Similar efforts have been made in the youth sector, particularly in terms of fostering engagement among youth and youth organisations in environmental actions, behaviours and projects.

### Project examples

Project Title	Eco Literate
Key Action	Erasmus+ Key Action 210 (Youth)
Beneficiary	Proutist Universal Malta
Brief Overview	This Erasmus+ project aims to enhance ecological literacy among young people aged 15-25 in partner countries. The project's key objectives include providing resources and support to youth workers, encouraging sustainable behaviours and attitudes among young people, and supporting the development of innovative interdisciplinary teaching approaches.
Impact	The project achieved a clear impact by increasing ecological awareness, sustainable behaviour, and environmental responsibility among young people and youth workers involved in the activities. Participants transferred the knowledge and practices gained through training sessions, field activities, and awareness actions into their local youth work and community settings, contributing to longer-term behavioural change and continued use of environmentally responsible approaches. At national level, the project supported existing objectives and strategies related to environmental education, sustainability, and youth engagement by strengthening the capacity of youth workers and educational institutions to deliver practical ecological learning.

*"Beyond the planned results, the project showed that combining ecological literacy with experiential and community-based activities is an effective way to translate environmental awareness into everyday practice. The strong engagement of young people and youth workers demonstrated that environmental topics become more meaningful when linked to real-life contexts and local ecosystems."*

*Eco Literate Project Leader*

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Azure Waters, Brighter Futures: Snorkeling for a Sustainable Sea in Malta</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>European Solidarity Corps ESC30 (Solidarity)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Creative Youth</b>
Brief Overview	The project tackles the pressing environmental issues of marine pollution and habitat degradation – a topic that is highly relevant to Malta. The aim was to raise awareness about the importance of ocean conservation and the threats facing marine ecosystems. This was mainly achieved by introducing participants to snorkelling and marine litter picking, activities which offer a unique opportunity to connect with nature and experience the beauty and diversity of marine life firsthand. These activities were complemented by structured workshops that delivered hands-on learning using creative formats and approaches.
Impact	Through these activities, the project successfully engaged with youths from various communities and NGOs. Participants completed the experience having learned new skills as well as a deeper appreciation for marine conservation and sustainable practices. A wider impact was also achieved through a social media campaign and digital presence which extended the project's reach, with at least 3000 people interacting with the project website. The project has also generated further sustainability initiatives developed by workshop participants and other NGOs, who took the knowledge they gained and applied it in their local areas.
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Eco Sustainable SME Mobility</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 122 (Adult Education)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Eco Events &amp; Services Ltd</b>
Brief Overview	This project brought together Maltese and Italian business owners from diverse sectors for entrepreneurial training focused on green skills and cultural exchange. It included workshops, team-building activities, pitch elevator training, a networking reception, cultural tour, and a unique chance to connect and share experiences to enhance business sustainability and communication strategies.
Impact	The project provided small business owners with practical training on how to implement cost-effective sustainability strategies following circular economy principles. Participants acquired skills and knowledge that could be applied to their own business model. Even after the project's conclusion, the project has created opportunities for cross-border collaboration between small businesses that is supporting more sustainable practices.

## Horizontal Priority 4 – Participation in Democratic Life, Common Values, and Civic Engagement

The ability of citizens to participate freely in democratic life and engage fully in society is one of the EU's core values and viewed as fundamental to sustaining social cohesion. As European society becomes more diverse, and the political landscape more complex and polarised, strengthening a shared set of common values can also foster a greater sense of belonging and solidarity across the EU. Through various policies and communications, the European Commission is intensifying its proactive efforts to promote active citizenship and common values and recognises the pivotal role that education, training, youth activities and sports can all play in this regard.

This is articulated in Regulation 2021/817 establishing Erasmus+:

*“Strengthening European identity and fostering the active participation of individuals and civil society in democratic processes is crucial for the future of Europe and democratic societies. Going abroad to study, learn, train and work or to participate in youth and sport activities contributes to strengthening that European identity in all its diversity. It reinforces the sense of being part of a cultural community and fosters intercultural learning, critical thinking and active citizenship among people of all ages.”*

*(Art. 21, Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021)*

This horizontal priority is also closely aligned with the fundamental objectives of the ESC programme, with the Regulation establishing the 2021-2027 programme stating that:

*“The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.”*

*(Art. 3(1), Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021).*

The EU's common values are human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, and human rights

## Alignment with EU Strategies

The 2017 Commission Communication '**Strengthening European identity through education and culture**' was a landmark policy that paved the way for initiatives aimed at mobilising the educational and cultural sectors to promote active citizenship and EU values, particularly among the younger generations. In this context, the Communication states that 'education is the basis for active citizenship and helps prevent populism, xenophobia, and violent radicalisation.' This Communication in fact also launched the concept of the **European Education Area**, which includes this concept amongst its driving objectives.

This was followed by the 2018 **Council Recommendation on Common values, Inclusive Education and the European Dimension of Teaching** which aims to promote a sense of belonging - based on solidarity and common values – through education and training by:

- Promoting common values at all stages of education
- Fostering more inclusive education
- Encouraging a European dimension of teaching, while strengthening the competence of national administrations in this field
- Offering a diverse range of support to teachers and educational institutions

More recently, the 2023 **Council Conclusions on the contribution of education and training to strengthening common European values and democratic citizenship** further reinforces a commitment to strengthening the vital role of education and training in shaping the future of Europe.

*The contribution that the mobility and cooperation activities funded by both the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes can make to these policy objectives is clear and is in fact highlighted in the 2023 Council Conclusions. These activities allow participants to obtain a better understanding of what Europe and the EU represent in their daily lives, as well as the opportunity to share experiences with counterparts from other Member States. They also support the learning and teaching of transversal skills, such as critical thinking or digital literacy, that are fundamental to effective and informed engagement in democratic life.*

### ***National Strategic Policy Framework***

While there is no specific policy document focusing on this priority, two recent local strategies support the objective of civic engagement and participation in democratic life.

In the Youth Sector, the **National Youth Policy 2021-2030** includes measures designed to support and empower young people in making their voices heard. Participation, inclusion, integration, diversity, and empowerment are identified as the Policy's core principles. In line with the objective of promoting common values and a European sense of belonging, this national policy also highlights the benefits to young people of being informed of European and global developments, identifying the need to "continue building European and international engagement" as a strategic objective. The youth and youth worker mobility and cooperation activities funded by Erasmus+ are Malta's strongest contributor to advancing this national objective.

In the voluntary sector, the **National Policy for Volunteering 2020-2025** aims to establish a stronger and more responsive foundation for volunteering in Malta while also adapting current frameworks to evolving social and cultural needs. Amongst the key policy pillars is supporting greater democratic participation; the Policy also describes volunteering as a valuable demonstration of civic engagement and responsibility, which can build solidarity across communities. The European Solidarity Corps generally supports Malta's National Policy for Volunteering, sharing a similar perception of volunteering as a positive force for social solidarity. The values defined in the National Policy's third pillar also reflect this horizontal priority, particularly participation in democratic life, common values, and civic engagement

### ***Implementation Measures – Participation in Democratic Life, Common Values, and Civic Engagement***

The European Commission guidelines on the application of this horizontal priority state that all participants in, and activities funded by, both the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes must respect the EU's common values.

In addition, projects that actively contribute to this priority should be prioritised in the project selection and award process.

This applies particularly to mobility and cooperation projects which enhance the development of social and intercultural competences, critical thinking and media literacy, or which include as a fundamental component engagement between diverse social groups and communities.

## **Malta's Implementation of the Participation in Democratic Life, Common Values, and Civic Engagement Priority – E+ and ESC 2021-2027**

Malta's National Agency has awarded 106 projects which primarily tackled this priority.

This priority has featured most prominently in two key ways:

### **Projects with a direct focus on active citizenship and democratic participation**

In the current programming period, the National Agency has awarded a number of projects in the education and training sectors which focus on teaching and learning practices which develop the necessary skills to support active citizenship and participation in democratic life; this applies to formal and non-formal learning activities within a lifelong learning perspective. These projects have contributed to raising the profile of these themes in national education and training systems and programmes while providing staff with the necessary tools and resources to incorporate them effectively in a learning environment. This priority has also featured significantly in the youth field, enhancing civic engagement among individual beneficiaries and, importantly, among participating organisations. In addition, projects under Key Action 3 have enabled structured opportunities for dialogue between youth representatives and policymakers which have led to direct inputs to national policy.

### **Development of relevant awareness, skills and competences across all E+ activities**

E+ activities are designed to support the development of personal skills and competences which are fundamental to active and informed citizenship. These include social and intercultural competences, critical thinking and media literacy. It is also ensured that participants complete the activity with a better understanding of the European Union and the common European values.

## Project Examples

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Engage EU</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 154 (Youth Mobility)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>FuturEurope Malta</b>
Brief Overview	The EngageEU: Young Voices Shaping European Digital Policy project aimed to empower young people from Malta, Spain, Türkiye and Latvia to actively engage in shaping digital policies at the European level. Its main objectives were to strengthen youth participation in democratic life, enhance digital citizenship skills, and foster critical thinking around online rights, misinformation, and civic technology.
Impact	The project resulted in increased digital policy literacy, stronger civic engagement, and enhanced skills among participating youth. Key outcomes included the co-creation of a Youth Digital Policy Manifesto, youth-led workshops in all partner countries, and meaningful dialogue with decision-makers. Participants developed skills in communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and digital advocacy. Many took on peer leadership roles and shared their experiences in schools, youth centers, and online platforms. The project also strengthened the capacities of the partner organisations and inspired follow-up initiatives.
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Diversity Mosaic in Action</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Erasmus+ Key Action 152 (Youth Mobility)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>MINISTRY FOR GOZO AND PLANNING</b>
Brief Overview	<p>This project aimed to cultivate participants' intercultural competence by exposing them to various cultures, both within and beyond their own society, fostering an understanding of diverse modes of being and perceiving, and promoting respect for diversity both nationally and across borders.</p> <p>Through targeted, non-formal activities, participants were encouraged to increase their cultural awareness, promoting tolerance, empathy and appreciation of different cultural perspectives, fostering a sense of understanding and respect.</p> <p>This also acted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop practical skills of young people for active citizenship and community activities; and,</li> <li>• promote fundamental human values,</li> </ul>
Impact	The project resulted in increased digital policy literacy, stronger civic engagement, and enhanced skills among participating youth. Key outcomes included the co-creation of a Youth Digital Policy Manifesto, youth-led workshops in all partner countries, and meaningful dialogue with decision-makers. Participants developed skills in communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and digital advocacy. Many took on peer leadership roles and shared their experiences in schools, youth centers, and online platforms. The project also strengthened the capacities of the partner organisations and inspired follow-up initiatives.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Community Garden</b>
<b>Key Action</b>	<b>KA152 (Youth Mobility)</b>
<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>Creative Youth</b>
Brief Overview	This project aimed to inspire young people to become more engaged and active in their communities. The primary goal was to create a space where individuals could develop their potential while contributing to the growth and well-being of the community as a whole. The core objective was to foster a sense of belonging and shared responsibility, encouraging participants to play a more active role in community development.
Impact	The "Community Garden" project achieved significant results and had a lasting impact on both the participants and their local communities. One of the most notable outcomes was the development of the participants' leadership potential. They became more responsible, proactive, and engaged in addressing community challenges. The project fostered essential 21st-century values, such as tolerance, empathy, support, and social awareness, while also shifting participants' perspectives on the importance of collaborative work.





# **financial statements**

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and  
European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and  
Europass Network**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2025**

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

### Report of the National Coordinator

#### For the year ended 31 December 2025

The National Coordinator of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (Malta) present this report and the audited financial statements of the European Union Programmes Agency, the Erasmus Plus administrative funds, the European Solidarity Corps administrative funds and the Europass Network for the year ended 31 December 2025. The results and position of the Erasmus+ projects and the networks (Eurodesk and National VET Teams) are not included in these financial statements.

#### Principal Activities, Programmes and their Objectives

The European Union Programmes Agency (hereinafter, The Agency) is a government agency established by the Legal Notice 401 of 2018 - European Union Programmes Agency (Establishment) Order, 2018 – under the Public Administration Act (Chap. 497), as amended by Legal Notice 281 of 2025.

The main objectives of the Agency are to implement, promote and manage the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes in Malta. The Agency is designated as the Maltese National Agency for the current programming period of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps for the years 2021-2027. During 2025, the Agency was under the remit of the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme (2024: The Office of the Prime Minister).

The Agency acts as a link between the European Commission and project promoters both at national as well as the local level and promotes as well as manages EU projects of an educational nature, content or objective. The EUPA engages itself in initiatives that are consonant with the educational policies and strategies of the Ministry responsible for education as well as for youth.

The aim of the Agency is wider than making available a financial contribution or sponsorship through which projects may be realised. The Agency takes monitoring measures to ensure that public funds (both EU funds and national funds) are utilised in accordance with eligibility rules, however it also provides support to Maltese individuals and entities in availing themselves of funding under the various educational programmes provided by the European Commission as well as promotional and outreach activities to render deeper recognition of the programmes and their benefits at a local level.

#### Review of business performance

During the year under review, the National Agency recognised an increase in revenue of 13% over the preceding year whilst total administrative and operating expenditure increased by 14%. The National Agency's main source of income is derived from funds received from the Government of Malta and the European Commission, which amounted to €100,000 and €1,226,408 respectively (2024: €100,000 and €1,148,334). The increase in revenue is mainly due to the increase in the contribution received from the European Commission that during 2025 amounted to €1,226,408 (2024: €1,148,334). The other income amounting to €1,359,025 (2024: €0) occurred since the Agency reversed previously recognised accrued salary expenses amounting to €1,339,025, following an agreement that the funds will not be requested from the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme (Refer to Note 4). As a result, the European Union Programmes Agency (national funds), the Erasmus Plus administrative funds, the European Solidarity Corps administrative funds and the Europass Network registered a consolidated surplus before recognising a provision for over-commitment on Erasmus+ projects of €958,203 for the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024: Deficit of €397,498) which is shown in the statement of comprehensive income on page 7.

A provision for over-commitment taken on Erasmus+ projects for the period 2025 of €1,446,809 has been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024: €229,543). As a result, EUPA registered a deficit of €488,606 for the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024: Deficit of €627,041). The results and position of the programmes are not included in this report. During 2025, the National Agency commenced the discussions on the new collective agreement (2026-2030), which as at end of year are still on-going.

#### Going concern

After making due enquiries and taking into account of all known factors that could impact the National Agency's operations, the National Coordinator, at the time of approving the financial statements, has determined that there is reasonable expectation that the Agency has adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future.

The National Agency anticipates that current services will continue to be provided with full support from the Government of Malta and the European Commission. For this reason, the National Agency does not foresee a significant impact on its operational performance. Therefore, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the National Agency will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and that adequate support will continue to be made available by the Government and the European Commission through the subventions and grants respectively, to enable the National Agency to meet its commitments as and when they fall due.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

**Report of the National Coordinator**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**Events after end of the reporting period**

No significant events have occurred after the end of the reporting period which require mentioning in this report.

**Future business developments**

The National Agency is not envisaging any changes in operating activities for the forthcoming year.

**Results**

The result for the year ended 31 December 2025 is shown on the statement of comprehensive income on page 7. The deficit for the year is €488,606 (2024: €627,041).

**National Coordinator**

The following has served as the national coordinator during the year under review:

Raphael Scerri - National Coordinator of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes.

In accordance with legal notice 401 of 2018, the legal and juridical representation of the National Agency shall vest in the National Coordinator, who may appoint in writing one or more officers or employees of the National Agency to appear in the name and on behalf of EUPA.

**Disclosure of information to the auditor**

At the date of presenting this report, the National Coordinator confirms the following:

- As far as the National Coordinator is aware, there is no relevant information needed by the independent auditor in connection with preparing the audit report of which the independent auditor is unaware, and
- The National Coordinator has taken all steps that he ought to have taken as the National Coordinator in order to make himself aware of any relevant information needed by the independent auditor in connection with preparing the audit report and to establish that the independent auditor is aware of that information.

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

### Report of the National Coordinator

For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### Statement of National Coordinator's responsibilities for the financial statements

The National Coordinator prepares financial statements for each requested financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the National Agency as at the end of the financial year and of the results of operations of the National Agency for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the National Coordinator:

- adopts the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the National Agency will continue in operation
- selects suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- makes judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- accounts for income and charges relating to the accounting period on the accruals basis;
- values separately the components of asset and liability items; and;
- reports comparative figures corresponding to those of the preceding accounting period.

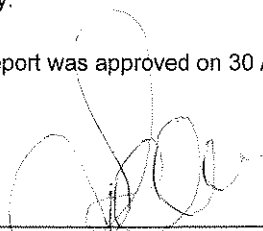
The National Coordinator is also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the National Agency and to enable him to ensure that the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union (EU). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. He is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the National Agency and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

After reviewing the National Agency's results and plans for the coming financial year, the National Coordinator is satisfied that at the time of approving these financial statements, the information provided in this report is a true reflection of the position of the European Union Programmes Agency's Administrative Funds.

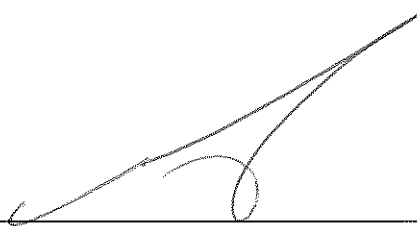
#### Auditors

PKF Malta Limited, Registered Auditors, have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors of the National Agency.

This report was approved on 30 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Raphaël Scerri  
National Coordinator - Erasmus+ and European  
Solidarity Corps Programmes



Christopher Schembri  
Finance and Administration Manager  
European Union Programmes Agency

#### Registered Address:

European Union Programmes Agency  
The Oaks Business Centre, Level 3,  
Triq Farsons  
Hamrun HMR 1325  
Malta



**PKF Malta Limited**

**Independent Auditor's Report**

**To the National Coordinator of the National Agency**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations - Administrative Funds and Europass Network (the "National Agency"), set out on pages 7 to 29, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including the material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Agency as at 31 December 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union (EU).

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the National Agency in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Accountancy Profession (Code of Ethics for Warrant Holders) Directive issued in terms of the Accountancy Profession Act (Cap. 281) in Malta, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Other Information**

The National Coordinator is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the National Coordinator's report and the schedules.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon other than our reporting on other legal and regulatory requirements.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of the National Coordinator**

The national coordinator is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that (i) give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU, and (ii) for such internal control as the National Coordinator determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the national coordinator is responsible for assessing the National Agency's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the National Coordinator either intends to liquidate the National Agency or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

PKF Malta Limited • Co. Reg. C 83908 • Registered Auditor • Accountancy Board Reg: AB/2/19/01 • VAT: MT25858012  
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## PKF Malta Limited

### Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

#### To the National Coordinator of the National Agency

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the National Agency's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the National Agency's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the National Agency to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

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**PKF Malta Limited**

**Independent Auditor's Report (continued)**

**To the National Coordinator of the National Agency**

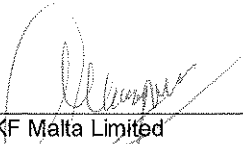
**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

Pursuant to L.N. 401 of 2018, we also have responsibilities to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept or that proper returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us.
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report to you in respect of these responsibilities.

The principal in charge of the audit resulting in the independent auditor's report is Mr. George Mangion for and on behalf of:



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PKF Malta Limited  
Registered Auditors  
15, Level 3, Mannarino Road  
Birkirkara BKR 9080  
Malta

30 April 2026

PKF Malta Limited • Co. Reg. C 83908 • Registered Auditor • Accountancy Board Reg: AB/2/19/01 • VAT: MT25858012  
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**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
National funding and European Commission contribution to management costs	3.	1,329,092	1,176,442
Operating and administrative expenses		(1,729,914)	(1,519,260)
Other income	4.	1,359,025	-
Other expenses	5.	-	(54,680)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		958,203	(397,498)
Provision for over-commitments on Erasmus+ projects	13.	(1,446,809)	(229,543)
<b>Deficit for the year after recognising provision for over-commitment on Erasmus+ projects</b>		(488,606)	(627,041)

The notes on pages 11 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

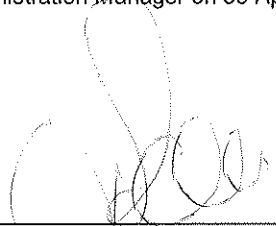
**Statement of Financial Position**

For the year ended 31 December 2025

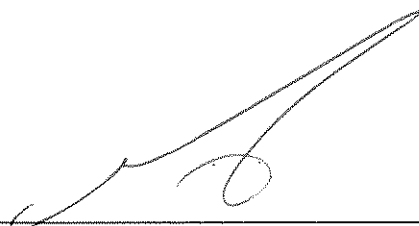
	Note	2025 €	2024 €
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7.	58,798	70,872
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	8.	57,841	50,776
Cash and cash equivalents	9.	3,395,282	2,733,265
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>3,453,123</b>	<b>2,784,041</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>3,511,921</b>	<b>2,854,913</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated funds	10.	(162,013)	326,593
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12.	385,016	458,824
Provisions	13.	3,288,918	2,069,496
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>3,673,934</b>	<b>2,528,320</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>3,511,921</b>	<b>2,854,913</b>

The notes on pages 11 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements on pages 7 to 29 were approved and signed by the National Coordinator and Finance and Administration Manager on 30 April 2026.



Raphael Scerri  
National Coordinator - Erasmus+ and European  
Solidarity Corps Programmes



Christopher Schembri  
Finance and Administration Manager  
European Union Programmes Agency

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

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**Statement of Changes in Equity**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

	<b>Accumulated Funds</b>
	<b>€</b>
Balance as at 1 January 2024	953,634
Deficit for the year	(627,041)
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>326,593</b>
Balance as at 01 January 2025	326,593
Deficit for the year	(488,606)
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2025</b>	<b>(162,013)</b>

The notes on pages 11 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**
**Statement of Cash Flows**
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Deficit for the year		(488,606)	(627,041)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	7.	21,286	14,503
Movement in provisions	13.	1,219,422	(252,504)
		752,102	(865,042)
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	8.	(1,868)	16,956
Decrease in trade and other payables	12.	(79,005)	(82,693)
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities</b>		<b>671,229</b>	<b>(930,779)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	7.	(9,212)	(58,958)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(9,212)</b>	<b>(58,958)</b>
<b>Net movement in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>662,017</b>	<b>(989,737)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		2,733,265	3,723,002
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>	9.	<b>3,395,282</b>	<b>2,733,265</b>

The notes on pages 11 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

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### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### 1. Basis of Preparation

##### a. Reporting and nature of operations

The European Union Programmes Agency (hereinafter referred to as 'EUPA' or the 'National Agency') is a government agency (public sector entity) established by the Legal Notice 401 of 2018 - European Union Programmes Agency (Establishment) Order, 2018 – under the Public Administration Act (Chap. 497), and as amended by Legal Notice 281 of 2025. It was established and domiciled in Malta on 4 May 2007. As at 28 February 2017, the national agency's principal place of business was Continental Business Centre, Railway Road, St. Venera, SVR 9018, which was then changed to Ex-Royal Navy Hospital, Triq l-Imtarfa, Mtarfa, Malta. The national agency's address was changed again to OZO Business Centre, Level 1, Triq il-Mastrudaxxa, Qormi, Malta. Currently, the address of the national agency's registered office, which is also its present principal place of business, is The Oaks Business Centre, Level 3, Triq Farsons, Hamrun, Malta. During 2025, the Agency was under the remit of the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme.

The aim of EUPA has always been to support Maltese individuals and entities in availing themselves of funding under the various educational programmes provided by the European Commission. During 2007 and 2013, EUPA was responsible for the management of the decentralised action of former generations of the European Union ('EU') programmes for education including the Youth in Action and Lifelong learning programmes. For the programming period (2014- 2020) the Agency implemented the European Commission's revised EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport under the name of Erasmus+ and as from 2018, the European Solidarity Corps. For the programming period (2021- 2027) the European Commission developed the old EU programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport under the name of Erasmus+. Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport.

The national agency acts as a link between the European Commission and project promoters, at national as well as the local level, and promotes and manages EU projects of an educational nature, content or objective. EUPA engages itself in initiatives that are consonant with the educational policies and strategies of the Ministry responsible for education.

The national agency is a government entity (public sector entity) set up as a not for profit organisation to effectively and efficiently promote, implement and manage the Erasmus+ Programme, the European Solidarity Corps Programme, previous programmes and other programmes and initiatives of the EU as designed by the Minister responsible for European Funds.

The activities of the networks, together with the administration of the Agency are considered distinct from administering the funds granted to beneficiaries under the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes. The National Agency is accountable to the European Commission on the management of the funds allocated to these networks. The administration of the Agency is ultimately controlled by the Government of Malta and is generally accountable to the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, the National Authority for EUPA and the European Commission.

The National Agency keeps separate accounting records of the programmes ('Projects') and of the National Agency's administration and of the networks (Europass, Eurodesk and National VET Teams). These financial statements report only on the financial information of the National Agency's administration and the Europass Network.

##### b. Statement of compliance

Prior to the publication of Legal Notice 401 of 2018, the legal obligation for the National Agency to present its audited financial results was not clear. However, in 2016, following a review from the European Commission on the National Agency's accounting records, it was decided that the National Agency submit 2015 audited financial statements to ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial statements prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union. The amounts presented in 2014 were unaudited.

The financial statements have been prepared and presented in accordance with the requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and as adopted by the European Union.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**c. Basis of measurement**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

**d. Functional and presentation currency**

The financial statements are presented in euro (€), which is the National Agency's functional currency. Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are converted to the functional currency at the rates of exchange ruling on the dates on which the transactions first qualify for recognition. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date. The foreign currency gain or loss on monetary items is the difference between amortised cost in the functional currency at the beginning of the period, adjusted for effective interest and payments during the period, and the amortised cost in foreign currency translated at the exchange rate at the end of the period. Foreign currency differences arising on retranslation are recognised in profit or loss.

**e. Use of estimates and assumptions**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected.

**f. Changes in accounting policies and disclosures**

The principle accounting policies applied in the preparation of the Agency's financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

**Standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards as endorsed by the EU effective in the current year**

During the current financial year, the Agency adopted new standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards that are mandatory for the Agency's accounting period beginning on 1 January 2025. The adoption of these revisions to the requirements of IFRSs as adopted by the EU did not result in substantial changes to the Agency's accounting policies, not impacting the Agency's financial performance and position.

**Standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards that are not yet adopted**

Certain new standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards have been published by the date of authorisation for issue of these financial statements but are mandatory for the Agency's accounting periods beginning after 1 January 2026. The Agency has not early adopted these revisions to the requirements of IFRSs as adopted by the EU, and the Agency's management are of the opinion that, except as disclosed below, there are no requirements that will have a possible significant impact on the Agency's financial statements in the period of initial application.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)****For the year ended 31 December 2025****g. Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the National Agency will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and that adequate support will continue to be made available by the Government and the European Commission through the subventions and grants respectively, to enable the National Agency to meet its commitments as and when they fall due.

**2. Material Accounting Policies****a. Overall considerations**

The material accounting policies that have been used in the preparation of these financial statements are summarised below.

The financial statements have been prepared using the measurement bases specified by IFRS for each type of asset, liability, income and expenses. The measurement bases are more fully described in the accounting policies below.

The accounting policies have been consistently applied by the National Agency.

**b. Presentation of financial statements**

The financial statements are presented in accordance with IAS 1 "Presentation of Financial Statements" (Revised 2007). The National Agency did not have any items classified as "other comprehensive income" and consequently management have elected to present only a Statement of Comprehensive Income.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**c. Property, plant and equipment**

**i Value method**

The National Agency's property, plant and equipment consists of furniture and fittings, computer, office and electronic equipment, and motor vehicles. Property, plant and equipment is initially recognised at acquisition cost, including any cost directly attributable to bringing the assets to the location and condition necessary for them to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. They are subsequently measured at cost less subsequent depreciation and impairment losses.

**ii Recognition and measurement**

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when it is probable that the future economic benefits that are associated with the asset will flow to the entity and the cost can be measured reliably. Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost comprising the purchase price, any costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to a working condition for their intended use, and the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site to which it is located. Subsequent expenditure is capitalised as part of the cost of property, plant and equipment only if it enhances the economic benefits of an asset in excess of the previously assessed standard of performance, or it replaces or restores a component that has been separately depreciated over its useful life.

After initial recognition, property, plant and equipment may be carried under the cost model, that is at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, or under the revaluation model, that is at their fair value at the date of the revaluation less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

**iii Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated to write down the carrying amount of the asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life. Depreciation of an asset begins when it is available for use and ceases at the earlier date that the asset is classified as held for sale (or included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale) and the date that the asset is derecognised. The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in statement of comprehensive income within operating and administrative expenses.

The rates of depreciation used are the following:

Furniture and fittings	10%
Motor vehicles	20%
Computer, office and electronic equipment	25%

Estimates of useful life are updated as required, but at least annually.

Gains or losses arising on the disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the assets and are recognised in statement of comprehensive income within 'other income' or 'operating and administrative expenses'.

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

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### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

#### For the year ended 31 December 2025

##### d. Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the National Agency will not be able to collect all amounts due to the original terms of the receivables.

##### e. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term investments that are held to meet short-term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes. Bank overdrafts, which are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the National Agency's cash and management, are a component of cash and cash equivalents.

##### f. Equity

Accumulated funds include all current and prior period surplus.

##### g. Provisions and contingent liabilities

A provision is recognised when, as a result of a past event, the National Agency has a present obligation that can be estimated reliably and it is probable that the National Agency will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement. Timing or amount of the outflow may still be uncertain. A present obligation arises from the presence of legal or constructive commitment that has resulted from past events, for example, product warranties granted, legal disputes or onerous contracts. Restructuring provisions are recognised only if a detailed formal plan for the restructuring has been developed and implemented, or management has at least announced the plan's main features to those affected by it. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Provisions are measured at the estimated expenditure required to settle the present obligation, based on the most reliable evidence available required to settle the present obligation, based on the most reliable evidence available at the reporting date, including the risks and uncertainties associated with the present obligation. Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. Provisions are discounted to their present values, where the time value of money is material.

Any reimbursement that the National Agency is virtually certain to collect from a third party with respect to the obligation is recognised as a separate asset. However, this asset may not exceed the amount of the related provision. All provisions are reviewed at each reporting period and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the management.

No liability is recognised if an outflow of economic resources as a result of present obligations is not probable. Such situations are disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the outflow of resources is remote.

Provisions are recognised as a liability in the balance sheet and as an expense in profit or loss or, when the provision relates to an item of property, plant and equipment, it is included as part of the cost of the underlying assets.

##### h. Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are stated at cost, which approximates fair value due to the short-term nature of these liabilities.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**i. Revenue recognition**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity, the costs incurred or to be incurred can be measured reliably, and when the criteria for the National Agency's activities has been met.

**a Government and EU grants**

Government grant is recognised when the following conditions have been satisfied

- The National Agency has complied with all the conditions attached to the grant, and
- There is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received.

Government grants are recognised in profit or loss on a systematic basis over the period in which the entity recognises as expenses the related costs for which the grants are intended to compensate. Specifically, grants received from the EU are recognised as deferred income in the financial statements and transferred to profit or loss for an amount equivalent to the costs incurred during the period.

Government grants that are receivable as compensation for expenses or losses already incurred or for the purpose of giving immediate financial support to the entity with no future related costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which it is receivable and included within 'subvention income' in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

**b Interest income**

Interest income is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and the interest rate applicable.

**j. Operating expenses**

Operating expenses are recognised in the income statement upon utilisation of the service or at the date of their origin.

**k. Employee benefits**

Contribution toward the state pension in accordance with local legislation are recognised in statement of comprehensive when they are due.

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

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### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### **l. Impairment of non-financial assets**

The carrying amount of the National Agency's non-financial assets, other than investment property, are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount. A cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group that generates cash flows that largely are independent from other assets and groups. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss.

The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less cost to sell. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

Impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

#### **m. Financial instruments**

##### **i Recognition and derecognition**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the National Agency becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

##### **ii Classification and initial measurement of financial assets**

Except for those trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component and are measured at the transaction price in accordance with IFRS 15, all financial assets are initially measured at fair value adjusted for transaction costs (where applicable).

Financial assets, other than those designated and effective as hedging instruments, are classified into the following categories:

- amortised cost;
- fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL); or
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

In the period presented, the National Agency does not have any financial assets categorised as FVPTL and FVOCI.

The classification is determined by both:

- the entity's business model for managing the financial asset; and
- the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**iii Subsequent measurement of financial assets**

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions (and are not designated as FVTPL):

- they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect its contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The National Agency's cash and cash equivalents and receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

**iv Impairment of financial assets**

IFRS 9's impairment requirements use more forward-looking information to recognise expected credit losses - the 'expected credit loss (ECL) model'. This replaces IAS 39's 'incurred loss model'. Instruments within the scope of the new requirements included loans and other debt-type financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI, trade receivables, contract assets recognised and measured under IFRS 15 and loan commitments and some financial guarantee contracts (for the issuer) that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Recognition of credit losses is no longer dependent on the National Agency's first identifying a credit loss event. Instead, the National Agency considers a broader range of information when assessing credit risk and measuring expected credit losses, including past events, current conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the expected collectability of the future cash flows of the instrument.

In applying this forward-looking approach, a distinction is made between:

- financial instruments that have not deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition or that have low credit risk ('Stage 1') and
- financial instruments that have deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition and whose credit risk is not low ('Stage 2').

'Stage 3' would cover financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date.

'12-month expected credit losses' are recognised for the first category while 'lifetime expected credit losses' are recognised for the second category.

Measurement of the expected credit losses is determined by a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of the financial instrument.

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

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### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

#### For the year ended 31 December 2025

##### v Classification and measurement of financial liabilities

As the accounting for financial liabilities remains largely the same under IFRS 9 compared to IAS 39, the National Agency's financial liabilities were not impacted by the adoption of IFRS 9. However, for completeness, the accounting policy is disclosed below.

The National Agency's financial liabilities include trade and other payables. Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, and, where applicable, adjusted for transaction costs unless the National Agency designated a financial liability at FVTPL.

Subsequently, financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for derivatives and financial liabilities designated at FVTPL, which are carried subsequently at fair value with gains or losses recognised in profit or loss (other than derivative financial instruments that are designated and effective as hedging instruments).

Interest-related charges and changes in an instrument's fair value (if applicable) are recognised as finance costs in the statement of income and expenditure.

##### n. Financial risk management

###### i Risk management objectives and policies

The National Agency is exposed to market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk through its use of financial instruments, which result from its operating activities. Where possible, the National Agency aims to reduce and control risk concentrations. Concentrations of financial risk arise when financial instruments with similar characteristics and influenced in the same way by changes in economic or other factors. The National Agency's risk management is coordinated by the national coordinator and focuses on actively securing the National Agency's short to medium term cash flows by minimising the exposure to financial risks.

The most significant financial risks to which the National Agency is exposed to are described below. Refer also to note v for a summary of the National Agency's financial assets and liabilities by category.

###### ii Market risk

###### Foreign currency risk

The National Agency transacts business mainly in Euro and had no foreign currency denominated financial assets and liabilities at the end of the financial periods under review. Consequently, the National Agency is not exposed to foreign currency risk.

###### Interest rate risk

The National Agency is not exposed to interest rate risk since it does not have interest-bearing borrowings. Interest exposure on its interest-bearing financial assets is not considered to be significant.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

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**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**iii Liquidity risk**

The National Agency's exposure to liquidity risk arises from its obligations to meet its financial liabilities, which comprise trade and other payables (refer to note 12.). Prudent liquidity risk management includes maintaining sufficient cash to ensure the availability of an adequate amount of funding to meet the National Agency's obligations when they become due.

The National Agency manages its liquidity needs through yearly cash flow forecasts by carefully monitoring expected cash inflows and outflows on a regular basis. The activities of the National Agency are currently financed by way of a subvention voted to the National Agency in the Government's annual budget estimates and by the EC. The National Agency's liquidity risk is not deemed to be significant in view of the matching of cash inflows and outflows arising from expected maturities of financial instruments.

The contractual maturities of the National Agency's financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period under review are all current.

**iv Credit risk**

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty fails to discharge an obligation to the National Agency. The National Agency is exposed to this risk for various financial instruments, for example placing deposits, etc.

The National Agency's exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of financial assets recognised at the end of the reporting period, as summarised below:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Classes of financial assets - carrying amounts</b>		
Trade and other receivables	40,897	40,898
Cash and cash equivalents	3,395,282	2,733,265
	<u>3,436,179</u>	<u>2,774,163</u>

The national coordinator considers that all the above financial assets that are not impaired for each of the reporting dates under review are of good credit quality. The National Agency's policy is to deal only with creditworthy counterparties.

The credit risk for liquid funds is considered negligible since the counterparty is a reputable bank with high quality external credit ratings.

None of the National Agency's financial assets are secured by collateral or other credit enhancements.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**v Summary of financial assets and liabilities by category**

The carrying amounts of the National Agency's financial assets and liabilities as recognised at the end of the reporting period under review may also be categorised as follows. Refer to note 2.m. for explanations about how the category of financial instruments affects their subsequent measurement.

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	40,897	40,898
Cash and cash equivalents	3,395,282	2,733,265
	<u>3,436,179</u>	<u>2,774,163</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	379,817	458,824

**o. Significant management judgements in applying accounting policies and estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in making estimates. Actual results in future could differ from such estimates and the differences may be material to the financial statements. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Except as disclosed below, in the opinion of the national coordinator, the accounting estimates and judgements made in the course of preparing these financial statements are not difficult, subjective or complex to a degree which would warrant their description as critical in terms of the requirements of IAS 1 (revised).

**i Estimation uncertainty**

Information about estimates and assumptions that have the most significant effect on recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses is provided below. Actual results may be substantially different.

**Useful lives of depreciable assets**

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date, based on the expected utility of assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to technical obsolescence that may change the utility of the National Agency's furniture and fittings, computer, office and electronic equipment and motor vehicles (refer to note 2.c.).

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**
**o. Significant management judgements in applying accounting policies and estimation uncertainty (continued)**
**i Estimation uncertainty (continued)**
**Impairment**

In assessing impairment, management estimates the recoverable amount of each asset or cash-generating units based on expected future cash flows and uses an interest rate to discount them. Estimation uncertainty relates to assumptions about future operating results and the determination of a suitable discount rate (refer to note 2.1.).

**Impairment of trade and other receivables**

The National Agency makes an allowance for doubtful debtors based on an assessment of the recoverability of trade and other receivables. Allowances are applied to trade and other receivables on a case-by-case basis where events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amounts may not be recoverable. Management analyses historical bad debts, counterparty creditworthiness and current economic trends when making a judgement to evaluate the adequacy of the allowance for doubtful debtors. Where the expectation is different from the original estimate, such difference will impact the carrying value of receivables.

**3. National funding and European Commission contribution to management costs**

This represents funds received or receivable by the National Agency from the Government of Malta and the European Commission:

	2025	2024
	€	€
<b>Subvention received from the Government of Malta:</b>		
Contribution received under Recurrent Vote 40 Item 6807 (note i)	100,000	100,000
National Contribution to the Europass Network as per Grant Agreement (note ii)	7,832	10,165
Deduction of Government contribution allocated to the Europass Network (note iii)	(28,644)	(93,704)
	<u>79,188</u>	<u>16,461</u>
<b>Subvention from the EC:</b>		
Contribution received from EC under Erasmus+ Programme Delegation Agreement No. EAC-2024-0033 (note iv)	-	1,148,334
Contribution received from EC under Erasmus+ Programme Contribution Agreement No. EAC-2025-0033 (note iv)	1,226,408	-
Apportionment of the contribution received from EC under the Europass Network Grant Agreement (note ii)	23,496	11,647
	<u>1,249,904</u>	<u>1,159,981</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>1,329,092</u></u>	<u><u>1,176,442</u></u>

Note (i) The Government of Malta provided an operating subvention to the National Agency for the year ended 31 December 2025 amounting to €100,000 (2024: €100,000).

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### 3. National funding and European Commission contribution to management costs (Continued)

Note (ii) During the year under review, the apportionment allocated by the European Commission as per the Europass Network Grant agreement amounted to €23,496 (2024: €11,647). National contribution to the Europass Network amounted to €7,832 (2024: €10,165).

Note (iii) During the year under review, EUPA allocated Government contribution to the Europass Network amounting to €28,644 (2024: €93,704). These were deducted from the revenue of EUPA.

Note (iv) As per the Contribution Agreement No. EAC-2025-0033, for the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme, the European Commission shall financially support the management costs of the National Agency by providing a contribution to management costs of an amount of €1,226,408 (2024: €1,148,334). This contribution shall cover the costs for the calendar year 2025.

#### 4. Other income

	2025	2024
	€	€
Reversal of accrual for wages and salaries (note i)	1,339,162	-
Other income	19,863	-
	<u>1,359,025</u>	

(i) During the year, the Agency reversed previously recognised accrued salary expenses amounting to €1,339,025, following an agreement that the funds will not be requested from the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme. As agreed, these funds have been retained by the Agency to cater for the overcommitment targets for Erasmus+ as well as minor ancillary operational running costs required by the Agency.

#### 5. Other expenses

	2025	2024
	€	€
Transfer of funds to EUPA and release of suspense (note i)	-	54,680
	<u>-</u>	<u>54,680</u>

(i) The prior year amount of €54,680 represents the net value of €55,080 of surplus funds transferred to EUPA after the closure of the Europass 2014-2020 programme, less €400 registered in suspense / expense account.

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**
**6. Employee benefit expense**
**a. Wages and salaries**

Payroll costs for the year comprise of the following:

	2025	2024
	€	€
Wages and salaries (note i)	1,223,054	1,138,780

Note (i) The employees working for the National Agency are employed by the Agency itself, except for the National Coordinator who is registered on the books of the Central Government and assigned to the Agency in the position of CEO & National Coordinator. On an annual basis, the line ministry, currently the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, recharges the payroll cost to the National Agency. However, as mentioned in Note 4, following an agreement with the ministry, the funds will not be requested. As agreed, these funds have been retained by the Agency to cater for the overcommitment targets for Erasmus+ as well as minor ancillary operational running costs required by the Agency. Refer to note 4 and 14.a. for further information. Wages and salaries include social security contributions amounting to €82,900 (2024: €62,766) and national coordinator's remuneration which is also disclosed in note 14.b.

**b. Average number of employees**

The average number of persons who worked for the National Agency during the year was as follows:

	No. 2025	No. 2024
Operations and administration	31	29
National coordinator	1	1
	32	30

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**7. Property, plant and equipment**

	<b>Computer, office and electronic equipment</b>	<b>Furniture and fittings</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>At 01 January 2024</b>				
Cost amount	66,274	3,397	21,097	90,768
Accumulated depreciation	(46,034)	(646)	(17,671)	(64,351)
Net book amount	20,240	2,751	3,426	26,417
<b>Year ended 31 December 2024</b>				
Opening net book amount	20,240	2,751	3,426	26,417
Additions	7,415	543	51,000	58,958
Depreciation charge for the year	(11,262)	(691)	(2,550)	(14,503)
Closing net book amount	16,393	2,603	51,876	70,872
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>				
Cost amount	73,689	3,940	72,097	149,726
Accumulated depreciation	(57,296)	(1,337)	(20,221)	(78,854)
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>16,393</b>	<b>2,603</b>	<b>51,876</b>	<b>70,872</b>
<b>Year ended 31 December 2025</b>				
Opening net book amount	16,393	2,603	51,876	70,872
Additions	9,212	-	-	9,212
Depreciation charge for the year	(10,349)	(737)	(10,200)	(21,286)
Closing net book amount	15,256	1,866	41,676	58,798
<b>At 31 December 2025</b>				
Cost amount	82,901	3,940	72,097	158,938
Accumulated depreciation	(67,645)	(2,074)	(30,421)	(100,140)
<b>Net book amount</b>	<b>15,256</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>41,676</b>	<b>58,798</b>

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**

**For the year ended 31 December 2025**

**8. Trade and other receivables**

	2025	2024
	€	€
Amount receivable from networks	2,051	-
Other receivables	40,897	40,898
Prepayments	14,893	9,435
Advanced payments	-	443
	<u>57,841</u>	<u>50,776</u>

By virtue of the EU Regulation No. 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11/12/13, establishing Erasmus+, the Government of Malta shall provide adequate co-financing for the operations of its National Agency to ensure that the programme is managed in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

**9. Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the cash flow statement are as follows:

	2025	2024
	€	€
Bank balances	3,395,266	2,732,865
Cash in hand	16	400
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>3,395,282</u>	<u>2,733,265</u>

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### 10. Accumulated Funds

	2025	2024
	€	€
Opening balance as at beginning of year	326,593	953,634
Deficit for the year	(488,606)	(627,041)
<b>Balance as at end of year</b>	<b>(162,013)</b>	<b>326,593</b>

Note (i) As from the year ending 31 December 2021, the European Network became a part of the administrative funds of the National Agency and therefore, the retained earnings have been brought forward from prior years.

#### 11. Contingent assets/ liabilities

In 2016, a recovery order amounting to €18,526 was requested by the National Agency from a beneficiary of the programme. As of 31 December 2025, the recovery of such amount is still in dispute. However, despite the pending outcome of the lawsuit against the beneficiary, the National Agency is yet to recover the funds. The National Agency has already settled this amount with the European Commission in the closure of the previous programming period and thus the recovery of these funds will contribute to the National Agency's national funds.

In addition, the National Agency presently has cases pending with the tribunal against it, for which no provision has been made in the financial statements since the outcome of such claims and damages is still unknown.

#### 12. Trade and other payables

	2025	2024
	€	€
Trade payables	51,926	37,661
Deferred income (i)	61,198	92,526
Accruals	271,875	328,637
Amount payable to related parties	17	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>385,016</b>	<b>458,824</b>

(i) This amount represents amounts received to finance projects and shall be transferred to the profit or loss for an amount equivalent to the costs incurred during the period.

	2025	2024
	€	€
Balance at the beginning of the year	92,526	-
Funds received	-	114,338
Release of deferred income (Note 3)	(31,328)	(21,812)
<b>Total deferred income</b>	<b>61,198</b>	<b>92,526</b>

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**
**For the year ended 31 December 2025**
**13. Provisions**

The provision relates to over-commitment taken on Erasmus+ projects for periods 2022 - 2027. Should such over-commitment be realised, these have to be settled by the National Agency.

	Year of Realisation	Estimated Amounts
		€
Call year 2022	2025	83,653
Call year 2023	2026	339,849
Call year 2024	2027	228,964
Call year 2025	2028	1,497,222
Call year 2021 – 2027	2027	1,139,230
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,288,918</b>

**14. Related Party Transactions**
**a. Related party transactions**

The National Agency is ultimately controlled by the Government of Malta and is generally accountable to the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, the National Authority for EUPA (within the Funds and Programmes Division, OPM), and the European Commission. Accordingly, the National Agency considers Government-related entities to be the related parties. In addition, related parties include the National Agency's and its networks' key management personnel.

Except for transactions disclosed or referred to previously, the following significant operating transaction has a material effect in the operating result of the National Agency.

Unless otherwise stated, none of the transactions incorporate special terms and conditions and no guarantee was given or received. Transactions with related parties are generally affected on a cost plus basis. Outstanding balances are usually settled in cash.

	2025	2024
	€	€
Wages and salaries charged by line ministry	1,223,054	1,138,780

**b. Transactions with key management personnel**

The National Agency's key management personnel is considered to be the national coordinator.

Transactions with key management personnel consist of the national coordinator's remuneration which include the following:

	2025	2024
	€	€
Salaries including bonuses and allowances	75,240	60,051
Social security costs	2,830	2,715
	<b>78,070</b>	<b>62,766</b>

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

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### Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

#### 15. Capital management policies and procedures

The National Agency is a public sector entity under the Ministry for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme and regulated by the National Authority and the European Commission. Although the National Agency's existence is vulnerable to political decisions, its objective is to ensure that the National Agency continues to operate as a going concern together with the following objectives:

- to provide activities that are consistent with the national educational policies and strategies;
- to provide general management and workings that are in line with the relevant European Union regulations and Operational Handbooks issued by the European Commission from time to time; and
- to manage its finances in a clear, transparent and accurate manner as required in the regulations of the European Union and the Operational Handbooks and the Laws of Malta.

The capital structure of the National Agency consists of debt, which includes the trade and other payables less trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents, against total equity on an ongoing basis. The national coordinator considers the National Agency's gearing level at year end to be appropriate for its activities.

The national coordinator manages the National Agency's capital structure and make adjustments to it, in light of changes in economic conditions. The capital structure is reviewed on an ongoing basis. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the National Agency may request for additional funding.

#### 16. Commitments

The National Agency has commitments to co-finance beneficiary projects from national funds when it is deemed necessary, commitments to financing of programme activities and other commitments relating to doubtful recovery of funds from beneficiaries. These commitments will be covered by the excess funds held or received by the National Agency.

#### 17. Events after the end of the reporting period

There were no significant events affecting the National Agency which have occurred after the end of the reporting period.

**The Supplementary Statements on the pages that follow do not form part  
of the financial statements**

## European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network

### Supplementary Statements - Statement I

#### Detailed Income Statement – E+ Operations, ESC Operations and EUPA

	E+ Ops 2025 €	ESC Ops 2025 €	EUPA 2025 €	Total 2025 €	Total 2024 €
<b>Revenue</b>					
Funds from the European Commission	1,149,000	77,408	-	1,226,408	1,148,334
Funds from the Government					
Contribution received under Recurrent Vote 40 Item 6807	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Deduction of Government contribution allocated to networks	-	-	(28,644)	(28,644)	(93,704)
	1,210,394	96,505	38,565	1,345,464	-
Other income					
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>2,359,394</b>	<b>173,913</b>	<b>109,921</b>	<b>2,643,228</b>	<b>1,154,630</b>
<b>Operating and administrative expenses</b>					
Payroll	1,102,102	90,602	17,540	1,210,244	1,127,962
Utilities	2,363	-	25,800	28,163	2,195
Materials and supplies	70	-	1,293	1,363	2,104
Repair and upkeep	571	-	755	1,326	5,616
Rent	-	-	47,350	47,350	61,796
International memberships	18,918	3,099	150	22,167	31,883
Office services	44,717	74	10,209	55,000	20,354
Transport	5,652	69	3,846	9,567	8,786
Travel	45,242	1,245	-	46,487	47,712
Information services	59,475	200	1,365	61,040	13,943
Contractual services	13,364	611	30,699	44,674	58,524
Professional services	94,965	9,430	5,989	110,384	80,727
Training	2,521	30	40	2,591	1,760
Hospitality	38,146	-	4,679	42,825	19,795
Bank charges	48	664	234	946	559
Incidental expenses	42	-	2,986	3,028	89
Impairment of related party receivables	446,613	82,017	(538,486)	(9,856)	(1,276)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	6,383	127	14,777	21,287	14,504
Other expenses	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total operating and administrative expenses</b>	<b>1,881,192</b>	<b>188,168</b>	<b>(370,774)</b>	<b>1,698,586</b>	<b>1,497,033</b>
Provision for over-commitments on Erasmus+ project	-	-	(1,446,809)	(1,446,809)	229,543
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year after recognising provision for over-commitment on Erasmus+ projects</b>	<b>478,202</b>	<b>(14,255)</b>	<b>(966,114)</b>	<b>(502,167)</b>	<b>(571,946)</b>

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**
**Supplementary Statements - Statement II**
**Detailed Statement of Financial Position - E+ Operations, ESC Operations and EUPA**

	E+ Ops 2025 €	ESC Ops 2025 €	EUPA 2025 €	Total 2025 €	Total 2024 €
<b>Assets</b>					
<b>Non-current assets</b>					
Property, plant and equipment	15,079	37	43,682	58,798	70,872
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Amount receivable from related parties	-	-	-	-	-
Amount receivable from other networks	2,051	-	-	2,051	-
Advanced payments	-	-	-	-	443
Prepayments	12,562	-	2,331	14,893	9,199
Cash and cash equivalents	1,631,464	119,276	1,553,821	3,304,561	2,617,352
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,646,077</b>	<b>119,276</b>	<b>1,556,152</b>	<b>3,321,505</b>	<b>2,626,994</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,661,156</b>	<b>119,313</b>	<b>1,599,834</b>	<b>3,380,303</b>	<b>2,697,886</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
Accumulated funds	1,530,188	108,275	(1,870,896)	(232,433)	269,734
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Trade payables	45,193	1,880	4,887	51,960	30,750
Accruals	85,792	9,158	176,925	271,875	327,886
Amount payable to related parties	(17)	-	-	(17)	-
Provisions	-	-	3,288,918	3,288,918	2,069,496
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>130,968</b>	<b>11,038</b>	<b>3,470,730</b>	<b>3,612,736</b>	<b>2,428,132</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>1,661,156</b>	<b>119,313</b>	<b>1,599,834</b>	<b>3,380,303</b>	<b>2,697,886</b>

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**

**Supplementary Statements - Statement III**

**Detailed Income Statement – Europass Network**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Funds from the European Commission	23,496	11,647
Funds from the Government	7,832	10,165
Other income	13,561	-
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>44,889</b>	<b>21,812</b>
<b>Operating and administrative expenses</b>		
Payroll	12,810	10,818
International memberships	1,947	3,134
Office services	-	-
Transport	-	-
Travel	1,254	790
Information services	2,702	415
Contractual services	41	-
Hospitality	12,574	7,070
Bank charges	-	-
Other expenses	-	54,680
<b>Total operating and administrative expenses</b>	<b>31,328</b>	<b>76,907</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>13,561</b>	<b>(55,095)</b>

**European Union Programmes Agency, Erasmus Plus Operations and European Solidarity Corps  
Operations – Administrative Funds and Europass Network**
**Supplementary Statements - Statement IV**
**Detailed Statement of Financial Position – Europass Network**

	2025	2024
	€	€
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Other receivables	35,700	40,898
Prepayments	-	236
Cash and cash equivalents	90,721	115,913
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>126,421</b>	<b>157,047</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>126,421</b>	<b>157,047</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated funds	70,420	56,859
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	56,001	92,526
Accruals	-	7,662
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>56,001</b>	<b>100,188</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>126,421</b>	<b>157,047</b>





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