

## Launching of the European Youth Week 2026

EUPA officially launched European Youth Week 2026 in Malta on 13 April, celebrating the initiatives funded through the Agency's call for activities taking place between 24 April and 9 May. The launch recognised the important role of young people in fostering solidarity, fairness and active participation, while also marking the start of a nationwide bus campaign promoting this year's activities.

At the European launch in Brussels on 24 April, a Maltese delegation comprising youth representatives and EUPA representatives met Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport. The meeting highlighted the importance of youth participation and of giving greater visibility to the voices of young people across Europe.



## Supporting Firefighter Training through Erasmus+

On 15 April, EUPA marked the award of Erasmus+ funding to the Civil Protection Department for its project, Strengthening Firefighter Training Capacity in Malta: Advancing Fire Behaviour and Ventilation Expertise.

Through the project, six firefighters will undertake specialised training in the Netherlands, strengthening their expertise in fire behaviour and ventilation. The knowledge gained will be shared with colleagues, helping to build the Department's capacity and further strengthen firefighting practices in Malta.



## Education Has No Borders

From 20 to 23 April, EUPA participated in the Transnational Cooperation Activity Erasmus+ Aiming Higher in Tunisia, together with representatives from the University of Malta and the Institute for Tourism Studies.

The activity brought together higher education representatives from Europe, the Southern Mediterranean and other African countries to strengthen cooperation, promote more inclusive mobility opportunities and foster sustainable partnerships through Erasmus+.



## Explore Your Next European Adventure

On 18 April, EUPA and Eurodesk welcomed 25 young people from the DiscoverEU reserve list to a session entitled Explore Your Next European Adventure.

The session provided participants with an introduction to the opportunities available through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, helping them explore other ways to learn, volunteer and connect across Europe.

## Celebrating Earth Day

To mark Earth Day on 22 April, EUPA highlighted environment and climate action, one of the horizontal priorities of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

Staff shared a lunch centred on more sustainable choices and added two plants to the office as visible reminders of the importance of environmental responsibility. The initiative encouraged staff to reflect on how small, everyday choices can contribute to more environmentally responsible practices.





## Gozo Stakeholders' Meeting

On 16 April, EUPA held the Gozo Stakeholders' Meeting, bringing together representatives from Gozitan institutions to discuss ongoing cooperation and explore opportunities available through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps for organisations and young people.

Gozitan beneficiaries also presented their projects, demonstrating how European funding is supporting initiatives within the community. The meeting enabled participants to exchange experiences, establish new connections and explore ways of encouraging wider participation in European programmes across Gozo.



The festival formed part of an Erasmus+ Small-scale Partnership in School Education (KA210), coordinated by ETE Academy in collaboration with Learning Scoop Finland. It demonstrated how Erasmus+ can support educational quality, innovation and cooperation between organisations in different countries.

The event was also attended by the Hon. Dr Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Minister for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme.



## Celebrating Europe Day

EUPA joined Europe Day celebrations in Valletta and Gozo on 8 and 9 May, marking the values of unity, diversity and solidarity that bring communities together across Europe.

The celebrations also provided an opportunity to highlight how Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps enable young people to learn, volunteer, build connections and contribute positively to their communities in Malta and across Europe.

## Malta Teaching Festival 2026

On 30 April, the Malta Teaching Festival 2026 brought together educators, school leaders and education stakeholders to exchange innovative teaching practices and strengthen European cooperation in school education.



## Erasmus+ Directors Meeting in Cyprus

EUPA's National Coordinator participated in the Informal Erasmus+ National Agency Directors Meeting held in Cyprus, which brought together National Agency Directors from across Europe.

## New Collective Agreement Signed

On 7 May, EUPA signed a new Collective Agreement for its employees covering the period 2026–2030. The agreement strengthens the employment framework supporting staff responsible for implementing Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps in Malta and Gozo.

By investing in its workforce, EUPA aims to maintain a consistent and responsive service for applicants, beneficiaries and programme partners.



Participants exchanged experiences, discussed the implementation of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, and reflected on shared challenges and priorities. The meeting also enabled EUPA to strengthen cooperation with other National Agencies and gather insights that can support the continued delivery of the programmes in Malta and Gozo.





## Erasmus+ Sport Celebration Event

On 4 May, EUPA hosted the Erasmus+ Sport Celebration Event, bringing together Erasmus+ Sport and Youth beneficiaries to celebrate the impact of sport-related projects in Malta.

Attended by the Hon. Dr Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Minister for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, the event showcased initiatives using sport to promote inclusion, community participation, wellbeing and positive social change. The newly selected Erasmus+ Sport projects under the 2026 call were also presented during the event.

A key highlight was a presentation by INSPIRE on its Sports for Social Change Award project, demonstrating how sport can create meaningful opportunities for inclusion and participation. EUPA thanks all participating organisations, speakers and beneficiaries for contributing to the event.



## Erasmus+ Ambassadors Meetings

Between 25 and 28 May, EUPA hosted its second series of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Ambassadors Meetings. The meetings brought together organisations, project participants and participants in Transnational Cooperation Activities to exchange experiences and share good practices.

Each session focused on one of the programmes' four horizontal priorities: Digital Transformation on 25 May, Inclusion and Diversity on 26 May, Participation in Democratic Life on 27 May, and Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change on 28 May.

Participants shared practical examples of how these priorities are being addressed through European projects and explored opportunities for further dialogue and collaboration at national level.



## Youth South Network Meeting in Malta

EUPA hosted the Youth South Network Meeting in Malta, welcoming representatives from ten National Agencies for two days of exchange and cooperation.

Participants shared experiences, discussed common priorities and explored opportunities for future cooperation in the youth field. The meeting also supported shared learning and closer collaboration among the participating National Agencies.



## Job Shadowing in Iceland

From 8 to 12 June, colleagues from EUPA's Youth Unit, together with National Coordinator Mr Raphael Scerri, participated in a job-shadowing visit with the Icelandic National Agency.

The visit enabled both National Agencies to exchange practices, explore opportunities for cooperation and compare approaches to programme implementation and youth-sector development. The knowledge gained will help inform EUPA's continued support for youth organisations, beneficiaries and participants in Malta and Gozo.



## ESC Staff Training 2026 in Vilnius

EUPA participated in the ESC Staff Training 2026 in Vilnius, Lithuania, marking 30 years of volunteering and highlighting its importance for society.

The training provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the future of the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ with the European Commission, as well as to exchange good practices with colleagues from National Agencies on supporting volunteers and organisations in implementing programme priorities.



## Erasmus+ and ESC Information Session for Local Councils

EUPA participated in an information session organised by the Eastern Regional Council for representatives of Local Councils within the region.

The session introduced the opportunities available through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps and explored how these programmes can support local initiatives, community engagement, youth participation and international cooperation.



## Quality Label Award for EUPA

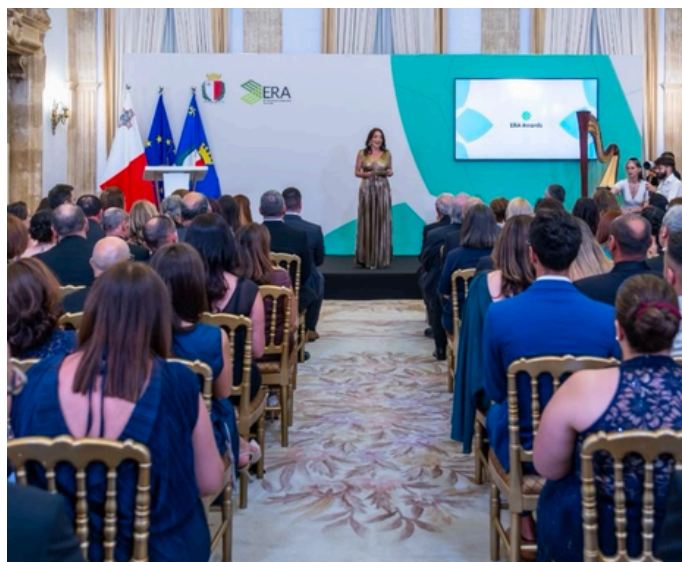
EUPA received the Quality Label Award during the Public Service Awards held on 20 June 2026. The award was presented by Principal Permanent Secretary Mr Tony Sultana to EUPA's National Coordinator on behalf of the Agency.

The award recognises EUPA's commitment to quality, professional service standards and continuous improvement. It also acknowledges the collective contribution of staff in delivering a responsive and beneficiary-focused service.

## Green Public Leadership Recognition

EUPA was shortlisted for the Green Public Leadership Award at the 2026 Environment and Resources Authority Awards, held at Verdala Palace on 26 June.

The Agency also received a Certificate of Recognition for its efforts to promote sustainable practices and environmental responsibility within the public sector. The recognition acknowledges EUPA's work to integrate sustainability across its operations and activities.



## EUPA Annual Report 2025 Published

EUPA has published its Annual Report 2025, presenting the Agency's key achievements, results and success stories from across the year.

The report highlights how Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps supported learning mobility, volunteering, partnerships, inclusion, skills development and community engagement in Malta and Gozo. It also showcases the experiences of individuals and organisations that participated in European opportunities throughout 2025.



## Upcoming Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Calls

Organisations planning to apply for funding through Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps should take note of the following upcoming deadlines.

For Erasmus+, applications for Erasmus Accreditation in vocational education and training, school education, adult education and youth close on 29 September 2026.

The deadline on 1 October 2026 applies to:

- Mobility of individuals in the field of youth;
- Mobility of staff in the field of sport;
- Cooperation Partnerships and Small-scale Partnerships in the field of youth; and
- European Partnerships for School Development.

Under the European Solidarity Corps, applications for Volunteering Projects and Solidarity Projects also close on 1 October 2026. Applications for the Quality Label for Humanitarian Aid Volunteering close on 22 September 2026 and apply to projects under the 2027 call.

Applications for decentralised actions close at 12:00 noon, Brussels time, while the centralised Quality Label deadline is at 17:00, Brussels time. Applicants should consult the relevant call documents and begin preparing their applications well in advance.