

Celebrating 15 years of fostering entrepreneurship: the success of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme

The European Commission proudly is marking the **15th anniversary** of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) programme, a landmark initiative designed to shape the future of entrepreneurship across Europe. EYE is fostering international collaboration, enriching entrepreneurial skills, and driving innovation.

The programme provides **new and potential entrepreneurs**, with a unique opportunity for international exchanges designed to turn innovative ideas into reality. It not only helps overcome the initial hurdles of starting and running a business but also facilitates internationalisation of SMEs and business partnerships. Participants gain invaluable on-the-job training and develop their entrepreneurial skills through collaboration with an experienced host entrepreneur abroad, lasting from 1 to 6 months. The EU offers financial support to help cover travel and subsistence costs, ensuring accessibility.

Experienced host entrepreneurs benefit from fresh perspectives and skills brought by motivated new entrepreneurs. This collaboration opens doors to exploring innovative ideas that can grow their businesses, enabling internationalisation, access to new markets, and the formation of new partnerships, further enhancing their competitive edge.

To date, the programme has created nearly **12,000 business exchanges** in over **45 countries**. 2023 marked a historic high with over 5,000 applications, demonstrating the programme's resounding success. The EYE programme has a strong approval rating, with 98% of new entrepreneurs recommending it and 92% of participants maintaining contact after their exchange.

The programme is facilitated by a wide range of [intermediary organisations](#) across Europe.

The European Commission remains committed to enhancing the EYE programme in the future, ensuring it continues to support emerging entrepreneurs and contributes to a resilient and innovative European business ecosystem. Aspiring entrepreneurs and experienced business owners are invited to join this thriving community and become part of the EYE success story.

For more information on how to apply or participate, visit the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs website www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu.





Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Celebrating 15 years of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs: empowering and connecting entrepreneurs across borders

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE) is an international exchange programme designed for entrepreneurs.

It focuses on transforming entrepreneurial ideas into reality, overcoming initial difficulties with starting and running a business, growing businesses internationally and forging business partnerships. New or potential entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur abroad, with whom they collaborate for a period of 1 to 6 months.

It is a win- win collaboration!

Benefits for new or potential entrepreneurs:

- Gaining on-the-job training abroad and developing entrepreneurial skills with an experienced host.
- Acquiring business knowledge and experience in managing small businesses.
- Transforming this experience into new products or services.
- Receiving financial support from the European Union to contribute toward travel and subsistence costs.



Benefits for experienced (host) entrepreneurs:

- Benefitting from fresh perspective and skills of motivated new entrepreneurs.
- Exploring innovative ideas that can elevate their business.
- Enabling internationalization, access to new markets and new partnerships.
- Receiving insights into emerging technologies that can be materialised into new products and services



EYE in numbers

Proven concept: over 12 000 business exchanges created

12 000

Wide reach: over 40 countries involved

40

2023 a record-breaking year: over 500 applications to the programme, ...

500

Unlocking success: 97% of our participants consider their exchange successful

97%

Building connections: 92% of EYE participants stay in touch after their exchange

92%

Partnerships built: 20% of host entrepreneurs plan to set up joint business activities with new entrepreneurs

20%

Strong approval of our alumni: 98% of new entrepreneurs would recommend our programme

98%

Check our numerous [success stories](#) behind these numbers, showcasing the positive impact on participants' professional development and the growth of their businesses.

[Apply now](#) and be part of the EYE success!

Contact us



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