



The Ecological Transition in Erasmus+

October 2024 version



PRINCIPLES

The Erasmus+ programme for 2021–2027 has two main environmental goals:

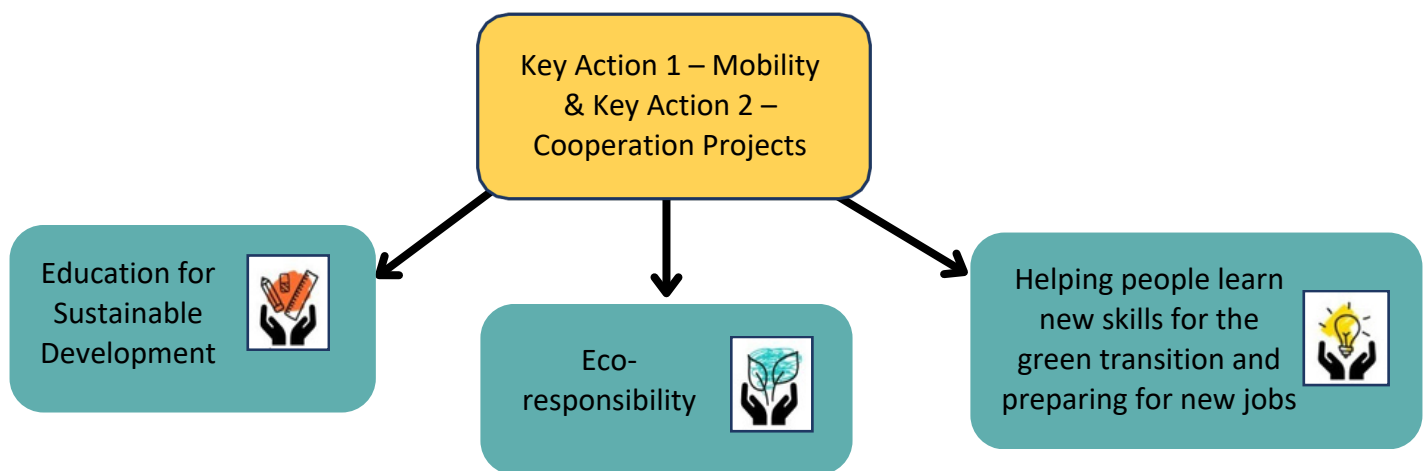
- fighting climate change
- supporting the ecological transition.

The programme is part of the [European Green Deal](#). This is a plan from the European Commission to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Erasmus+ 2021–2027 wants to reduce its environmental impact by:

- **helping people learn skills for sustainability**
- **encouraging responsible behaviour**
- **promoting greener ways to travel.**

This priority is organised around **three main areas of action**, both in mobility projects (Key Action 1) and cooperation projects (Key Action 2).





Area 1: Education for Sustainable Development

Erasmus+ mobility helps people understand environmental problems and learn how to take action.

During their stay, participants can learn to:

- use fewer resources
- use less energy and reduce their carbon footprint
- create less waste
- choose greener options for food and transport

By seeing how other European countries live — for example, good bike paths, strong recycling systems, or workplaces that save water and energy — participants can learn new habits and make more responsible choices in their daily lives.



Area 2: Eco-responsibility

Eco-responsibility in Erasmus+ means reducing the environmental impact of projects.

- Transport: choosing cleaner ways to travel (like train, bus, or carpooling) gives access to extra financial support.
- Projects: ecological choices should be included from the start and throughout the whole project.
- Cooperation: projects that focus on the environment or climate action receive 3 bonus points during evaluation.
- Meetings and events: reduce travel when possible, choose greener transport, avoid printing and promotional items, and choose local food and eco-friendly digital services.



Area 3: Developing New Skills and New Jobs

Erasmus+ mobility and cooperation projects should help people learn the skills needed for the ecological transition.

This can include:

- work placements in renewable energy, agroecology, or companies that follow strong environmental and social practices
- creating training programmes for new jobs, such as energy-efficient building renovation or eco-friendly tourism.

IN ERASMUS+ PROJECTS

Your organisation can:

- **organise mobility projects (Key Action 1)**
- **work with partners in Europe or beyond (Key Action 2)**

Erasmus+ projects can support the ecological transition in many ways:

- **Teach sustainable development:** help participants understand environmental issues through their transport choices, daily habits, and by observing sustainable work practices.
- **Create an ecological strategy:** write an accreditation request or an ECHE Charter that includes environmental goals.
- **Use eco-friendly practices:** choose cleaner transport options (train, bus, carpooling) and hold some meetings online to reduce travel.
- **Reduce the carbon footprint:** plan actions that lower the environmental impact of projects.
- **Strengthen sustainability skills:** include ecological topics in all trainings, including subjects like rural development.
- **Develop green-job training:** create programmes that prepare learners for jobs linked to sustainability.
- **Discuss environmental issues:** exchange ideas and learn from European partners about ecological challenges.

PUTTING THE ENVIRONMENT PRIORITY INTO PRACTICE IN ERASMUS+

The Erasmus+ guide ([available here](#)) explains in detail how to apply this priority.

The actions are organised around three main areas:

- Education for sustainable development: helping participants understand environmental issues.
- Eco-responsibility: using environmentally friendly practices in all projects.
- Developing new skills and new jobs: training people for jobs linked to the ecological transition.

The diagram below gives a simple summary of these actions.

Read more about [BOEN \(The Official Bulletin of the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sport\)](#) in French

Actions in Mobilities and in Erasmus+ Project Design and Delivery

1. Education for Sustainable Development



Higher education:

Schools commit, through the ECHE Charter, to promote environmentally friendly practices.

School education, vocational training, and adult education:

- Education for sustainable development must be included in accreditation and in the quality standards of each project.

2. Eco- responsibility



Sustainable transport:

Participants receive financial support based on travel distance, plus up to 6 extra days of funding if they choose eco-friendly transport.

All Erasmus+ projects — mobility and cooperation — must include eco-responsible practices:

- during events (conferences, meetings, etc.)
- from the design stage until the end of the project

3. Developing New Skills and New Jobs



Strengthening skills linked to the ecological transition, including skills for rural development.

Creating training programmes that prepare people for jobs needed for sustainability.

Offering work placements in organisations that are committed to the ecological transition.

1) Eco-friendly transport includes train, bus, bicycle and carpooling.

2) For cooperation partnership projects, extra points are given during the evaluation if the project supports environmental action.

Financial support for sustainable transport:

Participants who choose an eco-friendly way to travel receive higher travel funding and extra support to cover the longer travel time. (For projects approved in 2024.)

TRAVEL COST CONTRIBUTION	
Standard Transport Funding	Eco-friendly Transport Funding
10 to 99 km : 28 € 100 to 499 km : 211 € 500 to 1999 km : 309 € 2000 to 2999 km : 395 € 3000 to 3999 km : 580 € 4000 to 7999 km : 1 188 € more than 8000 km : 1 735 € + <i>up to 2 extra days of funding for travel time</i>	10 to 99 km : 56 € 100 to 499 km : 285 € 500 to 1999 km : 417 € 2000 to 2999 km : 535 € 3000 to 3999 km : 785 € 4000 to 7999 km : 1 188 € more than 8000 km : 1 735 € + <i>up to 6 extra days of funding for travel time</i>

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES



Jade does a **work placement in Spain in an eco-tourism agency** as part of her vocational diploma. Her school runs a contest to promote Erasmus+ experiences using sustainable transport (train, bus, carpooling, bike). The goal is to show students that there are alternatives to flying. Jade was not very sporty before, but she starts using a bike for her daily 3 km trips.



Some students in nature management go to Canada for a work placement or a study semester. Even though they must take a plane to get there, they still try to reduce their environmental impact once they arrive. They use public transport and think carefully about how their daily actions affect the environment. When they come back, they share what they learned to help other students become more aware of environmental issues.



Steevy is in a vocational diploma programme in garden maintenance. He does a work placement in Italy. He learns local masonry techniques and how to choose plants that can survive drought. This experience helps him understand why water management is so important in southern France, where he wants to work later. These skills will help him when he applies for jobs.

Example of funding calculation



Maya is in a vocational hairdressing programme. She goes to Germany for a 12-day work placement. She chooses to travel by train from Cherbourg to Berlin (about 1,097 km according to the [Erasmus+ distance calculator](#)). Because she uses sustainable transport, she receives €417 instead of €309 (the amount given for plane travel). She also gets 4 extra days of funding to cover her travel time.