

EU and youth opportunities for climate action



Topics: EU initiatives and opportunities for youth, Erasmus+ and ESC programs

Pedagogical objectives

- Introduce participants to EU programs for young people, focusing on green topics
- Foster awareness of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps as platforms for personal and professional growth
- Empower participants to explore and apply for EU-funded mobility opportunities

Necessary material

- Flipchart papers and markers
- Sticky notes
- Printed or digital materials on Erasmus+ and ESC programs
- Laptop and projector

Educational methods

Interactive quiz and group discussion, world cafe method - rotational group activity, teamwork.



Age:
16-30



Max. 30
participants



100 minutes

Activity description

1 Ice-breaking activity (10 mins):

- Have participants form pairs with people they aren't too familiar or close to.
- Give them the question: "When you think about the EU and young people, what is the first thing that comes to mind? It could be a program, an opportunity, a topic, or even a personal experience."
- After they come back to plenary and share their answers. Give them 3 minutes to talk
- As pairs share, write their answers on a flipchart and group similar ideas together to identify themes (like opportunities, mobility, programmes...)

Tip: If the group is shy, start by sharing your own example to break the ice.

2 Interactive quiz on fun/interesting fact on the EU (15 min)

- Create a short quiz with 5–10 single choice or true/false questions about EU programs and their impact.
- Prepare visuals for each question or use a digital tool like **Kahoot** or **Slido** to make it interactive and more fun.

Examples of questions: Come up with your own options, the right answer is in brackets

1. How many young people have participated in Erasmus+ since its launch in 1987? (10 million)
2. What percentage of the EU budget is dedicated to education and training (5%);
3. True or False: The European Solidarity Corps allows young people to volunteer in their own country (True)
4. What is the name of the EU program that funds research and innovation projects? (Horizon)
5. Which of these EU programs supports creative industries, film, and culture? (Creative Europe)
6. True or False: The European Green Deal aims to make the EU carbon neutral by 2050. (True)
7. How many official languages does the EU have? (24)
8. What percentage of Erasmus+ participants say the program improved their career prospects? (80%)
9. Which EU initiative provides free interrail tickets to young people to explore Europe? (DiscoverEU)
10. The EU provides funding for young entrepreneurs through which program? (Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs)

- After each question, reveal the correct answer with a brief explanation to reinforce the learning.
- Winners can get small eco-friendly prizes (like reusable water bottles).

Tip: End this section by emphasising that all these programs are free for participants, include diverse topics, and are accessible to all youth within and beyond the EU.

3 Exploring EU mobility programs through rotational stations (60 minutes)

- Set up four stations (tables), each focusing on a key EU learning opportunity:
 - Station 1:** Erasmus+ KA1 Youth exchanges and Training courses
 - Station 2:** ESC Volunteering projects
 - Station 3:** ESC Solidarity projects
 - Station 4:** Erasmus+ Internships & Internships at EU Institutions
- **Assign one facilitator per each station** who has experience with the given program to:
 - Provide an overview of the program.
 - Explain the task and guide discussions.
 - Answer any questions participants may have.
- **At each station, provide:**
 - A short, visually engaging summary of the program (like posters, slides, or video).
 - Real-life testimonials from participants (video, quotes, or stories).
 - Sum up of competences and knowledge participants can acquire
 - An interactive quick task tailored to the station's topic.

Examples can be:

- **Station 1:** Participants brainstorm and outline a youth exchange program around a green topic and suggest the outline of objective and few activities.
- **Station 2:** Participants create a quick plan for a fictional ESC project addressing an environmental issue. (location, activity, impact)
- **Station 3:** Participants design a small solidarity project tackling a local environmental issue. Make them answer just 3 main questions : Local need, objective and few activities
- **Station 4:** Participants design their ideal Erasmus+ or EU internship experience by answering:
 - Where would you go? (Country & organisation)
 - What would be your role? (Internship position)
 - What skills/competences would you gain? (List at least 3)
 - How would this help your future career?

Timing: Each group spends 15 minutes at a station. Rotate groups and make sure all participants visit each station.

Tip: Provide proper information with real-world benefits, helping participants to understand real impact of the programs on personal growth and communities.

4 Wrap up and reflection activity (15 minutes)

- Allow participants to reflect on their learning from the rotational stations.
- To help participants think of the key takeaways, ask them the following questions:
 - Which program excites you the most?
 - What surprised you about these opportunities?
 - How can you imagine using one of these programs in your life or community?
 - Can anyone share your project idea you created as a group task at each station?

Facilitator's wrap up

- Summarise the main opportunities discussed
- Emphasise the accessibility and variety of EU programs for youth.
- Highlight the focus on green topics in these programs.
- Encourage participants to take the next steps by exploring program websites or reaching out to local coordinators and organisations.

To go further

- ✚ Prepare printed or digital QR codes linking to resources like the [European Youth Portal](#), [SALTO Youth](#), or specific program guides. Include contact details for local program coordinators or national agencies for follow-up.
- ✚ Pair participants randomly for tasks to build new connections and foster teamwork. Emphasise that all programs encourage collaboration and intercultural exchange, reflecting the real-life benefits of EU initiatives.
- ✚ Facilitator can offer personalised support by encouraging participants to reach out with specific questions about specific application processes or program details. Highlight your availability for clarifying eligibility, connecting them to local program coordinators, or reviewing their application materials, such as motivation letters or project outlines.
- ✚ The activity is adaptable for online spaces, such as Zoom, by using breakout rooms for each station and incorporating digital tools like Jamboard for collaborative brainstorming and shared slides for interactive tasks.
- ✚ The facilitator must first identify any special needs the participants might have and tailor the activity and setting accordingly to ensure inclusivity. This includes providing a physically accessible venue with ramps, wide aisles, and adjustable station setups for wheelchair users. Materials should be available in alternative formats such as large-print, high-contrast visuals, braille, or digital versions compatible with screen readers. Arrange for sign language interpreters if necessary, and supplement spoken instructions with written or visual aids to support participants with hearing or cognitive disabilities. Simplify tasks into clear, manageable steps, and offer flexible ways to engage, such as verbal, written, or visual contributions. Pair participants thoughtfully or assign buddies to provide additional support during tasks and transitions. Facilitators should remain patient, adaptable, and proactive in addressing specific needs, fostering an inclusive and supportive atmosphere where every participant can fully engage and benefit.

Sources and additional resources

- ➔ **European Youth Portal** - Official portal for EU youth programs, including Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, and more.
- ➔ **SALTO Youth Resource Centers** - Platform for training, resources, and support in youth work within Erasmus+ and ESC.
- ➔ **Erasmus+ Programme Guide** - Detailed guide of Erasmus+ opportunities, application processes, and eligibility criteria.
- ➔ **European Solidarity Corps Guide** - A detailed guide outlining the European Solidarity Corps programs, including volunteering, and solidarity projects, with step-by-step instructions for applying.
- ➔ **Eurodesk** - Youth information network providing advice and opportunities for young people across Europe.
- ➔ **Erasmus+ project results platform** - You can find there the details and outcomes of projects funded under the Erasmus+ programme to get inspired from.



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