



# Erasmus+ for higher education in Sierra Leone

## What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-27. Erasmus+ funds academic mobility and cooperation projects that involve partners from 27 EU Member States and six associated countries\* on the one hand (Erasmus+33), and from non-associated countries throughout the world on the other. Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with third countries and regions. These factsheets look at the extent of an individual country's involvement in this international dimension of Erasmus+ since the programme started in 2021, and compares its involvement in the 2014-2020 phase.

\*These six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

## International credit mobility (ICM)

Since 1987, HE students and staff have moved between European universities in the Erasmus programme. Since 2015, Erasmus+ has also allowed short-term mobility to Erasmus+33 countries from other parts of the world for students and for academic and administrative staff. This allows **students** to study in a foreign university for 2 -12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. The mobility can be from 5-30 days, if part of blended mobility (a combination of physical mobility with a virtual component). Traineeships are also possible. **Staff** mobility can be for 5-60 days.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world - some 26% is dedicated to mobility with sub-Saharan Africa. The global budget is divided between the Erasmus+33 countries. Institutions from these countries make up bilateral partnerships with universities from the sub-Saharan Africa and apply on behalf of their partners. The first selection of projects in the 2021-27 phase was made in 2022. The figures below represent the mobility planned by projects selected each year.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-20
Instances of university participation from Sierra Leone			5	3					
Students and staff moving to Erasmus+33	24		17	7					12
Students and staff moving to Sierra Leone	19		13	6					18
Percentage of mobility in region			0	0					0.1

## Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJMs) award EU-funded scholarships to Master students worldwide. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different Erasmus+33 countries, and obtain a joint, double, or multiple degree. Institutions from partner countries can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes (though this is not obligatory). They can take part as full degree-awarding partners - or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of other capacity. Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDMs), introduced in 2021, are preparatory projects to bring a joint programme to the point where it is ready to operate as an accredited joint degree programme, and apply to EMJM.

Sierra Leone in Erasmus Mundus project	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-20
Total EMJMs selected in call	91	27	30	34					250
Total EMJM proposals received in call	219	68	58	93					713
Proposals received involving Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0					0
Selected EMJMs involving Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0					0
Coordinators/partners from Sierra Leone in EMJM	0	0	0	0					0
Associated partners from Sierra Leone in EMJMs	0	0	0	0					0
Total EM Design Measures selected	160	40	62	58					na
EMDMs selected involving Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0					na
Beneficiaries from Sierra Leone in EMDMs	0	0	0	0					na

Each EMJM receives EU funding to award a certain number of scholarships to students worldwide, covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. Additional scholarships are also available for students from specific regions. Students can find the programmes on the Erasmus Mundus joint masters catalogue (see links), and apply directly to the programme coordinator. It is also possible to pursue an EM Master without a scholarship.

	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-20
<b>EM scholarship winners from SierraLeone</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>					<b>1</b>
<i>From global budget</i>	<b>5</b>	0	2	3					<b>1</b>
<i>From additional regional budget</i>	<b>1</b>	0	1	0					<b>0</b>
<i>Scholarships worldwide</i>	<b>8 494</b>	2 599	3 012	2 883					<b>11 851</b>
EM programmes offering scholarships		142	156	146					<b>348</b>

### Capacity-building for Higher Education

Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education action (CBHE) projects, which last from two to three years, are aimed at modernising and reforming higher education institutions, developing new curricula, improving governance, and building relationships between higher education and enterprises. They can also tackle policy topics and issues, preparing the ground for higher education reform, in cooperation with national authorities. Over 25% of the annual global budget for CBHE projects is for sub-Saharan Africa. The first selection of projects in the 2021-27 phase was made in 2022.

<b>Sierra Leone in CBHE projects</b>	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-2020
CBHE proposals received in call	<b>1 410</b>		620	790					<b>4 315</b>
CBHE projects selected in call	<b>305</b>		145	160					<b>770</b>
CBHE proposals received involving Sierra Leone	<b>1</b>		0	1					<b>3</b>
CBHE projects selected involving Sierra Leone	<b>1</b>		0	1					<b>0</b>
CBHE projects coordinated by Sierra Leone	<b>0</b>		0	0					<b>0</b>
Instances of participation from Sierra Leone in selected projects	<b>2</b>		0	2					<b>0</b>

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of countries or a single country. They can also be cross-regional, including institutions from different partner regions.

### Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet activities (JMA) aim to develop EU studies worldwide. Since 1989 they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at **higher education level**. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world through networks and a number of associations in the domain of EU studies.

<b>Sierra Leone in Jean Monnet</b>	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2014-2020
JMA higher education proposals received in call	<b>2 582</b>	782	780	1 020					<b>7 600</b>
JMA higher education projects selected in call	<b>952</b>	251	356	345					<b>1 862</b>
Proposals received from Sierra Leone	<b>1</b>	0	0	1					<b>0</b>
Projects selected involving Sierra Leone	<b>0</b>	0	0	0					<b>0</b>
Networks involving partners from Sierra Leone	<b>0</b>	0	0	0					<b>0</b>

## Other Erasmus+ cooperation with Sierra Leone

### Capacity-building for Vocational Education and Training (new in 2021-27 programme)

This action supports multilateral partnerships of organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States or countries associated to the programme, and those from the sub-Saharan Africa. They aim to support the relevance, accessibility and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in these regions and countries of the world as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development. The first selection of projects was in 2022.

<b>Sierra Leone in CBVET projects</b>	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
CBVET proposals received in call	<b>283</b>		121	162				
CBVET projects selected in call	<b>126</b>		58	68				
Proposals received involving Sierra Leone	<b>0</b>		0	0				
Projects selected involving Sierra Leone	<b>0</b>		0	0				
Instances of participation from Sierra Leone in selected projects	<b>0</b>		0	0				

### Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange (new to sub-Saharan Africa in 2021-27 programme)

Virtual exchange fosters online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and develop soft skills. Young people gain access to high-quality crosscultural education (formal and non-formal) without physical mobility. Moderated discussions, training courses and interactive open courses are among the activities supported.

Sierra Leone in EVE projects	2021-27	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
EVE proposals received in call	219	58	69	92				
EVE projects selected in call	45	13	16	16				
Proposals received involving Sierra Leone	1	0	1	0				
Projects selected involving Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0				
Instances of participation from Sierra Leone in selected projects	0	0	0	0				

#### More information:

**Erasmus+ website:** [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)

**Erasmus+ projects & results:** <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>

**Erasmus+ funding opportunities:** [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en)

**Erasmus Mundus programme catalogue:** [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library/scholarships-catalogue_en)

Reflects situation following 2023 selections