



# Erasmus+ for higher education in South Africa

## 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 South Africa |         |      | 314   | 435  |      |      |      |      |         |
| Students and staff moving to Erasmus+33                 | 1 882   |      | 1 061 | 821  |      |      |      |      | 2 746   |
| Students and staff moving to South Africa               | 954     |      | 544   | 410  |      |      |      |      | 1 879   |
| Percentage of mobility in region                        |         |      | 17    | 11   |      |      |      |      | 101.6   |

## 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.

| South Africa 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   |      |      |      |      | 652     |
| Proposals received involving South Africa        | 29      | 9    | 7    | 13   |      |      |      |      | 60      |
| Selected EMJMs involving South Africa            | 15      | 3    | 4    | 8    |      |      |      |      | 36      |
| Coordinators/partners from South Africa in EMJM: | 2       | 1    | 1    | 0    |      |      |      |      | 8       |
| Associated partners from South Africa in EMJMs   | 19      | 6    | 4    | 9    |      |      |      |      | 25      |
| Total EM Design Measures selected                | 160     | 40   | 62   | 58   |      |      |      |      | na      |
| EMDMs selected involving South Africa            | 0       | 0    | 0    | 0    |      |      |      |      | na      |
| Beneficiaries from South Africa 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 South Africa</b> | <b>34</b>    | <b>9</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>10</b> |      |      |      |      | <b>75</b>     |
| <i>From global budget</i>                       | <b>15</b>    | 6        | 4         | 5         |      |      |      |      | <b>28</b>     |
| <i>From additional regional budget</i>          | <b>19</b>    | 3        | 11        | 5         |      |      |      |      | <b>47</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>South Africa 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>4 830</b> |
| CBHE projects selected in call                                    | <b>305</b>   |      | 145  | 160  |      |      |      |      | <b>908</b>   |
| CBHE proposals received involving South Africa                    | <b>46</b>    |      | 17   | 29   |      |      |      |      | <b>82</b>    |
| CBHE projects selected involving South Africa                     | <b>11</b>    |      | 3    | 8    |      |      |      |      | <b>29</b>    |
| CBHE projects coordinated by South Africa                         | <b>5</b>     |      | 1    | 4    |      |      |      |      | <b>4</b>     |
| Instances of participation from South Africa in selected projects | <b>36</b>    |      | 11   | 25   |      |      |      |      | <b>124</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>South Africa 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>7 107</b> |
| JMA higher education projects selected in call  | <b>952</b>   | 251  | 356  | 345   |      |      |      |      | <b>1 650</b> |
| Proposals received from South Africa            | <b>8</b>     | 0    | 0    | 8     |      |      |      |      | <b>10</b>    |
| Projects selected involving South Africa        | <b>0</b>     | 0    | 0    | 0     |      |      |      |      | <b>6</b>     |
| Networks involving partners from South Africa   | <b>3</b>     | 0    | 0    | 3     |      |      |      |      | <b>1</b>     |

## Other Erasmus+ cooperation with South Africa

### 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>South Africa 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 South Africa                         | <b>15</b>  |      | 9    | 6    |      |      |      |      |
| Projects selected involving South Africa                          | <b>9</b>   |      | 6    | 3    |      |      |      |      |
| Instances of participation from South Africa in selected projects | <b>14</b>  |      | 9    | 5    |      |      |      |      |

### 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.

| South Africa 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 South Africa                         | 20      | 5    | 2    | 13   |      |      |      |      |
| Projects selected involving South Africa                          | 6       | 2    | 1    | 3    |      |      |      |      |
| Instances of participation from South Africa in selected projects | 7       | 2    | 1    | 4    |      |      |      |      |

#### 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