

## EU-Asia academic cooperation through Erasmus+

### What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Erasmus+ funds academic mobility and cooperation projects between (a) the 27 EU Member States plus six\* other European countries associated to the programme, and (b) countries not associated to the programme who are located all over the world.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions, including Asia. Countries from this wide region can join with European partners in a range of mobility and cooperation projects. This factsheet looks at how popular these initiatives have been with Asian partners in the ongoing (2021-2027) Erasmus+ programme.

For Erasmus+, higher education stakeholders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan Thailand and Vietnam can take part in Erasmus+ by partnering up with one or more of the 33 countries mentioned above.

In many Asian countries, the EU supports an Erasmus+ National Focal Point to help promote these opportunities.

\* In 2024 these six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

### International Credit Mobility

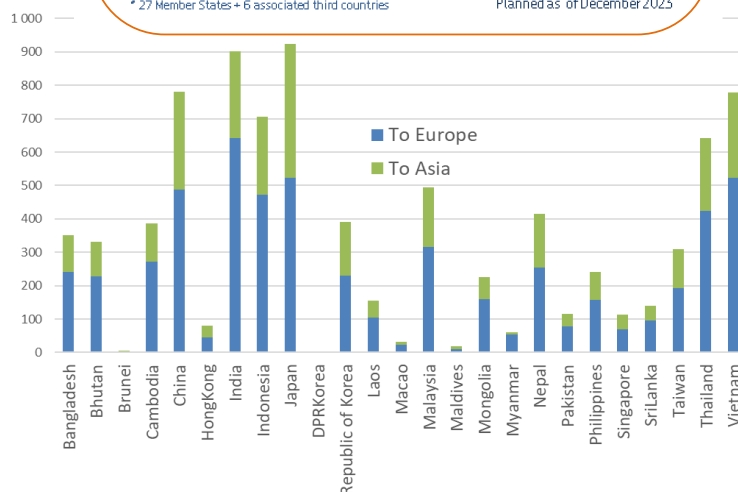
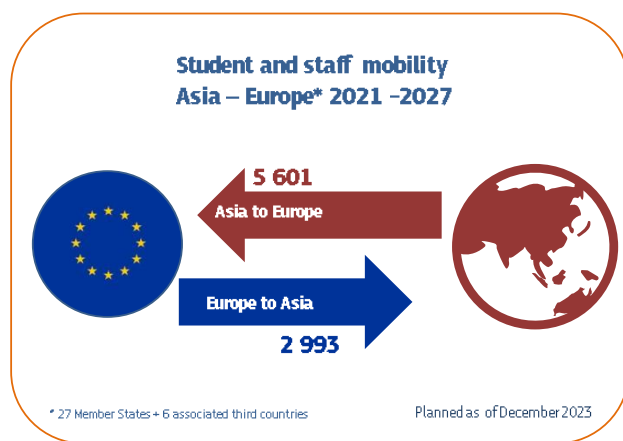
Since 1987, Erasmus has enabled students to study part of their course in a university in a different European country. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students and staff is also possible beyond Europe, allowing students to study at a foreign university for 2-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days. Some projects also offer traineeships.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in Asia and apply on behalf of their partners.

The budget for Asia currently makes up **some 9% of the entire international mobility budget. Since 2021**, this resulted in around 800 projects for bilateral partnerships that organise **mobility for almost 8 600 students, researchers, and staff** – over 2/3 of these are Asians going to Europe.

Among **Indonesia's** 268 ICM agreements are 49 exchange programmes with Polish universities: for example, the Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember exchanges students and staff with seven **Polish institutions** including Bialystok University of Technology. There is an wider Asian pattern to Bialystok's agreements, which also include those with Chinese, Indonesia, Maldivian, Mongolian and Nepalese universities.

### Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and Asia (2021-2027 so far): 796 projects, 8 594 people moving



## Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJM Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: <https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus>

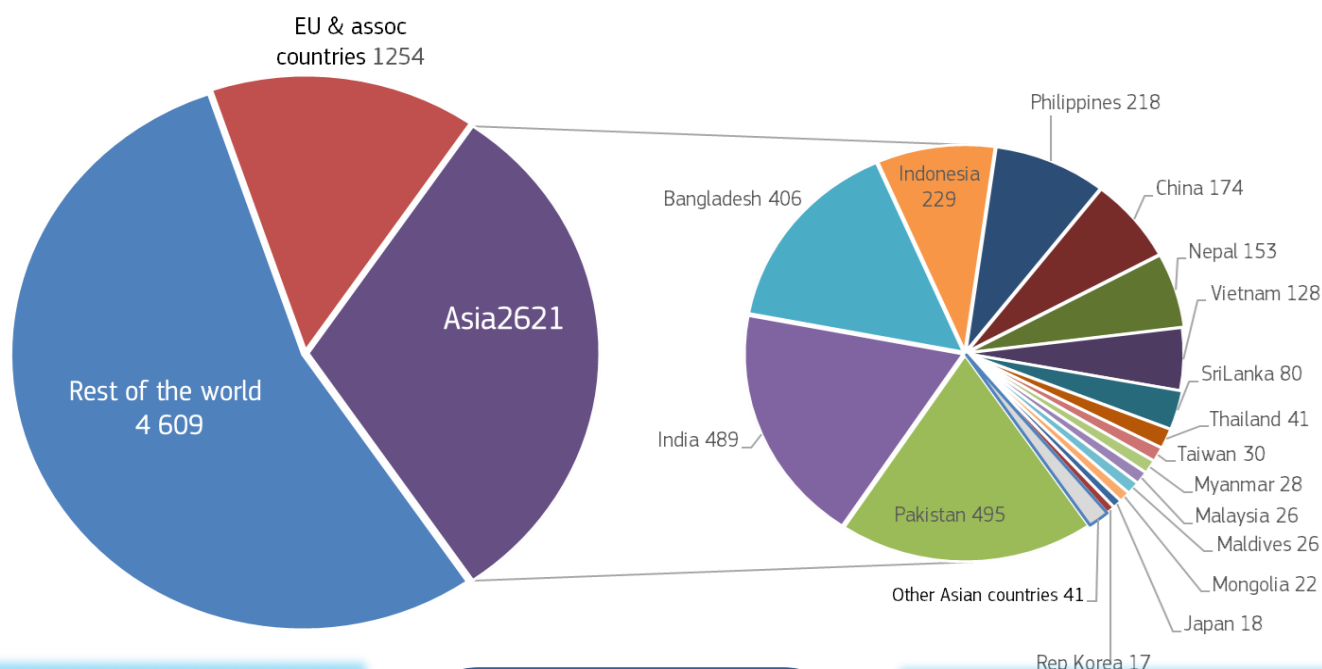
The EU funds additional scholarships for students from developing Asian countries.

Institutions from Asian countries can also deliver these programmes: as applicants setting up the consortia; as full partners who officially award degrees; or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity – providing lecturers, hosting fieldwork, promoting the course – but do not award the actual joint degree.

### Asian partners in 91 masters selected 2021-2023

From 2021 to 2023, there were two cases of Asian universities (from Japan and from Taiwan) taking part in EM joint masters as hosting partners. There are 117 instances of universities from a wider range of countries and territories (18) taking part as associate partners.

## Erasmus Mundus scholarships awarded to Master students, Asia, 2021-2027 so far



### Techniques, Patrimoine, Territoires

**de l'Industrie (TPTI)** is a cross-sectoral programme focusing on the preservation and study of heritage related to the production sector. Graduates of this [programme](#) are prepared for a career in conservation, heritage, museum and site management, industrial archaeology and tourism. The techniques that are mastered pay close attention to the environmental challenges. Kagoshima University is a partner in this very international consortium led by the University of Paris – Sorbonne (France), with partners from Tunisia and Argentina working alongside European universities from Portugal, Spain, Czechia and Italy. Associates from Bangladesh and China are also involved.

### Erasmus Mundus and Asia, 2021-2023



2 621 scholarships  
for Asian Master students



117 instances of participation  
from Asian organisations

### TROPIMUNDO

TROPIMUNDO is a joint master bringing together higher education expertise from a range of countries on biodiversity in tropical rainforests, woodlands and coastal ecosystems. [Tropimundo](#) sets out how organisms interact with their environment and how they respond to perturbations and change, and assess utilisation patterns, management and governance systems. Students specialise in botany, zoology and integrative ecosystems, with an entire semester spent in the tropics. Universities from Asia join the consortium to offer this specific local expertise and opportunity for fieldwork: the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia), the University of Ruhuna (Sri Lanka) and the Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (Philippines).

## Capacity Building in Higher Education

Capacity-Building projects in Higher Education are 2 to 3 year-long projects implemented by multilateral partnerships of Higher Education institutions from both Europe and Asia (not for high-income countries).

Capacity-Building projects not only promote cooperation between Europe and other regions but they also contribute to curriculum development activities, modernisation of governance and management of Higher Education institutions and systems and strengthening relations between Higher Education and the wider economic and social environment.

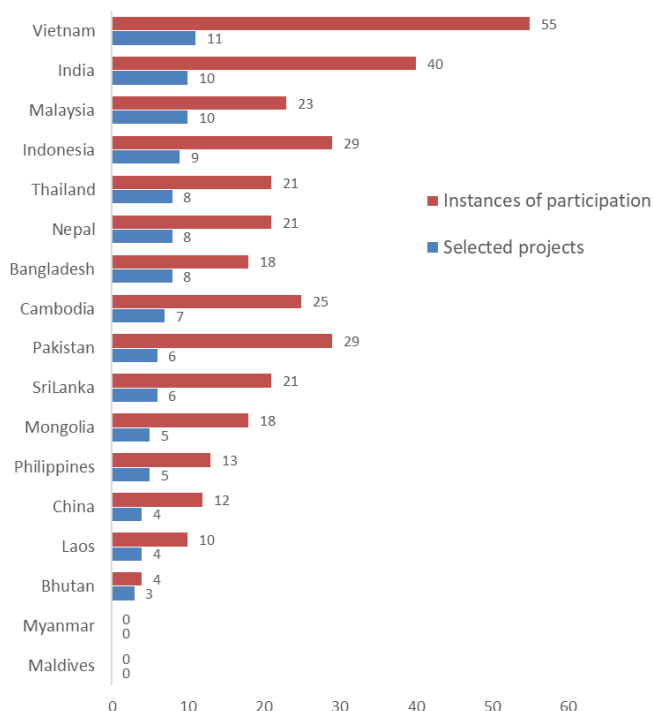
So far, there have been 318 instances of participation by institutions from Asia in 58 projects for the region.

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of Asian countries or a single country and they can also be cross-regional and include partners both from different Asian regions. Some 330 projects for the region were also funded under the 2014-2020 programme.



**SCALE – Smart City ASEAN Learning Network** clusters micro-courses, MOOCs, practical training schemes and workshops to develop skills and practice. Led by the University of Malaya, the [project](#) brings together Cambodian Malaysian and Thai partners to work alongside Greek and Italian institutions to develop teaching and foster new knowledge triangle partnerships in ASEAN cities. The programme also devises workshops for staff to develop the technology and operational reforms required to put it into practice.

Under **NEWSTEP – New Way to a Sustainable Transformational Educational Programme** – Tribhuvan University coordinates the work of Nepalese, Finnish and Spanish universities to develop an [approach to redesigning Nepalese curricula](#) to teach in an online environment, and with strong links to employability. The programme will ensure that education is ready to reap the benefits of ongoing investment in internet penetration in Nepal, in terms of infrastructure and skills.



## Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 25 years 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 and networks. It is increasingly popular outside the EU.

Over the three calls so far, 46 Asian Jean Monnet Modules (30), Chairs (9) and Centres of Excellence have been selected from Asia.

**EU-TRIPOD** is a Jean Monnet [module](#) offered by the Vellore Institute of Technology. It takes a multi-disciplinary approach to help develop pedagogy on and in Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.

### EU-RENEW – Network on Europe in the World

This Jean Monnet [Network](#) gathers research to bolster expertise on European policy and external affairs. 19 partners from four continents include the University of Tokyo and Seoul National University.

## 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+ National Focal Points in Asia:

<https://erasmus-networks.ec.europa.eu/organization/national-focal-points>