

## 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<sup>1</sup> 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 SAR\*, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macao SAR\*, 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.

<sup>1</sup> In 2024 these six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

\*This without prejudice to the status of - or sovereignty over - any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

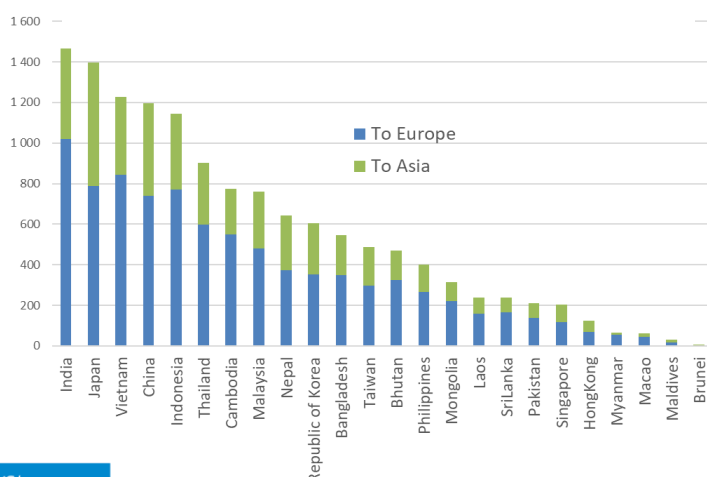
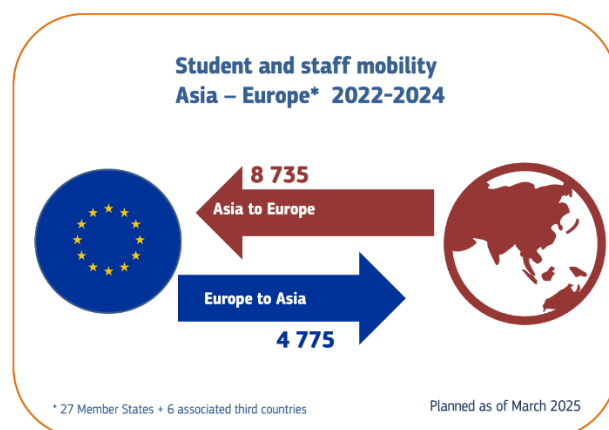
## International Credit Mobility

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 over 13 500 students, researchers, and staff** – over 2/3 of these are Asians going to Europe.

### Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and Asia (2021-2024): 800 projects, 13 510 people moving



Among **Indonesia's** 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 a wider Asian pattern to Bialystok's agreements, which also include those with Bhutanese, Chinese, Maldivian, Mongolian and Nepalese universities.

## 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>

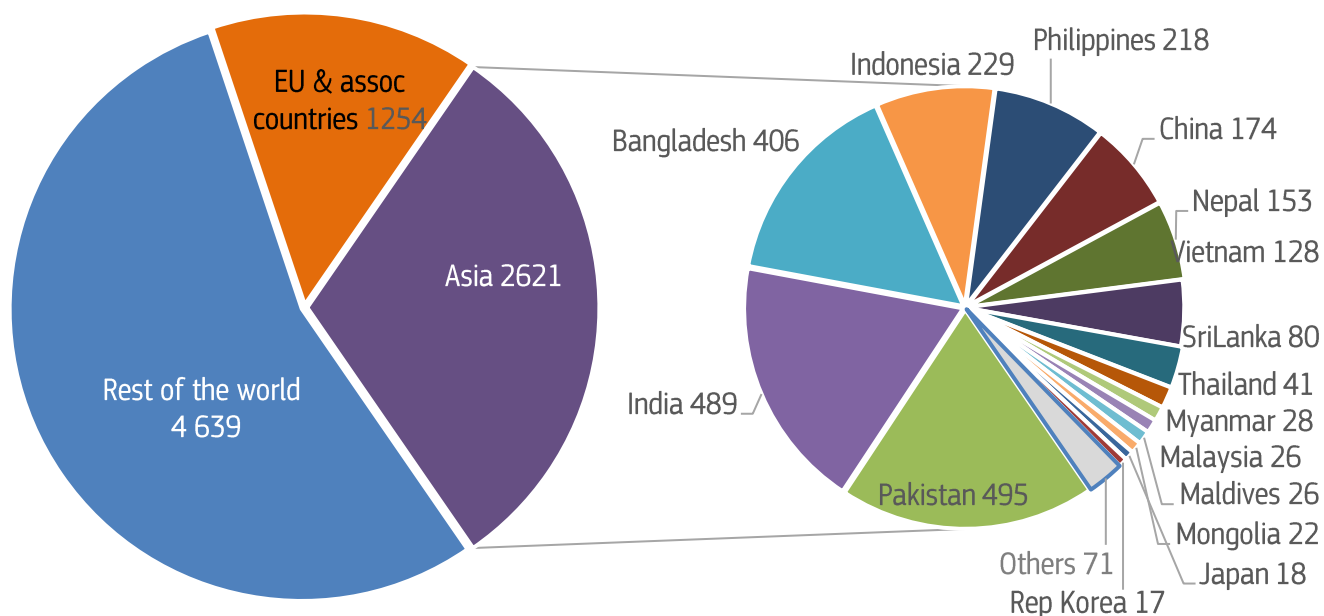
The EU funds additional scholarships for students from developing Asian countries.

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 127 masters selected 2021-2024

From 2021 to 2024, there were nine cases of Asian universities (from China, India, Japan and from Taiwan) taking part in EM joint masters as hosting partners. There are 163 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, 2021-2024



### Techniques, Patrimoine, Territoires de l'Industrie (TPTI)

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).

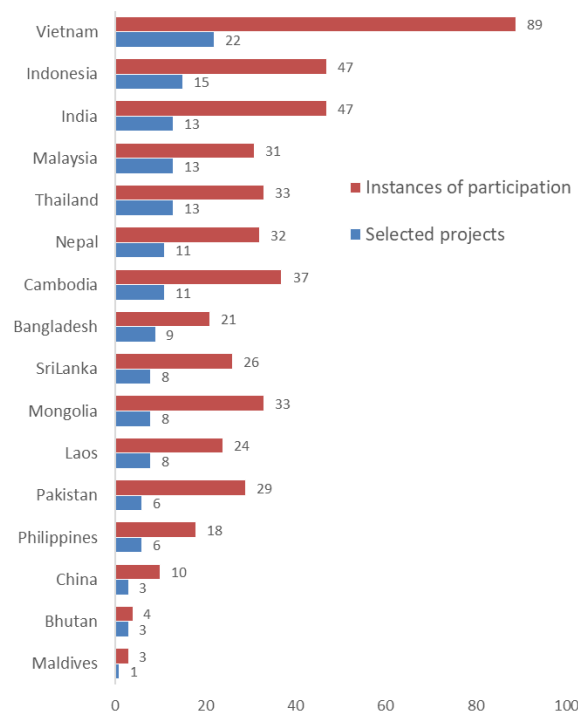
## Capacity Building in Higher Education

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 484 instances of participation by institutions from Asia in 87 projects for the region (see chart, *right*).

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.



## Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities 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 and networks. It is increasingly popular outside the EU. Over the four calls so far, 68 Asian Jean Monnet actions have been selected involving Asia: 40 modules, nine Chairs, 14 Centres of Excellence and five thematic networks involving Asian partners.

**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>

### Capacity-building projects 2022-2024



87 projects



484 instances of  
participation

from Asia

**The [SustainaBlue](#) project**, led by the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and with partners from Cyprus, Greece and Indonesia, aims to enhance the skills and employability of students and the workforce in Malaysia and Indonesia for a sustainable blue economy. By modernising education, fostering industry collaboration, and raising awareness about sustainable careers, the project directly benefits society by promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth in coastal communities.

Under **the [GreenEdAsia](#) project**, coordinated by Ho Chi Minh City University of Education in Vietnam, the partners aim to foster environmental sustainability and promote green practices in higher education in Vietnam and Thailand. By developing an innovative curriculum and providing hands-on learning experiences, the [project](#) strengthens the capacity of universities to train a skilled workforce in circular bioeconomy and renewable energy. Partners include institutions from Finland, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam.