

MYTH-BUSTER:

DEBUNKING THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

THERE ARE TONS OF MYTHS ABOUT THE ERASMUS PLUS AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS PROGRAMMES, MAKING POLITICIANS AND THE MEDIA RELUCTANT TO FIGHT FOR RE-ENTRY. WE NEED TO PROVE THEM WRONG!



Erasmus+

MYTH #1: "ERASMUS" IS JUST A UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME.

Reality: Erasmus Plus is way more than just a uni exchange! It's the EU's programme for education, youth, and sports. Sure, studying abroad is part of it, but it also offers incredible opportunities for youth groups, vocational colleges, and schools. In fact, it's young people who don't go to university who get the most life-changing experiences through Erasmus Plus.

MYTH #2: ERASMUS PLUS IS ONLY FOR PRIVILEGED KIDS.

Reality: Most young people who join Erasmus Plus aren't from privileged backgrounds. In fact, it's designed to help those who haven't had many chances to travel. It's all about giving everyone a shot at these amazing experiences, especially those who wouldn't get to go abroad otherwise.

MYTH #3: WE HAD TO LEAVE ERASMUS PLUS AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS (ESC) BECAUSE OF BREXIT.

Reality: Nope, leaving Erasmus Plus wasn't a part of Brexit. In fact, Boris Johnson even promised that we'd stay in the programme when he was Prime Minister. So this was a choice, not a Brexit consequence.

MYTH #4: ONLY EU COUNTRIES CAN JOIN ERASMUS PLUS.

Reality: Six non-EU countries (like Norway and Turkey) are full members, and loads of others from Europe, the Middle East, and beyond can join parts of the programme. The UK is pretty much the only country in the world whose young people miss out completely.

MYTH #5: ERASMUS PLUS ONLY LETS YOU EXCHANGE WITH EU COUNTRIES.

Reality: Erasmus Plus connects people from all over the world, not just the EU. Between 2014 and 2020, there were projects with countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and more. These chances still exist, even if there are some limitations now.

MYTH #6: ERASMUS PLUS WASN'T WORTH THE MONEY FOR THE UK.

Reality: This claim was made without any real evidence. The UK didn't just benefit from the grants; the personal spending of participants on projects hosted here also boosted local economies. But it's not just about money. No proper research was ever done to see the full value Erasmus Plus has brought to the UK.

MYTH #7: MORE PEOPLE CAME TO THE UK THROUGH ERASMUS THAN WENT OUT.

Reality: This idea mainly focuses on university exchanges. If you look at all the other activities — like school, youth, and sport exchanges — it's a different story. Also, a lot of British young people, teachers and youth workers took part in projects hosted and funded in other countries.

MYTH #8: POOR LANGUAGE SKILLS HELD BACK UK PARTICIPATION IN ERASMUS PLUS.

Reality: Actually, most Erasmus Plus and ESC projects use English, so language wasn't a big barrier. Even short exchanges can help you pick up new languages, and longer experiences like volunteering or studying can boost your language skills even more.

MYTH #9: THE TURING SCHEME IS A REPLACEMENT FOR ERASMUS PLUS.

Reality: Turing only covers a small slice of what Erasmus Plus offered: mainly university, college, and school trips. But it's only one-way, and it doesn't include youth exchanges, sports, volunteering, or lifelong learning. Plus, it misses out on professional development, training, and partnerships between organizations. So, Turing is just a partial substitute, and not a great one at that.

MYTH #10: ERASMUS PLUS AND ESC ARE JUST PRO-EU PROPAGANDA.

Reality: Sure, the EU wants to promote a positive image, but that's not the main goal. Erasmus Plus focuses on things like inclusion, diversity, digital transformation, climate action, and getting young people involved in democracy. It's all about boosting your skills and encouraging youth social action.



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

MYTH #11: WE DON'T NEED THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS IF WE HAVE ERASMUS PLUS.

Reality: ESC, formerly known as European Voluntary Service (EVS), offers awesome personal development opportunities through fully funded volunteering projects of up to 12 months for young people aged 18-30. These projects benefit all kinds of local charities and communities and give young people the chance to make a real difference. What's more, you can get funding for your own social action initiatives, which don't even have to be international.

MYTH #12: REJOINING ERASMUS PLUS WOULD BE POLITICALLY TOUGH.

Reality: Restoring Erasmus Plus and ESC could actually be one of the easiest and most popular moves the government could make to rebuild relations with Europe and give our young people back their lost opportunities. We could even take a two-step approach — starting as a partner country and then becoming a full member in the next programme cycle. Most people in the UK would be perfectly OK with this.

MYTH #13: OTHER COUNTRIES WOULDN'T WANT THE UK BACK IN THE PROGRAMMES ANYWAY.

Reality: While there might be some political tension, organisations all over Europe (and beyond) really miss working with the UK. They're eager to include British young people in their projects again. Just like with Horizon Europe, we'd be welcomed back with open arms, especially by other young people.

MYTH (?) #14: JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS AREN'T REALLY INTERESTED IN YOUNG PEOPLE OR THE FACTS ABOUT ERASMUS PLUS AND ESC, SO THEY JUST KEEP ON SPOUTING THE SAME OLD NONSENSE.

Reality: ... Well come on, journos and politicos, please talk to us and prove us wrong!

CONTACT

info@intercom.org.uk | info@cill-uk.com