



# ERASMUS+ MOLDOVA NEWSLETTER



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## Launch of the New Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 in the Republic of Moldova

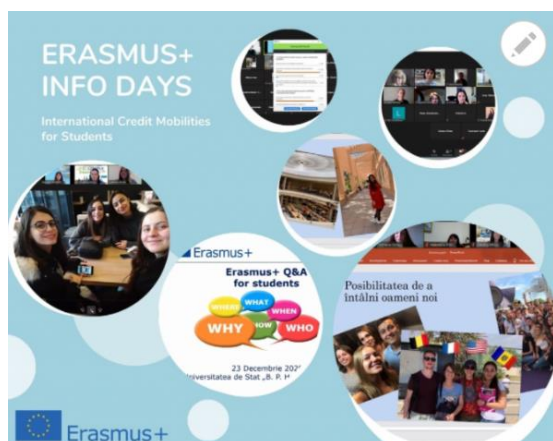
In the context of Europe Days 2021 and following the launch of the new Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027, the National Erasmus+ Office (NEO) in Moldova in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova and the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, organised online on May 12-13 an official launch event.

The general presentation of the new Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 was made with the participation of the ambassador of EU to the Republic of Moldova - Peter Michalko, the minister of Education, Culture and Research – Lilia Pogolşa and the state secretary at the Ministry Foreign Affairs and European Integration – Daniela Cujba.

Another session was dedicated to Jean Monnet projects and application procedures presented by Antonio Fontelles de Lima – project officer at EACEA (European Education and Culture Executive Agency), and to Moldovan coordinators' [success stories](#) in Jean Monnet projects implementation. University representatives from all over the Eastern Partnership region have actively participated at this online session, as it was widely distributed via all EaP NEOs social media and other channels.

More than 250 attendees have participated at the event and around 11,000 have followed its online broadcast.

It has to be mentioned that the new Erasmus+ Programme's budget is €26.2 billion, complemented by about €2.2 billion from the EU's external instruments. It is an almost double budget compared to the one of €14.7 from the previous 2014-2020 edition. Therefore, the new revamped programme will fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 mln. beneficiaries of all ages. It also aims to become more inclusive and to support the green and digital transitions.



## Erasmus+ Info Days at Moldovan Universities

National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova (NEO) has held several online info events with the topic “Erasmus+: Questions & Answers” for the students of Balti State University “Alec Russo”, Cahul State University “B.P. Haşdeu” and Tiraspol State University. More than 230 participants were present at the Erasmus+ Info Days.

Within these events, NEO Moldova has made a general presentation of International Credit Mobility projects, and the students who have already been in Erasmus+ mobilities have shared their experience and its impact on their present and future. They mentioned that after studying abroad they have improved their

foreign language competences, opened new perspectives, became more socially active and tolerant. Besides that, NEO has held a Q&A session within which the students had the opportunity to find out in depth about Erasmus+ Programme in Moldova and the possibilities it offers.

The premiere of the promo [video](#) “Erasmus+. Changing lives. Opening minds. Moldovan students’ experiences” was also presented within the Info Days.

Overall, more than 6000 students and university staff from Moldova have benefited over the years of Erasmus+ mobilities. The programme offers mobilities for students with a duration of 3-12 months in European universities, with a monthly scholarship of €800-900, in order to welcome them back home with new linguistic competencies, spirit of initiative and double employment chances.

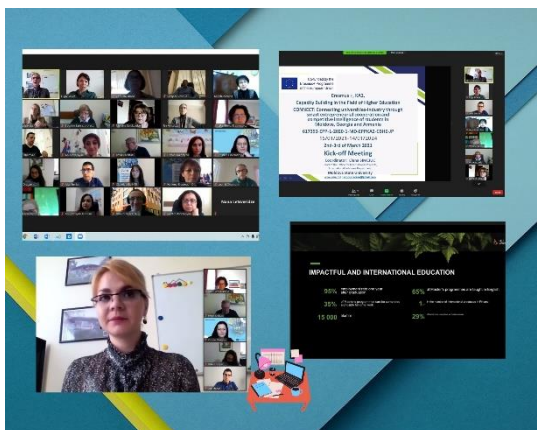
## Video spots on ICM and CBHE success stories in Moldova

Two new video spots on Erasmus+ projects implemented in the Republic of Moldova have been premiered within the online events organised by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova.

The first one is dedicated to the success stories of students who have been in Erasmus+ mobilities and have had the opportunity to see the world from a new perspective. These are the students from Moldova who have ventured into this experience, and have accepted it with all its challenges and, especially with its beautiful moments, while studying at international universities from around Europe. All that, in order to become more tolerant, more open for the new things, bolder, more independent and proud of their home country and university.

The second video spot is focused on the accomplishments of the Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) projects. It presents the success stories of 4 CBHE projects in Moldova. Within the previous edition of Erasmus+ Programme 2014-2020, the HEIs from Moldova participated in 21 Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education projects, 7 of them being coordinated by the universities from the Republic of Moldova.





## Cooperation with Capacity Building in Higher Education projects teams

The 4 winning Capacity Building in Higher Education projects (CBHE) from the selection 2020, which have universities from Moldova as coordinators or partners are already implementing their activities in full swing. These projects are:

- **CONNECT** - Connecting universities-industry through smart entrepreneurial cooperation and competitive intelligence of students in Moldova, Georgia and Armenia,
- **COOPERA** (Integrating Dual Higher Education in Moldova and Ukraine),
- **QFORTE** - Enhancement of Quality Assurance in Higher Education System in Moldova, and
- **WBL4JOB** - Introducing work-based learning in higher education systems of Armenia and Moldova for better employability of graduates.

In February-March 2021, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova has participated at their kick-off meetings together with consortium universities representatives from Romania, Latvia, Finland, France, Germany, as well as from Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine etc. Issues related to projects' financial management and the national specificity regarding registration of projects for VAT exemption have been cleared up.

Moreover, monitoring sessions of 8 CBHE projects took place between September-January. All of the projects have fully reconfigured their working plans according to the new reality and have switched most of their activities to online mode. It was attested that only some events, for which physical interaction was crucial, such as summer camps or important trainings, have been postponed for post pandemic times.

## Catch-up meetings with IRO and HERE teams

A yearly catch-up meeting has been held on April 8, 2021 with the representatives of International Relations Offices of Moldovan universities. The subjects discussed within the online session were: the new Erasmus+ Programme and the 2021 Call, the ICM partnerships implemented between 2014-2020 by the HEIs from Moldova and the overall impact of CBHE projects from IROs' perspective.

On the other hand, on April 22, 2021 an online reunion of Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) team was held. The agenda has comprised topics such as: the activity plan of HERE team for 2021, Europe Day 2021 and the contribution of HEREs to the event's organisation, the conclusions on the CBHE Impact study done by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, and the launch of the new Erasmus+ Programme. Besides, all the members of the team have expressed their eagerness to organise a joint seminar for universities in autumn 2021, and have agreed to start planning its organising.







## Technical Assistance Mission on “Joint and Double Degree Programs: Strategy, management, implementation”

“Joint and Double Degree Programs: Strategy, management, implementation” was the topic of the [online seminar](#) addressed to HEIs from Moldova, organised by the National Erasmus+ Office on November 3, 2020, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova (MECR), as part of the Higher Education Reform Experts activities in the framework of Erasmus+ Programme.

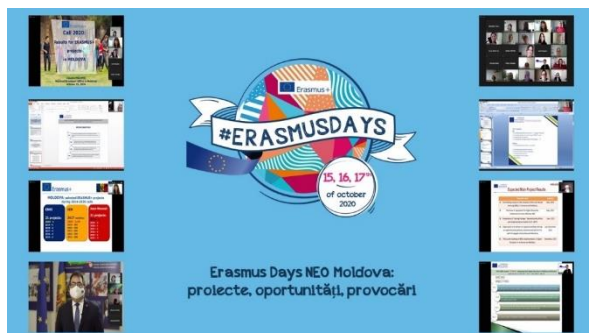
The training was delivered by the international expert: Annika Sundbäck-Lindroos - expert in joint degree programs and funding frameworks at the Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI.

More than 140 participants took part at the seminar, among which the representative of EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Giuseppe Paglione, as well as local higher education reform experts: Nadejda Velisco (MECR), Larisa Bugaian (Technical University of Moldova), but also Tatiana Gherstega (MECR), Sergiu Baci (National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research).

Aspects related to the importance of joint programs, legal framework, joint management, quality assurance, national regulations and the experience of Moldovan universities in the implementation of joint degree programs were discussed throughout the whole event, followed by an interactive Q&A session.



## Erasmus Days Moldova - two online sessions with the topic “Erasmus+: projects, opportunities, challenges”



The fourth edition of Erasmus Days Campaign was a success on the international level, involving for the first time a record number of more than 80 countries and 5000 events dedicated to Erasmus+ program activities. Moldova has had a special place reserved on the map of Erasmus Days events, while the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova has organised on October 15-16, 2020 two online sessions with the topic “Erasmus+ Programme: projects, opportunities, challenges” in the frame of the given campaign.

[The first day](#) was dedicated to the presentation of CBHE projects from 2020 selection, i.e: CONNECT, COOPERA and QFORTE and WBL4JOB.

[On the second campaign day](#) – Jean Monnet Action winning projects from 2020 selection were presented. The Moldovan coordinators have thoroughly described their projects, as well as the application procedures and some project management issues of interest for the wide audience comprised of HEIs academic and administrative staff, as well as some NGO representatives.

About 200 participants have joined the online events organised by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, including academic and administrative staff from 17 higher education institutions from Moldova, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research etc.



## Cooperation with civil society

In May, 2021 National Erasmus+ Office has participated at two events dedicated to students' mobility and to the modernization of higher education overall, organised by the Moldovan State University Students' Auto-governance and by the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE).

During the first event, NEO representatives have made a general presentation about the Erasmus+ Programme in the Republic of Moldova and the opportunities it offers for students. The video spot produced by NEO dedicated to ICM projects in Moldova was also presented during the event. The audience was represented mostly by students, but also by ESN Chisinau members, and representatives of other organisations focused on youth mobilities such as FLEX and Au Pair.

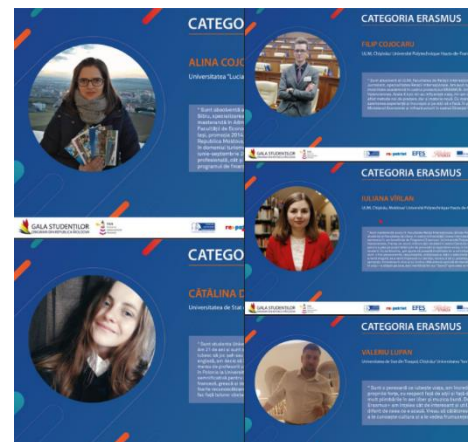
On the other hand, during the workshop organised by IPRE with the topic "Good practices in EU higher education: opportunities for youth from the Republic of Moldova", issues like current practices of research and innovations within the local HEIs and EU support for Moldovan higher education system were discussed. The event was broadcasted live via [Facebook](#).

## Gala of Students from the Republic of Moldova: Erasmus+ Category

The event was traditionally organised at the end of the year, having the aim to bring together the best Moldovan students who have undergone the experience of studying abroad. Moreover, the Gala of Students from the Republic of Moldova has become over time a great networking platform for active students on one hand and NGO representatives, notorious entrepreneurs, officials on the other hand.

The National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova is already a regular partner of the annual Gala of Students from the Republic of Moldova. Therefore, it has been actively involved in the preparation of the event and the evaluation process of applications for the following categories: Erasmus+ mobilities for Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees.

This time, due to the pandemic, the event was organised in online format, which has attracted a much larger audience than in the previous years. The National Erasmus+ Office, has awarded 5 best students who have applied for the Erasmus+ Category. The event was largely distributed in mass-media and was broadcasted live on [Facebook](#).



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