

#### ERASMUS+ MOLDOVA NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME OF EUROPEAN UNION AT ITS 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME FOR 2023 LAUNCHED

ERASMUS+ INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF FROM MOLDOVAN INSTITUTIONS

CLUSTER MEETING FOR THE WINNING JEAN MONNET PROJECTS FROM MOLDOVA, EDITION 2022

MEETING WITH THE NEWLY
APPOINTED HIGHER EDUCATION
REFORM EXPERTS TEAM

SEMINAR ON HOW TO WRITE A JEAN MONNET PROJECT HELD IN CHIŞINĂU, BĂLȚI AND COMRAT

GALA OF NATIVE STUDENTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

### **Erasmus+ Programme of European Union at its 35th anniversary**

In 2022, Erasmus+, the European Union's Programme for education, training, youth and sport, celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 1987, the Erasmus+ Programme has supported the most ambitious and successful projects based on the free spirit of the European Union. Thus, more than 12 million beneficiaries participated in academic and youth exchanges, in projects for modernization and internationalisation of education around the world.

On the occasion of this anniversary and in the context of the European Year of Youth, the National Erasmus+ Office, together with the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, organised a festive event, which brought together the beneficiaries of the Erasmus+ Programme from Moldova: students, youth, academics, but also representatives of ministries and NGOs in the field of youth and education. Thus, the event aimed to become a platform for promoting the Erasmus+ Programme in the Republic of Moldova, the voice of young people, and a networking platform for establishing new partnerships within Erasmus+ projects.

The event took place on October 12, and its programme was made up of two parts: the first, at Clasa Viitorului (State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă") - dedicated to inspirational talks with the beneficiaries of Erasmus+ from Moldova (students, young people, academics) and the Erasmus+ projects fair, and the second, at the Organ Hall – the first ever classical music concert performed by Erasmus+ students from the Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts (cont. on page 2).







### Erasmus+ Programme of European Union at its 35th anniversary

cont. from page 1

In the Republic of Moldova, Erasmus+ projects have been implemented since 1994 on the dimension of higher education and youth. Starting from 2021, a novelty for the Republic of Moldova within the Erasmus+ programme is the eligibility for capacity building projects in the field of VET, which have as their main goal the modernisation and internationalisation of this sphere of education.

Until now, thanks to the support of the Erasmus+ Programme in the Republic of Moldova, 83 Tempus projects, over 6000 academic mobility and over 8000 mobility for young people, 21 capacity building projects in higher education and 27 Jean Monnet projects have been implemented.

Currently, the priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme relate to areas such as social inclusion, the green and digital transition, the promotion of young people's participation in democratic life. The budget of the programme for the period 2021-2027 has been doubled compared to the previous phase, reaching 26.2 billion euros.



#### Call for proposals under Erasmus+ Programme for 2023 launched



The <u>new call for Erasmus + 2023 project proposals</u> was officially launched on November 23, 2022.

Therefore, any public or private institution active in the field of education, training, youth and sport including the ones from the Republic of Moldova can apply for funding under the Erasmus+ Programme.

The <u>Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023</u> has also been published containing all the information on how to participate in Erasmus+ projects, including for the institutions from the Republic of Moldova.

The entire Erasmus+ programme focuses on four key priorities, among which inclusion and diversity. Organisations and participants with fewer opportunities themselves are at the heart of this priority. The programme therefore keeps on supporting participants' inclusion mechanisms and dedicated resources to remove any barriers to their participation.

All applications for Erasmus+ projects are to be submitted online through the European Commission's Portal for Funding and Tenders Opportunities.

With an annual budget of €4.2 billion, Erasmus+ is continuing its support for inclusion, digitalization, green technologies, active citizenship and greater participation in democratic life.



### Erasmus+ Information Campaign for students and staff from Moldovan institutions



The National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova has launched the information campaign, the 2022 edition, with an event dedicated exclusively to students from Moldovan universities. Thus, the first event within the Erasmus+ info campaign took place on November 24, at the Technical University of Moldova. The event was organized with the support of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

During this information session, around 250 young people studying at higher education institutions from the country were informed in detail about the Erasmus+ opportunities available to them, and namely about: International Credit Mobility projects, Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters and the opportunities for youth within the Erasmus+ programme.

The National Erasmus+ Office team have explained to event participants how to apply for an Erasmus+ scholarship, what the deadlines and the eligibility conditions are. Also, the representatives of the Info Center for Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps told about youth exchanges in non-formal education trainings, but also about the possibilities to participate at volunteering projects lasting up to one year in Europe. Students from the Technical University of Moldova have also presented there inspirational experiences during their Erasmus+ mobilities at European universities and how they contributed to their personal and professional growth.

The Erasmus+ national campaign continued on December 7 with an information session for university and VET staff. Around 100 participants attended the event, which took place at the State Pedagogical University "Ion Creangă" with the support of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova, the Delegation of the European Union and the EU High Level Advisers' Mission to the Republic of Moldova.

During the information session, the novelties of the Erasmus+ Call for Proposals 2023 launched by the European Commission on November 23, as well as the perspectives of international collaboration for universities and VET institutions in Moldova were presented.

Thus, during the event, the representatives of the National Erasmus+ Office presented the international credit mobility, Erasmus Mundus, capacity building in the field of higher education and professional education and training projects, as well as Jean Monnet actions and Erasmus+ Youth projects. The participants of the info session learned about the types of Erasmus+ projects to which they can apply, about the eligibility conditions, deadlines, application methods, as well as global and regional priorities within the Erasmus+ Programme.

In the frame of the information campaign, other info events both for students and staff have been organised at Comrat State University, Moldova State University, "Alexandru cel Bun" Military Academy of the Armed Forces, The National College of Commerce of ASEM, "Ştefan cel Mare" Academy, "Taras Shevchenko" University, as well as for the volunteers of Erasmus Student Network Chişinău.

The annual information campaign, organised by the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, aims to present the opportunities of the Erasmus+ Programme among students and academic staff in the Republic of Moldova, as well as to promote the internationalisation of studies, mobility and exchange of experience for students and teachers.





#### Cluster meeting for the winning Jean Monnet projects from Moldova, edition 2022

"Successful management of the new Jean Monnet winning projects" was the topic of the cluster meeting held in two stages, on September 16 and October 7, 2022, at the headquarters of the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova.

Thus, the event brought together the coordinators of the five Jean Monnet projects from the 2022 selection, but also those from the previous selections, vice-rectors for international relations and administrative staff from the beneficiary universities, as well as the state secretary from the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova.

The main objectives of the meeting consisted in the presentation of the selected projects, the exchange of experiences and good practices, the



identification of ways to better manage and promote Jean Monnet projects. Also, the participants discussed the aspects of productive collaboration with university management and, and more generally, the importance and prestige of Jean Monnet projects for institutions in the field of education at the international level.

Jean Monnet actions aim to promote excellence in teaching and research in European Union studies worldwide. Through this action, the European Commission aims to promote the dialogue between academia and decision-makers, in particular, with the aim of strengthening the governance of EU policies. Studies on the European Union include European studies as a whole, with a special focus on the European integration process.



# Meeting with the newly appointed Higher Education Reform Experts team

On December 27, 2022, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, has gathered the newly selected Higher Education Reform Experts team (HEREs) from the Republic of Moldova. It was selected by mutual agreement with the Ministry of Education and Research, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, but also the European Executive Agency for Education and Culture (EACEA).

Thus, at the moment, HEREs team in the Republic of Moldova consists of five representatives: *Maria Ceropita* – student,

Erasmus Student Network Chişinău, Moldova State University, *Dumitru Ciorbă* – head of department, Technical University of Moldova, *Valentina Priţcan* – vice-rector, "Alecu Russo" State University of Bălţi, *Alexandru Stratan* – rector, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova and *Doina Usaci* – head of department, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova.

During the joint meeting, the general objectives in the work of the HEREs team, the team's action plan for the coming years, but also the possible themes of the technical assistance missions to be organised later were discussed.

Higher Education Reform Experts from third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme provide expertise to local authorities and stakeholders to promote reforms and drive progress in higher education. Moldovan HEREs are being systematically involved in the policy reform process at the national level, as they hold key-positions in different academic institutions, student organisations, and have significant experience in developing international projects in higher education area.





## Seminar on how to write a Jean Monnet project held in Chişinău, Bălți and Comrat

On December 12-17, 2022, the National Erasmus+ Office, in collaboration with the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet project team "Horizons of the integration of the Republic of Moldova in the EU: Realities and Perspectives" EUforY, have organised a series of seminars in Chişinău, Bălţi and Comrat with the topic "Jean Monnet actions - good practices in writing projects for European studies and promoting EU values".

In addition to the general presentation of the Jean Monnet projects under the new Erasmus+ 2023 call, the seminar provided a workshop held by the coordinators of the 5 winning Jean Monnet projects in the 2022 selection (<a href="https://bit.ly/3FNzchB">https://bit.ly/3FNzchB</a>), as well as a practical exercise on writing a Jean Monnet project. Overall, more than 210 participants from all over the country were trained during the six days of the seminar (130 participants - on spot, and 80 - in online mode).

#### Gala of Native Students from the Republic of Moldova

On December 21, 2022, the Gala of Native Students from the Republic of Moldova brought together the most talented young people with study abroad experiences during its tenth anniversary edition!

Traditionally, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova was honoured to award the most exceptional students within the Erasmus+ Category. Therefore, we present you the list of 2022 laureates — the Erasmus+ programme alumni who will carry the fame of the unique Erasmus+ experience from now on:

- Cezara Budu student at the Moldova State University of (mobility at Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany)
- Dan Cojocari student at "Alecu Russo" State University in Balti (mobility at the University of Valladolid, Spain)
- Daniela Găină student at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (mobility at Montpellier University, France)
- Natalia Morari PhD student at the "Ion Creangă" State Pedagogical University (mobility at the University of Leipzig, Germany)
- Diana Potereanu student at the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testimițeanu" (mobility at Saarland University, Germany)

It was an honour to be part of this extraordinary experience and an enormous joy to meet all the Erasmus+ alumni who had the courage to apply for the Gala of Native Students!



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