



ERASMUS+ MOLDOVA NEWSLETTER



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2024 Call Preliminary Results: CBHE and CBVET projects winners

The results of the 2024 selection of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) and Capacity building in the field of Vocational Education and Training (CBVET) projects have been announced. The European Executive Agency for Education and Culture (EACEA) has published the results of the 2024 selection for CBVET and CBHE projects. Therefore, **4 CBVET projects** and **5 CBHE projects** with the participation of institutions from the Republic of Moldova were proposed for financing by the European Commission.

It has to be mentioned that Erasmus+ CBHE action supports international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of higher education. It supports the relevance, quality, modernisation and responsiveness of higher education in third countries not associated to the Programme in order to support their socio-economic recovery, growth and prosperity and to enhance their capacity in reacting to recent trends, in particular globalisation but also the recent decline in human development, fragility, and rising social, economic and environmental inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Up until now the universities in the Republic of Moldova, participate in **35 CBHE projects** in consortia with universities and other institutions from European Union, as well as from other countries around the world.

On the other hand, CBVET projects are international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, and third countries not associated to the Programme (the rest of the world, including the Republic of Moldova). They aim to support the relevance, accessibility, and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in third countries not associated to the Programme as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development. Since 2021, when these type of projects were launched, Moldovan institutions have participated in **9 CBVET projects**.



Eurydice Network launched in Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia



In the context of the start of negotiations on the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union, new perspectives, including in the field of education, are opening for our country. In addition to the launch of the new Erasmus+ opportunities in the field of higher education, vocational education and training, youth and sports, starting from 2024 the Eurydice Network is expanding in the space of the new candidate countries for membership of the European Union: Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia.

Eurydice is a network established in 1980 by the European Commission and the Member States to support European cooperation in the field of education. All EU member states are part of Eurydice, along with some non-EU countries (48 national systems in total). Starting from 2024, the Eurydice network is part of the Erasmus+ Programme. The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for managing and promoting the network and its publications.

The Eurydice network helps improve education systems in Europe through providing high quality information on a wide range of aspects of education policy and practice. With the support of national units, Eurydice provides descriptions of national education systems, comparative studies devoted to specific topics, indicators and statistics. Eurydice reports show how countries tackle challenges at all education levels: early childhood education and care, primary and secondary education, higher education and adult learning.

The National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova is responsible for managing the Eurydice National Unit, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova. In the context of this news, the representatives of the Office participated on January 26 at the initiation event of Eurydice National Units from Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia in Brussels. During the event, it was strongly emphasised that the exchange of knowledge and experience between the new member countries of the Eurydice network will not only enrich educational practices, but also contribute to the creation of a more interconnected and harmonious European educational community.

Also, on February 21, the National Erasmus+ Office hosted the delegation consisting of representatives from Delegation of European Union to the Republic of Moldova, as well as the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova. During the meeting, the team of the Eurydice National Unit was presented, as well as the objectives of the project and the perspectives of collaboration with the Ministry and the EU Delegation during the management of the Eurydice National Unit.

With the inclusion of national units from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, the network responds to historical conditions and evolves into a broader platform for exchange and educational cooperation. The expansion of the Eurydice Network signifies a collective commitment to build a more thorough, inclusive and innovative education system. This fact also underlines the opening of new paths for cross-border cooperation and the development of joint educational initiatives.



Erasmus+ National Seminar on Embedding Artificial Intelligence in Education



The National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova, in cooperation with the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Education and Research, organised on March 14 - 15, 2024, at the Technical University of Moldova, the seminar for higher education institutions with the generic title "Embracing Artificial Intelligence in Education: New Programs, Disciplines, and Methods".

The Technical Assistance Mission seminar was organized with the support of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) in Moldova, namely by Dr. Dumitru Ciorbă, dean of The Faculty of Computers, Informatics and Microelectronics at the Technical University of Moldova. It should be noted that the Higher Education Reform Experts in Moldova work under the Erasmus+ Programme, with the support of the SPHERE Consortium. It includes experts from the European University Association (EUA), that involves more than

800 universities from the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), as well as 33 national rectors' councils.

Expert within the seminar "Embracing Artificial Intelligence in Education: New Programs, Disciplines, and Methods" was Dr. Diana Andone, director of the e-Learning Center at the Politehnica University of Timișoara, Romania, responsible for planning and implementing digital education and associate professor in multimedia, interactive and web technologies, member of the Steering Committee for Digital Transformation of the Association of European Universities.

Generative AI holds immense potential and dangers to transform education, revolutionising the way we educate, learn, and engage with knowledge. The transformation brought by Generative AI into higher education has driven educators to rethink and adjust methods of teaching and evaluation, as well as to acquire new skills and adapt to an evolving digital ecosystem. What skills will be expected from educators and students in the future? How can generative AI be used creatively by educators and students? How can Generative AI enhance the creativity and critical thinking of both students and educators or to be included into curriculum? How open education and science practices are changed by Generative AI? Several experiments which showcase the integration of the use of Generative AI into project development and assessment on different subjects in education and research were presented from both educators' and students' perspectives. Additionally, the talk has critically examined the ethical considerations and security implications of embedding Generative AI tools within the academic framework. Participants have also practiced how to integrate Generative AI Technologies in education and discussed different methods of AI-driven teaching and learning during hands-on sessions.

The seminar brought together over 80 representatives of higher education institutions from Moldova, IT companies, the Ministry of Education and Research, EU Delegation, as well as the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research.

During the period of 2015-2024, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova together with SPHERE consortium organized 13 Technical Assistance Mission seminars, together with international experts in various fields related to the modernisation and internationalisation of higher education.





Cluster meeting dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of Erasmus+ projects in Moldova



On May 20, 2024, the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova held the cluster session entitled "Promotion and dissemination of Erasmus+ projects in the Republic of Moldova". The event took place at the Moldova State University and brought together the institutional teams of Erasmus+ projects, as well as academic and administrative staff from national universities.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the experiences and good practices in promoting Erasmus+ projects (CBHE & Jean Monnet), as well as the dissemination of the results obtained. Emphasis was also placed on the contribution of the institutions and stakeholders involved in these projects, highlighting both the successes and the challenges encountered during implementation.

The agenda of the event included presentations and interactive discussions, designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas between participants. Each team had the opportunity to share information about the promotion of their project and the dissemination of the results obtained, thus contributing to a constructive discussion.

At the end of the meeting, a debriefing session was held to summarize the results of the discussions and to establish the next steps in order to improve the promotion and dissemination of Erasmus+ projects in Moldova.

Working Session with the International Relations Departments of Moldovan Universities

On April 10, 2024, at the premises of the National Erasmus+ Office, the reunion of the International Relations Departments of higher education institutions in Moldova was held. In its frames, recent developments and future perspectives of international partnerships under the Erasmus+ programme were discussed and analysed.

During the meeting, the participants addressed the following topics:

- *Moldovan university partnerships within ICM (International Credit Mobility) projects implemented in the period 2022-2024:* the discussions highlighted the results and challenges within the ICM projects, providing a platform for the exchange of best practices and the identification of strategies for improving international cooperation during the following period.
- *Visibility of Erasmus+ projects: communication, dissemination of results, visual identity and logos:* we analysed the effective methods and tools for communication and dissemination of the results of Erasmus+ projects through various university platforms, emphasizing their importance for the prestige of the university.
- *The management of capacity building in higher education and Jean Monnet projects from the perspective of international relations departments:* we examined the management and coordination aspects of international Erasmus+ projects, as well as ways to improve collaboration with project coordinators at institutional and national level.
- *Participation of students from Moldovan universities at the events organized by Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Chisinau.*

The meeting represented an opportune moment in the consolidation of collaboration between Moldovan universities, underlining the common commitment to the internationalisation of higher education and the promotion of academic mobility.



The reunion of Higher Education Reform Experts in Moldova



The reunion of Higher Education Reform Experts (HEREs) took place on April 9, at the premises of the National Erasmus+ Office in Moldova. Several topics were on the discussion agenda, addressed with the aim of outlining a concrete plan for the next period and establishing viable strategies for strengthening the work of the HEREs team in Moldova.

It has to be mentioned that in the Partner Countries from Western Balkans, Neighborhood East, Southern Mediterranean countries and Central Asia, the National Teams of Higher Education Reform Experts provide a pool of expertise to local authorities and stakeholders to promote reform and enhance progress in higher education. They participate in the development of policies in higher education in their respective country. HERE activities are based on "peer to peer" contacts. Each national team consists of five

to fifteen members. The HEREs are experts in the field of higher education (rectors, vice-rectors, deans, senior academics, international relations officers, students etc.).

Among the main topics addressed during the meeting were:

1. HERE work plan for 2024

The meeting participants reviewed the detailed action plan for the current year, focusing on the priorities in the sphere of higher education in Moldova, as well as on the technical assistance mission-type seminars to be organized with the support of the HEREs team in Moldova, as well as of the SPHERE international consortium. It includes experts from the European University Association (EUA), which represents more than 800 universities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), as well as 33 national rectors' councils.

2. HEREs international activities in 2023 and 2024

The experts analysed and evaluated the activities carried out within the international events that were or will be organized by the SPHERE international consortium during this period.

3. HEREs local activities

In addition to international collaboration, special attention was also paid to local initiatives. The experts discussed the technical assistance mission (TAM) seminars that were or will be organized during 2024, in order to support higher education institutions in Moldova in promoting academic excellence and implementing local reforms.

4. Ways to make the work more efficient/amplify the impact of HEREs team's actions

Participants looked at ways to optimize the work of HEREs team in order to amplify the impact of their actions. Strategies were proposed for better communication and collaboration between all actors involved in the HEREs team in Moldova.

5. Launch of the Eurydice network in Moldova

During the event, we communicated about the launch of the Eurydice Network in Moldova at the beginning of 2024, which will support European cooperation in the field of education and increase access to information about the sphere of education and training in the Republic of Moldova.

The meeting represented a platform for the exchange of ideas, the identification of best practices and the establishment of a common framework of action for the improvement of higher education in Moldova. Through ongoing collaboration and commitment, experts and authorities will continue to work together to ensure qualitative higher education relevant to the needs of modern society.



Erasmus Student Network Summit in Chişinău: a weekend of knowledge and international connections



In the end of February, Chişinău hosted the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Community Summit, organized in collaboration with the local ESN Chişinău team. The event brought together dozens of ESN members from around the world, offering them the opportunity to participate in training sessions and networking activities in a friendly and proactive atmosphere.

The summit was a special occasion for enthusiastic young people to explore new perspectives and create strong connections, thus contributing to the consolidation of a united and dynamic international community. During the event, participants had the chance to share their ideas, learn from each other, and lay the groundwork for innovative Erasmus+ projects. The atmosphere at the summit was one of collaboration and friendship, marking an important

step in creating lasting connections between ESN members from around the world and lays the foundation for future joint projects that will positively impact local and international communities.

Join the Erasmus Days 2024!

The Erasmus Days are an international six-day celebration, between October 14 and 19, of the Erasmus+ programme.

During the Erasmus Days, all those involved in the Erasmus+ programme, including organisations from Moldova, are invited to organise digital and/or physical events. These events may take various forms, such as seminars to share best practices, multilingual sessions to improve conversation skills, photo exhibitions to illustrate mobility experiences, conferences to promote intercultural opportunities, or social media challenges to simply encourage engagement and creativity.

This year, one of the highlights of our event is sports, echoing the spirit of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. The thrill that can be found in a global competition, can also be found with Erasmus+, a programme that brings everyone together around new and collective experiences.

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DAYS

14 > 19
of October
2024

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