



**WELCOME TO THE WEBINAR**

**FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**Inclusion of higher education students and staff**

**with physical, mental or health-related**

**conditions in the Erasmus+ programme**

# Who is connected with us today?

- Higher education institutions
  - a) International Officers / Erasmus+ Coordinators
  - b) Disability Officers
  - c) Other
- Erasmus+ National Agencies
- Student representatives

# Who's running the webinar?



Daphne  
EAC-B1



Francesca  
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Ben  
DG HR



Gerry  
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Thomas  
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In cooperation with the Members of the Erasmus+ Higher Education Working Group on special needs / persons with disabilities (Erasmus+ National Agencies, stakeholders, European Commission)

# Agenda for the webinar

Erasmus+: what's new

Recommendations for Higher Education  
Institutions

Questions and Answers

*Coffee break*

Questions and Answers - *continued*

Outstanding issues

Feedback and next steps



# Erasmus+: what's new?



# ERASMUS+: more strategic

## Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)



Higher Education Institutions commit to ensuring equal access and opportunities to participants from all backgrounds

Students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions can benefit from the support services that the receiving institution offers to its local students and staff

# ERASMUS+: more transparency

## Reinforced inter-institutional agreements



**Erasmus+ Programme**  
Key Action 1  
– Mobility for learners and staff –  
Higher Education Student and Staff Mobility

**Inter-institutional<sup>1</sup> agreement 2014-20[21]<sup>2</sup>  
between programme countries**

[Minimum requirements]<sup>3</sup>

The institutions named below agree to cooperate for the exchange of students and/or staff in the context of the Erasmus+ programme. They commit to respect the quality requirements of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education in all aspects related to the organisation and management of the mobility, in particular the recognition of the credits awarded to students by the partner institution.

**A. Information about higher education institutions**

Name of the institution (and department, where relevant)	Erasmus code	Contact details <sup>4</sup> (email, phone)	Website (eg. of the course catalogue)
[...]			

<sup>1</sup> Inter-institutional agreements can be signed by two or more higher education institutions  
<sup>2</sup> Higher Education Institutions have to agree on the period of validity of this agreement  
<sup>3</sup> Clauses may be added to this template agreement to better reflect the nature of the institutional partnership.  
<sup>4</sup> Contact details to reach the senior officer in charge of this agreement and of its possible updates.

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Higher Education Institutions to specify their infrastructure to welcome students and staff with special needs

### D. Additional requirements

*[To be completed if necessary, other requirements may be added on academic or organisational aspects, e.g. the selection criteria for students and staff; measures for preparing, receiving and integrating mobile students and/or staff]*

*[Please specify whether the institutions have the infrastructure to welcome students and staff with disabilities.]*

# ERASMUS+: Definition of target group

## Special Needs / Persons with Disabilities

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 The Erasmus+ Programme Guide refers to "a person whose individual physical, mental or health-related conditions are such that his/her participation in Erasmus+ would not be possible without extra financial support"

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 From here on referred to as: students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions

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 NAs rely on national definitions of persons with disabilities, if applicable

# ERASMUS+: more accessible

## Special needs support

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 Up to 100% of eligible costs to students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions

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 Participants can cover higher travel or accommodation costs, special equipment or services, or a personal assistant for their mobility period

# ERASMUS+: more accessible

## Special needs support

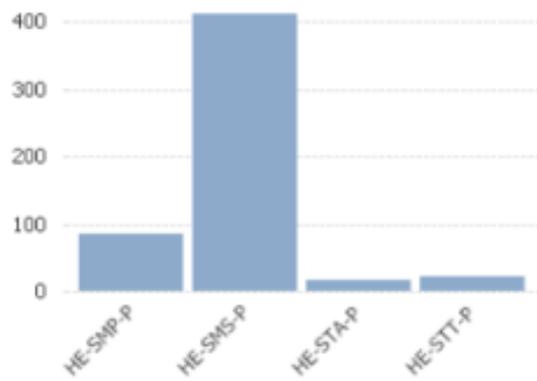
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-  National Agencies put aside KA1 budget
-  Sending HEIs in charge of asking for budget
-  NA amends the contract with the HEI to allocate this as extra budget
-  For any question/issue: contact the NA of the sending country

# Erasmus+: preliminary results

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Over 1000 higher education students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions under 2014 and 2015 calls



# Erasmus+: what's new?

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Erasmus+ Higher Education Working Group on special needs / persons with disabilities:

-  Gather and share best practices
  -  Contribute to a self-assessment for Higher Education Institutions (*ECHE: Make it work for you!*)
  -  Identify current obstacles, gaps and needs for improvement
- ... and ...

# Recommendations for NAs and HEIs

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Recommendations on the inclusion of higher education students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions in the Erasmus+ programme



*for Erasmus+ National Agencies (NAs)*

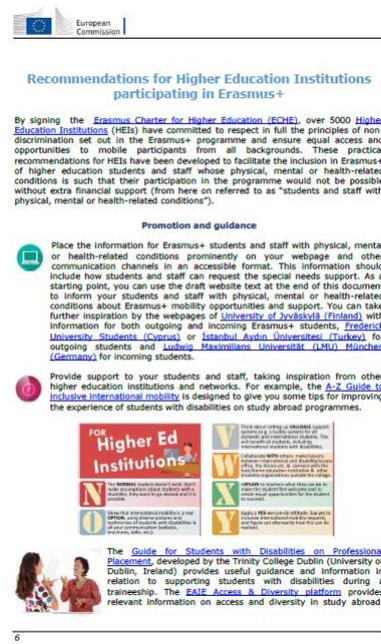
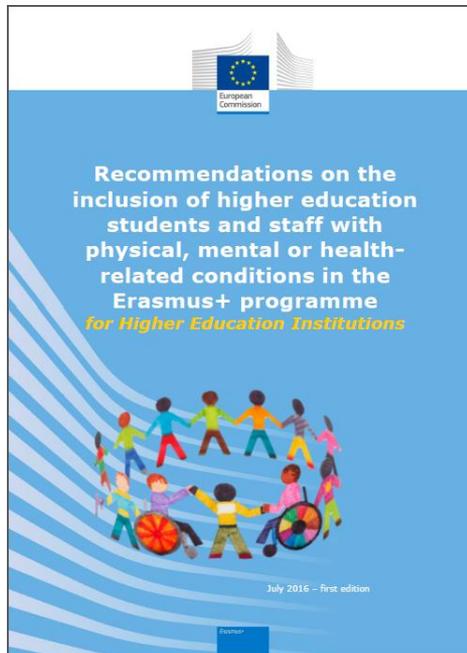


*for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)*



Draft website text for HEIs provided with the recommendations for HEIs

# Recommendations on the inclusion of higher education students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions in the Erasmus+ programme *for Higher Education Institutions*



[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/sites/erasmusplus/files/erasmus-plus-recommendations-higher-education\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/sites/erasmusplus/files/erasmus-plus-recommendations-higher-education_en.pdf)

# Promotion and Guidance

- Prominent display of information on websites and other communication channels
- Provide tangible practical support and draw from other countries practices
- Emphasise the employability benefits (alumni)
- Be conscious of the need to use appropriate imagery



*Practical examples from HEIs*

- Use [Mapped.eu](http://Mapped.eu) - online map of accessible HEIs developed by Erasmus Student Network (ESN)



ABOUT INFO CENTRE NEWS PARTNERS

## INFO CENTRE

We're here to help you get the information you need! We studied how things regarding Erasmus+ special needs grants work in all programme countries and here we present the results. We focused on providing you with practical information, no matter if you want to experience an exchange or you work at the university and want to facilitate one.

### FOR STUDENTS

#### What is Erasmus+

Get to know about the Erasmus+ programme and how to be part of it.

#### Get a grant and go abroad

Get to know the procedure on how to apply for the Erasmus+ exchange and the grant covering the special needs.

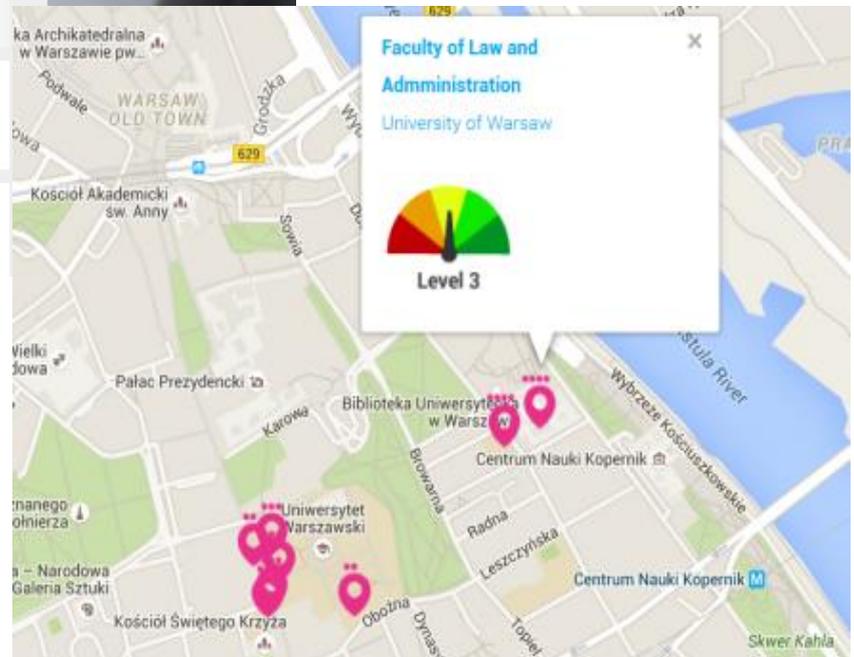
### FOR UNIVERSITIES

#### National Agencies

Find out more about National Agencies handling the special needs grant applications

#### MappED! Survey 2016

Learn more about the methodology we used when creating this Infocenter.



# Student and Staff Selection

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- Appoint a person to act as liaison officer between the International Office and the Disability Office
- Include an optional question in the Erasmus+ application form inviting participants to disclose their access needs (physical, mental or health-related conditions)
- Cooperate closely with Erasmus+ participants and partner institutions at all stages of the mobility

- Be specific in the Inter-Institutional agreements about what measures are available to deliver an inclusive environment at the HEI
  - Specify whether your institution has the infrastructure to welcome students and staff with disabilities, e.g.:

University of Valencia (Spain)	The Unit for the integration of people with disabilities at the University of Valencia promotes equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Both students and staff with disabilities or special needs can access to the services provided by this Unit. Website: <a href="http://www.fundaciouv.es/upd/index.asp?idioma=eng">http://www.fundaciouv.es/upd/index.asp?idioma=eng</a>
University of Gothenburg (Sweden)	The University of Gothenburg has the appropriate infrastructure to accept students and staff with special needs. Information and assistance can be provided by <i>email address</i> and <i>phone number</i> . Website: <a href="http://studentportal.gu.se/english/help-and-guidance/disability">http://studentportal.gu.se/english/help-and-guidance/disability</a>

# Monitoring and Support

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- Use Erasmus+ staff mobility for professional development of International Officers, Disability Officers and other administrative staff.
- Draw from the Organisational Support to support promotional activities, organise short preparatory visits, etc.
- Exploit the reporting facility in the MobilityTool+ to monitor the indicators of access and inclusion



**FOR Higher Ed Institutions**

**N** The **NORMAL** student doesn't exist. Don't make assumptions about students with a disability: they want to go abroad and it is possible.

**O** Show that international mobility is a real **OPTION**, using diverse pictures and testimonies of students with disabilities in all your communication (website, brochures, talks, etc.).

**V** Think about setting up **VALUABLE** support systems (e.g. a buddy-system) for all domestic and international students. This will benefit all students, including international students with disabilities.

**W** Collaborate **WITH** others: make liaisons between international and disability/access office, the library etc. & connect with the host/home education institution & other disability organizations outside the college.

**X** **eXPLAIN** to teachers what they can do to make the student feel welcome and to create equal opportunities for the student to succeed.

**Y** Apply a **YES-we-can-do-attitude**. Say yes to inclusive international mobility requests, and figure out afterwards how this can be realised.

# Draft website text for HEIs

## Provided with the recommendations for HEIs

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### Draft website text for Higher Education Institutions participating in Erasmus+ to inform their higher education students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions about mobility opportunities and support [if relevant, Erasmus+ National Agencies to translate and/or adapt it at national level]

#### Erasmus+ Programme special needs support

Erasmus+ pays particular attention to guidance, reception, physical accessibility, pedagogical and technical support services, and, especially, financing the extra costs for students and staff whose physical, mental or health-related conditions are such that their participation in Erasmus+ would not be possible without extra financial support (from here on referred to as "students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions"). This is to ensure that you can take full advantage of an Erasmus+ mobility experience.

Each higher education institution (HEI), by signing the [Erasmus Charter for Higher Education \(ECHE\)](#), commits to ensuring equal access and opportunities to participants from all backgrounds. Therefore, students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions can benefit from the support services that the receiving institution offers to its local students and staff.

#### Additional grant

For your access needs during your mobility, you can apply for an Erasmus+ grant for students and staff with physical, mental or health-related conditions in addition to the regular Erasmus+ study or traineeship or staff mobility grant. In preparation of your Erasmus+ mobility, you should indicate your needs and foreseen extra costs linked to your physical, mental or health-related conditions, in order to apply for the Erasmus+ special needs support grant.

#### What are your access needs?

Areas that could be eligible for support linked to your Erasmus+ mobility, according to individual needs, include but are not limited to: adapted accommodation, travel assistance, medical attendance, supportive equipment, adaption of learning material, an accompanying person, etc.

#### How to apply?

Ask at the International Relations Office or Erasmus+ Coordinator at your Faculty or equivalents to help you with the Erasmus+ special needs support application form.

Information for outgoing students and staff is available at the International Relations Office and at the Disability Office(r) or equivalents at your institution.

[HEI to provide link to information for outgoing students]

Higher education institutions will describe on their website how students and staff with special needs can request such additional grant support (Erasmus+ Programme Guide)

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# Questions and Answers



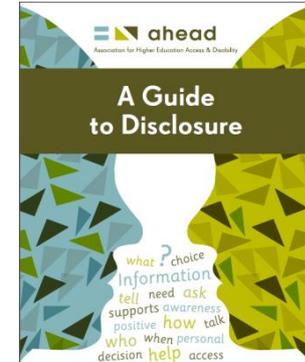
# Outstanding issues

- Disclosure?

- Ahead - Guide for disclosure

- <https://www.ahead.ie/userfiles/files/>

- [shop/free/A%20guide%20to%20Disclosure%202013.pdf](https://www.ahead.ie/userfiles/files/shop/free/A%20guide%20to%20Disclosure%202013.pdf)



- Studies VS traineeships?

- Staff mobility?

# **What is the first action you will do after this webinar?**

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- a. Set up a meeting between the International Office(r) and the Disability Office(r)**
- b. Add the draft text on my institution's website**
- c. Send the link to the recommendations to a colleague**

# Feedback

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**Was the webinar useful?**

**YES**



**NO**



**Ideas for next webinar?**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**

ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node/87\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node/87_en)

**OR FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Twitter: #ErasmusPlus

Facebook: Erasmus+

We will send the webinar recording link and the PPT to NAs. In case you don't receive it, please contact us at

[EAC-ERASMUS-QUALITY@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-ERASMUS-QUALITY@ec.europa.eu)