



A Europe of Apprenticeships: Erasmus Pro

Judith Bunting – UK
@JudithBuntingLD

"It is fantastic that the Erasmus scheme now supports apprentices as well as students. The Erasmus+ and Erasmus Pro Programmes are an incredible opportunity for young people across Europe, and hopefully including the UK! There is no scheme quite like it in the world and it is a legacy that Europe should be proud of."



Laurence Farreng – France
@laurencefarreng

"The mobility of vocational education and apprentices has to be developed! We have many opportunities: Promoting the know-how of European territories and responding to the technical challenges of tomorrow, such as climate change and sustainable development. It is essential to go beyond the recognition of diplomas and to set up a system that allows recognition of study and traineeship in other EU Member States."



Irena Joveva – Slovenia
@ljoveva

"Apprenticeships in Europe through Erasmus+ and Erasmus Pro enable younger generations to get invaluable experience and also give Europe vital spirit and new ideas for the future. I warmly suggest using these opportunities to study, work and professionally develop abroad. The future belongs to young people, therefore, they need to be included in the whole never ending project of the European Union."



Shaffaq Mohammed -UK
@shaffaqmohd

"As a youth worker for the past twenty years, I fully support the apprenticeship opportunities that Erasmus+ offers young people, in particular the opportunity to learn a new language and to experience working with people from different backgrounds. I will be promoting this scheme to young people in Yorkshire and The Humber with particular emphasis on young people from disadvantage backgrounds."



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Renew group, during the last Parliament, developed a Pilot Project to extend the **Erasmus+** project to include vocational training.

Apprenticeship placements under Erasmus+ were only up to 3 months long. Longer placements, it was thought, would allow more skills to be acquired and a combination of learning and international mobility might also increase the status and usefulness of apprenticeship placements. A pilot trial set out to test these benefits and between 2016 and 2019 eighty vocational centres in 18 member states, including the UK, were involved.

The outcome was that 250 young people enjoyed placements of between 6-12 months, in another European country. They all indicated that the experience had been a real benefit to their work, increasing confidence in their skills and the ability to adapt to different environments. This pathfinder project was called **Erasmus Pro** and feedback was very positive.

Today, access to Erasmus Pro is still limited, but with the support of the current European Parliament, funding should be taken on for the next budget round 2020-2024.

Whilst it remains in the EU, the UK, will be involved with this scheme. There were some preparations for the funding to be covered for access in 2020 even if the UK decide to leave the EU. The negotiations were in place to keep access to Erasmus+ and any extension of the scheme to Erasmus Pro to 2027, which indicates that access should continue as long as those negotiations hold through the Brexit talks.



Next steps

The next step for Erasmus PRO is for training centres across Europe to facilitate longer learning placements. Accreditation of skills across borders is critical as placements must be recognised in the country from which the apprentice is travelling. Support for basic language skills in the new country is also important to increase confidence and support social and professional connections whilst in placement.

Apprentice training centres who undertake Erasmus Pro should also be more closely linked to one another as partners for reciprocal placement exchange and that centres of excellence can be created, which will support apprentices during their placement, in the same way as would their training hub in the UK.

<https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/work-abroad>

What about after 25?

Apprenticeships are available as a Lifelong learning access. There is also **funding** available to help you continue in your chosen path throughout your career. You will be considered an 'Advanced Learner' and there is support to help you find a direction beyond this point.

Access is industry-specific and it is best to link to a local provider to see if the area you are interested in developing is funded and linked to an Apprenticeships scheme.

<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/adult-apprenticeships/>

For more information on the Erasmus+ program and apprenticeships:
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/Erasmus-plus/>
<http://www.euroapprenticeship.eu/UserFiles/File/manifesto-eu-appr.pdf>
<http://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/work-abroad>
<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/adult-apprenticeships/>