



EUROPEAN UNION

# New Erasmus+ starts here

Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps National Agency

Education, Training, Youth

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.

[erasmusplus.org.pl](https://erasmusplus.org.pl)

# Who is missing? Inclusive participation in Erasmus+

*From priority to practice across HED, VET, SCH and ADU*

Anna Bielecka, Participating Contact Point, FRSE (E+ & ESC National Agency in Poland)

Maria wanted  
to go on  
Erasmus.  
She never  
applied.

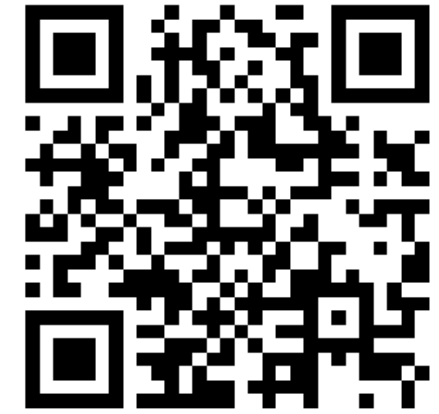
"I can't  
afford it."

"My English is not  
good enough"

"I've never  
travelled before"



Who is missing  
in Erasmus+ in  
your context?



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Erasmus+

# Every mind belongs here.

We learn more when  
everyone has a seat at the table.



# Erasmus+ Impact: Access vs. Participation

"The programme is there. The opportunities are there. But participation is still not equal."



ERASMUS+ REACH  
**> 16 Million**

Total cumulative participants across Europe demonstrating unprecedented success in program growth.



GEOGRAPHICAL ACCESS  
**96% to 100%**

Nearly total coverage across participating nations. Access ranges from **96%** in Poland up to **100%** in Spain.

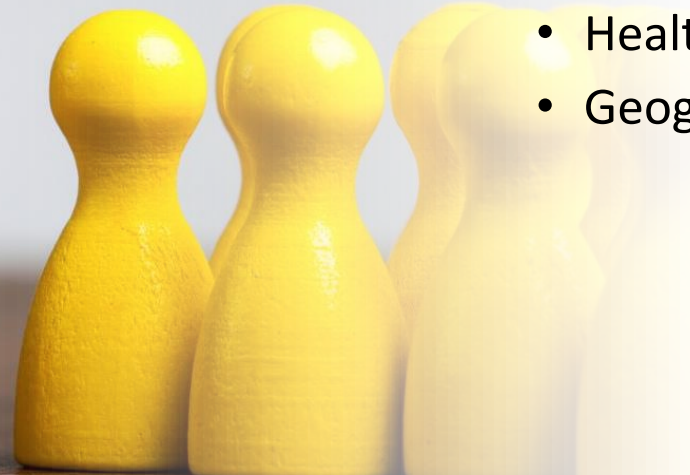


INCLUSION RATE GAP  
**10% → 15% +5%** 

Fewer opportunity participants rose from 10% (2014-20) to 15% (2023), but still lags far behind total access.

# Barriers:

- Economic
- Social
- Educational
- Health
- Geographical



What is the  
main barrier in  
your projects?



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MENTIONING  
INCLUSION

DESIGNING  
INCLUSION

- ❌ Vague target groups
- ❌ No clear needs analysis
- ❌ Generic inclusion statements

- 👥 Clear target groups
- 🔍 Needs-based approach
- 📋 Tailored inclusion measures
- 🤝 Meaningful participation and impact



The issue is not awareness.  
The issue is **implementation**.

INCLUSIVE ARCHITECTURE

## The Co-Creation Model



**Mindset shift:**  
**from** participants **to** co-creators



— DESIGNING WITH PEOPLE, NOT FOR PEOPLE

# Inclusion is not one activity. It is a process.

## Before the project

you should ask yourself:



who do I reach?



how do I communicate?



## During the project:



do participants feel safe?



do they receive support?



## After the project:



what changes happened?



what stays after a projet?



# Communication ≠ Outreach

*Communication is sending a message. Outreach is ensuring it lands where it is needed most.*

## Traditional Communication

### Passive Informing

Publishing info on a website or social media and waiting for applicants.

### Standard Language

Using official, complex administrative and corporate jargon..

### Assuming Access

Presuming everyone has equal internet access and digital literacy.

## Proactive Outreach

### Active Engagement

Going directly into marginalized or isolated communities.

### Accessible Dialogue

Translating rules into simple, clear, and relatable benefits.

### Removing Bottlenecks

Meeting people in their environments (f2f, local leaders).

# System Perspective

## Inclusion = System Adaptation

Inclusion is not simply a localized project issue—it is a fundamental system issue that demands structural flexibility.



### ADAPTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Active customization of institutional systems, methods, and environments to directly meet the learners' unique needs.



### SHIFT IN RESPONSIBILITY

Stop expecting individuals to self-adapt. The burden of adaptation shifts fully to the structural system.

A Paradigm Shift

## Systemic Inclusion

"Inclusion is not about squeezing groups into a rigid mold. **Inclusion is about changing the system.**"

True progress in European education requires moving past cosmetic improvements. Real equity means reshaping organizational infrastructure to actively support diverse student backgrounds.

### STRUCTURAL OVERHAULS

Adapting institutional rules rather than expecting individuals to self-adapt.

### BARRIER REMOVAL

Resolving bureaucratic and financial bottlenecks that discourage participation.





Who is missing - and why?

Thank you!

