

TCA Event

“Economic impact of Erasmus+ student mobility”

23-24 June 2026

Portugal

Background

Organised by the Erasmus + Portuguese National Agency, Education and Training (A.N E+EF), in cooperation with the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA), this two-day conference aims to explore the **socioeconomic impact of Erasmus+ mobility**. The event will take stock of recent scientific findings, policy and programme evidence, and institutional practice. It will also share good examples of how student mobility can be leveraged for socioeconomic transformations and economic growth in different countries across Europe, while reflecting on ways to further amplify its multiple impacts in the future.

Draft programme

Tuesday, 23 June 2026

AM	Participant arrival and informal networking
15:00-16:00	Welcome and registration
16:00-16:15	Opening remarks and scene-setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local host / Erasmus + Portuguese National Agency, Education and Training (A.N E+EF) - Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)
16:15-17:15	Keynote Session — Understanding the socio-economic impact of Erasmus+: evidence, insights, and open questions <p>Socio-economic effects of Erasmus+ mobility at student level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giorgio Di Pietro, Associate Professor, University of Loyola, Spain <p>Economic value and policy implications of Erasmus+ student mobility: insights from Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, and Serbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veronika Kupriyanova, Deputy Director, Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) Moderated discussion
17:30	First Day Wrap up
19:00-21:00	Networking reception/dinner

Wednesday, 24 June 2026

09:15-09:30	<p>Welcome back and introduction to Day 2</p> <p>“From evidence to action: maximising socio-economic impact”</p>
09:30-10:45	<p>Stakeholder panel: “Leveraging Erasmus+ mobility for social progress and economic growth”</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBC, the Portuguese Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education - Jan Kercher, Senior Researcher, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany - TBC University leader / expert - Wim Gabriels, Director, Erasmus Student Network (ESN) <p>Moderator: Irina Ferencz, Director, Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)</p>
10:45-11:15	<p>Networking break</p>
11:15-12:30	<p>Parallel sessions: Local and institutional strategies maximising socio-economic impact of mobility</p> <p>Session 1. International student mobility as a driver of regional research and innovation ecosystems – ingredients for success</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frederik D’hulster, President, Howest University of Applied Sciences, Belgium - Einar Seime Stokka, Senior Advisor, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway - TBC Local municipality, Portugal <p>Moderator: Antonija Gladović, Director, Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (AMPEU), Croatia</p> <p>Session 2. International student mobility as part of institutional strategies for talent development and graduate employability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBC European Universities alliance - TBC higher education institution - TBC company <p>Moderator: TBC</p>
12:30-14:00	<p>Networking lunch</p>
14:00-15:15	<p>Parallel sessions: Effective tools bridging individual and system-level impact</p> <p>Session 1: Unlocking Erasmus+ traineeships for institutional and local development needs</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wim Gabriels, Director, Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBC Local company or R&I center - Rui Branco Lopes, Head of International Relations Office, Coimbra Health School, Portugal <p>Moderator: TBC National Agency for Erasmus+</p> <p>Session 2: Joint educational activities – a model for addressing evolving labour market needs?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Juan Rayón González, Director, INGENIUM European Universities alliance, University of Oviedo, Spain - José Borges, Coordinator, Erasmus Mundus Master’s Programme Mediterranean Forestry and Natural Resources Management (MEDFOR), Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisbon, Portugal - TBC Erasmus Mundus Coordinator from France or the Netherlands or alumni <p>Moderator: Lotte Laenen, EU Project Advisor, Ghent University, Belgium</p>
15:15-15:30	Transition to the plenary
15:30-16:30	<p>Panel discussion: From insights to recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frederik D’hulster, President, Howest University of Applied Sciences, Belgium - Juan Rayón González, Director, INGENIUM European Universities alliance, University of Oviedo, Spain - Antonija Gladović, Director, Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (AMPEU), Croatia - TBC <p>Moderator:</p>
16:30-16:45	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cristina Perdigão, Director, Erasmus + Portuguese National Agency, Education and Training (A.N E+EF)
17.00-19.00	Optional social programme
17:15-19:00	Networking dinner

Thursday, 25 June 2026

8.00-10.00	Farewell Breakfast
10.00	Departure