

# Impact of the Erasmus+ Programme on Adult Education

## Goal of the Research

The goal of the research was to inventory the added value of the Erasmus+ programme to adult education in the Netherlands. At issue is the impact of internationalisation activities on organisations and on individual people. The different aspects of the research included the impact on professionals and volunteers who work for organisations that are active in the sector, as well as the impact on the different target groups in adult education: their wellbeing, surroundings, and their participation in society.

The research was conducted in 2022 by Ockham/IPS and Artéduc at the behest of the National Agency Erasmus+ Education & Training and comprises both KA1 (mobility) and KA2 (cooperation partnerships) of the Erasmus+ subsidy programme in the Netherlands.



## What is adult Education?

Adult education seeks to lead adults and young adults in a vulnerable position towards the labour market and have them participate fully in society. Adult education can be both formal, non-formal and informal.

Within the Erasmus+ programme, staff, and adult learners of organisations in adult education can participate in exchanges abroad (mobility) to increase their knowledge and skills. Also, organisations in Europe can jointly set up an international cooperation project (partnership) for the development of new working methods, tools, and curricula.

Adult education is a diverse field, both in terms of offerings and of often difficult to reach target groups. The possibility for organising group exchanges has existed since 2021 and is a challenge for organisations. Within the framework of this research, there was special attention for this new possibility of the programme.

# Impact of Participation in Erasmus+

## Erasmus+ brings organisations:

- A stronger vision on internationalisation
- Better support of internationalisation, both financially and through deployment of personnel
- Better development of professionals, enhanced quality of learning pathways and innovation
- Execution of projects which in more than 50% of cases would not have been possible without subsidy

“Erasmus+’s project has strengthened the interest in adult learners and the museum now also has a permanent focus on the adults group.”

## Erasmus+ brings professionals and volunteers:

- Professionalisation through international exchanges
- Better skills to supervise learning pathways
- More attention for inclusion, diversity, and world citizenship
- Improvement in the quality of the offering of learning pathways
- Integration of learning materials developed via Erasmus+ in the regular training offering

“The colleagues found the method of independent working highly interesting, and it has since been integrated into our own material. There is now a proposal to include this working method in the pathway plans that are created for each participant.”

## Erasmus+ brings Adult Participants:

- Personal growth, improved (intercultural) skills and better prospects on the labour market
- Chances of progressing to other learning pathways, new contacts and activities
- Improved assertiveness

“Participants say that because they now have a buddy and their social environment has expanded, the contacts resulting from the project have greatly enriched them and they are now going to participate in subsequent learning pathways via our organisation.”

# Conclusions

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Adult education is a sector with much variety in the offerings for the various needs of target groups



Improved organisational embedding of internationalisation through participation in Erasmus+

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Developed learning materials are integrated into the organisations's regular offering and policy



The Erasmus+ programme primarily reaches professionals and volunteers in adult education who apply the knowledge gained in their educational practice.

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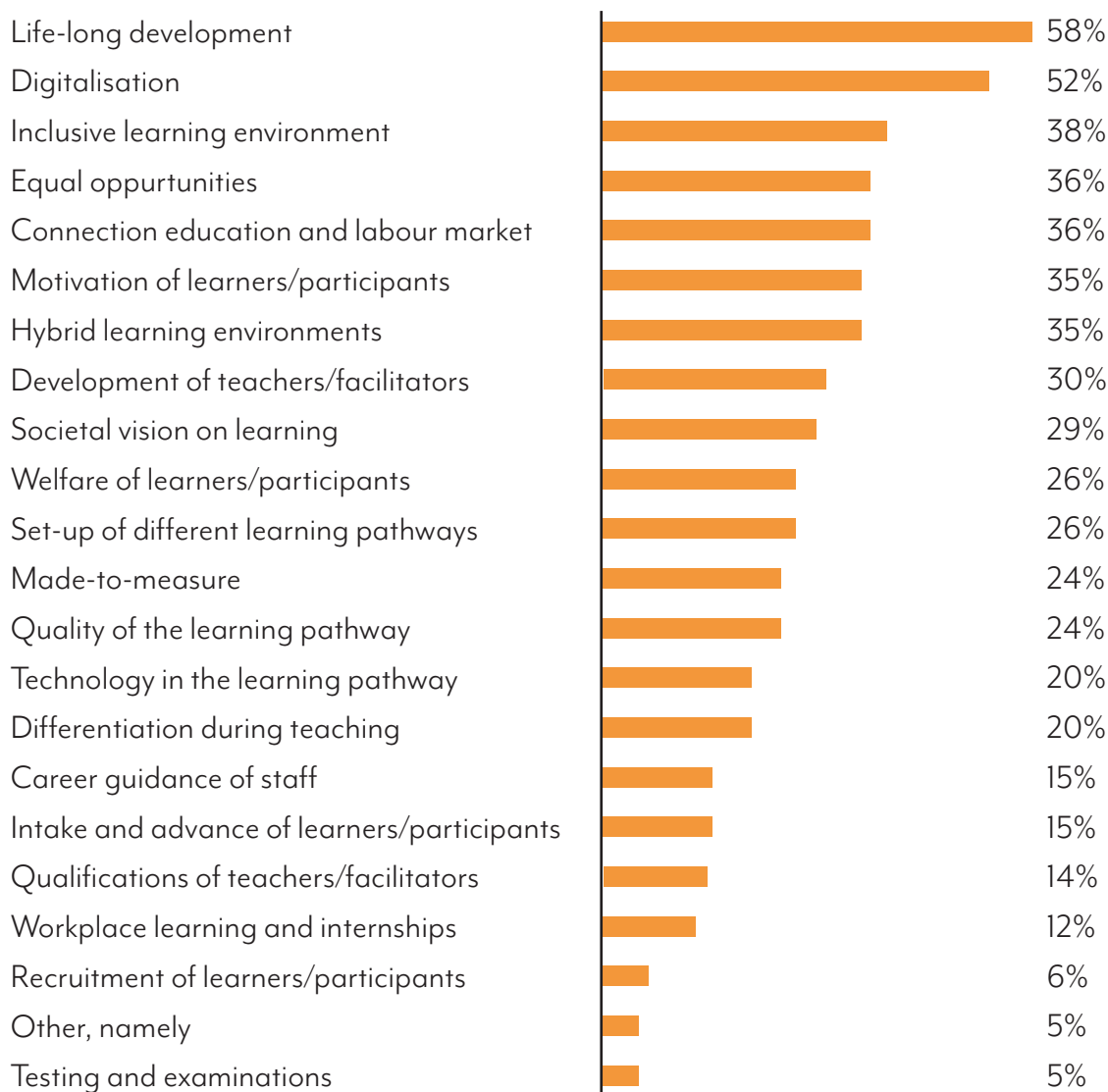
Participation in Erasmus+ enhances the skills of adult learners and engenders activation



Organising foreign study trips for adults in a vulnerable position is a challenge

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## Themes that institutions pay more attention to after participation in one or more Erasmus+ projects.



Source: Online questionnaire among participating AE organisations (N=63)

## National Agency Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European subsidy programme for education, training, youth, and sport. The goal of the programme is to contribute to the economic growth, employment, equal opportunities, and inclusion in Europe. The programme wants to enable as many people as possible to fully participate in the society and the labour market through developing their skills and competencies. In addition, Erasmus+ helps improve the quality of education, training, youth work, and sport in Europe through international cooperation.

The National Agency Erasmus+ Education & Training implements the Erasmus+ programme in the Netherlands at the behest of the Ministry for Education, Culture and Sciences. The National Agency Erasmus+ commissions research to determine the impact of the programme. For this purpose, a yearly impact study is conducted in one of the four programme sectors. This factsheet concerns the results of the impact research on adult education.

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