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ANNEX

to the

Commission Decision

**correcting Decision C(2026)1967 approving the 2026 Work Programme of the European
Education and Culture Executive Agency**

Annual work programme 2026

EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE
EXECUTIVE AGENCY

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FOREWORD. Message from the Director

EACEA is entering the sixth year of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) while celebrating the **20th anniversary** of its creation. This milestone coincides with ongoing geopolitical conflicts, significant technological advancements, climate challenges and other major developments. In this context EACEA is even more dedicated to successfully implementing its portfolio of activities, supporting the policy priorities of the European Commission, from democracy and EU values to prosperity and competitiveness.

Building on the Agency's experience in managing the delegated programmes, on previous achievements and lessons learned, we will share with our parent DGs our insights for the next MFF, assisting the European Commission in the designing of the new programmes, and once again showing the essential role played by EACEA.

We will continue carrying out staff selections to ensure that our positions are filled with talented colleagues, enabling us to tackle two significant challenges: managing an increased number of delegated actions, and handling a higher volume of applications for our calls for proposals. Strategic adjustments will be necessary to manage rising demand while maintaining the Agency's operational efficiency and service quality.

In line with the 2026 Commission work programme, we will propose options for **simplifying and streamlining processes** and continue to implement corporate solutions for the management of our programmes. We will also assure the effective and efficient provision of feedback to policy to our parent DGs, continuing adding to our quantitative indicators also qualitative analyses and observations on programme and project results. EACEA will further enhance staff awareness and skills in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) corporate solutions, emphasising the importance of the safe and responsible use of AI tools.

I am fully confident that our highly committed and competent professionals will make 2026 another successful year for EACEA, our partners, and beneficiaries.

Sophie BEERNAERTS

EACEA Director

PART 1. Mission statement

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) has been established with the Commission Implementing Decision (EU)/2021/173, repealing Implementing Decision 2013/776/EU, which entered into force on 1 April 2021. EACEA received a new 7-year mandate to continue supporting projects across Europe and in third countries for the 2021-2027 funding period. EACEA's mission is to support the parent Directorates-General (DGs) in implementing European projects that connect people and cultures, reach out to the world and make a difference, working together in education and training, audio-visual media and culture, citizenship and solidarity. The Agency fosters innovation through the exchange of knowledge, ideas and skills in a spirit of cross-border cooperation and mutual respect.

To this end, EACEA supports its seven parent DGs ⁽¹⁾ in achieving the specific political priorities of the Commission ⁽²⁾ and the strategic objectives defined in the [Commission strategic plan 2025-2029](#) by managing the implementation of the programmes that have been delegated to it. In particular, EACEA contributes to four Commission priorities, namely **A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness, Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model, Protecting our democracy, upholding our values** and **A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships**.

In 2026, EACEA will manage Erasmus+, Creative Europe, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, the European Solidarity Corps, the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme as well as Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the areas of education, sport, culture and media in conformity with the above-mentioned Decision and Delegation Act ⁽³⁾. Notably, EACEA will prepare and manage the different stages of the project lifecycle for each of these programmes (publication of calls for proposals and calls for tenders, promotion, evaluation of the applications received, signing the grant agreements and contracts, monitoring the projects/service contracts up to their successful closure, including budget implementation and analysis, and dissemination, exploitation of the results and the necessary feedback to policy). The Agency will also continue to manage the legacy of its previously delegated programmes.

EACEA strives to provide excellent programme management and high-quality service through transparent and objective processes, showing Europe at its best. Strong values are at the centre of ONE EACEA: commitment, integrity, objectivity, respect for others, and transparency.

⁽¹⁾ For Education, Youth, Sport and Culture – EAC, for Communications Networks, Content and Technology – CNECT, for Justice and Consumers – JUST, for International Partnerships – INTPA, for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood – ENEST, for Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf – MENA, for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion – EMPL

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 870 final of 21 October 2025

⁽³⁾ C(2022) 5057 of 22 July 2022 repealing Decision C(2021)951 and as amended by C(2022)9296 of 15 December 2022, C(2023)4617 of 12 July 2023, C(2024)4350 of 26 June 2024, C(2024)8304 of 28 November 2024 and C(2025)2801 of 28 May 2025.

PART 2. Key performance indicators

EACEA has selected the following four key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of its delegated tasks. They also reflect the ability of the Agency to contribute to the objectives set by its parent DGs.

Key performance indicators	Baseline (2025)	Milestone	Target
Time-to-Grant	96.5%	N/A	100% of grant agreements signed within 9 months
Time-to-Pay	95%	N/A	>96% of payments (in value) on time ⁽⁴⁾
Budget execution	100%	N/A	100% of commitment appropriations ⁽⁵⁾
Estimated risk at closure	0.45%	N/A	<2% of relevant expenditure

The quality of programme implementation is assessed based on the full execution of the delegated yearly budget and the number of grant agreements (GAs) and payments processed without delays for EACEA's beneficiaries. In addition, the low estimated risk at closure is based on the robust controls applied throughout all phases of project implementation, particularly during the final payment stage.

EACEA monitors the progress of its key performance indicators in an aggregated and systematic manner. This approach allows the Agency to ensure excellence in the technical and financial management of its delegated programmes.

The Agency has also identified one additional key policy-oriented indicator, as of 2026 ⁽⁶⁾:

Key performance indicator	Baseline (2025)	Milestone (2026)	Target (2027)
Share of projects awarded in Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe (Culture strand) by EACEA addressing inclusion	75% ⁽⁷⁾	To maintain or increase	To maintain or increase

⁽⁴⁾ ECOM – Type of credits: VOB/2026, IAR2/2 2025, EFTA

⁽⁵⁾ ECOM – Type of credits: VOB/2026, IAR2/2 2025, EFTA. The target 100% depends on the accuracy of the reporting available, as SUMMA has features that do not allow us to fully monitor the correctness of the budget execution.

⁽⁶⁾ Until 2025 in line with the KPIs from 2021, the policy-oriented KPI was based on the number of European Universities participating in the alliances. However, this KPI is now obsolete because the target of over 500 universities has been reached and is not expected to grow further. Additionally, it is no longer a KPI for our lead parent DG, DG EAC.

⁽⁷⁾ Data captured at grant preparation stage

PART 3. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for 2026

EU values remain at the core of EU programmes and beneficiaries, and therefore activities must respect and promote these values.

Support to Ukrainian citizens will be further ensured through the implementation of the programmes that we are managing.

Key messages on the implementation of programmes

In 2026, EACEA will manage around 9 000 projects across our different programmes, including some Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPAs). Legacy activities will represent roughly 3% of the total number of open projects.

In 2025, EACEA registered a continuous increase in the number of received applications (+36.5% since 2024 and +70% since 2023) and experienced linked phenomena such as the growing number of resubmissions, the rising evaluation costs, the lowering of the success rate and the related frustration generated in the applicants, as well as the more numerous requests for evaluation reviews. To tackle these issues and based on the Agency's experience in programme implementation and the continuous feedback received from stakeholders, beneficiaries and applicants, in 2026 EACEA will discuss with the parent DGs and other Commission services such as DG BUDG, DG RTD and the Secretariat General some harmonised simplification measures to streamline processes, programme implementation and IT systems. The aim is to possibly implement these measures already during the current MFF and notably in view of the forthcoming 2028-2034 MFF programme period.

The Agency will continue to develop the dynamic, more agile on-demand process for **Feedback to Policy (F2P)**, put in place in 2025, allowing parent DGs to send periodic ad hoc F2P requests to the Agency based on their specific needs. The F2P products cover different pre-defined formats such as project list on policy-relevant areas established via data mining, synthesis documents of project content up to events and cluster meetings. A stepwise approach with regular decision gates between EACEA and the requesting parent DG ensures the efficiency of the applied resources and the usefulness and continuous relevance of the provided product.

Some examples of F2P products in the pipeline for 2026 are inputs for the AI strategy for the Cultural and Creative sectors and the design of the AgoraEU programme, as well as the contribution towards the possible Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2026, focusing on the six topics of the public consultation on ERASMUS+.

The Agency will also explore the use of AI in the delivery of recurrent and pre-formatted F2P products to speed up the process from request to delivery. To keep track of the activities and ensure efficient monitoring, the Agency will set up a user-friendly repository of F2P documents. It will also ensure appropriate communication to share examples of good practice and policy messages with the parent DGs.

The performance [outputs](#) of Part 3. are presented in Annex 1.

A. Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU's flagship programme to support and strengthen education, training, youth and sport in Europe ⁽⁸⁾. The programme provides opportunities for study, training and participation in civil society activities in Europe and beyond. It also supports transnational cooperation, allowing key players in education, training, youth and sport to develop innovative teaching, training and learning methods, modernise curricula and develop common tools and activities, as well as make better use of new technologies, and promote sport and healthy lifestyles.

The Agency will maintain its active engagement in the **European Education Area Working Groups**. By participating in meetings, peer-learning activities and follow-up actions of the Working Groups, EACEA will share knowledge and expertise, and provide an evidence base from both the programme implementation side and the policy analysis one. EACEA will continue providing robust evidence to enhance the quality and impact of the Working Groups' deliverables through findings from the Agency's projects, Eurydice and Youth Wiki Network's studies and comparative analyses, and data from platforms overseen by EACEA.

EACEA will implement activities under the following Erasmus+ actions:

- Key Action 1: Learning Mobility
- Key Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions
- Key Action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation
- Jean Monnet Actions

The Erasmus+ 2026 calls will continue to support innovative approaches to learning and teaching, including green and digital skills, entrepreneurship and other future-proof skills development.

For the delegated Erasmus+ actions, the Agency will continue organising a variety of information sessions and activities in collaboration with parent DGs as relevant, to promote the calls and provide potential applicants with guidance and assistance. EACEA's Erasmus+ communication activities will be aligned with the overall Erasmus+ communication strategy. The Agency will continue to report on the implementation of projects and activities in a targeted manner and support the European Commission in promoting and disseminating the project results.

The Agency will primarily contribute to the achievement of the general objectives **A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness (G.O 1 DG EAC, DG EMPL), Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model (G.O 3 DG EAC)** and **Protecting our democracy, upholding our values (G.O 5, DG EAC)** of the [Commission strategic plan 2025-2029](#) by implementing the actions described in the 2026 Work Programme

⁽⁸⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 1288/2013, \(OJ L189 of 28.5.2021, p.1\)](#)

for Erasmus+ ⁽⁹⁾ with an indicative budget of EUR 991 million. This amount includes the contributions from the EU external action instruments ‘Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE)’ ⁽¹⁰⁾ and from the ‘Instrument of Pre-accession III (IPA III)’ ⁽¹¹⁾. The actions funded by these instruments are covered by the single Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the external dimension of Erasmus+ for the 2021-2027 period ⁽¹²⁾.

In 2026, the Agency will deliver outputs under the following specific objectives:

[Specific objective 1.1 – Steering policies and managing programmes that support Europe’s competitiveness through high-quality, inclusive and future-proof education policies, equipping people with relevant skills and competences for Europe’s green and digital transitions]

In the field of Higher Education (HE), the Agency will continue to support and monitor the progress of the **European Universities alliances**; at the same time, it will launch a new call for already existing deep institutional transnational cooperation alliances of higher education institutions including – but not limited to – the European Universities alliances selected in 2022.

The integration of the ‘Eurograduate Survey 2026’ into the **European Higher Education Sector Observatory** (EHESO) will further support the implementation of the European graduate tracking initiative. EHESO will continue to evolve in 2026, encouraging the participation of European University Alliances, expanding on the existing measures and tools, enabling benchmarking and providing evidence to drive institutional transformation progress across the EU, combining the best aspects of EU data tools and capacities. Moreover, the **Higher Education Interoperability Framework** (HEIOF) will continue to engage with motivated experts. Most noteworthy, following the kick-off meeting in 2025 that brought together representatives from HEIs and partnerships, including European Universities alliances, so to begin to implement the new framework as early adopters, the HEIOF will further contribute to shape the future of digital education.

EACEA will also back the **European Degree** by supporting HE institutions in the design, adaptation, and implementation of innovative and inclusive transnational joint programmes at bachelor, master, or doctoral levels, aligned with the criteria for the joint European degree label. The selected partnerships will explore the pathway toward a possible joint European degree in all fields. The Agency will also finance projects that will develop leadership capabilities in the HE sectors, by setting up a European Leadership Academy.

⁽⁹⁾ Commission Decision C(2025) 7358 of 5 November 2025

⁽¹⁰⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation \(EC, Euratom\) No 480/2009 \(Text with EEA relevance\) \(OJ L209 of 14.6.2021, p.1\)](#)

⁽¹¹⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance \(IPA III\) \(OJ L330 of 20.9.2021, p.1\)](#)

⁽¹²⁾ Commission Decision C(2021) 6189 of 27 August 2021 as amended by its mid-term review of 2024

The implementation of the framework contracts to support the second phase of the **European Student Card Initiative** (ESCI) will also be a key action in support of the higher education sector. The objective of ESCI is the development of a coherent digital ecosystem for all participating institutions to facilitate the mobility of students in Europe and the action will be implemented through two framework contracts.

To support the implementation of the **Union of Skills** package, EACEA will manage specific new actions that were announced as part of the [Action Plan on Basic Skills](#) and the [STEM ^{\(13\)} Education Strategic Plan](#). More specifically, through the 2026 **European Policy Experimentations and Alliances for Innovation calls**, it will implement:

- a dedicated topic on achieving proficiency in basic skills. The topic aims to attract proposals that will support reforms and address basic skills deficiencies.
- a dedicated topic to support top-performing and underachieving learners. The selected projects will pilot innovative approaches for personalised learning pathways in basic skills development, through use of AI systems.
- a new topic aiming to pilot STEM education centres for school education, including VET schools, across the EU with the goal of improving how STEM is delivered and experienced in primary and secondary education.
- a new topic for the development of STEM skills foundries in strategic sectors. This will aim to create transnational and sustainable cooperation between higher education institutions, VET ⁽¹⁴⁾ providers and businesses in strategic sectors. The objective will be to foster new, innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning by providing young student entrepreneurs with real business-insights and mentoring opportunities tailored to their talents, needs and objectives.

In the frame of the European policy experimentation scheme, the Agency will launch a new call aiming at designing, testing, and evaluating a **scholarship scheme** that supports talented students in key strategic educational fields. The objective will be to address the growing demand for skilled talent in STEM fields and sectors such as clean and circular technologies and systems, bioeconomy as well as application of nature-based solutions, transport, energy, water resilience, healthcare, digital technologies, aerospace and defence.

As part of the **Eurydice work programme**, which will be updated next year, the Agency will publish three **reports** that directly feed into the priorities of the Union of Skills, the Basic Skills Action Plan and the STEM Education Strategic plan. These are:

- Digital education in Europe: the report examines policies and approaches towards digital education, as well as the state of their implementation in schools in European countries.
- Citizenship education at school in Europe, including VET: the main aim of the report is to present the current policies and approaches towards citizenship education at school.
- The Mobility Scoreboard: this online data and visual tool will monitor progress in European countries in facilitating learning mobility. Following up on the 'Europe on the

⁽¹³⁾ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

⁽¹⁴⁾ Vocational Education and Training

Move' Council recommendation, it will cover not only HE (as the previous editions), but also school education and non-formal and informal learning (mostly through focusing on volunteering and youth work). A feasibility study will define the list of qualitative composite indicators that will enable long-term monitoring. An online visualisation tool will be developed by the end of 2026.

Besides the above, the **online platforms** that EACEA manages also contribute to shape and sharpen the EU's skills agenda: i) ESEP course catalogue provides schoolteachers and other school staff the opportunity to browse a large selection of continuous professional development courses ii) EPALE is enabling growth in adult learning thanks to its dynamic community wherein learning professionals connect with policy makers iii) OLS will continue to support vocational education learners in 29 languages with a coverage of 10 industry sectors – a huge asset for VET learners mobility.

The Agency will continue to contribute to the implementation of the 2021-2027 **Digital Education Action Plan**, more specifically to its strategic priorities: 1) developing a high-performing digital education ecosystem and 2) enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation.

To achieve this, the Agency will continue to manage and engage participation in several online community platforms such as: [European School Education Platform \(ESEP\)](#), [Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe \(EPALE\)](#), [Online Language Support \(OLS\)](#), [European Digital Education Hub \(EDEH\)](#), [National Policies Platform \(NPP\)](#), [Education for Climate - E4C Coalition](#) and [SELFIE](#). EACEA considers essential the cross-promotion and collaboration between its different platforms to amplify their reach and impact. Synergies and complementarities are evident particularly between sectorial platforms ESEP, SELFIE, EPALE and the thematic platforms E4C, EDEH and OLS.

Among them, the most recent platforms for EACEA's portfolio are the [SELFIE](#) and the [Education for Climate - E4C Coalition](#). The SELFIE ⁽¹⁵⁾ tools were designed to support digital capacity building in education and training and consist of distinct tools for schools and teachers. After completing the full transition of the tools, the Agency will start working towards unifying the user experience, enabling easy data access, simplifying the participation process of schools and teachers, and enhancing the interaction by leveraging the power of Generative AI chat bots. The thematic modules of SELFIE for TEACHERS will also be refreshed to ensure correlation with the evolution of the underlying reference conceptual framework DigCompEdu ⁽¹⁶⁾.

Education for Climate Coalition, a platform fully taken over by EACEA in 2025, aims to continue the development of this flagship initiative of the EEA and develop the wide partnership among the education community at EU, national and local level. E4C's activities will continue contributing to the transformation of climate education, leveraging community-driven action to address the climate crisis. The E4C will continue to play a key role in bringing together users with common interests and challenges regarding the GreenComp ⁽¹⁷⁾ framework. By continuing

⁽¹⁵⁾ Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering the use of Innovative Educational technologies

⁽¹⁶⁾ Digital Competence Framework for Educators

⁽¹⁷⁾ [GreenComp: the European sustainability competence framework](#)

to host a Community of Practice (CoP) for GreenComp, it will enable it to focus on promoting its broader adoption and better engaging its members.

The [Erasmus Networks Platform \(ENP\)](#) provides the Erasmus+ actions that have no dedicated platform with opportunities for sharing, discussing and connecting. Each network has its own dedicated space. Study in Europe, SPHERE, Erasmus Mundus and ENFP have already joined the platform while the Erasmus Alumni is in the process of onboarding.

[Specific objective 1.1 – A skilled, mobile and future-oriented European workforce, and excellence in vocational education and training]

The Union of Skills aims to support the development of quality, inclusive and adaptable education, training and skills systems to increase the **EU's competitiveness**. The 2026 European Policy Experimentations call will support this aim through:

- a topic tackling the development of basic skills in VET– addressing both school-based and work-based VET systems (including apprenticeships).
- a new topic on improving transparency and recognition of VET qualifications, aimed at identifying good practices and potential barriers in improving VET qualifications, to support the acceptance and understanding of VET qualifications and skills across borders and broaden opportunities for VET students, teachers and trainers, ultimately making VET a more competitive and attractive career choice across Europe.
- a topic to pilot innovative approaches to stimulate adults to engage in learning activities in their usual and trusted environments, as well as providing a flexible offer that helps them overcome barriers to training such as time constraints or care duties.

Besides new topics, EACEA will contribute to supporting new priorities under the Union of Skills through a new focus on existing actions. For example, in the context of the **Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)**, this will be accomplished through continuing to support private-public partnerships to foster innovation or through expanding the use of micro-credentials; and in the context of the **Alliances for Innovation**, through the topic that has been refocused to support the development of STEM talent. The CoVEs will contribute to the target of at least 100 projects funded by 2027, with the funding in 2026 allowing to finance around 17 projects.

[Specific objective 3.1 – Steering policies and managing programmes that support inclusive and quality education to empower young people's social engagement, and solidarity across the EU, strengthening intergenerational fairness and cohesion]

In line with the Commission priorities, EACEA will continue to support the EU Youth Dialogue, the largest youth participation mechanism in Europe, and the **European Youth Together** action, a high-level funding scheme which addresses many of the priorities under the youth policies.

In the frame of the current EU Youth Strategy, the actions managed by the Agency will specifically target activities focusing on the issues that young people and stakeholders have brought to light: health and wellbeing, environment and climate change, education and training, international cooperation and European values, employment and inclusion. One of its most successful activities, **DiscoverEU**, will have a new framework contract to cover the period until 2029. The action aims at fostering a sense of belonging to the European Union, allowing the

participants to explore its cultural diversity, and equipping young people with skills and competences.

In view of the next EU Youth Strategy, EACEA will continue collecting and analysing evidence (quantitative and qualitative data) about young people in the EU. The evidence will be used to draft the statistical section of the next EU Youth Report, that will be published early 2027.

EACEA will produce a report (based on comparative analysis) of national policy responses to the **housing crisis affecting young people**. Data on policies has been collected by the Youth Wiki network. The report will provide an overview of the main factors hindering the possibility for many young people to access affordable and quality housing. It will also illustrate, in a comparative perspective, the policies, programmes and initiatives established in 34 European countries to remedy the situation and support young people. Furthermore, the report will offer some policy pointers for countries' national governments and the European Commission.

The [National Policies Platform](#) is home to the Youth Wiki, Eurydice, the Mobility Scoreboard and the European Higher Education Sector Observatory (EHESO) which will continue to reinforce its role as insights provider for education and youth policies. Data and visuals will be further developed for Eurydice as well as the Youth Wiki. For the latter, the online database of national policies for young people in Europe will be revamped over the next two years. The content will be assessed to ensure that it is in line with the priorities of the next EU Youth Strategy, and that the data presentation will be improved to offer a more user-friendly and comprehensive view. Moreover, the Mobility Scoreboard will be transformed in a fully online product incorporating indicators related to HE, school education and youth.

[Specific objective 3.3 – Developing policies and managing programme funds to develop an effective European dimension of sport, promoting healthy lifestyles, social participation, while promoting and reinforcing an inclusive, competitive and values-based European Sport Model]

The structure and objectives of Sport actions, such as **'Cooperation Partnerships,' 'Small-Scale Partnerships,' and 'Not-for-Profit European Sport Events,'** will continue contributing to the advancement of the European dimension of sport and the key priorities including fostering healthy lifestyles for all, enhancing social inclusion, and upholding the integrity and values in sport.

All Sport actions will also play a crucial role in reinforcing the main elements of the **European Sport Model**. These features include the pyramidal structure of sport, the principle of open competition with promotion and relegation systems, the reliance on voluntary work, the principle of financial solidarity, and the independence of sporting organisations. By involving grassroots sports organisations and ensuring the representation of athletes through Erasmus+ funded projects, these actions will contribute to strengthening the accountability and inclusivity of the European Sport Model.

[Specific objective 3.4 – Supporting international cooperation in education, culture, youth, sport and to enhance international partnerships, promote EU values and address shared global challenges ⁽¹⁸⁾]

Capacity Building in Higher Education action (CBHE) of the Erasmus+ programme will continue to pursue the EU's cooperation and policy dialogue with third countries, aiming to support institutions in shaping and adapting to current and emerging trends, while at the same time leveraging our power and partnerships with these countries. In this logic, beyond contributing to the overarching priorities of the European Commission, the action will carry novel aspects and an even more pronounced accent on the EU's **Global Gateway strategy's** investment priorities in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. It will also leave room for a continued support to the higher education reforms in Tunisia, serving - as of this year - the new EU initiative under the **Pact for the Mediterranean**, and also support the enlargement agenda and structural reforms for candidate countries and potential candidates. This includes strengthening the ongoing structural reforms of the Moldovan higher education system.

In 2026, the mandate of **NEOs** (National Erasmus+ Offices) that assist the European Commission, EACEA and the National Authorities in third countries not associated to Erasmus+ programme with its implementation, will be renewed for the third and final time under the current MFF, affording them the opportunity to continue to promote the Programme in these countries and follow closely the policy developments in the field of HE, VET, Youth and Sport. The new grant application process in 2026 will produce new grant agreements for these NEOs, covering implementation of their activities, including the oversight of the relevant national Higher Education Reform Experts (**HEREs**). By the same token, the service contract for the support of HEREs for the next three years will also be in place. **Alumni and ENFPs** (Erasmus+ National Focal Points) as ambassadors and promoters of the Erasmus+ 'brand' will continue their work in 2026 and beyond through service contracts.

Moreover, EACEA will continue the implementation of **Capacity Building in VET** to support the relevance, accessibility, and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in third countries not associated to the Programme, through joint initiatives that foster cooperation across different regions of the world. This action intends to increase the capacity of VET staff and teachers, as well as by strengthening the link between VET providers and the labour market. In case of the candidate countries and potential candidates emphasis will be placed on the link to the enlargement agenda and structural reforms in line with the EU policy in the field education and skills as well as the economic competitiveness agenda. In 2026, the action will continue to respond to the Global Gateway priorities in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

⁽¹⁸⁾ This Specific Objective is intrinsically serving also **General Objective 6: a Global Europe: leveraging our power and partnerships**. The international dimension of Erasmus+ and related policy dialogues are key components to leverage the EU's power and partnerships in the fields of education, youth, culture and sport.

By pursuing the **EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027**, and the **EU Youth Action Plan in External Action 2022-2027**, the youth actions will reinforce international cooperation and dialogue between Europe and the rest of the world. Notably, the **capacity building action in the field of youth** aims at promoting further connections between youth organisations in the EU and candidate countries, in the Neighbourhood East, Southern Mediterranean, Western Balkan partners and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Erasmus Mundus will continue to promote academic excellence through high-level integrated master programs delivered collaboratively and recognised by HEIs in Europe, while also engaging institutions from around the globe. With the 2026 call, the action will continue to address critical educational policy priorities, pivotal for Europe's competitiveness and prosperity: fostering high-level institutional cooperation to pave the way for joint programmes, attracting top talent to Europe and significantly reducing skills gaps and shortages by retaining the brightest minds from all over the world in Europe. It is anticipated that around 100 000 student applications will be submitted to the existing 200 master's programs in 2026, with approximately 3 000 scholarships awarded to the most promising applicants.

Capacity building in sport refers to international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of sport in Programme countries and third countries not associated to the Programme in Region 1 (Western Balkans) and Region 2 (Neighbourhood East). In addition to encouraging the practice of sport and physical activity, they serve as a vehicle to promote EU values, to strengthen the capacity of grassroots sport organisations and promote social inclusion through sport. As such, this action directly assists countries who are candidates to enlargement, addresses the consequences of war and helps target shared international challenges.

[Specific objective 5.1 – Steering policies and managing programmes in education and training, youth, sport, and culture, promoting EU values, preparedness and resilience, fostering a sense of European identity and enhancing democratic participation and civic engagement].

The **Jean Monnet Actions** will continue promoting excellence in teaching and research in EU studies with Modules, Chairs and Centres of Excellence for higher education institutions. The Agency will also continue promoting the activities under Jean Monnet Actions in other fields of education and training (for schools and VET institutions), through the Learning EU Initiatives, School networks and the support to Teacher Training. Jean Monnet Policy Debates are large thematic networks for higher education institutions; the Network on internal policies will focus in 2026 on a resilient Single Market to boost EU competitiveness, while the Network on external policy issues will have the EU-India relations in its focus. Finally, the designated institutions pursuing aims of European interest will also be supported, as in previous years.

It is noteworthy that all educational communities and platforms play a crucial role in enhancing the EU dimension and uniting EU citizens while celebrating the merits of diversity across the continent. For instance, through its unique characteristic of combining language learning and promoting EU values across different dimensions such as culture, sport, environment, **OLS** will continue to contribute to multilingualism and accompany HE students, volunteers and the general public. OLS has solidly advanced regarding content development and user engagement, switching from classic learning courses to more dynamic sessions.

Directing its efforts to support **displaced Ukrainian population**, the OLS open area can facilitate their integration in their host country by providing access to all learning materials as language level A1 and A2. To enable immediate interaction, OLS developed a 3-hours course on the Ukrainian language at A1 level. Moreover, non-academic tools such as linguistic gems and daily expressions are available to give insight on cultural aspects of each country. Recognising the importance of supporting competence of educators in Ukraine, the SELFIE tools will be used in a study co-funded by the European Commission to engage secondary and VET teachers across the country.

Finally, sport actions will promote EU values within the **sport ecosystem**. The sport strand can serve as a powerful catalyst for social change, fostering solidarity and advancing democratic principles, labour rights and human rights.

B. Creative Europe

The Creative Europe programme ⁽¹⁹⁾ is the multiannual EU programme directly targeting the cultural and creative sectors (CCS). Its objective is to safeguard, promote and develop European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage. It also aims to **increase the competitiveness of Europe's cultural and creative sectors** as well as to support independent production and distribution companies in the audio-visual field, and a wide range of operators in the cultural field.

In 2026, EACEA will carry out activities under the following strands:

- Culture
- MEDIA
- Cross-sectoral

The programme contributes to overarching priorities of social inclusion and gender equality and helps drive the green and digital transitions in the cultural and creative sectors. This year, it focuses especially on protecting democracy and artists' freedom of expression, on improving artists' working conditions, boosting societal resilience, upholding values and safeguarding the rule of law. Therefore, Creative Europe will be a key tool to deploy the new comprehensive EU strategic framework for culture, the **Culture Compass** and its priorities.

The **Agency** will primarily continue to contribute to the achievement of the following general objectives: **A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness (G.O 1 DG CNECT), Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social models (G.O 3 DG EAC)** and **Protecting our democracy, upholding our values (G.O 5 DG EAC / DG**

⁽¹⁹⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the Creative Europe programme \(2021-2027\) and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 1295/2013 \(OJ L189 of 28.5.2021, p.34\)](#)

CNECT) of the [Commission strategic plan 2025-2029](#) by implementing the actions described in the 2026 Work Programme for Creative Europe ⁽²⁰⁾ with an indicative budget of EUR 340.48 million.

The Agency will deliver outputs under the following specific objectives:

[Specific objective 3.2 – Steering policies and managing a programme that safeguards and promotes cultural diversity and heritage, fostering sustainable and innovative cultural and creative sectors, contributing to the Culture Compass]

[Specific objective 5.1 – Steering policies and managing programmes in education and training, youth, sport, and culture, promoting EU values, preparedness and resilience, fostering a sense of European identity and enhancing democratic participation and civic engagement]

– Culture strand

The Culture strand will continue to support cultural and creative operators in enabling cooperation at the European level, in creating European cultural and artistic works and in strengthening the capacities of the organisations involved in particular and the cultural sector's capacity building in general. It will also support them in their efforts to reach audiences in Europe and beyond. The participation of Ukrainian cultural institutions and organisations will be specifically encouraged in the calls for European Cooperation projects and for literary translations.

EACEA will implement the recurrent annual calls for proposals, notably the European Cooperation projects and the Circulation of European literary works but also **two new calls**: the Perform Europe initiative and the support to the implementation of the European Heritage Label (EHL). The first one will support innovative touring and cross-border distribution schemes of performing arts works in a sustainable and inclusive manner. The second one will select one single project responsible for steering the community of practices of the labelled sites and aims at enhancing visibility of the EHL action and sites for the years 2026-2029.

Through all these actions, EACEA will promote cultural and linguistic diversity to meet the increasing demands of the cultural and creative sectors for common European activities, highlighted by the steadily growing number of applications. Finally, the Agency's active participation in book fairs or other major cultural events will provide an excellent means to promote the Creative Europe Programme and showcase the results of its projects.

[Specific objective 1.2 – A true digital single market to advance Europe's productivity and competitiveness]

[Specific objective 5.1 – Strengthening social resilience and promoting diverse cultural content to protect Europe's values and democracy]

– MEDIA strand

⁽²⁰⁾ Commission Decision C(2025) 6405 of 24 September 2025

The MEDIA strand aims to encourage cross-border cooperation and innovation in the creation, production, promotion and distribution of European audiovisual works. In 2026, the strand is strengthened to respond to new market conditions and the findings of recent Creative Europe programme evaluations. The audiovisual market remains characterised by intense global competition, particularly from dominant online video-on-demand platforms, by audiences shifting online and overabundance of content in the context of the ‘attention economy’.

The 2026 work programme places therefore an increased emphasis on the EU-level cooperation – through co-development, structured networks and partnerships – to scale up audiovisual projects and strengthen competitiveness. The budget allocated to the actions of the MEDIA sub-programme is significantly reinforced.

Across clusters, there are targeted updates which EACEA will implement through the 2026 calls. More specifically, under the **Business Cluster** a revised framework for certifying cinema admissions has been introduced to harmonise methodologies across Member States and coefficients for distributors have been adjusted back to pre-COVID levels to reflect the return of box-office admissions. The sales agent’s support has been revised to better reward acquisition and promotion of non-national films, including incentives to provide English-language versions. As for the MEDIA Stands, these will increasingly focus on participation from lower-capacity countries.

Among the **Audience Cluster** activities, the novelties concern the Networks of European Festivals which will include video games and immersive content in their scope and VOD Networks and Operators support that has been adapted to encourage broader participation by lowering catalogue thresholds and redefining collaboration requirements. Finally, subtitling schemes will promote innovative and AI-supported multilingual subtitling approaches to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the action.

In terms of budget reinforcement, video game and immersive **content development** will receive additional support, as well as animation and documentary TV/online content, recognising their strong cross-border travel and **relevance for cultural identity and democratic resilience**. Additional investment will be enabled in regions with underdeveloped cinema infrastructures through the Cinema Network activities. Also, a larger number of high-budget productions with strong audience reach will be funded under Films on the Move action, facilitating the circulation of non-national European works while also ensuring coherence with the newly launched Eurimages Film Marketing and Audience Development programme. Finally, the support for innovative tools and business models will better accommodate the capacities of young start-ups by the increased EU co-financing rate from 70% to 80%.

Ukraine has achieved full participation in the MEDIA strand, with all 2026 calls along the audiovisual value chain open to organisations of the country. This will allow Ukrainian professionals to fully engage in development, production, distribution, market, and networking activities.

All supported projects will undergo continuous monitoring and follow-up to ensure proper implementation and to identify success stories and key issues for policy feedback.

– Cross-sectoral strand

The Cross-sectoral strand promotes cross-cutting activities spanning the audiovisual and other cultural and creative sectors. In 2026, the strand continues to support actions related to the news media ecosystem – including the **Journalism Partnerships and Media Literacy calls**. The strand also contributes directly to the implementation of the European Media Freedom Act through support to the newly established European Board for Media Services.

The **Creative Innovation Lab** continues to support cross-sectoral experimentation. The call will focus on IP-intensive sectors such as audiovisual, video games, music, publishing, and museums. Revised award criteria will encourage more mature organisations to apply for lower levels of EU public funding and demonstrate stronger self-financing capacity.

With the support of the Agency dedicated team, the **Creative Europe Desks** will continue to play a major role in providing support and information on the programme by assisting potential applicants, stimulating cross-border cooperation, and carrying out communication and dissemination activities for funding opportunities and results obtained in their respective countries. The Ukrainian Desk will continue to receive an exceptional reinforced support, ensuring the continuity of its activities under the ongoing exceptional circumstances.

C.Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV)

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme ⁽²¹⁾ protects and promotes the EU's values and fundamental rights and empowers citizens' participation in the democratic life by supporting organisations at local, regional, national and transnational levels. It supports a wide range of binding and non-binding EU instruments and integrates policy priorities stemming from adopted Commission strategies and initiatives ⁽²²⁾.

According to its mandate, the Agency will implement activities under the following strands:

- Citizens' engagement and participation
- Union Values
- Equality, rights, and gender equality.

The Agency will primarily contribute to the achievement of the general objectives **Supporting people and strengthening our societies and our social models (G.O 3)** and **Protecting our democracy, upholding our values (G.O 5)**, of the [Commission strategic plan 2025-2029](#), by implementing the actions described in the multiannual work programme for 2026-

⁽²¹⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation \(EU\) No 390/2014 \(OJ L156, of 5.5.2021, p.1\)](#)

⁽²²⁾ New Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, New LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030, New Anti-Racism Strategy 2026-2030, New Strategy on Victims' Rights, Report on mid-term review of the 2020 Charter Strategy, EU Civil Society Strategy, European Democracy Shield.

2027 for Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values ⁽²³⁾, with an indicative budget of EUR 259 million dedicated to the calls implemented in 2026.

The Agency will deliver outputs under the following specific objectives:

[Specific objective 3.1: Fighting discrimination and promoting equality for all]

Since 2025, EACEA is managing part of the **call for proposals to promote equality** and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination focusing on fighting against antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred. The aim is to select projects that address these priorities; results of the evaluations are expected in 2026.

[Specific objective 5.2: Strengthened application of fundamental rights]

Specific grant agreements will be signed with beneficiaries of operating grants within new 3-year framework partnerships starting in 2026. The call on **Union Values**, as part of the Union Values strand which supports entities that contribute to the vitality and promotion of the EU's common values and rights, will see a significant budget increase (almost 50%) compared to 2024. The call on promoting capacity building and awareness of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights will continue to be part of the Agency's portfolio in 2026. The awarded entities will then support grassroots organisations to reach the citizens, through awareness raising campaigns and capacity-building activities.

[Specific objective 5.3: Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union]

EACEA will implement recurrent calls under the citizens engagement and participation strand including the call on **European Remembrance** which is becoming biennial. The call supports projects that commemorate important events in 20th-century European history such as the rise and impact of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, slavery, colonialism, and the Holocaust. Their objective is to raise awareness among European citizens of their shared history, culture, heritage and values. This will help people to better know the European Union, as well as the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance. The calls of this strand will equally support civil society organisations and municipalities in Ukraine in exchanges and debates on democratic engagement.

The Agency will continue to actively promote the programme and publish all necessary information in line with the communication and outreach strategy designed with DG JUST. The programme's network of **National Contact Points** (designated bodies) will still be instrumental to the dissemination of information about the programme and to ensure that all European citizens have access to it without any form of discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

In terms of simplification, the Agency will manage some biennial calls instead of annual ones, to better manage the surge in applications and improve the success rate. Additionally, some of the calls' political priorities have been further streamlined.

⁽²³⁾ Commission Decision C(2025) 8076 of 1 December 2025

D. European Solidarity Corps

The European Solidarity Corps ('the Corps') ⁽²⁴⁾ aims to strengthen the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities. The Corps is a means to help strengthen cohesion, solidarity and democracy in Europe and abroad and to address societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on promoting social inclusion.

The Agency will primarily contribute to the achievement of the general objective **Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model (G.O 3 DG EAC)** and **Protecting our democracy, upholding our values (G.O 5 DG EAC)** of the [Commission strategic plan 2025-2029](#) by implementing the actions described in the 2026 Work Programme for the European Solidarity Corps ⁽²⁵⁾, with an indicative budget of EUR 23.46 million.

The Agency will deliver outputs under the following specific objective.

[Specific objective 3.1 – Steering policies and managing programmes that support inclusive and quality education to empower young people's social engagement, and solidarity across the EU, strengthening intergenerational fairness and cohesion]

According to its mandate, the Agency will implement and manage actions and measures, including, where appropriate, actions covering multiple focus areas/themes simultaneously in the following fields:

- Volunteering
- Quality and support measures

By building on its past achievements and honouring the legacy of the European Year of Youth, the actions managed by the Agency will continue to empower young people and to encourage their participation in democratic life. In particular, the 2026 actions implemented by the Agency will provide significant value by promoting activities supporting inclusion and diversity, intergenerational fairness and solidarity, tackling climate and environmental challenges, contributing to the digital transformation, health and wellbeing and promoting active citizenship in the Union and beyond.

Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas especially support larger volunteering teams in carrying out short-term high impact interventions with their specific focus on common European challenges at EU level: i) responding to current needs at European level like provision of relief and assistance to those whose lives, livelihoods and communities have been disrupted by the natural or man-made disasters, including armed conflicts, ii) fostering positive learning

⁽²⁴⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing Regulations \(EU\) 2018/1475 and \(EU\) No 375/2014 \(OJ L202, 8.6.2021, p.32\)](#)

⁽²⁵⁾ Commission Decision C(2025) 7014 of 23 October 2025

experiences and outcomes for young people with fewer opportunities and enhancing intergenerational fairness and solidarity.

Moreover, the implementation of the **Humanitarian Aid Strand** of the programme will contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity. It will also strengthen the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities.

EACEA will continue to oversee the process leading to the award of the **Quality Label** for humanitarian aid volunteering. The procedure consists of validating the capacity of applicant organisations to safely engage young volunteers in humanitarian aid activities and certifying that they comply with the European Solidarity Corps programme quality standards.

To ensure high-quality solidarity-related opportunities for young people, the Agency will continue managing the following contracts:

- the contract providing the service for complementary insurance to all participants in cross-border solidarity activities already covered by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or other insurance schemes in which participants may be enrolled. Those participants who are not eligible for the EHIC will be entitled to receive full coverage through the insurance provided by the European Commission.
- the contract granting preparatory training (online and face-to-face) to young people intending to participate in the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps. Preparatory training for volunteers in humanitarian aid activities aims to improve their level of preparedness and specific knowledge about the action.
- the contract ensuring that all participants will be offered a Youth Card, which allows its holders to benefit from reduced fares when purchasing certain goods or services. The granting of this card to the participants is an additional service helping to promote the Corps and EU youth policy.

General Online Training will be accessible to young people registered in the [EU Academy](#) platform. Training programmes and online courses are available in 28 languages. It is focused on issues such as the missions of the Corps, ethics, integrity, roles and responsibilities of the participants, EU values, intercultural awareness, insurance, health and safety, etc.

E. Intra-Africa academic mobility scheme

The Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme is the EU's programme to encourage international learning mobility across the African continent by providing support for consortia of African Higher Education Institutions and scholarship opportunities for African trainees, students and staff. It aims to contribute to the economic, social and human development of Africa by improving the skills and competences of individuals in different areas, particularly those linked to Global Gateway priority sectors.

The Agency will primarily contribute to the achievement of the general objective **A global Europe – leveraging our power and partnerships (G.O 6, DG INTPA)**, of the [Commission strategic plan 2025–2029](#). The Agency will do this by implementing the actions

described in Annex 2 of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa ⁽²⁶⁾ with an indicative budget of EUR 25 million for 2026. The Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027 ⁽²⁷⁾ provides the legal frame and NDICI-Global Europe is the financing instrument for this action.

The Agency will deliver outputs under the following specific objective.

[Specific objective 6.5 – In line with Global Gateway strategy, human development for all is improved with a special focus on the most vulnerable populations, through interventions in health, education, and research and contributing to the overall aim of reducing poverty.]

According to its mandate, the Agency will prepare and publish calls for proposals, conclude grant agreements with successful candidates and manage procurement procedures for support measures for capacity building related activities of the funded universities. In close cooperation with its mirror unit in DG INTPA, it will also organise related information events to improve the visibility of higher education institutions and study opportunities in Africa (e.g. online information resources, cluster meetings) and offer support to selected projects and to scholarship holders.

A new call for proposals is scheduled to be published in Q3 2026 with the evaluation of the applications taking place in 2027. The Agency – again together with DG INTPA – will organise a kick-off meeting for the selected projects of the previous call, as well as a cluster meeting on green transition to highlight Intra-Africa projects' contribution to this priority area. The program will celebrate its **10th anniversary**, and a dedicated conference is planned at the end of the year. During the conference an impact study of the programme on Africa's development will be presented. It will also demonstrate achievements, share success stories and testimonials, reflect on challenges and lessons learned, and set new goals for the scheme's future.

Finally, EACEA will continue monitoring the ongoing projects from the previous programme (2016-2020), as well as the projects selected in 2023-2025.

F. Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPAs)

A Pilot Project is an initiative of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness. They test new policy ideas for which there is no legal basis yet. As such they may be implemented without a basic act, provided that the actions which they intend to finance fall within the competences of the European Union. A Preparatory Action – normally the successor of a successful pilot project on the same matter – is designed to prepare new actions, such as EU policies, legislation and programmes.

⁽²⁶⁾ Commission Decision C(2025) 8455 of 2 December 2025 amending Implementing Decision C(2022) 7113 on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2024 – Part 1 as regards annexes 2 and 10

⁽²⁷⁾ Commission Decision C(2021) 9373 of 15 December 2021.

In 2026, the Agency will follow up on PPAs selected in the previous years in the fields of sport, media and culture and monitor their activities. Among the others, a new call for the Preparatory Action 'Sport Supports – emergency sport actions for youth' ⁽²⁸⁾ and a reinforcement of the Preparatory Action 'European Heritage Hub' ⁽²⁹⁾ will be implemented by the Agency.

⁽²⁸⁾ subject to the adoption of a new Financing Decision.

⁽²⁹⁾ subject to the adoption of a new Financing Decision.

PART 4. A modern and sustainable public administration: outputs in 2026

The internal control framework ⁽³⁰⁾ supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are addressed and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls.

EACEA has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of this internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year, and will be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

The performance [outputs](#) of Part 4. are presented in Annex 1.

A. Human resource management

Female middle management

The Agency will continue to work closely with the parent DGs in a joint effort to ensure increased female representation in middle management positions so to achieve the gender balance objectives.

Currently, the Agency has 1 female Head of Department, and 4 female Heads of Unit, representing in total 31% of the middle management roles. However, women hold 54% of deputy Heads of Unit positions (7 out of 13), and 63% of Heads of Sector positions (19 out of 30).

Selections and recruitments

To support the achievement of the Commission's objectives, and to handle the increasing budget and number of actions delegated to the Agency, EACEA will continue to prioritise its selection and recruitment processes in 2026, for both contract and temporary agents' positions. In this context, a new IT tool will be used to streamline selections and enable a more efficient selection management. The Agency plans to launch several procedures through external publications and inter-agency/inter-institutional selections, to attract new talent and to promote mobility across the Agencies and with the Commission.

Learning and Development and Inter-Executive Agency (IEA) HR Strategy

The Learning and Development strategy for 2025-2027 will continue to shape EACEA's learning offer, focusing on digital transformation, cultivating a feedback-oriented culture, addressing

⁽³⁰⁾ [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/revision-internal-control-framework-c-2017-2373_2017_en.pdf)https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/revision-internal-control-framework-c-2017-2373_2017_en.pdf

wellbeing needs and exploring new training formats. Moreover, following the 2025 360° exercise (part of the action plan that followed the last Staff Satisfaction Survey), in 2026 the Agency will implement follow-up actions aiming at fostering the development of a group of leaders and strengthening leadership skills and individual growth (based on both aggregate and personal results).

In 2026, the Agency will launch a communication campaign to update its staff on the achievements of the mid-term actions of the common IEA HR Strategy. In parallel, it will work on implementing the long-term actions to enhance its HR processes, such as improving staff career prospects.

Internal communication

The Agency will continue delivering on the objectives of the 2024-2026 Internal communication strategy, such as keeping staff informed, maintaining two-way communication and dialogue, and fostering staff engagement. The main priority will be to maintain an environment of openness and trust between staff and management. This will be achieved by continuing to support senior management proactively in their communication, through initiatives such as the live Management Meeting debriefs, the Director's Vlog and the regular Coffee with the Director. Moreover, in the context of the celebrations of the Agency's 20th Anniversary, several activities will be organised for and with the staff.

B. Digital transformation and data management

Digital transformation

In 2026, the Agency plans to update its existing Digital Strategy to cover the 2026-2027 period, and further advance its digital transformation to support the Commission's overarching Digital Strategy. Furthermore, the Agency will continue the implementation of the Cybersecurity Strategy 2025-2026, ensuring an improvement of the cybersecurity posture.

Specifically, the following activities and initiatives are planned to continue or start in 2026:

- Objective 1 - *Digital Culture*: EACEA prioritizes an increase of the digital culture, with a focus on digital skills and cybersecurity awareness. EACEA plans to offer targeted IT training sessions and encourage staff to subscribe to relevant Communities of Practice.
- Objective 2 - *Digital-ready policymaking*: Although EACEA is not a policy-making institution, the Agency will continue to collaborate with relevant DGs to ensure that digital aspects are considered from the outset in the design of policy implementation actions.
- Objective 3 - *Business-driven Digital Transformation*: The Agency will focus on innovation, artificial intelligence, and data openness. In 2026, EACEA plans to identify and collaborate on existing corporate initiatives, launch proof-of-concepts, and attend Digital Innovation Lab events. It intends to improve data openness and interoperability by reusing data, and to enhance its capacity in the data management domain.

- Objective 4 - *Seamless Digital Environment*: The Agency intends to replace and decommission IT systems using outdated or near end-of-life cycle technologies, while also continuing the reuse of existing business-agnostic IT solutions or components, e.g. in the implementation of the second phase of the ESCI2.
- Objective 5- *Green, secure and resilient infrastructure*: EACEA will further improve the very good security posture with proactive cybersecurity activities in relation to the systems using Public Cloud, and follow the EC IT Security strategy by leveraging Cloud on Premises and Public Cloud and the DIGIT DevSecOps ⁽³¹⁾ services and tools. It plans to use the Well-Architected approach to review the largest IT systems ⁽³²⁾ and identify possible improvements, and will organise a new Cybersecurity Roadshow to inform EACEA staff about how to remain cyber secure when using their electronic devices or social media accounts. It will also support AI awareness events and encourage the use of corporate AI solutions.

Data management

EACEA will continue to apply and implement the corporate data governance principles to ensure good **data management**.

Concerning **ownership and responsibilities**, the Agency will review the validity of the reported set of data assets and make sure that all have – in continuity with 2025 - assigned data owners and stewards, who are accountable and responsible for the definition and implementation of the related data management policies. EACEA will continue searching alignment and cooperation with lead DG EAC on data governance and other data management aspects, taking also into consideration recent AI developments, according to the agreement between EACEA and DG EAC on data and moderated via DG EAC's Data Management Committee.

Major focus of the data management policies of these data assets is **data quality and FAIRness**: here, specific attention will be paid to the data assets contained in the in-house IT grant management system Pegasus III (concerning the 'legacy' project data from the MFF 2014-2020), disconnected since end of 2024 from the financial IT management tool SUMMA, to ensure their usability as reliable data sources for future queries on programme and project data.

The overall target of the data governance activities is to reach, starting from the current **maturity level 'developing' to the level 'established'** for all data governance dimensions by 2026 and to maintain a high degree of compliance with the corporate governance principles. It is worth noting that most of the Agency's data related to grant management is now managed in the corporate eGrants system, under the data governance of RTD's Common Implementation Centre, which EACEA can influence over the eGrants Data and Results Steering Committee.

⁽³¹⁾ Development, security and operations

⁽³²⁾ Mainly the systems from the ESCI ecosystem like the ESC Router and the new ones to be developed under ESCI phase II, but potentially other systems as well, like SELFIE.

Capacity building in the Agency's **data skills** will be specifically addressed via the Knowledge, Information and Data (KIND) Working Group of the IT Steering Committee, with recommendations of trainings and through the future Data Correspondent Network. Besides, the Agency will continue its efforts to provide Data and Data Analytics via interactive dashboards to its staff for efficient monitoring of key business processes and fact-based decision making.

Data protection

The Agency will continue making staff aware of the requirements of the Data Protection Regulation through interactive and comprehensive training sessions and will consider organising an ad hoc session on specific themes, if necessary. In line with the Commission's Data Protection Action Plan, the Agency will pursue an update of registers of retention periods, to comply with data minimisation in cooperation with the EACEA Document Management Officer (DMO). The Agency will continue to adopt and update data protection records to ensure compliance of its processes. In case of joint controllership and for the use of corporate tools such as eGrants, EACEA will cooperate with parent DGs, as appropriate, specifically for cross-cutting issues and particularly on data subject rights. Finally, in the context of the use of AI, EACEA will ensure that staff becomes aware of data protection issues when using the new technology.

C. Sound financial management

To monitor the efficient use of resources, the Agency will continue to closely follow its financial management indicators, namely risk at payment, at closure, and overall costs of controls. Attention will be paid to three primary components of these financial management indicators:

- **Error rate:** this metric will be monitored throughout the whole year and reported regularly to management.
- **Corrective capacity:** in 2026, EACEA will maintain the focus on the expected returns from risk-based *ex post* audits, selecting high-risk projects with significant potential related recoveries. The Agency will work on recovery orders due and not paid, whose treatment is now under the supervision of a dedicated task force which will continue its work.
- **Cost-effectiveness of controls:** the introduction of corporate tools for all main business processes of the Agency (including ex-post audits and more and more modules related to procurement) will enable many controls to be directly embedded in the above-mentioned tools, mitigating the risk of errors, and increasing efficiency, effectiveness and economy of controls. The Agency aims to stabilise the overall cost of controls around the average trend reported in the last five years.

In 2026, the Agency expects to keep the **risk at payment and risk at closure** below 2% of the relevant expenditure.

Budget implementation

As usual, the Agency will carefully discharge its budgetary duties in full alignment with its

mandate. The Agency will prepare the necessary for the 2027 draft budget in support of the parent DGs' presentations to the pre-hearings and hearings with DG BUDG. EACEA will take care of the preparation and revision of the Budget Implementation Forecast (BIF) and will contribute to the overall transfer.

To ensure that the continuing uncertainties related to the international context have no impact on EACEA's budget execution rate, in 2026 EACEA will continue to closely monitor the budget implementation and will explore with the parent DGs possible mitigating measures, if necessary.

EACEA will continue using the data available from the financial dashboards of Qlik Sense for its reporting, as strongly recommended by DG BUDG. However, EACEA relies on DG BUDG to improve both SUMMA and the Qlik Sense standardised methodologies and dashboards that are still suffering teething problems that might impact the quality of data and the accuracy of the budget execution rate, and negatively affect some of our financial indicators (e.g. the time to pay).

Other administrative improvements

The Agency is committed to advancing its administrative processes, making them more modern and efficient to enhance the management of its mandated programmes. In line with the 2026 Commission Work Programme, which puts an emphasis on **introducing simplifications**, the Agency will implement new dynamic forms for applicants with automatic calculations of lump sum amounts embedded in the system. This initiative will facilitate both the submission of proposals and their evaluations. Moreover, the Agency will explore together with its parent DGs and put in place concrete measures to tackle the issue of the big increase in the number of received applications.

EACEA has identified simplification mechanisms and solutions for grant management (IT developments and evaluation procedure), especially for low-value grants. In 2026, these proposals will be further discussed with the parent DGs and central services (e.g. DG BUDG, Legal Service, and the Common Implementation Centre) to be possibly implemented already during the current MFF.

EACEA has onboarded all available **eProcurement** business processes and contract types. In 2026, the Agency aims to adopt the eProcurement Invoice and Payment solution — a system that supports the validation of supplier invoices and credit notes received via the Funding & Tenders Portal, Peppol ⁽³³⁾ or by email, whether or not they are linked to contracts in eProcurement. This will strengthen compliance in a particularly sensitive part of the business process. Regarding experts' management, EACEA will continue to streamline its procedures and use of ECS ⁽³⁴⁾, the system which has now officially been used by the Agency for over a year, including contributions and inputs at the corporate level IT development.

⁽³³⁾ Pan-European Public Procurement Online

⁽³⁴⁾ Expert Contracting System

In parallel, EACEA will continue to increase the use of existing corporate tools and components whenever possible, while continuing the work on the decommissioning of some of its grant management legacy applications. The good results obtained through the adoption of the financial platform – SUMMA – and the corporate grant management tools – eGrants – will allow to advance further on its strategy to **abandon bespoke legacy systems**.

D. Fraud risk management

The current Anti-Fraud Strategy (AFS) 2024–2027 reinforces EACEA's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to fraud through a structured and coordinated approach.

At the heart of the strategy, lies the EACEA Anti-Fraud Action Plan 2024–2027, which proposes concrete measures for the implementation of the AFS while enhancing overall risk management. It focuses on building up staff awareness and detection capabilities, ensuring timely and effective corrective actions, and improving the Agency's responsiveness to identified irregularities. The Action Plan also promotes close cooperation and systematic information exchange with parent Directorates-General, OLAF, EPPO, and relevant antifraud networks, ensuring coherence, consistency, and continuous improvement in antifraud practices across the Agency.

In 2026, EACEA will continue implementing the actions foreseen in its Anti-Fraud Action Plan to strengthen fraud risk management and contribute to the implementation of the Commission's Anti-Fraud Strategy. The main actions and related outputs will include:

- **Fraud awareness activities**, such as newsletters on fraud-related topics, participation in newcomers' induction training, exchanges within the Project Officers' network, and ad hoc briefings to operational units;
- **Organisation and delivery of training sessions** focused on fraud detection and reporting, ensuring that staff are equipped to identify and mitigate potential fraud risks across funding schemes;
- **Ongoing cooperation with OLAF and EPPO** and anti-fraud networks on fraud cases, including information exchange, reporting, and follow-up on recommendations.

Through these actions, EACEA will continue to support a culture of integrity, strengthen operational controls, and ensure full alignment with the overarching objectives of the Commission's Anti-Fraud Strategy.

E. Sound environmental management

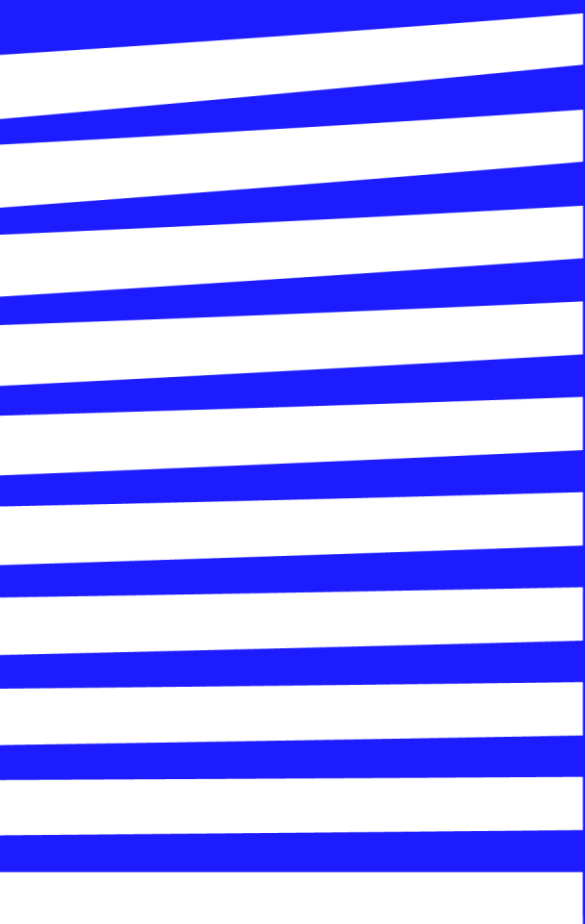
In 2026, EACEA will remain committed to implementing European Commission corporate initiatives at the local level, in line with the EU's Green Deal objectives for achieving climate neutrality. In 2019, our baseline for emissions from staff professional travel was 115.2 kg CO₂ emissions. Key corporate programs, such as the BEST Campaign, the Walking Challenge, and Velomai, will continue to significantly engage staff and effectively promote sustainable practices.

Local initiatives will be centred around the Executive Agencies' Green Week, an annual event that highlights various environmental themes and includes campaigns advocating for a circular economy. This diverse approach will enable the Agency to keep addressing a wide range of sustainability issues and engage staff in different ways.

The Agency continues to monitor and assess its carbon footprint. Additionally, the EMAS team will continue to collaborate closely with the 'Green EACEA group' to enhance staff engagement and support grassroots, bottom-up initiatives. This will ensure a comprehensive and participatory approach to our environmental objectives.



ANNEXES



ANNEX 1: Performance tables

Part 3 – Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for 2026

General objective 1: A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

Specific objective 1.1: Steering policies and managing programmes that support Europe's competitiveness through high-quality, inclusive and future-proof education policies, equipping people with relevant skills and competences for Europe's green and digital transition (DG EAC)

Specific objective 1.1: A skilled, mobile and future-oriented European workforce, and excellence in vocational education and training (DG EMPL)

Specific objective 1.2: A true digital single market to advance Europe's productivity and competitiveness (DG CNECT)

General objective 3: Supporting people, and strengthening our societies and our social models

Specific objective 3.1: Steering policies and managing programmes that support inclusive and quality education to empower young people's social engagement, and solidarity across the EU, strengthening intergenerational fairness and cohesion (DG EAC)

Specific objective 3.2: Steering policies and managing a programme that safeguards and promotes cultural diversity and heritage, fostering sustainable and innovative cultural and creative sectors, contributing to the Culture Compass (DG EAC)

Specific objective 3.3: Developing policies and managing programme funds to develop and effective European dimension of sport, promoting healthy lifestyles, social participation, while promoting and reinforcing an inclusive, competitive and values-based European Sport Model (DG EAC)

Specific objective 3.4: Supporting international cooperation in education, culture, youth, sport, and to enhance international partnerships, promote EU values and address shared global challenges (DG EAC)

Specific objective 3.1: Fighting discrimination and promoting equality for all (DG JUST)

General objective 5: Protecting our democracy, upholding our values

Specific objective 5.1: Steering policies and managing programmes in education and training, youth, sport, and culture, promoting EU values, preparedness and resilience, fostering a sense of European identity and enhancing democratic participation and civic engagement (DG EAC).

Specific objective 5.1: Strengthening social resilience and promoting diverse cultural content to protect Europe's values and democracy (DG CNECT)

Specific objective 5.2: Strengthened application of fundamental rights (DG JUST)

Specific objective 5.3: Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union (DG JUST)

General objective 6: A global Europe – leveraging our power and partnerships

Specific objective: 6.5 In line with Global Gateway strategy, human development for all is improved with a special focus on the most vulnerable populations, through interventions in health, education and research and contributing to the overall aim of reducing poverty (DG INTPA)

From 2025-2029 Commission strategic plan and parent DGs' strategic outlook

EACEA will contribute to the above general and specific objectives of its parent DGs with the following outputs. The sources used are i) **EU Funding & Tenders Portal** ii) the configuration tool for the calls CPS in eGrants. Also, internal dashboards shared with DG EAC and EACEA estimations taking into consideration the budget allocated for the activities described below

Main outputs in 2026:

Output	Indicator	Target
Calls for proposals to be implemented	63 calls closed	100%
Calls for tenders to implemented	1 call closed	100%
Evaluations	70 evaluations completed	100%
	% of re-evaluated proposals	Max. 1% of evaluated proposals
Call budget allocation	Budget allocated to the top rank proposals over the dedicated budget in the calls for proposals	>85% of budget announced in the calls
	Amount awarded to the contractor over the dedicated budget in the calls published as open procedures	>85% of budget announced in the calls
Timely first pre-financing payments (in number)	First pre-financing payments executed on time over total number of first pre-financing payments	≥ 99%
The monitoring plans ⁽³⁵⁾ are in place and approved	% of plans received	100%
Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) taking part in the European Universities Alliance (S.O 1.1 of DG EAC)	Number of HEIs	>500
Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) to be financed (S.O 1.1 of DG EMPL)	Number of CoVEs	17
Reports published (S.O 3.1 of DG EAC)	Number of reports	3 Eurydice reports and 1 Youth Wiki report

⁽³⁵⁾ Units responsible for implementing operational budget draft and annually update monitoring plans that outline the monitoring process for their portfolio of activities.

Output	Indicator	Target
Quality label accreditations for humanitarian aid and volunteering to be signed (S.O 3.1 of DG EAC)	Number of accreditations	25
Awarded projects of Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps (S.O 3.1 of DG EAC) and Creative Europe (Culture strand S.O 3.2 of DG EAC) by EACEA addressing inclusion	Share among all population of awarded projects in Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe (Culture strand)	(Baseline 2025) To maintain or increase
Grassroots civil societies organisations ⁽³⁶⁾ reached through regranting in CERV calls managed by EACEA (S.O 5.2 of DG JUST)	Number of organisations	(Baseline 2025) To increase
Number of cities covered by the European Cinemas Network (S.O 1.2 of DG CNECT)	% of annual increase of the number of cities	2%

Part 4 – A modern and sustainable administration: main outputs for 2026

A. Human resource management

Objective: EACEA employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the agency's priorities and core business.

Main outputs in 2026:

Output	Indicator	Target
Connecting EACEA events that provide insight into the work of the Agency and how it fits into the bigger picture	Number of Connecting EACEA events	6
Weekly internal newsletter	Number of newsletters	40
Live management meeting debriefs	Number of debriefs	25

⁽³⁶⁾ Includes all private, non-for-profit organisations reached through financial support to third parties – this mechanism involves grants of low monetary value

Output	Indicator	Target
Initiatives of the Senior Management to engage with staff	'Vlog' and 'Coffee with the Director'	8

B. Digital transformation and data management

Objective: EACEA is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policymaking, data management and administrative processes to create a digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission.

Main outputs in 2026:

Digital Transformation

Output	Indicator	Target
Digital Culture EACEA staff attending cybersecurity awareness trainings	Average participation rate in cybersecurity awareness trainings	Above Commission average
Business-driven Digital Transformation Update of the EACEA IT Strategy to cover 2026-2027	Time of adoption by the Steering Committee	Q1
Seamless Digital Environment Streamline and harmonise the IT development of information systems run by EACEA	Amount of information systems decommissioned by end of 2026	1
Green, Resilient and Secure Digital Infrastructure Position in the Risk Maturity Quadrant (RMQ) Staff awareness activities for the safe and responsible use of AI tools. Staff performance on phishing exercises per sent emails	Evolution of the risk and maturity indicators Number of activities offered to all staff Clicking rate	Remaining in the Low risk, High maturity quadrant. 2 In line with the Commission average

Data Governance

Output	Indicator	Target
	Data Assets defined and published	100%
	Data Owners and Stewards assigned	100%

Output	Indicator	Target
Corporate Data Governance Principles applied and recorded on the Agency's data assets in an efficient, effective and economic way to assure the usability of data and compliance with rules and legislation.	Data policies defined	90%
	Data policies implemented and up to date	80%

Data Protection

Output	Indicator	Target
Staff awareness trainings on data protection	Number of trainings offered to all staff	3

C. Sound financial management

Objective: The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions.

Main outputs in 2026:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Estimated risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Efficient controls	Budget execution and time-to-grant	remains 100% of commitment appropriations ⁽³⁷⁾ and remains 100% of grant agreements signed within 9 months
Economy of controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	Remains <10% of funds managed
Budget execution and time-to-grant	% of budget executed and % of grant agreements signed within 9 months	Remains 100% of commitment appropriations ⁽³⁸⁾ and remains 100% of grant agreements signed within 9 months

⁽³⁷⁾ Type of credits: VOB/2026, IAR2/2 2025, EFTA

⁽³⁸⁾ Type of credits: VOB/2026, IAR2/2 2025, EFTA

D. Fraud risk management

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) ⁽³⁹⁾ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction ⁽⁴⁰⁾ of fraud.

Main outputs in 2026:

Output	Indicator	Target
Training on anti-fraud procedures	Number of trainings on fraud prevention and detection	4 training sessions
Newsletters on antifraud subjects	Publication of newsletters	2 newsletters on anti-fraud subjects
Participation to meetings with the project officers network and ad hoc on suspicious projects	Number of meetings	At least 2 meetings
Answer to OLAF or EPPO requests for information	Time to answer	Complete answers and documents provided by the set deadline
Follow-up of OLAF fraud cases	Updated cases reports	On quarterly basis
Harmonisation and sharing of best practices among DGs and Agencies on all anti-fraud matters	Participation and contribution to FPDNET chaired by OLAF and FAIR network and working groups	Attendance to FPDNET/FAIR meetings

⁽³⁹⁾ Communication from the Commission "Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget", COM(2019)176 of 29 April 2019; Communication from the Commission "Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy Action plan – revision 2023", [COM\(2023\)405](#) of 11 July 2023 – "the Communication on the 2023 revision", and the accompanying revised action plan, [SWD\(2023\)245](#) – "the revised Action Plan".

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

E. Sound environmental management

Objective: Reaching climate neutrality by 2030 and a reduced environmental footprint for the Commission.

Main outputs in 2026

Output	Indicator	Target
Actions to reduce emissions from staff professional travel	Monitoring of reduction of emissions from staff professional travel	Control checks twice in the year
Energy saving actions	% of Agency building participating in the annual BEST energy saving actions (summer action) % of Agency building participating in the annual BEST energy saving actions (winter action)	100% of Agency building participating in the annual BEST energy saving actions (winter and summer action, provided an agreement is found with the other EAs occupying the North Light building)
Staff awareness actions	Number of staff awareness actions in line with EMAS/greening corporate campaigns or from local initiatives	1 annual campaign – EAs Green Week (including several actions through the week)
Sustainable events	% Agency's events concerning the implementation of the programmes (information activities for the promotion of the calls, meetings with beneficiaries, etc.) incorporating the EC Guidelines for sustainable events	80% of the events are held on-line
Green Public Procurement (GPP)	% of procurement procedures where GPP criteria are considered (whether implemented or not)	100%

ANNEX 2: Resources: staff and budget

A. Administrative budget

The 2026 administrative budget of the Agency was adopted by the Steering Committee on 10 December 2025.

Programmes	Title 1 (€ million)	Title 2 (€ million)	Title 3 (€ million)	Total				Grand total
				EU Budget	EFTA/ EEA	Third countries contrib.	Next Generation EU (N/A)	
Erasmus+	3,168	0,432	0,283	3,579	0,094	0,032		4,006
Creative Europe	1,304	0,136	0,089	1,478	0,039			1,517
CERV	0,550	0,093	0,061	0,615				0,615
ESC	0,113	0,011	0,007	0,125	0,000			0,125
Management and administrative support	5,135	0,671	0,440	5,796	0,134	0,332		6,263
Erasmus+	36,162	4,927	3,231	40,846	1,078	3,795		45,719
Creative Europe	16,403	1,706	1,119	18,592	0,491			19,083
CERV	7,817	1,323	0,868	8,733				8,733
ESC	1,241	0,116	0,076	1,376	0,003	0,060		1,439
Total per source of financing within each Title	61,623	8,073	5,294	69,548	1,572	3,855		74,975
Total per Budget Title	66,758	8,744	5,734	75,344	1,706	4,187		81,238

B. Human resources

The 2026 establishment plan of the Agency was adopted by the Steering Committee on 10 December 2025

Programmes	Staff (EU budget)					Staff from other fund sources	Total all staff
	TAs	Of which seconded officials	CAs	SNEs (N/A)	Total staff EU budget	Third countries contributions	
Erasmus +	85	27	259		344	16	360
Erasmus + Heading 2	69	25	209		278	16	294
Erasmus+ Heading 6	16	2	50		66		66
Subtotal operational staff for Erasmus+	77	22	240		317	14	331
Subtotal management and administrative support staff for Erasmus+	8	5	19		27	2	29
Creative Europe	40	5	119		159	4	163
Sub-programme Culture (parent DG EAC)	13	3	39		52	1	53
Sub-programme MEDIA ⁽⁴¹⁾ (parent DG CNECT)	27	2	80		107	3	110
Subtotal operational staff for Creative Europe	36	4	111		147	4	151

⁽⁴¹⁾ Including cross-sectoral

Programmes	Staff (EU budget)					Staff from other fund sources	Total all staff
Subtotal management and administrative support staff for Creative Europe	4	1	8		12		12
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values	19	2	57		76		76
Subtotal operational staff for Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values	18	2	53		71		71
Subtotal management and administrative support staff for Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values	1		4		5		5
European Solidarity Corps	3		9		12		12
Subtotal operational staff for European Solidarity Corps	3		8		11		11
Subtotal management and administrative support staff for Solidarity Corps			1		1		1
Total	147	34	444		591	20 ⁽⁴²⁾	611

⁽⁴²⁾ 5 TAs and 15 CAs

C. Delegated operational appropriations

The following appropriations are based on the information from the 2026 work programmes of the programmes delegated to the Agency and are indicative. They contain all types of credits (VOBU/2026, IAR2/2 2025, EFTA, EARN/N). If more credits become available during the year for actions already included in the Commission Work Programmes or following their inclusion in amended ones, the Agency will need to commit the amounts in all fund sources that cannot be carried-over (VOBU/2026, IAR2/2 2025, EFTA) to next year.

Programme	Budget lines	Responsible DG	Budget allocated
Erasmus+			991 221 610
Erasmus+ H2	07 03 01 02, 07 03 02, 07 03 03	EAC	770 665 500
Erasmus+ H6 (NDICI, IPA III)	14 02 01 50, 15 02 01 02	EAC	220 556 110
Creative Europe			340 645 928
Culture	07 05 01	EAC	100 018 174
MEDIA and Cross-sectoral	07 05 02, 07 05 03	CNECT, EAC	240 627 754
Citizens, Equality, Rights & Values	07 06 04, 07 06 02, 07 06 01	JUST, SG	259 000 000
European Solidarity Corps	07 04 01	EAC	23 460 000
Intra-Africa Academic Mobility	14 02 01 20, 14 02 01 21, 14 02 01 22	INTPA	25 000 000
Total			1 639 327 538