

### Erasmus

Erasmus is the EU's flagship education and training programme, enabling more than 180,000 students to study and work abroad each year, as well as supporting co-operation actions between higher education institutions across Europe. It caters not only for students, but also for professors and business staff who want to teach abroad and for university staff who want to be trained abroad. The Programme is named after the Dutch philosopher Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, known as an opponent of dogmatism, who lived and worked in many places in Europe to expand his knowledge and gain new insights, and who left his fortune to the University of Basel in Switzerland. It was later given the backronym European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students. The ERASMUS programme was launched in June 1987 and in 2007 celebrated its 20th anniversary. It is arguably one of the best-known Community actions and encourages student and teacher mobility through decentralised actions implemented by National Agencies and promotes though centralised actions the transnational cooperation among Higher Education Institutions across Europe managed by the Executive Agency.