

I Press Release

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Members of the European Parliament sign up to support the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme

On 23 May, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from different political parties gathered to mark the inauguration of the network of MEP Ambassadors for Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs. The establishment of the network of MEP Ambassadors shows the high level of political support for this European cross-border exchange programme for entrepreneurs, an initiative of the European Commission.

Attending Monday evening's launch event, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, EU SME Envoy and Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, told MEPs: *"The programme is now well established and is gaining a strong track record. It addresses some of the main challenges that European start-ups experience and helps businesses to scale up across borders. I am grateful to the new MEP Ambassadors for their support in lifting Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs to the next level."*

The Commissioner's sentiments were echoed by Austrian MEP Paul Rübiger, initiator of the programme and host of the event: *"The European Parliament pushed for the creation of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and MEPs have followed its evolution closely. The programme itself has grown from a start-up to a scale-up and it is gratifying that we can now play a hands-on role in its continued success."*

EUROCHAMBRES has been a strong supporter of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs since its inception and continues to act as the Support Office for the programme. CEO Arnaldo Abruzzini said: *"By driving business creation and growth through cross-border mobility, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs symbolises the single market. It is a great example of how the EU can deliver growth; sometimes it's simple concepts rather than complex laws that can make a real difference"*.

About Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs enables a new or aspiring entrepreneur to collaborate with an experienced entrepreneur in another country for up to six months. The entrepreneurs exchange ideas and contribute to the development of each other's businesses, turning the exchange into a beneficial opportunity for both entrepreneurs.

In the seven years since its launch, the programme has demonstrated a positive impact in stimulating innovative business practices, development of new products and services, and expansion into new markets for the entrepreneurs involved. More than 13,000 entrepreneurs have applied for the programme, with nearly 8,000 experienced and new entrepreneurs already taking part. 55.3 million EUR from the COSME Programme has been allocated to Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs until 2020.

The full list of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs MEP Ambassadors can be downloaded [here](#).
Pictures of the event can be viewed [here](#).

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