

The 21st Economic International Conference
Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Development
Stefan cel Mare University of Suceava, 2025

**Erasmus Plus Youth program as an instrument for
cultural integration and community engagement**

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Introduction:

- The article highlights the fact that, in the current context of globalization, mobility within the European Union and the need for community engagement, cultural policies and, in particular, the Erasmus Plus Program, are very important. The importance comes from the fact that, they offer multiple opportunities through programs and projects, especially for young people. Young people represent an absolutely necessary resource that every society needs to ensure its functionality. At least at the level of the European Union, the time has come for youth to be considered as a positive force in the construction of Europe, not as a problem to be managed in its own name and young people must be given the necessary means to express their ideas and confront them with similar ideas of other participants in civil society

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The changes that occurred in the evolution of the Erasmus mobility program and transformed into Erasmus Plus have come to the aid of young people in a changing world in a changing period of their lives.

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- The motivation for choosing this topic, comes from the fact that the projects carried out in this program, in which young people can participate, end up opening horizons towards a deeper understanding of learning in all its aspects, formally, informally and especially non-formally. Also, through international projects, any participant has the opportunity to carry out real intercultural exchanges, to learn from the experiences and knowledge shared with other participants, to travel and to discover that active learning carried out step by step leads to a deeper understanding of the current global context.



Important aspects:

- Following projects such as youth exchanges, trainings or training of trainers, 8 key competences are developed that each participant can add at the end to the Youth Pass, which is the certificate that certifies the participation of young people and can be accessed online, just like a Europass CV or, in the case of student mobilities, the experience is recognized through transferable credits, respectively ECTS. Another aspect that is analyzed in the article, especially in the case study, is the community engagement and the cultural integration of young people. The learning mobilities within the European Union, lead, in the end to intercultural learning and education, as well as the sense of belonging to the European community. Also, the important aspects addressed in the research include the cultural integration, in a real environment, of young people who are placed in everyday situations, in an international framework. The topic addressed is relevant because it aims to show how European policies are implemented in practice through the theoretical framework and the practical impact among the subjects involved.

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It's all about community



- The reasons why this topic is important can be found in the case study and are reflected in the existing responses and surveys. In general, as can be seen from the existing sources, public policies refer more to the public domain and less to the life of each individual. This aspect is addressed more extensively in “Cultural Policies and European Integration”, by F. Vasiliu, a source also addressed in the present research. Another relevant aspect that is observed throughout the research is: "Culture as a factor capable of uniting people and promoting social and economic development", addressed in the work European Policies by M. Profiroiu and Irina Popescu and, starting from this, it was desired to follow the cultural impact that European policies have at the level of each individual beneficiary of the Erasmus Plus program. At the same time, the relevance of national identity and European identity is addressed, because "European identity must work both at the governmental level and at the individual level to give a certain weight and validity to community policies",

- Last but not least, the development of policies in the European Union was addressed and, in particular, the idea that "the European dimension is an extension of the sphere of policies, not a separate activity". Ultimately, the laws and policies within the European Union are easy to find, read, and research, but what happens beyond them, in reality, the impact they have or do not have on the lives of participants requires research that means much more from an emotional, human point of view. It is precisely these aspects, beyond theoretical information, that can add value through direct information gathered through interviews, which can contribute to an overall picture of the Erasmus Plus program and, in particular, student mobility today.

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Last, but not least...



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Please do not hesitate to ask any questions regarding the topic of the presentation 😊

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
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