**European Commission**

*Erasmus+ for the UK post departure proposal*

**What is Erasmus+?**

Erasmus+ is a seven-year programme that is run by the EU between 2014 and 2020. This builds on the former Life Long Learning Programme that ran between 2007 and 2013. The aim for the programme is to better prepare young people for the future and to bring citizens from different nations closer together in an ever dividing world. Erasmus+ offers funding and the opportunity for young people (not only students) and the staff of different facilities to travel abroad to gain new experiences relating to their field of interest. The programme offers these opportunities to for young people who are involved in the following areas:

* Higher education
* Vocational Training
* Adult Education
* Schools
* Youth
* Sport

With a budget of €14.7 billion, ‘Programme Countries’ (all 28 members of the EU and 5 others) can access funding for all areas of the programme. The areas (from the list above) have 3 ‘key actions’. Within these three key actions are: the opportunity to take part in ‘mobility’ (going abroad to gain experiences), to enhance skills such as linguistics and finally to improve dialogue between academics and policy makers. Within the first year alone, over 1.1 million young people had been involved with Erasmus+ Europe wide.

More specifically to the UK, the Erasmus+ programme allows the chance for 250, 000 young people to gain from the programme, with over €1 billion being allocated to the UK over the 7 years. As the UK is a ‘Programme Country’, the UK has complete access to all areas of Erasmus+ in 2016 and 2017. This means that all young people, staff and adults can benefit from the funding it offers. The UK does take advantage of what the Erasmus+ programme has to offer and interests in its growing. In 2014, Erasmus+ supported nearly 25,000 opportunities for students, learners or young people of the UK to develop their confidence and skills across Europe and beyond, involving more than 3.3m days of mobility for learners and young people. Nearly 11,000 overseas placements for staff in education and training or youth work were provided, resulting in 56,000 days of mobility to improve teaching and youth work.