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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
establishing the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2028-2034, and
repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888
- Partial general approach

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 July 2025, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2028-2034, and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888. The proposed Regulation aims to establish the successor to the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme, while merging two Union programmes: Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC).

2. The general objective of the new programme, as identified by the Commission, is to contribute to a resilient, competitive, and cohesive Europe by promoting high quality lifelong learning, enhancing skills and competences for life and for jobs for all, while fostering Union values, democratic and societal participation, solidarity, social inclusion and equal opportunities, in the EU and beyond. The new programme is announced as a key instrument for building the Union of Skills, developing the European Education Area and supporting the implementation of European strategic cooperation in the fields of education and training, including its underlying sectoral agendas.

II. WORK AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

3. The European Parliament has appointed Bogdan Andrzej ZDROJEWSKI (EPP, PL) as rapporteur for the file. The proposal is still awaiting committee decision.
4. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion¹ on 22 January 2026. The opinion of the Committee of the Regions is pending at this stage.

III. WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL AND ITS PREPARATORY BODIES

5. Intense work on the proposal took place during two presidencies. Under the Danish Presidency, the Education Committee discussed the proposal on six occasions (17 July, 8 September, 17-18 September, 8-9 October, 20 October and 29 October 2025). Two compromise texts were produced and a progress report was submitted to the Council on 27 November 2025.
6. The Cyprus Presidency took forward the work of the Danish Presidency. Discussions on the file continued in the Education Committee on 12 and 23 January, 5-6 and 19-20 February, 2, 12-13 and 23-24 March, 1 and 15 April, on the basis of six further compromise texts. To facilitate negotiations on critical elements of the draft Regulation, the Presidency tabled four issue papers (one on the ESC legacy, two on governance and a fourth one on scholarships).

¹ SOC/842.

7. On 29 April 2026, the Permanent Representatives Committee examined the compromise text as set out in document 8264/26. Further to a request by five delegations, the Presidency decided to add a definition of European Universities Alliances in Article 2 (definition 20 in the attached note). All delegations were able to support the text thus amended, with the exception of one delegation who maintains a general scrutiny reservation.

IV. MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENCY COMPROMISE

8. The Presidency considers that the compromise text set out in Annex² strikes a fine balance between the positions expressed by Member States on the future Erasmus+ programme, responding to their concerns and carefully taking into account their views.
9. Since the proposed Regulation is part of the package of proposals linked to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), all the provisions in the text with budgetary implications or corresponding to the elements that form part of horizontal negotiations on the MFF have been bracketed and are therefore excluded from the partial general approach pending further progress on the MFF. These provisions, which appear between square brackets in the text, concern recitals 36 and 44, the duration of the programme as referred to in Article 1 (*Subject matter*), Article 9 (*Budget*) and Article 16.3 (*Information, communication and dissemination*). The opportunity of indicative allocations by sector of the Programme was discussed in the Ad Hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework (AHWP MFF) on 24 March 2026.

² In the compromise text set out in the Annex, amendments to the Commission proposal (doc. 11748/25 - COM(2025) 549 final) are underlined and deleted text is marked as [...]. Amendments to act subdivisions and their titles as indicated in the Commission proposal are marked with double underline.

10. The **key issues** covered by the Presidency compromise are the following:

a) **Governance**

Further to the reinstatement of the programme committee (Article 22a), the process of strengthening Member States' role in the governance of the future Programme has steadily continued, in response to most delegations' request to change the status quo and optimise the process through which new actions receive financing. Intense discussions have led to the development of a fully-fledged governance model, whose focus is on work programmes and reinforced Member State scrutiny (Article 15 – *Work programme*). Under this model, two distinct types of work programmes are provided for:

- i) a 'new action work programme' for the initial inclusion of new actions under direct management; all such actions are to be proposed by the Commission on the basis of pre-defined criteria (paragraph 2, points (a), (b), (c) and (d));
- ii) the 'regular work programme', through which actions may continue to receive financing after their initial implementation subject to an assessment by the Commission, analysing among others the extent to which such actions fulfil the Programme objectives and the criteria specified under paragraph 2.

The concept of new action is defined in Article 2 (definition 15a). A 'no opinion' clause is also foreseen, in accordance with Article 5(4), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011. Recitals 46a, 46b and 46c complete the set of governance provisions, whose aim is to ensure reinforced Member State scrutiny, predictability and transparency, while preserving flexibility.

b) **ESC legacy**

Strong positions have been expressed by delegations on the need to ensure the legacy of the ESC initiatives in the post-2027 Erasmus+. A Presidency issue paper facilitated the discussions by providing clarifications on how the elements of the ESC programme are integrated into the current draft Regulation. Relevant amendments have been included in paragraph 1, points (b) and (c), of Article 4a (*Youth*) to include provisions for actions currently implemented under the ESC programme. Point (c) of the same Article references ‘European Solidarity Corps’ volunteering activities, including volunteering under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, thus firmly anchoring the legacy of one of the predecessor programmes into the future Erasmus+. Definition 17 in Article 2 and recitals 20 and 48 work to the same effect.

c) **Visibility of all sectors covered by the Programme**

Building on the work done during the previous semester, the Presidency has continued to address delegations’ request to enhance the prominence of the youth and sport sectors. Further to the insertion of the new Articles 4a (*Youth*) and 4b (*Sport*), Article 6 (*Cooperation among organisations and institutions*) has been split into paragraphs dedicated to education and training, youth and sport. Point (a) of Article 7 (*Support to policy development*) has followed the same sector-focused reorganisation.

d) **Third countries associated to the Programme**

The horizontal topic covered by Article 13 (*Third countries associated to the Programme*) and the related recital 46 have been the subject of intense discussions. In response to Member States’ concerns in relation to the new concept of partial association to the Programme, specific criteria have been introduced for distinct categories of third countries (paragraph 4, points (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Article 13). Most notably, third countries subject to partial association to the Programme are to respect Union values and a single model of partial association to the Programme was requested for all third countries that do not fall under the scope of paragraph 1, point (a) of the same Article.

e) **Talent and excellence development opportunities**

The new initiative proposed by the Commission under the name of ‘Erasmus+ scholarships in strategic educational fields’ (Article 5, point (a)) has been thoroughly debated under its multiple facets (budgetary impact on the Programme, possible additional funding sources, European added value, objective and scope, European Qualifications Framework levels concerned, beneficiaries, geographical balance, etc.). A collective call for reinforced scrutiny by the Member States and for their involvement in the design of the action was a significant element of the negotiations. The compromise area identified by the Presidency includes a new denomination for the action (*talent and excellence development opportunities*), an adjusted scope for Article 5, point (a), and dedicated governance provisions (Article 15 paragraphs 3 and 6, as well as recitals 27, 46b and 46d), reflecting the specific nature of the action and its potentially significant implications.

In addition:

- greater prominence was given to the European Education Area (recitals 10 and 24 complementing the enhanced visibility among the Programme objectives under Article 3); the Union of Skills is the focus of a parallel recital, 24a;
- stronger references were introduced in relation to Union values throughout the text (recitals 5, 15, 16, 18, 38a, 46 and Article 13 paragraph 4);
- a reworked architecture of the draft Regulation has been proposed, given the need to provide a better structure around the two pillars (‘Learning opportunities for all’ and ‘Capacity building support’) and to bring more clarity on the distribution of the actions throughout the text.

V. CONCLUSION

The Council (EYCS) is invited to reach a partial general approach on the text as set out in the Annex to this note.

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**establishing the Erasmus+ programme for the period 2028-2034, and repealing Regulations
(EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 165(4), 166(4) and 214(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions²,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

¹ OJ C , , p.

² OJ C , , p.

Whereas:

- (1) The Union needs to support and prepare its people, starting from an early age, with the knowledge, skills and competences needed for success in learning, work, and life. To enable this, the Union needs high-quality performing, agile, innovative and inclusive education and training systems, able to nurture, attract and retain talent, to keep up with the pace and scope of the ongoing societal, digital, environmental and economic transformations, respond to the demographic challenges and the society's and economy's skills needs, bridge skills gaps, including [...] in critical sectors.
- (2) The Union is a community of values rooted in Europe's history and identity and anchored in the Treaty on [...] European Union (TEU). Understanding those values, including fundamental rights and democracy, is an essential life skill and key to participation in the political debate and decision making. Education and training, youth and sport activities help equip citizens with the skills and competences to thrive, actively and meaningfully participate in democratic life and in the society overall, and help people connect around and defend shared values.
- (3) The Union is built on solidarity, both among its citizens and among the Member States. That universal value guides the actions of the Union and provides the unity necessary to cope with societal challenges, which individuals are willing to help address in practice, notably through volunteering.

- (4) It is essential that all people, irrespective of their personal, social, economic, geographical or cultural background, have the opportunity to participate in a mobility experience abroad from an early age, when values and attitudes are formed and when individuals are most receptive to new experiences [...]. Early exposure to different environments, cultures, languages and ways of life can help to break down stereotypes, promote intercultural understanding, and instil values of respect, tolerance and solidarity, thereby contributing to a more united and [...] cohesive Europe.
- (5) Building inclusive, cohesive and resilient societies, and sustaining the competitiveness of the Union requires investing in learning opportunities for all, regardless of background and means, in cooperation between Member States and organisations active in the field, and in innovative evidence-informed policy development in the fields of education and training, youth and sport. Such an investment also contributes to strengthening European identity, Union values, including fundamental rights, [...] and a more democratic Union.
- (6) In line with the EU Preparedness Union Strategy³, preparedness, resilience, participation in democratic life and civic engagement should be fostered through a bottom-up approach, encouraging organisations and institutions to play a key role in fostering digital and media literacy, critical thinking, promoting civic engagement, and learning about democracy and citizenship. People and communities across the [...] Union [...] should engage actively to prevent crises and to be sufficiently prepared to respond to them.

³ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Preparedness Union Strategy (Join/2025/130 final)).

- (7) Common areas of action and objectives between the 2021-2027 European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ programmes highlight the potential for enhanced synergy and regulatory coherence. Bringing all learning mobility, volunteering, cooperation and active citizenship and solidarity opportunities together provides a single-entry point to all opportunities offered by the Union for young people and organisations active in the field of youth, allowing for a more coordinated and effective approach, and easier access for potential participants and beneficiaries.
- (8) In this context, it is necessary to establish Erasmus+ 2028-2034, the Union Programme for education and training, [...] youth and sport (the ‘Programme’), as the successor to the 2021-2027 Erasmus+⁴ and European Solidarity Corps⁵ Programmes, which encompasses actions in the field of education and training, youth and sport and sets up the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.
- (9) In a rapidly changing economic, social and geopolitical environment, experience has shown the need for a more flexible multiannual financial framework and Union spending programmes. To that effect, and in line with the objectives of the Erasmus+ programme, the funding should duly consider the evolving policy needs and Union’s priorities as identified in relevant [...] Commission, [...] Council [...] and European Parliament [...] documents, while ensuring sufficient transparency and predictability for the budget implementation.

⁴ 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 (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021).

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme (OJ L 202, 8.6.2021).

- (10) The Programme should support the further development of the European Education Area⁶, the implementation of the Union of Skills⁷ and the overall strategic frameworks for Union policy cooperation in the fields of education and training, including the policy agendas for school education, vocational education and training, higher education [...] and adult learning, including up-skilling and re-skilling, to allow citizens to develop competences and skills at all stages of their life to thrive in society.
- (11) In line with the EU Youth Strategy⁸, the European Youth Work Agenda⁹ and the 2024 Communication on the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022¹⁰, the Programme should support meaningful participation of young people and youth organisations in decision and policy making, including through the EU Youth Dialogue, youth mainstreaming across policy fields, the validation of non-formal and informal learning, high-quality youth work and competence development of youth workers. The [...] Programme will continue to support all young people to participate in learning mobility [...], including youth exchanges, volunteering, [...] youth participation and solidarity activities, with the objective to engage and empower young people to acquire and develop skills and competences for life and their professional future, to become active citizens and participate in economic, social, cultural, democratic and political life, and to connect them to the European project and contribute to building an inclusive, sustainable, competitive and resilient Union.

⁶ Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030) (OJ C 66, 26.2.2021, p. 1).

⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions the Union of Skills (COM/2025/90 final).

⁸ Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (OJ C 456, ST/14944/2018/INIT, 18.12.2018).

⁹ Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda 2020/C 415/01 (OJ C 415, 1.12.2020).

¹⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Year of Youth 2022 (COM/2024/1 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/txt/?uri=celex:52024dc0001>)

- (12) The Programme should support participation in sport and physical activity for all, in line with the relevant European Union Work Plan for Sport [...]¹¹. Therefore, there is a need to focus, in particular, on grassroots sport, taking into account the important role that sport plays in promoting healthy lifestyles, interpersonal relations, participation, social inclusion and equality as well as building cohesive communities.
- (13) Digital transformation, including the rapid development of AI, has been chang[...]ing society and the economy with an ever-deepening impact on everyday life and demonstrate[...]s the need for higher levels of digital readiness and capacity of education and training as well as the pressing need [...] to support the development of digital skills [...] for all, including critical thinking and media literacy, across the Union through the Programme.
- (14) Formal, non-formal and informal [...] learning play an essential role in [...] education for sustainable development, raising awareness and instilling the skills and key competences needed for changing personal behaviours. The Programme will help empowering people to act in their respective communities and build up the [...] skills needed for a successful [...] green transition, including in line with the Clean Industrial Deal. The Programme should promote practices that contribute to reducing its environmental impact.

¹¹ [...]

- (15) The international dimension of the Programme should aim to offer opportunities for learning mobility, cooperation and policy dialogue with third countries not associated to the Programme, building on the experience of predecessor programmes, including to contribute to competitiveness of the Union, while promoting Union values and ensuring protection of the Union's economic security interests. To increase the impact of those activities, it is important to enhance synergies between the Programme and Global Europe, [...] the Global Gateway Strategy and the education and training, youth and sport policy frameworks.
- (16) The Programme should bring candidate countries and potential candidates closer to their goal of acceding to the Union, including through fostering Union values. The Programme should promote stability, partnerships and skills development, with countries in the wider neighbourhood including by enhancing ties with the Mediterranean region. Through cooperation with other countries across the globe, the Programme should [...] also attract talents worldwide, and shape partnerships notably to promote the competitiveness of the Union and strengthen its resilience. The Programme should support countries in modernising their institutions and organisations and, more generally, enhancing the quality and inclusiveness of education, training, youth and sport through international partnerships.
- (17) The implementation of the Programme should be guided by the principles and values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law, and solidarity, as respectively enshrined in Article 2 TEU [...] and referred to in the preamble of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the 'Charter'). It is thus essential that all parties involved in the Programme respect those principles and values. The Programme should as well respect the principles set out in the 2017 EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child and in Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [...].

- (18) The Programme should encourage participation, in particular of young people, in Europe's democratic life, including by supporting activities that contribute to citizenship education, nurture skills needed for civic engagement and enable to engage and learn to participate in civic society, thereby raising awareness of [...] Union values, including fundamental rights, facilitating interaction with decision-makers at local, national and European levels and contributing to the process of European integration. The Programme should also support the creation of opportunities and mechanisms for meaningful youth participation, including youth-led activities or activities with meaningful youth involvement that may be undertaken by informal groups of young people or other relevant stakeholders.
- (19) The Programme should offer accessible, inclusive and safe opportunities for young people and organisations to show solidarity, helping them support communities and address societal challenges, while gaining valuable experience and skills for their personal growth, active citizenship and employability.
- (20) The Programme should support 'European Solidarity Corps' volunteering activities, including the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps. Those activities were covered under the European Solidarity Corps programme in the 2021-2027 programming period. Volunteering, both within and beyond the Union, constitutes a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context, enabling young people to show solidarity and engage in activities contributing to address societal and humanitarian challenges while enhancing their personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship, civic participation and employability.[...] Synergies should be pursued between 'European Solidarity Corps' volunteering activities and relevant national policies and instruments in Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, where appropriate.

- (21) With a view to enhancing the promotion of solidarity and the visibility of humanitarian aid and development cooperation among European citizens, there is a need to develop solidarity of Member States and third countries associated to the [...] Programme with third countries not associated to the Programme affected by disasters from natural hazards and human-induced risks. The European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps should contribute to a coordinated Union needs-based response and will be implemented in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in this Regulation.
- (22) Young people, in particular those with fewer opportunities, should continue to be given the chance to have a first time, experience travelling throughout Europe as part of an informal and non-formal [...] learning activity that aims to foster their sense of belonging to the Union and to enable them to discover its cultural and linguistic diversity.
- (23) In the field of sport, through mobility opportunities and capacity building, including cooperation, the Programme should foster common European values, volunteering as well as innovation and skills development in and through sport. The Programme should [...] promote good governance, safety and integrity in sport [...] and sport diplomacy [...]. It should also support grassroots sports organisations, focusing on physical activities for all practiced for health, educational or social purposes [...]. The Programme should offer [...] people across Europe the opportunity to participate in cross-border sports initiatives, fostering personal growth, cultural exchange, solidarity and community engagement.

- (24) The Programme brings a key contribution to the [...] European Education Area [...], supported and implemented through the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training and promoting quality, equity, inclusion and success for all. The European Education Area is underpinned by a holistic approach, covering teaching, training and learning in all contexts and levels — whether formal, non-formal or informal — from early childhood education and care to adult learning, including vocational education and training (VET) and higher education.
- (24a) Contributing to the objective of creating a genuine common space for quality education, training and lifelong learning across borders [...], [...]the Union of [...]Skills aims to step up the efforts [...] in this area. This could be achieved through delivering basic and advanced skills, providing opportunities for people to update regularly and acquire new and future-oriented skills, facilitating [...] the mobility of people through transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications and recruitment by businesses across the [...]Union, and attracting, developing and retaining top talent in Europe [...].
- (25) It is important to stimulate and widen access to learning, teaching and research on [...]Union, values and citizenship. Fostering a European sense of belonging and commitment is particularly important given the challenges faced today by the Union. The Programme should continue to contribute to learning on European integration matters, including the Union's future challenges and opportunities, to promote debate on those matters and the development of excellence in European integration studies, also through Jean Monnet actions.

- (26) The learning of languages contributes to mutual understanding between people and cultures [...] and cultural diversity and fosters mobility within and outside the Union, as language competences are essential life and job skills. Therefore, the Programme should enhance the learning of languages, including, where relevant, national sign languages. To ensure broad and inclusive access to the Programme, it is important that multilingualism be a key principle in the implementation of the Programme.
- (27) Europe faces a growing challenge in addressing the skills needs for the labour market, including for sectors suffering severe shortages, and in meeting the demand for skilled talent in strategic [...] sectors, such as, but not limited to, [...] clean and circular technologies, transport, energy, water resilience, agriculture, healthcare, digital technologies, aerospace and defence. [...] In line with the Union of [...] Skills, the Programme should [...] support [...] Union [...] learners to pursue studies in [...] strategic sectors with a clear European added value. This could include measures designed to [...] retain top talent [...] in Europe by providing opportunities for studies in joint study programmes, on European Qualifications Framework levels 5, 6 and 7 in higher education and, where appropriate, in vocational education and training. Such measures should facilitate the participation of learners from diverse backgrounds, in particular those with fewer opportunities, while taking into account geographical balance. Their implementation should remain sufficiently flexible to respond to evolving policy priorities and labour market needs. Talent and excellence development opportunities should not alter the Programme's core focus on learning mobility or have a disproportionate impact on the funding of other Programme actions. Support for such opportunities could be pursued through synergies with other instruments, such as the European Competitiveness Fund, and by leveraging the involvement of business, industry and other relevant stakeholders. In addition to developing and retaining homegrown talent, it is important to attract talented individuals to the Union by offering [...] opportunities such as the Erasmus Mundus scholarships. [...]

- (28) Cooperation enables exchange of practices and capacity building and thereby leads to better outcomes and performance as well as efficiency gains by pooling resources and knowledge. The Programme should therefore support capacity building measures that enhance cooperation at different levels between institutions and organisations that are active in the fields of education and training, youth and sport. This recognises the fundamental role of institutions and organisations in equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills and competences needed in a changing world and helping institutions and organisations active in the field to adequately fulfil their potential for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship, in particular within the digital economy.
- (29) The Programme should support long-term strategic transnational cooperation at institutional level to build excellence, competitiveness and attractiveness and generate sustainable and systemic transformation of education and training, youth and sport organisations and institutions, in line with [...] [...] Union [...] priorities. This cooperation will include initiatives that [...] act[...] as testbeds for innovative education, training and skills development instruments, supporting cooperation with business, [...] industry and other relevant stakeholders. The Programme should continue to support the work of education and training institutions and Member States towards removing remaining barriers to transnational cooperation and multiplying the offer of transnational joint study programmes, contributing towards a possible joint European Degree¹².

¹² Council Resolution on a joint European degree label and the next steps towards a possible joint European degree: boosting Europe's competitiveness and the attractiveness of European higher education. (OJ C, C/2025/2939, 22.5.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/2939/oj>).

- (30) The Programme should sustainably support the core education mission of the European Universities Alliances to enable systemic impact achieved more efficiently through long-term Union level action, notably to reinforce excellence, reduce fragmentation and increase the attractiveness and inclusiveness of [...] higher education systems across the Union, and develop innovative instruments to increase quality of learning and teaching [...]. That core mission, anchored in a shared vision and supported by joint governance arrangements and shared resources, should encompass the development of future oriented skills and competences [...], including [...] for sectors already identified in the Union of Skills, through relevant and future-proof [...] study programmes, pedagogical innovation, joint degrees, lifelong learning, micro-credentials, to nurture and attract talent and facilitate transnational cooperation in education, including with business, [...] industry and other relevant stakeholders. Support for all dimensions of the alliances, including research and innovation and their contribution to the competitiveness of the Union, should be pursued through synergies with other instruments, such as the European Competitiveness Fund and Horizon Europe.
- (30a) The Programme should support Centres of Vocational Excellence based on partnerships at transnational, national, regional and local levels to support high-quality and innovative vocational education and training systems that develop skills and opportunities for professional and personal development, in line with labour market needs, thereby contributing to a dynamic, resilient and inclusive economy and society. Further support could be pursued through synergies with other instruments, such as the European Competitiveness Fund and the National and Regional Partnership Plans.

- (31) In line with relevant Union frameworks and tools, the Programme should contribute to the development [...] of skills, including [...] through [...] a possible basic skills support scheme and to fostering quality assurance, transparency, the recognition of skills, competences and qualifications (including higher education qualifications and upper secondary education and training qualifications that give access to higher education¹³), their digitalisation [...] and the validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance. In that regard, the Programme should also provide support to contact points and networks at national, and European level that facilitate cross-European exchanges and beyond, and the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education and training and youth and across formal and non-formal settings, including through the support of micro-credentials' eco-systems.
- (32) User-friendly online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation can play an important role in supporting the delivery of education and training, [...] youth and sport policy in Europe and beyond. To increase the use of virtual cooperation activities, the Programme should support more systematic and coherent use of online platforms. It should as well facilitate and support mobility processes through digitalisation.

¹³ Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad (OJ C 444, 10.12.2018, p. 1).

- (33) The Programme should be designed to promote inclusion, diversity, solidarity and equal opportunities, including gender equality and non-discrimination, by widening access to mobility, volunteering and learning across the Union and beyond, thereby enabling all people to fully benefit from a transformative experience.
- (34) The Programme should provide for a set of measures to facilitate and increase the access for people with fewer opportunities, to remove the obstacles that may prevent such access, including financial ones, and to serve as a basis for further implementation guidance. Those measures may include, among others, targeted financial support, accessible learning formats, facilitating access to housing [...] in connection with Programme activities, preparatory activities and support for participants with fewer opportunities before, during and after their participation within the Programme, user-friendly and accessible documents available in different languages, support activities for staff dealing specifically with inclusion and diversity in organisations and raising awareness activities among potential participants with fewer opportunities, including in rural and remote areas. In addition, the Programme should allow to give priority in the grant awarding process to quality projects that actively address the inclusion and involvement of participants with fewer opportunities.
- (35) In order to make the Programme more accessible for newcomer organisations, [...] small organisations and those with [...] low administrative capacity and to make the Programme more manageable for beneficiaries, the Programme should reinforce the measures to simplify procedures at all stages.

- (36) [This Regulation lays down an indicative financial envelope for the Programme. For the purpose of this Regulation, current prices are calculated by applying a fixed 2% deflator.]
- (37) In view of the diversity of the fields covered by the Programme, the ambition for youth and sport to contribute meaningfully to the Programme's objectives and to reach its target groups, should be maintained.
- (38) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁴ applies to this Programme. It lays down the rules on the establishment and the implementation of the general budget of the Union, including the rules on grants, prizes, non-financial donations, procurement, indirect management, financial assistance, financial instruments, budgetary guarantees and protection of the financial interests of the Union.
- (38a) Pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the establishment and implementation of the budget is to comply with the provisions of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092. Moreover, in accordance with Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, in the implementation of the budget, Member States and the Commission are to ensure compliance with the Charter, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter, and are to respect the Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU relevant in the implementation of the budget.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union. (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

(39) In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁵, Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95¹⁶, Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96¹⁷ and Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939¹⁸, the financial interests of the Union are to be protected through proportionate measures, including the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities and fraud, the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used and, where appropriate, the imposition of administrative sanctions. In particular, in accordance with Regulations (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 and (EC, Euratom) No 2185/96 the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) may investigate and prosecute fraud and other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union as provided for in Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁹. In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, any person or entity receiving Union funds is to fully cooperate in the protection of the Union's financial interests, to grant the necessary rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, EPPO and the European Court of Auditors and to ensure that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights.

¹⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1 [...]).

¹⁶ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23/12/1995, p. 1).

¹⁷ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).

¹⁸ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') (OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1).

¹⁹ Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

- (40) In order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, simplified cost options in the form of lump sums, unit costs and flat rates should be used to the maximum possible extent. Simplified cost options to support learning mobility under the Programme should take into account the living and subsistence costs in the host country. In accordance with national law, Member States should be encouraged to exempt those grants from any taxes and social levies; grants awarded to individuals by public or private legal entities should be treated in the same manner.
- (41) It is appropriate to ensure that the 2021-2027 Programmes are closed correctly, in particular as regards the continuation of multiannual arrangements for their management, such as the financing of technical and administrative assistance. As from 1 January 2028, the technical and administrative assistance should ensure, where necessary, the management of actions that have not been finalised under the 2021-2027 Programmes by 31 December 2027.
- (42) In line with Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Programme should take into account the specific situation of the outermost regions referred to in that Article [...]. [...] Measures should be taken to facilitate their participation to the Programme in all actions, including by means of financial support, where relevant, for learning mobility and volunteering. Mobility and cooperation between people and organisations from those regions and third countries, in particular their neighbours, should be fostered. Such measures should be monitored and evaluated regularly.

- (43) Pursuant to Article 85 (1) of Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764²⁰, natural persons and relevant entities established in overseas countries and territories are eligible for funding under the Programme, subject to the rules and objectives of the Programme and [...] possible arrangements applicable to the Member State to which the relevant overseas country or territory is linked.
- (44) [The Programme is to be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) [XXX]* of the European Parliament and of the Council [Performance], which establishes the rules for the expenditure tracking and the performance framework for the budget, including rules for ensuring a uniform application of the principles of ‘do no significant harm’ and gender equality referred to in Article 33(2), points (d), and (f), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 respectively, rules for monitoring and reporting on the performance of Union programmes and activities, rules for establishing a Union funding portal, rules for the evaluation of the programmes, as well as other horizontal provisions applicable to all Union programmes such as those on information, communication and visibility.]
- (45) In view to optimise the added value, increase scale and impact of investments, synergies should be sought in particular between the Programme and other Union funding instruments, including through enabling mechanisms such as simplified procedures. The Programme should seek as well synergies that strengthen collaboration between education and the private sector.

²⁰ Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland) (OJ L 355, 7.10.2021, p. 6 [...]).

(46) The Programme should be open for participation of third countries where this is in the interest of the Union. To this extent, the Union may allow for full [...] or partial association to the Programme of third countries to the constituent actions of the Programme where relevant international agreements are in force with those countries and in accordance with the conditions laid down therein. The third countries should also include the category of European micro-states (the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of San Marino and the Vatican City State). Association to the Programme should be subject to a fair balance of contribution and benefits of the third country and ensure the protection of the financial and security interests of the Union. When deciding on the participation of third countries and on the modalities of such participation, the respective prerogatives of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission under Article 218 TFEU are to be observed. Third countries that participated in any of the predecessor programmes under Regulation (EU) 2021/817²¹, (EU) 2021/888²², (EU) No 1288/2013²³ or (EU) 2018/1475²⁴ of the European Parliament and of the Council, and established a national agency in the course of any of the relevant programming periods should not be considered for partial association to the Programme. For other categories of third countries, partial association should be either used as a step towards full association or be considered where there is no prospect of full association and such partial association is in the interest of the Union. In any case, a predefined single package of contributions and benefits should be used in all agreements granting partial association. It is essential that third countries participating in the Programme

²¹ 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 L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/817/oj>).

²² 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 L 202, 8.6.2021, P. 32, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/888/oj>).

²³ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1288/oj>).

²⁴ Regulation (EU) 2018/1475 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU (OJ L 250, 4.10.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1475/oj>).

respect the Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU. Legal entities from [...] third countries that are not associated to the Programme [...] should be able to participate in some of the actions of the Programme, as defined in the work programmes and the calls for proposals published by the Commission, provided their participation contributes to achiev[...]ing the objectives of the programme and is essential for the implementation of the action.

- (46a) In order to strengthen predictability and transparency, actions under direct management that are introduced for the first time and have not previously been implemented through a work programme under this Regulation should be clearly identifiable as new actions. For the first year of implementation of this Regulation, new actions should be considered those actions that have not been implemented through a work programme under Regulation (EU) 2021/817 or (EU) 2021/888.
- (46b) An action should be regarded as new where it introduces a distinct intervention logic, as evidenced in particular by a new objective and scope, a new primary target group, a substantially different delivery mechanism, and/or a distinct and identifiable budgetary allocation in the work programme. Adaptations such as changes to the name of an already existing action, annual budgetary adjustments, modifications to timetable or duration, technical updates of award criteria or conditions, geographical extensions, or the introduction of complementary implementation modalities, should not be considered new actions, provided that such changes do not alter the overall objectives and intervention logic of the already existing action. Talent and excellence development opportunities should be considered a new action regardless of the fact that they relate to the European policy experimentation project under the Erasmus+ 2021-2027.
- (46c) In order to preserve the flexibility of the Programme, the Union should retain the capacity to introduce new actions to respond in a timely manner to exceptional circumstances, while ensuring legal certainty and the effective implementation of the Programme in line with its objectives. Introduction of such actions is subject to the adoption of the distinct work programmes by the Commission.

- (46d) In light of their highly innovative nature and the potentially significant implications for the budget of the Programme, talent and excellence development opportunities should be developed by the Commission in close cooperation with the Programme Committee. The Commission should also present the results of the assessment concerning talent and excellence development opportunities to the Council before their inclusion into the regular work programme. The Commission should take into account the views expressed in the Council.
- (47) Appropriate and inclusive outreach, publicity of the opportunities supported by the Programme should be ensured at local, national and Union level and should take into account the main target groups of the Programme and, where relevant, a wide variety of other target groups. Furthermore, the Commission and the implementing bodies should facilitate the sharing of good practices and project results and gather feedback on the Programme.
- (48) The Programme should mobilise the potential of former participants in the Erasmus+ Programme and the European Solidarity Corps Programme and support related activities by encouraging them to promote the Programme.
- (49) Measures should be taken to streamline the management of the Programme and achieve economies of scale including by [...] consolidating Programme contributions within a single contribution agreement per national agency, where applicable.

- (49a) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵.
- (49b) With respect to the interpretation of related legal acts of the Union, it is appropriate that ‘European Solidarity Corps’ volunteering activities supported under this Regulation or volunteering activities that continue to be supported under Regulation (EU) 2021/888 should be considered equivalent to volunteering undertaken under the European Voluntary Service.
- (50) Regulations (EU) 2021/817²⁶ and (EU) 2021/888²⁷ should be repealed with effect from 1 January 2028.
- (51) In order to ensure continuity in providing support in the relevant policy area and to allow implementation to start from the beginning of the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, this Regulation should enter into force on and apply from 1 January 2028[...].

²⁵ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>).

²⁶ [...]

²⁷ [...]

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

[...] TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation establishes Erasmus+, the [...] programme for Union action in the fields of education and training [...], youth and sport (the ‘Programme’) and sets up the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, as well as lays down the objectives of the Programme, its budget [for the period 2028-2034], the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding. [...]

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

[...]

[...]

(2a) ‘adult education’ means any form of formal, non-formal or informal learning for adults;

- (3) ‘grassroots sport’ means any sport or physical [...] activities practiced regularly at non-professional level, mainly at local level, by people of all ages for health, educational or social purposes;
- (4) ‘higher education institution’ means an institution which, in accordance with [...] national [...] or [...] where applicable, regional law or practice, offers [...] recognised degrees or other recognised tertiary level qualifications, regardless of what such an establishment is called, or a comparable institution at tertiary level which is considered by the national [...] or regional authorities [...] as eligible to participate in the Programme in their respective territories;
- (5) ‘higher education student’ means a person enrolled at a higher education institution, including at short-cycle, bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral level or equivalent or a person who recently [...] graduated from such an institution;
- (6) ‘European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps’ refers to volunteering activities that support post-crisis long-term humanitarian aid and development cooperation operations in third countries not associated to the Programme, that are intended to provide needs-based assistance aimed at preventing and alleviating human suffering, and maintaining durable human dignity in the face of crises, and that include actions that aim to reinforce disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction, link relief, rehabilitation and development and contribute towards strengthening the resilience and capacity of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities to cope with and recover from crises;

- (7) ‘informal learning’ means learning resulting from daily activities and experiences which is not organised or structured in terms of objectives, time or learning support; it may be unintentional from the learner’s perspective;
- (8) ‘joint study programme’ means an [...] integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by different higher education institutions from two or more countries and leading to the award of [...] double/multiple degrees or a joint degree;
- (9) ‘lifelong learning’ means learning in all its forms, whether formal, non-formal or informal, taking place at all stages in life and resulting in an improvement or update in knowledge, skills, competences and attitudes, including through micro-credentials or participation in society from a personal, civic, cultural, social or employment-related perspective, such as the provision of counselling and guidance services; it includes early childhood education and care, general education, vocational education and training, higher education, adult [...] education, youth work, sport and other learning settings outside formal education and training and it typically promotes cross-sectoral cooperation and flexible learning pathways;

- (10) ‘learning mobility’ means moving physically to a country other than the country of residence, in order to undertake study, training, teaching, or non-formal or informal learning, possibly including virtual components;
- (10a) ‘legal entity’ means a natural person or a legal person created and recognised as such under national law, Union law or international law which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity which does not have legal personality as referred to in Article 200(2), point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;
- (10b) ‘national agency’ means a body designated in accordance with this Regulation, in charge of implementing the Programme at national level in a Member State or in a third country associated to the Programme;
- (10c) ‘national authority’ means a public body designated in accordance with this Regulation, in charge of monitoring and supervising the management of the Programme at national level in a Member State or in a third country associated to the Programme;
- (11) ‘non-formal learning’ means learning which takes place outside formal education and training through planned activities in terms of learning objectives and learning time and where some form of learning support is present;
- (12) ‘people with fewer opportunities’ means people who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or due to their migrant background, or for reasons such as disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could constitute discrimination under Article 21 of the Charter [...], face obstacles that could prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme;

- (13) ‘school pupil’ means a person enrolled in a learning capacity at an institution providing general education at any level from early childhood education and care to upper secondary education or a person schooled outside an institutional setting considered by the competent authorities as eligible to participate in the Programme as a school pupil in their respective territories;
- (14) ‘staff’ means a person who, on either a professional or a voluntary basis, is involved in education, training or non-formal and informal learning at all levels [...]; it includes academic staff, teachers, trainers, school leaders, youth workers, sport staff, early childhood education and care staff, non-educational staff and other practitioners involved on a regular basis in promoting learning;
- (14a) ‘sport staff’ means a person involved in the instruction, training or management of a sports team or individual sports people, either on a paid basis or on a voluntary basis;
- (15) ‘third country’ means a country that is not a[...] [...] Member State;
- (15a) ‘new action’ means an action that is introduced for the first time and has not previously been implemented through a work programme under this Regulation or that is introduced in the first year of implementation of this Programme, and has not previously been implemented through a work programme under Regulation (EU) 2021/817 or (EU) 2021/888;
- (15b) ‘virtual cooperation’ means any form of cooperation using digital tools and technologies to facilitate and support any relevant Programme actions;

- (16) ‘vocational education and training learner’ means a person enrolled in an initial or continuous vocational education and training programme at any level from secondary to post-secondary level or a person who has recently graduated or obtained a qualification from such a programme;
- (16a) ‘youth initiative’ means an activity outside formal education and training carried out by informal groups of young people, youth organisations or other relevant stakeholders, and characterised by a non-formal or informal learning approach;
- (17) ‘‘European Solidarity Corps’ volunteering activity’ means an unpaid activity that [...] has a strong learning component and contributes to the achievement of the common good, takes place for a limited period and is not a substitute for or an equivalent of a traineeship or employment;
- (18) ‘young people’ in the field of youth means individuals aged between 13 and 30;
- (19) ‘youth worker’ means a person who, on either a professional or a voluntary basis, is involved in non-formal learning and supports young people in their personal socio-educational and professional development and the development of their competences; it includes persons who plan, steer, coordinate and implement activities in the field of youth [...];
- (20) ‘European Universities Alliances’ means a group of European higher education institutions that have entered into transnational long-term, structural cooperation that is confirmed in a joint mission statement, and which offer joint education provision, aiming at high-quality education, knowledge transfer, high levels of mobility, research and innovation where appropriate, and service to society.

Article 3

Programme objectives

1. The general objective of the Programme is to [...] promote high quality lifelong learning, enhancing skills and competences for life and for jobs for all, while fostering Union values, democratic and societal participation, solidarity, social inclusion and equal opportunities, in the [...] Union and beyond and thereby contributing to a resilient, sustainable, competitive, and cohesive Europe. The Programme shall be a key instrument for [...] further developing the European Education Area, [...] supporting the implementation of European strategic cooperation in the fields of education and training, including its underlying sectoral agendas, and building the Union of Skills.

The Programme [...] aims to advance youth policy cooperation [...]. The objective is to foster a more inclusive, united, and robust Europe by empowering young people, supporting high quality youth work, strengthening community ties, and promoting active citizenship and solidarity through meaningful engagement and cooperation and to support the implementation of the European Union Youth Strategy. [...] By investing in youth [...] and volunteering, [...] the Programme aims to build stronger, more connected societies, encourage civic and democratic engagement, and contribute to social cohesion [...].

The Programme aims to further develop the European dimension in sport. Sport plays a vital role as a driver for social inclusion, health, education, and community development. By supporting sport, the Programme aims to contribute to democratic societies and social connectedness at all levels, while fostering common European values, solidarity and volunteering through cooperation and exchange of practices.

2. The Programme has the following specific objectives:

- a) support the learning mobility of individuals and groups, and promote cooperation, quality, inclusion and equity, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of education and training, youth and sport;

- a) support the improvement of [...] knowledge, skills and competences in formal, non-formal and informal settings with particular regard to their relevance [...] to the personal growth and professional development [...] of the individual as well as to the labour market and to their contribution to the [...] social cohesion, sustainab[...]ility and [...] competitiveness of the Union;

- b) foster a sense of European identity, common values and active citizenship, enhance solidarity and active participation in society and democracy, inducing a positive societal impact, [...] resilience and [...] preparedness to anticipate, prevent and respond to risks of different nature;

- [...]

- d) engage and empower young people to acquire and develop professional and personal competences, to participate actively in society and democracy and connect them to the European project;

[...]

- f) provide young people with easily accessible and high-quality opportunities for volunteering and engagement in solidarity and humanitarian activities that induce positive societal changes in the Union and beyond [...], while improving and properly validating their competences, as well as facilitating their continuous engagement as active citizens;
- g) promote the key features of a European Sport Model by investing in grassroots sport, especially voluntary activities, ensuring accessibility, promoting participation and solidarity, protecting integrity, supporting good governance, and reinforcing sport's social, educational, and community role, through actions that focus on building a fair, inclusive, and sustainable sport system across Europe[...];
- h) foster excellence and cross-border collaboration, strengthening Europe's attractiveness and competitiveness globally, across all fields of education and training, youth and sport;
- i) support policy development, including for transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, accelerating reforms and modernisation at systems' level, across all fields of education and training, youth and sport, ensuring that they are more effective, resilient and inclusive.

3. The Programme objectives shall be pursued in the fields of education and training, youth and sport through the following pillars, which mainly have either a transnational or an international character:

- a) [...]learning opportunities for all;
- b) [...]capacity building support.

[...] TITLE II

SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

[...] CHAPTER I

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

SECTION 1

LEARNING MOBILITY AND VOLUNTEERING

Article 4

[...] Education and training

1. In the field of education and training, the Programme shall support:
 - a) the [...] learning mobility of higher education students and staff;
 - b) the [...] learning mobility of vocational education and training learners and staff;
 - c) the [...] learning mobility of school pupils and staff, including staff in early childhood education and care;
 - d) the [...] learning mobility of adult education learners and staff [...].

[...]

[...]

4. [...] The actions referred to in paragraph 1 may be accompanied by:
- a) support to teaching and learning about the [...] Union, including European integration, values and citizenship;
 - b) measures such as language support, preparatory visits, training and virtual learning and cooperation.

Article 4a

Youth

1. In the field of youth, the Programme shall support:
- a) the learning mobility of young people, including youth exchanges, DiscoverEU, and the learning mobility of youth workers;
 - b) youth initiatives supporting youth participation and solidarity activities;
 - c) 'European Solidarity Corps' volunteering activities, including volunteering under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.
2. The actions referred to in paragraph 1 may be accompanied by:
- a) support to teaching and learning about the Union, including European integration, values and citizenship;
 - b) measures such as language support, preparatory visits, training and virtual learning and cooperation.

Article 4b

Sport

1. In the field of sport, the Programme shall support the learning mobility of people active in grassroots sport, including sport staff.
2. The actions referred to in paragraph 1 may be accompanied by:
 - a) support to teaching and learning about the Union, including European integration, values and citizenship;
 - b) measures such as language support, preparatory visits, training and virtual learning and cooperation.

SECTION 2

TALENT AND EXCELLENCE DEVELOPMENT

Article 5

Talent and excellence development opportunities in the field of education and training

In the field of education and training, the Programme shall support:

- a) Talent and excellence development opportunities [...] in joint study programmes or other programmes with a transnational dimension;
- b) Erasmus Mundus scholarships;
- c) Jean Monnet actions in the field of higher education;

- d) [...] the following Jean Monnet institutions pursuing an aim of European interest: the European University Institute, Florence, including its School of Transnational Governance; the College of Europe (Bruges, including its subsidiary in Tirana, and Natolin campuses); the European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht; the Academy of European Law, Trier; the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Odense; and the International Centre for European Training, Nice.

[...] CHAPTER 2

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT

Article 6

Cooperation among organisations and institutions

1. In the field of education and training [...]the Programme shall support:
 - a) [...]partnerships for cooperation and exchange of best practices, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme;
 - b) [...]partnerships for excellence and innovation, [...] such as the European Universities Alliances, Centres of Vocational Excellence, European Teacher Academies, European School Alliances [...] and Joint study programmes [...].

2. In the field of youth, the Programme shall support:
 - a) partnerships for cooperation and exchange of best practices, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme;
 - b) partnerships for excellence and innovation, such as European Youth Together.

3. In the field of sport, the Programme shall support:
 - a) partnerships for cooperation and exchange of best practices, including small-scale partnerships to foster wider and more inclusive access to the Programme;
 - b) partnerships for excellence and innovation, such as Sport Collaborative Alliances.

Article 7

Support to policy development

In the fields of education and training, youth and sport, [...]the Programme shall support:

- a) [...]experimentation, preparation and implementation of the Union's policy agendas, including through policy dialogues with stakeholders and other tools [...]³⁰, in particular
 - i) as regards education and training: the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) [...],² the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET) [...], the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) [...], the ENIC (European Network of Information Centres) and NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union) Networks, the Euroguidance network, the common framework and tools for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass), the Eurydice Network, National Coordinators for Adult Learning, the Central and National Support Services for online platforms, such as the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE) and eTwinning, the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), including the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG), and the National Reference Points on graduate tracking[...];
 - ii) as regards youth: Youth wiki network, the Eurodesk network, the European Youth Forum, Youthpass, the National Working Groups implementing the EU Youth Dialogue; and
 - iii) as regards sport: the National Coordinating Bodies implementing the European Week of Sport at national level;

³⁰ [...]

- b) Programme implementation including synergies with, and support to other Union policies and programmes, online platforms, tools for virtual cooperation, resource centres and tools to facilitate learning mobility, including training, networking and cooperation activities;
- c) [...]dissemination and communication.

[...] TITLE III

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Article 8

Support measures for inclusion and diversity

1. When implementing this Regulation, the Commission, Member States and third countries associated to the Programme shall ensure an inclusive approach across all activities.
2. The Commission, Member States and third countries associated to the Programme shall take [...] appropriate measures to promote inclusion, diversity and fairness, solidarity, and equal opportunities, including gender equality and non-discrimination, in particular to ensure participation of people with fewer opportunities in the Programme.
3. The Commission shall support access to the Programme from an early age and independent of socio-economic background. To achieve that, it shall ensure the provision of measures to facilitate the participation of people with fewer opportunities, including financial support mechanisms and pre-financing, where relevant.
4. The Commission may adjust or may authorise the national agencies [...] to adjust, on the basis of objective criteria, the financial support mechanisms to improve access to people with fewer opportunities.
5. The costs of measures to facilitate or support the participation of people with fewer opportunities shall not justify the rejection of an application under the Programme.

6. The national agencies [...] shall develop or update where relevant, [...] inclusion and diversity action plans [...] and with particular attention to the specific challenges to access the programme within the national contexts. The [...] inclusion and diversity plans shall form an integral part of the national agencies' planning documents as referred to in Article 19(2).
7. The Commission shall monitor on a regular basis the implementation of the inclusion and diversity measures, including the [...] inclusion and diversity plans.

[...] TITLE IV

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

[Article 9

Budget

1. The indicative financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2028-2034 is set at EUR 40 827 000 000 in current prices.
2. In addition to the amounts set out in paragraph 1 of this Article, and in order to promote the international dimension of the Programme, an additional financial contribution shall be made available from Regulation (EU) [XXX]* of the European Parliament and of the Council [Global Europe] to support actions implemented and managed in accordance with this Regulation. Such contribution shall be in line with a single programming document drawn up under Regulation (EU) XXX[Global Europe].

3. Appropriations may be entered in the Union budget beyond 2034 to cover the expenses necessary and to enable the management of actions not completed by the end of the Programme.
4. The financial envelope referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article and the amounts of additional resources referred to in Article 10 may also be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, specific and corporate information technology systems and platforms, information and communication activities, including corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union, and all other technical and administrative assistance or staff-related expenses incurred by the Commission for the management of the Programme.]

Article 10

Additional resources

1. Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international organisations, international financial institutions, or other third parties, may make additional financial or non-financial contributions to the Programme. Additional financial contributions shall constitute external assigned revenue within the meaning of Article 21(2), point[...] (a), (d)[...] or (e) or Article 21(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
2. Resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their request, be made available to the Programme. The Commission shall implement those resources directly or indirectly in accordance with Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (a) or (c)₂ of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. They shall be additional to the amount referred to in Article 9(1) of this Regulation. Those resources shall be used for the benefit of the Member State concerned. Where the Commission has not entered into a legal commitment under direct or indirect management for additional amounts thus made available to the Programme, the corresponding uncommitted amounts may, at the request of the Member State concerned, be transferred back to one or more respective source programmes or their successors.

Alternative, combined and cumulative funding

1. The Programme shall be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes. An action that has received a Union contribution from another programme may also receive a contribution under the Programme. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution, or a single set of rules may be applied to all contributions and a single legal commitment may be concluded. If the Union contribution is based on eligible costs, the cumulative support from the Union budget shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.
2. Award procedures under the Programme may be jointly conducted under direct or indirect management with Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international organisations, international financial institutions, or other third parties ('partners to the joint award procedure'), provided the protection of the financial interests of the Union is ensured. Such procedures shall be subject to a single set of rules and lead to the conclusion of single legal commitments. For that purpose, the partners to the joint award procedure may make resources available to the Programme in accordance with Article 10 of this Regulation, or the partners may be entrusted with the implementation of the award procedure, where applicable in accordance with Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. In joint award procedures, representatives of the partners to the joint award procedure may also be members of the evaluation committee referred to in Article 153(3) of Regulation (EU, E[...]uratom) 2024/2509.

Article 12

Implementation and forms of Union funding

1. The Programme shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, under direct management or under indirect management with entities referred to in Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c)₂, of that Regulation.
2. The funds implemented under indirect management in a Member State shall be allocated on the basis of:
 - a) the population of and cost of living in the Member State concerned;
 - b) the distance between capitals of Member States;
 - c) performance, calculated based on the most recent data available.
3. The Commission shall further specify those criteria and their underlying formulae in the work programmes referred to in Article 15. Those formulae shall avoid substantial reductions in the annual budget allocated to Member States from one year to the next and shall minimise excessive imbalances in the level of funds allocated.
4. Union funding may be provided in any form in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, in particular grants, prizes, procurement, and non-financial donations.

5. Where Union funding is provided in the form of a grant, funding shall be provided as financing not linked to costs or, where necessary, simplified cost options, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Funding may be provided in the form of actual eligible cost reimbursement only where the objectives of an action cannot be achieved otherwise.
6. For the purpose of Article 153(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the evaluation committee may be composed partially or fully of independent external experts.
7. Public legal entities, and institutions and organisations in the fields of education and training, youth and sport that have received over 50 % of their annual revenue from public sources other than Union grants over the last two years, shall be considered as having the necessary financial and operational capacity to carry out activities under the Programme. They shall not be required to present further documentation to demonstrate that capacity.

[...] TITLE V

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME

Article 13

Third countries associated to the Programme

1. The Programme may be opened to the participation of the following third countries through full or partial association to the Programme, in accordance with the objectives laid down in Article 3 [...] and applicable to:
 - a) members of the European Free Trade Association which are members of the European Economic Area, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Agreement on the European Economic Area, as well as European micro-states (Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican City), in accordance with the conditions laid down in the relevant agreements;
 - b) accessing countries, candidate countries and potential candidates, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements, protocols and Association Council decisions or in similar agreements and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries;

- c) European Neighbourhood Policy countries, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements, protocols and Association Council decisions or in similar agreements and in accordance with the specific conditions laid down in agreements between the Union and those countries;
 - d) other third countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in a specific international agreement covering the participation of the third country to any Union programme.
2. The [...] agreements for participation in the Programme referred to in paragraph 1 shall:
- a) ensure a fair balance as regards the contributions and benefits of the third country [...] associated to the Programme;
 - b) lay down the conditions of [...] association to the [...] Programme [...], including the calculation of financial contributions, consisting of an operational contribution and a participation fee, to [...] the [...] Programme and its general administrative costs;
 - c) not confer on the third country any decision-making power in the Programme;
 - d) guarantee the rights of the Union to ensure sound financial management and to protect its financial interests;
 - e) where relevant, ensure the protection of security and public order interests of the Union.
3. For the purposes of paragraph 2, point (d), of this Article, the third country shall grant the necessary rights and access required under Regulations (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013, and guarantee that [...] decisions imposing a pecuniary obligation on persons other than States in the meaning [...] of Article 299 TFEU, as well as judgments and orders of the Court of Justice of the European Union, are enforceable.

4. Third countries that participated in any of the predecessor programmes under Regulation (EU) 2021/817, (EU) 2021/888, (EU) No 1288/2013 or (EU) 2018/1475, and established a national agency in the course of any of the relevant programming periods shall not be considered for partial association to the Programme.

Partial association to the Programme shall comply with the following:

- a) for third countries under paragraph 1, point (b), the agreements shall in principle aim at full association of acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates. The agreements may foresee a partial association phase only as a transition step for those third countries not yet operationally ready for full association;
 - b) for third countries under paragraph 1, points (c) and (d) with no prospect of full association, the agreements may aim at partial association provided that such partial association is in the interest of the Union;
 - c) third countries subject to partial association to the Programme respect Union values;
 - d) the agreements use a single model of partial association to the Programme identical for all third countries referred to in paragraph 1, point (b) and those referred to in paragraph 1, points (c) and (d).
5. The Commission shall, on an annual basis, provide the Programme Committee with information on the financial contributions from third countries participating in the Programme through full or partial association and their allocations to its different actions.

Article 14

Eligibility

1. Eligibility criteria shall be set to support achievement of the objectives laid down in Article 3 of this Regulation, in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
2. In award procedures under direct and indirect management one or more of the following legal entities may be eligible to receive Union funding:
 - a) entities established in a Member State;
 - b) entities established in [...] a third country associated to the Programme;
 - c) international organisations;
 - d) other entities established in [...] third countries not associated to the Programme where the funding of such entities is essential for implementing the action and contributes to the objectives laid down in Article 3.
3. In addition to Article 168(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, [...] third countries associated to the Programme referred to in Article 13(1) of this Regulation may, where relevant, participate in and benefit from any procurement mechanisms set in Article 168(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. Rules applicable to Member States shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to [...] third countries associated to the Programme.

4. Award procedures affecting security or public order, in particular concerning strategic assets and interests of the Union or its Member States, shall be restricted in accordance with Article 136 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
5. The work programme referred to in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 or the documents related to the award procedure may further specify the eligibility criteria set out in this Regulation or set additional eligibility criteria for specific actions.

Article 14a

Arrangements for facilitating participation in the Programme

Member States and third countries associated to the Programme shall take all necessary and appropriate measures to remove any legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme, including, where possible, measures aimed at resolving issues that give rise to difficulties in obtaining visas or residence permits.

[...] TITLE VI

PROGRAMMING

Article 15

Work programme

1. The Programme shall be implemented by work programmes referred to in Article 110 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
2. New actions under direct management shall, for the purposes of their initial inclusion, be adopted by the Commission in a distinct work programme ('the new action work programme'). The new action work programme shall be specific and fully separate from the work programme implementing the actions that are not new actions ('the regular work programme'). The new actions shall be proposed on the basis of the following criteria:
 - a) alignment to Programme objectives;
 - b) alignment to priorities related to the Programme set out in the relevant Council instruments;
 - c) European added value;
 - d) budgetary impact on the other actions of the Programme.

3. For their first implementation through a work programme under this Regulation, talent and excellence development opportunities as referred to in Article 5, point (a) shall be considered new actions, independently of their management mode and shall be adopted by the Commission in a standalone new action work programme. Before the submission of the draft implementing act to the Programme Committee, the Commission shall develop the new action work programme as regards the talent and excellence development opportunities in close cooperation with the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee shall provide input on the operational direction of such new action and the modalities of its implementation.
4. Subsequent financing of the new actions after their initial implementation under a new action work programme shall be subject to an assessment carried out by the Commission that analyses among others the extent to which such actions fulfill the objectives of the Programme and the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.
5. Implementation of the actions that are no longer new actions shall take place through the regular work programme.
6. As regards the talent and excellence development opportunities, the Commission shall present the results of the assessment referred to in paragraph 4 to the Council. Prior to the inclusion of the action into the regular work programme, the Commission shall take utmost account of the views expressed in the Council.

7. The work programmes shall set out in detail, as applicable:
- a) the indicative amount allocated to each action;
 - b) the indicative amount allocated to each sector;
 - c) the distribution of funds between the Member States and third countries associated to the Programme for the actions to be managed by the national agency;
 - d) for new actions to be included in the new action work programme, demonstration of compliance with the criteria referred to in paragraph 2;
 - e) for new actions to be included in the regular work programme, the outcome of the assessment that analyses among others the extent to which such new actions fulfill the objectives of the Programme and the criteria referred to in paragraph 2.
8. Each work programme shall be adopted by the Commission by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 22a.
9. Where the Committee delivers no opinion, the Commission shall not adopt the draft implementing acts referred to in this Article and Article 5(4), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

[...] TITLE VII

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Article 16

Information, communication and dissemination

1. In cooperation with the Commission and the national authorities, the national agencies [...] shall develop a consistent communication strategy with regard to effective outreach and to the dissemination and exploitation of the results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme. [...]
2. The national agencies [...] shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results. National agencies shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their respective countries.
3. [The actions and activities referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU) [XXX]* of the European Parliament and of the Council [Performance] which establishes the rules for the expenditure tracking and the performance framework for the budget, including the rules applicable to all Union programmes regarding information, communication and visibility obligations, including in particular obligations for beneficiaries and implementing partners.]

[...] TITLE VIII

MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT SYSTEM

Article 17

Arrangements for indirect management at national level

1. In accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 157(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the implementation of the Programme under indirect management requires the designation of a national authority and a national agency, as specified in Articles 18 and 19.
2. The national authority [...] acts as an indirect management bod[...]y under [...] Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c)(v), of [...] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 [...] in the context of monitoring, control and auditing of the national agency and retain[...]s principal responsibility towards the Commission for the overall implementation of [...] Union funds by the national agency [...].
3. The national agency acts as an indirect management body under Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c)(v) or (vi), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and is responsible of all budget implementation tasks as specified in the contribution agreement with the Commission.

Article 18

National authority

1. The Member States and [...] third countries associated to the Programme shall designate a public law body as a national authority for the purposes of this Regulation. They may designate more than one national authority. They shall notify the Commission, through their Permanent Representation or Mission to the European Union, of [...] their national authority[...]ies [...] and the [...] persons legally authorised to act on [...] behalf of those national authorities.
2. The national authority shall designate a national agency for the duration of the Programme and notify the Commission thereof. The national authority shall not designate a ministry as a national agency [...]. The national authority may designate more than one national agency. In cases where there is more than one national agency, Member States and third countries associated to the Programme shall establish an appropriate mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the Programme at national level.
3. The national authority shall designate an independent audit body as referred to in Article 21.

4. The national authority shall provide the Commission with an appropriate ex ante assessment that the national agency satisfies the minimum requirements set out in Article 157(1) to (5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and the Union requirements for internal control standards for national agencies and rules for the management of Programme funds.

For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the following arrangements shall apply:

- a) for the procedures specifically required by the Commission, including its own and those specified in this Regulation, no ex ante assessment shall be done in line with [...] Article 157(7), point (b), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509;
 - b) for procedures other than those specified in point (a), the national authority shall make an ex ante assessment, which shall be based on its own controls and audits or on controls and audits undertaken by the independent audit body;
 - c) where the national agency designated for the Programme is the same as the national agency designated in accordance with Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888, the scope of the ex ante assessment shall be limited to the requirements that are new, unless otherwise justified.
5. In the event that the Commission rejects the designation of the national agency based on its evaluation of the ex ante assessment, or if the national agency does not comply with the minimum requirements set by the Commission, the national authority shall ensure that the necessary remedial steps are taken to ensure compliance, subject to approval by the Commission, or shall designate another body as national agency. In exceptional cases where a national agency ceases to operate or to exist and the national authority itself carries out budget implementation tasks in accordance with this Regulation and relevant agreements thereunder, it shall be exempted from the ex ante assessment.

6. The national authority shall provide adequate co-financing [...] for the operations of its national agency to ensure that the Programme is managed in accordance with the applicable Union rules.
7. The national authority shall ensure that appointments of persons responsible for the management of the national agency are justified by the nature of the action, follow fair and transparent rules and procedures and do not give rise to a conflict of interest. [...]
8. The national authority shall monitor and supervise the budget implementation tasks entrusted to its national agency. It shall inform and consult the Commission in due time prior to taking any decision that may have a significant impact on the management of the Programme and the Programme funds.
9. The national authority shall, each year, provide the Commission with a report on its monitoring and supervision activities and, where appropriate, a statement on its follow-up to any observations issued by the Commission in response to such report.
10. The national authority shall take and retain responsibility for the proper management of the Union funds transferred by the Commission to the national agency in the framework of the Programme.

11. In the event of any irregularity, negligence or fraud attributable to the national agency, or of serious shortcomings, liabilities or underperformance on the part of the national agency, where any of these instances gives rise to claims by the Commission against the national agency, the national authority shall reimburse [...] the Commission for such claims.
12. In the circumstances referred to in paragraph 11, the national authority may, on its own initiative or at the request of the Commission, revoke the mandate of the national agency. Where the national authority wishes to revoke that mandate for any other justified reason, it shall notify the Commission within a reasonable time before the envisaged date of termination of the mandate. In such cases, the national authority and the Commission shall formally agree on specific and time-limited transition measures.
13. In the event of revocation as referred to in paragraph 12, the national authority shall carry out the necessary controls regarding the Union funds entrusted to the national agency whose mandate has been revoked and shall ensure that those funds and all documents and management tools required for the management of the Programme are transferred to the new national agency in an unimpeded manner. The national authority shall provide the national agency whose mandate has been revoked with the necessary financial support to continue to meet its contractual obligations vis-à-vis the beneficiaries of the Programme and the Commission pending the transfer of those obligations to a new national agency. Should there be a transitional period between the revocation of this mandate and the designation of a new national agency as accepted by the Commission, the national authority shall, during such period, be responsible for all the obligations of the national agency as laid out in this Regulation and for all of its outstanding contractual obligations vis-à-vis the beneficiaries of the Programme and the Commission.

14. Where a national agency ceases to operate or to exist and no new national agency is designated as a result of the withdrawal of a third country from the Programme, the national authority shall be principally responsible for all the obligations of the national agency and for the fulfilment and closure of all the outstanding contractual obligations vis-à-vis the beneficiaries of the Programme and the Commission.
15. At the request of the Commission, the national authority shall designate the institutions or organisations, or the types of such institutions and organisations eligible to participate in an action of the Programme in its territory.
16. The national authority shall, in cooperation with the Commission, contribute to promot[...]ing and facilitat[...]ing effective synergies and complementarities with other Union, national or regional funds or programmes.

[...]

Article 19

National agency

1. The national agency shall:
 - a) be a body within the meaning of Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c)[...](v) or (vi)₂ of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and be governed by the law of the Member State or of the third country associated to the Programme concerned;
 - b) have the adequate management capacity, staff and infrastructure to fulfil its tasks satisfactorily, ensuring efficient and effective management of the Programme and sound financial management of Union funds;
 - c) have the operational and legal means to apply the administrative, contractual and financial management rules laid down at Union level;
 - d) have the requisite expertise to implement effectively the actions in all the sectors of the Programme for which it receives a Union contribution;
 - e) offer, if required by the Commission, adequate financial guarantees, issued preferably by a public authority, corresponding to the level of Union funds it is called upon to manage.
2. The national agency shall adequately plan its tasks for the implementation of the relevant actions as set out in the work programme referred to in Article 15 and the relevant agreements with the Commission, as well as for the information, communication and dissemination activities referred to in Article 16(2).

3. The national agency shall manage all the stages of the project lifecycle of the Programme actions under its responsibility in accordance with Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 and the relevant agreements with the Commission.
4. The national agency shall issue grant support to beneficiaries within the meaning of Article 2, point (5), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 by way of grant agreements as specified by the Commission for the Programme action concerned.
5. The national agency shall not, without prior written authorisation from the national authority and from the Commission, delegate to a third party any task related to the Programme or budget implementation conferred on it. The national agency shall retain sole responsibility for any tasks delegated to a third party.
6. The national agency shall, each year, provide its national authority and the Commission with a management declaration, a report and any other documents as required in accordance with Article 158 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
7. The national agency shall implement in due time the observations issued by the Commission following its analysis of the yearly management declaration and report and of the independent audit opinion thereon.

Article 20

European Commission

1. On the basis of the compliance requirements for national agencies referred to in Article 18(4), the Commission shall review the national management and control systems, using in particular the ex ante assessment provided by the national authority, the national agency's yearly management declaration and the opinion of the independent audit body thereon, and the national authority's yearly report referred to in Article 18(9).
2. On the basis of the ex ante assessment referred to in Article 18(4), the Commission shall accept, conditionally accept or reject the designation of the national agency in an appropriate timeframe to be agreed between the Commission and the national authority. The Commission shall not enter into a contractual relationship with the national agency until it has accepted the ex ante assessment as satisfactory or taken appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. In the event of conditional acceptance, the Commission may apply proportionate precautionary measures to its contractual relationship with the national agency. Where the national agency no longer complies with the minimum requirements, the Commission may suspend its contractual relationship with the national agency until remedial action has been taken to ensure compliance, failing which it may request the national authority to revoke the mandate of the national agency and designate a new one, subject to a positive ex ante assessment.

3. The Commission shall provide the national authorities and the national agencies with appropriate information and guidance in order to ensure consistent and high-quality implementation and management of the Programme. In particular, it shall specify planning, project management and reporting arrangements and ensure that these arrangements follow simple procedures.
4. The Commission shall not make Programme funds available to the national agency until it has approved its planning documents in accordance with Article 19(2).
5. The Commission shall make the following Programme funds available to the national agency:
 - a) a contribution for grant support for the Programme actions the management of which is entrusted to the national agency;
 - b) a contribution in support of the national agency's Programme management tasks;
 - c) if relevant, an additional contribution for actions under Article 7, points (a) and (b).
6. The Commission shall communicate to the national authority and the national agency the outcome of its analysis and observations on the yearly report and management declaration as referred to in Articles 18(9) and 19(6) and on the audit opinion as referred to in Article 21(2).

7. Where the Commission does not accept the yearly management declaration or the independent audit opinion thereon, or in the event of unsatisfactory implementation by the national agency of the Commission's observations, the Commission may implement any precautionary and corrective measures necessary to safeguard the Union's financial interests in accordance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
8. The Commission shall encourage and maintain an active dialogue and cooperation with and between the national agencies and the national authorities, including the exchange [...] of good practices, regular meetings or other means, with a view to improving and ensuring the consistent implementation and management of the Programme. It shall also ensure that appropriate conditions are in place for an effective exchange of information between the Union institutions, national agencies or other bodies and entities implementing the Programme, in direct or indirect management.
9. The Commission shall [...] ensure that the [...] information technology systems necessary to [...] implement[...] [...] the Programme objectives laid down in Article 3, [...] in particular under indirect management, are efficient, stable and user-friendly. The Programme shall support the development, operation and maintenance of such information technology systems.

Article 21

Independent audit body

1. The independent audit body shall:
 - a) have the necessary professional competence to carry out public sector audits;
 - b) ensure that its audits take account of internationally accepted audit standards;
 - c) not be in a position of conflict of interest with regard to the legal entity of which the national agency forms part; in particular, the independent audit body shall be independent, in terms of its functions, of the legal entity of which the national agency forms part.
2. The independent audit body shall issue an audit opinion on the yearly management declaration as referred to in Article 158(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509. It shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to Article 127 of that Regulation [...].
3. The independent audit body shall give the Commission and its representatives and the Court of Auditors full access to all documents and reports in support of the audit opinion that it issues on the national agency's yearly management declaration.

Principles of the control system

1. The Commission shall be responsible for the supervisory controls with regard to the Programme actions and activities managed by the national agencies. The Commission shall set the minimum requirements for the controls by the national agency and the independent audit body.
2. The national agency shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions it manages as set out in the work programmes referred to in Article 15. Those controls shall give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.
3. With regard to the Programme funds transferred to the national agencies, the Commission shall ensure proper coordination of its controls with the national authorities and the national agencies, on the basis of the single audit principle and following a risk-based analysis.

[...] TITLE IX

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 22a

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. The committee may meet in specific configurations to deal with sectoral issues. Where appropriate, in accordance with its rules of procedure and on an ad hoc basis, external experts, including representatives of the social partners, may be invited to participate in its meetings as observers.
3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Article 23

Repeal

Regulations (EU) [...] 2021/817 and [...] (EU) [...] 2021/888 are repealed with effect from 1 January 2028.

Article 24

Transitional provisions

1. This Regulation shall not affect the continuation or modification of the actions concerned, until their closure, under Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888, which shall continue to apply to the actions concerned until their closure.
2. The financial envelope for the Programme may also cover technical and administrative assistance expenses necessary to ensure the transition between the Programme and the measures adopted under Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888.
3. Member States shall ensure at national level the unimpeded transition between the actions carried out under Regulations (EU) 2021/817 and (EU) 2021/888 and those to be implemented under this Programme.
4. References to the European Voluntary Service in the legal acts of the Union shall be read as including references to volunteering activities under Regulation (EU) 2021/888 and this Regulation.

Article 25

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2028.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President
