



European Federation for Catholic Adult Education  
c/o German Catholic Federal Association for Adult Education  
(Katholische Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Erwachsenenbildung; KBE)

### **Statement on the proposal of the EU Commission "Erasmus for All"**

The FEECA (European Federation for Catholic Adult Education) welcomes the European Commission's proposal to increase the budget for adult education.

However, following the Commission's proposal for the new programme "Erasmus for All", the programmes for lifelong learning and "Youth in Action" are to be pooled into just one programme starting in 2014, which will be run by one agency per member state. Thus, adult education will no longer be represented with its own programme. From 2014, if the Commission's plans go ahead, just one single programme will group all four areas under three main courses of action: learning mobility (66% of the planned budget), cooperation (26%) and political reforms (5%). The Commission has explained that the new programme is called "Erasmus for All" because "Erasmus" is currently the most well-known programme and thus an established brand. "Higher Education" is actually the favourite sector of the programme, whose budget is to be allocated as follows: 25% for university education, 17% for vocational education (2% of which is for adult education), 7% for school education and 7% for youth activities.

Catholic adult education is campaigning in the same way as many adult education associations and organisations for a better EU programme for adult education from 2014 onwards. Thus, our primary concern is that **adult education has its own programme and budget for non-formal ["general"] adult education within a new educational programme** and is not just lumped together with vocational (continuing) education ["Erasmus vocational education"]. We fear that vocational education will play too much of a dominant role in this part of the programme.

In its educational report published in April 2011, the Commission states that one of its main goals is to promote lifelong learning; the funding for adult education in the new programme should illustrate this goal. Adult education is an essential part of lifelong learning. With the current crisis, Europe needs high-skilled, creative and innovative people. This also highlights the importance of so-called soft skills, which are acquired above all in adult education. Yet, Europe also needs socially and politically active citizens. General adult education contributes greatly to this.

This is why **we are supporting the demands of European associations for a substantial increase of the adult education budget**. 2% of the entire budget is not enough. It should be increased to at least 7%, as planned for school education and youths.

**Adults should also be able to participate more in mobility programmes and the learning possibilities associated with these.** The mobility of students is primarily promoted in this programme draft.

We ask that our suggestions are taken into account in your work. We hope that you will campaign for a better strategy for adult education in Europe.

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On behalf of the FEECA Steering Committee  
Dr Alois Becker  
President

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