



Press Release

Largest ever batch of Pakistani Erasmus+ scholars send off!

Islamabad, July 30, 2019: The Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan organised an event to send off the largest ever group of Pakistani students recipient of scholarship funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

This academic year, no less than 100 students, about half of them young women, were selected through Erasmus+, the EU flagship scholarship programme to pursue their studies in Europe. Pakistani students, representing all parts of the country and hailing from various backgrounds, engaged in disciplines ranging from archology communication, development, to applied sciences including engineering, robotics, and computer sciences, will be attending master level courses in 17 countries: This year students will be going to 17 different European countries including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia and the UK.

Speaking at the event held at the EU Residence, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. Anne Marchal said: “there is nothing more rewarding for a diplomat than interacting with students and youth in Pakistan. They are the future of their country and I hope that the Erasmus+ scholarships will equip them to contribute in their own way to the development of Pakistan as well as forging a better mutual understanding across regions and cultures.”

2019 is a special year for the EU-Pakistan relations as, further to the visit of the High Representative Federica Mogherini to Islamabad and the return visit of Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi to Brussels, a new “Strategic Engagement Plan” (SEP) has been signed, giving a new impetus to the bilateral partnership, deepening political relations and cooperation. A whole section of the SEP is dedicated to enhancing partnerships in higher education, including academic exchanges such as those offered through scholarships and fellowships funded under the Erasmus+ programme and the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions.

The event was an opportunity for Erasmus+ scholars to interact with representatives of EU Member States and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. They also met with Erasmus+ Alumni members, who shared their experiences of studying in Europe.

The European Union’s Erasmus+ programme is one of the world largest scholarship programme, with a budget EUR 14.7 billion– including EUR 1.7 billion for international non-EU students for the years 2014-2020. The Erasmus+ programme combines all of the EU's schemes for higher education, training, youth and sport exchanges. The mobility of students expands and promotes academic and cultural understanding at the core of which is people to people contact. Erasmus+ is characterised by four major components: credit mobility, capacity building in higher education, a teacher training programme, and the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree (EMJD). Pakistan is the 4th largest participant in Asia of the EMJMD.

Calls for applying to Erasmus+ take place annually starting from October:
https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/53164/erasmus-programme-call-proposals-2019-opens-window-opportunities-individuals-and-organisations_en

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