



Erasmus+ - Julie

Julie: No, it's not ... it changed in 2014 and then, the EU kept the name "Erasmus", but now, it's a much wider programme and it enables people of all ages from age 3 to 99 to travel abroad and, and really get a good experience for their training, skills development and education.

Jon: I've got this brochure of yours right in front of me in the minute and it highlights four particular areas, and they're probably the ones that you just mentioned, but one of them is youth. Many of our listeners are 50+, dare I say. What might be in the Erasmus scheme for them?

Julie: There's actually the opportunity to go as a senior citizen, if I may say, to the EU, it's even to exchange experiences if you're, I don't know, for example, a volunteer in a charity, you could get connected with a charity in the same area in Poland, for example, or in Greece, and, and go there and see the way they work and the way they train their volunteers and develop their skills. So that's an opportunity through Erasmus as well.

Jon: Would there be financial backing for them to do that?

Julie: Of course. Erasmus means there is a grant provided to the organisations that participate and that helps finance the travel and accommodation abroad during the stay.

Jon: I'm just looking this figure here; there's an enormous sum, isn't it, 14.7 billion euros for the six years. Which of the countries actually contribute to that, to the budget?

Julie: It's the EU budget, so every country contributes to the EU budget, depending on their numbers of citizens and wealth. So, Great Britain contributes like everyone else -- that might change.

Jon: In the light of the Brexit referendum result though, do you think there's likely to be a kind of Brexit impact on the budget?

Julie: Of course, it's a, at the moment it's right on the agenda, and it's one of the topic for discussion, because the current EU budget is going to come to an end in 2020, so the negotiations for what is going to happen next is already going on and we have to take into consideration the fact that Great Britain will not bring as much money to the joint budget. So, that will definitely impact the various policy that will be put in place.

Jon: This is now called the "Erasmus Plus" programme, isn't it? How does that differ from the Erasmus programme?

Julie: Again, it's a, I guess the "Plus" means that it's not only students that are concerned by this program, it's all people from all ages can benefit and can have exchanges of experience with other EU citizens on various topics. That can be for students, of course, but also their teachers or training professionals that can go and see what happens in, uh, in the neighbouring country in



terms of education and training and maybe develop teaching tools and materials together and get inspiration from a German, a Maltese, or a Hungarian colleague. You can benefit from this programme by getting touch with either your, your school, your association, or charity or, so it's, it's really organisations that ask for the money and builds the programme and then the individuals can benefit from it.

Jon: Did you benefit from the Erasmus scheme as a student?

Julie: Yes I did. I studied for two semesters in Germany, in 2001.

Jon: Have you visited yet all 27, maybe 26, member countries?

Julie: Not yet, but I don't have many left on my list.

Jon: Julie, thank you very much.

Julie: Thank you.