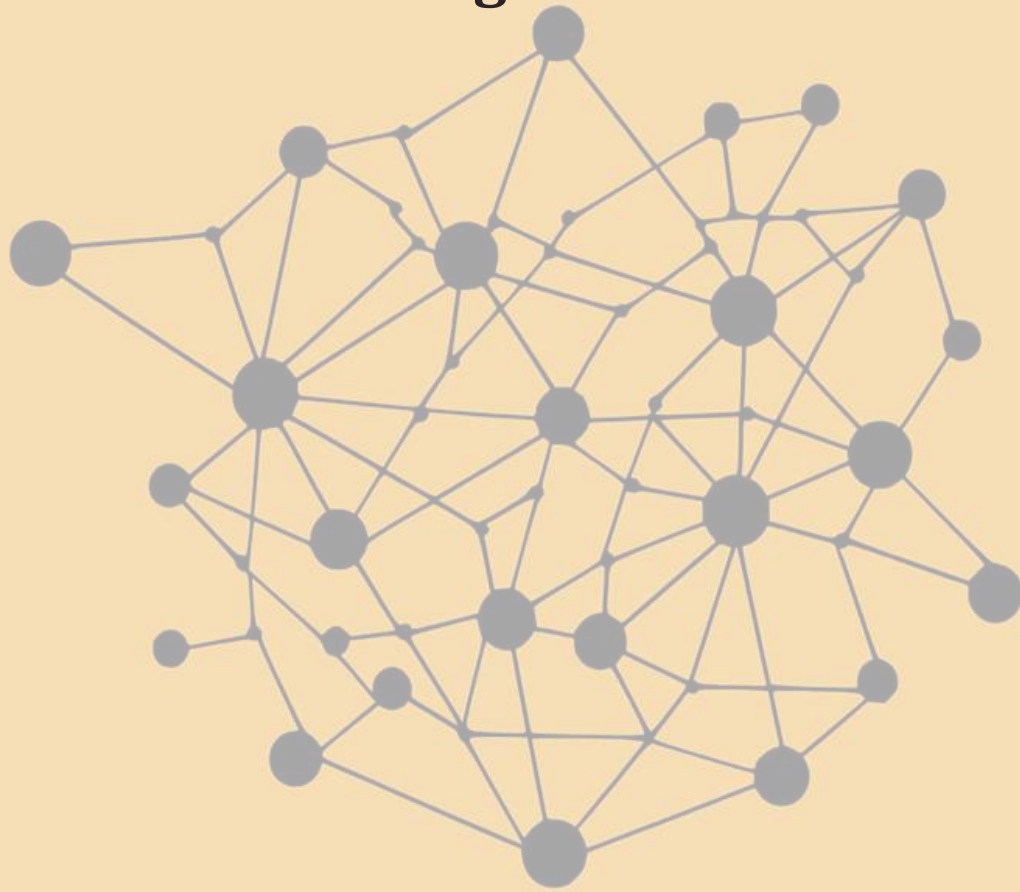


Position Paper

Establishing a Centralised EU Registry for Organisations Implementing Vocational Training Mobilities



Co-funded by the
European Union

| | |
|---|---|
| Establishing a Centralised EU Registry for Organisations Implementing Vocational Training Mobilities..... | 3 |
| <i>EVBB Position Paper</i> | 3 |
| 1. Challenges in managing VET mobilities today | 3 |
| 2. The Role of Intermediary Organizations and the Need for Vetting | 4 |
| 3. The solution: A centralized EU registry of VET mobility organisations..... | 4 |
| 4. Designing the EU Mobility Organization Registry..... | 5 |
| 5. Recommendations | 6 |

Establishing a Centralised EU Registry for Organisations Implementing Vocational Training Mobilities

EVBB Position Paper

June 2025

1. Challenges in managing VET mobilities today

Under Erasmus+, VET mobilities have enabled hundreds of thousands of apprentices, students, and VET staff to gain experience abroad. In 2022, approximately 18% of all Erasmus+ mobile participants were in VET fields (with higher education and school education comprising the majority). This translates to roughly 200,000+ vocational learners and staff taking part in EU-funded mobilities in a single year. Erasmus+ supports a range of VET mobility activities – from short-term traineeships to long-duration apprenticeships, across all member states. The E+ budget increases yearly, allowing for even more mobilities; for instance, 2023 saw 1.3 million mobility participants across all sectors, supported by a €4.5 billion budget. VET mobilities are also diversifying. The E+ 2022 report noted a 56% surge in short-term VET mobilities compared to the previous year¹, and significant use of funds for placements beyond Europe.

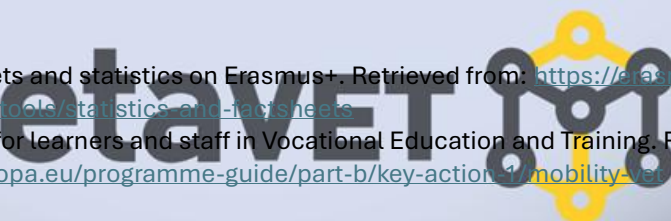
This growth reflects the high value of VET mobilities: they strengthen vocational skills, language abilities, and employability, while supporting the internationalization of VET providers. Erasmus+ policy objectives explicitly include “making mobility a realistic possibility for any VET learner” and increasing the average duration and quality of such mobilities².

In practice, thousands of vocational schools, training centres, companies, and intermediary agencies collaborate to organize these exchanges. Intermediary organizations, that can include among others, specialised mobility agencies, chambers of commerce, or NGOs, play a crucial coordinating role, connecting sending VET institutions with host companies abroad. Despite E+'s success, stakeholders have identified several challenges in the current decentralized management of VET mobilities. These include:

- **Inconsistent Quality:** Learner experiences vary, with some placements well-organised and others misaligned with expectations or learning plans. National Agencies conduct oversight at the project level, but there is no EU-wide mechanism to track recurrent quality issues across organisations or borders
- **Limited Transparency:** VET providers often struggle to identify reliable partners. Information is scattered, and no central registry exists to verify which organisations are experienced or vetted. This lack of visibility undermines trust and limits accountability in a system involving over 32,000 projects and €4 billion annually
- **Barriers for Small Organisations:** Although inclusion is a key priority—with 134,000 learners with fewer opportunities supported in 2022—many small VET providers lack the capacity to access Erasmus+. While tools like Small-Scale Partnerships help, many still

¹ European Commission, Factsheets and statistics on Erasmus+. Retrieved from: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/statistics-and-factsheets>

² European Commission, Mobility for learners and staff in Vocational Education and Training. Retrieved from: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-1/mobility-vet>



rely on intermediaries, leading to dependency and uneven participation. Equal access must be extended to all organisations, not just individuals

2. The Role of Intermediary Organizations and the Need for Vetting

Intermediary organizations represent one of the crucial actors across European ecosystems of mobilities for vocational education & training. Their role has been of supporting via guidance a variety of educational institutions by leveraging their expertise in handling an ever-increasing amount and number of mobilities for learners and staff across all educational dimensions. As such, intermediary organizations represent precious knowledge hubs, providing turnkey solutions in the form of mobility offerings as well as ready networks for inbound & outbound mobilities. Unlike accredited VET schools or higher education institutions, intermediaries are not consistently vetted at the EU level. Yet they are expected to uphold the same Erasmus+ quality standards, which include principles such as inclusion, transparency, proper mentoring, and responsible grant management. Without formal oversight, there is no guarantee that these standards are applied uniformly raising concerns about the quality and ethics of some placements.

The growth and widespread diffusion of such organisations has been met with caution on behalf of mobility practitioners. Despite providing a crucial service to educational systems across European countries even beyond the schools' dimensions, for example improving access, uptake and penetration of European funds at deeper levels (e.g., regional or local), these organizations have been often accused of representing a bottleneck to the development of schools' internal capacities to handle mobilities. Almost in the same way as consultants, intermediaries have been subject of half-hearted policy support from policymakers, being considered an 'unwelcome' actor to the ecosystem or rather a palliative solution in between a long-term vision of schools establishing their own models for handling mobilities.

3. The solution: A centralized EU registry of VET mobility organisations

It is absolutely crucial to not disperse the rich knowledge and experience accumulated by intermediary organisations. We acknowledge the existence of predatory practices for the management of VET mobilities, seen as a ripe market for funding access to various organisations, whether small or big ones.

A centralized registry of Erasmus+ VET mobility organizations would be a game-changer in tackling the issues above. It would function as an official database of vetted, approved organizations (including intermediaries, consortia coordinators, frequent host companies, etc.) that are authorized to organize or host vocational training mobilities across Europe. The registry's design and enforcement could directly address the challenges:



- **Quality Assurance:** Registered organisations would need to meet clearly defined criteria aligned with Erasmus+ quality standards. This pre-vetting would ensure a consistent baseline of preparation and commitment. Performance data, such as mobility outcomes and participant feedback, could also be collected and monitored.
- **Transparency and Trust:** A publicly accessible portal would allow VET providers, learners, and families to see which organisations are accredited for mobility activities. Profiles could include sector focus, location, and performance history. This would simplify partner search, reduce reliance on informal networks, and strengthen trust and accountability across the Erasmus+ ecosystem.
- **Inclusivity and Support for Small Players:** The registry would not exclude small or new organisations, it would support them. Any eligible entity could apply by committing to standards and completing onboarding training. Capacity-building mechanisms, online modules, mentoring, or tailored support by National Agencies, would ensure newcomers are equipped to participate meaningfully. This approach ensures that inclusion applies to organisations as well as individuals.

4. Designing the EU Mobility Organization Registry

For the registry to succeed, it must combine fair entry criteria with meaningful support and robust oversight. Below is a summary of key components:

- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Formal commitment to Erasmus+ Quality Standards (inclusion, sustainability, digital readiness).
 - Adherence to ethical principles, e.g. anti-discrimination, no illegal participant fees, safeguarding measures.
 - Scalable capacity requirements (track record for large entities, solid planning for newcomers).
 - Internal quality mechanisms (e.g. placement evaluation, participant support plans).
 - References or endorsements (e.g. from National Agencies or previous partners).
- **Training and Support:** New registrants—especially small or inexperienced ones—should complete online orientation on Erasmus+ rules, quality implementation, and ethical conduct. This could be delivered via an “Erasmus+ Mobility Organisers Academy,” with optional mentorship from seasoned actors. The registry could also include templates, case studies, and forums (linked to EPALE or National Agency initiatives).
- **Monitoring and Feedback:** Participant surveys and final project reports would feed into a performance log for each listed organisation. Issues could trigger follow-up or delisting, while strong performers may receive recognition. National Agencies could run spot checks and targeted coaching based on feedback trends.



- **Accountability and Improvement:** The registry would include clear protocols for dealing with non-compliance, ranging from improvement plans to suspension. At the same time, the Commission could report annually on registry statistics to guarantee system transparency and equity.
- **Inclusivity Measures:** A two-tiered system could distinguish between “provisional” and “full” registrants, giving new or small entities a path to scale up gradually. The registry should explicitly track representation by country, size, and type, and adjust support accordingly.

This registry would not only raise the bar for quality, it would expand access and make Erasmus+ implementation more transparent, fair, and strategic.

5. Recommendations

Erasmus+ vocational training mobilities are a European success story, but as the programme grows, ensuring quality, transparency, and equal access becomes increasingly complex. A **centralised EU-level registry** for mobility organisations would be a key instrument to strengthen oversight and empower all types of actors to participate responsibly and effectively.

The registry aligns with EU policy priorities (e.g. Council Recommendation on VET, Osnabrück Declaration) by enhancing learner protection, quality assurance, and inclusion. It complements existing tools like accreditation and quality standards by offering a **unified platform** for vetting, support, and monitoring.

We recommend the following actions:

- **Develop the Registry Framework:** Design the structure, governance, and scope in consultation with National Agencies and stakeholders, including clear eligibility criteria aligned with Erasmus+ values.
- **Ensure Inclusivity:** Open access to all committed organisations, large or small, supported by mentoring, training, and a tiered registration path to lower entry barriers.
- **Invest in Training:** Establish an “Erasmus+ Mobility Organisers Academy” to build capacity through online learning and community exchange.
- **Promote Transparency:** Make the registry searchable and data-rich to support informed partnerships and evidence-based policy improvements.
- **Implement Monitoring and Accountability:** Use project data and feedback to monitor compliance, support improvements, and take corrective action when needed.

A central registry would bring coherence to Erasmus+ mobility delivery, ensuring that every participant is supported by a reliable, transparent, and quality-assured ecosystem. It is a smart, scalable solution that matches Erasmus+ ambition with infrastructure fit for the future.

