

Milan, 27th December 2017

Subject: garagErasmus Foundation Annual Report 2017

To whom it may concern,

the year 2017, which is now about to end, has been characterized by lots of challenges and positive results; the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme has been a crucial point indeed, boosting up our confidence in the future.

During this year garagErasmus has played an important role at the European level and this has been possible thanks to your support; that's why I want to thank your University for joining our Foundation. Step by step, together, we are building up this organization, that today represents an important reference in the mobility area.

As you already know, we will have the chance to discuss the results of the year and plan future developments during our annual meeting, that will take place in Milan on the 25th and 26th of January. I really hope to see you there and collect your suggestions or proposals.

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Numbers are eloquent: since the beginning of the current year our partner Universities have increased from 23 up to 31 (a 35% net growth) and the subscription to our platform has now reached 14.768 members. Moreover, Facebook has now 19015 followers (+14%) and Twitter counts almost 1200 followers (+27%). We have doubled even our local associations (gE4Cities) from 7 up to 15, confirming the value of the mission we have decided to carry on.

Furthermore, we have improved new features on the platform, in particular, a section dedicated to master courses in Universities, with many of them starting the posting activity as well as the offer of courses.

On the 24th February 2017, the first States General of the Erasmus Generation took place in the Protomoteca Hall at the Campidoglio in Rome on occasion of the 30th Anniversary of Erasmus+ in Italy. It is a project with the aim of gathering the Erasmus Generation and actively involving them in a discussion and an exchange of views about the future of Europe. The meeting was organized by the Erasmus+ National Agency/Indire, Erasmus Student Network Italy and garagErasmus, together with the Department for European Policies of the Council Presidency and the Italian Ministry of Education. 200 selected students, with Erasmus mobility experience in their resume, gathered together to discuss and exchange views. The States General, in fact, has been the first opportunity to listen, debate and collect opinions of students and former Erasmus students. The debate continues on the online platform provided by garagErasmus. This process will lead to the drafting of "policy suggestions", a cultural-political document addressed to politicians and decision makers.

Later on, with the European Commission, we took care of the "Erasmus+ Generation online meeting point ", the official project of the EC regarding the discussion of the future of the Erasmus programme. Every National agency selected a discussion leader from each country to improve the online discussion. The result has been the «Erasmus Declaration», an official document elaborated by more than 20.000 people, delivered to the Commissioner Tibor Navracsics.

We are also giving our contribution to the future of ESAA (Erasmus Student and Alumni Alliance): in 2018 we are starting the second period (2018-2020) after the beginning and we need to bring more Europe and develop more consciousness in the civil society.

On the 16th of May 2017, we launched our main project called the Laissez-Passer of the Erasmus Generation, in connection with the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus program. The goal is to create more opportunities for young Europeans by connecting the Erasmus generation with private companies, as well as to create scholarships to financially support those youngsters who are about to leave for an exchange period. We received more than 600 candidates from former Erasmus students to represent the Erasmus generation.

For all the reasons above mentioned, we really hope to see you during our Annual Meeting in Milan, and to see your University at the side of garagErasmus during the next year as well!

Fabrizio Bitetto

garagErasmus Foundation CEO