

# garagErasmus FAQs

Everything you should know about us and you are wondering about our activity

Ver 1.0

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## The Basics

### 1) What is garagErasmus?

garagErasmus is a Foundation set up to mobilise talent and business ideas.

### 2) What is the aim of garagErasmus?

The aim of garagErasmus is to help the Erasmus generation find and create jobs.

### 3) Who are the Erasmus generation?

The Erasmus generation are former Erasmus students and like-minded persons with work- or study abroad experience.

### 4) How does garagErasmus operate?

GaragErasmus operates through a series of projects and initiatives. Among them the most relevant is an online platform called *Check-in Europe - the professional network of the Erasmus generation*. Check-in Europe is the backbone of all activities foreseen so far: *Meet-ups* of local associations: 'gE4City' (e.g. *gE4Lisbon*) and *Joint Projects* of alumni (coaching, mentoring), cities/regions (territorial marketing), companies (recruitment, business development abroad), investors/business angels/crowd funders (investment) and universities (career guidance, start-up centres, alumni tracing, lifelong learning).

### 5) How can my university / company / city join garagErasmus?

They can join by becoming 'Foundation Member' ("Founder Participant") of garagErasmus, take part in activities, provide strategic indications and support the volunteers in setting up a local garagErasmus association: gE4City(name).

### 6) Why should my university join garagErasmus?

garagErasmus will help to internationalise the career- and start-up services of your university. Your alumni will have easier access to the international labour market and learn how to develop business ideas at home and abroad. You will get access to a broad pool of talents and lifelong learners.

### 7) Who should be the contact person for garagErasmus at my university?

This is up to your institution to decide, but, ideally, this would be a colleague (and a back-up person) working in the Alumni Office/Career Office well connected with the Business Development/Start-up Service Unit. Upstream, the International Relations Officers (IROs) at central or departmental/faculty level have the crucial role of liaising with the current cohorts of Erasmus students (incoming/outgoing/returning) and informing them about the option of uploading their data on Check-in Europe. The Rector or President will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the garagErasmus Foundation at the moment when the University formally becomes 'Foundation Member' of garagErasmus.

### **8) How many universities have already joined garagErasmus?**

So far, 21 universities have joined the garagErasmus Foundation directly and more than 1.300 indirectly, through their networks: The Italian Conference of Rectors' (CRUI), the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU), the Santander Group European Universities Network (SGgroup) and the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA).

### **9) Why should companies in my region join garagErasmus?**

garagErasmus will help companies in your region find the international staff they need and expand their business across Europe (and beyond), using the contacts and expertise of the Erasmus Foundation and the Check-in Europe network.

### **10) Why should my city join garagErasmus?**

garagErasmus will help your city (or region) raise the attractiveness of its territory for international talent (territorial marketing) and develop business opportunities, using the contacts and expertise of the Erasmus Foundation and the Check-in Europe network.

### **11) When will garagErasmus be fully operational?**

garagErasmus will be fully operational as soon as Check-in Europe has registered half a million (500.000) individuals and 30 local associations (e.g. gE4Lisbon) have been set up across Europe. According to our estimates we will reach these two targets by early 2017. After that date, we expect further and exponential growth.

## Check-in Europe

### The professional network of the Erasmus generation

#### 12) What is Check-in Europe?

Check-in Europe is a project of garagErasmus. Check-In Europe is an online platform where former Erasmus students (and like-minded persons) can upload their competences and (business) ideas.

#### 13) Why should an individual register with Check-in Europe?

Check-in Europe can help you find and create jobs.

#### 14) What is Check-in Europe doing concretely?

Check-in Europe facilitates online/offline matching between registered individuals and their counterparts across Europe:

- Other alumni, for joint projects, coaching and mentoring
- Recruitment agencies, for public and private employment
- Investors, business angels and crowd funders, for investments
- Companies, wishing to expand abroad, searching for contacts persons and business partners in target countries
- Cities and regional authorities, wishing to raise the attractiveness of their territory for international talent (territorial marketing)
- Universities, for better alumni tracing and more effective (international) career service
- Universities, for better and wider targeting their lifelong learning offer.

#### 15) How many individuals have registered on Check-in Europe so far? What is the target?

So far, 7.700 individuals have registered spontaneously. The target number is 500.000 individuals by early 2017.

#### **16) How will new cohorts of mobile students learn about Check-In Europe?**

New cohorts of mobile students will be informed by their university, by other associations and through (social) media. They will be contacted by garagErasmus if they give permission to do so in their response to the Survey at the end of their mobility period. The 2015 Survey showed that 90 per cent of Erasmus students agree to share their contact data for professional networking purposes.

#### **17) How will Check-in Europe reach the (over 3 million) former Erasmus students?**

The garageErasmus Foundation will cooperate with alumni offices and -networks of universities across Europe, draw on other networks (social and professional) and make use of (social) media exposure to help recommend alumni to register with Check-in Europe.

#### **18) What is the added value of Check-in Europe as compared to most other online networks?**

Check-in Europe is entirely focussed on finding jobs and creating business opportunities for a distinct segment of the working population. The Erasmus generation is an '*international native*' community of mostly young people with a broad variety of talents. They are, on the whole, open-minded, pro-active and ready to consider working abroad for shorter or longer periods of time.

#### **19) Will Check-in Europe stay as it is today?**

The existing functionalities of Check-in Europe will be updated continuously by our team and new functionalities will be developed in response to the wishes of our users and partners

#### **20) Can refugees register in Check-in Europe?**

Refugees with a higher education background are most welcome to join. They fulfil all the criteria.

## Local garagErasmus Associations (gE4City)

### 21) What do local garagErasmus associations do?

Local garagErasmus associations (e.g. gE4Lisbon) do face-to-face matching of persons and ideas. They organise events and meet-ups in various formats, all with the aim to help 'find and create jobs' and to promote the value encompass in the Erasmus. They are backed up by the huge data resource of Check-in Europe. Members of the local garagErasmus associations are ex Erasmus or internationally minded people

### 22) Who can create a local garagErasmus association?

A local garagErasmus association can be created by a small group of Volunteers (former Erasmus students or like-minded persons) who do this next to their job as entrepreneur, civil servant or academic. Ideally, the initiators of a local association come from the private, (semi-)public and academic sector.

### 23) Do I need permission to start a local garagErasmus association?

There is no need for permission to do the preparatory work, which can take up to 18 months. The formal status of gE4City(name) is awarded by the Board of the garagErasmus Foundation. Conditions are: legal status according to national law, an approved Work Plan, active support of the city/region and a lead university both of which formally join garagErasmus as 'Foundation Member'. Once the garagErasmus association is recognised, it become automatically a Foundation member (Founder participant) of garagErasmus

### 24) Are local associations guided and supported by the garagErasmus Foundation?

Yes, guidance and (moral) support is provided by the staff of the Foundation at garagErasmus Headquarters. Individual board members of garagErasmus visit the local associations and provide online mentoring.

### 25) Where can I find a local garagErasmus association?

Formal recognition has been given to the gE4 in Athens, Istanbul, Lisbon, Prague and Tours. Preparatory work has started in Budapest, Iasi, Istanbul, Leiden/The Hague, Liège, Lisbon, Maastricht, Pisa, and Warsaw. A total number of 30 local associations are expected to be fully operational by the end of 2016. Your city could be one of them!

## Funding

### 26) Do individuals have to pay a fee to take part in the garagErasmus network?

No, there is no registration or participation fee for individuals.

### 27) Do garagErasmus Foundation Member pay a fee?

- Universities pay € 1.000 per year for an initial period of three years
- Companies pay € 7.500 per year for an initial period of three years
- Cities/regions pay no fee, but commit to finding at least three local companies as new foundation members. They also commit to promote garagErasmus and help organise events. The Tuscany Region and Pisa Airport provide garagErasmus Headquarters with grant support and office space.
- Local garagErasmus associations pay no fee.

### 28) Why is this money not going to the local associations?

The garagErasmus Foundation needs resources to run the small headquarters, to guide the growing number of local associations, to organise events and sponsoring at European level and to develop the online platform 'Check-In Europe'.

### 29) Will the local garagErasmus associations receive financial support from the garagErasmus Foundation?

For the moment, no financial support is foreseen from the Foundation to local associations.

### 30) Will the local associations fund their activities?

They will do local and regional fundraising. National and European fundraising is organised by the garagErasmus Foundation Headquarters.)

### 31) Is garagErasmus receiving EU funding?

The European Commission has so far funded onmy one meeting of garagErasmus Volunteers

in the framework of the launch of the umbrella association ESAA: European Student and Alumni Association. garagErasmus may compete in future EU calls.

### **32) Is the European Commission supporting garagErasmus through other means?**

The European Commission is providing moral support to the garagErasmus initiative, directly and towards third parties such as universities, national agencies, ministries and sponsors. The Commission also supports garagErasmus through joint activities to be organised by the umbrella association ESAA and its technical service provider ICUnet.

### **33) What is the role of the new umbrella organisation ESAA?**

ESAA and its technical service provider ICUnet will support joint activities of the four member organisations: the European Students Network (ESN), the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA), the Organisation for Cooperation, Exchange And Networking among Students (OCEANS - EU and industrialised third countries) and garagErasmus. ESAA will not replace the four member organisations.

### **34) What other ideas are there to raise income and develop business for garagErasmus**

The garagErasmus Foundation is not-for-profit, but also not-for loss. Commercial activities will be carried out by ad hoc separate entities set up by the Foundation, controlled by the Foundation and in line with its social context. All use of personal data is subject to prior consent in line with EU data protection rules.

## Governance

### **35) How is garagErasmus organised? Who is in charge?**

The garagErasmus Foundation is a Foundation according to Italian law. Executive Chairman of the Board of garagErasmus is Francesco Cappè (Erasmus in Bilbao in 1994). The Board is nominated by the Founding garagErasmus association - "Promoter Founder" (which has been established in 2012 by a group of former Erasmus following the publication, in Italy, of a book about the "Erasmus Generation". The association is mainly composed by the authors of this book). The Foundation Headquarters' Office in Pisa is managed by Director Mrs Lia Micciché. An external group of advisors from industry, the public sector and academia (High Level Council) is providing outside guidance to the initiative. The High Level Council is chaired by Prof. Maurits van Rooijen, CEO and Rector of the London School of Business and Finance.

### **36) What is the role of the garagErasmus Foundation members?**

The garagErasmus association "Promoter Founder", in 2013, established the garagErasmus Foundation so to be professionally equipped to face the challenging of its mission. The Foundation involves as members ("Founder Participant") 4 type of relevant stakeholders: the "Erasmus generation" through the gE4s (local garagErasmus associations, whose members are ex Erasmus or internationally minded people), universities, private companies and cities/local authorities. The foundation members meet, at least once per year, during the garagErasmus "General Assembly" so to provide feedbacks and strategic indications on the garagErasmus developments and strategy.

### **37) How is grassroots feedback ensured?**

At the basis of garagErasmus are the thousands, and potentially millions, former Erasmus students and other like-minded persons. Their views will be heard through online focus groups and direct individual feedback. Particular attention will be given to the comments and recommendations from the volunteers running the growing number of local associations (gE4Cities).