



## EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND: HOLYROOD 2021 ELECTIONS

### EDUCATION

#### Manifesto commitments recommended by EMiS

- Make every effort to enable Scotland to participate in the Erasmus+ programme
- Push UK Government to facilitate the entry and residence of students from EEA countries, and to make their participation in education in the UK financially viable, allowing for cross-cultural exchange and broader opportunities
- Push UK Government to facilitate the entry and residence, and recognition of qualifications, of EEA national teachers and their families, at all levels of education, so as to ensure continued cross-cultural exchange and, in particular, contribution to effective modern language teaching
- Lobby UK Government to provide hard copy proof of settled status for all those education professionals already living in Scotland who are EEA nationals

#### Background

Despite the UK Government's stated intention at the start of negotiations to maintain its participation in the flagship EU Education exchange programme, Erasmus+, it failed to pursue this.

Erasmus+ has traditionally offered valuable learning and intercultural exchange, not only to students but to school children, adult learners, teachers and sports and community groups. This will not be matched by the current government's proposed Turing scheme for tertiary level students, which only covers UK students studying overseas, and does not cover overseas students in the UK. The cultural and wider benefits aside, this means that the UK economy misses out on £420 million spent annually by incoming participants – a net 'profit' of over £243 million a year on the UK's participation in Erasmus.

Scotland has a historic reputation in the provision of outward-looking, broad, high-quality education. Under Erasmus+, Scotland punched above its weight, accounting for 13 percent of UK Erasmus+ funding and 17 percent of Erasmus+ projects in the UK. The Scottish Government should make every effort to push for Scotland to be able to participate in the Erasmus+ programme anew (as it appears Northern Ireland will be able to do, with the

support of Ireland). Since education is a devolved matter, it could ring-fence funding for this purpose.

The end to freedom of movement will mean far fewer EEA nationals staff our universities and schools, and the loss of mutual recognition of qualifications will be a barrier to those still prepared to come. The Scottish Government should therefore do all it can to facilitate the arrival of students, teachers and their families at all levels of education. This is needed for the continued cross-cultural exchange which is so vital in many areas of education, particularly foreign-language training.

For those EEA nationals and their families who already live and work in education in Scotland, forming such a valuable part of many of our communities, the refusal of the UK Government to provide physical proof of Settled Status also acts as a social and practical barrier. The Scottish Government should lobby the UK government to address this.

**For further inquiries, contact: [policybriefs@euromove.scotland.org.uk](mailto:policybriefs@euromove.scotland.org.uk)**

**For more about EMiS and its position on a range of policy issues see: <https://www.euromovescotland.org.uk/>**

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