

Our Concerns regarding the Reallocation of European Funds & Consequences on Education.

We wanna start by saying that we see that Circle U. is working very hard to take measures to address the upcoming budget cuts that Erasmus+ and the next Framework Program will suffer. As 2028 approaches, we are getting closer to the end of the currently ongoing EU funding scheme, which has been essential in ensuring the quality of higher education, in accordance with European core values as laid out in [Article 2 of the TEU](#). We acknowledge your efforts in keeping the alliance active and impactful despite the adversities, and we appreciate that.

While the need of allocating funds to arm European defense forces is certainly present, it should not come at all costs, especially not to the disadvantage of education and regional cohesion. Programmes like Erasmus+, the European Regional Development Funds, and the European Social Fund Plus are as crucial for the development, independence, and subsequently the defence of Europe. The educational system plays a crucial role in keeping people informed, thinking critically and being able to advance society. Strengthening the European educational system increases our chances of being more independent in the future.

It is important to show resilience and adapt to an adverse geopolitical environment when needed, but we believe it is important to highlight the role universities and students have in times of crises. We believe it to be a role of finding balance and ensuring a progressive future, even in times when reacting is necessary.

That being said, we want to express our disappointment in the direction the European community is taking for the future, and we consider complying with this to be a potentially dangerous stance in the current geopolitical climate. We additionally consider the monetary prioritization taking place as problematic for the sustainability of the European community and its future.

We hope that the rectors and presidents are sharing this point of view with regard to priorities of the next multiannual financial framework. We hope that our views will be taken into consideration both now, but also for future activities and want to invite you to discuss this important issue with us.