

# ARE YOU DREAMING OF A SUSTAINABLE ERASMUS?

erasmusbytrain

**45%**

of Erasmus participants would prefer to travel sustainably – only 1 out of 4 did it.\*  
#bethechange

## Our demand

Within the framework of the European Union's Erasmus programme, several hundred thousand participants travel to other countries every year, thereby gaining valuable experiences. Unfortunately, Erasmus-related travel is often undertaken by plane, as participants typically bear travel costs themselves and prices for air travel are often more attractive. This effect is created by political decisions but furthered due to cooperations of Erasmus-affiliated organisations (e.g. ESN) with airlines, such as Ryanair. The large amount of air travel associated with the Erasmus programme contributes to the EU's tremendous CO2 emissions and runs counter to the Unions' sustainability efforts of the European Green Deal and its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

**We call on the responsible EU institutions to cover the travel costs of all Erasmus participants who choose to renounce climate-damaging air travel and switch to environmentally friendly means of transport, such as by train or by bus. Specifically, we advocate for free Interrail passes for travel to and from the exchange location. It is time to finally connect the ideas of Erasmus and Interrail!**

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We are a student initiative that aims to connect the Erasmus and Interrail programmes for a sustainable and united Europe.

## WINWINWINSITUATION



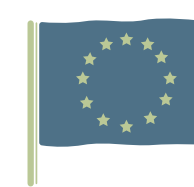
### The Erasmus participants

Many young Europeans would like to travel more sustainably but simply cannot afford expensive train journeys. This often also applies to Interrail tickets. The curiosity to discover Europe in all its diversity is thus dampened, as climate protection and the European idea absurdly compete with each other. This is what free Interrail tickets for all Erasmus participants would change – sustainable travel and the Erasmus programme would be able to complement each other. A positive side effect: up until now, participants in Erasmus exchanges have had to pay for their own travel costs. This financial hurdle would be removed if the tickets were free of charge, so that even more young Europeans could take part in the Erasmus programme.



### Our planet

The Erasmus programme is great. Unfortunately tens of thousands of students currently travel by plane each semester to get to their exchange destinations. Yet flying is the most climate-damaging way to travel: not only do planes emit masses of CO2, nitrogen oxides, aerosols and water vapour – these emitted substances also have a greater impact on the greenhouse effect at flight altitude. This has drastic consequences for humans and nature. Free Interrail tickets reduce air travel and strengthen environmentally friendly means of transport such as rail. This is how the transformation in Europe's transport sector can succeed.



### Europe and the European institutions

Erasmus and Interrail have been connecting Europe and its people for decades, strengthening European cohesion. However, a flight from metropolis to metropolis and across the entire continent does not contribute to this. On the one hand Free Interrail tickets to and from the exchange location, on the other hand, make the Erasmus journey part of the European exchange: the peace project of Europe becomes tangible with the landscapes, languages and people you meet on the train. Mutual understanding and cohesion are also the prerequisite for functioning European institutions. Credibility – particularly in climate policy – is as well. A **European Green Deal** should not stop at Erasmus.

## WHAT WE OFFER



### Voice of civil society

We lobby the relevant bodies at uni-versity, regional, national and European level for the provision of free Interrail tickets for all Erasmus participants.



### Support

We support Erasmus participants who want to get to their exchange destination by train or bus with our expertise and – if our budget allows it.



### Raising awareness

We want to raise awareness for sustainable travel among Erasmus participants and organizers through events and presentations and motivate them to avoid air travel in the future.



### Information

We provide information material such as dossiers and flyers on sustainable travel in Europe.

## Want to know more about us?

@erasmusbytrain @ f t

www.erasmusbytrain.eu

Or contact us directly:  
info@erasmusbytrain.eu

We are looking forward to contribute to a future-proof and green Erasmus with you.  
Your **erasmusbytrain** –Team