

ISEC/10/87

21 May 1987

ERASMUS ADOPTED

On 14 May the Council of Ministers finally adopted the Erasmus programme (European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students).

The plan has three elements, the most significant being the provision of grants to enable EC students to study in other member states. Lack of such a grant system is a major obstacle to this kind of mobility at the moment. Grants will fall into two categories - partial grants to cover the extra costs of studying abroad and full grants, awarded on the basis of annual competitions.

It is envisaged that 25,000 students will benefit from this programme during the next three academic years.

The Erasmus programme includes the establishment and operation of a European University Network designed to promote an inter-university student exchange programme whereby students spend a period of study in another member state as part of their overall course.

The third element of the Erasmus programme concerns the improvement of academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study, which will assist universities admitting students from another Community country to insert them at the appropriate level.

The budget for the programme, together with complementary measures, is set at 85 million ECU over three years - 10 million for 1987; 30 million for 1988 and 45 million for 1989. (1 ECU = 69.4 pence [15 May]).

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