Dear Colleagues,

This morning, the European Commission published on its <u>website</u> a factsheet on the consequences of a no-deal Brexit.

The participation of the United Kingdom in the current Erasmus+ programme after the withdrawal date depends on the ratification and entry into force of the **Withdrawal Agreement** between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

If the **Withdrawal Agreement does enter into force,** the UK would participate in the Programme on the same terms as the EU Member States, until its closure. In that case, we do not expect any impact on ongoing projects.

In case the UK withdraws from the European Union without the Withdrawal Agreement being in place (the "no-deal scenario"), the UK would no longer be a Programme Country under the Erasmus+ Regulation. This would affect the eligibility of the UK operators in the different actions of the Erasmus+ programme. They might cease to receive EU funding and might be required to leave the project. In that case, there might be an impact on ongoing projects. In this context of uncertainty, the Commission has previously asked Member States and stakeholders to prepare for the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal, taking into account all possible outcomes.

On 19 March 2019, the Council and Parliament adopted a <u>Regulation</u> to avoid the disruption of Erasmus+ Key Action 1 learning mobility activities involving the United Kingdom in a no-deal scenario. It will apply to activities starting at the latest on the date of withdrawal and which take place in the United Kingdom or involve entities or participants from the United Kingdom. The regulation will enter into force only if the UK leaves the Union with no withdrawal agreement in place. It shall apply from the date following that on which the Treaties cease to apply to and in the United Kingdom.

For more information, please find attached a Frequently Asked Questions document which will soon be published on our website.

In parallel, the Commission proposed on 30 January 2019 a horizontal contingency regulation (*Regulation on measures concerning the implementation and financing of the general budget of the Union in 2019 in relation to the withdrawal of the UK from the Union)*. If adopted by the Council, this Regulation would enable the EU to be in a position to honour its commitments and to continue making payments in 2019 to UK beneficiaries for contracts signed and decisions made before the UK leaves the EU, on condition that the UK honours its obligations under the 2019 budget and that it accepts the necessary audit checks and controls. This would help mitigate the significant impact of a "no-deal" scenario for a wide range of areas that receive EU funding, including all Erasmus+ actions (except those Key Action 1 mobility activities already covered by the specific Erasmus+ contingency regulation) and the European Solidarity Corps. It is, however, too early to say whether it will be adopted and whether the conditions will be fulfilled by the UK.

The Commission will continue to monitor events closely and will update the <u>Brexit FAQs</u> on our website as new <u>information</u> becomes available.