

Sports bringing the Erasmus Generation together in Paris

Sport, being a universal language, has a power to bring people closer, regardless of their race, colour, religion, sexuality or gender. This is the core of the biggest sports competition of the Erasmus Generation - **International Erasmus Games Paris 2019** which will take place from the **2nd to the 5th May at the Suzanne Lenglen Stadium**.

For five consecutive years, the International Erasmus Games are organised by Erasmus Student Network (ESN) volunteers for exchange students from all around Europe. This year's host city Paris, before hosting the 2024 Summer Olympics, will welcome **350 participants from 20 countries** thanks to Erasmus Student Network Paris.

Participants will compete in four sports: futsal, basketball, volleyball and athletics as well as learn more about French culture by trying their luck in *pétanque*. United in diversity, standing up for healthy habits and active student life and leading by example, participants will represent their exchange country, waving the flags of their new homes high. Because just like sports, Erasmus+ programme breaks barriers and erases borders between young people, uniting them under shared values, such as tolerance, social inclusion and intercultural understanding.

With a mission to remind everyone how important social inclusion is, the main focus of this IEG will be **sports for everyone**. On Saturday, 4th May, participants and the local community will have an opportunity to take part in training about disabilities and a solidarity forum, where French associations will raise awareness and have a chance to interact with the public about social inclusion and sports for everyone. With the presence of parasport champions during the whole competition, the topic of athletes with disabilities will be present during the three days of the event. We will make sure that all the facilities used for this event (hotels, restaurants, conference room etc.) are accessible to everyone.

"Sports is a language that everybody speaks. Regardless of the origin, skin colour, or religion, when the whistle blows all players unite to achieve the common goal. At the end of the game, and regardless of the outcome for the team, there is a sense of shared effort which ultimately brings them closer. This is the spirit that ESN aims to see present across society and is a message that is at the core of our identity. For the upcoming years, I hope to see the event grow, attracting more partners and participants. All of this is possible due to the work of the many volunteers who organise local, national, and international events, and who ultimately believe in the transformative power of sports. Partners such as Pernod Ricard have also been central for the initiative, consistently supporting its organisation, especially with their initiative Responsible Party. The International Board is thankful to all of those who dedicate their time to make the International Erasmus Games a reality. In the newly

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launched Health and Well-being cause, sports take an important place, highlighting not only their role in bringing people together but also their importance for a healthy lifestyle. The support ESN provides to international students and volunteers must expand towards an increased health literacy, making the Erasmus experience an ever more meaningful event in the participants' lives." - Joao Pinto, President of the Erasmus Student Network AISBL

The International Erasmus Games are a project started and run by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), the biggest student organisation in Europe, present in 39 countries and over 1000 higher education institutions. ESN gathers over 15 000 student volunteers who support and take care of hundreds of thousands of exchange students every day, lead by the motto 'Students helping students'.