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Glenn Michaleff on Euronews for Erasmus+, Youth Engagement And The Cultural Compass Framework

In a podcast with Euronews Glenn Michaleff champions the Erasmus+ program, defending its budget and cultural significance amid financial pressures, highlighting its crucial role in building European youth identity and cross-continental understanding.

EU Commissioner Glenn Micallef shared his concerns about potential budget cuts to Erasmus, following reports that some member states had proposed reductions in the 2025 annual budget.

Although the budget was ultimately slightly increased, Micallef acknowledged ongoing discussions about the possible impact of the EU's shifting priorities—particularly toward defence and competitiveness—on future funding for cultural and youth initiatives like Erasmus in the 2028 long-term budget.

In the latest episode of Radio Schumann, EU Commissioner Glenn Michaleff stressed that Erasmus+ has been pivotal in nurturing a shared European identity for nearly 40 years. He acknowledged current financial strains, especially from the war in Ukraine, but affirmed his dedication to preserving and enhancing Erasmus+ regardless of potential future budget constraints.

He highlighted initiatives like DiscoverEU, which enables thousands of young Europeans to travel across the continent, fostering connections and cultural exchange. The Commissioner also pointed to programs in the cultural space, such as the European Capital of Culture as vital tools for building unity amid diversity.

Michaleff talked about the plans to launch a Culture Compass by the end of the year—an initiative aimed at coordinating and directing EU cultural policy more strategically. He emphasized Europe’s vast cultural wealth and its role as a global cultural powerhouse, citing UNESCO heritage sites and iconic locations like Notre Dame as unifying symbols.

The Culture Compass would support libraries, museums, and heritage sites and foster intercultural dialogue. The Commissioner sees this effort as a way to connect communities and promote a cohesive European narrative while respecting diverse traditions.

You can [listen to the 8 min. long interview with Euronews here](#)