Prize for Italian professor who invented Erasmus

by Ivano Abbadessa - 2016.05.09

Everything is ready at the Royal Monastery in Yuste, Spain, for an[award ceremony](#) **to honour 'Mamma Erasmus'**, which is the nickname given to Sofia Corradi, an Italian teacher who managed to launch the successful European programme with her enthusiasm and determination. Since 1987, the year it was started, the programme has enabled four million university students to spend a period of study abroad, where they could take exams that would be recognised by their home university. The award ceremony took place in the presence of King Philip VI of Spain on Monday, 9 May, as part of official celebrations for Europe Day. The Charles V Prize, now in its 10th year, is awarded to people who have shown commitment and have contributed to the spread of cultural, historical and scientific values, as well as solidarity, which support the European integration process. In recent years the award has been given to figures such as Helmut Kohl, Mikhail Gorbachev and Jacques Delors.