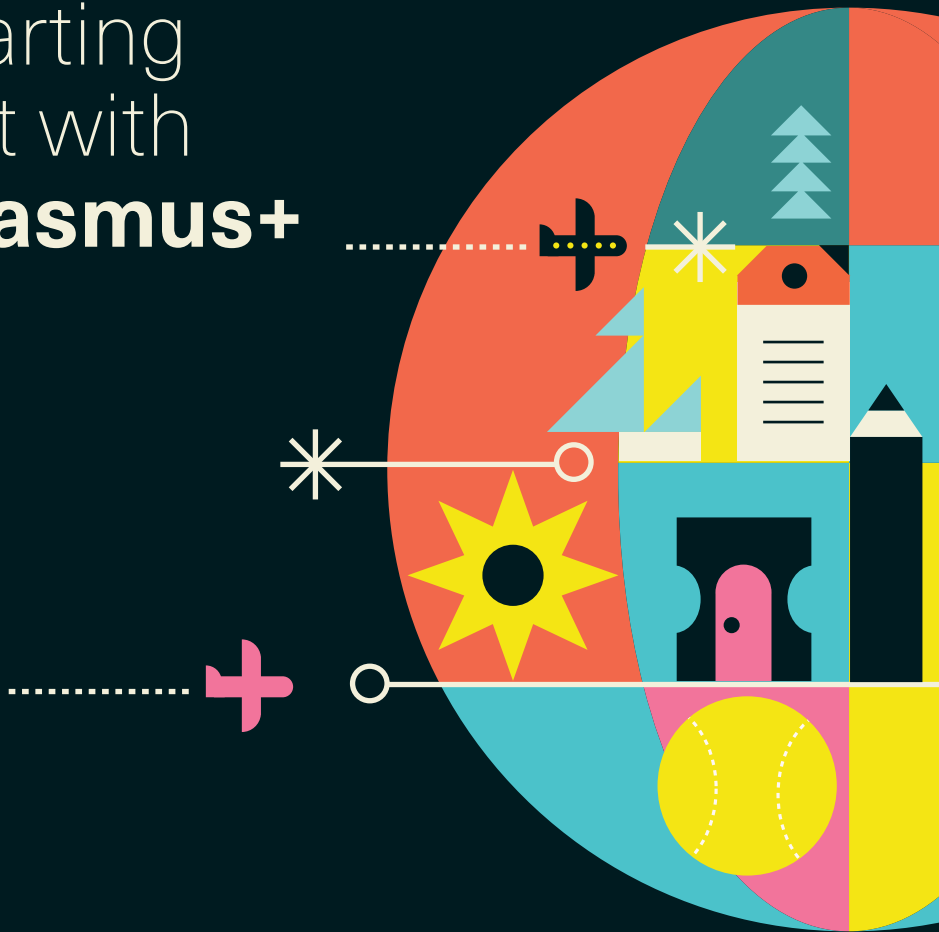
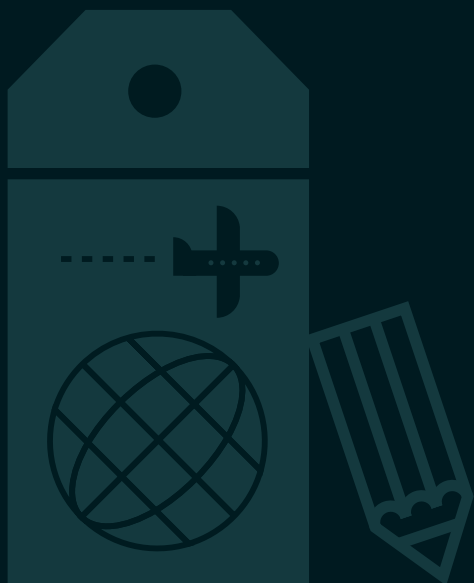


Starting out with **Erasmus+**





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Jargon Buster

A lot of the terms that we use in Erasmus+ can be a bit overwhelming when you see them first. Here's a quick guide to what the different terms mean. Contact us if you're confused!



Accreditation ensures that organisations wishing to receive Erasmus+ funding respect a set of standards defined by the European Commission.

Continuing Vocational Education occurs after initial education and training or after entry into working life. It helps people improve or update their knowledge, learn new skills, or re-train for a career move.

EU Presidency is the rotating leadership of the EU: every six months a different EU Member State takes on the Presidency. During its Presidency, the country has the chance to advance certain issues on the EU agenda.

EU Youth Strategy is the EU plan for young people. It has two main aims: providing more and equal opportunities for young people in education and the job market; and encouraging young people to actively take part in society.

Education and Training 2020 is the EU plan for education and training. It has several objectives including: making lifelong learning and mobility a reality; improving the quality and efficiency of education and training; promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; and enhancing creativity and innovation—including entrepreneurship—at all levels of education and training.

Erasmus + Programme Guide explains all the details of Erasmus+ and how it works. It is available online and there's a link to it on the home page of the Léargas website.

Europass is a set of five documents that help you record your skills whether you are planning to enrol in an education or training programme, look for a job, or gain experience abroad. It aims to make skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood across Europe. europass.eu

Europe 2020 is the EU plan to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. It sets out targets for employment, research and development, climate/energy, education, social inclusion, and poverty reduction.

European Commission is one of the EU institutions. It puts forward new laws, makes sure that EU Member States follow EU law, manages the day-to-day business of the EU, and represents the EU internationally.

European Development Plan outlines the needs of an organisation/institution and how the activities of their Erasmus+ project will help meet those needs.

European Youth Conference takes place during each EU Presidency. It brings together young people, decision makers and others to talk about youth policy. It provides young people with the chance to inform and influence decision makers on issues that are affecting their lives.

Formal learning is the type of learning that happens in an education system that follows a syllabus, for example a school. Learning outcomes are measured by tests or other types of assessments.

Informal learning is the type of learning that happens as part of our day-to-day lives: for example, learning from colleagues at work by talking to them or observing them in their work.

Initial Vocational Education and Training is carried out in the initial education system, usually before entering working life.

Innovation/Innovative practice is something novel or different such as a new or better method, idea or product.

Key Actions are the types of projects and activities that can be funded by Erasmus+. There are three Key Actions which are explained in more detail throughout this guide.

Key Competences are a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes that people need for personal development and fulfilment, to take part in society, and to find employment. They include, for example, the ability to communicate in your own language or a foreign language, digital skills, literacy, basic skills in maths and science, cultural awareness, creativity, and so on.

Learning Mobility is the movement of people across countries—within and outside Europe—in formal and non-formal learning settings such as exchange programmes between schools or youth groups, job shadowing for adult educators, placements for trainees, and so on.

Non-formal learning generally happens outside the formal education system but within some sort of structure, for example in community settings such as sport clubs, swimming lessons, debating societies, music groups and so on.

Otlas is a partner-finding tool that helps you find a partner for Erasmus+ Youth projects. Otlas can be found on the SALTO-Youth website salto-youth.net

Partner Countries are selected other countries in the world that can take part in some parts of Erasmus+, as explained in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

Programme Countries are those countries that can take part fully in Erasmus+. They include all EU Member States, and also Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Receiving Organisation is an organisation that receives participants from abroad and offers them a study, volunteer or traineeship programme; a set of training activities; or a teaching opportunity.

SALTO-Youth is a network of eight resource centres that work on European priorities in the youth field.

Sending Organisation is an organisation that selects participants to take part in a placement within an Erasmus+ project.

Transnational Meetings are meetings that involve two or more countries.

Vocational Education and Training equips people with the skills and competences required for particular occupations or more broadly on the labour market.

Youthpass is a certificate that documents the learning and skills you develop on an Erasmus+ youth project. You can use your Youthpass on your CV, to support job applications, or when applying for a course. youthpass.eu



Introduction



The purpose of this guide

This guide gives you an overview of how Erasmus+ works. It explains the opportunities in Erasmus+ and shows you how to get started. It is not designed to be an exhaustive overview of Erasmus+ and does not replace the European Commission Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

This guide covers:

- Adult Education
- School Education
- Vocational Education and Training
- Youth

What is Erasmus+?

What is it?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme that supports education, training, youth and sport in Europe. The programme runs from 2014 to 2020. There are lots of opportunities to set up projects, spend time abroad and gain new skills. The EU plans to spend €14.7 billion on Erasmus+ over seven years.

The European Commission is in charge of the overall management of Erasmus+. Organisations called National Agencies manage the programme in their country. In Ireland, Léargas is the Erasmus+ National Agency for Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training, and Youth. Individuals and organisations in Ireland working in these areas can apply to Léargas for funding for projects and activities under Erasmus+.

The types of projects and activities that can be funded by Erasmus+ are called Key Actions.



There are three Key Actions:

Key Action 1:

Mobility of Individuals

is for projects that involve exchanges, study visits, job-shadowing, training, or volunteering in another country

Key Action 2:

Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices

is for projects where organisations from different countries taking part in Erasmus+ collaborate to share experiences, exchange or develop new practices in their work

Key Action 3:

Support for Policy Reform

is for projects that empower young people to have their voices heard and to take part in policy discussions with decision makers. Key Action 3 only applies to the youth field.

All Key Actions are described in more detail throughout this guide.



Why do we need Erasmus+?

Over the past number of years, Europe has experienced the deepest economic recession since World War II. Austerity measures have threatened over six decades of social solidarity and human rights protections. Europe is evolving in socially and politically significant ways; Brexit presents new and unprecedented challenges to EU structures, co-operation and principles. Given the current challenges that European society is experiencing, programmes such as Erasmus+ play a big part in upholding fundamental values of the EU including human dignity, equality, democracy and human rights. Erasmus+ also helps to strengthen solidarity and inclusion, and to promote active citizenship and engagement in civic society.

Strong education and training systems as well as youth policies can provide people with the skills they need to access employment, tackle social exclusion and have their voices heard. Erasmus+ aims to boost people's skills, job prospects and personal development. It gives people the chance to work with their peers in other countries, learn from one another, share ideas and good practices and develop projects together. Erasmus+ also aims to modernise the education, training and youth work sectors and achieve social inclusion. These are some of the priorities for the EU and are set out in policy documents such as the EU Youth Strategy, Europe 2020 and Education and Training 2020.



Which countries can take part in Erasmus+?

Programme Countries

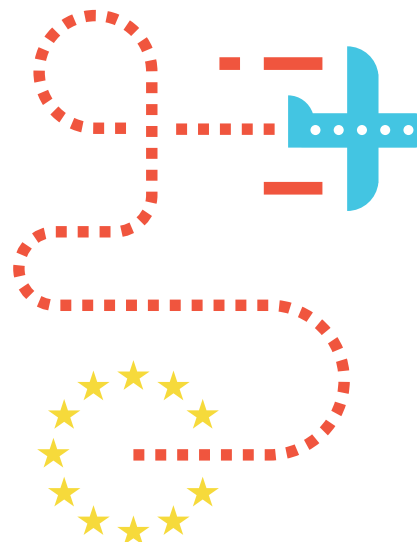
The Erasmus+ Programme Countries are the Member States of the European Union, as well as those countries that have signed an agreement to take part in Erasmus+ (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey).

Partner Countries

These are selected other countries in the world. They include countries neighbouring the EU and others that can take part in some parts of Erasmus+. This is explained in detail in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

How does your organisation apply for funding?

Organisations can apply for funding by filling in the relevant European Commission application form. There are a number of funding deadlines each year. All of the information you need to get started is available on the Léargas website: leargas.ie/programmes/erasmusplus



Adult Education



What are the aims of Erasmus+ in Adult Education?

- Support the development of high quality learning opportunities for adult learners
- Support adult learners to develop key competences and skills
- Increase awareness of the learning opportunities available through the development of effective outreach, guidance and motivation strategies
- Support the professional development of adult educators
- Develop new ways to support inclusion, diversity, equality, gender-balance and non-discrimination
- Improve access, participation and the learning experience for adults
- Support the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning.

How does it work?

Key Action 1

Mobility Project for Adult Education Staff

Key Action 1 projects support the professional development of Adult Education staff. They have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and working methods with their peers in other countries taking part in Erasmus+, and to learn from one another.

Possible activities include:

- Teaching or training at a partner organisation
- Participating in courses or training abroad
- Job-shadowing in a partner organisation.

Key Action 1 FAQ

Who can apply?

Organisations active in Adult Education.

How many organisations?

1 applicant organisation (sending staff) or a National Mobility Consortium of Irish sending organisations (minimum 3) applying together.

Receiving organisations (hosting staff) or course organisers do not have to be named at the time of applying.



Key Action 1 FAQ (Cont.)

For how long?

Total project: 12 to 24 months including preparation, mobility activity and follow up.

Mobility activity: 2 days to 2 months + travel time.

Periods abroad can be staggered throughout the project, allowing many different staff members to take part.

What can be funded?

Travel, organisational support, individual support, course fees and other supports where relevant.

Key Action 2

Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practice

Key Action 2 supports partnership projects for all sorts of organisations, institutions, companies and research organisations. These types of projects are called Strategic Partnerships. They encourage collaboration between organisations in different countries and across different sectors.

Strategic Partnerships in Adult Education are collaborative projects that aim to raise standards in Adult Education. Organisations are expected to develop more innovative approaches to addressing the needs of adult learners, and an increased capacity to work at EU/international level.



Strategic Partnerships should aim to:

- Strengthen cooperation and networking between organisations involved in adult education
- Promote the development, testing, and implementation of innovative practices in Adult Education
- Develop effective strategies for outreach, guidance and motivation to encourage adult learners back into learning
- Develop quality learning opportunities for adult learners
- Support the continuous professional development of Adult Education staff
- Support Adult Education practitioners to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in adult learning
- Promote the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills, and competences of adult learners.

Key Action 2 FAQ

Who can apply?

Public or private organisations active in Adult Education.

How many organisations?

Minimum 3 from 3 different Programme Countries.

For how long?

12 to 36 months.

How much funding?

€12,500 x length of project in months.
Maximum €450,000 for 36-month project.

How do you find a partner or courses?

Contact Seminars: You can find a partner for your project by participating in a funded Contact Seminar which allows you to connect with similar organisations across Europe. Get in touch with Léargas to find out more.

EPALE: The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) is a multilingual open membership community for professionals involved in Adult Learning. Here you can find out about events and courses taking place across Europe. The EPALE platform has a partner finding tool where you can post your project idea or look for project ideas that might interest you. leargas.ie/programmes/epale/about/

Is your participation recognised?



Europass: If you take part in an Erasmus+ project you can have your learning recognised through Europass. Europass aims to help people make their skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe. Europass documents have been designed to help people record their skills and competences whether they are planning to enrol in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad.

Europass is made up of five documents:

1. Europass Curriculum Vitae (CV)
2. Europass Language Passport
3. Europass Mobility
4. Europass Certificate Supplement
5. Europass Diploma Supplement

For more information, visit europass.ie

Looking for Ideas?

Here's what Smashing Times Theatre did with Key Action 2 funding.



Drama for Change

(Key Action 2)

This project involved Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany and Bulgaria. It was a three-year project that developed a training curriculum for adult educators. The training provided the skills to use creative processes with young people and adults to promote social inclusion, gender equality and anti-racism. Seventy-five trainers and 25 stakeholders were involved in testing and piloting the project resources. A resource toolbox was produced to complement the curriculum and support adult educators bringing techniques into the classroom.

The total budget granted for this project was €306,901.

smashingtimes.ie/drama-for-change-2015-2018/

For more ideas, visit:

Léargas Blog, Insights:

leargas.ie/blogs/

Erasmus+ Project

Results Platform:

ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects

School Education



What are the aims of Erasmus+ in School Education?

- Improve teaching or curricula, develop new ways of learning, and integrate technology in the classroom
- Promote inclusive education
- Tackle the problem of early school leavers
- Enable staff and students to collaborate with their peers in other countries
- Provide unique professional development experiences for school staff.

Taking part in international activities can also raise your school's profile and allow your school to connect with organisations, policymakers and the community by extending learning and teaching beyond the school environment.

How does it work?



Key Action 1

Mobility Project for School Education Staff

Key Action 1 projects support the professional development of school staff. They have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and working methods with their peers in other countries taking part in Erasmus+, and to learn from one another. When applying, schools are asked to write a 'European Development Plan'. The plan should explain the school's vision and needs while outlining planned mobility activities. A project application can contain different activities over the course of one to two years.

Schools at any level—from pre-school to secondary—can receive funding for projects. Both teaching and non-teaching staff involved in school education (for example, school managers, inspectors, counsellors) can take part. Projects must involve organisations from different Erasmus+ Programme Countries.

Possible activities include:

- Teaching in a partner school
- Participating in courses or training abroad
- Job-shadowing in a partner school or other relevant organisation.

Key Action 1 FAQ

Who can apply?
Eligible schools at any level (see DES website), eligible regional school authorities.

.....

How many organisations?
1 applicant organisation (sending staff) or a National Mobility Consortium on behalf of a number of schools (coordinator + minimum 2 schools) applying together.

Receiving organisations (hosting staff) or course organisers do not have to be named at the time of applying.

.....

For how long?
Total project: 12 to 24 months including preparation, placement and follow up.

Placements: 2 days to 2 months + travel time.

Periods abroad can be staggered throughout the project, allowing many different staff members to take part.

.....

What can be funded?
Travel, organisational support, individual support, course fees and other supports where relevant.

.....

Key Action 2
Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices

Key Action 2 supports partnership projects for all sorts of organisations, institutions, companies and research organisations. These projects are called Strategic Partnerships. They encourage collaboration between organisations in different countries and across different sectors.

Strategic Partnerships in school education are collaborative projects that aim to raise standards in teaching and learning. Schools can build Strategic Partnerships either with other schools and/or with other organisations, including businesses, local authorities, youth organisations, etc. The partners you choose depend on what you want to do.

For example, you could:

- share approaches and exchange experiences with other schools
- develop pupils' entrepreneurial skills through cooperation with a business
- design new teaching methods in cooperation with a university.

There are three types of partnerships open to schools:

Partnership 1

School Exchange Partnerships
are perfect for schools that want to establish a pupil and staff exchange project. The projects are small, making them ideal for schools applying for their first Erasmus+ partnership.

Who can apply? Only schools.

.....

How many organisations? Minimum 2 to maximum 6 schools.

.....

For how long? 12 to 24 months (or 12 to 36 months for projects organising long-term pupil mobility).

.....

How much funding? Maximum €99,000 per year.

Partnership 2

Strategic Partnerships Supporting Exchange of Good Practices allow schools to expand their international networks through cooperation with diverse partners such as youth organisations, universities and businesses – as well as other schools.

Who can apply? Any organisation active in education, training and youth.

.....

How many organisations? Minimum 3.

.....

For how long? 12 to 36 months.

.....

How much funding? €12,500 × length of projects in months. Maximum €450,000 for 36-month project.



Partnership 3

Strategic Partnerships Supporting Innovation offer the chance to develop, test and transfer innovative products or methods. To achieve these ambitious goals, projects may request grants for work on specific outputs, plus additional funding to promote the results.

Who can apply? Any education, training or youth organisation.

How many? Minimum 3.

For how long? 12 to 36 months.

How much funding? €12,500 × length of project in months. Maximum €450,000 for 36-month project.

Some partnerships may include mobility activities for learners, staff, and pupils. For example, learners or staff may attend joint learning events organised during the project; school staff may carry out teaching assignments at a partner school; and older pupils may spend time studying at a partner school. Pupils may also take part in a short-term or long-term exchange with a partner school.

How do you find a partner?

Contact Seminars: You can find a partner for your project by participating in a funded Contact Seminar which allows you to connect with similar organisations across Europe. Get in touch with Léargas to find out more.

eTwinning: This is a platform for staff (e.g. teachers, head teachers, librarians.) to communicate, collaborate and develop projects together. Visit etwinning.ie or etwinning.net

The School Education Gateway: This website focusses on European action for schools, bringing policy and practice closer to teachers. The website encourages cooperation between schools and other organisations. The School Education Gateway Teacher Academy provides teachers with a platform to search for, participate and evaluate training courses available onsite and online across Europe. Visit schooleducationgateway.eu



Is your participation recognised?

There are two ways your taking part may be recognised, using Europass and/or Certificates of Achievement.

Europass: If you take part in an Erasmus+ project, you can have your learning recognised through Europass. Europass aims to help people make their skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood throughout Europe. Europass documents have been designed to help people record their skills and competences whether they are planning to enrol in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad.

- Europass is made up of five documents:**
- 1. Europass Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - 2. Europass Language Passport
 - 3. Europass Mobility
 - 4. Europass Certificate Supplement
 - 5. Europass Diploma Supplement
- For more information, visit europass.ie

Certificates of Achievement: Recognition may also be given by awarding certificates of achievement. These can be produced by the organising school. Certificates normally include the participant's name, the dates of the activity, the project title, organisation logos, the Erasmus+ logo and a list of learning outcomes achieved.



Looking for ideas?

Here's what St. Patrick's Primary School in Dublin is doing with Key Action 2 funding.

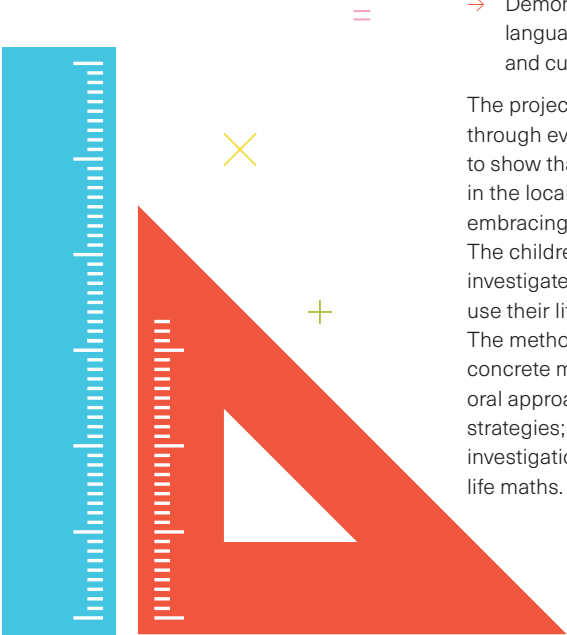
Measuring with Maths (Key Action 2)

This is a two-year project involving four primary schools in three different countries. The lead organisation is St. Patrick's Primary School.

The main objectives of the project are to:

- Examine, exchange and share good practice in maths-teaching in different european educational settings
- Improve literacy and language learning for students and staff
- Provide practical opportunities for and show the purpose of teaching and learning maths
- Demonstrate that maths is a common language that transcends international and cultural boundaries.

The project aims to highlight maths teaching through everyday activities. Participants want to show that maths activities can be done in the local and immediate environment by embracing group work and problem solving. The children work together in groups to investigate mathematical problems and use their literacy skills for problem solving. The methods being used include: use of concrete materials; strategies and language; oral approach to mental maths; estimating strategies; use of calculators and technology; investigations; outdoor maths trails; and real life maths.



The project is centred on designing and implementing appropriate child-centred maths trails in their immediate and local environment. A maths trail allows much scope for integration of maths as pupils become more aware of their own environment and surroundings. The aim is to encourage a more positive attitude to maths and see purpose and relevance to the concepts and skills learnt in maths class.

The total budget granted for this project was €59,000.

For more ideas, visit:

Léargas Blog, Insights:

leargas.ie/blogs

Erasmus+ Project

Results Platform:

ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects



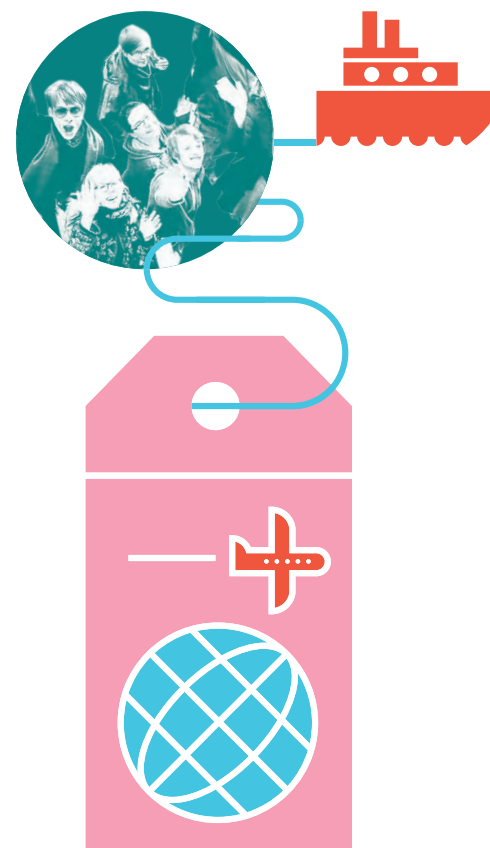
Vocational Education and Training (VET)



What are the aims of Erasmus+ in VET?

- Increase the skills and competences of all those involved in VET.
- Ensure skills are relevant to the labour market by strengthening cooperation between education and business.
- Provide increased opportunities for studying and working in another country.
- Develop quality improvements in VET across Europe through cooperation and sharing good practice.
- Increase the international focus of vocational training providers.
- Improve the teaching and learning of languages and intercultural awareness.
- Support the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

How does it work?



Key Action 1

Mobility of Learners and Staff

Key Action 1 projects support the professional development of VET staff and learners. They have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and working methods with their peers in other countries taking part in Erasmus+, and to learn from one another.

Learner mobility

Possible activities include:

- VET traineeship abroad in workplace or VET school with time spent in industry, relevant organisation or enterprise.

Recent graduates of a VET school or company, such as former apprentices, can also take part in mobility opportunities. The traineeship must take place within one year of graduation.

Staff mobility

Possible activities include:

- Teaching or training at a partner VET school, enterprise or organisation
- Participating in training abroad
- Job-shadowing in an enterprise or VET organisation.

Participants must be staff in charge of VET such as teachers, trainers, mobility officers and staff with administrative or guidance functions working within the VET sending organisation.

For teaching and training assignments, staff from enterprises, public sector and civil society organisations can also participate.

Key Action 1 FAQ

Who can apply?
Organisations active in VET.

How many organisations?
Minimum 2 from different Programme Countries (1 sending and 1 receiving staff or learners) or a National Mobility Consortium (minimum 3) of Irish sending organisations applying together.

For how long?
Total project: 12 to 24 months including preparation, placement and follow up.

Placements for learners: 2 weeks to 12 months + travel time.

Placements for staff: 2 days to 2 months + travel time.

What can be funded?
Travel, organisational support, individual support, and other supports where relevant.



Key Action 2
Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices

Key Action 2 supports partnership projects for all sorts of organisations, institutions, companies and research organisations. These projects are called Strategic Partnerships. They encourage collaboration between organisations in different countries and across different sectors.

Strategic Partnerships in VET are collaborative projects that aim to raise standards in VET. Organisations are expected to share and develop innovative practices, ensuring that learners and educators obtain the skills and competences they need for the labour market.

Strategic Partnerships should aim to:

- Strengthen cooperation and networking between organisations involved in VET and promote innovative practices in learning and training
- Promote the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills and competences of learners and the continuous professional development of VET teachers and trainers
- Support education and training professionals to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in learning
- Promote integration of newly arrived migrants in initial VET
- Promote entrepreneurship and employability.

Key Action 2 FAQ

Who can apply?
Organisations active in VET.

How many organisations?
Minimum 3 from 3 different Programme Countries.

For how long?
12 to 36 months.

How much funding?
€12,500 x length of project in months.
Maximum €450,000 for 36-month project.



How do you find a partner or courses?

Contact Seminars: You can find a partner for your project by participating in a funded Contact Seminar which allows you to connect with similar organisations across Europe. Get in touch with Léargas to find out more.

Erasmobility: A free online platform where vocational training centres and colleges help each other to find work placements in European countries. erasmobility.com/en/

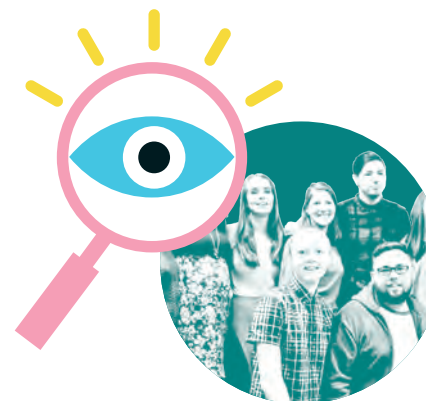
EPALE: The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe is a multilingual open membership community for professionals involved in Adult Learning. It is also suitable for VET. Here you can find out about events and courses taking place across Europe. The EPAL platform has a partner finding tool where you can post your project idea or look for project ideas that might interest you. leargas.ie/programmes/epale/about/

Euro Apprenticeship: The European network to promote, implement and enhance learning mobility for apprentices. euroapprenticeship.eu/en/home.html

Europlacement: Search tool for internships abroad for students and employers. europlacement.com/



Is your participation recognised?



Europass: If you take part in an Erasmus+ project you can have your learning recognised through Europass. Europass aims to help people make their skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe. Europass documents have been designed to help people record their skills and competences whether they are planning to enrol in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad.

Europass is made up of five documents:

1. Europass Curriculum Vitae (CV)
2. Europass Language Passport
3. Europass Mobility
4. Europass Certificate Supplement
5. Europass Diploma Supplement

For more information, visit europass.ie

For more ideas, visit:

Léargas Blog, Insights:

leargas.ie/blogs/

Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:

ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects

Looking for ideas?

Here's what Galway Technical Institute did with Key Action 1 funding.

Mobility Abroad for Knowledge and Experience (MAKE) (Key Action 1)

Galway Technical Institute (GTI) first received funding for learner mobility in 2009 under the Leonardo da Vinci programme (the programme that existed before Erasmus+). In that year, almost €24,000 was used to fund six participants. The following year, this number had increased to 47 and a year later more than doubled to 100. In 2014, GTI received a two-year Erasmus+ Key Action 1 grant of €534,000, which funded close to 200 learner placements.

Learners took part in two-, three- or four-week work-based placements in countries including Scotland, Poland, Spain and Finland. The placements helped the learners develop their skills as they worked toward QQI Level 5 and 6 qualifications in areas as diverse as Fashion and Business, Art and Sport.

Fashion participants helped design costumes for the Carnival in Tenerife, Spain:

“We went to the Gala Reina Infantil—the Child Queen’s Gala. We were all really excited for this event as we finally got to see some of the completed costumes that we had been working on. The costumes just blew us away. They were absolutely amazing. The difference between seeing them completed in the workshop and then on stage with the lights shining on them was breath-taking. We were all so proud that the costumes we’d worked on actually placed in the competition.”

IT participants worked for a very successful marketing company in Krakow, Poland:

“During the placement we learned how to gather information about the market and clients, then we built a database to use the information we’d gathered. We also learned about communication, marketing strategies and how to contact the client and sell the actual product for them. [Our boss]...even gave us some tips about how to start up our own business. We came back with a greater understanding of client-based marketing and communicating with many different types of people from all over Europe. We have gained many useful real-life skills that we can use in college and work.”

Projects continue to expand and develop. In 2017, the total budget granted for this project was €312,000 for a one year project to fund over 100 learners.

For more ideas, visit:

Léargas Blog, Insights:

leargas.ie/blogs

Erasmus+ Project

Results Platform:

ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects



Youth in Action



What are the aims of Erasmus+ in Youth?

- Increase the skills and competences of young people and youth workers
- Support interaction between young people from different cultural backgrounds
- Promote social inclusion and solidarity amongst young people
- Empower young people to be active citizens and have a voice in decision making
- Support young people to access the labour market
- Develop quality improvements in youth work
- Support the development of knowledge and evidence-based youth policy
- Support the recognition of non-formal and informal learning
- Strengthen the international dimension of youth activities.

How does it work?



Key Action 1
Mobility Projects for Young People and Youth Workers

Key Action 1 projects support young people and youth workers to spend time abroad building their life experience, learning about different cultures, improving their language and other skills and building on their professional development.

- Possible activities include:**
- Youth Exchanges
 - Erasmus+ Volunteering
 - Mobility of Youth Workers.

Youth Exchanges
Youth Exchanges allow groups of young people from different countries to come together for up to 21 days for non-formal learning activities, supported by group leaders.

Key Action 1 FAQ

- Who can apply?**
Organisations and groups active in the Youth field.
.....
- How many organisations?**
Minimum 2 (sending and receiving).

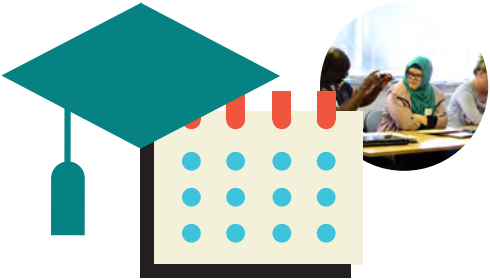
Minimum 16 to maximum 60 young people + group leaders. Minimum 4 young people per group.
.....
- For how long?**
Total project: 3 to 24 months including preparation, exchange and follow up.
.....
- Exchange:**
5 to 21 days + travel time.
.....
- What can be funded?**
Travel, organisational support and other supports where relevant.
.....

Erasmus+ Volunteering
Erasmus+ Volunteering enables young people to spend time in a country within or outside of the EU and contribute to the daily work of organisations in areas such as social care, the environment, youth, ICT, culture and many others. It is an opportunity for participants to grow in self-confidence, be more engaged as citizens, and experience another way of life.

Volunteering is open to young people aged 17-30. An Erasmus+ Volunteering project involves cooperation between a sending and receiving organisation. One of the organisations is the coordinator and applies for an EU grant on behalf of the partnership.

- Organisations are responsible for a number of things:**
- They identify volunteering opportunities
 - They develop projects that benefit the local community
 - They recruit and prepare the volunteers, host them, and ensure follow-up.

If you belong to an organisation that is interested in sending or hosting volunteers, or coordinating an Erasmus+ Volunteering project, note that your organisation must be accredited first. Contact Léargas for more information and advice on getting involved.



Key Action 1 FAQ

Who can apply?
Organisations active in the youth field.

How many organisations?
Minimum 2 (sending and receiving).

For how long?
Total project: 3 to 24 months including preparation, placement and follow up.

Individual volunteering activities:
2 to 12 months + travel time.

Individual volunteering activities for young people with fewer opportunities: 2 weeks to 2 months + travel time.

Group volunteering activities (minimum 10 – maximum 40 young people): 2 weeks to 2 months + travel time.

What can be funded?
Travel, organisational support, individual support, linguistic support and other supports where relevant.

Important: In general, a volunteer can take part in only one Erasmus+ Volunteering project. However, volunteers who carry out a volunteering activity that lasts two months or less can take part in an additional Erasmus+ Volunteering project.

Note: There are other volunteering options available with the European Solidarity Corps. If you would like to find out more contact Léargas or see: europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Mobility of Youth Workers
These activities support the professional development of youth workers and the improvement of their youth work practice. Youth workers can learn about cultural diversity and different practices in youth work in other countries. Opportunities are available for youth workers involved in the personal, educational and social development of young people.

Possible activities include:

- Seminars and training courses abroad
- Study visits or job-shadowing in an organisation working in the Youth field.

Key Action 1 FAQ

Who can apply?
Organisations active in the Youth field.

How many organisations?
Minimum 2 (sending and receiving).

For how long?
Total project: 3 to 24 months including preparation, mobility activity and follow up.

Mobility activity:
2 days to 2 months + travel time.

What can be funded?
Travel, organisational support and other supports where relevant.

Key Action 2
Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices

Key Action 2 supports partnership projects for all sorts of organisations, institutions, companies and research organisations. These projects are called Strategic Partnerships. They encourage collaboration between organisations in different countries and across different sectors.

Strategic Partnerships in the Youth field are collaborative projects that aim to raise standards in youth work. Organisations are expected to develop more innovative approaches to addressing the needs of young people and an increased capacity to work at EU/international level.

Strategic Partnerships should aim to:

- Develop new and innovative practices/ materials to support quality improvements in youth work
- Strengthen cooperation and networking between organisations involved in the youth field
- Encourage empowerment, participation and active citizenship among young people
- Support those working in the Youth field to promote equity, diversity and inclusion in youth work.

There are two types of projects open to organisations working in the Youth field:

Innovation/Exchange of Good Practice: groups and organisations work together to share good practices and develop new and innovative ideas. They create new materials and resources and share these as widely as possible with others.

Transnational Youth Initiatives: Groups of young people from different countries team up to lead projects about issues that are important to them.



Some examples include:

- Artistic and cultural projects such as theatre plays, exhibitions, music
- Projects benefitting the community, for example people with disabilities, older people, migrants
- Increasing understanding of, and critical engagement with, the media
- Other activities that empower young people to become involved in their community on issues that affect their lives.

Key Action 2 FAQ

Who can apply?

Organisations or groups active in the Youth field.

How many organisations?

Minimum 2 from different Programme Countries.

For how long?

6 to 36 months.

How much funding?

€12,500 × length of project in months.
Max €450,000 for 36-month project.

Key Action 3

Support for Policy Reform

Key Action 3 projects support young people, aged 13 to 30, to discuss issues and policies that affect their lives with relevant decision-makers. These discussions can take place at a local, national or European level. Decision-makers might include, but aren't limited to, civil servants, politicians, and Ministers. Meetings between young people and decision-makers are called Structured Dialogue and aim to empower young people to have their voices heard on how youth policies should be shaped and implemented in Europe and at home.

Activities can be meetings, conferences, consultations and events such as:

- National or transnational meetings and seminars that provide a space to share information, debate, and have active participation by young people in dialogue with decision makers
- National or transnational meetings and seminars that prepare the ground for official Youth Conferences run by the Member State holding the Presidency of the European Union
- Any other meetings, events, seminars, consultations or debates between young people and decision-makers. These types of events can also happen at a local level.

Key Action 3 FAQ

Who can apply?

Any organisation active in the Youth field.

How many organisations?

Minimum 1 (for projects at a national or local level). Minimum 2 (for projects with transnational activities).

Minimum 30 young people must be involved in the project.

For how long?

3 to 24 months.

How much funding?

Maximum €50,000.



How do you find a partner?

Contact Seminars: You can find a partner for your project by participating in a funded Contact Seminar which allows you to connect with similar organisations across Europe. Get in touch with Léargas to find out more.

OTLAS: This Partner Finding Tool on the SALTO website can help you find a partner; visit salto-youth.net

European Youth Portal: Find a sending or receiving organisation using the online volunteering database on the European Youth Portal (europa.eu/youth). This database lets you view dates, times, locations and application deadlines for volunteering projects on a range of topics.

Youthpass: If you take part in an Erasmus+ youth project you can have your learning and skills development recognised by a Youthpass certificate. You can then use your Youthpass on your CV, to support job applications or when applying for a course. You can find out more about Youthpass on youthpass.eu



Looking for ideas?

Here's what the Irish Refugee Council did with Key Action 3 funding.

YOUth Speak (Key Action 3)

YOUth Speak was a ten-month project run by the Irish Refugee Council. It involved young asylum seekers and refugees aged 16 to 25 who are currently living in Direct Provision Centres in Ireland or who have moved out of Direct Provision within the last two years. It also included members of the European Youth in Migration Forum (EYMF). A series of youth consultation events took place around Ireland in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Tralee and Limerick where there are high numbers of young people in the asylum system. These consultations captured the experiences of young people living in Direct Provision and were organised and facilitated by the young people from EYMF, supported by the Irish Refugee Council's youth worker. Information and policy recommendations from these events were collected and shared in a final consultation between EYMF members and policy makers in Dublin.

The total budget granted for this project was €9,798.



For more ideas, visit:

Léargas Blog, Insights:

leargas.ie/blogs/

Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:

ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects

Get in Touch

✉ clientservices@leargas.ie

☎ 01 887 1260

🌐 leargas.ie

📘 Leargas.Ireland

🐦 @Leargas

📷 leargas.ireland

📍 Léargas
King's Inns House
Parnell Street
Dublin 1
D01 A3Y8





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