

Brief for the development of: National VET Team Erasmus+ VET Impact Study

Introduction and Background Information

Léargas is the National Agency for Erasmus+ in Ireland. Léargas manages national and international programmes in adult education, schools, vocational education and training (VET), and youth, sport and volunteering. These activities connect people in different communities and countries and bring an international dimension to the work of organisations across Ireland.

[Erasmus+](#) is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport, running from 2021 to 2027. It has a budget of €26.2 billion for all of Europe, to fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for ten million Europeans of all ages and all backgrounds.

Léargas wishes to undertake an impact study to demonstrate the impact of Erasmus+ mobility projects in Vocational Education and Training (VET), for delivery by mid-2026. The research will be undertaken under the supervision and guidance of the National VET Team.

National VET Team

The [National VET Team](#) is a team of national Experts composed of professionals active in Vocational Education and Training (VET) advising their colleagues on how best to implement EU VET tools in projects funded by the Erasmus+ programme and provide support to Erasmus+ funded projects.

Erasmus+ for VET KA1 Mobility

The European Union programme Erasmus+ funds Vocational Education and Training mobility projects, known as Key Action 1 (KA1), across Europe to provide learning opportunities to individuals and to support internationalisation and institutional development of VET providers and VET organisations.

There are two main types of Erasmus+ VT KA1 Mobility projects: Short-Terms Projects for mobility of learners and staff; and Accredited Projects for mobility of learners and staff. Organisations that take part in Erasmus+ should also actively promote the programme priorities: inclusion and diversity, digital transformation, environment and fight against climate change and participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement.

What is a VET mobility project:

A mobility project is where an organisation sends its learners or apprentices to another country to take part in short or long-term works placements, peer to peer learning or in skills competitions. Teachers, trainers and VET staff from the organisation can also travel to

another country for job shadowing, teaching or courses and training. The organisation applies for funding to prepare and manage the project, and for the costs of travel and participation. A VET mobility project is an opportunity to increase the quality of initial and continuing vocational education and training (IVET and CVET) in Europe and strengthen the European dimension of teaching and learning.

Who Can Take Part in a Mobility Project?

VET providers and other VET organisations in Ireland can apply to Léargas for funding to facilitate mobility projects. In Ireland, a VET school, institute or centre means an organisation that directly delivers further education programmes—with a vocational or apprenticeship element—at NFQ Levels 4, 5 or 6. These programmes typically include periods of vocational work-based learning. The programmes delivered must be full, rather than minor or special purpose award programmes. Apprenticeships, at all levels, are also eligible for funding.

Erasmus+ Partnerships for Cooperation

Erasmus+ also funds education, training and youth Partnership projects in organisations across Europe as part of Key Action 2. This funding is to help increase the quality and relevance of their activities, to develop networks, to boost internationalisation and to transfer innovative practices. There are two types of Erasmus+ Partnership project, Cooperation Partnerships and Small-scale Partnerships. Cooperation Partnerships are suitable for experienced organisations or larger-scale projects. Small-scale Partnerships have shorter durations and simpler administration. They are ideal for grassroots organisations or newcomers to Erasmus+.

Any public or private organisation established in an Erasmus+ Programme Country can apply.

The Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is to demonstrate the value, benefits and impact of Erasmus+, for the individual participants, participating organisations and the overall provision of VET and apprenticeships in Ireland.

It seeks to further demonstrate how the implementation and the priorities of Erasmus+ align with national policy and how they can facilitate implementation of Ireland's existing and soon-to-be launched FET Strategy 2025-2030.

The study also aims to outline alignments with European educational policy, particularly in relation to [European Skills Agenda](#) and recently announced [Union of Skills](#).

It is expected that the study will consider the views of national authorities such as SOLAS and National Apprenticeship Office, organisations accredited in Erasmus+ as well as newcomers and less experienced organisations undertaking short-term projects (ETBs, colleges of Further Education, Training Centres, Community Training Centres, Youthreach etc).

Scope of the proposed study

Since this is the research into the actual impact of Erasmus+ Programme on beneficiaries, their target groups and the national policy, it is expected that the study will include results of a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods (questionnaires, focus groups, interviews, statistics etc.,) and will be delivered in a report format including visual and narrative presentation of data.

Please include your preferred methodology and the format of the delivery of the study in your proposal.

Please see the table below for detailed list of target groups of participants and potential impact themes to be considered.

Target Group	Impact Theme
Learners including apprenticeships	Vocational Skills and Employability (nationally and across borders)
	Transversal Skills development / Uncertified Learning/Progression to Higher Education
	European Identity and any unexpected benefits from participating
Staff	CPD learning e.g. Innovative Teaching Methods, sector specific learning/Exposure to European practices
	Personal Development and impact on learning, provision etc.,
	Staff mobility impact on organisational development/any unexpected benefits from participating
Organisation	Innovation and Curriculum Development/Internationalisation/Value in hosting learners and/or staff
	Impact - change in how VET is delivered
	Overall impact on the organisation – holistic perspective/any unexpected benefits from participating
Horizontal priorities and policy alignment	Inclusion, green, digital, democratic participation
	Alignment with the national policy – FET Strategy- existing and new 2025-2029
	European Skills Agenda, Union of Skills etc.,

The Role of the Author

- Attend initial 'kick off' meeting with Léargas/VET Team to ensure understanding and details of brief
- Conduct the relevant research and background work
- Collation of findings
- Ongoing feedback to National VET Team/Coordinator on progress
- Writing of study containing results and recommendations.

As well as demonstrating the impact of Erasmus+ in the VET sector in Ireland, these recommendations should also be able to inform future work plans regarding outreach and engagement for Erasmus+ VET mobility in the VET sector.

The Role of the Léargas staff

The National VET Team Coordinator/Support & Development Officer KA1, Vocational Education & Training will support the author by providing more detailed background information, access to National VET Team experts and technical support.

Project Proposal and Finance

Please provide a proposal and the quote for the study.

Proposal should include envisaged methodology, scope, format and timeline of the study.

The cost should include fee, travel and subsistence for the author and any other costs incurred in the process of undertaking the research study.

Indicative Timeline:

Initial meeting	TBC (Indicative: August/September 2025)
Expected Time of Commencement	TBC (Indicative: September 2025)
Further meeting(s)	TBC (as required)
Delivery of 1 st Draft	February 2026
Delivery of Final Draft	April 2026