

## Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ is the **European Union programme** for education, training, youth and sport for the years 2014 to 2020. It **provides funding and support for institutions** and organisations to operate projects consistent with its objectives and which encourage European exchange, co-operation and learning. Erasmus+ is funded by the European Union through the contributions of member states.

Erasmus+ funding is available to all sectors (or fields) of formal, informal and non-formal education. Structurally, Erasmus+ is divided into three 'Key Actions' describing the kind of project activities possible.

### What are the programme objectives?

Erasmus+ aims to modernize and **improve the quality of teaching**, training and youth work across Europe, and to **support the development, transfer and implementation of innovative practices**. These objectives are closely tied with the Europe 2020 strategy of achieving a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy by 2020 for all of Europe's citizens. Fundamental goals for Erasmus+ include improving key competences and skills, and fostering partnerships between education and employment. The programme also seeks to promote European values as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

### Who can participate?

Erasmus+ is open to private or public organizations active in the fields of adult education, higher education, school education, sport, vocational education and training, and youth, in any participating country. While the programme enables individuals to travel, work, volunteer and study abroad, project applications from individuals themselves are not accepted. Only organizations can apply for funding and organize different activities for their staff or students.

### Management and Structure

Management of the programme is divided between the **Directorate General** for Education and Culture (DGEAC) of the European Commission, and **National Agencies** in the participating countries. **Tempus Public Foundation** is the Hungarian National Agency for Erasmus+ in the adult education, school education, vocational education and higher education.

### KA1: Learning mobility for individuals (Key Action 1):

'Mobility' in this context simply means physical travel from one country to another for the purpose of learning or professional experience. This action therefore allows organisations to send staff, trainers, students, or young people to other European countries to undertake a dedicated period of learning or professional experience, such as job shadowing, training, volunteering, or gaining work experience.

### Mobility project for School Education Staff

Schools at any level from pre-school to secondary can receive funding for projects which include sending their staff members on a teaching assignment or dedicated period of training in another participating country. Both teaching and non-teaching staff involved in school education (e.g. school managers, inspectors, counsellors) can take part. Projects must involve a minimum of two participating organisations (at least one sending and one receiving) from different countries. However, receiving organisations do not have to be identified at the time of application.

Staff can spend from two days to two months—excluding travel time—on their teaching assignment or training. Periods abroad can be staggered throughout the project duration, allowing for many different staff members to participate. Projects can be carried out over one year or two years

Possible activities include:

- Teaching in a partner school.
- Participating in structured courses or training courses abroad, including language courses.
- Undertaking job shadowing or observation in a partner school or other relevant school education organisation.

The teaching assignment or training period must respond clearly to identified staff development needs, and be framed within the school's European Development Plan .

Sending organisations must be schools and the consent of the school leader is required. Individuals cannot apply for funding directly. For full eligibility criteria, see the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

Funding is available for travel to and from the host country; to cover the participants' cost of living while abroad; and to support the sending organisation with costs directly linked to coordinating the project. Funding for course fees and for special needs is available where sufficiently justified in the application form. Funding is calculated on a per participant basis and amounts vary depending on the receiving country involved. For full funding details, see 'What are the funding rules?' in the 'Mobility project for school education staff' section of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

### **Learning Mobility for VET Learners and Staff**

Organisations active in vocational education and training (VET) can receive funding for projects which include sending their learners and/or staff for a vocational training placement in another participating country. Projects must involve a minimum of two participating organisations (at least one sending and one receiving organisations) from different countries. Learners can spend between two weeks and 12 months abroad, while staff can spend between two days and two months abroad. Projects can be carried out over one year or two years.

Possible activities include:

- Apprentices or trainees in vocational training schools can undertake a period of work-based training in another participating country. Those who have completed their apprenticeship or course can also participate if their training takes place within one year of their graduation.
- Staff of VET organisations can deliver teaching or training in a VET organisation abroad.
- Staff of VET organisations can undertake a work placement or job shadowing in a VET organisation abroad.

Funding is available for travel to and from the host country; to cover the participants' cost of living while abroad; and to support the sending organisation with costs directly linked to coordinating the project. Additional funding for participants with special needs is available where sufficiently justified in the application form. Funding is calculated on a per participant basis and amounts vary depending on the receiving country involved. For full funding details, see 'What are the funding rules?' in the 'Mobility project for VET learners and staff' section of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

### **KA2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices (Strategic Partnerships – Key Action 2):**

This encourages organizations across Europe to form strategic partnerships with each other to develop and use innovative methods in teaching, training, and youth work, and to share these results

with the wider community. Note that two other actions possible under KA2, Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills Alliances, are managed centrally by DGEAC.

### **Strategic Partnerships for School Education**

Strategic Partnerships allow schools to cooperate with each other or with external organisations to run projects directly focused on issues affecting school education, such as teaching standards, citizenship, improvement of basic or subject-specific skills, or the development of a new tool or system to improve school education. Projects are expected to develop, transfer and/or implement innovative practices. Project results must be shared with the wider community to encourage use of these methods and ensure an impact beyond the organisations directly involved.

For most types of partnership, a minimum of three organisations from three different programme countries must be involved. For partnerships that involve a school collaborating directly with another school, or a school authority collaborating directly with another school authority, a minimum of two organisations from two different programme countries must be involved. There is no maximum number of partners, but funding for managing the project is capped at a level equivalent to ten organisations. Projects can last either two years or three years.

As projects can be partnerships supporting innovation or partnerships supporting exchange of good practices and can include a diverse range of partners, a very wide range of activities are possible.

Possible activities include but are not limited to:

- Establishing exchanges of practices between schools
- Developing information, guidance, coaching or counselling capacity
- Promoting the development, testing or implementation of innovative practices in school education
- Developing learning, teaching or training tools, materials or approaches
- Training, teaching and learning activities, under certain conditions.

### **Strategic Partnerships for VET**

Strategic Partnerships allow organisations active in Vocational Education and Training to cooperate with other relevant organisations to promote the development and use of innovative methods. A core element of Strategic Partnerships is that project results must be shared with the wider community to ensure impact beyond the organisations directly involved.

A minimum of three organisations from three different programme countries must take part. There is no maximum number of partners, but funding for managing the project is capped at a level equivalent to ten organisations. If all the partners are VET education organisations, the partnership is 'sectoral'. If any partners are from different sectors, the partnership is 'cross-sectoral'. Projects can last either two years or three years.

As projects can be partnerships supporting innovation or partnerships supporting exchange of good practices and can include a diverse range of partners, a very wide range of activities is possible.

Possible activities include but are not limited to:

- increasing the labour market relevance of VET provision by addressing areas of skills shortages, or establishing partnerships between VET providers and actors in economic sectors;
- promoting the development of skills and competences of teachers and trainers, with a particular focus on work-based teaching;
- facilitating the recognition and validation of knowledge, skill and competences acquired through learning



For full details of eligibility criteria, VET priorities, and possible project activities, please see the VET Summary Guide and the 'Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth' section of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

The maximum funding available is €12.500 per month per projects, up to 450 000 EUR for projects with duration of 36 months. All projects can receive funding for project management and implementation; apart from these, eligible expenses depend on the types of activities in the project. See 'What are the funding rules?' in the 'Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth' section of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide for detail.

*Text adapted from leargas.ie*