Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.

# New to Erasmus + An introduction for the Adult Education sector

EUROPEAN UNION

UK Government

BRITISH COUNCIL

# Agenda Items

- Erasmus+ overview
- What are Key Actions?
- Example projects
- Next steps
- How to stay in touch
- Introduction to partner finding
- Useful resources
- Q&A – via chat function
- Close

# House Keeping

- Please put your questions in the chat.
- If you see a question in the chat you would like to be answered, please react to the question. It will help us to see the most popular questions.

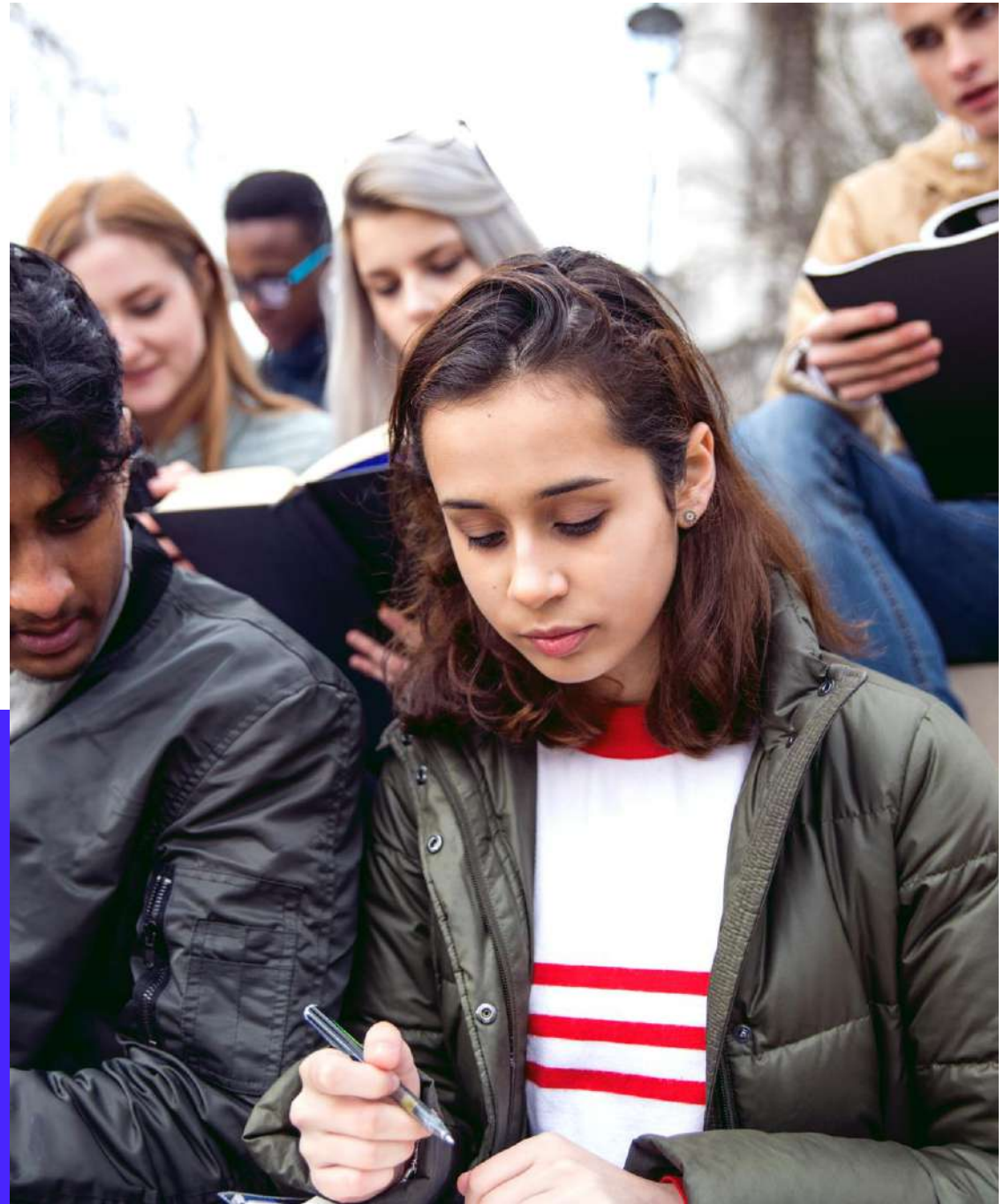
# What is Erasmus+

- EU flagship programme for education, training, youth and sport
- Budget: approximately €26.2 billion for 2021–2027
- Enables adults and educators to travel, study and train across Europe
- Available to a diverse range of organisations supporting adult learning
- Focus on skills, employability and internationalisation

# Erasmus+ funding opportunities are organised by sector:

- Adult Education
- Higher Education (HE)
- Schools
- Sport
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- Youth

Organisations supporting more than one sector can submit multiple applications



# Adult Education Sector

Adult Education defined as:

"All forms of non-vocational adult education, whether of a formal, non-formal or informal nature"

Adult learner defined as:

"Any adult who, having completed or being no longer involved in initial education or training, returns to some form of non-vocational continuing learning (formal, non-formal or informal)"

# What types of organisations can apply?

| | Examples of organisations |
|---|---|
| **Education providers** | e.g. adult learning centres, evening training institutes, FE colleges providing non vocational adult education, independent training providers |
| **Public and cultural bodies** | e.g. local authorities, mayoral combined authorities, libraries, museums, prisons |
| **Civil society, voluntary and community sector** | e.g. social enterprises, voluntary organisations and community support groups delivering formal and informal education and learning programmes:<br><br>• support for adults facing physical health, mental health or geographic barriers to engagement<br>• promoting inclusion and diversity<br>• providing counselling and guidance services |

# What is possible with Erasmus + for Adults

Study visits, peer learning and work-based learning - 'mobilities'

Job shadowing and staff professional development, including training courses

The chance to collaborate and learn with adult learning organisations through partnership projects

# What are the benefits of Erasmus +?

Build learner confidence, develop their independence and open new doors for them.

Inspire staff, learn new approaches and gain International Professional Development.

Drive organisational innovation and develop quality educational resources through partnerships

# What has changed?

Erasmus+ 2021–2027 is bigger, more inclusive, and more flexible than the 2014–2020 programme, with a significantly increased budget, new priorities, and reduced application burden.

# Erasmus+ Priorities

The European Commission have four main crosscutting focus areas for Erasmus +

These areas are important to consider when designing a project.

- Inclusion and diversity
- Digital transformation
- Environment and the fight against climate change
- Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement

For adult education – an additional priority for learner mobility:

- Development of Key Competences – details here.

# What are the Key Actions and their Priorities?
# Mobility Projects (Key Action 1)

## Opportunities for Learners

- **Group mobility:** A group (minimum 2) of learners can travel abroad to benefit from innovative learning in a host organisation.
  These projects can last for between **2 and 30** days and can also include virtual learning activities.
  Learners must be accompanied by qualified staff.
- **Individual mobility:** An individual learner can travel abroad to a host organisation to improve their knowledge and skills.
  This can be short-term from **2 to 29 days**, or long-term from **1 month to 1 year.**
- Key difference between the above: require either a collective learning programme or individual learning programmes (with differing levels of associated organisational support)

# What are the Key Actions and their Priorities?
# Mobility Projects (Key Action 1)

## Opportunities for staff

- **Job shadowing:** Staff can visit a provider in another Erasmus+ country to learn new practices. This can be from **2 days to 2 months.**
- **Teaching abroad:** Staff can teach in a partner organisation. This can be anything from **2 days to 1 year.**
- **Training courses:** Staff can attend training courses in another Erasmus+ country (from 2 to 10 days). Max 3 people from same sending organisation for the same course together.
- **Adult education staff mobilities can be up to 100% of an application**
- Note: if also applying for VET,  these staff mobilities are limited to 50%
- Participants include staff, external experts, volunteers, board members…

# Key Action 1 – How projects are funded

Erasmus+ provides unit-cost funding for:

- Travel
- Individual support (subsistence)
- Organisational support
- Inclusion support
- Green travel
- Exceptional costs

Funding is designed to reduce financial barriers to participation.

Preparatory visits can also be funded

Key Action 1

# Digital Skills for Older Adults

**Organisation:** Community adult learning provider.

**Participants:** 15 adult learners aged 55+, learners with low digital confidence, participants from socially isolated or disadvantaged backgrounds

**Mobility Type:** Group Learner Mobility (10 days)

**Host Organisation:** Adult education centre in Finland

**Objectives:** Improve digital literacy and confidence, Learn how technology can support independent living, Reduce social isolation, Build intercultural awareness

**Activities:** Digital communication workshops, online banking and digital safety sessions, introduction to AI and emerging technologies, collaborative projects with Finnish adult learners, cultural visits and language activities

**Erasmus+ Priorities Addressed:**

Inclusion (8 participants identified as having fewer opportunities)

Digital Transformation

Active Citizenship

Key Action 1

# Green Communities Across Europe

**Organisation:** Adult and community education centre

**Participants:** 20 adult learners, mix of unemployed adults, community volunteers and adult returners to education

**Mobility Type:** Group Learner Mobility (12 days)

**Host Organisation:** Adult learning organisation in Denmark.

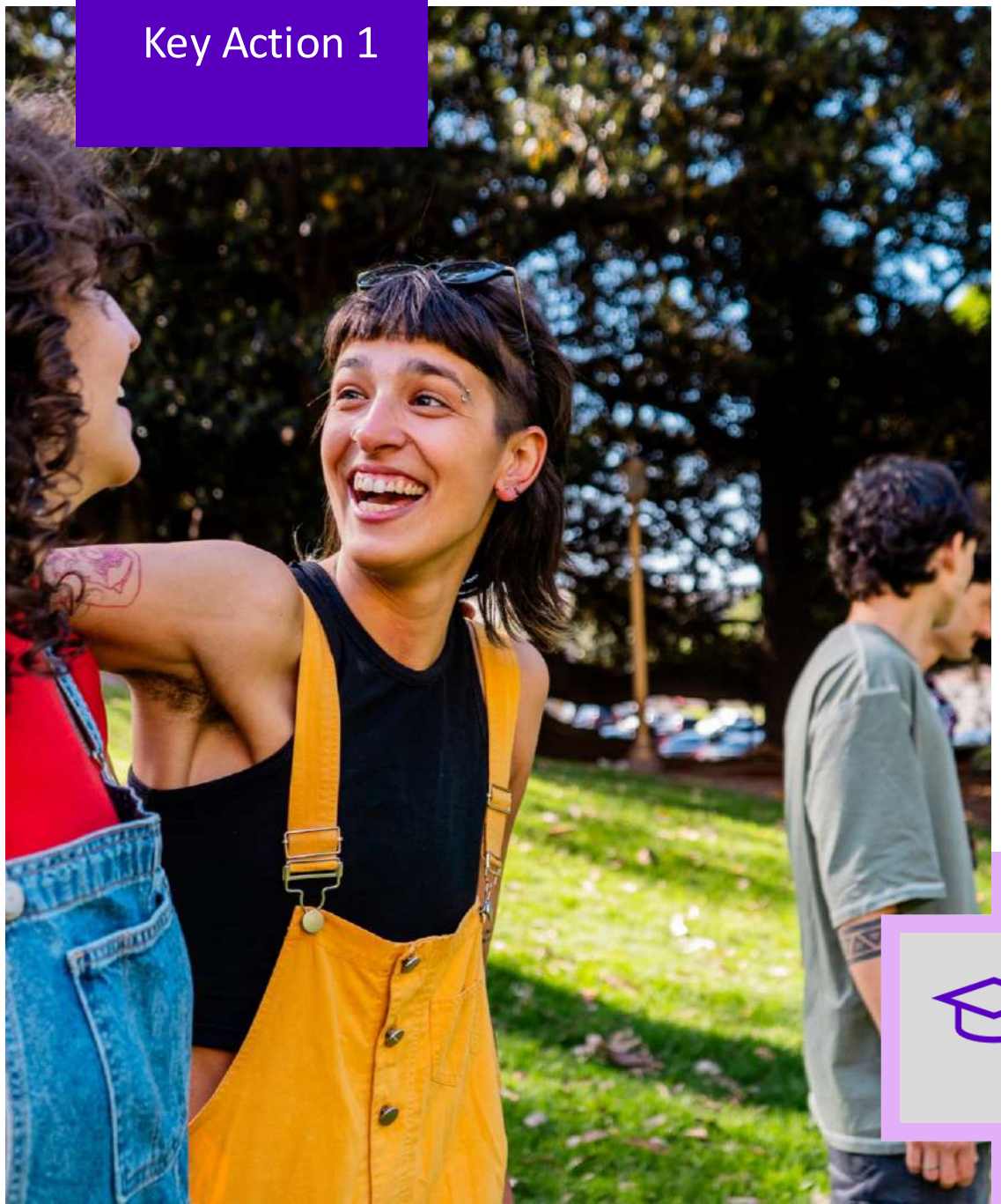
**Objectives:** Increase environmental awareness, dvelop community leadership skills, explore sustainable lifestyles and local action projects, promote active citizenship

**Activities:** Workshops on circular economy principles, community gardening projects, visits to sustainable businesses, climate action discussions, collaborative learner projects

**Erasmus+ Priorities Addressed:**

- Environment and climate action
- Democratic participation
- Inclusion and diversity (12 participants identified as having fewer opportunities)

Key Action 1



# Structured Course for Staff – Community Engagement and Active Citizenship

**Organisation:** Community education and adult learning centre.

**Participants:** 2 Adult Education Tutors, 1 Programme Manager

**Mobility Type:** Courses and Training (7 days)

**Host Organisation:** Training provider in Spain delivering Erasmus+ staff courses on "Active Citizenship and Learner Engagement"

**Objectives:** Learn innovative approaches to community-based adult learning, improve delivery of citizenship and sustainability programmes. Develop methods for engaging hard-to-reach learners. Exchange practices with adult educators from across Europe.

**Activities:** Attend workshops on participatory learning. Explore project-based learning methods. Share case studies with educators from other countries. Develop action plans for implementation at home.

**Erasmus+ Priorities Addressed:**

- Democratic participation
- Environmental sustainability
- Inclusion and diversity

# Partnerships (Key Action 2)

## Small-scale partnerships

Designed for smaller organisations or those new to Erasmus +. Partnerships run from between six months to two years and involve at least two organisations from different countries. Erasmus+ offers lump sum funding of **€30,000 or €60,000.**

## Co-operation partnerships

These partnerships involve at least three organisations from different countries. These partnerships focus on innovative approaches, peer learning, knowledge exchange and results that can also be used by others. The projects should run for between one and three years. Grant options are **€120,000, €250,000 or €400,000.**

**Applications for Small-scale and Cooperation partnerships are made through the National Agency.**

Key Action 2

# Interweaving

The goal of the project was to allow adult trainers teaching willow work and basket weaving to participate, collect, test and develop good practices and teaching methods aimed at promoting the **social inclusion of adults with disabilities.**

The project produced teaching materials as tangible results. Activities included: participation in workshop experiences, visits and exchanges with other instructors. In addition to developing the basketry skills, the project also improved the participant's activities as adult educators.

**330 learners** with disabilities benefited from the project in the 3 countries concerned. Completed basket weaving workshops and organised 2 Handcraft Adventure Days. The participating adult trainers studied each other's good practices throughout integrated mobilities (meetings in every partner's country) and supported an eco-conscious course programme.

**Countries covered:** Denmark, Hungary, Norway

**Period:** 2022-23

**Funding:** €30,000

**Type:** Small-scale partnerships in adult education

# Next Steps

| | Actions |
|---|---|
| **Now- November** | Identify theme of a project, think about the Key Action you would like to develop, ask colleagues to get involved!<br><br>Attend further webinars for example: KA1, KA2, Partner finding, application process<br><br>Start to identify partners and start preparing your application with your partners<br><br>Create an EU login account and access the organisation registration system for Erasmus+ and obtain an Organisation ID (OID). |
| **November 2026** | Applications open with detailed VET guidance |
| **February/March 2027** | Funding deadlines |
| **Summer 2027** | Funding outcomes communicated |

# How to find a partner organisation/course?

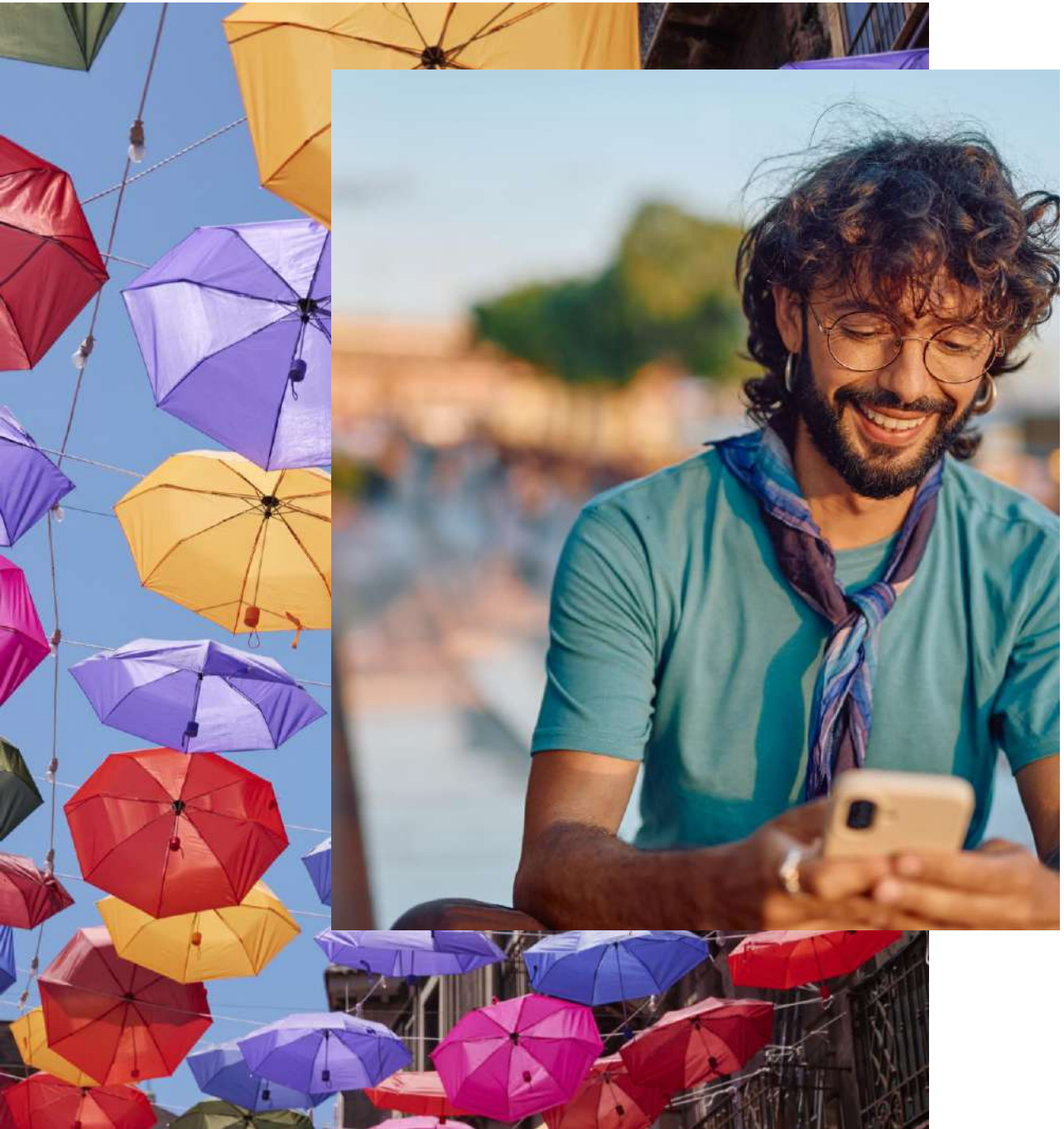
Remember partners can be from EU member states or associated eligible countries including: Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland or Türkiye.

- Reach out to an already established partner
- Use the British Council's "**Partner Finder Tool**"
- Use the Erasmus+ EPALE "**European Platform for Adult Learning in Europe**"
- Training and Cooperation activities – **SALTO Education and Training TCA Resource Centre**
- **Erasmobility** – Work placement exchanges Platform
- Utilise your own professional networks – ask any existing partners who they work with
- There are some Facebook/LinkedIn Groups dedicated to finding Partners
- Attend one of the British Council's dedicated Partner Finding Sessions

## More webinars planned for July: Partner Finding, Key Actions 1 & 2

# Useful Resources

| | Links |
|---|---|
| **2026 Programme Guide** | https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-programme-guide<br><br>Note – the new Programme Guide applicable to the 2027 funding call will be out in Autumn 2026. |
| **E+ Resources** | https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools<br>Includes:<br>• Example application forms (note: 2026 and subject to change)<br>• Distance calculator<br>• Online Language Support |
| **Example Past Projects** | Use the approved projects list detailing all past projects including best practice |



# Stay up to date!

Website: www.erasmusplus.org.uk/

Events Website: https://www.britishcouncil.org/erasmusplus

X: https://x.com/ErasmusPlusUK

Insta: https://www.instagram.com/erasmusplus.uk/

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/erasmusplusuk/

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# Any Questions?