Universities Connect: UK-France Partnerships Workshop

Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and Beyond

Provisional Programme

Tuesday 8 December 2026

- **12.00-13.00:** Arrivals/Lunch
- **13:00 - 13:30:** Welcome and Introduction (plenary session, 30 min)
- **13:30 - 15:30:** Workshops 1 and 2 (parallel sessions*)
- **15:30 - 16:30:** Restitution / Feedback (plenary session)
- **18:00: TBC** Cultural event (exhibition and reception co-hosted by the British Embassy, British Council and Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille)

Wednesday 9 December 2026

- **08:30 - 09:00:** Welcome (coffee and tea)
- **09:00 - 11:00:** Workshops 3 and 4 (parallel sessions*)
- **11:00 - 12:00:** Restitution / Feedback session
- **Afternoon:** Visits to faculties and schools (optional)

***Structure of each parallel session:** *2-hour workshops, followed by 1 hour feedback*

Workshop 1: Strengthening Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships (KA2) – Focus on Pedagogical Innovation

Introduction: Internationalisation of programmes at the University of Lille: from mobility opportunities (Erasmus+, Erasmus Mundus, double degrees, etc.) to internationalisation at home.

Focus: The UK's return to Erasmus+ opens new opportunities for strategic partnerships (KA2) between French and British institutions, particularly through the joint development of innovative pedagogical modules (e.g., hybrid, micro-credentials, interdisciplinary approaches, Erasmus Mundus, Design Measure, etc.). This workshop aims to identify common themes (e.g. ecological transition, ethical AI and public health) and explore concrete opportunities for designing and delivering joint Erasmus+ projects.

Objectives:

- Map the complementary expertise of the participating universities.
- Identify the strengths and challenges for French - British KA2 partnerships in relation to selection criteria (impact, sustainability, European dimension).
- Define 2–3 ideas for joint KA2 projects (e.g., joint course development, virtual mobility).

Workshop 2: Horizon Europe – Collaborations for Clusters 1 (Health), 4 (Digital) and 5 (Climate, Energy, Mobility)

Introduction: From the University of Lille to the wider research ecosystem: expertise and support for European collaboration.

Focus: Horizon Europe funds transnational projects in areas where the UK and France excel (e.g. green technologies, smart cities and cybersecurity). This workshop will explore how universities can develop joint Horizon Europe proposals by building on complementary expertise, shared infrastructures (e.g. laboratories and data) and industrial networks.

Objectives:

- Identify 1–2 Horizon Europe calls aligned with participants' strengths.
- Outline a roadmap to build a consortium (roles, budget, deliverables).
- Share feedback and lessons learned from ongoing projects (successes/bottlenecks).

Workshop 3: Researcher Mobility – Synergies between Erasmus+ & Horizon Europe

Introduction: University of Lille's approach to integrating mobility programmes and strengthening researcher support.

Focus: Researcher mobility, through Erasmus+ KA1 and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon Europe, plays an important role in strengthening collaboration between research teams. This workshop will explore the complementarities between these programmes and how short-term mobility opportunities can be combined with joint doctoral supervision arrangements (*cotutelles*) and doctoral networks to support the development of longer-term research partnerships and larger collaborative projects.

Objectives:

- Identify administrative barriers (e.g. degree recognition, researcher status) and potential solutions.
- Develop a draft template for joint mobility agreements.

Workshop 4: Higher Education and Societal Challenges – Erasmus+ KA2 Alliances for Innovation

Introduction: How educational projects can address societal challenges: the University of Lille's strategy and success stories.

Focus: Erasmus+ Alliances for Innovation (KA2) support projects that harness the potential of higher education to address societal challenges such as inclusion, employability and the green transition. This workshop will explore opportunities to develop joint proposals in the following areas:

- Teacher education and training (e.g. modules on responsible AI)
- Graduate employability and workforce integration (e.g. partnerships with employers to support transnational internships)
- Sustainability (e.g. carbon-neutral campuses)

Objectives:

- Identify one or two societal challenges that are common priorities for participants.
- Outline the structure of a future Alliance, including partners, activities and expected impact.
- Discuss governance arrangements (e.g. a joint UK-France steering committee).