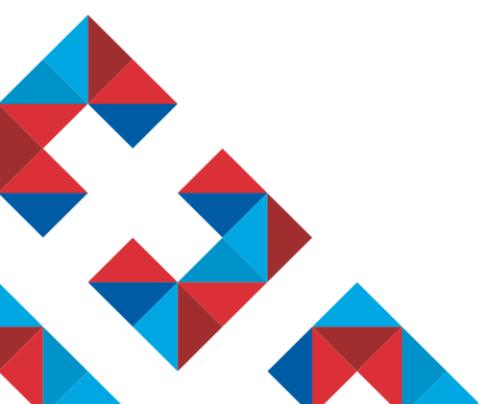


Learning Networks Event Report

6 December 2017



Introduction to Learning Networks

Learning Networks is an initiative of the Erasmus+ programme in the UK and was set up in 2014 by the UK National Agency. Learning Networks are discussion groups for organisations involved in projects funded either through the Erasmus+ programme or through its predecessor programmes the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action. The aim of Learning Networks is to provide beneficiaries with a forum to meet, network and discuss topics of interest. Learning Networks focus on three topics; Employability; Widening Participation; and Measuring Impact. You can find out more about why we chose these topics and their relevance to Erasmus+ on our Learning Networks webpage at www.erasmusplus.org.uk/learning-networks.

Event summary and feedback

On 6 December 2017 we held our seventh Learning Networks event. The venue was Maple House in Birmingham. This event took the form of a consultation session for Erasmus+ beneficiary organisations and stakeholders to share their thoughts and ideas on the themes, structure and outputs of the initiative and how the events might develop going forward. The consultation was open to Learning Networks members and newcomers to the initiative, with over a third of registrants noting they were new to Learning Networks (11/31 registrants).

- Workshop content was focused on delegates contributing to discussions on the current running of the initiative; giving delegates the opportunity to voice their opinions on what they feel would be most relevant to their project.
- The key outcome from the event was for delegate responses to form the basis of an online consultation, giving a wider audience the opportunity to contribute.
- The event was attended by 20 delegates (excluding staff) from all five Erasmus+ sectors: schools, higher education, adult education, youth, and vocational education and training. 19 feedback forms were completed and 95% of respondents rated the event 'excellent' or 'very good' overall which was positive. 95% of respondents were either 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the event. 100% of delegates rated the meeting facilities as 'good'. Some further comments from attendees included:

"Always interesting to hear from other sectors showing one works in a silo."

"Welcome & icebreaker - Really good to have to find specific people."

"Good to learn what is happening in other areas and get new ideas."

Workshops

Delegates took part in two sessions, the first of which was focused on the current themes, sub-topics for development and the possibility of introducing new themes. The second session was centred on the format, structure and outputs of events. Each of the workshops was run by a room facilitator, as well as each table being supported by a table facilitator, enabling innovative and free-flowing discussions.

Workshop	Room Facilitator	National Agency Table Facilitators
Themes	Faye Hindle-Lewis	Stephen Green, Kawsar Ahmed, Annum Mahmood, Daniel King, Melissa Becker, Lee Gibson, Emma Boden, Sara Southam
Format, structure & outputs	Kevin Robinson	Emma Boden, Lee Gibson, Annum Mahmood, Melissa Becker
Format, structure & outputs	Chris Seal	Heather Smith, Kawsar Ahmed, Daniel King, Stephen Green, Sara Southam

Summaries of the discussions at each of the workshops follow below. Delegate notes and the results from each workshop are made available at the following link:

<https://padlet.com/ErasmusplusUK/xoulvh55ehdw>

Themes

In this session, delegates were asked to discuss the themes of the Learning Networks initiative. The specific questions they looked at were:

- Are these topics relevant for your sector?
- What elements of these topics would you like to explore further?
- If you could choose completely new topics, what would they be?
- Which themes would you vote to take forward?

Delegate feedback made it clear that the current themes are still relevant and can be developed further, but that some are more relevant than others. For instance, it was suggested that Measuring Impact workshops could be delivered through webinars, rather than at the Learning Networks events, giving the opportunity for attendees to look at another topic.

Delegates were asked to vote on which possible new themes they would like to be considered for future events. The three most popular topics were: Beyond Brexit, Guest Speaker (floating topic) and Supporting Project Management.

Format, structure & outputs

In the second session, delegates were asked to discuss and answer a range of multiple-choice questions based on the format, structure and outputs of the Learning Networks events. These questions included:

- How long would you like to spend at a Learning Networks event?
- Who would you like to network with on the day?
- Do you want to discuss policy at Learning Networks events?
- Have you found it useful having workshop facilitators on the day?

- How frequently do you think Learning Networks should meet?
- Do you want to be involved in producing outputs from the groups?

Delegates were split into two rooms in order to discuss the questions in smaller groups, facilitated by NA staff. They were then asked to vote as a table and the results were collected live and presented at the end of the session.

National Agency Update

The UK National Agency gave an update on the future of the programme, including increases in funding and changes to the programme; Erasmus+ and Brexit; and 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

The National Agency were also able to share with delegates the Digital Toolkit that had been produced as an output from the previous Learning Networks event in Glasgow. This toolkit provides an overview of the different platforms and techniques available to you and includes top tips on finding your audience online as well as creating engaging content. The Digital Toolkit will be added to the resources on our website in due course.

For the most up-to-date information on the programme in relation to the Brexit negotiations, please visit our dedicated webpage: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/brexit-update>

Next steps for Learning Networks

The next Learning Networks event will be held in spring 2018. We have a dedicated mailing list which provides members with the latest news and updates. To sign up, visit our webpage: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/learning-networks-topics>. Your feedback from this consultation will be used to help plan the next Learning Networks event and also the strategic direction for the initiative in 2018 as follows;

1. Continue to consult with the wider Erasmus+ community with regards to what they would like to see at future events including other topics or thematic areas through an online consultation;
2. Share outputs from the day including the new digital toolkit resource produced by the UK National Agency to support beneficiaries with dissemination; and
3. Continue to provide opportunities for delegates to share learning from the day and network with attendees from other workshops.

Please share the online consultation with any colleagues you feel would benefit from attending these events in the future: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L55PYYZ>

Thank you for taking part in the Learning Networks initiative. The delegate list from the day can be found below.

Delegate list

Please note that this sector colour-coded table excludes delegates who opted not to share their contact details.

	Name	Organisation	Email
	Krzysztof Jan Bahrynowski	Joanna Pinewood Education	krzys@joannapinewoodeducation.com
	Robin Beecroft	Searchlighter	rbeecroft@searchlighter.org
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	Iverene Bromfield	ECVET Expert	iverene@outlook.com
	John Carlton	Middlesbrough Football Club	john.carlton@mfc.co.uk
	Alison Carminke	University of Wolverhampton	alison.carminke@wlv.ac.uk
	Morag Cassidy	Light on the Path Ltd	morag@lightonthepath.co.uk
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	Emily Daly	Cardiff Council	edaly@cardiff.gov.uk
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	Rebecca Emerson	Inova Consultancy	office@inovaconsult.com
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	Leonie Sloots	Inova Consultancy	admin@inovaconsult.com
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	Selina Wells	Cardiff Council	selina.wells@cardiff.gov.uk
	Alan Wood	Edulink Europe CIC	alanwood2000@aol.com

Key



Multiple



Schools



Adult education



Youth



VET



Higher education