Erasmus+ Learning Networks

What are Learning Networks?
Learning Networks are an initiative for the Erasmus+ programme in the UK and were set up in 2014 by the UK National Agency and subsequently reviewed through a consultation in 2017.

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 (including Erasmus, Comenius, Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal programmes) and Youth in Action.

Learning Networks aim to provide beneficiaries with a forum to meet, network and discuss topics of interest. These discussion groups will be one of the regular ways that those involved in European projects will be able to get together in person to talk about issues that interest them, to exchange project information and to build relationships with their peers.

Learning Networks will meet twice a year during the Erasmus+ programme. We would like participants to attend events regularly, in order to provide continuity and progress group discussions, but each event will also be open to new participants.

We have drafted some Terms of Reference for the Learning Networks to help participants understand more about the initiative, and these can be found on our Learning Networks webpage.

What are the topics for the Learning Networks?
There are three Learning Networks on topics addressed by the Erasmus+ programme. These topics were chosen for their relevance to all target groups involved in the programme, and are intended to be relevant across the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, schools, adult education, youth and sport.

The three topics chosen are:

- Employability
- Widening Participation
- Project Management and Implementation

When is the next event?
Learning Networks events are held around the UK and take place twice a year in spring and winter. Please see our events webpage to find the latest event information.
How do the topics relate to Erasmus+?
These topics were chosen in consultation with the UK National Authority (Department for Education), stakeholder representatives and the wider Erasmus+ community. Each topic relates to the aims and objectives of the Erasmus+ programme, as set out in the Programme Guide, as well as to individual projects funded by the programme. Learning Networks aim to get projects talking to each other on these topics, sharing the work their organisations are doing in each area and examining how activity in the UK supports not only the programme aims but also UK policy at regional and national levels.

What about Lifelong Learning Programme or Youth in Action projects?
As noted above Learning Networks are open to organisations that have been funded under the Lifelong Learning Programme and Youth in Action. Those involved in Erasmus+ projects can learn a lot from those experienced in managing European projects and sharing of this expertise and the identification of lessons learned is a key component of the Learning Networks initiative.

Can I participate if I haven’t received funding for an Erasmus+ project?
Learning Networks are open to any organisation that has been funded under the Erasmus+ programme or its predecessor programmes - the Lifelong Learning Programme (including Erasmus, Comenius, Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal programmes) and Youth in Action. Learning Networks will profit from the involvement of both experienced beneficiaries and new beneficiaries and, therefore, we would like to encourage a wide range of organisations from across the different fields covered by the programme and with different levels of experience to take part in the initiative.

I represent a UK organisation involved in a centralised Erasmus+ project, can I take part?
Anyone involved in an Erasmus+ project funded directly by the European Commission’s Executive Agency is welcome to participate in the Learning Networks initiative in order to share results, network with their peers and contribute to discussions around the impact of the programme.
How do I choose which group to participate in?
Each theme has its own page so you can find out more about the topic and about what happened at the previous event. These pages should help you make a decision about which group would be most relevant to you and your organisation and can be found from the Learning Networks page. You will be asked at the time of registering which Learning Network you would like to participate in. You are not committed to this group for the rest of the Erasmus+ programme, but we anticipate that many delegates may wish to maintain continuity of their involvement by attending the same Learning Network group at each event.

If I do not attend an event will I be able to take part in the future?
Yes. Please sign up to our Learning Networks mailing list in order to receive news and information about future activities and events. You will also be able to find information on Learning Networks, including event reports, on our Learning Networks page.

Is there any support for me to attend the event?
In order to encourage participation and support organisations to take part in the initiative, the UK National Agency is able to fund reasonable travel costs for organisations who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend. We also do our utmost to support delegates with additional needs. Further details of how to claim expenses will be made available for each event.