

Erasmus+ school essentials #1

Five benefits for schools

A practical guide
for school leaders

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Erasmus+ can provide your school with funded opportunities to engage in international activities with lasting benefits for you as a school leader, your pupils, teachers, the school and the wider community. Funding is available in the form of grants which aim to contribute to activities supporting education and training within your school.

Here are five ways in which your school could benefit:

Five benefits of Erasmus+

- Improve teaching and learning
- Expand pupils' horizons
- Provide professional development
- Raise your school's profile
- Connect with stakeholders

#1 Improve teaching and learning

Whether the aim is to improve teaching or curricula, foster interdisciplinary learning, develop new curricula, or integrate technology in the classroom – **you can achieve it with Erasmus+**. European activities provide opportunities for staff and pupils to develop and reflect on learning and teaching together with staff and pupils from other schools and organisations (such as universities, libraries, museums and science centres).

‘ This project has had a strong impact on the pedagogical approach of my school... As the educational content was related to the partnership project, motivation was continually reinforced for all aspects of learning.’

Jean-Pierre Marcadier, Teacher, France

#2 Expand pupils’ horizons and raise their aspirations

An Erasmus+ project can enable staff and pupils to work with partner schools on learning activities and learn from visiting teachers and pupils.

Through collaborative activities with peers in other countries, pupils can move beyond the textbook and explore data, knowledge and experiences in a direct and immediate way. In this way, pupils develop intercultural understanding and gain new perspectives on their own learning.

Pupils can also collaborate online through eTwinning activities, which provide a real audience for their work, as well as opportunities to improve ICT, linguistic and interpersonal skills.

#3 Provide unique professional development experiences for school staff

Giving staff the opportunity to get involved with international professional development opportunities is a great way to invigorate your team. The activities enable teachers and other school employees to acquire new learning and teaching methods and tools, and explore a variety of learning and teaching practice across Europe. Often the Erasmus+ activities are a catalyst for change – for participants and the whole school.

‘ The school staff were linked by joint activities, and their newly acquired competencies contributed to their personal and professional development. Teaching methods were improved...Thanks to the project, students have been able to learn effortlessly and with joy.’

Lucija Puljak, School Principal, Croatia

#4 Raise your school's profile

Being part of international activities signals that your school is ambitious, with bold expectations for pupils and staff. By sending employees and pupils abroad, and working with schools and other organisations through Erasmus+, you will show that your school is a desirable place to study and work. Furthermore, many schools apply to Erasmus+ in order to develop new curricula, or implement new ways of working, all of which increase your school's standing and influence.

Establishing links with stakeholders such as town councils, local organisations and NGOs meant bridging the gap between the school and the real world. It offered a great opportunity for our pupils to see that what we were working on had a connection with the organisations' proposals, aims and so on.'

Marta Pey and Marta Noguera, Teachers, Spain

#5 Connect with stakeholder organisations, policymakers and the community

Erasmus+ provides the means to extend learning and teaching beyond your school environment. School leaders, staff members and pupils can benefit through participation in activities that enable them to engage with local businesses, policymakers and community members. Such stakeholder engagement can help tackle challenges in school (e.g. pupil motivation, low achievement, truancy, drop-out rates) through forging links with parents and social services, as well as businesses and other organisations that may help improve the relevance of learning. Stakeholder engagement may also help raise your school's profile locally, improving teaching and learning by providing opportunities in real world settings.

Learning from real-life experiences can only be done through contact with stakeholders outside of school.'

Annemie Lauryssens, School International Relations Coordinator, Belgium