Irish National Commission for UNESCO
Mobility and exchange between cities and countries towards peace, tolerance and inclusion: Erasmus+ a European case study over 30 years
Cork and UNESCO

Congratulations Cork

third UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Conference

Thank you, Irish National Commission for UNESCO

Mobility and exchange between cities and countries towards peace, tolerance and inclusion: Erasmus+ Case Study
• Fionnuala Broughan, Communications Manager

• **Léargas** is an agency of the Dept of Education and Skills

• We manage national, European and international programmes in **Adult Education, School Education, VET, Youth**

• For over thirty years

• Together with the HEA, we manage **Erasmus+ in Ireland, 2014-2020**
Erasmus+

“Erasmus+ is the EU flagship education and training programme.

It funds organisations to enable their students, staff, youth and voluntary workers, from all walks of life, to explore opportunities abroad.

Some travel and bring new experiences and skills back with them.

Others stay close to home but find their world has expanded just the same.”
Erasmus+, some numbers

- 83% feel more European
  - Higher Education

- 94% have become more tolerant
  - Youth Exchanges

- 85% say they are more aware of common European values
  - European Voluntary Service

- 88% of pupils increased their social skills
  - European School Partnerships

Erasmus+, some numbers

Erasmus+ support for sustainable development (2014-16)

Grants: €1 billion for EU projects
Participants: 900,000
Projects: 5,800
Partner organisations: 33,000

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FROM ERASMUS TO ERASMUS+ A STORY OF 30 YEARS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES
18-20 SEPTEMBER 2017, CORK CITY, IRELAND
Erasmus+, 30 years in Ireland

1987-2017: 30 YEARS OF ERASMUS

When the programme started, Erasmus targeted only higher education students, but it has since grown to offer opportunities in the vocational education and training, school education, adult education, youth and sport sectors. Today, all these programmes have one name: Erasmus+.

Ireland joined in 1987.

**IRISH WHO BENEFITED BETWEEN 1987 AND 2017 (ESTIMATED)**

- 54,700 higher education students
- 15,800 youth exchange participants
- 5,500 vocational training learners
- 9,200 education staff and youth workers
- 2,000 European volunteers
- 1,100 Erasmus Mundus students and staff
Tracing the history

1976 Action Programme
...the transition from school to working life...

1995: Towards a Learning Society

2001: Making a European Area of Lifelong Learning a Reality
...social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development...
2007-2013 Lifelong Learning, Grundtvig Adult Education:
personal fulfilment and participation in society

2011: Renewed Agenda for Adult Learning in Europe
...participate in life and society as an individual...

2013: ‘Europe 2020’
...smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for Europe...

2015: Paris Declaration
... the role of education in embedding the fundamental values that lie at the heart of the European Union...

2014-2020 Erasmus+
inclusive education approaches... promote the values of pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance...
Erasmus+ Today

**Europe 2020**, published in 2013, was a growth strategy for Europe shaped to respond to the global economic crisis. The role of education and training and Erasmus+ were seen as integral to restoring the economy and achieving **smart, sustainable and inclusive** growth for Europe.

While the economic challenge continues to be a real one, in 2015 there was a refocus with the **Paris Declaration**. This declaration outlines an agreement between the EU Ministers of Education to strengthen the contribution that education makes to **personal development and social inclusion** and its role in embedding the fundamental values that lie at the heart of the European Union.
Erasmus+ Today

Erasmus+ has embedded the aims of the Paris Declaration with priority now given to projects addressing **inclusive education** approaches:

‘...promote the values of pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between men and women’
Erasmus+ 2016 in Ireland

4 Sectors
- Adult Education
- School Education
- VET
- Youth

3 Key Actions
- KA1: Mobility of Individuals
- KA2: Strategic Partnerships
- KA3: Support for Policy Reform

181 Projects

9,500 Participants
- 3,266 KA1 participants across all fields
- 5,646 KA2 participants across all fields
- 604 KA3 participants across all fields

Erasmus+ 2016
INTL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES
18-20 SEPTEMBER 2017 CORK CITY, IRELAND
Léargas goal:
Implement the programme effectively in our target sectors

- Supportive approach
- Focus on inclusion
- Gather evidence
- Share the learning
Supportive Approach, e.g.

- What are the links between National and European policies and ‘work on the ground’?
- Policy Officer
- 123 Guides

Your Erasmus+ project can play a role in achieving these aims and help to make positive changes for young people, be that at a local, national or international level.

For example:

- Your project can directly tackle some of the issues affecting young people that are set out in EU or national policy priorities.
- Your project can give young people a voice in discussions around national or EU policy that affect their lives, thereby ensuring accountability.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES
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Erasmus+ Today

Focus on Inclusion

- Target hard-to-reach groups
- Inclusion Officer
- Inspiration Days

léargas
SPORTS 4 INCLUSION
Inspiration Day
Dublin, 05 September 2017

Inspiration Day 11 May 2016
Migrant and Ethnic Minority Young People
taking the lead with Erasmus+

I AM WHO I AM
22 September
Dublin

FROM ERASMUS TO ERASMUS+
A STORY OF 30 YEARS

Cork2017
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING CITIES
18-20 SEPTEMBER 2017 CORK CITY, IRELAND
Erasmus+ Today

Gather evidence

- Impact Research Officer
- Léargas staff
- Participants
- National Agencies
- Mid-Term Evaluation
Erasmus+ Today

Gather Evidence: Mid-Term Evaluation of Erasmus+

• participants are, by a vast majority, impacted positively by their experience of the programme
• improving labour market skills and employment opportunities, and increasing cultural awareness and appreciation, are all in evidence.
• increases in confidence and enthusiasm are also reported
• formation of professional relationships and friendships, many of which have continued for several years.
• the programme is shown to be relevant, adding value, and very much aligned with national priorities.
Erasmus+ Today

Share the Learning

• Workshops and inputs for participants
• Léargas online

Practical Dissemination: Share What You’ve Learned
Fri, Apr 21st, 2017

Dissemination is a key part of any international project, and has particular importance in Erasmus+. In fact, along with impact, it counts for 30% of the total score in applications! Yet it can be difficult to know where to start and how to disseminate effectively. In the first part of this short series, Léargas Communications and Impact Research Officer Charis Hughes looks at practical ways to share what you’ve learned.

My Erasmus+ Experience
Fri, Sep 8th, 2017
As part of our ‘Erasmus 30’ series our Communications Officer, Brian Desmond, discusses his Erasmus+ experience both as a participant and as a member of the Irish National Agency.

Youth Volunteering: Building a Path to Peace
Fri, Aug 11th, 2017
For International Youth Day 2017 youth worker Jason Dillon explores youth volunteering as a pathway to independence, social change and sustainable peace.

From Inspiration to Application: Making a Youth Exchange Happen!
Wed, Aug 9th, 2017
Our guide to making an Erasmus+ Youth Exchange happen, from inspiration to application!

Erasmus+ 30 Years

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Erasmus+ and Us

“The view of participants are that the most effective promotion comes from peers within their sector who can speak about their experiences...” (Erasmus+ MTE)

Viv Sadd, Mahon Youth: ‘Building Walls, Breaking Walls’

Ger Brennan, St John’s Central College
Thank you!