

Key Outcomes

The UK is rejoining Erasmus+ with the British Council appointed as the national agency.

1 Applications open in November and close in February/March, with results expected in late June/early July and activity starting autumn term of the following academic year.

2/3 Experienced practitioners (Bernadette, Ben) shared concrete project examples to inspire schools, and consensus emerged that starting small with one partner is the most pragmatic approach.

Decisions Made

- **Recording policy:** Presentations recorded for ALL members
- **Starting approach:** Small-scale, single-partner applications recommended before scaling up
- **Partner funding model confirmed:** UK schools can be a partner (not necessarily coordinator) and still receive funding directly through the national agency — money no longer routed solely via coordinator
- **Non-profits eligible:** Organizations like ALL can act as coordinators and submit applications on behalf of schools

Erasmus+ Programme Overview

- **Two main action types:** Key Action 1 (mobility: job shadowing, training courses, pupil trips) and Key Action 2 (partnerships: small-scale up to €60k, cooperation projects, European partnerships up to €400k)
- **Four cross-cutting themes** all projects must reference: inclusion & diversity, digital transformation, environment/climate change, civic engagement
- **Not languages-only:** Any curriculum area qualifies; staff can travel for as little as two days' CPD
- **Disadvantaged students:** Higher funding available to support inclusion
- **Awareness gap:** 80%+ of ~500 teachers at British Council briefings reported knowing nothing or very little about Erasmus+

Experience Highlights

- **Bernadette (Hackney):** Ran multiple KA1 language-upskilling trips to Spain (Easter/October half-term) over 4–5 years; KA2 projects on inclusion (Berlin, €185,800), leadership (Helsinki/Estonia, €179,000), and a multilingual/CLIL partnership with 11 partners across UK, Tenerife, Portugal, and Poland
- **Ben (Big Ben Learning):** Participated in *Playing CLIL* project (Cyprus, Turkey, Iceland, Finland, Romania, Poland, Germany) producing a free EU resource; also *Learning at the Hearth* on intergenerational learning across cultures
- Both speakers emphasised the value of **removing educators from routine** to stimulate fresh thinking

Partner Finding

- British Council **partner-finding tool** available now; European schools already registered and actively seeking UK partners
- Four themed partner-finding sessions held; EU schools far outnumbered UK schools — sessions had to be closed to UK-only intake
- Other routes: existing pen-pal links, town twinning, Facebook groups, Ben's European school network
- **eTwinning** not yet available to UK; expected return hopefully later in the year

Pending Confirmation

- National agency director appointed but full staffing/structures still being set up
- Application forms not released until October; no significant changes expected from previous versions
- Simplified programme guide and YouTube walkthrough videos planned
- eTwinning membership for UK — possible but later in 2026
- a **planning form** (what do you need / what do you want to do) is available

Action Items

- **Ben:** Write article on "Friends in Other Countries" / European partner networks for ALL
- **Schools (now):** Identify SLT support, clarify needs/priorities, seek or confirm a partner school
- **Application workshops** by activity type planned for autumn term
- **British Council:** Hosting event for MAT leaders and local authority representatives the following week