



Erasmus+: An introduction for Scottish Local Authorities and Education Partnerships



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01 What is Erasmus +?

- Erasmus+ is the European Union's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. It offers funding to schools, institutions, organisations and local authorities for mobilities and for co-operation projects for Schools and education.
- In December 2025 the UK announced that it would be rejoining the Erasmus + programme for the 2027 call for funding.
- In April 2026 the government announced that the British Council was set to become the **National Agency** for Erasmus + .



01 Misconceptions about Erasmus +

- ❖ Long mobility only **X**
- ❖ Not for schools– for HE only **X**
- ❖ Not an option for disadvantaged schools or disadvantaged students **X**
- ❖ Only languages based projects are possible **X**



02 What is possible with Erasmus + for schools and organisations ?



Funded Career Professional Development for Staff



Funded Pupil and Teacher Mobilities



The chance to collaborate and learn with schools or organisations from 35 countries



03 What are the benefits of Erasmus + for Local Authorities in Scotland?



Workforce Development and Staff Retention



School Improvement and Innovation



Strategic Growth and Global Partnerships

04 What are the Key Actions?

Key Action 1:

Erasmus + KA1 supports schools and other organisations active in the field of school education that want to organise learning mobility activities for school pupils and staff.

A wide range of activities are supported, including job shadowing and professional development courses for staff, individual and group mobility for pupils, invited experts etc . This is focused on individual improvement.

Key Action 2:

Erasmus+ KA2 supports partnerships that allow schools to work together with other schools and organisations across Europe (and sometimes beyond) to improve education, develop new approaches, and strengthen capacity.

It focuses on innovation and systematic improvement of the whole school. A wide range of activities are supported such as transnational project meetings, joint staff training and job shadowing, short-term group learning activities for pupils and mobilities for students and staff.



04 What can schools and organisations apply for ?

KA1 Mobility Activities

Opportunities for staff

- ▣ Job shadowing/Teaching Abroad
- ▣ Training courses
- ▣ Hosting an expert
- ▣ Hosting a trainee teacher

Opportunities for learners

- ▣ Group mobility: Groups of up to 30 pupils (plus teachers) can travel to a partner school.
- ▣ Individual mobility: Pupils can study abroad at a partner school or do a traineeship abroad.

KA2 Partnerships

Small-scale partnerships

At least two organisations from different countries. Apply for a grant of €30,000 or €60,000.

Co-operation partnerships

At least three partners such as Education partnerships, local authorities or initial teacher training providers, although schools can take part as a partner. Grant options are €120,000, €250,000 or €400,000.

European Partnerships for School Development

These partnerships support strategic innovation and sharing of good practice. More suitable for organisations such as Education partnerships, local authorities or initial teacher training providers, although schools can take part as a partner. Grants of €400,000 are available

04 Key Actions 4 Priority Areas

The European Commission have four main crosscutting focus areas for Erasmus +. These areas are important to consider when designing a project.



**Inclusion and
Diversity**



**Digital
Transformation**



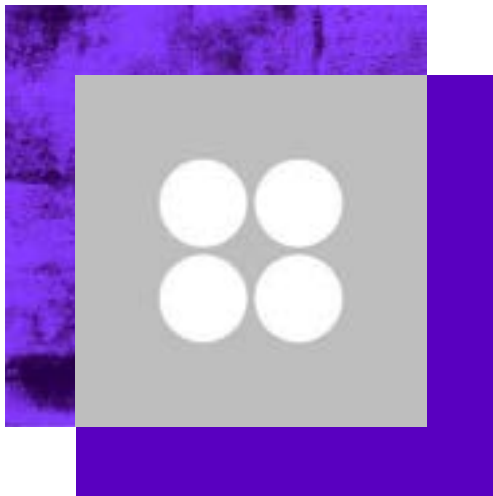
**Environment
and the fight
against climate
change**



**Participation in
democratic life,
common values
and civic
engagement**



05 What are the roles in an Erasmus + Project ?



National Agency

British Council

We are set to serve as the link between the European Commission and UK participants, handling project selection, funding, promotion, and monitoring. We were appointed by the UK's National Authority for Erasmus+ the Department for Education.



Project Coordinator

The Lead School or Org

A participating organisation applying for an Erasmus+ grant on behalf of a consortium of partner organisations. The coordinator has special obligations as outlined in the grant agreement.



Project Partner

A Partner School or Org

A school or educational organisation usually located in a different country from the Project Coordinator that officially collaborates with the lead institution to carry out joint activities, staff training, or pupil exchanges.

06 How to find a partner school?

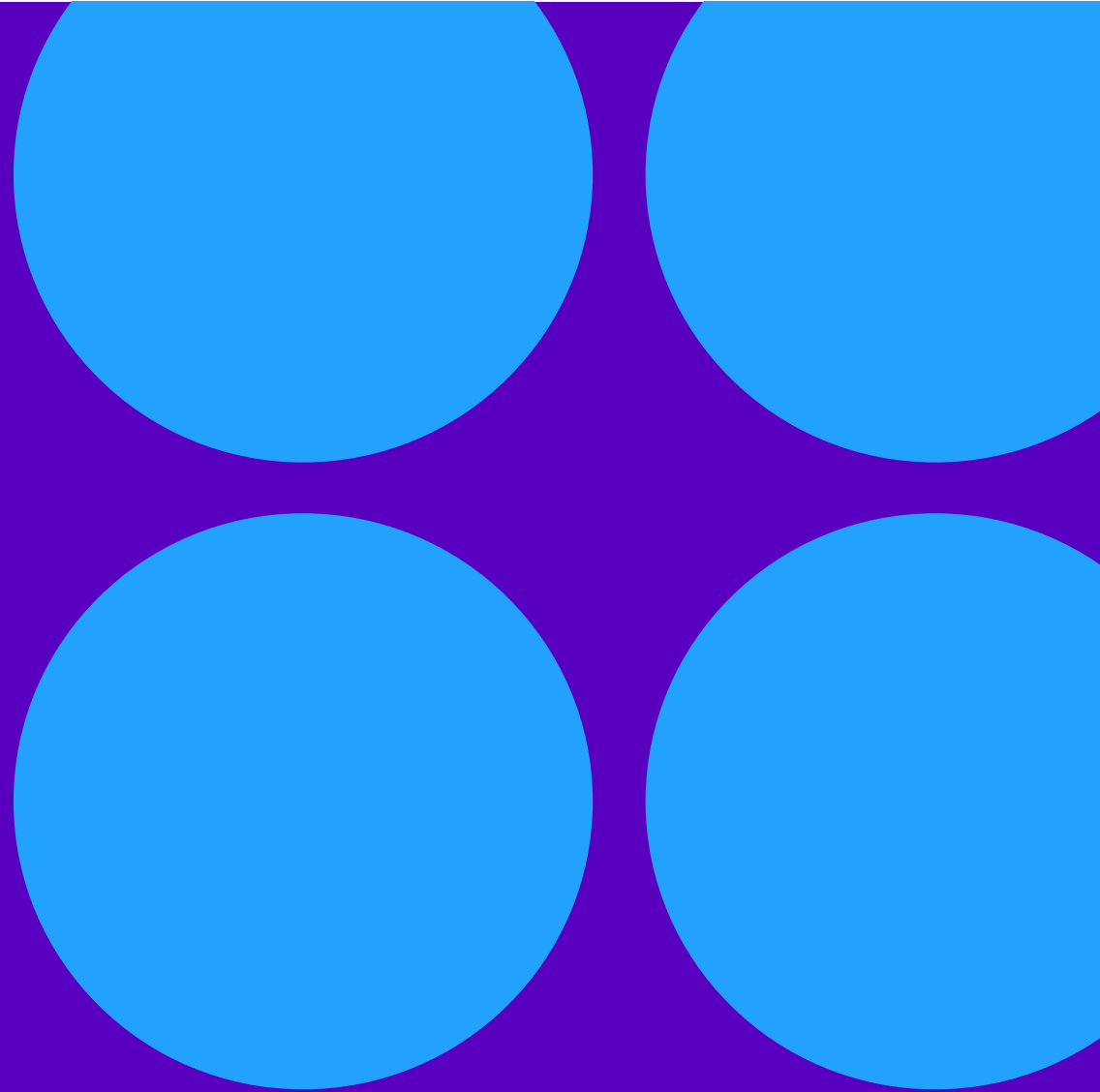
Remember partners can be from EU member states or associated eligible countries including: Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland or Türkiye.

- Reach out to an already established partner school
- Use the British Council's "**Partner Finder Tool**"
- Use the Erasmus+ "**European School Education Platform**"
- Research and use your local town or village Twinning links
- There are some Facebook Groups dedicated to finding Partners (Please be careful)
- Attend one of the British Council's dedicated Partner Finding Sessions
- Please note that a small number of Key Action 1 projects do not need a partner school (although it is beneficial)

* Please note partners should not ask for payment at any point. Please be careful with your personal information.

07 Case Study

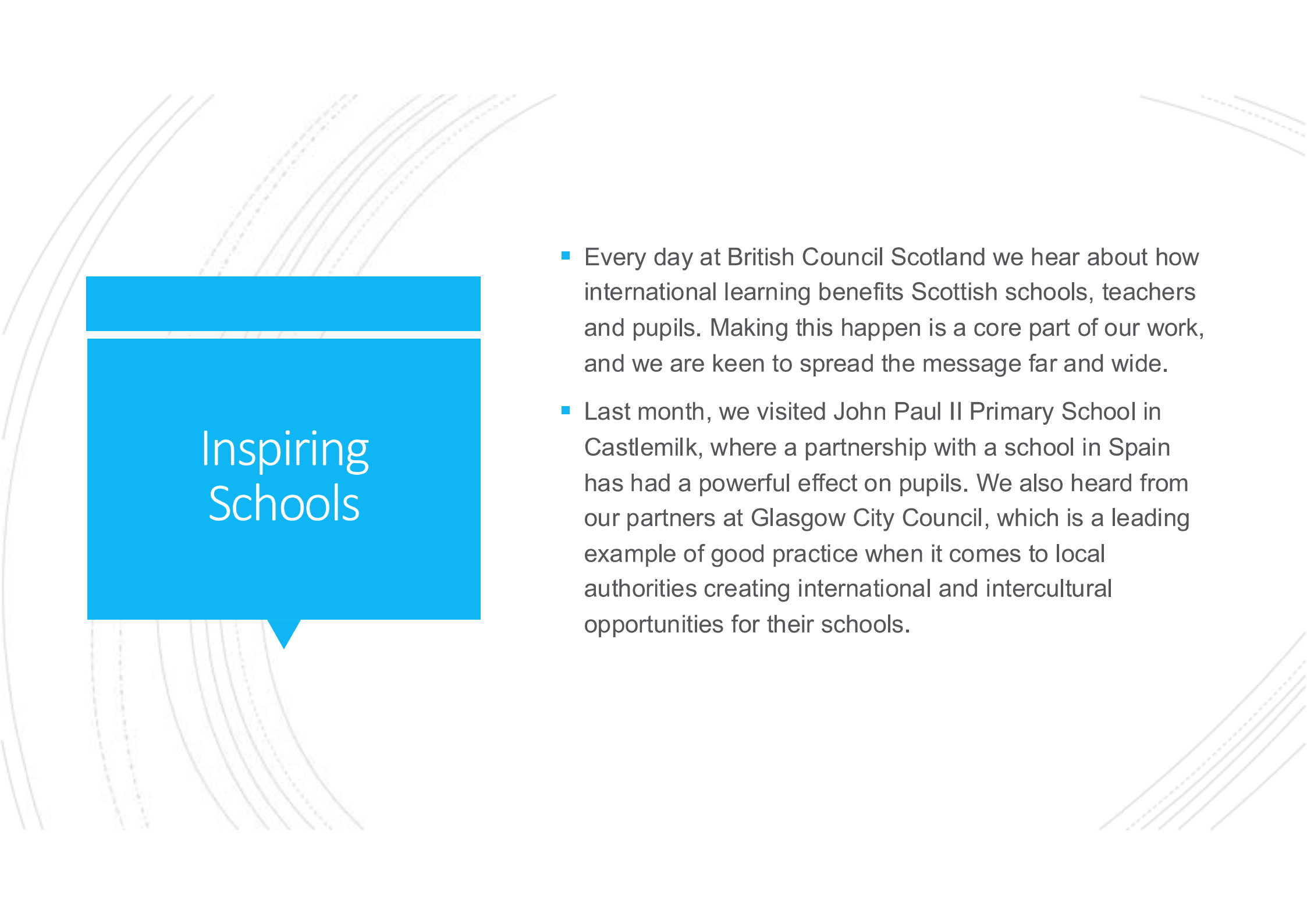
Lesley Atkins



The logo features a large, vibrant blue oval shape. To its left, a thick, black, curved line sweeps upwards and then downwards, partially overlapping the blue oval. The background is white, adorned with several thin, light gray curved lines that radiate outwards from the central blue oval, creating a sense of motion and depth.

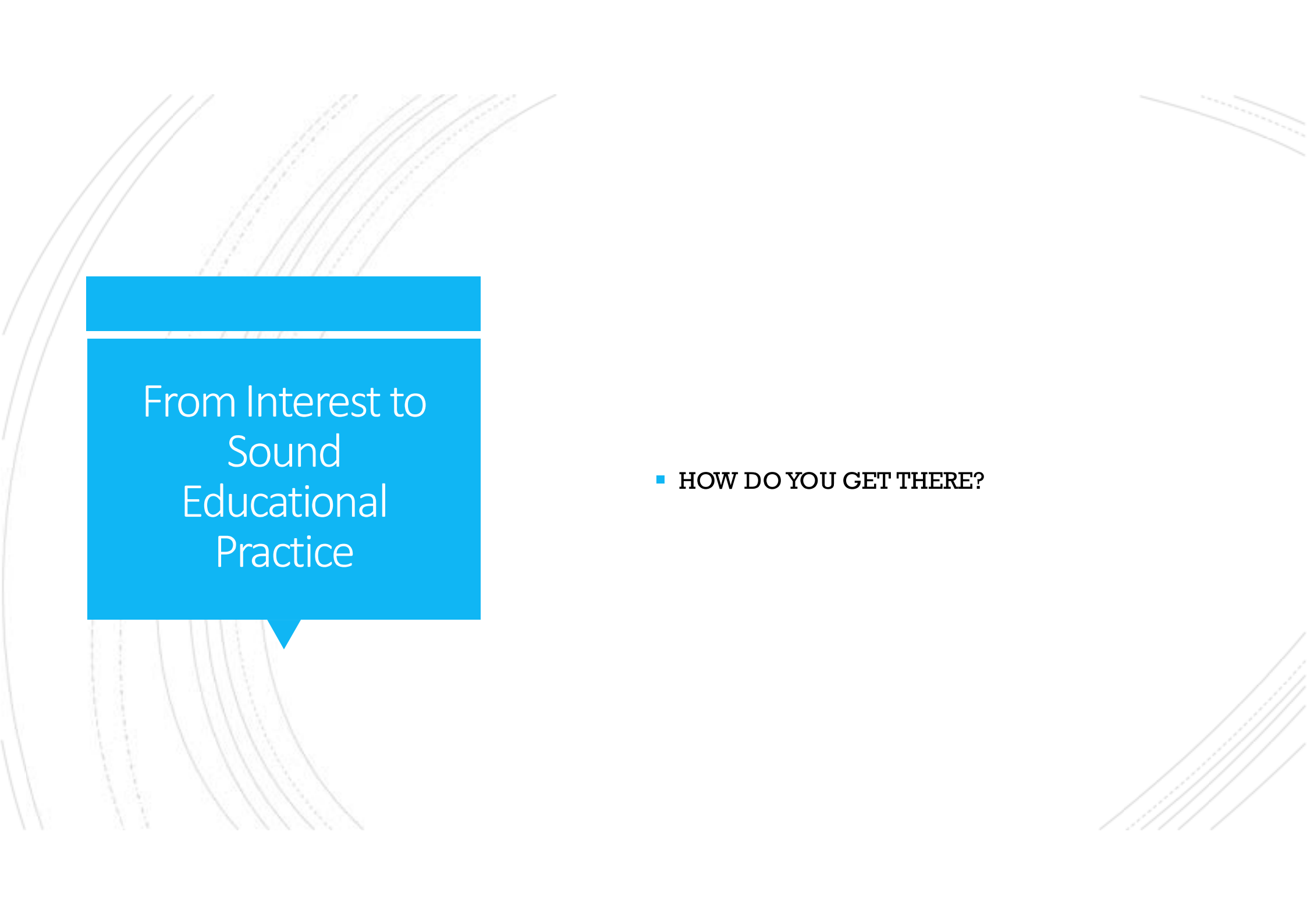
ERASMUS PLUS

**A CONTEXT FOR TRANSFORMING
TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The background of the slide features several sets of thin, curved lines in a light grey color, sweeping across the frame from the top left towards the bottom right. On the left side, there is a large blue graphic element consisting of a solid blue rectangle with a smaller, slightly offset rectangle on top of it, creating a speech bubble-like shape. The text 'Inspiring Schools' is written in white inside the lower, larger rectangle.

Inspiring Schools

- Every day at British Council Scotland we hear about how international learning benefits Scottish schools, teachers and pupils. Making this happen is a core part of our work, and we are keen to spread the message far and wide.
- Last month, we visited John Paul II Primary School in Castlemilk, where a partnership with a school in Spain has had a powerful effect on pupils. We also heard from our partners at Glasgow City Council, which is a leading example of good practice when it comes to local authorities creating international and intercultural opportunities for their schools.



From Interest to Sound Educational Practice

- **HOW DO YOU GET THERE?**

Case Study Glasgow Primary School

2017 – no engagement

Invited to speak with Headteacher from Valencia

2018 Apply for KA2Erasmus Plus Schools Partnership

Begin eTwinning

2019 Partnerships Visit to Spanish school

Reciprocal Visit from Spanish partners

Language lessons transformed through live links to Spanish classroom

2019 KA1 Application to enhance teacher CPD in MFL

2020 Become Partners in Inspiring Pupils KA2 Erasmus Plus

2022 Teachers attend LFEE KA1 Spanish Language Teaching course Valencia

2023 Teachers present Inspiring Pupils impact at DIPS Prague.

The roadmap from Interest to Sound Practice

- The Head Teacher's initiative and leadership
- Strategic planning with IE Officer
- A commitment to embed international learning contexts in the Curriculum
- Introduced eTwinning
- Engaged with 2 KA2 projects.
- Introduced KA1 staff CPD
- Valued and validated partnership and learning contexts in the classroom
- Commitment to longer term curriculum planning of international partnerships



Increasing
Capacity



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



- Inspiring pupils Erasmus plus films
- Inspiring Pupils is an Erasmus+ project coordinated by [LFEE Europe](#) that uses digital filmmaking and student-created short films to build media literacy, cross-cultural communication, and context-embedded learning.

Erasmus KA2 School Partnership



Digital Creativity A KA2 Partnership with 3 Countries Scotland, France, Spain

This project aims to develop skills in digital creativity through film making. Learners and practitioners will learn how to make short films, from writing a script, to filming and editing. Learners will be inspired to explore and select themes and topics that they can connect with and are relatable. They will explore characters, genres, storylines and plots, as well as considering target audiences and messaging. Post production is also considered, with opportunity to put on a mini film festival within the institution to showcase the films. This will help learners develop their presentation skills and learn about events management and promotional techniques.

Film making and putting on a film festival offers a diverse and meaningful context for learning. Learners develop skills by doing and thinking about what is important to them, and then communicating that to others. This project proposal offers a platform for learners to present their creative ideas, their own stories and messages, and their developing talent and skills. It provides opportunity to plan and organise, and to connect with their audience and share how they feel. Language skills will be enhanced, communication skills, confidence building, digital literacy, and presentation skills through the context of film making. The project will draw upon toolkits and materials produced through an Erasmus+ project "Inspiring Pupils". This includes using films as a powerful teaching resource.

This innovative, creative and motivating project proposal enhances digital literacy skills and helps to meet the demands of national attainment targets. Learners will participate in active learning with the appropriate soft skills, develop confidence through presenting and discussing their learning, demonstrate using online materials safely and using equipment responsibly, and learn to use a variety of apps to enhance films. Both learners and practitioners will be encouraged in the use of digital communication to collaborate internationally with partners. They will also have the benefit of exchanging ideas and information with partners in Tenerife, and the opportunity to visit the Spanish partners and collaborate on a production.

Inspiring Pupils

A good practice guide

Our best practice guide shows teachers how to use films in class as part of the teaching and learning process. They can be used to:

- Understand how films are made.
- Support language learning.
- Learn about different cultures.
- Investigate particular themes or topics.
- Learn about the filming process.
- Prepare learners to make their own films.

Best Practice Guide: a pedagogical companion to using short films in class

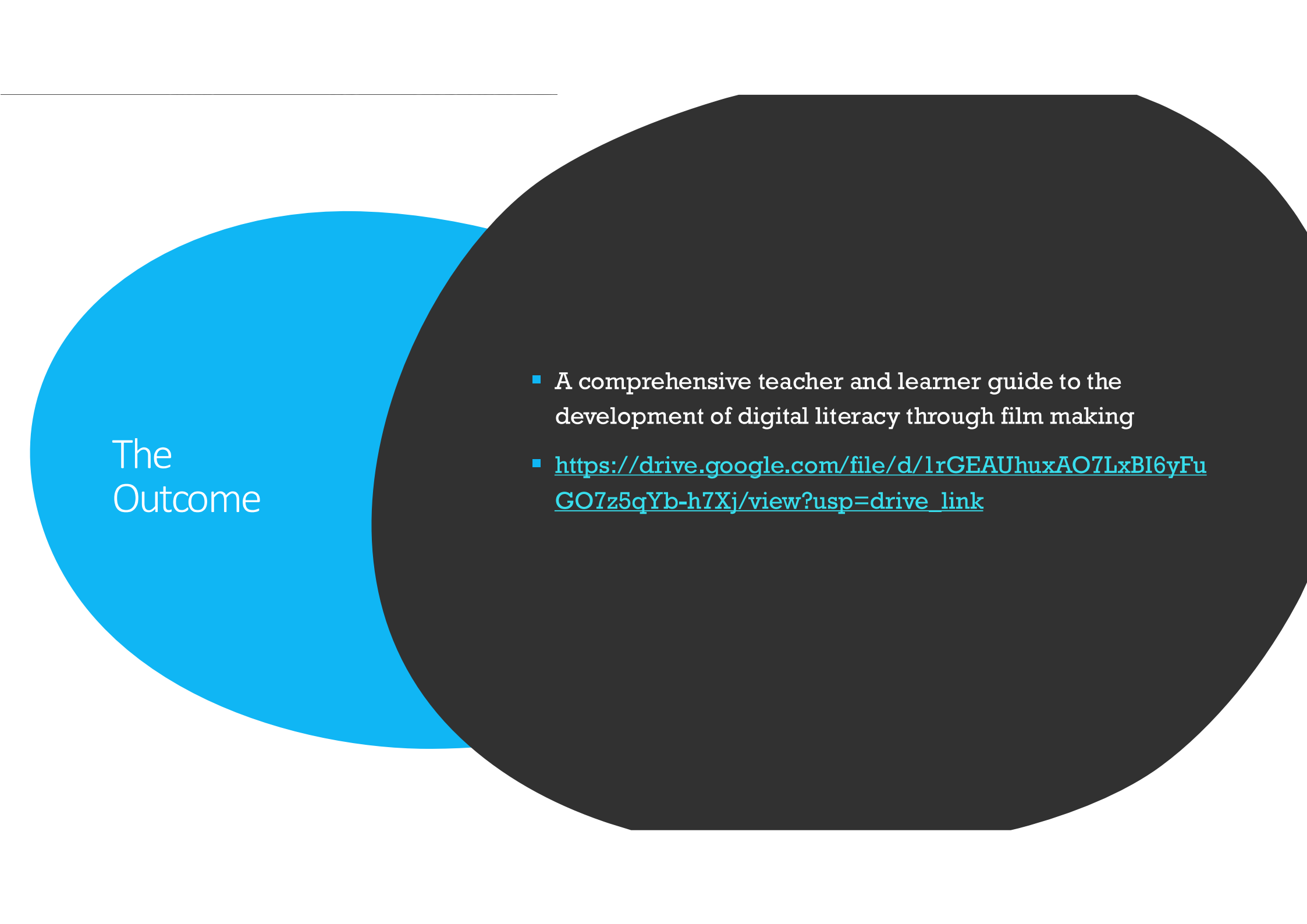


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- Erasmus+ isn't simply about funding international travel.
 - It's about improving teaching and learning
 - It's about developing staff
 - It's about giving young people life-changing experiences
- and building lasting partnerships across Europe.

Impact

- John Paul Primary collaborated with 6 schools in 2 other countries
- They worked under the leadership of Glasgow City Council and LFEE
- They received professional support and workshops in the classroom from Havana Glasgow Film Festival
- Professional development in Digital Literacy was enhanced through collaboration with partner colleagues in Spain and France
- They co authored a best practice guide to delivering digital competency through film making
- Young people presented their work in 3 different countries to a transnational audience, in real theatres and meaningful learning contexts.

A coordinated
framework of
support



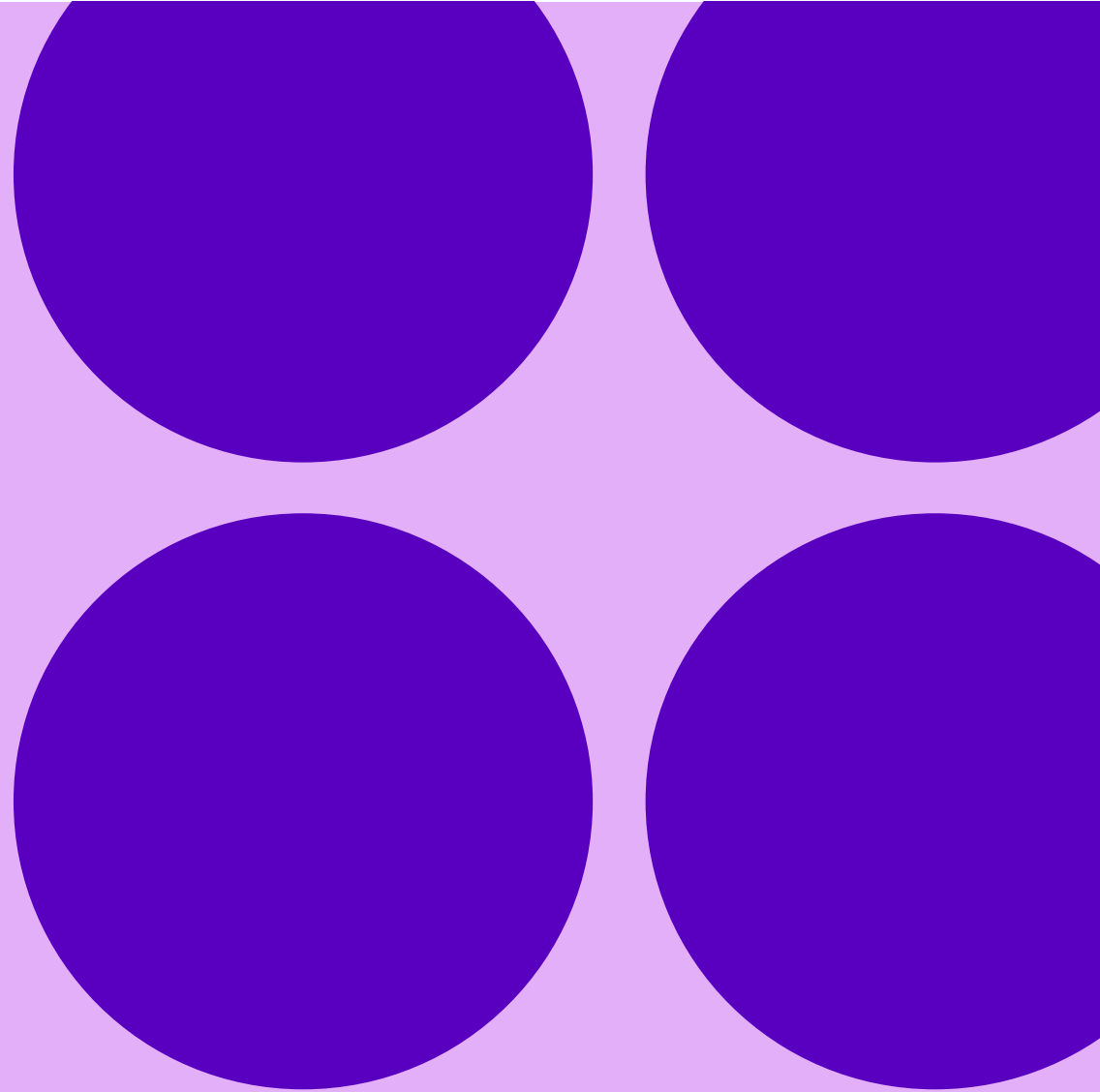
The Outcome

- A comprehensive teacher and learner guide to the development of digital literacy through film making
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rGEAUhuxAO7LxBI6yFuGO7z5qYb-h7Xj/view?usp=drive_link

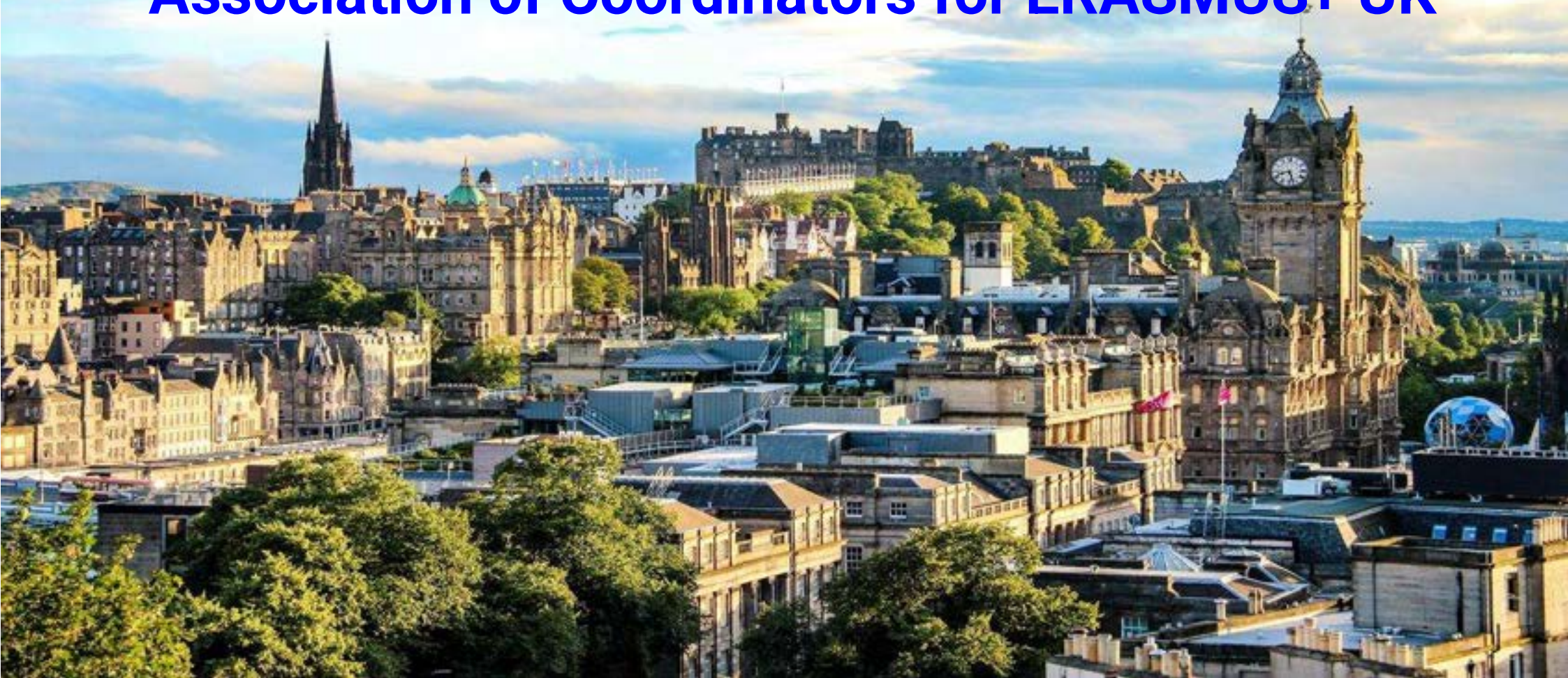
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08 Case Study



Association of Coordinators for ERASMUS+ UK



Association of Coordinators for ERASMUS+ UK

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Erasmus+ KA1: From Funding to Impact

Managing KA1 at Local Authority level

The principle is simple:

Application process: Identify needs → Plan opportunities → Register schools → Apply

Once you've secured Erasmus+ funding Mobilise → Multiply

Notes:

The question becomes: how do we manage this without creating a huge administrative burden? I want to show you that the model can actually be relatively simple. At application stage: numbers of mobilities, not necessarily named teachers. AI can also help!

Build a Menu of Opportunities

Plan the opportunities, not the individual teachers/pupils

Course Title	Location and Dates
Language and Methodology course	Toulouse/Tenerife, October 2027
AI in Education	Tallinn, October 2027
Job shadowing in Primary & Secondary Schools	Germany, 2027–28
Pupil Mobility, Citizenship and Democracy	Brussels, March 2028

Before • During • After

A mobility is much more than a week abroad

BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
Identify needs	Intensive professional learning	Change classroom practice
Set objectives	European collaboration	Share with colleagues
Link to school/LA priorities	Immersion & new approaches	Lead professional learning
Establish a baseline	Reflect on practice	Measure impact
Notes: Evidence from previous Scottish teachers (GTCS) mobilities: confidence, practical methodologies, professional dialogue, classroom changes, sharing with colleagues.		

The Multiplier Effect

New practice → Shared resources → Staff development → Wider capacity

One mobility can influence many teachers and many more pupils.

Notes: The return on investment isn't one teacher having had an excellent week in Toulouse. It's what that teacher does afterwards. Our previous participants have gone on to share resources, deliver training, support colleagues and in some cases become language leaders themselves.

Who Manages All This?

- **The Local Authority leads – but doesn't work alone**
- **LOCAL AUTHORITY / CONSORTIUM:** Owns the strategy • Selects participants • Monitors impact
- **Erasmus+ Coordinator:** Coordination • Administration • Preparation • Reporting
- **EUROPEAN PARTNERS:** Course providers • Schools • Local Authorities • Networks



Erasmus+ provides organisational support funding to help resource the management and coordination of the programme.

Join us at SCILT on Friday 2 October 2026 for an in-person event to help you prepare for Scotland's return to Erasmus+

Association of Coordinators for ERASMUS+ UK

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10 Any
Questions?



09 Next Steps

01

Pass on information to your schools, encourage them to think about making an application

02

Consider making an application for a larger scale project as a Education Partnerships/LA/Consortium and agree the aims for the project

03

Build an application team, get support from Senior Leaders

04

Find a partner or consortium to join

05

Draft an application with your partners ahead of time.

09 Some suggested extra reading

Guidance:

- The **Erasmus + Programme Guide** (please note this will be reissued with updated guidance in the next coming months but can be a good place to start).
- The Department for Education have also issued their own **guidance for schools**.
- For inspiration you search **The Erasmus + Project Results** data base. You can search for examples of KA1 and KA2 projects.

For registration:

- Please follow **guidance** issued by the European Commission, please note in relation to schools work you are applying for activity managed by a National Agency not the Executive Agency. Please follow guidance only to do with this.

Opportunities and resources for schools

❖ Guided Partnerships

- Reading for pleasure: Collaborate with a partnerschool in Morocco to inspire reading and share a love of books. Next round starting November. Applications open for teachers teaching pupils 11 – 14.
- UK-Ukraine: Come together with teachers and pupils in Ukraine to share the joy of reading and build an understanding of the stories we tell in our different cultures.
- Schools Across the ocean: Connect with schools in Brazil to explore oceans and climate through creative project, empowering Year 5 & 6 pupils. Applications opening in September.

❖ Learning sectors: The British Council's international partnership programme supported by Formula 1. Pupils aged 7-16 collaborate with schools in India or Spain while building STEM and communication skills through real-world challenges. Starting in October, it's perfect for next year's planning. Places are filling fast, sign up now: [Apply now!](#)

❖ Climate Simulation events – Sign ups opening in September

Classrooms Resources: Access free, curriculum-linked resources and activity packs on themes including climate action, languages, culture, migration and global citizenship to help pupils explore the world beyond their classroom.

