

TRAINING SESSION OUTLINE

Title of Session : Organisational challenges with sending and hosting schools

Time : 1 hour

Session objectives:

- To be prepared for the upcoming challenges

Preparation by: Klaudia and Marek

Nr of Facilitator 1 or 2

Nr of Participants: At least 10 participants

Room requirements:

- Projector
- Enough space for a group work
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Training supplies and equipment:

- Whiteboard or a flipchart
- Markers
- Pens and paper for the groups

Handouts:

Presentation

Session description:
 (Instructions facilitators, instructions trainees, step by step description, time schedule)

Time	Instruction	Materials
20 min	Presentation about setting the communication channels between different parties (host, sender, students, etc.)	Projector
40 min	Brainstorming and own ideas	Pens and paper

Organisational challenges

with sending and hosting schools

Project Reference:
2022-1-LT01-KA220-SCH-000089583



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Intro

As the Erasmus project continues to evolve and expand, it brings together sending and hosting schools from across Europe to participate in reciprocal exchanges, enabling students to study, work, and explore in foreign countries. However, amidst the myriad benefits of this esteemed program lie a multitude of organizational challenges, particularly when minors are involved in the exchange process.

Language barriers

The Erasmus project is, first and foremost, about a cultural and linguistic exchange between countries. Dealing with language differences between sending and hosting schools can create communication challenges, especially if there are discrepancies in language proficiency among students and staff. The English Curriculum differs for each country, some may even not study English and their second language.

Logistical issues

Erasmus groups often are quite big and therefore it may cause problems with finding the right means of transport and suitable accommodations for them. And even if you managed to find an absolutely perfect place to stay for them, it might turn out that the only way for the group to get to and from your school is a bus running only four times a day.

Administrative coordination

Paperwork can be overwhelming – especially when we're talking about such a big and important project as bringing exchange students to our school. One of the most difficult obstacles surely might be handling visas, insurance, acquiring necessary personal data of students and teachers.

Cultural differences

We come from different parts of this continent and we all bring something wonderful to the table, but sometimes, it might cause difficulties. Cultural disparities between countries can lead to misunderstandings, misinterpretations, and conflicts among students and staff. Adapting to different cultural norms, values, and communication styles requires sensitivity and intercultural competence. That's why communication is key!

Academic alignment

Ensuring that the academic programs and curriculum of sending and hosting schools align appropriately can be a challenge, especially if there are differences in educational systems, standards, or requirements

Parental consent and involvement

Many of the Erasmus programme students are minors. Obtaining parental consent for minors to participate in the exchange program can be a long bureaucratic process, requiring extensive communication with parents or guardians. Involving parents in the planning and decision-making process is crucial for ensuring their support and addressing their concerns about their children's well-being. Providing adequate emotional support, counseling services, and cultural orientation programs can help students navigate these challenges and enhance their overall well-being.

Conclusion

Organizing Erasmus exchanges involving minors presents a unique set of challenges that require careful planning, coordination, and support from everyone involved. From navigating bureaucratic hurdles to ensuring the safety and well-being of young participants, sending and hosting schools must address a wide range of considerations to facilitate a successful exchange experience. Through effective collaboration and dedication to student welfare, sending and hosting schools can overcome these challenges and provide minors with valuable opportunities for global learning and development. Constant in real-time feedback is extremely important – we're all still learning! :) We're analyzing this from a theoretical point of view but the reality during exchanges might always surprise us – sometimes pleasantly, sometimes a little less so. That's why the most important obstacle we need to overcome is not sufficient communication.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!