

Universida<sub>de</sub>Vigo

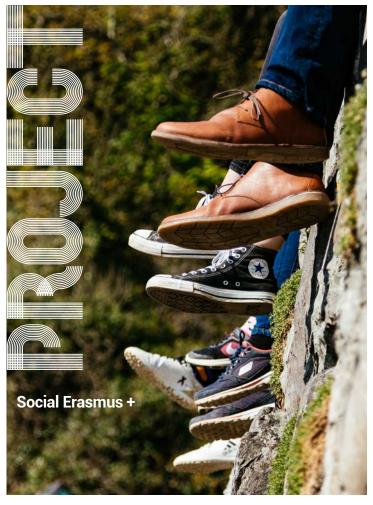
Vicerreitoría de Responsabilidade Social, Internacionalización e Cooperación

Oficina de Proxectos Internacionais









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#### Project Standard Data

Project number: 590191-EPP-1-2017-1-BE-EPPKA3-PI-FORWARDEuropean programme: Support for policy report. Forward looking cooperation Projects ERASMUS+ KA3

Duration: 01 November 2017 - 31 October 2019 UVigo grant: 42,446 EUR

Project grant: 419,538 EUR

# Project Partners

Erasmus Student Network Besancon (France) European University Foundation-campus Europae (Luxemburg) Het Gemeenschapsonderwijs (Belgium) Youth Exchange Umbrella Associacao Juvenil (Portugal) Universidade de Vigo (Spain) Universitat Wien (Austris) Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

Associated partners: Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) and University of Franche-Comté (France)

#### Contact

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## **Objectives**

Many Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are seen as ivory towers that are disconnected from the wider community. While problems of social exclusion, unemployment etc. do not stop at the gates of a campus, a better connection between HEIs and their surroundings is needed. In order to overcome this problem, eight partner organisations and two associate partners have teamed up to build on and improve an existing project, the highly successful SocialErasmus, in which exchange students at European HEIs do voluntary work in their local communities. The partners represent exchange students, HEIs and schools and by joining forces, they aimed to improve the existing activities, spread them to more HEIs and schools all over Europe and eventually include them in important policy tools related to the Erasmus Programme.

The project proposes both macro solutions (changing practices of HEIs) and micro solutions (tools for students, schools, associations).

SocialErasmus+ aims at building bridges in society by bringing international students closer to local schools.

With the support of a diverse partnership in the project that represents all parts of the stakeholders, a toolkit was developed in order to help Universities, local ESN organisations and schools to implement the project adapted to their local educational context.

The project focuses on creating a SocialErasmus+ framework including an Academic Framework in order to encourage experiential learning methods in an international context of within the setting of Community Service Learning to be embedded in University curricula, a Competence Framework to establish which competences students gain and a SocialErasmus charter to highlight the social dimension of the Erasmus

In the fall of 2018 and spring 2019 the project went through two rounds of large scale implementation that resulted into final recommendations for policy changes in the Erasmus+ programme, the future Erasmus programme 2021-2027 but also for Universities' educational policies.

#### Objectives of the program

- To increase the number of exchange students at European HEIs taking part in voluntary work in their local communities, in particular in schools and ensure a better integration of exchange students in local societies
- To spread intercultural awareness and acceptance to students from a younger age
- Increase the recognition of non-cognitive skills and voluntary activities in Higher Education.
- To develop guidelines and frameworks for exchange students, student associations, HEIs and schools who want to encourage voluntary work in local communities
- To develop a platform for cooperation between exchange students, HEIs and schools who want to encourage voluntary work in local communities where all information related to SocialErasmus+ can be found and where interested parties (exchange students, HEIs and schools) can find each other and establish new partnerships.

## Social Erasmus Activities

- Kick-off meeting in Brussels (December 2017)
- Evaluation and quality assurance plan (December 2017)
- Drafting the competence framework, academic guidelines and practical guidelines (January 2018)
- Finalising the competence framework, academic guidelines and practical guidelines (July 2018)

  - Validation workshop and Toolkit production in Besançon, France (July
- Online platform development (January 2018)
- SocialErasmus+ database of HEIs and schools (August 2018)
- Integration of WP2 results into the one-stop-shop (August 2018) - SocialErasmus+ Charter (promoted throughout the second half of the project)

Programme

- Final one-stop-shop (January 2019)
   Small-scale testing of SocialErasmus+ activities in Belgium, Spain and Austria (Spring 2018)
- Two rounds of multiplier trainings in Eslovenia (September 2018)
- Steering Committee meeting in and Advisory Board meeting in Faro (September 2018) - Large-scale SocialErasmus+ activities carried out all over Europe (Fall
- 2018 and Spring 2019)
   Second round of multiplier trainings in Austria (February 2019)
- Campaigning for improving Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education, the ECTS Users' Guide and other key documents from the Erasmus+
- Internal and external conferences (second half of the project) Steering Committee meeting and Advisory Board meeting in Vigo (March
- Final conference in Brussels (October 2019)
- External evaluation report (October 2019)