

A8- Erasmus comes to schools: mobility for pupils

About this session...

Learning mobility is at the heart of Erasmus+ and it is at the base of the European Commission's initiative to create a [European Education Area](#) where spending time abroad to study and learn should become the standard.

To help achieve this goal, the next Erasmus programme is bringing new mobility opportunities to schools. From 2021, The European Commission has proposed to integrate pupil mobility as part of Key Action 1 for school education. This is important because Key Action 1 is the main mobility action of the programme: it directly supports learners and staff who want to spend a period abroad.

The advantage of Key Action 1 is that the projects are simpler and it is easier for schools to apply. This makes it possible to bring mobility to many more schools, and many more pupils. Those are some of the key objectives for the future programme in school education: easier participation, more schools and more participants.

Of course, mobility of pupils has already been possible in previous generations of the programme as part of partnership projects. Many pupils, teachers and parents have important stories to share from activities where they have taken part. To create the best possible programme in the future, we must learn from those experiences and use the new opportunities to move forward.

Pupil mobility is usually organised in one of two ways:

- **Group mobility** where a whole class or a group of pupils visit a school in another country to meet and learn together with pupils there. These are short activities, typically one or two weeks long.
- **Individual mobility** where one or a few pupils spend a longer period in a school in another country. They study in their host school and usually live with a host family or in the school's dorm.

In this session, we want to explore how these activities can best benefit schools and pupils. We want to find out how to improve the existing formats and how to make Erasmus pupil mobility even more attractive.

Something to think about...

What are the key benefits of pupil mobility: for pupils, for sending schools, and for hosting schools?

What does a good group mobility or class exchange look like for you? What kind of content and activities does it include? What kind of results should it produce?

What are the main challenges to having more pupils participating in longer-term mobility? Which of these challenges can the programme help to address? How?