

## CONCEPT NOTE

Proposal: Erasmus+ Stakeholder Meeting

Theme: Gender Equality, Women and Girls in ICT

Proposed Date and Venue: 25 April, 10:00 am to 13:00 pm CET, Zoom

[Check your local times here](#)

Erasmus+ Stakeholders Virtual Café on Gender Equality on the occasion of Girls in ICT Day

### Background

Despite significant progress in recent years, challenges remain in achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5). Within the context of Erasmus+, addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders to ensure that gender equality is not only a cross-cutting theme but a fundamental principle guiding all program activities.

This meeting acknowledges the critical role that education and mobility play in shaping perspectives, breaking down stereotypes, and creating equitable opportunities for all. By focusing on women's empowerment, gender equality and inclusion, the Erasmus+ program can contribute more effectively to developing inclusive societies with equal opportunities to realise their potential.

Further, this meeting also provides an opportunity for the newly-established Erasmus+ National Focal Point network to be introduced, to find intersecting points for future projects under Erasmus+ with the other stakeholders present and to align Erasmus+ priorities with their national education and training policies in gender equality and inclusion.

The Erasmus+ program stands as a fundamental pillar of the European Union's commitment to enhancing education, training, and exchange opportunities, with a steadfast dedication to promoting inclusivity and equality at its core. In light of the essential role that education plays in empowering individuals and shaping equitable societies, the program is increasingly focused on addressing gender imbalances and advancing the cause of gender equality across all its initiatives.

While specific observances like Girls in ICT Day highlight important issues, the aim of this meeting transcends these events to encompass an intention for a broader commitment to gender equality and inclusion, particularly in domains where disparities are most pronounced, such as in the digital and technological sectors. The underrepresentation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields not only curtails the potential of these individuals but also deprives these sectors of the rich diversity of perspectives and expertise that could drive innovation and progress.

The integration of gender equality principles into the Erasmus+ program is not merely an alignment with its values of equity and inclusivity but a strategic approach to dismantling barriers and creating more equitable educational and professional landscapes. Through fostering initiatives that encourage participation across genders in ICT and other STEM areas, the program aims to narrow the digital gender gap, stimulate innovation, and cultivate a more inclusive digital economy. Such efforts are essential for mobilizing all stakeholders within the Erasmus+ community, including educational institutions, non-profits, and the private sector—towards these common goals.

Moreover, the commitment to gender equality within the Erasmus+ framework is about equipping the upcoming generations for the realities of a swiftly changing digital landscape. It is imperative to ensure that all young people, regardless of gender, have equal opportunities to engage with and thrive in ICT and related fields. This is not only a matter of fairness but also a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth, competitiveness, and innovation within the European Union and globally. Through such dedication, the Erasmus+ program continues to play a crucial role in shaping a more equal, informed, and inclusive future.



## Objective

The primary objective of this stakeholder meeting is to bring together national focal points, Erasmus offices, national agencies, and the EU Delegations from Third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ program to:

- Discuss gender equality and inclusion in the context of the Erasmus+ program.
- Share best practices and lessons learned in promoting women's empowerment and inclusion, through education and training.
- Explore entry points for strategic approaches and collaborative projects aimed at enhancing gender equality through Erasmus+

## Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced visibility and awareness of the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment within international education and training under Erasmus+
- Ideas for further gender equality and inclusion efforts in education and training

## PROPOSED AGENDA

25 April 2024

Starts at 10:00 CEST • 10:00 Central Africa Time / 17:00 SE Asia (GMT+8) • 18:00 Sydney / 03:00 Bogota

10:00 - 10:15	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief introduction to the day's agenda.</li> <li>• Opening remarks</li> </ul>
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gender equality for the EU; integrating gender equality in education and Erasmus+</b> Adrian VEALE, European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Culture and Sport.</li> <li>• <b>EU initiatives in support for girls in ICT</b> Leonie BULTYNCK, European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Culture and Sport</li> <li>• <b>Promoting gender equality through international partnership - the Gender Action Plan in External Action</b> Elena VILAR PASCUAL, European Commission, DG International Partnerships</li> </ul>
10:45 - 10:55	<b>Activity</b> Interactive Padlet on Gender Equality Insights
10:55 - 12:00	<b>Best Practices Showcase: A Panel Discussion</b> An interactive session to share experience and insights from various Erasmus+ projects focusing on women empowerment and gender equality. Projects to be presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elevate HER</b> Rosa María MARTÍNEZ-ESPINOSA PhD, Full Professor (Catedrática), Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Applied Biochemistry research group (PI), University of Alicante</li> <li>• <b>G-FEB Green transition of Female Entrepreneurs in the Balkan region</b> Apostolina TSALTAMPASI, President, Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs – S.E.G.E Coordinator, G-FEB - Green transition of Female Entrepreneurs in the Balkan region</li> <li>• <b>MAPs ACE - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants ACademy for female Entrepreneurs in Africa</b> Gabriel ADAMEK, Obcianske zdruzenie No Gravity - Director</li> <li>• <b>SEEDing Successful young female entrepreneurs for a green world by regenerative agriculture</b> Dr.Eng. Daniel AMARIEI, Communications Manager, Project Advisory and Management Experts Association (PAMEA)</li> <li>• <b>GEMMA Erasmus Mundus</b> Dr. Adelina SÁNCHEZ ESPINOSA, Consortium Coordinator, University of Granada</li> <li>• <b>Testimonials from Erasmus Mundus Alumni</b></li> </ul>
12:00 - 13:00	<b>Workshop and Discussion on Gender-Responsive Education Erasmus+ Projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the outcomes of the projects presented useful for your institution?</li> <li>• What similar initiatives have you done in your region, country, institution?</li> </ul>
13:00	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief recap of the sessions.</li> <li>• Outline of the following steps for Stakeholders in attendance.</li> </ul>



## Who Should Attend

To advance gender equality effectively within the Erasmus+ program, it is crucial for key stakeholders to collaborate and lend their support to this mission. This collaboration should involve Erasmus+ National Focal Points, National Erasmus+ Offices, Erasmus+ National Agencies, and EU Delegations, all of whom are instrumental in the local and national dissemination and implementation of Erasmus+ initiatives. Their engagement is vital for mobilizing resources, forging partnerships, and developing impactful projects that bolster gender equality across all disciplines and fields of study, not just in ICT.

Erasmus+ National Focal Points serve as essential contacts in their countries, poised to increase awareness and encourage national cooperation. National Erasmus+ Offices, with their profound insights into the educational and broader sectoral landscapes of their countries, are in a prime position to pinpoint specific opportunities and hurdles. Erasmus+ National Agencies play a pivotal role in the EU-wide management and execution of the Erasmus+ program, offering crucial funding, policy direction, and sharing best practices. Furthermore, EU Delegations can utilize their diplomatic and international collaboration networks to enhance the discussion on gender equality on a global scale.

Uniting these stakeholders enriches the conversation around gender equality, ensuring a unified and thorough strategy for incorporating these values into the Erasmus+ program. Their presence and proactive engagement in related events and initiatives are key to achieving a significant and lasting impact on gender equality in education and beyond.

## How the Workshop will be conducted:

Participants will be assigned to breakout rooms at the time of the session. Balancing the groups in terms of affiliation, backgrounds, and geographical representation to enrich discussions.

For each breakout room, a facilitator (Regional Managers) will be assigned to guide the discussion, ensure all voices are heard, and keep the conversation on track, and a note-taker to document the key points, insights, and conclusions. Additionally, a rapporteur will be selected who will report back to the plenary session.

At the designated time in the schedule, the host will initiate the breakout rooms, automatically or manually sending participants to their assigned rooms.

Each group will be provided with the guided questions for discussion. Encourage open, respectful dialogue and active participation from all members.

The facilitator should encourage engagement and ensures the discussion remains focused on the guided questions. The note-taker documents the conversation, highlighting key points, agreements, disagreements, and unique insights.

After the allocated discussion time, the host will announce the impending closure of the breakout rooms, giving a short buffer time for any last-minute wrap-up before participants are automatically returned to the main session.

In the plenary session, each group's rapporteur presents a summary of their group's discussions, focusing on the critical insights, agreements, and diverse viewpoints regarding the utility of project outcomes for their institutions and shared regional or institutional initiatives.

Following the group report, the floor will be opened for a broader discussion. This allows participants to ask questions, seek clarifications, or expand on points made by the rapporteurs. It's an opportunity for collective reflection and building on the ideas and experiences shared.