

Erasmus+ in Wales

A report for the Enterprise and Business Committee of
the National Assembly for Wales 21 October



Erasmus+ in Wales

9 October 2015

This paper sets out the UK National Agency's response to questions on Erasmus+ asked by the Enterprise and Business Committee of the National Assembly for Wales.

The paper covers:

1. An overview of decentralised Erasmus+ projects in Wales
2. Information on UK participation in centralised Erasmus+ projects
3. National Agency marketing and communications activities to promote the programme
4. National Agency perspectives on Wales' participation in the programme.

We have structured each section around the specific request for information from the Committee in order to make sure we are addressing the topics raised.

UK National Agency

The UK National Agency for Erasmus+ is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK. We manage the delivery of Erasmus+ in the UK including promoting the programme, offering advice to applicants, managing the assessment and selection of applications, and providing support to funded beneficiaries. Each partner in the UK National Agency manages specific parts of the programme, with the British Council responsible for schools and higher education, and Ecorys UK responsible for adult education and vocational education and training. Both organisations manage different aspects of youth funding.

This paper contains information about the Erasmus+ programme from the National Agency perspective and therefore represents the work of both organisations.

1. **An update on the first calls in Erasmus+ for the parts of the programme that British Council has responsibility for in the UK – i.e. the decentralised actions for which they are the national agency:**

- **Details UK wide – number of projects/types of activities supported**
- **Details of Welsh participation – with comparators for the other parts of the UK**

1.1 **Country Comparisons**

- In the UK Erasmus+ programme there are no quotas for the number of applications received, successful applications, value of funding requested, or value of funding awarded.
- While there are no country quotas, the UK National Agency does monitor application data to identify areas of the UK that may be under-represented in the programme. It uses this analysis to plan and implement Erasmus+ marketing and applicant support services.
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates are used to help assess under-representation in the programme. The current ONS population estimates are shown below.

Table 1: ONS Mid-term UK population estimates by UK country (June 2013)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Population (millions)	53.9	1.8	5.3	3.1	64.1
Per cent	84.0	2.9	8.3	4.8	100.0

Source: ONS.¹

1.2 **Erasmus+ Programme Statistics**

- The Erasmus+ National Agency publishes statistics on the applications submitted under the Decentralised Actions and the result of those applications. The latest reports are available on our website at: www.erasmusplus.org.uk/statistics.
- This paper draws on the following statistics reports:
 - 2014 Call Rounds 1-3 Funded Projects Statistics (SR05-2014);
 - 2014 Call Rounds 1-3 Applications Received Statistics -version 3 (SR03-2014); and
 - 2015 Call Rounds 1-2 Application Result Statistics - provisional (SR07-2015).
- The 2015 Call is still in progress with some applications under assessment and others still subject to contracting. Therefore, 2015 data is indicative only and is based on project selections to date.

¹ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-uk--england-and-wales--scotland-and-northern-ireland/2013/sty-population-estimates.html> (checked 14 August 2015).

1.3 Projects by UK Country (No.)

- A total of 76 projects have been funded in Wales from the 2014 and 2015 Calls.

Table 2: Erasmus+ funded projects by UK country (No.)

Call Year	Number				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 projects funded	706	69	155	36	966
2015 projects approved to date (provisional)	606	49	151	40	846
Total	1,312	118	306	76	1,812

Sources: SR05-2014, table 4; SR07-2015, table 9.

1.4 Projects by UK Country (%)

- Overall, 4.2% of all projects funded from the 2014 and 2015 Calls were led by organisations based in Wales.

Table 3: Erasmus+ funded projects by UK country (%)

Call Year	Percent				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 projects funded	73.1	7.1	16.0	3.7	100.0
2015 projects approved to date (provisional)	71.6	5.8	17.8	4.7	100.0
Total	72.4	6.5	16.9	4.2	100.0

Sources: SR05-2014, table 5; SR07-2015, table 13.

1.5 Funding Awarded by UK Country (€)

- Organisations based in Wales have been awarded €11.6m in funding to date.

Table 4: Erasmus+ funding by UK country (€)

Call Year	Funding awarded (€m)				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 funding awarded	87,875,582	6,484,470	12,895,854	5,110,991	112,366,896
2015 funding approved to date (provisional)	87,404,025	5,809,678	12,933,893	6,483,970	112,631,566
Total	175,279,607	12,294,148	25,829,747	11,594,961	224,998,462

Sources: SR05-2014, table 7; SR07-2015, table 14.

1.6 Funding Awarded by UK Country (%)

- Overall, organisations based in Wales have received 5.2% of all funding awarded to date.

Table 5: Erasmus+ funding by UK country (%)

Call Year	Percent				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 funding awarded	78.2	5.8	11.5	4.5	100.0
2015 funding approved to date (provisional)	77.6	5.2	11.5	5.8	100.0
Total	77.9	5.5	11.5	5.2	100.0

Sources: SR05-2014, table 7; SR07-2015, table 15.

1.7 Application Success Rates by UK Country (%)

- Over the 2014 and 2015 Calls, almost half (48.7%) of applications from organisations based in Wales were successful.
- In the 2014 Call, 40% of applications from organisations based in Wales were successful compared to 60.6% in the 2015 Call to date.

Table 6: Erasmus+ application success rates by UK country (%)

Call Year	Percent				
	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2014 Call	50.1	49.6	53.1	40.0	50.0
2015 Call (to date)	50.9	47.6	56.6	60.6	52.0
Total	50.5	48.8	54.7	48.7	50.9

Sources: SR03-2014, table 4; SR05-2014, table 4; SR07-2015, table 11.

2. If you can, please provide details on UK participation to the centralised actions, including comparative data on how UK fares compared to other parts of EU, and then details of Welsh participation.

- The Centralised Actions of Erasmus+ are managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).
- Some information on the applications and their outcome are published on the EACEA website: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php.
- The UK Erasmus+ National Agency remit does not extend to the monitoring or analysis of Centralised Action data.
- Queries about Centralised Actions should be directed to the EACEA or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), who are the designated National Authority for Erasmus+ in the UK.

3. How do you promote the programme and encourage participation by organisations across the UK and Wales? Do you have any details on events/activities in Wales (and compared to activities across the UK)?

Programme promotion is an ongoing activity for the UK National Agency and activities take place each year across the UK to encourage participation in the programme and to bring in organisations who are new to Erasmus+. Our starting point is to treat all parts of the UK equally, and as the programme develops, **additional** activities to encourage participation from under-represented countries or regions are beginning to be scheduled, based on the analysis of statistics.

For the 2016 Call, the UK National Agency has identified three priority areas where we would like to encourage more applications and projects. One of these identified priorities is for us to encourage more applications from Wales. Our National Agency position is that overall Wales has a good rate of applications and funding requested, and a good rate of successful projects and funding granted. Some gaps are however showing in KA1 schools and youth. We are therefore undertaking some additional activities in Wales to promote the programme and to encourage applications for schools and youth mobility, both via marketing and communications, but also via working directly with stakeholders in these sectors. The latter activity will be led by the sector leads for Key Action 1 youth and schools who are based within the British Council.

Our promotional work includes the following activities:

- Production of programme literature in both Welsh and English, including a general brochure and 5 sector brochures. These are used at events and are available to download from our website www.erasmusplus.org.uk.
- Monthly email newsletter in Welsh and English to 3909 subscribers, including 67 subscribers to the Welsh language version.
- Information sessions aimed at newcomers to the programme. In autumn/winter 2015 we are holding 6 events around the UK, including an event in Wales on 23 November.
- Application support webinars – a programme of online sessions taking participants through the application process and offering advice on making high quality applications. Webinars are also posted online.
- Promotion via stakeholder networks and external events. Each year we attend a variety of events for all sectors to promote the programme, and we also have student ambassadors who have participated in Erasmus+ and who are available to attend events. We also use the British Council's School Ambassadors network to promote the programme. In October – December 2015 we are scheduled to attend, run a stand at or present at over 10 external events, both national and regional. This includes two events in North Wales:
 - 'What can the EU do for the Creative & Cultural Industries in Wales', Caernarfon, 12 November 2015
 - WCVA annual conference, Llandudno, 26 November 2015.

For Wales specifically in Q4 2015 we are already collaborating with the Welsh Government. We held a meeting on 1 September and have a list of action points to follow up including attendance at each others events and cross-promotion of activities. We will also be releasing targeted case studies and making links with national and regional press. Case studies from organisations in Wales can be found on our website and youtube channels via www.erasmusplus.org.uk. We also have a National Agency Welsh Language Approach to support our work in Wales.

4. **Please can you give us a sense of engagement from organisations in Wales, including the Welsh Government but not just them – e.g. schools, youth organisations, universities, NGOs, businesses etc. – cross section of society. How does this compare to previous programmes – do you think it has increased, no difference, are people less engaged?**

We have good engagement from Wales and have established positive working relationships with stakeholders including the Welsh Government.

4.1 Stakeholder engagement

We run a specific Country Advisory Group for Wales which meets twice a year to discuss the Erasmus+ from a country-specific perspective. This group is focused on making strategic links between national priorities and the programme, and ensuring effective promotion. The next meeting will be on 27 November 2015 in Cardiff and one of the Welsh EU funding Ambassadors Gaynor Richards has agreed to attend. Members cover all sectors of Erasmus+ and include the Welsh Government, HEFCW, Learning Disability Wales, International School Linking, Colleges Wales, Estyn, Routes into Languages Cymru, Connect Cymru, NIACE, TUC Wales, WEFO, ECTARC and Higher Education Wales.

We also run Sector Consultative Groups for the programme which are pan-UK; these also meet twice a year. We have good representation from Welsh organisations across the sectors including the Welsh Government, TUC Wales, Colleges Wales, Connect Cymru, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services, Cardiff Council, Crickhowell High School, Cardiff University, Universities Wales and the University of Bangor.

4.2 Engagement with projects

Again we have good participation from Welsh projects in our activities, including Start Up Seminars, our annual conference and our Learning networks initiative which is a peer-to-peer network built around themes of common interest across sectors. Our next Learning Networks event will be held in Cardiff on 3 December. A video case study of Taff Housing, based in Cardiff, can be found on our conference webpage at <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/annual-conference>.

4.3 General engagement with the programme

Following almost two years of stakeholder consultation meetings, and the provisional 2014 and 2015 Erasmus+ results it should be noted that Wales performance in Erasmus+ is broadly comparable with their population relative to the UK population. Many projects can run over 2-3 years, so some organisations may apply for funding in one year and not apply again until their projects are complete. External factors and policy developments in the education, training and youth landscape can influence the capacity and appetite for organisations to apply for, manage and report on EU projects, such as the FE College Transformation agenda, local authority reorganisation, language learning strategies, the inclusion of internationalisation as part of the school inspection framework and targets for the drawdown of EU funding at Devolved Administration level.

Erasmus+ in Wales

A report for the Enterprise and Business Committee of
the National Assembly for Wales 21 October

Additional information



1. Please outline the activities within the programme.

1.1 What funding is available?

Funding for mobility (Key Action 1)

Erasmus+ provides funding for organisations to offer opportunities to young people and students, teachers and trainers, learners and providers, apprentices, volunteers, youth leaders and those working in grassroots sport – to study, teach, train or volunteer abroad. This activity is known as mobility and is Key Action 1 of the programme.

Funding for strategic partnerships (Key Action 2)

The programme will also support organisations from across the fields of education, training, youth and sport to develop partnerships, share best practice and work collaboratively to help improve provision, boost growth and create jobs. This strategic partnership activity is Key Action 2 of the programme.

Funding for policy development (Key Action 3)

Under Key Action 3 of the programme, organisations can get involved in policy development, including bringing young people and decision-makers together to improve youth policy.

Centralised actions

In addition, some funding opportunities are managed centrally by the EC and not devolved to National Agencies. The funding detailed in this additional information is for the ‘decentralised’ actions, i.e. the Key Actions outlined above for which the UK National Agency is responsible.

1.2 Erasmus+ decentralised Higher Education funding

Erasmus+ for Higher Education

Under Key Action 1 higher education institutions (HEIs) which hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) can apply for funding to offer their students the opportunity to study in a partner university or carry out a traineeship abroad and for staff to take part in teaching or training abroad.

Charter-holding institutions can also apply for funding for Strategic Partnerships through Key Action 2 to run collaborative projects which enable institutions to work together in order to improve their provision for learners and share innovative practices. HEIs can also apply for funding to run collaborative projects aimed at improving provision across more than one sector.

2. Please provide the funding breakdown across the sectors.

2.1 2015 Provisional statistics: Wales successful application results by sector and decentralised key action

Key Action (KA)	Sector	€ value of applications	No. successful applications
KA1 funding (mobility)	Higher education	2,892,608	11
	Vocational (VET)	1,544,576	8
	Schools	119,675	3
	Adult education	52,145	3
	Youth	197,750	8
KA2 funding (partnerships)	Higher education	491,612	2
	Vocational (VET)	0	0
	Schools	528,374	2
	Adult education	0	0
	Youth	607,640	2
KA3 funding (dialogue)	Youth	49,590	1
Total		6,483,970	40

2.2 2015 Provisional statistics: Value of successful applications by sector and UK country

Field	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Higher education ³	40,399,871	2,265,392	9,197,586	3,384,220	55,247,069
Vocational education & training	24,372,162	1,936,932	2,150,942	1,544,576	30,004,612
Schools	12,456,214	566,604	804,698	648,049	14,475,565
Adult education	3,455,468	336,884	266,195	52,145	4,110,692
Youth	6,720,310	703,866	514,472	854,980	8,793,628
Total	87,404,025	5,809,678	12,933,893	6,483,970	112,631,566

2.3 2015 Provisional statistics: Percentage of Erasmus+ funding awarded by UK country and sector

Field	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Higher education	73.1	4.1	16.6	6.1	100.0
Vocational education & training	81.2	6.5	7.2	5.1	100.0
Schools	86.0	3.9	5.6	4.5	100.0
Adult education	84.1	8.2	6.5	1.3	100.0
Youth	76.4	8.0	5.9	9.7	100.0
Total	77.6	5.2	11.5	5.8	100.0

3. Please provide detail on HEI outward mobility grants and the ECHE process.

3.1 Higher Education background and the ECHE process

Erasmus+ provides a range of opportunities for students and staff from institutions of higher education (note that this includes those colleges of further/higher education which deliver courses at HND/HNC levels and above). The most significant of these opportunities, in terms of numbers and funding, are mobility (for study or training in the case of students, for teaching or training in the case of staff) and participation in joint projects. In the case of joint projects, some of the opportunities are managed by National Agencies (Strategic Partnerships in Key Action 2) and others centrally (Joint Masters Degrees in Key Action 1 and Capacity Building in Key Action 2).

In order to apply for funding through the programme, institutions must hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). The Charter represents the undertaking made by the institution to manage the programme according to the appropriate standards of quality, and requires commitment to these standards and evidence that the institution treats mobility as an integral part of its internationalisation strategy. There is an annual call for applications for the Charter, which is usually awarded for the lifetime of the programme (to 2020 for Erasmus+). The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) accreditation process is managed centrally by the EACEA. The 2015 list of ECHE holders is on the [EACEA website here](#).

Once awarded the Charter, institutions may apply on an annual basis to the National Agency for funding for mobility and for strategic partnerships. The funding for mobility is allocated to institutions on the basis of their level of demand, their past performance, and the total available budget. The funding for strategic partnerships is awarded competitively according to the results of an assessment of applications by external experts.

In 2015/16 a new opportunity became available for student and staff mobility to countries globally beyond the programme countries (the 34 countries already participating in the programme). Known

as International Credit Mobility, this makes possible the mobility of students and staff to and from other parts of the world..

Our role as a National Agency is to:

1. oversee the programme in the UK and ensure that institutions conform with the regulations
2. disburse the funding
3. promote the programme primarily to institutions, and through them, to the potential student and staff participants.

The National Agency also works closely with the UK HE International Unit in order to promote the programme, and utilises other promotional channels and outlets to encourage participation, such as the British Council's Study Work Create portal aimed at students and young people, and Third Year Abroad.

3.2 Higher Education project funding awarded to institutions in Wales 2015

Key Action 103 Programme country mobility projects

Project reference no.	Organisation name	Organisation address	Amount awarded
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012676	Aberystwyth University	King Street, Old College, Aberystwyth SY23 2AX	€ 379,441.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012656	Bangor University	College Road Bangor LL57 2DG	€ 310,294.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012710	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Llandaff Campus Western Avenue Cardiff CF5 2YB	€ 101,626.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-013134	Cardiff University	Newport Road 30-36 Cardiff CF24 ODE	€ 892,401.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012658	Swansea University	Singleton Park Swansea SA2 8PP	€ 618,045.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012566	University Of South Wales Prifysgolde Cymru	Llantwit Road Treforest Pontypridd CF37 1DL	€ 99,006.00
2015-1-UK01-KA103-012841	University Of Wales Trinity Saint David Royal Charter	College Road Carmarthen SA31 3EP	€ 7,129.00

Key Action 107 Partner country mobility projects - International Credit Mobility

Project reference no.	Organisation name	Organisation address	Partner Countries	Amount awarded
2015-1-UK01-KA107-013149	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Llandaff Campus, Western Avenue, Cardiff, CF5 2YB	Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco	€252,240.00
2015-1-UK01-KA107-012991	Cardiff University	30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 ODE	Brazil, Macao	€23,380.00
2015-1-UK01-KA107-013127	Swansea University	Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP	China, New Zealand, United States	€175,984.90

Higher Education Key Action 2 projects

- University of South Wales: Developing Entrepreneurial Women - Changing Horizons = €201,147.00
- University of Wales Trinity Saint Davids: ECO-SystemApp = € 290,465.00

3.3 HE mobility statistics from Erasmus 2006-2013 snapshot

Student	2007/08			2010/11			2013/14		
Region	Study	Work	Total	Study	Work	Total	Study	Work	Total
England	5,787	2,320	8,107	6,641	3,586	10,227	7,717	4,402	12,119
N. Ireland	159	132	291	215	146	361	273	220	493
Scotland	1,121	233	1,354	1,243	371	1,614	1,680	427	2,107
Wales	458	41	499	477	153	630	646	201	847
Totals:	7,525	2,726	10,251	8,576	4,256	12,832	10,316	5,250	15,566

Staff	2007/08			2010/11			2013/14		
Region	Teach	Train	Total	Teach	Train	Total	Teach	Train	Total
England	1,185	100	1,285	1,303	339	1,642	1,350	478	1,828
N. Ireland	28	0	28	37	2	39	37	3	40
Scotland	187	9	196	235	29	264	206	60	266
Wales	72	2	74	97	15	112	96	10	106
Totals:	1,472	111	1,583	1,672	385	2,057	1,689	551	2,240

Other legacy programme statistics from Erasmus, including statistics by institution, can be found on the Erasmus+ website here <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/erasmus-projects>