



# **Towards High Quality in KA1 Mobility Projects**

*The European Commission Perspective*

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# Topics to be discussed

- European context
- Erasmus+ "European Added Value"
- Erasmus+ KA1 Project Topics
- Erasmus+ opportunities
- KA1 courses: on-site and online
- Quality requirements for KA1 courses
- Q&A

## European Context (1)

- Teachers and schools have a crucial role in shaping the society and citizens of tomorrow
  - International reports (e.g. TALIS, PISA) underline the challenges facing teachers and schools:
    - ✓ Increasing diversity in classroom (+migration crisis)
    - ✓ Further support needed for disadvantaged schools/pupils
    - ✓ A perceived lack of teachers, especially in STEM
- Consistent strong desire of teachers for professional development (mainly: diversity, special needs etc)***

## European Context (2)

- Subsidiarity: Member States solely competent in defining professional development pathways for teachers
- **BUT ...**
- We can (and do) work together with the countries to support teachers and better link the different professional development stages
  - ✓ Policy development (ET2020 working groups)
  - ✓ Erasmus+ Programme

## European Context (3)

- Erasmus+ Programme – Key Action 1 (KA1)
  - ✓ Supports mobility activities for professional development of teaching staff (training courses, short teaching assignments, job shadowing)
  - ✓ Schools (or consortia) apply on behalf of their staff (i.e. no individual applications)
  - ✓ Activities must be framed within the school's European Development Plan

# Erasmus+ "European Added Value"

- Key element of the Erasmus+ Programme: the principle of "European Added Value"
- Common European education activities offer teachers more than purely national activities:
  - ✓ Improved competences (teaching, languages etc)
  - ✓ Understanding of social, linguistic and cultural diversity
  - ✓ Insight into other education systems and practices
  - ✓ Exchange of knowledge, experiences and practices
  - ✓ Opportunities for international networking and cooperation

# Erasmus+ KA1 Project Topics

- Erasmus+ Programme Guide:  
*"Given the current context concerning young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, particular attention will be also given to support projects that **train teachers in such areas as training refugee children, intercultural classrooms, teaching pupils in their second language, classroom tolerance and diversity.**"*  
([http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/latest/news/looking\\_for\\_funding\\_for\\_your\\_s.htm](http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/latest/news/looking_for_funding_for_your_s.htm))
- Always important: Meeting the needs of schools and teachers!

# Erasmus+ Opportunities

- **School Education Gateway (SEG)**: Europe's online platform for school education (free)
- Dissemination of information to course providers through the National Agencies
- Erasmus+ Opportunities (three tools):
  - ✓ Course Catalogue (for on-site courses) → *Now part of the new **Teacher Academy***
  - ✓ Mobility Opportunities (job shadowing, short / long teaching assignments, placement / assistantship etc)
  - ✓ Strategic Partnerships (Erasmus+ Key Action 2)





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## Erasmus+ Opportunities

Three tools and information for schools to prepare their Erasmus+ applications

> 4,600 courses!

### Course catalogue

Catalogue of professional development courses for school teachers and staff.

[See all >](#)

Mobility project for school education staff under Key Action 1 (teaching assignments and staff training). [Read more](#)



Erasmus+

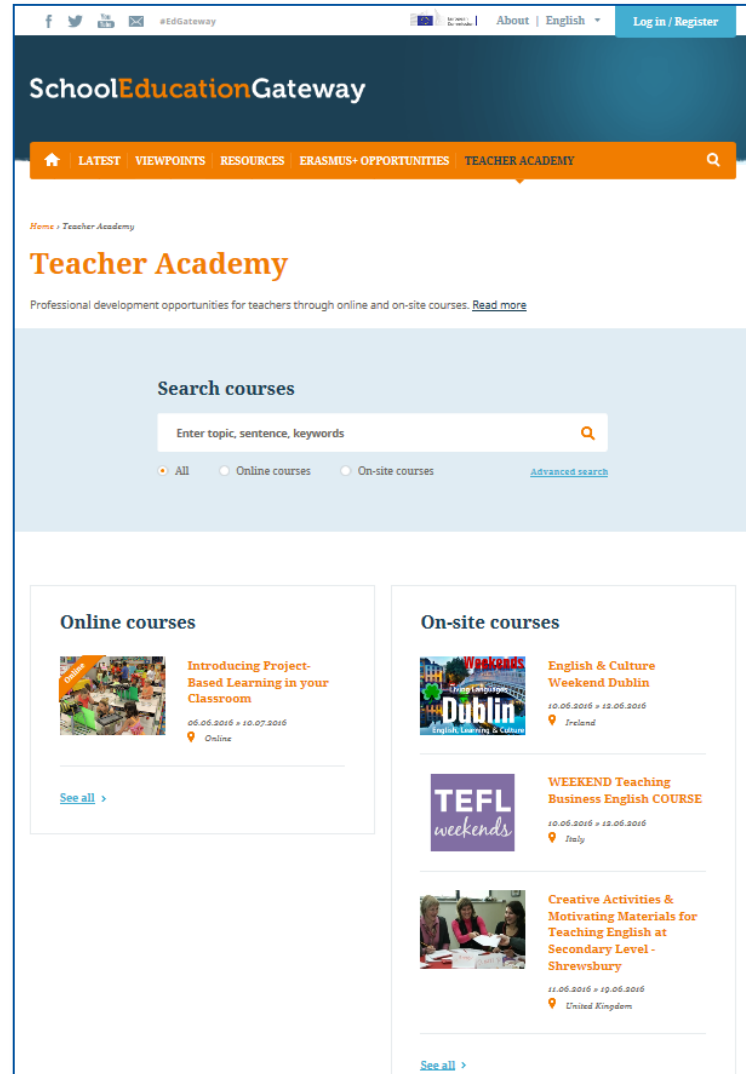
### Support Materials

- > [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- > [Tutorial](#)
- > [Erasmus+ Tools - Terms and conditions](#)



# Teacher Academy

- "Umbrella" for on-site courses (existing Erasmus+ Course Catalogue) AND (new) online courses
- Blended training possibility
- 1<sup>st</sup> online course on "Project-Based Learning" (registration on-going)
- Quality assured via the Pedagogical Advisory Board that oversees the planning, design and delivery of all online courses



The screenshot shows the 'Teacher Academy' page on the School Education Gateway. The page features a search bar for courses, with filters for 'All', 'Online courses', and 'On-site courses'. Below the search bar, there are two columns of course listings:

- Online courses:**
  - Introducing Project-Based Learning in your Classroom** (06.06.2016 - 10.07.2016, Online)
- On-site courses:**
  - English & Culture Weekend Dublin** (10.06.2016 - 12.06.2016, Ireland)
  - TEFL weekends WEEKEND Teaching Business English COURSE** (10.06.2016 - 12.06.2016, Italy)
  - Creative Activities & Motivating Materials for Teaching English at Secondary Level - Shrewsbury** (11.06.2016 - 19.06.2016, United Kingdom)

# KA1 Courses: On-site (1)

- Target group: Schools and teachers making use of KA1 opportunities (in line with European Development Plans)
- Course entries by course providers
- The European Commission does not assume any responsibility for the quality of the courses listed

## KA1 Courses: On-site (2)

- Course quality is evaluated through the user rating mechanism (5-star rating / comments)
  - ➔ Since August 2015, users that want to rate a course are requested to also submit a review
  - ➔ Until end May 2016: 496 ratings / reviews (over 4,921 courses planned and delivered)
- Additional reporting mechanism (inappropriate content etc)
  - ➔ Until end May 2016: 41 reports (some by user mistake!)

# KA1 Courses: Online

- Available to all registered users
- Target group: Primarily teachers – but also any other school education stakeholders
- Courses developed by the European Commission
- Expert guidance and quality assurance provided by the Pedagogical Advisory Board
- Similar user rating / reporting mechanism to that for on-site courses

# KA1 Courses: On-site & Online

- Quality control mechanism could be revised if long-term evidence shows that it does not perform satisfactorily ...
- ... but for the time being it seems to be working quite well !!

# KA1 Courses: Quality Requirements (1)

- Tutorial available on the School Education Gateway: "*How to select a teacher training course abroad*"  
([http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/resources/tutorials/how\\_to\\_select\\_a\\_teacher\\_traini.htm](http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/resources/tutorials/how_to_select_a_teacher_traini.htm))
- Based on Cologne II conclusions
- In line with the specific requirements for courses available to course providers  
([http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/opportunities/terms\\_and\\_conditions.htm](http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/opportunities/terms_and_conditions.htm))

# KA1 Courses: Quality Requirements (2)

- Provide European Dimension (content, structure)
  - ✓ Diversified participant profiles
  - ✓ Multicultural groups / different countries of origin
  - ✓ Educational level (early years, primary, secondary)
  - ✓ Appropriate location of course
  - ✓ eTwinning
- Ensure future impact (after the course)
  - ✓ Networking and collaboration among participants
  - ✓ Transfer of acquired knowledge to practice
  - ✓ Impact on school (European Development Plan)



# KA1 Courses: Quality Requirements (3)

- Meet schools' and teachers' professional needs with a good quality course design
  - ✓ Course delivery according to outlined objectives
  - ✓ Reflect professional development needs of teachers
  - ✓ Experienced instructors with knowledge of multiple national systems
  - ✓ Flexibility to adapt to the needs of different groups
  - ✓ Straightforward and accessible application process
  - ✓ Balance between theory and practice
  - ✓ Different methods of delivery and focus on interaction

# KA1 Courses: Quality Requirements (4)

- Certification of attendance (learning outcomes)
  - ✓ Use of Europass Mobility encouraged
  - ✓ Available from National Europass Centres; filled-in by the course providers (suggested template)
- Include evaluation / improvement provisions
  - ✓ Built in the course design
  - ✓ Appropriate response to evaluation outcome
- Logistics
  - ✓ Good quality learning spaces, accommodation etc
  - ✓ Provisions for participants with special needs

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[www.SchoolEducationGateway.eu](http://www.SchoolEducationGateway.eu)

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# Thank you for your attention!

## Q&A