



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Erasmus+ Hear from the Experts

For the Vocational Education &
Training (VET) Sector



Today's agenda:

- ❖ Erasmus+ quick programme overview
- ❖ VET – scope & eligibility
- ❖ Erasmus+ in 2027
- ❖ Hear from experienced VET projects:
- ❖ Damian James – South West College
- ❖ Siân Holleran – Colleges Wales
- ❖ Question time
- ❖ Next steps and resources



Housekeeping

We will have a Q&A session at the end - in the meantime please add your questions in the chat function.

If you see a question in the chat you would also like to be answered, please react to the question, this will help us to see the most popular questions.

Erasmus+ quick overview

EU flagship programme for education, training, youth & sport, divided into 6 sectors:

- Adult Education
- Higher Education (HE)
- Schools
- Sport
- **Vocational Education and Training (VET)**
- Youth

Sector priorities, plus 4 horizontal priorities:

- Inclusion and diversity
- Environment and fight against climate change
- Digital transformation
- Participation in democratic life



The VET Sector:

‘Education and training which aims to equip young people and adults with **knowledge, skills and competences required in particular occupations or more broadly on the labour market.**’

Eligible applicants could include:

- Organisations providing initial or continuing VET (e.g. FE Colleges, ITPs)
- Local authorities, coordination and organisations with a role in VET
- Businesses and other public or private organisations hosting, training or otherwise working with learners and apprentices in VET.

Full eligibility details will be in the National Agency VET guide released later in 2026.



Erasmus+ in 2027

- Increased UK budget and a bigger programme: from €200m in 2019 to **€436million** in 2027 – be ambitious!
- European-focused programme, with some element of wider global activities beyond Europe
- Different Key Activities enable a range of opportunities:
- Opportunity to travel to learn and work in Europe, or establish two-way reciprocal exchanges of students and staff
- Host experts, teachers, trainers and volunteers – contributing expertise, fresh ideas, skills and life experience
- Re-engage with previous Erasmus+ project partners
- Set up partnership projects, e.g. to create new resources and improve specific areas of curriculum or support



Eligible venues

27 EU member states

Plus third countries associated to the programme:

Iceland

Liechtenstein

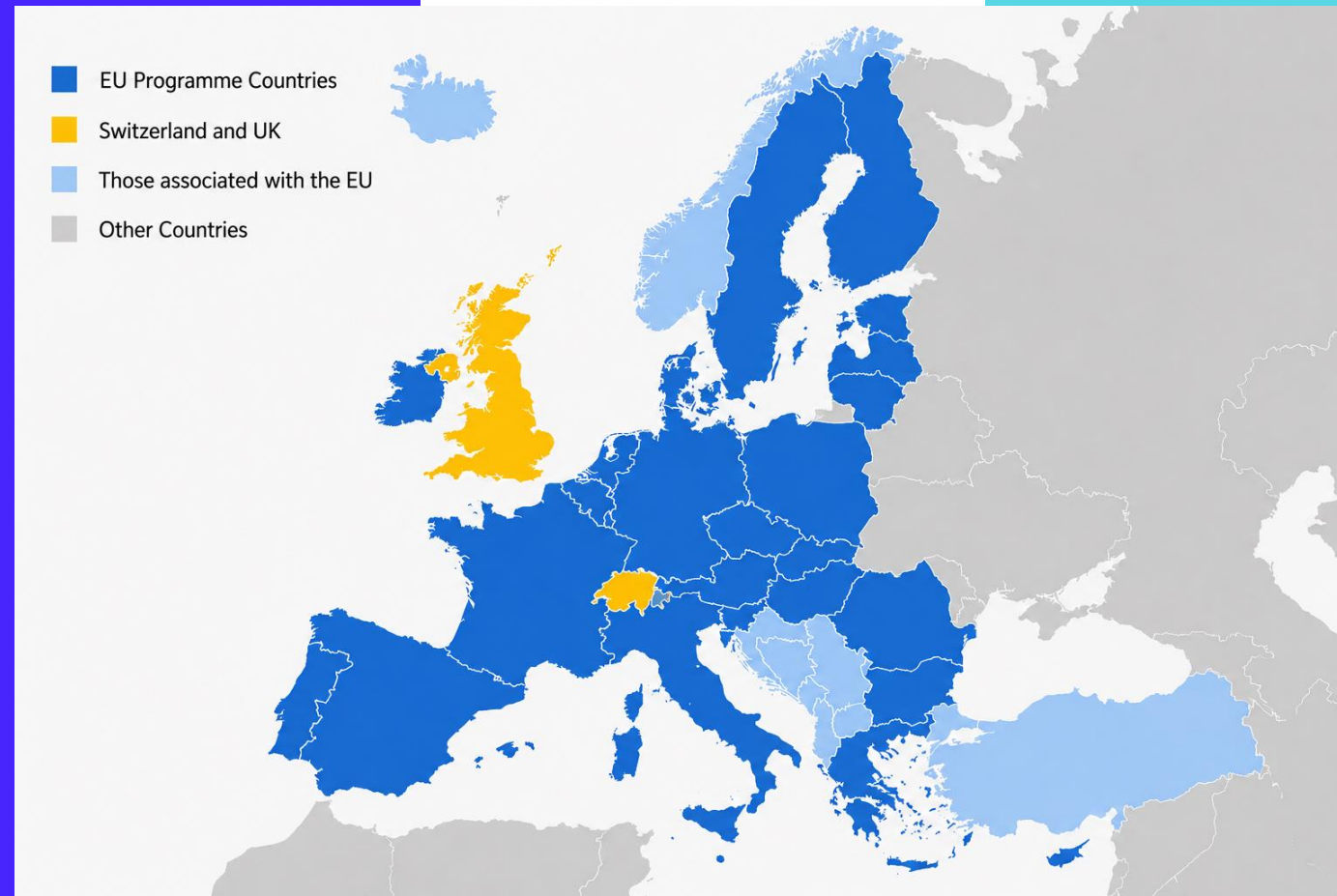
North Macedonia

Norway

Serbia

Turkiye

Some eligibility outside of Europe – to be define in PG 2027



VET – Hear from the Experts

Damian James

Curriculum Manager
South West College





Contents

- ❖ SWC context
- ❖ Erasmus+
- ❖ Partners and Curriculum
- ❖ Why?
- ❖ Case study: Aruba



SWC - locations

Northern Ireland
5 campuses
Counties Tyrone and
Fermanagh
600 staff
20,000 enrolments
£50 million turnover

1. STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- 1.1 Focussed Teaching & Learning Activities
- 1.2 AI Project Based Learning
- 1.3 Promotion of Turing/Exchange Opportunities
- 1.4 Mentorship Development
- 1.5 Active management involvement
- 1.6 College Community & activity

2. CURRICULUM PLANNING

- 2.1 Apprentice Development (All Age: Public Sector: Pooled)
- 2.2 Sustainability pathway
- 2.3 Micro-credentials Development
- 2.4 Sector Collaboration – co-design/ co-delivery opportunities

COLLEGE PRIORITIES 2024-25

3. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 Next Chapter – Culture focus
- 3.2 Support for Managers
- 3.3 Communication at all levels
- 3.4 Behaviours linked to values
- 3.5 Performance Appraisal
- 3.6 Structure updates in some support areas

4. EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 PR Focus
- 4.2 Planned political event
- 4.3 Engagement with key industry sectors & other stakeholders
- 4.4 Contribute to Regional Economic Plan
- 4.5 Industrial relations

5. FINANCIAL STABILITY

- 5.1 Deliver to Budget
- 5.2 Maximising income generation (target focussed)
- 5.3 PFI Contract efficiency
- 5.4 Efficiency in delivery through Student Numbers/Class Sizes

SWC 2025-2029

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Learner Experience



Our learners are at the heart of everything we do. Over the next three years, we will:

- Deliver a high-quality, inclusive curriculum aligned with regional economic needs.
- Strengthen progression pathways, enabling learners to move seamlessly between levels and into meaningful employment.
- Invest in staff development to ensure teaching reflects industry standards and emerging skills.
- Enhance learner facilities, extracurricular opportunities, and support services — including for those with additional needs.
- Promote well-being, safeguarding, and inclusion, with a focus on ensuring every learner has a voice in shaping their college experience.

Historical funding overview

Erasmus+ to
2020

SWC annual
funding
€400,000+

180 student
mobilities
per annum

Staff and
student
placements



Erasmus+ - curriculum

- ❖ Business
- ❖ Travel and Tourism
- ❖ Culinary
- ❖ Hospitality

- ❖ Sport
- ❖ Child Care
- ❖ Hair and Beauty
- ❖ Engineering
- ❖ Construction
- ❖ Creative Media

Why?

- ❖ Transformational experiences
- ❖ Expanding cultural understanding
- ❖ Improving engagement and confidence
- ❖ Work/study placements
- ❖ Experiencing cultural diversity
- ❖ Increased learning motivation
- ❖ Experiential learning
- ❖ Deeper understanding of subjects of study

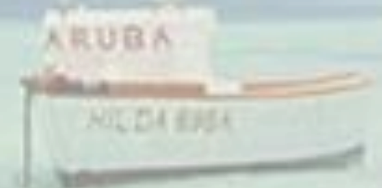
WELCOME



THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA

Case study

- The Ritz Carlton Aruba and JOIA Aruba by Iberostar
- 5* accommodation
- Placements in
 - Human Resources
 - Marketing
 - Front of House
 - Guest Relations
 - Events
 - Finance







Quotes

- “I can confidently say after completing my placement at the Ritz Carlton that it has profoundly impacted my personal and professional development“

"I have been provided with a valuable practical experience and a deeper understanding of how the theoretical concepts that I learned in South West College, are applied in a real-world setting"

Quotes



“This experience will shape my life in a multitude of ways, whether it be personal life, academic, or my future career and for that I am forever grateful”

“This experience has shown me that I am capable of more than I initially thought, giving me a greater sense of confidence, so valuable for my future career and personal development”



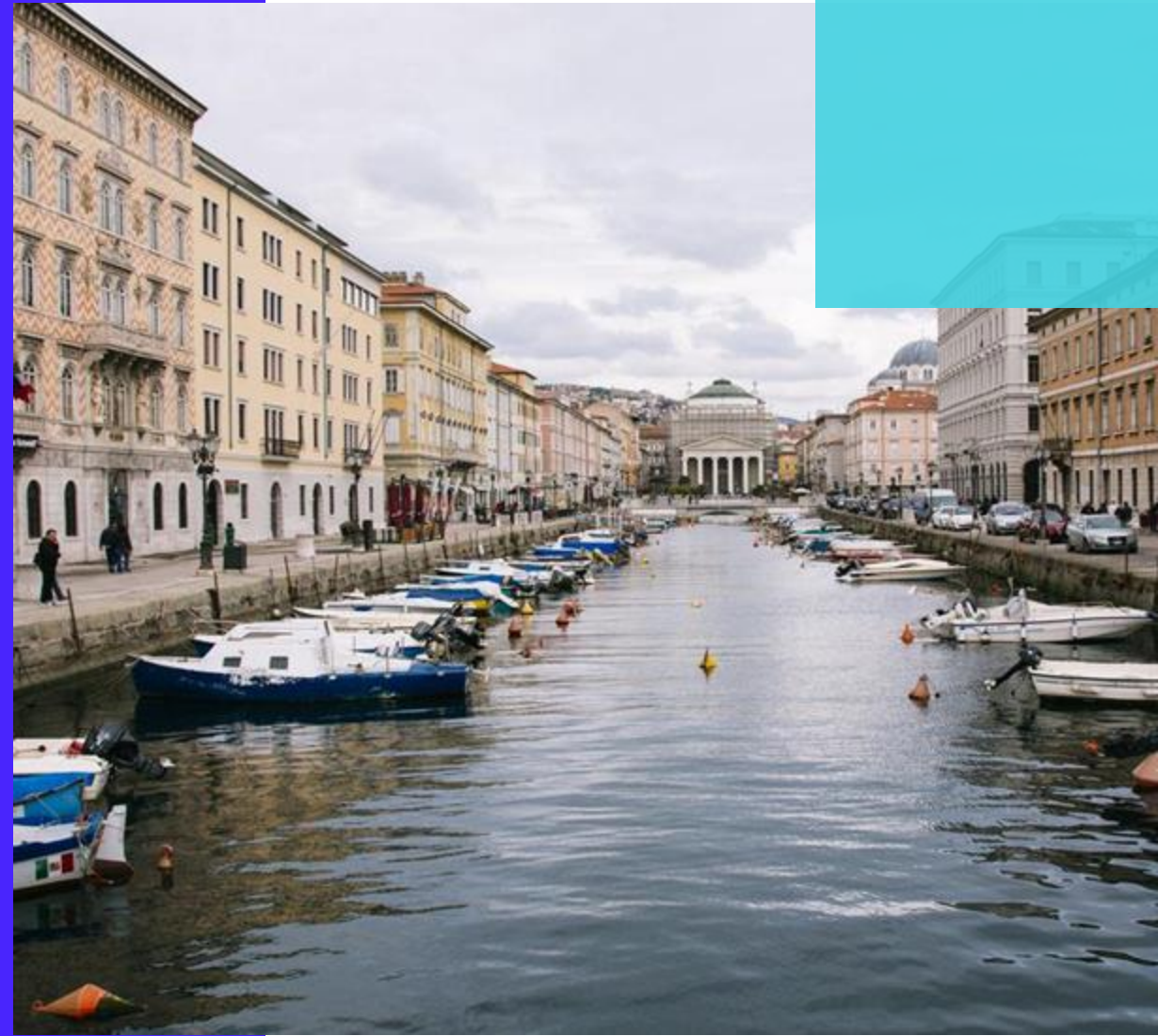
VET – Hear from the Experts

Sian Holleran

International Project Manager
Colegau Cymru/Colleges Wales



Q&A



Resources - finding a partner organisation/course

Remember partners can be from EU member states or associated eligible countries including: Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland or Türkiye.

- ❖ Reach out to an already established partner
- ❖ Use the British Council's **"Partner Finder Tool"**
- ❖ Use the Erasmus+ EPALE **"European Platform for Adult Learning in Europe"**
- ❖ Training and Cooperation activities – **SALTO Education and Training TCA Resource Centre**
- ❖ **Erasmobility** – Work placement exchanges Platform
- ❖ Utilise your own professional networks – ask any existing partners who they work with
- ❖ There are some Facebook/LinkedIn Groups dedicated to finding Partners
- ❖ Attend one of the British Council's dedicated Partner Finding Sessions

Resources - Erasmus+ programme

- ❖ **2026 Programme Guide:** the new Programme Guide applicable to the 2027 funding call will be out in Autumn 2026.

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-programme-guide>

- ❖ **E+ Resources include:** Example application forms (note: 2026 and subject to change), distance calculator and online language support.

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools>

- ❖ **Example Past Projects:** Use the approved projects list detailing all past projects including best practice

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects>

Next steps - application readiness

Autumn 2026:

- ❖ British Council applicant helpdesk, webinars and clinics
- ❖ National Agency guidance for applicants
- ❖ New Erasmus+ Programme Guide (PG) for 2027

Until then:

- ❖ Consider the eligibility rules in current PG for your organisation
- ❖ Register on EU Funding & Tenders portal for your Organisation ID (OID)

Resources - stay informed!

- ❖ Website: www.erasmusplus.org.uk/
- ❖ Events Website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/erasmusplus>
- ❖ X: <https://x.com/ErasmusPlusUK>
- ❖ Insta: <https://www.instagram.com/erasmusplus.uk>
- ❖ LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/erasmusplusuk/>
- ❖ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/erasmusplusuk.britishcouncil/>