

Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.

Erasmus+ KA2 Higher Education

British Council Webinar, 24.06.26

Chair: Eduardo Ramos, British Council



EUROPEAN UNION

erasmusplus.org.uk



UK Government



BRITISH
COUNCIL



Agenda

	Agenda item	Hosted by
11.00	Welcoming remarks	Eduardo Ramos , Head of Higher Education Systems and Internationalism, British Council
11.06	Overview of Key Action 1	Erika Boak , EU Education Director, British Council
11.25	The Home Project Case study	Dr Maria Teresa Gullace , Achitect, Politecnico di Milano, Italy Professor Oscar Bellini , Associate Professor of Architectural Technology, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
11.45	European universities supporting legal and community capacities for Ukraine's environmental recovery Case study	Dr Katerina Zourou , Founder and Managing Director, Web2Learn, Greece Stefania Oikonomou , Research collaborator, Web2Learn, Greece
12.00	Q&A	All
12.12	Closing remarks	Eduardo Ramos, Chair
12.15	End	

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Erasmus+ KA2 Higher Education

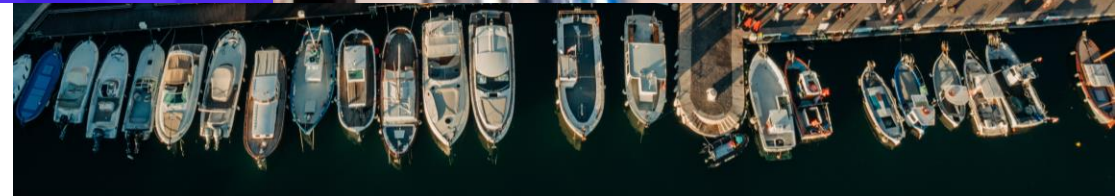
Erika Boak, British Council



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Structure

1. Overview of E+ Programme 2021-2027
2. Big picture takeaways
3. Priorities and eligible countries
4. Inclusion and diversity
5. KA220 HE sector specific priorities
6. Project structure
7. Partnership composition
8. Funding structure
9. Award criteria
10. Key steps on E+ journey



Overview of Erasmus+ 2021 – 2027

Decentralised actions: UK National Agency

Centralised actions: European Education and Culture Executive Agency

ECHE Charter

Key Action 1 Learning Mobility of Individuals

Mobility through Mobility Consortia (KA130)

Mobility for higher education students and staff (KA131)

International mobility involving third countries not associated to the Programme (KA171)

E+ Virtual Exchanges in Higher Education

Key Action 2 Cooperation Among Organisations and Institutions

Cooperation Partnerships (KA220)

Partnerships for Excellence: European Universities; European Degree Exploratory Action; E+ Teacher Academies Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters / Design Measures

Partnerships for Innovation: Alliances for Innovation; Forward Looking Projects

Capacity Building in Higher Education

Key Action 3 Support to Policy Development and Cooperation

European policy experimentations

Jean Monnet Actions

Big picture takeaways

UK contribution will be c. **£570 million** for all 6 sectors with unprecedented levels of funding for multi-year reciprocal mobility

E+ will bring an **international perspective** to teaching and learning, driving strategic partnerships which strengthen quality. It will boost access to European joint research projects, academic collaboration and TNE.

Major opportunity for **staff and students** of all levels and backgrounds across multiple disciplines throughout UK.



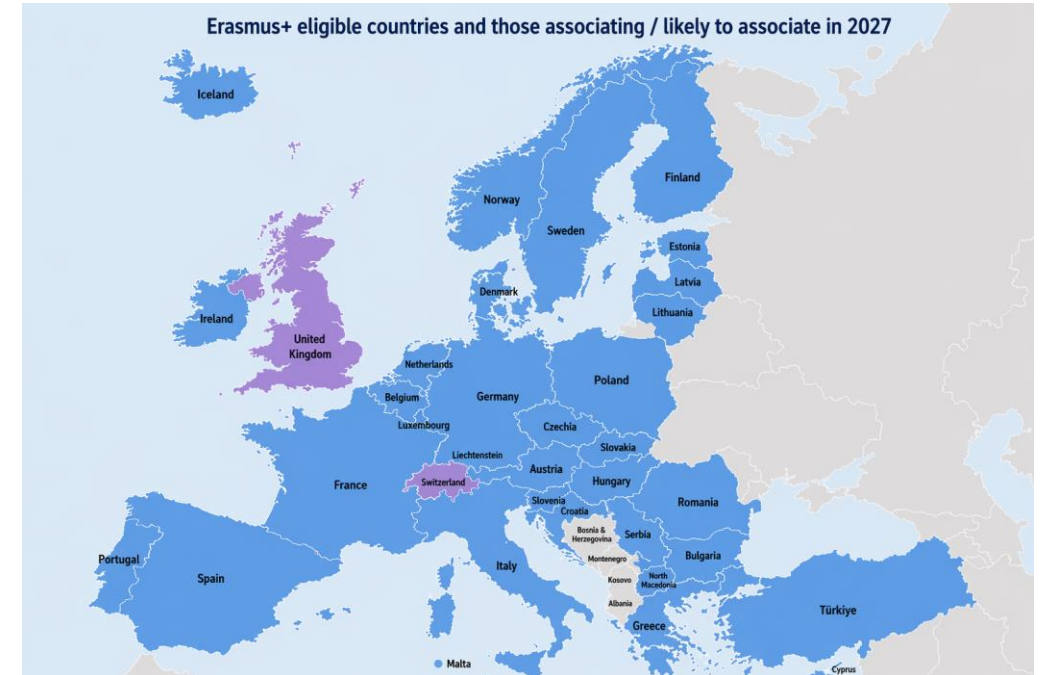
Priorities and Eligible Countries

Priorities within E+:

1. Diversity and inclusion
2. Digital transformation
3. Environment and fight against climate change
4. Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement

Eligible countries

- 27 EU Member States
- Third countries associated to programme: Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Türkiye, North Macedonia, Serbia
- In 2027, UK will associate and Switzerland planned to associate
- Countries not associated to programme can participate in certain actions if criteria / conditions are met



Inclusion and Diversity

National Agency designate draft inclusion and diversity mission statement for Erasmus+:

Erasmus+ contributes to inclusion and diversity in education and training in UK and enables people, regardless of the barriers and disadvantages they face to benefit from international study, work, connections and collaboration with partners in Europe and beyond.



Inspiring participation of people with fewer opportunities



Engaging diverse applicant organisations



Contributing to inclusive systems and practice in education and training

Cooperation partnerships HE sector specific priorities

Goal: to allow organisations to increase quality and relevance of activities, to develop their partner networks, to increase their capacity to operate jointly at transnational level, boosting internationalisation and through exchanging new practices and methods as well as sharing ideas. Results should be re-usable, transferable and scalable.



Rewarding high quality learning, teaching and skills development



Supporting STEM and participation of women in STEM



Promoting interconnected higher education systems



Supporting HEIs in their cooperation with Ukrainian counterparts to respond to war in Ukraine

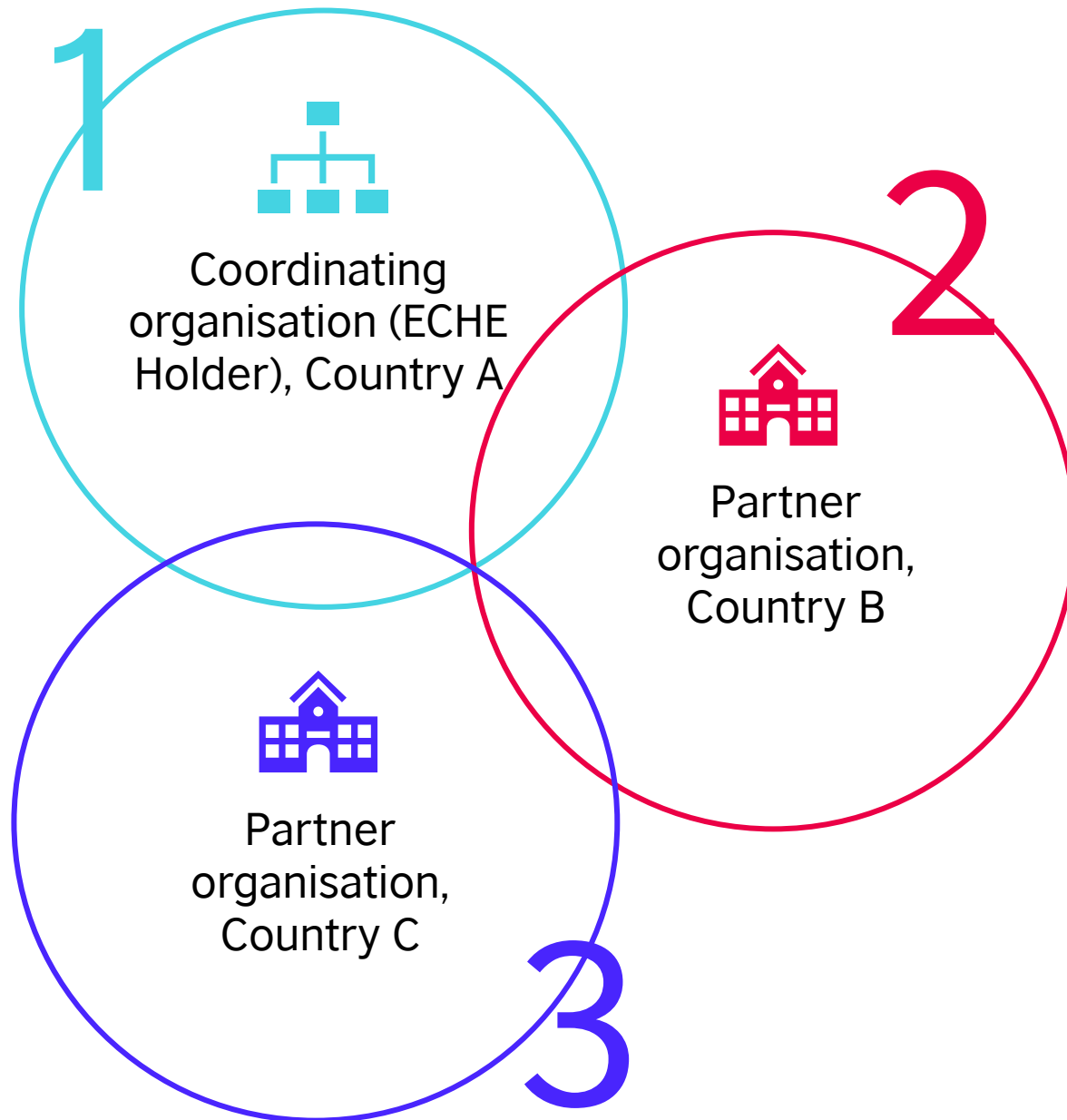
Project duration: Between 12 and 36 months

Project structure

- Project description should explain objectives of project, expected results and link to priorities
- Proposals should
 - describe activities that applicants commit to carry out with lump sum amount requested satisfying principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness
 - be split into “work packages”: a set of activities contributing to achievement of specific project objectives
 - include dedicated work package for project management and up to 4 implementation work packages
 - present clear project management methodology (needs analysis, work plan, task allocation, arrangements between partners, risk management)
- Sustainability and wide dissemination of results by all partners will be a key factor of success



Partnership composition



The coordinating organisation and minimum of two other participating organisations which must be from different EU MS or third countries associated to programme (no maximum); List of Higher Education Institutions holding an ECHE - 2021-2027

+

Option to involve third countries not associated to the programme as partners not applicants (from Regions 1, 2 and 3 except Belarus) if they bring essential added value

+

Associated partner organisations who provide expertise but don't receive any funding

Funding structure

- Lump sum means fixed grant amount and will be paid out if project is implemented as set out in grant agreement
- The lump sums cover all costs of eligible activities linked to implementation
- The budget should clarify amounts for each activity as well as for work packages totalling designated lump sum and demonstrate cost effectiveness
- There are three lump sums grants available:
 - EUR 120 000
 - EUR 250 000
 - EUR 400 000
- Co-financing assumption – resources needed to carry out action not covered entirely by grant (although co-financing amount not needed)
- Budget should cover: project management, learning activities, teaching and training activities, meetings and events, project deliverables, communication and dissemination activities



Award criteria



Relevance – 25 points



**Quality of project design
and implementation – 30
points**



**Quality of partnership
and cooperation
arrangements – 20 points**



Impact – 25 points



To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 70 points (out of 100 points in total). They must also score at least half of maximum points in each category of award criteria

Key steps on the Erasmus+ journey

- Consider how your institution's / relevant Departments' internationalisation strategy can be adapted to take full advantage of E+ in a joined up way covering mobility, organisational partnerships and centralised actions
- How will you communicate E+ opportunities to academics, deans, PVCs and VCs setting out how E+ could help to deliver on organisational KPIs?
- Familiarise yourself with the 2026 Erasmus+ 2026 Programme Guide and decide the types of KA220 projects you would like to work on. You can browse previous projects for inspiration: Erasmus+ website
- Work with your partners in Europe to update partnerships and find new ones and to get their support on 2021-2027 Programme
- Sign up to our Partner Finder Webinar
- Follow us on social media: LinkedIn: Erasmus+ UK, Facebook: Erasmus+ UK – British Council, Instagram: ErasmusPlus.UK , X/Twitter: ErasmusPlusUK; Sign up to our Erasmus+ newsletter
- Questions?: <https://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/contact/>

Key dates

- **September / October 2026:** ECHE outcome communicated
- **November 2026:** Erasmus+ funding call opens
- **March 2027:** KA220 likely funding call deadline
- **September - December 2027:** Likely start dates of KA220

The HOME² Project

2023-1-IT02-KA220-HED-000166554

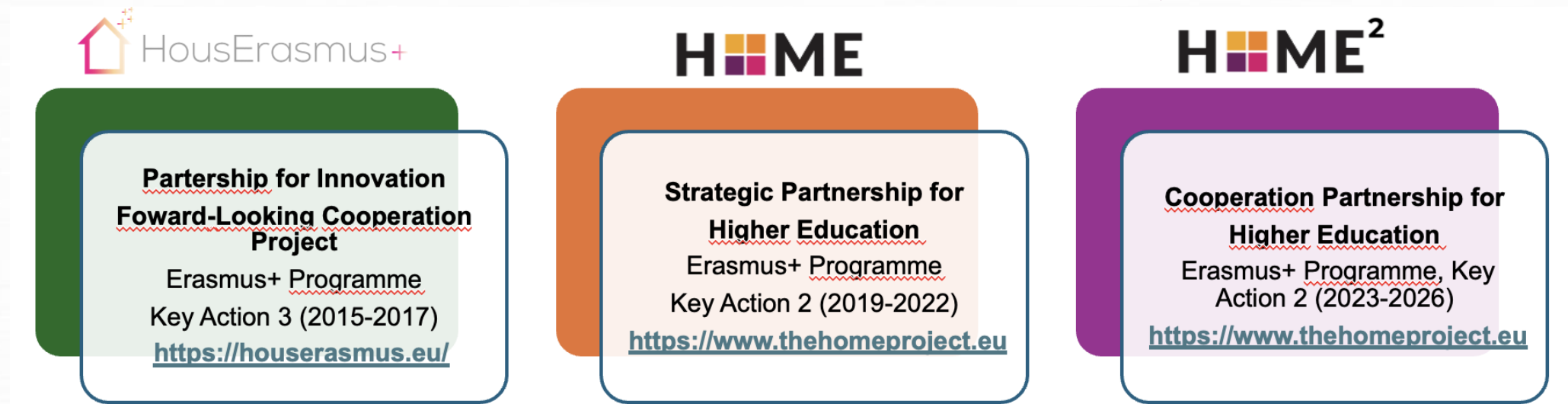
**Home of Mobile Europeans
Promoting Quality Student Accommodation
for Erasmus+ Mobility**



Funded by
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HOME² Project Overview



The HOME Project Scope & Results

- ✓ Help **mobile students** and **trainees** in finding **reliable and suitable accommodation** during their study period abroad.
- ✓ Identify **physical and digital standard for student accommodation** in Europe.
- ✓ Integrate the quality accommodation offer **within the digital initiatives of the Erasmus+ Programme.**

QUALITY LABELS
European student
accommodation
demand



DIGITAL DATA STANDARDS
European student
accommodation
supply



HOME
quality student accommodation

**DIGITAL
INTEGRATION
INTO THE
ERASMUS+ APP**



HOME²

Key Objectives

- ✓ Further **implement the HOME² Accommodation digital module within the E+App** by enhancing its features and developing two new quality labels: *Diversity and Inclusion, and Sustainability*.
- ✓ Foster **European cooperation** and the development of **multi-stakeholder public debate** for the student accommodation sector.
- ✓ Develop **European Policy Insights** to support the advancement of the student accommodation sector and promote a shared model of university *hospitality services* among European Union countries and in the E+ Program.

The HOME² Project Structure



EUROPEAN DESK RESEARCH STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SECTOR



Students
Accommodation
Needs



University Support
in Housing
Provision



Private
Rented
Sector



EU Wide
Housing
Platforms



MULTISTAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE TO SUPPORT POLITICAL CHANGES

- EU Call for Best Practices in Student Mobility Management
- N.2 EU Conferences (Bruselles e Milan)
- Study Visits Across Europe
- Multi-stakeholders Roundtable



POLICY INSIGHTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SECTOR

HOME² key Outcomes

- ✓ EU-WIDE RESEARCH REPORTS
- ✓ GUIDELINES FOR:
 - Students
 - Universities
 - PRS
 - PBSA
- ✓ BEST PRACTICES BOOKLET
- ✓ POLICY PAPER

The HOME² Consortium

- ✓ **HEIs** => Politecnico di Milano - Project Coordinator & Universidad de Oviedo
- ✓ **Students** => European Student Network (ESN)
- ✓ **Network of Universities** => European University Foundation (EUF)
- ✓ **Private Rented Sector** => International Union Of Property Owners (UIPI)
- ✓ **European Platform** => HousingAnywhere (HA)

5 EU Countries Represented

IT – SP – BE – LU - NL



Universidad de
Oviedo



HOME² Solutions & Impact:

- 1. Bridging challenges between different actors of the Student Accommodation Sectors (PRS, HEIs)** By investigating specific needs of all parties involved in the SA Search
- 2. Fighting Rental Froude** by introducing standardized European Quality Labels for student accommodations and reducing the risk of scams, fraud, and predatory behaviors that frequently target foreign students
- 3. Policy and Systemic Advocacy:** The project published extensive European-wide data reports tracking student mobility flows and housing distress. These metrics and the EU wide initiatives supported the European Affordable Housing Plan, putting student housing on the EU's political agenda.
- 4. Active Support through the DIGITAL PLATFORM:**
 - **Coverage 9 EU Countries** - Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain.
 - **Top 15 Erasmus+ Destinations** - Lisbon, Madrid, Rome, Valencia, Milan, Barcelona, Budapest, Paris, Wien, Bologna, Warsaw, Berlin, Granada, Dublin, Seville.
 - **Up to 25.000 Listings Available**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION



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Lessons from designing and implementing the Erasmus+ KA220 project “GROMADA”

Katerina Zourou, Stefania Oikonomou

Web2Learn, Thessaloniki, Greece

24.06.2026, British Council webinar on Erasmus+ KA220
Cooperation Partnerships

Web2Learn: 10+ years innovating in digital education

- R&D company, est. 2014
- Designing and implementing EU-funded projects with interdisciplinary teams.
- 8 expert staff members.
- Building digital solutions that turn skills recognition policies into practical tools.
- **Active in EU grants** (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, national funds).

Areas: professional training,
citizen and open science,
social innovation

15 ongoing EU-
funded
projects

> 3000
end users
reached

Sectors:
Higher Education, VET,
School Education, Adult
Education

About the GROMADA project



Full title: European universities supporting legal and community capacities for Ukraine's environmental recovery

A 2-year (2023-2025) Erasmus+ KA220 **Higher Education** project to enhance the capacity of Ukrainian academic communities for **environmental advocacy** and **action**.

Website: <https://gromada-erasmus.eu/>



Partnership



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Web2Learn
Open, social learning



Conflict and
Environment
Observatory



UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN



GROMADA in numbers

From knowledge creation to community action:

- **16 online lectures** on environmental protection during war, citizen science and civic environmental monitoring.
- 1 Summer School bringing together **40+ participants from academia, civil society and practice.**
- **A week-long hackathon** for university students:
 - **3 Challenges**
 - **102 participants**
 - **11 mentors**
- **40 Ukrainian students** carried out **8 citizen science projects.**

From expertise to urgency: How GROMADA emerged



Before GROMADA:

- Web2Learn's work on environmental citizen science in Ukraine during the war:
 - Zourou, K., Oikonomou, S. (2022). **Citizen science for environmental and health issues in conflict zones**. ECSA Conference, Berlin, Germany.
- Following our future partners' work in the field:
 - The Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS). (2020, October 8). **Workshop: Citizen science in areas affected by armed conflict**. ECSA Conference 2020, online.
 - Berti Suman, A., Schade, S. (2021). **The potential of citizen science for environmental monitoring and reporting: The Sensing for Justice approach**. Environmental Sciences Europe, 33, Article 45.

The question that shaped GROMADA: How can universities empower citizens and communities to contribute to Ukraine's environmental recovery?

Strategic relevance: Why GROMADA mattered



The key: Aligning institutional expertise with European and societal priorities!

For universities:

- Strengthening the role of Higher Education Institutions as drivers of societal impact;
- Connecting research, education and civic engagement;

For the EU:

- Supporting Ukraine through knowledge exchange and capacity building;
- Advancing citizen participation in environmental action;

For Ukraine:

- Developing skills and tools for environmental monitoring and advocacy;
- Building strong bridges with EU partners in research and citizen engagement.

Identifying the project theme

A strong KA220 starts with a shared challenge!

Our **needs analysis** emphasised on:

- Addressing the environmental consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine.
- Recognising the need for stronger community participation in environmental recovery.
- Exploring citizen science as a bridge between academia, citizens and policymakers.



Building up the right partnership

Combining expertise around a common mission

- Partners selected based on **complementary expertise**.
- **Interdisciplinarity**: Bringing together environmental science-law-citizen science.
- **Clear roles** and tasks from the proposal design stage.



Impact-by-design

Planning for change from the beginning

- Activities designed around real needs and target groups.
- Students and stakeholders involved as active contributors.
- Focus on practical application, not only knowledge transfer.
- Open resources enabling wider use beyond the project.



Sustainability and legacy

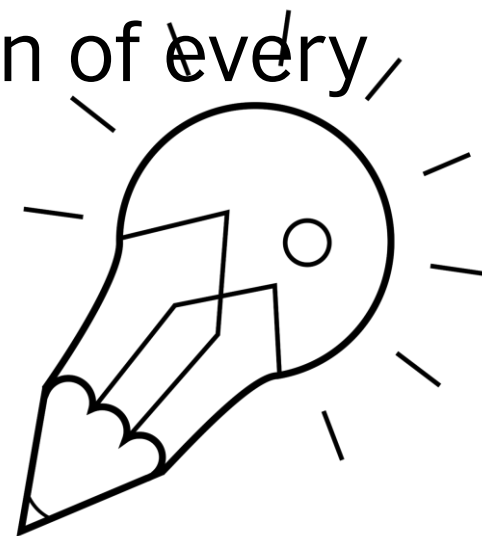
What remains after GROMADA?

- **A transferable model** for citizen engagement in environmental recovery.
- **Open access educational resources and methodologies** available beyond the project lifetime.
- **Demonstrated skills and learning achievements** among students, researchers and communities.
- **Sustained collaboration** between European Ukrainian stakeholders and networks.



Key takeaways

- Start with a **real** societal challenge.
- Build partnerships based on **complementarity**, not convenience.
- Design activities with **impact** and **sustainability** in mind.
- **Invest in people!** Collaboration is the foundation of every project.



Reflection points

When designing your own KA220 journey, it is worth asking:

Are we starting from a funding opportunity or from a challenge that genuinely requires European collaboration?

Who will be empowered by our project and what will they be able to do differently afterwards?



References

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4. Berti Suman, A. et al. (2024) Mapping gaps and opportunities for community engagement in environmental citizen science in Ukraine. Deliverable WP2A1 of the GROMADA Erasmus KA2 + project. <https://gromada-erasmus.eu/results/>
5. Zourou, K., Oikonomou, S. (2025). Hybrid collaboration among citizen scientists at university in a conflict zone. Proceedings of the ICERI Conference 2025, Seville, Spain, November 10-12, 2025
6. Hryhorczuk, D. et al. (2024). The environmental health impacts of Russia's war on Ukraine. J Occup Med Toxicol 19, 1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12995-023-00398-y>



Thank you!

Website: <https://gromada-erasmus.eu/>

Facebook: Gromada Ukraine

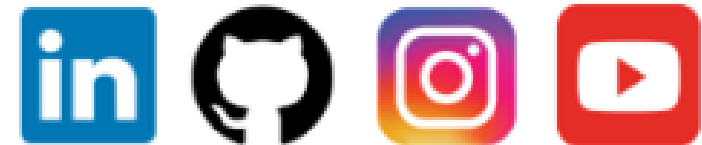
LinkedIn: GROMADA

Instagram: gromada.ukraine

Web2Learn website: <https://web2learn.eu/>

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Q&A and Feedback Survey

