



# LiO+

IMPACT REPORT



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# Introduction

Dear Reader

As Co-ordinator of LID+, I am delighted to present this 'Impact Report', which essentially tells the story of our yearlong project as well as document the impact it has made. The European Commission Representation in the UK funded LID+ in 2017 and we are thankful to them for supporting our efforts to achieve a number of objectives, which were primarily about increasing awareness of, access to and participation in the Erasmus+ Programme among UK-based groups.

We are proud of the impact and difference we have made which includes:

- (i) setting up of a team of UK-wide Ambassadors that embarked on delivering a range of bespoke services that led to the submission of 16 Erasmus+ applications at the October 17 deadline;**
- (ii) two International Contact Making Seminars which brought 21 new users together with 17 experienced European practitioners leading to the development of 19 new proposals;**
- (iii) an Evaluation Seminar that brought together 21 diverse users from across three decades to reflect on the impact of Erasmus+; and**
- (iv) our organising the only Anniversary event in Northern Ireland to mark 30 years of Erasmus+.**

This report which outlines in much greater detail the story of LID+, was completed by Rodney Green and David Mc Clarin, both of whom are respected professionals in their own right. Rodney, with a background in Youth Work has been working as an independent consultant and evaluator for more than 20 years whilst David, a retired Civil Servant, spent quite a number of years working in the Department of Education and thus grew familiar with the broader Northern Ireland Youth Service over a period of time.

In completing the task set before them, Rodney and David 'shadowed' LID+ over the course of the year but had complete freedom to engage with all those that came into contact with the project including Ambassadors, participants from all seminars as well as recipients of services provided. I would like to thank them for the work they have taken on and the detailed nature of the report they have produced.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with the delivery of LID+, namely members of the Resource Group who provided information, advice and words of wisdom at the right moment, often in person. I would also like to thank the Inside Out Management Committee who kept faith with me and believed in the LID+ concept as we continue to rebuild the capacity of Inside Out against a background of ever-increasing demands and shrinking resources.

Many thanks are also due to the small team of Ambassadors who took a leap of faith and joined us in this 'experiment' that has proved to be a worthy journey. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of my International Colleagues whom I have come to respect and value immensely over the years as they took not so much a leap of faith but stepped into the dark and shone much light on the process. Like the Ambassadors, they made personal sacrifices to make this work and should be commended for doing so.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank all those individuals who gave up time, expended energy and took risks with us as we endeavoured to achieve what effectively became one of our mantras, bringing you closer to the Erasmus+ programme. We hope our efforts in 2017 have done that.

Fergal Barr, Project Co-ordinator  
December 2017

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# 1 Executive Summary

**Following a call from the European Commission for initiatives to promote involvement in Erasmus+ projects in 2017, seven projects across the UK were identified for funding. These included The Inside Out Programme, which secured funding to deliver 'LID+'.**

The LID+ project specifically targeted the promotion of Volunteering Abroad, Youth Exchanges and Key Action1 Mobility Projects by providing a tailor-made service to local organisations (primarily) across Northern Ireland but also ensured a presence in the rest of the UK.

The four main outcomes were to be increases in:

- awareness of the Erasmus+ Programme;
- numbers expressing an interest in participating in the Erasmus+ programme;
- the number of 'submission-ready' applications (post-programme); and
- the number of applications submitted.

Inside Out commissioned this 'Impact Report' to:

- document the entire 'LID+' programme/process;
- provide evidence of continued impact in order to help promote and sustain engagement post-programme; and
- assess the success of the four main outcomes as outlined above.

There were three main elements to the LID+ programme/process:

- information about the opportunities available through Erasmus+: this involved the provision of a range of services including support from a team of Ambassadors, initial contact meetings, information sessions, monthly information bulletins and Facebook and Twitter updates;
- support for the development of proposals and applications: this included the provision of a listening service, a feedback service, a mentoring service, one to one sessions, development workshops, application workshops and Contact Making Seminars;
- sharing learning and experience: this included the Contact Making Seminars, the Evaluation Event, the involvement of those with experience in international activities and, at the time of writing this report, the forthcoming Market Place event.

Questionnaires were used to determine the benefits of each of these activities. One hundred and sixteen questionnaires were issued and the response rate was 19.8%, which, along with information and opinions gleaned at the Contact Making Seminar and the Evaluation Event, enabled the consultants to fulfil their brief.

The summary of the findings of this Study are listed under the headings of the impact on – people, practice, organisations and systems, all of which paint very positive pictures.

**The impact on people:** LID+ can be deemed to have had a very positive impact on the participants. In general, people are more aware of the opportunities and support available through Erasmus+. For those more deeply engaged in the LID+ programme through the Contact Making Seminars and other support measures, the whole experience broke down the programme for them and helped them overcome fears of the entire process being a 'daunting task'.



**The impact on practice:** a Model of Practice for the delivery of LID+ services emerged, which details the measures required to support and mentor participants through from initial contact, the development of ideas and proposals to final submission of an Erasmus+ application.

**The impact on organisations:** a significant number of proposals or completed applications were developed by a range of organisations, with most of them being involved in the Erasmus+ programme for the first time. A further consideration will be the need to provide on-going support to any organisation which is successful in obtaining funding: the current LID+ status and termination of the programme, may not enable this to come to fruition.

**The impact on systems:** three conclusions were drawn: stand alone public information sessions work best when included as part of a wider event and it may be beneficial to consider greater synergy with Erasmus+ National Agency Information Sessions; the UK wide Ambassador dimension proved beneficial but added difficulties to co-ordination and management; and there was a concern that, in the absence of additional funding, the increase in relation to the number of applications would only serve to further disappoint applicants and organisations.

Significant accomplishments identified included:

- **16 applications were submitted** for KA1 projects for the October 2017 deadline and further proposals are in the pipeline for the February 2018 deadline;
- A team of **9 UK based Ambassadors** were recruited to deliver the exclusive range of services to be delivered through the LID+ programme;
- **92 formal information and support activities** were delivered, this number not inclusive of the further one-to-one follow-up activity and support provided;
- **21 editions of Lifting the LID+** were circulated, initially to a reading audience of 1,040 now resting at 1,520, with a peak opening rate of 22.4%;
- The success of the first **Contact Making Seminar** involving 10 international and 10 local partners, many of the latter new to Erasmus+, led to the demand for a second event which is fully subscribed with 11 local organisations and 11 international partners, 7 of the latter new to LID+; in total 21 local organisations were introduced to the Erasmus+ process for the first time; the development of partnerships between LID+ and a range of organisations will ensure that support will exist to help sustain engagement post- programme;
- LID+ not only established but **grew it's International Network from 13 to 17 partner organisations;**
- **International Learning Opportunities for 10 individuals** - 6 young people, 2 young leaders and 2 adult practitioners;
- **an evaluation meeting among twenty-one Erasmus+ users** including young people, young leaders, youth workers and adult practitioners representing all incarnations of Erasmus+, i.e., Youth for Europe, YOUTH, Youth in Action and the current programme
- **hosting the only public and large-scale Youth Work event in Northern Ireland celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Erasmus+.**



The Study ends with a series of recommendations brought forward for consideration:

- in the current uncertain and evolving political environment, the European Commission should actively consider funding LID+ for a further year/15 months to March 2019;
- should LID+ be in receipt of additional resources, there needs to be greater complementarity and closer co-operation between interested parties, for example the UK National Agency, Eurodesk and the Education Authority in the promotion of, and support to engage in, international youth mobility opportunities through Erasmus+;
- if LID+ is actively supported in moving forward, there should be a more narrow geographic focus on Northern Ireland rather than extending its remit to Great Britain;
- the Contact Making Seminar and focused support for the development of proposals should be actively encouraged and included as an integral part of any future LID+ initiative;
- the emerging Model of Practice through the LID+ programme should be further developed and promoted as a supportive way of encouraging involvement in Erasmus+ initiatives.



## 2 Background to the Development of the LID+ Programme

**Northern Ireland has a rich tradition of involvement in European and International activities but recent years have shown a decline in the number of applications to Erasmus+ - from 54 in 2015 to 42 in 2016 although these figures did not reflect the numbers of groups from Northern Ireland which featured in other countries' applications.**

Following a call from the European Commission (EC) for initiatives to promote involvement in Erasmus+ projects in the UK in 2017, seven projects across the UK were identified for funding. Details are listed in Appendix 1. These included The Inside Out Programme which secured funding to deliver 'LID+', a year-long programme of activity that informed, supported, mentored and pro-actively engaged young people (including those under the age of 18), young leaders, youth workers and other practitioners (with a remit for young people). The remit of LID+ covered all of the UK while most of the other EC initiatives focussed on a regional dimension.

The Inside Out Programme was established in Claudy in 2004 as a targeted youth initiative, funded by the Local Strategy Partnership for the then Derry City Council area, through the European Union (EU) Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. Inside Out's Vision is one of 'an active and healthy rural youth population in Northern Ireland.' Inside Out has a long history of involvement in European and international activity, which provided the context for its role in this EC initiative.

Inside Out has been delivering The LID (Leadership through Intercultural Dialogue) Programme, which primarily targets young leaders, youth and community workers and a range of other practitioners from across a variety of professions. The purpose of the programme is to develop participants' skills, increase their knowledge and affect attitudinal change which in turn enhances their capacity and that of their organisation and the communities where they work in order to contribute to the development of a shared society. LID+ aimed to build upon work of The LID Programme providing International Learning Opportunities outside the UK by 'bringing you [UK participants] closer to the Erasmus+ programme'.

The LID+ project specifically targeted Volunteering Abroad, Youth Exchanges and Key Action1 Mobility Projects by providing a free, bespoke, tailor-made service to local organisations (primarily) across Northern Ireland but also ensured a presence in the rest of the UK that complemented, but did not duplicate, the work of the UK National Agency or any other bodies tasked with promoting the Erasmus+ programme.



# 3

## Outcomes of LID+

There were four main outcomes established including increases in:

- (i) awareness of the Erasmus+ Programme;
- (ii) numbers expressing an interest in participating in the Erasmus+ programme;
- (iii) the number of 'submission-ready' applications (post-programme); and
- (iv) the number of applications submitted.



### Expected impact on Erasmus+ applications

Based on the model provided (see Appendix 2) LID+ anticipated 41 complete applications submitted but with a built in variance of 33% equating between 28 and 54 applications. Whilst the project anticipated applications being submitted for the October 2017 deadline, other applications would not materialise until the first deadline of 2018. It was hoped to host a total of 365 Listening, Feedback, Mentoring, One-to-One's and Information activities. At the time of writing 92 formal activities took place but of course does

not include some of (what can be described as) the 'follow-up' activity which includes e-mails, telephone calls, informal conversations, etc.

## 4 Delivery and Management of the Project

**Co-ordination:** the project was based at The Inside Out Programme office at the Diamond Centre in Claudy, Co. Derry, Northern Ireland. The project was co-ordinated on a full-time basis by the Inside Out Co-ordinator, Fergal Barr.

**A Resource Group**, made up of a range of practitioners /policy-makers with more than 100 years professional experience in local youth work/education practice and policy, alongside expertise in both Youth in Action and Erasmus+, helped to oversee delivery of the project.

LID+ complemented the work of other bodies involved in the promotion of Erasmus+ including:

- The National Agency for Erasmus+ in the UK is a partnership between Ecorys UK and the British Council which provides detailed information on all aspects of the programme;
- The Education Authority (EA), which employs a part time International Officer, based within Regional Youth Support Services. The remit is to support the development of international youth work, including opportunities available through Erasmus+, primarily to EA statutory youth services, EA registered youth groups and recognised Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations (RVYO's). External to this role, the Officer was a member of the Resource Group and maintained close links with the LID+ co-ordinator.
- Eurodesk provides information about European Mobility Opportunities and is the recognised support structure for Erasmus+. Eurodesk UK provides a free service for young people and youth organisations across the UK;
- EuroPeers is a collective of Erasmus+ "graduates" who actively work together to make other young people aware of the educational opportunities provided by the programme. Within the UK it operates under the umbrella of Momentum World, London, and is referred to as EuroPeersUK. Inside Out is now the Northern Ireland partner for EuroPeers.



# 5 Impact Report

**This 'Impact Report' was commissioned by The Inside Out Programme and funded by the European Commission to:**



- (A) document the entire 'LID+' programme/process (including the experience of participants on The LID Programme "International Learning Opportunities");
- (B) provide evidence of continued impact to help promote and sustain engagement post-programme; and
- (C) assess the success of the four main outcomes as outlined above.

The contract to complete the Impact Report was awarded to an external consultant through a competitive tendering process and although they undertook initial work, they were unable to complete the Report due to other pressures. As their withdrawal coincided with the major Contact Making Seminar it was essential to replace them quickly and the decision was taken to task two members of the Resource Group to complete the Report. As that Group was an advisory body to the LID+ project these members retained their independence and the integrity of the Report was not compromised. This process was given approval by the Communication Section, Representation of the EC in the UK.

## Evaluation Methodologies

The evaluation was set against the specific objectives, which enabled this Impact Report to provide both quantifiable and qualitative evidence using a range of methodologies selected in accordance with the target audience. The methods used to measure the impact on those involved and their organisations, the depth of their learning and the quality of the support provided to them included:

- the consultants attended the residentials for the Ambassadors, the first Contact Making Seminar and its follow up Applications Workshop and the Evaluation Event and saw at first hand the impact on the participants;
- a range of questionnaires was circulated to 116 people who had had some involvement during the process;
- Survey Monkey was used to attract responses from users of the information bulletins;
- A 2 day Evaluation Event, organised and led by the consultants, was held with a primary aim of assessing the impact of LID+ and its role in promoting Erasmus+ in the UK;
- the meetings of the Resource Group enabled a wider perspective to be heard.

The questionnaires remained anonymous throughout the process to preserve the confidence of the respondents. There was a response rate of almost 20% and this along with the information gleaned at the residentials have enabled a thorough review of the LID+ programme/process to be captured.

## 6 Documentation of the Entire LID+ Programme/Process

The first stage of the report was to document the entire LID+ process which incorporated three main elements:

- the provision of information about the opportunities available through Erasmus+;
  - support for the development of proposals and applications;
- and
- sharing learning and experience.

### 6.1. Provision of Information About the Opportunities Available Through Erasmus+

Throughout the project LID+ provided a free and accessible range of services and activities which included the following:

- A **Formal launch** of the programme to 'announce its arrival' to youth work communities across Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK took place on 22 February 2017 in DiverseCity Building, Holywell Trust in Derry/Londonderry. While the numbers in attendance were small, despite appropriate promotion, the opportunity was taken to introduce and promote the Erasmus+ programme to those present who included media representatives. In feedback from Ambassadors, they believed that an earlier launch would have been more beneficial given the overall timescale.
- **'Lifting the LID+', a monthly newsletter/bulletin** was circulated widely. It contained up to date information on all aspects of Erasmus+ along with details of training programmes and seminars, tools and methodologies useful in youth work and publications to inform practice. It also included links to a Facebook Group and a Twitter account, which provided an almost daily supply of related news. A summary of the numbers circulated showed a peak of 1603 subscribers but currently this number rests at 1520. In total, there have been 21 bulletins, which include 'specials' or 'one-offs' promoting a particular event or activity.

Verbal feedback obtained by the consultants confirmed that many appreciated the updates but for others there was a problem with compatibility with their technology, while others found the amount of detail provided to be excessive which may have accounted for the fact that the peak opening rate was 22.4%. That said, a survey monkey among subscribers, whilst small in response, was overwhelmingly positive as regards the key task of raising awareness of both Erasmus+ and LID+ and the manner with which it was currently being presented, even among those who do not necessarily view Erasmus+ as relevant to their work. Only one person expressed any real criticism of the bulletin, which reflects some of the inevitable changes that the bulletin requires.

The peak opening rate of 22.4% can also be attributed to the novelty and 'ignorance' of the bulletin and was also against an initial mailing list of 1040 people (against 1520 this would be around 14%). Inevitably a drop-off and levelling out was to be expected but does still illustrate the challenge of making an information bulletin attractive.





- **Creation of a pool of 10-15 local 'E+ Ambassadors' from across the UK:**

The role of the Ambassadors (a full description is given in Appendix 3) was to organise information sessions, organise development workshops for young people to introduce Erasmus+, offer a "listening service" to support the development of project proposals, provide feedback to groups that already had a written idea, provide tailored mentoring support to groups developing applications and "one to ones" i.e. last minute feedback, to critique draft applications.

It did not prove possible to recruit the 10-15 ambassadors, but 9 featured who included 7 from England, 1 from Wales and 1 from Northern Ireland. It proved difficult to attract anyone from Scotland

as one of the other EC-funded projects had established a team of mentors to deliver their own project and thus the pool of potentially available Ambassadors was restricted. It subsequently transpired that one of the GB Ambassadors was unable to take an active role in LID+ as he was involved in the development of other Erasmus+ initiatives. A 3 day Training Workshop was held for them in March 2017 and the significant aspects were:

- Clarification of their role description, Code of Conduct and Contract;
- Ensuring they understood this work was to complement, not duplicate, the work of the National Agency;
- The contact making seminar which they considered an important and practical way of bringing potential partners together;
- Discussion regarding their geographical remit to ensure areas identified within the project were covered and the Ambassadors were confident groups within their communities who could assist them in the tasks ahead.

A specific questionnaire was circulated to the Ambassadors and 6 of the 9 responded (67%). The responses showed that the Training event was well received and Ambassadors left with an appropriate range of materials available, a clear sense of what was expected and how they could support each other. Feedback was constructive and comments included:

it was really useful to share knowledge with each other and be clear about the logistics of LID+, its aims and ways to achieve them;

it was well organised and full of useful information;

more space and time to learn from other's experience and good practice would have been useful;

closer connection and better networking between the Ambassadors before, during and after the Workshop would have been valuable.

The questionnaire sought comment on the support and resources provided by the Project Co-ordinator, which were appreciated greatly, as the following comments demonstrate:

**great communication, reliable, responsive and helpful, but we could have had an online platform to pool resources;**

**excellent (in 2 responses);**

**bulletin very useful to help keep up to date.**

Ambassadors were less favourable regarding the links developed with other bodies promoting Erasmus+ with one commenting “it’s the people who are the important contacts, not the extensive systems.”

Other feedback from the Ambassadors included:

**contact made with the local Citizen’s Advice Bureau, who link well to the voluntary networks around the country, and this could be a great way forward, easily copied in other areas;**

**the connection to the European Commission in London has been invaluable and I now disseminate their videos and information;**

**finding youth workers open to EU funding was not the easiest task;**

**some organisations cited a reduction in their capacity to work beyond established boundaries due to a reduction in funding.**

The Ambassadors’ actual activities during the past few months are detailed in this Study under the description of the various services provided throughout the project.

#### • **Information Sessions to inform local public about Erasmus+**

The intention was to contact all 11 local Council areas in Northern Ireland as well as areas in England and Wales. Sessions were held in 6 of the Council areas in Northern Ireland, however attendance was poor thus questioning their value and they were discontinued.

Across regions of England and Wales the Ambassadors arranged a variety of sessions, particularly in universities and colleges and their experiences, which varied, included:

- initial knowledge of Erasmus+ was really poor – people just did not know what it was or that it was out there. Visibility and promotion of the programme needs to be more widespread;
- young people took information away and several were genuinely keen to sign up to opportunities. There have been follow up e-mails and we will attempt to get them signed up;
- a federation of youth workers was receptive and further work came out of the session;





- an information session was delivered during National Volunteer Week as part of a Volunteer Celebration and EVS volunteers spoke about their experiences;
- through contacts at a local university information sessions generated interest in potential projects;
- responses to some contacts had limited interest due to constraints on budgets or engagement with Erasmus+ through other networks;
- many people needed more than one information session after the initial introduction;
- this was probably the most difficult task as local authorities initially sounded keen but did not deliver on promises to organise information sessions.

The original plan was for 60 Information Sessions reaching 300 people but in reality this proved to be overly ambitious,

with the figures estimated to be 44 initial meetings/ information sessions which reached 192 people. While those who attended the sessions benefitted from information provided, the numbers attending did not justify continuing to run them, at least in Northern Ireland, given other mechanisms exist to promote the Erasmus+ programme to a wide range of youth organisations. In addition, providing information on an initiative that only funds project costs and not salaries/running costs (traditionally in Northern Ireland these costs are covered) is unlikely to increase the overall reach of Erasmus+.

## 6.2. Overall Impact in Regard to the Provision of Information About the Opportunities Available Through Erasmus+

In late September, a questionnaire was circulated to all of those known to have attended the above mentioned events). Sixty questionnaires were issued and, despite 3 reminders, the response rate of only 3 (5%) was extremely disappointing, although there was some duplication with those who completed the questionnaires having been involved in the development of actual proposals.

The collective feedback from the above responses showed that LID+ scored mostly excellent or very good in relation to the statements e.g. increasing awareness of Erasmus+, how to make useful contacts in the future, etc. In only one response this section was rated as fair, mainly due to the organisation already being aware of Erasmus+ opportunities and subsequent difficulties in developing contacts with local youth organisations having time to engage in international projects.

A variety of benefits identified included:

- a much better understanding of the European context for youth work in terms of structures, policy and funding opportunities;
- links to potential partners and projects developed;
- being motivated to take a group of young people abroad.



As a result of the information sessions:

- one group participated in a study trip to Vienna, considered a KA2 application and had an awareness of funding options and links into European policy;
- the option of taking a group to Finland was to be explored;
- funding bids were explored to give greater opportunities to young people.

### 6.3. Support for the Development of Proposals and Applications

- **'Listening Service'**: a Listening Service was available to individual organisations seeking advice and information in order to support the development of potential project proposals.

Initial contacts were made by the Ambassadors to generate interest in the opportunities available through KA1. New project ideas began to emerge through this activity and the Ambassadors' feedback included:

- a university in England developed an interest in an exchange programme with students in Sweden and the Ambassador was able to emphasise the importance of reaching the disadvantaged in the community;
- a group was supported in developing their ideas for KA1 and KA2 proposals;
- a youth leader was keen to explore opportunities for a new project.
- **Feedback service**: a Feedback Service was available with members of the 'E+ Ambassadors' Group providing written comments by e-mail on 'Initial Proposals. The Ambassadors' feedback regarding this service was very positive and included:
  - exploratory conversations held on project ideas, objectives, target groups and partnerships;
  - had a conversation for 2.5hrs plus follow up e-mails;
  - advice given on aspects of the application process;
  - was invited to discuss a major Erasmus+ application in which a College was interested;

This service was absolutely essential to promote relevant ideas and projects.

- **Contact Making Seminar**: a two day Contact Making Seminar was held in June. It was attended by representatives from 10 local groups who were keen to develop applications but lacked experience or a network of potential partners. The 10 international participants had been drawn from contacts made by the Project Co-ordinator at previous events and who had been willing to share their expertise and ideas and develop their networks. The Project Co-ordinator acknowledged the





challenges involved in matching the numbers and the potential needs of the locals with the experience of the internationals.

The initial target was for 10 project ideas, but 8 were developed. It was a considerable achievement to bring 10 experienced practitioners from across Europe and the local groups benefited considerably, not only from the support for the development of projects but from the energy and enthusiasm of the visitors.

The Seminar was the highlight of the project and there was tremendous energy in the room throughout. It emphasised the value of the one to one, face to face contact and the importance of connecting with like-minded peers in Northern Ireland. More details of the Seminar programme are given in Appendix 4.

Feedback from those involved was extremely positive with the following providing a flavour of the benefit of this activity: additional comments are also included in the Appendix:

- great cross-pollination, both local and international;
  - positive experience, real learning opportunity;
  - manifestation of what can happen if you bring the right people together with strong will and really inspired to work;
  - a fantastic opportunity to meet Erasmus+ experts and to make local connections for future partnership working.
- **Follow Up Peer Support Meeting** To continue to help the local people in developing their applications and to maintain momentum, a LID+ Peer Support meeting was held on 26th July and 4 participants from the CMS took advantage of this. All were involved in developing Key Action 1 proposals and the opportunity was taken to work through a draft application form, with a detailed discussion on the significant aspects to be highlighted. Two of the groups were registered with the Education Authority and were in the process of identifying a suitable voluntary lead partner in order to maximise potential impact in their geographical area of work.

Feedback identified the significant value of this event:

- the follow-on LID+ seminar was very helpful in terms of the practical development of applications. Whereas we had focused more on the theoretical development of projects, the need for them and identified partners at the residential, the second workshop was great to make sure we understood all the questions correctly on the application;
- It was really useful to be guided through each part of the application and have the opportunity to ask questions to be clear about what was required;
- the workshop showed me that it would have taken me more than one attempt to produce a successful bid. The format as it stands at the moment can only be of benefit to all participants;

- this event gave me the opportunity to re-evaluate ideas discussed at the Seminar. Being able to get support and bounce ideas about gave us a great opportunity to help us all learn from each other.

Such was the success of this approach in having the Seminar and the Follow Up that it is planned to be repeated on 6 and 7 December 2017.

- **Mentoring Service** A mentoring Service was considered important in order to provide tailored support and ensure the full development of applications. As mentioned above, 4 of the local people who developed ideas during the Contact Making Seminar attended the follow up event to further develop their proposals and their initial proposals progressed to a more detailed stage of development. The Ambassadors were also involved in this activity and their feedback included:
  - had a lengthy Facebook Messenger exchange with two youth workers interested in an exchange with Finland, put them in touch with a potential partner and worked on a project idea which will be submitted for the February 2018 deadline;
  - this was seen by interested groups as a great way to proceed through the application process.

The value of this support was acknowledged in a comment from one organisation, which stated, "working with Ambassador constantly and receiving feedback on all aspects of the application process, following through to the submission of applications."

- **'Live Network'**: a Live Network was established between Inside Out and its already existing partners to support the development of local proposals from potential applications to 'submission-ready applications'. Of the 13 members engaged in this Network, 10 took part in the Contact Making Seminar. As indicated above, the Seminar was very successful. The involvement of so many international partners was a reflection of the esteem in which the Project Co-ordinator is held by his peers. It should also be noted that an additional 4 'new' partner organisations (5 different individuals) will attend the second seminar increasing the network to 17 partner organisations.

#### 6.4. Overall Impact with Regard to the Support for the Development of Proposals and Applications

In late September, a questionnaire was circulated to 41 people known to have attended the above mentioned events. There were 14 responses representing a significant response rate of 34%. The responses showed that LID+ scored mostly excellent or very good in relation to the statements e.g., increasing awareness of Erasmus+, how to make useful contacts, etc. A variety of benefits, were identified which included:

- a much better understanding of the process;
- potential barriers removed which would stop us from applying for funding;
- encouragement to develop an application in the near future;
- proposals could be developed on a sustainable partnership after the re-connection of the local and international organisations;
- learning and experiences garnered enabled us to submit 4 E+ applications;





- beneficial to meet those from other countries involved in similar work to us, to hear what has worked elsewhere and to have formed links and networks across the EU;
- it was good to share my knowledge and experience and to make partnerships with new organisations;
- making strong contacts with others face to face is extremely beneficial;
- on-going support was essential prior to, during and post seminar resulted in a better understanding of the process involved;
- will use my new knowledge to talk to young people about travel and opportunities open to them.

### 6.5. Experience of Those Involved in International Learning Opportunities:

International learning opportunities were to be made available to 20 young leaders, youth workers and other practitioners with a remit for young people who wanted to sample the international environment. In actual practice, a Live International Network was available to support local partners and this enabled one practitioner from Northern Ireland to attend a seminar in Austria, 4 young people and one young leader attended a programme in Slovenia and 1 practitioner and a young leader attended a programme in Netherlands.

### 6.6. Overall Impact with Regard to Involvement in International Learning Opportunities

In late September, a questionnaire was circulated to 6 people known to have attended these international events (attached as an appendix) although none were returned. However, at the Evaluation Event the consultants took the opportunity to interview two of these individuals and their experiences were as follows:

**One was a graduate from Manchester University who referred to her Exchange experience. E+ gave her financial stability so, instead of going to Australia, she went to Sweden for 6 months, constantly challenging herself. Coming home was a reverse cultural shock but the event gave her a great confidence boost. She had never heard about the wide range of opportunities available through E+ and she feels that more needs to be done to create awareness of them;**

**One spoke about her involvement in exchanges, one was music based and the other on European identity. This has influenced her research into informal and creative methodologies to address identities. People on exchanges come with prejudices but are forced to think critically. The major narrative we hear on the news differs from individual perceptions. Informal methodologies can build bridges and she cited an example of an Afghan and an Iranian taking part in a programme together after initial tensions.**

## 6.7. Sharing Learning and Experience

Throughout the LID+ Project, there was an on-going emphasis on the sharing of learning experience. This was evidenced particularly by the work of the Resource Group, the involvement of the international Ambassadors and those involved in the Evaluation Event. Sharing learning and experience will culminate in the Market Place event to be held on 8 December 2017 when the learning from LID+ will be shared with a wide audience.

- **Members of the Resource Group** shared their experience throughout the project. Quarterly meetings were held with the Project Co-ordinator. Members attended the Ambassador training, first Contact Making Seminar, follow up (Peer Support) Applications Workshop and the 'Evaluation+' Event. The Group made a positive contribution by:
  - Reviewing documentation regarding the Ambassadors including Role Description, Contract and Code of Conduct;
  - Ensuring symmetry with Education Authority activities and through their supporting circulation of the LID+ project bulletins;
  - Identifying and recommending potential E+ ambassadors;
  - Analysing the statistics in relation to YiA and Erasmus+ applications;
  - Assisting with the Impact Study and developing the various questionnaires.
- **The international Ambassadors brought** a wealth of experience to the Contact Making Seminar. The comments made by the local participants at that event emphasised the value they had placed on the shared learning and experience and how their plans had developed subsequently. It was clear that the support from the Ambassadors played a key role in getting people from mere ideas to submission. Being available, on-hand to provide support and reassurance made the difference between making it "over the line" or not. It is one dimension to have all the information but it is another element entirely to take that information and transform it into an application. Without the extra layer of personal support offered by the Ambassadors the likelihood of submitting an application is much less. The personal touch is as essential as it is invaluable.
- **Evaluation+' Event** A two-day Evaluation Event for those directly involved in any Erasmus+ activity over the previous 30 years was held in Derry on 26-27 October 2017. The aim was to enable users to share their learning and experience, and evaluate and analyse the process they have been through by:
  - assessing the impact of Erasmus+ and predecessor programmes;
  - assessing the impact of participation in Erasmus+;



- assessing the impact of LID+ and its role in promoting Erasmus+ in the UK;
- providing an opportunity to share learning and experience.

Twenty-one people took part and included young people aged 18+, youth leaders, youth workers and other practitioners with a remit for young people. In group work and plenary sessions a range of issues were explored including key learning, follow-up action, the impact of the international on the local, support/policy requirements, Erasmus+ promotional opportunities and changes participants might make to Erasmus+.

The event was intensive and required the full commitment of everyone with the closing comments on the testimonial board summing up the value of this initiative:

- great to make connections;
- amazing opportunity to network and gain new insights from the E+ veterans;
- proposed really exciting developments for the future – pumped!
- provided me with the bridge to the next level; the magic of E+.

More details are provided in Appendix 5.

- **‘Market Place’**, a 30th Anniversary Celebration Event aims to afford all groups from Northern Ireland involved in Youth for Europe, YOUTH, Youth in Action and Erasmus+ the opportunity to ‘market’, celebrate and contribute to a one-off celebration event.

On 8 December 2017 LID+, with the support of the Education Authority, YouthActionNI, Boys and Girls Clubs Northern Ireland and EUROPE Direct InformationCentre-Northern Ireland, will be holding an interactive celebration “Market Place” event in Derry-Londonderry. ‘Market Place’ will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Erasmus+ and will also provide an opportunity for local groups who have been involved in International Youth Work over the decades to exhibit and promote models of practice that have been developed for the sector.

Market Place will be participatory and interactive with workshops, inputs, some storytelling as well as opportunities for sharing resources and methodologies, networking, selling/promoting project ideas

and looking at best practice. Special features will include the attendance of international youth work practitioners and trainers, ‘motivational moments’ ‘Human Library’ and the launch of this LID+ Impact Report.

The event was promoted widely throughout the youth sector. It was recognised that there is a need to avoid overlap with National Agency activities, although the LID+ focus is solely on Key Action 1.



# 7

## Evidence of Post-Project Impact

The second stage of the Report was to provide evidence of continued impact in order to help promote and sustain engagement post-programme.

The evidence for continued impact identified by the consultants included:

- **the number of applications submitted:** the anticipated 41 complete applications was always going to prove ambitious but with 16 applications already submitted by the October 17 deadline (as a direct result of LID+ intervention) and with the Contact Making Seminar due to come in December, it is conceivable that the baseline of 28 might still be achieved by February (or even the resulting May deadline). This is a significant step forward as LID+ was essentially reaching groups which were inexperienced in terms of European funding as opposed to those which already had a track record in that regard;
- **the number of groups expressing an intention to submit an application:** the seeds which had been sown during LID+ and the ideas which had begun to develop throughout the process have generated proposals which will develop during 2018;
- **the demand for a second Contact Making Seminar:** such was the success of the first Seminar that there was a demand for a second event to be organised and this will take place in December 2017. The response from both local and international contacts was evidence of the value of an event such as this and the numbers signed up for involvement point to a full complement of participants;
- **the development of partnerships:** the development of partnerships between LID+ and a range of organisations will ensure that support will exist to help sustain engagement post-programme.



## 8 Assessment of LID+ Outcomes



The third stage of the Report was to assess the success of the four main outcomes in relation to increases in:

- (i) awareness of the Erasmus+ Programme;
- (ii) numbers expressing an interest in participating in the Erasmus+ programme;
- (iii) the number of 'submission-ready' applications (post-programme); and
- (iv) the number of applications submitted, measuring the increases against the number of users not previously engaged in the programme.

### (i) awareness of the Erasmus+ Programme

In addition to the Programme launch and the Public Information sessions mentioned above, this was achieved by:

**Social Media:** A Facebook Page and Twitter Account: The Facebook Page has 112 followers including those from a youth work background and with an interest in Erasmus+. Whilst this might sound a small number, the context reflects the reality that there are many Erasmus+ Facebook Groups making it difficult to make an impression within this wider field. The number is still significant given the narrower LID+ focus, therefore without a more robust manipulation of data the ability of the report authors to produce an in-depth analysis of impact is limited. Currently the LID+ Twitter account has 101 followers and just as there is a limited scope with the Facebook account, the same can be said for Twitter. At the time of writing, LID+ has been very active with more than 1,300 tweets. With regard to a web presence, rather than having a separate website it was decided to add a single page to the current LID website: unfortunately there was no counter in place and it was not possible to assess the level of hits to this page.

**Initial contact meetings:** these were held with a range of youth and community organisations, the University of Ulster and Councils within Northern Ireland and positive feedback received;

**Information Bulletins:** these were planned to be bi-monthly but this target was exceeded, with 21 editions and over 1,500 subscribers. These included a significant amount of information about Erasmus+ and the many opportunities it offers. It identified links to relevant sites and points of contact for additional information.

### (ii) numbers expressing an interest in participating in the Erasmus+ programme

**Promoting awareness:** The "promoting awareness" process mentioned above achieved this.

**KA1 applications:** An analysis of the successful KA1 applications from 2014-2016 showed that 22 organisations from Northern Ireland submitted 58 applications. None of these were involved in the Contact Making Seminar which involved 10 organisations that had expressed interest in participating in Erasmus+ for the first time. The Ambassadors also generated interest with a wide range of organisations, although it was not possible to provide an exact total.



**Lifting the LID+:** The August Edition of the Lifting the LID+ newsletter proposed holding a second Contact Making Seminar towards the end of 2017 and invited expressions of interest. Ten organisations relatively new to Erasmus+ are signed up to participate in this initiative.

### **(iii) the number of 'submission-ready' applications (post-programme)**

The initial plan to have 41 proposals was too ambitious particularly as many of the groups which have been supported through the process are new to Erasmus+. Eight proposals from groups in Northern Ireland **have** been developed with three submitted to the October 2017 deadline and commitment to support the remaining five proposals through to submission. In addition, 13 applications were submitted as a result of the work undertaken by the Ambassadors.

### **(iv) the number of applications submitted measuring the increases against the number of users not previously engaged in the programme.**

This was achieved by an analysis of available statistics in relation to the involvement of Northern Ireland based organisations in YiA and Erasmus+. The project can undoubtedly claim to have been successful in introducing new organisations to Erasmus+ and to have enabled others to improve the quality of their applications.

In addition to the eight proposals developed by Northern Ireland based organisations, the reports from the Ambassadors participants in the various events point to 12 additional applications, which have already been submitted.

In this regard, a concern of the Resource Group was that in 2014, 2015 and 2016 the percentage of KA1 applications, which were unsuccessful due to a lack of funds represented 11.1, 22.9 and 9.1 per cent respectively. Given these statistics and the UK comparative figures (272 in these 3 years), it is possible that efforts to increase the number of new applications and improving the quality of others would merely serve to increase the number of unsuccessful applications due to a lack of funds unless there is a major injection of additional funding into the programme.



# 9

## Summary of Findings

**“Impact” is defined in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide as “the effect that the activity carried out and its results have on people, practices, organisations and systems”.**

**The impact on people:** LID+ can be deemed to have had a very positive impact on the participants. In general, people are more aware of the opportunities and support available through Erasmus+. For those more deeply engaged in the LID+ programme through the Contact Making Seminar and other support measures, the whole experience broke down the programme for them and helped them overcome fears of the whole process being a 'daunting task'.

The impact on practice: a Model of Practice for the delivery of LID+ services emerged, which includes the following elements:

- initial contact through information sessions;
- a more detailed contact meeting;
- attendance at a residential;
- a follow up meeting to firm up the proposal;
- attendance at an applications workshop with a focus on a template application form;
- attendance at a further follow up meeting to support the development of an application for submission;
- receipt of feedback on the application; and
- submission.

**The impact on organisations:** a significant number of proposals or completed applications were developed by a range of organisations. A further consideration will be the need to provide on-going support to any organisation which is successful in obtaining funding: the current LID+ status and termination of the programme, may not enable this to come to fruition.

**The impact on systems** included:

- the stand alone public information sessions did not attract much interest and it was better to offer the information in the context of a wider event. This was evidenced in the sessions offered in various district council areas when, despite the support from council officials, attendance was low and did not warrant the effort made. It may be beneficial to consider greater synergy/engagement with the Erasmus+ National Agency Information Sessions;
- only two of the seven initiatives supported by the EC to promote involvement in Erasmus+ projects had UK wide remits: LID+ and Momentum World, with the others being country/ area specific. The LID+ experience provided the valuable opportunity to test the model of Ambassadors from each country and there was dynamism between the countries. However, it proved difficult to get Ambassadors from Scotland as those with experience were already involved in a national project and the LID+ Co-ordinator experienced some difficulties in managing and co-ordination of a geographically diverse project;
- it is possible that efforts to increase the number of new applications and improving the quality of others would merely serve to increase the number of unsuccessful applications due to a lack of funds unless there is a major injection of additional funding into the programme.

## 10 Recommendations

Based on analysis of the LID+ experience and the findings emerging from the evaluation process, the following recommendations are brought forward for consideration:

- **in the current uncertain and evolving political environment, the European Commission should actively consider funding LID+ for a further year/15 months to March 2019;**
- **should LID+ be in receipt of additional resources, there needs to be greater complementarity and closer co-operation between interested parties, for example, the UK National Agency, Eurodesk and the Education Authority in the promotion of, and support to engage in, international youth mobility opportunities through Erasmus+;**
- **if LID+ is actively supported in moving forward, there should be a more narrow geographic focus on Northern Ireland rather than extending its remit to Great Britain;**
- **the Contact Making Seminar and focused support for the development of proposals should be actively encouraged and included as an integral part of any future LID+ initiative;**
- **the emerging Model of Practice through the LID+ programme should be further developed and promoted as a supportive way of encouraging involvement in Erasmus+ initiatives.**

## 11 Acknowledgements

The consultants would like to thank the individuals who offered their valuable time and honest reflections by engaging in this process. Particular thanks must go to:

- **those who came from across Europe and the UK to take part in the Contact Making Seminar and 'Evaluation+' events;**
- **those who responded to the various questionnaires and expressed their opinions very honestly;**
- **Europe Direct for providing a table of information material at the Seminar and Evaluation event;**
- **Fergal Barr for his invaluable support in providing background information.**

# Appendix

## 1

### Groups Funded by EC to Promote Erasmus+ in the UK

#### Access Europe

'Promoting Erasmus+ in the UK' (remit England) – using outreach activities to engage 3rd sector organisations and local authorities working with young people.

#### College Development Network

'Promoting Erasmus+ in Scotland' (remit Scotland). Raise the profile of Erasmus+ in Scotland in colleges.

#### College Wales

'Erasmus+ - vocational expertise in Wales' (remit Wales) – raising awareness, encourage applications and developing skills and resources.

#### The Inside Out Programme

'LID+' (remit UK) – increases in (i) awareness, (ii) numbers expressing an interest in E+ (iii) 'submission-ready' applications & (iv) applications submitted.

#### My Life My Say (MLMS)

'Cafe Europe' (remit England) – promote vocational training, volunteering abroad and youth exchanges through the Erasmus+ Programme.

#### Momentum World

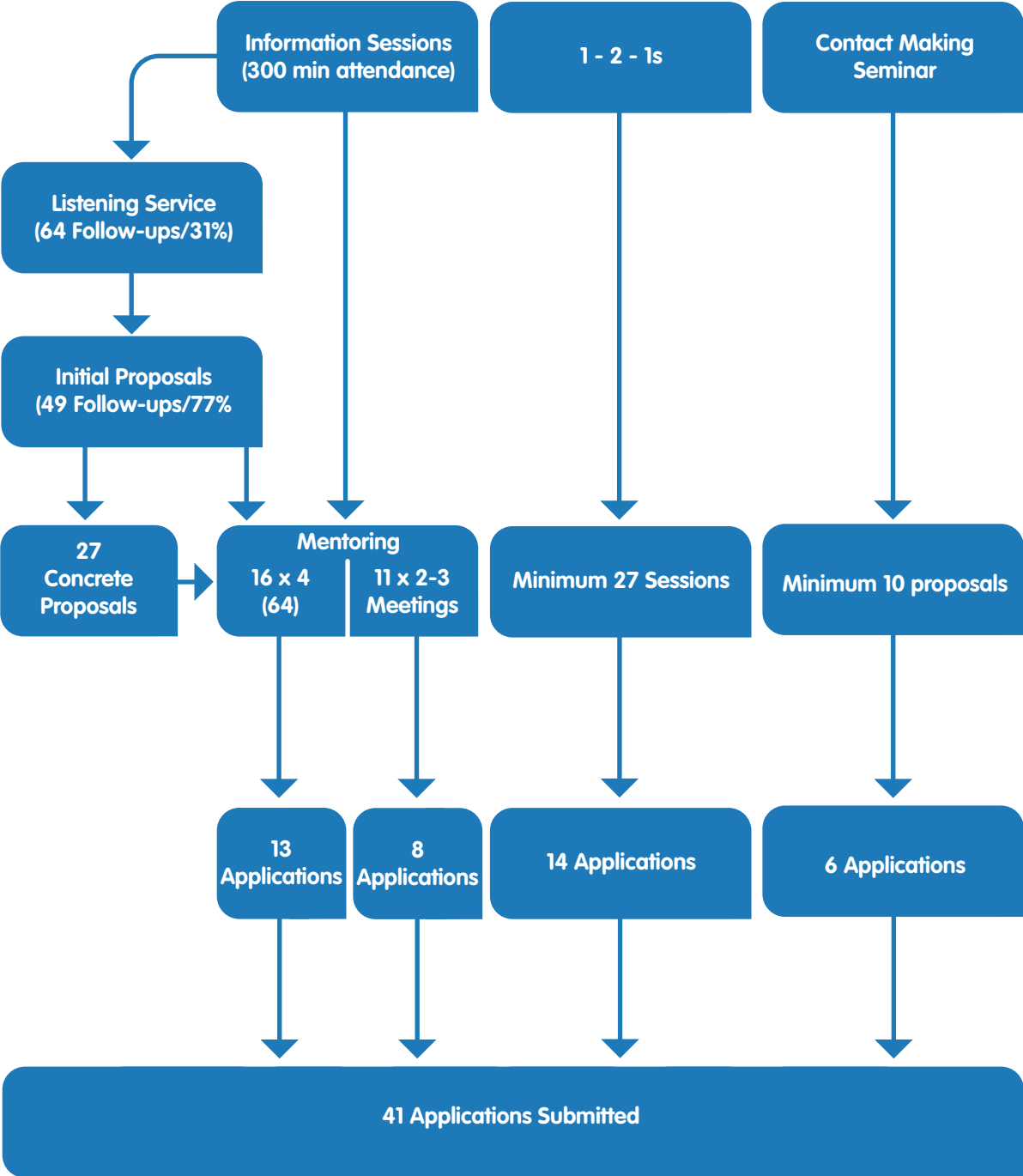
'EuroPeers UK: (remit UK) - Sharing the European Experience' (remit UK) – promote E+, EVS & the European idea to a wide audience of young people and adult multipliers.

#### YouthLink Scotland

'Unlocking the potential of Erasmus+: Masterclass Programme' (remit Scotland); further the engagement of British Youth with the EU and Europe through engaging with the youth sector in Scotland.

# Appendix 2

## LID+ Projected Applications Process



# Appendix

## 3

### Role Description for Ambassadors

- To attend and participate Information and Training Workshop in Derry in March
- Organise Information Sessions (including timing and location) in order to inform local publics about the Erasmus+ Programme
- Offer 'Listening Service' to groups seeking advice and information in order to support the development of potential project proposals
- Provide feedback to groups that have an idea already written and feedback is likely to lead them to preparing an application
- Identify and provide tailored mentoring support to groups that is likely to lead to the development of a full application
- Provide 'One-to-Ones', i.e., 'last-minute feedback' so as to critique draft applications that are (almost) 'submission ready'
- Organise 'Development Workshops' (by liaising with practitioners such as local youth workers, teachers, church leaders, football coaches, etc) with young people aged 13+ to support their introduction to and involvement with Erasmus+ with the specific task of nurturing and harnessing and/or responding to identified needs that might lead to the development of themes for potential youth exchange applications
- Focus (primarily) on young people, particularly those facing lack of opportunity
- Carry out tasks not yet identified that can be reasonably assumed to form part of the role of 'E+ Ambassador' which uphold the aims of the project yet do not compromise the integrity of the Ambassador
- Follow the Code of Conduct as set out for the role of E+ Ambassador.

# Appendix

## 4

### Contact Making Seminar: 8-11 June 2017

The context for the Seminar was that the LID+ project was one of seven initiatives across the UK designed to promote Erasmus+. This particular event was unique as it was the only contact making seminar in any of the initiatives. It was essentially a networking experience which should lead to the development of applications. Contact between participants could be maintained through Twitter and Facebook – #LID Seminar and LID+ @LIDProgramme. There was a very good display of EU materials provided by Eurodesk.

Those present included representatives from 10 local groups who had responded to an invitation from the Project Co-ordinator or through word of mouth contact and who were keen to develop applications but lacked experience or a network of potential partners. The 10 international participants were drawn from contacts made by the Project Co-ordinator at previous events and who were willing to share their expertise and develop their networks. There were logistical difficulties in matching the numbers and also trying to match the potential needs of the locals with the experience of the internationals.

Introductions were made with participants explaining that they were keen to develop or expand networks, look for ideas e.g. tackling drugs, use of arts/ music/video in youth work, Youth Parliament, etc. The programme then took the form of “speed-dating” with the local participants sitting in the inner circle and the international participants sitting in the outer circle. Round one was the locals explaining what their organisations did and round two was the internationals explaining what they did.

The next stage involved the locals outlining the type of project they would like to develop with the internationals critiquing these. The ideas were still embryonic at this stage and there was a need to understand each others’ context and how to include those from various European backgrounds as partners. The Who Liked What session involved sharing initial thoughts and these included – the positive sense of talking to others, being re-committed to engagement, identifying initial themes – conflict/use of arts/diversity/mental health and delivery tools for trainers etc. Throughout this session there was evidence of the goodwill and enthusiasm to help witnessed by the locals.

The locals then took time to begin to formulate their thoughts – “I have so many ideas going round in my head”... “but Erasmus+ is limited to those who know about it”. The ideas then began to evolve under themes – exchanges in various topics, empowerment of practitioners eg to challenge racism, training for full time workers who could cascade learning to part timers/volunteers, use of arts or innovative ways to explore issues etc. Locals then began to see how they resonated with some of these topics.

After lunch small groups began to work on projects of common interest with an essential framework which could lead into the application. The international groups were able to share their experience, ensure that the scope of the project was not too broad, not to be too ambitious in the first application e.g. start with an exchange, study visits can help develop relationships with partners, recommend that mobility projects should involve 2/3 people from 5/6 countries.

The feedback from the participants, both local and international, was extremely positive and it is only possible to include some very brief examples of the views expressed.

- **I had floundered when I had previously opened the Programme Guide and applications and therefore never completed anything. I can now take this learning back to other groups.**
- **People have broken down the application form for me so I understand what needs to be included.**
- **We can follow-up locally in terms of work that can be done. It was a unique experience. The support was great particularly given the daunting nature of the guidance and application.**
- **Intensive and productive two days. Developed quality projects. The local community has now been empowered in relation to Erasmus+.**
- **Been a great opportunity to develop the application and space for thinking and planning the next phase. Great cross-pollination both local and international.**
- **Achieved a lot in two days. Reference the time scale – showed we needed a longer period of time. Looking forward to working together.**
- **Manifestation of what can happen if you bring the right people together with strong will and really inspired to work.**
- **Good job to get the people to come here and to get the local people to attend.**



# Appendix

## 5

### 'Evaluation+' Event, White Horse Hotel, Derry, 27-28 October 2107

In setting the scene, the Project Co-ordinator outlined the remit of LID+ and indicated that an Impact Report had to be prepared on the overall project. The Evaluation Event was an important part of that process.

To provide further background there were inputs from 4 speakers:

- **Jason Jordan from the Education Authority Youth Service spoke about an Exchange visit to Denmark with 8 young people;**
- **Karen Oroz, an EVS volunteer from Spain, based in Carrick YMCA described how she is now in a new culture and is learning from it;**
- **Megan O'Kane spoke about her involvement. She emphasised that people on exchanges come with prejudices but are forced to think critically;**
- **Jenny Brisbane, a graduate from Manchester University went to Sweden on an exchange for 6 months, constantly challenging herself. Coming home was a reverse cultural shock but the event gave her a great confidence boost.**

**Group discussions** involved three groups – Training, Exchange and Others – and they considered **What was the key learning for you? What did you do with it? What is the impact of the international on the local?**

Feedback during a plenary session included:

- **Understanding the cultural context of an event is important; participants have been able to adapt and use the learning acquired and become more aware of cultural differences. The events can be life changing but it is important to have a safe space and agreed ground rules; there was a concern that organisations are not made accountable for what they do with their new learning.**
- **The benefits of an exchange include confidence building, broadening of horizons, overcome the challenges of languages, relational driven, be a safe space to share experiences, life changing opportunities and how to work with young people more effectively.**
- **Young people needed help to apply what they had learned and have a mentor identified who could do this; one off events are of limited value unless other opportunities can emerge; everything we do can have a ripple effect; the impact can be that we are less insular, we have to learn to face our prejudices.**

Day 2 began with 4 presentations:

- **Karen Morrison from the European Commission office in Belfast described her role in sharing information in schools and encouraging young people to look outwards. She also touched on the disparate information strands about support for European activity. She was encouraged by the Group to understand the importance of the face to face support which was available through LID+ as a result of the funding and pressed to do what she could to have this continued.**
- **Jenny Brisbane spoke about Europeers, a youth led network whose members will inspire and motivate others to become involved in European activity and who network with each other.**
- **Fergal Barr introduced the LID website and the link to LID+ and provided details of the range of support services provided. He also drew attention to the bulletin and Facebook and emphasised that LID+ is a bridge between small organisations and E+.**

- **Heather McLaughlin spoke about Time to Move and the information which is available about European opportunities. The first point of contact is the European Commission office which, in turn, funds organisations which can signpost to sources of support. These include Europe Direct, Eurodesk and European Youth Portal.**

**Group discussions** Questions explored included: What is required of those in power to enable involvement in international work? What would make participation in E+ easier? What would encourage you to become further involved? What would encourage you to become further involved? How can International Youth Work benefit and support local youth work? What can be done to encourage more participants? T:BUC – Together Building a United Community and NI A forward looking region – Are we?

The discussions were summarised during a plenary session::

- **Participation corner: lack of funding is an issue; too much commitment is required from part time staff; branding is a problem as it is not youth friendly and there needs to be a youth led campaign.**
- **Promotion corner: Podcasts can provide fast effective messages; possibly compile a series of blogs and start a conversation; rebranding needed to get to the core of what E+ can do; produce an interactive calendar with a year long log of events; produce information about E+ in a comic format with a recognisable cartoon character.**
- **Practice corner: the value of international work needs to be given recognition; there needs to be belief by the worker in the process; approaches can be different between statutory/voluntary and permanent/volunteer staffing; universal learning can bring a model of practice to the local scenario;**
- **Policy corner: there needs to be adequate and sustainable funding; more support is required for groups; too much bureaucracy; needs to be better marketing and branding with a clear message; there should be a hardship fund for those unable to become involved.**

The event was intensive and required the full commitment of everyone. Closing comments on the testimonial board summed it up - great to make connections, amazing opportunity to network and gain new insights from the E+ veterans; proposed really exciting developments for the future – pumped! provided me with the bridge to the next level; the magic of E+.

# Appendix

## 6

### Statistics Showing Each year for NI and the Three Year Total for Scotland, England and Wales

Key Action 1	2014	2015	2016	NI Total	Scotland	Wales	England
Successful	24	19	15	58	44	40	579
Unsuccessful (lack of funds)	5	8	3	16	16	17	223
Unsuccessful (failed min criteria)	16	7	6	29	30	16	324
Ineligible	0	1	7	8	18	6	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1277</b>
Key Action 2							
Successful	1	1	1	3	1	4	20
Unsuccessful (lack of funds)	1	5	1	7	16	7	112
Unsuccessful (failed min criteria)	5	6	5	16	29	12	135
Ineligible	1	1	0	2	5	1	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>287</b>
Key Action 3							
Successful	2	2	0	4	0	3	28
Unsuccessful (lack of funds)	0	2	3	5	2	1	31
Unsuccessful (failed min criteria)	0	1	1	2	1	0	18
Ineligible	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1645</b>

### Value of Successful NI Applications

	2014	2015	2016
KA1	€526k	€647k	€572k
KA2	€300k	€270k	€228k
KA3	€71k	€86k	€0k
<b>Total</b>	<b>€897k</b>	<b>€1003k</b>	<b>€801k</b>

## Percentage of Unsuccessful KA1 Applications due to Lack of Funds

	2014	2015	2016	Total
UK	10.1	14.6	23.8	17.2 (272)
England	9.1	14.0	25.3	17.5 (223)
NI	11.1	22.9	9.7	14.4 (16)
Scotland	15.0	16.7	13.5	14.8 (16)
Wales	18.2	9.5	30.6	21.5 (17)

## The Success Rate for NI Applications is Much Less Than During YiA

YiA (all measures)	Submitted	Approved	Success Rate
2007	59	41	69.5%
2009	79	58	73.4%
2011	52	42	80.8%
2007-11	326	234	71.8%
KA1-3			
2014	55	27	49.1%
2015	54	22	40.1%
2016	42	16	38.1%

These tables do not reflect the numbers of groups from Northern Ireland which feature in other countries' applications.

# Appendix 7

## Market Place Programme

**Market Place:** Celebrating 30 Years of Erasmus+ & International Youth Work Practice

Funded by the European Commission under 'Promoting Erasmus+ in the UK 2017 Initiative'

**'LID+' is one of only seven European Commission funded projects tasked with 'Promoting Erasmus+ in the UK in 2017'. Whether it's EYS (European Voluntary Service), Youth Exchange, Training Programme or Seminar, LID+ can support your potential involvement in Erasmus+ through a range of free bespoke services that can take you from mere idea to submission ready application.**

- ### What do we provide?
- (i) E+ Ambassadors' support access to and participation in the Erasmus+ Programme for new or experienced users
  - (ii) International Contact Making Seminars - match Local Practitioners with International Experts so as to help nurture and support the development of projects with a view to submission to the Erasmus+ Programme (next Seminar, 6th & 7th Dec 2017 - places available)
  - (iii) Lifting the Lid - monthly Newsletter provides up to date information on all aspects of Erasmus+ and International Youth Work
  - (iv) LID+ Facebook Group - almost daily supply of related news ensures that you stay informed
  - (v) Evaluation+ - two-day evaluation meeting that creates space and time to reflect on the True Impact that 30 years of Erasmus+ (and predecessors Youth for Europe, YOUTH and Youth in Action) has had on current and former users, promoters and participants (26th & 27th Oct 2017 - places available)
  - (vi) Applications Workshop - takes potential applicants through the application step-by-step to better understand the types of answers expected by the National Agency
  - (vii) Pop Up+ - can pop up anywhere to respond to need and is available to potential applicants who want to call in and ask questions, go through an application form, discuss their proposal or any other matter related to preparing an application
  - (viii) 'Impact Report' will report on the 'LID+' project noting the impact it has had on users as well as documenting impact of the Erasmus+ Programme on users
  - (ix) International Learning Opportunities are made available to young leaders, youth workers & other practitioners with a remit for young people who would like to sample the international environment
  - (x) Live International Network is ready and on hand to 'sign up' and support as local partners who wish to submit to the UK National Agency
  - (xi) 'Market Place' bringing stakeholders from across various sectors to celebrate 30 years of Erasmus+ & International Youth Work in Derry-Londonderry on 8th December 2017
- ### Role of E+ Ambassadors
- Organise information Sessions in order to inform local publics about the Erasmus+ Programme
  - Offer 'Listening Service' to groups seeking advice and information in order to support the development of potential project proposals
  - Provide feedback to groups that have an idea already written and feedback is likely to lead them to preparing an application
  - Identify and provide tailored Mentoring support to groups that is likely to lead to the development of a full application
  - Provide 'One-to-Ones', i.e., 'last-minute feedback' so as to critique draft applications that are (almost) 'submission ready'
  - Organise 'Development Workshops' for local youth workers, teachers, church leaders, football coaches, etc for young people aged 16+ to support their introduction to and involvement with Erasmus+ with the specific task of nurturing and harnessing and/or responding to identified needs that might lead to the development of themes for potential youth exchange applications





# Market Place:

LID+ with the support of YouthActionNI, The Education Authority, Boys and Girls Clubs Northern Ireland and EUROPE Direct Information Centre – Northern Ireland, would like to invite you to exhibit at 'Market Place'.

An interactive celebration event that will not only mark the 30th anniversary of Erasmus+, 'Market Place' also provides an opportunity for local groups to exhibit and promote models of practice (past and present) that have been developed within and/or for the International Youth Work Sector.

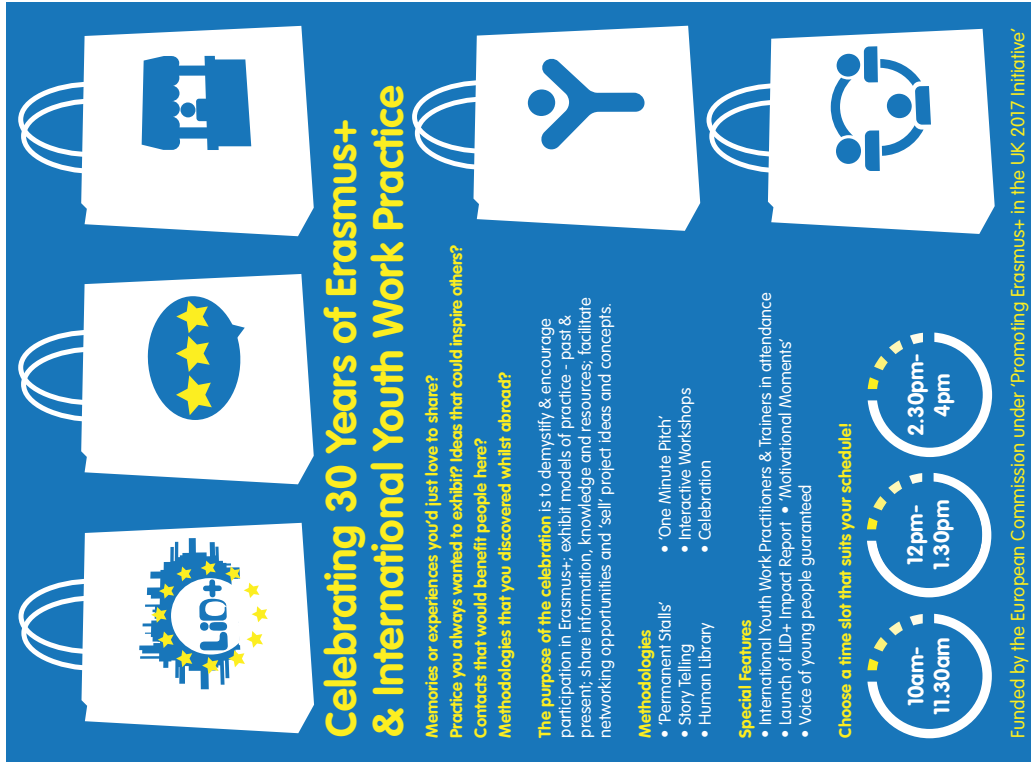
This will be an opportunity for groups from across Northern Ireland that have been involved in International Youth Work over the decades to showcase and promote their work to a wide audience including young people, youth workers, trainers, policy makers, educators and academics.

Whether it has been a youth exchange or job shadow, study visit or EVS, perhaps even a training programme, seminar or conference, if you have been involved in any of these or similar within an international setting, we would like to hear from you. This event is an open invitation to the wider youth work community.

**To accommodate anticipated numbers places are limited to 50 per session so please book your place as soon as possible.**

**Book a stall: Contact Fergal on 079 4459 5864 or email [theilprogramme@hotmail.com](mailto:theilprogramme@hotmail.com)**

**Book your place: Contact Heather on 077 4046 9253 or email [heather@euralink.eu.net](mailto:heather@euralink.eu.net)**

# Celebrating 30 Years of Erasmus+ & International Youth Work Practice

**Memories or experiences you'd just love to share?  
Practice you always wanted to exhibit? Ideas that could inspire others?  
Contacts that would benefit people here?  
Methodologies that you discovered whilst abroad?**

**The purpose of the celebration** is to demystify & encourage participation in Erasmus+ exhibit models of practice - past & present, share information, knowledge and resources, facilitate networking opportunities and 'sell' project ideas and concepts.

**Methodologies**

- 'One Minute Pitch'
- Permanent Skills'
- Story Telling
- Human Library
- Interactive Workshops
- Celebration

**Special Features**

- International Youth Work Practitioners & Trainers in attendance
- Launch of LID+ Impact Report
- 'Motivational Moments'
- Voice of young people guaranteed

**Choose a time slot that suits your schedule!**

- 10am- 11.30am
- 12pm- 1.30pm
- 2.30pm- 4pm

Funded by the European Commission under 'Promoting Erasmus+ in the UK 2017 initiative'





# LiD+

IMPACT REPORT

