

**GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA****Circular No 9/2026****Date: 4th August 2026****Promotion of Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges, Blended Mobilities and Virtual Components across Programme Sectors.**

Dear Applicants,

The Erasmus+ National Agency would like to draw your attention to the opportunities available under the Erasmus+ Programme Guide to integrate digital, virtual and blended approaches into project design and implementation.

The Erasmus+ Programme supports the use of digital tools, virtual learning and virtual cooperation as part of its wider digital transformation priority. The Programme Guide states that Erasmus+ should reach a wider target group through greater use of information and communication technology tools, combined use of physical mobility and virtual learning, and virtual cooperation.

Applicants are therefore encouraged to consider, where eligible and relevant to the action concerned, how their projects may incorporate:

- Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges in the fields of Higher Education and Youth;
- Blended mobility, combining physical mobility with a virtual component;
- Virtual learning activities linked to eligible learner or staff mobility activities;
- Digital tools and learning methods to complement physical activities, improve cooperation between partner organisations, and enhance the quality of learning, teaching, training and cooperation.



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Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges

In the Programme Guide, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges are a specific action in the fields of Higher Education and Youth. They consist of online people-to-person activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development. They take place in small groups and are moderated by trained facilitators.

Virtual exchange activities under this action must be embedded in the youth and higher education sectors. Eligible applicants include entities active in higher education or youth, youth organisations, higher education institutions, and associations or organisations of higher education institutions.

Blended Mobility and Virtual Components in Other Sectors

While the standalone Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges action applies to Higher Education and Youth, the Programme Guide also provides scope for other sectors to include virtual or blended elements within eligible mobility activities, where specified by the relevant action.

Higher Education

Higher education mobility supports physical and blended mobility for students and staff. The Programme Guide states that blended mobility combines physical mobility with a virtual component facilitating collaborative online learning exchange and teamwork. It also provides for blended intensive programmes, which combine short-term physical mobility with a compulsory virtual component for learners.

Vocational Education and Training

In VET learner mobility, eligible activities include participation in VET skills competitions, group mobility of VET learners, short-term learning mobility and long-term learning mobility. The Programme Guide states that, in addition to physical mobility, all learner mobility activities can be blended with virtual learning activities, with the stated minimum and maximum durations applying to the physical mobility component.



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School Education

For school education mobility projects, the Programme Guide states that the Programme supports participating organisations in incorporating digital tools and learning methods to complement physical activities, improve cooperation between partner organisations, and improve the quality of learning and teaching. It also states that staff mobility activities can be blended with virtual learning activities, with the minimum and maximum durations applying to the physical mobility component.

Adult Education

In adult education learner mobility, eligible activities include group mobility of adult learners, short-term learning mobility and long-term learning mobility. The Programme Guide states that, in addition to physical mobility, all learner mobility activities can be blended with virtual learning activities, with the minimum and maximum durations applying to the physical mobility component.

Sport

In the field of sport, the Programme Guide supports mobility of staff in sport organisations, primarily in grassroots sport. It states that participating organisations should actively promote inclusion and diversity, environmental sustainability, digital education, civic engagement and participation. It also states that, in addition to physical mobility, all staff mobility activities can be blended with virtual learning activities, with the minimum and maximum durations applying to the physical mobility component.

Key Message for Applicants

Applicants should not treat virtual activities as a substitute for eligible physical mobility unless the relevant action specifically allows it. Instead, applicants are encouraged to use virtual and digital elements to:

1. Prepare participants before physical mobility, including through online meetings, digital collaboration and learning preparation.
2. Complement physical mobility, where the Programme Guide allows blended mobility or virtual learning activities.



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3. Strengthen cooperation between partner organisations, including through digital tools and online learning methods.
4. Support inclusion, especially where blended formats can help widen access to Erasmus+ opportunities.
5. Improve the quality and impact of projects, by linking virtual components to clear learning outcomes, structured activities and appropriate follow-up.

All proposed virtual or blended components should be relevant to the objectives of the action, linked to the needs of participants and organisations, and consistent with the eligibility rules, quality requirements and funding rules applicable to the sector and action concerned.

Action Recommended

Prospective applicants are encouraged to:

1. Review the relevant section of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide for the sector and action under which they intend to apply.
2. Consider how digital tools, blended mobility or virtual learning components may strengthen the quality, inclusiveness and impact of their project.
3. Ensure that any virtual or blended component is clearly described in the project design, including its objectives, expected learning outcomes, methodology and follow-up.
4. Avoid presenting standalone virtual activities as eligible mobility where the Programme Guide requires a physical mobility component.
5. Contact the Erasmus+ National Agency for guidance on the interpretation of the relevant action rules before submitting an application.

The National Agency encourages applicants across all Erasmus+ sectors to make thoughtful and appropriate use of digital, virtual and blended approaches in line with the Erasmus+ Programme Guide. These approaches can support wider participation, stronger cooperation and higher-quality learning experiences, provided that they are used within the eligibility framework of the relevant action.



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For further guidance, applicants may contact the Erasmus+ National Agency at eupa@gov.mt.

Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing education, training, youth and sport through European and international cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Raphael Scerri

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National Coordinator



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