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OCEANS Network Newsletter

Summer 2019

## Brainstorm Your ESAA Projects Now

The ESAA project proposal call is coming soon. We are excited to send all our great ideas out, so be thinking of a project you are interested and let's make sure to see plenty of OCEANS projects sent out soon. Please contact your National Representative for a sample proposal. No project is too small for funding. Look for the project call online and in the next newsletter.

The next call is planned to be online around end of July! The application timeline will be about 3 weeks! Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. In the meantime, take a look at previous calls and projects for inspiration:

ESAA call: <https://www.esaa-eu.org/.../detail/News/177-open-call-esaa-p.../>

Past projects: <https://www.esaa-eu.org/what-we-do/news/>

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## ESAA Skills Seminar Weekend Bonn, Germany, 21-23.June



We had a great showing of OCEANS members at the Skills Seminar in Bonn, Germany. These members pictured attended workshops on alumni management, volunteer management, stakeholder/ partnership management, and project management. Additionally, we discussed upcoming projects and ESAA collaboration. This trip also served as an orientation to OCEANS for several new members and new national reps.

## Festival D'Europa Florence, Italy; 7-9. May 2019 by Scott Darby



The festival of Europe took place this year in Florence and we spent 3 days promoting and sharing the benefits of the European Union. Erasmus exchanges formed a large part of this promotion. As one of the most influential and successful program (if not the most) to have been created by the European Union it held centre stage over the 3 days during the event.

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**INDIRE had gathered together 130 participants from every European Union country and from every kind of Erasmus. Ranging from OCEANS, ESN, EMA, garagErasmus to etwinning and apprenticeships exchanges.**

**The first day started with group discussions about what could be done to enhance the Erasmus experience focusing around 3 key topics;**

- 1. Express a dream as a former Erasmus+ participant: what kind of activities would you propose for the #ErasmusAlumni?**
- 2. Which channels would you use to spread your experience and feelings to those who still have to join the family?**
- 3. What do you expect from the #ErasmusAlumni network and/or In which way can the network strengthen and support the Alumni in the dissemination activities?**

**The results of the discussion were;**

- 1. We need one area or space to find and connect with other Erasmus organisations but each organisation should have their own unique space within this bigger platform**
- 2. Use all channels but the most impactful is peer to peer**
- 3. They want this new organisation to make it easier to make connections and build partnerships**

**This was then followed by an evening meal and a tour of Chiostro Santa Maria Novella, Giardino degli Aranci, a magnificent cloister in the heart of Florence.**

**The next day was very different, on the second day we focused on outreach to local schools and Universities. Myself, the presidents of ESN and EMA and the representative from garagErasmus went to University of Florence and spoke about our experiences of Erasmus. This was followed by a meeting with INDIRE where the representatives from ESAA talked about ways to collaborate.**

**In the evening we were treated to a performance by the Erasmus orchestra, an orchestra entirely made up of Erasmus exchange students and it was an unforgettable evening. Something that I would gladly attend again.**

**The final day consisted of various speeches that highlighted where Erasmus started, where it is now and where the increased funding Erasmus has received will take it.**

**In summary the whole three days highlighted what a success Erasmus has been and yet what untapped potential still lay in the programme and its alumni.**

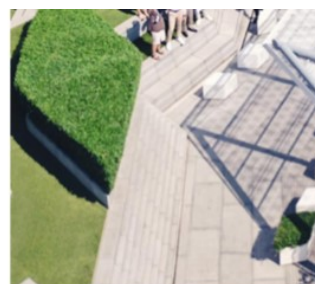
## Erasmus+ Global Partnerships

**Bangkok, Thailand 23-24.May 2019**

Full report by **Neringa Tumenaite** | **Swati Verma** | **Isabelle Eberz**



**Building Youth Partnership Opportunities to  
Advance UN Sustainable Development Goals for Education,  
Peace & Innovation | May 23 - 24 2019 | Bangkok, Thailand**



See the event video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxL5RDkK0RM>



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The world is now home to more than 1.8 billion young people. Yet more often than not, these expected key stakeholders of today's global challenges are pushed to the periphery in key policy-making areas of education, peace, sustainability, and global citizenship. ERASMUS + Global Partnerships (EGP) aims at building youth partnership opportunities to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focussing on Education, Peace and Innovation. The Erasmus+ programme continues to increase its global outlook with programmes that focus on Capacity Building and International mobility programmes. ERASMUS + Global Partnerships embraces the role of partnerships and open innovations within youth and youth-focused organisations to advance and accelerate SDGs, highlighting SDG 17; Partnership for the Goals and building a bridge with Europe's most known Youth Engagement initiative.

#### Webinars & Bangkok Symposium

In an effort to increase digital participation and maximise on delivered trainings - two webinars were hosted on 17th and 18th May on the topic of design thinking and finding the right financing strategy for new innovations in SDGs. Over two days in the heart of Bangkok, the symposium was hosted in the sprawling C-ASEAN tower on 23rd and 24th of May, 2019. The Symposium brought together ERASMUS+ alumni, youth organisations, start-ups, and researchers to facilitate young people in building coalitions, exchanging perspectives in a cross and inter-disciplinary setting, and developing sustainable grassroots solutions for their communities. To summarise, the specific objectives of the project were namely:

- Support capacity building and youth coalitions through knowledge transfer between Asia and the European Union in inter and cross-disciplinary fields;
- Increase access to information regarding opportunities offered by ERASMUS+ for universities, researches, and youth NGOs;
- Facilitate interactive group for youth actors from Asia and the European Union to engage in dialogue and share ideas and practices from their grass-root experiences, break geographical barriers and differences between disciplines to build a global community of active stakeholders and partnerships in SDGs;
- Prepare a list of recommendations targeting international and national donors on how to enhance support for youth and youth-focused organisations in order to strengthen their work towards the SDGs.

If you are interested in reading the full report with recommendations, please email us at [board@oceans-network.eu](mailto:board@oceans-network.eu).

#### **FOLLOW THIS PROJECT AT:**

[www.erasmuspartnerships.org](http://www.erasmuspartnerships.org)

[www.facebook.com/ErasmusGlobalPartnerships](https://www.facebook.com/ErasmusGlobalPartnerships)

<https://www.instagram.com/erasmusglobalpartnerships/>

[https://twitter.com/erasmus\\_global](https://twitter.com/erasmus_global)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeOdkMiR9yonPluqZQA4wA>

## NAFSA 2019

by Scott Darby



*Scott Darby, Stavros Lambrinidis, Jessica Slattery and Themis Christophidou*

As part of the European Union's ongoing drive to encourage and promote international students to study in Europe, OCEANS, EMA and Marie Curie alumni were invited to join the European Commission at the annual NAFSA conference, which this year took place in Washington DC.

The Association of International Educators (NAFSA) is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange, working towards the advancement of policies and practices that ensure a more interconnected, peaceful world today and for generations to come.

During the conference, attended by approximately 10,000 people, the main task for me and the other alumni was to meet with attendees and help explain to them the opportunities for young people to study in Europe, what funding was available and, most crucially, the impact that studying in Europe could have on one's life.

Most of the people that we spoke to were international officers at universities but also representatives from a number of organisations that support students doing exchanges. I gathered a large number of business cards from individuals and will be looking for volunteers to help reach out to all of them so we can give them more information about OCEANS and expand our membership.

The schedule even extended into the evenings where we first attended a reception at the residence of Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Ambassador to the United

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Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce. At the reception, Jessica Slattery, OCEANS Board Member and External Relations Lead, and I had a good conversation with the EU Ambassador who is very keen to promote international exchanges.

The following evening we attended a reception at the Belgium Embassy and spoke with the Belgian Ambassador to the United States, Dirk Wouters, and leadership of the U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program. All of which emphasised the special relationship between the EU and the United States and how exchanges are an essential part of maintaining that relationship.

Overall NAFSA was a great opportunity to promote OCEANS, network with people involved in higher education exchanges and raise awareness about the benefit of doing an exchange.

I highly recommend attending and promotions at NAFSA again next year if the opportunity presents itself.

## Join the OCEANS Working Group



The OCEANS Network grows with the contribution of volunteers. So if you're looking to become more involved, here is the chance!

We are still looking for active volunteers to take part in one of the three working groups for OCEANS - External Relations / Partnership Management / Community Development.

Working as an OCEANS volunteer means an opportunity to develop personal and professional skills while working in a cross-cultural team. We also have upcoming events where the working group can meet and receive training related to the role -- travel scholarships included!

### Limited spots are available!

Click the name of each position below for more details.

- [OCEANS National Representative](#)
- [OCEANS Partnership Management](#)
- [OCEANS Community Development](#)

## Make Sure to Join Us and Spread the Word!



OCEANS

[REGISTER](#) [LOGIN](#)


We have a new Community portal of the Organisation for Cooperation, Exchange And Networking among Students (OCEANS). Whether you have been a member or are brand new, we would like for you to help us rebuild our database on this new platform. You can join by clicking the blue "Register" button in the top right of the page. And then once you're approved please introduce yourself (who you are and where you're currently living and what you'd like to get from joining the community).

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You can check out the community here:

<https://community.oceans-network.eu/>

## All the Best from the Board



Have questions, comments, or suggestions? Contact the OCEANS Network board at [board@oceans-network.eu](mailto:board@oceans-network.eu)



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