



The Estonian Erasmus+ National Agency is organising a cross-sectoral contact seminar open to all Erasmus+ programme countries. The seminar will be held in Tallinn, Estonia in 2018 when the country is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Theme

Digital technologies are key drivers of innovation, growth and job creation in the global world. Not everybody however, has the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be able to use digital technologies in a critical, collaborative and creative way. According to the [Europe's Digital Progress Report](#)¹, 19% of the EU population had no digital skills and 44% can be considered as lacking sufficient digital skills in 2016. 14% of the EU population has never used the internet. These are often older citizens, less educated young people, lower income families and migrants who continue to be at the biggest risk of digital exclusion.

The lack of digital competence of a large part of the EU population has dramatic repercussions on their [employability perspective](#).² The rapid digital transformation of the economy³ means that almost all jobs now require some level of digital skills, as does participation in society at large. Digital skills are now as vital as literacy and numeracy and Europe therefore needs digitally competent people who are not only able to use but also to innovate and lead in using these technologies.

Digital competence⁴ refers to the ability to use digital technologies. It involves the confident and critical use of Information Society Technology (IST) for work, leisure and communication. It is underpinned by basic skills in ICT: the use of computers to retrieve, assess, store, produce, present and exchange information, and to communicate and participate in collaborative networks via the Internet. [Being digitally competent](#)⁵ is more than being able to use the latest smart phone or computer software — it is about being able to use such digital technologies in a critical, collaborative and creative way.

One of the main challenges that require actions from educational sector is how to prepare the population to constantly keep updating digital competences in order to adapt in technologically diverse environment. Transnational collaboration and exchange of innovative ideas between European educational institutions through Erasmus+ programme is an opportunity for tackling these issues.

¹ Europe's Digital Progress Report (2017)

² Digital Competence and Employability (2014)

³ Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning (2018)

⁴ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on key competences for lifelong learning (2006)

⁵ The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (2016)

Aim

The overall idea of the contact seminar is to find partners with similar interests and develop ideas for the new **KA2 strategic partnerships** on the issue of ICT and digital skills. The seminar will also give an opportunity to share experience and discover new approaches in the field with the special focus on creating cross sectoral and transversal collaborations between different sectors and organisations.

Target groups

The seminar is open to participants within the fields of **school education, vocational education and training, adult education and higher education**. The contact seminar is mainly targeted at representatives from schools, VET and higher education institutions, second chance schools, adult education centres, teacher training institutions, enterprises, research institutions and other organisations interested in the theme of the seminar and committed to develop Erasmus+ strategic partnership.

We welcome **up to 4 participants from each country** (preferably from 4 different sectors), with a maximum of 70 delegates altogether. National agency colleagues are most welcome as well.

Date and venue

The seminar will start **by dinner on the 19th of September and will finish by lunch on the 22th**. The seminar will be held at the Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel in the city centre of Tallinn. The working language of the contact seminar will be **English**.

Seminar cost

The seminar fee will be **750 euros** per participant. It includes accommodation in a single room for 3 nights, all meals and participation in cultural events. The seminar fee as well as the travel costs will be covered by the sending Erasmus+ national agencies by their TCA budgets.

Further information

Further information will be soon available at the website of the contact seminar. The link to the website will be sent to the interested national agencies in April.

Looking forward to welcome you in Tallinn in September 2018!