

Quick Wins

1. Basic Information

- Title/Name of the Quick Win: Erasmus Marathon
- Country/Region of Origin: Italy
- Institution/Organization Implementing the Practice: ENAC Ente Nazionale Canossiano
- Target Audience: VET students and teachers
- Duration of the activity: 6/8 hours (2 half days)
- Accessibility: during school hours, accessible for students of the school
- Year of Implementation: 2023 and 2024
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2. Description of the Quick Win

- **Description of Activities:**

ENAC celebrates ErasmusDays with a YouTube Live Marathon, featuring Canossian schools and VET centers actively engaged in Erasmus+ mobility programs. During 6 hours streaming marathon students, teachers and staff share inspiring personal stories of their international mobility experiences, highlighting the transformative impact of these opportunities. Following the success of the inaugural edition in 2023, the 2024 edition expands with an additional live session spotlighting European partner organizations. These collaborators work closely with ENAC to organize EU mobilities and projects, fostering international exchange. This session connects schools and VET centers that have explored, traveled, and exchanged best practices across Europe. Discussions delve into diverse mobility formats—including group and individual programs, long- and short-term opportunities—covering internships, job shadowing, training courses and incoming activities. Through this initiative, participants reflect on how international mobility has enriched their professional and personal growth, enhancing language proficiency, open-mindedness and intercultural understanding. Events like these underscore that mobility benefits not only individuals but also communities, by forging lasting connections and promoting cross-cultural dialogue.

- **Why is this approach useful to teach EU matters?**

This approach provides practical and immersive experiences that make abstract concepts tangible and engaging. Events like ErasmusDays inspire reflection on EU initiatives, encouraging active participation in European civic life. Both students and teachers

develop a deeper appreciation for the EU's role in fostering a cohesive and forward-thinking community. By participating in Erasmus+ mobilities, students and educators experience EU principles such as freedom of movement, cultural diversity and cooperation firsthand. These hands-on experiences instill a stronger understanding of European values than theoretical study alone. By sharing their stories, participants can pass these values on to their peers, fostering a ripple effect of awareness and learning. Finally, these experiences demonstrate the tangible impact of EU policies on education, training, and employment. Participants witness firsthand how EU funding supports mobility and collaboration, making these policies more accessible and relevant to their everyday lives.

- **Why is it a quick win?**

The Erasmus Marathon initiative during ErasmusDays exemplifies how impactful actions can be both simple and achievable. By leveraging existing structures (ErasmusDays), networks (partnerships and participants in mobility projects) and tools (ENAC's social media channels), it creates a platform for meaningful experiences while remaining cost-effective and accessible. Schools and vocational training centers play a key role by sharing their stories, requiring minimal preparation while showcasing tangible outcomes. The event's live marathon format, streamed on YouTube, keeps costs low and logistics straightforward. Digital platforms ensure broad participation without the need for physical venues, making the event accessible to audiences across Europe. By focusing on storytelling, students, teachers and staff share personal accounts of their journeys, offering authentic and relatable insights. This approach provides immediate and visible results, with the live broadcast fostering real-time engagement, building connections and celebrating achievements.

- **How to make this approach successful?**

To ensure the success of the initiative during ErasmusDays, clear steps are essential. First, leverage existing networks and partnerships with schools, training centers and European collaborators to ensure participation and different content. Start planning early, assigning roles and collecting content like stories and videos from participants. Use accessible digital platforms, test them in advance and promote the event through social media. During the event, keep content engaging with live testimonials.

- **Related resources**

https://www.enac.org/news_agora/canossa-erasmus-goes-to-erasmus-days/
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDrsR2-V45I>

- **Additional Notes:**

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