



SocialErasmus week

Erasmus students involved in social activities all over Europe

From the 4th to the 11th of May 2012, Erasmus Student Network will involve thousands of Erasmus students in social activities in the framework of the SocialErasmus project.



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Presentation of the Erasmus Student Network

What is the Erasmus Student Network?

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is the biggest interdisciplinary European student organisation acting in the field of mobility. ESN is a non-political and non-profit organisation gathering over 12.000 volunteer members from local student groups (sections) at more than 390 Higher Education Institutions in 36 countries. Every year ESN provides its services to over 150.000 international students in Europe. ESN works in the interest of international students by facilitating their mobility period through motivation and preparation of students, social integration, provision of information and reintegration of homecoming students and by enhancing internationalisation, intercultural understanding and active participation. ESN works for the creation of a more mobile and flexible education environment by supporting and developing the student exchange from different levels, and also providing "internationalisation at home".

ESN in numbers:

- 5 volunteers working full-time in Brussels
- 36 countries
- More than 390 local associations ("sections")
- 12 000 volunteers
- Reaching over 150.000 international students

History of the Erasmus Student Network

In 1987, a plan to create an extensive mobility scheme for higher education was approved by the European Community (EC). One part of this was the Erasmus programme – which gave students the opportunity to spend part of their study period abroad.

In 1989 the Erasmus Bureau invited 32 former Erasmus students for an evaluation meeting in Gent, Belgium. This meeting was a starting point for the Erasmus Student Network. The problems that became obvious in the evaluation were the main tasks for the founders of ESN to work on. Behind all this stood the idea "students helping students", which is still the most important motto of ESN volunteers.

On 16th of October 1989, the first section using the name Erasmus Student Network was founded in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Following that, ESN sections were founded in various European universities, and with financial support from the European Commission, in October 1990, the meeting for the official founding of ESN International was organised in Copenhagen, Denmark with 49 participants from almost all Member states of the EC. By 1994 ESN already had 60 sections in 14 countries and it was growing each year.

In September 2005, ESN established an official office in Brussels, where now five Board members are working as volunteers on a full-time basis plus three employees who are working for ESN.

SocialErasmus project

SocialErasmus is an international project of ESN with the aim of involving international students participating in a university exchange in social and volunteering activities in their host country. This project promotes a social attitude among international students and facilitates their social integration into the local community while exploring the added value that resides in the diversity of Europe.

What does SocialErasmus offer?

Student-beneficial aspects

SocialErasmus offers new ways for international students to expand their knowledge of other cultures and educational systems and enables them to engage in society-beneficial activities bringing them closer to the local communities they live in. Through various activities the project promotes a social attitude to international students while at the same time, combining formal and informal education with intercultural experiences. By their engagement the students enrich their curricula, gain experiences, knowledge, openness and love for Europe.

Society-beneficial aspects

International students meet their local community at eye-height and show that mobility does not only mean traveling or studying abroad, but also active engagement in local communities. International students contribute to the local community, which foster a better cultural understanding and inspire local students to study abroad.

Aim of the project

The aim of the SocialErasmus project is to complete the stay abroad with the original values of the Erasmus Program. Erasmus is supposed to be an opportunity to get to know new cultures and education systems as well as to make new unforgettable friendships, but also it should be a kind of inspiration for a future life. Moreover, SocialErasmus project enables to experience something new, as consequence Erasmus program participants will get a new perspective, which would be beyond their cognitive abilities, if they did not take part in the Erasmus program. Taking into consideration above factors, the main slogan of the project is: **Reach higher! Go further! Go Social**

Project history

2008

ESN Poland establishes the project to celebrate their 10th anniversary of ESN Poland. The project was established to bring new dimensions to the Erasmus experience: “Enrichment of society through international students”.

2009

SocialErasmus becomes a Polish national project.

2010

SocialErasmus is accepted as an International ESN project; several countries join the project and national and international coordinators are appointed; international project coordinators work in cooperation with national coordinators to setup guidelines and collect success stories.

2011

ESN is awarded with grant from the European Commission, which will be used to professionalize the project and to centralize the coordination of the project. The grant starts in October 2011 for one year. In December ESN receives the EESC Civil Society Prize for the project.

2012

In January the first meeting for SocialErasmus Coordinators takes place in Trondheim, Norway; national coordinators from 30 countries meet to discuss the project and take part in a training preparing them for their coordinator positions. In May the first SocialErasmus week takes place between the 4th and the 11th.

National highlighted projects

ESN has the opportunity to financially support 12 national activities with 1.500 EUR each. The activities will take place during SocialErasmus week 4th to 11th of May 2012.

During the first application round 13 applications were received and 8 of them were accepted to receive funding. A second application round was launched and 7 new applications were submitted from which 4 were selected. In the following you can see the countries and activities that were chosen to receive support.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Social visits to SOS Villages/home for children in 3 cities: Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar. In cooperation with one of the biggest NGO in B&H (The Youth Information Agency), they will carry out workshops for children and international students. Together they will make hand crafted items, which they will sell in the local community.

The money raised will go directly to SOS Villages and Home for Children without parental care. Since they only have one section in B&H they have partnered up with student organisation at universities in the cities they plan to visit. Together they will invite all International students to take part in the action. When: 4th, 6th, 8th and 11th of May. --- [ESN Sarajevo on Facebook](#)

Bulgaria

Talent show where international students and orphans team up and show their talents. The best teams will take part in a big public concert.

Support from: Kalin Veliov (famous Bulgarian musician); Ambassador of Youth on the move (European Commission).

When: 11th of May --- [ESN Bulgaria on Facebook](#)

Estonia

Co-project with orphanages. International students volunteer to be a mentor for a child. Helping with school work and having fun with them and acting as a role model.

During SE Week everyone meets in Tallinn for a day of fun and discussion.

When: 6th of May --- [ESN Estonia on Facebook](#)

Georgia

Planting of a Rose Garden, in the shape of the ESN Star, in a public park in Tbilisi. International students will carry out the activities on the first day. On the second day international students and orphans will come together in the park and participate in different sports and cultural activities. The aim is to start a close relation to the orphanage and they plan to have visit to or activities with the orphanage every month in the future. They also plan to visit the rose garden once every month with international students and have different activities in the park. Both Sections in Georgia will be involved and all international students are invited to participate in establishment of the garden and the following activities.

When: 9th, 10th, 11th of May --- [ESN Georgia on Facebook](#)

Greece

In Three major cities international bands will be formed by international students and ESN'ers. They will practice until SE week, where a concert in each city will be arranged and all profits from the concerts will go to Chamogelo Tou Paidiou (Charity organisation with focus on kids). The three bands in each city will perform at the concert, and they are considering bringing the bands from the different cities to perform at each concert as well, which would mean that 9 bands would perform at the concerts. When: 4-6/5 --- [ESN Greece on Facebook](#)

Latvia

ESN Latvia will go on bike journey from the Latvian capital Riga to Jurmala at the cost of the Baltic Sea; by doing so they will promote a healthier lifestyle and show their support of the Ride for Your Rights project. On the first day they will visit local schools where they will engage local students in broad inter-cultural topics promoting international exchange and European identity. On the second day they will travel to the Garden of Destiny to plant an Erasmus tree to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Erasmus programme and the 100 birthday of Latvia. When: 5/5; 10/5; 11/5. --- [ESN Latvia on Facebook](#)

Poland

Charity concert in Warsaw Zoo - During the concert blood donations will be organised. One month prior to the event international students and ESN'ers from all over Poland will collect plastic bottle caps. During the event the final day of cap-collecting will take place and all the collected caps will be donated to a local charity organisation, who will sell the caps to be recycled. The money will be spend on wheelchairs for disabled kids. The first wheelchair will be handed over to a disabled kid during the concert. During the event international students will engage local kids in games, workshops and other activities. Both local and international students will participate in the concerts. 350 international students and ESN'ers are expected to attend the concert. When: 11/5. --- [ESN Poland on Facebook](#)

Romania

Environmental workshops for children; How to collect and dispose of garbage? Production of toys made from recycled materials; Essay competition: How do I take care of Earth?

When: 7/5. --- [ESN Iasi on Facebook](#)

Slovakia

Sequence of events involving children and students of local communities; Communication between children and students in an interactive way:

Games, languages activities, cultural interaction, breaking down ideas about stereotypes, competitions focused on solving environmental, health and family issues. --- [ESN Slovakia on Facebook](#)

Sweden

International students build and put up nest boxes for birds. Some areas are giving trouble for the birds, which this activity sets focus on. --- [ESN Sweden on Facebook](#)

Turkey

Charity trip to elementary school in Canakkale; international students will travel to Canakkale to provide students from elementary schools with school supplies like books, toys, pencils, paper etc. During their visit they will introduce their home countries and cultures. They will also freshening up the school by painting and renovating.

WHEN: 11/5 --- [ESN Turkey on Facebook](#)

Local highlighted projects

DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVENT
4/26/2012	Switzerland	Lausanne	Inauguration SocialErasmus & Aperitif
4/26/2012	Norway	Trondheim	SocialErasmus Day
5/3/2012	Hungary	Budapest	Charity Toy Collection
5/4/2012	Bosnia & Herzegovina	n/a	Let me introduce your creativity
5/4/2012	Czech Republic	Prague	Photo exhibition: Erasmus
5/4/2012	Czech Republic	n/a	Breast Cancer: self examination - Awareness Calendar
5/4/2012	Greece	n/a	SocialErasmus Charity concerts
5/4/2012	Hungary	Budapest	Color-Up
5/4/2012	Slovakia	Zilina	Eco-Playstation
5/4/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/5/2012	Estonia	n/a	Let's do it world! Cleanup
5/5/2012	Greece	n/a	SocialErasmus Charity concerts
5/5/2012	Hungary	Budapest	Cultural sports event
5/5/2012	Hungary	Zirc	Sports day for kids with less opportunities
5/6/2012	Latvia	Riga-Jurmala	Bicycle tour
5/5/2012	Macedonia	Skopje	
5/5/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/5/2012	Macedonia	Skopje	Green Saturday
5/6/2012	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Sarajevo	Let me introduce your creativity
5/6/2012	Estonia	n/a	Family day
5/6/2012	Greece	n/a	SocialErasmus Charity concerts
5/6/2012	Slovakia	Presov	A different history lesson
5/6/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/7/2012	Romania	Iasi	E for Environment
5/7/2012	Slovakia	Presov	International children's day
5/7/2012	Slovakia	Bratislava	Student to Student
5/7/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/7/2012	Turkey	Canakkale	For the children
5/8/2012	Bosnia & Herzegovina	n/a	Let me introduce your creativity
5/8/2012	Czech Republic	Hradec Kralove	Social-Dog Party - followed by Dog Walking
5/8/2012	Czech Republic	Liberec	Visit to Jedlicka's House
5/8/2012	Czech Republic	Prague	Soccer day
5/8/2012	Hungary	Gyor	Go Green Flashmob!
5/8/2012	Poland	Cracow	Eurodinner
5/8/2012	Slovakia	Banska Bystrica	A daily SE camp
5/8/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/9/2012	Czech Republic	Olomouc	Free hugs campaign
5/9/2012	Czech Republic	Prague	Free hugs campaign
5/9/2012	Czech Republic	Prague	International day
5/9/2012	Czech Republic	Brno	The Erasmus Run

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5/9/2012	Estonia	n/a	European day
5/9/2012	Georgia	Tbilisi	Erasmus Rose garden
5/9/2012	Norway	Ås	Campus Cleanup
5/9/2012	Poland	Cracow	Picnic
5/9/2012	Slovakia	Nitra	One day for us
5/9/2012	Slovakia	Nitra	International children's day
5/9/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/10/2012	Poland	Gdansk	Sandwich Charity Concert
5/10/2012	Czech Republic	Ostrava	Dog Walking
5/10/2012	Georgia	Tbilisi	Erasmus Rose garden
5/10/2012	Hungary	Szeged	Adopt a kindergarten
5/10/2012	Latvia	Ogre, Lielvarde, Valmiera	European lessons
5/10/2012	Poland	Cracow	Erasmus Hall
5/10/2012	Poland	Lublin	ESN Jungle
5/10/2012	Slovakia	Bratislava	International children's day
5/10/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/10/2012	Macedonia	Skopje	Cultural visit to elementary school
5/10/2012	Macedonia	Skopje	Share A Little Care A Little-Donate!
5/10/2012	Latvia	Koknese	Erasmus Tree
5/11/2012	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Sarajevo	Let me introduce your creativity
5/11/2012	Bulgaria	Sofia	eXchange Talent
5/11/2012	Czech republic	Brno	European Day
5/11/2012	Georgia	Tbilisi	Erasmus Rose garden
5/11/2012	Poland	Warsaw	SocialErasmus Day
5/11/2012	Poland	Warsaw	Flashmob
5/11/2012	Slovakia	Kosice	International children's day
5/11/2012	Sweden	n/a	ESN Nest boxes
5/11/2012	Turkey	Eskisehir	Erasmus Forest
5/12/2012	Poland	Warsaw	SocialErasmus day
5/12/2012	Switzerland	Geneva	Charity Concert - Datchabar
n/a	Poland	Warsaw	European lessons
5/11/2012	Spain	Alicante	Cooking has no age
n/a	Georgia	Tbilisi	One day in "Charity Organization"
5/5/2012	Greece	Athens	Erasmus colour for a good cause

More information

- **socialerasmus.esn.org**
- map of the SocialErasmus Week: <http://g.co/maps/2y9mt>
- pictures of the activities: <http://socialerasmus.esn.org/content/gallery>

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is one of the biggest non-profit interdisciplinary student associations in Europe, founded in 1989 for supporting and developing student exchange. ESN is present in more than 390 Higher Education Institutions from 36 countries. ESN works for the creation of a more mobile and flexible education environment by supporting and developing student exchanges on different levels, and providing an intercultural experience also to those students who cannot access a period abroad ('internationalisation at home').

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