

Pitch & Connect Session | Connecting EU & Canadian Universities through Erasmus+

1. Event details

The session will be held **online** and will last **90 minutes**.

Date: **Wednesday, 2 September 2026**

Time: **17:00 CEST (Brussels) / 8:00 AM PDT (Vancouver) / 11:00 AM EDT (Ottawa–Québec)**

2. Policy context and rationale

The [UNICA Days 2026](#) highlighted the **growing strategic importance of EU–Canada cooperation in higher education**, research, innovation and societal engagement. Across the discussions, participants repeatedly underlined the **strong alignment between European and Canadian institutions in terms of shared values**, internationalisation priorities and commitment to addressing global challenges collaboratively.

At the same time, the discussions also confirmed the need to **translate this strong political and institutional convergence into more structured and operational cooperation opportunities**. In particular, Erasmus+ was identified as a key instrument for strengthening transatlantic academic collaboration through joint projects, mobility schemes, capacity-building initiatives and institutional partnerships.

Within this context, the proposed match-making event aims to **create a practical follow-up to the UNICA Days by bringing together higher education institutions from Europe and Canada, including Québec, interested in developing Erasmus+ partnerships**. The initiative also seeks to strengthen awareness of existing cooperation opportunities and facilitate direct exchanges between potential project partners and relevant Erasmus+ contact points.

3. Objectives

- **Foster networking and partnership-building** between European and Canadian higher education institutions, including Québec.
- **Present Erasmus+ funding opportunities** for EU–Canada cooperation.
- **Support the development of new Erasmus+ partnerships and project proposals.**
- **Promote the exchange of good practices** in internationalisation and transatlantic collaboration.
- **Facilitate dialogue** between higher education institutions and Erasmus+ focal points from Canada and Québec.
- **Build on the connections established** during the UNICA Days 2026.

4. Agenda

17:00 - 17:15	Welcome & Opening Remarks
	• Luciano SASO, UNICA Secretary General (TBC) • Elena AVGOUSTIDOU-KYRIACOU, Director of the International Relations Service, University of Cyprus and Coordinator of the UNICA IRO Group (TBC)
17:15 - 17:35	Erasmus+ Opportunities for EU–Canada Cooperation
	Presentation on the main funding actions, priorities, and modalities for EU–Canada collaboration under Erasmus+. The session will provide an overview of relevant actions, eligibility considerations, and upcoming opportunities for institutions on both sides. By Anna K. PIOTROWSKA, Erasmus+ National Focal Point for Canada
17:45 - 18:20	Pitch and connect session
	A dedicated space for participants to connect, exchange interests, and explore potential areas for collaboration. The session aims to encourage concrete conversations, identify shared priorities, and potentially initiate discussions on future project development for upcoming Erasmus+ calls.
18:20 - 18:30	Wrap-up and conclusions