

Leadership For Internationalisation: A School Strategy for Individual Pupil Mobility

ESHA Congress 2025

**European Federation for
Intercultural Learning (EFIL)**

WHAT IS EFIL



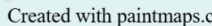
- **The European Federation for Intercultural Learning**, the umbrella of AFS organisations in Europe
- Established in 1971, cooperated with the European Union for the establishment of mobility programmes since the 80s
- Led by 12.000 volunteers, involving 3600 pupils in mobility during the school year 2023-24
- The leading non-profit individual pupil mobility organisation in Europe



AFS Organisation in Europe and the Mediterranean

- Pupil mobility organisations
- Non-profit and value-based
- Volunteer-driven and youth focused

- Pupil mobility organisations
- Non-profit and value-based
- Volunteer-driven and youth focused



AGENDA

Your experience with internationalisation

School strategy for internationalisation

Individual Pupil Mobility

Meet the room!

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH INTERNATIONALISATION?

In Slido

INTERNATIONALISATION OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

at home

abroad

- Content and Language Integrated Learning - CLIL
- Internationalisation of curriculum
- Language courses and certifications (beyond the curriculum)

- Mobility of school staff (study visits, job shadowing, placements abroad)
- **Pupil mobility**

“intentional and transformative process of **including international, intercultural and global dimensions in all aspects of school life** – through a whole school approach – in order to enhance the quality of education for all pupils, teachers and staff and to make a meaningful contribution to society”

School internationalisation strategy

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

School leadership vs teacher enthusiasm

- Having an overview over activities
- Ensuring equal access & pupil rights
- Making strategic decisions

School internationalisation strategy

HOW TO DO IT IN PRACTICE?



IPM guide for schools (2022)

(in italian)



Practical guide from the
European Commission (2024)

INDIVIDUAL LONG-TERM PUPIL MOBILITY

“is understood as an educational programme for 14–18-year-olds lasting between 2 months and up to a full school year, where they attend a host school in a foreign country”



Different providers of IPM: GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMES, NON-PROFIT, LANGUAGE LEARNING AGENCIES



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Intercultural Exchange Programs



Individual Pupil Mobility

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING MOBILITY OF PUPILS

- Do you have any experience with IPM with a duration of 3 months or longer?
- Which programmes?
- Are competences developed abroad recognised?
- Why should you promote and organise IPM?
- What is the benefit for schools?
- How can you capitalize on these learning mobilities for the benefit of all pupils?

EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF LONG TERM INDIVIDUAL PUPIL MOBILITY

- Formal, non-formal and informal learning
- Experiential learning
- Transformative education
- Affective education
- International and intercultural education
- Citizenship education

Academic recognition of learning periods abroad

AUTOMATIC RECOGNITION

In 2018 the EU issues the

[Council recommendation on automatic recognition of learning periods abroad](#)

*the outcomes from a **learning period of up to one year abroad** in another Member State during upper secondary education and training are **recognised** in another, with the learner not being required to repeat the programme year or achieved learning outcomes in the country of origin, **provided that the learning outcomes are broadly in line with the national curricula** in the country of origin.”*

READMISSION | REINTEGRATION | RECOGNITION

Readmission of the pupil in school in their sending country is the prerequisite for recognition, but it is not recognition

Reintegration is essential for the pupil to **continue** successful schooling in the school in their sending country, and might include a programme for catching up on ESSENTIAL contents of the national curriculum

Recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad is when the pupil is not *required to repeat achieved learning outcomes*, ***provided that the learning outcomes are broadly in line with the national curricula in the country of origin.***

Taking exams on **each subject/test missed** while abroad to be able to continue school with peers is not recognition: it is a form of readmission.

CATEGORIES OF RECOGNITION SYSTEMS

1. Equivalence based on certificate of school attendance abroad (Austria for periods between 5 months and a full school year) – automatic progression
2. Equivalence based on successful completion of the school period abroad
3. **Official procedure based on learning outcomes determined to be broadly in line, with potential assessment by the sending school**
4. Official procedure based on curriculum matching
5. Assessment by the school in the framework of a school-to-school partnership (all EU countries within given programmes such as E+)
6. Assessment by the school without set guidelines (the majority of EU countries)

AUTOMATIC RECOGNITION GENERAL RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNTRIES WITHOUT SET GUIDELINES

Provide guidelines to all schools to support a **common approach to automatic recognition**, based on a **learning agreement** which identifies **learning outcomes broadly in line with the national curriculum**.

The learning agreement should include a **reintegration plan** to allow the pupil to catch up with core content missed during study abroad and provide enough time to do so.

For recognition of periods of a full school year abroad, **catch-up may take place over several months in the next school year**

Recognition of learning periods abroad in your internationalisation strategy!

Join the
**Individual Pupil
Mobility group on
eTwinning!**



Help your pupils unlock the life-changing adventure of learning mobility

Discover the **Individual Pupil Mobility** group on **eTwinning**, an online space dedicated to **school internationalisation**, where teachers can dive into learning mobility and connect with other schools around Europe.

Scan here
to join the group!

For teachers,
school heads,
school staff
registered in
eTwinning



Learn how to
**make your
school more
international**
and recognize
learning periods
abroad

Connect with
teachers and
schools
organising
Individual
Pupil Mobility

Get support
with learning
agreements

Discover
resources and
tools



Co-funded by
the European Union

Workshop reflection survey Round 1 - Leadership for Internationalisation

Go to

www.menti.com

Enter the code

8316 1879



Or use QR code

Workshop reflection survey Round 3 - Leadership for Internationalisation

Go to

www.menti.com

Enter the code

6126 4983



Or use QR code

Follow us on our social media!



SCAN HERE



@efilafs



European Federation for
Intercultural Learning



European Federation for
Intercultural Learning - EFIL



@EFILafs



efil.afs.org



european
federation for
intercultural
learning aisbl

Thank you!

Elisa Briga

Secretary General

elisa.briga@afs.org

Emma Varan Øien

School Relations Project Officer

emma.varan.oien@afs.org



european
federation for
intercultural
learning aisbl