



EUROPEAN UNION



# European International Seminar

Erasmus+ Program & Epale:  
a window of opportunities for Public Libraries,  
as Adult Education Providers

Brussels, Belgium

25 - 28 November 2025



Brussels Marriott Hotel  
Grand Place

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.





# Context of the seminar

*"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library "*

Albert Einstein

*Public libraries play an essential role in the adult education landscape and are places for formal, informal and non formal adult education.*

AT EU level, the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 has provided for the creation of a group of Member States' experts focusing on "Building Bridges: strengthen the multiple roles of libraries as gateways to and transmitters of cultural works, skills and European values".

This group has received a mandate to explore different dimensions and areas in which public libraries can play a societal role:

- the cultural and social dimension of libraries as a community hub or third place;
- democracy building, citizen engagement in libraries, and fighting disinformation;
- sustainable development (education and learning, inclusion, participation, resilience of community and environmental issues);
- digital, media, green and other forms of literacies;
- promoting literacy and reading including promoting literature from other countries.

*To meet these challenges, Epale and Erasmus+ projects for libraries offer a clear added value for public libraries. Indeed, Erasmus+ and Epale can help in improving the knowledge of the staff, acquiring new experience abroad, testing new materials, developing cooperation with European partners, which are essential factors for developing libraries in a wide range of directions.*

*This seminar will focus on Public Libraries as Adult Education providers (formal, non formal, informal) and activities/strategies implemented in that regards.*





***During the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to:***

- *Network with participants from different European countries working in public libraries.*
- *Discuss common challenges that public libraries – as adult education providers - are facing nowadays.*
- *Discover Epale and Erasmus+ opportunities for public libraries.*
- *Work in small groups around future common Erasmus+ projects.*
- *Get inspired by good practices examples implemented by public libraries, in link with their role as adult education providers.*
- *Participate to a study visit to an innovative Belgian public library ([B3, Resources and creativity centre](#)).*
- *Listen to stakeholder's presentation on the role of public libraries in Belgium & Europe.*

***Profile of participants***

*Any participant working in a public library or any stakeholder involved in a public library, interested in the role of public libraries as adult education providers, and willing to initiate Epale and/or Erasmus+ projects in his/her library.*

Participants wishing to share a good practice implemented in their library, a project or an approach they are proud of can bring material (poster, resource, presentation, ...). An informal and interactive moment is foreseen during the seminar for this inspiring exchange of practice session.





# Programme (draft)

## Day 1 \_ Tuesday 25 November 2025

- |            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| From 15:00 | ● | Check-in at the hotel & Welcome desk  |
| 16:00      | ● | Official opening of the seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Fanny Lutz, Director of Belgian (FR) Erasmus+ National Agency (AEF-Europe)</li><li>• Ms Ilona Kish, Director of <u>Public Libraries 2030</u></li></ul> |
| 16:30      | ● | Ice-breaking activity   |
| 16:45      | ● | Speed-dating session  |
| 17:30      | ● | Practical informations  |
| 17:45      | ● | Free time   |
| 19:00      | ● | Dinner at the hotel   |







# Programme (draft)

## Day 2 \_ Wednesday 26 November 2025

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| 9:00  | ● | Introduction to the day   |
| 9:15  | ● | Energizer activity  |
| 9:30  | ● | Panel discussion : State of play of public libraries in Belgium (FR), challenges as adult education providers & at EU level <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Jean-François FUEG, Deputy Director General of the Territorial Action Department (Belgium - FR, Ministry of Education &amp; Culture)</li><li>• Diane Sophie COUTEAU, Acting Director, Public Reading Department (Belgium -FR, Ministry of Education &amp; Culture)</li><li>• Other representatives (tbc)</li></ul> |
| 10:30 | ● | <i>Coffee break</i>   |
| 11:00 | ● | Good practices presentations/fair, by participants  |
| 12:30 | ● | <i>Lunch</i>  |
| 14:00 | ● | Erasmus+ & Epale opportunities for public libraries: presentation & Examples  |
| 15:30 | ● | Coffee break  |
| 16:00 | ● | Thematic workshops  |
| 17:15 | ● | <i>Free time</i>  |
| 18:00 | ● | Departure for cultural activity   |
| 20:00 | ● | Dinner in town  |





# Programme (draft)

## Day 3 \_ Thursday 27 November 2025

- 8:30 — Departure for study visit
- 10:00 — Visit of an innovative Belgian (FR) Public Library in Liège  
B3 – Centre de ressources et de créativité, Innovative Public Library
  - *B3, for 3 centres: 1. A 8.000 m2 Resource Centre including various collections and spaces ; 2. A creative hub: 800 m2 dedicated to artistic creation around the theme of writing and digital technology; 3. A Business Incubator: 800 m2 of offices available for temporary rent and a coworking area.*
- 12:30 — Lunch in Liège
- 13:45 — Travel back to Brussels
- 16:00 — Debriefing session about the study visit
- 16:30 — Thematic workshops
- 17:30 — Free time
- 19:15 — Dinner at the hotel & results of the contest “My dream library”





# Programme (draft)

## Day 4 \_ Friday 28 November 2025

- 9:00 — ● How to launch an Erasmus+/Epale project: first steps
- 9:30 — ● Practical workshop on Erasmus+ projects/Epale platform
- 10:30 — ● *Evaluation and final words: what do I want to take back home?*
- 11:00 — ● End of the seminar

### ***Topics of the thematic workshops:***

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics, such as: how can public libraries reach specific target groups, challenges of digitalization (including AI,...) in public libraries, what competences for the 21st century librarian, how to promote active participation and volunteer engagement, rethink / transform libraries into community places, public libraries as a place for well-being and mental health, public libraries to promote cultural heritage, contribution of libraries to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), developing a communication strategy for more visibility and collaborations, ...





## Practical Information

The seminar will gather 70 participants from all around Europe and the working language of the seminar will be English.

Participants should first check with their national agency to see if places have been reserved for their country, via the [Salto platform](#).

The selection process is carried out directly by the [National Agency](#) of the applicant's country.

### ***Want to know more about Erasmus+ & Epale opportunities for adult education?***

- [Erasmus+, what's in it for me? New opportunities start here : adult education](#)
- [EPALE - Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe](#)

