



Internationalisation
*enhances the quality
of education*

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Internationalisation enhances the quality of education

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Vision

Globalisation expands boundaries, broadening our horizons and making our world smaller. International cooperation, the Internet and travel make personal and business relationships across borders increasingly common. A young person graduating from secondary school at this moment has a good chance of studying, working or living in an international environment. Pupils who come into contact with the international and intercultural community at a young age through internationalisation at school have a broader perspective and better chances on the international job market.

Mission

Internationalisation prepares pupils to take their part in the international community, promotes teachers' professional development and enriches the school curriculum. Through its role as the Dutch knowledge centre for internationalisation in primary and secondary education and teacher training, the European Platform contributes to increasing the quality of Dutch education through internationalisation.

Ambition

Our goal is that all pupils in primary and secondary education receive a foundation based on internationalisation, in order to inspire and prepare them to study, work and live in an international environment. In addition, the European Platform provides support to schools wanting to establish internationalisation as an extra distinguishing aspect of their school. The European Platform also encourages the internationalisation of teacher training institutions for primary and secondary education in the Netherlands.

Internationalisation and the quality of education

Our world is internationalising at a rapid pace. Today's pupils are tomorrow's global citizens. To prepare them for living, learning and working in an international society, it is of the utmost importance that internationalisation is integrated into school curricula and policy.

There are numerous ways to achieve this, from exchange programmes to in-service teacher training abroad, and from partnerships between schools to internationalisation of the curriculum.

Internationalisation enhances the quality of education

Schools that have embraced internationalisation soon see their pupils reap the rewards: a marked improvement of social skills, a keener comprehension of the world, a more open attitude towards different cultures and an increased language proficiency. Enriching education with a European and international orientation makes it fit the pupils' everyday experiences and perceptions more closely. Foreign exchange programmes contribute to the pupils' self-esteem. Internationalisation challenges pupils, which makes it an excellent tool to help develop their talents.



Teachers attest that internationalisation increases their expertise and boosts their professional motivation, both through in-service training and through contacts with colleagues from abroad. Schools report increasing and more intensive parent participation levels. Finally, internationalisation is an important way in which schools can distinguish themselves. Pupils feel positive about choosing international curricula such as Elos - *education stretching borders* or bilingual education, and recommend these to their peers.

The European Platform is keen to contribute to internationalisation in education. We inspire by sharing success stories and demonstrating how internationalisation adds an extra dimension to education. We support internationalisation in education through government grants and by employing motivated staff members and ambassadors. We give professional advice to school boards, co-ordinators and teachers.

This corporate brochure explains how the European Platform encourages internationalisation in primary and secondary education, as well as in teacher and adult education. It also shows how schools and organisations may profit from our activities.

Inspiration for international activities

The European Platform is the knowledge centre for internationalisation in Dutch primary and secondary education. Teachers, school boards and other interested parties can contact us for information, grants and services that give Dutch education a European and international orientation. We seek to inspire by demonstrating the added value of internationalisation and to share success stories.

"It is important that young people learn to see past the boundaries of their own towns and countries. Taking an active approach to internationalisation not only increases pupils' language proficiency, but also their social skills. The pupils really get a noticeably broader outlook towards the world!"

The European Platform aims to instil into teachers and school boards a sense of the importance of internationalising education. After all, in a globalising society:

- internationally oriented pupils and students have the future;
- teachers find inspiration and broaden their expertise through training and professional contacts abroad;
- schools enhance their profile with a curriculum structurally enriched by internationalisation.

Schools can obtain information at the Internationalisation Helpdesk of the European Platform via the website (www.europeesplatform.nl), telephone or e-mail. We will not only offer in-house solutions, but also refer schools to relevant (inter)national partners. This way, we aim to optimally support schools in making internationalisation a policy spearhead. Internationalisation can also serve as an extra challenge for talented pupils.





Supporting internationalisation at school

The European Platform helps schools give practical expression to internationalisation in the classroom. Schools can participate in several networks and projects about language acquisition and international orientations. In addition, grants are available for such projects as pupil and staff mobility and in-service teacher training.

Knowledge centre

Primary schools that introduce early language-learning programmes and secondary schools that wish to reinforce language learning may apply for help with the European Platform. Schools that choose a truly international profile are given support in setting up our internationalised curricula, tto (bilingual education) and Elos - *education stretching borders*.

The European Platform particularly encourages teachers to share their knowledge and experience among each other, for example within the various school networks and at the meetings that are organised for all our programmes. Teachers and teacher trainers are also closely involved with developing the content of our publications, international programmes and curricula.

We are strongly committed to quality. Schools that participate in our curricula subscribe to a system of quality assurance and certification. Pupils demonstrate their additional learning experience by obtaining a certificate in internationalisation. In addition, some of them also take internationally recognised language certificates, such as those issued by Cambridge, Goethe or DELF.

Teaching materials about international subjects or foreign languages provide teachers with a 'crash course in internationalisation'. The European Platform has issued several (digital) publications containing good practice examples and background information to help schools take a more comprehensive approach to internationalisation.

To inspire and inform both starting and experienced schools, the European Platform publishes brochures and organises conferences, informational get-togethers and network meetings. In addition, the European Platform is represented at many education-related events.

More information in Dutch

www.europeesplatform.nl/publicaties

www.europeesplatform.nl/evenementen



Grants for internationalising education

Besides offering support through its expertise and networks, the European Platform encourages internationalisation at school through its role as a grant facilitator. Grants are made possible by two sources: the European Commission, as part of its Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, as part of its Bios Programme ('Promotion of International Orientation and Cooperation'). Both of these open a wide range of possible activities to encourage internationalisation. Generally, Bios is used by schools starting out on the internationalisation path, while LLP is used by schools more experienced in internationalisation.

The European Platform is part of the Dutch National Agency for the LLP and manages the following programmes: Comenius for school education, Grundtvig for adult education and Study Visits for education policy-makers. LLP promotes co-operation between educational institutions within the European Union and a number of associated countries. Bios is not limited to any specific geographical region and it enables schools to work together world-wide.



Internationalisation world-wide

We fund exchange programmes and in-service teacher training across the globe. At the request of the schools, the European Platform is also increasingly orientated towards co-operating with countries outside of Europe.

More information

- Up-to-date information about procedures, grants and deadlines for Bios and the Lifelong Learning Programme can be found on the website of the European Platform: www.europeesplatform.nl
- To kick-start international projects, eTwinning offers an online community and a search function for finding partner schools abroad: www.etwinning.nl
- Information about programmes, networks and expertise on foreign language learning in primary and secondary education: www.europeesplatform.nl/talen
- Information about internationalised curricula in secondary education: www.europeesplatform.nl/tto
www.europeesplatform.nl/elos



Tailored advice

School managers and internationalisation co-ordinators who wish to internationalise education at their school are faced with many decisions, especially when developing a conscious policy. The European Platform provides schools with insights into the possibilities of internationalisation by giving tailored advice, training their staff and granting access to a variety of projects that help (further) shape the school's internationalisation process.

The European Platform counsels school board members and managers about the possibilities of internationalisation and helps them to integrate internationalisation into school policy. For this, we connect our own expertise with the schools' practical knowledge. Our employees are active in the various school networks in an advisory capacity. They offer support and encouragement to co-ordinators and teachers as they start, expand or bolster international activities. The European Platform also gives advice about internationalising education to numerous other (governmental) organisations.

To increase the knowledge of teachers and school boards, the European Platform offers a range of courses, trainings and seminars, even in-school if required.

More information

www.europeesplatform.nl/cursussen



Knowledge, co-operation and enthusiasm

The European Platform stands for knowledge, co-operation and enthusiasm.

- We are experts in the field of education internationalisation and we love to share our knowledge and expertise. We do this in a professional manner, with a keen eye for quality.
- To internationalise, it is necessary to co-operate, both within the Netherlands and abroad. The European Platform gladly provides schools with access to its international network. We aspire to synergy and we connect people and organisations.
- We are enthusiastic and devoted to our work. Our employees and ambassadors inspire, support and advise school boards, internationalisation co-ordinators and teachers as they internationalise education at their schools. The European Platform shows decisiveness and initiative by coming up with new ideas.

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Management Team of the European Platform. From left to right: Katinka Stieger, Marcia Joosen, Jindra Divis, Stephan Meershoek, Pieter Tekelenburg.

European Platform - *internationalising education*

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