

## **Appendix 1**

### **Schools SOB – ILG**

The Schools SOB, International Links Global, see themselves as an extension of the Taith team, and have been working closely with the Taith executive since February. They have been relaying the voices and challenges of schools on the ground to Taith, and sharing Taith messages with schools.

ILG see the SOB role as having a number of key elements. Awareness raising, helping schools understand the value of international exchange, supporting schools through the application process and partner matching

They have been sharing information from Taith with the schools sector, using social media and meetings to raise awareness of Taith and let schools know of the opportunities. They've been running a number of events which they have used to promote Taith.

ILG want to use their experience to help schools understand the value and benefits of international engagement, who may not realise the full potential. Helping schools to embed international engagement into their day to day work – school improvement plans, the new curriculum and so on. Helping schools to make connections with their priorities. They have created a group of schools already engaged with international opportunities to act as Taith ambassadors. They will be looking to create materials to share with other schools which showcase what is possible and examples of how other schools can get involved.

ILG have been supporting schools through the application process. It's been a learning process for all as Taith is new, but they've developed knowledge and understanding to support schools directly, providing general advice, answering specific questions, running 1 – 1 sessions, group meetings and drop ins.

Partner finding has been a big focus for them as schools often struggle with this. There's been lots of interest from overseas organisations and schools and they've been providing a matchmaking service to link schools up.

The main challenges for schools are around time and timing. Even those with experience of applying for international mobilities underestimated how long the application would take. The timings were also difficult for schools, with the Easter holidays falling in the middle of the application window.

Future priorities are to offer the SOB service to as many schools as possible, with a particular focus on schools based in areas of deprivation, as identified by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. Identified 100 schools in these areas and will be looking to reach out directly in the new academic year.

## **Youth SOB – CWVYS, WCIA, BGCW**

The Youth SOB is a consortium operating on behalf of whole youth sector, formed of CWVYS, CWIA and Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales, representing the youth sector as a whole – voluntary, local authority and young people themselves.

They have been helping organisations engage with Taith, raise awareness and promote the benefits of international exchanges and support the development of mobility opportunities. There is significant experience of international exchange in the sector, and transformational opportunities for young people and practitioners has always been at the heart of the work they do.

CWVYS shared ILEP/Taith messaging across the sector prior to becoming a SOB. Each consortium partner has specific areas of expertise. CWVYS – project management and strategic and operational awareness raising, WCIA – partner matching and supporting Taith applications, BGCW – developing a handbook and toolkit to support applicants. Both WCIA and BGCW bring practical skills and experience too, which they have been using to support applicants through the process.

In addition, there is a Taith youth stakeholders group – formed originally in 2019 following Brexit and concern among the sector about the loss of Erasmus. There is a wide range of youth organisations represented, the group have been meeting regularly and have created a policy paper and some recommendations for the sectors engagement with Taith.

With such a strong history of international engagement within the sector, the SOB knew there'd be an appetite for Taith. They contacted 201 organisations across the LA and voluntary organisations, and had 20 youth applications for Pathway 1 – good representation across sector. They posted regularly on social media – Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, and created a bilingual video presentation. They engaged with organisations via meetings and through running and attending a number of events.

Main challenges – last minute changes and tight timescales. Taith allows a broader range of organisations to apply than Erasmus did and so a number who applied were very new and had no experience. This was alongside those with significant levels of experience and so there was a need for the SOB to offer very different levels of support and to engage with organisations with a wide range of experience and knowledge.

International partners are excited to continue to partner with Welsh organisations, they value the way that youth work operates in Wales and the professionalism it bring. The more we can push Taith to the world, the more the world will see how successful Wales can be, and to showcase Wales as an example across the World.