

KASTALIA Network Meeting – Minutes

Date: 9 May 2025

Time: 10:00 – 11:00

Location: University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal.

Attendees:

- Janneke Verloop-Meijer
- Stefani Brusberg-Kiermeier
- Sabine Lam
- Attila Kőszeghy
- Tina Vršnik Perše
- Marta Licardo
- Rasa Jautakyte
- Ana Felisbela
- Leonor Borges
- Isabel Mendonca Orega
- Máire Nic an Bhaird
- Vanessa Dockx

Apologies:

Bart Hempen (Friday absent)

1. Welcome and Reflections

- The meeting was described as very enjoyable and diverse.
- School visits and presentations were highly praised by attendees.
- Organisation and attendance levels were commended.
- The collaborative spirit and cooperation plans received positive feedback.

2. Future Meetings

- 2026 Meeting: To be held at Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, 19–22 May 2026. Janneke presented on RUAS and the city of Rotterdam and provided details about the upcoming meeting.
- 2027 Meeting: The University of Hildesheim will host the Kastalia meeting.

3. Sustainability and Participation

- The institution hosting the annual meeting will send an official invitation letter. If possible, each institution can send two participants — ideally including a younger colleague to help continue the network. The invitation will also mention working together on a project application.
- Current members are encouraged to invite a colleague with international interests to future meetings. This helps keep the network active and growing.
- Participants will collaborate on a new project application, such as for Erasmus+ Teacher Academies.

4. Erasmus+ Teacher Academies Proposal (2027)

- Kastalia will apply as a consortium for Erasmus+ Teacher Academies in 2027.
- Bart to share his presentation on Teacher Academies from the European Commission.
- Maynooth University volunteered to lead the application.
- Interested partners should email the Kastalia Board to express interest in joining the consortium.
- A preparatory consortium meeting will be held online in September/October 2025:
 - Board to circulate a questionnaire in advance.
 - Proposed timeline and project scope to be discussed.
 - Partners to investigate the role of Further Education and Training (FET) institutions in their countries and suggest relevant partners. (to be mailed to the board before the meeting)

5. Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP) and COIL

- Kastalia to continue developing BIP initiatives. The BioBeo BIP was shared as a successful example.
- Ana Felisbela will share BIP news at the September online meeting.
- Kastalia is encouraged to explore the idea of a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) project.
- WhatsApp suggested as a practical tool for partner collaboration and idea exchange for BIPs.

6. Board Elections

- As per the three-year cycle, board elections were held (last in Maribor, 2022).
- Vanessa Dockx was thanked for her contributions; she is stepping down for now but intends to return.
- Elected Members:
 - Sabine Lam, KP, Denmark
 - Bart Hempen, Odisee, Belgium
 - Janneke Verloop-Meijer, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

- Vote was unanimous and supported by all members.

7. Website and Communications

- Tina Vršnik Perše and Marta Licardo (Maribor, Slovenia) will continue managing the website.
- Members are encouraged to send:
 - Suggestions for improvement
 - Documents from meetings
 - Programme updates
 - University news and developments
- Website link: <https://pef.um.si/en/international/network-kastalia/>
- The importance of consistent communication within the network was reinforced.

8. Network Expansion

- Members are encouraged to propose new partners and submit recommendations to the Board.
- Potential partners may be invited to upcoming Kastalia meetings via the board.
- 9. List of Current Kastalia Partner Institutions
 - Belgium – Thomas More, Odisee
 - Croatia – University of Zadar
 - Denmark – University College Copenhagen
 - Finland – University of Eastern Finland – Joensuu
 - Germany – University of Hildesheim
 - Greece – Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
 - Hungary – Debrecen Reformed Theological University
 - Ireland – Maynooth University
 - Italy – UNIMORE
 - Latvia – Liepaja University
 - Lithuania – Klaipeda University
 - Portugal – University of Algarve, Polytechnic Institute of Beja
 - Romania – Partium Christian University
 - Slovenia – University of Maribor
 - Sweden – Uppsala University
 - The Netherlands – Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences
 - Turkey – Dokuz Eylul University

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:00