Hello, let me first introduce myself, my name is Claire Corley and I am a Geography and History teacher working in Banagher College, Coláiste na Sionna, Banagher, Co. Offaly. I got involved with Erasmus+ Key Action 2 projects while on a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels. This trip was part of our European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme (EPAS). Here I met with one of Ireland’s Erasmus +Ambassadors, Mr. Donal O’ Reilly. Listening to Donal and meeting teachers from all over Europe I was hooked. I loved the idea of everything Erasmus+ KA2 projects stood for, the endless opportunities it would bring to our school and wider community, and I just knew I had to get involved.

On return home, full of enthusiasm and excitement I spoke with our Principal Mr. Paddy Scales and I was given the thumbs up to go ahead. I registered with eTwinning. *eTwinning is the community for schools in Europe. It offers a platform for both teachers and students, working in a school in one of the European countries involved, to communicate, collaborate, develop projects, share and, in short, feel and be part of the most exciting learning community in Europe (eTwinning is co-funded by the*[*Erasmus+*](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)*, the European programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport)*. Soon I was communicating with schools across Europe, sharing ideas and being invited to join many different projects. It became clear that having a partner school in Ireland was highly sought after.

My next step was to get training in how to lead and manage a successful Erasmus+ Key Action 2 project. I was invited by Léargas to attend a training day in Dublin. Here I heard the inspiring stories of other schools in Ireland that had taken part in KA2 projects. I learned about the role I would be taking and the responsibilities involved. It was a lot to take in but I knew leaving that I had the support from Léargas, eTwinning and the new professional relationships I made.

I accepted a project called “Inside Out”. Inside Out is a two year partnership project. Along with Banagher College, the schools involved are from the Netherlands ( Project Coordinator), Slovakia, Portugal, Poland and Turkey. The overall aim is to increase social awareness and skills among participants around migration, diversity and culture. We have set individual and joint activities/projects that run throughout the two years. We share our history, our culture, our school life, our passions and interest. The project also involves travelling to visit our partner schools and in return hosting our new friends here in Ireland.

Our involvement in this project aims to help prepare students for a life in a globalized world. To develop an understanding of the importance of experiential learning, peer to peer learning. To foster better understanding of cultural/social diversity. To improve competences in literacy and languages. Develop cooperation in international working groups. Encourage greater awareness and positivity towards classmates from diverse backgrounds.

A fundamental hope of this project, is that the risk of migrants’ social exclusion will significantly reduce because our students/staff will develop enhanced attitudes of respect towards different cultures. The project develops a new educational approach that will strengthen the capacity, skills and entrepreneurial mind-sets of children from all backgrounds. This enables them to deal with the real challenges of the 21st century and allows them the possibility to become social change makers in a world where inequality, poverty and social exclusion still occur. They have the opportunity to become much more socially aware as a result of this innovative project. I am truly passoniate about this project and for me it is just the beginning, the opening of a whole new wider community in Banagher College. If you would like to learn more about the project please visit our school website [www.bccns.ie](http://www.bccns.ie) here you will find photographs and videos of the project so far.