



## **International Erasmus+ Project Meeting at the University of Bayreuth: Research and Practice on the Responsible Use of Smartphones in Education**

Bayreuth, May 8, 2026 – On May 7 and 8, 2026, researchers and teachers from five European countries gathered at the University of Bayreuth for the project meeting of the Erasmus+ project FOCUS (***Fostering Competence for Use of Smartphones***). Participants from Germany, Slovenia, Italy, Turkey, and Croatia worked together on key issues in digital education.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of an ongoing and intense educational policy debate on the use of smartphones in schools. While restrictive measures are being discussed or have already been implemented in many places, the FOCUS project pursues a differentiated approach: its goal is to develop and scientifically support a responsible, health-promoting, and educationally effective use of digital devices.

### **Key Outcomes of the Meeting**

The two-day working meeting focused on several important milestones:

- Presentation of the first results of a study on smartphone use in the partner countries
- Planning of a diagnostic instrument that will enable schools to assess their approach to smartphone use in a well-founded manner

- Important conceptual decisions for the development of practical teaching and learning materials
- Discussion of learning materials that have already been translated into all project languages and are based on well-established materials developed in Bayreuth
- Initial work on the development of guidelines for parents, students, and teachers

These outcomes represent a decisive step toward evidence-based solutions for the use of digital media in schools.

### **Bayreuth Research as a Driving Force**

The learning materials used in the project are largely based on the sketchometry materials developed at the Chair of Mathematics and Mathematics Education at the University of Bayreuth. The free software sketchometry is developed at the University of Bayreuth and is specifically designed to support active, independent, and inquiry-based learning using mobile devices.

As a result, research from Bayreuth serves as a central model within the project while also providing concrete impulses for the design of modern learning environments.

### **Background of the FOCUS Project**

The Erasmus+ project FOCUS runs from September 2025 to August 2028 and is carried out by a European consortium of ten partner organizations. Its aim is to foster competencies for responsible and reflective smartphone use while simultaneously promoting students' health, well-being, and academic performance.

To achieve this, the project develops:

- Evidence-based guidelines for schools and families
- Pedagogical concepts and teaching materials for classroom use (SPARK)
- A system for self-evaluation and the further development of school practices (RESUME)

- Concepts for promoting attention, resilience, and health (HEWRECA)

### **Importance for Education and Society**

The project meeting in Bayreuth highlights the growing importance of international cooperation in this highly relevant field. The question of how smartphones influence learning is currently being debated across Europe. FOCUS demonstrates that the future does not lie solely in bans, but in the development of sustainable pedagogical concepts.

The successful meeting in Bayreuth laid an important foundation for linking scientific research, didactic innovation, and school practice more closely – thus making a lasting contribution to the development of contemporary education. As part of the Wagner anniversary year “150 Years of the Bayreuth Festival,” the program also included a visit to the Bayreuth Festival Theatre as a cultural highlight.

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## **Short Version**

At the Erasmus+ project meeting of the international education project FOCUS, held on May 7 and 8, 2026, at the University of Bayreuth, researchers and teachers from five European countries came together to further develop approaches to smartphone use in schools.

The meeting focused on the first findings on smartphone use, the planning of a diagnostic instrument for schools, and the further development of practical teaching materials. Particular attention was given to inquiry-based learning materials based on the sketchometry concepts developed in Bayreuth, which have already been translated into several languages.

The FOCUS project aims to promote a responsible and learning-oriented use of smartphones as an alternative to purely restrictive approaches in the current educational policy debate.

Alongside the intensive project work, the meeting also provided opportunities for cultural exchange: during the Wagner anniversary year “150 Years of the Bayreuth Festival,” the international guests visited the Bayreuth Festival Theatre.

## **Project Management sketchometry**

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### **Links**

<https://project-focus.org>

<https://sketchometry.org>

<https://mobiles-lernen.uni-bayreuth.de>

## Visuals

Fotos: Miller, CMLDT





