

Laura Brianza

Rotary Club Saronno | District 2042 | Italy

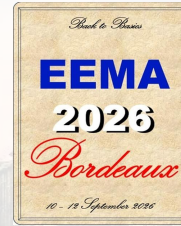
STEP Coordinator D2042 – Italy

EEMA Youth Exchange – Past President and Board Member

D2042 – Youth Program Coordinator

- Entrepreneur and Auctioneer in Model Cars Business
- involved in Youth Exchange since 2011





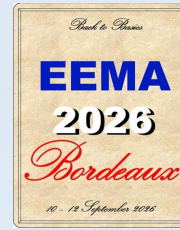
CRISTINA VOINA

Rotary Club Alba Iulia | District 2241 | Country ROMANIA

Past YEP chair District 2241 (2016-2025)
EEMA Youth Exchange – founding member

- Retired ; former teacher
- involved in Youth Exchange since 2005





STEP – Family-to-Family

Challenges, Experiences & Key Reflections for Facilitators and Coordinators

Session Facilitators & Moderators
Laura Brianza D2042
Cristina Voina D2241

Addressing Our Fears & Anxieties



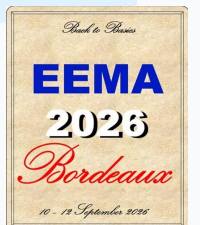
Rotarians' Concerns

- Risk management, liability, and safety compliance.
- Uncertainty in student behavior or cultural friction.
- Managing emergency response across international borders.
- Equitable club involvement and volunteer fatigue.

Host Families' Concerns

- Language barriers and communication breakdowns.
- Integration into household routines and discipline.
- Emotional well-being and homesickness management.
- Fears of not offering a "grand enough" experience.

 **Discussion Prompt: Where do our fears overlap, and how do we proactively build trust before day one?**



Short-Term, High Impact

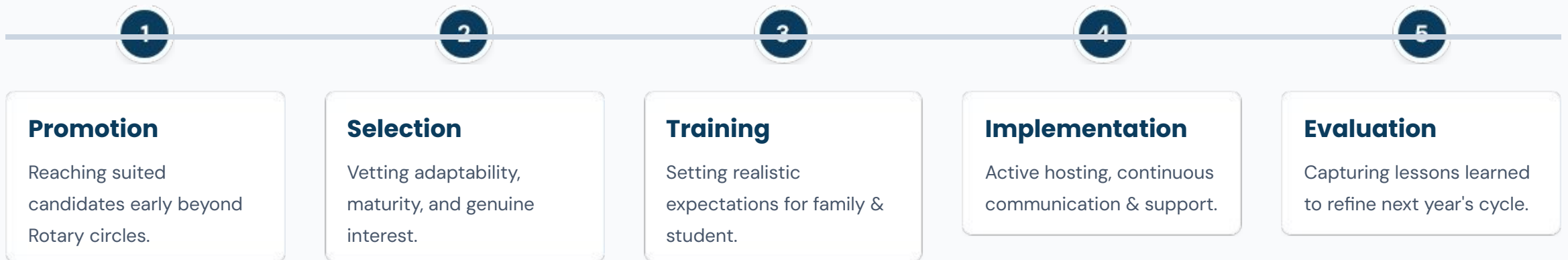
F2F is one of RYE's oldest formats, capturing the pure essence of Rotary: building world peace through direct personal connection. Because it is short-term, there is a common misconception that it requires less rigor than Long-Term Exchange (LTEP). In reality, the compressed timeline leaves zero buffer for missteps, making preparation critical.



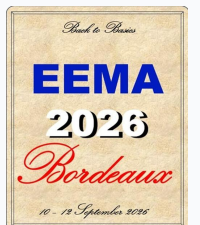
Key Reflection: Why do we often treat short-term as "lightweight"?



The F2F Process & Steps



 **Discussion Prompt: Which stage currently presents the biggest bottleneck in your District?**



Who is Responsible for What?



District

Sets compliance standards, validates insurance, oversees multi-district matching, and provides emergency escalation frameworks.



Club

Appoints dedicated counselors, organizes local activities, monitors student welfare, and acts as the frontline liaison.

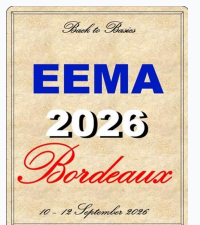


Host Family

Provides daily care, active cultural immersion, clear household boundaries, and warm family integration.



Discussion Prompt: Where do grey areas typically cause confusion or friction during an exchange?



Student Selection & Matching

Good or Bad Students — Or Bad Matching?

- How do we assess psychological readiness and flexibility during interview sessions?
- Matching non-negotiables: lifestyle, allergies, activity levels, and expectations.
- Distinguishing between temporary culture shock and incompatibility.



 **Discussion Prompt:** What screening criteria have proven most reliable in your experience?

Evaluating Exchange Experiences



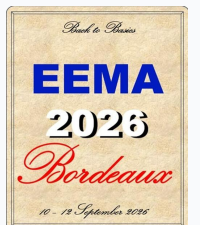
✓ Positive Outcomes

- Creates lifelong cross-border family friendships.
- Acts as a gateway program leading to Long-Term Exchanges.
- Energizes local Rotarians and boosts community visibility.

⚠ Challenging Outcomes

- Host family burnout or feeling unsupported.
- Misaligned expectations leading to early termination.
- Hesitation from clubs to host again in future cycles.

💬 Discussion Prompt: Can a well-managed short-term exchange generate more long-term value than an LTEP?



Districts & Clubs: Do We Benefit?



360°

Total Impact Return

The Strategic Return on Investment

Club Engagement

Attracts younger families to Rotary activities.

Low Barriers

Easier commitment for host families than 10 months.

International Ties

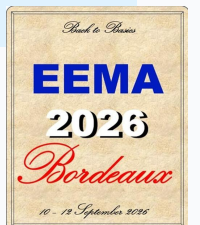
Strengthens inter-district global partnerships.

Memories & Peace

Tangible fulfillment of Rotary's core mission.



Discussion Prompt: How do you communicate this value to hesitant clubs in your region?



Turning Challenges into Success



💡 The Core Challenge for Today

"How can we systematically transform a negative exchange experience into an opportunity for growth and program strength?"

1. Immediate Debriefing

Conduct objective, blameless reviews while facts are fresh.

2. Adaptive Training

Update orientation guides based on real scenario learnings.

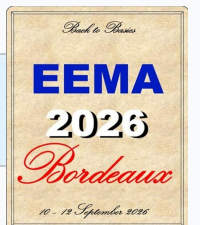
3. Empathetic Support

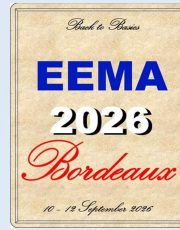
Protect relationships with host families and partner clubs.

4. Continuous Sharing

Leverage EEMA network insights to avoid repeated errors.

🔑 **Final Action: What is one concrete adjustment you will commit to making in your district this year?**





Thank you!!!