

CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

28 & 29 JANUARY 2020, ULB CAMPUS SOLBOSCH BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

A6 - Making Erasmus more international

Summary of the discussion

The Commission gave an overview of the state of play of the development of the international dimension for the future Erasmus and collected stakeholders' feedback, reflections and suggestions. The main message was that all actions of the future Erasmus may be open to the participation of third countries, although to various extent. The scope and rules of their participation will depend on the outcome of the negotiations of 2021-2027 Erasmus and external instruments' regulations, the size of programme budget and the priorities at the programming level. Proposals to expand the international dimension to the fields of VET and Sport were highlighted, as well as more flexibility for HEIs to fund international mobility in higher education.

Main outcomes/ operational conclusions

Around 60 participants coming from key education and training sectors, notably vocational education and training, higher education, youth sector, private and other sectors, and from the National Agencies attended the session. The stakeholders contributed with useful insights and specific proposals.

Stakeholders showed high interest in the possible international opening of VET and some wondered whether this opportunity would be open to upper secondary schools. Some VET providers highlighted that short-term international mobility would fit the nature and length of their courses best. The participants welcomed the intentions of offering more flexible funding opportunities for international mobility in higher education by allowing higher education institutions to use a part of Erasmus+ intra-European (KA103) funds to support international mobility. Participants also emphasised the importance of simpler administration and inclusion. Several stakeholders proposed to introduce short-term mobilities, similar to the previous intensive programmes, to enhance inclusion in higher education considering that in some regions it is not feasible to implement long-term mobilities. Youth sector requested simpler application procedures to facilitate involvement of young peoples, and not only youth workers.

The intention to introduce small-scale projects for higher education capacity building was well received. Several stakeholders suggested a broader international opening of Cooperation Partnerships to facilitate new types of cooperation with organisations from Partner Countries. Stakeholders suggested the Commission could pay more attention to the ownership of Partner Countries in Erasmus projects and increase the impact at national level by requiring a more committed role from ministries in capacity-building structural projects. They also recommended improving dissemination of project results at EU level. The Commission noted specific concerns related to international mobility such as complicated visa procedures, recognition of ECTS credits, and payment of grants to participants from Partner Countries.