

CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

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

A7 - DiscoverEU – A citizen's idea makes its way to Erasmus

Summary of the discussion

During the breakout session, the DiscoverEU team gave a state of play of the Preparatory Action as well as an outlook for the future to around 60 stakeholders present. A highlight of the session were the testimonials given by Maja (from Croatia) and Ryan (from Malta), two DiscoverEU travelers who enthusiastically shared their experiences with the audience. Especially Maja managed to describe her DiscoverEU experience with all the challenges and the richness in a very moving way through a self-made video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YWDMVSJ9Vs&feature=youtu.be>.

At the end of the session, participants could ask questions about the initiative and the future as well as participate in the discussion on the different dimensions of the project (inclusion, green & learning).

Main outcomes/ operational conclusions of the session

Different questions regarding the current state of play as well as the future implementation under Erasmus dominated the interactive part at the end of the session.

One recurrent topic was the inclusion dimension of DiscoverEU. National Agencies were assured that this dimension will be addressed in line with the general Erasmus+ approach and interest groups of the field were asked to give some pointers to how the programme could reach even more young people with fewer opportunities.

Some participants showed an interest in the new “DiscoverEU activity label” and were informed that this label is supposed to create a win-win situation for participating organisations and the DiscoverEU travellers. With this label, travellers can easily find interesting and qualitative activities that in turn can strengthen the learning dimension.

Stakeholders from the higher education field showed interest in the methods used to evaluate the preparatory action as well as the future programme. They were informed that due to the limited means of the preparatory action, the primary evaluation tool is currently the participants' survey, but that the evaluation methods after the integration into Erasmus will be streamlined with the methods used in the programme. There was also a strong interest from different stakeholders about the current and future budget and the possibilities it provides (how many young people can travel, cost per person, which part will be used for inclusion, etc.).

Some youth organizations working with young people from the NEET category raised some questions about the measures taken to ensure the inclusion of all young people. Participants were informed that the preparatory action already tries to put measures in place to ensure that all young people can participate (e.g. additional support measures for participants with a disability such as an extra ticket for a caretaker, some support to find adapted accommodation or top-ups for young people coming from remote areas and islands). The DiscoverEU team is continuously working on improving the inclusion aspect and is welcoming all suggestions from the field. Other stakeholders described DiscoverEU as a good incubator project that encourages learning and traveling sustainably.