

CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

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

B1- How to better involve the hard-to-reach

About this session...

The current Erasmus+ programme has reached out to more people with fewer opportunities than its predecessors. And the Regulation establishing the European Solidarity Corps 2018-2020 states that the Commission and the Member States shall ensure that specific and effective measures are taken to promote social inclusion and equal access conditions. However, there is a clear political mandate from EU Leaders to make the future programmes more inclusive.

Against this background, the Commission has envisioned a strong ambition in running programmes that work for all, opening up the access to funding to a wider range of organisations. With a view to the new programmes, a first-ever comprehensive strategy is under preparation via a co-creation process with stakeholders, representatives from organisations and individuals working with inclusion and diversity or having hands-on experience (including advocacy networks, researchers, practitioners, staff from educational institutions, etc.).

The strategy is being conceived as a far-reaching, overarching and flexible framework, aiming at creating the conditions for more synergies among different actors and programmes to foster inclusion and to build on diversity as a positive value. The general principles laid down in the strategy can be further declined into sectoral and national practices and they will be spelt out in more detailed specific documents and tools that will support the implementation of the programmes (Guide for experts, Programme Guide, etc.). The strategy is also meant to provide clearer and more compelling guidelines and recommendations for organizations and National Agencies.

The main purpose of this session is to engage with participants about how to better reach out to more diverse target groups and in particular people with fewer opportunities and facing obstacles to participate in European projects. Input from the audience would be particularly beneficial.

Something to think about...

What is the main driver that can help to reach out to more underrepresented groups?

What mechanisms or actions could help ensure consistency between a European strategy and those that may exist at national level?

Once this strategy is adopted, how to concretely ensure it is appropriately implemented and monitored?