

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?

Summary of the discussion

The session provided an overview of the main rationale, aims and proposed outline for the future inclusion and diversity strategy being prepared in view of the future Erasmus and European Solidarity Corps programmes. The background for developing such a strategy was explained, as were the state of play of the draft documents and the co-creation process involving a number of stakeholders. The session then pursued group discussions addressing three leading questions as described below. Participants generally welcomed the idea of an inclusion and diversity strategy to support the implementation of future programmes, and the co-creation process underpinning its establishment. They put forward a number of specific suggestions in response to the leading questions. The Commission will analyse and build on these ideas to fine-tune the preparation of the strategy and the way it will be implemented, together with all relevant stakeholders.

What are the main outcomes/ operational conclusions of your session?

On the question “What is the main driver that can help to reach out to more underrepresented groups?”, participants proposed a) dedicated funding to be devoted to support smaller organisations with no experience in submitting proposals, b) a simplified and more flexible funding procedure for smaller actors, c) strengthening cooperation with stakeholders working with target groups with fewer opportunities at local/regional level d) identifying programme “ambassadors” belonging to these groups, to act as an example for other people in similar circumstances e) the need to take into account the national framework/priorities for these target groups, f) provide incentives for the National Agencies to define their own inclusion strategies derived from the overarching one, g) the need for more effective cooperation between formal education institutions with youth organisations, h) in particular in the field of Adult Education, it was proposed that the new programme should fund the mobility of individuals and not only their trainers i) financing a period of linguistic and intercultural training for people with fewer opportunities taking part in programme activities.

On the question “what actions could help to strengthen coherence between European and national integration policies”, participants a) highlighted the importance to use common language/definitions at European and national level, b) stressed that regular communication between the competent bodies is needed, while ensuring that the reality in each country and the different needs of each sector programme is taken into account, c) pointed out that the language used should be understandable and appropriate for the relevant target groups, d) proposed that National Authorities be encouraged to consider the relevance of National and European Strategies in cooperation with the National Agencies e) recalled that for a successful implementation of the strategy, it is important to cooperate with the stakeholders who have the experience working with target groups with fewer opportunities.

On the question “How can effective implementation of the Strategy be ensured and how can this be measured?” participants requested to ensure that indicators measuring progress in the implementation of an inclusive programme should not be limited to quantitative data but should also be qualitative. It was also proposed to set up thematic networks share more efficiently the results and resources developed by projects, and to strengthen the dialogue with all the bodies concerned in the implementation of the strategy.