

CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

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

B4 - Simpler rules for a more inclusive programme

Summary of the discussion

After a short presentation on the main ideas being developed for the revision of funding rules, the participants engaged in group discussions, aimed to collecting feedback on the main weaknesses of the current system that should be addressed and proposing ideas to improve the rules of the future programme.

After the discussion, one speaker per group summarised the main aspects covered.

Main outcomes / operational conclusions

General feedback on the proposals was positive. Participants engaged in the discussion constructively, giving their contribution to the further development and fine-tuning of the proposals presented.

Some common needs were presented by participants from all three groups, such as a) the need for simplification of the language and of the structure of application forms, contracts and grant agreements and b) more flexibility in project management, allowing easier changes to the plans.

For Key Action 1 mobility projects, participants largely supported the idea to introduce top-ups for green travel, for example by increasing the grant amount when participants choose a more environment-friendly means of transport. The group also discussed the possibility to apply changes in the project activities after the submission of the application, for example allowing changes to the planned budget or to the duration of mobilities if different needs arise during the lifespan of the project.

Top-ups were identified as a useful tool allowing to personalise the funding level in order to meet the specificities of each organisation. They could be used for “green travel”, to increase funding for projects with a larger inclusion dimension or to contribute to the costs related with visas and insurance for mobilities outside the EU. However, it will be important to avoid creating too many top-ups in order to keep the programme guide simple and the rules as much as possible common to all sectors.

On Key Action 2 cooperation projects, the groups identified some areas where additional details and guidance will be needed for the good functioning of the proposed lump sum model for the future. A problem pointed out by many stakeholders is the one related to the current system for reimbursement of staff costs, which is considered as too rigid. It creates perceptions of unequal treatments, due to the fact that rates are based on the cost of work per group of countries. The proposed new system, based on single lump sums, seems to offer a concrete good solution to those problems.

A better definition of role and responsibilities of the project coordinator vs. partners and a solid framework for objective and transparent evaluations of project quality would also be needed. In this respect, some participants supported the idea that applicants can create their own indicators to measure the achievement of project objectives. Finally, training from Commission to National Agencies and from National Agencies to applicants will be a key success factor for this model.