

CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

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

B5 - Youth Participation Activities – a chance to get involved in changing things that matter to you

Summary of the discussion

This session was focused on how to best align Youth Participation Activities - an envisaged new action format for the future Erasmus+ programme with the needs of young people, to be able to be meaningfully involved in civic, economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. Participants discussed various aspects of the proposed new format (and youth participation in general) and provided input on the needs of potential beneficiaries and target groups of the envisaged activities.

Main outcomes/ operational conclusions?

The feedback on the proposed new format was positive:

- Participants devoted major attention to how to make the Youth Participation Activities accessible and attractive to the intended beneficiaries, suggesting simplification of application procedures on one hand and support to (potential participating) organisations with proven track record in the area of youth work/ youth participation.
- The participants also confirmed that it is necessary to make available specific support (e.g. coaching or other support structures) for young people (especially those considered as “young persons with fewer opportunities”) in order to fulfil the action’s ambition and facilitate “youth-driven” projects involving youngsters in every phase of supported projects.
- Participants also highlighted the need for a clearer and practical definition of “European added value” (this requirement applies horizontally, to all formats), especially “what this can/should mean for smaller/local projects”.
- A number of participants suggested creating (alongside the “standard” application process) also a step-in format for small amounts equivalent to the existing Solidarity Projects (European Solidarity Corps).
- Last but definitely not least, the participants agreed that an appropriate funding model would be crucial for the success of Youth Participation Activities and that the budget allocation would have to be significantly larger than the funding available for current Key Action 3, in order to make any positive difference.
- Importance of finding a practical way of providing or rather facilitating access to participation spaces despite the absence of structural funding/investments was also highlighted.