

CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

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

C2 - Learning to work together through transnational partnerships

During this session, participants were provided with a brief overview of the future structure for Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (actions supporting cooperation and exchange between organisations). In particular, the introduction focused on providing a description of the Partnerships for cooperation, which will be mainly decentralised actions (managed by the Erasmus+ National Agencies), and will be of two types: cooperation partnerships and small scale partnerships. Both types will be similar in terms of objectives and type of actions supported, but will differ in the scale and requirements of the projects, the small scale partnerships being meant to be particularly suited for grass-root organisations and newcomers to the activities that foster cooperation between organisations under the programme.

The purpose of this session was to identify -with the help of the various types of stakeholders in the room- to discuss on common elements that can determine the successful implementation of cooperation projects. During the discussions, some horizontal proposals were put forward, such as the idea to produce a handbook at European level to support project promoters throughout the project lifecycle of the future cooperation partnerships, or to increase the use of webinars organised by NAs to support beneficiaries in different aspects of the project lifecycle – since it seems to be an efficient and welcomed tool. The discussions benefited from bringing around the table the different angles –beneficiary perspective, National Agency, experts, or even participants not having ran cooperation projects before.

Main outcomes/ operational conclusions:

Phase 1) Preparation of the projects/"before":

- Need to improve the user experience in the existing platforms, by for example enabling a search functionality by categories of partners
- Creating support materials for newcomers on how to produce a well-designed budget for Erasmus+ projects
- To start learning to cooperate transnationally with other organisations, potential applicants should be encouraged to start with smaller projects first, and grow progressively within the programme
- Preparatory visits/preparatory meetings for project partners are key for a solid project design and implementation

Phase 2) implementation/"during"

- Through the implementation of the project, it is key to have an understanding among project partners about the main objectives to be achieved, the risks that can be faced, establish communication channels and agree on the language(s) to be used, etc.
- It is key to ensure respect for the cultural differences between partners and equal treatment among the organisations participating in the project
- Organisations should be aware of the implications of potential partner withdrawals throughout the project lifecycle and the potential impact in the sustainability of the project, to mitigate possible risks

Phase 3) sharing of results/"after"

- Creating links, synergies with other funding schemes, facilitating access to further funds to continue/scale up project results.
- Creating a culture where sharing results means an added value, not an obligation for beneficiaries
- Existing platform for sharing results need to be optimized to be able to better filter and efficiently use the existing materials
- Strengthen the involvement of policy makers, local authorities etc., to raise visibility of project's impact.