

C6 - Get active and participate!

About this session...

Europe needs more cohesive and inclusive societies, which allow citizens to play an active role in democratic life. Education, training, youth activities and sport are key to promote common European values, foster social integration, enhance intercultural understanding and foster a sense of belonging to a community.

Several actions of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes already promote active participation in democratic life, social and civic engagement through formal, non-formal or informal learning activities. The programmes also contribute to raising awareness on and understanding the European Union context, notably as regards the common EU values, the principles of unity and diversity, as well as their social, cultural and historical heritage.

The long-term objective for the next generation programmes is to further strengthen the “active participation dimension”, also by empowering people in tackling the current and future societal challenges: climate change and environmental protection, digitalisation, new forms of democratic participation, etc.

To that end, it would be beneficial to take stock of existing practices and examine further opportunities in view of strengthening this aspect in the design of actions and rules of the future programmes.

Something to think about...

What are the actions, activities, practices of the current programme which best contribute to helping individuals to become more active in society? What are the best practices to address and empower people with fewer opportunities? What is missing, or should be further strengthened in view of the next generation programmes?

In the context of mobility activities, can the mobility period abroad be an opportunity to experience an engagement in local communities?

- a) *Would such “experiences of active participation” respond to the expectations of those who wish to carry out mobility activities? If so, how can the future mobility activities be designed in a way that they meet these expectations? What lessons can be drawn in particular by European Solidarity Corps activities and extended to mobility in other sectors?*
- b) *What opportunities should be present for participants in mobility activities to further promote the active engagement and participation of more young people? How can the participants act as ambassadors of the EU programmes and support other young people who are potential participants?*

How can the participation in education and youth projects support participants in understanding societal phenomena, the changes caused by human activity and the challenges of our world today? What further opportunities should be created in the future programmes, for participants to multiply the awareness about their impact on the local communities and society in general?