

# CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

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

## C9 - Forward-Looking Partnerships: “Improving Policies and Systems for Tomorrow’s World.”

### **Summary of the discussion**

Discussions focussed on how to create synergies with the different programmes and how to better involve National Agencies (NAs) to link centralised and decentralised actions. The importance to make clear differences between the actions: Cooperation Partnerships; Alliances for Innovation; Forward-Looking Partnerships was also pointed, such as the fact that Forward-Looking Partnerships (FLPs) should be bottom-up with stakeholders, working to create systematic impact. Participants also discussed about how to build bridges with policy priorities and good results, to ensure that centralised projects can have real impact at national systemic level.

### **Main outcomes/ operational conclusions of the session**

#### **A) Operational Issues:**

- Open up further the actions to Partner Countries, with limits to a maximum number of partner countries per project to avoid an over-representation.
- Consortium of a minimum of three programme countries and three organisations is fine.
- Types of activities/categories within the action needs to be defined to a certain level to bring the action closer to the interested applicants.
- Clear and streamlined guidance documents are needed for project applicants and beneficiaries.
- Consideration volunteer time contributions as a way of justifying co-financing by the project applicant/consortium to make it easier for smaller organisations in terms of meeting their co-funding obligations and therefore make the programme more inclusive.
- The grant amount is appropriate, but it should be possible to request smaller grants.
- Enable extra funding for the projects to ensure greater impact after the end of the project.
- The application form could contain a checkbox to consent the sharing of additional data of project organisations with the relevant National Agency.

#### **B) How can we explore synergies with other funding programmes e.g. ESF and Horizon Europe, to allow for combining/mainstreaming funds for different parts of the project?**

- Synergies could be conceived at: a) policy level: seeking synergies between national level and the EU level in terms of defining the priorities; b) national operational level: seeking an alignment between the ESF+ operational national /regional programmes and the future Erasmus and Horizon Europe priorities; c) institutional level: communication should be reinforced between researchers and trainers to ensure 'cross-fertilisation' and avoid the work in silos. The European networks could also be a means for achieving this.
- Need to find ways at European level to link research, innovation and education and streamline priorities, perhaps by cooperating with other funding programmes.
- In addition to streamlined priorities, the future Erasmus, ESF+ and Horizon Europe should provide complementary funding. Explore ideas such as “entry ticket” or a “Seal of Excellence” recommending successful projects to the ESF+ calls for further uptake of funds.
- NAs need better information on centralised actions. A digital tool with powerful search functions could be developed for matching projects / funds and building new partnerships.