



FOR STRONG EU PROGRAMMES FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS

Amendments to the Draft Report on Implementation of Erasmus+

in Main conclusions:

add:

- Recognises the civil society organisations and European NGOs as key stakeholders in ERASMUS+ implementation and evaluation.
- Notes that there is a strong need to further support and facilitate access to the programme for underrepresented groups.

replace:

8. "Notes that the Student Loan Guarantee Facility was **only** launched in February 2015 after signature of the delegation agreement with the European Investment Fund (EIF) in December 2014, and that to date there are only three banks in France and Spain participating in this **innovative** tool; **and calls for critical assesment of the Loan Guarantee Facility, considering the purpose and accessibility.**"

in Recommendations:

replace:

10. Asks the Commission to fully exploit **the lifelong learning dimension of the programme by fostering and encouraging cross-sectoral cooperation under Erasmus+ as foreseen initially in the programme, by extending, for example, the possibility to submit cross-sectoral strategic partnerships under KA2 to NGOs while ensuring that evaluators have a broad understanding of educational areas including non-formal education.**

12. "Encourages the Commission to ~~continue~~ **improve** its efforts towards an open, consultative and transparent way of working and to further improve its cooperation with partners, **including both governmental and non-governmental organisations**, at all levels of implementation; **stresses, to this end, the need to involve stakeholders and beneficiaries in the**

Programme Committee work; highlights that, in line with Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, this could be facilitated by the establishment of standing sub-committees involving representatives of stakeholders and beneficiaries, sectoral National Agencies, Members of the European Parliament and representatives from the Member States;”

21. “Calls on the Commission to recognise the special nature of projects and mobilities involving people with special needs and people from disadvantaged backgrounds; encourages stronger promotion of the possibilities for people with special needs and for people from disadvantaged backgrounds to engage in the programme and asks that their access thereto be facilitated; **encourages establishing strategy and targets in order to increase accessibility of the programme for underrepresented groups.**”

Add:

(European level civil society organisations)

- Calls on the European Commission for an increased and long-term recognition of the role of and operating support to European civil society networks in the field of education, training, youth and sport in the framework of KA3 “Support for policy reform – Civil Society Cooperation” in order to maximise the promotion and dissemination of the opportunities offered by Erasmus+, to contribute to the promotion of European values as well as to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme.
- Calls for a 5% fund management of KA2 projects at the EACEA level for European civil society organisations and networks to ensure a genuine European dimension by providing a solution for European CSOs, for example organisations applying for funds to National Agencies in Belgium, and alleviate pressure on the NAs in Belgium themselves.

(Common quality standards)

- Calls on the European Commission to set up a mechanism that would guide National Agencies towards common quality standards and a more standardised interpretation of the programme rules; encourages centralisation of information through defining European implementation guidelines or European “FAQ” answering the most common questions that various NAs are asked in order to support the process;

(Cooperation between NAs)

- Encourages providing sufficient resources to NAs and EACEA to be able to improve the implementation of the programme, through for example peer learning, providing and reinforcing training opportunities for evaluators, organising regular meetings with beneficiaries and visits to projects; strongly encourages more transparency on the way applications are evaluated and extensive quality feedback to all applicants on different parts of the applications.

(User-friendly programme guide)

- Encourages the European Commission to create a programme guide written in a clear and user-friendly language with indications to documents that are needed at each stage together with document samples, coming with track changes version from the previous edition and hyperlinks in the pdf version of the Programme Guide to quickly connect relevant parts.

(Improved application forms)

- Asks the European Commission to improve application forms especially regarding the financial section (offering a financial overview, limited numbers of clicks etc.), or for example the issue of repetitive questions, redundant information and excessive applicant information requests covered already by ECAS.

(Volunteer-based organisations)

- Calls on the European Commission to strengthen the involvement of volunteer-based organisations in the programme by reducing administrative barriers; encourages the European Commission to foster the support to volunteer-based organisations in participating in the programme by National Agencies.
- Welcomes the new proposal for European Solidarity Corps; encourages the European Commission to involve the civil society organisations in the process of its development to contribute to strengthen volunteering in Europe;

(Increased lump sums)

- Asks to increase the lump sums with regard to overall project coordination not being properly covered by the administration lump sums; in order to overcome geographical inequalities travel costs should take into account geographical realities and differences;

(Flexibility in use of funds)

- Encourages the European Commission to give more flexibility to NAs to move funds within KAs in order to overcome the potential funding gaps based on beneficiaries needs, for instance between KA1 Youth Exchanges and Youth Workers mobility;

(New eligible actions)

- Encourages the European Commission to come up with innovative solutions to maximise as much as possible the impact of the Programme by proposing new eligible actions, which could be done, for example, by introducing large scale youth exchanges based on the structure of the large scale EVS in the framework of KA1;

*The **Erasmus+ Civil Society Coalition** is a group of more than 40 European Civil Society Networks active in the field of education, training, youth and sport. They represent key stakeholders in Europe active in the Erasmus+ Programme. This civil society alliance is led by the [Lifelong Learning Platform](#) and the [European Youth Forum](#).*

The members of the Coalition aim to create ownership on EU policies and to voice the concerns and needs of millions of citizens to the EU. They play a crucial role as intermediaries and multipliers in informing and involving education, training and youth actors in EU cooperation and policy-making and in disseminating cooperation outputs. They can reach a critical mass and ensure a long-term impact.

For further information:



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