

A strategic approach to Inclusion

How can a European youth programme **make a difference for young people with fewer opportunities**? Often inclusion workers – wrongly! – think that an international youth project is not for ‘their clients’. Research shows that precisely underprivileged youth benefits more of Erasmus+ projects, compared to young people who face few difficulties in life.

➤ See www.salto-youth.net/mobilityeffects/

Bringing the Erasmus+ programme to them

Information is in many cases the first hurdle: inclusion workers simply do not know about the **possibilities of Erasmus+ youth projects**. A consortium of 15 Erasmus+ Youth National Agencies, with the support of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, decided to reach out strategically to inclusion organisations. They targeted those organisations working with young people with fewer opportunities who are underrepresented in the E+ youth projects in their country, exactly to boost the number of projects with these target groups.

- (Organisations working with) young people with **disability and health issues** (FR, DE, IS, LV, HU & EE; PL & SALTO SEE join from 2018; RO, PT, SI only sending; BE-FR leaves in 2018)
- (Organisations working with) young people **in NEET situation/low educational attainment** (AT, UK, CZ & FR; EE, LV, RO, PT & LT join from 2018)
- (Organisations working with) young people from **disadvantaged rural areas** (SI, EE, RO & PT; IE & SALTO SEE join from 2018; BE-FR leaves in 2018)

The NAs mapped the actors who worked with these groups in their various countries and got in touch with them. Since the beginning of this strategic partnership, end 2015, the NAs reached out to **1931 inclusion organisations** that were new to the Erasmus+ programme. 508 of them reacted positively (response rate 26%).



Providing a step-by-step offer

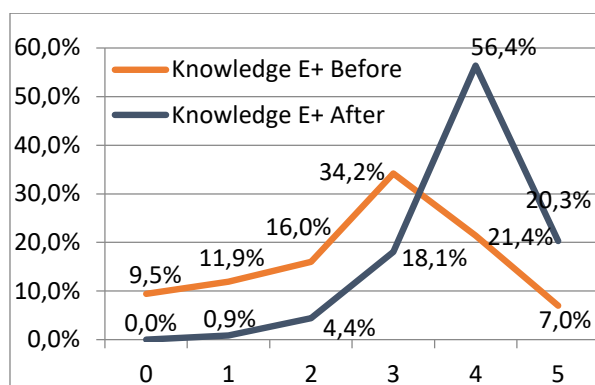
Simply receiving information is not enough to see the **benefits of international mobility projects** for their clients. They need to see examples, get more arguments, talk to people who have done it before. Therefore the participating National Agencies developed a strategic approach to get the inclusion organisations on board. They organised national inclusion events as a first step-up to an international partner-finding seminar or training course for Erasmus+ youth projects.

The consortium of NAs managed to bring **534 inclusion staff** of these new inclusion organisations to national SPI events and send 148 to international seminars/training. Thanks to their strategic efforts, the NAs jointly managed to provide **an international experience to 29%** of the interested organisations.

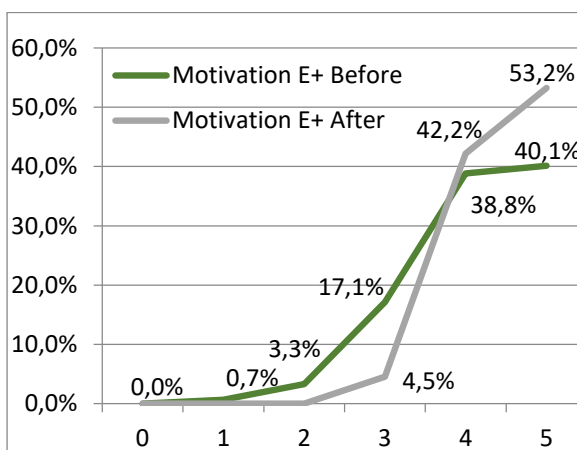
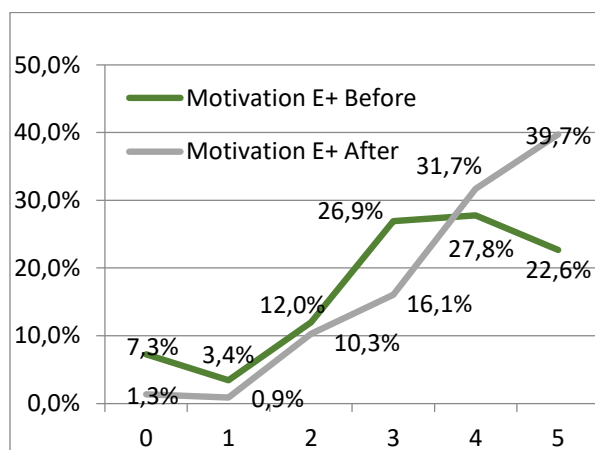
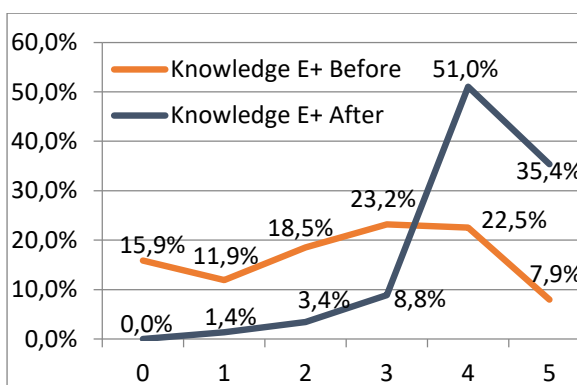
These national and international SPI activities contributed clearly to the participants' **knowledge of Erasmus+ youth projects** and to their motivation to give international mobility a try (see graphs). International events (seminars, partner-finding, training) have a bigger effect than national activities. This confirms the hypothesis that ‘a personal taste of mobility’ is an important factor for inclusion organisations to organise an international project for their clients in return.

The National Agencies provide **additional support and coaching** for the organisations interested in setting up an international inclusion project.

Evaluation national events



Evaluation international events



Harvesting the results of this Strategic Partnership on Inclusion

At the end of 2017, the strategic interventions of the partner NAs led to **27 additional inclusion projects**, reaching **more than 350 young people with fewer opportunities**, those who are often hard to reach.

Organising an international project, finding international partners and securing funding all require quality preparation and time. This means that more inclusion projects are in the pipeline for the upcoming Erasmus+ deadlines.

June 2018 is the end of a first cycle of reaching out to new inclusion organisations and taking them step-by-step to an international project with the young people they are working with. The Strategic Partnership on Inclusion will organise a **'harvesting conference' in Cascais**, the European Youth Capital, to showcase the projects and learn from this experience to set up a second cycle.

From 2018, **3 new Erasmus+ National Agencies and 1 SALTO resource centre** joined the Strategic Partnership on Inclusion (IE, PL, LT, SALTO SEE). The second cycle of strategic interventions will reach out to even more inclusion organisations and hopefully lead to a whole bunch of additional opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities in Europe.

➤ More about the Strategic Partnership on Inclusion at www.salto-youth.net/SPInclusion/