

## Strategic Analysis of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and the European Solidarity Corps in the Western Balkan Partner Countries

Desk study on beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries & Analysis of benefits, needs and challenges



### CALL FOR AUTHORS

#### Background:

According to the *Impact Study of Cooperation with South East Europe within the Youth in Action Programme*<sup>1</sup> carried out by SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre (SALTO SEE) in 2013, the Youth in Action Programme (2007 – 2013) had a significant impact on the organisational development of the beneficiaries, as well as on the overall development of youth work in the region. The accumulation of experience and capacities could also be concluded from the high level of involvement of several organisations in projects; many of them –or their partners in the Programme Countries– received multiple grants throughout the years.

Since the Youth in Action Programme encouraged a balance between the Programme and Partner Countries in projects, there was also a high level of intra-regional cooperation, supporting networking and paving the way for new organisations to get involved. Overall, how the Programme was strategically used in the field of youth enabled an easy identification of the key beneficiaries, potentially interested beneficiaries, their motivation, needs and challenges remaining or in getting involved in the Programme.

The Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme (2014 – 2020), and specifically the calls for proposals within the Key Action 2: Capacity-building in the field of youth, opened new perspectives for organisations from the Western Balkan region to get involved. It also encouraged a wider spectrum of potential beneficiaries to seek for opportunities, and many of them were not traditional youth organisations, or doing youth work how it is conventionally understood. Consequently, the way the new Programme was used and who were the beneficiaries became more fragmented.

After several years of taking effect, there is an increasing need to map out the current situation on how the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme is being implemented in the Western Balkan region, what is the profile of the beneficiaries, what motivates organisations to get involved in the Programme and what are their current needs and challenges. Even more importantly, there is a need to identify actors, which have the interest in getting involved, but so far have not taken part.

In 2018 it became evident that the new EU Programme European Solidarity Corps (2018 – 2020) will be partially open also for the Western Balkan Partner Countries. The Programme will replace the opportunities for implementing volunteering activities, which were previously carried out within the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme, and potentially bring new perspectives and challenges in the area of transnational volunteering.

---

<sup>1</sup> SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre (2013): *Impact Study of Cooperation with South East Europe within the Youth in Action Programme*, available at <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/see/resources/seepublications/viaimpactsee/>

### **Aim of the Planned Study:**

The aim of the study is to provide an in-depth overview of the composition of beneficiaries (and potential beneficiaries) of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and the European Solidarity Corps in the Western Balkan Partner Countries, their motivation to take part in the Programme(s), main benefits as well as their needs and challenges.

### **Implementation:**

The study will be implemented in two phases:

1. Mapping out the beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and European Solidarity Corps (2018):
  - a. Classification of the data<sup>2</sup> available on projects, beneficiaries and applicants of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme in 2014 – 2018 (decentralised and centralised grants) resulting a database of organisations divided by countries indicating the past involvement or attempted involvement in the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme. The database will be complemented with the results from the stages b., c., and d. of this phase of the study;
  - b. Gathering of information<sup>3</sup> from SALTO SEE local Contact Points in the Western Balkan Partner Countries about potential beneficiaries (unsuccessful applicants and other potential beneficiaries) based on their activities as Contact Points;
  - c. Classification of the data on former participants and applicants of support activities organised by SALTO SEE.
  - d. Mapping out other actors in the Western Balkan region working on priority topics of SALTO SEE (inclusion of young people from disadvantaged areas or having health issues, education for democratic citizenship, violent radicalisation, youth employment and entrepreneurship);
  - e. Statistics and visual presentation of the results.
  
2. Identification and analysis of the organisations' main benefits, needs and challenges relevant in the context of cooperation within the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and European Solidarity Corps (2019)
  - a. Design, implementation and analysis of a survey among a selection of organisations and other actors identified in the first phase of the study on their areas of interest, benefits, needs and challenges in relation to the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and the European Solidarity Corps;
  - b. Design and implementation of focus groups and / or interviews based on the most important findings of the stage a. of this phase of the study;
  - c. Compilation of a final report presenting the main findings and analysis as well as recommendations/suggestions addressed to SALTO SEE for future work in this field.

---

<sup>2</sup> The data will be extracted from the centralised database on Erasmus+ projects.

### **Profile of the authors:**

The authors are expected to have:

- Knowledge of, and experience in designing and implementing research/studies/analysis, which require collecting and processing data, analysing the results and making conclusions of the outcomes;
- Knowledge of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps Programmes and their objectives;
- Understanding of the context of youth work and non-formal education, in which the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps Programmes are implemented, especially with regards to the Western Balkan Partner Countries;
- Excellent comprehension and ability to communicate in English, especially in writing.

### **Responsibilities, time involvement and fees:**

#### **First phase:**

**Two** authors will be contracted for phase 1 of the study, which should be carried out until the end of 2018. The authors are expected to take part in a one-day preparatory meeting with the SALTO SEE staff in Ljubljana, Slovenia (between 26 November – 7 December, to be agreed with the selected experts), during which the specific objectives and outline of phase 1 of the study will be discussed and consolidated, the primary data will be made available and the methodology will be clarified.

The workload for the authors will be concentrated in December 2018. The fee for the first phase will be 1.200 EUR per author plus VAT, if applicable.

#### **Second phase:**

**Four** authors (preferably including the two selected for the 1st phase of the study) will be contracted for the 2nd phase of the study. The authors are expected to take part in a one-day preparatory meeting with SALTO SEE staff in early 2019 (preferably in February) to present and discuss about the findings of the 1st phase of the study and, on this basis, to design and prepare the 2nd phase.

The division of tasks among the authors can be negotiated according to the competences in the team and in consultation with SALTO SEE staff. The study should be completed by the end of May 2019. The fee for the 2nd phase will be 1.500 EUR per author, plus VAT, if applicable.

Contracts will be made preferably with legal entities.

**Application procedure:** Interested authors are asked to fill in the expression of interest at <http://onlineform.salto-youth.net/1651> by **11.11.2018**.

**This call concerns potential authors interested in both phases of the study.**

### **More information and contact details:**

Maija Lehto [maija.lehto@mva.si](mailto:maija.lehto@mva.si), MOVIT –SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre Dunajska 5, SI - 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia Tel.: +386-1-430 47 47; Web: <http://www.salto-youth.net/see>