

Strategic Partnership *Youth@Work* within the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth

Establishment of a regional consultative group in the
Western Balkan Partner Countries:
Call for expression of interest

A consortium of eleven Erasmus+ National Agencies in the field of youth and four SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres established in 2018 a Strategic Partnership *Youth@Work* on supporting youth employability and entrepreneurship. *Youth@Work* aims to create synergies between different activities and support measures organised on the topic in the context of the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth, and therefore achieve a greater impact as well as better communication and dissemination of results. The Strategic Partnership will also ensure a stronger and better attuned representation of the consortium to the European Commission and other relevant institutions regarding youth employability and entrepreneurship.

The **objectives** of *Youth@Work* are to:

- provide visibility to and enhance the role of youth work in the youth employability and entrepreneurship ecosystems;
- support the contribution of the [Erasmus+](#) Programme to the implementation of the [European Youth Strategy](#) and of other European youth employability and entrepreneurship-related policies;
- strengthen the cooperation and synergies between local, regional, national and European initiatives on youth employability and entrepreneurship, and support peer learning;
- increase the development of sustainable partnerships, good practices, quality projects and foster innovation;
- create space and opportunities for different stakeholders to cooperate and learn from each other;
- reinforce the contribution of youth work and of the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth in particular to competences' acquisition and recognition among our target groups;
- enhance the understanding and advance the use of [EntreComp](#), [DigComp](#) and other European competence frameworks to be developed by the European Commission, as well as of [Youthpass](#).
- introduce new initiatives, whilst building on and continuing previous projects organised by the partners on youth employability and entrepreneurship.

Youth@Work in line with its objectives, in particular the one regarding “strengthening the coordination and coherence between local, national, regional and European initiatives”, entails setting up a **regional / national consultative group** by each partner.

The SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre invites expressions of interest from stakeholders situated in the Western Balkan Partner Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo¹ and Montenegro) to take part in the regional consultative group, which is expected to:

- function as an **advisory body** for the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre, with the focus on how the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of youth can be used as an instrument to foster youth employability and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkan Partner Countries and reinforce networking and exchange of practices in the European level. The members of the group should contribute in particular by:
 - sharing information about the needs and relevant developments regarding youth employability and entrepreneurship in their respective countries;
 - taking part in the transnational activities organised within *Youth@Work* to reinforce networking and exchange of practices in the European level;
 - supporting the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre in the design and development of relevant support measures in the frame of the Erasmus+: Programme in the field of youth and facilitating partnership-building in the European level;
 - participating in the annual meeting of the regional consultative group and regularly communicating with the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre in order to streamline the above mentioned processes. The first consultative meeting will take place in autumn 2019. The exact dates will be decided with the group.

Participation in the annual consultative meetings is expected from all group members. For participation in the (transnational) support activities, members of the consultative group are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the selection.

The prospective members of the group can represent a variety of fields connected to the youth employment and entrepreneurship. Candidates with the **following profiles** are encouraged to express interest:

2 – 3 experts or practitioners / country (youth workers, trainers, researchers, representatives of the fields of vocational and higher education, public bodies’ representatives: employment and entrepreneurship support offices, ministries, city councils etc., business of trade union representatives) connected to the topics of youth employability and entrepreneurship, who are:

- knowledgeable and experienced in the topics youth employability and entrepreneurship;
- well connected to the related developments in his / her country and working context;
- involved in local/national/regional or European networks on the topic in concern;
- motivated to be a member of a European network of experts;
- willing and available to take part in a long-term project (until 2020 with a perspective for continuation) that will entail regular participation (annual meeting and motivation to take part in transnational support activities connected to *Youth@Work*).

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The SALTO South East Europe Resource **offers for the members of the regional consultative group:**

- a platform of exchange and networking in the area of youth employability and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkan Partner Countries and in the European level;
- A possibility for capacity-building and networking in the regional and European level, in particular, by taking part in the transnational activities within *Youth@Work*;
- A possibility to professionally contribute to the design and implementation of activities in the Western Balkan Partner Countries and in cooperation with the other National Agencies or SALTO Resource Centres involved in *Youth@Work* (depending on the specific priorities of the activities, the competences of the members and the resources available).

Direct costs (travel, accommodation and meals) related to participation in the activities will be covered by SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre. Professional contribution to the activities will be remunerated.

In 2019, four **transnational support activities** within the *Youth@Work* are foreseen, for which the participation of the members of the regional consultative group is possible. The activities are listed at <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/see/activities/supportactivities/> (among other support activities by the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre).

The interested candidates are asked to **send a motivation letter and a Curriculum Vitae** by email at the latest on **18.4.2019** to Maija Lehto maija.lehto@movit.si MOVIT –SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre. The motivation letter should give an impression on the candidate's:

- professional background and experience in the topics of youth employability and entrepreneurship;
- motivation to take part in the regional consultative group;
- specific areas of interest connected to the main topic.

More information about the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre is available at <http://www.salto-youth.net/see> .