

Youth Cooperation Beyond Borders - Then & Next

Seminar exploring possible future directions for cooperation between Erasmus+ programme and neighbouring countries based on the legacy of twenty years of cooperation

26-30 April 2027 | Albania or Montenegro (venue tbc)

Call for three practice coordinators

The SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre (SALTO SEE) is looking for three “practice coordinators” who can identify relevant practices and support the practitioners behind them in preparing and introducing them during a seminar, which will explore future directions for cooperation between Erasmus+ programme and its neighbouring countries in the youth field, building on twenty+ years of experience, achievements and learning.

Background

The seminar is organised in the context of two long-term strategic partnerships of National Agencies for Erasmus+, youth field, and the European Solidarity Corps and SALTO Resource Centres, Beyond Bordersⁱ and the European Academy on Youth Workⁱⁱ.

For over twenty years, the regional SALTO Resource Centres have been supporting cooperation with the regions neighbouring the European Union within the European youth programmes. Through the Erasmus+ programme, youth field, and the European Solidarity Corps, they promote European cooperation in the youth field and contribute to the broader development and recognition of youth work and volunteering across these regions.

Over the past years, this youth cooperation beyond the borders of the EU has generated vast experience, practices, approaches and tools addressing complex societal challenges and building competences in areas such as intercultural understanding, societal and individual resilience, European identity and democratic citizenship, dealing with conflict and peacebuilding. Through youth work and non-formal learning, this cooperation has created opportunities for dialogue, mutual understanding, capacity-building and joint action across diverse social, cultural and political contexts. Many of these challenges are increasingly relevant within the European Union itself. Questions of war and peace, democratic resilience, social cohesion, citizenship and the role of civil society feature prominently in current European policy discussions.

The experience gained through cooperation with neighbouring regions can thus offer valuable insights not only for future regional cooperation, but also for the wider development of European youth work and youth cooperation.

At the same time, the future relevance of these experiences needs to be considered against the continuous and profound changes that are happening at all levels of society, and the emerging and future challenges affecting young people in different parts of Europe and beyond. This includes the transition to a potentially new future framework for cooperation with countries that are not associated to Erasmus+ beyond 2027.

Since 2019, the European Academy of Youth Work has functioned as a living environment for exploring how youth work understands and approaches change and innovation, and what role it plays in shaping the futures of its field. It has done so through structured learning experiences, collective reflection, dialogue



across practice, policy, and research, and the creation of various materials supporting future orientation in youth work

Aims of the seminar

The seminar will bring together up to 50 participants from Erasmus+ programme and partner regions, including youth work practitioners, trainers, experts and other relevant stakeholders.

It will provide space to look back at the achievements and lessons of the past twenty years of cooperation between Erasmus+ and neighbouring partner countries in the field of youth, and explore practices that have made a difference. By building on these legacies, as well as identifying emerging and future societal challenges affecting young people, the participants will be invited to discuss and identify what could/should be carried forward and create new ideas for future cooperation.

Emphasis will be placed on learning from concrete practices and experiences, as a basis for thematic, socio-political discussions.

The seminar aims to:

1. showcase and explore practices, approaches and tools from youth work and non-formal learning in different regions and countries that have contributed to addressing societal challenges affecting young people, in particular in the context of cooperation between Erasmus+ programme and neighbouring partner countries;
2. reflect on the achievements, challenges and lessons learned from over twenty years of cooperation in the youth field between Erasmus+ programme and neighbouring partner countries;
3. explore emerging and future needs, opportunities and possible directions for cooperation between Erasmus+ programme and neighbouring countries;
4. identify transferable lessons and approaches that can inspire youth work and international youth cooperation in different contexts;
5. generate ideas and seeds for future youth initiatives and cooperation beyond the borders of the European Union.

Working process and task description

The organising team is looking for three “**practice coordinators**” who can identify relevant practices, tools or initiatives from or involving countries from the regions neighbouring the European Union and support the practitioners behind them in preparing their contributions and introducing them during the seminar. **As far as possible, they will be responsible for recruiting and supporting practitioners from a specific geographic region that corresponds to their professional experience.**

Interactive sessions should explore the conditions that enabled the practices to work, their impact and limitations, possible transfer to other contexts and relevance for the future. They should serve as a starting point for a discussion of the issues or themes addressed, future needs and possible follow-up processes.

The approach to how the practices will be presented or tried out by participants, guidelines and other needed considerations, will be jointly developed by the seminar team.

The practice coordinators will work closely with the facilitators and the organising team. Their role will be to connect the seminar's thematic focus with the realities of youth work in different countries and contexts, ensuring that the selected practices offer concrete learning opportunities for participants.

The practice coordinators are expected to:

- identify practices from or involving countries neighbouring the European Union of relevance for the context of international youth cooperation, which



- address topics such as conflict and peacebuilding, intercultural understanding, resilience, European identity, democratic citizenship and other related societal challenges;
- have the potential for transfer to other contexts and offer meaningful learning opportunities for the seminar participants;
- have the potential to be relevant for youth work and international youth cooperation in the coming years.
- reach out to the youth work practitioners, organisations and other relevant actors connected to the identified practices with the aim to invite them to the seminar;
- support practitioners in identifying and articulating the essential elements of their practices, including what they aimed to achieve, what worked well, what proved challenging;
- help practitioners draw out lessons that could be relevant and transferable to other youth work settings and regional contexts;
- support practitioners in preparing for how to present and engage participants with their practices during the seminar;
- during the seminar, facilitate or support sessions where participants can actively engage and try out the selected practices;
- coordinate with the facilitators to ensure that the selected practices connect with the seminar's objectives and programme and take part the overall preparation process;
- support the synthesis of insights and lessons emerging from the practices presented during the seminar.

Profile of the practice coordinators

The selected practice coordinators should demonstrate relevant competences and professional experience in:

- youth work, non-formal learning and youth-related initiatives in one or more regions neighbouring the European Union;
- the realities, needs and challenges of youth work in their respective regional and national contexts;
- strong networking and outreach skills, with the ability to identify relevant people and initiatives / practices;
- excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to encourage and guide practitioners to share their experiences;
- the ability to help practitioners identify key elements, outcomes and lessons from their work;
- supporting practitioners to reflect on their work, concepts such as transferability and future orientation, and communicate their experiences to others;
- delivering educational activities for youth work practitioners and other relevant stakeholders;
- designing engaging, participatory and inspiring learning processes;
- international youth cooperation, the Erasmus+ programme, youth field, and/or the European Solidarity Corps.

Familiarity with the work of regional SALTO Resource Centres and/or the activities of National Agency&SALTO partnerships or projects, such as Beyond Borders, European Academy on Youth Work, Youth work against violent radicalisation, or Youthful Europe, is an asset.

The selected practice coordinators should further demonstrate:

- strong organisational and collaboration skills, especially the ability to take initiative and work independently, meet agreed deadlines work effectively in an international team;
- good written and spoken English.



Timing, fees and practical arrangements

A residential preparatory meeting is envisaged for **2–4 December 2026 in Ljubljana, Slovenia**, with the aim to initiate the planning process and establish a shared understanding of the seminar concept, objectives and working approach.

The preparation and implementation process in 2027 will include:

- identification and outreach to relevant practitioners and organisations in the respective countries or regions;
- communication with selected practitioners and support in preparing their contributions;
- regular online coordination meetings with the facilitators and organising partners, as needed;
- contribution to the implementation of the seminar on 26-30 April 2027 (arrival of participants on 26 April, 3 full working days on 27-29 April, departure on 30 April 2027), especially: supporting and facilitating the presentation of practices, according to the overall approach that will be developed and agreed by the seminar team;
- arrival one day before the start of the seminar for last preparations at the venue;
- preparation and submission of a final report following the seminar.

The fee will be **3.570,00 EUR**. (Of this, 1.050,00 EUR will be paid in 2026 and 2.520,00 will be paid in 2027.) Contracts will be concluded with legal entities. Payments of fees and travel costs to residential meetings will be made based on invoices.

Team composition

3 facilitators, 3 practice coordinators, representatives of the organising partners (SALTO SEE, other regional SALTOs, National Agencies)

Application & selection procedure

Apply no later than: **8 November 2026 (23:45 CET)**

Interested applicants are invited to complete the online application form: ["Youth Cooperation Beyond Borders - Then & Next" - Application for practice coordinators – Fill in form](#)

You will be informed about the selection by: 13 November 2026

For more information, please contact:

SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre

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ⁱ Beyond Borders – Neighbours Together supports youth cooperation between Erasmus+ programme and neighbouring countries. It aims to facilitate the building of lasting quality partnerships, to sustain a continuous ecosystem for cooperation and to strengthen resilience for international youth cooperation in a changing political landscape. More information: <https://beyondb.eu/about/>

ⁱⁱ The European Academy on Youth Work aims to promote the development of quality youth work and to support its capacity to react to emerging and future developments. To this end, it focuses on supporting innovation and future orientation in youth work, as a response to the trends, challenges and uncertainties faced by young people in today's fast-changing societies. More information: <https://www.eayw.net/>

