

## Moving forward: The new European Youth Programmes and their Relevance for the Western Balkan Region!

### Call for Participants

*Do you want to find out more about the new Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, especially the new priorities and opportunities for cooperation they offer for organisations based in the Programmes' Partner countries in the Western Balkan region?*

*Would you like to explore together with other participants how the different project formats and opportunities to build international partnerships can benefit the young people you are working with and help you to further develop the work of your organisation and community?*

Between 22 April and 6 May 2021, the SALTO SEE Resource Centre is organising a series of five half-day online workshops addressing these questions.

All workshops will include short presentations introducing information about the Programmes, relevant policies and concepts, inspiring examples of practice from the Western Balkan region, as well as space for active participation and exchange with other participants.

The year 2021 is marking the beginning of the new seven-year cycle of the EU programmes in the field of youth, namely the Erasmus+ Programme, youth chapter, and the European Solidarity Corps. The new Programmes are built on the past achievements and good practices, but are also introducing new opportunities for young people and organisations working with them, for the development of youth work and European cooperation. Both Programmes emphasise the international dimension, providing opportunities also for young people and actors in the field of youth in the Programme's Partner countries.

Since 2002, the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre (SALTO SEE) has been promoting and supporting cooperation between Erasmus+ Programme Countries and Partner Countries in the Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro and Serbia<sup>2</sup>) in the frame of the EU programmes in the field of youth. We are looking forward to further supporting opportunities for this cooperation, for developing partnerships and joint projects, peer-learning and exchange, in the frame of the new Programmes.



<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Serbia is a full member of the Erasmus+ programme and has its own National Agency. It is a Partner country in the European Solidarity Corps.

This series of 5 workshops aims to inform in particular organisations working with young people, youth workers and other stakeholders in the field of youth from the Western Balkan Partner Countries and those interested in cooperation with this region about main aspects of the new Programmes and to stimulate reflection, innovative thinking and new developments in the youth field based on what the Programmes aim to achieve and the kinds of opportunities they offer.

### Workshop schedule

The first workshop will offer a general introduction to the new Programmes in the field of youth, the other four workshops will focus on specific thematic priorities. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for the first workshop and, in addition, to select some of the thematic workshops according to their/their organisation’s working areas and interests.

Thursday, 22 April (9:30 – 13:00 CET)	The new European Youth Programmes and their Relevance for the Western Balkan Region
Tuesday, 27 April (9:30 – 13:00 CET)	The new European Youth Programmes: Development of Youth Work
Thursday 29 April (9:30 – 13:00 CET)	The new European Youth Programmes: Inclusion & Diversity
Tuesday, 4 May (9:30 – 13:00 CET)	The new European Youth Programmes: Solidarity and the Role of Volunteering
Thursday, 6 May (9:30 – 13:00 CET)	The new European Youth Programmes: Youth Participation in Democratic Life

### Workshop descriptions

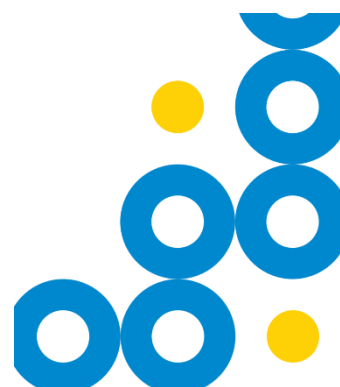
#### **The new European Youth Programmes and their relevance for the Western Balkan region**

Introductory workshop, which will introduce the new Programmes, look into the current situation of the cooperation with the Western Balkan Partner Countries and future perspectives. It will focus on setting the context among the group, mapping out needs and expectations and providing information on the new Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Within this session, we will discuss and explore the priorities, opportunities and technicalities of the new Programmes and link them with the region and its realities.

The following four thematic workshops will approach the new Programmes and their actions by taking a closer look at different priority areas:

#### **Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities and diversity**

This session will take you on a journey to rethink the concepts of inclusion and diversity and their placement in the European youth field context and showcase relevant inspiring practice from the Western Balkan region itself. You will hear about how the new Programmes support inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities and diversity, in general and through specific actions and support measures, while reflecting on your



organisation's efforts to include young people with fewer opportunities in your work.

### Development of youth work

Based on the European Youth Strategy, the development of youth work in Europe has gained momentum through the new European Youth Work Agenda. This session will explore different dimensions of youth work development, in the context of the region and current state of play, and through the lenses of the priorities set by the new Programmes. You will be informed, inspired and invited to reflect on the involvement of your own organisation in future youth work development, and on how you can use the Programmes and the European youth work context for the further development and quality of youth work in your environment.



### Solidarity and the role of volunteering

In today's European societies, solidarity is needed maybe more than ever. In this session, we will explore the concept and its dimensions, but also present some inspiring examples of practice and define key points for creating projects based on the value of solidarity. We will connect the concept of solidarity to the approach and opportunities of the new Programmes, focusing on volunteering projects offered by the European Solidarity Corps but also taking a wider look at solidarity and volunteering in the frame of European youth projects and the work of grassroots youth organisations.

### Youth participation in democratic life and European values and identity

The session is focused on discovering the concept of youth participation, one of the key values and concepts promoted by the EU Youth Programmes, and exploring how this is relevant for the Western Balkan region. We will introduce how youth participation and engagement are approached and supported by the new Programmes, horizontally and through specific actions, support measures and resources, linking the policy dimensions with grassroots work in the region and offering space for reflection and inspiration.

### Who can apply?

The workshops target in particular participants from Partner countries in the Western Balkans and from organisations in Programme countries interested in working (further) with partners from the region.

We welcome applications from all actors in the youth field, such as youth workers, youth work managers, volunteers and staff of organisations working with young people, staff of municipalities and youth centres and other organisations or institutions that are interested in implementing youth projects together with partner organisations from other countries in the frame of Erasmus+, youth field, and the European Solidarity Corps.

With the exception of the 1<sup>st</sup> Introductory workshop, workshops will be limited to around 30 participants in order to enable active participation.

### Implementation of the workshops

The workshops will be implemented online via ZOOM and with the support of other tools encouraging sharing of information and exchange among participants.

The working language is English.

### How to apply?

Applications should be submitted at the latest by Thursday, 8th April 2021 here: <http://trainings.salto-youth.net/9216>.

We strongly recommend that participants join the first workshop in order to gain an overview of the Programmes, their opportunities, current priorities, how participate and where to find more information. The other thematic workshops can be selected individually, depending on the applicant organization's area of work, expertise and interests. Candidates can indicate the workshops that they would like to apply for in the application form.

Information about selection results will be sent to all applicants by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021



For more information, please contact the SALTO SEE team at [see@salto-youth.net](mailto:see@salto-youth.net).