CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EACEA/10/2020
Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 3 – Support for Policy Reform
European Youth Together

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS EACEA/10/2020
EUROPEAN YOUTH TOGETHER

1. INTRODUCTION – BACKGROUND


Many young people are active in EU-related activities: they join pan-European organisations or engage in less structured ‘non-formal’ exchanges with young people from other European countries and they show positive attitudes and support to the European integration process². In their capacity, they can be powerful ambassadors of the European project and build bridges across the continent, East and West North and South line, to inspire others in the way they experience Europe and their European identity.

Erasmus+ Youth promotes different mobility formats, including youth exchanges or youth worker mobility and supports youth organisations. Analysis of experience reveals a fruitful and active cooperation between organisations and young people across countries. The Erasmus+ programme is successful in attracting and engaging young people. There is great interest in participation and currently only 1 in 3 mobility projects (Youth Exchanges, Youth Workers Mobility) and 1 in 5 in partnerships (Transnational Youth Initiatives) can be supported.

Europe is a union of equals, big or small, in the East or West, the North or South. Young people are key actors in promoting the European values and into turning them into a reality. And, although they might often be less engaged than older persons in traditional forms of participation such as voting or belonging to a political party, the majority among them declare interest in politics and have stronger feelings of citizenship towards the EU than older groups. Faced with a crisis of the depth of the COVID-19 pandemic and its societal effects, the commitment of young people in showing a community spirit, solidarity across Europe and willingness to work together is more important than ever.

The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 seeks to foster youth participation in democratic life; it also supports social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society. The Strategy focuses on three core areas of action, around the three words: ‘Engage’, ‘Connect’, ‘Empower’, while working on joined-up implementation across sectors. Under the core area ‘Connect’, the Strategy fosters the creation and promotion of networks that allow young people from all backgrounds, with particular emphasis on those with fewer opportunities, to experience exchanges, cooperation, cultural and civic action in a European context and thus develop and strengthen their personal, civic and social competences and become active European citizens.

The Strategy also embraces young people’s views on challenges that need to be tackled by the EU and the Member States in the coming years. These views are represented in 11

European Youth Goals, which are the outcome of the 6th cycle of the Dialogue with young people, decision-makers, researchers and other stakeholders and present a vision for a Europe that enables young people to realise their full potential.

2. **OBJECTIVES**

The scope of the “European Youth Together” actions should build on the experience obtained through the 'New Narrative for Europe' project, the European Youth Goals and Eurobarometer findings on young people’s priorities and other youth policy and programme initiatives, including projects selected under this action in 2018 and 2019, aiming to promote young people's participation in European civic life as well as cross-border exchanges and mobility activities. Its actions should particularly address challenges related to inclusive participation for all young people, regardless of their background or situation, that emerged against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1. **General Objectives**

"European Youth Together" projects aim to create networks promoting regional partnerships, to be run in close cooperation with young people from across Europe (Erasmus+ programme countries). The networks would organise exchanges, promote trainings (for instance for youth leaders) and allow young people themselves to set up joint projects, all of which could be done through both physical and online activities.

"European Youth Together" seeks to support initiatives from at least five youth organisations from five different eligible Erasmus+ programme countries to share their ideas about the EU, encourage wider civic participation and help foster a sense of European citizenship. The initiative aims to bring together European youth from across Europe; East, West, North and South.

For this year the thematic priorities are the promotion of EU Youth Goals #3#4 and #10, namely ‘Inclusive Societies’, ‘Information and Constructive Dialogue’ and ‘Sustainable and Green Europe’, as referred to in Annex 3 to the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. These European Youth Goals reflect also the President von der Leyen Commission’s political guidelines for the next five years, namely the ‘European Green Deal’, ‘A Europe fit for the digital age’ and a ‘new push for European democracy’.

More recently, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, immediate response is required to mitigate its socio-economic impact, including capacity building and specific measures to deal with Covid-19 crisis recovery in the youth sector. In this respect, President von der Leyen said the EU would do whatever was necessary to support the Europeans and the European economy when announcing European measures to counter the economic impact of the Coronavirus. When doing so, youth networks could consider ways of

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3 See [https://europa.eu/youth/have-your-say/new-narrative-for-europe_en](https://europa.eu/youth/have-your-say/new-narrative-for-europe_en).
forging solidarity and inclusiveness, which concur with challenges related to digital skills and green lifestyles.

2.2. Specific Objectives

The initiative seeks to specifically support:

- promotion and development of more structured cooperation, online and offline, between different youth organisations to build or strengthen partnerships focusing on solidarity and inclusive democratic participation of all against a backdrop of the backlashes on socio-economic structures and in line with youth goals numbers 3, 4 and 10;
- youth organisations involved in initiatives to encourage young people to participate in the democratic process and in society by organising trainings, showcase commonalities among young Europeans and encourage discussion and debate on their connection to the EU, its values and democratic foundations, including by providing a meaningful voice to youth in the framework of the Covid-19 recovery process;
- promote participation of under-represented groups of young people in politics, youth organisations and other civil society organisations by engaging vulnerable and socio-economic disadvantaged youth; new ways to empower youth organisations in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis and its aftermath, by supporting innovative ways of cooperation and network creation, development and management. Indicatively, this could include enhancing collaboration between youth organisations in a digital context through and by non-formal learning and organisational models including alternative modes of exchanges and mutual aid.

It targets youth NGOs, public bodies and informal groups of young people, especially those active at grassroots level, which would propose projects involving at least five partners who have the capacity to mobilise young people in partnerships covering different countries and regions within the Erasmus+ Programme Countries.

Large-scale mobility activities for young people should form a key component of European Youth Together projects. This mobility should offer cross-border exchanges and non-formal or informal training opportunities for young people from across Europe (East, West, North and South) that can be prepared and supported through online fora to support the objectives of this call. These mobility activities must be very clearly justified according to the call objectives.

All the above activities should contribute to widening the outreach towards young people to ensure a diversity of voices, reach young people within and beyond youth organisations and youth with fewer opportunities, thereby using a variety of channels.

Expected outcomes:

The granted projects should demonstrate their expected contribution to EU youth policy by:

- building on the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and more specifically by demonstrating how they are contributing to the ‘Engage-Connect-Empower’ priorities of the Strategy.
- building on the outcomes of the New Narrative for Europe, European Youth Goals and other debate projects and opinion surveys related to the future of Europe and linking them to policy development at local/regional/national/European level;
improving the involvement of young people in democratic life, in terms of active
citizenship and engagement with decision-makers (empowerment, new skills,
involvement of young people in project design, etc.);
helping to improve the capacity of the youth sector active at grassroots level to
work transnationally with care of inclusiveness, solidarity and sustainability and
promoting transnational learning and cooperation between young people and
decision makers;
upscale existing best practices and outreach beyond the regular network(s)
including making good use of digital means to stay connected under all
circumstances even in situations of remoteness, isolation or confinement;
disseminating their results in an effective and attractive way among young people
involved in youth organisations, so as to pave the way for more systematic
partnerships, and also among youngsters who are not affiliated to youth structures
or those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

3. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steps</th>
<th>Date and time or indicative period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Publication of the call</td>
<td>12/05/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Deadline for submitting applications</td>
<td>28/07/2020 at 17:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) Evaluation period</td>
<td>July–November</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d) Information to applicants</td>
<td>November 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>(e) Signature of grant agreement</td>
<td>December 2020</td>
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4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects under this call for
proposals/invitation to submit a proposal is estimated at EUR 5,000,000.

The financial contribution from the EU is minimum EUR 100,000 and cannot exceed
EUR 500,000. It is limited to a maximum co-financing rate of 80 % of the total eligible
project costs.

The Agency expects to fund 10 to 15 proposals.
The Agency reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be admissible, applications must be:

- sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in Section 3
  above (28/07/2020 – 17:00 Brussels time);
• submitted in writing using the electronic application form\textsuperscript{9} (eForm); https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/PPMT/
• drafted in one of the EU official languages.

Failure to comply with those requirements will lead to rejection of the application.

6. \textbf{ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA}\textsuperscript{10}

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be subject of an in-depth evaluation.

6.1. \textbf{Eligible applicants, partners and countries}

Proposals may be submitted by applicants which are a non-profit organisation working in the field of youth (Youth NGO) established in an Erasmus+ Programme Country.

The following organisations can take part in the proposals as partners:
- non-profit organisations (private or public) and NGOs (including European Youth NGOs) working in the field of Youth;
- public authorities (national, regional, local);

established in an Erasmus+ Programme Country\textsuperscript{11}.

The minimum partnership composition requirement for this call is at least 5 partners/organisations (including the applicant) from 5 different countries eligible for participation in the Erasmus+ programme. Applying organisations should demonstrate their capacity to ensure a good geographical balance in terms of partners from different parts of the Erasmus+ Programme Countries. This means a balanced partnership distribution across eligible countries where partners come from different areas East, West, North and South across Europe.

The following Erasmus+ Programme countries are eligible:
- EU Member States;
- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, which form part of the European Economic Area (EEA): Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway;
- Candidate countries for which a pre-accession strategy has been established, in accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions laid down in the framework agreements concluded with those countries with a view to their participation in EU Programmes: North Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

\textsuperscript{9} The specific “eForm User Guide” that is aimed at providing guidance on the technical aspects of completing and submitting the eForm is available at: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/PPMT/.
\textsuperscript{10} If you encounter technical issues that are not addressed in the user guide you may contact the EACEA Helpdesk to request assistance.
The contact details and hours of operation are as follows:
Email address: EACEA-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu;
Telephone: +32 229 90705.
The EACEA Helpdesk service is available from 08:30 to 17:30 Monday to Thursday and from 08:30 to 17:00 on Fridays (all times are Brussels time).
The service is not available on Belgian public holidays or on official Commission holidays.
\textsuperscript{11} https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide_en
Proposals from applicants in candidate or associated countries may be selected provided that, on the date of award, agreements have entered into force setting out the arrangements for the participation of those countries in the programme.

The participation of affiliated entities are allowed in this call

**Supporting documents**

In order to assess the applicants' eligibility, the following supporting documents are requested during the evaluation phase:

Examples of supporting documents:

- **private entity**: extract from the official journal, copy of articles of association, extract of trade or association register, certificate of liability to VAT (if, as in certain countries, the trade register number and VAT number are identical, only one of these documents is required);

- **public entity**: copy of the resolution, decision or other official document establishing the public-law entity;

- **consortium**: in addition to the supporting documents referring to their legal status, consortium members will submit letters confirming their participation to the project,

6.2. **Eligible activities**

The activities proposed must be directly linked to the general and specific objectives of the Call and must be detailed in a project description covering the whole period of the grant applied for.

The following types of activities are eligible:

- Mobility activities including large scale exchanges between young people, including (but not restricted to) networking and non-formal or informal training opportunities, support and preparation of activities online and the development of projects by young people;

- Activities facilitating access and participation of youth in EU policy activities relevant to young people;

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12 Affiliated entities: In accordance with Article 187 FR, entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Articles 136(1) and 141(1) FR and that have a link with the applicant, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation, will be considered as entities affiliated to the applicant.

* Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community

For UK: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate under this call/invitation.
- Exchanges of experience and good practice; networking and partnerships with other youth organisations; participation in meetings, seminars or online fora with other stakeholders and/or policy-makers also with a view to increasing policy impact on target groups, sectors and/or systems;
- Initiatives and events for developing European NGO/Civil Society organisations/EU-wide networks;
- Awareness-raising, information, dissemination and promotion activities (seminars, workshops, campaigns, meetings, public debates, consultations, etc.) on EU policy priorities in the field of youth;

Activities shall be of cross-border nature and may be performed at European (Erasmus+ Programme Countries), national, regional or local level.

As a transversal principle, participating organisations should pursue strategies to connect to young people at grassroots level from a diversity of backgrounds with a view to ensuring a growing number of young people at the grassroots levels are being reached.

This covers the involvement of a diverse youth population that also includes those from remote/rural areas; with a migrant background; and/or from disadvantaged social backgrounds.

The project duration must be between 9 and 24 months. It cannot be extended in time.

In any case, activities shall not start before the signature of the Grant Agreement by the Agency unless the applicant provides a prior justification which is accepted by the Agency.

The eligibility period of the grant agreements is expected to start in January 2021 or within the first quarter of 2021.

Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period than that specified in this call for proposals will not be accepted.

7. **AWARD CRITERIA**

Eligible applications/projects will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

The award criteria for the funding of an application are:

1. **Relevance of the project (30 %)**

   - The relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the call for proposals;
   - The extent to which:

      the objectives are clearly defined, realistic and address issues relevant to the participating organisations and target groups;

      projects demonstrate that they are based on a thorough needs assessment based as far as possible on verifiable facts and figures;

      projects involve a diverse youth population that also includes those from remote/rural areas; with a migrant background; and/or from disadvantaged social backgrounds

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13 Article 199 FR
2. Quality of the project design and implementation (20 %)

- The clarity, completeness and quality of the action, including appropriate phases for preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and (as appropriate) dissemination;

- The appropriateness and quality of the methodology proposed: consistency between project objectives and activities proposed; logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed plus feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources;

- The existence and relevance of quality control measures to ensure that the project implementation is of high quality, completed in time and on budget; appropriateness of the project management methodologies, including risk management.

- Cost effectiveness: the proposed budget is sufficient for proper implementation and the project is designed so as to ensure the best value for money.

3. Quality of the partnership and cooperation arrangements (30 %)

The ‘Quality of the partnership and cooperation arrangements’ criteria favour projects with a wide geographic spread and the involvement of a diverse youth population that also includes those from remote/rural areas; with a migrant background; and/or from disadvantaged social backgrounds.

This includes how young people are involved in all stages of the project implementation; how the balanced partnership distribution across eligible countries (East, West, North and South) is taken into account to ensure a wide geographical spread, as well as:

- The extent to which the project involves an appropriate mix of complementary participating organisations;

- The existence of effective mechanisms for coordination and communication between the participating organisations;

- Activities establishing synergies between Erasmus+ and other EU or national/regional funding sources are encouraged.

4. Impact, dissemination and sustainability (20 %)

- The quality of measures for evaluating the impact of the project and for assuring the sustainability of the project;

- The potential impact of the project on participants and partner organisations, during and after the project lifetime;

- The quality of the dissemination plan: the appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at sharing the outcomes of the project within and outside the participating organisations;
- The expected results display the understanding and capacity of the applicant and partners to communicate the European Union’s values particularly in regard to citizenship.

Only proposals having reached:

- at least the threshold of 60 % of the total score (i.e. aggregate score of the 4 award criteria); and

- at least the threshold of 50 % of each criterion

will be considered for EU funding.

In case of ex-aequo proposals, the concerned proposals will be ranked in accordance with the following rule(s):

- Priority will first be given to the proposals having obtained the highest combined scores on the award criteria 1 and 3.

- If ex-aequo proposals still remain, priority will then be given to the highest individual score on the award criterion 1.

8. **ALL CALL INFORMATION**

All information on the Call EACEA/10/2020 including the application guidelines is available from the following website:


**Contacts**

If you have any questions, please contact us at

EACEA-YOUTH@ec.europa.eu