

A vision of the futurE¹

Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps after 2021

We:

- The 125 participants² from 24 countries³ in futurE+ and futurESC joint events taking place in Bucharest from 12 to 15th of March 2019.
- The organizations and people benefiting of the Erasmus+ and its previous programs as well as European Solidarity Corps supporting this resolution

Invite:

- The European Commission
- The European Parliament
- The Council of the European Union
- The Ministries for Education, Labor, Social Affairs and Youth from the EU countries

To consider⁴

the following key messages and measures to be implemented in the future generations of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps starting in 2021 in order to better answer the needs of the beneficiaries and increase their impact at individual, local, national and European level.

¹ The resolution was developed during the futurE+ and futurESC joint events that took place in Bucharest from 12th until 15th of March 2019, as part of the Romanian National Agency contribution during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of European Union.

² The participants represented the adult, school and higher education as well as vocational education and training and youth sector in this capacity of heads of board members of their organizations and institutions, project managers, teachers, trainers, volunteer managers and experts in their sectors.

³ The represented countries were: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

⁴ The resolution was adopted by acclamation in the plenary session of the participants on the 15th of March 2019. The original versions and all measures developed in all sectors are available in the links in the annexes.

The participants in futurE+ and futurESC events,

Aware of the tremendous contribution in the lives of the tens of millions of people, hundreds of thousands of organizations and thousands of communities that the European programs in the field of education, training and youth have been made for the last decades,

Acknowledging that education, training and youth are achieved in formal, non-formal and informal settings throughout the whole life of an individual,

Taking note of the potential of the educational programmes to implement an integrated European education strategy continuing the Education and Training 2020 and European higher education area strategies as well as the recently approved European Youth Strategy,

Considering that Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps are effective instruments to support a more inclusive and coherent Europe offering equal opportunities to learning space for all people with no discrimination regarding the level of education or age and including groups, such as immigrants, minority groups, marginalized and living in precarious condition,

Appreciates the nature of the programmes and the possibilities it opens for mobility, increasing intercultural understanding and tolerance,

Noting with approval that the European priorities to involve a greater number of beneficiaries in the Erasmus + programme it is essential to raise awareness about the program and to increase motivation and willingness to participate,

Recalling that learning, education and youth work, provided in each form, are a key instrument to combat unemployment and prevent poverty or other forms of social inequalities,

Strongly advises for the following key messages and measures to be considered in the architecture of the future generations of European programs dedicated to education, training, youth and sports⁵

General key messages

1. Recognizes **Europe as a larger entity than European Union** in which intercultural learning as well as educational and youth mobility should be able to reach beyond, continuing and expanding the cooperation with Partner countries and including new sectors;

⁵ The key messages were developed in sectoral working groups. Each sector developed several key messages and prioritized the three most important that should be included in the resolution. Some messages are overlapping, however in the plenary adopting the resolution it was decided to carry on as important messages for the sector. This does not mean that they are the only important messages of the participants, and if they are placed in one particular sectorial section, it does not mean that it may not be relevant for other sectors as well. Their final form was adapted in order to use an adequate terminology and agreed by the participants.

2. Strongly encourages that future generations of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps must be **inclusive programs** paying a particular attention to vulnerable categories or in risk of social exclusion by offering them the necessary support (financially, but even more important, human and emotional support through coaching, mentoring, training etc.)
3. Expresses its hope that the two programs will provide frameworks for stronger communication, knowledge sharing and **equal treatment between the non-formal learning and the formal education** for the participants;
4. Urges the European Commission to digitalize the whole process from application to reporting, covering all necessary documents and data inputs. The **digitalization** should be ensured through a single online tool that must be reliable, user-friendly, non-redundant, safe and integrated;
5. Calls upon the **simplification of the program and projects procedures** in all sectors and actions by significantly decrease the administrative workload from the application to reporting stage the application, including the level of individual participants' documentation, and by adapting complexity of the documentation for the small projects and big scale projects;
6. Invites the decision makers to ensure that with an increase in number of participants in the programs, there is an equally corresponding **increase in available budget** - including budget to provide reasonable accommodation to allow everyone to fully and with equal basis to participate within the programme;
7. Recognize **sport as a universal language** contributing to social cohesion and understanding;

Adult education sector key messages and measures

8. Demands for support to social economy in regards to the **insertion of disadvantaged adults**, and for the improvement of their skills and competences;
9. Stresses the importance to enhance the **soft and transversal skills** as key point in adult education, mainly for the disadvantaged groups;
10. Strongly advise the re-introduction of the **individual mobility** completing the institutional approach for adults to give right for training opportunities and personal development to each person and, therefore support their employability;

School sector key messages and measures

11. Reaffirms the importance of **professional support and guidance** to facilitate access to all teachers and calls for the simplification of the application process in order to make it more appealing and user friendly;
12. Trusts that the future generation of programs will ensure a **fair financing process** based on non-discriminatory budget among all countries;
13. Urges to **reduce the bureaucracy** concerning the implementation of projects to better acknowledge the role of coordinators;

University sector key messages and measures

14. Appeals to the European Commission to **eliminate the paper documents** in any stage of the projects and introduce the mandatory use of integrated and effective digital tools and to facilitate the transition;
15. Calls for **increased funding for individual mobilities** that should be realistically correlated with the living costs in the host country and ensure staff costs in cooperation projects on equal basis with no discrimination;
16. Encourages the European Commission to actively increase the **awareness of business and industry partners** to take part in Erasmus+ activities through options such as traineeships, teaching in higher education institutions or strategic partnerships;

Vocational education and training sector key messages and measures

17. Underlines the necessity to offer **sufficient financial support** which guarantees people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds to be fully involved;
18. Trusts that an **effective database for VET Partner Searching** will be developed for sending and receiving organizations, based on complete profile including information about languages available in the company, accessibility, length of possible hosting periods, possible working fields;
19. Asks for **flexible financial support according to individual language needs** that should replace and improve Online Linguistic Support considering that each profession requires very specific content;

Youth sector key messages and measures

Erasmus+

20. Call upon the **simplification of the application form** by using clear terms, eliminate the redundancy for repetitive questions, make it more user-friendly for the applicants, without requesting additional print materials and standardization of procedural requirements in the contractual and implementation stage
21. Emphasize the **support for project management** and the correct compensation of the staff while encouraging common approaches among mobility and strategic partnership projects.
22. Underline the **importance of Youthpass** and to make it more attractive for the participants by rebranding it and focus on the gained competencies that should be better recognized and valued by employers (NGOs, companies, authorities).

European Solidarity Corps

23. Recommends, in the interest of inclusion for youths with fewer opportunities, to:
 1. change the minimum age from 18 to 16 in order to target groups who are still in formal education and who may not be available later,
 2. change the age limit from 30 to 35 to address target groups who are only able to join activities in later stages in life due to proximity, or health and social situations (amongst other hindrances),
 3. Change the minimum age in solidarity project from 18 to 13 in order to provide a platform for youth civic participation and future activities, with the group leader having a minimum age of 18 in order to provide guidance;
24. Strongly urges the Member States to **recognize volunteering** through a collectively agreed upon definition in European Solidarity Corps in order to harmonize how national policy works regarding visas, taxes, recognitions of work and efforts (i.e. proper recognition of the Youthpass by potential employers), health and social insurance and any other legislation that may have an impact on the volunteers;
25. Demands for a **flexible language learning process** and additional tools to be offered besides Online Linguistic Support such as language classes or language app professional accounts, depending on the volunteers preferred learning method and up to the volunteer's discretion.

ANNEXES

The resolution was built using a bottom-up participatory approach in which the participants self-organized themselves within the working groups, the organizers being responsible to set up the frame and give the space for discussion.

Bellow, the links to the working groups that prepared the ground for the resolution:

- Results of the workshops on the beneficiaries of the programs and their relations with the stakeholders [HERE](#) (cross-sectorial session)
- Results of the thematic working groups on topics proposed by the participant [HERE](#) (cross-sectorial sessions)
- Results of the key messages and measures proposed by each sector [HERE](#) (sectorial sessions)