



Call for Proposals: Research on EU Youth Programmes (Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps)

Deadline: 31 March 2024

Background

The European Youth Forum is the platform of youth organisations in Europe, bringing together more than 100 member organisations. We represent the views of young people towards policy-making processes, including within EU funding programmes such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC).

As per the Article 24 of the ["Regulation establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport"](#), the European Commission is to perform an interim evaluation of the Erasmus+ Programme, no later than by 31 December 2024 - this applies to the ESC Programme too. The process is already underway and several milestones have already taken place, including a European commission Call for Evidence from autumn 2022; the selection of the independent contractor to perform the evaluations and subsequent interviews with identified stakeholders of the programmes; or the recent European COMMISSION Open Public Consultations. Beyond the actual work of the European Commission, the European Parliament has also approved its own [Implementation Report of the current European Solidarity Corps Programme 2021-2027](#) in November 2023 and [Implementation Report of the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027](#) in January 2024.

The current review of the EU programmes serves an opportunity to better grasp on the one hand what aspects of the programmes are functioning adequately and should be kept, and on the other hand what other elements are not performing as they were expected to and should be either adapted or discontinued. Therefore, in the European Youth Forum we have decided to produce a report in order to present the views of youth organisations in the process.

Rationale of Report

The [European Commission framework for evaluation of programmes](#) lays on five principles: namely effectiveness (whether the EU action reached its objectives), efficiency (what are the costs and benefits), relevance (whether it responds to stakeholders' needs), coherence (how well it works with other actions) and EU added value (what are the benefits of acting at EU level). Whereas those principles allow for the evaluation to reflect in-depth on multiple aspects in relation to the overall implementation of the programme, **they fail to identify and address the needs specific to the youth sector.**

That gains a particularly relevant light for a programme that is characterised as one of the main supports and pillars of not just the youth sector in Europe, but also the education and sports sectors. In the current EC evaluation, there is a clear need for evidence-based reports and research concerning the functioning and the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme from the perspective of the youth sector, and **this report has the goal of filling that gap.**

Objectives

The aim and objectives of this research are as follows:

Aim:

Map the ways in which young people and youth organisations experience EU funding programmes - particularly Erasmus+ and ESC - in the framework of the evaluation of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework beyond the rather narrow schemes and indicators used by the European Commission for the mid-term evaluation process

Specific objectives:

- Provide a youth perspective to the current conversations around the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ and ESC - and upcoming negotiations on their successor programmes - with data and indicators representative of youth civil society
- Describe how well adapted Erasmus+ and ESC are to the needs of young people and structural realities of youth organisations in Europe

- Outline the opportunities and challenges stemming from the current implementation of the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes in terms of their contribution to the youth sector / youth-lead organisations and young people in Europe

It is foreseen that the research methodology should include **(1)** desk research on the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes and review of existing data about the implementation of Erasmus+ and ESC from the European Commission and Erasmus+ National Agencies, **(2)** quantitative research - e.g through survey setting and analysis - and **(3)** qualitative research - e.g through focus groups or interviews.

Candidates profile

We are seeking proposals from candidates that respond as much as possible to the following profile:

- Experience in both quantitative and qualitative data gathering and analysis
- Excellent English writing and editing skills
- Ability to write about complex issues in an engaging way
- Prior experience with the Erasmus+ Programme and the youth sector is a must. Experience with the ESC programme and within youth organisations and the civil society sector applying for and implementing funding streams is highly valued.
- Previous experience in conducting similar research, with experience in the youth field particularly valued
- Good understanding of current trends and conversations around the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes, at policy and implementation levels

How to apply

The European Youth Forum is calling for proposals for projects as outlined above. To respond to the call, candidates should prepare:

- A CV and cover letter outlining relevant experience and motivation for conducting this project
- A detailed proposal of how they will undertake the project, with a proposed methodology and an idea of the kind of stakeholders they would seek to engage
- A comprehensive budget proposal, based on the amount indicated below

Additional information

- The final output of the project is an approximately 40-page long report, including sections outlining the methodology, desk research review, recommendations, and annexes (e.g on the data collected through different means).
- The research consultant will be offered a total fee of 10,000 EUR for their work, excluding VAT. The consultant is exclusively responsible for the payment of all income and other taxes and social contributions related to or incidental to the payment of the above amounts.
- The initial timeframe for the research, from conceptualisation to publication of the report, is from April to December 2024. with the following elements:
 - a work-plan and methodology to be agreed by the end of April
 - A first version of the report to be submitted by mid-September
 - A final version of the report to be supported by the end of November

Selection Procedure

The applications, including all information outlined above, should **reach the European Youth Forum via e-mail at alvaro.gonzalez@youthforum.org** with the subject "EU Youth Programmes Research - Name". The deadline for submission of project proposals is **31 March, end of the day**.

The selection will be based on the quality of the application. If needed interviews/calls could be organised with potential candidates for clarifications.

The European Youth Forum aims to ensure that no applicant receives less favourable treatment on the ground of race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, caring responsibilities, sexual orientation, disability, chronic illness or any other aspect of their identity.