

Erasmus+



OPENS
2019
NOVI SAD
EUROPEAN
YOUTH
CAPITAL



INŽENJERI ZAŠTITE ŽIVOTNE SREDINE

Erasmus+ Opening the Doors

*Youth Organizations' Suggestions
for Improvement of Erasmus+
Youth Component
for the Western Balkan*



About the project

The second conference “**Erasmus+ opening the doors**” happened as a part of the three-year project that is being implemented by the Environment Engineering Group, within the program “Novi Sad -European Youth Capital for 2019”.

The project aims to establish a dialogue among youth organizations from the Western Balkan and youth policy creators/decision makers in the Western Balkan and European Union.

The main focus of the project is on formulating joint recommendations for improving the support that the Erasmus+ Programme youth component offers to the youth in Western Balkan countries.

The project activities assured the relevant representatives are involved in the process of formulating recommendations and publicly advocating for its adaptation.

In 2018 and 2019, the Regional Conference and meetings with organizations from Banja Luka, Podgorica and Gracanica were held, as well as other individual consultations in the region. Besides this, all interested parties were available to get involved in formulating recommendations via platform www.dijalog.rs, belonging to the National Youth Council of Serbia.

Each year, besides the regional conference, national and individual meetings, additionally, it will be organized the online consultations, public advocating for adopting the recommendations and promotion of good practices.

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Recommendations

In this publication, formulated suggestions and recommendations are divided according to the key actions of Erasmus+ Programme, but it is necessary to perceive it from the aspect of the whole Erasmus + program for young people in the Western Balkans.

KEY ACTION 1

LEARNING MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

1. Promotion of the program

Recommendations for SALTO, contact points and organizations

Use social media channels. The Program is made for young people and it needs to be presented in way they understand, on the places where they are.

Organize high-schools promotions. This would mean that the Program would go directly to its future users.

Work on organizing Euro peer network. Young ambassadors of the Program who have experience with it should be organized in support group for the newcomers.

Use role models in promotion of the Program.

2. Project proposals preparation

Recommendations for national agencies, contact points and SALTO:

To offer coaching and co-working possibilities for organizations entering the Program.

Digital tools that are used for communication and presentations should be more user friendly. (e.g. web site of Tempus needs to be clearer and easy to search for both young people and youth organizations)

Recommendations for national agencies:

Within National agencies contact person for KA1 should be available for organizations with no experience. Special emphasis should be put on budget preparation since this is the weak point of many.

3. Quality of project implementation

Recommendations for EACEA:

Peer support system should be available to organizations with no experience while they are implementing their first project. At this “platform” they could ask the questions, look for needed support and clarifications.



KEY ACTION 2:

COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

1. Promotion

Recommendations for SALTO, national agencies and EACEA:

Info days are not enough as a support measure for newcomers, especially youth organizations; establish a mentorship system, where experienced organizations partner up and mentor the new youth organizations and for doing so get awarded points and recognition.

Recommendations for SALTO, national agencies, contact points and beneficiaries:

Promote the programme more in high schools; Start from schools, the earlier the better

Recommendations for SALTO, national agencies and contact points:

Support establishing partnerships between CSOs and public bodies (universities, high schools) in E+ projects

Recommendations for SALTO:

Open 3 contact points in B&H; in all WB countries – more contact points, more promotion, better support; bigger budget for Contact points

Encourage organizations from the WB countries to apply for the Quality Label of European Solidarity Corps

Recommendations for EACEA:

To extend info session on the KA2 Western Balkan youth window call for proposals (In the form of webinar), and to be organized earlier in respect to deadlines.

2. Project design

Recommendations for national agencies, EACEA and governments:

More budget in National agencies of the EU countries for the cooperation with partner countries

Recommendations for national agencies, SALTO and contact points:

Make it more accessible to Universities and high schools to apply by supporting and raising awareness of these bodies about technical necessities, e.g. having a separate bank account for the project; having only one account makes it difficult to manage projects on day by day basis

Recommendations for national agencies and EACEA:

Simplify project applications so they become more youth friendly and so, not be exclusive to experienced organizations working for youth.

Recommendations for EACEA and governments:

More than 1 deadline for centralized applying for the Western Balkan Window





Recommendations for governments:

Advocacy and support measures for the WB countries to become equal partners in ESC as soon as 2020

B&H: Government should co-fund E+ projects (like in Serbia, Ministry for Youth)

Equal partnership between civil society and government in decision-making and implementation

3. Implementation

Recommendations for beneficiaries:

Respect guidelines, e.g. YPWFO involvement for real – much more outreach activities

Young people should be involved in ALL project phases and decision-making

Recommendations for EACEA:

Not to change project officers during the implementation

Publish selection results faster; current trend is 5 months and also has a considerable delay

KEY ACTION 3: SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORM- PROCESS

Recommendations for the European Commission

To implement the evaluation and monitoring of projects in Partner Countries, with special focus on quality of the project implementation.

Recommendations for the National Agencies (in this case the Serbian NA, Tempus Foundation)

To actively promote possibilities to reflect and exchange ideas (through trainings, exchanges, meetings);

To support new organizations to use the programme;

To organize more training courses on HOW TO write, develop and report on E+ programme , especially aimed at new organizations (not experienced in the programme) and new people from active organizations;

To increase the budget for KA3 projects;

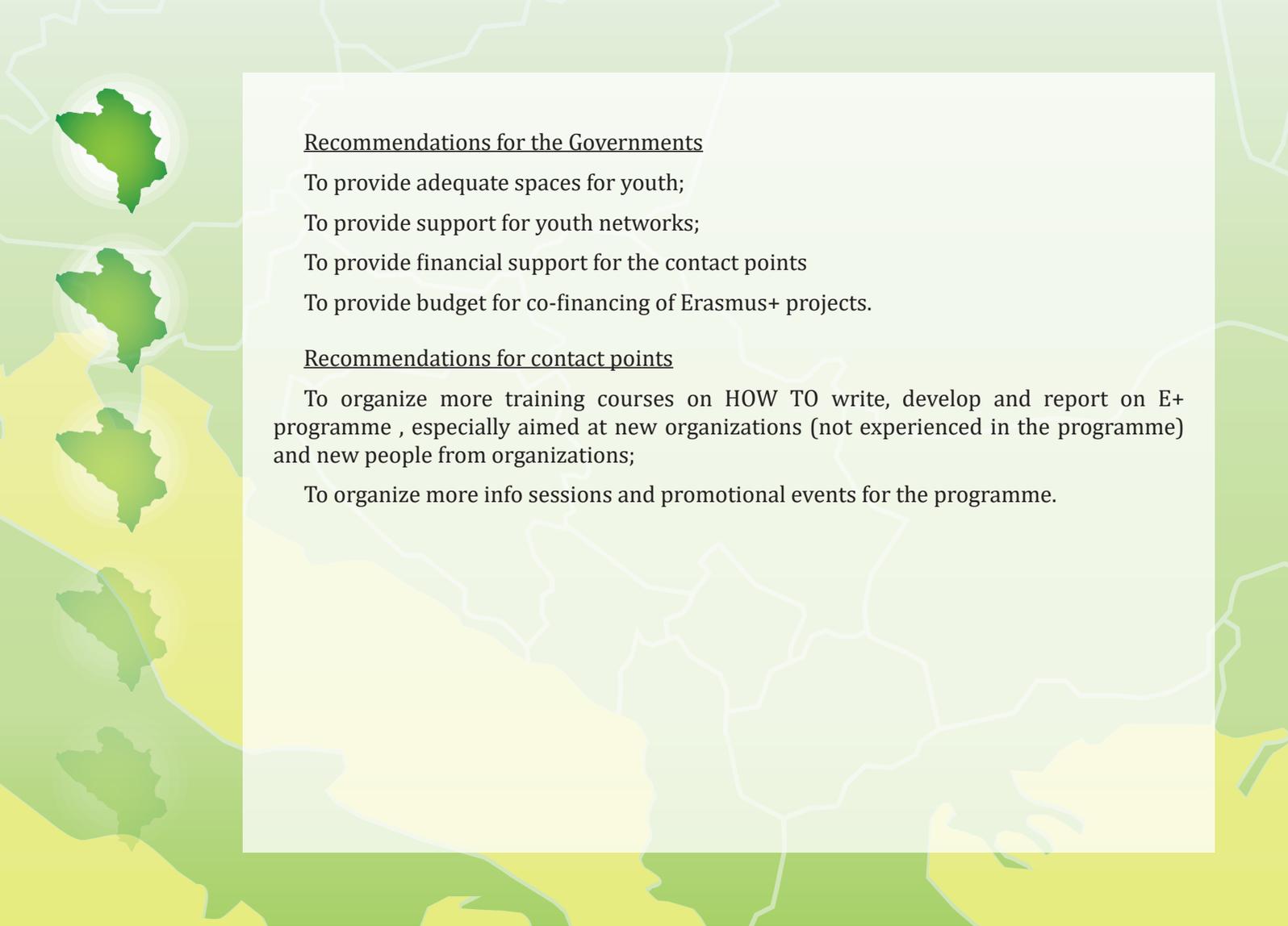
To relocate bigger budget for TCA.

Recommendations for SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre

To increase financial and other support for contact points in partner countries;

To implement monitoring of the work of contact points, especially in terms of human resources and capacity;

To consider having 3 contact points in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Recommendations for the Governments

To provide adequate spaces for youth;

To provide support for youth networks;

To provide financial support for the contact points

To provide budget for co-financing of Erasmus+ projects.

Recommendations for contact points

To organize more training courses on HOW TO write, develop and report on E+ programme , especially aimed at new organizations (not experienced in the programme) and new people from organizations;

To organize more info sessions and promotional events for the programme.

What is the Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ Programme is the European Union program providing financial support for collaborative projects in fields of education, youth and sport.

Erasmus+ Programme focuses on strengthening youth potential for active participation in civil society, developing of leader's competencies, solidarity, and understanding of other cultures.

It promotes recognition and evaluation of gained qualifications within education, open access to educational materials, documents and media contents that are created in supported projects and beyond it, as well as international dimension of activities, multilingualism, equality and inclusive access to education.

Erasmus+ Programme is being realized within the period 2014-2020 with an estimated budget of 14,7 billion euros.

It is open to education, training, youth and sports organizations across all sectors of lifelong learning, including school education, further and higher education, adult education and the youth sector.

More information about Erasmus+ Programme you can find on:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

<https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/see/>

<https://erasmusplus.rs>

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Novi Sad- European Youth Capital for 2019

The city of Novi Sad carries the title of European Youth Capital, but in fact, the title belongs to all its inhabitants aged 15 to 30. OPENS (Serbian abbreviation meaning: European Youth Capital Novi Sad) is the Union of Associations implementing a specifically designed program for young people living in and visiting Novi Sad.

OPENS2019 encourages the active participation of young people in society. Using different methods and its disposal until the end of 2020, OPENS plans to paint the city with its colors and to open doors to all young people having a dream and a vision for a better Novi Sad.

www.opens2019.rs



Disclaimer: *The recommendations and views set out in the publication 'Erasmus+ opening the doors- Youth Organizations' Suggestions for Improvement of Erasmus+ Youth Component for the Western Balkans are those of the authors and their partners, and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the "Novi Sad European Youth capital-OPENS".*

About the Environment Engineering Group

Environment Engineering Group (EEG) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2005 aiming to educate youth about sustainable development using non-formal learning methods, with special focus on international cooperation in the field of youth.

In 14 years of work, Environment Engineering Group has implemented projects on local, national, regional and international levels. Environment Engineering Group was active participant in Youth, Youth in Action and now it is an active user of Erasmus + Programme.

As an accredited organization for participating in the European Voluntary Service program (EVS), EEG acted as hosting and sending organization as well, and provided the participation of 15 volunteers within this program. Environment Engineering Group has coordinated over 20 EU youth projects and participated as a partner in more than 40 of EU youth projects.



THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY!

www.activity4sustainability.org

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