



Erasmus+ Programme Opportunities in the field of youth Eastern Partnership countries

The **objectives** pursued by the Erasmus+ Programme **in the field of youth** are to:

- improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including those with fewer opportunities;
- promote participation in democratic life in Europe and the labour market, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity;
- foster quality improvements in youth work;
- complement policy reforms at local, regional and national level and to support the development of knowledge and evidence-based youth policy as well as the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP YOUTH WINDOW

The Eastern Partnership Youth Window is a component of a broader EU4Youth initiative dedicated to support Eastern Partnership countries in fostering the active participation of young people in society and economy.

The Eastern Partnership Youth Window offers opportunities to finance projects within the **Erasmus+ Programme** involving organisations and participants from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine**. These projects are funded within the Erasmus + **Key Action 2: Capacity Building in the field of youth**:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/key-action-2-cooperation-for-innovation-and-exchange-good-practices/capacity_en

WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED?

The capacity building projects in the field of youth have broad objectives of enhancing management, governance, innovation capacity and internationalisation of youth organisations in Partner Countries and of promoting new forms of training and new approaches to youth work.

The activities supported by the capacity building projects may include policy dialogue, cooperation, networking and exchanges, conferences, workshops, meetings, large-scale youth events, information and awareness campaigns, development of youth work methods, tools and materials, as well as youth work curricula, training modules and documentation instruments, creation of new forms of delivering youth work and providing training and support as well as

mobility activities (Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service and Mobility of youth workers between Programme and eligible Partner countries).

The Eastern Partnership Youth Window combines the capacity building and mobility activities through one of the two project types:

- √ **Civil society fellowships for youth** (involvement of 'young leaders' in policy making and projects related to this topic)

Inclusive and participatory projects will strengthen the capacity of youth organisations and youth workers to build constructive relations with a variety of partners, including public bodies and civil society organisations. Selected young leaders – the "Fellows" – coming from the applicant organisations, will enhance their skills and competences in the field of policy development, through mobility activities and working in hosting organisations in the EU. Activities have to involve transnational non-formal learning mobility activities, like, for example, mentorship schemes and job shadowing. As part of the project implementation, young leaders will also carry out small youth policy engagement projects upon return to their sending organisation.

- √ **Partnerships for Entrepreneurship** with a focus on entrepreneurship education and social entrepreneurship.

Projects will promote youth entrepreneurship and education and social entrepreneurship among young people through transnational non-formal learning projects based on multilateral partnerships. Priority will be given to projects which offer practical solutions to social challenges present in the communities of origin and exploit the economic potential of the region also by involving the private sector. This type of project may also include mobility activities.

The European Commission allocates about 60% of the available funds to "Civil Society Fellowships for Youth" and 40% to "Partnership for Entrepreneurship".

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The **applicant organisation** must be established in an Eastern Partnership country and be one of the following:

- Non-profit organisation, association, NGO (including European Youth NGOs);
- National Youth Council;
- Public body at local, regional or national level;
- Private company, including social enterprise.

A **participating organisation** can be any public or private organisation, established in a Programme Country or in a Partner Country from Eastern Partnership (Region 2).

HOW TO APPLY?

The Eastern Partnership Youth Window is implemented **at centralised level**, i.e. applications are submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/capacity-building-in-field-youth-2017_en

Applicants have to submit their grant application **by 8 March 2017 at 12:00** (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 July and 31 December 2017.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES UNDER ERASMUS+

In addition to the dedicated Eastern Partnership Youth Window, young people, youth workers and policy makers, as well as youth organisations from Eastern Partnership countries continue to be eligible to take part in Erasmus+ activities implemented at decentralised level (i.e. via the National Agencies located in Programme Countries).

Organisations based in Eastern Partnership countries can be partners in projects, but cannot submit applications themselves.

MOBILITY PROJECTS

- √ Learning Mobility of Individuals (Key Action 1) are 'mobility projects for young people and youth workers', which consists of:
 - '**Youth Exchanges**', in which groups of young people from different countries work together on relevant topics while discovering new cultures, habits and lifestyles;
 - The '**European Voluntary Service**', which allows young people either individually or in groups to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary service in another country in fields such as culture, social care, civil protection or environment;
 - '**Mobility of youth workers**', which enhances the professional development of youth workers through seminars, trainings, job shadowing and other mobility opportunities.

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/programme-guide/part-b/three-key-actions/key-action-1/mobility-project-for-young-people-and-youth-workers_en

Erasmus+ National Agencies are entitled to use up to 25% of the budget allocated under Key Action 1 for projects involving Partner Countries Neighbouring the EU, including Eastern Partnership countries.

STRUCTURED DIALOGUE PROJECTS

- √ Support for policy reform (Key Action 3) supports 'meetings between young people and decision makers in the field of youth', fostering active participation in democratic life and focusing on the priorities set by the **Structured Dialogue projects** between young people and decision makers. The activities have to be organised in Programme Countries.

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities-for-organisations/support-for-policy-reform/structured-dialogue_en

You will find more information about opportunities in the field of youth in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources_en and at the website of Eastern Europe & Caucasus Resource Centre: <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/>