



OCTAssociation

ASSOCIATION OF THE OVERSEAS COUNTRIES
AND TERRITORIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PAYS ET TERRITOIRES D'OUTRE-MER
LANDEN EN GEBIEDEN OVERZEE
OVERSØISKE LANDE OG TERRITORIER



EU Programmes Workshop 11-12 December 2019 **REPORT**

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- 1 ANGUILLA
- 2 ARUBA
- 3 BERMUDA
- 4 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
- 5 BONAIRE
- 6 CAYMAN ISLANDS
- 7 CURAÇAO
- 8 MONTSERRAT
- 9 SABA
- 10 SAINT-BARTHÉLEMY
- 11 SINT EUSTATIUS
- 12 SINT MAARTEN
- 13 TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS



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| ● DENMARK | |
| ● FRANCE | |
| ● THE NETHERLANDS | |
| ● UNITED KINGDOM | |

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ABBREVIATIONS LIST

CCS	Cultural and Creative Sectors
CED	Creative Europe Desk
COSME	Europe's programme for small and medium-sized enterprises
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
DG EAC	Directorate-General for Education and Culture – European Commission
DG GROW	Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs – European Commission
DG RTD	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
EACEA	Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission
EDF	European Development Fund
EIC	Enhanced European Innovation Council pilot
EEN	Europe Enterprise Network
ESER	European Social Economy Regions pilot
ESC	European Solidarity Corps
EU	European Union
HEPA	Health-Enhancing Physical Activity
MS	Member States of the European Union
NA	National Agency (of Education)
OAD	Overseas Association Decision
OCTA	Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union
OCTs	Overseas Countries and Territories
PIC	Participant Identification Code
R&D	Research and Development
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
TAAF	French Southern and Antarctic Lands
VET	Vocational Education and Training

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 11th and 12th December 2019, more than seventy participants from eighteen OCTs gathered in Brussels to attend the EU Programmes Workshop. The aim of this conference was to reinforce the capacities of the public authorities and organisations based in OCTs, to successfully access the horizontal programmes of the European Union. Officials from the European Commission shared information about how to access key programmes; participants from OCTs were invited to share experiences and success stories related to the access and implementation of EU projects. Attendees could engage with each other to increase their cooperation and networks among OCTs.

Participants were informed about projects related to youth, international partnerships and culture – namely Erasmus+, Erasmus+ Sports, Creative Europe and the Solidarity Corps. Erasmus+ is the most successful programme in OCTs, as shown in OCTA's Erasmus+ Success Stories report. There is ample scope for the participation of OCTs in Erasmus+ projects related to sports, and to projects related to the audiovisual, cultural and creative sectors through the Creative Europe Programme, actions in which OCTs have not been involved yet. OCTs can also participate in the Solidarity Corps initiative - which gives young people the opportunity to volunteer either abroad or in their own countries to respond to societal challenges, promote solidarity and gain valuable skills -, both by promoting the programme among their youth or, by applying to the programme to host volunteers/trainees.

Participants shared testimonies and success stories in accessing, implementing or facilitating EU projects in OCTs. For instance, in 2018, Curaçao set up an EU Desk within the Ministry of Economic Development with the purpose of raising awareness of EU programmes, identifying calls and building the capacity of local organisations. ProGreenland, an organisation working on fundraising, project management and international programmes, shared success stories of Erasmus+ projects in Greenland. Experience shows that participation in the Erasmus+ programme benefits local schools in Greenland, as participants can gain useful skills and local schools feel empowered. Sylvain Martinez, a teacher from the Tahitian highschool "Lycée Professionel Don Bosco", developer and evaluator of Erasmus+ projects, shared his experience coordinating and participating in Erasmus+ projects and the impact on the students. Lastly, Desiree Eldering presented the Donkey Sanctuary of Aruba, an organisation that has been receiving VET students for years, on the path to apply to host volunteers via the European Solidarity Corps.

European officials also provided a detailed overview of programmes related to research and innovation, entrepreneurship and competitiveness of SMEs. Attendees learnt how to navigate the Funding & Tenders Portal, the main entry point to access calls and information on EU opportunities, currently mostly addressed towards to Horizon 2020, the EU's programme for research and innovation. They also learnt about the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), i.e. a network of expert organisations supporting the innovation, competitiveness and international business growth of enterprises and SMEs. Two organisations in New Caledonia and French Polynesia are part of the EEN network through the French EEN Consortium "TOPIC". Finally, the Enhanced European Innovation Council Pilot was presented. This support scheme boosts innovative disruptions in the EU by providing funding and support to top-class innovators with innovative ideas that have the potential of being scaled-up.

AGENDA

DAY 1 - Wednesday 11 December

8:30 - 9:00	Welcome coffee / Registration
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and opening remarks <i>Olivier Gaston</i> , President of the Executive Committee of OCTA <i>Sylvie Millot</i> , Head of Unit, DG DEVCO 05, European Commission <i>Minninguaq Kleist</i> , Head of the EU Representation, Greenland
9:15 – 9:30	Latest developments in the OCTs in EU programmes: OCTA's overview <i>Marta Fernández Fornieles</i> , OCTA Secretariat
9:30 – 9:45	Erasmus+ 2020 calls and future expectations <i>Giedrius Sudikas</i> , DG EAC B4, European Commission
9:45 – 10:30	Networking session Fostering thematic networks among OCTs
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:15	Family picture
11:15 – 12:15	Erasmus+ Sport <i>Myriam Rancon</i> , EACEA A6, European Commission
12:15 – 13:00	Creative Europe (Culture) <i>Gudrun Heymans</i> , Creative Europe Culture Desk Flanders
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at the hotel
14:00 – 15:30	EU programmes in the OCTs – Successes and Initiatives <i>Vanessa G. Toré</i> , EU Desk Curaçao <i>Allan Olsen</i> , ProGreenland <i>Sylvain Martinez</i> , High School Don Bosco Tahiti, French Polynesia <i>Desiree Eldering</i> , Donkey Sanctuary Aruba – via videoconference
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Horizon 2020: How to navigate the available funding Funding and Tenders portal <i>Giuseppina Lauritano</i> , DG RTD B3, European Commission
17:00 – 18:30	Coctail

AGENDA

DAY 2 - Thursday 12 December

8:30 - 9:00	Welcome coffee / Registration
9:00 – 10:00	European Solidarity Corps <i>Stéphanie Frangou, DG EAC B3, European Commission</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Europe Enterprise Network: Cooperation MS-OCT <i>Round table:</i> <i>Hervé Parcineau, Chamber of commerce and industry, Paris region</i> <i>Doriane Sanchez-Le Bris, ADECAL- TECHNOPOLE New Caledonia</i> <i>Patrick De Smedt, DG GROW H2, European Commission</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:20	EIC - Enhanced European Innovation Council pilot <i>Eric Olivier Pallu, DG RTD TF.1, European Commission</i>
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch at the hotel
12:15 – 13:00	Creative Europe (Culture) <i>Gudrun Heymans, Creative Europe Culture Desk Flanders</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at the hotel
13:20 - 14:30	Co-design session: OCTA's Action Plan to improve the access to EU programmes in OCTs Divided in two groups: Initiatives of the Public sector and Private sector
14:30 - 15:30	Discussion session with National Agencies Education and other Contact Points Divided in four groups: by Member State
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Presentation of the conclusions on the workshop <i>Mininnguaq Kleist, Head of the EU Representation, Greenland</i> Closure of the event

INTRODUCTION

On December 11 and 12, the Greenland Representation to the EU and the Association of the Overseas Territories and Countries (OCTA) welcomed more than seventy participants from eighteen OCTs to attend the EU Programmes Workshop in Brussels. Participants had the chance to engage directly with officials from the European Commission and deepen their knowledge of European horizontal programmes with the overall aim of gaining better knowledge about funding opportunities.

OCTA is the Association of Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union. Counting 22 members, which include all the inhabited OCTs and the TAAF (French Southern and Atlantic Lands), OCTA's vision is to promote the sustainable development of OCTs, protecting their natural environment and advancing their economic and human development through cooperation with the EU, as well as with regional and global partners.

Since the "Overseas Association Decision" (OAD) came into force in 2014, public and private entities in the OCTs are eligible to apply for funding from EU programmes; however, the access to some of these instruments remains a challenge. The EU Programmes Workshop aimed at reinforcing the capacities of the public authorities and relevant organisations based in the OCTs to successfully access the current horizontal programmes. For this purpose, awareness was raised about EU-funded opportunities. The conference also provided a platform to create networks and to share good practices, there were opportunities to share experiences and success stories with other OCT members to inspire action. Contact points between OCTs and National Agencies were reinforced, and participants engaged with each other to pave the way for increased cooperation and networks among islands.

OCTA's 2015-2020 strategy foresees increased efforts at raising awareness, among OCTs, of the so-called "horizontal programmes" of the European Union. Given this priority, the ample scope for action and the many opportunities available, in 2018 the position of EU Programmes Officer within the OCTA Secretariat was created. The responsibility of OCTA's EU Programmes Officer is to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat to better support OCTs and enhance the access of OCT-based stakeholders to EU horizontal programmes. For instance, in October 2018, the OCTA Secretariat published a report on the participation of OCT-based entities in EU programmes. The results of the report showed that Erasmus+ is the most popular EU horizontal programme in the OCTs. In this context, in May 2019 a report about the Erasmus+ programme in the OCTs was published, highlighting eight successful projects taking place in six OCTs. The report illustrates the positive outcomes of Erasmus+ and serves to promote successful organisations based in the OCTs. This workshop builds upon a previous workshop on EU programmes, held in November 2018.

¹<http://octassociation.org/IMG/pdf/-60.pdf>

²http://www.octassociation.org/IMG/pdf/octa-rapport_2019-en-web.pdf

³For further information, visit <http://www.octassociation.org/eu-programmes-workshop>

The workshop: organisation, participation and structure

The EU Programmes workshop was organised by the Executive Committee of OCTA, led by the Representation of Greenland to the EU with the support of the OCTA Secretariat.

Over 70 participants, including public authorities from 18 OCTs, policy officers and officials from the European Commission and representatives from Member States' Education National Agencies, attended the workshop, ensuring a balanced representation and making it a successful event. Participants from OCTs included government officials, delegation representatives, policy advisors, directors and university delegates. Experts from the European Commission's DG GROW, DG RTD, DG EAC and EACEA shared practical information on EU programmes and funding opportunities. The workshop was moderated by Marta Fernández Fornieles, EU Programmes Officer at the OCTA Secretariat.

With the aim of ensuring a wide coverage of the available funds to OCTs, the workshop was divided into multiple sessions, selected for its relevance to OCTs, each of them presenting a specific EU funding area: education and youth instruments (Erasmus+ & Erasmus+ Sport, European Solidarity Corps), research and innovation (Horizon 2020, Enhanced European Innovation Council Pilot), competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (Europe Enterprise Network) and audio-visual and culture (Creative Europe). A session was also entirely dedicated to sharing experiences and success stories of OCTs participating in EU programmes. On the second day, an interactive "co-design" session allowed participants to discuss the ways in which OCTA can improve access to EU programmes in OCTs in the public sector (education, culture) and private sector (SMEs, research, etc). The recommendations and key ideas gathered in the "co-design" session will inform OCTA's Action Plan, which aims to address OCTs challenges to access EU programmes, to be drafted at the beginning of 2020. Participants from OCTs also had the opportunity to network and directly interacted with representatives from the Education National Agencies of their related Member States during a specifically designed discussion session.

Background documents and more specific information on EU programmes

All the presentations of the workshop and all background documents can be found and accessed at the following link. Please consider consulting them in parallel with this report for the thematic sessions.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pXvIYp1CtSAMIhMkInyy_dX-25ilOueB

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The workshop on EU Programmes initiated with a welcome session, where the hosts welcomed the participants, explained the overall objectives of the conference and prepared the ground for discussion.

Olivier Gaston, President of the Executive Committee of OCTA



On behalf of OCTA, **Olivier Gaston** welcomed all participants and thanked them for attending the conference. He also thanked the European Commission for being the main funder of OCTA, and the staff in OCTA's Secretariat that organised the event: Pablo Lopez-Herrerias, Coordinator of the OCTA Secretariat, Marta Fernández Fornieles, EU Programmes Officer, and Jean-Marc Labis, Administrative and Financial Officer.

OCTs can benefit from a wide array of EU Horizontal programmes. Hence, in order to support capacity development in the OCTs and build knowledge on these programmes, the position of EU Programmes Officer was created within the OCTA's secretariat. OCTA

has also published two reports providing an overview of the access of OCTs to EU programmes.

There is greater interest in the EU to include OCTs in European programmes and projects, for instance in the areas of the blue economy. Overall, the workshop on EU Programmes is a learning opportunity; it is useful to fine-tune new projects, share ideas and developments in OCTs. Mr Gaston recommended to participants to exchange good practices and share experiences, ideas, advice and feedback. The workshop is a chance to find the best match between the OCTs' potential and the opportunities offered by the EU.

Sylvie Millot, Head of Unit, DG DEVCO 05, European Commission



Sylvie Millot emphasized that the European Commission supports the efforts made by the OCTs to learn more about EU programmes. She cherishes the hope to continue working together with OCTs to ensure that Overseas Countries and Territories can benefit from the opportunities offered by the EU.

The purpose of European programmes is to implement European policies in the respective countries through concrete projects and activities. The new European Commission has defined a series of political priorities that will guide these programmes. Among them, firstly, the Green Deal, which touches upon the environment, biodiversity and protection of the territory. The second is digitalisation and digital technologies. The third is related to

sustainable growth and employment. These priorities will be implemented in the period 2021-2027 and the programmes will be operationalised both in the EU Member States and in the OCTs.

Sylvie Millot emphasized that, unlike EDF funded programmes that benefit OCTs, EU programmes are implemented through competitive processes; projects are selected according to their quality and to their relevance with regards to EU priorities. Ms Millot advised OCTs to set up priorities and, to concentrate their efforts on the programmes they are eligible to and that best respond to their needs.

The European Commission stands with OCTs and is ready to participate in information sessions. However, additional mobilisation of efforts is needed. The Commission thus counts on the OCTA Secretariat to share information and provide clarifications about EU programmes, in order to help OCTs access such programmes. OCT representatives in Brussels are also encouraged to be mobilised and share information and knowledge with their countries and territories. Member States have also a key role to play in providing support to OCTs and in sharing information about EU programmes.

Ms Millot reminded participants that, by participating in the workshop, they become “Ambassadors” of EU programmes, with an active role of spreading information to citizens, organisations and companies. They will be at the forefront of implementing the recommendations collected in the workshop and sharing the knowledge gained. This is a continuous process and not a one-time thing.

The European Commission remains available for additional information and hopes to see OCTs sharing EU programmes success stories in the upcoming future.

Mininnguaq Kleist, Head of the EU Representation, Greenland



As Representative of Greenland, the OCT responsible for the event, **Mininnguaq Kleist** welcomed the participants to Brussels and to the conference. He briefed the participants about the different thematic sessions, reminding them about the need to share input, information and proposals. Mr Kleist emphasized that the recommendations proposed by participants would serve as a contribution to OCTA's action plan in order to improve the access of OCTs to the EU Programmes. He underlined that the success of the workshop relied on attendees to pass the information back home, spreading the knowledge gained in order to facilitate access to projects.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OCTs IN EU PROGRAMMES: OCTA'S OVERVIEW

Marta Fernández Fornieles, EU Programmes Officer, OCTA Secretariat



Marta Fernández Fornieles provided a brief overview of the work OCTA has been carrying on EU Programmes since 2018. First, she introduced the two OCTA reports, the first one published in 2018 on the participation of OCTs in EU Programmes during the 2014-2018 period. The second report, published in 2019, focuses on Erasmus+ success stories. While the first report provided a much-needed quantitative overview, the projects presented in the second report allow readers to gain an insight on how it happened.

Ms Fernández also shared the results of a qualitative survey conducted to evaluate recent developments related to EU Programmes in OCTs. The survey shows an increased awareness of EU programmes at the institutional level of OCTs, and a further recognition of their added value. More activities are carried out, e.g. information sessions,

specific support to applicants. Erasmus+ continues to be the leading programme; OCTs have also sent applications to Horizon 2020, the European Solidarity Corps, Europe Enterprise Network (EEN) and the European Social Economy Regions pilot (ESER). Furthermore, there seems to be a higher involvement of National Agencies for education towards OCTs: both French National Agencies of Education have visited New Caledonia (2018 and 2019), and the Dutch Agency recently visited Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten.

ERASMUS+ 2020 CALLS AND FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

Erasmus+

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

- **Objective:** support education, training, youth and sport by providing opportunities for over 4 million of Europeans to study, train and have experiences abroad
- **Total budget:** period 2014-2020: €14.7 billion. Proposed budget for 2021-2027: €30 billion
- **Calls:** multiple, check the website https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. It is aimed at both individuals and organisations and seeks to support the European policy agenda for growth, jobs, equity and social inclusion. It builds on more than 25 years of experience of European programmes in the field.

Erasmus+2020 is structured around **three Key Actions (KA)** as follows:

- KA1: **Mobility** projects in the field of education and training
- KA2: **Cooperation** -strategic partnerships in the field of education and training
- KA3: **Policy**-support for policy reform

Moreover, there are two additional actions: 4) **Jean Monnet** (to promote excellence in EU studies in higher education around the world) and 5) **Sport**.

Giedrius Sudikas, DG EAC B4, European Commission

“The Erasmus+ programme is a gateway for OCTs to the European continent”, said Giedrius Sudikas. OCTs have, in fact, benefitted from Erasmus+ for several years, especially in relation to Key Action 1 and 2. In the first action, related to mobility projects in the field of education and training, over one thousand people benefitted from learning mobilities to or from the OCTs. Youth mobility projects are the most popular, followed by learning mobilities in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (VET). In the second key action, i.e. strategic partnerships in the field of education and training, close to 20 projects were carried out in the OCTs related to the cooperation of organisations for innovation and the exchange of good practices, focussing on cooperation of schools and VET.

Brexit will impact the Erasmus+ programme in different ways depending on particular scenarios. If a Brexit deal is ratified, the UK will continue participating as a Programme Country until the end of the transition period (i.e. the end of 2020). In case of no-deal, to avoid disruptions, the Erasmus+ Contingency Regulation covers all ongoing learning mobilities starting before the withdrawal date. Moreover, there is a Draft Contingency Regulation for the 2020 EU budget. If adopted, continued funding can be given to the UK, provided that the UK fulfils certain conditions, including its respective payment to the EU budget.

The Erasmus+ is **structured around three Key Actions**, each containing multiple calls and deadlines. Mr Sudikas included some of the deadlines in his presentation, and invited participants to consult the website (see below). It is important to keep in mind that most of the Erasmus+ programmes are implemented at national level via the National Agencies of Education (NAs). For the programmes implemented centrally by EACEA, NAs can also provide support to applicants.

Erasmus+ relevant websites

- **Programme Guide 2020:** https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/erasmus-programme-guide-2020_en
- **Erasmus+ calls 2020:** https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/calls_en

Submissions deadlines 2020 (Brussels time)

Key Action 1	
Mobility of individuals in the field of youth	5 February 2020 at 12.00
Mobility of individuals in the field of higher education	5 February 2020 at 12.00
Mobility of individuals in VET, school education and adult education fields	5 February 2020 at 12.00
Mobility of individuals in the field of youth	30 April 2020 at 12.00
Mobility of individuals in the field of youth	1 October 2020 at 12.00
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees	13 February 2020 at 17.00
Key Action 2	
Strategic partnerships in the field of youth	5 February 2020 at 12.00
Strategic partnerships in the field of education and training	24 March 2020 at 12.00
Strategic partnerships in the field of youth	30 April 2020 at 12.00
Strategic partnerships in the field of youth	1 October 2020 at 12.00
European Universities	26 February 2020 at 17.00
Knowledge Alliances	26 February 2020 at 17.00
Sector Skills Alliances	26 February 2020 at 17.00
Capacity building in the field of higher education	5 February 2020 at 17.00
Capacity building in the field of youth	5 February 2020 at 17.00
Key Action 3	
Youth Dialogue projects	5 February 2020 at 12.00 30 April 2020 at 12.00 1 October 2020 at 12.00
Jean Monnet actions	
Chairs, Modules, Centres of Excellence, Support to Associations, Networks, Projects	20 February 2020 at 17.00
Sports actions	
Collaborative partnerships	2 April 2020 at 17.00
Small collaborative partnerships	2 April 2020 at 17.00
Not-for-profit European sport events	2 April 2020 at 17.00

Special measures for OCTs: OCTs are considered as Erasmus+ Programme Countries and can therefore participate in all Key Actions. In consideration of the geographical location of OCTs, special measures have been implemented, including higher monetary amounts for individual support (up to € 770/month) and special travel grants (up to € 1500/participant).

The budget and the sectoral programmes of Erasmus+ for the period 2021-2027 are currently in the negotiation phase. The European Commission has proposed to double the budget to €30 billion, aiming to provide opportunities abroad for at least 12 million people. The future Erasmus+ aims to be an evolution of the current programme, not a revolution - the structure around the three Key Actions will be maintained. The future Erasmus programme will be more inclusive and accessible, broader and forward looking, participatory, international, in synergy with other programmes, and greener.

NETWORKING SESSION



During this session, participants had the chance to get to know each other and establish links and contacts.



ERASMUS+ SPORT

Myriam Rancon, EACEA A6, European Commission



Whilst Erasmus+ is mainly dedicated to the field of education, one of the chapters concerns **Sport**. The aim of this action is to support European partnerships on **grassroots sports** in order to pursue the following objectives:

- Tackle cross-border **threats** to the integrity of sport, e.g. doping, match fixing, violence, intolerance and discrimination.
- Promote and support **good governance** in sport and **dual careers of athletes**.
- Promote **voluntary activities** in sport with social inclusion, equal opportunities, awareness of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA), increased participation in and **equal access to sport for all**.

Erasmus+ Sport funds **three types of actions**, namely (1) collaborative partnerships, (2) small collaborative partnerships, and (3) not-for-profit European sports events. Each action has specific requirements, objectives, duration, grants and priorities. All details can be found in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide .

Next call for proposals, Erasmus+ Sport

- **Deadline:** 2 April 2020, 5pm (CET)
- **Call E+ Sport 2020:** https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/sports_2020_en
- **Sport Infoday in Brussels (Live web streaming available)** on 30 January 2020 https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/event/infoday-sports-2019_en

Collaborative Partnerships

- **Larger scale, requirements:** at least 5 organisations active in the field of sport, from 5 different Erasmus+ programme countries.
- **Length:** 12-36 months
- **Activities** include networks, exchange of good practices, education and training modules and tools, awareness-raising activities, seminars, conferences, meetings and events
- **Focus on outputs**, e.g. guidelines, toolkits, training modules that can be shared and used beyond the projects
- **Outputs** must be **disseminated** intensively
- **Grant:** € 400 000 max
- **Start date:** 01/01/2021

Small Collaborative Partnerships

- **Smaller scale, grassroots** rather than professional level; requirement: at least 3 organisations active in the field of sport from 3 different Erasmus+ programme countries. At least one local / regional sport club.
- **Length:** 12-24 months
- mainly to **develop and reinforce networks**, exchange good practices, confront ideas, increase **capacity** at transnational level
- **Grant:** € 60 000 max
- **Start date:** 01/01/2021
- This is a **good way to start applying** for the Erasmus+ Sport

Not-for-Profit European Sports Events

- **Single event** with participants from at least 10 different Erasmus+ Programme Countries, or sport events organised simultaneously in 10 different Erasmus+ Programme Countries
- **Only one applicant** (public body, non-profit organisation) in an Erasmus+ Programme Country
- **Length:** max 12 months
- **Grant:** € 300 000 – 500 000 max
- **Start date:** 01/11/2020

Note: The information and structure presented below, although tailored to Sport calls, is used across all Erasmus+ projects, therefore the information and advice mentioned below is applicable to any project.

In order to apply, the Erasmus+ Sport 2020 call website contains all the relevant documents: guidelines for applicants, FAQs and the application package, which consists of an electronic form and three compulsory annexes, i.e. 1) description of the project, 2) budget proposal, 3) declaration of honour. In the electronic submission, the coordinator for the project needs to register on the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal and get a Participant Identification Code (PIC) for the organisations involved (in case they do not have one already). The eForm should also be completed in full and validated.

The first compulsory annex concerns the description of the project. The experts base the evaluation of the project mostly on the information presented on this document, making it the most relevant document of the application package. The document is structured in four parts that mirror the main selection criteria.

1) Project characteristics and relevance. It evaluates the objectives of the project, the methods and tools used, and the innovation the project expects to bring. It is important to check that a similar project has not been carried out beforehand (for instance, by checking the EACEA library containing past projects). The added value of the project needs to be clearly explained, including the relevance of the selected countries and the EU policies it supports. Using data and previous research on the subject (e.g. Eurobarometer surveys) is a key factor to success.

2) Quality of project design and implementation. To explain how activities will be implemented (timelines for implementation, monitoring, evaluation, dissemination) and how their quality will be assessed. Part of the project design and implementation is linked to budget.

3) Quality of project team and cooperation arrangements. To present the division of tasks within the actors in the consortium, and what communication channels will be used to work together.

4) Impact and dissemination. To provide information on the quantitative and qualitative evaluation tools and indicators proposed in the project, in order to evaluate the impact of the project. Dissemination refers to the communication throughout all stages of the project, to specific target groups.

It is also important to draft the budget correctly (**annex II**). For collaborative partnerships and small collaborative partnerships, the new financing system is based on unit costs; real costs apply only to exceptional costs. Unit costs use factors to calculate the grant (e.g. fixed grant for travel costs depending on distance of travel).

Selection process and evaluation criteria. After an application is submitted, the first eligibility check is carried out in April. The evaluation process happens between May and September; the notification of the award decision is communicated in September; and, the signing of the grant agreement takes place between October and December. Projects are evaluated according to their relevance, the quality of the project design and implementation, the quality of the project team and cooperation arrangements, and their impact and dissemination.

⁵Funding and Tender Opportunity Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

⁶EACEA Library accessible at https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library_en

⁷These are public opinion surveys carried out by the EU in all Member States. They can be accessed at <https://www.secure.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/heard/eurobarometer>

Useful advice for applicants

- It is **easier** to be selected with **small collaborative partnerships**.
- **Joining a consortium** as partners for an Erasmus+ Sport project is a good idea as beginners, in order to understand how the application process works. Being a consortium coordinator is encouraged only if the team already has expertise in drafting EU projects.
- Get **inspiration** by consulting past projects in **the EACEA library**, which include compendia, statistics, summaries of past projects, reports of cluster meetings (i.e. meetings where projects meet with representatives of MS and expert groups. Themes include HEPA, integrity of sports, education, etc.). The library is particularly useful to identify gaps between policies and actual implementation of projects. **EACEA Library:** https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/library_en
- Consult the **Erasmus+ Projects Results Platform** which contains all projects selected in the past. This can give a good idea of what type of projects are more likely to be selected. **Erasmus+ Projects Results Platform** <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>
- **Partners can be found** through past projects (e.g. in the above-mentioned platforms). It is also important to work with networks of contacts.
- **Avoid common mistakes:** e.g. vague description, lack of focus, lack of consistency between project objectives, methodology, activities and budget; inflated budget, weak impact and dissemination.
- A **good proposal** is coherent, simple, evidence-based, clear, rigorous in its planning, explicit and circumscribed.
- **In brief:** have an original, innovative idea; fit the project to the Erasmus+ Sport objectives and priorities, involve partners and choose the appropriate action. Get inspired by previous projects and give it a try!

CREATIVE EUROPE (CULTURE)

Creative Europe

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe_en

- **Objective:** to support the European audiovisual, cultural and creative sector.
- **Year:** 2014-2020, proposed also for 2021-2027
- **Total budget:** €1.46 billion between 2014-2020. Proposed budget for 2021-2027: €1.64 billion
- **Calls:** multiple, check the website https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding_en

Creative Europe is the EU's programme to strengthen Europe's audiovisual, cultural and creative sectors (CCS). Creative Europe has **two general objectives**. Firstly, to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity, and to promote Europe's cultural heritage. Second, to strengthen the competitiveness of the European cultural and creative sectors with a view to promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Between 2014-2020 Creative Europe had a budget of €1.46 billion, for projects that supported cross-border cooperation between cultural and creative organisations within the EU, cultural and creative networks, translation of literary works, platforms of cultural operators, capacity building and professional training, development of material for cinema and television, film festivals, funds for the international co-production of film and audience development.

Gudrun Heymans, Creative Europe Culture Desk Flanders



The mission of the EU policy for culture is to be “united in diversity”. Such a mission aims at welcoming cultural and linguistic diversity, sharing a common EU cultural heritage and space, and enhancing international cooperation and dialogue. The vision underpinning this policy – and its related programmes - is a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe. In other words, a region with dynamic and competitive cultural and creative sectors that are able to work together internationally, foran European audience which is diverse, inclusive and interested in European cultural content.

Between 2014 and 2020, the EU programme for culture “Creative Europe” has funded several projects to strengthen capacity and competitiveness in CCS, make use of digital opportunities, encourage innovation, reach new audiences and safeguard and promote cultural and linguistic diversity. Its motto is “imagine, create, share”. Projects have received funding in three distinct fields: media, culture and cross-sector. Creative Europe is also responsible for the European Culture Capitals and European prizes in various fields, including music, literature, architecture, and EU heritage.

Creative Europe – Main fields

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe_en

- **Media:** development & TV production; distribution and display; training & audience development; markets & gaming
- **Culture:** cooperation projects, literary translation, platforms and networks in many cultural sectors (visual arts, theatre, opera, circus, literature, music, etc.)
- **Cross-sectoral:** Financial Guarantee Facility (loans for SMEs), a call on “digital bridge Culture and Audiovisual content”, a set of studies and pilot projects towards 2021-2027

Eligible applicants are cultural, creative and audio-visual organisations (public or private, profit or non-for-profit) that have been existing for at least two years. Each project collaboration should have participants from at least three countries (which are participating in the programme). The principle is co-financing (combination of funds provided by the EU and the partnership). Organisations in OCTs are eligible to apply, together with all EU MS, Norway, Iceland, Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Tunisia. Cooperation project calls for the year 2019, although expired, can provide a useful guidance for the future Creative Europe Culture calls. Calls are divided into two groups.

- **Small scale:** require minimum participation from 3 countries, maximum duration set at 4 years, and maximum EU grant at €200 000
- **Large scale:** require minimum participation from 6 countries, maximum duration set at 4 years, and maximum EU grant at € 2 million.

All **funding opportunities** are published online and can be found on the “Creative Europe – Funding” website. Currently, there are ongoing opportunities in the field of media (cinema networks, support to TV programming, support to festivals, film education...) and culture (cultural cooperation projects, e.g. in the Western Balkans and soon to come - expected 04/02/2020 - Literary Translation of Fiction).



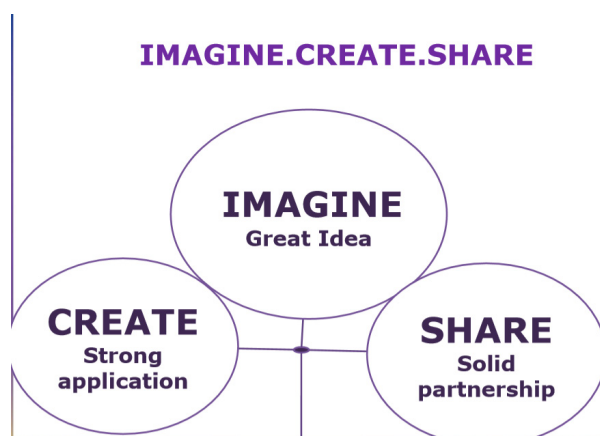
The future of the programme. The Creative Europe programme has been confirmed for the period 2021-2027; an increased budget has been proposed. The future programme will be an evolution of its previous one. Increased attention will be given to the values of the European Agenda for Culture (e.g. cultural diversity, gender equality, citizenship, the international dimension of culture, and the added socio-economic value of CCS).

Cooperation with EU neighbouring countries will be reinforced, together with horizontal and sector specific actions, such as those related to performing arts, architecture, literature and fashion, to name a few. There will be a focus on capacity building for SMEs, to encourage international cooperation and networking, and support for digital development and cross-sectoral collaboration between the arts and science.

For a good application it is important to imagine a great idea, create a strong application and share a solid partnership. An innovative idea should be proposed, in line with the European objectives of Creative Europe, clearly showing the support it gives to achieving EU goals. Between 2014-2020, some of the EU culture priorities included the mobility of artists, capacity building, audience development, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and awareness raising by cultural heritage. A solid, international partnership is also necessary, with clearly defined roles for all partners. Finally, a strong application should always be prepared in advance and fulfil the four award criteria:

the EU added value of the project, the quality of its activities and of the partnership, and the project's communication and dissemination.

The Creative Europe Desk (CED) networks can offer help in terms of information, advice, technical assistance, partner search and news when dealing with Creative Europe project applications.



Contact Points

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe_en

- **EACEA:** <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture>
- **Creative Europe Culture:** https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node/139_en
- **CED Netherlands:** Dutch Culture Amsterdam https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/contact_en
- **CED Denmark:** Danish Agency for Culture Copenhagen, slo@slks.dk
- **CED United Kingdom:** British Council London, creative.europe@britishcouncil.org
- **CED France:** Relais Culture Europe Paris, <https://relais-culture-europe.eu/>

EU PROGRAMMES IN THE OCTs – SUCCESSES AND INITIATIVES

In this session, participants shared success stories and initiatives that have been implemented in OCTs in relation to EU programmes.

Vanessa G. Toré, EU Desk Curaçao



In December 2018, the Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao created an EU Desk in order to better navigate all the information and bureaucratic procedures related to EU programmes, with the objective of centralising the information, organise training sessions to build the capacity within the government, but also local NGOs and organisations. Vanessa Toré as Director, as well as Shereeta Ramcharan and Eunice Eisdien from the EU Desk, presented their achievements from their first year and the objectives for 2020. The aim of the EU Desk is to facilitate access to EU programmes and to make effective use of EU funding.

Some additional purposes of the EU Desk Curaçao include: create awareness on EU thematic programmes and the promotion of direct participation of Curaçao in European programmes. The Desk seeks to further raise the visibility of the EU on the island and of Curaçao in the EU. It also assists the region in effectively accessing thematic EU funding, the Desk works as a national contact point. It identifies calls and programmes, raises awareness on

opportunities and, advises applicants in calls for proposals. It also participates in transnational networks to stimulate access to funding, provides support to build local capacity and is creating a database per sector. Overall, the most important programmes for Curaçao are Horizon 2020, Citizens, Erasmus+ and EYE, EASI, LIFE and COSME.

For the successful functioning of the EU Desk Curaçao, efforts were made to train the staff's European skills and knowledge of the functioning of the EU institutions. Relations with stakeholders and potential beneficiaries were promoted, along with external expertise from the EU institutions and specialised consultants. The Desk has a database with more than four hundred interested stakeholders, they have completed successful roadshows in Brussels and multiple information sessions.

The benefits brought by the EU Desk Curaçao are manifold. The Desk is an effective instrument to influence, anticipate, plan and apply to European funds. It addresses EU calls and supports organisations in drafting high-quality proposals, allowing the population and organisations of Curaçao to contribute to EU policies. It also works as an information hub, since it disseminates information coming from OCTA, the EU Commission and other institutions. In short, it increases the local ability of organisations in Curaçao to directly access funds, thus promoting the development of the island. As an example, Curaçao is partner of ESER and took part in a project on energy efficient buildings through the Clean Energy for EU Islands. They are also hosting a training seminar on the new regulation of the EU Registered Exporters Systems (REX) in January 2020.

In 2020, the EU Desk Curaçao will hold multiple roadshows with the Government, the private sector and NGOs. It will continue working on ongoing calls and will also prepare for 2021-2027 calls. Creating a network of OCT-based EU Desks would increase the collective strength in each OCT. The EU Desk Curaçao is willing to create opportunities for cooperation with other OCTs across regions, to tackle common challenges (e.g. climate change, renewable energies, sustainable development) and to make OCTs more visible in the EU.

Allan Olsen, ProGreenland



Allan Olsen shared some successful experiences regarding the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme in Greenland. ProGreenland is an independent Greenlandic contractor that works on fundraising, project management and international programme advice. Hired by the National Business Development Agency, the Government of Greenland and the Municipality of Nuuk, ProGreenland informs its clients and provides guidance and advice, as well as practical assistance on practical applications to EU programmes, such as the Erasmus+.

Erasmus+ is a “low-hanging fruit” in regard to Greenland’s access to EU programmes, because it is relatively easy to access compared to other EU programmes. They have specialised on Erasmus+ KA2 “Strategic partnership for schools”. There is a great partnership searching tool, eTwinning, and organisations can enter

partnerships simply as partners (there is no need to necessarily lead a consortium). ProGreenland is hired to inform and assist public schools in all aspects related to Erasmus+: pre-registration, partner search and screening, application, follow-up during projects and reporting.

Experience shows that local schools that take part in the Erasmus+ programme are engaged and can be empowered – making them more capable to engage in and apply to international cooperation programmes; yet improved national efforts and focus are needed, to also increase the number of applications to the programme. The current national approach for engaging potential Greenlandic partners in EU-programmes is a mix of micro-funding - making the foundation for ProGreenland’s work a bit uncertain (e.g. public schools). However, as EU funds are insufficient to cover all expenses, additional micro-funding from the Government of Greenland and, or the municipalities is necessary.

In the early stages, four public schools in the capital of Greenland took part in Erasmus+ projects, including school partnerships, class visits and teacher cooperation. In 2018 and 2019, two and three projects were respectively approved. The University of Greenland also takes part in the programme, they receive a block grant from Erasmus+ annually, which assists Greenlandic students going on international semesters in Europe. They have received so far between 50-70 European students and sent about ten Greenlandic students abroad. Additionally, four Greenlandic students went to Aruba. After these experiences, participants share positive feedback and are willing to participate in the programme again. Some schools also decide to participate in other programmes, showing how participation in the Erasmus+ can create positive spill-over effects.

Sylvain Martinez, High School Don Bosco Tahiti, French Polynesia



Sylvain Martinez shared his experience in organising and taking part in Erasmus+ projects and activities with the high school where he is a teacher, “Lycée Professionel Don Bosco”, in Tahiti.

Mr Martinez is a teacher, as well as a developer and evaluator of Erasmus+ projects. Since 2014, he has organised three Erasmus+ projects with the Don Bosco high school in Tahiti. The first project explored the World War I from a Tahitian perspective, the second was about the notion of European citizenship and multiculturalism, and the third (and current one) is titled “No Man is an Island”. All these projects highlight the importance of developing cooperation and international connections. In his presentation, he provided an exhaustive overview of the financial aspects of the projects.

Overall, the funding covered about 83% of the overall budget. More than ninety students and teachers have taken part in international experiences, including trips to Turkey, Greece, La Réunion, Brussels, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain and Portugal - thanks to Erasmus+.

The students were enriched culturally, professionally, academically and at personal level. They produced art, wall-paintings, news articles, a theatre script, a novel, songs on the experience and videos; they launched exhibitions and created a space for a museum. Students could thus exercise their active citizenship. They even met political authorities such as, former French President François Hollande. Travelling and working on these tasks have contributed to the professional development of the students, who were able to diversify their skills and learn more about European history and culture. The organisations involved in the project also benefitted from the programmes, as they were able to develop international partnerships.

For more information: <https://www.erasmus-tahiti.com>

Desiree Eldering, Donkey Sanctuary Aruba

Desiree Eldering is the director of the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba, an association that takes good care of about 130 donkeys on the island of Aruba. Working with “Everything is Possible”, a UK-based not-for-profit organization, the Sanctuary has been taking part in various Erasmus+ vocational education and training projects for the past six years.

Several students undertook a VET work experience in the field of animal care and veterinary studies at the Donkey Sanctuary through Erasmus+ projects. Individuals benefitting from these work placement opportunities can gain valuable hands-on experience in the field. They also learn how to implement projects. This experience has helped participants to build their self-confidence, discover their career vocation and the local lifestyle.

Q&A

A participant asked about the number of volunteers at the sanctuary, which amounts to about thirty students per year in addition to two tutors.

Another participant asked about the partnership with “Everything is Possible”. The collaboration started six years ago. Together with other partners, they have been working on various Erasmus+ projects. Ms Eldering specified that they also have a partnership with the veterinary on the island. The Donkey Sanctuary Aruba has recently been accredited with the “Quality Label”, which allows them to develop a project to host volunteers in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps.

HORIZON 2020: HOW TO NAVIGATE THE AVAILABLE FUNDING

Horizon2020

- **Objective:** EU programme for Research and Innovation. Aims: drive sustainable, smart, inclusive economic growth, create jobs
- **Year:** 2014-2020; future programme for 2021-2027 will be “Horizon Europe”
- **Total budget:** period 2014-2020: €80 billion.
- **Calls:** available here <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/h2020>

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>

Horizon 2020 is the EU’s Research and Innovation Programme. With nearly € 80 billion of funding available between 2014 and 2020, it aims at driving economic growth and creating jobs, by coupling research and innovation and, putting emphasis on science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges.

Giuseppina Lauritano, DG RTD B3, European Commission

Giuseppina Lauritano explained to participants how to navigate the available EU funding in the “Funding and Tenders Portal” (F&T Portal) – a unique entry point website to access centrally managed grants and procurement contracts. The portal is a “one-stop-shop”, where organisations can search for EU funding and tender opportunities and manage grants and contracts in one single place.

Funding and Tenders Portal – What’s new?

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>

- Single platform for all EU funding opportunities: unique entry point for fully electronic management of centrally managed grants and procurement contracts
- A real one-stop-shop: for finding opportunities and daily projects’ interactions with the EU.
- Easy access to EU funds through a simple and powerful search engine
- Projects and results section (can access statistics on Horizon 2020 and project partners can share results and successful experiences)
- Simplified, streamlined, easier-to-use platform, improved visual layout and user support
- New functionalities, new programmes on board - keeps on evolving
- 2 min video on the portal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5URvbgsYOQ>

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

European Solidarity Corps

- **Objective:** opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity activities
- **Calls:** for 2019, deadline 24/01/2020. For the period 2020, multiple calls available; see the announcement for the call for proposals 2020 at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:C2019/382/08&from=EN>
- **Total overall budget:** €376.5 million for the period 2018-2020. For 2020, €117.65 million. Future proposed budget for 2021-2027: €1.26 billion

https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

The European Solidarity Corps is an EU initiative that creates opportunities for young people to volunteer, intern or work in projects, either abroad or in their own countries, with the ultimate purpose to benefit communities and people around Europe. The Corps also provides funding for young people to develop their own projects to address needs in their local community. Individuals from 18 to 30 years old can participate. The projects can last from two to twenty-four months.

Stéphanie Frangou, DG EAC B3, European Commission



The objective of the European Solidarity Corps is to offer an opportunity to young people to engage in society and respond to social challenges. The promotion of solidarity is one of the funding values of the EU, the Corps contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, democracy, citizenship and social inclusion in Europe. Principles of the initiative include equal treatment and opportunities, non-discrimination, provision of high-quality activities, socio-educational and professional development and adequate training.

There are **three types of supported actions:**

- **Volunteering**
- **Traineeships and jobs**
- **Solidarity projects**

Through **volunteering activities**, individuals can volunteer abroad or in their own countries for a period up to twelve months. Volunteering teams, on the other hand, are groups of 10 to 40 participants that can engage in short-term volunteering activities, lasting from two weeks to two months. The requirements include that there should be at least two organisations (one to host and one to provide support) accredited with a “quality label”. The initiative covers travel costs, project management and administrative costs, activity costs, accommodation and food to volunteers, pocket money, linguistic support and exceptional costs.

Traineeships offer opportunities for full-time work practice, lasting between two to six months either abroad or in the participant’s country of residence. Jobs are full time and last between three to twelve months, either abroad or in the participant’s country of residence. Only one organization holding a “quality label” needs to be involved. The initiative covers several aspects: including travel, activity costs and project management costs, among others.

Lastly, **solidarity projects** provide funding directly to young people (at least five individuals) that want to launch a project that has a positive impact in their local community. The project has a duration of two to twelve months. One of the members of the group can apply on behalf of the group, or a public/private organisation can apply on their behalf and provide administrative support. A “quality label” is not needed. Individuals get a grant according to the duration. Costs for coaching can also be requested. Most of the grant amounts are based on the host country/country where the activities take place.

The **quality label** is a prerequisite for organisations to participate in volunteering, traineeships and job activities. It is a label that ensures the organisation’s ability to comply with quality standards and the objectives of the Corps. To obtain it, an organisation needs to fill the application form and send it to the relevant National Agency, which will assess the application.

The European Solidarity Corps also foresee **quality and support measures**, such as general online training, linguistic support, mentoring, training and evaluation cycle, recognition of learning outcomes, insurance, certificate of participation and networking activities.

Participants of the Corps are entitled to get “Youth Pass” certificate following their activity. This is a tool created by the European Commission to recognise non-formal learning. Participants need to gather their experiences to reflect upon their acquired learning and competences. The certificate is issued by the organisations.

How can organisations apply to the European Solidarity Corps? How does it work?

- Organisations and groups of young people can apply for funds
- Three rounds per year
- Managed at decentralized levels: national agencies in each participating country support potential applicants. They receive the application forms and process the projects
- Organisations can consult the European Solidarity Corps projects database to see examples of projects
- Young people (17-30) register in the European Solidarity Corps portal, where they can apply to the projects that appeal them. Organisations can select participants among the registered young people.

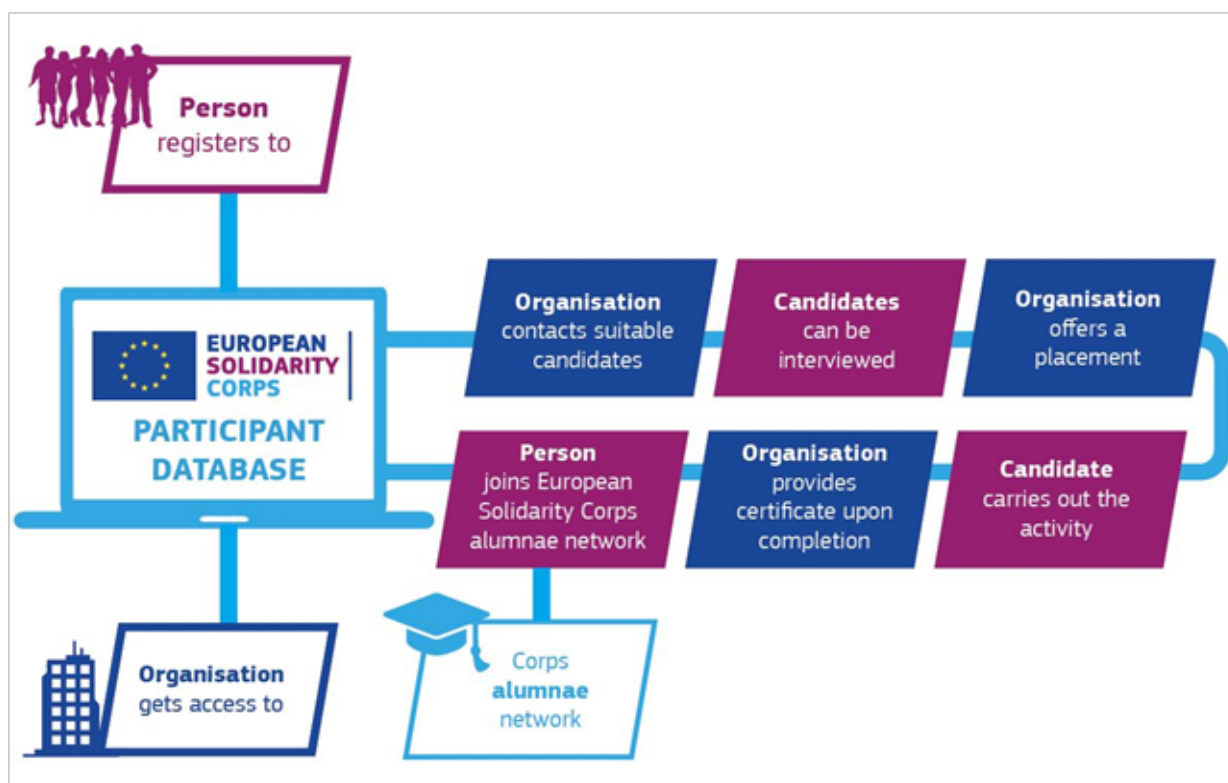


Diagram 1: The recruitment process for European Solidarity Corps explained (European Commission's website)

The **European Solidarity Corps** initiative has been extended beyond 2020 to offer more opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity. From 2021 to 2027, the budget of the Corps will amount to €1.26 billion, allowing for over 350 000 opportunities for young people. Activities will also integrate humanitarian aid operations, and activities will take place worldwide.

Peter Pieters, Erasmus+ Youth/ European Solidarity Corps, Dutch National Agency

Peter Pieters, Programmes Advisor the Erasmus+ National Agency of the Netherlands, provided further practical information on how organisations can participate in European Solidarity Corps initiatives. He argued that the Dutch National Agency wants to visit the relevant host organisation before handing a quality label. For this reason, it is important to establish a contact point in each Dutch OCT to coordinate with the National Agency. Other Member States may take a different approach regarding their OCTs.

Useful websites

- **Youth Policy** https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en
- **European Solidarity Corps Portal (registration for young people – useful for organisations to get inspiration)** https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en
- **European Solidarity Corps Website** https://ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps_en
- **European Solidarity Corps Platform** https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/projects_en

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK: COOPERATION MS-OCT

Enterprise Europe Network

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

- **Objective:** encouraging SMEs to innovate, export and become international
- **How:** member organisations of the EEN provide advice and support in three key areas: international partnerships, international growth, business innovation
- **Total funding:** €180 million
- **Calls:** multiple, check EASME and DG Grow websites (see below)
- It's one of the most successful networks set up by the EU. Since SMEs cannot access COSME directly, the centres related to the EEN can provide support

Patrick De Smedt, DG GROW H2, European Commission

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is a network initiative of the European Union to support and encourage SMEs to innovate, increase their competitiveness, export and expand their business internationally. The network is active in more than 60 countries worldwide. It brings together 3000 experts from more than 600 member organisations, which range from technology poles, innovation support organisations, university and research institutes to regional development organisations and chambers of commerce and industries. The EEN was launched in 2008 and is co-financed under the European Union's programme for the Competitiveness of SMEs (COSME, which provides about 60% in co-financing). The initiative has also benefitted many SMEs in their international growth and expansion. In 2018 and 2019, more than 450 000 SMEs benefitted from EEN services.



The EEN provides information and expert advice to SMEs on topics related to the EU, such as regulation and access to finance. It promotes the participation of SMEs to EU Programmes related to research and development, guiding enterprises in the search for international partners and international opportunities. Member organisations typically offer three types of services to SMEs: advisory support, innovation support, and international partnerships.

Member organisations can support SMEs entering international partnerships through a partnership database. SMEs can request to be “matched” with a partner based in a foreign territory for example to meet, hold “brokerage” events (events where international entrepreneurs can meet), distribute products, access new markets, find the technology needed and cooperate in research projects. SMEs need to reach out to the local Network contact point. After an initial assessment, an expert will search potential partners and arrange the “match-making”.

A member of the Network can also offer **advisory support**, to accompany SMEs in their growth process, for instance in the fields of market intelligence, finance, export, export legislation and regulation on intellectual property.

Finally, through the EEN, SMEs can receive **innovation support**, i.e. expert advice on how to bring innovative ideas to commercial success on international markets. Network experts will assess which services are best suited to the specific development phase of the business, providing advice on innovation awareness, capacity building and innovation management. About 60% of COSME’s budget is dedicated to financial instruments.

EEN provides expertise on seventeen sectors, including automotive, transport and logistics, environment, intelligent energy, maritime industry and services, sustainable construction and tourism and cultural heritage, to name a few. Locally, member organisations of the EEN organise several events, such as brokerage and business-to-business events.

Third countries can also participate in the EEN, especially in regard to international partnerships (business cooperation, technology transfer, innovation and research project). The cooperation database has about 10 000 cooperation demands and offers. SMEs from third countries cannot receive EU funding through the EEN.

OCTs can participate in the COSME programme. Calls can be found on the EASME and DG GROW websites (see below). For example, the ADECAL Technopole in New Caledonia and the Chamber of Commerce Industry, Services and Trade in French Polynesia participate in the EEN as part of the consortium “EEN TOPIC” – Ile de France.

The new EEN as part of COSME in the Single Market Programme will start on 1st January 2022. Call for proposals are expected as early as 2021.

COSME – Europe’s Programme for the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

- **Objective:** to promote the competitiveness of SMEs especially in relation to access to finance, access to markets, improving business conditions and entrepreneurship
- **Year:** 2014-2020; proposed for renewal 2021-2027
- **Total budget:** there will be 1 billion EUR for the new COSME, as part of the Single Market Programme, which has an overall budget of 4.089 billion euro. Additionally, €2 billion of loan guarantees have been proposed to be delivered through the Invest EU.
- **Funding opportunities:**
 - **On the EASME website:** <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/cosme-0>
 - **On DG Growth website:** calls for tenders <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/contracts-grants/calls-for-tenders> and calls for proposals https://ec.europa.eu/growth/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals_en

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme_en

Hervé Parcineau, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Paris Region

Hervé Parcineau is the coordinator of the EEN consortium “TOPIC”, which is a network of nine partners covering the territories of Paris Ile de France, Central-Val of the Loire, Normandy, New Caledonia and French Polynesia. Each member of the EEN TOPIC Consortium offers specific services and expertise to SMEs in the region it covers, such as advice, support, information, cross-border partnering, innovation support, promotion and communication, management and coordination, building and reinforcing networks.

The members of the consortium provide different expertise, therefore they are able to offer assistance to a wide range of SMEs, by connecting them to the member of the consortium that can provide appropriate support.

The EEN network contact points receive funding for seven years. EEN contact points can be Chambers of Commerce, financial entities, among others. Mr Parcineau informed participants that the next EEN call is scheduled for 1 January 2022, for a seven-year period. His recommendation to interested organisations in the OCTs is to find an experienced consortium in the relevant Member State, to benefit from their expertise and established network. European consortia can benefit in export and import opportunities to new markets that OCTs could provide.



Doriane Sanchez-Le Bris, ADECAL-TECHNOPOLE New Caledonia

Doriane Sanchez-Le Bris shared information on how the ADECAL-Technopole, a New Caledonian institution supporting innovation and development of local enterprises, joined the EEN Consortium "TOPIC". The ADECAL Technopole has been member of the consortium since 2015. They work together with the consortium's experts on promoting innovation in New Caledonian enterprises and start-ups - for example through innovation management, international partner search and protection of intellectual property. Expert advice was especially appreciated in terms of EU legislative and regulatory frameworks and identification of new commercial partners.

At the end of 2019, twenty-two enterprises in New Caledonia have benefitted from individual support through the EEN TOPIC Consortium and the ADECAL-Technopole. Seven enterprises have joined a partnership or reached an important stage in their business development process (e.g. patents, technological partnerships, financial or commercial support).

For 2020, work will focus on increasing access to finance, such as the "SME Instrument", "Fast Track to Innovation" and "Eurostars". Further opportunities for financing under the new programme Horizon Europe and COSME 2021-2027 will be assessed. Lastly, efforts will be taken towards opening towards conventional sectors with high international potential, such as the agri-food sector.

In the context of the next EEN call (January 2022), Ms Sanchez-Le Bris advised participants to begin the assessment now of the strengths and needs in their high potential sectors, in order to present a clear picture of the added-value that can be brought to the respective member state's Consortium they wish to join, as well as in each OCT's region.



Enhanced European Innovation Council Pilot – EIC

Enhanced European Innovation Council Pilot

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/index.cfm>

- **Objective:** support top-class innovators, entrepreneurs, small companies and researchers with bright ideas and the ambition to scale-up internationally
- **How:** funding and support (access to mentoring & advice, knowledge partners, expert programme managers)
- **Total budget:** total estimated budget for the 2020 Enhanced Pilot at €1.22 billion. Proposed budget for 2021-2027 under Horizon Europe: €10 billion
- **Calls:** always open, check the website

Eric Olivier Pallu, DG RTD TF.1, European Commission

Innovation is fundamental for the generation of income, new jobs and economic growth; it also serves to tackle societal challenges, such as those related to sustainability, climate change, health and food security. In the future, the sectors that will drive innovation will be completely different, such as 3-D printing, autonomous vehicles, gene therapy and quantum computers. To be a leader in disruptive innovation, it is important for the EU to exploit the opportunities offered by these sectors.

However, currently **three main factors** hold back innovation in Europe. First, Europe lacks breakthrough and disruptive innovations that create new markets. Second, innovation funding is inadequate. There is a financing gap between R&D grants and private investment for scaling up innovative start-ups. Third, the innovation ecosystem remains fragmented at EU level. The EU needs to catch up with American and Asian counterparts for what regards fast-growing innovative companies. Europe has many start-up innovation hot beds in Europe, i.e. cities with huge innovation potential; but these centres need to work together and increase their coordination.

To spur innovation, the EU has launched the Enhanced **European Innovation Council Pilot**. This is a support scheme that aims at boosting innovative disruptions in the EU by providing support to those breakthrough innovation projects that have the potential of scaling up. The EIC is a one stop shop open to all innovators in any field at any time. The highest potential innovators are selected on the basis of ideas



and team, receiving quick and agile funding. Types of funding range from (1) pathfinder grants for advanced research on emerging technologies, (2) accelerator funding for innovative start-ups (below €2.5 million grant and below €15 million equity), and finally (3) crowding in private investment (venture capitalism and InvestEU). Moreover, the EIC builds innovation ecosystems and communities by providing access to mentoring, advisory services and knowledge partners. Expert programme managers will engage with projects and communities; prizes for breakthrough technologies are given. There is only one single EIC website, and innovators can be directed at the programme that suits them best. Calls are always open, and the process is “bottom-up”, meaning that innovative proposals can be submitted in any area of technology or business sectors.

The first phase of the pilot was launched in 2018. The total budget in 2018 was of €778 million. 6000 applications were received from start-ups or SMEs; 520 were interviewed and 250 were awarded funding (totalling €450 million). The second phase was launched in 2019 with an increased budget (€1 billion in 2019 and €1.2 billion in 2020) and new features, including a pilot pathfinder, a pilot accelerator, a new EIC advisory board and new EIC programme managers. The **EIC for the period 2021-2027** will fall under the programme Horizon Europe with a proposed budget of €10 billion. It will feature more flexible rules for funding, and a full accelerator and pathfinder scheme.

- The **EIC pathfinder** provides grant funding for innovative researchers with an idea for breakthrough technologies. Innovative researchers need a strong, interdisciplinary research base, collaborations and ideas that push the technological frontier through a radical vision and radically new technologies. Researchers need to submit a short proposal (up to €3 million) and have a consortium of minimum three partners from three EU countries (or OCTs).

- The **EIC accelerator** provides start-ups, SMEs and entrepreneurs with a mix of grant funding and equity investment for the purposes of development and scaling up of high-risk innovations. The pilot currently offers blended finance up to €17.5 million (namely, grant funding up to €2.5 million – covering about 70% of total project cost - with the option of equity investment of up to €15 million). The accelerator is open to individual SMEs with high-risk, high-growth potential aimed at shaping new markets or disrupting existing ones. It is open to all sectors, products, services, new businesses and models. It also gives substantial funding for the last stages of development. The selection process includes a pre-selection of the best-ranking applicants, which will go through a “face-to-face” evaluation with experts. The selected applicants will receive funding. The next cut-offs for the accelerator pilot are 8 January 2020, 18 March 2020, 19 May 2020 and 7 October 2020.

- The **business acceleration services** support companies that are selected by the EIC in activities related to coaching and mentoring. These activities have the purpose to scale-up projects and companies and to create a network of innovators.

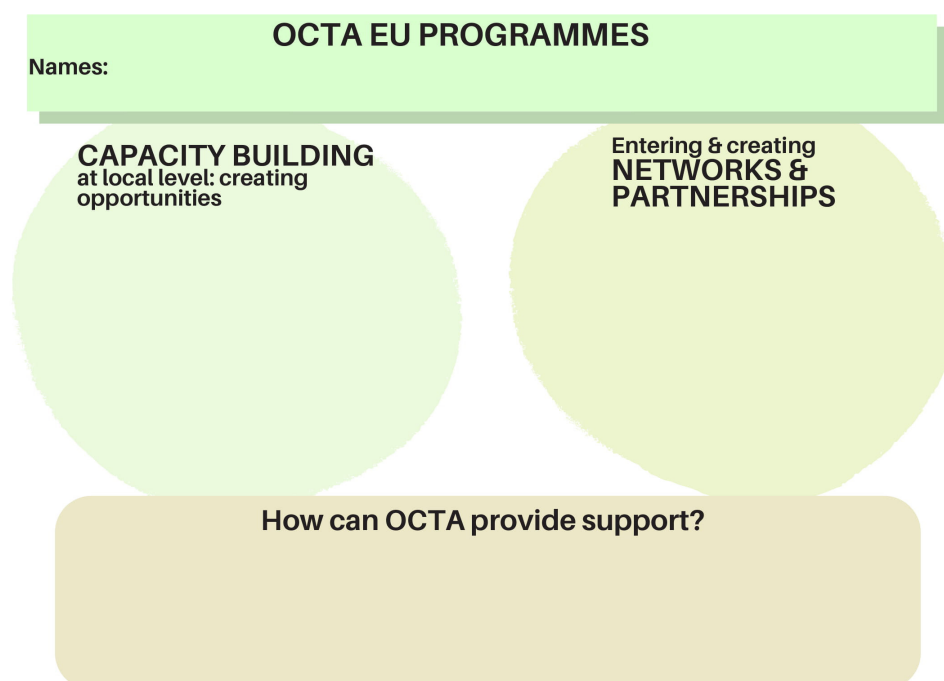
EIC – important websites

- **Navigating the funding schemes** <https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/index.cfm?pg=funding>
- **EIC pilot guide for applicants** https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/pdf/ec_eic_factsheet_032019.pdf
- **National Contact Points** <https://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points>
- **European Enterprise Network** <https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

CO-DESIGN SESSION: OCTA'S ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE THE ACCESS TO EU PROGRAMMES IN OCTs.

The purpose of this session was to allow participants to engage in discussion, provide ideas and recommendations on how OCTs can gain better access to EU programmes, through the support of OCTA.

Participants could choose whether they wanted to focus on either the public sector (e.g. on projects related to culture, education) or on the private sector (e.g. on projects related to SME's competitiveness, innovation, etc.). Within the two groups, they were then divided into smaller groups of six participants each. A set of questions served as a guide for the discussion.



The participants' recommendations were collected and the presented in the conclusion of the workshop (see below). They will serve to inform the future OCTA's Action Plan, to be adopted in mid-2020.





DISCUSSION SESSION WITH NATIONAL EDUCATION AGENCIES AND OTHER CONTACT POINTS

During this session, participants had informal discussions with representatives from the National Education Agencies based in France, the Netherlands and the UK, as well as Pro Greenland. Both the participants and the points of contact for the National Agencies (NA) of Education shared information and asked questions on accessing EU programmes such as Erasmus+. Many programmes of the European Commission are implemented at national level, which means that often NAs can offer more information and practical support.

The purpose of the sessions was to allow participants to interact directly with those who are on the receiving end of the application process, discuss the available opportunities, and to see how NAs could better support potential applicants and beneficiaries in the OCTs.

FAQ

In order to clarify some aspects that we noticed as recurring questions from the participants, this section aims to address them:

- **What is the difference between European Added Value and European values?**

- **European Added Value (EAV)**

If a project is based in international cooperation, if there is a consortium of multiple EU partners, it is necessary to assess and mention the additional benefits of a collaboration at European level, in comparison to developing the project at national/local level. Examples: greater effectiveness/complementarity, or improved coordination. Particularly requested in research and innovation projects.

- **European values**

These are the common values that the European societies share: Human dignity, Freedom, Democracy, Equality, Rule of law and Human rights. A detailed list can be found here: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_en These are often addressed in education, culture and solidarity programmes.

- **Regarding the application process:**

- Developing a project application usually takes between 6-12 months.
- Coordinating organisations of currently on-going projects often re-apply once the funding period is over or develop other projects in between. For new organisations, contacting already existing consortia and entering these partnerships is a great way to gain experience.
- An application does not need to be perfect to apply, very few “new applicants” are accepted the first time they apply. The experts carrying out the evaluation will provide detailed feedback for each criterion, allowing organisations to understand exactly which aspects to improve.
- There are National Contact Points (NCP) for most of the programmes. While there might not be an awareness of the OCTs specificities, they all have the role to support potential applicants. For decentralised actions, such as COSME or part of Erasmus+, NCPs have many tools at their disposal to assist applicants.

To find the NCP for H2020 sub-programmes (including COSME):

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

National Agencies for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node/2105>

Creative Europe Desks:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/contact_en

CONCLUSIONS

Mininnguaq Kleist, Head of the EU Representation, Greenland

Mininnguaq Kleist concluded the two-day workshop by thanking the participants for their participation and contributions. He also summarised the recommendations that participants shared throughout the two days, especially during the co-design session.

The importance of developing **networks, platforms and knowledge hubs** to share opportunities, knowledge, best practices, calls, initiatives, partnerships and documentation at OCT level was highlighted. This type of action could be implemented through the creation of EU Desks in OCTs, the organisation of workshops for technical assistance and networking sessions and webinars on technical matters. Moreover, it was suggested that OCTA increases its visibility and access to information through a more ambitious communication strategy.

Participants also recommended that OCTA provides **training, feedback and technical assistance** to those wishing to apply to EU programmes, for example through an updated website that includes examples of successful projects. Support should also be directed towards the use of funding on specific projects. OCTs should focus on areas of excellence in order to gain easier access to funds. These areas include energy, the environment, tourism or specific ones, such as sand mining. Moreover, attendees reminded the European Commission and National Agencies to continue being **inclusive** towards OCTs.

Overall, the workshop was considered useful and fruitful. Participants from OCTs had the opportunity to learn not only about EU programmes, but also how to access them. They had the opportunity to share their experience and expertise in successfully accessing and implementing EU projects such as Erasmus+. Attendees also made contacts with representatives in other islands to further promote OCT coordination and cooperation.





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