Mobility projects for youth workers

Under this Action1 , organisations can receive support to carry out projects comprising of one or more learning activities for the professional development of youth workers and their organisation.

Objectives of the Action

This Action supports the professional development of youth workers and thereby the development of quality youth work at local, regional, national, European and international level, through non-formal and informal learning experiences in mobility activities. The Action contributes to the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, particularly to the European Youth Work Agenda2 for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

More specifically, Mobility projects for youth workers aim to:

- Provide non-formal and informal learning opportunities for educational and professional development of youth workers, contributing to high quality individual practice as well as to the evolution of youth work organisations and systems;
- Build a community of youth workers that can support the quality of projects and activities for young people in EU programmes and beyond.
- Develop local youth work practices and contribute to capacity building for quality youth work of the participants and their organisation, having a clear impact on the participating youth workers' regular work with young people.

Policy context

The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 sets out a Framework for European cooperation in the youth field, based on the Commission's Communication of 22 May 2018 on 'Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people'. The Strategy fosters youth participation in democratic life, supports social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society. The EU Youth Strategy also includes a Youth dialogue process and in that context, 11 European Youth Goals have been developed in 2018. These goals identify cross-sectoral areas that affect young people's lives and point out challenges. The EU Youth Strategy should contribute to realising this vision of young people. Under the core area 'Empower', the EU Youth Strategy is supporting youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en

Thematic strategies in the youth field

The Erasmus+ Programme seeks to promote youth participation, reinforcement of the quality of informal and non-formal learning processes and development of quality youth work. Further support in these areas is available through specific thematic strategies, such as Youth Participation Strategy, Youthpass and the European Training Strategy (ETS)3 .

Description of the activities

Professional Development Activities (PDA's)

Professional development activities are transnational learning mobility activities supporting the professional development of youth workers. They can take the form of:

- Study visits and different types of assignments, such as job shadowing, youth worker exchanges and peer learning, in youth work organisations and organisations active in the youth field abroad.

- Networking and community building among youth workers taking part in the action and supporting its objectives.

- Training courses supporting the development of competences (e.g. based on relevant existing competence models), to implement quality youth work practices or address and test innovative methods (for instance related to digital and smart youth work).

- Seminars and workshops supporting in particular knowledge-building and best practices sharing linked to the objectives, values and priorities of the EU Youth Strategy and of the EU programmes contributing to its implementation. The following activities are not eligible for grants under Mobility projects for Youth Workers: academic study trips; activities that aim to make financial profit; activities that can be considered as tourism; festivals; holiday travel; performance tours, statutory meetings.

Additionally projects could also comprise of the below activities.

System development and outreach activities

Mobility projects for Youth Workers may include system development and outreach activities, which are complementary activities aiming at enhancing the impact of the mobility project on the field. They include all those activities contributing to the European Youth Work Agenda for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work and bringing back lessons learnt and tools to the organizations involved in the projects and beyond. These complementary activities represent an opportunity for more experienced and resourceful beneficiaries to test innovative methods and responses to shared challenges, a sort of "European youth work lab" space stemming from the professional development activities implemented within the projects and having a resonance beyond them.

Production of tools and sharing of practices contributing to the development and evolution of youth workers organisations and systems, outreach and community building activities and the introduction to innovative methods including the use of digital technologies through youth work are some examples. These activities go beyond the follow-up dissemination activities, which are part of the normal project Life-cycle, however more targeted and strategic dissemination activities can also fit under these complementary activities.

A System development and outreach activity can be carried out at transnational or national level.

Preparatory visits

Preparatory visits aim to ensure high quality activities by facilitating and preparing administrative arrangements, building trust and understanding and setting-up a solid partnership between the organisations and people involved. Preparatory Visits take place in the country of one of the receiving organisations before the start of the Professional Development Activity.

Setting up a project

A project supported by this action must include one or more PDAs. Activities may be combined in a flexible manner, depending on the objectives of the project and the needs of the participating organisation(s) and participating youth workers.

A project is implemented by at least two organisations. All organisations involved need to be identified at application stage as a solid partnership is fundamental condition for high quality project delivery. Organisations involved assume the roles of "sending" participants and/or "receiving" i.e. hosting the activity. One of the organisations takes also the role of coordinator and applies for the whole project on behalf of the partnership.

A project consists of four stages: planning, preparation, implementation and follow-up.

- Planning (define the needs, objectives, learning outcomes, activity formats, development of work programme, schedule of activities, etc.)
- Preparation (practical arrangements, selection of participants, set up of agreements with partners, linguistic/intercultural/learning- and task-related preparation of participants before departure etc.);
- Implementation of activities;
- Follow-up (evaluation of the activities, identification and documentation of the learning outcomes of participants, as well as dissemination and exploitation of the project's outcomes).

A quality Mobility project for Youth Workers:

- has a clear impact on the participating youth workers' regular work with young people and on their organization;
- relies on the active involvement of participating organisations and youth workers, who should take an active role in all the stages of the project, enhancing in this way their learning and development experience;
- is based on clearly identified youth worker educational and professional development needs notably around quality, innovation and recognition, and accompanied by appropriate selection, preparation and follow-up measures;
- ensures that the non-formal and informal learning outcomes of the participants are properly recognised and that the project outcomes, including any methods, materials and tools, are transferable and used within the participating organisations, contributing to the evolution of youth work organisations, and further widely disseminated in the youth field;
- encourages the participants to reflect on European topics and values and provides youth workers with tools and methods to promote the respect and manage diversity in their daily work.
- promotes the usage of innovative practices and methods such as inclusion of digital youth work activities with a view to be an instrument for prevention of any forms of online disinformation and fake news.

Learning Process

A Mobility project for Youth Workers needs to envisage support for the reflection process, identification and documentation of learning outcomes, in particular through Youthpass, to support the recognition and impact of the project outcomes, the resulting youth work practices, methodologies and materials in the youth field.

Inclusion and Diversity

The Erasmus+ Programme seeks to promote equal opportunities and access, inclusion and fairness across all its actions. Organisations should design accessible and inclusive project activities, taking into account the views of participants with fewer opportunities and involving them in the decision making process.

- Youth projects for Youth Workers are particularly suitable to enhance the diversity awareness of youth workers as well as to improve skills and competences needed to successfully involve participants with fewer opportunities in youth work practice. The involvement of the participating youth workers in all stages of the project fosters careful guidance through the learning and development process and allows a closer follow up;
- The presence of trainers and facilitators in most of the activities ensures a closer and adapted approach, tailor-made to the needs of the participants;
- The whole project should take a conscious approach towards inclusion and diversity. In the planning, preparation, implementation and follow-up these aspects should be taken into consideration. Especially important is the way the project enhances the ability of the participating organisations to address issues of inclusion and diversity in their regular activities.
- The format is also suitable to involve participants with fewer opportunities. The flexibility offered by the action in the format of the activities (e.g. duration, type etc...) makes it adaptable to the needs of participants. Mobility projects for Youth Workers are also suitable to work on inclusion and diversity as the subject of the project, for example exchanging inclusive practices and methods.

Mobility project for Youth Workers are also suitable to work on inclusion and diversity as the subject of the project, for example exchanging inclusive practices and methods.

Protection and Safety of participants

During the planning and preparation of a project, the issue of protection and safety of the participants should be addressed and all necessary measures to prevent/reduce risks should be foreseen.

Environmental Sustainability

A project should promote environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among participants, raising the awareness about the importance of acting to reduce or compensate for the environmental footprint of mobility activities. It should be designed and implemented with environmental consciousness by e.g. integrating sustainable practices such as opting for reusable or eco-friendly materials, reducing waste and recycling, sustainable means of transportation.

Digital transition

The Erasmus+ Programme supports all participating organisations in incorporating the use of digital tools and learning methods to complement their physical activities, to improve the cooperation

between partner organisations, and to improve the quality of the activities.

Erasmus+ Youth Quality standards

The implementation of all projects supported under this Action must follow the Erasmus+ Youth Quality standards for organising high quality learning mobility activities. The Erasmus+ Youth Quality Standards cover the basic principles of the Action, as well as concrete implementation practices for project tasks such as selection and preparation of participants, definition, evaluation and recognition of learning outcomes, sharing of project results, etc. The Erasmus+ Youth Quality Standards are available here https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/erasmus-quality-standards-mobility-projects-youth.

Criteria used to assess this project

Eligibility Criteria

General Eligibility criteria

The general criteria below apply for standard Youth Workers Mobility projects. For accreditations, please refer to the relevant section of this Guide.

Eligible participating organisations

A participating organisation can be:

- a non-profit organisation, association, NGO; European Youth NGO; a public body at local, regional, national level; a social enterprise; a profit-making body active in Corporate Social Responsibility;
- a group of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of a youth organisation (i.e. informal group of young people)[4]

established in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme or a third country not associated to the Programme neighbouring the EU (regions 1 to 4; see section "Eligible countries" in part A of this Guide).

Who can apply?

Any eligible participating organisation established in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme can be the applicant. This organisation applies on behalf of all participating organisations involved in the project[5]

Number of participating organisations

Minimum two participating organisations (at least one sending and at least one receiving organisation) from different countries must be involved.

Duration of project

From 3 to 24 months

Where to apply?

To the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established.

When to apply?

Applicants have to submit their grant applications by the following dates:

23 May at 12:00:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 June and 31 December of the same year

4 October at 12:00:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 January and 31 May of the following year

Possible additional round:

National Agencies may decide to open an additional round. The National Agencies will inform the applicants about the opening of the additional round through their website.

If an additional round is organised, applicants have to submit their applications by **4 May at 12:00:00 (midday Brussels time**), for projects starting between 1 August and 31 December of the same year

How to apply?

Please see part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.

Other criteria

A declaration of honour of the legal representative must be annexed to the application form.

Each project must include at least one Professional Development Activity.

A timetable for each of the Professional Development Activities, preparatory visits and System development and outreach activities planned in the project must be annexed to the application form.

Additional Eligibility criteria for professional development activities

Duration of activities

From 2 to 60 days, excluding travel days. The minimum 2 days must be consecutive.

Venue(s) of the activities

The activities must take place in the country of one (or several, in case of itinerant activities) of the organisations participating in the activity.

Number of participating organisations

Minimum two participating organisations (at least one sending and at least one receiving organisation) from different countries must be involved.

Activities within EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme: all participating organisations must be from an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme.

Activities with third countries not associated to the Programme neighbouring the EU: the activity must involve at least one participating organisation from an EU Member State or third

country associated to the Programme and one participating organisation from a third country not associated to the Programme neighbouring the EU (regions 1-4).

Eligible participants

No age limit.

Participants, with the exception of trainers, accompanying persons and facilitators, must be resident in the country of their sending or receiving organisation.

Number of participants

Number of participants: Up to 50 participants (excluding, where relevant, trainers, accompanying persons and facilitators) in each activity planned by the project. Participants from the country of the receiving organisation must be involved in each activity.

Other criteria

At least one of the sending organisations or the receiving organisations in the activity must be from the country of the National Agency to which the application is submitted.

Additional Eligibility criteria for Preparatory Visits

Venue(s) of the activity

The activity must take place in the country of one of the receiving organisations.

Eligible participants

Representatives of the participating organisations, trainers and facilitators taking part in the main activity.

Award criteria

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria. To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 60 points. Furthermore, they must score at least half of the maximum score points in each of the categories of award criteria mentioned below.

Relevance, rationale and impact (maximum score 30 points)

- The relevance of the project to:
    - the objectives of the Action;
    - the needs of development and evolution of the participating organisations;
    - the needs and objectives of the participating youth workers.
- The extent to which the project is suitable for:
    - producing high-quality learning outcomes for participating youth workers;
    - reinforcing or transforming the participating organisations' youth work, in relation to quality, innovation and recognition, as well as their capacities and scope, from local to global as appropriate.
    - involving participants active in youth work in the participating organisations,
    - involving organisations who undertake concrete youth work and regular work with young people on local level.
- The potential impact of the project:

- on participating youth workers and participating organisations during and after the project lifetime;
    - on concrete youth work practices and quality youth work;
    - outside the organisations and individuals directly participating in the project, at local, regional, national and/or European or global level.
- The extent to which the project incorporates measures aimed at making its results sustainable beyond the project's life-time;
- The extent to which the project is suitable of contributing to the inclusion and diversity, green, digital and participatory dimensions of the Programme;
- The extent to which the project introduces newcomers and less experienced organisations to the Action.
- The extent to which the proposed system development and outreach activities are contributing to the development of youth workers environment, (if applicable).

Quality of the project design and implementation (maximum score 40 points)

- The consistency between identified needs, project objectives, participant profiles and activities proposed;
- The extent to which the project contributes to improve quality of the youth work of the participating organisations
- The clarity, completeness and quality of all the phases of the project: preparation (including preparation provided to participants), implementation of activities and follow-up;
- The appropriateness of measures for selecting youth workers (in line with youth worker definition in legal base) in the activities and the extent to which the youth workers are actively involved at all stages of the project;
- The extent to which the activities are designed in an accessible and inclusive way and are open to participants with fewer opportunities.
- The appropriateness of the participative learning methods proposed, including of any virtual components;
- The quality of arrangements and support for the reflection process, the identification and documentation of the participants' learning outcomes, and the consistent use of European transparency and recognition tools, in particular Youthpass;
- The balanced representation of participants in terms of countries and gender;
- The extent to which the activities incorporate sustainable and environmental-friendly practices;
- The quality of tools and practices proposed under "system development and outreach activities" and the extent to which their design can be replicated and inspire other organisations (if applicable)

Quality of project management (maximum score 30 points)

- The quality of the practical arrangements, management and support modalities;
- The quality of the cooperation and communication between the participating organisations, as well as with other relevant stakeholders;
- The quality of measures for evaluating the different phases and outcomes of the project;
- The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at disseminating the outcomes of the project within and outside the participating organisations.

Funding rules

Budget category - Organisational Support

Eligible costs and applicable rules

Costs directly linked to the implementation of mobility activities.

Financing mechanism: contribution to unit costs.

Rule of allocation: based on the number of participants, excluding accompanying persons, trainers and facilitators.

Amount

100 EUR per participant in a Professional Development Activity.

Budget category - Travel

Eligible costs and applicable rules

Contribution to the travel costs of participants, including accompanying persons and facilitators, from their place of origin to the venue of the activity and return.

Financing mechanism: contribution to unit costs.

Rule of allocation: based on the travel distance and number of persons.

The applicant must indicate the distance between the place of origin and the venue of the activity[6] by using the distance calculator supported by the European Commission[7] .

For itinerant activities, the applicant should add up the distances between individual venues and choose the distance band corresponding to the total.[8]

Amount

Travel distance	Standard travel	Green travel
10 – 99 km	23 EUR	
100 – 499 km	180 EUR	210 EUR
500 – 1999 km	275 EUR	320 EUR
2000 – 2999 km	360 EUR	410 EUR
3000 – 3999 km	530 EUR	610 EUR
4000 – 7999 km	820 EUR	
8000 km or more	1500 EUR	

Budget category - Individual Support

Eligible costs and applicable rules

Costs linked to subsistence.

Financing mechanism: contribution to unit costs.

Rule of allocation: based on the duration of the stay per participant, including accompanying

persons, trainers and facilitators (if necessary), including also one travel day before the activity and one travel day following the activity, and up to four additional days for participants receiving a green travel grant.

Amount

Table A2.2 (below) per participant per day.

Maximum 1100 EUR per participant (including trainers, facilitators and accompanying persons)

Budget category - Inclusion Support

Eligible costs and applicable rules

Inclusion support for organisations: Costs related to the organisation of mobility activities for participants with fewer opportunities.

Financing mechanism: contribution to unit costs.

Rule of allocation: based on the number of participants with fewer opportunities, excluding accompanying persons, trainers and facilitators.

Amount

100 EUR per participant

Inclusion support for participants: Additional costs directly linked to participants with fewer opportunities and their accompanying persons, trainers and facilitators (including justified costs related to travel and subsistence if a grant for these participants is not requested through budget categories "Travel" and "Individual support").

Financing mechanism: real costs.

Rule of allocation: the request must be justified by the applicant and approved by the National Agency.

100% of eligible costs

Budget category - Preparatory visit support

Eligible costs and applicable rules

Costs linked to the implementation of the preparatory visit including travel and subsistence.

Financing mechanism: contribution to unit costs.

Rule of allocation: excluding participants from the receiving organisation. A maximum of 2 participants per participating organisation can be funded per activity. In addition, one facilitator per preparatory visit can also be funded. Conditional: the need for a Preparatory Visit, objectives and participants must be justified by the applicant and approved by the National Agency. This condition does not apply for projects funded under the accreditation system.

Amount

575 EUR per participant per preparatory visit.

Budget category - System development and outreach activities

Eligible costs and applicable rules

Costs linked to the implementation of the complementary activities.

Indirect costs: A flat-rate amount, not exceeding 7 % of the eligible direct costs of the complementary activities, is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the complementary activities (e.g. electricity or internet bills, costs for premises, cost of permanent staff, etc.).

Financing mechanism: real costs.

Rule of allocation: the need and objectives must be justified by the applicant and approved by the National Agency. Maximum 10% of the total project costs can be allocated to these activities.

Amount

Maximum up to 80% of eligible costs.

Budget category - Exceptional costs

Eligible costs and applicable rules

Costs for providing a financial guarantee, if the National Agency asks for it.

Visa and visa-related costs, residence permits, vaccinations, medical certifications.

Expensive travel costs of participants, including trainers, accompanying persons and facilitators; including the use of cleaner, lower carbon emission means of transport.

Financing mechanism: real costs.

Rule of allocation: the request must be justified by the applicant and approved by the National Agency. Expensive travel applies in cases where the travel support based on unit cost does not cover 70% of the travel costs of participants.

Amount

Financial guarantee: 80% of eligible costs

Expensive travel costs: 80% of eligible costs

Visa and visa-related costs, residence permits, vaccinations, medical certifications : 100% of eligible costs

Table A2.2 Individual support for youth exchanges

	Individual Support (euro per day)
Austria	61
Belgium	65
Bulgaria	53
Croatia	62
Cyprus	58
Czech Republic	54
Denmark	72
Estonia	56
Finland	71
North Macedonia	45
France	66
Germany	58
Greece	71
Hungary	55
Iceland	71
Ireland	74
Italy	66
Latvia	59
Liechtenstein	74
Lithuania	58
Luxembourg	66
Malta	65
Netherlands	69
Norway	74
Poland	59
Portugal	65
Romania	54
Serbia	45
Slovakia	60
Slovenia	60
Spain	61
Sweden	70
Turkey	54
Neighbouring third countries not associated to the Programme	48

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1 The main budget of this Action is allocated to support transnational activities involving organisations and participants from EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme. However, around 25% of the budget available can fund international mobility activities including organisations and participants from third countries not associated to the Programme neighbouring the EU (regions 1 to 4; see section "Eligible countries" in Part A of this Guide).

2

Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2020.415.01.0001.01.ENG

3 The strategies can be found here: https://www.salto-youth.net/
4 Group of at least four young people between 13 and 30 years old. One of the members of the group who is at least 18-years old assumes the role of representative and takes responsibility on behalf of the group. Please check the glossary for the definition of an informal group.
5 Participating organisations will need to sign a mandate to the applicant organisation. The mandates should be provided at application stage and at the latest by the time of the grant agreement signature. For further information, please check Part C of this guide.
6 For example, if a person from Madrid (Spain) is taking part in an activity taking place in Rome (Italy), the applicant will calculate the distance from Madrid to Rome (1365,28 KM) and then select the applicable travel distance band (i.e. between 500 and 1999 km).
7 http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/tools/distance_en.htm
8 For example, if a participant from Madrid (Spain) is taking part in an itinerant activity taking place first in Rome (Italy) and then Ljubljana (Slovenia), the applicant will first calculate the distance between Madrid and Rome (1365,28 KM), then between Rome and Ljubljana (489,75 KM) and add both distances (1855,03 KM) b) select the applicable travel distance band (i.e. between 500 and 1999 KM) and c) calculate the EU grant that will provide a contribution to the costs of travel of the participant from Madrid to Ljubljana (via Rome) and return (275 EUR).

Tagged in:

Youth