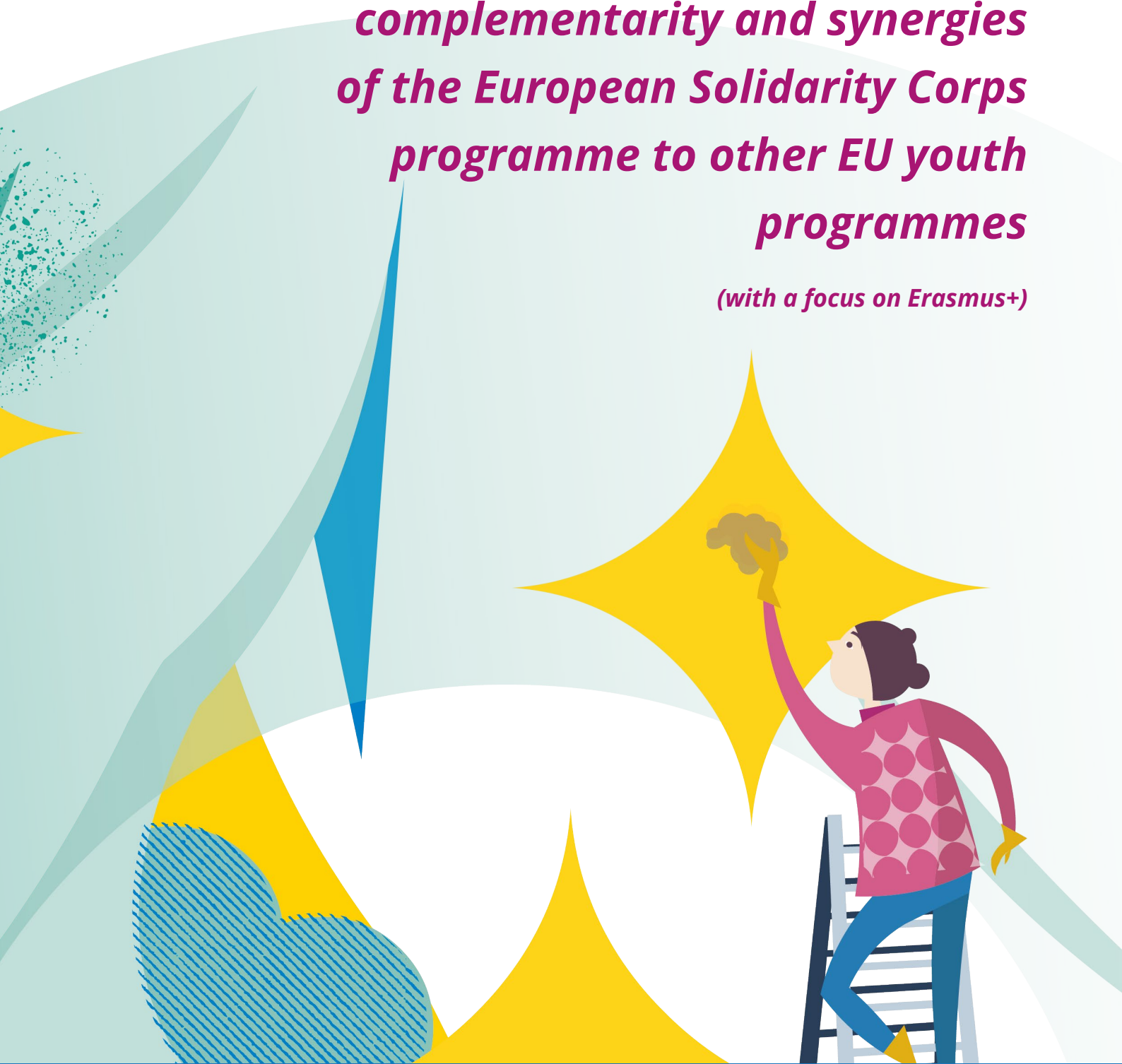


*Exploration of the
complementarity and synergies
of the European Solidarity Corps
programme to other EU youth
programmes*

(with a focus on Erasmus+)



Weronika Koralewska

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Strategic National Agencies' Cooperation on Volunteering

This research is a **part of a series of studies** carried out within Strategic National Agencies' Cooperation on Volunteering (SNAC Volunteering).

The primary aim of this long-term partnership on volunteering is **strengthening the European Solidarity Corps Programme and volunteering in general** and to put solidarity at its core.

The SNAC Volunteering is the cooperation between 14 National Agencies and 2 SALTOs and is coordinated by the SALTO European Solidarity Corps from 2023 to 2027. The cooperation supports the implementation of the Council Recommendations on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the European Union.

The SNAC Volunteering provides space for knowledge exchange and networking in the Europe and its partner regions.

The main areas of activity of SNAC Volunteering are:

- Analysis (including research and publications)
- Visibility & Advocacy to improve the conditions for volunteering in the European Solidarity Corps programme (including communication work and online events)
- Knowledge exchange (including networking events)

This research contributes to the field of analysis, provides necessary data for the future development of the European Solidarity Corps programme and of the field of volunteering in general.

Other research topics:

- Mapping Study of European Civic Engagement Frameworks and Their Links with Youth Volunteering
- Working Title: Explore Needs of Young People and Organisations in the Volunteering Field That Lead to New Trends in Volunteering and Solidarity Activities
- Mapping and Analysis of Research on Youth Volunteering in Europe

More research is planned in the SNAC Volunteering.

Stay tuned!

Context¹

With the new programme period, the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) has undergone a shift towards a pure volunteering scheme for local and international volunteering. The programme opens more and better volunteering opportunities for young people.

Many EU programmes and instruments can potentially support young people and the volunteering field. Next to the ESC, which offers young people opportunities to participate in solidarity activities across Europe, in particular the Erasmus+ programme needs to be mentioned, which offers transnational learning mobility opportunities for young people and youth workers and various youth participation activities.

The need for exploring the topic

The Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the European Union clearly states that the complementarity of EU programmes should be taken into account in the future planning on national and EU volunteer programmes. Ideally, the **complementarity and synergies of the various EU youth programmes** should be used in existing structures. There is a need to support the network of National Agencies dealing with EU youth programmes in enhancing these synergies. To this end, it would be useful to **highlight the connection of (youth) programmes** and recognize overlaps and the potential for complementarity. Particular attention should be given to ESC and Erasmus+ (especially KA1, Learning Mobility of individuals and KA 2, Cooperation between organisations and institutions).

Moreover, other relevant EU (youth) programmes and policies should be considered (e.g. CERV, the youth guarantee or the quality framework for traineeships), targeting the main questions:

- Where are the possible interlinkages?
- What are the overlapping points?
- How can we² use different complementary programmes?
- How can we create synergies between the different EU (youth) programmes?

¹ This whole section comes from this SALTO document: SALTO (2022) Call for an expert to explore the complementarity and synergies of the European Solidarity Corps programme to other EU youth programmes (with a focus on Erasmus+). Available at: <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/call-for-trainers/call/call-for-an-expert-to-explore-the-complementarity-and-synergies-of-the-european-solidarity-corps-programme-to-other-eu-youth-programmes-with-a-focus-on-erasmus.675/> (Accessed: 15.12.2022).

² This publication takes a broad understanding of who could work to make the EU programmes more complementary and with more synergies - EC, NAs, SALTOs, beneficiaries, and even the volunteers.

Theoretical framework

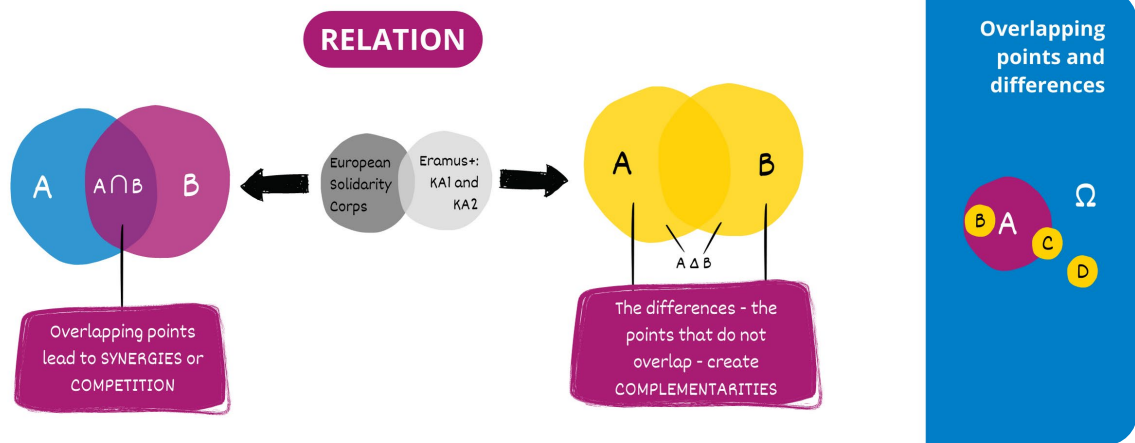
As written in the “Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the European Union” (European Commission, 2022): “The evidence shows that there is a need to create more synergies, complementarities and continuities between the different European and national schemes and initiatives”. **Our research is focused on the European level.** On the one hand, this report examines **existing synergies, complementarities and continuities** between different EU youth programmes, specifically when it comes to Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) and ESC (all strands)³. On the other hand, this publication also **proposes ways to create further synergies and complementarities** in the future.

In this report, while exploring the issues of synergies and complementarities, the following youth schemes were taken into consideration:

- a) Erasmus+ KEY ACTION 1: Learning mobility of individuals:
 - mobility projects for young people - ‘youth exchanges’,
 - mobility projects for youth workers,
 - youth participation activities,
 - mobility projects for young people - DiscoverEU Inclusion Action.
- b) Erasmus+ KEY ACTION 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions:
 - Partnerships for cooperation,
 - Capacity building in the field of youth.
- c) European Solidarity Corps:
 - Volunteering projects (individual and volunteering teams),
 - Solidarity Projects,
 - Humanitarian aid volunteering (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps).
- d) Other relevant EU (youth) programmes and policies:
 - The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme,
 - Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs,
 - Quality Framework for Traineeships,
 - The reinforced Youth Guarantee.

The programmes listed above are similar and differ in scope, target group, goals, objectives, priorities, structures and regulations. Points that are similar - **overlapping** - can lead to different relationships between them: synergy, competition or complementarity. The relations are explained in the graph below.

³ Details about the two programmes can be found in their respective programme guides: Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023 (Version 1) and European Solidarity Corps Guide 2023.



Synergy⁴ - produced by the overlapping points - the implementation of two or more programmes at a time can bring a better result than two added individual outcomes.

Competition produced by the overlapping points - implementing two or more programmes creates competition for participants and resources. Consequently, they fail to share resources and knowledge.

Complementarity⁵ resulting from the fact that some points are not overlapping - when one programme supplements the other in terms of a specific category. If complementarity exists, the two elements - programmes - can cover a wider range of potential scope together.

In the analysis of Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) and ESC (all strands), the most common relation seems to be either **complementarity or synergy**. Competition, when it comes to the practical implementation of the programmes, has rarely been identified during the preparation of this report.

4 For more definitions of the term 'synergy', as well as several types of synergies that are possible, see this publication (p.6): http://download.apre.it/GIURI_Vademecum_Synergies_EN.pdf

5 For more information on how complementarity is understood and defined, see the definition in this study (p.14): <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b1fcb0fb-42b4-46bf-9187-14c9168dcaa4/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>

Methods of gathering data for exploring the topic

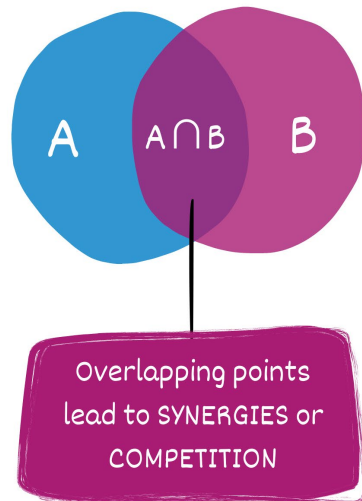
In the exploration of the topic of the complementarity and synergies between the European Solidarity Corps programme and other EU youth programmes the following data collection methods were used:

1. Gathering examples **from NA officers** (through online questionnaires and interviews),
2. **Interviews with EuroPeers⁶** and/or online forms filled by EuroPeers,
3. Conducting two online **focus groups** with project coordinators, EuroPeers, representatives of SALTOs and NA officers.
4. **Interviews with project coordinators** from organisations that implement both Erasmus+ and ESC programmes.
5. Literature analysis, publications analysis, youth organisation websites, databases, NAs, EA-CEA, EC, and SALTOs websites.

⁶ For more information about the EuroPeer network and its history, consult this link: <https://www.europeers.de/international/>

Specific analysis of synergy between all strands of ESC and Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) projects

Synergy - produced by overlapping points - the implementation of two or more programmes at once can produce a better result than two additional individual outcomes.



SYNERGY IN ACHIEVING PROGRAMMES' GOALS

Overlapping point: the two programmes⁷ are the tools to implement the same EU Youth Strategy for 2019-2027 - the principles: "Engage. Connect. Empower"⁸.

Synergy: the implementation of both ESC and Erasmus+ activities supports the same meta-objectives - the case studies presented in this report show that both programmes comply with the policy in which they are integrated.

Examples of the synergy: achieving a specific goal in the ESC brings positive externalities towards achieving the goal in E+ (and vice versa). See: case study "[My path started with long-term volunteering](#)".

SYNERGY IN INCREASING YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Overlapping point: both programmes promote activities that support youth participation.

Synergy: achieving a high degree of youth participation across the EU - the effort made to promote

⁷ The two EU programmes, together with other national youth policies.

⁸ To learn more about the European youth goals, consult the page: https://youth.europa.eu/strategy/european-youth-goals_en

youth participation in the ESC brings positive externalities for promoting the same idea within Erasmus+ (and vice versa).

Example: an ESC volunteer is interested in youth participation during their volunteer time and initiates a youth exchange project on this topic, in their local community.

SYNERGY IN PROMOTING NFE

Overlapping point: both ESC (all strands) and Erasmus+ (KA1, KA1) provide a non-formal learning experience for young people.

Synergy: they both promote the idea of non-formal education as a means of learning skills. The effort put in the promotion of NFE within Erasmus+ brings positive externalities to the promotion of NFE within the ESC (and vice versa).

Examples: see case studies in this publication, for example the one entitled "Growing up with EU programmes".

SYNERGY IN STRENGTHENING RECOGNITION

Overlapping point: both ESC (all strands) and Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) are supported by the same SALTO network.

Synergies: (a) strengthening recognition, promotion of both programmes, stronger and more diversified resource base (if an organisation conducts an Erasmus+ project, visiting SALTO, they can also come across ESC) - (b) synergy on budget and resource sharing/creation - one center creating relevant material for both ESC and Erasmus+.

Examples: creating publications or organising the same joint best practice awards.

SYNERGY IN PROMOTING YOUTHPASS

Overlapping point: both ESC (all strands) and Erasmus+ (KA1⁹ and KA2) use Youthpass.

Synergies: (a) making the quality of recognition better, (b) both promote the Youthpass and use the same infrastructure when it comes to this certificate. Both programmes can give feedback to make Youthpass better.

Examples: The publication about Youthpass (co-funded by both the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes).

⁹ Except for "DiscoverEU" (for now). For more information, consult: <https://www.youthpass.eu/downloads/13-62-538/Youthpass-November2022.pptx>

SYNERGY IN REALISING EU PRIORITIES

Overlapping point: both Erasmus+ and ESC activities tackle the same societal challenges with the same programme priorities.

Synergy: projects in both programmes support environmental awareness, inclusion and diversity, youth participation and digital transformation. Therefore, (for example, improved environmental awareness through the Erasmus+ has had a positive impact on achieving the same priority within the ESC, as they are work towards the same societal goals, at the macro level.

Example: this synergy can also be observed at the organisational level. Many times, organisations use the two programmes to achieve a similar goal - e.g. organising training for youth workers on environmental education (E+) and at the same time hosting volunteers working on environmental issues in the local community. See the case study titled “Education (KA1) and action (ESC) hand in hand!”.

SYNERGY IN USING SHARED RESOURCES

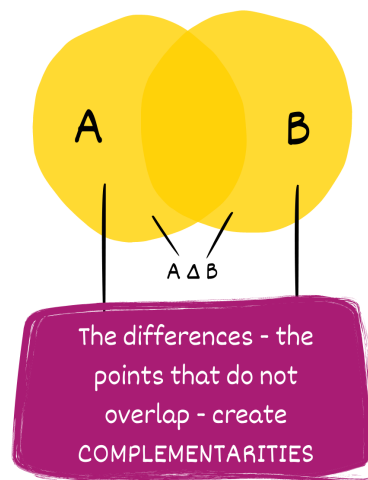
Overlapping point: (in most cases) both programmes are supported by the same NAs.

Synergy: there are cases where one NA officer is responsible for both ESC and some part of Erasmus+. The knowledge acquired by programme participants positively influences their knowledge and experience on the other programme, through the same priorities.

Example: an NA officer who works both in the ESC and in DiscoverEU. The issues they learned about inclusion when working in DiscoverEU, helped them to promote a more inclusive ESC.

Specific analysis of complementarity of all strands of ESC and Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) projects¹⁰

Complementarity resulting from the fact that some points are not overlapping – when one programme supplements the other in terms of a specific category. If complementarity exists, the two elements – programmes - can cover together a wider range of potential areas.



COMPLEMENTARITY IN CAPACITY BUILDING

Non-overlapping point: KA1 in Erasmus+ youth offers many possibilities to carry out capacity-building training, strengthening the knowledge and skills of the youth workers and staff of organisations. Under the ESC programme, these opportunities do not exist, although youth organisations active in the ESC can also make use of the opportunities offered by Erasmus+youth.

Complementarity: using KA1 to strengthen capacities in the areas connected with ESC. As a result, the Erasmus+ programme strengthens ESC.

Examples: the examples of projects are listed in the table below.

¹⁰ For different approaches towards complementarity at community level, see page 19 of this publication: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/50effcd2-271e-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-234133276>

KA1 Project (Training course)	Short description	E+ strengthening ESC	More information
<p>Title: Volunteering for Sustainability</p> <p>Year: 2019</p> <p>Countries involved: Turkey, Armenia, Poland, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine, Russia, Kosovo, Germany, Bulgaria and Slovakia</p>	<p><i>This event brought together a diverse community of 27 participants representing 12 organizations (eco-villages, intentional communities, youth networks, permaculture research institutes). The training course offered a thorough grounding in the structure and possibilities of volunteering, including through the new EU program European Solidarity Corps. A large amount of information was presented in a dynamic and exciting way through very creative facilitation; with presentations, group work, games, walk and talk networking, reflection time and sharing circles.¹¹</i></p>	<p>During this training course, representatives of the participating organisations gained knowledge about volunteering, especially in the context of the new (at that time) EU programme European Solidarity Corps.</p>	<p>https://gen-europe.org/volunteering-for-sustainability/</p>
<p>Title: Volunteers as peace agents</p> <p>Year: 2019</p> <p>Countries involved: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Belarus, Estonia, France, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, the UK, Ukraine</p>	<p><i>Aims and Objectives were:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote peace and fight against hate speeches - To promote peace work within international volunteering projects - To get inspired on how we can keep a peaceful society: What can voluntary organizations and youth workers do? How can volunteers become or remain peace messengers? How can voluntary organizations reduce stereotypes of their volunteers instead of increasing them? - To get to know to different approaches in preparing, mentoring and evaluating voluntary projects in order to support your volunteers to act as peace agents¹² 	<p>The participants gained knowledge about volunteering, mentoring and evaluating volunteering projects. They also had the opportunity to network for future ESC projects.</p>	<p>https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2018-3-AT02-KA105-002271</p>
<p>Title: Quality Measures in European Solidarity Corps</p> <p>Year: 2022</p> <p>Countries involved: Spain, Hungary, Portugal & Madeira, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Slovakia.</p>	<p><i>QM - ESC sees a path that starts from exploring coaching from the perspective of self-coaching and self-awareness to coaching others and empowers towards self-awareness and goal achievement. Participants will experience through experiential learning, non-formal education, and value-based learning a journey across psychology, philosophy, and pedagogy.¹³</i></p>	<p>The example of how E+ can play a role in enhancing the role of coaches in the ESC and increasing the quality of ESC projects.</p>	<p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/13-RceaKV7lj4HK-wPq3OH_4bAFPKudDP/view</p>

11 Source of this description: <https://gen-europe.org/volunteering-for-sustainability/>

12 Source of this description: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2018-3-AT02-KA105-002271>

13 Source of this description: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13-RceaKV7lj4HK-wPq3OH_4bAFPKudDP/view

<p>Title: “ESC Q.U.E.S.T” – training course for mentors</p> <p>Year: 2022</p> <p>Countries involved: Serbia, Greece, Romania, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Poland, Italy, Spain</p>	<p><i>The Training Course gives you the chance to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Understand the concept of Volunteering Opportunities and youth volunteering initiatives within the European Solidarity Corps Programme.</i> • <i>Raise awareness of the learning dimension in volunteering projects and</i> • <i>Provide tools for learning support for the mentors and volunteers.</i> • <i>Strengthen the competences of coordinators and mentors (both professional and personal).</i> • <i>Provide practical tools and best practices in the areas of volunteer management: volunteer recruitment and selection, creating volunteer job/ task description, mentoring and supporting volunteers, supervising (evaluating, addressing issues, motivating, etc.).</i> • <i>Increase the quality of mentoring and to support mentors, (newcomers that are already involved in an ongoing project as well as experienced mentors) to further develop competencies that are needed as a mentor within ESC and local activities.¹⁴</i> 	<p>The example of how E+ can help strengthen the role of ESC mentors and equip them with the skills they need.</p>	<p>https://smokinya.com/2022/09/esc-q-u-e-s-t-training-course-in-spain/</p>
<p>Title: ESC for YOUTH</p> <p>Year: 2021</p> <p>Countries involved: Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Spain, The Republic of North Macedonia, Malta, Romania, Cyprus</p>	<p><i>The training will gather 30 coordinators, supervisors and mentors from 10 organizations willing to learn how they can enhance the learning and developing experience throughout the EVS/ESC projects on personal, organizational and community levels. There will be sessions on concepts of learning different learning styles, self-directed learning, coaching and mentoring, Youth-pass, how to support the learning experience of EVS/ESC volunteers using different tools for turning the voluntary service into developing experience, supporting personal and professional growth of the volunteers, as well as providing a possibility for learning, development and exchange of know-how for the organizations, local volunteers and communities.¹⁵</i></p>	<p>The training is an example of how E+ can be used as capacity-building for coordinators, supervisors and mentors in the ESC.</p>	<p>https://associazionekora.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/INFO-PA-CK-ESC4-YOUTH.doc.pdf</p>

14 Source of this description: <https://smokinya.com/2022/09/esc-q-u-e-s-t-training-course-in-spain/>

15 Source of this description: <https://associazionekora.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/INFO-PA-CK-ESC4-YOUTH.doc.pdf>

<p>Title: Let's Get Organised for the ESC</p> <p>Year: 2019</p> <p>Countries involved: Portugal, Spain, the UK, Poland, Estonia, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Croatia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Latvia, Turkey</p>	<p><i>Project Objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To get a better understanding of the concept of ESC as a "learning service" and related quality aspects in ESC. • To improve the ability for co-operation and working in international partnership • To reflect on the roles, responsibilities and challenges within the ESC volunteer support system • To raise awareness of the learning dimension in ESC and provide tools for learning support • To support the recognition of non-formal learning in ESC through the competent implementation of Youthpass and Europass. • To provide new information about the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programme • To establish long partnerships among partner organizations. • To develop youth workers' knowledge, skills and attitudes and improve their experience and provide them with sharing those experiences on European Solidarity Corps (ESC) projects. • Deeper understanding of the European Solidarity programme, • To create solid networks of contacts and partnerships, • To develop partnerships between the organizations to potentially run ESC projects together.¹⁶ 	<p>This is an example of how E+ can support the ESC when it comes to spreading basic knowledge and awareness about ESC for beginners.</p>	<p>https://getorganizedforesc.blogspot.com/</p>
<p>Title: No ESCape from reflection</p> <p>Year: 2022</p> <p>Countries involved: Kosovo, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Serbia, Northern Macedonia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Greece</p>	<p><i>Namely, participants will be better prepared for and more familiar with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support systems, different roles and methods in mentoring and supervising volunteers; • Their tasks of support and reflection on learning, personal growth, skills development, self-awareness for the volunteers; • How to support yourself when working with volunteers; • How to overcome challenges that can occur during the project; • Tools for critical reflection on volunteer's lifestyle, impact and ecological footprint; • How to ensure context-awareness of the volunteers, reflection on their role in the local community and the true meaning of solidarity; • European Solidarity Corps, Erasmus+, Service Civil International and other volunteering programs/schemes¹⁷ 	<p>This is an example of how E+ can be used to spread the knowledge about different roles in mentoring and supervising volunteers and conveying skills about different reflection methods.</p>	<p>https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/download/salto%5Ctrainingcalendar%5Cmodel%5CDownload-8601/No%20ESCape%20from%20Reflection%20-%20Training%20course%20about%20support%20systems%20in%20volunteering%20projects%20for%20mentors%20and%20coordinators%20%283%29.pdf</p>

16 Source of this description: <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/project/let-s-get-organised-for-esc.10624/>

17 Source of this description: <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/training/no-escape-from-reflection-training-course-about-support-systems-in-volunteering-projects-for-mentors-and-coordinators.10623/>

COMPLEMENTARITY IN DEVELOPING TOOLS

Non-overlapping point: KA2 offers a wide range of possibilities for capacity-building and tool-developing activities. ESC does not provide such opportunities for youth workers and youth work organisations.

Complementarity: using KA2 to build capacities and create new tools in ESC-related areas. Under the ESC programme, there is no equivalent possibility to strengthen the capacities of voluntary organisations that are not youth work organisations. Therefore, thanks to this complementarity, the Erasmus+ programme reinforces the ESC.

Examples: the examples of projects are listed in the table below.

KA2 Project	Short description	E+ strengthening ESC	More information
<p>Title: IMProVE 2:0 - Inclusive Methods in Professional Volunteering in Europe</p> <p>Years: 2021-2024</p> <p>Countries involved: Germany, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Italy</p>	<p><i>Our objectives will be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>develop and pilot-test support structures for pwd wanting to volunteer by counseling and training them and setting up a system of "Inclusion buddies".</i> ● <i>organize own volunteer activities for pwd</i> ● <i>develop and pilot-test quality measurements as well as counseling and training measure to make ViOs more inclusive and create more volunteer opportunities for pwd on community level</i> ● <i>develop and pilot-test info-sessions, trainings and counseling services for parents and caretakers of and institutions for pwd</i> ● <i>developing campaigns to change the perception of the general public on pwd: everyone can volunteer no matter what restrictions – pwd can contribute and participate actively in their local community.</i>¹⁸ 	<p>This is an example of a project in which different tools and methods of supporting volunteers with disabilities will be developed. Indirectly, the results of the project will also support the ESC, since the tools developed can also be used in the ESC volunteering projects.</p>	<p>https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-1-CZ01-KA220-ADU-000035109</p>

¹⁸ Source: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-1-CZ01-KA220-ADU-000035109>

<p>Title: Volunteering Inspired by Values</p> <p>Years: 2022-2023</p> <p>Countries involved: Italy, Portugal, Croatia</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Raising the impact of volunteer programmes in context of fostering inclusion, diversity, solidarity and EU values</i> • <i>Increasing quality of work of volunteer involving organizations opening to new trends and strategies for more value based volunteering</i> • <i>Strengthening value based leadership competences and tools in creating and leading volunteer programmes for youth</i> • <i>Strengthening transnational cooperation in evidence based practice, creating enabling environment for youth volunteering</i> <p>Activities implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Research study: Volunteering for More Value - research on current state of volunteer programmes in context of values</i> 2. <i>Booklet: Volunteering for More Value - creating guidelines for volunteer involving organizations</i> 3. <i>Pilot curriculum design: From Volunteer Management to Leadership - creating and piloting innovative curriculum and tools for volunteer involving and infrastructure organizations</i> 4. <i>Final event „Volunteering Inspired by Values“¹⁹</i> 	<p>This is an example of a KA2 project used to research the field of volunteering and strengthen it by creating useful tools for volunteering (booklet, curriculum).</p>	<p>http://www.maiscidadania.pt/projectos/internacional-2/viv-volunteerin-g-inspired-by-values/</p>
<p>Title: Safe&Informed Volunteering</p> <p>Years: 2021-2023</p> <p>Countries involved: Romania, Portugal, Spain</p>	<p>The objectives of Safe&Informed Volunteering (SIV):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Create an instrument to improve the participation of all young people in ESC projects in an informed and secure manner</i> - <i>Facilitate previous preparation of volunteers for the ESC projects</i> - <i>Foster the integration of the volunteers in the project community (village/town/city – neighborhood)</i> - <i>Improve the collaboration between hosting organization and volunteers</i> - <i>Develop the sense of initiative and social entrepreneurship of youth and youth worker.²⁰</i> 	<p>This is an example of how a KA2 project can produce useful tools for the ESC. In this case, an app will be created (https://sivolunteering.com/app/) - a free digital tool which will support NGOs active in European Solidarity Corps projects. It will improve the selection process of the volunteers and also the development of the volunteering projects.²¹</p>	<p>https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-1-ES02-KA220-YOU-000028605</p>

19 Source of the text: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-2-IT03-KA210-YOU-000049345>

20 Source of the text: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-1-ES02-KA220-YOU-000028605>

21 Source of the text: <https://sivolunteering.com/app/>

<p>Title: Development of a Life Cycle System for Youth Volunteering</p> <p>Years: 2022-2023</p> <p>Countries involved: Estonia, Lithuania</p>	<p><i>The project aims to make youth volunteering management sophisticated, clear and less stressful for NGOs.</i></p> <p><i>Youth volunteers are essential human resources in NGOs. This demands to take responsibility for the qualified volunteers recruitment, onboarding, motivation, training and exit processes.</i></p> <p><i>Development and launching the Life Cycle System in NGOs environment addresses the need to recognise the importance of youth volunteer work when building civic society via engagement and participation.²²</i></p>	<p>This is an example of a KA2 project used to create a platform to support voluntary work.</p> <p>Life Cycle System for Youth Volunteering will be created and launched step by step in three phases: a Life Cycle Model, consisting of recruitment, onboarding, motivation, training and exit processes will be developed. Then an online platform where all these processes should be documented, tracked and easy to use will be developed.²³</p>	<p>https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-1-LT02-KA210-YOU-000027435</p>
<p>Title: Enhancing Volunteer Impact - Developing European Management Standards</p> <p>Years: 2022-2024</p> <p>Countries involved: Portugal, Slovenia, Lithuania, Croatia, Belgium the Netherlands</p>	<p><i>EVI-DEMS aims to gain a greater understanding of the current situation regarding the training and qualifications currently available to existing and potential volunteer managers. With this increased understanding the partners will develop an HE learning programme and associated resources that will increase the opportunities for the partners and other stakeholders to increase the opportunities across Europe for existing and future volunteer managers to be properly trained at HE level and receive a recognised qualification based on common European standards for volunteer management training.²⁴</i></p>	<p>This is an Erasmus+ project that aims to strengthen the volunteer field by improving education of volunteer managers - The project will produce an Educational programme at Higher Education level for volunteer managers. It will include 4 courses/modules that can be taken together or individually by interested candidates. Each module will have a Course Description Manual, a Course Syllabus and an Assessment Plan. In order to inform the development of these modules, the partners will produce a State of the Art report about Volunteer Management in Europe. Course materials will also be created including: a "European Code of Ethics for Volunteer Managers", a "Guide to Volunteering, Solidarity and European Values" a "Guide on the role of volunteer managers in facilitating inclusive volunteering" and "Guide for managing volunteers contributing to disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery".²⁵</p>	<p>https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-2-NL01-KA220-HED-000048818</p>

22 Source of the text: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-1-LT02-KA210-YOU-000027435>

23 Source of the text: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-1-LT02-KA210-YOU-000027435>

24 Source of this description: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-2-NL01-KA220-HED-000048818>

25 Source of this description: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2021-2-NL01-KA220-HED-000048818>

<p>Title: Volunteering, Solidarity and Sustainability</p> <p>Years: 2020-2022</p> <p>Countries involved: Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Sweden</p>	<p><i>The main objective of the project is to increase the quality of volunteering activities. The primary question we are exploring is "What are the practices and prerequisites that make a volunteering project successful – both for the volunteers and for the organizations involved?"²⁶</i></p> <p>Thanks to the project, a set of best practices for running a volunteering activity was developed.</p> <p>The toolkit included ideas for the best recruitment and preparation phase, arrival, integration, mentoring, learning and personal development and departure.</p>	<p>This is an example of an Erasmus+ project aimed at improving the quality of ESC voluntary projects.</p>	<p>http://volunteers-in-ecocommunities.eu/about/</p>
<p>Title: European Volunteer Inclusion Program (EuroVIP)</p> <p>Years: 2015-2017</p> <p>Countries involved: France, Belgium, Romania, Germany, the UK</p>	<p><i>The project has created three useful guides. The first one is the Portfolio for Volunteering experiences – Based on the ProfilPASS, a portfolio for self-evaluation to support young volunteers to self-evaluate and self-reflect on their abilities and skills developed while volunteering as possible pathways towards employment.</i></p> <p><i>The second guide is Volunteering Experience as a step towards Employment. A practical guide for recruiters aims at providing support for recruiters to recognise and value skills and competences developed through volunteering. While the European best practices handbook in supporting young volunteers to sustainable employment offers an overview of good practices present in the different countries involved in the project.²⁷</i></p>	<p>This is an example of an E+ project supporting the volunteering field in general, specifically in the area of future volunteer employment and their recognition.</p>	<p>https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work-in-europe/erasmus/</p>

26 Source of this description: <http://volunteers-in-ecocommunities.eu/about/>

27 Source of this description: <https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work-in-europe/erasmus/>

<p>Title: ESC 2-ELEARN</p> <p>Years: 2020-2022</p> <p>Countries involved: Romania, Greece, France</p>	<p><i>The results of the project: Improved Moodle platform offering interactive e-learning that meets the needs of volunteers (adapted from the surveys); 2 surveys on the needs of volunteers and NGOs and on the impact of the project on volunteers and NGOs; 20 e-trainings restructured and improved according to the 3M learning concept (based on the results of the surveys); 10 new e-trainings created to meet the needs of the volunteers and develop the desired skills (based on the survey and the beneficiaries' evaluation); 30 tutorial videos of the trainings; Interactive map with 206 volunteering opportunities.²⁸</i></p>	<p>This is an example of an Erasmus+ project that produced educational materials for ESC volunteers.</p>	<p>https://www.esc2learn.org/ressources/</p>
<p>Title: ESC 3.0: to make things better</p> <p>Years: 2020-2021</p> <p>Countries involved: the Netherlands, Italy, Spain</p>	<p><i>The main project objective was to share and exchange the different approaches of each individual organization, learning from each other and coming to a better and innovative system to work with ESC volunteers and generally with youth in the future.²⁹</i></p>	<p>Thanks to this E+ project a system of guidance for a peer-to-peer audit (between hosting and support/sending organisations as part of the ESC) was developed.</p>	<p>https://www.taccbcn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/MANUAL_ESC-3.0_to-make-things-better.pdf</p>

COMPLEMENTARITY IN TARGET GROUPS

Non-overlapping point: the two programmes differ as regards their target groups. In Erasmus+ KA1 (generally), the initial link between youth and the organisation is quite strong, while in the ESC, the link may be quite weak (informal groups in Solidarity Projects and the platform used by volunteers in ESC volunteering that may be independent from organisations).

Complementarity: both programmes complement each other with regard to the youth they target. Erasmus+ is aimed more at young people linked to organisations, the ESC is also open to people who were not previously involved in the specific organisation (online PASS platform).

Example: ESC participants have the skills and motivation to seek their own opportunities, thus ESC volunteering is more individual. It's commonly observed that the participants of ESC volunteering projects are fairly well-off. At the same time, Erasmus+ youth exchanges are more inclusive, as they provide more support to young people in need of further guidance.

²⁸ Source of the description: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2020-1-FR02-KA205-017477>

²⁹ Source of the description: https://www.taccbcn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/MANUAL_ESC-3.0_to-make-things-better.pdf

COMPLEMENTARITY IN DURATION

Non-overlapping point: there is a difference in the duration of mobility when comparing an Erasmus+ youth exchange to a long-term ESC volunteer mobility.

Complementarity: the two programmes complement each other in offering international experiences of different duration, targeting young people with different needs and opportunities for participation.

Example: see the case studies in this publication, such as the one entitled "People: a common point for the ESC and Erasmus+".

COMPLEMENTARITY IN STARTING POINTS

Non-overlapping point: the ESC begins with solidarity – the needs of a local community³⁰, while E+ places the learner at the centre – the learner and their learning needs

Complementarity: the two programmes might be used by two different groups of organisations, which differ in their grounds of application. In this way, both programmes complement each other, because Erasmus+ can be used by more education-oriented organisations, and the ESC can be used by more action-oriented organisations.

Example: see the case studies of this publication, for example the one entitled "Education (KA1) and action (ESC) hand in hand!"

COMPLEMENTARITY IN INVOLVING THE PARTNER REGIONS

Non-overlapping point: the ESC does not set financial limits on project support with partner countries, while Erasmus+ sets such limits.

Complementarity: the two programmes complement each other in terms of their ability to involve partner regions.

Example: for more information on the ESC and Erasmus+ compared to partner countries, consult the recommendations entitled: "Cooperation with neighbouring partner countries within the European Youth Programmes: Recommendations for the new programmes 2021 - 2027"³¹.

³⁰ To learn more about the meaning of "solidarity" in the ESC, consult this publication: <https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-4243/ShowingSolidarityFor.pdf> or listen to "Growing solidarity" podcasts available at: <https://solidarity-alliance.org/>

³¹ Available at: https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-3995/Cooperation%20wirth%20NPC_FINAL%20DOCUMENT.pdf

COMPLEMENTARITY IN AGE LIMITS

Non-overlapping point: the age limits for participating in both programmes differ to some degree. For example, to attend an Erasmus+ youth exchange, a participant must be at least 13 years old, while a participant of any ESC project must be at least 18 years old.

Complementarity: both programmes complement each other with regard to the minimum age limit.

Example: a young person might start participating in EU programmes at a very young age, for example, at 14 years old, through participation in a youth exchange and then after reaching 18, they may pursue their European development as part of an ESC project. See: case study entitled "[Growing up with EU programmes](#)".

Case studies showing complementarity and synergy between EU youth programmes

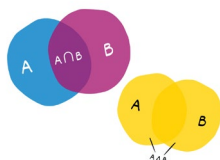
The four stories of EuroPeers and nine cases retold by project coordinators show different dimensions of how the interlinkages between the ESC and Erasmus+ look like from the perspective of beneficiaries.

TITLE: MY PATH STARTED WITH LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERING

Emma, a 23-year-old EuroPeer from Germany: *My first EU experience was an EVS³² - I went to Sweden in 2018/2019, for 12 months. I volunteered there in the field of youth work, I also helped during a youth exchange. **This knowledge helped me in pursuing other opportunities, so afterwards:***

- *I have studied international social work in the field of youth work,*
- *I participated in a 2-week International Work Camp (German Federal Fund),*
- *I got trained to be a youth leader for such Work Camps (German Federal Fund) and became a leader during the 2022 International Work Camp,*
- *I took part in two **Erasmus+ youth exchanges**, as a participant - in 2021 in Armenia and 2022 in Germany.*

The difference I see between these opportunities is that in the EVS - the centre of life changed, so the focus was on getting to know the local people and being involved in the **local culture**. During a short-term Erasmus+ project it's more about getting to know the young people from **different countries**.



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarity in terms of the character of the two programmes (E+ - learning about different cultures and countries, ESC - focused on one local culture). Synergies between ESC and E+ in raising awareness about EU programmes.

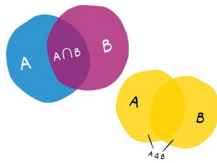
32 For more information about the differences between EVS and ESC, especially when it comes to ESC's 'solidarity' dimension, consult this publication: https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-4199/12_Gilles%20Buffet.pdf

TITLE: PEOPLE: A COMMON POINT FOR THE ESC AND ERASMUS+

Emilio, a 24-year-old Spanish EuroPeer: I've had the opportunity to participate in two European Solidarity Corps, both short and long term, in Italy and Poland. The latter was a project in a school, where we were leading workshops and activities on different topics in English, to provide some fun learning lessons for the students. I've also had the chance to participate in 6 training courses (Erasmus+) in 6 different countries in 2022, with topics like digital skills, gamification and non-violent activism.

For long term ESC, my two main goals were to work as a teacher inside of the school system, building relationships with the children and see their development and to become independent - learn to live an adult life.

The Erasmus+ projects, however, were focused on learning many skills in a short amount of time, resulting in intense experiences that have been very positive. I've been able to use a lot from the sessions into my own work while teaching children, understanding that all what I have been doing this time is called youth work. Both programmes, while different, **have something really important in common: The people that I've met.** Young people with incredible stories and like-minded, with common interests and passion for what they do. They say that's the journey, it's not about the destination, but the people you share the journey with, and I agree absolutely.



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

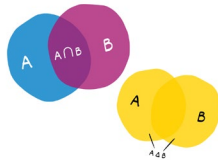
Complementarity when it comes to the goals and nature of the ESC and Erasmus+. Synergies - the knowledge learnt during E+ trainings used in the ESC work.

TITLE: INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING VS. COLLECTIVE TRAINING

A 35-year-old European from France: *My main experience in EU-funded projects was the EVS long term volunteering which I spent in Vilnius volunteering in a Toys Museum. After coming back to France, I talked with my mentor and she encouraged me to apply to Erasmus+ training courses to pursue my interest in this field. I started volunteering in a youth organisation and had the opportunity to take part in Erasmus+ trainings later on.*

*When it comes to the similarities between EVS/ESC volunteering and Erasmus+, one of the similarities I see are topics - **you can easily find an Erasmus+ Training that would link to your EVS/ESC experience.***

*When it comes to the differences I see, I believe that in EVS/ESC long-term volunteering immersion is much stronger and the experience itself is more individual than in an Erasmus+ training. **An Erasmus+ Training is rather very collective**, you rarely leave the group, you share rooms, and it's always a very busy schedule together.*

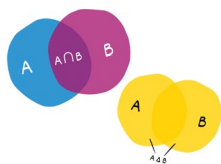


Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarity when it comes to the character of the ESC and E+ experience. Synergy when it comes to information flow about both programmes - the knowledge about one enhances the probability of getting to know about other EU programmes.

TITLE: FROM STUDENT TO YOUTH WORKER

Adrian, a 28-year-old French EuroPeer based in Finland: *My first **Erasmus+ was the most-known Erasmus for universities** - I went for one year to study in Malmö, Sweden. Inspired by the culture of the Nordic countries, after coming back, **I looked for opportunities to visit this region again**. I got to know about the ESC and I did my long-term **ESC volunteering in Finland in 2019/2020**. After this experience, the organisation I was volunteering in proposed to me a **permanent job** and employed me.*



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Synergy between Erasmus+ (universities) and the ESC - raising awareness about the programmes.

TITLE: MANY YOUTH PROGRAMMES, ONE DREAM (BUS)!

Introduction: In the story of Stowarzyszenie Impakt from Poland (<https://impakt.edu.pl/>), we can find surprising and fruitful synergies between ESC, Erasmus+ and Polish regional/local volunteering initiatives.



Image credit: Stowarzyszenie Impakt

Piotr Pisiewicz (President of Impakt): *The best story to tell about interlinking of our projects is our DreamBus. It was a Solidarity project that was about creating an educational bus out of the old Volkswagen T3 bus. **The renovation of the bus was financed by ESC (Solidarity Projects).** The project was our answer to the needs of our local volunteers, all of whom lived outside our headquarters - Kielce - and they have had no connections from their home to our city, thus they could not stay longer for events or actions organised by Impakt. In addition, the bus has served two other important purposes - it was a mobile cinema and also a 'chemical experiments stage'.*

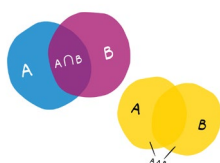
*While traveling in the DreamBus and visiting different villages, we did a couple of chemical experiments, **sometimes connected with bigger local/regional events** where we also organised animations, face-paintings and open air cinema, all to make children more interested in education and to open their minds for something new, to inspire.*

*DreamBus has become our 'pet' ever since and it's used for all the other actions and projects we are doing. **It increased our capacity to reach other large groups and be more inclusive in our actions. Soon after its launch it was used during an Erasmus+ youth exchange** - we used the bus as the means of transport, green travel, to travel to Serbia where the youth exchange was taking place. Unfortunately our bus broke in Slovakia and we had to reach Serbia by other means of transport - but it doesn't stop our need to use DreamBus everywhere else.*

In addition, together with the Regional Volunteer Centre in Kielce we have implemented a local project financed by the Eurodesk Grant Contest and won a first prize in Eurodesk Awards for project called "Świętokrzyskie fulfills the dreams of youth". This project aimed at reaching small schools located in the villages in our region (and of course **we used the DreamBus to drive to these villages**). We were able to share information on the Erasmus+ and ESC projects, reaching more than 500 rural youth! In this way, the DreamBus, funded by Solidarity funds, **helped spread the word about all youth programmes**.

Right now, our **DreamBus is in use in the project regarding creating strategy for Youth 2030+**, an official document of the Marshall Office of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship. We are organising meetings for Youth Councils in Świętokrzyskie and in Poland in order to get the best practices for youth strategy for the next 8 years, which will be implemented next year. **We are going for those meetings, of course, in our DreamBus.**

The next Solidarity ESC project we are planning is to take young astronomy lovers on our Dreambus deck and map the 'dark parks' in Poland, to watch the stars and promote astronomy among young people.



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Synergy between the ESC Solidarity project, the Erasmus+ project and regional/local youth programmes. The bus that was renovated thanks to the ESC (Solidarity) funds has increased capacity for many other youth initiatives, enabling the growth of the organisation and more efficient actions in Erasmus+ and other local and regional youth projects. It has also served as a "live" advertisement for EU programmes.

TITLE: INSPIRATIONS FLOWING BETWEEN THE ESC AND ERASMUS+

Introduction: In the story of Scout Society Romania (<https://scoutsociety.ro/>), strong synergies in terms of inspiring young people to be active are visible between ESC and Erasmus+.



Image credit: Scout Society Romania

Ciprian Sfirlogea (President of Scout Society Romania): *In recent years, at the Scout Society, we developed significant international cooperation, in partnership with organisations from Croatia, Czech Republic, Spain, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Turkey, and Lithuania. We implemented projects, volunteer activities, youth exchanges and strategic partnerships that involved over 2000 young people from different communities in Romania.*

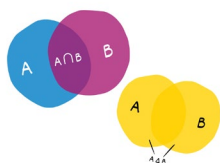
*What we usually say to the young people is - you have two options to start your involvement in EU projects. **You can either start from a local solidarity project (ESC), or a youth exchange (Erasmus+).** We explain the difference to them. If it's something more local, they want to solve a local problem, most of them would choose a local Solidarity project. If it's more like a cultural exchange, they want to meet people from other countries, then we would explain to them how to start thinking about a youth exchange.*

*There are advantages and disadvantages with what you start with - **for Solidarity Project you need attention all year round**, constant monitoring, progressive action. For the youth exchange, they are just involved in the activity, it's time limited, they can be focused intensively 1-2 weeks, then follow-up and it is more time-specific. That's the difference.*

*In our work, we have seen various examples of **inspiration and synergy flowing between Erasmus+, the ESC and vice versa.** For example, one participant from our organisation attended an Erasmus+*

training in Slovenia. Inspired by the content of the training, he came home and developed a local Solidarity project on the topic that had been covered during that training.

Right now we are in the process of finalizing KA2 on escape rooms - it has been a very successful project, with many tools developed and based on that, we plan on apply for a local Solidarity project and build educational escape rooms in our region. In this case, both programmes are working very smoothly. Now, in a way, we can continue - **from KA2 flowing directly to the ESC project.**



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarities between Erasmus+ and ESC (duration), complementarity when it comes to KA2 and ESC - using KA2 for capacity building - knowledge from KA2 used in the ESC, topic-wise. Synergies among all the programmes, the dissemination of information, and the implementation of one programme motivates young people to participate in other programmes.

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE RECOGNITION OF COMPETENCES IN THE ESC THROUGH E+

Introduction: In the story of the Bloom Foundation from the Netherlands (<https://bloom-foundation.eu/>), the organisation used KA2 to develop a system of open badges then used for recognition in the ESC.

Jorine van Egmond and Nathalie Feitsma (Co-Founders of Bloom Foundation): We specialise in organising the ESC team volunteering experience for young people with fewer opportunities. Through our work, we noticed that youngsters learn a lot during ESC, they really grow. But they don't have recognition afterwards, they only "have a story to tell". This is why we have launched a strategic partnership KA2 - to develop a digital recognition framework. Information on badges can be found at: <http://sharebadges.eu/>.

Open Badges are open sourced. One can create their own badges, but one can also find different badges that have already been created. **Thanks to our strategic partnerships within KA2, we managed to strengthen the recognition of skills within the volunteering field.**

This is how we explain the badges on our website: "You learn everywhere and throughout your life. But not all learning is stated on your diploma. Yet it is often those skills that future employers are waiting for. Such as working together or, for example, whether you have very good digital competences.

What is an Open Badge?

An Open Badge is a visual, digital and reliable proof of a skill or competence that someone has acquired.

It shows:

- WHO issued the badge,
- to WHOM and
- WHAT someone has done to gain this badge.

Metadata included in a badge:

- Badge name
- Badge URL (description)
- Badge criteria
- Badge image
- Issuer
- Issue date
- Recipient
- Tags
- Alignment (standards)
- Expiration date
- Evidence URL

What are SHARE Badges?

The topics of the SHARE Badges Collection (more information can be found at www.sharebadges.eu)

- Social and civic competences
- Communication
- Entrepreneurship
- Digital competences

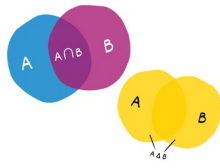
Collection

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Image credit: Bloom Foundation

The organisation where you are learning can provide you with proof of what you have learned by issuing "Open Badges"; a digital proof and recognition of what you can do! Badges can be earned through an app, the BadgeWallet. As soon as you put this app on your phone, you can start using it. The organisation where you are learning has prepared badges that you can earn. Each badge consists of tasks, for each task you can write a text or upload a file that must be approved by the organisation. When that is done, you have automatically earned the badge and it will remain in the BadgeWallet. From the BadgeWallet, you can share the badges by email, WhatsApp or social media".



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

The complementarity between the ESC and E+ - E+ has made it possible to develop tools that could not have been developed within the ESC.

TITLE: ERASMUS+ STRENGTHENING THE ESC

Introduction: In the story of Associação Spin from Portugal (<https://www.a-spin.pt/>), ESC volunteers are involved in youth exchanges and training (Erasmus+).

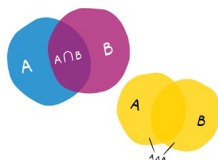
Inês Freixo (International Project Manager at Associação Spin, Portugal): *Here at Spin, we host about eight volunteers per year in our office, and we also coordinate several volunteers in our partner organisations. We also organise Erasmus+ youth exchanges and training. **What we have noticed is that many organisations active within the ESC are not active within Erasmus+.** For example, local organisations working with younger children/senior/people with disabilities are interested and able to host ESC volunteers, however they need a support organisation that can guide them through the programme and handle all the logistics, evaluation requirements and the necessary bureaucracy for hosting. In the same way, these organisations are not as interested in developing Erasmus+ projects, except as local partners, as organising these activities can be very time-consuming and most organisations lack the resources to be able to develop projects as the main coordinator, as they have other main goals and missions. **That is complemented by large groups of both programmes.***



Image credit: Associação Spin

When it comes to synergies between Erasmus+ and the ESC, when we organise youth exchanges we always have a session on the last day called “what comes next”. **In this session, we explain not only what Erasmus+ is and its opportunities, but we also explain the opportunities of the ESC.** Furthermore, our ESC volunteers actively participate in creating and implementing our Erasmus+ projects, so that they can learn more about the Erasmus+ programme and opportunities directly, while bringing projects to life and, at the same time, disseminating the ESC programme through peer-to-peer motivation. Another example can be our participation in an Erasmus+ strategic partnership given our experience in renovating abandoned buildings, since we, together with our local council parish and other local partners

renovated an abandoned school and transformed it into a Community Centre. This Community Centre is where we have our headquarters next to our Social Hostel where we host most of our Erasmus+ projects. Throughout the process, our previous EVS volunteers were a big plus in helping out with the renovation and last year we were part of this strategic partnership with local and international partners to exchange best practices on how to renovate cultural spaces. Thus, it was an indirect influence – **Thanks to EVS/ ESC volunteering, we have improved our infrastructure, which in turn has increased our capacity to organise Erasmus+ projects.**



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarities - different organisations interested in taking part in Erasmus+ and the ESC. Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 strengthening capacities in the ESC - physical infrastructure.

TITLE: EDUCATION (KA1) AND ACTION (ESC) HAND IN HAND!

Introduction: In the story of Outward Bound Croatia from Croatia (www.outwardboundcroatia.com), the organisation.

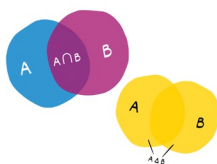


Image credit: Outward Bound Croatia

Lana Jošt (Project manager at Outward Bound Croatia): So far, our organisation has implemented 31 Erasmus+ projects and 23 European Solidarity Corps Projects. Both programmes may have the same themes. But the difference we see is that in E+ there are meetings for the local community during the youth exchange, such as a workshop, if it is the ESC, it there is an action - cleaning together. So, **there is a clear complementarity here, the way I understand it - Erasmus+ is considered an educational programme, in volunteering it's about working together for a higher cause.**

It often happens that the educational value of a youth exchange is translated into action - designing an ESC that would address the need/idea discovered during a youth exchange. **In our case, the interactions during E+ workshops provide ideas for team volunteering (ESC).**

We also observe an opposite process. **I remember a case where thanks to our ESC team volunteering project, we inspired an NGO from a Croatian island to apply for a youth exchange.**



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarity between two programmes (E+ - education, ESC - action). Synergies between the ESC and E+ in raising awareness about EU programmes. Complementarity - E+ as a useful element in seeking out ESC needs and ideas.

TITLE: KA2 OPENING THE DOOR FOR THE ESC!

Introduction: In the story of Association Oriel from Italy (<https://www.orielassociation.com/>), the implementation of different KA2 has brought interesting synergies to the realization of the ESC.



Image credit: Association Oriel

*Sillian Ferrari (President of Association Oriel, Italy): **Implementing KA2 Erasmus+ projects includes local visits.** This enables us to contact more organisations, to learn about them - not only NGOs, but also public institutions. If you tell those organisations that you will visit them to see how they work with international people, it opens a lot of doors. And then, in this way, **they learn from us about other international opportunities and often they want to host ESC volunteers. In this way, KA2 opens the door for many organizations, less obvious suspects, to get involved in the ESC.***

*Also, KA2 action projects allow us to do finance events - multiplier events - we discovered that it is another way to interlink projects - **for example, an ESC volunteer can indirectly get support from KA2, if they are in our organisation, and they can use the materials funded by KA2 and be guests in KA2's multiplier events that we are financing.** If we have two projects going on simultaneously - the ESC volunteering project and KA2, we can **create synergies by organising more things with and for the local community who benefit from both the objectives of the ESC volunteering and our KA2 projects.***

*Moreover, **thanks to KA2, we can write a truly bespoke Solidarity or ESC volunteering project, because when implementing KA2 in our local community, we do parallel research on the local community needs.***

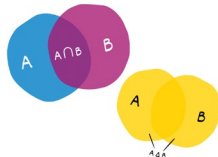
Another link that we observe between Erasmus+ and ESC is that if we establish a relationship with a partner organisation from abroad **thanks to KA1 or KA2, then we know we can trust them to send the ESC volunteer to them.** In addition, we find that some organisations use KA1 directly to boost their capacity within the ESC. We have recently participated in the **“Quality Measures in the European Solidarity Corps” KA1 Training in Slovakia - it was about how to be a coach on an ESC Solidarity project and how to write a project.**

We are also a partner in KA2, which included a visit to an organisation in Colombia - we reached out to the director of the organisation. **Now we are planning to use this partnership to start thinking about the ESC Humanitarian Aid programme** - so, I believe that is a great synergy between KA2 and the rarely used category of the ESC.

When it comes to connections between the ESC and other voluntary programmes, when young people ask us about volunteering - we suggest them - first try the ESC, because it's in a safe environment, everything is covered, and then you can either do less structured volunteering or more complex international cooperation activities in other countries - universal civil service of the Italian government or other programmes.

As a result, the ESC supports the broader volunteering field, being the first “more structured” experience for young people who can then continue with other programmes.

As for our plans for the future, in our Italian network of organisations, **we plan to use Youth Participatory Action to bring together a network of ESC volunteers** currently volunteering in Italy. Such an offline integration meeting would be very important for them. We are also planning to **hold an event for ex-ESC volunteers** - the event for alumni of Italian nationality. We are looking at what would be the best way to fund it - maybe through Erasmus+ as well?



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Synergy - KA2 strengthening the ESC, complementarity of funding between the two programmes, complementarity among the target groups of both programmes (beneficiaries). The ESC strengthening the volunteering field in general. E+ used for capacity building of the ESC.

TITLE: ESC AND ERASMUS+ INTERTWINED

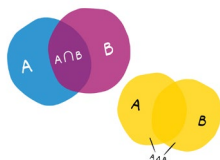
Introduction: In the story of Globala Kronoberg from Sweden (<https://www.globalakronoberg.se/>), ESC volunteers are active in youth exchanges and training (Erasmus+).



Image credit: Globala Kronoberg

*Sara Björnald (Project Manager at Globala Kronoberg): We have noticed that youth exchanges are a good way to promote volunteering overseas. By participating in an Erasmus+ project in our region, Swedish youth, particularly those with fewer opportunities, are able to experience an international project without having to leave their home region. When we host our ESC-volunteers, we integrate them in our work with Erasmus+ projects. **Helping us host a youth exchange is a great way to learn about project management while promoting the ESC to everyone involved in the project.***

And the synergy sometimes works the other way – now, one of our ESC volunteers wants to write her own Erasmus+ youth exchange, so we can help her do so.



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Synergies between ESC volunteering projects and Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2.

TITLE: GROWING UP WITH EU PROGRAMMES

Introduction: In the story of Sempre a Frente Foundation from Poland (<https://sempre.org.pl/>), the organisation implements many different EU youth programmes, all with just one goal in mind - providing development opportunities for young people, especially those with fewer opportunities.



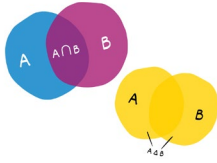
Image credit: Frente Foundation

*Aleksandra Kulik (Chairwoman of the board at Sempre a Frente Foundation): We have implemented many **Erasmus+ (KA1, KA2, KA3) projects, and ESC projects**. In my opinion - at least this is how it looks like in our organisation - **all the programmes fit together in a beautiful, complementary way**.*

*Working with young people at local and regional level, especially with young people with fewer opportunities, **it's natural for us to develop different international projects for them as well as with them**. Our observation is that young people with fewer opportunities usually tend **to start their adventure with international projects from a youth exchange in Poland**. By organising a youth exchange in Poland, they have the chance to interact with people from abroad, while being in their safe environment. **Then they decide on the bigger step - going abroad for a youth exchange or ESC volunteering**. At the same time, young people often have ideas on how to improve the local environment - to this end, we use the ESC Solidarity local projects.*

***We use KA2 to build our organisation's capacity, develop tools and strengthen partnerships**. In this way, we are more efficient in providing our young people with good opportunities. Since our organisation covers a wide age group, from 5 to 30 years old, we have noticed that **our young people "grow up" together with the EU programmes**. In other words, at different points in their lives, they can use an EU opportunity for a different purpose. This is why, each time we promote the ESC, we also promote*

Erasmus+. As a member of Eurodesk, **we always spread the word about all the opportunities that the European Union offers to young people.**



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarities between Erasmus+ and ESC (age group), complementarity when it comes to KA2 and ESC - using KA2 for capacity building. Synergies between all programmes, spreading information, the implementation of one programme motivates the young people to take part in other programmes. Information loop.

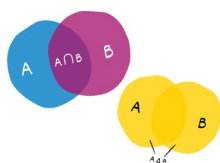
TITLE: CREATING YOUR OWN DEVELOPMENT PATH WITH ESC AND E+

Introduction: In the story of Youth Bridges Budapest from Hungary (<https://www.youth-bridgesbudapest.org/>), the organisation helps young people using both the ESC and E+ to create their own international development path.

Csenge Kolozsvári (President of the Board of Youth Bridges Budapest): Each mobility project is different and this is how we spread the word about them, this is how we try to communicate it to youth - **that they can create their own international development path**. There is no typical path, **but we aim to engage youth in more than one activity** and it is usually successful, e.g. encourage young people before or after their ESC experience to also take part in Erasmus+ youth exchanges, participate not only in short or long-term volunteering, but also in volunteering teams within the ESC, or become a local volunteer and/or implement ESC solidarity projects.

There is also a large segment of young people we work with who have no international interest whatsoever, and only want to be engaged at home, in Solidarity projects. **As a result, we find that E+ and ESC complement each other**, because these two groups, in our case usually do not overlap, we see a clear divide between people who are interested in local action and those who are interested in international action.

In our work, we always try to look at international opportunities as a range of opportunities. During each mobility we always organise a big session about the different opportunities. **We also created a toolkit on all the opportunities** - Hungarian version - and we included Erasmus+ KA1, TCAs, ESC volunteering and Humanitarian Aid, Erasmus+ for young entrepreneurs, and other non-EU-funded international volunteering schemes, such as UN volunteers, AIESEC, and Hungarian government programmes.

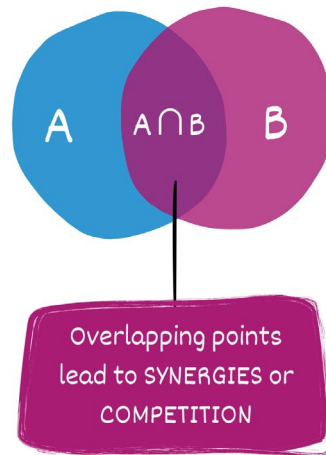


Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarity between Solidarity ESC projects and E+ projects (different target groups - people interested in local vs. international action), synergy when it comes to raising awareness about the programmes.

Specific analysis of competition across all strands of the ESC and Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) projects

Competition from overlapping points - implementing two or more programmes creates competition for participants and resources. Consequently, they fail to share resources and knowledge.



COMPETITION IN TARGET GROUPS

Overlapping point: both programmes cover (more or less) the same target age group.³³

Potential competition: a participant will commit to a Solidarity Project instead of a youth exchange (and the other way round).

Example: it is hard not to overwhelm young people with different possibilities, unless they are clearly presented and delineated.

COMPETITION IN SCOPE

Overlapping point: both ESC Solidarity Projects and Youth Participation Action provide opportunities for local action.

Potential competition: they might compete for participants if the difference between them is not clearly explained (difference – YPA are about VOICE and ACTION for the specific needs of young people, Solidarity Projects address the larger needs of the wider local community, not just young people).

Example: if the differences are not clearly presented and delineated, young people may be confused about all the opportunities.

³³ The age groups almost overlap - in Erasmus+ for youth exchanges, the starting age is 13, while in the ESC the starting age is 18. Ages that do not overlap can lead to complementarities - see: complementarity 7 in this document.

Other relevant EU (youth) programmes and policies^{34, 35}



CERV³⁶

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme was launched in 2021 and will run for seven years until 2027. It was created along with the 2021-2027 Justice programme, under the Justice, Rights and Values Fund.

The CERV programme seeks to support and develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. This includes a vibrant and empowered civil society, encouraging the democratic, civic, and social participation of citizens, and cultivating the rich diversity of European society, based on our common values, history and memory.

The CERV programme has four pillars:

- 1. Equality, Rights and Gender Equality - promoting rights, non-discrimination, equality (including gender equality), and advancing gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming*
- 2. Citizens' engagement and participation - promoting citizen engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union, exchanges between citizens of different Member States, and raising awareness of the common European history*
- 3. Daphne - fight violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children*
- 4. Union values - protect and promote Union values*

Civil society organisations active at local, regional, national and transnational levels, as well as other stakeholders, can apply for CERV funding for citizen engagement initiatives, equality for all and the protection and promotion of European rights and values.

³⁴ If you are interested in learning more about the complementarities between the ESC and some non-youth specific programmes such as the European Social Fund, see chapter 7 of this report: <https://www.researchyouth.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/01-RAY-Report-20200608.pdf>

³⁵ For more information on the synergies between the European Social Fund and Erasmus+, see chapter 2 of this report: http://download.apre.it/GIURI_Vademecum_Synergies_EN.pdf and this report https://europamediatrainings.com/assets/content/EU_Research_Innovation_Funding_By_Europa_Media.pdf

³⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/departments-and-executive-agencies/justice-and-consumers/justice-and-consumers-funding-tenders/funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme_en



ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS³⁷

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs helps provide aspiring European entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to start and/or successfully run a small business in Europe. New entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas with an experienced entrepreneur, with whom they stay and collaborate for a period of 1 to 6 months.

The stay is partly financed by the European Commission.

Benefits

As a new entrepreneur, you will benefit from on-the-job training in a small or medium-sized enterprise in another Participating Country. This will help your business to succeed or strengthen your new enterprise. You can also benefit from access to new markets, international cooperation and potential opportunities for collaboration with business partners abroad.

As a host entrepreneur, you can benefit from new ideas from a motivated new entrepreneur within your business. They may have specialised skills or knowledge in an area you do not master, which may also complement your own. Most of the host entrepreneurs enjoyed the experience so much that they decided to take on more new entrepreneurs after the event.

It is really a win-win collaboration in which you can both discover new European markets or business partners, different ways of doing business.

In the long term, you will benefit from extensive networking opportunities, and, possibly, you may decide to continue your collaboration, possibly as long-term business partners (e.g. joint ventures, subcontracting activities, contractor-supplier relationships, etc.).

“Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs” is financed by the European Commission and operates in the Participating Countries with the help of local contact points, competent in business support (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, start-up centres, incubators etc.). Their activities are coordinated at European level by the Programme’s Support Office.



QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR TRAINEESHIPS³⁸

The 2014 Council Recommendation on Quality Framework for Traineeships aims to help young people transition from education and unemployment into employment through quality traineeships that enhance their skills and allow them to gain work experience.

It complements other Commission initiatives to support youth employment such as the reinforced Youth Guarantee.

37 Source of the text: <https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/page.php?cid=20>

38 Source of the text: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=10495&furtherNews=yes&>

More specifically, it sets out 21 quality principles for traineeships that Member States are recommended to put into practice to ensure high-quality learning and adequate working conditions. This includes written traineeship agreements, clear learning objectives, as well as transparent information on remuneration and social protection.

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan announced the evaluation of this Council Recommendation, notably as regards working conditions.

This evaluation lays the ground for a Commission initiative presented later this year, as outlined in the Commission Work Programme 2023, to update the Quality Framework for Traineeships and address issues including fair remuneration and access to social protection.

The Recommendation update will also offer an important contribution to the European Year of Skills 2023 and its aim to offer a fresh impetus to lifelong learning and activate more people for the labour market, including young people, especially those not in education, employment or training.

Updating the quality framework for better traineeships

The Commission's evaluation of the 2014 Quality Framework for Traineeships is based on a study on the implementation of the framework across Member States, the results of several stakeholder consultations, including of social partners, both at national and EU levels, and a survey assessing the replies of more than 1,800 trainees.

The evaluation shows that:

- **The Quality Framework for Traineeships has helped Member States implement policy and legislative changes**, in particular in those with less developed traineeship systems. However, there is room for improvement when it comes to the application on the ground.
- Since 2014, more young people appear to be taking up **traineeships in other EU countries**. However, costs of living abroad and the lack of relevant information were identified as challenges for cross-border uptake of traineeships.
- Various consulted parties suggest **the framework's quality criteria could be strengthened**, for instance as regards fair remuneration, access to social protection, adapting better to labour market developments (like remote work) and focusing more on digital skills.
- Some stakeholders also suggest guaranteeing **better support to trainees during and after their traineeship** for example through mentorship.
- Some stakeholders call for **enlarging the scope of the Quality Framework for Traineeships**. For instance, traineeships that are part of formal education and training, and therefore currently not covered by the framework, could be covered by some of its principles. However not all those consulted were in favour.
- There is a need to **collect comparable data on the prevalence, quality and nature of traineeships across Member States**, as well as their impact on youth employment.



THE REINFORCED YOUTH GUARANTEE³⁹

The reinforced Youth Guarantee is a commitment by all Member States to ensure that all young people under the age of 30 receive a good quality offer of

- *employment*
- *continued education*
- *apprenticeship*
- *traineeship*

within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education. All EU countries have committed to the implementation of the reinforced Youth Guarantee in a Council Recommendation of October 2020. The Recommendation is based on a Commission proposal, part of the Youth Employment Support package.

What has been achieved so far?

The Youth Guarantee has created opportunities for young people and acted as a powerful driver for structural reforms and innovation. As a result, the majority of public employment services (PES) have improved and expanded their services for young people.

In about seven years' time, just before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were approximately 1.7 million fewer young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs) across the EU. Youth unemployment had dropped to a record low of 14.9% by February 2020, mere weeks before pandemic-related lockdowns were put in place across the EU.

Though an improving macroeconomic context certainly played a role, evidence suggests that the Youth Guarantee had a major transformative effect. Over 24 million young people who were once registered in Youth Guarantee schemes started an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeships and traineeships.

39 Source of the description: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en>

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN ESC (ALL STRANDS), ERASMUS+ (KA1, KA2), CERV, ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS, QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR TRAINEESHIPS, THE REINFORCED YOUTH GUARANTEE

- The reinforced Youth Guarantee and Quality Framework for Traineeships, compared to other programmes mentioned above, are **more EU policy frameworks** and recommendations at meta-level rather than actions that organisations can apply directly.
- There is potential complementarity between the ESC, Erasmus+ (KA1, KA2) and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, because **this could be the next step offered to young people** for their international development path. However, it seems that although there is big potential for synergy between ESC and E+ in terms of raising awareness of both programmes, the organisations do not promote Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs together with these two programmes.
- There is complementarity between the ESC (all strands) and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, since the ESC has an age limit, while **Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs has no upper age limit**.
- In order to create more complementarities and synergies, it would be beneficial for NA officers to have basic knowledge on Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs **in order to promote this programme while promoting E+ and ESC**.
- **CERV seems to be complementary towards ESC volunteering activities**, since CERV promotes awareness of the European Union's common values and the ESC puts those values (especially solidarity) into practice. Some NAs are promoting the three programmes together – for example, the Austrian NA has organised the so-called 'online speed dating' with other funding contact points to promote all 3 programmes (ESC, Erasmus + youth, and CERV). To create better synergies on raising awareness, **it would be helpful for more National Agencies to promote all these programmes together**.
- CERV seems to complement E+ YPA, and it pushes citizen engagement even further - reflections at EU level. In addition, **YPA seems to be more bottom-up** (based on the needs of young people), **whereas CERV seems to be more top-down** (the starting point - the need to promote European values). The table below provides examples of projects implemented that may be considered complementary to the objectives of YPA.

CERV project	Short description	Relation to YPA objectives	More information
<p>Title: Youth2EUrope</p> <p>Organisations implementing the project: Mano Europa (Lithuania), DKolektiv (Croatia), Global Factory (Italy) and DYPALL Network</p>	<p><i>Members of the consortium researched and identified that there is a need of young people across the EU to better understand the EU, its values, policies and institutions. For this reason, youth knowledge and active citizenship must be increased, and necessary tools to ensure youth political engagement should be provided.</i></p>	<p>Complementarity: more meta-level, regarding EU institutions than local/national as in the case of YPA.</p>	<p>https://manoeuropa.org/portfolio/youth2eu-rope/</p>

	<p><i>The Applicant Mano Europa and its 3 partners, through the Y2EU project, will develop and promote solutions to encourage youth active citizenship through inclusive European Parliament simulations, and active participation in non-formal education activities to the target groups and wider audience.⁴⁰</i></p>		
<p>Title: Make your vote!</p> <p>Organisations implementing the project: Foundation for Entrepreneurship, Culture and Education (Bulgaria) Youth Center of Epirus (Greece) Mreža udruga Zagor (Croatia) FIDU ETS (Italy) Fundacja HEKET (Poland) Asociación Amigos MIRA España (Spain) Stand up for Europe (Belgium)</p>	<p><i>The project's activities (World Café, Local simulations, International skills training, and International youth debate) will strengthen democratic participation and young people's voice in decision-making by raising necessary skills and creating tools for young people to effectively participate in public and civic life. The project aims to engage, connect and empower young Europeans to be active citizens and to contribute to the creation of more peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies. The project will finish with an International youth conference to introduce the results and findings, and present the video messages from young people, and the drafted policy recommendations.⁴¹</i></p>	<p>Complementarity: more meta-level, regarding EU institutions than local/national as in the case of YPA.</p>	<p>https://fondati.onece.eu/make-your-vote/</p>

40 Source of the description: <https://manoeuropa.org/portfolio/youth2europe/>

41 Source of the description: <https://foundationece.eu/make-your-vote/>

TITLE: INVOLVING YOUNG AND OLDER CITIZENS THROUGH CERV

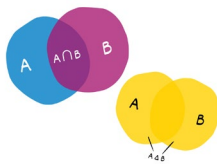
Introduction: In the story of Foundation for Entrepreneurship, Culture and Education (FECE) from Bulgaria (<https://foundationece.eu/>), the organisation spreads knowledge about European values through implementing both Erasmus+ and CERV projects.

Nevena Dobрева (Chair) and Mariya Rachinska (Manager) from FECE, Bulgaria: *In our organisation, we work in three main areas: youth entrepreneurship; culture and arts, and common EU values. **By combining different funding and programmes, we are able to achieve these three priorities.** We implement many Erasmus+ (KA1 and KA2) projects, as well as CERV projects. When we work in CERV, we work with civil society organisations as our partner organisations. This is one of the differences we see between E+ and CERV - CERV is more focused on citizens rather than youth. In our experience, Erasmus+ is very focused and specialised in using non-formal education methods, while **in CERV one can also use formal education methods, such as lectures, seminars, conferences or focus groups.** Generally, CERV offers more freedom in choosing the types of activities that can be implemented.*

Sometimes we use both programmes to achieve the same goal - for example, the last two Erasmus+ youth exchanges we organised were about promoting European Union values and at the same time, we are in the process of implementing a CERV project on the same priorities - EU values. As one can imagine, educating young people under 30 about the rule of law and policy-making, in a non-formal and fun setting could be quite challenging. Therefore, in order **to deepen these topics, we use CERV, because it promotes and projects Union values, democracy, human rights** - and, what is interesting, it goes beyond the past and the present of the EU - it provides a forum for debate on the future of the European Union as a project. **We can involve many citizens, broad stakeholder circles, far beyond our volunteers, our youth, and the local community.**

*It is interesting that the application stage is very competitive when it comes to Erasmus+, we never know what our NA budget is, and this may lead to calls for applications with less applicants being funded. **When applying for a CERV project, we compete against all organisations throughout the EU, not just from Bulgaria, and that is very challenging and interesting for us.***

We have recently received the ESC Quality Label, as a sending organisation, so we will soon be adding sending volunteers to our repertoire of how we get youth and older people involved.



Interlinkage between the programmes in this case

Complementarity when it comes to target groups (age), complementarity regarding methods (formal and non-formal education), and synergy in achieving the goal of promoting EU common values.

How to enable more synergies and complementarities in the future? - Suggestions from the community of practice

During interviews with project coordinators and EuroPeers, as well as focus groups between project coordinators, NA officers, SALTO representatives and EuroPeers, both E+ and ESC practitioners gave diverse ideas on how to enable more synergies and complementarities between the two programmes. Their suggestions are presented below:

- Since KA2 can be used to develop tools and capacity building for the ESC, **it would be useful to analyse how to encourage organisations which implement ESC volunteering projects to apply for KA2**. Right now, in many cases, they do not perceive themselves as “youth work organisations”, so they do not apply (an example can be hosting an elderly home or a community centre for people with disabilities). **Such a solution could increase the complementary use of both programmes.**
- It could be useful **to indicate more explicitly and visibly in the ESC programme guide** that it is possible to use the Erasmus+ KA1/KA2 for ESC capacity building. This would allow more organisations to discover this idea and put it in practice.
- **It would be useful to explore how young people/informal groups could be targeted by information campaigns about Solidarity projects indirectly**. The idea worth exploring would be to see how to reach young people individually, and only if they needed help, they would reach out to an organisation. Promoting Solidarity Projects as a more “independent” youth programme **could create a more complementary use of both programmes and give them a more concrete identity** - for example a Solidarity project as compared to YPA within E+.
- **It would be useful to research different possibilities of changing the PASS (Placement Administration and Support System)** - especially, how different modifications of the questionnaire (shorter vs. longer, detailed or not) influence the accuracy of choice of ESC volunteers and the verification of their motivation. Changing the questions in the questionnaire and making them more detailed **could lead to a more clear-cut division and complementarity between E+ and the ESC**, because the organisations could identify if a potential candidate is really suitable for an ESC project or would benefit more from an E+ project instead - namely, if their motivations are purely travel, learn more cultures, or contribute to a community.
- Since Solidarity projects are aimed at being very “direct” and close to young people and their needs, **it would be useful to analyse how allowing videos and audios in reporting** could increase the number of solidarity projects implemented by informal groups of people for whom reporting could be quite challenging. **This would allow more complementarities** - Solidarity projects would be a bit easier for informal groups to carry out alone, compared to YPA which could remain as they are when it comes to reporting.
- It would be interesting to analyse how to encourage **NAs to use their contact with beneficiaries to promote both programmes**. For example, to mention ESC during their

meetings with beneficiaries of Erasmus+.

- **It would be interesting to analyse how to raise awareness of both programmes among NA officers** - namely, by ensuring that programmes, instead of competing, complement each other. If an NA officer from the ESC department listens to the needs of a specific organisation, they should have enough knowledge about E+ to redirect the organisation to this programme if it proves to best meet their needs. And the other way around as well. **Therefore, the complementarities and synergies should also be enabled at the NA level**, and in bigger NAs, it often happens that both departments rarely have contact with one another and knowledge about what the other department does.
- **It would be beneficial to incorporate, in a way, the possibility of taking part in E+ trainings of ESC volunteers**, so that during a long-term volunteering time they can also build their capacity. For example, if during one's volunteering time one works with people with disabilities, they can attend training to improve the skills on being a youth worker, without the fear of double-funding. Such a solution **could potentially improve the complementarities between the two programmes**.
- **It would be interesting to analyse the possibilities of making interlinkages between the ESC and E+ in application forms**. For example, if an organisation applies for an ESC programme that, in a way, is a result of something that was discovered during E+, it would be much easier just to give the E+ project number instead of explaining what it was about. **That would create much more practical synergies** between both programmes when it comes to "usability" improvement for users.
- Many of the tools developed in KA2 could also be used in the ESC, but they are not well known. **It will be interesting to analyse how to communicate them better, in order to allow synergy between KA2 and ESC in this area**.
- There is a need **to ensure spaces for exchange between NAs** in terms of how to communicate the fundamental differences between the youth programmes to beneficiaries and the general public.

Recommendations for further research⁴²

Given that European youth programmes are still evolving and some of them are relatively new, **further research is needed** to identify how synergies and complementarities operate in practice.

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH	CONTEXT
It would be beneficial to research and gather best practices specifically on how Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 can strengthen local ESC Solidarity Projects .	This combination - of local Solidarity Projects and Erasmus+ was not addressed in detail in this report, given that Solidarity Projects are quite new.
It would be recommended to gather input on synergies and complementarities from all NAs and SALTOS , in order to conduct comprehensive research.	Given the scope of this report, it was only possible to interview only a small sample of NA and Salto officers.
It would be interesting to gather case studies about synergies and complementarities from beneficiaries from all countries participating in the ESC and Erasmus+ .	Given the scope of this report, only some countries were covered in the interviews - see chapter: " Case studies showing complementarity and synergy between EU youth programmes ".
It would be interesting to analyse other examples of CERV projects and how they are used for youth.	In the present publication, only two CERV project examples were described. See section: " Suggestions about the interlinkages between ESC (all strands), Erasmus+ (KA1, KA2), CERV, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, Quality Framework for Traineeships, The Reinforced Youth Guarantee ".
It would be recommendable to analyse the Humanitarian Aid strand more in depth and the possible interlinkages between Erasmus+ and this specific strand of the ESC.	The examples of this strand were not presented in this publication, given the lack of data.
It would be interesting to analyse the DiscoverEU Inclusion more in depth , as well as the possible interlinkages between the ESC and this action. One way of achieving that is gathering examples and stories of young people who participated in both DiscoverEU and other EU youth programmes.	It was not possible so far, given that this action is relatively new.

⁴² If you are interested in different opinions and suggestions for ensuring compatibility between Erasmus+ and ESC, you can consult this publication: <https://tools.youthforum.org/policy-library/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Updated-position-on-the-European-Solidarity-Corps.pdf>

<p>Further research could also analyse the practical interlinkages between Solidarity Projects, YPA and CERV, given their participatory goals. It would be especially interesting to look at how beneficiaries perceive participation and implement it in their projects, depending on the programme through which they are funded.</p>	<p>It was not possible so far, given that this action is relatively new.</p>
<p>Future research could examine and evaluate the ESC projects from the moment they were funded under the Europe of Citizens programme.</p>	<p>That was beyond the scope of this specific report, but it is a part of the ESC's past history that was not studied in-depth.</p>
<p>It would be beneficial to analyse and evaluate the ESC projects from the time when they were funded under the Horizon2020 programme.</p>	<p>That was beyond the scope of this specific report, but it is a part of the ESC's past history that was not studied in-depth.</p>
<p>Further research could also study internal NA procedures in order to analyse how they could enable synergies between programmes.</p>	<p>Given the lack of data from all NAs, this report could not analyse the internal NA procedures.</p>

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VOLUNTEERING CONFERENCE

Shaping volunteering in Europe and beyond

4-6 October 2023

Podgorica, Montenegro

The Volunteering Conference is one of the activities within the framework of the long-term Strategic National Agencies' Cooperation on Volunteering.

The aim of the conference is in line with the SNAC Volunteering aim to strengthen the European Solidarity Corps Programme and volunteering in general.

Objectives of the conference:

- *support the implementation of the Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the EU;*
- *create a space for networking and exchange between the different stakeholders of the programme;*
- *influence the mid-term evaluation of the programme and the forthcoming shaping of the new programme;*
- *celebrate the 5th anniversary of the first deadline of the European Solidarity Corps.*

The location of the conference, Podgorica, reflects the objective of SNAC Volunteering to give visibility to the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps in the partner regions of the EU.

The participants invited to the conference are representatives of the NAs dealing with European Solidarity Corps, practitioners from organisations involved in European Solidarity Corps, young people involved with European Solidarity Corps, experts/trainers within European Solidarity Corps. All of them are invited to discuss the results of the SNAC Volunteering research and the current and possible future implementation of the Council Recommendations on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the European Union.

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