



**socialplatform**



## **Response to EU public consultation**

**EU funds in the area of values and mobility**

**March 2018**

## Questionnaire

Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes (at least 1 choice(s))

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erasmus+ programme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European Solidarity Corps
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative Europe programme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Europe for Citizens Programme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EU programme for employment and social innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	EURES - the European job search network
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European Social Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Justice Programme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consumer Programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	EU aid volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above

Please let us know to which of the following topics your replies to this questionnaire will refer.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Learning mobility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education and training apart from mobility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Volunteering, humanitarian aid, solidarity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Youth work
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Labour mobility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Culture, media and arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Citizenship and values
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Justice area, judicial cooperation, rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consumer Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	None of the above

### EU Funds in the area of values and mobility

The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds in this area – mobility and values - could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	No opinion
Support lifelong skills development through learning mobility	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support employability through lifelong learning mobility	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support digitalisation and digital transformation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote modernisation of education and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote cooperation between education and training and labour market actors	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support innovation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote solidarity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote social inclusion and fairness	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support active citizenship, democratic participation in society, and the rule of law	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote European identity and common values	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Promote rights and equality	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foster European cultural diversity and cultural heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support competitiveness of European cultural and creative sectors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reinforce the EU area of justice strengthening judicial cooperation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote consumers' interests and ensure high level of consumer protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**If you identified another policy challenge, please specify it here:**

*Promote the formal recognition of skills acquired through informal and non-formal education, thus increasing social inclusion and employability of people with a low level of education attainment.*

**To what extent do the current policies successfully address these challenges?**

	Fully addressed	Fairly well addressed	Addressed to some extent only	Not addressed at all	No opinion
Support lifelong skills development through learning mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support employability through lifelong learning mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Support digitalisation and digital transformation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote modernisation of education and training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote cooperation between education and training and labour market actors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support innovation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote solidarity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote social inclusion and fairness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support active citizenship, democratic participation in society, and the rule of law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote European identity and common values	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote rights and equality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Foster European cultural diversity and cultural heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support competitiveness of European cultural and creative sectors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reinforce the EU area of justice strengthening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

judicial cooperation					
Promote consumers' interests and ensure high level of consumer protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (as specified in Question 1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels?**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	To a large extent
<input type="radio"/>	To a fairly good extent
<input type="radio"/>	To some extent only
<input type="radio"/>	Not at all
<input type="radio"/>	Don't know

**Please specify how the current programmes/funds add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels. (Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refers.)**

*The current programmes and funds addressing the area of mobility and values clearly have added value, compared to what could be achieved by member states at the national, regional or local level without this funding.*

*More in detail, the EU funding:*

- *Strongly contributes to sustainable economic growth across the EU and to social cohesion.*
- *Promotes opportunities for the European youth fostering European values as active citizenship, democratic participation in society and the rule of law.*
- *Promotes EU identity and common values, through initiatives which would not be possible at the national level (Erasmus +).*
- *Designs and test innovative tools to enhance social inclusion and address emerging social needs, notably through the use of new technologies.*
- *Puts together different actors in order to work towards common objectives: this would be far more challenging at the level of member states, and not achievable in some territorial areas.*
- *Facilitates the exchange of good practices, mutual learning and mutual learning among different local administrations.*
- *Plays a role in social inclusion improving people awareness of their own capacity and skills, and people's skills through mobility.*

**Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area? If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable? (Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refers.)**

*Programmes focusing on mobility and fostering European values should take into account the new challenges linked to the demographic change, as well as to the change in geographic distribution of European population.*

*With this regard, among the next objectives of the programmes it is desirable to create operational programmes focusing, with an integrated approach, to the delivery of sustainable development at a local level, addressing issues as the shift of population in rural areas, and promoting better urban planning and management, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular SDG11.*

*Furthermore, it is important to include operational grants for projects addressing part of the population traditionally cut off from the mobility opportunities provided by Erasmus+: existing programmes which allow to disadvantaged youth to take part in mobility education initiatives should be further developed, alongside an increase in funding for Erasmus+, which is underfunded.*

*At the same level, funding of instruments such as the youth guarantee should be upscaled to reach also less employable people, as the amount of funding available does only address one portion of the potential recipients.*

**The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of possible obstacles which could prevent the current programmes/funds from achieving their objectives. To what extent do they apply in your view?**

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don't know
Lack of dedicated instruments to address new or specific needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient outreach towards potential partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too narrow geographical scope of the programmes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Target groups too restricted	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support to first-time applicants	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Language	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

obstacles					
Obstacles to mutual recognition of study or training periods abroad and qualifications	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of budget of the programmes to satisfy demand	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low value of individual grants	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient information and guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of coordination with other funds and sectoral policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient support provided to small-scale stakeholders	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient use of results of individual projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited possibilities for funding actions across the sectors of education, training and youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (Please specify below)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**If you have identified another obstacle, please specify it here:**

- *Complicated application procedures.*
- *Erasmus+ : insufficient funding for staff costs.*
- *No possibility of preparing visits to partner organisations.*
- *No financing for the project development.*

**The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of steps that could help to further simplify and reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries under current programmes/funds. To what extent would these steps be helpful in your view?**

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don't know
Clearer focus/priorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Higher involvement of stakeholders in programme implementation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of more simplified application forms, reports and grant selection process	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased dissemination and better exploitation of results	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Simpler access for "new-comer" applicants and smaller/grass-root organisations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Incentives for people with fewer opportunities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitating structured networks and partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitating funding for actions cutting across the sectors of action	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better coordination	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

between different programmes/funds					
Other (Please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>				

**If you have identified another way to simplify and reduce burdens, please specify it here:**

- *Support in partner search (for Erasmus +).*
- *Reduced co-financing rates.*
- *Better support for smaller applicants, simplified procedures for small projects/grants.*

**How could synergies among programmes/funds in this area be further strengthened to avoid possible overlaps/duplication? For example, would you consider grouping/merging some programmes? (Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refers.)**

*Although different funds respond to different social needs which need to be taken into account, the alignments of rules for applying for EU funds can lead to an overall simplification of application procedures and a better use of the current funds. In case of merging of different funding tools, this should take place with the respect of adequate resources for social inclusion, responding to all the social challenges currently addressed.*

*With a specific regard to funding tools on the values and mobility area, the merging have already taken place in the current MFF, with the realisation of the Erasmus+ framework. Erasmus + represented a major merge of different projects. This has produced positive effects to some extent, but also represents an increasing burden for small youth organisations which now need to respond to the same applications opened for organisations with higher capacity.*

*While the coordination of different funds should be a tool to foster the implementation of projects promoting an integrated approach to services, any kind of merging of existing programmes should go in the direction of simpler access for smaller grass-root organisations, with simpler application forms, reports and grant selection process.*

## **Document upload and final comments**

**Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is 1MB.**

**Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.**

[Social Platform: ESF supporting paper](#)



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