

Guide¹ "Quality requirements for Erasmus+ Key Action 2 projects in the youth field / in Youth Work²"

Erasmus+ projects in Key Action 2 primarily serve the organisational development of the partner organisations involved in the projects.

The Small-scale Partnerships format is **primarily** aimed at local organisations with little or no experience in the Erasmus+ programme. For example, they want to conduct their first project in the programme and establish their first international partnerships and/or develop a new topic/concept/method and reach new target groups to enable peer learning. Small-scale Partnerships can also support organisations in their quality development and capacity building.

The Cooperation Partnership format offers the opportunity to work intensively on a topic with partners from other countries over a longer period and in the process learn from each other or develop and test forward-looking ideas. With Cooperation Partnerships, organisations can strengthen or expand existing partnerships and networks, further develop their own practice, make offers more attractive and gain more recognition for their work.

Applications for funding in both formats are subject to quality requirements during the assessment of the content, which increase with the amount of funding applied for. When answering the questions in the application, make sure you are as specific and precise as possible. This will give people who are not familiar with the project and the relevant context a clear picture of your project.

¹ These guidelines expressly do not replace the selection procedure stipulated by the European Commission in the regulations of the Erasmus+ programme, in which the National Agencies review and evaluate all incoming funding applications. The formal requirements and content-related award criteria for projects in Key Action 2 can be found in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

² The term "youth work" used in the European discourse is not to be equated with its literal translation "Jugendarbeit" in the German context. According to the Council Conclusions on the contribution of quality youth work of 16 May 2013, youth work is "a broad range of activities of a social, cultural, educational or general political nature (...) carried out by, with, and for young people. These increasingly include sports and performance programmes for young people. (...) [Youth work] belongs to the field of extracurricular education and target group-orientated leisure activities carried out by professional or voluntary youth workers and youth leaders. It is organised in different ways (by youth-led organisations, organisations for youth, informal groups or in the context of youth services and public authorities). [Youth work] comes in different forms and varieties (for example open access, group-based, programme-based, social work-based and separate) and is conceived at local, regional, national, and European levels". For a discussion of the term, see also the AGJ discussion paper „Die europäische Dimension in der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – Relevanz und Potential europäischer Politik für die Kinder- und Jugendhilfe“, published e. g. at https://www.agi.de/fileadmin/files/positionen/2012/Europaeische_Dimension_2_.pdf (last accessed on 08/02/2024).

The following requirements are graded according to the amount of funding. Requirements for applications with a higher funding amount always include the requirements for lower funding amounts.

Requirements for Small-scale Partnership projects with a funding amount of € 30.000 or € 60.000

- In terms of content, the project falls within the youth sector, which includes both youth policy and youth work.
- The partner organisations involved are consequently active at local or national level in the non-formal youth sector. This area of work of the organisations is clearly described in the application. In the case of cross-sectoral education projects, the impact of the project should be largely focussed on the youth sector.
- The partners involved have sufficiently clarified their common or different needs for the development of their own organisation and/or network and have jointly developed the project proposal and described it clearly in the application.
- The application clearly and specifically describes how at least one horizontal and/or youth-specific funding priority of Key Action 2 will be supported by the project.
- The planned activities are clearly related to the project objectives and are sufficiently described in terms of content and budget so that their feasibility can be assessed.
- The Erasmus+ Programme Guide identifies four horizontal aspects of Key Action 2. These should be reflected in the practical implementation of all activities and described in the application.
- Methodological measures for project evaluation are clearly described.
- It is clearly described how the project results are to be sustainably integrated into the regular work of the partners involved.
- In Small-scale Partnership projects, no tangible project results (manuals, databases, etc.) are expected. If tangible project results are to be developed, the application should describe concrete considerations and steps for further dissemination within the participating organisations and networks, but also outside the circle of those directly involved.

Further requirements for Cooperation Partnership projects with a funding amount of € 120.000

- Projects of this funding amount and above are generally of longer duration than the above-mentioned Small-scale Partnerships, more partner organisations are involved, and they include more activities within the project work packages to be described.
- In addition to the needs of the organisations involved in the project, a need is described in the field of non-formal youth work, in which the project results can support other organisations in their work.
- It is clearly described how and when the qualitative and quantitative indicators of success to be specified in the application will be measured and analysed.

- If tangible project results are to be developed, a dissemination strategy with specific, appropriate steps and scope is described. It also includes budget-relevant activities for the exploitation of the project results by other specialist organisations in the field of work.

Further requirements for Cooperation Partnership projects with a funding amount of € 250.000

- The content of the project should be clearly related to the topics of European youth policy, in particular the "Renewed Framework for European Youth Policy Cooperation 2019-2027" (EU Youth Strategy) and the European Youth Work Agenda.
- The joint development of tangible products is expected. For better exploitation in practice, these should ideally be made available in all languages of the countries involved in the project and in English.
- A well-founded needs analysis in the field is expected before the application is submitted. An appropriate review of relevant existing products, methods, etc. should also be conducted **before** the application is submitted. Clear explanations are required in the application as to the results of the needs analysis and review and the added value of creating new products / revising existing products compared to the existing ones.
- An important focus of the project, strategically planned before the application is submitted, is the dissemination of the project results in the participating partner countries. It is expected that the application will include a concrete description of how the results are to be disseminated to a specialised audience in the youth sector. Adequate public relations work from the start of the project is part of the dissemination strategy, which goes beyond the (associated) partners involved in the project and supports the exploitation of the project results in a comprehensible manner.

Further requirements for Cooperation Partnership projects with a funding amount of € 400.000

- An appropriate number of activities should be planned as part of the work packages, using the maximum duration of 36 months for Cooperation Partnerships where possible and involving an appropriate number of partners from different countries.
- The project topic / the planned project results should pursue an innovative approach³ for the field of work, or innovative new products should be developed that are useful for specialist organisations in the field of work. The products should be offered in all partner languages and English.
- Before submitting the application, cooperation agreements should be made with associated partners in the countries involved in the project to involve them in the development, testing and

³ "As innovation in youth work, we understand demonstrated methodologies, practices, tools, ways of approaching target groups, or organizational models that have new elements, that are upgrades of existing practices, or are completely new to the youth field or to a particular context, and that enable youth work to support young people to make changes and positively affect their lives, and/or contribute to a wider social change." Published e. g. on <https://www.eayw.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/EAYW-Study-final-report-2022-ISBN.pdf> (last accessed on 08/02/2024).

dissemination of project products. This will ensure that the project products are used beyond the partner organisations.

- A concrete, comprehensible plan for the dissemination and exploitation of the project results beyond the countries involved in the project is part of the dissemination strategy. At best, visualisation and exploitation are also planned at European level.

As of: February 2024