

KEY ACTION 2: COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

WHICH ACTIONS ARE SUPPORTED?

This Key Action supports:

- Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth;
- Knowledge Alliances – European Universities;
- Sector Skills Alliances;
- Capacity Building in the field of higher education;
- Capacity Building in the field of youth.

The Actions supported under this Key Action are expected to bring positive and long-lasting effects on the participating organisations, on the policy systems in which such Actions are framed as well as on the organisations and persons directly or indirectly involved in the organised activities.

This Key Action is expected to result in the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels.

For the participating organisations, projects supported under this Key Action are intended to produce the following outcomes:

- innovative approaches for addressing their target groups, by providing for example: more attractive education and training programmes, in line with individual needs and expectations; use of participatory approaches and ICT-based methodologies; new or improved processes of recognition and validation of competences; greater effectiveness of activities for the benefit of local communities; new or improved practices to cater for the needs of disadvantaged groups and to deal with differences in learning outcomes linked to the geographical and socio-economic disparities; new approaches to address social, ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity; new approaches to better support competitiveness and employment in particular at regional and local level; recognition of excellence in language learning or teaching through the European Language Label;
- a more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment inside the organisation: ready to integrate good practices and new methods into daily activities; open to synergies with organisations active in different fields or in other socio-economic sectors; strategic planning of professional development for staff in line with individual needs and organisational objectives;
- increased capacity and professionalism to work at EU/international level: improved management competences and internationalisation strategies; reinforced cooperation with partners from other countries, other fields of education, training and youth and/or other socio-economic sectors; increased allocation of financial resources (other than EU funds) to organise EU/international projects in the field of education, training and youth; increased quality in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and follow-up of EU/international projects.

Projects funded under this Key Action are also likely to have a positive impact on the persons directly or indirectly involved in the activities, such as:

- increased sense of initiative and entrepreneurship;
- increased competence in foreign languages;
- increased level of digital competence;
- greater understanding and responsiveness to social, ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity;
- improved levels of skills for employability and new business creation (including social entrepreneurship);
- more active participation in society;
- more positive attitude towards the European project and the EU values;
- better understanding and recognition of skills and qualifications in Europe and beyond;
- improved competences, linked to professional profiles (teaching, training, youth work, etc.);
- better understanding of practices, policies and systems in education, training or youth across countries;
- better understanding of interconnections between formal, non-formal education, vocational training, other forms of learning and labour market respectively;

- increased opportunities for professional development;
- increased motivation and satisfaction in daily work.

At systemic level, they are expected to trigger modernisation and reinforce the response of education and training systems and youth policies to the main challenges of today's world: employment, economic stability and growth, but also the need to promote social, civic and intercultural competences, intercultural dialogue, democratic values and fundamental rights, social inclusion, non-discrimination and active citizenship, critical thinking and media literacy.

Therefore, the impact of this Key Action is intended to be:

- increased quality of education and training and youth work in Europe and beyond: combining higher levels of excellence and attractiveness with increased opportunities for all, including those at disadvantage;
- education, training and youth systems that are better aligned to the needs of and opportunities offered by the labour market, and closer links to business and the community;
- improved provision and assessment of basic and transversal skills, particularly: entrepreneurship, social, civic, intercultural and language competences, critical thinking, digital skills and media literacy;
- increased synergies and links and improved transition between the different sectors of education, training and youth at national level, with improved use of European reference tools for recognition, validation and transparency of competences and qualifications;
- increased use of learning outcomes when describing and defining qualifications, parts of qualifications and curricula, in support to teaching and learning and in assessment;
- new and increased inter-regional and transnational cooperation of public authorities in the fields of education, training and youth;
- more strategic and integrated use of ICTs and open educational resources (OER) in education, training and youth systems;
- increased motivation for language learning through innovative teaching methods or better links to practical use of language skills required by the labour market;
- reinforced interaction between practice, research and policy.

KEY ACTION 3: SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORM

The activities in support for policy reform are targeted at the achievement of the goals of the European policy agendas, in particular the Europe 2020 Strategy, of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020) and of the European Youth Strategy.

WHICH ACTIONS ARE SUPPORTED?

The following Action is implemented through this Programme Guide:

- Youth Dialogue Projects.

This Part B of the Guide provides detailed information on the criteria and funding rules applying to this Action.

In addition, Key Action 3 covers many other Actions in support of policy reform in the education, training and youth fields that are implemented directly by the European Commission or through specific calls for proposals managed by the Executive Agency. More information is available on the websites of the European Commission, the Executive Agency and National Agencies. A concise description of these Actions is provided below:

Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth, involving evidence gathering, analysis and peer learning. In particular:

- thematic and country-specific expertise, studies on policy issues and reforms, including the activities carried out by the Eurydice network and the Youth Wiki correspondents;
- support to the participation of Erasmus+ countries in European/international surveys aimed at monitoring specific trends and developments, including the evolution of language competences development in Europe;
- EU Presidency events, conferences and high-level meetings;
- exchanges of experience and good practice and peer reviews;
- support to the implementation of the Open Methods of Coordination.

Initiatives for policy innovation aimed to develop new policies or prepare their implementation. They include specific calls for proposals managed by the Executive Agency on: a) European policy experimentations, led by high-level public authorities and involving field trials on policy measures in several countries, based on sound evaluation methods ; b) forward-looking cooperation projects for innovative policy development.

Support to European policy tools, in particular:

- Transparency tools (skills and qualifications), to facilitate transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits, foster quality assurance, support skills management and guidance. This Action will also include networks providing support for the implementation of those tools;
- Skills intelligence for the development and support of European tools such as the EU Skills Panorama –online platform;
- Networks supporting specific policy areas such as literacy and adult learning, as well as youth work and youth information (SALTO and Eurodesk);
- Dedicated higher education tools – development and support to tools such as U-Multirank, support to the Bologna Process or to the external dimension of higher education; the national teams of Higher Education Reform Experts in neighbourhood and enlargement, as well as Russia and Central Asia;
- Dedicated VET tools for the implementation of the VET Mobility Charter, to increase the quality level of organised mobility, and to support the National Authorities on apprenticeships in increasing the quality and supply of apprenticeships throughout Europe.

Cooperation with international organisations, such as the OECD and the Council of Europe. This Action will also foster policy dialogue with Partner Countries as well as the promotion of the international attractiveness of European higher education in the world. It will also support the network of Higher Education Reform Experts in Partner Countries neighbouring the EU and the international alumni associations.

Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion, including:

- Civil Society Cooperation supporting European NGOs and EU-wide networks in the fields of education, training and youth through a specific call for proposals managed by the Executive Agency;
- public events, meetings, debates and consultations with policy makers and stakeholders on relevant policy issues (such as the Education, Training and Youth Forum or the European Youth Week);
- Dialogue in the youth field, including the support to National Working Groups as well as meetings promoting dialogue between young people and decision-makers (see section below);

- awareness-raising, information and dissemination activities on policy outcomes and priorities, on the Erasmus+ Programme, its results and its potential synergies with other EU programmes, in particular the European Structural and Investment Funds.

The Actions implemented through this Key Action are aimed to:

- improve the quality, efficiency and equity of education and training systems and youth policies through the Open Methods of Coordination.
- support the implementation of the general and Country-Specific Recommendations resulting from the European Semesters;
- promote transnational cooperation and mutual learning between competent authorities at the highest political level in order to improve systems, structures and processes;
- develop knowledge and analytical capacity to support evidence-based policy under the Strategic framework for cooperation in education and training (ET2020), the European Youth Strategy and specific policy agendas such as the Bologna and Copenhagen processes;
- make available sound comparative international data and appropriate secondary analyses for European and national policy making, facilitating the collection and analysis of substantive evidence to assess and monitor the implementation of innovative policies and to encourage transferability and scalability;
- support European networks and implement tools fostering the transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning,
- support the active involvement of civil society networks and non-governmental organisations in policy implementation;
- support the Dialogue mechanisms with young people and encourage their active participation in democratic life
- support exchanges of good practices, dialogue, mutual learning and cooperation among policy makers, practitioners and stakeholders from Programme and Partner Countries;
- raise awareness of the results of European policies and of the Erasmus+ Programme and facilitate their exploitation at local, regional or national level. Raise the profile and attractiveness of European higher education worldwide;
- foster synergies with other EU programmes, such as the European Structural and Investment Funds, as well as with funding schemes at national or regional level.