

Strategic Partnership on Inclusion

Mission statement

The Strategic Partnership on Inclusion (SPI) aims to involve **more inclusion organisations** and increase the participation of **young people with fewer opportunities** in the Erasmus+: Youth in Action (E+:YiA) and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes.

SPI is a coordinated approach of **15 National Agencies** (NAs) responsible for the E+:YiA/ESC management and two **SALTO-YOUTH** resource centres (Inclusion & Diversity and South East Europe).[1]

Young people with fewer opportunities[2] are at a disadvantage regarding access to EU youth programmes when compared to their peers because of a number of exclusion factors (e.g. cultural, social, economic, geographical, educational obstacles, disability and health issues). To support them to overcome obstacles and facilitate access to learning and mobility opportunities calls for a strategic coordinated effort.

SPI contributes to a better knowledge of the field, development of transnational partnerships of organisations working with young people with fewer opportunities and of more and better quality inclusion projects, facilitates best practices sharing, raises awareness on the needs and potential of the target groups we work with and promotes E+:YiA and ESC as tools for inclusion and capacity building. SPI also allows to create links between national and European dimensions and to learn from each other on how to be more inclusive.

International learning and mobility opportunities are key to personal and professional development of young people. SPI partners wish to make these opportunities accessible to all. Within SPI diversity is valued and **inclusion and solidarity are core values**.

The Commission Communication “*Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy*” highlights that for the 2019-2027 period, EU level cooperation shall focus on: “*Increasing participation in cross-border learning mobility and solidarity under Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps with an emphasis on those with fewer opportunities.*” [3]

Both ESC and the future Erasmus programme (2021-2027) have social inclusion as a priority and NAs are committed, in the framework of SPI, to do their part in promoting these programmes as a tool for inclusion and capacity building of young people with fewer opportunities.

[1] National Agencies actively involved: Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and United Kingdom & SALTO SEE - Coordination: SALTO Inclusion & Diversity

[2] As defined in the Inclusion & Diversity Strategy. For more information: European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture (2014), *Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy in the youth field*, p. 7 (in: http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/youth/library/reports/inclusion-diversity-strategy_en.pdf - access 05/09/2018)

[3] COM(2018) 269 final, *Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy*, p. 6 (in: https://ec.europa.eu/youth/sites/youth/files/youth_com_269_1_en_act_part1_v9.pdf - access 05/09/2018)