

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**  
**Erasmus+: Youth in Action Forum for the Western Balkans region**  
**16 – 19 November 2015, Podgorica**

Do you live in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia?

Have you been organising or been a partner in projects supported by the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme?

Do you want to find out more about the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme?

Are you interested in sharing your experiences with the Programme with other NGOs, national authorities and institutions?

Would you like to exchange your impressions with them about what works well and what could be improved?

Are you motivated to develop and share recommendations and suggestions for the coming years?

Then this forum might just be the right activity for you.

## BACKGROUND

The Erasmus+: Youth in Action Forum for the Western Balkans region is organised jointly by the SALTO South East Europe Centre and the Association for Development and Prosperity-Zid as Contact Point for Erasmus+: Youth in Action and with the support of the Directorate for Youth and Sport of Montenegro, from 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November in Podgorica, Montenegro.



With the start of the Erasmus+ programme on 1.1.2014, support for activities in the youth field was integrated into the general programme of the European Union for education, youth and sport. In the youth field, the Erasmus+ programme puts emphasis on offering opportunities for non-formal learning to gain better skills and competences for future employability and employment as well as promoting diversity and social inclusion. The Programme continues to support activities such as the European Voluntary Service, youth exchanges and training activities (under Key Action 1). It has also introduced some new support possibilities for dialogue in the field of policy development and cross-sectorial cooperation as well as, this year, a new Western Balkans Youth Window, which offers actors from Partner countries the possibility to apply directly for project support (under Key Action 2, Capacity Building).

After almost two years of Erasmus+, this forum offers an occasion to share feedback but also to find out more about the opportunities that the Programme offers. In the overall socio-political context of the Western Balkan region and European integration perspectives, we also want to look at the actual relevance of the Programme for the region as well as potential synergies with other regional initiatives in the field of youth.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The forum wants to bring together around 65 participants in total to learn more about the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme, exchange feedback and experiences and jointly develop suggestions and recommendations to increase the use and relevance of the Programme in the Western Balkan region. Participants will include around 35 experienced stakeholders coming from countries in the Western

Balkans<sup>1</sup> - youth leaders and youth workers, representatives of relevant national Ministries in charge of youth and Contact Points for Erasmus+: Youth in Action<sup>2</sup> - as well as representatives of relevant institutions (European Commission, EACEA, etc.). Day 1 of the forum targets additionally 30 youth workers and youth leaders and youth from Montenegro.

The forum will combine two slightly different events that will build on each other:

**Day 1 will offer an open information forum about the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme, including expert inputs, workshop and discussion sessions.** The focus will be put on raising motivation for participating in the European Voluntary Service as well as the opportunities offered by the Western Balkans Window. In addition, some space will be given to sharing information about the developments in the framework of the current Berlin process.

The objectives for this day are to:

- Increase the participation of youth from Montenegro and other countries of the Western Balkan region in Erasmus+ in general and in EVS in particular;
- Provide a space for young people from Montenegro and members of youth organizations from the Western Balkan region to hear from relevant representatives about the possibilities offered by the Erasmus+ programme and especially EVS, and benefits of participation;
- Learn about existing support mechanisms for regional cooperation of youth, especially in the frame of the “Berlin process”;
- Offer space for sharing questions and feedback about the Programme among participants and with institutional representatives.

Based on the information and discussions of Day 1, **Day 2 will offer a framework for consultation about the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of Youth among experienced stakeholders**, for sharing impressions about how the Programme is currently used and perceived in the region, looking for synergies with other relevant support structures, and putting together some recommendations and conclusions regarding its future development.

The objectives of day 2 are to:

- Share and collect feedback about the Erasmus+ programme in the field of Youth and impressions of how the Programme has been perceived and used by beneficiaries in the different countries and collect recommendations to be shared with the European Commission and/or EACEA / (+ other stakeholders?);
- Discuss possible strategic aims, approaches and priorities for support activities to be followed by SALTO SEE (in cooperation with National Agencies), Contact Points and national authorities in this framework in the period 2016-2017;

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<sup>1</sup> Partner countries of the Erasmus+ Programme in the Western Balkans include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.

<sup>2</sup> For information about Contact Points check <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/see/contactpoints/>

- Reflect about how to create synergies and better use both frameworks (Erasmus+ and Berlin process (+possibly other relevant initiatives?)) to promote regional cooperation and European integration.

#### TARGET GROUP AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS RECRUITED THROUGH THIS CALL

18 youth leaders and youth workers living in a country of the Erasmus+ programme of the Western Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia) who...

...have implemented activities – such as training courses, youth exchanges or European Voluntary Service projects - with the support of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme and/or the former Youth in Action programme.

...are motivated and able to stay for the full duration of the forum.

...are able to actively participate in discussions in English.

#### ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE, COSTS

For all selected participants, travel costs to the forum will be reimbursed and board and lodging will be provided by the organisers.

The form will last for two full working days, starting at 10:00 on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, and ending at 18:00 on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November. Participants are expected to arrange their travel accordingly and can arrive on the 16<sup>th</sup> in the evening and depart on the 19<sup>th</sup> after breakfast.

#### HOW TO APPLY?

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form under <http://trainings.salto-youth.net/5278> at the latest by **25<sup>th</sup> October 2015**. (Filling in the application requires registration in MySALTO, which is quick and free). Candidates will be informed about the selection by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

For more information, please contact:

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