

LIFE BEYOND EU FUNDING

IMAGINING A DIFFERENT ROLE FOR YOUTH
FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPE



KEY FACTS & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Inter Alia's network in the field of youth aspires to foster alliances that can challenge centralised, top-down decision making, and assert a different paradigm and agenda for youth organisations.

OUR CLAIM

Increasing operational EU funding to youth organisations from 1.88% to 5% of the overall annual Erasmus+ funding in the field of youth. While the claim is rather specific, it reflects an underlying aspiration for a structural reform of the civic sector in the European Union and beyond, and presupposes a series of administrative interventions.



OUR AIM

Sustainable and independent youth organisations, fair and transparent youth sectors, vibrant and inclusive civil societies.

HOW DID IT ALL COME TOGETHER?

62 network members have contributed their ideas, proposals and experiences from the field through a structured consultation process that took place before finalising the current paper.

WHO SIGNS THE PAPER?

More than 140 representatives of organisations, networks and institutions dealing with youth from 38 European countries.



NETWORKS/UNIONS
OF ORGANISATIONS



+

YOUTH
ORGANISATIONS



+

ORGANISATIONS ACTIVE
IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH



TOTAL NUMBER
OF SIGNATORIES



RECOMMENDATIONS

FUNDING AIMS & PRINCIPLES

-  Constant flow of resources for research, need analysis, impact assessment, reaching out, and supporting troubled youth.
-  Youth organisations must be able to define their own agenda by strengthening their internal processes and pursuing their mission without deviations for fulfilling specific funding criteria or priorities.
-  Support alliances rather than networks: Strategic relations between stakeholders need to be further supported to build up collective claims and have sustainable impact.
-  Funding should be allocated disproportionately in favour of rural and poorer areas and be susceptible to a basic application and the opinion of the agency. This should go hand in hand with stronger presence of the EU agents in these areas for monitoring and information.
-  Funding should be also allocated disproportionately in favour of informal groups and very small organisations. Support for “Solidarity Projects” should be enhanced.
-  Develop different tiers for operational funding based on the size, age and financial capacity of organisations.
-  For small organisations long-term funding with a possibility of extension is important to give them space to develop.
-  EU funding programmes for youth should build around the concept of social impact.
-  Deliberation on the definition of social impact and its measurement among policy makers, organisations and youth should take place.
-  Training on social impact assessment methods and tools should be available to NGOs. Indicators should measure impact continuously, on the organisation level, rather than on the project level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE



The role of the NAs: The role of national agencies need to be enhanced and decentralised.



Only agents that are familiar with the day to day operation and work of organisations in their communities are able to assess their impact. Impact assessment by local agents will inform policies better thus improving efficiency and prioritisation. Local agencies should have significant discretion.



Transparency & Accountability of the functions of the NAs and the terms of engagement between the European Commission and the NAs are not published and accessible.



Not all NAs publish applications' scores or the names of the evaluators or committees. Not all NAs have formal processes for selecting the individuals or organisations that deliver the trainings foreseen by the Erasmus+ programme (e.g. on-arrival, mid-term training of ESC volunteers). Not all NAs publish yearly reports on the results achieved through public funding nor they have processes for receiving feedback by youth organisations and utilising project outcomes. Lack of transparency and accountability reduces trust between organisations and policy making institutions both at national and EU level and undermines cooperativeness and mutuality.



Relationships between organisations and the National Agencies need to be more horizontal and collaborative. Organisations through representative bodies should have a say on how priorities are set, programmes are structured and public resources are spent.



Research on the state of affairs of the youth sector in Erasmus+ programme countries should be enhanced and decentralised.



Results should be derived using various sources beyond the beneficiaries of EU programmes. EAC should provide guidelines but national agencies should have the leading role in the implementation. The data should be used for structuring funding needs accordingly in order to support cohesion among youth across programme countries.