



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE

Youth, Education and Erasmus+  
Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office

### Mandate of the thematic SALTO Youth Resource Centres

Full title	Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities Youth Resource Centres
Thematic SALTO Youth Resource Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Inclusion &amp; Diversity</li><li>– Participation &amp; Information</li><li>– Training &amp; Cooperation</li></ul>
Duration of the mandate	01.01.2018 – 31.12.2020
Legal base	Erasmus+ Legal base, article 15,1 (d)

#### **Background**

SALTO Youth Resource Centres are additional functions entrusted to designated National Agencies of Erasmus+/ Youth in Action. They consist of small teams that support all National Agencies (hereafter ‘NAs’), the Commission and stakeholders involved in youth work in the development and quality implementation of activities and projects in the youth field. SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres works on behalf of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture At the beginning of the Erasmus+, there were in total eight SALTOs (thematic and regional).

In July 2017, the Commission launched a process to restructure the thematic SALTOs, from five to three, to adjust to changes over the past years and to enhance their impact in supporting the implementation of the youth policy strand of Erasmus+.

As from 1 January 2018, the Commission has entrusted the Belgian (nl) National Agency with SALTO Inclusion & Diversity and the Estonian National Agency with SALTO Participation & Information. SALTO Training & Cooperation remains with the German National Agency.

#### **Common objectives of thematic SALTOs**

The mission of thematic SALTO Youth Resource Centres is to improve the quality and impact of Erasmus+ projects in the field of youth.

To that end, they are supporting the entire network of National Agencies, the European Commission, and partners involved in ensuring quality and recognition

of youth work and fostering participation and non-formal and informal learning for young people. More specifically, thematic SALTOs act as evidence-based knowledge hubs and impartial brokers based on their expertise and experience with programme management to contribute to the links and synergies between Union youth policy and programmes.

This means continuously building and channelling the knowledge and lessons learnt from programme implementation in the SALTO thematic areas into the contexts of youth policy cooperation, policy development and programme development in cooperation with the NA network and the Commission through appropriate platforms and procedures to be put in place. Moreover, they will support the National Agencies to implement the programme in a way that puts into practice the relevant policy decisions (e.g. Council conclusions/resolutions), results of mutual learning activities, and decisions on programme priorities.

SALTOs need to tailor their activities (such as competence and analytical inputs, , evidence gathering including from the Research-based Analysis and Monitoring of Erasmus+/ Youth in Action' - 'RAY Network' – survey data analyses, projects analyses and lessons learnt, training and events, tools and guidance) in a flexible and transparent way to address needs of the network of National Agencies, the European Commission, and partners, and contribute to the coherence between programme implementation and youth policy. To do so, thematic SALTOs collaborate together and with all National Agencies to build evidence, create multiplier effects and improve quality of the projects in their respective area. They also cooperate with other SALTOs (e.g. regional resource centres and the future European Solidarity Corps resource centre).

### **SALTO Inclusion & Diversity- Field of Action**

*Overall purpose: Develop strategic and innovative action to ensure the inclusiveness of the Erasmus+ Programme/Youth in Action, by methods improving the reaching out to and involvement of disadvantaged young people and fostering intercultural understanding, including through:*

- mapping out an understanding of the communication patterns and needs of these groups, a grasp of different cultural preferences and unwanted bias and of the best ways of involving support structures and networks to involve these groups;
- providing continuous advice on the additional support needed to make participation to Erasmus+ Youth successful regardless of background or ability;
- implementing and further developing the "Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy in the youth field", e.g. by reducing the risk of exclusion in different life spheres and supporting disadvantaged young through youth work and empowering them to actively participate in youth mobility projects and youth work and become active citizens;

- providing guidance to and support for all NAs on state-of-the art strategies for developing or adjusting a national ‘Inclusion and Diversity’ Strategy.

### **SALTO Participation & Information - Field of Action**

*Overall purpose: Develop strategic and innovative action to encourage - in accordance with the goals of the EU Youth Strategy and the Erasmus+ Programme - youth participation in democratic life, including through:*

- fostering the involvement of young people in democratic decision-making;
- fostering youth participation in civic and social life through volunteering or taking up a role in youth organisations;
- developing expertise on evolving trends in youth participation, including through digital means;
- developing expertise on young people's skills that enhance and underpin their effective participation, including media literacy, sense of initiative and communication;
- providing guidance to and support for all NAs on state-of-the art strategies for reaching out to a higher number of young people, increasing quality and impact of information activities as well as their inclusiveness and the sustainability and transferability of project results.

### **SALTO Training & Cooperation - Field of Action**

*Overall purpose: Develop strategic and innovative action to ensure an overall quality approach to training strategies and activities in the youth field, and the recognition of non-formal and informal learning in youth work throughout Europe, including through:*

- processes, activities and tools within the European Training Strategy in the field of youth supporting the development of quality youth work in Europe through capacity building, such as strategic quality approach to be applied in youth work activities within the programme, developing modular training systems for youth workers and trainers and supporting the capacity building of staff of NAs;
- processes, activities and tools within Youthpass to support and promote the recognition of non-formal and informal learning and of youth work, such as developing, delivering and managing recognition tools and guidance on learning outcomes from non-formal activities, coordinating training activities and providing educational materials;
- facilitating transnational cooperation, networking and mutual learning among NAs and different stakeholders;
- a consistent strategy to valorising and presenting programme achievements, experiences and lessons learnt in the above areas.

## Governance

To pursue the objectives of this mandate, the thematic SALTOs Youth Resource-Centres are:

- Supporting the Network of National Agencies, the Commission and other relevant programme actors to develop, update and monitor the implementation of the strategies<sup>1</sup> that apply in their field of competence (Inclusion and Diversity Strategy, European Training Strategy, Youthpass & recognition) including by assisting in the organisation of the meetings of the relevant advisory or steering groups.
- Assisting the Commission to develop and update the missions and mandates of these advisory groups, which are shared with the NAs. By definition, participation in such advisory groups is on a voluntary basis and open to all NAs. The outcomes of the meetings are shared with the NAs.
- Organising annual meetings between the SALTOs to coordinate their function and exchange views on the implementation of the programme. These meetings could be organised on the occasion of an advisory group meeting and its outcomes are shared with the Commission and the NAs.
- Participating in or organising events/conferences/seminars in their fields of competence to share their lessons learnt on the programme's impact.
- Extracting lessons learnt based on projects' analyses to assist the Commission with policy development (including fine-tuning Erasmus+ with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027) and the NAs with programme implementation and coordinate with other programme actors (such as the RAY network or the EU-CoE partnership on relevant follow-up research and analysis).
- Maintaining and frequently updating the SALTO-YOUTH website including its embedded tools (e.g. toolboxes, training calendar, partner finding, and online trainers). The mandates of the advisory groups are uploaded in the website. The outcomes of their meetings are shared with the NAs via for example a newsletter.
- Producing factual, simple and concrete material and news items on the impact of the programme in the field each SALTO follows. This material could be in the form of newsletters, factsheets, infographics and social media posts and is shared with the Commission, the NAs and any other interested party.
- Analysing the Transnational Cooperation Activities they are participating in and sharing lessons learnt with the NAs and the Commission. Through the

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<sup>1</sup> These strategies are without legal effect and serve as multi-annual action-plans. They can be revised at the Commission's initiative.

expertise they are acquiring and the analysis they are conducting, SALTOs can then propose new subjects for Transnational Cooperation Activities.

- Offering or helping develop training courses for multipliers in their specific area of competence.
- Developing annual work plans in agreement with the Commission, which are then shared with the NAs.

### **Relevant background documents and information**

'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013R1288>

Erasmus+. Programme Guide, Annual Work Programme, <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=228917671>

EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, [https://ec.europa.eu/youth/sites/youth/files/youth\\_com\\_269\\_1\\_en\\_act\\_part1\\_v9.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/sites/youth/files/youth_com_269_1_en_act_part1_v9.pdf)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en)

The SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres, <https://www.salto-youth.net/>

Inclusion and Diversity Strategy in the field of Youth, [http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/youth/library/reports/inclusion-diversity-strategy\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/youth/library/reports/inclusion-diversity-strategy_en.pdf)

European Training Strategy in the Field of Youth, [https://ec.europa.eu/youth/sites/youth/files/eu-training-strategy-youth\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/sites/youth/files/eu-training-strategy-youth_en.pdf)

Youthpass; [www.youthpass.eu](http://www.youthpass.eu)

The European Training Calendar, <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/>

Toolbox — For Training and Youth Work, <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toolbox/>

Otlas Partner-Finding Tool, <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/otlas-partner-finding/>

Trainers Online for Youth, <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/toy/>