

Conference on strengthening the community impact in European Solidarity Corps activities (working title)

Time/Dates: June 2024

Target group: Volunteering organisations, youth workers, trainers, youth researchers

Concept:

SALTO ESC is part of the [continuous process of exploring community impact of learning mobility](#), which is implemented by the members of the [European Platform on Learning Mobility](#). Recent developments in European youth policies and in the European Youth programmes show that **more emphasis is put on understanding the impact** not only on the individual level, but **also on the local community** or wider society.

We worked together with experts in the field to produce a practical guide on community impact of learning mobility in the community. [The Practical Guide](#) aims to be hands-on, explaining some of the basics so that more and more people (especially practitioners) can feel confident in exploring the concept. In 2021, together with the Austrian NA, SALTO ESC developed a two-day seminar exploring the practical guide and discussing with practitioners what it still needs to be done to strengthen the community impact in ESC activities. A video was produced as a result of the activity in 2021: [Community Impact Practical Guide](#)

Looking ahead to 2024, SALTO European Solidarity Corps aims to elevate the discussions surrounding the community impact of ESC programs to a higher level. We envision a conference that brings together various stakeholders interested in finding solutions to amplify the community impact of youth-focused learning mobilities.

Outlined below are the draft objectives for the conference:

- **Provide an overview** of existing resources and knowledge referring to community impact in learning mobilities, with a specific focus on European Solidarity Corps learning mobilities.
- **Explore the shared understanding** of community impact as a concept and examine methods to enhance community impact.
- **Analyze community impact indicators** and establish connections with the recent RAY research dedicated to Youth programmes, particularly in the context of ESC.
- **Develop a plan** to address the additional needs of youth workers and organisations across Europe in relation to community impact in learning mobility projects.

Format of the conference:

- **3 full working days.** Arrival one day before, departure either in day 3 after 17:00, or the next day
- Approximative **60 participants** plus invited guests
- The methodology of the conference will be a mixture of **expert inputs, exchange** among the participants and **experiential learning**
- Approximative **budget lines:**
 - Accommodation and food for approximative 60 to 70 participants (experts, team, participants, all together)
 - Working rooms (one big plenary room, two or three small working rooms) for three full days
 - Learning materials (papers, flipcharts, post its, etc.)
 - Costs for leisure activities – if possible, like dinner out, visit the city
 - Costs for two to three international facilitators for at least 6 full working days with a fee of 330 EUR / day / facilitator
 - Optional costs for live streaming and recording
 - Optional costs for visibility of the event: posters, gadgets, name tags, photos, etc.
 - Other costs

Draft program:

Arrivals	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Departures
	Official opening, introducing the concepts of the conference	Inspirational inputs on WHY do we need community impact , what it brings to the field?	The future of community impact , what still needs to be done? Can be experts input!	
	Experts input – what is community impact in learning mobility	Analysing the community impact indicators and the connection with the recent studies	Exchange between the participants regarding the future of community impact	
	Sharing experience	Innovative methods for assuring	Planning the next steps	

	among the participants	community impact in learning mobilities		
	Shaping a common understanding of community impact in learning mobilities	Testing / exploring methods which will increase the community impact in learning mobilities	Evaluation and closure	
Informal welcoming	Visit the city	Dinner out	Farewell cocktail (this can be adapted)	

Further links on already established materials by SALTO ESC in partnership with National Agencies and the EPLM platform

Research Creating Solidarity through community impact -: The research explores a series of 15 examples of practice from organisations implementing ESC funded actions incl. a Bulgarian best practice example <https://www.talkingsolidarity.eu/publications/creating-community-impact-through-solidarity/>

Community impact in learning mobilities. A practical handbook <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262316/Practical+Guide+EPLM+2021.pdf/1b13646d-2545-9603-e23b-9069e0ccc96f?t=1625677367000>

Community impact in European Solidarity Corps input within the MOOC on ESC: [Community Impact in European Solidarity Corps projects](#)

Under 30 - Podcast of the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5O8rceLdTCYdG3RHcUFjkq>

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