**INTRODUCTION TO THE SESSION ON EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMS.**

This session is the first step in the efforts of the NA Youth network to contribute to the midterm evaluation of the E+:Youth and the European Solidarity Corps programs. We aim to formulate our shared visions and conclusions, from the implementation of both programs, on European level. We dedicate this first session to the role of the programs in support of the EU Youth Strategy.

By the end of 2023, the EU Youth Strategy will be evaluated as well, in its midterm. The Call for Evidence for the EU Youth Strategy (published on 23/9/2022) also explicitly invites National Agencies to contribute :

*“Contributions from young people and the main stakeholders of the EU Youth Strategy are welcome, but also from the general public and any parties affected by or having an interest in EU youth policy. Stakeholders include (but are not limited to): national authorities; Erasmus+ national agencies;…”*

It is important to keep in mind that the mid-term evaluation of the current EU Youth Strategy runs over the period 2019-2023. Thus, 4 programs have contributed to and supported the Strategy: Erasmus+: Youth in Action (2019-2020), Erasmus+: Youth (2021-2023), the European Solidarity Corps (2019-2020) and (2021-2023). Our evaluation should combine evidence and experience from both MFF periods. This is in line with the view of the Commission to elaborate a combined evaluation of current and previous programs, in view of better defining long term effects and impact.

Also in line with the evaluation guidelines from the Commission, we ask ourselves the following questions :

**Effectiveness** of the programs in reaching the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy:

*Information and inspiration about the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy:*

* *The intervention logic of the EU Youth Strategy*
* *EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027*
* *(former) EU Youth Strategy 2009-2018*
* *What did the NA Network say before….*
* *Figures about the programs (2019-2022)*

*Questions*

* To what extent have the 4 Youth programs involved, delivered the expected support for the EU Youth Strategy ?
* Have the programs been supporting some objectives of the Strategy better, not or not sufficient ? Is there a difference between programs 14-20 and 21-27?
* Do you consider that certain actions are more effective than others?
* What are the determining factors for making these actions of the program more effective?
* What negative and positive factors seem to influence outputs and results?
* What did we lose, in terms of output and results, by the discontinuation of some actions between programs 14-20 and 21-27?
* What is your assessment of the quality of applications received, and what measures could be taken to improve the quality of applications and awarded projects?

**Relevance** of the programs for the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy

(and vice versa):

*Information and inspiration on societal needs from stakeholders*

* *Voices from young people: the 11 Youth Goals*
* *Voices from the field: Signposts for the future. Declaration of 3th EYWC*
* *Voices from the field: Resolution fYouture of Youth*
* *What did the NA network say before…*
* *Figures about the programs (2019 – 2022)*
* *Youth Action Plan in EU external action 2022 - 2027*

*Questions*

* To what extent do the program (E+ and ESC 21-27) objectives, in line with the EU Youth Strategy, continue to address the needs or challenges they are meant to help with?
* Are these needs or challenges (still) relevant in the current context? Have the needs or challenges evolved in such a way that the objectives of both programs 2021-2027 or their successor programs need to be adjusted?
* Are these needs or challenges (still) relevant in the current context? Have the needs or challenges evolved in such a way that the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy need to be adjusted?
* How successful are the programs in attracting and reaching target audiences and groups from different backgrounds?
* To what extent is the design of both programs 2021-2027 oriented and adapted towards the hard-to-reach groups, people with fewer opportunities or specific disadvantaged groups of the population who traditionally do not engage in transnational or international activities as compared to other groups that benefit from the program?
* Given that the Youth Action Plan in the EU external action has been inspired a lot by the EU Youth Strategy: to what extend should the EU Youth Strategy have a focus outside the EU ?