**PROFILE OF THE STRATEGIC COOPERATION IN THE NETWORK OF NATIONAL AGENCIES IN THE YOUTH FIELD - 2021 - 2027**

The next programmes Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps will provide us with the opportunity to develop new strategic cooperation between National Agencies in the field of Youth.

We will be able to build on our experience with the strategic partnerships, started since 2016, both under TCA and KA3. The monitoring report gives us a clear picture of the achievements and challenges of these projects in terms of benefits, synergies, added value, sustainability and European-national interaction. A specific webinar will further highlight the results and outcomes of these projects. (For the complete report see : <http://media.voog.com/0000/0041/2687/files/Overall%20monitoring%20report_final.pdf>).

The monitoring report (page 52) states that “without any exception, the different actors identified a clear added value in all the strategic cooperation projects and partnerships. The most important dimensions of that added value are:

∙ Long-term perspective

∙ Strengthening the political and strategic dimensions

∙ New partners for cooperation at local, national and European levels

∙ Stronger cooperation between NAs

∙ Peer learning between NAs on how to do things better and development of NAs’ competences and new working methods/approaches

∙ Reaching new target groups – not so common in E+ activities

∙ Setting up networks for future cooperation beyond the current partnership

∙ Activism as a model = promoting youth participation and solidarity projects”

However, new or continued strategic cooperation beyond 2020 will be situated in a newly developed context, compared to the previous period :

* The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 focuses on mobility, engagement, participation and on capacity building in youth work. The implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda will be an important element in the coming years.
* In the frame of the EU Youth strategy, member states have a common work plan, each time for 3 years, and they develop national priorities in their FNAP.
* Both programmes Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps support very direct these policy objectives, through their different actions.
* The implementation of the programmes is guided by several strategies, that have been renewed or still to be developed, cutting through all actions : inclusion and diversity, European training strategy, participation, cooperation with Partner countries, Green Erasmus, the European Youth Work Agenda.
* TCA is part of the KA3 of E+, giving it a clearer dimension in supporting these policy objectives, next to the other roles that TCA continues to play in support of E+ and ESC applicants and participants.
* The European Solidarity Corps introduced NET, focusing on solidarity and community building

***New or continued strategic cooperation beyond 2020, under TCA and NET, should be inspired by this policy context created by the framework of the EU Youth Strategy and the EU Youth Programmes. It is a unique opportunity for National Agencies to make use of their European network to bring expertise together, support, policy implementation and contribute to youth work development. For that reason, new or continued strategic cooperation should also profile itself as “flagships” of the Network of NA’s in the Youth field.***

Having in mind the lessons learned from the monitoring report, our strategic cooperation should :

* be relevant for any of the objectives that are part of the broad policy framework described above.
* be relevant both for the European and the national level.
* be strategic as it strives for a clearly identified/expected and sustainable impact in the youth field
* have clearly expected outcomes, in terms of knowledge and practice or in reaching objectives and indicators of the programmes.
* have a clear idea to transfer or mainstream the outcomes into
	+ the practice of the youth programmes,
	+ and/or the practice of all Youth NA’s (and if possible also the other sectors in E+)
	+ and/or in the community of practice in the youth field or beyond
* be designed as a long-term cooperation, starting from a period of 2/3 years
* be of a certain scale of cooperation that distinguishes it from any other TCA/NET activity. Therefore a relevant part of countries/national agencies of the network should be included from the start.
* include the active participation of partners, external to the network of NA’s, in view of
	+ gathering the expertise needed
	+ and/or creating a European platform for networking and cooperation between multiple actors
	+ and/or guarantee the impact and transfer of outcomes in the field.
	+ and/or reaching out for new target groups to get involved in European cooperation and the programmes
	+ and/or cooperation with partners/actors from partner countries
* create the necessary set up and conditions for managing the cooperation, taking into account the needs of coordination on European level, of linking national and European level and of involving external partners.

Building on this set of features, the network of NA’s should decide on the projects, starting or continuing in 2021, that can contribute to the ambitions described above.