

TCA, a plea to adjust the format to the challenges

Considering the guide for National Agencies :

Explaining the objective of the TCA as a tool **for improving the implementation of the programme in qualitative terms** and to make them **more strategic by building closer links with relevant elements of policy development.**

And their specific objectives :

- Supporting activities aiming **at enhancing links to European policy cooperation in the fields of education, training and youth** as well as to activities aiming at influencing national practices in the concerned fields, and vice-versa;
- Supporting activities aiming **at increasing the quality of Programme implementation**, notably the participation and accessibility of the Programmes, as well as community-building and networking between organisations.

Considering the challenges encountered by the National Agencies to :

- 1) Develop the participation and accessibility of the programme
- 2) Link better European policy cooperation in the fields of education, training and youth as well as national practices in the concerned fields
- 3) Address the 4 priorities of the programme, which reflect new educational needs and respond to major societal & environmental challenges.
- 4) The budget increase of the Erasmus+ programme and the need therefore to widen the participation in the programme.

Considering that European networking between participants is **a key element for developing new projects, especially for newcomers in the programme** as well as addressing persons with less opportunities.

Considering that the TCA can **lead to building and networking amongst organisation towards better and more relevant education & training schemes.**

Considering the chronic low uptake of the budget dedicated to this activity. (From 2021 infos from EC - TCA off meeting april 2021-, in their 2021 WP NAs asked only for 19% of global available KA3 budget. 20 millions euros were available but only 3,8 millions total budget were forecast due to the difficulties of implementation. 8 NAs have committed less than 10% of the allocated budget. 28 have committed less than 50%.

The following changes appear necessary:

- ① **To authorize recruitment of staff under KA3 budget**
 - Current rules are counterproductive and jeopardize full use of TCAs to support the programme

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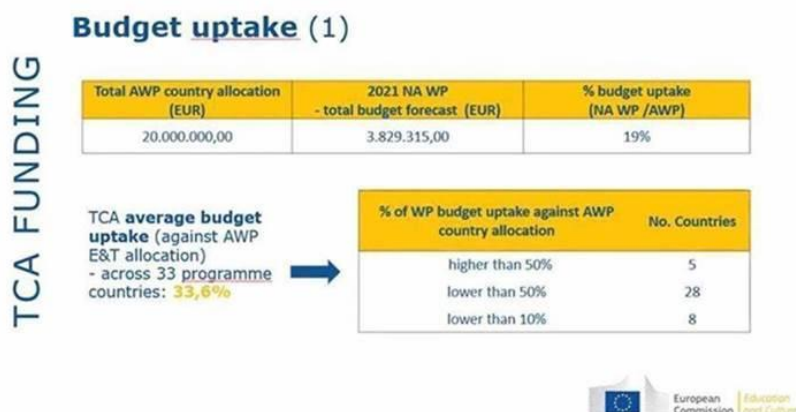
- NAs are force to choose between allocating staff to manage KA1/KA2 or allocating staff to management of TCAs => the only solution is to share TCAs activities between many NA staff that have several responsibilities (ie KA1 school coordinator and TCA officer) which is not efficient.
- TCA/LTA activities covers a variety of activities that require more than one person (promotion & communication staff, finance administration and support staff, strategy & policy staff).
- Coordination of LTAs requires full time professional project managers and supporting staff.
- As a comparison: for Erasmus+ VET Team of experts => staff costs is allowed.

② To remove the rule on restriction to finance only one NA Staff to take part in LTA/ TCA national, transnational events.

- Usually more than one NA Staff is needed as trainers / facilitators in TCA events.
- Project meetings are needed in LTAs projects and more than one NA staff is involved in LTAs in each NA in accordance with the topic.
- NA staff from KA1/KA2 units, is needed in TCA activities dealing with improving E+ projects management, and more than one NA Staff can be needed to attend events
- TCA officer meeting : participation should be eligible under TCA budget.
- TCA officer working group : costs of participation to the group meeting should be eligible.

③ To open TCA opportunities to strengthen international dimension of the programme.

- allowing the invitation of participants from non-Eu countries to TCAs dealing with supporting international dimension of E+ VET and HE (How can we promote international dimension which is new for VET, if we cannot support VET organization to get in touch with non-EU organizations ?)
- allowing the organization (at least by Programme countries) and participation of TCA events gathering EU and non-EU participants.



Source : Extract of the EC presentation during TCA officers' meeting, 2021