

Erasmus+ Coalition Meeting

ENGSO and ENGSO Youth participated in the meeting of the **Erasmus+ Coalition** (23rd September). Education, Youth and Sport policy updates were shared during the meeting, including the new **European Commission portfolio division**, the [Erasmus+ mid-term review](#), the next actions for the upcoming discussions on the [Multiannual Financial Framework](#) (MFF), and the adoption of [Erasmus+](#) and [European Solidarity Corps](#) Annual Work Programmes.

The meeting started with a brief overview of the mission letter of **Glenn Micallef**, the designated **Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Culture, Youth and Sport**, and **Roxana Minzatu**, designated Executive Vice-President for People, Skills and Preparedness, and **Commissioner for skills and education, quality jobs and social rights**. Whilst the first will seat within [DG EAC](#), the later will seat with [DG EMPL](#), and is yet soon to understand the eventual implications this division can play in the general oversight of the three Erasmus+ strands (Education, Youth and Sport).

Additionally, the European Solidarity Corps (**ESC**) programme is not mentioned in any of the mentioned mission letters to the Commissioners, which brings **added doubts** to the possible **merging** of the programme with Erasmus+ for the next generation of EU programmes post-2027. This touches precisely one of the main requests being prepared by the Erasmus+ coalition for the next MFF, namely, to keep both **ESC and Erasmus+ as two separate programmes**. The budget for the next Erasmus+ programme was also addressed, namely how much of an increase to the current budget should the Coalition push for in the negotiations, something that is currently being thought of as five times the current budget based on the recent "[Draggi's report](#)" on the "[Future of European Competitiveness](#)" (page 268).

Whilst the Coalition is preparing an overall strategy ahead of the upcoming MFF and EU programme negotiations, **ENGSO and ENGSO Youth are pushing for the inclusion of Operating Grants for Sport within such advocacy priorities**.

With regards to the Erasmus+ mid-term review, it is important to have in mind that the consultancy in charge of the evaluation report of the programme (ICF) delayed the publishing of the report (originally scheduled for August 2024) for Autumn 2024, whilst the publication of the European Commission evaluation should be delayed for early 2025. In the meantime, you can have a look at the [Lifelong Learning Platform implementation report](#) which draws some conclusions for the sport sector, namely:

- The transparency in certain funding calls for sports; where more alignment is also needed with the EU work plan on Sport. Organisations are noticing that although the focus should be on the grassroots level, more funding is going to already well-funded competitive sports and mega sporting events.
- **More opportunities for regranting and bigger umbrella organisations to act as intermediaries to real grassroots organisations** should also be explored. Similarly, grants for intermediaries could be an option for sport organisations like in other sectors (e.g. culture/ youth).
- Respondents suggested that civil society organisations should be more involved in consultations around the programme's structure. There were also some calls for simplifications (echoing the calls in the last report), for having fewer subsections and sub key-actions and more spaces for non-formal and informal education. Moreover, the **sport sector should be placed on an equal footing with the others and receive operating grants as well.**

Lastly, the adoption of the 2025 Erasmus+ and ESC Annual Work Programmes was delayed. Whilst such delay is expected to be swiftly overcome with the Erasmus+ 2025 annual work programme to be published soon, there are still doubts about how swiftly the ESC annual work programme will be approved.