



## STRUCTURED DIALOGUE: MEETINGS BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE AND DECISION-MAKERS IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

### WHAT IS THE AIM OF STRUCTURED DIALOGUE MEETINGS?

This Action promotes the active participation of young people in democratic life and fosters debate around topics centred on the themes and priorities set by the Structured Dialogue and the renewed political framework in the youth field. Structured Dialogue is the name used for discussions between young people and youth policy-makers in order to obtain results which are useful for policy-making. The debate is structured around priorities and timing and foresees events where young people discuss the agreed themes among themselves and with policy-makers, youth experts and representatives of public authorities in charge of youth. More information about Structured Dialogue is available on the European Commission's website.

### WHAT ARE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE MEETINGS?

Structured Dialogue projects can take the form of meetings, conferences, consultations and events. These events promote the active participation of young people in democratic life in Europe and their interaction with decision-makers. As a concrete result of these events, young people are able to make their voice heard (through the formulation of positions, proposals and recommendations) on how youth policies should be shaped and implemented in Europe.

A Structured Dialogue project has three phases:

- planning and preparation;
- implementation of the activities;
- evaluation (including reflection on a possible follow-up).

### WHICH ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED UNDER THIS ACTION?

Under this Action, a project can comprise one or more of the following activities:

- national meetings and transnational/international seminars that offer space for information, debate and active participation of young people – in dialogue with youth decision-makers - on issues which are relevant to Structured Dialogue or to the EU Youth Strategy;
- national meetings and transnational seminars that prepare the ground for the official Youth Conferences organised during each semester by the Member State holding the turn of Presidency of the European Union;
- events that promote debates and information on youth policy themes linked to the activities organised during the European Youth Week;
- consultations of young people, with a view to find out their needs on matters relating to participation in democratic life (online consultations, opinion polls, etc.);
- meetings and seminars, information events or debates between young people and decision-makers/youth experts around the theme of participation in democratic life;
- events simulating the functioning of the democratic institutions and the roles of decision-makers within these institutions.

The activities are led by young people; the young participants must be actively involved in all the stages of the project, from preparation to follow-up. Non-formal learning principles and practices are reflected throughout the implementation project.

The following activities are not eligible for grants under Structure Dialogue: statutory meetings of organisations or networks of organisations; politically influenced events.

### WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA USED TO ASSESS THIS PROJECT?

Here below are listed the formal criteria that the project must respect in order to be eligible for an Erasmus+ grant:

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

<p><b>Eligible participating organisations</b></p>	<p>A participating organisation can be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a non-profit organisation, association, NGO;</li> <li>▪ a European Youth NGO;</li> <li>▪ a public body at local or regional level;</li> </ul> <p>established in a Programme Country or in a Partner Country neighbouring the EU (regions 1 to 4; see section "Eligible Countries" in Part A of this Guide). Organisations from eligible Partner Countries can only take part in the project as partners (not as applicants).</p>
<p><b>Who can apply?</b></p>	<p>Any participating organisation established in a Programme Country can be the applicant. In case of projects realised by two or more participating organisations, one of the organisations applies on behalf of all participating organisations involved in the project.</p>
<p><b>Number of participating organisations</b></p>	<p>Transnational/International meetings: the activity must involve at least two participating organisations from at least two different countries, of which at least one is a Programme Country.</p> <p>National meetings: the activity involves at least one organisation from a Programme Country.</p>
<p><b>Eligible participants</b></p>	<p>Young participants: young people aged between 13 and 30 resident in the countries involved in the project.</p> <p>Decision-makers: if the project foresees the participation of decision-makers or experts in the youth policy field, these participants can be involved regardless of their age and geographical provenance.</p>
<p><b>Number of participants</b></p>	<p>Minimum 30 young participants must be involved in the project.</p>
<p><b>Venue(s)</b></p>	<p>National meetings: the activity must take place in the country of the applicant organisation.</p> <p>Transnational/international meetings: the activities may take place in any of the Programme Countries involved in the activity.</p> <p><u>Exception:</u> Only in duly justified cases and if the main activity includes elements of dialogue with decision-makers at European level, an activity can take place at the seat of an Institution of the European Union<sup>158</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Duration of project</b></p>	<p>From 3 to 24 months.</p>
<p><b>Where to apply?</b></p>	<p>To the National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established.</p>
<p><b>When to apply?</b></p>	<p>Applicants have to submit their grant application by the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>2 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time)</b> for projects starting between 1 May and 30 September of the same year;</li> <li>▪ <b>26 April at 12:00 (midday Brussels time)</b> for projects starting between 1 August and 31 December of the same year;</li> <li>▪ <b>4 October at 12:00 (midday Brussels time)</b> for projects starting between 1 January and 31 May of the following year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How to apply?</b></p>	<p>Please see Part C of this Guide for details on how to apply.</p>

Applicant organisations will be assessed against the relevant **exclusion and selection criteria**. For more information please consult Part C of this Guide.

<sup>158</sup> Seats of the Institutions of the European Union are Brussels, Frankfurt, Luxembourg, Strasbourg and The Hague.

**AWARD CRITERIA**

Projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

<p><b>Relevance of the project (maximum 30 points)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The relevance of the proposal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the objectives and priorities of the Action (Please see section "What are the aims of structured dialogue meetings?" above );</li> <li>- the needs and objectives of the participating organisations and of the individual participants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The extent to which the proposal is suitable of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- producing high-quality outcomes for participants;</li> <li>- reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The extent to which the project involves young people with fewer opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Quality of the project design and implementation (maximum 40 points)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The clarity, completeness and quality of all the phases of the project proposal (preparation, implementation of mobility activities, and follow-up);</li> <li>▪ The consistency between project objectives and activities proposed;</li> <li>▪ The quality of the practical arrangements, management and support modalities ;</li> <li>▪ The quality of the non-formal learning participative methods proposed and the active involvement of young people during all the stages of the project;</li> <li>▪ The appropriateness of measures for selecting and/or involving participants in the activities;</li> <li>▪ The extent to which the project proposal involves relevant decision makers (policy-makers, youth experts, representatives of public authorities in charge of youth, etc.);</li> <li>▪ If appropriate, the quality of cooperation and communication between the participating organisations, as well as with other relevant stakeholders .</li> </ul>
<p><b>Impact and dissemination (maximum 30 points)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The quality of measures for evaluating the outcomes of the project;</li> <li>▪ The potential impact of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on participants and participating organisations during and after the project lifetime ;</li> <li>- outside the organisations and individuals directly participating in the project at local, regional, national and/or European levels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The appropriateness and quality of measures aimed at disseminating the outcomes of the project within and outside the participating organisations;</li> <li>▪ If relevant, the extent to which the proposal describes how the materials, documents and media produced will be made freely available and promoted through open licences, and does not contain disproportionate limitations.</li> </ul>

To be considered for funding, proposals must score at least 60 points. Furthermore, they must score at least half of the maximum points in each of the categories of award criteria mentioned above (i.e. minimum 15 points for the categories "relevance of the project" and "impact and dissemination"; 20 points for the category "quality of the project design and implementation").

## **WHAT ELSE YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS ACTION?**

### **PARTICIPANTS FROM/TO OUTERMOST REGIONS AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES**

In line with the Regulation establishing the Erasmus+ Programme, which calls on taking into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of the outermost regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the Union when implementing the Programme, special funding rules are set in order to support expensive travel costs of participants from/to outermost regions and OCTs insufficiently covered by the the standard funding rules (based on contribution to unit costs per travel distance band).

Applicants of mobility projects will be allowed to claim financial support for travel costs of participants from/to outermost regions and OCTs under the budget heading "exceptional costs" (up to a maximum of 80% of total eligible costs: see "What are the funding rules?"). This would be allowed provided that applicants can justify that the standard funding rules (based on contribution to unit costs per travel distance band) do not cover at least 70% of the travel costs of participants.