

Memo – WG meeting – 28 October 2019

Participants:

WG: Carmel Walsh; Daniela Ermini; Gaelle Bozec; Ingrid Gran; Janelle Camilleri; Judith Dayus; Monika Held; Sara Southam; Teresa Nogueiro

SALTO E&T RC: Anett Almássy, Edina Balogh, Julianna Lukács, Katalin Albrecht-Garai, Kriszta Molnár

EC: Marie Colombani

Facilitator: Zóra Csalagovits

1. Welcome and introduction of SALTO E&T team:
 - Thanked the participation and contribution of the WG and EC. Introduced the SALTO team, further reference can be found at <https://salto-et.net/publisher/page/colleagues>.
2. Skype discussion with the new DG EAC Desk officer; Marie Colombani responsible for National Agencies Sector in Erasmus+ Coordination
 - Welcomed the participants and the opportunity for collaboration. Shared all relevant information regarding TCAs and answered all queries regarding the future Erasmus+ programme and EC IT tools.

Future programme (quoted from her letter):

- I encourage you to consult the **fiches for TCAs** in the future programme, as drafted before the last NA event (presented at Directors' session). See pages 38-43 of [this document](#) on NAconneCT.
- **Training and Cooperation Activities** would remain an activity in strong support of programme implementation.
- The activity would fall under **Key Action 3**, with 2 preliminarily identified activities: “quality of programme implementation”; “contributions to policy cooperation”, and a greater place left for national activities with a European added-value.
- Because the Commission is building partnerships of trust in the long term with National Agencies, and because we have identified the need for simplification in the current programme, the model would shift towards the introduction of **simplified costs**
- (most likely lump sums) and allow for greater **focus on results meeting their objectives** and on the assessment of **quality of the activities offered**.

- The definition of future activities and networks is still a **work in progress** (fiches are subject to evolutions).
- You (as SALTO or WG) are more than welcome to participate in the **co-creation process**, elaborate on suggestions and send them to me.
- If there are specific national concerns (i.e. the case of Norway or Ireland), you can write to me and cc your desk officer. We will be involved in internal working groups of the Commission where those concerns can be relayed.

Specific questions/concerns raised during our Q&A (to be followed up on):

- Taking into account national specificities (e.g. Ireland's geography) in the elaboration of the simplified cost.
- Balance between national and transnational activities (fixed ratios?) (UK).
- Link between simplified costs on the one hand, and the distinction between hosting and sending costs on the other hand (Norway).
- Division of competences between SALTOs (geographical and thematic) in relation to TCAs (Germany - Schools).
- The NA Director's meeting and the Stakeholders' event can be good occasions to talk about TCAs and SALTOs on the side of the programme, however we foresee that the **TCA seminar next Spring is a better alternative for dedicated talks**.
- The communication about the future programme targeted at potential beneficiaries of the programme, can constitute a **TCA in the 2020 Work Programme** (without it being an obligation). If needed, it will be possible to amend the 2020 TCAs Programmes until 31/12/2020.

IT tools:

- EPlusLink: the **release 5.1** on 24 January 2019 was accompanied by a webinar session on 31 January 2014. You can rewatch the webinar [here](#), consult the accompanying PowerPoint (see attached to this e-mail) and consult the updated documentation on NAconnECT [here](#) that is specific to TCAs.

3. Presentation on recent SALTO E&T website development

- Online application for participants – Q2 2019. Showed statistics.
- Outcomes – Q3 2019
- Extended Partner application; also available in „Public” event status – Q3 2019
- Text editing function – Q3 2019
- New fields on event template (Key Action, attachable documents under TCA programme) – Q3 2019
- Good Practice – Q3 2019

- Messages update (sort, filter, delete) – Q3 2019
 - E+ Academy (label and search) – Q4 2019
4. Presentation on future SALTO E&T platform development
- Evaluation– Q4 2019
 - Follow up – Q4 2019
 - Export of TCA event, applications – Q4 2019
 - Job shadowing for NA members – Q4 2019 – Q1 2020. Collected possible topics for jobshadowing, e.g. newcomers, cross sectorial activities, etc.
 - Forum for registered TCA officers/NA staff – Q4 2019 – Q1 2020
 - Expert pool – Q4 2019 – Q1 2020
 - Mobile friendly site for applicants – 2020
 - News portal – 2020
 - Notification system – 2020

5. Taking stock of realized TCAs 2014-2018

Aims of the study:

- summarizing the results of the TCAs that took place between the project rounds of 2014 – 2018;
- drawing conclusions for the upcoming period in order to raise the quality and the impact of the TCAs.

Conclusions so far:

- TCA activities attracted almost **12 000 participants** from the **hosting** and almost **6000 people** on the **sending** side. It is a good first result.
- NAs use different approach when they define the advantage of TCAs – **TCA is a flexible tool**.
- Almost all the NAs were active in the hosting role - TCA is an attractive and useful tool from the NAs' perspective.
- TCAs fully or partially can reach their set aims according to the NAs.
- How on a 5-point scale do the TCAs serve the original aim? 4 on average.
- EplusLink is a weak point: definitions and clarifications are needed.
- Several anomalies in the system
- Definitions are missing

- The elements of the TCA lifecycle are not interlinked.
- The registered data are hardly can help to define the TCAs' impact.
- There are no indicators to measure the success of TCAs.
- High level of administration vs small-scale „projects” (individual agreements).
- Tendency that working on TCA is fragmented both in terms of time and personnel.
- Most NAs can spend less than 1 % of the available TCA budget.

6. Steps forward:

- Select the date for the spring TCA officers' meeting on Doodle. SALTO E&T will send the Doodle poll in the next two weeks.
- Form a preparation group by end of November for the TCA officers' meeting. Invited Judith Dayus as former host of the event to pass experiences, and welcome all volunteers.
- **WG members to submit their recommendations by 7th November** regarding research of TCA results.
- **WG members to submit their comments/recommendations regarding the fiche for TCA and SALTO by 22nd November.** You can find the fiche for “FUTURE ERASMUS GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS” linked [here./](#) ([downloaded here](#))
- Follow up with possible hosts (IT02/DE03) for the next autumn f2f WG meeting.
- SALTO E&T will publish the next WG call for 2 people in February 2020, WG will be involved in evaluating received applications.
- Presentations are available on SALTO platform