Research results

Taking stock of TCAs 2019-2023 by SALTO TCA E&T







Erasmus+

Successes

Successful quality improvement and promotion of policy objectives

- According to the conclusions
 TCAs play a stratgic role in
 promoting quality in Erasmus+.
- "Without TCAs NAs would have fewer tools for improving project quality and creating connections between national and European policies." (NA Interviewee)



SALTO E&T TCA Resource Centre

SALTO E&T TCA Resource Centre successfully supports NAs in TCA implementation, providing stable process support and being highly valued by TCA Officers.



Growth and participation

Over the past five years, a significant increase occured in the number of TCA events and participants. Events have increased by 80%, with approx. 17,000 participants in TCAs.



Cross-sectoral cooperation

The proportion of events organised in cross-sectoral cooperation has almost doubled (from 22 to 37%), demonstrating the effectiveness and diversity of TCAs.



National TCAs and LTAs in E&T

National TCAs and LTAs play an important role in the programme helping National Agencies achieve long-term strategic objectives and implement national E+ priorities.



Operational framework

is more flexible and expanding, some examples: introduction of LTA, national TCA in E&T, 15% staff cost, national staff participation in TCAs, changes in WP and YR, etc.



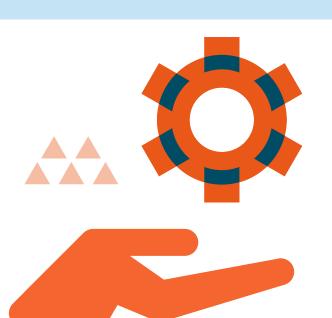
Challenges and opportunities



Challenges

Administration

- Administrative burden of travel arrangements, financial accounting and reporting requirements were a major challenge for National Agencies (real cost vs lump sum, NAM, YR overlaps)
- National regulation makes it more difficult



Database limitations

Although there was a transition during the covered period, central databases do not always contain complete, accurate and transparent data, limiting programme evaluation and impact assessments.



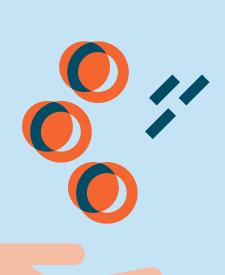
Human resources

- National Agencies still have a shortage of human resources for TCA, although the situation has improved in recent years, e.g. with 15% staff cost.
 - 1. In many NAs the role of TCA officers is mainly administrative and not all agencies have a full-time TCA officer. (58-42% part-full time rate)
 - 2. High turnover: about half of them has been working as TCA officer for less than 2 years.

Opportunities

Budget

- Funding frameworks need to be more flexible to support the work of National Agencies.
- Use of financial resources has improved a lot, but there are further opportunities. Progress: 2021:33%-2024: 66% (youth sector 93%)



Database

Improving the transparency of databases possibly with extending the SALTO Platform with additional data collection functions is suggested.



Impact assessment

- The impact of TCAs should be assessed within the Erasmus+ programme.
- This requires the development of impact assessment frameworks, in which national "experimentation" and local organisational learning play an important role too.
- To ensure measurability, National Agencies should define their own medium and long-term TCA indicators.

Organizational learning

- TCAs offer significant individual and organisational learning potential for National Agencies. Strategic thinking, joint planning and decision-making, international cooperation develop the organisational competencies of NAs and staff.
- LTAs allow National Agencies to gain project management experience, which contributes to organisational learning and development.