

Questions Round Tables *Erasmus, active engagement, and European citizenship*

19/12/2022

14.30 – 15.15

A.1. Why are active engagement and European citizenship important today?

1. Why are civic, social, and political engagement important for the European project?

(e.g. to stimulate responsible and critical forms of citizenship, to expand knowledge of the EU, to further forms of tolerance and solidarity, to overcome nationalist, closed visions of identity)

2. How do you think active civic engagement and political participation effectively/in practice help to address the main challenges to European integration?

(as, e.g., in the rise of intolerance, discrimination, hate speech, authoritarianism, nationalism)

<p>Ask participants to think about this for a few minutes and to write down their views and comments</p>

A.2. Civic and political knowledge of the European project

1. What forms of practical engagement and participation (in social, political, civic terms) are you aware of?

2. What do you know about existing democratic channels/instruments for engagement and participation in the EU?

How well-known are these instruments, do you think? Do these channels stimulate to participate (if so, how)?

And how does the Erasmus+ programme relate to EU instruments of participation?

(e.g. European Citizens' Initiative; right to petition, public consultations, European Ombudsman, Conference on the Future of Europe/Citizens' Assemblies)

3. Are you aware of distinctively European, transnational forms of cooperation, engagement (thus, not reducible to a specific domestic context, home country or host country, but transcending borders)?

15.15 – 16.00

Start with Part B on Erasmus+ Programme (facilitator chooses with which topic to start (mobility, civic and social engagement, political participation, European citizenship education))

16.00 – 16.15 Break

NB.

After Break

16.15-16.45

In part B, it is in particular important to stimulate:

- a. a focussed discussion on existing practices/"best practices"
- b. a focussed discussion on solutions, propositions, ideas for change

16.45-17.00

c. Vote ("hands up") – per group – the two or three best or most promising propositions/solutions/ideas that have emerged in the discussion (a number of proposals/solutions needs to be selected by the rapporteur and facilitator)

B. Erasmus+ programme, civic engagement and active citizenship

B1. Mobility and engagement

[in particular to Alumni, Ambassadors]

1. How may student mobility be a trigger to transform the mobility experience into engagement?
2. How can we capitalise on previous experiences of mobile students to invite them to get engaged into alumni/ambassadors' networks?
3. What may be good conditions to facilitate engagement? Do you have tips to engage others?
4. On what specific topics/in which particular areas do you think it is important to develop engagement? (e.g. inclusion, ecological transition, media criticism, democracy, human rights)?
5. If you have been yourself active as alumni or role model, did your engagement lead to a change in your vision of the world, your role in the society or in your school?

B2. Social and civic engagement

1. How does 'Social Erasmus' - such as volunteering in local/host communities, community work, service learning - *concretely* enhance active and European citizenship?
2. How could the active citizenship dimensions of Erasmus be improved through social and 'extra-curricular' activities? Which activities are most important? How is the European dimension enhanced?
3. How to bring about the valorisation of students' extra-curricular activities? Can the recognition of these activities be a lever for engagement?
4. How can the acquisition of social, intercultural and linguistic skills contribute to the construction of a European identity, a sense of belonging, the feeling to be "united in diversity"?
5. What kind of actions can be implemented to develop these competencies?
(e.g. by means of an education structure, by an alumni network)

B3. Political engagement and European citizenship

1. How do you perceive of European citizenship? What does political participation mean to you?
2. What are for you the core components of EU citizenship? And how can you envisage to strengthen these?

For example:
 - a. Formal rights (e.g. to vote; mobility)
 - b. Ability to work and collaborate with others
 - c. Appreciation of cultural diversity
 - d. Civil mindedness
 - e. Critical reflection
 - f. Inter-cultural competence
 - g. Openness to change
3. In which ways does the Erasmus+ programme relate to political participation? Which programmes/projects are most important in this regard?
4. In what ways do specific Erasmus+ projects help to stimulate political participation? Are you aware of any best practices in this sense? Do you want to share concrete examples?

For example:

- Political and social debate with family, friends, other students
 - Political behaviour (voting)
 - Engagement in (political) events (e.g. at the university)
 - Engagement in community activities
 - Engagement in political activities or civil society
 - Engagement in European politics
5. How may participation in a mobility experience can strengthen students' willingness to participate in democratic life?
 6. In which concrete ways could a better knowledge of the EU be helpful to reinforce European identity? How does a better knowledge of the EU influence participation in democratic life?

B4. European citizenship education

1. Are you aware of examples (courses, projects, events) in the Erasmus+ programme which aim at developing:

- Enhancement of political/civic awareness of participants
- Training of participants in democratic participation or 'citizen lobbying'?
- Training of teachers/processors
- Development of specific modules
- Understanding of EU democracy and its institutions/instruments?
- Understandings of EU citizenship?
- Critical mindset/pro-active political/societal attitudes?

2. Are you able to indicate successful examples or best practices in terms of European citizenship education?

3. What may be the role of digital instruments/platforms/E-learning in stimulating engagement and cross-border debates?

4. How can we capitalise on the openness of European mobility experience to raise awareness of the diversity of media content, in the fight against disinformation?

5. What are the main (potential) obstacles in the Erasmus+ programme in terms of stimulating active engagement?

For example: Lack of integration of participants with local community; Short period of staying abroad; Lack of attention in programme to issues of citizenship

6. Which are the core skills to be learned with regard to active citizenship in Europe?

7. Do you have suggestions for novel, innovative ways of stimulating active engagement through the Erasmus programme? In what way might national agencies work together to develop new methods/instruments?