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TCA International - **Synergy of funds**

# Why is important to implement projects in synergy with funds

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## Introduction

*“Synergy between funds is of **central importance in the present historical phase**, characterized by unprecedented European allocations to Member States”*

2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

Competitiveness



Employment



Economic growth



*"Cooperation with other Union instruments and support for other Union policies, including **support for activities aimed at promoting synergies and complementarities with other Union and national instruments**, and promoting cooperation with the structures implementing such instruments."*

**Article 3(5)** of Erasmus+ Regulation 2021/817

*"In order to optimize the added value of investments fully or partially financed by the Union's budget, **it is advisable to seek synergies**, particularly between the program and other Union programs, including funds managed under shared management. To make the most of these synergies, **it is important to ensure essential facilitation mechanisms, including the cumulative financing of an action under the program and another Union program**, provided that such cumulative financing does not exceed the total eligible costs of the action. To this end, this regulation should establish appropriate rules, particularly with regard to the possibility of proportionally declaring the same cost or expense to both the program and another Union Program"*

**Article 61** of Erasmus+ Regulation 2021/817

## Why synergies are important

Avoid duplication



Ensure that funds are not spent twice on the same objective



Facilitate cooperation



Stimulate new ideas and innovative solutions



Strengthen impacts



Enhance results, improve cohesion and support sustainable development



Combine resources



Mix different funds to finance complex and multidisciplinary projects



Facilitate access to funds



Simplify access to different funding programs for beneficiaries



## The role of Erasmus+ National Agencies



Implement decentralized actions of the Erasmus programme

Carry out both general and annual management reporting activities



Choose projects and provide information to potential beneficiaries

Raise awareness, share results, and track program progress



DG EAC entrusts the budget implementation functions of the Erasmus programme to the National Agencies **to ensure greater proximity to the needs of the territories and the different national education training and youth systems.**

## Why synergy is important for Erasmus+ Programme: limits of Erasmus+ Programme

Limited resources

Growing resources, but limited in relation to demand

«Past performance» criteria

Limit for *new comers*

Exempt categories even with top-up

The issue of waivers (ante e post)

Mismatched support services

Difficulties in integration with the local area

Residential issues

Specific difficulties for students on mobility

Low cultural propensity for internationalisation

Families with low inclination towards international mobility

## Benefits of projects funded by sources other than Erasmus+

Targeted actions for categories of beneficiaries

Flexibility about Erasmus+ rules

Focused communication and support activities

Support for infrastructure projects

Selection of cooperation countries

New comers institutions and social inclusion

Es. University residences: social inclusion and integration with local area

Strengthened international ties

## How INDIRE is advancing strategies

Contact and collaboration with national and local Managing Authorities and with policymakers



Use TCA as a tool to improve dialogue and discuss synergies between different funds



Extensive presence and local support



Networks of Ambassadors, Alumni and Role Models to promote the Agency's programmes, support beneficiaries and stakeholders and foster synergies between Erasmus+ and other funds



An integrated database in continuous evolution



Integration of the Agency's data (Erasmus, eTwinning, INDIRE) with Open Data (Open Coesione). Willingness to integrate with regional and private sector data for a shared analysis



## How National Agencies can create synergies

National Agency as an **Implementing Body** (e.g., NRRP).

**Role:** National Agency is responsible for the direct implementation of specific projects, such as those related to the PNRR (National Recovery and Resilience Plan).

### Responsibilities:

**Manage the design and execution** of training and mobility activities.



**Collect data and results** to report on progress and effectiveness of initiatives



**Collaborate with the Ministry of Education** to implement the planned measures



## How National Agencies can create synergies

National Agency as an **Intermediate Body** (e.g., Sicilian Region).

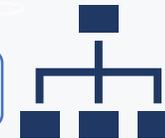
**Role:** National Agency acts as an intermediary between European funds and local beneficiaries (such as regions).

### Responsibilities:

Manage and distribute the funds received from EU



Provide technical and training support to beneficiaries



Monitor and evaluate funded projects to ensure proper use of funds



## How National Agencies can create synergies

National Agencies as **catalysts** for **collaboration with private entities**

**Role:** in the context of synergies with private entities, National Agencies (NAs) play an important role not as an implementing or intermediate body, but more as a facilitator or connector. Their role involves creating opportunities for collaboration between Erasmus+ beneficiaries and private sector entities

### Responsibilities:

**Facilitate collaboration** between different funding sources



**Develop shared strategies** to address local needs in an integrated manner



Create a network of partnerships to maximize the impact of initiatives



## Challenges of National Agencies to optimize Erasmus+ implementation



- **Increasing funds**, but still limited compared to demand
- **«Past Performance» criterion**: a barrier for newcomers
- **Certain groups excluded** event with the top-up (issue of withdrawals)
- **Uneven support services across regions** (insufficient support → challenges that discourage participation to reduce socio-cultural integration)
- **Housing issues**, especially for mobile students
- Geographical areas **with low cultural inclination towards internationalisation**

## Needs of National Agencies to optimize Erasmus+ implementation

- Increased and more flexible funding
- Streamlined processes and improved digital tools
- **Ongoing training and capacity-building programs** for new beneficiaries
- **Stronger networks and improved communication channels** with stakeholders
- **Advanced data collection, monitoring, and evaluation systems**
- **Multilingual resources and intercultural training**
- **Enhanced outreach strategies and partnerships** to engage a broader range of stakeholder



## Strategic synergies: solutions to overcome obstacles in Erasmus+ implementation

Enhance public-private partnerships

Focus on long-term sustainability

Leverage other EU Funding Programmes

Stronger stakeholder engagement



Improved capacity building and training

Improved support services for beneficiaries

Digital tools and data integration

# Thank you!