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TCA International - **Synergy of funds**

How to address the critical issues arising from projects in synergy of funds

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Why is fund synergy important in Italy's School and HE sectors?

Although Erasmus funding has increased significantly in the new programme, there are still critical points in the programme:

Less than 3% of students enrolled in higher education institutions participate annually in mobility programmes.



They are mainly young people attending prestigious universities and coming from well-off families already open to internationalization.

Very often, even with the top-up, the scholarship is not sufficient for young people in disadvantaged situations to participate in the programme.

About half of Italian schools have never participated in Erasmus programmes.



Often, the schools that do not participate are located in peripheral, inland or mountainous areas—regions that would greatly benefit from greater openness to Europe and internationalization.

What are the benefits of a Fund Synergy Project?

Targeted actions for beneficiary categories and geographical areas

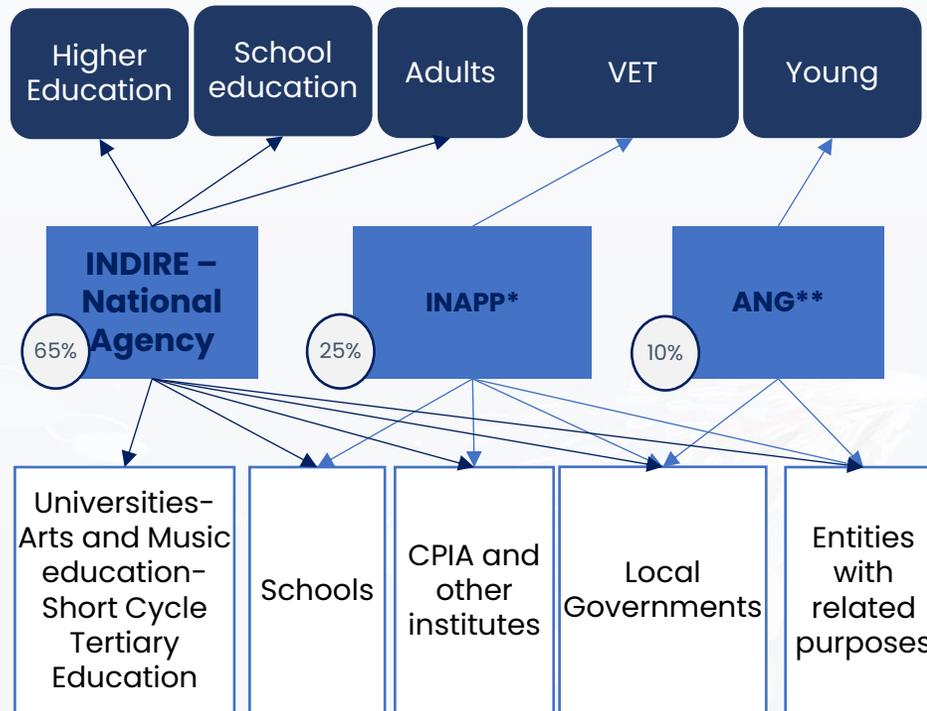
More Flexibility vs Erasmus rules

Focused communication and support activities

New comers institutions and social inclusion

THE ITALIAN CONTEXT | A complex administrative set up

Erasmus+ Programme in Italy



* INAPP – National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies
 ** ANG – Italian Youth Agency

ESF in Italy

In Italy, EFS are **managed both at a national and regional levels**. This approach brings to an environment characterized by the involvement and commitment of numerous local governments.



Central Managing Authorities
 Regional Managing Authorities

Issues/ challenges that come up to combine different funding sources

1. Contacts/Collaboration with Managing Authorities

In Italy, the ESF is managed by numerous Managing Authorities at both national and regional levels. **Often, National Authorities are not familiar with the Managing Authorities** and there are limited opportunities for direct contact.

How to solve it?



INDIRE uses TCA to establish connections with local areas, meet, and begin collaborating with local stakeholders, including political decision-makers and Managing Authorities.



Through mutual understanding and joint analysis of the local context, synergetic projects can emerge, leveraging the combined potential of different Funds.



Issues/ challenges that come up to combine different funding sources

2. Implementation modalities

Once an agreement on the project is reached, there is difficulty in defining **how to allocate the funds to the National Agency** for management and, consequently, in defining its role.

This is due to the **lack of clarity in the regulations**, particularly regarding the definition of what, in our view, represents the most suitable role for the successful implementation of a project: the Intermediate Body for ESF.

How to solve it?



A clearer stance from the European Commission would be essential to move forward.

We are building a track record that facilitates the decision-making process, but **resistance persists**.



Issues/ challenges that come up to combine different funding sources

3. Lack of Expertise

Managing projects with multiple funding sources is complex and requires **expertise in financial management, regulatory compliance and coordination.** Without this knowledge, organizations may struggle to meet administrative and reporting requirements, leading to inefficiencies or compliance risks.



When defining a project in synergy with another fund, it is essential **to provide a Technical Assistance budget** to manage these activities.



The best approach is to assign the management to the Agency, which will allocate the available funds to hire external personnel with specific expertise in technical support. Involving current team members is not an option. The Agency's role will be to ensure effective collaboration between the two teams while efficiently managing the financial resources to bring in experts skilled in handling multiple funding streams.



Any questions?

Thank you for your attention!