

CONTENTS SUMMARY OF THE KEYNOTE

‘Turbocharging Erasmus+ Youth in Action – what can be learned from research for the new generation?’

A // FIVE ASPECTS TO MAINTAIN

- 1. E+/YiA is intercultural learning at its best: a safe space to encounter differences with positive curiosity and explore them through constructive discourse and exchange.**
The programme, across formats and beneficiaries, is an excellent framework for inter-cultural dialogue and intercultural learning. It strengthens the appreciation of cultural diversity among project participants, and promotes active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity within and beyond Europe.
- 2. E+/YiA is the most important European powerhouse for enhancing youth work at local, regional and national level with an international dimension.**
The programme, across countries and contexts, is the most significant and most accessible opportunity for youth workers and youth leaders at local, regional or national level to bring an international dimension to their projects and programmes, in particular through capacity building, cooperation and mobility.
- 3. E+/YiA is a crucial training ground for new youth leaders, youth trainers and youth workers on key aspects, such as the principles of youth work.**
The programme offers a variety of training formats, which build the capacity of youth leaders, youth trainers and youth workers, who become more competent and more confident, widen and strengthen their networks, and get better at running participatory youth projects with an intercultural and international dimension.
- 4. E+/YiA empowers young people and youth professionals by drawing on non-formal learning as the basis for its educational approach.**
The programme successfully draws on and promotes the principles of non-formal learning, such as participatory learning approaches and peer learning settings; provides arenas to practice and experience citizenship, democracy and participation; and stimulates communities of practice that often persist beyond projects.
- 5. E+/YiA attracts and supports a healthy mix of novice and veteran youth professionals with a rich diversity of organisational backgrounds.**
The programme respects the diversity of youth work across Europe, caters to a wide variety of target groups – from youth trainers and youth workers to youth activists and youth leaders and youth researchers and policymakers – and utilises the richness of the youth sector as a learning tool to build capacity as well as empathy.

B // FIVE ASPECTS TO IMPROVE

- 1. E+/YiA needs to get better at building a recognition that goes beyond mobility.**
While most projects strengthen, either directly or indirectly, active citizenship and youth participation, most beneficiaries are not aware that the programme seeks to support democratic citizenship and participation in civil society and democratic life – in part because the underlying concepts remain either unexplained or too abstract.



- 2. E+/YiA needs to get better at training experienced youth professionals.**
While the training of new youth leaders, youth trainers and youth workers is a strength of the programme, the training of experienced youth professionals is a profound weakness. There is a lack of advanced training offers for youth work and youth policy experts – on a diversity of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours.
- 3. E+/YiA needs to get better at developing modern tools for Youthpass.**
While Youthpass works well as a tool to document as well as recognise learning out-comes, it is increasingly met with expectations by a generation of young people that is used to accessible online tools, gamification and badges – and who expect and demand visibility and shareability of their learning achievements.
- 4. E+/YiA needs to get better at strengthening, and reproducing, diversity.**
While the programme works well for the young people with fewer opportunities that it manages to involve, it remains overproportionately attractive for highly educated young people. Moreover, project leaders tend to overestimate how many young people with fewer opportunities are involved – and tend to underestimate their needs.
- 5. E+/YiA needs to get better at organising meaningful policy dialogue.**
While the programme invests strategically into structured dialogue, the associated project formats remain the least successful and most critically evaluated across the board. At least one crucial question remains unanswered, namely how to attract policy makers to join structured dialogue activities – and allow for an actual dialogue.

C // FIVE ASPECTS TO INTRODUCE

- 1. E+/YiA needs new formats to address current social and political developments.**
Our research shows that project participants are shaken by current social and political developments, leading to concerns, doubts, uncertainties and anxieties. The programme needs new formats that explicitly address current social and political developments – and capacity building for the youth sector to implement such formats.
- 2. E+/YiA needs new tools that help the transfer of learning into organisations.**
Strengthening the role of youth (work) organisations as support structures for young people is already one of the key aims of the current programme generation. Our research shows that the transfer of the professional development of individuals into organisations is often absent – and where it happens, it is typically fragmented and often fragile.
- 3. E+/YiA needs new instruments that help organisations to grow and professionalise.**
Over time, Erasmus+ has increasingly offered application strands, such as strategic part-nerships, that depend on a certain size, stability and professionalism of applying orga-nisations. Many youth sector organisations struggle to successfully apply in such strands – and can neither benefit more from nor contribute more to the programme.
- 4. E+/YiA needs new ideas to address the gap between digitalisation and youth work.**
Digitalisation plays only a minor role in the current programme generation, whether in mobility or capacity building formats. While the topic has enjoyed increasing political attention, our research shows that youth professionals largely remain distanced to digital practices – with the gap between young people’s realities and youth work growing.
- 5. E+/YiA needs new approaches to the recognition of youth sector professionals.**
Our research shows that experienced youth leaders, youth trainers and youth workers not only seek advanced training offers that further develop their competence and provide them with a space to explore the ambiguity, ethics and values of their work. They also seek recognition – something a *Youth Work Pass* could provide.