The Romanian National Agency perspective on the Covid 19 pandemic impact on the Erasmus+ learning mobilities and the ability of its staff to overcome it

Seminar
Evidence-based approach in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps. Research in the time of the pandemic
27 October 2021, Warsaw
**What?** *(research question)*

To what extent has the Erasmus+ programme and NA’s staff members helped beneficiary institutions/organisations to overcome the adverse effects of the global crisis?

**Why?**

Strict lockdowns and school/university closures affected the learning/teaching/training environment.

**How?**

By rolling out two national surveys.
The 1st survey was rolled out in May 2020 and 2880+ representatives of Erasmus+ partnership projects were targeted. 821 respondents filled out the questionnaire which gave a response rate of 28.50%.

**To what extent do the Erasmus+ projects you are implementing enhance your ITC and e-learning approach?**

- To a large extent: 82%
- To some extent: 15%
- To a moderate extent: 2%
- I don’t know/I can’t appreciate: 1%
There are significant activity types that respondents had implemented at the institutional level by using ITC skills and abilities acquired through implementing Erasmus+ projects.
Main activities to draw on ITC competences acquired through Erasmus+ projects

- Training activities: 499
- Management: 638
- Internal communication: 698
- Current activities in formal & non-formal contexts: 720
- Dissemination & exploitation of project's results: 733
The 2\textsuperscript{nd} survey rolled out in December 2020 and 8800+ representatives of Erasmus+ESC projects were targeted. 5712 respondents filled out the questionnaire which gave a response rate of 64.90%.

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<th>Extra Covid 19 pandemic related questions were added to the 2020 external beneficiaries’ satisfaction longitudinal survey to find out:</th>
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<td>A. to what extent the scheduled activities within the Erasmus+ projects for all five sectors (School Education, Higher Education, VET, Adult Education and Youth) and ESC have been affected.</td>
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<td>B. to what degree has the appreciation of the external beneficiaries changed concerning the ability of the National Agency staff to overcome any issues that may have arisen during the projects' implementation due to the Covid 19 pandemic crisis.</td>
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Findings from Question A:

Changes in the mobility projects due to the Covid 19 pandemic:

- Mobilities were postponed: 43%
- Mobilities were realised with no changes against the approved project: 26%
- Mobilities were replaced by online learning activities organised by the receiving organisation: 21%
- Mobilities were replaced by blended learning mobilities organised by the receiving organisation: 10%
How did the approved activities change within the partnership project's implementation plan?

- All 2020 activities were "frozen" 29%
- Some offline activities moved to online 44%
- Other situation 13%
- No changes occurred to the approved activities 14%
Findings from Question B:

- The average degree of the perception of the openness, approachability and promptness in helping out or offering clear and concrete answers of the National Agency staff was **4.68 points out of 5**.

- It can be considered that the global health crisis and its negative effects have had a reduced influence on the external beneficiaries’ perception when comparing this result with that of **4.64 points**, expressed for the same indicator in 2019.
To conclude:

➢ The Erasmus+ programme and its managing agency continue to have a positive impact on the Romanian education and training system despite the Covid 19 pandemic and its severe effects.
➢ The Erasmus+ programme is highly valued as it is the major if not the only sponsor for the learning mobilities in Romania.
Q&A
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