



2023/2129(DEC)

6.12.2023

AMENDMENTS

1 - 40

Draft opinion

Romeo Franz

(PE753.716v01-00)

2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - Commission
((2023/2129(DEC))

Amendment 1

Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the Commission's and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency's (EACEA) efforts to adapt Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe to a changing reality, for instance by reviewing upwards individual support rates for grants to safeguard their inclusive character, extending application deadlines and project duration, and a voluntary refocusing of activities on Ukraine;

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission's and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency's (EACEA) efforts to adapt Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe to a changing reality, for instance by reviewing upwards individual support rates for grants to safeguard their inclusive character, extending application deadlines and project duration, and a voluntary refocusing of activities on Ukraine, ***and expects more efforts to further reinforce inclusion measures and support to facilitate the participation of vulnerable groups;***

Or. en

Amendment 2

Andrey Slabakov

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the Commission's and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency's (EACEA) efforts to adapt Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe to ***a changing reality, for instance by reviewing upwards individual support rates for grants to safeguard their inclusive character, extending application deadlines and project duration, and a voluntary refocusing of activities on*** Ukraine;

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission's and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency's (EACEA) efforts to adapt Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe to ***the current challenges related to the energy crisis, high inflation and the ongoing war in*** Ukraine;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Notes that, despite a challenging context created by long-lasting effects of the pandemic, the impact of rising inflation and energy prices on beneficiaries and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Erasmus+ programme could in 2022 fully resume its long-standing mission to support transnational learning mobility, with the number of mobilities supported comparable to pre-pandemic years;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Stresses that more efforts are needed to adapt the new programmes to present and future opportunities and challenges; regrets that there is no adequate budgetary support for the ethical use of artificial intelligence and robotics in the education and cultural sectors; regrets that citizenship education did not receive enough budgetary space;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Notes with regret that the procedures to apply for EU funding under those programmes are often still too burdensome and create obstacles for potential beneficiaries, especially small and micro organisations in the cultural and creative sectors and industries, whose administrative capacities are limited;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Andrey Slabakov

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Notes that 2022 saw the launch or further roll-out of important initiatives such as the European Education Area, the MediaInvest blending facility, the new mobility scheme Culture Moves Europe and the 2022 European Year of Youth;

2. Notes that 2022 saw the launch or further roll-out of important initiatives such as the European Education Area, the MediaInvest blending facility, the new mobility scheme Culture Moves Europe and the 2022 European Year of Youth; ***regrets the limitations included in the Culture Moves Europe scheme excluding air travel for journeys below 600 km and forcing participants to make lengthier, more expensive trips; notes that the top-up provided to offset such costs represents lost mobility opportunities for more potential participants;***

Or. en

Amendment 7
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. *Appreciates that the Commission and the EACEA managed to achieve nearly full budget execution for Erasmus+ and full budget execution for the European Solidarity Corps in 2022, making it even necessary to redeploy credits from other programmes to cover payment needs; notes the challenges to the payment implementation of Creative Europe in 2022, with some EUR 50 million having been deferred to 2023 as a result of operational issues and delays in the granting processes; recognises DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture's (DG EAC) and the EACEA's efforts to limit the impact of these delays and return to a normalised pace in 2023;*

Or. en

Amendment 8
Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. *Stresses that the MFF revision should bring additional ambitious financial resources for the youth, cultural and educational programmes; regrets the proposal made within the Council related to cuts to Erasmus+ and Creative Europe and recalls the position of the Parliament as a budgetary authority supporting these two key programmes;*

Or. en

Amendment 9
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 b. Notes that DG EAC's and the EACEA's overall risk at payment continued to be relatively low and their overall error rate remained below the 2 % materiality threshold in 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Andrea Bocskor, Milan Zver

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Reiterates its concern about the strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence;

3. Reiterates its concern about the strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence; ***calls for the creation of options based on fair, lawful and transparent procedures, agreed with the European Commission, to ensure that all students, teachers and researchers, including the Hungarians, can benefit from the Erasmus+ programme and contribute to the broader goals of European educational and research cooperation; calls on the Commission to remove any financial and administrative barriers, in order to achieve a truly inclusive programme;***

Or. en

Amendment 11
Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Reiterates its concern about the strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence;

Amendment

3. Reiterates its concern about the strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence; ***stresses the need to better use the potential of existing synergies between programmes and actions, better communicate on those synergies and calls on the Commission to further investigate future innovative funding solutions;***

Or. en

Amendment 12

Romeo Franz

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Reiterates its concern about the strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence;

Amendment

3. Reiterates its concern about the strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence, ***which is helping to reinforce support to pupils, students, teachers and qualified staff fleeing from Ukraine;***

Or. en

Amendment 13

Andrey Slabakov

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Reiterates its concern about the

Amendment

3. Reiterates its concern about the

strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence;

strongly backloaded budget profile of Erasmus+; welcomes the extra EUR 35 million awarded to Erasmus+ in 2022 due to the Parliament's insistence ***and reaffirms the need for further increases of the budget;***

Or. en

Amendment 14
Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Highlights that an accelerated rate for the implementation of cultural and educational programmes is strongly connected to the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF); asks the Commission to assess and actively support the recommendations made by the Parliament related to a minimum 10% allocation for education, 2% for the cultural sector and 20% for digital transformation within the RRF plans; recalls that the digital transformation needs to focus on education and lifelong learning and calls upon the Commission to provide an enhanced assessment of the RRF plans related to this topic;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Andrea Bocskor, Milan Zver

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Expresses its profound regret that students, teachers and researchers of

model-changing universities in Hungary have been placed in a difficult situation as a result of the decision taken by the Council at the end of last year, which has put at risk their participation in the 2024 programmes; believes that nobody should be discriminated from any programme due to political attitude;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. Acknowledges the effects that some novelties, notably the extension of the accreditation scheme to the Erasmus+ programme's main sectors, have had in terms of simplifying the application process and easing the accessibility of funding for mobility activities;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 b. Highlights that the Erasmus+ programme framework of inclusion measures adopted in 2021 seems to bear fruit, with 23% more projects having gender equality as their main or an important and deliberate objective in 2022 than in 2021;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Christian Ehler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Requests the European Court of Auditors to carry out an audit on the possible misuse of EU funds through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps by networks of associations that present false projects;

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 19
Petra Kammerevert

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Requests the European Court of Auditors to carry out an audit on the possible misuse of EU funds through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps by networks of associations that present false projects;

Amendment

4. Requests the European Court of Auditors to carry out an audit on the possible misuse of EU funds through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps by networks of associations that present false projects; ***considers that, in particular, proposals should be put forward to bolster confidence in newly established accreditation mechanisms by sustainably ensuring that once accredited, applicants continue to fully respect European values after such recognition, without diminishing the simplification of the application process achieved through the accreditation mechanism;***

Or. de

Amendment 20

Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Requests the European Court of Auditors to carry out an audit on the possible misuse of EU funds through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps by networks of associations that present false projects;

Amendment

4. Requests the European Court of Auditors to carry out an audit on the possible misuse of EU funds through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps by networks of associations that present false projects, ***with the aim of verifying recent reports on this matter by some national agencies and measuring the scale and importance of such cases of fraud, and their treatment by competent authorities in the Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 21

Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Requests the European Court of Auditors to carry out an audit on the possible misuse of EU funds through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps by networks of associations that present false projects;

Amendment

4. Requests the European Court of Auditors to carry out an audit on the possible misuse of EU funds through Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps by networks of associations that present false projects ***and expects a thorough investigation and follow-up;***

Or. en

Amendment 22

Petra Kammerevert

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Urges the Commission to drastically simplify the application for funding under Erasmus+ and to make it less time-consuming in order to counteract the increasing professionalisation in the process of applying for funding, so as to ensure that small and voluntary organisations and applicants can also successfully participate in the programme without significant additional effort;

Or. de

Amendment 23

Romeo Franz

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Welcomes the fact that, thanks to a EUR 3 million reinforcement of the 2022 European Year of Youth at the Parliament's insistence, a number of actions under the Year could be strengthened, such as solidarity projects, volunteering and networking activities; underlines that the successful results of the Year should now be sustainably implemented to ensure its lasting legacy;

Or. en

Amendment 24

Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Notes the continued frontloading of

5. Notes the continued frontloading of

the Creative Europe budget in 2022 for mitigating the persisting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sectors;

the Creative Europe budget in 2022 for mitigating the persisting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sectors; ***deplores, however, that the programme as a whole remains underfinanced in relation to the objectives to be achieved, notably given its high subscription rate;***

Or. en

Amendment 25
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Notes the continued frontloading of the Creative Europe budget in 2022 for mitigating the persisting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sectors;

Amendment

5. Notes the continued frontloading of the Creative Europe budget in 2022 for mitigating the persisting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural and creative sectors; ***notes that, thanks to this frontloading, a higher number of European cultural cooperation projects could be selected in 2022 than ever before;***

Or. en

Amendment 26
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Welcomes the fact that almost all proposals submitted in the Media Strand are requested to provide a strategy to improve the industry's greening measures, with projects in some actions having to initiate the process of obtaining a sustainability certification; urges the

Commission, building on these promising results and the recommendations of a 2022 study on greening Creative Europe, to push ahead more strongly, including through more funding for training on greening and sustainability in the audiovisual sector;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Welcomes in particular the recent setting-up of ‘cascade funding’ as a means to better reach all beneficiaries of Creative Europe projects, especially individuals and small and medium-sized organisations; invites the Commission to further develop such schemes in all programmes of relevance to the sector;

Or. en

Amendment 28

Romeo Franz

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 b. Reiterates its call to urgently address the outstanding issues related to personal data protection for beneficiaries of and participants in Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, in particular as regards third country personal data transfers; urges DG EAC to roll out the new ‘transfer tool’ immediately following authorisation from the European Data

Protection Supervisor to ensure appropriate safeguards for such transfers in the future;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Andrey Slabakov

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. *Expresses concern over the greening priorities laid down in the Creative Europe programme, particularly as a cross-cutting issue for all funding projects; highlights the fact that focusing on reducing the impact of projects on the environment risks having a negative impact on the variety and quality of projects; points out that greening criteria in projects disproportionately affect lower income communities;*

Or. en

Amendment 30
Romeo Franz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. *Welcomes DG EAC's roll-out of a new project management tool for National Agencies, which includes a new risk and potential exclusions feature; encourages DG EAC and DG CNECT to implement their Anti-Fraud Strategies fully, including by offering mandatory fraud awareness raising and data protection training for staff, in particular newcomers, and entrusted bodies and*

organising a fraud awareness survey;

Or. en

Amendment 31

Peter Pollák

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. Calls on Member States to accelerate spending under Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and Creative Europe to reach out to and involve young people, artists and professionals with fewer opportunities; requests the Commission to contribute to this aim by continuing close cooperation with Member States;

Or. en

Amendment 32

Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion

Paragraph 8

Draft opinion

Amendment

8. Notes with concern the persisting challenges in 2022 with the e-Grant tools for beneficiaries of calls managed by the EACEA; strongly urges the Commission and EACEA to address these IT issues once and for all to avoid repercussions on target achievement;

8. Notes with concern the persisting challenges in 2022 with the e-Grant tools for beneficiaries of calls managed by the EACEA; strongly urges the Commission and EACEA to address these IT issues once and for all to avoid repercussions on target achievement, ***reduce errors within the process and enhance simplification;***

Or. en

Amendment 33

Victor Negrescu

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 a. Stresses that accessibility of small beneficiaries, including authorities from smaller communities, NGOs and SMEs, but also vulnerable groups and people with disabilities, should be increased through a better adapted financing methodology and an efficient and accessible IT infrastructure;

Or. en

**Amendment 34
Romeo Franz**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 a. Encourages the EACEA to swiftly implement the recommendations of its internal audit service to improve the quality of transactions, such as the use of checklists, the modification of financial circuits and the harmonisation of processes;

Or. en

**Amendment 35
Romeo Franz**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 b (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

8 b. Notes the positive development in the EACEA's staffing situation, with a

significant increase of staff by the end of 2022;

Or. en

Amendment 36
Andrey Slabakov

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

Amendment

9. Welcomes the EACEA's efforts to implement EMAS and encourages it to increase its efforts by further implementing a sustainability plan and publishing the agency's sustainability report.

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 37
Petra Kammerevert

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Calls on the Commission and Parliament to fundamentally revise the pre-assessment procedure for pilot projects and preparatory actions so as to continue to enforce the necessary budgetary discipline while significantly limiting the Commission's influence on the will of the budgetary legislator expressed in the proposals;

Or. de

Amendment 38
Victor Negrescu

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Emphasises the need for a stronger coordination between the different actors implementing education, youth and culture actions and the different programmes, and calls upon the Commission to develop clusters and networks of beneficiaries working on similar projects in order to Europeanize their results and activities;

Or. en

Amendment 39

Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 a. Deplores that too many pilot projects and preparatory actions receive low grades by the Commission and that, as a consequence, there is a very limited use of their potential in advancing innovative policies;

Or. en

Amendment 40

Irena Joveva, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Laurence Farreng, Ilana Cicurel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

9 b. Encourages DG Connect to continue implementing media literacy strategies, such as the 2022 European

Media Literacy Week, and underlines the need to continue the fight against disinformation in all relevant Commission initiatives;

Or. en