

**Question for written answer E-003640/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francesca Donato (NI)

Subject: Late disbursement of the final tranche of funding for Erasmus+ and ESC projects implemented by the Italian Youth Agency

Many Italian young people's organisations are experiencing significant delays – of up to 12 months – in the disbursement of the final tranche of funding for Erasmus+ and ESC programmes implemented by the Italian Youth Agency (AIG), which is responsible for such projects in Italy.

The AIG has set a deadline of 60 from submission of the final report for payment of the outstanding amount to the beneficiary organisations.

This comes on top of the critical issues already pointed out by the Committee on Culture and Education's report, which, while stressing the programme's benefits in terms of inclusiveness and impact, calls for several improvements, from streamlining bureaucracy to increasing the available funding.

In island regions, moreover, young people's associations are faced with a distribution of resources that borders on the discriminatory: Although these areas, and Sardinia in particular, have some of the highest juvenile delinquency and school drop-out rates and the greatest prevalence of NEETs, only one project out of the 11 submitted by the island's youth organisations has been approved by Erasmus+ programme.

This situation, combined with the aforementioned delays in the disbursement of funding, runs counter to the founding principles of these programmes, thus discouraging young people's associations in disadvantaged areas from participating.

Can the Commission therefore say how it intends to resolve this issue?

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