

2024 NA/SALTO staff meeting on cooperation between the programme and the neighbouring partner countries

20-22 February 2024, Tbilisi, Georgia

Report



Context and the objectives of the meeting

The meeting of NA/SALTO staff on cooperation between the programme countries (PCs) and the neighbouring partner countries (NPCs) was organised within Beyond Borders by SALTO SEE and SALTO EECA from 20-22 of February 2024 in Tbilisi, Georgia. This was the third time since 2019 and the second time within the Beyond Borders SNAC created in 2021. The meeting brought together 21 participants, representatives of the NAs and the three regional SALTO Resource centres.

The objectives and the agenda of the meeting were based on the expectations of the participants and formulated during the preparatory meeting in December 2023.

The objectives of the meeting:

- To understand better and share the actual state of play concerning:
 - The both youth programmes development in regards cooperation between the programme and the partner countries;
 - Situation of youth work in the neighbouring partner countries;
- To share good practices, successes and challenges in cooperation between the programme and the partner countries;
- To look into close future, what are the plans for development, potential collaborations, synergies with other stakeholders, etc.;
- To look further in the future, what are the development for the new programmes after 2027 and how we can influence it to make the best from the cooperation between the programme and the partner countries;

Day 1. Tuesday, February 20.

The meeting started with the reconnections of participants and their experiences in terms of cooperation between PCs and NPCs. They discussed what they are proud of, what is the most challenging for cooperation, what are the concerns and visible trends. The participants are proud as they manage to promote cooperation between the PCs and NPCs, have established the supporting framework for the cooperation and allocate funds necessary for the cooperation.

“I’m proud of spending more than 25 percent of the budget for cooperation with NPCs and pushing the Commission to stop limitations”.

“Beyond Borders is structured and we are moving forward! This is positive”.

The biggest challenge mentioned is the geopolitical situation in the partner regions makes it difficult or impossible to cooperate. The organisations need to take care of security issues and young people are not keen to visit countries situated close to insecure areas.

“It may be more difficult for organisations to cooperate because of the situation in the regions. Due to conflicts in many NPC(s) we are not really keen to send participants to the projects. Responsible dealing with things also sets limitations”.

“There are challenges to cooperate with some NPCs as cooperation is not possible. As for the Eastern Partnership countries, it is only Georgia which can participate in full scale”.

Among the challenges and concerns the participants also mentioned establishment of quality partnerships, reliability of partner organisations, urgent need to develop quality youth work in the regions. There are experienced organisations constantly applying and implementing projects between PCs and NPCs, whereas there is a lack of new organisations. Visa issue is also mentioned as a factor preventing cooperation.

“I’m concerned about the quality of cooperation and verification of reliable partner organisations”.

“My concern is about how natural it is to cooperate with the neighbours, what are the ties and reasons for cooperation, what is the added value of projects between PCs and NPCs”.

“The challenge for organisations is to focus and explain what makes cooperation with the NPCs special. There is no need for organisations to explain why they want to cooperate with Programme countries. It is more difficult to explain what are the reasons to cooperate with different regions”.

“The most challenging is the huge number of applications submitted by the same organisations. Maybe the limitation for organisations to participate in maximum 5 applications will stop “industrialised” applications. However we don’t know if it is positive or not”.

“Bureaucracy is challenging! We use several platforms that are not always working well”.

As for the trends, participants mentioned increasing numbers of SNACs, discussions of merging the Erasmus + and European Solidarity Corps Programmes, and a possibility to have more Programme countries and NAs in the near future.

“I see the trend of too many SNACs”

“Maybe we will have more PCs and more NAs. This will follow after candidates status of countries”

Representatives of SALTO resource centres provided short updates on the situation of youth work in the regions.

EuroMed

Instability in the region, geopolitical situation, economic crisis decreases motivation of organisations to participate. There is a drop out in the number of projects. We promote

activities in the region, we plan activities but move them to the Maghreb area. The Focus is on inclusion, sport and inclusion. As for the ESC, there is also a dropout in the number of volunteers. We focus on capacity building of the organisations, raising quality. We are 3 project officers now and we are trying to revive the cooperation.

SEE

South East Europe is the least dramatic region compared to the others. The tensions between Serbia and Kosovo in September 2023 affected a lot and triggered the memories of the war. People were not motivated to participate in the activities.

The visa regime for Kosovo is cancelled so none of the countries in the region needs a visa anymore. There are still visa issues between Bosnia and Kosovo. Most of the activities take place in Albania and Montenegro.

There is a trend in the ESC that less and less volunteers are coming. Young people have changed, more projects were stopped than before. Less organisations want to engage in long term volunteering. Short term and volunteering teams have become more popular. As for the ESC programme, solidarity with the region is not happening. Organisations can not take a leading role, organisations from the region are not being acknowledged for their experience. For the newcomers it is difficult to join as they don't have capacities to manage projects, host volunteers.

For the last 4 years SALTO SEE have been doing buddy support measures, matching organisations having leading roles in the Programme countries and organisations from the Neighbouring countries willing to implement projects together.

The programme is still very much respected by the organisations and promoted among young people. The general trend is that young people are less active than 10 years ago. As youth work is not professionalised, young people leave the field for more stable jobs.

As for the E+ KA1, it is more on its own. More organisations are involved than we could think. Very few organisations that work as "a machine". Now we will see what will happen with the limitations of 5 applications. Organisations that participate in Support activities are more active in E+. These organisations bring the experience in their local level youth work but not necessarily preparing the projects. Europe Goes Local made municipalities as a specific target group and we reached different small and big towns.

ECCA

SALTO ECCA works with EaP countries and Russia and is also responsible for accreditation of Norwegian organisations for participation in ESC.

International youth work decreased in the Region in general. The Russian war against Ukraine is having a big impact. Most of the organisations in Ukraine are, however, active on a local level. Organisations don't host volunteers but send. The constellations of sending organisations and volunteers is not related to geography. After the beginning of the Russian aggression it is possible that sending organisations relocated from Ukraine can send volunteers who are Ukrainian but not in Ukraine. The new competences developed because of the war - working with IDPs, dealing with humanitarian aid, online and digital youth work etc. The youth work is still there in Ukraine.

Russia is still a part of the programme. Can participate in E+ KA1. Russian volunteers can go to Programme countries, however there are no known projects and Russia's involvement in the programme is very controversial.

Moldova is much in the shadow of the Russian War in Ukraine. People are afraid to go there. The youth organisations are active.

Belarus was never much active due to its political situation. After presidential elections 2020 many youth organisations had been delegalized and are in exile. But they are still involved in youth work and we are in touch with them. Those who are abroad continue to work with Belarusians.

Caucasus. Georgia is the most active, and it is a meeting place for the region. Armenia - was receiving refugees from Karabakh and many youth organisations had been involved in response to this humanitarian crisis. The organisations continue to work as they used to. In Azerbaijan there were always much fewer organisations due to political system, but they continue their work as previously.

Info centres work in all the countries but Russia and Belarus. Europe Goes Local works in the region, esp. Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.

Meeting with the organisations implementing cooperation projects between NPCs and PCs

The participants had a chance to have a meeting with the coordinators of organisations active in cooperation between the programme and the neighbouring partner countries - stories of cooperation, inspirations, strengths and weaknesses, regional specificities, etc.

([Gaia Kosovo](#), [NaturKultur Germany](#), Giosef Torino Italy, [Have a Dream Egypt](#))

Their articles at Beyond Borders portal

- ["Make music, not war"](#) (NaturKultur Germany)
- ["Upside down, let's go to the other side"](#) (Giosef Torino Italy)
- ["Back to 7000 BC"](#) (Have a Dream Egypt)
- ["Nature based cooperation"](#) (Gaia Kosovo)

After the presentations of the projects the participants discussed the following:

- What conclusions do we make?
- What should be taken up?
- What should we keep in mind?

The conclusions of the participants state that there is a need to carry out **advocacy work** in order to facilitate the process of establishing and developing cooperation and for bringing more equality for organisations from NPCs and PCs. The advocacy should be based on the results of the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus + programme and the European solidarity corps. Particularly it is necessary:

- to allow neighbourhood countries to participate without "added value requirement" in KA1 projects;
- to work towards civil society construction within KA1 projects;
- to allocate more money to KA 2 projects (but leave enough to KA1 projects);
- to open partnership "Windows" for each region to ensure less competition;
- to introduce Capacity building projects only for organisations from neighbouring regions;
- to facilitate visa regime with NPCs to make cooperation easier. It may be possible to produce an explanation letter and publish it on the NAs websites and it should be linked with the visa applications of beneficiaries;
- in order to facilitate visa procedure and make cooperation more visible it is possible to invite representatives of the consulates to visit projects.

More **information** about the work with NPCs is necessary from the European Commission, particularly about different initiatives within the EU Neighbourhood policy carried out by different DGs. The National Agencies lack an overview on what is going on in terms of youth policy and youth work and it is necessary to compile information and inform NAs.

More **capacity building and partnership building** activities for organisations willing to implement partnership projects in order to reach quality in partnership. In particular it is necessary:

- to prepare a Tool-kit on how the project can be done in the PCs and NPCs and promote the tool-kit on the Beyond Borders website;
- to provide opportunities for organisations to establish partnerships in order to have good projects. It is important for organisations to know each other in order to develop a good project;
- provide better explanations about the 25% rule.

Efforts for **promotion of cooperation** between NPCs and PCs may include:

- development guidelines for beneficiaries on how to plan projects with NPCs;

- publishing good practices as a proof that the projects develop competencies of conflict resolution, peace building, etc.

The presentation also raised the question on how to include organisations from areas of conflict, during and after a conflict.

Day 2. Wednesday, February 21.

Exchange of good practices of National Agencies and SALTOs, successes and challenges in cooperation between the programme and the partner countries.

Two domains of good practices were identified by the participants - TCA/NET activities and TEC activities in NPCs within ESC.

Within the TCA/NET activities participants presented different Partnership Building Activities organised to enhance cooperation between PCs and NPCs. Norwegian NA organised a PBA in Georgia to strengthen cooperation with the EECA region. It consisted of two parts. First there was a meeting in Tbilisi and after that the organisations from the region went to Oslo. The two step model of a PBA proved to be efficient as it resulted in establishment of partnerships and many applications were developed.

PBA focused on Erasmus + was organised by the Slovenian NAs in Ljubljana for 50 participants. The activity was open for organisations that have an accreditation for Erasmus+ KA1 from programme countries and beginners from the partner regions. The good practice is that the participation was balanced, the online meet-up was organised before the activity. The participants were empowered to make partnerships and explained the new system for KA1 accreditations. Within the Beyond Borders SNAC we would like to continue organising partnership building activities.

PBA focused on creating partnerships for European Solidarity Corps projects involving neighbouring partner countries "Volunteering Beyond Borders" was organised by the Czech NA. The activity was focused on promoting cooperation within ESC. The goal was to have balanced participation. The activity brought together 70 participants. The follow-up online meeting was organised and offered further networking opportunities and support in project development.

In 2024 SALTO EuroMed will organise a PBA to support cooperation within the two programs.

The suggestion is to continue with PBAs as they are a good practice in promoting cooperation between PCs and NPCs. Both Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Programmes should be

covered. There is a lot of interest, so till 2026 we'd continue with the 2 PBAs about both programmes.

TEC trainings in NPC

General situation

In Eastern Europe and Caucasus region all trainings are organised in Georgia. The number of volunteers is ca. 100 persons a year.

In the Mediterranean region after the pandemic trainings are organised online but can be residential depending on the group. About 40 volunteers are hosted in the region per year.

In South East Europe about 30 volunteers are hosted yearly. Organisations shifted to sending volunteers to Programme Countries.

In all 3 regions final events are organised each year. The general trend is that the volunteers don't return and it is difficult to attract them for the final event.

In Croatia 60-70% of volunteers hosted in the country are from NPCs

The majority of volunteers coming to Finland are from the EU countries. There is a demand from Türkiye and North Africa. Majority of Russian volunteers never returned to Russia.

Final events for volunteers and annual coordinators meetings

In SEE Final events are done for ex-volunteers and Annual event is organized for ESC coordinators. Evaluation is always good, that's why we continue.

In EECA coordinators meetings organised separately from ex-volunteers' final event. In EECA we allow people who only think to get Quality Label (QL) to join coordinators meetings. We can organise one extra day as training and invite newcomers so they can learn and mingle with the experienced one. The final event is organised by SALTO, info-centre and a facilitator and everyone wins and contributes to the promotion of volunteering. As for the training we experiment to combine on-arrival training and MTM so that they have one day overlap.

In Finland there are ex-volunteers organisations and they do promotion in cooperation with the NA. We also organised meetings with organisations in Estonia and did training together for 110 participants.

There is the Strategic National Agencies' Cooperation 2022–2027 "Strengthening European Volunteering" and there is a [Concept paper "Better coordination for youth volunteering"](#). In 2023 we added a paragraph "A new perspective for neighbouring partner regions" underlining the benefits of investment in a growing volunteering programme that includes neighbouring partner countries as full-fledged partners.

In the Mediterranean region there is a practice when an organisation with the Leading role organises training for organisations in the region (Morocco) to raise the quality of the projects. In Finland the NA is very strict with youth worker mobility as we are not sure that the training will be properly delivered.

Trainings for newcomers is organised by SALTO EuroMed.

“We could recruit and train more organisations in the region but we don’t do this as they have very limited chances to make a project due to the limited interest in PCs.”

The issue of trust between the partners and knowledge of the countries are essential for building quality and equal partnership.

SALTO SEE did a buddy support system to support newcomers. It is difficult to convince lead organisations to transfer the money to the organisations in the region. We need to work more on trust building and capacity building. Nowadays there is a limited number of organisations able to maintain quality partnership. Only a few organisations are ready to invest 2-3 years into capacity building. All boils down to a good partnership. It is difficult to encourage organisations to do projects with NPCs. They’d rather do projects with Germany.

SALTO EECA has experience since 2012 of organising adventure education in the region to bring people into the country, explore the country on the move but still having training. There had been 6 events for EVS coordinators. After a break events are focusing more on methodology of adventure education and exploring quality learning spaces.

In Finland the most volunteers are young women and a reason for not going to NPCs may be that they don’t feel safe.

As a conclusion the following actions would be useful for generating more interest in NPCs:

- It is necessary to **organise an image campaign** of the Neighbouring partner countries.
- It may be useful to **organise annual events and mix people from different countries.**
- It is necessary to develop **tailor made study visits** to countries focused on a certain topic, providing opportunities to meet a lot of people and to build an image of a country.

RAY research first findings on key aspects of collaboration with neighbouring partner countries in the context of the European youth programmes.

The presentation with the preliminary findings is available [RAY research first findings \(with Andrea Horta Herranz, RAY\)](#). After the presentation there were several questions and

recommendations about data that would be interesting in order to understand the situation of cooperation between PCs and NPCs better:

Q1. 73% of respondents agree that the partners both from PCs and NPCs benefited from projects. I wonder if there is similar data about cooperation between the PCs?

A1. We don't have data about this.

Q2. Respondents say there is a need for additional funding for the projects. Do you know the percentage of organisations in need for additional funding for cooperation between the PCs?

A2. We haven't collected data about that.

Q3. Is the situation in cooperation different in the projects involving organisations only from PCs and involving organisations from PCs and NPCs? Hope you will research it. I think it is very valuable to have it.

Q4 What content related issues were important in cooperation with NPCs compared with the cooperation only involving the PCs?

The general impressions and conclusions about the research finding:

- Results are not surprising but can reinforce our message e.g. Recommendations
- The research can help to formulate messages for promotion.
- It is necessary to continue the study and it is important to compare the different aspects among respondents (PCs and NPCs).
- PBAa can be more promoted. The same goes for the study visits, etc.
- Information about the website and the newsletter should reach all NAs in order to promote cooperation between PCs and NPCs.
- Nothing shocking. Good to have research to base policy and decisions.
- Would be interesting to have more results from partner countries.
- Not surprised that the partner countries have a bit more benefit or impact from projects than programme countries.
- There were too many surveys at the same time.
- RAY surveys might be a bit too long and complicated.
- Current political situation makes things complicated.
- Not many organisations working with ESC are involved.

And questions raised by the findings of the survey:

- Can RAY Study have some graphs to be regularly used?
- It would be interesting to know if there is any difference between the projects implemented only involving organisations from PCs and the project implemented in cooperation between PCs and NPCs. Do challenges vary? What are the results suitable for promotion? What is the added value? More examples on added value
- Why are we doing this? What is the impact?
- How to use the data produced strategically?

- How to cope with those 27% unsatisfied with the cooperation?
- Would a booklet or similar tool on good practice of cooperation between PCs and NPCs help? Like the one about Ukraine.

Study visit in DRONI - one of the most active youth organisations in Georgia and SALTO EECA's Info Centre of Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps

Background information about the organisation:

Youth Association DRONI, a non-governmental organisation established in 2003, is dedicated to fostering the development of a modern, healthy, and educated society through educational and youth development programs. Operating primarily in the educational sector, DRONI engages with a wide array of target groups including children, youth, students, teachers, and refugees, with a focus on activities in the region and collaboration with various NGOs across Europe. DRONI's initiatives encompass a broad spectrum of areas:

- Peace-building and the promotion of non-violent actions;
- Encouragement of active citizenship and youth participation;
- Addressing climate change and environmental concerns;
- Enhancing media literacy and fostering online security;
- Addressing refugee and migration issues;
- Facilitating education on human rights and gender equality;
- Combating hate speech;
- Encouraging creative expression through street art and theatre.

DRONI also manages several large-scale EU programs and initiatives, including the Erasmus+ Alumni Network, taking charge of its financial administration since 2017. Since 2019, DRONI's staff has been involved in the Municipality Mentorship Program under "Europe Goes Local," where they assist local municipalities in developing youth work, increasing participation, and aiding in the establishment of youth councils.

Through these efforts, the organisation extends its impact throughout the country, maintaining a comprehensive approach to youth engagement and support across various regions. This involvement not only showcases DRONI's commitment to enhancing youth work on a broad scale but also its capacity to administer significant EU programs and contribute to the development of local youth strategies and councils, reinforcing its role as a key player in the national and international youth work arena.

The DRONI team brings extensive experience in youth work to the table, with many members having participated in EVS/ESC and boasting years of expertise in youth work. The staff is proficient in developing youth projects both locally and internationally, leveraging programs such as Erasmus+, the European Youth Foundation, and others.

With comprehensive competencies in project management, non-formal education, and international youth work, DRONI's staff has crafted innovative programs incorporating outdoor activities, music, art, and more. Thanks to its dynamic and skilled team, DRONI stands as a leading organisation in the Caucasus, renowned for its quality activities at local, national, and international levels. In addition to its youth work, DRONI has been the official Erasmus+ Youth Information Center in Georgia since 2017. Through the centre, DRONI provides consultations and informational meetings in Tbilisi and other regions, assisting young people and NGOs in learning more about the Erasmus+ Programme, including application processes and participation opportunities. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/EP.Georgia/ and <https://infocentre.ge/>.

Question asked by the participants after the presentation of the organisations activities and activities of ESC volunteers.

Q1. How many volunteers do you have yearly?

A1. 6 long term, number of short terms depends, mostly people came in Summer. Now we plan to host groups but not in Tbilisi but smaller municipalities Zugdidi and Manise. These are the municipalities we cooperate within Europe Goes Local.

Q2. Are municipalities active?

A2. Yes, they are interested in cooperation.

Q3. How is youth work funded in Georgia?

A3. This is a weak point, on a local level the funds are limited. As DRONI we cooperate with the municipality of Tbilisi but it is not regular. Erasmus + funding is a big part of our budget.

Q4. How many members do you have in your youth association?

A4. Active on FB is about 250, but there are more

Q5. What does it mean to be a volunteer at DRONI?

A5. The most important thing is that they propose projects, activities and we support implementations. This is their chance to grow. Also we give preference to our members to participate in international activities

Q6 How do you work with ESC volunteers who returned?

A6. Ana, who works at DRONI was a volunteer herself and she now coordinates volunteering projects. We involve ex volunteers in organising our projects. We support them when they come back with reintegration in Georgia. We also do pre-departures.

Q7. How many of you are employed?

A7. Now we have 3 staff members. Before the pandemic we were 15. We also have project based staff, approx. 10 people. We can not afford a lot of permanent staff.

Q8. What funding sources do you have besides Erasmus+?

A8. We have Danish MFA, we have funds from German MFA and other international donors.

Q9. Is the current ministry supportive?

A9. I will not comment on this question.

Q10. What does DRONI mean?

A10. DRONI means time. Kings go - Droni rules.

DAY 3. Thursday, February 22.

Looking into the future. How do we address/deal with the novelties ([shortly with Pierre Seailles, DG EAC](#))

Q1. Question about capacity building. Will it be possible at some point to have some kind of synergy between this action and the work of the regional SALTOS because we don't have any data on organisations that benefit from this action. It would be very beneficial for our work to be aware of what is happening in this action in order to have things more quality oriented towards these organisations and E+ Programme.

A1. It makes a lot of sense. The Commission had an info day explaining how to apply, especially for new countries. The link to the recording of the info day explaining all practicalities on how to participate in the capacity building call is on the last slide of my presentation.

Q2. Visiting organisations here and hearing about their needs, many times they'd like to have ownership of the project and be able to apply. Do you see any Youth Windows opening or do we have compiled information of different windows opening for different regions that we could see? We hear that different DGs have different initiatives that we are not aware of in different national agencies.

A2. All neighbouring countries of the EU are eligible to apply now for the capacity building projects. Until last year applications for cross regional cooperation were possible. Now it is not and the consortia must be built with the organisations from one neighbouring region. The organisations from the Partner countries can be applicants except for Armenia and Azerbaijan. Organisations from Armenia and Azerbaijan can not be coordinators but can be participants.

Q3. I'd like to share with you one opinion that we've got from one of the organisations from the neighbouring region. So the applicants for the capacity building can be from Programme countries or the NPCs, right? It's a bit of a pity for them, maybe the application can only be

open for organisations from NPCs so they don't need to compete as the organisations from PCs have more opportunities to apply.

A3. They need to be together. Organisations from Partner countries can not apply on their own. I'm not 100% sure if the applicant can be an organisation from NPC. All detailed information is on the info day recording. Being a coordinator brings additional capacity building.

Q4. My question is about the 25% rule. Have you started from the Commission side to monitor

A4. Yes. It's working quite well. We already got requests from some NAs to go over the 25% threshold. The new provision was introduced last year to introduce the flexibility. In practice if some NAs didn't use the 25% and some others were stuck as they have many projects with partners and can't go over the ceiling. The exceptions are possible. If an NA does a lot of projects with partner countries it can request an exception and ask the possibility to go over. These requests were made 3-4 times and the permissions were granted. So far we haven't reached the point with all the NAs and we still need to ensure that the overall spendings won't go over 25% and the overall limits will be respected.

Key aspects discussed after the presentation:

- Humanitarian aid is more a developmental work, not really a humanitarian actions, direct actions.
- The volunteers should be skilled.
- Capacity building is the opportunity for organisations in NPC to be part of the more complex projects. Competition is super high.

Any trends?

- Finish organisations are not really participating in centralised level calls.
- It's not easy to become part of a project funded on a centralised level.
- Would be good to have information on the SALTO website about the projects funded on a centralised level.
- NAs and SALTOS are not aware about projects funded on a centralised level.
- Limitation of 10 projects is not count the projects applied on centralised level

Looking into the future. Developing recommendations for the next edition of the programmes after 2027. Structural amendments to the recommendations:

- How to improve the access to the organisations from NPCs active in the youth field. Next to the capacity building projects there should be the opportunity to apply for smaller projects for the organisations that normally implement KA1 projects and ESC projects.
- Keep the essential opportunities for cooperation offered by the current programmes, broaden and strengthen its certain features.

- Key policy framework for the cooperation would be helpful. There is a Neighbourhood policy but it doesn't give a framework for the cooperation with the NPCs. It would be nice to have this framework setting the general objectives for the cooperation with the NPCs. It's not necessary that the framework will be framed as a separate action.
- Enhance and structure communication between different stakeholders of this cooperation.
- Added value for the KA2. Maybe we suggest removing the added value question for Neighbouring partner countries. Maybe to keep it for the other countries of the world.

The recommendations will be presented to the NA representatives at the next business meeting in March 2024.

Session based on the needs identified during the previous discussions

There were three topics to discuss and one suggestion.

1. To discuss upcoming TCA/NET activities

There will be a PBA in Austria in October about volunteering teams. Applications will be open till September for all neighbouring regions.

Month of solidarity by Austrian NA. It is an opportunity to promote projects implemented in cooperation between PCs and NPCs and if you have some please share the information.

Majority of activities organised by the Lithuanian NA are open for participants from NPCs.

The next upcoming event will be about Competence building training. Assertive approach.

2. Financing travel costs of participants from NPCs

The agreement is to make a bilateral agreement between the NAs and SALTOs so that SALTOs have the grounds to request reimbursement of the travel costs for the participants from the Neighbouring partner countries.

3. Presenting Beyond Borders web platform <https://beyondb.eu>.

The platform was presented. The main message to the participants is to promote the platform among the organisations and offer the organisations to share information about their projects implemented in cooperation between the PCs and NPCs.

4. The suggestion is to host the next staff meeting in one of the countries of the Mediterranean region.
5. Turkish NA expressed an interest to be more active in BB and suggested activity in Türkiye
6. Meeting with the Network of NAs in France in May. There can be an opportunity to promote Beyond Borders.

Annex 1. List of participants

Name	Surname	Country	NA / SALTO
Mauri	Uusilehto	Finland	NA
Paavo	Pyykkönen	Finland	NA
Monika	Paulauskaite	Lithuania	NA
Tomasz	Szopa	Poland	SALTO
Agnieszka	Cieślak	Poland	NA
Anna	Pavlovych	Poland	NA
Sonja	Mitter	Slovenia	SALTO
Nataša	Žebovec	Slovenia	NA
Stéphanie	Jakubowski	France	SALTO
Samuel	Le Floch	France	NA
Theodor L.	Háva	Czech Republic	NA
Guido	Kaesbach	Germany	NA
Lea	Meister	Switzerland	NA (Movetia)
Sanja	Posavec	Croatia	NA
Manda	Pocrnić	Croatia	NA
Emma	Mavric	Austria	NA
Luca	Pignocco	Italy	NA
Sigrid	Smith-Tønnessen	Norway	NA
Mustafa	Yaşar Soydaş	Turkey	NA
Yunus Alper	Altay	Turkey	NA
Alice	Melsheimer	Germany	NA
Andrej	Troha	Slovenia	SALTO
<i>Andriy</i>	<i>Donets</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>

Annex 2. Programme

20.02, Tuesday

13:00 lunch

14:30 - 16:00 reconnection of participants. Exchange of impression/ feelings / opinions on perspectives and trends in cooperation with the neighbouring partner countries

16:00 - 16:30 coffee-break

16:30 - 18:00 video connections with coordinators of organisations active in cooperation between the programme and the neighbouring partner countries - stories of cooperation, inspirations, strengths and weaknesses, regional specificities, etc. (Gaia Kosovo, NaturKultur Germany, Giosef Torino Italy, Have a Dream Egypt)

19:00 dinner

21.02, Wednesday

09:30 - 11:00 exchange of good practices of National Agencies and SALTOs, successes and challenges in cooperation between the programme and the partner countries. Addressing technical issues. What practical aspects we face.

11:00 - 11:30 coffee-break

11:30 - 13:00 RAY research first findings (with Andrea Horta Herranz, RAY) and discussion on the quality and developments

13:00 lunch

14:30 transfer to the Droni office

15:00 - 16:00 study visit in Droni - one of the most active youth organisations in Georgia and SALTO EECA's Info Centre of Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps

16:00 - 19:00 discovering Tbilisi in small groups with ESC volunteers and Droni staff and/or individually with Use-It maps, shopping and free time included ;)

19:00 dinner out in the city centre: Bread House (Vakhtang Gorgasali str. 7)

22.02, Thursday

09:30 - 11:00 Looking into the future. How do we address/deal with the novelties (shortly with Pierre Seailles, DG EAC)

11:00 - 11:30 coffee-break

11:30 - 13:00 Looking into the future. Developing recommendations for the next edition of the programmes after 2027

13:00 lunch

14:30 - 16:00 session based on the needs identified during the previous discussions

16:00 - 16:30 coffee-break

16:30 - 17:30 evaluation and good-bye

18:00 - 20:00 free time / possibility to visit Sulfur Baths, buy last souvenirs, have a rest

20:00 dinner