

Invitation to Tender (ITT)

Research Based Analysis of Youth UK Analysis 2019

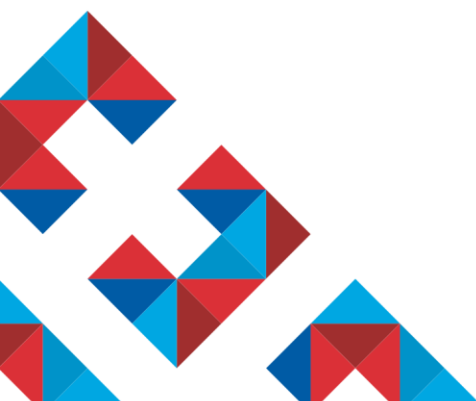
Introduction

Erasmus+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. The Erasmus+ programme will run from 2014-2020 and supports activities in education, training, youth and sport across all sectors of lifelong learning including higher education, further education, adult education, schools and youth activities.

Erasmus+ is managed in the UK by the UK [National Agency](#) (NA). The UK NA is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK. Part of the role of NAs is to investigate and evidence the impact of the programme on the organisations and individuals that participate.

The UK NA participates in the [RAY Network](#) along with the Erasmus+ NAs and research partners of 30 other countries. RAY stands for Research-based Analysis of Youth. The main aim of RAY is to contribute to a better understanding of international youth work and youth learning mobility and thus to an evidence-based policy development in the youth field in Europe as well as to the development of international youth work and learning mobility practice.

The UK NA has participated in the [RAY Monitoring Survey](#) (RAY MON) of young people and youth worker participants since 2014. In that time there have been two surveys in 2015-16 and 2017-18. Both surveys use the same questionnaire (with some small changes) and involve an autumn and spring wave. The survey has targeted young people and youth workers involved in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 and Key Action 3 projects. Find out more about the [Key Actions](#) here.



Focus of the research

The main focus of the research is to understand how the mobility placement has helped participants acquire skills or competences. The UK data analysis should identify where mobility placements are contributing to UK policy priorities in the youth field, in particular:

- Improving the employability of young people.
- Professional development of youth workers and professionalisation of youth work.
- Civil society and participation.

Scope

The successful research team will be required to analyse UK RAY survey responses from the 2015-16 and 2017/18 surveys. Survey data will be provided as an SPSS datafile.

The analysis should seek to differentiate findings by the four activity types undertaken by respondents. These are:

- Youth exchanges (Key Action 1, young people)
- Youth worker mobility (Key Action 1, youth Workers)
- European Volunteering (Key Action 1, young people)
- Structured dialogue with policy-makers (Key Action 3, young people)

RAY MON surveys the individuals involved in the project (participants) and the staff organising the project (project leaders). Project leaders were asked what they or their organisations learned from the project *and* what their participants learned.

Table 1: UK Survey Responses (estimated)

Survey	Participants	Project leaders	Total
2015/16	376	110	486
2017/18	Not known	Not known	1,002
Total	Not known	Not known	1,488

The analysis should include weighting and significance testing if possible.

Communication and dissemination

The contractor will be asked to contribute to communication and dissemination of the research findings. Activities could include writing articles or blogs for the UK Erasmus+ NA website, other relevant websites or print publications, submitting academic journal articles or presenting findings at conferences or seminars.

All activities would need to be discussed with and approved by the UK Erasmus+ NA in advance and copy approval would be required.

Youth Sector Consultative Group

The UK Erasmus+ NA organises a Youth Sector Consultative Group (SCG) of key sector stakeholders and policymakers. Member are drawn from youth work organisations, umbrella bodies, education, UK government and devolved administration departments and agencies. The SCG meets twice a year in spring and autumn with regular exchanges of information in-between. We encourage bidders to involve the Youth SCG by factoring in a face-to-face session to present and discuss findings. The spring 2019 SCG meeting will most likely take place in May or June.

RAY MON transnational study

The latest RAY research reports are available [here](#). The 2017/18 survey analysis is in progress and is expected to be available in late 2018 or January 2019.

Outputs required

- A polished draft report(s) for comments.
- A final report of around 30-40 pages or several shorter reports of 10-20 pages for publication on the Erasmus+ website, including
 - Summary (1-2 pages)
 - Overview of the research questions, design, methods used & analysis approach
- Separate annexes to the report, including
 - Research tools (e.g., topic guides, questionnaires)
 - Detailed overview of the research design and analysis approach

Timescale and key dates

12 November 2018	Invitation to Tender issued
18 January 2019	Deadline for tenders
By 25 January 2019	Decision communicated to bidders
w/c 28 January 2019	Start-up meeting with successful bidder, Birmingham, UK
30 April 2019	Draft report deadline
May / June 2019	UK Erasmus+ Youth SCG stakeholder meeting, TBC
w/c 13 May 2019	Presentation of research, Birmingham, UK (if required)
31 May 2019	Delivery of final report

Contract value

A maximum of £14,000 including all fees and expenses but net of VAT.

Tender Requirements

Tenders should be submitted for the attention of Steven Murray by email to eplusimpact@ecorys.com. The deadline is **Friday 18 January 2019 at 10am**.

Questions may be submitted in writing to the eplusimpact@ecorys.com before 17:00 on Wednesday 16 January 2019. Note that the due to Christmas holidays, questions will not be answered between 22 December and 6 January inclusive. Questions received and the answers given will be posted on the Erasmus+ website alongside the ITT notice.

Tenders should be a maximum of 16 pages of A4, excluding the title and contents pages. If a tender exceeds 16 pages, only the first 16 pages will be considered. Proposals should include the following information:

- An outline of the proposed research design, research techniques, analysis approach.
- Communication and dissemination activity.
- Pen portraits of the project team.
- Examples of at up to three similar or otherwise relevant projects conducted by the team.
- An outline timescale, including key points / dates.
- Project risks and proposed actions to minimise them.
- Project and quality management in delivery and analysis.
- An outline budget showing no. of days per team member, day rates, expenses, other costs.
- Contact details of two references who can be contacted if required.
- Detailed CVs of team members can be included as an annex outside of the 16 page limit.

Tender Assessment

Tenders will be assessed against the following criteria. Each criterion will be ranked 0-5 and weighted. Verbal feedback will be offered to all tenderers.

Criteria	Relevant proposal sections	Weighting
Understanding of the project requirements	Research design, communication & dissemination, risks, timescale	35%
Project team and experience	Pen portraits, CVs, previous projects	20%
Project management	Risk management, quality management	10%
Value for money	Budget, research design	35%

Questions Received and Responses Given

- Q1. The specification mentions that there are two surveys (2015/16 and 2017/18) and that both surveys were implemented twice (autumn and spring). Were the same respondents asked in each wave, or did each wave, within each survey, capture information from different participants.
- A1. Each survey wave involved different participants. Further details of the methodology are available via the RAY MON transnational study hyperlink in the ITT.
- Q2. Were participants only interviewed upon existing/completing the project?
- A3. Yes, participants were only surveyed at various points after completion of their period abroad or the end of the project. Further details of the methodology are available via the RAY MON transnational study hyperlink in the ITT.
- Q3. The ITT also requires that the results be split for four different groups based on the types of activities undertaken. Are the four activities mutually exclusive? Or could it be that the same person could have taken part in more than one activity?
- A3. Yes. Activities are mutually exclusive within individual projects. It is possible that individuals participated in multiple projects, but they were only contacted once about a specific project which was named in the invitation email.
- Q4. The data is collected from participants and leaders. Was the same questionnaire used on both groups. If so, should all results be further split into these groups?
- A4. Project leaders completed a different questionnaire to participants. We are open to proposals on whether analysis of project leader responses by project type would be feasible or valuable. Bidders should consider the number of responses received from project leaders in 2015/16 as detailed in the ITT and the relative number of projects by type, i.e., hundreds of each Key Action 1 project type have been funded while less than 70 Key Action 3 projects have been funded.