ESAA Projects Cluster overview

Cluster 1: Strengthening Higher Education Quality

This cluster looks to encourage projects that serve to improve higher education. The cluster includes five components:

- ***Component 1: Increase skill development*** (e.g. Create peer mentorship programmes that promote skills development)
- ***Component 2: Increase quality assurance*** (e.g. Pilot projects to involve students and alumni in the quality assurance processes of transnational courses)
- ***Component 3: Facilitate degree recognition*** (e.g. Create an international database of procedures and processes to gain diploma recognition)
- ***Component 4: Facilitate equal access*** (e.g. Video series featuring success stories in higher education access)
- ***Component 5: Increase employability*** (e.g. Offer career trainings to underserved populations).

Cluster 2: Spreading Erasmus+ and Widening Participation

This cluster aims to support the promotion of Erasmus+ and to increase participation in Erasmus+ initiatives and programmes. The cluster includes four components:

- ***Component 1: Increase international cooperation*** (e.g. Seminar with different organisations involved in education involving the promotion of Erasmus+).
- ***Component 2: Increase knowledge of the Erasmus+ programme*** (e.g. Organise promotional activities at different universities or other relevant institutions).
- ***Component 3: Facilitate access to Erasmus+*** (e.g. Organise information sessions on how to access Erasmus+ programmes with marginalised students).
- ***Component 4: Training extra EU universities on the Erasmus+ programme*** (e.g. Provide trainings for international officers at universities in countries with limited representation in Erasmus+ countries).

Cluster 3: Increasing Social Inclusion, Empowerment, and Participation

This cluster encourages members of the ESAA Partner Organisations to consider issues of social justice and work to address equity concerns and better serve marginalised populations. This cluster includes three components:

- ***Component 1: Give voice to marginalised populations*** (e.g. Video series on the experiences of marginalised students in higher education)
- ***Component 2: Facilitate understanding across cultures, religions, and political divides*** (e.g. Research project on cross-cultural encounters)
- ***Component 3: Cultural Heritage*** (e.g. Culture showcasing at ESAA events)

Cluster 4: Capacity Building

This cluster aims to increase the capacity of ESAA partner organisation members, Erasmus+ participants, and youth to better engage and participate in varied opportunities. This cluster includes four components:

- ***Component 1: Develop networking platforms and opportunities*** (e.g. organising a networking event for Erasmus+ alumni and potential employers)

- *Component 2: Develop knowledge exchange opportunities* (e.g. Organising a marketplace to find short-term housing in Asia)
- *Component 3: Provide trainings and skill enhancement to network members and beyond* (e.g. Project management in remote organisation)
- *Component 4: Facilitate collaboration among member organisations and members of different member organisations* (e.g. Create a platform where members of ESAA can meet and plot projects together)

ESAA's aims

A. Strengthen higher education quality

Enhance and strengthen higher education by developing students' and alumni's skills.

- Advocate for equal access to higher education for everyone. This also includes improving recognition of formal education (e.g. academic degrees and credits) and non-formal education (e.g. volunteering and training activities).
- Support equal access to mobility and skill development opportunities.
- Support the quality assurance of higher education, by collecting and sharing student and alumni feedback, also on support systems.
- Support bridging the gap between students and the labour market and to increase young people's employability through outreach to the professional world.
- Provide opportunities for developing cross-cultural communication and high-level skills.
- Advocate for cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation, more skills development and raise awareness of the international dimension of entrepreneurship at higher education institutions to enhance graduate employability.

B. Spreading Erasmus+ and Widening Participation

Promote the Erasmus+ Programme and increase visibility and participation across the world in both Erasmus+ programme & partner countries.

- Share knowledge on the different opportunities under Erasmus+.
- Explain how to access Erasmus+.
- Support the capacity development of universities in partner countries to take part in Erasmus+.
- Include Erasmus+ Alumni in promoting Erasmus+.

C. Social Inclusion, Empowerment & Participation (Social Impact)

Empower people to be active global citizens, improve intercultural understanding and cross-cultural communication and advocate for social inclusion and equality.

- Empowerment: Engage people to express their opinions. Reach out to youth at an earlier stage to encourage participation
- Advocate for social inclusion & equality
  - Gender equality
  - Inclusion for minority groups
  - Tolerance
- Share knowledge of culture, cultural awareness, intercultural understanding, and cross-cultural communication.

D. Capacity Building

Build capacity and train the organisations and their volunteers in topics central to providing support at the organisations' grassroots levels.

- Ensure and support knowledge exchange opportunities.
- Organise trainings
- Enhance and support cooperation between Alliance beneficiary/supporter/partner.
- Make use of ESAA for networking