



Reference: Circular 3/2026 (update)

23 February 2026

Clarification on Eligibility and Project Management Rules for Informal Groups of Young People.

Dear Beneficiaries,

This circular aims to provide important clarifications regarding the eligibility and project management framework for informal groups of young people within the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. These clarifications are intended to reinforce transparency, legal clarity, and alignment with the provisions outlined in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

1. Eligibility of Informal Groups of Young People

In accordance with the Erasmus+ & ESC Programme definition, an informal group of young people is understood as:

Erasmus+

“A group of at least **four** young people (13-30 years old) which does not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their group representative has the legal capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf.

In case of a group which has minors, one of the members of the group who is at least 18-years old assumes the role of representative and takes responsibility on behalf of the group.”

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European Solidarity Corps

“A group of at least **five** young people (18-30 years old) which does not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their group representative has the legal capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf.

Based on this definition, please note the following:

An informal group cannot be considered as such if it is legally registered under national law (e.g. as a foundation, association, NGO, etc.).

Applications submitted under the name of a legally constituted organisation will be treated accordingly, and not as applications from informal groups.

In cases where a legally registered organisation applies “on behalf of” an informal group, the project will be processed as an application by the organisation, not as an informal group. However, the implementation may still involve the group of young people under the organisation’s supervision.

This approach ensures:

- i) Compliance with the definition and intent of the informal group structure within the Programme.
- ii) Clear allocation of legal responsibility.

Applicants are strongly advised to align their application form and declared status with their actual legal standing. Misrepresentation may result in ineligibility or administrative sanctions.

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2. Who can submit an application

- i) **Option 1** (group submits): one of the young people in the group assumes the role of legal representative and takes responsibility for submitting the application.
- ii) **Option 2** (organisation submits): a public or private body submits the application on behalf of the group.

PS: An external adult who is not part of the group cannot act as the legal representative in their personal capacity for an informal group application.

3. Project Limitations for Informal Groups

To ensure adequate capacity and quality project implementation, the following rule applies:

Before awarding a new project under the Erasmus+/ European Solidarity Corps Programmes, the National Agency will take into account the overall performance of an applicant's past and ongoing projects. This assessment helps ensure that organisations receiving funding are capable of delivering high-quality results and managing EU funds responsibly.

- a) The criteria taken into consideration include, but are not limited to:
- b) Quality of previous projects – including the relevance, planning, implementation, and impact of activities carried out in earlier Erasmus+ initiatives.

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- c) Timeliness – whether the organisation respected deadlines, submitted reports on time, and adhered to agreed project timelines.
- d) Budget absorption and financial management – the ability to use granted funds effectively, efficiently, and in line with programme rules.
- e) Communication with the National Agency – responsiveness, clarity, cooperation, and overall reliability in interactions with the NA throughout the project lifecycle.
- f) These elements will guide the National Agency in determining the applicant's readiness and capacity to successfully implement a new project.

If the informal group is considered weak in the above areas the application shall be **rejected**.

4. Additional form required

Informal groups of young people (natural persons) must also upload the ORS Registration Form for informal groups, available [here](#). If you are registering as an informal group of young people, please download the ORS Registration form for informal groups, print it, have it signed by the legal representative and all group members, and then upload the completed form.

Verification of members will be performed by the agency by verifying against the persons register.

We appreciate your cooperation in upholding the standards and expectations of the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes. Should you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our Programme Coordination Unit.

Yours sincerely,

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