

# Call for Researcher(s)

## Mapping Cross-Sector Monitoring of the Participation Priority in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps, 2025 Period

[SALTO Participation and Information Resource Centre](#) (SALTO PI) is looking for a researcher, research team, institution or company to carry out the monitoring of the priority **“Participation in Democratic Life, Common Values and Civic Engagement”** (hereafter, the participation priority) within the Erasmus+ (E+) and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes, covering data from projects funded in 2025. Applications are open until **2 August 2026, end of day**, and the full conditions of the assignment are set out below.

### Context

SALTO PI supports the implementation of the E+ and ESC programmes in relation to the participation priority. It does so by developing a wide range of tools and publications, available on the [Participation Resource Pool](#), and by organising trainings and events for the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the two programmes as well as for the wider public. SALTO PI, hosted by the Estonian Education and Youth Board (HARNO), is one of the European Commission’s SALTO Resource Centres supporting the horizontal priority in E+ and ESC.

Understanding how the participation priority plays out in funded projects is central to this research project. For this reason, since 2023, SALTO PI has commissioned a cross-sector monitoring exercise, which analyses and interprets the overarching trends in E+ and ESC projects that address or contribute to the priority, spanning the Youth field, the Education and Training field (School Education, Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education and Adult Education) and the Sport field. The first full cycle of this work covered the 2021-2024 call years and produced four publications: a report on Erasmus+, a report on the European Solidarity Corps, a technical discussion paper setting out the methodology and its limitations, and a summary of the findings.

Methodologically, that cycle consolidated project results from the public Erasmus+ Project Results Database and the internal DG-EAC dataset into a database of over 11,000 Erasmus+ projects, identified through participation-related topics and action types inherently linked to the priority, alongside an equivalent extraction for ESC, where Volunteering and Solidarity projects were treated as contributing to the priority by definition. The consolidated data, covering grant, participant and organisational variables, was analysed through descriptive statistics compared across call years, fields and sectors, with data gaps and categorisation constraints systematically documented. All four publications will be released by the start of the present assignment and made available to the selected service provider, forming the methodological baseline on which the 2025 exercise will build.

### Summary of key dates

- Submission deadline: 2 August 2026, end of day;
- Evaluation and selection: 3-5 August 2026 (only selected candidates will be contacted);
- Working period: 6 to 12 weeks from the signing of the contract;



- Maximum completion deadline: 28 October 2026 (final version incorporating SALTO PI revisions and feedback, ready for proofreading and design);
- Presentations: two presentations of the work within six months of completion and publication, in a format to be agreed after the call.

## The assignment

Through this call, SALTO PI intends to contract a service provider to implement the monitoring exercise for projects funded in 2025, continuing the series established by the 2021-2024 cycle. The analysis should allow the European Commission, SALTO PI, National Agencies and beneficiaries to understand how the participation priority is evolving within the two programmes, per field and sector, and to identify the gaps, needs, tendencies and opportunities that emerge from the data.

While the work remains grounded in the quantitative data available through the European Commission databases, this iteration should take a more qualitative orientation than previous years. Rather than stopping at descriptive figures, the researcher is expected to identify and interpret trends, tendencies, correlations and observations within the data, so that the results hold genuine value as a monitoring instrument for the priority. In the same spirit, the conclusions should go beyond summarising the findings and offer clear policy recommendations and/or strategic foresight, insights and prospects that can inform the improvement of the programmes. The interpretation should draw, in part, on the 2021-2024 report, and cross-report references or correlations that build on prior SALTO PI knowledge are welcomed, although not mandatory. A critical approach to the existing methodology is equally welcome, with adjustments proposed wherever lessons learned suggest they are needed.

### Concretely, the assignment comprises four written outputs:

- A report on the participation priority within Erasmus+, based on 2025 data;
- A report on the participation priority within the European Solidarity Corps, based on 2025 data;
- A technical paper setting out the methodology, its limitations and recommendations for future monitoring;
- A summary of the findings, providing an accessible overview of the results across both programmes.

Alongside the written outputs, the researcher will hand over all materials created in the course of the work, including all databases and files produced. Once the work is completed and published, the researcher will also co-host two presentations of the results, in physical, hybrid or webinar format, within six months of publication. These may address SALTO PI members or external actors, and their format, timing and audiences will be agreed together after the call is completed.

## Timeline and working arrangements

Applications close on **2 August 2026, end of day**. Evaluation and decisions will follow between 3 and 5 August 2026, after which applicants will be notified of the outcome and a contract will be signed with the selected service provider. From the moment of signing, the work should be finalised within 6 to 12 weeks, with a maximum completion deadline of **28 October 2026**.



Completion here means the final version of all outputs, ready to be submitted to proofreading and design, and therefore already incorporating SALTO PI's revisions and feedback. In special circumstances, and only with SALTO PI's approval, this deadline can be extended by a maximum of two additional weeks.

During the working period, SALTO PI will provide between **one and five rounds of revision** and feedback on the documents, and these must be incorporated into the text before the outputs are considered complete.

The working language is **English**, and all work is carried out **remotely** and completed online. While in-person meetings in Tallinn may be arranged where appropriate, any travel, accommodation, or other related expenses shall be borne by the service provider. When needed, and upon agreement, sync communication and meetings with the SALTO PI team will take place during office hours (10:00-18:00 EEST/EET), while regular updates are expected in written format or through meetings across the agreed service period.

Once the final versions are delivered, SALTO PI will organise and conduct the proofreading and graphic design of the publications, as well as the assignment of ISBN/ISSN and DOI. The service provider is expected to remain available to review the final edits and designs, to ensure they accurately convey the intended meaning.

Payment will be provided, no later than 15 working days, as a single instalment, at the end of the contract period, after all the necessary materials have been provided to SALTO PI as publication-ready materials (including the accommodation of the revision/feedback rounds).

## Credit, copyright and publication

The author or authors, whether individuals or institutions, receive full credit for the work, with retention of authorship and fair acknowledgement. The copyright of the outputs, however, passes to SALTO PI, which holds the rights of translation, publication and adaptation of the work so that it can be disseminated across Europe, with the standard publication operating under a Creative Commons Licence and Open Access. Throughout the assignment, the selected applicant will adhere to SALTO PI's accessibility, inclusivity, AI usage, ethical data and related guidelines and frameworks, which will be shared at the start of the work.

## Who can apply

The call is open to individuals, institutions and companies alike, with no geographical limits. Any taxation incurred throughout the service will be paid by the applicant.

Applications may also be submitted by a team or consortium. In that case, the lead person or coordinator applies on behalf of the team, submitting all the application documents together with the CVs and contact details of the co-authors. The work statement of such applications must mention that the work is a **co-contribution** and briefly highlight how the tasks are split among the members.

Regardless of the form of application, applicants are expected to demonstrate, through their documents, a solid knowledge of the E+ and ESC programmes and their functioning, including an understanding of the main programme actors and stakeholders. They should show proven experience in similar research and monitoring activities, combining quantitative data handling with qualitative interpretation and trend analysis, with mixed-methods experience counting as an



advantage. Experience in producing policy-relevant conclusions, recommendations or foresight is equally expected, and previous work in European contexts, public institutions or similar programmes is an advantage. Finally, applicants should be fluent in English, both written and verbal, understood as C1 level or above.

SALTO PI encourages and welcomes applications from individuals, teams, institutions and companies from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, including persons with disabilities or other special needs. We are committed to ensuring an inclusive and fair selection process, and all applications will be evaluated equally and exclusively against the published selection criteria, without discrimination on any grounds.

## How to apply

Interested parties are requested to submit the following documents, in English:

- **An updated CV** (maximum 10 pages);
- **A list of publications, policy contributions, articles and similar outputs** (maximum 5 pages);
- **A work statement** (maximum 5 pages), consisting of a brief workplan and an obligatory financial statement expressing the **total cost** for the entire work, including VAT, expressed in euro. A breakdown of costs is welcomed but optional, and team or consortium applications should include here the co-contribution mention and the task split described above;
- **Examples of one to three previous works** similar to the current task. Links can be provided in a separate Word document, while attachments can be provided directly, and works in progress, works in submission or academic theses are also acceptable if no other options are available.

Financial proposals should be reasonable, proportionate and aligned with the scope of work described in this call, taking into account comparable assignments commissioned by European institutions and programmes.

The use of AI in preparing the application is permitted, as long as it takes place under human oversight and serves only to inform the applicant and to support drafting, rephrasing, formatting and similar non-substantial interventions. If any application is entirely made using AI, SALTO PI reserves the right to reject it.

Applications submitted by other means, as well as incomplete or late submissions, will not be considered. For any inquiries, please contact the same address with the subject line "Cross-Sector Monitoring - Inquiry".

**The documents should be sent to [christopher.radovici@harno.ee](mailto:christopher.radovici@harno.ee) with the subject line "Cross-Sector Monitoring 2025" by 2 August 2026, end of day.**

## Evaluation and selection

Submitted applications will be evaluated by SALTO PI against four criteria, each individually assessed on a scale of 1 to 10 and then weighted, with 100 being the maximum total score:



- **Financial costs** (15% of the total score);
- **Previous experience** (35% of the total score), as presented in the CV;
- **List and history of publications, policy work and contributions** (25% of the total score);
- **Work statement and examples of previous publications** (25% of the total score), assessed for the relevance, clarity and feasibility of the proposed approach and the quality and relevance of the submitted examples.

Total scores will be calculated by adding up the weighted scores of the four categories, and the winner of the evaluation will be notified of the results.

Due to the large number of applications, only selected service providers might be contacted, if we haven't provided an answer within 2 weeks of the deadline, please consider your application unsuccessful.

