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**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ERASMUS+ AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS
NA DIRECTORS**

Subject: Coronavirus – exceptional measures with regard to Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps projects

In the context of the measures taken by the Italian Government to contain the spread of the Coronavirus infection in Northern Italy, I would like to inform you that the measures announced in our note of 31 January 2020 (ref. Ares(2020)619972) shall be considered fully applicable to any mobility in affected areas of **programme and partner countries** where the virus is detected and which are considered at risk. In line with the abovementioned note, National Agencies are requested to inform the participating organisations concerned and instruct them to contact the individual participants who already are in, or are planning to leave for the affected areas within the coming days or weeks. Participants should also be reminded of the assistance that can be provided by embassies, consulates and honorary consulates in the country of their stay.

It is for the participating organisations and individuals to decide on the course of action to take in the light of national travel advice and repatriation schemes. The National Agencies should however monitor closely, in cooperation with the participating organisation, if the area of the planned mobility can be considered safe by the time of travel for the entire duration of the mobility or project activity.

Please be reminded that National Agencies may apply the *force majeure clause* to activities taking place **in any affected area** as well as to incoming mobility from these areas, as foreseen in the template of the grant agreement between National Agencies and the beneficiaries and as defined in the programme guide and other contractual documents. National Agencies may thereby cancel, postpone or move activities planned in such regions in the most flexible way, notwithstanding the respect of the general legal framework applying to Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. Given the exceptional circumstances, the same principles can be applied also to any incoming mobility from affected regions. However, when assessing additional costs linked to a case of *force majeure*, the National Agencies should apply the provisions established in section 3.16 of the Guide for National Agencies.

Justified repatriation costs will be accepted as exceptional costs, whereas normal reporting requirements apply.

