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# Erasmus+ Youth: the programme's objectives

## 34 COUNTRIES

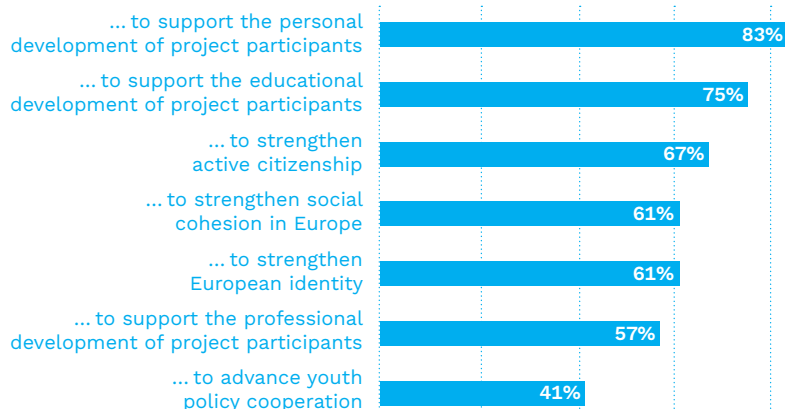
The RAY Network is the open research network of National Agencies of the European youth programmes and their research partners.

### AN ESSENTIAL & HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL PROGRAMME

Erasmus+ Youth is the European Union's learning mobility programme for young people and youth work organisations, networks and institutions. The programme seeks to strengthen European identity and citizenship through intercultural dialogue and non-formal learning<sup>1</sup>. It has a wide range of policy and programme objectives. Our research shows that funded projects contribute successfully to all objectives and substantively support *"making the most of youth policy's potential"* and *"fostering youth participation in democratic life"*, the core ambition and overarching objective<sup>2</sup> of the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027.

#### Contribution to general Erasmus+ programme objectives

The projects in the field of youth contribute to the general programme objectives of the Erasmus+ Programme as follows, according to 3.845 responding project team members:



#### Contribution to sector-specific objectives of Erasmus+ Youth

For the contribution of projects to the sector-specific objectives of Erasmus+ Youth, we asked the 3.845 project team members to pick up to three objectives to which their project contributed the most:

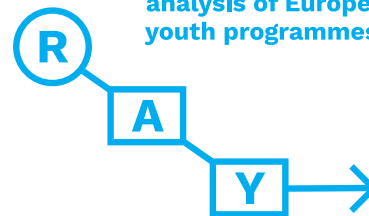


N = 3.845 project team members. Surveys conducted in the second half of 2023.

Sequence in ranked order – from most frequent to least frequent response. In our surveys, the objectives are shown to respondents in randomised sequences. Respondents could choose any objective without restrictions.

Sequence in ranked order – from most frequent to least frequent response. In our surveys, the objectives are shown to respondents in randomised sequences. Respondents could choose a maximum of three objectives.

1 European Parliament and European Council (2021). Regulation establishing Erasmus+ Articles 3 ff. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.  
2 Council of the European Union (2018). EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027, p. 2. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.



# Erasmus+ Youth and the key competences

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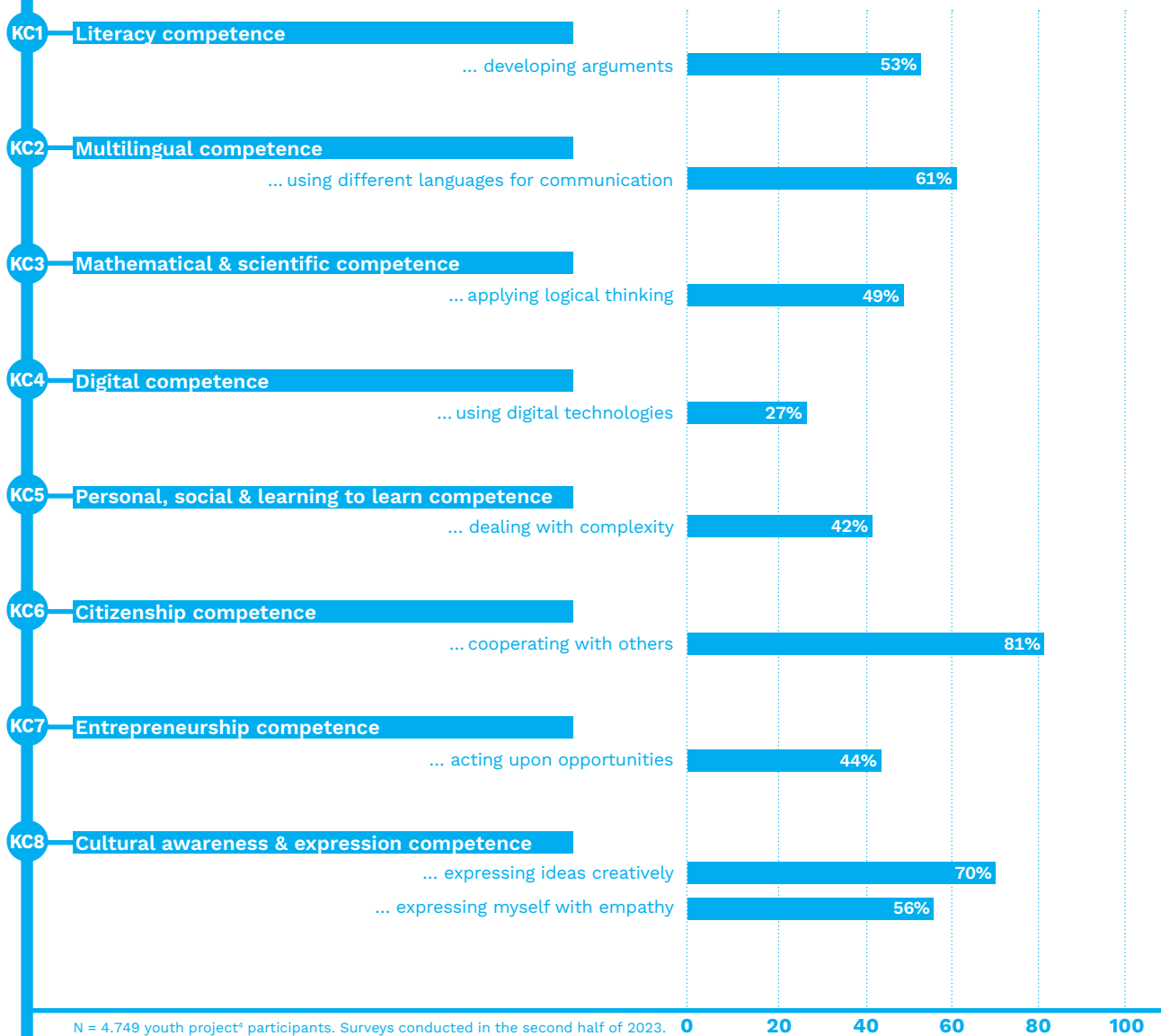
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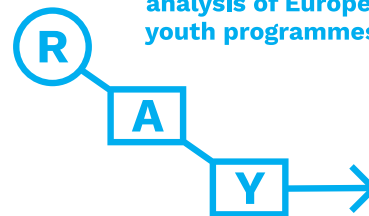
### A COMPETENCE BOOST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Erasmus+ Youth is the European Union’s learning mobility programme for young people and youth work organisations, networks and institutions. The programme seeks to strengthen European identity and citizenship through intercultural dialogue and non-formal learning<sup>1</sup>. One specific objective is to strengthen the key competences<sup>2</sup> of young people. Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth is successful in achieving this objective and contributes to **“empowering young people to contribute to the development of inclusive, sustainable, democratic, plural and peaceful societies”**, one of the aims of the European Youth Work Agenda<sup>3</sup>.

More than 80% of 4.749 participants in youth projects<sup>4</sup> say that through their participation in an Erasmus+ Youth project they improved at least three of the key competences for life-long learning:



1 European Parliament and European Council (2021). Regulation establishing Erasmus+ Articles 3 ff. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.  
 2 European Commission (2019). Key competences for lifelong learning, p. 5. Luxembourg: Publications office of the European Union.  
 3 Council of the European Union (2020). Resolution on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda.  
 4 We surveyed participants of youth projects in Erasmus+ Youth, youth exchanges (KA 151 and KA152) and youth participation projects (KA154).



# Erasmus+ Youth and personal development

## 34 COUNTRIES

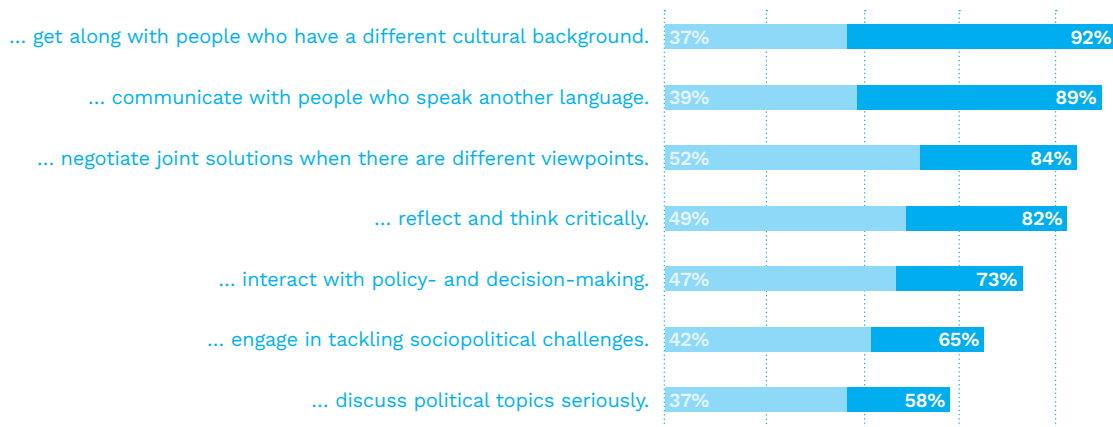
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### A DEVELOPMENT BOOST FOR PARTICIPANTS

Erasmus+ Youth is the European Union's learning mobility programme for young people and youth work organisations, networks and institutions. The programme seeks to strengthen European identity and citizenship through intercultural dialogue and non-formal learning<sup>1</sup>. One objective is to strengthen the development and competences<sup>2</sup> of young people. Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth is successful in achieving this objective and contributes to **“building a lifelong learning mobility culture”**, as called for in the European Council's 2024 Recommendation 'Europe on the Move' – learning mobility opportunities for everyone<sup>3</sup>.

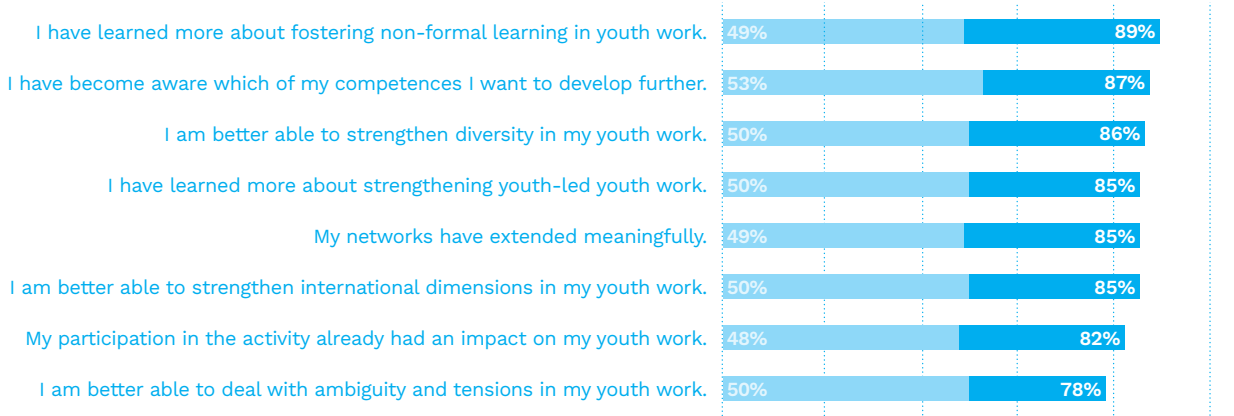
#### Development of participants of youth projects

The majority of the 4.749 responding participants of youth projects<sup>4</sup> confirm that their participation in an Erasmus+ Youth project had clear effects on their personal capacity and development, namely the improvement of their ability to ...



#### Development of participants of youth work activities

The majority of the 5.296 responding participants of youth work activities<sup>5</sup> agree that their participation in an Erasmus+ Youth project had clear effects on their professional capacity and development, namely:

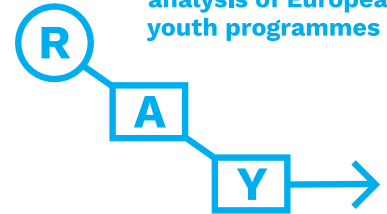


N = 4.749 youth project<sup>4</sup> participants. Surveys conducted in the second half of 2023.  
N = 5.296 youth work activity<sup>5</sup> participants. Surveys conducted during the same time.

Sequence in ranked order – from most frequent to least frequent response

Sequence in ranked order – from most frequent to least frequent response

1 European Parliament and European Council (2021). Regulation establishing Erasmus+ Articles 3 ff. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.  
2 European Commission (2019). Key competences for lifelong learning, p. 5. Luxembourg: Publications office of the European Union.  
3 Council of the European Union (2024). 'Europe on the Move' – learning mobility opportunities for everyone. Recommendation C/2024/3364.  
4 We surveyed participants of youth projects in Erasmus+ Youth: youth exchanges (KA 151 and KA152) and youth participation projects (KA154).  
5 We surveyed participants of youth work activities in Erasmus+ Youth: youth worker mobilities (KA 153) and training and cooperation activities (TCA).



# Erasmus+ Youth and active citizenship

**34** COUNTRIES

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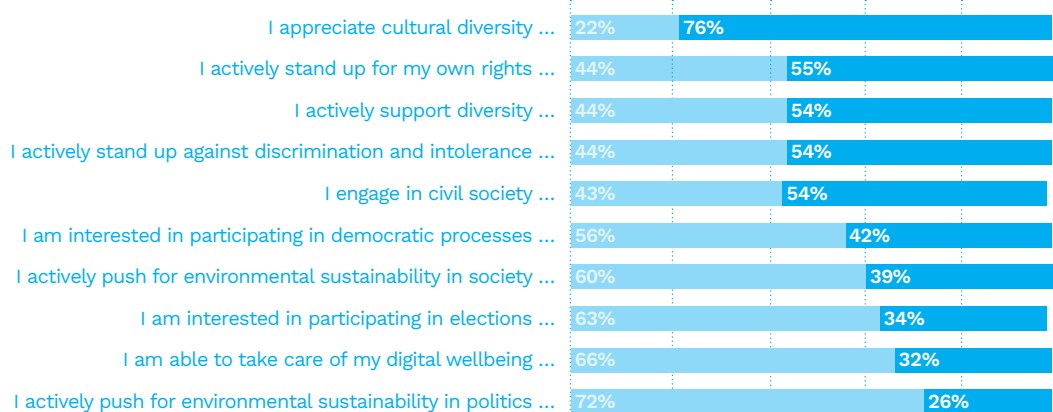
## A POWERFUL CATALYST FOR DEMOCRACY

Erasmus+ Youth is the European Union's learning mobility programme for young people and youth work organisations, networks and institutions. One specific objective of the programme is to promote active citizenship and participation of young people<sup>1</sup>. Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth is successful in achieving this objective and underpins and supports the ambition to give **“young people greater freedom and responsibility within our societies and democracies”**, as Ursula von der Leyen phrased it in her political guidelines<sup>2</sup> for the European Commission 2024–2029.

### Effects on active citizenship of participants of youth projects

The 4.749 responding participants of youth projects<sup>3</sup> strengthened their skills for and reaffirmed their commitment to active citizenship through their participation in Erasmus+ Youth:

- same extent as before project
- more than before project

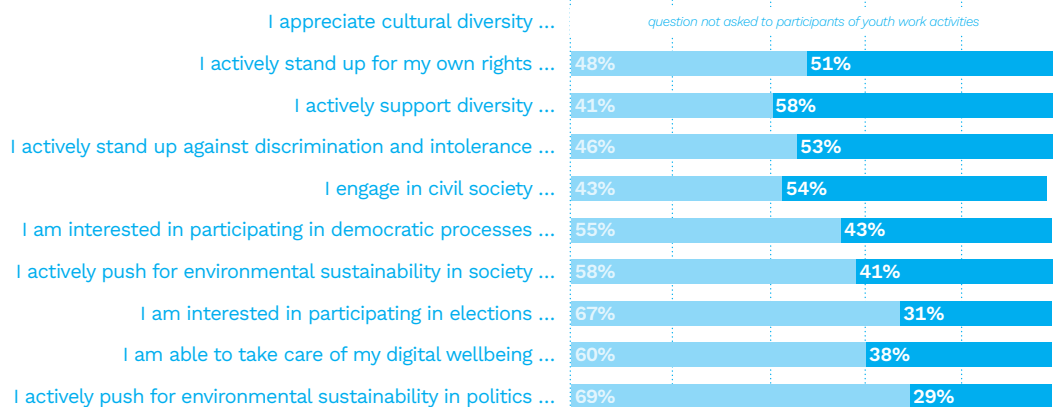


N = 4.749 youth project<sup>3</sup> participants. Surveys conducted in the second half of 2023. All aspects part of parallel modules with varying n: 2299, 1160, 1158, 1156, 1144, 1142, 1194, 1142, 1202, 1194.

### Effects on active citizenship of participants of youth work activities

The 5.296 responding participants of youth work activities<sup>4</sup> also strengthened their skills for and reaffirmed their commitment to active citizenship through their participation in Erasmus+ Youth:

- same extent as before activity
- more than before activity

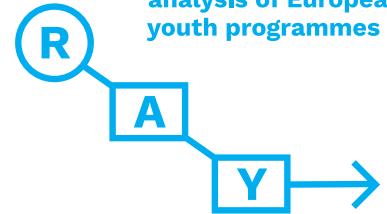


N = 5.296 youth work activity<sup>4</sup> participants. Surveys conducted during the same time. All aspects part of parallel modules with varying n: n/a, 1338, 1335, 1335, 1317, 1315, 1353, 1318, 1260, 1363.

Sequence in decreasing order for the response option 'more than before'

Sequence is in same order as above for easier comparisons

1 European Parliament and European Council (2021). Regulation establishing Erasmus+. Articles 3 ff. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.  
 2 Ursula von der Leyen (2024). Political Guidelines for the next European Commission, p. 20. Brussels: Strategy paper of the European Commission President.  
 3 We surveyed participants of youth projects in Erasmus+ Youth, youth exchanges (KA 151 and KA152) and youth participation projects (KA154).  
 4 We surveyed participants of youth work activities in Erasmus+ Youth, youth worker mobilities (KA 153) and training and cooperation activities (TCA).



# Erasmus+ Youth and the quality of youth work

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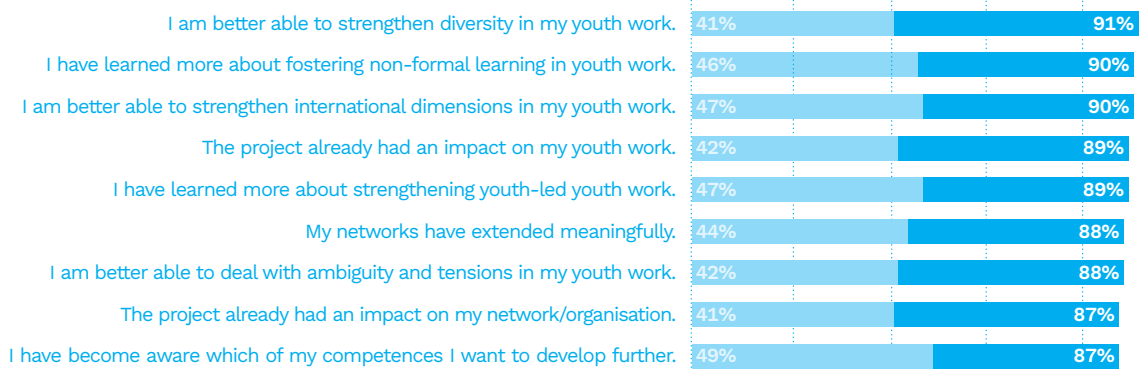
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## A CRUCIAL SPACE FOR YOUTH WORK

Erasmus+ Youth is the European Union's learning mobility programme for young people and youth work organisations, networks and institutions. The programme seeks to strengthen European identity and citizenship through intercultural dialogue and non-formal learning<sup>1</sup>. One specific objective is to strengthen youth work. Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth is successful in achieving this objective and contributes to **“supporting the development of quality youth work”** and **“providing youth workers with needed education, training and learning”**, as stipulated in the European Council's 2024 Resolution on youth work policy<sup>2</sup>.

### Effects on youth work competences of project team members

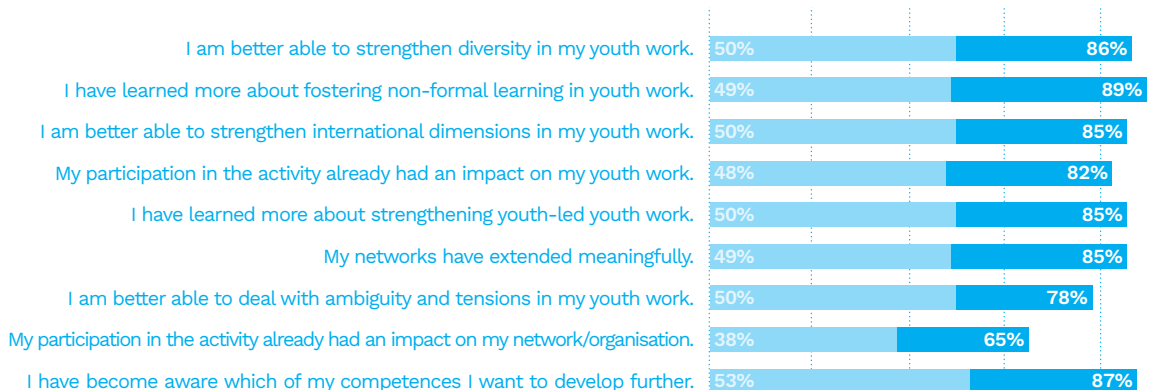
The majority of the 3.845 responding project team members state that through their coordination of an Erasmus+ Youth project they have improved and extended their youth work skills and networks considerably:



N = 3.845 project team members. Surveys conducted in the second half of 2023. All aspects part of parallel modules with varying n: 1891, 1913, 1910, 3805, 1910, 1921, 1888, 3837, 1913.

### Effects on competences of participants of youth work activities

The 5.296 responding participants of youth work activities<sup>3</sup> also state that through their participation in an Erasmus+ Youth education and training activity for youth workers, they have improved and extended their skills and networks:

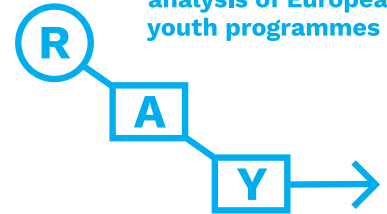


N = 5.296 youth work activity<sup>3</sup> participants. Surveys conducted during the same time. All aspects part of core modules with slightly varying n: 5236, 5235, 5240, 5250, 5236, 5260, 5222, 5281, 5246.

Sequence in ranked order – from most frequent to least frequent response

Sequence is in same order as above for easier comparisons

1 European Parliament and European Council (2021). Regulation establishing Erasmus+ Articles 3 ff. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.  
2 Council of the European Union (2024). Resolution on youth work policy in an empowering Europe. Resolution C/2024/3526.  
3 We surveyed participants of youth work activities in Erasmus+ Youth, youth worker mobilities (KA-1.153) and training and cooperation activities (TCA).



# Erasmus+ Youth and European identity

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## A SURGE OF FEELING CONNECTED TO EUROPE

Erasmus+ Youth is the European Union's learning mobility programme for young people and youth work organisations, networks and institutions. The programme seeks to strengthen European identity and citizenship through intercultural dialogue and non-formal learning<sup>1</sup>. Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth is successful in doing so and contributes to **“fostering the sense of youth belonging to the European project and building a bridge between the EU and young people”**, as captured by Youth Goal #1<sup>2</sup> and stipulated in the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027<sup>3</sup>.

### Sense of belonging to Europe of participants of youth projects

We asked 7.567 participants of youth projects<sup>4</sup> how close they felt to Europe before their Erasmus+ Youth project experience. They could respond on an integer scale from 0 = not close at all to 10 = very close.



We asked the same 7.567 participants of youth projects<sup>4</sup> how close they felt to Europe after their Erasmus+ Youth project experience. The change in their sense of belonging to Europe is substantial and significant:



N = 7.567 youth project<sup>4</sup> participants. Surveys conducted in the second half of 2023. Question asked as slider question with an 11-stop integer scale, ranging from 0 = not close at all to 10 = very close.

### Sense of belonging to Europe of participants of youth work activities

We asked 5.296 participants of youth work activities<sup>5</sup> how close they felt to Europe before their Erasmus+ Youth activity. The same integer scale was used, ranging from 0 = not close at all to 10 = very close.



We asked the same 5.296 participants of youth work activities<sup>5</sup> how close they felt to Europe after their Erasmus+ Youth experience. The change in their sense of belonging to Europe is equally meaningful and substantial:



N = 5.296 youth work activity<sup>5</sup> participants. Surveys conducted during the same time. Question asked as slider question with an 11-stop integer scale, ranging from 0 = not close at all to 10 = very close.

Sequence in ranked order – from most frequent to least frequent response

Sequence is in same order as above for easier comparisons PP vs PL

1. Parliament and European Council (2021). Regulation establishing Erasmus+, Articles 3 ff. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.  
 2. The 11 European Youth Goals summarise issues affecting young people in Europe and are a constituent part of the EU Youth Strategy > youth-goals.eu  
 3. Council of the European Union (2018). EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027, p. 2. Luxembourg: Official Journal of the European Union.  
 4. We surveyed participants of youth projects in Erasmus+ Youth, youth exchanges (KA 151 and KA152) and youth participation projects (KA154).  
 5. We surveyed participants of youth work activities in Erasmus+ Youth, youth worker mobilities (KA 153) and training and cooperation activities (TCA).