

04.12.2020



# 7 insights from 7 years of research

→ Erasmus+ Youth in Action | 2014–2020  
Norwegian Evaluation Meeting | Online



**RAY in a nutshell**

## What is RAY exactly?

- Research-based analysis of European youth programmes
- Self-governed, **open** & growing youth research network
- Founded in 2008 by a handful of pioneering partners
- Grown to include 36 partners in 34 countries
- Partner = National Agency (RAY contact person) + National Research Team (internal and/or external)
- The network now covers 29 languages, incl. Norwegian
- Built around programme monitoring and assessment

# Quick overview of current projects

## Monitoring

- **RAY-MON »**  
Research-based Analysis & Monitoring of Erasmus+ Youth in Action
- **RAY-SOC »**  
Research-based analysis & Monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps

## Thematic

- **RAY-INNO »**  
Role of innovation in European youth work and youth policy
- **RAY-LEARN »**  
Organisational development & learning in the youth sector
- **RAY-PART »**  
Approaches to participation and citizenship learning

## Special

- **RAY-CC »**  
Country characteristics & their influence on RAY research
- **RAY-COR »**  
Impact of the corona pandemic on youth work in Europe
- **RAY-INC »**  
Effects of inequalities on learning outcomes

# It takes a village to raise a research project

## Coordination

- **Coordination Group »**  
Andreas, Carmen, Gerhard, Helmut, Irmeli, Ondra, Valentina
- **Coordination Office »**  
Carmen & Valentina and easily half of IZ's stellar team
- **Facilitation »**  
Anna, Peter, Özgehan

## Research

- **Distributed team with two offices »**  
Vienna & Berlin, plus distributed members
- **8.5 »** Tanja, Susanne, Sümeyra, Johanna, Helmut, Cara, Ashley, Andreas (*plus Martin*)
- **Special studies »**  
Colleagues from the network co-writing

## Working groups

- **12 National Agencies and their research partners in working groups »**  
AT, BE-FL, CZ, DK, EE, FI, MK, DE, IT, SI, TR, UK

## Communication

- **Research design »**  
Andreas, Mursal, Paula



**Data, data, data**

# Where does our data come from?

- **RAY-MON & SOC**

- **Current programme generation (2014–2020)**

- **Project participants (PP):** 63.133 fully valid responses
    - **Project leaders (PL):** 13.083 fully valid responses
    - **Project organisations (PO):** 1.227 fully valid responses

- **Including project participants and project leaders from**

- 1.118 projects funded through Erasmus+ Aktiv Ungdom

- **RAY-CAP, COR, INNO, LEARN, LTE & PART**

- > 4.000 thematic survey respondents
  - > 1.000 interviews (semi-structured or explorative)
  - > 200 focus groups
  - > 100 case studies



**Insight 1/7**



The most important finding

**“The programme works.”**

63.133 project participants and 13.083 project leaders

The programme works.

## **Intercultural learning at its best.**

I appreciate cultural diversity more than before the project (PP).

2017/2018: 65,7%

2019/2020: 66,7%

Through my participation in this project I improved my ability to get along with people who have a different cultural background (PP).

2017/2018: 57,7% strongly agree & 36,5% agree » 94,1%

2019/2020: 61,7% strongly agree & 33,5% agree » 95,2%

The programme works.

## **Non-formal education at its best.**

I now understand the concept of non-formal education and learning better.

2017/2018: 40,5% strongly agree & 49,2% agree » 89,7%

2019/2020: 43,2% strongly agree & 47,1% agree » 90,3%

I have learned more about how to foster non-formal learning in youth work.

2017/2018: 38,8% strongly agree & 50,5% agree » 89,3%

2019/2020: 42,1% strongly agree & 48,2% agree » 90,3%

The programme works.

## **Youth work at its best.**

I have learned something which I intend to use in my work/involvement with young people.

2017/2018: 40,6% strongly agree & 49,1% agree » 89,7%

2019/2020: 43,3% strongly agree & 48,2% agree » 91,5%

I have learned better to deal with unexpected situations in educational activities with young people.

2017/2018: 34,6% strongly agree & 48,8% agree » 83,4%

2019/2020: 38,3% strongly agree & 47,3% agree » 85,6%

The programme works.

## **A boost for participation & citizenship.**

I engage in civil society more than before the project.

2017/2018: 35,5%

2019/2020: 36,7%

I actively contribute to environmental protection more than before the project.

2017/2018: 33,1%

2019/2020: 43,1%

The programme works.

# Six factsheets ready for you

## The programme objectives of Erasmus+ Youth in Action

Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth in Action is successful in achieving its objectives and contributes substantively to making the most of youth policy's potential.

[read more →](#)

## Positive effects on key competences for lifelong learning

Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth in Action is successful in strengthening the key competences for life-long learning of young people and giving them opportunities to thrive.

[read more →](#)

## Positive effects on personal development and further pathways

Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth in Action is successful in strengthening the development of young people and contributes to enabling young people to be architects of their own lives.

[read more →](#)

## Positive effects on youth participation & active citizenship

Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth in Action is successful in promoting active citizenship and strengthening the participation of young people.

[read more →](#)

## Erasmus+ Youth in Action: a crucial space for quality youth work

Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth in Action is successful in fostering quality youth work and provides young people with opportunities they need to thrive.

[read more →](#)

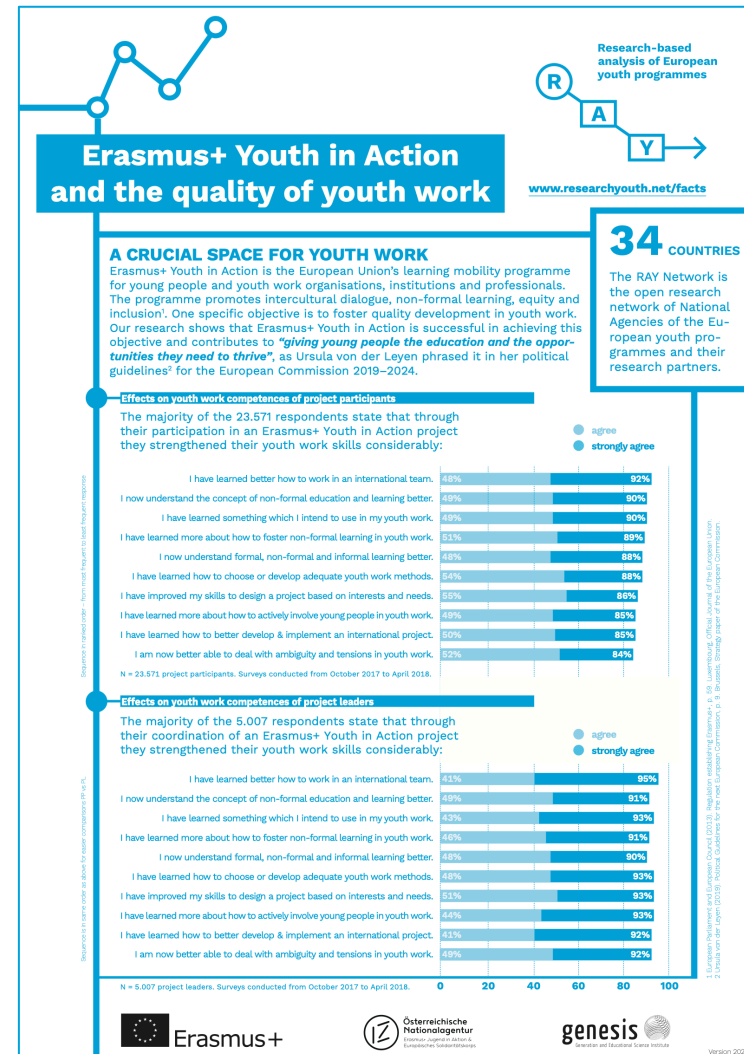
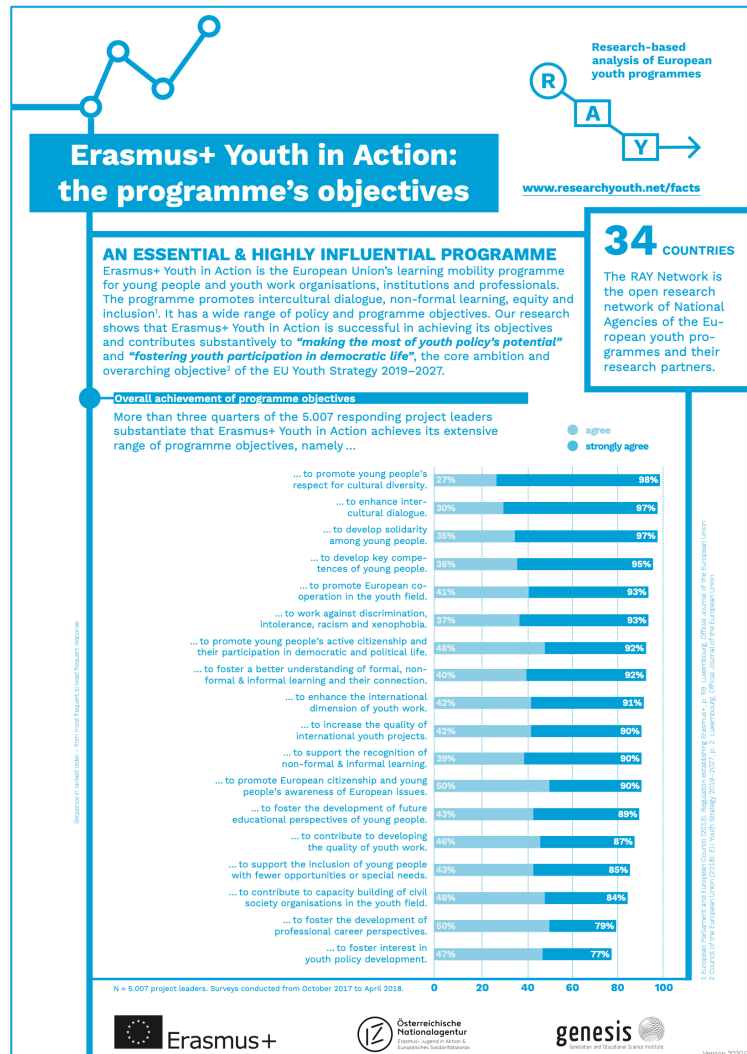
## Erasmus+ Youth in Action: an essential tool for the youth sector

Our research shows that Erasmus+ Youth in Action is successful in strengthening the youth sector and contributes to supporting youth networks, organisations and structures.

[read more →](#)

The programme works.

# Six factsheets ready for you





**Insight 2/7**



# Media literacy needs work

88% of project leaders think that participants developed their skills to “produce media content on their own”.

73,8% in 2015

85,0% in 2017

87,8% in 2019

66% of project participants think they developed their skills to “produce media content on their own”.

61,4% in 2015

63,5% in 2017

66,3% in 2019

21% of project participants say they learned something new about “media, social media and the internet”.

18,1% in 2015

20,3% in 2017

20,6% in 2019



**Insight 3/7**

## Political literacy needs re-thinking

81% of project leaders think that participants developed their skills to “discuss political topics seriously”.

64,9% in 2015

78,3% in 2017

81,0% in 2019

63% of project participants think they developed their skills to “discuss political topics seriously”.

60,4% in 2015

61,5% in 2017

62,8% in 2019



**Insight 4/7**

## **Needs analysis remains sketchy**

Even for larger projects and formats, it remains unclear *how* the needs of young people are identified. While they are often formulated clearly, the source of the clear words is often unclear.

**How can needs analysis be more strongly based on evidence and less on intuition?**



**Insight 5/7**

## **Do policy-makers need more?**

Policy-makers are oftentimes a target group for dissemination only. At the same time their absence is frequently lamented.

## **Where is the actual problem here?**

Are policy-makers not interested enough?  
Are policy-makers not addressed enough?



**Insight 6/7**



## **Digitalisation needs a boost**

The youth sector has largely avoided to engage earnestly with digitalisation, with the exception of a small avantgarde.

As a result, we still have not figured out, as a sector, what the character of non-formal education and youth work can be in online environments.

**What makes us different, if everything else is also online?**



**Insight 7/7**

## **Youth work recovery support**

The modality of project funding has shown its limits very, very forcefully during the past months.

Too many beneficiaries live from project to project without possibility to build a sustainable financial basis.

**How can we support beneficiaries better at structural level and in sustainable ways?**



# 7 Insights

# **1: THE PROGRAMME WORKS.**

**2: Media literacy needs creativity**

**3: Political literacy needs re-thinking**

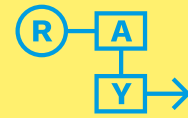
**4: Needs analysis needs evidence**

**5: Policy-makers remain a mystery**

**6: Digitalisation needs a boost.**

**7: Youth work needs recovery support**

04.12.2020



Research-based  
analysis of European  
youth programmes

# Thank you very much!



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