



# Erasmus+ Youth and European identity

**34** COUNTRIES

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

## 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](http://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).