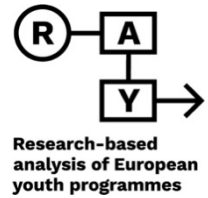




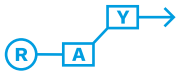
Erasmus+



**RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE
LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF ERASMUS+
YOUTH IN ACTION ON PARTICIPATION
AND CITIZENSHIP
(RAY-LTE EXT)**

SUMMATIVE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

2023 –2024



Research project on the long-term effects of Erasmus+ Youth in Action on participation and citizenship (RAY-LTE extended)

Report of activities 2023/2024

It is now seven years since the RAY research project on Long-term Effects of Erasmus+ Youth in Action on Participation and Citizenship (RAY-LTE) started. It was designed as a longitudinal study with a mixed method approach, using quantitative and qualitative social research methods: standardised multilingual online surveys and guideline-based interviews, which were conducted with participants of Erasmus+ Youth in Action (E+/YiA) projects at various stages before and after the core activity of the project. In these surveys and interviews, a number of questions on indicators for participation and citizenship competence and practice were asked in order to measure how the responses vary.

It was an extensive and labour-intensive project, but it also produced meaningful results. For example, the study revealed that the interest in environmental protection and sustainable development as well as the respective knowledge of most project participants clearly increased. Participants also gained knowledge about Europe and the European Union, their awareness of existing social skills was raised and these skills were deepened. In particular, in the third interview many interview partners confirmed that the learning effects are still of importance for them and partly changed their actions.

The third LTE interview took place two to three years after the project participation of the interviewees. This can be seen as a first approach to exploring long-term effects. In 2023, seven to eight years after the project participation, a fourth interview with the interview partners could reveal new insights into the sustainability of the learning effects over a longer period of time and provide answers to the question, which other developments and events might have had an effect on the interviewees' current perceptions of participation and citizenship as well as on their current practical engagement in civil society and political life. Furthermore, the idea seems to be exciting to get to know which meaning the interviewees attribute to their project participation in general and with regard to their personal development and professional career from today's perspective.

The fourth interviews seven years after the project participation presented a unique opportunity, to explore truly long-term effects of European youth projects – long-term effects of educational and learning activities being of core interest for any educational research. The 246 interviews – 82 young people took part in all three interviews – can definitely be considered to be an extremely valuable database to build on. This extension to RAY LTE was in line with the priorities of Erasmus+ (2021-2027) – the priority 'participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement' as direct link, and 'inclusion and diversity' as well as 'environment and fight against climate change' as related citizenship principles and actions.



During the reporting period, the following research coordination activities were implemented:

- Development of a draft concept note, initial budget and budget allocation preview for the research project in 2023 and 2024
- Preparation, implementation and follow-up of online working group meetings in 2023 and 2024
- Preparation, implementation and follow-up of physical working group meeting in November 2023 in Munich
- Development of interview guidelines for fourth interview of project interviewees
- Development of analysis grid for the conducted fourth interviews of project interviewees
- Preparation and implementation of transnational analysis of the interviews
- Development and drafting of a research report for the project
- Production of a summative report and a report of expenditure for this project phase

During the reporting period, the following research communication activities were implemented:

- Presentation of progress and plans during Network Meeting in September 2023 and 2024
- Participation in and contribution to the analysis seminar in Reykjavik in December 2023
- Participation in and contribution to the Triangular Summit in Helsinki in May 2024
- Contribution to the Think Tank Meeting in Tallinn in June 2024
- Presentation of key findings of the project for several partner agencies in 2024
- Presentation of key findings of the project during thematic events in 2023 and 2024
- Presentation of findings at Youth Research Dialogues in 2024
- Thematic contributions to the monthly newsletter for the RAY Network
- Contribution to the development of the RAY-LTE project page on researchyouth.net

ANNEXES

- 1. PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE**
- 2. WORKING GROUP MEETING REPORT APRIL 23**
- 3. WORKING GROUP MEETING REPORT NOV 23**
- 4. INTERVIEW GUIDELINES**
- 5. INTERVIEW ANALYSIS GRID**
- 6. RESEARCH REPORT**