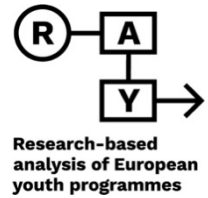




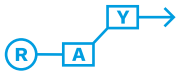
Erasmus+



**EXPLORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT  
ON THE IMPACT & POTENTIAL OF  
COOPERATION PROJECTS WITH  
NEIGHBOURING PARTNER COUNTRIES  
IN THE EU YOUTH PROGRAMMES  
(RAY-NPC)**

**SUMMATIVE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**

2023 –2024



# Research project on the impact and potential of cooperation projects with neighbouring countries in the European youth programmes (RAY-NPC)

## Report of activities 2023/2024

The EU Youth Programmes have long offered the possibility for cooperation projects between programme countries (EU Member States<sup>1</sup> and third countries associated to the programmes<sup>2</sup>) and neighbouring partner countries (third countries not associated the Programme that are neighbouring the EU)<sup>3</sup>.

Various thematic surveys and studies have been conducted to explore these collaborations, but a consistent analysis of the monitoring datasets of the RAY Network has not yet been undertaken.

Against that backdrop, this explorative research project will analyse cooperation projects with neighbouring partner countries in the existing datasets and develop research instruments to systematically explore key aspects of the collaboration with neighbouring partner countries. The project will be implemented in close co-operation with the long-term strategic activity on neighbouring partner countries (LTSA NPC) and the regional SALTO Resource Centres.

### ***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 September and October 2023
- Development, preparation, implementation and analysis of an online survey on cooperation projects with neighbouring countries
- Development, preparation, implementation and analysis of focus groups with beneficiaries on cooperation projects with neighbouring countries
- Analysis of monitoring survey data regarding the research project's main questions
- Conducting contextualising interviews as well explorative meetings with staff and experts of regional SALTO Centres
- Development and drafting of a research report and key findings for the project
- Participation in team retreats of the transnational research team and a joint team retreat with the network coordination team
- Production of a summative report and a report of expenditure for this project phase

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

<sup>2</sup> Liechtenstein, Iceland, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Turkey.

<sup>3</sup> Third countries not associated the Programme that are neighbouring the EU have been clustered into several regions, of which this project will cover four: Region 1: Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosova, Montenegro); Region 2: Neighbourhood East (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine); Region 3: South-Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestina, Syria, Tunisia); Region 4: Russian Federation (Russia). For other regions, see <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/eligible-countries>



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

- Presentation of progress and plans during Network Meeting in September 2023
- Participation in several coordination meetings with institutional partners in 2023 and 2024
- Participation in coordination and contents meetings with related SALTOs and SNACs
- 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 during NA Business Meeting in October 2023
- Presentation of key findings of the project during Directors General Meeting in March 2024
- Presentation of key findings of the project during E+ NA-Commission Meetings in 2023 and 2024
- Presentation of key findings of the project during SNAC meetings in 2023 and 2024
- Presentation of key findings of the project during thematic conferences in 2023 and 2024
- Presentation of findings at Youth Research Dialogues in 2023 and 2024
- Participation in and contribution to the monthly digital RAY Network Exchanges
- Thematic contributions to the monthly newsletter for the RAY Network
- Participation in and contribution to the monthly coordination and update meetings
- Contribution to the development of the RAY-NPC project page on researchyouth.net

# ANNEXES

- 1. INITIAL CONCEPT NOTE**
- 2. REVISED CONCEPT NOTE**
- 3. WORKING GROUP MEETING REPORT**
- 4. FOCUS GROUP GUIDELINES**
- 5. FINAL SURVEY DOCUMENT**
- 6. MONITORING SURVEY ANALYSIS EXAMPLE**
- 7. KEY FINDINGS**
- 8. RESEARCH REPORT**