



RESEARCH-BASED ANALYSIS OF ERASMUS+: YOUTH IN ACTION (RAY)

Research-based Analysis of Erasmus+: Youth in Action (RAY) is a research programme that explores a broad scope of aspects of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme of the European Union (E+/YiA – see box on page 2). It focuses in particular on the effects of projects on young people, youth workers and youth leaders as well as on their organisations and the communities where projects take place. Additionally, RAY studies how project actors are learning, and which contexts, settings, approaches, methodologies and methods contribute to their learning and competence development.

Through its research, RAY contributes not only to quality assurance and development in the implementation of E+/YiA, but also to a better understanding and further development of international youth work and youth learning mobility, and more widely to evidence-based and research-informed youth policy development in Europe.

Moreover, RAY seeks to generate new knowledge about the processes and outcomes of non-formal learning and learning mobility in general and more specifically about non-formal learning in youth activities with an international dimension.

RESEARCH APPROACH AND ACTIVITIES

In principle, the research on E+/YiA uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative social research methods and instruments, in particular *multilingual online surveys in 26 languages* with project participants and project

leaders/team members as well as *qualitative interviews and focus groups* with different actors involved in E+/YiA, including board and staff members of beneficiary organisations.

The RAY research programme includes the following research projects:

- **Research-based analysis and monitoring** of E+/YiA aims to contribute to monitoring and developing E+/YiA and the quality of projects supported by it; this project is a joint activity of all RAY Network partners;
- a research project on the **long-term effects of E+/YiA on participation and citizenship** of the actors involved, in particular on the development of participation and citizenship competences and practices; RAY Network partners from 10 European countries are currently involved in this project;
- a research project on **competence development and capacity building** of youth workers and youth leaders involved in training/support activities in E+/YiA (2015-2018); this project also explores the effects of E+/YiA on the organisations involved; RAY Network partners from 16 European countries are currently involved in this project.

RAY research projects cover all Key Actions of E+/YiA and are conducted continuously for the full duration of E+/YiA. Further research projects are envisaged for 2018 and onwards.

RAY research projects within the preceding Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013) were conducted on 'Learning in Youth



SINCE 2008
RAY HAS ...

research based analysis of youth in action

...RECEIVED
81 500
SURVEY
RESPONSES

in Action (YiA)', on the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in E+/YiA and on competence development. Individual RAY Network partners conducted further studies at the national level on a variety of aspects related to E+/YiA and YiA.

The research findings and results

can be retrieved from www.researchyouth.eu/results-erasmus-youth-in-action and www.researchyouth.eu/5. Where available, national research reports can be requested from the respective National Agencies and their research partners (see www.researchyouth.eu/network).

... CONDUCTED
700
INTERVIEWS

THE RAY NETWORK

The RAY Network is an open, growing and self-governed European research network of National Agencies of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme and their research partners.

The RAY Network aims at conducting high quality research, building on the RAY Network partners' high degree of competence and expertise in the field of (international) youth work and youth learning mobility. RAY Network partners adhere to common standards of social and educational research, complying with internationally accepted ethical standards. In this respect, RAY aims to promote the dialogue between research, policy and practice. A special feature of the RAY network is its European dimension as well as the

transnational, multilingual, intercultural and interdisciplinary research approach.

The RAY Network was founded in 2008 by five National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013) on the initiative of the Austrian National Agency and the University of Innsbruck. Since then, the RAY Network has expanded continuously. It currently involves the National Agencies and their research partners in 31 countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

For further information see www.researchyouth.eu

... DONE 50
FOCUS GROUP
DISCUSSIONS

ERASMUS+: YOUTH IN ACTION

Erasmus+: Youth in Action is part of the Erasmus+ Programme (2014-2020) of the European Union and supporting European projects in the youth field, in particular youth exchanges, European volunteering projects, meetings between young people and policy makers, mobility of youth workers and European cooperation in the youth field.*

Erasmus+: Youth in Action (E+/YiA) promotes active and European citizenship, participation in civil society and democratic life, competence development as well as the development of

educational and professional career perspectives of young people, youth workers and youth leaders through non-formal learning in European youth projects, thus empowering them to meet the challenges of their respective societies. E+/YiA also fosters solidarity among young people, the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, respect for cultural diversity as well as capacity building of civil society organisations in the youth field, including youth organisations, youth centres and youth groups.

* See https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about_en