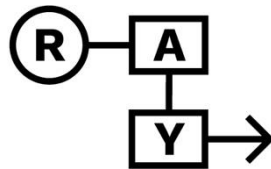




EUROPEAN UNION



Research-based analysis of European youth programmes

# RAY TRIANGULAR SUMMIT

## CONCEPT NOTE & TIMELINE

30 OCTOBER 2023

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



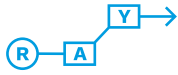
FINNISH NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



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# 1. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

In 2008, the RAY Network<sup>1</sup> was founded with the aim to contribute to quality assurance and quality development in the implementation of the European Union's Youth in Action Programme (2007–2013). To that end, the initial network partners developed a framework for the first and core research project of the network: standard surveys for project participants and project teams. These standard surveys were further developed at the start of the next programme generation, Erasmus+ Youth in Action (2014–2020), resulting in this core research project on the research-based analysis and monitoring of Erasmus+ Youth in Action (RAY-MON), and subsequently to the research-based analysis and monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps (RAY-SOC). The studies are implemented in cooperation with all our RAY partner countries.

In the last programme period (2014–2020), a total of 53.144 project participants and a total of 10.789 project team members all over Europe and beyond fully responded to the RAY Monitoring surveys for Erasmus+ Youth<sup>2</sup>.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic the RAY Network is surveying project participants and project team members of the Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps programmes. The surveys have been launched in June 2023 and will remain open until September 2023. The multilingual online surveys aiming at analysing the impact of the European Youth Programmes and their effects on individual, organisational, community and European levels. Project participants and project team members who were part or implemented an Erasmus+ Youth or European Solidarity Corps project within the current programme period are invited to reflect on the effects of the projects and activities (e.g. on participation and citizenship, digitalisation, sustainability, diversity and inclusion) and their own learning pathway and competence development. Furthermore, the effects on learning organisations and communities, the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, the recognition of youth work, the European dimension as well as the implementation of the programmes are thematised.

Analyses on a transnational level including findings from the surveys will be available at the beginning of 2024. The RAY Triangular Summit is the main activity within the dissemination and communication package aiming at discussing first findings from the RAY Monitoring surveys within the ongoing programme period and planned and implemented by the RAY Network Coordination (situated at the Finnish National Agency for Education) and the RAY Transnational Research Team (situated at Youth Policy Labs in Berlin).

The RAY Triangular Summit will be designed as a dissemination and policy conference for stakeholders from policy, practice and research, and will foster an informed discourse on how the findings from the RAY Monitoring surveys can contribute to youth work practice, to youth policy development as well as the further development of the European youth programmes.

The RAY Triangular Summit is co-organised by the RAY Network Coordination and its hosting National Agency in Finland and the RAY Transnational Research Team in Berlin together with other co-hosting National Agencies.

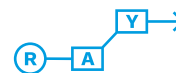
Furthermore, two European focus groups (within the RAY research project on programme- and sector-specific strategies that frame and guide the European youth programmes)<sup>3</sup> will be

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<sup>1</sup> [www.researchyouth.net/network](http://www.researchyouth.net/network)

<sup>2</sup> Effects and outcomes of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme: RAY Comparative Research Report (2014–2020), Transnational Analysis: [https://researchyouth.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/RAY-MON\\_Research-Report-20142020.pdf](https://researchyouth.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/RAY-MON_Research-Report-20142020.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> This research project aims to explore how the European youth programmes contribute to programme- and sector-specific strategies that frame and guide the European youth programmes, both through activities/projects of programme beneficiaries and through strategic cooperation projects of National Agencies (RAY STRAT).



implemented as pre- and follow-up activities for the Summit in February 2024 and June 2024. The expert focus groups will explore thematic priorities of the Triangular Summit and bring together actors from the context of the European youth programmes and experts from policy, practice and research.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.1. OVERALL AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the RAY Triangular Summit is to bring together policy, practice and research to discuss the evidence-based research from the latest RAY Monitoring surveys and to foster an informed discourse on how the findings can contribute to youth work practice, to youth policy development as well as the further development of the European youth programmes.

### 2.2. KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The key objectives of the RAY Triangular Summit are

- to discuss the most recent findings of the RAY Monitoring surveys for Erasmus+ Youth, conducted with beneficiaries, project participants and project teams
- to discuss the most recent findings of the RAY Monitoring surveys for the European Solidarity Corps, conducted with beneficiaries, project participants and project teams
- to illustrate the impact and showcase the outcomes of the European youth programmes
- to explore how the evidence-based research can contribute to the further development of the European youth programmes and their mid-term evaluations
- to explore how the evidence-based research can contribute to youth work practice in Europe
- to explore how the evidence-based research can contribute to youth policy development in Europe
- to explore how the evidence-based research can contribute to relevant strategies, especially the EU Youth Strategy
- to foster an informed discourse between stakeholders from policy, practice and research

### 2.3. PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE

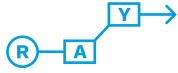
The RAY Triangular Summit seeks to involve and invite around 100 participants, including researchers, practitioners and policymakers from all over Europe from the fields of youth, European youth work and European youth policy, more specifically:

National Agencies, RAY Network researchers, youth work organisations, platforms and institutions, institutional stakeholders at European, national and local level (e.g. European Commission, Council of Europe, EU-CoE partnership, National authorities, National Ministries, Regional bodies, Local authorities), Members of the European Parliament and Youth Working Party, civil society stakeholders at European and national level (e.g. European Youth Forum, National Youth Councils) as well as research stakeholders from the youth and similar fields.

#### SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

National Agencies of the European youth programmes, acting as RAY partners, will be responsible for selecting the participants for their national delegations. Specifics and further details regarding this process will be communicated by the end of 2023.

Additionally, an open call will be considered, if necessary.



## 3. ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK

### 3.1. DATE AND TIME

The RAY Triangular Summit takes place from 22-24 May 2024 (arrival on 22 May in the evening, programme ends on 24 May in the afternoon).

### 3.2. PLACE AND LOCATION

The RAY Triangular Summit takes place in Helsinki, Finland.

### 3.3. HOSTING AGENCIES & PREPARATORY TEAM

The RAY Triangular Summit is co-hosted by the National Agencies of the European Youth Programmes from Finland (Host) and Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Italy Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden (Co-hosts)<sup>4</sup>. The RAY Network Coordination (at the Finnish National Agency) will lead and coordinate the preparation process and the implementation of the conference in cooperation with the RAY transnational research team.

### 3.4. FACILITATION TEAM

The facilitation team will be involved in the preparation of the Summit (content, methodical approach, setting, general framework and if applicable, communication with participants) as well as the implementation on the spot.

## 4. FOLLOW-UP & OUTPUTS

Different formats will be produced which will support stakeholders in sharing research findings of RAY and outputs of the conference.

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<sup>4</sup> We are still looking for co-hosts, who contribute to the planning and/or financially. If you are interested, contact [carmen.teubl-kiviniemi@oph.fi](mailto:carmen.teubl-kiviniemi@oph.fi)