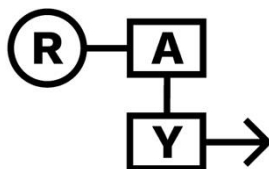




EUROPEAN UNION



Research-based  
analysis of European  
youth programmes

# RAY LEARN CONFERENCE

17-20 November 2025

Budapest

## CONCEPT NOTE

SHORT // 2 JUNE 2025



## 1. CONTEXT

Starting in 2023, the second phase of the RAY Network's research project on organisational trajectories of learning and development kicked off as a longitudinal research project<sup>1</sup>, which has been following the trajectories of some applicants and beneficiaries and how they use the opportunities of the programmes as a way to learn, develop and strengthen their groups/networks/organisations strategically. Ultimately, the project aims to explore how youth sector organisations and networks could be supported better by the European youth programmes in their efforts to establish ways of systematically learning at organisational level.

The longitudinal design involves four rounds of data collection across two years, six months apart from each other. To minimise attrition during this time, the working group of RAY LEARN decided to offer rewards to participants who stay in touch for the four rounds. The rewards involved (1) the possibility to be promoted on the RAY Network's social media, and (2) the possibility to attend a networking end-of-project event, the LEARN Conference, via one or several organisational representatives.

This LEARN Conference should serve not only as a networking reward for participant beneficiaries, but also as an opportunity to reflect on and refine the findings of the project. The event is open not only to participants of RAY LEARN, but also to the National Agency representatives and national researchers who were part of the administration and research activities of the project. In this way, the event aims to be a melting pot of stakeholders that can support the integration and dissemination of the findings as well as the development of recommendations.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The conference aims are built on two dimensions: reward & reflection. The main aims include several underlying objectives and can be found below:

- To reward participating beneficiaries for their effort in contributing to the RAY LEARN research project by
  - creating a space for them to network
  - creating a space for them to interact with, and benefit more directly from, the project's preliminary findings
- To reflect on preliminary research findings and facilitate integration
  - at the level of RAY LEARN beneficiary organisations by engaging their representatives as participants of the event.
  - at the level of National Agencies by engaging their representatives as participants of the event.
  - in order to obtain valuable feedback from joint reflections of RAY LEARN beneficiary organisations, national and transnational researchers and NA representatives. With the aim to
    - develop insights for the next round of interviews and reports on national and transnational levels.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.researchyouth.net/projects/learn/>

- develop conference key take-aways on transnational level, and if applicable national levels, to inform programme and policy stakeholders.
- Furthermore, the conference aims to give space for enhancing the visibility of the RAY Network, especially the RAY LEARN research project and the dissemination of its findings.

### 3. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

The RAY LEARN Conference seeks to involve approximately 45 participants, including representatives from the beneficiary organisations who are participating in RAY LEARN as well as representatives from the involved National Agencies and their national research partners.

There are four participant slots per national partner, which can be filled up with National Agency representatives (one maximum), national researchers (one maximum) and representatives of beneficiary organisations. All participants who wish to attend will need to sign up via a registration form that will become available on the RAY Network's website. If more than four participants sign up for a particular partner, they will be put on a waiting list and they may obtain a spot if less than four participants sign up from other partners.

### 4. ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK

#### 4.1. DATE AND TIME

The RAY LEARN Conference takes place from 17 to 20 November 2025 (foreseen: arrival on 17 November, departure on 19 or 20 November; working days 17-19).

#### 4.2. PLACE AND LOCATION

The RAY LEARN Conference takes place in the European Youth Center of Budapest, Hungary.

#### 4.3. HOSTING AGENCIES & PREPARATORY TEAM

The RAY LEARN Conference is co-hosted by the National Agencies of the European Youth Programmes from Finland (host), Belgium (Flemish Community), France, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden (co-hosts). The RAY Network Coordination at the Finnish National Agency leads and coordinates the preparation process and the implementation of the seminar in cooperation with the RAY transnational research team.

#### 4.4. FACILITATION

Two facilitators are involved in the preparation of the seminar (content, methodical approach, setting, general framework and if applicable, communication with participants) as well as the implementation on the spot.