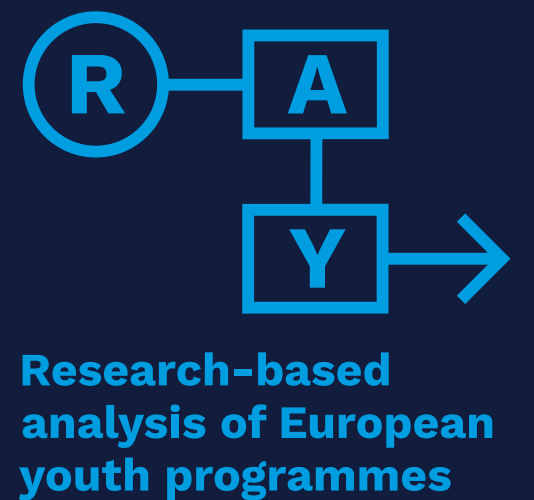


15.07.2025 | Policy Hub & Workshop

BOOSTING THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PROGRAMMES

→ Key findings from research

European Parliament Policy Hub & Workshop
Brussels, Belgium | 15 July 2025



3 facts about the European youth programmes

3 strengths of the European youth programmes

3 challenges of the European youth programmes



A LITTLE BIT

OF CONTEXT

BEFORE WE

DIVE IN

The RAY Network

Research-based Analysis and Monitoring
of European Youth Programmes

Open and self-governed research
network, founded back in 2008

36 National Agencies and their
research partners are involved

Our core activities

Biennial surveys of project participants
and project teams in both European youth
programmes

Last surveys conducted in autumn 2023

Next surveys coming up in autumn 2025

Our core datasets

Surveys conducted in 2023

- » 16.099 project participants
- » 4.349 project team members

Surveys conducted since 2008

- » 100.000+ project participants
- » 25.000+ project team members

Full research reports on our website



Making shared sense of our data

Triangular summits: research, policy, practice

Last one in May 2024

Next one in Autumn 2026

**Current info always on researchyouth.net
and @researchyouth on social media**

3 facts about the European youth programmes

1. Key figures of the European youth programmes

2. Key approaches of the European youth programmes

3. Key success factors of the European youth programmes

KEY FIGURES OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Current programme generation (2021–2024)

» 2.093.734.783 € granted

» 76.593 projects received

» 28.301 projects granted (37%)

» 16.224 organisations involved

» 6.466 new organisations (40%)

» 1.328.939 participants involved

» 295.728 fewer opportunities (22%)

» 1,08 € per participant and day

In comparison to the other sectors

	Erasmus+						Solidarity Corps	
						European youth programmes		
	Higher Education	Vocational Education	School Education	Adult Education	Sport	Youth	Volunteering	Solidarity
Projects received	24.232	38.818	74.473	23.232	1.857	59.751	5.468	11.374
Projects granted	19.985	23.026	35.563	7.944	823	18.535	4.786	4.980
Success rate	82,47%	59,32%	47,75%	34,19%	44,32%	31,02%	87,53%	43,78%
Participants in total	1.830.900	706.900	931.700	99.900	5.800	1.234.500	68.534	25.905
With fewer opportunities	11,40%	14,49%	10,41%	22,72%	18,75%	16,62%	53,02%	
Budget in total	6.062.109.809 €	2.755.577.316 €	2.100.879.698 €	694.816.768 €	274.198.874 €	1.517.661.774 €	576.073.009 €	
Per participant & day	2,27 €	2,67 €	1,54 €	4,76 €	32,36 €	0,84 €	4,18 €	

Sources: Annual reports of Erasmus+ 2021, 2022, 2023; Report European Solidarity Corps 2021–2023; Annual work programmes 2024; MFF Performance Results Reports 2025.



KEY APPROACHES OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Based on non-formal learning

Voluntary, participatory, emancipatory

Guided by volunteer and staff youth workers

Firmly embedded in the wider youth sector

Agencies as programme & policy actors

Recognised as key players in the youth field



KEY SUCCESS

FACTORS OF THE

EUROPEAN

YOUTH

PROGRAMMES

Knowing where to reach young people
outside of formal education

Knowing how to work with young people
outside of formal education

Having resources, structures, and formats
to work sustainably with and for young
people outside of formal education

3 facts about the European youth programmes

3 strengths of the European youth programmes

4. Intercultural learning in the European youth programmes

5. European identities in the European youth programmes

6. Inclusion & solidarity in the European youth programmes

A large, stylized teal graphic on the left side of the slide, resembling a cross or a large letter 'A' with rounded corners. It is composed of several rectangular blocks of different shades of teal and dark blue, creating a layered, geometric effect.

INTERCULTURAL

LEARNING AT ITS

BEST

Questions on intercultural learning skills

Through the project,

I improved my ability to...

Response

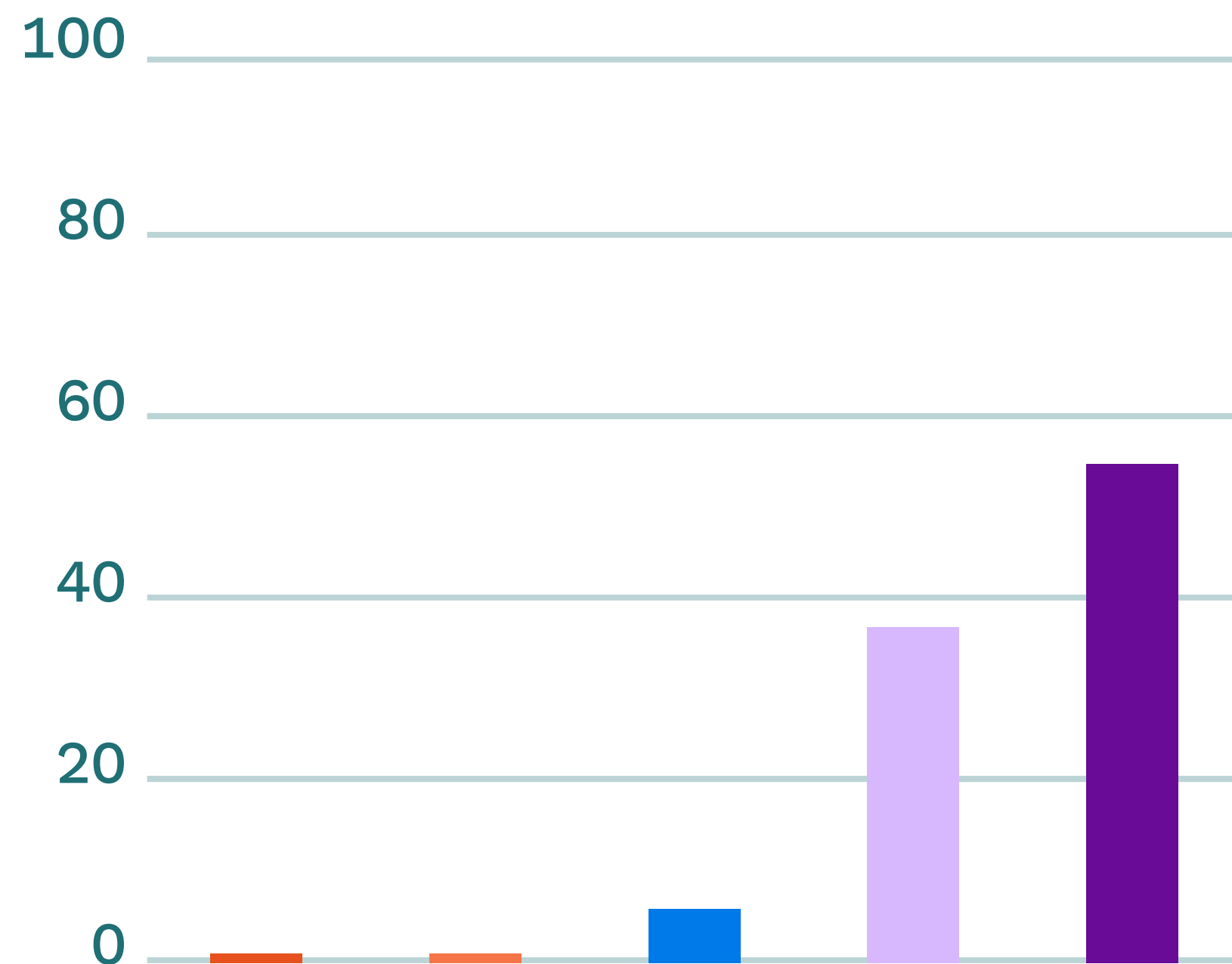
5-scale likert response set

strongly agree, agree, neither agree or

disagree, disagree, strongly disagree

I IMPROVED MY ABILITY TO...

“... get along with people who have a different cultural background.”



92% agree or agree strongly

1% DISAGREE STRONGLY

1% DISAGREE

6% NEITHER DISAGREE NOR AGREE

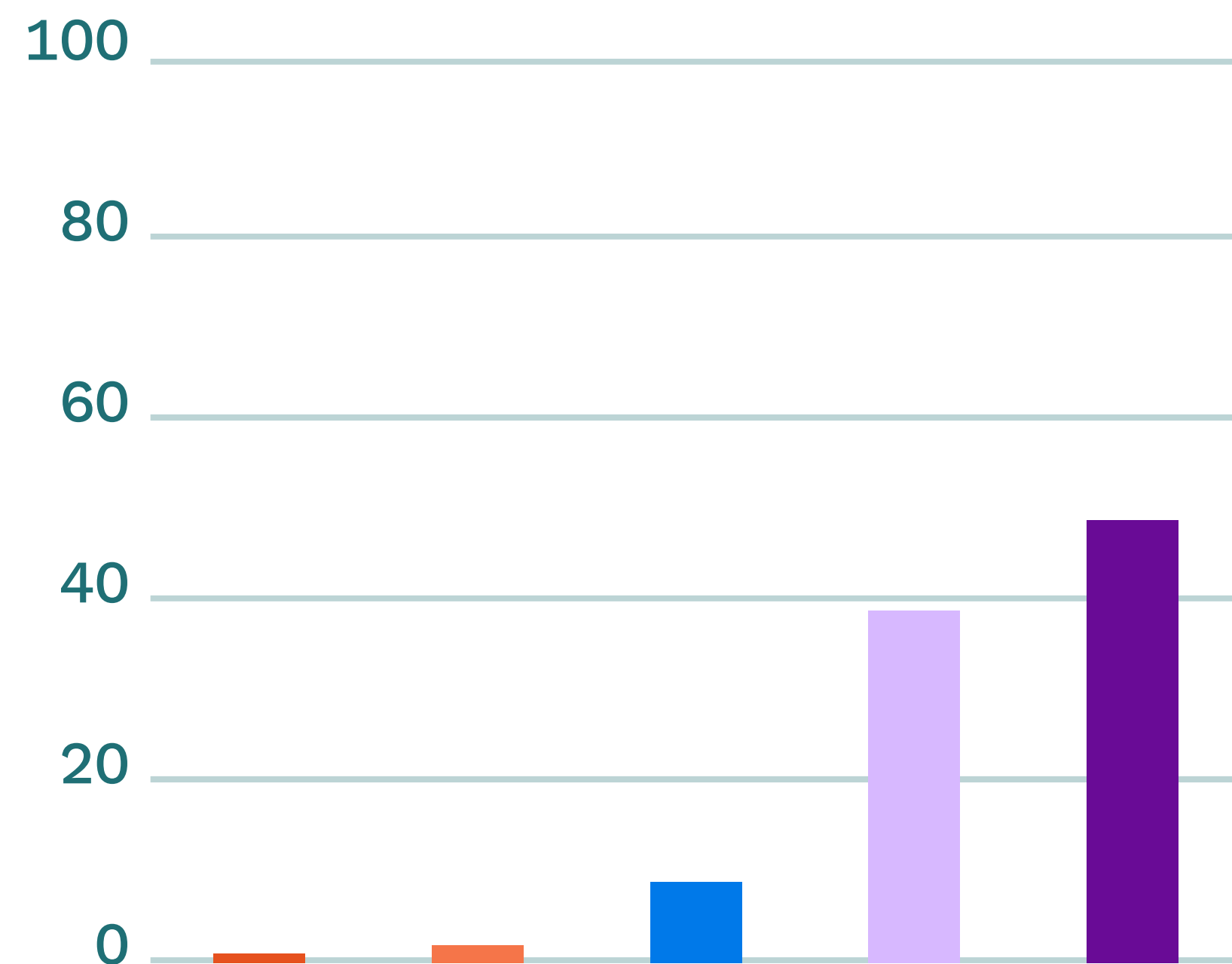
37% AGREE

55% AGREE STRONGLY

n = 2.394

I IMPROVED MY ABILITY TO...

“... communicate with people
who speak another language.”



88% agree or agree strongly

1% DISAGREE STRONGLY
2% DISAGREE
9% NEITHER DISAGREE NOR AGREE
39% AGREE
49% AGREE STRONGLY

n = 2.296

Questions on intercultural learning attitudes

After the project, I ...

Response

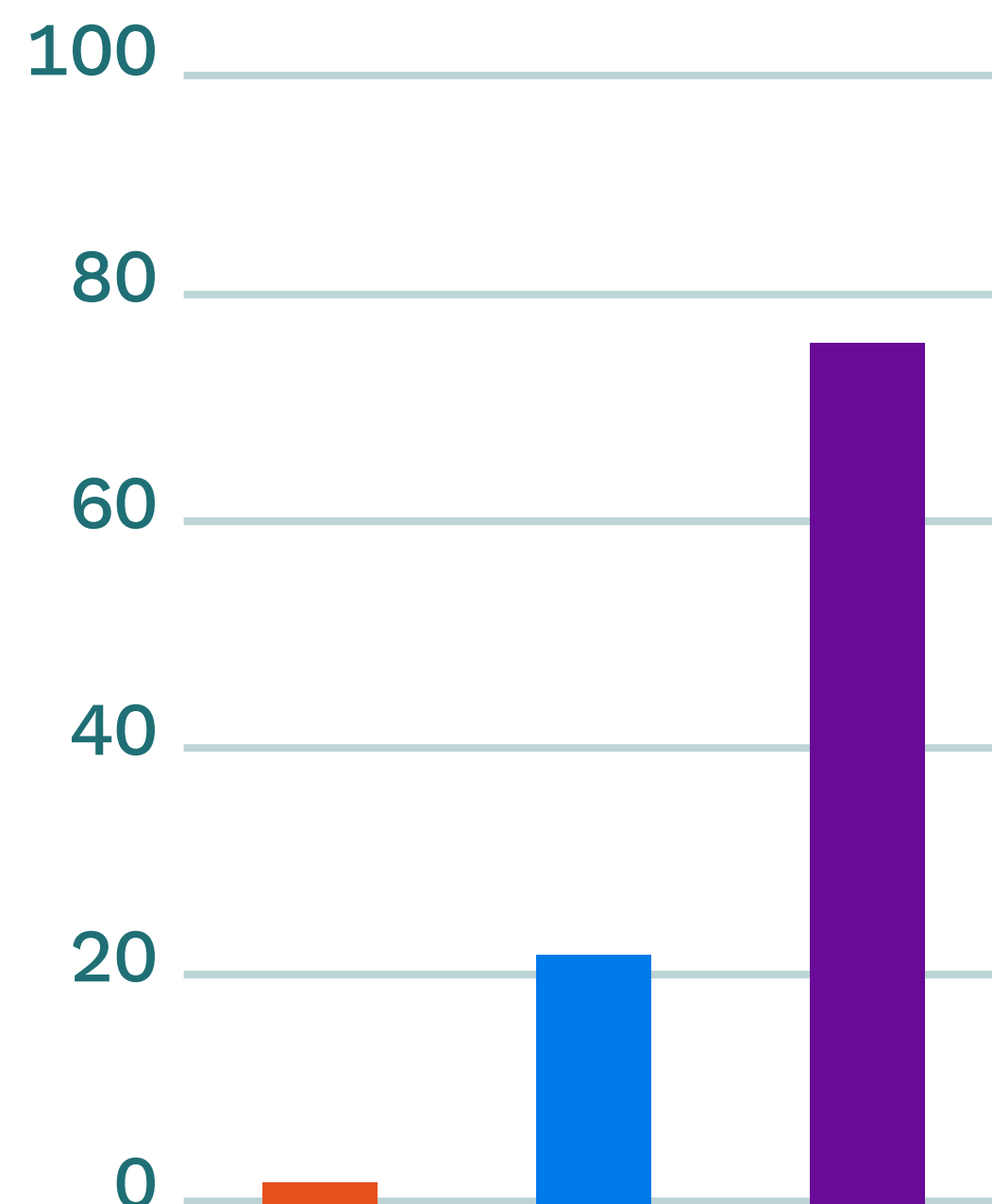
less than before the project

to the same extent

more than before the project

AFTER THE PROJECT, I ...

“... appreciate cultural diversity ...



76% more appreciative

2% LESS THAN BEFORE THE PROJECT
22% SAME AS BEFORE THE PROJECT
76% MORE THAN BEFORE THE PROJECT

n = 2.450

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



POWERHOUSES

FOR EUROPEAN

IDENTITY AND

CITIZENSHIP

Questions on citizenship attitudes & actions

After the project, I ...

Response

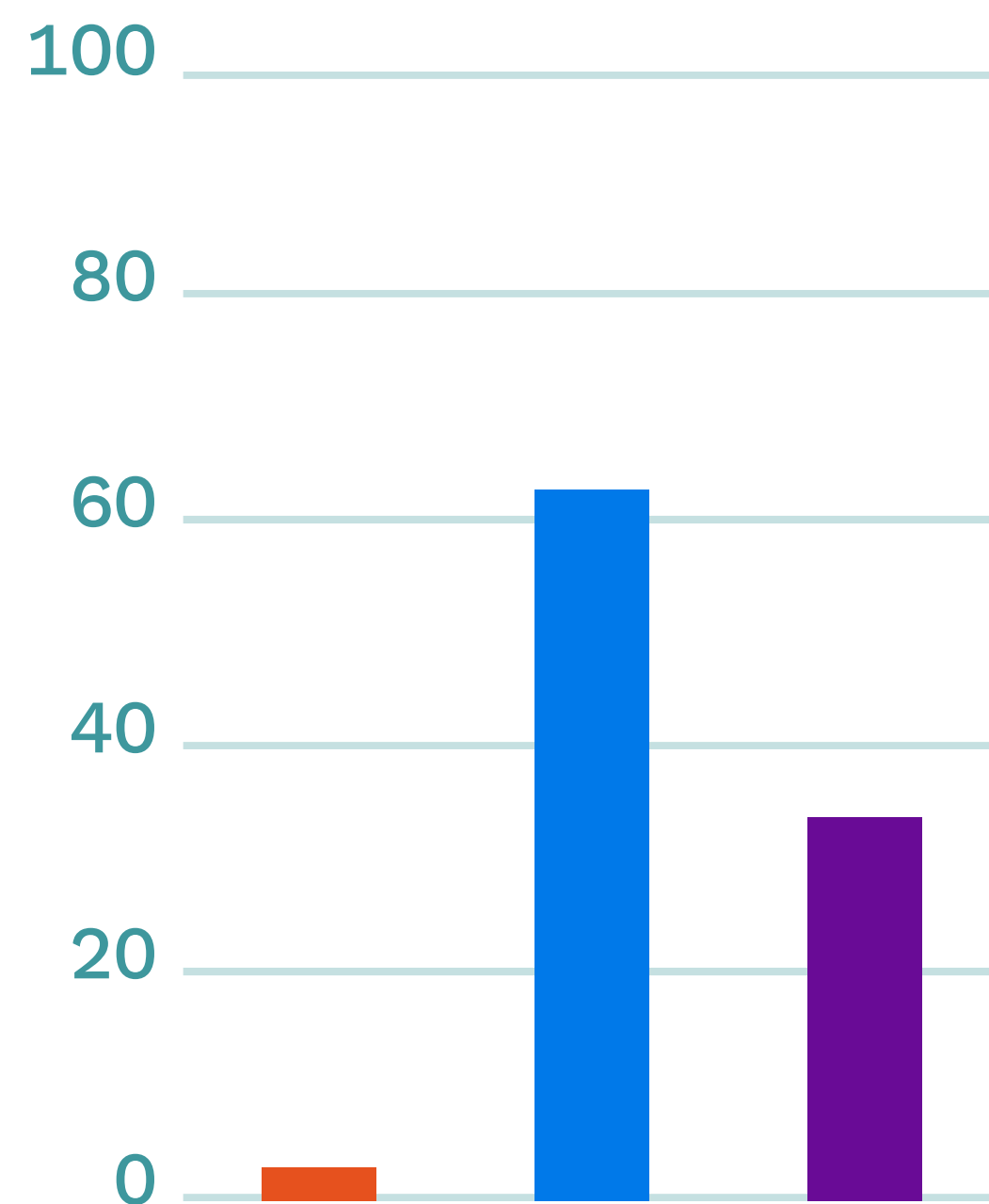
less than before the project

to the same extent

more than before the project

AFTER THE PROJECT, I ...

“... I am interested in participating
in elections ...



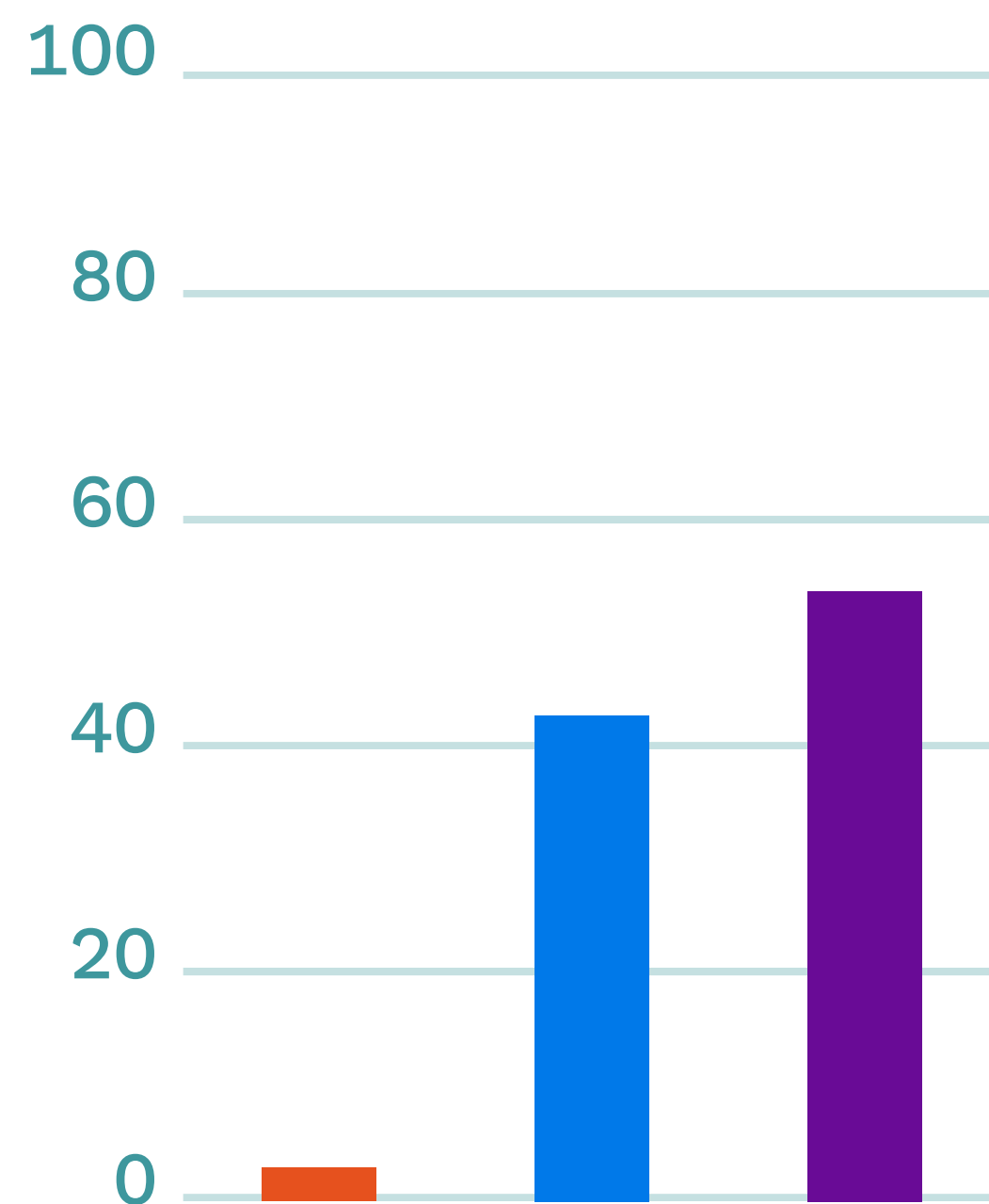
34% more interested

3% LESS THAN BEFORE THE PROJECT
63% SAME AS BEFORE THE PROJECT
34% MORE THAN BEFORE THE PROJECT

n = 1.144

AFTER THE PROJECT, I ...

“... I engage in civil society ...



54% more engaged

3% LESS THAN BEFORE THE PROJECT
43% SAME AS BEFORE THE PROJECT
54% MORE THAN BEFORE THE PROJECT

n = 1.144

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

CLOSENESS TO EUROPE

“Thinking back, how close did you feel to Europe before your project?”



“And how close do you feel now?”



PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



PRACTISING AND

EXPERIENCING

INCLUSION AND

SOLIDARITY

Question

Overall, how inclusive was your project?

Response

11-point slider with full integer stops

INCLUSIVE PROJECTS

SCALE FROM 0 TO 10



0

MEAN: 8.25 | MEDIAN 9.00

10

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

COMING, AND STAYING, FOR SOLIDARITY

57%

participated in their project
to experience solidarity.

44%

participated in their project
to build a more inclusive society.

77%

learned something new about
solidarity during their project.

3 facts about the European youth programmes

3 strengths of the European youth programmes

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7. Young people's trust in democratic institutions

8. The youth sector's preparedness for fake news

9. Navigating multiple crises in the programmes



WEAKENING

DEMOCRACIES

INSIDE THE YOUTH PROGRAMMES

We strengthen the intent to participate in democracy as well as democratic actions.

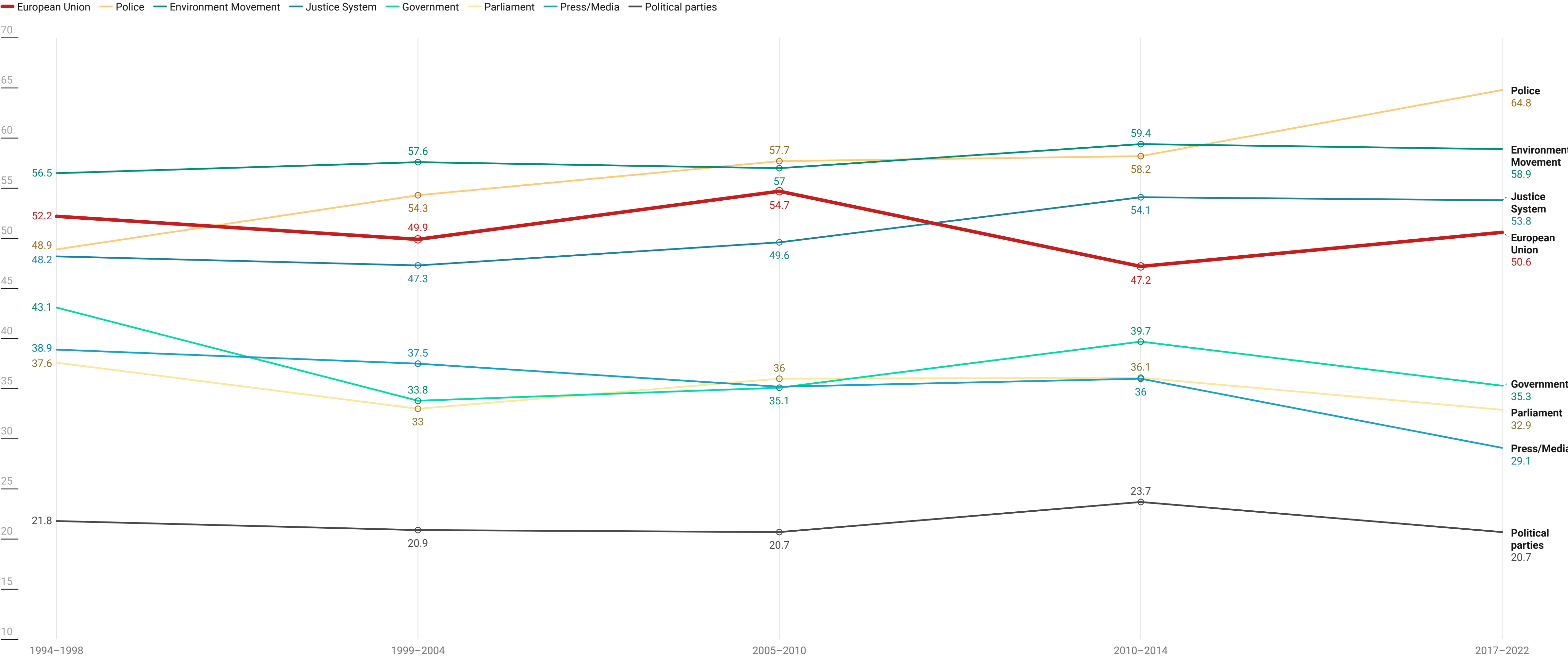
BEYOND THE YOUTH PROGRAMMES

Young people increasingly loose trust in core pillars of democratic institutions – more so than the average population.

A QUESTION OF TRUST

Young people's trust in institutions over time

Young people in all member states of the Council of Europe with “a great deal of confidence” and “quite a lot of confidence” combined, in selected institutions, over time. Based on data of the World Values Survey (WVS) and European Values Survey (EVS). Youth cohort (30 or younger) extracted by Youth Policy Labs (YPL); n = 78.435.



Full question asked: "I am going to name a number of organisations. For each one, could you tell me how much confidence you have in them: is it a great deal of confidence, quite a lot of confidence, not very much confidence or none at all?" Graph above shows a great deal of confidence and quite a lot of confidence combined. Note that the scale ranges from 10% to 70% to allow for more visual clarity.

Chart: Andreas Karsten • Source: Youth Policy Labs



PROLIFERATING

FAKE NEWS

Disinformation is a daily encounter

- » Awareness about fake news is high
- » Belief in ability to discover fake news is high
- » Actual capacity to identify fake news is low
- » Capacity to verify identified fake news is low

Media literacy remains a weakness

- » Project teams overestimate quality of their work
- » Boys and young men overestimate their skill level
- » Youth workers with basic DigComp skills is too low
- » Number of projects on digital transformation is too low



NAVIGATING

MULTIPLE

CRISES

MULTIPLE CRISES, MULTIPLE EFFECTS

EFFECT ON PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

SCALE FROM 0 TO 10



EFFECT ON THE PROJECT OVERALL

SCALE FROM 0 TO 10



INFLATION, CLIMATE, JOBS, HOUSING ...

Flash Eurobarometer YOUTH SURVEY | FL0130EP



Q2 In your opinion, which three of the following topics should be a priority for the EU in the next 5 years? [Multiple answers]

		Gender		Age			Education ⁽¹⁾		Place of residence		
		Male	Female	16-18	19-24	25-30	Sec. or lower	Post-sec. or higher	Rural area	Small/medium town	Large town/city
	Rising prices, cost of living	37	42	34	39	43	45	45	39	41	38
	The environment and climate change	31	36	33	35	33	30	40	31	33	36
	The economic situation and creation of jobs	32	31	27	30	34	33	32	29	32	31
	Social protection, welfare and access to healthcare	25	34	27	28	31	30	32	28	29	30
	Education and training	26	29	30	28	25	25	25	29	27	27
	Housing	23	23	22	22	24	26	26	23	22	23
	The EU's defence and security	23	18	20	21	21	21	23	21	21	21
	Migration and asylum	21	17	16	20	20	17	20	20	19	19
	Gender equality	14	20	19	17	16	16	14	16	16	18
	Democracy and the rule of law	19	15	16	18	17	15	16	16	16	18
	Other	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
	Don't know	2	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	2	2

Note: (1) Highest level of education achieved (Secondary or lower vs Post-secondary or higher); Base: respondents no longer in education (n=7 855)

1. 2.1B €, 1.3M young people, ~ 1 € person/day
2. Voluntary, participatory non-formal learning
3. Dedicated budgets, structures, formats
4. Intercultural learning at its best
5. Powerhouses for European citizenship
6. Lived inclusion and practiced solidarity
7. Trust in democratic institutions falters
8. Unpreparedness for proliferating fake news
9. Navigating multiple crises is too draining

15.07.2025 | Policy Hub & Workshop

THANK YOU!

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→ **Key findings from research**

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