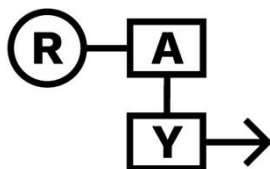




EUROPEAN UNION



Research-based
analysis of European
youth programmes

RAY THEMATIC SEMINAR

11-13 June 2025

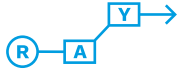
Bratislava

FINAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

2 JUNE 2025

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.





Dear participants of the RAY Thematic Seminar,

Herewith we are sending you final information for the Seminar, updates and reminders, including the final programme, workshops registration, background material, organisational and logistical details as well as other useful and important information.

The RAY Thematic Seminar is co-hosted by the National Agencies of the European Youth Programmes from Slovakia (host) and Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland and Romania (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.

1. PROGRAMME RELATED INFORMATION

1.1. FINAL PROGRAMME (NEW!)

You can find the final programme overview enclosed.

Please note, due to logistical changes, the seminar will end on the 13th of June at 15:30 CEST.

1.2. EVENING PROGRAMME ON 12 JUNE (NEW!)

On Thursday, 12th of June, we invite you to a guided tour through the old town of Bratislava and a dinner out on the Danube 😊 No special dress code is needed, you may wear whatever you feel comfortable with (casual, classic, elegant, bohemian, party-style etc.).

1.3. WORKSHOPS & REGISTRATION (NEW!)

On Thursday, 12th of June, we have planned workshops according to your expectations and wishes as expressed in the call.

We offer **three different workshops** which will be **held two times**: the first round from 11:00-12:30 and the second round from 14:30-16:00. Therefore, you have the possibility to attend two topics out of three. Please do not register for the same workshop twice!

WORKSHOPS

1. Using data for strategy development: This workshop focuses on how to use data in strategic planning, including: strategic approaches for data gathering and sources where data can be found as well as gathered over time; concrete examples of strategies in which data has been used; and practical tasks around developing strategic recommendations based on data.
2. Practical tools to work with data: This workshop aims to explore accessible, user-friendly tools for data visualisation and analysis. These include practical tasks to communicate data effectively to diverse audiences, including experiencing practical AI tools to assist with data-related tasks and discuss its potential and limitations.
3. Using data in projects: This workshop focuses on how data can be used in different stages of project implementation. This includes needs assessment according to 'topic first' or 'research first' and related practical tasks on how to back up your project idea with data or how to translate research findings and related needs and recommendations into activity formats and projects.

REGISTRATION

Please register for both workshop rounds via the following link: RAY Thematic Seminar: Registration for workshops until 9 June.

Please note: the maximum number of participants in one workshop is 14. When this limit has been reached, the respective workshop is no longer available.

1.4. BACKGROUND MATERIAL (NEW!)

We will share, learn and exchange together at the seminar. No need to prepare anything specific before arrival. In case you want to get familiar with the work of the RAY network and/or want to read up on the European youth programmes, please check out the following links which can support you with your preparation:

- RAY Network and its activities: www.researchyouth.net, www.researchyouth.net/news/
- In case you are not that familiar with the European youth programmes, please check out the following links:
 - >> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0817&from=EN> ¹
 - >> [Erasmus+ programme](#)
 - >> [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)
 - >> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0888&from=EN> ²
 - >> [European Solidarity Corps](#)
 - >> [European Solidarity Corps Guide](#)

2. CONFERENCE MODALITIES

2.1. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE (REMINDER)

The RAY Thematic Seminar will start on the 11th of June at 15:00 local time (CEST). We offer an optional lunch before (from 12:30-14:30 CEST). We advise you to arrive a bit earlier in order to complete the check-in and registration process, getting acquainted with other participants or to just have a smooth and relaxing arrival.

The programme will end on the 13th of June by 15:30 local time (CEST).

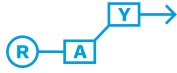
2.2. VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION (UPDATE)

The Seminar takes place in Clarion Congress Hotel Bratislava.

Address: Žabotova 2, Bratislava, 811 04, Slovakia, <https://www.clarioncongresshotel-bratislava.com/en/>

¹ REGULATION (EU) 2021/817 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013

² REGULATION (EU) 2021/888 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014



- All participants are accommodated in Clarion Congress Hotel Bratislava. We have reserved single rooms (unless otherwise agreed) for you according to the information you have indicated in the registration form or communicated otherwise.
- Please note: If, in an exceptional case, you need to cancel on short notice due to sickness or another kind of force majeure, we need to be informed about it immediately due to logistical and organisational demands. Cancellation costs may apply.

2.3. RELATED COSTS (REMINDER)

As a rule, the hosts cover the costs for all participants for board and lodging (*except for colleagues from National Agencies, please see below*) This includes two nights (11th and 12th June) as well as an additional third night on the 13th in case the travel itinerary requires. Any other additional nights need to be paid from own expenses. Please get in touch with us in case of uncertainty.

Exceptions: Colleagues from National Agencies

Colleagues from National Agencies need to cover their costs for board and lodging from own resources. The Slovakian National Agency will pre-pay these costs and will issue respective invoices after the seminar. The participant fee is approximately 900 Euro (including two nights).

2.4. SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY (REMINDER)

In our activities, we support the principle of safer space, where no one is discriminated or bullied because of their background or person. We want you to respect the same principle. Our activities are accessible for people with disabilities. If you need a support person, accessible room and transport or supporting tools, we will provide it for you. Please let us know about your needs as soon as possible. The needs communicated to us previously have been taken into consideration.

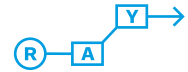
We take sustainability in consideration where we can. We advise you to use environment-friendly means of transport whenever possible. We also encourage you to contact your own National Agency to find out how they support low-emission travelling to activities abroad.

3. DIRECTIONS (NEW!)

From Airport Bratislava: At the airport get on the bus number 61. The name of bus stop is "Letisko". Get off at the stop "Main train station (Hlavná stanica)". The journey takes about 30 minutes. You have to buy a 30-minute ticket valid for all zones (it costs 1,10 Euro). From the bus stop "Main train station" it takes 3 minutes to the hotel.

From Vienna airport /Schwechat: The best way to come to Bratislava from Vienna airport is to take a bus. Buses to Bratislava are leaving every half hour and you can take buses from this three companies: Slovaklines, Flix bus, Regiojet. Please get off at the station called "autobusová stanica" - Main bus station. Once you are at the bus station, you can follow the instructions given below.

You can buy tickets in advance here: [Bus Vienna Airport to Bratislava - Buy affordable tickets](#), or here: [Vienna Schwechat Airport | SlovakLines.sk](#), or here: [RegioJet | Train & bus tickets](#).



From the main bus station: At the main bus station, get on the bus number 21, direction to Volkswagen VW2 (name of the bus stop is “Autobusová stanica”) and get off on the bus stop “Pod stanicou” (third stop). From the bus stop “Pod stanicou” it takes 2 minutes to the hotel.

From the Central railway station: The hotel is located very close to the main train station, about 3 minutes on foot.

From the Petržalka railway station: Take the bus 93 to „Hlavná stanica“/Central railway station.

TICKETS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Tickets for the municipal transport can be purchased in red ticket machines right next to the platforms at the bus station (debit cards accepted), at the newsagent's in the bus station shopping area, in yellow ticket machines at bus stops, or at regional Slovak Lines buses' drivers.

Or you can use the app IDS BK, where you can also buy tickets. To change the language in the app selects „viac“ in the right bottom corner – „nastavenia“ – „zmeniť jazyk“.

4. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION (NEW!)

4.1. TIME ZONE

Please note, that Slovakia's time zone is UTC+2 (CEST).

4.2. WEATHER

Weather in June is usually very pleasant. It fluctuates around 20 degrees. It is possible that it may rain. At night it gets a little colder around 10-15 degrees, so be sure to bring a sweater or a jacket. Most of June is quite warm and sunny so bring sunnies too!

5. WHAT'S NEXT

SEE YOU IN BRATISLAVA!

If you need any further information in the meantime or in case of questions, please contact Susanne Karppinen, susanne.karppinen@oph.fi (second contact: Carmen Teubl-Kiviniemi, carmen.teubl-kiviniemi@oph.fi).

In case of an emergency, you can reach us here: Susanne (RAY) (+ 358 50 301 5165) (from 10 – 13 June), Natalia (SK NA) (+421 917 718 807).

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE SEMINAR!

Warm wishes,

RAY Network Coordination, on behalf of the hosting and co-hosting National Agencies, RAY transnational research team as well as the preparation team