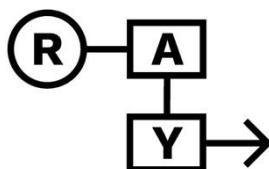




EUROPEAN UNION



Research-based
analysis of European
youth programmes

RAY THEMATIC SEMINAR

11-13 June 2025

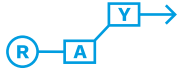
Slovakia

FIRST INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

7 APRIL 2025

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.





Dear participant of the RAY Thematic Seminar,

thank you for applying for the RAY Thematic Seminar 'How to use research data for programme implementation' which will take place from the 11th to the 13th of June 2025 in Bratislava, Slovakia. We are happy to inform you that you have been selected as a participant.

1. CONTEXT

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.

1.1. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the seminar is to explore and discuss how data and evidence-based research findings within the European youth programmes can be used for programme implementation purposes, including practical and strategic approaches. The following objectives have been set – the seminar seeks to: support National Agencies staff members responsible for the European youth programmes in making sense of evidence-based data; support beneficiaries implementing projects and activities within the European youth programmes in making sense of evidence-based data; explore how to work with and use research by acquiring data sense-making skills, explore strategic approaches to working with data; explore and provide practical tools to work with data; exchange knowledge and skills on already existing practices; contribute to the enhancement of the quality of projects implemented within the European youth programmes; and raise awareness of the open data portal, developed by the RAY Network.

2. SEMINAR MODALITIES

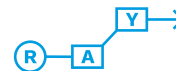
2.1. REGISTRATION

In order to be able to plan your/our seminar experience in the most comfortable and inclusive way, we kindly ask you to **fill in the following form until the 28th of April: <https://www.researchyouth.net/registration-ray-thematic-seminar/>**

2.2. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

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). Please indicate in the registration form if we should count you in for lunch. 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 17:00 local time (CEST)**.



2.3. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Please proceed with making your travel arrangements. Therefore, contact your respective National Agency in order to learn more about the overall procedure to arrange the booking of your travel tickets and the reimbursement of your travel expenses.

The Vienna airport is the best connection for flying in, so we recommend flying there. From the Vienna airport, you can find a direct bus connection to Bratislava or take a train (not a direct connection). More information regarding the directions will follow in the second info letter.

2.4. VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The seminar takes place at the following VENUE:

Clarion Congress Hotel, Žabotova 2, 811 04 Bratislava

www.clarioncongresshotelbratislava.com/en/

ACCOMMODATION: We will organise the accommodation for you (according to the information you indicated in the registration form). All participants will be accommodated in single rooms.

Please note: Most of the participants will stay in Clarion Congress Hotel. Due to limited capacity in Clarion, accommodation for a few participants will be arranged in a nearby hotel, which is located very close to the venue (a few minutes by walking). We will inform you about your final hotel in May.

2.5. RELATED COSTS

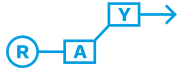
As a rule, the hosts cover the costs for all participants for board and lodging (*except for colleagues from National Agencies, please see below*). This includes two nights (11th and 12th June) as well as an additional third night on the 13th in case the travel itinerary requires. Please note however that there is limited number of rooms available for the night from 13th to 14th, so we recommend a departure on the 13th if your travel connections allow that. Any other additional nights need to be paid from own expenses. Please get in touch with us in case of uncertainty.

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.

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).

3. PROGRAMME



3.1. SHORT PROGRAMME

Enclosed you can find the draft programme overview. Please note, that it is subject to change.

3.2. SUGGESTIONS FOR GOOD PRACTICES

For the session on good practices on the 13th of June, we are looking for examples from the participants. We would love to hear about your good practices! Please indicate in the registration form if you would be willing to share your practices. The prep team will select the cases to be presented by the 15th of May.

3.3. ONBOARDING SESSION, 5TH MAY

We invite you to an online onboarding meeting, taking place on the 5th of May, 10:00 CEST (Central European Summer Time).

The aim of the onboarding session is to kick-off the seminar experience by getting to know the programme and other participants. Furthermore, we would like to discuss expectations, wishes and needs. Hope to see you there!

Please register by the 28th of April via the following link: [REGISTER HERE](#). You will get your personal registration link to your inbox.

4. WHAT'S NEXT

YOU WILL RECEIVE...

... **a second info package** end of May/beginning of June including further organisational and practical details, more information about the venue and directions, as well as additional information about the programme and related sessions.

DON'T FORGET...

... to **confirm you participation in the seminar until the 14th of April!**

... to fill in the **registration form** until the 28th of April

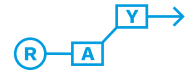
... to **share your good practices, if applicable** (via the registration form) until the 28th of April

... to **register for the onboarding session** until the 28th of April

... to **arrange your travel** and get in contact with your respective National Agency.

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).

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