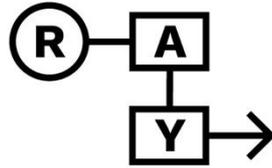




EUROPEAN UNION



Research-based
analysis of European
youth programmes

RAY LEARN CONFERENCE

17-19 November 2025

Budapest

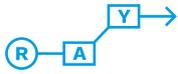
FIRST INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

16 SEPTEMBER 2025

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Dear participant of the RAY LEARN Conference,

thank you for applying for the RAY LEARN Conference which will take place from the 17th of November to the 19th of November in the European Youth Centre in Budapest. We are happy to inform you that you have been selected as a participant.

1. CONTEXT & AIMS OF CONFERENCE

The conference will bring together beneficiary organisations of the RAY LEARN research¹ as well as national researchers and National Agency colleagues from the countries involved in the study. It will be an event to celebrate, reward and expand participant's involvement in RAY LEARN. The conference will provide a space for beneficiaries to network with each other at the same time as they interact with, and increase their benefit, from the project findings to date.

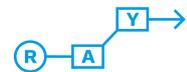
The RAY LEARN Conference is co-hosted by the National Agencies of the European Youth Programmes from Finland (host), Belgium (Flemish Community), France, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden (co-hosts). The RAY Network Coordination at the Finnish National Agency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

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.
 - 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

¹More about RAY LEARN: www.researchyouth.net/projects/learn/; more about the RAY Network: <https://www.researchyouth.net/>



2. CONFERENCE MODALITIES

2.1. REGISTRATION

In order to be able to plan your/our conference experience in the most comfortable and inclusive way, we kindly ask you to **fill in the following form until the 28th of September: Registration RAY LEARN Conference | RAY.**

2.2. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

The RAY LEARN Conference will **start on the 17th of November at 15:30 local time (CET)**, with an optional lunch from 13:00-14:30. 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 timing should allow all participants to arrive on the same day.

The programme will **end on the 19th of November by 17:00 local time (CET)**. There will be dinner and an evening programme after the conference ends, therefore we encourage participants to stay for an additional overnight and depart on the 20th of November.

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. Let us know in case you are unsure who to contact within your National Agency.

For National Agencies: Representatives of NAs need to arrange and cover their travels themselves.

2.4. VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

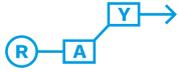
The RAY LEARN conference will be held in The European Youth Centre of Budapest. This is also where participants will be staying overnight.

European Youth Centre Budapest

Zivatar utca 1-3, 1024 Budapest

www.coe.int/en/web/youth/eyc-budapest

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



2.5. RELATED COSTS

As a rule, the hosting National Agencies cover the central costs for the conference as well as board and lodging for their own beneficiaries.

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.

As a reminder to National Agencies: The Finnish National Agency will pre-pay all costs and will issue respective invoices after the conferences to the NAs including the contribution to the central expenses and costs for all participants from the respective country.²

2.6. SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

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.

In the RAY Network, we follow a Code of Conduct to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone involved in the network and its activities. More information [HERE](#).

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.

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. PROGRAMME

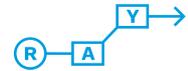
Enclosed you can find the draft programme overview. Please note, that it is subject to change. More details about the programme and respective sessions as well as more information on how to prepare for the conference will be communicated with a second info package (on the 14th of October).

4. WHAT'S NEXT

YOU WILL RECEIVE...

... **a second info package** on the 14th of October including further organisational and practical details, more information about the venue and directions, as well as additional information about the programme, the related sessions and how to prepare for the conference.

² A. Financial contribution to the central costs: as agreed and included in the RAY research contract 2025. B. Costs per participant (board and lodging for three nights) is approximately 350 €.



DON'T FORGET...

... to **confirm your participation in the conference until the 23rd of September**

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

... 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 contacts: Carmen Teubl-Kiviniemi, carmen.teubl-kiviniemi@oph.fi and Tiina Launiainen, tiina.launiainen@oph.fi).

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE CONFERENCE!

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