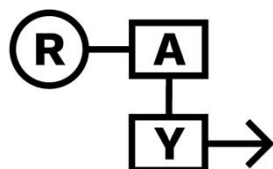




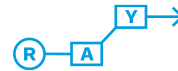
EUROPEAN UNION



Research-based
analysis of European
youth programmes

Research-based analysis of European youth programmes

RAY NETWORK



THE RAY NETWORK

The RAY Network - Research-based analysis of European youth programmes - is a self-governed European youth research network. Currently, 36 National Agencies of the Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps programmes and their research partners in 34 countries are involved.¹

The RAY Network was founded in 2008 with the aims to contribute to quality assurance and quality development in the implementation of the European youth programmes, to evidence-based & research-informed youth policy development in the youth field in Europe, to the recognition of non-formal education & learning in the youth field as well as to the dialogue between research, policy & practice in the youth field.

The RAY Network is coordinated by the RAY Network Coordination at the Finnish National Agency for Education, Helsinki together with the RAY Transnational Research Team at Youth Policy Labs (YPL), Berlin.

RAY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Currently (in 2026), five research projects are implemented by the network:

Research-based Analysis and Monitoring of Erasmus+ Youth (RAY MON) www.researchyouth.net/projects/mon/

Research-based Analysis and Monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps (RAY SOC) www.researchyouth.net/projects/soc/

Evidence-building research project on who is missing from the European youth programmes (RAY MISS) www.researchyouth.net/projects/miss/

Research Project on the Role of Digitalisation in Youth Work and Non-Formal Learning in the Context of the European Youth Programmes (RAY DIGI) www.researchyouth.net/projects/digi/

Research Project on Organisational Development and Learning Organisations in the European Youth Programmes (RAY LEARN) www.researchyouth.net/projects/learn/

>> Reports, summaries, factsheets, policy briefs and other publications:

www.researchyouth.net/reports/

>> Finished RAY research projects: www.researchyouth.net/projects/

¹ <https://www.researchyouth.net/network/>

RAY MONITORING SURVEYS

In 2008, the RAY Network was founded with the aim to contribute to quality assurance and quality development in the implementation of the European Union's Youth in Action Programme (2007–2013). To that end, the initial network partners developed a framework for the first and core research project of the network: standard surveys for project participants and project teams. These standard surveys were further developed at the start of the next programme generation, Erasmus+ Youth in Action (2014–2020), resulting in this core research project on the research-based analysis and monitoring of Erasmus+ Youth in Action (RAY MON), and subsequently to the research-based analysis and monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps (RAY SOC). The monitoring surveys are still the core research undertaken in the RAY Network, they were further developed in the ongoing programme generation (2021–2027) and are conducted and implemented in cooperation with currently all 34 RAY partner countries.

Over the past 15+ years, more than 125.000 project participants and close to 30.000 project team members have participated in the surveys and given voice to their experience. These monitoring surveys are complemented by thematic research projects, which RAY uses to dive deeper into specific aspects of the programmes with a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative research instruments (case studies, focus groups, interviews) with additional quantitative research instruments (usually small-scale thematic surveys).

The research shows in many different ways that the European youth programmes work really well. They reach their intended objectives and empower young people as active citizens, critical thinkers and life-long learners. Secondly, the research frequently discovers aspects and areas for improvement, which helps National Agencies in finetuning the implementation of the European youth programmes, the SALTO Centers in focusing their work in support of the programmes, and the European Commission in iterating the frameworks for the programmes' implementation.

The RAY Network is currently running the second survey cycle in the ongoing programme period. The surveys have been launched in autumn 2025 and key insights and findings will be communicated throughout 2026, with the RAY Triangular Summit as main space for disseminating and discussing newest findings.

>> Further reading on previous published findings from the RAY Monitoring Surveys:

<https://www.researchyouth.net/reports/>

>> More information on the RAY Network and its activities: www.researchyouth.net

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