

Along the road of YouSCE

**Impact Study: Youth Development
in a European Participation Context**



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Project introduction

In the context of an Erasmus+ KA2 project, led by the French non-profit organization “The Collective for a European Civic Service”, our partnership is implementing a project that covers the period 2024-2026 aiming to promote the European Civic Service across Europe, particularly in the countries where a national programme of engagement such as the French, German, Italian, or Luxembourgish one does not exist yet. The project includes six results, which are a combination of promotional materials, pilot projects of European Civic Service, and tools for the professional insertion of the youth in European Civic Service in the partner countries of the project: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Poland, and Romania. The European Civic Service is a one-year programme for youth, combining six months of engagement on missions of general interest in the country of origin, accompanied by language, citizenship, EU values, environmental values training and professional mentoring, followed by six months of engagement on missions of general interest in another country of the European Union.



The main goal of this programme, which is supported by various stakeholders across Europe, such as the President of the French Republic, and which has been awarded the Charlemagne Youth Prize in 2020, is to open European mobility to all youth of Europe, and particularly the youth with fewer opportunities.

Project introduction

Our goal

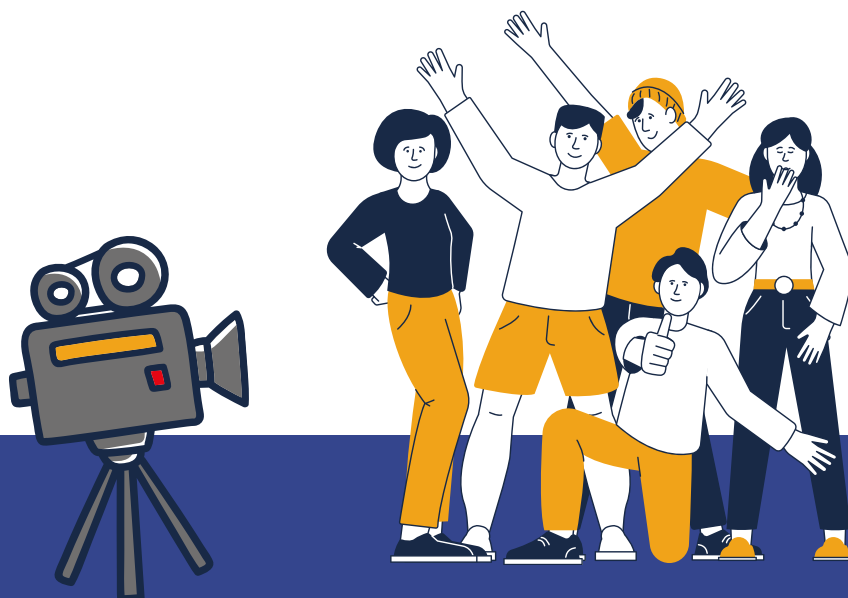
Along the road of the YouSCE project is to give the opportunity to the 46 youth volunteers (aged 18-30, 50% of youth with fewer opportunities) in the targeted countries of the partnership to be part of a European movie project and develop skills useful for their personal development and professional insertion while training the youth workers to accompany them and encouraging full time volunteering programs in countries where there is yet no national programme of engagement for youth volunteers.

Our idea

The project is based on the daily filming by the youth themselves of the activities of general interest they are conducting as volunteers in groups of half-nationals and half-Europeans. This will be completed by a training for youth workers to enable them to accompany the youth in their filmmaking, two cross-border encounters where the youth will conduct specific solidarity missions together, and dissemination of the results at a final gala, artistic festivals, schools and local communities.

Our results

The six results (two manuals, a short-movie, a toolkit, a report, and a guide), with the short-movie at the center, are a combination of analytical and technical materials with tools for the youth to develop their professional and digital skills, tools for the youth workers to accompany the professional insertion of the young volunteers from diverse backgrounds, and information for stakeholders on how to implement a European Civic Service in new countries.



Presentation of the partner entities

1. Collectif pour un Service Civique Européen

France, Paris

<http://serviceciviqueeuropeen.eu/>

The CSCE, creator of the European Civic Service in charge of its development across Europe, is the project coordinator. The association supervises the partnership, provide guidance to the partners on welcoming national and European volunteers and on ways to develop civic services in the new countries, coordinates the consortium in the implementation of the results and activities, ensures project and budget management, and participates in the communication strategy and massive dissemination of the results of the project.

2. Sciara progetti A.P.S. - E.T.S.

Italy, Fiorenzuola d'Arda

www.sciaraprogetti.com

3. World Society Builders gUG

Germany, Hannover

www.instagram.com/world_society_builders

4. Plantar Uma Árvore - Associação

Portugal, Queluz - Sintra

www.plantarumaarvore.org

5. Coordinadora Infantil y Juvenil de Tiempo Libre de Vallecas

Spain, Madrid

www.coordinadora.org.es

6. Centrum Wspolpracy Mlodziezy

Poland, Gdynia

www.cwm.org.pl

7. Fundatia Nationala pentru Tineret

Romania, București

www.rotineret.ro

“

"Our partnership is implementing a project aiming to promote the European Civic Service across Europe."

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Along the road of YouSCE



Co-funded by
the European Union

Impact Study: Youth Development in a European Participation Context



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



About this study



This study was carried out to collect and analyze participants' experiences during the project. It contributes to exploring the main learning areas developed through this kind of international initiative — the personal, social, intercultural, and professional dimensions of learning.

The aim is to understand how the project has supported participants in their growth, collaboration, and learning processes, as well as to identify the main challenges, achievements, and competences developed throughout their participation in different activities, trainings, and intercultural exchanges.

Ultimately, this study aims to evaluate the educational impact of the project and to highlight how international experiences can help participants gain confidence and self-awareness, strengthen their ability to work with others, broaden their understanding of different cultures and perspectives, and develop practical skills that will benefit their future paths.

In addition, the results of this study serve as a valuable resource for improving future projects and for understanding the broader impact of non-formal education in international contexts. By collecting participants' reflections and experiences, the study provides meaningful insight into how people learn, grow, and connect through cooperation, cultural diversity, and shared challenges.



Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive and evaluative approach, aiming to analyze and assess the experience of young people participating in the European Civic Service (ECS), particularly in terms of personal, social, intercultural, and professional impact. The main instrument used was an online survey targeting young people who actively participated in the programme and who resided in Spain, Poland, Portugal, and Romania.



The sample was non-probabilistic, based on the participation of the young participants involved in the project. A total of 32 young participants completed the survey.



Methodology

Data collection instrument.

The survey was structured into four major thematic areas:



Personal area

About the individual growth experienced by the young participants during the project. Topics such as confidence, self-esteem, and the personal challenges they have faced during their participation are addressed.



Social area

About the impact on the social relationships of participating youth and their ability to connect with others. This includes everything from new friendships created through the project to participation in group activities.



Intercultural area

It focuses on how the project has influenced the young participants' ability to interact with people from different cultures, languages, and backgrounds. It includes learning about cultural diversity, intercultural communication, and respect for different perspectives and ways of life.



Professional area

This area encompasses the development of skills and competencies that can improve the employability of participating youth or prepare them for future career challenges.

The instrument combined closed questions (with predefined options and rating scales) and open questions, allowing young people to freely express their experiences, perceptions, and learning.



Methodology

Data analysis.



The quantitative data were organized and analyzed using Microsoft Excel, which allowed for frequencies, averages, and simple comparisons between responses.

The open-ended questions were manually analyzed using a thematic categorization process, identifying patterns, recurring ideas, and representative testimonies about the impact of the European Civic Service in the different thematic areas.



Ethical considerations and limitations

Participation in the survey was part of the project's internal evaluation process. The study's sole objective was to assess the impact of the European Civic Service from the perspective of the young people involved, with the aim of continuous improvement and learning for future editions.

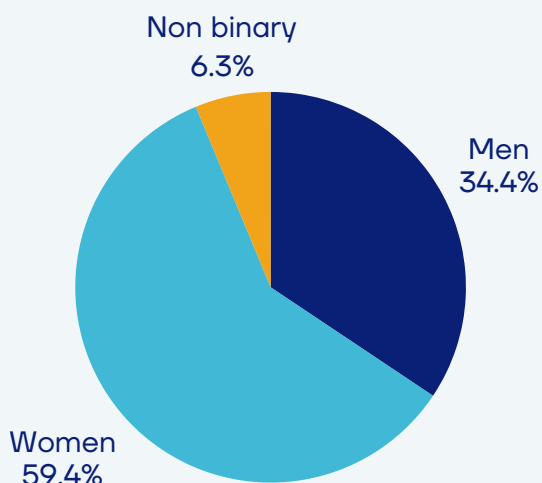
Given that this is a pilot project, one of the main limitations is the small, non-replicable sample size. The results obtained are not intended to be generalizable, but rather to offer a useful initial approximation for understanding the program's value and areas for improvement. Furthermore, as these are self-reported responses in an institutional context, some perceptions could be influenced by social factors or the project's own dynamics. Finally, the linguistic and cultural diversity among the participating countries may have affected the interpretation of certain questions, despite efforts to use clear and understandable language.



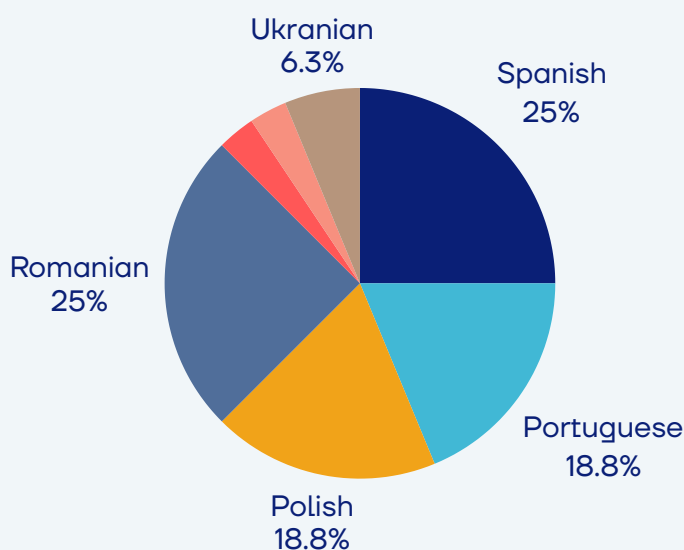
Presentation of Results

General information

You are...



Nationality



Study level	N° ppl
Higher education	19
High school	13

Spoken languages	N° ppl
Spanish	6
English, spanish	2
English, spanish, arabic	1
English, spanish, arabic, french	1
English, polish	6
English, ukrainian	2
English, romanian	7
English, romanian, spanish	1
English, portuguese	6

Presentation of Results

Personal area





Presentation of Results

Personal area

What impact has the project had on your confidence and self-esteem?

"I have become more socialized and gained problem-solving skills which also helped me to become more confident as a future teacher"

"The project had a positive impact on me. I acquired new knowledge, competences and skills. I am getting rid of stage fright during public speaking"

"It really helped me with my time management, and that made me more confident with my work"

"After the project, I feel more self-confident and enriched with informal knowledge about working with children."

"Being part of an international environment where my ideas and contributions were valued helped me feel more capable and empowered. I learned to speak up more confidently, take initiative during activities, and trust my abilities even in unfamiliar situations"

"The project boosted my self esteem. Mostly my confidence in achieving success."

"This project showed me that I'm capable of managing challenges I didn't think I could handle. Completing it successfully has increased my confidence in my skills and made me more willing to take on new responsibilities."

"It helped me with speaking more english with strangers"

"It has been a moderate impact because I have had to adapt to the group, get to know myself better as a participant and, on the other hand, develop my professional profile as a volunteer."

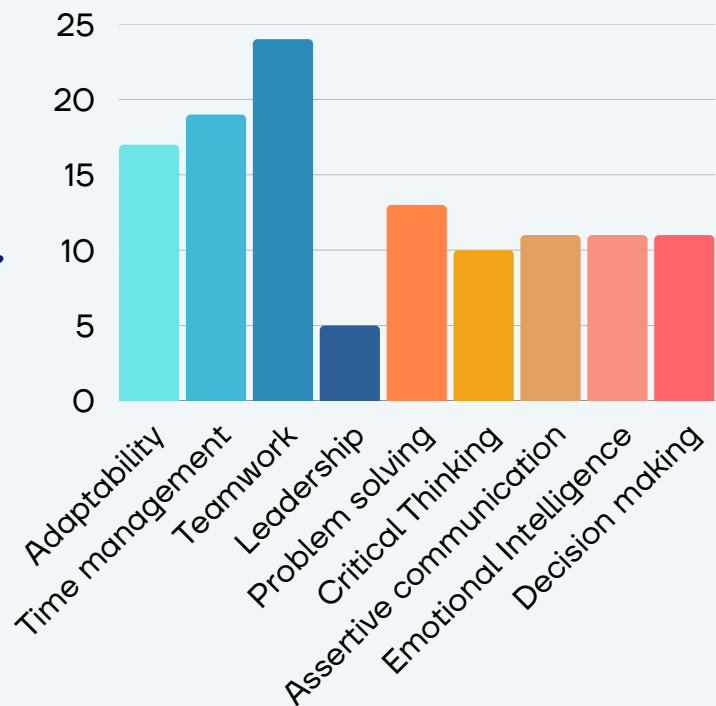
"It has given me much more confidence when working with minors."



Presentation of Results

Personal area

? Which "soft skills" do you think you have strengthened during the project?



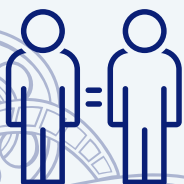
? Have you changed your perception of yourself after participating in the project? Please explain your answer.



Some mentioned that their view of themselves has **changed positively**, making them feel **more capable, confident, and mature**. They highlighted **improvements in their ability to work in groups, handle challenges, and integrate socially**.



Others noted that they now understand themselves better and feel more at peace with who they are. Some participants realized **they could learn quickly and apply their knowledge effectively**, while others gained confidence in their **ability to take action and make decisions independently**.



However, a few participants said that their perception of themselves has remained the same or changed only slightly. Some recognized progress in certain areas but did not feel a major shift in their overall self-perception.

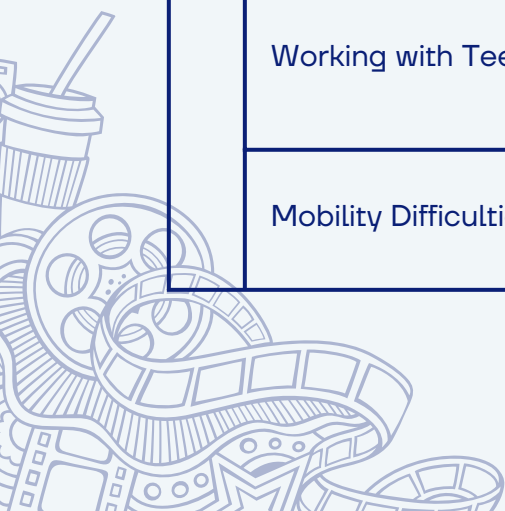


Presentation of Results

Personal area

 **What personal challenges have you faced during the project, and how have you overcome them?**

	Challenge	How it was Overcome
Most common challenges	Communication & Language	Practiced active communication, gradually gained confidence, observed and learned from others, accepted mistakes as normal.
	Teamwork & Cooperation	Solved conflicts with patience and dialogue, relied on peers and coordinators, separated personal from professional, developed leadership and assertiveness.
	Personal Adaptation & Socialization	Participated more actively, trusted oneself and others, benefited from the positive group environment.
	Time Management & Responsibilities	Created schedules, set priorities, broke tasks into smaller steps, improved organization, suggested structural changes (e.g., longer breaks).
	Emotions & Mental Health	Used mindfulness and reflection, leaned on peer support, practiced staying calm, valued persistence as success.
	Working with Teenagers	Listened, understood, supported without pressuring, adapted to their rhythm and motivation.
	Mobility Difficulties	Raised issue during evaluation, which led to improvements in workshop scheduling.

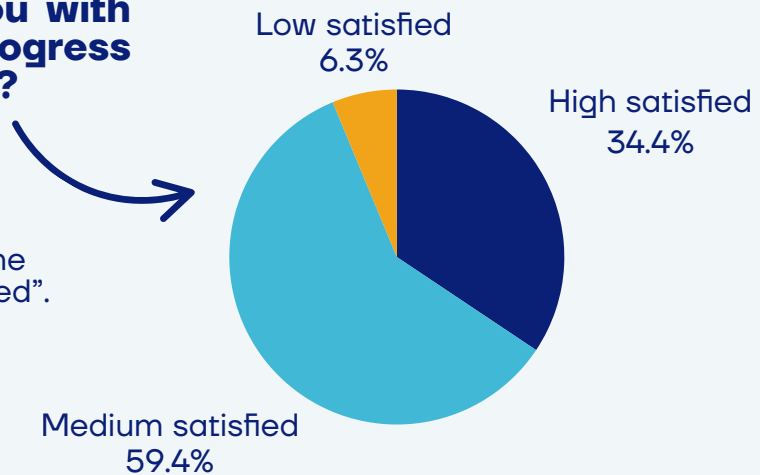


Presentation of Results

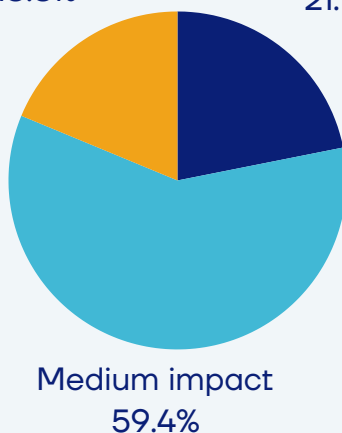
Personal area

? **How satisfied are you with your personal progress thanks to the project?**

*No one has selected the option "not at all satisfied".



Low impact 18.8% High impact 21.9%

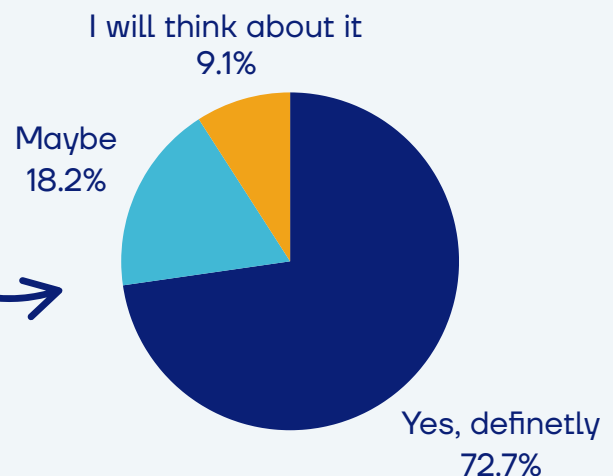


? **How much do you value the impact of the project on your personal growth?**

*No one has selected the option "No impact".

? **Do you feel that this project has motivated you to continue participating in similar european programmes in the future?**

*No one has selected the option "I don't think so".



Presentation of Results

Social area



Presentation of Results

Social area

? How has the project helped you improve your teamwork skills?

Most frequent improvements:

- **Communication:** more open, better listening, asking for help, more confident expressing ideas.
- **Collaboration:** sharing responsibilities, group problem-solving, compromise, flexibility.
- **Confidence:** trusting the team, proposing ideas without fear, feeling less isolated.

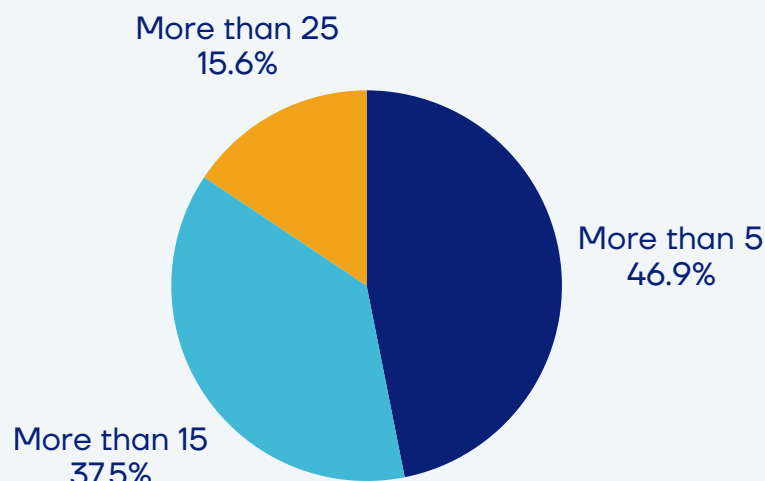
Less frequent but valuable outcomes:

- **Conflict resolution:** learning to stay calm and organized.
- **Leadership:** delegating tasks, guiding and motivating others.
- **Positive environment:** the group atmosphere encouraged teamwork.
- **Self-reflection:** realizing personal tendencies (e.g., abstraction) and improving.

Mixed or neutral responses:

- Some felt only slight improvement or already had strong teamwork skills.

? How many new people have you met thanks to this project?



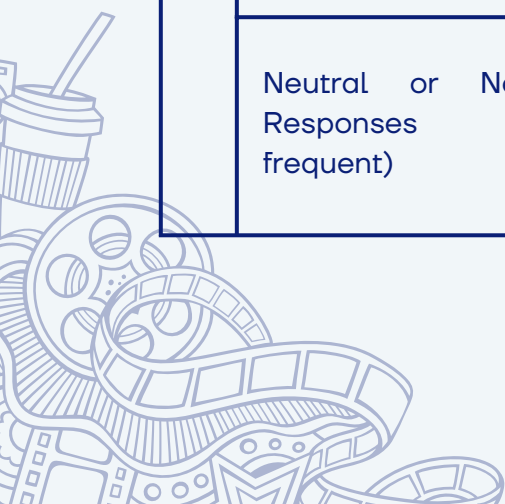


Presentation of Results

Social area

 In what way has the project influenced your ability to resolve conflicts?

	Main Theme	Examples of How It Was Improved
M o s t c o m m o n c h a l l e n g e s	Communication & Dialogue	Open and respectful conversations, listening to different perspectives, finding common ground, expressing opinions more confidently.
	Calmness, Patience & Self-Control	Staying calm in difficult situations, being more rational and objective, de-escalating conflicts, resolving issues peacefully.
	Teamwork & Compromise	Focusing on what is best for the group, understanding that conflicts can bring improvement and creativity, learning to be more practical and make faster decisions.
	Perspective & Critical Thinking	Analyzing conflicts from the outside, using critical thinking and creativity to find better solutions, understanding needs of each side instead of just “solving.”
	Personal Growth (less frequent)	Building self-confidence, learning when to stay quiet, resolving conflicts passively, finding calm through nature.
	Neutral or Negative Responses (less frequent)	No conflicts experienced, already skilled in conflict resolution, little or no impact, some avoided conflicts instead of addressing them.





Presentation of Results

Social area

What challenges have you faced when working with people in different environments?

N° ppl

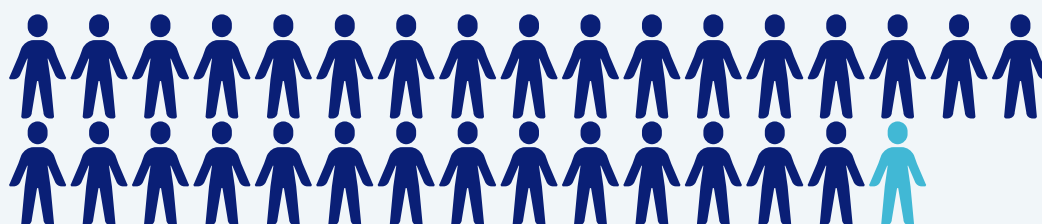
13 Language and communication: language barrier, expressing oneself, lack of communication, translation.

8 Cultural and thinking differences: different ways of thinking, cultural differences, difficulty “connecting” with people who think differently

7 Work styles, organization, and expectations: different work habits, delegating responsibilities, organization, teamwork, expectations

4 Personal aspects: shyness, feeling “off”, conflicts due to age differences.

Have you felt supported by your peers and coordinators throughout the project?



YES

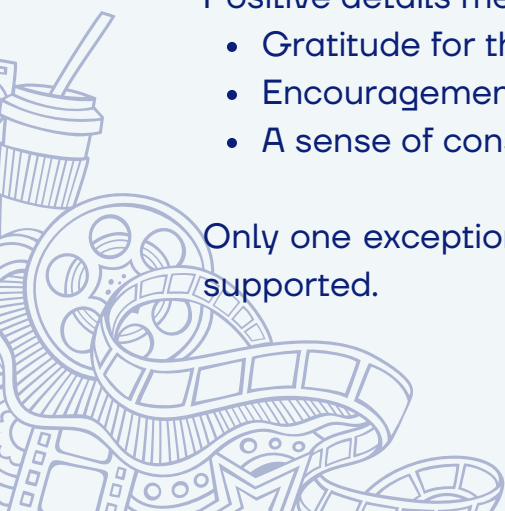
NO

Overwhelming majority answered “Yes”, saying they felt supported by both peers and coordinators.

Positive details mentioned:

- Gratitude for the support received.
- Encouragement from the group to participate actively.
- A sense of constant support from the team.

Only one exception: one participant answered “No”, saying they did not feel supported.



Presentation of Results

Social area

- ? Thanks to this project, have you participated in activities and training sessions that you wouldn't have voluntarily accessed otherwise? Specify which activities.

15 YES ➔

17 NO

Activities Mentioned:

Media & Creative Training

- Video editing, podcasting, social media training.
- Recording short films.

Games & Team-Building

- City games, Spanish games.
- Teamwork games, arts & crafts.
- Trust-building and conflict-resolution activities.

Workshops & Exchanges

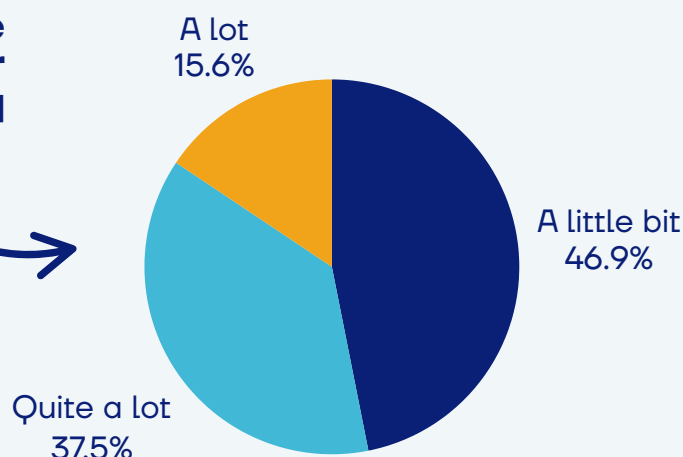
- Discussions, feedback sessions.
- Design Thinking, "Along the Youth Way," "Beyond Stereotypes."
- Erasmus+ and volunteering opportunities.

Personal Development

- Learning teamwork, problem-solving, and discovering new cultures.

- ? To what extent has the project encouraged your confidence in interacting with others?

*No one has selected the option "Not at all".



Presentation of Results

Intercultural area

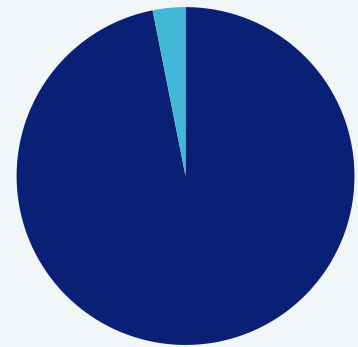


Presentation of Results

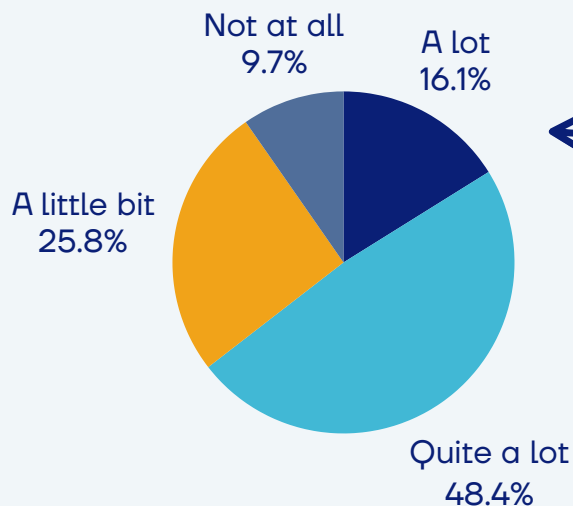
Intercultural area

? Do you think the project encouraged your openness to new ideas and perspectives?

No
1



? To what extent has the project helped you learn more about other cultures?



? Please specify some aspects you have learned about other cultures during your participation in the project.

Participants highlighted the **cultural night** as an engaging way to explore different cultures through food, music, and traditions. Informal conversations with other volunteers helped them **understand life contexts, values, and perspectives** on career and relationships. **Visiting new places**, like Timisoara, was also a remarkable cultural experience



Many participants mentioned learning about other cultures in terms of **gastronomy, traditions, social behaviors, and language**. They also noted differences in communication styles and how **cultural backgrounds** influence emotional expression and group interactions.



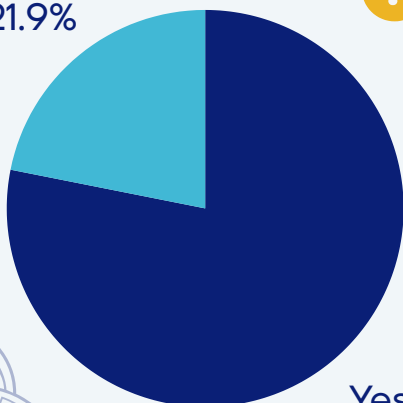
Presentation of Results

Intercultural area

 **What challenges have you faced when working with people from different cultural backgrounds?**

Intercultural communication & awareness	Group work & cooperation	Cultural experiences & differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noticing how cultural differences affect body language, decision-making, teamwork.• Talking with people from different backgrounds in informal or structured settings.• Understanding different perspectives during workshops or casual conversations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborating in mixed teams during activities, games, or joint creation of materials.• Managing dynamics in groups with diverse participants.• Explaining activities clearly across cultural differences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooking and tasting food from other countries.• Cultural nights and exchanging traditions.• Different habits during meals or daily interactions.

No
21.9%



Have you improved your ability to communicate with people who speak other languages thanks to the project?

Yes
78.1%





Presentation of Results

Intercultural area

? How has your perception of cultural diversity changed after the project?

- Many already considered themselves open-minded before the project
- Some participants noted that the experience reinforced their appreciation for diversity, helping them see the value in different perspectives and understand stereotypes better. They became **more open to learn about other cultures**, recognizing **diversity as a source of growth, critical thinking, empathy, and inclusion**. Some highlighted that being surrounded by people from different backgrounds **broadened their mindset**
- Few participants felt no major change in their perception, either because they had already been involved in multiple Erasmus+ projects

? What training sessions, activities, or experiences do you think have enhanced your awareness of the realities of people from different cultural backgrounds?

Cultural exchanges and Intercultural nights



Sharing traditional meals, music, and customs helped participants understand and appreciate different cultures.

City games and mixed group activities



Activities in mixed groups around the city allowed participants to talk, share personal experiences, and learn about others' backgrounds in an informal way.

Workshops and training sessions



Working in international teams increased awareness of different communication styles, habits, and ways of thinking.

Informal moments and conversations



Mealtime conversations, free time, and informal chats were mentioned as equally important moments for genuine cultural exchange.





Presentation of Results

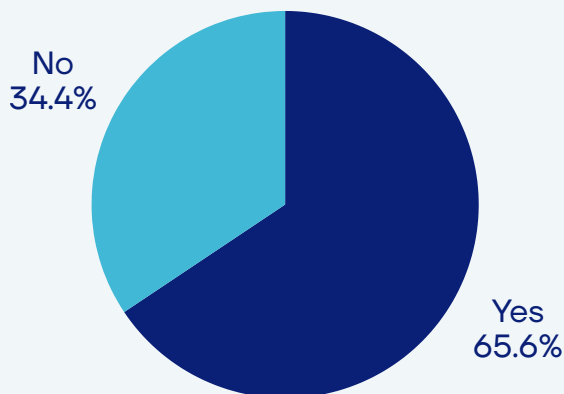
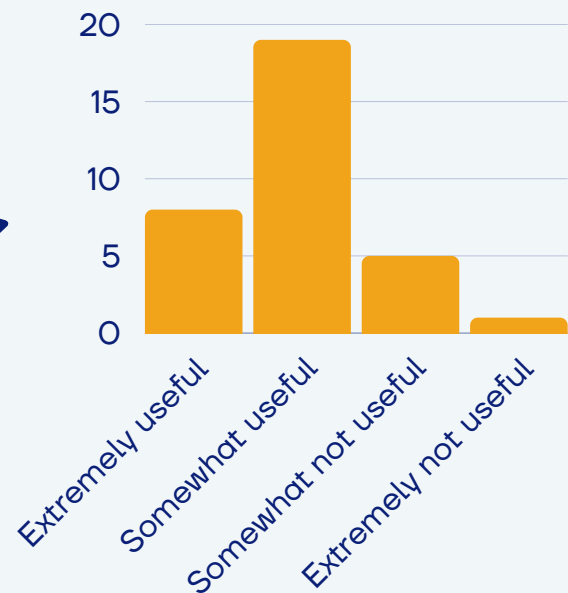
Professional area



Presentation of Results

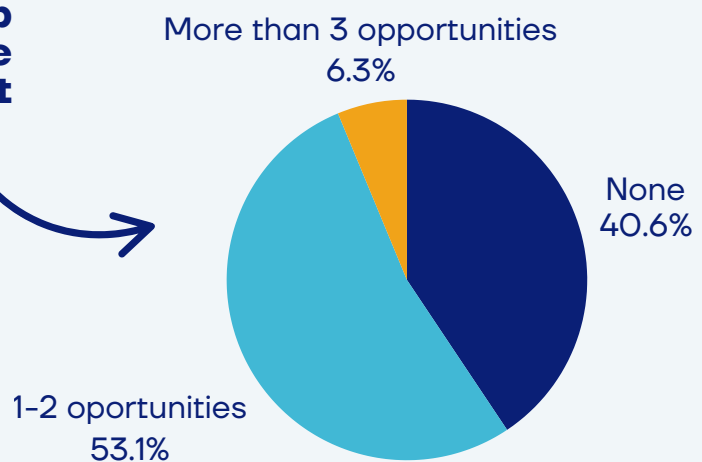
Professional area

? How useful do you think the training received has been for your professional future?



? Do you think the project has better prepared you to find a job in your area of interest?

? Have you identified job opportunities during the project that you hadn't considered before?



Presentation of Results

Professional area

? **What specific tasks performed during the volunteer work were most useful for your professional development?**

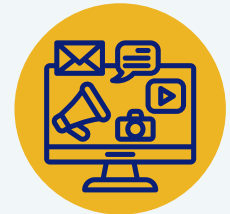


Teamwork & Communication

Participants emphasized how group projects and collaborative activities improved their ability to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and work towards shared goals.

Media & Digital Skills

Workshops on video creation, editing, and podcast production helped participants develop technical competence. They learned how to share messages clearly, experiment with new tools, and collaborate through digital storytelling.



Leadership & Organization

Many volunteers took initiative by organizing activities, managing groups, and planning sessions. These tasks improved their sense of responsibility, decision-making, and time management.

Environmental & Practical Learning

Nature-based activities, such as identifying species, learning about sustainability, and working outdoors, encouraged a connection between environmental awareness and practical learning. These experiences nurtured curiosity and respect for nature.



Creativity & Problem-Solving

Dynamic challenges like the “spaghetti Eiffel Tower” encouraged participants to think outside the box, collaborate effectively, and adapt to unexpected situations. They discovered how creativity and flexibility can turn obstacles into opportunities.

“This experience enhanced my leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills, which have been invaluable for my professional development and preparing me to manage teams effectively in my career”



Presentation of Results

Professional area

? How has the project helped you identify your professional interests?

The project helped many to better define their vocation, especially in:

Education and youth work

Cultural and non-formal education

Environmental and botanical fields

Audiovisual and technology-related fields



Others stated that, while the project did not clearly define their future profession, **it enhanced transferable skills like communication, teamwork, and organization — relevant to any career path.**



A smaller group expressed that **the project did not influence their professional direction**, either because their interests were already defined, unrelated to the project, or still uncertain.

? What challenges did you face during the project, and how do you think they have prepared you for the job market?



Teamwork & Communication



Learning to collaborate with people from different countries, adapt to new working styles, and overcome language barriers.



Organization & Time Management



Balancing several tasks at once improved planning, prioritization, and efficiency.



Technical & Creative Skills



Using new tools for podcasting, video editing, and digital work encouraged creativity, flexibility, and problem-solving.



Personal Growth



Overcoming shyness, managing stress, and gaining confidence built resilience and self-assurance for professional life.



Interpretation and Discussion

The results of this study confirm that participation in the Along the Road of YouSCE project has had a positive and multifaceted impact on young volunteers, both personally and professionally. The participants' reflections show consistent growth across the four key learning dimensions explored.

Personal development

The data gathered in this study reveal that participants experienced substantial personal growth throughout their involvement in the project. Many reported facing challenges such as adapting to new environments, overcoming shyness, and managing emotions in unfamiliar contexts. These experiences helped them build **self-awareness, independence, and confidence**, key elements of personal development.

Participants consistently described the project as a **journey of personal discovery**: living abroad, adapting to new routines, and interacting with unfamiliar people pushed them beyond their comfort zones.

Living and collaborating abroad required participants to step outside their comfort zones. This exposure to new realities encouraged **emotional resilience, patience, and a greater ability to handle uncertainty**. The testimonies show that even small daily situations — communicating in another language, adjusting to new routines, or cooperating with people with different habits — contributed to a deeper understanding of one's own limits and capacities.



Another recurring theme was the development of **emotional regulation and self-motivation**. Participants described moments of stress, time pressure, or interpersonal tension as opportunities to practice calmness and reflection. In this sense, the project functioned as a safe but challenging environment for practicing life skills that go beyond academic or professional training.

In sum, the personal learning dimension demonstrates how non-formal education projects like this one contribute to strengthening participants' **inner stability, confidence, and initiative** — essential foundations for any future civic or professional engagement.

Interpretation and Discussion

Social development

In the social dimension, the project proved to be a powerful setting for enhancing **communication, teamwork, and collaboration skills**. Participants repeatedly mentioned that one of the main challenges was learning to cooperate effectively with people of different personalities, working rhythms, and communication styles.



Through shared tasks and joint responsibilities, participants developed **active listening, empathy, and negotiation skills**. They learned to express opinions assertively while respecting others' points of view — a clear indicator of social maturity. Group dynamics, workshops, and collaborative projects offered practical opportunities to apply these skills, reinforcing cooperation through experience rather than theory.

Living and working side by side created a sense of **community and mutual support**. Even when misunderstandings arose, they became valuable opportunities to strengthen teamwork and emotional maturity.

Several testimonies emphasized how the project environment encouraged mutual support and a sense of belonging. The feeling of being part of a collective process increased participants' **trust in others**, strengthened their **sense of responsibility**, and promoted **leadership** in different forms — from organizing small group tasks to facilitating team communication.

Additionally, overcoming social conflicts or misunderstandings within a multicultural team helped participants understand that **effective collaboration requires empathy, flexibility, and self-awareness**. This reflects the educational value of community-based volunteering: learning to coexist and cooperate with others as a way of personal and civic growth.

Ultimately, the project served as a **real-life space for social learning**, where participants could translate cooperation into daily practice. By engaging in shared tasks and facing challenges together, they strengthened their ability to **communicate, collaborate, and lead with empathy**. These experiences not only enhanced their relationships within the project but also equipped them with **transferable social competences** essential for active citizenship and future professional environments.

Interpretation and Discussion

Intercultural development

The intercultural dimension emerged as one of the strongest aspects of the project. Participants expressed that sharing experiences and moments of collaboration with people from different countries allowed them to gain a **deeper understanding of cultural diversity**, extending far beyond stereotypes or superficial knowledge.

Activities such as intercultural nights, group workshops, and informal conversations provided direct exposure to new **languages, traditions, and communication styles**. Participants learned that culture is not only about food or celebrations but also about values, perspectives, and ways of interpreting reality. This experiential learning generated an awareness of how cultural background influences teamwork, emotional expression, and decision-making.



This direct contact with cultural diversity helped them break stereotypes and develop a sense of **European identity**.

The project also promoted **respect, tolerance, and curiosity** — essential attitudes for living in a multicultural Europe. By experiencing diversity first-hand, participants developed **intercultural empathy**, learning to question their own assumptions and to approach differences with openness rather than judgment.

For some, this experience was transformative: it helped them realize that intercultural understanding is a continuous process of adaptation, dialogue, and reflection.

In this sense, the project not only supported cultural learning but also acted as a platform for **intercultural citizenship education**, aligning with the broader objectives of the European Civic Service.

Interpretation and Discussion

Professional development

In the professional area, the project offered participants a valuable space to explore new roles, acquire practical experience, and reflect on their future career paths.

Many participants identified **teamwork, communication, and organization** as the most useful competences developed during volunteering. Tasks such as coordinating activities, leading small teams, or supporting children's learning processes helped them apply these skills in real contexts, reinforcing **responsibility, problem-solving, and adaptability**.

Creative and technical experiences — such as **podcast production, video editing, and content creation** — were particularly impactful. These allowed participants to experiment with **digital and media tools**, boosting creativity and self-confidence. Others highlighted nature-related or educational tasks as opportunities to connect their volunteering with professional interests in **environmental work, education, or youth engagement**.

The data also suggest that professional learning was not limited to technical skills but extended to **soft skills** crucial for employability — initiative, communication, and teamwork. Some participants realized their interest in leadership or teaching roles, while others acknowledged gaining more clarity about their preferences and limitations.



Engaging in real tasks and responsibilities turned volunteering into a hands-on **preparation for future professional challenges**.

Overall, the professional outcomes of the project demonstrate that non-formal experiences can serve as a bridge between volunteering and employability, preparing young people for the demands of a dynamic and multicultural job market.



Conclusions

The *Along the Road of YouSCE* study highlights the **transformative potential of international volunteering** as a space for learning, growth, and connection among young people. Through collaborative, intercultural, and creative experiences, participants not only acquired practical and professional competences but also strengthened essential human qualities such as **empathy, cooperation, adaptability, and self-confidence**.

The findings reveal that learning in this context goes far beyond technical skills. It involves the ability to **listen, communicate, and coexist** with others in diverse environments — competences that are increasingly valued in both personal and professional spheres. Participants learned to manage challenges constructively, transforming uncertainty, language barriers, or group conflicts into meaningful opportunities for growth and understanding.

The project has demonstrated that **non-formal education** — through teamwork, volunteering, and intercultural exchange — can foster deep and lasting learning outcomes. It proves that much of what we learn occurs **outside formal classrooms**, in spaces of collaboration, shared challenges, and mutual reflection. These experiences help participants become more aware of their abilities and more confident in their capacity to contribute actively to society.

Furthermore, the project encouraged participants to engage with European values of solidarity, inclusion, and diversity. By interacting with people from different countries and backgrounds, they developed a broader vision of what it means to be part of a shared European community. This intercultural exposure strengthened their sense of belonging and their belief in cooperation as a foundation for social progress.

At a professional level, the experience bridged the gap between **volunteering and employability**. By taking initiative, leading activities, and applying creativity to real tasks, participants discovered new interests and expanded their transferable skills — preparing them to face the demands of an evolving job market with confidence and flexibility.

Ultimately, the *Along the Road of YouSCE* project reaffirms that **mobility and non-formal education** are powerful tools for building a generation of young people who are resilient, inclusive, and proactive. It shows that when youth are given the opportunity to learn through action and cooperation, they do not simply gain new knowledge — they **shape their identity as active, responsible, and empathetic European citizens** capable of contributing positively to a diverse and interconnected world.



Recommendations for the future

Project Design



- Define clear, shared goals from the beginning.
- Expand cultural and geographic diversity among participants.
- Balance activity schedules with time for rest and reflection.
- Include welcome and closing rituals to build community.

Participant Support



- Train youth workers in emotional support, intercultural facilitation, and audiovisual tools.
- Maintain open, accessible communication channels.
- Create safe spaces for sharing experiences and emotions.
- Offer personalized mentoring throughout the project.

Intercultural Engagement



- Organize structured cultural exchange activities (e.g. cultural nights, team games, workshops).
- Promote empathy and inclusion through stereotype-challenging dynamics.
- Provide multilingual materials and language support.
- Value informal moments as key opportunities for cultural learning.

Professional Development



- Connect participants with real opportunities for training, employment, or further volunteering.
- Include practical workshops on leadership, teamwork, and digital skills.
- Encourage vocational reflection and self-discovery.
- Document learning outcomes in portfolios or creative formats.

Evaluation and Reflection



- Use diverse evaluation tools (surveys, interviews, focus groups).
- Involve participants in the evaluation process.
- Analyze results critically to identify strengths and areas for growth.
- Share findings with partners and networks to amplify impact.

Along the road of YouSCE



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