

Final report of the TCA “Youth Participation Activities for Young People and Municipalities”

Date: 3-7 November 2025

Location: Ioannina, Greece



Trainers

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Venue

Ioannina, Grand Serai - <https://www.grandserai.com/>

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1. Course Introduction

1.1 In brief

The following consists of the trainers' report on the TCA Activity, "Youth Participation Activities for Young People and Municipalities" organised by the Hellenic National Agency of Erasmus+/ Youth & Sports and European Solidarity Corps, from the 3rd to the 7th of November 2025.

The three-day activity was held in Ioannina, Greece, with the participation of 14 people (youth workers/ municipal officers and young people) from Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Germany and Portugal.

This activity was organised and implemented by the Hellenic National Agency for Erasmus+/Youth and European Solidarity Corps Programmes, Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation (INEDIVIM).

The learning process was supported by two trainers, members of the Hellenic National Agency pool of trainers.

1.2 Aim and Objectives

Aim

This seminar aims to enhance dialogue between young people and municipalities across Europe, fostering cooperation and co-designing initiatives under Erasmus+ / Youth. Participants will explore key principles from the European Charter on Local Youth Work and gain practical tools from the Changemakers Kit to strengthen youth participation at the local level.

Objectives

- Provide participants with essential knowledge about Youth Participation Activities (Key Action 1 - KA154)
- Explore and apply principles from the European Charter on Local Youth Work
- Equip young people and municipalities with tools from the Changemakers Kit to foster youth engagement
- Strengthen cross-border cooperation and build a network of youth workers and municipal representatives

1.3 Methodology & Programme

The methodology of the ***"TCA on Youth Participation Activities for Young People and Municipalities"*** was grounded in the principles of non-formal education and experiential learning. It combined a variety of approaches, creating a dynamic and reflective learning environment for the participants.

The activity took place over 3 days plus 2 travel days. The main core of the event was developed through 3 daily themes:

- Day 1: Getting to know each other and setting the scene
- Day 2: Increasing youth participation
- Day 3: Designing Youth Participation Activities and Networking

In addition to the experiential components, theoretical frameworks were also introduced to support deeper understanding. Key tools included the Europe Goes Local (EGL) Charter, The Changemaker kit, and the Ladder of Participation which provided conceptual grounding and helped participants to position their own practices within wider participation models. The programme was designed to allow space for both inspiration and application, ensuring that learning was not only informative but also directly relevant to participants' realities and work.

The programme followed the timetable below:

	Getting to Know Each Other	Increasing youth participation in our community	Hands on: Finalising our project	Departures
	Team Building			
	Coffee Break			
	Introduction to TCA Europe Goes Local Strategy Presentation	Hands on: Idea Generation	Presentation of the projects	
	Lunch Break			
Arrivals	Municipality Bazaar	Hands on: Youth Participation Activity Development	Next Steps	
	Coffee Break			
	Sharing Needs & Challenges of our Communities	Hands on: Risk & Stakeholders Assessment	Evaluation & Closing	
Welcome Dinner	Dinner			

1.4 Participants' profile

The TCA brought together **14 participants** representing municipalities from Skiathos, Preveza, Oraïokastro and Karpenisi (Greece), as well as Dundalk Youth Centre (Ireland), Municipality of Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg), Municipality of Bochum (Germany), and Municipality of Santa Maria de Feira (Portugal).

The group consisted of an equal number of **municipal officers** involved in youth-related work at the local level and **young people** from the same municipalities. This balanced composition ensured a dynamic exchange of perspectives between institutional representatives and young citizens. The diversity of backgrounds, roles, and national contexts enriched the learning process and supported cross-country dialogue, peer learning, and the sharing of practices. All participants demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening youth participation structures and co-designing Youth Participation Activities under the Erasmus+ Programme with the intention to prepare applications for the next deadline.

It is important to note that the initial number of confirmed participants for the TCA was **24**. However, nine participants cancelled their participation shortly before or on the day of arrival, while one participant from Municipality of Oraikastro was able to attend only the first day due to an unexpected workload.

- **Eight cancellations occurred two days before the activity**, with the following reasons:
 - Four participants reported they were missing information,
 - Two participants cancelled due to illness,
 - Two participants withdrew because of workload.
- **One additional participant cancelled on the day of arrival**, also due to illness. All nine cancellations came from Greek municipalities. Specifically, the absences were from:
 - **Municipality of Platanias** – 2 participants
 - **Municipality of Ampelokipoi–Menemeni** – 4 participants
 - **Municipality of Xylokastro–Evrostini** – 2 participants
 - **Municipality of Karpenisi** – 1 participant

These last-minute cancellations had a noticeable impact on the overall flow of the activity. The reduced group size affected both the design of the programme and the group dynamic, requiring on-the-spot adjustments to methods, timings, and group work formats. Several activities originally planned for larger teams had to be adapted to ensure meaningful participation for the smaller group. In addition, the absence of entire municipal teams influenced the intended balance between youth representatives and municipal officers, as well as the opportunities for intra-municipal collaboration.

Nevertheless, the facilitators adapted the programme accordingly, ensuring continuity and maintaining a constructive learning environment for those who attended.

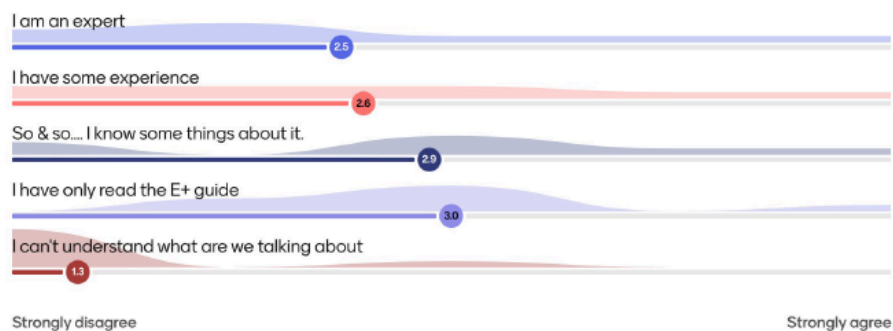
2. Preparation

Since the training needed a strong connection with the local youth community and the role of municipalities in youth participation, the trainers provided an onboarding session for participants via Zoomll on September 22nd. The participants were introduced to the project and its needs, got to know each other as well as had the opportunity to ask for clarifications. The [Canva](#) presentation was also shared by email to the participants.

What words come to mind hearing Youth Participation Activities?



How do I feel about my knowledge on Youth Participation Projects under Erasmus+ Programme?



What do I expect from the training and how can I contribute?

I expect to learn more about how to work with young people. I can contribute my knowledge

I expect to learn how to design initiatives that address my community's needs, from managing logistics to creating an engaged group of youngsters

I can contribute by sharing insights on organizing actions, managing teams, and bringing the perspective of someone from a small town that seeks to make a meaningful impact.

I'm eager to exchange ideas, listen to experienced voices for guidance, and use my knowledge to contribute meaningfully to my community.

Πιστεύω πως θα πάρουμε τις απαραίτητες γνώσεις και θα αποκτήσουμε δεξιότητες, ώστε το μέλλον για το μέρος μας να είναι πιο ανοιχτό σε νέους ανθρώπους και τις ιδέες τους.

How to represent my group or community fairly and confidently, How to advocate for change and influence policies and How to encourage more young people to get involved

By actively participating in discussions and activities, By sharing my ideas and experiences honestly and respectfully, By supporting others to have their voices heard

By actively participating in discussions and activities, By sharing my ideas and experiences honestly and respectfully, By supporting others to have their voices heard

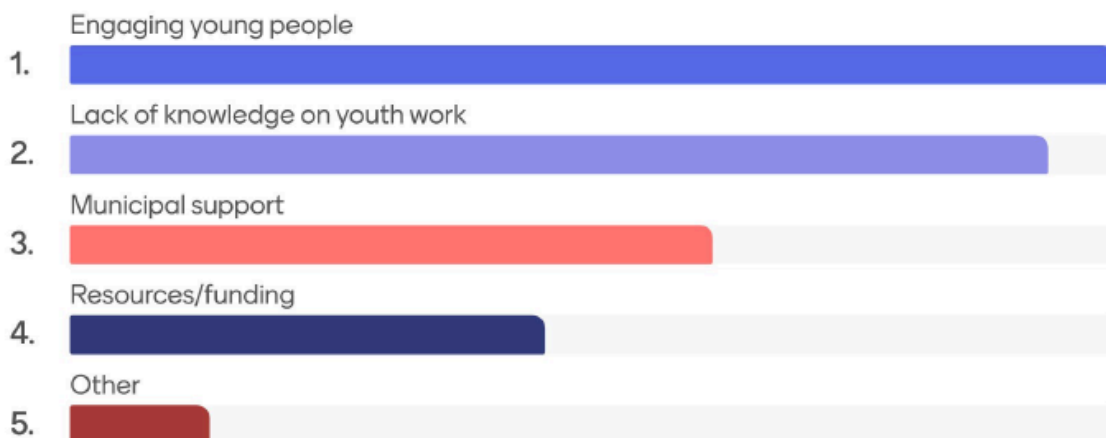
To learn from other while making connections with people from all over.

I expect to gain more knowledge about Youth Participation activities to exchange with other cities, and to build new connections. I can share my experience in this field, particularly in organizing ac

From this training, I expect to learn practical tools for participation, improve my communication and teamwork skills, and gain confidence to take part in community or youth projects.

Set up a great projects with great partners

Which of these areas are most challenging in youth participation in your community?



3. Sessions

3.1 Arrival Day

3rd November 2025

The participants started arriving and settling into the rooms. They were active on the WhatsApp group and they received support when it was necessary. Dinner was provided in the dining area of the hotel and welcome drinks were offered in the training area to encourage the informal meeting of the group.

3.2 Day 1

4th November 2025

Session 1 - Getting to know each other

Introductions and welcome of the group by the trainers

The meeting started with introductions of the team, the trainers and the tender representative and clarification of the roles within the activity. The participants also had the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their professional backgrounds.

Where am I in the map of Europe

The participants were asked to find their place on a map of Europe that covered a part of the training room which had the signs of the compass (N-S-W-E). Once they found their place, they were invited to share with the group how many hours it took them to reach Ioannina and how many means of transport they needed to change to reach the venue. This activity provided an opportunity to visually understand the geographical background and connect with their peers

An item I carry with me

The participants had the opportunity to get to know each other first in pairs, where they discussed aspects of themselves and their work, and then they shared an item that they carry with them in their everyday life.

Visualisation on Youth Work systemic approach

Participants engaged in a visualisation exercise designed to help them explore the “systems” in which their youth work takes place. Through guided reflection, they examined their communities, their target groups, and the young people they work with. They considered the needs, aspirations, and challenges present in these environments.

This activity served as a foundation for the days that followed, helping participants frame their thinking and better understand the broader context in which their youth participation initiatives are developed. It provided a shared point of reference that supported deeper learning and collaboration throughout the training.

Session 2 - Introduction to TCA (Youth Participation Projects)

Europe Goes Local Strategy Presentation

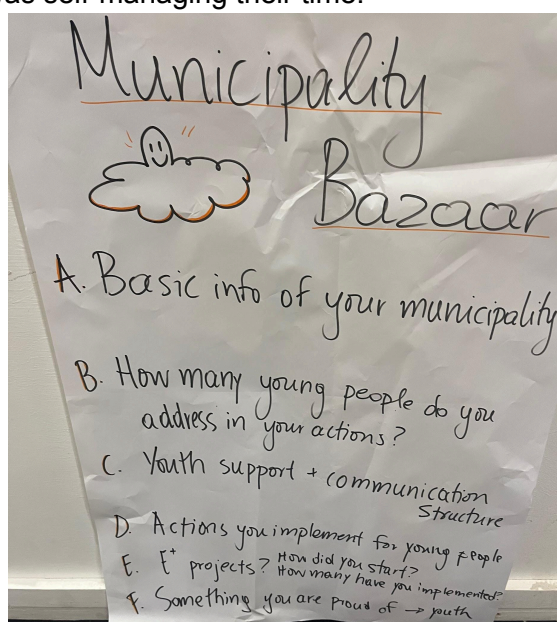
During this informative session, participants were introduced to the **Europe Goes Local Strategy**, including the aims and objectives of the specific SNAC and its relevance to their work at municipal level. The presentation highlighted how the initiative supports the development of quality youth work and strengthens local ecosystems that enable meaningful youth participation. Moreover, the Changemaker kit and the Local Chapter on Youth Work were introduced.

In addition, the “**Youth Participation Projects**” activity of Erasmus+ was presented, providing participants with a solid foundation for understanding the programme’s opportunities. This input prepared them to begin shaping their own project ideas and exploring how Erasmus+ can be used to reinforce youth participation in their local contexts.

Both Presentations can be found in the designated [padlet](#)

Session 3 - Municipality Bazaar

The participants were invited to present the municipality's profile according to the information that was provided in the preparation meeting in September. Through their posters they answer questions connected to youth and youth participation in their local area (A. How many young people are addressed with their actions, what is the youth support and communication structure in their Municipality, what actions do they implement for young people, if they have implemented E+ programs and how many/how did their involvement with programs begin. something they are proud of for their Municipality in relation to Youth). Once the participants had completed their posters, they were invited to make pairs and share their information. The pairs changed organically as the group was self-managing their time.



Session 4 - Study Visit to the Youth Center of Epirus

The local youth NGO [Youth Center of Epirus](#) welcome the group in their office and presented the good practices in the collaboration with stakeholders in Ioannina and in Greece. The organisation presented their KA154 “[Around the table: Community, Culture and Food](#)” which was selected as a best practice from the Greek National Agency. The participants had the opportunity to ask for tips and advice on their local youth work which was very beneficial especially for the national participants who are facing similar challenges.



3.3 Day 2

5th November 2025

Session 1 - Increasing youth participation in our community

As a warm up participants took part in an interactive statement debate exercise. Two signs reading “*I agree*” and “*I disagree*” were placed on opposite sides of the room, with a line drawn in the middle to mark the boundary between the two positions. A series of statements related to youth participation and municipal realities. Participants positioned themselves along the line according to their views, creating space for lively debate, exchange of perspectives, and reflection on differing experiences. This activity served as an engaging introduction to the topic, preparing participants for the deeper exploration that followed.

Ladder of participation



The trainer introduced the **Ladder of Participation**, presenting the different stages of youth involvement and how these reflect varying degrees of influence and empowerment. Participants explored the logic behind the ladder and discussed how these stages appear in real community settings.

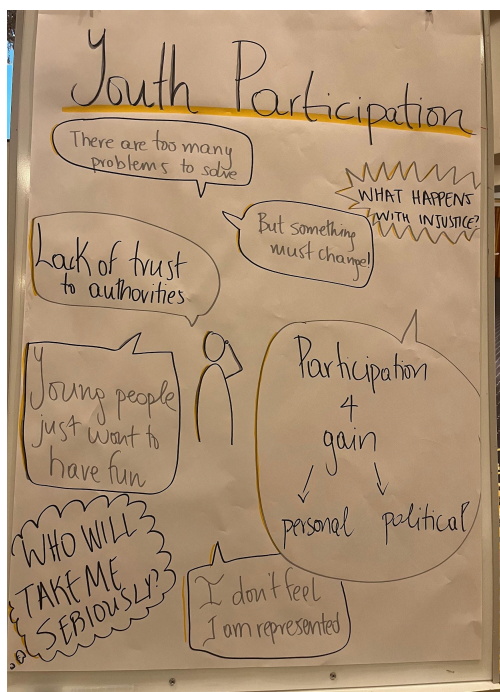
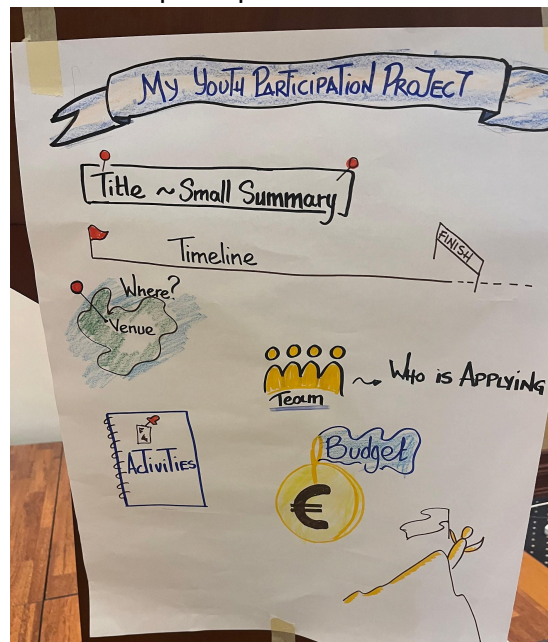
A clear connection was made between the ladder's participation levels and steps within **Youth Participation Projects** of Erasmus+, helping participants understand how the framework can guide them to design meaningful and inclusive activities. The session concluded with a short round of questions, allowing participants to deepen their understanding and share reflections from their own local realities.

Session 2 - Hands-on: Idea Generation

The participants were invited to use their preparation notes and fill out a flipchart with the needs and challenges of the young people in their municipality (and how they collect these data), the needs and challenges of the municipality as a structure in relation to youth and their youth policy (if it exists, how it is formulated). Then, the participants were invited to present their work to the plenary and find common ground for the next steps. Time was provided after the presentations to discuss in pairs or trios about possible collaborations.

Session 3 - Hands on: Youth Participation Activity Development

Harvesting on the work of the previous sessions and learning about the framework of youth participation within the Erasmus+ programme and the realities of their peers, the participants were invited to start crafting their own proposal. The participants were introduced with the [NAOMIE](#) framework to help them structure their proposal. The trainers were constantly providing support and feedback to the participants.



Session 4 - Hands on: Risk & Stakeholders Assessment

The participants were presented with a flipchart from the morning session of the day, where they expressed some of the usual concerns of their community on youth participation. Then they were invited to review their project and question it with their concerns so that both the young people and the municipality can prepare their proposals better. The participants were invited to identify and assess the possible risks of their project, categorise their possibility of occurrence and plan mitigation strategies to address it. Then the participants were asked to prepare a stakeholders' analysis in order to identify the support they can receive during the implementation of their project.

3.4 Day 3

6th November 2025

Session 1 - Finalising our project

In this session, participants focused on finalising the Youth Participation Activities projects they had begun shaping during the earlier *Hands-on: Idea Generation* workshop. Building on their preparatory notes, they worked in groups to map out the specific needs, challenges, and aspirations of young people in their municipality, as well as the structural realities and priorities of their local authorities. Each group was asked to summarise their findings.

Session 2 - Presentation of the projects

After completing their flipcharts, participants presented their analysis to the plenary. This created space for recognising shared challenges across municipalities, identifying common priorities, and forming a basis for potential cooperation. To bring their project ideas to life, participants took part in a dynamic *Dragon's Den-inspired simulation*, where each group presented their Youth Participation Activity proposal to their peers.

The presentations included:

- **Municipality of Skiathos** – A project focusing on preparing and engaging young people in responding to natural and physical disasters, strengthening local resilience.
- **Municipalities of Oraikastro, Preveza & Karpenisi (Joint Greek team)** – An environmental youth participation project addressing sustainability, community actions, and eco-friendly municipal practices.
- **Municipality of Santa Maria de Feira - Portugal** – A project proposing youth-led actions on improving transportation and mobility within the municipality.
- **Dundalk Youth Centre - Ireland** – An initiative centred on mental health and well-being, supporting young people through awareness activities and participatory processes.
- **Municipality of Esch-sur-Alzette Luxembourg & Municipality of Bochum, Germany** – A collaborative project aimed at increasing youth participation structures within local communities.

Session 3 - Next Steps

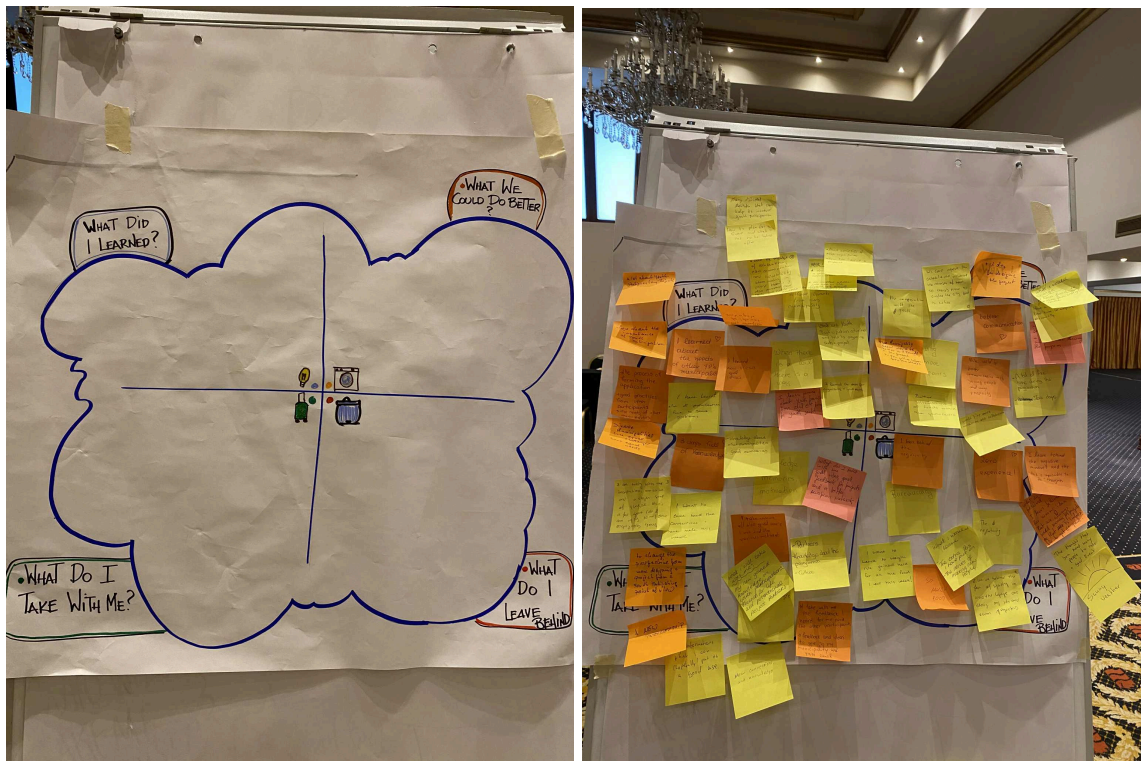
The final session focused on defining practical next steps for participants as they move from training to implementation. Participants were encouraged to identify immediate actions to take once they return to their municipalities, such as meeting with key stakeholders, validating ideas with young people, or initiating small-scale pilots. This closing session ensured that each participant left with a clear sense of direction, motivation, and a network of peers to continue supporting their journey.

Session 4 - Evaluation & Closing

Participants were guided through a short visualisation exercise, revisiting their journey from the first day of the training to the final session. This allowed them to reconnect with key moments, refresh their memories, and reflect on their feelings throughout the process.

Following the visualisation, they were invited to identify their individual learning outcomes by placing post-it notes on a flipchart. They were asked to note down:

- what they learned,
- what they will take back home,
- what they want to leave behind, and
- what they believe could be improved.



They were then invited to fill out the formal evaluation. The session ended with a sharing circle in an informal way.

4. Formal Google form Evaluation

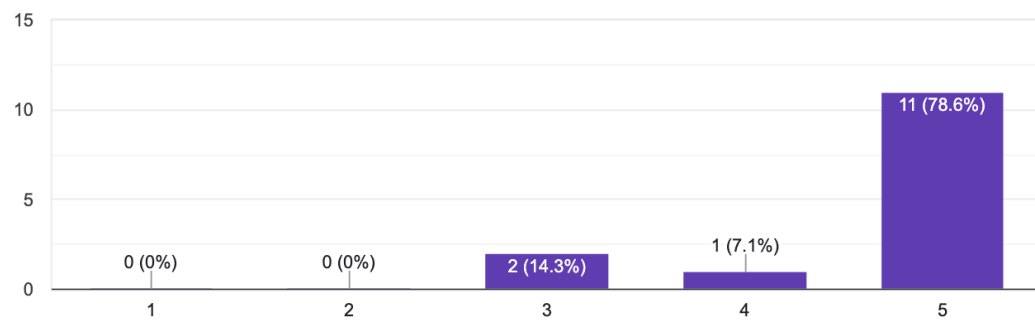
4.1 Practicalities and Logistics

The graphs below show the level of achievement of the practicalities and logistics aspect. There were two questions, where the participants had to rate from 1 to 5 (where 1-Negative pole and 5-Positive pole) and one open-ended question, where participants could elaborate more.

Hotel (location, rooms and working rooms)

 [Copy chart](#)

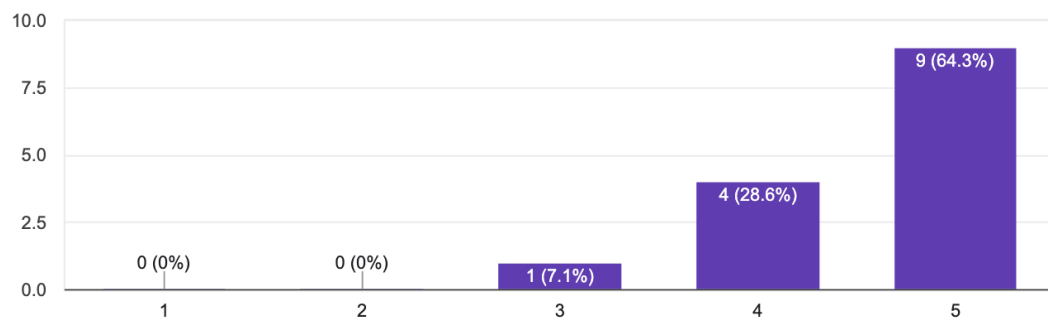
14 responses



Food (quantity and quality)

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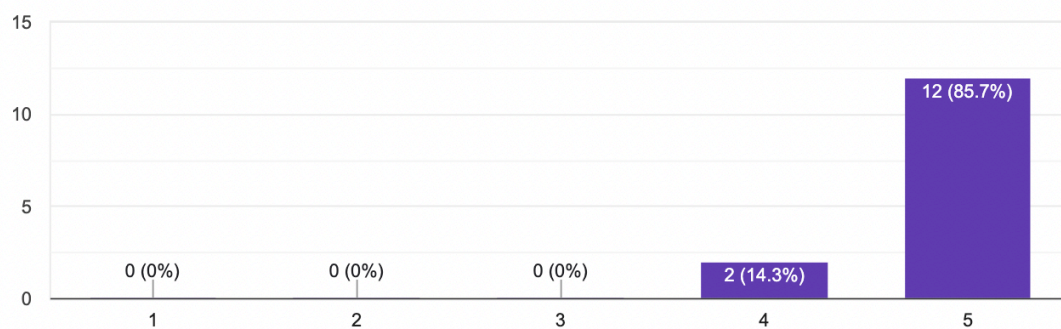
14 responses



Dinner out

 [Copy chart](#)

14 responses

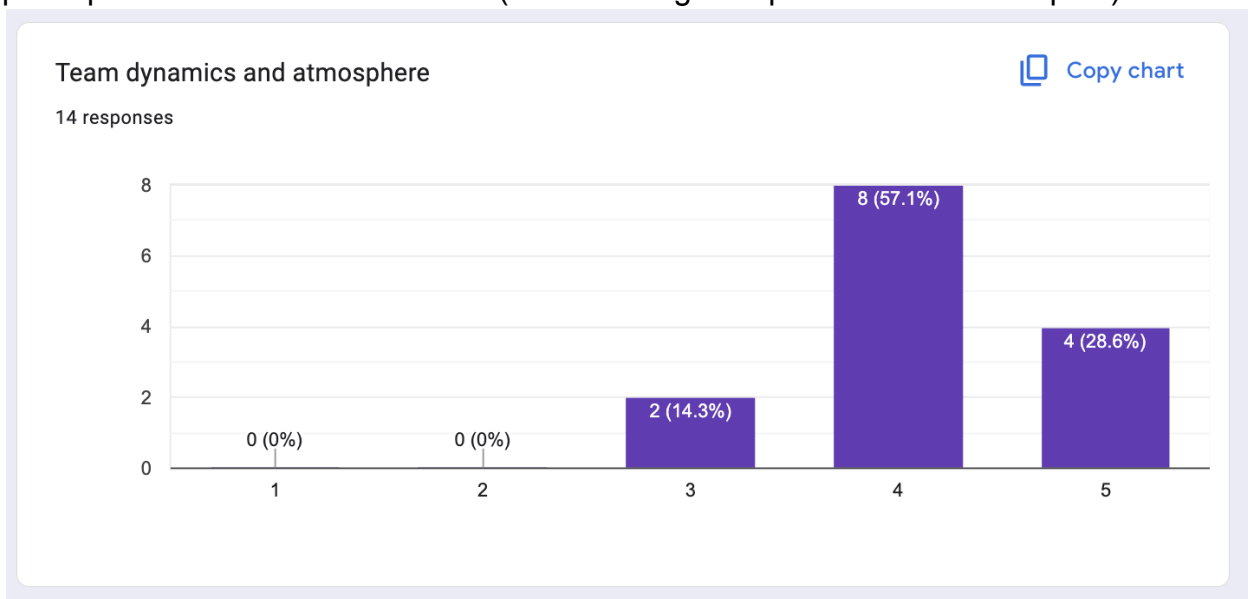


Any comment related to the organisation of the TCA

- The hotel was great with good facilities and good food. The city is beautiful
- The rooms were absolutely stunning aswell as the whole hotel.
- The food in hotel was so good, maybe abit to much 😊.
- The food in the restaurant was absolutely delicious
- The room was quite good overall, considering the circumstances; however, it was rather dirty in some areas and the shower was broken. In addition, unprofessional behavior was observed from a member of my team, which negatively affected our experience.
- Food was sometimes too much
- Everything has been amazing the staff the team the other youth workers, the food and the hotel, everyone went above and beyond and I have very glad have meet them all
- Marvelous!!! 🤗

4.2 Social dimension

The graphs below show the level of social aspect. There were two questions, where the participants had to rate from 1 to 5 (where 1-Negative pole and 5-Positive pole).



Comments regarding social dimension (6 responses)

I think the programme was calming and relaxing which helped calm the nerves , The group of people I have met are wonderful people , special credit to the facilitators as they were amazing. ❤️

There was no other organization with common interests. In our case, there was no other municipality. I would have liked it if the group had been more active and if we had collaborated a bit more.

Everyone got involved and took part in all the activities, I think we all made our best efforts I found everyone to be very nice and helpful.

I liked the diversity in the dynamics because we can learn a lot but at the same time sometimes it felt like each representation was on a different page but maybe that would have been different if the cancellations didn't happen.
Amazing!!! 🥰

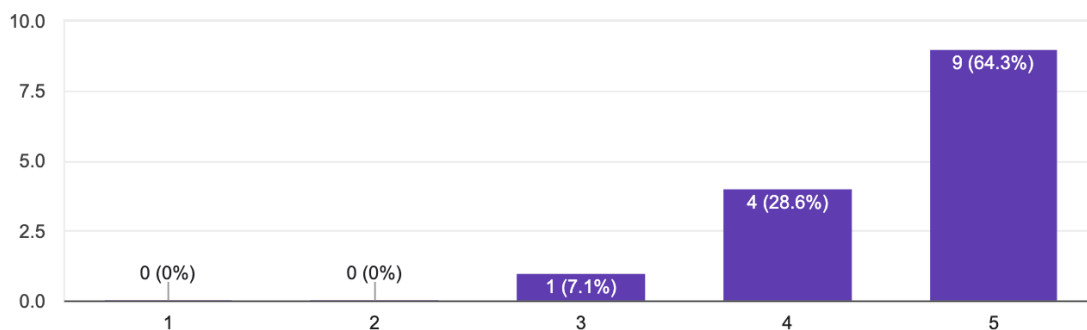
4.3 Learning Dimension

The graphs below show the level of achievement of the educational aspects and learning goals achievements. There were eleven questions, where the participants had to rate from 1 to 5 (where 1-Negative pole/not at all and 5-Positive pole/very good), three open-ended questions, where participants could elaborate more and three opportunities for open space so that they would share comments and thoughts.

How was the trainers' team coordination, support and transfer of competences/ tools?

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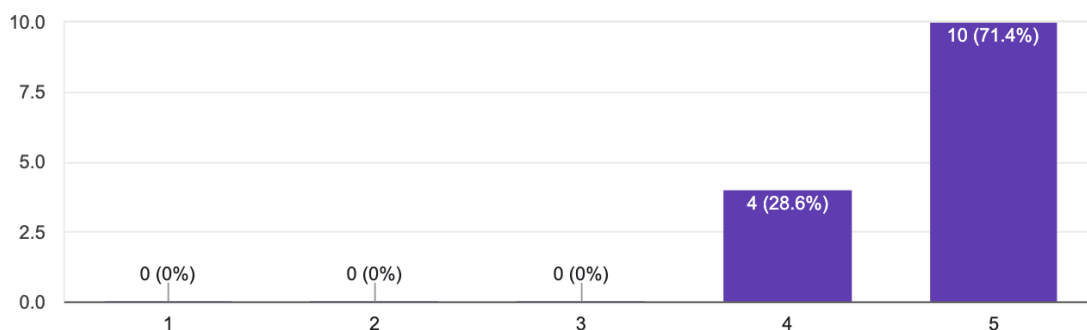
14 responses



Did the trainers' methodology and tools encouraged participation?

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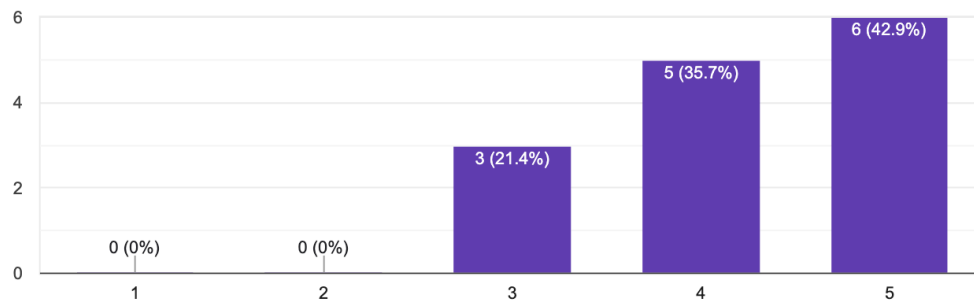
14 responses



Your own contribution

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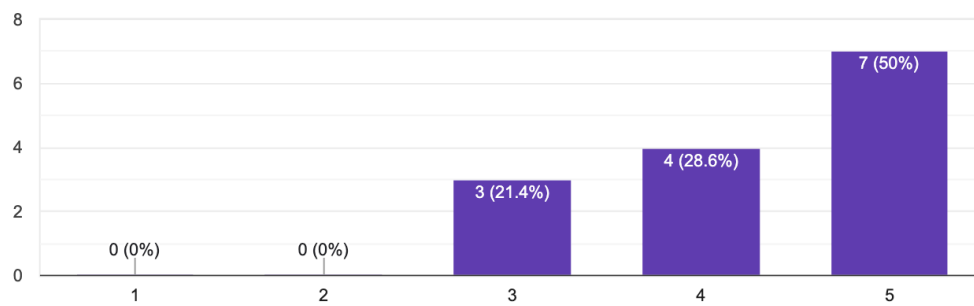
14 responses



The participants' team contribution

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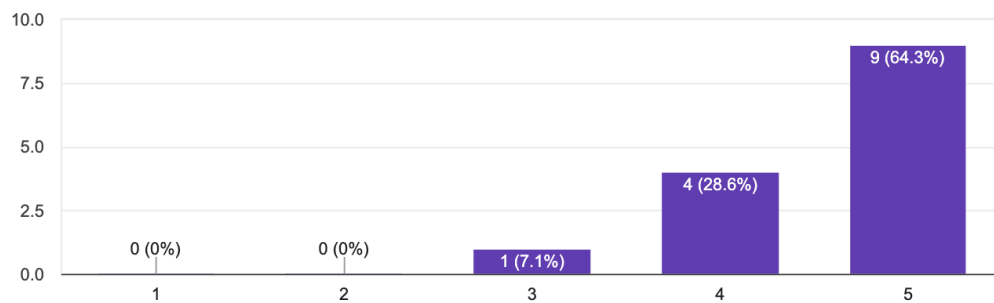
14 responses



How did you find the guest input from Youth Center Epirus?

 [Copy chart](#)

14 responses



Feel free to write your comments on the above (5 responses)

This course has made me appreciate my job more after hearing stories about how Greece does not recognize youth work

The trainers acted professionally, with excellent methodology, and answered all our questions. They were there for us, and we felt comfortable with them. On a personal level, I did not have the corresponding knowledge to help or contribute to the others; however, I remained consistent with my responsibilities and followed the program. Sorry for all this questions...The Epirus center welcomed us warmly and was very kind to us.

I've learnt so much from the leaders here this week, I will be definitely taking some of their methods back home with me to use with in our youth centre

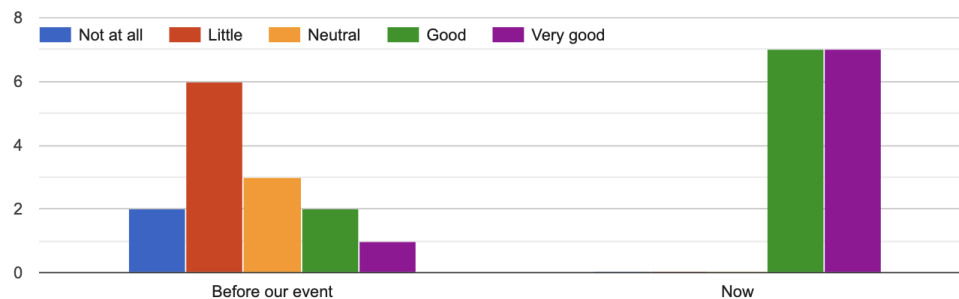
It was nice visiting the Epirus youth center and I really liked their activity but I'm not sure if there was an important outcome out of it because we went there, we heard the presentation but then we finished early and there was nothing else to do so even though we got information it felt a bit not needed.

!!!!❤️

4.4 Your general understanding about Youth Participation & Your understanding about Europe Goes Local & Erasmus+/Youth

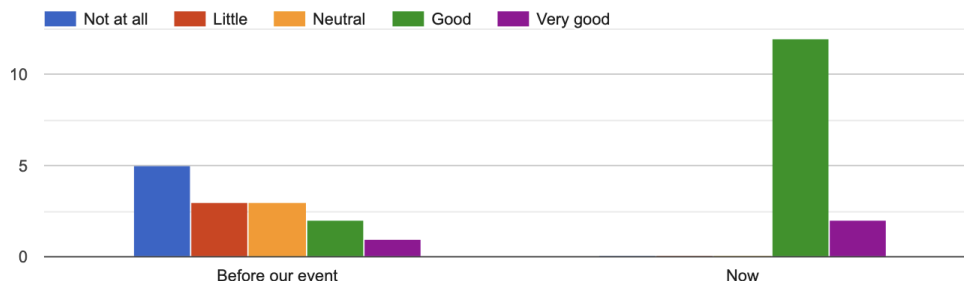
Your general understanding about Youth Participation

[Copy chart](#)



Your understanding about Europe Goes Local & Erasmus+/Youth

[Copy chart](#)



How ready and motivated do you feel to enhance Youth Participation in your local community by applying for a Youth Participation Activity?



Which sessions were the most useful for you, and why? (14 responses)

All the information about youth participation activities and how to create them

The Ladder of Participation and the Naomie Method is a very helpful step by step Guide that can improve the Youth work

The youth participation programme writing, it's something I can take home and do
NAOMIE

The bazaar was valuable because we had the opportunity to learn about the best practices of the participants. Also, there was information regarding the steps needed to complete an application. Additionally, the food was unforgettable.

On project writing

The walking Debate because it was interesting to hear different opinions and the N.A.O.M.I.E. method because it broke everything down and made it easy to follow.

The one that we talked about the needs and the challenges for our municipality because I learned a lot about other municipalities and heard different opinions on what we expect from our municipality to do for us

Youth participation activity because we learn from these.

Youth participation activity because now I know how to apply for an activity I want to bring to my town

The explanation of the youth participation ladder.

explanatory session about Erasmus was very important. I used to have difficulties understanding the programme, but now everything is much clearer.

The most useful was the whole last day where we got to write our project in detail cause every feedback was a learning point and at the end we got how the structure is supposed to be.

Ladder of the participation 🌟

What did you like the most in our event? (14 responses)

The help of the organisation team. To get to know other youth workers and develop partnerships. The fact that young people were engaged.

It wasn't too much input at once so it was quite understandable. After some thoughts

The people , great laughs , the learning and our wonderful facilitators
The steps for development a project for youth participation
Trainers, food and the city
It hard to point out one thing nearly everything was good
Making connections
The food, the company, and the things that we learnd
The involved from other countries..
The knowledge I gained
I liked the general vibe of the event.
I really liked the group dynamics and the opportunity to meet people from different countries.
The atmosphere was positive and inspiring.
I liked that we took time to understand each municipalities/countries situation and taking time to address the needs and challenges.
All the atmosphere of the team and the collaboration was great! 😊

What elements would you add/change if we were to repeat a Training like this? (14 responses)

I would maybe add a day to the training course so that we can have a city tour to know more about the local community. But it was really great in general.
I dont know exactly
More exciting energizers throughout each day
A cultural visit during a morning or afternoon
I would like more interaction and collaboration.
I would change the bazar into to rounds 1 presenting 2 gathering information ore vice versa So revert body could present and see the other municipalities I would have appreciated One more day especially for project writing
.
Less work more talk
More ways of programming and reaching out to young people
Better hotel
Less intensive.
I would add more cultural activities and free time to explore the city, and maybe include more practical sessions with real examples.
I don't think I would change something
Nothing at all

Comments to the team of trainers and for National Agency (14 responses)

The trainers were helpfull and very kind. They did a great work with the exercices and to get the participants active and give good advice
You Are awesome keep up the good work
Thank you so much , we could not of done this without you all. You made the programme exciting .
Good, Nice and very experienced trainers
The best
Very nice to have also someone from the NA present - very good team
Thank you so much for everything you are all amazing people it's been a pleasure getting to no yous and thank you so everything you have thought me
They were great
Perfect 👍👍. great team with lots of potential
They were the best.

The team of trainers were amazing, funny and motivated. It made the event pleasant to be a part of.

The trainers were very kind, clear, expressive, and creative. They helped a lot and made the learning process much easier and more enjoyable.

I really liked the trainers flow and energy and I found the training not tiring at all. Also their comments were really helpful.

Great thanks for the wonderful team 😊👍

Anything else you wish to add? (6 responses)

Nothing

.

No

No ;)

Just a big thank you for these amazing days — full of learning, connection, and inspiration. I really hope to join future projects like this!

Thank you 🙏😊

ANNEX 1 - Participants List

First name	Last name	Municipality
Georgia	Akrivopoulou	ΔΗΜΟΣ ΩΡΑΙΟΚΑΣΤΡΟΥ
Aggelos	Tsitiridis	ΔΗΜΟΣ ΩΡΑΙΟΚΑΣΤΡΟΥ
Vasiliki	Gaki	ΔΗΜΟΣ ΠΡΕΒΕΖΑΣ
Alexis	Ntentes	ΔΗΜΟΣ ΠΡΕΒΕΖΑΣ
Dimitrios	Karathanos	ΔΗΜΟΣ ΣΚΙΑΘΟΥ
Amalia	Vlassopoulou	ΔΗΜΟΣ ΣΚΙΑΘΟΥ
Chrysa	Myrisioti	ΔΗΜΟΣ ΚΑΡΠΑΝΗΣΙΟΥ
Andreia Daniela	Coelho dos Santos	Municipality of Santa Maria de Feira / Portugal
Nuno	Santos	Municipality of Santa Maria de Feira / Portugal
Cindy	Rodrigues	Municipality of Esch-sur-Alzette / Luxemburg
Wendy	Correia do Rosario	Municipality of Esch-sur-Alzette / Luxemburg
Torsten	Rutinowski	Municipality of Bochum, International Youth Service
Aljoscha	Kleist	Municipality of Bochum, International Youth Service
Stacey	McVeigh	Dundalk Youth Centre / Ireland
Rachael	Winters	Dundalk Youth Centre / Ireland