

## EUROPEAN ACADEMY ON YOUTH WORK - WORKSHOP REPORT

### Innovation and Quality in Youth Work: Exploring Research Data from RAY, the European Network for the Research-Based Analysis of the European Youth Programmes

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#### MAIN CONTEXT

RAY has conducted a research project on competence development and capacity building (RAY CAP) of youth workers and youth leaders involved in training/support activities in Erasmus+: Youth in Action. During this research project, 130 youth workers and youth leaders were each interviewed three times: once before a training activity, and twice after their training activity. The project was conducted in 17 European countries between 2014 and 2018.

RAY will be conducting a research project on the impact, role and potential of Strategic Partnerships in Erasmus+: Youth in Action (RAY INNO), which will investigate the role of Key Action 2 and the main instrument in KA2, Strategic Partnerships. For this project, more than 60 case studies of KA2 projects will be conducted in 16 European countries in 2019 and 2020.

#### WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- to share key findings from RAY on quality and innovation in youth work
- to introduce the RAY research project on innovation in the youth sector
- to give space for participants to formulate their own hypotheses on innovation



#### PROGRAMME

**Duration: 90 minutes, approximately 35 participants**

- Introductions, round of names and expectations
- Key findings from RAY on quality and innovation
- Intermittent: Participants could guess results and percentages using menti.com
- Buzz groups for discussion and reflection on findings
- Introducing upcoming research on innovation in youth work
- Discussion among participants: What would you expect to see as findings from this research project on innovation?

## KEY ISSUES & TRENDS IDENTIFIED

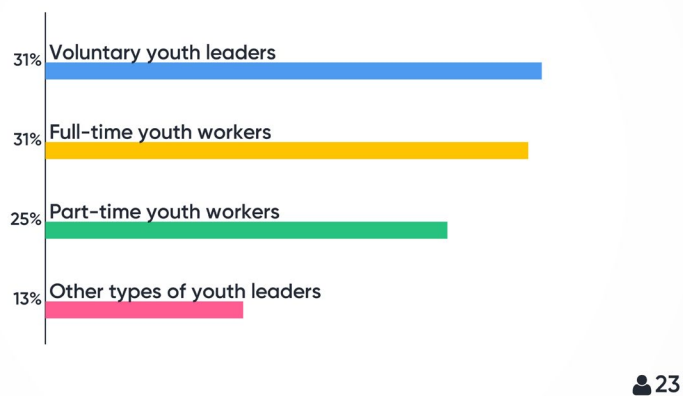
- **Aspects of quality in youth work in need of improvement:**
  - Developing training for experienced youth sector professionals
  - Integrating digitalisation in youth work consistently & coherently
  - Creating spaces to reflect on and discuss recent developments
  - Finding ways to attract more newcomers to the programmes

- **Main surprise in relation to youth work, quality and innovation:**

Attendees of the workshop underestimated how many projects in Erasmus+: Youth in Action are run by voluntary youth leaders:

Participants thought that 31% of Erasmus+: Youth in Action projects were run by voluntary youth leaders, 31% by full-time youth workers, and 25% by part-time youth workers.

### Who runs the projects?



In reality, however, 55 % of Erasmus+: Youth in Action projects are run by voluntary youth leaders, 24% by full-time youth workers, and 10% by part-time youth workers.

### Who runs the projects?

Voluntary youth leaders.	55.3%
Full-time youth workers.	24.0%
Part-time youth workers	9.5%
Other types of youth leaders.	11.2%

- **Main (open) question on innovation for quality in youth work:**

Do Strategic Partnerships really bring innovation to the sector that goes beyond their own project consortium?

## FEEDBACK RECEIVED

*"This was the best workshop I attended! Very interesting data and inspirational speaker."*



## REFERENCES



<https://www.researchyouth.eu/results-erasmus-youth-in-action>



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