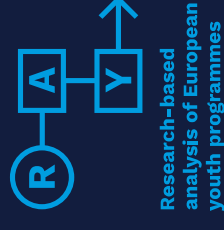


26.11.2025 | Warsaw Research Seminar

SPEEDING UP FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

→ A quick fix for research?

Evidence-based approaches | 9th edition
Warsaw, Poland | 25–26 November 2025



A little bit of context about RAY

A little bit of context about the youth field

What are the needs of policy and practice?

How we adjusted our research designs

How and why we amended our datasets

How and why we adjusted our reports

How and why we adjusted our analysis

The two main challenges we encountered

So what can you learn from all of this?

A LITTLE BIT OF CONTEXT

The RAY Network

Research-based Analysis and Monitoring
of European Youth Programmes
Open and self-governed research
network, founded back in 2008
36 National Agencies and their
research partners in 34 countries



Our core activities

Biennial surveys of project participants
and project teams in both European youth
programmes

Previous survey round conducted in 2023

Current survey round running now in 2025

Next survey round will be conducted in 2027



Our core datasets (after data cleaning)

Surveys conducted in 2023

- » 16.099 project participants
- » 4.349 project team members

Surveys conducted since 2008

- » 100.000+ project participants
- » 25.000+ project team members



All reports on researchyouth.net



Making shared sense of our data

Open datasets

» Available for researchers on request

» Available for non-profit interests for free

Open Data Portal coming in 2026



[Home](#)[Charts](#)[Findings](#)[Countries](#)[Downloads](#)[About](#)[ENG](#) | [Q](#)

Welcome to the RAY Open Data Portal

We produce reliable evidence to better understand processes and outcomes in youth work and non-formal education in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps.

[MORE ABOUT RAY ↗](#)

Looking for specific data?

Use our search.

Q Try “exchange” or “participation”

[SEARCH](#)

Looking for survey data for your analysis?

We provide all our raw data files to you.

[GO TO DOWNLOADS ↗](#)

Programme priorities

European youth programmes focus on four key priorities defined by the EU, guiding the development and impact of projects.



KEY FIGURES

ON YOUTH IN

THE EUROPEAN

PROGRAMMES

Current programme generation (2021–2024)

- » 2.093.734.783 € granted
- » 76.593 applications received
- » 28.301 projects granted (37%)
- » 16.224 organisations involved
- » 6.466 new organisations (40%)
- » 1.328.939 participants involved
- » 295.728 fewer opportunities (22%)

3 NEEDS AROUND THE USE OF EVIDENCE IN OUR FIELD

Key stakeholder needs

Fast access to new findings

Contextually tailored findings

Non-jargon version of findings

Punchy findings sending a spark

Regularity in reproducing findings

A large, stylized teal cross graphic that spans the bottom half of the page. It has a thick, blocky appearance with a slight shadow effect.

RESEARCH

DESIGN

Cover key indicators

All indicators in the legal basis

All additional indicators in staff documents

Cover thematic indicators

All known thematic indicators

Adjust for new thematic indicators

Modularise if necessary

Parallel modules help to cover ground

But: national sample sizes take a strong hit

Rotate questions if necessary

Cover all indicators, but not in every round

But: policy patience does not extend this far

Make research design participative

Ensure to cover the necessary ground –

and, as much as possible, the desired ground



DATASET

DESIGN

Build in many comparative indicators

Political, geographical, historical regions

Youth work development stage (4 clusters)

Youth indices (progress, participation, ...)

Proxy measures for population aging

Income inequality (Gini coefficient)

Build alignment with larger datasets

Questions from European Values Study

Questions from European Social Survey

Questions from Eurostat youth surveys

REPORT

DESIGN

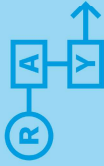
Different formats for different audiences

Different speeds for different audiences

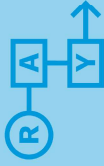
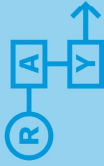
Key findings, policy briefs

Research reports, data reports

Data reports: published last



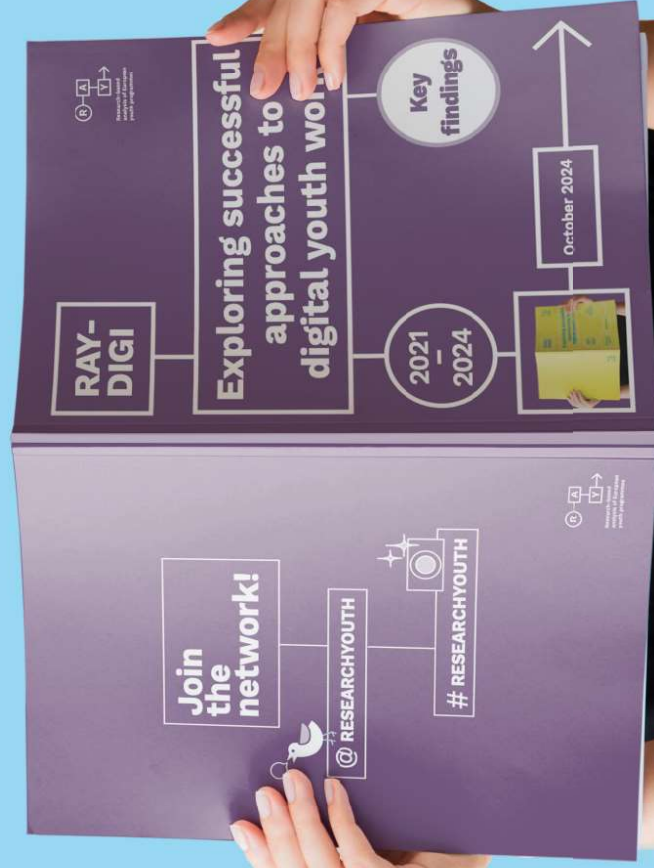
Research reports: published next to last



Policy briefs: published second



Key findings: published first





ANALYSIS

DESIGN

DEVELOP OPINATED SCRIPTS

Dedicated scripts for key findings

» Things we hope to change

» Things we expect to change

» Things we do not want to change

DEVELOP INCREMENTAL SCRIPTS

Key finding analysis comes first

Policy analysis (objectives) comes second

CHALLENGES

Unusual amount of strategic thinking

» Note it says unusual – not impossible!

Unusual distribution of resources

» Research implementation : research communication = 1:1

Unusual amount of discipline

» Key findings before full nerdy data deep dive is VERY HARD

RECAP

18 years of trial, error, trial, error, trial, error

One of the smaller sectors of Erasmus+

Need for fast, sparkly, regular findings

Cover ground with participative research design

Extend datasets with comparative indicators

Audience-specific formats and speeds

Develop opinionated, incremental analysis scripts

Think about this strategically and long-term

Be prepared for much more communication

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THANK YOU!

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CARMEN@RESEARCHYOUTH.NET

→ A slow fix for research

Evidence-based approaches | 9th edition
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Research-based
analysis of European
youth programmes