



research based analysis of **youth in action**

The 10 years of Researching *Youth in Action*: methodological insights from RAY

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Evidence-based policy in Erasmus+, 29 October 2018, Warsaw

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The idea

- “wissenschaftliche Begleitung”
= “scientific accompaniment” = researching the programme as it is implemented and feeding back the findings into the programme; research beyond the programme objectives ≠ evaluation
⇒ RAY = **R**esearch-based **A**nalysis and **M**onitoring of **Y**outh in **A**ction
- informing policy and practice
- integrating research into the programme implementation

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How it developed

- Evaluation of YOUTH (2006)
- Starting nationally in Austria (2007)
- Going international (2008)
- Now 34 partners in 32 countries, working in 27 languages
- Now 3+ research projects ⇒ 5+ as of 2019
- Preparing for 2021 and onwards – 2 programmes

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Research projects

- Research-based analysis and **monitoring** of E+/YiA (MON)
- Long-term effects of E+/YiA on participation and citizenship (LTE)
- Competence development and capacity building through E+/YiA (CAP)
- Learning in Youth in Action (NFL, 2012)
- Inclusion studies
- Competence development through YiA

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Research projects starting in 2019

- Research-based Analysis and Monitoring of the European Solidarity Corps
- Participation and citizenship education and learning in E+/YiA (PART)
- Organisational development and learning organisations in the European youth sector (LEARN)
- Impact of Key Action 2 of E+/YiA: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices (INNO)

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Methodology

- Mixed-method: quantitative and qualitative combined in most research strands
- Explorative studies (qualitative), followed by quantitative studies
- Cross-sectional studies (sometimes repeated regularly to compare changes over time)
- Longitudinal studies
- Combinations ...

Zooming in: special aspects of RAY & its research methodology



- Truly transnational studies
- Quantitative studies: multi-lingual online surveys in up to 27 languages; cross-sectional & longitudinal
- Qualitative studies: semi-structured interviews, semi-structured focus groups, case studies;
- Mixed-method studies – qualitative and quantitative in parallel: complementary findings; confirmation
- Triangulation
- Research and analysis at both national and transnational level

Zooming out: methodological challenges for RAY



- Summative or formative – centralised or decentralised analysis?
- Divergent approaches to analysis across national research partners
- Balancing policy demands and academic rigour: how to navigate (time and financial) pressure?
- The nuance of meaning: how to translate context between languages?
- Sector desirability bias: how to find respondents who don't sugar-coat?

Research-based Analysis of Erasmus+ Youth in Action (RAY)



Contact

- **On research:**
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Links

- <http://www.researchyouth.eu/>
- <http://www.researchyouth.eu/research-results-publications>