



EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT

# Member Survey

Report 2024





# Executive Summary

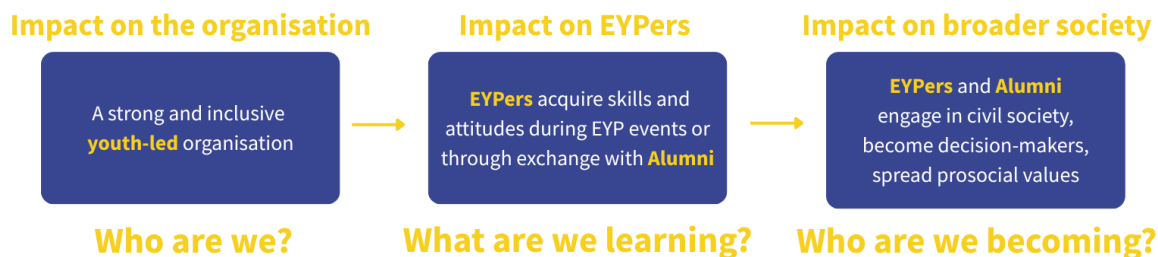
The European Youth Parliament conducts an annual Member Survey across its network to assess the impact participation in EYP has on members of the network. This document presents the results of the 2024 survey. The survey assesses how far the EYP is delivering on its [Theory of Change](#) — inspiring informed, open-minded, responsible and active young citizens.

- 324 members from 36 National Committees completed the survey
- The typical respondent is a 16-22-year-old woman in public high school, living in a major city.
- More than 98% of respondents believe that EYP influenced their institutional and cultural knowledge.
- Respondents who reported being most influenced by EYP also reported having greater institutional and cultural knowledge.
- Across all measures of positive attitudes, more than 94% of respondents indicated that EYP had an influence on them.
- Those who felt most influenced by EYP demonstrated the strongest positive attitudes, such as support for peace and democracy.
- 92% of respondents believe that EYP influenced them across all skills, except for Media and Marketing, where only 71.9% consider having been influenced.
- Between 59.2% and 70.8% of employed respondents agreed that the skills, knowledge, and values they gained or practiced at EYP had an impact on their current job.
- Most forms of civil action have been taken by at least one third of all members.
- The longer the respondents are involved in EYP, the more they have partaken in civil action.
- When asked if they have felt included during their time taking part in EYP, 94.4% respondents agreed
- The diversity of the EYP network is comparable to the EU population<sup>1</sup>, surpassing it in sexual minority representation.
- Our evidence from 2024 indicates that EYP is delivering on every stage of its [Theory of Change](#) — confirming that the programme is an effective pipeline rather than a collection of isolated activities.
- Financial and time constraints remain the two most frequently reported barriers; until these are mitigated, EYP's impact ceiling is structurally capped. Prioritising travel-grant expansion and hosting more inclusive events will unlock the next tranche of member growth and diversity.



# Theory of Change

EYP is one of the leading non-governmental organisations for civic education and empowerment of young people in Europe. By inspiring and empowering young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values using a [peer-to-peer education approach](#), EYP creates a network of young people who are building an open minded, tolerant and peaceful European society. EYP's [Theory of Change](#) is therefore built on three interrelated and distinct areas that help us unpack the impact that the organisation achieves (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Demonstrative diagram of EYP's Theory of Change.

The survey was created to provide concrete evidence that real change has been achieved within the EYP network.

## About the Survey

The results presented here are based on the **Member Survey of 2024**. All active and inactive members who have partaken in an EYP session were invited to participate in the survey through social media and mailing lists. The survey was open between June and November 2024. In total, 606 members filled in the survey, 324 of which completed it<sup>2</sup>. The survey was anonymous, and all data processing was conducted under the informed-consent framework of the Schwarzkopf-Stiftung, the umbrella organisation of the EYP, in compliance with GDPR. For more information on the survey methodology, see the Footnotes.

Based on the [Theory of Change](#) analysis, we identified important subsections of impact which are measured through the Member Survey:

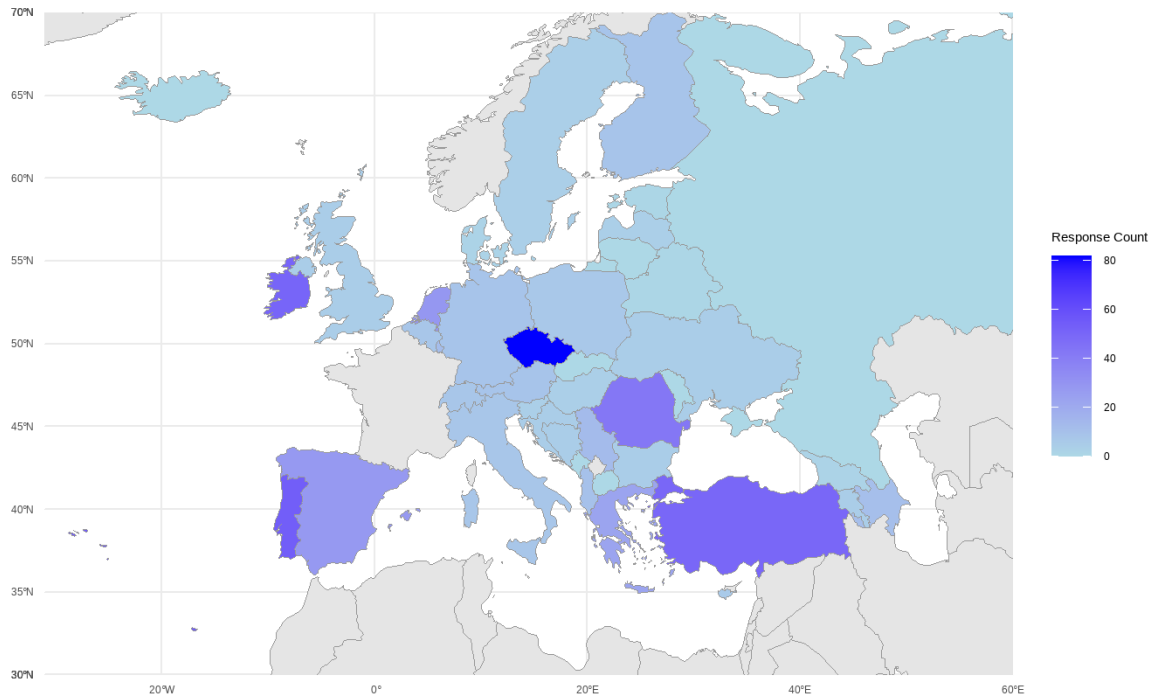
- knowledge acquisition,
- skill development,
- reinforcing attitudes and values,
- active citizenship,
- career development,
- inclusion & diversity.

All of which contribute to reaching EYP's overall goal, to inspire and empower a young generation of informed, open-minded, responsible, and active citizens that shape society and drive impact. By mapping the experiences of the members of the EYP network, we can trace not only "what" changes, but "how" EYP experiences generate longer-term impact on members' civic trajectories.



## Participant Profile

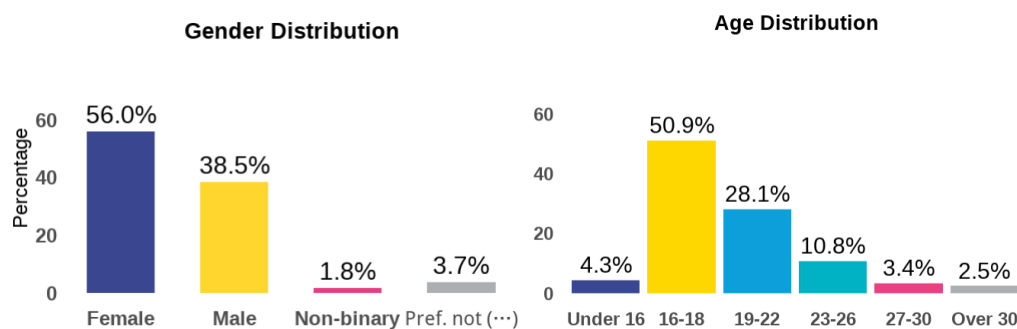
As a geographically diverse and youth-led institution, the EYP network provides educational and inter-cultural experiences by bringing different nationalities together. Of the 40 National Committees (NCs) that are part of the EYP network, **members of 36 NCs filled in the survey (Fig. 2)**, meaning that the results that follow should represent the entire network.



**Figure 2.** Geographic map of survey response count across NCs. The more members affiliated to a given NC respond, the darker the blue of the respective country. Grey countries and their NCs were not represented.

## Who is the typical member of EYP?

Most respondents identify as **female** (56%) and are **16-22 years old** (79%) (Fig. 3). They attend or just finished **High School** (65.1%), attend(ed) **public schools** (77.3%), live in **major cities** (56.3%), and **do not have migrant background** (76.6%). So, while the membership is heavily represented by young people, putting *youth* in the European Youth Parliament, the members are less likely to attend public schools<sup>3</sup>, and more likely to live in major cities<sup>4</sup> than the average European citizen. In terms of migration background, however, EYP members are representative of the EU<sup>5</sup>.



**Figure 3.** Gender and age distribution of respondents, highlighting a predominantly young female population.





But it wouldn't be the EYP without members participating in International Sessions. Most members had only been **actively involved** in EYP **for the past two years** (67.4%). Their **last EYP event** attended had usually **taken place last year** (87.4%), and most took on the role of **Delegate** (66.8%), **Chairperson** (24.4%) and/or **Organising Team Member** (23.3%)<sup>66</sup>.

Based on this, we can assume that the typical member of the network is young and actively engaged in EYP activities, potentially benefitting from their learning opportunities and networking. Additionally, as some respondents are older and have assumed more experienced roles in the network, it is possible to track the long-term effects of the EYP experience.

## The effect EYP participation has on participants

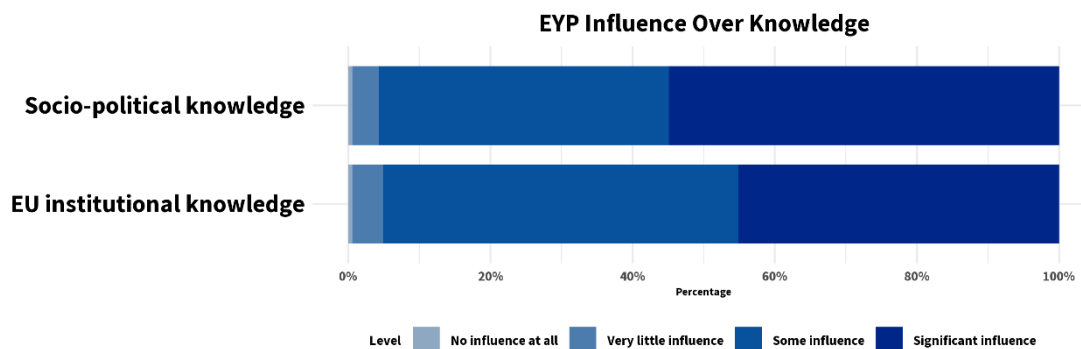
The EYP's impact framework revolves around empowering young Europeans to become active and engaged citizens who can contribute to shaping their communities and the future of Europe. As part of this, EYPers are expected to develop skills, knowledge, values, careers and participate in civil society in ways that align with the [EYP's values](#) of independence, non-partisanship, democracy, community, inclusion and intercultural understanding. If members do not experience personal change and empowerment, then broader societal change is unlikely.

### **Some say knowledge is power. Do EYP members believe they are knowledgeable?**

Respondents were asked about their knowledge of relevant topics and whether their involvement in EYP had impacted them (Fig. 4). These questions were either answered on a scale of knowledge (No knowledge at all, very little knowledge, some knowledge, significant knowledge, would rather not say) or influence (No influence at all, very little influence, some influence, significant influence, unsure / prefer not to say).

When asked to **rate their current knowledge** about EU institutions and processes, most respondents reported some knowledge (50.1%) or significant knowledge (45.0%). When asked **how their experience in EYP influenced their knowledge** in this domain, most reported **significant influence** (68.4%) or some influence (26.7%)

When asked to rate their current knowledge about key socioeconomic, political, and cultural issues, most respondents reported significant knowledge (54.7%) or some knowledge (40.7%). And when asked **how their experience in EYP influenced their knowledge** in this domain, most reported **significant influence** (48.9%) or (42.5%) some influence.



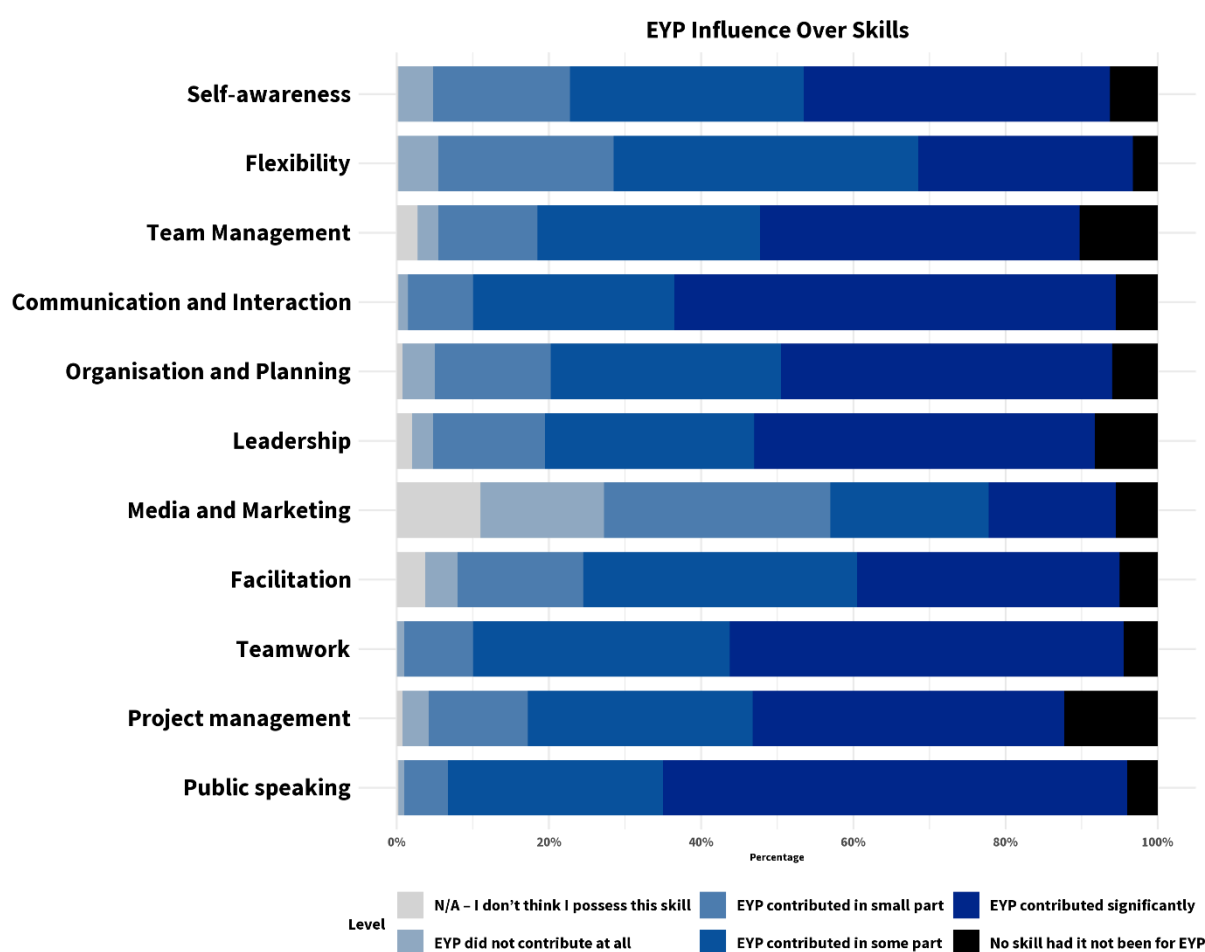
**Figure 4.** Distribution of the perceived influence that EYP had over socio-political and institutional knowledge, ranging from *no influence at all* (light blue) to *significant influence* (dark blue).



Based on the results above, **most respondents perceive their socio-political and institutional knowledge to be relatively high, and that EYP has impacted them.** However, is the perception of EYP's influence over their knowledge predictive of their self-rated knowledge? In other words, are people more confident in their knowledge owing it to the EYP experience?

To answer this, we ran statistical regression models with perception of EYP's influence as the predictor and self-rated knowledge as the outcome for each knowledge domain. The perception of EYP's influence predicted higher self-related knowledge at a statistically significant level in both domains<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, **respondents seem to credit their institutional and cultural knowledge to their EYP experience.**

## Did EYP members sharpen their skills?



**Figure 5.** Distribution of the perceived influence that EYP had over skills, ranging from *I don't think I possess this skill* (grey) to *I would not possess this skill had it not been for EYP* (dark blue).

Respondents were asked about **how much their experience(s) at EYP contributed to their skills** (Fig. 5), on a scale of: I don't think I possess this skill, EYP did not contribute at all, EYP contributed in small part, EYP contributed in some part, EYP contributed significantly, I would not possess this skill had it not been for EYP.

**Across every skill, almost all respondents (92%) believe that EYP influenced them.** The only outlier is Media and Marketing, where only 71.9% of respondents consider having been influenced.



It is possible that respondents who are part of a dedicated team within EYP had the opportunity to develop specialised skills. The following differences are statistically significant<sup>8</sup>. Members of the Media team reported 1.53 more influence on Media and Marketing skill (scale 0 – 5) than other respondents; the Academic team, which reported 0.58 more influence on facilitation skill; the Leadership team, which reported 0.88 more Influence on leadership skill than other respondents, 0.91 more on team management skill, 0.99 more on project management skill than other respondents, and 0.69 more on organisation & planning skill; and the Organising team, which reported 0.67 more Influence on Project Management skill, and 0.59 more on Organisation & Planning Skill (Fig. 6). Therefore, **team membership in the EYP seems to provide members with opportunities for skill development.**



**Figure 6.** Comparison of mean reported EYP's influence over Organisation & Planning Skill between Organisers (blue) and other members of EYP (grey). The error bars signify confidence intervals.

“As a person who was previously very scared of public speaking, EYP has encouraged me to speak my mind while reflecting upon my own beliefs and prejudices. My skills in organisation, management, communication & leadership have also improved. I also believe I've become more flexible & come to realise a more international self-awareness about my positioning in this world.”

*Excerpt from Member Survey response, 2024*

## And what do EYP members value?

Respondents were asked about their attitudes towards relevant values and whether their involvement in EYP had impacted them (Fig. 7). These questions were either answered on a scale of agreement (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree, I'm unsure) or influence (No influence at all, Very little influence, Some influence, Significant influence, Would rather not say).

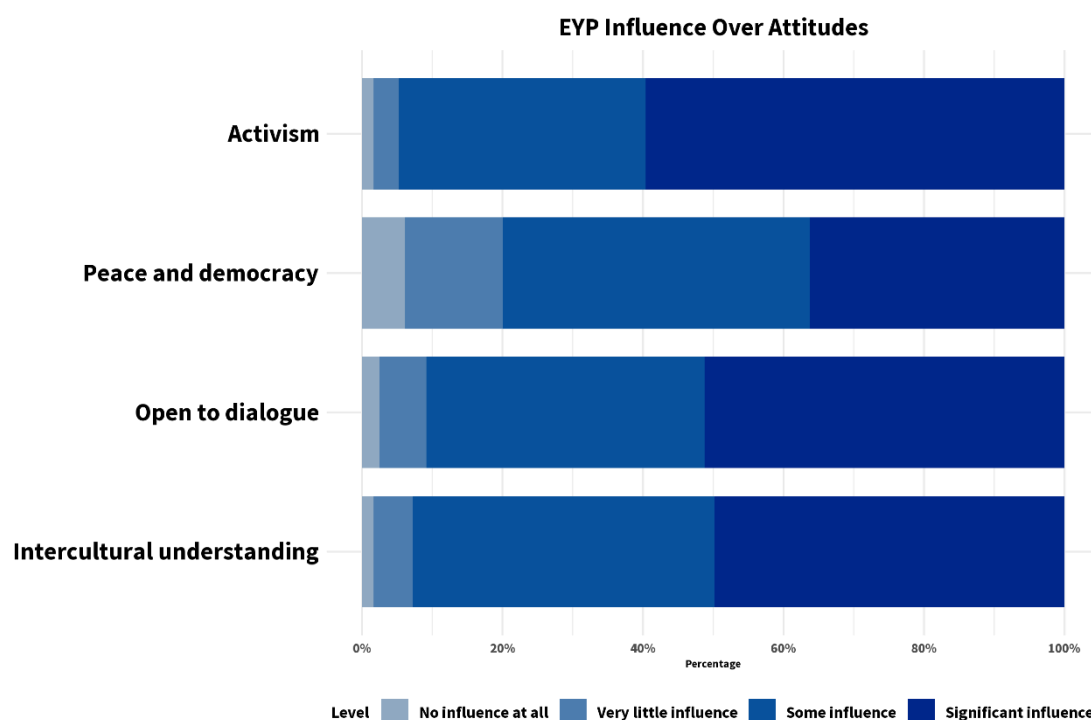
When asked whether they support intercultural understanding, dialogue and cooperation, most respondents strongly agreed (87.0%) or just agreed (9.5%). And when asked how their experience in EYP's influenced their attitude in this domain, most reported significant influence (49.7%) or some influence (42.7%).

When asked whether they are open to dialogue and compromise with people who disagree with them, most respondents strongly agreed (62.3%) or just agreed (32.2%). And when asked how their experience in EYP's influenced their attitude in this domain, most reported significant influence (50.8%) or some influence (39.1%).

When asked whether they support peace and democracy, most respondents strongly agreed (87.5%) or just agreed (9.5%). And when asked how their experience in EYP's influenced their attitude in this domain, most reported some influence (36.3%) or significant influence (42.9%).



When asked whether they can take an active role in a group involved with political issues, most respondents strongly agreed (50.5%) or just agreed (37.5%). And when asked how their experience in EYP's influenced their attitude in this domain, most reported significant influence (58.6%) or some influence (35.1%).



**Figure 7.** Distribution of the perceived influence that EYP had over positive attitudes, ranging from *no influence at all* (light blue) to *significant influence* (dark blue).

**Across every attitude, more than 94% of respondents believe that EYP influenced them.**

Based on the results above, most respondents strongly agreed with positive attitudes, and that EYP has impacted them. However, is the perception of EYP's influence over their attitudes predictive of their attitude strength? In other words, are people more supportive of certain values because of their EYP experience?

To answer this, we ran statistical regression models with perception of EYP's influence as the predictor and attitude strength as the outcome for each domain. The perception of EYP's influence predicted attitude strength at a statistically significant level in all domains<sup>9</sup>. Therefore, **respondents seem to credit their attitudes towards positive values to their EYP experience.**

## Career and civil action

One of the advantages of taking part in the EYP network is the opportunity to exchange experiences, develop career-relevant skills, and create future professional ties. The respondents chose various careers related to **Consumer Products and Services (14.3%)**, **Education (14.3%)**, **Communications and PR (14.3%)**, Government and Public Services (6.3%), Information Technology (6.3%), Arts, Culture and sports (5.5%), Financial services (5.3%), Healthcare (4.8%), Media and Entertainment (4.8%), Research (4.8%), Human resources (3.5%), and/or Consulting (2.5%).

Respondents who have been employed were asked to what extent EYP influenced their:





- **skills** for their current job, to which most **moderately agreed (57.3%)**,
- **knowledge** for their current job, to which most **moderately agreed (49.7%)**,
- **values** for their current job, to which most **moderately agreed (61.3%)**.

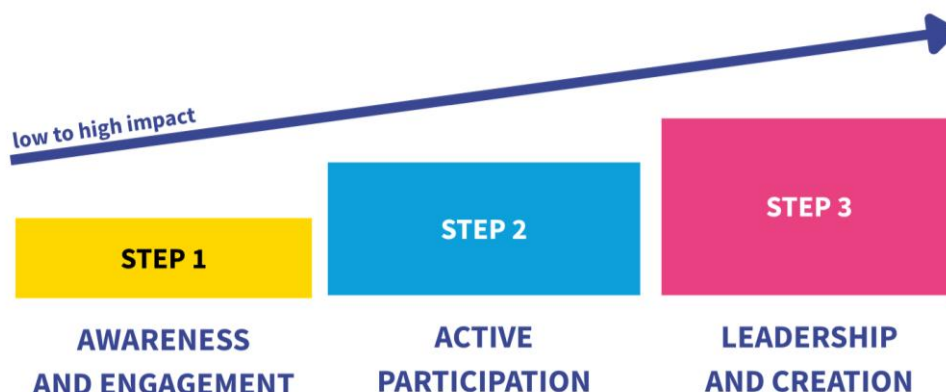
When asked whether **the skills, knowledge and values that the respondents obtained or practiced at EYP affected their current job**, most respondents agreed (from 59.2% to 70.8%, depending on the domain).

“I have taken on various roles during my 3 year tenure. Without a doubt EYP gave me more professional and personal knowledge than any job I had within that period. I changed 5 jobs and in different fields and understood that EYP helped me to enhance my skills.”

*Excerpt from Member Survey response, 2024*

## Civil action

The EYP is motivated to assist young members in recognising opportunities for civil action, drawing individuals closer to their civil responsibilities and enabling real societal change. Civil action can be taken through three steps of the **Ladder of Societal Engagement**, from relatively passive engagement (Step 1) that builds the foundation of awareness and discussion, to Active Participation (Step 2) that more directly connects citizens to initiatives and their efforts, and finally Leadership & Creation (Step 3) where citizens become full agents of societal change.



For **Step 1** of the Ladder of Societal Engagement (Awareness & Engagement), respondents reported that they had:

- done **outreach** and were part of **discussions** promoting EYP with the community (**73%**),
- voted in local/national elections in line with EYP's values (51.4%),
- become informed and knowledgeable about key societal and national/global issues (87.1%).

For **Step 2** of the Ladder of Societal Engagement (Active Participation), respondents reported that they had:

- openly **spoken out against discrimination**, hate speech and xenophobia (**61.3%**).
- volunteered for a local/national/global civil society organisation promoting EYP values (36.6%),



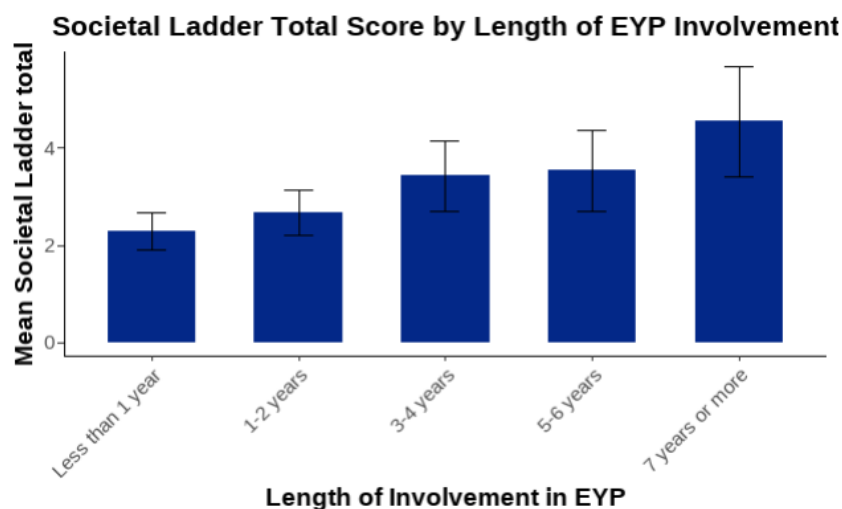
- joined a non-violent protest, movement, or activism initiative in line with EYP values (30.3%),
- actively engaged in local/national government initiatives in line with EYP values (24.9%),
- or promoted EYP values by promoted EYP values by contributing to corporate social responsibility or ESG initiatives (31.2%).

For **Step 3** of the Ladder of Societal Engagement (Leadership & Creation), respondents reported that they had:

- **assumed a leadership position in a civil society organisation** promoting EYP values (19.2%),
- assumed a leadership position in a business promoting EYP values and/or strong CSR/ESG policies (8.4%),
- assumed a leadership position in a public institution promoting EYP values (7.2%),
- created an active citizenship initiative or organisation in line with EYP values (6.3%),
- run for public office promoting or creating active citizenship education for young people (6.0%),
- set up a civil society organisation or association promoting EYP values (6.6%),
- set up a business promoting EYP values and/or strong CSR/ESG policies (2.4%).

The results above indicate that EYP members are **very likely to become engaged in civil society by following, discussing and voting in line with initiatives**, namely the first step of the Ladder of Societal Engagement. However, they are less likely to become directly connected to initiatives (Step 2) or to create and lead initiatives (Step 3). These results aren't surprising for two reasons: 1) the number of people from the general population who engage in civil society is likely to be even lower<sup>10</sup>, 2) leadership and business opportunities (part of Step 3) are not equally accessible to everyone, and 3) **most EYP members are young and unlikely to have had the time to assume positions of leadership in institutions**.

Therefore, it is possible that **respondents who have been actively involved in EYP for a longer period have partaken in more civil action as part of the societal ladder framework**. We ran a statistical regression model with Length of EYP involvement as predictor and the Societal Ladder total (the sum of all actions reported) as the outcome. As expected, **the longer the respondents are involved in EYP, the more they have partaken in civil action**<sup>11</sup> (Fig. 8).



**Figure 8.** Mean number of civil actions (maximum 15) taken by members as a function of members' length of involvement in EYP, as part of the societal ladder of civic engagement, highlighting a gradual increase of civil engagement over time. The error bars signify confidence intervals.

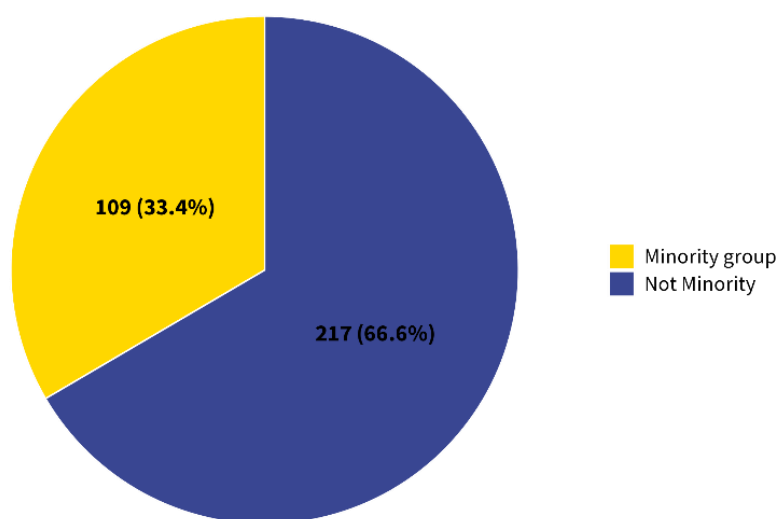


## Diversity and Inclusion

The EYP network **intends to bring young people from across Europe together, regardless of their lifestyle or background**, and to make them feel at ease interacting with each other. Therefore, we were interested in mapping the diversity of the network to confirm whether it lives up to our pluralist standards.

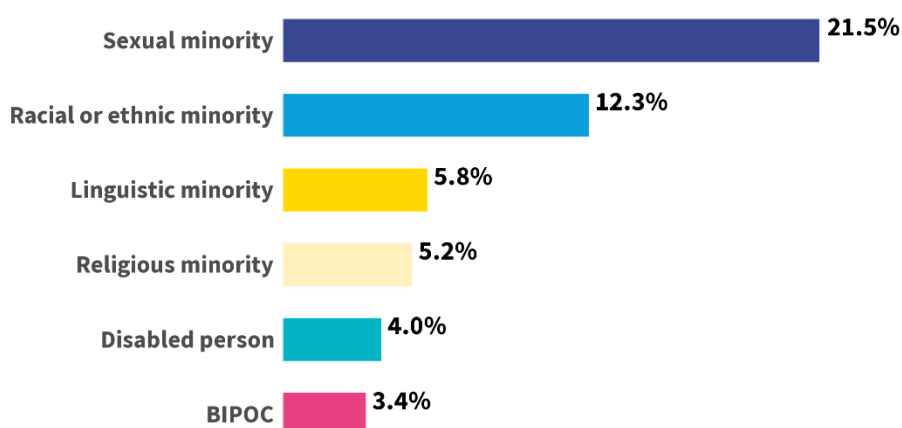
Most respondents **do not identify as minorities** (see Fig. 10 for what we mean by minority groups) within their country of residence (**66.6%**) (Fig. 9).

**Proportion of Participants Belonging to Minority Groups**



**Figure 9.** Number of participants who identify as a minority group, making up only a third of all respondents.

**Percentage of Respondents identifying as minority groups**



**Figure 10.** Distribution of respondents who identify themselves as different minority groups, highlighting the predominance of sexual minorities. Respondents can identify with more than one category.

However, some respondents identify as a **sexual minority (21.47%)**, **racial or ethnic minority (12.27%)**, **linguistic minority (5.83%)**, **religious minority (5.21%)**, **disabled person (3.99%)**, or **BIPOC**

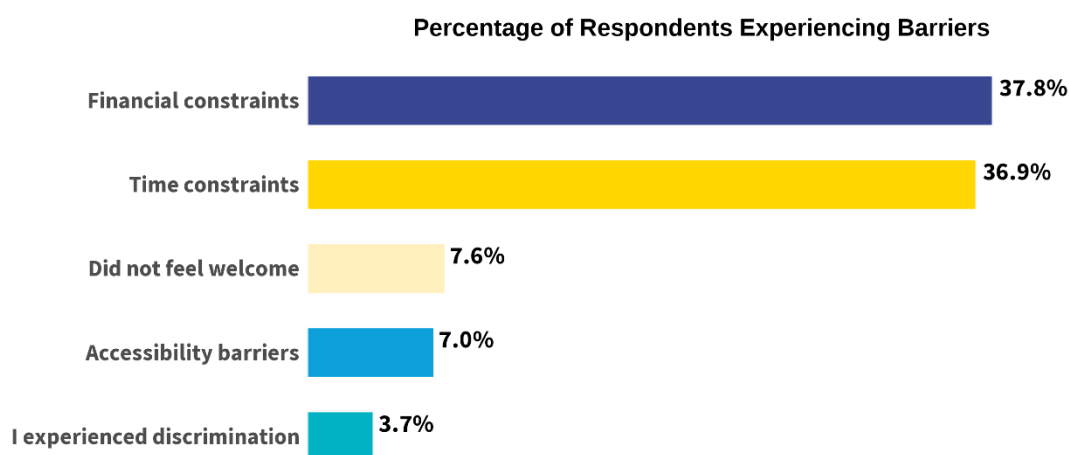


(black, indigenous, and/or people of colour; 3.37%) (Fig. 10). This indicates that the share of people identifying as **racial or ethnic minorities** participating in the EYP network is **comparable to the share of persons born outside of the EU living in the EU<sup>1</sup>**, and that the share of people identifying as **sexual minorities are much superior to most world statistics (< 10 %)**. The results above support the idea that the EYP network is at least as diverse as the EU population, and that it particularly soars when it comes to including members of sexual minorities.

Regardless, when asked if they **have felt included during their time taking part in EYP**, almost all respondents agreed (**94.4%**).

## But even if the network is diverse, is it accessible?

Of all respondents, **many did not encounter barriers within EYP (32.01%)** (Fig. 10). **However, most experienced financial barriers (37.80%) and/or time constraints that kept them away from participation (36.89%)**. Meanwhile, some members experienced accessibility barriers (7.91%), did not feel welcomed (7.62%), and/or experienced discrimination (3.66%).



**Figure 10.** Distribution of barriers experienced by respondents, marking the salience of financial and time constraints.

Based on the above results, **due to the nature of EYP International Sessions and interactive activities that require travelling and time-investment, it shows that members may find it difficult to participate as much as they would like**. The International Office of the EYP, along with the entire network, is actively committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and accessible environment across its network. In terms of accessibility, the International Office makes effort to provide travel reimbursements and financial support to lower economic barriers, making participation more feasible for young people from diverse backgrounds. Beyond financial accessibility, we recognise that resource accessibility, such as clear communication, adequate accommodation, and inclusive programming, can pose greater challenges than social integration alone. To ensure a safe and welcoming space, EYP enforces a robust Welfare Policy and a comprehensive Code of Conduct for both participants and officials. These policies prohibit all forms of discrimination, bullying, and harassment, and emphasize respect for cultural, religious, and personal differences. A cornerstone of the network's safety framework is the presence of designated Safe Persons at every event, along with a Safe Core Team, to whom individuals can report incidents confidentially. Complaints mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability, and violations may lead to significant



consequences, including expulsion or exclusion from future events. These structures reinforce EYP's mission to offer a genuinely empowering peer-to-peer educational experience in a secure and respectful environment for all. However, the 2024 Member Survey results highlight that these measures must be complemented by continuous, intentional efforts to ensure that all members, regardless of background or circumstance, not only have the opportunity to join but also feel safe, welcome, and empowered to fully engage. The lesson for the network is clear: accessibility is not a box to check, but an ongoing commitment.

## **Conclusion**

The 2024 Member Survey provides robust evidence that the European Youth Parliament is on track in realising its [Theory of Change](#): to inspire and empower a new generation of informed, open-minded, responsible, and active citizens. Across knowledge, skills, values, and civil action, EYP members consistently report positive developments attributable to their participation in the network. More than 98% believe EYP influenced their institutional and cultural knowledge, over 94% report that EYP strengthened their positive attitudes, and 92% feel that EYP contributed to their skill development, demonstrating clear progress toward EYP's mission. Notably, the survey demonstrates that greater involvement in EYP correlates with deeper civic engagement, affirming the long-term impact of the programme. However, the data also reveal challenges, particularly regarding accessibility, most notably financial and time barriers, which may restrict full participation for some members. While EYP has built mechanisms to support inclusion and welfare, these results underscore the importance of ongoing efforts to make participation genuinely accessible to all. Looking ahead, the International Office of the EYP plans to prioritise cross-annual analyses to better understand long-term trends, refine its approach, and ensure that its impact continues to grow across years, regions, and member profiles.





## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> EU Stats 1 – 9.9% of citizens living in the EU were born outside of the EU (Eurostat, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Methods – The number of valid responses per section varies ( $191 > n > 531$ ).

Most data descriptions and statistical tests depend on 320 to 440 valid responses.

<sup>3</sup> EU stats 2 – 87.1% of EU citizens attend public schools (Eurostat, 2022).

<sup>4</sup> EU Stats 3 – 39.2% of EU citizens live in major cities (Eurostat, 2021).

<sup>5</sup> EU Stats 4 – 75% of EU citizens do not have migration background (Eurostat, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> Roles stats – Each participant can assume more than one role per EYP session, which is why the combined percentages add up to more than 100%.

<sup>7</sup> Knowledge stats – For the domain of EU institutions and processes, the perception of EYP's influence predicted higher self-related knowledge at a statistically significant level ( $\beta = .29, p < .00$ ). As for the domain of European cultures and values, this was also true ( $\beta = .19, p < .00$ ).

<sup>8</sup> Skills stats – We ran multiple confirmatory t-tests, all of which were statistically significant ( $t > 4.62, df > 347, p < .00$ ).

<sup>9</sup> Attitude stats – For the domain of intercultural understanding, the perception of EYP's influence predicted attitude strength at a statistically significant level ( $\beta = .12, p = .03$ ), which was similarly found with openness to dialogue ( $\beta = .16, p < .00$ ), support for peace and democracy ( $\beta = .13, p = .01$ ), and taking an active role in political issues ( $\beta = .18, p < .00$ ).

<sup>10</sup> EU Stats 5 – As demonstrated by only 15% of EU citizens regularly volunteer for civil society organisations (Flash Eurobarometer, 2020) and 36.6% of EYP members doing so.

<sup>11</sup> Societal ladder stats – As expected, the longer the respondents are involved in EYP, the more they have partaken in civil action ( $\beta = .21, p < .00$ ).