

8th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue Qualitative Consultation

***Europe For You(th), You(th) For Europe:
Space for Democracy and Participation***



Consultation methods, participant backgrounds and acknowledgements.

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Introduction

The EU Youth Dialogue is a dialogue with young people and youth organisations involving policy and decision makers, as well as experts, researchers and other relevant civil society actors, as appropriate. It serves as a forum for continuous joint reflection and consultation on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the field of youth.

EU Youth Dialogue is organised into 18-month work cycles. Each cycle focuses on a different thematic priority. Each cycle is linked to a trio of Presidencies of the Council of The European Union and led by a European Steering Group (ESG). The Trio for the 8th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue is made up of the presidencies of **Germany, Portugal and Slovenia**.

The 8th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD8) builds on the [European Youth Goals](#) namely, the **Youth Goal #9 - Space and Participation for All**. Each European Youth Goal has a list of targets to achieve, related to the respective topic of the Youth Goal. An overview of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue can be found in the EUYD8 Explanatory note.

The EUYD8 qualitative consultation ran from **October 2020 to February 2021**. During this time **National Working Groups** in the member states of the European Union and **International Non Governmental Youth Organisations** (INGYOs) conducted consultation with young people on the themes of the cycle. National Working Groups were asked to use a variety of methods. INGYOs were asked to facilitate a roundtable event between policy makers and young people.

A thematic framework and methodological guidance for the consultation was created by the researchers supporting the cycle, under the guidance of the ESG. These built on frameworks and guidance produced for the previous two cycles. A particular feature of the 8th cycle was emphasis on **quality participation and the use of digital tools**. The EUYD8 consultation ran during the **COVID-19** pandemic when most EU countries had some level of social distancing measures in place, limiting physical meetings.

The thematic framework was linked to the 9 targets of Youth Goal #9. Guiding questions were developed for each target (see findings reports). In line with the objectives of this cycle, the guiding questions for the 8th cycle aimed at finding out **actions and measures on how to implement each of the targets of the Youth Goal #9**.

Each National Working Group was asked to produce a report of its consultation activities. In total there were **28 National Working Groups Reports received**. Poland was the only EU-27 country which did not submit a report. Belgium submitted three reports, one for each of the Belgian communities¹. The INGYOs provided a recording of their **joint roundtable event** for policy makers and young people. This data was thematically analysed by the researchers supporting EUYD8 to produce the findings reports. Ireland and Romania also submitted examples of their visual methods, so these have been used within the reports to add visuals.

The aim of the findings reports is to highlight major topics in discussions, and areas of commonality in the discussion and key areas of dispute. They also seek to identify suggestions

¹ The term National Working Groups is used to refer to all Belgian working groups within this document.

for measures and actions proposed through the consultation. The scale of EUYD8 means it is impossible to completely capture the detail of every recommendation made. Instead the focus is on identifying the **common ideas and broad underlying messages**.

The EUYD8 findings can be found in the accompanying documents. This document contains further details of methods and participant backgrounds.

Consultation methods used by National Working groups

For the most part National Working Groups followed the methods recommended for the cycle which included online and offline events, participatory visual methods and action research. The large majority used multiple methods (see Chart 1), however 6 used online events only.

- 3 (11%) ran **6 Action Research projects** between them
- 9 (32%) used Participatory visual methods leading to at least **102 photos or videos being made**. 2 National Working groups provided access to these to the central researchers.
- 17 (61%) held face to face Youth Dialogue Events leading to **177 events** in total
- All held Online Youth Dialogue Events leading to **356 online events** in total
- 5 (18%) conducted **surveys**.
- At least 7 (25%) used '**other methods**', including, school assemblies, interviews, and non formal group discussions, KA3 project outcomes, and social media polls.

Those National Working Groups that used methods not specified by the ESG generally kept to the spirit of the guidance. Surveys were mainly undertaken to support and enhance qualitative work. Those who reported 'other methods' generally reported activities that fitted alongside, or were comparable to Youth Dialogue events.

A breakdown of the number of participants involved in each type of method is shown in Chart 2. Just under $\frac{3}{4}$ of **engagement was in some form of event based format**, and just over **half of took place in online events**. The average number of participants per event was between **15 and 16**, in both online and face to face events.

This indicates the vast majority of engagement was based around small group discussions. Whilst this alone is not a measure of 'quality youth participation', small groupwork is foundational for many approaches to youth participation.

Chart 1: Number of National Working Groups using each dialogue method
of 28 National Working Groups total

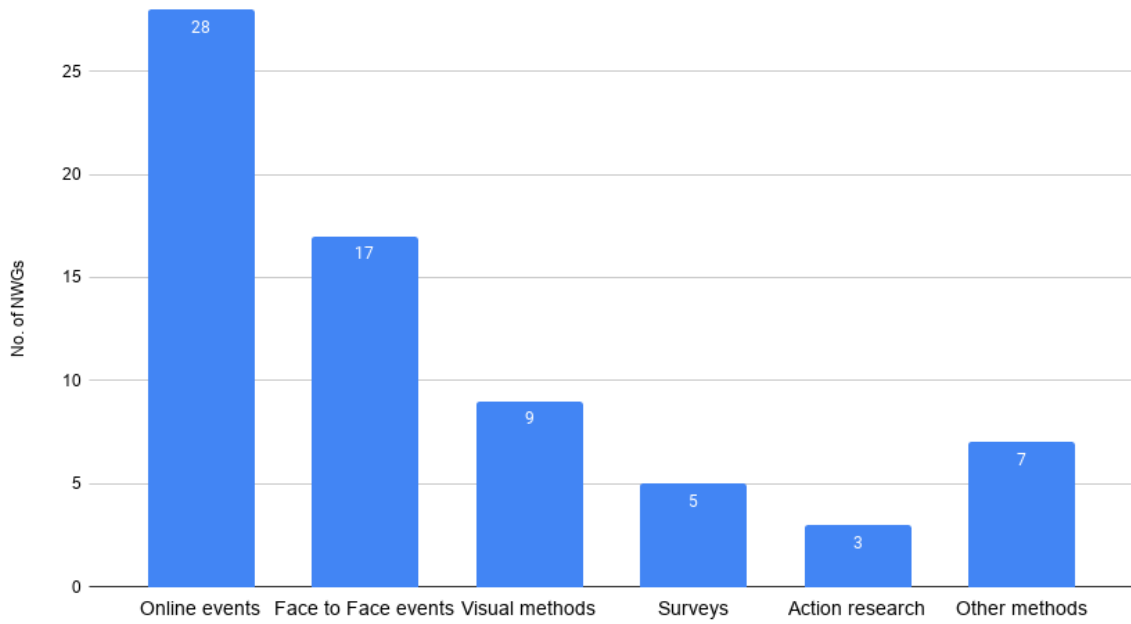
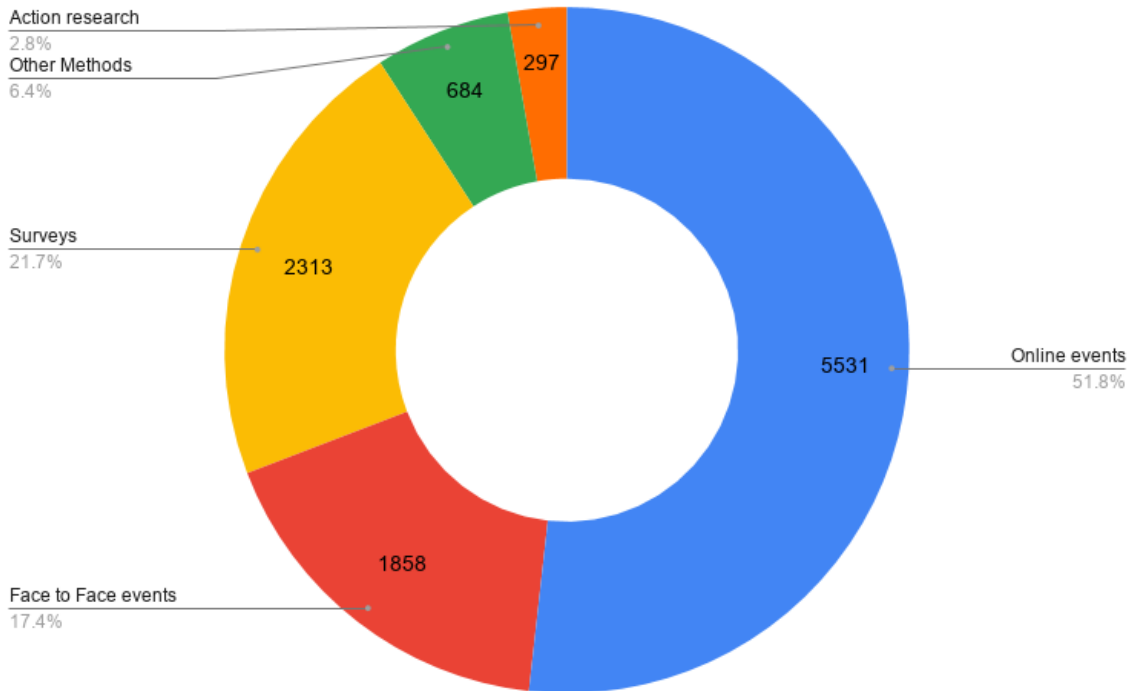


Chart 2: Number of participants involved in each dialogue method
(n=) 10683 participants total, excluding visual methods



Although it was not requested on the reporting tool, **several working groups described their social media outreach data**. The youth sector convention of ‘counting participants’ does not fit well with measuring and monitoring social media use. Metrics like ‘views’ and ‘audience’ numbers are valuable, but different from counting participation.

Furthermore **the boundary between outreach and consultation was not distinct**. For example some working groups described instagram polls as tools that gathered basic data to inform their consultation. Others used instagram polls as outreach tools, but did not utilise the results. The line between interactive social media content, online poll, and online survey was not always sharp.

It might be useful in future cycles to gather data on social media usage alongside participants tracking, yet, without confounding the two.

Numbers of participants

10,798 young people² were engaged in the qualitative consultations by National Working Groups (n=10,733) and the INGYO roundtable (n=65) combined.

On average **National Working Groups engaged with 383 young people each**. The Romanian National Working Group work is noteworthy, reaching over 2000 young people as well as demonstrating highly inclusive, meaningful participation. See the appendix for a breakdown participants number by working group.

Numbers of young people involved were **lower than the previous cycle**. EUYD7 engaged 25,244 young people in qualitative methods.

This change is likely due to a combination of:

- A **shorter time frame** for the consultation which also ran over Christmas.
- The **impact of COVID-19** social distancing measures, and need to work digitally
- One Nation Working Group undertaking very substantial outreach activities in EUYD7 but not in EUYD8

Previous cycles engaged with up to 30,000 young people through surveys. At the time of writing these reports, the EUYD8 survey is still in progress. This survey will increase overall numbers involved with EUYD8,

Despite the decline, **the numbers reached are more than ample to conduct high quality consultation**. However, like all Youth Dialogue cycles, they are a very small proportion of the entire EU-27 youth population. This means EUYD is unlikely to have a substantial impact on raising awareness of EU institutions amongst young people as a whole population.

² National working groups provided data on the numbers and backgrounds of participants (see the accompanying appendix). This data contains some identifiable inconsistencies and estimations, though these are not substantial enough to meaningfully affect results overall.

Backgrounds of participants

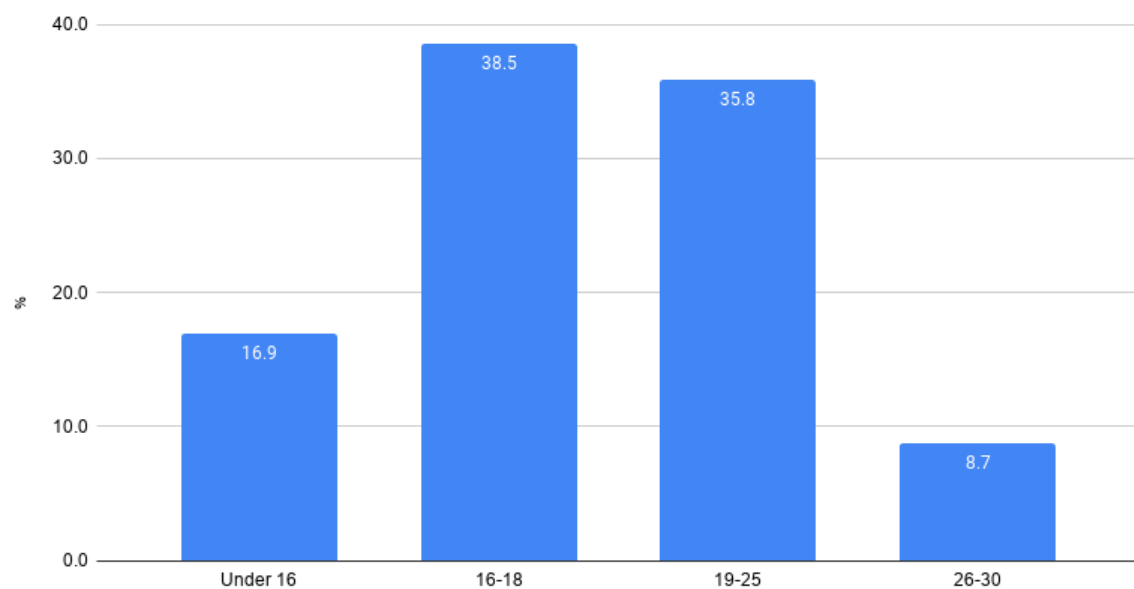
National Working Group provided partial data on the background of participants from which estimates of participant backgrounds across the entire process can be made³.

Overall the EUYD reaches a wide diversity of young people. It is notably more inclusive than most Parliaments. But there are still some areas of exclusion. .

The age profile of participants can be seen in Chart 3. **More than half of participants are 18 or under.** The youngest participant age is not known, but is unlikely to be below secondary school age.

Chart 3: Age profile of participants

n=5793



³ Background of participants was only monitored for 49.66% of NWG participants. This gap in data reflects national sensitivities around diversity monitoring, or methods where diversity monitoring would create a barrier to participation. This figure is consistent with previous cycles. INGYO participants data is not included in this estimation, but the likely impact of this is inconsequential. Overall, the figures in this section should be treated as estimates.

Table 1 shows data on backgrounds on the involvement of marginalised groups, and gender backgrounds of participants, compared to EUYD7.

Table 1: Marginalised groups and gender		
	EUYD7 (Qualitative methods + EUYD survey)	EUYD8 (Qualitative methods)
Gender	Female = 60.3% Male = 38.9% Other gender = 0.8%	Female = 60.9% Male = 38.6% Other gender = 0.5%
% of participants identifying as having a disability	4.8%	3.7%
% of participants identify as being part of a religious minority groups	13.4%	8.0%
% of participants identify as being part of a ethnic minority groups	13.3%	11.7%
% of participants identifying as LGBTQ+	9.7%	8.2%
% of participants who are Not in education employment or training (NEET)	13.9%	5.8%

The data above *might* indicate⁴:

- There are likely some factors(s) causing **over representation of young women**.
- There are likely some factor(s) **excluding young people with disabilities**
- There *may be* some factor(s) causing **slight exclusion of young people from religious or ethnic minority backgrounds**.

These factors may be **barriers within the consultation methods**, or reflect **wider social exclusion issues**.

⁴ If there are no barriers to inclusion the percentages of each group involved should reflect the percentages in the youth population across the EU. At a pan European scale this calculation is surprisingly difficult. Population estimates for minority groups vary considerably, and are often calculated on the basis of all ages, not just youth.

In addition, compared to EUYD7, there is may be some factor that has caused a **decline in the engagement with,**

- young people who are **NEET**,
- young people with **disabilities** and,
- young people from **religious minority backgrounds**,

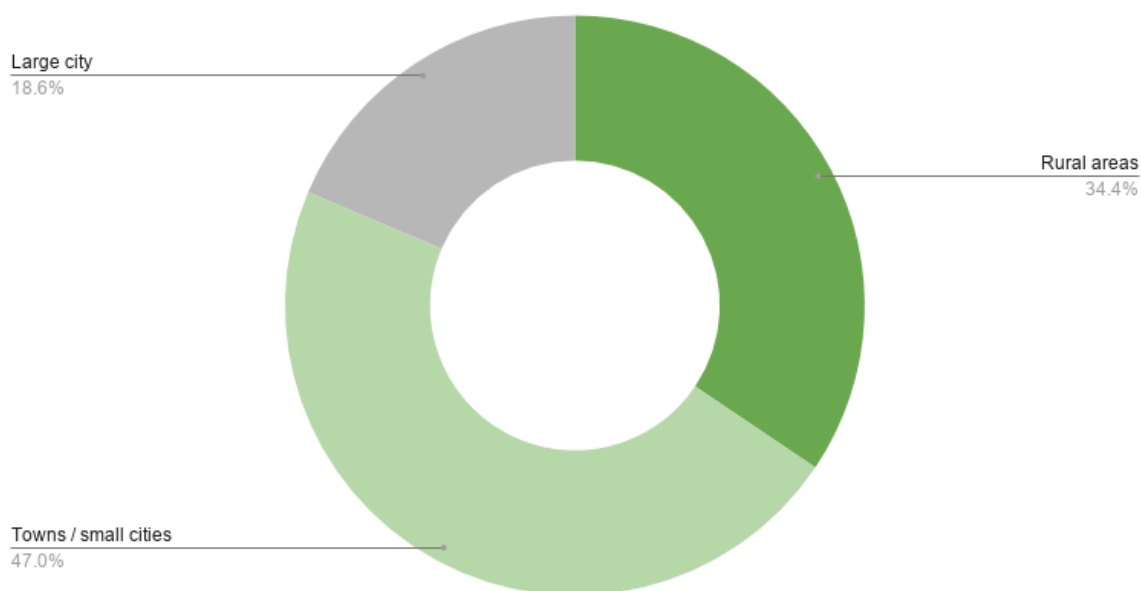
For the first two groups, this may be partly explained by the **shift in methods towards online events**, as these groups are likely to have less digital access.

An estimated **76.8% of participants were in education** and **17.4% were in work**. This may not account for those in part time work or education effectively as there were some differences in the way NWGs reported data.

The commitment to **engaging young people from rural backgrounds** seems to have been sustained since EUYD7. This is shown in Chart 4

Chart 4: Living location of participants

n=4551



For very approximate comparison⁵ [Eurostat](#) estimates 28.0 % of the EU-28 population (all ages) lived in a rural area in 2015, 31.6 % in towns and suburbs, and 40.4 % in cities. A direct comparison to the levels in previous cycles cannot be made, monitoring questions on rurality were improved as a result of EUYD7 outcomes.

⁵ Several factors mean these figures are not directly comparable. 1) EUYD typically asks participants to self identify where they live. This is not always accurate in terms of how participants class as small or large towns. 2) Eurostat data is for all ages, and may not reflect the youth population 3) Eurostat data includes the UK.

Source of data: Eurostat website (2020) *Archive:Statistics on rural areas in the EU* accessed at [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Archive:Statistics on rural areas in the EU&direction=next&oldid=501292](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Archive:Statistics_on_rural_areas_in_the_EU&direction=next&oldid=501292) on 27/02/2021

Acknowledgements

The researchers supporting the EUYD8 qualitative consultation were Dr. Dan Moxon and Dr. Maria-Carmen Pantea.

The process would not be possible without a wide range of actors, including;

Ritav Jonusaite and the European Youth Forum for their invaluable coordination and liaison with National working Groups and INGYOs.

The European Steering Group.

All of the participants and young people who took part.

and,

Working Group	With additional attributions and acknowledgements made by the working group to:
The Austrian National Working Group	The Austrian National Youth Council
The Belgian French Speaking Community National Working Group	
The Belgian Flemish Speaking Community National Working Group	
The Belgian German Speaking Community National Working Group	
The Bulgarian National Working Group	
The Croatian National Working Group	Sandra Rozman – Croatian Youth Network, Helena Mikulandra - CINAZ, Marko Žmirak, Ivana Grkeš, Angela Gverović –Dubrovnik Youth Centre, Mirna Jokić – Youth organisation Maro i Baro, Petra Habulin – Ocean of Knowledge, Mirjana Jozanović – PRONI Centre for Social Learning, Kristina Franc - Network of Associations Zagor
The Cyprus National Working Group	Mr Nicolas Christofi ,Ms Christiana Xenofontos,Ms Christina Yiannapi
The Czech Republic National Working Group	
The Danish National Working Group	Maria Bruselius-Jensen Ungdomsdomsforskning (Center for Youth Research)
The Estonian National Working Group	Estonian National Youth Council, Youth and Education Authority, Ministry of Education and Research, Local Youth Councils, Aivar Kamal, Maris Neeno, Maarja Mehiste, Doris Lisett Rudnevs, Sigrid Laurikainen
The Finnish National Working Group	Pauliina Meskus, Petra Arki, Rare Media Oy

The French National Working Group	Eva Baronnet, Enzo Gallet, Clementine Girard
The German National Working Group	Alliance of Muslim Youth Organizations, Association of German Educational Organizations, Conference of the Regional Youth Councils, Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, Conference of the Youth Welfare Departments of the large cities (Großstadtjugendämter), Youth Welfare Office Berlin-Neukölln, Cooperation Network of Youth Social Work, EU Youth Delegates 2020 – 2021, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Federal Working Group for Open Children's and Youth Facilities e.V., German Federal Youth Council , JUGEND für Europa, National Agency (Germany) Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps, Socio-Cultural Center "The VILLA", Working Group of the highest regional youth and family authorities (AGJF), Authority of Employment, Health and Social Affairs and Employment Office, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
The Greek National Working Group	Dora Bei- Youth Director and President of the support group for the NWG, Babis Papaioannou – networking with local and regional authorities on youth affairs and Vice President of the support group for the NWG, Magda Makri – expert on cultural issues and support to youth artistic creativity, member of the support group for the NWG
The Hungarian National Working Group	
The Irish National Working Group	Sandra Roe, Independent Researcher, Jean-Marie Cullen and Dermot O'Brien, National Youth Council of Ireland
The Italian National Working Group	Ms Silvia Crocitta –Trainer and Facilitator, Ms Federica Celestini Campanari –Secretary General, Mr Vittorio Gattari –Board Member Ms Eliana Pitti –International Projects Officer
The Latvian National Working Group	
The Lithuanian National Working Group	
The Luxembourg National Working Group	National Youth Council of Luxembourg (de Jugendrot/CGJL), EU Youth Delegates 2020-2021 (Pauline Cano, Max Ternes, Shayan Ramezani, Liam Bremer), Jugendparlament Luxembourg, CNEL –. Conférence Nationale des Elèves du Luxembourg, DLJ –,, Daachverband vun de Lëtzebuenger Jugendstrukturen, ANIJ – Agence Nationale d'Information pour Jeunes, MENJE – Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse
The Maltese National Working Group	
The Portuguese National Working Group	Members of the Pool of trainers of the Portuguese National Youth Council.

The Romanian National Working Group National Working Group	Romanian Youth Council (CTR), Francesca Cristea, National Alliance of Student Organizations from Romania (ANOSR), Ministry of Youth and Sport of Romania, Timis County Youth Foundation (FITT), Romanian Youth Forum (FTR), YMCA Romanian Federation, Union of Romanian Students (USR) have actively participated in organizing consultations.
The Slovakian National Working Group National Working Group	
The Slovenian National Working Group	
The Spanish National Working Group National Working Group	Consejo de la Juventud de España (CJE) – Instituto de la Juventud de España (INJUVE) – Erasmus Student Network Spain (ESN) – Consejo de la Juventud de Castilla y León (CJCL) – Juventudes de Unidad Progresista (JUP) – Consell Nacional de la Joventut de Catalunya (CNJC)
The Swedish National Working Group National Working Group	Sveriges Ungdomsråd, (Swedish Youth Council), LSU, Sveriges Elevkårer, Saco Studentråd, Push Sverige och Sveriges Ungdomsråd, Liberala Ungdomsförbundet (Liberal Youth Party) and Youth 2030.
The Netherlands National Working Group National Working Group	Dutch National Youth Council: Jahkini Bisselink, Giulia Giacometti , Hevien Dahly, Leverne Nijman, Thyrsa Zoons
The INGYOs supporting the roundtable event and EIUYD8 generally.	EFIL, AEGEE, OBESSU, EEE-YEU, ESN, YEU international, FIMCAP, The Scouts, FEMYSO, Rural Youth Europe, IFLRY, TEJO, ECYC, WAGGGS