



C·A·P

Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung

20 years of EuroPeers. Study on the experiences and impact of the network

Structure

- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Examination questions and appendix of the study**
- 3 Description of the sample examined**
- 4 Presentation of results**
 - **Motivation for the involvement in the EuroPeers network**
 - **Training**
 - **Requests to EuroPeers**
 - **Age and target groups reached**
 - **Places and formats**
 - **Referred content**
 - **Feedback from participants at EuroPeers events**
 - **Personal and professional development of EuroPeers**
 - **European dimension and added value**
 - **Experience of Eurodesk contact points**
 - **Suggestions for optimising the network**

5 Conclusion

Appendix

Data overview

Eva Feldmann-Wojtachnia and Barbara Tham
Munich, November 2025

1 Introduction

In 2005, the National Agency JUGEND für Europa launched the EuroPeers project with the aim of making Europe a place to be experienced and shaped by young people. With the peer-to-peer approach, young people tell other young people about their European experiences as participants in projects of the European youth programmes Erasmus+ Youth (E+J) and European Solidarity Corps (ESC).¹ The national approach has now developed into a vibrant international EuroPeers network².

“EuroPeers show that dealing with Europe does not have to be a dry acquisition of knowledge. With their experiences, they convey a lively, authentic, and youth-specific image of Europe and bring Europe closer to young people. The peer-to-peer approach also makes it possible to address different target groups directly and immediately, including young people with increased funding needs.”³

The German website of the network⁴ informs about the network as well as about past and upcoming events. It shows an interactive map with the locations of the 135 EuroPeers as well as their faces with contact information and the previous experiences.⁵ This is connected to a search function, in which a request can be made filtered for a specific name, location and experience. In addition, there is an information page in Easy Read and an internal area. Furthermore, an internal strategy document of the German National Agency (NA) for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps describes the mission, vision, values, existing structures, and objectives of the EuroPeers network. It forms the basis for the annual work planning for the EuroPeers team of JUGEND für Europa (JfE). The participative design is a critical component.

From 27 April to 13 October 2025, in the framework of the 20th anniversary of EuroPeers,⁶ ‘20 actions in 20 weeks’ took place throughout Germany, in which 21 EuroPeers participated. The anniversary of the network is also the occasion for this study.

2 Examination questions and appendix of the study

On behalf of the National Agency JUGEND für Europa, the Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP) at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich (LMU) conducted an online survey of former and current EuroPeers as well as Eurodesk offices between June and October 2025, followed by qualitative, guided interviews in November 2025. The aim of the study is to highlight the experiences and results from the perspective of those involved, to identify possible optimisations of the network, and to derive recommendations for further development.

Based on a previous study from 2012⁷ and in close collaboration with JfE, the following

1 Formerly part of Erasmus+ YOUTH in Action and the European Voluntary Service (EVS).

2 This is organised within the framework of a SNAC (Strategic National Agency Cooperation) with the participation of 14 national agencies and an international network coordinator; for more detailed information on the European network, see <https://europeers.org>.

3 JUGEND für Europa (ed.): EuroPeers. Young people inform about Europe, Bonn 2016, p. 7.

4 www.europeers.de.

5 The regional distribution is quite different, most EuroPeers can be found on the map in North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse, and Baden-Wuerttemberg.

6 For more details, see <https://www.europeers.de/kalender/veranstaltung/2545/>

7 Bach, Diana (2012): Evaluation Report EuroPeers - Young people informing about Europe. Benefits and effects of a EuroPeer project in information work on mobility and participation opportunities in Europe; Published by JUGEND für Europa, Bonn.

questions were asked in the online survey⁸ for EuroPeers:

- From when to when were/are the respondents active as EuroPeers, and what roles do they have in the network?
- What training courses did the EuroPeers attend, and what were their experiences?
- How many actions did the EuroPeers surveyed have accomplished, and what was their experience?
- In which places are they active, which content are they targeting, and which age and target groups are being reached?
- From which institutions and through which contact channels were/are the respondents contacted?
- What are the challenges of being a EuroPeer?
- How helpful is being a EuroPeer considered to be in terms of studies and career choice or employability?
- What is the European added value of the international EuroPeers network?
- How could the EuroPeers network be operated?

The online survey⁹ for the Eurodesk contact points focused with a few questions on the visibility of the network, the experience with the collaboration with EuroPeers, and the implemented formats as well as the factors that the respondents consider relevant for a successful cooperation.

The study is based on voluntary participation and offers a current insight into the experiences and assessments in the network.

3 Description of the sample examined

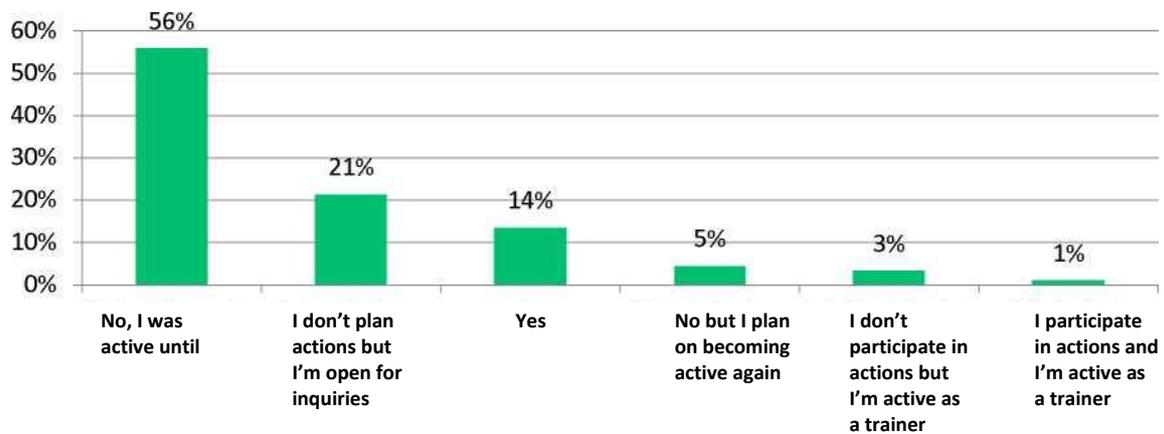
A total of 188 EuroPeers participated in the EuroPeers online survey. Of these, 56 % are no longer active, 14 % are active EuroPeers, 21 % are no longer active, but open to requests, 5 % plan to become active again, and 4 % are involved as trainers and in EuroPeer actions.

⁸ As a rule, multiple answers are possible, except for exclusion questions; in the data annex, the questions are marked accordingly.

⁹ S. o.

Are you still active as a EuroPeer?

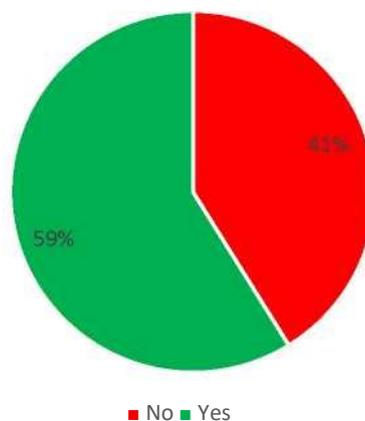
N=177



The EuroPeers who took part in the online survey are fundamentally committed people: More than half are also involved in other initiatives, mostly on a voluntary basis (59 %).

Are you involved in any other initiatives, organisations, etc.?

N=136

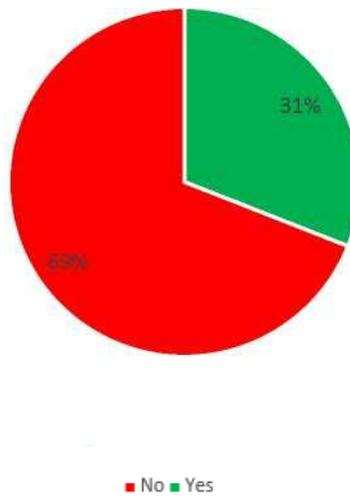


69 % of respondents are or were active as EuroPeers in a national context, while 31 % have participated in international events. A small group of respondents have also taken on other roles in the EuroPeers network (22 %), for example as trainers or buddies.

Have you participated in international EuroPeers events?

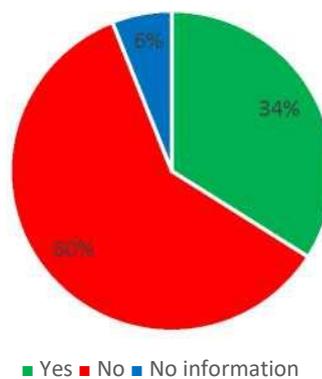
Participated?

N=142



Do you have other roles in the network?

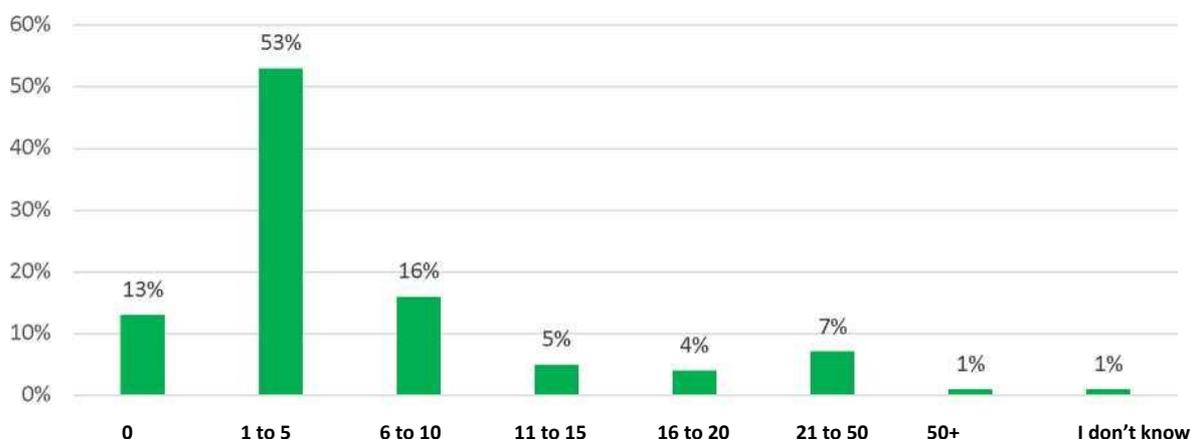
N=65



The range of experience of the EuroPeers surveyed is disparate and wide-ranging. It ranges from no mission yet (13 %) to two people who have already been involved in over 50 missions. The majority of respondents have experience with 1 to 5 missions (53 %), 6 to 10 missions (16 %), and more than 11 missions (15 %).

How many missions have you had so far as a EuroPeer?

N=167



46 contact points responded to the Eurodesk Online survey.

In qualitative interviews, the following participants were interviewed as examples:

4 EuroPeers from North Rhine-Westphalia, of which 2 are female and 2 are male;

- one person who has been with the network since its beginnings (2009) lives and works abroad in Europe and who is now active as a national and international trainer;
- one person who attended the national training in 2013 is currently employed in a non-European country and is therefore no longer active as a EuroPeer;
- one person who attended an international training in 2018 is studying and is now in the trainer role and conducts EuroPeers training courses themselves;
- one person who is studying and new to the network and has attended a national online training course in early 2025.

3 responsible persons from Eurodesk contact points, one in Baden-Wuerttemberg, one in Bavaria and one in North Rhine-Westphalia, who have been working with EuroPeers since 2021, 2022, and 2025, respectively.

The figures below refer to the feedback from the online survey; the quotes come from the interviews and the open comment fields in the online survey and are marked accordingly.

4 Presentation of results

Motivation for the involvement in the EuroPeers network

EuroPeers want to share their experiences with EU youth programmes and give other young people access to them. They show great motivation and commitment to share their experiences with other young people.

"But I am very, very convinced of the European youth programmes and very satisfied. They have shaped me very strongly and changed me very much and fulfilled me very strongly. I always find it a pity that none of those around me know about Erasmus+ programmes. So exactly, I am very convinced of the European youth programmes, and this has made me very motivated to tell other people as well.

And I have seen that there [are no EuroPeers] on the EuroPeers map, [...] in the city I come from. And that was a bit of a shame, and then I thought to myself: hey, apparently someone is missing, then maybe I should take over." (EuroPeer Interview)

In the online survey, EuroPeers are also asked about their motivation for their involvement in the EuroPeers network. Primarily, they cite the following motives:

- Sharing one's own positive experiences with European youth programmes and positive experiences abroad with other young people;
- The willingness to contribute to making European youth programmes more visible and better known, and to overcoming barriers to access;
- Use the opportunity for own democratic engagement in the European context;
- Connect and feel part of a pro-European youth community.

A comment summarises this very aptly:

"To maintain the international spirit of ESC volunteering in my life, to build up a European network of committed young people, and, above all, to give other young people the opportunity to participate in EU mobility programmes by informing them, especially in rural areas. And: by committing myself not to feel alone in the current multiple crises, but to know that there are many young people who stand up for the EU and its values and are committed to a democratic society." (EuroPeer Online Survey)

The Eurodesk contact points also see the special motivation of EuroPeers and their expertise in sharing their experiences and raising awareness among other young people about spending time abroad.

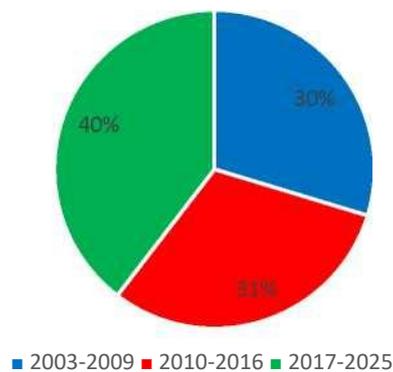
"Super. They are former volunteers who are still receiving additional training. They want to keep going, keep getting involved. You have had experiences and want to pass them on. Very positive." (Eurodesk Interview)

"To bring Europe back to the local community. The volunteers come with a special energy and can pass it on. This is beautiful and posthumous. It's not me going back and that's it, but there's something I can share." (Eurodesk Interview)

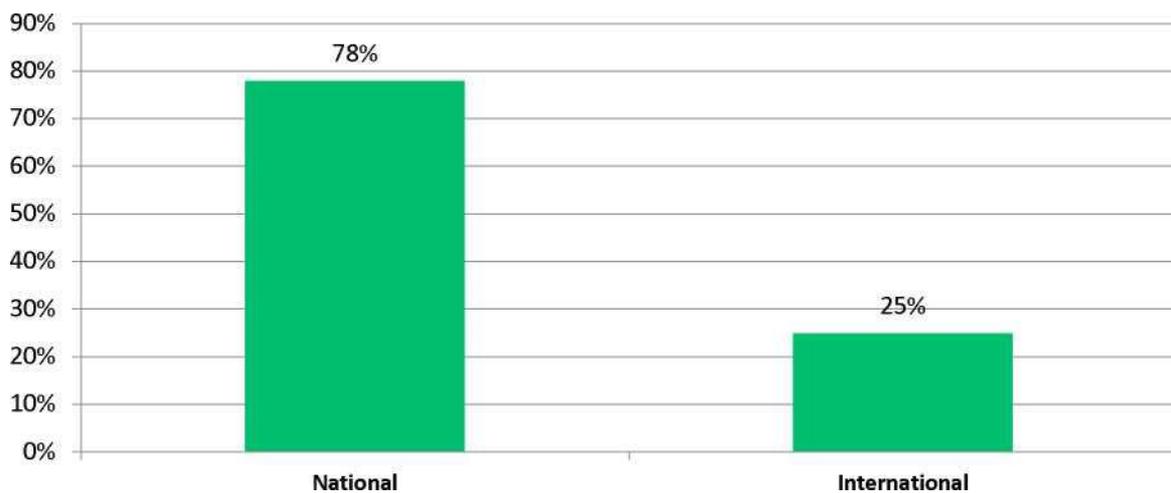
Training

The sample of the online survey reflects a fairly balanced distribution over the years, which includes participation in training courses: 30 % of respondents attended training in 2003-2009, 31 % in 2010-2016 and 40 % in 2017-2025. Two people claim to have attended an online training course.

Participants in EuroPeer trainings N=179



Have you participated in a national or international training? (Multiple answers possible) N=183



The training courses, which are offered online or in person, play a significant role in the training for EuroPeers and for the further roles in the network. An interviewee, who took part in a training course in 2006 and is still active as a trainer, evaluates this as follows:

"I am active in the EuroPeers network, especially as a trainer, during training sessions and annual meetings. I'm still here once a year. I still have an insight into the network, these are places where you can help shape the network. I still find it important to participate in national and international trainings and annual meetings and to help shape them." (EuroPeer Interview)

The majority of respondents took part in a national training (78 %) and the smaller part (26 %) in an international training, partly in addition to the national training. In the interviews, it is pointed out that the quality of the trainings differs greatly.

"National trainings have an extremely high level of quality, it felt like a very mature programme with a strategic focus. The international training courses had to grow in. When the first international EuroPeers were added, much was still unclear for the respective NAs and not much commitment behind them. This can rather be explained by the drastic difference in resources, money, and personnel than by the personal commitment of the people responsible." (EuroPeer Interview)

One EuroPeer who was interviewed and who took part in an international in-person training, found it difficult to become active afterwards, as they lacked contact with other EuroPeers in the region.

“So, I already noticed that with such an international training, the connection to the German network was somehow very lacking.”

The interconnectedness and cooperation between EuroPeers, which should already be practiced during the training, is therefore considered crucial in the network.

"The networking on site, i. e. networking with EuroPeers, which are so close that you can start an action even during the week or without much effort and great costs. This is definitely important. I think it's also really important to try things out during the training. To go out onto the street, do a street campaign, go to a trade fair. To approach people, talk to them, tell them about your experiences. To practice this in a safe space, so to speak. I think these are the most important aspects of the training. And then, of course, conveying information etc. That's something that works just as well in online training as it does in face-to-face training. But the important thing about face-to-face training is the personal contact with other EuroPeers, that feeling of connection with a group of people who have had similar experiences to yourself. I think that's the core motivation for everyone." (EuroPeer Interview)

In terms of experience with online and face-to-face training, EuroPeers' assessments differ. While some prefer direct contact between EuroPeers in face-to-face training, for others online trainings are more accessible. An interviewee appreciates the online format for its low-threshold and facilitated first contact.

"I've only been a EuroPeer for eight months, but I'm really happy to be part of this network. I probably would never have joined if there hadn't been the online trainings because I wouldn't have dared to come to a face-to-face meeting at first. As a person with a migrant background, the EuroPeers network seemed a bit intimidating to me before, which initially unsettled me. Therefore, I would like to thank you for the online training – it made it very easy for me to get started. In my opinion, this training should continue to be offered in the future, as it motivates even more people to become part of the network." (EuroPeer Online Survey)

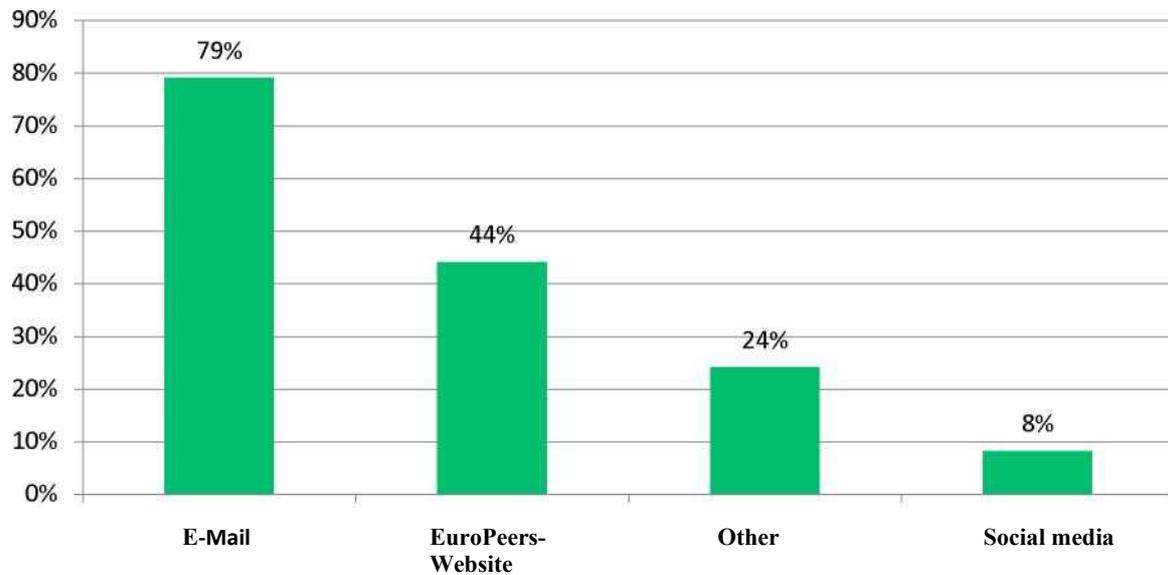
After the online training, however, direct contact with other EuroPeers plays a key role:

"I enjoy interacting with EuroPeers both in person and online. I think interacting in person is always different because you have the person standing right in front of you. That has really helped me to generate even more motivation. When you interact with others, you quickly develop new ideas together about what you can do. We had the catch-up two weeks ago. And we immediately developed a new idea. So, I would like to have even more exchanges with EuroPeers, because I often feel that you always do things alone, but when you're together, it's a great feeling." (EuroPeer Interview)

Requests to EuroPeers

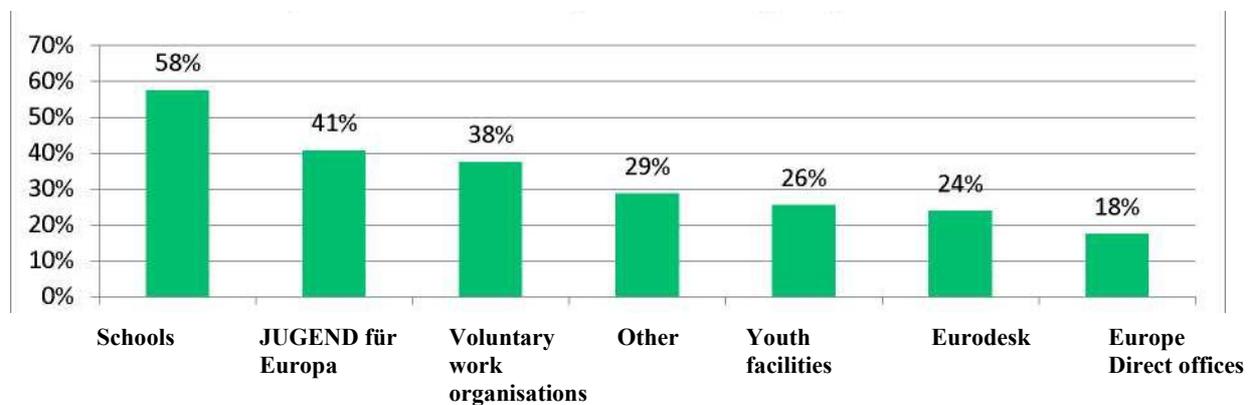
Generally, EuroPeers are contacted via e-mail (79 %), a large part of the requests is also received via the EuroPeers website (44 %) and other channels (24 %) as well as via social media (8 %). Other channels mentioned include friends, WhatsApp or Signal groups, personal requests via friends, acquaintances, or the former sending organisation, former teachers or via the National Agency.

Through which channels did you receive requests?
(Multiple entries are possible) N=120



The EuroPeers interviewed received enquiries from the following institutions:

Which institutions have you received inquiries from?
(Multiple entries are possible) N=120



Just under one third (29 %) also mention other institutions, such as youth associations, youth initiatives, other national agencies, municipal institutions or festivals, self-organised activities, and private contacts. Foundations and NGOs are also mentioned in the interviews.

The vast majority of respondents (94 %) stated that they were able to meet the requests in full or in part (55 % and 39 % respectively). Only in rare cases were requests unable to be met, mostly due to time or study commitments (6 %).

In the interviews, a long-standing active EuroPeer reports:

"In the initial phase, I received inquiries via the NA, which recommended me in some cases, and then schools in particular approached me via the website. It took about a year before I carried out the first activities, and from then on it became a self-perpetuating process. Then the schools kept coming back with requests in the following years. The event management came from the network itself. The NA team responsible for EuroPeers involved EuroPeers in the organisation of 'comeback' events. The inquiries from NGOs came from my personal network." (EuroPeer Interview)

This experience is also described by other EuroPeers in the interviews:

"As soon as the first contact was established, people were asked regularly." (EuroPeer Interview)

"Because I am very passionate about this and have always been very attracted to the European idea, I took the approach of trying to accommodate the requests. And, for the most part, I succeeded in doing so. At some point, it naturally became a little more difficult for me because I was working at the time." (EuroPeer Interview)

Another person interviewed was initially active with 1-2 missions per year. Today, their involvement in the EuroPeers network mainly consists of being a trainer and a buddy.

"I just think that in recent years—especially since I started working as a trainer—my commitment has shifted a lot. So now, as a buddy, I try to support others and give them tips." (EuroPeer Interview)

Another person in the EuroPeers network has completed four assignments to date, mainly during international youth exchanges and as part of professional work at a local youth centre.

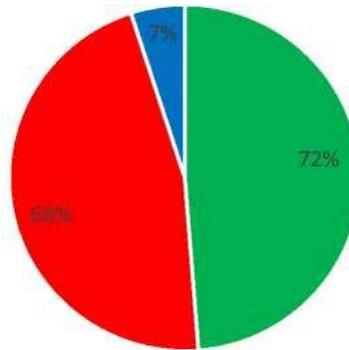
The Eurodesk contact points interviewed only request EuroPeers for their own events, primarily for fairs and information events. This amounts to 1-2 requests per year. Due to time constraints, it is difficult to pass on requests from third parties to EuroPeers.

"Most requests (from third parties) are during the week in the morning or early morning. When most of the EuroPeers are studying and do not necessarily have time." (Eurodesk Interview)

Age and target groups reached

Generally, EuroPeers offers are aimed at young people who usually still go to school or are reached in other educational contexts, in accordance with the peer-to-peer approach. 72 % of EuroPeers surveyed say that their services reach young people under the age of 18, and 68 % reach young people up to the age of 30. Only a small proportion (7 %) of the offers are aimed at adults over the age of 30.

What age groups have you reached with your actions? (Multiple entries are possible) N=136



■ under 18 years ■ between 18 and 30 years ■ over 30 years

The target groups that EuroPeers reach with their offers and actions are very diverse and are mostly determined by the requesting institutions. In the case of schools, the type of school is a factor; usually, these are high schools or vocational schools. A wide variety of young people take part in fairs and campaigns in public spaces. In addition, the personal backgrounds of the EuroPeers, their environment, and their contacts play a role, as they sometimes approach institutions independently and launch their offers. In some cases, other age groups (parents or seniors), who are interested in the involvement of young people or who want to find out more opportunities for their children, are also reached.

“Well, I was actually approached mainly by high schools and comprehensive schools, which of course corresponds to my own experience with the ESC, and I see myself as an expert in this field and not necessarily in youth exchanges and the like.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“In most cases, I have reached 17–18-year-olds, 23–24-year-olds in professional colleges, and older youths in sports clubs. I did not reach 14–15-year-olds, nor did I look for them actively.” (EuroPeer Interview)

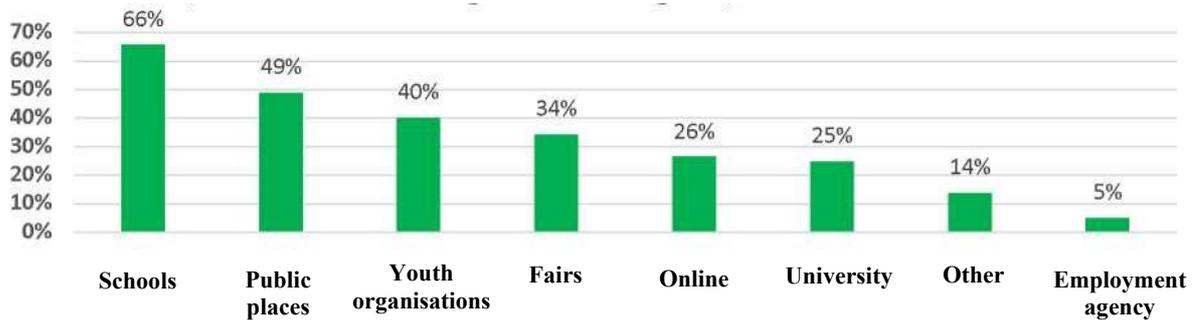
“I was looking proactively for young people who are not high school students. I went to sports clubs. I went to DITIB, the on-criticised Islamic Organisation for Turks in Germany. They also do a lot of youth work. As a result of my Turkish background, I was able to influence the community. I proactively sought out groups where there are young people who don't automatically hear about Europe and European opportunities. I also reached high school students. I reached a fifty-fifty mix of young people, as diverse as possible. I also went to vocational colleges, which is another target group. It was a nice mix.” (EuroPeer Interview)

Places and formats

Most EuroPeers are active in schools (66 %), followed by public spaces, e. g. in parks or on the market square (49 %). Other places include youth centres (40 %), fairs (34 %), colleges and universities (25 %), the Employment Agency (5 %), and the digital space (26 %). In addition, political institutions are also named, such as the European Parliament, the town hall, district office as well as events, sports and leisure activities for young people, and also the “comeback” (annual event for European Solidarity Corps participants).

Where did you make offers? (Multiple entries are possible)

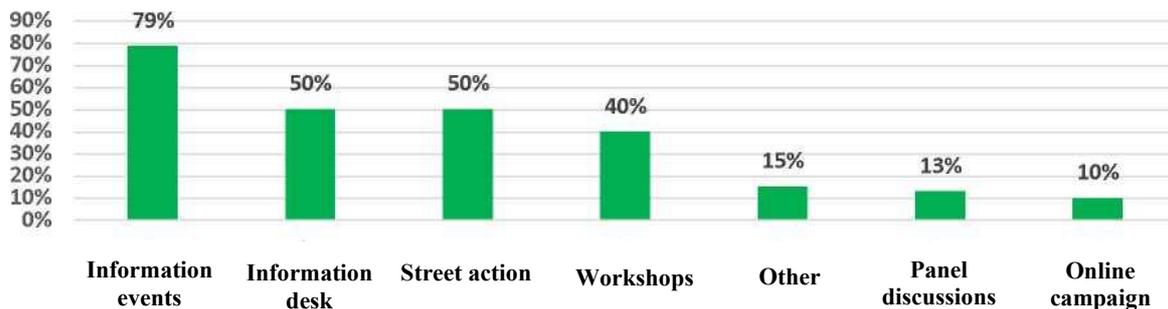
N=137



The most common format in which EuroPeers are involved is by far information events (79%). However, half of the respondents also participated in information stands and street campaigns (50% each) or conducted workshops (40%). Less common is participation in panel discussions (13%) or the implementation of online campaigns (10%). 15% of respondents have also participated in other formats such as Erasmus+ projects, the “comeback” event, or at city hall, and in one case even at the European Parliament.

What EuroPeers actions have you carried out so far?

(Multiple entries are possible) N=137



According to the answers in the online survey, the following formats and actions are considered particularly successful:

- Actions, lectures, and workshops in schools at project days and information fairs, because this is where young people can be reached directly "in 1:1 contact, where questions can be answered directly and experiences can be shared"
- Street campaigns, street stands
- Fairs, open day, e. g. in the foreign affairs ministry

But also, online actions, lectures, and social media campaigns are described as successful, because in this way many people can be reached. At European Voluntary Service/European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Youth events, EuroPeers also informed interested young people about opportunities to participate in the EuroPeers network.

The descriptions in the interviews illustrate this diversity.

"We have been everywhere, in many places, especially schools, educational institutions, fairs, public places, sports clubs, on the train, picnics, European youth events, etc. There are many action formats, from information events to street action. In the European elections, we organised a photo exhibition, a concert." (EuroPeer Interview)

"And then I did the first one (action) in my youth centre, the local youth centre with some young people, in April. Then I had an information stand with another EuroPeer in a school afterwards, which was also very great. Then I had one at the youth politic days, which was also very, very cool. Then we had another Erasmus+ project, and I have already had the opportunity to explain the EuroPeers twice." (EuroPeer Interview)

"The most memorable thing I remember is the flash mobs we organised at the 'comebacks', where many people engaged in the streets. The concentrated presence was just cool for both sides because you got out of the venue, into the city. It was also an organisational challenge. Or, at the culture days, the participatory nature, with music being played on the central stage and organisations associated with mobility programmes or the idea of European integration presenting themselves around it and offering concrete opportunities to get involved. And the atmosphere that arises in this constellation. That's how I want Europe to be." (EuroPeer Interview)

Online offers played a significant role, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, now many EuroPeers prefer in-person activities. However, there are also EuroPeers who continue to implement online offers.

"I like online formats because of the accessibility and reach that can be achieved. In the corona era, we were forced to make online offers, which was good to practice. I conduct online workshops and discussion rounds and share my experiences in interviews. I coped well, most EuroPeers probably prefer in-person activities." (EuroPeer Interview)

There are special actions and formats that stand out from the regular activities of EuroPeers and represent a highlight:

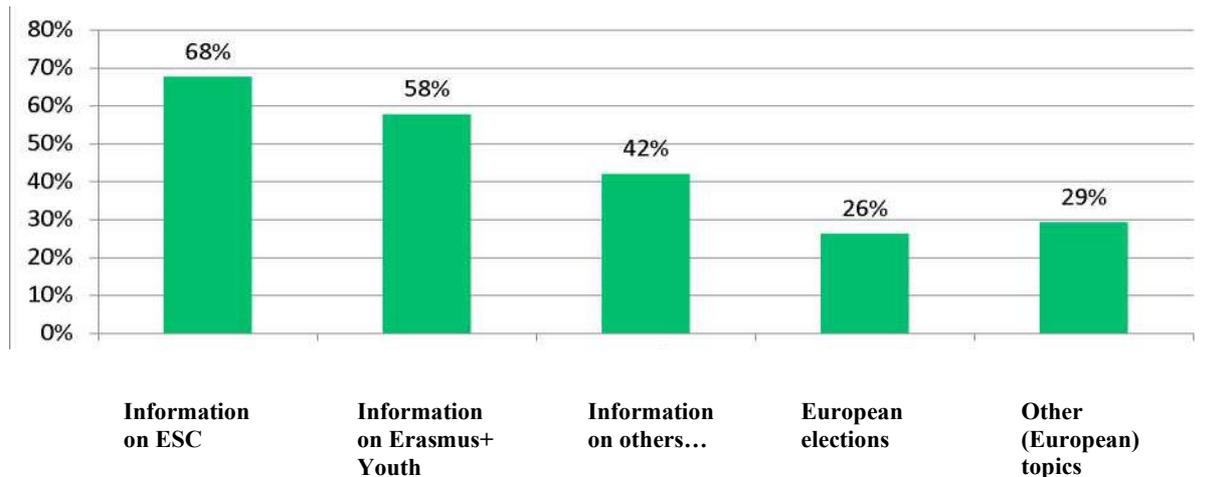
"For me personally, an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the EU in Aachen was particularly cool, when I met the then Spanish king. That was at an info booth. Another highlight was how I moderated the then Commission President Barroso on a stage at a European Youth Award, to which I was invited as a EuroPeer. Participating in such high-profile events as EuroPeers is something special." (EuroPeer Interview)

The Eurodesk contact points interviewed mainly ask EuroPeers to attend fairs, for example for trainees or information events for young people on the topics of education, study courses, and opportunities to go abroad. EuroPeers then support the respective information stand or take part in roundtable discussions and panel discussions. Another focus is the European Week and Europe Day, for which EuroPeers are also asked to attend.

Referred content

The results of the online survey show that EuroPeers mainly inform about the ESC (68 % of respondents) and the Erasmus+ Youth programme (58 % of respondents), as well as other mobility programmes (42 % of respondents), current events such as the European elections (26 % of respondents) or other European issues such as feminism, international volunteering, city partnering, music or sports programmes, the importance of Europe for peace, the political dimension of the EU, culture and traditions of other countries, migration, posterity, European coexistence, or overcoming stereotypical thinking (29 % of respondents).

What content did you convey? (Multiple entries are possible) N=133



This result is consistent with what the EuroPeers surveyed reported in the interviews: that they mainly provide information about their experiences abroad and EU youth programmes but also address general European issues and link them to topics that are important to them as young people.

"I did not shy away from political topics either, I included and covered them in my EuroPeers events, in interactive workshop formats. For example, entry of Turkey, now no longer an issue, but also in general EU, European Citizens' Union, what rights and obligations do I have, what is important, my own country or the EU? I did not shy away from EU-political topics and always liked to deal with them." (EuroPeer Interview)

"I've almost always been interested in sharing the knowledge, how to go abroad with the ESC after graduating from high school." (EuroPeer Interview)

"So, when I do an action myself, I always have a presentation. I have prepared them myself, I have also provided them. First of all, I tell you about my experiences, i. e. the Youth Exchanges, in which I participated, and which have shaped me particularly. And how I became a EuroPeer, what JUGEND für Europa, what Erasmus+ is and what opportunities young people have. So, I'm talking about DiscoverEU, ESC and Youth Exchanges." (EuroPeer Interview)

Beyond the information about the programmes, the EuroPeers also try to motivate young people to become active members themselves. They show them how they can get involved.

"Of course, I talked a lot about my experience at the beginning, more about volunteering. Very early on I also did youth initiatives, today it's called solidarity projects, co-coordinated youth exchanges, was a nice participant myself, and then I was able to inform in an authentic way about it again, gave testimonials, how it was and how you can do it yourself. I worked on solidarity projects in workshops, working with young people to develop ideas on how to make a difference in their local communities." (EuroPeer Interview)

However, EuroPeers are also concerned with promoting Europe as a community of values, with cultural diversity playing a vital role.

"I have heard a lot of negative generalisations about the EU from people who do not know what is behind it. I have countered this with positive arguments. Nowadays, I think it's still important to highlight the added value of diversity, because populist movements opposing immigration have become so strong in Germany, for example. As a community of values, the EU can be a unique selling point, which is necessary in the current geopolitical situation." (EuroPeer Interview)

"Later, my approach was to make Europe tangible. The first few years involved a lot of talking, a lot of discourse, and my conclusion was that this was not very productive. It cannot be scaled up; you cannot get that many people on board. What most people lack are points of contact with Europe, that feeling that Europe is a great thing. That's why I switched to the Culture Days, which were framed in a European context. You didn't have to discuss the EU, but you were allowed to be in a place that felt good. That seemed to me to be the better way to give people a good feeling about Europe." (EuroPeer Interview)

At the Eurodesk contact points interviewed, EuroPeers mainly report on their experience abroad, partly also on the wider framework of EU youth programmes.

"What interests me most about fairs is: I want to find my way abroad. As a trend, it could be noticed this year that short stays abroad were particularly in demand. Volunteering is fundamentally interesting. EU formats are not so well known. Therefore, involving EuroPeers was particularly important, because both did a voluntary service with the ESC. We get less information on participation projects at the fairs. There are already many young people who are very committed, but also many young people who are very lost and do not know where their path leads, what they can do, what opportunities they have. The uncertain times in our world are also unsettling young people. The key is that young people have the opportunity to go abroad in Europe." (Eurodesk Interview)

"When EuroPeers report on their experiences, what skills they have acquired, it strengthens us as Europeans and brings us together more and more, the experience of being able to do something in the European area. This is what I saw in the volunteers: I have had experiences myself and then I come back home, then everyday life comes back. But how can I explain everything I've learned, how can I pass it on to others, you can experience that, too? I consider this sustainable perspective to be very important. Also, as a tool for passing on European values." (Eurodesk Interview)

"If there are questions during the panel discussions that relate to EU youth policy in general, EuroPeers can also comment on these." (Eurodesk Interview)

Feedback from participants at EuroPeers events

When asked whether they receive feedback from participants in EuroPeers activities regarding whether they subsequently took part in an Erasmus+ project or an ESC project, just under a third (27 %) of EuroPeers answered yes.

The EuroPeers interviews also confirm this picture: EuroPeers receive very positive feedback from the participants in their actions and, in some cases, feedback that their information has led to subsequent participation in an EU youth programme project. In some cases, they provide their contact details and mobile phone numbers so that interested parties can contact them again.

"I felt a great effect when someone came to me at an annual meeting, a EuroPeer, who said: You remember me? You gave an info event in my school two years ago, I did that, I volunteered, I was there and there and now I'm back and part of the EuroPeers network. This was a highlight, and it has happened several times. I was so proud of it. And I hear it from other EuroPeers, and they experience it too." (EuroPeer Interview)

"And it was really cool when you somehow get a message or two after each presentation that there is real interest. It feels good." (EuroPeer Interview)

"Individual voices, yes. Not at the beginning, but at later events there are also feedback evaluations. I couldn't say that the time I invested and the people who actually went are proportional. But the best measure for me has always been the topic." (EuroPeer Interview)

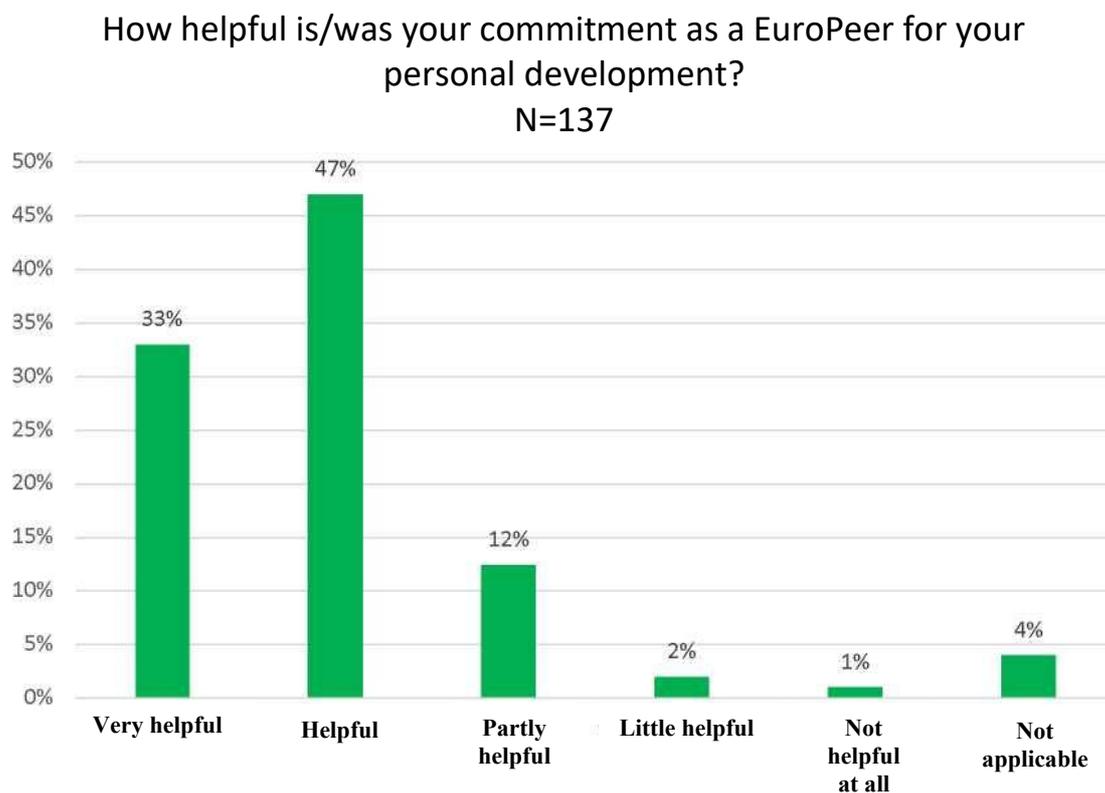
The Eurodesk contact points interviewed are no longer in direct contact with the young people after the events and rarely receive feedback from them. However, the schools are very satisfied with the events and the use of EuroPeers.

“I did not receive any feedback from the young people themselves, but from the teachers and they thought it was great.” (Eurodesk Interview)

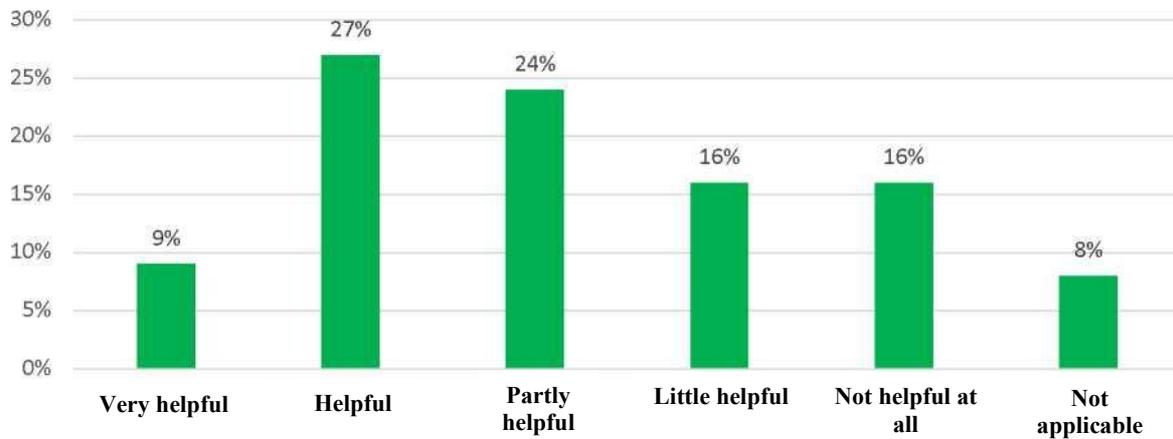
“Young people usually need time to find the right format and the right time frame, and when they do go abroad, we rarely hear about it. But I have received positive feedback from young people on social media about how nice it was to talk to someone who had been abroad themselves.” (Eurodesk interview)

Personal and professional development of EuroPeers

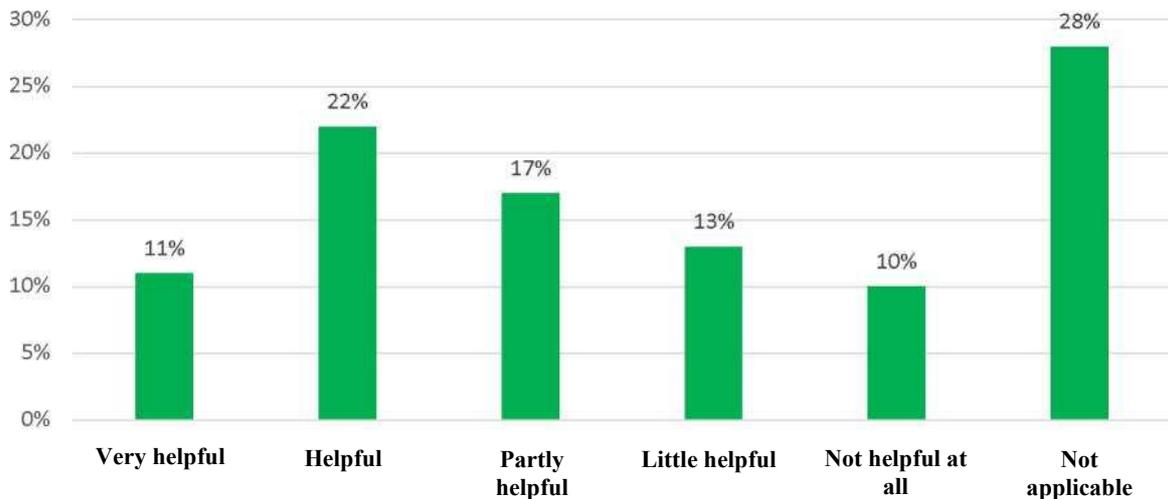
According to the answers in the online survey, 80 % of respondents consider their involvement as a EuroPeer to be helpful (47 %) or very helpful (33 %) for their own personal development. A good third (36 %) of respondents sees this as true for their studies as well: 27 % consider the commitment helpful, 9 % consider it very helpful, and just under a quarter (24 %) consider it at least partially helpful.



How helpful is/was your commitment as a EuroPeer for your studies?
N=135



How helpful is/was your commitment as a EuroPeer for your professional career?
N=132



In principle, the interviews show that being active in the EuroPeers network has a profound impact on the members and opens new opportunities for their personal development and engagement in Europe.

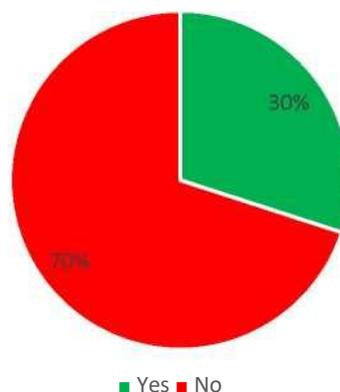
"EuroPeers opened a door for me to a large network that I would not have had access to otherwise. (...) I wouldn't have had access to the entire network, the knowledge, the critical discussion, or the people. At the beginning, I didn't know what it would lead to. But I sensed that it would open a new door for me. I knew I wanted to be part of it because I was curious, because I wanted to learn more, because I wanted to get involved, and because I could develop myself. EuroPeers provided a good structure for this." (EuroPeer Interview)

"A year ago, I was actually a little shyer than I am now. I have changed a lot, indeed through the EuroPeers network." (EuroPeer Interview)

"For someone who wants to get a lot out of the network, there have been many opportunities. I was able to take on great project responsibility much earlier than others. That got me into positions and roles that I would never have gotten otherwise. This enabled me to bring a completely different portfolio to my first professional experiences." (EuroPeer Interview)

Well over half of those surveyed say they have now entered professional life. Many of the former EuroPeers remain loyal to the education sector, often as teachers in schools, but also as educators, education officers in NGOs, and at organisations involved in (international) youth (cultural) work. Career paths also lead into the social, psychological, and medical sectors. Another group is employed in various areas of public administration. A few are active in politics or diplomacy. Just under a third (30 %) of respondents in the online survey stated that their commitment as a EuroPeer had influenced their career choice, while a good two-thirds (70 %) said it had not.

Was your career choice influenced by your commitment as a EuroPeer?
N=138



The skills that EuroPeers learn or strengthen through their involvement in the network are also considered helpful for their (future) careers. Being part of the EuroPeers network makes them feel empowered not only in terms of civil society, but also regarding their professional education.

“Because I’m constantly attending information events and talking about EuroPeers at other events, and because I really enjoy it, I’ve developed a lot as a person, and I think that’s opening up job opportunities for me.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“I think so. I’ve started social work again. But I think it will help me a lot because it’s very social, obviously. And I think the insight into human nature and everything you learn from it. I believe it helps a person in every aspect of life to be a EuroPeer.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“I work at a European university. (...) We are making our European university network as inclusive as possible. I still benefit from my wealth of experience every day. In three days, for example, I will be giving an intercultural training course, 90 % of which I have put together based on my EuroPeers experiences.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“I wouldn’t have the job I have today if I hadn’t become a EuroPeer. It was through my experience as a junior trainer that I realised this in the first place. I had already given many seminars on a voluntary basis before. I always enjoyed it, but it was through EuroPeers that I realised, hey, this is really something that could be a career prospect for me. It’s something I’m really good at and something I can strengthen here. Then I was also supported in doing this training of trainers, which led me to where I am now, as a freelance trainer. My focus on youth participation as a trainer also came about very strongly through EuroPeers and this peer-to-peer learning approach.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“There are hardly any points of contact between what I do now and my involvement in the EuroPeers

network. But the skills I brought with me have had a big impact. My employers weren't familiar with EuroPeers, so I always had to frame things from my perspective. But I was able to present the portfolio of events and the broader idea of European integration. And that was a selling point for my employers.” (EuroPeer Interview)

European dimension and added value

The special thing about the opportunity for young people to get involved with EuroPeers is undoubtedly the European dimension of the international network. In an open-ended question, EuroPeers were asked in the online survey what they believe to be the European added value. The most frequently cited responses were broader networking, intercultural exchange of good practice and knowledge transfer, which is described as inspiring and opening up new perspectives, and “reflecting on one's own position in the world”. In addition, respondents see added value in strengthening the European community and the European idea, a structural effect in strengthening youth participation in Europe, and a contribution to skills development and inspiration for young people's engagement in the sense of “indirect peace work and broadening horizons”.

The feedback on the added value that the European dimension of the EuroPeers network brings to the respondents can be summarised in the following overarching aspects:

- Broadening horizons and strengthening motivation
- Building contacts and learning from each other in Europe
- Living and representing European values
- Acquisition of intercultural competences
- Personal and professional development
- Increase visibility and outreach of projects
- Strengthening the structures of youth work

For the EuroPeers interviewed, the European dimension of the network plays a vital role in many ways. The aim was to implement the concept developed in Germany in other countries as well. On the one hand, it was possible to draw on the experience and tools developed in Germany. On the other hand, other countries had different challenges and needs that had to be considered.

“International training courses are much cooler and more exciting, and the content is more diverse because the EuroPeers from other countries always bring a wide variety of backgrounds with them. The international approach was more complex, but it was worthwhile.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“Boah, I have to say that the international aspect moved me a little more than the national one. It was the first time I had met an international EuroPeer. We talked and they taught me a lot of things I didn't know yet, because I'm very new to this. They had already been a EuroPeer for five or six years. That was cooler, so for me it was even more moving than a national exchange, because: we are international, but we are connected. We are striving for the same goal. I found that very, very nice.” (EuroPeer Interview)

In addition, there are joint initiatives between German and international EuroPeers, especially in border regions. This allows EuroPeers to become active in the country in which they are studying abroad. Young people from other countries have also gained initial experience with the EuroPeers network in Germany and then continued their involvement in their home countries. In the interviews, EuroPeers also address the challenges associated with expanding

and establishing a European network, which need to be improved through good coordination at the European level.

“EuroPeers in Germany are very well positioned and connected. They have succeeded in making EuroPeers known in key areas. And that has created the impression of a strong brand. I didn't perceive that as strongly in the international network.” (EuroPeer Interview)

"It's now a fact that we are an international network. Whether one country has better structures and experience than another is open to question. You can always find differences. But I always found it a shame that young people came to an international training course and then fell into a gap. The onboarding process in the respective countries after the training must be good. And that wasn't so good. Then the facilitators went back to their countries after the training and didn't know if it would be accepted. They knew their contacts at the National Agencies, but these contacts were not all equally committed. Some took them under their wing, while others did nothing at all. Since we have had international coordination, this has improved somewhat. But the onboarding process still needs work." (EuroPeer Interview)

"At the international training course, where I was a participant myself, I just didn't understand the national network. Then suddenly there were annual meetings and contact persons and these national structures, which were even stronger before Corona. We had even larger meetings and regional groups. I didn't understand that at all. And I also really missed the contact with German EuroPeers at the beginning. But I think that has improved over the years thanks to this buddy programme. In any case, as a trainer, I try to make this introduction stronger in the international training sessions because we really motivate people to contact the national coordinators during the training, follow the Instagram account, etc." (EuroPeer Interview)

"Then we had another action during an Erasmus+ project. I've already had two opportunities to talk about EuroPeers. I always find that really cool because there are international young people, and unfortunately not all National Agencies participate in EuroPeers. But I'm trying to encourage people to push their National Agencies to get involved. I hope that will help." (EuroPeer Interview)

The EuroPeers international network does not yet play a significant role for the Eurodesk contact points interviewed. However, there are plans to involve volunteers from other European countries who are based in the region in future activities.

Experience of Eurodesk contact points

A total of 46 contact points took part in the online survey, with 36 of those surveyed stating that they were familiar with the EuroPeers network. Half of them (18 people) said that they had already made enquiries to EuroPeers, usually for information events, information stands at international and study fairs and school projects, or for a pre-departure seminar or Europe Day. For 12 contact points, cooperation with EuroPeers was successful. Thirteen respondents said this was not the case, mainly because they had not yet made a request. In two cases, there was no EuroPeer in the region, and in one case, reliability was lacking.

“Sometimes there is no response to the contact request, or it is always declined, so you get the feeling that the person is not really interested (although this is not explicitly stated).”

The survey among Eurodesk contact points confirms the value of the EuroPeer network as stated by the EuroPeers.

“The European idea is being passed on. Function as multipliers: peer-to-peer approach, personal experiences and feelings are at the forefront, very well suited to directly addressing and reaching young people.” (Eurodesk Online Survey)

“Reaching young people (via EuroPeers) with the idea of international youth work, using personal testimonials of experiences abroad; this (makes it possible to) better motivate young people to go abroad themselves.” (Eurodesk Online Survey)

“Peer learning inspires and convinces young people more effectively.” (Eurodesk Online Survey)

The following aspects are highlighted in the survey as added value of EuroPeers' participation:

- Peer-to-peer approach
- First-hand testimonials, with “insider information”
- Better accessibility to the target group, "better connection" with young people
- Authenticity, motivation, and enthusiasm of young people
- Sustainable impact of the European Solidarity Corps through a follow-up offer to engagement

In the online survey, Eurodesk contact points were also asked in an open question what they consider necessary for successful cooperation with the EuroPeers network. From their point of view, the following aspects are important:

- Familiarity of the EuroPeer network: This includes keeping the information on the website up to date and presenting EuroPeers to Eurodesk contact points.
- Predictability and liability: This includes effective communication and personal contact, which must be maintained even when there are no events scheduled, as well as continuous cooperation.
- Good accessibility of EuroPeers: This includes ease of contact and local availability.
- A suitable event format: This includes ensuring that EuroPeers can contribute effectively, so that their involvement in the event is worthwhile.

In interviews with Eurodesk contact points, respondents confirmed their positive experiences with involving EuroPeers. The peer-to-peer approach and the proximity of EuroPeers to the young participants at events play a key role in this regard. However, it is sometimes difficult to reach EuroPeers, as they are either unavailable during the requested period or do not respond.

“They are people who are closer to the young people. This is peer-to-peer exchange.” (Eurodesk Interview)

“Peer-to-peer exchange adds value. Encouraging people to venture abroad, sharing experiences, telling your own story, explaining how to apply, what it takes. I think it's important to describe the European Solidarity Corps in a simple and accessible way.” (Eurodesk Interview)

“My experiences have been only positive. Everything was very straightforward. Both EuroPeers were extremely committed during the fairs and showed genuine interest in the topic. It was a great collaboration.” (Eurodesk Interview)

“EuroPeers were able to use their experiences to support young people or show young people who did not yet have any concrete ideas what they could do abroad and how they could go abroad. Their own reports were very, very valuable. This is more effective than just written information or key data in various formats.” (Eurodesk Interview)

“The EuroPeers who attended the events were exactly as I had imagined them to be. They talked a little about their time abroad, addressed the challenges they experienced, and discussed the application process: how it works, how to go about going abroad to do voluntary service. That's how it was done,

and it worked well. They conveyed this well and it was well received by the young people." (Eurodesk Interview)

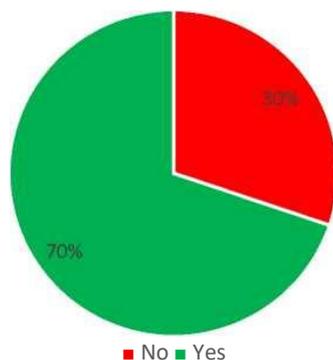
"I used the map on their homepage to find EuroPeers in the area for my events. The journey shouldn't be too long, a maximum of one hour by public transport. I usually write to ten people and three or four don't respond at all. I don't know if they're still active. They're still listed on the homepage, so I can assume they're willing to participate in an event. But sometimes I don't get any feedback." (Eurodesk interview)

Suggestions for optimising the network

In the online survey, EuroPeers are asked whether they face any challenges, difficulties, or obstacles in their involvement with EuroPeers, and if so, what these are. In addition to the numerous positive responses in the online survey, 70 % of EuroPeers surveyed also see room for improvement.

Are there any challenges/difficulties/obstacles to your involvement in the EuroPeers network?

N=126



A number of individual difficulties are identified:

- finding a starting point, difficulties in gaining a foothold in the network, getting involved in the action together with other EuroPeers,
- receiving too little guidance and support after the training, especially in cases of special needs,
- the uneven regional distribution of EuroPeers often means that there is no local group available,
- that time constraints are too tight due to other commitments, full-time studies, or starting a career,
- that life circumstances, e. g. family, residence abroad, have changed
- that the involvement is not financially attractive enough and requires (too) much personal initiative,
- that with advancing age, the peer-to-peer approach is no longer suitable,
- changes in EU youth programmes and the transition to the European Solidarity Corps have made it difficult to stay up to date,
- that the goals of EuroPeers seem too vague

Specifically, the following problems are identified:

“After the training, you are often left to your own. There used to be regular regional group meetings, but that has petered out.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“One difficulty is definitely when you are alone and don't have any EuroPeers in your area, as it is very exhausting to plan activities on your own.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“EuroPeers activities in the local community are limited to metropolitan areas. No one lives near me, and I rarely have time to travel.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Too little connection and community in my region and mutual motivation” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Guidance / Often standing alone / No strong network in East Germany” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“After participating in the international training, it was challenging to connect with national EuroPeers, and it took some time before I attended a national event, such as the annual meeting or the ‘comeback’ event.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Inconcrete goals, what do we want to achieve as EuroPeers? Lack of knowledge of (European) politics.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Being left on your own, not really being taken by the hand, only very loose structures.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“As a deaf person, it was difficult to connect and gain access.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“I find it difficult to get back into (the network) after a long time of inactivity; sometimes I feel that the network is a bit exclusive.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Social sustainability (how do you keep people in the network?) and resources (not always starting from scratch in terms of knowledge, materials, and also different structures in the international network).” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“My attempts to proactively contact schools did not always meet with a positive response, as the EU youth programmes and the EuroPeers network are not well known. Without personal contacts, it was very difficult to convince teachers of the added value of an information session/workshop on EU youth programmes. In addition, I was the only active EuroPeer in Lower Bavaria for a long time, and planning activities in a group is definitely more fun than doing it alone.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Few inquiries, which means a lot of initiative is required, which is difficult for me at the moment due to time constraints.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Sometimes it would be great to have a budget for the actions as well.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Even though volunteer work is at the heart of EuroPeers, sometimes money, support, or outside advice is needed to get certain projects off the ground. It would definitely be helpful to have a list of the funding options available for civic engagement so that projects can be tailored to the target group.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

Overcoming the obstacles mentioned would mean optimisation for the network. From the perspective of the EuroPeers surveyed, it is crucial to get started after the training to take concrete action. This requires better and more intensive networking, especially in regions where only a few EuroPeers are active.

In an open question, the EuroPeers in the online survey were asked how the EuroPeers network could be optimised. Numerous suggestions and comments were received, and the respondents see the following approaches:

- Events, joint events, online meetings, workshop meetings, training courses, etc. for networking and team building among members
- Official WhatsApp group
- Regional groups and buddy system
- Interaction and knowledge transfer between former and active EuroPeers
- Inclusive and discrimination-sensitive approaches
- Alumni network
- Cooperation with local Eurodesk contact points
- Networking with local organisations
- Greater visibility on social media
- More international exchange and strengthening of international EuroPeers structures
- An international newsletter
- Recognition by the European Commission
- Funding for appropriate expense allowances and resources for local groups

The comments from the online survey quoted below describe some individual aspects that EuroPeers also consider important for optimising the network.

“Just like this survey, I was very pleased.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“It's always important to pass on knowledge and be open, but not everything has to be in English!” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“I think that, in view of the political situation, it is even more important today than it was then to have answers to the question of how to reconcile the explicitly inclusive, discrimination-sensitive approach of the European Voluntary Service and related project components with the varying degrees of general social vulnerability of participants on the one hand and socio-cultural realities on the other.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“With more politically active EuroPeers, stronger rhetorical defence of democratic and humanitarian values.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Change direction: less glorification of Europe, shift focus away from liberal educated middle-class children.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

“Not from the outside, but individuals could perhaps be more aware that other EuroPeers are also involved in other voluntary work or do not have as much time to get involved in the EuroPeers network for other reasons. And when they do get involved, there should not be an exclusive atmosphere among those who do a lot.” (EuroPeer Online Survey)

In the qualitative part of the study, the interviews with the EuroPeers and the Eurodesk contact points also explicitly asked for proposals for improvement. EuroPeers still consider the overall level of awareness of EuroPeers to be fairly low. The network is still largely unknown among schools and educational institutions throughout Germany. To increase awareness, greater use should be made of social media, and public relations work should be stepped up.

“Those who are already familiar with EuroPeers invite us back again and again. But on average, I get the impression that we are still relatively unknown.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“There are already some good approaches, such as the Instagram page where EuroPeers regularly post updates. The National Agencies have already made significant improvements under the umbrella of international coordination. However, with a few thousand followers, there is still room for improvement.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“Hey, I would really, really like to help with public relations for the network. And I have a problem: I've brought it up several times with certain people, but somehow I don't know, I didn't want to be included. Because it took so long, I was a bit frustrated and that took away some of my motivation.” (EuroPeer Interview)

The training courses should focus more on the objectives of EuroPeers as listed on the website. In addition to information on EU youth programmes, the website mentions raising awareness of social participation, making Europe more visible, promoting cultural diversity, and reflecting on EU policy.

“I feel that there is a part missing that deals with intercultural skills, for example, or critical engagement with topics. There have been attempts to address this in the open space sequences during the training courses, where several topics can be brought up. However, only part of the group dealt with these topics, not the entire training course, and that is something that is missing. It is not part of the basic training.” (EuroPeer Interview)

It is difficult for EuroPeers to take action when they are alone in a region and find it hard to recruit other EuroPeers for joint activities. Some of them would therefore like to see more meetings and exchanges between EuroPeers to strengthen cooperation between them.

“There were five of us, I think, [at the training] German EuroPeers from completely different parts of the country. And we had all just started our studies. That meant it was impossible for us to plan any activities together. As a result, my commitment suffered at the beginning. I really wanted to, but I couldn't because I didn't have anyone to organise things with. That was my biggest problem in getting involved at the beginning.” (EuroPeer Interview)

“And within the EuroPeers network, I think I would like to see a little more cooperation.” “Well, I actually think it's a shame that we don't see each other more often. In fact, we only meet once a year with the EuroPeers. So, I'd like to see even more exchange with the EuroPeers, because I often feel that you always do things on your own, but when you're together, it's a really great feeling.” (EuroPeer Interview)

The network's peer-to-peer approach is no longer feasible from a certain age of EuroPeers, but a commitment to other responsibilities, such as mentoring, is conceivable.

“I am still active in the field of European integration, no longer in the network at individual events. EuroPeers is designed for a certain age group. I no longer feel like a peer. I no longer have direct contacts with active EuroPeers, but I would certainly be available as a mentor if desired, as someone who gives advice to those who are just starting out.” (EuroPeer Interview)

Various interviews address the establishment of an alumni network. Here, the existing resources and potential of former EuroPeers, who are now in relevant professional positions, could be pooled and used more specifically for the network.

Many EuroPeers now hold influential positions in foundations and political parties. This has resulted in the development of an extremely valuable network. This raises the question of why the potential of alumni is not being leveraged more effectively in terms of networking. (...) It would be beneficial to maintain contact with alumni who have such access. (...) To advance the idea of integration, we need to think tactically and choose effective instruments, especially when we look at how actively the idea of European integration is being attacked. (...) It would make sense for the NA to set this impulse in cooperation with other civil society organisations, as this is a strategic decision. But I'm not sure how everyone feels about this strategic tactical approach.” (EuroPeer Interview)

A more strategic and sustainable approach is also desired for the professionalisation of the network and the quality development of EuroPeers' offers.

"Many manuals for events have been compiled, but no standard for events has ever been established. I would have liked to see a development path where experience is gained in the early years and then we slowly raise the bar in terms of the quality and professionalism of the offers. This would contribute to professional development, giving EuroPeers an explicit development path over the years that could then lead to an alumni structure." (EuroPeer Interview)

"The potential for strategic partnerships was not exploited intensively enough. I would have liked to go beyond the pure event format and pursue longer-term cooperation with people. There was a lack of formats for this. I have a theory of change, of system change, in mind, in which innovative, social ideas are brought together with partners who could then implement corresponding projects sustainably as strategic partnerships." (EuroPeer Interview)

To make the process of signing contracts with EuroPeers for Eurodesk contact points more efficient, an "I am active/I am currently not active" button should be added to the contacts section of the homepage to facilitate targeted inquiries.

"I think the map showing the distribution of EuroPeers is great. It's good to see which EuroPeers are available in the region and can be contacted via e-mail. It would be good to keep this up to date. I think it would be good if those who register and are theoretically available are then actually encouraged to respond when they receive inquiries. Even if it's just a short reply saying, 'Sorry, I can't.' Their status should then say, 'Not active at the moment.' That would help me with my planning. Otherwise, I write to everyone and hope for a response. Sometimes I've written to EuroPeers three times and haven't received a reply. If someone doesn't respond to inquiries, they shouldn't be listed on the homepage." (Eurodesk Interview)

Overall, from the point of view of the Eurodesk contact points interviewed, cooperation with EuroPeers could be intensified, in particular as regards the involvement of third parties.

"I see great potential for EuroPeers in areas such as schools, but also in non-formal education. There are many youth organisations that carry out projects and also need support with new topics. Many may already be familiar with EuroPeers but have not yet had any experience with it themselves. There is a lack of information. (...) We see it as our job to pass this on. Personally, I think the website is very good and very informative. You can find everything you need there. But accessing this information is challenging. There are many obstacles in schools and youth organisations, such as time, staff, finances, and space, which prevent them from becoming more active in this area." (Eurodesk Interview)

One EuroPeers respondent pointed out that it is also up to families why young people, especially those with a migrant background, are not allowed to participate in EU youth programmes. They see it as their job to convince parents of the benefits of such programmes.

"It is also important to mention that I find it very unfortunate that it is difficult for many people, especially young people with a migrant background, to participate in this Erasmus+ programme. Not only because of society, because they simply don't know about it, but also because of their families. And I believe that we have to, and I try to do my part, work with young people who say, 'Yes, my mom or dad won't let me do it.' Then I always say, 'Then they should come, I'd be happy to talk to them.'" (EuroPeer Interview)

5 Conclusion

"Being a EuroPeer helps a person in every aspect of life", a person interviewed in the present study summarises their experience, the impact of their involvement as EuroPeer and the value of the network. When asked in the final question of the online survey if they had anything else to say, many of the EuroPeers expressed their gratitude. They are proud and happy to be part of the network. Thanks to it, many personal friendships, relationships, and families have been formed.

According to the respondents, the commitment of the EuroPeers is extremely important,

especially in today's tense times, in order to show the many different ways in which European values can be lived and Europe can be democratically shaped by civil society.

"It's worthwhile on so many levels, both as a EuroPeer and as someone who is approached by EuroPeers. You learn a lot, you can teach a lot, and the interpersonal aspect is a really nice part of it." (EuroPeer Online Survey)

"It's a great project. I think back with joy and pride and still meet people from back then after more than 14 years." (EuroPeer Online Survey)

"Please never dismantle the network and cut funding! It has had such a huge impact on my life, leading to so many friendships and academic and professional opportunities. Among other things, the network is the reason I feel connected to the EU and am committed to promoting democracy." (EuroPeer Online Survey)

"Especially in the current political discourses, I find it very important that Europeers and international exchange services exist." (EuroPeer Online Survey)

The EuroPeers network is also very valuable for the Eurodesk contact points.

"In any case, the EuroPeers network offers added value. Former volunteers who talk about their experiences, who want to get involved and motivate other young people. The great added value is that they can talk about their personal experiences, about very specific experiences abroad, about a project in a particular country. This can remove barriers for young people. When someone comes along who has actually done it and is closer to their age, they think, if they did it, then I can try it too. That is the great added value of EuroPeers. I hope that the EuroPeers network will continue to exist, and I will continue to work with them." (Eurodesk Interview)

"Passing on the EuroPeers' experiences abroad is very, very important for our future, especially in these times we are currently living in." (Eurodesk Interview)

"I think EuroPeers who get involved are very important, also for strengthening values and democracy. It's not just that I'm learning how to live abroad for myself, but also for others. And that's very important right now. Passing on the idea of Europe and democracy." (Eurodesk Interview)

The study was able to draw on the experience of the last twenty years in the EuroPeers network and demonstrate the immense potential of the peer-to-peer approach in raising awareness of European youth programmes and communicating European issues from a youth perspective.