



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

THE IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE



Youth in Action is the EU Programme for all young people. It enables more than 130 000 young people and youth workers every year to be involved in non-formal learning activities across and beyond the EU. With a total budget of 885 million euros for the period 2007-2013, the Programme fosters the development of competences and active participation in society. It also encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background.

One of the Actions of the Programme is the European Voluntary Service (EVS). EVS offers opportunities to carry out voluntary service for up to 12 months in another country in Europe or in the world. It is a true learning service for the volunteers and it benefits local communities; a unique chance for young people to express their personal commitment and develop new skills and fundamental values, such as solidarity and understanding of another culture.

2011 marks the 15th Anniversary of the European Voluntary Service. The qualitative outcomes described in this leaflet are drawn from a survey launched by the European Commission in March 2011 among participants in projects supported by the Youth in Action Programme.

Key facts and figures about EVS

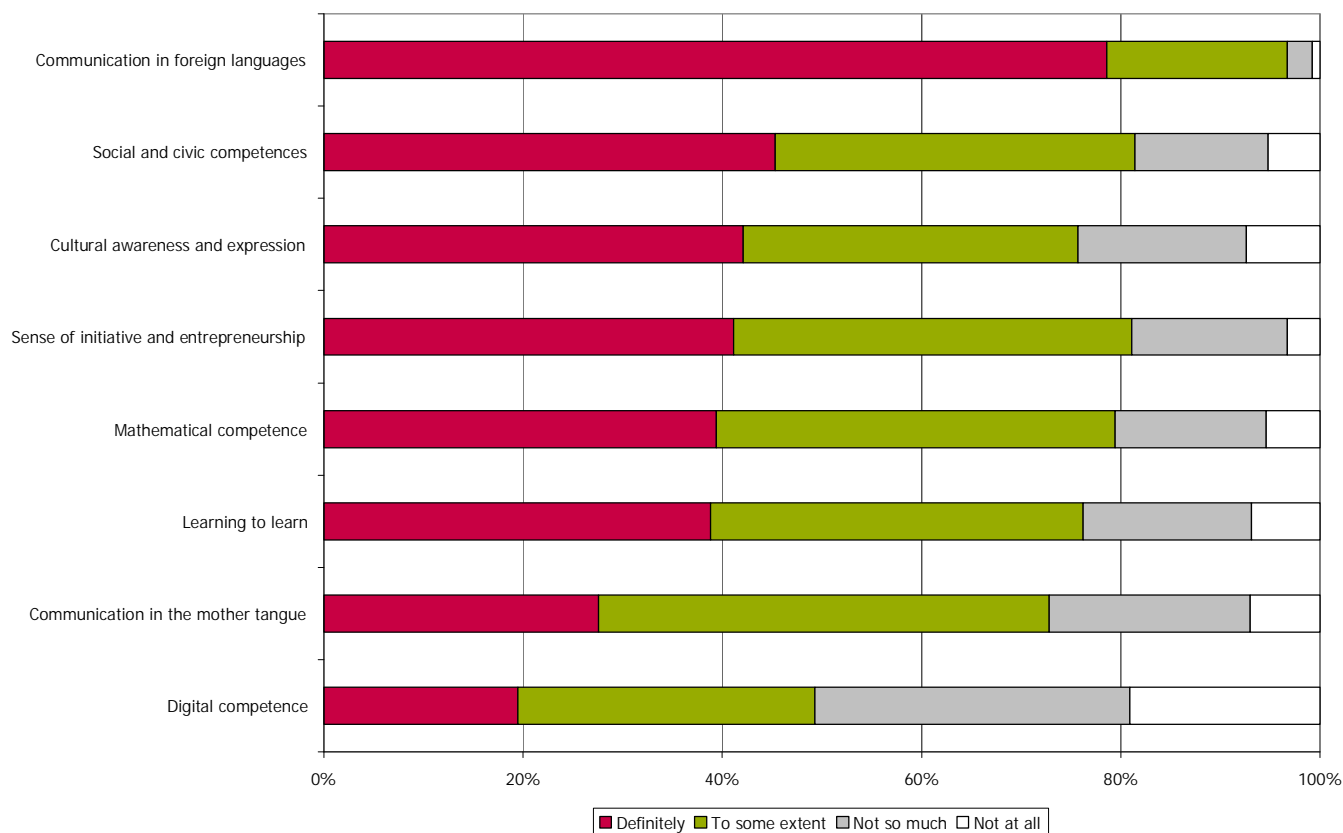
- Open to all young people aged 18¹ to 30 coming from the EU or from other countries of the world
- Involving young people, either individually or in groups, in voluntary activities in various fields, such as culture, youth, social care, cultural heritage, sports, environment, etc.
- Free of charge for volunteers, except for a possible contribution to the travel costs
- Involving different actors such as non-governmental organisations, local or regional public bodies, European NGOs, profit making bodies active in the field of volunteering, youth, culture or sport
- Involved more than 50 000 young volunteers since its launch in 1996 (in 2010, close to 7 000)
- Offering volunteering opportunities in 175 countries (main focus in 33 Programme Countries²)

¹ Young people with fewer opportunities can take part in EVS from the age of 16

² Youth in Action Programme Countries: 27 EU Member States, 3 EFTA/EEA Countries, Croatia, Switzerland and Turkey

IMPACT ON YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

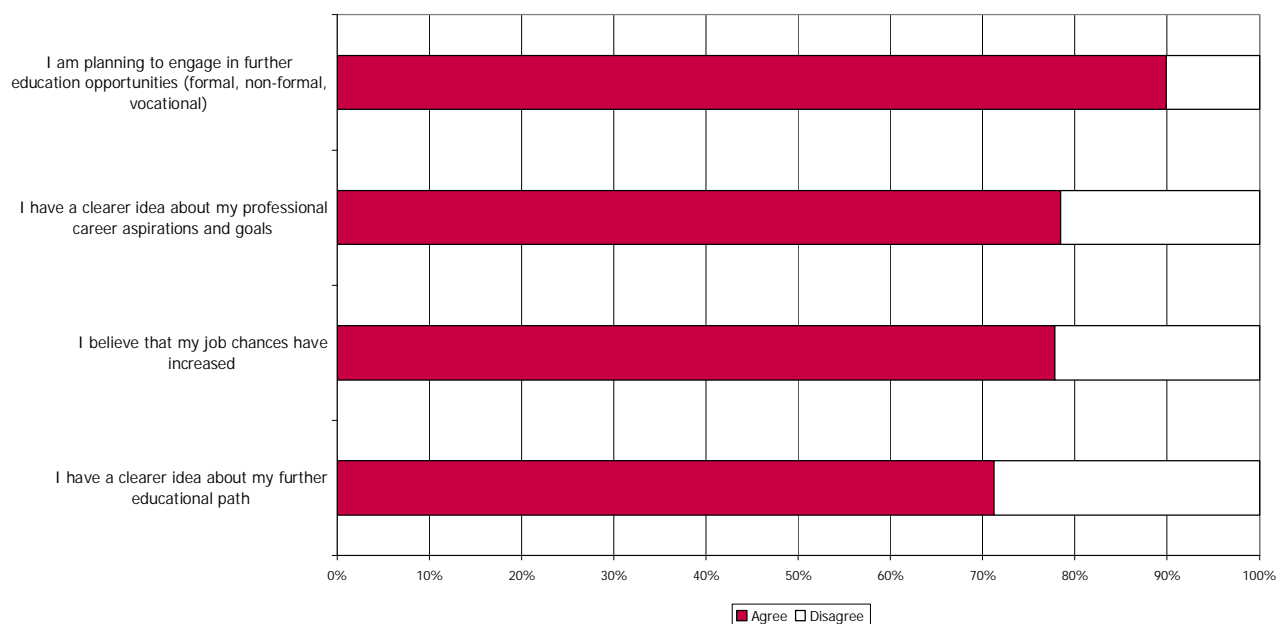
Average appreciation by young volunteers, for each of the Key competences³, of the extent to which they have increased their competences



"The project has made me more receptive for Europe's multi-culturality."
 - definitely: 65% - to some extent: 28%

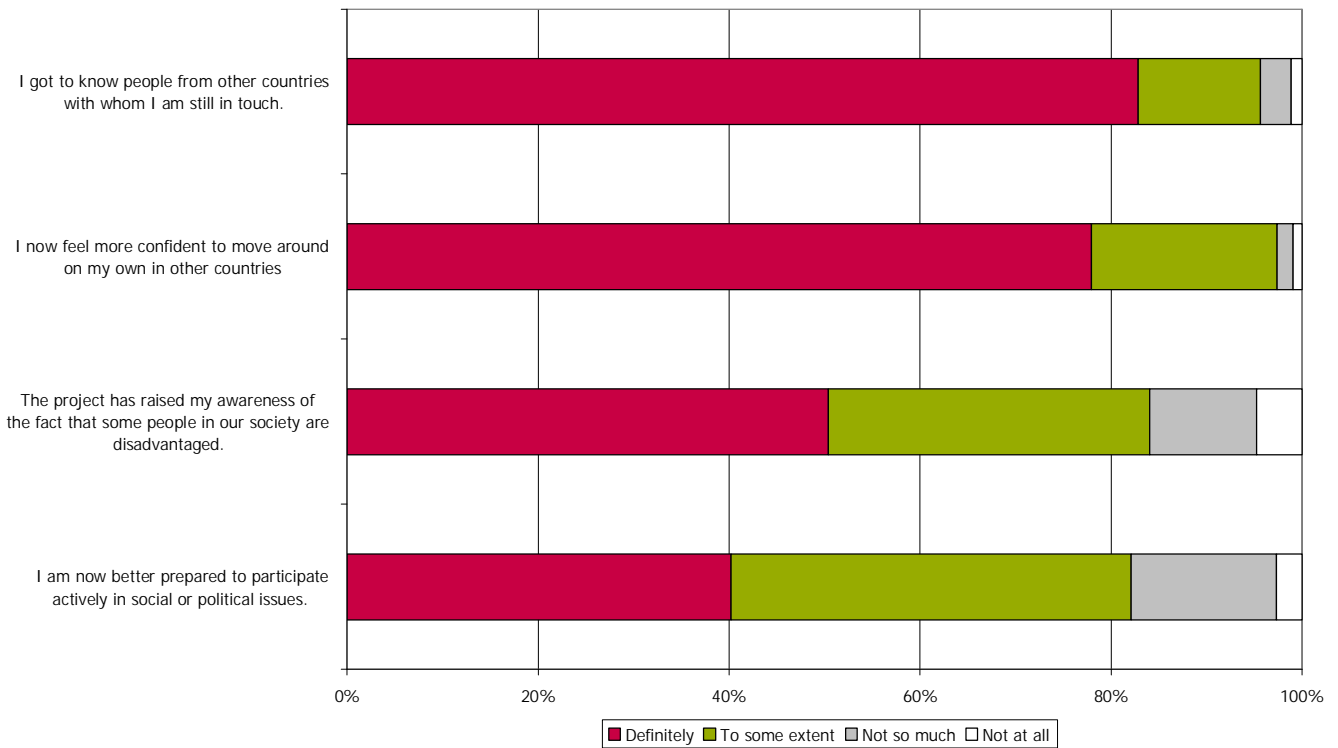
"I am now interested in European topics"
 - to a greater extent 62%

Impact on future educational and professional perspectives



³ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning

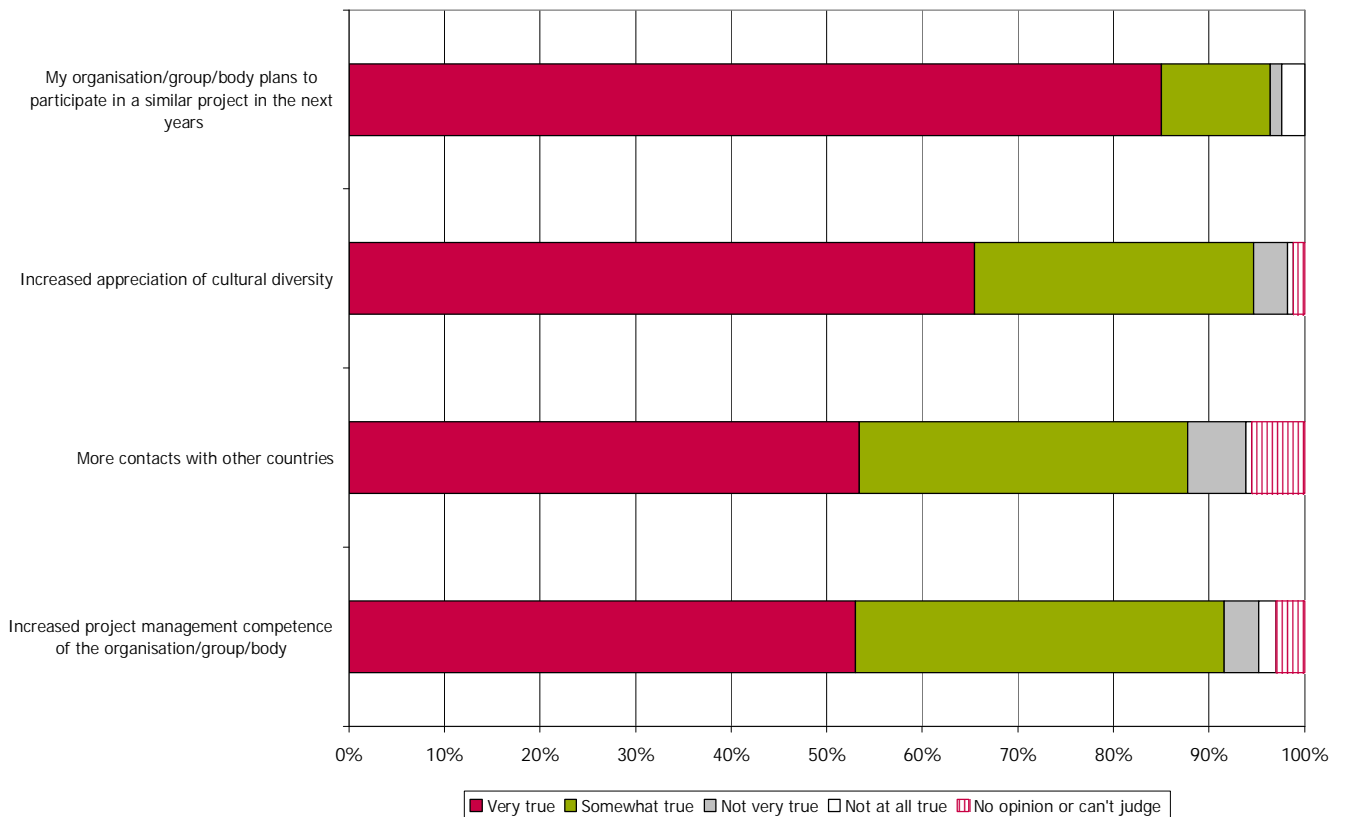
Impact on attitudes



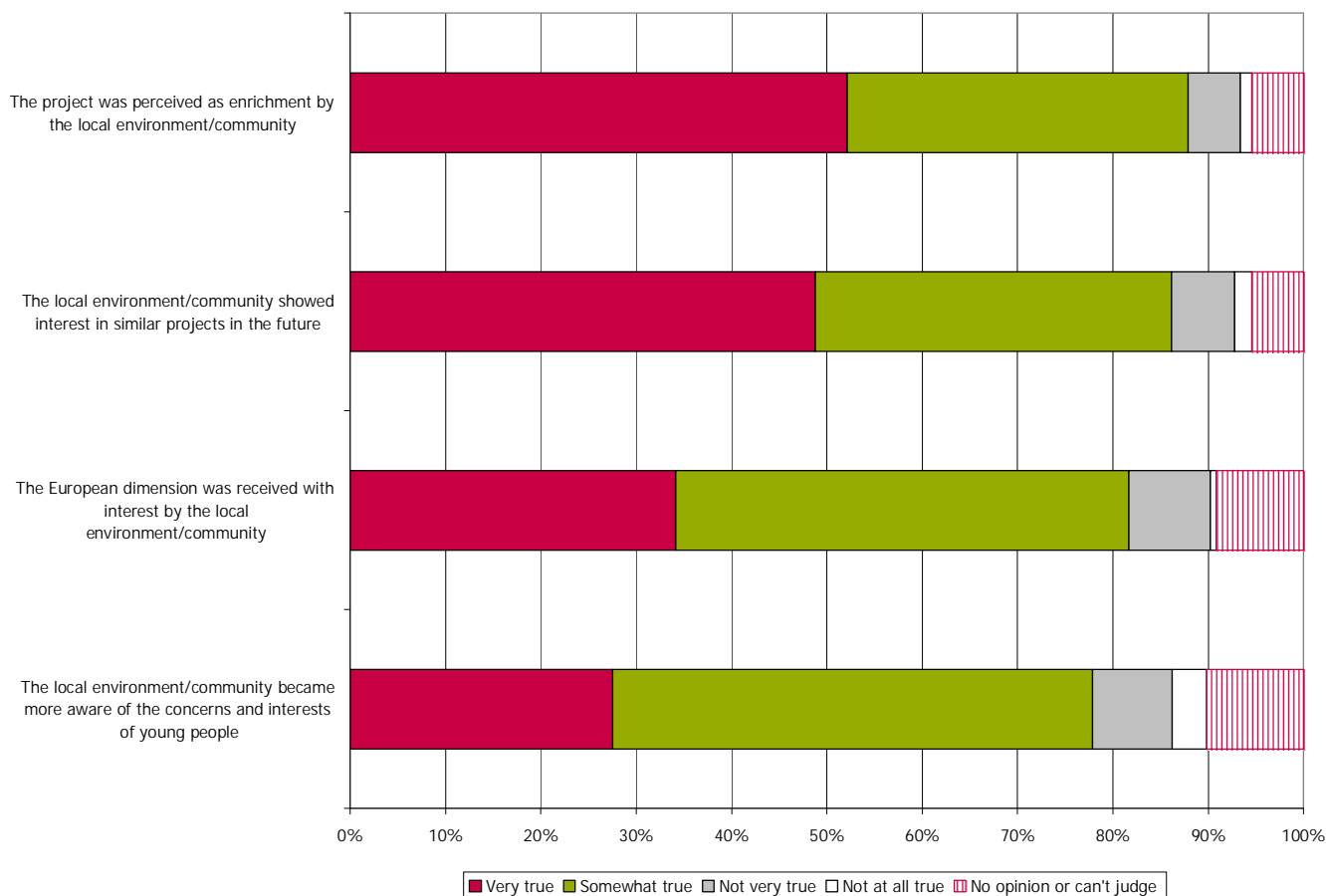
"I would recommend participation in a similar project to other young people"
 - definitely: 85% - to some extent: 12%

IMPACT ON ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN EVS

Impact on the work of the youth organisations



Impact on the local environment/community



"Participation was an enriching experience for my organisation"

- definitely: 83% - to some extent: 16%

"Participation was an enriching experience for me personally [as a youth worker]"

- definitely: 70% -to some extent: 26%

The European Voluntary Service is part of the Youth in Action Programme.

Over the four years 2007-2010:

- more than 527 000 persons (390 000 young people and 137 000 youth workers) have participated in Youth in Action;
- 30 100 projects were granted out of 61 000 projects submitted;
- Youth in Action involved annually around 20 000 promoters (youth organisations, informal groups of young people, public bodies...).

More information on the qualitative impact of the Programme is available at http://ec.europa.eu/youth/focus/focus1757_en.htm

More information on the statistical outputs of the Programme is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/glance/glance1544_en.htm

More information on the Youth in Action Programme is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm