

# Youth Partnership

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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



## Evaluation of participant inclusion levels within the EU Youth Dialogue

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## Acronyms

EET	Young people who are in employment, education or training
ESG	European Steering Group
EU	European Union
EUYC	EU Youth Conference
EUYD	EU Youth Dialogue
EUYS	EU Youth Strategy
INGYOs	International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations
LGBTI	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons
NEET	Young people who are not in employment, education or training
NWGs	National Working Groups
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of European Union
YFJ	European Youth Forum

## Executive summary

The mandate for this evaluation was given to the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership by the upcoming European Steering Group (ESG) for the 10<sup>th</sup> cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD), including the upcoming Trio Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Spain, Belgium, Hungary, European Commission, and the European Youth Forum (YFJ). It takes into account the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) which invites Member States to “Encourage and promote inclusive democratic participation of all young people in society and democratic processes” and “include diverse voices of young people in decision-making processes on all levels” through the EUYD.

The quality of social inclusion in the EUYD is examined through analysis of the data on the social backgrounds of participants. The research analyses the extent to which young people from minority backgrounds have accessed EUYD across the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> cycles of EUYD, as well as the gender ratios of participants across the same period. This data is compared to data on the general EU Youth population to identify patterns of over-representation and under-representation of specific groups at both European and national level. The research framework of ‘minority backgrounds’ is comparable to the concept of young people with fewer opportunities used within EU youth policy and programmes, though there are some sub-groups of young people with fewer opportunities that are not considered by the research. A limitation of the research is that it only measures the extent to which young people are ‘present’ within EUYD activities. Being ‘present’ is one dimension of inclusion, and there are other dimensions of inclusion not considered such as taking leadership roles and cultural acceptance.

Results indicate that, at European level:

- It can be crudely estimated that 49.5% of participants within EUYD are likely to be part of a minority group.
- Young people from ethnic minorities, religious minorities, young people with disabilities and LGBTI young people are over-represented within EUYD with each group having between two and three times the expected number of participants compared to their representation in the general population.
- The participation rates of young people from rural areas closely match the expected rate of participation (using Eurobarometer data as a benchmark).
- Young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) are slightly under-represented within EUYD, (compared to the Eurostat 2022 data on NEET rates).
- There are some observable changes in participation rates of minority groups over time but there is no overall consistent trend. Cycle to cycle changes are likely explained by varying political priorities of different cycles, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic during the 8<sup>th</sup> cycle.

At national level, analysis of minority group inclusion shows a more mixed picture. National Working Groups (NWGs) in some countries are more effective in engaging minority groups than in others. Of the countries supplying data:

- All countries show an over-representation of LGBTI young people.
- The large majority of countries show an over-representation of ethnic minority groups, religious minority groups and young people with disabilities.

- Representation levels of young people from rural areas is mixed, with just over half of countries showing over-representations and the remaining showing under-representation (resulting in the balanced representation at EU level).
- Findings on young people who are NEET are less reliable than findings on other minority groups due to limitations in EUYD data. However, young people who are NEET are the minority group which NWGs are least effective at engaging with. The overall inclusion of NEET young people within EUYD at EU level occurs primarily as a result of strong engagement with NEET young people within a small number of countries.

National variations are likely due to the quality and commitment to outreach, and inclusion work undertaken by the various NWGs and prioritisation of different minority groups at a national policy level. The results above take into account differing levels of minority groups within each country, and this is not likely to be an influencing factor.

In addition, the research also indicates that there is a clearly pronounced trend in the gender ratios of EUYD participants toward an over-representation of young women. This occurs at European level as well as within the large majority of countries. It is also increasing over time - two thirds of EUYD participants were female within the 9<sup>th</sup> Cycle of EUYD.

Key recommendations are to:

- Define and quantify EUYD outreach goals in a more strategic manner by agreeing at EU level a framework of national targets for expected participation rates of each minority group. This would help better establish the expected levels of representation and outreach, providing an operational definition of what is meant by inclusion of diverse voices.
- Develop support and guidance for NWGs to engage with specific minority groups. This could include practice sharing, targeted funding for activities with specific groups, advice on targeting strategies and political encouragement to enhance and monitor inclusion.
- Build on the good 'access' that minority groups and young women have to EUYD to promote 'inclusion', for instance, by encouraging leadership roles for young women and young people from minority groups. This could consider both roles within EUYD and how EUYD can provide a springboard into other forms of political participation.
- Consider how the EUYD consultation can better distinguish between the voices and concerns of specific social groups of young people and the overall consultation messages.
- Undertake further research and dialogue into the causes and potential policy responses to the over-representation of young women within EUYD.
- Consider improving EUYD data collection, particularly to identify levels of repeat participants and levels of education and economic exclusion amongst participants, the latter of which is known to be a factor associated with young people's political participation and is not currently measured within EUYD participant data.

## Introduction

The mandate for this evaluation was given to the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership by the upcoming European Steering Group (ESG) for the 10<sup>th</sup> cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) (July 2023 - December 2024), including the upcoming Trio Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Spain, Belgium, Hungary, European Commission and the European Youth Forum (YFJ) during their informal meetings on 3-4 March and 15-16 September 2022, in Brussels.

The 10<sup>th</sup> cycle of EUYD is taking place under the same Trio of the Presidencies which hosted the first cycle of then Structured Dialogue (1 January 2010 - 30 June 2011). This makes the 10<sup>th</sup> cycle a good moment to take stock of what has been done and how to proceed and strengthen the process. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the extent of social inclusion within the EUYD process, as the upcoming Trio is focusing on the Youth Goal #3 – Inclusive societies. It intends to look at what has been achieved and what can be adjusted and improved in the process and the outcome in order to strengthen the social inclusion aspect of EUYD.

### EUYD policy context and background

The common European youth policy agenda stems from the [2001 White paper on Youth policy](#) (European Commission 2001), which was the first policy document setting a common framework of cooperation in the field of European youth policy. The White paper was a result of the wide-ranging consultation, and it set a ground for the method of coordination and cooperation in the European youth field, involving young people.

The White paper was followed by the [Communication from the Commission to the Council of 22 October 2004 – Follow-up to the White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth: evaluation of activities conducted in the framework of European cooperation in the youth field](#) (European Commission 2004), in which the Commission, besides for taking the stock of the progress made since the publication of the White Paper, also suggests to the Council that:

“Young people should be consulted regularly, in a structured and effective way, at both national and European levels”

(European Commission 2004)

Introduction of the Structured Dialogue with Youth and Youth organisations became tangible with the [2009 Framework of Cooperation](#) (European Commission 2009). The goal of the dialogue was to involve thousands of young people and their opinions, on a regular basis, in the EU and Member States’ policy making. The first cycle of the Structured Dialogue was run from 1 January 2010, with the Trio of the Presidencies mentioned above. It included a focus on youth employment, which influenced the creation of the Youth Guarantee.

The consultation process was included in further policy instruments in November 2018, when the [EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#) was adopted by the Youth Ministers in the Council of the European Union for the period 2019-2027 (European Commission 2018a). The Strategy focuses on three main dimensions under the titles connect, engage and empower and encourages a cross-sectoral

cooperation in respect to issues concerning young people. The Strategy includes specific annexes on the EUYD Youth Dialogue and the EU Youth Goals among others.

The EUYD is a key youth participation mechanism at EU level aiming to bring youth voice to the EU policy making. It is operational in all EU-27 states, though the national name for the process does vary between countries. Its main element is the dialogue between young people, youth organisations and policy and decision makers, as well as experts, researchers and other relevant civil society actors. 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. It builds on the achievements of past dialogue processes (Structured Dialogue), with the aim of including more decision-makers and young people in the dialogue activities. Particular attention is given to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in decision-making processes.

The specific objectives of the EU Youth Dialogue are to:

- “encourage the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe in line with Article 165 Treaty on the Functioning of European Union (TFEU);
- promote equal participation between young women and men;
- include diverse voices and to ensure openness to all young people to contribute to policy-shaping;
- bring about positive change in youth policy at local, regional, national and European level;
- strengthen young people's citizenship competencies and sense of belonging to the society and the European Union.”

[\(European Commission 2019a\)](#)

This focus on diverse voices demonstrates the political mandate to promote social inclusion within the EUYD. Inclusion is central to meaningful youth participation and effective engagement of young people in policy making. The commitment to inclusive participation is further underpinned by the guiding principles of the EU Youth Strategy which acknowledge that “young people are not a homogenous group, and thus have diverse needs, backgrounds, life situations and interests, the EU Youth Strategy should promote activities and policies that are inclusive for all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities and/or those whose voices may be overlooked” (European Commission 2019a). The EU Youth Strategy further invites Member States to “Encourage and promote inclusive democratic participation of all young people in society and democratic processes” and “include diverse voices of young people in decision-making processes on all levels” through the EUYD. Youth Goal #3 - Inclusive societies also has the target to “Ensure that marginalised young people are participating in all decision-making processes and are key players, particularly in processes concerning their own rights, wellbeing and interests”.

The EU Council Resolution (2019/C 189/01) outlines the governance of EUYD, in regard to the role of the ESG and National Working Groups (NWGs). Through the ESG, The Trio Presidency takes the lead role in steering the implementation of the EUYD. The ESG takes responsibility for a variety of tasks including setting the theme of the cycle, designing the consultation framework and, via the individual Presidencies, the organisation of the three EU Youth Conferences (EUYC) that occur within each cycle. NWGs are the entities at Member State level, that are tasked with contributing to the organisation of



consultations, promotion and impact of the dialogue with youth. Additionally, International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs) play a role within each cycle and are commonly invited to send participants to the EU Youth Conferences.

## **Methodology**

The extent of social inclusion in the EUYD process can be examined through analysis of the data on the social backgrounds of participants. If EUYD was perfectly demographically inclusive, the background of participants would be a perfect cross-section of the population of young Europeans. However, if a particular social group is significantly over-represented or under-represented when compared to the population, it can be assumed that there is some factor contributing to this. In the case of under-representation of marginalised groups, this is most likely to be social exclusion and/or access barriers.

Within this research the term ‘demographic inclusion’ is used to describe the extent that participants from minority groups are represented in the makeup of EUYD participants. An alternative term for this, used commonly in social research, is a representative sample. A representative sample is when a sample of participants from a larger group accurately represents the characteristics of a larger population. However, the term ‘representative’ is avoided within this evaluation because it risks confusion with the concept of democratic representation. Young representatives of democratic youth organisations such as National Youth Councils can be said to ‘democratically represent’ the young people in their country. Democratic representation arises from the democratic procedures of those organisations and not the social backgrounds of the representatives. This concept is also important to EUYD. It is necessary to clearly distinguish it from demographic inclusion and representation.

**Being present in a program or activity is not the same as being included.** “An inclusive youth [project] is where a young person will feel welcome, secure and comfortable and that they can celebrate their identity especially those aspects of their identity that make them different from others such as their culture or ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, gender, health including mental health, education, parental status, involvement in juvenile justice, being a young carer, etc.” (NYCI:nd). Assessing these dimensions of inclusion are beyond the possibilities of this research. Thus, this evaluation aims to give a more robust analysis of ‘demographic inclusion’ levels within EUYD, recognising that this is only one dimension of social inclusion.

Specific objectives of the methodology are to:

1. Compare the proportion of young people from minority groups participating within EUYD to the proportion of young people from minority groups in the general EU population, at both national and EU levels.
2. Analyse the gender ratios of EUYD participants at national and EU level to identify the levels of demographic inclusion in relation to gender.
3. Identify any trends in demographic inclusion at EU level over time.

To achieve the first two objectives, participant demographic data collected by the NWGs from EUYD cycles 6 to 9 was aggregated to produce estimated participation rates for various minority groups, and a gender ratio, across all four cycles. This was done at national level and EU-27 level. These

participation rates were then compared to a set of national and EU-27 benchmark data. For the final objective, participation rates between cycles at EU-27 level were analysed.

In the case of participation rates of young people who are in NEET situations, two different sets of EUYD participation rates were produced to account for the different ways data was collected between cycles. The first calculation (henceforth, *NEET rate: underestimates*) uses data from EUYD 7-9 but overestimates the number of young people who are in education employment or training (EET) and therefore underestimates the NEET participation rate. The second calculation (*henceforth, NEET rate: strict*) is a more accurate calculation of the NEET participation rate. However, it only uses data from EUYD9, where the number of young people who were EET were more accurately collected than other cycles and is therefore based on a much smaller sample size (see appendix III for calculation formula).

There are limitations to this methodology, most notably the limitations in EUYD participant data itself. The approach used in this evaluation is pragmatic and designed to inform EUYD and the work of the European Commission, the EU Presidencies and the NWGs. However, the participation rates are the best possible estimates and are still subject to some level of error.

### EUYD participant data and its limitations

NWG outreach data onwards has been collected nationally since the 6th cycle of EUYD. The data collection framework for each cycle is set by the ESG. It is broadly consistent, with some variations between cycles linked to respective ESG political priorities. Data is collected by NWGs as part of the EUYD consultation phase, and then nationally aggregated before being submitted to the ESG. The data collected used in this study are:

- The genders of participants (male, female, other gender, not disclosed/not asked) (collected in EUYD 6-9).
- The numbers of participants who self-identify as:
  - Being from an ethnic minority group (collected in EUYD 6-9),
  - Being from a religious minority group (collected in EUYD 7-9),
  - Being a disabled person (collected in EUYD 6-9),
  - Being LGBTI (collected in EUYD 6-9),
  - Living in a rural area (collected in EUYD 7-9),
  - Being from a majority group relating to each of the categories above respectively,
  - Status is not disclosed in relation to the categories above.
- The number of participants who self-identify as:
  - being NEET (collected in EUYD 7-9),
  - being in Education, Employment OR Training (collected in EUYD9),
  - being in education (collected EUYD 7-8),
  - being in employment (collected EUYD 7-8),
  - Status not disclosed in relation to education or employment (collected in EUYD 7-9).
- Total participants, including participants for whom demographic data was not supplied/collected (collected in EUYD 6-9).

A summary of this data is shown in the appendix I.

The data collection framework for EUYD is based on the concept of identifying minority groups, i.e., social groups which co-exist within the population of a territory but are fewer in number, and therefore likely to be marginalised when compared to the major social group within the territory. This concept is common in right-based approaches to policy and demographic analysis. This concept of minority groups is distinct from the framing of “young people with fewer opportunities” used in the EU Youth Strategy and elaborated in the [Erasmus+ and European Solidary Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy](#) (European Commission 2021), which identifies “young people who, for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons, due to their migrant background, or for reasons such as disability or educational difficulties or for any other reason, including a reason that could give rise to discrimination under Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, face obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the [E+/ESC] Programme”.

Though the two categorisation systems are not identical, they are closely comparable. However, young people with fewer opportunities is broader and includes several categories such as health barriers, or social barriers which are not included in the categories of minority groups used in EUYD. Therefore, a measure of young people with fewer opportunities are therefore likely to include a greater number of young people than a measure of minority groups within EUYD. In both frameworks, the categories are not exclusive, and it is possible for a participant to fulfil the criteria for multiple categories. This is especially the case for categories relating to educational and economic exclusion which are more strongly featured within the category of young people with fewer opportunities. Educational and economic exclusion are widely accepted to be very closely correlated. Furthermore, educational and economic exclusion can often be a result of exclusion or marginalisation relating to other categories, such as having a disability, or facing geographical barriers relating to living in a rural area.

Table 1: Comparison of Young People with fewer opportunities sub-categories to EUYD minority group categories

Young people with fewer opportunities sub-category*	Relationship to EUYD minority groups categories
Disabilities	Directly comparable to the EUYD minority group – young people who identify as being disabled.
Health problems	Not included in the EUYD minority group subcategories.
Barriers linked to education and training systems	Likely to include a substantial proportion of the EUYD minority groups relating to NEET but will also include other young people who are not directly measured within EUYD minority group categories (e.g., Young Prisoners, Young People in Alternative Care).
Cultural differences	Would include both EUYD ethnic minority and religious minority groups.
Social barriers	Not directly included in the EUYD minority groups.
Economic barriers	Likely to include a substantial proportion of the EUYD minority groups relating to NEET but will also include other young people who are not included within EUYD minority group categories such as those living in poverty.
Barriers linked to discrimination	Likely to include the EUYD minority groups relating to young people from LGBTI backgrounds, ethnic and religious minority groups, and young people with disabilities. May also include young people facing discrimination who are not identified as EUYD minority groups (e.g. people who are HIV+).
Geographical barriers	Closely comparable to EUYD minority group relating to young people from rural areas.

\*Full definition of each category can be found in *Implementation guidelines Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy (European Commission 2021)*

EUYD is a participatory process and meaningful engagement of young people is prioritised over participant monitoring. As a result, there are limitations in the EU participant data. These are:

- 1) The data does not identify repeat participants between cycles. A participant taking part in multiple cycles is counted as a separate individual in each cycle. This means the overall number of individuals taking part is overestimated across cycles. However, this applies to both the minority group and the majority group data, meaning proportions of minority to majority groups will not likely be affected.
- 2) The data reported to the ESG is not intersectional. For example, whilst the number of female participants is known and the number of young people from ethnic minority participants is known, this cannot be used to accurately identify the number of females from minority ethnic backgrounds. This prevents any intersectional analysis of groups.
- 3) Educational levels and economic background of participants are not monitored. This limitation is notable. Youth research shows that people from lower educational backgrounds and from lower income backgrounds are less likely to take part in political participation (Dezelan, T. and Moxon, D 2021).

- 4) Data is not routinely collected on participants from the EUYCs. The statistical impact of this to the dataset is negligible. However, EUYCs are a central part of the EUYD process and the lack of dedicated data on their participants prevents analysis of inclusion of EUYCs<sup>1</sup>.
- 5) Some activities conducted by NWGs (such as social media polls and street work) are not conducive to participant monitoring and demographic data is not collected by NWGs during these activities. Thus, NWGs typically do not supply data on all of the participants they work with.
- 6) The categories of participant data requested from NWGs by each ESG has evolved and extended over the various cycles. For example, whereas data on participants' genders and sexuality has been requested since the 6th cycle, data on rurality and religion was only requested since the 7th cycle (see previous section). As a result, not all categories of participant data are collected for all cycles.
- 7) It is common for NWGs not to report data on all of the data categories requested by each ESG. On average across all cycles, NWGs have supplied data for 57.3% of the data categories requested by the ESG (See Appendix I: EUYD data Collection Rates, Graph 12). These gaps in collection are known to be a result of:
  - National political sensitivity around demographic data collection (Germany, France) leading to NWGs who routinely do not collect participant data or collect data in only very few categories on some occasions.
  - Some NWGs (Poland, Greece, Romania, Slovenia) did not submit EUYD consultation reports during some cycles leading to lack of participant data from those countries during those cycles.
  - NWG preferences to avoid data collection for data categories they consider more sensitive. Adjusting for changes in the collection framework across cycles, Gender is the most common category of data for which NWGs supply data closely followed by rurality. Ethnicity, disability, sexuality and religion are less routinely supplied by NWGs (see Appendix I: EUYD Data Collection Rates, Graph 13).

Despite the gaps the amount of data available on participants is still substantial. The data can be compared to the total number of EUYD participants across EUYD 6-9 which is reported by NWGs to be 131 607 young people.

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<sup>1</sup>The Austrian EUYC is the only conference which monitored the background of participants. Though based on a small sample, it indicated that conference participants were less diverse than the EUYD as a whole.

Table 2: Numeric summary of EUYD participants

	Number of participants for which demographic data is available	Number of participants for which demographic data is available as a percentage of total participants across EUYD 6-9
Gender (collected EUYD 6-9)	87,451	66.45%
Ethnicity (collected EUYD 6-9)	63,144	47.98%
Religion (collected EUYD 7-9)	32,253	24.51%
Sexuality (collected EUYD 6-9)	48,715	37.02%
Disability (collected EUYD 6-9)	63,706	48.41%
Rurality (collected EUYD 7-9)	46,319	35.19%
NEET (collected EUYD 7-9) + estimated EET numbers for EUYD 7-9*	64,275	48.84%
NEET + EET (collected EUYD9) **	7289	5.54%

\*used for *NEET rate: underestimates*

\*\* used for *NEET rate: strict*

### Benchmark data

In this methodology benchmark data acts as reference data to represent the composition of the EU youth population, against which the EUYD data can be compared. Data from [Special Eurobarometer 493 Discrimination in the European Union](#) (European Commission 2019) was chosen to provide the majority of benchmark data. Eurobarometer 493 was chosen as it includes a question bank (QSD2) designed to identify the proportion of individuals in the EU who self-identify as part of minority groups in terms of ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and disability which uses a question phrasing highly similar to those used in EUYD, with data available at national level for the 15-34 age group. The same Eurobarometer survey includes a question on the number of people who identify as living in a rural village, which is somewhat similar to the question phrasing in EUYD on rural minorities. In this case national level Eurobarometer data for the whole population (age 15+) was chosen for benchmark, as this data was not available by age category. The close compatibility of Eurobarometer questions to EUYD questions along with availability of national level, age-based data, makes it a suitable choice for benchmarking data.

EUROSTAT (2022a, 2022b) data on NEET rates was used to provide the benchmarks for the NEET categories. Two sets of benchmark data were used to provide a separate benchmark for the different NEET rates measured in this research. These were:

- An average of the annual NEET rate 2019-2021 - used to benchmark *NEET rates: underestimates*
- The NEET rate for Q2 2022. - used to benchmark *NEET rates: strict*

These measures were chosen to match historic NEET rates to the timing of EUYD data collection as closely as possible, based on the EUROSTAT data available at the time of publication.

Specific benchmark data for gender was not produced, but a 50/50 male:female ratio can be assumed as a benchmark. Although there are marginally higher proportions of females in the general population than males, the EUYD data trends on gender are so pronounced that a 50:50 assumption is a sufficiently accurate benchmark. The low proportions of young people identifying as “other gender” within EUYD make this category not suitable for comparisons to benchmarks.

### **Findings: Minority groups at EU-27 level**

As shown in graph 1, at the EU-27 level:

- The participation rate of ethnic minorities, religious minorities, young people with disabilities and LGBTI young people exceeds the benchmark data. Between two and three times the amount of people from these groups are involved in EUYD than would be expected if participants were selected at random from the general population. 95% confidence interval tests show that these differences are statistically significant and young people from these categories are significantly over-represented within EUYD.
- The participation rates of rural youth are closely comparable to the benchmark data. 95% confidence interval tests show that rural youth are not significantly over-represented or under-represented within EUYD.
- There are fewer young people who are NEET within EUYD when compared to the benchmark data, though the difference is relatively small in practice. 95% confidence intervals show that that young people who are NEET are significant under-represented within EUYD<sup>2</sup>.

Using these participation rates, it can be crudely estimated that 49.5% of all EUYD participants are likely to be from any one of the analysed minority groups (with a maximum possible of 61.17%, and minimum of 32.33%)<sup>3</sup>. This is higher than the estimated 30% of participants in E+: Youth KA1 actions who are young people with fewer opportunities (European Commission, 2018b).

These results suggest that, taken as a whole, EUYD has been quite successful at proactively targeting and including young people from minority groups of all categories except young people who are NEET. Without successful pro-active targeting and inclusion work, it would be expected that all minority groups would be under-represented, mirroring the general patterns of inequality within society. The under-representation of young people who are NEET suggests that targeting and inclusion work is less effective with this group. One of the ways of potentially increasing their

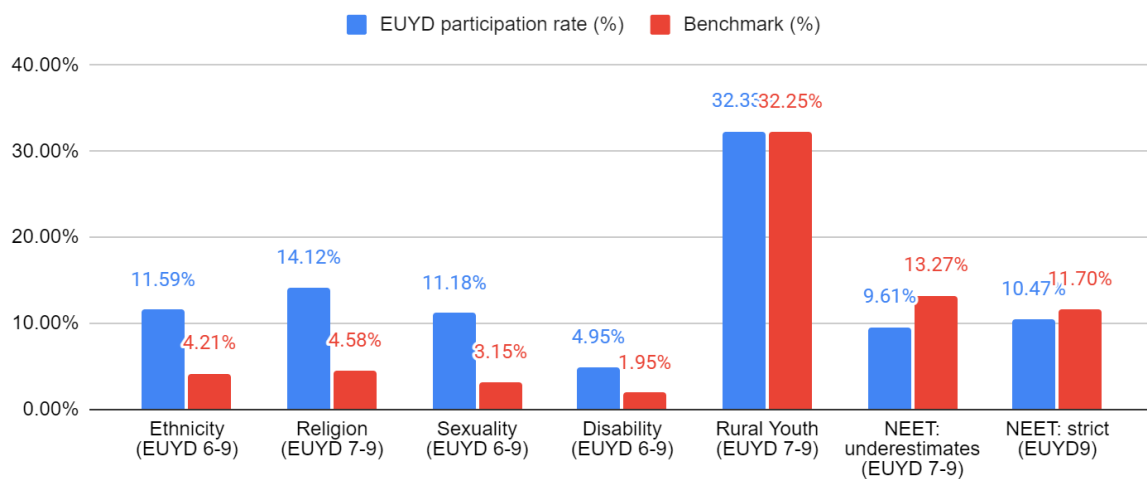
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<sup>2</sup> The *NEET: strict* category was used for testing. *NEET: Underestimates* is not suitable for statistical analysis due to its known inaccuracies. Benchmark data for NEET rates is based on exceptionally large sample sizes, making most small differences statistically significant.

<sup>3</sup> Based on probability calculations (see appendix III). There are no data collection measures within EUYD that count the total number of participants from ANY minority backgrounds.

participation could be to run the consultations in local areas with high NEET rates. However, not all groups face the same barriers and challenges when it comes to social and political inclusion. It may be the case that reaching young people who are NEET is also more challenging than reaching other groups. Within each minority group category analysed there will exist various sub-groups. It should be noted that over or under-representation may still exist within these subgroups. For example, the religious or ethnic minority group categories may contain within them disproportionate ratios of specific religions or ethnicities.

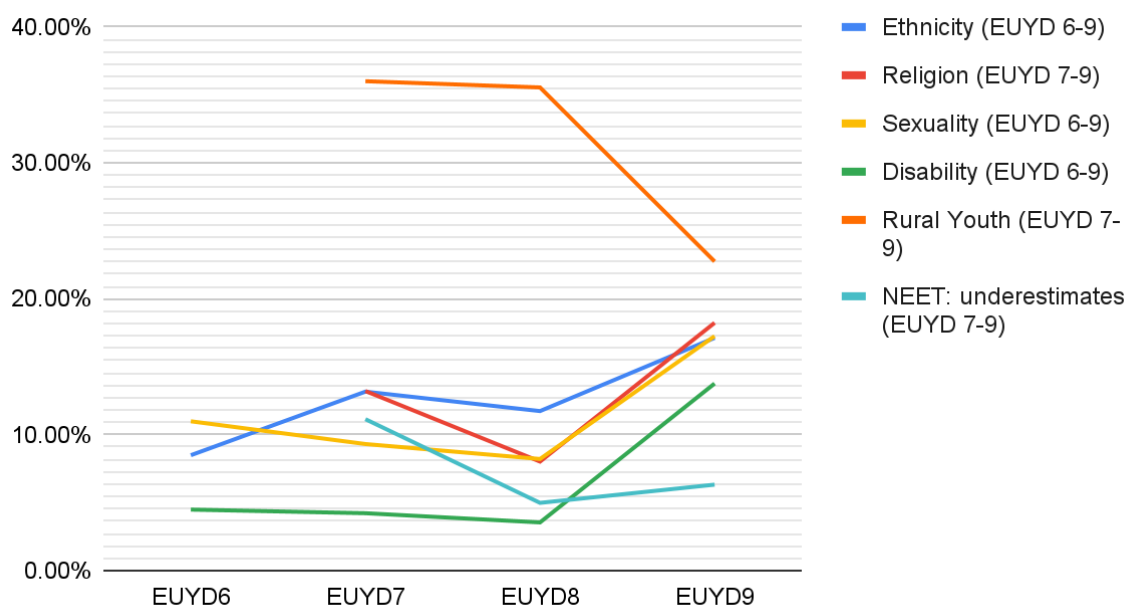
**Graph 1: EUYD Minority group participation rates compared to EU-27 benchmarks**



There are some observable changes in participation rates of minority groups over time, but no overall trend. Graph 2 shows the participation rate for each minority group by cycle. In the case of sexuality, religion, disability and ethnicity it indicates a small downturn in EUYD8 followed by a moderate increase in EUYD9. This is likely explained by the context of the cycles. EUYD8 took place under Covid-19 social distancing restrictions and in EUYD9 part of the ESG consultation framework asked NWGs to focus specifically on marginalised groups of young people. The decrease in participation rates of young people in rural areas between EUYD8 and EUYD9 is more pronounced. This again might be explained by context. The Croatian Presidency introduced a focus on rural young people in EUYD7 which likely sustained into EUYD8. In EUYD9 NWGs likely placed less emphasis on working in rural areas and more on young people in other marginalised groups.



**Graph 2: EU-27 Minority group participation rates over time**



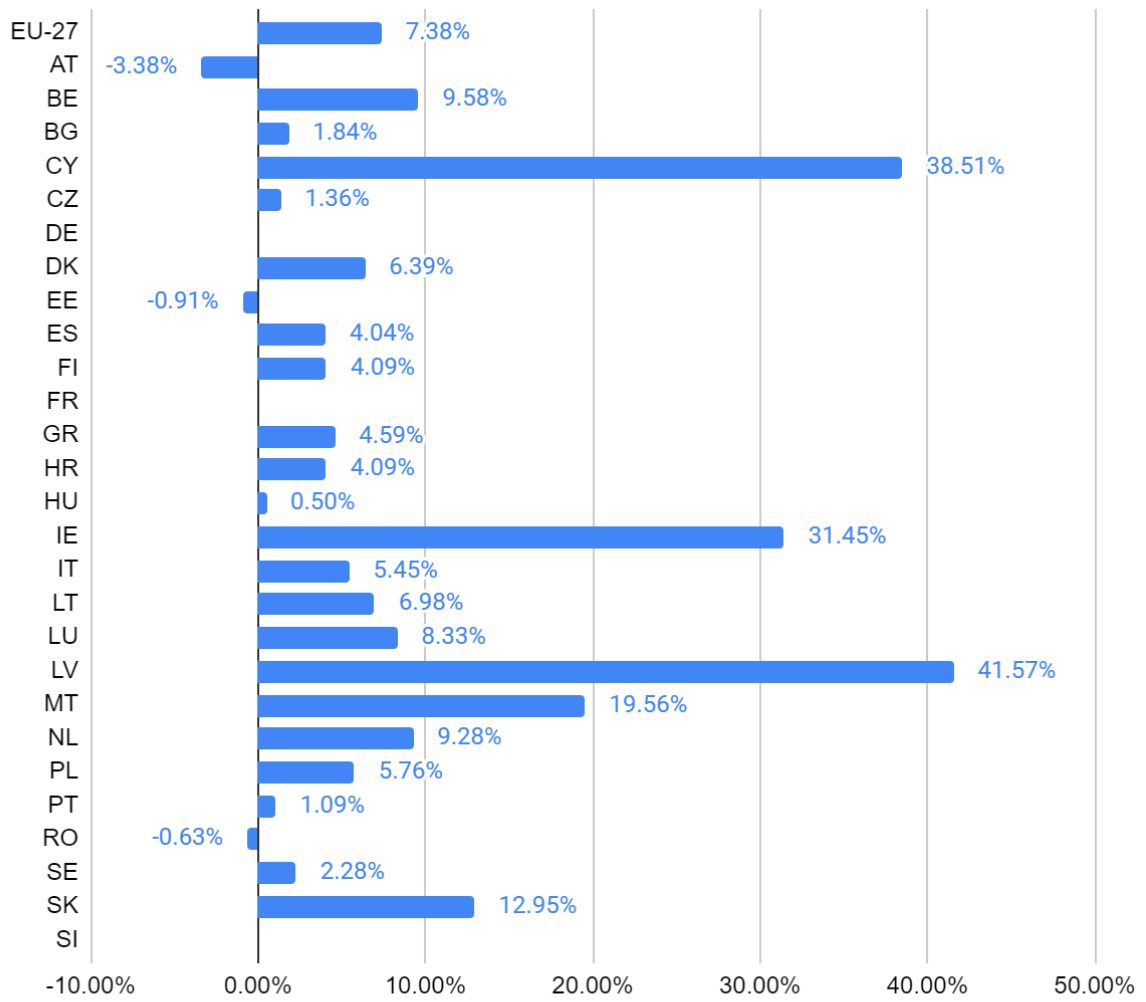
## Findings: Minority groups at National level

### Ethnic and religious minority groups

Comparing ethnic minority national participation rates to national benchmarks indicates that the majority of countries (n= 21) exceed their national benchmarks and 3 fall below it, with no benchmark data available for a further 3 countries (Graph 3). A similar pattern is seen comparing religious minority national participation rates to national benchmarks where 20 countries score above their national benchmark and 4 score below it, with no data available on a further 4 countries (Graph 4). As with the EU level data, there may still exist various over-representation or under-representations of specific ethnic and religious minority groups, within the overall categories.

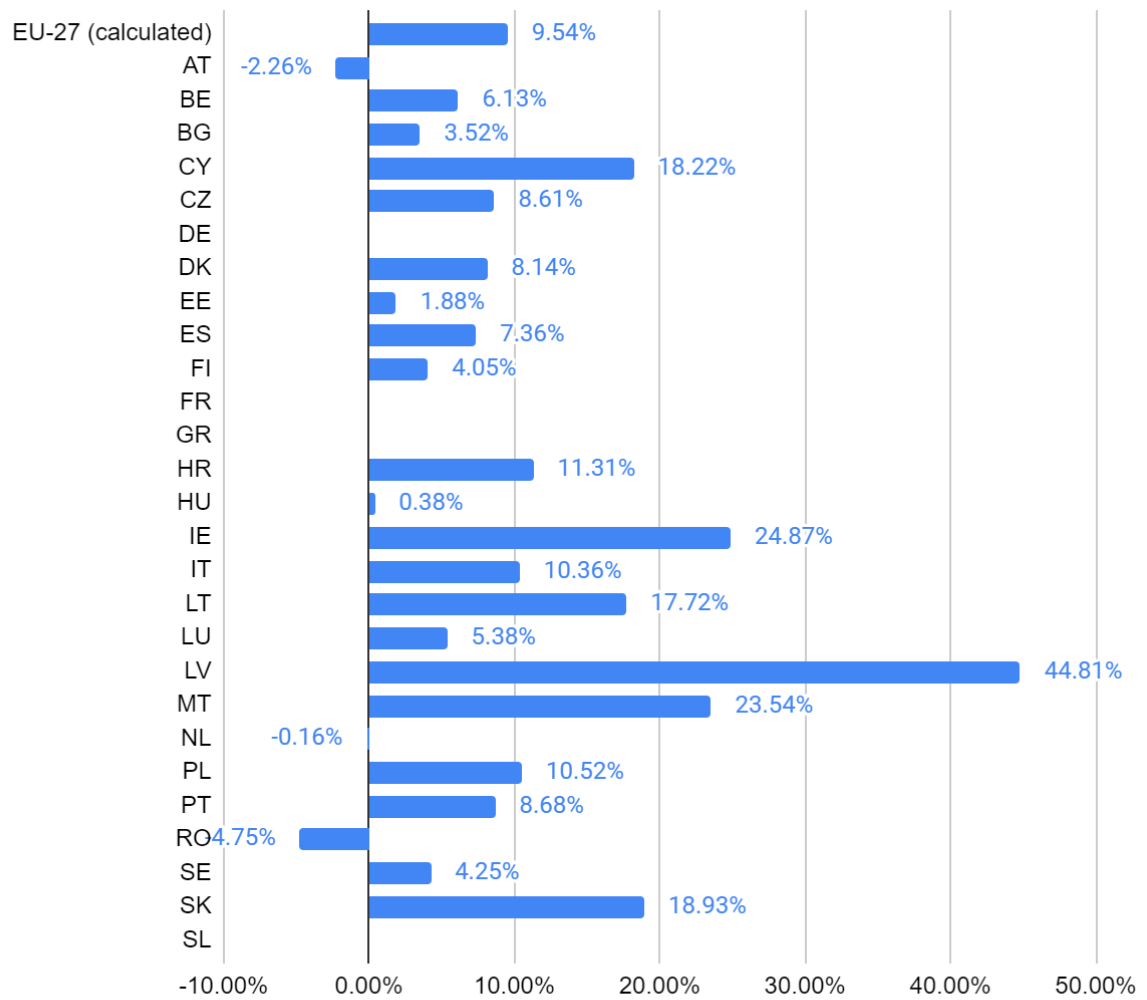
In both categories there is considerable variation of the extent to which countries score above their benchmarks. Latvia, Cyprus and Ireland are notably substantially higher. Patterns across countries are likely a result of the extent to which NWGs target their EUYD activities at specific communities. It is common for ethnic or religious minority groups to live within specific regions or neighbourhoods, and therefore running activities in these areas will attract more young people from these backgrounds.

Graph 3: Ethnic minority participation rates: Difference from benchmarks (EUJD6-9)



Absolute difference between percentages (Participant % minus Benchmark %)

Graph 4: Religious minority participation rates: Difference from benchmarks (EUYD 7-9)



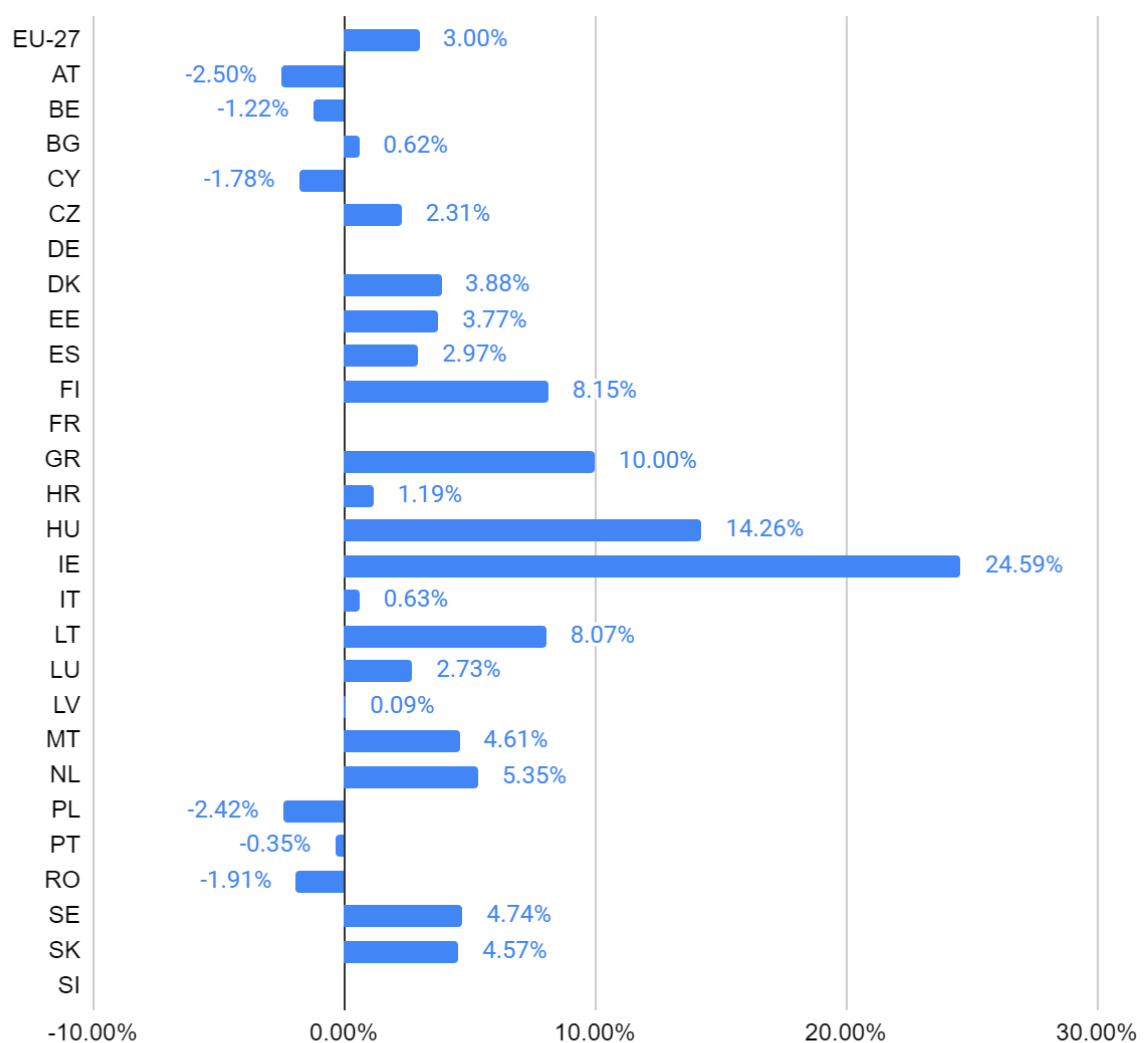
Absolute difference between percentages (Participant % minus Benchmark %)

## Young people with disabilities

Comparing participation rates of young people with disabilities to national benchmarks indicates that the majority of countries (n= 18) exceed their national benchmarks and 6 fall below it, with no benchmark data available for a further 3 countries. (Graph 5).

There is considerable variation between countries, Ireland and Hungary are notably substantially higher than their benchmarks. Patterns across countries are likely a result of the extent to which NWGs are able to make their EUYD activities accessible to young people with disabilities. The extent to which a specific NWG is able to adapt their work to cater to a wide range of needs and to proactively recruit young people to their activities will have been a significant feature. As most NWGs exceed their benchmarks it seems that most are able to do this sufficiently.

Graph 5: Disability participation rates: Difference from benchmarks (EUYD 6-9)

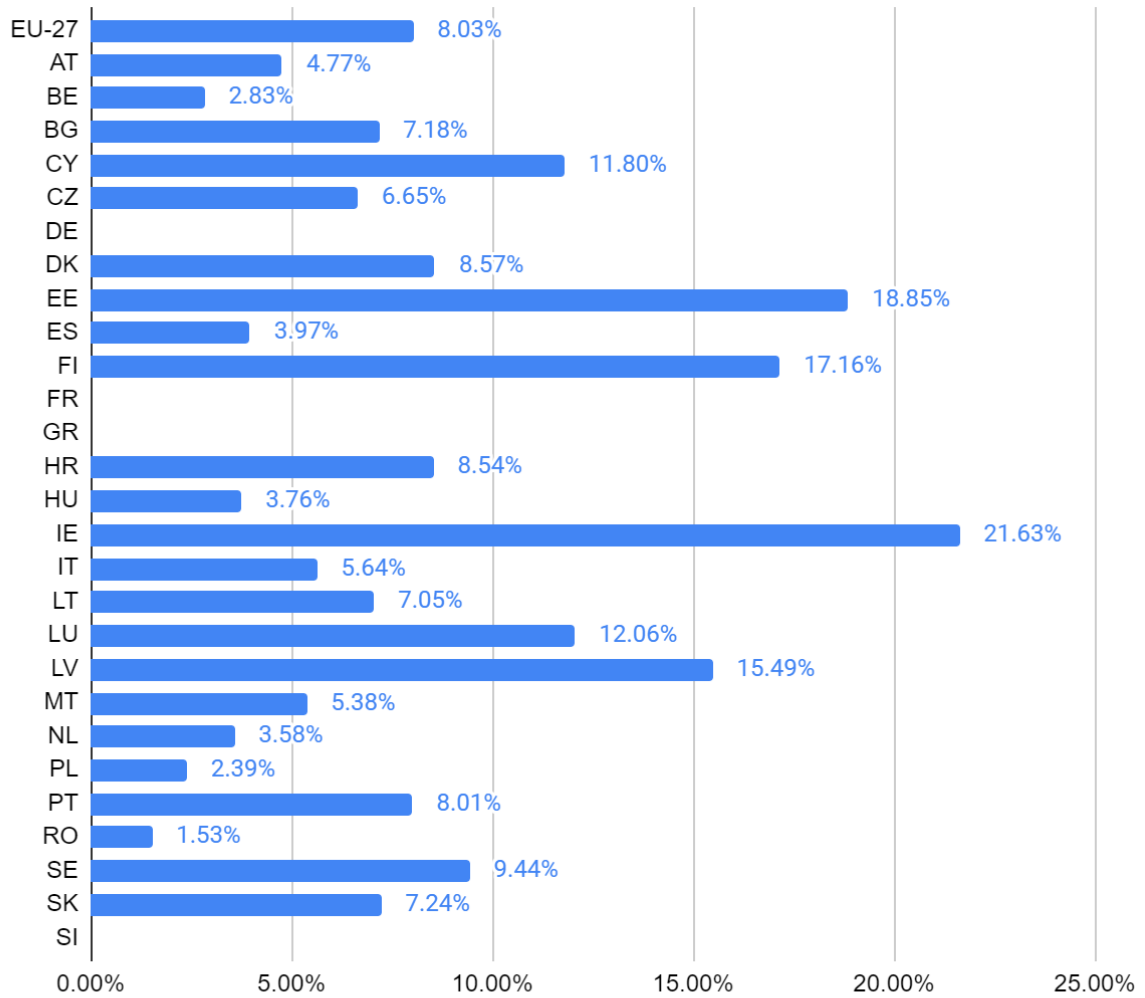


*Absolute difference between percentages (Participant % minus Benchmark %)*

## Young LGBTI people

Graph 6 shows the national participation rates of young LGBTI people compared to national benchmarks. All reporting countries (n=23) substantially exceeded their benchmarks, though there is considerable variation of the extent to which they are exceeded. This is likely to reflect a commitment to inclusion of young LGBTI people across all NWGs.

**Graph 6: Sexual minority participation rates: Difference from benchmarks (EUYD6-9)**

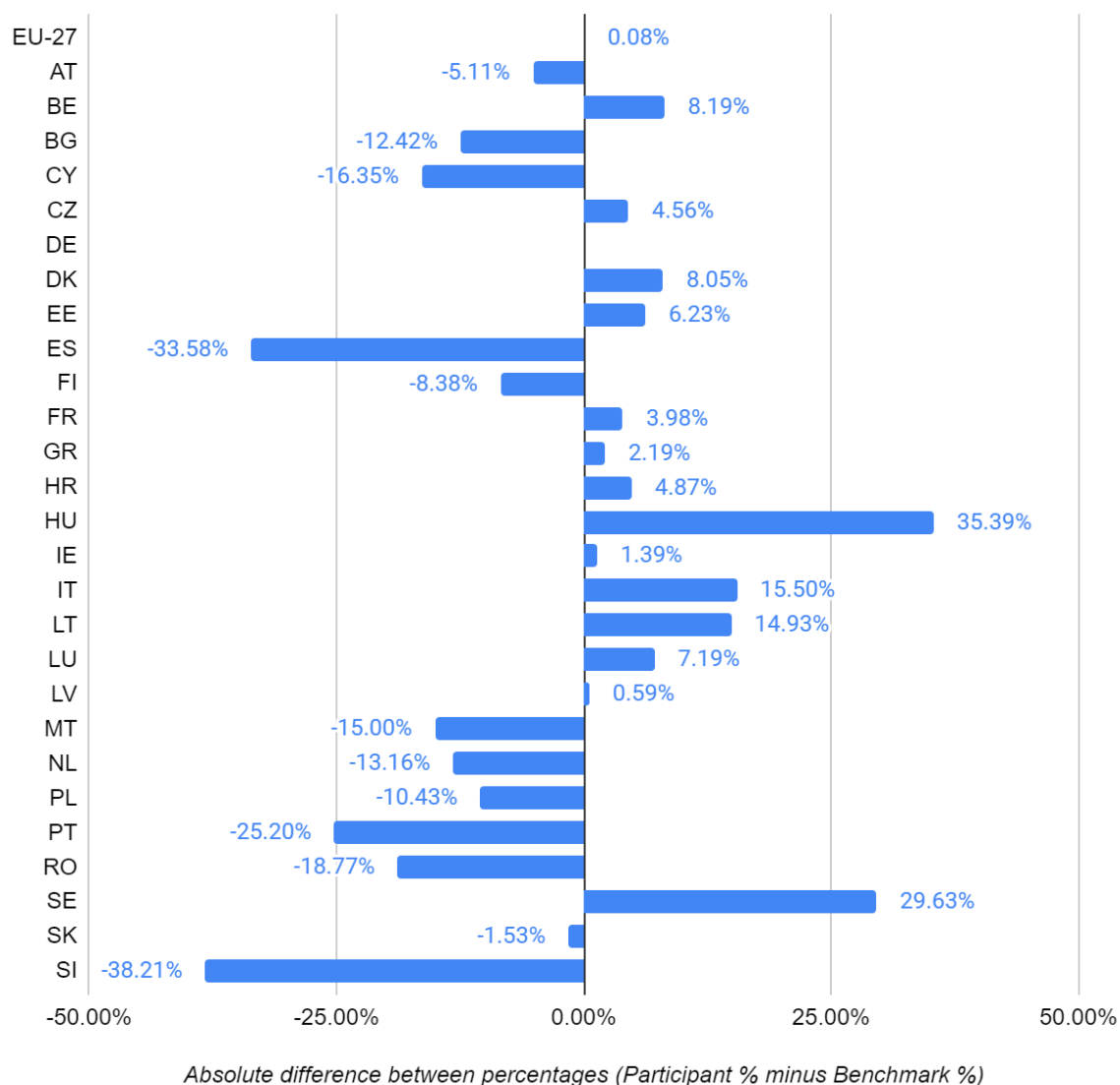


*Absolute difference between percentages (Participant % minus Benchmark %)*

## Young people in rural areas

Comparing participation rates of young people living in rural areas to national benchmarks shows a mixed picture. Just over half of countries (n=14) exceed their national benchmarks but 11 fall below, with no benchmark data available for a further 2 countries (Graph 7). Hungary and Sweden are notably substantially higher than their benchmarks. Patterns across countries are likely a result of the commitment of individual NWGs to conducting their EUYD consultation activities within rural areas and any national policy priorities. So, whilst the overall participation rate of young people from rural areas is on target at EU-27 level, this results from the concerted efforts of some NWGs to work with young people in rural areas which compensate for the lack of this in other countries. Though it should be noted that participant's self-identification whether they 'live in a rural area' also contains a degree of subjectivity which may affect data.

Graph 7: Rural youth participation rates: Difference from benchmarks (EUYD 7-9)



## NEET Young people

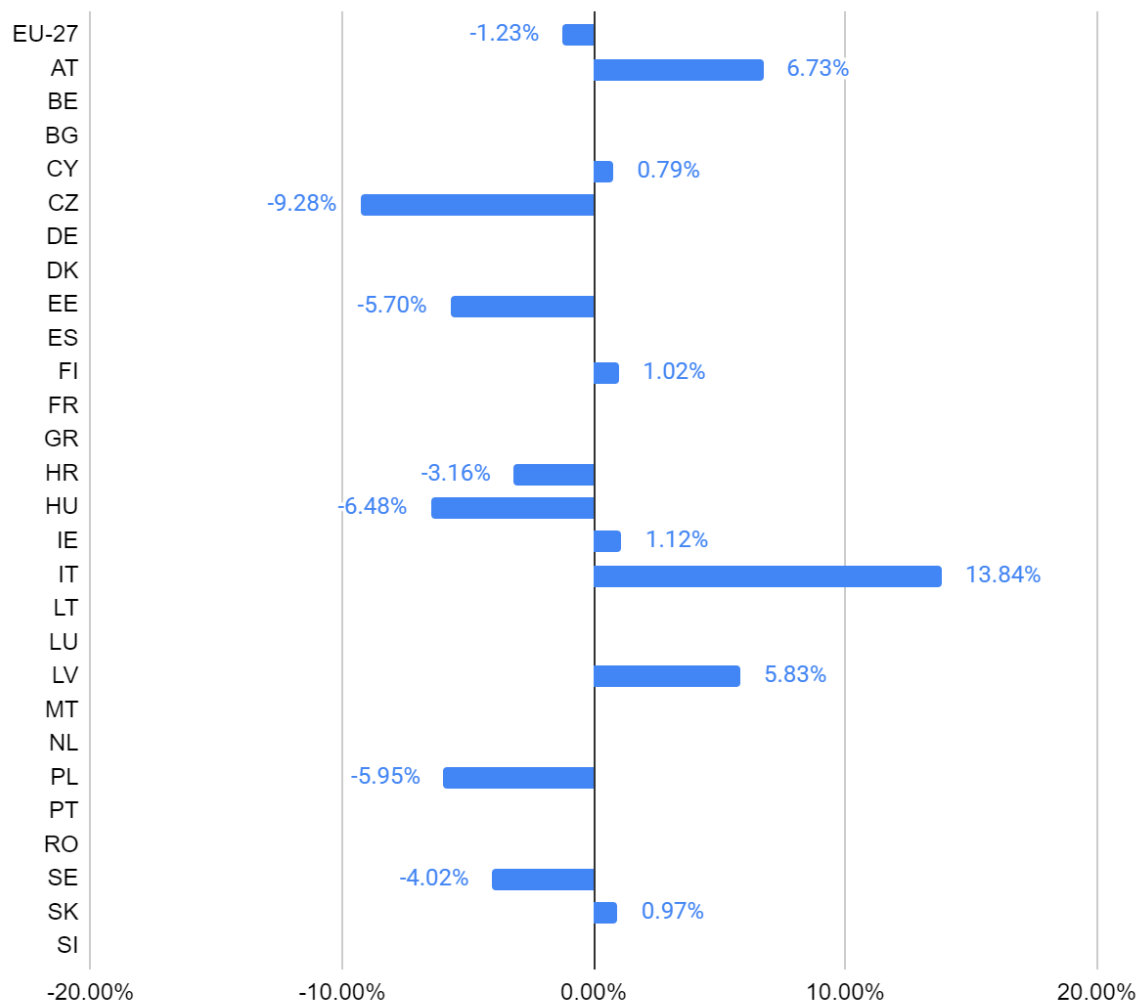
Comparing participation rates of young people who are NEET to national benchmarks shows a highly variable picture at national level. The more accurate *NEET rate: strict* measure, shows 7 countries exceeding their national benchmarks whilst 6 fall below them (Graph 8). However, data within this measure is not available for 14 countries. In the less accurate *NEET rate: underestimates* measure (Graph 9) data only two countries do not have data available. In this measure, 7 countries exceeded their national benchmarks, but 18 countries are falling below their benchmarks. However, as this measure underestimates the NEET rate, the true number of countries falling below their benchmarks is likely to be lower than 18.

The concept of 'false NEETs' warrants consideration when interpreting the NEET data. A false NEET is an individual who is not in education, employment or training, but is not in practice at risk of dropping out of the labour market. This includes, for example, young people who are travelling and those constructively engaged in other activities such as art, music and self-directed learning, and young parents taking care of children (Eurofound, 2012). Both the benchmark data and the EUYD data do not distinguish between false NEETs and those who are truly at risk - making comparison of the two data sources still valid. However, EUYD data could potentially include a greater proportion of false NEETs than the benchmark data. The consultation is conducted via the youth sector and may be more likely to reach those who are volunteering full time with youth NGOs, undertaking long term European Voluntary Service/European Solidarity Corps placements or similar.

In any instance the inclusion of NEET young people within EUYD as a whole occurs primarily as a result of the activities run by a small number of countries. These countries have a substantial over-representation of NEET young people within their participants. However, in most countries there is an under-representation of young people who are NEET. The variations at national level are probably a result of the varying methods used by NWGs within their consultation. Those who made specific successful attempts to conduct outreach to young people who are NEET, will likely be those who surpassed their benchmarks.

**Graph 8: NEET participation rates: Difference from benchmarks EUYD9**

*(NEET: strict rate comparison to Q2 2022 NEET rates)*

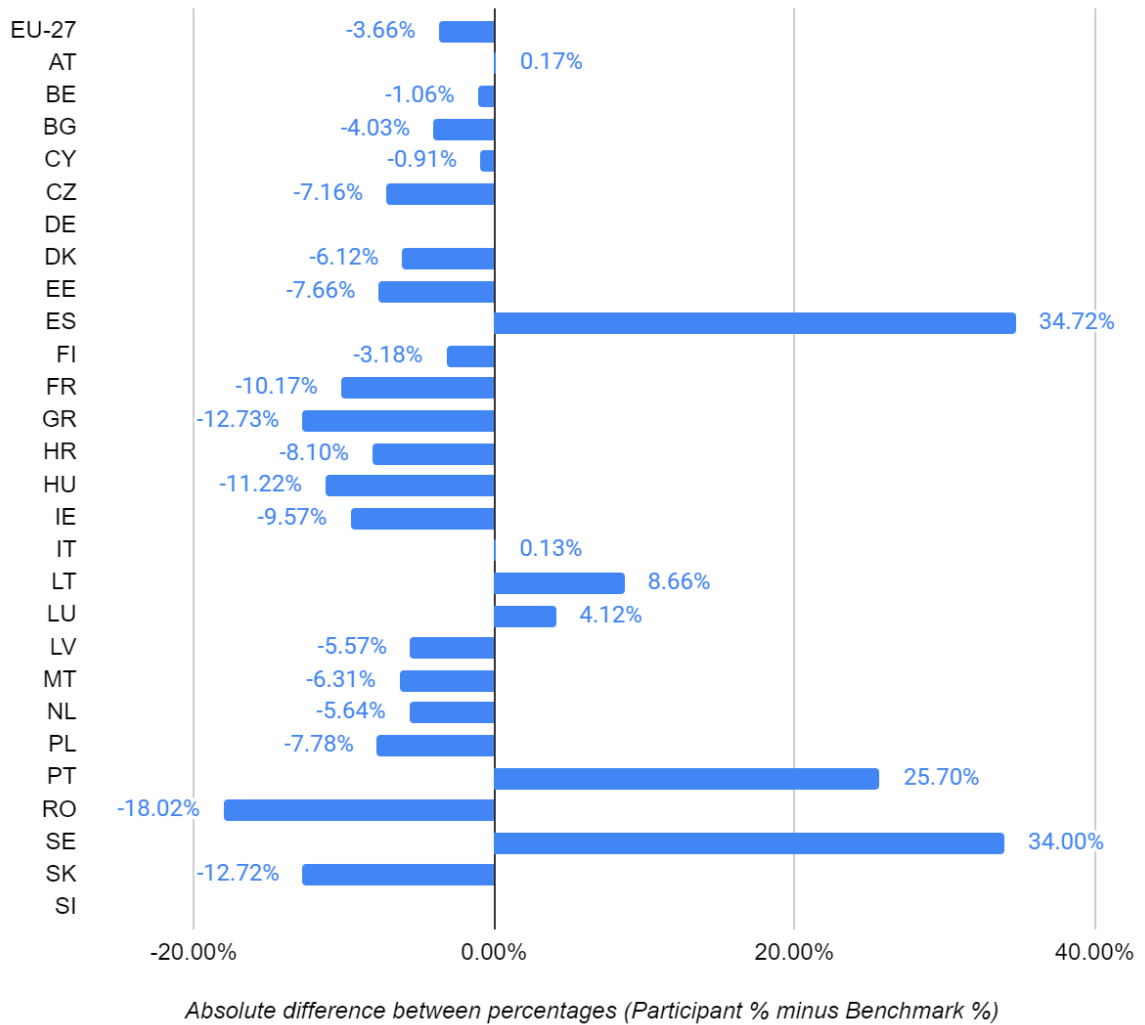


*Absolute difference between percentages (Participant % minus Benchmark %)*



**Graph 9: NEET participation rates: Difference from benchmarks (EUYD 7-9)**

*(NEET rate: underestimates comparison to average annual NEET rate 2019-2021)*



## Findings: Gender patterns

There is a clearly pronounced trend in the male to female gender ratios of participants showing an over-representation of young women. This trend is observable at EU-27 level, where there are 59.85% of female participants compared to 40.15% of male participants. The trend is also shown consistently at national level. Only two countries have more male participants than female, and a third country (HU) has close to equal ratios (Graph 10). The over-representation of women is increasing over time (Graph 11) from 43%M:57%F: in EUYD6 to over two thirds of female participants in EUYD9 (34%M:64%F:). The proportion of young people identifying as other gender has increased steadily across the cycles but remains at less than 2%.

Explaining the gender patterns is challenging. It seems unlikely that NWGs are making an explicit effort to target young women with outreach methods - this is not a feature commonly identified in NWG consultation reports. Gender participation rates are therefore patterns more likely to result from wider social trends. Potential factors could include:

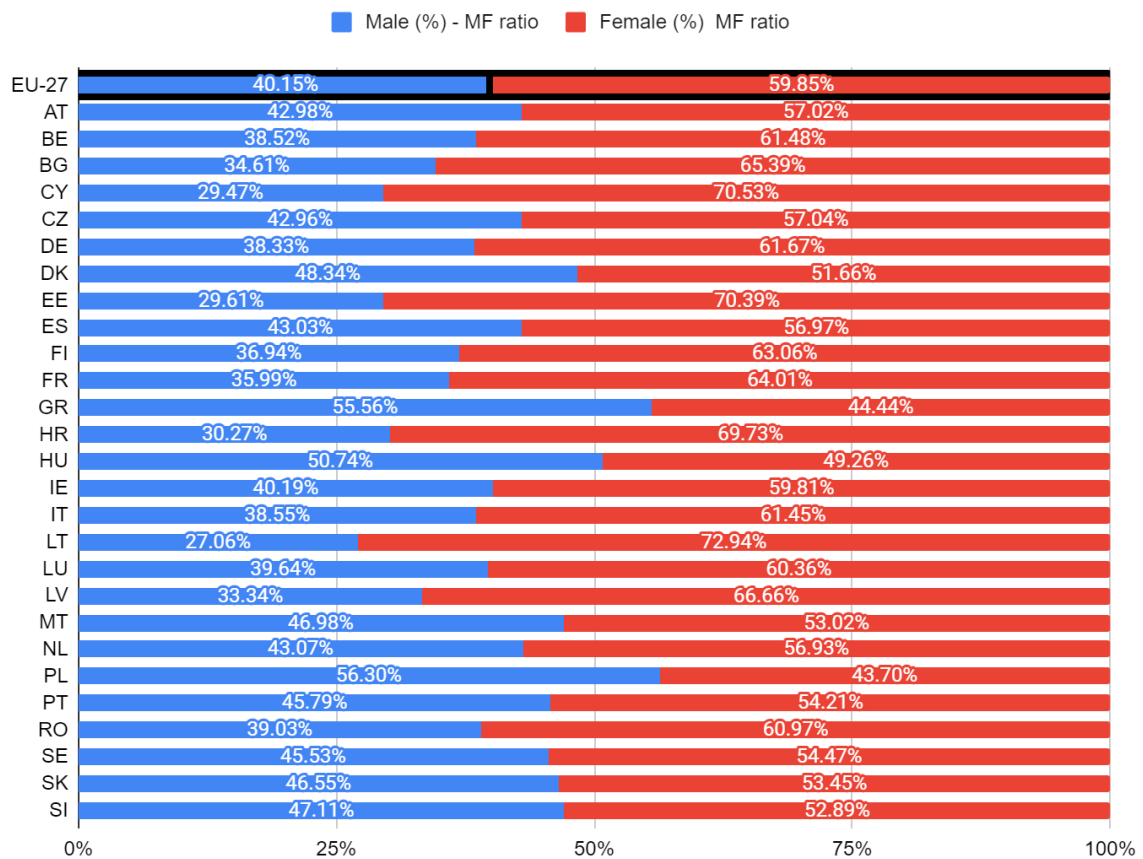
- **Gender patterns relating to youth sector delivery as a whole** - though no comprehensive data is available, engagement across all youth sector activities may be subject to gendered patterns. E+ Youth KA1 and European Solidarity Corps are known to engage a higher ratio of young women than young men<sup>4</sup>. Women are understood to be over-represented in many 'caring' professions such as teaching, midwifery and social work; the youth sector may be part of this trend. The existence of any such patterns would likely influence EUYD participation.
- **Gendered patterns relating to youth civic and political participation** - there is increasing discussion about how patterns of participation might vary with gender across different forms of participation. Whilst men are typically over-represented with parliamentary participation and political parties, young women are more engaged in civic participation and protest (European Parliament 2021).
- **Varying attitudes between young men and women.** Young women are more likely than young men to feel they lack influence over laws, decision-making and policies affecting the EU as well as being more likely to be interested in volunteering and place importance on the protection of human rights and democracy (European Parliament 2021). This may make young women more likely to participate in EUYD.
- **Gendered patterns relating to leisure time activities** - engagement with EUYD takes place in leisure time, and therefore may be influenced by gendered patterns in leisure time activities such as participation in sports and volunteering.

Identifying exactly which of these factors influence the heavily skewed participation in favour of young women within EUYD demands further research and discussion.

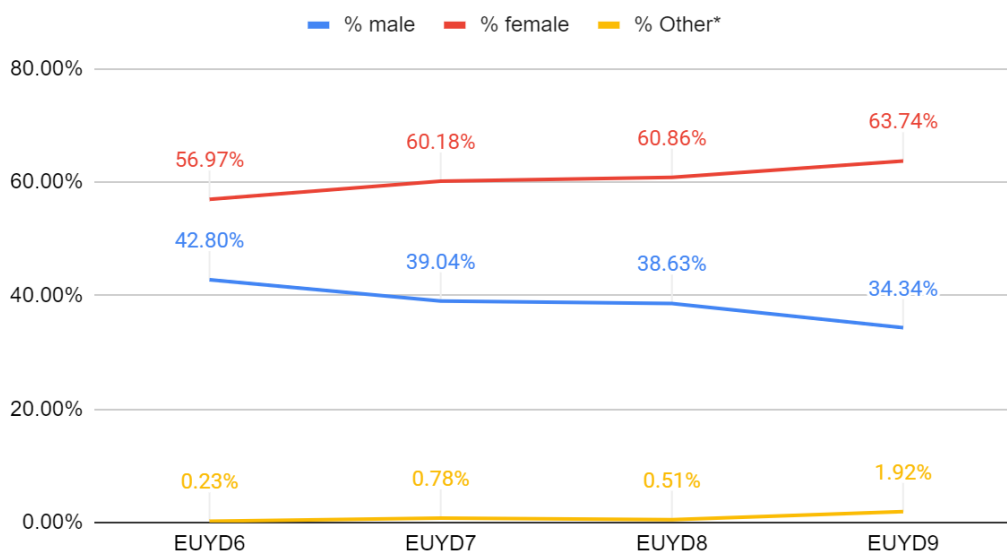
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<sup>4</sup> Data on gender ratios within E+ Youth KA1 and ESC is unpublished. However internal DG-EAC data indicates young women were overrepresented amongst 2014-2020 participants in both programmes (DG EAC interview).

Graph 10: Male to Female Ratios (EUJD 6-9)



Graph 11: Gender participation rates over time



## Conclusions

At European level, the participation rate of ethnic minorities, religious minorities, young people who are disabled and LGBTI young people exceeds the level expected of participants than if they were selected randomly from the population. There is a significant over-representation of these groups within EUYD with each group having between two and three times the expected number of participants. The participation rates of rural youth closely match the expected rate of participation, and there is no significant over-representation or under-representation of this group. There are slightly fewer NEET young people participating within EUYD than should be expected, this difference is small but statistically significant. Young people who are NEET are therefore slightly under-represented within EUYD.

Although there is still considerable variation at national level and lack of data on specific sub-groups within each minority group category, overall at EU-27, it can be crudely estimated that **49.5% of participants within EUYD are likely to be part of any one minority group**. This indicates that there might be a higher level of minority groups in EUYD than there are young people with fewer opportunities taking part in Erasmus + Youth KA1 actions (estimated at 30% (European Commission, 2018b)) – though it should be highlighted that the two categories are not identical (see page 6). It should be noted there may still be over-representation or under-representations within the analysed minority group categories. For example, the religious minority groups may contain an over-representation or under-representation of specific religions.

There are some observable changes in participation rates of minority groups between EUYD cycles but no overall consistent trend. Cycle to cycle changes are likely explained by varying political priorities of different cycles, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic during EUYD8.

At national level analysis of minority group inclusion shows a more mixed picture. For each minority group, some countries are more effective in engaging with them, than others. The large majority of countries exceed their national expected benchmarks for the engagement of ethnic minority groups (n=21), religious minority groups (n=20) and young people with disabilities (n=18). All countries supplying data exceed their national benchmarks for LGBTI young people (n=23). Engagement of young people from rural areas is more mixed, with just over half of countries (n=14) exceeding their national benchmarks. National variations are likely due to the quality and commitment to outreach and inclusion work undertaken by the various NWGs and prioritisation of different minority groups at a national policy level.

Young people who are NEET are the minority group which NWGs are least effective at engaging with. The inclusion of NEET young people within EUYD as a whole occurs primarily as a result of activities run by a small number of countries. Whilst the findings on NEETS are less reliable than findings on other minority groups, due to limitations in EUYD data, the results indicate a highly variable pattern of engagement between countries. Only 7 countries can be clearly shown to have met or exceeded their national benchmarks for engagement with young people who are NEET. So, alongside the slight under-representation of NEETS at EU-27 level, it can be said the inclusion of NEETS comes as a result of a small number of countries whose work with NEETS is very successful. Most other countries fall behind on NEET youth inclusion. These country variations are likely due the extent of outreach and inclusion work undertaken by the various NWGs.

There is a clearly pronounced trend in the gender ratios of participants toward an over-representation of young women. This occurs at European level as well as within the large majority of countries (n=24). It is increasing across time from 57%F:43%M in EUYD6 to over two thirds of female participants in EUYD9. The gender patterns warrant further research and discussion and may be a result of wider gendered social patterns connected to engagement with participation, engagement with the youth sector as a whole, engagement with leisure activities and attitudes towards politics and society.

All of these findings are subject to the limitation within the EUYD data collection and framework, which prioritises enabling participation over data collection. Findings are based on the best possible estimates and are still subject to some level of error.

It is important to note that the representation of young women, ethnic minorities, religious minorities, young people who are disabled and LGBTI young people within the EUYD indicates that the long-term prioritisation on inclusion of different groups of young people at the national and European levels has resulted in their strong representation in the consultation process. The level of participation of different groups over the EUYD cycles shows that the effort and commitment invested by the NWGs to reach out to diverse groups of young people has been effective across all cycles analysed.

## Recommendations

A number of recommendations can be made regarding the level of social inclusion of minority groups within the EUYD process:

### 1) Define and quantify EUYD outreach goals in a more strategic manner

There is a need to better **define and quantify operational goals** on outreach and inclusion through EUYD at both EU and Member State level. The current specific policy objective of the EUYD is to 'include diverse voices and to ensure openness to all young people to contribute to policy-shaping' (European Commission, 2018a). This lacks any quantifiable element, and its scope and scale are therefore undefined. The expected reach of EUYD, in terms of total number of participants, and the proportion of participants expected to be from minority groups is not defined. As a result, EUYD's commitment to outreach and inclusion work is a general principle but lacks a measurable aim in terms of who and how many participants should be involved. This evaluation interpreted the policy objective to mean that the composition of EUYD participants should match the EU youth population in terms of diversity. However, the specific policy objective on diverse voices could also be interpreted in other ways such as:

- To ensure a **greater than representative** percentage/number of EUYD participants come from marginalised backgrounds (e.g., 45%) in order to counterbalance existing patterns of political inequality within Europe and prioritise marginalised voices.
- **To target exclusively specific social groups of young people** based on political goals of each cycle. This was partially done in EUYD7 where the Croatian presidency explicitly targeted youth in rural areas.

- **To maximise the number of EUYD participants.** The vast majority of the millions of young people in Europe have no engagement with EUYD. Maximising numbers of participants, by increasing the number of participants in the consultations and providing greater support to the NWGs to engage higher number of young people, would work towards “all” young people having access.

Each of these contrasting interpretations would lead to a different evaluation of the extent to which policy objective was being achieved. The various interpretations would also demand a different approach in relation to outreach and inclusion from NWGs. Therefore, without clearly defined and quantified operational goals relating to diversity, the achievement of the specific policy objective can never be fully evaluated nor operationalised effectively. As a result, EUYD lacks a clear strategic policy direction in relation to social inclusion.

To overcome the lack of strategic direction in terms of concrete inclusion criteria, there is a need to clearly define the goals of outreach and inclusion through **quantifiable outreach targets** (and even quotas). Such goals would need to be agreed at EU level, but specific national targets for each minority group need to be defined at the level of each Member State, due to varying proportions of minority groups across countries. EU level agreement on the goals could reflect the general intention and commitment to establishing these targets (such as maximising overall numbers, increasing diversity, or focusing on specific groups of young people). This intention could then be translated into measurable outreach targets for each Member State, taking into account the varying proportion of minority groups living within each country. This would enable EUYD to move beyond rhetorical principles of involving ‘all young people’ to specifying who, and how many, young people should be included, within the resources available. This in turn gives the ESG, the EU Presidencies, the European Commission and NWGs potential to begin evaluating and improving the scale and scope of outreach work. Outreach targets could be set by the ESG, NWGs themselves, or ideally in a broader long-term framework agreed at European policy level discussed at the Council youth working party and validated by the Member States’ Youth Ministers through the Education, Youth Culture Sport Council – Youth Affairs.

## **2) Develop support and guidance for NWGs to engage with specific minority groups**

Any strategic direction to enhance outreach and inclusion will be most effective when accompanied by support and guidance for NWGs on working with specific minority groups. Such support and guidance would help enhancing social inclusion, and could come in the form of toolkits, political direction and resources. Crucially, improving NWGs ability to target specific minority groups of young people is unlikely to be achieved simply through adapted or simplified consultation methods. Whilst some groups of young people (such as those with communication or language barriers) might benefit from simplified consultation tools, other groups (such as rural youth or religious minorities) are unlikely to benefit from this. For many minority groups, increasing their access to EUYD will be realised only by a dedicated political and resource commitment from NWGs to working in and with those groups. The commitment of NWGs to investing their time and resources in identifying and running activities is the primary factor affecting their inclusion.

There are various measures which could be implemented by the ESG during the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Cycle of EUYD to provide support and guidance for NWGs:

**Political encouragement** - in the forms of strategic direction at European level from the ESG, Trio Presidencies and European Commission to NWGs, ideally accompanied by quantifiable targets as described above to encourage work with specific groups.

**A training and support package** - to improve the competences of NWGs where needed. This should focus not just on pedagogical methods, but more broadly on the identification and targeting of specific minority groups. As part of providing support and guidance the upcoming ESG might consolidate the existing EUYD consultation toolkit into a formal document with specific attention to inclusion. The existing consultation guidance has been built ad-hoc across each cycle and has potential for further development.

**Sharing of best practice between Member States** – to enable NWGs who have weaknesses in engaging minority groups, especially NEET young people, to profit from the learning of more successful NWGs.

Enhancing the capacity of NWGs to work with specific minority groups would also benefit from dedicated **resourcing**. Additional resources could be used both to build the capacity of NWGs and delivery of EUYD activities with minority groups. In the longer term, the European Commission could consider targeted funding for NWGs to run activities with specified minority groups within the framework of their EUYD grants. Alongside this NWGs themselves could use Erasmus+ Youth KA2 actions and National Agency strategic partnerships to resource work with minority groups.

According to the findings of this research, the 10<sup>th</sup> cycle ESG should increase efforts for outreach to **young people who are NEET**. This might be widened to consider **young people from lower educational and economic circumstances** as wider research indicates they are less likely to engage in political participation (Dezelan, T. and Moxon, D 2021). The 11<sup>th</sup> cycle of EUYD and beyond should prioritise minority groups based on future reviews of data.

### **3) Build on the ‘access’ that minority groups have to EUYD to promote ‘inclusion’ within EUYD**

There is a need to capitalise on the good access that minority groups have to EUYD to further promote social inclusion. This research has identified that minority groups are well represented in EUYD when compared to the general population. But it is unknown if young people from minority groups are well represented in *leading* EUYD and the more heavily engaged roles (such as being participants at EUYC conferences or being active in NWGs).

The upcoming ESG for the 10<sup>th</sup> Cycle of EUYD could:

- Monitor the level of participation of young people from minority groups in European Youth Conferences and NWGs, providing a more complete picture of the current situation.
- Develop dedicated measures to report on the voices of young people from minority groups within the EUYD consultation. Consultations, like many democratic processes, are subject to the ‘tyranny of the majority’ where they report the most frequently identified messages and concerns. Minority groups, simply by being a minority can find that any unique concerns of their group can be lost amongst the more widely reported majority messages. Enhancing the reporting of minority group voices within the consultation may be a route to promoting social inclusion.

Longer term measures to promote social inclusion could also include:

- Developing leadership roles for young people from minority groups at NWG level.
- Developing leadership roles for young people from minority groups at European level, especially within European Youth Conferences.

#### **4) Undertake further research into the gender patterns of participation**

There is a need for wider stakeholder discussion and research on the implications of the gender patterns of participation in EUYD as well as the potential responses required. Balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision-making is a key indicator of gender equality and women's full enjoyment of their human rights, a condition for equality, social justice and cohesion (Council of Europe, 2018). However, as young women are underrepresented in many political power structures, attempting to decrease their participation within EUYD may be counterproductive when considering the broader social context. On the other hand, the gender imbalance may also indicate that youth sector structures perpetuate inequality by inadvertently signposting young women to "lower" status civic participation/consultation initiatives, such as EUYD, and young men to "higher" status forms of participation such as political candidacy. This issue demands further discussion with young participants and the various EUYD stakeholders. The upcoming ESG for the 10<sup>th</sup> cycle could host a series of dialogue or policy events to explore this issue further.

#### **5) Improve EUYD data collection methods**

There are some elements of data collection during the EUYD process which can be improved.

The upcoming ESG for the 10<sup>th</sup> cycle could collect data on the educational or economic background of participants through the EUYD consultation. Within EUYD, data on this is challenging to collect and analyse effectively. Educational level is inextricably linked to age, educational attainment and economic data is complex to collect and compare across multiple countries especially with a youth cohort. However, a simplistic measure might be to monitor the number of participants who have a parent with a university degree. Parental educational level is closely linked to young people's political participation (Dezelan, T. and Moxon, D 2021) and connects to a young person's economic and educational outcomes. Collecting data on parental education could provide further insight into the educational and economic backgrounds of EUYD participants.

In addition, the upcoming ESG for the 10<sup>th</sup> Cycle and beyond could also consider introducing a monitoring question for participations "Have you previously participated in an EUYD activity?". This would help identify the number of repeat participants within and between cycles. Alongside this more detailed guidance on the monitoring categories themselves could be produced (e.g., definition of NEET and rural youth). This would help improve accuracy of data collection. However, more complex participant monitoring might prove a barrier to some activities and participants.

The upcoming ESG for the 10<sup>th</sup> cycle could also consider encouraging NWGs to submit and collect participant data more extensively, by placing greater political emphasis on this element of EUYD consultation reports when communicating with NWGs. Whilst NWGs provide a good level of participant data, there is room for improvement. In the longer term, a centralised digital registration system for participants, developed at European level to work across all cycles may improve data



collection. Such a system could track participants' backgrounds upon registration and monitor the full characteristics of each participant. This would allow for intersectional analysis of participant backgrounds, identification of repeated participants and may reduce gaps in data collection. However, this is a substantial undertaking, the costs and operational challenges of its implementation within the current EUYD structure may significantly outweigh the benefits of improved data collection. The current data collection, whilst not the standards of a scientific survey, is 'good enough' to provide a level of insight into EUYD participants' backgrounds. A common registration system would need to overcome challenges with GDPR and ensuring the use of the registration system by NWGs.

**6) Develop leadership pathways for young women and minority groups from EUYD into political candidacy and other forms of political participation**

Considering how the good engagement of young women and minority groups in EUYD can be capitalised upon may be valuable to broader social inclusion goals. Developing supporting pathways from EUYD into electoral candidacy or other leadership roles may have a substantive impact on gender equality and inclusion in electoral politics and wider democratic structures - where those groups are less represented.

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## Appendix I: EUYD Participant data

EUYD aggregated participant data - minority groups*							
Group:	An ethnic minority	A religious minority	A sexual minority	A minority in terms of disability	Living in a rural area	NEET: Underestimates	NEET: Strict
Cycles:	6-9	7-9	6-9	6-9	7-9	7-9	9
EU-27	11.59%	14.12%	11.18%	4.95%	32.33%	9.61%	10.47%
AT	8.03%	6.87%	16.94%	3.96%	43.09%	9.47%	15.33%
BE	17.27%	16.75%	9.79%	3.54%	51.38%	9.81%	.
BG	10.71%	7.96%	8.39%	1.43%	12.48%	13.47%	.
CY	41.47%	21.18%	12.98%	1.77%	16.45%	14.02%	15.29%
CZ	3.86%	11.82%	10.94%	6.95%	35.51%	3.41%	2.22%
DE	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
DK	7.89%	8.89%	12.33%	7.64%	22.79%	3.25%	.
EE	9.23%	3.69%	21.02%	4.86%	37.04%	3.01%	4.30%
ES	5.65%	7.36%	7.58%	3.77%	11.49%	50.16%	.
FI	5.21%	10.00%	20.13%	8.15%	16.15%	6.18%	10.32%
FR	.	.	.	.	29.30%	2.70%	.
GR	5.00%	.	.	10.00%	28.57%	5.00%	.
HR	5.56%	16.82%	9.64%	2.29%	40.98%	6.46%	9.64%
HU	3.34%	8.18%	4.11%	15.32%	69.28%	0.44%	3.92%
IE	37.12%	31.87%	24.30%	25.59%	31.91%	2.20%	9.52%
IT	8.07%	12.11%	7.82%	2.38%	21.85%	23.09%	34.04%
LT	12.10%	19.09%	8.76%	9.78%	43.94%	20.86%	.
LU	13.81%	8.12%	18.22%	3.41%	47.66%	11.79%	.
LV	46.01%	50.00%	18.45%	0.83%	27.40%	5.83%	11.93%
MT	19.56%	30.12%	7.35%	4.61%	31.87%	2.65%	.
NL	11.78%	8.59%	9.83%	6.60%	24.51%	0.39%	.
PL	8.50%	15.66%	7.18%	1.69%	33.33%	5.05%	5.05%
PT	4.33%	12.32%	8.41%	0.46%	18.41%	35.60%	.
RO	5.43%	2.32%	4.22%	1.46%	29.07%	2.58%	.
SE	6.26%	7.35%	16.08%	6.51%	44.41%	40.26%	4.98%
SK	16.78%	19.81%	7.24%	5.75%	46.57%	1.38%	13.07%
SI	.	.	.	.	10.80%	.	.

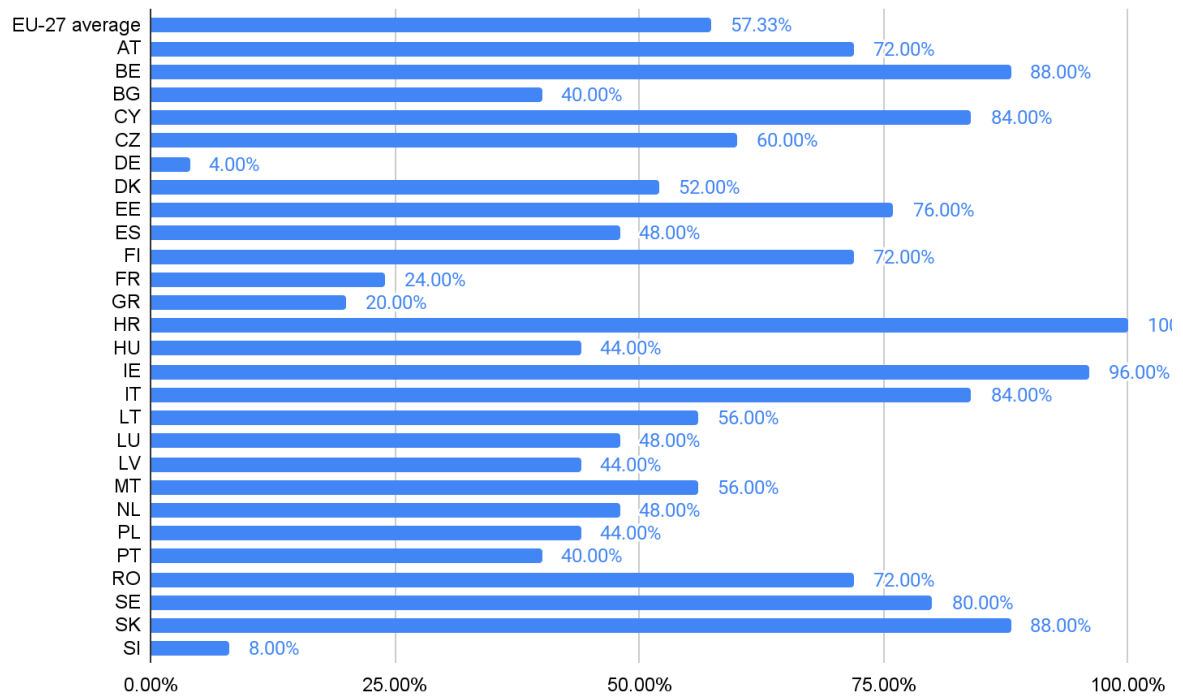
<b>EUYD aggregated participant data Cycles 6-9 – Gender*</b>			
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Other (%)
EU-27	39.87%	59.42%	0.71%
AT	42.73%	56.68%	0.59%
BE	38.21%	60.99%	0.80%
BG	34.41%	65.02%	0.56%
CY	29.42%	70.41%	0.16%
CZ	42.87%	56.91%	0.22%
DE	38.17%	61.41%	0.41%
DK	48.18%	51.49%	0.33%
EE	29.48%	70.08%	0.44%
ES	42.51%	56.27%	1.23%
FI	35.94%	61.37%	2.69%
FR	35.36%	62.87%	1.78%
GR	50.00%	40.00%	10.00%
HR	30.23%	69.62%	0.15%
HU	50.74%	49.26%	0.00%
IE	39.58%	58.91%	1.50%
IT	38.07%	60.69%	1.24%
LT	27.03%	72.87%	0.10%
LU	39.33%	59.88%	0.78%
LV	33.27%	66.51%	0.22%
MT	45.96%	51.87%	2.18%
NL	41.93%	55.42%	2.65%
PL	56.26%	43.66%	0.08%
PT	45.76%	54.17%	0.07%
RO	39.01%	60.95%	0.04%
SE	45.27%	54.16%	0.57%
SK	46.27%	53.14%	0.59%
SI	47.11%	52.89%	0.00%

\*For N numbers, see the original EUYD data sets are published as Moxon and Bárta (2022), Moxon and Pantea, (2021) Moxon, and Bárta, (2020) Bárta and Moxon D, (2018). Data from INGYOs, The United Kingdom and North Macedonia collected in EUYD6, and the common European survey conducted by the ESG in EUYD8 were excluded to enable a consistent analysis of EU-27 NWG data. Additional data cleaning was performed on the original data sets for this research. Full data available on request from the author.

## NWG Data collection rates

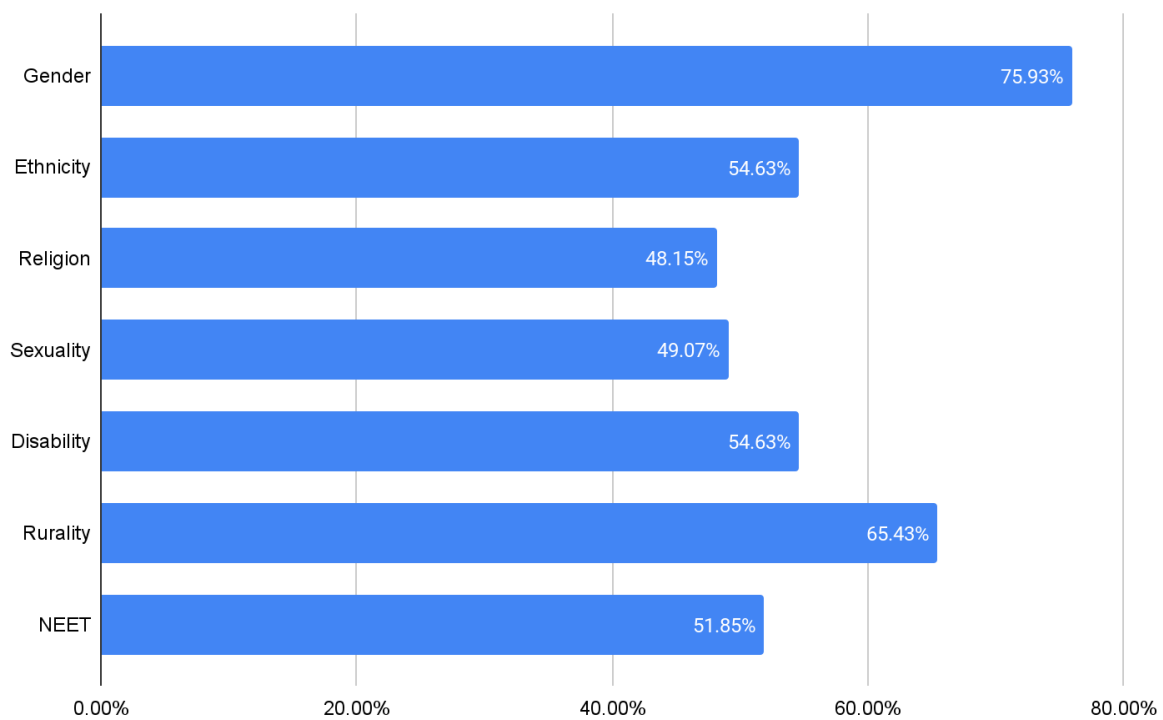
Graph 12: Participant data category collection rates by NWG

*(No. of categories of data submitted by NWG as a % of categories requested by the ESG, EUYD 6-9)*



Graph 13: Participant data category collection rates by demographic group

(No. of categories of data submitted by NWGs as a % of categories requested by the ESG, EUYD 6-9)



## Appendix II: EUYD Benchmark data

	Benchmark %						
	An ethnic minority	A religious minority	A sexual minority	A minority in terms of disability	Living in a rural village	NEET Rate (Mean annual 2019-21)	NEET Rate (Rate Q2 2022)
EU-27	4.21%	4.58%	3.15%	1.95%	32.25%	13.27%	11.70%
AT	11.41%	9.13%	12.17%	6.46%	48.20%	9.30%	8.60%
BE	7.69%	10.62%	6.96%	4.76%	43.19%	10.87%	9.50%
BG	8.87%	4.44%	1.21%	0.81%	24.90%	17.50%	15.00%
CY	2.96%	2.96%	1.18%	3.55%	32.80%	14.93%	14.50%
CZ	2.50%	3.21%	4.29%	4.64%	30.95%	10.57%	11.50%
DE	4.49%	3.09%	2.81%	1.40%	10.54%	9.13%	8.00%
DK	1.50%	0.75%	3.76%	3.76%	14.74%	9.37%	7.00%
EE	10.14%	1.81%	2.17%	1.09%	30.81%	10.67%	10.00%
ES	1.61%	0.00%	3.61%	0.80%	45.07%	15.43%	11.80%
FI	1.12%	5.95%	2.97%	0.00%	24.53%	9.37%	9.30%
FR	3.10%	4.83%	3.10%	1.03%	25.32%	12.87%	12.00%
GR	0.41%	1.64%	0.00%	0.00%	26.38%	17.73%	15.40%
HR	1.47%	5.51%	1.10%	1.10%	36.11%	14.57%	12.80%
HU	2.84%	7.80%	0.35%	1.06%	33.89%	11.67%	10.40%
IE	5.67%	7.00%	2.67%	1.00%	30.52%	11.77%	8.40%
IT	2.62%	1.75%	2.18%	1.75%	6.35%	22.97%	20.20%
LT	5.12%	1.37%	1.71%	1.71%	29.01%	12.20%	10.10%
LU	5.48%	2.74%	6.16%	0.68%	40.47%	7.67%	11.10%
LV	4.44%	5.19%	2.96%	0.74%	26.81%	11.40%	6.10%
MT	0.00%	6.58%	1.97%	0.00%	46.87%	8.97%	7.10%
NL	2.50%	8.75%	6.25%	1.25%	37.67%	6.03%	5.00%
PL	2.74%	5.14%	4.79%	4.11%	43.76%	12.83%	11.00%
PT	3.24%	3.64%	0.40%	0.81%	43.61%	9.90%	8.50%
RO	6.06%	7.07%	2.69%	3.37%	47.84%	20.60%	20.60%
SE	3.98%	3.10%	6.64%	1.77%	14.78%	6.27%	9.00%
SK	3.83%	0.88%	0.00%	1.18%	48.10%	14.10%	12.10%
SI	5.42%	8.75%	2.50%	2.92%	49.01%	7.57%	5.30%



## Appendix III: NEET rate and probability calculation formulae

### NEET rates

#### Calculation 1: NEET rate: underestimates

EUYD 7-9 NEET rate - This overestimates the number of participants who are EET, as some participants may be both in education and employment and counted twice. It therefore underestimates the NEET participation rate.

$$\frac{\text{Number identifying as NEET}}{\text{Number in education + Number in employment + Number NEET + Number not disclosing}}$$

#### Calculation 2: NEET rate: Strict

This accurately estimates the NEET rate but uses data from EUYD 9 only.

$$\frac{\text{Number identifying as NEET}}{\text{Number identifying as in Education OR Employment OR training + Number not disclosing}}$$

### Probability of being from any minority group

#### Calculation 1: Maximum possible calculation

This assumes that there is no relationship between any of the minority group categories. i.e., being part of one minority group does not make it more or less likely to be part of any others such that the groups are considered independent events. This likely overestimates the probability of participants being from a minority group, as a several of the groups are likely to be interrelated. (e.g., people from religious minority backgrounds are more likely to be from ethnic minority backgrounds).

The formula:

$P_2 = 1 - P_1$  where  $P_1$  is

$P_1 = [1 - P(\text{ethnic minority})] \times [1 - P(\text{religious minority})] \times [1 - P(\text{disability minority})] \times [1 - P(\text{sexuality minority})] \times [1 - P(\text{rural minority})] \times [1 - P(\text{NEET:Strict})]$

is used to calculate the probability ( $P_2$ ) of a participant not being in any of the following groups: religious minority group, an ethnic minority group, LGBTI, a minority in terms of disability, from a rural area, NEET:strict.

## Calculation 2: Best estimate calculation

This assumes that:

- All participants who identify as part of a religious minority group will also identify as part of another group (e.g., ethnic minority).
- All participants who are NEET will also identify as another minority group - economic inequality is known to correlate with identification with other minority groups.

With this assumption, the group of participants who are NEET and the group who identify as a religious minority are considered subsections of the other groups and hence, these two categories are removed from the analysis.

The formula:

$$P_2 = 1 - P_1 \text{ where } P_1 \text{ is}$$

$$P_1 = [1 - (P(\text{ethnic minority}))] \times [1 - P(\text{disability minority})] \times [1 - P(\text{sexuality minority})] \times [1 - P(\text{rural minority})]$$

is used to calculate the probability ( $P_2$ ) of a participant being part of one or more of the following groups: an ethnic minority group, LGBTI, a minority in terms of disability, from a rural area.

## Calculation 3: Minimum possible calculation

This assumes the largest minority group (rural youth) includes all the other minority group participants within it. The number of participants from any minority group is therefore equal to the number of rural minority participants.