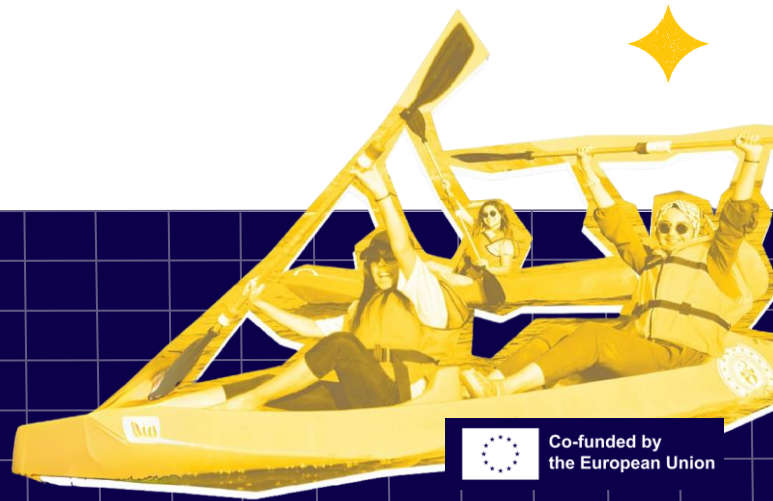


Unequal access to learning mobility

Systemic barriers and the role of youth information for minority groups



Co-funded by
the European Union

WHAT IS EURODESK?

We're a **youth information network** aiming to **raise young people's awareness of mobility opportunities** to encourage them to become active citizens.



Created in 1990



36 countries



> 3,500 local multipliers
and ambassadors



Benefits of youth mobility

Personal development

- Increased self-awareness, confidence and emotional maturity
- Higher intercultural understanding, empathy and problem-solving skills
- Language acquisition.

Professional growth

- Increased employability
- Network building
- Practical competencies.

Civic engagement

- Strengthened sense of European identity and active citizenship
- Common values and shared ethical principles fostered despite national differences
- Empowered young people with the autonomy and critical thinking they need to engage in democratic life.



What is the Eurodesk Youth Info Survey?

7,144 responses

From the core target group of **13-35 year-olds** living in Europe.



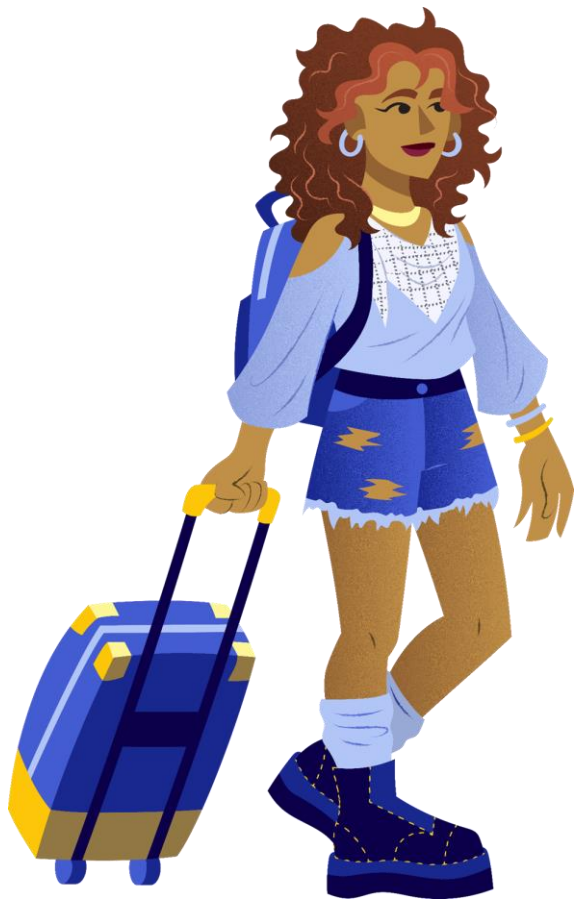
36 countries

Responses gathered across 36 European countries. The survey was translated into **25 languages**.

Diverse approach

The Survey looked respondent's **specific backgrounds**, especially those at risk of exclusion.





**98% of young people
are open to going
abroad**



When they go, they rate their experiences positively

Overall, how do you rate your experience abroad?



- a) An amazing experience
- b) A good experience
- c) Nothing special
- d) A bad experience
- e) An awful experience



However, only 40% went abroad.



What stopped them?



Why do youth stay at home?

The main reasons for not taking part in mobility activities are:

1. Lack of Information (45%)

24% of the respondents said they were never informed about these possibilities while 21% state they simply 'did not know how to organise' a mobility experience.

2. Lack of Time (29%)

Many young people report being unable to squeeze a stay abroad into their studies or careers.

3. Lack of awareness (21%)

Some respondents said that they didn't think about taking part in youth mobility back then.

Challenges and barriers

BARRIERS TO ACCESS

- 1. Lack of information (68%)
- 1. Unavailable opportunities (61%)
- 1. Financial difficulties (60%)
- 1. Administrative problems (33%)

Complex application procedures are a bigger obstacle for marginalised groups.

CHALLENGES WHEN BEING ABROAD

- 1. Getting out of their comfort zone (42%)
- 1. Lack of language skills (34%)
- 1. Difficulties in making new friends (32%)

Group-specific research

To identify specific needs, experiences and challenges faced by certain groups, we isolated their answers.

1. Young people with disabilities or chronic health conditions

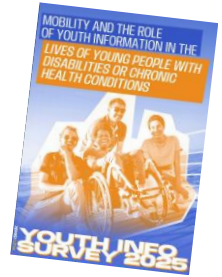
2. Young people from ethnic, racial or religious backgrounds

3. Young LGBTQI+ people

4. Rural youth



1/ Young people with disabilities or chronic health conditions



- Are just as enthusiastic about going abroad
- Are even more likely to look up mobility-related information
- Are more likely to face numerous challenges related to mobility

Such as discrimination, administrative hurdles, a lack of information, financial costs and discouragement from family and friends.

- Despite this, they went abroad as much as youth without health conditions

About 40% of them went abroad in 2022 or 2023 and 93% of them considered it to be either an amazing or a good experience. 97% would be willing to encourage others to go on a mobility experience of their own.

Recommendation:

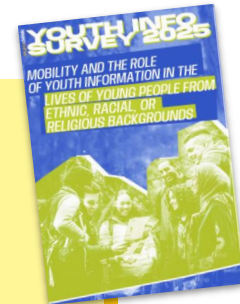
Although faced with challenges, this group still go abroad and enjoy their stays to the same extent as their peers. It is important that youth information services highlight that mobility experiences are possible for this group.

2/ Young people from ethnic, racial or religious backgrounds

- Are just as open to going abroad
- Were more likely to benefit from EU programmes' support and were more likely to need assistance in their application process
They are more likely to use youth services, such as youth information centres or youth clubs and online information platforms, such as Eurodesk, youth portals, EURES or EuropeDirect.
- Rated their experience less enthusiastically and were about three times more likely to face discrimination
We see systematically higher rates of challenges like financial and administrative problems and lack of information.
- Families and friends are an important factor
They can discourage them from going abroad and maintaining contact can be demanding for those who do decide to travel.

Recommendation:

Youth information services should note the importance of reaching out to families of young people from ethnic, racial or religious backgrounds and of providing assistance with applications when needed.

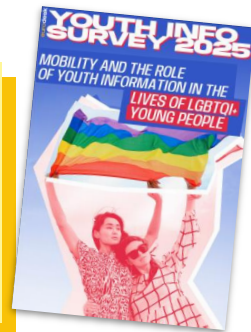


3/ Young LGBTQI+ people

- Are slightly more open to going abroad and were more likely to go abroad
- Are more experienced in searching for mobility-related information
- Are more likely to perceive or experience some challenges
Such as financial costs of mobility, mental health issues, losing touch with friends or trouble making new ones and lack of leisure time activities.
- Fears are larger than in the majority youth
Namely fear of discrimination, of physical health issues, of unfamiliarity with daily life abroad, of not adapting to a new culture and of not being supported by their own family.

Recommendation:

Young LGBTQI+ people do not differ much in their information needs or in the information channels they use. It is important to tailor information to their challenges, such as financial barriers, mental health problems, difficulties in their social lives or even discrimination.

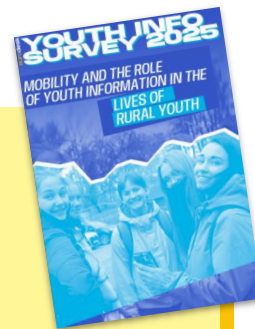


4/ Rural youth

- Are less open to going abroad for a mobility experience
- Were less experienced in searching for mobility-related information
- Are more worried about the challenges in going abroad
Uncertainties with daily life abroad, fears of not making friends, overwhelmed by a language barrier or that a mobility stay abroad did not fit their personalities.
- But were less likely to report facing various problems during their mobility stays

Recommendation:

Although initially less interested, rural young people who do go abroad report the same high levels of satisfaction with the mobility experience as their urban peers. Encouraging this group to participate and ensuring they have access to the information needed can be very beneficial.



**How can we remove
barriers and facilitate
youth mobility?**

Keep providing guidance and support to tackle barriers to mobility

- **Proactively** be where young people are (on and offline) and reach those who are not yet seeking information (lack of awareness).
- Communicate in a language understandable for young people, creating **fun and meaningful** content.



- Be **positive and encouraging** (but still realistic).
- Share **real life stories** from peers.
- Provide young people with the **tools** they need, including help with application processes.

Would particularly benefit young people from rural backgrounds

Would particularly benefit young people from ethnic, racial or religious backgrounds

Focus on the needs of minority groups and tailor communication strategies to them.



Read the whole survey online

