

SALTO-YOUTH
TRAINING AND COOPERATION
RESOURCE CENTRE



European Citizenship in Youth Work Training Course

23 – 28 September 2013, Edinburgh, UK
9 – 14 December 2013, Sofia, Bulgaria
24 February – 1 March 2014, Mollina, Spain
13 - 18 October 2014, Toulouse, France

Comparative Report

This report is based on the following sources:

- Pre-course Questionnaire filled in by participants before the training course
- Post-pre-questionnaires filled in by participants at the end of the training course
- Feedback from participants during the training course
- Feedback from the National Agencies staff and the trainers given during the team meetings
- The evaluation session organised at the end of the course

Team of trainers:

Paola Bortini
Xavier Baro Urbea
Andreas Karsten
Elena Kasko
Nuno da Silva

Compiled by Paola Bortini

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

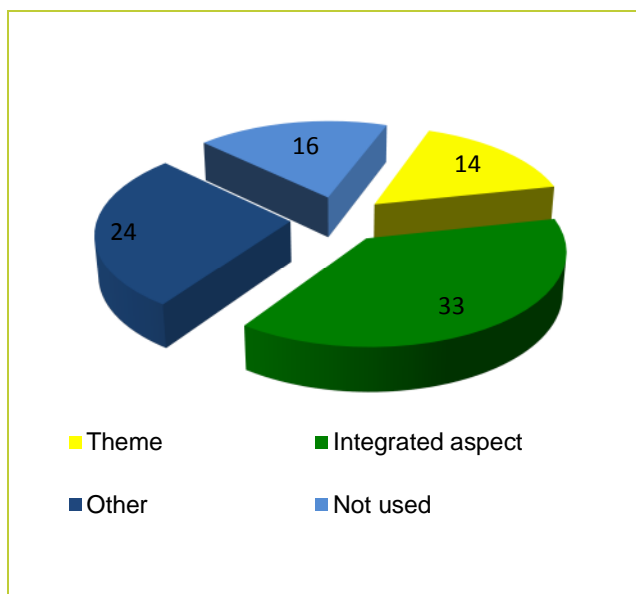
Participating countries	Final number of participants
Austria	4
Belgium-FR	1
Bulgaria	5
Croatia	2
Cyprus	3
Czech Republic	2
Estonia	3
Finland	4
France	2
Germany	4
Greece	1
Hungary	4
Italy	6
Malta	2
Poland	4
Romania	4
Slovenia	2
Spain	6
Turkey	8
United Kingdom	5
Eastern Europe & Caucasus	
Armenia	2
Azerbaijan	1
Georgia	2
Russia	1
Ukraine	2
Armenia	2
Azerbaijan	1
Georgia	2
Russia	1
Ukraine	2
South East Europe	
Albania	1
Kosovo	1
Serbia	5
Total number	87

Total number of received Post-pre-questionnaires

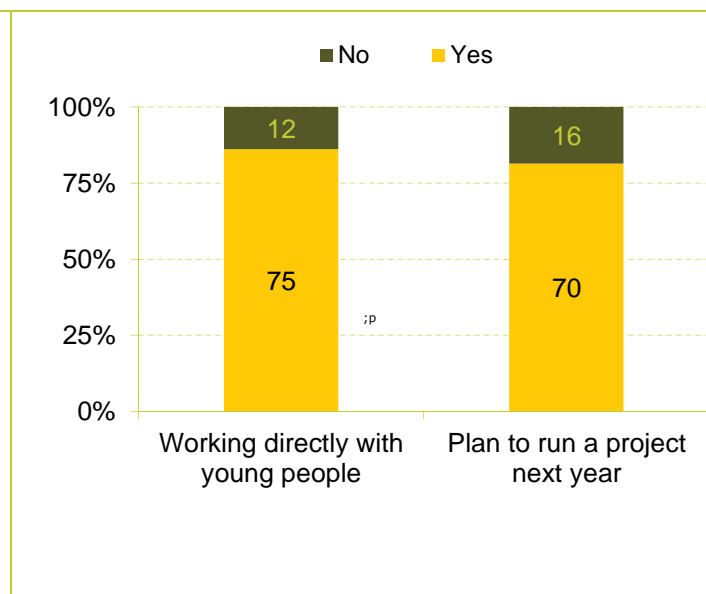
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2. TARGET GROUP

Experience in dealing with European Citizenship



Experience in working directly with young people



General conclusions about the participants' group (selection, experience, language, preparation, etc.)

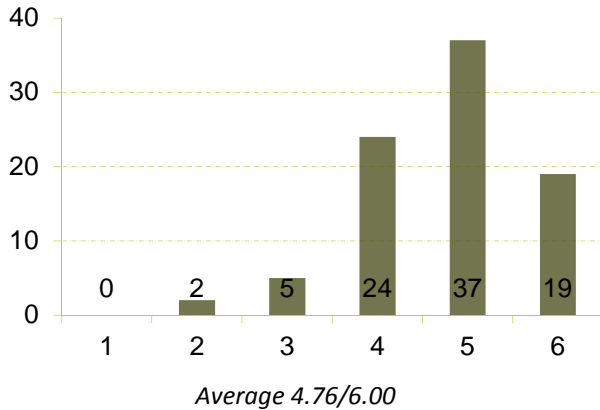
The group of participants in all 4 courses reflected a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, field of actions, experience in youth work, age and gender with the course in Sofia, Bulgaria where there was – for the first time - a predominance of male participants. The level of interaction in English of some participants was relatively limited affecting their understanding a concept that is per se already complex and it requires adequate and proper terminology, their contribution to the group and also the extent to which they immersed in the learning process. To be noted that several participants expressed that their English speaking and listening competences enlarged significantly. The size of the group in 3 out of 4 courses was as expected thanks to the active role of the agency to secure a number of participants as closest as possible to the 24 agreed. In Spain there was 26 and in the course in Bulgaria the number of participants was 15 due to several last minute cancellations and visa/passport problems.

Some participants were quite concerned with the way Europe is moving, especially in what concerns lack of democracy in European Institutions, business, corporations, finances and the growing distance between politicians and common people.

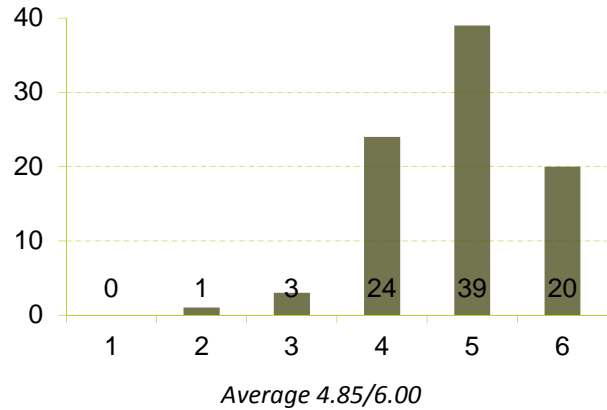
Generally everybody found his/her own role in the group and was involved in the group dynamics. In some cases participants choose to have a marginal role in the group dynamics either due to speaking common language and engaging in reflections from their regional realities point of view, either because not fully sharing the same youth work practice.

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

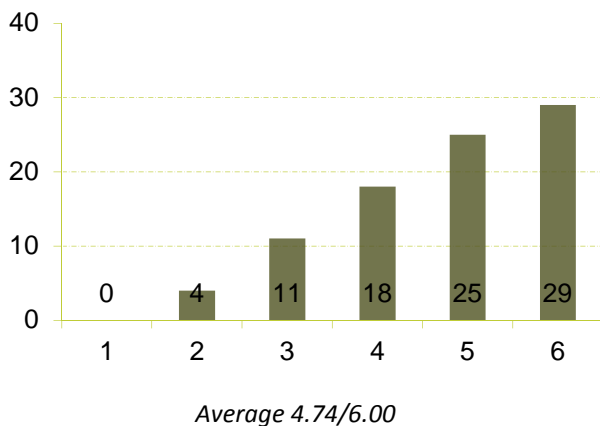
Course fulfilled the objective to "critically explore the meaning, relevance and implications of European citizenship in youth work in all its dimensions"



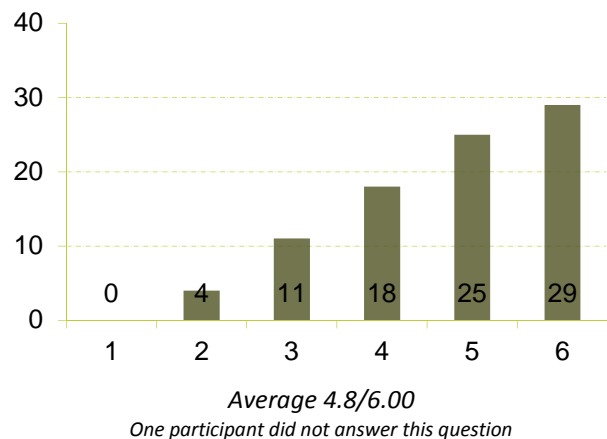
Course fulfilled the objective to "promote and facilitate the active use of programmes and structures in support of youth work on European Citizenship, including YiA"



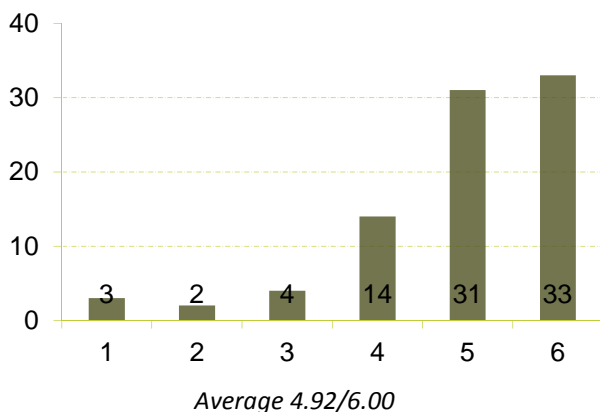
Course fulfilled the objective to "experiment and explore the potential of European Citizenship for active democratic change in society"



Course fulfilled the objective to "associate participants with the current discourse on European Citizenship (its concepts, formal meanings and expressions)"



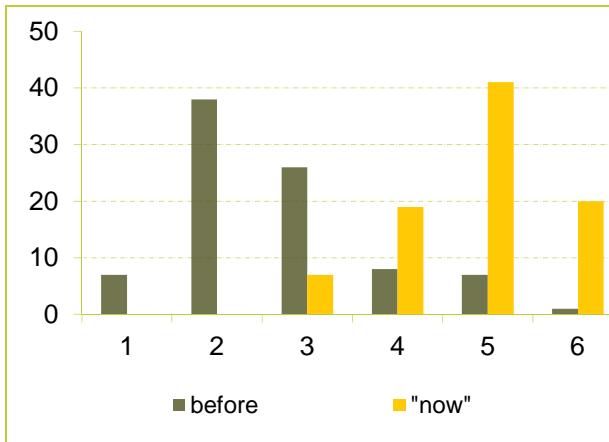
Course fulfilled the objective to "exemplify the connection between European Citizenship, Human Rights, Democracy and ICL and the underlying values"



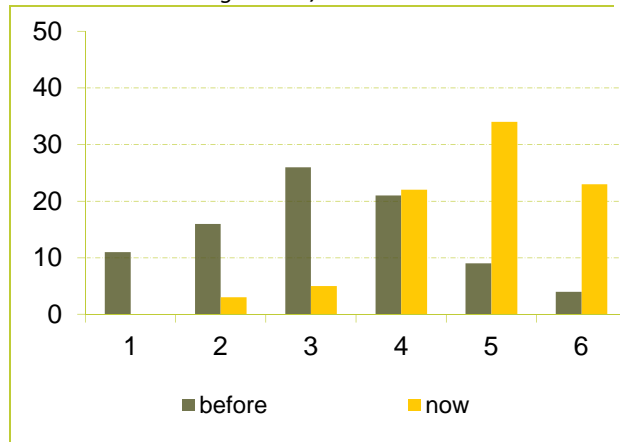
The scale extends from 1 – not at all to 6 – fully.

4. GROUP LEARNING PROCESSES AND RESULTS

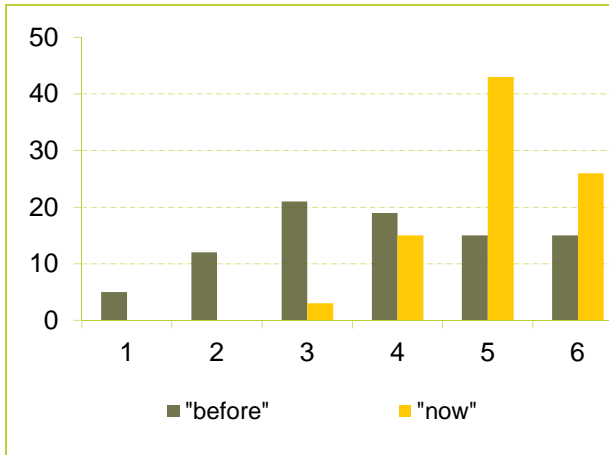
Familiarity with the concept of European Citizenship



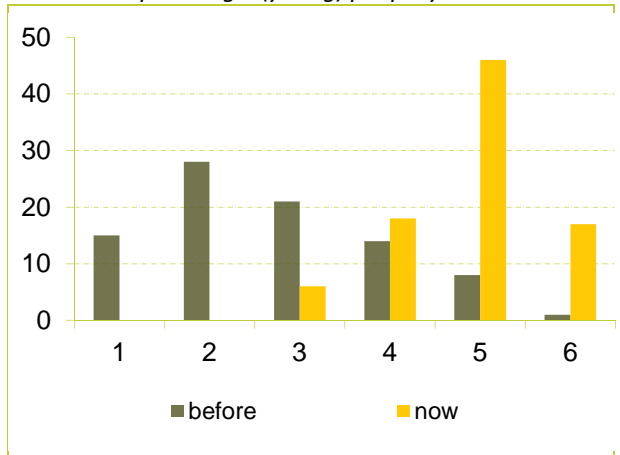
Knowledge of the European Youth in Action Programme/Erasmus+



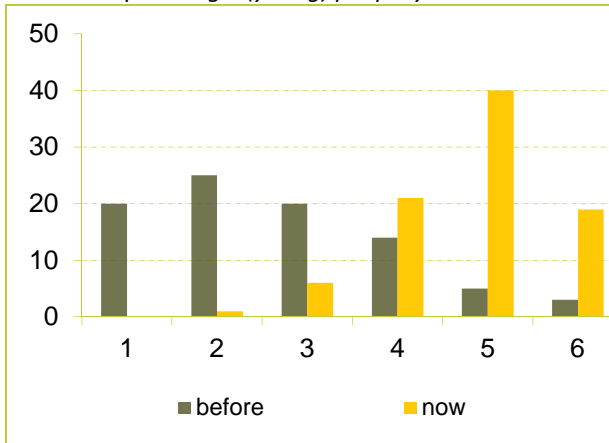
Confidence in presenting organisation and ideas



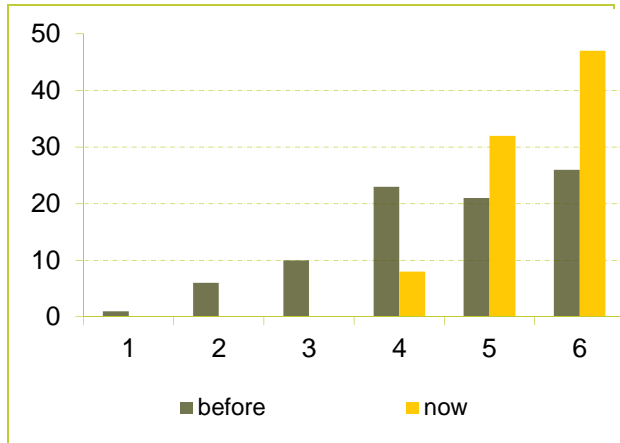
Confidence in discussing and promoting European Citizenship amongst (young) people you work with

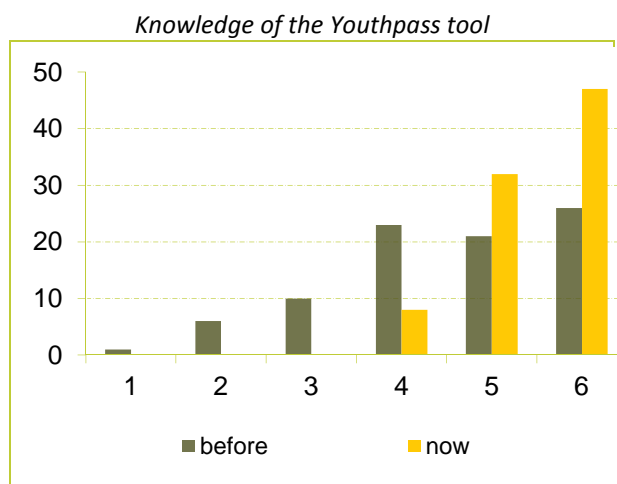


Confidence in discussing and promoting European Citizenship amongst (young) people you do not know



Confidence to cooperate with people from other cultures





General conclusions about the course, the learning processes and the results:

The “course’s density” was differently evaluated in the 4 courses: while at the ECTC in France most participants felt that the duration of the course wasn't enough considering the wide range of issues to explore and wanted to extend it; at the course in Spain, the 6 days were by the participants defined “intellectually tiring” also in consideration of the fact that the “social self managed out of the programme activities” were very intense and long-lasting.

The participants in all courses share that they learned a lot during the course on how to explore the topic with interactive, inclusive and participative approaches; the majority had identified clear aspects of the concept to be used as starting point in their youth work.

Few expressed the need to discuss more about their realities in relation to citizenship, participation and Europe, amongst others. Although some participants felt that the sessions after dinner were demanding, most people felt that time during the course was well used and sessions had enough time for discussions. Few people proposed to increase the course to 8 days.

The understanding of the concept varies across the courses. In the ECTC Bulgaria, due to the small group of participants, all of them by the end had clear ideas on the concept and on how to implement it. In France the participants felt generally quite satisfied with the non-standard concept of European Citizenship – concepts and exercises/methods were interrelated - , got new insights about European Citizenship and found new methods and approaches to deal with the topic in the work they are doing with young people as it was possible to discuss the concept incorporating different views and opinions. In Spain on the contrary the clarity of the concept varies amongst participants due to the fact that some had inner resistance to let go already acquired concepts and previous experiences, and some critically engaged with the concept and its challenges to their practice. The participants from the ECTC in Spain suggested that the course title “Citizenship education in Europe” will better link the educational aspects and the citizenship role of youth work. According to them, this new title will release participants’ energies for engaging into youth work practices. In the ECTC in the UK for a number of participants the learning environments caused some uncomforted due to their lack of experience in participating in the training activities of such kind (NFE methodology), as well as their disassociation from the direct work in youth related institutions.

The last days when all programme parts come together, the participants are usually too tired and they need extra support either in using the wheel of European Citizenship as a way to sum up the course and in linking the concept with their local youth work realities.

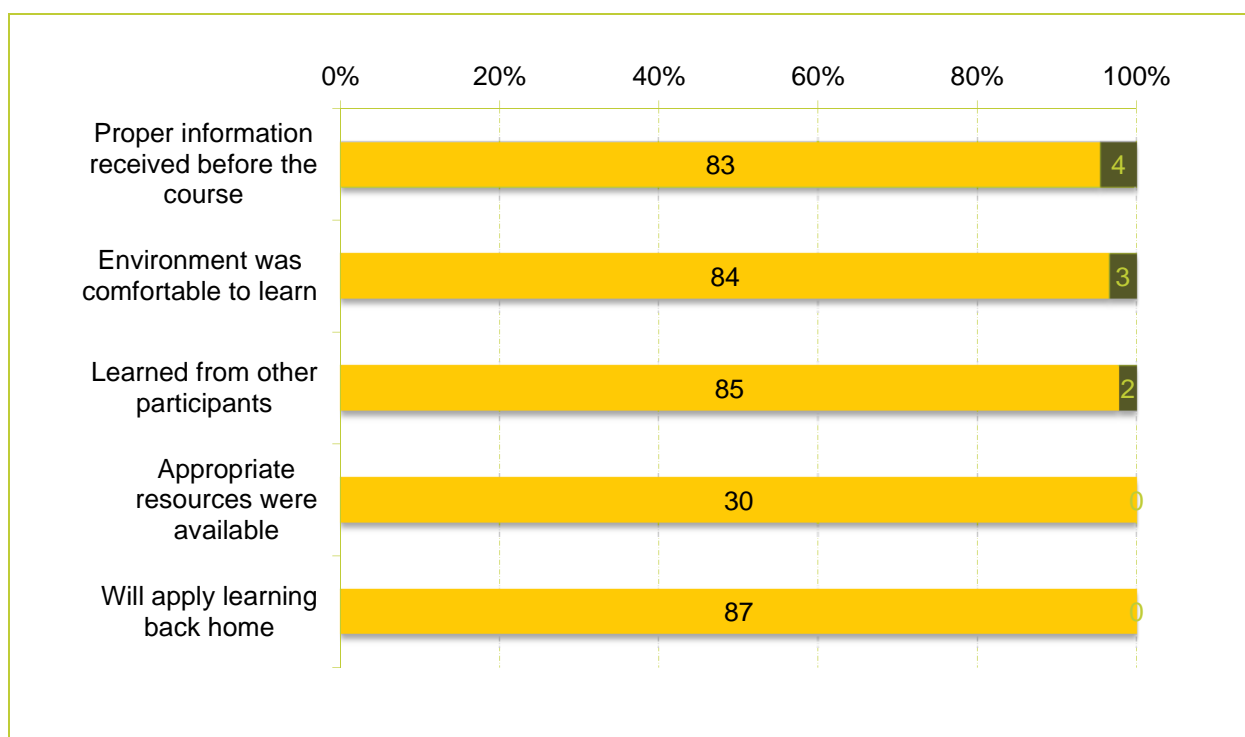
In all courses the participants appreciated the importance of sharing different opinions, visions and experiences of Europe and citizenship, with people from other countries and cultural backgrounds, both in formal training spaces and in informal time.

Most participants expressed the appreciation for the spaces to learn from other youth workers and their work and said that the training atmosphere created positive feeling and encouraged them to participate as much as possible.

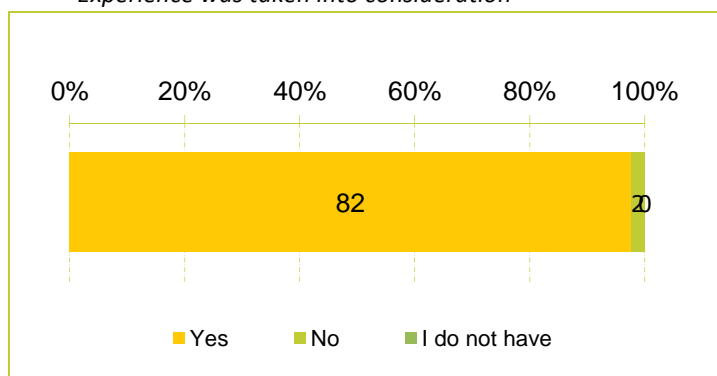
The courses were run across the change of the programme from youth in Action to Erasmus+: Youth in Action. The late availability of information caused a bit of frustration amongst participants and resulted in low score of the related objective.

An impressive list of competences and learning achievements acquired by the participants have been extracted by the evaluation forms. The lists are clustered around 4 categories: concepts developed and cultural aspects, link with youth work practice, language and communication skills and attitudes (taken from 3 courses out of 3 – UK is missing). The full lists are available in the separate course’s reports.

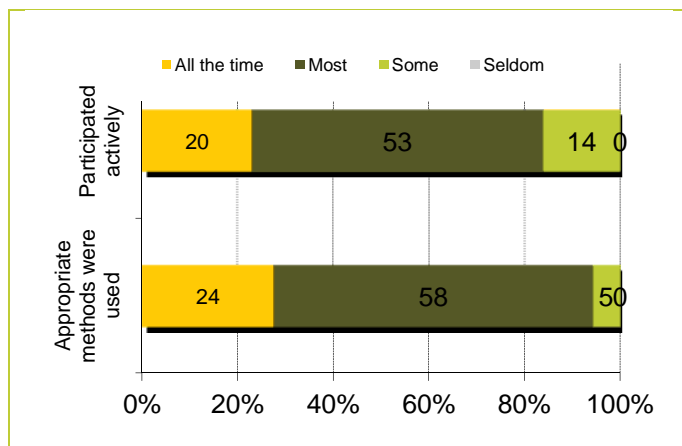
5. QUALITY OF THE COURSE ORGANISATION



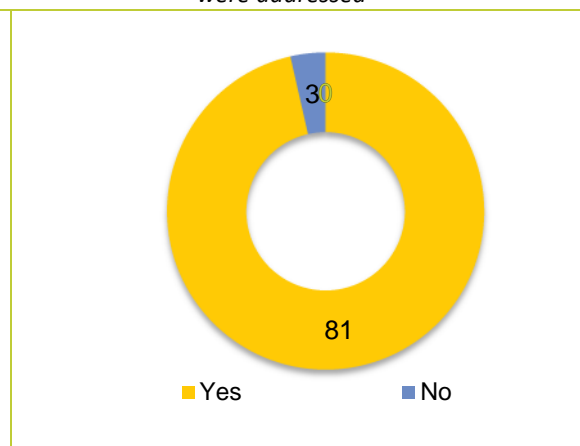
Experience was taken into consideration



6. METHODS AND INDIVIDUAL LEARNING



Questions on European Citizenship were addressed



7. METHODOLOGY

All courses personalised the programme according to the environment and the needs of participants. The changes were related to the following part of the programme:

- Learning exercise on the morning of day 2: very challenging in France, linked to the images of Europe in Spain.
- Use of maps of Europe: from using it, to not using them (Spain), to have them made by the participants (France)
- Future of Europe: not used in France as from previous reports it was noted that it bring too much pessimism
- Simulation exercise: in France the "The Scramble for Wealth and Power" was used for the first time, no simulation in the UK course was made
- Understanding reality: to provide methodological tools for proper practice (France and Bulgaria) and to fully experience it in the local contexts (Bulgaria, Spain and the UK)
- Transfer to home reality: to address it by not only using rational but also emotional schemes
- Non standard concept: to keep the visualisation during the full course duration

8. TEAM

The ways of work and the synergy in the team was highly appreciated by the participants. The support from the staff persons contracted by the National Agencies (the case of France and Spain) was very much appreciated by the participants and their constant presence, as support person, helped in the smooth running of the course. In all courses there was the presence, even only for few days, of a representative of the National Agency. In the case of the ECTC in the UK and Bulgaria a representative of the NA was constantly present and much appreciated for their presence and contribution. The presence also in the case of the ECTCs in Bulgaria, France and the UK of local participants was an added value.

9. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

All courses have pointed out some aspects that need to be considered for future development, mostly around the concept exploration. The full details are in the individual course's reports, here are the main aspects in synthesis (for clarity all suggestions are listed, even though partly in contradiction):

- Proper concept and practice exploration requires a longer course duration
- Better definition of the different aspects/characteristics of the concept/practice which are quite complex
- Notions and concepts paired with real and practical examples
- Integration of the wheel into the non standard concept, so to have the theoretical presentations better fitting together and easing the link with youth work
- Input in the non standard concept shared across days
- Importance of visualising the concept
- Simulation needs to better address the complexity and ambiguity of the European Citizenship concept
- More time to work on more precise relevant questions – preselected - on European citizenship in practice
- Use of cases (real or semi real) in addition to the simulation exercise
- Eventual change of the course title
- Link with the new priorities arising from the new programme of Erasmus+: Youth in Action
- How to address Youthpass in a way that participants can alone fill in the part 3 at home
- When to locate the free afternoon
- Criteria for choosing the course venue

10. ANNEXES

10.1 DETAILS PARTICIPANTS FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Participating countries	Final number of participants
South East Europe	
Albania	1
Kosovo	1
Serbia	5
Eastern Europe & Caucasus	
Armenia	2
Azerbaijan	1
Georgia	2
Russia	1
Ukraine	2
Total number	15

10.2 DETAILS PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES PER COURSE

10.2.1 23 – 28 September 2013, Edinburgh, UK

Participating countries	Final number of participants
Bulgaria	2
Cyprus	1
Estonia	3
Germany	1
Italy	2
Malta	2
Slovenia	2
Turkey	3
United Kingdom	5
Eastern Europe & Caucasus	2
South East Europe	1
Total number	24

10.2.2 9 – 14 December 2013, Sofia, Bulgaria

Participating countries	Final number of participants
Belgium-FR	1
Bulgaria	3
Finland	2
Italy	3
Poland	1
Eastern Europe & Caucasus	2
South East Europe	3
Total number	15

10.2.3 24 February – 1 March 2014, Mollina, Spain

Participating countries	Final number of participants
Austria	2
Croatia	1
Cyprus	2
Germany	2
Hungary	2
Italy	1
Poland	2
Romania	3
Spain	4
Turkey	3
Eastern Europe & Caucasus	3
South East Europe	1
Total number	26

10.2.4 13 - 18 October 2014, Toulouse, France

Participating countries	Final number of participants
Austria	2
Croatia	1
Czech Republic	2
Finland	2
France	2
Germany	1
Hungary	2
Romania	1
Spain	2
Poland	1
Greece	1
Turkey	2
Eastern Europe & Caucasus	1
South East Europe	2
Total number	22