

# Annual Report

for 2024



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# Free European Youth e.V

## A YEAR WHERE THINGS STARTED TO CLICK

2024 was the year when things began to come together for Free European Youth e.V. What had previously felt like separate efforts slowly turned into something more connected. The organisation did not just run activities; it started to understand what kind of role it wants to play within the broader European youth field.

There was a noticeable shift in focus. Instead of trying to cover everything, the work began to concentrate around two main areas: digital youth work and environmental engagement. This did not happen through a formal decision alone, but through experience, feedback, and the natural direction of ongoing projects.

By the end of the year, there was a stronger sense of identity. Not fully fixed, but much clearer than before.

## QUIET CHANGES THAT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE

A lot of the progress in 2024 came from things that are not immediately visible in a report. Internal processes became more structured, and the way projects were prepared improved significantly.

Some changes were simple but effective:

- planning started earlier and became more realistic
- responsibilities were more clearly distributed
- follow-up after activities was taken more seriously

These adjustments made collaboration smoother, especially in international settings where reliability matters. Partners knew what to expect, and communication became more consistent.

At the same time, visibility was no longer treated as an afterthought. Sharing what was happening, documenting outcomes, and maintaining an online presence became part of the workflow rather than something done at the end.

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## **ERASMUS+ GOING VIRTUAL – ONLINE METHODS FOR YOUTH WORKERS**

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The training course “Erasmus+ Going Virtual – Online Methods for Youth Workers” became a central moment in 2024, not just because of its size but because of what it represented.

With 34 participants coming from eight different countries, the project created a space where digital youth work was explored in a very practical way. Participants did not just learn about tools; they tested them, questioned them, and adapted them to their own realities.

The programme moved between structured sessions and more open exchanges. Workshops on digital storytelling, online safety, and social media for activism were combined with informal discussions and collaborative work. This mix allowed participants to gradually build confidence instead of being overwhelmed with information.

### **Impact & Outcomes**

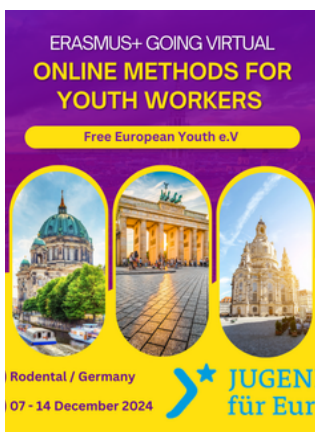
The training course had a significant impact on participants who work with vulnerable young individuals. They acquired a valuable digital youth work methodology applicable in future projects, particularly during times of crisis and limited face-to-face communication.

Participants exchanged knowledge with peers from Program and EECA countries, improving intercultural communication skills and capacity for future international activities. The project produced online methods, articles on working with vulnerable youth online, a Toolbox on Google Drive, the Erasmus+ Going Virtual Framework, and an educational video. 34 youth workers now act as ambassadors of the project results.

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## ERASMUS+ GOING VIRTUAL – ONLINE METHODS FOR YOUTH WORKERS

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## NATURE WARRIORS

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While international work gained momentum, there was a clear effort to stay grounded. The “Nature Warriors” activity in Mersin reflected that intention in a very direct way.

Instead of focusing only on awareness, the activity was built around action. Young participants engaged with environmental topics through their daily habits and their immediate surroundings. This made the topic more personal and less abstract.

The process combined a few different elements:

- practical discussions on sustainability in everyday life
- visible actions such as local clean-up efforts
- simple creative outputs to share the message with others

What mattered was not the scale, but the shift in mindset. Participants started to see that environmental responsibility is not something distant or complicated. It is something that begins with small decisions.

Free European Youth e.V. would like to extend its gratitude once again to our volunteers Nehir Nur, Eren, Celal, and Mehmet for their sensitivity and efforts towards a sustainable future.



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## **WHAT STAYED AFTER EVERYTHING ENDED**

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The real value of the year becomes clearer when looking at what participants took with them afterwards.

Youth workers who joined the training reported feeling more confident when using digital tools. More importantly, they developed a more critical understanding of online environments, especially when working with young people.

On the local side, participants showed a stronger sense of ownership. They were not just attending an activity; they were actively shaping it and reflecting on their role within their community.

These kinds of outcomes are not always easy to measure, but they tend to last longer than any single activity.

## **COMMUNICATION STARTED TO MATTER MORE**

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Another noticeable shift was how communication was approached. Instead of being treated as a final step, it became part of the process itself.

Participants were encouraged to create content, reflect on their experiences, and share what they learned. This made the output more authentic and less formal.

Over time, this also helped shape a more recognisable voice for the organisation. The way projects are presented started to reflect what actually happens inside them.

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## WORKING WITH 20+ NGO'S BEHIND THE SCENES

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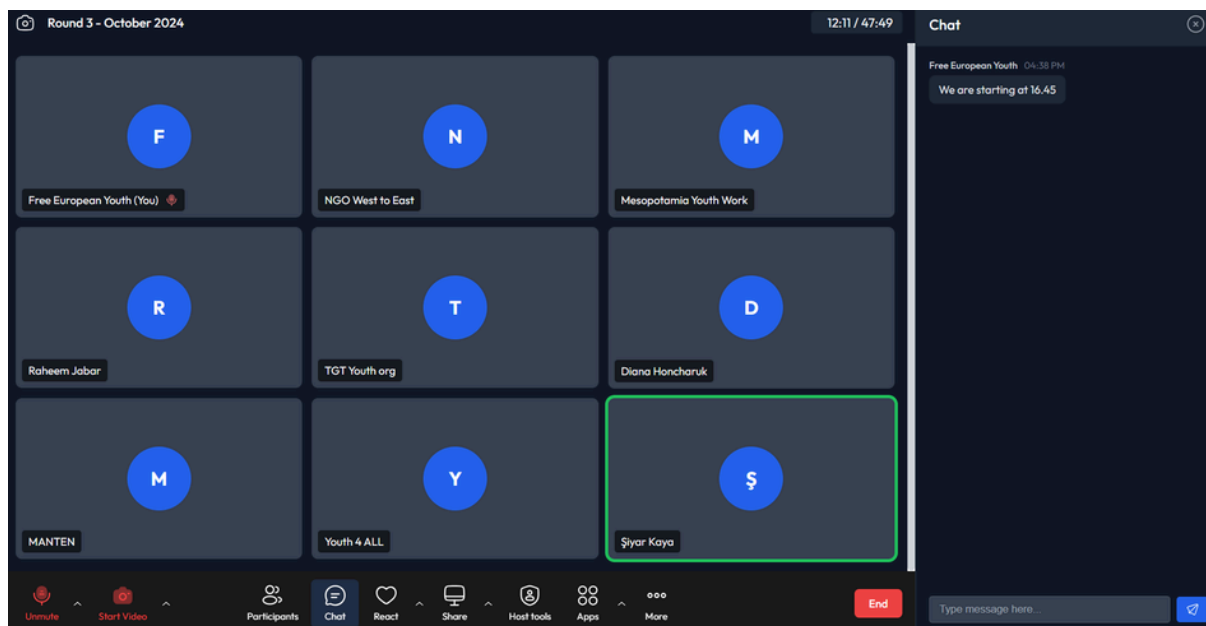
A large part of 2024 was spent on something less visible but strategically important: project development and partnership building.

Free European Youth e.V. worked together with more than 20 NGOs across Europe in preparing Erasmus+ applications. This was not a superficial collaboration. It involved continuous communication, joint idea development, and aligning different perspectives into shared project concepts.

The organisation took an active role in:

- shaping project directions
- connecting partners with complementary strengths
- contributing to the overall design of proposals

Working at this level required a different mindset compared to running activities. It meant thinking long-term, managing expectations, and staying consistent throughout the process.



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## **PROJECTS THAT REFLECT A CLEARER DIRECTION**

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The applications developed during the year show how the organisation is starting to connect its ideas into a more structured direction.

Among the key proposals:

- YOUTH GREEN DEAL – ECONNECT
- ERASMUS+ GOING VIRTUAL – ONLINE METHODS FOR YOUTH WORKERS
- NEXGEN ALLIES: RISE ABOVE CYBER BULLYING
- ACTIVE BODIES
- PREPARE & SURVIVE

Each of these projects addresses a different challenge, but they all connect to broader themes such as resilience, participation, and adapting to modern realities.

What stands out is not just the number of applications, but the way they were developed. They are no longer isolated ideas, but part of a growing portfolio.



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## **LOOKING FORWARD WITH MORE CLARITY**

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By the end of 2024, the organisation reached a point where growth is no longer only about doing more. It is increasingly about doing things with more intention.

The next phase will likely build on what has already been tested:

- expanding work in digital youth methodologies
- strengthening environmental actions through international cooperation
- creating more space for youth-led initiatives

There is still room to grow, but the direction is no longer unclear. That, more than anything else, defines 2024.

