

Youth4Regions – the programme for aspiring journalists

- 3 years after –

The Youth4Regions programme is to enter its fourth edition. A survey carried among the former participants (alumni) has revealed their overwhelming support for the programme's continuation and the directions for taking it forward.

73 alumni were invited to respond to the survey between 6 and 16 February 2020 and 33 answers were received. These are the main results of the survey.

1. Professional development:

- 66% (22 respondents) of the respondents considered that the programme benefitted their career through networking and professional advice;
- 18% (6 respondents) mentioned that they had received a job offer thanks to the programme;
- 70% (23 respondents) considered that their skills improved thanks to the programme.

2. Personal development:

- 97% (32 respondents) consider that the programme helped them improve their understanding of the EU;
- 18% (6 respondents) improved tolerance;
- 66% (22 respondents) improved self-awareness;
- 60% (20 respondents) created lasting friendships.

3. Current occupation:

- 42% (14 respondents) worked as journalists (part-time or full-time) at the time of the survey;
- 24% (8 respondents) were still students.

4. Most relevant and often suggestions for the future of the programme:

- More hands on journalist work during the Week;
- More job shadowing and networking between participants and senior journalists;
- More trainings focused on skill building at the beginning of the programme (e.g. coverage, interview, storytelling trainings);
- Have a clearer programme and communicate expectations in advance;
- More opportunities to socialize and build a network (e.g. get to know each other activities).

Follow up to the survey

The results of the survey will be taken into consideration when designing the media programme for the 2020 edition, which, accordingly, should include more work and networking opportunities, as well as media-relevant trainings and mentoring.