

REPORT

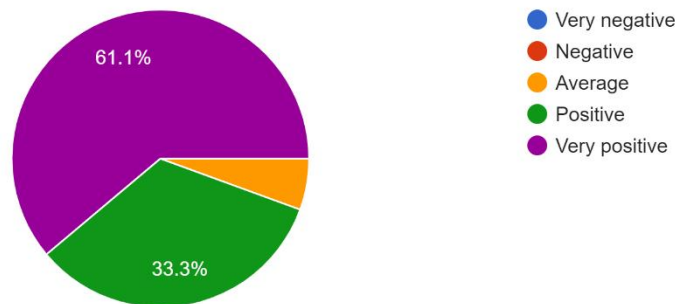
Evaluation – Advocacy in Action

This is the summary of the participants' evaluation of DBYN's training course 'Advocacy in Action'. This training course took place 02-06/09/2024 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. This summary evaluation is the unedited form, providing the original feedback of the participants.

I. Overall, my experience of this study session was

1. Overall, my experience of this study session was

18 responses



Please comment:

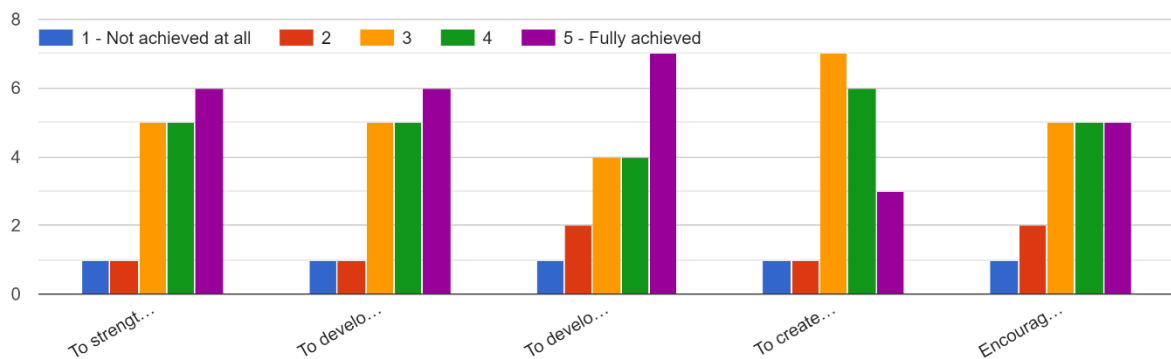
- It was very useful for me to have a greater and better idea of what concerns politics and current issues
- the people are amazing and we got so much information which was needed
- Session was very insightful and organized. Sometimes it got tiring in the afternoon. More breaks/ longer breaks/ finishing earlier would have been great.
- It was a beautiful experience, meeting various people from different nationalities. It would have been perfect if we included more about Don Bosco's life and mission. He is the reason we are here after all
- It was a lot a theory material but we also have the time to put it in a more concise context.
- The experience was focused in many different topics. In particularly I found the environment session very interesting together with the campaigns
- The experts were really well prepared and the team had a good organisation.

- "I'm not sure what I expected, but it was definitely better ^^ Really enjoyed it especially the expert sessions :)"
- I felt very included and it was very warm environment!
- I experienced a way of learning I have never known before. I have met new people with all different stories. This is my first International experience and I think definitely not the last.
- I liked the group and the programme. I liked that it was practical and interactive. I learned a lot about the topic, got to know many new people, learned about the CoE, learned a lot of energizers. Some points however were repeting each other (finding definitions to terms, for example)
- Sessions were informative and practical

2. In my opinion, the objectives of this study session were achieved as follows:

1. To strengthen the human rights advocacy potential of local volunteers and take on future engagements as youth representatives.
2. To develop a deeper understanding of Human Rights based approach, peacebuilding and sustainability.
3. To develop participants' competences necessary for successful Human Rights advocacy at all levels, by giving young people information, know-how and practical tools to advocate and participate successfully in social change and influence decisions.
4. To create Human Rights advocacy campaigns in the field of sustainability and peace-building, on a local or international level to create spaces for dialogue.
5. Encourage them to continue the institutionalisation of DBYN's representation work on different levels.

2. In my opinion, the objectives of this study session were achieved as follows:



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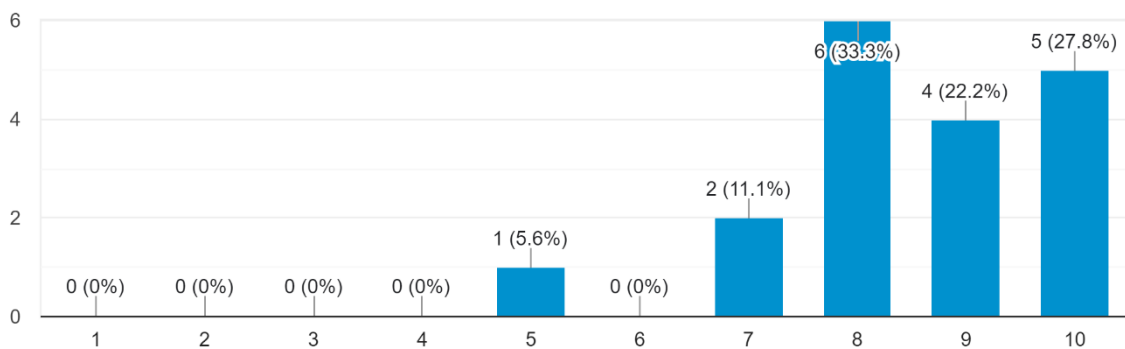
- All were well achieved
- need more time to work on campaigns

- Excellent study session. Very informative activities. First expert session could have been more interesting, but overall the sessions were a huge success
- Somwtimes I felt it all goes too slow (the sessions) and that we have too many games and energizers (mainly the first day - I know it is cool to get to know each other, but for me it was too many games)... However, I really enjoyed it overall, also the bit of DonBosco Spirit.
- We never conected the subject with don Bosco’s work and I didn’t realy get the picture what DBYN’s representatives do
- Through discussion we learned to compromise our visions and work together. Through very concrete examples we got a clear picture of what a campaign looks like. This week I did things I did not expect I would be able to do.

3. My expectations of this study session were met up to

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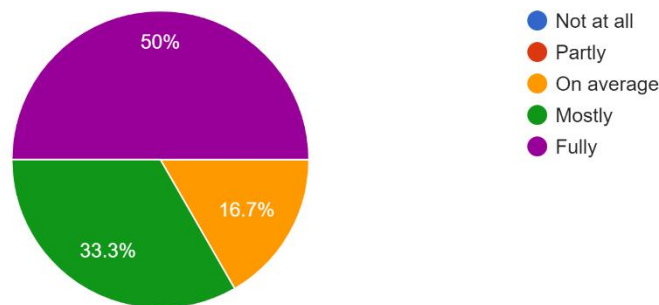
- What I thought was going to happen occurred, it was a very useful experience
- very informative very safe
- I expected more information purely on what human rights are.
- More Don Bosco content and spiritual moments
- Expectations were very well met. I would put a bit more emphasis on what human rights are in more detail however overall it was a very interesting training session.
- The educator advisor was very useful as well
- I feel like it was sometimes very general and from broad perspective, I would maybe appreciate more expert sessions and actual specific know how - we could maybe go deeper into different tools that Gabrielle mentioned —> that could be super useful.
- Since I didn’t know what to expect I didn’t expect much but I realy liked it. I would just prefer little bit more religious content (praying every day, at least one mass) and also I didn’t feel much don Bosco spirit here and I think it shouldn’t be like that

- This was my first study session like this and actually didn't know what my expectations were but I really liked the experience I have been able to live with all this people from different countries among the Europe. I was hoping to get more of salesian spirit and learning through themes we were doing.

4. The programme and methods were appropriate to facilitate learning

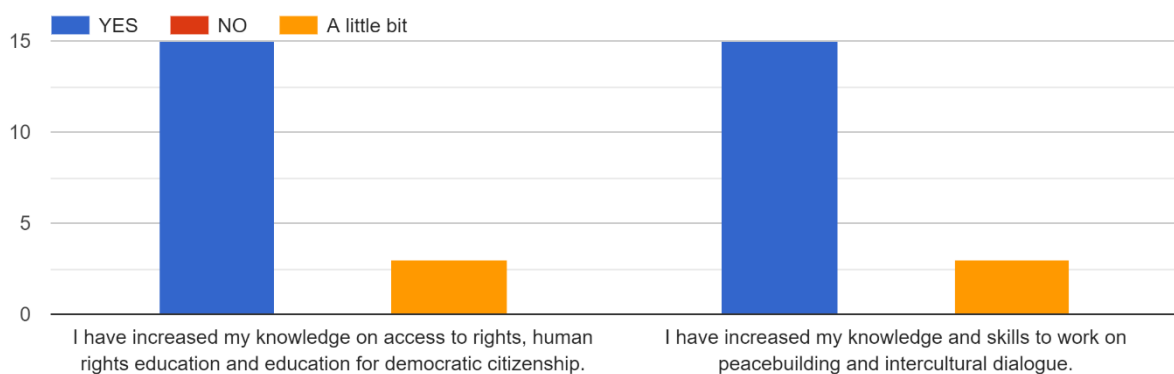
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5. My assessment of specific competences in the Council of Europe context:

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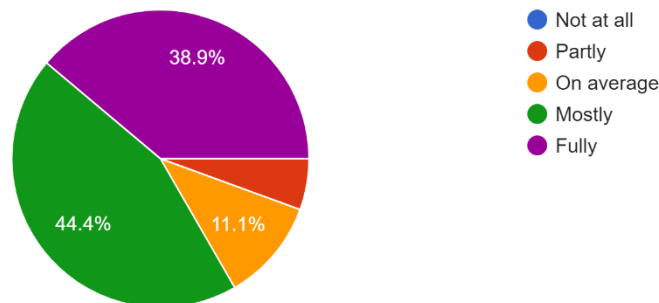
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- I have gained more knowledge of the topics
- workshops was great organised and was designed to reach the point
- Sessions helped me to increase my knowledge
- I already knew a bit about human rights, so I didn't learn a lot new, but I confirmed my knowledge
- The peacebuilding aspect was present indirectly, through the relationships with others but I expected a little more practical content about peacebuilding

6. I gained confidence and competences to continue working on the themes of the session

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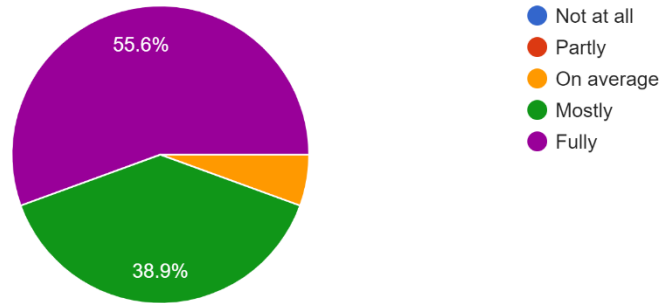
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- I now feel more confident to participate in conversations that include politics and current issues
- I worked both in groups and alone and I understand how I can make it better for me
- I will surely be doing more research on such topics and try to know more about what is occurring around me
- I'm excited to get started on organizing events and getting involved in already existing projects.
- I now have tools that will help me with my campaign

7. I understand better the role of the Council of Europe and the relevance of its work

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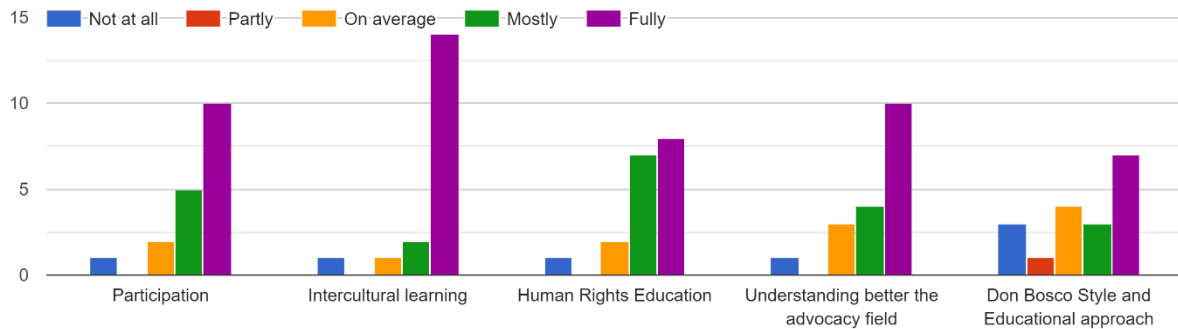


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- Going to visit the council of Europe really helped with this experience, to see everything
- Gubaz' and Mila's sessions helped me understand the work of the CoE better!
- The trip to the council of Europe helped
- The tour visit to the COE was a great success and gave much more value to the experience
- I have a better vision what the CoE is an how it works. But there is probably still a lot to learn
- Making recommendations to implement human rights
- To be honest I always confused the Council of Europe with the Council of the European Union and the European Council. During this time I learned to differentiate the CoE of the Institutions of the EU. I'm very glad!

8. This study session was a positive experience in

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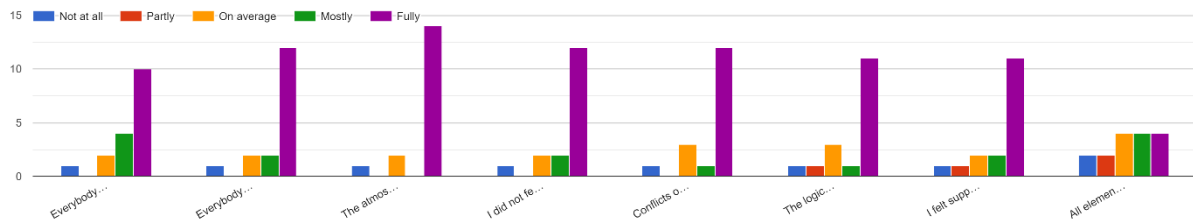
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- It was a positive experience
- We did not mention Don Bosco’s journey and mission, he is our ultimate advocate!
- Talking it out in a group is challenging but it teach me a lot
- After a long time I went back to informal education, which was very interesting especially with topics like these
- Study sessions were very interesting and usefull but I think there should have been more examples from Don Bosco life because there are many areas that could be used from his personality and activities he did in his time. The salesian spirituality is great base and example for everything nowadays so I would use it more in advocacy sessions. They are here so why wouldn't we use all that our father of advocacy for youth, left us from his time.

9. My assessment of the learning environment is that

- Everybody had the opportunity to actively engage in the process.
- Everybody’s opinions were respected.
- The atmosphere was positive.
- I did not feel discriminated in this group.
- Conflicts or disagreements were addressed constructively.
- The logic of the programme was clear to me and supported my learning process.
- I felt supported and assisted by the team during the learning process.
- All elements of the Oratory (home, parish, school, playground) were present and balanced.

9. My assessment of the learning environment is that

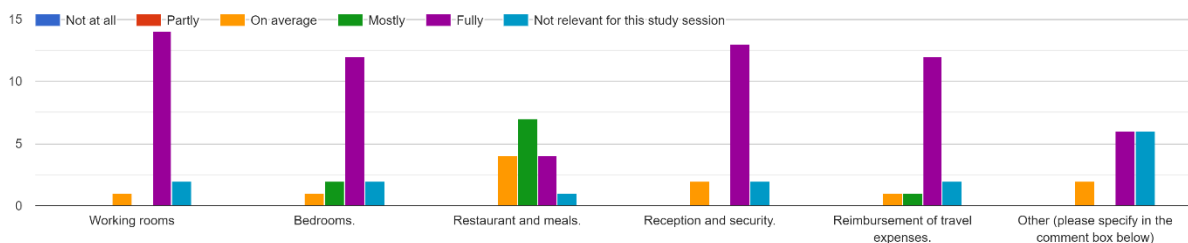


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- My opinions were respected and also others
- the best groups and leaders ever
- Since different ways of teaching were used I believe that everyone could understand easily
- This was all very nice 😊. I, however, I am still kind of confused how much it is Don Bosco oriented.
- Regarding discrimination, I personally didn't feel discriminated but I wasn't sure if an average person from our oratory wouldn't feel that way if they shared their conservative (but democratic, not discriminating) opinions. There were a few points that I'm not sure, if they could find with the group common ground or openness to respect the others values and opinions.
- I would recommend salesian priest support and presence during whole week (we could learn a lot of him, have a chance to talk about Don Bosco and connection with session etc.), optional praying moments and mass. Also, all sessions should have tracks and parts of salesian spirit and learning. Don Bosco is a great base and teacher to all of for advocacy.

10. The facilities of the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg were appropriate

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Please comment:

- All the facilities were overall good
- Some meals could be improved
- It was nice that we had single rooms :)

- "It was all amazing! ❤️ Thanks to the always smiling people that work here - you are shining!!
- And the food! It was great and amazing. (I was waiting for the cheesecake the whole week- but you made me happy even without it 😊)"
- Very good wifi connection :D, Helpful and dear stuff

11. What I take home from this study session is

- I take home more confidence and knowledge
- A lot. Human rights, advocacy and how I start my own campaign
- networking and a huge new knowledge of various topics
- More confidence, knowledge and a new experience
- Knowledge about my Human Rights and those of others. Deeper understanding of the interplays between culture and ideologies when it comes to intercultural dialogue. Better understanding of peace building
- An amount of new knowledge and experience that I will share with the people I have around
- Many smiles, many new things learned
- Together with me I will take with me my knowledge that i have gained on the issues that surround us that i wasn't aware of
- More tools to work on my own advocacy
- to be courageous and just to begin with the advocacy work. It is good to start no matter how high the level is :) I also take a lot of motivation and empowerment with me home
- I take home an experience rich in content and skills
- New friends, connections, ideas, motivation and determination to make a change.
- A lot of new experiences and knowledge about other cultures, also many nice memories
- Talking and listening can be the most productive thing that we can spend our time on.
- That my voice is valuable and needs to be heard. I have the tools I need. Thank you :)
- New acquaintances and parts of everyones personality and country, new experience of this kind of studying and being part of lovely group.
- Good energy, more respectfulness to other's opinions
- Advocacy Cycle and Building an Advocacy programme from scratch

12. What I missed in this study session is

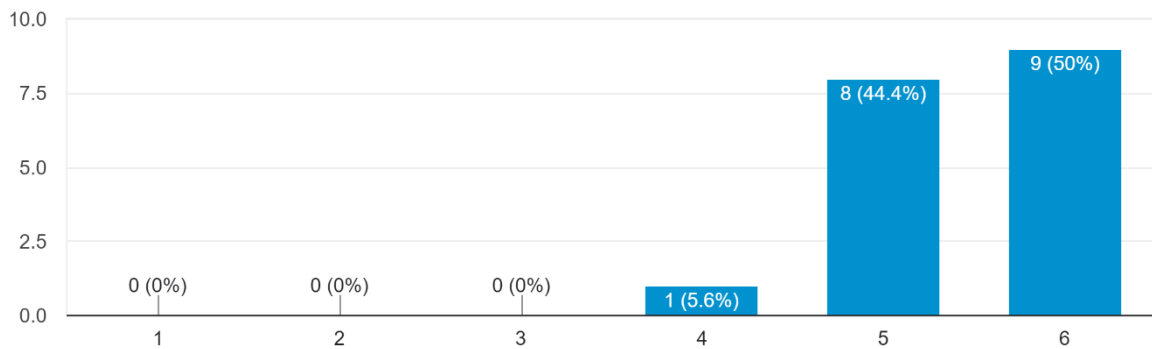
- Nothing
- Nothing
- i need more time 😞
- More free time
- Don Bosco content, his life, his mission, his advocacy, his hardships, his positivity. Prayer moments and mass
- I don't know
- The curiosity to always learn new things
- Nil

- Nothing, having someone that openly closed conflicts between HR and religion made a difference. The atmosphere always felt as a safe space in which “opinions” (conservative discriminatory hate speech) has no place
- Nothing I can think of :)
- Nothing
- Maybe more walks or sport time - but its fine :)
- DON BOSCO
- Exploring the human rights and their implementation
- More practical input on peacebuilding (maybe a roleplay?)
- Salesian spirit - I wrote it all behind.
- I will write down in the last comment
- None

13. How do you evaluate the contribution of the group of participants to the study session and your learning?

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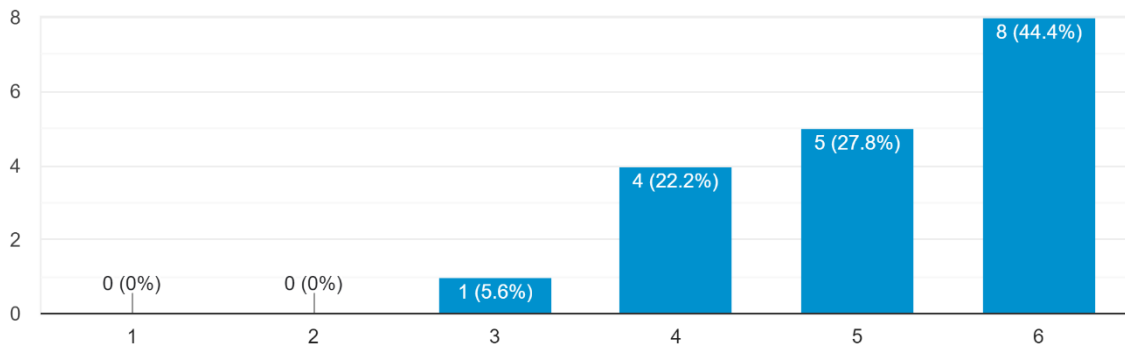
18 responses



14. How do you evaluate your contribution to the group of participants to the study session?

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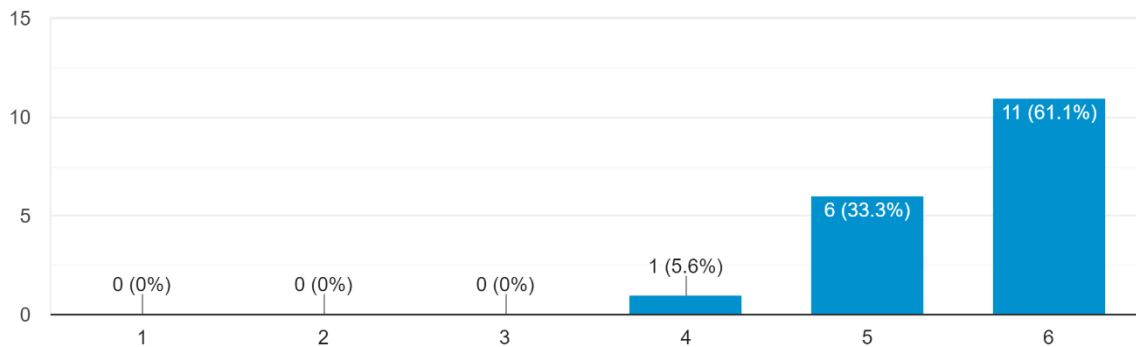
- I participated and my voice was heard when needed
- Great people. 10-10
- i feel like i was pretty active these days
- The participants passed interesting information about their culture and their knowledge and experiences.
- I believe everyone provided indispensable knowledge and experience. We learned from each other, and not one comment was discriminatory or disrespectful in any way
- I like that many of the participants have the time to share their personal experiences in life and in advocacy
- Because I wanted to talk more, but sometimes it was difficult to fight against my shyness
- I feel like we all cooperated together and helped each other whenever we were put in groups or we noticed that people needed help. We also tried to let everyone take part and be heard
- Everybody was very participative, I also tried to do my best
- I felt very welcomed and the learning atmosphere was comfortable :)
- because I have addressed "new" topics
- I was afraid I will be not really fitting into the group, but in the end I felt fine.
- I've enjoyed the group dynamic
- We all really needed each other. Otherwise nothing would happen.
- We exchanged our perspectives and that was great
- Loved how lovely and open all participants and trainers were, positive and lovely atmosphere all the time.
- I will write down in the last comment

- I shared my experiences in discussion groups

15. How do you evaluate the contribution of the team to the study session and your learning?

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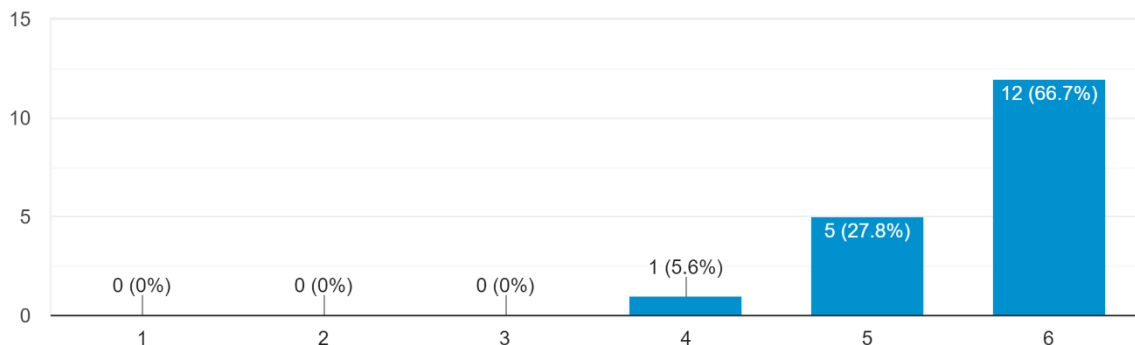
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- I feel it was a good contribution
- They know about the topic
- We always need prepared professionals in DBYN exchanges, the Salesian spirit will be always present and in case someone wants to pray, there are always churches around. But the fact of profiteering from this study session as a full session of studies and promotion of European values, was way more valuable.
- Thanks for all your efforts :)
- They were super nice and competent! I am super thankful for all of them :). Auberie, you roll! 🦋💕
- They put a lot of thought into how to get the group involved and we're always open to feedback
- Team provided guidance on how to build my advocacy programme

16. How do you evaluate the contribution of an education advisor to the study session and your learning?

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18 responses



Please comment:

- They were really committed with the topic and so everything to made it more understandable to everybody
- Very well informed
- I was highly surprised by his capacity to blend with the group of trainers and his experience
- It was nice that Gubaz was such an active part of the study session :)
- Gubaz was great! Super cool, smart and his own person 🙌
- I think you are all really nice people with a lot of experience and can teach us a lot, but I would very much preferred if you spent more time with us in unformal moments so that we can get the better perspective about DBYN's work

17. How will you transfer what you learnt here to your organisation and/or your reality?

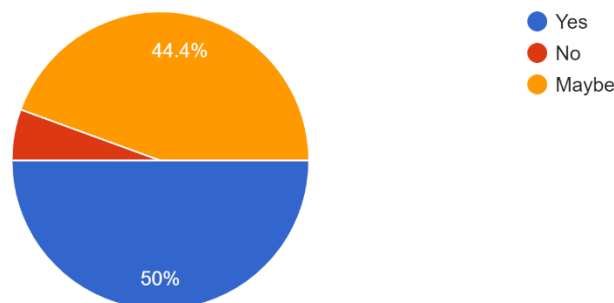
- Spreading the word
- Maybe start my own campaign and connect with people with the same goals
- hopefully will organise campaign with my ngo
- Preach what i learned to family and friends and people i meet.
- I will implement my Action Plan and encourage others to practice advocacy more and more
- Yes, of course
- Talking a lot and trying to make my experience known to as many people as possible
- When speaking to them and in my actions
- Applying to EYC funds

- To work more on my campaign and bring it to life ^^
- telling in general terms what we have done and built
- Mainly through motivation I gained here, and I also think in a long run I will use things that I learnt, even I will not realize it then.
- The barriers that might have kept me from undertaking something I'm the past have been taken away
- I will meet with a representative of the organisation
- "I will try to support my country to apply more fore sessions like this because I think it is a great experience and opportunity for Croatian youth to be involved in it. So please have us in mind! ♥
- Also I will try to bring all I have learned here to my oratory and others where I have chance to work."
- Most of my gained experience I will use in my local oratory. Maybe also in some others centres. I will try to use my experience in dialogue, making plans / advocacy
- I will try to implement the advocacy programme designed during the course

18. I am interested in being part of DBYN's Pool of Youth Representatives in the future.

I am interested in being part of DBYN's Pool of Youth Representatives in the future. (if yes, please let Aubérie know as well)

18 responses



19. Any other comments

- I hope I have time so I can be part of you
- thank you so much, trainers!
- Overall great experience, thanks for the initiative and kindness. Keep doing what you're doing :)
- No, thank you all for the excellent work. You are all brilliant in your own ways and made this study session a special one. I appreciate all our shared moments 😊☐

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- Thanks everybody for this opportunity and for the support the facilitators give to us
 - No
 - Training sessions was very informative over all and I hope that there will be more opportunities like these in the future
 - Amazing exchange, same quality level that the one from December. Although I missed the sessions with Aubérie, it always adds a moment of peace and reflection to the exchanges
 - Thank you for the great time. It was a pleasure :)
 - It was a very nice experience, full of good moments, important content and enthusiasm. The trainers were very professional and helpful, I couldn't ask for anything better. Overall it was a very positive experience and one I would do again.
 - Thanks for everything!
 - Thank you for this week
 - "I already gave my address in the other survey. Thank you :)"
 - Thank you! God bless you all, it is beautiful that you give your time and love to young people!
 - "Overall, course was really interesting in some ways.
Firstly some small negatives.
Honestly I would say that I expected more topics focused on building a democracy. I understand that environment is really important, but I thought (because it is DBYN course) that topics will be also more connected with values of Don Bosco. Besides Good morning and Good night I haven't see any connection with him during a course. For me it is quite sad. Yes as Salesians, we should be opened to other cultures, however we should talk about "our" topics too. Especially (in my opinion) if it is course organized with DBYN.
And my positives.
I really appreciate a community that we build here during a week. New trainers were really cool, and it was pleasure to meet old faces from Rome too :D. Your enthusiasm is inspirational. I learned a lot about me, how I behave in different situations, how I am / I am not respectful to others and how should I behave. Really interesting was also to meet some experts and other people like head of youth representative. Inspirational. I liked the structure of schedule. Set up very well. Free evening is really important during courses like this.
Besides there was some negatives, you are for me my salesians friends. I am looking forward to meet you again. (🇸🇰 In Slovakia too) It was honor to learn again from you. 😊"
 - None