EDULAB

European Youth in Transition to Education and Labour

The EDU-LAB Case Studies: How We Have Been Hearing Young People's Voices

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Partners involved in implementing the WP: UniGraz (AT), TAU (FI), AlmaLaurea (IT), Kolegjii AAB (XK), MGU (PL), BCU (UK)



Background

1. Youth voices are not usually represented in educational research, despite the growing acknowledgement that their contribution may yield alternative perspectives and insights more relevant to their lives (Wright et al., 2024).

2. Most studies continue to be led by adult researchers who, in many cases, adopt limiting and possibly outdated assumptions about young people, which fail to sufficiently consider new ways of being and acting on their part (Stokes & Wyn, 2007).

3. Considering the increasingly complex world young people live in, it is important to give youth a voice and place them at the centre of the research process

Aims

EDU-LAB WP4 – Hearing Young People's Voices: Qualitative Case Studies

1 To provide an in-depth understanding of young people's choices, pathways and transitions in education, training or the labour market by focusing on:

- Their insider knowledge and lived expertise on their choices, pathways and transitions
- The main barriers and enablers hindering or optimising such choices, pathways and transitions

2 To construct solutions with the young people, optimising the participation and completion of education and training and the transition to the labour market



Study Design

Hearing Young People's Voices: Qualitative Case Studies

12 qualitative case studies in 7 European countries

Recruitment
- Diversity
- Purposiveness

15-30 years of age

Multiple methods of data collection:

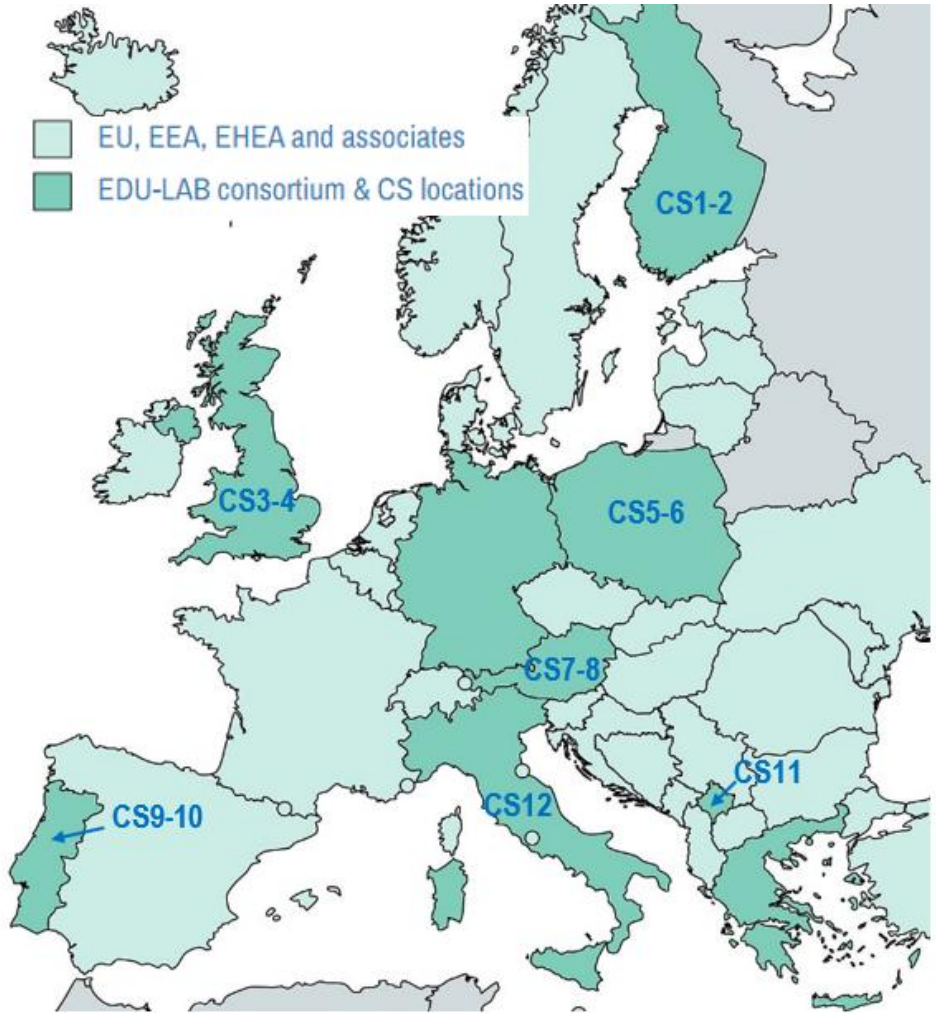
- **Sociodemographic Survey**
- **Focus Groups**
- **Participatory Workshops**
- **Structured Diaries**

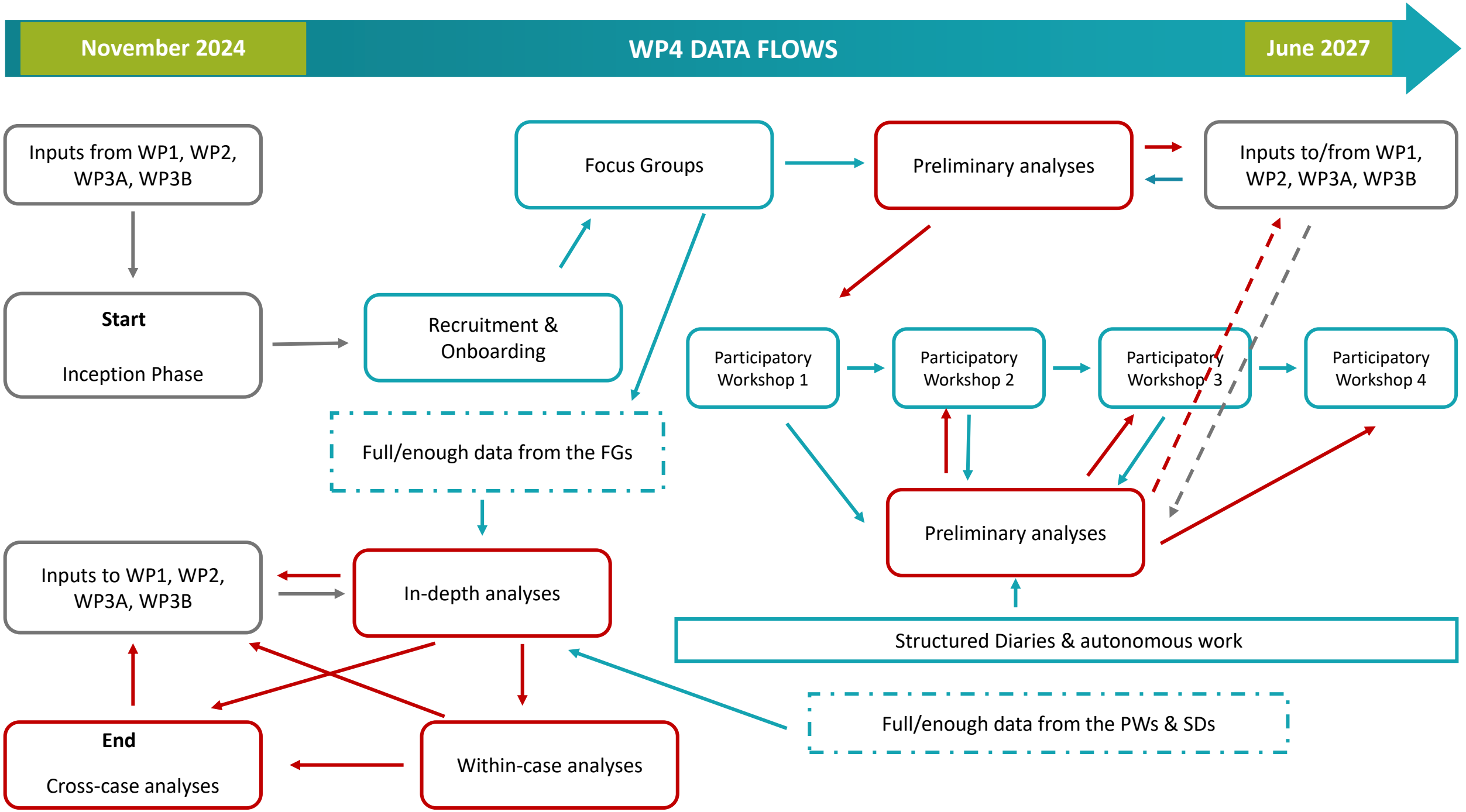
Preference for:

- **In-person onboarding**
- **Online data collection**

Case Studies Locations

CS1-2	**Finland:** Tampere and Helsinki region, FI
CS3-4	**UK:** Birmingham and Worcestershire, UK
CS5-6	**Poland:** Warsaw and Łódź, PL
CS7-8	**Austria:** Vienna and Graz region, AT
CS9-10	**Portugal:** Porto region and Santarém, PT
CS11	**Kosovo:** Pristina region, XK
CS12	**Italy:** Bologna region, IT




November 2024
WP4 DATA FLOWS
June 2027
Inputs from WP1, WP2, WP3A, WP3B
Start
Inception Phase
Recruitment & Onboarding
Focus Groups
Preliminary analyses
Inputs to/from WP1, WP2, WP3A, WP3B
Participatory Workshop 1
Participatory Workshop 2
Participatory Workshop 3
Participatory Workshop 4
Full/enough data from the FGs
Preliminary analyses
Inputs to WP1, WP2, WP3A, WP3B
In-depth analyses
Structured Diaries & autonomous work
Full/enough data from the PWs & SDs
End
Cross-case analyses
Within-case analyses

Participant selection & Grouping

Focus Groups – Selection Criteria

SC 1	Participate in general upper secondary education (ISCED 3)
SC 2	Participate in upper secondary vocational education and training (ISCED 3)
SC 3	Participate in post-secondary non-tertiary education, short-cycle tertiary education (ISCED 4-5)
SC 4	Participate in BA-level tertiary education (ISCED 6)
SC 5	Participate in an MA or a PhD (ISCED 7-8)
SC 6	Seeking a first or a new job and in employment
SC 7	E&T dropouts and/or other NEET youth

Participatory workshops

3 age groups

15-18 years of age

19-23 years of age

≥ 24 years of age

Focus Group Topic Guide

1. **Experiences in School – opening topic**
2. **School to Work Transition/Employment-related experiences**
3. **Choices in studies – what helped or hindered**
4. **Choices in work – what helped or hindered**
5. **Supports and obstacles along the journey – last topic**
6. **Wrap-up: what stood out - closing**

Follow-up questions - examples

1. What does your education journey look like? What choices did you make? Did you enjoy them?
2. Who may have influenced you? How?
3. What helped or made your progress in your studies difficult? How?
4. Were there times you wanted a different path? What helped or made the change difficult?
5. What has your transition from school to the labour market been like – or what do you imagine it will be?
6. What would be the ideal job or occupation for you? Why? What is missing in your current one?
7. Have you ever had to interrupt or change your studies? What led you to do so?
8. Did you feel prepared to start working? Why?
9. What would you highlight as most important?
10. What words stood out? What ideas?

Participatory Workshops & Structured Diaries

Participatory Workshops

1 chain = 4 PWs

Youth-led

The group:

PW1	PW2-3	PW4
Lists 3-5 key challenges or dilemmas	Identifies solutions for these challenges/dilemmas; why these solutions work	Systematises the solutions into proposal(s)

Structured Diaries

Diary 1: end of PWs

(How interesting and important was the PW? 1-5 rating + explanation)

Diary 2: Weekly, btw PWs

(Relevant events or experiences; posts in ideas board; anything else)

Data Collection: Overview



Recruitment

Onboarding

Sociodemographic Survey (SDS)

Focus Groups (FGs)

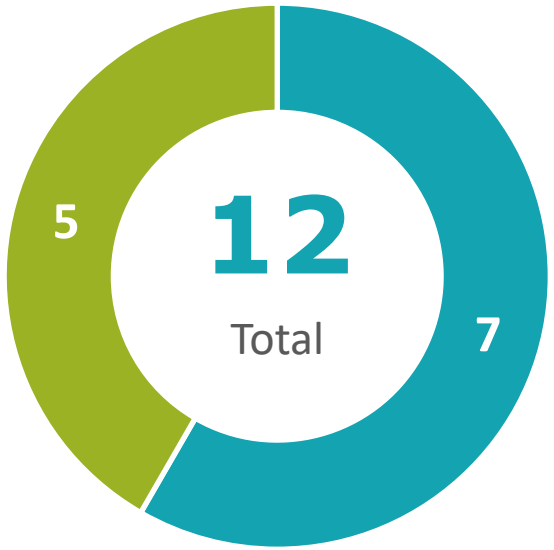
Participatory Workshops (PWs)

Structured Diaries (SDs)

Autonomous work

Recruitment

CS locations by status of recruitment



Number of CS locations

Ongoing 7 CS locations

Vienna (AT) | Helsinki (FI) | Tampere (FI) | Porto (PT)

Santarém (PT) | Birmingham (UK) | Worcestershire (UK)

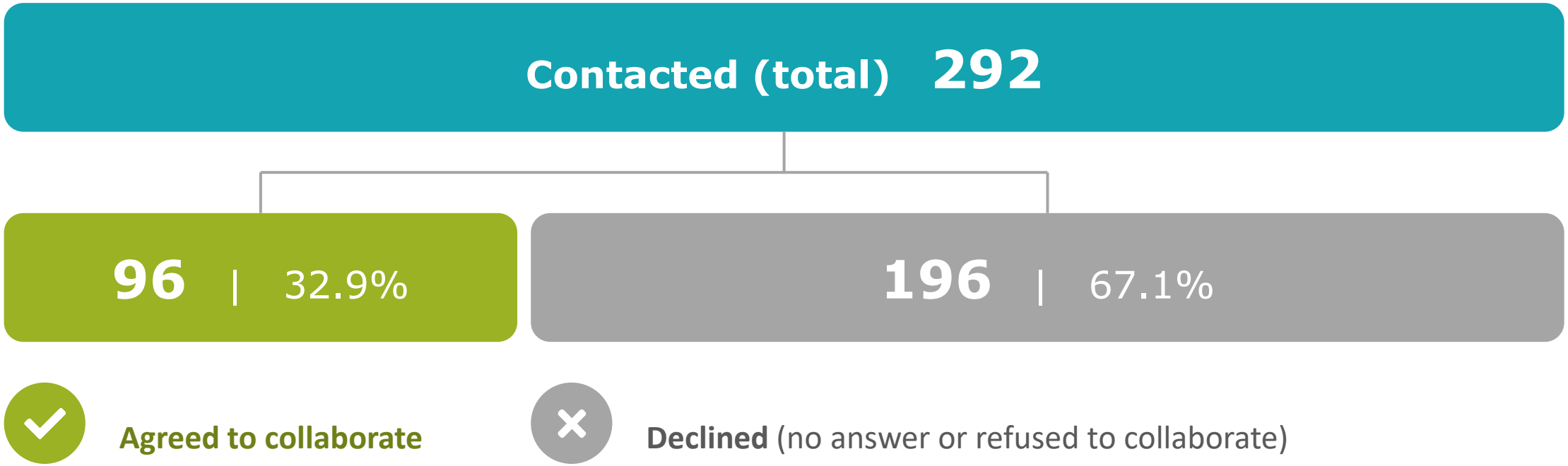
Ended 5 CS locations

Graz (AT) | Bologna region (IT) | Pristina region (XK)

Warsaw (PL) | Lodz (PL)

Recruitment

Institutions contacted, agreeing and declining to collaborate – total across the 12 CS locations



% of institutions contacted

Recruitment

Collaboration protocols – total across the 12 CS locations

21

Total protocols reported



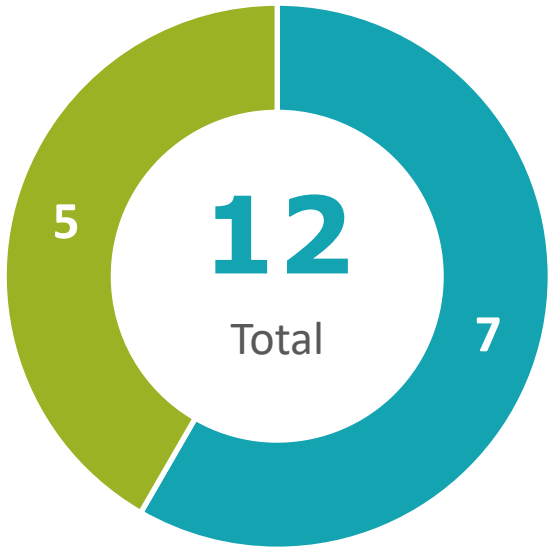
1 square = 1 protocol

16 Protocols signed

5 Protocols in progress (waiting to be signed)

Onboarding

CS locations by status of onboarding



Number of CS locations

Ongoing 7 CS locations

- Vienna (AT)
- Helsinki (FI)
- Tampere (FI)
- Porto (PT)
- Santarém (PT)
- Birmingham (UK)
- Worcestershire (UK)

Ended 5 CS locations

- Graz (AT)
- Bologna region (IT)
- Pristina region (XK)
- Warsaw (PL)
- Lodz (PL)

Onboarding

Onboarding sessions – total across the 12 CS locations

312

Total onboarding sessions





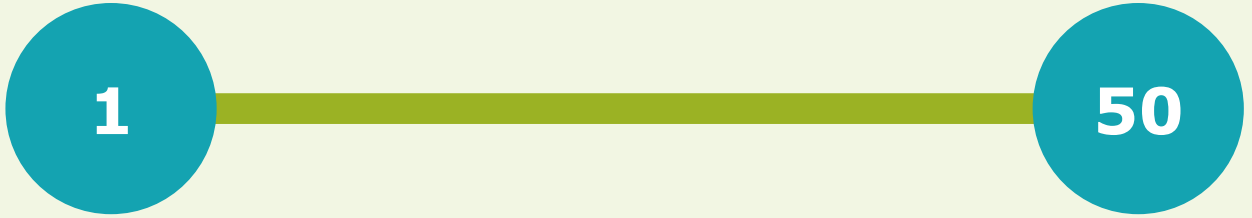
Onboarding

Participants in onboarding sessions – total and range

1424

Total participants in onboarding sessions (12 CS locations)

Range across CS locations – all reported ranges



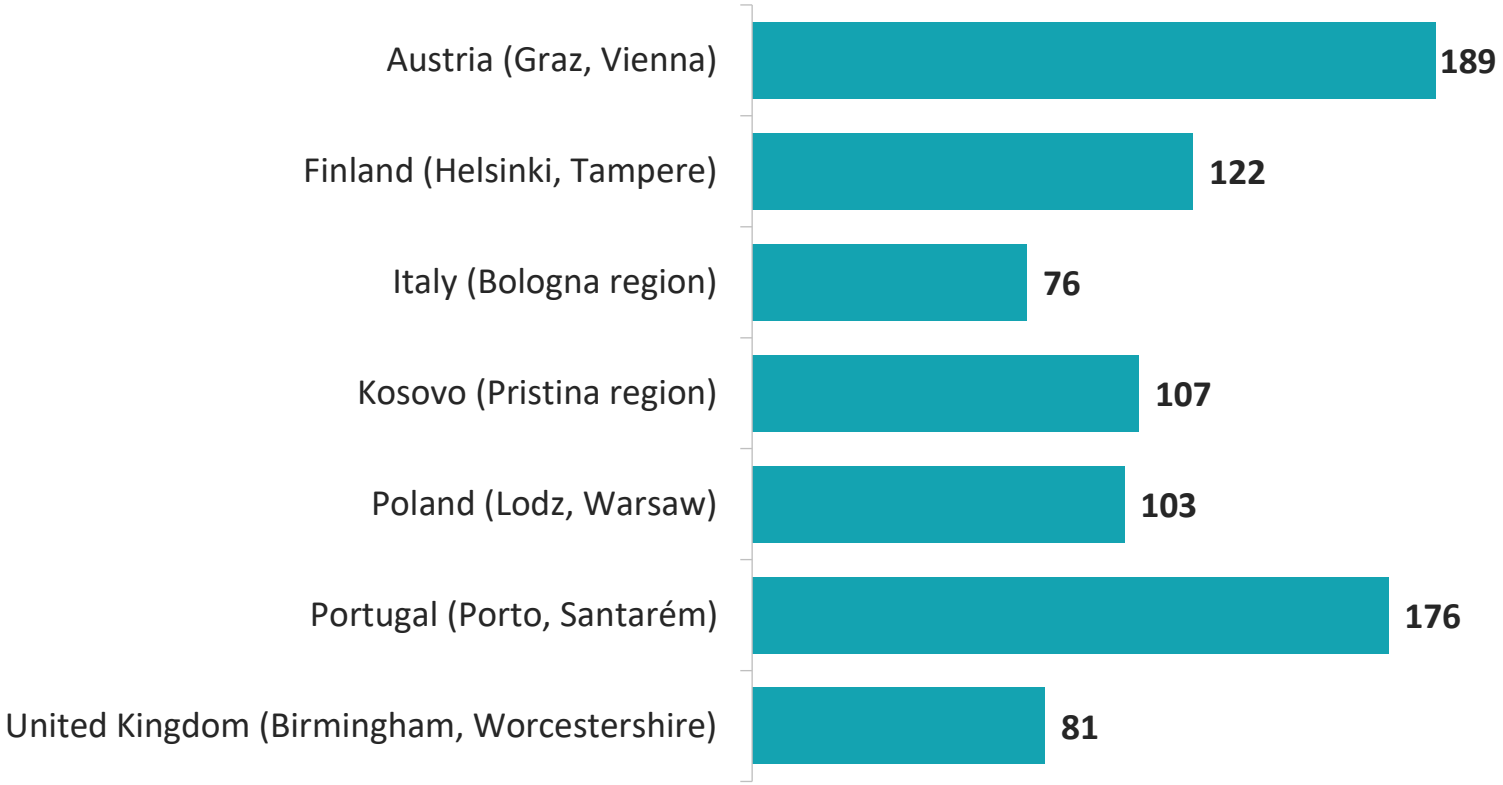
Minimum 1
(individual sessions)

Maximum 50
(Santarém, PT; online)

Onboarding

Consent forms collected

Consent forms collected (total)



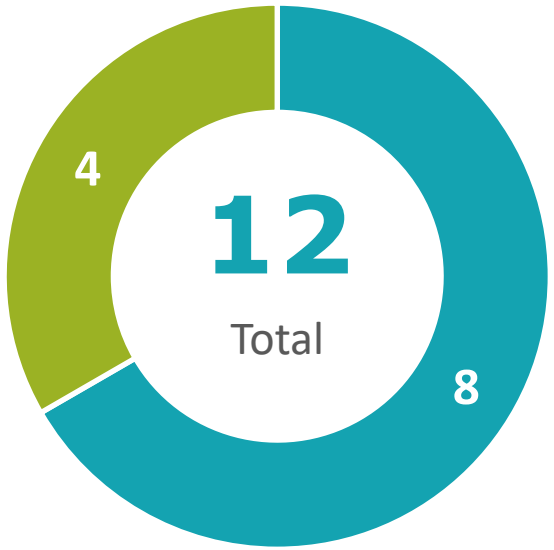
854

~60%

TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)

Sociodemographic Survey

CS locations by status of the SDS data collection



Number of CS locations

Ongoing 8 CS locations

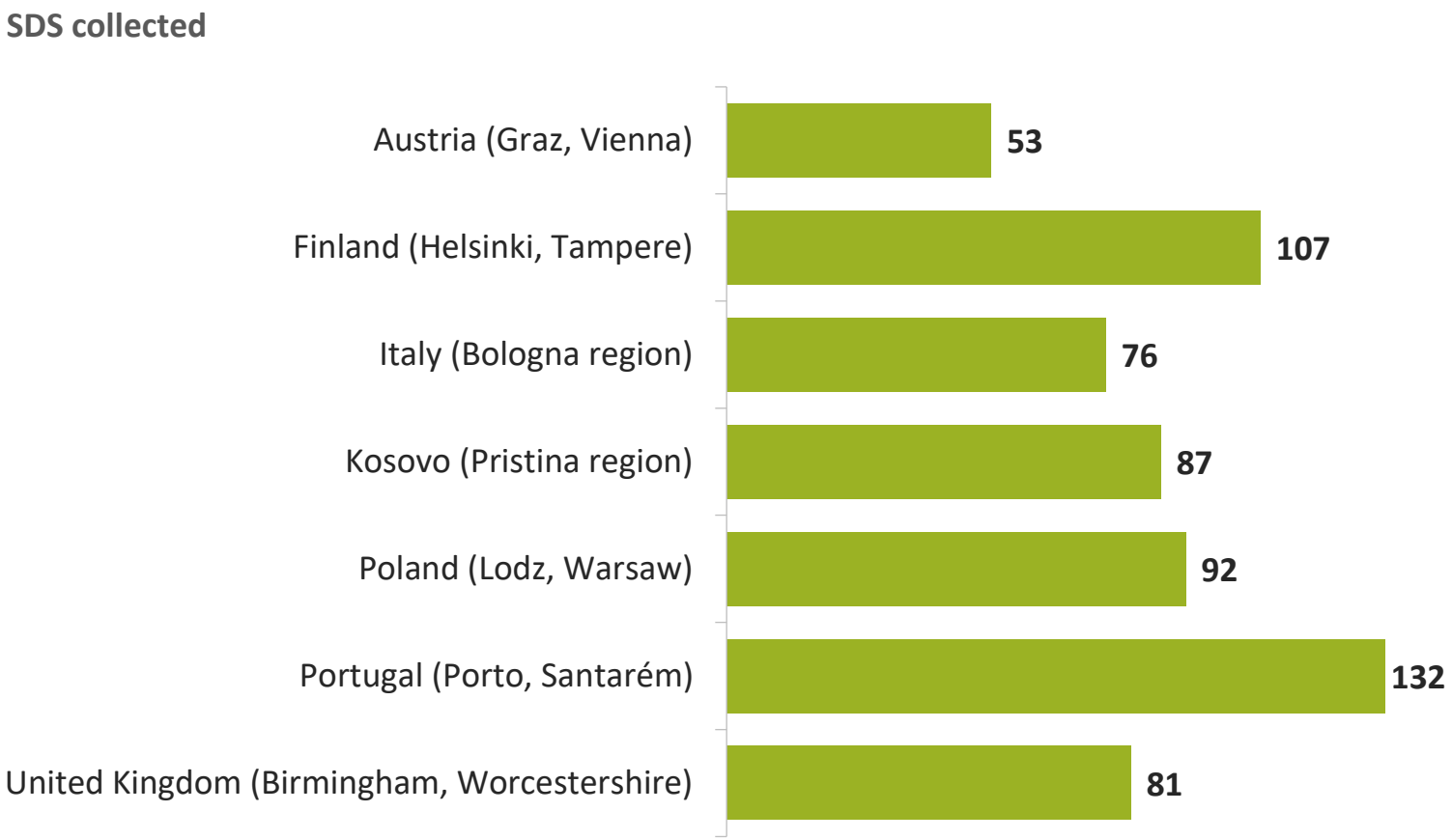
- Vienna (AT)
- Helsinki (FI)
- Tampere (FI)
- Porto (PT)
- Lodz (PL)
- Santarém (PT)
- Birmingham (UK)
- Worcestershire (UK)

Ended 4 CS locations

- Graz (AT)
- Bologna region (IT)
- Pristina region (XK)
- Warsaw (PL)

Sociodemographic Survey

SDS collected per CS location and country



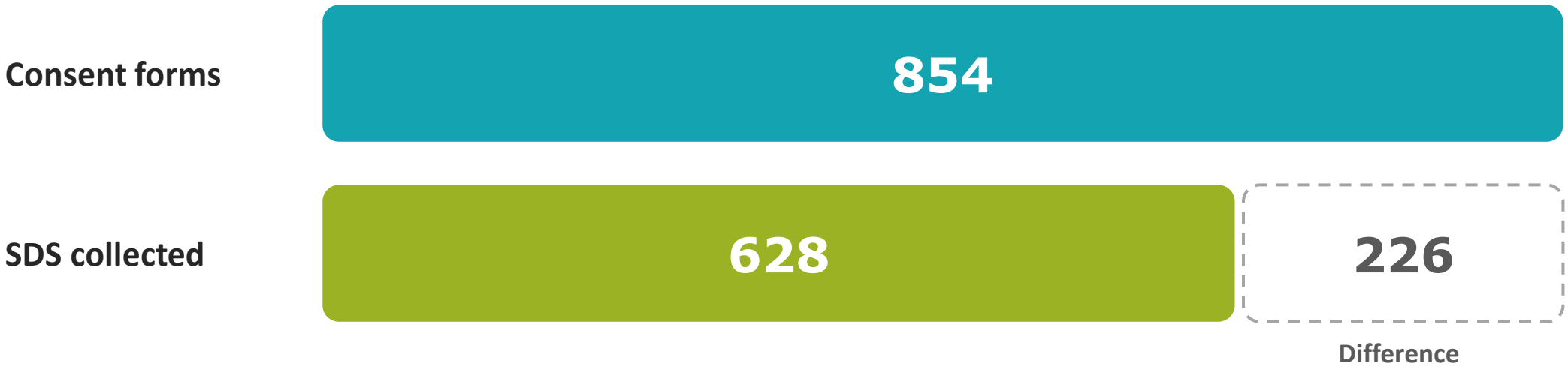
628

TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)

Sociodemographic Survey

Difference between consent forms and SDS collected (total)

All 12 CS locations



854	628	226	73.5%
Consent forms	SDS collected	Difference	% of SDS collected

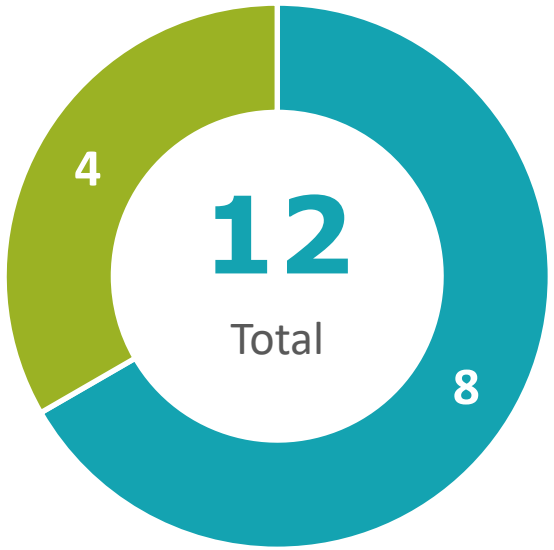
Focus Groups

Targets

	Per CS location	Across the 12 CS locations
Number of FGs	**8–10**	**96–120**
Number of participants	**50–80**	**600–960**
Selection criteria 1–5	At least 1 FG and 6–8 participants per criterion	At least 12 FGs and 72–96 participants per criterion
Selection criteria 6–7	At least 2 FGs and 10–12 participants per criterion	At least 24 FGs and 120–144 participants per criterion

Focus Groups

CS locations by status of the FG data collection



Number of CS locations

Ongoing 8 CS locations

- Vienna (AT)
- Helsinki (FI)
- Tampere (FI)
- Lodz (PL)
- Porto (PT)
- Santarém (PT)
- Birmingham (UK)
- Worcestershire (UK)

Ended 4 CS locations

- Graz (AT)
- Bologna region (IT)
- Pristina region (XK)
- Warsaw (PL)

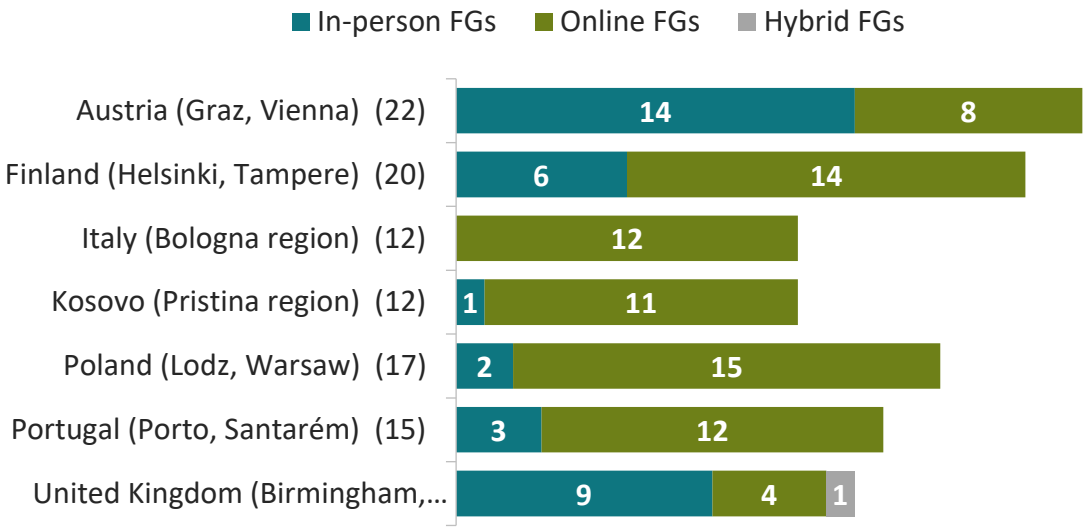
Focus Groups

FGs conducted and participants

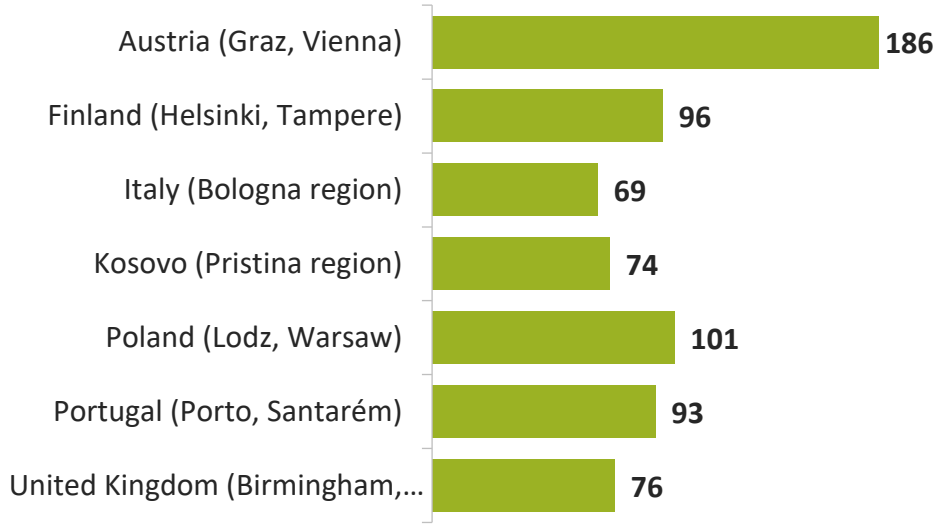
112	695	35	76	1
FGs (total)	Participants (total)	In-person FGs	Online FGs	Hybrid FGs

TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)

FGs (total) by format: In-person · Online · Hybrid



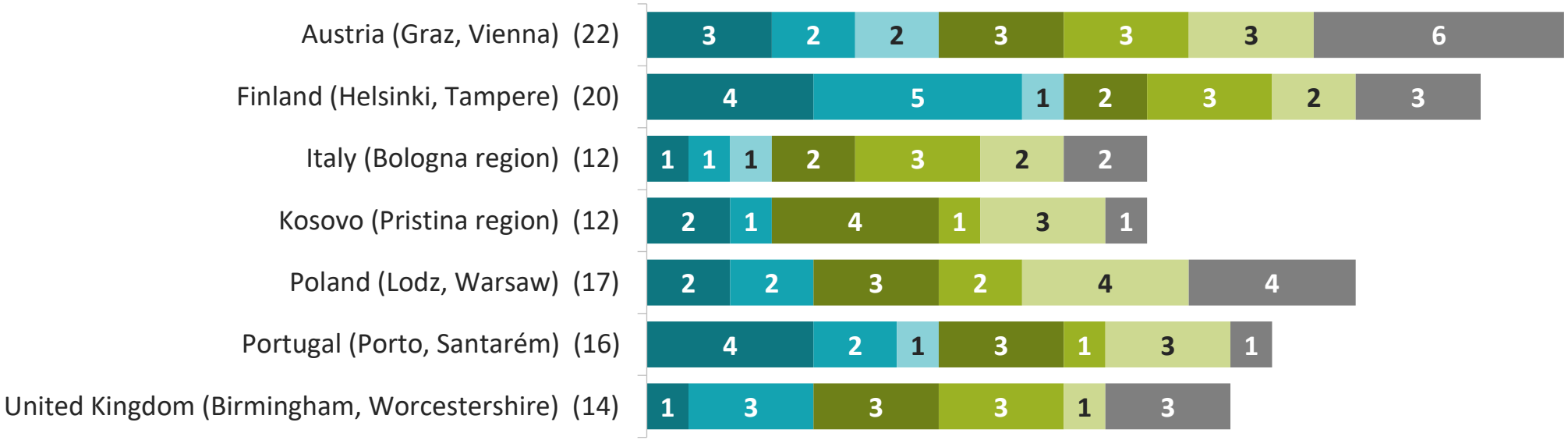
Participants (total)



Focus Groups

FGs and participants per selection criterion

FGs per selection criterion (SC1–SC7) and country ( ) = Sum of SC1–SC7



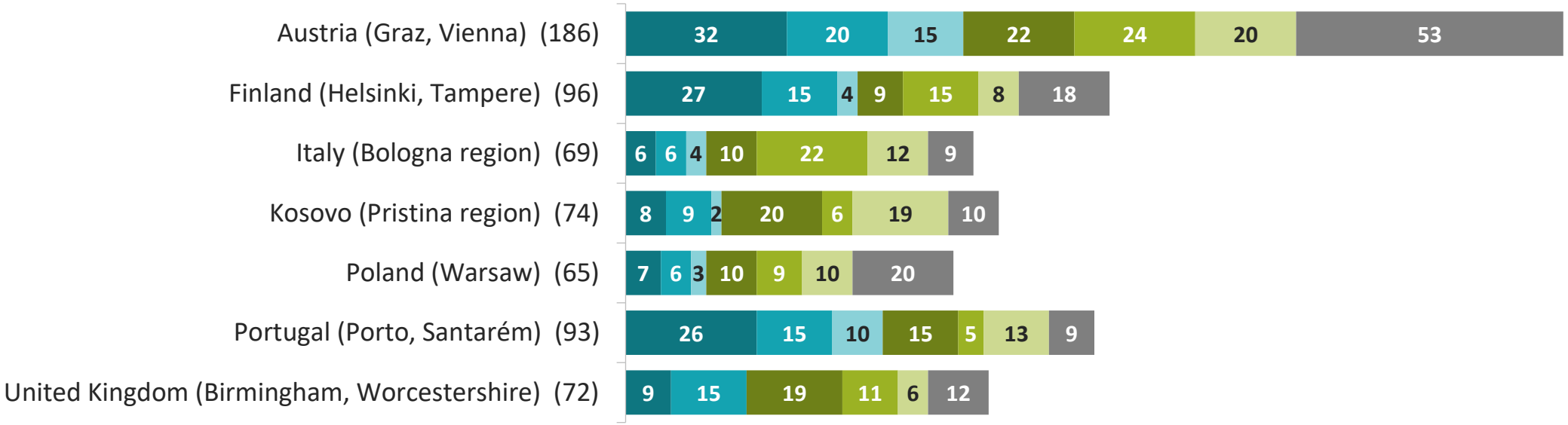
TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)

SC1	SC2	SC3	SC4	SC5	SC6	SC7	Sum of SC1–SC7
17	16	5	20	16	18	20	112

Focus Groups

FGs and participants per selection criterion

Prts (participants) per selection criterion (SC1–SC7) and country ( ) = Sum of SC1–SC7



TOTAL (7 countries, 11 CS locations)

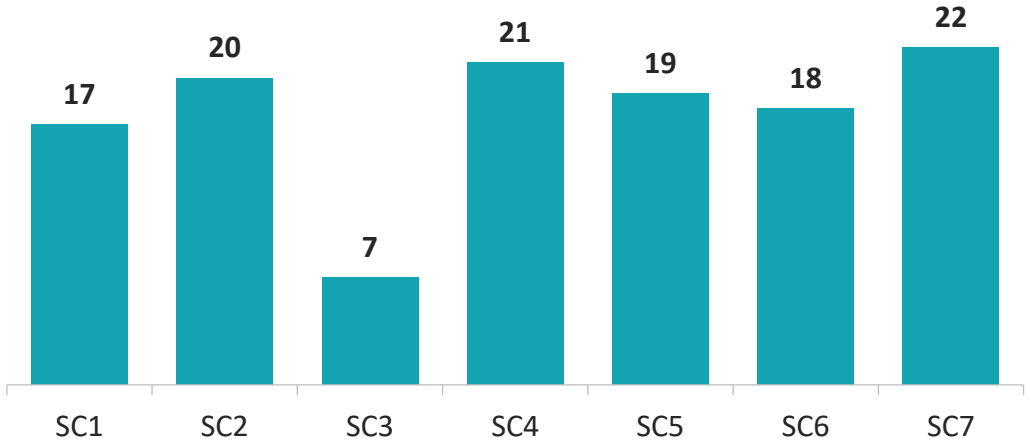
SC1	SC2	SC3	SC4	SC5	SC6	SC7	Sum of SC1–SC7
115	86	38	105	92	88	131	655

Focus Groups

FGs and participants per selection criterion

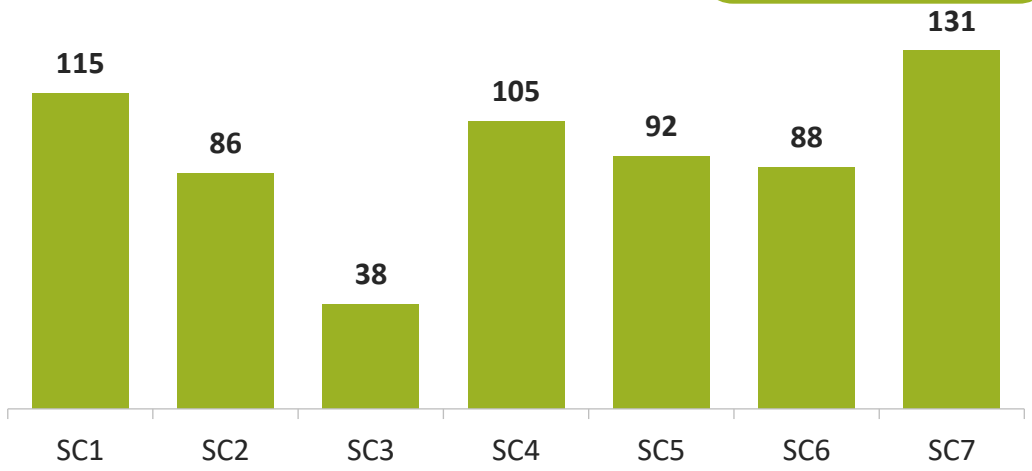
TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations) – FGs

Sum of SC1–SC7: 112



TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations) – Prts

Sum of SC1–SC7: 695



Range across CS locations (min–max)	SC1	SC2	SC3	SC4	SC5	SC6	SC7	Sum of SC1–SC7
FGs	0–3	1–3	0–2	1–5	0–4	0–3	0–4	5–22
Prts	0-22	6-10	0-15	3-20	0-22	0-19	0–39	10-135

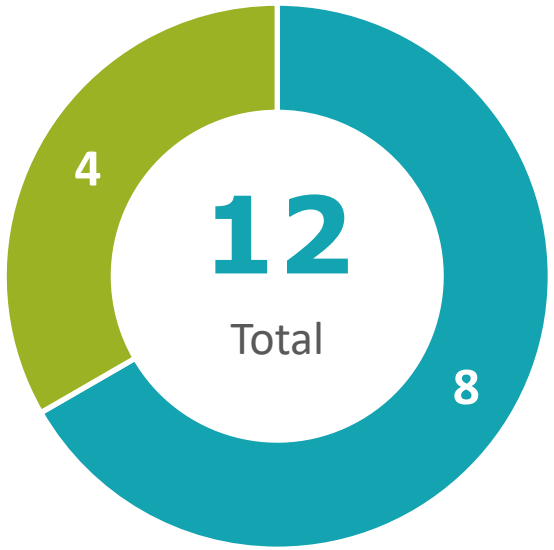
Participatory Workshops

Targets

	Per CS location	Per country with 2 CS locations	Across the 12 CS locations
Chains of 4 consecutive PWs	**5–7**	**10–14**	**60–84**
Participants (each participant counted once, regardless of the number of PWs attended)	**30–50**	**60–100**	**360–600**
Age groups (15–18; 19–23; 24 or more years)	At least 1 PW chain per age group	At least 1 PW chain per age group in each CS location	At least 1 PW chain per age group in each CS location
Dropout between FGs and PWs	About 40% (estimated)	About 40% (estimated)	About 40% (estimated)

Participatory Workshops

CS locations by status of the PW data collection



Number of CS locations

Ongoing 8 CS locations

- Vienna (AT)
- Helsinki (FI)
- Tampere (FI)
- Lodz (PL)
- Porto (PT)
- Santarém (PT)
- Birmingham (UK)
- Worcestershire (UK)

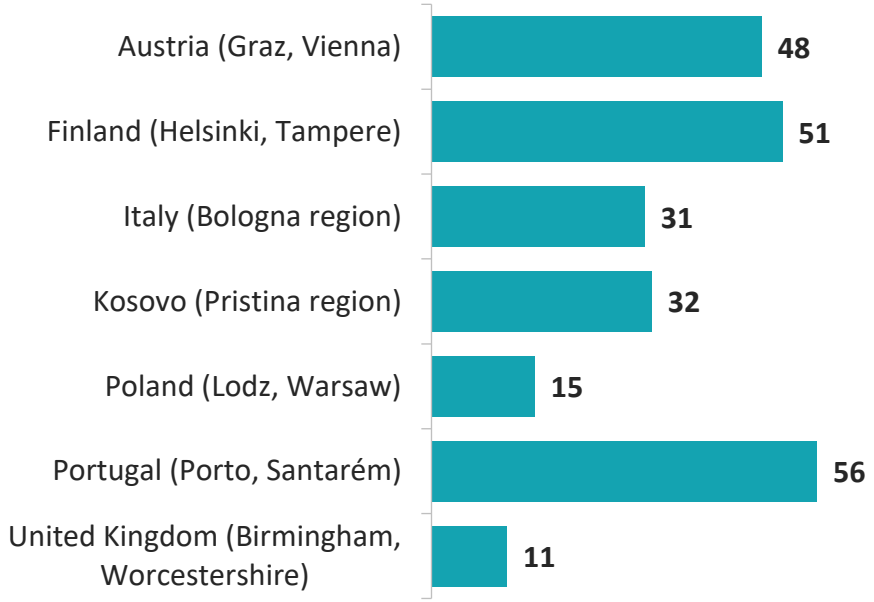
Ended 4 CS locations

- Graz (AT)
- Bologna region (IT)
- Pristina region (XK)
- Warsaw (PL)

Participatory Workshops

PWs and PW chains conducted

Total number of PWs conducted



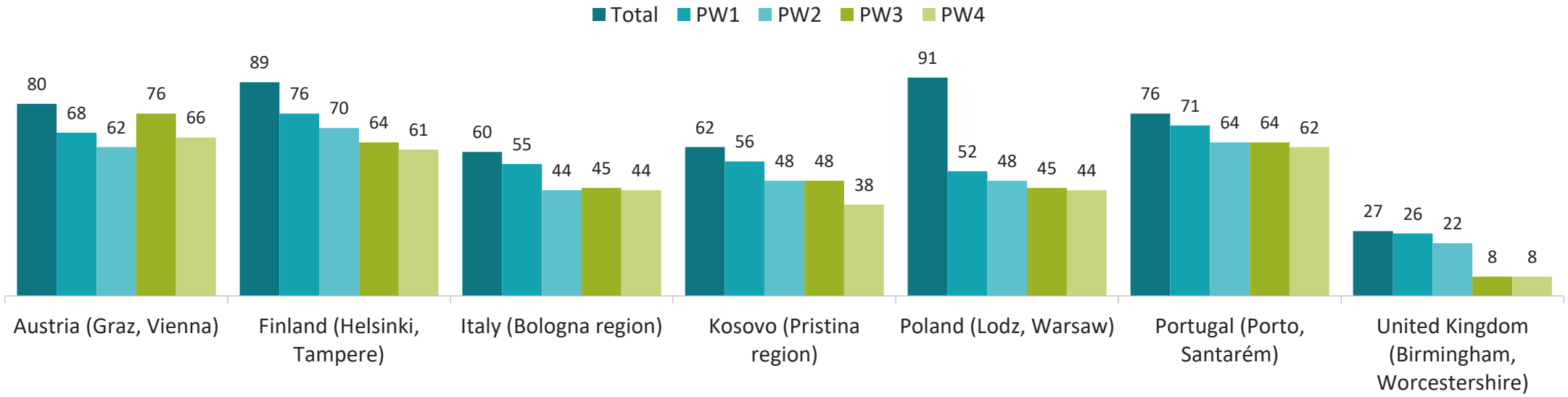
202 TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)

Country & CS location	PW chains completed	Chains ongoing/ incomplete	In-person (chains or sessions)	Online (chains or sessions)	Hybrid (chains or sessions)
Austria (Graz, Vienna)	12	2	2	2	0
Finland (Helsinki, Tampere)	13	0	16	35	0
Italy (Bologna region)	7	2	0	31	0
Kosovo (Pristina region)	7	0	14	15	3
Poland (Lodz, Warsaw)	15	1	2	13	0
Portugal (Porto, Santarém)	14	0	3	11	0
United Kingdom (Birmingham, Worcestershire)	2	13	2	8	1
TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)	**70**	**18**	**9 + 30**	**34 + 81**	**4**

Participatory Workshops

PW participants

Participants in the PW chains – Total, PW1, PW2, PW3, PW4



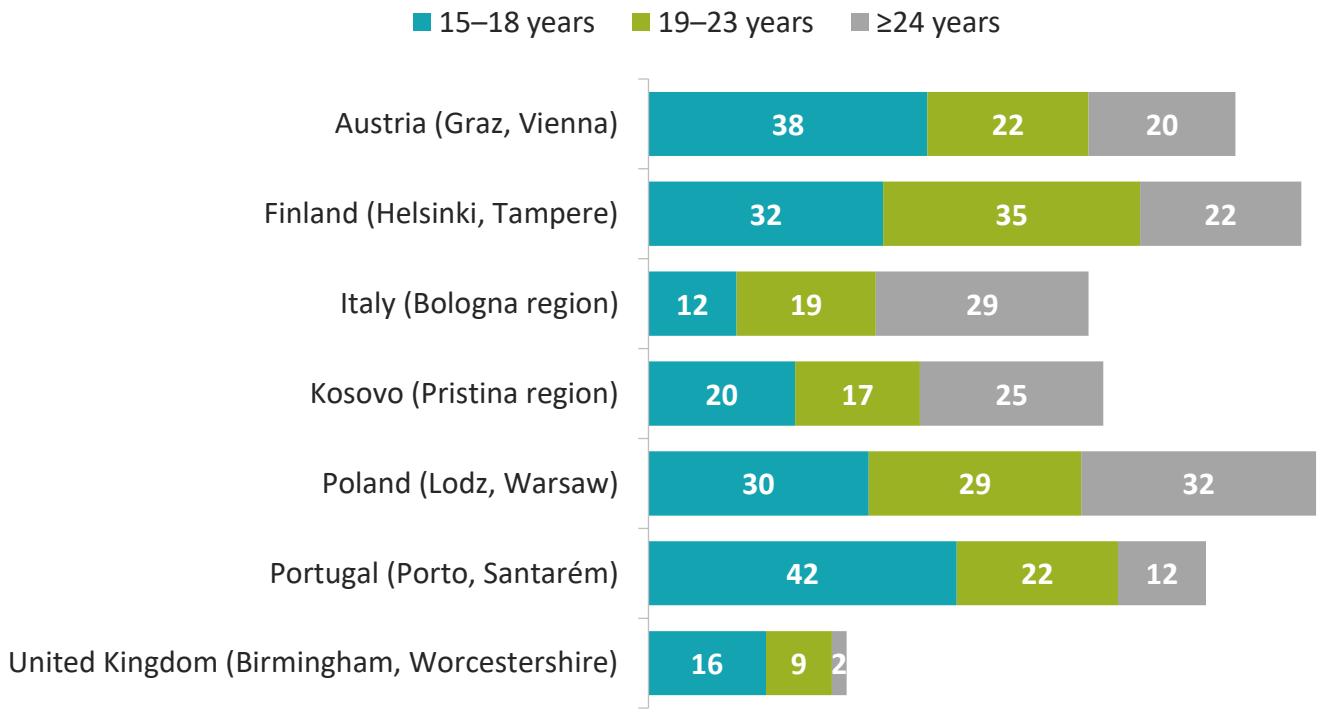
TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)

486	404	358	350	323
Total	PW1	PW2	PW3	PW4

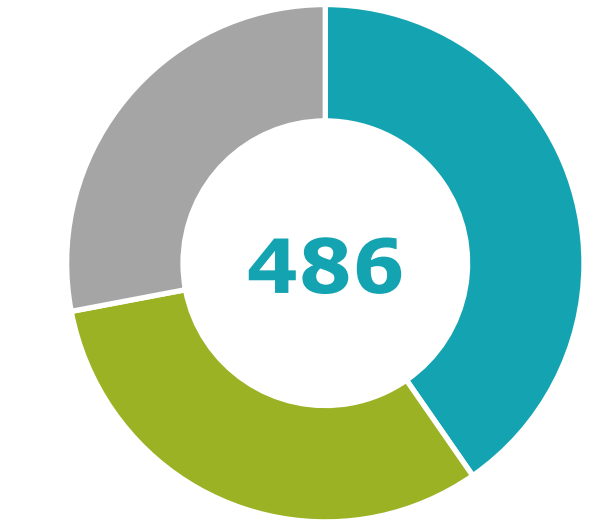
Participatory Workshops

PW participants

PW participants per age group



TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)



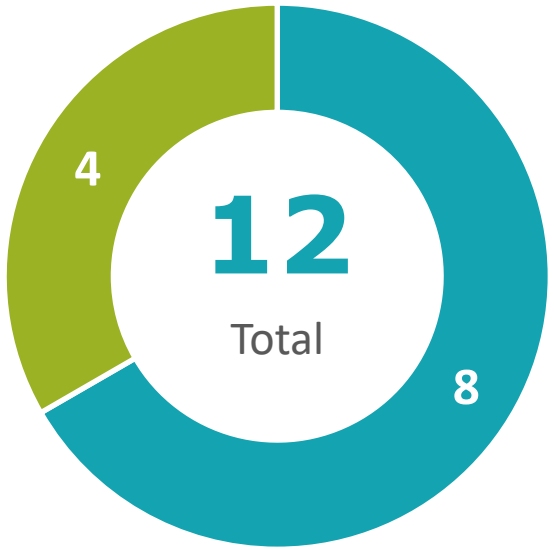
15–18 years **190** (39.2%)

19–23 years **153** (31.5%)

≥24 years **142** (29.3%)

Structured Diaries

CS locations by status of the SD data collection



Number of CS locations

Ongoing 8 CS locations

Vienna (AT) | Porto (PT) | Helsinki (FI) | Tampere (FI)

Lodz (PL) | Porto (PT) | Santarém (PT) | Birmingham (UK)

Worcestershire (UK)

Ended 4 CS locations

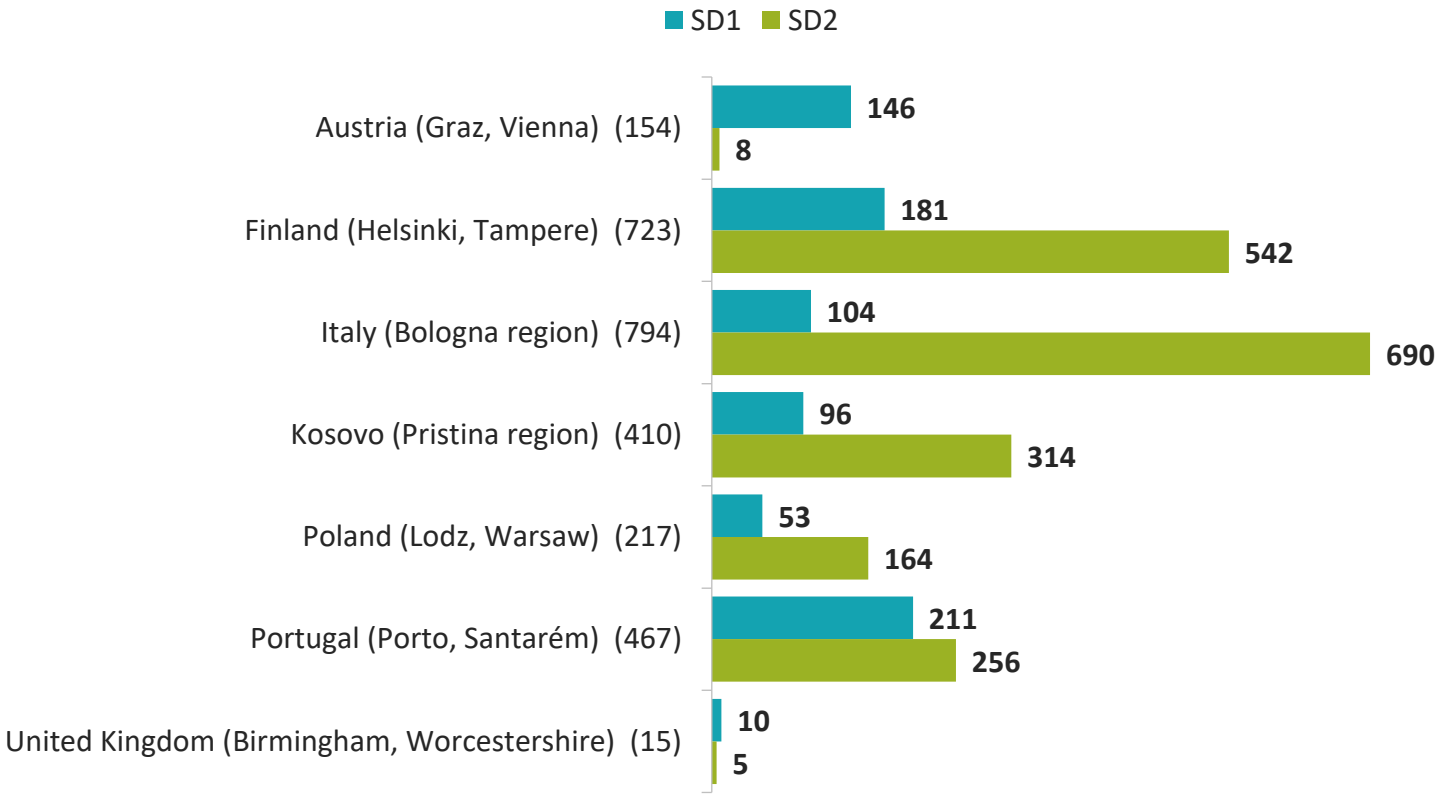
Graz (AT) | Bologna region (IT) | Pristina region (XK)

Warsaw (PL)

Structured Diaries

SDs collected

Total SDs = SD1 + SD2



2780

TOTAL (7 countries, 12 CS locations)

801
SD1

1979
SD2

Autonomous work

Engagement reported as "Yes"

Bologna | Pristina | Porto | Santarém | Birmingham | Worcestershire

Engagement reported as "No"

Vienna | Graz | Helsinki | Tampere | Warsaw | Lodz

Type of posts reported

Written

Bologna, Porto, Birmingham, Worcestershire

LinkedIn screenshot and article link

Porto

AI-generated picture

Santarém

Data Analysis: Where we are at



Preliminary Analysis
Ongoing

In-depth Analysis
Ongoing

Systematisation
Upcoming

Data Analysis

Analysing the Data

Ongoing

Preliminary Analysis

Ongoing

- Preliminary analysis of the data

In-depth Analysis

Ongoing

- Codebook and supporting protocol validated and tested
- Codebook refinement and coding of additional material
- Theme extraction - upcoming

Systematisation

Upcoming

- Within CS location/country systematisation
- Comparative analysis (full data)

Preliminary Data Analysis

Aim

To identify the main topics, ideas, or patterns in the pseudonymised FGs' and PWs' chains transcripts

Procedure

- AI-generated summary extraction of the pseudonymised transcripts (Docker; Sci Space)
- Researcher-led synthesis combining a summary extraction with preliminary interpretation and summary validation

What to extract from the data (1 FG/transcript; 1 PW chain/transcript)

1. Identify the 5-7 ideas that were most prevalent and that reflect the main topics, ideas, or patterns in the conversation
   Identify the main solutions proposed
2. Briefly describe each of these topics, ideas, or patterns
   Briefly describe the solutions
3. Identify and briefly describe the main problems or barriers, and the main points of agreement/disagreement among the participants
4. Identify and briefly describe the main positive points mentioned by the participants; briefly describe each of these positive points
   Briefly describe why participants consider their solutions would work

Conclusion

Hearing Young People's Voices: Qualitative Case Studies (WP4)

12 qualitative case studies in 7 European countries · data collected

1424
Participants in onboarding sessions

112 | 695
FGs | Participants

854
Consent forms collected

202 | 486
PWs | Participants in the PW chains

628
SDS collected

2780
SDs collected

WP4 data flows – analyses

- Preliminary analyses
- In-depth analyses
- Within-case analyses
- Cross-case analyses

Inputs to/from WP1, WP2, WP3A, WP3B

Bridging the researchers' and young people's expertise on youth's career pathways and expectations

Order of presentations

1	**Youth Voices from Poland**	*From Deregulation to the Need for Regulation and Fairness - Preliminary Findings* **Presenters:** Dagmara Szczepańska and Justyna Zielińska, MGU
2	**Youth Voices from Finland**	*Key Challenges and Solutions in Education and the Transition to Work: Preliminary Findings* **Presenter:** Sini Teräsahde, TAU
3	**Youth Voices from Portugal**	*Navigating Without a Map: Preliminary Findings of Portuguese Young People's Transitions Across Education, Training and Work* **Presenters:** Taísa Oliveira and Natália Azevedo, ULUsófona, CeiED
4	**Youth Voices from Kosovo**	*Youth Agency and Resilience in Education-to-Work Transitions: Preliminary Findings* **Presenter:** Arberore Bicaj, AAB College
	Coffee Break	*25 minutes*
5	**Youth Voices from the UK**	*Expectations and Opportunities: Navigating the mismatch – Preliminary findings* **Presenters:** James Williams and Andrew Dixon, BCU
6	**Youth Voices from Austria**	*Losing Ground and Seeking Support: Preliminary Findings on the Experiences of NEET Youth in Austria* **Presenters:** Natalia Wächter and Michael Duncan, UniGraz
7	**Youth Voices from Italy**	*Personal Growth and Self-Discovery as Outputs and Driving Factors in Young-Adults' Educational and Work Trajectories: Preliminary Findings* **Presenter:** Natalia Tosoni, AlmaLaurea
8	**Summarising the Findings**	*Ingrid Schoon, UCL, EDU-LAB ISAB Member* *Cynthia Harrison, Cedefop, CareerNet*

EDULAB

European Youth in Transition to Education and Labour

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Project Duration: 2025–2027

Thank you for your attention!

