

**YOUTH GREEN DEAL**

**DATA REPORT**

**TRAININGS  
& CAMPS**

# MED DATA



## DATA SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS FROM TRAININGS AND CAMPS

# YOUTH GREEN DEAL

The Youth Green Deal project included a research and impact assessment dimension that aimed at providing the organisers and partners with evidence-based elements to better understand, evaluate, improve and valorise the training and field practices activities implemented during the program. The first step of such efforts consisted in the collection of quantitative data in the form of quasi-experimental design pretest/posttest surveys administered to participants in three different activities: the camp leaders training, the visual storytelling training and the eco-volunteering camps.

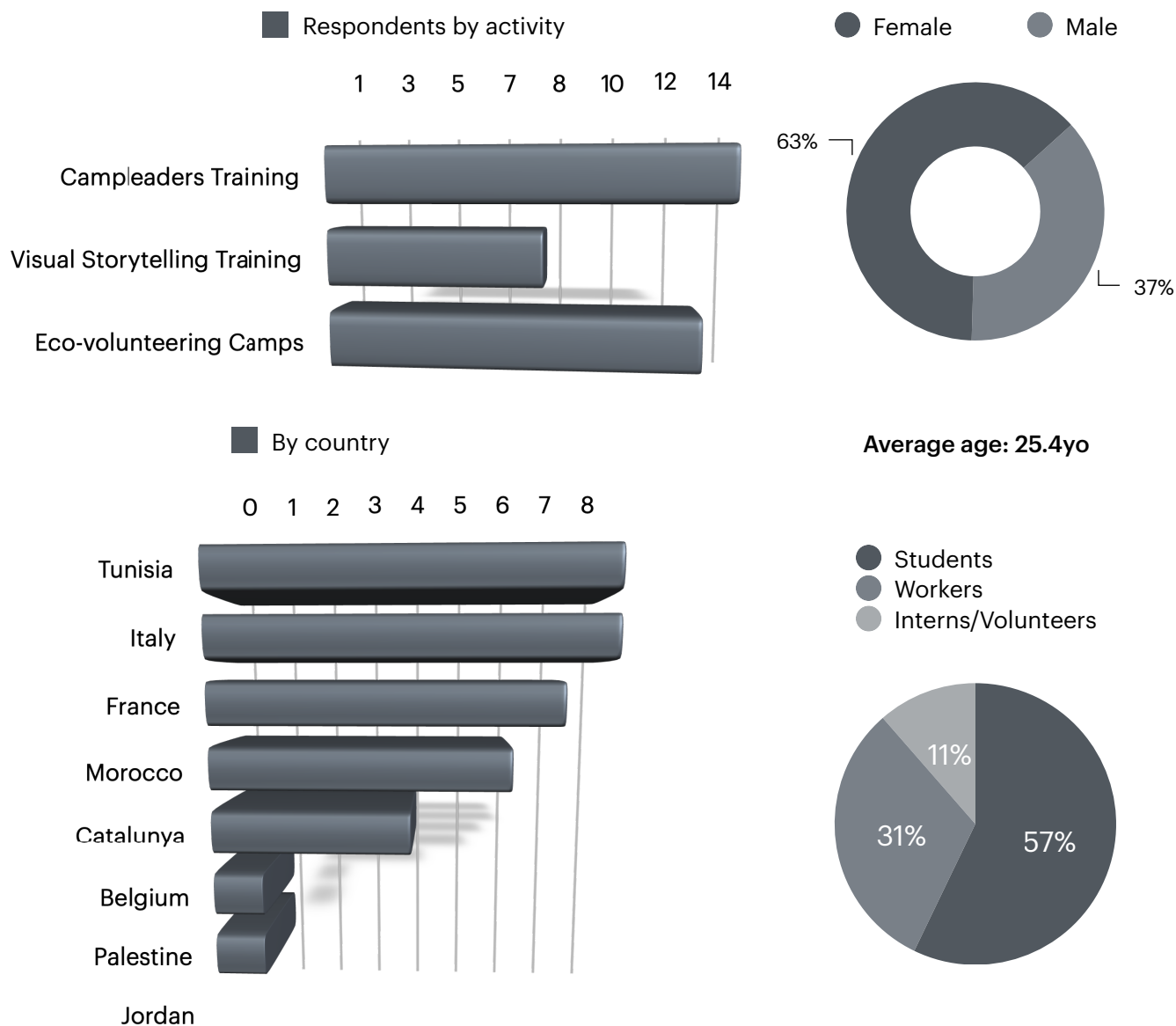
The present report provides an overview of the data gathered and a general analysis that not only constitutes an important support for the overall evaluation of the impact of the Youth Green Deal activities on the participants, but also provides a baseline for the development of the second research and assessment element: the qualitative focus groups and semi-structured interviews. These were then conducted and analysed with a participative approach by representatives of the project partner organisations themselves, and aimed at deepen the understanding of the needs and progress made on crucial objectives such as encouraging youth participation in eco-volunteering practices, facilitating the development of Mediterranean partnerships and exchanges, and promoting international voluntary service as a tool for sustainable climate change actions and peace. The qualitative segment of the research is summarised in a separate and complementary report.

## SUMMARY OF DATA

The surveys were distributed and answered online, through web links and QR codes available at the events' hosting venues and also accessible a few days before and after the activities. A total of 65 different participants answered at least one of the surveys - before and/or after the activity they joined - with only 35 of them having completed both questionnaires: the latter were used for most of the analysis presented here, as they constitute the strongest evidence of the change and impact brought about by the program.

Of the three activities concerned, the camp leaders training represents 40% of the answers collected, while complete surveys from the eco-volunteering camps

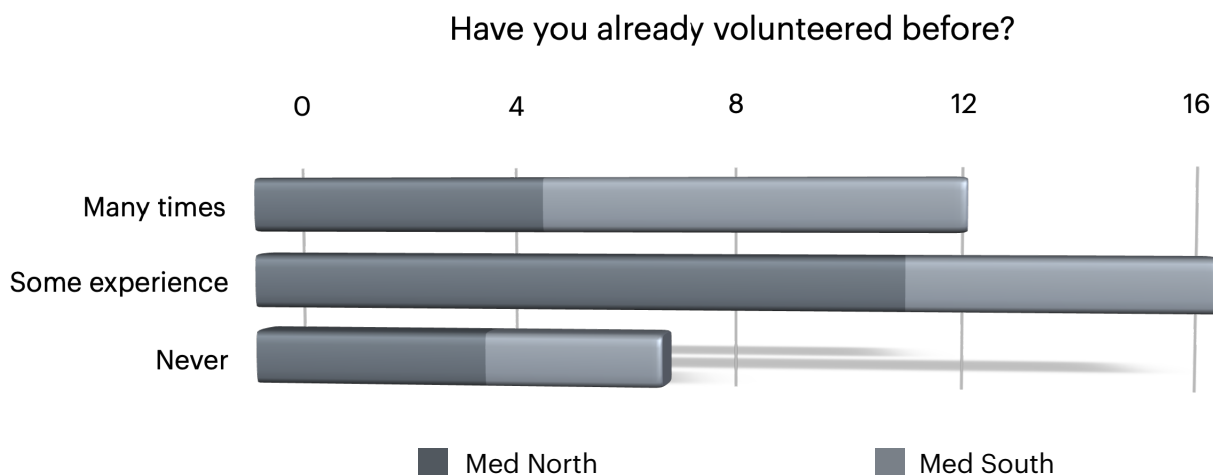
constitute 37.1% of the data and the visual storytelling training 22.9%. Respondents that identified as female were 62.9% and as male 37.1%, with an average age of 25.4 years. In terms of main occupation, 57.2% of the answers came from students, 31.4% from workers and 11.4% from full time, long-term interns or volunteers (e.g. through schemes like the European Solidarity Corps and the French Service Civique).



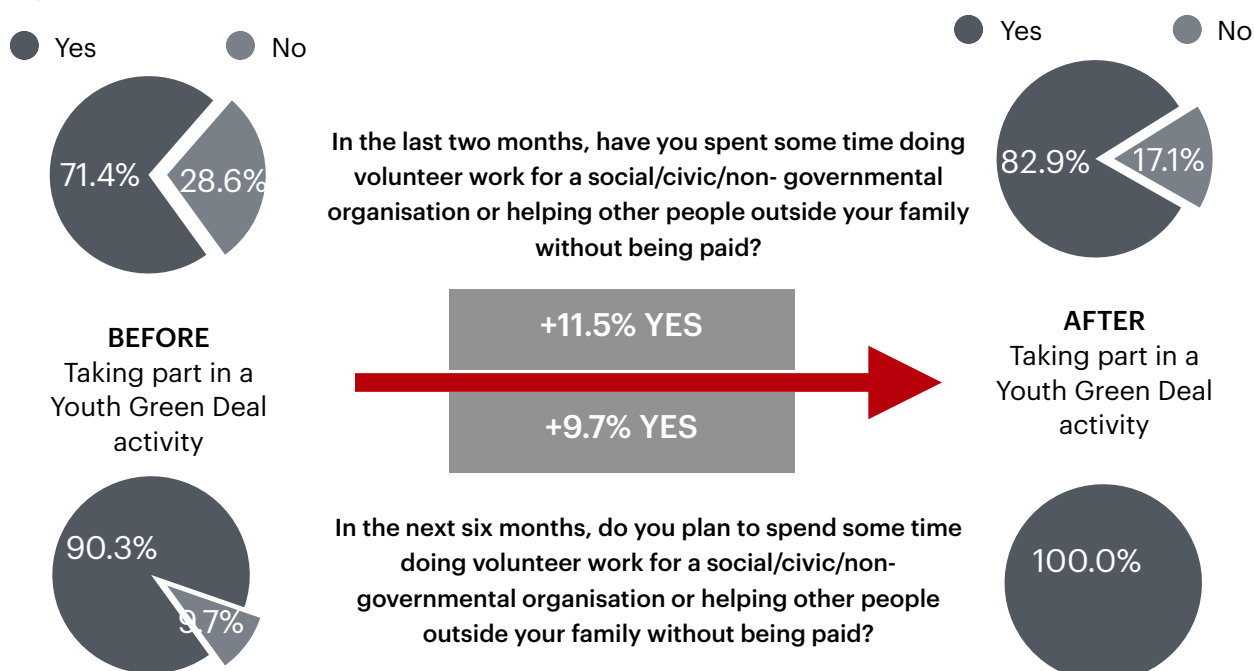
Participants from the EU partner countries and territories (Belgium, Catalunya, France and Italy) provided 57.1% of the answers, with 42.9% of respondents coming from the Mediterranean partners (Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia); the relative balance between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean allowed for some sub-analysis highlighting potentially significant differences, but the under- or non representation of certain partners did not allow for country-level analysis.

## EXPERIENCE AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

The project partners share the belief that eco-volunteering is a tool for youth engagement and can contribute to answer environmental, but also social and cultural challenges in modern societies and help building peace across borders. The survey included several questions touching at the participants experience and willingness to engage in concrete actions in their daily life.



Before taking part in one of the Youth Green Deal activities concerned by this report, 34.2% of the respondents reported having already volunteered many times, with 45.7% of them having only some experience and a significant 20% in both the North and south shores of the Mediterranean not having any previous volunteering experience: After their participation in one of the Youth Green Deal events, respondents report an increase in both their willingness to further engage in volunteering and their actual participation in other volunteer activities for social, civic and non governmental organisations.



## MOTIVATION - IN A WORD

Participants were asked to use up to three different words or concepts to describe their initial motivation (before the project they joined) and their experience (after their project) in the Youth Green Deal program.

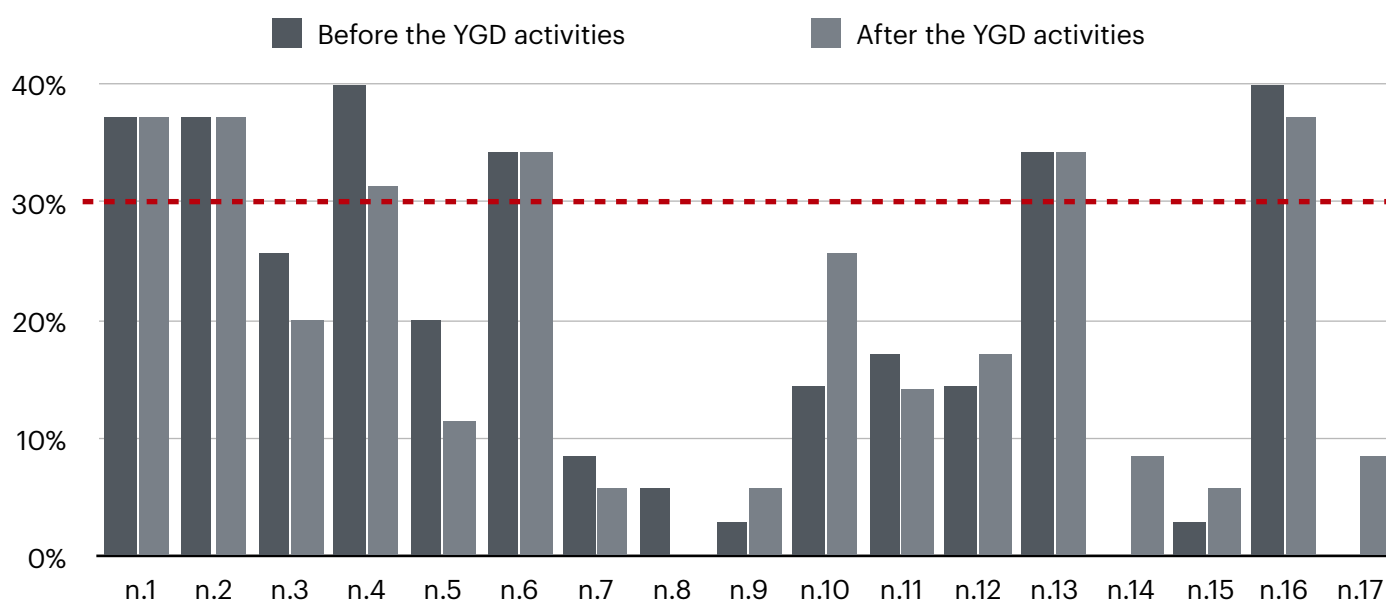
Before the trainings and camps, respondents indicated four macro-themes as the most recurring and important: general issues of social justice and activism (18 words); environmental and climate change challenges (23 words); cultural and intercultural exchanges, including with local communities (27 words); and learning and knowledge dimensions (23 words). In addition, some volunteers also referred to emotional states (3 words), and one to the specific geographical focus of the project (Mediterranean region).





## WORLDVIEWS - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Respondents were also asked to express their views on the Sustainable Development Goals, indicating up to three Goals they considered as the most important priorities areas. While such worldview tend to remain stable over a relative short time, the activities of the Youth Green Deal seem to still have produced some changes, notably in the emergence of some SDGs that were not mentioned by participants before their activities and appear to reflect the practical approach of their experience. In this sense, we can see a stable strong interest in the first positions of their ranking for general goals such as Quality Education (mentioned by around 40% of the participants), Peace & Justice (40%), Poverty (37%), Zero Hunger (37%), as well as theme-specific broad goals more related to the Youth Green Deal program, such as Clean Water (34%) and Climate Action (34%). But it is important to highlight the increase in the number of respondents considering Reducing Inequalities a priority (from 14.3% before their projects to 25.7% after), as well as the decreases in mentions of Gender Equality (from 20% to 11.4%) and the appearance of two Goals that were not mentioned at all before the activities: Life Below Water and Partnerships for the Goals (both 8.5% after the projects). These changes seem to be closely related to the Youth Green Deal objectives of stimulating a better understanding and actions about existing inequalities across the North and South Mediterranean shores, the work on reducing stereotypes associated to the region, and the numerous activities on concrete cooperation both in the field (e.g. Chenini maritime oasis) and in the trainings (networking).



### Top six priorities (mentioned by more than 1 in 3 participants)



### Most significant changes

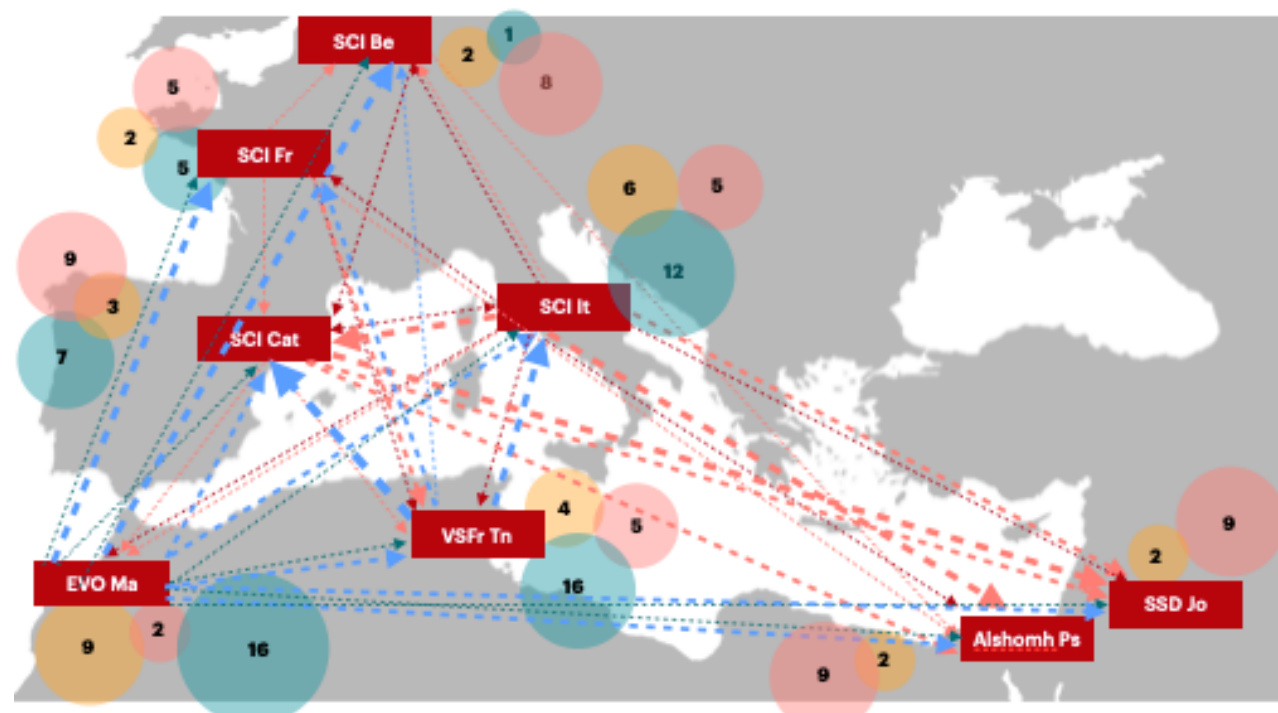


## MED: UNDERSTANDING & COOPERATION

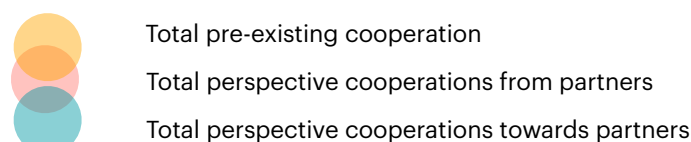
The goal of strengthening regional *understanding, communication and cooperation* is well reflected in the post-test scores reported by the participants. All ten sub-categories composing the three corresponding statistical constructs show a significant positive changes: from their increased awareness of the social, economic and cultural differences among people and countries in the Mediterranean region; to the perceived ability to communicate effectively managing potential conflicts; to the willingness to engage in cooperation activities to exchange more volunteers and support the work of the partners in the Mediterranean with the local communities.

CONSTRUCT	Before	After	Change in %
Med Understanding (4)	15.514	16.634	+7.2%
Med Communication (2)	14.000	15.829	+13.1%
Med Cooperation (4)	14.400	16.600	+15.3%

Such willingness is also found in the practical plans made by the participants during the project to develop the quantity and quality of partnerships within the network.

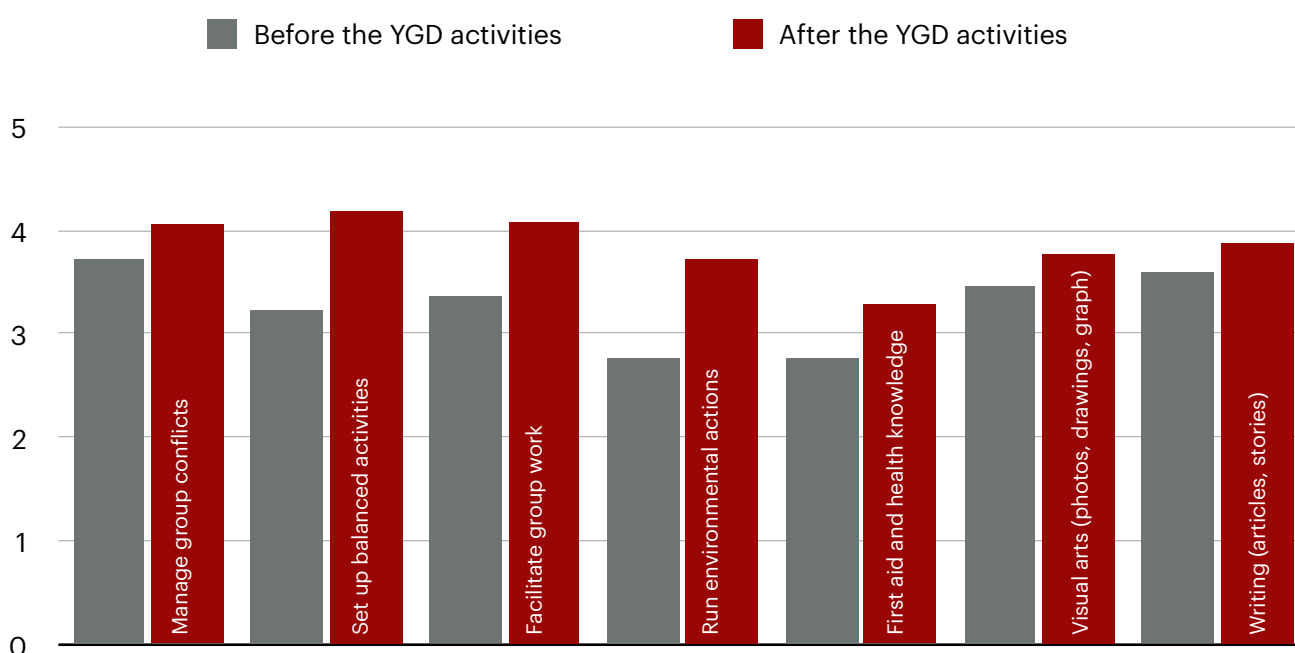


- - - ➔ Pre-existing partnerships EU partners
- - - ➔ Perspective partnerships EU partners
- - - ➔ Pre-existing partnerships MED partners
- - - ➔ Perspective partnerships MED partners



## MED: KNOWLEDGE, COMPETENCES AND SKILLS

The Youth Green Deal training and volunteering activities also stimulated key learnings necessary to support cooperation in the region, both in terms of organisational and leadership competences and skills as well as of thematic areas of field action. Measured before and after the activities of the project on 1-5 Likert scales, the participants' project management abilities saw strong improvements in all targeted learning objectives:



Similarly, participants also reported better understanding of common environmental and human rights issues and potential areas of cooperation across the Mediterranean region, as well as of the concepts of International Voluntary Service and the Peace movement itself:

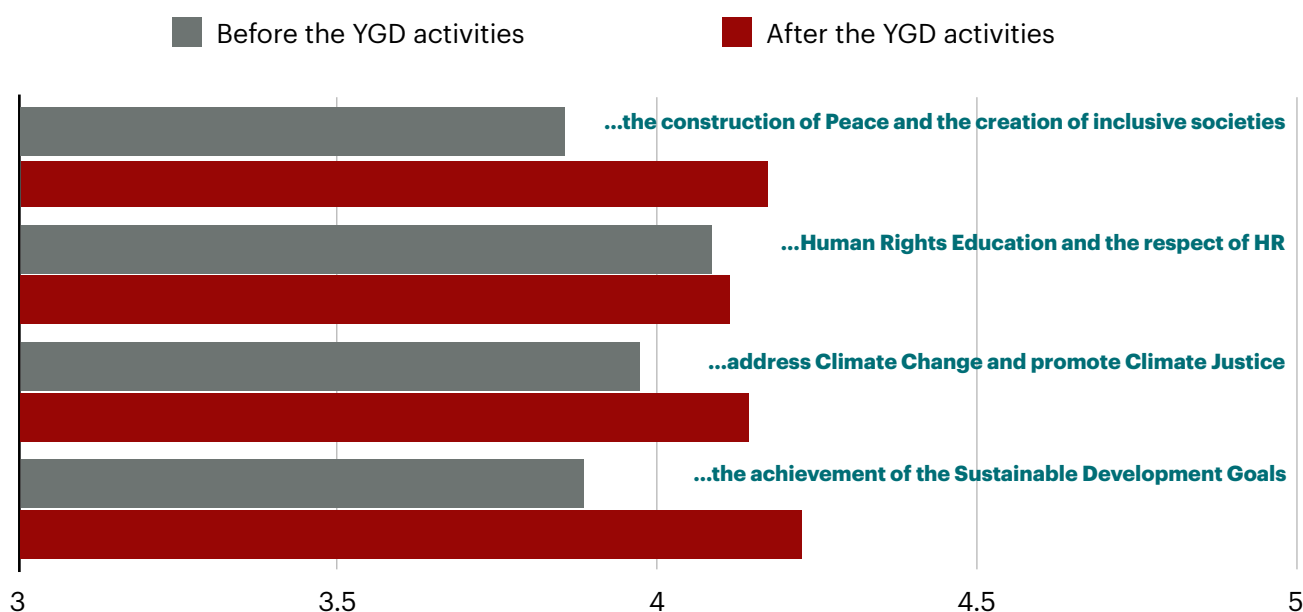




## MED: RESPONSIBILITY AND ENGAGEMENT

In addition to the considerable changes in the quality and extent of the participants' understanding of crucial activism, rights and environmental issues, after the program participants also reported important increases in their sense of personal responsibility to engage in their daily life on crucial topics:

**"In my daily life, I feel personally responsible to actively engage for..."**

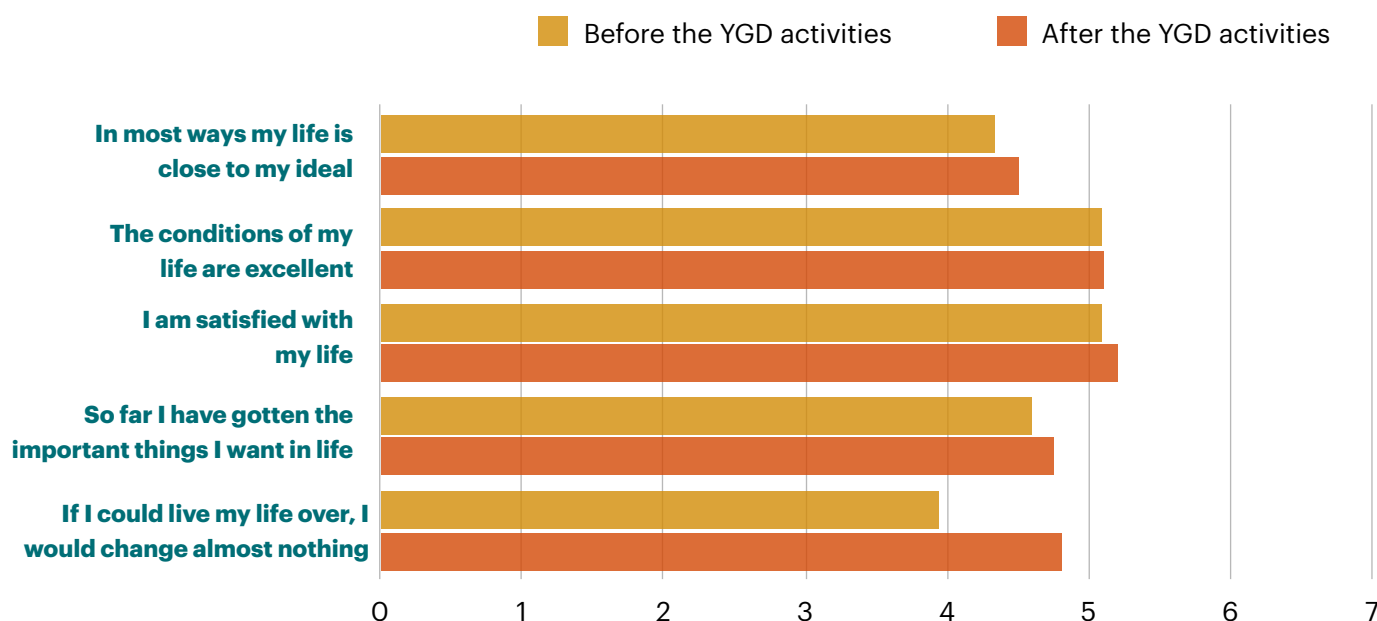


Participants also recognised a stronger role to International Voluntary Service as a collaborative tool in the Mediterranean region:



## MED: HAPPIER TOGETHER

By training leaders' capacities and providing appropriate spaces for engagement and eco-volunteering, the Youth Green Deal activities demonstrated not only the significant learning impact that volunteering has on the participants' knowledge, competences and skills; but also showed how the Mediterranean cooperation process can lead to strong emotional experiences and connections that deeply influence the volunteers satisfaction with their own life and their relationships with the others and the world. This is particularly evident in the statistically significant increases reported by the Youth Green Deal participants on the standard Satisfaction with Life Scale, underlining the virtuous combination of intercultural learning, hands-on activities and personal and interpersonal growth that characterises the volunteer experience, and stimulates people's active engagement and sense of self-worth as individuals and as communities, participating actively in building a Mediterranean region where being simply happier, together.



"To understand **life satisfaction** scores, it is helpful to understand some of the components that go into most people's experience of satisfaction. **One of the most important influences on happiness is social relationships.** [...] **Another factor that influences the life satisfaction of most people is work** or school, or performance in an important role such as homemaker or grandparent. **When the person enjoys his or her work, whether it is paid or unpaid work, and feels that it is meaningful and important, this contributes to life satisfaction.** When work is going poorly because of bad circumstances or a poor fit with the person's strengths, this can lower life satisfaction. When a person has important goals, and is failing to make adequate progress toward them, this too can lead to life dissatisfaction. **A third factor that influences the life satisfaction of most people is personal – satisfaction with the self,** religious or spiritual life, **learning and growth, and leisure.** For many people these are sources of satisfaction." Copyright by Ed Diener, 2006