



ERASMUS ORCHESTRA

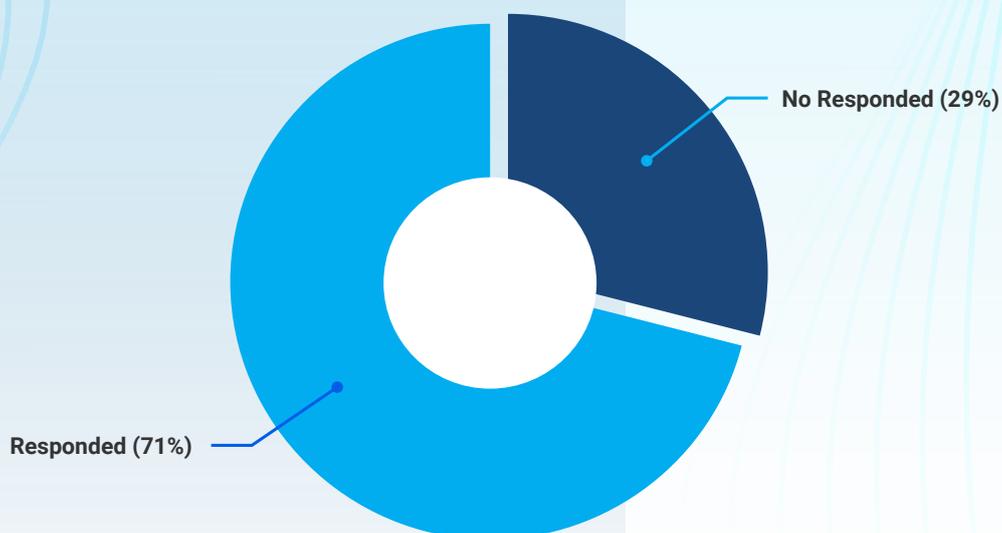
Erasmus Orchestra Musicians Survey 2025

Intro and scenario

The Erasmus Orchestra, launched in 2017 by the Erasmus+ Italian National Agency INDIRE to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus+ programme, brings together Erasmus students from music conservatoires across Europe. It is a travelling ensemble that represents European integration, unity, and shared values through music. The initiative has so far involved nearly 400 students from 30 countries and over 80 Conservatories, with 25 performances in prestigious European venues and more.

The questionnaire involved around 140 young musicians who participated in the Erasmus Orchestra between 2024 and 2025, and approximately 70% of them responded. The survey aimed to assess their experiences and the impact of the project on both musical and intercultural dimensions.

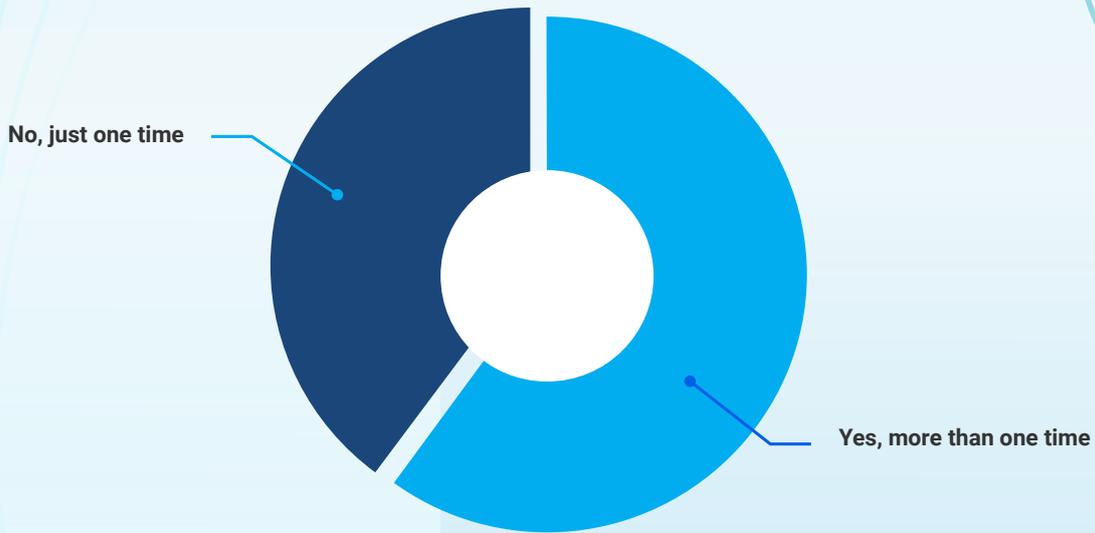
Response Rate to the Questionnaire



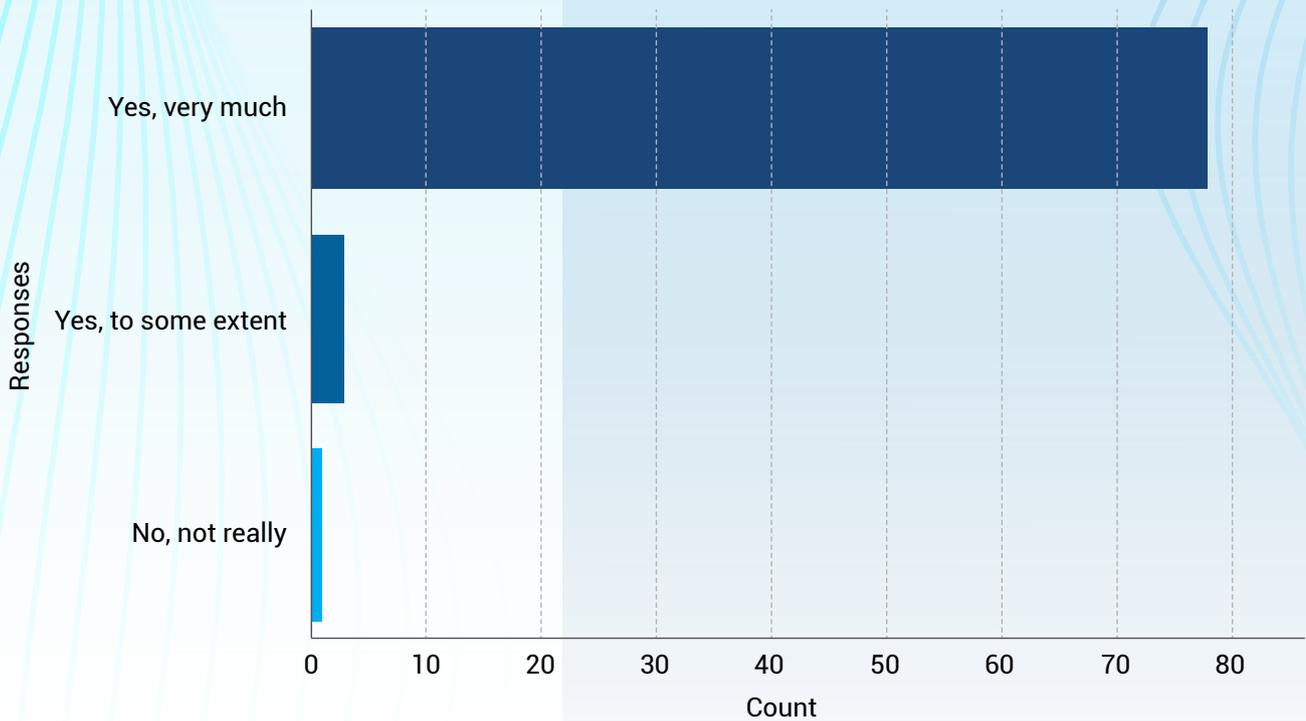


General aspects

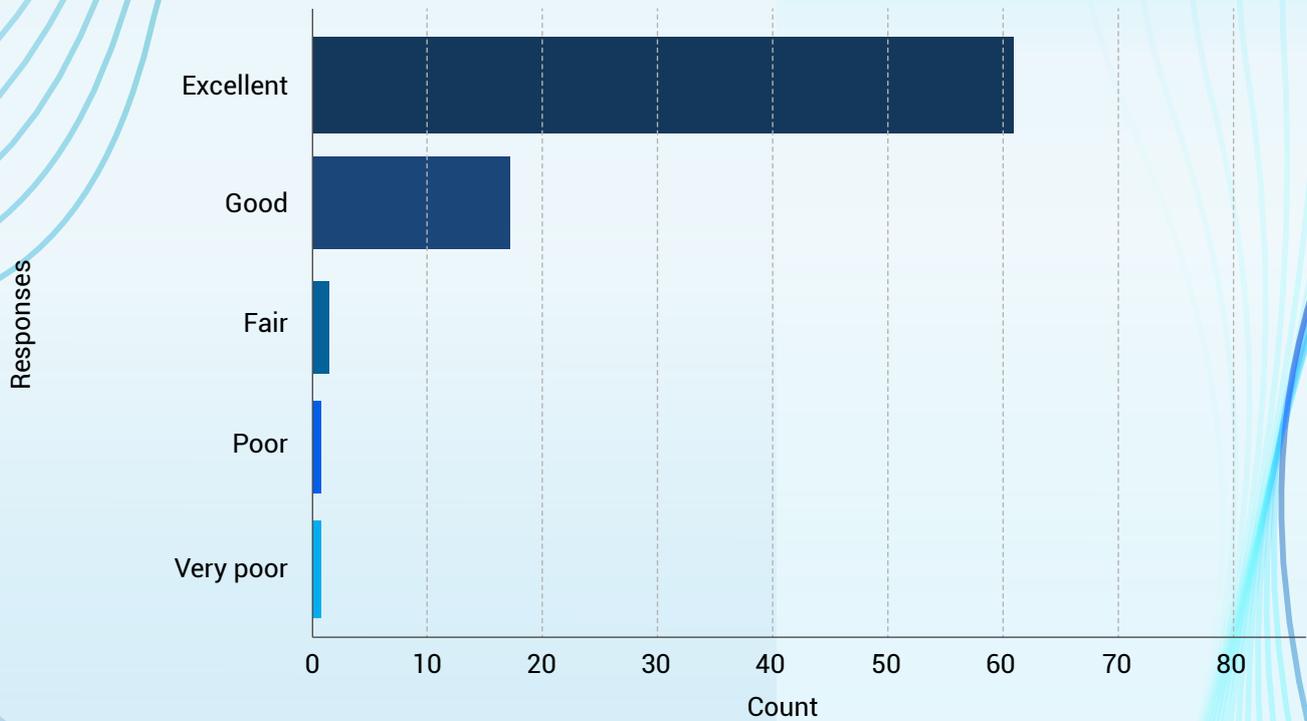
Have you participated in more than one Erasmus Orchestra production?



Did you feel welcomed and included in the Erasmus Orchestra?

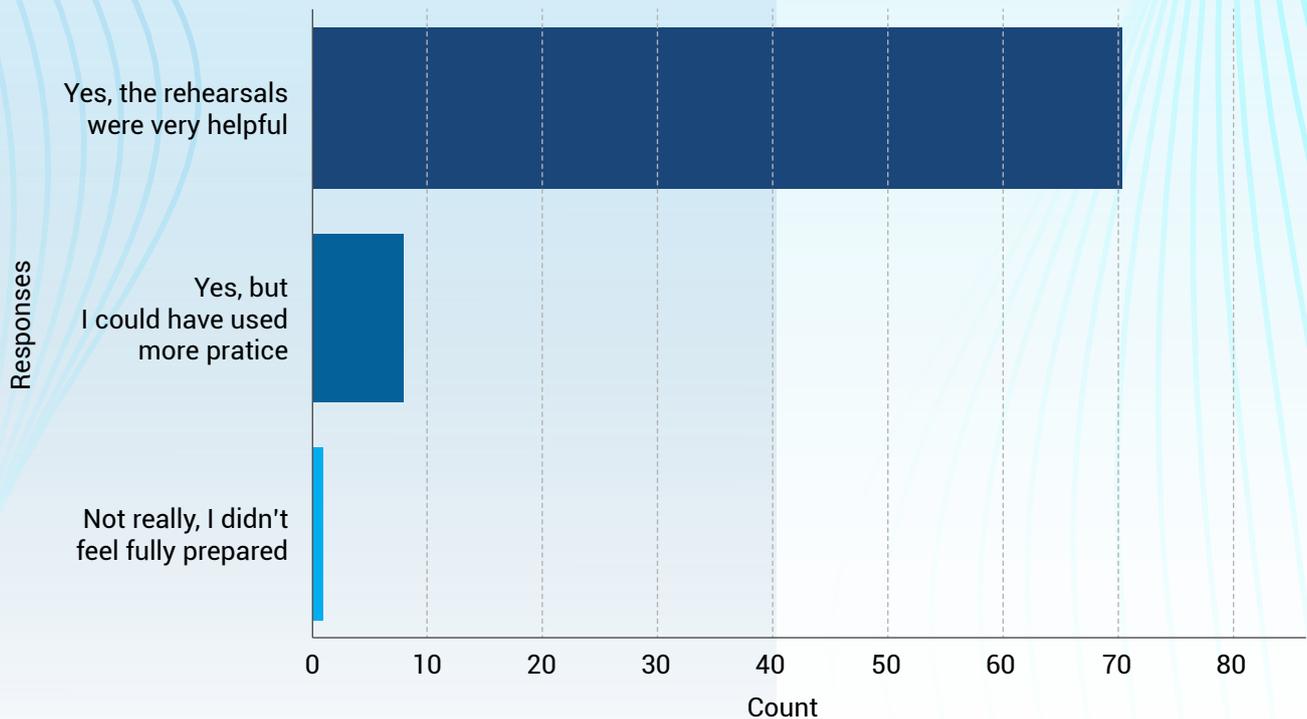


How would you rate the general organization (information, travel, accommodation, food)?



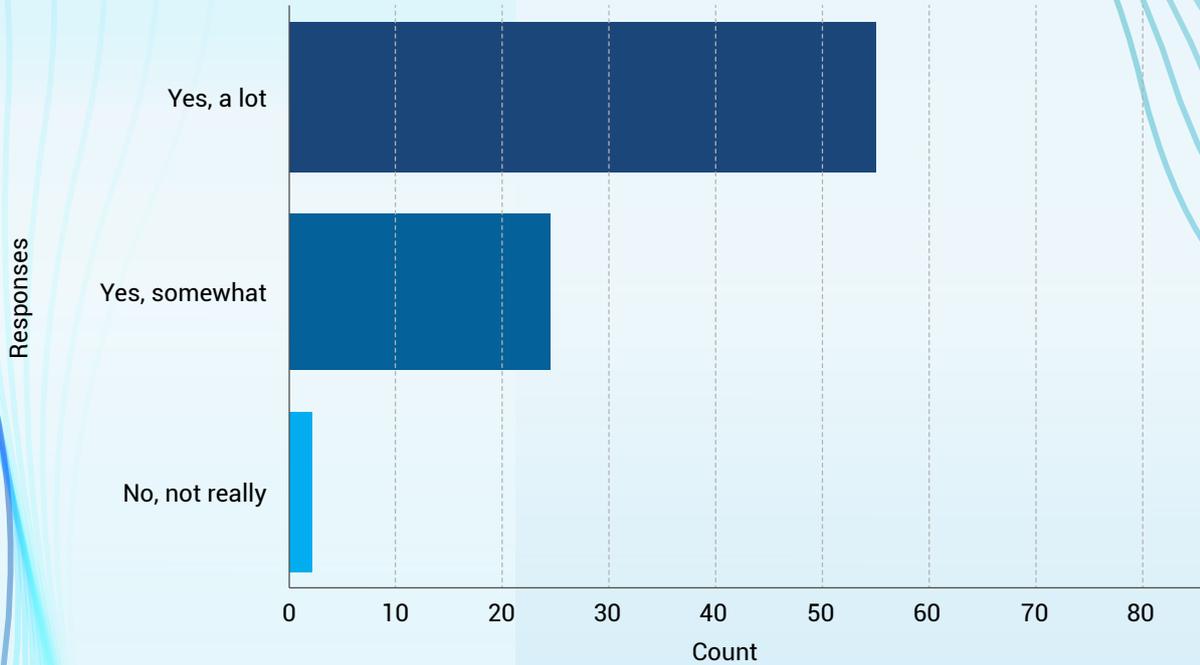
Professional development

Did the rehearsals adequately prepare you for the performance?

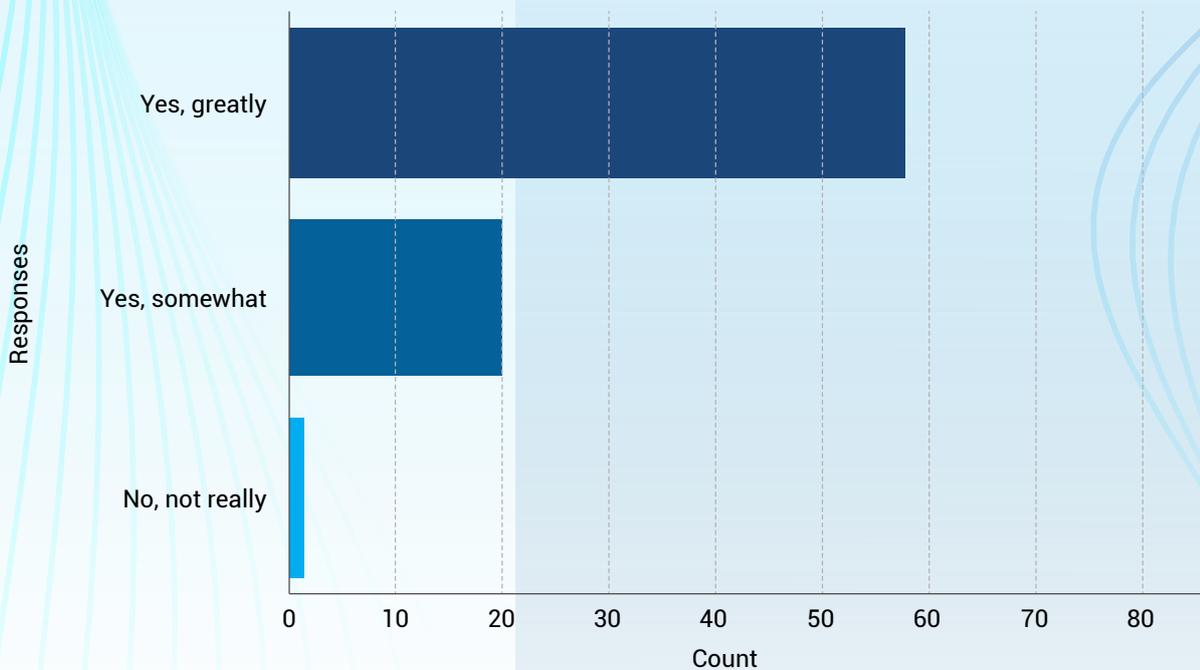




Did this project help you develop skills relevant to your future musical career?



Did this experience contribute to your musical and professional growth?



How do you rate the quality of musical programmes played (1-5)?

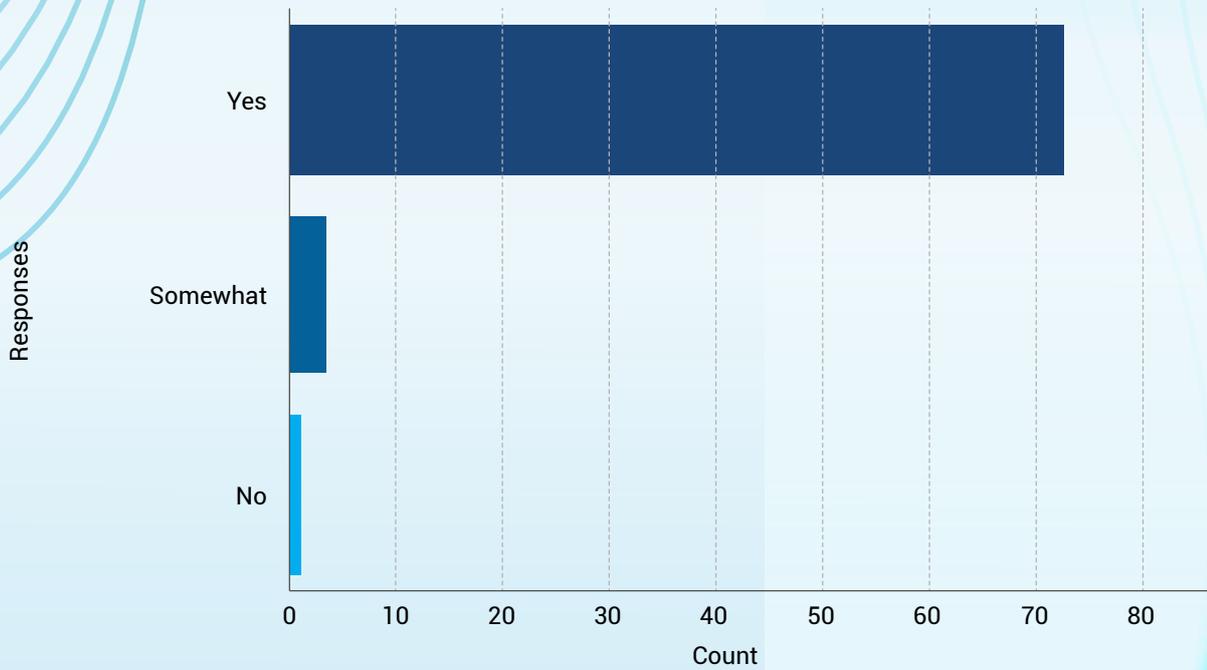


How do you rate the quality/prestige of concert venues and theatres (1-5)?

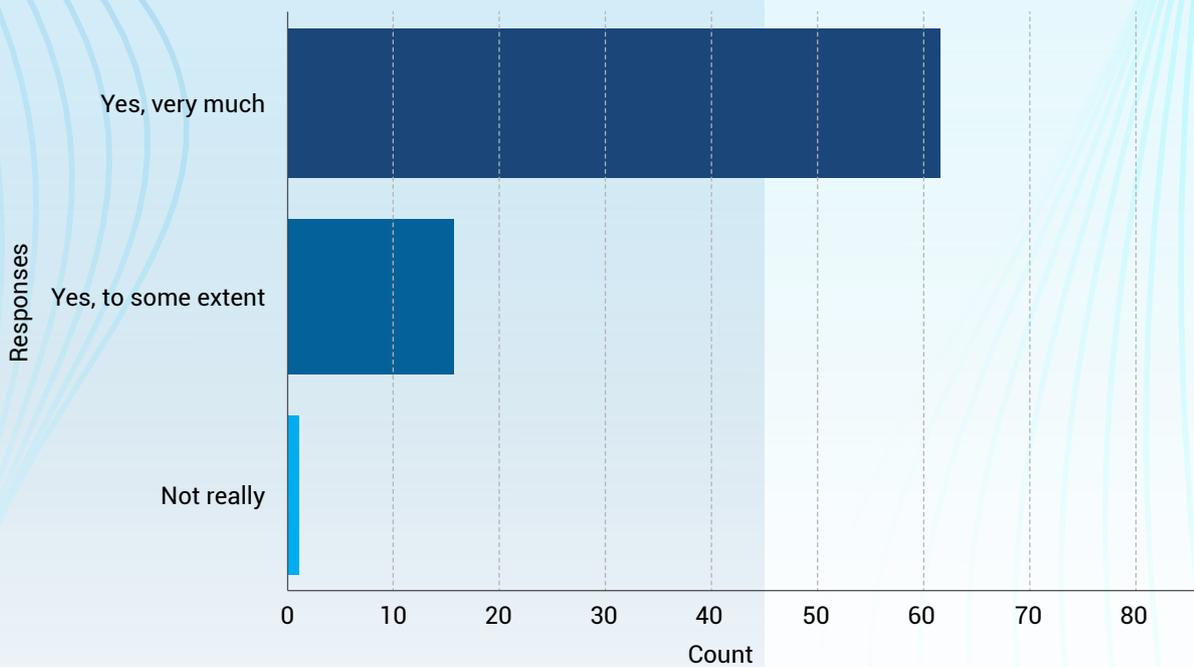


Personal development

Did this experience help you develop new friendships?

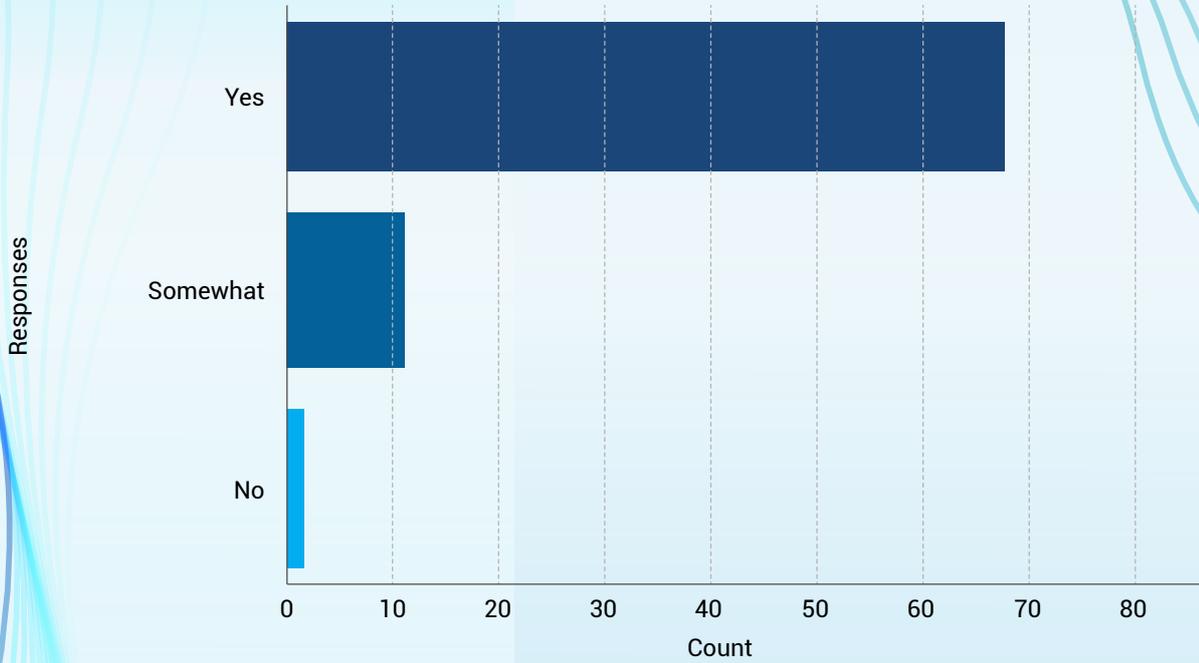


Did this experience strengthen your sense of belonging to a multicultural European community?

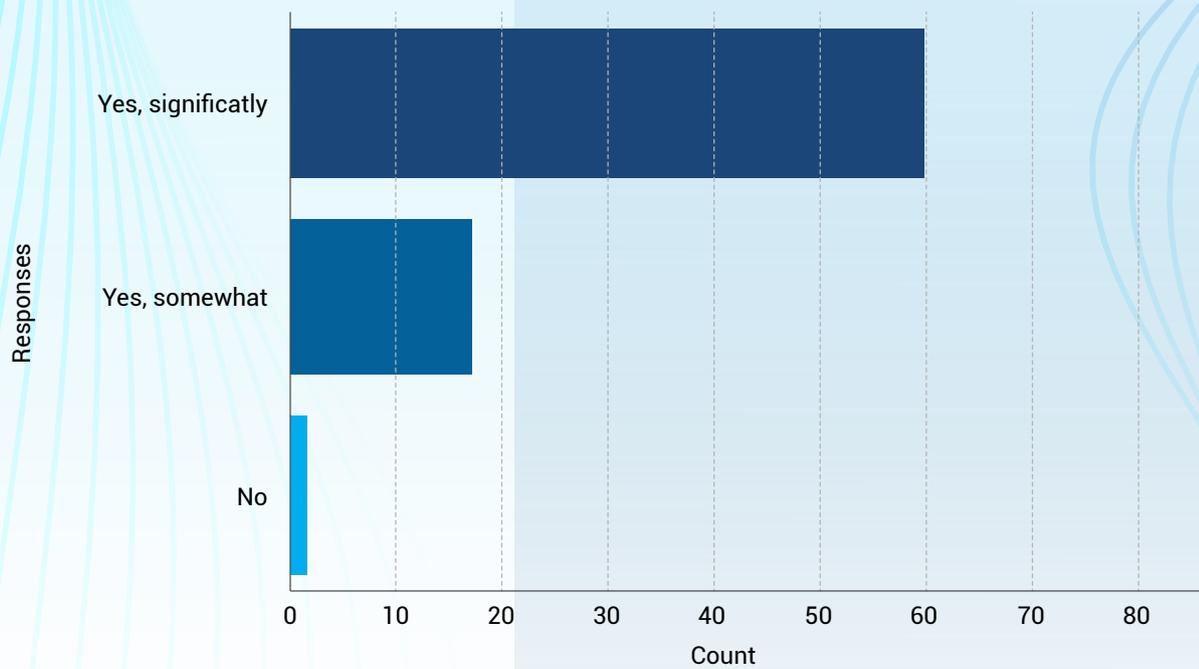




Did participating in this project make you feel more connected to European values?

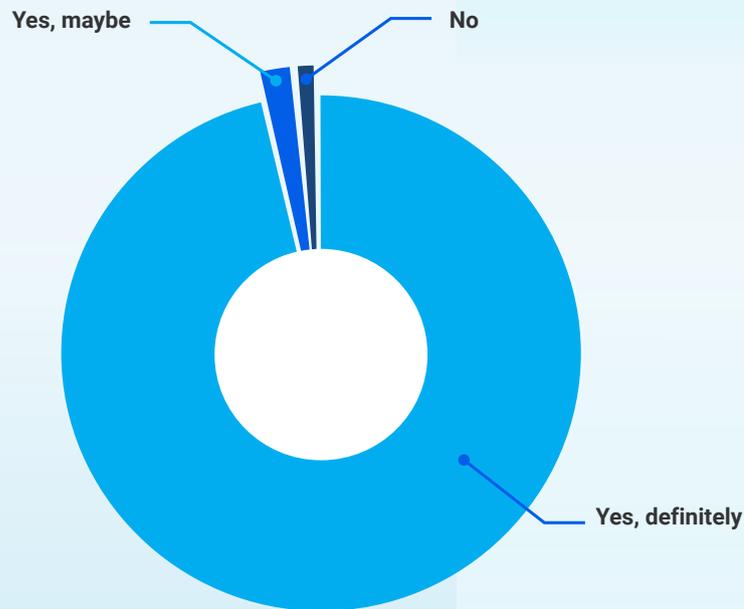


Did this project enhance your ability to collaborate with people from different cultures?





Would you be interested in participating in another Erasmus Orchestra production in the future?



How would you rate your overall experience with the Erasmus Orchestra?

4,7
average rating



General analysis

The results of the survey, with a response rate of approximately 70%, indicate a strong and widespread appreciation of the Erasmus Orchestra project across several key dimensions.

Participant Experience

A significant majority of respondents reported feeling welcomed and included within the Erasmus Orchestra environment, confirming the project's capacity to foster a sense of belonging and cultural openness. The overall organization – including communication, travel logistics, accommodation, and meals – was positively evaluated, though some participants pointed out areas for minor improvement, particularly in terms of clearer pre-event information and more coordinated scheduling.

Musical and Professional

Development Most participants stated that rehearsals effectively prepared them for the performances, and that the project supported their musical and professional growth. Many highlighted the opportunity to work with high-level conductors and to perform in prestigious venues as key elements that contributed to the value of the experience. Respondents also gave strong ratings to the quality of the musical programmes and the venues.



Social and Intercultural Impact

A large number of participants affirmed that the experience helped them develop new friendships, enhanced their ability to collaborate across cultures, and strengthened their connection to a shared European identity. The project was seen not just as a musical initiative, but as a platform for intercultural dialogue and European citizenship. These responses support the Orchestra's role in promoting Erasmus+ core values such as inclusion, diversity, and cross-border cooperation.

Future Interest

An overwhelming majority (98%) expressed a clear interest in participating in future editions of the Erasmus Orchestra, reinforcing the demand for similar cultural experiences among young musicians in Europe.

Future perspectives

Building on the insights from both the survey and strategic evaluation, several forward-looking developments could significantly enhance the impact, sustainability, and inclusivity of the Erasmus Orchestra:

- **Expansion of Participation Opportunities**
Given the strong interest in future involvement, increasing the number of productions – or introducing regional or thematic editions – would allow a broader and more diverse group of students to take part in the experience. This would also help address the current capacity limits of the project.
- **Development of a Long-Term Alumni Network**
Establishing a structured digital platform for alumni could foster continued engagement, support peer-to-peer artistic collaboration, and create a space for sharing opportunities such as residencies, training, or co-productions. It would also enhance the long-term legacy and visibility of the project.
- **Innovation in Learning and Skills Development**
Introducing targeted workshops or masterclasses – focusing on areas such as music entrepreneurship, cultural diplomacy, leadership, or digital creativity – could complement the performance experience with valuable professional skills, in line with the evolving needs of young European artists.
- **Sustainability and Equity-Driven Growth**
As the Orchestra continues to grow, prioritizing eco-friendly logistics (e.g. sustainable travel and accommodations) and ensuring access for underrepresented students (e.g. those with fewer opportunities or from peripheral regions) would align with Erasmus+ values and broaden the project's social impact.
- **Integrated Feedback and Monitoring**
Implementing a continuous and structured feedback loop – before, during, and after each production – would enable real-time improvements, help tailor the experience to participant needs, and support the project's adaptability and accountability over time.



Conclusions

The Erasmus Orchestra stands out as a flagship cultural and educational initiative within the Erasmus+ framework. Its success lies in its multidimensional impact: combining high-level artistic experiences with meaningful intercultural exchange. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from the 2024–2025 cohort confirms that the project not only contributes to participants' musical growth but also strengthens their sense of European identity and solidarity.

Through collaborative music-making, the Orchestra brings to life the ideals of the Erasmus+ programme – bridging cultures, fostering inclusion, and building a more connected Europe. The consistently high levels of satisfaction and engagement among participants demonstrate the project's lasting value and call for its continuation and expansion.

In conclusion, the Erasmus Orchestra has established itself as a powerful symbol of cultural cooperation and European identity through music. By addressing key strategic areas – such as inclusiveness, sustainability, and innovation – the project can evolve into a lasting and transformative initiative, expanding its reach and reinforcing its role as a flagship example of how mobility and the arts can shape the future of Europe.