



European Commission



WHAT IS DISCOVEREU?

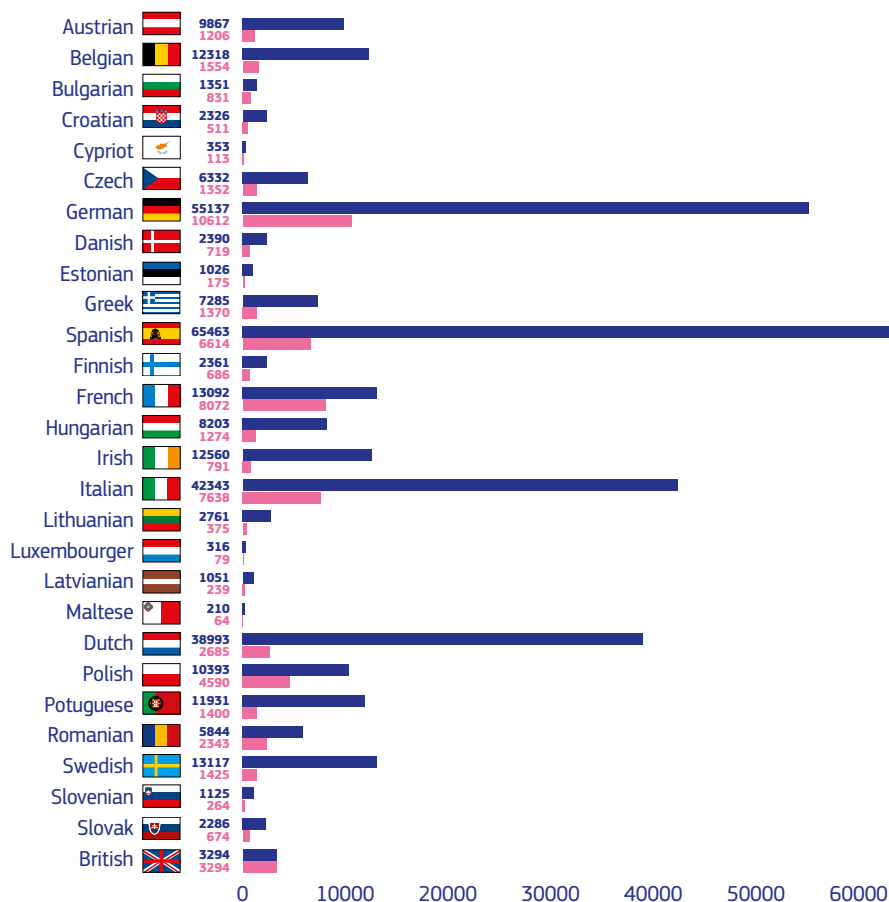
DiscoverEU is an EU initiative giving 18-year-old EU citizens from all backgrounds the opportunity to travel around Europe, learn from other cultures, build new friendships with fellow Europeans, and explore their European identity. Organised for the first time in 2018, young people embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm.

Nearly **685,000 young people** applied for the **130,000 travel passes**

available over five application rounds in 2018, 2019 and 2021. The allocation of the travel passes was based on the share of Member States' population compared to the overall population of the EU.

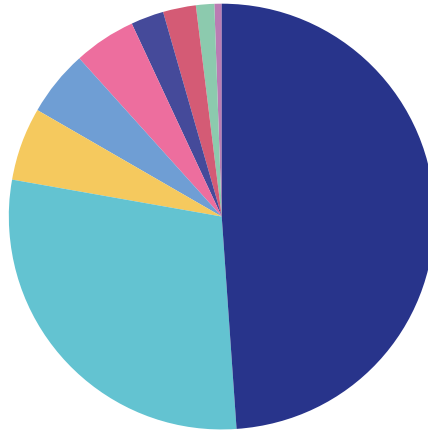
Exception for the October 2021 round: UK nationals were still allowed to participate in this round of DiscoverEU. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DiscoverEU rounds in 2020 were cancelled. The funding was moved to 2021. As UK nationals were eligible in 2020, the UK eligibility still applied for this DiscoverEU round, as the round was financed from the 2020 budget.

Total number of applicants and number of participants awarded under the October 2021 application round.



APPLICATIONS

48.9% Higher education
bachelor degree
28.8% School
5.5% Vocational training
4.9% Higher education
short study
4.8% On a gap year
2.6% Employed
2.3% Other
1.5% Volunteering
0.4% Unemployed



TOTAL:

333,728 applications
60,950 participants selected

January 2022

Exceptionally for this round, those young people who were eligible under the two rounds in 2020, which were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were also eligible to apply. The 60,950 young people selected in October 2021 will travel between March 2022 and February 2023. After a yearlong forced break in 2020, three times more young Europeans than in previous rounds will get the chance to travel across Europe alone or in groups of up to five people. Trips can take up to 30 days and must include at least one Member State other than the one they live in. Young travellers will be equipped for the first time with a mobile travel pass allowing flexibility until last minute. This is in response to the pandemic and potential travel restrictions. Through social media, young people connect with peers, share stories and travel tips, find travel buddies up until the last minute and get together at meet-ups. Here are some of the stories :



“What I loved the most about my journey was all the people I met along. Sharing stories with other travellers in the common room of a hostel in Budapest, chatting till 3am with Erasmus+ students from the Canary Islands in a dorm in Vienna, and having local DiscoverEU travellers show us around Munich are truly some of my favourite memories ever.”

*Ana from Bulgaria
travelled to Austria, Germany, The Netherlands and Hungary*

“I was very surprised by the beauty of the trains and the care with which they are taken of, as well as of course the architecture and landscapes of all the cities visited. A pleasant surprise was the city of Antwerp, which I didn't know at all and which turned out to be very charming. I learned that it is very important to speak foreign languages, especially English, to communicate with people around Europe and the world. I hope that this experience can be lived also by other new eighteen-year-olds because it is really fantastic!”

*Francesco from Italy
travelled to Belgium, France, Germany and The Netherlands*





“From the start, I was eager to participate in the DiscoverEU initiative, and I was extremely happy to be among the selected ones. The European Commission showed an open attitude and was determined to find solutions for my situation. The experience has been very enriching for me and also for society. On the one hand, society was surprised to see me, a boy with great disability helped by a team of assistants to enjoy life abroad. On the other hand, my severe limitations created very positive feelings of empathy and help among people, and ultimately integration.”

*Javier from Spain
travelled to The Netherlands*

“DiscoverEU gives the opportunity to get to know locals and their way of life. We wanted to experience places as locals, so we bought food at local grocery shops, tried typical cuisine and attempted to learn at least some foreign words. I was positively surprised how kind everybody was. People gladly stopped and spared some of their time to help or talk to us. I think people don't know how easy it is to travel around Europe. The European Union is doing an amazing job on trying to connect young people from different countries, by allowing them to travel with small expenses. We are the next generation that's going to lead our governments and countries and we must step together and work towards similar aims. We can do that if we know where we come from, and where other come from and this project is allowing us to do so.”

*Maja from Slovenia
travelled to Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland*



Following its success during the pilot phase as a European Parliamentary Preparatory Action, DiscoverEU has been integrated into the Erasmus+ Programme, as of 2021.

This will allow ten times more young people to benefit from travelling with DiscoverEU in the coming six years. The European Commission will launch the first application round under Erasmus+ in the first half of 2022. Specific dates and further information will be available on the European Youth Portal.

The expected budget for 2022 is
€ 26 million.

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COMFORT
ZONE**

#DiscoverEU

