



DiscoverEU



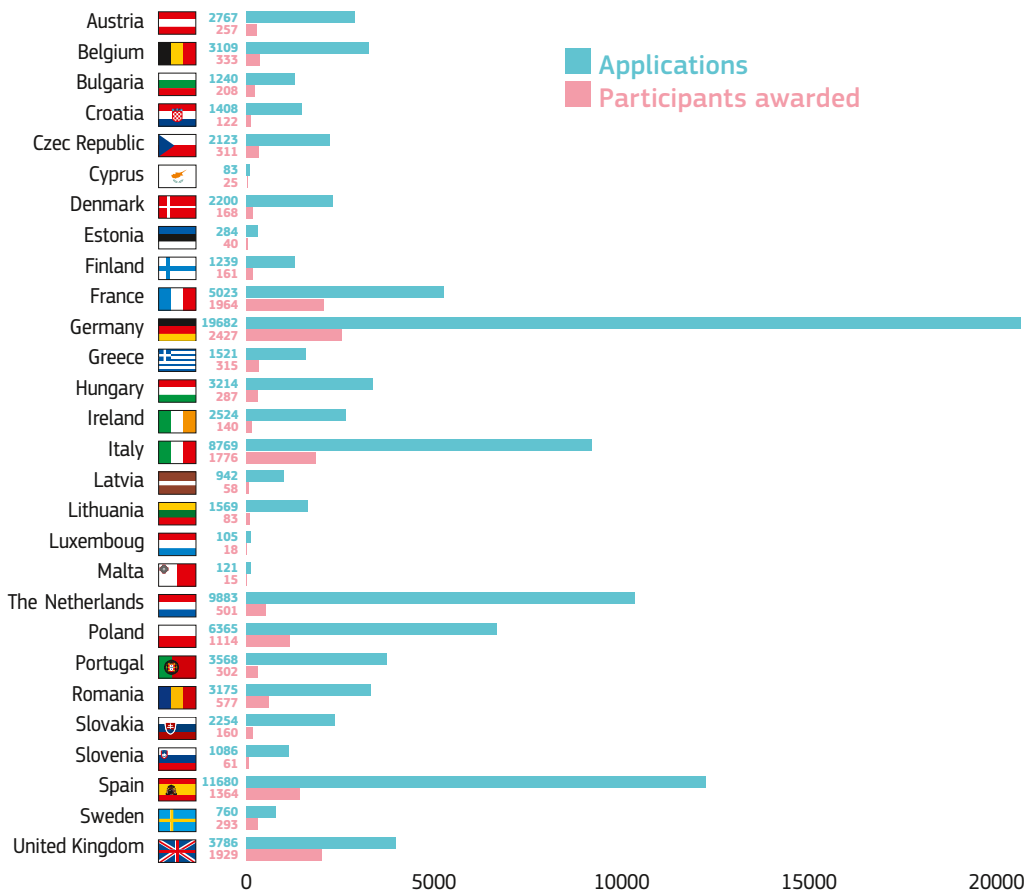
“Turning 18 marks a major step to adulthood. We want to support Europe’s young people in taking this step by giving them the opportunity to discover our continent’s incredible cultural heritage, get to know and learn from other people – and come to recognise that there is more that unites us than divides us.”

Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth & Sport – Brussels, 3 May 2018

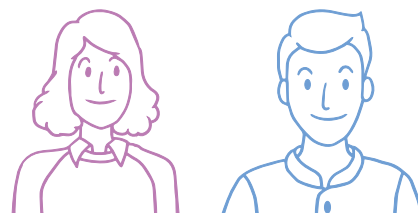
WHAT IS DiscoverEU?

DiscoverEU is a new EU initiative giving 18-year-old young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to travel around Europe, learn from other cultures, make new friendships with fellow Europeans, and as such understand what the EU stands for. Young people embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm. More than **100,000** young people applied for the **15,000** travel passes available under the first application round launched in June 2018. The allocation of the travel passes was based on the share of Member States’ population compared to the overall population of the EU. All country quotas were used.

NUMBER OF APPLICANTS AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AWARDED

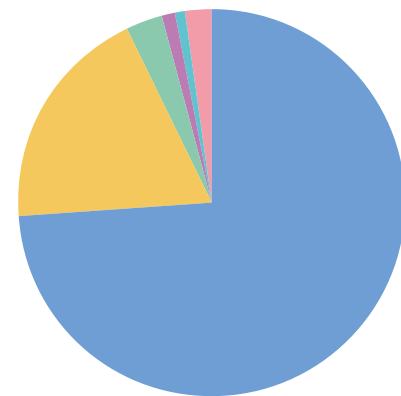


APPLICATIONS



Female
58%

Male
42%



74% in school or leaving school
19% higher education
3% vocational training
1% employed
1% unemployed
2% other



TOTAL:
100,480 applications
15,009 participants awarded

The **15,000** young people travelled between July and October, alone or in groups of maximum five people. Their trip could take up to 30 days, and had to include at least one EU Member State other than the one they live in. DiscoverEU was also a great opportunity for them to participate in the many events organised as part of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.

As DiscoverEU is all about connecting and sharing, the young people used social media to share stories, find travel buddies, organise meet-ups or exchange tips. Here are some of their stories:



"I've just returned from my 2 weeks around Europe! 6 countries, 300km walked and a lot more by train! I travelled alone but made such great friends along the way! I've had so much fun, wouldn't change a second of it and want to do it all again. #DiscoverEU 2018"

Rheannon Hazell (United Kingdom):

travelled to Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, Croatia, Czech Republic



"Here are some bits of my #DiscoverEU trip. I must say this was one of the most amazing experiences I had so far. I met amazing people with amazing stories. I made a lot of friends which made this adventure truly memorable. I was astonished by the beauty of the cities I visited, the cleanliness, the architecture and the whole culture veiled around them. Thank you for making this possible European Youth. This was a wonderful journey from which I had a lot to learn."

Stefan Iosif (Romanian):

travelled to Czech Republic, Germany, Holland



"Every second of my DiscoverEU journey was made extraordinary by the people, landscapes (and food) I met and saw (and ate). Thank you, European Youth, for giving me the opportunity of being your ambassador!"

Agathe Chevrier (French):

travelled to Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Belgium



On 29 November 2018, the European Commission will launch a second application round for at least 12,000 travellers. Those interested will be able to apply via the European Youth Portal. Applicants must be 18 years old on 31 December 2018 and be prepared to travel between 15 April and 31 October 2019 for a maximum period of 30 days.

The European Commission intends to develop the initiative further and has therefore included it in its proposal for the next Erasmus programme. If the European Parliament and the Council agree to the proposal, an additional 1.5 million 18-year-olds are expected to travel between 2021 and 2027, supported by a budget of EUR 700 million. The European Parliament has approved the DiscoverEU preparatory action's budget of EUR 16 million for 2019.