

Youth Info Survey 2025: Mobility and the Role of Youth Information in the Lives of Young People from Ethnic, Racial, or Religious Backgrounds

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1. Why are young people from Ethnic, Racial, or Religious Backgrounds important in the context of the Youth Info Survey 2025?

What is the Eurodesk Youth Info Survey 2025?

The Eurodesk Youth Info Surveys are conducted regularly in order to provide insights into the field of youth mobility information. The previous surveys were conducted in 2017 ([Sabuni 2018](#)), 2019 ([Sabuni 2019](#)), 2022 ([Bárta 2022](#)), and the latest one in 2024 ([Bárta 2025](#)).

The full report, titled [Eurodesk Youth Info Survey 2025](#), has already been published, and we invite you to explore it online or in hard copy.

This report does not reiterate the general findings from the main report; it focuses solely on one of the important minorities among young people: young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds. Its purpose is to identify the specific needs, experiences, and challenges they face. This is achieved by comparing the minority group, in this case, young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds, with the majority youth. The majority youth are all young people who do not identify as part of these minorities. Comparing these two groups clearly shows where belonging to an ethnic, racial, or religious minority makes a difference.

These findings aim to help youth information services better tailor their approach to this particular minority, thereby improving information delivery and mobility experience of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds.

Who Are Young People from Ethnic, Racial, or Religious Backgrounds?

While there is no widely recognised definition of what a minority is, the UN Refugee Agency defines a minority as “an ethnic, religious, linguistic, or cultural group, fewer in number than the rest of the population, whose members share a common identity and rights” (UNHCR 2025). This means that whether an ethnic, religious, racial, or even linguistic group constitutes a minority always depends on a historical, cultural, and geopolitical context in which such a group is found.

Belonging to a minority group, whether it is an ethnic, racial, or religious one, means that a relationship with the majority society needs to be negotiated. As a result, the United Nations repeatedly states the need to grant minorities the same rights as those of the majority group. We can already find an explicit statement on these rights of minorities in the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 27, United Nations 1966). The United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities (1992) places special emphasis on the protection of various minorities, ensuring that they participate in society and decision-making, and live free from discrimination.

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights reiterates equal rights for all people in Article 21, on “Non-discrimination,” and in Article 22, on “Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity” (European Union, 2000; European Union Agency for Human Rights, 2025). In short, the Charter firmly states that diversity is to be respected, and that discrimination against any population group is to be prohibited. The Charter also specifically mentions ethnic, racial and religious groups among those to be protected from discrimination. The EU ambition to build “a union of equality” puts the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights into the spotlight as the EU has been introducing various strategies towards this goal: The EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025, or The Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion, and participation 2020-2030 (European Commission 2025), among others.

Due to the absence of a common definition of a minority group, compiling information on the number of people belonging to various groups is challenging (Farkas 2017). In 2024, approximately 10% of the EU population were born outside the EU, 4% were born in another EU country, and around 6% were non-EU citizens (Eurostat, 2025). Many of these individuals were young people, as these groups showed a greater proportion of “relatively young working age adults” (ibid).

Despite the political will to address discrimination, it remains a persistent issue in the EU. Roughly two-thirds of people of different skin colour and of various ethnic origins report being discriminated against, as well as 42% of people of different religions (European Commission 2023). Discrimination against people of African origin has even worsened, a share of those experiencing discrimination climbing from 39% in 2016 to 45% in 2022 (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights 2024). Discrimination rates were three to four times higher in the case of various minorities (including ethnic, racial and religious minorities) in comparison with non-minorities in 2023 (Hardy, Schraepen 2024).

As shown above, young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds have long been recognised as a particularly vulnerable group. Therefore, the Eurodesk Youth Info Survey 2025 provided young people with an opportunity to report on their background. All in all, this **report is based on the responses from 661 young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds**¹. All results are rounded to the nearest whole number.

¹ The survey collected:

- 38 responses from young people identifying themselves as part of all three minorities (racial, ethnic, and religious),
- 75 responses from young people who identified themselves as part of racial and ethnic minorities,
- 5 responses from young people who identified themselves as belonging to racial and religious minorities,
- 45 responses from young people who identified themselves as having both an ethnic and religious minority background,
- 78 responses from young people who identified themselves as part of racial minority,
- 233 responses from young people who identified themselves as belonging to an ethnic minority, and
- 187 young people who identified as being part of a religious minority.

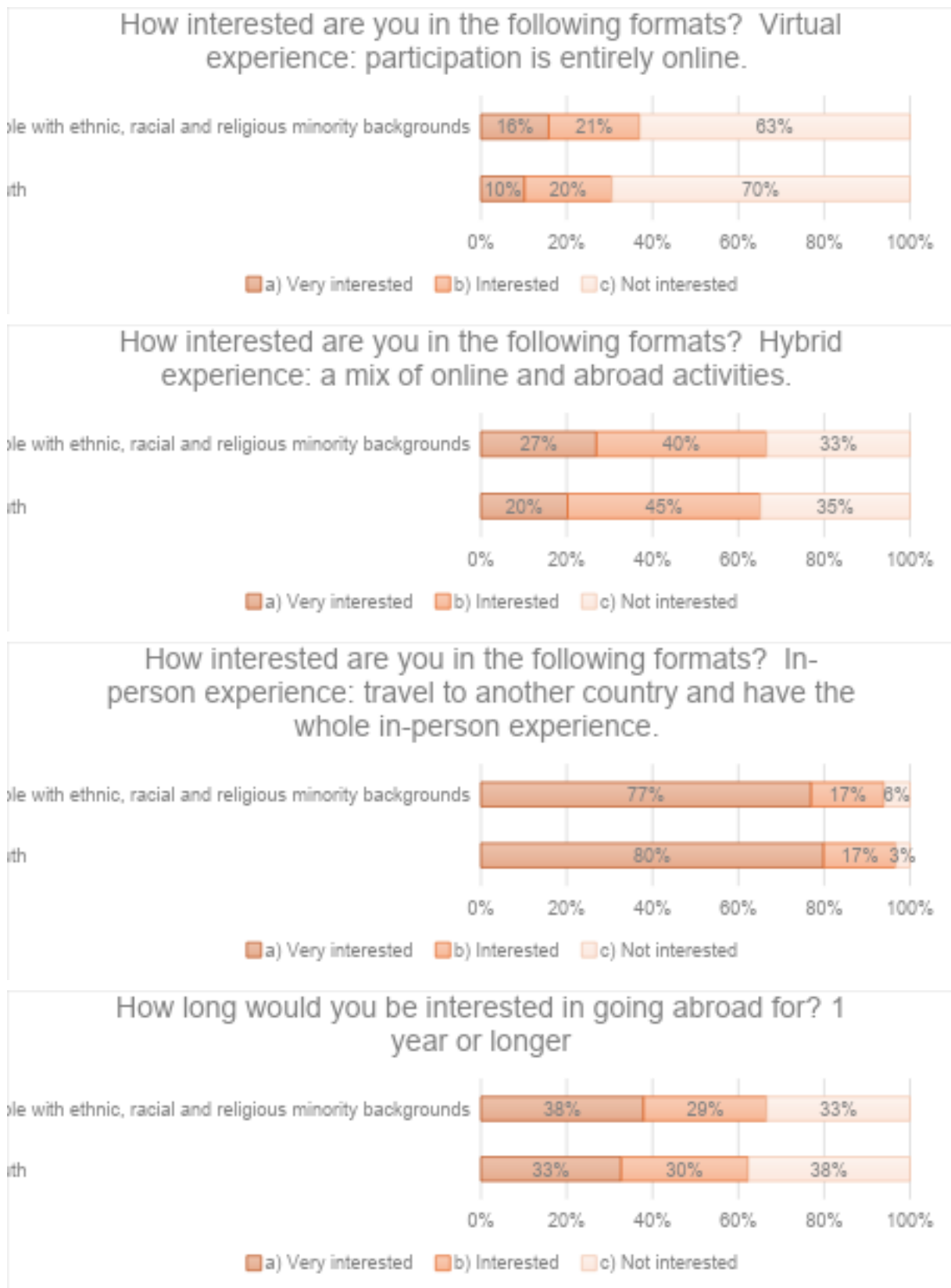
1. What Do Young People from Ethnic, Racial, or Religious Backgrounds Think About Mobility?

The Eurodesk Youth Information Survey 2025 provided young people with an opportunity to share their opinions on mobility in general. For overall results, refer to [the main report 2025](#).

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are just as open to going abroad as other young people. Nevertheless, they show specific preferences when it comes to mobility formats (see Figure 1). Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are **more interested in virtual formats** (37% of them are very interested or interested, compared to 30% in majority youth) **and in hybrid mobility** (27% of them are very interested and 67% of them are very interested or interested, compared to 20% and 65% in majority youth, respectively), and **slightly less interested in in-person stays** (94% of them are very interested or interested, compared to 97% in majority youth). Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are also **more interested in long stays of 1 or more years** (67% of them are very interested or interested, compared to 63% in the majority youth).

These are positive results: despite the specific situation that young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds find themselves in, they are **just as open to going abroad as the majority youth**, and they are keen to explore various mobility options, such as virtual and hybrid mobilities.

Figure 1: Mobility preferences in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth.



2. How Do Young People from Ethnic, Racial, or Religious Backgrounds Learn About Mobility?

The Eurodesk Youth Information Survey 2025 provided young people with an opportunity to share their opinions on their information needs related to mobility. For overall results, refer to [the main report 2025](#).

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are **as experienced in searching for mobility-related information as other young people**. They are **keener to use youth services**, such as youth information centres (51% of them used this information source, compared to 42% of majority youth) or youth clubs and organisations (51% of them used this information source, compared to 41% of majority youth) when looking for mobility opportunities (see Figure 2). This means that youth services are well-positioned to provide young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds with relevant mobility information, indicating a high level of inclusiveness in these services.

Figure 2: Sources of mobility-related information in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth.

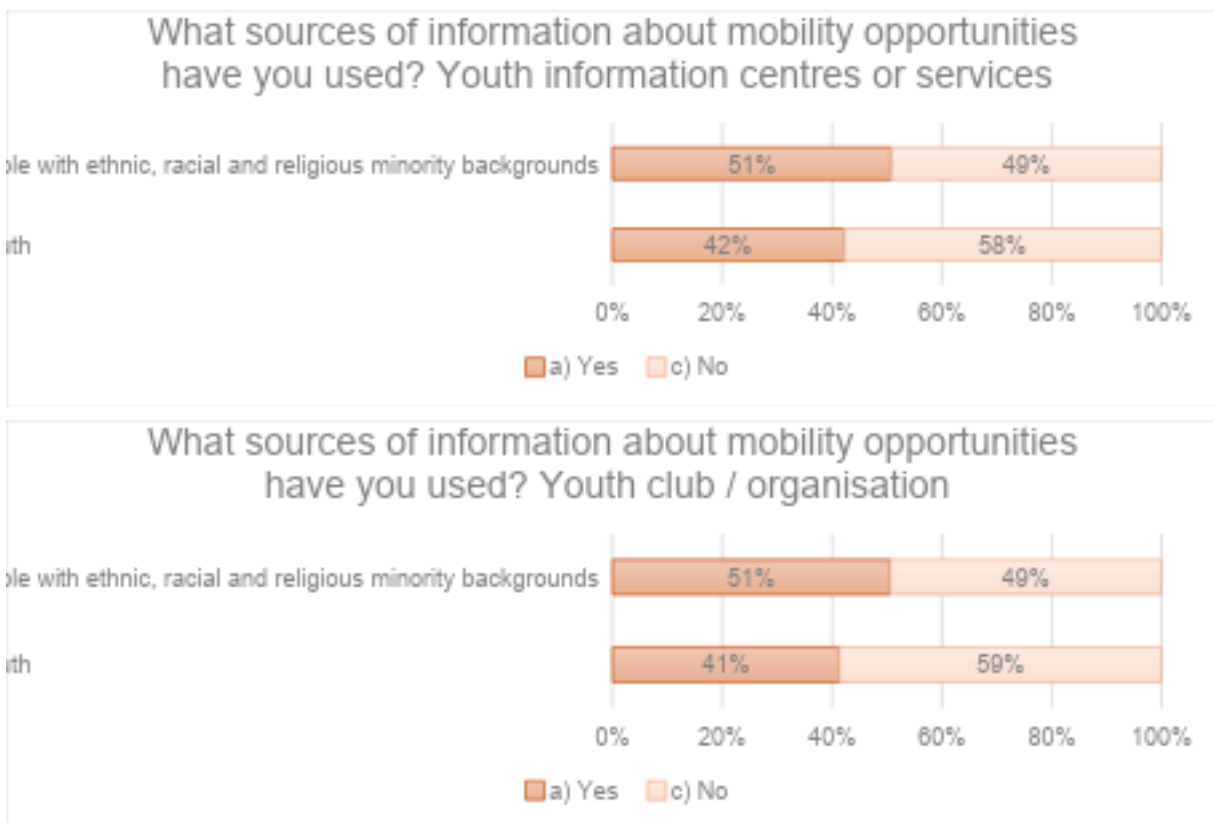
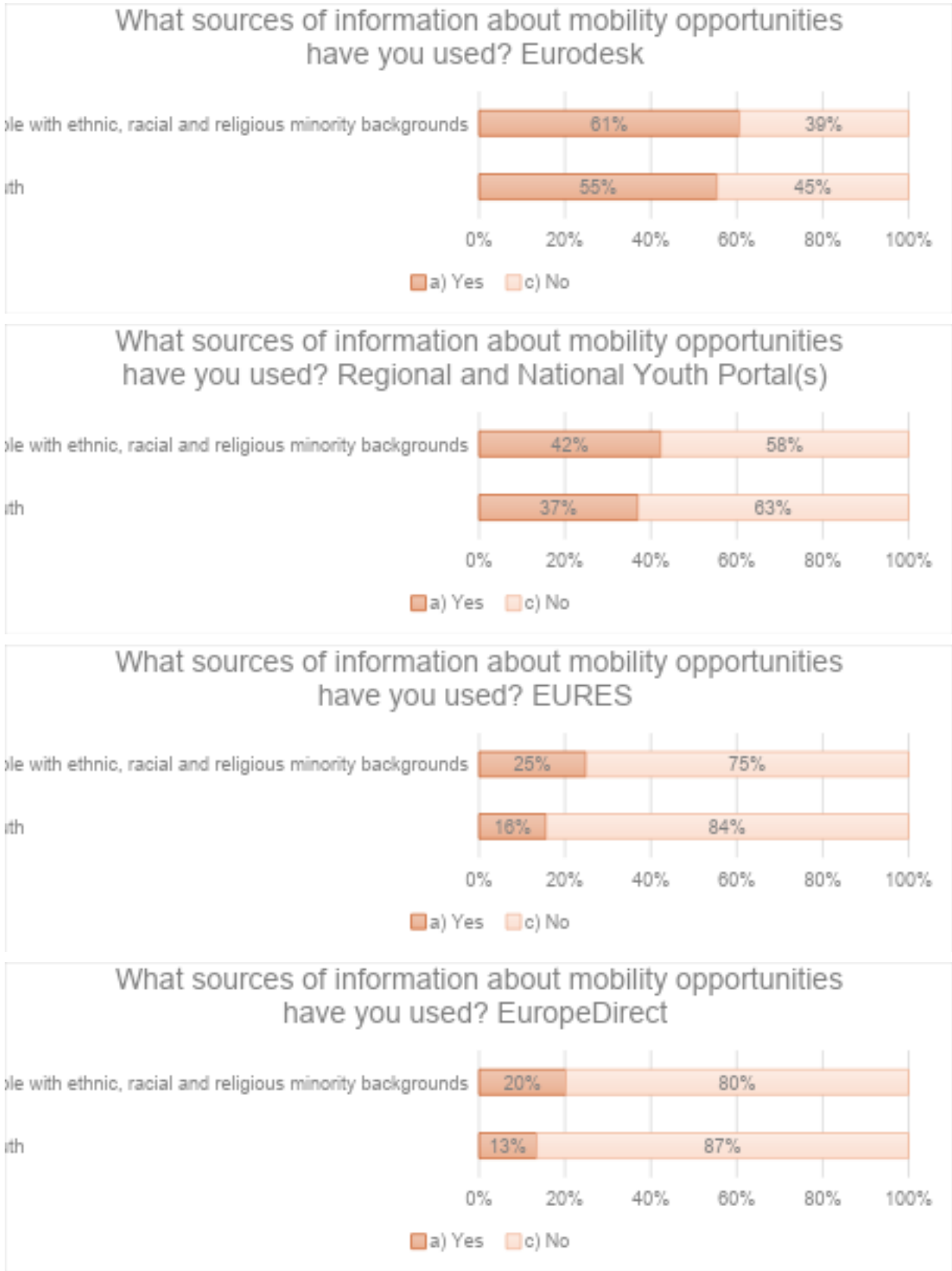


Figure 3: Sources of mobility-related information in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part II.



Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are also **more experienced in using certain online information platforms** (see Figure 3). They have more experience with Eurodesk (61% of them used this information source, compared to 55% of majority youth), regional and national youth portals (42% of them used this information source, compared to 37% of majority youth), EURES (25% of them used this information source, compared to 16% of majority youth), and EuropeDirect (20% of them used this information source, compared to 13% of majority youth). These results show that young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds use specific mobility-related online platforms when looking for information on various mobility opportunities.

In the online environment, young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are **more interested in joining or creating information sharing communities** (58% of them are very likely or likely to use this approach, compared to 50% of majority youth), and **searching for hashtags** (49% of them are very likely or likely to use this approach, compared to 40% of majority youth; see Figure 4). To reach young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds in online environments, these approaches could prove useful to youth information services.

Figure 4: Online search preferences in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth.

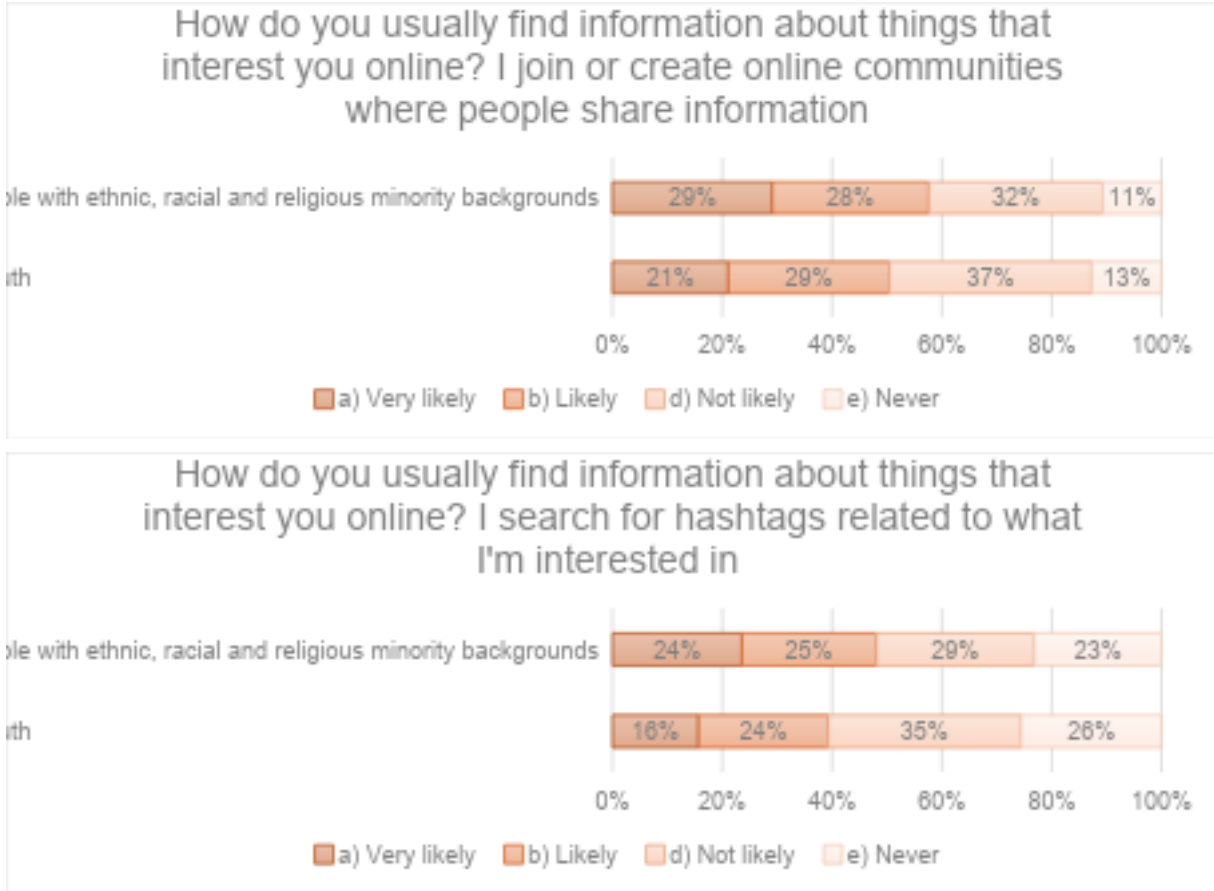
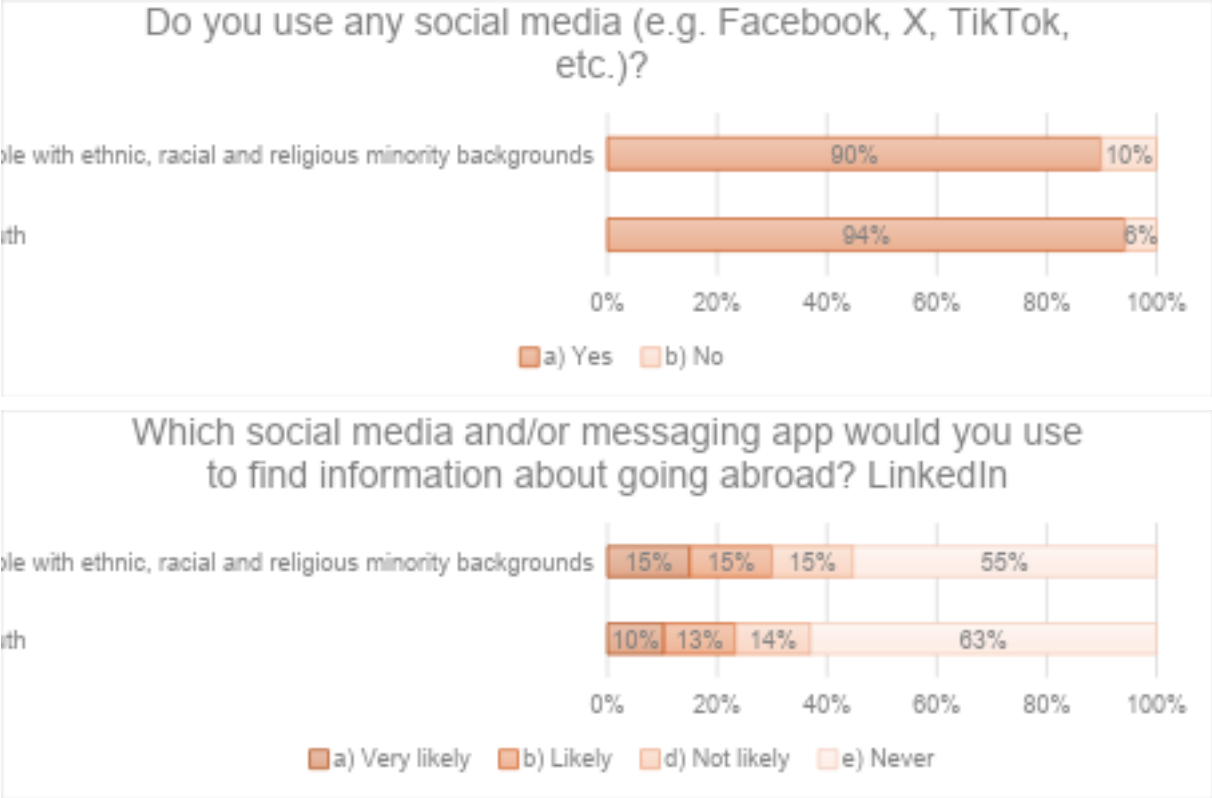
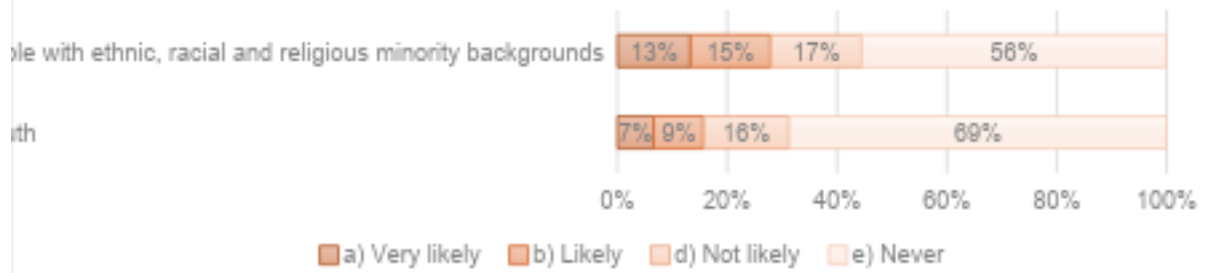


Figure 5: Social media preferences in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part I.



Which social media and/or messaging app would you use to find information about going abroad? X (former Twitter)



Which social media and/or messaging app would you use to find information about going abroad? Reddit

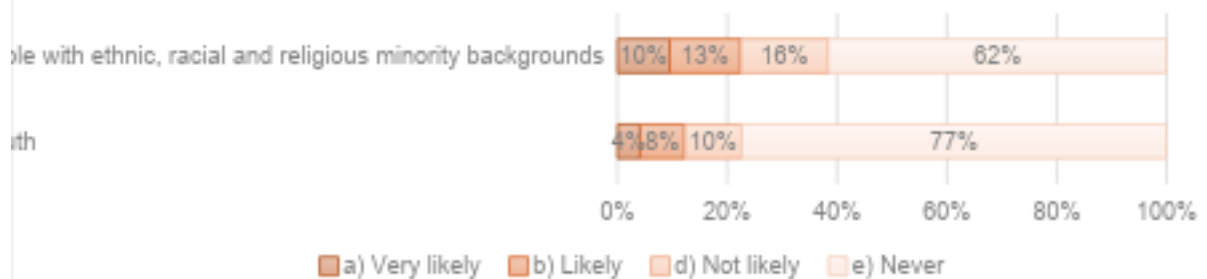
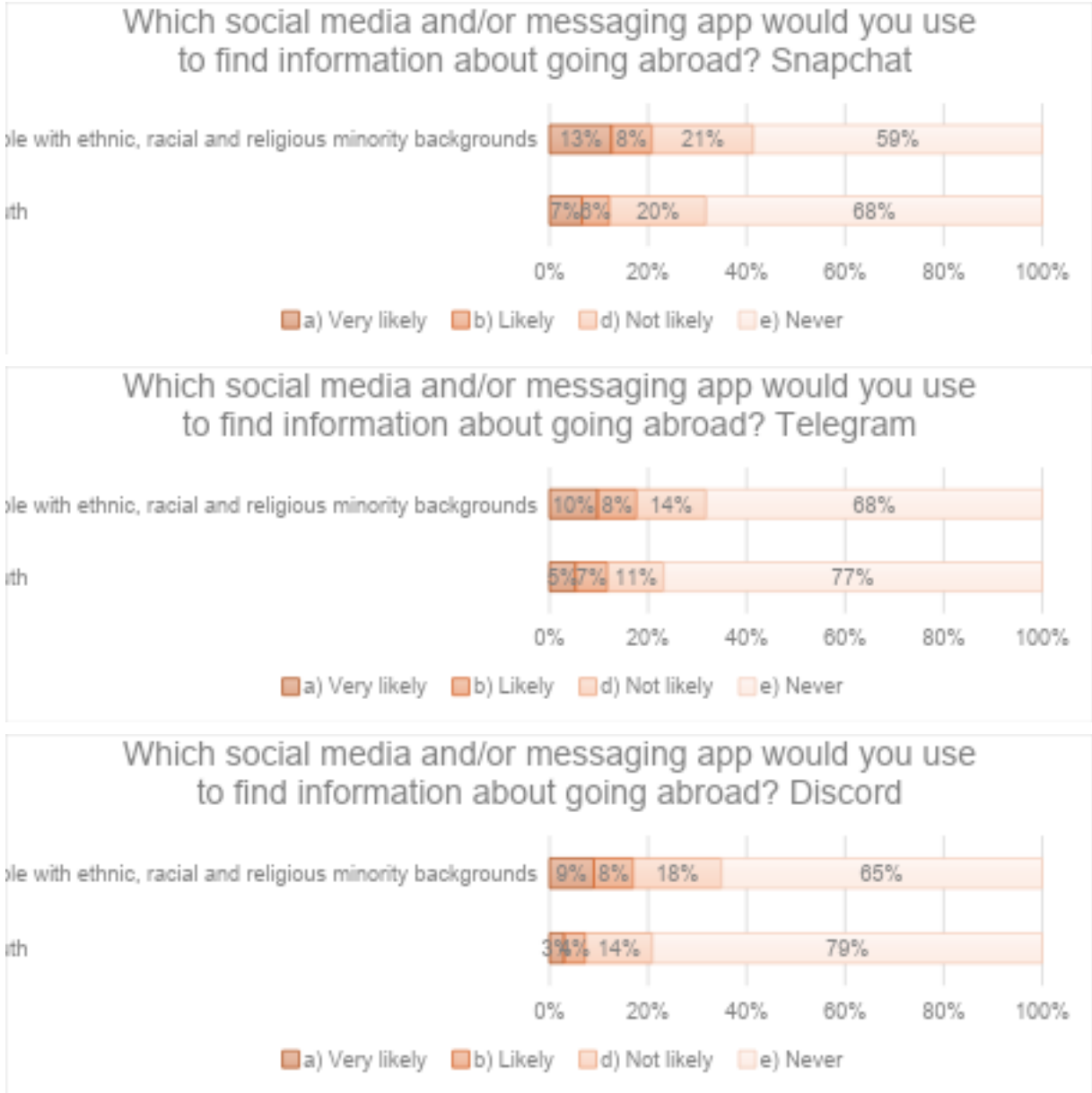


Figure 6: Social media preferences in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part II.



Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are **using social media slightly less than the majority youth** (90%, compared to 94%; see Figure 5). In their search for mobility-related information, they are more likely to use social media platforms which are less popular among young people in general (see Figure 5 and Figure 6). Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are more likely to use LinkedIn (30% of them are very likely or likely to use it, compared to 23% of majority youth), X (former Twitter; 28% of them are very likely or likely to use it, compared to 16% of majority youth), Reddit (23% of them are very likely or likely to use it, compared to 12% of majority youth), Snapchat (21% of them are very likely or likely to use it, compared to 13% of majority youth), Telegram (18% of them are very likely or likely to use it, compared to 12% of majority youth), and Discord (17% of them are very likely or likely to use it, compared to 7% of majority youth).

It is apparent that young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds **use a wider range of social network platforms**. While all of the abovementioned platforms are used to a rather low extent by the majority youth, the situation is very different for young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds, and therefore these platforms should not be omitted by youth information services, as they may constitute important information channels to these specific minorities. Nevertheless, they are still notably less popular than Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, or Facebook, which are the most popular social platforms among all young people, including those from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds.

3. How Did Young People from Ethnic, Racial, or Religious Backgrounds Experience Mobility in 2022 and 2023?

The Eurodesk Youth Information Survey 2025 provided young people with an opportunity to share their opinions on their direct mobility experiences. For overall results, refer to [the main report 2025](#).

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds **went abroad to the same extent as the majority youth** in 2022 or 2023 (about 40%), **but they enjoyed their stays less** than the majority youth (see Figure 7). 62% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds rated their mobility experience as amazing (compared to 70% of majority youth), and in total 90% of them rated it as either an amazing or a good experience (compared to 96% of majority youth).

77% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds were strongly convinced that they would be **willing to encourage others to go** on a mobility experience (compared to 84% of majority youth), and in total 94% of them strongly agreed or agreed to be willing to do that (compared to 98% in majority youth).

These results show that the most notable differences lie in the enthusiasm of the young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds: they are less likely to use the most positive answers in comparison to the majority youth. We can read this as a nuanced way of showing that the **mobility experience was overall positive, but perhaps included more downsides and challenges than was the case for the majority youth**. This aligns closely with the findings shown in the next chapters: young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are more likely to face challenges before and during their mobility stays.

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds were **more likely to benefit from the support of EU programmes** (75% of them benefited, compared to 69% of the majority youth; see Figure 8). They used all grant schemes to the same extent as majority youth, with the exception of the “Erasmus for young entrepreneurs”, which was used more often by young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds than by the majority youth (8% and 3%, respectively).

This may be connected to a slightly different motivation for going abroad (see Figure 9). Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds were **less strongly motivated by having fun** (72% of them strongly agreed, compared to 79% of majority youth) **or by going away from a daily routine** (56% of them strongly agreed, compared to 64% of majority youth). This means that **other motivations, such as doing something meaningful and useful, or increasing employability, were more important** to the young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds. Moreover, **the influence of peers and parents was a stronger**

motivator in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds (59% and 40% strongly agreed or agreed, compared to 48% and 27%, respectively). This highlights the importance of including families in information campaigns.

Figure 7: Mobility experience rating in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth.

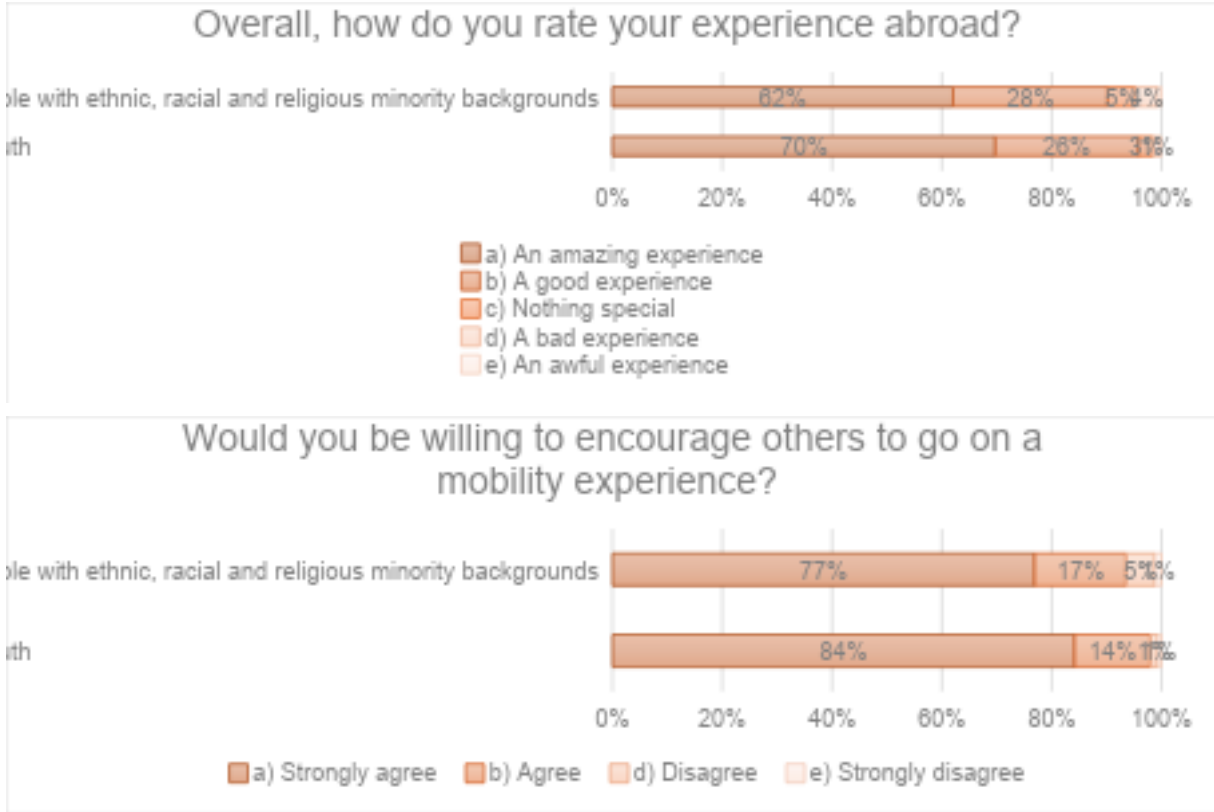


Figure 8: Grant support of mobility experiences in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth.

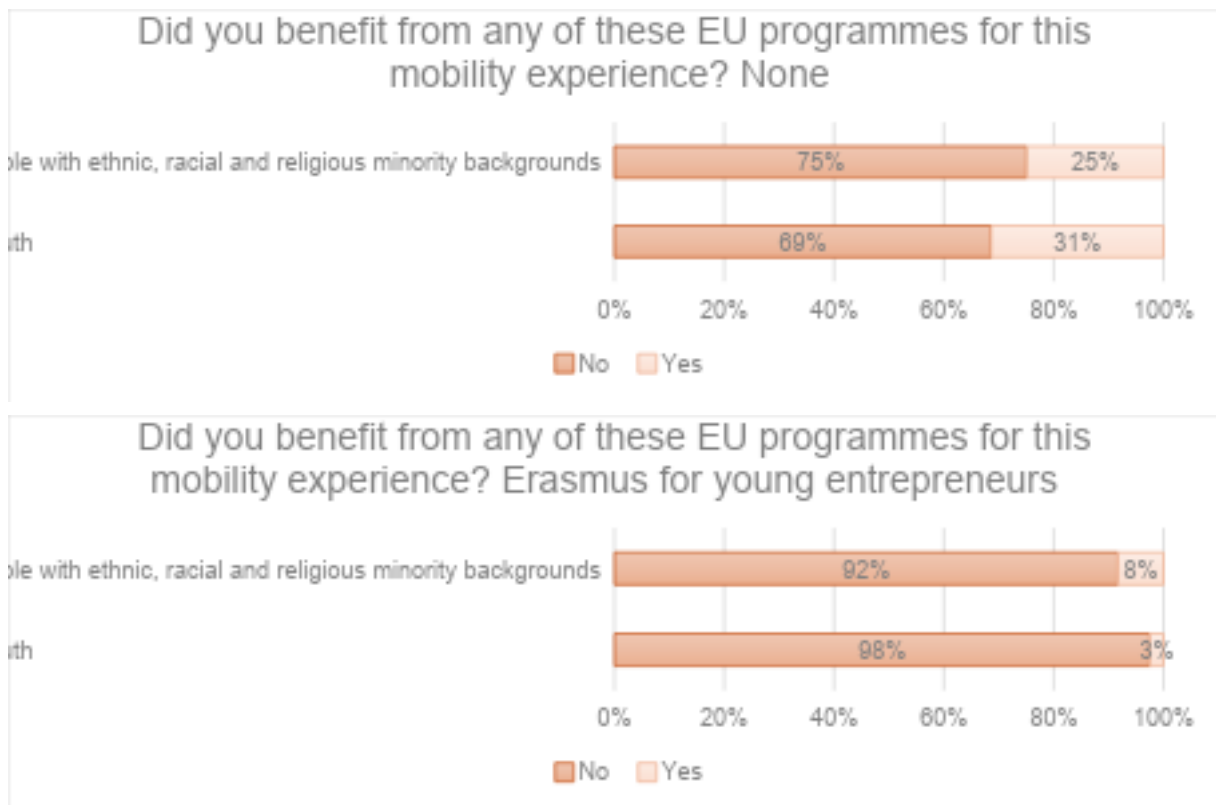
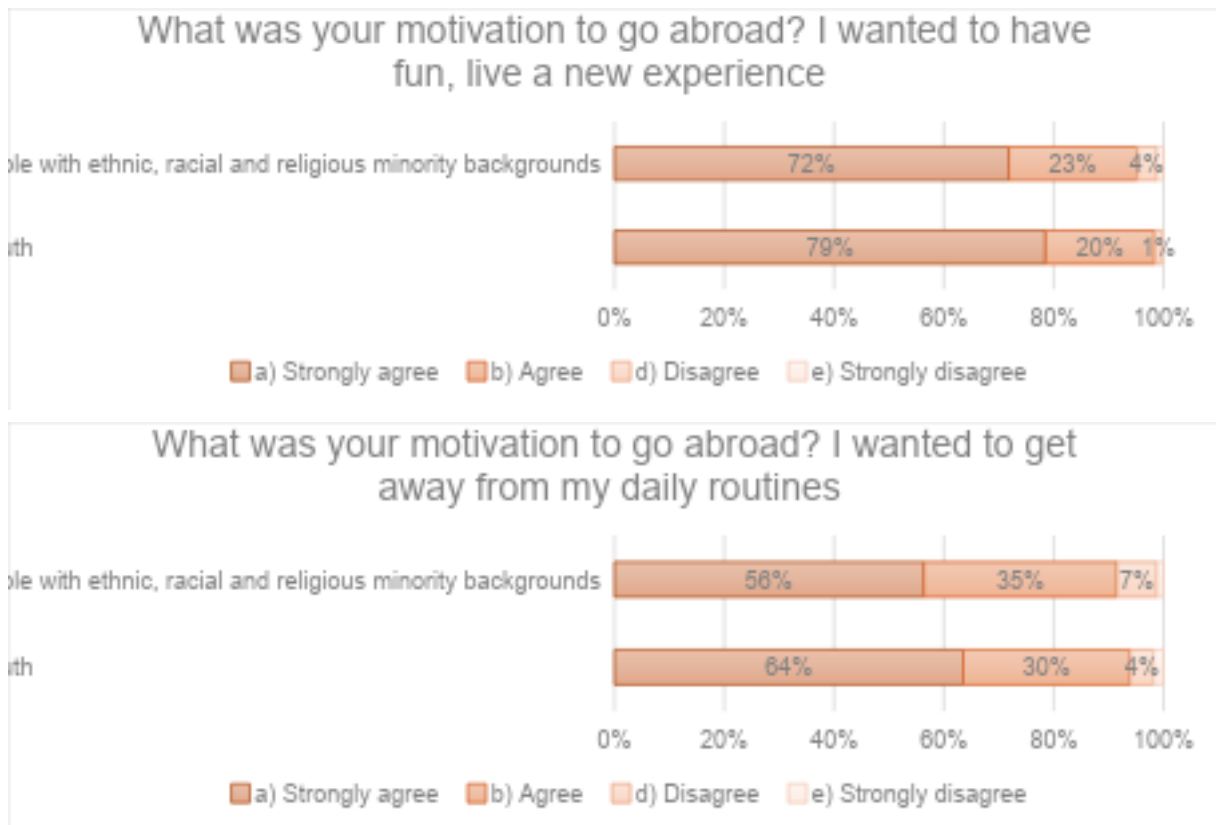
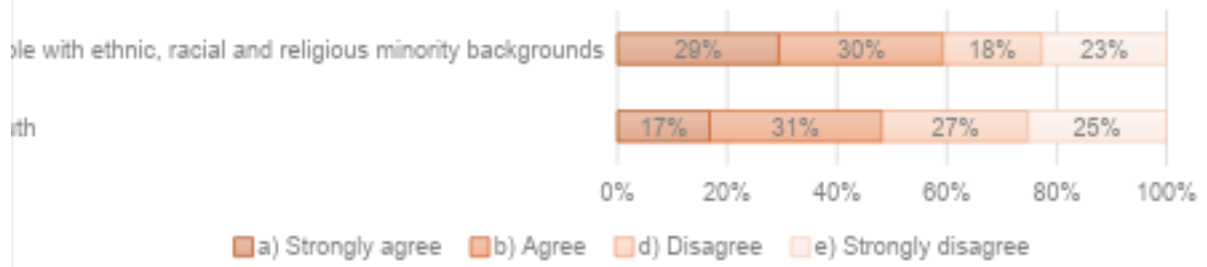


Figure 9: Motivation to go abroad in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth.



What was your motivation to go abroad? My friends motivated me to do it



What was your motivation to go abroad? My parents wanted me to do it

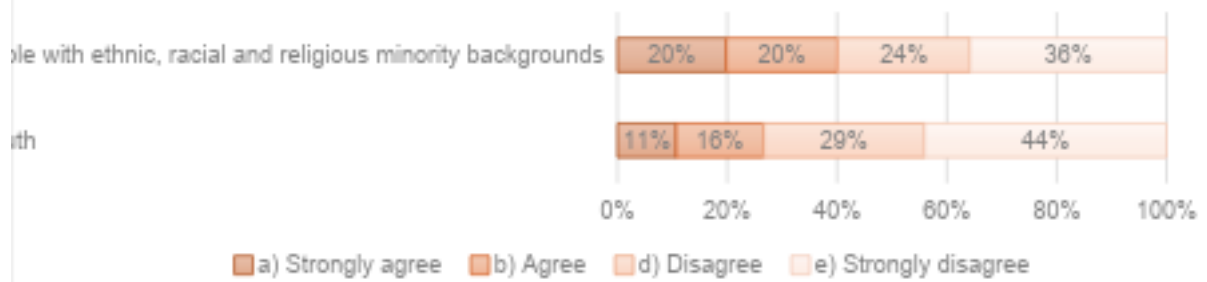
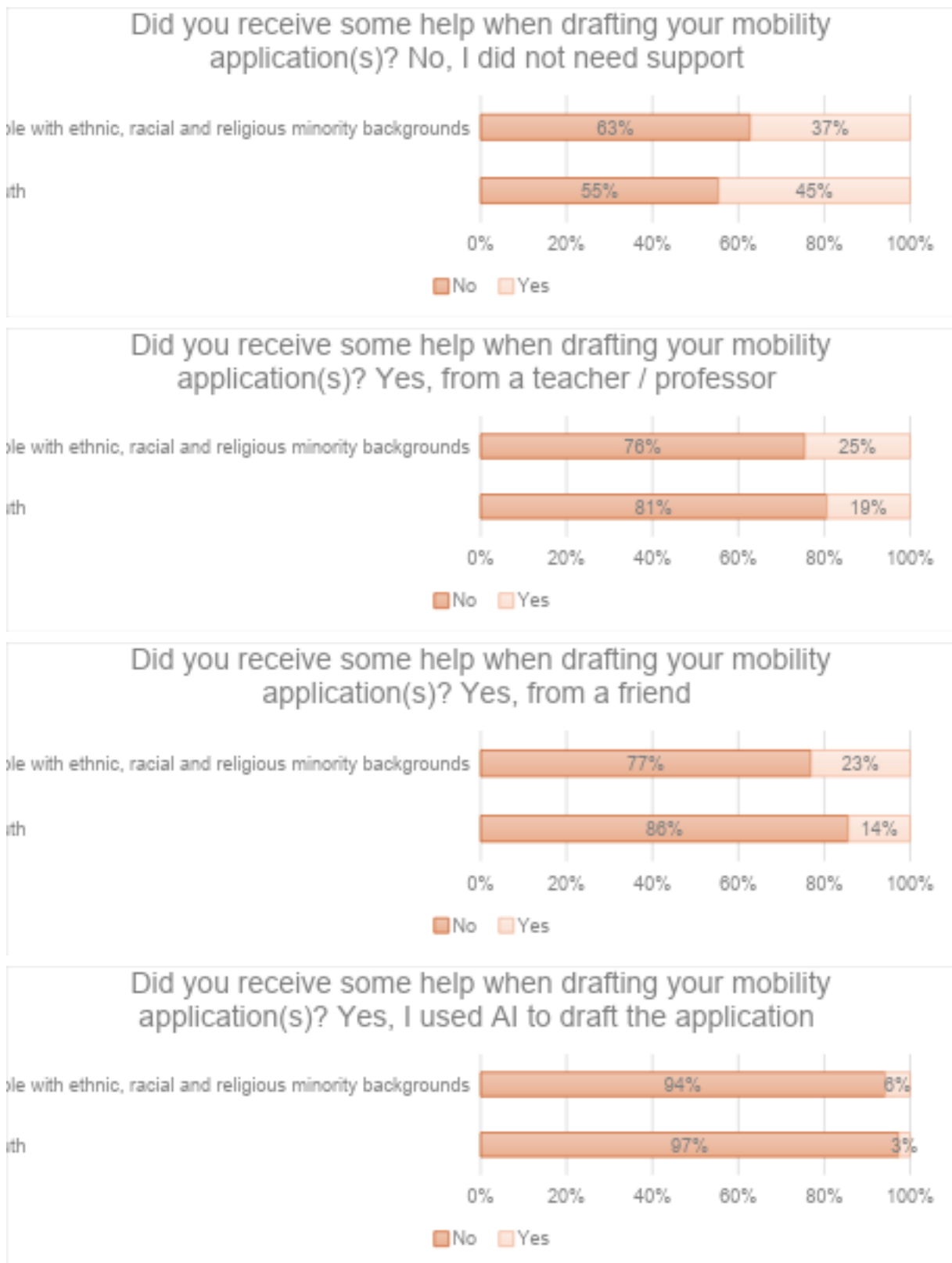


Figure 10: Support in drafting mobility applications in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth.



Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds were **more likely to seek support with their mobility applications**: only 37% of them stated they did not need any support

(compared to 45% of the majority youth; see Figure 10). They were more likely to seek support from a teacher or a professor (25% of them, compared to 19% of majority youth), from a friend (23% of them, compared to 14% of majority youth), and they used AI more often to draft their applications (6% of them, compared to 3% of majority youth).

All in all, young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds benefited from the support of some of the mobility schemes more often; they were slightly less motivated by the prospect of fun, and more driven by their social circles to experience mobility, and they were more likely to need support in their application process. All of these are significant findings for youth information services, especially when it comes to **including families in information campaigns and encouraging sending organisations to support** young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds when dealing with the administration of their mobility stay.

4. What Mobility Challenges Do Young People from Ethnic, Racial, or Religious Backgrounds Identify?

The Eurodesk Youth Information Survey 2025 provided young people with an opportunity to share their opinions on the challenges they faced during their mobility experience or when planning to organise it. For overall results, refer to [the main report 2025](#).

Since both the young people who went abroad and those who decided not to answered the questions on challenges in organising mobility stays, we can compare the results of these two groups. Those with mobility experiences were asked about challenges they faced, and those with no mobility experience were asked about challenges that prevented them from going abroad.

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds **systematically reported higher hurdles on their way to mobility than the majority youth**. The following paragraphs outline the specific differences between those two groups.

Financial problems were perceived as a greater hurdle by young people from ethnic, racial, or religious minority backgrounds (see Figure 11). 58% of them reported facing financial problems when accessing mobility opportunities (compared to 47% of the majority youth), and 71% of them stated that financial problems prevented them from going abroad altogether (compared to 58% of majority youth).

Lack of information was also felt more frequently by young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds (see Figure 12). 52% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds said that lack of information was a challenge for them when accessing mobility programmes (compared to 38% of majority youth), and 75% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds stated that lack of information prevented them from going abroad altogether (compared to 68% of majority youth).

Administrative problems constituted another challenge (see Figure 13). 42% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds faced administrative problems when accessing mobility programmes (compared to 33% of majority youth), and 40% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds believe they were prevented from going abroad by administrative issues (compared to 32% of majority youth).

Striking differences between young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and the majority youth were found in the **discrimination area** (see Figure 14). **32% of young**

people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds faced discrimination when accessing mobility programmes (compared to 11% of majority youth), and 23% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds said discrimination prevented them from going abroad (compared to 7% of majority youth). These results show that self-reported discrimination rates were almost three times higher in the case of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds than in the majority youth.

Families and friends can play an important role, not only as a positive motivating factor, as we showed in the previous chapter, but also as a challenge to overcome when preparing for mobility (see Figure 15). When accessing mobility programmes, young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds were more likely to face discouragement from friends (26% of them, compared to 12% of majority youth) and family (30% of them, compared to 18% of majority youth). Moreover, 33% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds stated that family discouragement prevented them from going abroad altogether (compared to 21% of majority youth). These findings once again confirm the importance of information outreach to families, especially for young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds. It is now clear that families of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds can serve as either a strong motivating factor or a significant discouraging force when it comes to mobility.

Figure 11: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part I.

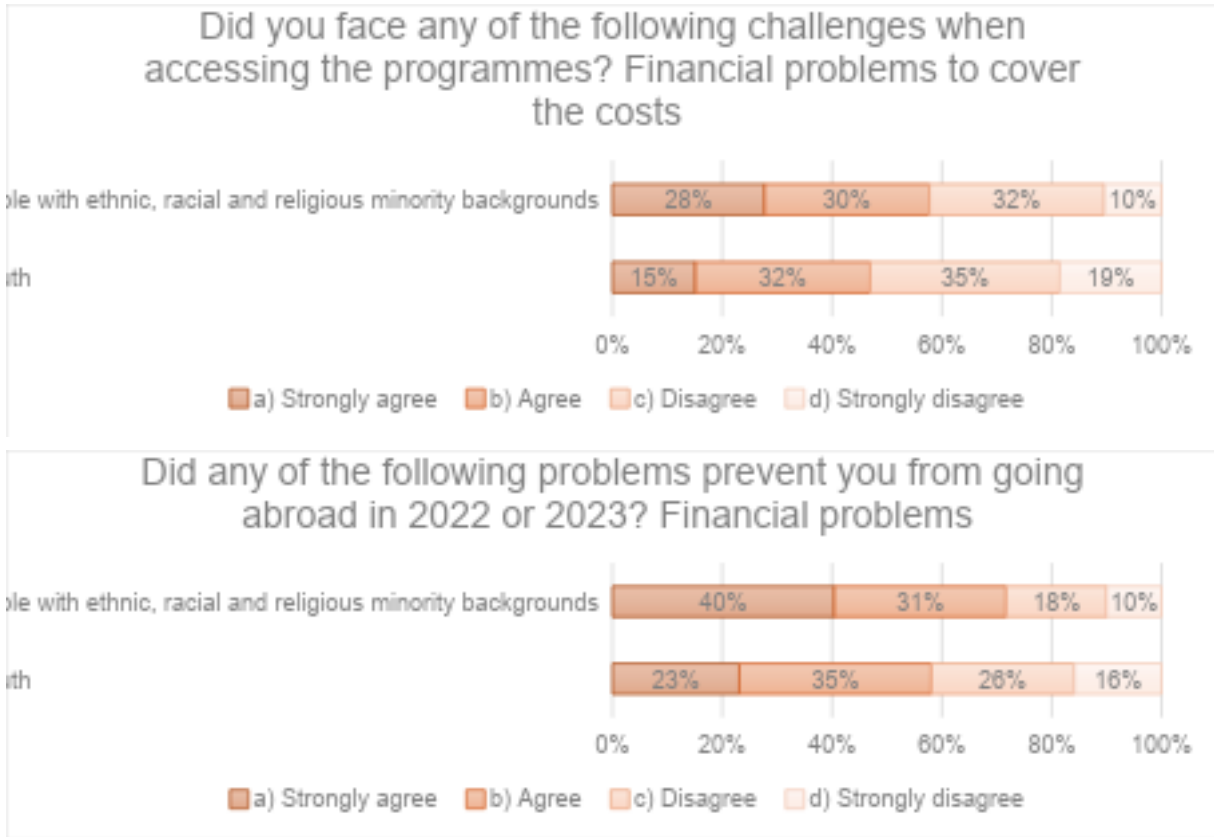


Figure 12: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part III.

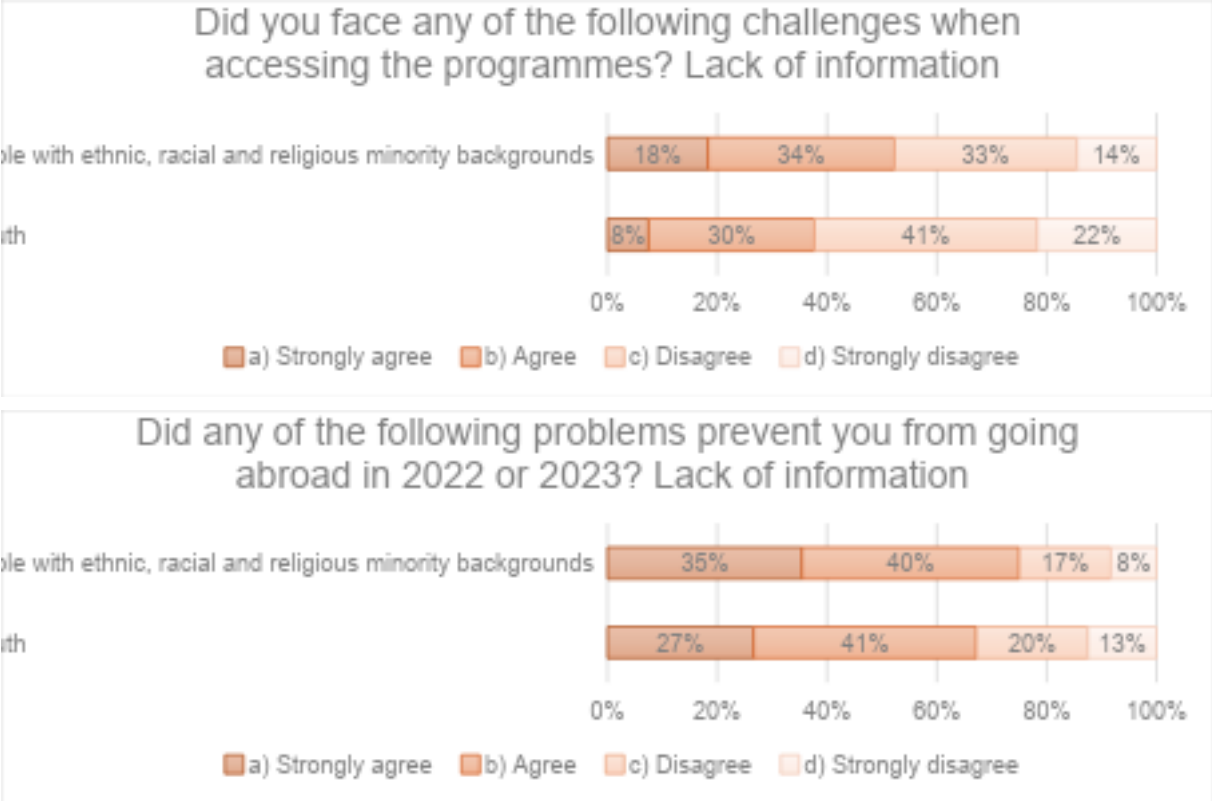


Figure 13: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part IV.

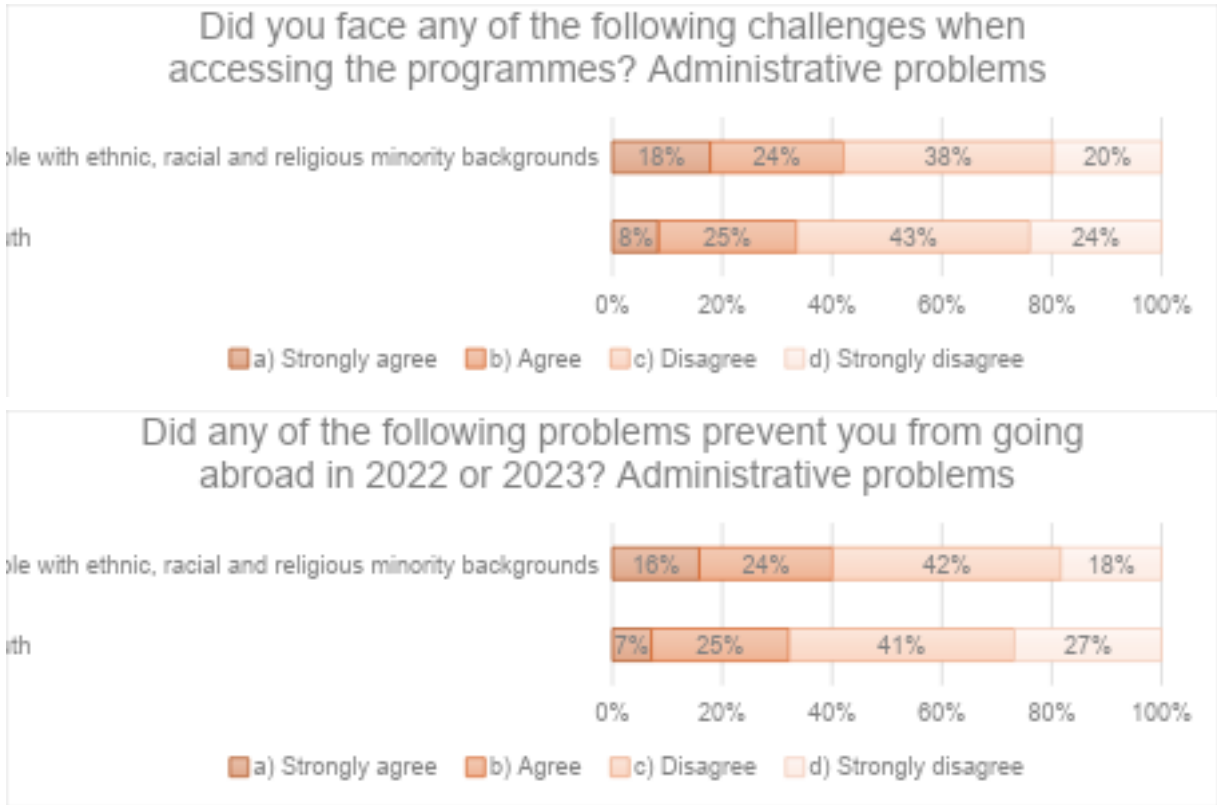
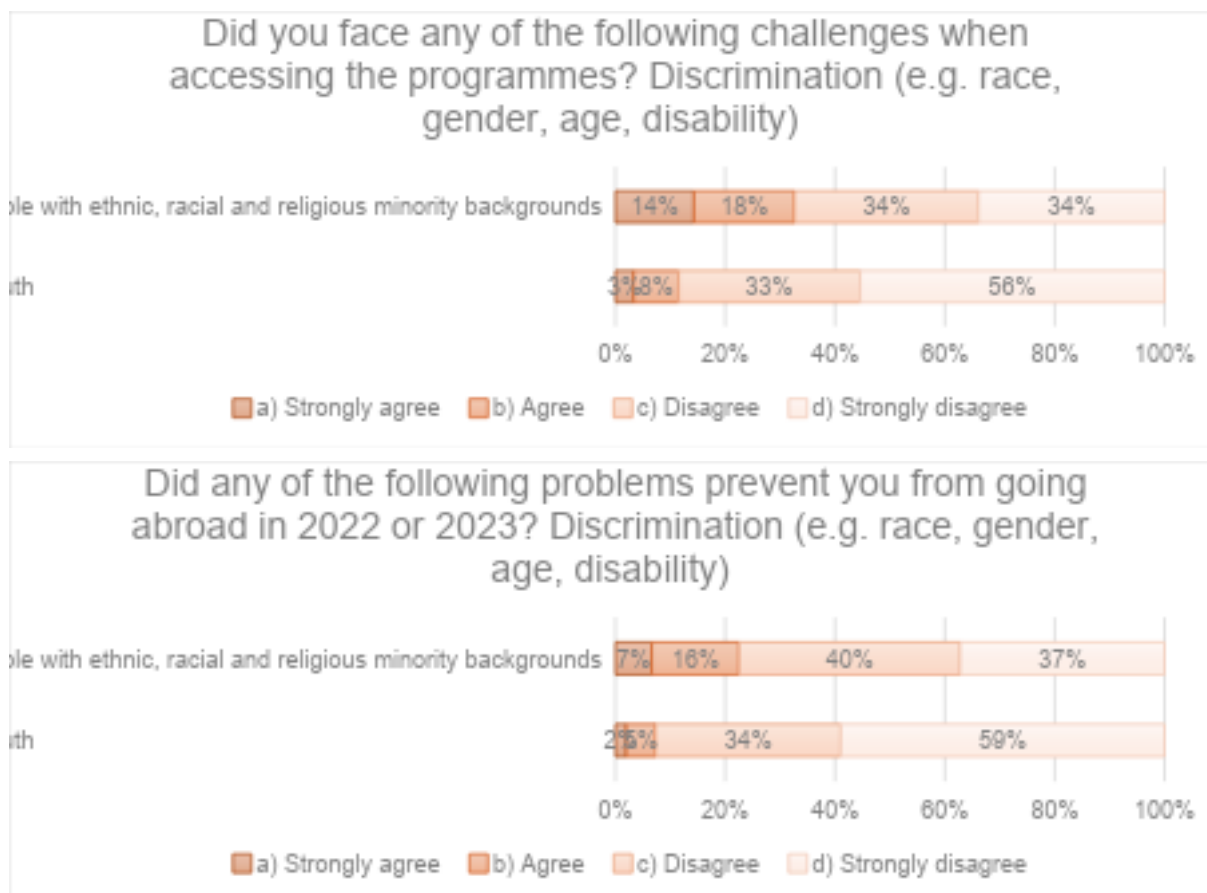


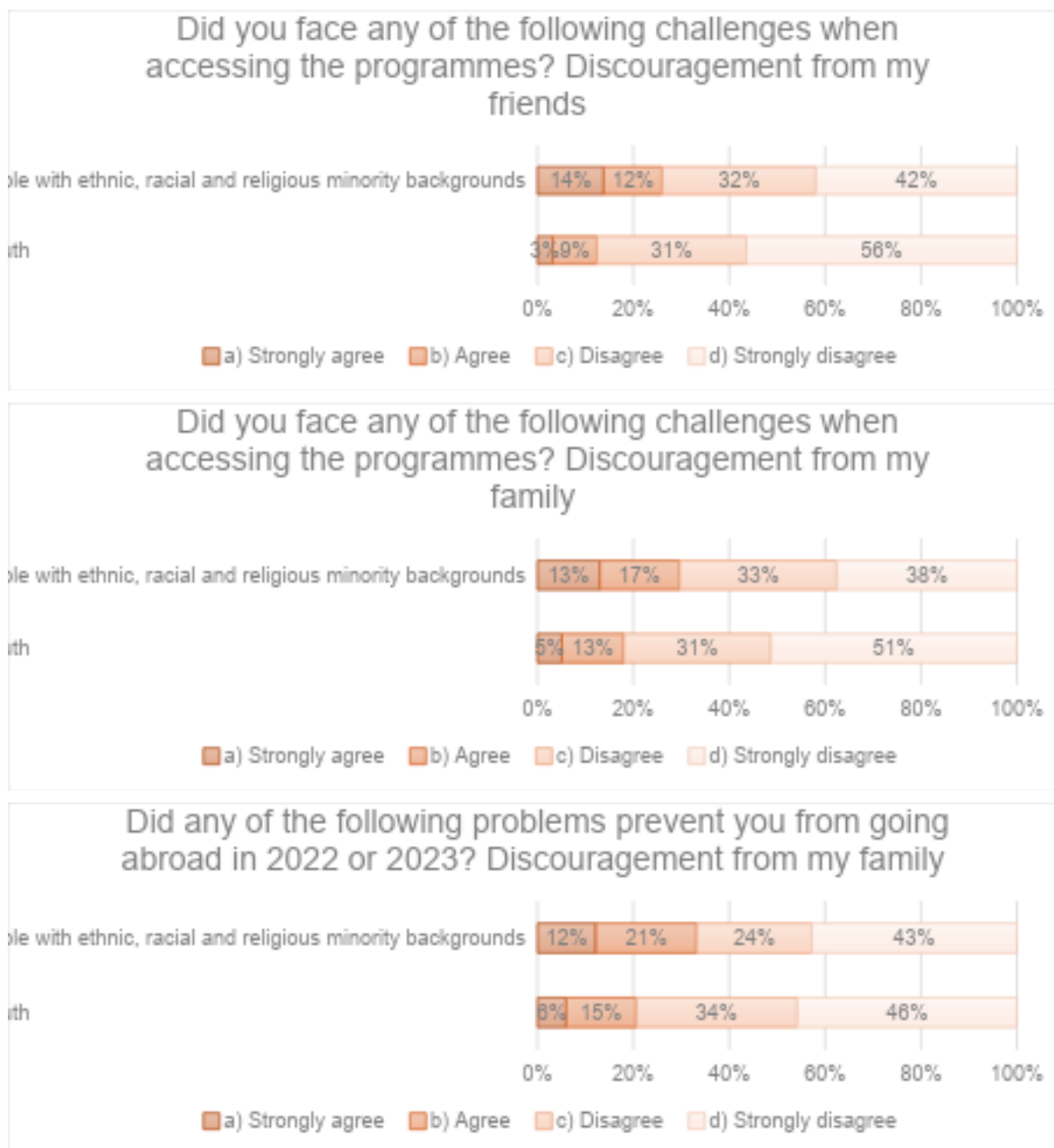
Figure 14: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part II.



Finding fitting mobility opportunities can be challenging for young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds (see Figure 16). 35% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds found it challenging to match eligibility criteria of mobility programmes (compared to 23% of majority youth), and 66% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds said that lack of available mobility opportunities was the reason for not going abroad (compared to 60% of majority youth).

Travelling itself may pose a difficulty when it comes to international mobility (see Figure 17). 40% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds faced problems when travelling abroad (compared to 23% of majority youth), and 36% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds saw travel-related issues as a reason for not going abroad at all (compared to 24% of majority youth).

Figure 15: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part V.



Health problems were more often at play in the case of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds (see Figure 18). During the mobility stays, 25% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds faced long-term health issues (compared to 9% of majority youth), 37% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds experienced physical health problems (compared to 26% of majority youth), and 36% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds had to deal with mental health issues (compared to 25% of majority youth). Moreover, 24% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds stated that **mental health problems** were the root cause of not going abroad at all (compared to 19% of the majority youth). Young people from ethnic,

racial, or religious backgrounds **should be well-informed on how to deal with health complications to facilitate their mobility stays.**

Figure 16: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part VI.

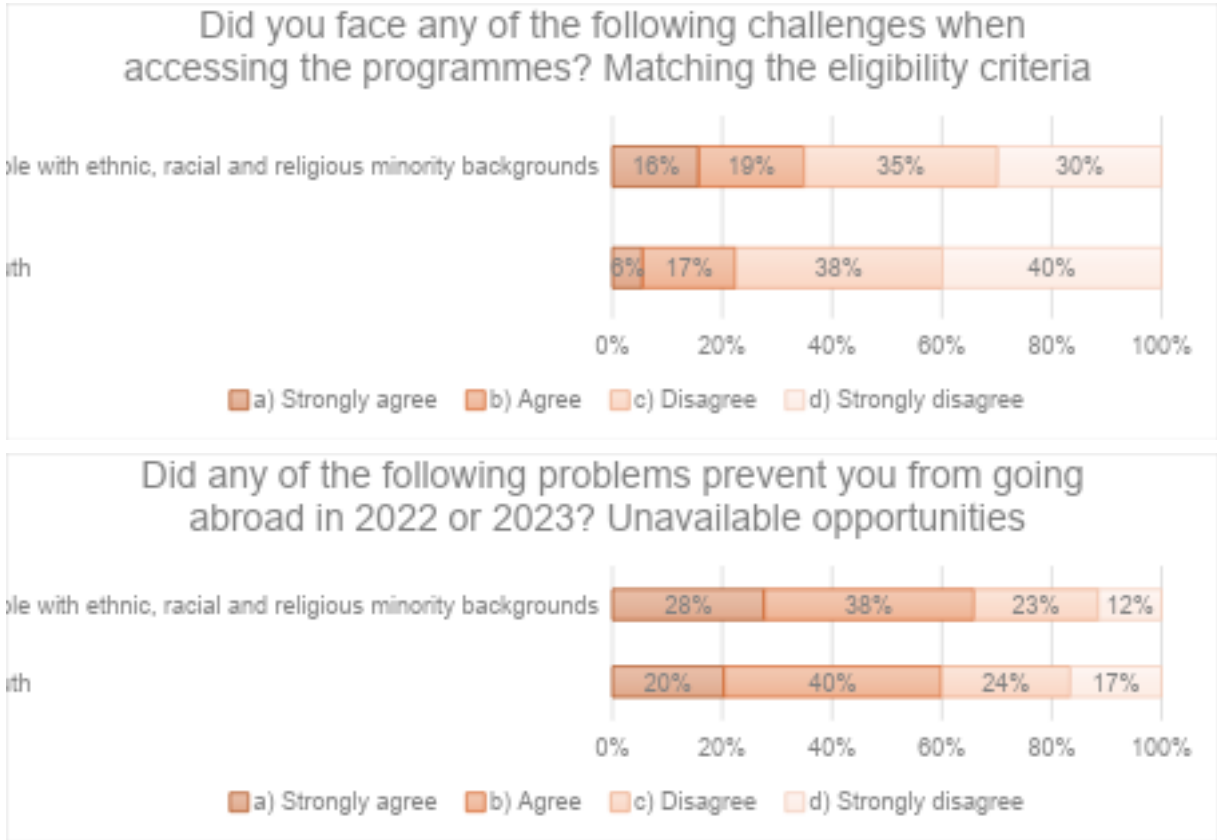


Figure 17: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part VII.

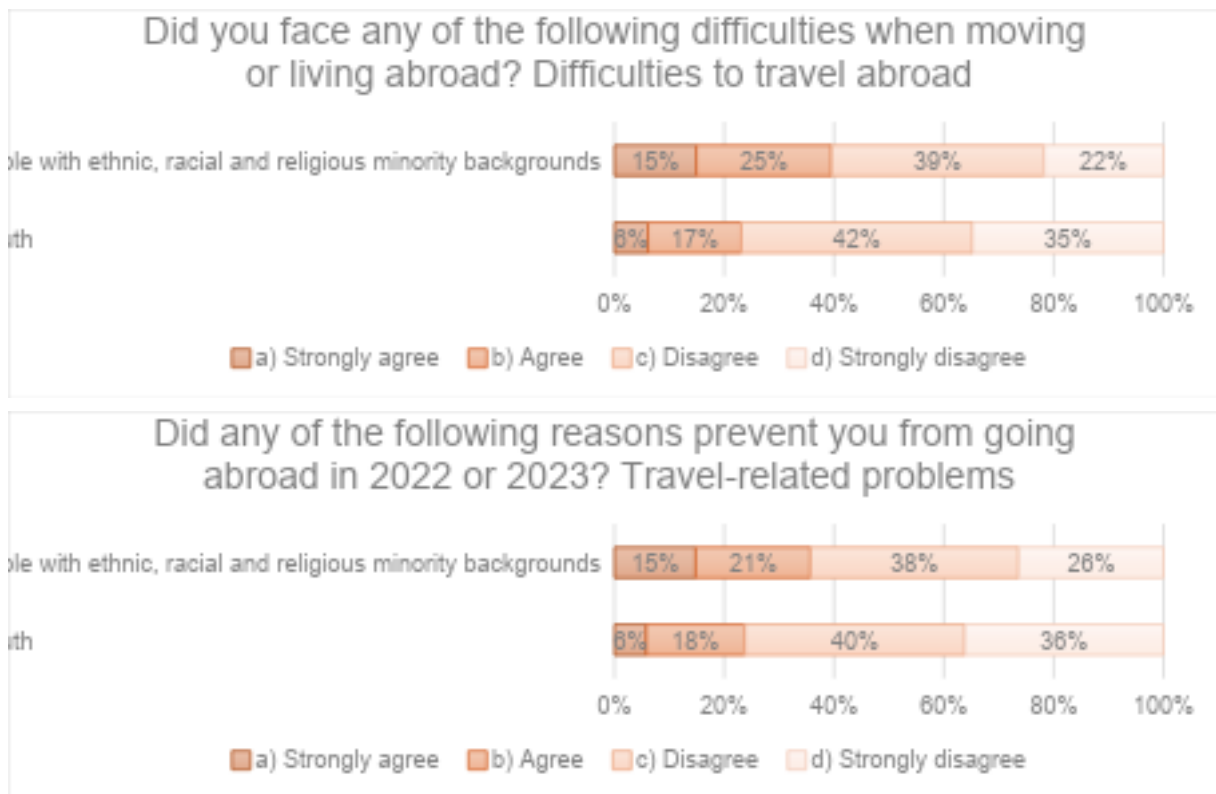
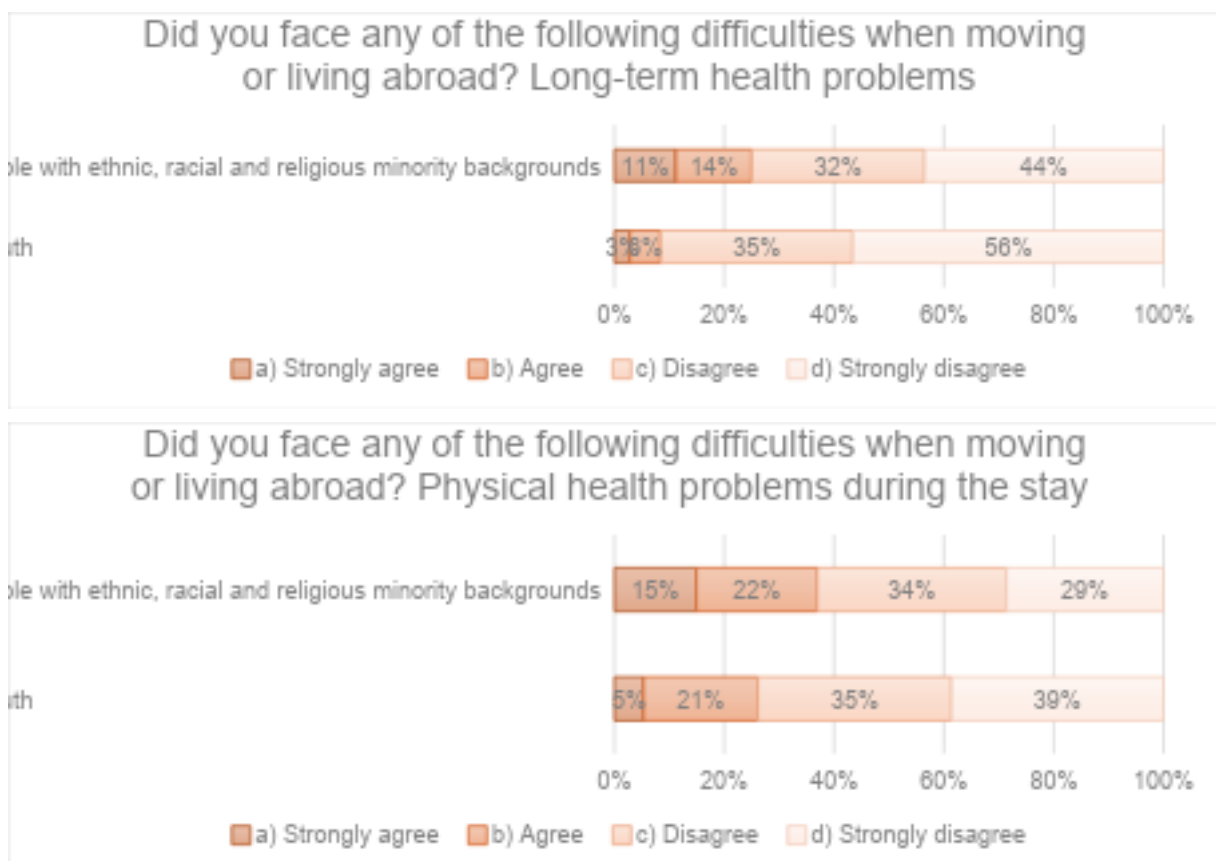


Figure 18: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part VIII.



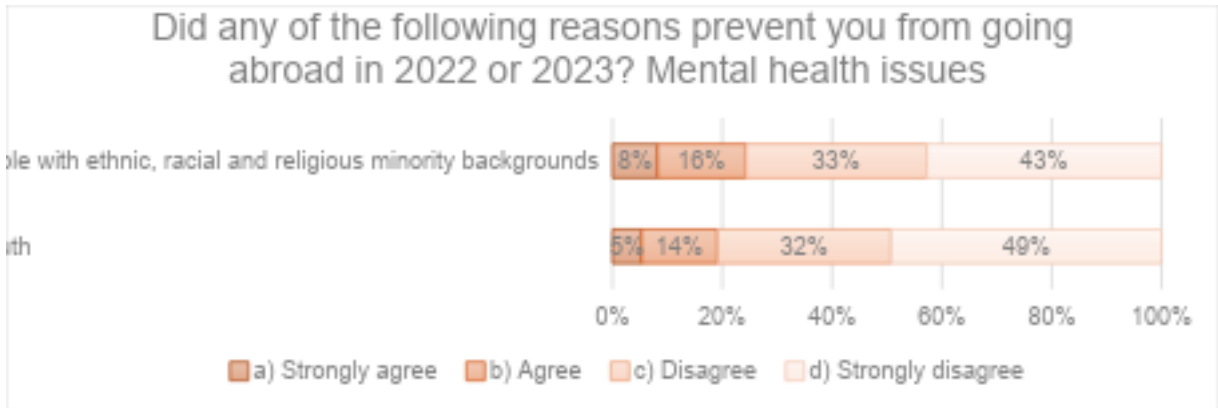
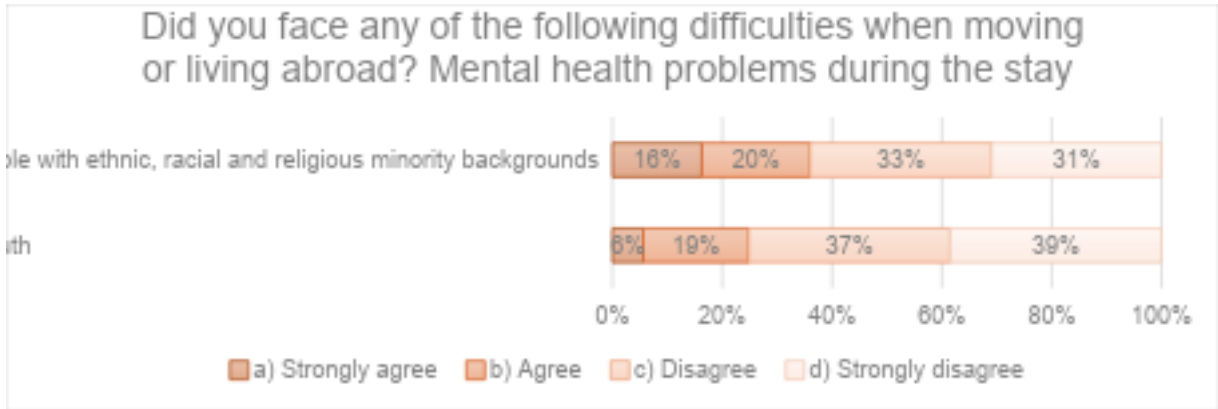
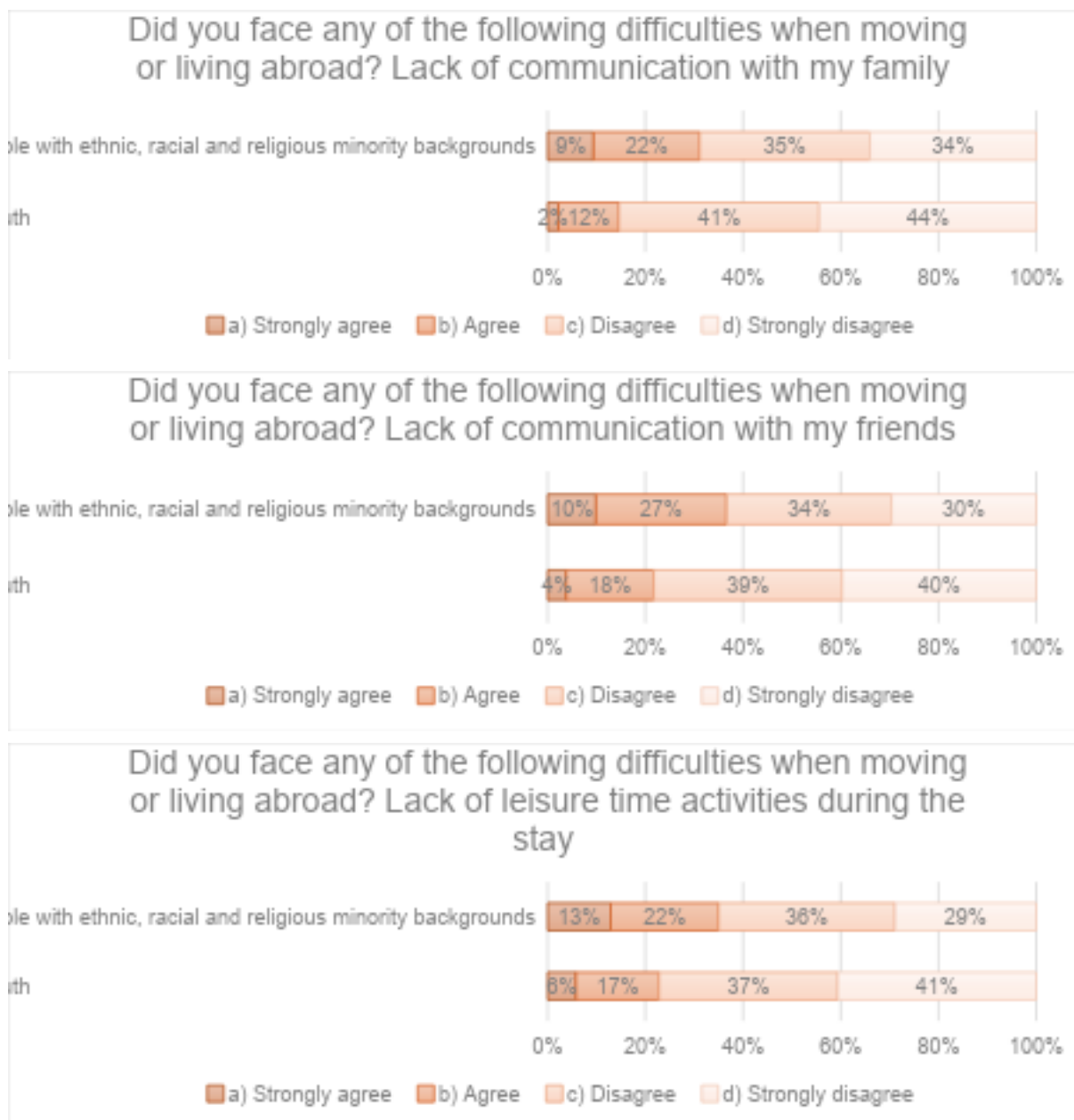
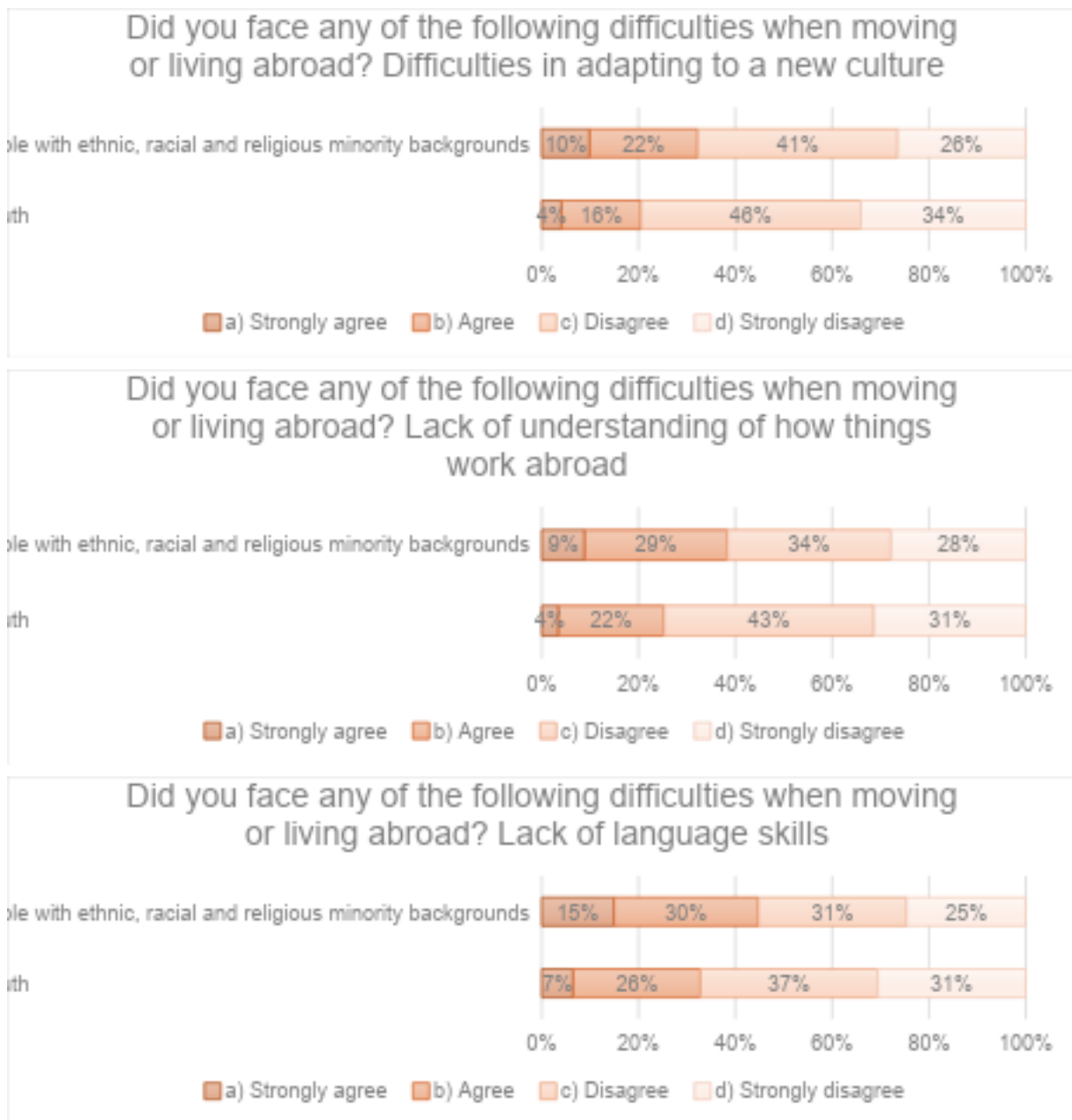


Figure 19: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part IX.



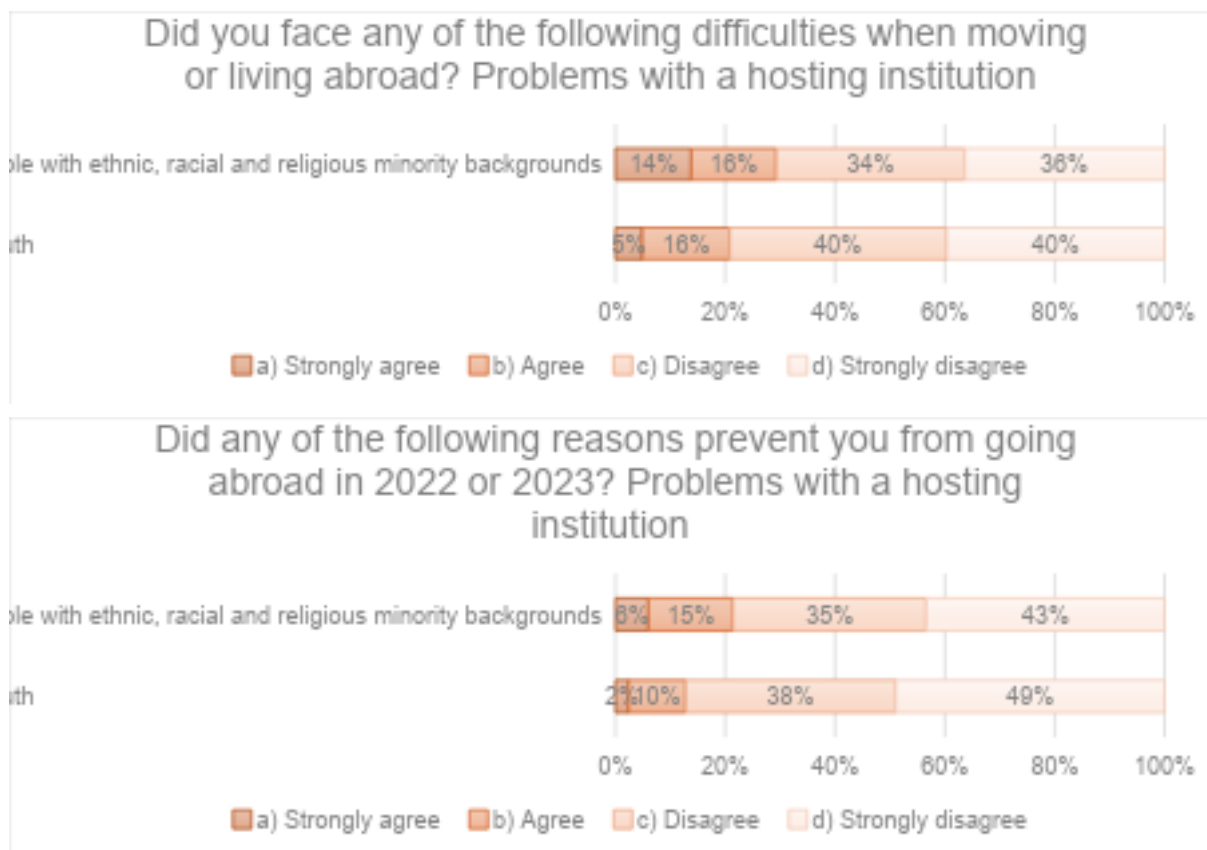
Social life can also be challenging for young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds during mobility periods (see Figure 19). 31% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds experienced lack of communication with their family during the mobility stay (compared to 14% of majority youth), 37% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds felt lack of communication with their friends when they were abroad (compared to 22% of majority youth), and 35% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds lacked leisure time activities during their stay (compared to 23% of majority youth). This shows that the social life aspect should not be neglected when providing young people with information on mobility. Again, **engaging families in information outreach** activities and **emphasising the importance of staying in touch** might be one way to support young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds during their mobility stays.

Figure 20: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part X.



Facing a new everyday reality can be challenging for anyone, and young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds seem to be battling this aspect of international mobility even more often (see Figure 20). 32% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds had **problems adapting to a new culture** (compared to 20% of majority youth), 38% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds reported **lack of understanding of how things work abroad** (compared to 26% of majority youth), and 45% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds admitted **lack of language skills** (compared to 33% of majority youth). These are all domains in which accessible information can make a difference for young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds.

Figure 21: Challenges in organising mobility stays in young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds and majority youth, part XI.



Unfortunately, young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds also reported **problems with hosting institutions** (see Figure 21). 30% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds faced such problems during their stay (compared to 21% of majority youth), and 21% of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds stated that problems with a hosting institution prevented them from going abroad (compared to 12% of majority youth).

All in all, higher shares of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds systematically report various challenges related to their mobility. This is true for those young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds who experienced mobility, but also for those who were only preparing for it. In many of these domains, youth information services may play a highly positive role and contribute to making the mobility experience a positive one.

Conclusions

This report shows that young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are just **as open to going abroad** as the majority youth. They are more fond of virtual and hybrid mobility formats than their peers and offering such opportunities may support young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds in their mobility endeavours.

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds went abroad as often as the majority youth. They were **more likely to benefit from EU programmes'** support, but they were also **more likely to need assistance** in their application process, seeking help from teachers, friends, and even using AI. Nevertheless, they **rated their mobility experience less enthusiastically** than their peers, and they were less inclined to recommend mobility to others, suggesting that they encounter **more challenges** during the mobility than their peers.

The extent of challenges that young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds face in all phases of mobility becomes obvious when compared to the majority youth. We see systematically higher shares of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds reporting on **various mobility-related challenges**, such as financial and administrative problems and lack of information. Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds were also **about three times more likely to face discrimination** than the majority youth.

Families and friends are an important factor when young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds go for mobility. They can discourage them from going abroad, and maintaining contact can be demanding for those who decide to travel. On the other hand, friends and families can also be those who motivate young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds to use mobility opportunities. This highlights the **importance of peers and families as a target group for information efforts**, particularly for young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds.

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds were **as experienced as their peers in searching** for mobility-related information. They are more likely to use **youth services**, such as youth information centres or youth clubs, and online information platforms, such as Eurodesk, youth portals, EURES, or EuropeDirect.

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are **using social media slightly less** than the majority youth, and use a **wider variety of social networks**, such as LinkedIn, X (former Twitter), Reddit, Snapchat, Telegram, or Discord. While Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, or Facebook are still the most popular platforms among all young people, it is important to recognise that young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds are present on the other platforms much more than the majority youth.

Young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds **work hard on overcoming all obstacles**. They go abroad as much as the majority youth, but the many challenges they face leave a mark on their mobility experience. They view their stays less positively than their peers do. **Supporting young people** from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds in successfully **navigating the challenges** they face is key to improving their mobility experience. To achieve this, youth information services can find many helpful hints in this publication. Most notably, the **importance of reaching out to families** of young people from ethnic, racial, or religious backgrounds, and **expanding the use of social media platforms**, since they are present on a wider range of social networks.

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