

#FreeInterrail

THE PATH TO UNIVERSAL EUROPEAN YOUTH MOBILITY

Policy Paper

 **Free
Interrail**

”

*Travel is fatal
to prejudice,
bigotry, and
narrow-
mindedness.*

“

Mark Twain

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1. INTRODUCTION

European cohesion depends on a growing sense of shared European identity. Building such an identity requires **personal connections** between European citizens from different cultural, social, and national backgrounds. Only by interacting with those seemingly different from us can we foster a sense of belonging and common ground. European Union youth programs have proven the transformative power of personal connections in establishing such a shared identity. Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and the European Voluntary Service all point to the importance of bringing Europeans, and in particular young Europeans, in contact with one another.

The **#FreeInterrail** idea builds on these insights and proposes providing all EU youth with the means to travel outside their home countries. In April 2018, around a hundred prominent civil society representatives from different EU countries, including a former European Commissioner, a former foreign minister from Germany, award-winning political scientists, actors, and authors, youth activists and others called on the European Commission to make **#FreeInterrail** a reality for all EU youth.

In an open letter, they reasoned:

„Erasmus laid the visionary groundwork for exchange between young Europeans. #FreeInterrail will be the next step, making cross-cultural experiences a reality for all future generations. Give youth access to Europe, so that they can give us a better European future.“¹

Since then, the European Commission has launched a pilot project based on the **#FreeInterrail** idea, referred to as **DiscoverEU**. In June 2018, the first 15.000 EU youth from all member states were selected to travel across Europe. Up until today (Summer 2020), approximately 70.000 youth have been given free Interrail passes or access to other means of transport, with more than 347.000 applying. DiscoverEU has been a success both in terms of its application numbers and its international acclaim.

Representing the civil society origins of the **#FreeInterrail** idea, this policy paper aims to provide an overview of the original idea as well as the current status of DiscoverEU and propose practical and realistic improvements to DiscoverEU with the aim of extending its reach.

The authors of this policy paper remain committed to applying the program to every young EU citizen, providing them with access to travel and enabling them to contribute to a shared sense of European identity.

2. AN IDEA AND ITS WAY – BACKGROUND

2.1 WHERE THE IDEA CAME FROM

In 2014, we, Vincent-Immanuel Herr and Martin Speer, traveled to 14 European countries to complete a research project funded by Stiftung Mercator through the Advocate Europe idea challenge and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. We used our vacation time between university semesters to travel and our main mode of transportation was Interrail. On the trip, we personally experienced the transformative power of traveling to foreign European countries. We made new friends, learned about new cultures and societies as well as developed a stronger sense of European belonging. In Vienna, Austria, toward the end of our trip, we sat down for dinner with author Robert Menasse. At the table, while sharing the positive effects of our trip, two questions came up:

What would it be like if all young Europeans had such an experience?

To make that possible, what if the European Commission provided free Interrail passes to all EU youth?



Vincent-Immanuel Herr and Martin Speer at Irún train station in Spain (2014)

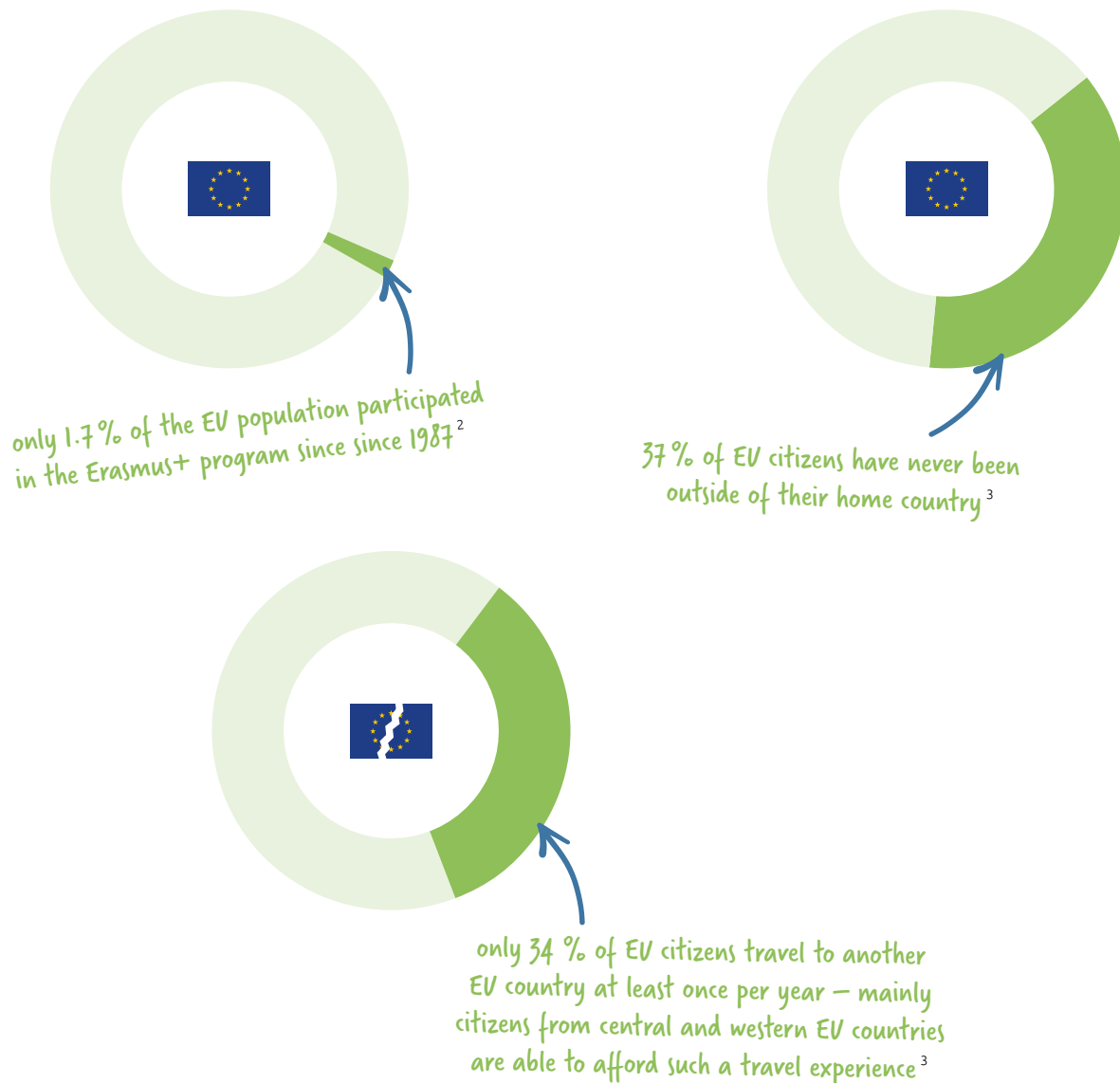
This idea for free Interrail tickets for all EU youth immediately stuck with us. We appreciated how such an initiative – rather simple, at face value – could indeed contribute significantly to strengthening European cohesion and to building a shared European identity.

Consequently, a year later, we started writing articles on our idea, now called #FreeInterrail, for German and international media sources. We also approached EU politicians and shared our proposal.

The idea quickly gained momentum, and politicians from different parties and countries started to back our idea. The first supporters in the European Parliament were Istvan Ujhelyi (S&D), Rebecca Harms (Greens), Gesine Meißner (ALDE) and Michael Cramer (Greens). Later, Manfred Weber (EPP), Alexander Graf Lambsdorff (ALDE), and Brando Benifei (S&D) came on board, as well.

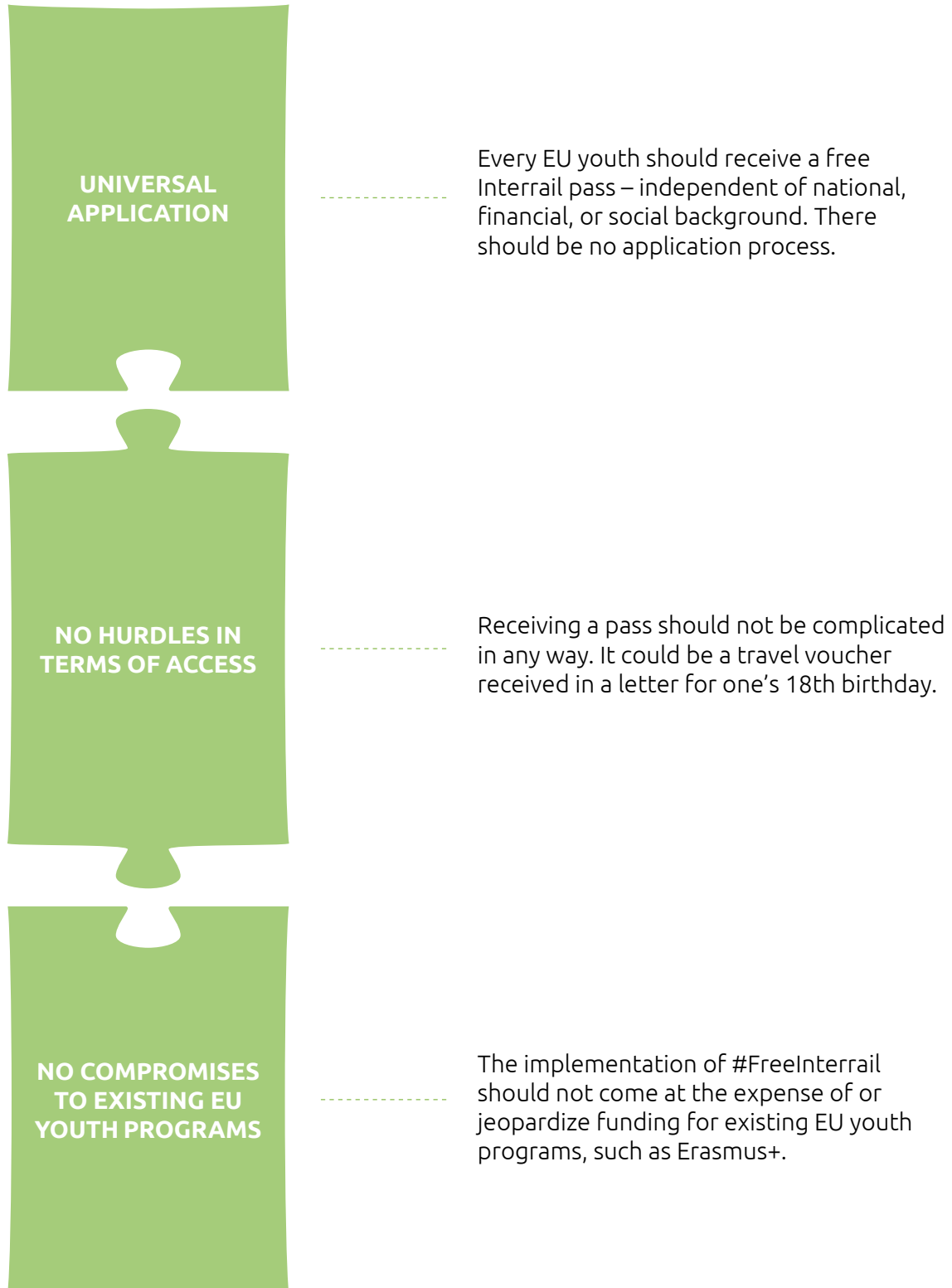
By early 2018, the majority of EU parliamentarians backed a proposal of the EU's own making to attempt a pilot project based on #FreeInterrail. The European Commission set up a team to head the program, entitled DiscoverEU, and launched its first round of applications in June 2018.

2.2 EUROPEAN MOBILITY IS A PRIVILEGE












2.3 THE THREE CRITERIA

The #FreeInterrail campaign started with three demands for its implementation:



2.4 BENEFITS, SHORT- AND LONG-TERM

#FreeInterrail for all European youth would directly and indirectly ...

	... increase youth mobility and youth labor mobility;
	... provide tangible proof of the connection between the EU and the individual (with a personal letter containing the travel voucher;
	... increase social mobility – provide all EU youth with the opportunity to travel abroad independent of socio-economic background and circumstances;
	... combat youth unemployment by providing international experience as well as greater awareness of and access to job markets in other countries;
	... combat stereotypes and prejudices about other cultures, peoples or the EU as a whole;
	... increase youth interest in the EU, its institutions and political processes;
	... foster intercultural friendships and relations;
	... strengthen and re-connect European regions, countries and cities;
	... create a common social experience shared by most young people.

3. STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN YOUTH – THE CURRENT STATUS OF DISCOVEREU

DiscoverEU is based on our #FreeInterrail proposal and was launched as a European Commission pilot project in the spring of 2018. In contrast to the #FreeInterrail proposal, the pilot project does not entirely adhere to the three criteria that we envisioned. DiscoverEU enables some, but not all, EU youth to travel and requires applying to do so. This is partially due to budget constraints, with the first round of tickets in June 2018 receiving € 12 million in funding; enough to finance 15,000 tickets. While a serious undertaking, the project falls short of providing all of the roughly 5.5 million 18-year-olds in the EU with tickets.

To provide an overview of the DiscoverEU initiative, after just a few weeks of preparations, the first round of applications was launched on June 10, 2018 and was open for two weeks. The program quickly proved to be highly popular among EU youth and the majority of news channels in EU member states. Approximately 100,000 18-year-olds applied for one of the first 15,000 tickets available. The application involved a short quiz on EU-related questions and a tiebreaker guessing question to determine the final selection of participants.

Those chosen were able to travel to other EU countries between July – September 2018. Media coverage of individual travelers, impressions gathered on social media as well as their voluntary feedback indicated that participants' experiences were largely positive, and the program was often praised for enabling young people to discover new parts of the EU and build a greater sense of European belonging.

The application process described above has largely been kept in place for future rounds of applications. The second round of applications took place from November – December 2018 and provided another 14,500 tickets, the third round in May 2019 provided roughly 20,000 tickets and the fourth round in the fall of 2019 another 20,000 tickets. Overall, about 347,000 EU 18-year-olds have applied for DiscoverEU tickets and about 70,000 have been selected as participants.

„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 recognize that there is more that unites us than divides us.“

– Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth & Sport (2014–19)

The success of the pilot project up until now has paved the way for future improvements for the program. The European Commission has proposed to give an additional € 700 million to the program's enlargement under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2021–27. This would equal roughly 1.5 million tickets for EU youth in those seven years, or about 200,000 per year.³

Additionally, DiscoverEU received one of the 2019 Ombudsman Awards for Good Administration for the category „Excellence in citizen-focused services delivery“.⁴





























“
Meeting people, making connections, and sharing stories helps you to discover your European identity. It was in Vienna that I realized I wasn't just a tourist, but a European exploring a new part of my continent.
”

Max D. (UK)⁵

3.1 NUMBER OF APPLICANTS BY COUNTRY AND ROUND ⁶

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4	ALL
AUSTRIA	2.767	1.076	2.375	1.923	8.141
BELGIUM	3.109	682	2.233	595	6.619
BULGARIA	1.240	1.332	621	930	4.123
CROATIA	1.408	772	561	834	3.575
CZECH REPUBLIC	2.123	859	713	227	3.922
CYPRUS	83	246	114	1.564	2.007
DENMARK	2.200	380	361	531	3.472
ESTONIA	284	256	150	273	963
FINLAND	1.239	692	1.201	972	4.104
FRANCE	5.023	8.663	14.323	2.732	30.741
GERMANY	19.682	14.348	8.655	10.823	53.508
GREECE	1.521	3.472	1.888	4.554	11.435
HUNGARY	3.214	2.639	1.530	2.901	10.284
IRELAND	2.524	2.366	2.698	1.242	8.830
ITALY	8.769	9.796	27.285	9.375	55.225
LATVIA	942	490	779	744	2.955
LITHUANIA	1.569	918	1.192	1.499	5.178
LUXEMBOURG	105	138	106	128	477
MALTA	121	408	74	192	795
NETHERLANDS	9.883	1.181	1.243	3.319	15.626
POLAND	6.365	5.664	4.477	6.011	22.517
PORTUGAL	3.568	6.300	3.289	4.418	17.575
ROMANIA	3.175	2.393	1.812	3.128	10.508
SLOVAKIA	2.254	979	1.260	810	5.303
SLOVENIA	1.086	484	517	1.442	3.529
SPAIN	11.680	8.503	6.733	9.874	36.790
SWEDEN	760	1.610	782	1.406	4.558
UNITED KINGDOM	3.786	2.055	7.095	1.494	14.430
	100.480	78.702	94.083	73.941	347.206
PARTICIPANTS SELECTED	15.009	14.536	20.006	20.020	69.571

3.2 APPLICANTS: ALL COUNTRIES, ALL ROUNDS (PERCENTAGE) ⁶

AUSTRIA		2,34%
BELGIUM		1,91%
BULGARIA		1,19%
CROATIA		1,03%
CZECH REPUBLIC		1,13%
CYPRUS		0,58%
DENMARK		1,00%
ESTONIA		0,28%
FINLAND		1,18%
FRANCE		8,85%
GERMANY		15,41%
GREECE		3,29%
HUNGARY		2,96%
IRELAND		2,54%
ITALY		15,91%
LATVIA		0,85%
LITHUANIA		1,49%
LUXEMBOURG		0,14%
MALTA		0,23%
NETHERLANDS		4,50%
POLAND		6,49%
PORTUGAL		5,06%
ROMANIA		3,03%
SLOVAKIA		1,53%
SLOVENIA		1,02%
SPAIN		10,60%
SWEDEN		1,31%
UNITED KINGDOM		4,16%

3.3 PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE AND MALE APPLICANTS (ALL ROUNDS) ⁶

FEMALE		60,0%
MALE		40,0%

3.4 BACKGROUND OF APPLICANTS

IN SCHOOL OR LEAVING SCHOOL		66,25%
HIGHER EDUCATION		24,5%
ON A GAP YEAR		3,25%
VOCATIONAL TRAINING		2,25%
EMPLOYED		1,00%
VOLUNTEERING / UNEMPLOYED		1,00%
OTHER		2,00%

4. A PATH FORWARD – MOVING BEYOND A PILOT PROJECT

The DiscoverEU pilot project has delivered part of #FreeInterrail's bigger promise – to enable young people from diverse backgrounds to travel and make Europe their own. The overall impact, however, remains largely restricted to the 70,000 youth who have received a ticket. Furthermore, some member states have seen significantly higher numbers of applications than others, suggesting an uneven level of awareness across the EU of the program and its benefits. Lastly, certain elements of the pilot program have limited its overall reach and effectiveness, including restricting the program to only 18-year-olds, opening an application period for just two weeks (for the first three rounds), limited social media activity (particularly on Instagram), and a lack of cooperation between existing civil society structures that could be linked to this program.

We believe that DiscoverEU – as a pilot program and as a program line after 2021 – would benefit from making a number of changes ranging from small tweaks to larger considerations. Some of our most prominent ideas are presented on the following pages.

4.1 BOOSTING DISCOVEREU – CONCRETE IDEAS

I. ENLARGING THE INTERRAIL NETWORK

The preexisting Interrail network has proven to be the most sensible and practicable option in terms of providing free mobility for DiscoverEU participants. Some 95 percent of participants in 2018 and 2019 have received Interrail passes as the form of transportation for their trips. In order to include even more participants in the future, extending and enlarging the Interrail network should be a main priority. Currently, Interrail does not cover two EU member states (Malta and Cyprus). Furthermore, as a train-based program, Interrail in its current form does not provide sufficient coverage of all regions and localities in the EU. Member states that are islands (including Malta and Cyprus) as well as more remote regions (mostly in Eastern and Southeastern Europe) are not connected via train.

Certain bus and ferry lines are already available to Interrail travelers, but transportation routes need to be expanded in order to accommodate for DiscoverEU.

Specifically, we propose to: include all EU member states in the Interrail program; add ferry and bus companies to the Interrail program in order to cover a larger area of the EU; and include e-bikes as part of the Interrail program for local transportation while Interrail does offer discounts for a number of ferries and some buses, this will not be enough to meet the demands of a highly mobile young generation. DiscoverEU participants should be able to take a number of buses and ferries without incurring additional costs. Furthermore, the paper-based Interrail system should be updated to offer more digital services and ticket options.

II. EUROPEAN YOUTH CARDS

Discovering European diversity and developing a deeper understanding of and appreciation for different European cultures and people is key to the DiscoverEU scheme and to the underlying #FreeInterrail campaign. Appreciating this diversity could be augmented by providing easier access to cultural sites in EU member states.

Specifically, we propose to: provide all DiscoverEU participants with a European Youth Card.

The European Youth Card already exists and benefits 6 million of young Europeans. By giving DiscoverEU participants access to this card, the program – particularly its educational aspects – would be significantly strengthened, as young people would be able to visit cultural venues at discounted rates.

III. THE DISCOVEREU STARTER KIT

Being selected to participate in DiscoverEU is exciting in and of itself. There are ways, though, to improve the kick-off of this European adventure.

Specifically, we propose to: provide all DiscoverEU participants with a starter kit to ease the planning and beginning of their travels.

The DiscoverEU starter kit would include, for example, a European travel map highlighting suggested routes and including the European Cultural and European Youth Capital of the year. It could also include notes on festivals, cultural events, DiscoverEU meet-ups, and so forth. Furthermore, the starter kit could include a DiscoverEU bracelet, button or pin. Several DiscoverEU participants indicated that they wish they could have recognized other participants when traveling.

A pin, button, or bracelet could provide a form of mutual identification. Lastly, the starter kit could include basic information on the European Union and its institutions, connecting young travelers with European democracy and the benefits and privileges of being an EU citizen.

IV. THE DISCOVEREU SECURITY AND HEALTH NETWORK

While traveling is exciting and fun, it also poses the potential of risk or complications. Bearing in mind the rising number of youth (a majority of whom are women) traveling on their own, DiscoverEU could provide further means of support to travelers in need of emergency help.

Specifically, we propose to: set up a network of emergency contacts in every country that could provide assistance in the case of unexpected complications or challenges; provide travelers with more information on how to travel safe and healthy.

The DiscoverEU security network could consist of psychological and medical professionals, EU Direct Offices and EU Parliament and Commission offices. Every country, and ideally every major city, would provide the telephone numbers of its emergency medical and psychological services, the police and other trusted support organizations. DiscoverEU participants could contact these persons to receive information, help, and/or psychological support in the case of mental or health problems, or if a passport or document is lost or stolen.

Additionally, it may be worth considering implementing a Europe-wide emergency hotline, available at all hours of the day.

V. THE OFFICIAL DISCOVEREU PARTNERS PROGRAM

The success of DiscoverEU depends on a number of factors. One of them includes support from organizations, companies, cultural landmarks, and civil society-at-large. As such, DiscoverEU participants' experiences could be improved by providing young people with greater access to cultural, tourist, culinary and social venues.

Specifically, we propose to: introduce a group of official DiscoverEU partners. These could be museums, concert halls, youth organizations, NGOs, hotels, restaurants, hostels, and so forth.

DiscoverEU partners would be selected based on a short set of criteria and would have to be deemed trustworthy and supportive of the needs and interests of young travelers. Ideally, young travelers would receive certain perks at these partners, such as discounts. All DiscoverEU partners would be mentioned on the DiscoverEU website and other promotional materials. They would also be included in the DiscoverEU app. A DiscoverEU partner sticker or logo would indicate their status as a partner so that such venues would be easy to recognize by participants.

VI. FUNDS FOR SUPPORTIVE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

While DiscoverEU aims to provide youth, regardless of their personal or financial background, with the opportunity to travel and explore European diversity for themselves, some room for improvement remains in terms of reaching and supporting those who are less experienced with international travel. Eurostat shows that around 37 percent of EU citizens have never left their home country.

While this varies widely by member state and most likely by age, these numbers indicate the need for further measures of inclusion, help, and support for young participants who leave their home country for the first time. A viable solution would be for DiscoverEU to include youth organizations and social workers in providing such assistance. The European Youth Forum has member organizations in all EU member states that provide support to young EU citizens in an array of fields. This expertise could be harnessed and utilized to improve the DiscoverEU experience and widen its reach.

Specifically, we propose to: allocate a certain share of the DiscoverEU budget to fund youth organizations willing to support the DiscoverEU scheme with local activities, preparatory workshops, online platforms and/or travel support. Youth organizations and social workers could apply for funding and then carry out their work locally and regionally; and include programs, services and events that youth organizations offer in the DiscoverEU app to make their offerings more visible. It is conceivable that young, less experienced travelers would find preparatory workshops or similar events useful to planning and organizing their travel before leaving home.

Furthermore, some may benefit from meeting with social or youth organization workers during the first leg of their journey to get situated, develop their confidence, and feel more secure. These forms of support need funding. By providing said funding, DiscoverEU would be strengthened, participants would benefit, and youth organizations would also be able to grow and expand their vital work for European youth.

VII. THE DISCOVEREU APP

Travelling involves a number of aspects - from organising, gathering information, exploring the unknown, and maintaining contact with others. As Generation Z is currently participating in the DiscoverEU program, it would be more than appropriate to provide these travelers with an app that supports and meets the needs of modern travel.

In particular, we propose to do so: launch an official DiscoverEU app that includes all services for the participants, such as making travel arrangements, saving the ticket, being informed

The DiscoverEU app would be a virtual companion for DiscoverEU participants, enriching and facilitating their travel experience. The app could build on the existing Eurail/Interrail app, which allows Eurailers and Interrailers to plan and reserve train connections. The DiscoverEU app could go further

and provide the means to connect participants in a secure space open only to current travellers (and possibly trusted partners). Users could create profiles and share advice or highlights with other travellers travelling through the same cities or regions. The app could provide inspiration and information about possible destinations and include all official DiscoverEU partners and their offers to participants. In addition, the app could provide daily updated information about events, an inspiring thought for the day and travel restrictions due to unusual circumstances (in real time).

CALL TO APP DEVELOPERS

The European Commission, together with Interrail, could invite app developers in Europe to make proposals for such an app or even organise a hackathon to program and develop this digital tool.

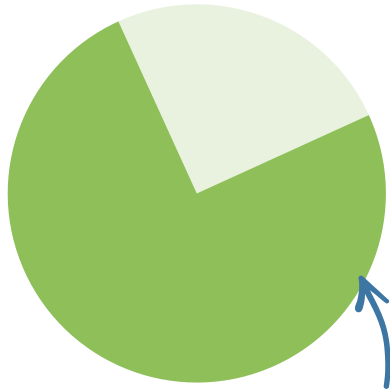
5. DISCOVEREU AS A DOORWAY TO GREENER ERASMUS+ EXPERIENCES

The European Commission's current plan proposes integrating the DiscoverEU scheme within the framework of Erasmus+, including all structural and organizational aspects. We support this move and would like to add our view that DiscoverEU is well-suited to function as an entry point for young people to engage in the larger Erasmus+ experience. With just 3.7 percent of young people in recent years (2014–2020) participating in the Erasmus+ program, there is certainly room for improvement. The original #FreeInterrail proposal includes providing all EU youth with access to free mobility across the continent. This, and the already planned extension of DiscoverEU after 2021, will significantly increase the number of youths leaving their home country. It would seem to be a natural follow-up for DiscoverEU participants to continue their European experiences with Erasmus+ or with other EU youth programs such as the European Voluntary Service or the Solidarity Corps. We view DiscoverEU as an integral part of the EU's youth programs, all of which pave the way for a deeper exploration of European unity and diversity.

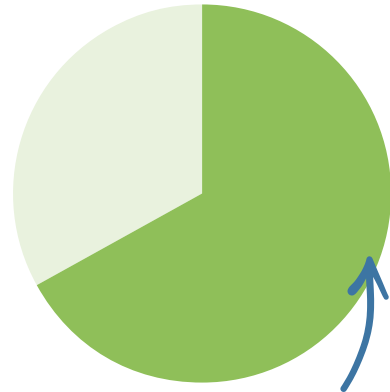
Additionally, DiscoverEU can contribute to the European Union's efforts to achieve the goals set within the Paris Climate Agreement (2015). Numbers show that the majority of DiscoverEU participants to date experienced international train travel for the first time during the program. (Re)introducing international train travel is significant for an age cohort that has repeatedly been called „Generation EasyJet“ and is widely associated with frequent short-distance flights. DiscoverEU will thus contribute not only to efforts promoting European cultural and social inclusion, but also to combatting greenhouse gas emissions. By providing youth with alternative ways to travel that are, largely, less-environmentally damaging, the DiscoverEU scheme can contribute to an overall increase in train travel and in an appreciation for this mode of transport.

This may also be of benefit to greener Erasmus+ experiences. Why not learn from the positive impacts of DiscoverEU and provide new Erasmus+ participants with discounted train tickets to reach their countries of exchange? Additionally, Erasmus+, DiscoverEU, and other EU youth program participants could receive information on how their reliance on train travel instead of airplanes positively contributes to European efforts in curbing climate-damaging emissions. This would likely resonate well with a generation interested in climate change and inspired by environmental protection movements, such as Fridays For Future.

5.1 YOUNG EUROPEANS DEMAND A GREEN AGENDA



Three quarters of young Europeans aged 15–30 years are involved in some form of organized climate or political movement⁷



protecting the environment and fighting climate change is the most urgent priority for European youth (67%)⁸

1.4 MILLION

students in 112 countries went on strike on March 15, 2019 to demand their political leaders to take bold action on climate change.

5.2 PLANE VS. TRAIN – CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) EMISSIONS⁹









ZURICH – MILAN (217 km)	 104 kg	 3 kg
LONDON – AMSTERDAM (357 km)	 125 kg	 14 kg
BERLIN – WARSAW (517 km)	 156 kg	 56 kg
MUNICH – BUDAPEST (562 km)	 168 kg	 18 kg
PARIS – BARCELONA (826 km)	 238 kg	 11 kg
LONDON – MARSEILLES (977 km)	 311 kg	 36 kg

6. SUMMARY AND PROPOSITIONS

Within four years, the idea to provide EU's 18-year-olds with #FreeInterrail passes has grown from an obscure one to an EU-wide scheme that has, to date, involved tens of thousands of European youths and made headlines in all EU member states and beyond. The largely very positive responses from DiscoverEU participants and European society-at-large prove the idea to be a meaningful contribution to European integration and to building a common European identity. While the scheme in its current form already achieves a number of its intended outcomes and benefits, there is considerable room for improvement. With this policy paper, we have highlighted some ideas and proposals that could significantly increase the overall effects of the DiscoverEU program, benefit its participants, and improve its impact beyond its direct users.

While this list is not exhaustive, all points are feasible to implement. The suggestions are based on inputs gathered from DiscoverEU participants, European Commission staff members and tourism/travel experts, youth organizations and networks.

SPECIFICALLY, WE HAVE PROPOSED TO:

	Include all EU member states in the Interrail program
	Add ferry and bus companies to the Interrail program in order to cover a larger area of the EU
	Digitalize the Interrail system
	Allocate a certain share of the DiscoverEU budget to fund youth organizations willing to support the DiscoverEU scheme with local activities, preparatory workshops, online platforms and/or travel support! Youth organizations and social workers could apply for funding and then carry out their work locally as well as regionally
	Introduce a group of official DiscoverEU partners! These could be museums, concert halls, youth organizations, NGOs, hotels, restaurants, hostels, and so on
	Provide all DiscoverEU participants with a starter kit to ease the planning and beginning of their travels
	Set up a network of emergency contacts in every country to provide assistance in the case of unexpected complications or challenges
	Provide all DiscoverEU participants with European Youth Cards

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND REFERENCES

This policy paper, as well as #FreeInterrail's advocacy work, would not have been possible without the dedicated support and help of a number of individuals, organizations and project partners. While we cannot name all of them here, we would like to take the time to thank a select few.

Stiftung Mercator has been a trusted supporter of the #FreeInterrail idea. This policy paper and the work that we do would not be possible without the Foundation's generous provisions, financial support and dedicated staff.

#FreeInterrail advocacy is also closely linked to the Schwarzkopf Foundation in Berlin. The Foundation has supported the idea from the get-go and is currently offering a logistical and organizational base for its advocacy in Berlin, Brussels and beyond.

We owe a big debt of gratitude to the committed team implementing DiscoverEU within the European Commission. Over the last two years, we have closely been in contact with the team, learned from and have been able to contribute our ideas in return. We could not imagine a better set of individuals to implement this idea on a European level and are looking forward to continuing this fruitful cooperation in the years to come. Our gratitude also belongs to a wide range of Members of the European Parliament, who constantly work for a more inclusive and united Europe.

Lastly, we are tremendously grateful for the support of our great #FreeInterrail ambassador team; local, regional, and national organizations, offices, and entities – whether in Berlin or in numerous European countries – that we have visited as part of our work. Among these are European Parliamentary and European Commission Offices in national capitals, think-tanks and NGOs such as EuropaNova, Young European Federalists, the European Youth Forum, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Our work would also not be possible without the support and critical accompaniment of thinkers like Verena Ringler, Ulrike Guérot, Robert Menasse, Alberto Alemanno and many more.

¹ <https://www.zeit.de/mobilitaet/2018-04/freeinterrail-kampagne-europa-mobilitaet-eu-kommission-offener-brief-englisch>

² <https://www.europeandatajournalism.eu/eng/News/Data-news/Europe-needs-a-bigger-more-inclusive-Erasmus-programme>

³ <https://www.europeandatajournalism.eu/eng/News/Data-news/190-million-Europeans-have-never-been-abroad>

⁴ <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/press-release/en/115766>

⁵ European Youth Portal / www.europa.eu/youth/discovereu

⁶ Statistics of European Commission, 2018–2020

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/efe/news/european-youth-agents-change-climate-action-2019-08-26_en

⁸ <https://youthforeurope.eu/eu-priorities-according-to-young-europeans/>

⁹ IFEU EcoPassenger

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