



Songs for Rights 2026

Mission on Track Mid-Term Evaluation

Monitoring period: 1 January – 30 June 2026



**Funded by
the European Union**

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of the **Mission on Track Mid-Term Evaluation of Songs for Rights**, covering the first half of the 2026 Work Plan.

Mission on Track assesses project implementation, quality, participation, inclusion, outreach and continuous improvement. The mid-term evaluation combines findings from the Mission on Track survey with project monitoring data, Operating Grant KPIs and the separate Communications, Dissemination and Outreach Mid-Term Report.

Implementation of the 21-activity Work Plan is also progressing according to schedule, with key coordination, consultation, training, communication, learning and advocacy outputs already implemented and the major second-half policy-dialogue activities in preparation.

 OVERALL STATUS: ON TRACK

The mid-term evidence indicates that **Songs for Rights is progressing strongly across its principal areas of implementation**. Respondents assessed the project positively, outreach is substantially ahead of the proportional mid-year benchmark, and the network is demonstrating an important multiplier effect.

Project Quality at a Glance

Evaluation area	Average rating
Relevance to youth needs	4.50 / 5
Innovation – music & arts approach	4.38 / 5
Organisation & coordination	4.33 / 5
Contribution to European Youth Goals	4.33 / 5
Participant engagement	4.08 / 5

The results show particular strengths in the project's **relevance to young people's needs, creative music- and arts-based methodology, organisation and connection with the European Youth Goals & EU Youth Strategy**.

Participant engagement is also positively assessed, while offering opportunities for further development through more interactive formats and stronger direct youth involvement.

Outreach and Network Multiplier Effect

The project is also performing strongly against its principal quantitative outreach KPI.

Outreach KPI	Mid-term result
Annual target	100,000
Cumulative outreach by 30 June	84,002
Annual target achieved	84.0%



Documented/reported outreach	77,462
Conservatively estimated outreach	6,500

The project has therefore already achieved **84% of its annual outreach target during the first six months of 2026.**

Importantly, even without the conservative estimate applied to network organisations without available outreach figures, documented/reported outreach already corresponds to **77.4% of the annual target.**

Network organisations are a particularly important multiplier, extending Songs for Rights activities, messages, European Youth Goals and project outputs into different local and national contexts.

Detailed analysis of LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and other communication outreach is provided separately in the **Communications, Dissemination and Outreach Mid-Term Report.**

What Is Working Well

The mid-term findings highlight several clear strengths:

Relevance – activities are strongly perceived as responding to youth needs.

Creative methodology – the use of music and arts is highly valued as an engaging approach to youth participation and European Youth Goals.

Organisation and coordination – project implementation is assessed positively across the network.

European Youth Goals & EU Youth Strategy – respondents recognise a strong connection between project activities and the wider European youth-policy framework.

Network multiplier effect – member organisations substantially extend project dissemination and outreach.

Diverse forms of engagement – the project combines broad communications outreach with deeper participation through trainings, webinars, meetings and other activities.

What Can Be Strengthened

The survey does not indicate a need for major corrective action. Instead, it identifies practical opportunities to strengthen implementation during the second half of 2026.

Priorities include:

- communicating activity dates and opportunities as early as possible;
- increasing interactive and youth-led participation;

- creating further opportunities for young people, including younger participants, to contribute directly;
- supporting network members with different levels of organisational capacity;
- encouraging authentic, youth-created communication formats; and
- improving simple and consistent monitoring of outreach, inclusion and people with fewer opportunities.

Inclusion and diversity remain important monitoring priorities. Evidence indicates inclusive work across the network, but more consistent quantitative information will strengthen assessment against the relevant Operating Grant KPIs.

Mid-Term Conclusion

The Mission on Track assessment indicates that the **core project approach is working well and does not require major corrective action at mid-term.**

The priority for July–December is therefore to:

Maintain what works + Strengthen youth agency + Support network participation + Improve monitoring evidence

Overall, Songs for Rights enters the second half of 2026 with **strong project quality, substantial outreach, a functioning European multiplier network and clear opportunities for targeted improvement.**

 **SONGS FOR RIGHTS IS ON TRACK**

1. Methodology and Scope

Purpose of the mid-term evaluation

This report presents the findings of the **Mission on Track Mid-Term Survey** and assesses the implementation and performance of Songs for Rights during the first half of 2026.

The purpose is to understand:

- how network members experienced and assessed the activities implemented so far;
- how well the project is progressing in relation to its objectives and European Youth Goals;
- the level of participation, dissemination and outreach generated through the network;
- how inclusive and relevant the activities have been;
- what has worked particularly well; and
- where adjustments could strengthen implementation during the second half of 2026.

The report is designed as a practical monitoring and learning tool rather than as a formal external evaluation.

Relationship with Mission on Track

The analysis follows the **Mission on Track** monitoring and evaluation approach developed for the 2026 Work Plan.

Mission on Track monitors several complementary dimensions of project performance, including:

activity implementation, achievement of objectives, inclusion and representation, participant engagement, outreach and coverage, impact on participants, and continuous improvement.

The system combines quantitative and qualitative evidence and is intended not only to assess performance but also to identify lessons and enable adjustments while implementation is still ongoing.

Data sources

The principal source for this report is the **Mission on Track Mid-Term Survey**, completed in June 2026.

The survey received **14 responses from organisations and project stakeholders across the Songs for Rights network.**

Respondents represented different organisational roles, including project coordinators, directors and organisation representatives, trainers/facilitators and youth workers, providing perspectives from different levels of project involvement.

The survey included both:

- **quantitative questions**, including activity ratings, overall project quality, dissemination contribution and outreach; and
- **qualitative questions**, asking respondents what worked well, which activities could be improved, challenges experienced and recommendations for the remainder of 2026 and for future development.

Survey findings are complemented where appropriate by:

- project monitoring and participation records;
- the Operating Grant KPI framework;
- network outreach data; and
- findings from the separate **Communications, Dissemination and Outreach Mid-Term Report**.

The detailed analysis of LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube performance is contained in that separate communications report and is therefore not repeated in full here.

Link with the Operating Grant KPIs

The Mission on Track assessment also contributes to monitoring progress against the formal Erasmus+ Operating Grant indicators.

The KPI framework includes an annual target of **100,000 persons reached**, as well as indicators concerning participation, inclusion and people with fewer opportunities.

Where relevant, these indicators are referenced in the report to place survey findings within the wider project monitoring framework.

The communication and dissemination analysis carried out separately shows that by mid-year the project had already generated substantial cumulative outreach. This report focuses more broadly on **project quality, network participation, inclusion, contribution and learning**, while referring to the separate communications report for the detailed digital outreach analysis.

Analysis approach

Quantitative responses were analysed using frequencies, percentages and average ratings.

For activity ratings, the survey used a scale from **0 to 5**, where:

0 = the organisation was not involved

1 = Very poor

2 = Poor

3 = Satisfactory

4 = Good

5 = Excellent

A rating of **0** is therefore treated as “not involved” rather than as a negative quality rating.

When assessing the quality of individual activities, average ratings are calculated only among respondents who indicated involvement in the activity. Levels of involvement are analysed separately.

Open-ended responses are analysed thematically. Similar comments are grouped into recurring themes such as communication, timing, participation, coordination, outreach, resources, inclusion and follow-up.

The aim is to identify meaningful patterns without over-interpreting individual responses.

Interpretation of findings

The report takes a balanced approach.

It highlights areas where the survey indicates strong performance while also identifying constructive suggestions and recurring areas where implementation could improve.

Because the survey captures the experiences of participating respondents, findings should be understood as **evidence from the responding members and stakeholders rather than as a statistically representative survey of the entire network.**

The primary purpose is therefore to support **learning, quality improvement and informed decision-making during the second half of the project.**

2. Project Performance and Quality

2.1 Overall assessment

The Mission on Track Mid-Term Survey indicates a **strong overall assessment of the project during the first half of 2026.**

Across the five main quality dimensions assessed, average ratings ranged from **4.08 to 4.50 out of 5** among respondents able to provide an assessment.

Quality dimension	Average rating / 5	Positive ratings (4–5)
Relevance to youth needs	4.50	90%
Innovation – music & arts approach	4.38	88%
Organisation & coordination	4.33	92%
Contribution to European Youth Goals	4.33	89%
Participant engagement	4.08	83%

The results suggest that respondents particularly value the **relevance of the project to young people's needs**, together with its creative music- and arts-based methodology.

Organisation and coordination and the project's contribution to the European Youth Goals were also rated strongly.

Participant engagement received the lowest of the five average ratings, but still achieved a positive 4.08/5. This suggests that engagement is working well overall while remaining an area where further improvement could increase project impact.

2.2 Assessment of project activities

Respondents were also invited to rate individual project activities in which their organisation had been involved.

Several activities received particularly strong assessments:

- **Climate Resilience INSIDEOUT – 4.67/5**
- **Songs for Action Training Croatia – 4.50/5**
- **Kick-Off Meeting – 4.43/5**
- **Songs for Change Webinar Series – 4.33/5**
- **Songs for Rights Advisory Board Meeting – 4.20/5**
- **Mission on Track – 4.00/5**
- **Annual Youth Consultation – 4.00/5**

These findings should be interpreted with some caution because the number of respondents involved differed considerably between activities, particularly for specialised trainings and activities involving only selected network members.

The ratings nevertheless indicate positive experiences across different types of implementation, including **coordination, international training, online learning, consultation and evaluation.**

A small number of communication and advocacy outputs received more mixed ratings among the respondents involved. These included the **European Youth Goals Advocacy Guide, My European Youth Goals Video Challenge and Music & EU Values Podcast Series.**

Because relatively few respondents rated some of these outputs, the findings should not be interpreted as evidence of poor performance. Rather, they suggest useful areas for further attention to **visibility, network involvement and engagement with project outputs** during the second half of the year.

2.3 What appears to be working well

The quantitative and qualitative findings point to several strengths.

Relevance and alignment

The project's strongest overall rating concerned its **relevance to youth needs (4.50/5).**

Its contribution to the **European Youth Goals was also rated strongly at 4.33/5**, indicating that respondents generally recognise the connection between Songs for Rights activities and the wider European youth-policy framework.

This is an important mid-term finding because raising awareness of European Youth Goals and connecting youth participation with EU values are central objectives of the 2026 Work Plan.

This positive assessment is also reflected in implementation of the Work Plan itself. Activities completed or underway during the first half of 2026 connect youth consultation, creative participation, capacity building, advocacy and direct dialogue with policymakers. The project is therefore contributing to the European Youth Goals and the EU Youth Strategy not only through awareness-raising, but by creating practical mechanisms through which young people's perspectives can inform advocacy and policy dialogue.

Creative methodology

The **music and arts approach** received an average rating of **4.38/5**, confirming that the project's distinctive methodology continues to be perceived as an important strength.

Respondents' comments also recognise the project's ability to involve young people creatively and the value of the songs, meetings and activities being produced.

Organisation and coordination

Organisation and coordination received **4.33/5**, with more than 90% of respondents providing a rating in this category assessing it as good or excellent.

Qualitative feedback supports this finding. Even respondents whose organisations had limited capacity to participate described invitations and communication as **clear, inviting and welcoming**, while another respondent characterised the project as highly organised and structured.

2.4 Opportunities for improvement

The survey does not indicate major quality concerns. Instead, the qualitative responses identify several practical opportunities for strengthening an already positively assessed project.

A recurring theme is **earlier communication about upcoming activities**, allowing network organisations more time to organise participation.

Respondents also suggested:

- creating more **interactive online meetings**;
- continuing to find ways to involve **more young people directly**;
- strengthening opportunities specifically for younger participants, including the **15–18 age group**;
- increasing direct youth involvement in decision-making structures;
- further strengthening network-member participation and dissemination; and
- using more **authentic, youth-friendly communication formats**, particularly short vertical videos, behind-the-scenes material and content created directly by young participants.

Building on the participation of **two young people** who joined the **Advisory Board** at the beginning of 2026, one suggestion was to further strengthen youth participation in project

governance by developing additional youth-friendly mechanisms linked to the Advisory Board. This could enable a broader group of young people to contribute to discussions and decision-making in accessible and age-appropriate ways.

Several respondents also explained that limited participation was related to **capacity or staffing constraints within their own organisations**, rather than dissatisfaction with the project itself.

This distinction is important: lower involvement by some members does not necessarily indicate lower project quality, but points to the practical challenge of enabling participation across a network of organisations with different levels of staff capacity and availability.

2.5 Mid-term finding

Overall, the Mission on Track findings indicate that **project implementation and quality are on track**.

The project is rated particularly strongly for:

relevance to youth needs + creative methodology + organisation and coordination + contribution to European Youth Goals.

The main opportunity for the second half of 2026 is not to substantially change the project approach, but to **make participation even easier and more engaging** - particularly through earlier communication, interactive formats, stronger direct youth involvement and continued support for network members with different organisational capacities.

These findings provide a positive basis for the second half of implementation while also identifying practical adjustments that can strengthen participation and impact.

3. Progress in Implementing the 2026 Work Plan

3.1 Overall progress

At mid-term, implementation of the **21 activities of the Songs for Rights 2026 Work Plan is progressing well and broadly according to schedule**.

A number of activities and outputs have already been completed, several year-long activities are actively ongoing, and activities originally scheduled for the second half of the year are in preparation.

This is important when assessing mid-term progress: not all 21 Work Plan activities were expected to be completed by June. Several major advocacy, participation, training and digital-learning activities were planned from the outset for autumn/winter 2026.

3.2 Activities and outputs implemented by mid-year

Among the principal activities and outputs already implemented during the first half of 2026 are:

- **Kick-Off Meeting**, bringing together nearly all member organisations;
- **two Songs for Rights Advisory Board meetings**, with a third planned for later in the year;
- development and launch of the **Mission on Track** monitoring and evaluation system;
- continuous **management and financial coordination**;
- implementation of the project's **branding, communications and dissemination system** across LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and the Songs for Rights website;
- the **Annual Youth Consultation** and publication of the *Youth Voices Through Music – Young People, European Youth Goals & Participation in Europe* report;
- publication and dissemination of the **Music & EU Values Podcast Series**, covering the six EU values;
- publication of the 48-page **European Youth Goals Advocacy Guide – Turning Voices into Change: Using Music to Bring the European Youth Goals to Life**;
- **Voices & Verses 2026 – Youth Policy Debate**, organised during European Youth Week;
- launch of the **My European Youth Goals** youth-led video campaign, including nine youth videos;
- the first **Songs for Rights / Songs for Action international training for youth workers**;
- dissemination of the four-part **Songs for Change Webinar Series**;
- dissemination of the multilingual **Songs for Change Toolkit**;
- implementation of the first **Arts & Mental Health – RORE training**; and
- implementation of the **FoodForGoodClub Training** (additional unforeseen Training)
- ongoing implementation of the **Climate Resilience INSIDEOUT** cooperation project.

In addition, the **Songs for Rights Online Learning Platform** has been built and is currently being populated with more than 40 learning tools in preparation for its launch.

The communications infrastructure has also been strengthened through a dedicated “**Youth Goals through Music**” section on the Songs for Rights website, bringing together the 21 Work Plan activities and their related outputs, publications, photographs and videos.

3.3 Contribution to European youth policy

The Work Plan is designed not simply as a collection of individual activities, but as a contribution to the implementation and visibility of the **EU Youth Strategy and the European Youth Goals**.

Activities implemented during the first half of the year translate these policy priorities into practical opportunities for **youth participation, non-formal learning, creative expression, capacity building, advocacy and dialogue**.

Several activities create particularly direct connections between young people and youth policy.

The **Annual Youth Consultation** collected young people's views and priorities and transformed them into evidence that can inform project planning and advocacy.

Voices & Verses 2026 created a space for young people, youth workers, artists and policymakers to discuss issues linked to the European Youth Goals and allowed young people to communicate their perspectives directly to decision-makers.

The **European Youth Goals Advocacy Guide** provides youth organisations and youth workers with practical approaches for turning youth voices into advocacy and policy messages.

The **My European Youth Goals campaign** further amplifies young people's own perspectives through youth-created digital content.

Youth participation is also reflected in project governance. Young people joined the **Songs for Rights Advisory Board** during the first half of the year, strengthening the direct representation of youth perspectives within project discussions and decision-making.

Together, these activities contribute to a wider process of connecting **young people's experiences and priorities with European youth policy and policymaking**. Music and arts provide an accessible entry point, while consultation, advocacy, dialogue and participation mechanisms help translate creative expression into messages that can reach organisations, stakeholders and decision-makers.

3.4 Building capacity to implement the Youth Goals

The Work Plan also contributes to European youth policy by strengthening the capacity of those working directly with young people.

The **Songs for Action training, Songs for Change webinars, Songs for Change Toolkit and Arts & Mental Health training, FoodForGoodClub Training** (additional) provide youth workers and organisations with practical methods that can be reused in their own communities.

This creates a multiplier effect: project activities do not only reach the people participating directly but equip youth workers and organisations to apply music-, arts- and participation-based approaches with additional groups of young people.

This capacity-building dimension complements the project's communication and advocacy work and supports longer-term implementation of the European Youth Goals at local and organisational level.

3.5 Activities planned for the second half of 2026

Several important Work Plan activities are intentionally concentrated in the second half of the year.

These include:

- the **Youth Voices Forum** in October;
- the **Songs for Rights Annual Community Meeting** in October;

- the **LinkedIn Policy Makers Campaign**;
- the **European Youth Goal Jingle Challenge**;
- the **Policy Jam / Roundtable with Youth, Music & Policymakers**;
- launch of the **Songs for Rights Online Learning Platform**, with more than 40 learning tools;
- two further **Songs for Action trainings**, planned in Berlin and Madrid;
- a further **Arts & Mental Health – RORE training** beyond the activity originally foreseen; and
- continued implementation of the **Climate Resilience INSIDEOUT project**, including its international training and development of learning resources.

These activities will further strengthen the project's focus on **youth-policy dialogue, capacity building, creative participation, digital learning and interaction between young people and policymakers.**

3.6 Mid-term Work Plan assessment

Overall, the Work Plan is **on track at mid-term**.

The first half of 2026 has established much of the project's foundation — coordination structures, monitoring, communications, consultation, learning resources, training, youth-led communication and initial policy dialogue — while several of the activities with the strongest explicit advocacy and policymaker-engagement dimension are scheduled for the second half of the year.

The progression is therefore logical:

Listen to young people → Build capacity → Create and disseminate youth voices → Connect those voices with policymakers → Strengthen advocacy and policy influence

The second half of 2026 will be particularly important for completing this cycle through the Youth Voices Forum, Policy Makers Campaign, Policy Jam and other planned advocacy and participation activities.

4. Participation, Inclusion, Dissemination and Outreach

4.1 Network participation and contribution

The Mission on Track survey shows that network members contribute to Songs for Rights in different ways and at different levels, including participation in project activities, promotion and dissemination, youth engagement and the sharing of project opportunities within their organisations and communities.

This reflects the intended network model of Songs for Rights, in which member organisations contribute not only as participants but also as **multipliers of project activities, European Youth Goals and EU values.**

The survey also shows that different levels of participation are partly influenced by organisational capacity. Some respondents indicated that staffing, time or other organisational constraints limited their ability to participate in all available activities. This suggests that flexibility in how members can engage remains important.

Overall, the evidence points to an **active core of network organisations contributing directly to implementation and dissemination**, alongside other members whose involvement is more selective.

Virtual participation and exchange also took place through the project's digital advocacy, learning and communication activities. Beyond structured webinars and online events, young people and other stakeholders actively engaged with project themes through youth-created digital campaigns, comments, shares, reposts, saves, clicks and other forms of online interaction. For KPI monitoring purposes, passive reach, impressions and views are treated as outreach, while active interaction is considered separately as evidence of virtual participation and exchange.

4.2 Inclusion and diversity

Inclusion and diversity are important dimensions of both Mission on Track and the Operating Grant KPI framework.

Survey responses indicate that network organisations work with a **wide range of young people and communities**, including young people facing social, economic, geographical, educational, cultural and other barriers.

The feedback also supports the value of the project's creative approach in providing accessible ways for young people to engage with topics such as European Youth Goals, participation, human rights and EU values.

At the same time, inclusion remains an area that should continue to be actively monitored rather than considered completed. Suggestions from respondents included increasing opportunities for **younger participants, particularly those aged 15–18**, and creating additional mechanisms through which young people can contribute directly to project discussions and decision-making.

This supports a continued focus during the second half of the year on **diversity of participation as well as overall participant numbers**.

The Operating Grant establishes an annual target of **24,000 persons with fewer opportunities addressed by the project**, covering several categories of barriers.

Available Mission on Track and network data provide useful evidence of work with these groups. However, this KPI should continue to be monitored carefully during the second half of the year, using directly reported data wherever possible and avoiding assumptions about participant characteristics where they have not been recorded.

4.3 Dissemination through the network

Network members play an important role in extending the visibility of Songs for Rights beyond the project's central communication channels.

Survey and monitoring information shows contributions through activities such as **sharing project communications and opportunities, promoting activities locally, engaging young people and disseminating project-related content through organisational networks and communication channels.**

This multiplier function is particularly important for a European network because it allows centrally developed activities and messages to reach audiences in different countries and local contexts.

The network outreach data collected through Mission on Track provide quantitative evidence of this effect.

13 network organisations reported combined outreach of 54,044 persons.

For 13 organisations without an available outreach figure, a deliberately conservative estimate of **500 persons per organisation** was applied, corresponding to an additional **6,500 estimated outreach.**

This gives a combined network multiplier outreach of:

60,544

The report distinguishes clearly between the **54,044 reported figure** and the **6,500 estimated component.**

The network results demonstrate that member organisations are an important dissemination multiplier and significantly extend the audience reached through central project communications.

4.4 Overall outreach and KPI progress

When network outreach is combined with central digital communications and direct participation in project activities, cumulative mid-term outreach reaches:

83,916

against an annual Operating Grant target of:

100,000 persons reached

This corresponds to:

84% of the annual outreach KPI



Outreach source	Mid-term outreach
Central digital communications	23,268
Events, trainings and webinars	104
Network outreach – reported	54,044
Network outreach – conservative estimate	6,500
Total	83,916

Importantly, **77,416 outreach is supported without relying on the estimated figures for non-reporting network members**. This documented/reported subtotal alone corresponds to **77.4% of the annual target**.

The project has therefore already substantially exceeded the proportional mid-year benchmark of 50%.

A detailed analysis of central communications performance — including **LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube reach, views, impressions and engagement** — is provided in the separate *Songs for Rights Communications, Dissemination and Outreach Mid-Term Report*.

The Mission on Track report therefore uses the headline results without duplicating the full communications analysis.

For the Operating Grant KPI on persons involved in mobility and virtual exchanges, 84 participants were directly recorded through structured physical and virtual activities. In addition, approximately 500 persons are conservatively estimated to have participated through interactive digital advocacy, learning and exchange activities, resulting in an estimated mid-term total of 584 persons involved in mobility and virtual exchanges.

4.5 Outreach beyond numbers

The findings also demonstrate why outreach should not be assessed only through one headline figure.

The project currently generates several levels of engagement:

Digital outreach provides broad visibility and access to project messages and outputs.

Network dissemination multiplies this visibility through organisations operating in different national and local contexts.

Events, trainings and webinars provide deeper engagement through learning, dialogue, capacity building and participation.

These forms of outreach complement one another.

A social-media account reached through a campaign cannot be considered equivalent in depth to a youth worker participating in a multi-day international training. At the same time, broad digital dissemination is essential for extending project messages beyond the relatively small number of people who can participate directly in project activities.

The combination of **visibility, multiplier dissemination and direct engagement** is therefore a key strength of the current outreach model.

4.6 Mid-term finding

The evidence indicates that **participation, dissemination and outreach are progressing positively at mid-term.**

The project is already performing strongly against its overall persons-reached KPI, while the network is demonstrating its value as a substantial dissemination multiplier.

For the second half of 2026, attention should focus particularly on:

- maintaining network involvement and making participation accessible to organisations with different levels of capacity;
- continuing to strengthen direct involvement of young people;
- improving systematic collection of outreach and inclusion data across all network members; and
- documenting not only the **quantity of outreach**, but increasingly its **quality, diversity and depth of engagement.**

Overall, the findings indicate that the project's combination of **central communication, network multiplication and direct participation is functioning effectively and is on track at mid-term.**

5. Challenges, Learning and Areas for Improvement

5.1 Overall picture

The Mission on Track survey does not identify major implementation problems at mid-term. Overall ratings are positive, and several respondents explicitly reported **no significant challenges.**

Where difficulties or suggestions were identified, they mainly concern practical aspects of participation and implementation rather than fundamental concerns about the project's objectives or approach.

The feedback therefore provides useful opportunities for **fine-tuning implementation during the second half of 2026.**

5.2 Main challenges identified

Organisational capacity and availability

One of the clearest themes concerns the different capacities of network organisations to participate.

Some respondents reported that **staffing limitations, workload, availability or internal organisational circumstances** reduced their ability to take part in activities.

This is important when interpreting differences in network participation: limited involvement does not necessarily reflect low interest or dissatisfaction with Songs for Rights.

Learning: Maintain flexible ways for organisations to contribute and continue providing opportunities that do not require the same level of involvement from every network member.

Timing and advance communication

Respondents indicated that **earlier information about activities and participation opportunities** would help organisations plan and mobilise participants more effectively.

This is particularly relevant within an international network where organisations need to coordinate staff, young people, travel and other commitments.

Learning: Wherever possible, communicate dates and participation opportunities earlier and provide a simple overview of upcoming activities.

Youth participation and interactivity

Although participant engagement was positively assessed overall, the survey suggests opportunities to make some activities **more interactive and youth-led**.

Suggestions included more interactive online meetings, additional opportunities for young people to participate directly and greater attention to younger participants, including the **15–18 age group**.

One suggestion proposed strengthening youth involvement in project governance through a **youth advisory mechanism connected to the Advisory Board**.

Learning: Continue developing formats in which young people are not only audiences or participants but also contribute to discussion, content creation and decision-making.

Communication and youth-friendly content

Respondents also suggested strengthening communication through more **authentic and youth-friendly formats**.

Ideas included short vertical videos, behind-the-scenes content and communications created directly by young participants.

These suggestions complement the findings of the separate Communications, Dissemination and Outreach Mid-Term Report, which shows strong digital performance while also highlighting the importance of engagement and audience relevance alongside numerical reach.

Learning: Maintain the existing multi-channel communications approach while increasing opportunities for **young people themselves to become communicators and storytellers**.

5.3 What should be maintained

An important purpose of mid-term evaluation is also to identify what **should not be changed unnecessarily**.

The survey provides strong evidence for maintaining:

- the **music- and arts-based methodology**;
- the clear connection with **European Youth Goals and youth needs**;
- the current level of **organisation and coordination**;
- international exchange and training opportunities;
- the combination of online and face-to-face activities; and
- the network-based approach to dissemination and participation.

The positive ratings of relevance, innovation and coordination indicate that these are established strengths on which the second half of the Work Plan can continue to build.

5.4 Monitoring and evidence

The mid-term process itself also provides some lessons for Mission on Track.

The project has strong evidence concerning overall outreach and general project quality. However, some areas would benefit from **more systematic and consistent data collection across the network**, particularly:

- outreach generated by individual network organisations;
- participation of people with fewer opportunities;
- diversity and inclusion indicators;
- direct youth participation; and
- evidence of the quality or depth of engagement.

Improving these areas does not require a more complicated monitoring system. A **small number of clearly defined figures collected consistently from members and activity organisers** would strengthen the final evaluation considerably.

This is particularly relevant to the Operating Grant indicators concerning persons with fewer opportunities and to demonstrating not only how many people were reached, but also the diversity of those audiences.

5.5 Mid-term learning

Overall, the survey suggests that the project does **not require major corrective action** at mid-term.

Instead, the evidence points towards several practical improvements:

Plan earlier – provide advance information wherever possible.

Make participation easy – recognise different organisational capacities across the network.

Increase youth agency – create more opportunities for young people to contribute directly to activities, communication and decision-making.

Communicate authentically – continue developing youth-created and interactive communication formats.

Document consistently – strengthen simple collection of outreach, inclusion and participation data.

These adjustments build directly on what is already working and are consistent with the purpose of Mission on Track: using monitoring and feedback to support **continuous improvement during implementation**, rather than waiting until the end of the project to identify lessons.

6. Mid-Term Conclusions and Priorities for July–December 2026

6.1 Overall Mission on Track assessment

The Mission on Track mid-term evaluation indicates that **Songs for Rights is ON TRACK at the halfway point of the 2026 Work Plan**.

Survey findings show strong assessments of project relevance, organisation, contribution to the European Youth Goals and the use of music and arts as an innovative approach to youth participation.

At the same time, the evaluation identifies practical opportunities to strengthen participation, youth involvement and monitoring during the second half of the year.

Mission on Track – Mid-Term Status

Evaluation area	Status	Mid-term assessment
Project implementation & coordination	● On Track	Strong overall assessment of organisation and coordination (4.33/5).
Relevance to youth needs	● On Track	Strongest overall survey result (4.50/5).
Contribution to European Youth Goals	● On Track	Strong positive assessment (4.33/5).
Music & arts methodology	● On Track	Highly valued as an innovative approach (4.38/5).
Participant engagement	● On Track	Positive result (4.08/5), with opportunities for greater interactivity and youth-led participation.
Communications & outreach	● On Track	84% of the annual 100,000 outreach target achieved at mid-term.
Network participation & multiplier effect	● On Track	Strong multiplier outreach, while participation levels vary according to organisational capacity.
Inclusion & diversity monitoring	● Monitor	Inclusive work is evident, but more consistent quantitative evidence is needed for some KPI dimensions.
Overall project status	● ON TRACK	Strong mid-term performance with targeted opportunities for improvement.

The traffic-light assessment is intended as a **simple management tool**:

- **On Track** – implementation is progressing positively and no significant corrective action is required.
- **Monitor** – progress is evident, but additional attention or stronger evidence is advisable.
- **Action Required** – significant corrective action would be needed.

No area currently requires a red **Action Required** status.

6.2 Priorities for July–December

Based on the survey and monitoring findings, five practical priorities are recommended for the second half of 2026.

1. Maintain the approaches that are working well.

Continue the strong music- and arts-based methodology, connection with European Youth Goals, international learning opportunities and combination of online and face-to-face activities.

2. Strengthen direct youth involvement.

Increase opportunities for young people to contribute actively to discussions, communication, content creation and, where feasible, project decision-making. Particular attention could be given to engaging younger participants, including the 15–18 age group.

3. Make network participation easier.

Provide information and activity dates as early as possible and maintain flexible participation opportunities for organisations with different levels of staff capacity and availability.

4. Continue the communication and network multiplier approach.

Build on the strong mid-term outreach performance while encouraging authentic, youth-created communication and continued dissemination by network members. Detailed communication priorities are addressed in the separate *Communications, Dissemination and Outreach Mid-Term Report*.

5. Strengthen simple monitoring of inclusion and outreach.

Continue Mission on Track using a small number of consistently collected indicators, particularly concerning network outreach, people with fewer opportunities, diversity and direct youth participation.

The second half of the Work Plan also contains several strategically important activities that build directly on the foundations established during the first six months. These include the Youth Voices Forum, Annual Community Meeting, LinkedIn Policy Makers Campaign, European Youth Goal Jingle Challenge, Policy Jam with young people and policymakers, launch of the Online Learning Platform and further international training activities. Together, these activities provide important opportunities to deepen youth participation, translate consultation findings into advocacy and strengthen interaction between young people and decision-makers.

6.3 Looking towards the final evaluation

The purpose of Mission on Track is not only to assess whether activities have taken place, but to help the project **learn and adjust while implementation is ongoing**.

At mid-term, the evidence suggests that the core approach is working well. The priority for the remaining six months is therefore not major redesign, but **consolidation and targeted improvement**.

The final Mission on Track assessment should examine whether:

- the strong quality ratings have been maintained;
- the annual outreach and other Operating Grant KPIs have been achieved;
- youth participation and network involvement have continued to develop;
- inclusion and diversity evidence has become more systematic; and
- the lessons identified at mid-term have been translated into practical improvements.

Overall Mid-Term Conclusion

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The first half of 2026 demonstrates **strong project quality, relevance, outreach and network multiplier effects**.

The mid-term evaluation identifies no need for major corrective action. Instead, it provides a clear direction for the second half of the year: **maintain what works, strengthen youth agency**

and participation, support network involvement, and improve the consistency of monitoring evidence.

This provides a strong basis for continued implementation and for assessing the project's overall results and impact at the end of 2026.