

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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European Youth Foundation

2015 Overview

**PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE EUROPEAN
YOUTH FOUNDATION, YOUTH DEPARTMENT,
DIRECTORATE OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND
PARTICIPATION - DG DEMOCRACY**

What is the European Youth Foundation?

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established in 1972 by the [Council of Europe](#) to provide financial and educational support for European youth activities. Only youth NGOs from the signatory states to European Cultural Convention (47 Council of Europe member states plus Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Holy See), can apply to the Foundation.

It is a division in the [Youth Department](#) of the Council of Europe's [Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation](#), [Directorate General of Democracy](#).

The European Youth Foundation is an instrument:

- to make the voice of youth heard at a top decision making level;
- [managed by both youth non-governmental organisations \(NGOs\) and government representatives](#), who decide and monitor the CoE Youth programme;
- to support European non-governmental youth organisations and networks;
- to promote peace, understanding and respect.

Key figures

The Foundation has an annual budget of approximately 3.7 million Euros, which is mainly made up of obligatory contributions from each Council of Europe member state.

Since 1972, more than 300,000 young people, aged between 15 and 30 and mostly from member states, have benefited directly from EYF-supported activities.

Contact the EYF

European Youth Foundation
30 rue Pierre de Coubertin
67000 Strasbourg-Wacken
France
eyf@coe.int

<http://eyf.coe.int>



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European Youth Foundation

2015 Overview

Introduction

This document gives an overview of the projects and activities of non-governmental youth organisations supported by the European Youth Foundation in 2015, and reports on the other activities of the EYF.

Following the entry into force of the new Operational Regulations of the European Youth Foundation on 1 January 2013, all grant applications and reports are submitted via the new EYF online system: annual work plans, international activities, structural grants and pilot activities.

But the EYF is more than just a donor, offering financial but also **educational support** to youth NGOs, focusing on the **content and methodology** of projects. Through feedback, recommendations and questions the EYF hopes to create a reflective process, increasing the **quality** of projects. The focus is on the elaboration of projects that have a tangible, concrete **impact**. Two-way communication, flexibility, diversity and respect are the guiding principles of the Foundation and its staff.

The EYF is also making every effort to increase its visibility and ways of communication and to promote the work carried out by youth NGOs with its support. At the end of 2015, the EYF updated its website and gave more space to promoting the work carried out by youth NGOs with EYF support – the Resources page includes publications, videos and photos: <http://eyf.coe.int>.

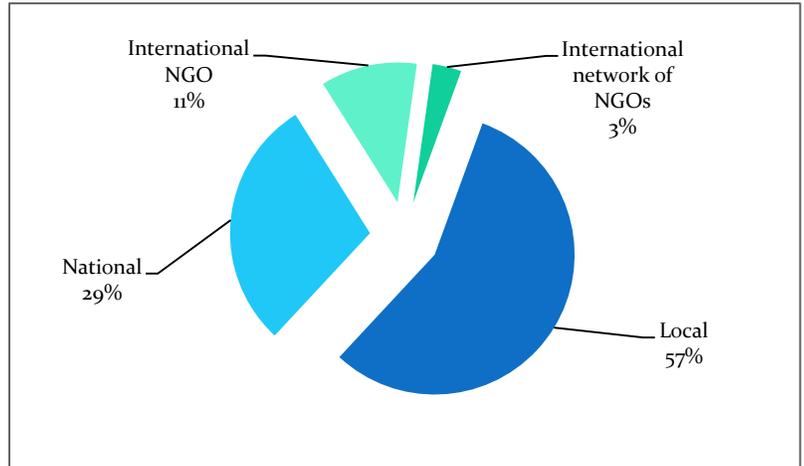


Resources



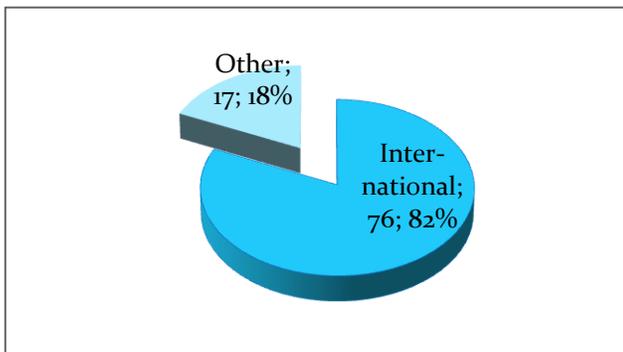
Partner NGOs

The European Youth Foundation can support non-governmental youth organisations based in the signatory states to the European Cultural Convention¹. Organisations must be registered in the EYF database to be able to apply for a project grant. At the end of 2015, 628 organisations were registered in 44 countries (see Appendix I).



Annual work plans

International non-governmental youth organisations or networks can apply for an annual work plan, which includes a set of successive activities over a period of one year, interconnected and



contributing to the same broader aim. These activities can be “international” (a meeting of young people from at least 7 Council of Europe member states) or “other” (e.g. local activities, workshops, campaigns, development of tools). Out of 53 applications received for 2015, 29 annual work plans were approved, represent-

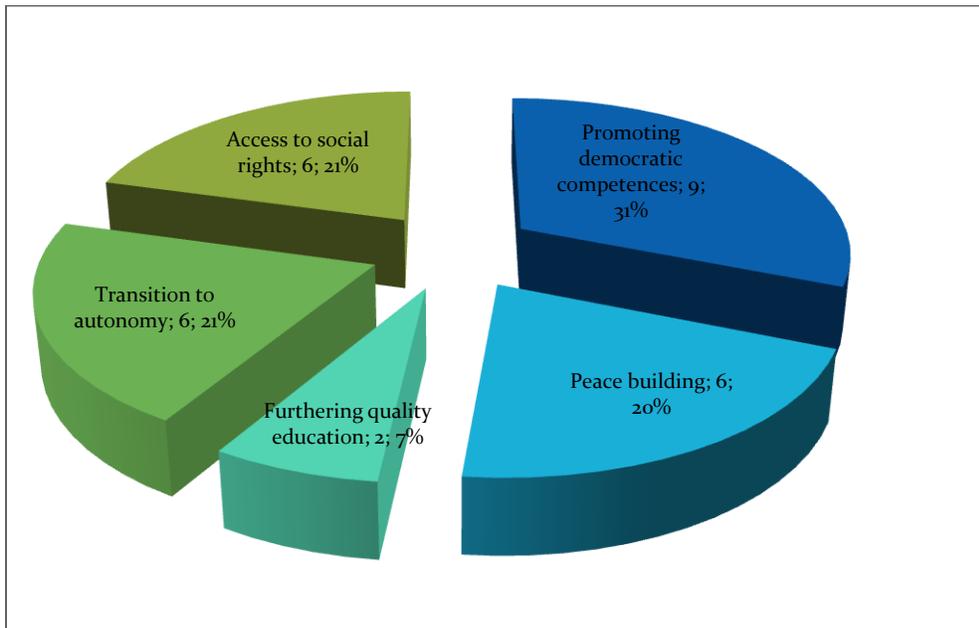
ing a total amount of € 1,150,300. The average grant awarded was € 39,665 (minimum € 20,000, maximum € 50,000). Eight organisations were awarded the maximum grant of € 50,000. Within the work plans, 76 international activities and 17 other activities were supported.

“Without the support of the EYF, we would not have had the opportunity to have the same number of participants, in particular those coming from non-EU countries.”

¹ 47 member states of the Council of Europe, plus Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Holy See (see full list on page 23).

The EYF supports youth activities contributing to the priorities of the Council of Europe’s Youth Sector, and the chart below shows the distribution of work plans in 2015 according to the expected results defined for 2015 (see Appendix II). A project can of course fit into one or more priorities, but only one is chosen for statistical purposes.

2015 work plans according to expected results

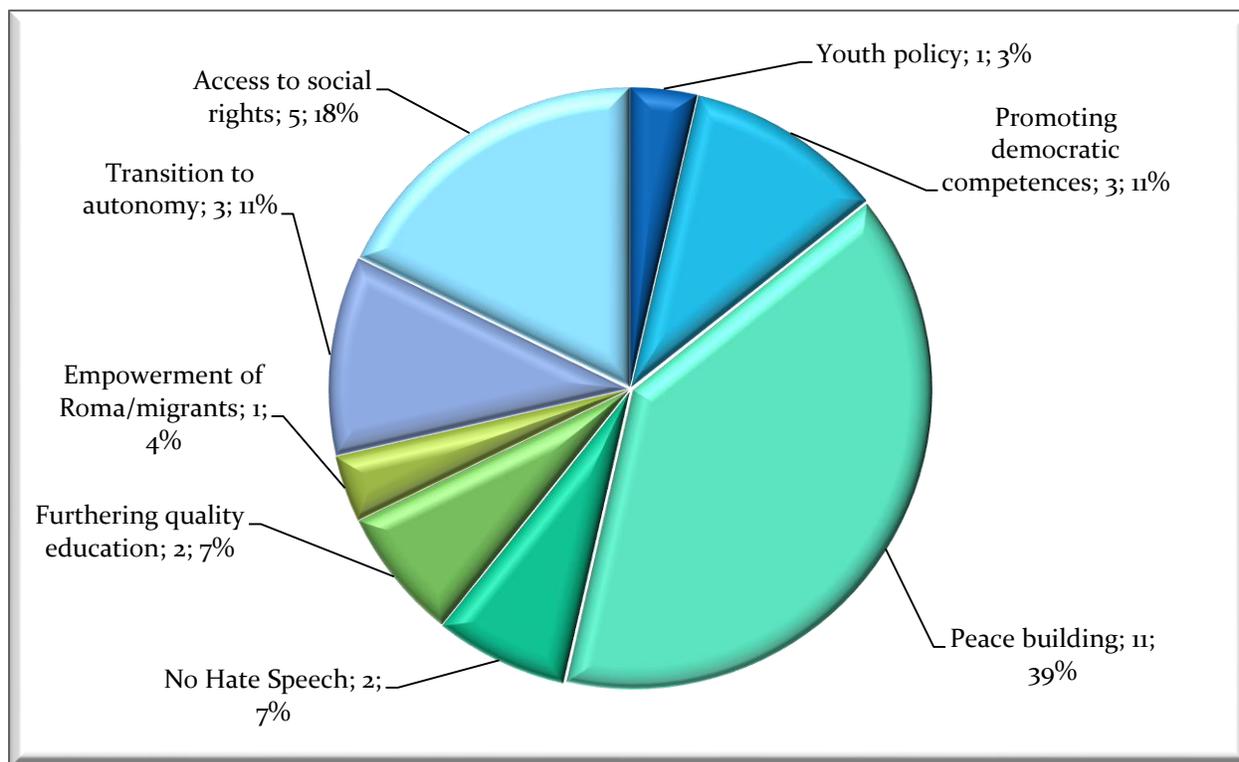


International activities

International non-governmental youth organisations or networks and national youth NGOs with at least three partners can apply for a one-off international activity. This is a meeting of young people or youth leaders which contributes to the work and educational values of the Council of Europe’s Youth Sector and has a clear European dimension. Out of 69 applications received, 28 one-off international activities were supported in 2015, representing a total amount of € 453,000. The average grant awarded was € 16,178 (minimum € 11,000, maximum € 20,000). More statistics on activities by country can be found in Appendix IV.

“I am an even bigger fan of EYF and the co-management system! I can see that fruitful cooperation between NGOs and institutions is really possible, I am more positive about it.”

International activities in 2015 according to expected results



Pilot activities

Local and national non-governmental youth organisations can apply for a pilot activity, which should be an “intervention”, i.e. an activity addressing a contextual societal challenge affecting young people at local level. It should be based on innovation or on replication (of best practices for example). In addition, a pilot activity should have clear links to and an impact on the local context and correspond to focused themes of the Council of Europe’s youth programme (see Appendix II). At its meeting in October 2014, the Joint Council on Youth agreed that, when assessing applications for pilot activities taking place in 2015, the EYF would pay particular attention to those dealing with the following themes:

- 1) Strengthening civil society, with a special focus on Ukraine;
- 2) Fighting extremism and hate speech online;
- 3) Participation and integration of migrants and young refugees in society.

Special attention will be given to pilot activities integrating a gender perspective (bearing in mind the Council of Europe strategy for Gender Equality 2014-2017).

“One of the conditions linked to the grant was to network with other partners, which proved to be a great idea and contributed to the project quality.”

In 2015, 124 grant applications for pilot activities were received and 47 grants were awarded for a total of € 401,950 (maximum grant: € 10,000).

Twelve grants were awarded to activities linked to the No Hate Speech Movement (total € 97,550). Three projects were supported in Ukraine for a total amount of € 13,900. One project targeting young refugees in Serbia received a grant of € 10,000.

More statistics on activities by country can be found in Appendix V.

Structural grants

A new system of supporting the administrative costs of international youth NGOs has been introduced and the first two-year structural grants (SG2) for 2014-2015 were awarded in 2013 to 40 well-established international youth NGOs. A one-off annual structural grant (SG1) is available for regional networks building up a European structure, but no applications were received for 2015.

To be eligible, an organisation/network must have received support for at least 3 international activities during the previous 3 years (EYF grant or study session in the annual programme of the European Youth Centres). In addition to quantitative criteria (number of branches/members in the signatory states of the European Cultural Convention; employed staff), a qualitative assessment has been introduced. The strategic approach of the organisation/network is assessed in relation to the priorities (expected results) defined by the Joint Council on Youth for the biennium in question. On the basis of these criteria and the amount requested, an EYF grant is awarded in principle for two years and confirmed after the first year (maximum € 25,000 per year).

2014-2015: 40 structural grants awarded by the EYF for a total of € 1,259,800 for 2 years (minimum € 16,600; maximum: € 50,000)

Integrated grant



Following the introduction of the new grant categories and in view of the long-lasting relations between the European Youth Forum and the Council of Europe's Youth Sector, the 2 annual grants (Category A and Category C) awarded in the past to the European Youth Forum were merged into one annual integrated grant (€ 93,000 for 2015).

EYF visits

The Programming Committee on Youth has defined a clear frame for the organisation of visits by the EYF Secretariat to EYF-supported activities:

1. to monitor the project (public administration rule of “auditing”) and assessment in comparison with the information given in the application (methodology, content, etc);
2. to increase the visibility of the Council of Europe, the Youth Department and the European Youth Foundation (presentation to the participants, meeting with other NGOs);
3. to establish direct links with supported youth NGOs and to collect their comments and appreciation of the EYF;
4. to give feedback to the Programming Committee;
5. to gain awareness of the specific situations, needs and trends at a grassroots level.



In addition, the EYF decided to use these visits:

- to enhance the co-operation with the Council of Europe Offices in other countries. The aim was to establish a regular exchange of information so that the external offices can relay information about the EYF through their email lists and websites, and give feedback to the EYF about NGOs or activities taking place in their countries. It was also hoped that staff members of the external offices can visit some activities and send a brief report if EYF staff are unable to attend;
- to contact and visit – if time and circumstances allow – other NGOs which are unfamiliar with the EYF.

In 2013 the Council of Europe’s Directorate of Internal Oversight (DIO) conducted an audit on the EYF. One of the recommendations was to visit 5% of the supported youth activities per year. In the past, the EYF had mainly visited international activities but, following the discovery of several cases of fraud which mainly concerned pilot activities, and acting upon the advice of the internal audit, visits to pilot activities were introduced in 2014. The EYF Secretariat visited 11 projects in 11 countries in 2015, including 4 pilot activities (see list in Appendix VI).

EYF (Re)generation seminar

Following “EYF Reloaded – It all starts with You(th)” in 2013 and “EYF (R)evolution” in 2014, the EYF organised an EYF (Re)generation seminar at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from 18 to 20 February 2015. The aims were to receive feedback and share information on the work with the new operational regulations (new online system and website), to create a common understanding concerning the pilot activities supported by the EYF, to gain awareness about the different situations organisations address with the support of EYF grants, to revitalise transparency and accountability between the European Youth Foundation and youth organisations, to achieve open and informal networking between the EYF team and the people running projects with EYF grants and to share best practices concerning projects. The seminar involved 28 representatives of local and national youth NGOs from 20 countries.

“The most useful part was the methodology and approach and the fact that the whole EYF team was present and supportive all the time.”

With the help of an outside co-ordinator and a trainer, the EYF Secretariat imagined a programme that would allow the participants to experience the spirit and principles of the Foundation (comfortable atmosphere, two-way communication, transfer of knowledge and experience, being pro-active and creating space for everyone to participate).

Based on this enriching experience, the EYF will be organising “EYF (Re)mix” in 2016, involving representatives of both international and local youth NGOs.

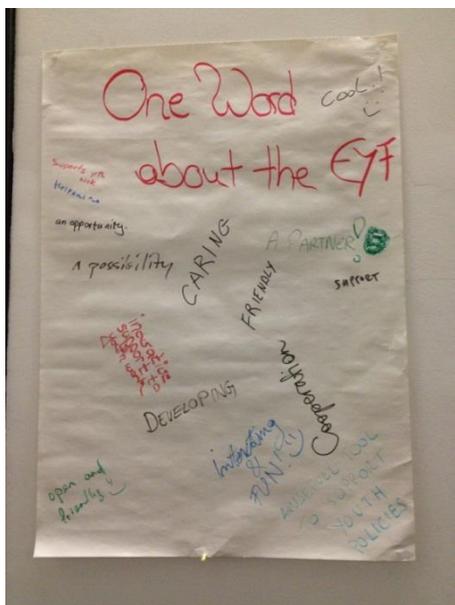
“After this process, I understand why my pilot activity was rejected and I would have rejected it too if I were in EYF shoes!”

2nd European Youth Work Convention

The 2nd European Youth Work Convention (Brussels, 27-30 April 2015) was one of the flagship initiatives organised in the framework of the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The 2015 Convention aimed at creating political and institutional debates around youth work in Europe. It gathered approximately 500 stakeholders active in the youth work field from all over Europe bringing together complementary knowledge, perspectives and experiences on youth work (policy makers, representatives of ministries and national agencies, donors, researchers, youth activists, representatives of youth NGOs).

An EYF grant of € 20,000 was awarded to the European Youth Forum to cover the travel costs of 48 young people from non-EU countries taking part in the Convention.

The EYF was present with a stand, and the following material was distributed to the participants, thus ensuring a wide dissemination of the main publications of the Council of Europe's Youth Department:



- 350 USB keys containing approximately 100 publications of the youth sector (including best sellers such as Compass, Compasito, the Charter on youth participation at local and regional level, Gender matters, Have Your Say, History of youth work, Living Library guide, etc);
- 300 EYF leaflets (in 13 different languages);
- 150 EYF red anniversary boxes promoting the work done by the Council of Europe, the Youth Department and the Foundation;
- Thematic fact sheets on EYF-supported projects.

The EYF team participated in 8 workshops and visits to international and local NGOs. An EYF workshop took place on 29 April underlying the values and spirit of the Foundation (two-way communication, transparency, flexibility and

accountability) and recalling its unique approach: from a donor to a partner! This workshop was built with the same standards as the ones requested by the EYF for youth activities (non-formal education tools, participant-centered, innovation).

As a direct follow-up to the Convention, work has started on the preparation of a draft Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on the contribution of Youth Work to the education and inclusion of young people.

Volunteer Time Recognition

At its meeting in December 2013, the Programming Committee on Youth agreed on a method to recognise the time given by volunteers to youth activities supported by the European Youth Foundation.

The methodology used to calculate volunteer time recognition (VTR) is based on specific criteria as well as trust and transparency on the part of NGOs registered with the EYF and applying for a grant. A document explaining the EYF definition, the specifications and calculation of VTR is available on the [EYF website](#).

Following the 2-year trial period 2014-15, and the relatively low number of NGOs using the system (15 projects in 2015), a simplified calculation table will be provided to NGOs to encourage them to take advantage of this great opportunity to valorize the time volunteers invest in youth projects.

Study visit to Ukraine

The Head of the European Youth Foundation was part of the Council of Europe delegation visiting Ukraine from 20 to 24 September 2015. The study visit had the following aims:

- to be informed of the situation of youth NGOs in Ukraine and of the main challenges faced by young people;
- to inform Ukrainian youth NGOs/networks and relevant public authorities of the possibilities offered by the Council of Europe in terms of programmes and financial support (EYF) and support for youth policy development;
- to examine how the Council of Europe Youth Department can support Ukrainian youth projects;
- to better associate youth NGOs/networks and authorities of Ukraine with the definition of the future co-operation programme between the Council of Europe Youth Department and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine.

The study visit included two sessions, one in Lviv with 20 representatives of youth NGOs from Lviv and 10 from other regions, and the other one in Kiev with 20 representatives of youth NGOs from Kiev and 10 from other regions, with a view to identifying challenges and needs of Ukrainian youth NGOs and young people.

At the end of 2015, 49 youth NGOs from Ukraine were registered in the EYF database.

Transversal co-operation

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Following the successful experience in 2014 and the setting up of an ad hoc reflection group on youth participation composed by representatives of the Congress and of the statutory organs of the youth sector, the EYF set aside € 20,000 to finance the participation of one young person per national delegation in the 29th session of the Congress (20-22 October 2015).



The aim is to create a space for dialogue between the youth delegates and local and regional elected representatives in order to:

PR, communication and visibility

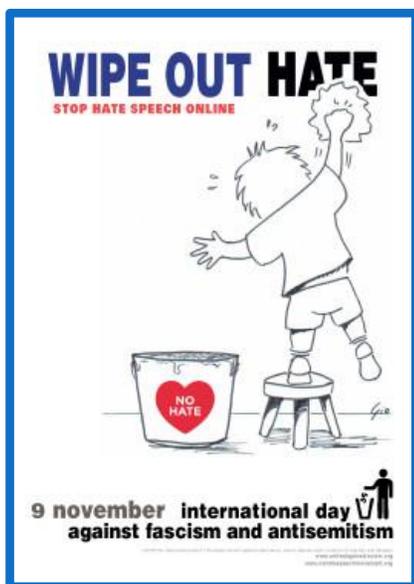
The main channel of communication is the [EYF website](#) launched in March 2013 and revamped in November 2015. It aims to strengthen the recent developments within the Foundation, establishing a visual identity and presenting the mission, values and work of the EYF, as well as bearing in mind the needs of NGOs and governments.



Interactive tools, such as the map of registered NGOs and EYF-supported activities underway, give our stakeholders the possibility to find partners, and make their work visible. The calendar of events is an easy and effective way of finding out what EYF-supported activities are taking place each day and what events the EYF is involved in. The resources section of the website seeks to give visibility to NGOs and provide helpful materials.

The EYF's [YouTube](#) channel publishes videos from various meetings and events. It is regularly updated with videos and creative tools destined to help NGOs increase the quality of their applications and reports. The [EYF leaflet](#) exists in 19 languages and the [EYF Newsletter](#) keeps stakeholders informed by republishing the most important news available on the website. The [Facebook page](#) has over 6,000 likes.

“[The EYF & NHSM](#)” publication developed by the EYF was made available to all publics in November. With this publication, the European Youth Foundation aimed to outline its involvement in the [No Hate Speech Movement campaign](#) and to present examples of the projects that illustrate the diversity of initiatives that are being supported. The role of the Foundation in combating hate speech is ongoing and will continue for as long as the campaign is running.



To create closer links with the Council of Europe member states, meetings are being organised with the Permanent Representatives of the member states in Strasbourg to introduce the European Youth Foundation and its work. In 2015, 8 meetings took place and they will continue in 2016.

Some figures

Website	54,700+/4,560 per month New website launched on 25 November	-Number of visitors has slightly increased -Visitor countries: Serbia, France, Hungary, Belgium, Ukraine
Facebook	5,000 (1 year since launch), 6,200 followers in December	- Increasing number of tags, shares and mentions) -57% women, 41% men -Country fans (top 5): Azerbaijan, Romania, Italy, Armenia & Serbia - Reposting by the CoE FB page: more exposure
YouTube	5,800 views 57 subscribers	-11 videos
Newsletter	700 +	
Leaflet	19 languages available Coming up: Bulgarian, Azerbaijani, Armenian, Montenegrin, Georgian and Greek	- Aim: make available in all CoE member country languages
SlideShare	6,061 views (all presentations)	-7 followers -50 downloads
Publication No Hate Speech Movement & EYF	Online publication developed in 2015 available on EYF website	-Show EYF's support of the campaign and at the same time provide examples of NHSM projects
Meeting Permanent Representations (PR) of Council of Europe member states in Strasbourg	July 2015 onwards Have met with the PR of: Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia	-All PRs from the 50 member states of the EYF will be visited (visits to continue in 2016)

Challenges 2016-2017

Nearly two years after the introduction of the EYF's new operational regulations and new grant categories, one of the main tasks of the EYF will be to strengthen the correlation between the needs of its users - youth organisations - and those of the member states who finance the EYF. It will therefore be necessary to make sure that the notions and concepts of the different grant categories are fully understood and appropriated by applicant NGOs. The EYF will clarify and simplify its registration process for NGOs, as well as the definition and criteria of the different grant categories (in particular the pilot activities), payment conditions, guidelines and forms and reporting procedures.

The approach developed by the Foundation since 2013 - "from a donor to a partner" - will be intensified thanks to positive feedback received by users. More time will be devoted to exchanging with applicant NGOs when evaluating their grant applications, with a view to increasing the quality and impact of activities supported by the Foundation. Similarly, the EYF will provide more detailed comments and recommendations when assessing the activity and financial reports submitted by NGOs.

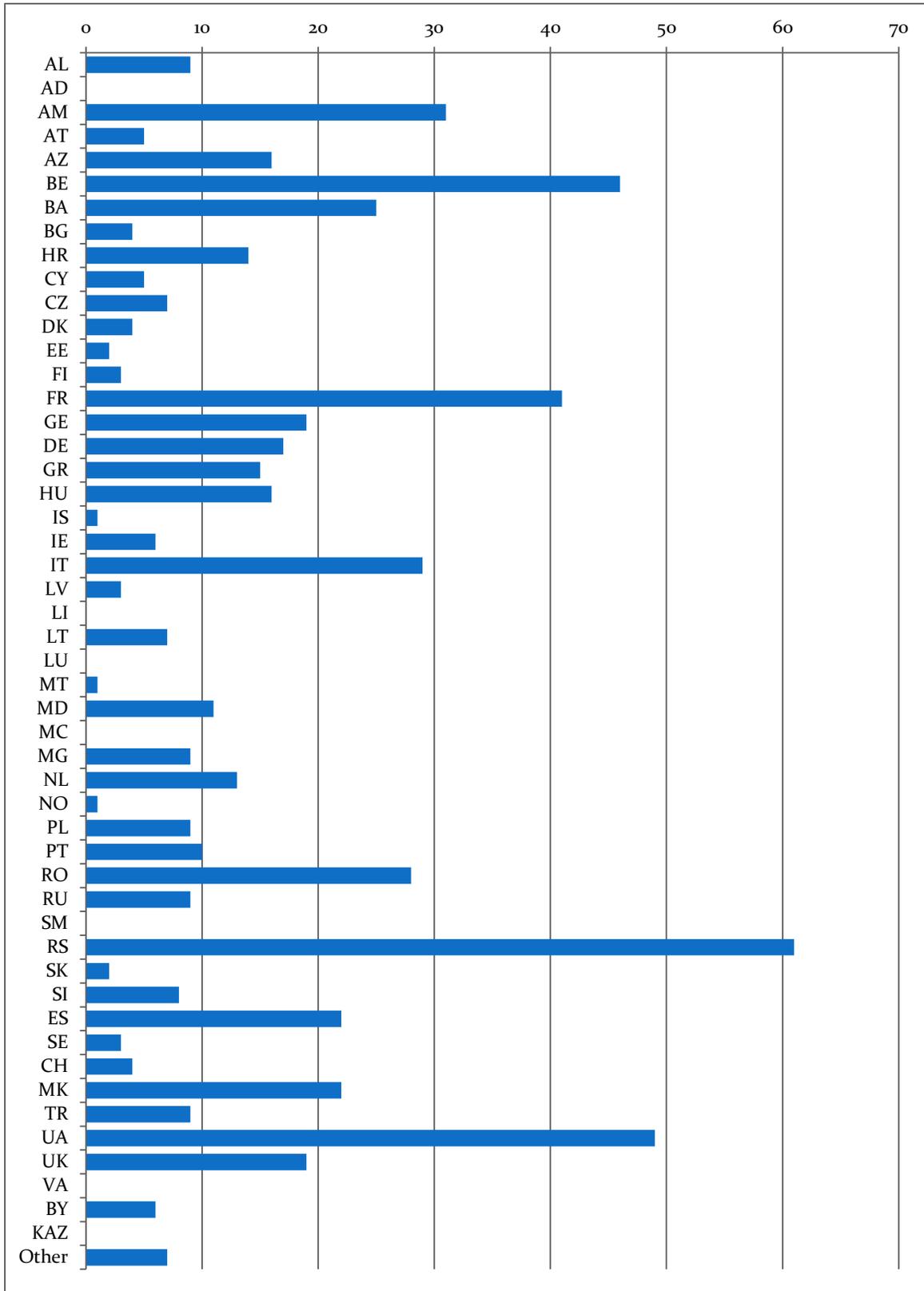
Efforts will be made to involve new youth organisations, particularly in those member states where no or very few NGOs are registered in the EYF database. Here, the EYF will need the support of the members of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) in the countries concerned, as well as the National Youth Councils where they exist. One could also envisage opening up the EYF to new forms and structures of youth participation.

An increased visibility of the Foundation, both within the Council of Europe and in its member states and in European civil society, will be a major challenge for the next two years. Among other things, more and better communication will be ensured through the EYF website and social media, the number of visits to EYF-supported activities will increase and online tools will be developed.

With the new Programming Committee on Youth, the EYF Secretariat will look into the different possibilities available for the EYF to regain its position as a laboratory of ideas and integrate the recent structural evolutions of youth engagement in European civil society.

Finally, the EYF Secretariat must reinforce its team in terms of sustainability and competence development. It is envisaged to reduce the use of temporary contracts (limited to 9 months per year), to create 2-3 positions (5-year renewable contracts) and to recruit for a period of 3 months (for example around grant application deadlines) young activists from civil society who will have the possibility to get to know the EYF better and thus disseminate information about the EYF's work.

Appendix I: NGOs registered with the EYF



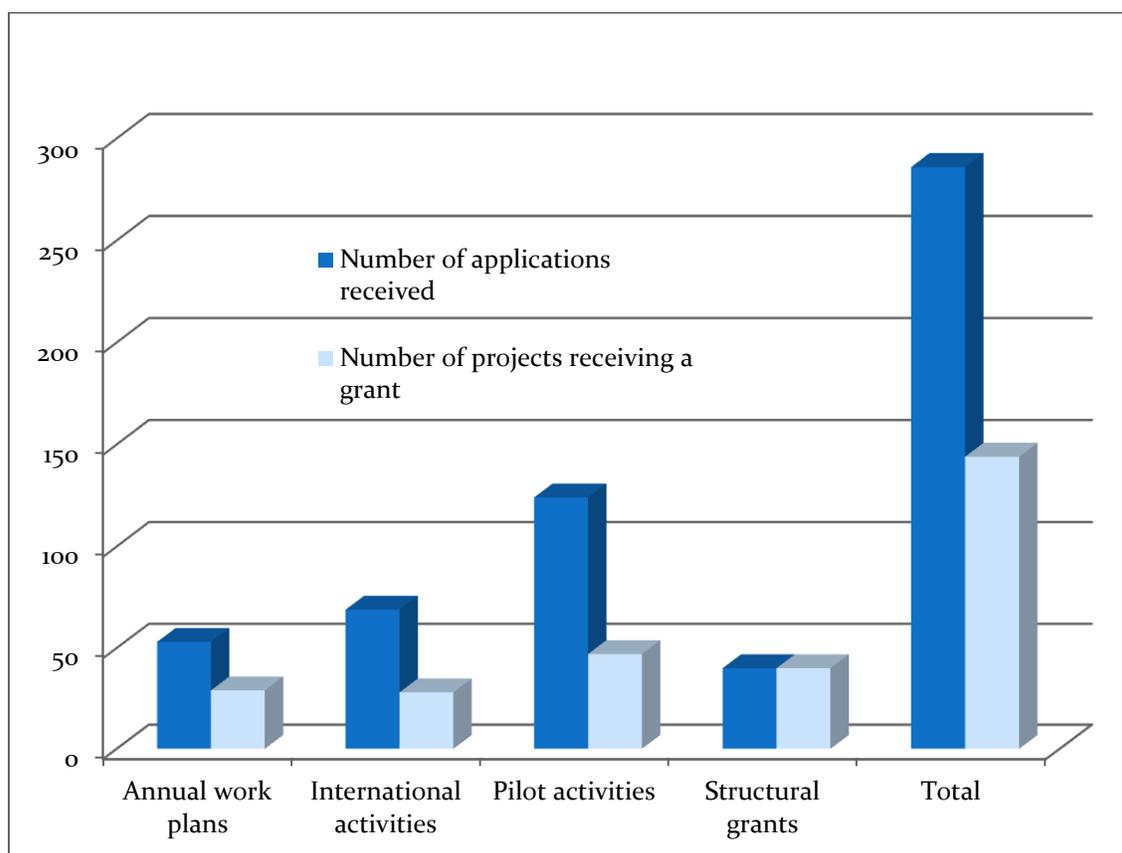
Appendix II: 2015 priorities of the Council of Europe's Youth Sector

Sector	Programme	Expected result
DEMOCRATIC INNOVATION	Good governance	Member states have developed and applied youth policies based on Council of Europe standards, with a view to supporting youth people's access to rights
	Promoting democratic competences	Youth NGOs have increased their competences in human rights education and education for democratic citizenship to act as multipliers in member states
DIVERSITY	Building capacities for dialogue	Youth NGOs are better prepared to contribute in peace building, conflict transformation and intercultural dialogue with neighbouring regions
		Member states and non-governmental partners have actively committed themselves in the youth campaign "No Hate Speech Movement"
PARTICIPATION	Strengthening participation	Developing policy and practice to further quality education at all levels in formal and non-formal settings
		Roma, migrants and other vulnerable groups are empowered and their participation is enhanced through education and youth work
	Strengthening social cohesion	Education and training have contributed to young people's autonomy and a better transition from education to working life/labour market
		The access of young people to social rights is improved by developing youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and xenophobia, in particular in disadvantaged areas and for vulnerable groups

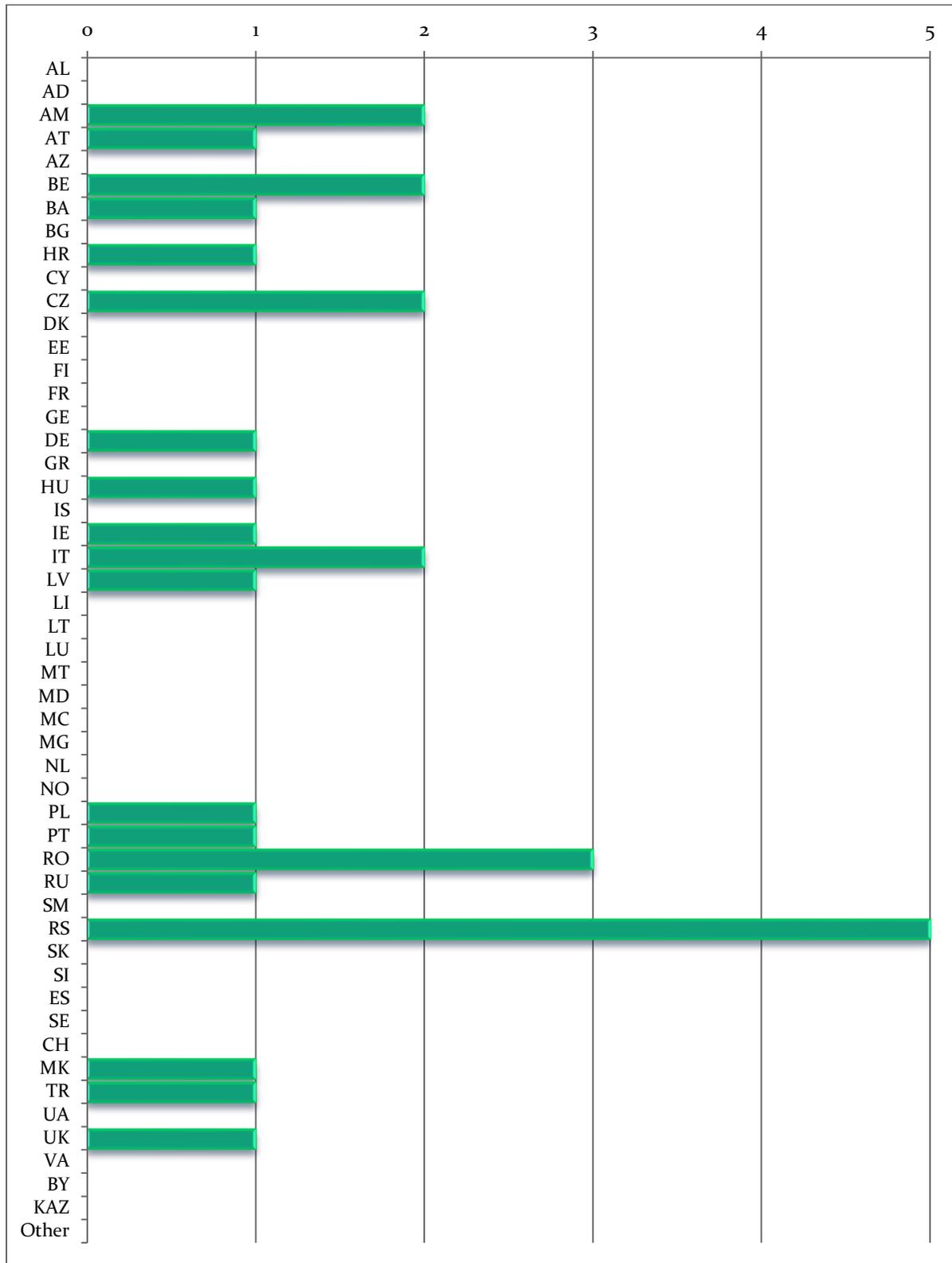
Appendix III: General statistics 2015

	Number of applications	Number of grants adopted	Grants awarded
Annual work plans	53	29*	€ 1 150 300
International activities	69	28	€ 453 000
Pilot activities	124	47	€ 401 950
Structural grants	40	40	€ 629 900
	286	144	€ 2 635 150

*Work plans include 76 international activities and 17 other activities

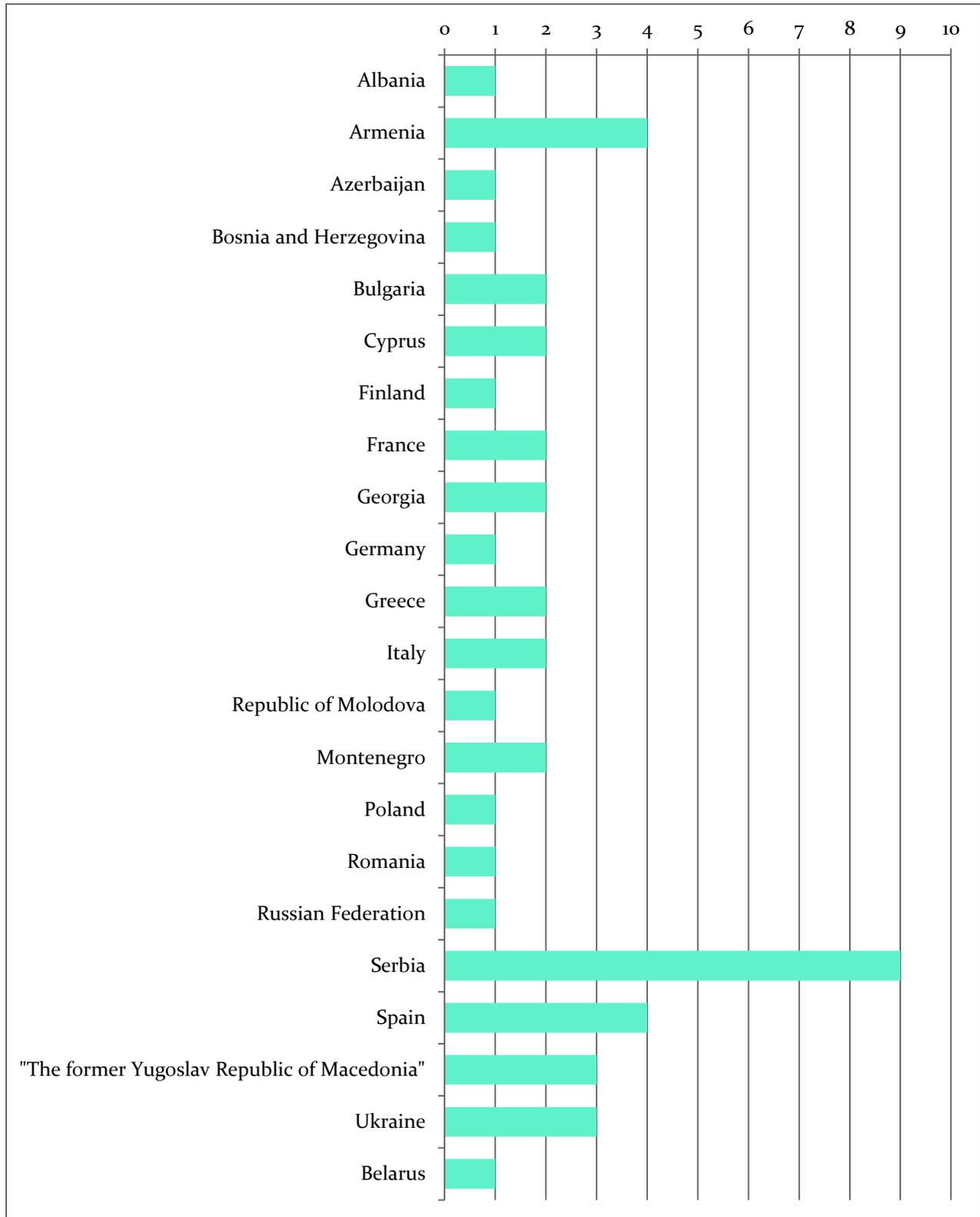


Appendix IV: International activities by country (some activities took place in more than one country)



Appendix V: Pilot activities by country

(some activities took place in more than one country)



Appendix VI: EYF visits to projects in 2015

NGO	ID	Title	Start Date	End Date	City	Country
1 The National Union of Students in Europe (ESU/ESIB)	235.1.IA.2015	The future of the Social Dimension of Higher Education in Europe with student eyes.	18/03/2015	21/03/2015	Riga	Latvia
2 ArmActive-Youth Center (ArmActive)	8181.2.PA.2015	I'm the change! - TC on No Hate Speech	08/04/2015	14/04/2015	Yerevan	Armenia
3 AO Alternativa	8372.1.PA.2015	Solidarity between generations	29/05/2015	04/06/2015	Costesti	Moldova
4 Young Men's Christian Association Parthenopeonlus (YMCA Parth)	4744.2.IA.2015	In the Eyes of the Beholder	20/06/2015	27/06/2015	Cork	Ireland
5 Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)	261.WP.2015 (international)	Training of Trainers	09/08/2015	17/08/2015	Bautzen	Germany
6 Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU)	278.WP.2015 (international)	Train of tolerance tour	01/10/2015	11/10/2015	Kumanovo	"TFYROM"
7 International Falcon Movement Socialist Education International (IFM-SEI)	11.WP.2015 (international)	Development meeting	07/10/2015	11/10/2015	Brussels	Belgium
8 AEQUITAS	7427.3.PA.2015	Combatting Hate: Training of Trainers	13/10/2015	20/10/2015	Limassol	Cyprus
9 United for Intercultural Action European Network against Nationalism Racism Fascism and in Support of Migrants and Refugees (UNITED)	453.WP.2015	UNITED against exclusion and intolerance	14/10/2015	19/10/2015	Budapest	Hungary
10 Rural Youth Europe (RYE)	65.WP.2015 (international)	Work it out	07/11/2015	14/11/2015	Prlekija	Slovenia
11 Association Migration Solidarité et Echanges pour le Développement (AMSED)	3209.1.PA.2015	Renforcement des capacités et sensibilisation des jeunes autour des thématiques de la citoyenneté et de la lutte contre les discours de haine	21/11/2015	21/11/2015	Strasbourg	France

Glossary (country code)

50 signatory states to the European Cultural Convention

Albania	AL	Luxembourg	LU
Andorra	AD	Malta	MT
Armenia	AM	Republic of Moldova	MD
Austria	AT	Monaco	MC
Azerbaijan	AZ	Montenegro	MG
Belgium	BE	Netherlands	NL
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Norway	NO
Bulgaria	BG	Poland	PL
Croatia	HR	Portugal	PT
Cyprus	CY	Romania	RO
Czech Republic	CZ	Russian Federation	RU
Denmark	DK	San Marino	SM
Estonia	EE	Serbia	RS
Finland	FI	Slovak Republic	SK
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Georgia	GE	Spain	ES
Germany	DE	Sweden	SE
Greece	GR	Switzerland	CH
Hungary	HU	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	MK
Iceland	IS	Turkey	TR
Ireland	IE	Ukraine	UA
Italy	IT	United Kingdom	UK
Latvia	LV	Holy See	VA
Liechtenstein	LI	Belarus	BY
Lithuania	LT	Kazakhstan	KAZ

Other: Kosovo²

² All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.