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European Youth Foundation

2014 Overview

**PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE EUROPEAN
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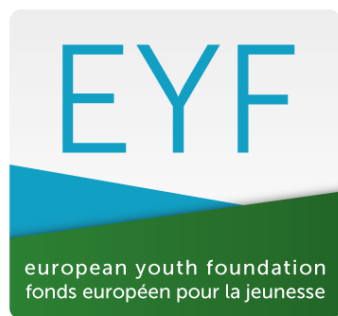
European Youth Foundation

2014 Overview

Introduction

This document gives a statistical overview of the projects and activities of non-governmental youth organisations supported by the European Youth Foundation in 2014, 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 for 2014 have been submitted via the new EYF online system: annual work plans, international activities, structural grants and pilot activities.



As from 2014, annual work plans (WP) and one-off international activities (IA) have replaced the previous Category A and Category B grants. It is therefore difficult to compare statistics with previous years.

A new system of supporting the administrative costs of international youth NGOs has been introduced – the first biennial structural grants were awarded in 2013 for 2014-2015.

With the introduction of its new online system in 2013, the EYF Secretariat has developed a real 2-way communication process, exchanging with youth NGOs before, during and after their activities.

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.

Annual work plans

Within an annual work plan, an organisation can include several activities, either “international”

(at least one - following the criteria for the former Category A grants) or “other” (e.g. local activities, workshops, campaigns, development of tools). Out of 45 applications received, 27 annual work plans were approved for 2014, representing a total amount of € 1,154,000. The average grant awarded was € 42,741 (minimum € 29,000, maximum € 50,000). Three

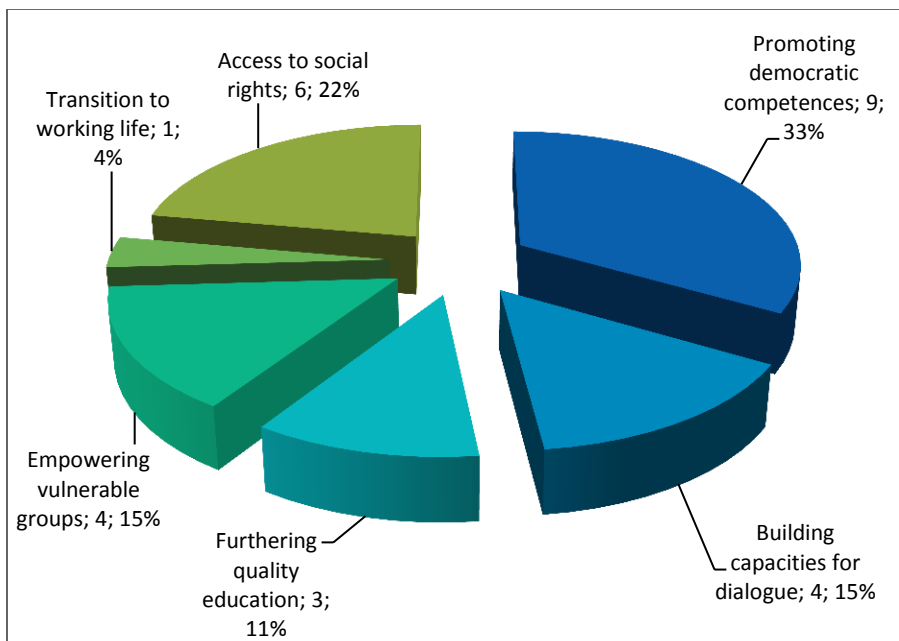
organisations

were awarded the maximum grant of € 50,000. Within the work plans, 89 international activities and 24 other activities were approved.

The chart below shows the distribution of work plans in 2014 according to the expected results defined for the youth sector in 2014. A project can of course fit into one or more priorities, but only one is chosen for statistical purposes.

Work plan:
Empowering young people: combating crises in a changing world: A plan for policies, tools and actions for young people’s autonomy
IFLRY

2014 work plans according to expected results

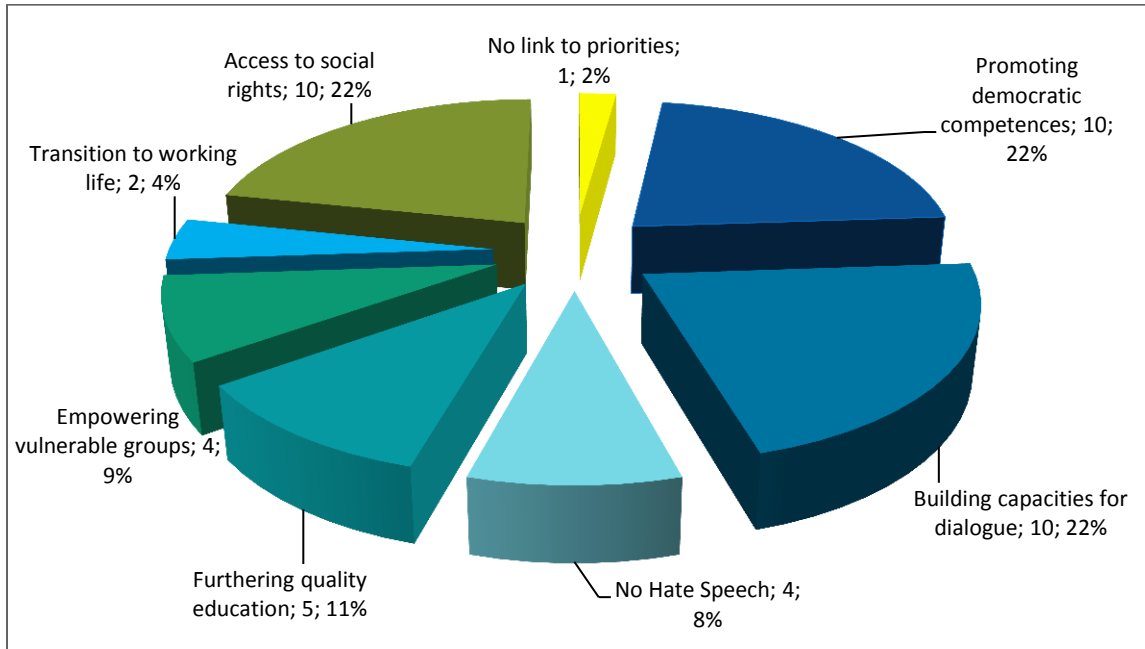


International activities

Out of 102 applications received, 46 one-off international activities were approved for 2014, representing a total amount of € 657,500. The average grant awarded was € 14,293 (minimum € 8,000, maximum € 18,000). More statistics on activities by country can be found in the appendices.

International activity: Youth versus Extremism, European Democrat Students, April 2014

International activities in 2014 according to expected results



Pilot activities

In 2014, 136 grant applications for pilot activities were received and 46 grants were awarded for a total of € 400,400.

A pilot activity has been defined as 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 youth programme. At its meeting in October 2013, the Joint Council on Youth approved the following proposal for dealing with pilot activities in 2014:

When assessing applications for pilot activities taking place in 2014, the EYF will concentrate on those addressing challenges affecting young people at local level, based on innovation or on replication (of best practices for example) and having clear links to and an impact on the local context.

Pilot activities developed in the framework of the priority programmes of the youth sector of the Council of Europe (i.e. Young people combating Hate Speech On-Line, Roma Youth Action Plan, Youth Peace Ambassadors, Enter 2!, Beyond the crisis and Participation at local and regional level) will be considered.

Hate Fighters Programme - capacity building of young artists to combat hate speech online, KOM 018, May- December 2014

Special attention will be given to pilot activities integrating a gender perspective.

A total of 12 grants were awarded to activities linked to the No Hate Speech Movement (total € 108,500).

At its meeting in March 2014, the Joint Council on Youth decided that **urgent priority should be given to pilot activities on capacity building and conflict transformation developed by Ukrainian NGOs, or European NGOs wishing to co-operate with Ukrainian NGOs on these two issues.** This information was widely disseminated via the Youth and EYF websites and the EYF Facebook page. Out of the nine grant applications received on this theme, seven were awarded a grant (total € 53,800).

The Government of Finland provided the EYF with a voluntary contribution of € 15,000 to support the work of NGOs in and for Ukraine. The EYF thanks Finland for its continuous support since many years.

More statistics on activities by country can be found in the appendices.

Structural grants

As from 2014, two-year structural grants (SG₂) have replaced the former Category C grant (for well-established international youth NGOs) and a one-off annual structural grant (SG₁) has replaced the former Category C bis (for NGOs building up a European structure). No one-off structural grant applications were received for 2014.

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 has been awarded in principle for two years and will be 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 2014).



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 develop an instinctive feeling for the specific situations, needs and trends at a grassroots level.

In addition, the EYF decided to use these visits:

- to enhance the cooperation 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. See Appendix III for the list of projects visited.

EYF (R)evolution seminar

The EYF (R)Evolution seminar took place at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg from 11 to 14 March 2014. This seminar aimed at further exchanging updates, news and views about the way the EYF is working since 2013 and about the (perceived) role of the EYF in supporting civil society. Based on the same approach as for the “EYF Reloaded – It all starts with You(th)” which took place in 2013, the seminar involved 29 representatives from 29 different international youth NGOs and networks.



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 of the Foundation. The goals were to share insights from working with the new operational regulations of EYF, to get familiar with the new grants available, to revitalize transparency and accountability between EYF and youth NGOS, to achieve open and informal networking and to share good practices regarding projects.

Based on this enriching experience, the EYF will be organising 2 seminars in 2015: one for international youth NGOs on visibility/communication and one for local/national NGOs on pilot activities.

Participants' experience in one word

EYF team training

The European Youth Foundation team attended a 3-day workshop on project management and non-formal education (NFE) at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg (EYCS) (24-26 September).

The main aims of the training can be summed up as:

- developing new project management skills;
- exploring and learning new methods of non-formal education (NFE);
- transferring acquired knowledge into daily work.

In short: from theory to practice, the EYF team went through “experiential learning”, developed its decision-making processes by using the “6 thinking hats” method, had an in-depth look and

discussion about the project management cycle and linked it to EYF application and reporting processes.

With the help of two trainers with a youth NGO background, the main aims of the 3-day workshop have been achieved. Moreover, as a result of the training, the team expects to be able to provide its stakeholders with more and better support in their activities.



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. This concerns EYF grant applications and reports for work plans and international activities as from 1 April 2014 and pilot activities from 1 January 2014.

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: <http://bit.ly/1hg9MVo>

The system will be running for a 2-year trial period and will be assessed at the end of 2015.

Environmental sustainability

During its 2-year mandate 2012-2013, the Programming Committee on Youth developed guidelines to encourage environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices for activities and events supported by the European Youth Foundation (see document on the EYF website: <http://bit.ly/1hg9MVo>).

The Committee forwarded these guidelines to the Joint Council on Youth, asking the latter to pay particular attention to the issues of environmental sustainability in the youth sector and to take steps towards achieving a more environmentally-friendly programme of activities.

Transversal co-operation

World Forum for Democracy 2014

For the first time, the World Forum for Democracy has a clear youth dimension: “From participation to influence: can youth revitalize democracy?”. The Joint Council on Youth therefore supported the youth sector’s participation in the World Forum and agreed that the European Youth Foundation should allocate the adequate financial, logistical and educational support from its budget. A financial plan was validated by the Programming Committee on Youth at its June 2014 meeting, setting aside a budget of € 410,000. 222 participants and 8 trainers have been selected and are working online on a platform specially created for this activity.

During this online work before the Forum, the participants will be setting up a campaign to support some of the initiatives presented during the event. They will also be preparing the presentation of new prototypes for democracies.



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

At its meeting in December 2013, the Programming Committee on Youth approved a request from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to support the participation of youth representatives at the Congress session in October 2014, and decided that the EYF should contribute up to €20,000 for this purpose. The trainers and participants have been selected in conformity with the youth sector’s standards, in co-operation with the EYF Secretariat.



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

- enhance youth participation at local and regional levels by exploring the concept of youth participation, the instruments used to promote it and what is needed to achieve real youth participation;
- share their understanding of their respective roles in policy making at local and regional levels;
- encourage young people to enter into politics and to stand for election at local and regional levels;
- convince member states to include young people in their national delegations to the Congress, both as full and substitute members;

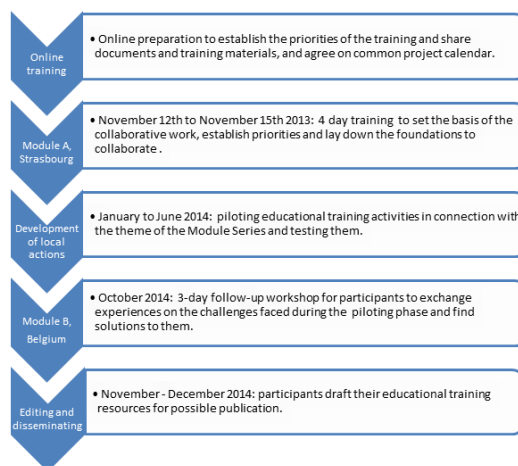
- promote co-operation between elected representatives and young people in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.

Pestalozzi Programme

The long-term training course “Respect and responsible attitudes in the virtual and social space” is a first-time co-operation between the European Youth Foundation and the Pestalozzi programme of the Council of Europe (Education Department), linking teacher trainers, adult educators and youth leaders. The course for educational practitioners runs over 18 months and is made up of two face-to-face modules and of online co-operation and support.

Within the framework of the training course the participants explore the role which educational practitioners can play to develop the kind of responsible attitudes and behaviour in the virtual social space, based on the values of human rights, which are an essential framework for living together in democracy and diversity. Moreover the course offers the opportunity to learn together as well as to plan and carry out collaborative and transversal educational projects.

A maximum of € 65,000 from the EYF budget is devoted to this programme (€ 61,000 was spent in 2013).



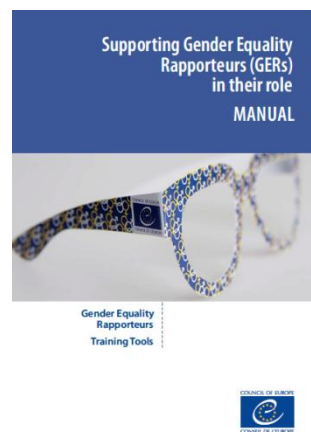
Gender mainstreaming

The Joint Council on Youth is following closely the Council of Europe’s Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017, notably via the nomination of a Gender Equality Rapporteur. In addition, the EYF is contributing to Strategic Objective 5: Achieving Gender Mainstreaming in all policies and

measures, by promoting the integration of a gender perspective in pilot activities run by non-governmental youth organisations with the support of the European Youth Foundation.

When submitting a grant application to the EYF, youth NGOs are asked to indicate how a gender perspective is included throughout the whole process of their activity. This does not just mean having an equal number of female and male participants, but involves looking at a project through gender glasses, taking into account the different needs and circumstances of both young women and young men.

As there are very different understandings of what gender mainstreaming means and how it can be put into practice, the EYF would like to develop a user-friendly tool for youth NGOs on how to integrate a gender perspective in youth activities. So as not to reinvent the wheel, a call was posted on the EYF website and Facebook page, asking youth NGOs to share any materials, good practices or tools with the EYF.



www.coe.int/equality

PR, communication and visibility

Since the beginning of 2013, along with the implementation of the new regulations, grant categories and new EYF approach (focus on content and methodology), the EYF is also increasing its communication efforts.

The main channel of communication is the **EYF website** (<http://eyf.coe.int>) launched in March 2013. 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.

In 2013, EYF also launched its own **YouTube** channel, publishing 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** has been redesigned according to the new visual identity and translated into 16 languages.

While seeking more effective communication, a step further was taken in 2014 when the EYF launched in January the monthly **EYF Newsletter** and in April a **Facebook page**.



The aim of the Newsletter is to keep stakeholders informed by republishing the most important news available on the website. The Facebook page is a success story with 1,000 people following in the first 2 days. A “**Global Overview 2013**” was published online.

All publications, videos, articles, documents are available on the EYF website.

Communication channels	2013	2014	Comments
Website	30,602 (Mar-Dec) 3,000 visitors per month	39,429 (Jan-Oct) 4,000 visitors per month	- Possible increase of visitors due to Newsletter and Facebook - Visitor countries: Romania, republic of Serbia, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Czech republic
Facebook	-	3,736 likes (Apr-Oct)	- Increasing number of engaged followers (likes, shares, comments) - 57% women, 42% men - Country fans: Azerbaijan, Republic of Serbia, Armenia, Italy, Indonesia
YouTube	Launched Oct.	2,961 views 29 subscribers	7 videos made public (new videos to be published)
Newsletter	Launched end January	~ 600 directly reached	-
Leaflet	EN, FR, RU, DE	16 languages (11 online)	Aim to make available in all CoE member country languages
SlideShare	Launched March	4,945 views (launch-July)	Few followers 28 downloads

Challenges

The main challenges for the European Youth Foundation in 2014 were directly linked to the entry into force of its new Operational Regulations on 1 January 2013, and the introduction of the new online system that same year.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the online system is fully operational, with thorough testing by the Secretariat. In order to make sure the system is as user-friendly as possible, the European Youth Foundation Secretariat has on several occasions encouraged open discussions, asking for feedback about the experience of working with the system, and its clarity and efficiency.

As from 2014, annual work plans (WP) and one-off international activities (IA) replaced former Category A and Category B grants. The two-year structural grants (SG₂) have replaced Category C and a one-off annual structural grant (SG₁) has replaced Category C bis. The European Youth Foundation Secretariat has been trying to make sure that the new grant categories are clearly explained and understood. It is becoming apparent that the annual work plans (WP), which enable an international organisation to submit one application with several linked activities, are appreciated by NGOs as they guarantee more sustainability for their work. The same applies for the two-year structural grants.

On the other hand, the new category of pilot activity grants (PA) represents a challenge. The number of applications compared to previous pilot project applications (Category D and D-HRE) has decreased, possibly due to difficulties in grasping the notion of a pilot activity being an “intervention”. However, as this is a very innovative concept that has been in place for only one year, the Secretariat is confident that it is only a matter of time before more applications are received. The EYF plans to organise a seminar with local-based youth NGOs early in 2015 to continue exchanging views and experiences on EYF-supported pilot activities.

Throughout the year, the Secretariat has been working to ensure that the new approach of the Foundation, focusing on quality, content and methodology, is understood by NGOs. By giving comments and advice in the online system (before, during and after an activity), or via the new European Youth Foundation website, Facebook page or e-mail, the Secretariat has been communicating about the new working approach as often and transparently as possible.

There are two major challenges for the Foundation for the immediate future: ensuring that the notions and concepts of the various grant categories are fully integrated by NGOs, and safeguarding an experienced and motivated staff. Half of the Secretariat are working on temporary contracts, i.e. limited to 9 months per year. While this means new staff and fresh ideas, it also implies a certain turnover and investing a lot of time in training. Despite these challenges, the EYF is committed to continue the reflection process in order to adapt the ways of working of the European Youth Foundation to the needs of both member states and NGOs/youth civil society.

More generally, and following the introduction of Erasmus+, we should perhaps think about the role and place of the EYF in the European context, as well as in relation to support systems at national, bilateral and multilateral level. It may even be necessary to widen the scope and discuss the role of the EYF in this new environment, notably in view of the financial situation of member states. One of young people's main concerns today is the question of unemployment. With its limited resources, the EYF is of course not in a position to take up this challenge, but it can support activities dealing with new approaches to tackle the problem. The European Union has better tools and more resources in this field.

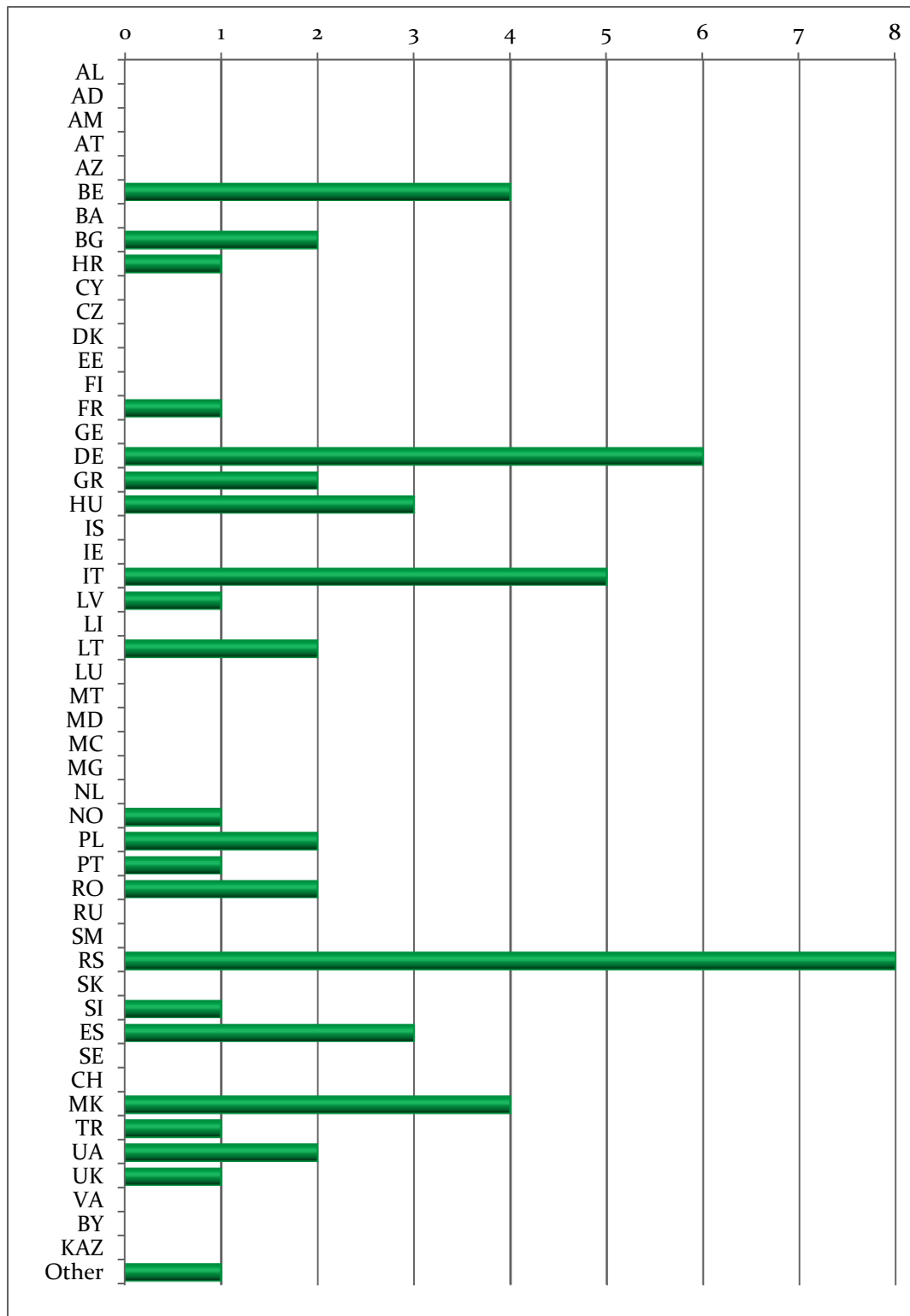
Why not think about a complementary approach to systems of supporting youth activities? For example, the Media Plan adopted by European cinema in the 1990s could be a reference: at the time, the European Commission concentrated on sectors intervening before (notably training and script-writing) and after (distribution and cinemas) the production phase, and production itself was entrusted to the Council of Europe through the creation of the Partial Agreement Eurimages.

Even though the European systems of support for young people try to involve a wide public, it is to be noted that the most disadvantaged youth are less concerned by these offers. The EYF could play a role here, in a way to be defined.

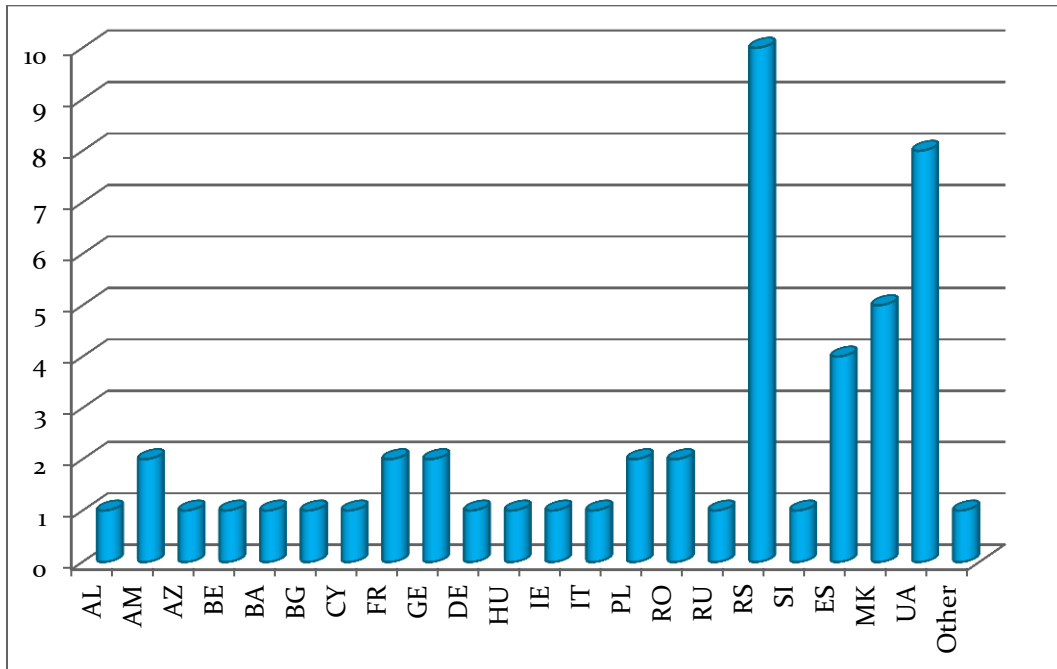
In other terms, the EYF could open its financing possibilities (at least for a trial period) to activities on themes which have not been dealt with enough or at all: for example, intergenerational dialogue as an important factor for peace and social inclusion. The EYF could thus support new types of activity: for example pilot activities at European level (and not only local level), or give priority to activities developed jointly by several international NGOs in order to "cross-collateralize" approaches, perspectives and target groups in the different parts of the project. This notion of "cross-collateralization" should be looked into in order to envisage ways of reacting to societal events and problems that go beyond communitarian approaches: what about young muslims defending the rights of young LGBT, or young Christians going on a crusade against islamophobia, etc? These are just some examples of moving from a communitarian approach to a more universal approach.

Finally, it is perhaps time to revive the notion of a laboratory of ideas, mechanisms and themes: the EYF could reserve a part of its budget (albeit modest at the start) to support new approaches which aim to reflect and act outside the more traditional system.

Appendix I: International activities by country (some activities take place in more than one country)



Appendix II: Pilot activities by country (some activities take place in more than one country)



Appendix III: EYF project visits 2014

	Applicant organisation	No.	Project/Category		Year	Title	Start Date	End Date	City	Country
1	Mine Vaganti European Youth Group	7312	3	PA	2014	Gender Human Rights in Sardinia	11/04/2014	15/04/2014	Olbia	Italy
2	African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe	7275	2	IA	2014	Birth of Day: Gaining Visibility and Active Participation	14/05/2014	20/05/2014	Santa Cruz	Portugal
3	Youth in Free Initiative	5554	1	PA	2014	Training Course: Empowering Youth activism and Volunteerism	16/05/2014	23/05/2014	Kukes	Albania
4	European Union of Deaf Youth	7537	WP (international)		2014	Reaching the Deaf Youth Community	04/07/2014	13/07/2014	Primorsko	Bulgaria
5	Don Bosco Youth Net IVZW	924	1	IA	2014	All Alien!	20/07/2014	27/07/2014	Benedikt-beuren	Germany
6	European Peer Training Organisation	2296	WP (international)		2014	Cultivating capacities for quality peer training	26/08/2014	28/08/2014	Wexford	Ireland
7	The European Law Students Association	328	3	IA	2014	Mid IFP: Freedom of Expression	26/11/2014	30/11/2014	Brussels	Belgium

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: Kosovo¹

¹ 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.