



Fact sheet

Trends in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Projects Addressing “Democratic Participation” (2021–2024)

Trends in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Projects Addressing “Democratic Participation” (2021–2024).

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Publisher:

SALTO Participation and Information Resource Centre

Recommended Citation:

Moxon, D. and Bárta, O. (2026) *Trends in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Projects Addressing “Democratic Participation” (2021–2024)*. SALTO Participation and Information Resource Centre.

Proofread by Interlex OÜ and

Designed by Refleks Design Agency

Published: September 2026

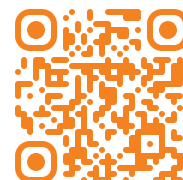
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“Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement” is one of the horizontal priorities of the Erasmus+ programme.

Two reports from SALTO PI explored trends in projects addressing this priority that were funded through either **Erasmus+ (E+)** or the **European Solidarity Corps (ESC)** during the 2021 to 2024 call years.

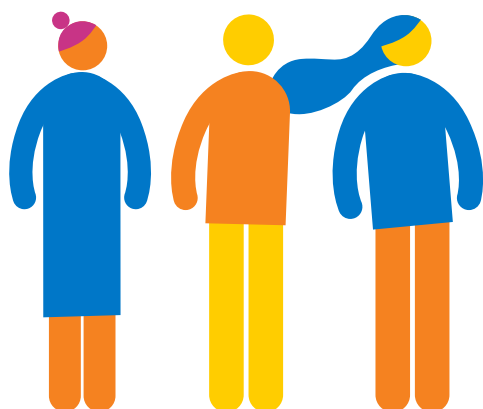
The research sought to identify all projects that either addressed the participation priority as a topic or theme, or could be classified as contributing to the participation priority based on their project type.¹

For simplicity, we refer to these projects as “participation projects”.

This fact sheet sets out key trends in the participation projects that were granted funding between 2021 and 2024.

The full reports, as well as a discussion on the methodology and its limitations, can be found here:

[Participation Resource Pool](#)



1. For example, all European Solidarity Corps volunteering projects contribute to the priority, because volunteering is strongly connected to the priority.

Trends in E+

11.326

PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

were funded between 2021 and 2024, equivalent to approximately 10% of all projects funded through the E+ programme during the same period.

583.401

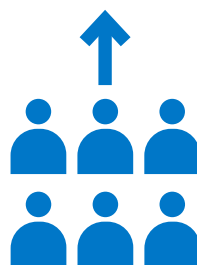
PARTICIPANTS

have engaged with these projects

The actual number of participation projects may still be higher than these figures as the methodology used for this research has some limitations.

≈ **x2** THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATION PROJECTS FUNDED EACH YEAR HAS INCREASED.

Almost twice as many projects were funded in 2024 compared with those funded in 2021. This growth is likely driven by increases in the E+ programme budget rather than an increasing proportion of projects addressing the participation priority.



THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

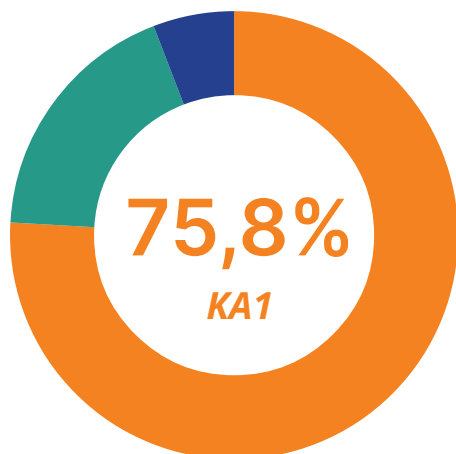
per participation project has increased from approximately **61** in 2021 to approximately **74** in 2024.



THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES

per project also increased, from approximately **5** in 2021 to approximately **20** in 2024.

This increase was proportionally greater than the overall increase in participant numbers, suggesting that projects became more inclusive over the period.



THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF PARTICIPATION PROJECT

was **Key Action 1 (KA1)** – *Learning Mobility of Individuals*, representing **75,8%** of all participation projects, followed by **Key Action 2 (KA2)** – *Cooperation Among Organisations and Institutions*, representing **18,2%** of all participation projects.

This is a lower proportion of KA2 projects than across the E+ programme as a whole.

THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF ENTITY TO COORDINATE PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

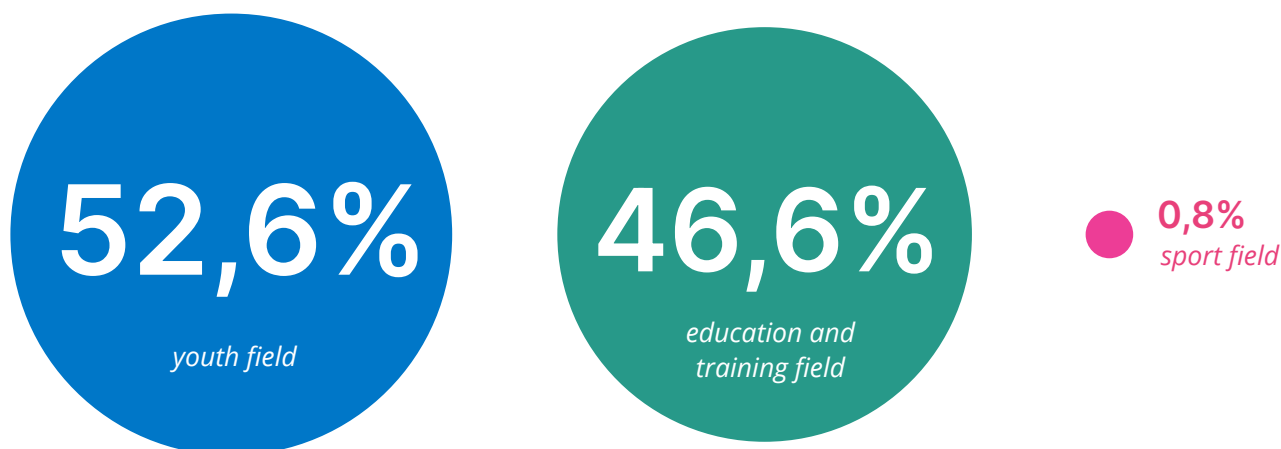
42,8%

are Civil society organisations (CSOs), such as NGOs, foundations, and associations.

They represent **42,8%** of participation projects; however, this figure has declined from **49,2%** in 2021 to **39,7%** in 2024. The next most common type of entity is *schools and formal education bodies*, accounting for **17,4%** of participation projects.

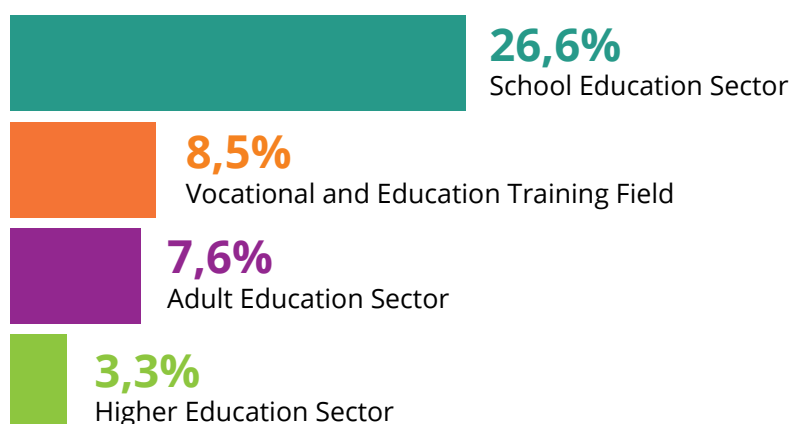
Trends in E+

Comparison between sectors



Just over half (52,6%) of participation projects were in the *youth field* and **just under half (46,6%)** were in the *education and training field*. The *sport field* represents a small number of participation projects (0,8%). This ratio remained relatively consistent across the 2021–2024 period.

The **46,6%** of projects in the *education and training field* include the:



There may be potential for increasing the number of participation projects within the *education and training field*, particularly in the *higher education sector*.



Participation projects in the *youth field* engage, on average, approximately **112 participants** per project, compared with approximately **18** in the *education and training field*.



Trends in the ESC

Nearly all projects funded through the ESC address the participation priority, reflecting the ESC's focus on civic volunteering and engagement.

Volunteering projects engage approximately **14 participants** per project, while *solidarity projects* engage approximately **6 participants** per project. Overall, ESC participation projects engage approximately **9–10 participants** per project.



14
PARTICIPANTS

6
PARTICIPANTS

Although the number of ESC projects addressing the participation priority is somewhat similar to the number of E+ projects addressing the participation priority (9.684 compared to 11.326), **E+ participation projects have reached substantially more participants than ESC projects** (583.401 compared to 90.909).

The ESC is not divided into sectors and fields in the same way as E+, but it is clear that *schools and formal education* bodies represent **approximately 11,1%** of coordinating organisations in participation projects. The proportion of ESC participation projects that are implemented under the *youth field* is dependent on what definition of *youth field* is used.

9.684

ESC PROJECTS

were **supporting the participation priority** between 2021 and 2024. Approximately half of these were *solidarity projects* and the other half were *volunteering projects*.

47,7%

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

(NGOs, foundations and associations) accounted for approximately **half (47,7%) of all organisations coordinating ESC participation projects**. However, this proportion has declined from 63,0% in 2021 to 31,0% in 2024. Issues in the way the data are recorded make it difficult to identify which types of organisations have taken their place.

11,1%



Recommendations for enhancing the Democratic Participation priority in E+ and ESC projects

National Agencies, the SALTO Network and programme decision makers should consider:

- Taking steps to expand the number of E+ participation projects in the *education and training field*, particularly in the *higher education sector*, while maintaining the *youth field's* high participant reach and cost-effectiveness.

- Providing targeted support and outreach to NGOs to reverse the declining trend in civil society-led projects within E+.

- Ensuring regular collaboration between SALTO ESC and SALTO PI, and align National Agency work relating to democratic participation in E+ with their work relating to ESC.

- Merging support for participation resources and training to serve both E+ and ESC beneficiaries simultaneously, rather than creating separate materials.

- Boosting the number of E+ KA2 partnerships focused on participation to align with overall programme trends and foster quality and exchange.

- Taking steps to improve data collection and monitoring across both the ESC and E+, particularly with regard to the classification and monitoring of applicant organisation types.



