



E+ Report

Overview of Erasmus+ Projects Addressing “Democratic Participation” (2021–2024)

Overview of Erasmus+ Projects Addressing “Democratic Participation” (2021–2024).

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Resource Centre

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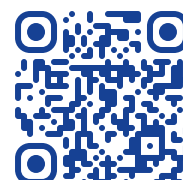


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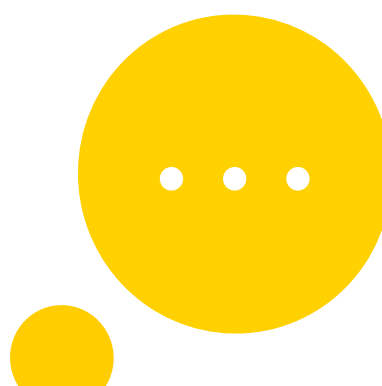
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List of Abbreviations

AE	Adult Education
DG EAC	Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
E+	Erasmus+
ESC	European Solidarity Corps
E&T	Education and Training Field
HE	Higher Education Sector
KA1	Key Action 1
KA2	Key Action 2
KA3	Key Action 3
Misc. E&T	Miscellaneous /cross-sector within the Education and Training Field
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PFO	Participants with fewer opportunities
SE	School Education Sector
SPO	Sport Field / Sector
VET	Vocational Education and Training
YOU	Youth Field / Sector



Introduction

This report presents data on Erasmus+ (E+) projects funded during the 2021–2024 call years. It focuses specifically on projects funded under the [“Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement”](#) priority of the E+ programme. This analysis identifies the number and characteristics of projects addressing this priority.

Not all E+ projects address the participation priority. This research identifies these projects and provides an overview of trends relating to the participation priority within the E+ programme.

Overall, during the 2021–2024 period, the E+ programme:

- Awarded project grants worth a total of around **EUR 14,2 billion** to **111.739 projects**.
- **Awarded 59,0%** of grants as KA1, 37,0% of grants as KA2, 2,0% as KA3, and 2,0% as Jean Monnet (based on 2021–2023 data).¹
- **Supported 4.883.406 participants** in KA1 learning mobility activities.²

€14,2bIn
total project
grants worth

111.739

total projects



1. <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/factsheets-statistics-evaluations/statistics/data/overview>, data extracted Jan 2026
2. <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/factsheets-statistics-evaluations/statistics/data/learning-mobility-projects> data accessed Jan 2026

Methodology

The data presented in this report are based on an analysis of the publicly available version of the [E+ project Results Database](#)³, supplemented with additional data from a linked internal (unpublished) version of the same database provided by the European Commission (DG EAC). These datasets were combined to produce a consolidated database. The publicly available database served as the primary data source, while the additional data variables from the internal database enabled analysis of data variables not available in the public version alone.

The analysis identifies projects funded during the

2021–2024 E+ call years that address the “participation” priority either as a theme or primary topic. This includes projects that explicitly identify the participation priority, or related topics, as part of their content, as well as project types that are considered to contribute to the participation priority.

The analysis is organised by fields and sectors within the E+ programme. These categories are presented below. To facilitate comparison, the *youth field* (YOU) and the *sport field* (SPO) are treated as both a field and a sector, as neither contains separate sector classifications within the programme.

FIELDS	SECTORS
Youth Field	Youth (YOU) (No distinct sectors within youth)
Education and Training Field (E&T)	Adult Education (AE)
	Misc. projects/cross-sector within E&T (Misc. E&T) ⁴
	Higher Education (HE)
	School Education (SE)
Sport Field	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
	Sport Field (SPO) (No distinct sectors within Sport)

Results of the analysis are summarised in this report and supported by figures. All included figures and tables are produced by the authors using the consolidated database. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all data refer to the period 2021–2024. In order to simplify the terminology, projects that address the participation priority are referred to as, “participation projects” or “projects”.

There are some limitations in the source data and methodology, most notably, the analysis is not able to include Learning Mobility activities

organised by E+ accredited organisations and Jean Monnet Modules, Chairs and Centres of Excellence. It should also be noted that there are E+ funded projects that address the participation priority by using high-quality participatory methodology to develop the project, without actually addressing participation as a topic. These projects cannot be identified within the source data. As a result, the figures in this research underrepresent the number of projects which address the participation priority. A full outline and discussion on the methodology can be found in the accompanying technical document.

3. DG-EAC (n.d.) Erasmus+ project results, accessible at <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects>

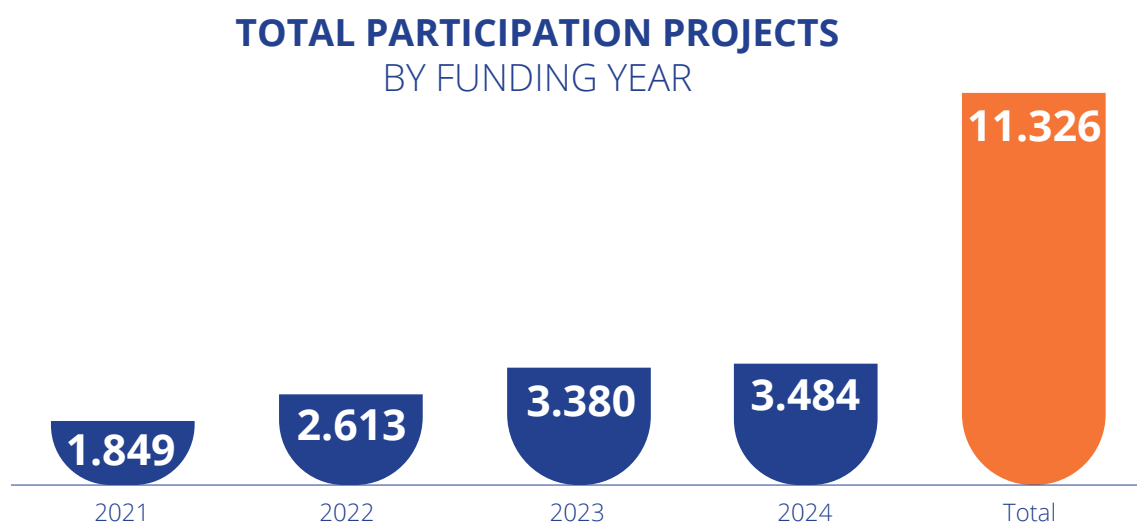
4. This category is made up exclusively of KA3 grants for civil society co-operation in Education and Training. This category of grant cannot easily be linked to an education and training sector.

Basic Characteristics of Participation Projects

Overall, 11.326 participation projects were identified between 2021–2024. Over the four years, an overall increase in the number of projects funded annually can be seen, with almost twice as many projects funded in 2024 by comparison to those funded in 2021. The substantive growth occurred between 2021 and 2023, with increases of approximately 800 projects per year, while growth between 2023 and 2024 was relatively modest (see Figure 1). As the overall number of E+ projects funded has also increased over the same period, the increase in the number of participation projects is likely to be driven by this overall trend. The proportion of participation projects compared to overall projects funded has remained highly consistent across the years and participation projects represent around 10% of all projects funded each year⁵.



Figure 1: Total E+ Funded Participation Projects by Year



5. Mean per year= 10,14%, SD = 0,37%, based on data extracted March 2025, from <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/factsheets-statistics-evaluations/statistics/data/overview>

Just over half (52.6%) of the Participation Projects were in the *youth field*, followed by 46.6% in the E&T. A very small proportion (0,08%) of projects

were in the SPO (see Figure 2). This distribution remained rather consistent throughout the 2021–2024 period (see Figure 3).

Figure 2: Ratios of Fields within Participation Projects, 2021-2024

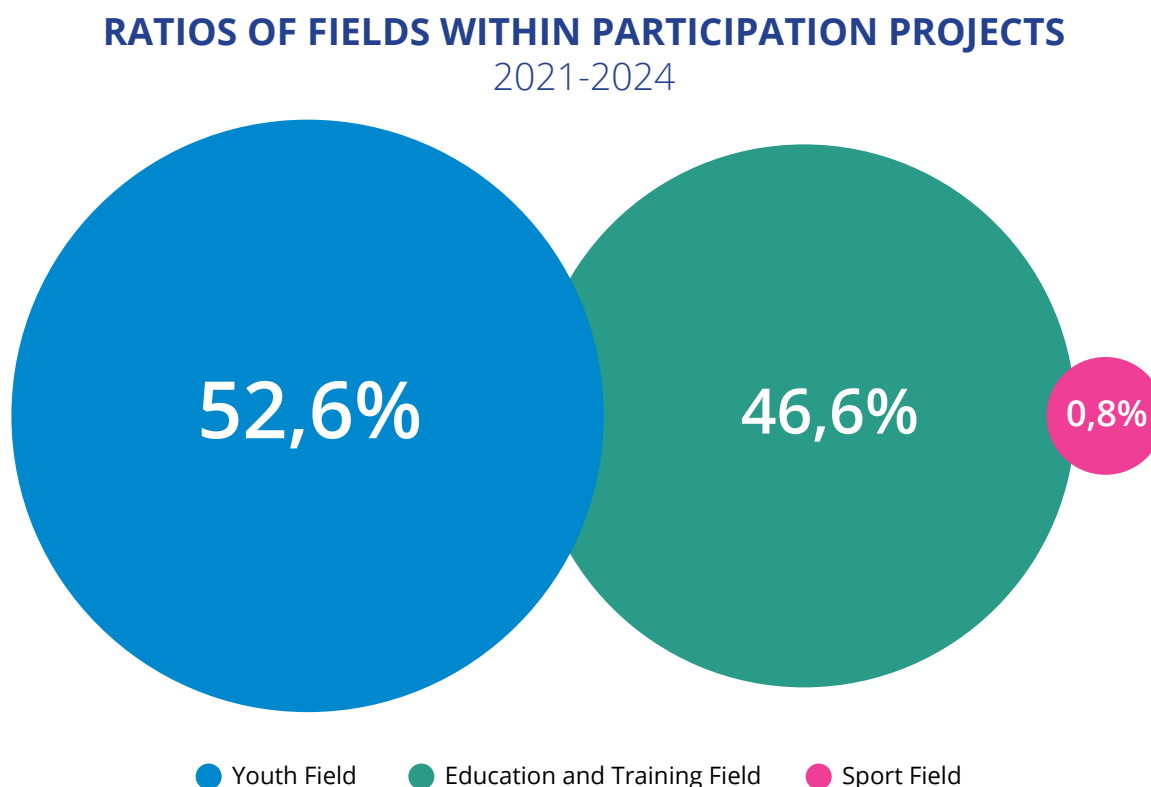
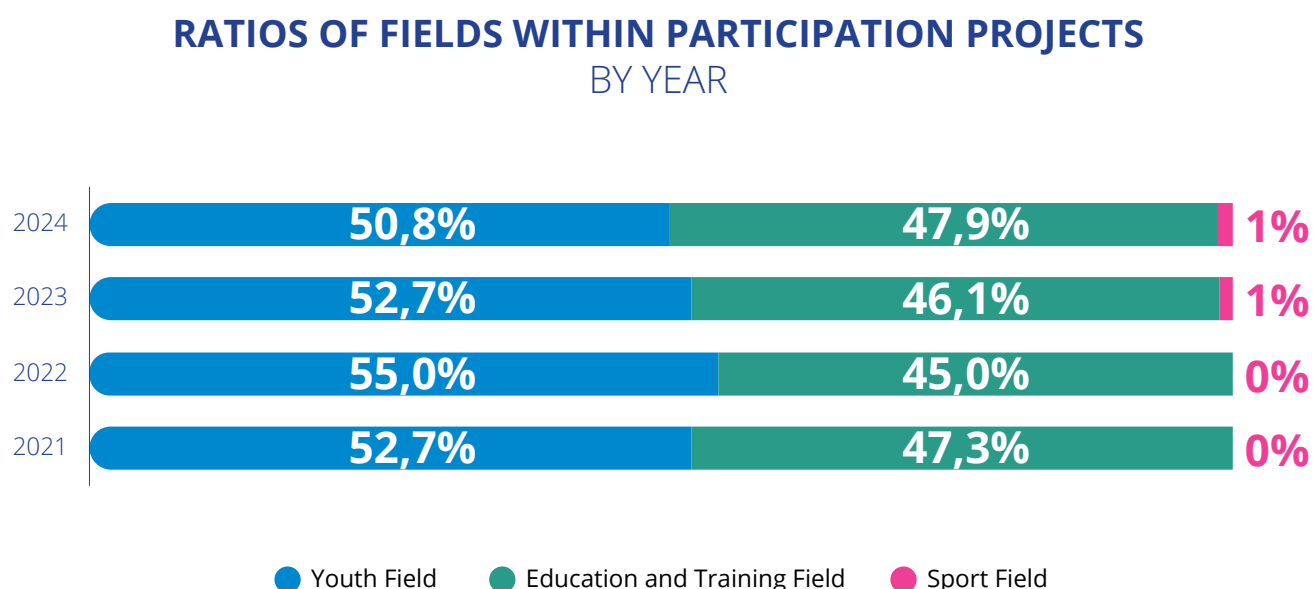


Figure 3: Ratios of Fields within Participation Projects by Year



Among the sectors, *youth* accounted for the largest share, representing more than half of all funded projects. This was followed by SE, which accounted for 26,2% of all funded projects (see Figure 4). The distribution across sectors remained relatively stable throughout the 2021–2024 period (see Figure 5). Among the Key Actions, Learning Mobility of Individuals accounted for the largest share of participation projects (75,7% of all projects), followed by Partnerships for Cooperation and

Exchanges of Practices (18,2%; see Figure 6). The distribution of project types stabilised between 2022 and 2024, with 2021 representing the only year in which the proportions differed noticeably (see Figure 7). This is likely because the current E+ programme was just starting in 2021. Consequently, the data from 2022–2024 provide a more representative picture of the distribution of participation project types under the current E+ programme.

Figure 4: Sector Representation in Participation Projects, 2021 to 2024

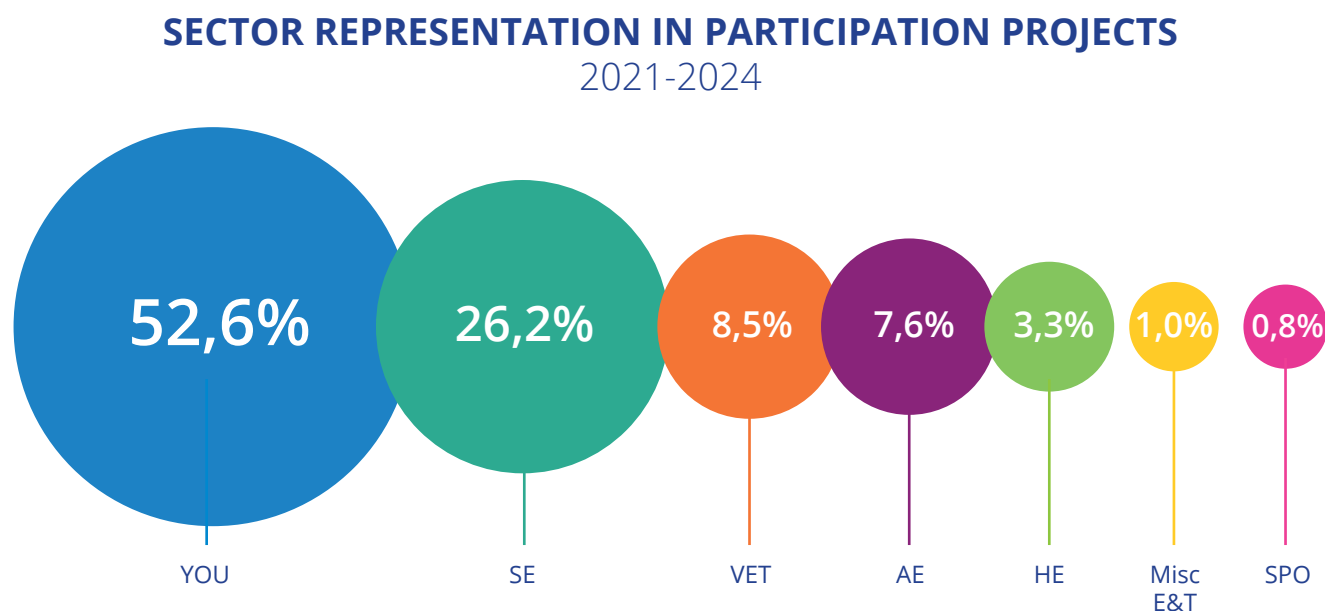


Figure 5: Ratios of Sectors within Participation Projects by Years

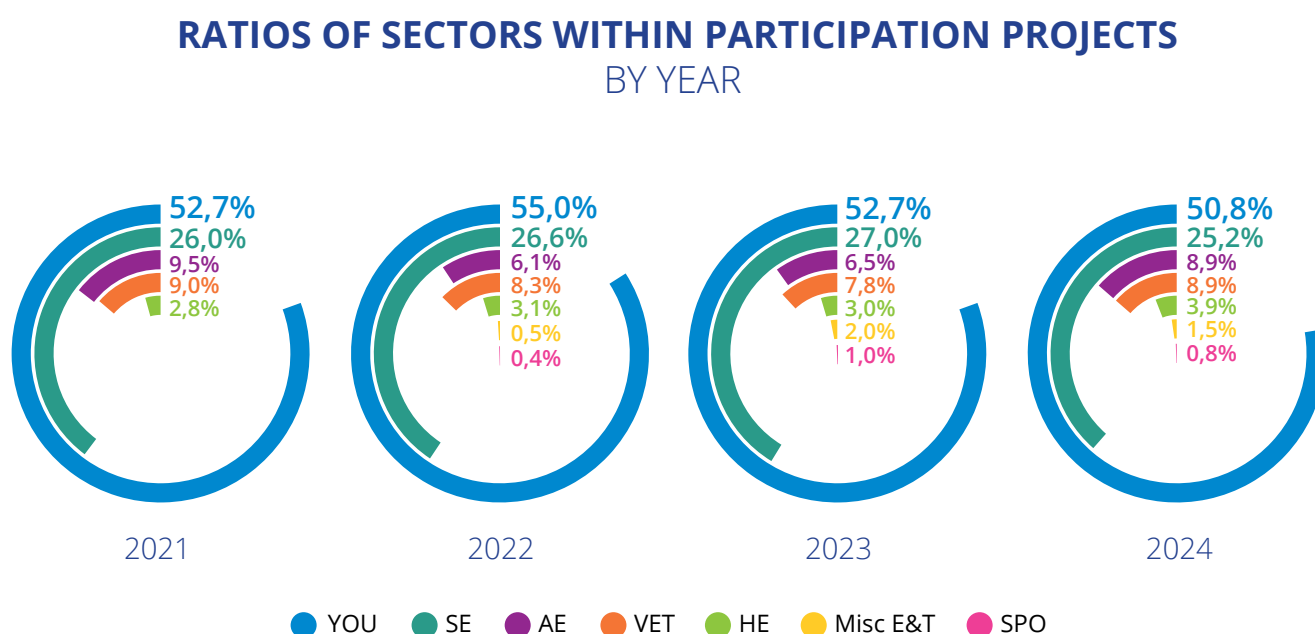


Figure 6: Ratios of Key Actions within Participation Projects, 2021 to 2024

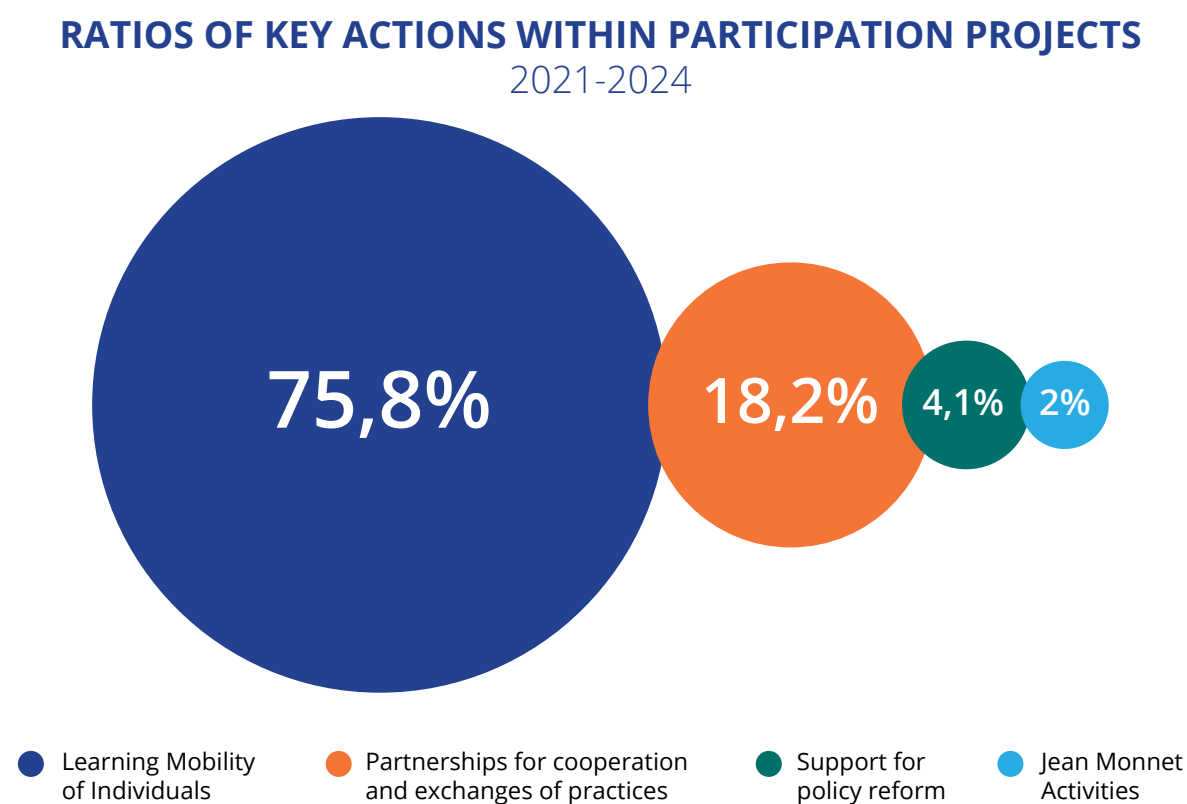
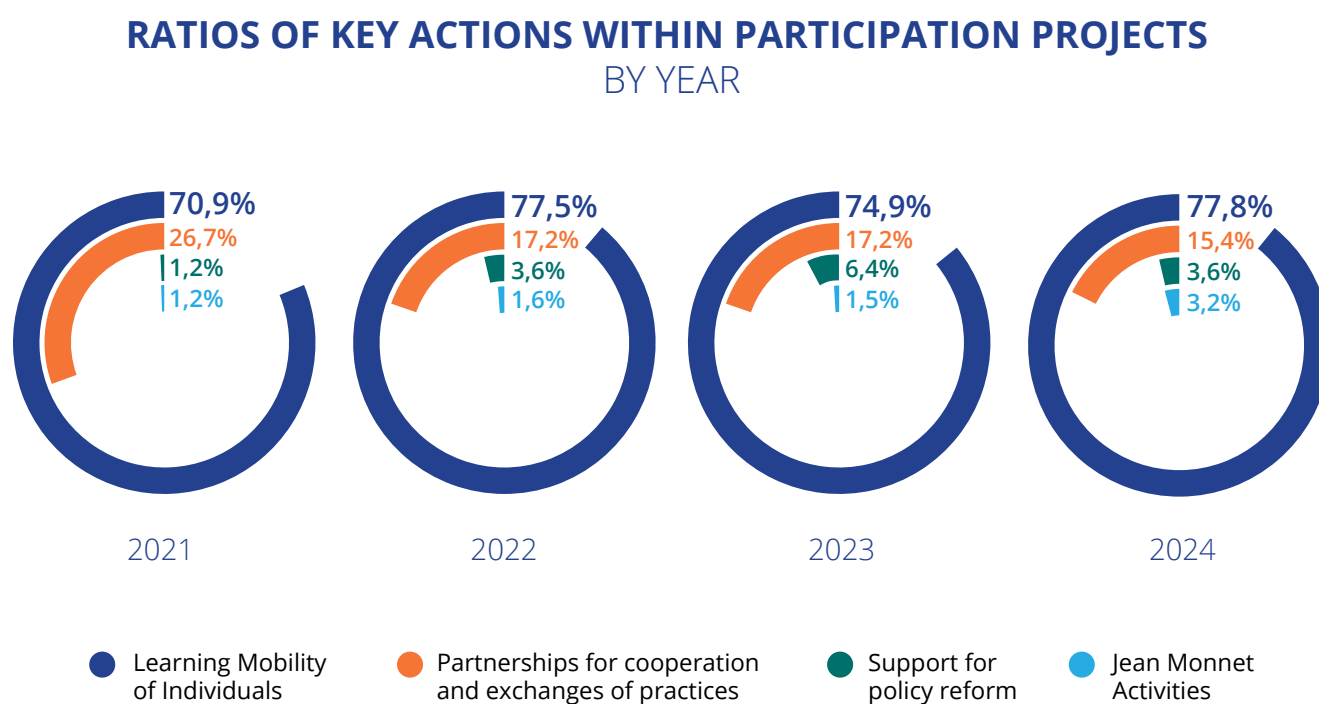


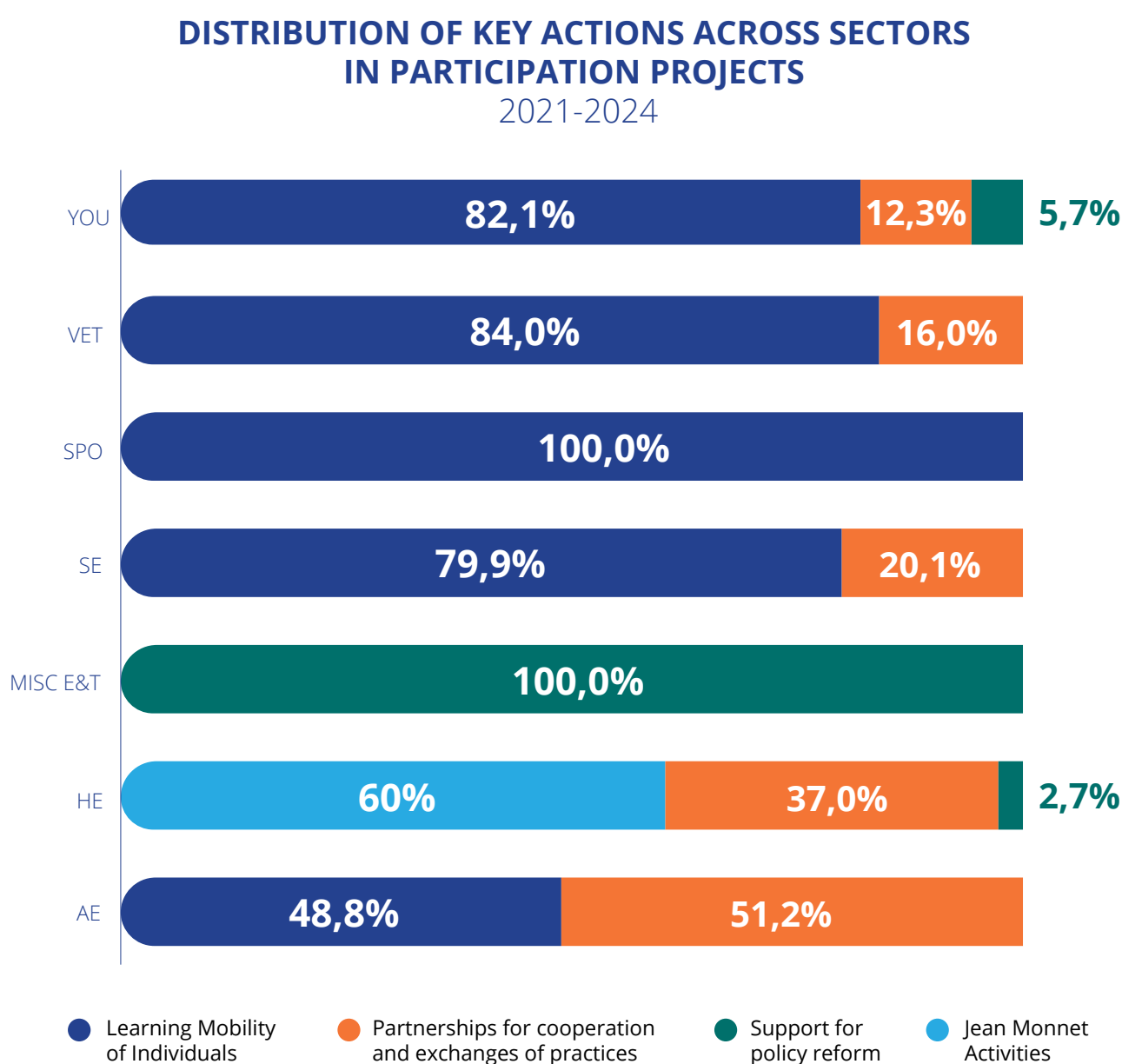
Figure 7: Ratios of Key Actions within Participation Projects by Years



To better understand the characteristics of each sector, it is useful to examine the Key Actions that dominate them (see Figure 8). Cross-sectoral projects within E&T are exclusively associated with *support for policy reform*. The SPO consists entirely of *learning mobility of individuals* projects,

which also account for the overwhelming majority of projects in the *youth sector*, *vocational education sector* (VET), and SE. *Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices* are particularly well represented in the *higher education* (HE) and *adult education* (AE) sectors.

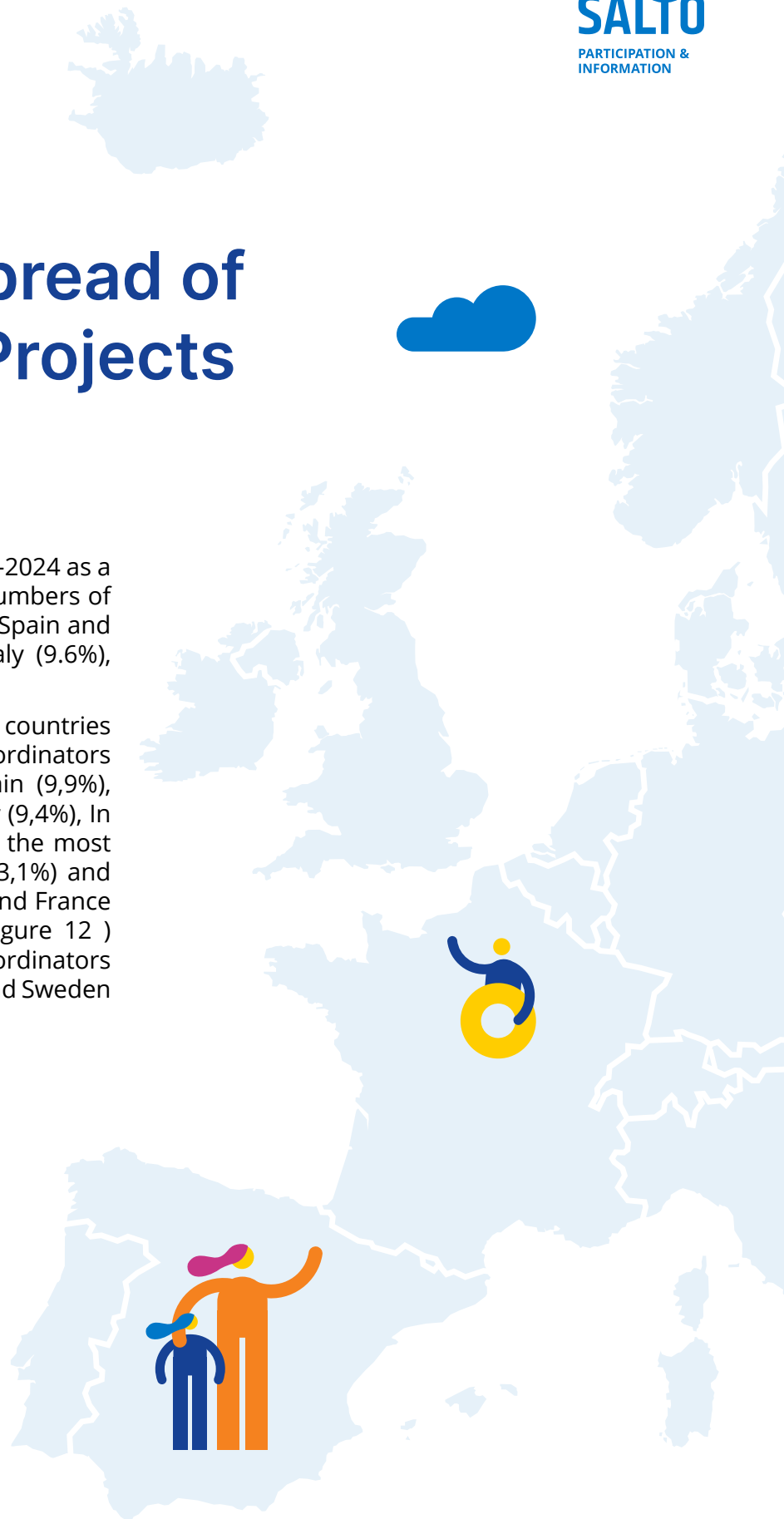
Figure 8: Distribution of Key Actions Across Sectors in Participation Projects, 2021–2024



Geographic Spread of Participation Projects

Considering projects funded in the 2021-2024 as a whole, the countries with the highest numbers of participation project coordinators were Spain and Germany (11.2% each), followed by Italy (9.6%), and France (9.1%) (see Figure 9)⁶.

For the 2021–2024 period as a whole, the countries with the highest numbers of project coordinators in the YOU were (see Figure 10) Spain (9,9%), France (9,7%), Germany (9,5%), and Italy (9,4%), In E&T (see Figure 11) the countries with the most Project Coordinators were Germany (13,1%) and Spain (13,0%), followed by Italy (9,6%), and France (8,6%), Additionally, in the SPO (see Figure 12) Italy had the highest share of project coordinators (20,0%), followed by Germany (17,6%), and Sweden (9,4%),



6. For practical reasons, the following countries are not included in the graph: Türkiye (3,3%), Cyprus (1,1%) and Curacao (0,1%).

7. For practical reasons, the following countries are not included in the graph: Türkiye (3,8%), Cyprus (1,4%), Aruba (0,1%), and Curacao (0,1%).

8. For practical reasons, the following countries are not included in the graph: Türkiye (2,7%), Cyprus (1,2%), and Curacao (0,1%).

9. For practical reasons, the following countries are not included in the graph: Türkiye (11,8%), and Cyprus (1,1%).

Figure 9: Geographical Distribution of Project Coordinators for All Participation Projects, 2021–2024

PROJECT COORDINATORS OF ALL PROJECTS

2021–2024

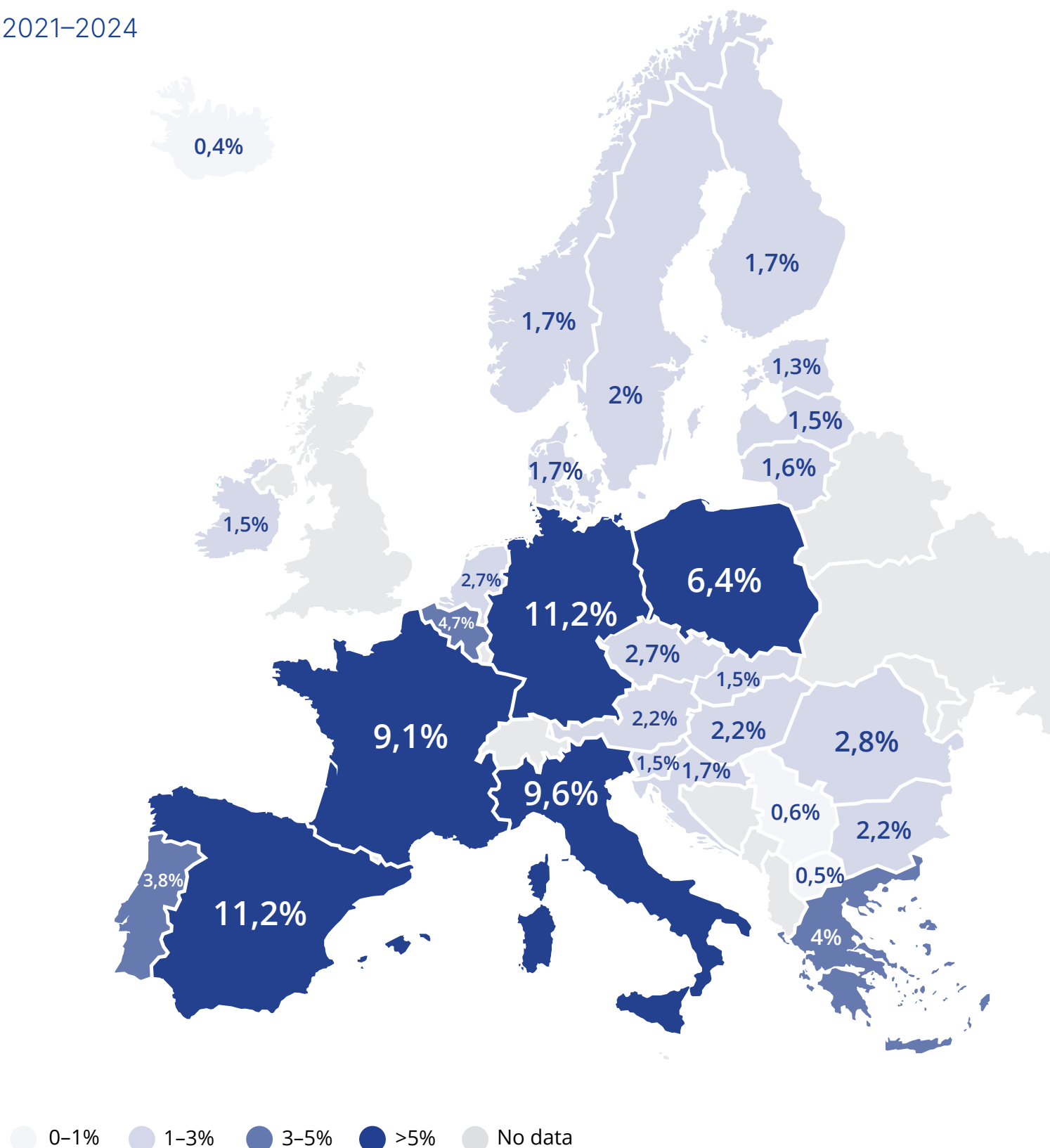


Figure 10: Geographical Distribution of Project Coordinators for YOU Participation Projects, 2021–2024

PROJECT COORDINATORS OF YOU PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

2021–2024

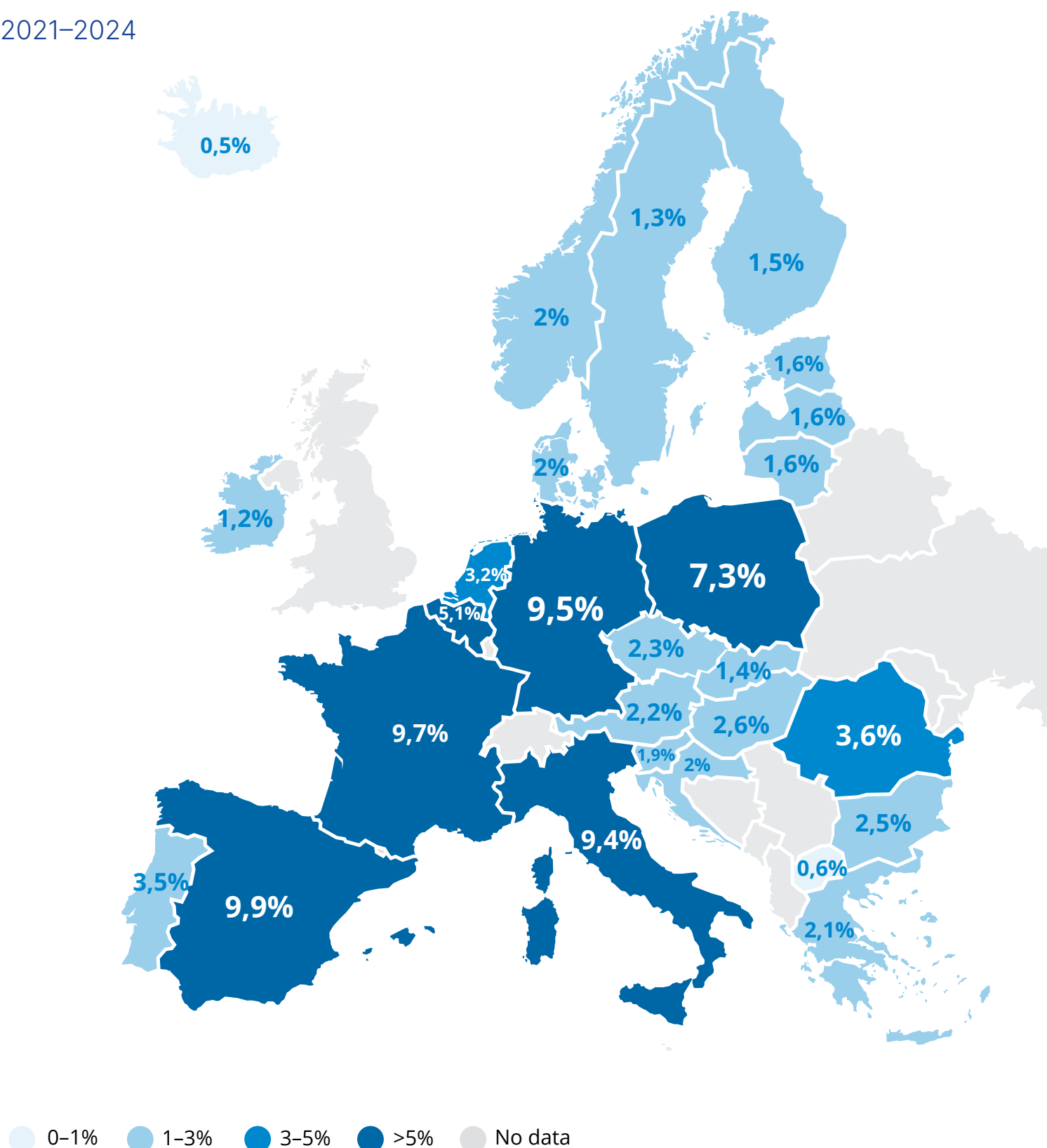


Figure 11: Geographical Distribution of Project Coordinators for Education and Training Participation Projects, 2021–2024

PROJECT COORDINATORS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

2021–2024

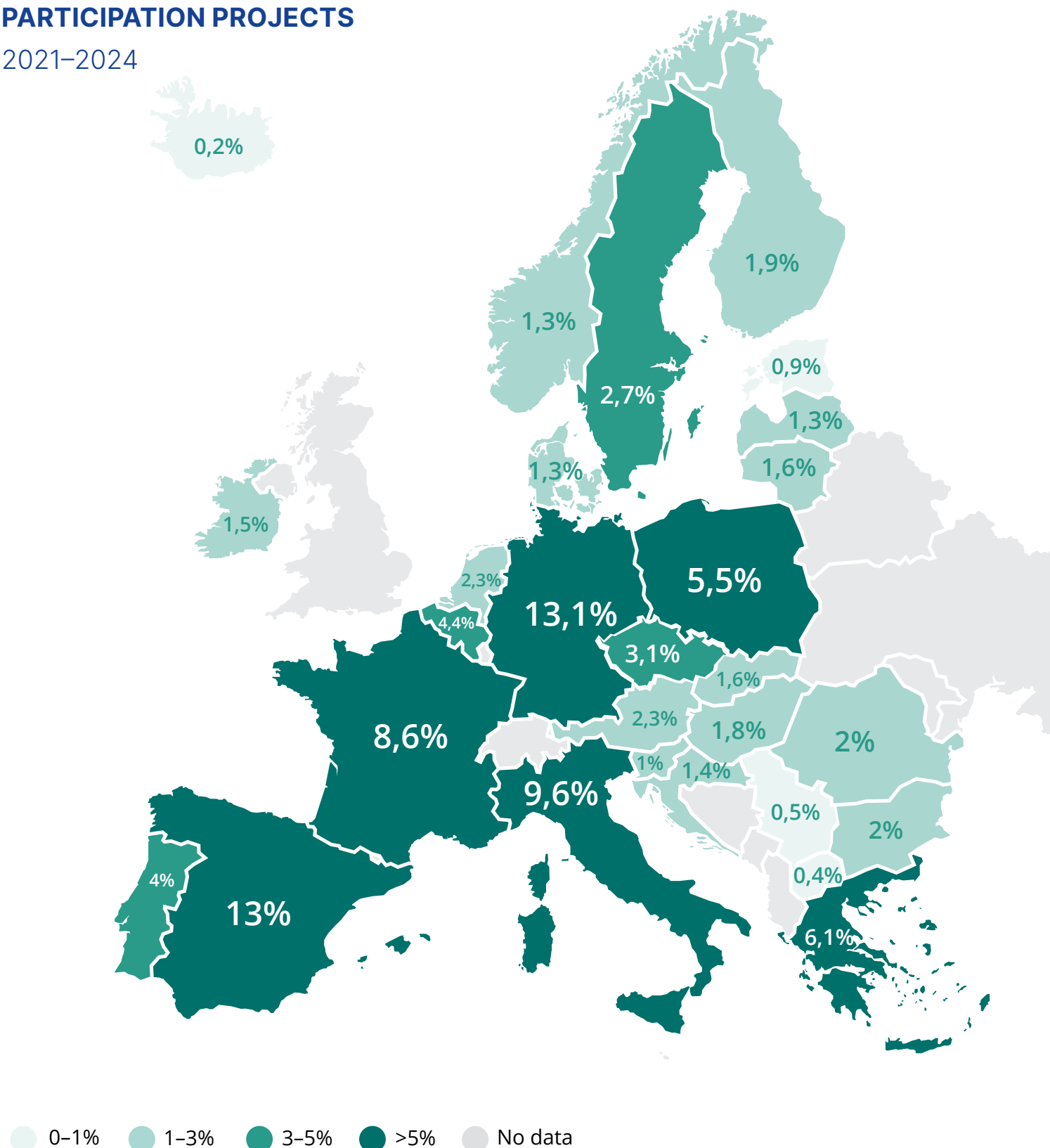
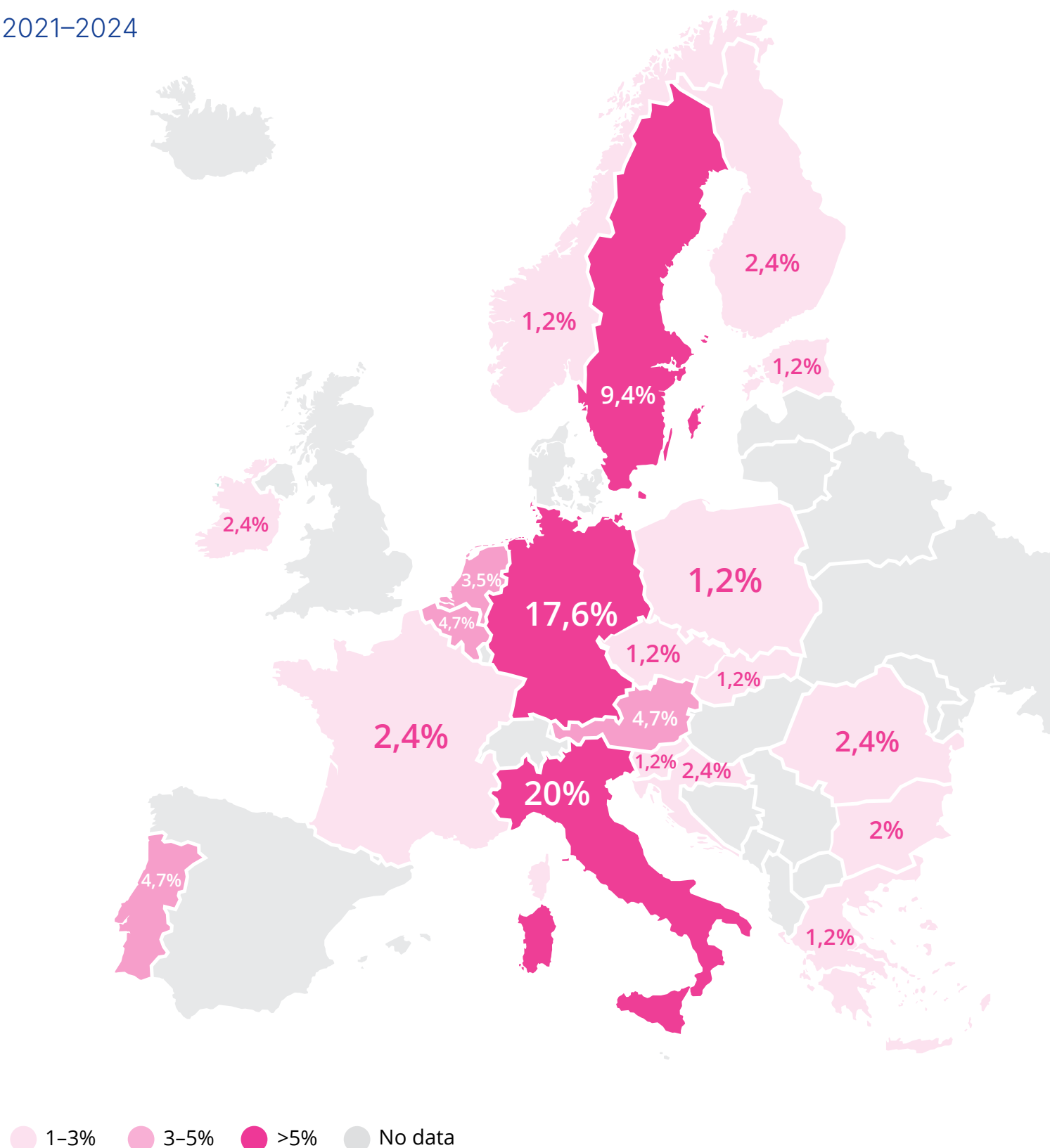


Figure 12: Geographical Distribution of Project Coordinators for SPO Participation Projects, 2021–2024

PROJECT COORDINATORS FOR SPO PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

2021–2024



More than half of all participation projects involved organisations from a single country, while the remainder involved organisations from two to eight countries (see Figure 13). All projects in the SPO and 74,3% of projects in E&T involved

organisations from one country. In contrast, single country projects accounted for just 36,1% of projects in YOU (see Figure 14). YOU also exhibited the greatest diversity in the number of participating countries per project (see Figure 15).

Figure 13: Numbers of Participating Countries in Participation Projects, 2021–2024

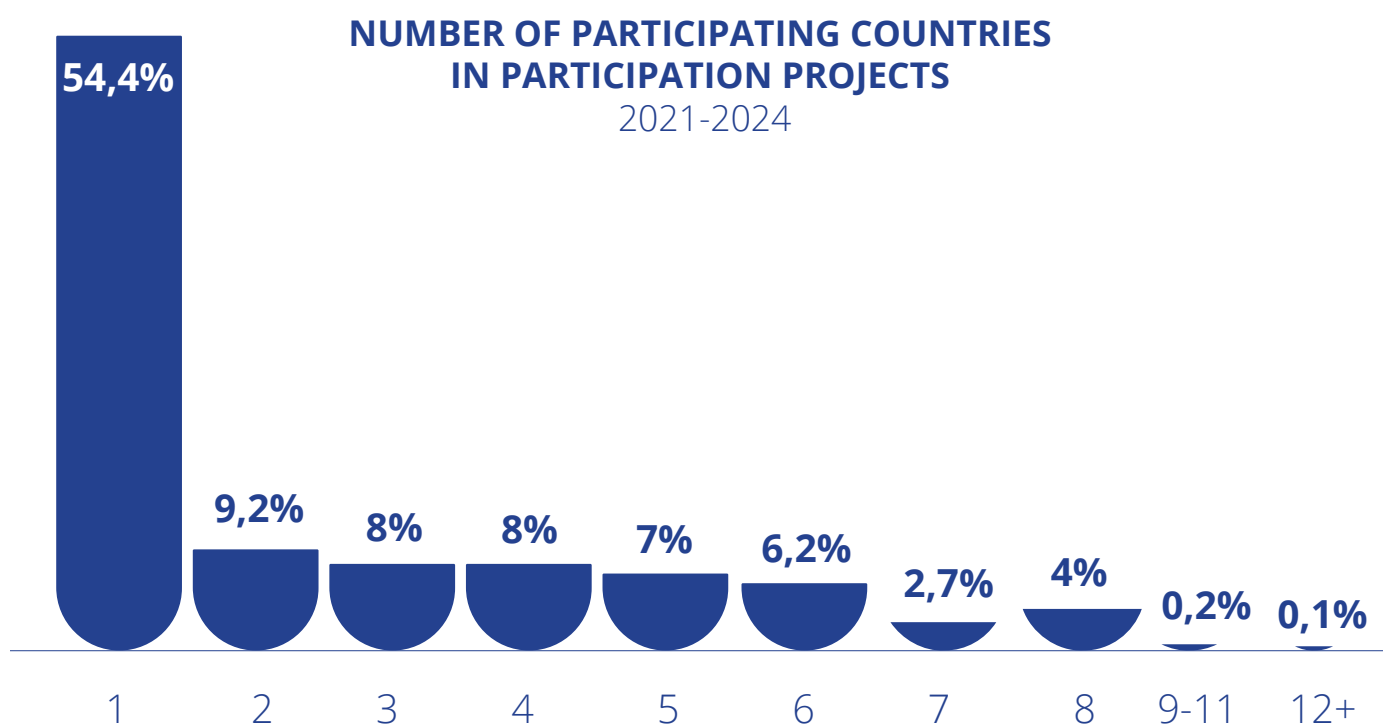


Figure 14: Numbers of Participating Countries Across Fields in Participation Projects, 2021-2024

NUMBERS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ACROSS SECTORS IN PARTICIPATION PROJECTS 2021-2024

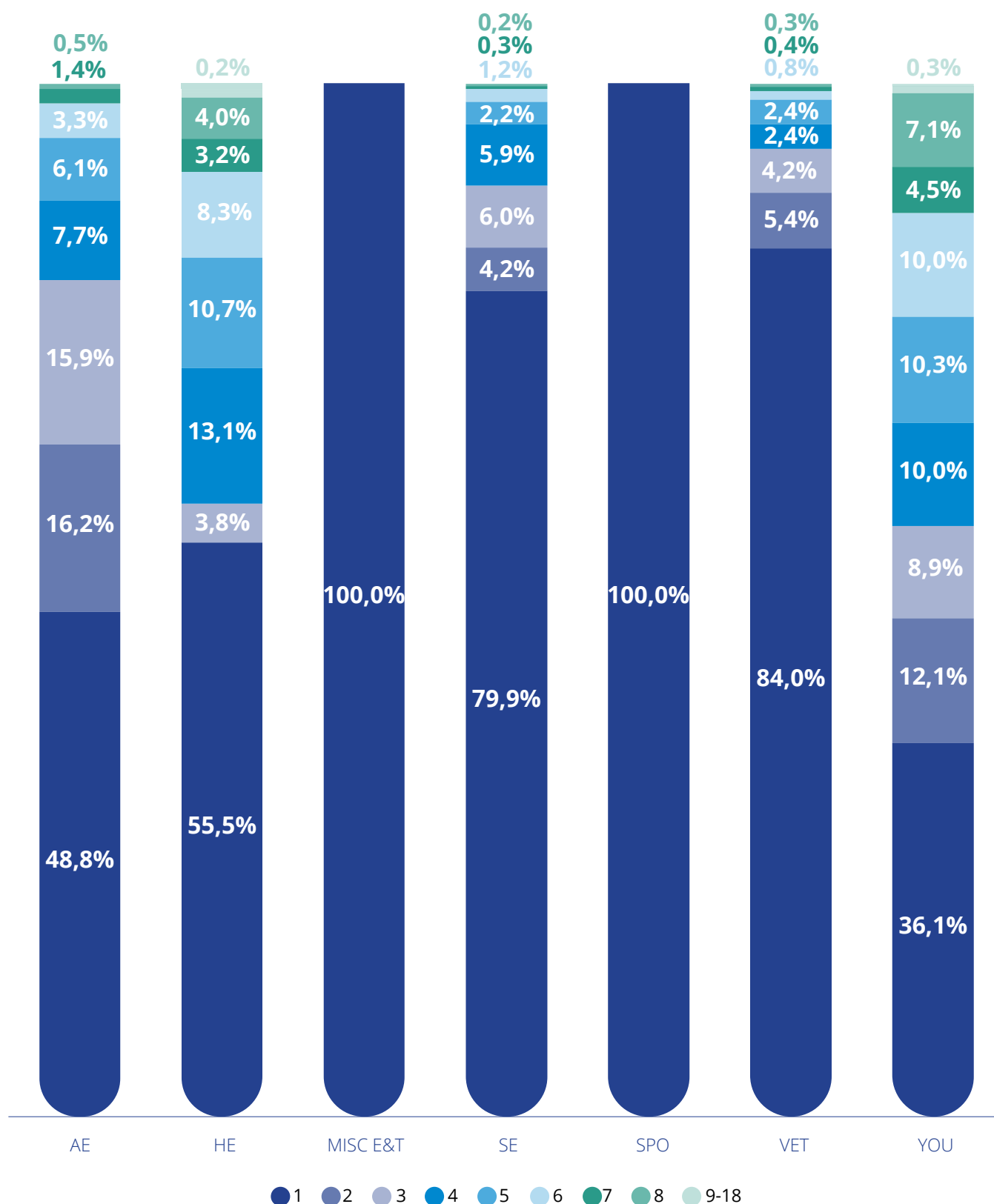
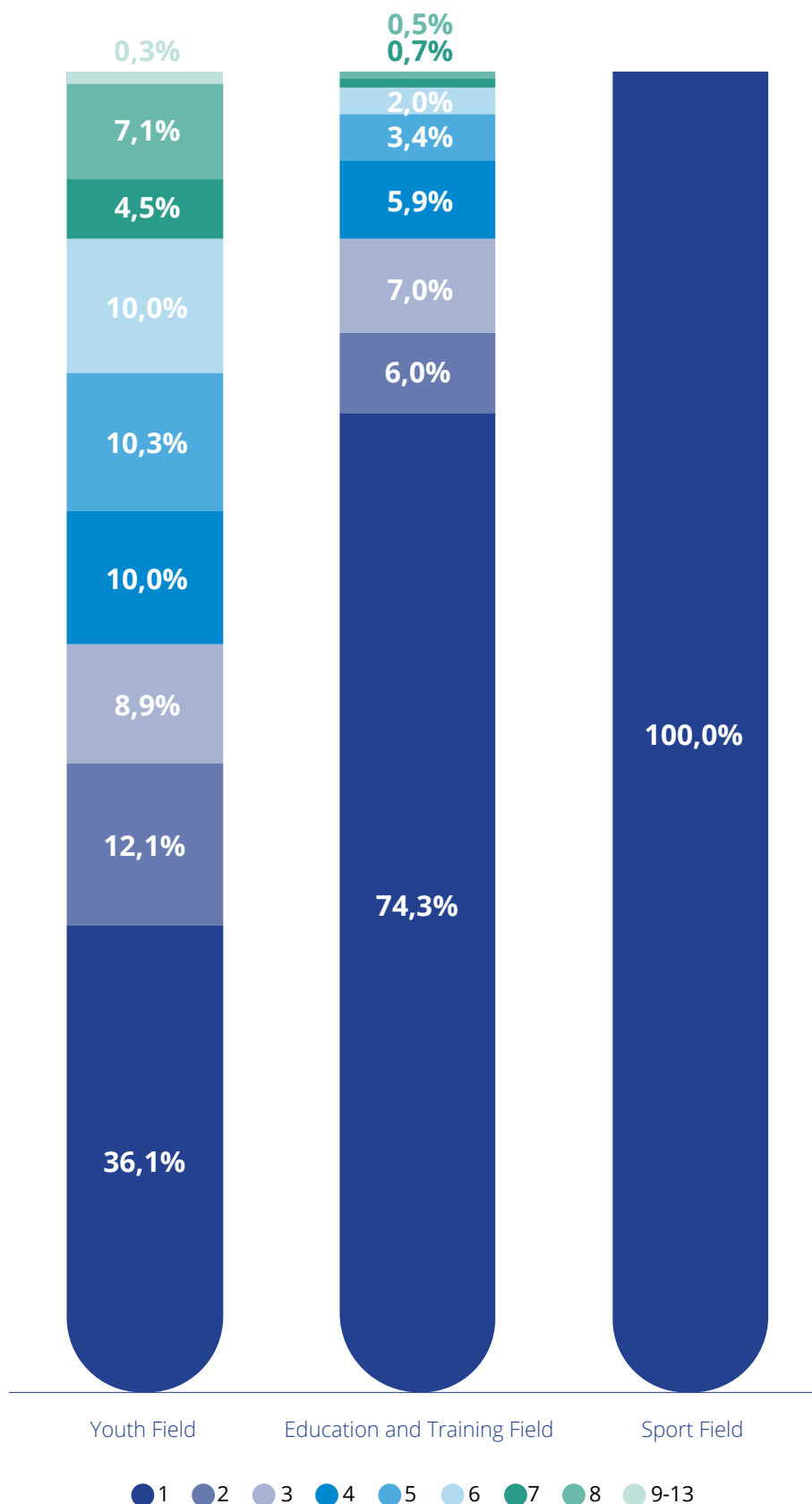


Figure 15: Numbers of Participating Countries Across Sectors in Participation Projects by Field and Sector, 2021–2024

NUMBERS OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ACROSS FIELDS IN PARTICIPATION PROJECTS 2021-2024

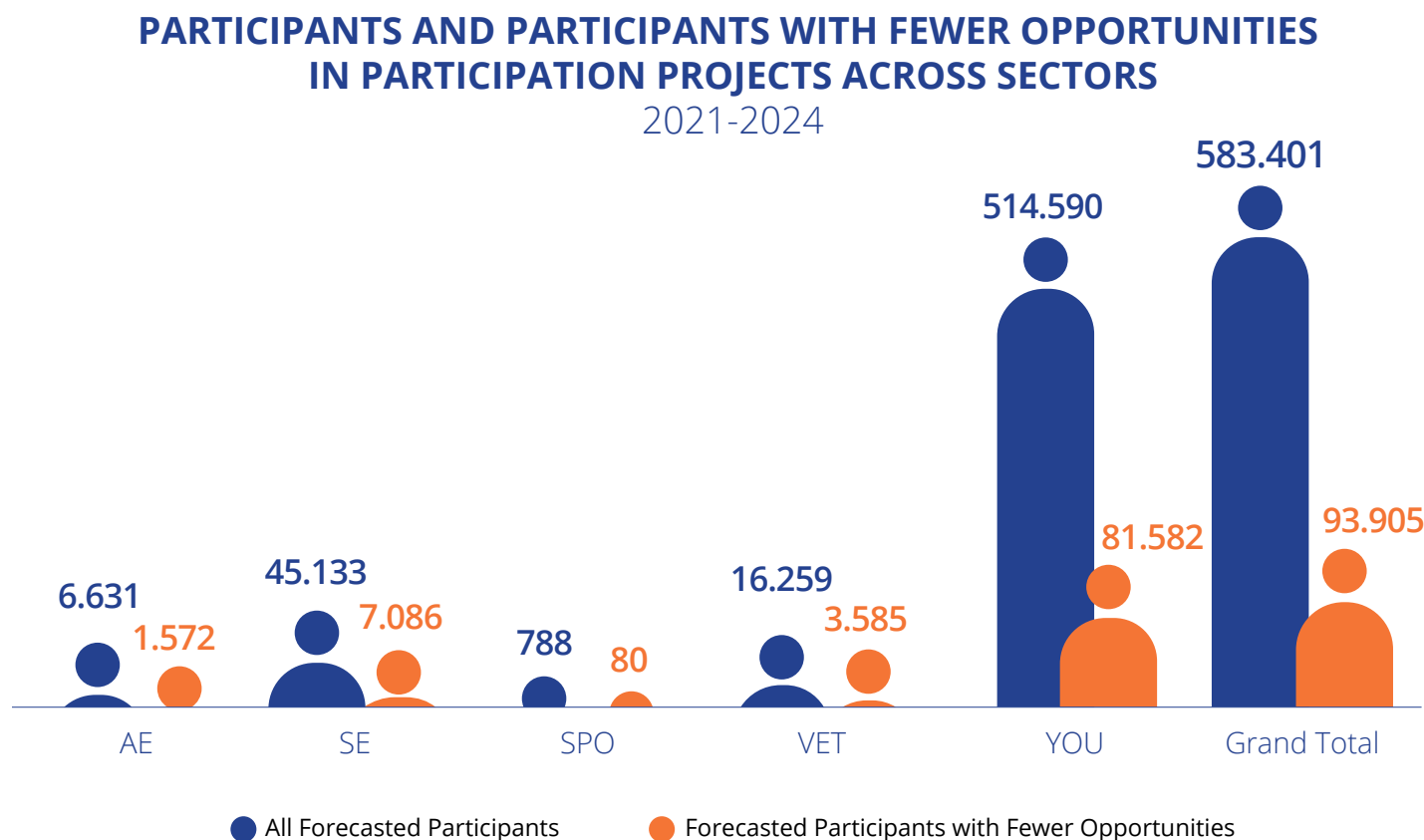


Participants in Participation Projects

As part of their E+ grant applications, applicants provide an estimate of the number of participants expected to take part in each project. In the projects results database, these are referred to as “forecast participants” (hereafter “participants”). Grant applicants also provide an estimate of the expected number of participants with fewer opportunities¹⁰ (hereafter “PFOs”).

Between 2021 and 2024, 583.401 participants took part in participation projects, of whom 93.905 (16,0%) were PFOs (see Figure 16). Participant data are unavailable for HE and Misc. E&T sectors; therefore, the analysis presented in this section excludes these sectors and fields. Overall, 15,8% of participants within YOU activities were PFOs, compared to 15,7% in SE; 22,0 % in VET; 23,1% in AE; and 10,1% in SPO.

Figure 16: Participants and Participants with Fewer Opportunities in Participation Projects across Sectors, 2021–2024



10. PFO includes young people with fewer opportunities, which is the a commonly used term when describing projects with only young participants, especially within the YOU.

Between 2021 and 2023, the number of participants in participation projects steadily rose from a mean of 61 per project to about 74 per project, where it remained in 2024. The numbers of PFOs also increased from a mean of five per project to almost nine per project between 2021 and 2023, and then they increased sharply to approximately 20 in 2024 (see Figure 17).

When we look at the number of participants per project (see Figure 17), the data shows that the

mean number of participants increased from about 61 in 2021 to about 74 in 2023, where it remained in 2024. The mean number of participants with fewer opportunities per project also increased, slightly at first (from about 5 to about 9 per project between 2021 and 2023), and steeply in 2024 to about 20 participants with fewer opportunities per project. This increase likely reflects wider trends in the E+ programme, and potentially the impact of the “Implementation Guidelines E+ and ESC Inclusion and Diversity Strategy”.

Figure 17: Mean Numbers of Participants and PFO in Participation Projects by Year

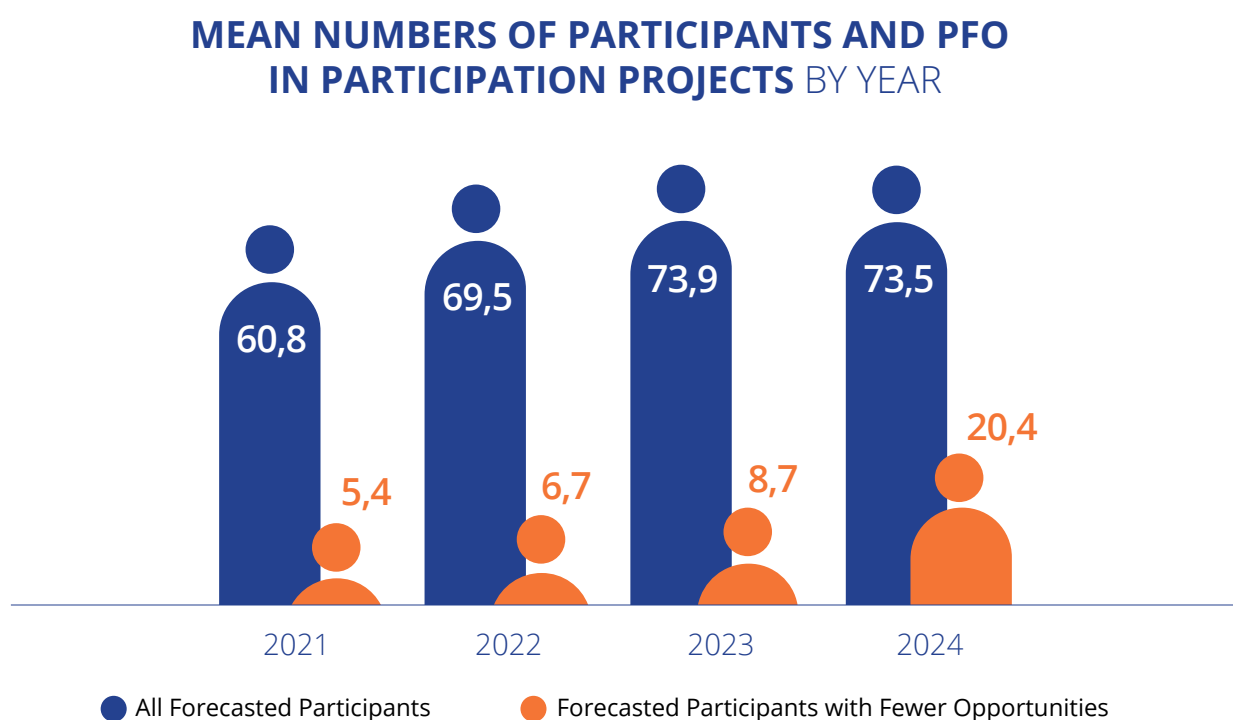


Figure 18 compares participation across the fields. YOU involved six times more participants per project and a similar multiple of PFOs per project than E&T (see Figure 18). In comparison with SPO, YOU engages 13 times more participants per project and 20 times more PFOs per project. The data indicates that YOU is engaging many more participants than any other field, both per project (see Figure 18), and in total numbers (see Figure 16). This pattern remains consistent across the whole 2021 to 2024 period (see Figures 19, 20, and 21 for time series in various sectors).

Overall, YOU projects were also more inclusive by 2024 compared with the starting point in 2021.

The mean number of participants per project in YOU (see Figure 19) increased from 89 in 2021 to 123 in 2024, while the mean number of PFOs per project increased from eight (9,0% of all YOU participants at that time) to about 13 in 2023 (10,9% of all YOU participants at that time) and to about 35 in 2024 (28,4% of all YOU participants at that time). When comparing 2021 to 2024 this represented a 37,8% increase in the number of participants and a 330,1% increase in the numbers of PFOs between 2021 and 2024. This shows that the number of PFOs per project increased much faster between 2021 and 2024 than the total number of participants.

Figure 18: Mean Numbers of Participants and PFO in Participation Projects by Field, 2021 to 2024

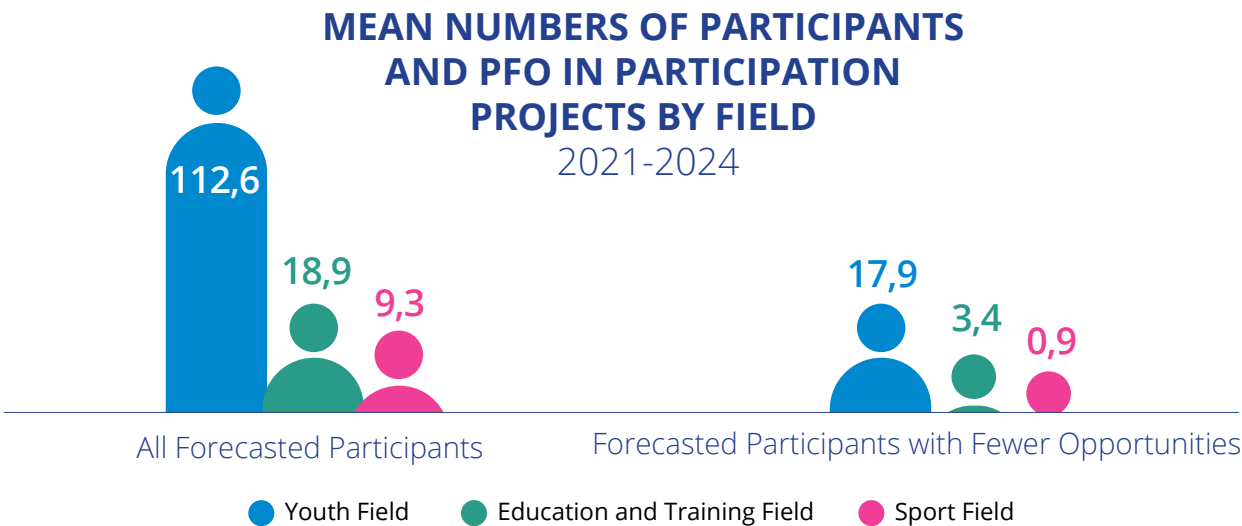
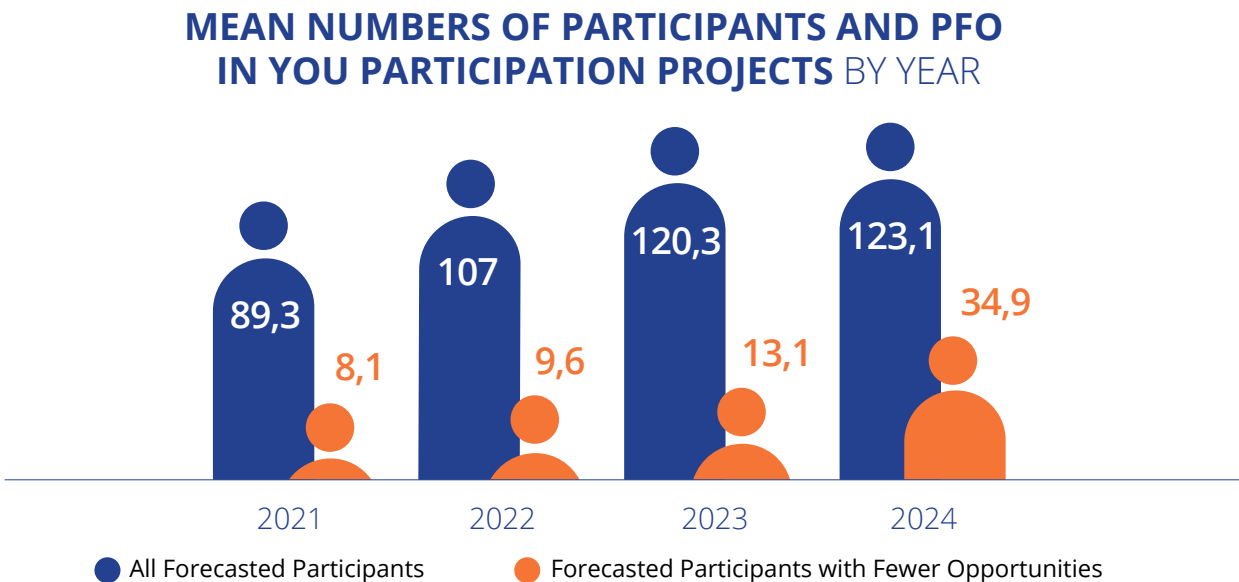


Figure 19: Mean Numbers of Participants and PFO in YOU Participation Projects by Year



Overall, E&T was also supporting more inclusive participation by 2024 compared to the starting point 2021. In E&T (see Figure 20), the total number of participants per project increased only slightly between 2021 and 2024, primarily as a result of an increase of around 2 participants per project between 2022 and 2023. By contrast, between 2021 and 2024 the number of PFOs per project increased gradually year on year, from a mean of approximately one per project in 2021 (7,3% of all E&T participants at that time) to almost

five in 2024 (about 23,5% of all E&T participants at that time). As a result, while the total number of participants increased by 9,5% when comparing 2021 to 2024, the percentage increase for PFOs was 253,8%. This shows that the numbers of PFOs per project increased much faster than the total number of participants.

Data are only available for 2023 and 2024 for the SPO (see Figure 21). They show a stable mean of around nine participants per project, and a mean of approximately 1 PFO per project.

Figure 20: Mean Numbers of Participants and PFO in E&T Participation Projects by Year

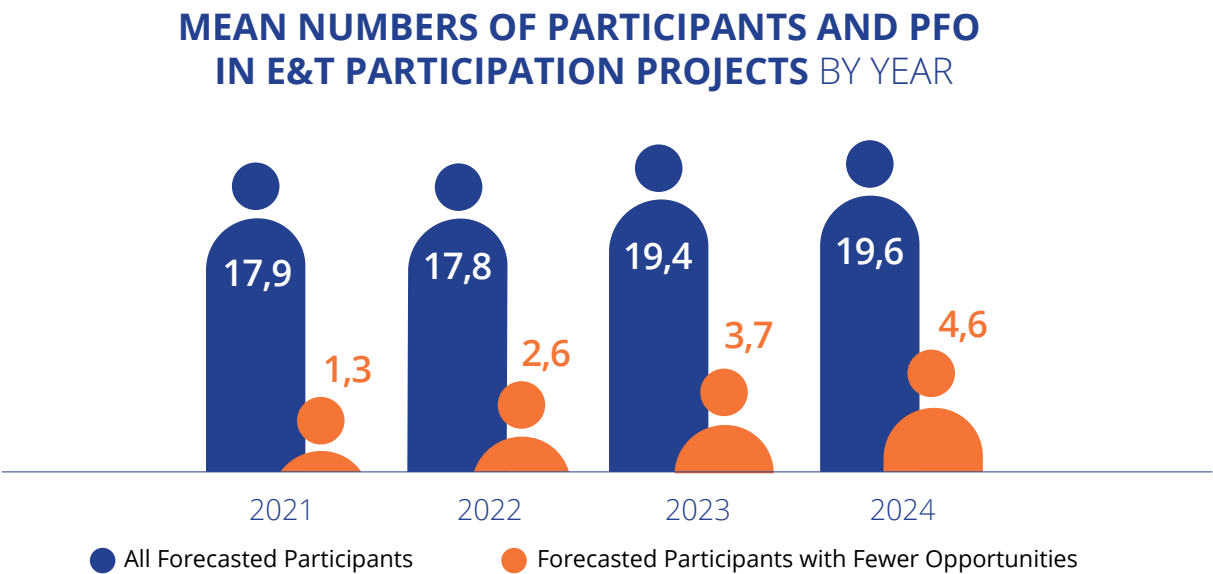
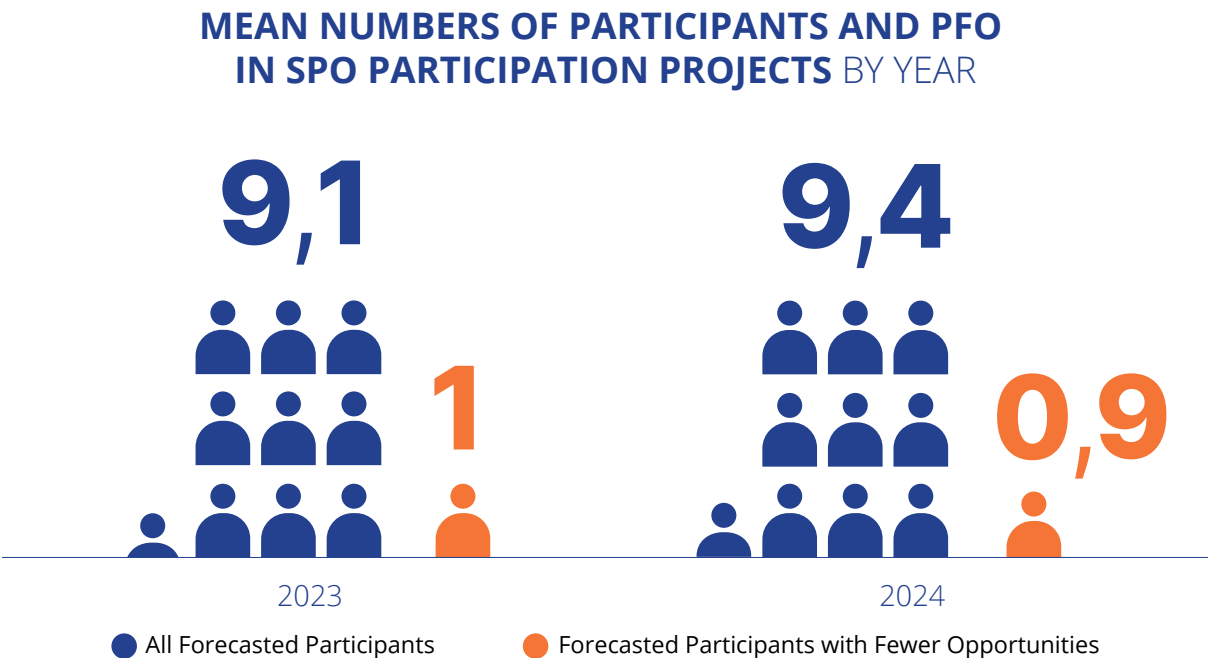


Figure 21: Mean Numbers of Participants and PFO in SPO Participation Projects by Year



Organisations Coordinating Participation Projects

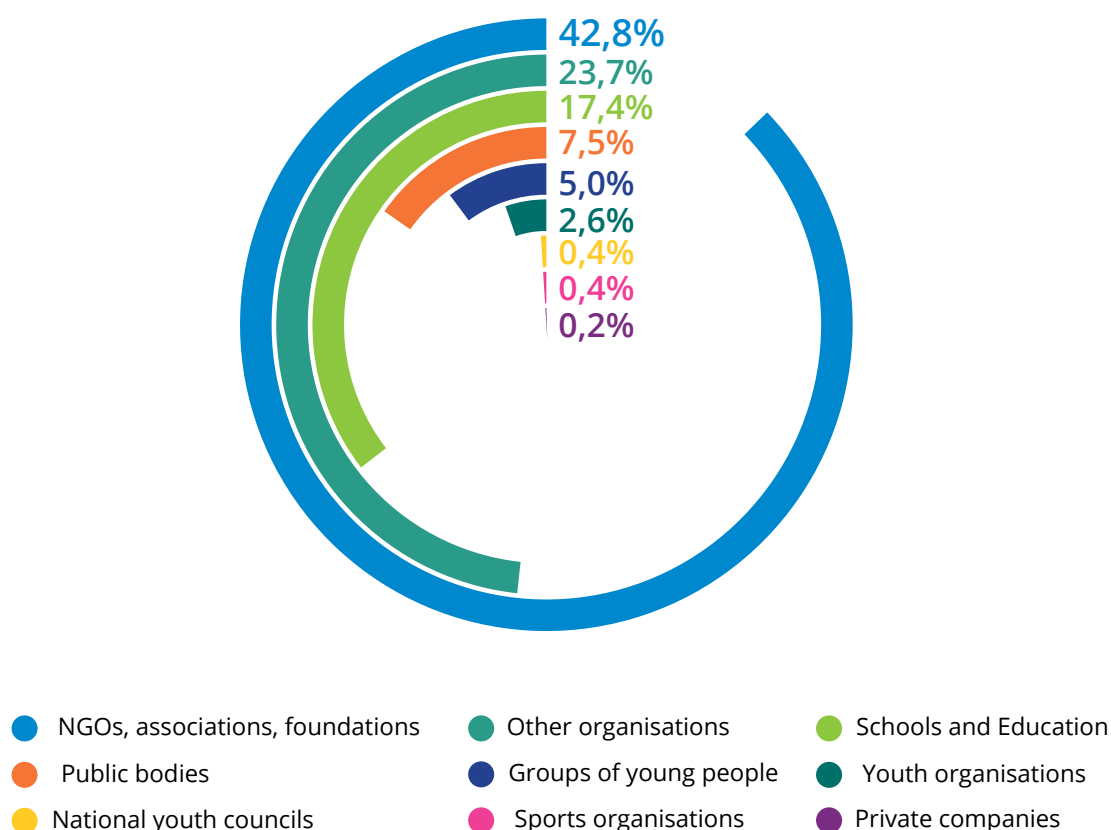
Participation projects funded under E+ between 2021 and 2024 were coordinated by a wide variety of organisation types (see Figure 21). Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), associations and foundations constituted the most largest group of coordinating organisations (42,8, of all projects), followed by “Other organisations”¹¹ (23,7%), and schools and educational organisations (17,4%). Figure 22 provides a more detailed breakdown of the different organisation types, illustrating the diversity of organisations coordinating participa-

tion projects funded under E+ during the 2021–2024 period.

The proportion of NGOs, associations and foundations coordinating participation projects declined from 49,2% in 2021 to 39,7% in 2024 (see Figure 23). The figure also illustrates changes in the European Commission (DG EAC) classification of coordinating organisations. While a large proportion of organisations were labelled as “Other” between 2021 and 2023, this category declined substantially in favour of “Schools” in 2024.

Figure 22: Simplified Types of Coordinating Entities in Participation Projects, 2021–2024

SIMPLIFIED TYPES OF COORDINATING ENTITIES IN PARTICIPATION PROJECTS 2021-2024



11. These results are based on data provided by the European Commission (DG EAC).

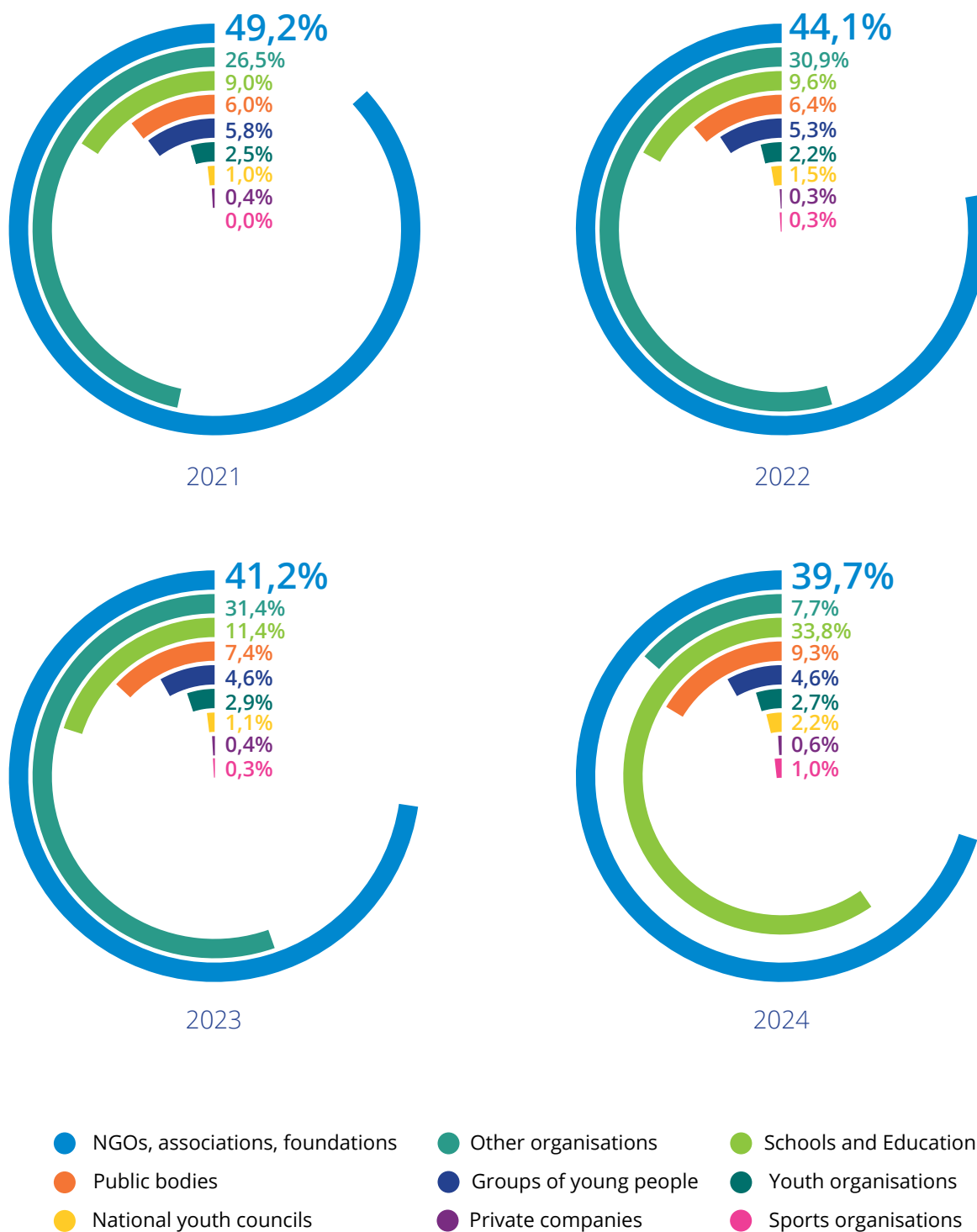
Table 1: Types of Coordinating Entities in Participation Projects, 2021–2024

CO-ORDINATING ENTITY TYPE	SIMPLIFIED TYPE	%
Non-governmental organisation/association	NGO, Associations, Foundations	34,9%
Other type of organisation	Other Organisations	21,7%
Foundation	NGO, Associations, Foundations	7,9%
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (secondary level)	Schools and Education	7,3%
Local Public body	Public Bodies	5,6%
Group of young people	Group of young people	5,0%
Higher education institution (tertiary level)	Schools and Education	3,5%
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (primary level)	Schools and Education	3,0%
Youth organisation	Youth Organisation	2,6%
School/Institute/Educational centre – Vocational Training (secondary level)	Schools and Education	2,1%
School/Institute/Educational centre – Adult education	Schools and Education	1,0%
National Public body	Public Bodies	0,7%
National Youth Council	National Youth Council	0,6%
Regional Public body	Public Bodies	0,6%
Accreditation, certification or qualification body	Other Organisations	0,5%
European or international public body	Public Bodies	0,4%
Social enterprise	Other Organisations	0,4%
Counselling body	Other Organisations	0,3%
Organisation or association representing (parts of) the sport field	Sports Organisations	0,3%
School/Institute/Educational centre – General education (pre-primary level)	Schools and Education	0,3%
Small and medium sized enterprise	Private Companies	0,3%
European grouping of territorial cooperation	Other Organisations	0,2%
Public service provider	Public Bodies	0,2%
School/Institute/Educational centre – Vocational Training (tertiary level)	Schools and Education	0,2%
Sport club	Sports Organisations	0,2%
Large enterprise	Private Companies	0,1%
Research Institute/Centre	Other Organisations	0,1%
Social partner or other representative of working life (chambers of commerce, trade union, trade association)	Other Organisations	0,0%
Sport federation	Sports Organisations	0,0%

Figure 23: Simplified Types of Coordinating Entities in Participation Projects by Year

SIMPLIFIED TYPES OF COORDINATING ENTITIES IN PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

2021-2024



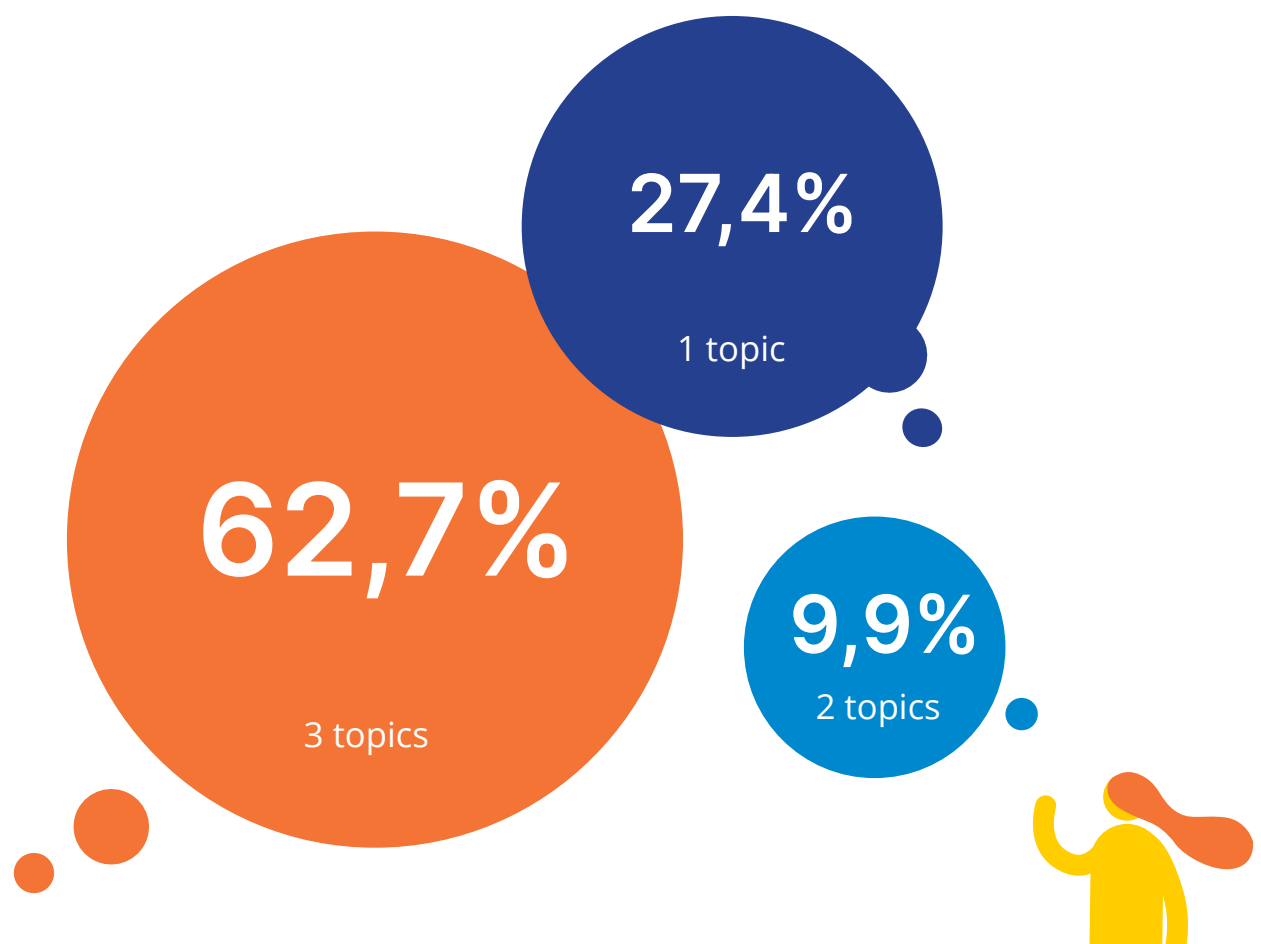
Topics of Participation Projects

E+ projects typically address multiple topics¹². Analysing these topics provides an indication of the type and number of topics most commonly addressed alongside participation-related topics. Most E+ participation projects between 2021 and 2024 identified three topics as the focus of their activities (62,7%) (see Figure 24), while almost one third focused on a single topic.

There are some variations in the topical coverage of projects across fields (see Figure 25). Projects in YOU covered the widest range of topics, with 64,4% identifying three topics and only 23,8%

focusing on a single topic. Projects in E&T were only slightly less diverse in their topic coverage (61,1% identified three topics and 31,1% focused on a single topic), while the SPO was the most narrowly focused (43,9% identified three topics and 50,0% focused on a single topic). Even greater variation can be seen across the different sectors (see Figure 26). Although most sectors follow the general pattern of covering three topics per project, projects in the SPO and HE sectors most frequently focused on a single topic (50,0% and 58,2%, respectively).

Figure 24: Number of Topics within Participation Projects, 2021–2024



12. Not all projects formally list topics, for the purpose of this analysis, all projects are assumed to have at least one topic.

Figure 25: Number of Topics within Participation Projects by Field, 2021–2024

NUMBER OF TOPICS WITHIN PARTICIPATION PROJECTS BY FIELD 2021–2024

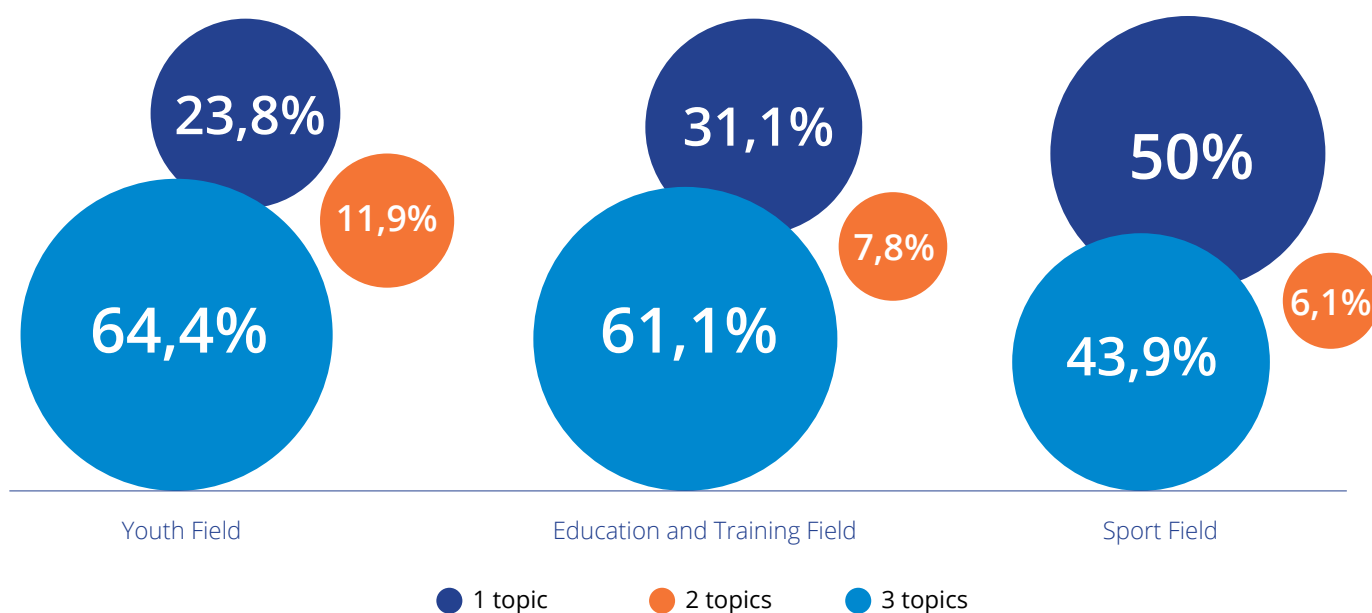
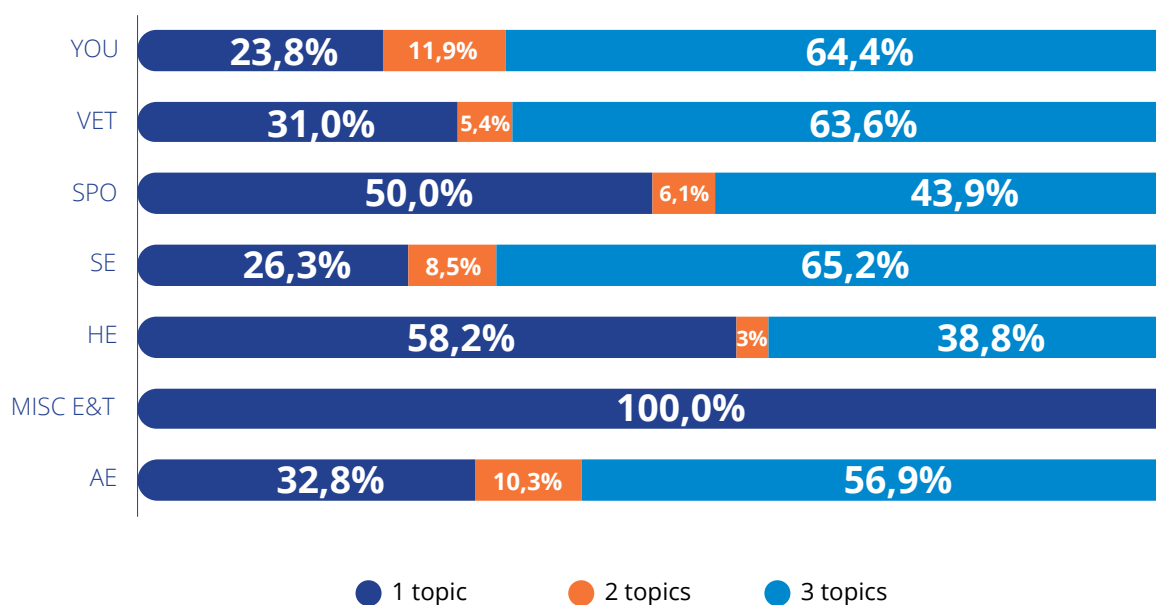


Figure 26: Number of Topics within Participation Projects by Sector, 2021–2024

NUMBER OF TOPICS WITHIN PARTICIPATION PROJECTS BY SECTOR 2021–2024



When only participation-related topics are considered (see Figure 27), the most frequently addressed topics are: European identity, citizenship

and values (39,2%); Democracy and inclusive democratic participation (36,3%); and Awareness about the European Union (19,2%).

Figure 27: Ratio of Specific Topics within Participation Projects, 2021 to 2024

SPECIFIC TOPICS COVERED BY PARTICIPATION PROJECTS 2021-2024



The most prevalent topics, other than those that directly relate to participation, were (see Annex: Table 2): Environment and climate change (4,3%); Creativity, arts and culture (3,2%); Digital skills and competences (3,1%); Inclusion, promoting

equality and non-discrimination (2,9%) and New learning and teaching methods and approaches (2,8%). The most prevalent non-participations topics varied considerably across sectors.



In descending order, the five most prevalent topics within **YOU** were:

- Creativity, arts and culture
- Environment and climate change
- Inclusion of marginalised young people
- Youth policy development
- Community development

In descending order, the five most prevalent topics within **AE** were:

- Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination
- Bridging intercultural, intergenerational and social divides
- Digital skills and competences
- New learning and teaching methods and approaches
- Environment and climate change

In descending order, the five most prevalent topics within **VET** were:

- Work-based learning
- Teaching and learning of foreign languages
- Cooperation between educational institutions and business
- Key competences development
- Employability

In descending order, the five most prevalent topics within **SE** were:

- Teaching and learning of foreign languages
- Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination
- Environment and climate change
- New learning and teaching methods and approaches
- Digital skills and competences

In descending order, the five most prevalent topics within **HE** were:

- Creating new, innovative or joint curricula or courses
- New learning and teaching methods and approaches
- Digital content, technologies and practices
- Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination
- Cultural heritage

In descending order, the five most prevalent topics within **SPO** were:

- Supporting grassroots sport
- Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination
- Cooperation between sports clubs and businesses
- Initial and continuous training for sport staff
- Innovative coaching methodologies

In descending order, the five most prevalent topics across **E&T** were:

- Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination
- Teaching and learning of foreign languages
- New learning and teaching methods and approaches
- Digital skills and competences
- Environment and climate change



Project Funding in Participation Projects

Between 2021 and 2024, the total of all grants awarded to participation-related projects was close to EUR 674 million. E&T, as a whole, received just over half of this (EUR 369 million), and YOU received just under half (EUR 303 million), with SPO receiving only a small share (EUR 1.6 million).

School grants accounted for the largest share of funding within E&T (Figure 28).

E&T received the highest average funding per project (almost EUR 70.000), YOU received about EUR 53.000 per project, and SPO received just above EUR 19.000 (see Figure 29).

Figure 28: Total value of all Participation Projects, 2021–2024

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL PARTICIPATION PROJECTS 2021-2024

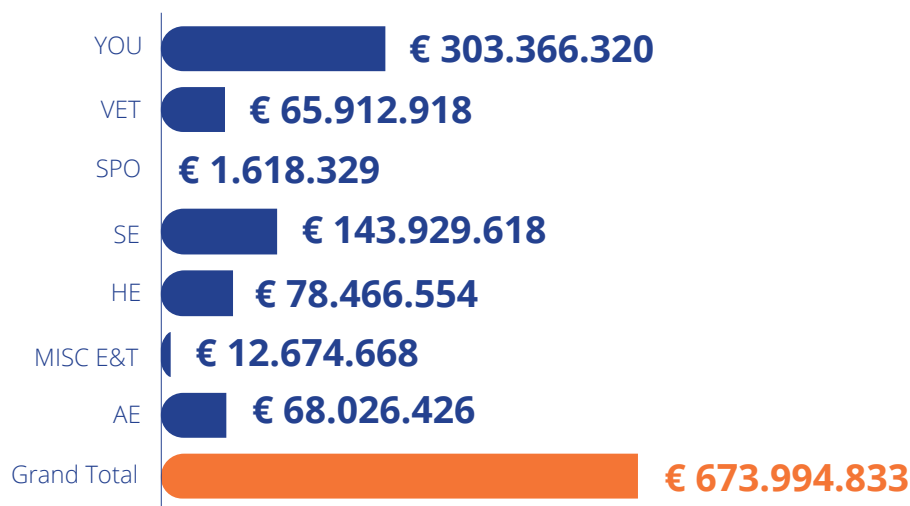


Figure 29: Mean Budget per Participation Project by Field, 2021–2024

MEAN BUDGET PER PARTICIPATION PROJECT BY FIELD 2021-2024



At the sectoral level, the HE projects received substantially higher average funding than any other sector: over EUR 210.000 per project (see Figure 30). SPO received the lowest average funding per project at about EUR 19.000 and YOU received just over EUR 53.000 per project, the third-lowest average funding per project.

The mean budget of E+ 2021–2024 participation projects decreased in nominal terms from just over EUR 68.000 in 2021 to around EUR 58.000 in 2022 and 2023, and then increased again to about EUR 62.000 in 2024 (see Figure 31).

Figure 30: Mean Budget per Participation Project by Sector, 2021–2024

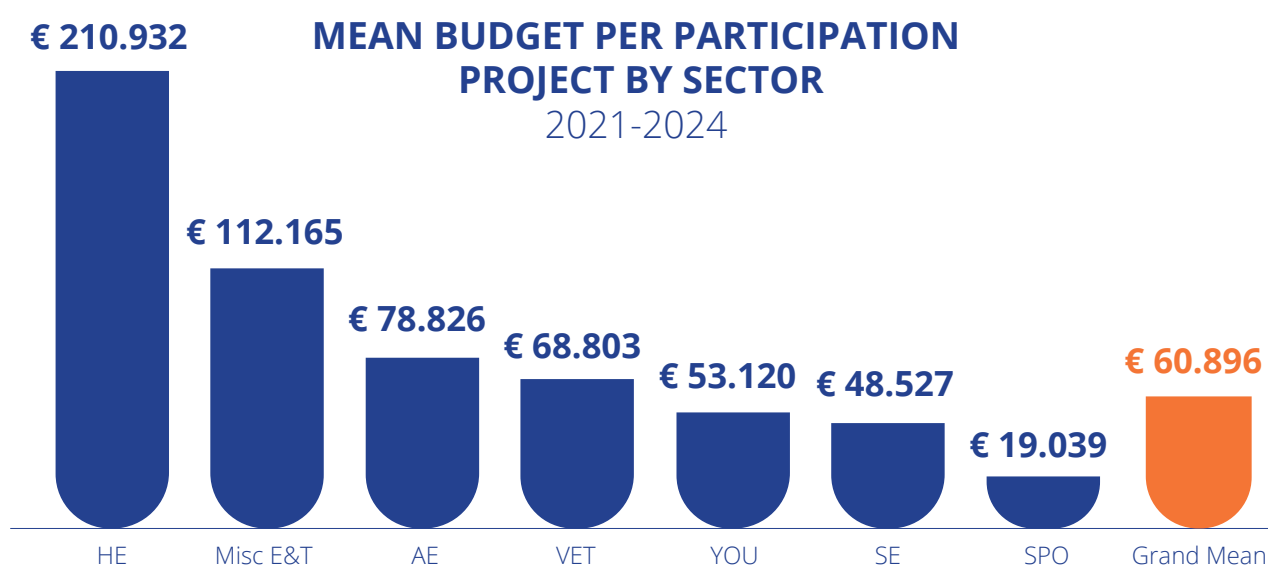
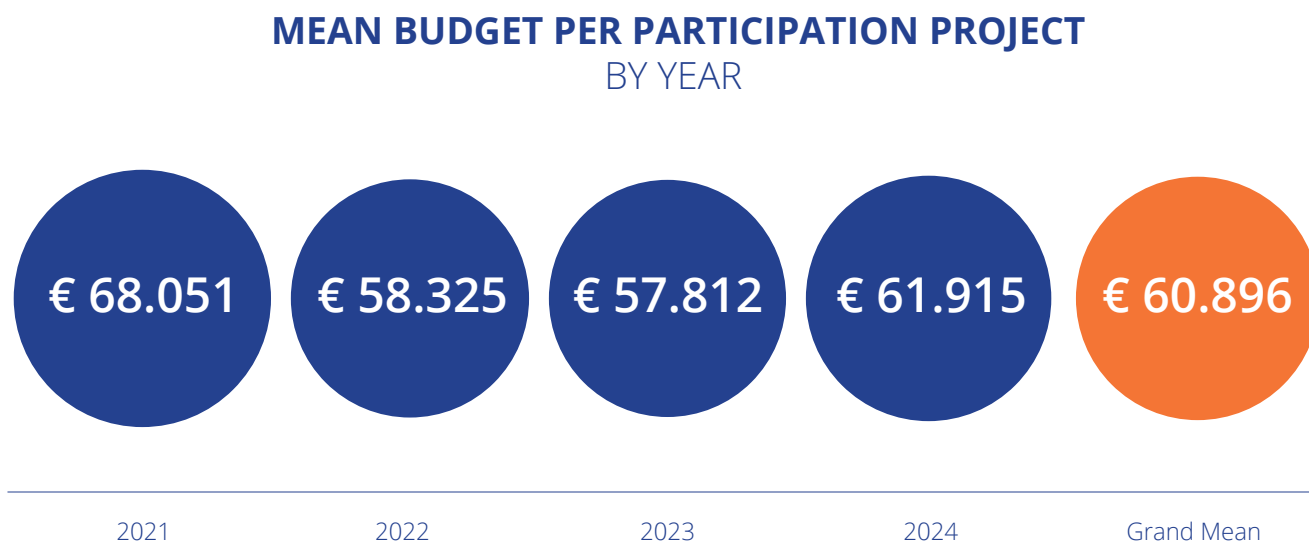


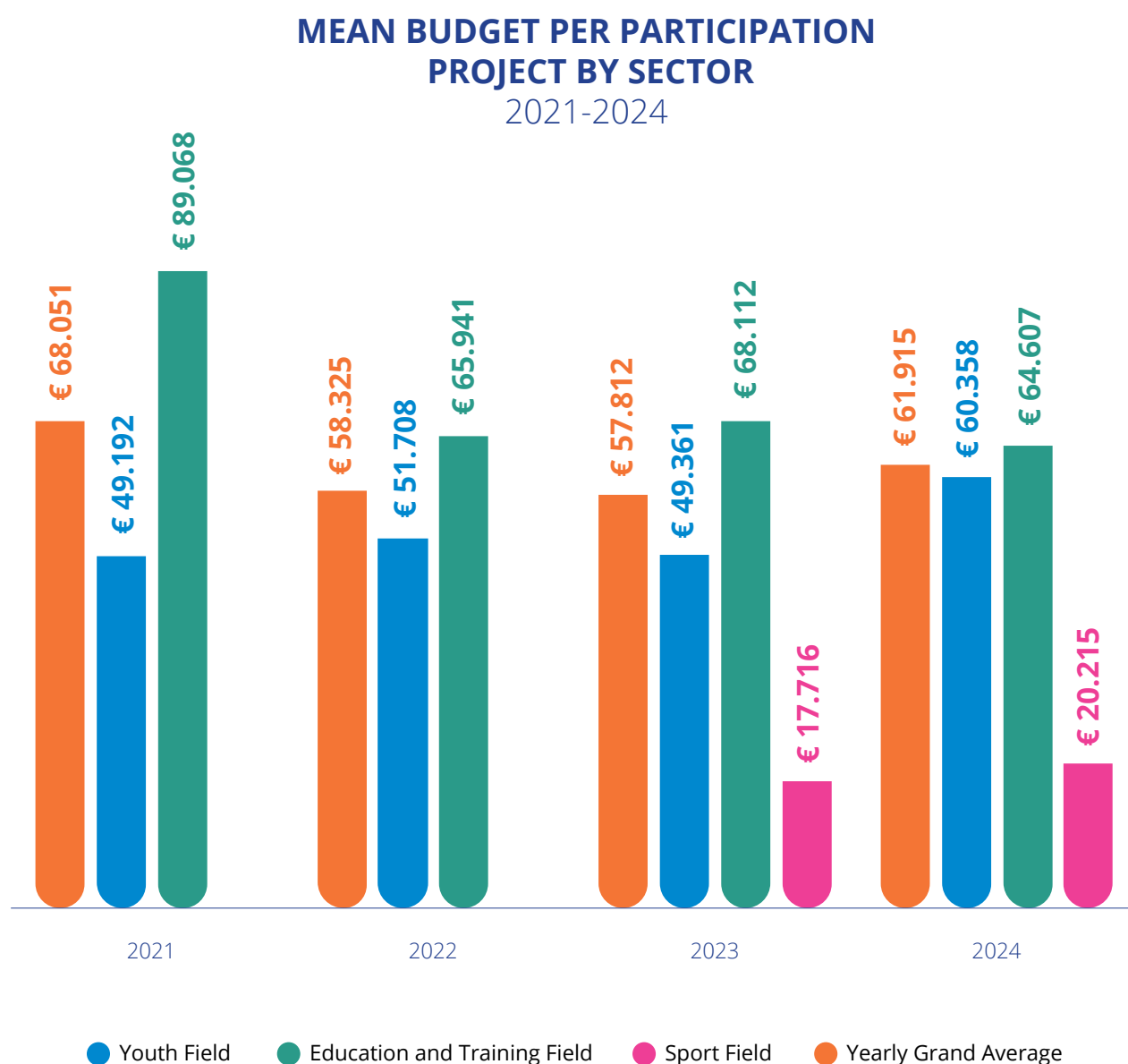
Figure 31: Mean Budget per Participation Project by Year, 2021–2024



When it comes to different fields (see Figure 32), YOU was relatively stable in 2021–2023 with a budget of approximately EUR 50.000 per project and subsequently increased in nominal terms to about EUR 60.000 in 2024. E&T decreased in nominal terms from about EUR 89.000 per project in 2021 to about EUR 64.000 to EUR 68.000 per project in 2022–2024. Data for SPO are available only for 2023 and 2024, indicating an increase in nominal terms in the mean participation project budget from about EUR 18.000 in 2023 to about EUR 20.000 in 2024.

Further analysis indicates a positive relationship between the size of the project budget and the number of PFOs included in the project. In other words, the larger the budget, the more PFOs are including in the projects. A similar relationship is observed for the overall number of participants and the number of participating countries: projects with larger budgets generally involve more participants and a greater number of participating countries.

Figure 32: Mean Budget per Participation Project by Field and Year



Summary

Conclusions

This report presents data on E+ Projects funded between 2021 and 2024 that addressed the priority “Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement” either directly or through related topics. The data were drawn from the E+ Project Results Database and supplemented with additional data from the European Commission (DG EAC).

Overall, it can be observed that **11.326 participation projects** took place between 2021 and 2024 which represents around one-tenth of all projects funded in the same period¹³. The total number of projects in 2024 was almost double the amount funded in 2021, and the numbers remained relatively stable in 2023 and 2024. However, this increase seems to be driven by an increase in the overall E+ budget. The proportion of Participation Projects compared to overall projects funded by E+ has remained relatively consistent across the years. Considering the participation priority is one of four horizontal priorities within the E+ programme, this suggests there is room for further emphasis on the participation priority within the programme overall, and potential scope for an increase in the number of projects addressing the priority. Should NAs and the SALTO Network wish to increase the number of projects addressing the priority this might be achieved through enhancing the promotion of the topic to programme beneficiaries in general, for instance by increasing the number of trainings related to this theme, providing further outreach and support to beneficiaries on the topic of participation, and producing information campaigns, toolkits and resources on the topic.

Between 2021 and 2024, **the majority of participation projects occurred in YOU (52,6%)**, with most of the remaining projects occurring within **E&T (46,6%)** and the **SPO** accounting for only **0,8%**. Whilst there is no solid data for comparison of the potential size of fields, it is reasonable to assume that E&T, outside of the E+ programme,

is likely to encompass a larger population than YOU simply by virtue of the scale of formal education within Europe. This could indicate that the Education and Training Sector may be underrepresented within participation projects in the E+ programme. It could be argued that, if there is an intention to significantly increase the number of projects addressing the participation priority, the greatest potential for this may lie within E&T. Therefore, if NAs and the SALTO wish to increase the number of participation projects overall, they might most effectively be able to do so by targeting promotional measures, such as those described above, in E&T specifically.

Within E&T itself, the SE implemented the most Participation Projects, representing more than half of all E&T projects, and 26,2% of all Participation Projects in total. This suggests that compared with other Education and Training Sectors, Schools make a relatively strong contribution to the participation priority. By contrast however, HE played a small role, accounting for only 3,3% of all *participation projects* in total. Considering that HE is likely to be one of the larger potential sectors within Education and Training, this may suggest there is a comparatively limited engagement in participation within the HE. It may be advisable for National Agencies (NAs) and the SALTO Network to undertake dedicated promotional measures on the topic of the participation priority targeted at Higher Education. There may also be a need for further research and analysis to identify potential barriers to working with the priority within this sector.

The total value of grants awarded to Participation Projects between 2021 and 2024 was close to **EUR 674 million**, equivalent to around 4,8% of the overall E+ budget in this period. E&T *participation projects* received the most funding, with mean funding of almost **EUR 70.000 per project**, while YOU projects had a mean of about EUR 53.000 and SPO projects a mean of EUR 19.000.

13. <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/factsheets-statistics-evaluations/statistics/data/overview>

Participation projects in the HE received substantially greater funding than any other sector, with a mean of over EUR 210.000 per project.

YOU *participation projects* also engaged far more participants than E&T projects. There was a **mean of 113 participants per YOU project compared to 19 participants in E&T projects**. YOU is reaching substantially more participants (514.590 in 2021–2024) than E&T (68.811 in 2021–2024) when it comes to projects addressing the participation priority. Comparing E&T with YOU participation projects it can be observed that E&T projects are more expensive and reach fewer people. It could be argued then that, in terms of population reach alone, YOU reaches substantially more participants per euro of funding.

The findings on cost, and participants levels poses a challenge to the suggestion above that the NAs and SALTO Network should consider seeking to increase the number of participation projects within E&T. If this were to occur at the expense of funding projects in YOU, it would likely result in a smaller number of participants engaged in participation projects overall. Thus, attempts to foster participation projects within E&T, should also be attentive to increasing the reach of such projects, and ensuring they are not funded at the expense of YOU. In the current iteration of the programme, dedicated chapters and budgetary arrangements for YOU and E&T protect, to some extent, against competition between fields. However, should these aspects not be present in future iterations of the programme, this issue would be a significant concern.

Between 2021 and 2024 the **mean numbers of PFOs in participation projects increased** for projects in all fields, (from a mean of around five per project in 2021 to around twenty per project in 2024), this increase was particularly noticeable in YOU *participation projects*, where the mean number of PFOs per project increased from 8 in 2021 to 35 in 2024. Across the whole period, 15,8% of participants within YOU activities were PFOs, compared to 15,7% in SE, 22,0 % in VET, 23,1% in AE and 10,1% in Sports (Data are not available for Higher Education). However, the substantially larger participant numbers in YOU means that projects in this field account for 13,98% of all PFOs engaged in participation projects, with the

other four sectors each accounting for around 1% or fewer.

NGOs, associations and foundations were the most common type of coordinating organisation for *participation projects*, although their share decreased from 49,2% in 2021 to 39,7% in 2024. This may reflect the shrinking civic space across Europe¹⁴. This is a considerable issue that is directly related to the participation priority; engagement in civil society is arguably a core part of the priority. Thus, NAs and the SALTO Network should consider taking steps to alter this trend, through targeted promotion, outreach and support for civil society organisations who might apply as programme beneficiaries.

The most common type of participation projects funded was the **KA1 learning mobilities of individuals (75,8%)**. The **second most common type of participation project** was the **KA2 partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices (18,2%)**, but the number of projects funded in this category decreased year-on-year. This may reflect general trends within the E+ programme towards KA1 and away from KA2. It can also be noted that the proportion of KA2 projects addressing the participation priority was lower than the proportion of KA2 projects in E+ as a whole (37,0%, based on the 2021–2023 period). In either case NAs and the SALTO Network should take steps to increase the number of participation-related KA2 projects so that they better reflect overall programme trends. AS KA2 is intended to foster international cooperation, innovation and the exchange of best practices among organisations, it provides a vital mechanism for promoting the quality and advancement of projects involving youth participation.

The most common topics addressed by Participation Projects were related to participation: (*e.g. “European identity, citizenship, and values”, “democracy and inclusive democratic participation”, and “awareness about the European Union”). When participation-related topics are excluded, the most commonly addressed topics were: Environment and climate change (4,3% of the projects); Creativity, arts and culture (3,2%); Digital skills and competences (3,1%); Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination (2,9%) and New learning and teaching methods and ap-

14. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0032_EN.html

proaches (2,8%). However, there is considerable variation between sectors when it comes to the most prevalent topics other than participation-related ones. Interestingly, this may suggest that the topics within each sector reflect the concerns of that sector as a whole, for example, VET focused on competence development and topics linked to work readiness. When seeking to promote the participation priority to specific sectors, NAs and the SALTO Network should take account of the topics the participation priority is commonly linked to within each sector. Beneficiary training, outreach and tools produced for the sector should then be designed with this in mind.

When it comes to future collaboration between YOU and E&T, there are differences in what types of *participation projects* are implemented between both Fields, and therefore there is much potential for peer learning and for finding synergies. However, for this to happen systemic barriers need to be removed, such as administrative obstacles that prevent organisations from different sectors from working together.

Future monitoring exercises would benefit from looking at statistics for other E+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) projects and comparing them with the participation priority projects. For example, the coordinators of *participation projects* are based in the biggest EU countries, but it is not known if that is simply the case in all E+ projects, or if this is a characteristic specific to participation projects. The same applies to numbers of PFOs, numbers of participants overall, budgets, and so on, and in many other areas there is no benchmark to assess against.

Overall,

to foster the participation priority, NAs and the SALTO Network should consider developing a targeted strategy focused on increasing the number of projects related to the priority itself. While general promotion, through enhanced training, outreach, and resources would help this, the greatest potential for growth lies in dedicated measures targeting E&T, particularly Higher Education. These efforts, however, should be carefully balanced to avoid compromising the cost-effectiveness and participant reach of the successful YOU. Beyond sectoral focus, NAs and the SALTO network should seek to reverse the decline in civil society coordination by providing targeted support to NGOs, and should seek to actively increase the proportion of participation-related KA2 projects, which play an important role in fostering quality and advancement of the field.



Annex

Table 2: Table 2: Topics of Participation Projects

CATEGORY	All	E&T all	AE	HE	VET	SE	YOU	SPO
European identity, citizenship and values*	16,4%	19,6%	15,2%	16,5%	19,2%	21,1%	13,7%	11,9%
Democracy and inclusive democratic participation*	13,3%	9,3%	14,4%	13,5%	4,3%	9,3%	16,7%	10,7%
Awareness about the European Union*	7,0%	9,0%	6,6%	3,5%	12,7%	8,7%	5,3%	7,0%
Environment and climate change	4,3%	4,5%	3,6%	2,8%	1,8%	5,7%	4,2%	2,5%
Promotion of alternative forms of participation*	3,2%	1,2%	3,9%	5,0%	0,8%	0,3%	5,0%	7,4%
Creativity, arts and culture	3,2%	1,8%	2,5%	0,8%	0,8%	2,0%	4,4%	0,4%
Reaching the policy level/dialogue with decision makers*	3,1%	0,4%	0,8%	1,8%	0,5%	0,2%	5,5%	0,8%
Digital skills and competences	3,1%	4,5%	3,6%	1,8%	4,0%	5,1%	1,8%	2,1%
Inclusion, promoting equality and non-discrimination	2,9%	5,4%	6,4%	3,3%	3,5%	5,8%	0,6%	6,6%
New learning and teaching methods and approaches	2,8%	4,6%	3,6%	7,3%	3,0%	5,3%	1,2%	1,7%
Key competences development	2,6%	2,6%	1,6%	1,8%	4,2%	2,4%	2,6%	0,4%
Bridging intercultural, intergenerational and social divide	2,4%	2,2%	3,7%	1,8%	1,3%	2,1%	2,5%	2,5%
Teaching and learning of foreign languages	2,3%	5,0%	1,1%	0,3%	4,9%	6,4%	0,0%	0,0%
Green skills	2,1%	2,4%	1,6%	0,3%	1,6%	3,0%	1,9%	0,4%
Inclusion of marginalised young people	2,1%	0,1%	0,2%	0,3%	0,1%	0,1%	3,7%	2,5%
Physical and mental health, well-being	1,9%	1,3%	1,2%	0,0%	0,6%	1,6%	2,5%	2,5%
Community development	1,8%	0,5%	1,9%	2,0%	0,2%	0,2%	2,9%	0,4%
Youth policy development	1,7%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	3,1%	0,0%
Digital content, technologies and practices	1,6%	2,6%	2,6%	5,0%	2,0%	2,6%	0,7%	1,2%
Quality and innovation of youth work	1,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	2,9%	1,2%
Cultural heritage	1,5%	2,0%	1,9%	3,3%	0,5%	2,4%	1,0%	0,0%

*Indicates topics directly related to the participation priority. Misc. E&T does not have associated categories.

CATEGORY	All	E&T all	AE	HE	VET	SE	YOU	SPO
Media literacy and tackling disinformation	1,4%	1,0%	1,3%	1,8%	0,5%	1,1%	1,8%	0,0%
Human rights and rule of law	1,4%	0,9%	1,4%	0,5%	0,3%	1,0%	1,8%	0,4%
Preventing racism and discrimination	1,0%	0,5%	0,5%	0,8%	0,1%	0,7%	1,5%	0,0%
Initial and continuous training for teachers, trainers and other education staff	1,0%	2,1%	2,0%	1,5%	2,4%	2,0%	0,1%	0,0%
International relations and development cooperation	0,9%	1,0%	1,2%	0,5%	1,0%	1,0%	0,8%	0,0%
Digital literacy, Information, constructive dialogue, fake news	0,8%	0,2%	0,6%	0,0%	0,1%	0,1%	1,3%	1,7%
Creating new, innovative or joint curricula or courses	0,7%	1,4%	1,7%	8,3%	1,2%	1,0%	0,1%	0,4%
Development of disadvantaged rural and urban areas	0,7%	0,5%	0,8%	1,0%	0,8%	0,4%	0,8%	0,4%
Promoting gender equality	0,7%	0,3%	0,7%	0,5%	0,1%	0,2%	1,0%	1,7%
Tackling geographical remoteness and involving rural areas	0,7%	0,4%	0,6%	0,0%	0,3%	0,4%	0,9%	0,0%
Reception and integration of refugees and migrants	0,6%	0,5%	1,3%	0,5%	0,2%	0,4%	0,7%	0,0%
Cooperation between educational institutions and business	0,6%	1,3%	0,3%	1,8%	4,3%	0,6%	0,0%	0,0%
Disabilities	0,6%	0,5%	1,3%	0,0%	0,5%	0,4%	0,6%	2,9%
Work-based learning	0,6%	1,2%	0,0%	0,0%	6,0%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%
Employability	0,6%	0,9%	0,4%	0,3%	4,2%	0,0%	0,3%	0,4%
Entrepreneurial learning - entrepreneurship education	0,5%	0,5%	0,5%	0,8%	1,0%	0,2%	0,6%	0,0%
Information and communication technologies (ICT)	0,5%	0,7%	0,3%	0,0%	0,7%	0,9%	0,3%	0,0%
Youth employability	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,9%	0,0%
Digital youth work	0,4%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,1%	0,6%	0,0%
Prevention of conflicts, post-conflict rehabilitation	0,3%	0,1%	0,1%	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,6%	0,0%
Preventing early school leaving and failure in education	0,3%	0,6%	0,3%	0,0%	0,8%	0,6%	0,1%	0,0%
Equal access and transition to labour market	0,3%	0,4%	0,3%	0,8%	1,7%	0,0%	0,2%	0,4%
Inter-regional cooperation	0,3%	0,3%	0,5%	0,3%	0,3%	0,2%	0,3%	0,8%

CATEGORY	All	E&T all	AE	HE	VET	SE	YOU	SPO
Green transport and mobility	0,3%	0,4%	0,2%	0,0%	0,5%	0,4%	0,2%	0,4%
Roma and/or other minorities	0,3%	0,2%	0,3%	0,3%	0,1%	0,1%	0,3%	0,0%
Preventing radicalisation	0,3%	0,1%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,1%	0,4%	0,0%
Digital safety	0,2%	0,2%	0,1%	0,0%	0,1%	0,3%	0,3%	0,0%
Digital transformation planning and implementation	0,2%	0,4%	0,6%	0,0%	0,4%	0,4%	0,1%	0,0%
Development of training courses	0,2%	0,2%	0,5%	0,8%	0,2%	0,1%	0,2%	0,0%
Overcoming skills mismatch and addressing the needs of the labour market	0,2%	0,4%	0,1%	0,0%	1,9%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%
Career guidance	0,2%	0,4%	0,1%	0,0%	1,3%	0,2%	0,0%	0,0%
Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)	0,2%	0,4%	0,0%	1,0%	0,2%	0,5%	0,0%	0,0%
Prevention of bullying	0,2%	0,2%	0,0%	0,3%	0,1%	0,3%	0,2%	0,0%
Promoting LGBT+ equality	0,2%	0,1%	0,1%	0,3%	0,0%	0,1%	0,2%	0,0%
Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data usage	0,2%	0,2%	0,1%	0,5%	0,3%	0,3%	0,1%	0,0%
Social responsibility of educational institutions	0,2%	0,3%	0,3%	2,0%	0,2%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%
Early childhood education and care	0,2%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,3%	0,4%	0,0%	0,0%
Active ageing	0,1%	0,3%	1,6%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Pedagogy and didactics	0,1%	0,3%	0,5%	0,8%	0,0%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%
Social innovation	0,1%	0,2%	0,6%	1,0%	0,1%	0,1%	0,1%	0,0%
Quality assurance	0,1%	0,3%	0,5%	0,3%	0,2%	0,2%	0,0%	0,0%
Soft skills	0,1%	0,1%	0,4%	0,0%	0,1%	0,1%	0,1%	0,0%
Research and innovation	0,1%	0,1%	0,1%	0,8%	0,1%	0,0%	0,1%	0,0%
Enterprise, industry, SMEs and entrepreneurship	0,1%	0,2%	0,0%	0,3%	0,8%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Recognition, transparency, certification	0,1%	0,1%	0,2%	0,0%	0,3%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%
Disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,1%	0,0%

[illegible]

