

A stage with blue curtains and a spotlight. The spotlight is shining down on the stage floor, creating a bright circular area. The curtains are blue with gold tassels. The background is filled with many small, bright stars.

#ray
#eayw
#quality
#youthwork
#innovation
#catordogcontent



#ray

- » Research-based analysis of European youth programmes
 - » Erasmus+ Youth in Action (since 2008)
 - » European Solidarity Corps (since 2018)
- » Ongoing monitoring of Erasmus+ and Solidarity Corps
 - » Programme implementation and management
 - » Programme achievements, outcomes and impact
- » Thematic projects
 - » Participation and citizenship
 - » Competence development and capacity building
 - » Innovation and good practice in the youth sector
 - » Learning strategies of organisations

» Distributed European network

- » 35 partners, 33 countries, 26 languages

» Project participants

- » More than 120.000 respondents to online surveys

- » Last cycle: › 23.000 project participants

» Project leaders

- » More than 30.000 respondents to online surveys

- » Last cycle: › 5.000 project participants

» Interviews

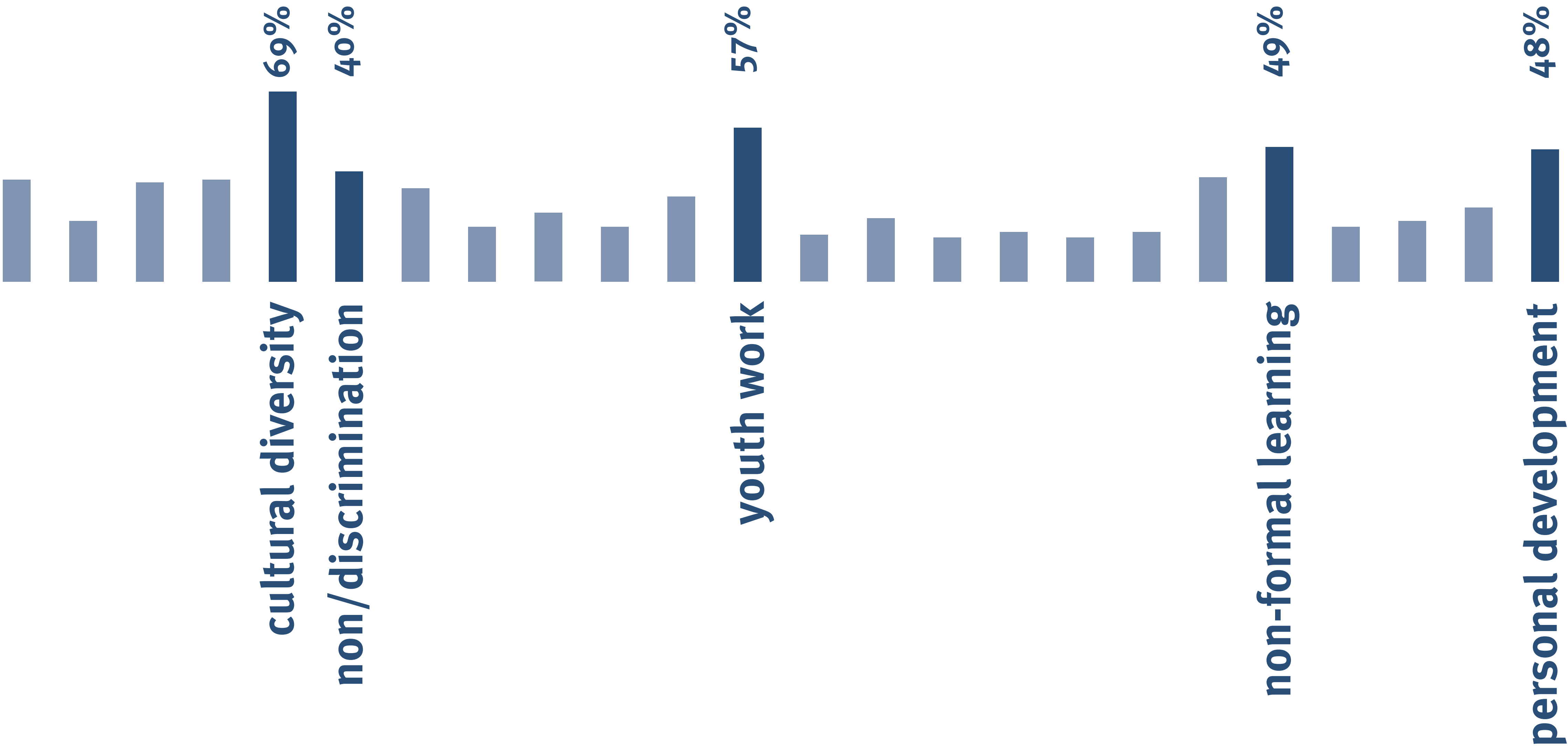
- » More than 1.000 qualitative interviews

- » Multiple interviews: before/after projects/training



#quality

In the project, I learned something new about...



E+/YiA is intercultural learning at its best:

a safe space to encounter differences with positive curiosity and explore them through constructive discourse and exchange.

The programme, across formats and beneficiaries, is an excellent framework for intercultural dialogue and intercultural learning. It strengthens the appreciation of cultural diversity among project participants, facilitates participation, and promotes active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity within and beyond Europe.

Through my participation in this project/ activity, I improved my ability to ...

...get along with people who have different cultures: 94.1%

...cooperate in a team: 94.0%

...communicate with people speaking another language: 93.1%

How did the project affect participants?

They appreciate cultural diversity more: 65.7%

They are more committed to fight discrimination: 49.2%

They feel more European than before: 47.7%

E+/YiA is a crucial training ground for new youth leaders, youth trainers & youth workers.

The programme offers a variety of training formats, which build the capacity of youth leaders, youth trainers and youth workers.

They become more competent and more confident, widen and strengthen their networks, and get better at running participatory youth projects with an intercultural and international dimension.

Through my participation in this project/ activity, I improved my ability to...

...produce media content myself: 63.5%

...discuss political topics seriously: 61.5%

...use smart phones, tablets etc: 51.4%

E+/YiA needs new formats to address current social and political developments.

The programme needs new formats that explicitly address current social and political developments – and capacity building for the youth sector to implement such formats.

E+/YiA needs new ideas to address the growing gap between digitalisation and youth work.

While digitalisation enjoys increasing political attention, youth professionals largely remain distant to digital practices – with the gap between young people's realities and youth work growing.

Which effect has the strongest gender gap?

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| I participate more in politics. | F: 22.4% | M: 28.4% | G: 6.0% |
| I feel more European. | F: 46.3% | M: 50.5% | G: 4.2% |
| I engage more in civil society. | F: 34.4% | M: 37.4% | G: 3.0% |

E+/YiA needs to pay more attention to gendered effects of the programme.

In many countries youth work is dominated by women in the youth sector's work-force, but not at management and policy level.

In some aspects, the programme tends to reproduce gendered effects, and needs to develop strategies to avoid mechanisms of gender-based discrimination taking hold.

Have you participated in a similar project before?

Yes, funded by a European youth programme: 44.4%

Yes, funded by another European programme: 21.5%

Yes, another similar project: 19.3%

None of the above 36.5%

E+/YiA needs to get better at strengthening, and reproducing, diversity.

The programme works reasonably well for those young people with fewer opportunities that it manages to involve.

The programme remains overproportionately attractive for highly educated young people. Moreover, project leaders tend to overestimate how many young people with fewer opportunities are involved – and tend to underestimate their needs.

In how many similar projects did you participate before?

| | | | |
|-------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 | 22.8% | 2 | 22.4% |
| 3-5 | 33.9% | 6-10 | 14.6% |
| 11-20 | 4.6% | +20 | 1.7% |

More than half of all returning participants have been involved in three or more similar projects.

Previous participation (only those funded by a European youth programme!) by activity type:

| | | |
|------------|--|--------------|
| EVS | Voluntary service | 28.4% |
| YE | Youth exchanges | 39.1% |
| SD | Structured dialogue: | 39.0% |
| YWM | Youth worker mobility: | 58.5% |
| TCA | Training & cooperation activities | 65.5% |

E+/YiA needs to get better at training experienced and returning youth professionals.

The training of new youth leaders/trainers / workers is a strength of the programme, but the training of more experienced youth professionals is a profound weakness.

There is a lack of advanced training offers for youth work and youth policy experts – on a diversity of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours.

Which statement do project organisers disagree with most?

| | |
|--|-------|
| The project application was simple. | 21.7% |
| The project administration was simple. | 20.5% |
| The project reporting was easy. | 19.6% |

E+/YiA needs to get better at simplifying the application and administration procedures.

There have been a number of attempts to improve the application and administration procedures.

If there were any measurable changes at all in the monitoring of the programme after such changes were introduced, they tended to be negative for most project types and most age-groups.

Who runs the projects?

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Voluntary youth leaders. | 55.3% |
| Full-time youth workers. | 24.0% |
| Part-time youth workers | 9.5% |
| Other types of youth leaders. | 11.2% |

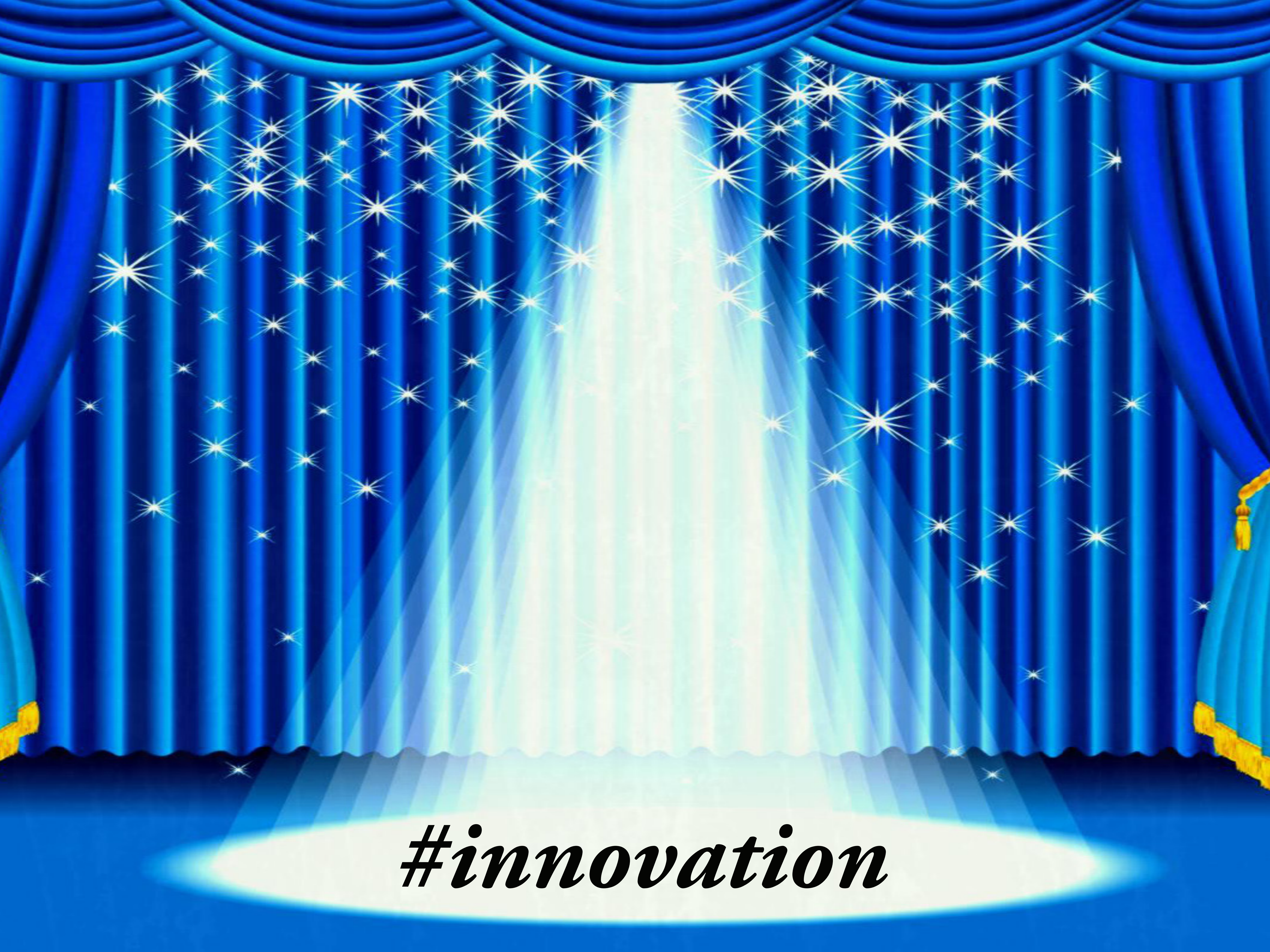
Who runs the projects? By activity type:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Voluntary youth leaders. | YE: 66.5% | SD: 44.0% |
| Full-time youth workers. | YE: 18.2% | SD: 29.2% |
| Part-time youth workers | YE: 6.0% | SD: 12.0% |
| Other types of youth leaders. | YE: 9.3% | SD: 14.8% |

E+/YiA needs to get better at strengthening the infrastructure of the youth sector.

Most organisations and networks do not consider the strong reliance on volunteers for managing their projects healthy.

There is a systemic problem in the chronically underfinanced youth sector, at national as well as European level, and the programme stays below its potential to strengthen the sector's infrastructure.



#innovation

Our new research project on the impact of *Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices* – RAY INNO

The aim of this research project is to explore the role, impact and potential of E+/YiA strategic partnerships as instruments to foster innovation and the exchange of good practices in the youth sector and related fields.

RAY INNO – Research objectives:

- explore the variety and diversity of formats of transnational strategic partnerships, and patterns of similarities and/or differences between these different formats;
- explore the impact of transnational projects funded through KA2 on the youth sector, both in relation to the fostering of innovation and the strengthening of good practice;
- explore the potential of transnational strategic partnerships, as an instrument more generally and with the specific funding rules, to foster innovation and strengthen good practice;
- explore the profile of beneficiaries, both at organisational and individual level, that have participated in and benefited from transnational strategic partnerships;
- explore the key features of transnational strategic partnerships with a high level of impact on fostering innovation and strengthening good practice in the youth sector.

RAY INNO – Research questions (1):

- Which types of organisations and networks implement and/or benefit from transnational strategic partnerships, and how?
- Which types of projects get implemented by transnational strategic partnerships, and which target groups are addressed?
- How have transnational strategic partnerships defined innovation and good practice, respectively, in the context of their projects?

RAY INNO – Research questions (2):

- How do transnational strategic partnerships seek to support the fostering of innovation and the strengthening of good practice?
- How are the results of transnational strategic partnerships – intellectual outputs and/or best practice – typically shared, and how adequate are these sharing approaches?
- How do innovation and good practice have an impact beyond the partnership carrying a project on the wider youth sector?

RAY INNO – Research questions (3):

- Which approaches work best for National Agencies in supporting strategic partnerships, and which challenges do agencies face in their support of strategic partnerships?
- Which aspects contribute most to the successful transition of project outcomes into youth work and youth policy discourses beyond a particular project?
- Which aspects and dimensions of youth work and youth policy benefit most from innovation and best practice, and which aspects and dimensions benefit less and least?

RAY INNO – Research phases:

- **MAPPING AND EXPLORATIVE INTERVIEWS**
- **2: CASE STUDIES IN ALL PARTNER COUNTRIES (16)**
 - 2 case studies in small countries
 - 4 case studies in medium countries
 - 6 case studies in larger countries
- **INTERVIEWS: STAKEHOLDERS WITH SYSTEMIC VIEW**

RAY INNO – Research partners:

- Austria
- Belgium (Flanders)
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Netherlands
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Turkey

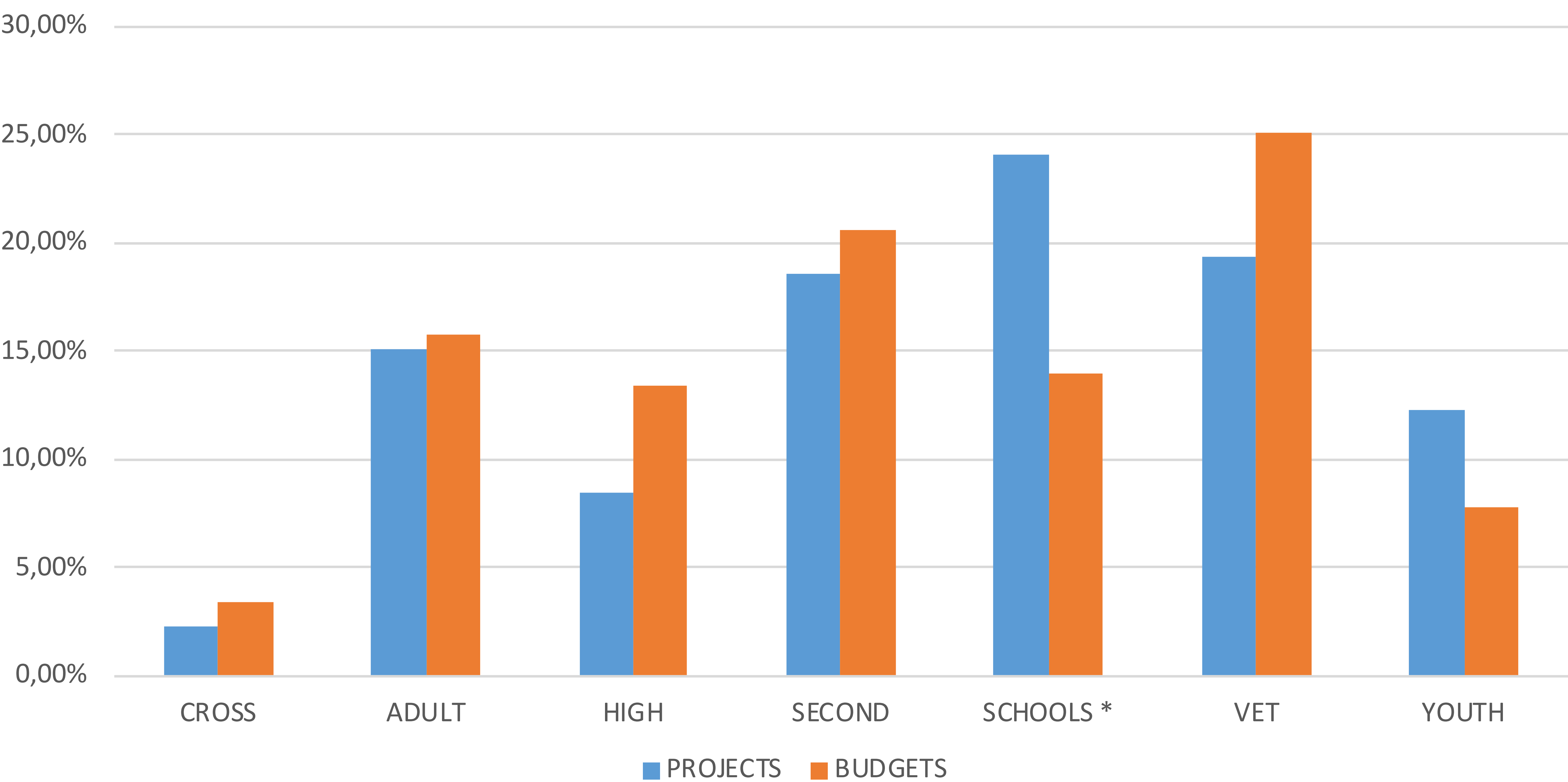
RAY INNO – A few numbers:

- 1.306 funded KA2 projects (strategic partnerships in the field of youth) plus unknown number of youth-related strategic partnerships in other fields as well as among those addressing more than one field
 - 2014: 240 projects
 - 2015: 227 projects
 - 2016: 267 projects
 - 2017: 318 projects
 - 2018: 254 projects

RAY INNO – A few numbers:

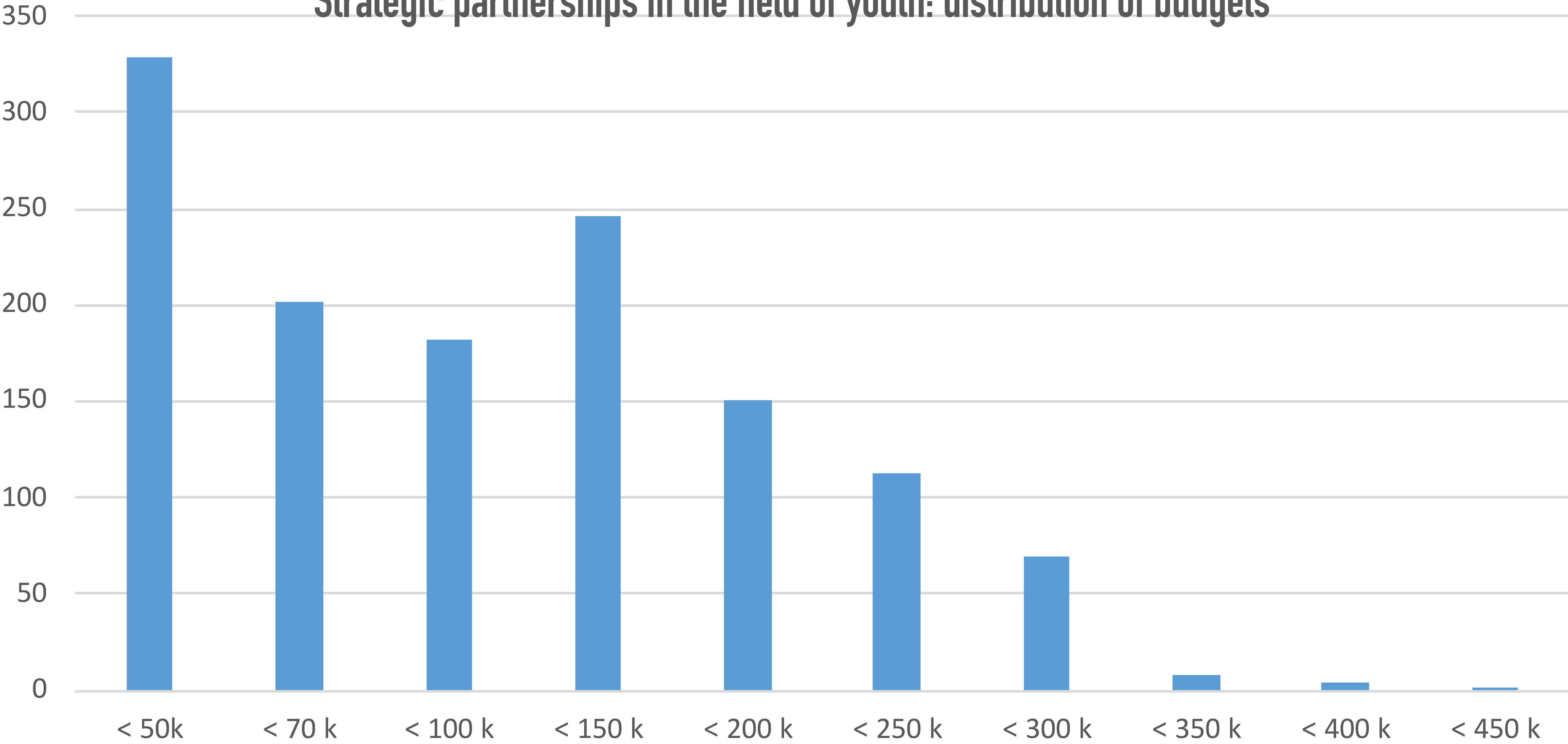
- 1.306 projects with a combined budget of 143.535.243,91 €.
- For comparison:
 - Cross-sector partnerships: 240 projects, 62.108.131,33 €
 - Adult education: 1607 projects, 289.730.248,10 €
 - Higher education: 899 projects, 247.275.277,55 €
 - Secondary education: 1977 projects, 379.363.944,79 €
 - School partnerships: 2572 projects, 258.211.740,28 €
 - Vocational education: 2070 projects, 462.321.147,64 €

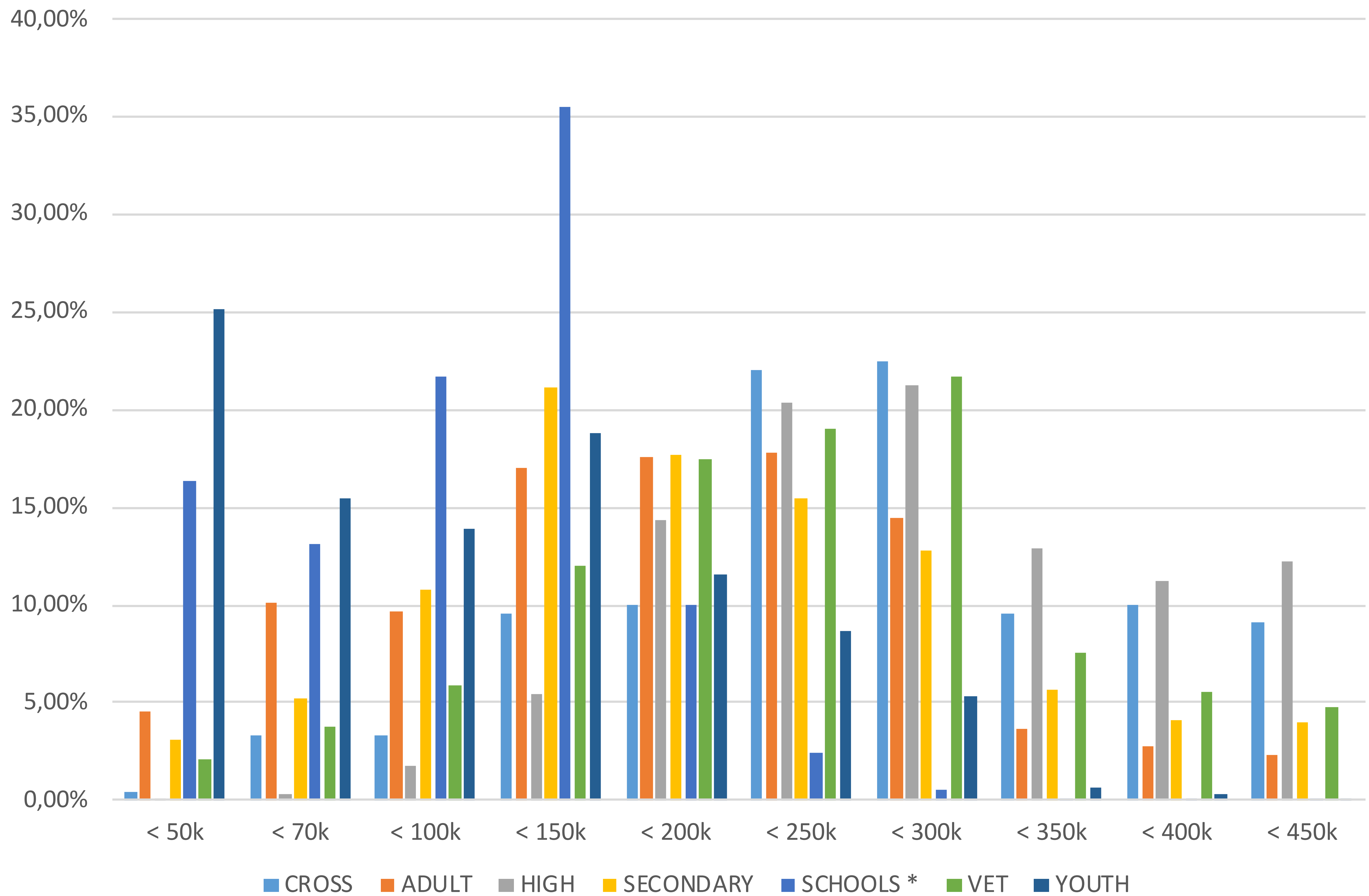
**Across all seven strategic partnerships formats combined:
10.671 projects with a total budget of 1.842.545.733,60 €.**



1.306 projects with a combined budget of 143.535.243,91 €.

Strategic partnerships in the field of youth: distribution of budgets





RAY INNO – A few numbers:

- Less than 10% of the funded 1.306 strategic partnerships in the field of youth have a budget above 250.000 Euro. For comparison:
 - Cross-sector partnerships: 51.25%
 - Adult education partnerships: 23.15%
 - Higher education partnerships: 57.62%
 - Secondary education partnerships: 26.56%
 - School partnerships (only schools): 0.86%
 - Vocational education partnerships: 39.71%
 - Youth field partnerships: 6.36%

RAY INNO – Thematic priorities:

- 2014: Strategic Partnerships are introduced with the new programme generation
- 2015: Horizontal and sector-specific priorities are introduced
- 2016: Strategic partnerships become double-natured: innovation and good practice
- 2018: Youth initiatives return as an official subformat of strategic partnerships
- 2019: Priorities are relabelled to align with the then-suggested EU Youth Strategy

RAY INNO – Thematic priorities:

access (122) awareness (147) **career** (222) citizenship (157) competences (192)
cooperation (273) **courses** (405) creativity (182) credits (73) culture (182)
curricula (405) democracy (147) **development** (580) dialogue (124)
digital (188) disadvantaged (122) **education** (438) **educational** (406)
entrepreneurial (297) **entrepreneurship** (304) **equity** (282)
eu (294) **guidance** (222) health (77) **ict** (188) **incl** (247) **inclusion** (282) informal (73)
innovative (405) intercultural (99) intergenerational (99) **international** (270)
issues (278) **labour** (222) **learning** (546) lifelong (99) **market** (222)
methods (408) non-formal (73) **participation** (700) **policy** (745)
recognition (78) **relations** (135) social (73) **technologies** (188) **training** (405)
unemployment (222) wellbeing (77) **work** (700) **youth** (2322)

RAY INNO – Thematic priorities (1):

- New innovative curricula/educational methods/development of training courses: 405
- Youth (Participation, Youth Work, Youth Policy): 397
- Entrepreneurial learning - entrepreneurship education: 297
- Inclusion – equity: 282
- Labour market issues incl. career guidance / youth unemployment: 222
- ICT - new technologies - digital competences: 188
- Creativity and culture: 182
- EU Citizenship, EU awareness and Democracy: 147

RAY INNO – Thematic priorities (2):

- International cooperation, international relations, development cooperation: 135
- Access for disadvantaged: 122
- Intercultural/intergenerational education & (lifelong) learning: 99
- Health and wellbeing: 77
- Integration of refugees: 70
- Social dialogue: 65
- Environment and climate change: 63
- Open and distance learning: 62
- Disabilities - special needs: 56

RAY INNO – Thematic priorities (3):

- Migrants' issues: 55
- Gender equality / equal opportunities: 47
- Reaching the policy level/dialogue with decision makers: 45
- Early School Leaving / combating failure in education: 41
- Rural development and urbanisation: 37
- Romas and/or other minorities: 23
- Teaching and learning of foreign languages: 15
- ...
- Research and innovation: 4

RAY – Contact us at any time!

On RAY research subjects, including ideas for new research:

Research Coordination Team:

coordination@researchyouth.net

andreas@researchyouth.net

On general RAY subjects, including reports and factsheets:

Office Coordination Team:

office@researchyouth.net

carmen@researchyouth.net