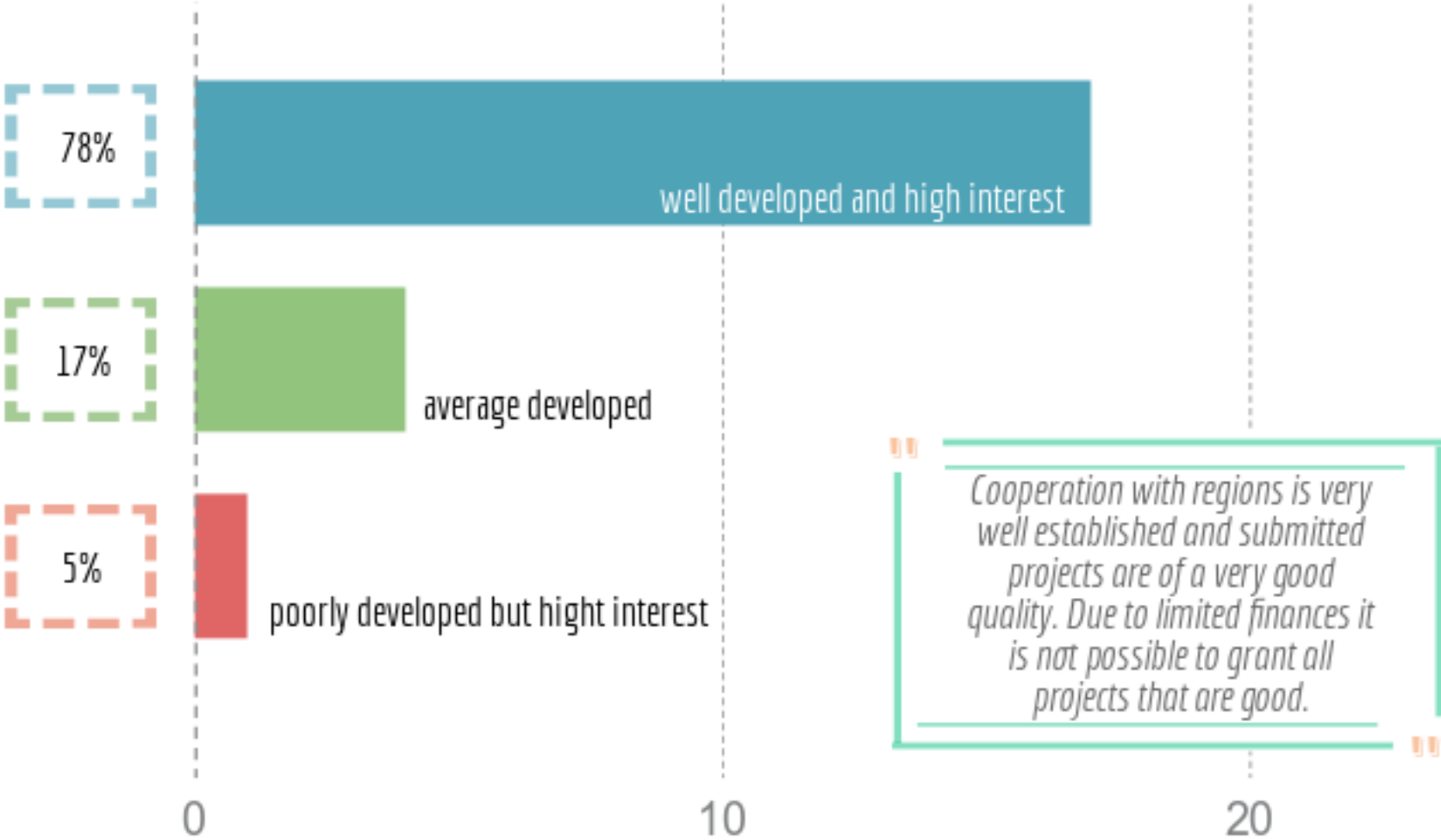


# Survey on Erasmus+ National Agencies' perspective on cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries

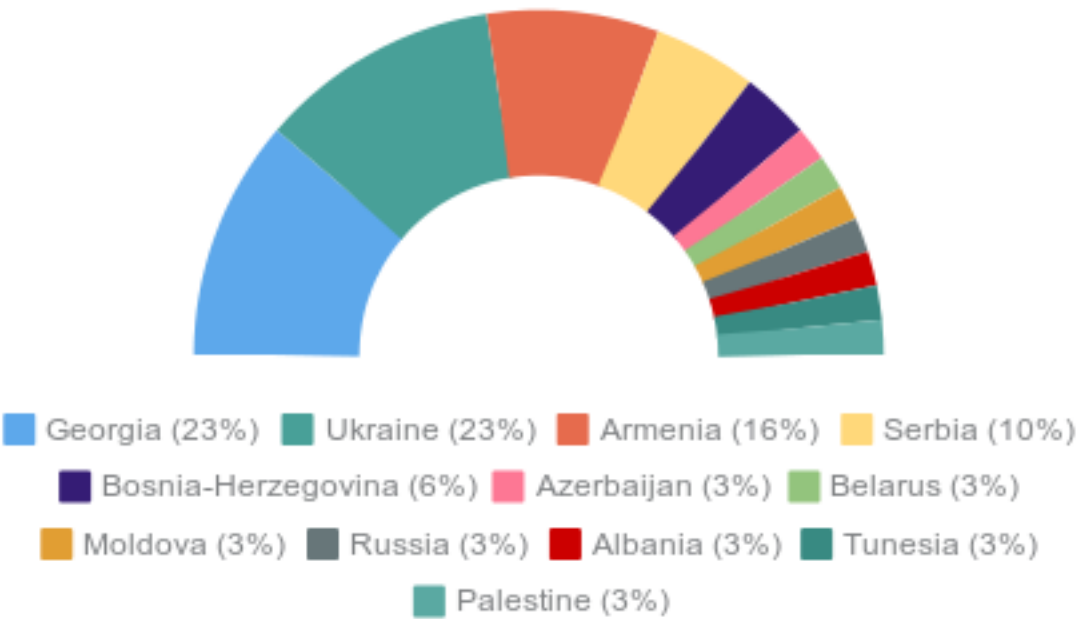
22 out of 35 National Agencies responded to our survey in summer 2015



Are organisations from your country interested in cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries within the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme?



Which countries do organisations in your country (like to) cooperate with most?



- #1 Eastern Partnership Countries and Russia
- #2 Western Balkans
- #3 South-Mediterranean countries

In your opinion, what are main opportunities and challenges regarding cooperation with Partner Countries within the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme?

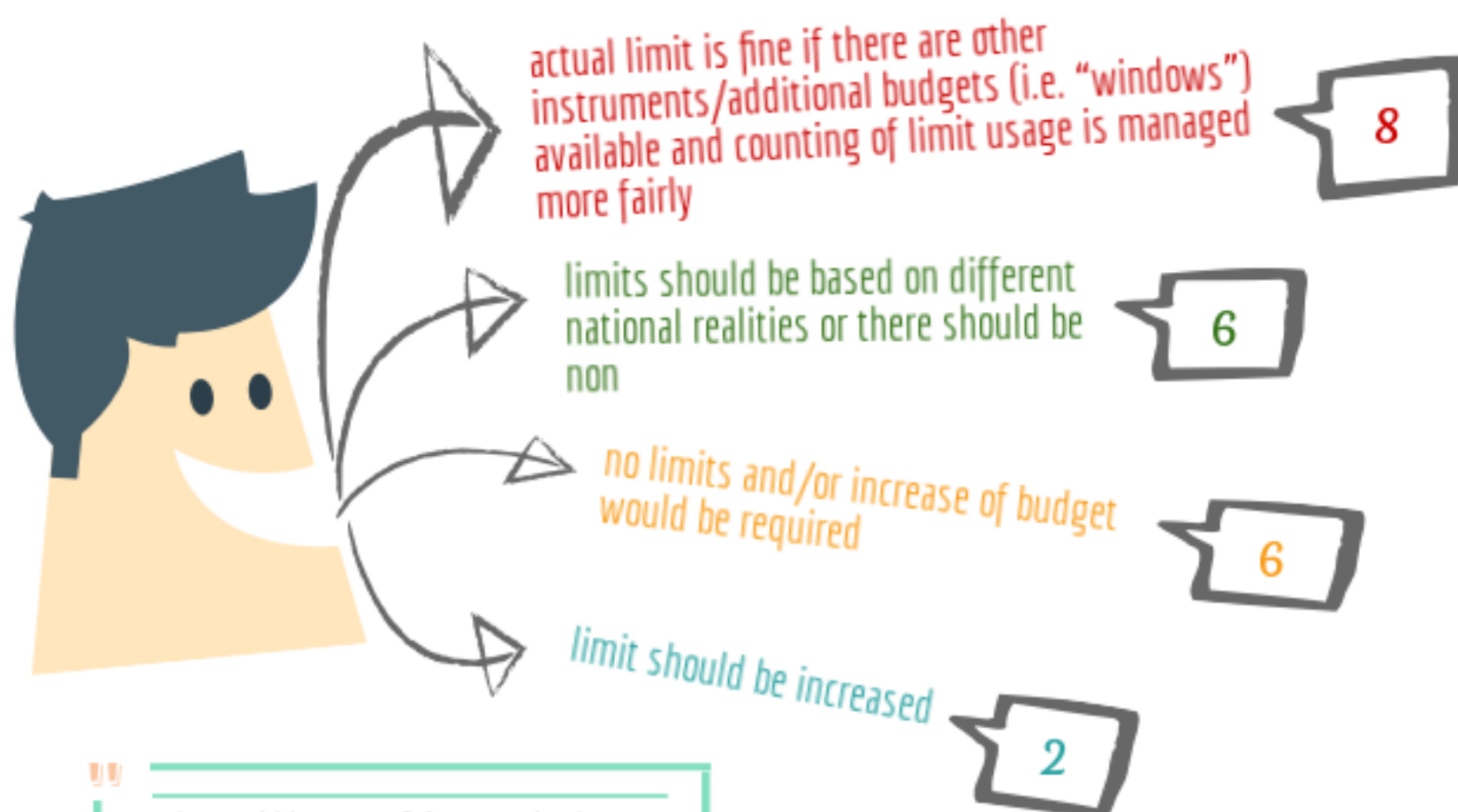
## OPPORTUNITIES

1. intercultural learning / cultural diversity
2. visible and/or desirable influence of the projects at larger scale (support to democratic transformation, development of civil society, youth work development, etc.)
3. high level of projects' quality
4. access to diverse youth work / non-formal education practices
5. high interest of partner countries' organisations

## CHALLENGES

1. visa issues
2. lack of trustful partnerships and understanding of local specificities
3. various capacities in youth work and non-formal education
4. assessment of risks / security issues
5. high travel costs

Should a percentage of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action budget available for projects in cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries be increased / decreased? What would be the right limit? Should there be any percentage limit for your National Agency budget at all?



*It would be more fair to use budget-restrictions for the actual participants from partner countries or when venue is in partner country, rather than to include the entire project as such into partner countries' budget limit.*



Should there be any other conditions for projects with Partner countries?  
Any further political objectives formulated for cooperation with Partner countries?

balanced participation can be award criteria, but not eligibility criteria

9

NO further rules or specific political objectives should be in place, the programme should be coherent and the same for everyone

6

participation of partner regions' organisations should be increased

2

there should be specific political objectives for projects with the neighbouring regions

2

selection criteria should be the same for all projects, but partner organisations involvement should be justified in the application

1

participation of partner countries' organisations in KA2 should be more easy

1



- intercultural learning
- European dimension
- security issues / peace-building
- gender issues
- support to democracy development
- migrant crisis / refugee rights

What do you think the European Commission (COM) as well as regional SALTOs can do concerning visa obstacles for projects' participants?

COM should continue to make relevant institutions and EU member states' ministries aware of the programme and ease the administrative procedures.

COM and regional SALTOs can encourage the NAs, so that they influence their national authorities responsible for visa procedures.

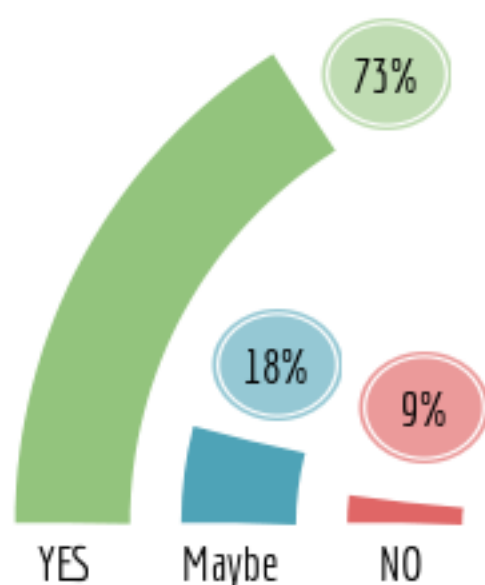
Regional SALTOs can inform EU countries' embassies and EU delegations in the regions about the programme (it's achievements in the regions, statistics, etc).

Regional SALTOs can provide information to organisations about the EU member states visas procedures.

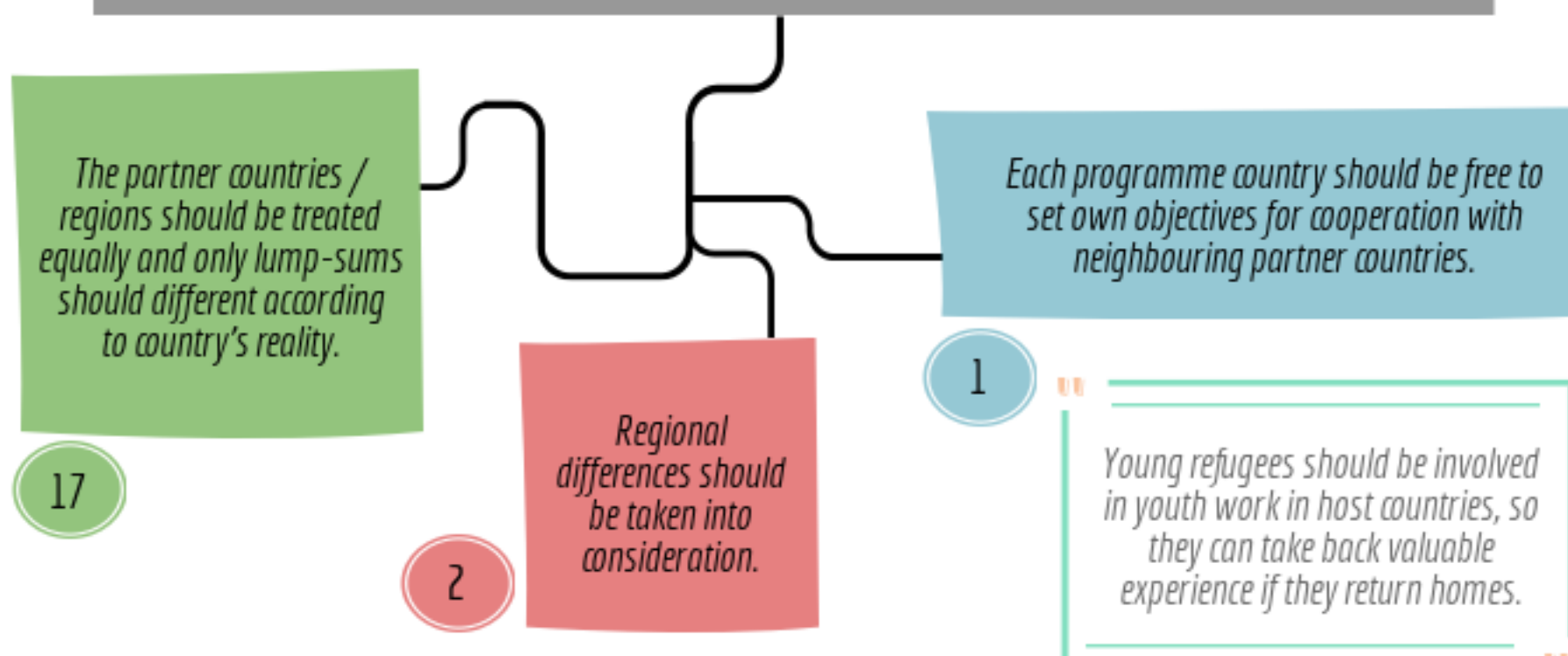
It would be beneficial to establish special, easier and faster residence permit procedures for participants of long-term mobilities. Role of COM in this initiative towards national governments would be crucial.

Either a procedure that enables participants of Erasmus+ projects to receive education type of visa (easy procedure and for free) or special kind of visa for mobility / volunteering is more than expected.

Would you be interested in participating in a NA staff meeting/working group, where questions regarding cooperation with Partner countries are discussed?



Should the approach towards the Neighbouring Partner Countries be the same, or there are groups of countries / regions that should be treated differently? Should the possibilities of the programme be enlarged / limited for some countries of the Partner regions?



Should organisations from Neighbouring Partner Countries have the possibility to take more ownership of projects hosted in their countries and apply directly to receive funds





Should the number of neighbouring partner countries be increased / decreased / not changed?



10

Changes are not welcome at this stage (maybe in the future).

3

"Other partner countries" should have the same possibilities as "neighbouring partner countries", and the funding should be decentralised.

2

The number of neighbouring partner countries should be increased.

1

Countries which are officially in state of war should be considered to be temporarily excluded (high level of insecurity, instability, terrorism).

1

Composition of "neighbouring partner countries" should be reflected according to priorities and political aims.

Is the Erasmus+ programme open to the right target group from Neighbouring Partner Countries, or do other target groups need to be included? Do you see a need to open / reformulate cooperation to other kind of organisations / bodies?

Target group should be the same for all Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme, and as it is already very broad, there is no need to further expand it.

8

Maybe Roma youth should be more clearly included?

1

There is a need to have at least one contact person in each neighbouring country for better promotion of the programme, support to NAs, etc.

1



National youth policies' in partner countries should be further supported, so the youth work sector is enhanced.

1

Right target group is reached (youth and youth workers), but the scope can be broaden.

2

The target group should be the same for all the programme, and there is a need to reformulate it in general everywhere.

1

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RESOURCE CENTRES



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