

Cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries under Erasmus+ : Youth in Action, 2014 – 2017

Statistical Analysis



This paper was produced by SALTO SEE in cooperation with SALTO EECA.

Statistical analysis

Introduction

Feedback received from organisations based in the Partner regions suggests that organisations face some difficulties using the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme and find it increasingly difficult to find partners and support for projects. The analysis of data has been undertaken with the aim of finding out, if the figures confirm these perceptions.

The present statistics have been collected to give an overview over the development of the cooperation with the Neighbouring Partner regions (EECA & Russia, EuroMed, Western Balkans) of the Erasmus+ programme during the period 2014 – 2017. The figures have been collected from Dashboard and are based on information about granted projects, not implemented projects. This decision was taken because projects, especially those granted in 2017, are often still open at this point (Oct 2018), so that data about implemented projects gives a less complete picture. (For more information about data used see endnote of this section.)

The data is presented with the intention to show developments and trends over the selected period of time and, in addition, to provide a comparative view of the cooperation with the different regions. The data refers to budget, number of projects, activities (KA1) and participants.

Summary and tentative analysis of some discernible trends

1. DEVELOPMENT OF BUDGETS, PROJECTS AND PARTICIPANTS IN COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBOURING PARTNER COUNTRIES 2014 – 2017

Over the period 2014 – 2017, the overall budget spent on the cooperation with Neighbouring Partner regions increased by about 12%. In total, about 30% of the budget for Erasmus+: YiA was allocated to cooperation with Partner countries.

In terms of number of projects, the statistics show a continued decrease in projects with the Western Balkan region since 2015 after an initial increase in the first year of Erasmus+; the trend for the cooperation with the other regions, EECA and EuroMed, is opposite. However, overall the amount of projects granted remained relatively stable: The decrease or increase remained in the realm of 10%, for the EECA region even 5%, with the exception of a 20% increase in projects with South Mediterranean countries from 2016 to 2017.

In contrast, looking at the overall number of participants from Programme and Partner countries involved in projects with the regions, the graphs illustrate a negative trend for the WB and EECA regions, i.e. a decrease in participants of 12% for the WB and 14% for the EECA region when comparing the number of participants in projects granted in 2014 and 2017.

The trend for projects involving SouthMed countries shows an increase of 12% between the number of participants in projects granted in 2017 compared to 2014.

2. BUDGET AND PARTICIPANTS IN COOPERATION BETWEEN PROGRAMME COUNTRIES 2014 – 2017

The budget allocated to the cooperation between Programme countries increased by about 27% during the period 2014 – 2017. Accordingly, even though the budget spent on cooperation with Partner regions also increased, the actual percentage of the budget allocated to cooperation with NPC decreased over the years.

In particular between 2015 and 2016, the collected figures also show an increase in participants in projects between Programme countries of about 7,5%.

3. DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE PARTNER REGIONS

In terms of the **number of participants coming from Partner regions** as well as the **number of participants** (from all countries, including the hosts) **hosted in projects in the Partner regions**, the situation remained rather stable during the period 2014 – 2017. The figures show a slight decrease in participants coming from the regions of the WB and EECA, and a slight increase for participants coming from Southern Mediterranean countries from 2016 to 2017. Also the number of received participants remained stable in general, with slight variations between the regions.

However, it is quite striking that on average, only 25% of the participants in projects involving Partner regions came from the regions (from the WB even less, only 21%).

Only 18% of all the participants in projects involving Partner regions took part in activities implemented in a Partner region (in the WB region 13%, SouthMed countries 15%, EECA region 22%).

4. SHARE OF THE DIFFERENT REGIONS IN THE COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBOURING PARTNER COUNTRIES

The majority of projects involve cooperation with Eastern Europe and Caucasus and the Russian Federation. This is reflected in the number of participants, though with a slightly smaller difference between regions:

Of all projects involving Neighbouring Partner countries, 58% involved the EECA region, 26% the Western Balkan region and 16% South Mediterranean countries.

Comparing participants in projects involving different regions, 52% of participants took part in projects with EECA countries, 31% in projects with the WB and 17% in projects with countries South of the Mediterranean.

It might be worth mentioning here that a significant number of projects included more than one Partner region. Detailed information about projects involving more than one region has not been collected at this stage; this aspect might require further exploration.

5. TRENDS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF MOBILITY ACTIVITIES 2014 – 2017

As for the **types of projects granted**, following the opportunities provided by the Programme, the vast majority of projects were granted within KA1; only a small percentage of projects were granted within KA3 or, even less, KA2-Strategic Partnerships (4% with WB, 2,4% with SouthMed, 1,5% with EECA).

A closer look specifically at the trends in **types of mobility activities in KA1** - Youth Exchanges, EVS/Volunteering activities and Mobility of Youth Workers - reveals that:

The trend during the whole period was positive for **Youth Exchanges**, with some increase and/or at least stability in projects with all regions as well as the number of participants overall involved.

The number of **EVS/Volunteering projects** remained also mostly stable with a slight increase in projects as well as numbers of volunteers involved in projects with all regions. All regions show a slightly or moderately increasing trend of sending volunteers.

The picture for receiving is less straightforward: There is a significant decrease in received volunteers in the WB, a very moderate increase in received volunteers in EECA countries, and an increase in received volunteers in Southern Med countries (with a significant drop in 2015).

In the EECA and WB regions, more volunteers were sent, with a widening gap between sending and receiving, while increasingly more volunteers were received than sent in the Southern Med region.

The situation regarding projects including **Mobility of youth workers** is quite different: There is a significant downward trend during the whole period. In terms of projects, there was a significant decrease of projects with the EECA and the WB regions, but stability with South Med countries. In terms of number of participants, there was a decrease in projects with all regions: by about 30% in projects with the EECA and WB regions, and by about 25% in projects with the South Mediterranean region.

SOME TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS

- ⇒ Altogether, these figures indicate that while a significant budget was spent on the cooperation with Partner countries, the actual involvement of the countries of the Partner regions remained relatively low.
- ⇒ The correlation between increase in number of projects and budget and decrease in the number of participants from the WB and EECA regions (thus decreasing impact on the regions) requires further reflection. One possible reason for this seemingly contradictory trend that the findings seem to suggest, is the »defective« way of counting any project, even with only one NPC partner, as a project with Partner countries.
- ⇒ In addition, as mentioned above, a noticeable number of projects included partners from different Partner regions. While this form of interregional cooperation can most certainly bring interesting and beneficial results, it is still worth questioning, to what extent such projects can take into account the needs of the partners coming from Partner countries and what impact they can have on these regions.
- ⇒ The above described trend of a stagnant, if not decreasing, involvement of the Partner regions was reinforced by the increasing focus on cooperation within the EU during this period. The increase in the budget spent as well as in participants in projects between Programme countries comes at the time when the focus of attention shifted to the need for cooperation and solidarity within the EU (due to the “refugee crisis”, Brexit, terrorist attacks etc.). This seems to have had an additional effect on the cooperation with the Partner regions.
- ⇒ The question of why there was a downward trend in particular regarding Mobility of youth workers, which was a very popular form of cooperation under the former Programme Youth in Action, remains to be further investigated.

Not considered in the present analysis are specifications for cooperation with specific countries inside the Partner regions. Additional information about the dynamics within the regions is available here:

- [Cooperation with Eastern Europe and Caucasus and the Russian Federation](#)
- [Cooperation with the Western Balkan region](#)
- EuroMed cooperation

Additional sources of funding for cooperation with the Partner regions that have not been considered in the above analysis

Not considered in this analysis are additional sources of funding for cooperation with the Partner regions, which were made available at the centralised level within KA2, Capacity building, under the regional **Windows for cooperation with the WB and EECA regions (not including Russia) and Tunisia.**

Within the Western Balkans Youth Window, 6.886.004 EUR were made available for granting projects applied for by organisations from the WB in the period 2015 – 2017.

The Eastern Partnership Youth Window opened only in 2017, when projects in the total amount of 3.303.676 EUR were granted to applicants from the EECA region.

⇒ Feedback from organisations in the EECA and WB regions (more below) suggests that the grants made available within the Windows are perceived as an important source of funding and influence the perception about Erasmus+: Youth in Action as a whole.

Projects in the total amount of 423.870 EUR were granted within the Window for Tunisia in 2017, when the Window was opened.

No information has been collected in the framework of this analysis about:

- Projects granted by the Serbian National Agency. Serbia was a Partner country during the period 2014 – 2017 (until end 2018), but also granting projects since 2017.
- Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges with Southern Mediterranean countries (since 2017)

Note on the collection of data:

The data was collected from Erasmus+ Dashboard for each Key Action separately (using the tabs KA1, KA2 and KA3 on the top left corner of the main page).

All “Contracted” projects have been taken into account in order to get figures that are comparable from 2014 to 2017. Choosing the “Finalised” projects, which might have given more accurate data, would exclude all the ongoing projects and thus create a false image of drastically descending figures for the more recent years. For example, for all KA 1 projects in 2017, at this moment only 14 percent have been finalised.

The section “Participants” is chosen to calculate learners and staff instead of “Mobilities” for the same reason as above (i.e. because this data is available at the start of the project, while “mobilities” count the actual number of participants and staff after the completion of the project). The downside is that this reflects on how the beneficiaries foresaw the number of learners and staff in the application phase, instead of the actual realised mobilities.

The parameters used are:

EP projects:

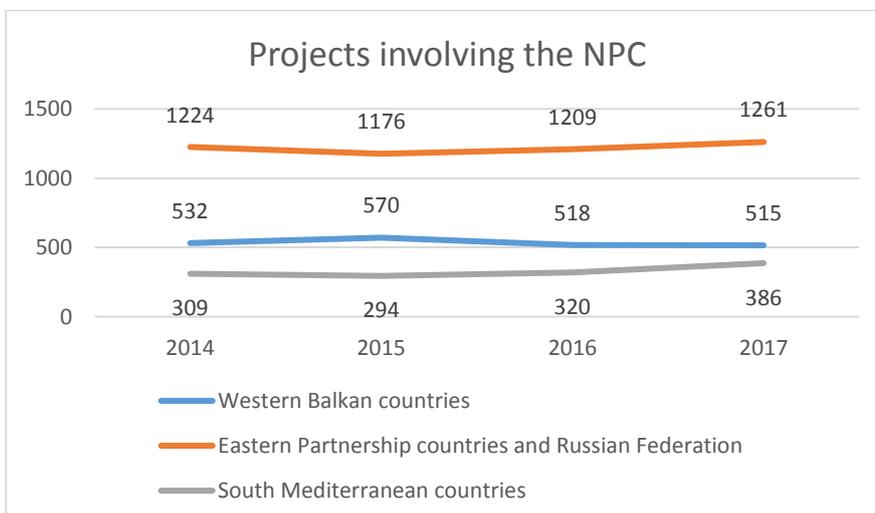
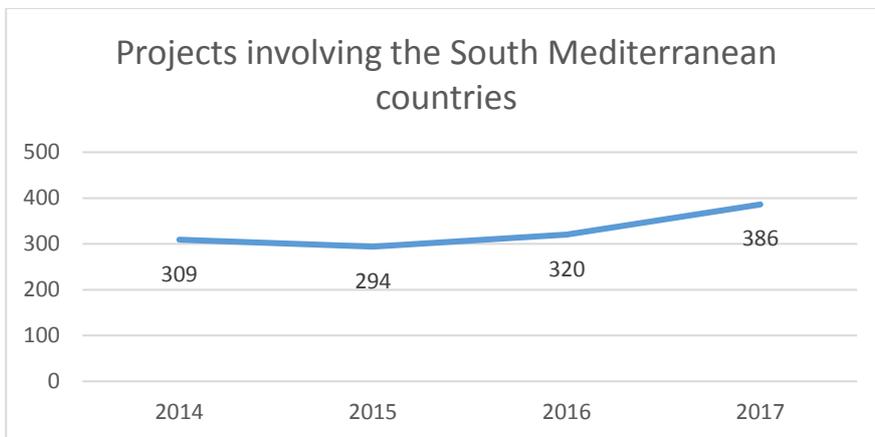
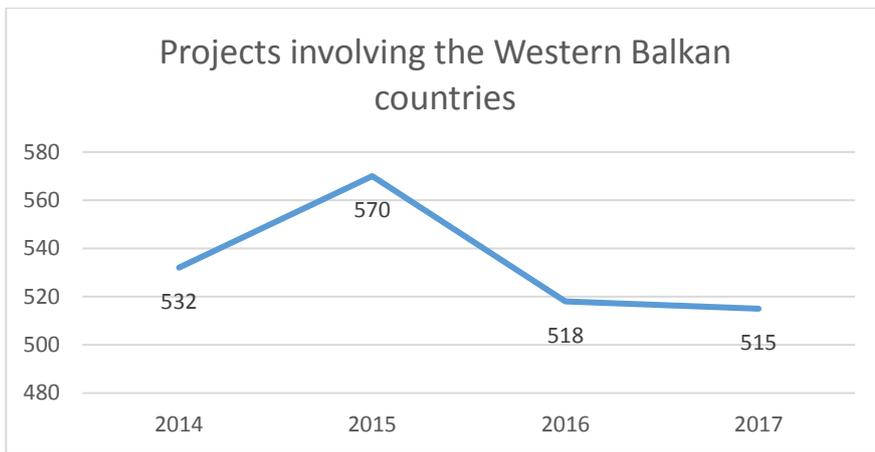
- Call year
- Action type
- Activity (for example in KA 1 I have chosen “Youth Exchanges – Partner Countries”, “European Voluntary Service – Partner Countries” and “Mobility of youth workers – Partner Countries”)

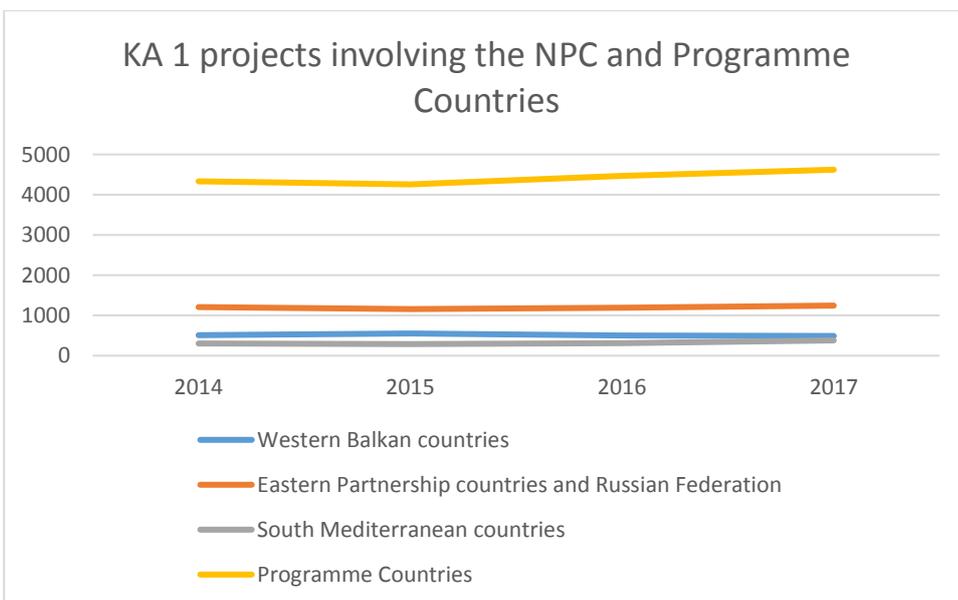
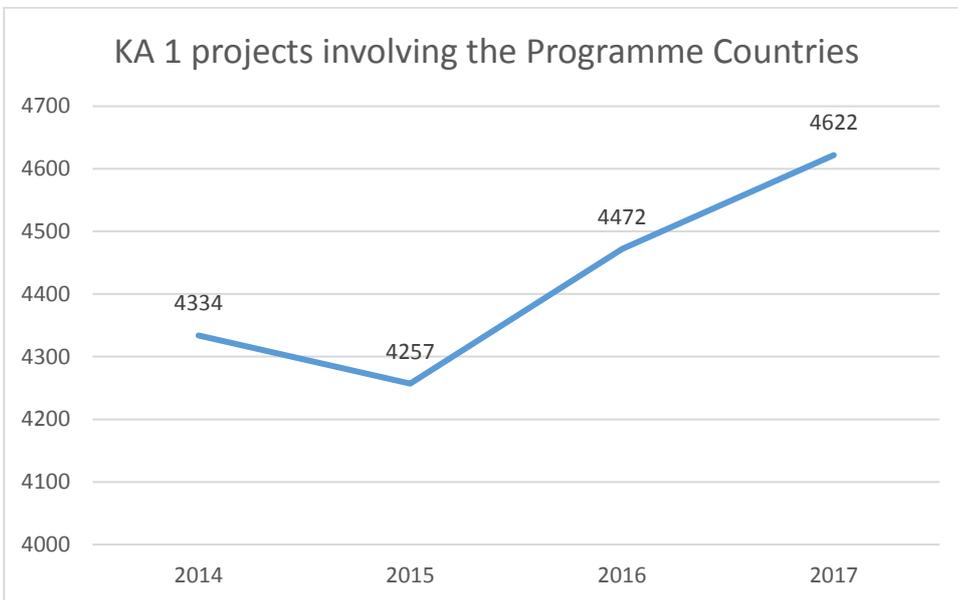
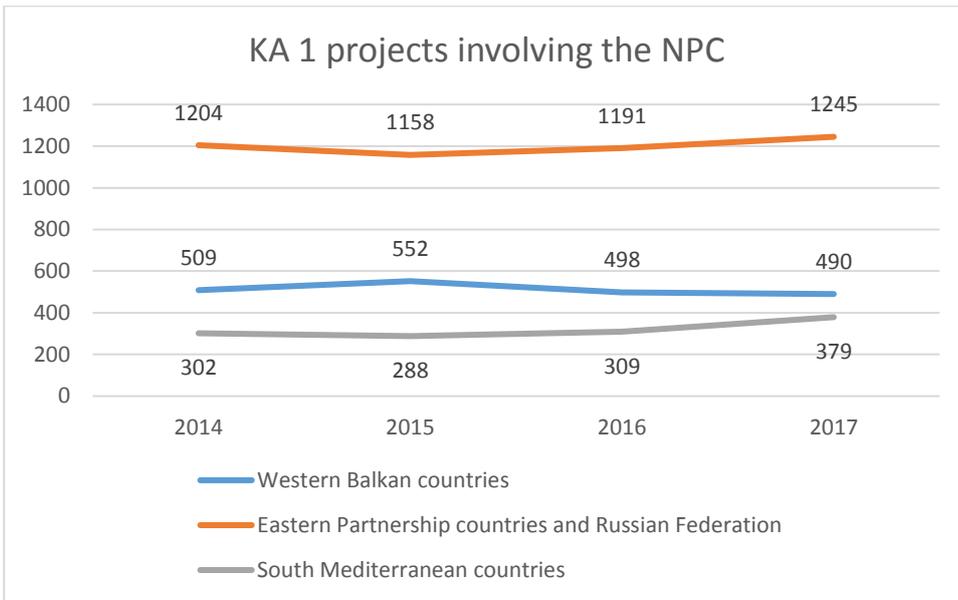
EP Organisations:

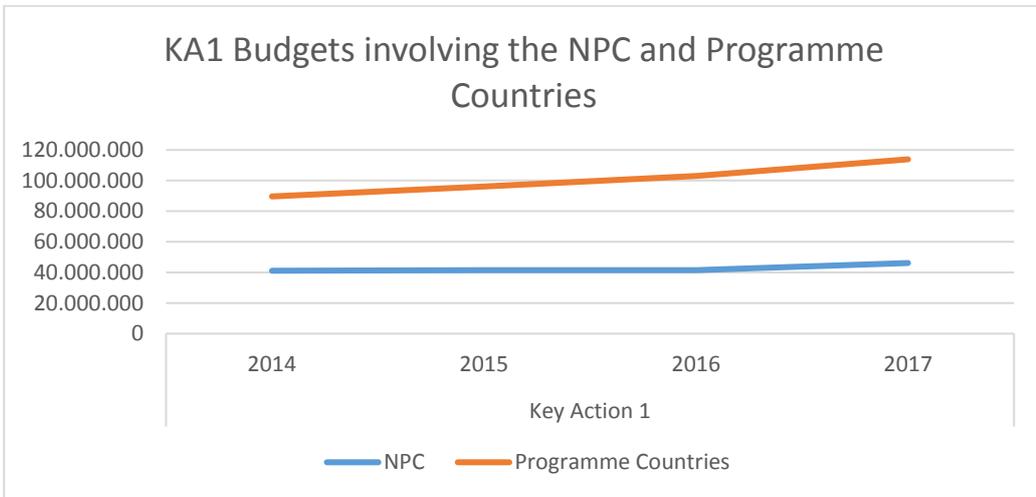
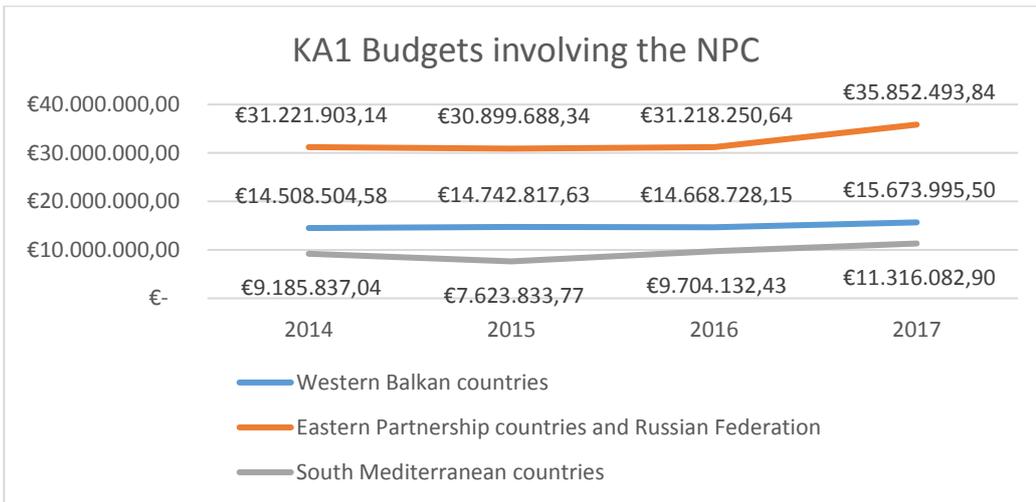
- The selection has been narrowed down to countries of each region by selecting them under “appl/prtn country”.

The number of participants can be seen under the main heading “Participants” and the sub section “E+-flows”.

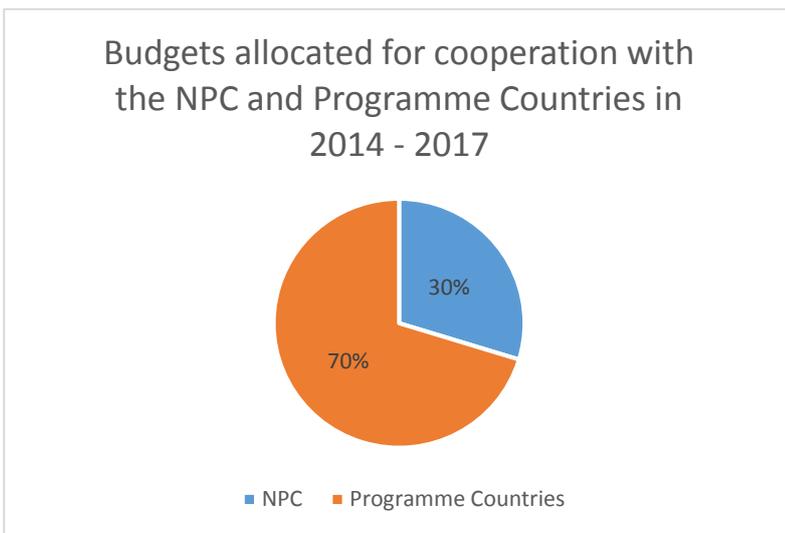
Statistics about Cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Regions in Erasmus+: Youth in Action, 2014 - 2017





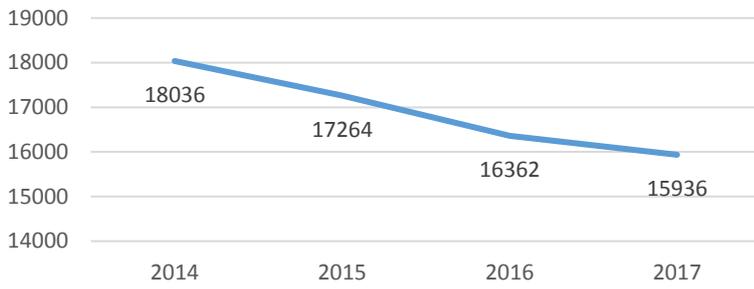


Key Action 1	2014	2015	2016	2017
NPC	41.095.975	41.560.188	41.411.407	46.139.231
Programme Countries	89.639.078	96.043.283	103.069.908	113.885.370

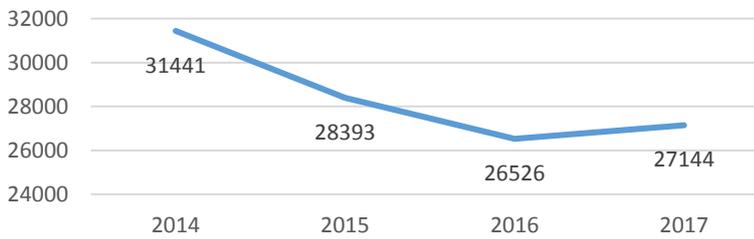


Total	
NPC	170.206.801
Programme Countries	402.637.638

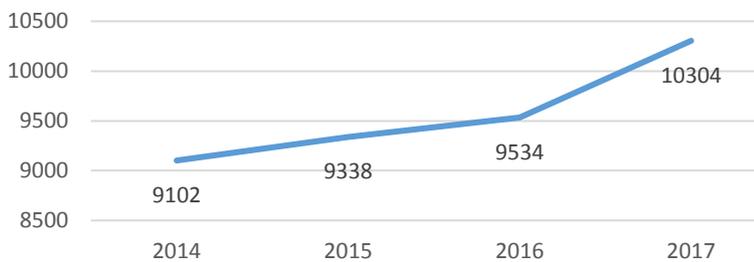
Participants in projects involving the Western Balkan countries



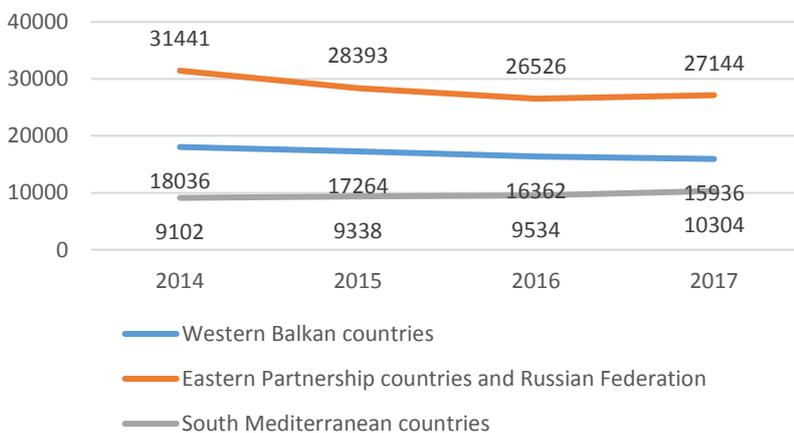
Participants in projects involving the Eastern Partnership countries and Russian Federation



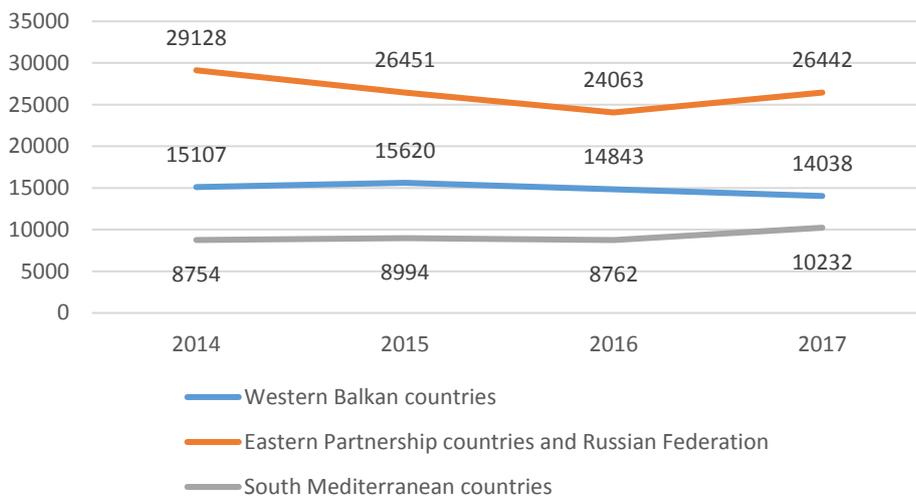
Participants in projects involving the South Mediterranean countries



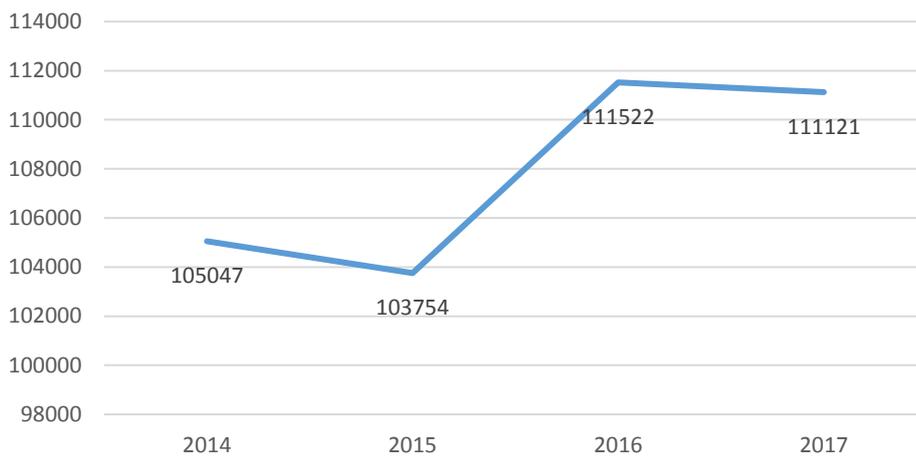
Participants in projects involving the NPC



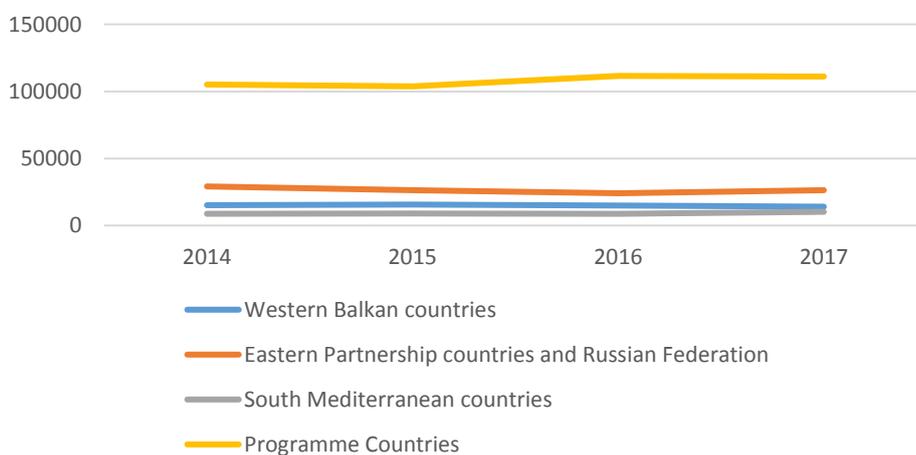
Participants in KA 1 projects involving the NPC

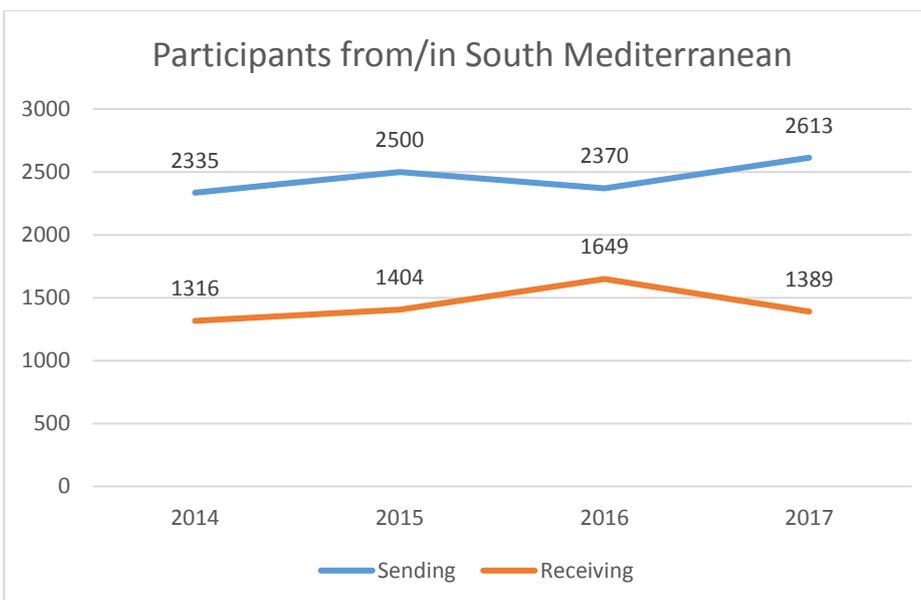
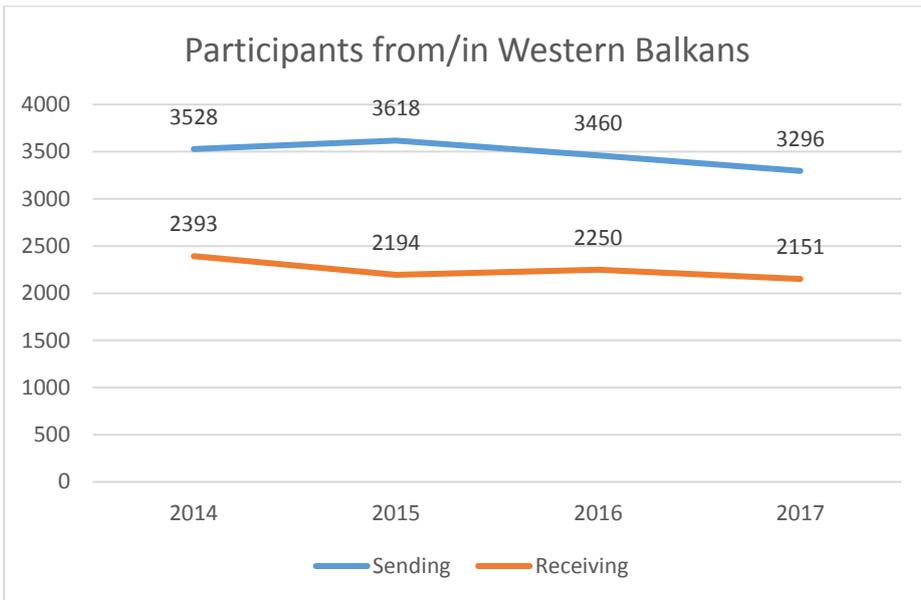


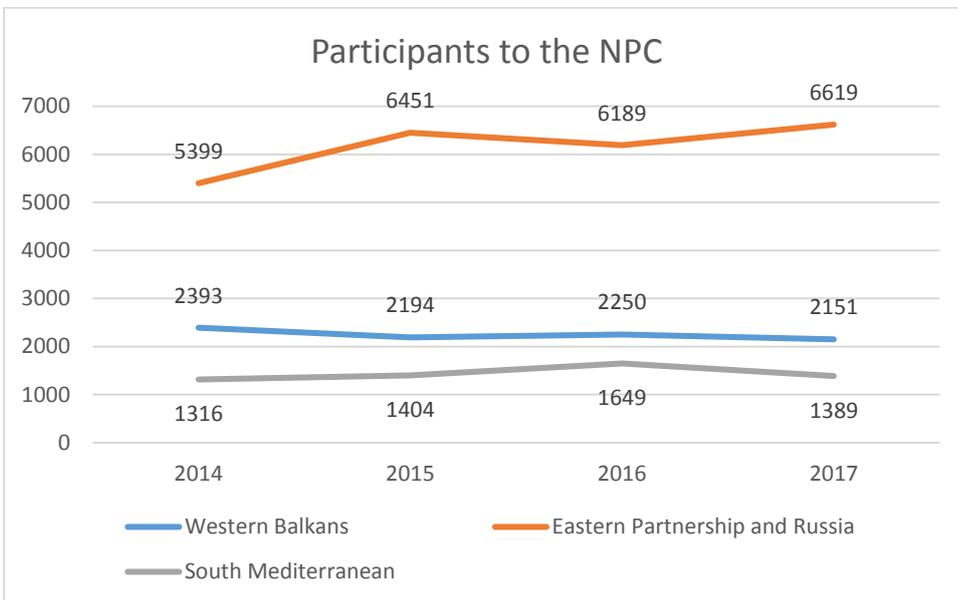
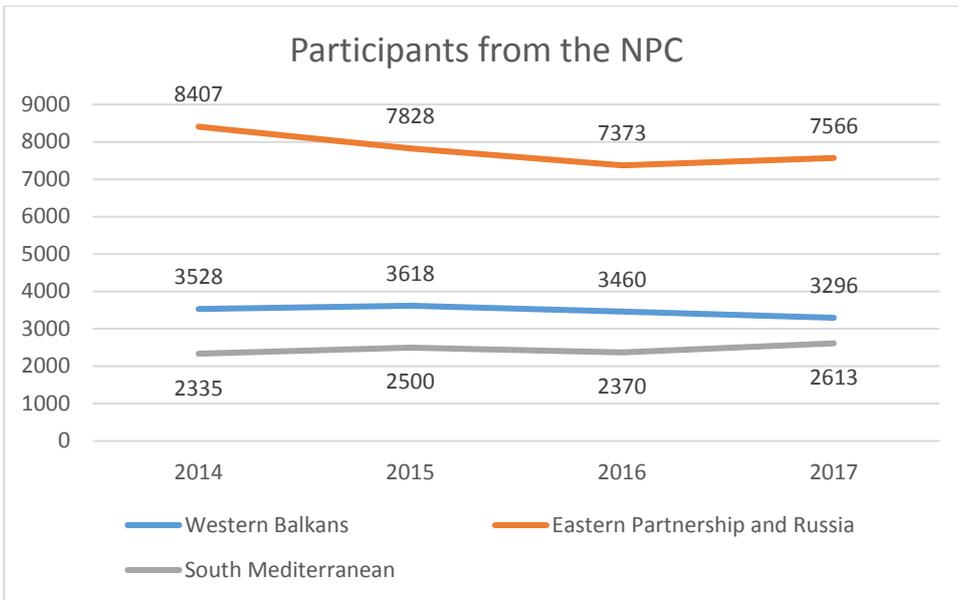
Participants in KA 1 projects involving the Programme Countries



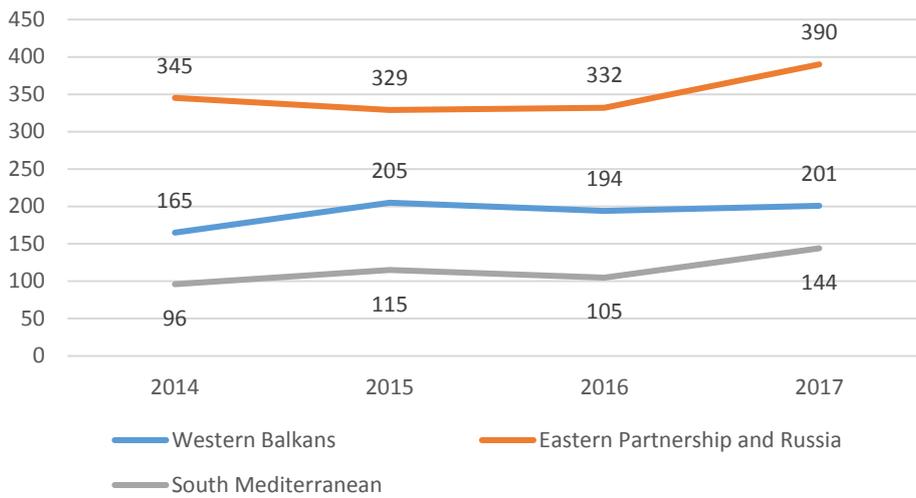
Participants in KA 1 projects involving the NPC and Programme Countries



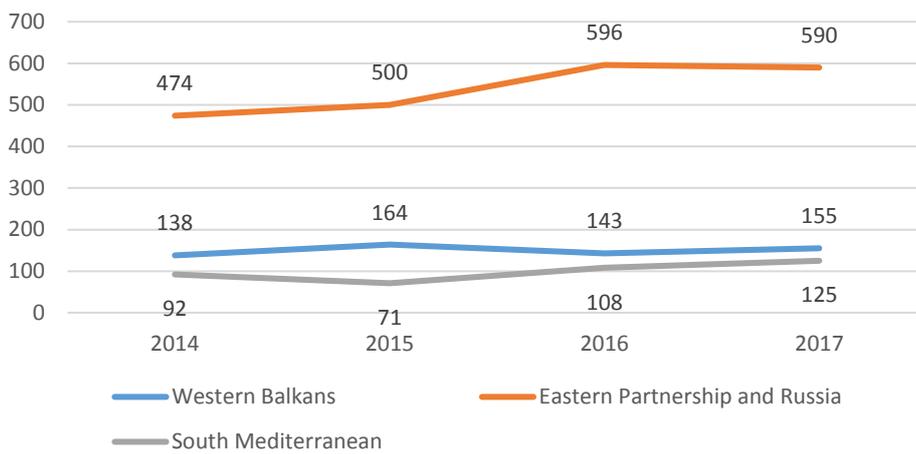




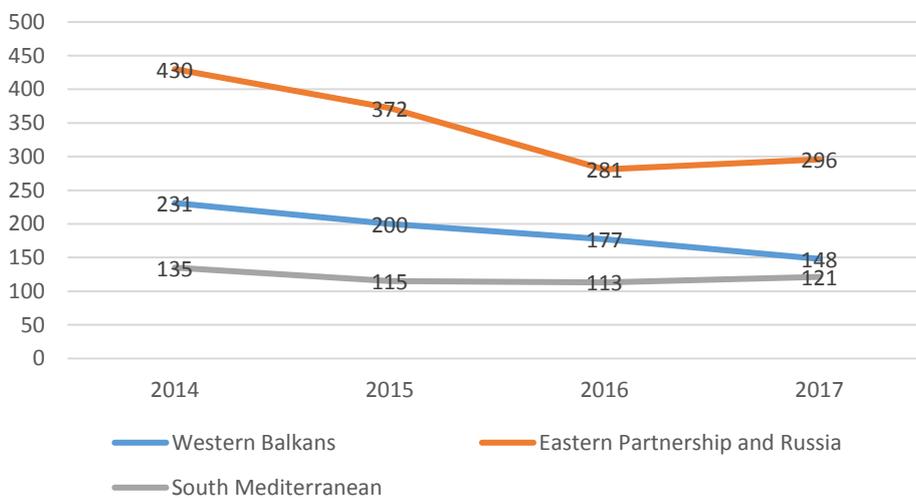
Projects including Youth Exchanges with NPC

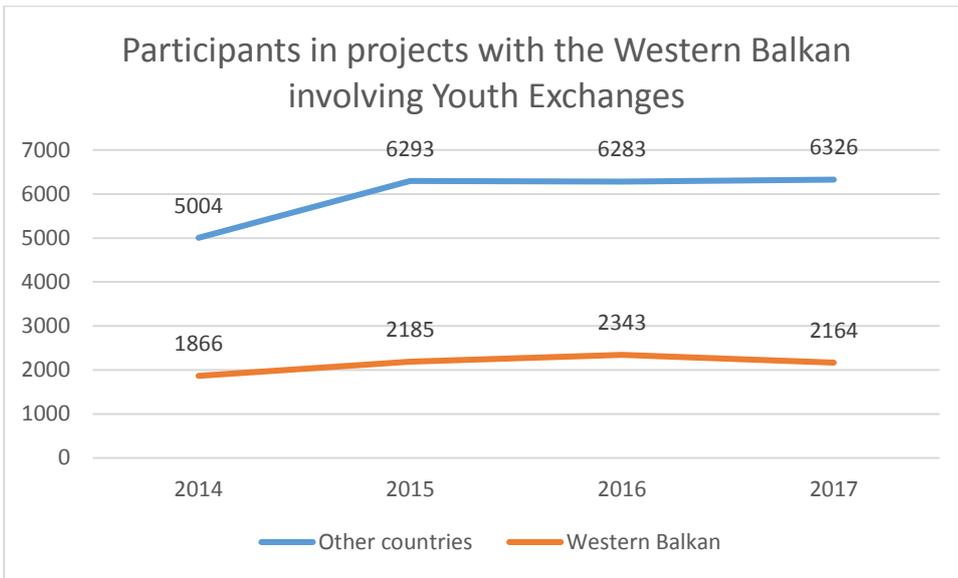


Projects including Volunteering activities with NPC

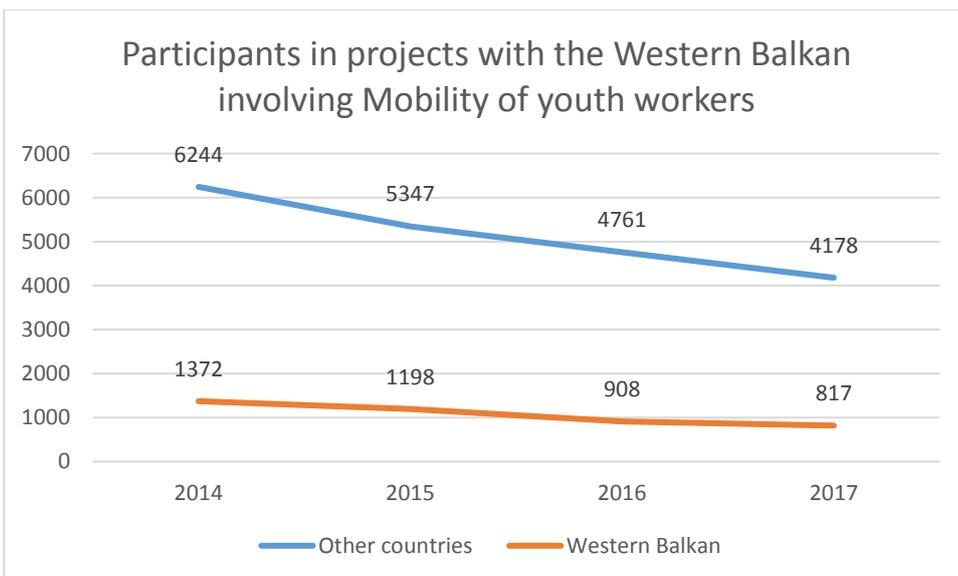
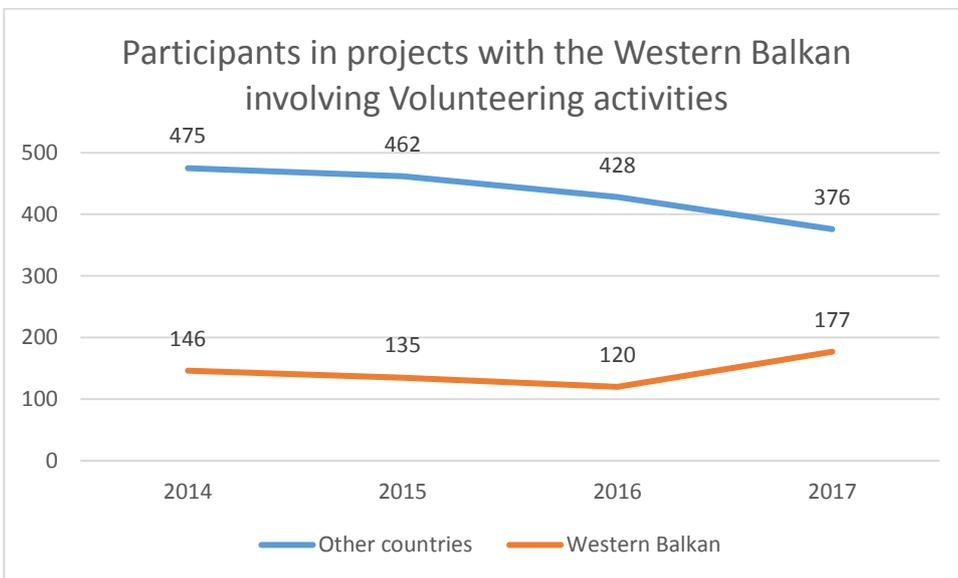


Projects including Mobility of youth workers

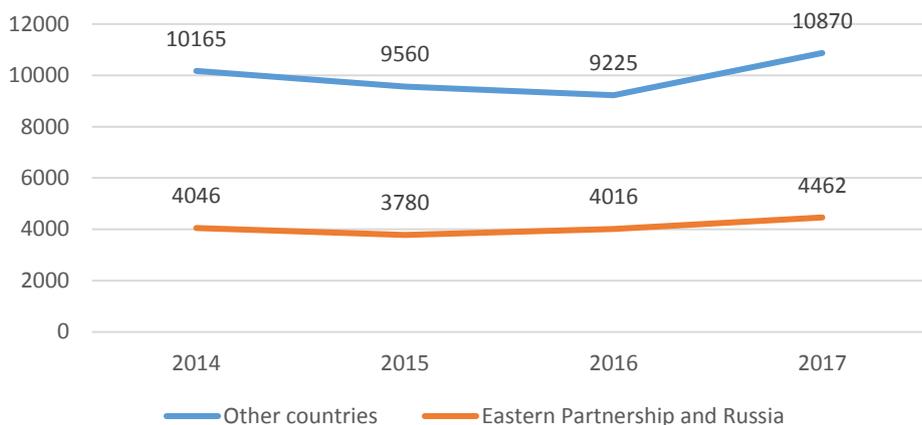




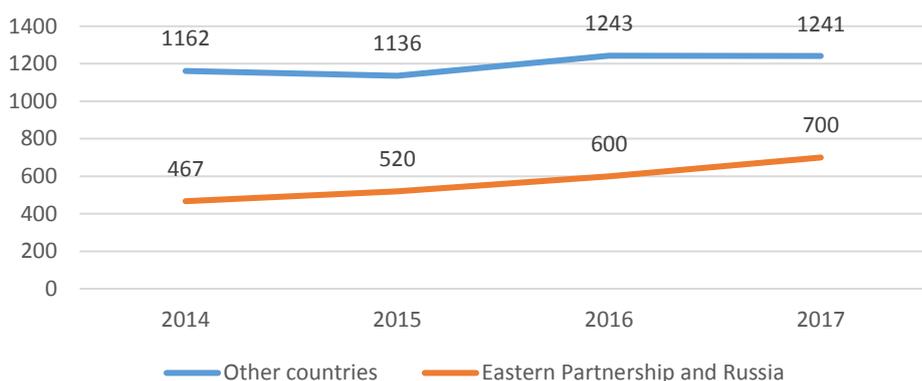
Note: The graphs on pp 15 – 17 compare the number of participants coming from the region (orange line) with the number of participants coming from other countries in these projects (blue line).



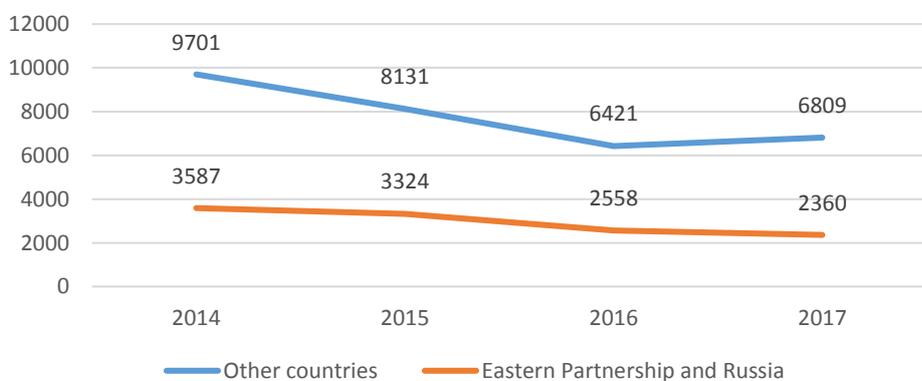
Participants in projects with the Eastern Partnership and Russia involving Youth Exchanges



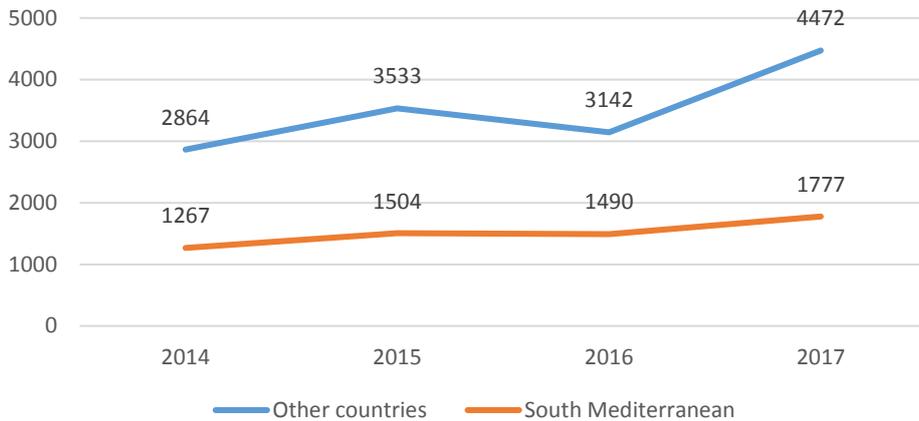
Participants in projects with the Eastern Partnership and Russia involving Volunteering activities



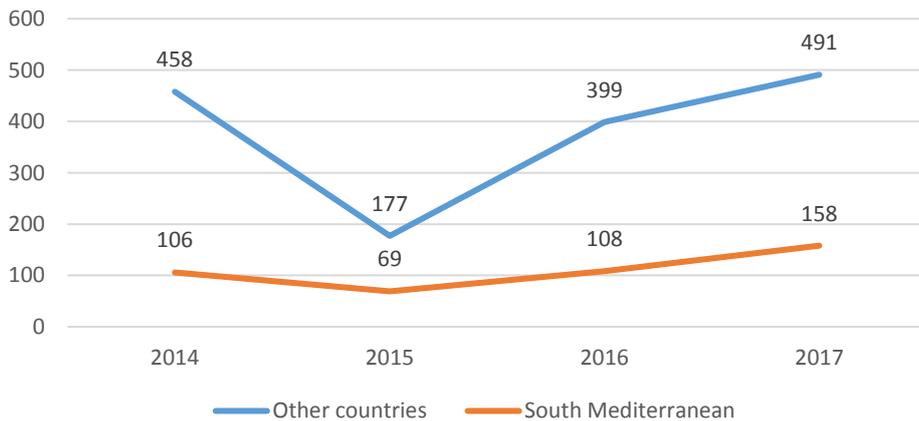
Participants in projects with the Eastern Partnership and Russia involving Mobility of youth workers



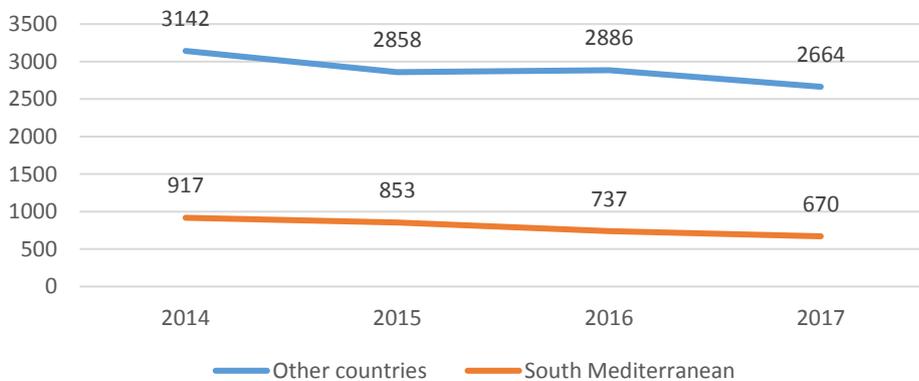
Participants in projects with the South Mediterranean involving Youth Exchanges



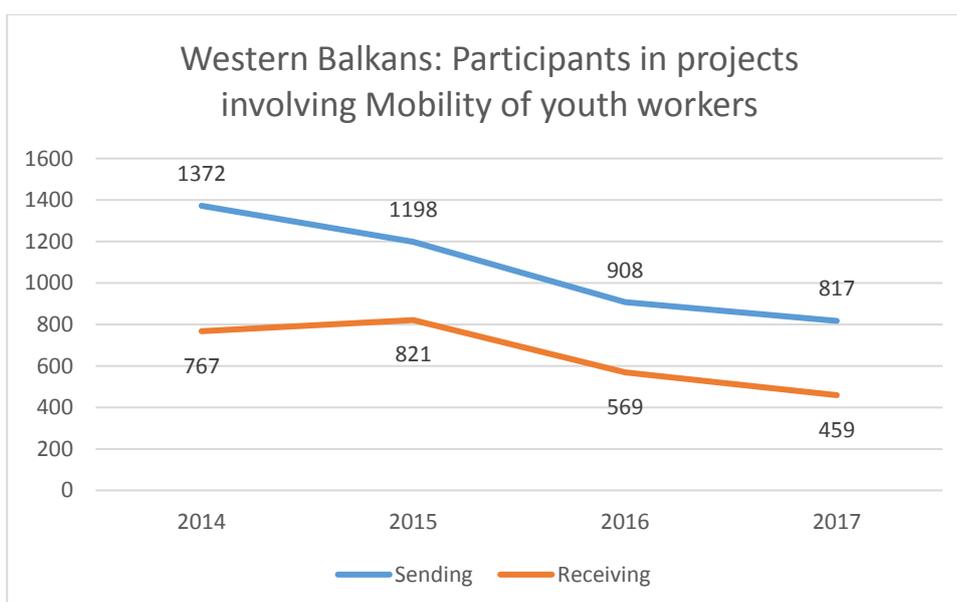
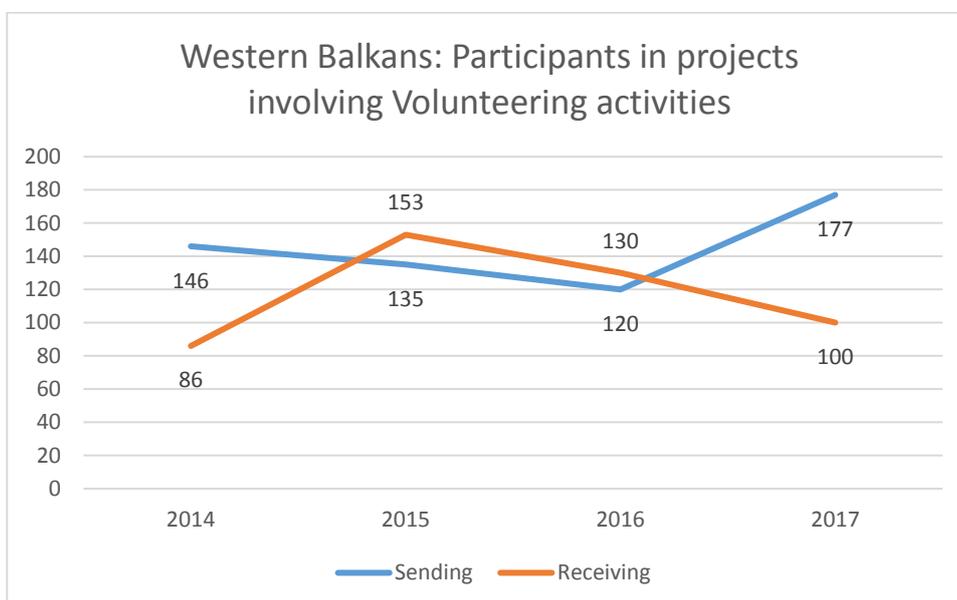
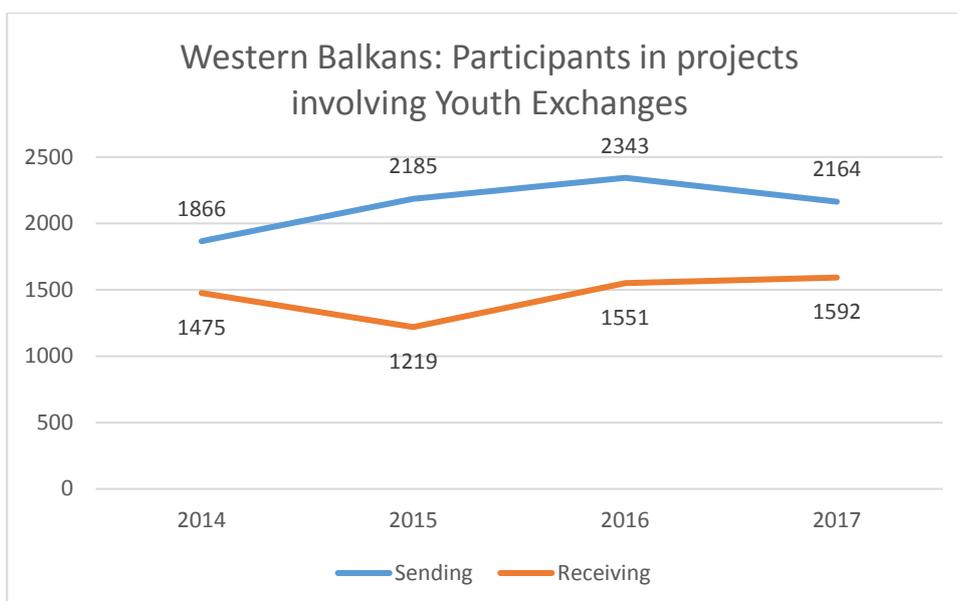
Participants in projects with the South Mediterranean involving Volunteering activities



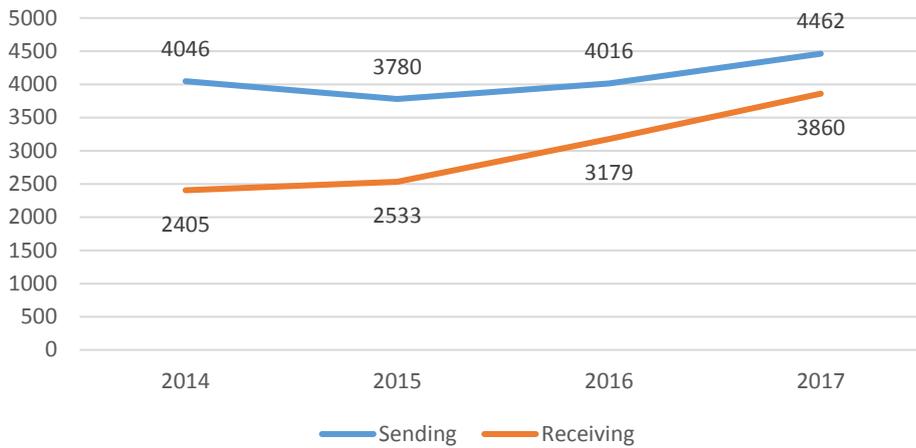
Participants in projects with the South Mediterranean involving Mobility of youth workers



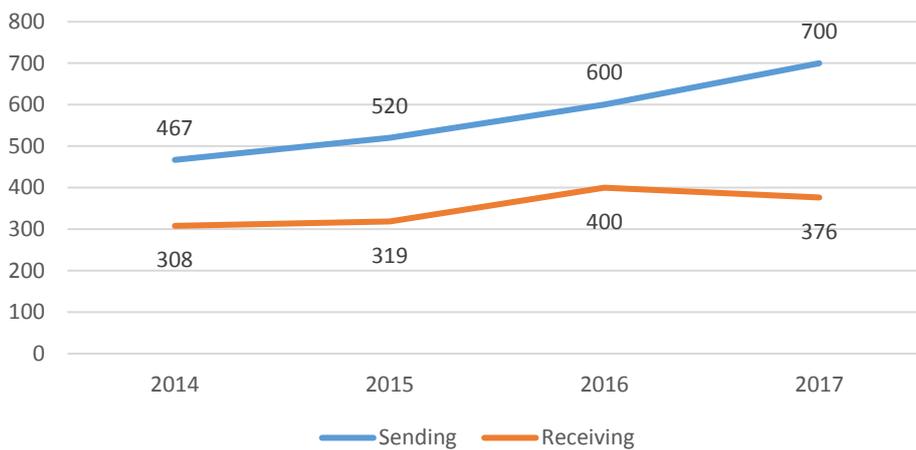
Note: The graphs on pp 18 – 20 compare the number of participants coming from the region (blue line) with the number of participants hosted in projects taking place in the region (orange line).



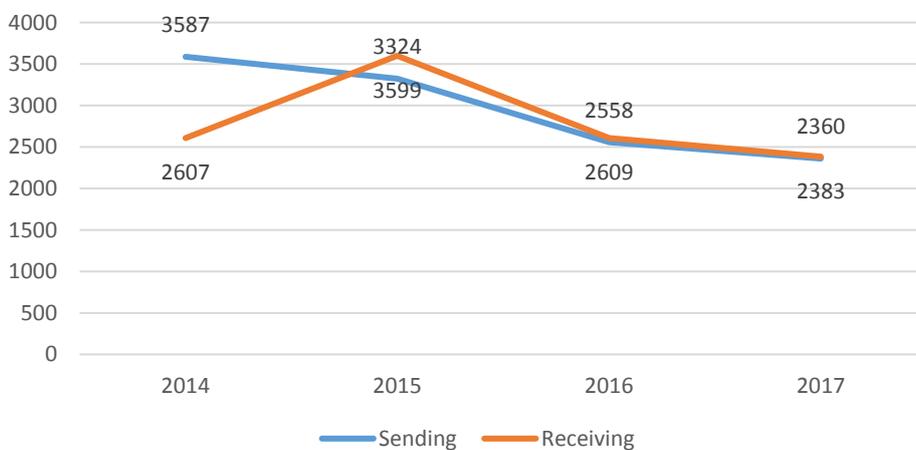
Eastern Partnership and Russia: Participants in projects involving Youth Exchanges



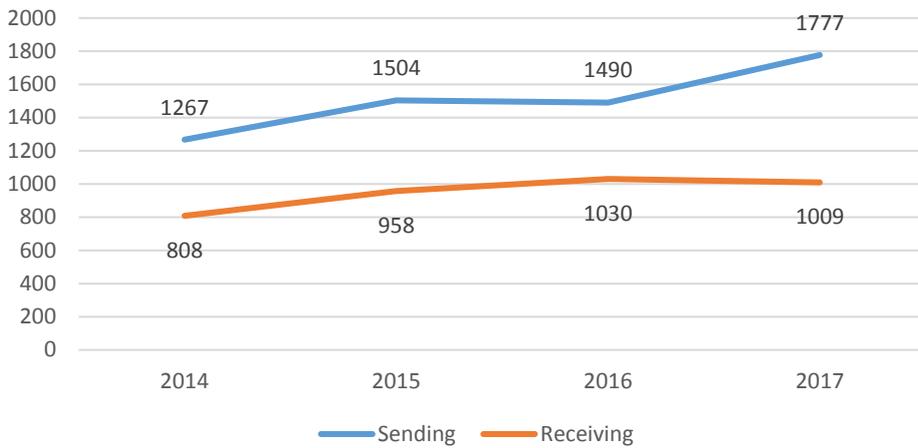
Eastern Partnership and Russia: Participants in projects involving Volunteering activities



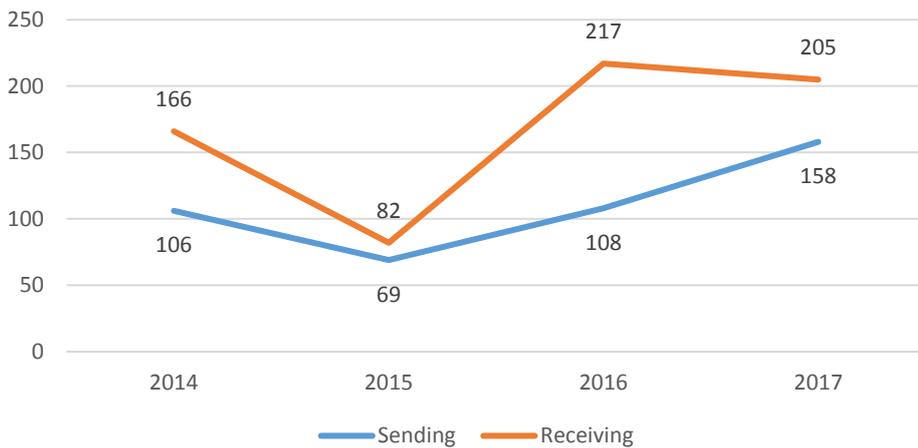
Eastern Partnership and Russia: Participants in projects involving Mobility of youth workers



South Mediterranean: Participants in projects involving Youth Exchanges



South Mediterranean: Participants in projects involving Volunteering activities



South Mediterranean: Participants in projects involving Mobility of youth workers

