# Results 2007-2013

SUMMARY

The "Europe for citizens" programme was created on **12 December 2006** by **Decision No 1904/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council** and was allocated a budget of **215 million euros**. The aim was to promote active European citizenship and to bring the European Union and its institutions closer to the citizens in the Member States: "For citizens to give their full support to European integration, greater emphasis should be placed on their common values, history and culture as key elements of their membership of a society founded on the principles of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, cultural and linguistic diversity, tolerance and solidarity. "

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1. QUANTITATIVE INFORMATION

Over the period 2007-2013, almost **20 000 applications** were submitted under the "Europe for citizens" programme.

The four main actions of the programme - Active European Remembrance (**REM**), Active Civil Society projects (**CSP**), Town Twinning Citizens' Meetings (**CM**) and Networks of Twinned Towns (**NTT**) represented more than **90%** of that figure.

_**1**_. **Total number of projects submitted (2007-2013)**

	REM	CSP	CM	NTT	AUTRES ACTIONS
■ introduits	1.630	3.205	11.384	1.259	1.893
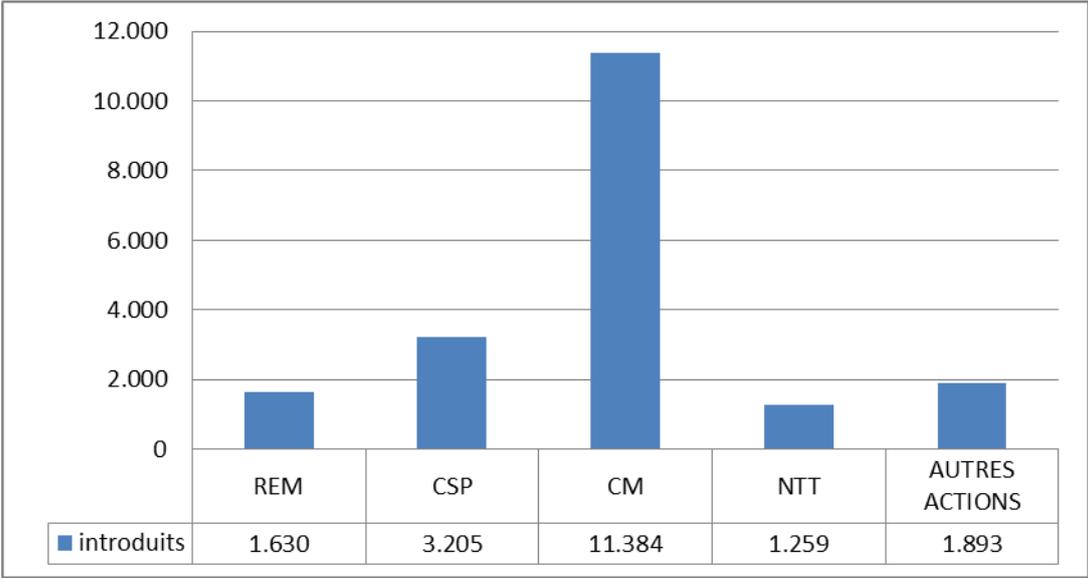
The programme saw steady growth [1] in the number of **applications** of more than **45 %** between 2007 and 2013. The lion's share of applications concerned town twinning (almost two thirds of applications), an existing and well known tradition of European towns and cities.

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[1] The drop in 2010 (see Figure 2) was the result of a technical adjustment due to the creation of a new selection calendar.

2. Total number of projects submitted (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
introduits	2341	2493	3013	2306	2732	3059	3428
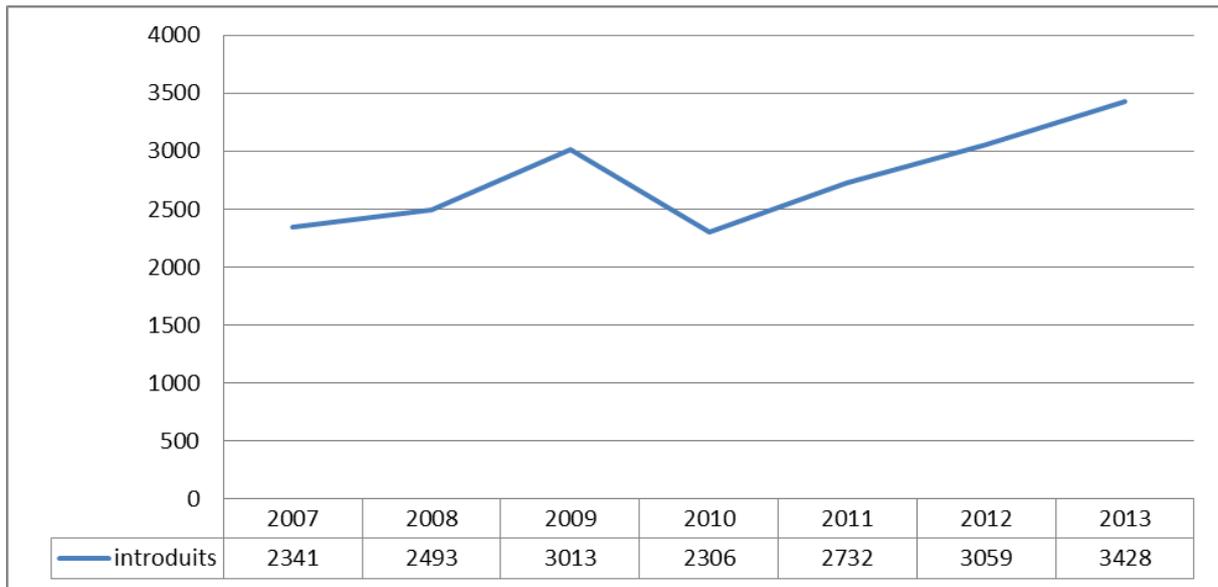
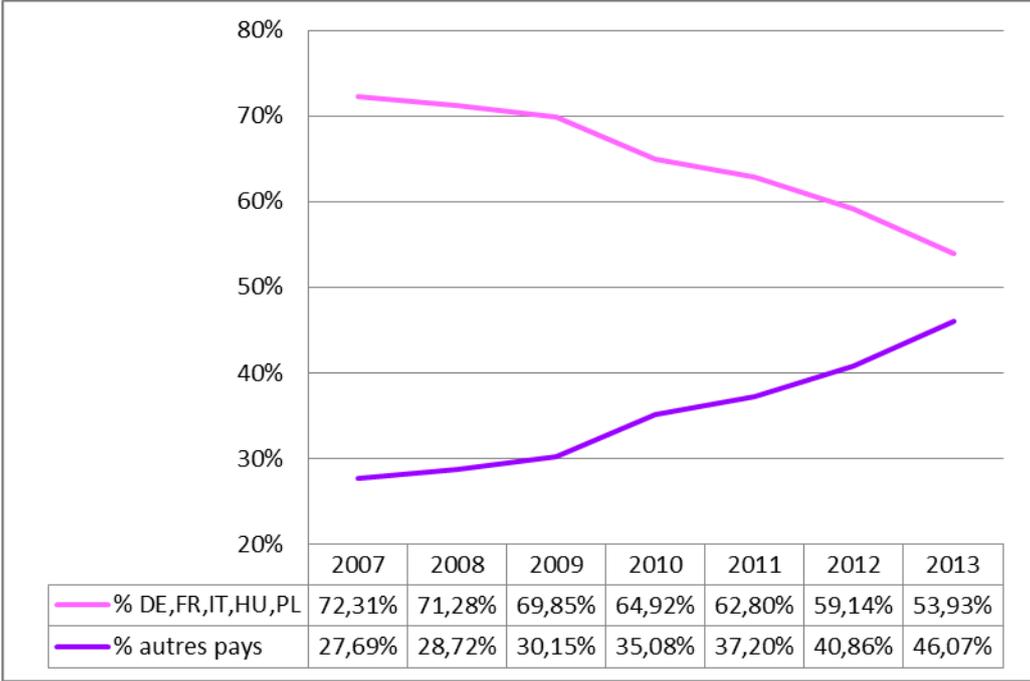### 1.1. Geographical origin of projects

With regard to the four main actions of the programme mentioned above, **Germany** was the Member State introducing the greatest number of projects (2 791), followed by **France** (2 537), **Hungary** (2 434), **Italy** (2 265) and **Poland** (1 219).

3. % of projects submitted in 2013 compared to 2007 (by country)

introduits 2007   introduits 2013
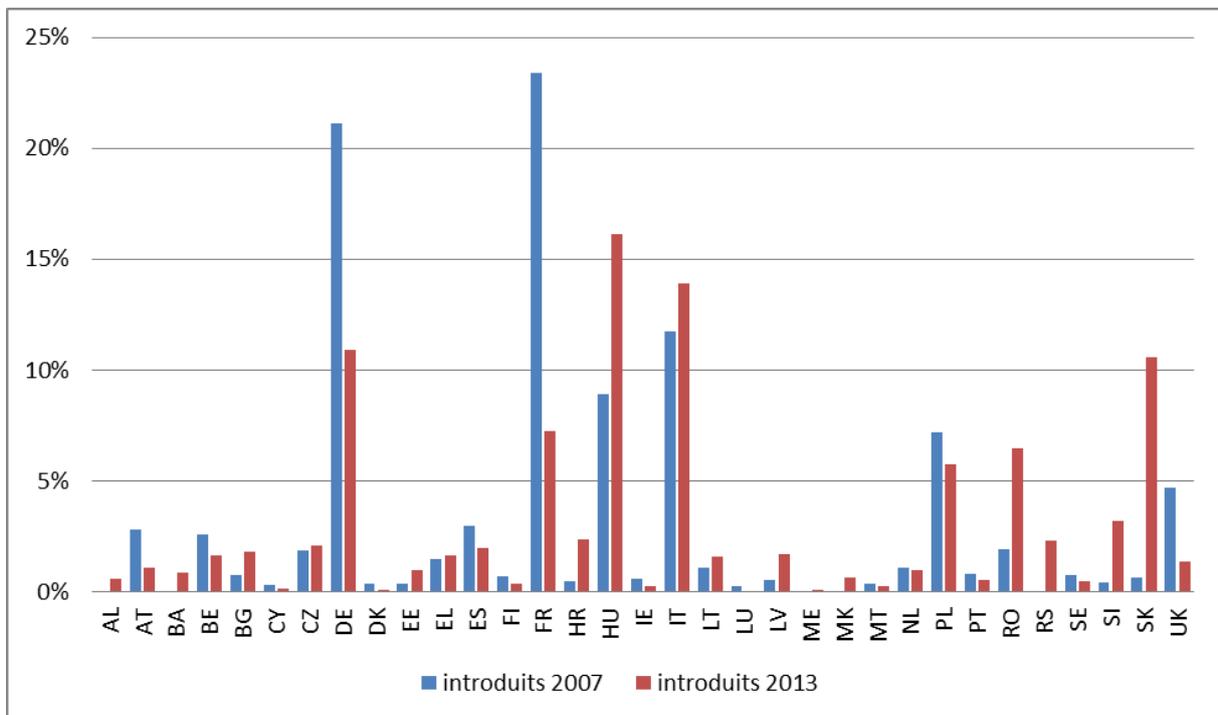
In 2007, the 5 Member States mentioned above represented more than **70 %** of the projects submitted. In 2013, that share was **54 %**. However, the figure disguises differing realities: indeed, whilst the shares of **France** (- 16 points) and **Germany** (-10 points) and, to a lesser extent, **Poland** (-1 point)[2] dropped significantly, those of **Italy** (+ 2 points) and above all **Hungary** (+ 7 points) grew considerably, with Hungary accounting for the greatest number of applications submitted during the final year of the programme.

4. Trend in projects submitted by DE, FR, IT, HU and PL from 2007 to 2013, compared to other countries

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
% DE,FR,IT,HU,PL	72,31%	71,28%	69,85%	64,92%	62,80%	59,14%	53,93%
% autres pays	27,69%	28,72%	30,15%	35,08%	37,20%	40,86%	46,07%

Contrary to the overall trend seen for these five countries, certain Member States saw significant growth, in particular **Slovakia** (+ 10 points), **Romania** (+ 5 points) and **Slovenia** (+ 3 points). Slovakia thus overtook France in terms of applications and almost caught up with Germany in absolute terms. The **Baltic countries** (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) tripled the number of applications over the period[3].
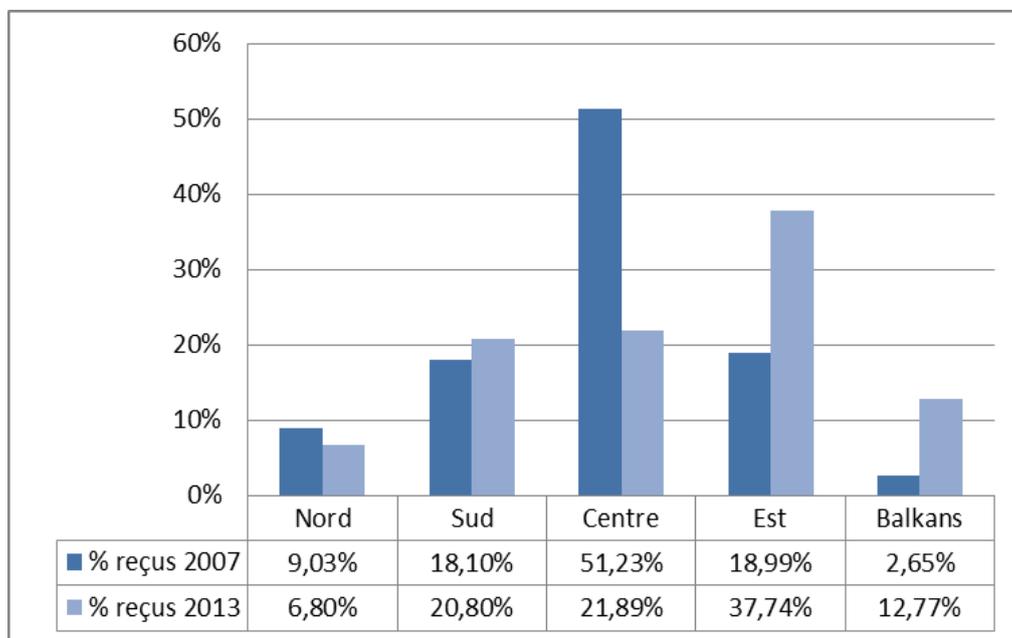
In addition to the increases seen in certain new Member States, this general trend appears to be due to a move in the more experienced Member States away from small projects (like twinning) towards more large-scale, long-lasting and structured projects, such as **networks of twinned towns** and **civil society projects**. The share of networks thus almost tripled between 2007 and 2013, whilst, over the same period, that of town twinning fell by 30%.

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[2] It should be noted that Poland is the only country which has seen a drop in relative terms but an increase in absolute terms.

[3] However, applications from other Member States largely stagnated: Belgium, Spain, Finland, Portugal, the Netherlands (which did see an increase in absolute terms) and Sweden, or decreased: Austria, UK.

Looking at the regions from which submitted projects came[4] we can see that, between the first and the final year of the programme, the relative share of applications from eastern Europe and the Balkans grew and the relative share of central and northern Europe fell[5].

5. **% of projects submitted from each geographical region in 2013 compared to 2007**

	Nord	Sud	Centre	Est	Balkans
% reçus 2007	9,03%	18,10%	51,23%	18,99%	2,65%
% reçus 2013	6,80%	20,80%	21,89%	37,74%	12,77%

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[4] **Central Europe :** Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands
Eastern Europe : Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic
Balkans : Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Bosnia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia.
Northern Europe Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, UK, Sweden
**Southern Europe** Spain, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal

[5] Non-EU countries taking part in the programme submitted 200 projects over the period 2007-2013, of which 28 were granted EU funding.
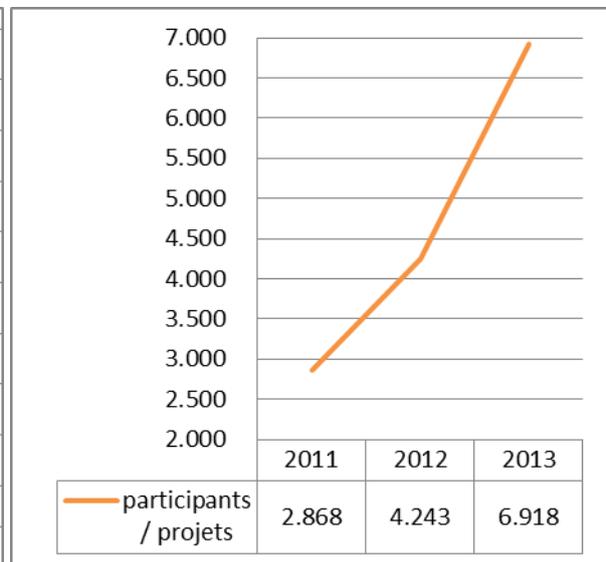
1.2. Participants and Partners

1.2.1. Participants

Over the years, the projects submitted involved a growing number of participants[6]. An analysis of the last three years of the programme gives the following results: the project operators estimated a total of 1 792 425 participants in projects presented in 2011 and 3 120 225 in 2013, in other words an increase of almost 75%, the average number of participants per project rising from 2 868 in 2011 to 6 918 in 2013.

6. Total number of participants 2011-2013 in projects presented

	2011	2012	2013
participants	1.792.425	2.117.355	3.120.223
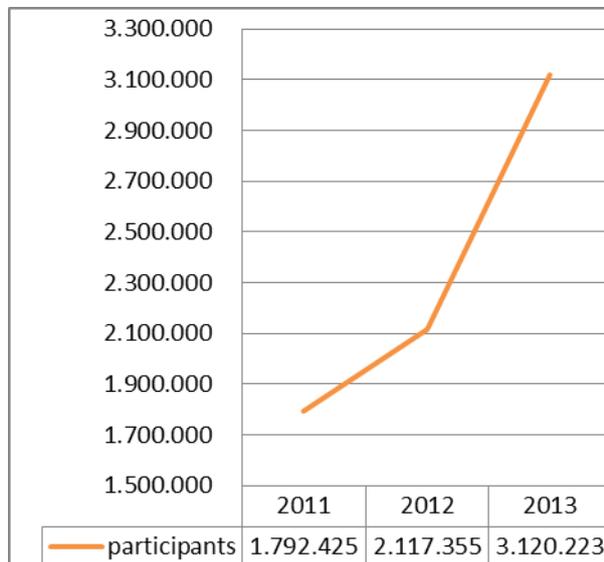
7. Total number of participants/ Total number of projects 2011-2013

	2011	2012	2013
participants / projets	2.868	4.243	6.918

This increase can also be seen in terms of the number of projects funded, albeit to a lesser extent.

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[6] "Participant" means any person directly involved in a project or benefiting directing from it, e.g. a visitor to an exhibition.

8. Average final number of participants in funded projects

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
participants	592	717	850	1394	1864	2094	2605
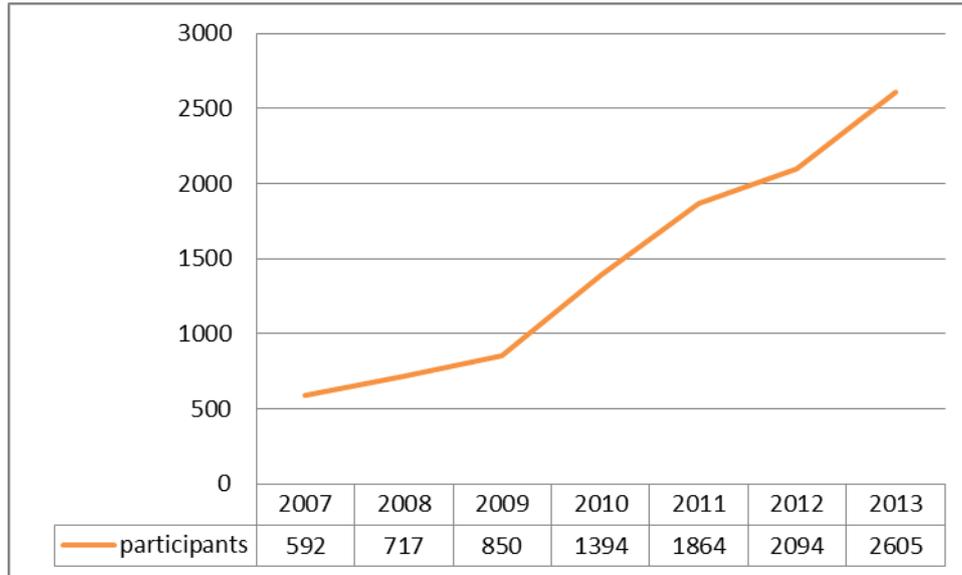
Overall, the total number of participants increased from 700 000 in 2007 to **1 175 000** in 2013.

1.2.2. Partners

The total number of partners for each project also increased considerably. For example, between 2007 and 2013, the number of partners in civil society projects doubled, and the number of partners in networks of twinned towns rose by a factor of 2.5.

1.3. Quality of the projects

The quality of the dossiers submitted improved during the programme, in particular as a result of operators gearing their projects to the requirements of the strategy.

The threshold for the financing of projects was thus increased from 57/100 in 2007 to **81/100** in 2013.

_9_. Trend in the threshold for the acceptance of projects (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
quality treshold	57	61	66	68	73	78	81
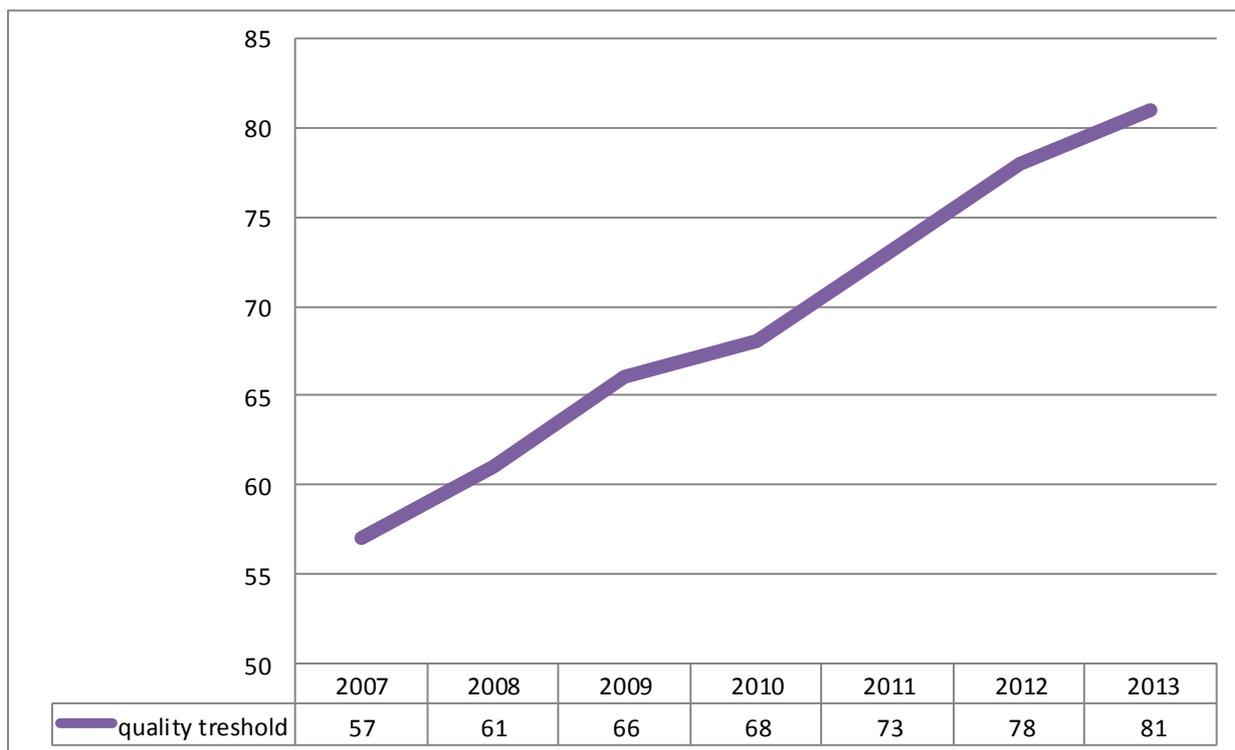
Example from the 'Remembrance' action:

In this context, certain projects developed innovative methods, such as transmitting history using music ("Les voix étouffées du III Reich" – Voices stifled by the Third Reich) or activities for children ("The Crocus Project"), which were particularly popular and attracted large audiences.

In total, using this threshold as a basis, around **6500** projects benefited from EU funding, representing overall a financing rate (compared to applications) in the order of **33%.**

10. Total number of projects financed (2007-2013)

	REM	CSP	CM	NTT	AUTRES ACTIONS
■ financés	314	589	4720	428	419
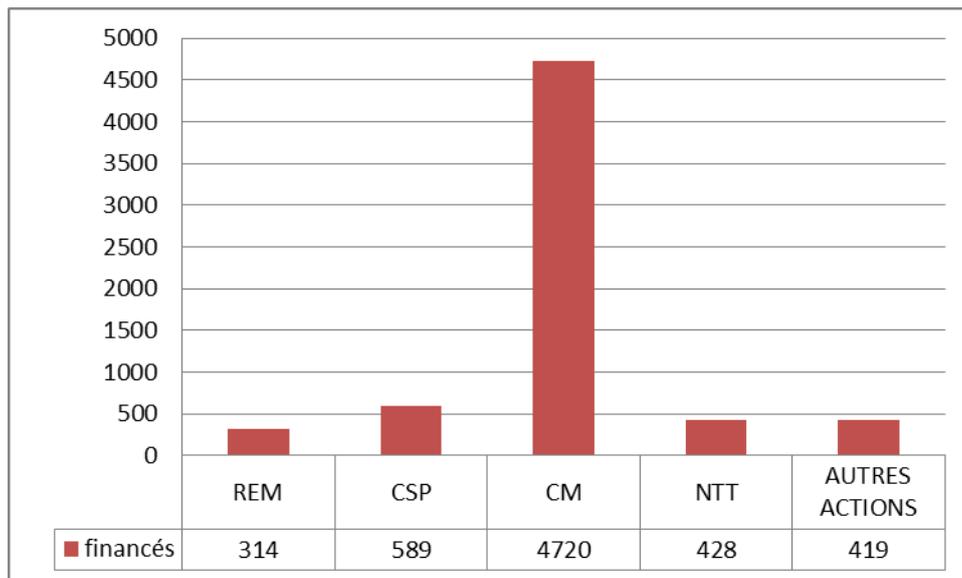
11. Rate of funding (projects financed as a percentage of projects submitted), by action (2007-2013)

	REM	CSP	CM	NTT
■ taux de financement	19%	18%	41%	34%
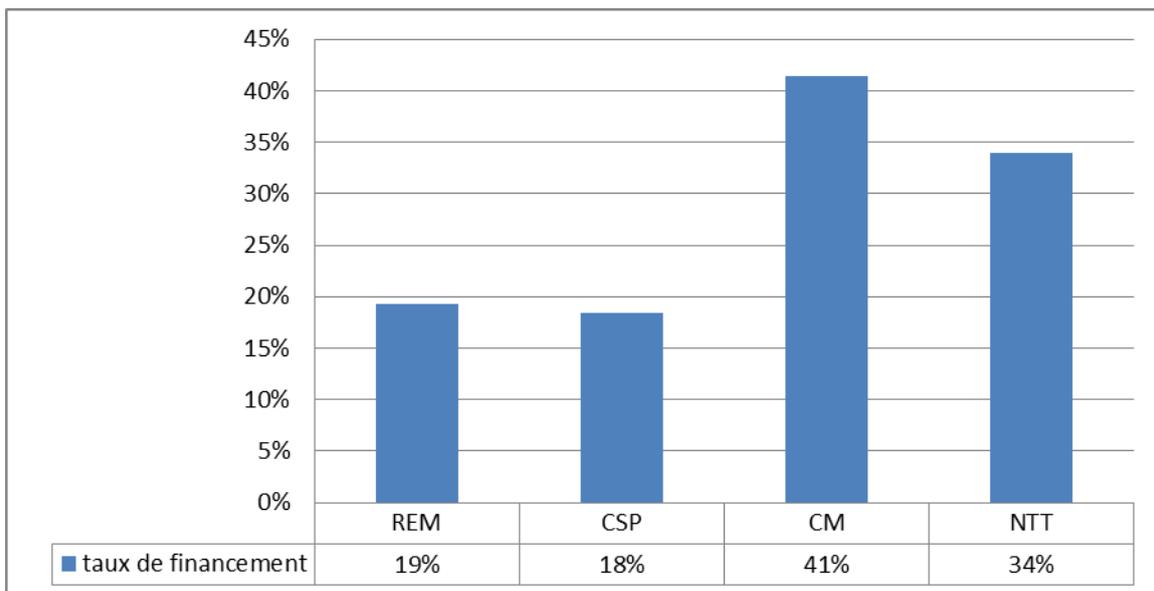
1.4.   Funding of projects

The average grant tripled from 2007 to 2013, from 15 800 to 48 900 euros. Over the years, as they became more experienced, operators submitted more ambitious and complex projects centred on topical issues and involving more participants. The diagram below shows how funding developed over the period (all actions combined).

12. **Average funding per project between 2007 and 2013 (x 1000 euros)**
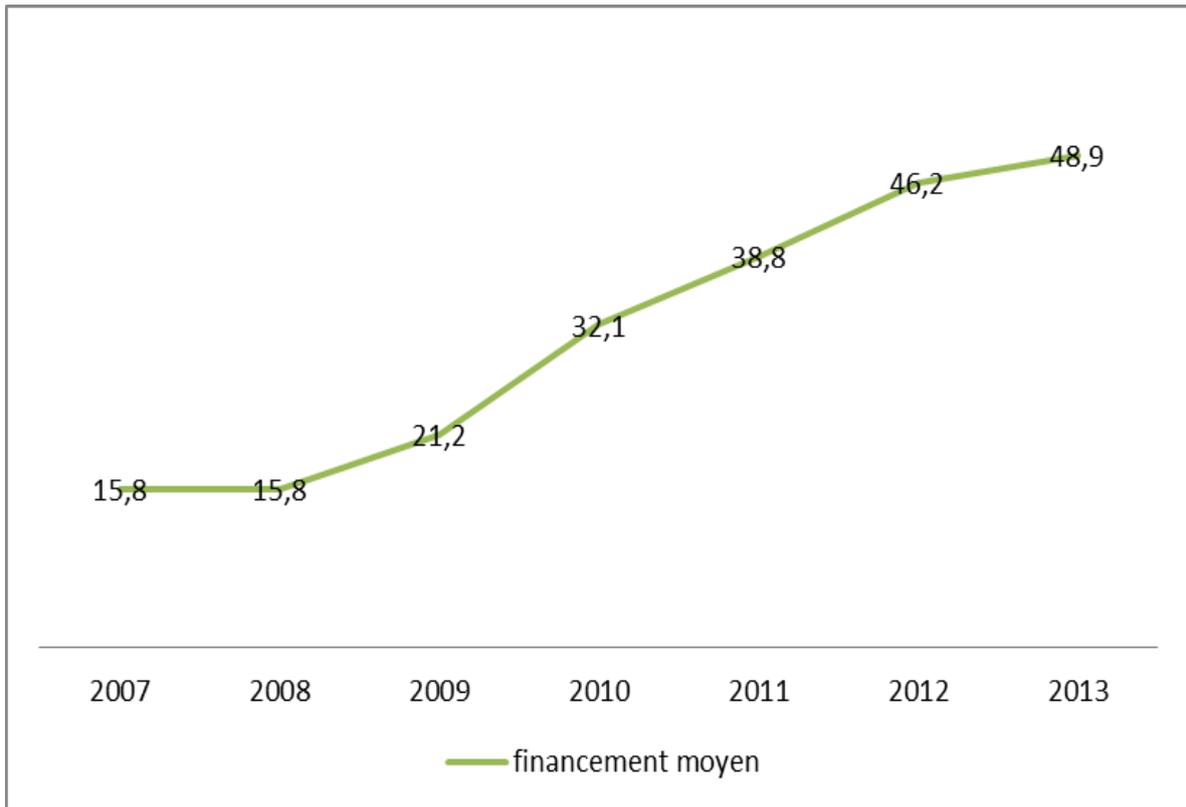
Not including twinning (for which the subsidy was capped at 25 000 euros), the average funding amount rose from around 20 000 euros in 2007 to 110 000 euros in 2013.

2.1. Balanced coverage in geographical terms

In 2007, for the four main actions, more than 70 % of applications came from five Member States (Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Poland), with more than half coming from Germany or France. Today, each Member State - with two exceptions - introduces a number of applications corresponding more or less to **its respective weight in the EU in terms of population.**

This is the result of several measures:

- firstly, stepped up, targeted information for the 'new' Member States and less involved countries, in particular by way of the **"Europe for Citizens" contact points;**

- then, the package of **procedural simplification** which provided **more immediate access** to the programme, in particular abandoning the need for a strict and formal twinning agreement (which made a whole series of new towns eligible), the establishment of flat rates to allow very fast *ex-ante* and *ex-post* identification by operators of the grant awarded, and the establishment of multi annual partnerships;

- finally - as a result of the measure outlined above - **fast payment** of the advance funding (less than 10 days), giving operators the funds necessary to launch their projects.

2.2. Impact of the programme: a more strategic approach

The analyses conducted in 2008 and 2009 demonstrated that the activities developed during that period were sometimes little more than just meetings between people from different countries, without any real leitmotif or direct link with the programme objectives[7].

Strategic action enabled this situation to be mitigated to a certain extent by turning town twinning projects into more ambitious projects involving a larger number of towns and cities, focusing on common problems such as the **integration of migrants and travellers or how to process urban waste**, etc. These were more structured and larger scale projects with a much greater impact on citizens. The number of applications for the action 'Networks of Twinned Towns' thus increased by a factor of 2.5 between 2007 and 2013, from 89 to 319.

In the same way, the requirements in terms of content were also tightened up for civil society projects, taking into account the EU's social and societal objectives. Consequently, increasing

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[7] All manner of topics were addressed: culture, youth, education, film, sport, journalism, tourism, scouting, etc. Almost 75 % of the projects submitted, according to figures from 2009, had only a tenuous link with promoting European citizenship. This situation was difficult to remedy. 42 % of the projects funded had only an indirect link to citizenship.

numbers of large-scale organisations introduced often innovative projects with a real European dimension.

With regard to Remembrance projects - which, previously, were mainly local operations - the recommendations were intended to widen the geographical coverage of the activities and establish transnational partnerships.

Finally, at the outset the participants in two thirds of the projects were also the organisers and could therefore already be considered as mobilised citizens. Another important goal was therefore to reach out beyond these multipliers, whose role remains crucial, to reach new groups of people who are less aware of European issues.

Over the final three years of the programme, the fact that the projects were of higher quality and larger in scale, with closer links to the main themes associated with citizenship (see diagram 13), and that new people were involved considerably augmented its impact.

> **Ultimately, the programme reached almost 25 000 towns and cities in Europe and created 350 networks of towns and cities around common issues. 4 250 civil society organisations were mobilised to meet citizens' concerns and to pass them on to various government levels. More than 500 organisations were involved in Remembrance activities vis-à-vis citizens**.

_13_. NTT, CM and CSP actions 2013
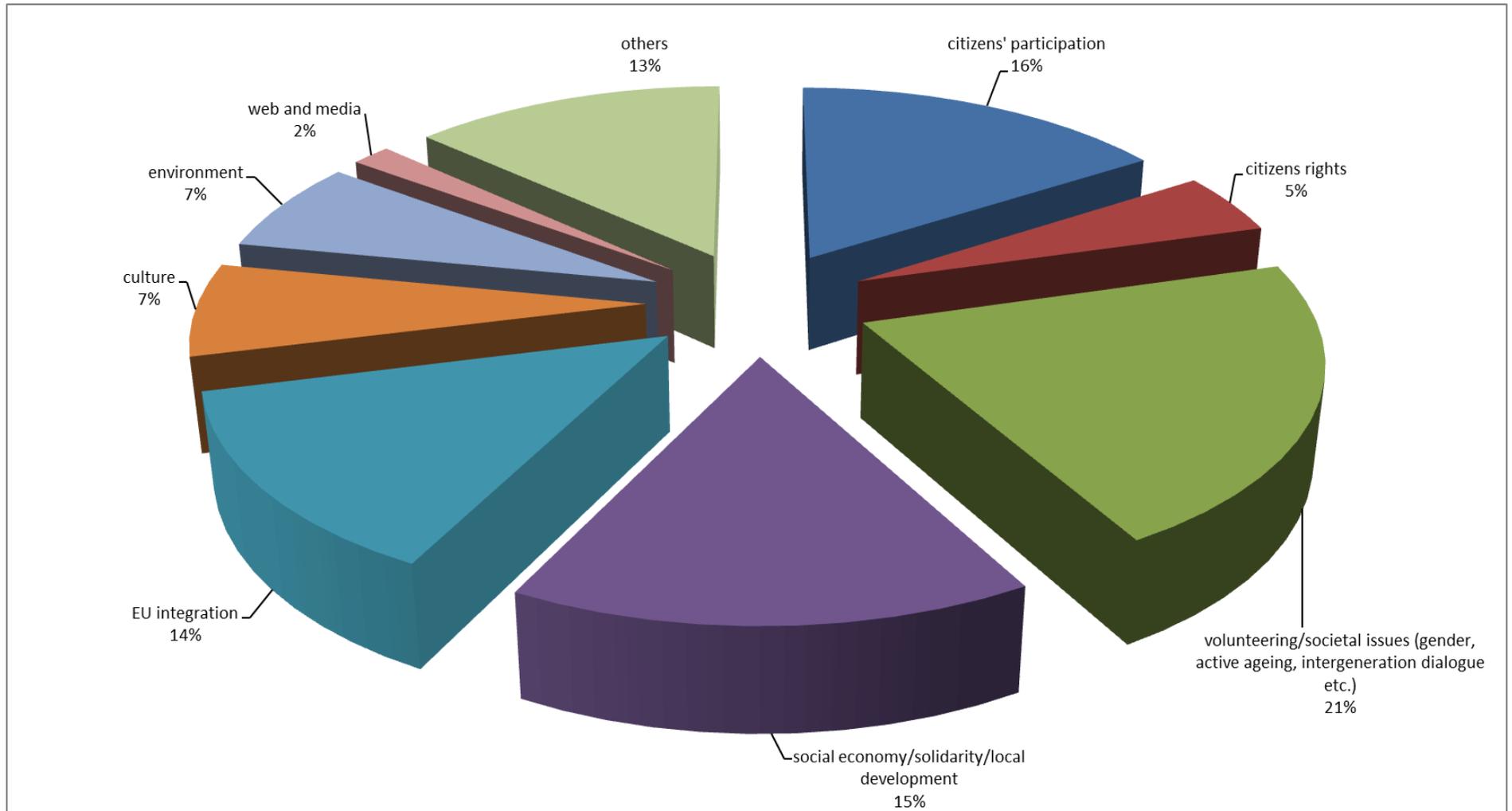
2.3. Development of European civil society through the programme

The fact of having to gear eligible projects to certain themes connected to citizens' priorities and concerns led the organisations in question to reconsider some of their strategies and work programmes and to take European citizenship and its implications more directly into account in the design of projects.

The expressed wish to involve as many new citizens as possible encouraged the organisations in question to develop methodologies to address this issue.

The programme therefore prompted a number of changes within civil society organisations themselves by encouraging them to evolve in line with changes in society.

3. RATIONAL AND INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT

The changes made to the implementation of the programme led to the results mentioned in chapter 2 in terms of geographical coverage and impact on citizens and operators in the field of citizenship being achieved. In addition to the wish to be closer to citizens, in particular via the Europe for Citizens contact points, the programme created a dense network of projects and mobilised citizens throughout Europe on a scale rarely seen before.
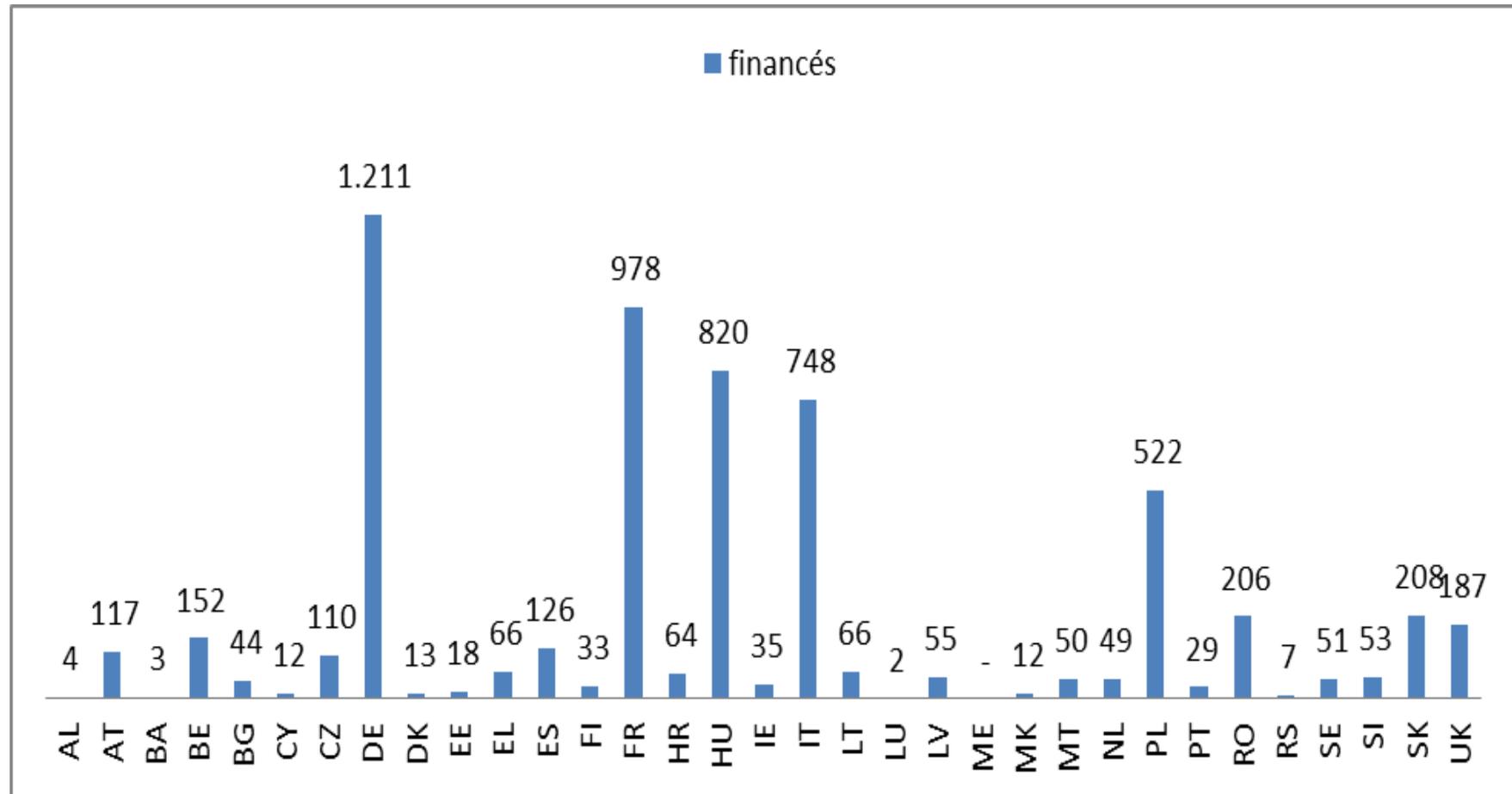
The rationalisation exercise undertaken included, in particular:

- calls for proposals better focused on more precise priorities, with fewer submission dates but broader coverage over time;

- non-discriminatory eligibility criteria by means of electronic applications;

- a single overall innovative system (all Member States combined), which was simple to apply and helped to rectify the chronic under-subscription which used to characterise the programme;

- paperless management of the entire procedure, from the initial application to the final report;

- a modern and effective system for the monitoring of expenditure, also paperless;

- simplification of internal procedures, leading to greater management flexibility;

- drastic shortening of contract conclusion and payment terms (6 days for advance funding, 30 days for final reports);

- an effective monitoring strategy, with the use of multi-project visits.
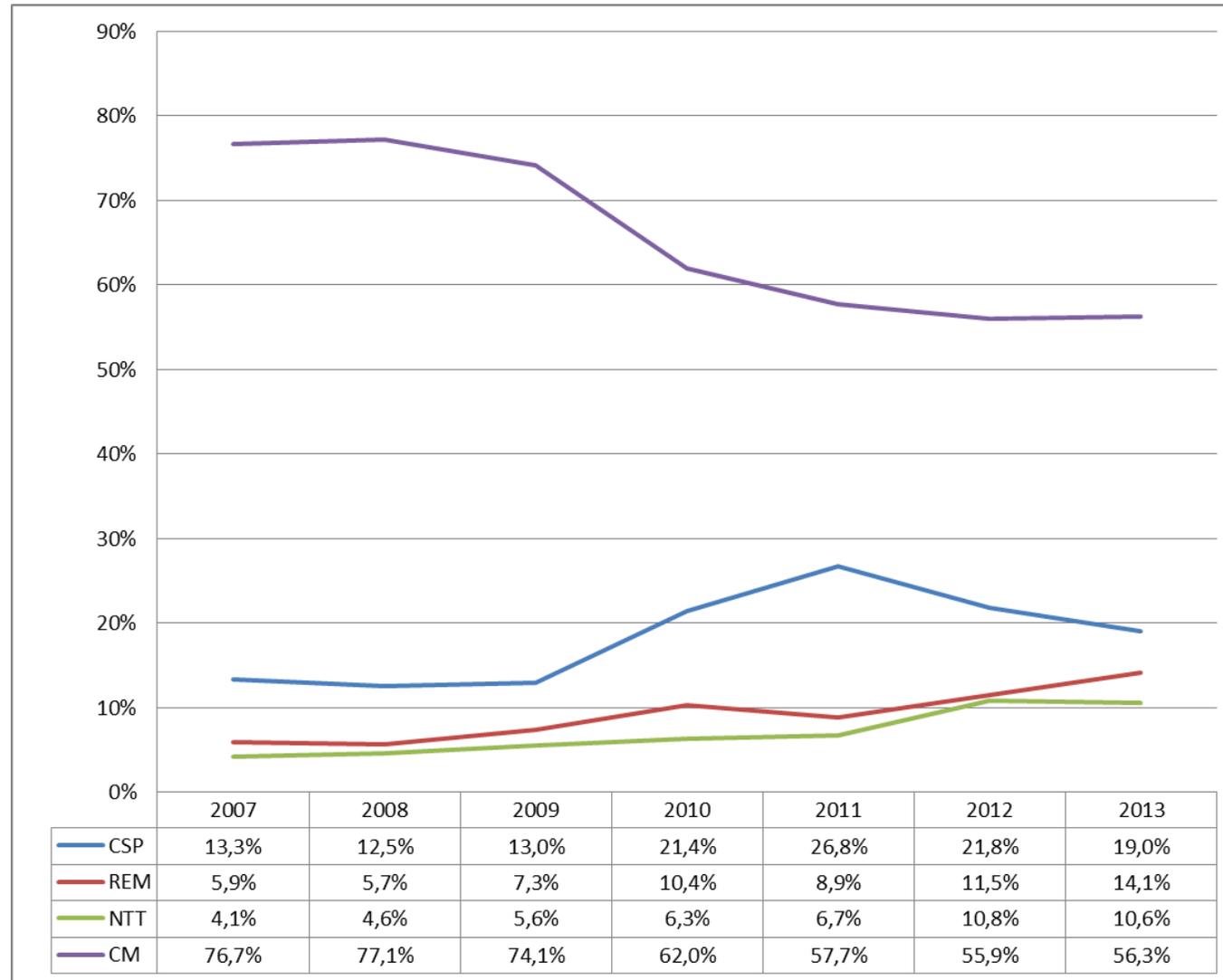
Beyond these technical aspects, the measures led to a refocusing and, to a certain extent, remodelling of the applications submitted by operators in the sense that these applications became more targeted, ambitious and demanding.

ANNEXES

Total number of CM, NTT, REM and CSP projects financed 2007-2013 (by country)

■ financés

Country	financés
AL	4
AT	117
BA	3
BE	152
BG	44
CY	12
CZ	110
DE	1.211
DK	13
EE	18
EL	66
ES	126
FI	33
FR	978
HR	64
HU	820
IE	35
IT	748
LT	66
LU	2
LV	55
ME	-
MK	12
MT	50
NL	49
PL	522
PT	29
RO	206
RS	7
SE	51
SI	53
SK	208
UK	187

Share of the proportion represented by each action (2007/2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CSP	13,3%	12,5%	13,0%	21,4%	26,8%	21,8%	19,0%
REM	5,9%	5,7%	7,3%	10,4%	8,9%	11,5%	14,1%
NTT	4,1%	4,6%	5,6%	6,3%	6,7%	10,8%	10,6%
CM	76,7%	77,1%	74,1%	62,0%	57,7%	55,9%	56,3%

FINANCIAL PARAMETERS – COMPARATIVE TABLE 2007-2013

	2007	2013
Commitments in millions of €	18,5	26,6
Payments in millions of €	20,2	25,9
Implementation rate commitments %	100%*	100%
Implementation rate payments %	76 %	100%
No of payments	656	1205
Time taken for advance payment (in days)	42	11,8
Time taken for final payment (in days)	88	25,6
Time take for the payment of administrative appropriations (in days)	23,6	10,2
Time taken for selection (months)	4,5	2,4
Time taken for conclusion of the contract (months)	2,9	1

taking into account overall commitment for one round of twinning