

Network of Education Policy Centers

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Annual Report

December 1st 2012 – November 30th 2013

Contents

I GENERAL	3
1. Network Administration	3
1.1. Secretariat	3
1.2. Board	3
23rd NEPC Executive Board meeting to be held on 4th December 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey	4
1.3. General Assembly 2013	4
2. International Conferences	5
II NEPC 2013 PROGRAM	5
1. Projects.....	5
Leadership for Local Community: Empowering Teachers and Youth for Active Role in Local Communities (2nd year of implementation).....	6
SIRIUS - European Policy Network on the education of children and young people with a migrant background.....	6
Applicant: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.....	6
Support the Development of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) System in the Kyrgyz Republic.....	7
NEPC role: Partner.....	7
2. Publications.....	8
NEPC Comparative Studies in Education Series	8
NEPC Policy Brief Series.....	8
3. NEPC Learning Events.....	9
III OTHER NEPC ACTIVITIES	9
5. Fundraising	10
<i>IN THE PIPELINE</i> –	10
<i>REJECTED</i> -	11
IV FINANCIAL	12

1. Network Administration

1.1. Secretariat

Secretariat is the administrative and coordinative body of the Network. The roles of the secretariat include distribution of relevant information to the members, facilitation of communication between members and to other interested parties, coordinating and managing NEPC projects from application to implementation, coordinating and organizing NEPC events, maintaining the NEPC website, fundraising for the Network and its projects, representing NEPC at conferences and meetings, reporting to donors and other activities as required by the NEPC members or the NEPC Executive Board.

The NEPC Secretariat currently employs:

- Executive Director (full time) Lana Jurko
- Program Coordinator (half time) Marko Kovačić
- Project Coordinator (full time) Ana Glasnović, on maternity leave from ...
- Network Coordinator (full time) Raffaella d'Apolito
- Financial Manager (half time) Vesna Kallay

The Network also engages volunteers as needed.

Oct 2012-June 2013 Lorena Brkić

January – July 2013 Tina Jurko

October - Ivan Jajić, Teuta Mihili

The decision to employ Program Coordinator was taken at 22nd BM in Cetinje (6th & 7th July) after presentation of current HR in NEPC and considering the need for program coordinator in charge for analyzing and proposing current and future program priorities.

1.2. Board

The NEPC board meets three times a year.

21st NEPC Board meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey 1st & 2nd February 2013

During the meeting in Istanbul, the Board discussed current projects and application.

The applications of potential members were analyzed. By Laws were revised according to suggestion made at GA. The board also discussed the sustainability of current cost structure. A brainstorming session about the potential topics of Summer School 2013 was held. Considering the budget situation it was suggested to not have the Policy Lab in 2013. It was set the developing process of communication strategy, financial procedures manual and fundraising strategy.

Minutes available upon request!

22nd NEPC Executive Board meeting was held in Cetinje, Montenegro 6th & 7th July 2013

A short reflection on Summer school (held in Cetinje prior to board meeting) was given as learned lessons to be taken in consideration for next Summer School. Following the inquiry of David Frost to become NEPC individual member it was decided to send the application form. The violation of bylaws by partners was also discussed, it was concluded that a by laws revision it is needed to be presented at GA 2013. The role of Secretariat within the network was analyzed and proposals to make it more efficient presented. The possible changes at NEPC secretariat regarding the staff were also presented. The communication plan among the board members and executive director was set. The action plan for 2013 was adjusted and analyzing the current budget situation the decision to seek suitable grants and tender was made. The details about the study on 'Mapping teachers policies in NEPC region' and about the annual essay competition of Young Scholars on the topic 'How can pre service TED better prepare teachers for 21st Century' were defined. The dates of GA 2013 and 23rd board meeting were also defined.

Minutes and available at request!

23rd NEPC Executive Board meeting to be held on 4th December 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey
Details will be available from December 15th 2013.

1.3. General Assembly 2013

To be held on 5th and 6th December 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey

The General Assembly will:

- Elect 1 New Board member
- Discuss and Approve new By laws
- Discuss and approve Annual report 2013
- Discuss and approve Annual plans 2014
- Approve new members
- Discuss and approve Communication plan and Financial policies and procedures

The GA will include:

Administration day:

- Presentation of board candidates and election
- Presentation and election of candidate members
- Presentation and approval of annual report 2013
- Presentation and approval of action and financial plan 2014
- Presentation of committees
- Presentation of position paper

Content day (*as decided at 22nd NEPC Executive Board meeting -Cetinje, Montenegro 6th & 7th July 2013*)

- Presentations of projects related to the program priorities as follow:

Inclusive education:

- Inclusive education projects: Azerbaijan case
- Inclusive education in Montenegro
- Inclusive education related to implementation of activities for teachers, activities on school level and developing policies

Education for sustainability:

- Visions of the future in Croatian curricula from 1970s to 2010s, with special emphasis on environmental constraints of development
- Young Ideas for Europe
- Study visit 'Sustainability from curriculum to reality'
- School capacity building and support (ESD)

Teacher Policies:

- Teachers' Discussion about Teachers (RANON): Results and further
- Mapping teachers policies in NEPC region (10 countries, comparative analysis)
- *Workshop* Providing support to teachers with educating pupils with migrant background

2. International Conferences

Thus far in 2013 NEPC representatives attended several International conferences and meetings:

- **Educational Quality: Global Imperatives and Contested Visions**, CIES 2013, New Orleans 10th – 15th March 2013, Lana Jurko presentation *Diversity, Understanding and Respect - Sustainability Values in the Curricula of 9 Eurasian Countries*
- **Regional network meeting of the International Teacher Leadership project (ITL)**, 24th - 26th May 2013, Fruska Gora, Serbia.
- **Collaborating in the construction of Intercultural Europe: Education, Culture & Political Campaigning** - Platform for Intercultural Europe, Brussel, 10th and 11th June 2013., Lana Jurko - presentation *Rethinking Education: Cultural Awareness and Intercultural Competence In The Grindstone of Learning for Competitiveness*
- **Regional support for inclusive education**, Council of Europe, 6th and 7th November 2013, Tirana, Albania

II NEPC 2013 PROGRAM

1. Projects

Study on Mapping Teachers Policy in NEPC region

Duration: September-December 2013

Description: The objectives of the study are to provide a comprehensive and comparative overview of current teachers policies in NEPC region, updating members' knowledge on the current policy situation in countries, identifying new project ideas for the future.

Summary of activities:

- ToR produced
- Call of interest sent to NEPC members
- Call for Expert sent to NEPC members and external expert
- Maria Golubeva selected as international expert
- 10 countries involved in the study (Azerbaijan – Center for Innovation in Education; Bosnia and Herzegovina – proMENTE Social Research; Croatia – Institute for Social Research Zagreb; Estonia – Praxis Center for Policy Studies; Georgia – Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management; Kyrgyzstan – Foundation Education Initiatives Support; Macedonia – Macedonian civic education center; Mongolia – Mongolian Education Alliance; Serbia – Center for Education Policy; Slovakia – Slovak Governance Institute)
- Deliverables collected and evaluated
- Comparative analysis produced

Local Partnership for Anti-Corruption Education

NEPC role: Partner with specific role for research and international perspective

Applicant: Forum for Freedom in Education (FFE), Croatia

Budget: 168.585,00 EUR

Duration: 18 months (from 5/2013)

Funders: EC - IPA

Description:

Overall objective: To Enhance the Impact of the CSOs in Identification, Implementation, Support, and Further Development of Anti-corruption Policies and Practices in Educational System. **Specific objectives: (1)** To map corruptive practices regarding educational system with focus on secondary education. **(2)** To equip key local stakeholders for effective implementation of anti-corruption policies. **(3)** To raise awareness among students on

harmfulness of certain practices. **(4)** To provide support to local educational stakeholders in implementation of anti-corruption policies and practices in schools.

Summary of conducted activities in 2013:

- Organization of 2 research meeting
- Research methodology established
- 13 Focus group conducted with students, parents and university students in 4 Croatian counties
- Questionnaires for principals, teachers and parents created
- Questionnaires recollected from 101 principals, 330 teachers and 500 parents.
- Data analyses and draft research report presented at Anti Corruption Training Meeting (26th November, Marija Bistrica – Croatia)

Making History Work for Tolerance

NEPC role: Applicant

Budget: 131.306,00 USD

Partner Countries: Slovakia, Romania, Latvia, the Netherlands, Denmark

Duration: 18 months (from 1/2013)

Funders: OSF Think Tank Fund

Description: The partners aim to assess the ways in which political and public discourses about history teaching support intolerant attitudes towards other ethnic groups and feed xenophobic attitudes among teachers and parents. The advocacy part of the project aims to develop a strategy of trainings for history teachers and members of parents' associations in order to enable them to counter exclusionary and manipulative rhetoric used by far-right groups and actors seeking to monopolise history for divisive political goals.

Summary of conducted activities in 2013:

- Organization of two project meeting for partners and international expert
- Coordination of project activities and communication with partners
- Review of national policy briefs and reports
- Review of comparative study
- Comparative study produced

During the project activities it came to communication problem with Center of Education 2000+, Romania. Funder has been informed and budget country reallocation planned.

Leadership for Local Community: Empowering Teachers and Youth for Active Role in Local Communities (2nd year of implementation)

Applicant: Forum for Freedom in Education (FFE), Croatia

Overall Budget: 174,000 Euro

NEPC role: Partner in Action with specific role for research and international perspective of the issues on separate schooling.

Funders: EC - IPA

Description: The project is adapted and replicates the NEPC Divided Education Divided Citizens study (2009) Overall objective: To strength capacities of educational system and youth in local community in the field of democratization, human rights, minority integration, and non violent conflict resolution in Vukovar-Srijem County. Specific objectives: (1.) To map the impact that the practice of separate schooling has on the civic attitudes of students attending separate schools with majority and minority language of instruction; (2.) To support and equip youth for active role in local community; (3.) To give additional tools and knowledge to teachers and expert staff in the field of civic education, and teacher leadership.

Summary of conducted activities in 2013:

- Organization of round table on divided education in Vukovar (22.4.2013)
- Policy brief - Living together, learning together (based on research about divided education conducted in Vukovar-Srijem and Istria counties – Croatia), *Maria Golubeva & Asja Korbar*
- Research report – Living together, learning together (Minority education issues in Vukovar Srijem and Istria counties – Croatia), *Maria Golubeva & Asja Korbar*
- Co-organization of international conference ' Sustainability of divided education'

SIRIUS - European Policy Network on the education of children and young people with a migrant background

Applicant: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

NEPC Role: Collaborative Partner

Description:

The SIRIUS network is born to make significant contributions for the flagship initiatives “Youth on the move”, “An agenda for new skills and jobs” and “European platform against poverty”. Member States will need: (a) to improve educational outcomes, encompassing key competences and aiming at reducing early school leaving, (b) to ensure that the competences required in order to engage in further learning and the labour market are acquired and recognized throughout general, vocational, higher and adult education, including non formal and informal learning, (c) to define and implement measures addressing the specific circumstances of groups at particular risk.

Therefore, the aim of SIRIUS is to ensure that children and young people from migrant backgrounds or minorities could raise their educational standards and outcomes at least at the same level than those from National background or belonging to majority groups, until there are no individual differences in academic results due to ethnic, cultural or religious origin.

The research in this field at a European level is rich. However, some improvement measures are required, and SIRIUS network would like to contribute to implement them through these operational goals:

- data updating at all levels
- a global integration of all these studies and reports
- a major influence of this research on European, National and local educational policies

NEPC Activities in 2013:

- Organization of General Meeting 15th – 17th April – Zagreb, Croatia
- Participation at peer review equal educational opportunities in education practices, Peer review 22nd & 23rd January - Antwerp, Belgium
- Participation at peer review, 14th & 15th November - Oslo, Norway

**Support the Development of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) System in the Kyrgyz Republic**

NEPC role: Partner

Applicant: Center for Public Policy CPP, Kirgizstan

Budget: 180, 000.00 EUR

Duration: 18 months

Funders: EC – EuropAid Fund

Description: Ensuring wider access to the primary vocational education and training through: a) identifying the needs of vulnerable groups and PVET institutions and development of resource centres at PVET institutions b) spreading the relevant experience in pilot regions and c) elaborating policy recommendations for better access at national and regional levels.

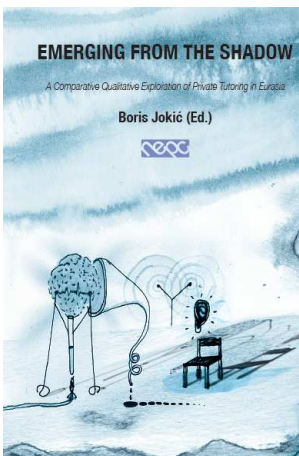
NEPC activities in 2013:

- Participation at national conference on social inclusion in PVET (26th September)
- Review of the 4 handbooks for employees of PVET institution

2. Publications

NEPC Comparative Studies in Education Series

Book 2



Boris Jokić (Ed.) (2013). *Emerging from the shadow – A Comparative Qualitative Exploration of Private Tutoring in Eurasia*

Research conducted in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia. Authors: Boris Jokić, Tamara Bregvadze, Elmina Kazimzade, Laura Kirss, Zrinka Ristić Dedić, Andrea Soldo. The study is available for downloading in English under the section Publications.

From the **review** of Professor Mark Bray, UNESCO Chair Professor in Comparative Education, The university of Hong Kong :

„This book in an excellent contribution to the literature. Its contribution are methodological, factual and analytical. The comparative qualitative approach provides contextualized analysis of private tutoring in the five countries, with a carefully prepared set of lenses. The book will stimulate methodological commentary in addition to its

substantive contribution.“

NEPC Policy Brief Series

1. Living together, learning together, *Maria Golubeva & Asja Korbar*
2. Making History Work for Tolerance, Denmark, Aase
3. Making History Work for Tolerance, Latvia, Linda Curika
4. Making History Work for Tolerance, Slovak Republic – Policy Brief, Marcela Maslova

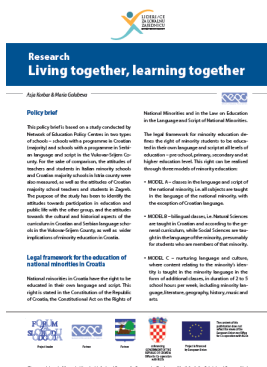
Other

1. Research report – Living together, learning together (Minority education issues in Vukovar Srijem and Istria counties – Croatia) - *Maria Golubeva & Asja Korbar*

2. Eastern Europe and Eurasia Regional consultation on: Education Financing and Privatization in and of Education – Report, *Lana Jurko*
3. Analyses of Teacher Policies in the Azerbaijan Republic - *N. A. Mammadov, V. M. Huseynov*
4. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Ivona Čelebičić, Tom Heinen, Radmila Rangelov Jusović*
5. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Croatia - *Iris Marušić*
6. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Estonia - *Laura Kirss*
7. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Georgia - *Giorgi Machabeli and Sophia Gorgodze*
8. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Kyrgyz Republic - *Aleksandr Ivanov and Tatiana Matokhina*
9. Analyses of Teacher Policies in the Republic of Macedonia - *Gorica Mickovska, Vera*

Kondik Mitkovska, Loreta Georgieva

10. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Mongolia - *Batjargal Batkhuyag*
11. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Serbia - *Milica Grahovac, Jasminka Čekić Marković, Gordana Miljević*
12. Analyses of Teacher Policies in Slovakia - *Michaela Farenzenová and Martina Kubánová*
13. Teacher Policies in the NEPC region, A comparative study of teacher policies in 9 countries – *Maria Golubeva*
14. Perception of Corrupt and Unethical Behaviour in Secondary Schools – Focus Group Report Summary – *Esad Bratović*
15. Making History Work for Tolerance, Comparative analysis, *Maria Golubeva*



3. NEPC Learning Events

Summer School - Empowering Teachers for the 21st Century (July 1st-6th 2013, Cetinje, Montenegro)

The summer school gathered 32 participants and members of the faculty. It has gathered teachers, CSO representatives, policy makers and researchers from – *Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, UK*. The summer school explored the challenges of supporting and empowering teachers to enable learners to thrive as skilled and active citizens in their individual and global contexts. The summer school presented models for effective teacher policies, competence frameworks, teacher organizations, teacher leadership, and innovative teaching and learning approaches. Further, the summer school stressed the importance of teachers being centrally engaged in planning and implementation of each of these aspects.

The lectures were held by:

Professor Graham Donaldson CB, Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow

David Frost, Ph.D., University of Cambridge

Vlasta Vizek Vidović, Ph.D., Institute for Social research Zagreb

Vlatka Domović, Ph.D., Faculty of Teacher Education of the University of Zagreb

George Pataki, M.Ed., Education & Management Consultant

Guntars Catlaks, Senior Coordinator: Research, Education International

Eve Mägi, Education Policy Analyst, Praxis Center for Policy Studies

Presentations by:

Jasminka Čekić Marković

Yulia Karimova

Eli Pijaca Plavšić

Roussel de Carvalho

Materials available at request!

III OTHER NEPC ACTIVITIES

1. Organizational development

According to NEPC Strategy plan the following documents have been developed (to be approved at GA 2013):

- Internal and external communication plan
- Financial policies and procedures
- By laws have been revised
- Position paper

2. Exploring topics and improving visibility

2.1. Eastern Europe and Eurasia Regional consultation on: Education Financing and Privatization in and of Education

PERI, in partnership with the Network of Education Policy Centers (NEPC), organized a meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia (29th & 30th January) on Education Financing and Privatisation in and of Education to explore the different dimensions of education financing and privatisation set out above. The goals of the meeting were to (1) examine the nature, scope and implications of education privatisation in the region, (2) identify urgent research areas, and (3) explore ways in which advocacy and activism around the issues of education privatisation may be supported. At the meeting 20 participants were present from NEPC members and OSF.

3. NEPC Young Scholars Essay Competition on the topic 'How can pre-service Teacher Education (TED) better prepare teachers for 21st Century'

The ToR was defined and promoted through different channels of communication. The selection committee was established. Considering the small numbers of essays received the decision about further steps will be made at 23rd BM (4th December, Istanbul)

4. Study – visit on ‘Sustainability from curriculum to reality’



The study- visit was organized in Zagreb from 14th to 17th –October. 9 participants from University, NGO, Secondary schools and Institutions from Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, UK applied for the study visit.

The visits to following organizations and institutions were organized:

- Forum for freedom in Education – Presentation of FFE and its programs on Education for Sustainability
- Education and teacher training Agency – Presentation of programs and initiatives on Sustainability in Education in

primary and high schools

- Green Action - presentation of education program, lecture on ‘Education for sustainability – experience of GA’
- ZMAG- recycled estate
- Primary school ‘Vukomerec’
- Secondary school ‘Ruđer Bošković’

Two lectures were organized:

- Presentation of the project ‘ENjoinED: educate for sustainable development (Mladen Domazet – Institute for social research)
- Presentation of education and training system in Croatia (Mario Bajkuša – Forum for Freedom in Education)

5. Fundraising

NEPC continues its fundraising activities according to the business plan. It searches for calls which could be interest to either NEPC as a network or its members and informs its members on all calls that could be relevant to them.

In 2013 NEPC has applied to the following calls:

IN THE PIPELINE –

A: Regional Support for Inclusive Education

NEPC role: Applicant (as Platform of organizations)

Countries: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

Partners: Children are the future (AL), proMENTE social research (B&H), Step by Step (B&H), Forum for freedom in Education (HR), Kosova Education Center (KOS), Macedonian Civic Education Center (MK), Center for Education Policy (SR)

Status: submitted

Duration: 18 months

Funders: CoE

Description: The overall objective of the project is to enhance social inclusion and social cohesion in the region by promoting inclusive education and training. The local organizations are expected to support 49 schools (7 in each country) in implementing the Index of Inclusion methodology throughout the complete cycle of implementation: preparation of school developments plans, indentifying priorities and school-review of progress and results.

B: Edupolicy Library

NEPC role: Applicant

Budget: 13600,00 USD

Duration: 24 months

Funders:

Description: Edupolicy Library is on-line open source library that recollects NEPC and NEPC's members publications aiming to structure the education policy knowledge, enhance the information access to organizations and institutions dealing with education policy, share acquired knowledge in order to facilitate education advocacy, reduce the paper footprint.

C: Paint the World with Tolerance

NEPC role: Partner

Applicant: FFE, Croatia

Status: submitted

Budget: 165.300,00 EUR

Duration: 18 months

Funders: EC - IPA

Description: *Overall objective:* to support cooperation between CSOs and educational sector in promotion of human rights and tolerance.

Specific objective: (a) to develop tools and teaching/learning materials for teachers and students; (b) to train teachers and expert staff in civic education; (c) to train secondary schools' students in human rights and tolerance; (d) to promote human rights and tolerance among youth with special accent on social media.

REJECTED -

A: Sustainable Schools, Sustainable Society

NEPC role: Partner

Applicant: FFE, Croatia

Status: submitted

Budget: 132.084,58 EUR

Duration: 18 months

Funders: EC - IPA

Description: *Overall objective:* Building Capacity of Croatian Education System for Effective Introduction of Education for Sustainable Development in Curriculum and its implementation in teaching.

Specific objectives: Mapping of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Practices and Current State Regarding of Implementation of curricular ESD proscriptions Creating Materials for Teachers Empowering Teachers for ESD Implementation Promoting ESD within Educational System.

B: Empowering Teacher Research Capacities for Exploring Sustainable Development competences

NEPC role: Applicant

Status: submitted

Budget: 11.380,00 EUR

Duration: 6 months

Funders: Ministry of Education – Republic of Croatia

Description: Develop a series of workshops on ESD and ESD competences and train 10 teachers.

Together with teachers and international experts have a 3 day event to discuss and draft indicators for sustainable schools.

IV FINANCIAL

During the reporting period NEPC operated with a budget of **290,906.00 Euro** (6, 600.00 Euro) as a balance form last reporting period. This was 88% of the planned **330,590.00 EUR**. Therefore not all activities from the Action plan 2013 were completed.

Never the less NEPC finishes the year with a positive balance. Detailed Financial report will be presented to board and approved by the board prior to General Assembly at which members will have the opportunity to discuss it.

Below please find tables and graphs of income and expenditures for the period covering December 1st 2012 – November 30th 2013.

Table 1 NEPC income according to type

Type of income	Amount in Eur	%
Institutional grant	€ 95.163,28	33%
Projects	€ 172.771,92	61%
Self generated	€ 16.371,50	6%
TOTAL	€ 284.306,70	

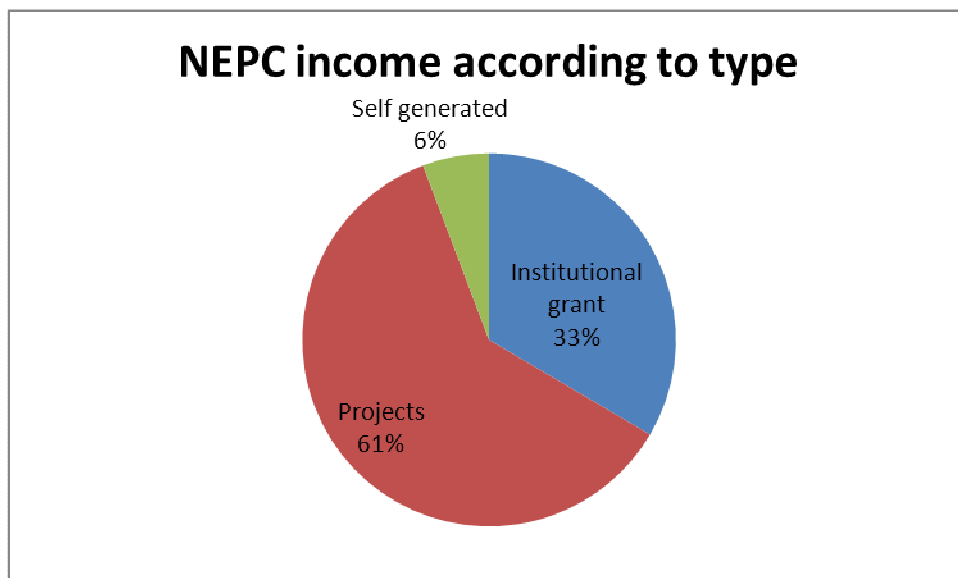


Table 2 NEPC income according to projects

Type of cost	Amount in Eur	%
OSF Institutional	€ 95.163,28	33%
ESdPI	€ 18.926,92	7%
Membership fees	€ 4.692,50	2%
LLC	€ 10.247,00	4%
Sirius	€ 36.488,00	13%
ACE	€ 29.748,00	10%
PERI	€ 26.622,00	9%
HT	€ 50.740,00	18%
Other	€ 11.679,00	4%
TOTAL	€ 284.306,70	

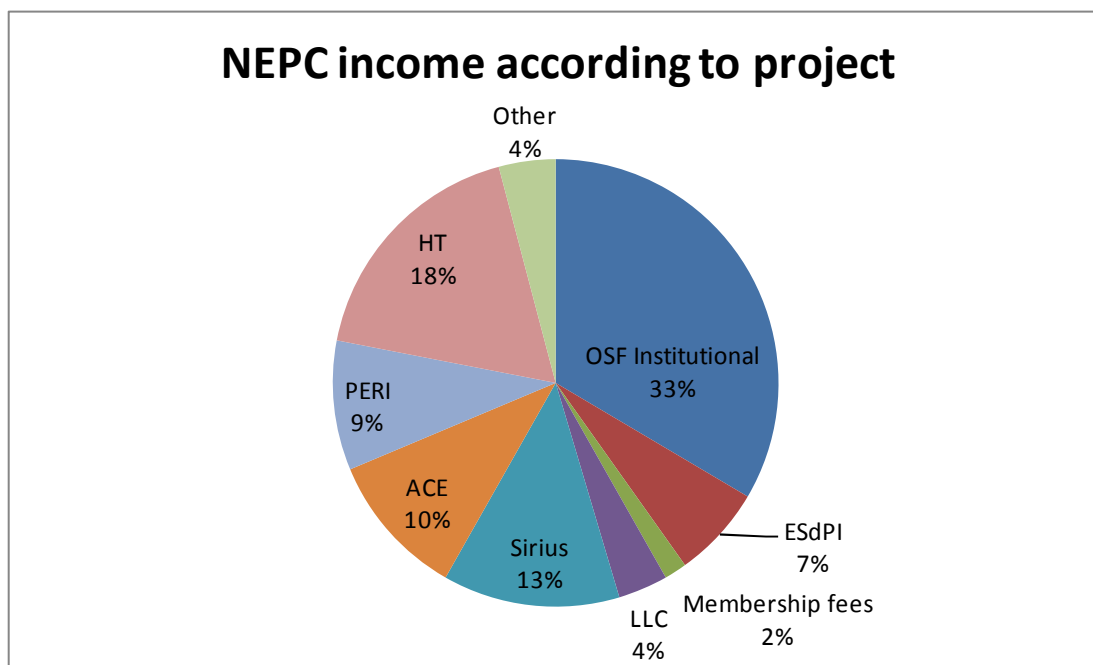


Table 3 NEPC expenditures for the reporting period according to type of cost

Type of cost	Amount in Eur	%
Human resources	€ 48.200,00	17,72%
Experts	€ 72.509,00	26,65%
Office costs	€ 12.556,00	4,61%
Memberships	€ 451,00	0,17%
Other	€ 7.983,00	2,93%
Subcontracting to partners	€ 9.134,00	3,36%
Travel	€ 109.749,00	40,34%
Publications	€ 11.494,00	4,22%
TOTAL	€ 272.076,00	100,00%

NEPC expenditures according to type of cost

■ HR ■ CONS ■ OC ■ MEMB ■ OTH ■ SUB ■ T ■ P

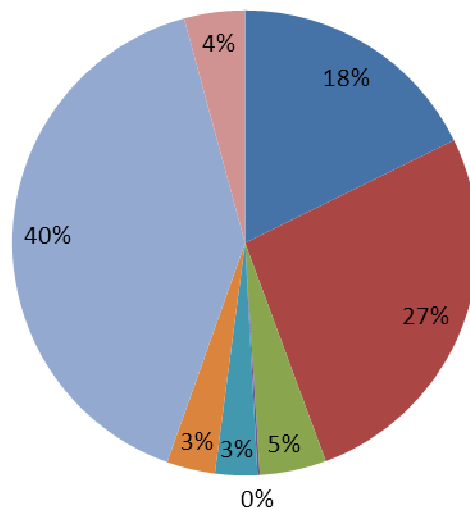


Table 4 NEPC expenditures for the reporting period according to type of activity

Type of cost	Amount in Eur	%
Secretariat	68.808,00 €	25%
Network Activites	87.245,00 €	32%
Projects	116.023,00 €	43%
TOTAL	€ 272.076,00	100,00%

NEPC expenditures according to type of activity

