

The image shows the logo of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), consisting of the letters 'DFG' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The logo is set against a blue background with a blurred, bokeh effect of light spots and lines, suggesting a modern or scientific setting.

Researcher Survey 2010:

Research Conditions for Professors at German Universities
Selected results from the iFQ-Working Paper No. 8

Outline

1. Objectives, implementation, content
2. Selected results
 - 2.1. General information
 - 2.2. Proposal activity
 - 2.3. Tasks of the DFG
 - 2.4. Young academics and staff recruitment
 - 2.5. Research Policy Measures
 - 2.6. Scientific misconduct
3. Conclusion
4. Outlook

1. Objectives, Implementation, Content

► Objectives of the survey:

- Analysis of the DFG funding programs, the research conditions at universities and of the perception of the DFG
- Incorporation of topics from other surveys (e.g. former DFG-surveys, former studies of the iFQ (Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance), comparable international studies)

► Target group: professors at German universities

► Implementation:

- Online survey
- Representative control sample (9.768 out of 21.598)
- Participation: 3.131 with usable questionnaires (32,1 %)
- Authors: S. Böhmer, J. Neufeld, S. Hinze, C. Klode, S. Hornbostel

1. Objectives, Implementation, Content Topics

	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3
Third party funds in the last five years			
Selection of an appropriate funding instrument / funds resources			
Assessment of decision-making processes and -criteria			
Assessment of the research and funding situation in the respective research area			
Scientific integrity and “authorship”			
Function and task of the DFG in the science system			
Assessment of the DFG’s counselling and supervision activity			
Reviewer action and variety of tasks			
Importance of third party funds / TPF-promotion			
Assessment of current science policy measures/reform attempts			
Features and promotion of high-risk/risky research			
Cooperations			
Staff recruitment/Young academics			
Equal opportunities			
Academic career/demography			

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2. Selected results

2.1. General information

▶ Demography of the respondents

- Average age: 53 years
- Proportion of women: 19,5 %
- German nationality: 92%

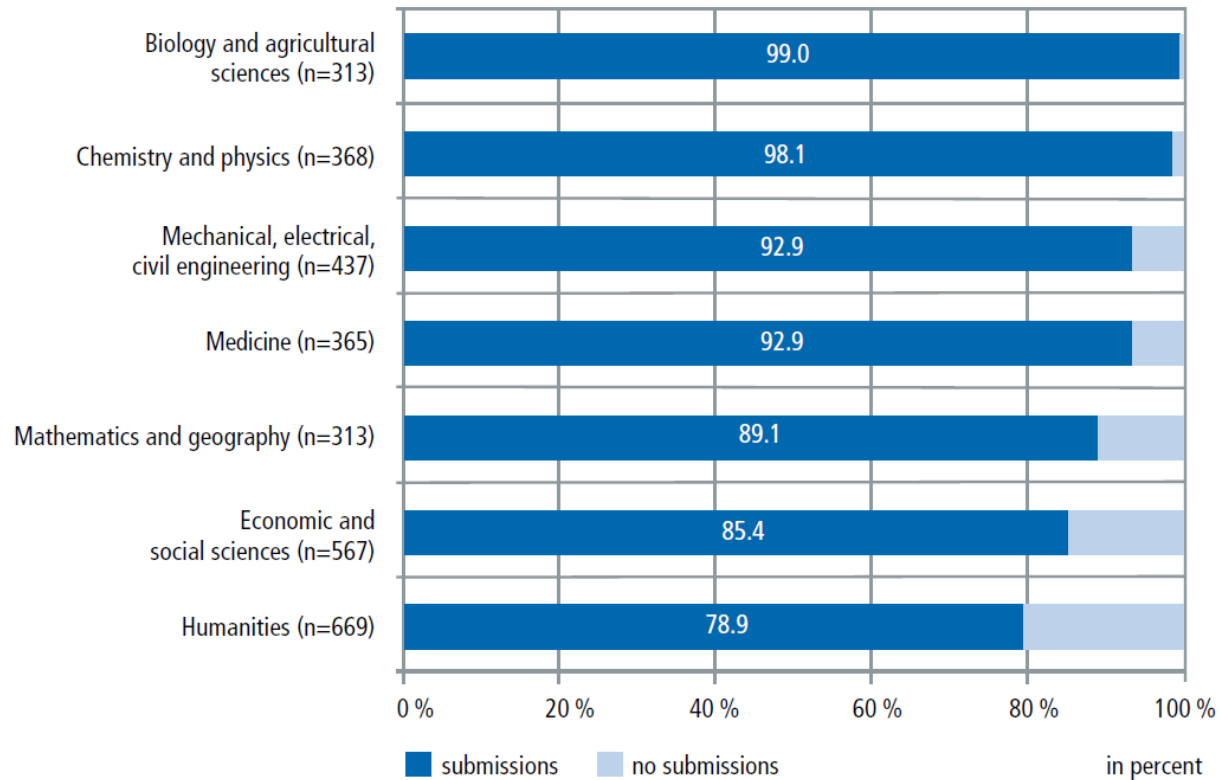
▶ Patterns in answering behaviour

- Differences in the answers mostly due to research area
- Hardly influenced by age or gender
- Analyses also differ on many-/few-applicants, more or less successful applicants

2. Selected results

2.2. Proposal activity

- ▶ 89 % of the participants have submitted third-party fund proposals (since 2005, > 25.000€)

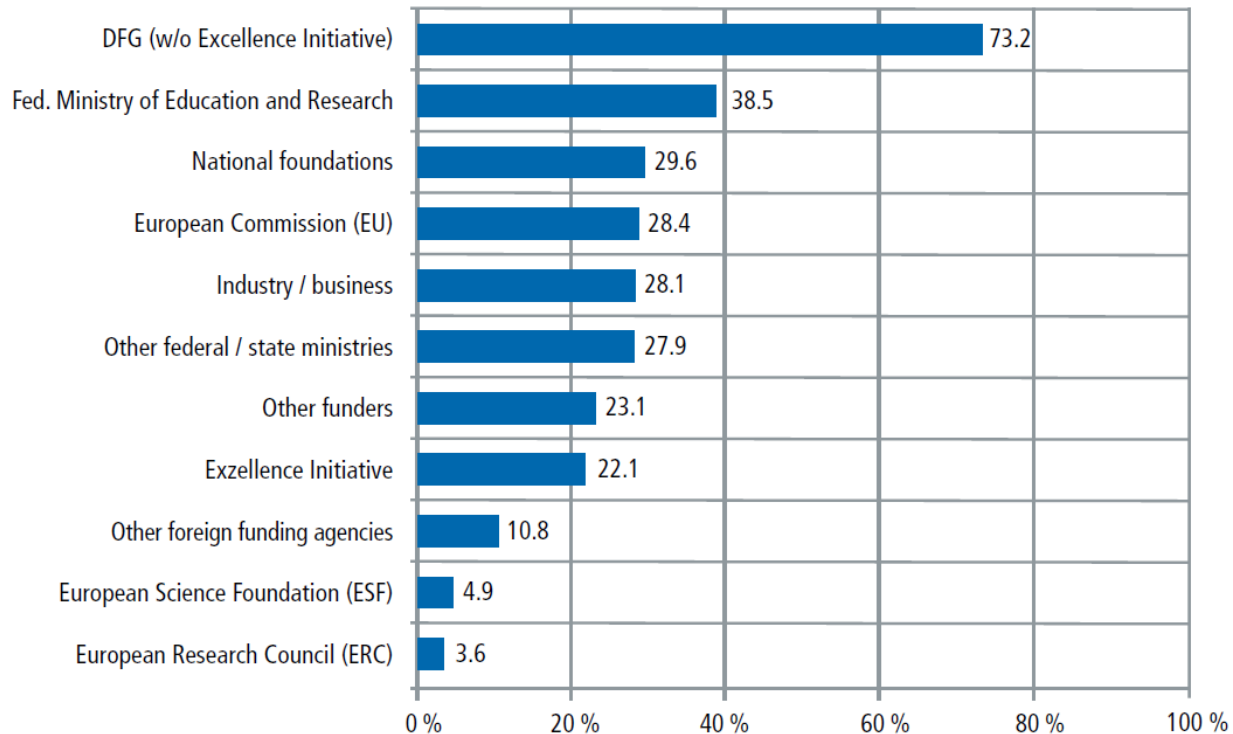


Source: iFQ 2011

2. Selected results

2.2. Proposal activity – Funding resources

- ▶ 73,2 % of the respondents with proposals to the DFG (since 2005, > 25.000€)
- ▶ the DFG is primer funding source for 41 % of the respondents) (majority of all proposals submitted to the DFG)

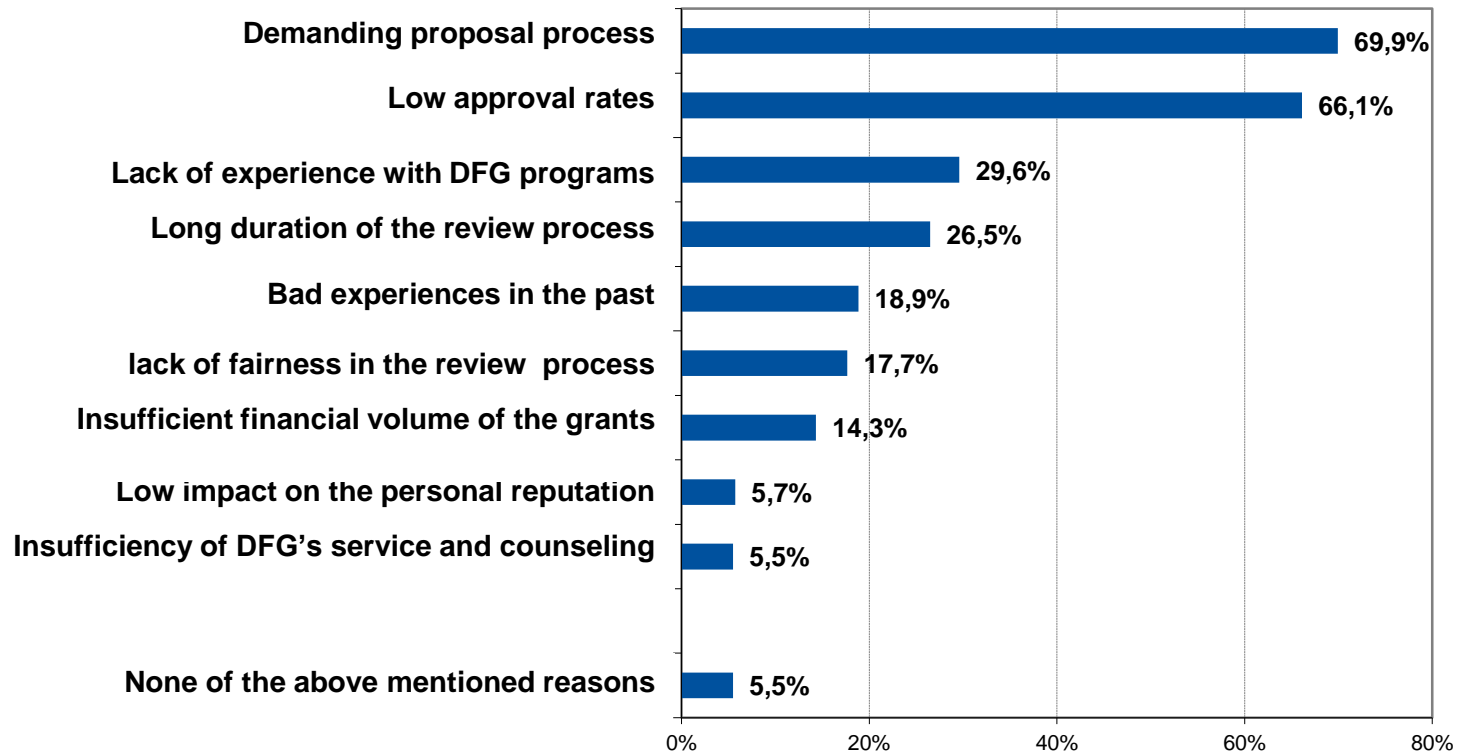


Source: iFQ 2011

2. Selected results

2.2. Proposal Activity – Reasons not to submit proposals to the DFG

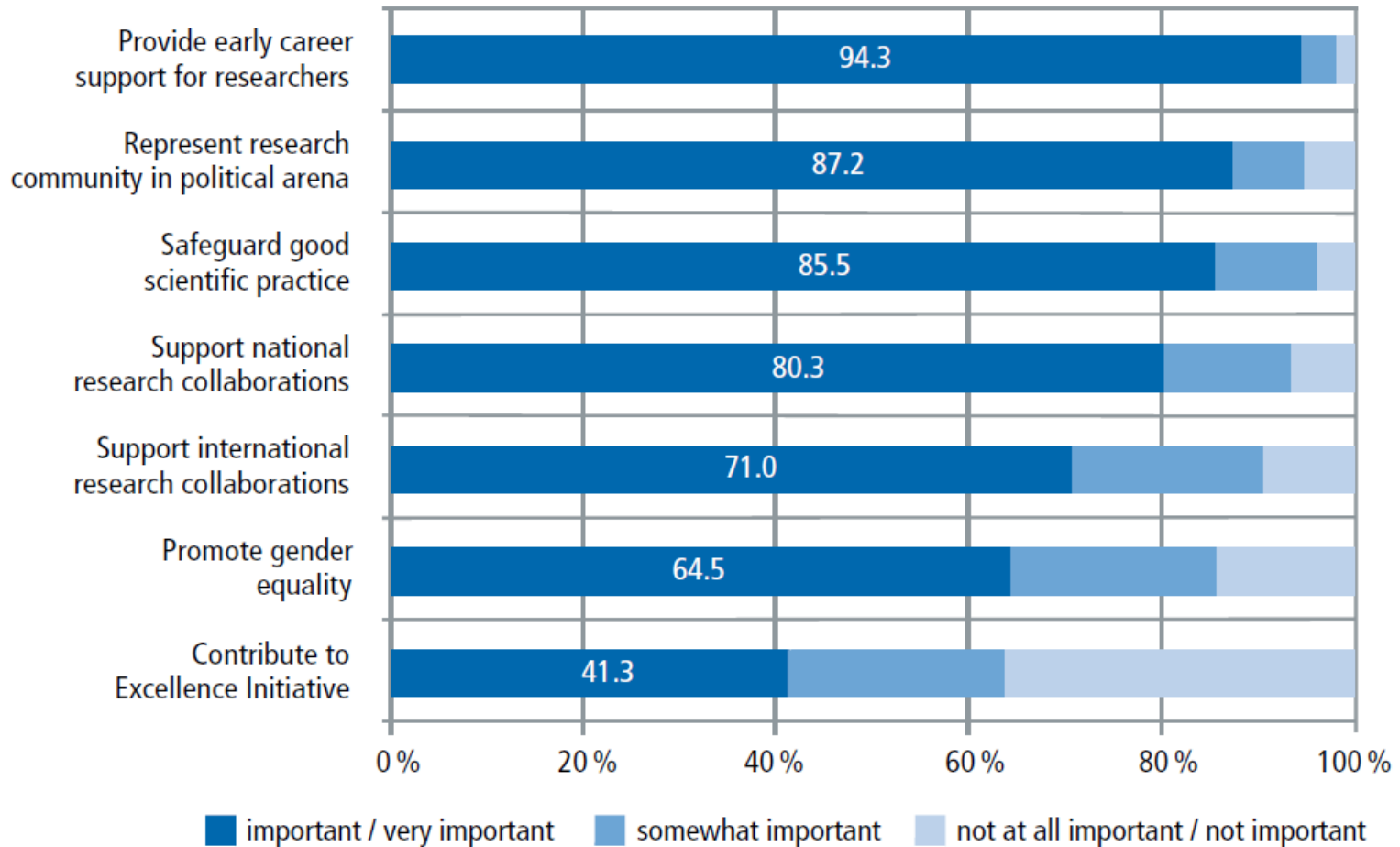
- ▶ 663 respondents (10%) do not submit proposals to the DFG (but to other funders)



Source: iFQ 2011

2. Selected results

2.3. DFG's tasks - Importance

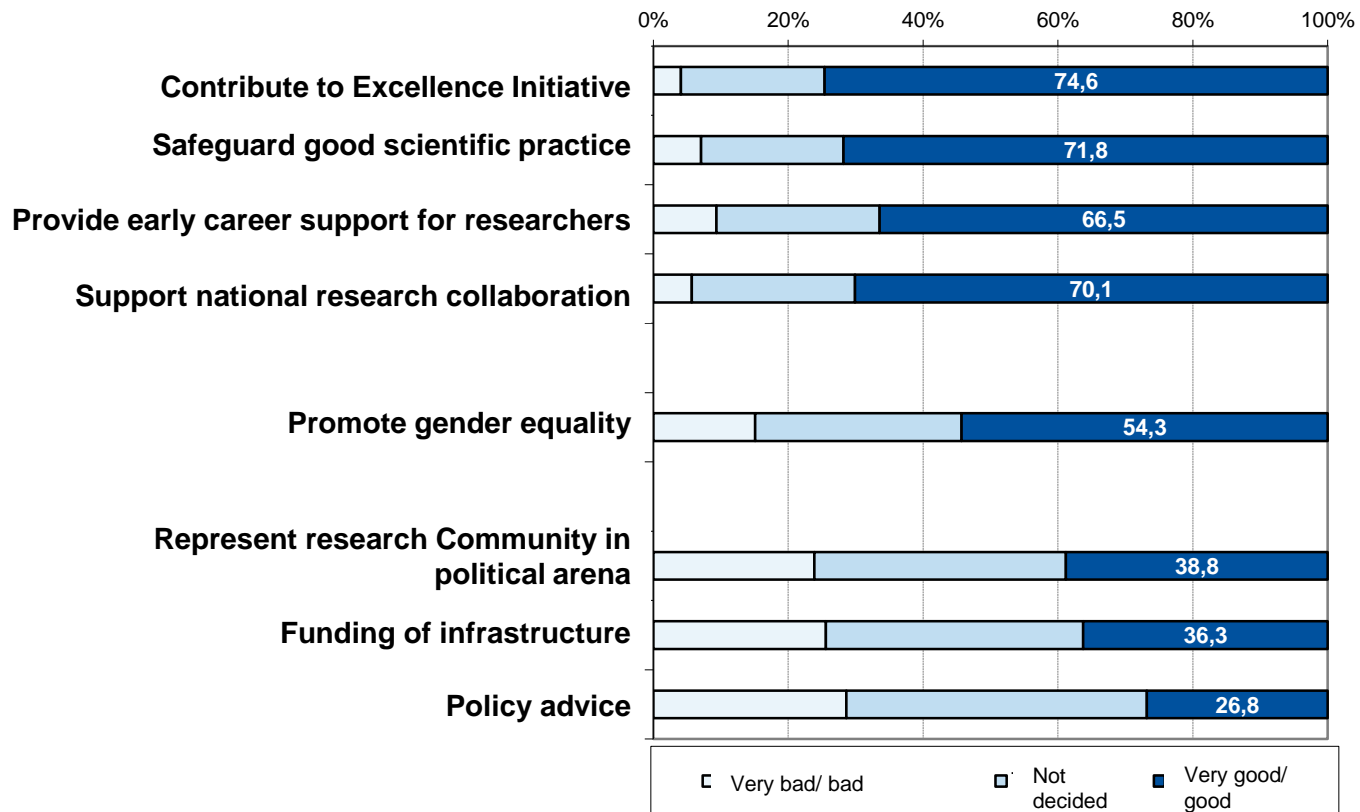


Source: iFQ 2011

Researcher survey 2010, Katharina Fuß

2. Selected results

2.3. DFG's tasks - Evaluation

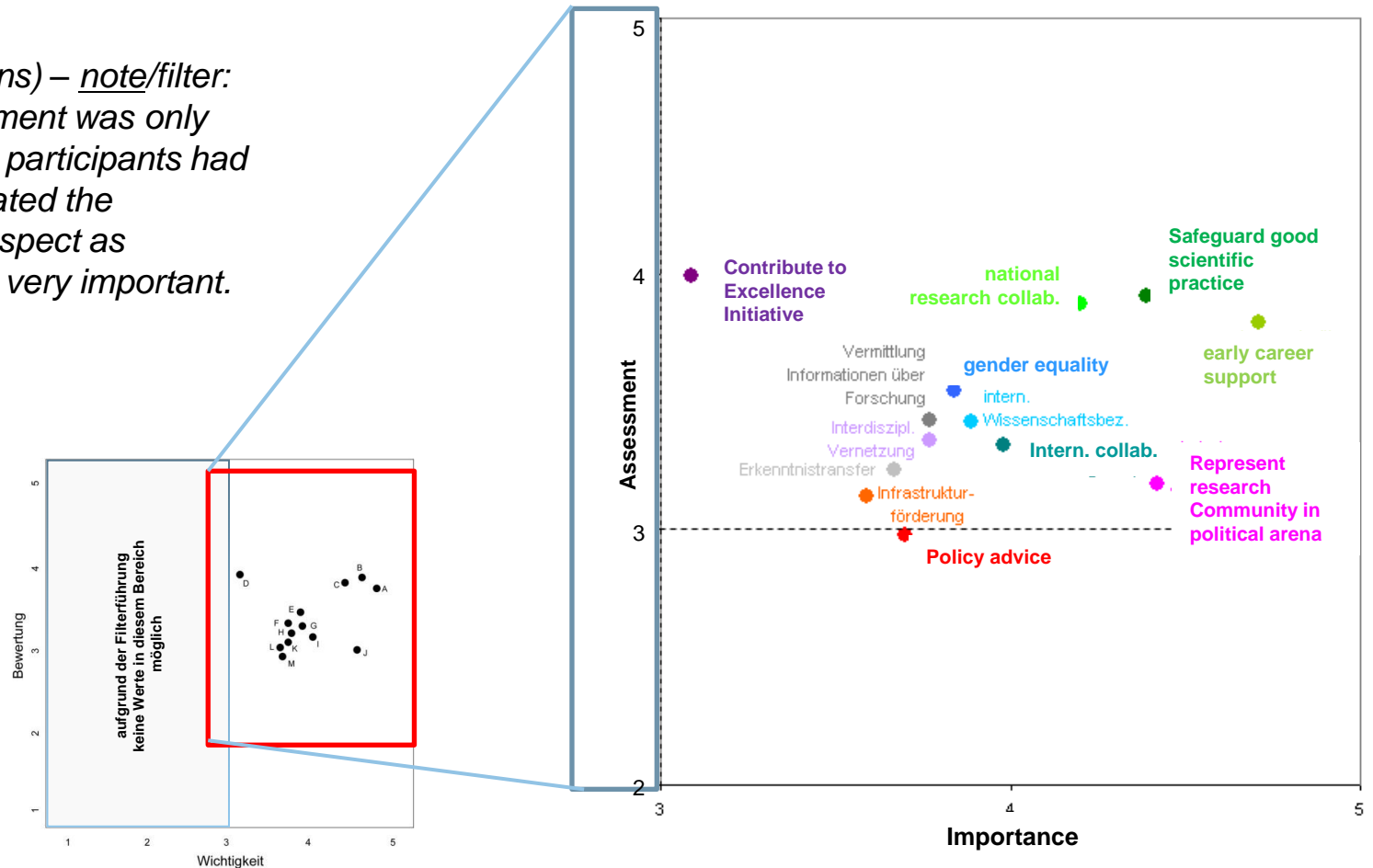


Source: iFQ 2011

2. Selected results

2.3. DFG's tasks – Overview over importance and evaluation

*(Matrix/means) – note/filter:
The assessment was only
asked when participants had
previously rated the
respective aspect as
important or very important.
(N=2.751)*



2. Selected results

2.4. Funding of young academics

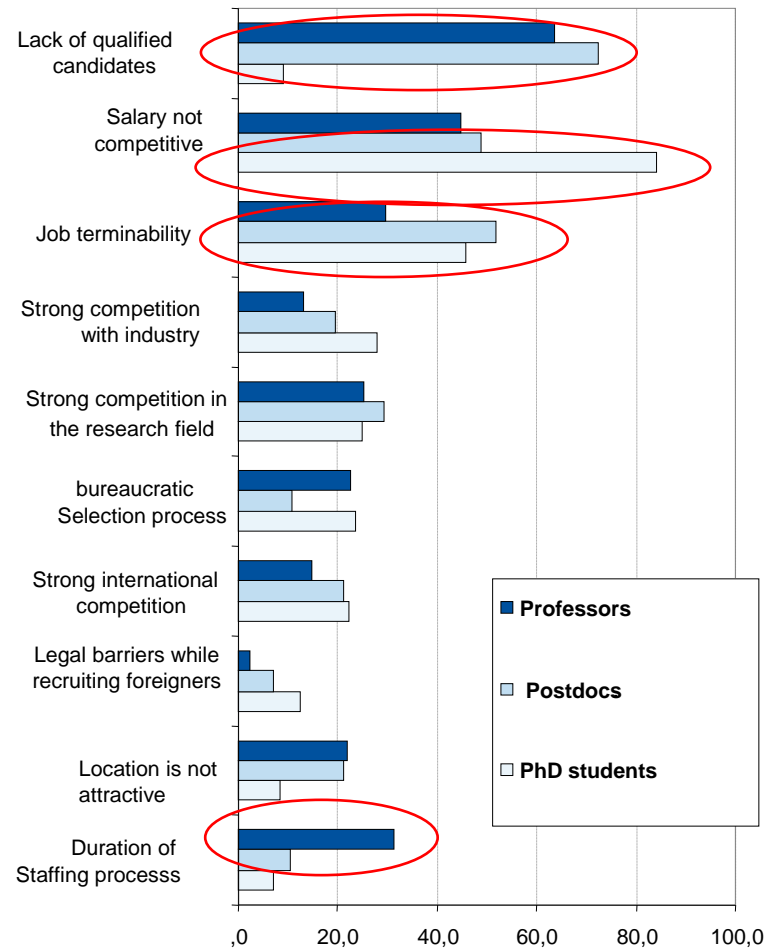
- ▶ Working conditions of young academics are described as well-balanced.
 - Duration and nature of qualification
 - Autonomy
 - Assistance and counseling

- ▶ Critical aspects:
 - Not enough jobs for young academics
 - Unstable job/career perspectives for young academics
 - Insufficient material support (esp. Humanities, not relevant in chemistry/physics)

2. Selected results

2.4. Young academics and staff recruitment

„According to your opinion, which reasons could you name for the difficulties in filling the jobs for doctorates/young academics/(junior) professors? Please mark the applicable reasons.“ (Multiple answers are permitted)



Source: iFQ 2011

2. Selected results

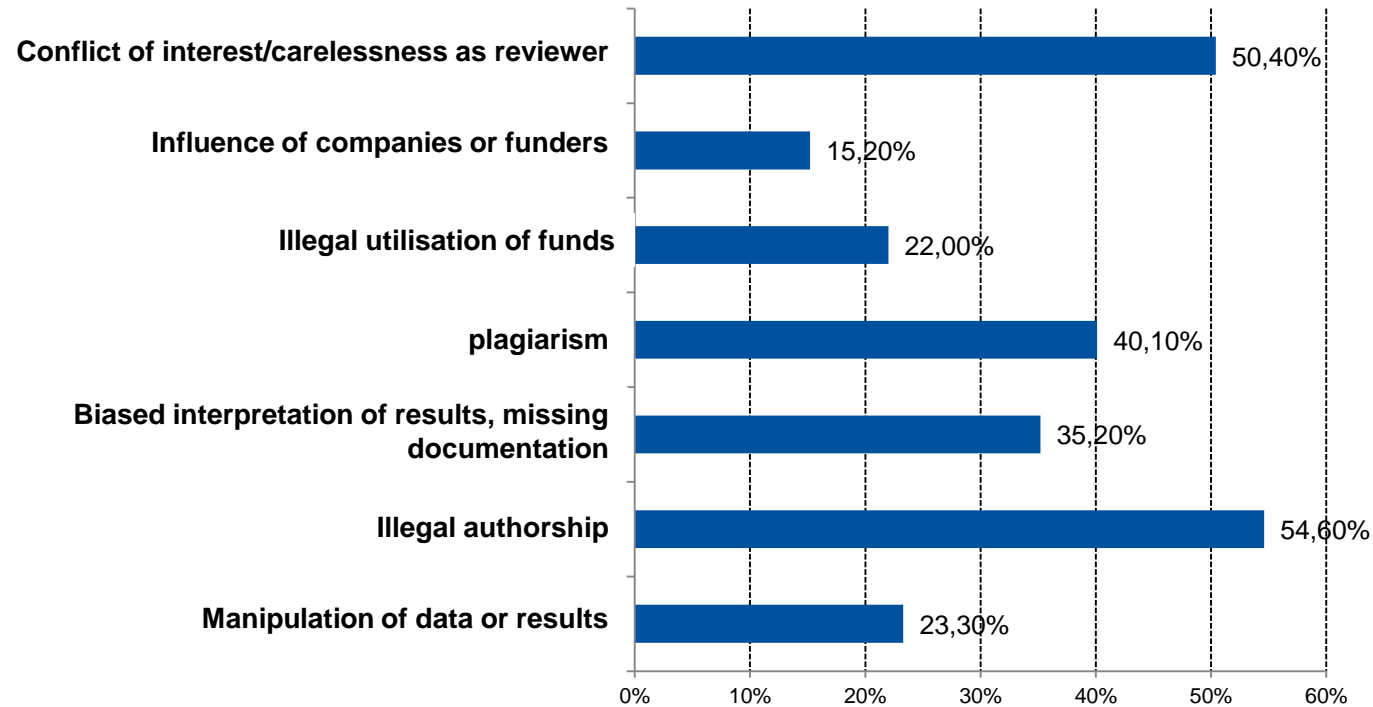
2.5. Evaluation of science policy measures

- ▶ Adequate measures in order to strengthen Germany as a centre for science and research.
 1. Secure career perspectives for young researchers
 2. Promotion of international cooperation
 3. Better representation of science in political decision-making processes
 4. Active international recruitment of excellent scientists
 5. Funding of high-risk science

- ▶ Non-adequate measures
 1. Excellence competitions for teaching
 2. Strengthening of university management
 3. Excellence competitions for research
 4. Stronger funding of socially and economically relevant science
 5. Extension of structured doctoral training frameworks

2. Selected results

2.6. Scientific misconduct



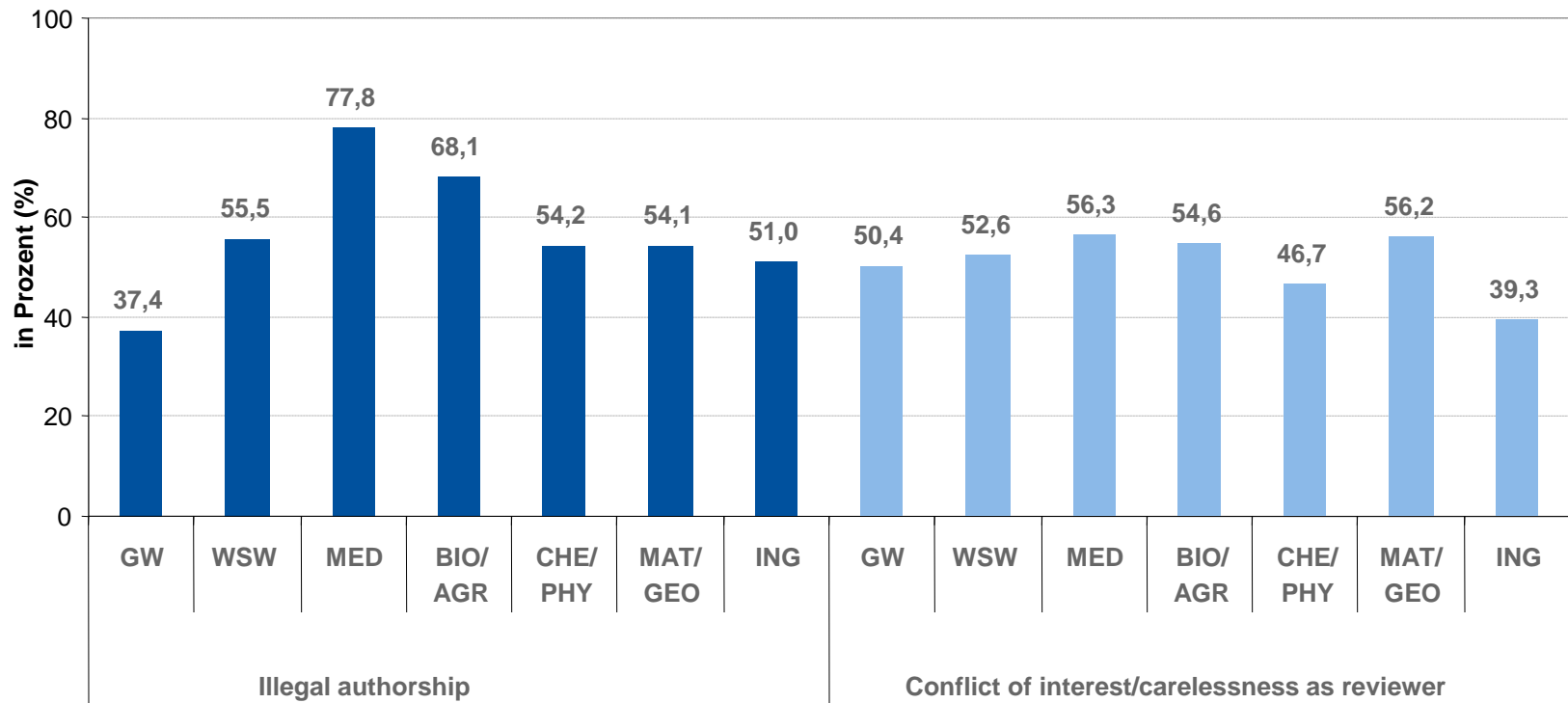
source: iFQ 2011

seen or own misconduct in this field in the last three years

2. Selected results

2.6. Scientific misconduct

- ▶ concerning “authorship” and review processes, especially relevant for life sciences



Source: iFQ 2011

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3. Conclusion

- ▶ According to the study the situation of science in Germany is characterized by:
 - Strong competition
 - Strong research
 - Intensive cooperation
 - Precarious young academic careers

- ▶ Conclusion for the DFG (see statements)
 - Strong agreement on funding without thematic restrictions of individual research and on cooperation on a national/international/interdisciplinary level; strong support of young academic funding
 - Processes are accepted – but heavy work load for the reviewers
 - Support of DFG's role beyond research funding, e.g. good scientific practice

4. Outlook

Publications and Discussions

► Publication

- Published as Working Paper (only available in German)
- Statement and Abstract (Infobrief) – (available in English)

http://www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/evaluation_statistics/programme_evaluation/info_briefe/index.html

► Further analyses by iFQ

- Continuing reporting for scientific publications
- Data use for other evaluation projects (for example evaluation of Excellence Initiatives, Panel-evaluations in Collaborative Research Centres, Governance in medicine). For further information visit www.forschungsinfo.de

► Use of the results for further strategy development

Thank you for your attention!

Further information

- ▶ zur DFG: <http://www.dfg.de>
- ▶ zu allen geförderten Projekten: <http://www.dfg.de/gepris>
- ▶ zu über 17.000 deutschen Forschungsinstitutionen: <http://www.dfg.de/rex>