EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION
SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

ESF Survey on Peer Review Practices
A summary report

MO Forum Peer Review meeting Sept. 2010

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A big
THANK YOU
to all survey
participants!

Overview

1.	**Survey development and implementation**
2.	**Reports – document types and breadth**
3.	**Participating organisations**
4.	**Selected results**
5.	**Further procedure**

Survey development and implementation

May 2009	Decision on survey elements by MO Forum
August – October 2009	Drafting of survey by ESF office
November 2009	Agreement on present structure by MO Forum
January – March 2010	Set up of online survey by ESF office
April 2010	Pilot
14 May - 07 July 2010	Survey
July – August 2010	Writing of report by ESF office

Reports – document types and breadth

Type of document	Number of included items
Current presentation	20
Summary report	203
Charts	227
Result tabulations = survey items	274

Invited organisations

Europe	83 ESF/EUROHORCS member organisations
	5 European/supranational organisations
	4 Charities
Africa	1 Research funding organisation
Asia	3 Research funding organisations
Australia	1 Research funding organisation
North-America	4 Research funding organisations
Total	**101 organisations**

Participants - Overview

Total: 30 participating organisations

Participants – Organisation category

	Total in %
Research Funding Organisation (RFO)	86,7
Research Performing Organisation (RPO)	6,7
Academy which is RFO or RPO (Academy+)	6,7
Academy as learned society (Academy)	0,0

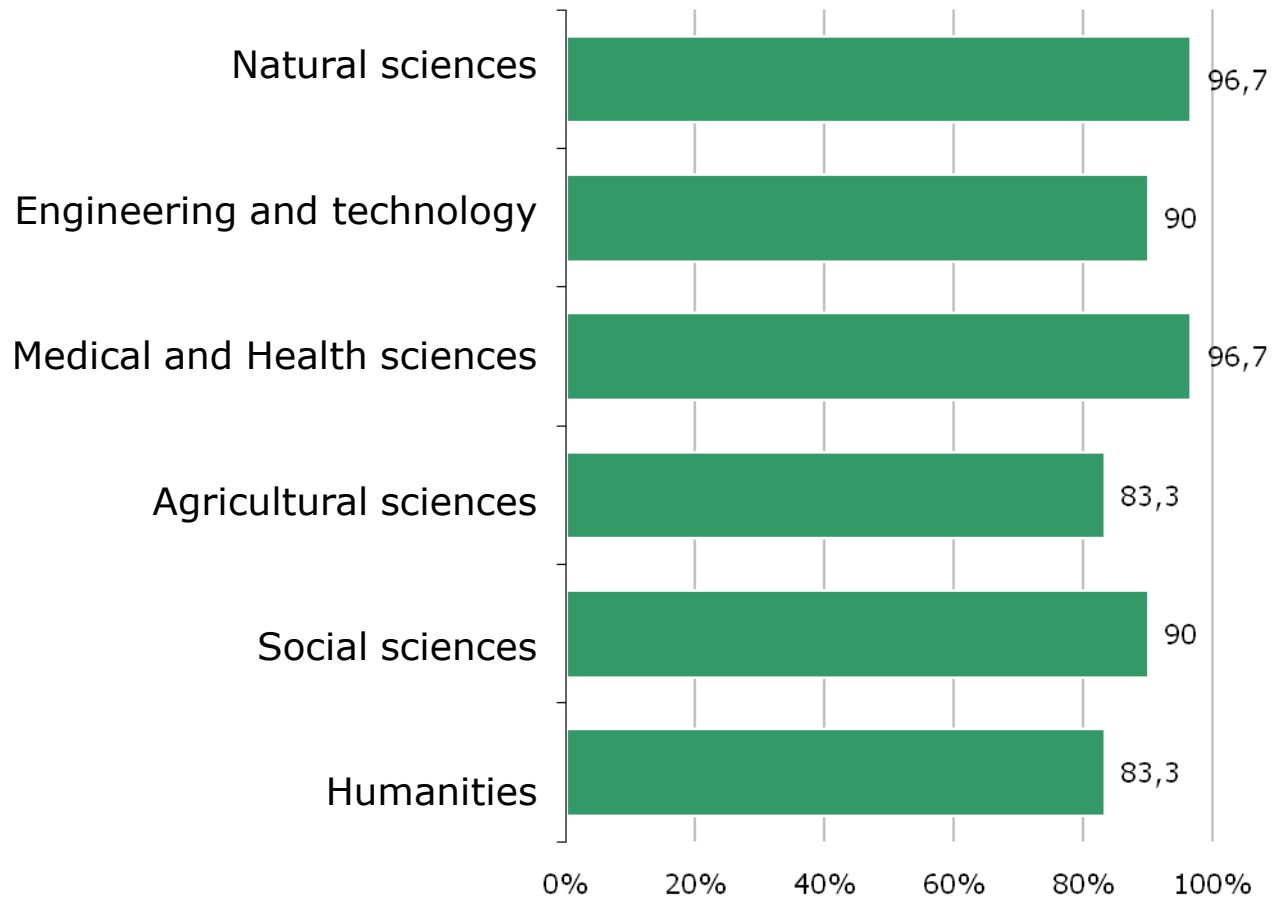**Base: All respondents (n=30); data in percent (single answers)**

Participants – Memberships status

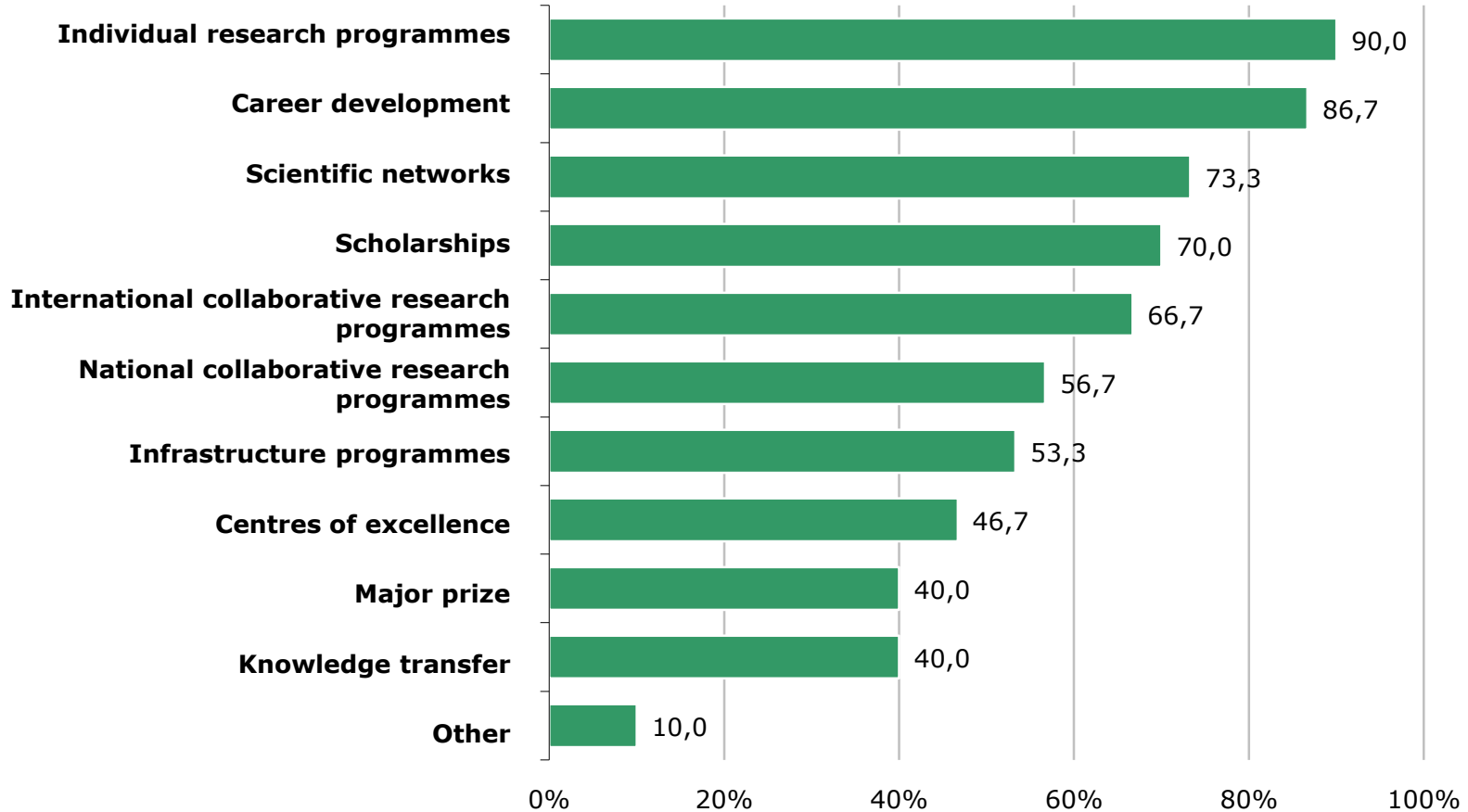|	Total in %
ESF membership only	16,7
ESF and EUROHORCS membership	60,0
EUROHORCS but not ESF members	3,3
European Agencies	10,0
European Charities	6,7
Non-European Agencies	3,3

Base: All respondents (n=30); data in percent (single answers)
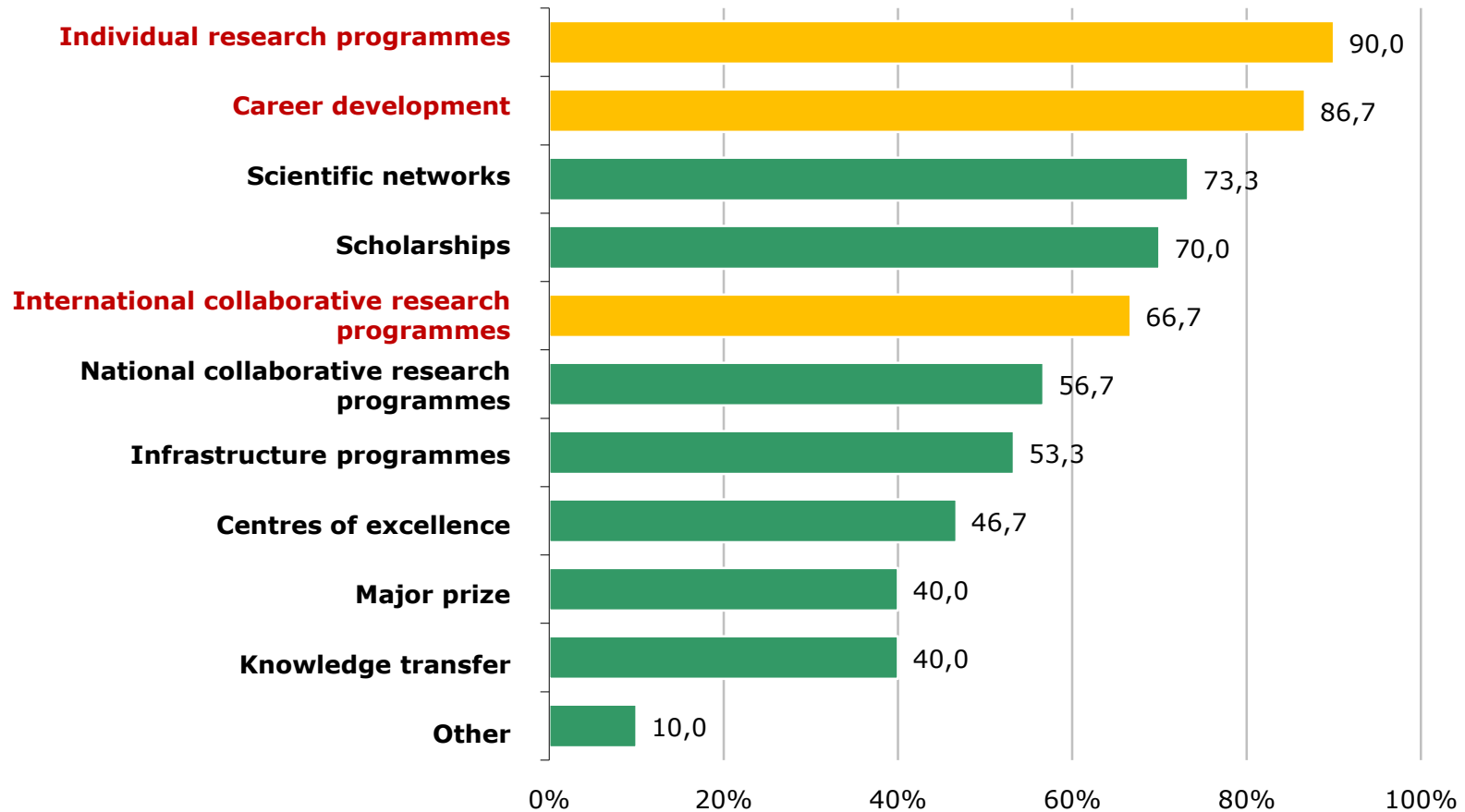
Participants – Reserach fields

Base: All respondents (n=30); data in percent (multiple answers)

Participants – Funding instruments

Individual research programmes — 90,0
Career development — 86,7
Scientific networks — 73,3
Scholarships — 70,0
International collaborative research programmes — 66,7
National collaborative research programmes — 56,7
Infrastructure programmes — 53,3
Centres of excellence — 46,7
Major prize — 40,0
Knowledge transfer — 40,0
Other — 10,0

Base: All respondents (n=30); data in percent (multiple answers)

Participants – Funding instruments

Funding instrument	Percent
Individual research programmes	90,0
Career development	86,7
Scientific networks	73,3
Scholarships	70,0
International collaborative research programmes	66,7
National collaborative research programmes	56,7
Infrastructure programmes	53,3
Centres of excellence	46,7
Major prize	40,0
Knowledge transfer	40,0
Other	10,0

Base: All respondents (n=30); data in percent (multiple answers)

Selected results –

General description of peer review systems
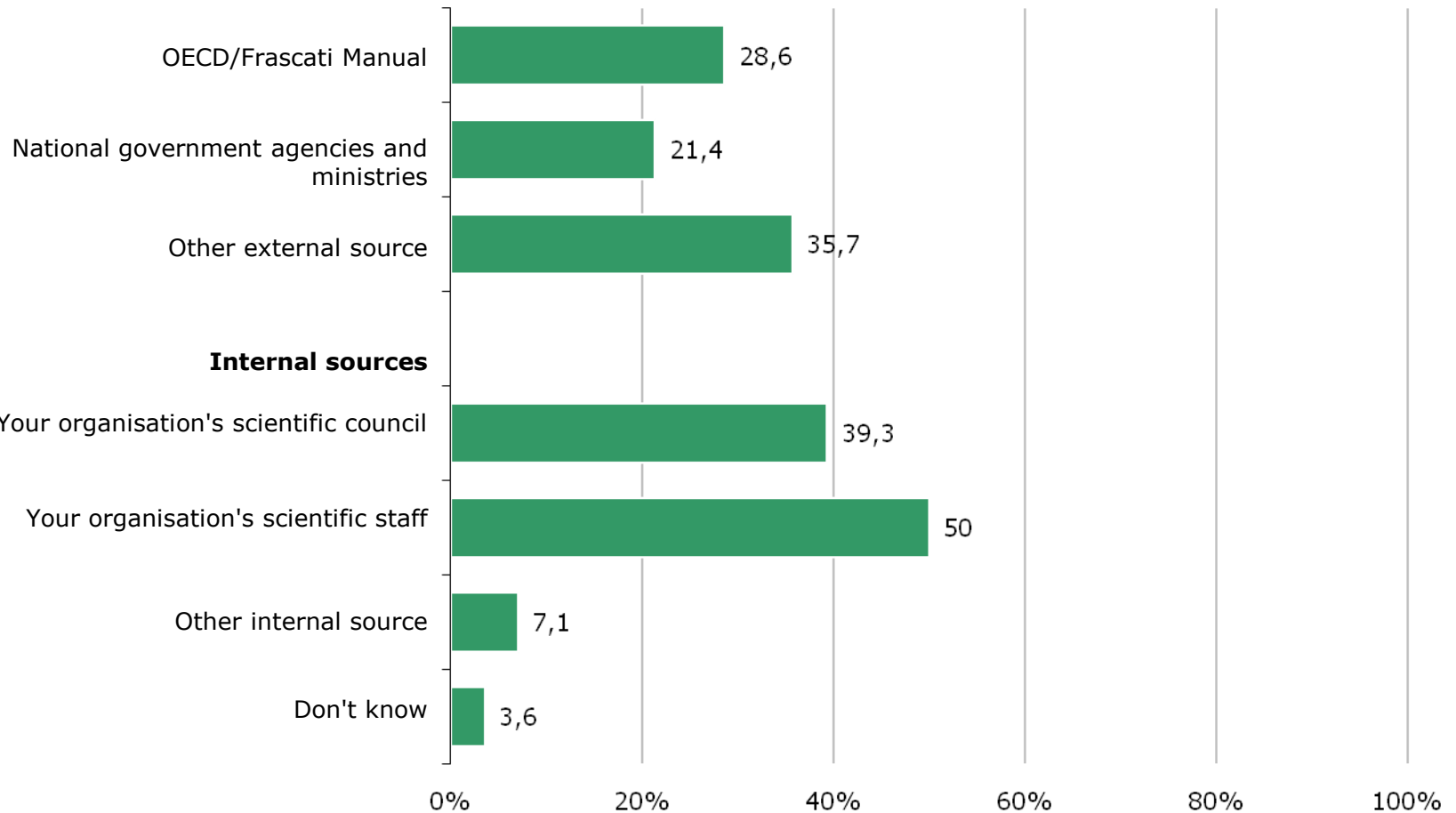
Research classification systems

Does your organisation use a research classification system for the grouping of your proposals?

	Total in %
Yes, your organisation uses a one-level system	3,3
Yes, your organisation uses a multi-level system including fields, subfields, etc.	90,0
No, for the time being your organisation does not use any classification system	6,7

Base: All respondents (n=30); data in percent (single answers)

Research classification systems

External sources

Base: Respondents that use a research classification system for the grouping of proposals (n=28); data in percent (multiple answers)

Reviewer fatigue

Has your organisation generally detected a decline in the reviewers' willingness to participate in peer review processes in the last years

	Total in %
Yes, we have noticed a sharp decline	0
Yes, we have noticed a moderate decline	40
Yes, we have noticed a minor decline	33,3
No, we have not noticed any decline	10
Don't know	16,7

Base: All respondents ; n=30; data in percent (single answers)

Incentives - Usage

Does your organisation offer any kind of incentives to the reviewers contributing to your review processes?

	Total in %
Yes, to all the reviewers	46,7
Yes, to panel reviewers	26,7
Yes, to remote reviewers	0
No	10
Other	16,7

Base: All respondents ; n=30; data in percent (single answers)

Incentives – influence on response rates

In general, does your organisation observe an influence on the positive response rate of the reviewers as a result of explicit incentives?

	Total in %
Yes, the positive response rate is significantly increased	33,3
Yes, the positive response rate is slightly increased	22,2
No, noticeable effects	25,9
Don't know	18,5

Base: Respondents that offer any kind of incentives to reviewers ; n=27; data in percent (single answers)

Selected results –
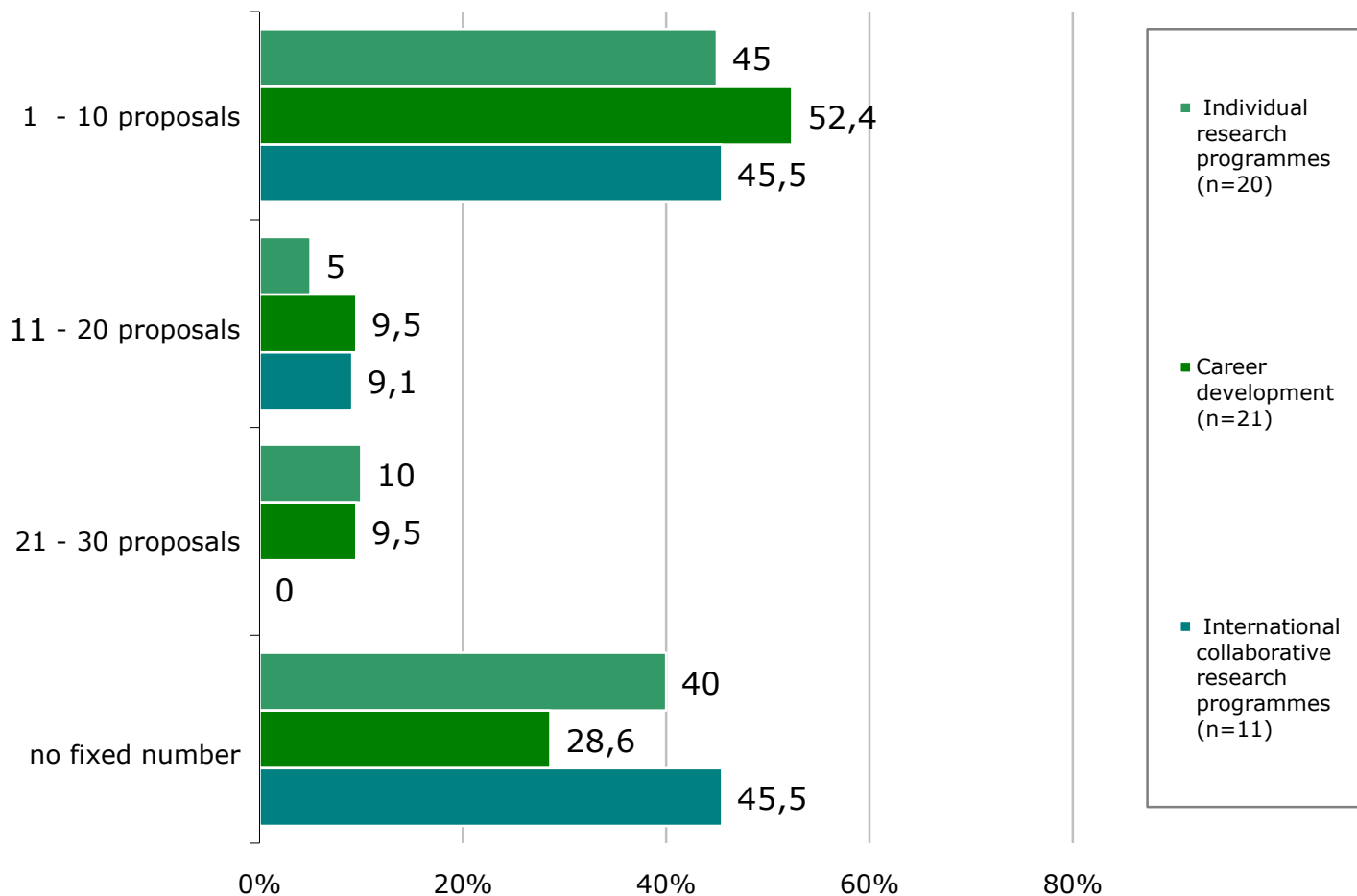
Peer review procedures for three selected instruments

Frequency of remote <u>and</u> panel review

	Individual research programmes		Career development		International collaborative research programmes	
	Absolute number	**%**	**Absolute number**	**%**	**Absolute number**	**%**
Remote and panel review	22	81,5	19	76	15	78,9
	n=27		n=25		n=19	

Base: All respondents ; data in absolute numbers and in percent (multiple answers)

Remote review – proposals/reviewer

How many proposals is every remote reviewer responsible for on average per call in this instrument? Maximum:

Legend:
- Individual research programmes (n=20)
- Career development (n=21)
- International collaborative research programmes (n=11)

Category	Individual research programmes	Career development	International collaborative research programmes
1 - 10 proposals	45	52,4	45,5
11 - 20 proposals	5	9,5	9,1
21 - 30 proposals	10	9,5	0
no fixed number	40	28,6	45,5

Base: Respondents whose procedure includes remote review and whose call is not a continuous call; data in percent (single answers)

Remote review

How much time is granted to the remote reviewers to complete their assessment on average for this instrument?

	Individual research programmes	Career development	International collaborative research programmes
1 – 15 days	24,0%	22,7%	17,6%
16 – 30 days	44,0%	50,0%	41,2%
31 – 60 days	8,0%	9,1%	5,9%
No fixed number	20,0%	13,6%	17,6%
Not applicable	4,0%	4,5%	17,6%
	n=25	n=22	n=17

Base: Respondents whose procedure includes remote review ; data in percent (single answers)

Remote review - documentation

How do the remote reviewers document their reviews of the proposal for this instrument?

	Individual research programmes		Career development		International collaborative research programmes	
	Absolute number	%	Absolute number	%	Absolute number	%
By assigning scores	24	96,0	20	90,9	16	94,1
By providing comments	24	96,0	22	100,0	16	94,1
By ranking the proposals	2	8,0	0	0	1	5,9
	n=25		n=22		n=17	

Base: Respondents whose procedure includes remote review ; data in absolute numbers and in percent (multiple answers)
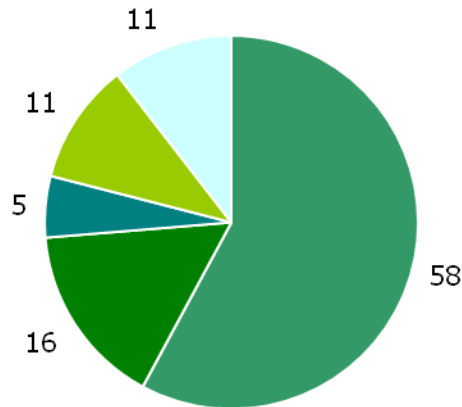
Panel review – composition review panels

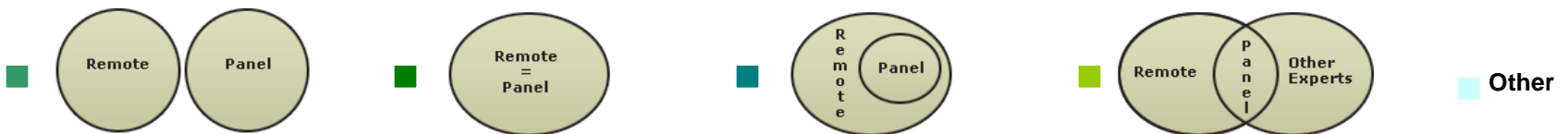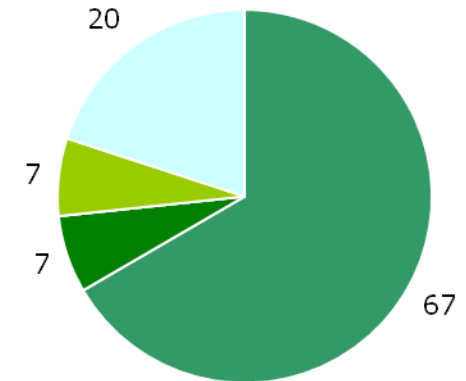## Please specify the composition of the review panel

Individual research programmes (n=22)
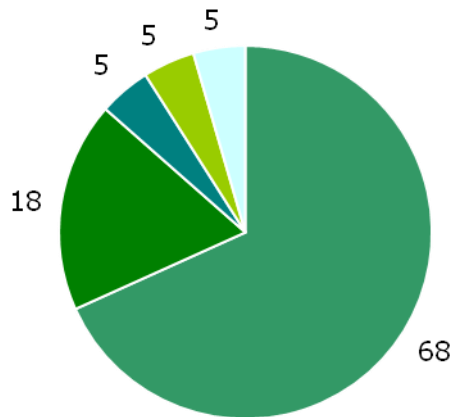
Career development (n=19)

International collaborative research programmes (n=15)

Base: Respondents whose review procedure contains remote and panel review; data in percent (single answers)

Further procedure

1.	**Submission of draft report 4.0 to GovCo**
2.	**Feedback from MO Forum on draft report**
3.	**Finalization report**
4.	**Publication**
5.	**Dissemination**