

27th January 2021, ERIC Forum Annual Meeting & Project General Assembly, Online

ERIC Forum Implementation Project

2020 - 2021

► 2020 main deliverables – sum up

- D2.1 Final Draft proposal for a governance model for the ERIC Forum
- D4.1 Report on proposed approach and dashboard for common ERIC KPIs
- D6.2 Definition of priorities for the next ERIC FORUM seminars and policy report – 2
- D6.7 Final science policy report – 1
- D6.10 Final technical & innovation policy report – 1

► Some numbers

- Over 160 visibility opportunities (meetings, press releases, news, presentations, posters etc...)
- 164 ERIC staffers involved in project activities
- 185 Stakeholders involved/informed of our activities
- Endless calls, Zooms, etc. 😊

▶ Amendment IT IS (almost) DONE!

- What?
 - 2 new beneficiaries ((EuBI, ERAMARIS), 2 new LTPs (Max Plank, EPOS)
 - Few shifts of budgets (no need for amendment)
 - Deliverables delayed due to COVID-19
 - Change in leaders of few tasks (thanks CERIC, ERAMARIS)
 - Some typos – errors in encoding man/months in GA
- Status
 - **In the portal!!!**
 - Waiting for EC feedback

► Financials & reporting Summary

- We're slightly underspending
 - No travels in 2020
 - No-few travels in 2021
 - 45/185 person months used (24%)
 - AVG 70% of personnel costs available
- EC already released 79% of the project funding
 - pre-financing + interim payment

	budget	RP1 accepted costs	% of reported costs	remaining budget
personnel costs	€ 844.225,00	€ 245.576,68	29,09%	€ 598.648,32
other direct cost	€ 352.000,00	€ 115.796,17	32,90%	€ 236.203,83
indirect costs	€ 299.056,25	€ 90.343,26	30,21%	€ 208.712,99
	€ 1.495.281,25	€ 451.716,11	30,21%	€ 1.043.565,14

► Financials & reporting Timeframe

- 1st reporting period (Jan 2019 – July 2020): APPROVED
 - All cost accepted – only 1 round of revisions/justifications with EC
 - Payment received from the EC in December 2020
 - All partners have received the funding
- Next 6M voluntary financial reporting – ongoing
 - Please DO reply to Barbora ASAP
- Next reporting period: December 2021
 - Lessons learned from 1st reporting period: keep better track of all events more carefully
- Final reporting period: December 2022 (end of project) + final payment

► It's not all pink...

Known issues – future challenges

- Contacts/distribution lists
 - Keeping on with turnover – next update in spring
- Need to improve our communication even further (see Session 5)
- Some deliverables are late, due to COVID
 - Average delay: 6 months
- **Sustainability (website, SharePoint, Toolkit)**

► What to expect in 2021

- 2 more science policy reports
- 2 Technical & innovation policy reports
- Best practices guidance document on contracting, insurance and intellectual property
- Best practices guidelines in employment and secondment for ERICs

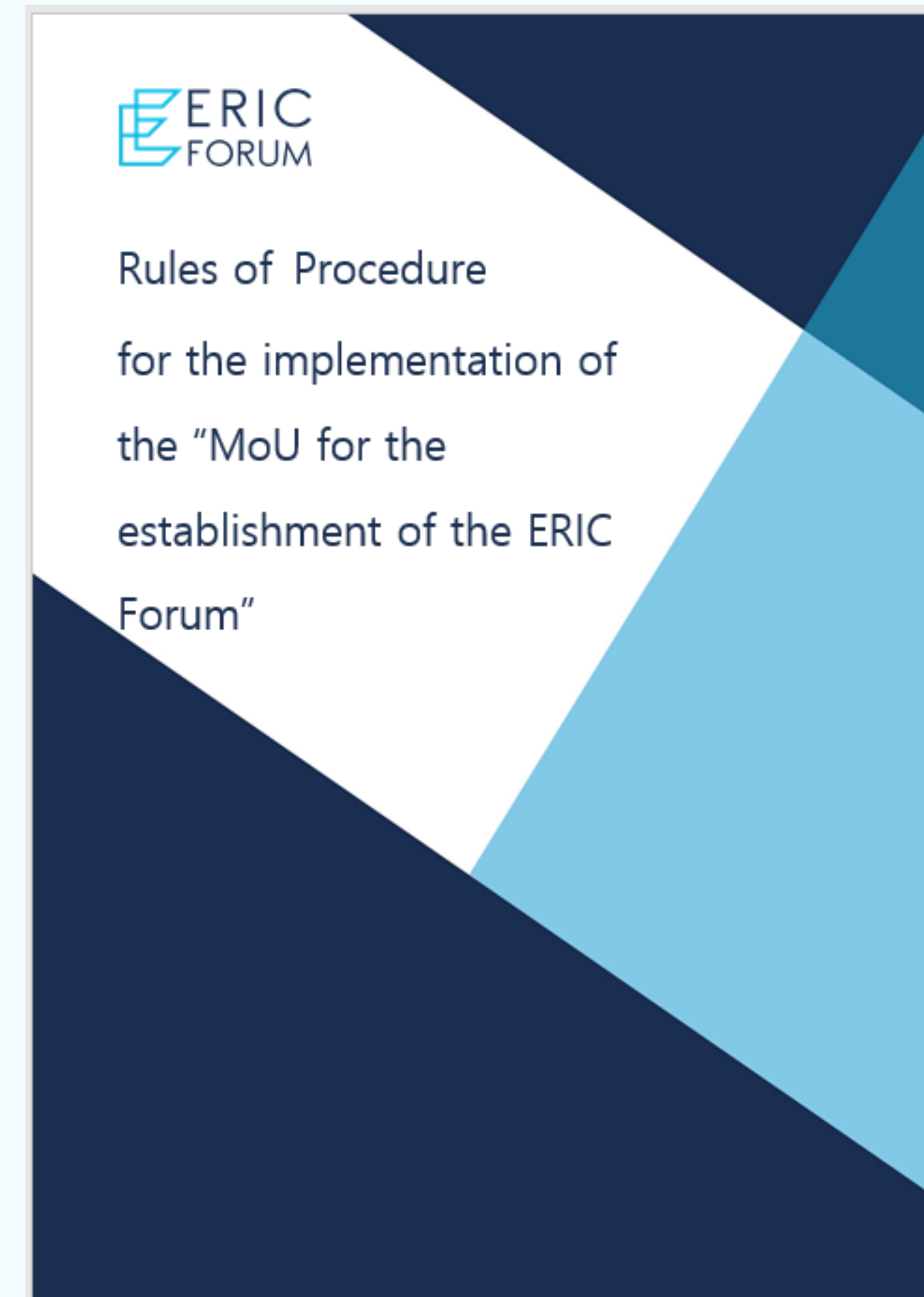
27th January 2021, ERIC Forum Annual Meeting & Project General Assembly, Online

WP2 - ERIC Forum Governance Model

2020 - 2021

▶ WP2 Permanent Governance for the ERIC Forum

- **Regular revision** of the Rules of procedure according to WP 2 schedule
- Major topic: further **shaping of the election process** for Chair and Vice Chair
- **Confirmation** of the general approach: **MoU and Rules of procedure**



► Rules of procedure

What's new?

- **Election** of Chair and Vice-Chair process
 - **EB** sets up **election committee**
 - Chair and Vice-Chair are **elected separately**
 - **Duration of Chairmanship** changed:
2 years +1 year (instead of 1+1+1....)
 - Expression of **mistrust** (2/3 Majority)

► Rules of procedure

What's new? Tendencies

- More **diversity** in the ERIC Forum!
 - As a general principle: “*The ERIC Forum supports and will facilitate **diversity** in its governing and other bodies.*”
 - Specifically: composition of **Executive Board** - “*With the permission of the legal representative of one ERIC, **senior staff members** can also run for this office.*”
- More **balance** between the Clusters!
 - Composition of **Executive Board** - “*If the number of ERICs in cluster exceeds 25% of the total number of ERICs, an additional Executive Board member can be nominated.*”
 - While **representing** the Forum, the **effective and balanced representation of all clusters** must be taken into account by the **Chair**.

► Rules of procedure

What's new? Tendencies

- More **transparency/ information/ participation**:
 - **General Assembly** meeting:
 - **Purpose**: defining the programs and strategies and to deliberate on organizational and main issues (...)
 - relevant **documents** as basis for **decisions** must be sent around well in advance;
 - EC, ESFRI and national Ministries as **permanent observers**;
 - **Structure**: Open Forum with **internal part**.
 - **Chair**
 - represents the Forum towards external institutions, **based on the positions, which have been defined within the Forum**.
 - **shall report back to the Forum**.
 - **Executive Board**
 - shall circulate in advance to all members the **agenda** of its meetings,
 - **informs** the Forum Assembly in an adequate manner **at least every three months about ongoing activities**.

► Conclusion/ Outlook

- **WP 2** has **successfully finished** its work! We could implement a **permanent governance** for the Forum that works well right now. **THANKS!**
- But fortunately the **ERIC FORUM** will **keep moving!**
- Therefore also the rules of procedure are a **living project!**
- **Happy to take part** in future discussions!

WP3 - Operations, Administration, HR and Finance of ERICs 2020 - 2021

▶ WP3 – 2020 activities

Supported the EC with **revision of the ERIC Practical guidelines**

- Summarised input submitted by ERIC Committee members
- Collected additional best practices through a questionnaire to ERICs and prep-ERICs
- Coordinated experts' input to identified challenges

Bilateral interviews of 9 prep-ERICs

- Best practices
- Preliminary insights for toolbox

▶ WP3 – 2020 activities

Additional bilateral interviews with ERICs to discuss survey responses in preparation for two upcoming deliverables:

- D3.1 Guidance document on GAAP for ERICs (EMSO, Aleardo Furlani)
- D3.4 Report on practices and challenges in recruitment for distributed ERICs (EATRIS, Anne-Charlotte Fauvel)

Webinars will be organized in March, summarizing the content of these two deliverables.

▶ WP3 – 2021 focus

All deliverables are due this year:

D3.2 Report and recommendations on VAT exemption in the ERIC legislation (March) (CERIC, Andrea Santelli)

A follow-up survey has been circulated to WP3 contacts by Andrea, **please respond by February 5th**.

D3.3 Best practices guidelines in employment and secondment for ERICs (June) (EU-OPENSREEN, Maren Kappe)

Bilateral interviews will be planned from February/March with several ERICs.

D3.6 Best practices guidance document on contracting, insurance and intellectual property for ERICs (December) (European Social Survey, Lorna Ryan)

Bilateral interviews already started in January.

▶ WP3 – 2021 focus

- Preparatory work for the ERIC Forum toolbox
- Liaison with members of EC's Expert Group on the implementation of the ERIC Regulation

► Quality and Reproducibility in Research



SAVE THE DATE

**ERIC Forum Cross-Domain Workshop
on Research Quality and Reproducibility**

10-11 February 2021 | Online

ERIC Forum has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N. 823798

Speakers from all ERIC Forum domains, European Commission, Science Europe
Please visit the ERIC Forum or EATRIS website to register!

WP4: Evaluation and Impact Assessment

Ute Gunsenheimer

Head of External Relations & EU Projects, ESS

WP4 Tasks

Task 4.1 – ESS

**Monitoring & development of
KPIs for ERICs**

Task 4.2 – ECRIN

Scientific evaluation

Task 4.3 – ICOS

**Socio-economic impact
assessment practices**

Task 4.4 – ERAMARIS

**Elements of sustainability
plans**

Task 4.5 - INSTRUCT

**Harmonised reporting:
Elements of annual activity
reports of ERICs**

▶ ERIC Forum survey on KPIs for Research Infrastructures

Target group

21 ERICs (95% responded) and **11 prep-ERICs** (27% responded)

Aim

- Assess the **current status of KPIs implementation** across the community of ERICs and prep-ERICs
- Collect **feedback on ESFRI KPIs**

Accepting responses

3-18 November 2020

KPI definition

From ESFRI Working Group Report: The purpose of KPIs is to "provide a **means of monitoring the performance** of a Research Infrastructure with regard to progress towards its stated objectives from inputs, through activities and outputs to outcomes..."

Survey structure

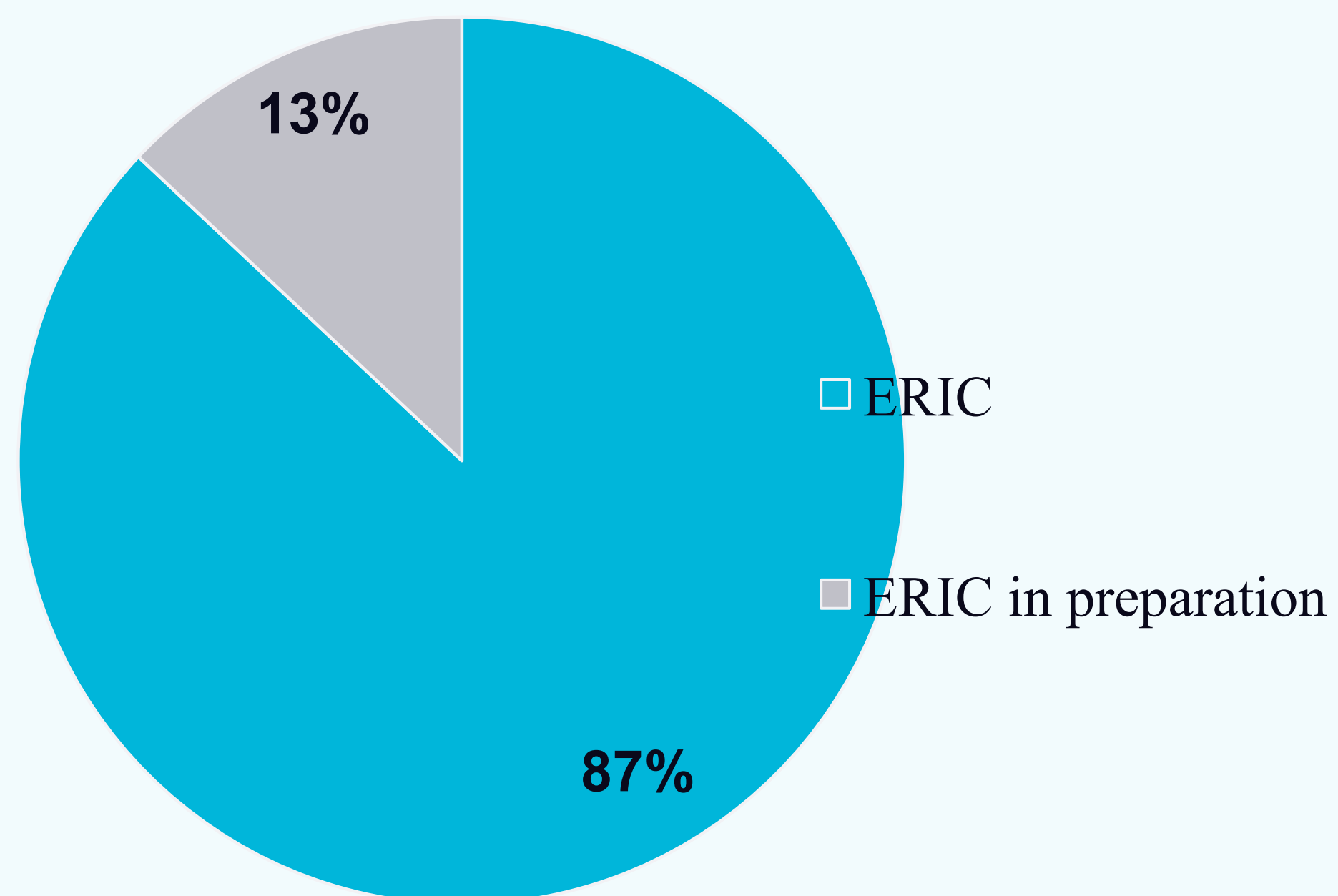
- General **background information** about participating RIs
- **KPI status and motivation:** Two alternative sets based on the current status, i.e. RIs that have already adopted KPIs vs. RIs that have not yet adopted KPIs
- **Feedback on ESFRI KPIs**



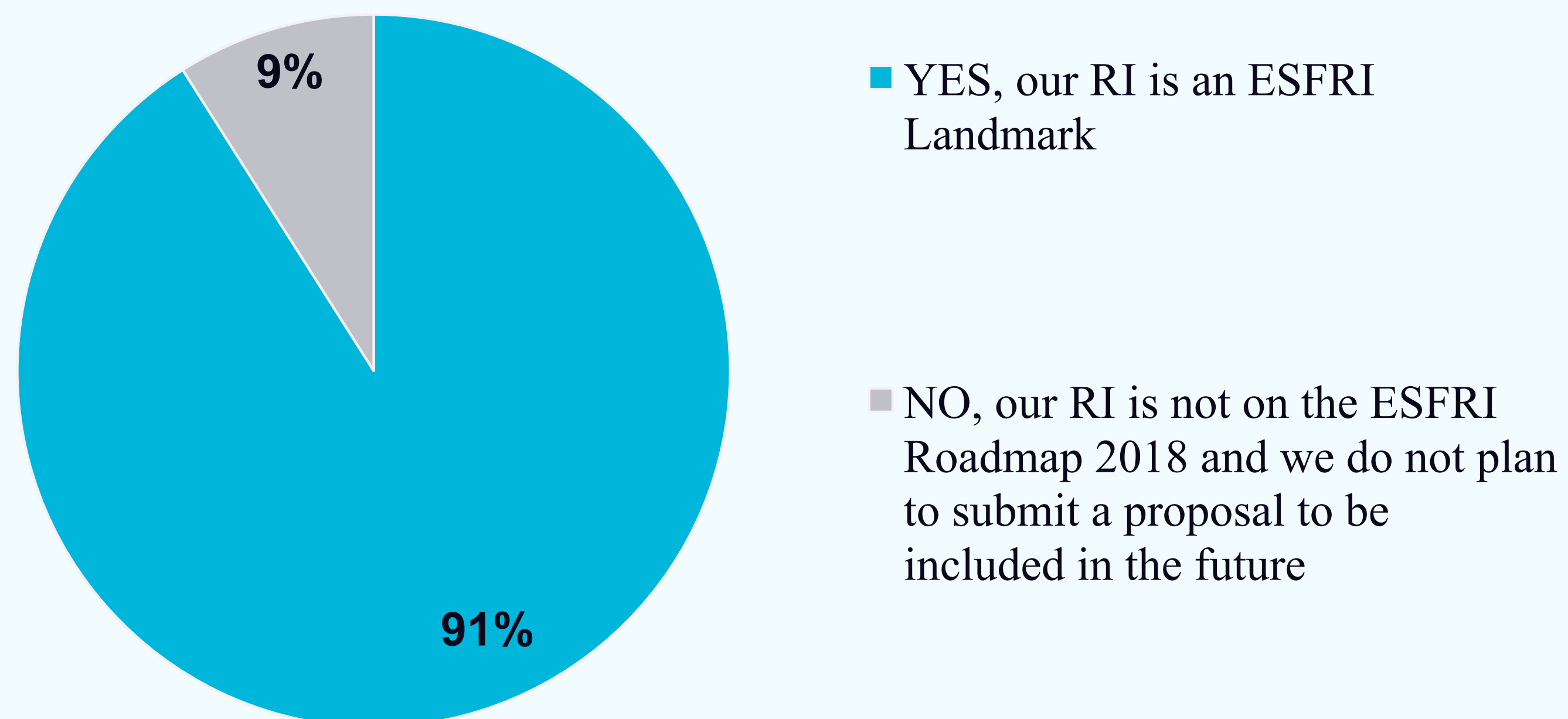


Profile of respondents

Is your RI currently an ERIC or ERIC in preparation?

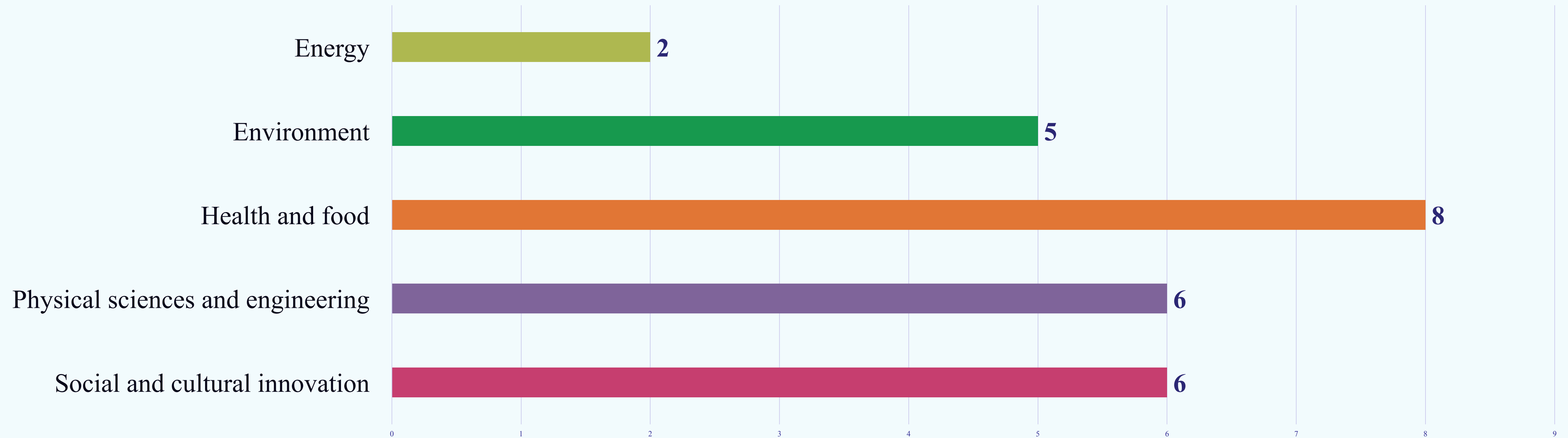


Is your RI on the ESFRI Roadmap 2018?

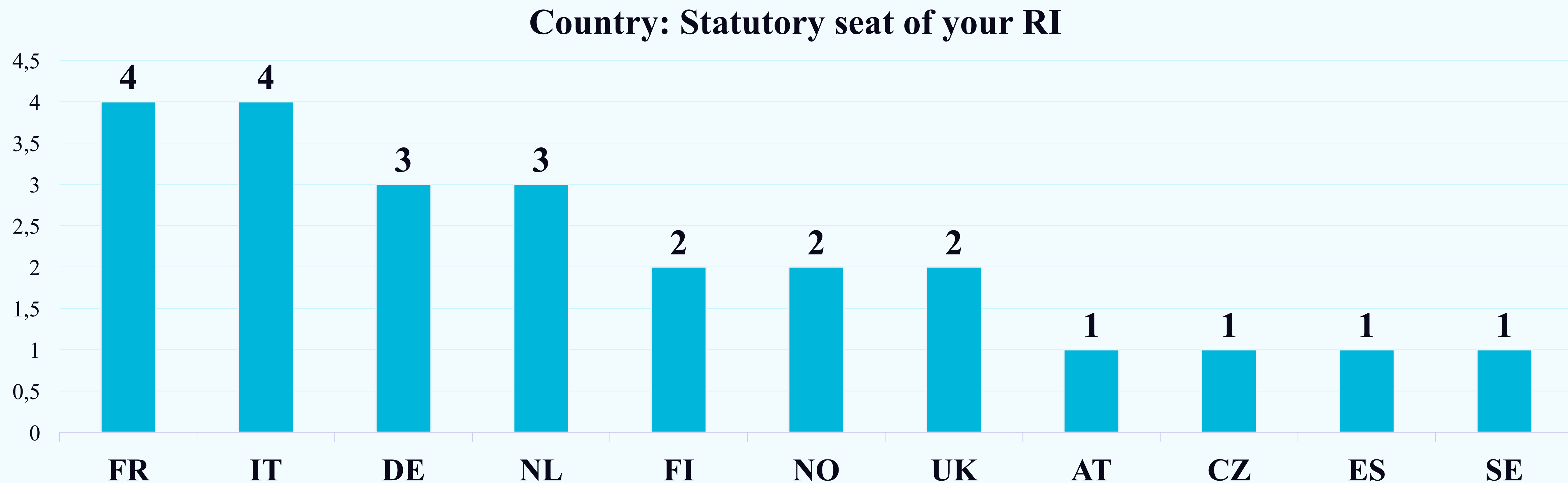


► Profile of respondents

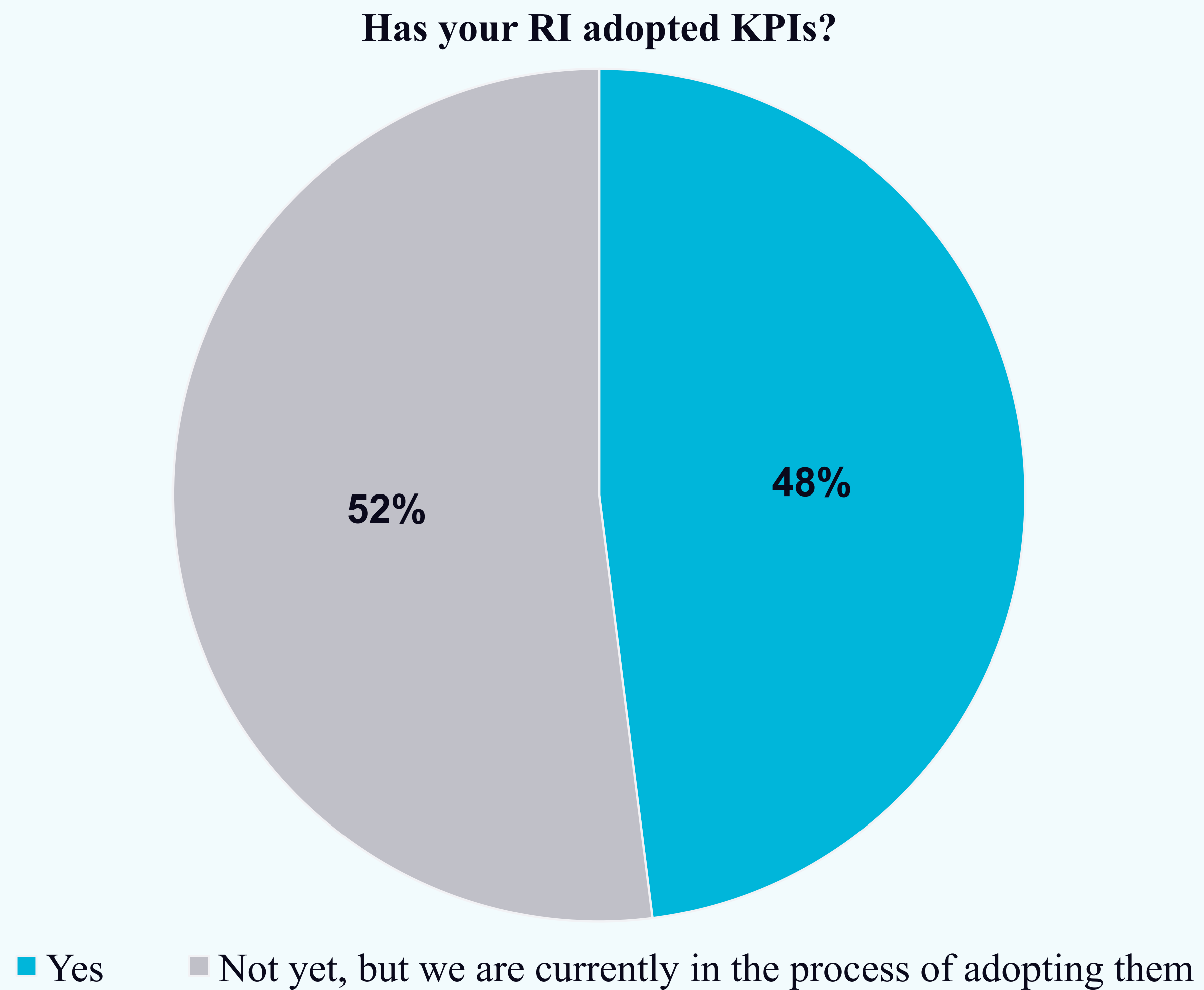
Which scientific domain does your RI represent?



▶ Profile of respondents



▶ Profile of respondents



► Answers by ERICs that have already adopted KPIs

Why have you adopted KPIs?

- To have an **internal management tool** that helps the ERICs to achieve tangible results, and enables the monitoring of progress against set objectives, mission, and vision;
- To **document improvements and developments**, and monitor performance in various areas of interest, including e.g. scientific outcomes and outputs, technical performance, operations, adequacy of services, access, trainings, user uptake etc.;
- To have an **instrument for communicating** the successes of the ERICs to various audiences and stakeholder groups by presenting measurable results;
- To **improve the long-term impact and value** of the ERICs, demonstrate their effectiveness, efficiency and accountability, and address the requests of governing bodies;
- To **mitigate risks** by detecting problems early on, and provide informed feedback on key strategic documents and policies of the ERICs;
- In case of distributed ERICs, to better evaluate the work of headquarters and measure the **level of engagement with each national node**.

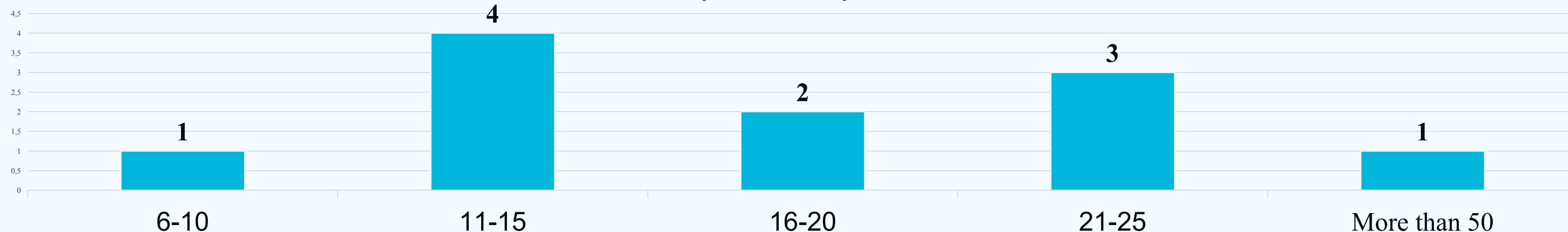


Answers by ERICs that have already adopted KPIs

What year did you adopt your KPIs?

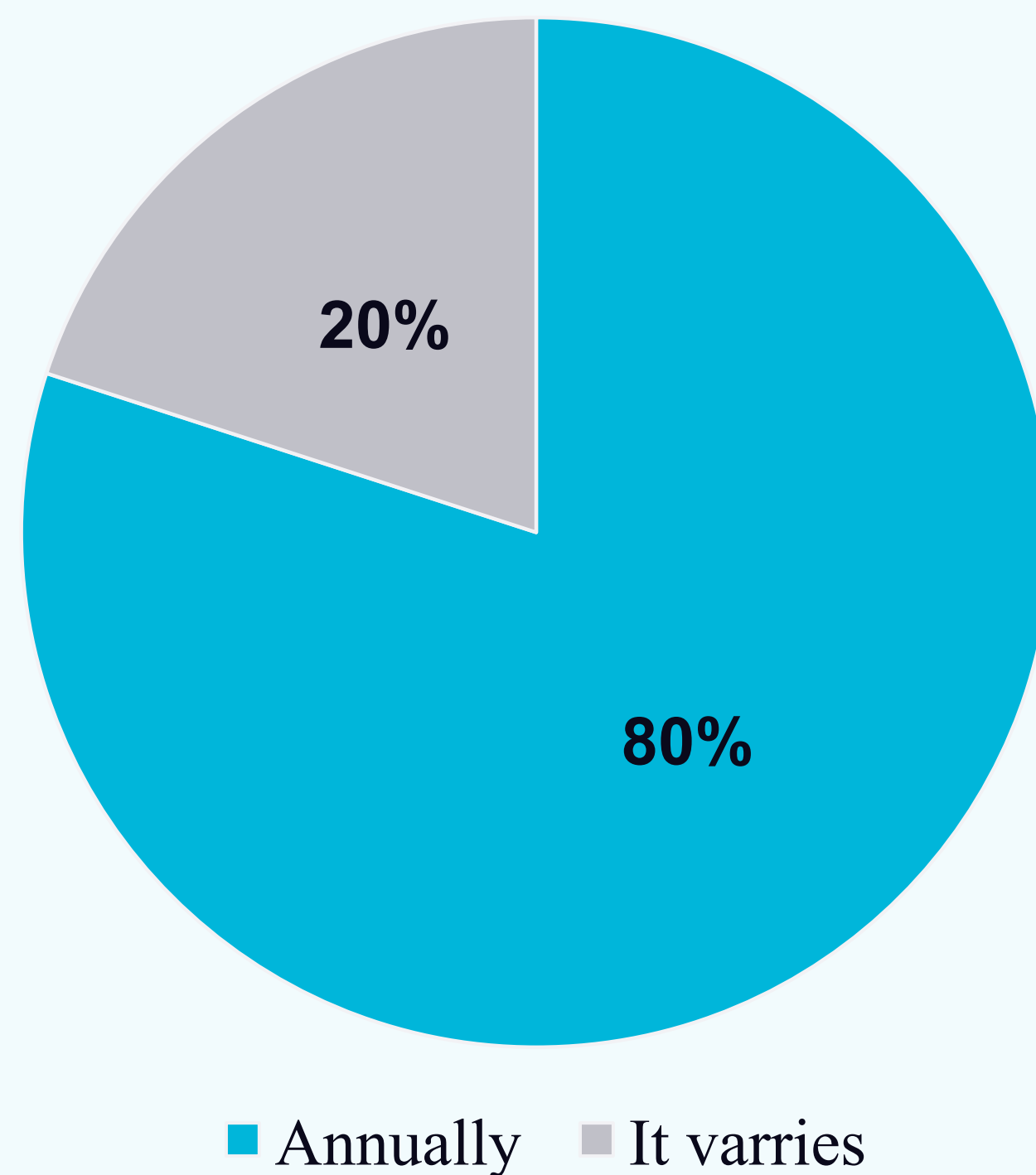


How many KPIs does your RI have?

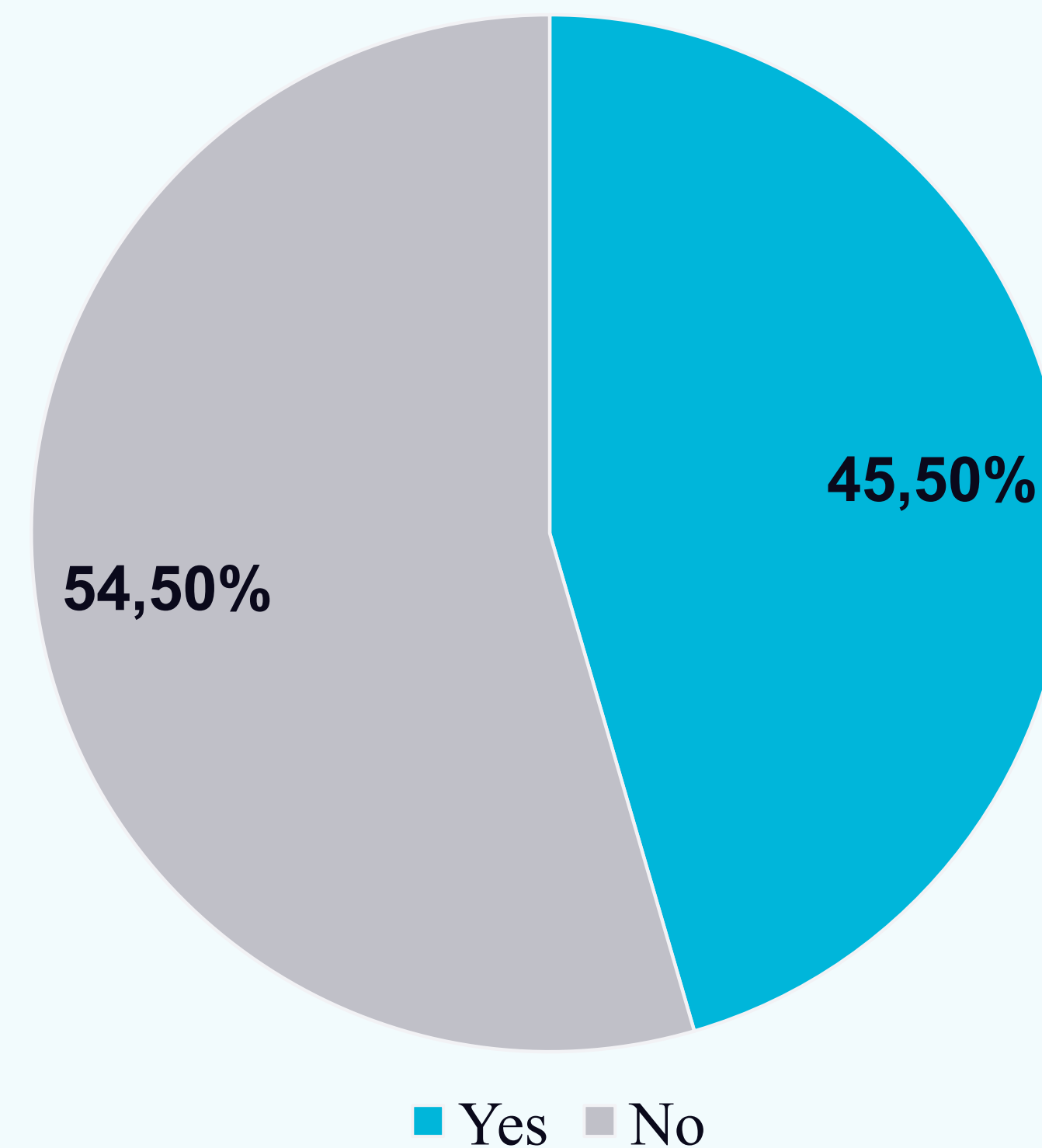


► Answers by ERICs that have already adopted KPIs

How often do you report to your stakeholders on the status of your KPIs?

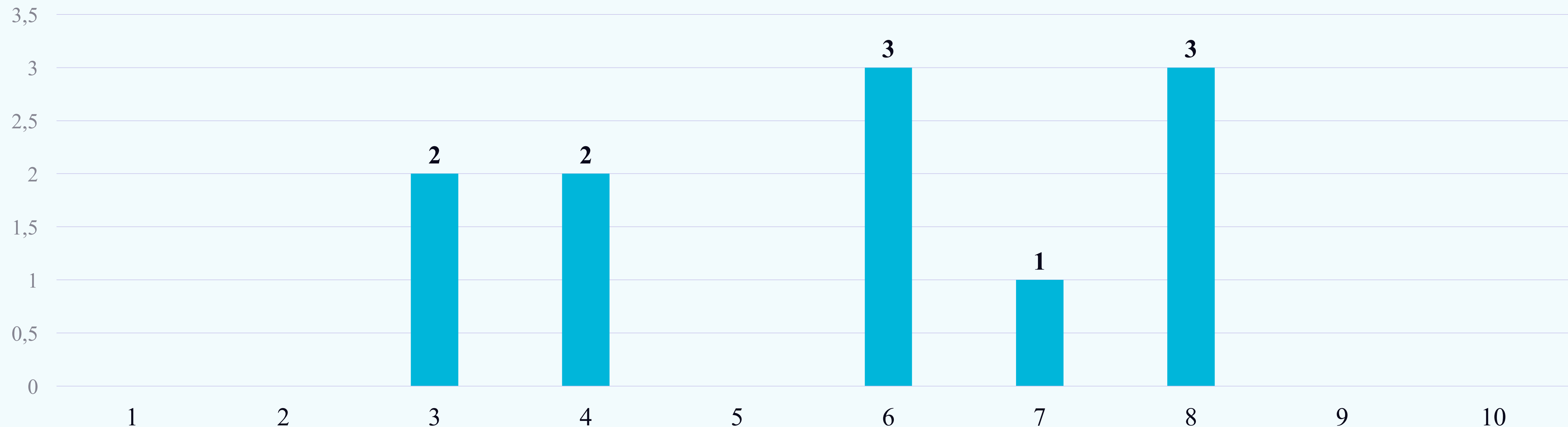


Do you have personnel dedicated specifically to the KPIs-related work, i.e. a "go to contact" responsible for the work? This personnel may or may not work full-time on KPIs.



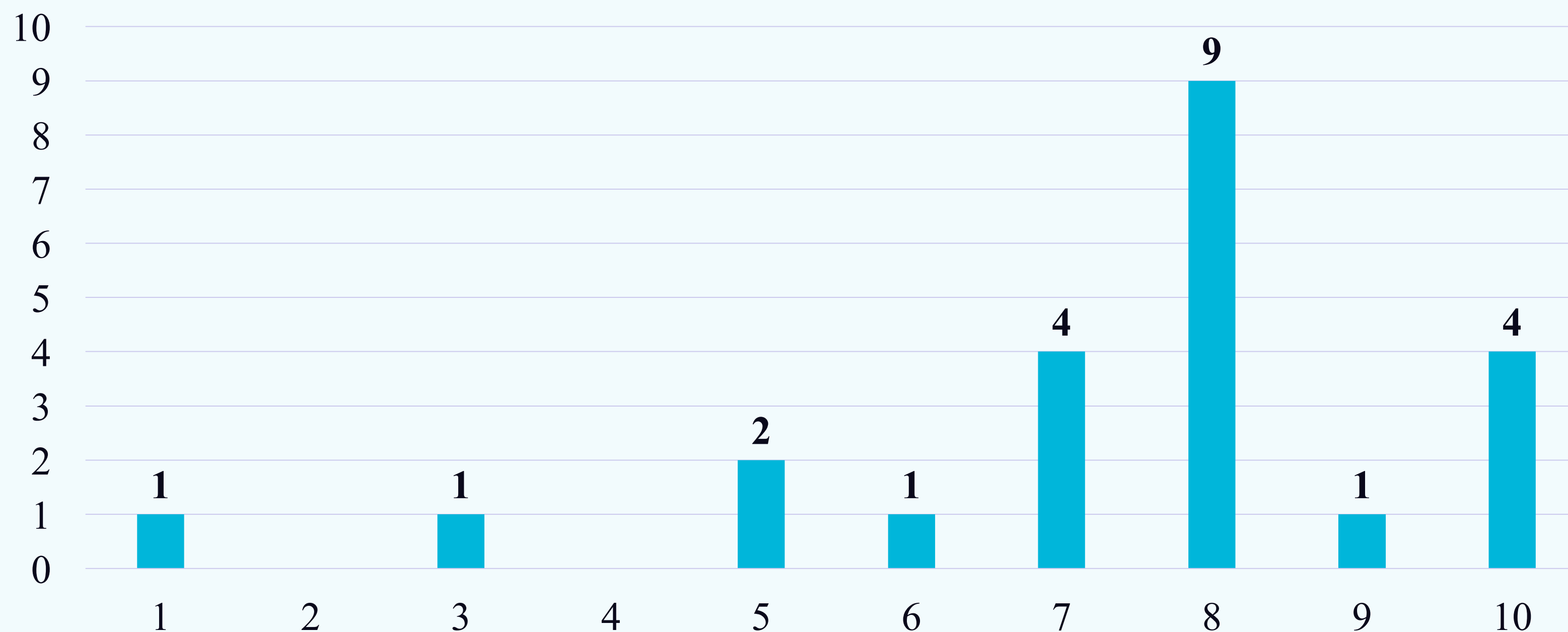
▶ Answers by ERICs that have already adopted KPIs

On a scale from 1 (not difficult) to 10 (difficult), how difficult is it for your RI to track and report on KPIs?

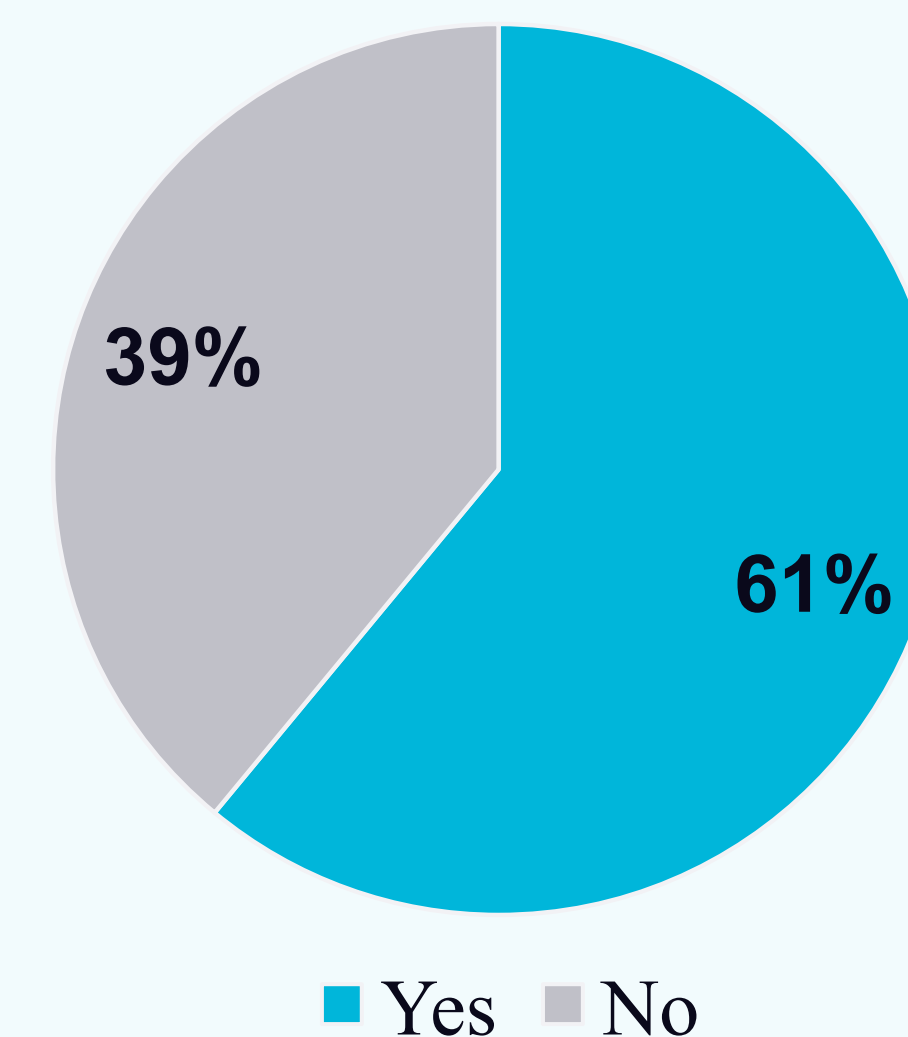


▶ Feedback on ESFRI KPIs

On a scale from 1 to 10, how useful do you find the reference sheets with definitions, rationale, data sources, methodology etc. of the ESFRI KPIs in providing guidance to RIs on how to define and measure KPIs?

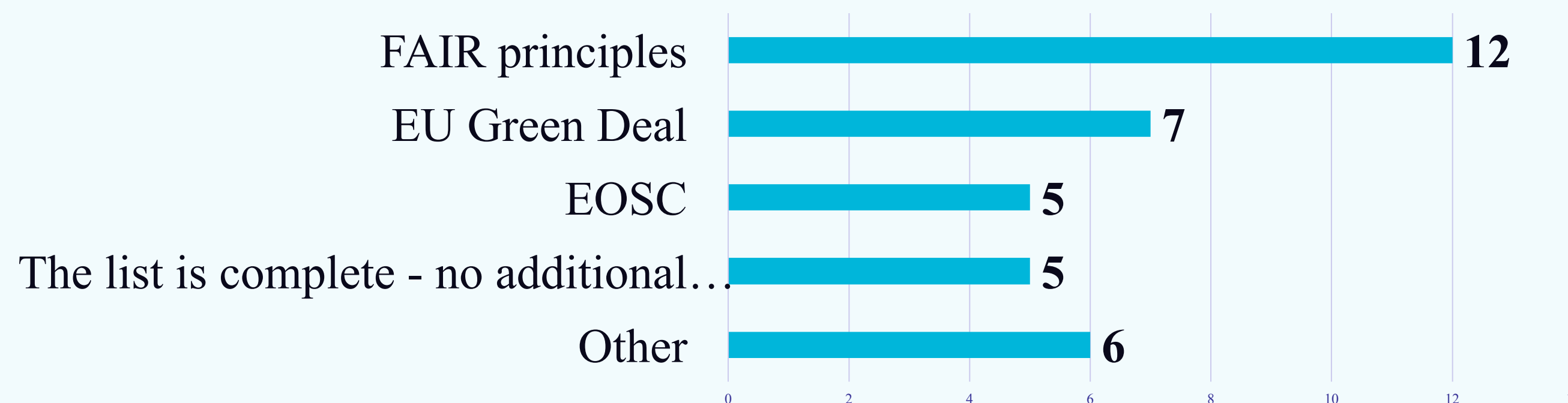


Do you think the ESFRI KPIs need to be changed and/or adjusted? (This question is about the overall general needs rather than adjusting KPIs to the unique needs of each RI.)

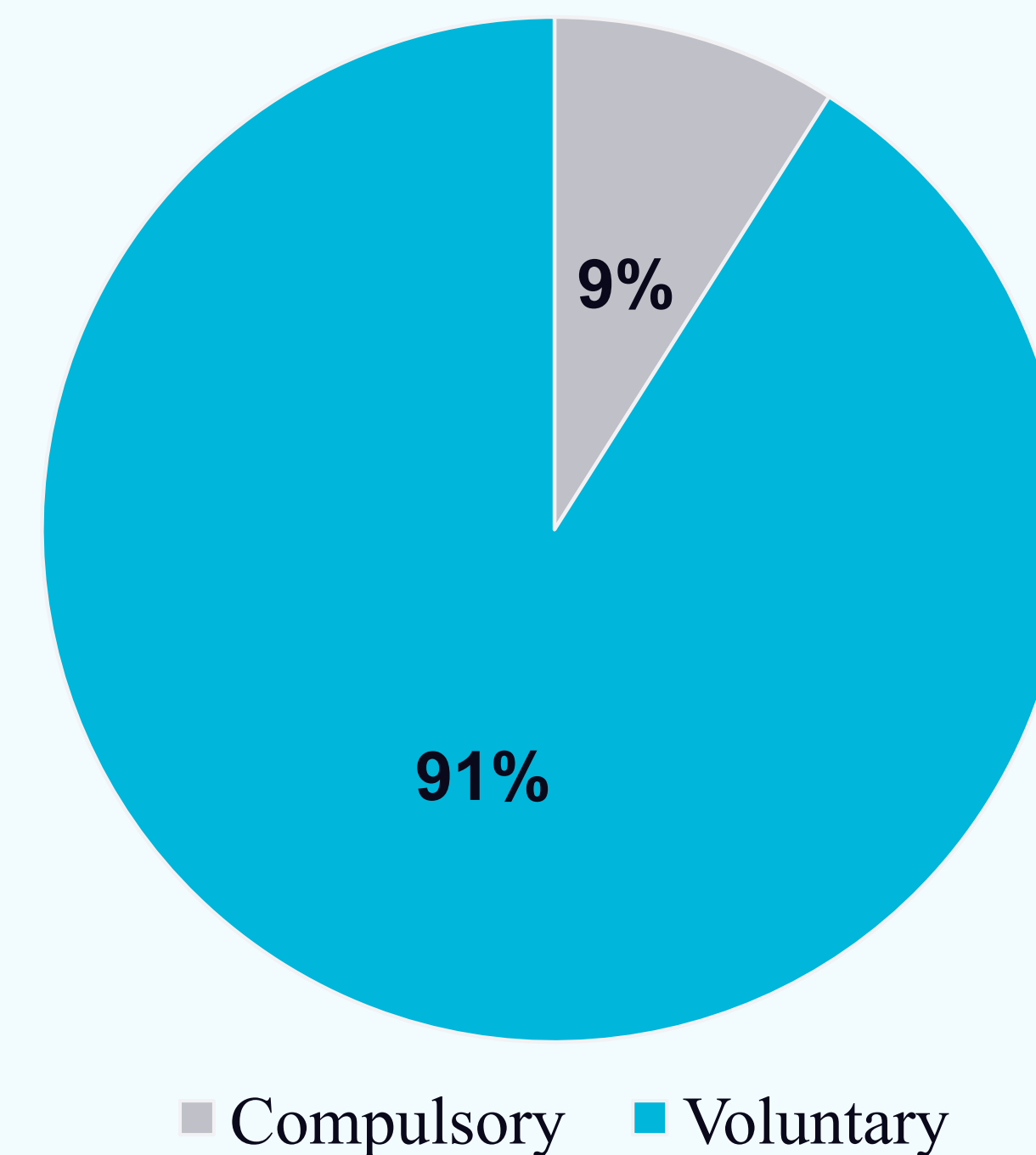


Feedback on ESFRI KPIs

Which areas currently not covered by the ESFRI KPIs would be useful to add?



Should the adoption of ESFRI KPIs be compulsory or voluntary for RIs on the ESFRI Roadmap?



► KPIs that ERIC consider more difficult to track and report on

KPIs that ERICs consider more difficult to track and report on

- Publications
- Users and directories
- Events
- Financials
- Human resources
- Qualitative KPIs
- Socio-economic impact
- KPIs and data protection
- ESFRI KPIs

Problems encountered by ERICs relative to selecting and/or tracking KPIs

- Methodology
- Definitions
- Distributed nature of RIs
- Automation
- Relevance of KPIs
- Limited resources

Need description

- Sharing best practices in data collection, methodology and tools
- Establishing a permanent helpdesk
- Reporting on national nodes in an effective way
- Capturing publications that use open data provided by RIs
- Clarity on future steps vis-à-vis ESFRI
- Tracking socio-economic impact

► **Proposals for changes and/or adjustments in the list of ESFRI KPIs**

- Perform regular reviews
- Focus on key RI competences
- Make KPIs more universal
- Bring down the number of KPIs
- Develop a detailed implementation protocol
- Consider the difference between single-sited and distributed RIs

► 2021 Plans

Task 4.1 Monitoring and Development of KPIs for ERICs ESS Spallation, M1-M24

- Deliverable on KPIs submitted in January 2021 and shared with ESFRI Working Group on Monitoring
- Task officially completed in M25
- Continue dialogue with ESFRI

Task 4.2 Scientific evaluation ECRIN, M1-M42

- Collect additional/missing information related to the scientific evaluation currently implemented by the ERICs: first Q2021
- Collect additional information regarding the evaluation process, selection of ad hoc committee, independent expert and evaluation criteria: first or second Q2021 (survey or structured interviews)
- Evaluation of international landscape: second Q2021
- Report including a proposed set of evaluation criteria to be discussed (circulated for feedback or discussed during a workshop): Q4 2021
- Test phase: 2022

Task 4.3: Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Practices ICOS, M1-M42

- Compare the experiences of a few ERICs that have used the RI-PATH and ACCELERATE socio-economic impact tools and analyse how these fit for ERICs (interviews, surveys etc.)
- Report with recommendations
- Participating in WP6 policy brief on socio-economic impact of research infrastructures – year 4

2021 Plans

Task 4.4 Elements of Sustainability Plans

ERAMARIS, M1-M42

We are in conversation with the ACCELERATE project for a joint meeting, which would cover the first milestone of T4.4:

- Restitution workshops: Aimed at educating on business modelling and related survey tools (Q2, 2021) (ex M22)

And, afterwards:

- Survey Planning (Q2, 2021, year3)
- Survey Administration (Q3-Q4, year3)
- Data Analysis (Q4, year3 - Q1, year4)
- Restitution workshops (Q2, year4) (M40): Aimed at validating the conclusions and achieve consensus
- D4.4: Report and proposal for model sustainability business plan for ERICs (Q3, year4) (M42)

Task 4.5 Harmonised Reporting – Elements of Annual Activity

Reports of ERICs

INSTRUCT, M7-M46

We will secure a date for a first meeting to discuss the initial strategy for gathering data from existing reporting documents: proposed for Q1 2021 and follow progress by sharing documentation and by VC.

We will:

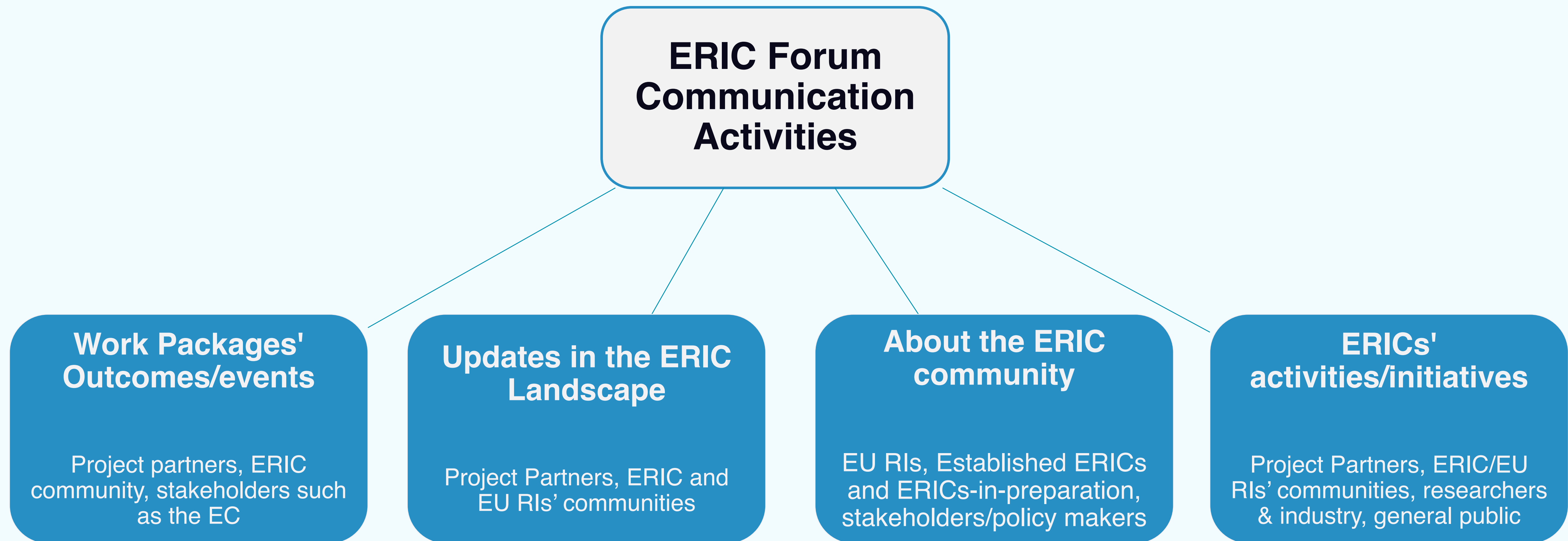
- Identify and categorise common elements in reporting of RI activity - Q1-2 year 3
- Categorise the data reported and align them with KPIs - circulate for feedback - Q3-4 year 3
- Draft a template for the monitoring and impact section - circulate for feedback - Q4 year 3
- Deliver a report including guidance and recommendations for reporting activity using the template - year 4
- Make the template and guidance available through LSRI website - year 4

27th January 2021, ERIC Forum Annual Meeting & Project General Assembly, Online

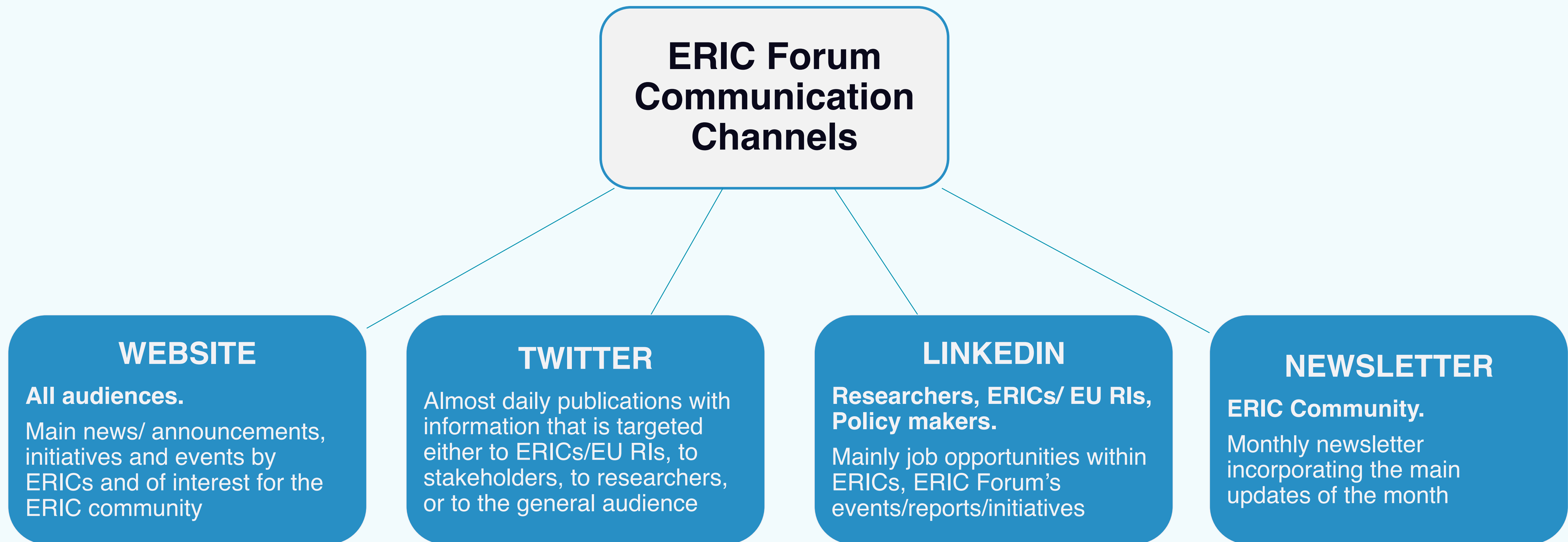
ERIC Forum Project Meeting

WP 5 – Communication and Dissemination

► ERIC Forum Communication - Activities



► ERIC Forum Communication - Channels



► Overview of 2020 – Initiatives, Reports, Events, Activities

March
2020

- Launch of ERICs' COVID-19 Research Page
- ERF questionnaire/page on RI's COVID-19 services
- Development of the ERIC Forum Brochure's content

April
2020

- Overview of ERICs' survey on Admin. & Operational issues
- ERICs' COVID-19 Research Page – Continuous update
- RI-VIS' Communication Toolkit

May
2020

- European RIs for a Smarter Future (ERICs' participation)
- Update of the ERIC Forum Mailing Lists
- European Week Against Cancer: ERICs' contribution to Cancer Research

June
2020

- ERIC Forum Position Paper on Horizon Europe Mission Areas
- World Environment Day: ERICs in the Environment Cluster
- Report of High-Level Expert Group to Assess the Progress of ESFRI and other World Class RIs towards Implementation & Long-term Sustainability
- RI Paths' webinars

July
2020

- Publication of the ERIC Forum Brochure
- ARIA position paper on Horizon Europe Missions
- ENRIITC surveys for RIs' ILOs and ICOS

Aug
2020

- ERIC Forum Position Paper on the future of the ERA
- Input of the EF to the Open Consultation for the SRIA of the EOSC

Sept
2020

- ERIC Forum Policy Seminar
- ERIC Forum Policy Brief
- EU missions – call for ideas
- RI Days 2020

Oct
2020

- ERIC Forum new Chair and Vice Chair Elections
- EFIS's toolkit on Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of RIs
- RICH Symposium

Nov
2020

- ERIC Forum Meeting 2021
- World Science Day: ERICs' COVID-19 services

Dec
2020

- Workshop on Impact Assessment, Evaluation and Monitoring of Research Infrastructures
- ERIC Forum Cross-Domain Workshop on Research Quality and Reproducibility

► Overview of 2020 – Online Outreach

(based on the ERIC Forum online channels' monitoring reports developed to track the performance)

ERIC Forum Website

As from the launch of the website, the numbers have increased as follow:

Visitors:

from an average of **845** to **4 500**

Page views:

from an average of **2 400** to **10 320**

→ To increase the visibility of more updates in the ERIC Forum homepage, new plugins are being implemented.

ERIC Forum's Monthly Newsletter

170 contacts – ERICs and preparatory ERICs

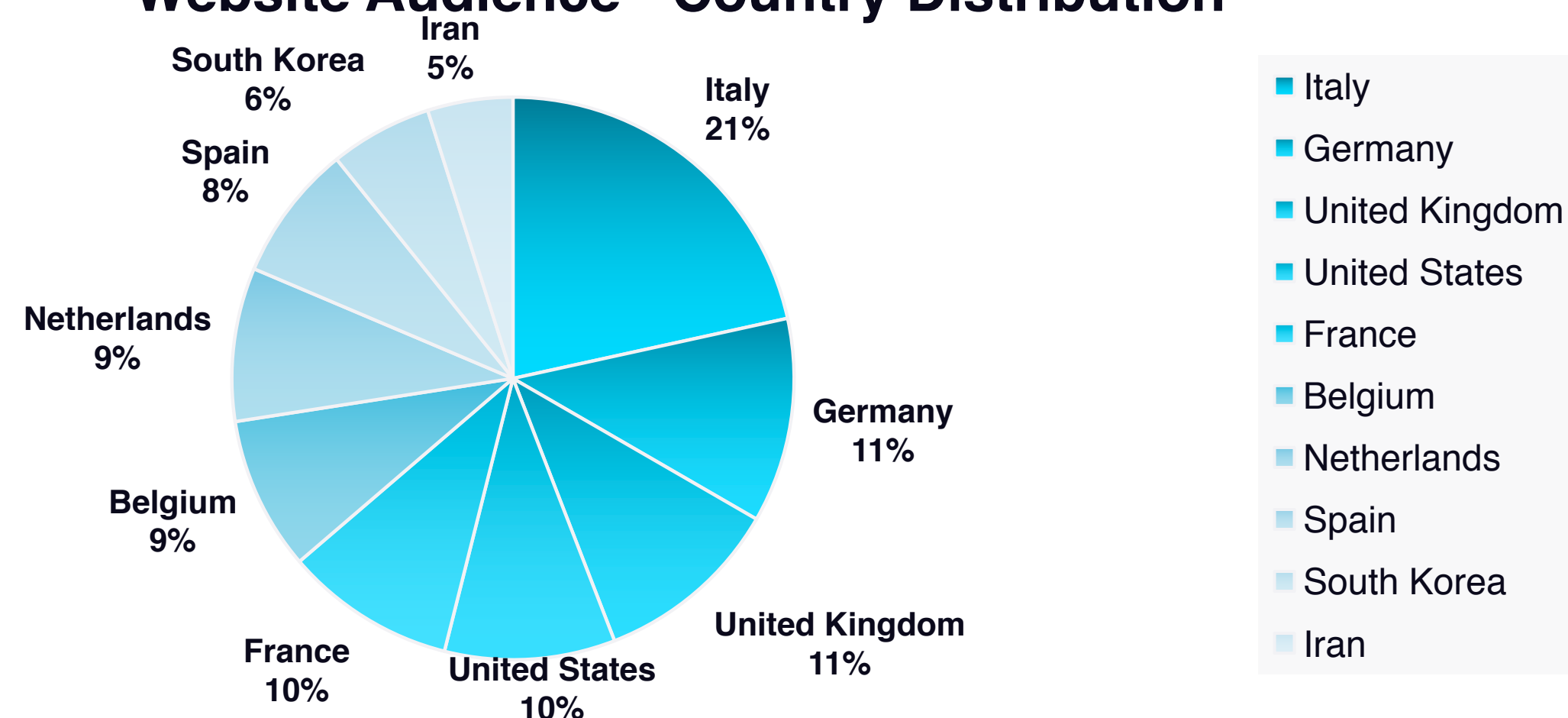
Opens rate: 50,66%

(vs. Email Marketing Average being 15-25%)

Clicks rate: 12,75 %

(vs. Email Marketing Average being 2,6%)

Website Audience - Country Distribution

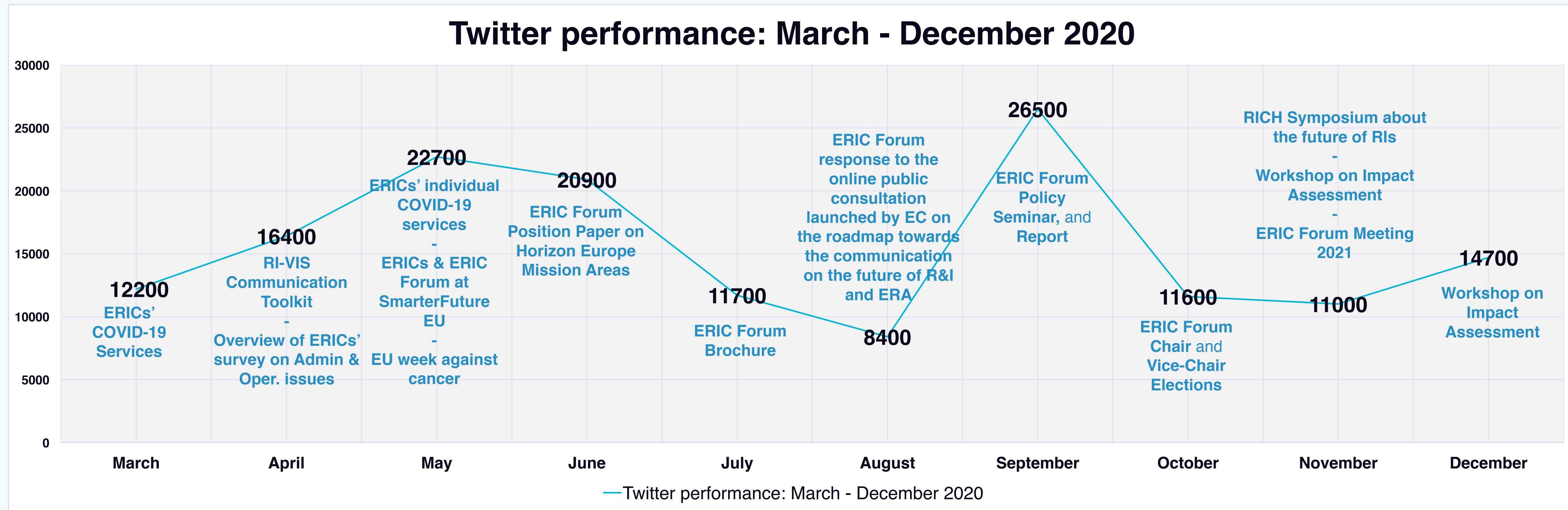


Website - Most visited pages:

- Questionnaire about RIs' COVID-19 Research
- ERIC Forum position paper on Horizon Europe Mission Areas
- ERIC Landscape
- The Aim of the ERIC Forum
- Workshop on Impact Assessment, Evaluation and Monitoring of RIs.
- The scope and vision of the ERIC Forum Implementation Project.
- News section.
- ERIC Forum's first Policy Brief.
- ERICs' Job Opportunities.

► Overview of 2020 – Online Outreach

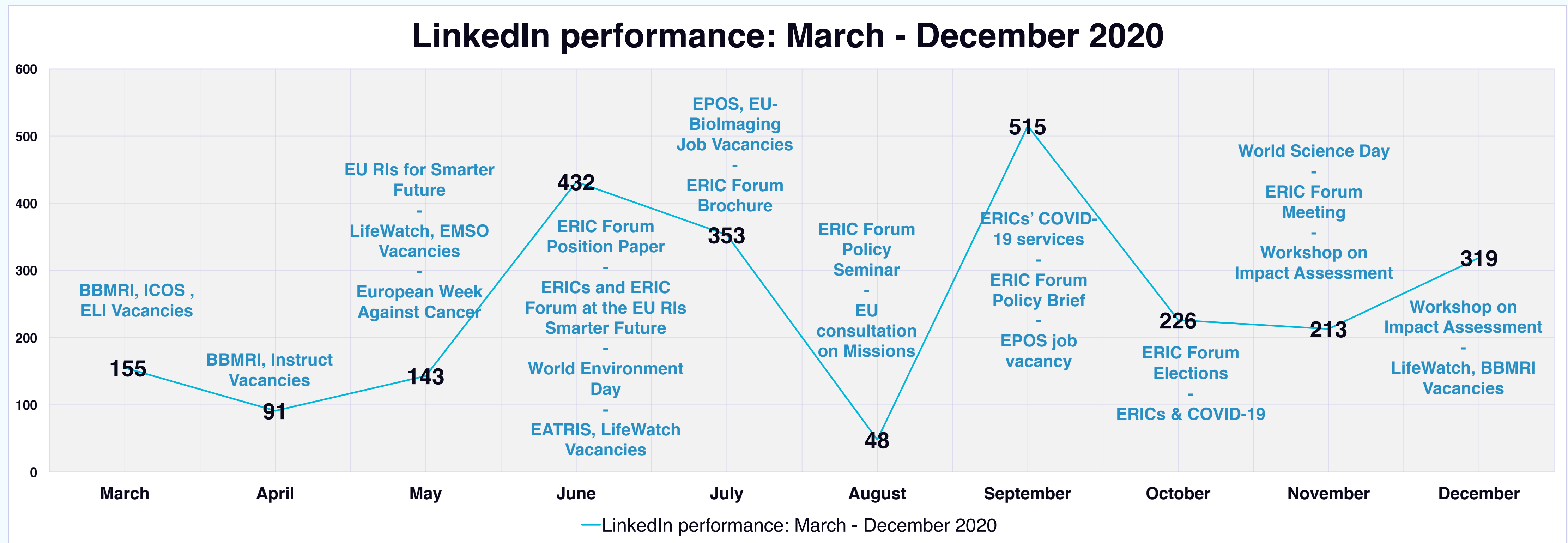
(based on the ERIC Forum online channels' monitoring reports developed to track the performance)



The number of follower in the ERIC Forum Twitter page has increased from 335 to 684 during 2020, which is an **increase of 51%**.




► Overview of 2020 – Online Outreach

(based on the ERIC Forum online channels' monitoring reports developed to track the performance)



The number of follower has increased from 28 to 68, which is an **increase of 58%**.

More than 33% of the online audience is in the Program and Project Management sector of Research.

Company		Total followers	New followers	Number of updates	Engagement rate
	 ERIC Forum	68	48	38	9.55%
	 ESFRI - European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures	309	195	68	7.59%

www.eric-forum.eu

► Overview of 2020 – Online Outreach

ERIC Forum publications and news have been disseminated in the following platforms, in addition to the ERIC Forum and ERICs' online platforms:

- ESFRI
- ERA Portal - Austria
- CORDIS
- RICH - the European Network of National Contact Points (NCPs)
- Research Europe
- Horizon2020's Czech portal
- Science Business
- CZELO (Czech liaison office for RTD based in Brussels)
- ERF
- RI VIS
- ENVRI community
- Research FortNight

► Overview of 2020 – Who is our New Online Audience

In addition to Established ERICs, ERICs-in-preparation, ESFRI, the ESFRI Chair, Researchers/Scientists, the new online audience includes the following:

- **Research Infrastructures' community and Science platforms**, such as:
 - CRAF (Committee on Radio Astronomy Frequencies)
 - CNR-DTA (National Research Council - Department of Earth System Science and Environmental Technologies),
 - National Open Research Forum Ireland (NORF),
 - Aeroversity Nigeria (promotes aerospace education),
 - PHIRI (The Population Health Information Research Infrastructure),
 - Research Complex Harwell,
 - Research Europe,
 - Education Arm of Aerospace Palace International,
 - Director of the German Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development,
 - PORBIOTA (Portuguese e-infrastructure for Information and Research on Biodiversity)
 - CRIGH (Clinical Research Initiative for Global Health)
 - IMBBC (Institute for Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture)
 - President of the ECPC – European Cancer Patient Coalition, Greece
 - CTLS (Core Technologies for Life Sciences) association

► Overview of 2020 – Who is our New Online Audience

- PROGEDO (Large scale infrastructure for data production and management),
 - EASSH (European Alliance for Social Sciences & Humanities),
 - European Vaccine Initiative (EVI),
 - EuropaBio (European Association for Bioindustries),
 - EuroScientists,
 - iNEXT-Discovery (Infrastructure for Structural Biology),
 - EuroNanoMed (Network of funding agencies with the goal of funding innovative research projects on nanomedicine)
 - MPI (Max Planck Institute) for Social Law and Social Policy
- European Commission/EU, Other:
 - Publications Office of the European Union
 - Head of Stakeholder Engagement & Communication, DG RTD (Stéphane Hogan)
 - Director for People Directorate, DG RTD (Irene Norstedt)
 - Director of Common Implementation Centre, DG RTD (Anna Panagopoulou)
 - Communications Officer, DG RTD (Catherine Lemaire)
 - Project Advisor, European Commission Research Executive Agency (Pepa Krasteva)
 - Senior Advisor International Cooperation Strategy at European Commission, DG RTD (Adam Tyson)
 - H2020 National Contact Points (NCPs)

► Plans for 2021 – Overview

ERIC Forum website, Newsletter and Social Media publications:

- **Website:** New plugins to be installed to increase news articles' and pages' visibility, to track the organizations visiting the website, and more.
- **Website:** New sections will be developed and added: “**ERIC Community**”, “**Policy Makers**” and “**Researchers**” with targeted content for each. Other pages will be further developed/newly created for an easier navigation.
- **All:** More input on the ERIC Forum bodies and their activities, structure.
- **All:** More input on the ERIC landscape and the ERIC regulation.
- **Newsletter:** New sections will be included: ERICs' annual reports, introduction of ERICs by cluster.
- **All:** Promotion of ERICs by cluster. Promotion of COVID-19 services.
- **Social media:** Announcement whenever an event/news article is published in the ERIC Forum website.
- **Twitter Publications:** Promotion of individual ERICs' COVID-19 services.
- **LinkedIn Publications:** Introduce a “Job Vacancies within ERICs” bi/weekly campaign.
- **All:** ERIC Forum Communication survey to be launched on a semestral basis.

Report and plans for 2021
WP6: Role of ERICs in European science policy and research
strategy
January 27th 2021

Golbahar Pahlavan

Head of Infrastructure Development Projects, ECRIN-ERIC

▶ WP6 Tasks: Role of ERICs in European science policy and research strategy

Task 6.1-3 – ECRIN

Defining priorities
Y1/Y2/Y3

Task 6.4-6 – ECRIN

Draft policy report
Y1/Y2/Y3

Task 6.7-9 – ECRIN

Final policy report
Y1/Y2/Y3

Task 6.10-12 LifeWatch

Final Technical & Innovation
Report
Y1/Y2/Y3

Task 6.13-15 LifeWatch

Annual ERIC Forum Seminar
Y1/Y2/Y3

▶ WP6 Forward Looking Taskforce (FLTF)

As per the ERIC Forum workplan, the annual science policy reports are selected, drafted and disseminated by a “Forward Looking Task Force” (FLTF) within WP6.

All ERIC Forum beneficiaries have been invited to join the FLTF, on a voluntary basis, through email consultation.

The WP6 FLTF is composed of representatives from 22 partner ERICs and associated organizations.



▶ WP6 Selection topics of policy briefs

Methodology: In order to identify the priorities for the ERIC Forum policy briefs and seminars, a preliminary list of relevant policy topics was proposed and discussed at the kick-off meeting. Additional topics were added following consultations and discussions. A shortlist was then created by the Task Leader with the topics that could be of relevance to all partners.

The shortlist was sent to the FLTF and votes were collected on each topic through email discussions and teleconferences.

This methodology was used to select the topics of all the policy briefs with 1 vote per participating ERIC.

The drafted policy reports contribute to prepare the ERIC Forum seminars, are further discussed during the seminars and then finalized and disseminated by the FLTF.



▶ WP6 Policy briefs and R&I reports selected topics:

- ✓ Funding models for access to ERIC multinational / transnational services (September 2020, M21).
- ✓ Creating synergies between ERICs and the (Regional) Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation-RIS3". (September 2020, M21).

Presentation at the ERIC Forum Policy Seminar held virtually on September 14-15, 2020 bringing together all ERIC Forum members with key national and EU stakeholders.

- Policy brief 2: Scaling-up research projects through ERICs: impact of big science on the research ecosystem (M30)
- R&I Report 2: Integration of ERIC development into pan-European e-Infrastructures, particularly in the new European Open Science Cloud-EOSC (M30)
- Policy brief 3: Socio-economic impact of ERICs (in collaboration with WP4, M48)
- R&I Report 3: Topic tbd (M48)





Funding models for access to ERIC multinational/transnational services: Key recommendations



ERICs should be fully eligible and be recognized by national funding agencies, and cross-border funding from national funding agencies should be promoted;

ERICs and funding bodies at all levels can join efforts to improve ERICs visibility and attractiveness. Funding bodies should actively refer applicants to ERICs, encouraging and providing incentives for their use;

Transnational Access mechanisms must be safeguarded, and expanded to support ERIC consolidation, respond to specific challenges, develop research communities and provide a flexible budget for sustainable access for competitive projects;

Simplification of the application and financial processes for distributed RIs in Horizon funding can help to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and boost the visibility of ERICs;

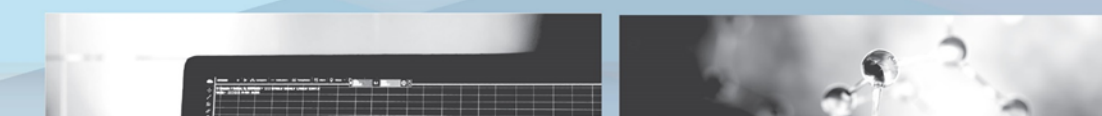
Dialogue and collaboration among national, regional and European funding bodies must be strengthened to ensure the alignment of strategies and the synergic use of resources.



ERIC Forum Policy Brief

Funding Models for Access to ERIC Multinational/
Transnational Services

September 2020



Funding models for access to ERIC multinational / transnational services: Key recommendations

Over the course of the past decade, European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) have become key instruments for cutting-edge science that provide solutions to today's major socio-economic and environmental challenges, underpinning the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and fostering multinational and transnational cooperation. Funding from diverse schemes, together with the invaluable contributions of ERIC member countries, have allowed ERICs to deliver access to services, facilities, samples and data across Europe. With the future of the ERA at our doorstep, ERICs must continue to evolve and expand their outreach, while upholding the highest standards of scientific excellence. Funding schemes that can sustainably provide resources in sufficient volumes will be essential.

As funding mechanisms evolve, the following recommendations can be highlighted:

- ❖ ERICs should be fully eligible and be recognized by national funding agencies, and cross-border funding from national funding agencies should be promoted;
- ❖ ERICs and funding bodies at all levels can join efforts to improve ERICs visibility and attractiveness. Funding bodies should actively refer applicants to ERICs, encouraging and providing incentives for their use;
- ❖ Transnational Access mechanisms must be safeguarded, and expanded to support ERIC consolidation, respond to specific challenges, develop research communities and provide a flexible budget for sustainable access for competitive projects;
- ❖ Simplification of the application and financial processes for distributed RIs in Horizon funding can help to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and boost the visibility of ERICs;
- ❖ Dialogue and collaboration among national, regional and European funding bodies must be strengthened to ensure the alignment of strategies and the synergic use of resources.

A continuous and open dialogue between ERICs and all funding bodies is required to identify and adopt solutions that will lead to the optimized and sustained use of ERICs. A dedicated working group will be created within the ERIC Forum to continue exploring these questions and reflect on pragmatic solutions.

The collaboration between the EU Commission and the Member States in the continued evolution of the ERIC Regulation, is also required to define and optimise the funding volume and mechanisms supporting the broad variety of ERIC operations models. A sustained effort from ERICs in their evaluation and assessment of their funding models will contribute to a fruitful and productive dialogue.

The ERIC Forum, through its dedicated working group and through all of its members, will continue to play an active role in improving the visibility of ERICs and in maintaining an open and sustainable dialogue with the European Commission, with ESFRI, and with the national public funding bodies. It will strive to contribute to the international recognition and the competitive edge of European Research Infrastructure landscape, strengthening Europe's global position in research and innovation, and improving the life of European citizens.

Creating synergies between ERICs and the (Regional) Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation -RIS₃: Key recommendations

ERICs have a high impact in Regions as catalysts of economic growth, high-quality employment and trans-national cooperation.

Regional Smart Specialization Strategies are a pre-requisite for a region to leverage ERDF funds.

ERICs must become aware of RIS3 to understand how and where they can add value real benefit to their local stakeholders.

ERICs should seek for ERDF funds to help the development of the RIS3.

The interest and use of this synergistic approach are not new (examples of Greece, Italy, etc.).

Spain is the first Member State that has launched a specific call for projects to maximize this synergy, with Andalucia to be the Region case-study. This can be used as Best Practice.

A coordinating Bureau should be established in order to promote and implement a framework to multiply and channel ERICs efforts to this direction.

▶ WP6 Status Deliverables

- ✓ **DELIVERABLE 6.1 Defining priorities year 1**
- ✓ **DELIVERABLE 6.2 Defining priorities year 2**
- ✓ **DELIVERABLE 6.3 Defining priorities year 3**
- ✓ **DELIVERABLE 6.4 Draft policy report 1**
- DELIVERABLE 6.5 Draft policy report 2
- DELIVERABLE 6.6 Draft policy report 3
- ✓ **DELIVERABLE 6.7 Final policy report 1**
- DELIVERABLE 6.8 Final policy report 2
- DELIVERABLE 6.9 Final policy report 3
- ✓ **DELIVERABLE 6.10 Final technical and innovation report 1**
- DELIVERABLE 6.11 Final technical and innovation report 2
- DELIVERABLE 6.12 Final technical and innovation report 2
- ✓ **DELIVERABLE 6.13 Annual ERIC Forum seminar 1**
- DELIVERABLE 6.14 Annual ERIC Forum seminar 2
- DELIVERABLE 6.15 Annual ERIC Forum seminar 3



2021 Plans

Task 6.5/6.8

Policy Brief 2

ECRIN, M30

Scaling-up research projects through ERICs: impact of big science on the research ecosystem (M30)

Task 6.11

Research and Innovation Report 2

LifeWatch, M30

Integration of ERIC development into pan-European e-Infrastructures, particularly in the new European Open Science Cloud-EOSC (M30)

Task 6.14:

Annual ERIC FORUM seminar 2

LifeWatch, TBC

WP6 Shortlisted topics for policy briefs

1. Funding models for access to ERIC multinational / transnational services
2. Scaling-up research projects through ERICs: impact of big science on the research ecosystem
3. Capacity building: ERICs unlocking scientific potential throughout European countries and regions
4. ERICs and international cooperation
5. Socio-economic impact of ERICs
6. Scientific evaluation of the ERICs
7. Integration of ERIC development into pan-European e-Infrastructures, particularly in the new European Open Science Cloud-
EOSC



Approval of the reporting

The ERIC Forum Implementation Project General Assembly was provided with this report on the project in occasion of the Annual Meeting (online, 27th January 2021). The General Assembly of the ERIC Forum Implementation Projects endorses the report.