

Towards Open Science: Challenges and Way Forward for European universities

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#OpenScience
#OpenAccess
#ResearchAssessment

KRE Conference
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EUA : An Introduction

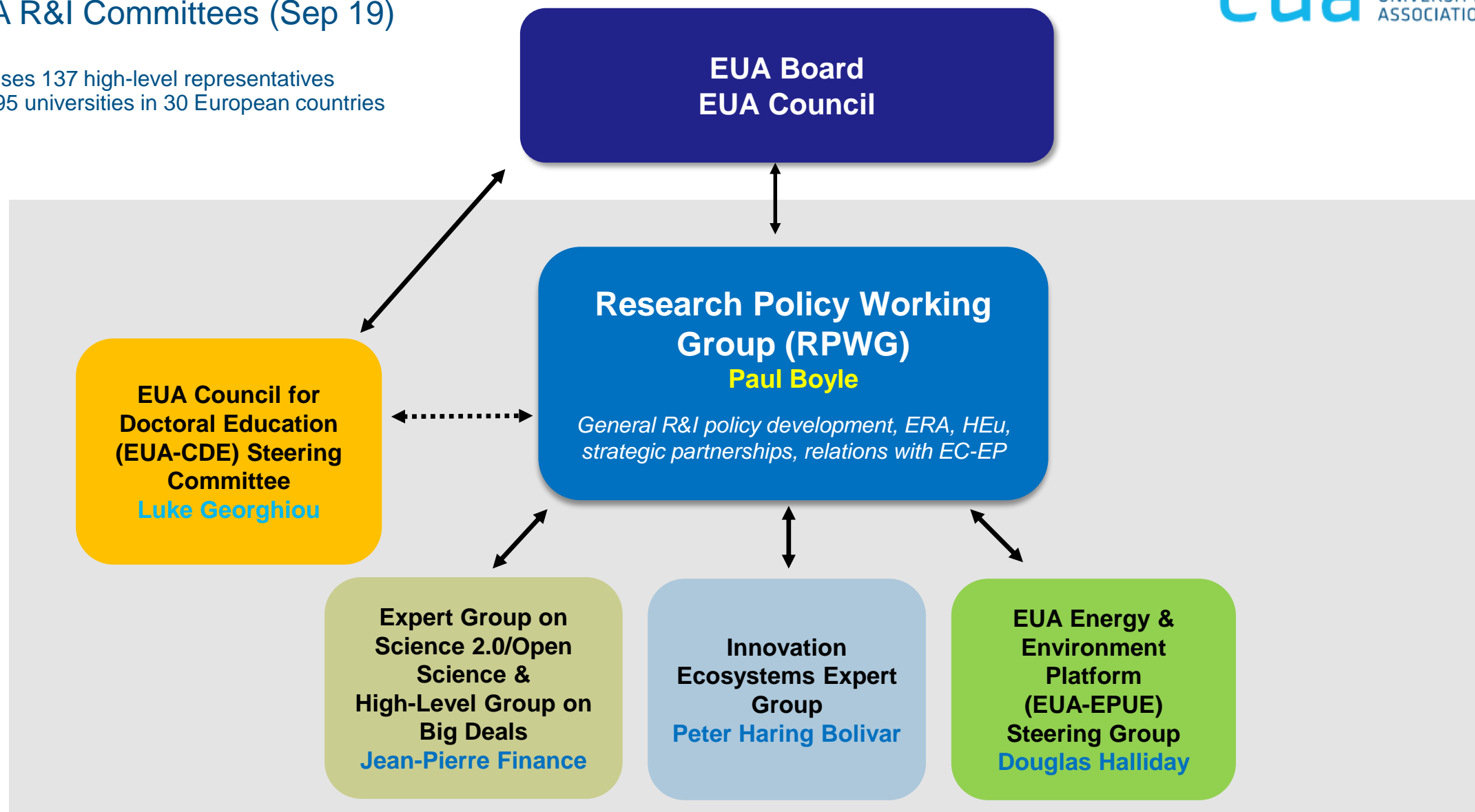
- **Represents** universities and national rectors' conferences in 48 European countries.
- **Guarantees** the hearing of the European Universities' independent voice and the decisions that will impact their activities positively.
- **Provides** a unique expertise in higher education and research; it is also a forum for exchange of ideas and good practices among universities.

More information:

<https://eua.eu>

EUA R&I Committees (Sep 19)

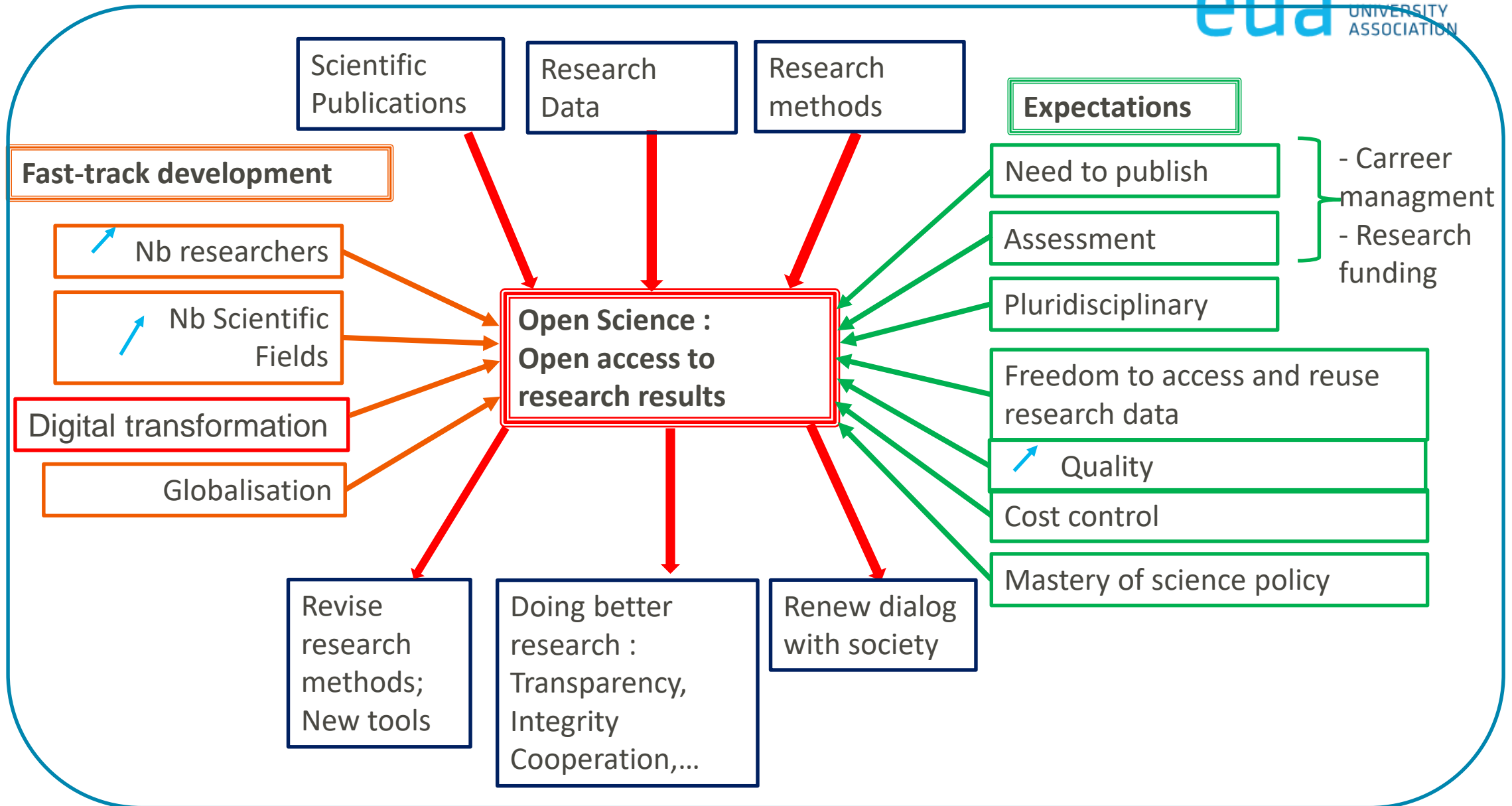
Mobilises 137 high-level representatives
from 95 universities in 30 European countries



Open Science : Aims, Expectations and Hurdles

Regulatory framework

Financial constraints



Why are
there so
many
difficulties?

Concentration of the publishing market, oligopolies and financial power :

Search for profit maximization → Control of prestigious reviews and large publication databases + management of the reviewing process + Sales of value-added services

Lack of transparency

Evaluation methods essentially based on bibliometrics (impact factor) :

→ **researchers' appetite for prestigious journals** reinforces the major publishers

Regulatory limitations :

Assignment of copyright and long embargo period hinders open archiving, uncertainty among researchers

Limitation of the TDM

Very large heterogeneity of the research population by field:

difficult to find a consensual publication model

Research data area is still in its infancy and very complex

Transitioning to Open Science

Open Science

Compared to the “closed” nature of the current research system, **Open Science** aims to extend “the principles of openness to the whole research cycle, fostering sharing and collaboration as early as possible thus entailing a systemic change to the way science and research is done.”

Transitioning to Open Science is a **shared responsibility** and requires a **concerted approach** uniting the main actors.

Definition:

[FOSTER portal](#)

EUA priorities

The need to
address several
dimensions
simultaneously

- **Promote** institutional and European **Open Access policies** for research publications and data
- Achieve more **transparency** and greater sustainability in the **scholarly publishing system** : Monitor Institutional policies on OA, Big Deals agreements, Read & Publish Agreements
- Contribute to the development and implementation of **Open Science infrastructures**, e.g. EOSC, FAIR data
- Raise awareness and support universities in reviewing their approaches to **research assessment**

EUA priorities

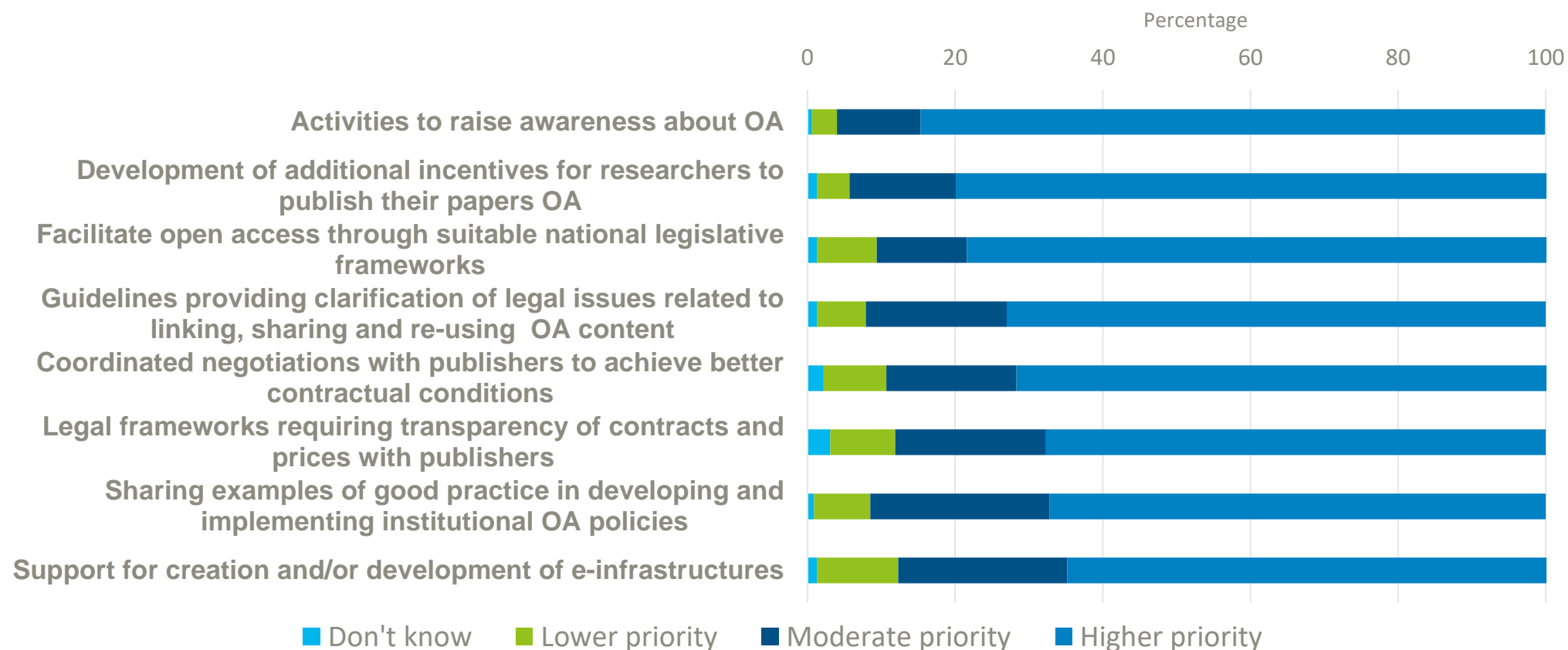
Promotion of OA

- Monitor OA's state of development in European universities
 - ➔ 3 EUA Surveys on Open Access (2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018) including:
 - Open Access for research publications (policies, institutional repositories, ...);
 - Open Access for research data (policies and practices, Research Data Management);
 - 527 respondents having sent a response at least once.

Institutional Open Access policies (2018)

Source: [2017-2018 EUA Open Access Survey Results](#)

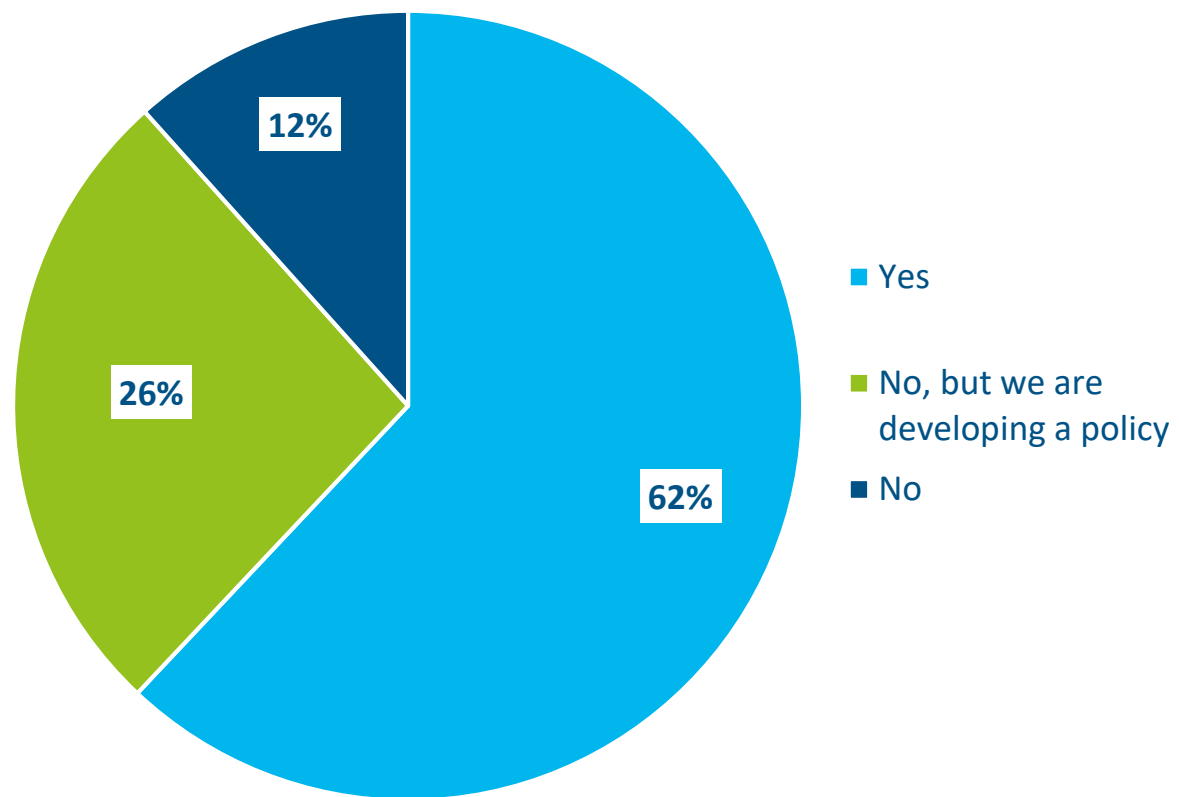
Priorities in OA to publications



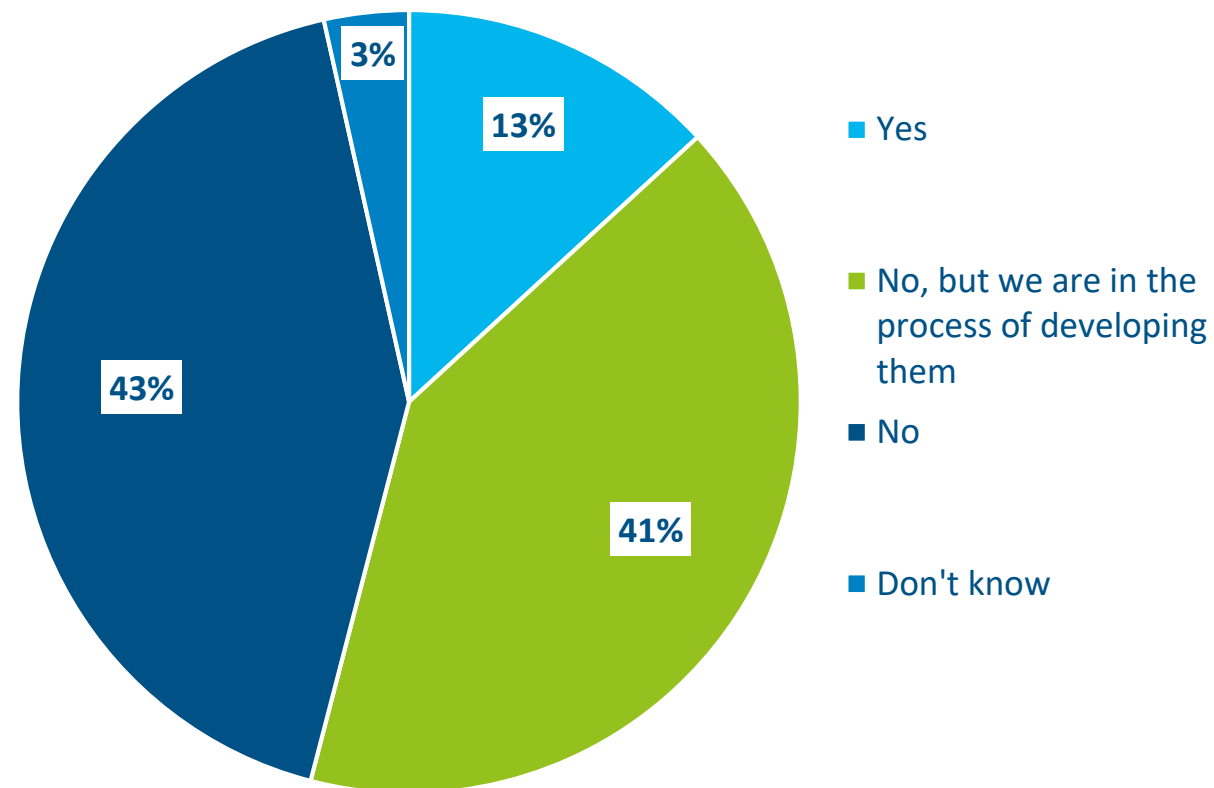
Institutional Open Access policies (2018)

Source: [2017-2018 EUA Open Access Survey Results](#)

OA policy to research publications



OA policy to research data



EUA priorities

Transparency

- Achieve more transparency and greater sustainability in the **scholarly publishing system** :
 - 2 EUA's Surveys on Big Deals (2018, 2019)

Transparent and sustainable scholarly publishing system? (2019)

Other resources
€289.90 million

Elsevier, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Springer
Nature, Wiley
€475.27 million

€1025.25
million

Periodicals
€726.35 million
72% covered by universities

Other publishers
€251.08 million

Source: [2019 EUA Big Deals Survey Report](#)

- Data for 31 consortia in 30 countries
- Numbers not including:
Article Processing Charges (APCs),
consortia other than those participating
in the survey and individual institutional
contracts with publishers

EUA priorities

Transparency

- Achieve more transparency and greater sustainability in the **scholarly publishing system** :

- **Need to understand new negotiation models**

Read & Publish Agreements : A survey has been launched on the future of the negotiation models with the support of 24 organisations representing national rectors 'conferences, national negotiating consortia and libraries.

- **Need to be able to compare the cost of subscriptions (mainly Big Deals) and the cost of APC**

New EUA 'release :

Open Science infrastructures

EUA Signatory to the EOSC Declaration

EUA Involved in OSPP

- Open Science skills
- Data culture
- Promotion of the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable)
- Open Access and open standards
- Governance

EUA partners with the FAIRsFAIR project (2019-22)

- Foster FAIR data practices in Europe
- Focus on FAIR competences and policies

Source:

- [EOSC Declaration](#)
- [FAIRsFAIR project](#)

Reviewing research assessment

Research assessment

The European research and innovation landscape is increasingly making research publications and data openly available, creating a need to **review** university approaches to research assessment:

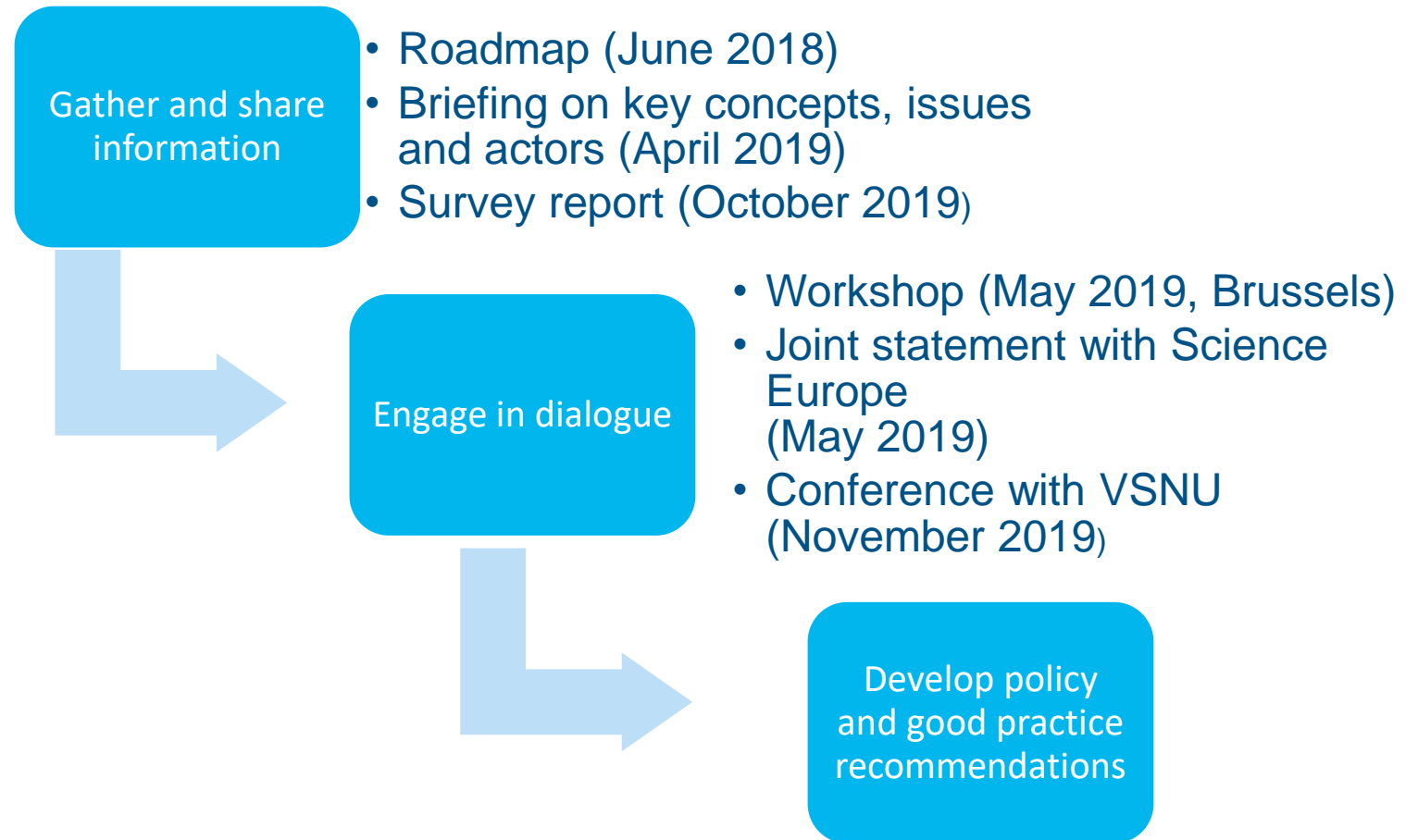
On the one hand, digitisation reinforces the use of quantitative criteria, and unfortunately **of criteria that are too often biased**, such as the journal impact factor.

On the other hand, appropriate **incentives and rewards** will ensure that researchers participate in the process of free access to research.

EUA events and activities

More information:

- [EUA Roadmap](#) (June 2018)
- [EUA Briefing](#) (April 2019)
- [EUA Workshop](#) (May 2019)
- [Joint statement with Science Europe](#) (May 2019)
- EUA survey report (October 2019)
- [Conference with VSNU](#) (November 2019)



2019 Open Science and Access Survey

Provides a **comprehensive and up-to-date overview** of the current state of research assessment in European universities, Looks at why and how institutions are reviewing their evaluation practices.

Informs and strengthens the discussion on these issues.

Participation

- **260** valid institutional responses
- **32** European countries

Source:

2019 EUA Open Science
and Access Survey Report

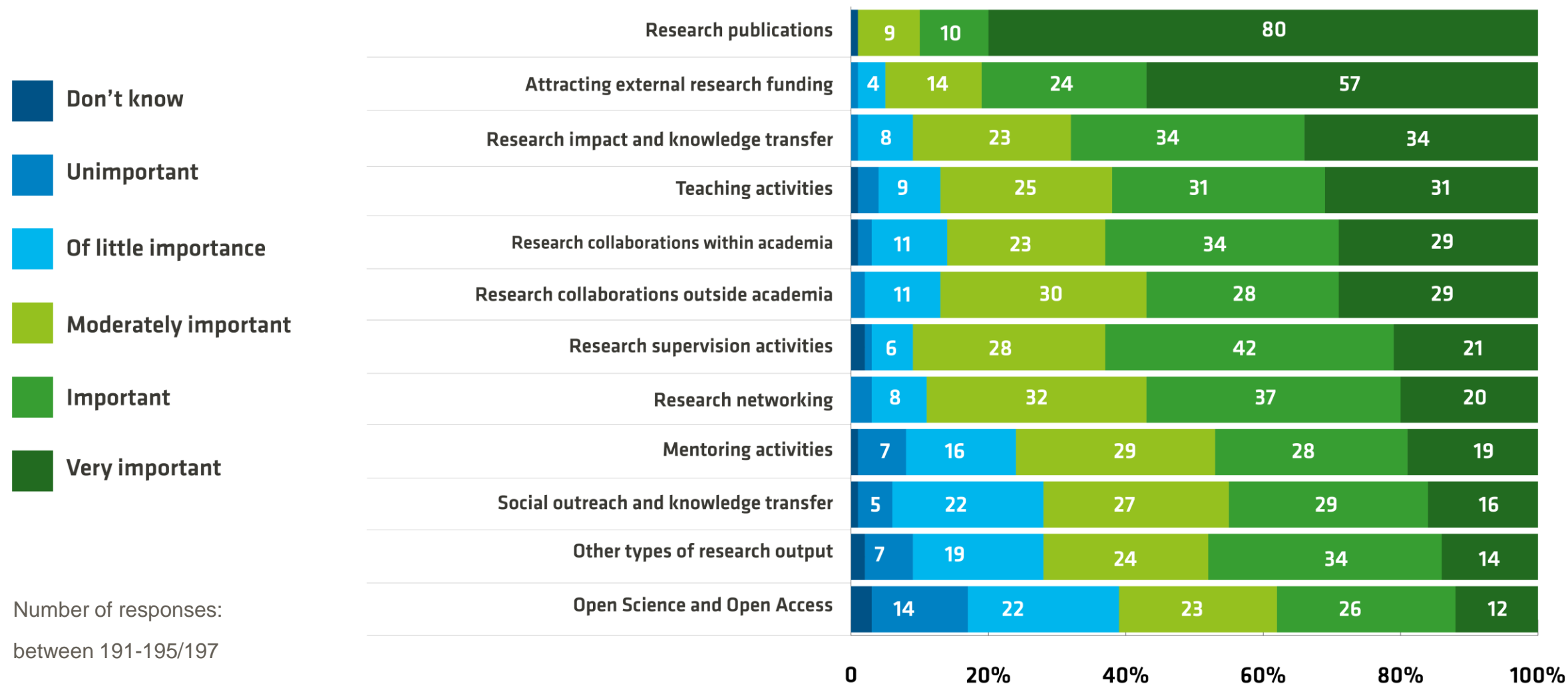
Autonomy to develop and implement institutional approaches to research assessment (2019)

	Careers in research (in %)	Performance of research units (in %)	Internal research funding allocation (in %)
Highly autonomous	38	44	55
Mostly autonomous	41	39	35
Some autonomy	17	14	9
Low autonomy	4	3	1

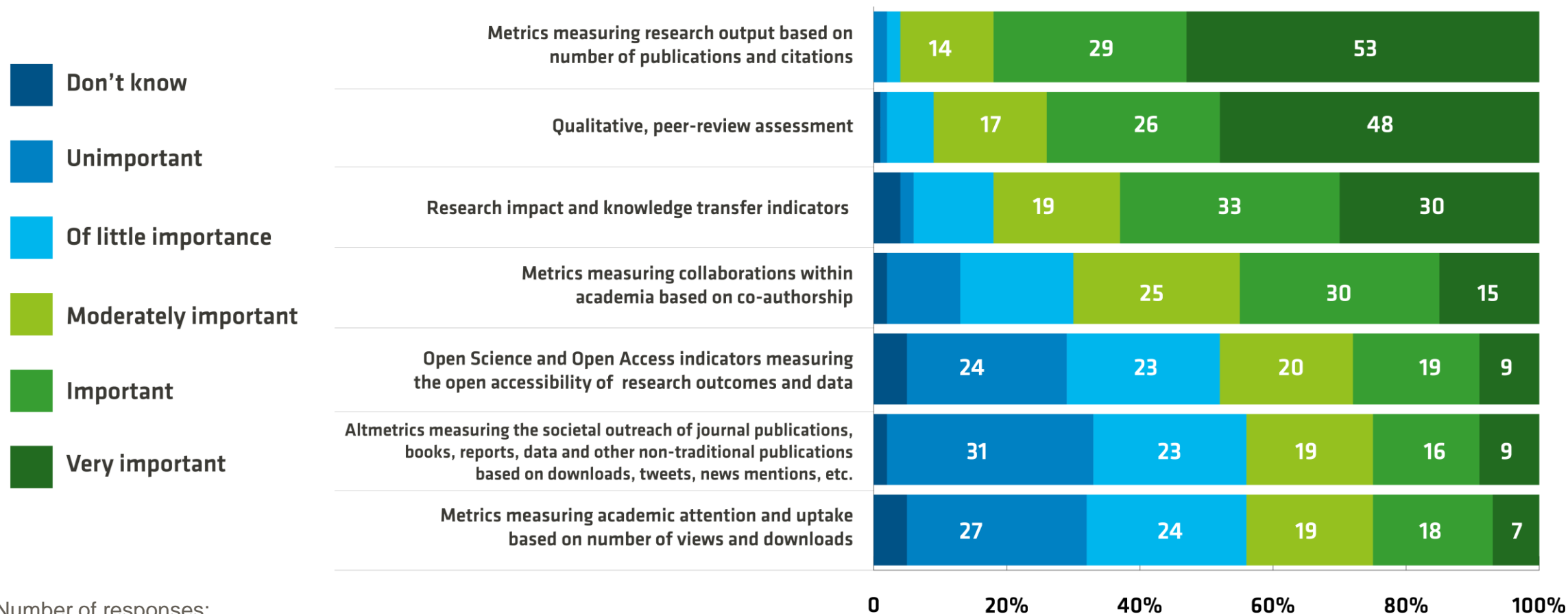
Number of respondents:

197/197 (careers), 183/183 (research
units) and 177/177 (funding allocation)

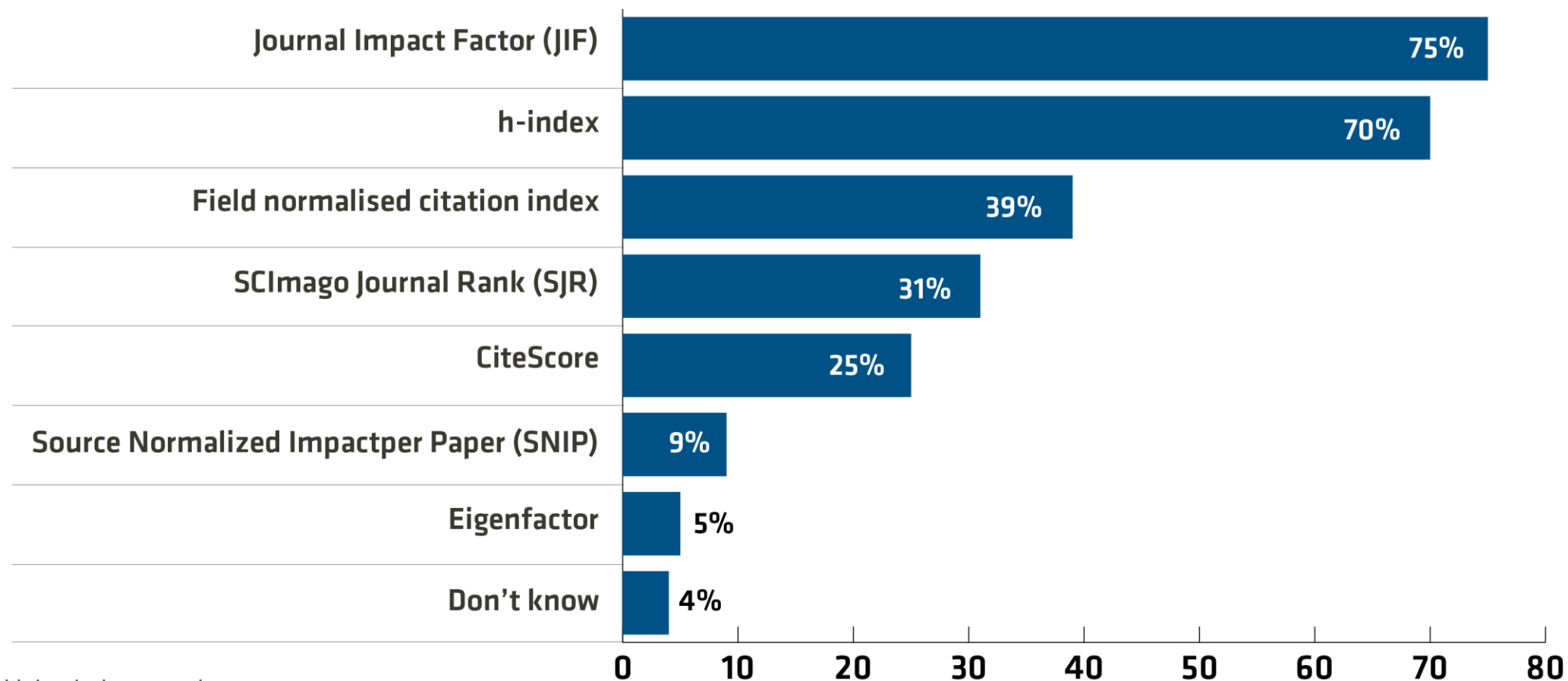
Importance of academic activities for careers in research (2019)



Evaluation of academic activities for careers in research (2019)



Publication metrics used for careers in research (2019)

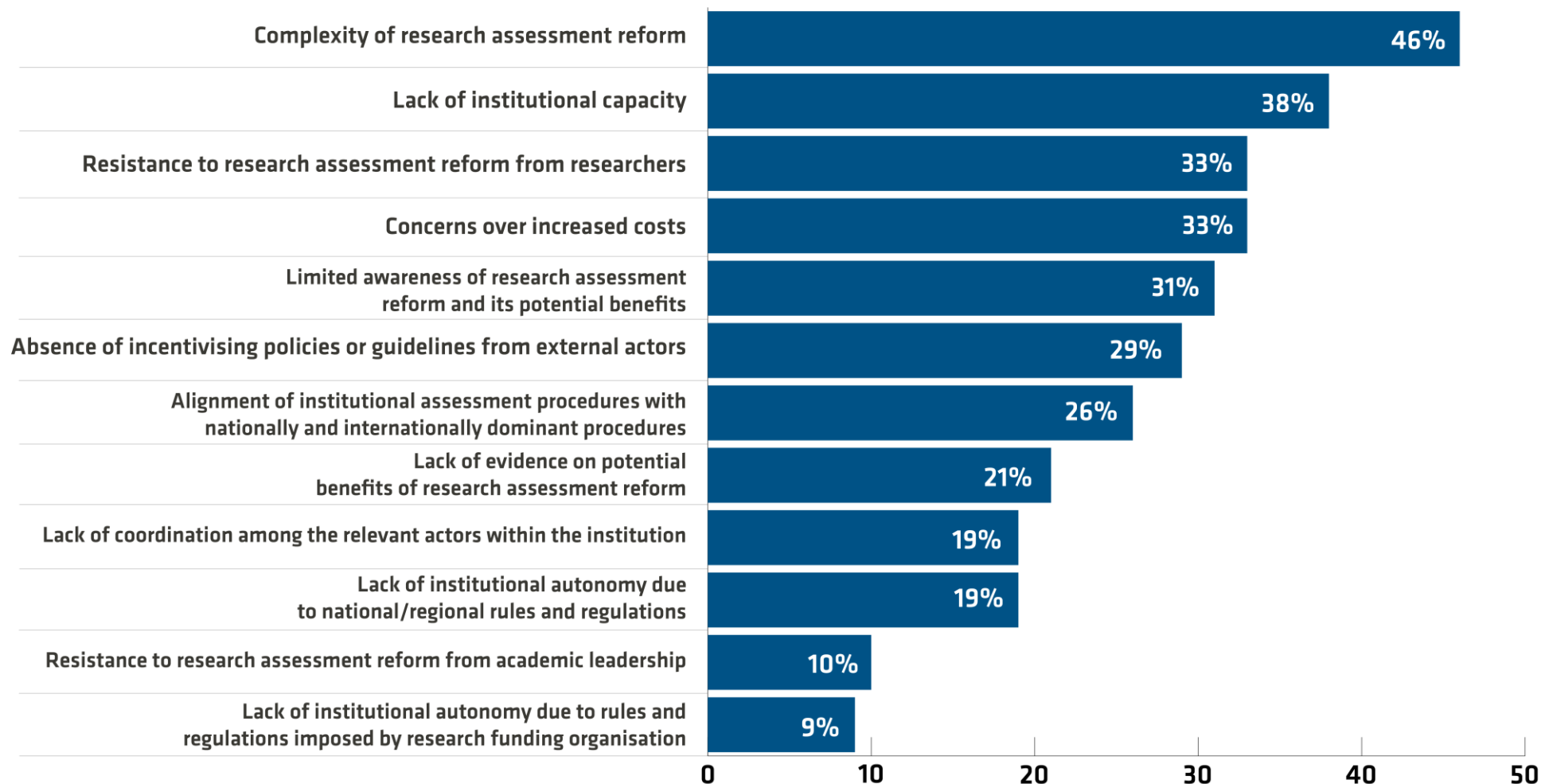


Multiple-choice question

Number of responses:

185/186

Main barriers and difficulties to review approaches to research assessment (2019)



Multiple-choice question

Number of responses:

233/254

Key survey findings and recommendations

Need to broaden the range of academic activities that are incentivised and rewarded;

Widen the set of evaluation practices

- University approaches to research assessment focus on publishing research and attracting external funding
- Universities rely on a limited set of evaluation practices which are mostly geared towards assessing research publications, e.g. Journal Impact Factor
- Other evaluation practices are less widespread and less developed, e.g. Open Science and Access indicators

Reviewing research assessment is a shared responsibility and requires a concerted approach uniting the main actors

- Universities consider themselves largely autonomous to develop and implement approaches to research assessment
- Universities are keenly aware of external influences shaping their approaches to research assessment, e.g. governments, research funding organisations, competitive environment

Thank you for your attention!

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Break the cost vicious cycle

