

Stronger cooperation, safer collaboration

Driving research security cooperation across Europe

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Jennifer Johnson



UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING

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Our thanks

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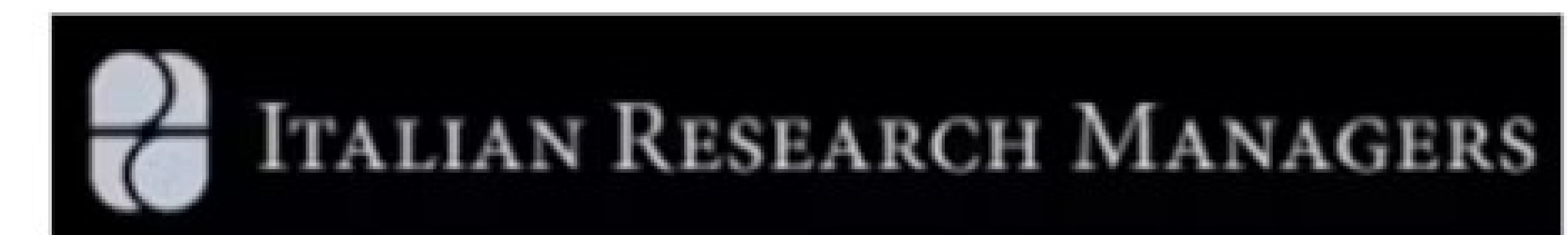


Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

We express our gratitude to EARMA, ARMA UK, DARMA and the IRM network who supported our events through hosting, promotion and dissemination.



Danish Association of Research
Managers and Administrators

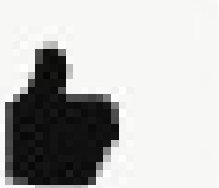


The views and opinions expressed in this presentation and the corresponding report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) or any of our supporters.

Our thanks

We also want to express our thanks to the knowledgeable speakers who generously supported the event series by joining us and sharing their expertise.

- Representative from Centre for Innovation and Knowledge Security, Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET)
- Rachel Beaton (University of Stirling)
- Nikki Kernaghan (Queens University Belfast)
- Dominique Michaud (CARA/ACAAR and Concordia University)
- John Westensee (Aarhus University)
- Representative from Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (UK government)
- Andrew Webb (Kings College London)
- Dr Melissa Bliss (Queen Mary University of London)



Agenda

- Introduction
- The European context
- Progress
- Challenges
- Solutions
- Resources
- Conclusions
- Q&A

Introduction

- One live event in Odense and three online webinars that followed based on the feedback from participants in Odense
- Three online webinars covering insider threat, open-source tools and commercial resources
- Primarily an engagement, training and development project
- Use of dynamic engagement tools enabled us to gain a range of insights into research security across Europe
- Able to source collective intelligence into the tools and resources being used across the sector
- Opportunity to share for the benefit of the European research and innovation sector

The European context

European Research Council head pleads for openness at G7 science summit
11 Jul 2024 | News

China's data protection rules prompt pause from major European research funders

POLICY 03 JUN 2025 |

Study suggests more European cooperation on research security

Commission tells universities and funders to bolster research security
24 Jan 2024 | News

De-risking of research becomes harder as 'grey' zones emerge

European Commission to seek Council recommendations on research security

Need for a Canadian-European Security Consensus, Says Researcher

EU moves to shield researchers from Chinese interference

Instructions



Tell us where you are joining us from today

Poland

Uk

Swansea University

UK

Poland

Warsaw, Poland

Uk

Poland

Tell us where you are joining us from today

Poland

Kings College London

Dublin, Ireland

France

Belgium Brussels

Finland

Denmark. Aarhus
University

UK

Tell us where you are joining us from today

Gothenburg, sweden

London, UK

Scotland

UK

UK

UK

London

Finland

Tell us where you are joining us from today

Finland

UK

Norway

Stockholm

East Sussex, UK

UK

Finland

Finland

Tell us where you are joining us from today

National Science
Centre, Poland

Norway

UK

Poland

UK

UK

UK

Austria

Tell us where you are joining us from today

France

Spain

Scotland

Finland

Scotland

Norway

UK, King's College
London

UK

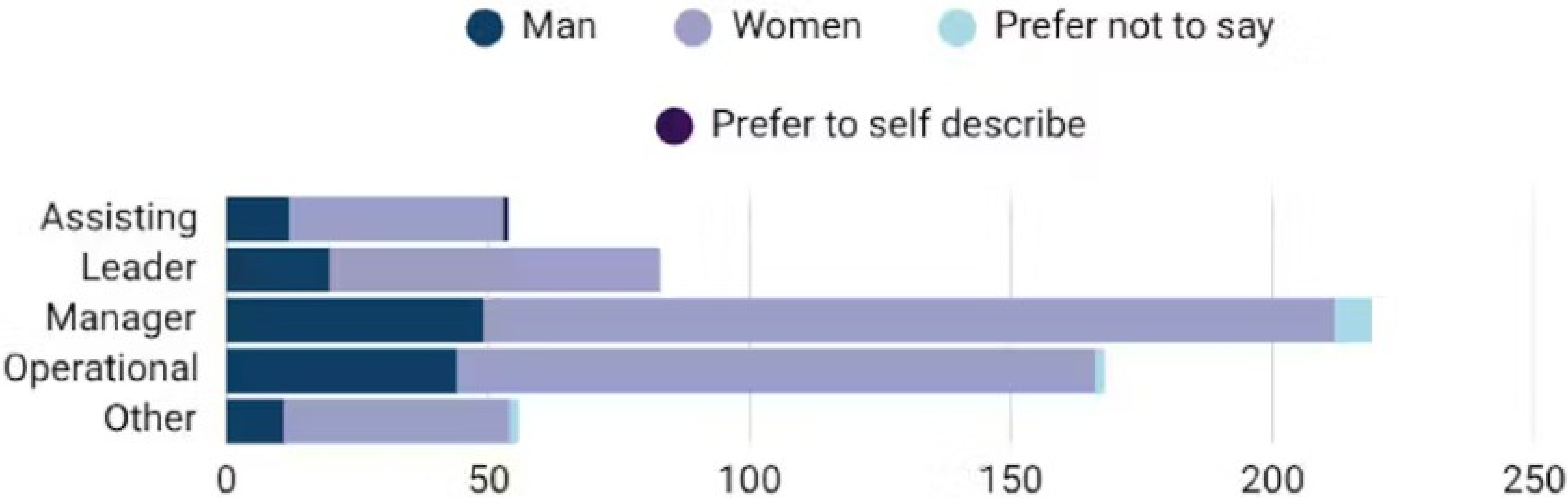
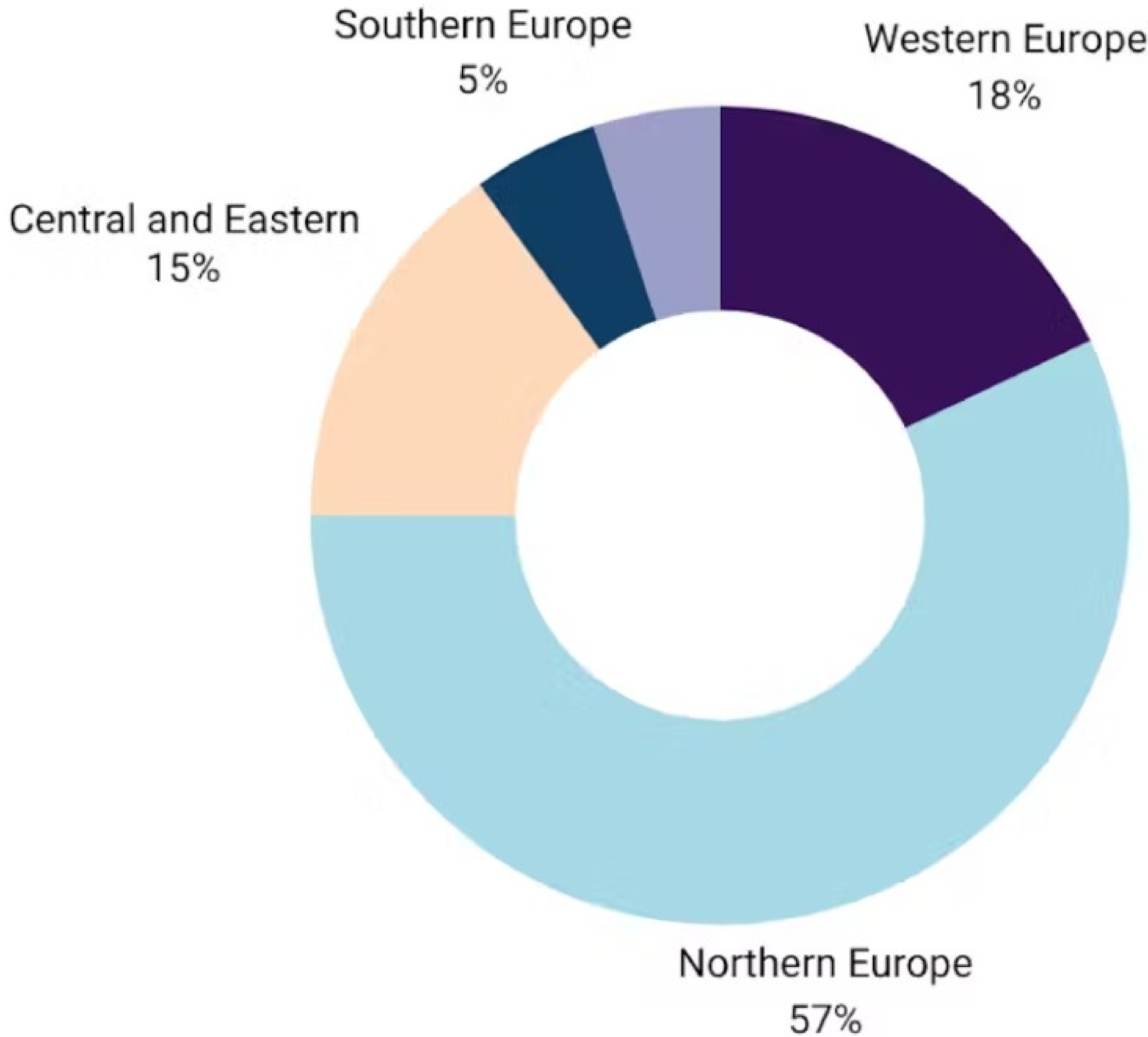
Tell us where you are joining us from today

Manchester Met

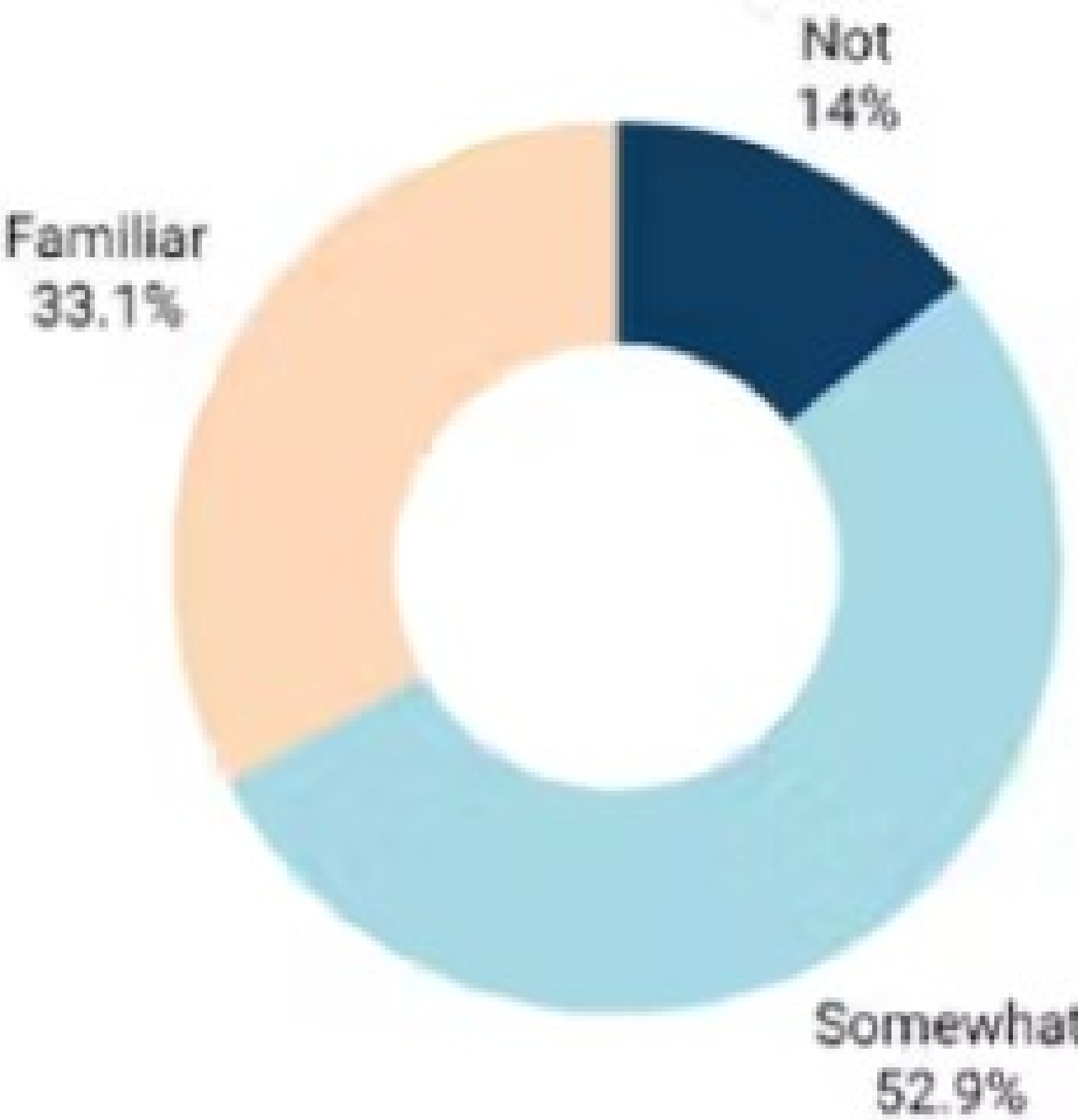
UK

“Nations across Europe and beyond share a common goal of achieving a security conscious culture within the global research and innovation ecosystem. This is most effectively achieved through a focus on training, development, networking and collaboration.”

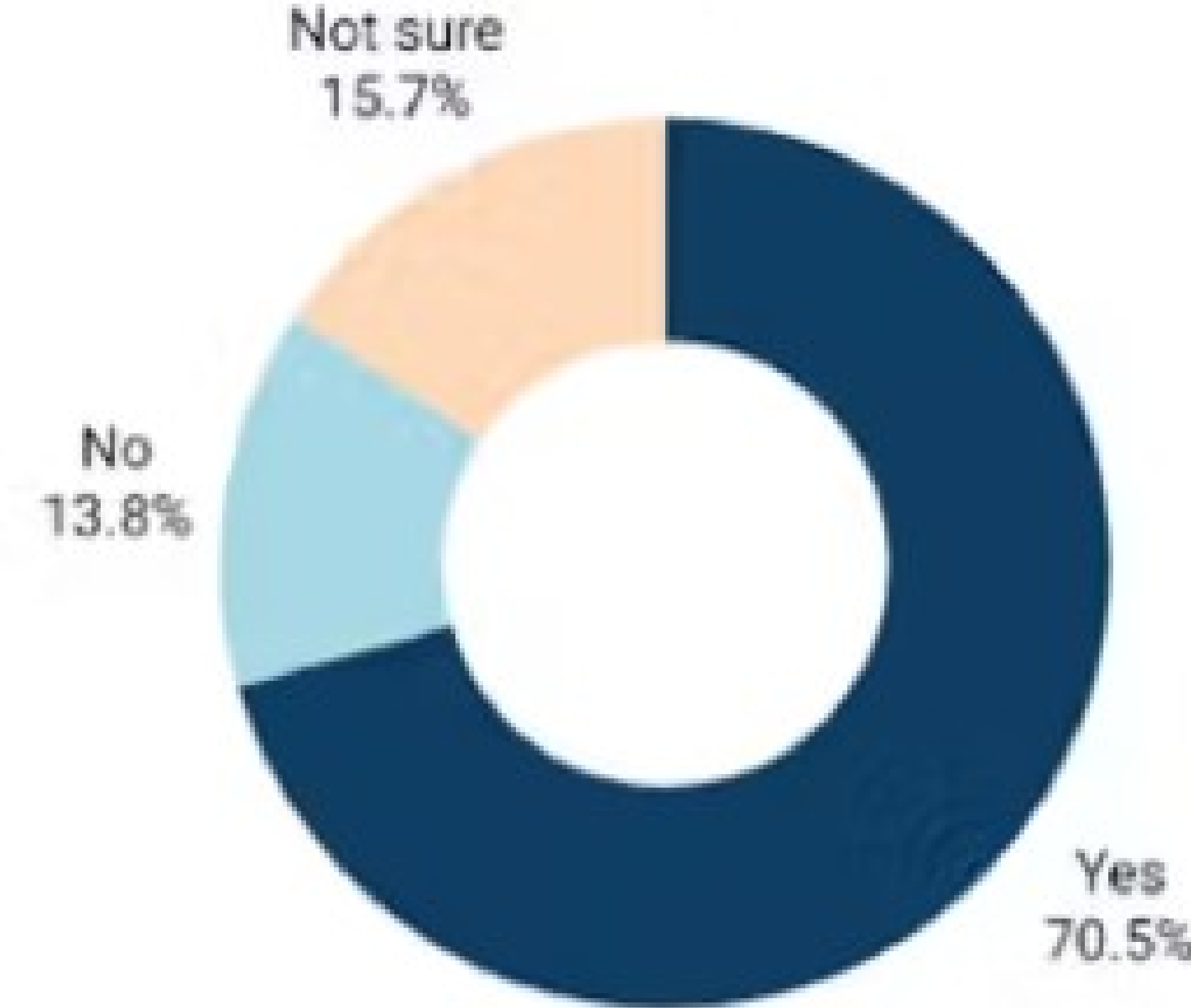
Progress



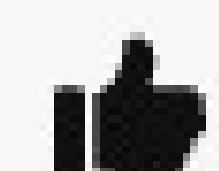
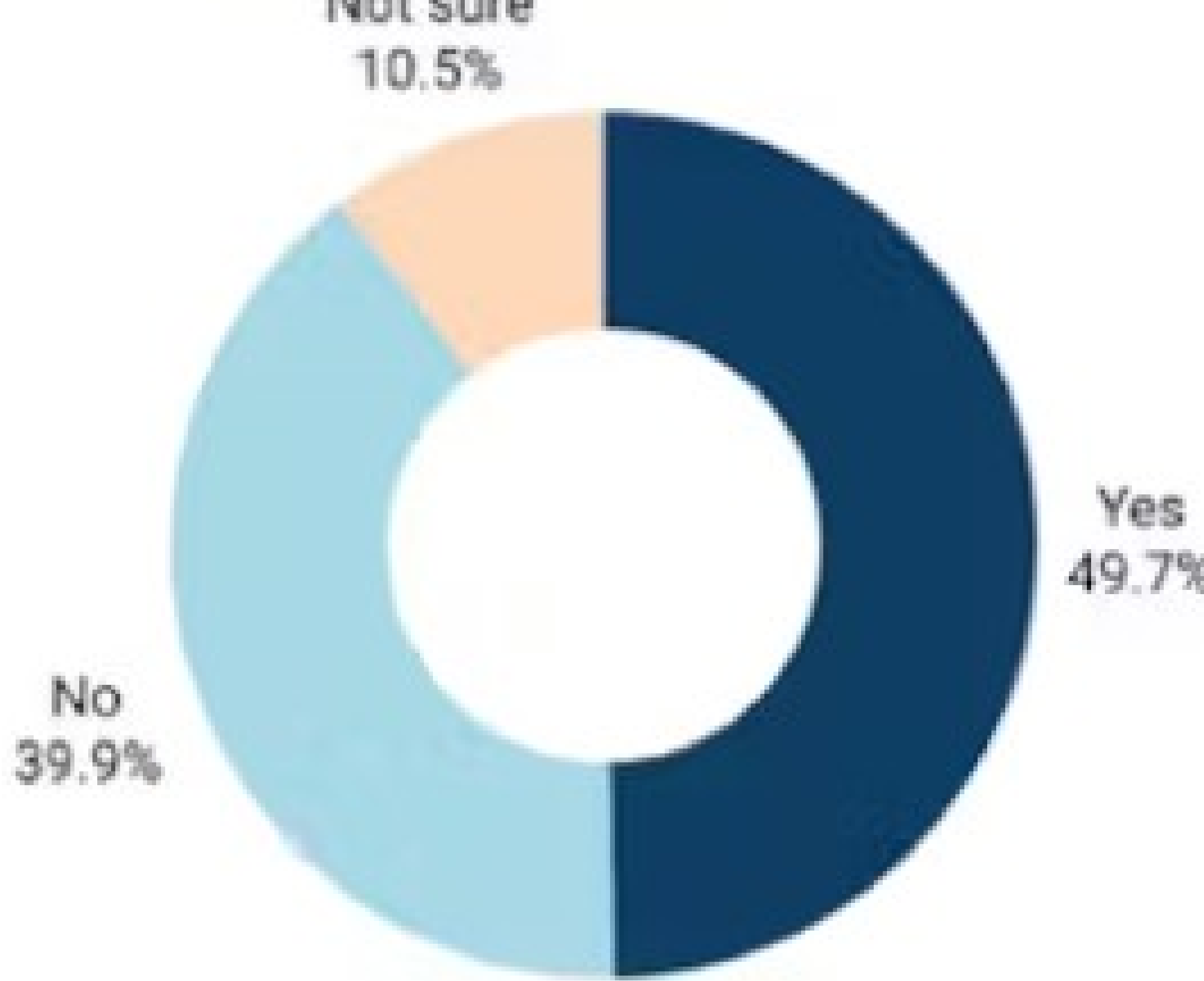
How familiar are you with research security?



Has your institution begun to adapt its processes to manage research security?

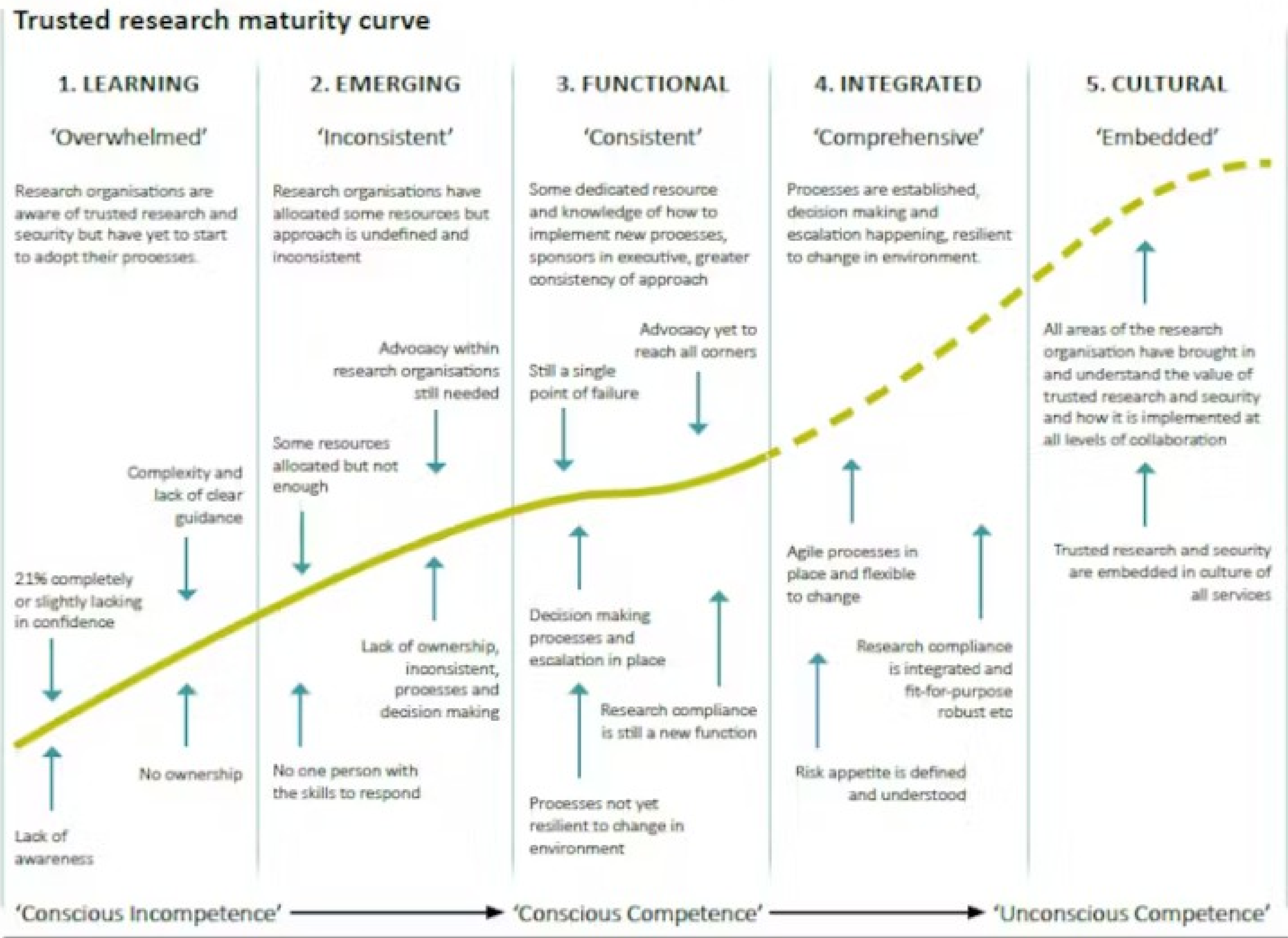


Do you have national research security guidelines in your country?



Progress

Where would you place your institution on the maturity curve?



Trusted research maturity curve, Complex Collaborations (ARMA, 2023)



Challenges

“Elephant in the room – acting on risks identified means sometimes ruffling the feathers or passing up funding. There is no appetite for this at the moment – the opportunity cost is too high, the first to act loses out”

“The divergent approach being taken by different countries is challenging since some take a different approach i.e. the UK is country agnostic, other countries are not”

“We’re going through a similar process. Is there any scope for collaboration?”

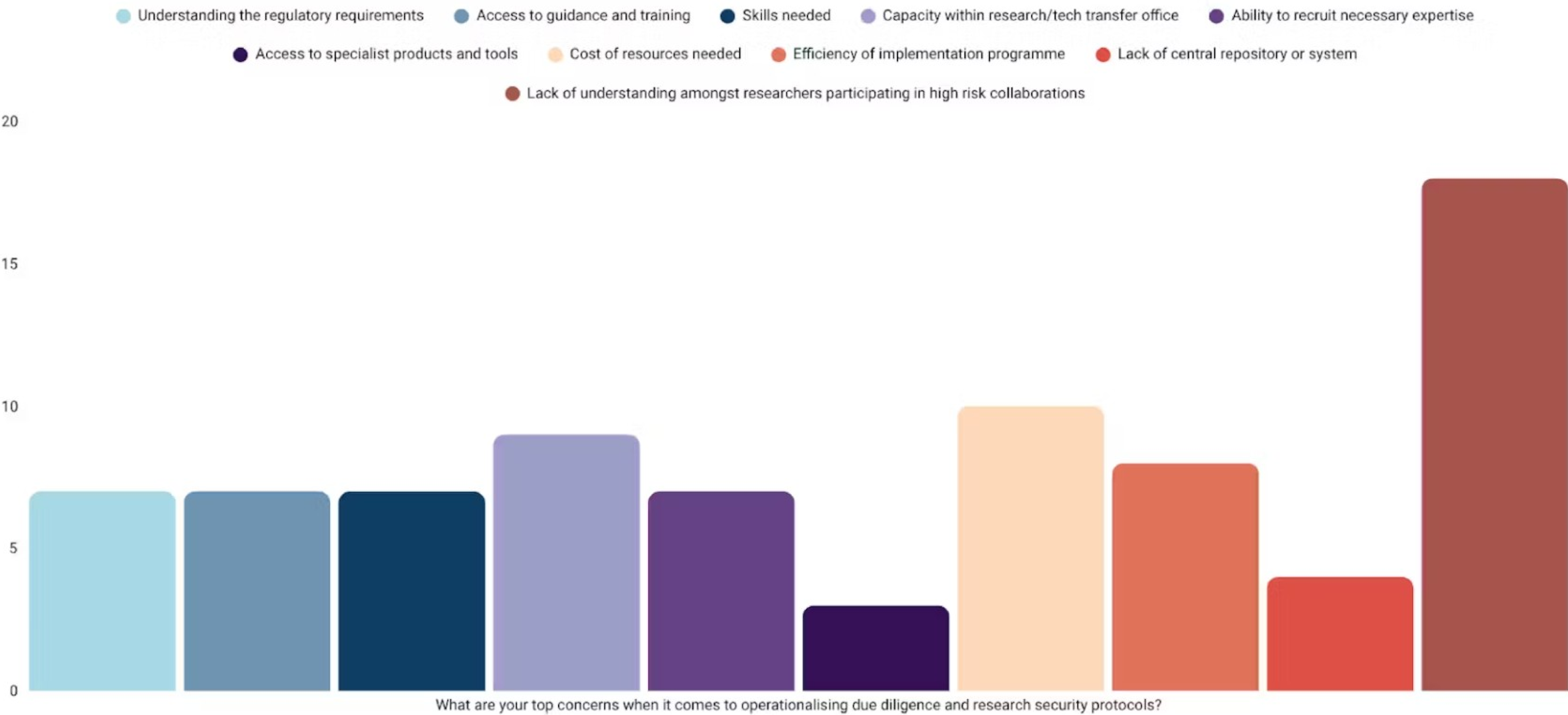
“How do we separate researchers from their countries?”

“How [do we] avoid discrimination of certain nationalities?”

“What are (if any) are the unintended consequences of research securitization on broader HE international activities, such as research-led teaching and academic exchange”

“There was concern that these diverging approaches between countries that collaborate frequently would lead to duplication of effort and increasing barriers for international research.”

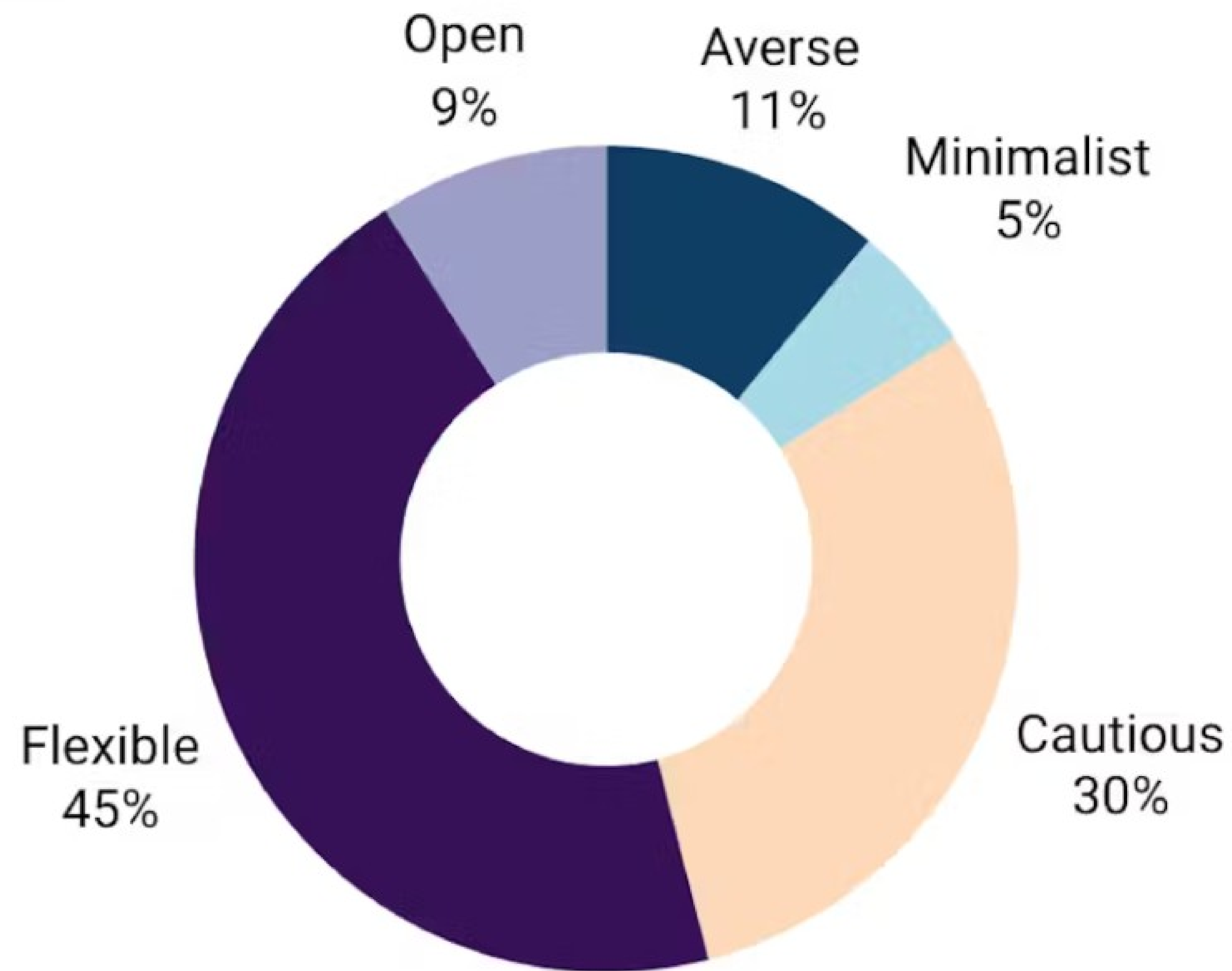
Challenges



“The discussion highlighted not just the barriers between institutions but within them.”

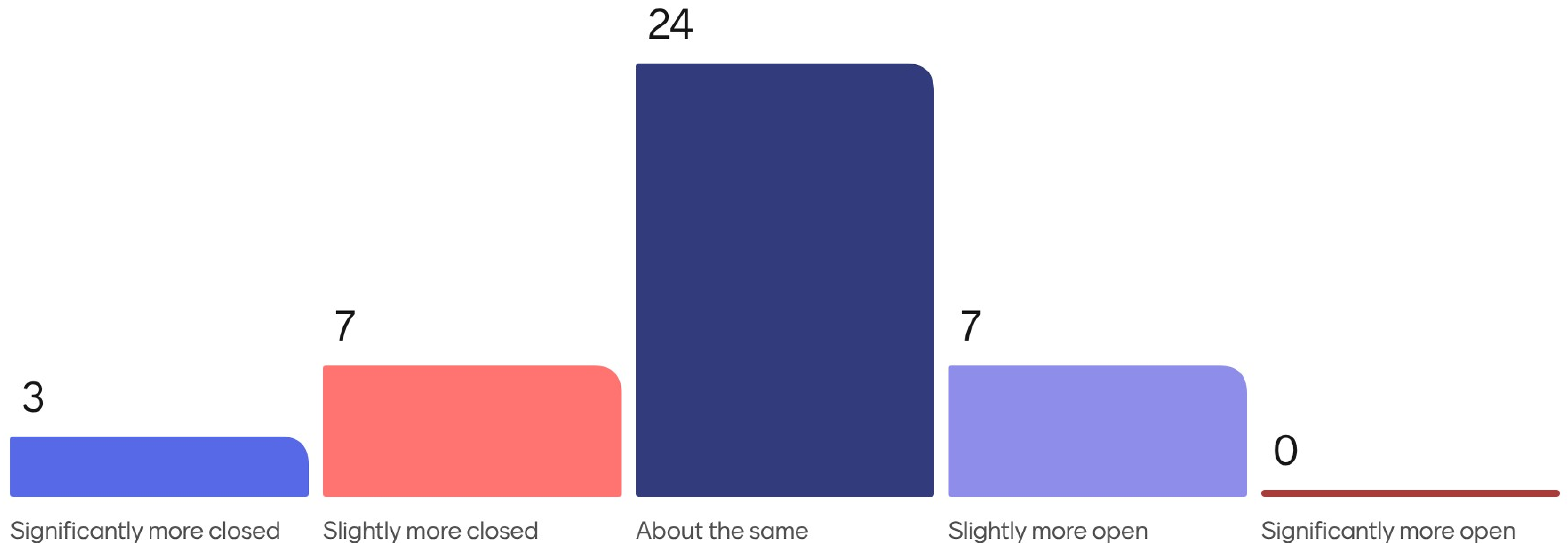
Challenges

How would you describe your organisation's risk appetite?

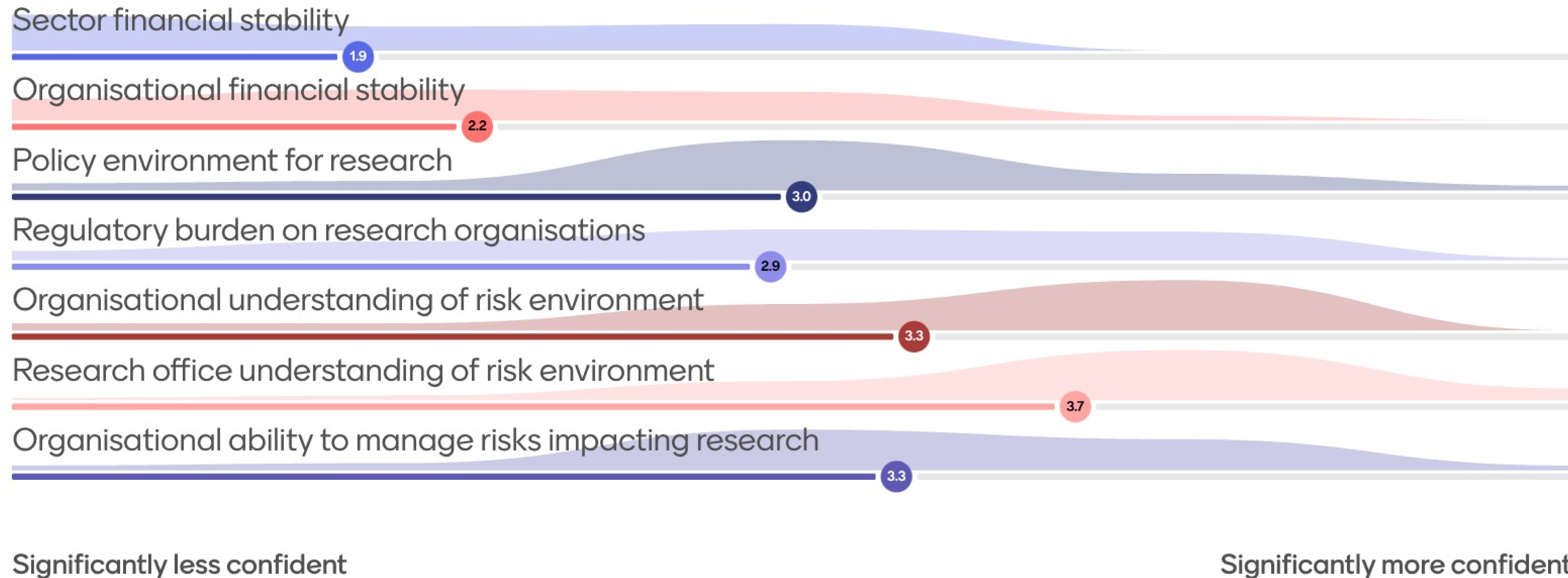


"This is perhaps where we got the most surprising response throughout the events."

How does the risk appetite of your institution now compare to 12 months ago?

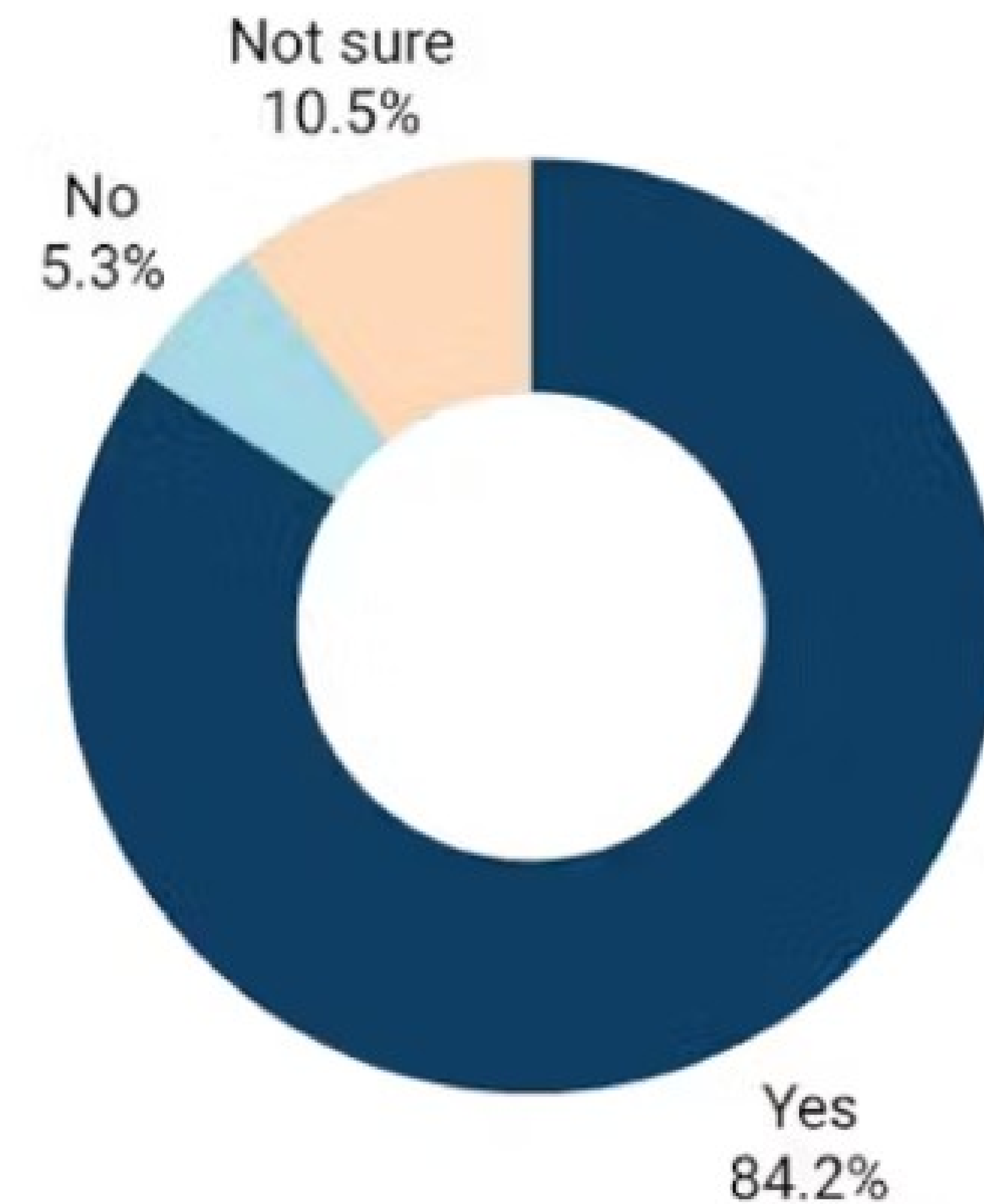


In the last 12 months, how has your confidence in the following changed?

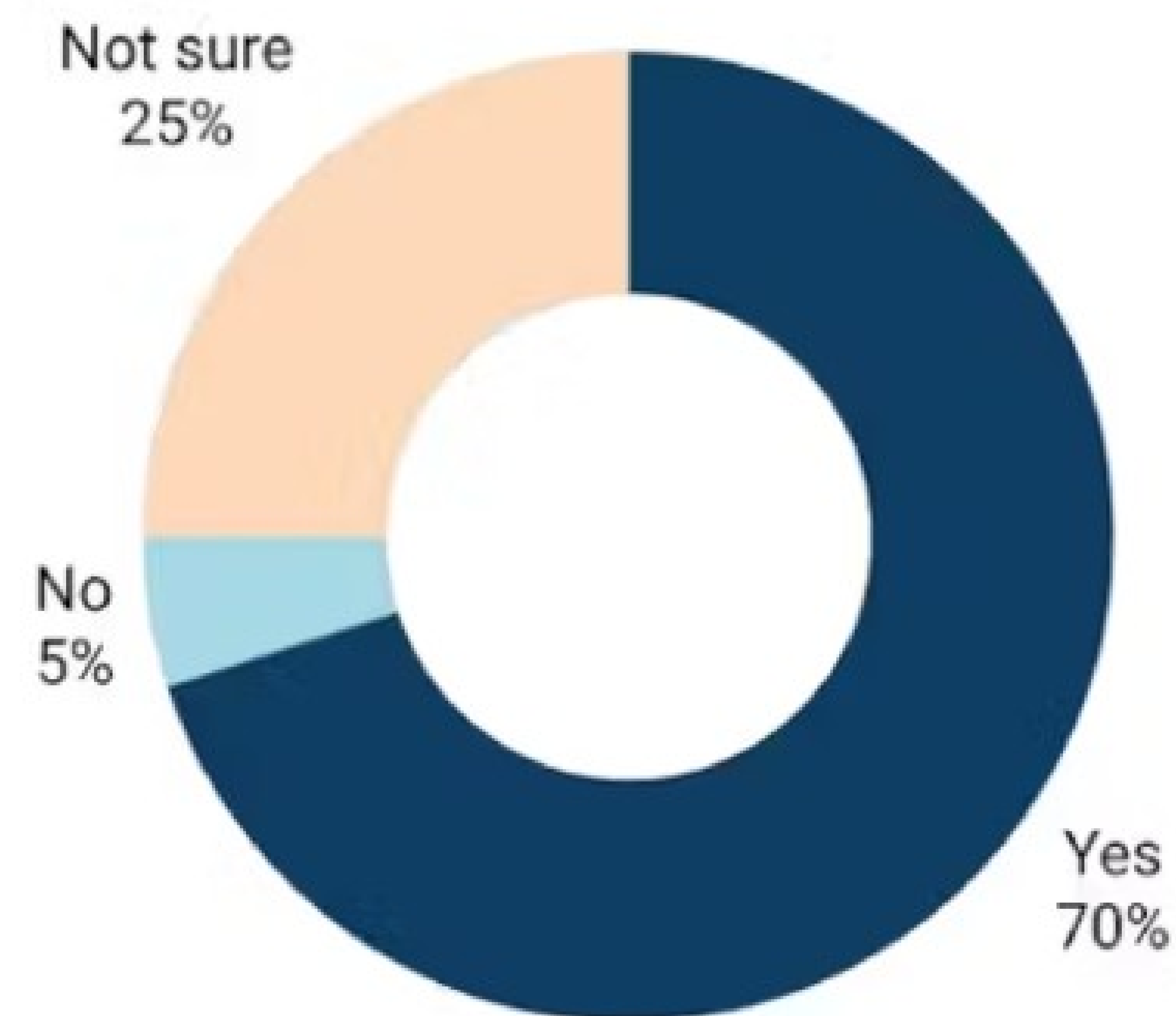


Solutions

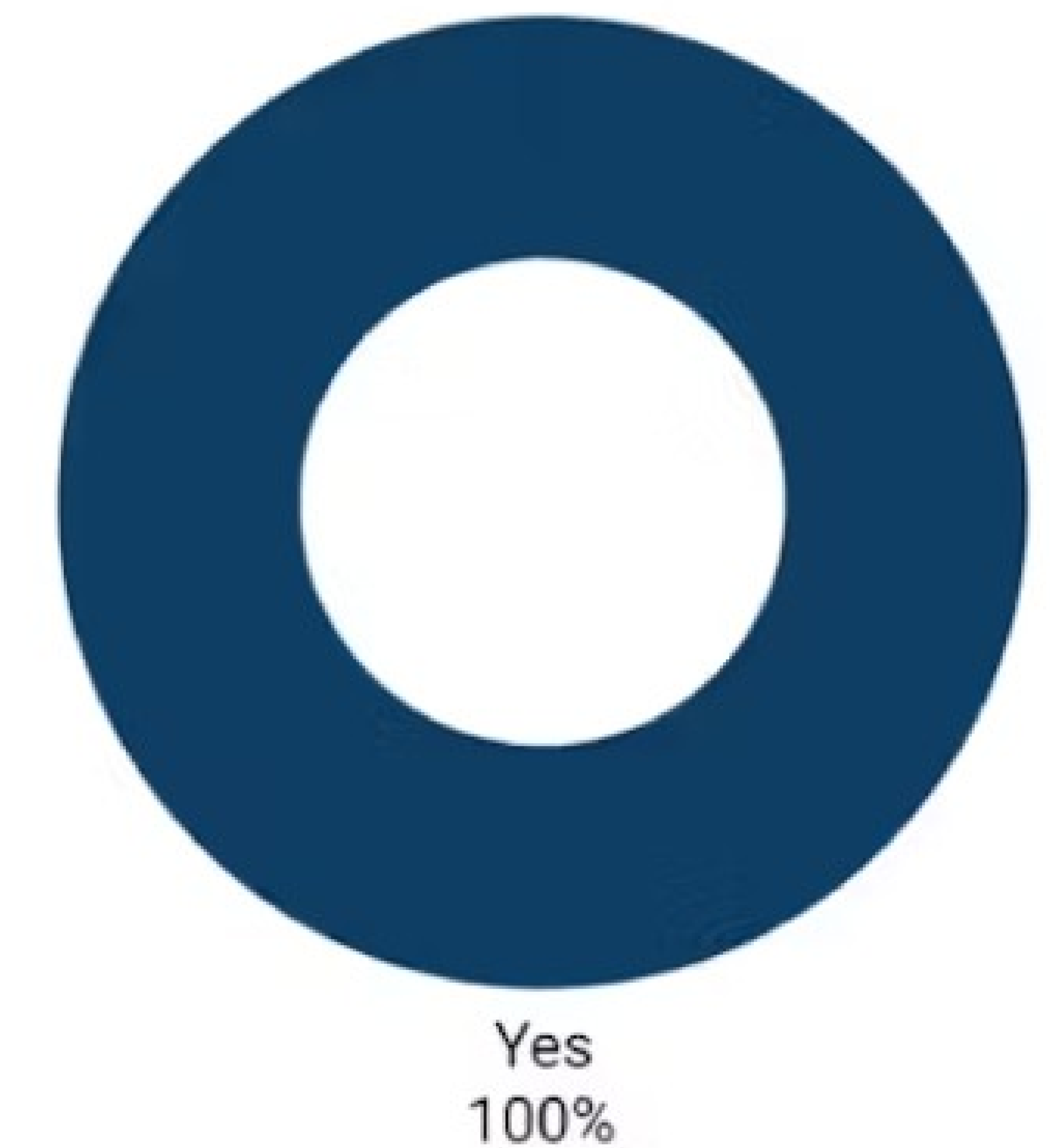
Do you believe a national system to support due diligence and research security requirements would have a positive impact for your institution?



Do you think the Complex Collaborations recommendations would have relevance where you are?



Would you like to see more international collaboration in this space?



Solutions

“These findings suggest that there is a strong appetite amongst the research management community for a centralised response to research security that supports the sector in making meaningful progress in operationalising research security measures.”

What are your key takeaways from today?

- Complexity
- Need for collaboration
- Research security is a journey
- Raise awareness of existing support

What resources do you think would be helpful to drive better practice across Europe?

- Templates and case studies
- Platform to support information sharing
- How to map research security risks

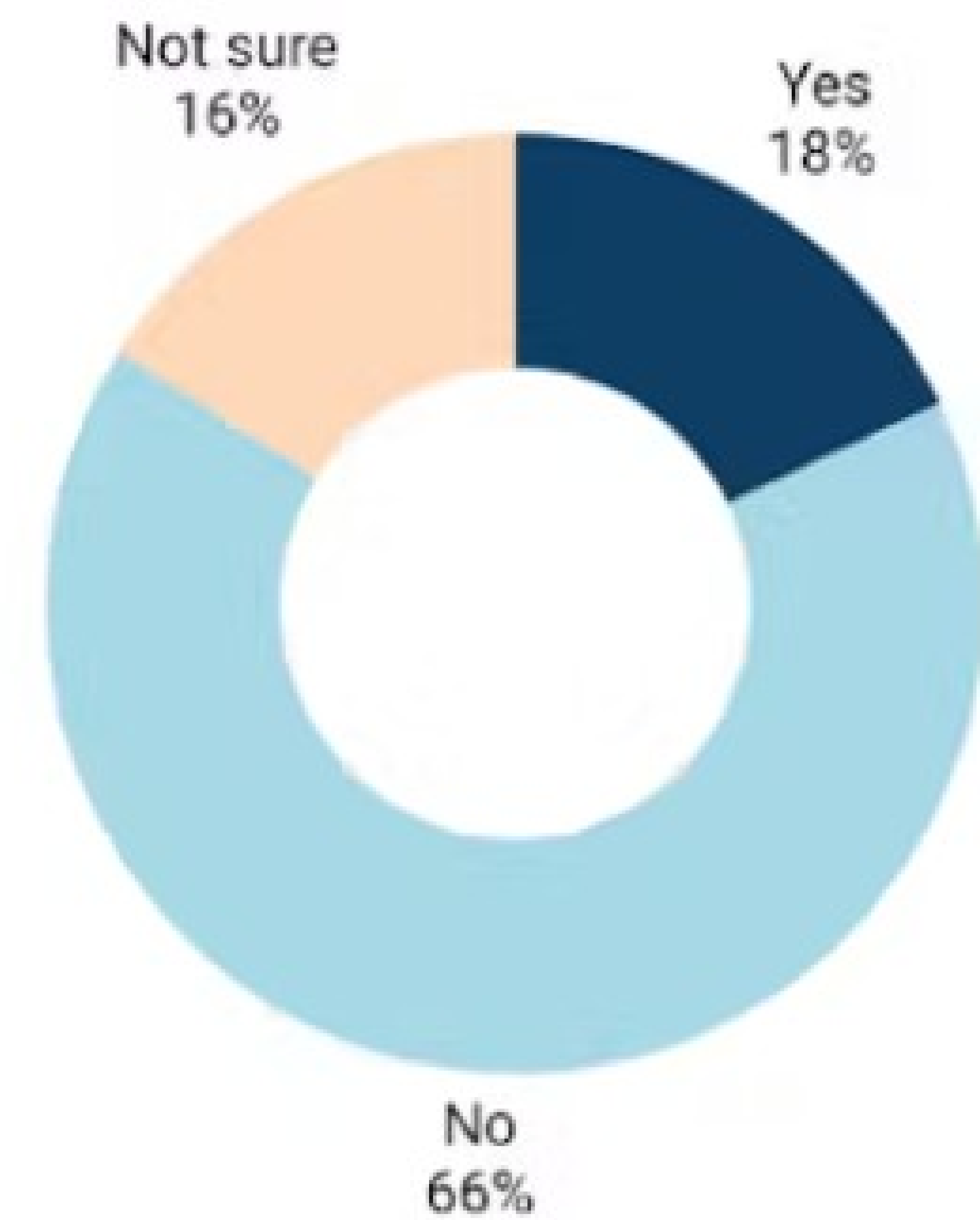
What topics would prioritise for a future event?

- Case studies
- Thematic risks in research collaboration
- How to implement research security in research organisations

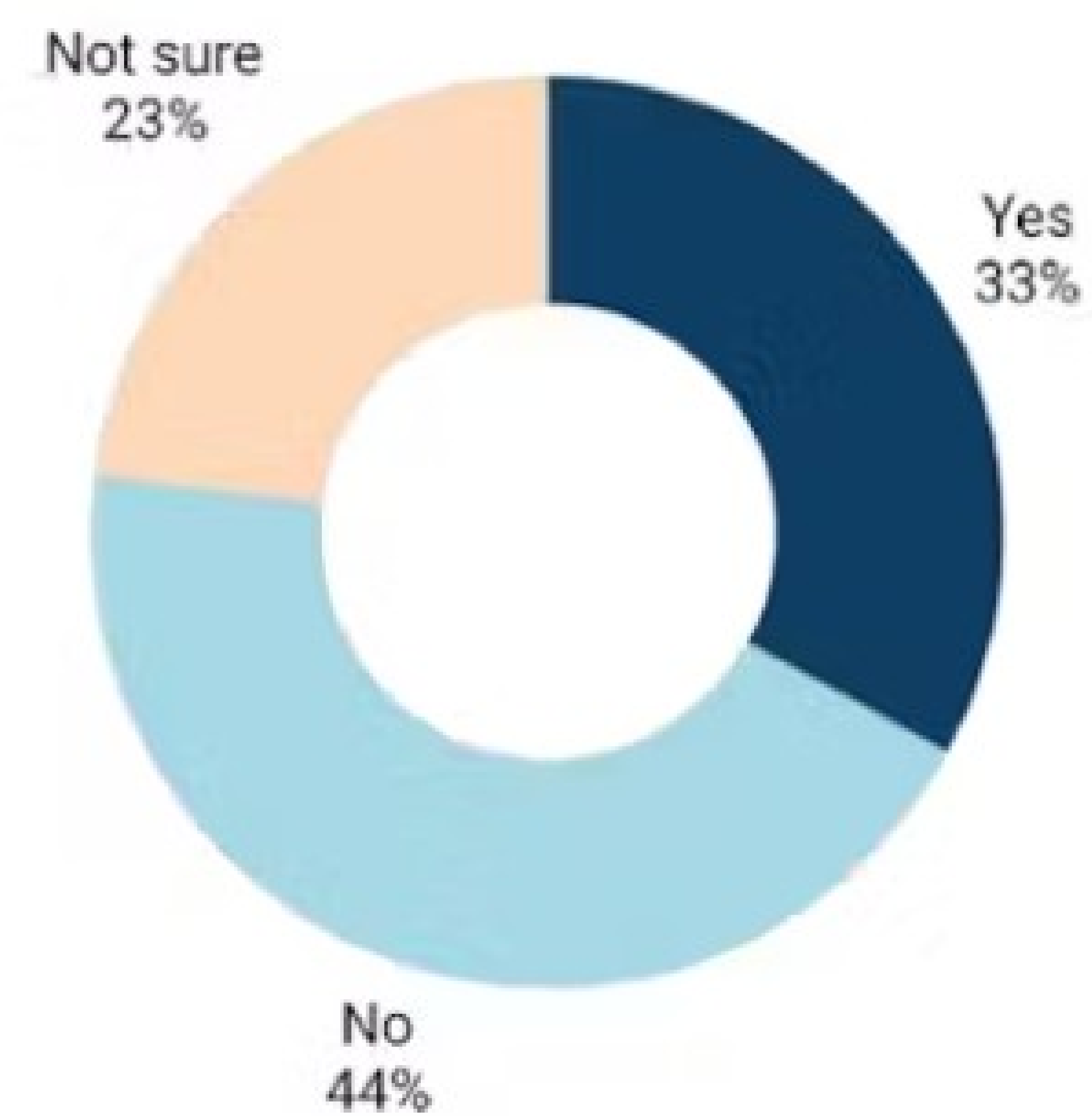
What opportunities for collaboration would you like to pursue together?

- Product demonstrations
- Develop an online repository for information sharing
- Legislative standardisation across Europe
- Equitable partnerships and impact on LMICs

Does your institution use a third party due diligence provider?

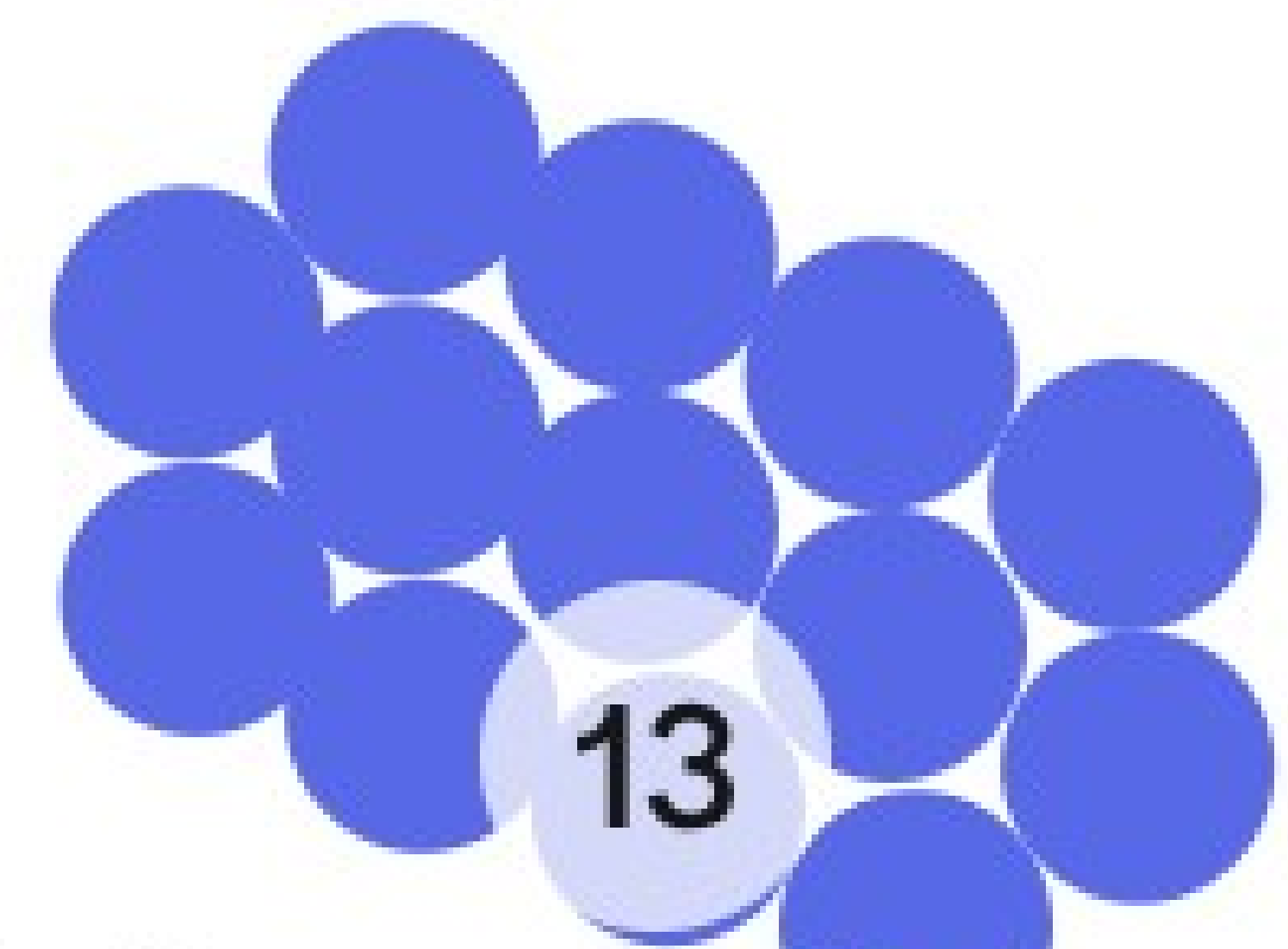


Does your institution use a bibliometric tool?



“[T]here is significant scope for driving efficiencies and effectiveness in practice across the European sector.”

As we progress next steps, what kind of events and resources would you like us to prioritise (up to 3)?



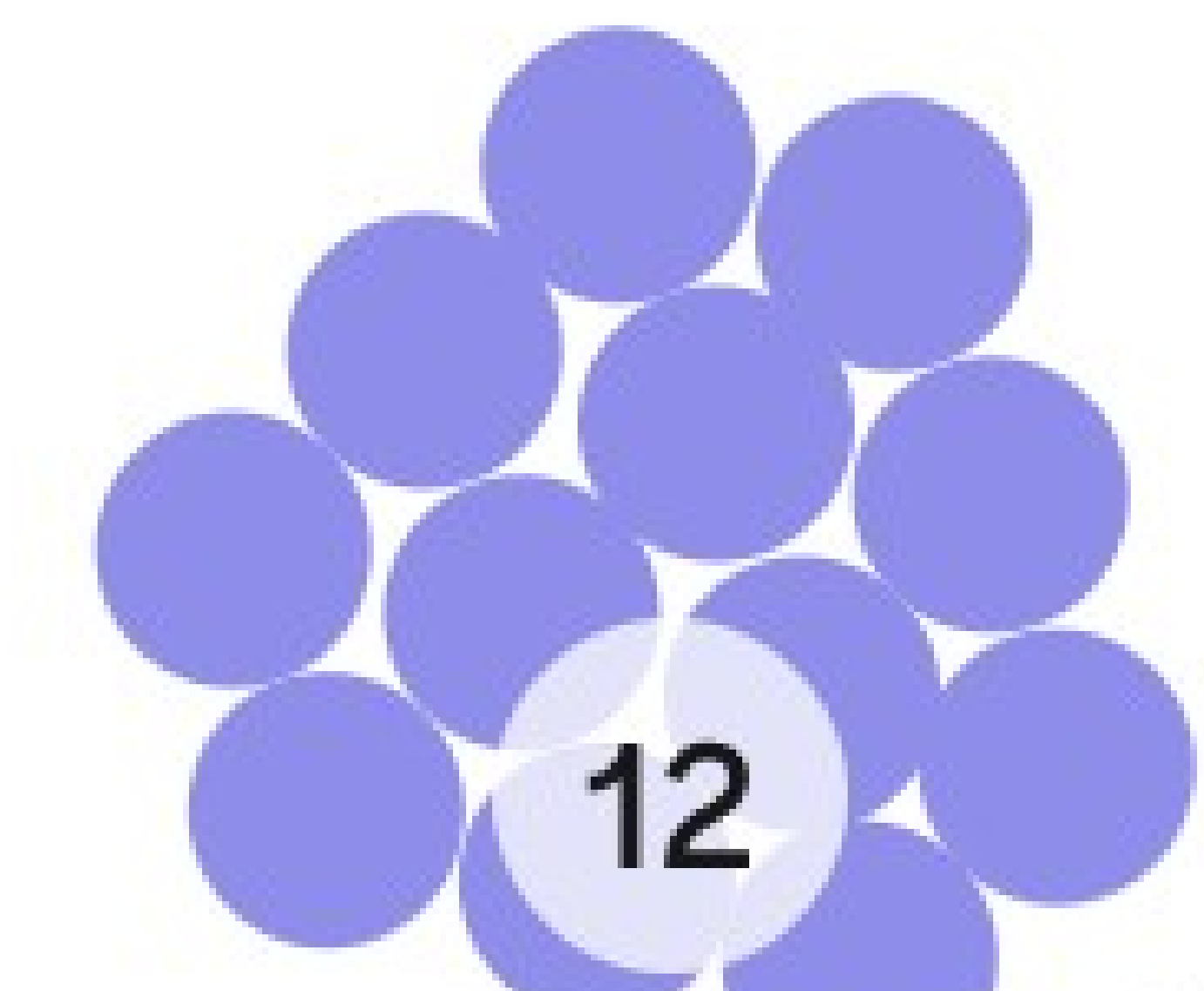
Online conference



In person conference



Online workshops



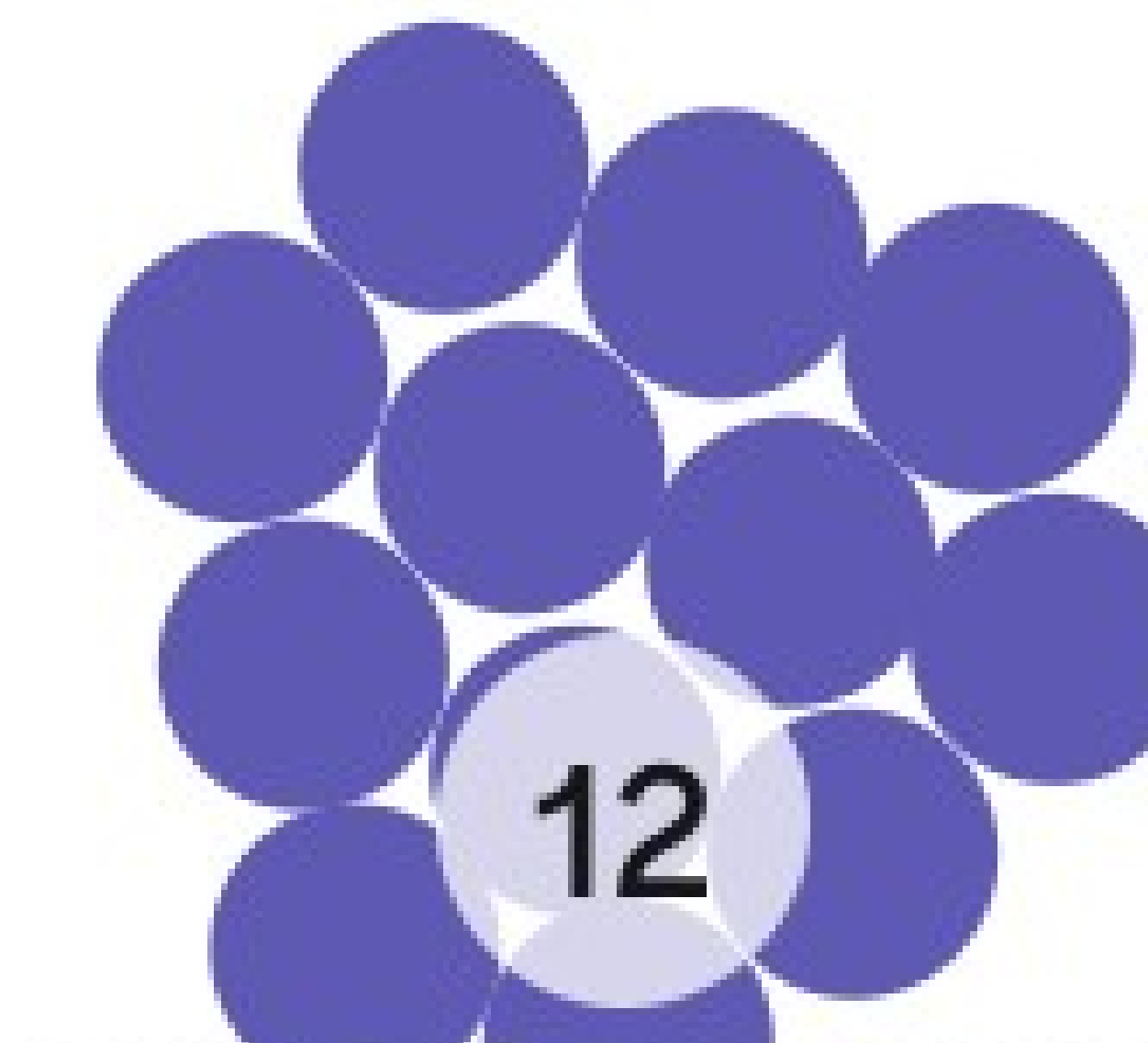
In person workshops



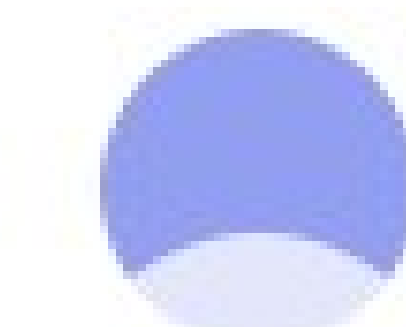
Knowledge webinars



Case studies

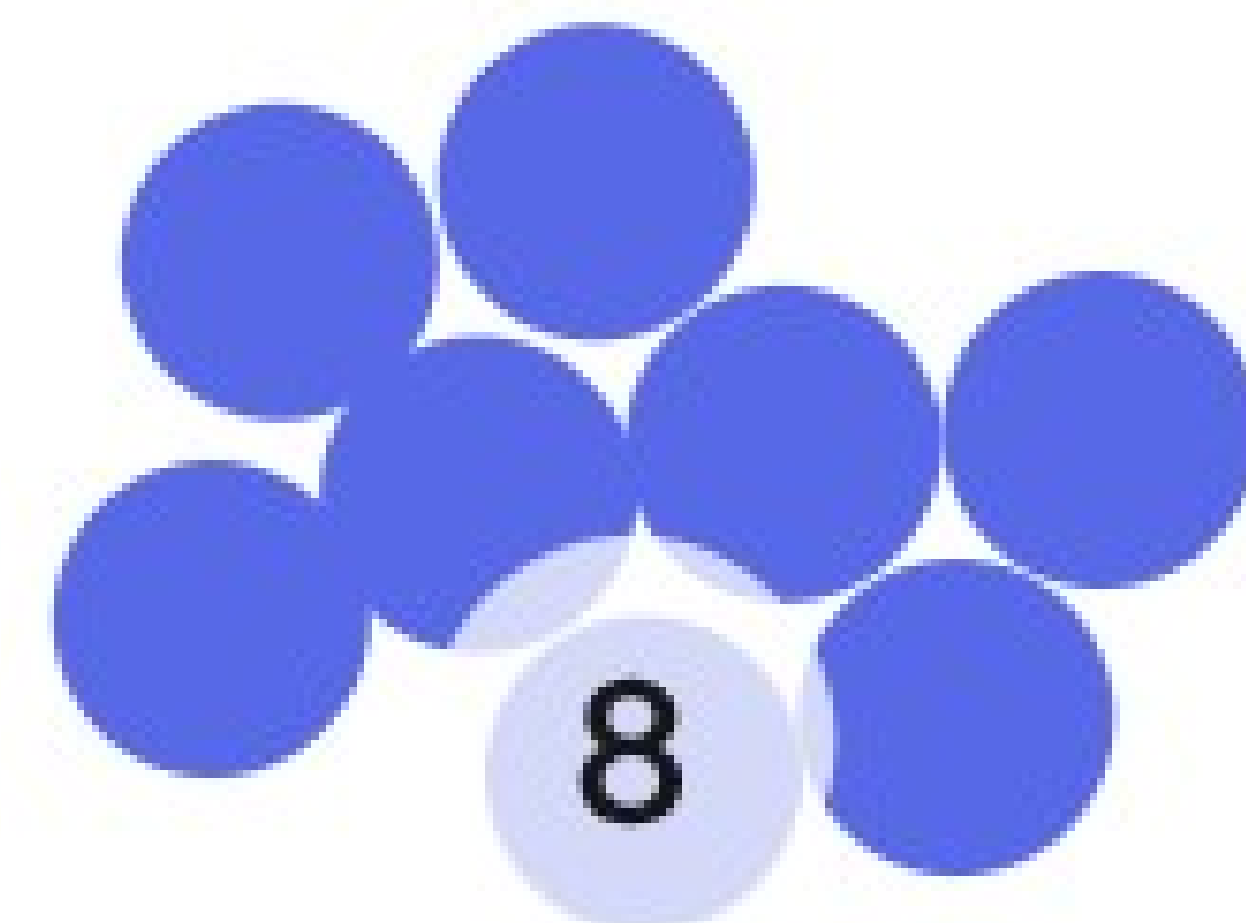


Discussion groups



Other

What topics are you most interested in (up to 3)?



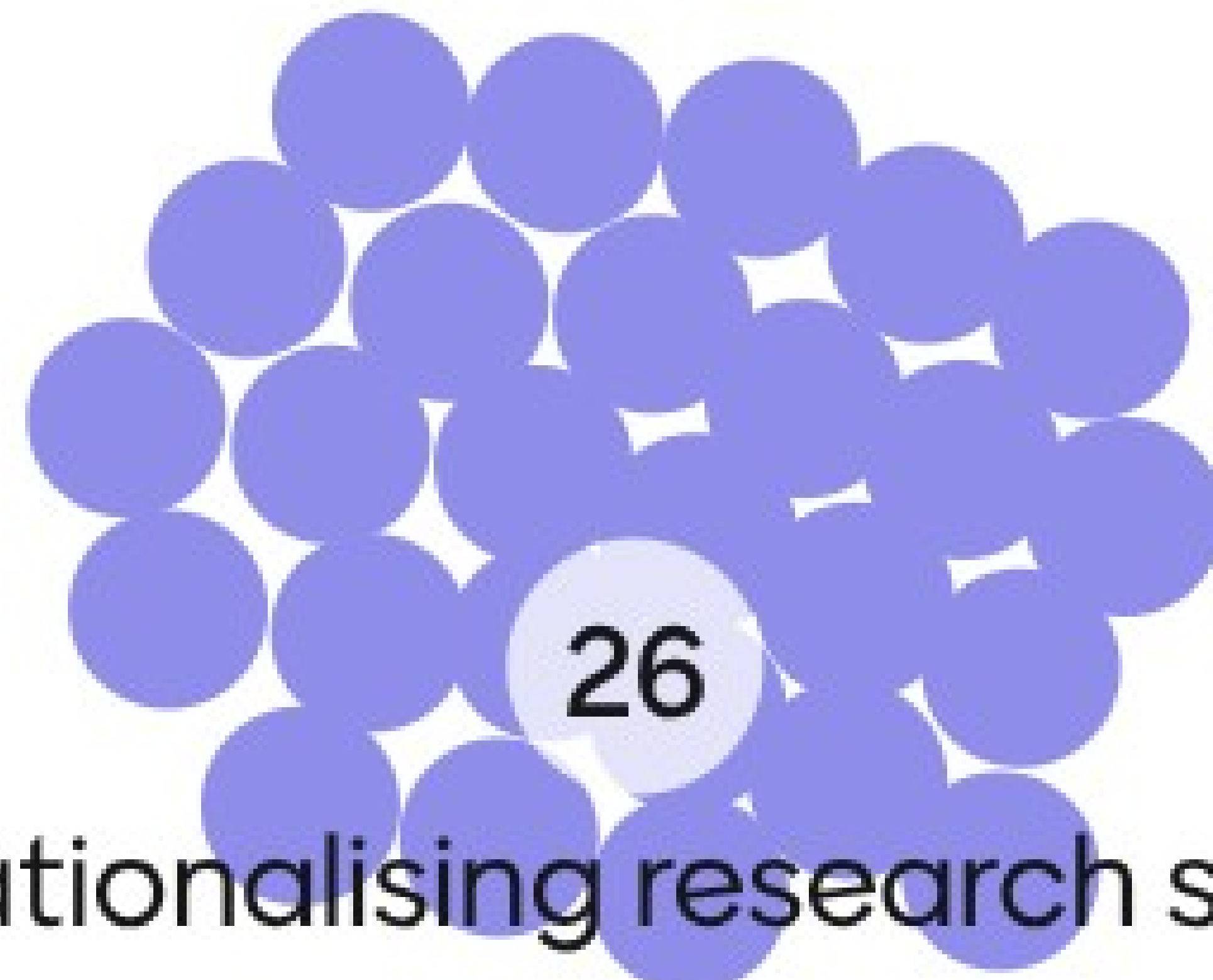
Train the trainer



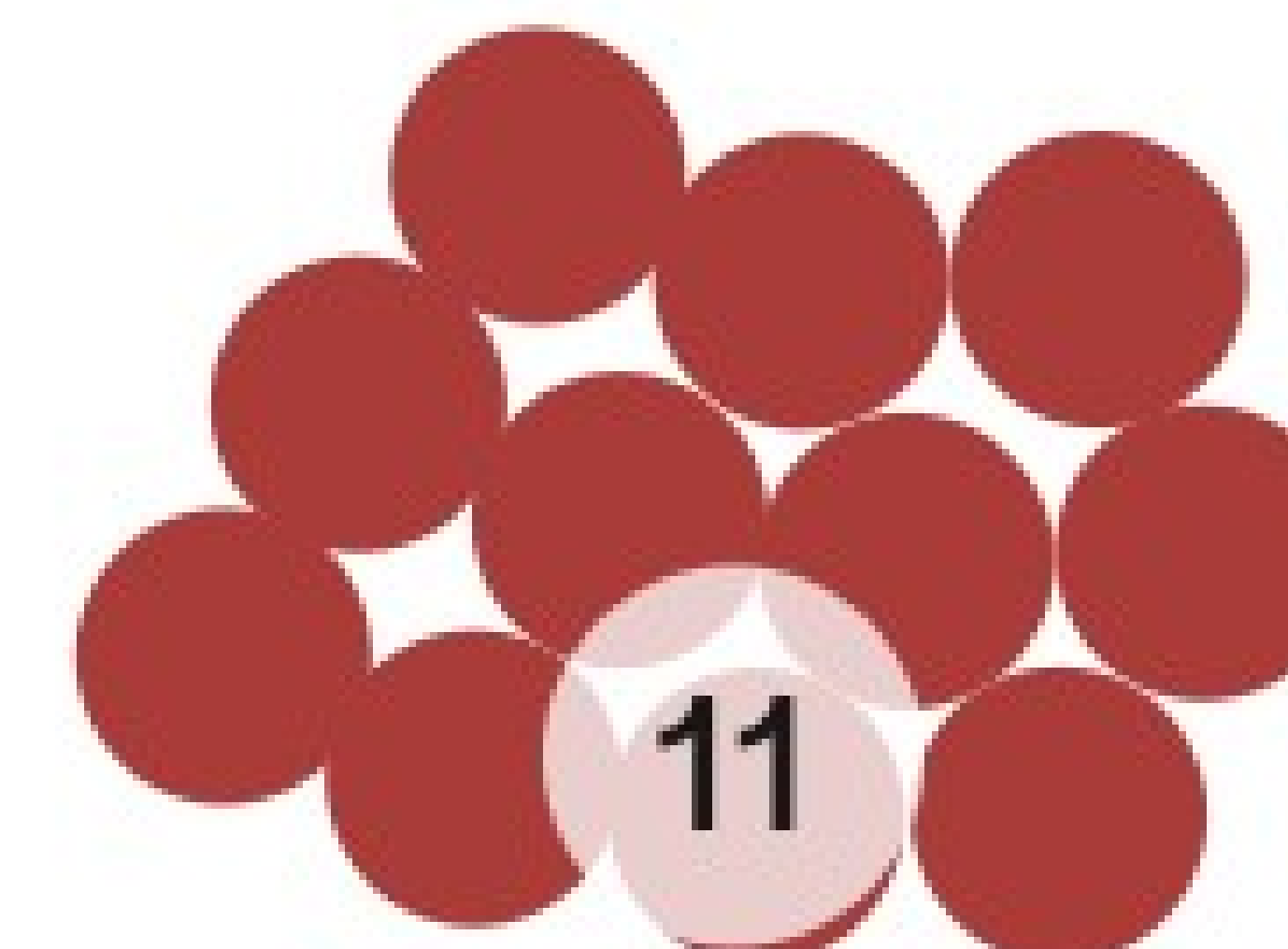
Systems for research risk management



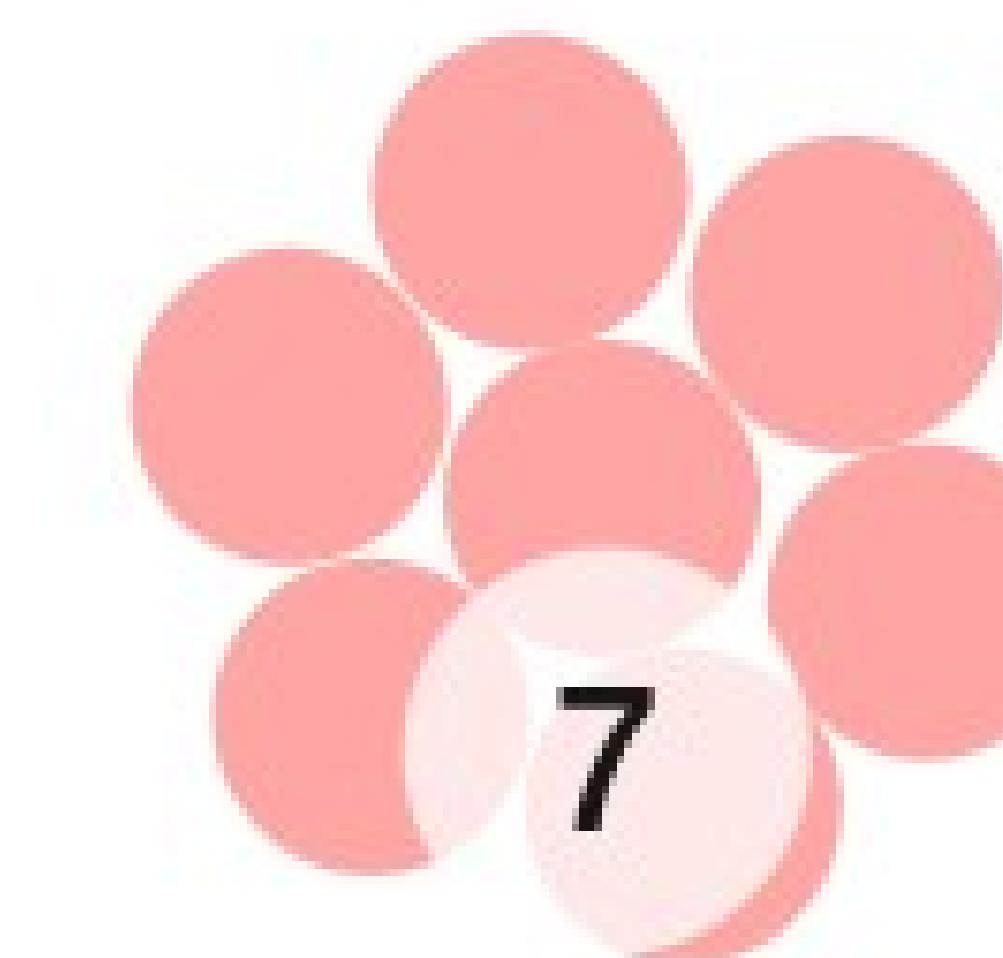
Understanding the threat landscape



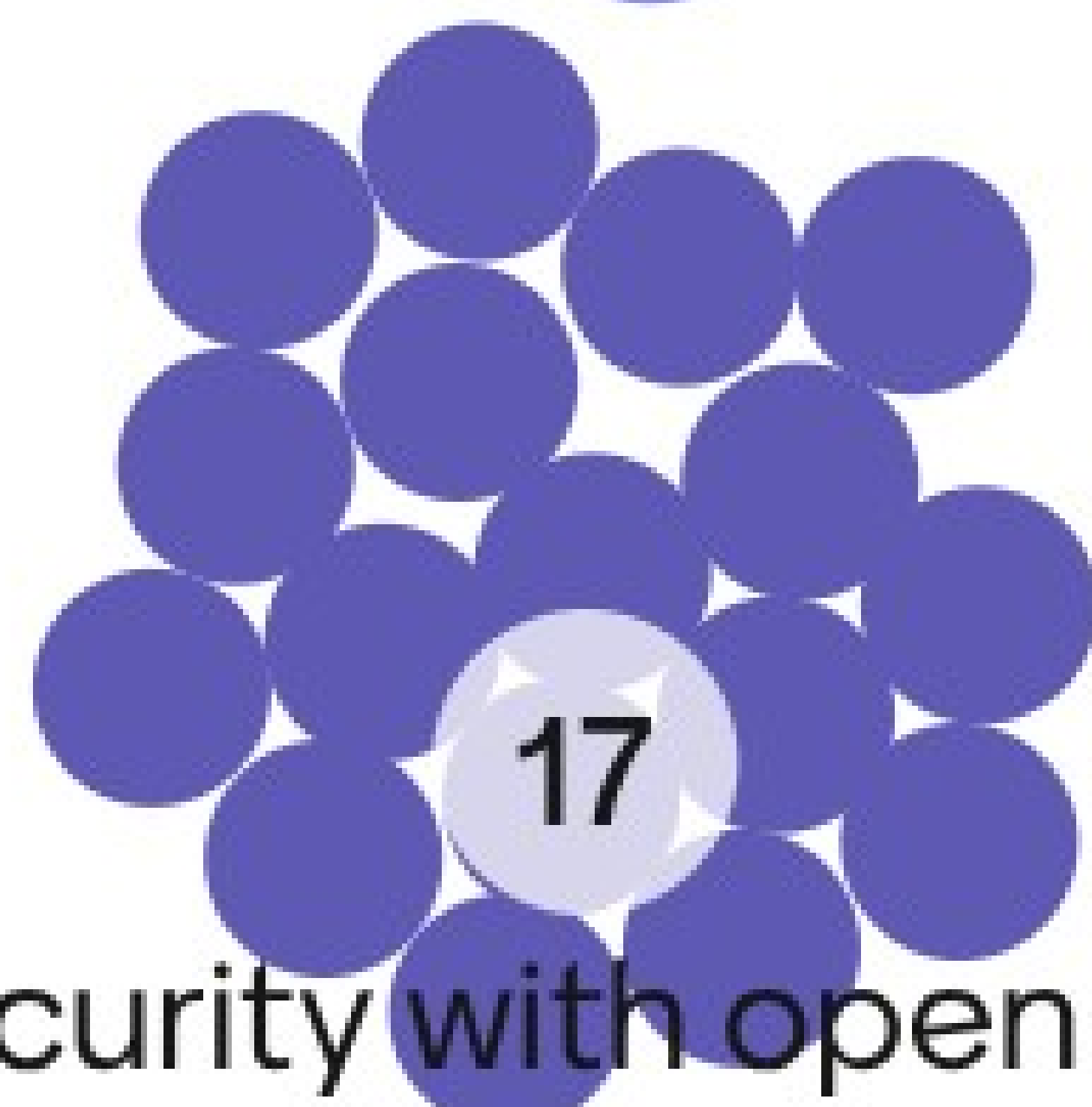
Operationalising research security



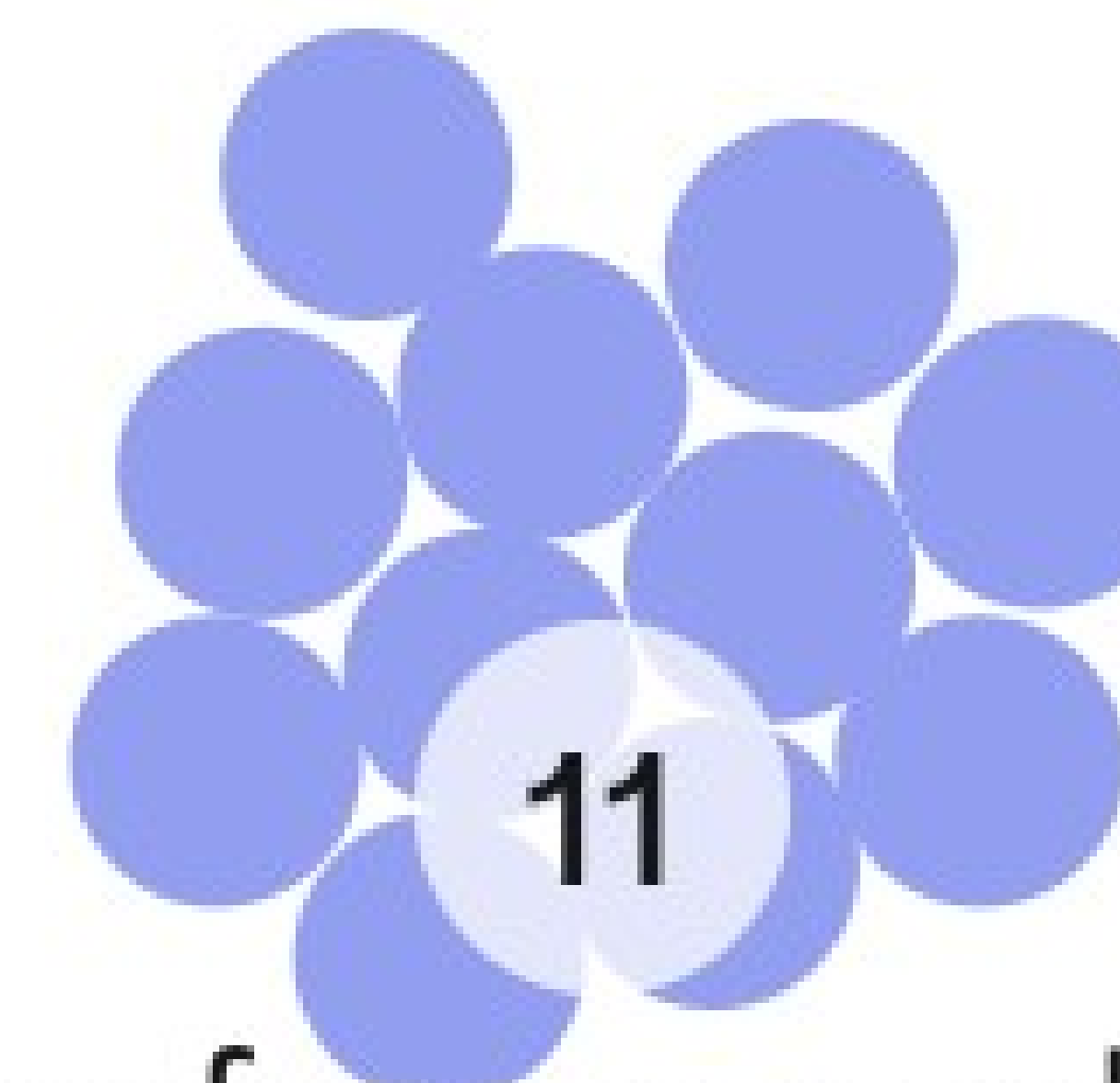
Defining your risk appetite



Secure innovation



Balancing security with open and equitable principles



Advocacy for research security

0

Other

Resources

Reports on research and innovation security in Europe	G7 Common values and principles on research security and integrity, G7 (2022)
	Complex Collaborations – Efficiency, Equity, Quality and Security in International Research, ARMA UK (2023)
	Sharing Best Practice and Lessons Learned: A Collaborative UK & EU Approach to Secure Internationalisation, HEECA (2023)
	Research security: building blocks for research approval, European Commission (2024)
	White paper on options for enhancing support for research and development involving technologies with dual-use potential, European Commission (2024)
	Securing the UK's AI Ecosystem, CETaS, Turing Institute (2025)
	Policy Recommendation on Research Security in Romania (2025)
	The EU research security initiative: implications for the application of export controls in academia and research institutes, EU (2025)
	From Awareness to Action: Research Security in Czech and European Academia (2025)
	European research security: threat perspectives and the responses of policy makers and research performing organisations (2025)

National guidelines for research and innovation security in Europe	Trusted research and innovation, United Kingdom (2019)
	Responsible internationalisation: Guidelines for reflection on international academic collaboration, Sweden (2020)
	Counter Foreign Interference Manual for the Czech Academic Sector, Czech Republic (2021)
	Guidelines for international research and innovation cooperation, Denmark (2022)
	Integrity and security in the global research ecosystem, OECD (2022)
	National knowledge security guidelines, Netherlands (2022)
	Summary of French Legislation and Guidance by Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France (2024)
	Position paper of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research on research security in light of the Zeitenwende, Germany (2024)
	Guidelines and tools for responsible international knowledge cooperation, Norway (2025)

Tools for research and innovation security management	Academic Freedom Index
	Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) Defence Tracker
	Bellingcat
	Canada STRAC Named Research Organizations
	EU TRUST tools
	European Union Sanctions
	Fragile State Index
	Iran Watch
	Open Corporates
	TIM Dual-Use Database
	Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index
	UK Sanctions
	United Nations Human Rights Index (UHR)
	US Entity List

Conclusions

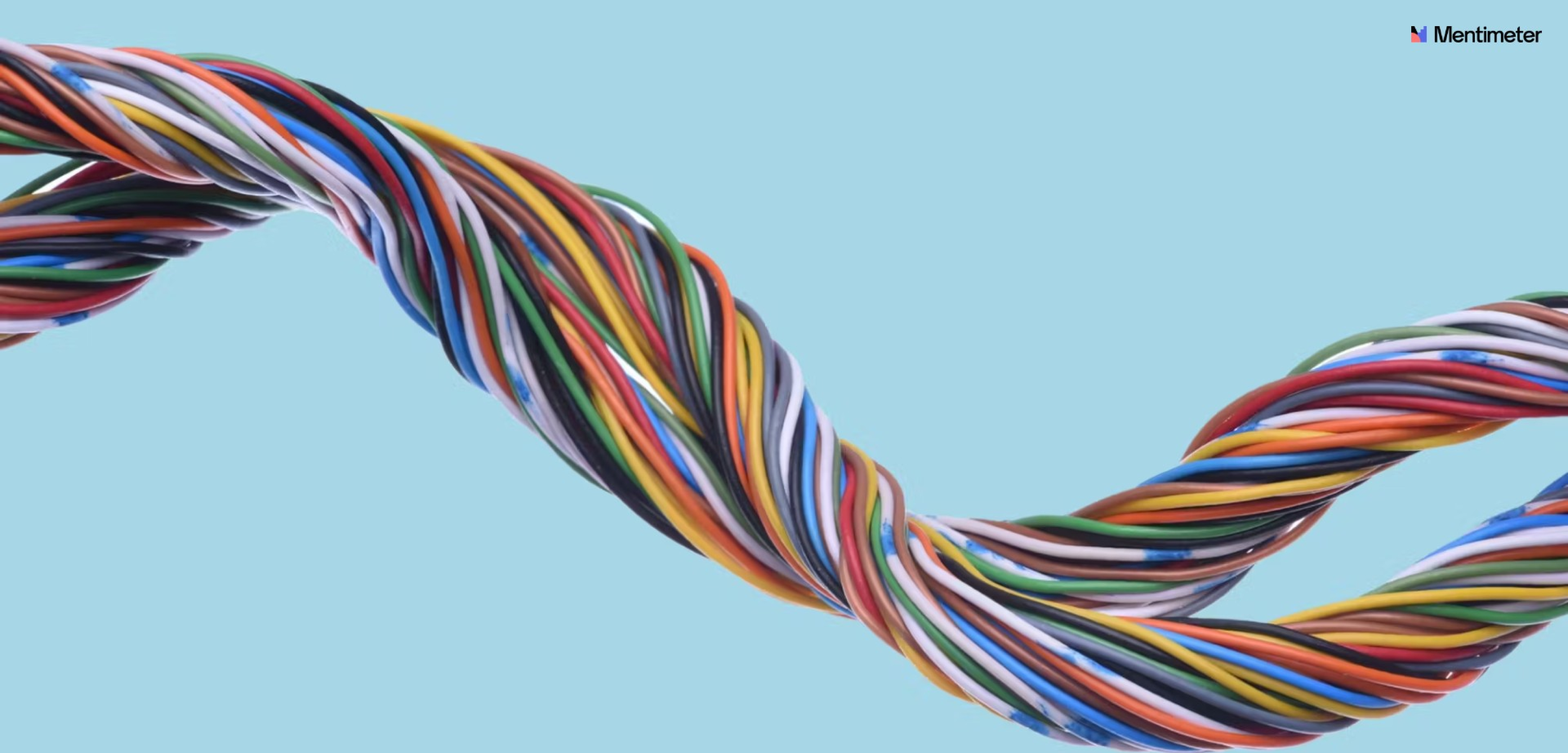
- There has been progress in this space across Europe and maturity levels are increasing
- That progress has been uneven - we have a collective interest in ensuring that research organisations across Europe are moving forward together
- There are common challenges in operationalising research security such as the need for advocacy, resources and specialist skills
- There are also challenges in balancing the security agenda with other risk factors such as financial sustainability, equality and academic freedom
- There are a wide range of open-source and commercial tools available – currently both awareness and usage appear low and addressing this could drive greater efficiency and effectiveness
- There is an opportunity for greater cooperation in training, development and knowledge exchange to drive better practice

“Stronger cooperation across the European landscape is critical to creating safer partnerships amongst nations who collaborate deeply and share common interests and goals.”

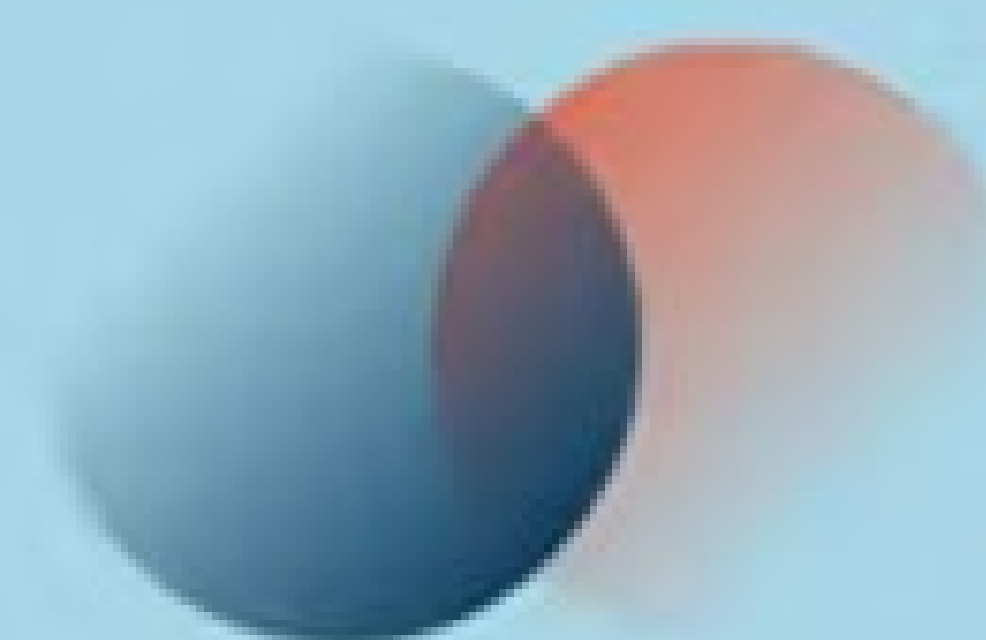
Do you have any questions or feedback for us?

1 question
0 upvotes





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FORMATION



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