



Pilot for Centralised Impact Assessment of EU Co-Funded Projects

Angus Hunter
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By the middle of 2015, around 4500 transnational projects had been funded by the P2P networks' representing a combined investment of some Euro 5 billion. The 2016 ERA-LEARN Annual Report indicates that the volume has now increased to over 5000 projects. But what is the impact of this huge investment? The simple answer is that no one knows but the question is becoming increasingly important to the future sustainability of both national and EU funding for P2P actions



ERA-LEARN 2020 Objectives

1. Provide a **web-based information, learning and support platform for P2P to avoid duplication of efforts**
2. Support the ongoing **optimisation of P2P networks** by expanding the FP7 ERA-LEARN learning toolbox to include the wider activities of joint programming, particularly the Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), the Art.185 initiatives and the Horizon 2020 ERA-NET Cofund instrument, as well as their associated impacts;
3. Implement a **systematic process for monitoring & impact assessment of P2P networks, including their impacts at the policy, programme and co-funded RTD project-level;**
4. Assess and **benchmark current approaches to alignment** and explore **options for new modalities** that will better align national and/or regional activities under common research agendas;
5. Implement an **annual cycle of knowledge exchange** aimed at increasing the impact of investment in P2P activities and exploring options to **support less research intensive countries.**

Develop/test proposed methodology and common framework early 2017

WP3: Tasks and Deliverables

Task 3.1: Annual monitoring of networks (Optimat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D3.1: Data collection strategy and methodology (M3)• D3.2: Annual report on monitoring and impact assessment (M10, M22, M34)
Task 3.2: Impact assessment of networks (UNIMAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D3.3: Policy briefs (M8, M20, M32)• D3.4: Updated report on the impact of networks (M22)
Task 3.3: Impact assessment of EU co-funded projects (Optimat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D3.5: Strategy for full scale implementation of project-level impact assessment (M30)
Task 3.4: Guidance material on impact assessment for P2P (UNIMAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D3.6: Guide on the conduct and use of impact assessment for P2P networks (M18)

Develop strategy by June 2017

Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring and impact assessment of networks

Reference Library

Tools for internal review of participation in networks

NETWATCH archive

Reference Library

The following provides some examples of monitoring and assessment reports that have been produced by several mature P2P networks. We welcome additional examples from other networks to support mutual learning.

ARTICLE 185 on METROLOGY (EMRP/EMPIR)

The Article 185 on Metrology was originally established under FP7 as the 'European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP)' and continues as the 'European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR)' under Horizon 2020. Annual calls on various topics (e.g. industry, energy, environment, health) have been launched every year since 2009. Monitoring and assessment of Joint Research Projects is an important activity. Project-specific data is collected using a cumulative 'Output and Impact Report' and case study reports have been published at both the project and thematic level.

- [Output and Impact Report Template](#)
- [Energy Impact Report: February 2016](#) (projects funded under the 2009 EMRP Call)

BiodivERsA

This ERA-NET on biodiversity and ecosystem services has been active since 2005 and has launched six joint calls since 2008. The current phase is supported through a Horizon 2020 ERA-NET Cofund Action. It has carried out an evaluation to assess the extent to which projects funded by BiodivERsA are able to effectively deliver high-profile academic products, while fruitfully engaging with relevant stakeholders and delivering a range of society-relevant products.

- [Analysis of the outputs of BiodivERsA funded projects](#) (2008 Joint Call)

ICT-AGRI

The ICT-AGRI network is concerned with enabling precision farming by means of ICT and robotics. It was originally established in 2009 as an ERA-NET Coordination Action under FP7. The follow on ICT-AGRI-2 project started in 2014 and will continue until 2017. In 2015, the consortium developed an impact model to assess the achievements of the funded projects, and of the funding initiative itself, and also an online questionnaire to collect data from applicants.

Observations

- Small number of examples
 - Networks, National Agencies
- Differences in approach and terminology
 - Some similarities but no obvious convergence
- Strong interest amongst ERA-NET Cofunds
 - Around 50% have specific task
 - Various options to provide ERA-LEARN Platform functionality
- Long period from ‘Joint Call-to-Impact’
 - At least five years from closure date

NEEDS COMMON FRAMEWORK

Indicator Categories (project level)

- Scientific
- Innovation
- Economic
- Cultural
- Societal
- Policy
- Organisational
- Health
- Environmental
- Symbolic
- Training

Data Collection Pilot (Methodology)

- Partnership with PLATFORM
 - Focus on networks with projects that finished during (or before) 2016
 - Limited choice
- Three networks agreed to participate
 - CORE ORGANIC II 
 - SUSFOOD 
 - ERA-IB-2 
- Questionnaire finalised early 2017
- Survey launched April/May
 - Invitation from the network
 - Data submitted via the ERA-LEARN portal (email link)

Common Framework Questions

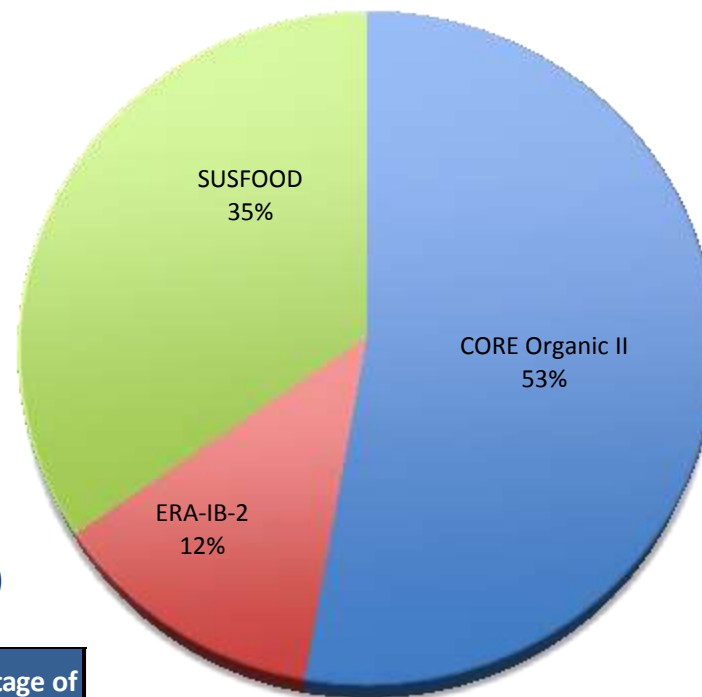
1. What is the name of your organisation?
2. To what extent did the following opportunities motivate your organisation to participate in the project?
3. To what extent was the transnational project opportunity superior to participating in a similar project with only national partners in your country?
4. To what extent did your organisation have prior experience of international research and/or innovation funding schemes?
5. Based on your response to Q4, if you have some significant experience of EU Framework Programmes to what extent do you agree with the following?
6. What have been the main exploitable outcomes of the project for your organisation?
7. Have you produced any peer reviewed papers based on the knowledge developed within the specific transnational project?
8. Have you applied (or intend to apply) for patent protection regarding any of the intellectual assets from the project?
9. What are the expected impacts on your organisation from participating in the specific transnational project (i.e. how will your organisation benefit from the exploitable outputs)?
10. How do you judge the level of achievement of the impacts on your organisation until now compared with your original expectations?
11. To what extent do you anticipate any of the following beneficial impacts beyond your organisation?
12. To what extent would you agree with the following statements about key factors that may have affected the course of your project?
13. What do you consider to be the top three benefits from your participation in the specific transnational project?

Number of Responses

76 responses received

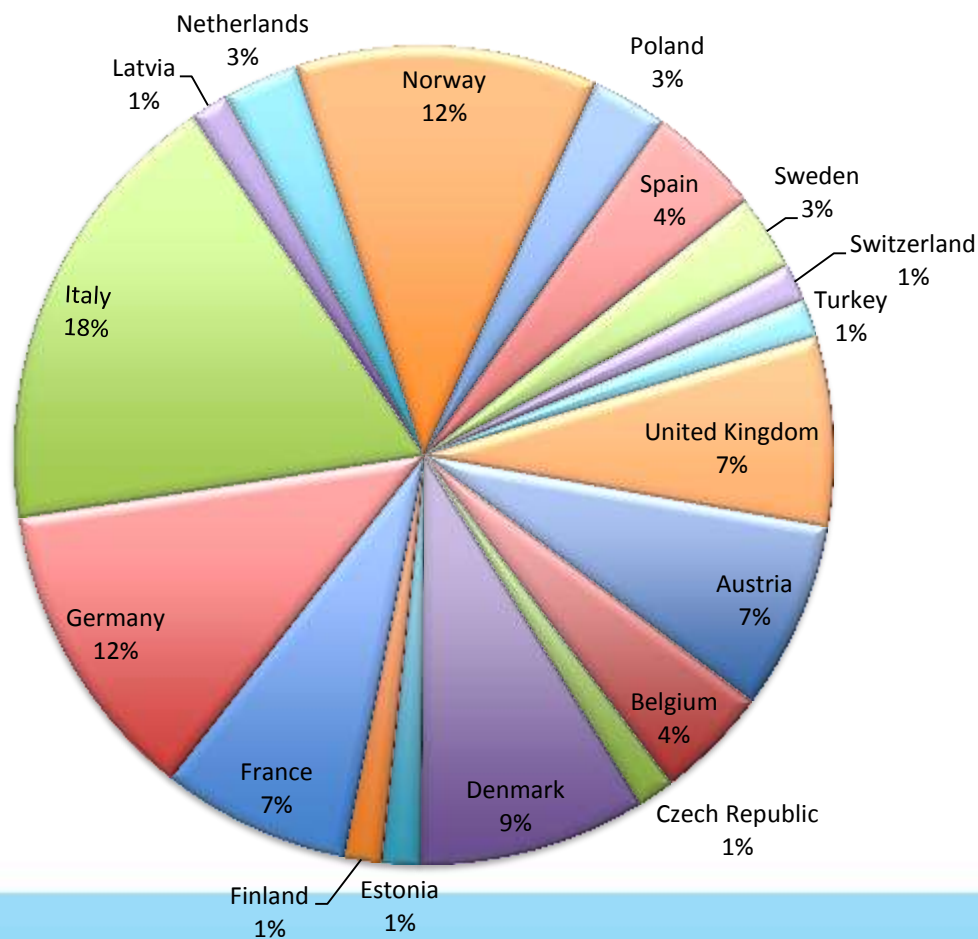
27% response rate overall

(4 responses cannot be attributed to a network)

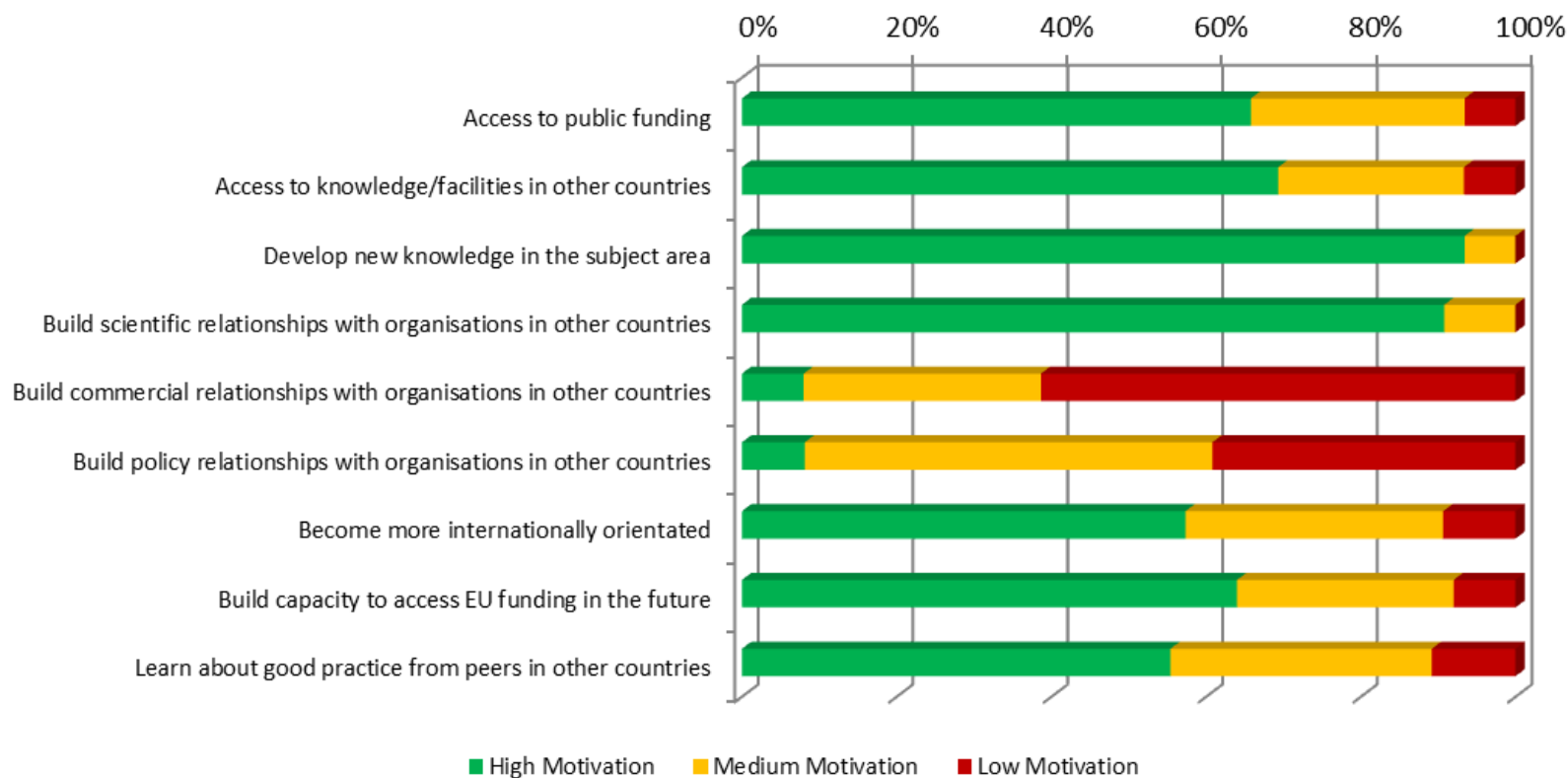


Network	Participants Surveyed	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
CORE Organic II	168	38	23%
ERA-IB-2	67	9	13%
SUSFOOD	51	25	49%

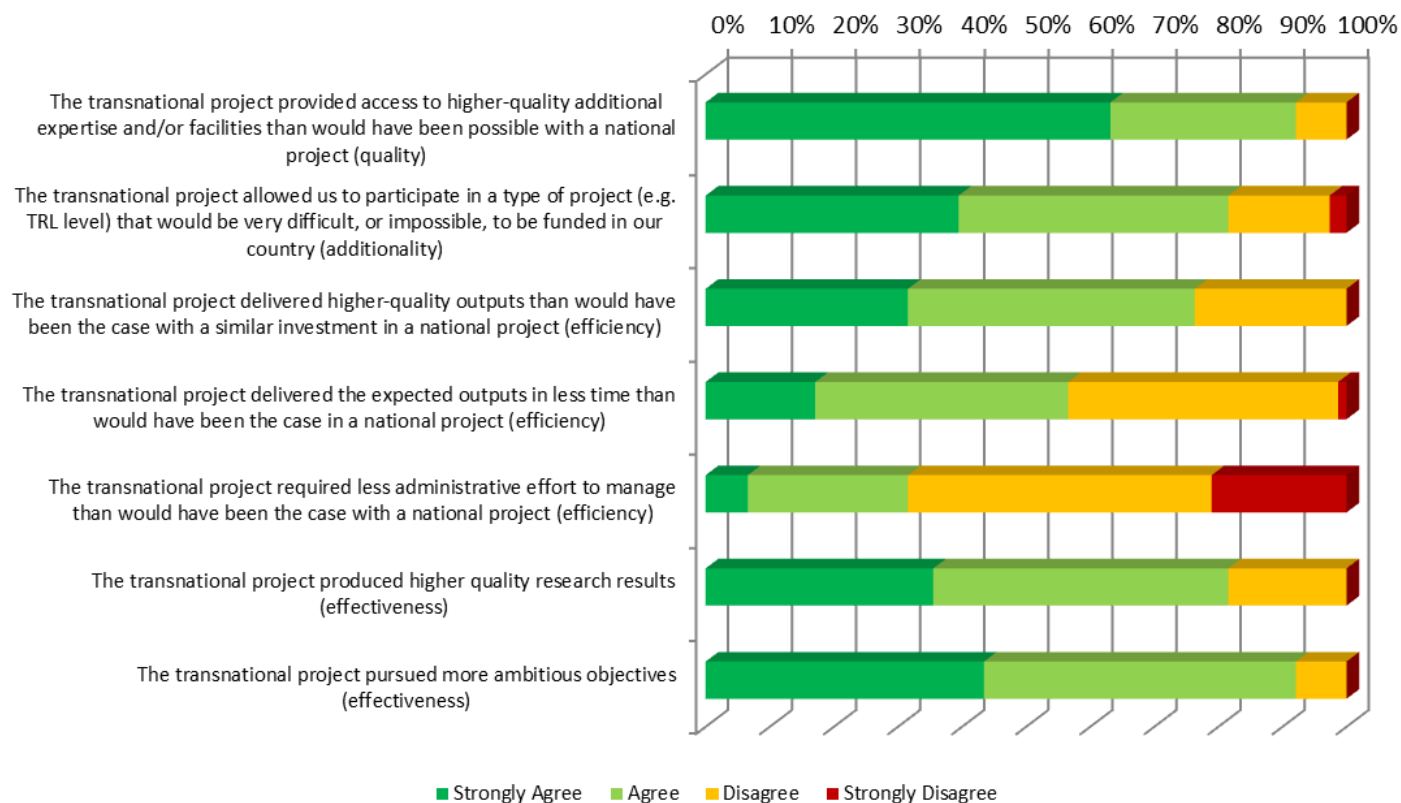
Distribution of Responses, by Country



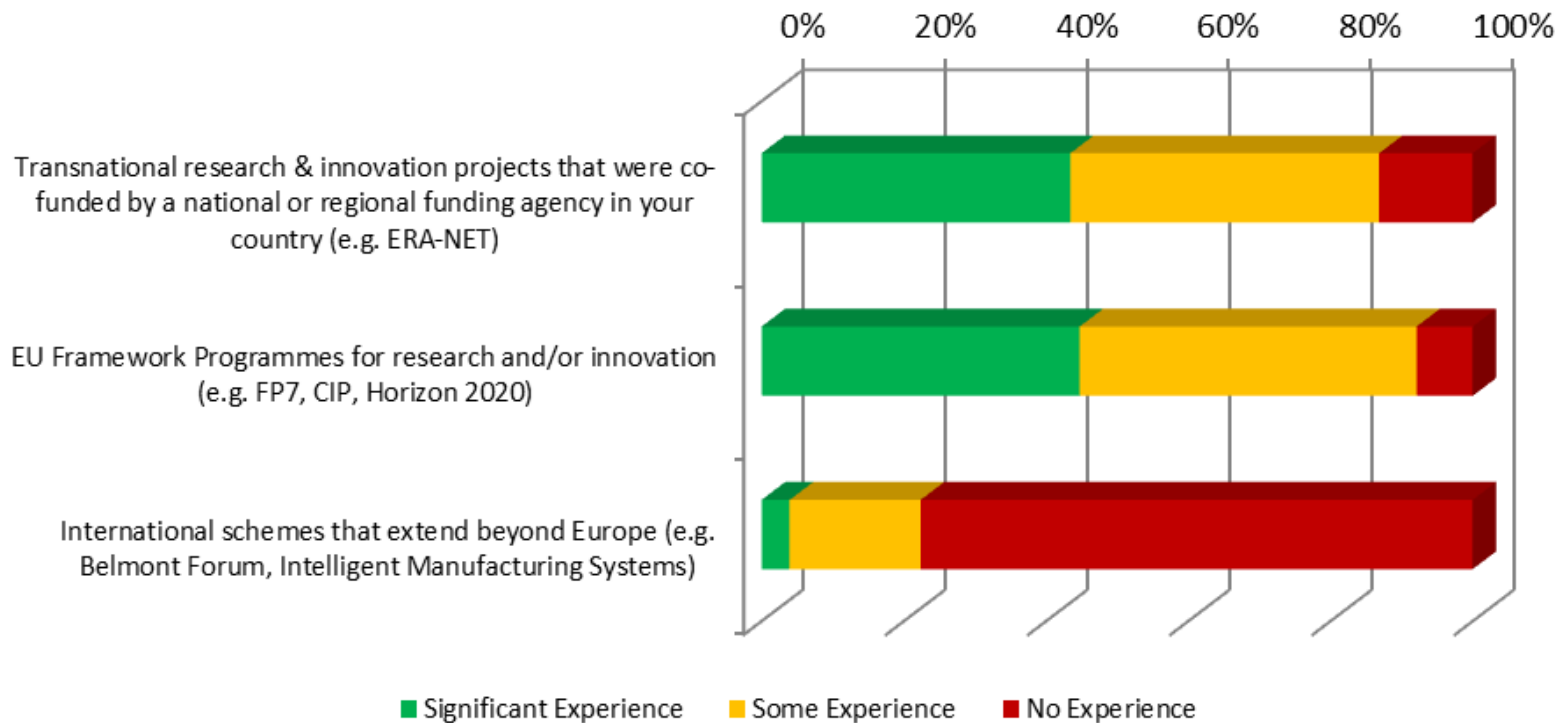
Q2: To what extent did the following opportunities motivate your organisation to participate in the project?



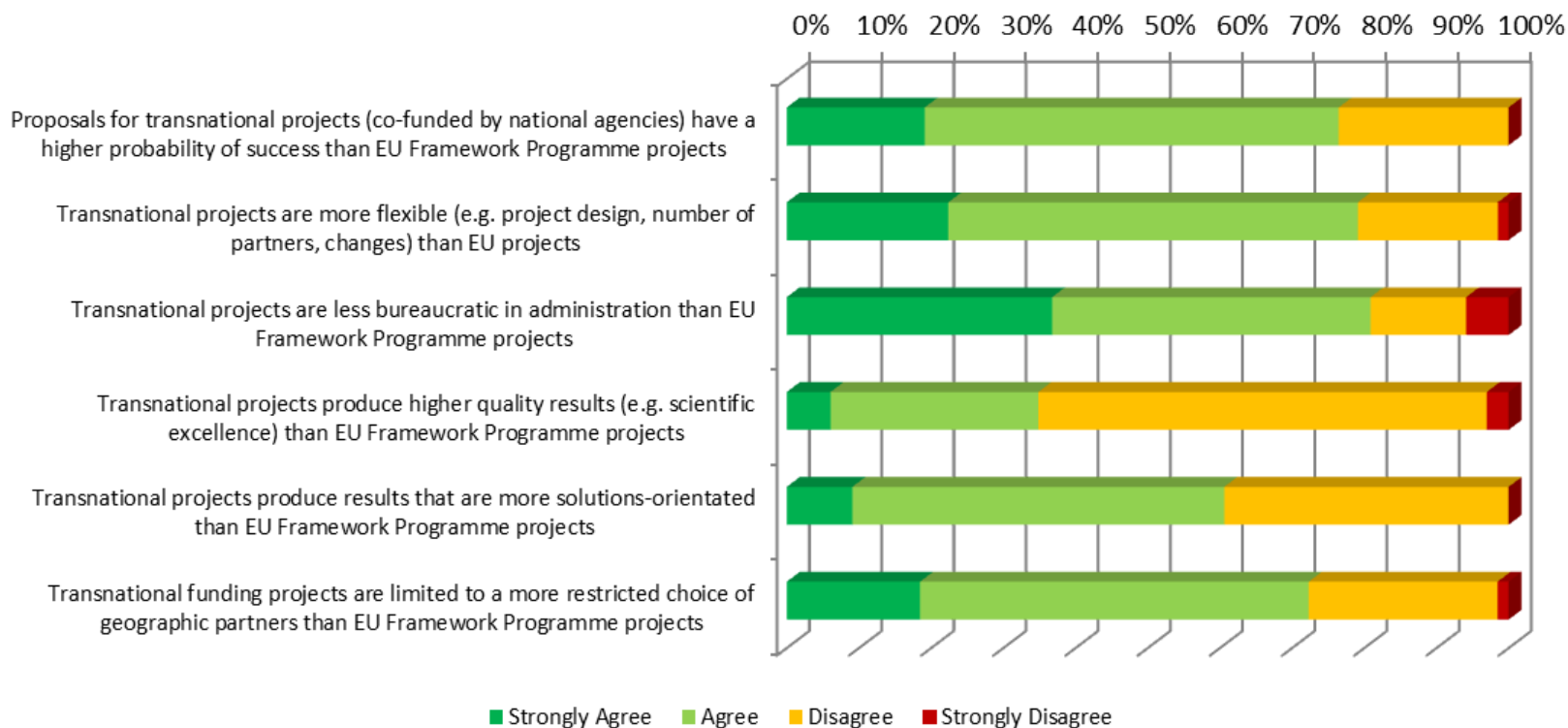
Q3: To what extent was the transnational project opportunity superior to participating in a similar project with only national partners in your country?



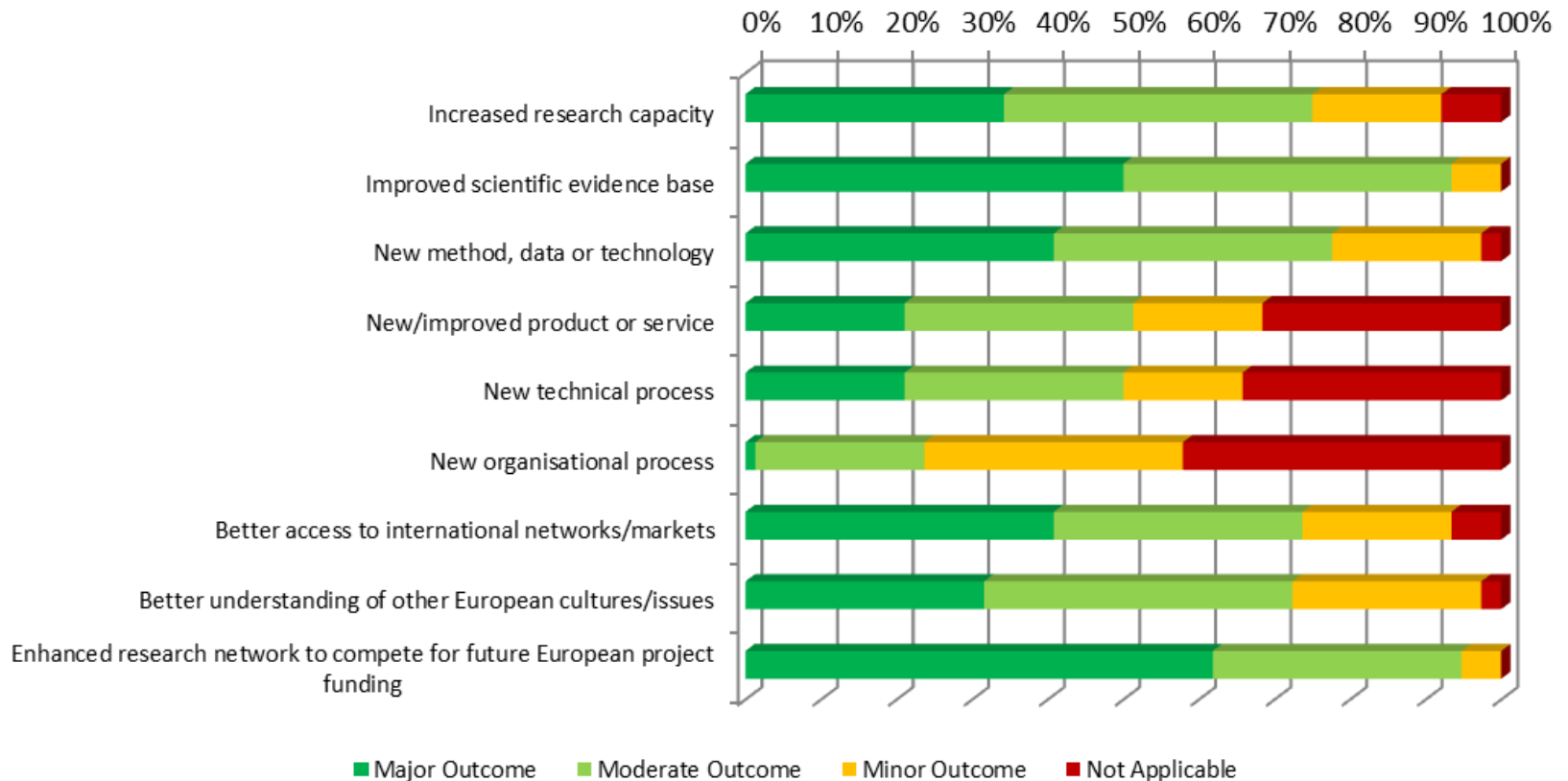
Q4: To what extent did your organisation have prior experience of international research and/or innovation funding schemes?



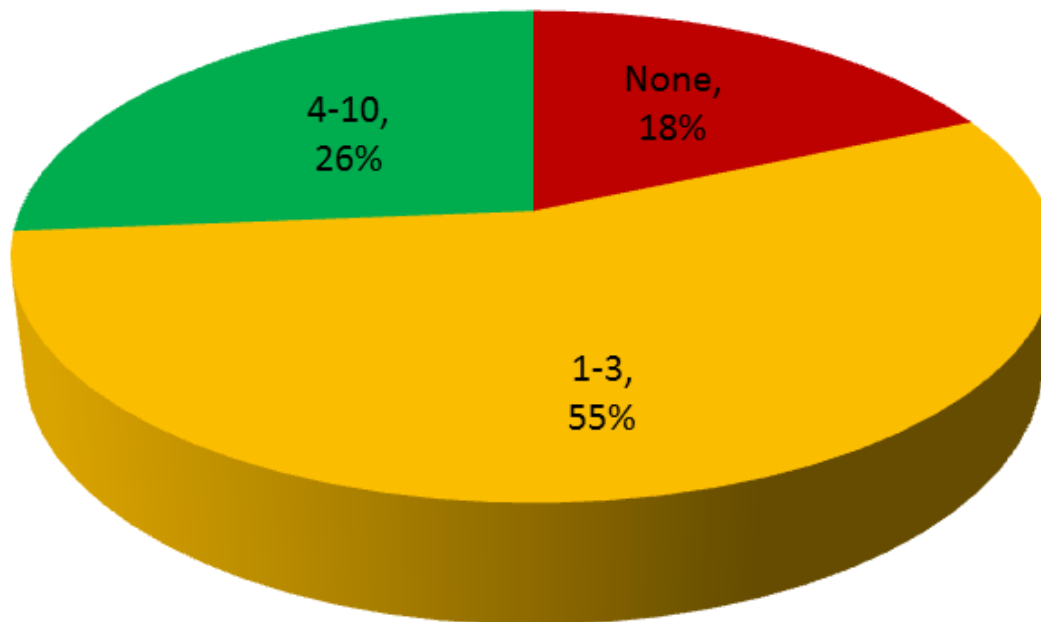
Q5: Based on your response to Q4, if you have some significant experience of EU Framework Programmes to what extent do you agree with the following?



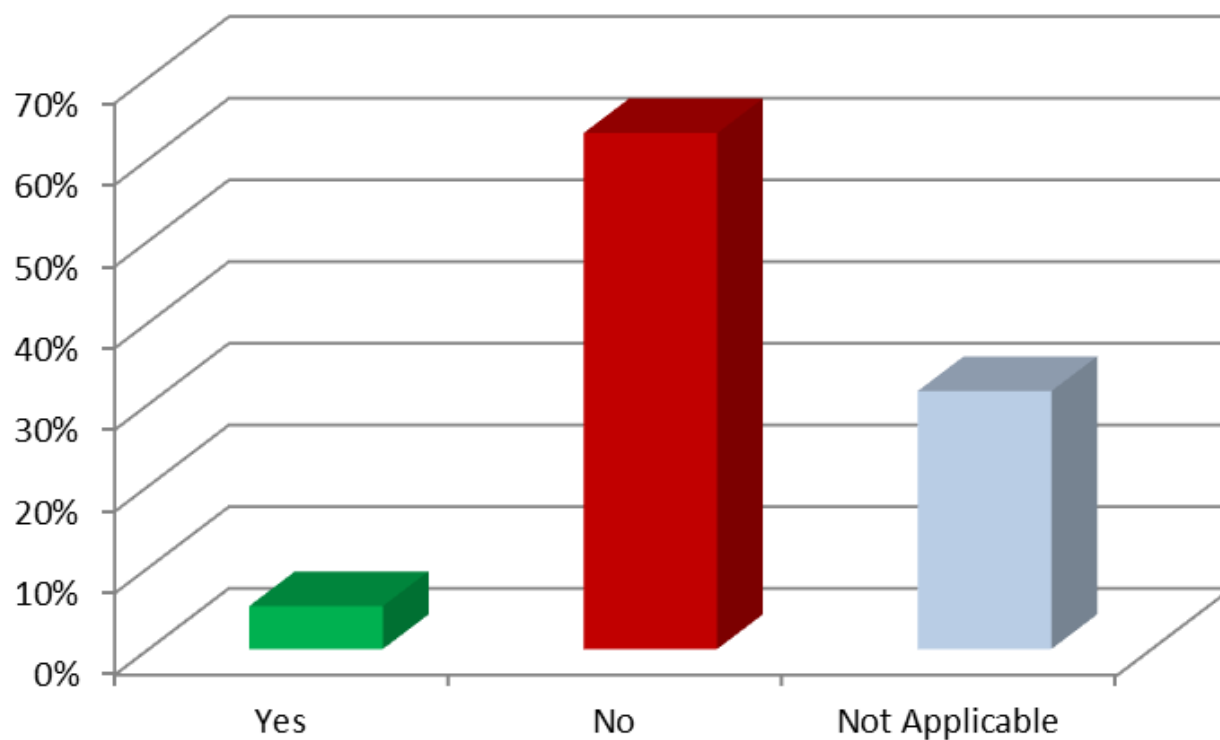
Q6: What have been the main exploitable outcomes of the project for your organisation?



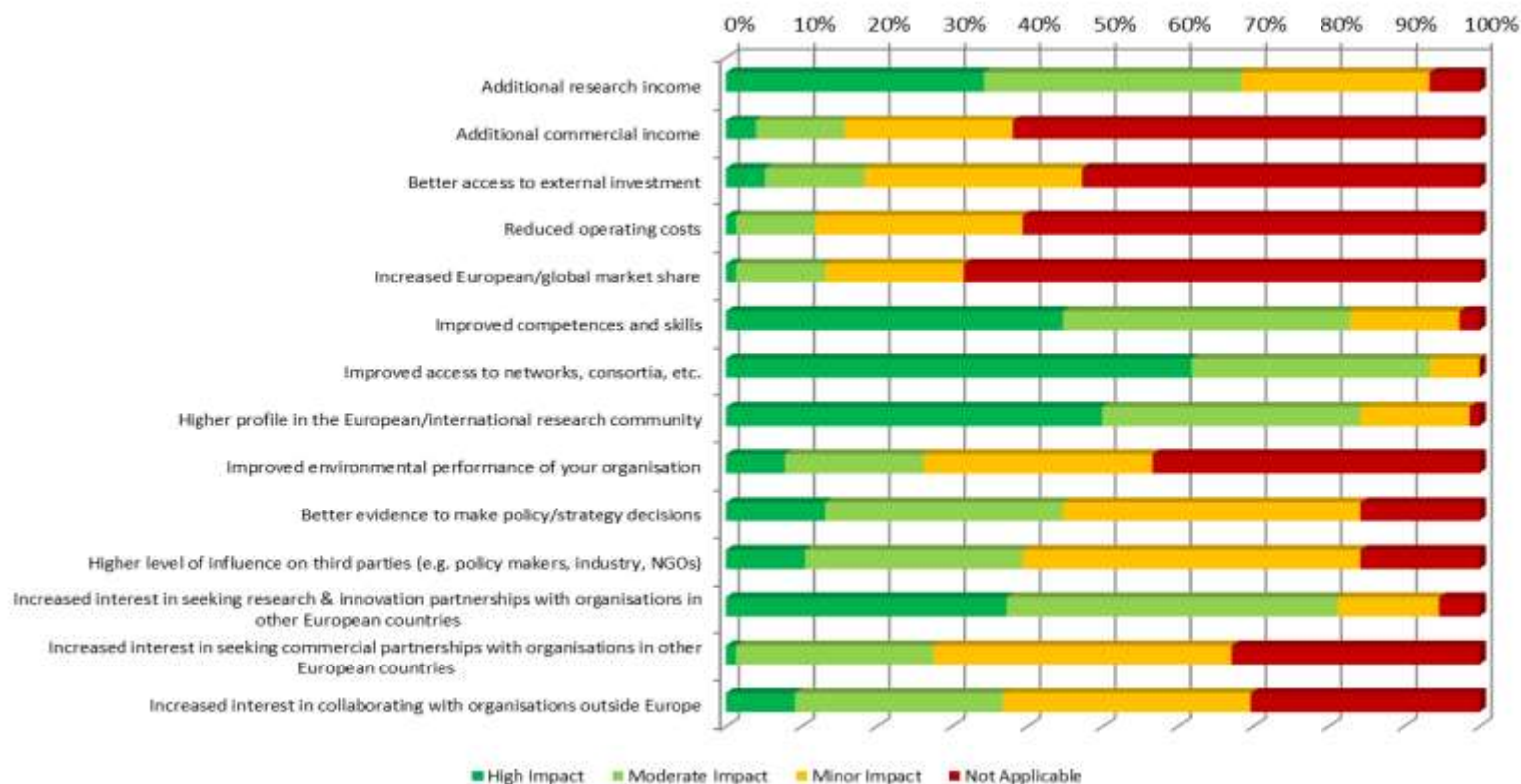
Q7: Have you produced any peer reviewed papers based on the knowledge developed within the specific transnational project?



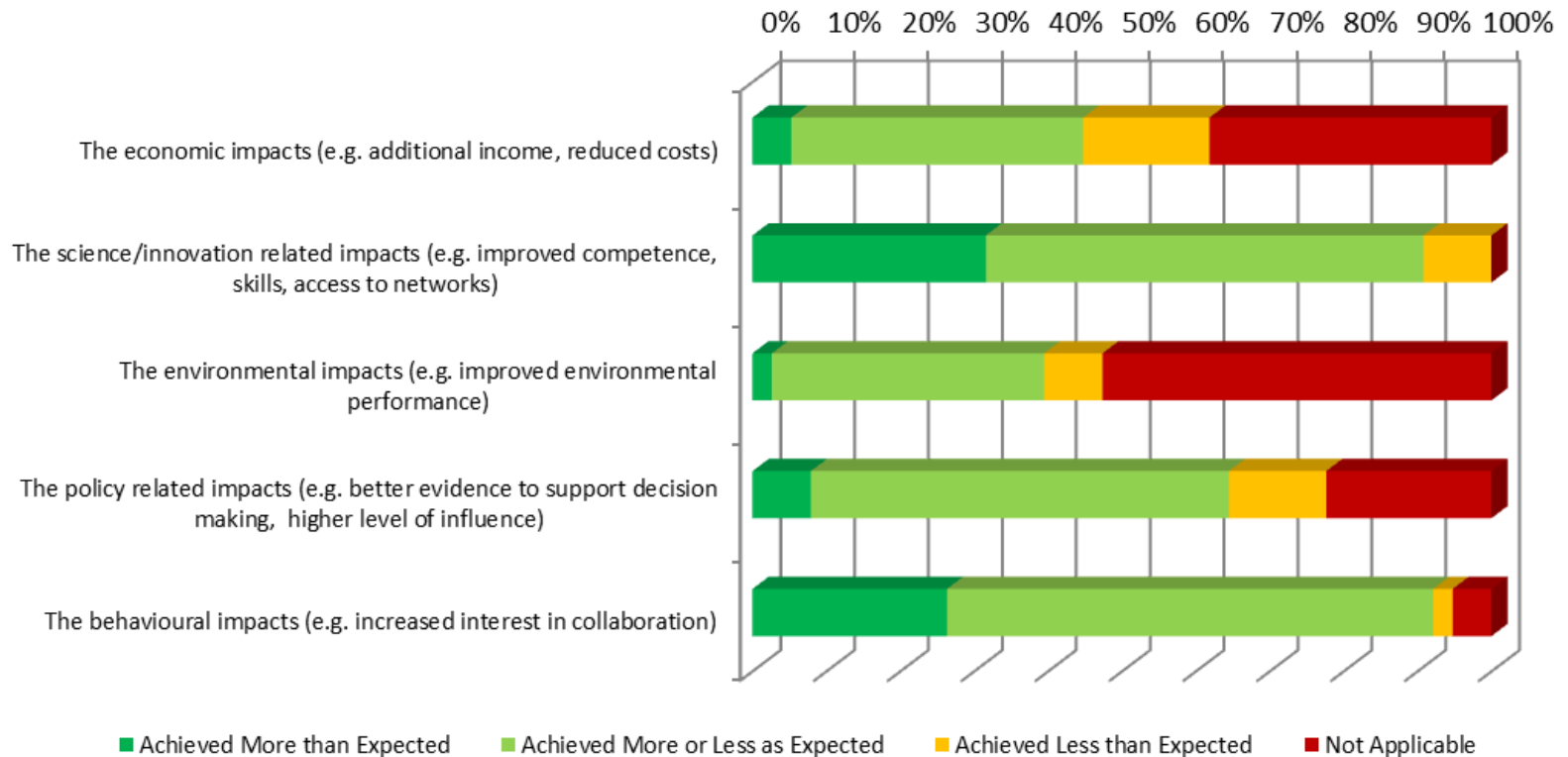
Q8: Have you applied (or intend to apply) for patent protection regarding any of the intellectual assets from the project?



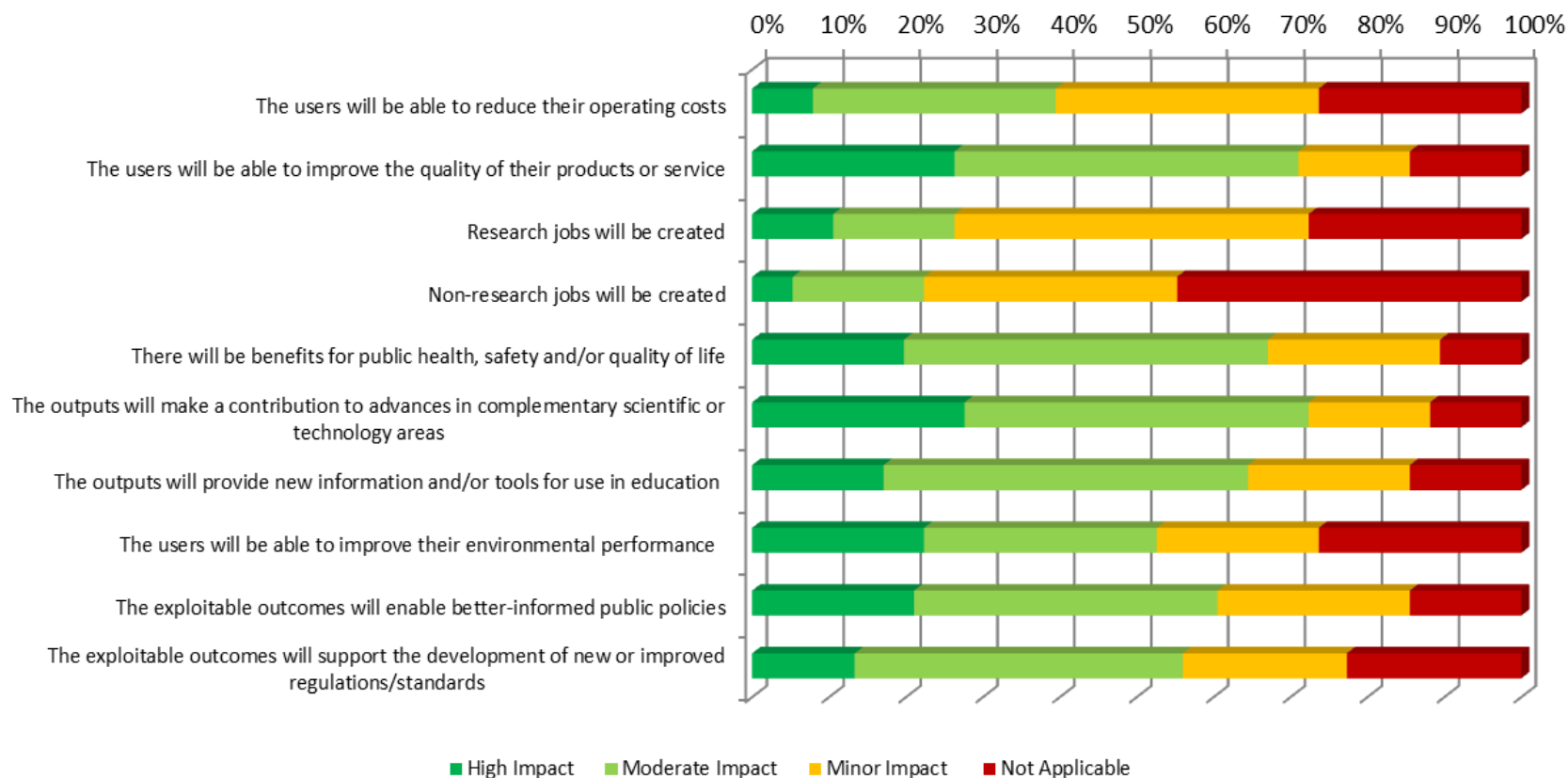
Q9: What are the expected impacts on your organisation from participating in the specific transnational project (i.e. how will your organisation benefit from the exploitable outputs?)



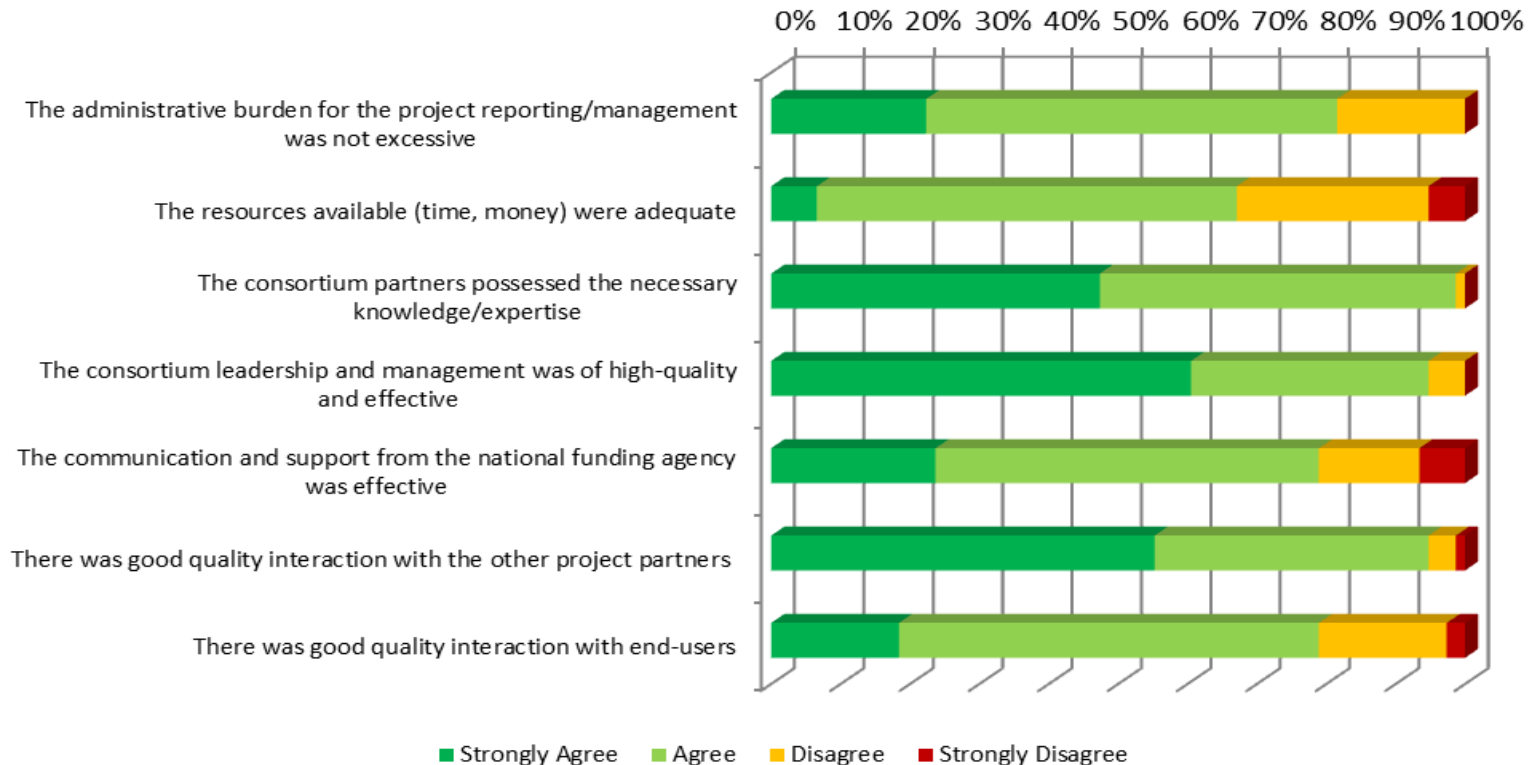
Q10: How do you judge the level of achievement of the impacts on your organisation until now compared with your original expectations?



Q11: To what extent do you anticipate any of the following beneficial impacts beyond your organisation?



Q12: To what extent would you agree with the following statements about key factors that may have affected the course of your project?



Q13: What do you consider to be the top three benefits from your participation in the specific transnational project?

Better access to scientific European networks, improved scientific competences by participating in European networks, better situation to compete for future European project funding

Enlarged network, increased funding opportunities in the future, research outcomes (publishable papers)

Bringing together all the appropriate partners within the EU to undertake research together, allowed minor players in the field to have intimate access and communication with much bigger players, allowed the development of organic plant breeding and in particular the production, testing and policy development of populations to get to a point where they could be tested in the market

Fantastic results (world-class), fantastic partners, funding was perfect in its amount

Being able to collect data in several countries, learning new methods, joining networks of researchers

The possibility of taking advantage of technological laboratory that does not exist in my country, the international technological trial involving industrial partners, new areas of research in which our expertise turned out very important

Collaboration with highly qualified and experienced scientists in my field of research, access to novel technologies, access to novel ideas and concepts

Better links between other specialists within the EU, better understanding of systems and practices within other countries, Improved opportunities for wider dissemination of research findings across EU producer base

Established international network Paved the way for future European projects Achieved competence in coordination of international multi-partner projects

Interaction with R&D organisations in other countries, access to knowledge, access to higher quality expertise

New collaboration network, direct knowledge transfer to farmers, improved skills in end-user oriented research activities

The research done, the network building, the political effect of the project

Complementary Activities

- Qualitative interviews
 - Representatives of the three participating networks
- Project case studies
 - c10 projects
 - Based on the survey analysis



QUESTIONS