



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

Horizon 2020's opportunities and challenges The biomedical research perspective



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Horizon 2020 -Europe's flagship programme for research and innovation

**Leverage
excellence and
foster cross
border
collaboration**

**Boost the
European
health and
wealth**

**Close the gap
between
research and
market**



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- **Represents 24 biomedical societies**
- **Supports *European* vision of innovation**
- **Participates in the improvement of funding opportunities for research**



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Call upon decision makers to fully support Horizon 2020

This is an opportunity to
build together on this
framework programme





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The scientific community's perspective:

**Results from a user's survey on
Horizon 2020**



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Survey:

1. Demographics
2. Call
3. Application
4. Evaluation (Summary Report)
5. Implementation
6. Evaluators
7. General



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Data

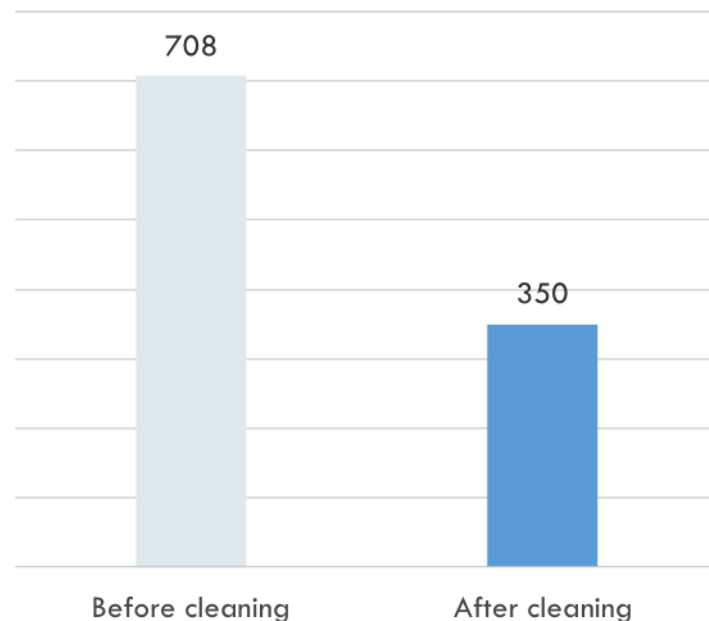
Population:

- biomedical researchers with (some) experience with H2020

Sample:

- responding and eligible members of member societies of the Biomed Alliance

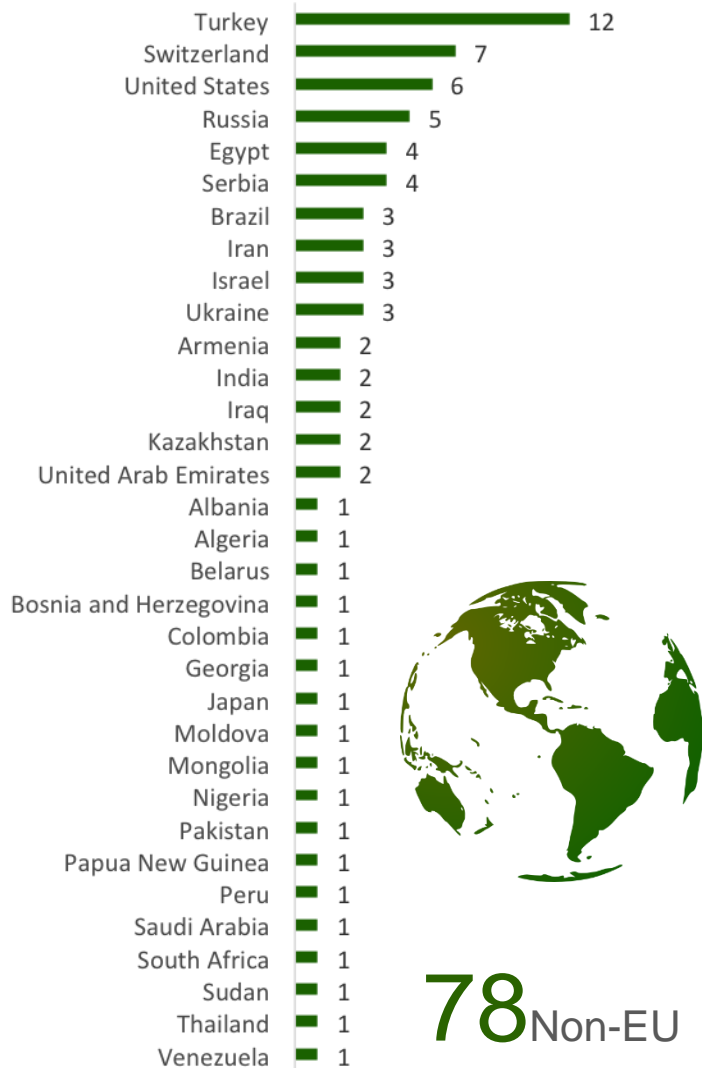
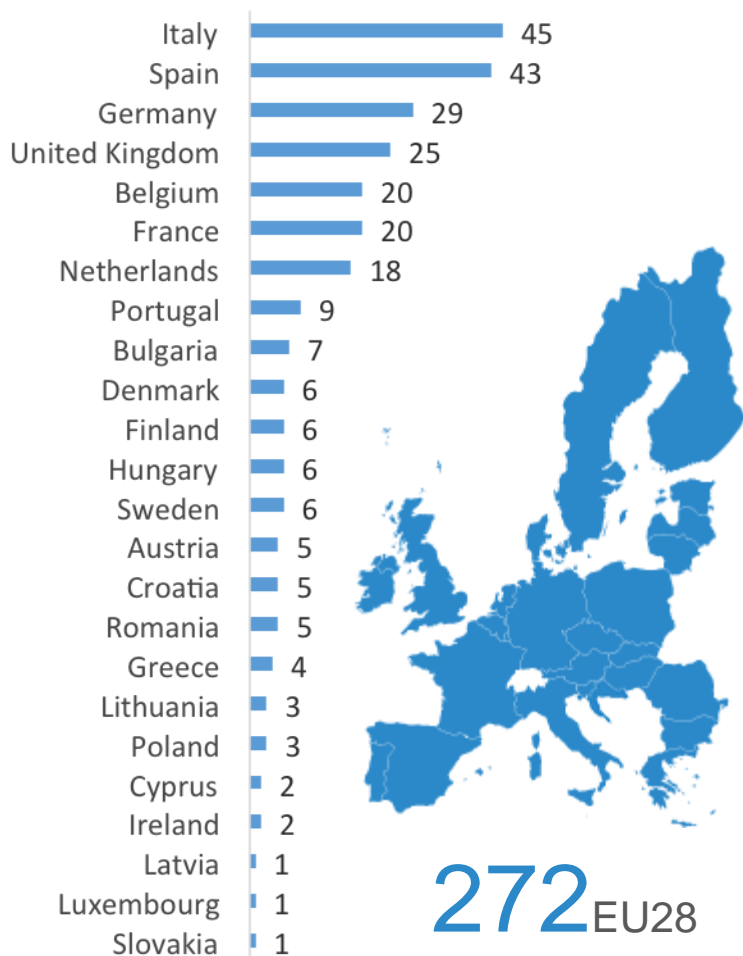
Response:





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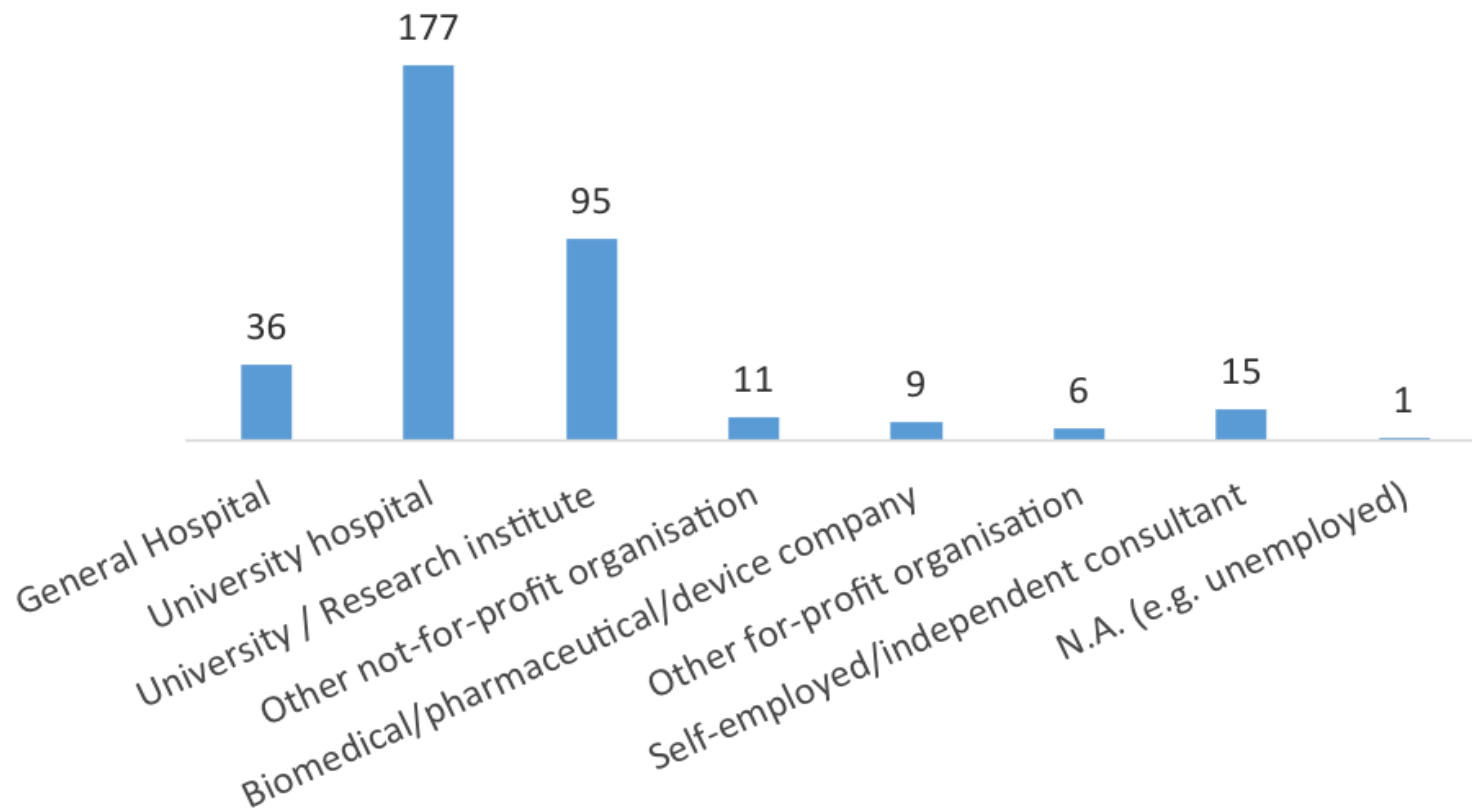
Demographics - geographical distribution





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Demographics - distribution of types of organizations

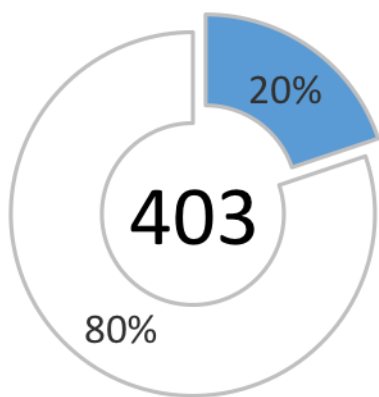




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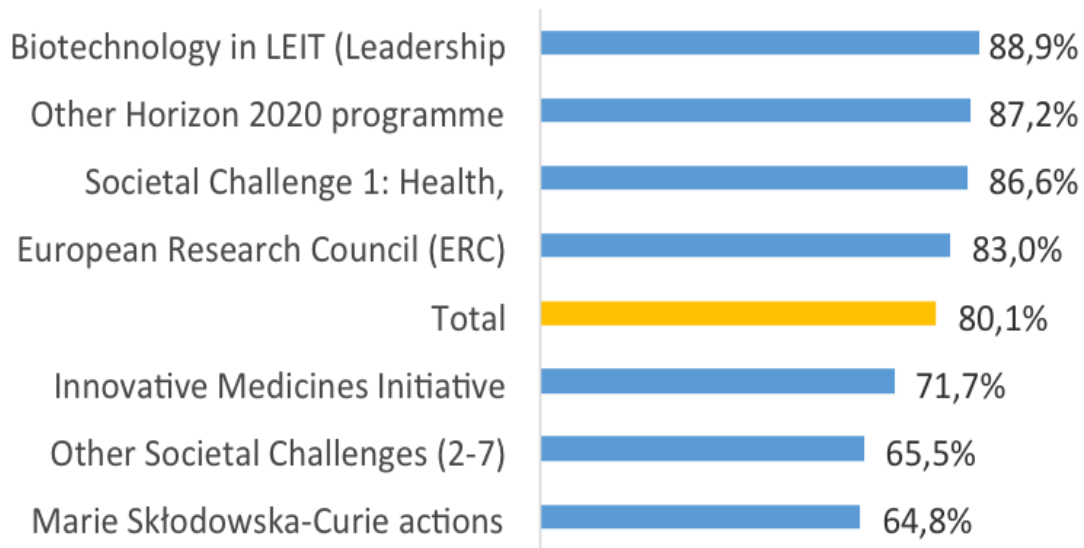
Rejected projects

overall



■ granted ■ rejected

by instrument

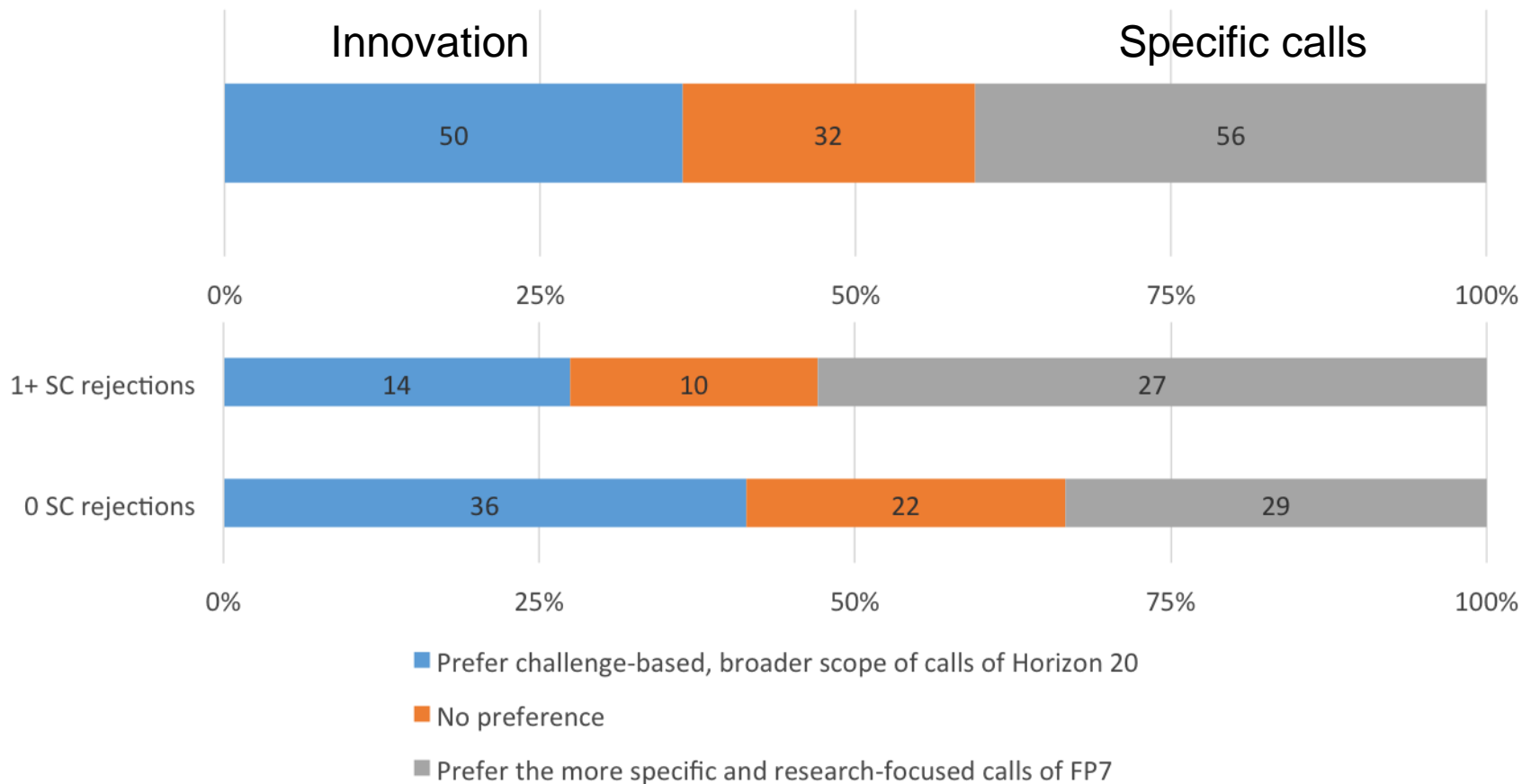




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The scope of the calls

Do you prefer the Horizon 2020 challenge-based approach (with an emphasis on **innovation**), or do you prefer the more prescriptive approach (with **specific call topics**) as in FP7?

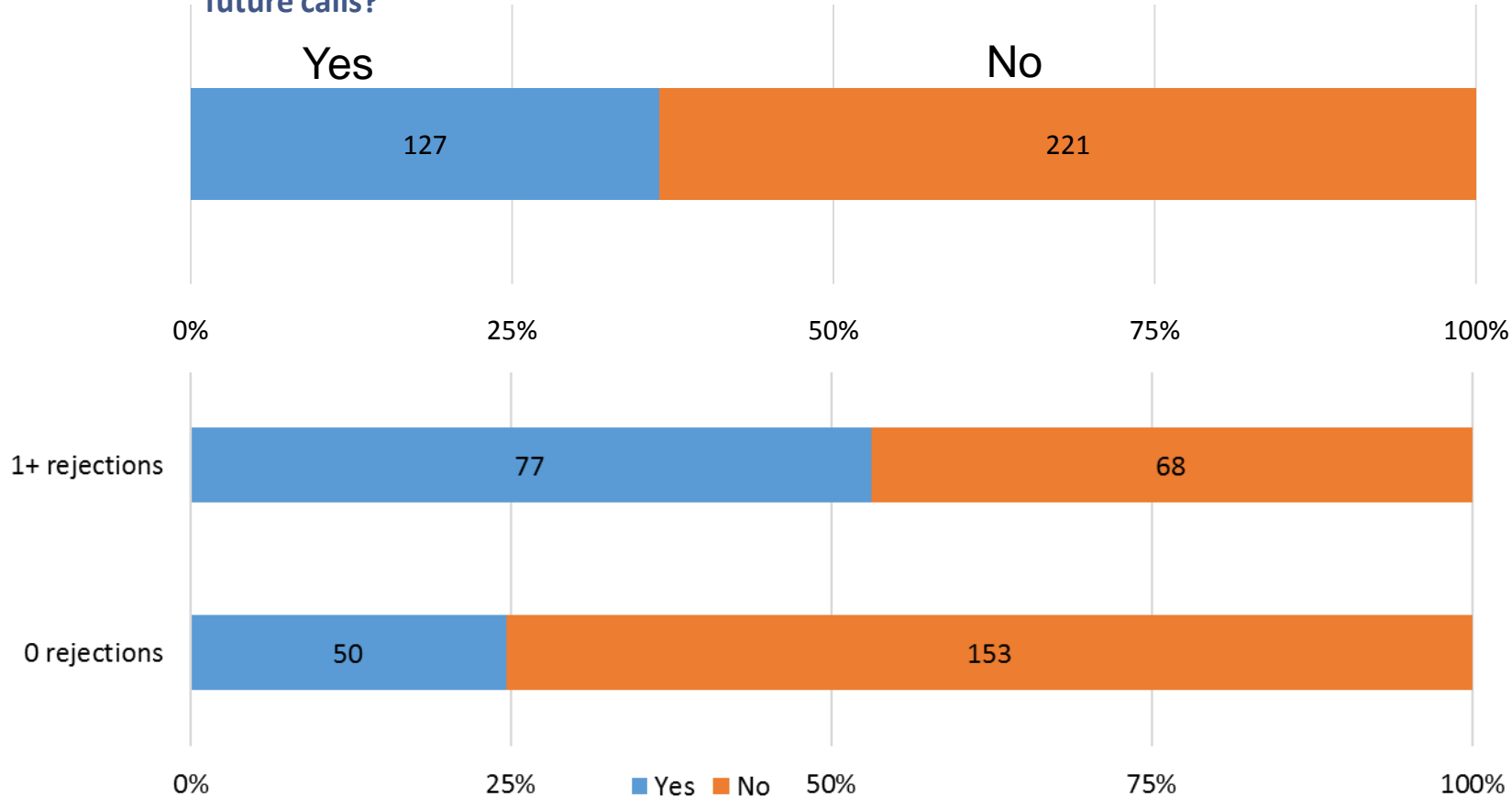




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The call

Do or did reports of over-subscription to certain calls in Horizon 2020 (e.g. European Research Council, Health calls of the Societal Challenge) dissuade you from applying for future calls?

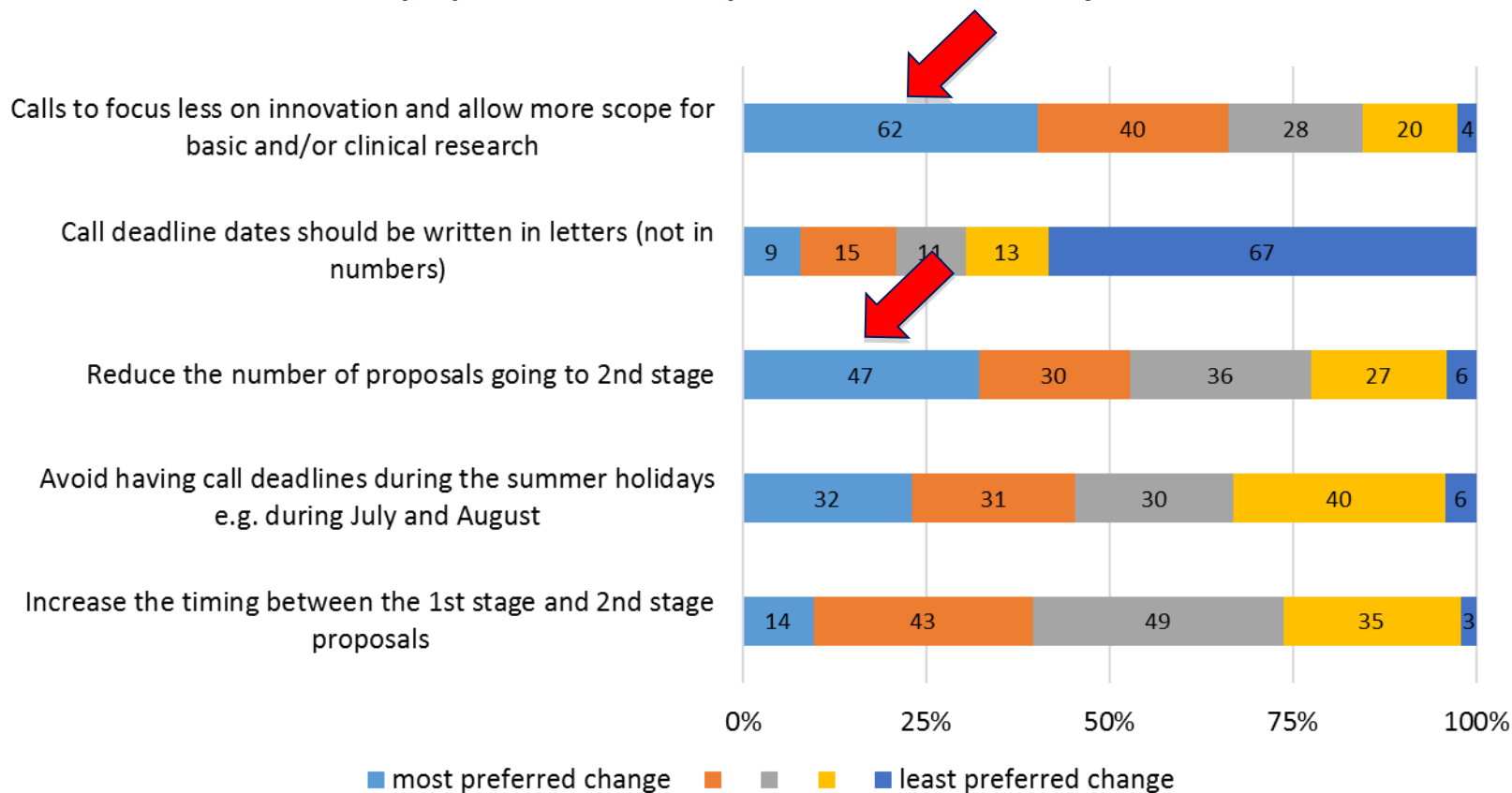




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The Call

If you could make improvements to the Horizon 2020 "Societal challenges" programme section call for proposals/submission process, what would they be?

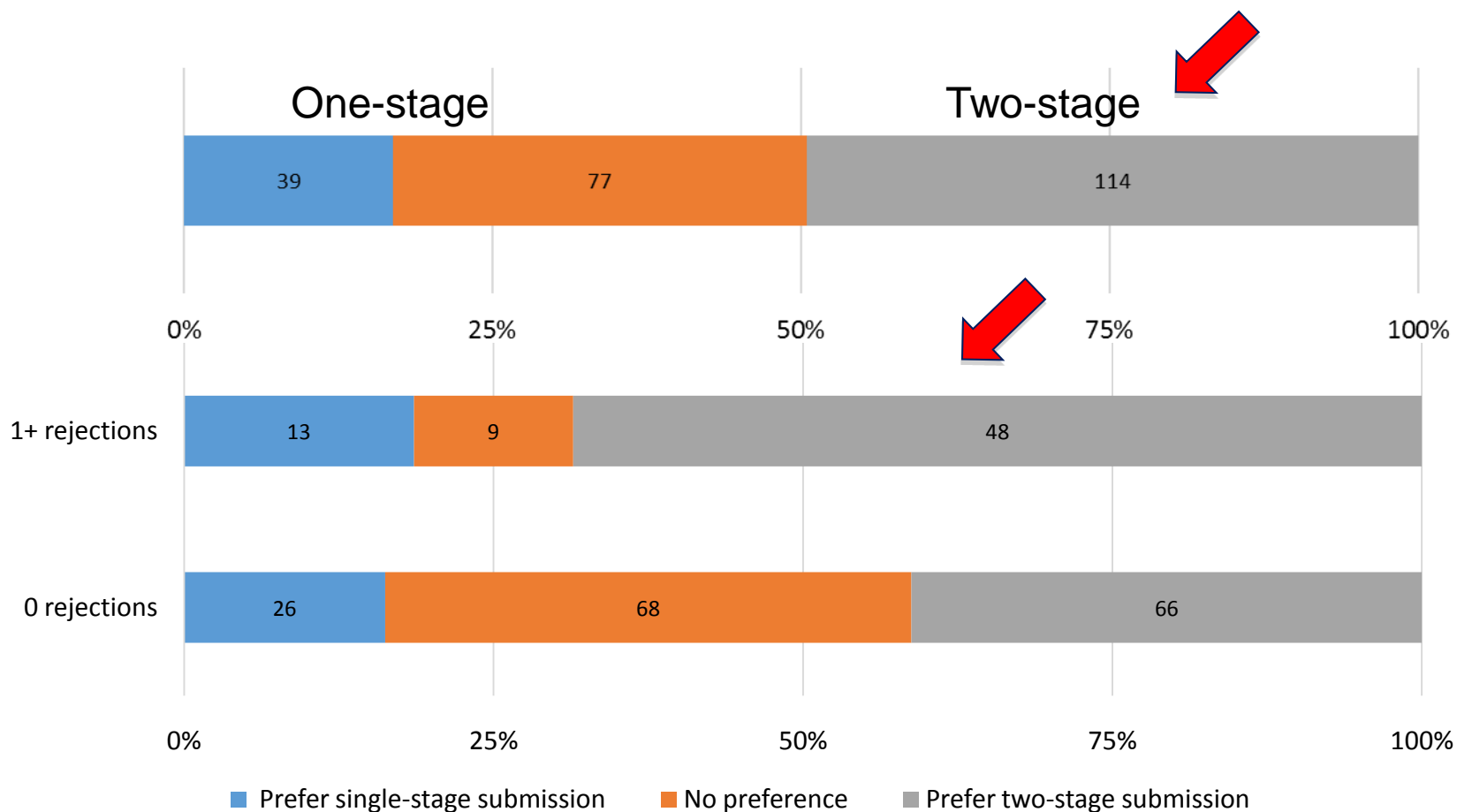




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The Call

In Horizon 2020, overall, do you prefer single-stage or two-stage project submission?





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- **Oversubscription**
- **High number of proposals going to 2nd stage**
- **Number of funded projects <10% overall**
- **Estimated costs for single applications:**
 - **Appr. 10.000 euro in stage 1**
 - **Appr. 75.000 euro in stage 2**



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Rejection rates revisited - analysis of resource waste, an example

CALL: PERSONALISING HEALTH AND CARE; Call identifier: H2020-PHC-2014-2015 - Only the 2 stage calls

| Topic | suggested EU contr (EUR million) per project | Indicative Budget (EUR million) | number of projects within budget | Prop. Received | Invited to stage 2 | number of rejected projects in stage 2 | costs made without ROI (at 85,000 Euro per application) |
|------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---|---|
| PHC-01-2014 | 5 | 54 | 11 | 358 | 172 | 161 | 14 |
| PHC-05-2014 | 5 | 24 | 5 | 121 | 37 | 32 | 3 |
| PHC-06-2014 | 2,5 | 15 | 6 | 85 | 32 | 26 | 2 |
| PHC-10-2014 | 5 | 48 | 10 | 462 | 138 | 128 | 11 |
| PHC-13-2014 | 5 | 60 | 12 | 296 | 128 | 116 | 10 |
| PHC-17-2014 | 5 | 48 | 10 | 136 | 55 | 45 | 4 |
| PHC-23-2014 | 5 | 30 | 6 | 107 | 33 | 27 | 2 |
| PHC-32-2014 | 2,5 | 24 | 10 | 116 | 31 | 21 | 2 |
| Sub total | 35 | 303 | 68 | 1681 | 626 | 558 | 47 |
| Topic | | | | | | | |
| PHC-02-2015 | 5 | 36 | 7 | 205 | 44 | 37 | 3 |
| PHC-03-2015 | 5 | 30 | 6 | 355 | 108 | 102 | 9 |
| PHC-04-2015 | 5 | 18 | 4 | 78 | 13 | 9 | 1 |
| PHC-11-2015 | 5 | 49 | 10 | 348 | 97 | 87 | 7 |
| PHC-14-2015 | 5 | 62 | 12 | 421 | 130 | 118 | 10 |
| PHC-16-2015 | 5 | 36 | 7 | 312 | 33 | 26 | 2 |
| PHC-18-2015 | 5 | 28 | 6 | 134 | 36 | 30 | 3 |
| PHC-22-2015 | 5 | 17 | 3 | 184 | 34 | 31 | 3 |
| PHC-24-2015 | 13,5 | 30 | 2 | 59 | 11 | 9 | 1 |
| Sub total | 54 | 306 | 57 | 2096 | 506 | 449 | 38 |
| Total | 89 | 609 | 126 | 3777 | 1132 | 1.006 | 86 |



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Rejection rates revisited - analysis of resource waste, an example

CALL: PERSONALISING HEALTH AND CARE; Call identifier: H2020-PHC-2014-2015 - Only the 2 stage calls

| | suggested EU contr (EUR million) per project | Indicative Budget (EUR million) | number of projects within budget | Prop. Received | Invited to stage 2 | number of rejected projects in stage 2 |
|--------------|---|--|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Total | 89 | 609 | 126 | 3777 | 1132 | 1.006 |

126 of 3777 = 3.3% of stage 1 applications funded
126 of 1132 = 11% of stage 2 proposals funded

Estimated costs for grant preparation:

3770 x 10.000 EUR for stage 1: 37.77 million EUR

1132 x 75.000 EUR for stage 2: 84.90 million EUR

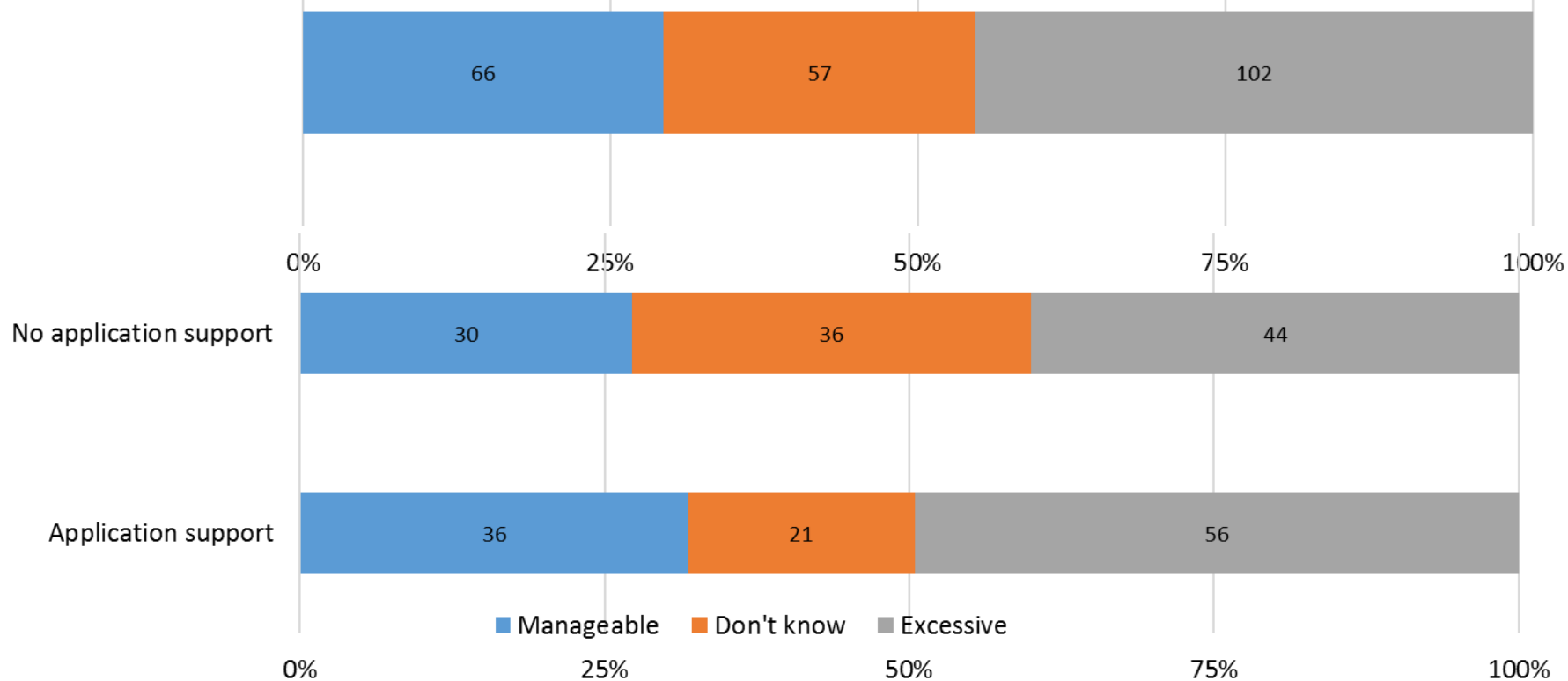
Indicative budget: 609 million EUR



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The application

In your opinion, have the administrative requirements during the **application/submission process** in Horizon 2020 been manageable or excessive?

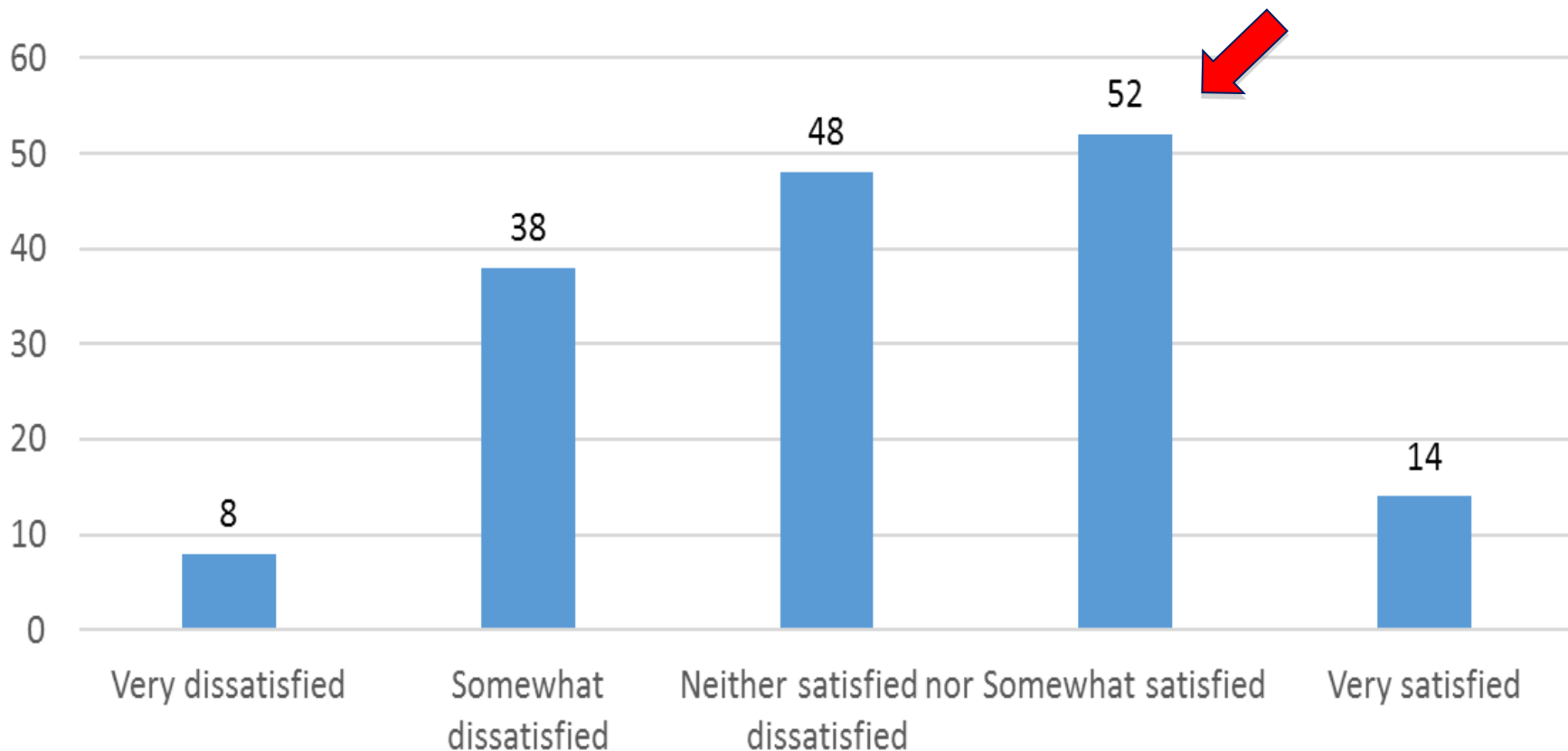




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The application

What is your experience with the Horizon 2020 Participant Portal and electronic IT submission tool?

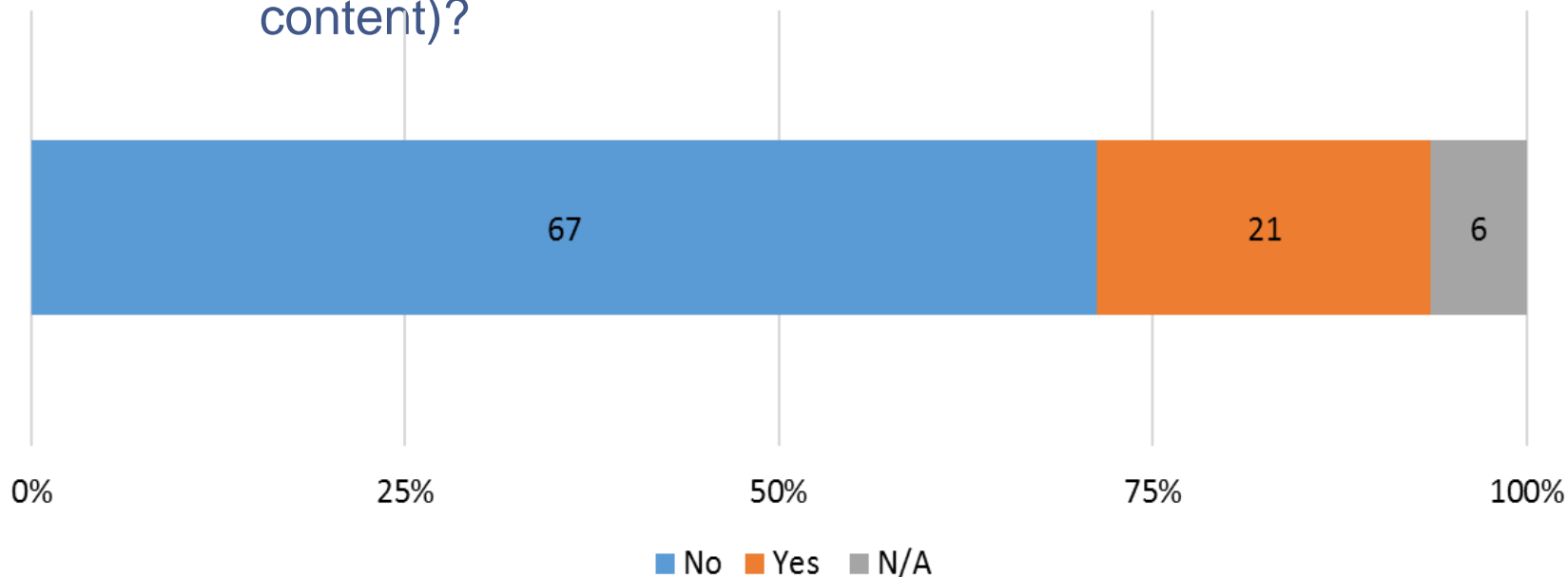




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The evaluation

Have you, for an Horizon 2020 application, ever received an Expert Scientific Review that contained factual mistakes (e.g. statements that did not fit the proposal content)?

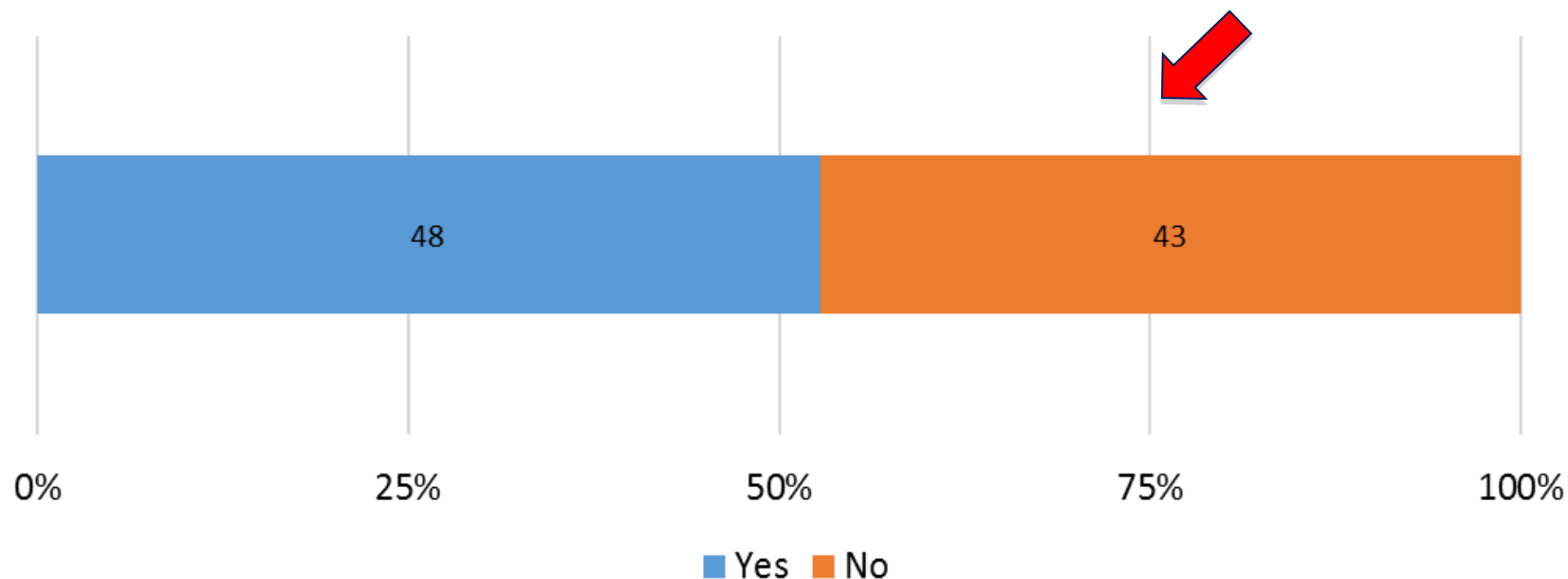




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The evaluation

From the ESR, is it your impression that those that reviewed your Horizon 2020 application(s) **have enough scientific expertise on the topic of your project proposal to be able to review it?**

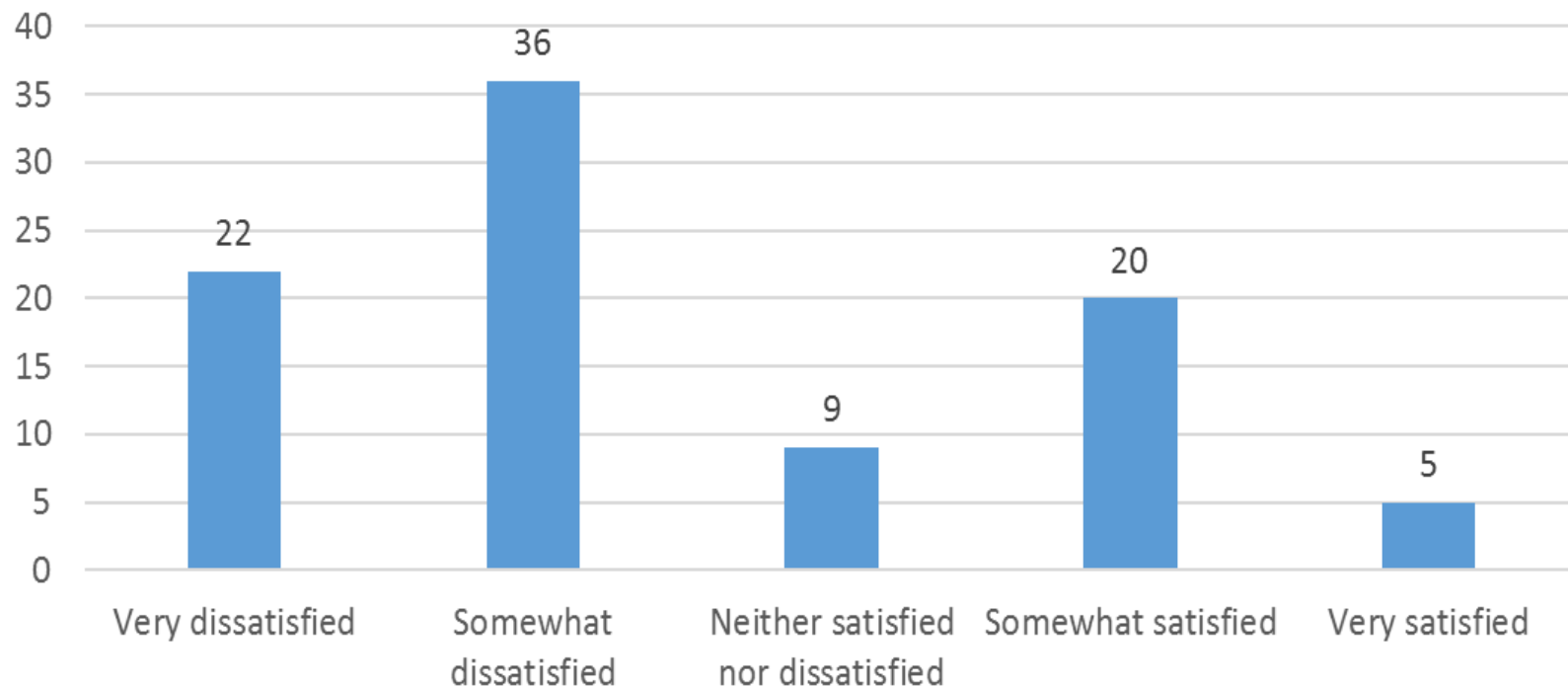




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The evaluation

In general, have you been satisfied with the evaluation process for projects you have submitted in Horizon 2020, and specifically the level and quality of feedback received in the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)?

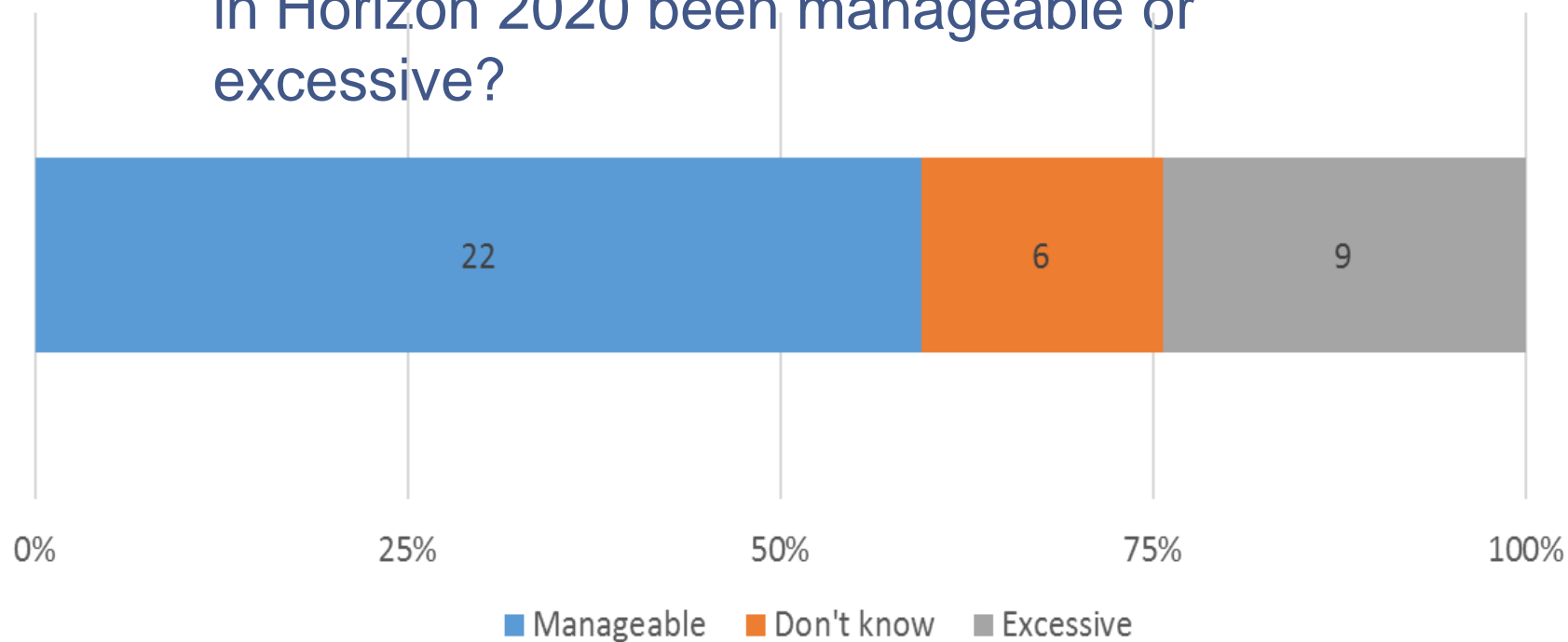




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The implementation

In your opinion, have the administrative requirements during the project implementation in Horizon 2020 been manageable or excessive?



European Respiratory Society



- Pros:
 - 65 % prefer the challenge-based, broader scope of calls
 - 60% keen to continue to participate despite oversubscription to calls
 - Greatest satisfaction with European Research Council in terms of instruments
 - 60% prefer the two-stage submission but only if stage 1 really selects rigorously.
 - 55% positive experience with electronic submission tool
 - 60% consider admin requirements in application phase are manageable
 - 60% prefer faster time-to-grant and no grant negotiation
- Cons:
 - 80% experience lower or same success rate as compared to FP7
 - 40% have never heard about the National Contact Points
 - 30 % have no access to support to fulfil administrative requirements for call participation
 - 80% no opinion or negative re quality of Evaluation Summary Report and feedback



The two most preferred improvements to H2020 SC1 Health calls

1. Reduce number of proposals going to 2nd stage
2. Calls to focus less on innovation i.e. Allow for greater scope for clinical research



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Conclusions:

- High subscription rate – H2020 is highly accepted in the biomedical community
- Less weight on innovation, broader scope of specific calls suggested
- Low success rate of applications (in 2nd stage)
- Considerable waste of resources during application process – poor ratio of ink money to funding
- Problems with reviewer selection
- Good IT and administration of funded calls was appreciated



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Recommendations:

- H2020 is a success – continue with full force!
- Blended call system (specific calls + innovation)
- Ensure high success rate of stage 2 applications (>> 10%, up to 20%), select rigorously in stage 1
- Avoid waste of resources during application process
- Improve review quality
- Put efforts into surrogate markers for successful projects
- Build on good administration and IT



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Thank you!