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WP3 - FOODPathS Survey on support measures: Presentation of first results on capacity and community building in light of a systems approach

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Support for
funded projects

The new Partnership should support the funded projects in their efforts to implement a systems approach and to achieve impactful results.

→ **Survey on support measures.**

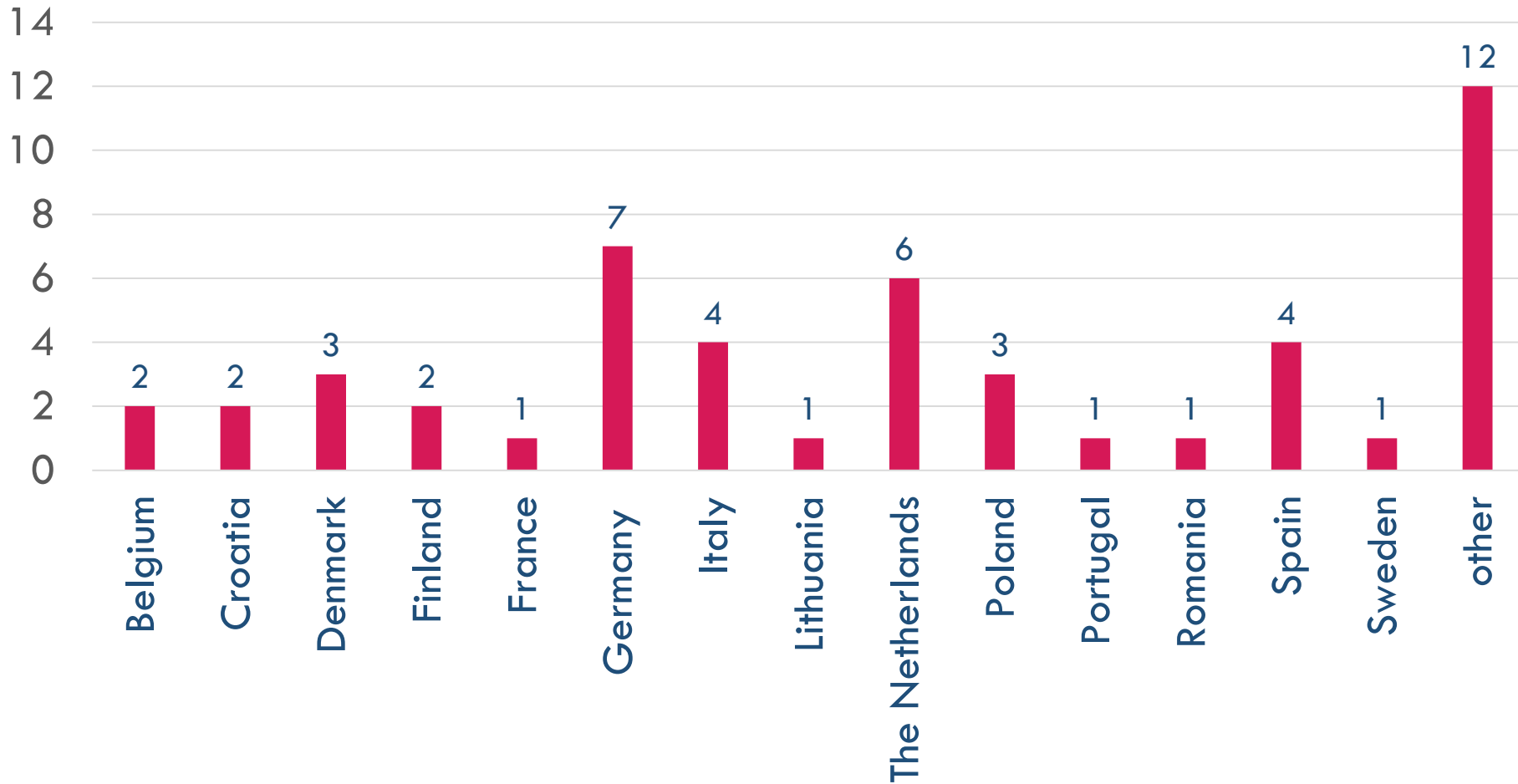
→ **Goal** is to set up a catalogue of support measures (e.g. trainings, webinars, networking events, and policy activities) emphasising systems approaches and fostering desired community building, capacity building and creating commitment to the FutureFoodS Partnership

- What knowledge and skills are needed?
- What measures and supporting actions could/should be offered?
- What themes and which tools should get special attention?

→ **Target group:** everyone who is involved in or around R&I projects, project partners (researchers) and managers of support measures

→ **Launch:** Begin February (closed 5 April 2024), 50 answers

50 participants

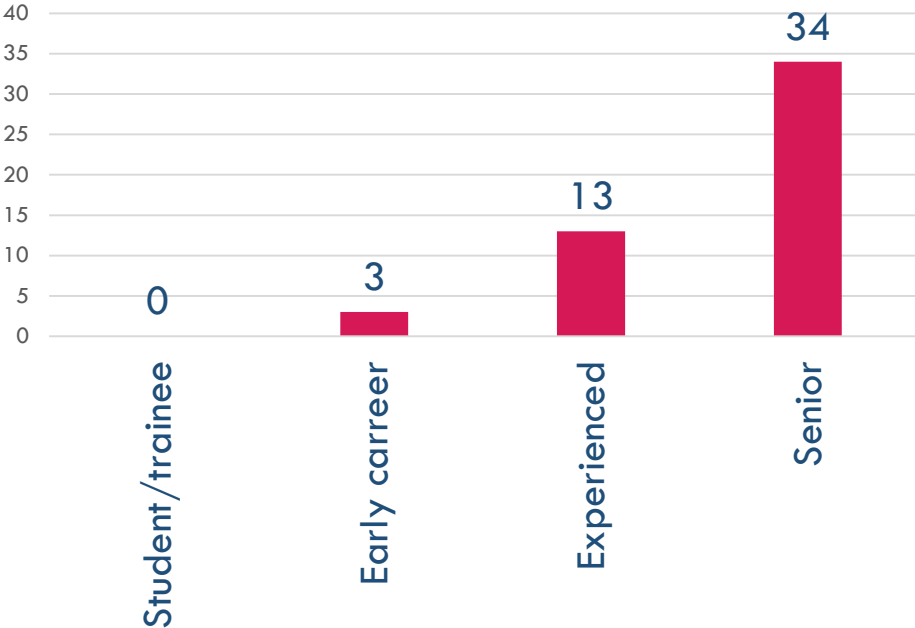


Other: Bosnia & Herzegovina, UK, Morocco, Brazil, Australia, Switzerland and not mentioned

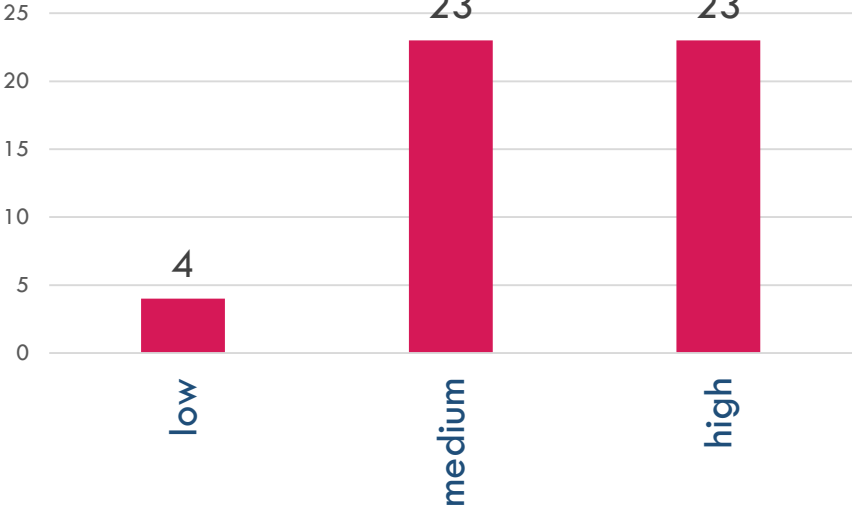
Level of experience



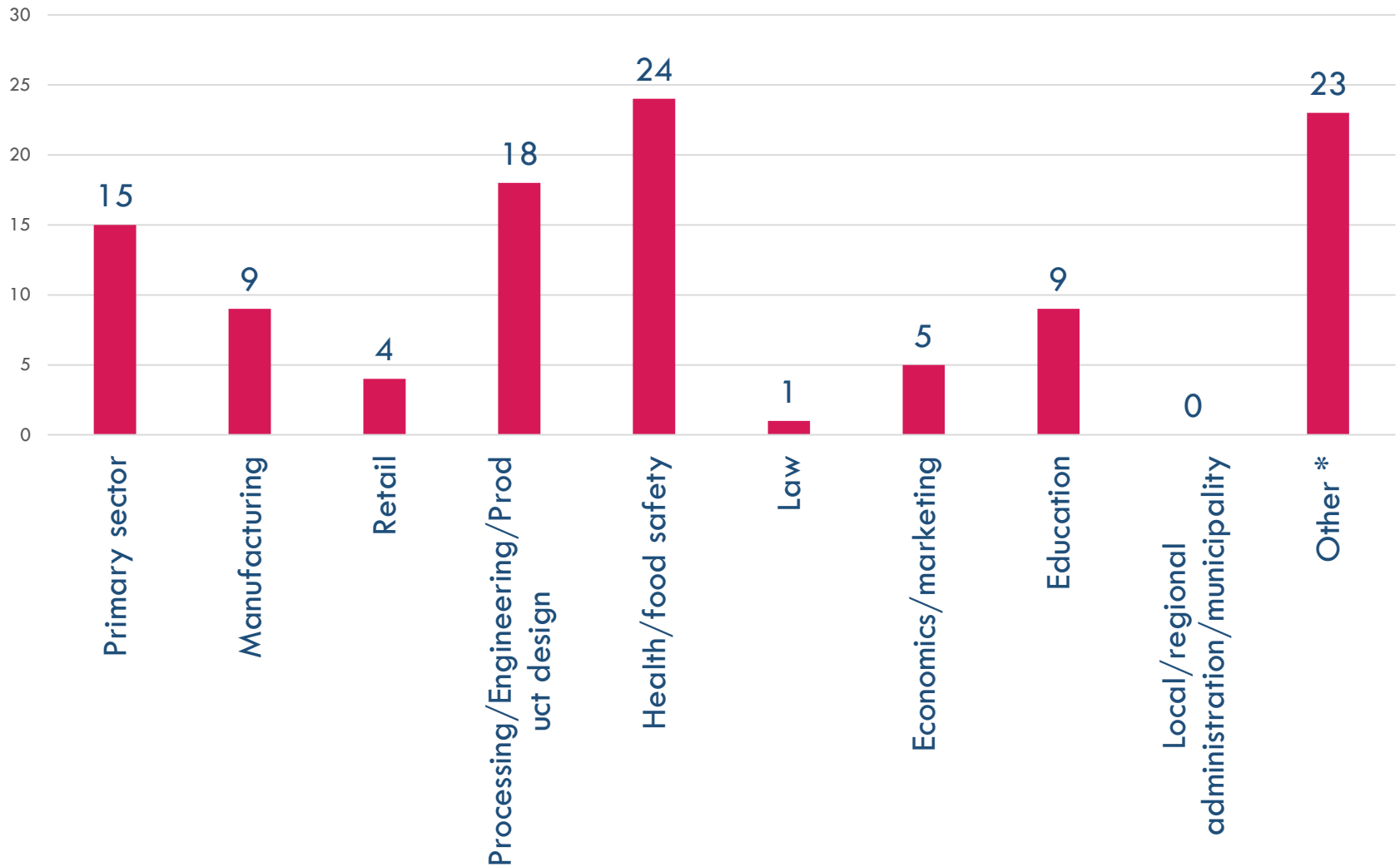
Level of experience



Food system experience

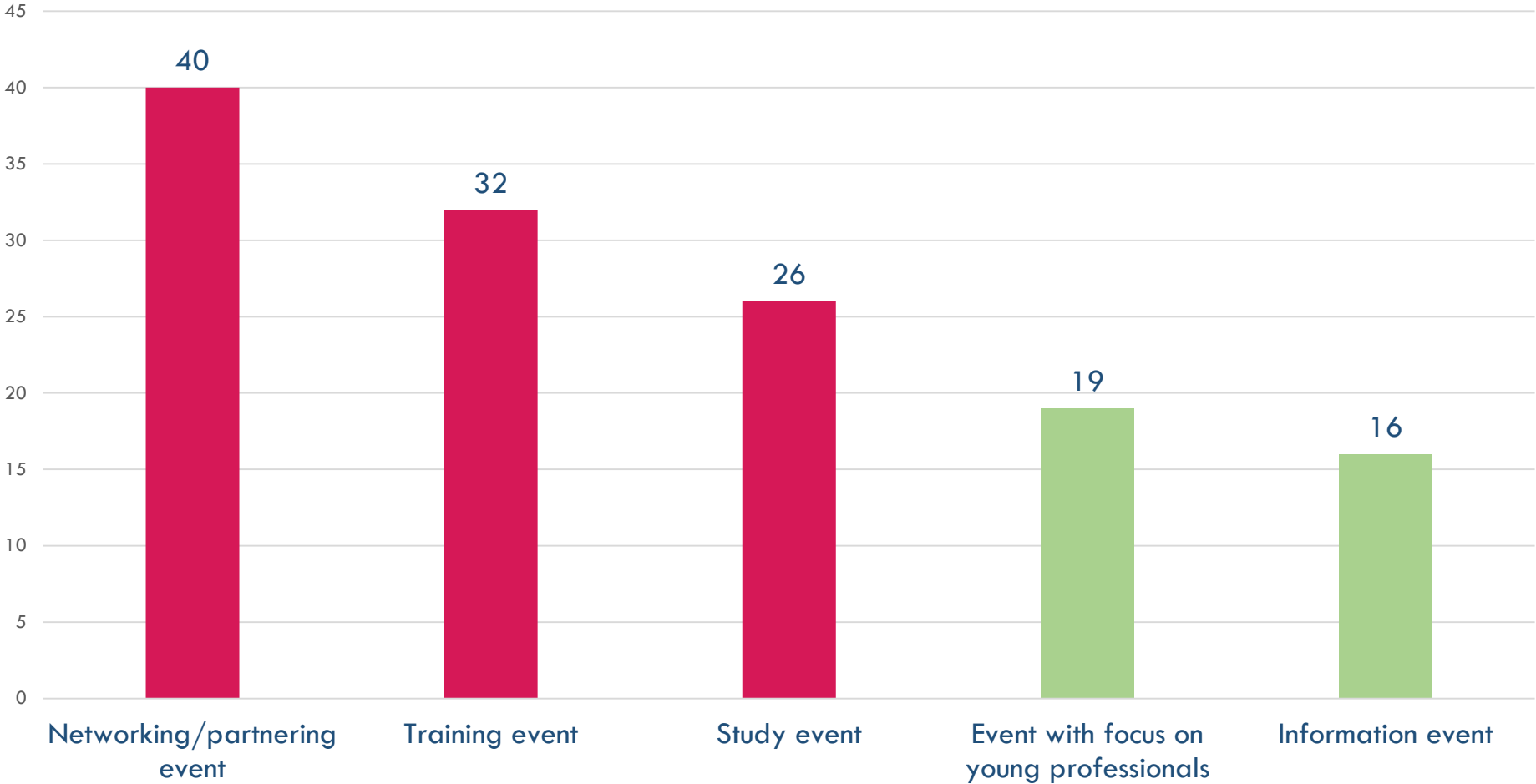


“Main area/sector your work is focusing on”

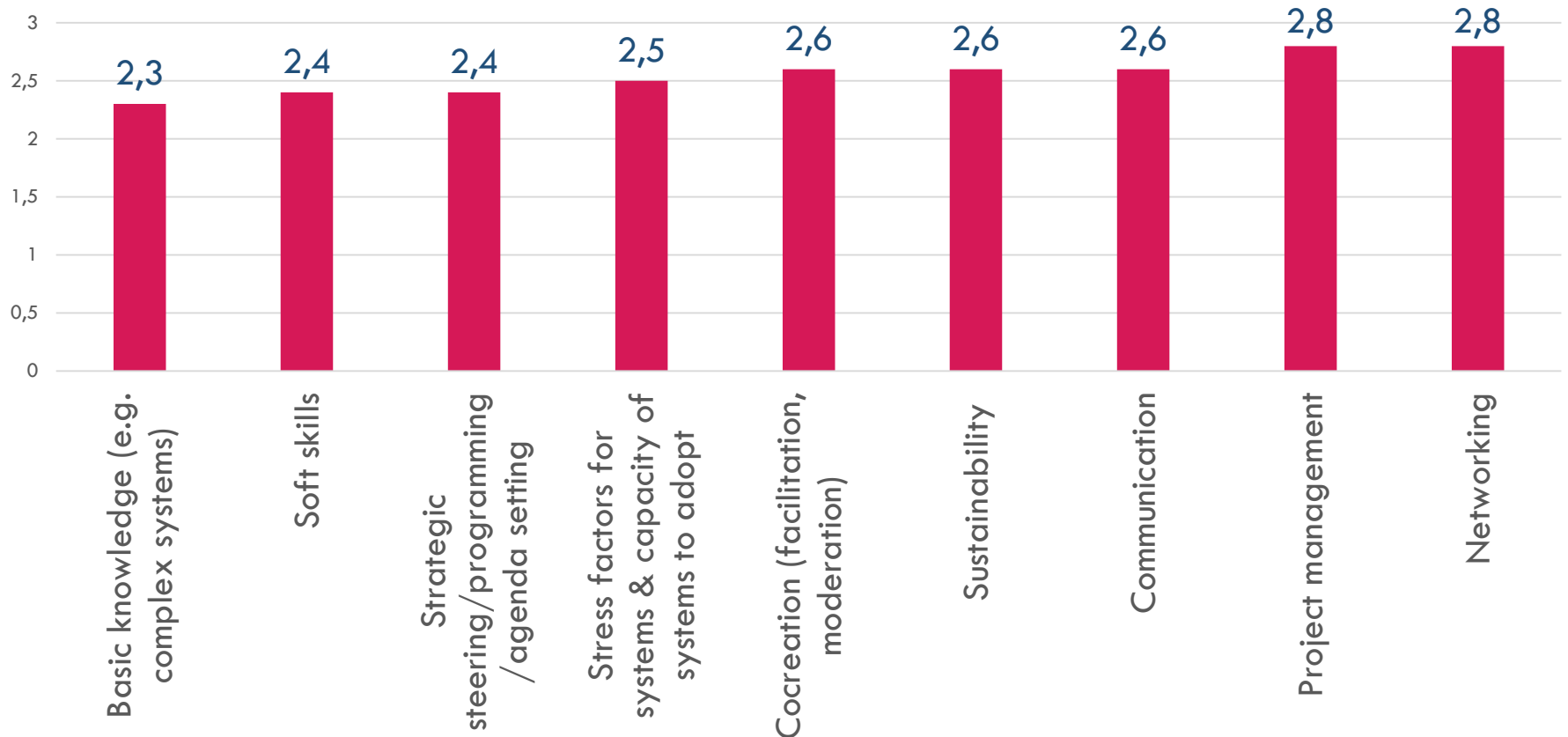


* i. a. Research Funding; Research management; management; (sustainable) Food systems

Types of support measures: Choose 3 which you find especially useful for capacity building with regard to systems approach.

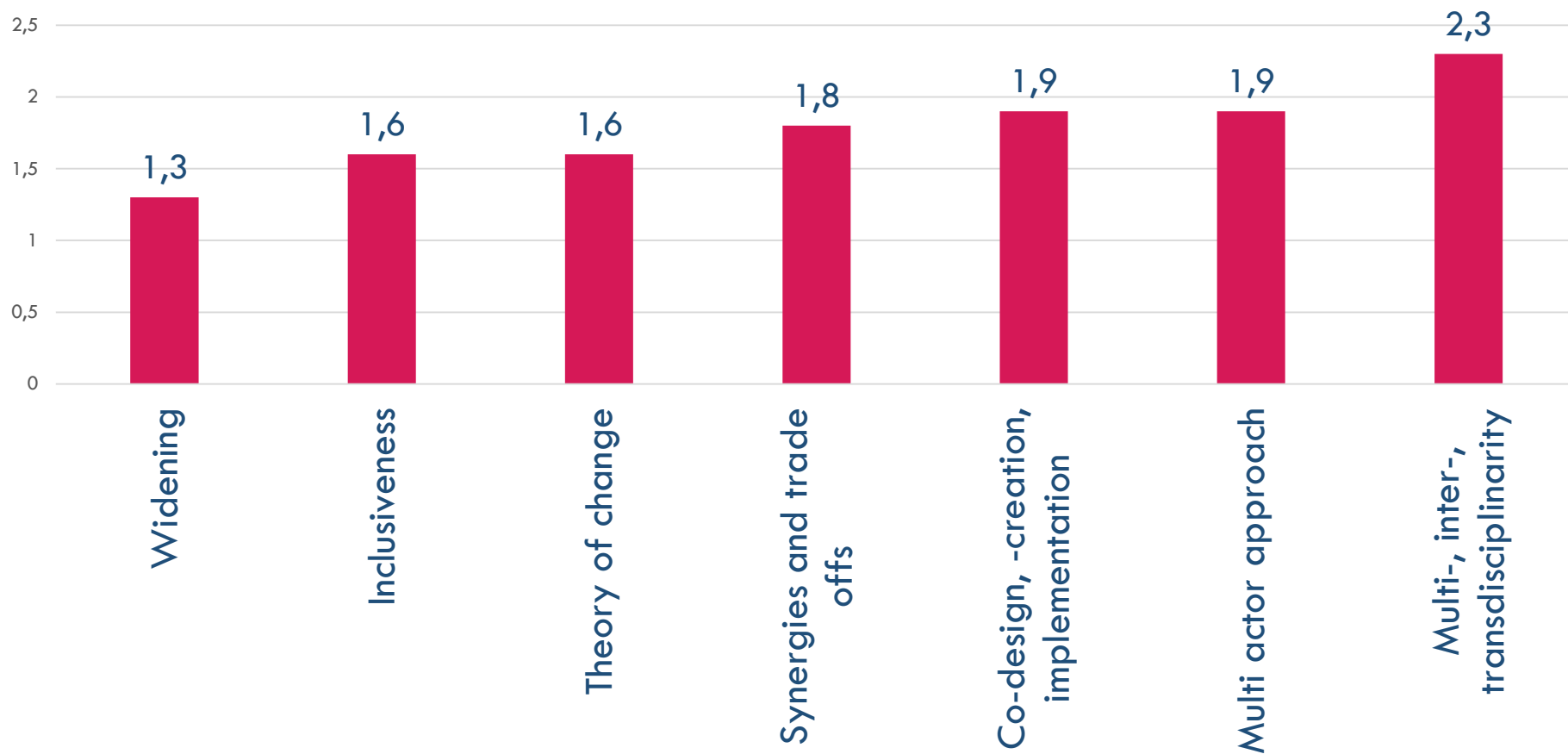


Topics/Themes: Imagine you could choose your curriculum towards becoming a food systems expert. Which themes would you sign up for and what would you like to learn there specifically?



Very important = 3 important = 2 not so important = 1

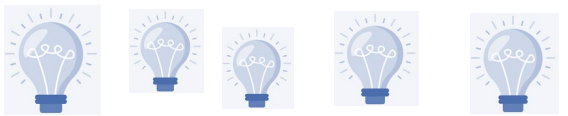
R&I projects are often asked to integrate the following aspects. Where do you see the need to support skills and capacities to come up to the challenge?



High support=3 medium support= 2 low support=1



Open Questions



DOS & DONTS
EXAMPLES



- **Q9** - Remember the most valuable **capacity building event** or **measure** that you took part in. What was it and why did it work so well? Please provide examples.
- **Q10** - Which **capacity building measures/events** did not work so well – and why? What were the challenges you experienced? Please provide examples and lessons learned.
- **Q11** - Being more integrative: Do you remember events/measures that succeeded in **including all relevant stakeholders**? How did you/they manage to do this?
- **Q12** - Being more integrative: In your opinion what are the main obstacles/challenges when integrating stakeholders?
- **Q13** - What would be a **capacity building event** that you would **wish for**; why hasn't it been implemented yet?
- **Q16** - Community building: What do you think could help to **create a community and commitment** to a European Partnership? Which supportive measures or actions do you remember from your own experience? Why?
- **Q17** - Tools: Out of the box: Did you come across **methods/tools/ gimmicks** during events that helped to make the event more lively; helped to better memorise and understand the content, made the working process more smoothly – please add an example

REASONS FOR INCOMPLETE STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT



- **Organiser:** narrow view of what a stakeholder is; Lack of creativity about who/how to include; stakeholders are **not included sufficiently in the planning** phase of the project and their opinions are not taken and/or ignored; failure to identify common outcomes and gains → makes it difficult to integrate stakeholders. ~ before project start
 - **Participants:** **Fatigue, lack of resources** (money, time); **unwilling to share information** with potential competitors; **not seeing the possible advantages** of collaboration; **divergent interests, goals, and priorities**; distrust; bad experiences in the past ~ before project start
 - **During the project:** missing regular exchange, no **co-creation**, language barriers, no real collaboration, no transparent discussions, knowledge exchange, no opportunity for informal networking...
-

Clustered recommendations for events and projects



1. Invite qualified experts (presenting novelties)
2. Ensure good quality of speakers/facilitators
3. Foster peer to peer learning
4. Be aware of language und cultural barriers → and work on good solutions (Translation)
5. Ensure stakeholder motivation → „Passive participation does not achieve the goal“
6. Foster collaboration/involvement (of stakeholders) → stakeholder have to feel engaged and respected
7. Well prepared projects /events demand a lot of work; clear guidelines are very important, but this pays off
8. Build up trust → and invest in relationships and follow up
9. Ensure transparency and honesty (in project and event)
10. Ensure time for networking, coffee breaks and social settings
11. Enable networking possibilities
12. Schedule site visits and field trips -> to foster longterm networking and engagement of participants
13. Arrange up-skilling activities and hands on exercises → have impact → foster motivation, interest, engagement
14. Provide settings for equality (equality of participants / stakeholders)
15. Give every participant/stakeholder the possibility to speak up
16. Don't turn capacity building into a lecture → Foster knowledge exchange instead of one sided knowledge transfer

BUT!

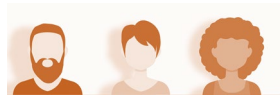
The survey has also shown that there are participants that clearly prefer (one-sided) presentations (of high quality) instead of tools or other methods of knowledge exchange



The solution/compromise could be:
A good mix of methods with which all participants feel comfortable.

Including all relevant stakeholders (Q11)

(Group size →also to be discussed)



Including all relevant stakeholders (Q11)

(Group size →also to be discussed)

- Most of the times it is not the "big stages" with many participants, but the "small and focussed" teams that bring progress. This might lead to the situation, that not all potential "stakeholders" are integrated from the start. You need to find a good balance
- It is more successful when specific targets of stakeholders are targeted and not all stakeholders categories in the same event
- ... it is not possible to include all of them
- These events/measures are never complete. We need to acknowledge that multiple forms of actions and meetings are necessary, there is no one universal measure
- Trying to integrate all stakeholders, targeting a "long-term vision", and not being "specific"
- This is very important. All relevant stakeholders should be in the room. Start with the problem-owners.
- Need a very focused goal (usually a funding opportunity) to engage industry and other time-poor stakeholders
- Suggestion: Large events that address broad groups of stakeholders (all over a supply chain for instance) and that offered a diversified program alternating plenaries and more targeted workshops/world cafes. This enabled to tackle questions specific to some groups, yet showcase them and discuss them in plenary.

CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS TO WISH FOR (Q13) -some examples-



- **Role playing game** using different scenario's that are modelled and visualised, so that decisions of different stakeholders can be seen immediately.
 - „I would love to participate in a **basic capacity building event about food systems**“
 - **Capacity building about food systems from various perspectives**
 - Training on: **What services for stakeholders? How stakeholders can have access to the service? What are successful stories,.....**
 - A workshop with all members of the FutureFoods project (over 2-3 days) discussions with focus on for example **food system transformation from various point of views.**
 - **An intense study-trip over several days to remove filters! Eat, sleep, learn all together, in the same location and in a varied group.. To really get to know each other and understand the different experienced barriers and motives.**
 - Capacity building event „*We share same "approaches,,....., do not have to invent the wheel in each and every corner of Europe, sharing knowledge and results ..*→ speed up the transition **"Copying" is more than welcome.**
 - The capacity building event that focusses on problems of practitioners in a local or regional context but also works back these problems to a European level and by this bridges the gap between local problems and European solutions.
 - **Events which lead to longer involvement, so before and after.**
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METHODS, TOOLS AND GIMMICKS – MAKING EVENTS MORE LIVELY (Q17)



-some examples-

- **Creating an escape room where people have to solve a real (food) crisis**
- **Using lego to plan landscapes**
- **Having creative writers help with writing up and creating future scenarios that ends up in an interactive game e.g. <https://survivethecentury.net/>**
- **Get-to-know each other exercise.** Everyone received a note with 4 or 5 interesting facts about people and had to move around the room to find at least 2 or 3 people for whom the fact/piece of information was true.
- **Speed dates:** meet totally random people.
- **Soft games** that involve all people are always welcome.
- **Interactive platforms or software** enable immediate responses from participants, fostering lively discussions.
- **All what involves the audience and makes them participate it is much more easy to memorize** and remember; proofs, games, questions, even performances with physical objects
- To have someone **draw the main ideas** into a nice draws
- **Story telling workshop**
- **Motion videos that include scientific data**
- **End of conference summary done by a professional comedian** in stand up comedy style.
- **Role playing and role reversal for capacity building activities.....** having them step in the shoes of the other.

Thank you for your attention

food|paths



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