



# **PHD CANDIDATE SURVEY**

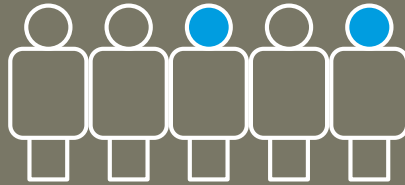
## **FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

## **UNIVERSITY OF OSLO**

# STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

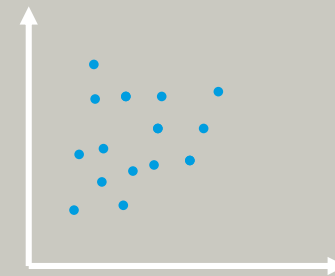
**01**

**Results**



**02**

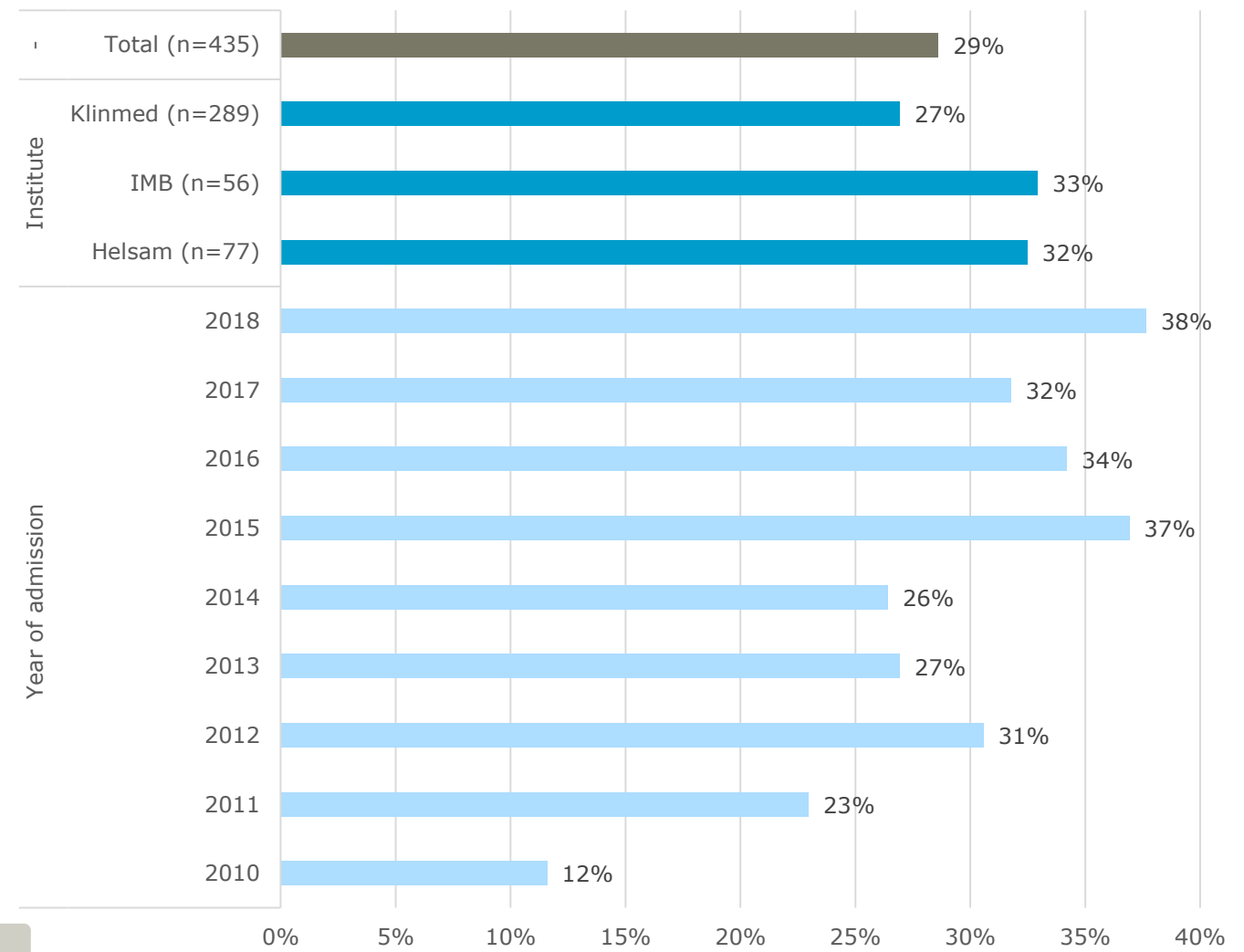
**Analysis**



# RESPONSE RATE

The response rate is evenly distributed across institutes.

RESPONSE RATE ACROSS INSTITUTES AND YEAR OF ADMISSION

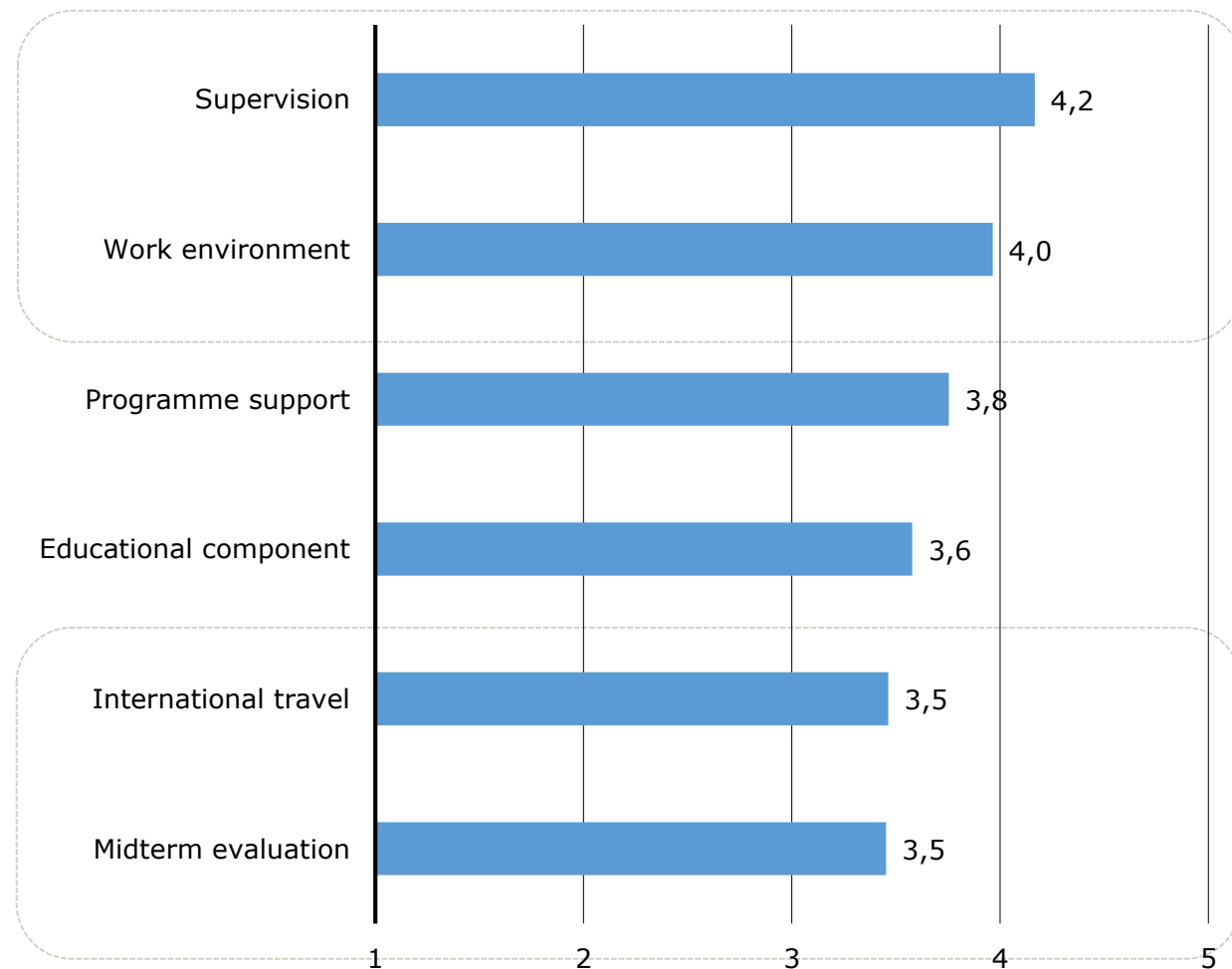


# SUPERVISION AND WORK ENVIRONMENT ARE THE HIGHEST SCORING THEMES

Supervision and Work environment are the highest scoring themes.

International travel and Midterm evaluation are the lowest scoring themes.

## MAIN THEMES



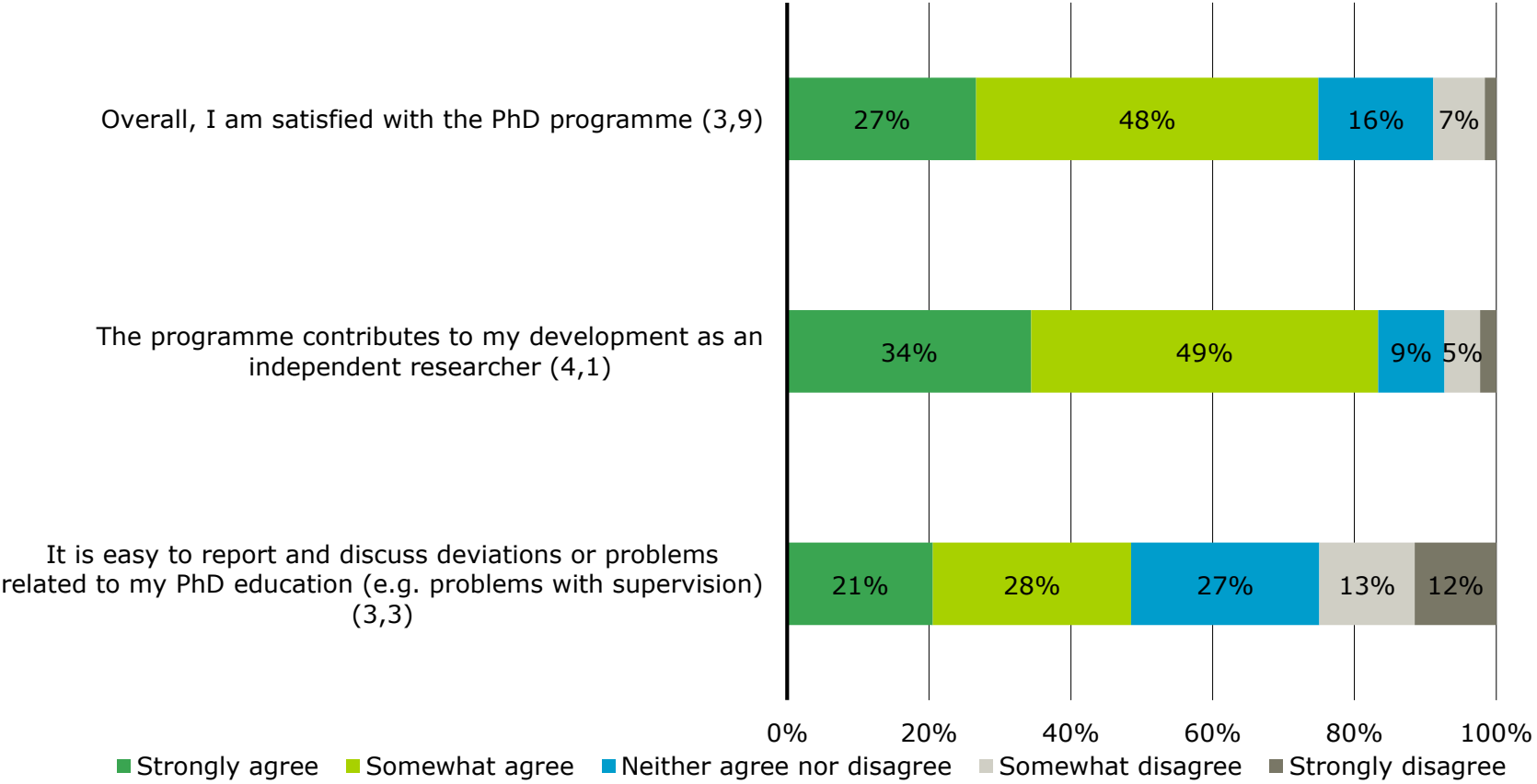
# 75 % OF THE PHD CANDIDATES ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRAMME

Overall, the PhD students are satisfied with the programme. 75 % are satisfied (responds "Somewhat agree" or "Strongly agree" to "Overall, I am satisfied with the PhD programme").

83 % report that the programme contributes to their development as an independent researcher.

## OVERALL SATISFACTION

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?



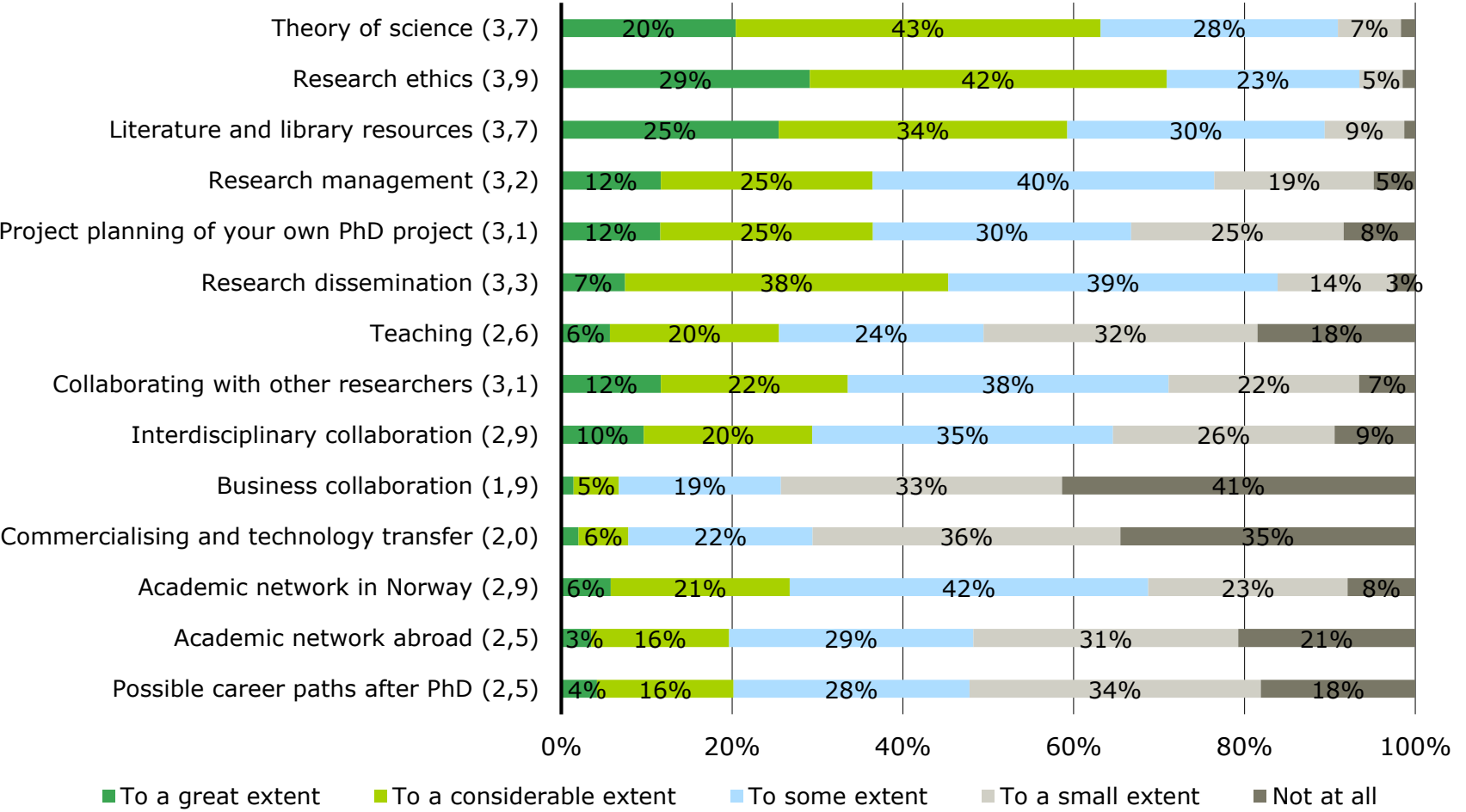
# THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TO DEVELOPMENT OF “THEORY OF SCIENCE” AND “RESEARCH ETHICS”

## THE NORWEGIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL THAT THE PHD PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, INSIGHT AND/OR SKILLS IN THESE AREAS?

The candidates respond that the programme contributes to development of skills in several areas. Among the highest scoring are “Theory of science”, “Research ethics” and “Literature and library resources”.

On the other hand, the candidates feel that their education to a small extent contributes to business collaboration and commercialising and technology transfer, as well as teaching skills and building an academic network abroad.



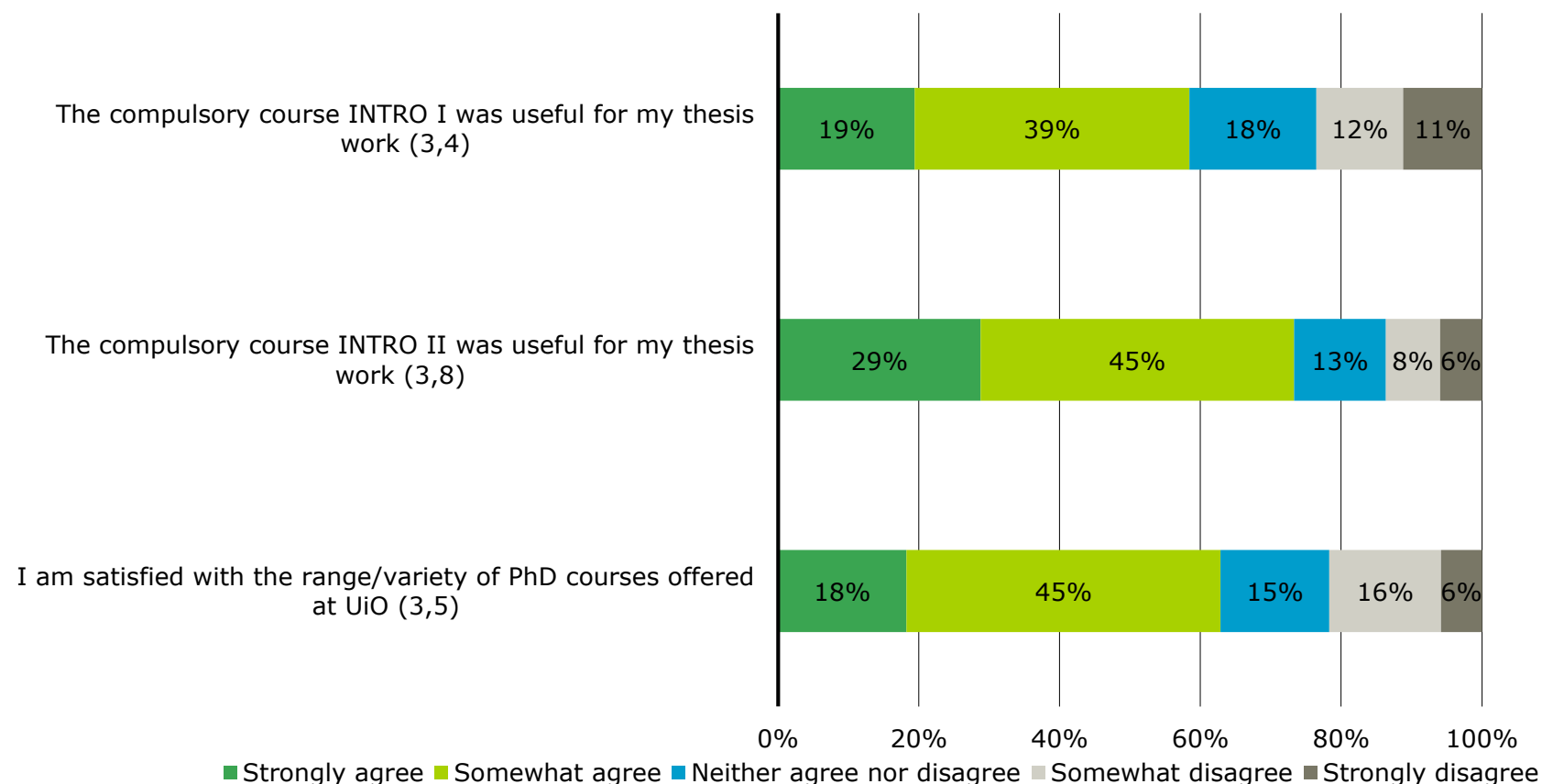
# THE COMPULSORY COURSES ARE USEFUL FOR THE THESIS WORK

The INTRO courses are considered useful with regards to the thesis, INTRO II more than INTRO I.

63 % are satisfied with the range and variety of courses.

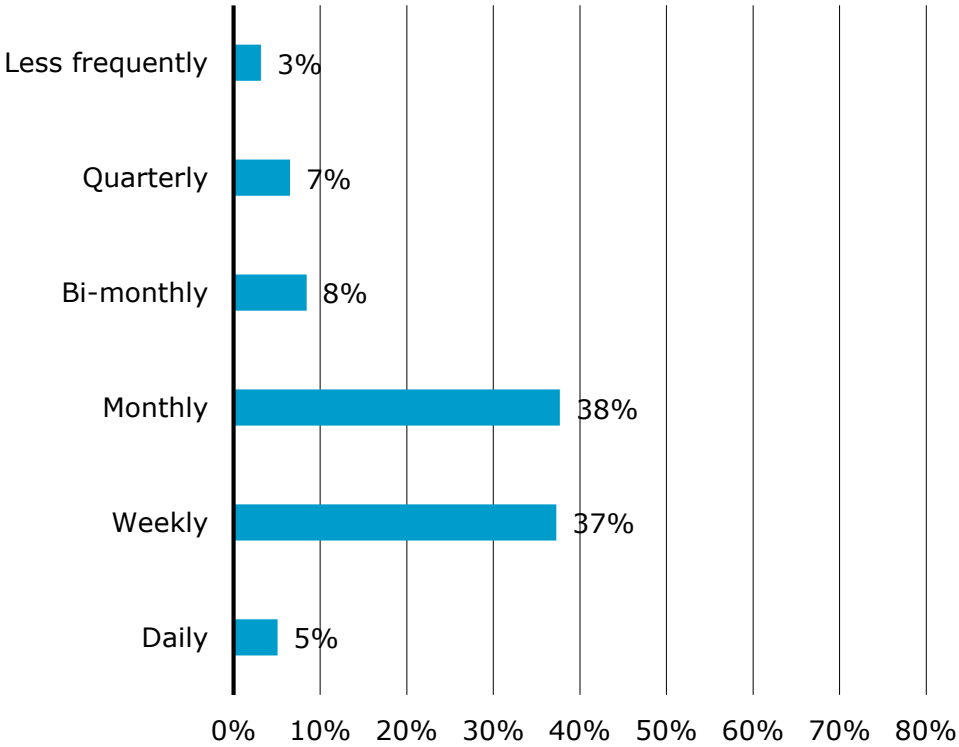
## EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

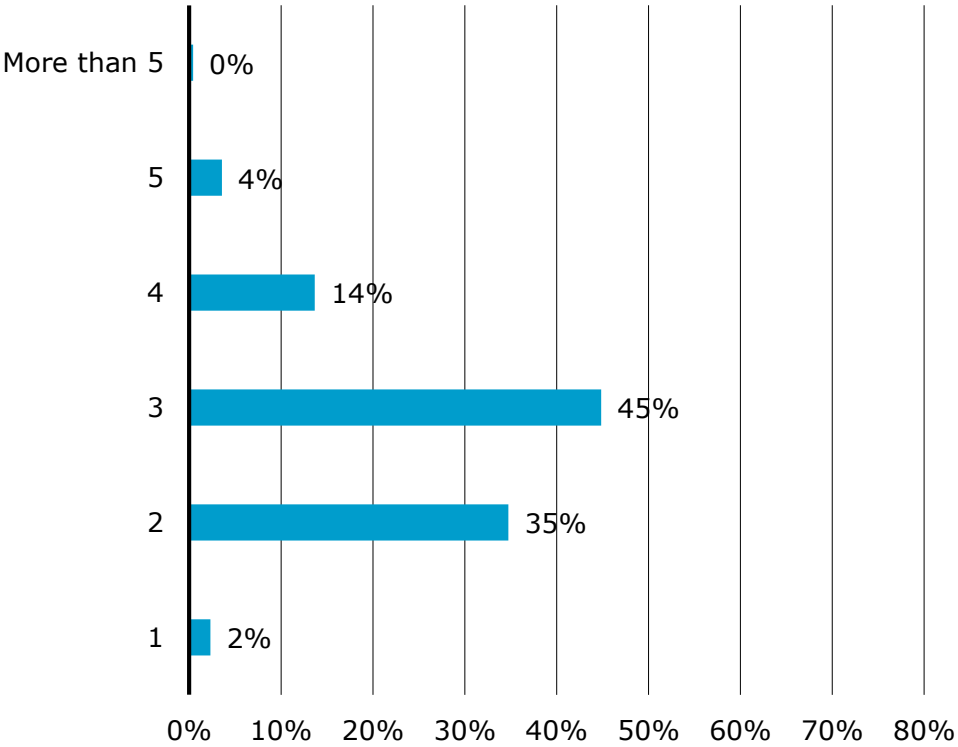


# 75 % OF THE CANDIDATES GET SUPERVISION WEEKLY OR MONTHLY

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET SUPERVISION?



HOW MANY SUPERVISORS DO YOU HAVE IN TOTAL?

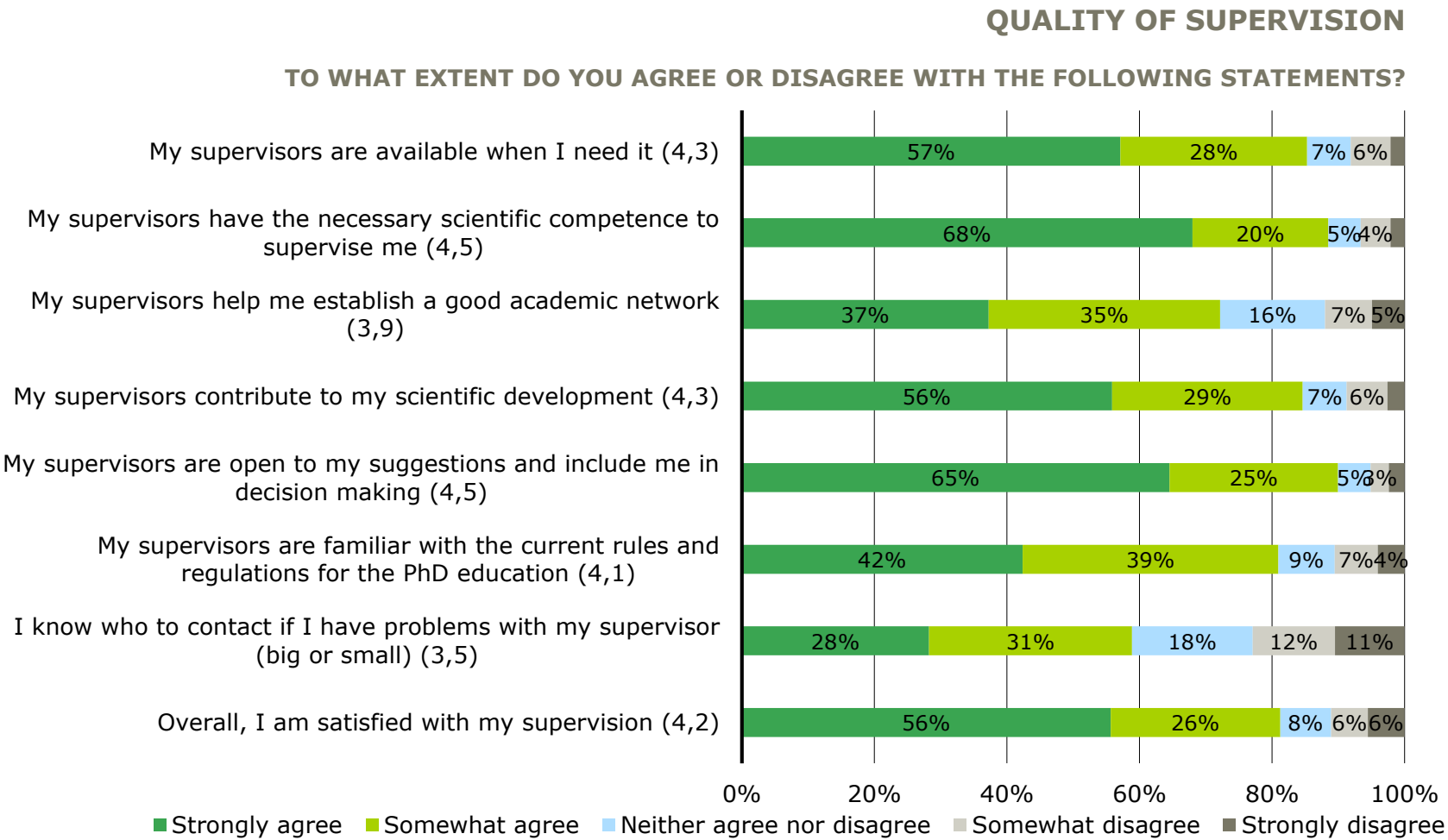




# 82 % ARE SATISFIED WITH THE SUPERVISION

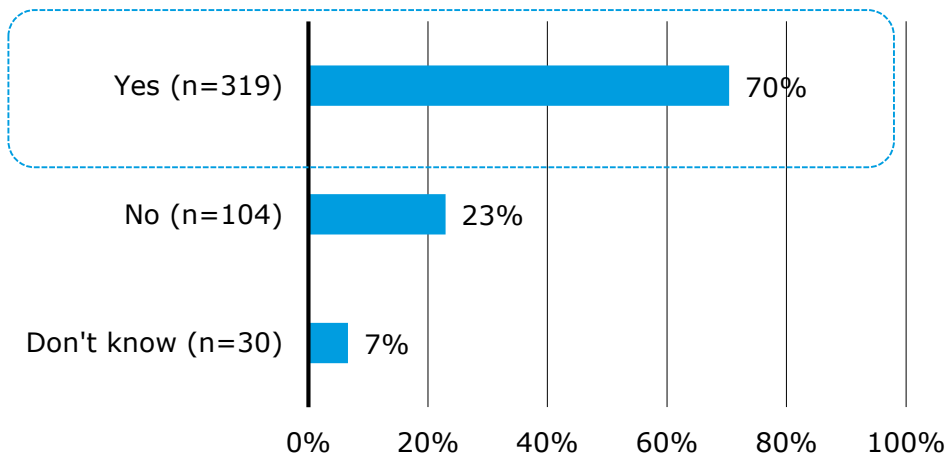
The quality of supervision is generally considered good, especially in terms of scientific competence and openness to suggestions.

Only half of the candidates know who to contact if they have problems with their supervisor.



# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

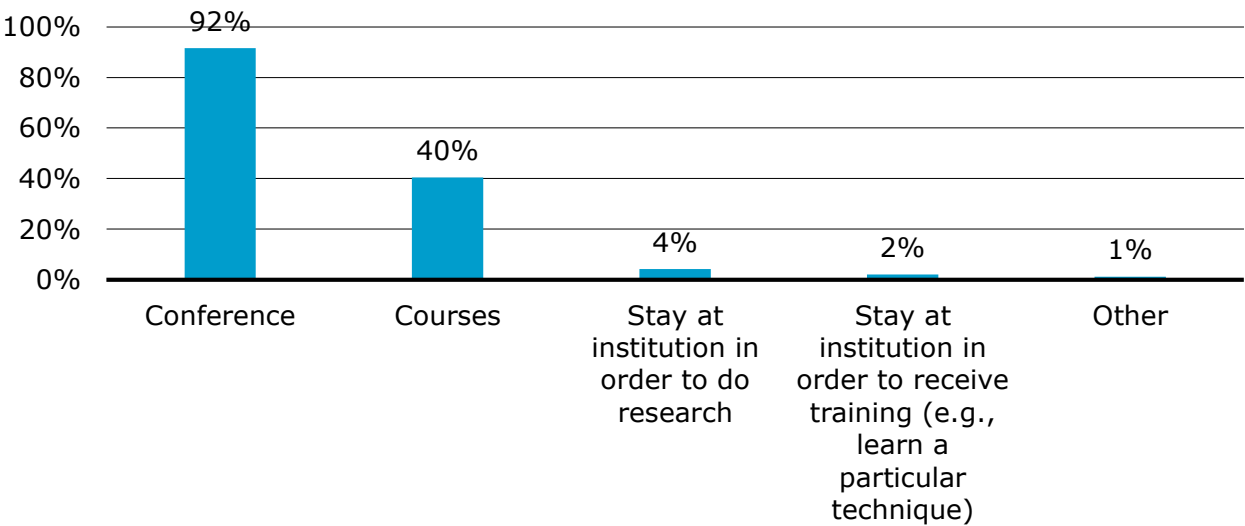
HAVE YOU TRAVELLED, OR DO YOU PLAN TO TRAVEL?



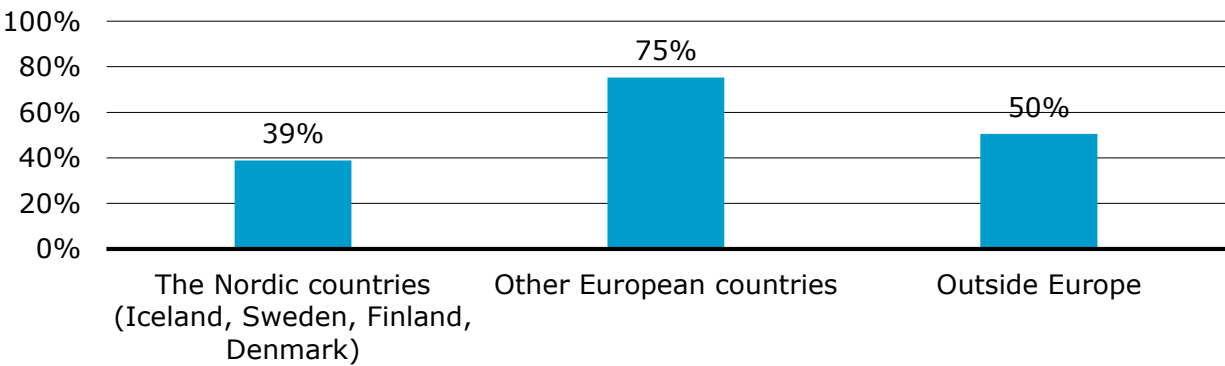
The main reason for international travel is conferences. 61 % of the candidates respond that they have travelled with this purpose.

European countries outside the Nordic countries are by far the most popular destinations for travel during the Ph.D program.

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL?

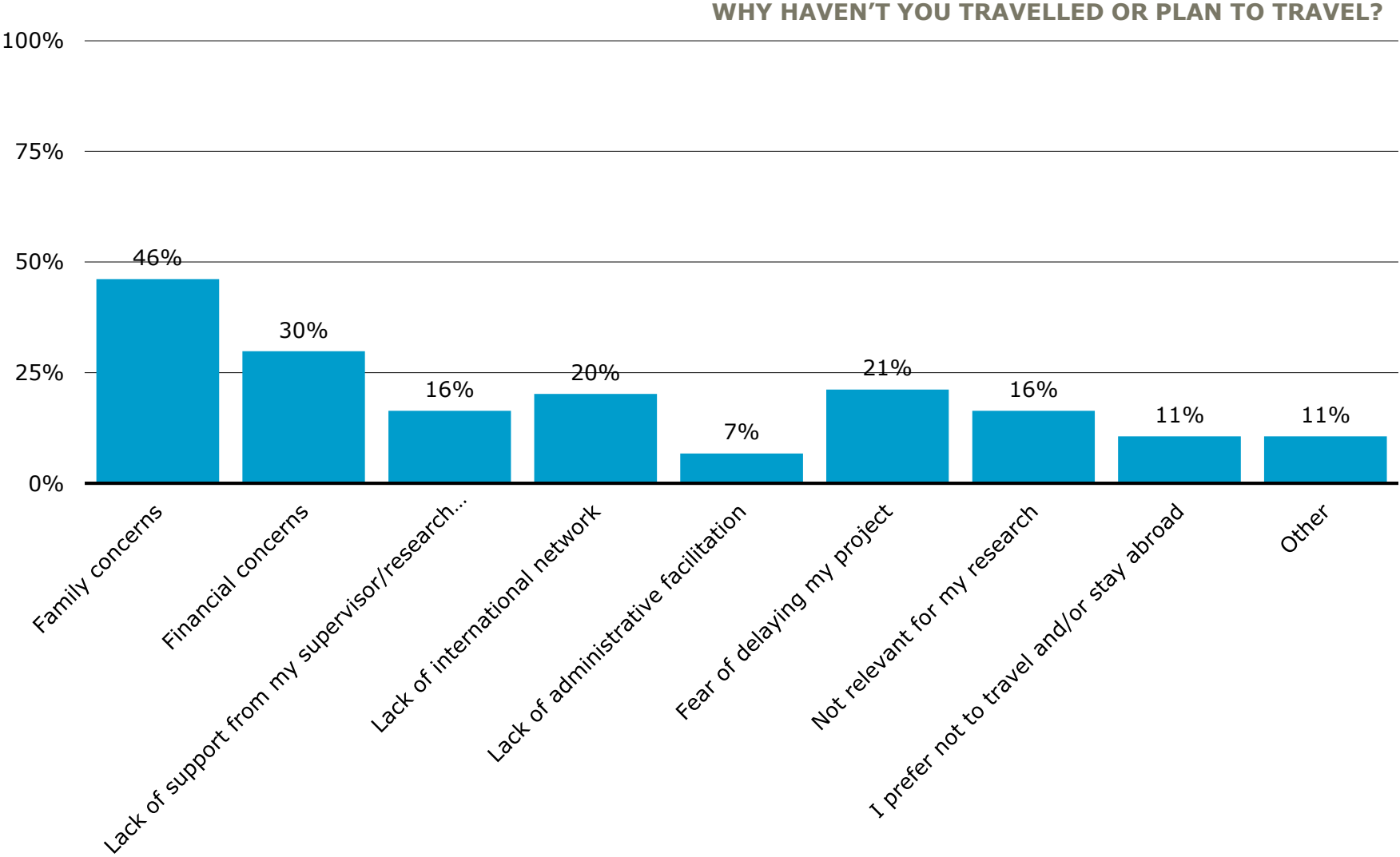


WHERE DID YOU GO, OR WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO GO?



# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Family concerns is the biggest barrier to travelling abroad.

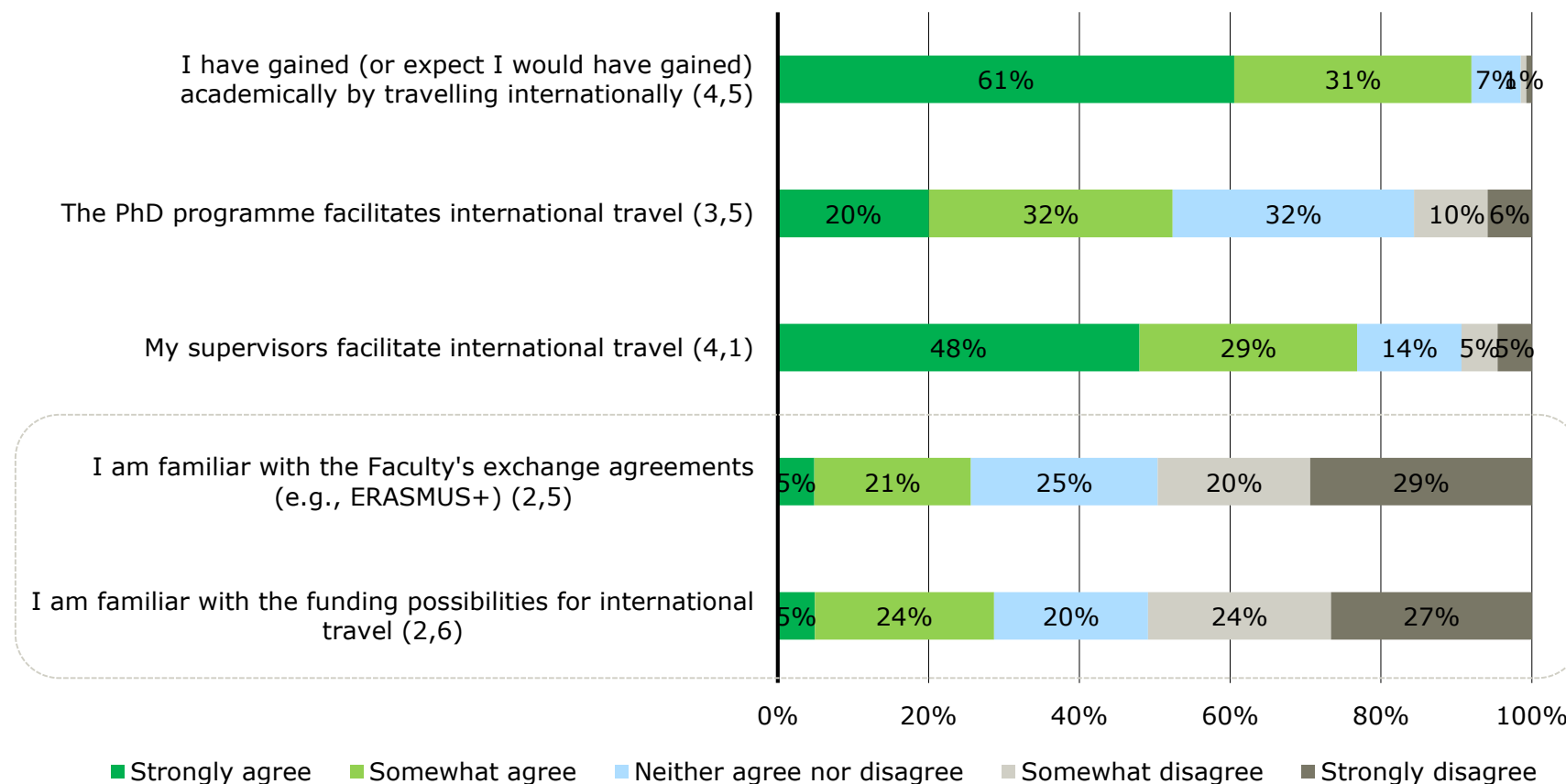


# SUPERVISORS FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL – BUT ONLY 26 % ARE FAMILIAR WITH EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

The candidates are to a lesser degree aware of the possibilities of international travel and funding, but think that it could have helped them.



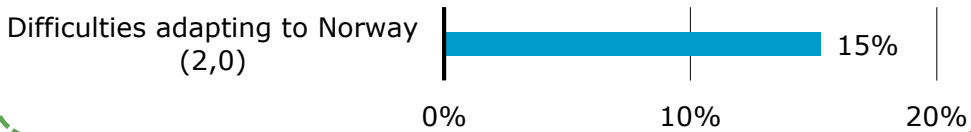
# THE CANDIDATES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PROJECT SCHEDULE AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The greatest concerns among the candidates are keeping the project on schedule and maintaining work-life balance.

More than a quarter of the respondents are concerned about isolation at work.

Adapting to Norway is not an important concern for the general population. For international candidates however, it is more important.

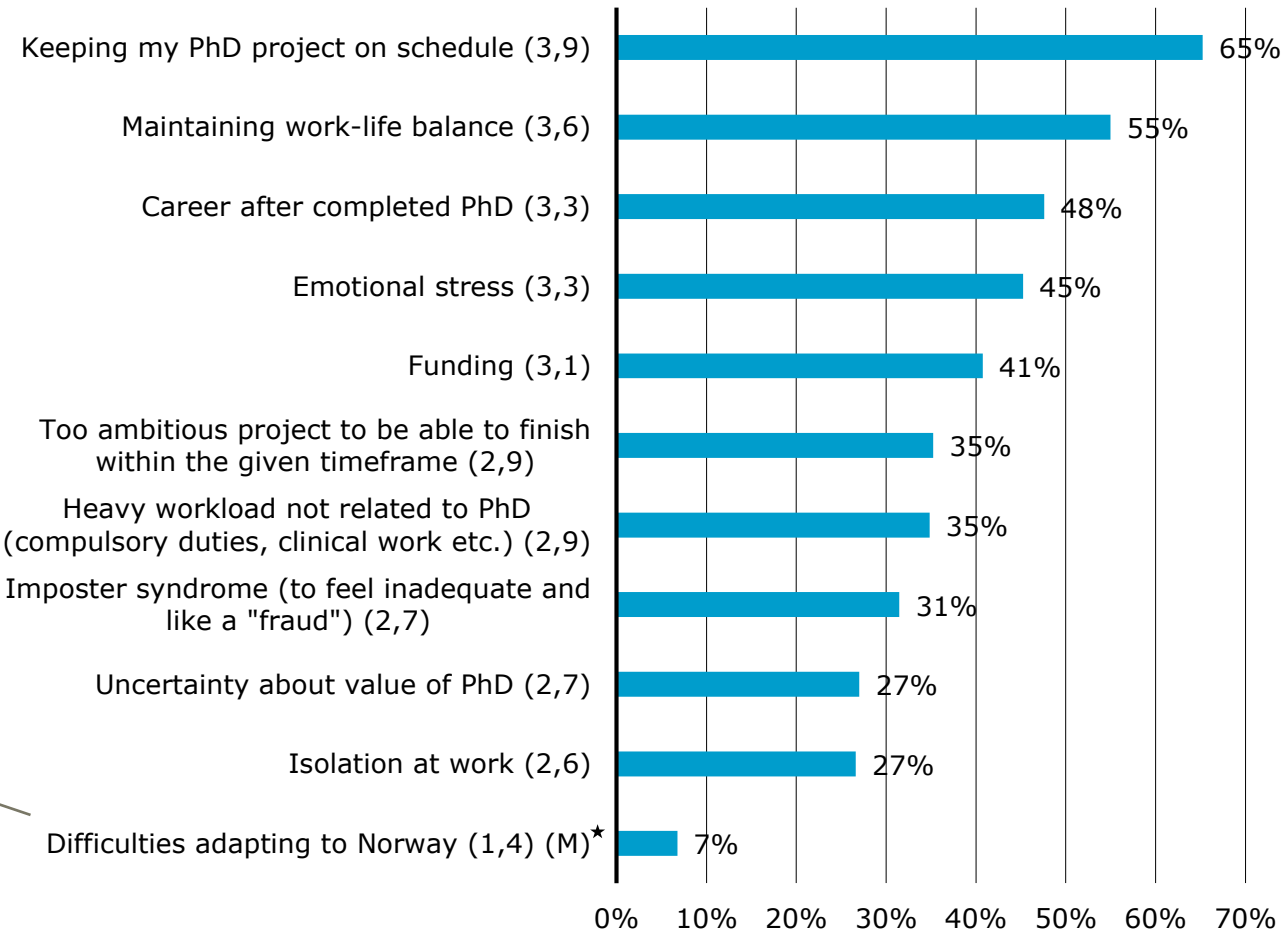
International candidates:



RAMBOLL

## GENERAL CONCERNS

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING (TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT & TO A GREAT EXTENT)?



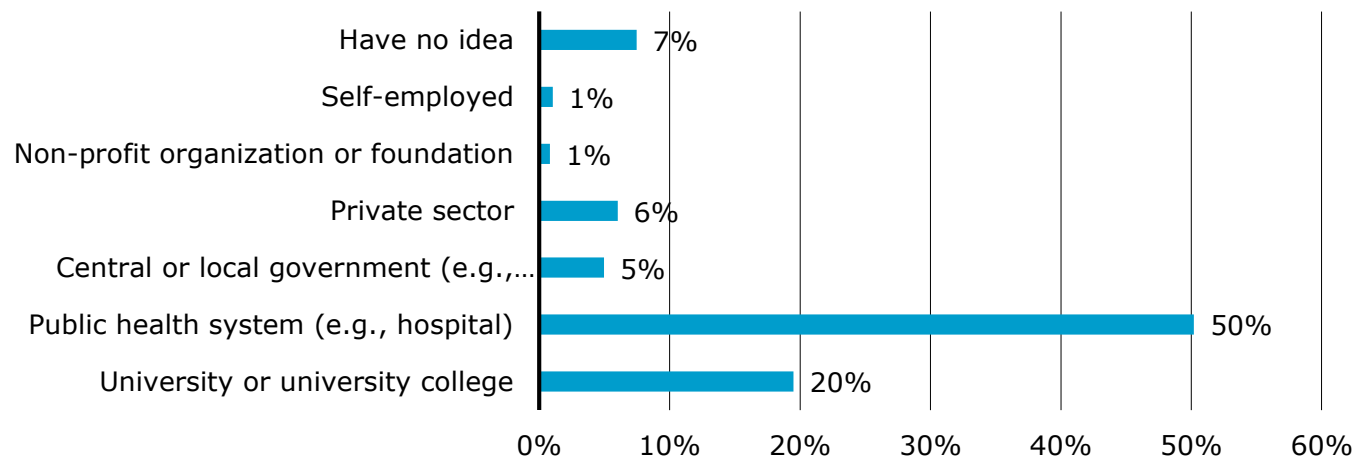
(M)\* Note that the question percentage of "Don't know" answers.

# 50 % EXPECT TO WORK IN PUBLIC HEALTH AFTER FINISHING THEIR PHD

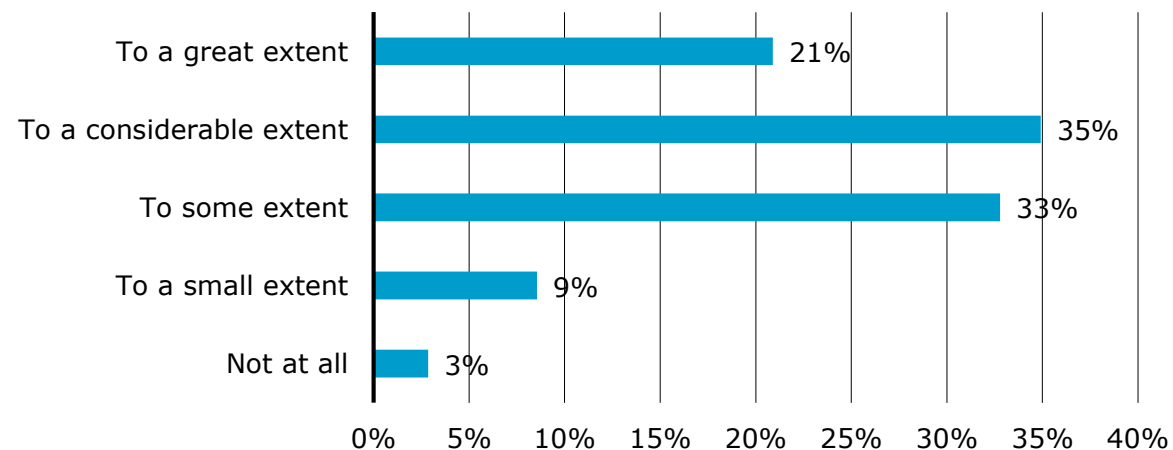
Half of the candidates expect to work in public health after the PhD. Also, many expect to work in a university or university college.

The large majority feel that they are given relevant competences during the programme.

## WHAT KIND OF EMPLOYER DO YOU EXPECT TO WORK FOR AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR PHD?



## TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL THAT THE PHD PROGRAMME PROVIDES YOU WITH RELEVANT COMPETENCES TO SUCCEED IN YOUR EXPECTED CAREER AFTER YOUR PHD?

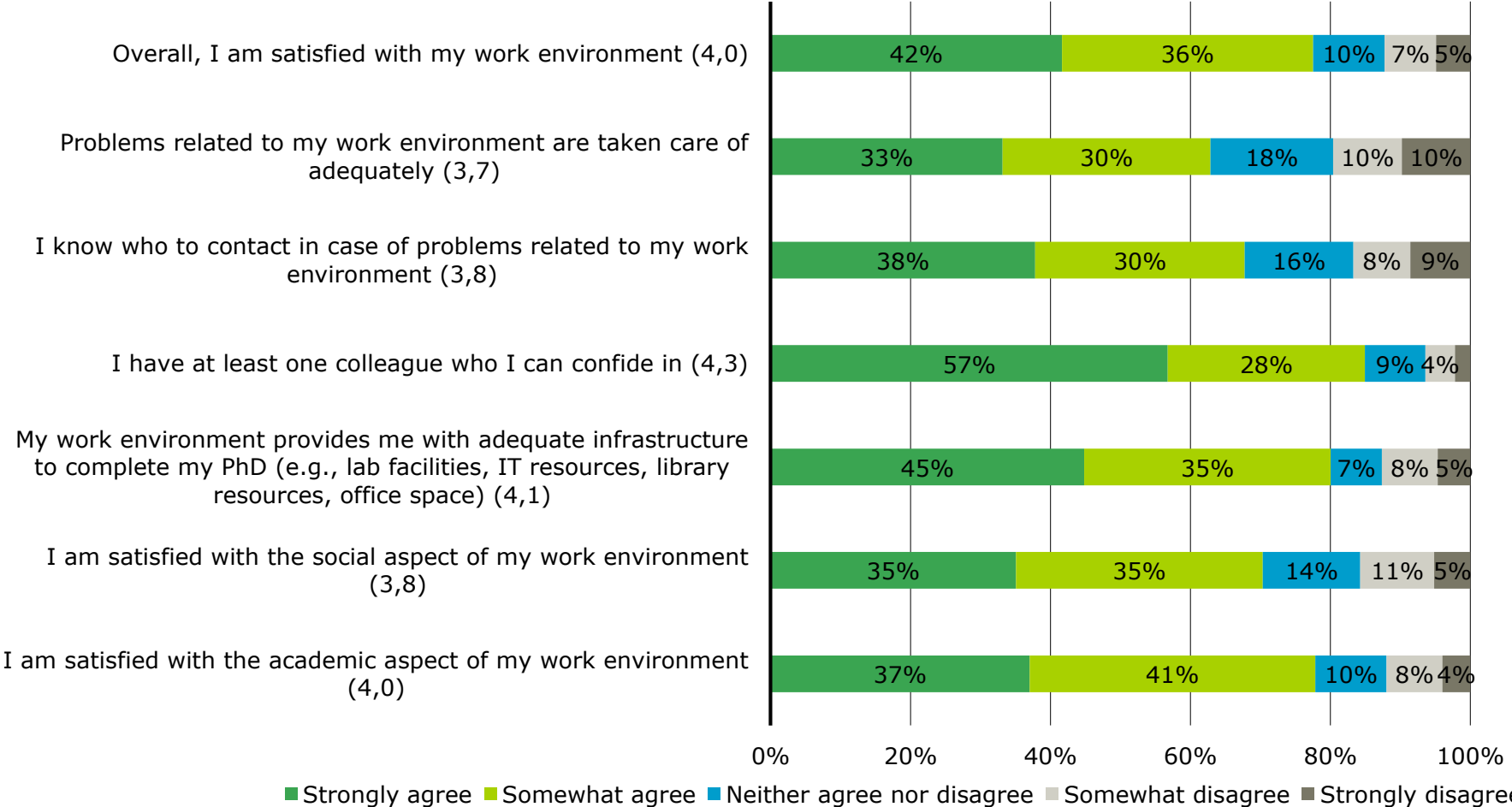


# 78 % ARE SATISFIED WITH THEIR WORK ENVIRONMENT

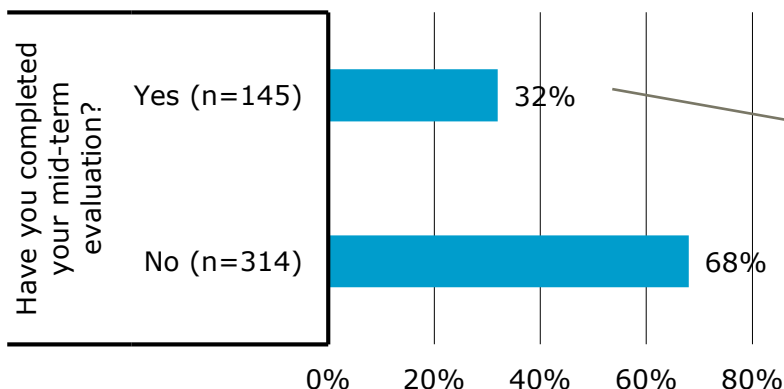
Generally, the candidates are satisfied with the work environment, both socially and academically.

## WORK ENVIRONMENT

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?



# 32 % HAVE HAD A MID-TERM EVALUATION - AROUND 50 % OF THEM THINK IT WAS HELPFUL



32 % of the candidates report that they have completed a mid-term evaluation.

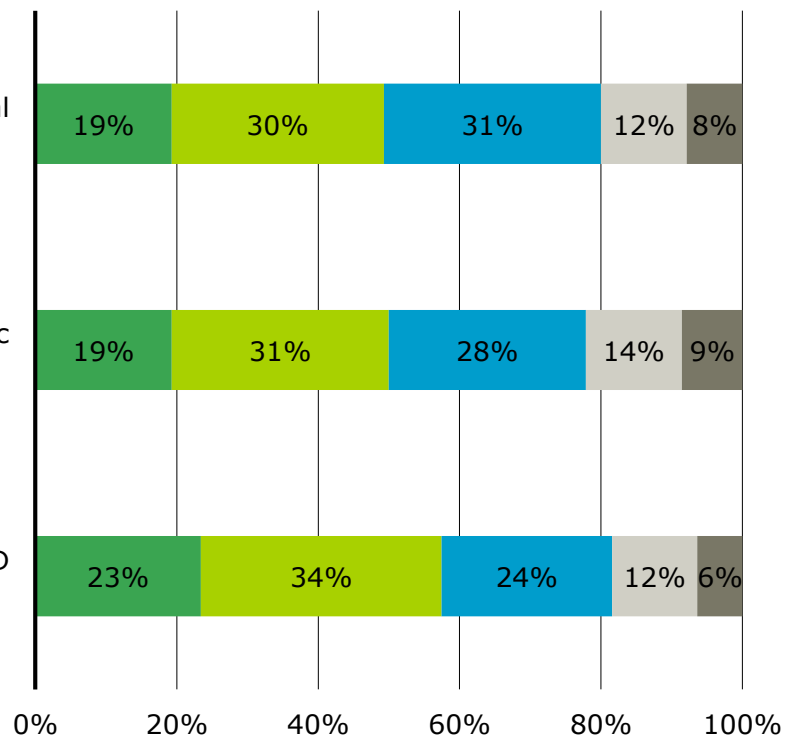
About half of these report that the mid-term evaluation was helpful, both for quality of the project and for the project schedule.

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?  
FILTER: HAVE COMPLETED MID-TERM EVALUATION

The mid-term evaluation made me reflect on the ethical aspects of my PhD project (3,4)

The mid-term evaluation helped to improve the scientific quality of my PhD project (3,4)

The mid-term evaluation was useful for keeping my PhD project on schedule (3,6)



■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

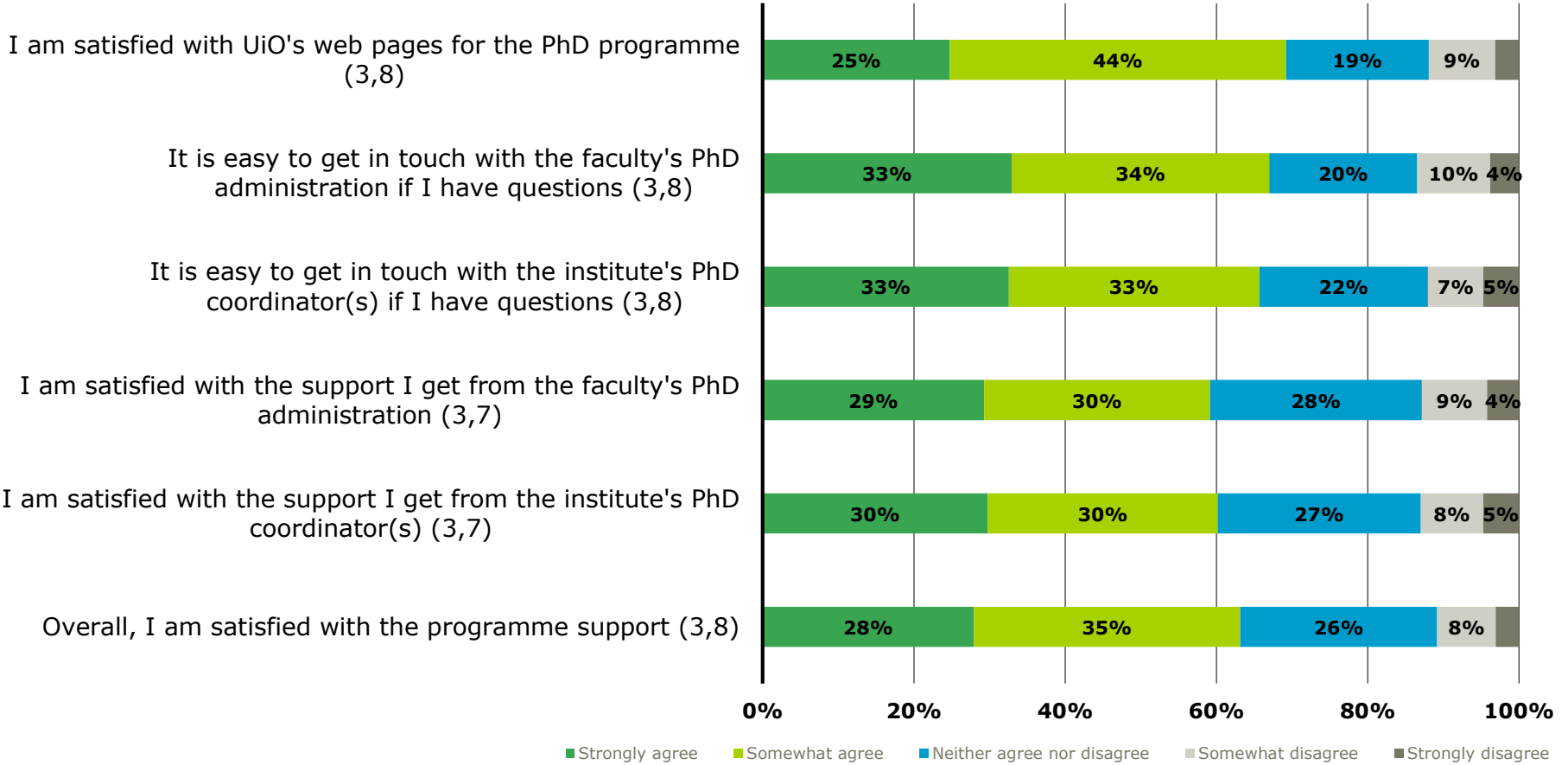


# 63 % ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRAMME SUPPORT

About two thirds of the candidates are satisfied with the service they get from administration and coordinators.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT PROGRAMME SUPPORT

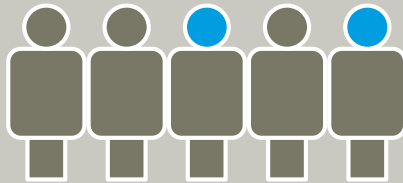
TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?



# STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

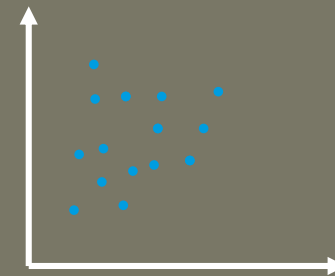
**01**

Results



**02**

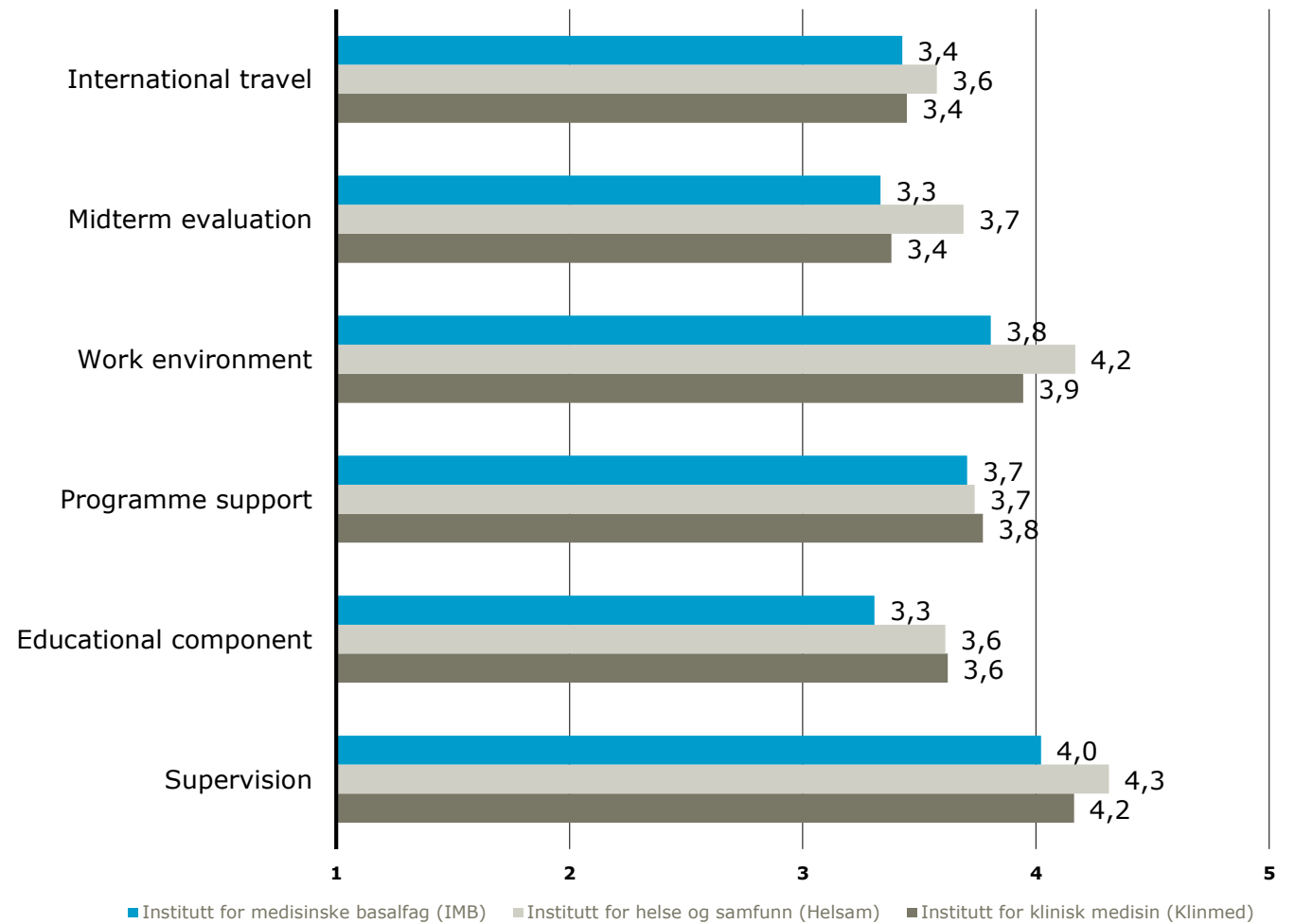
Analysis



# HELSAM HAS THE HIGHEST SCORES ON THE MAIN THEMES IN THE SURVEY

Helsam have higher scores than the two other institutes on most areas, while IMB has slightly lower scores than Klinmed.

MAIN THEME SCORES ACROSS INSTITUTES



# HIGH SATISFACTION ACROSS INSTITUTES

## KEY QUESTIONS ACROSS INSTITUTES

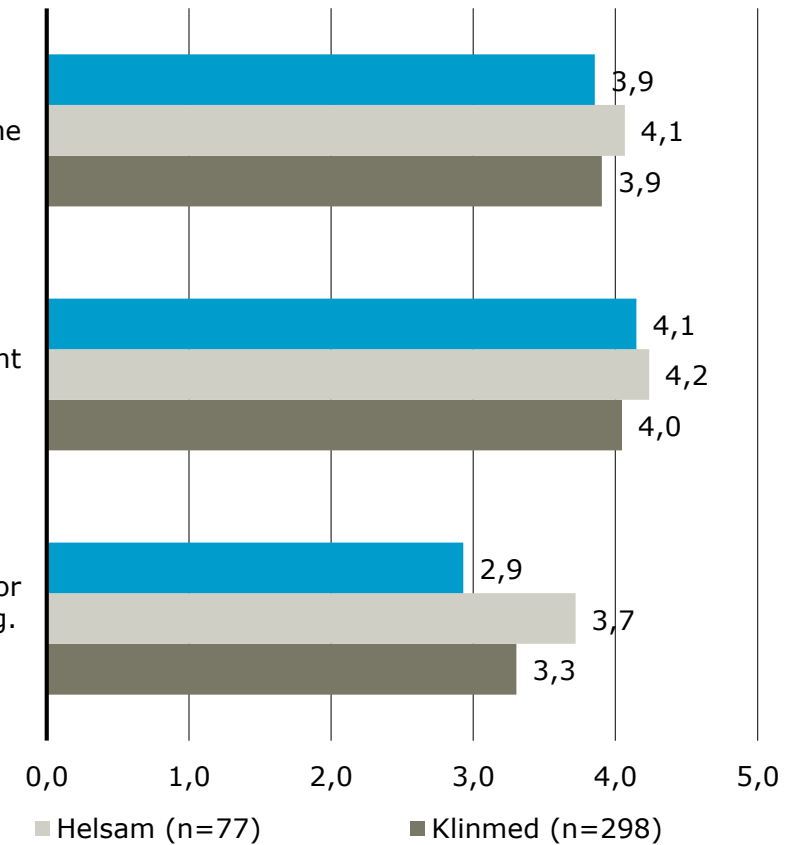
Both satisfaction and attainment is more or less evenly distributed across institutes.

On the other hand, discussing deviations and problems seems easier at Helsam than at Klinmed and IMB.

Overall, I am satisfied with the PhD programme

The programme contributes to my development as an independent researcher

It is easy to report and discuss deviations or problems related to my PhD education (e.g. problems with supervision)



# EXPERIENCE OF WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PROGRAM SUPPORT SEPARATES SATISFIED AND DISSATISFIED CANDIDATES

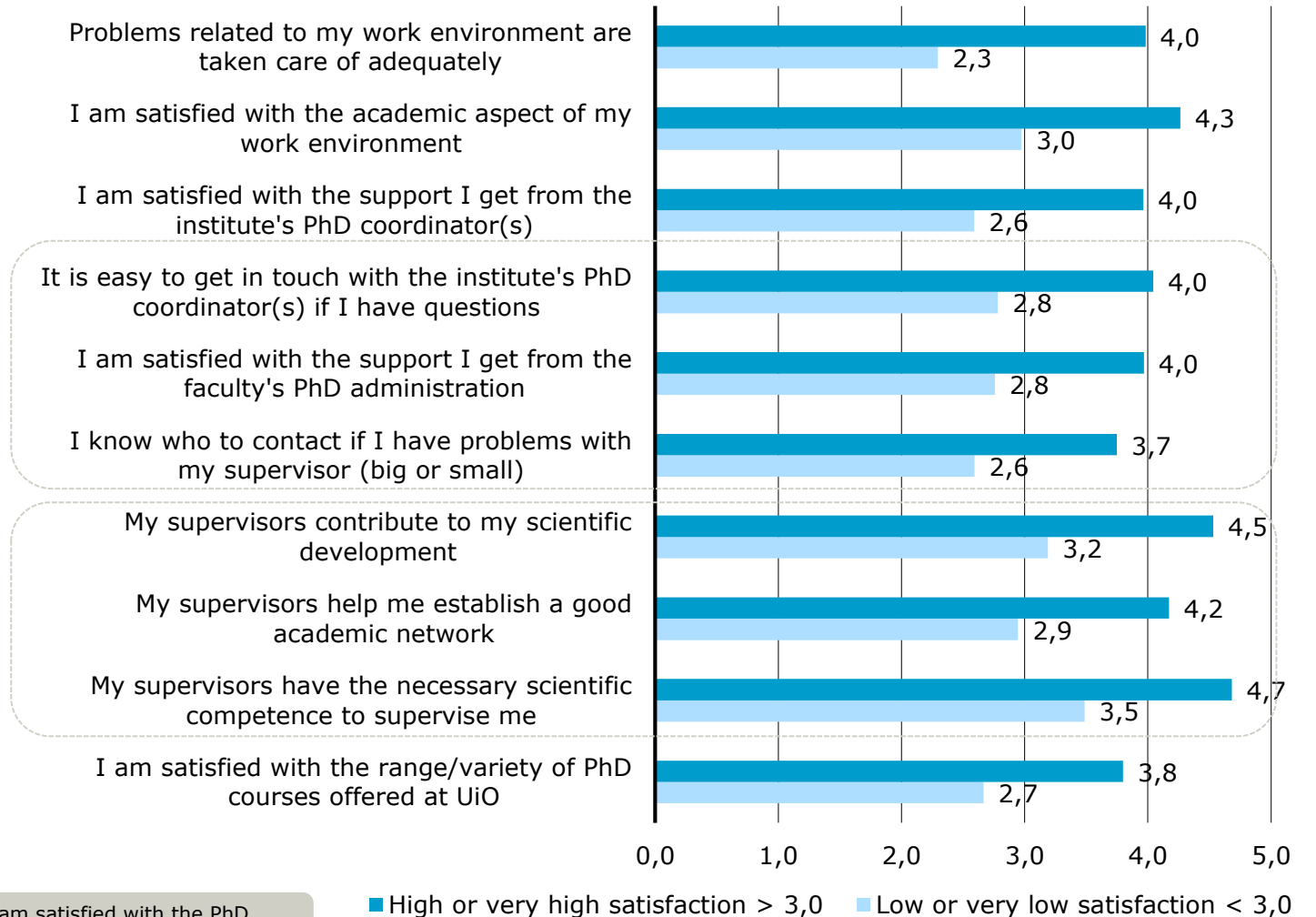
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW SATISFACTION\*

This analysis shows the questions with the biggest difference in score between candidates who are overall dissatisfied with the PhD programme (answered 1 or 2 on overall satisfaction) and those who are satisfied (answered 4 or 5 on overall satisfaction).

Questions related to work environment and programme support are represented in the list of questions separating the group with low satisfaction from the group with high satisfaction.

Questions regarding communication with the institute are also among the questions where the difference is considerable.

The candidates' perception of their supervisors is also a prominent difference.

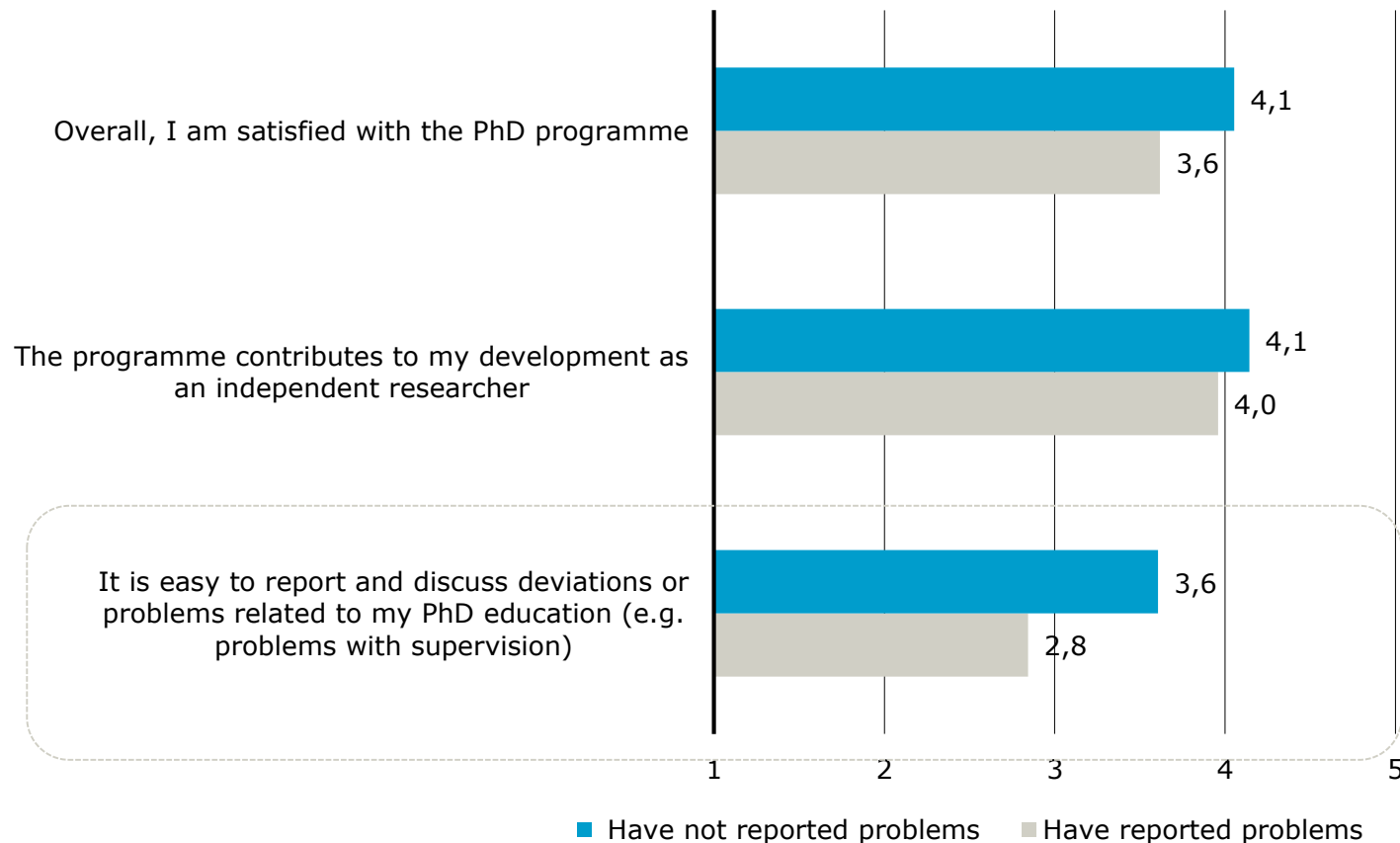


# CANDIDATES WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS DURING THEIR EDUCATION HAVE LOWER SCORES

Candidates who have experienced problems or deviations during their programme are less satisfied overall, not surprisingly. Such candidates also respond that the programme contributes less to their development than the candidates that have not experienced issues.

They also think it is harder to report or discuss problems related to their education than the rest of the candidates.

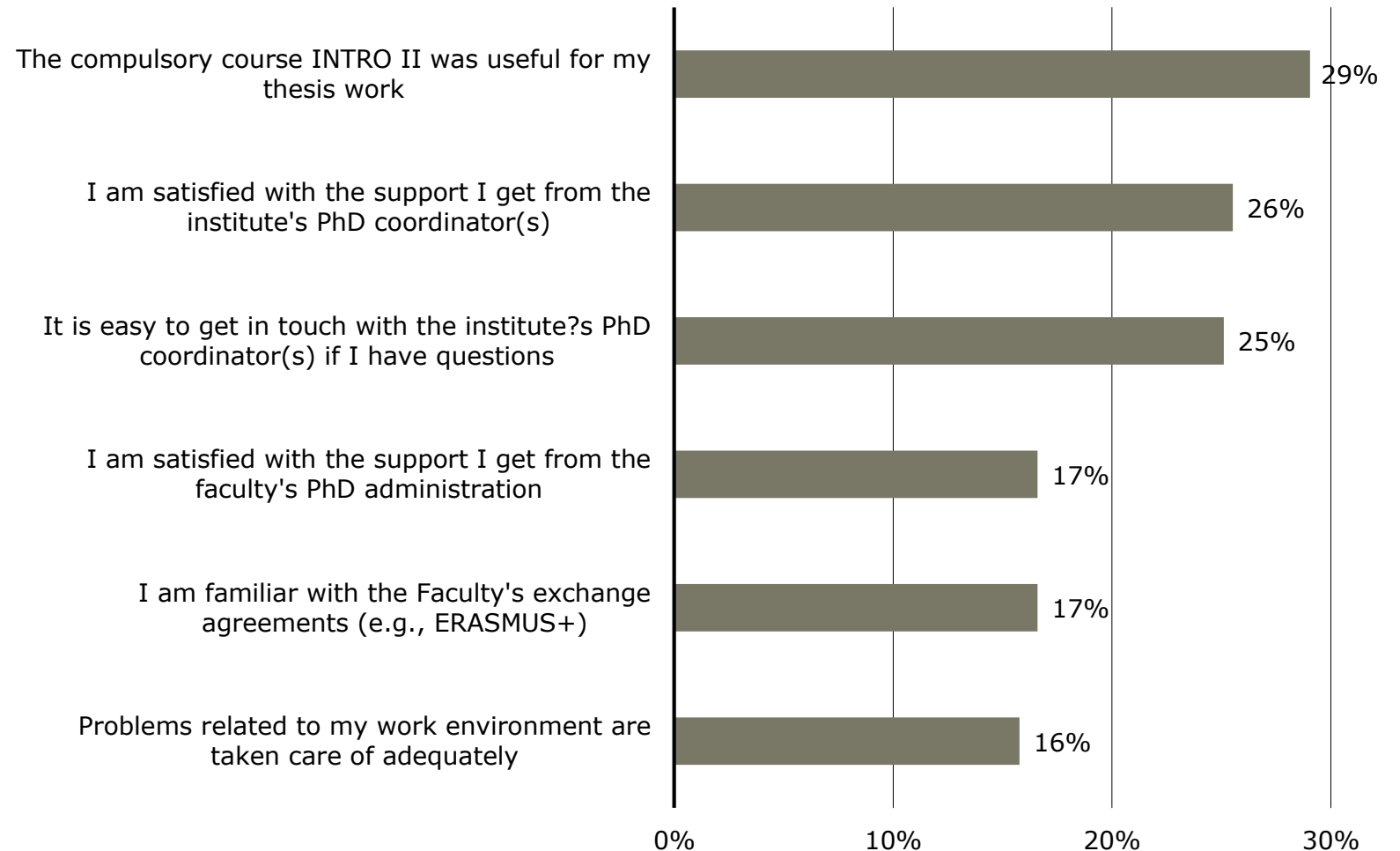
## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANDIDATES



# APPENDIX

# SOME QUESTIONS HAVE HIGH “DON’T KNOW” SHARE

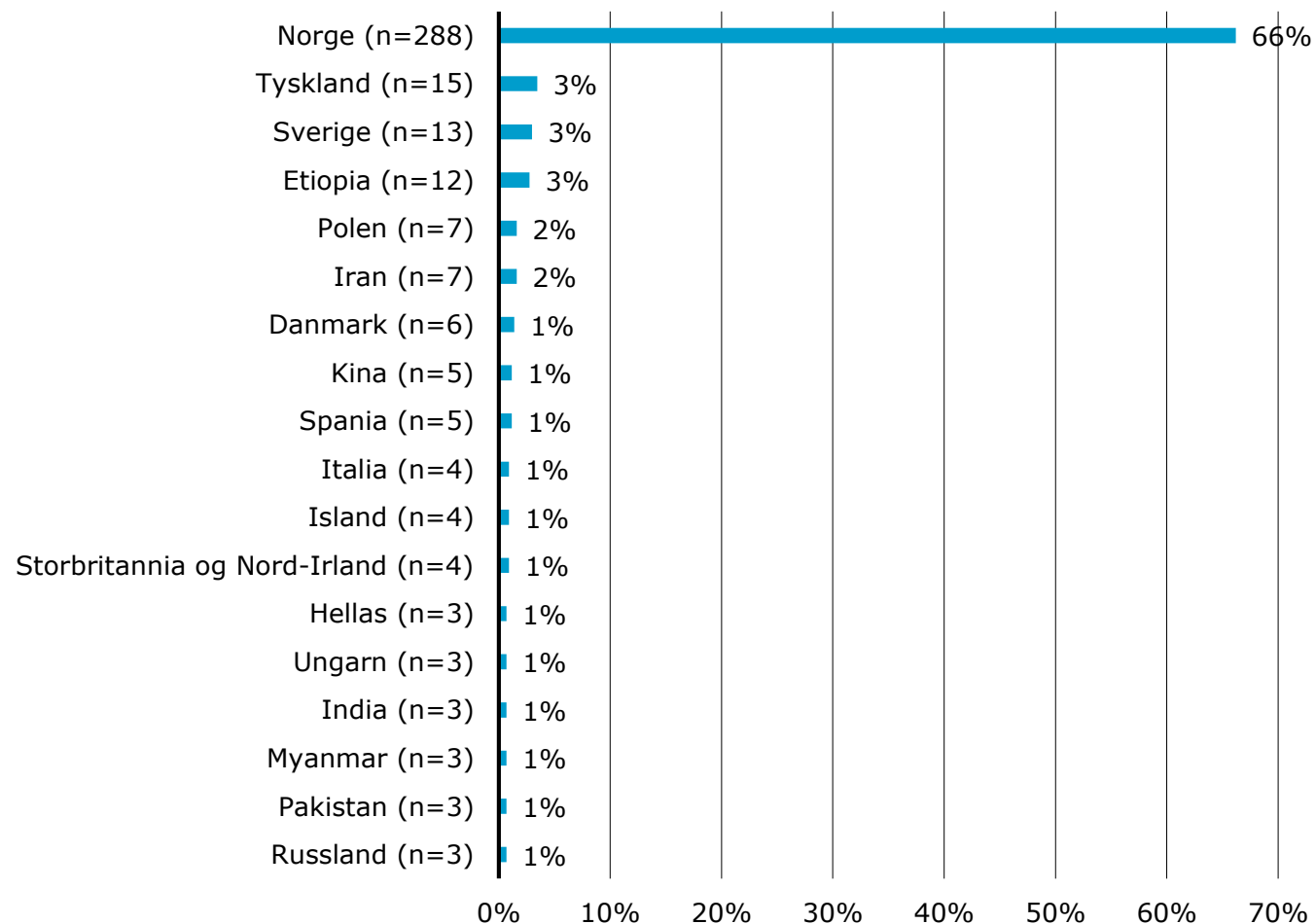
## QUESTIONS WITH THE HIGHEST “DON’T KNOW” SHARES





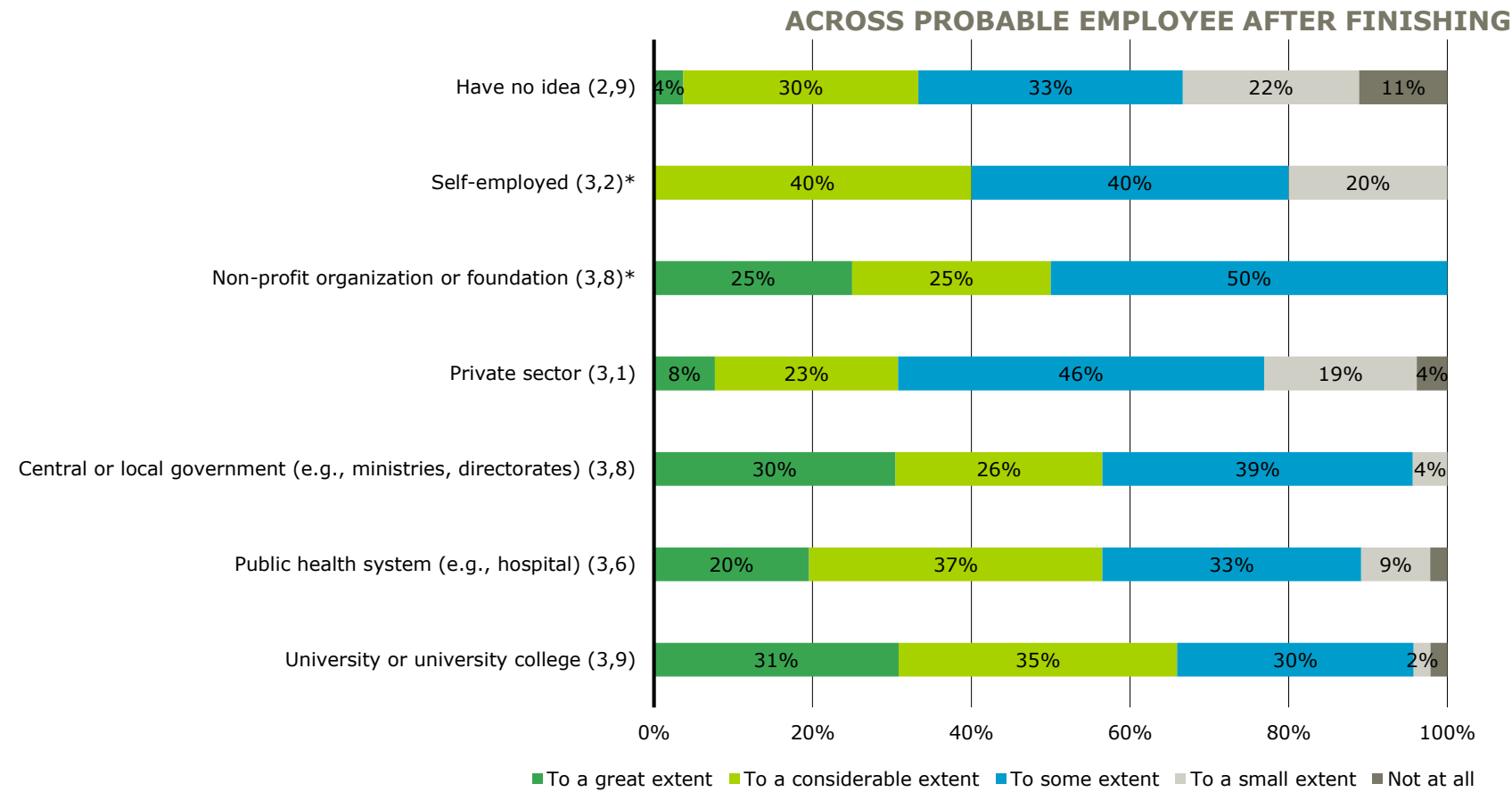
# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## RESPONSE RATE ACROSS CITIZENSHIP



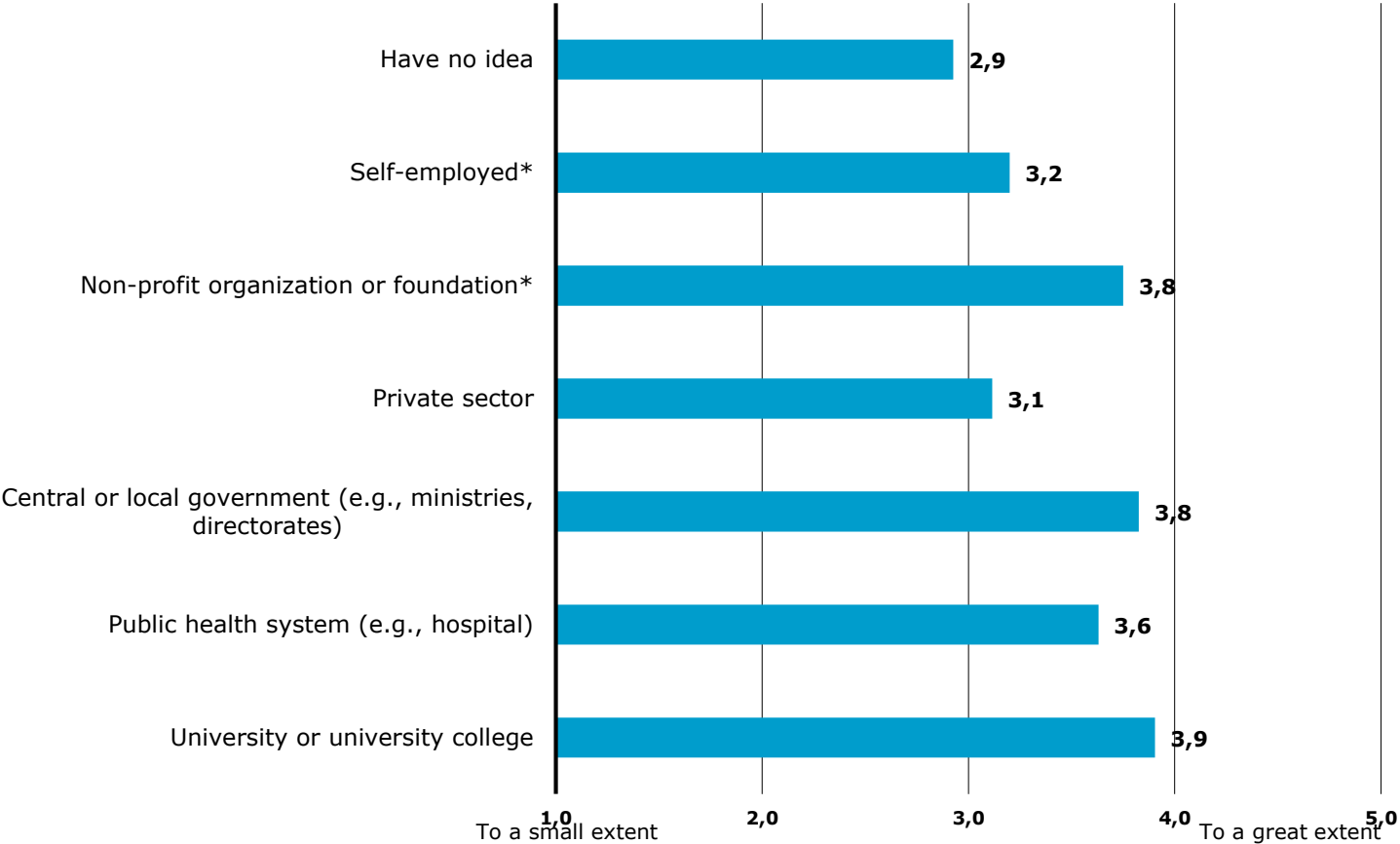
# RELEVANCE OF PROGRAMME ACROSS EXPECTED WORKPLACES

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL THAT THE PHD PROGRAMME PROVIDES YOU WITH RELEVANT COMPETENCES TO SUCCEED IN YOUR EXPECTED CAREER AFTER YOUR PHD?



# RELEVANCE OF PROGRAMME ACROSS EXPECTED WORKPLACES

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL THAT THE PHD PROGRAMME PROVIDES YOU WITH RELEVANT COMPETENCES TO SUCCEED IN YOUR EXPECTED CAREER AFTER YOUR PHD?  
ACROSS PROBABLE EMPLOYER AFTER FINISHING



\* The mean is based on less than 10 observations