



The Division of Rural Development

Tuesday 26 May 2020

13:00 to 14:30 on Zoom

Register at

<https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/66402025613>

A Mapping of Rural and Regional Research in Sweden

Presentation and discussions will be held in English

UppdragLandsbygd@slu.se

 @SLU_UppdragLand



A Mapping of Rural and Regional Research in Sweden

13.00 – 13.05 : Waiting for everyone to join...

13.05 – 13.10 : A brief introduction to the governmental assignment

13.10 – 13.50 : Presentation of the survey results

13.50 – 14.00 : Burning Questions

14.00 – 14.15 : Breakout room discussions

14.15 – 14.30 : Next steps

Disclaimer: the seminar will be recorded and made available as a resource at

<https://www.slu.se/institutioner/stad-land/samverkan/uppdrag-landsbygd/>

Mission statement

To strengthen research on ruralities through improved coordination and cooperation among actors conducting research in rural and regional development.

Government bulletin 12/9

#1. Identify the field

An open and multidisciplinary field

Who are these researchers?

What themes/geographies do they investigate?

Who do they collaborate with other actors?

Researcher database + online survey

Analysis and visualisation of results

#3. Support new cooperations

Seed money to engage researchers from different disciplines and organisations during 2020/21

Research network: up to 120 tSEK

Research conference: up to 200 tSEK

1st call in Feb -> 5 out of 9 proposals financed

2nd call in April : 5 out of 6. " "

#2. Outreach to stakeholders

Rural development is an issue that affects the whole society.

How can societal actors get better access to this research?

Dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders at national/regional/local levels

#4. Communicate research

Promote the field by highlighting researchers or research groups and showcasing their knowledge about Swedish rural areas and regions.

Twitter + Blogg + Webinars + Research Briefs



Communication channels

Resource page

<https://www.slu.se/institutioner/stad-land/samverkan/uppdrag-landsbygd/>

Blog

<http://blogg.slu.se/kunskapscentrum-for-landsbygder/>

Research Briefs

UppdragLandsbygd@slu.se

 @SLU_UppdragLand



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

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blogg.slu.se/kunskapscentrum-for-landsbygder/

R3 Brief #1 - May 2020
(Rural Regional Research) R3 Brief is a publication series providing a quick insight into some selected recent research addressing rural and regional development in Sweden.

Territorial Innovation

BY: *Alexandre Dubois, Researcher at Division of Rural Development*

Since the late 1990s, the literature on regional innovation systems in Sweden has been one of the more abundant and lively on the international scene, especially due to the work undertaken at the CIRCLE laboratory at Lund University (Asheim & Isaksen 2002, Asheim *et al.* 2011). Although most of these studies tend to focus on high-tech industrial clusters in larger city-regions. Focus on rural innovation has been rarer. In this Research Brief, we review some of the more recent studies that propose a fresh outlook on the innovation processes that take place in varied rural and regional settings.

INNOVATION IN THE BIOECONOMY

In their qualitative study, Karlsson *et al.* (2017) investigate four Swedish farms producing biogas from organic waste. Despite their potential, biogas plants in Sweden have not been profitable ventures yet. Karlsson *et al.* (2017) propose to use business model innovation (BMI) in strategies for arranging, producing, and marketing farm-produced biogas. BMI appears to be especially beneficial for creating public-private networks with the aim to invest in farm-based biogas production. These investments stimulate rural development and provide new business opportunities and market outlets for SMEs in the agricultural sector. The study found that the network of public and private actors in farm-produced biogas production places a high value on environmental sustainability as well as on other social benefits because of the reduction on fossil fuels for energy.

Biorefineries have been in the spotlight as a possible regional development strategy for the implementation of smart specialisation in rural, biomass-rich regions. Looking at the case of Processum in Örnsköldsvik, Dubois and Kristensen (2018) show the increasing integration of scientific knowledge production capabilities on the site of the cluster, whereas earlier stages focused essentially on industrial applications of knowledge developed elsewhere. The biorefinery in Örnsköldsvik has had a long-ranging effect on local development and dynamic synergy creation, based on biorefinery outputs such as heat.

Ten years of cluster cooperation within the framework "The Biorefinery of the Future" has resulted in: 61 new products, services, or processes; 58 prototypes; more than 100 approved patents; 30 new companies and about 30 business expansion investments or establishments.

A main takeaway from the Processum case is the progressive transformation of the cluster into a more integrated complex spanning from bulk commodity production, to industrial and manufacturing process design to scientific and operational knowledge co-production and diffusion.

Här samlar vi även andra kunskaper som kan vara intressanta för alla som jobbar med landsbygdsutveckling; aktuell event, webinarier som drivs av andra aktörer, osv.

Publicerat | Övrigt | Läsna en kommentar

Välkommen att registrera dig till fredagens nätverkscaféer.

Kvinnors företagande skapar en levande landsbygd
Postat den 25 maj, 2020 av siko0001

... dagar sedan

Results from the researcher survey



The aim was to reach out to individual researchers based in Swedish research organisations and collect their own experiences and perspectives of working in the field of rural and regional research.

Sent by email to 244 scholars -> *a priori* 'unknown' population

Completed responses: 156 (varies depending on the question...)

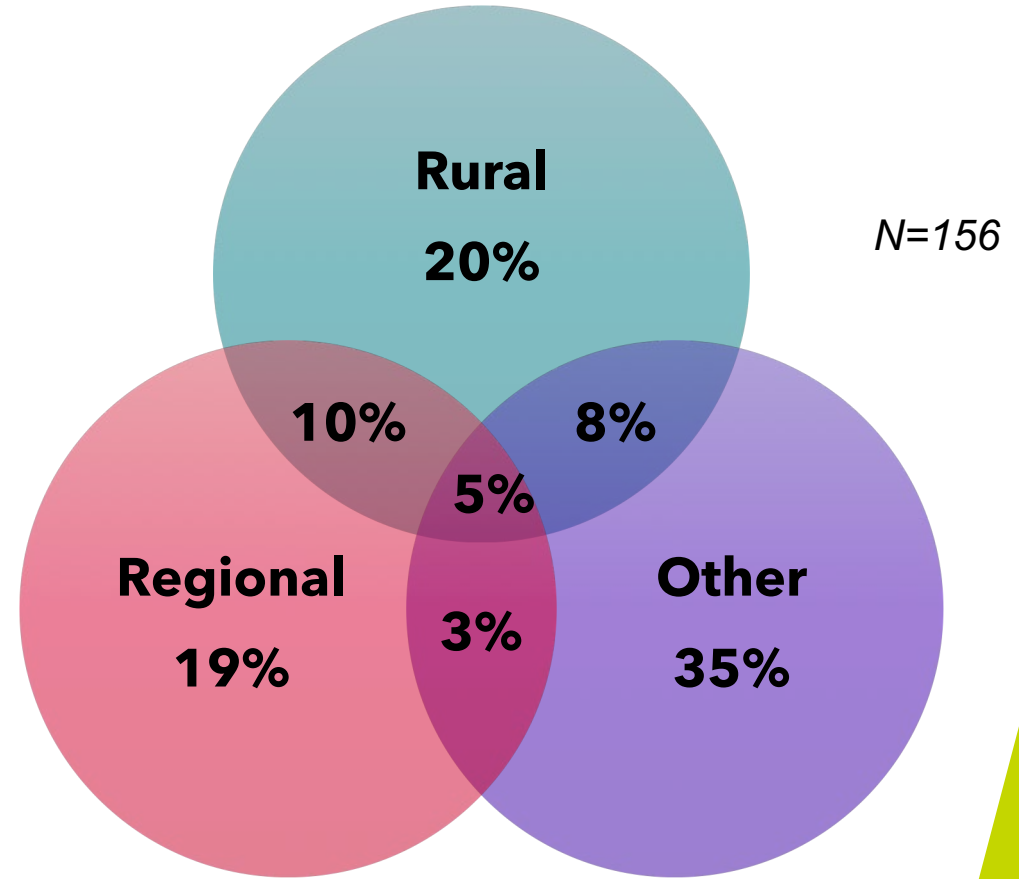
Procedure

1. Build a database by screening research organisation homepages
2. Create a survey template using the online survey service *Netigate*
3. Send off the survey via email
4. Snowballing for more participants

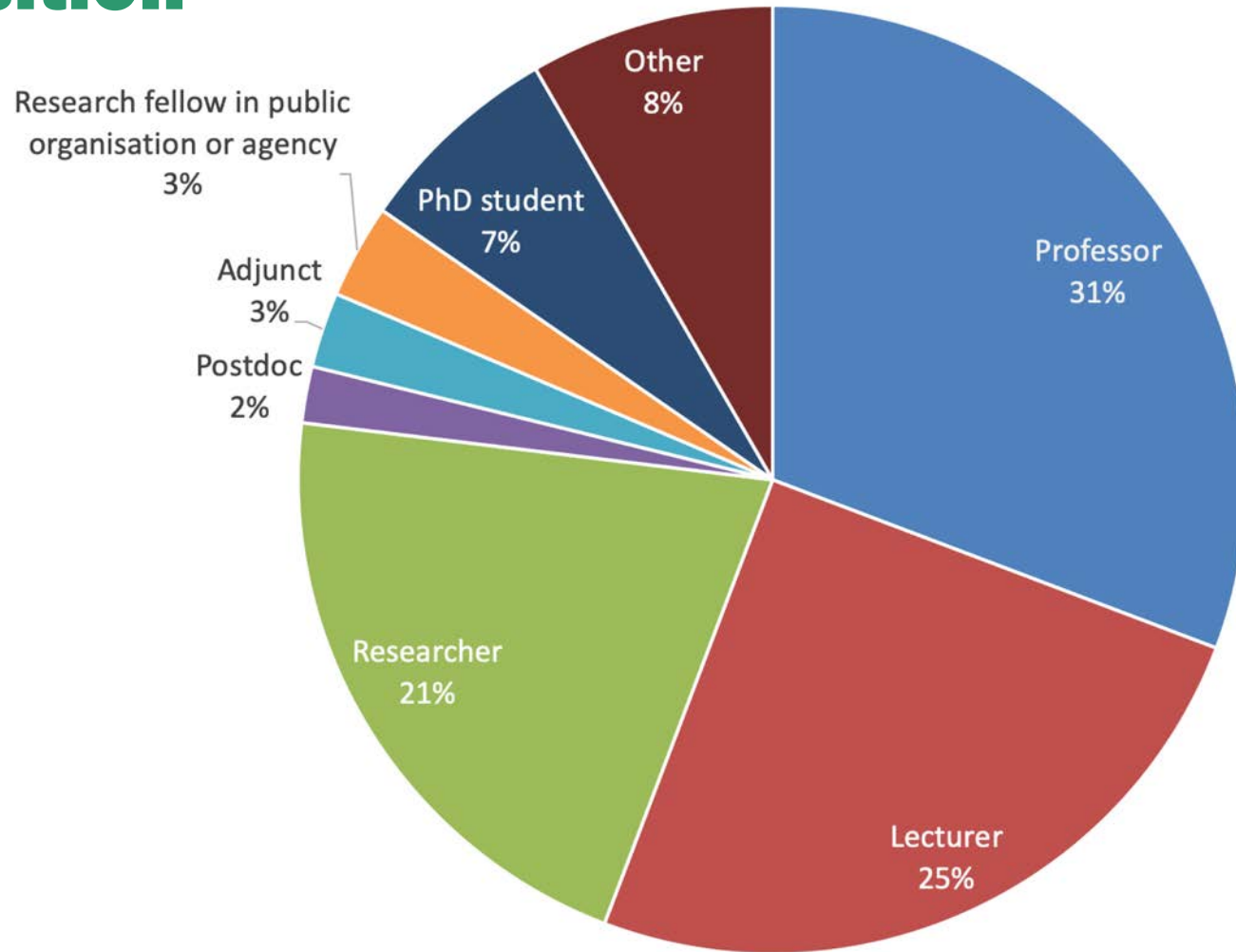
Do you identify yourself as a rural and/or regional researcher?

43%, respectively 37%, of respondents are fully or partially engaging in rural, respective regional, research.

35% chose to identify themselves using another terminology, including civil society, natural resource management, environment, landscape, demography or entrepreneurship.

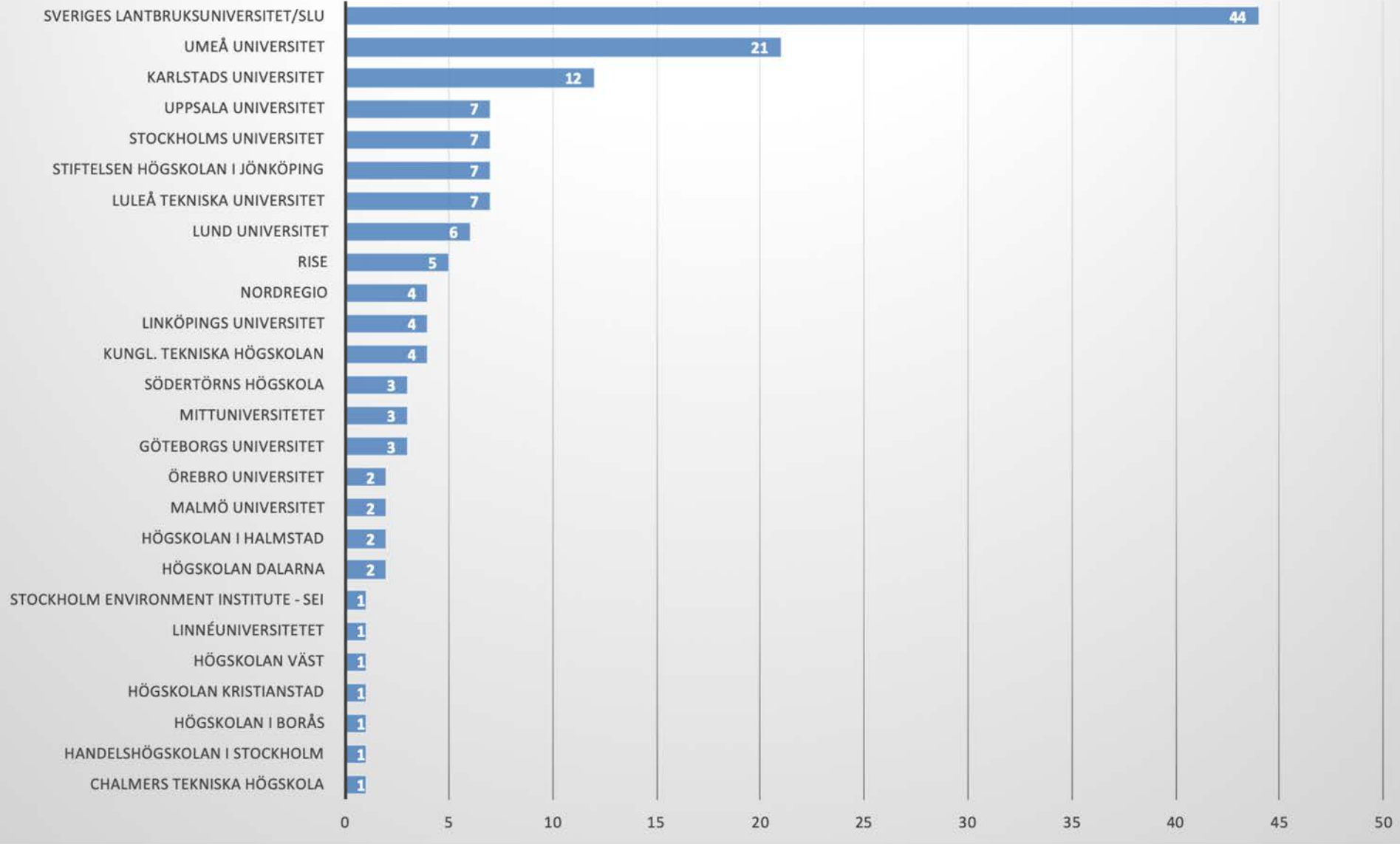


Academic position



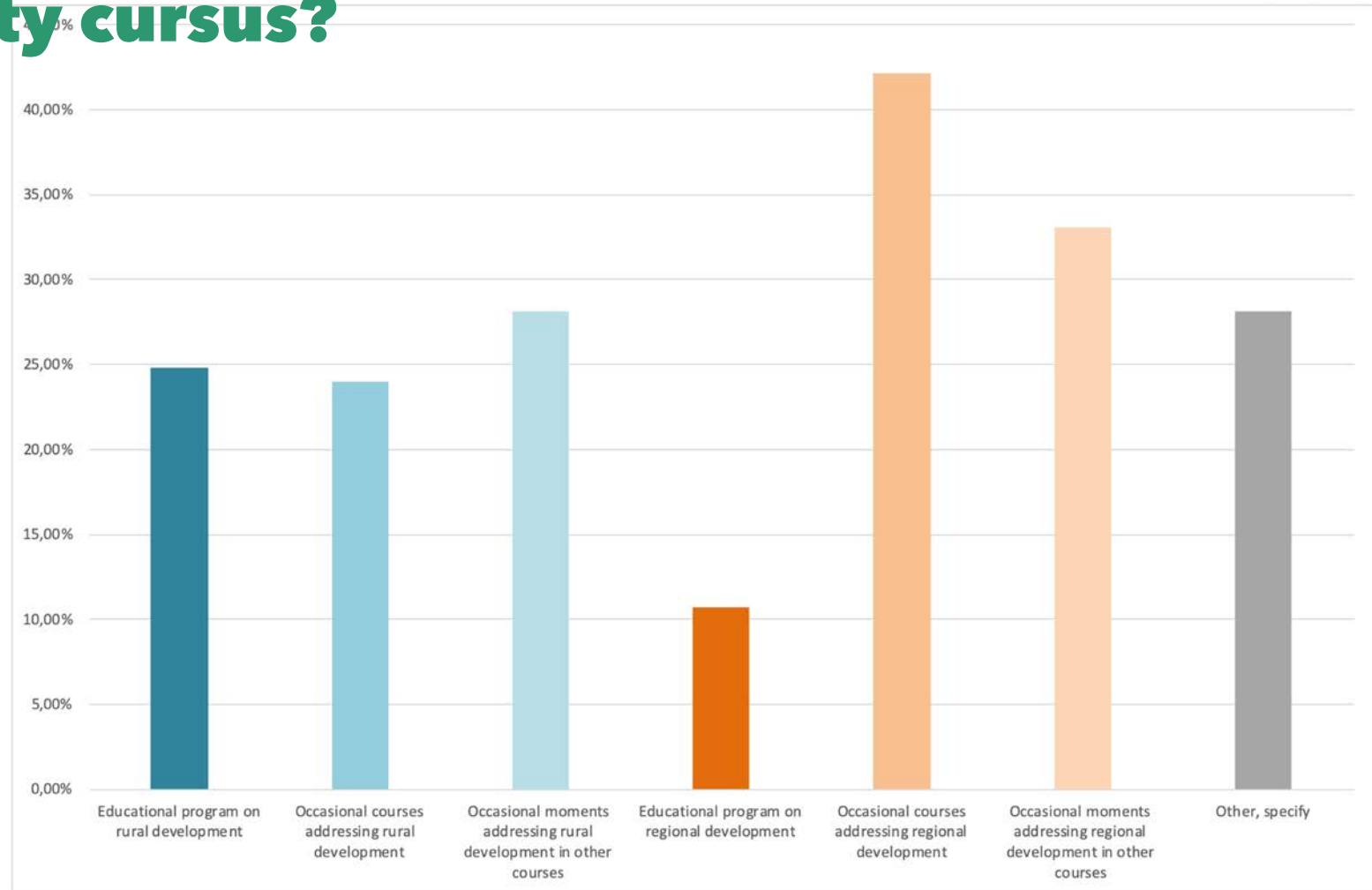
N=156

Number of respondents



N=152

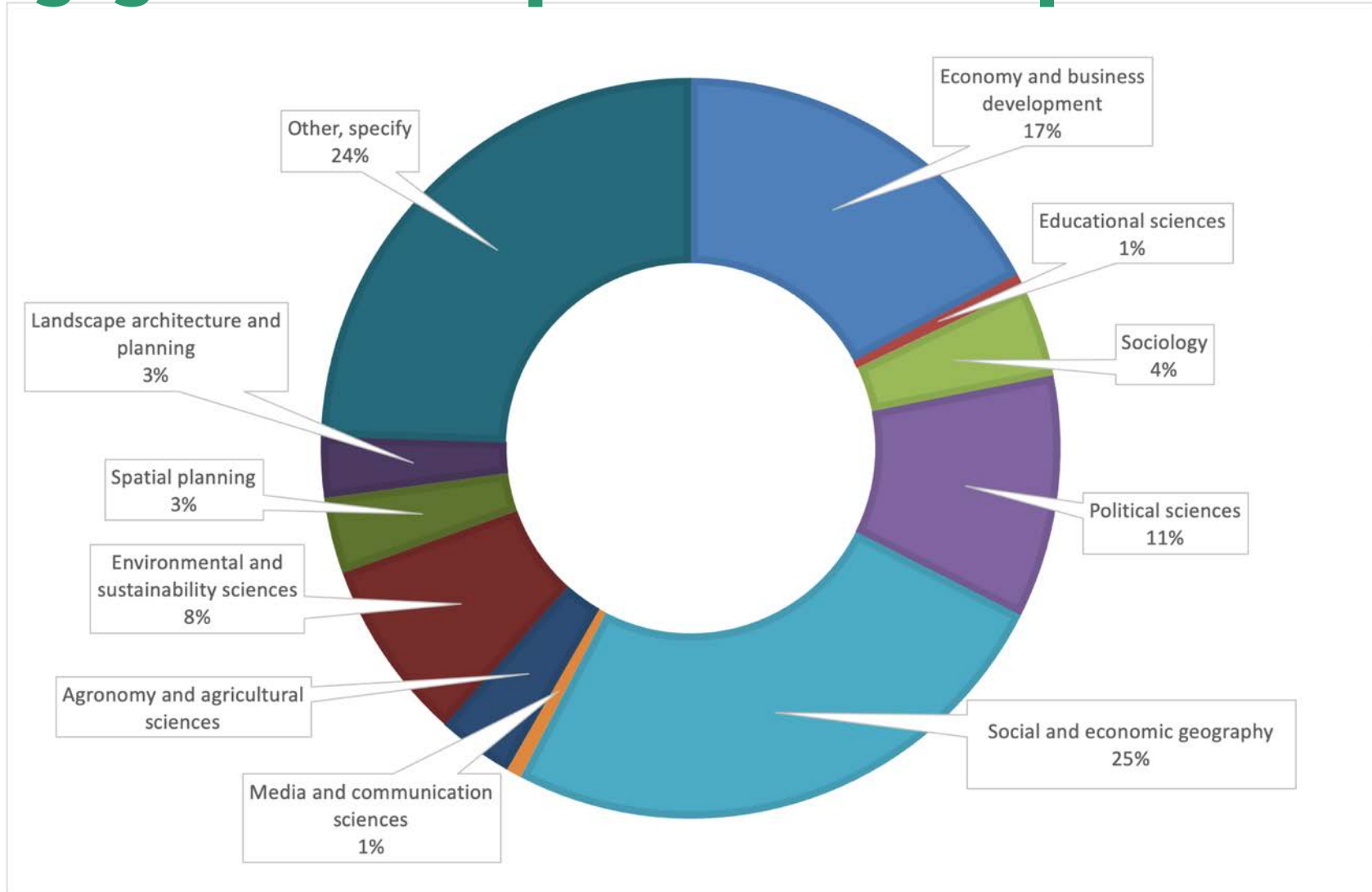
How is rural and regional development integrated in your university cursus?



N=121

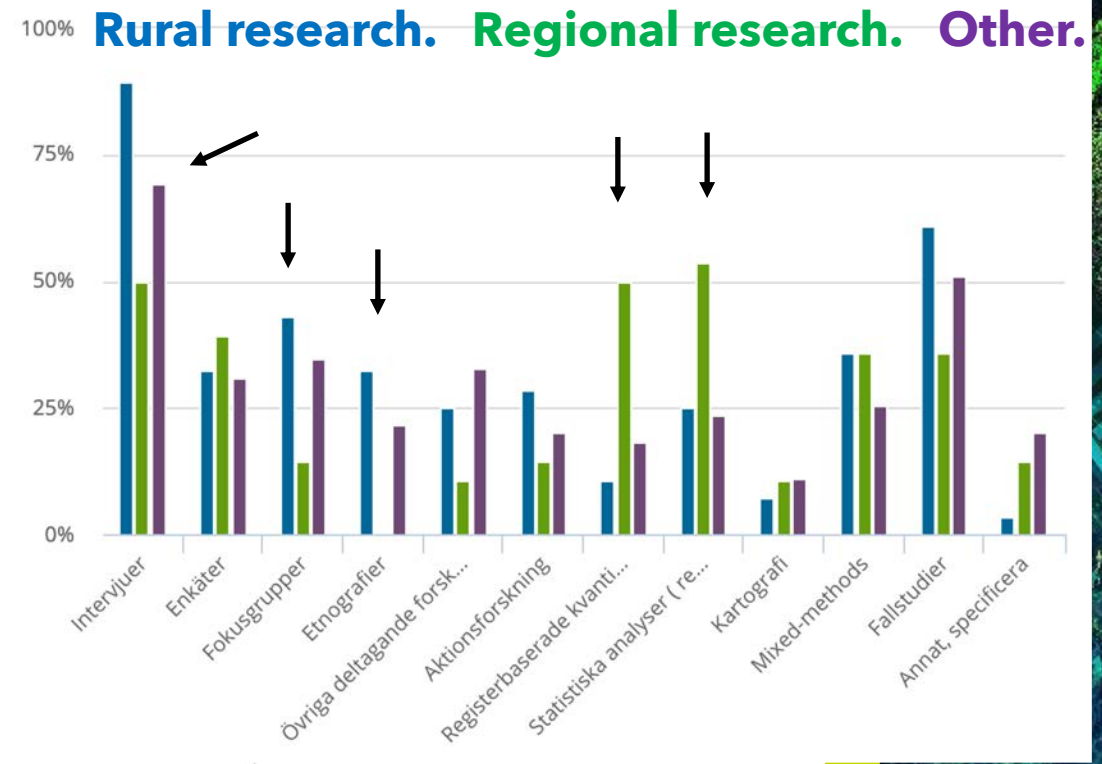
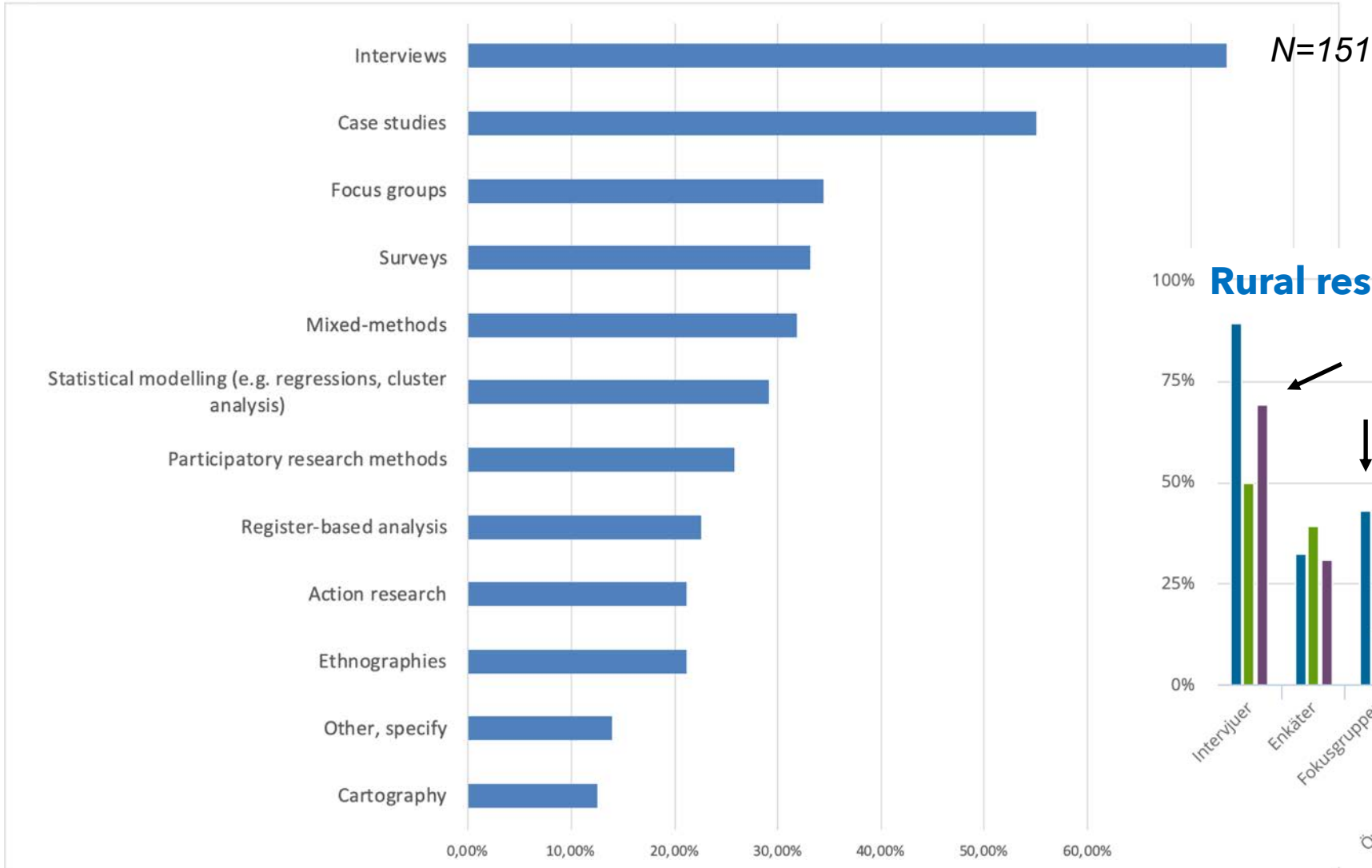
The field engages a broad spectrum of disciplines

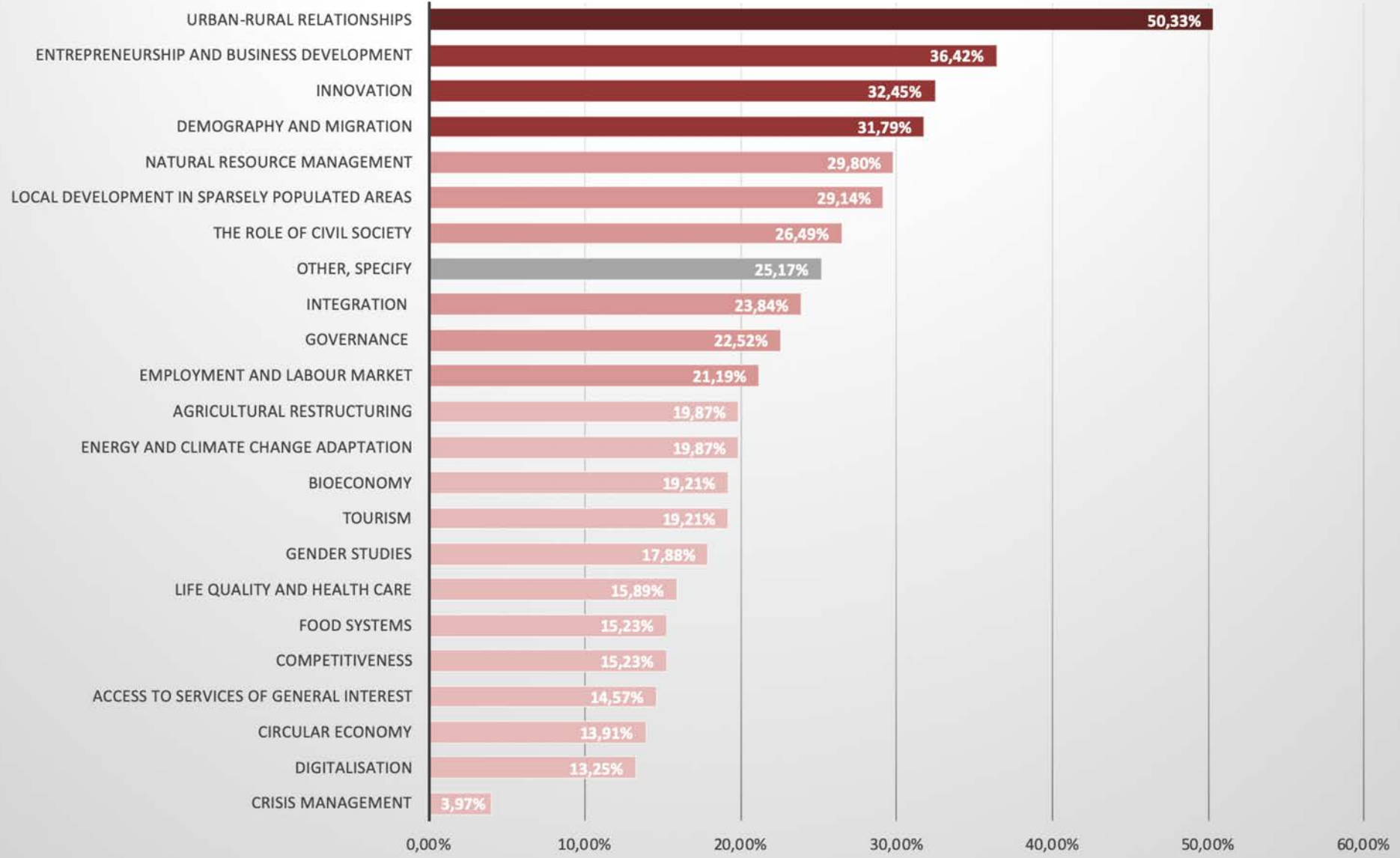
Ethnology, forestry sciences and health care are other disciplines that were mentioned.



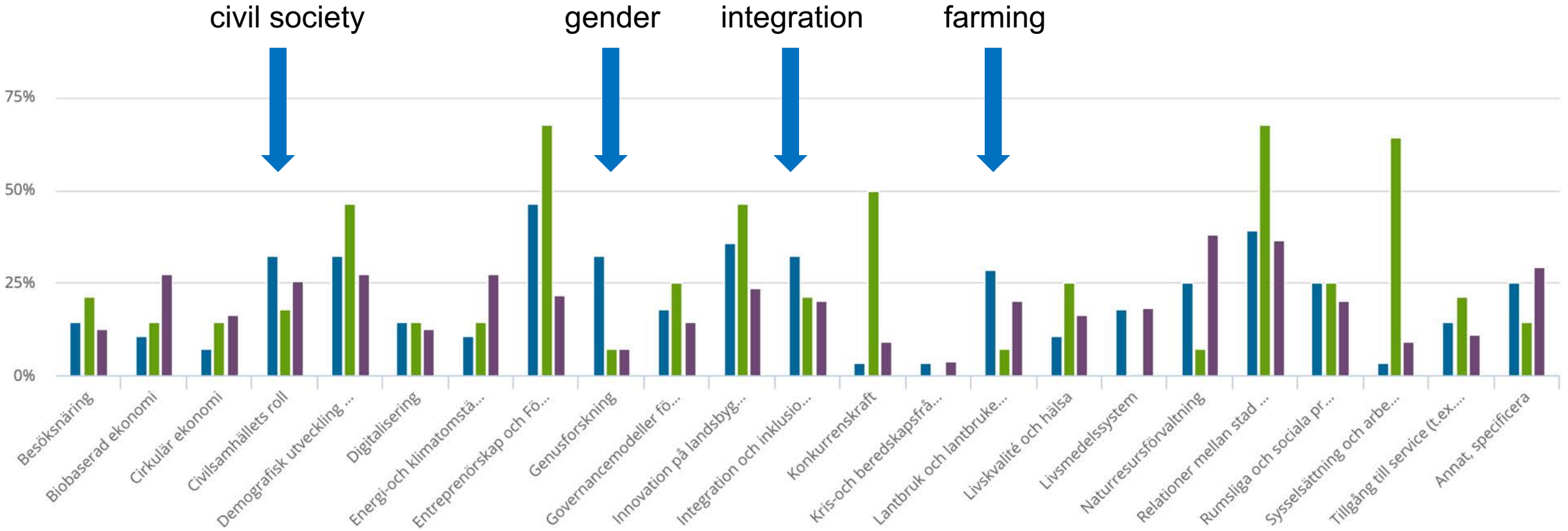
N=151

What research methods are most commonly used?

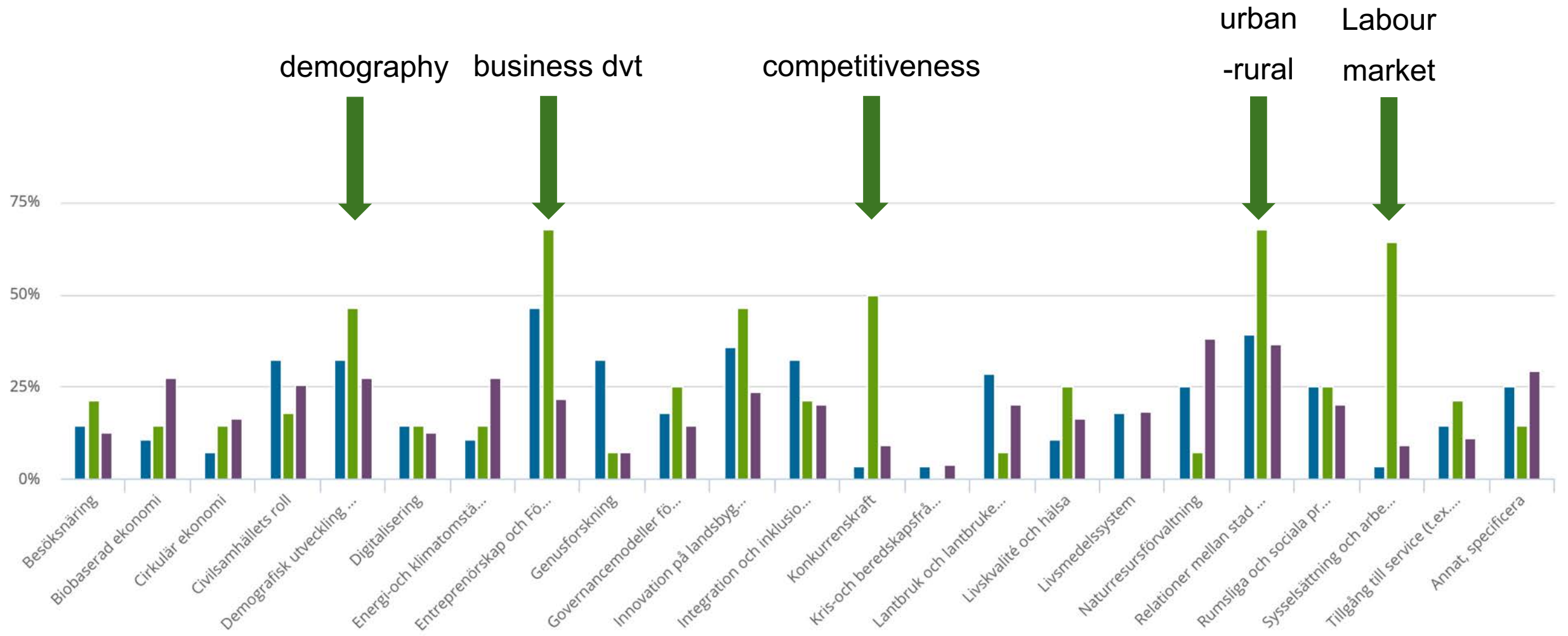




N=151



Rural research. **Regional research.** **Other.**

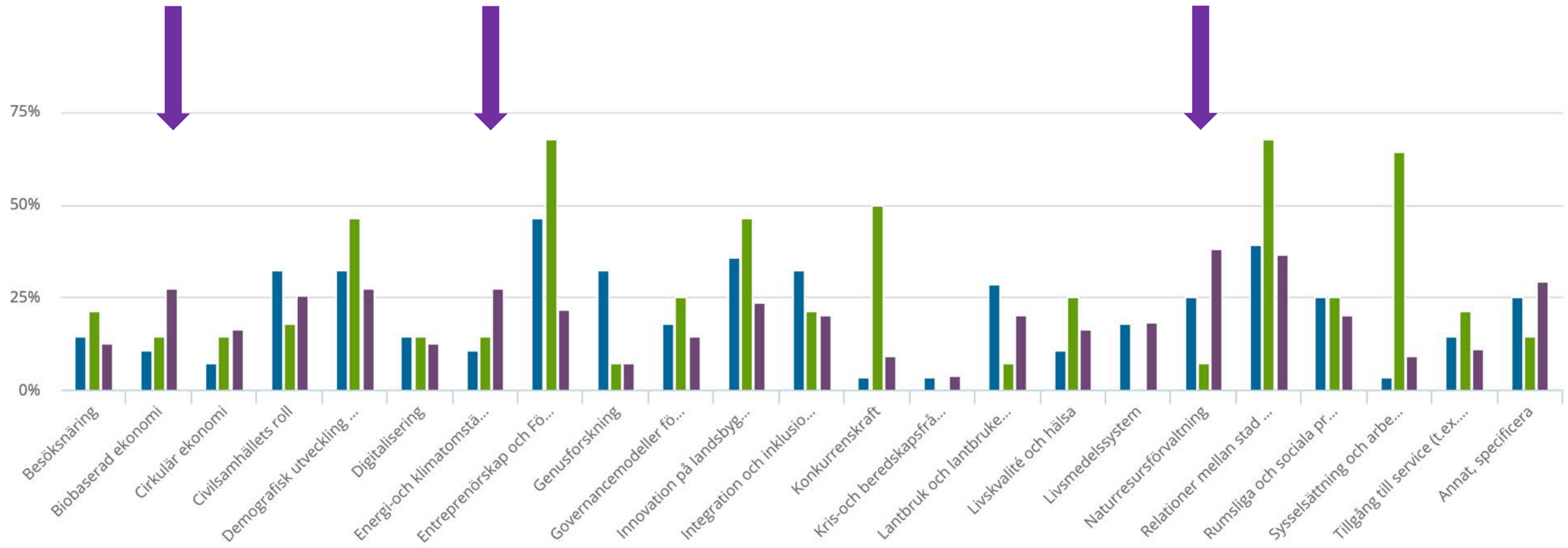


Rural research. Regional research. Other.

bioeconomy

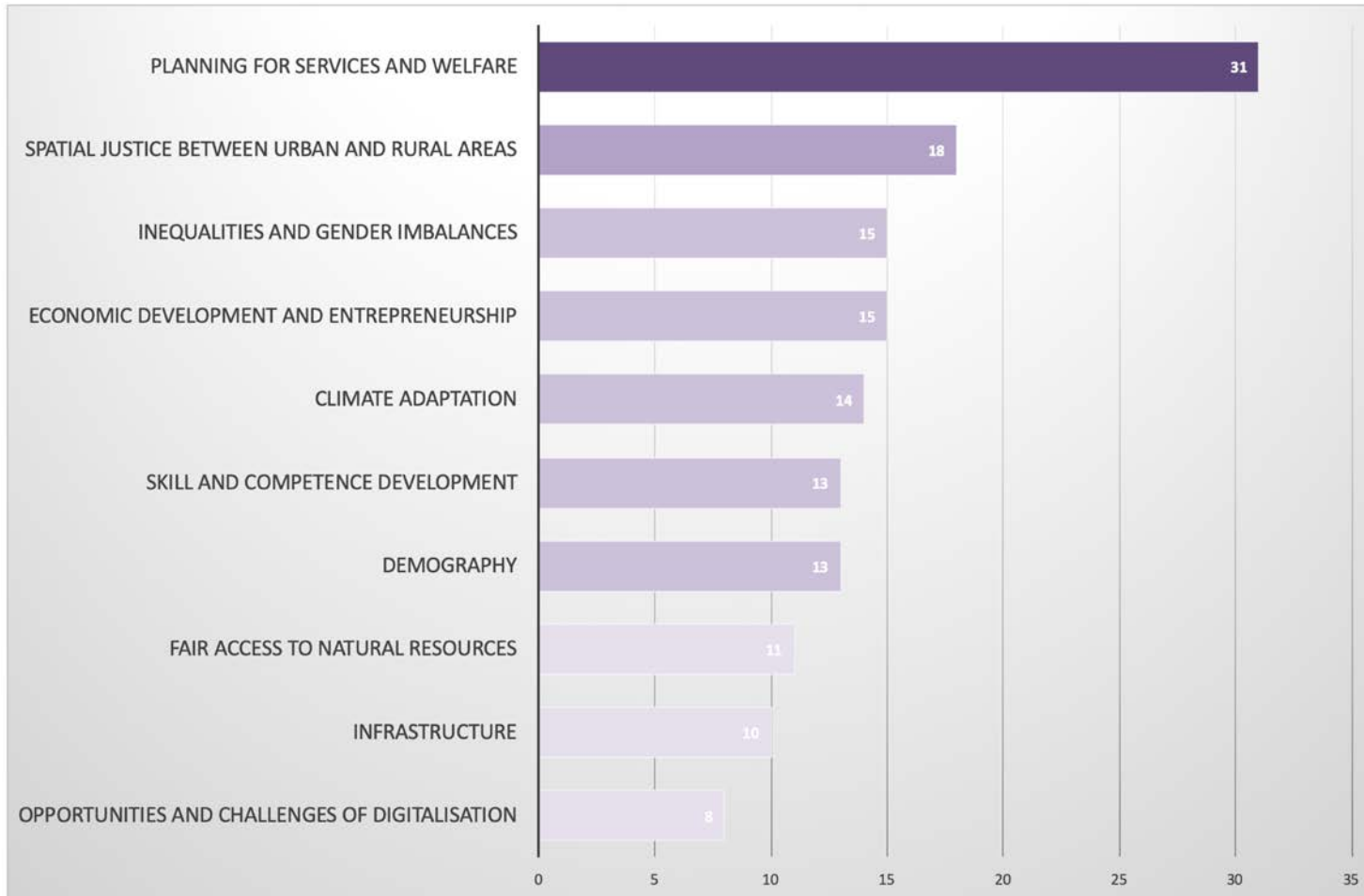
energy and
climate
resilience

natural
resource
management



Rural research. Regional research. Other.

Planning for services and welfare is considered the most pressing issue for Swedish localities and regions

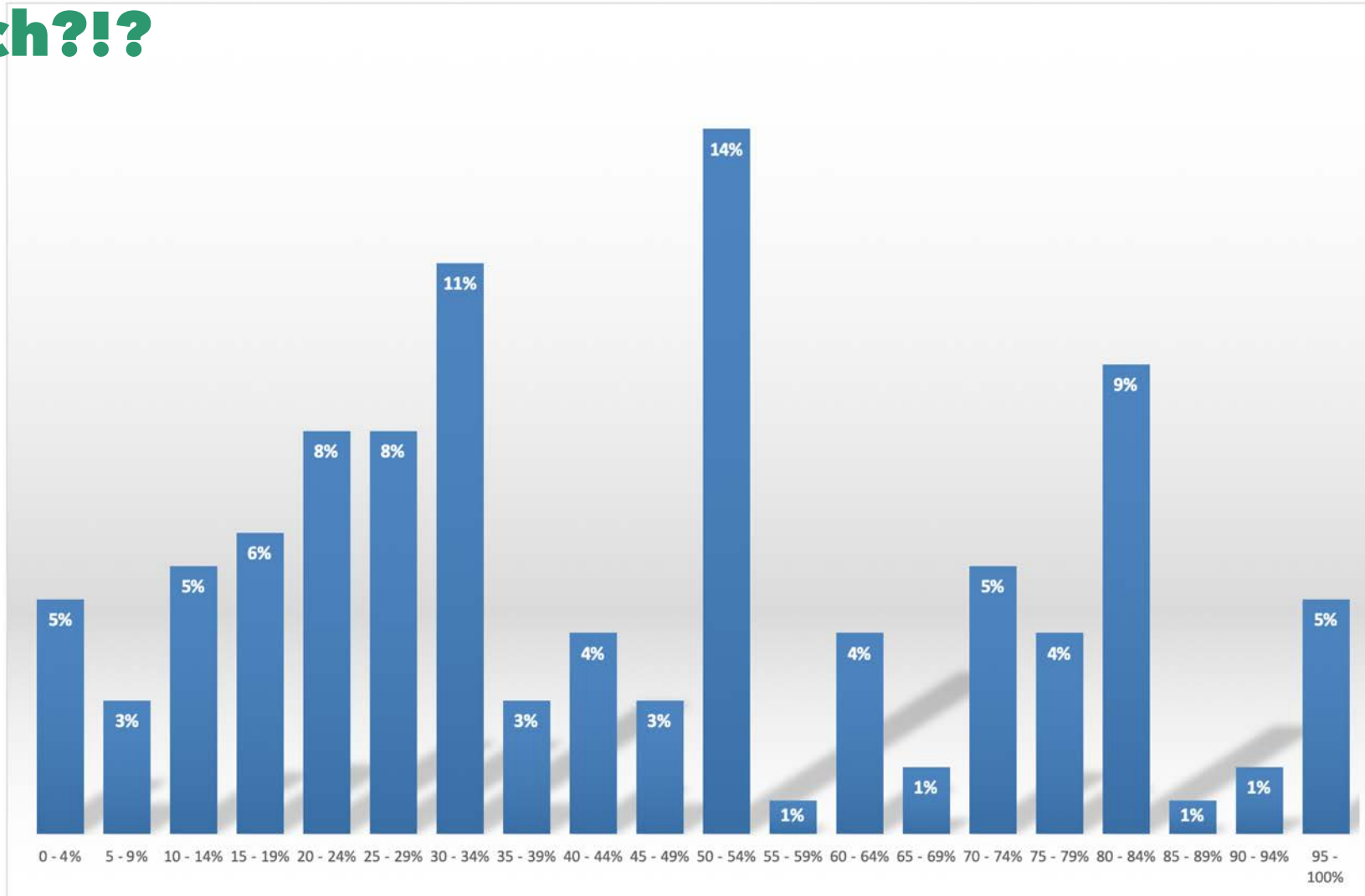


N=151

Number of mentions



How much time do researchers actually spend doing research?!?



N=151



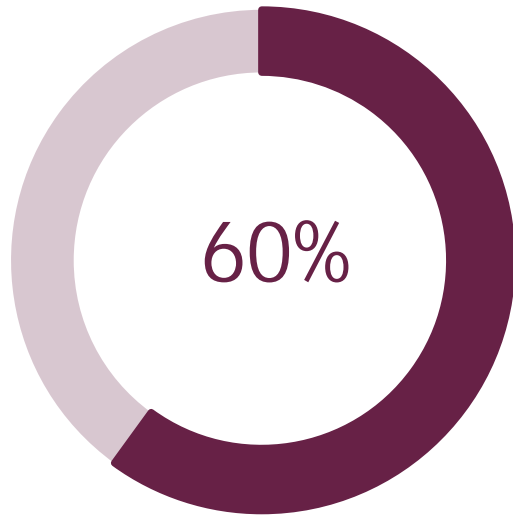
What are the places most commonly investigated?

whole country

Size proportional to frequency of mentions



6 out of 10 cooperated with other domestic researchers outside of their own institution over the last 3 years



N=149



Cooperation between institutions often starts with collaboration between individual researchers.

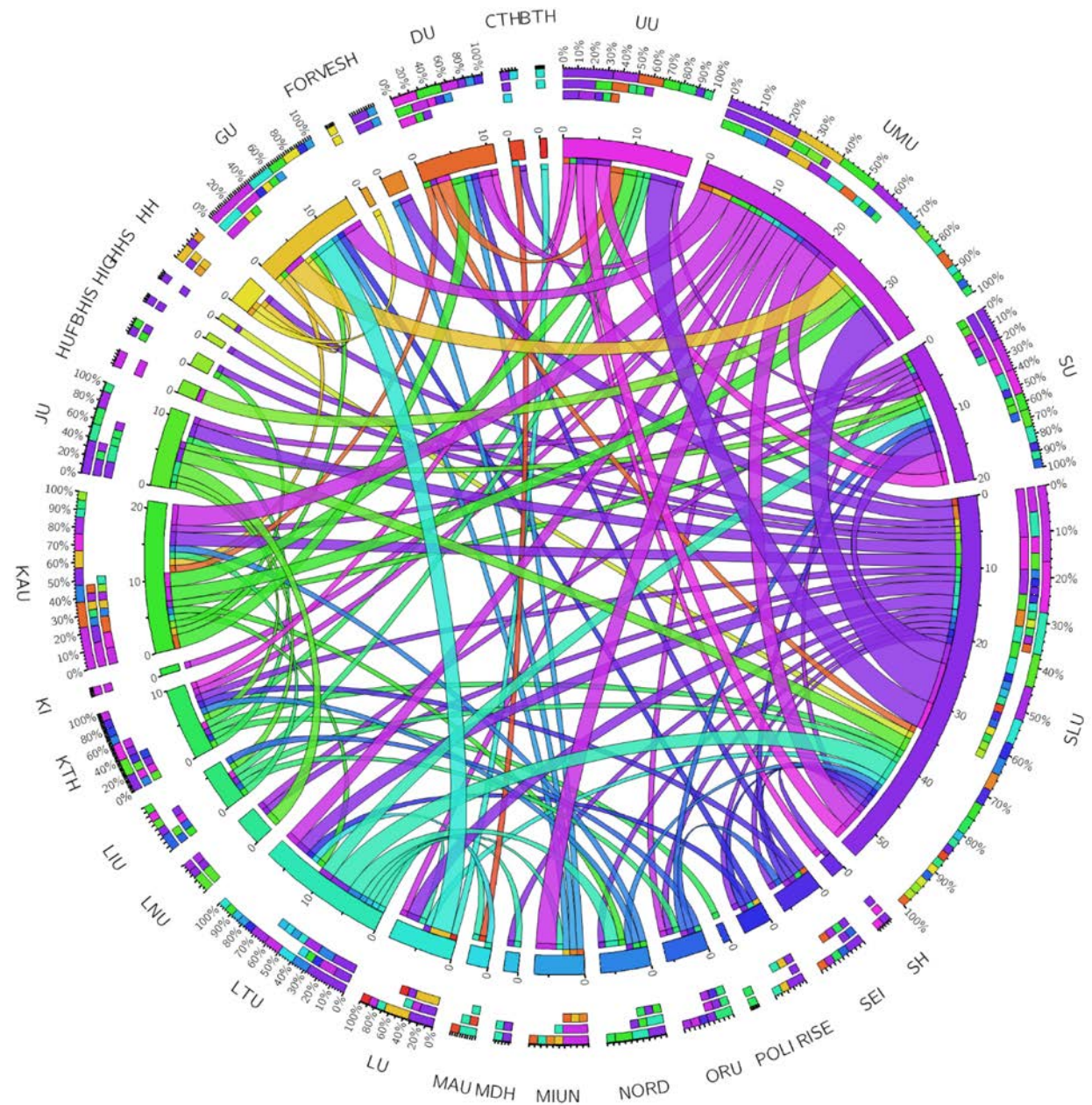
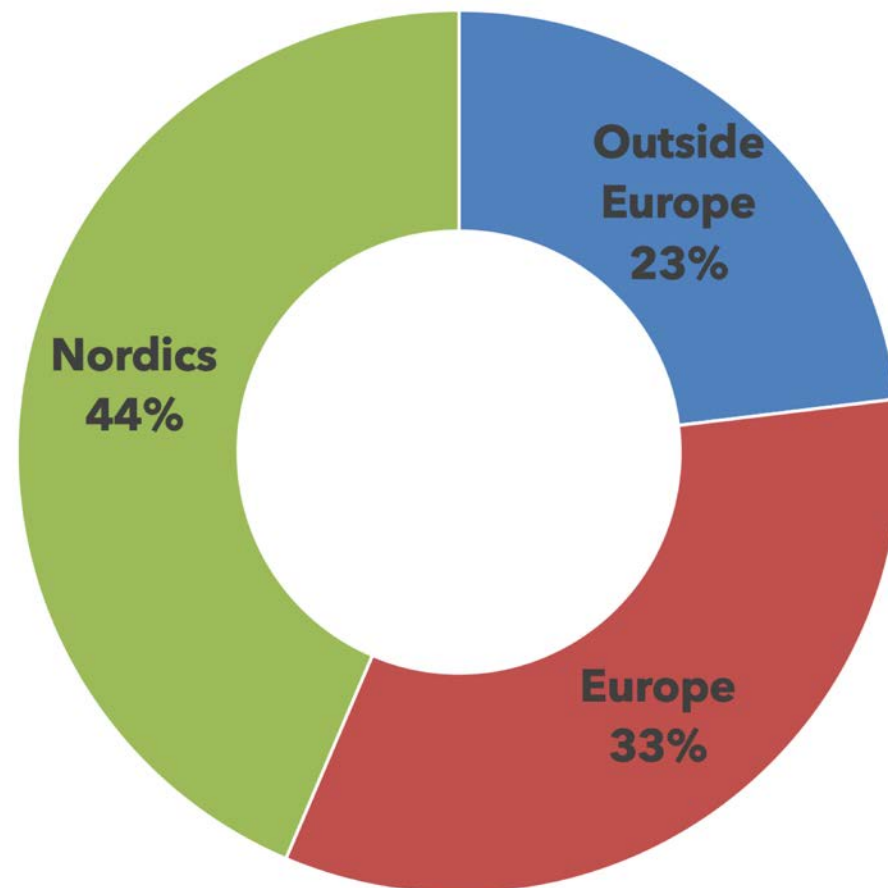
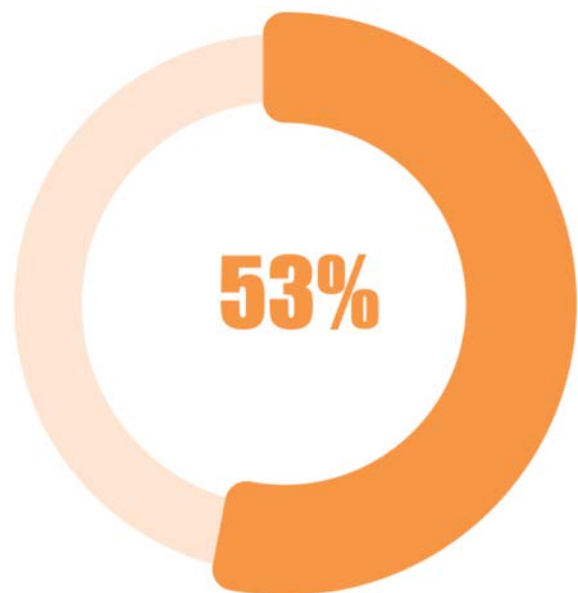
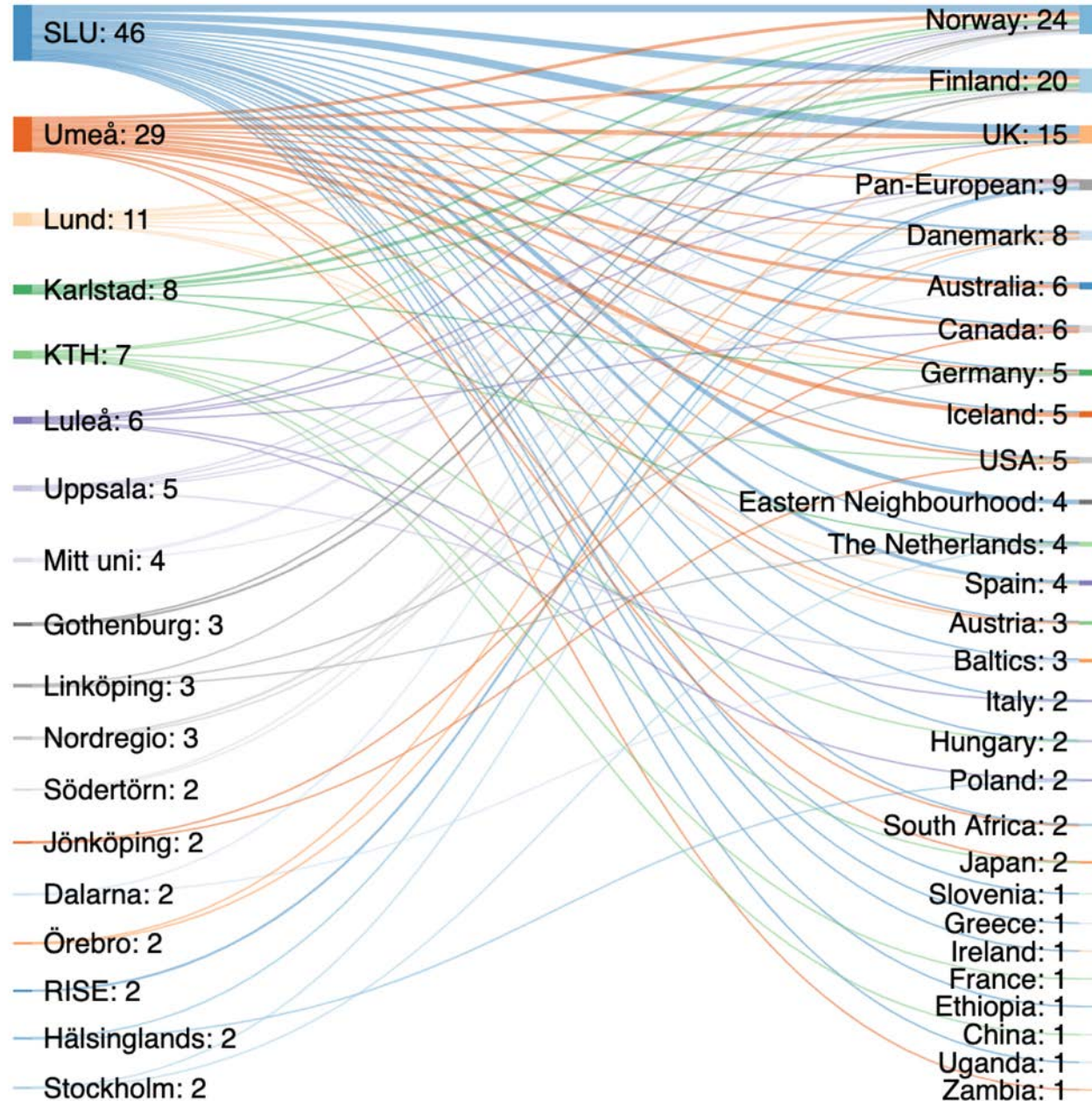


Diagram done using Circos tableviewer

<http://mkweb.bcgsc.ca/tableviewer/>

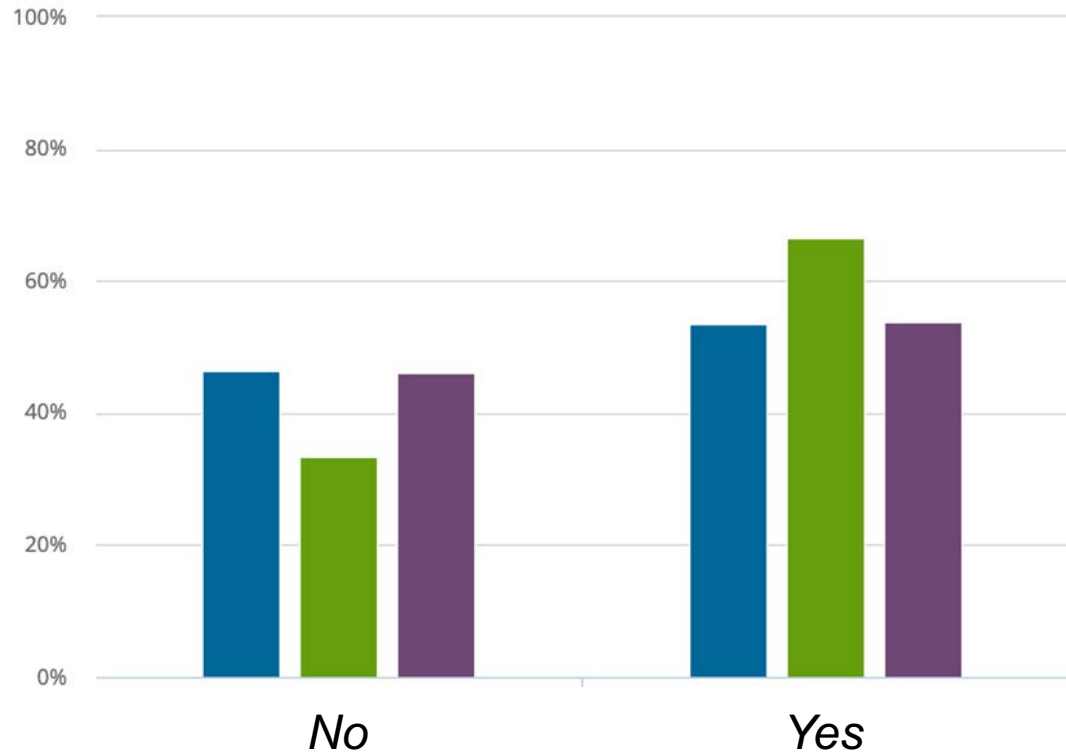
53% of researchers collaborated with scholars based in another country over the last 3 years



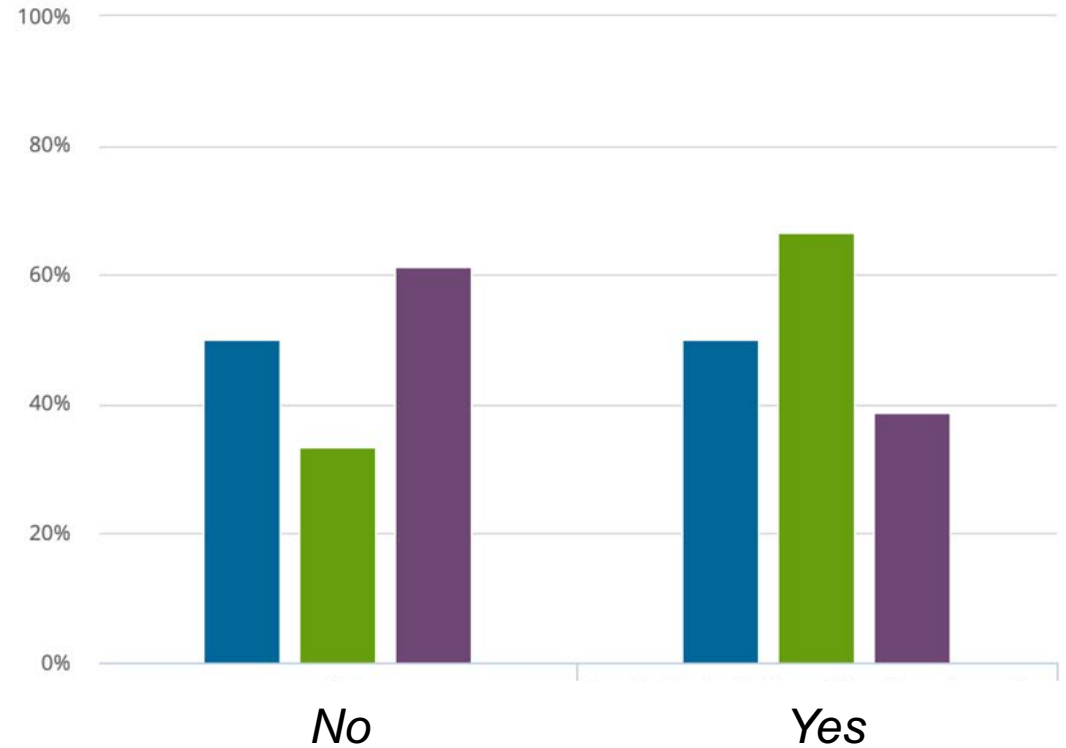


<http://sankeymatic.com/>

domestic cooperation

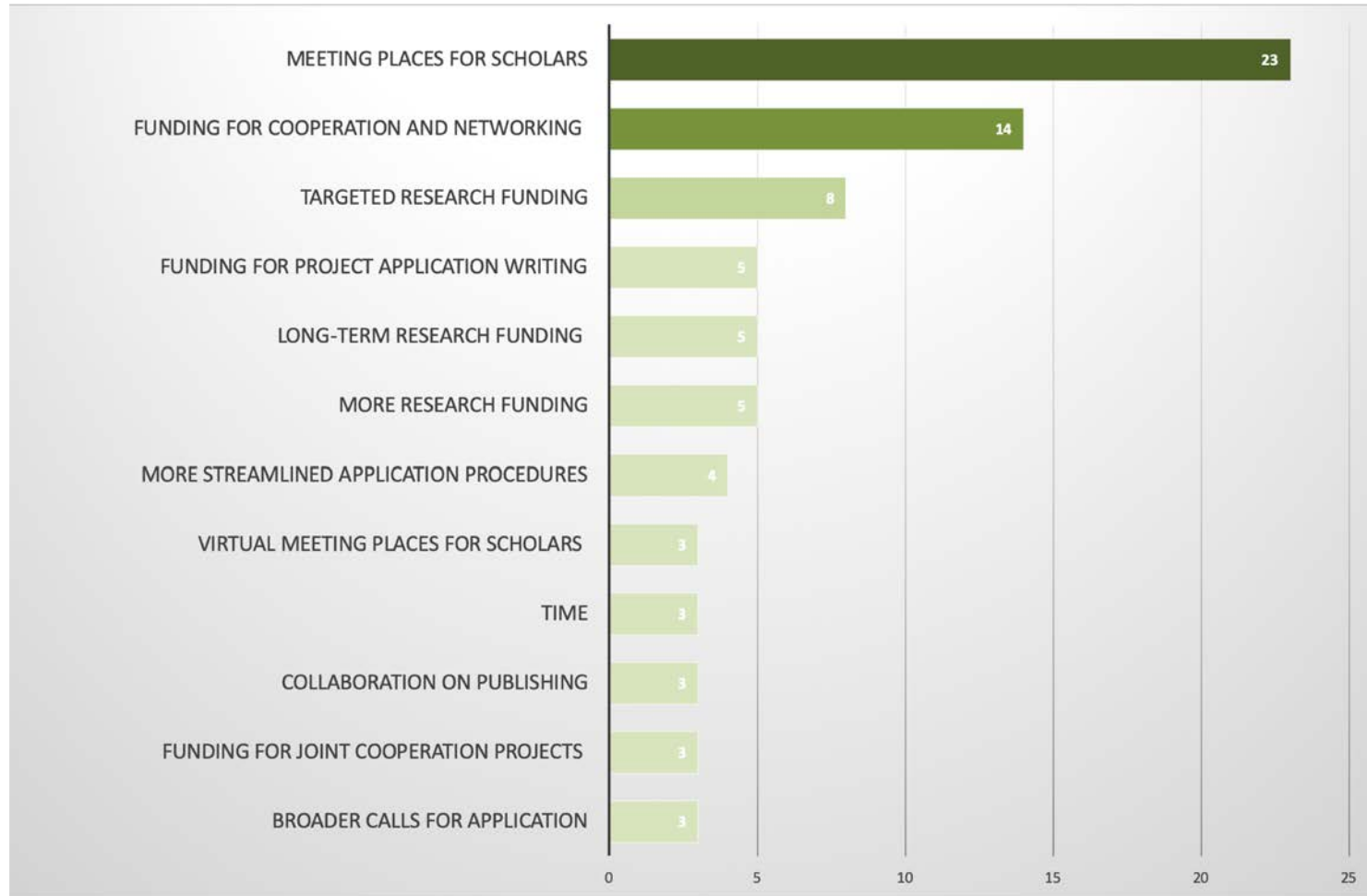


international cooperation



Rural research. Regional research. Other.

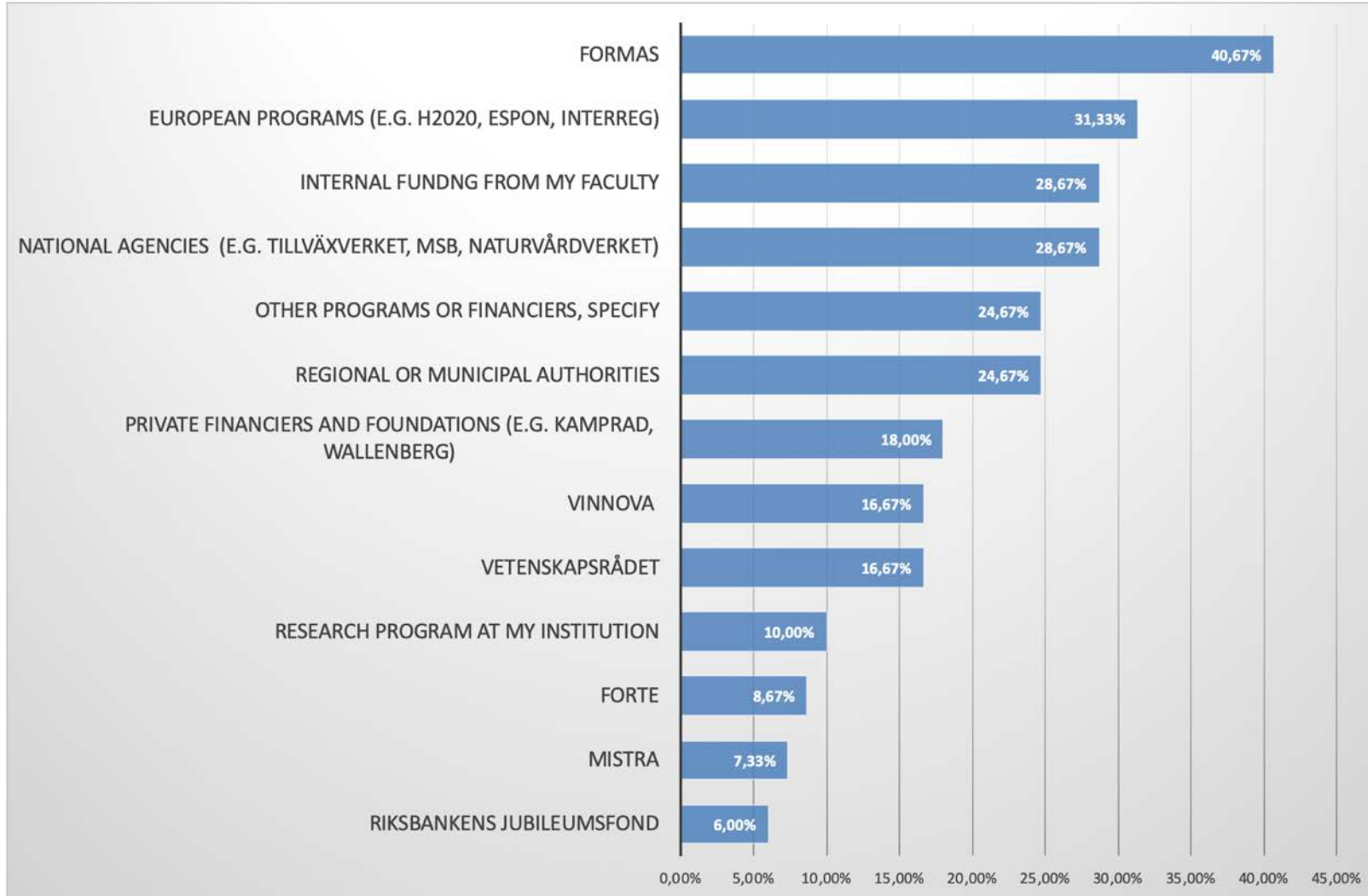
Creating arenas of exchange and providing financial support are key to facilitate future cooperations in the field



N=150

Number of mentions

Who finances Swedish rural and regional research?



N=150



To what extent do you cooperate with societal actors?

Not at all

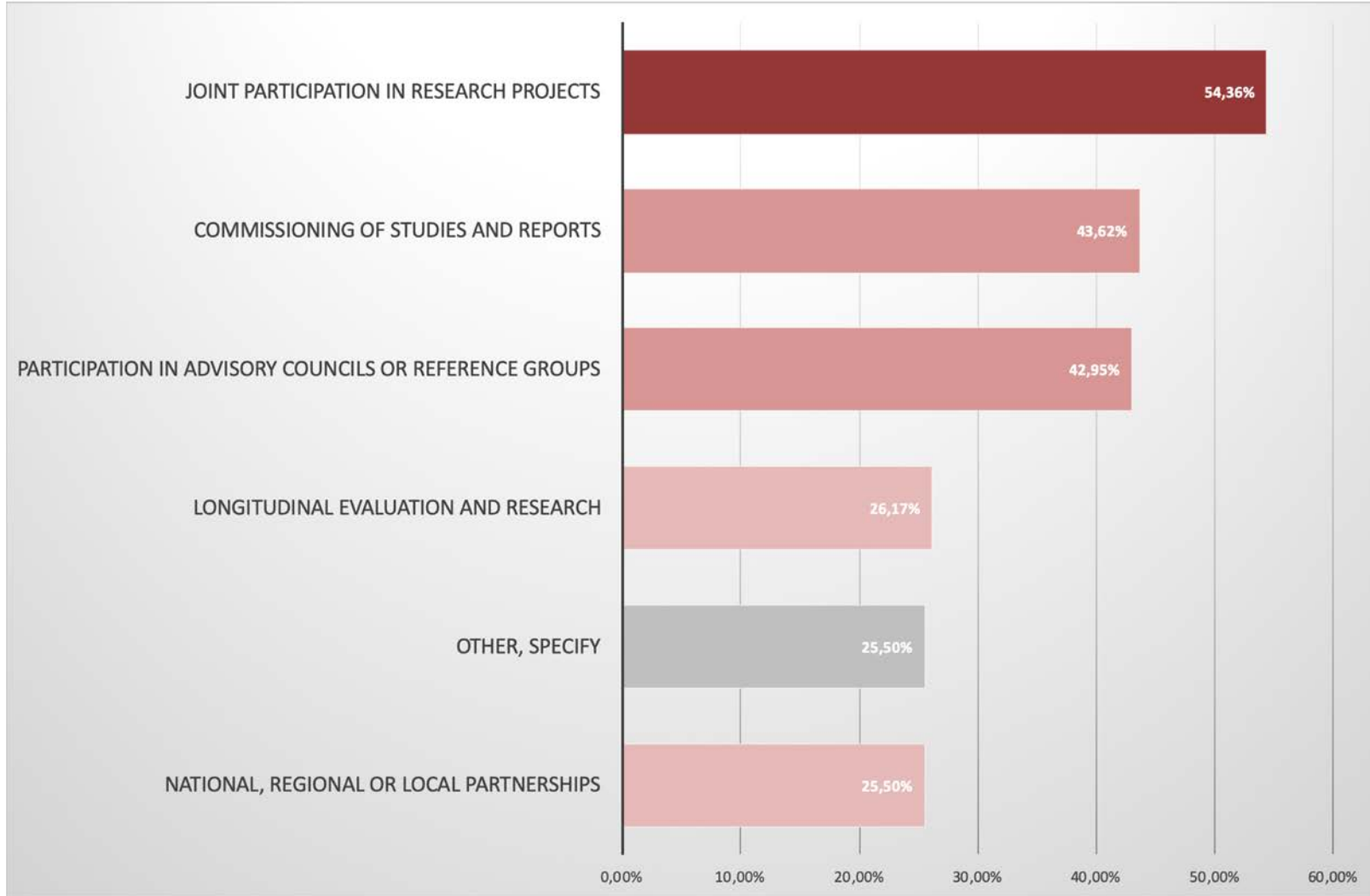


To the fullest

N=149

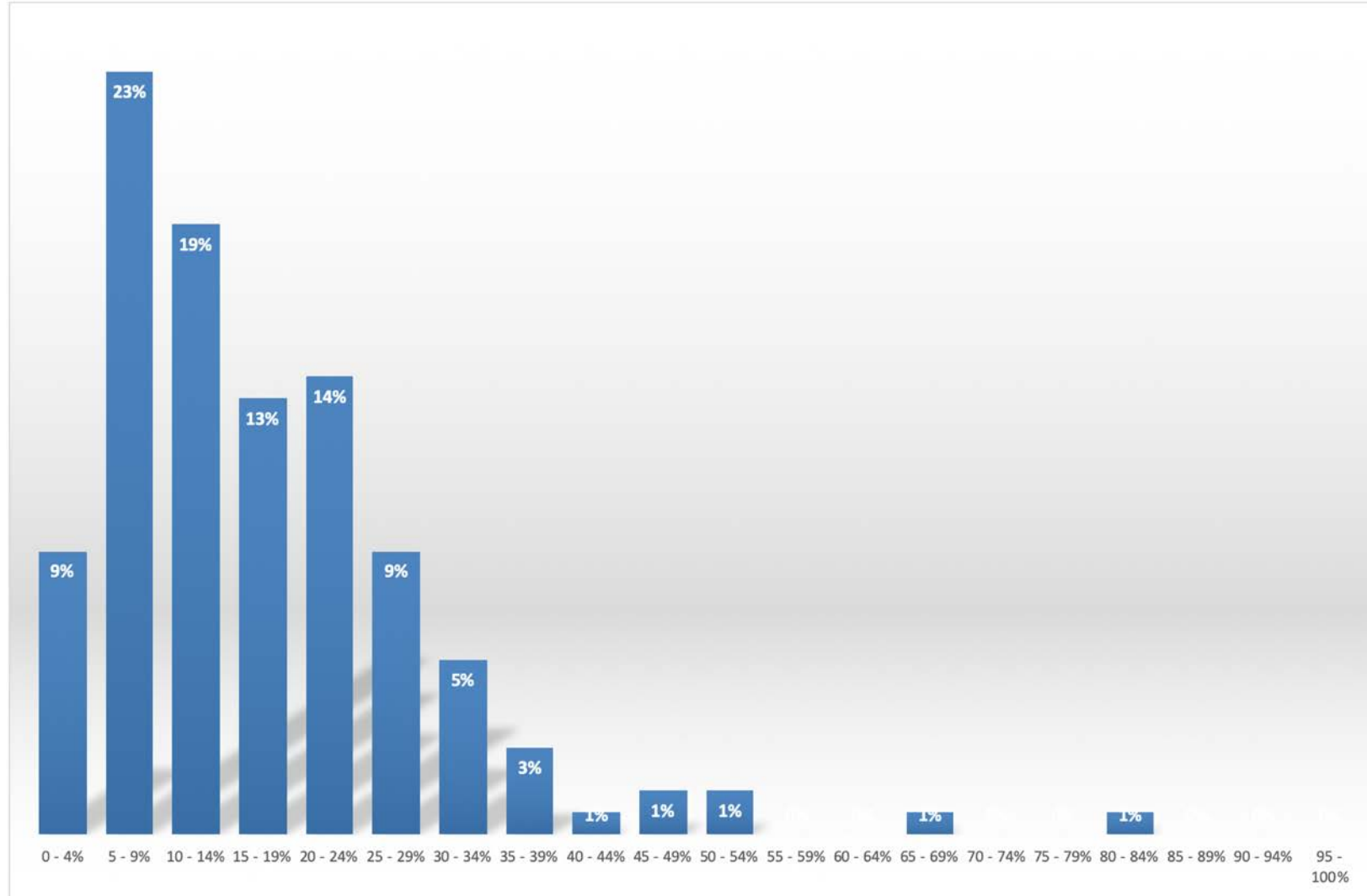


What form does such a cooperation usually take?



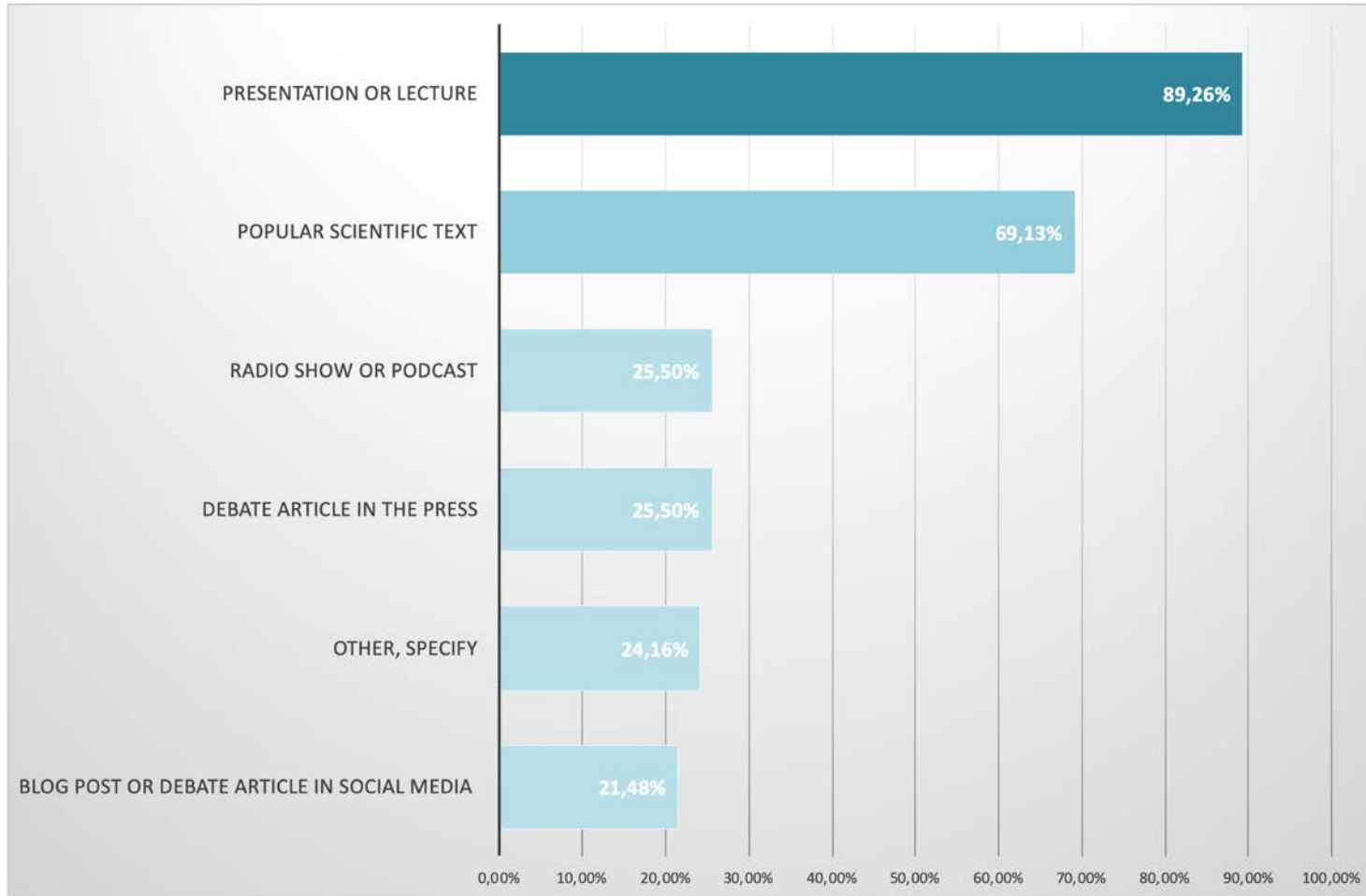
N=149

Scholars commonly use between 5 and 25% of their time for societal outreach activities.



N=149

Scholars engage in societal outreach in multiple ways, both orally or in written form.

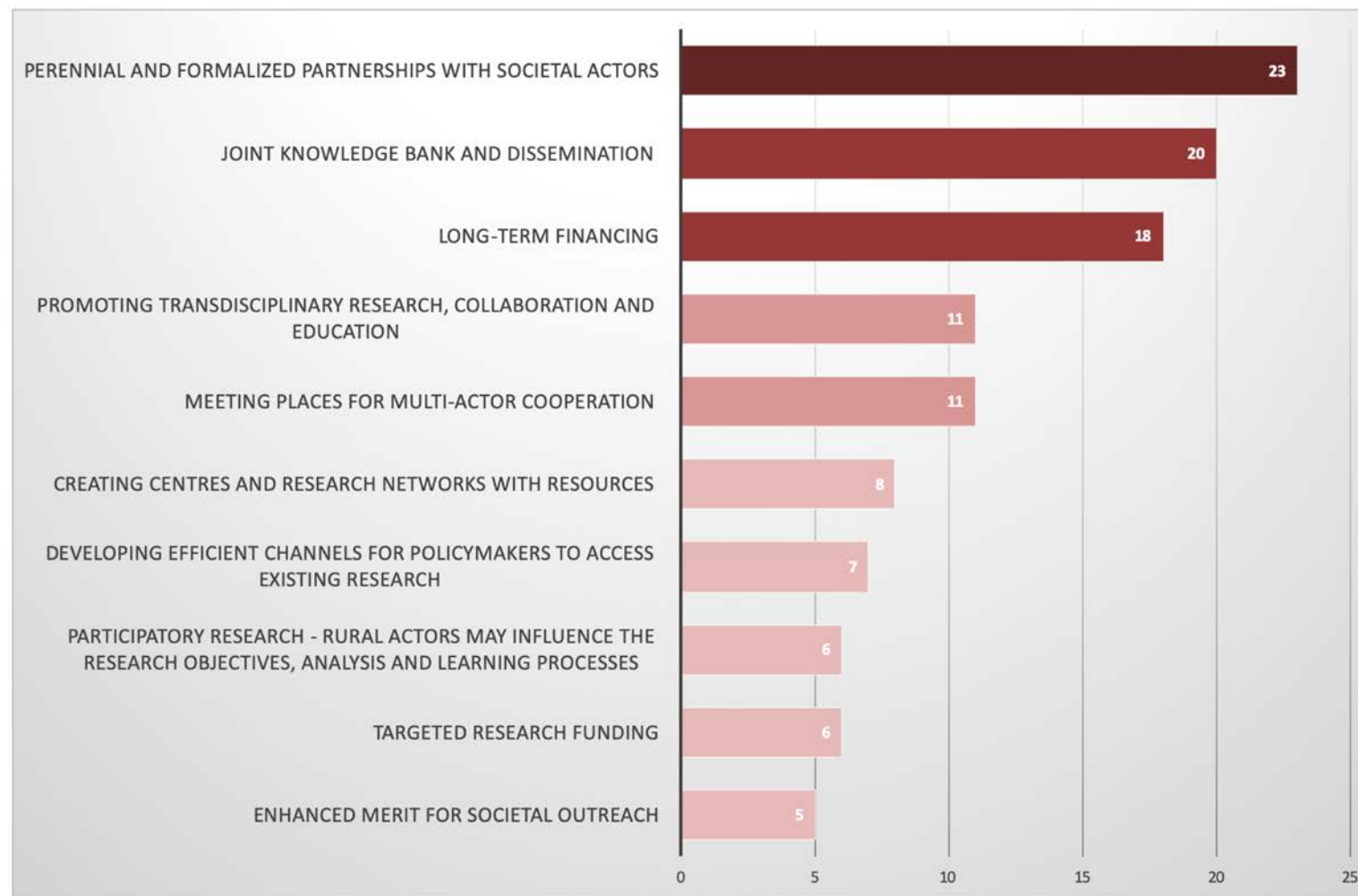


N=149

↑ TOP **7 challenges for the field**

- 1 Funding**
- 2 Lack of societal interest ("the urban norm")**
- 3 Research field lacks merit or tradition**
- 4 Arenas of exchange and collaboration are missing**
- 5 Challenges regarding research implementation**
- 6 Anchoring and application in local practices is limited**
- 7 Politicisation and policy-driven research agenda**

Perennial partnerships, a knowledge bank and long-term funding are initiatives that may improve the field's societal added-value



My main takeaways

- Fine line between **rural and regional research** and **thematic research applied to localities and regions**
 - ‘peripheral’ place in both education and research
- Differences in how ‘non-urban’ places are approached
 - Rural -> focus on societal change
 - Regional -> focus on economic development
 - Thematic -> focus on environmental impacts
- Rural vs regional research: Qualitative vs quantitative? processes vs trends?
- An open field
 - Few professorships dedicated to rural/regional development in Sweden,
 - from academic specialties to multidisciplinary themes: what place for territorial research?
 - Limited domestic interest on rural/regional issues spurs international cooperation
 - Rural research is performed in close interaction with stakeholders

Q&A

Please write 'Q' in the chat section and I will pass the word to participants in turn.

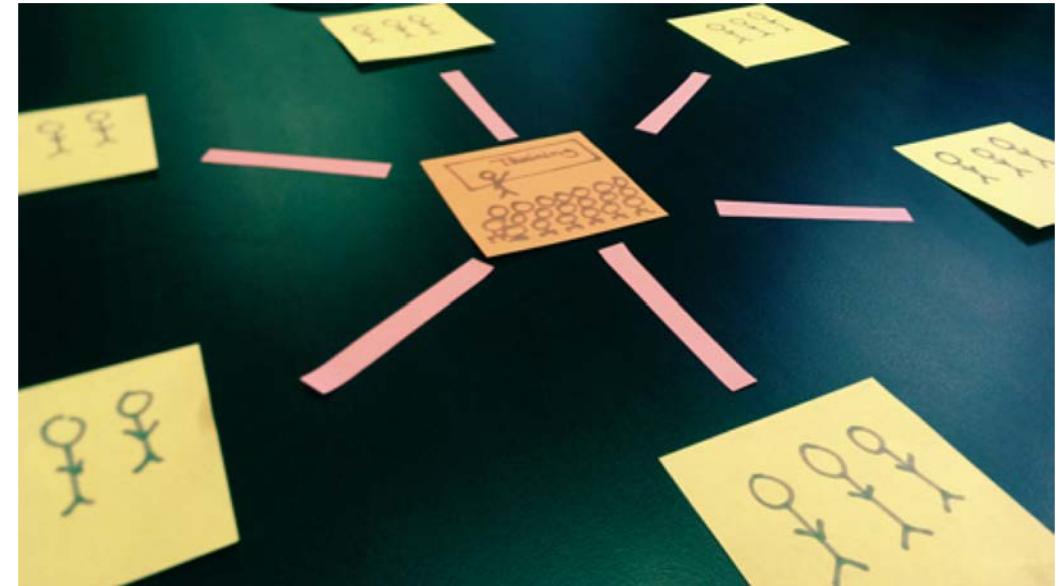
Don't be like me, be concise!

Breakout room discussions

For those who want to stay longer!

Groups of 5-6 participants randomly assigned to a VR

1. Does this exercise resonate with Your own understanding of working in our field? What do You feel is missing? What should be emphasized?
2. What practical next steps do You think are to address the 'Top 7' challenges? And who should take the initiative?



**Thank you for your participation!
Let's stay in touch!**

Want to write in our blog?

Contact person:

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