

**2025 UNIWIND-JAHRESTAGUNG, KARLSRUHE**

# **Ergebnisse 2025 EUA-CDE Survey – Bericht 1**

Simon Marti, Head of EUA-CDE

**1.**

---

**Überblick 2025 EUA-  
CDE Survey**

**2.**

---

**Strukturen and  
Institutionalisierung**

**3.**

---

**Status der  
Promovierenden und  
Betreuung**

**4.**

---

**Möglichkeiten der  
Karriereentwicklung**



**Doctoral education in Europe today: enhanced structures and practices for the European knowledge society**

# Überblick 2025 EUA-CDE Survey

## 2025 EUA-CDE Survey

### This survey report...

- evaluates the extent today's institutional structures and practices in the third Bologna cycle reflect the Salzburg Principles, what progress has been made during the last 20 years, and what could still be done.
- provides the doctoral education community and its stakeholders with crucial data about today's state of play in Europe.

### The survey report includes the following three parts:

- Structures and institutionalisation
- Status of doctoral candidates and practices of supervision
- Career development opportunities

## Overview of the Salzburg Principles (2005)

1. Advancement of knowledge through original research while increasingly meeting the needs of an employment market that is wider than academia

2. Embedding in institutional strategies and policies, ensuring appropriate professional career development opportunities

3. The importance of diversity of doctoral programmes

4. Doctoral candidates as early-stage researchers should be recognised as professionals

5. The crucial role of supervision and assessment

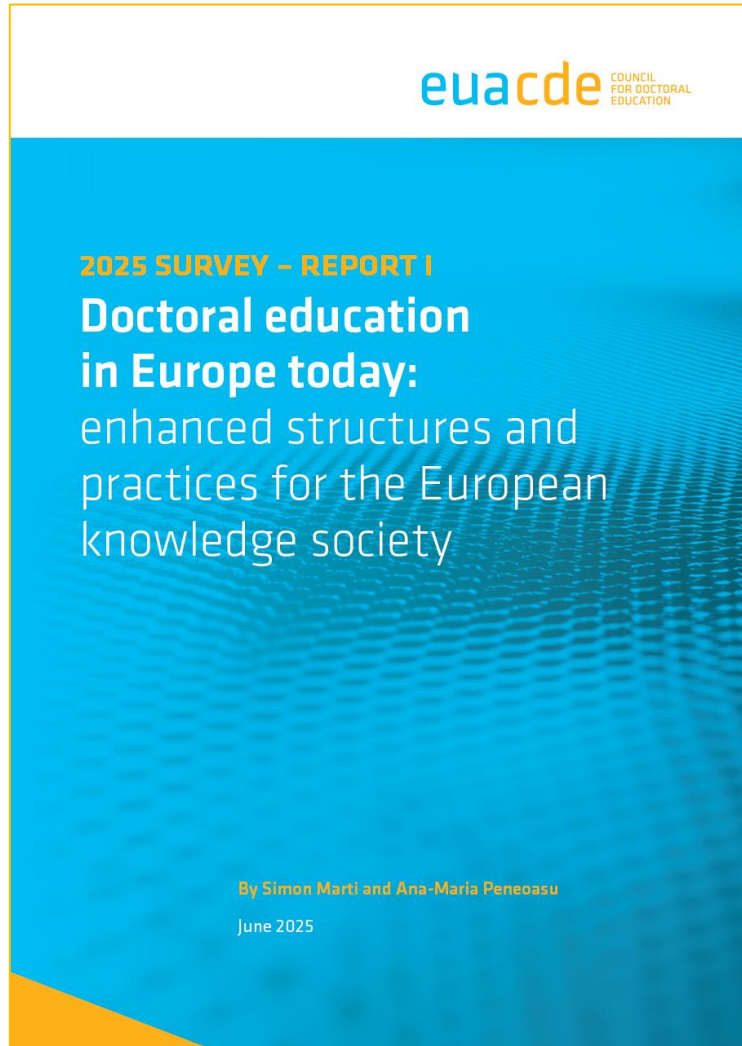
6. Universities are achieving a critical mass

7. Duration: 3-4 years full-time

8. The promotion of innovative structures with interdisciplinary training and transferable skills

9. Increasing interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and international mobility in doctoral programmes

10. Ensuring appropriate funding



## Survey participation

### 217 participating universities

Representing 14% of doctorate-awarding universities and 28% of doctoral candidates in the European Tertiary Education Register (ETER)

### Distribution of participating university types

66% comprehensive universities

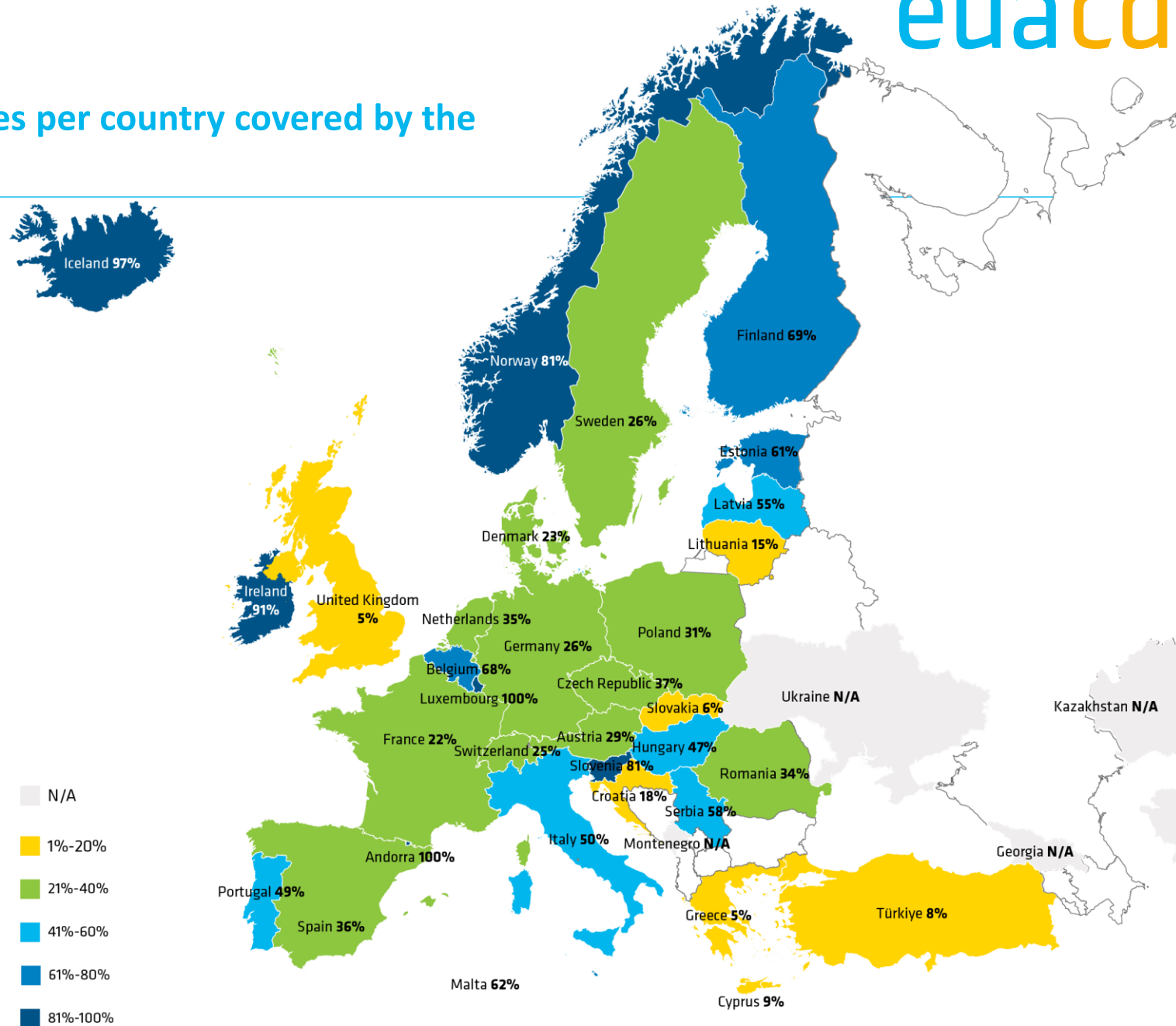
12% specialised universities (medical science, music and arts)

11% technical universities/universities of technology

7% universities of applied sciences

4% other types of institutions

## Share of doctoral candidates per country covered by the 2025 EUA-CDE survey



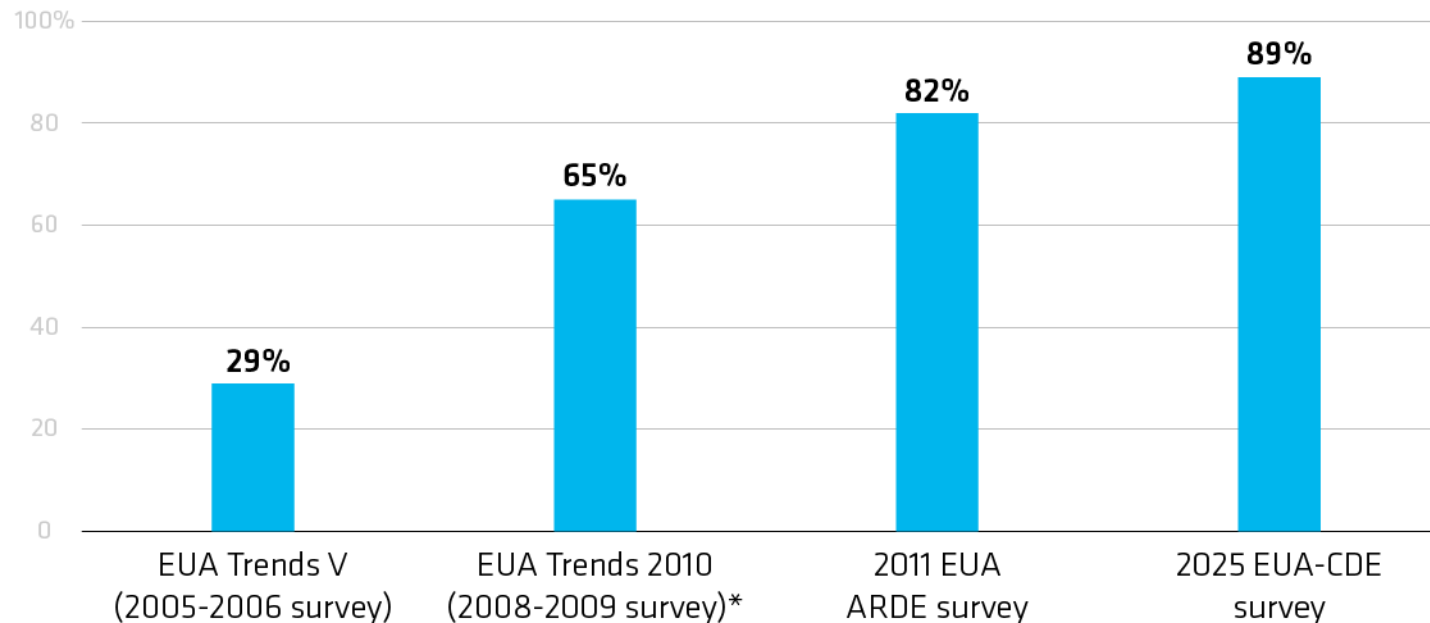


**Doctoral education in Europe today: enhanced structures and practices for the European knowledge society**

# Strukturen und Institutionalisierung

# The rise of the doctoral schools in Europe

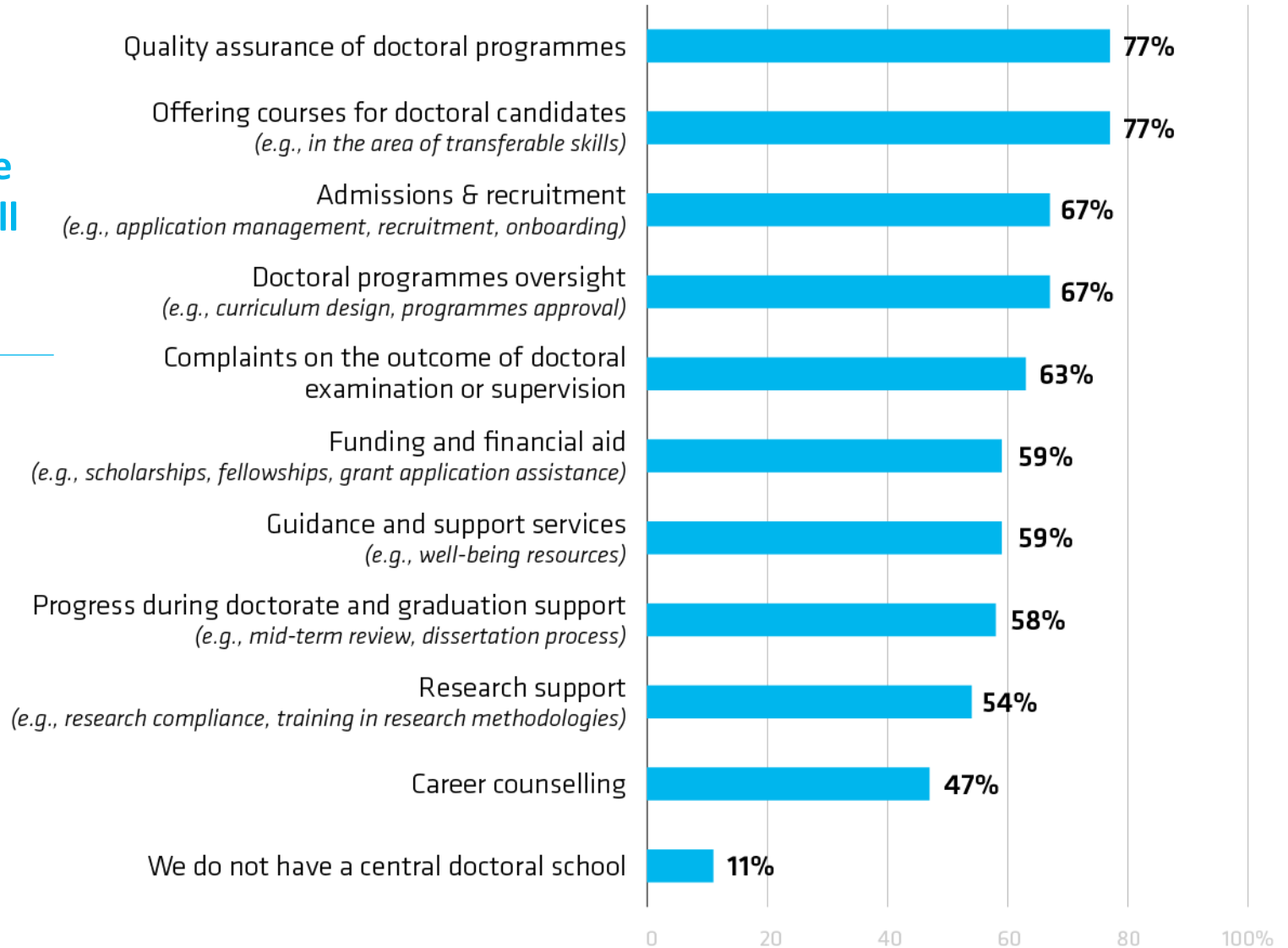
## Percentage of doctorate-awarding universities with doctoral schools



\* 49% with doctoral schools including only doctoral candidates and 16% with doctoral schools including Master students and doctoral candidates

**Which of the following elements are delivered by the central doctoral school or similar structure for doctoral candidates? – select all that apply.**

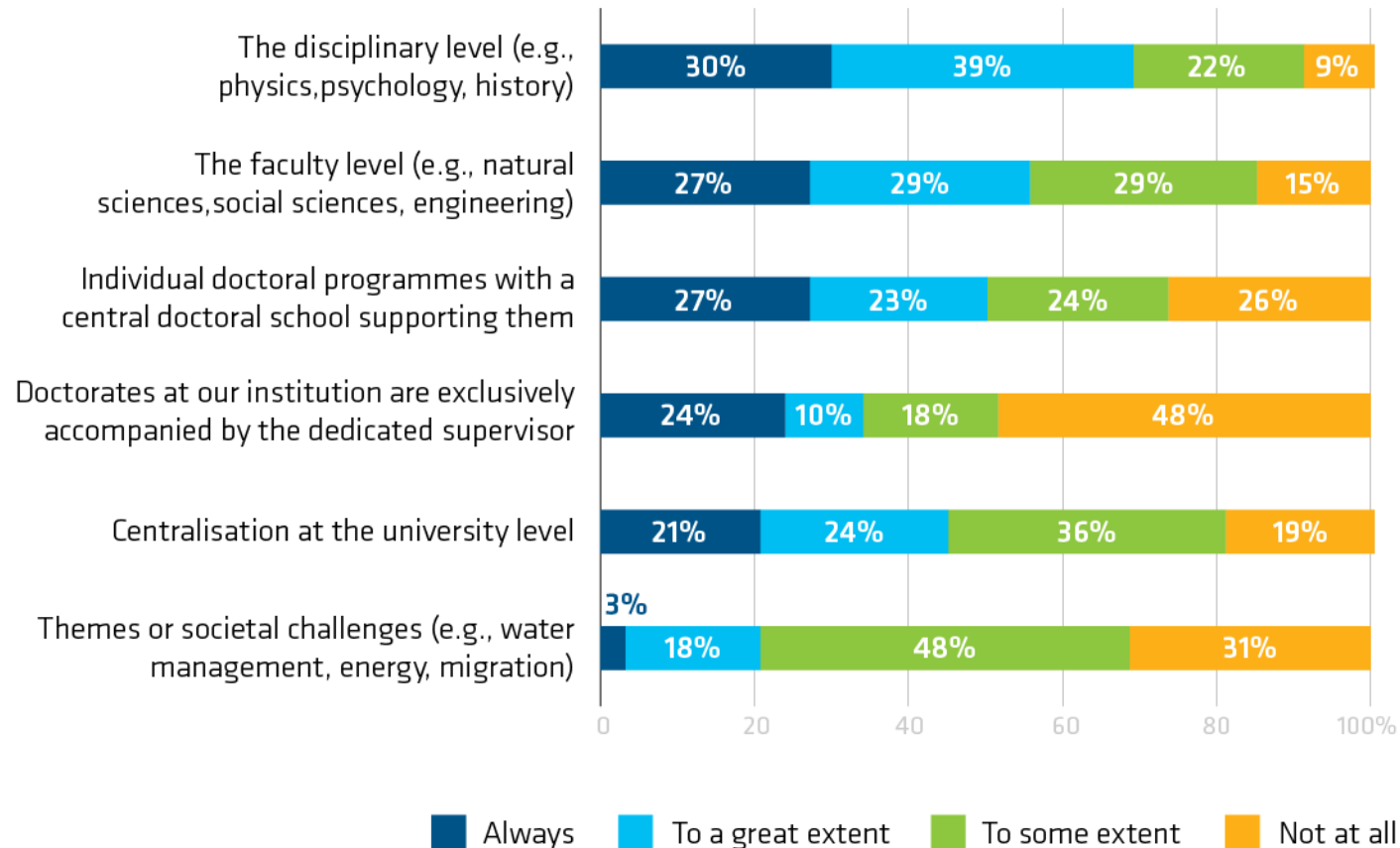
*Number of respondents: 217/217*



# Organisation and governance of the doctorate

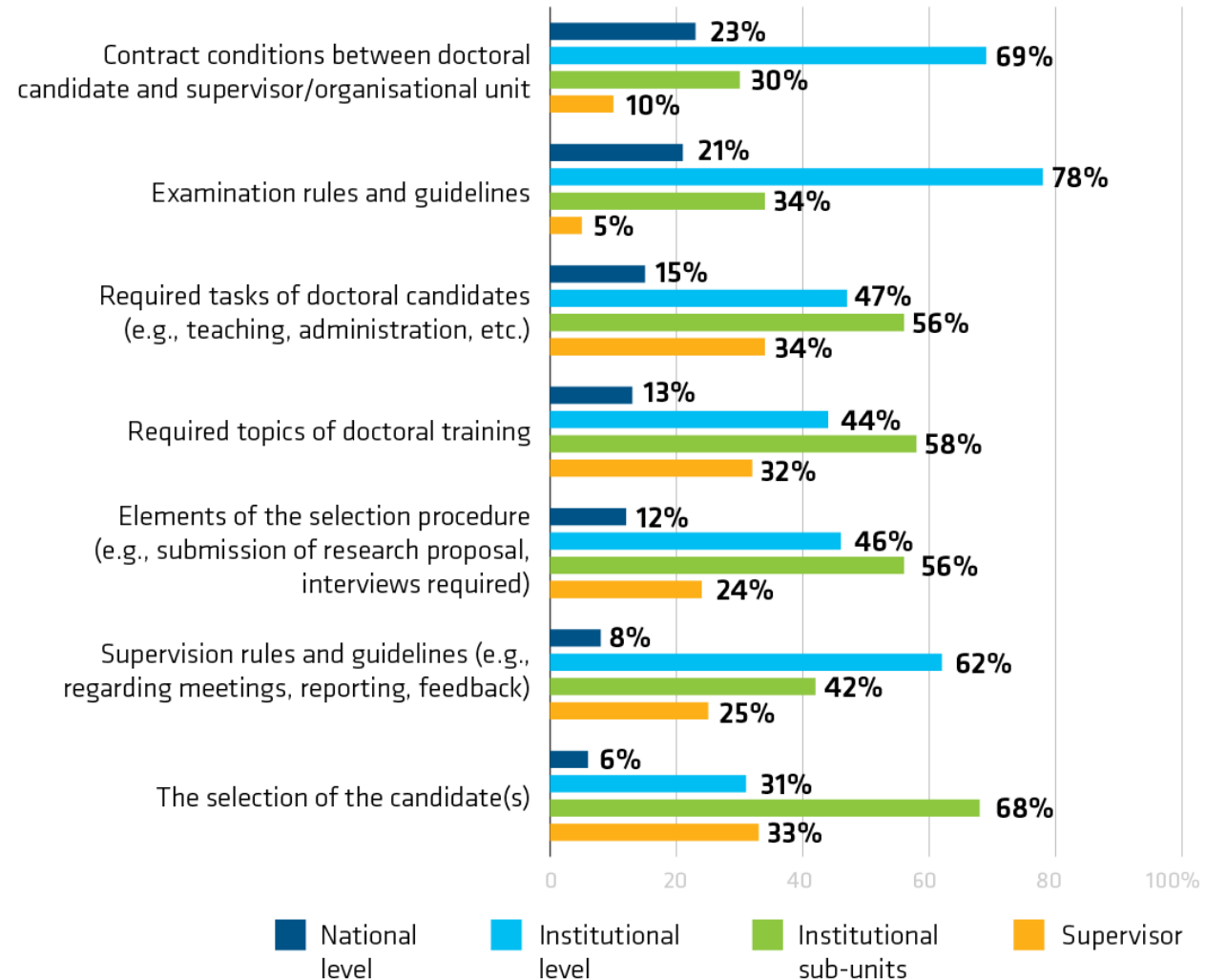
## To what extent is doctoral education in your institution organised at or around ...?

Number of respondents: 217/217



## Who makes decisions about the following aspects of the doctorate at your institution? - select all that apply

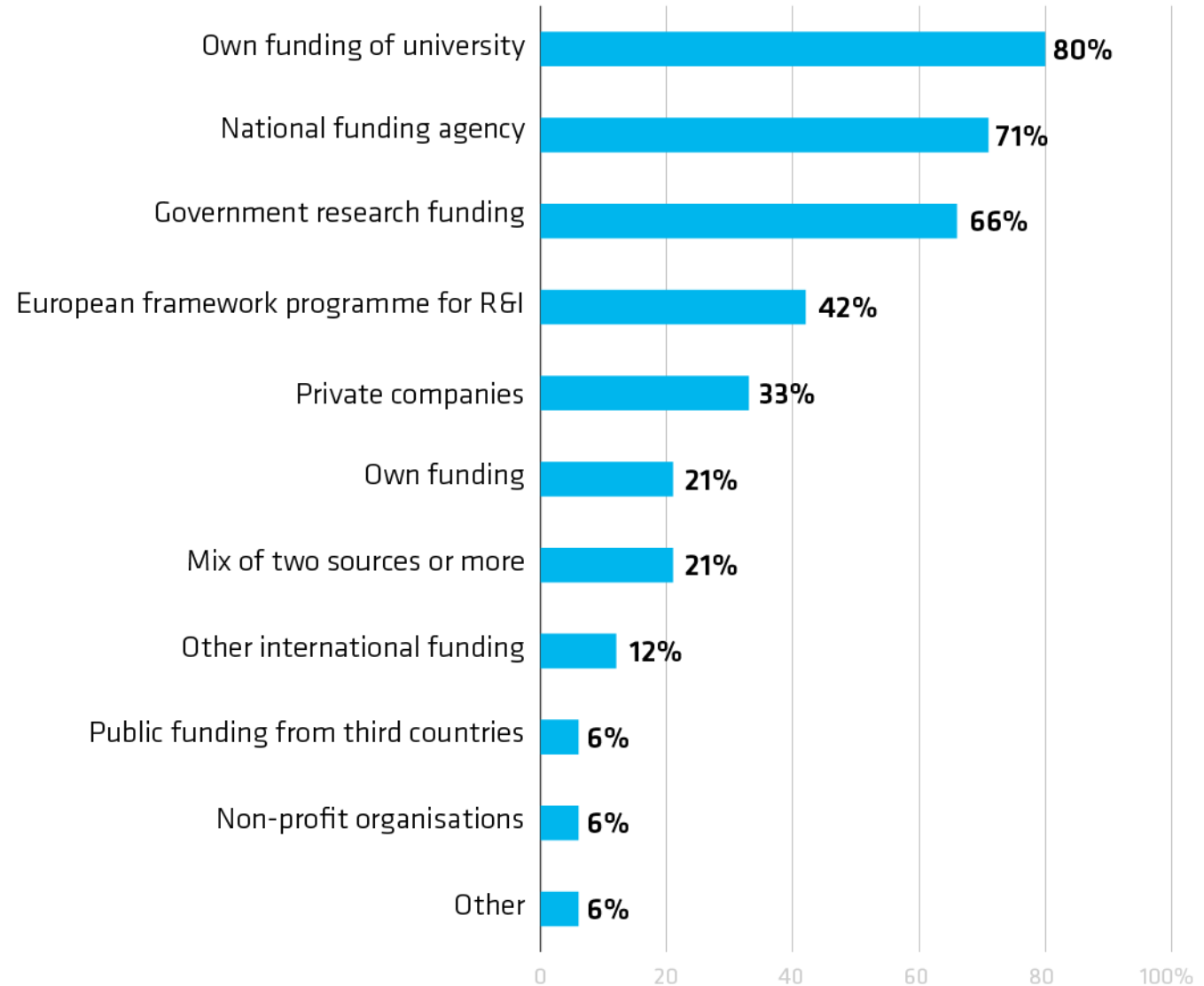
Number of respondents: 215-217/217



# Funding of doctoral candidates

**Which funding sources play the most important role in funding doctoral candidates at your institution?  
Please select up to 4 funding sources.**

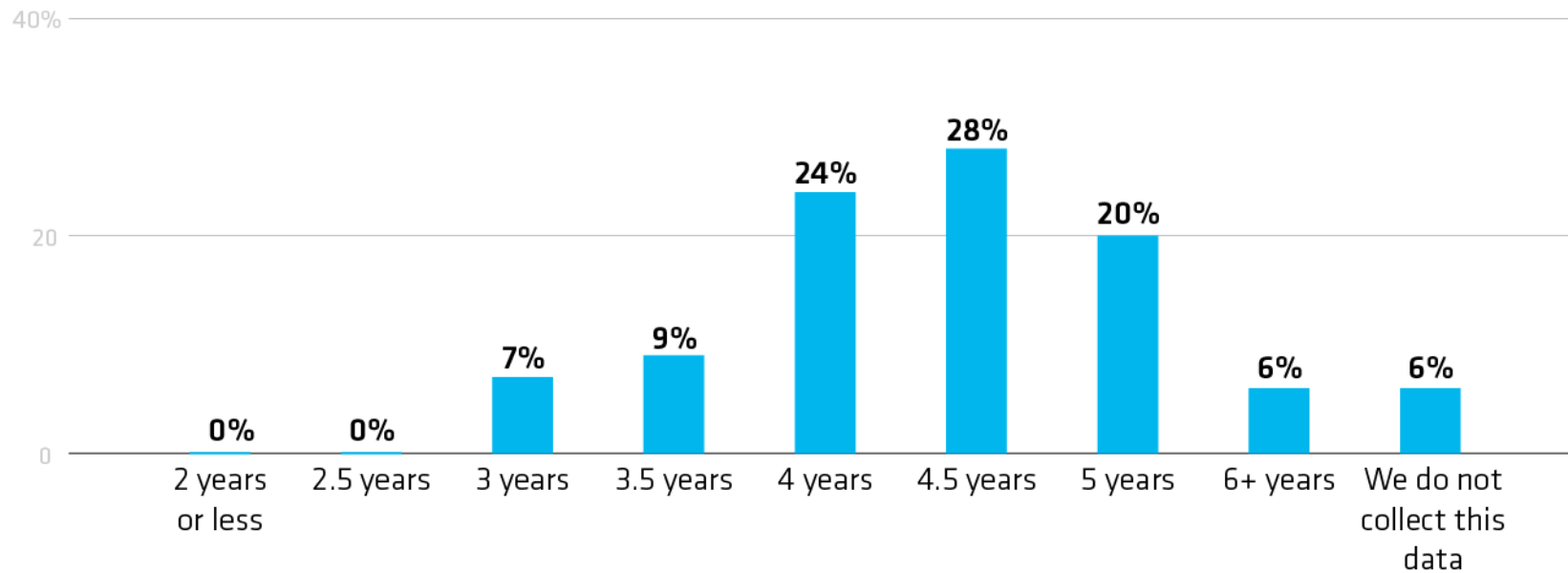
*Number of respondents: 217/217*



# Time to completion

In your institution, how long on average do your graduates take to complete their full-time doctorate?

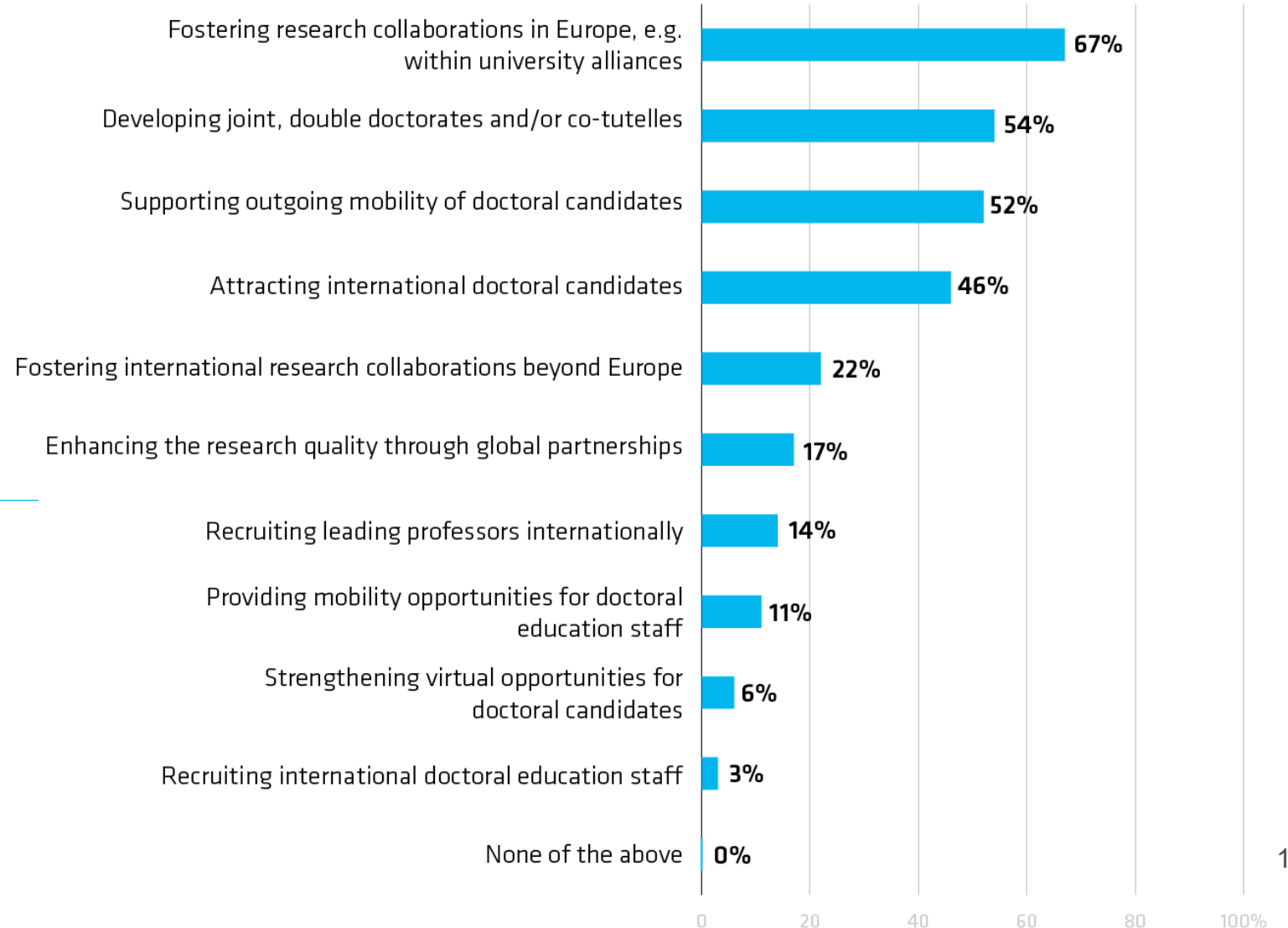
Number of respondents: 217/217



# Internationalisation

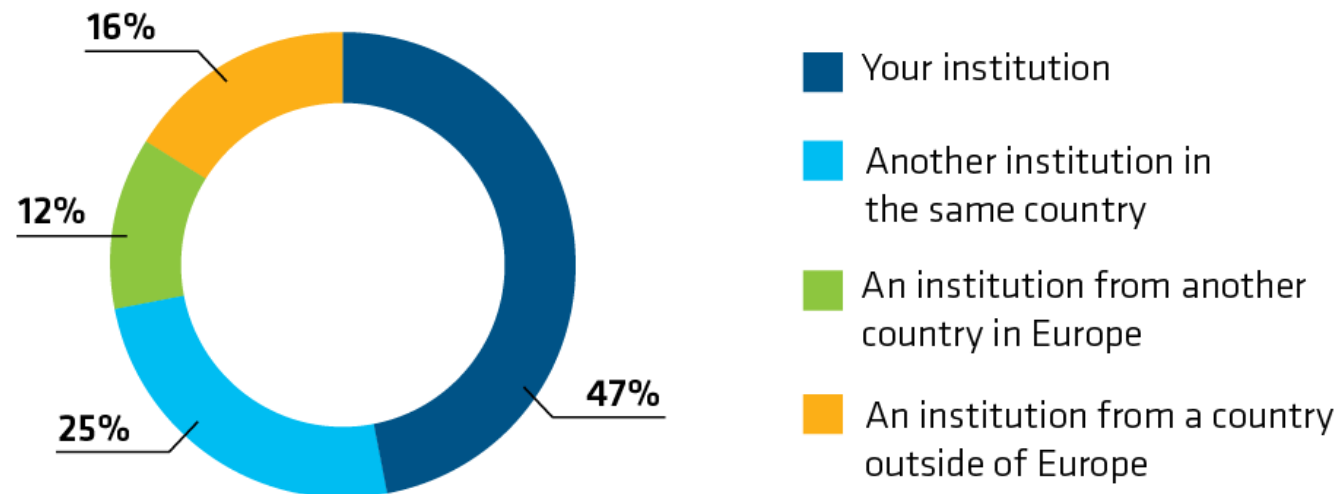
**Which key activities related to internationalisation in doctoral education does your institution mostly focus on? – select the 3 most important ones.**

*Number of respondents: 217/217*



## What approximate percentage of doctoral candidates at your institution have a qualifying degree (necessary to start a doctorate) from ...?

Number of respondents: 178/217 (results calculated as average)





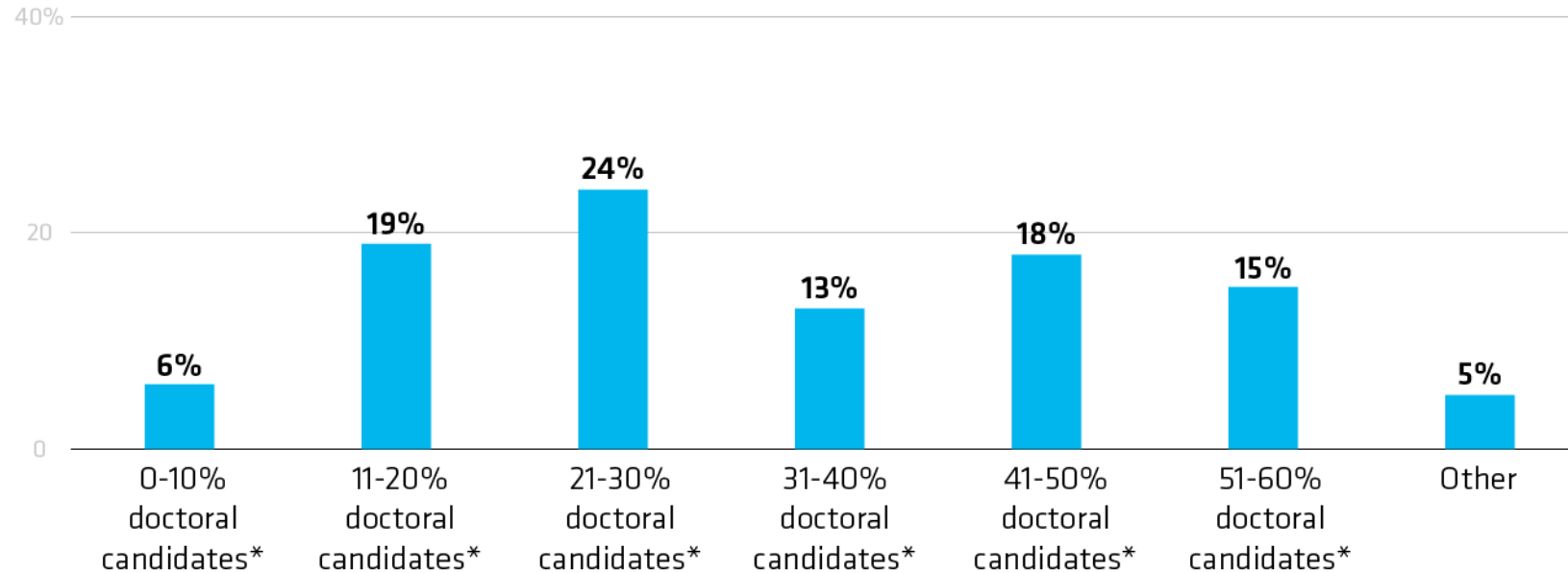
**Doctoral education in Europe today: enhanced structures and practices for the European knowledge society**

# Status der Promovierenden und Betreuung

# Share of doctoral candidates among all researchers

How large do you estimate the proportion of doctoral candidates (R1 career stage) in the total number of researchers at your institution (career stages R1-R4 of the European Framework for Research Careers)?

*Number of respondents: 208/217*

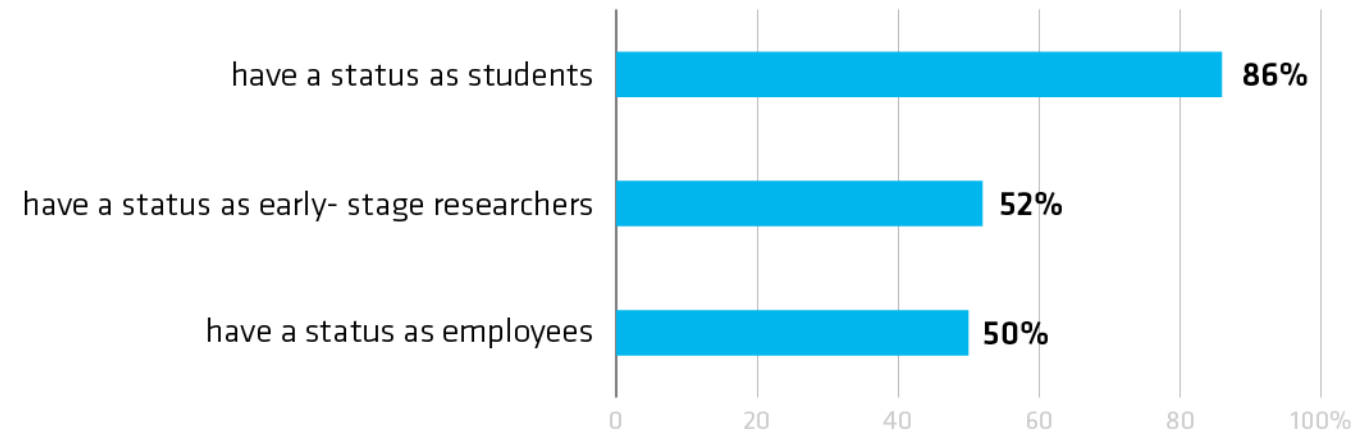


*\*in total number of researchers*

# The status(es) of doctoral candidates

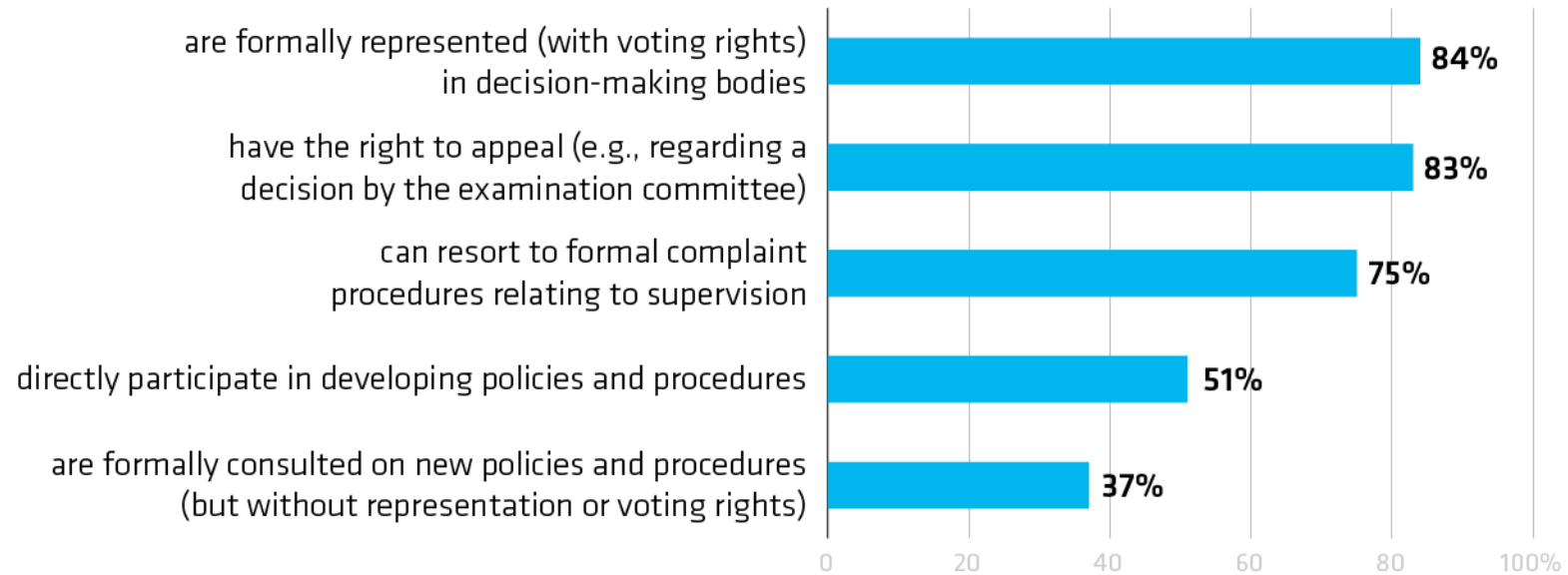
**At your institution, doctoral candidates - select all that apply.**

*Number of respondents: 217/217*



## At your institution, doctoral candidates - select all that apply.

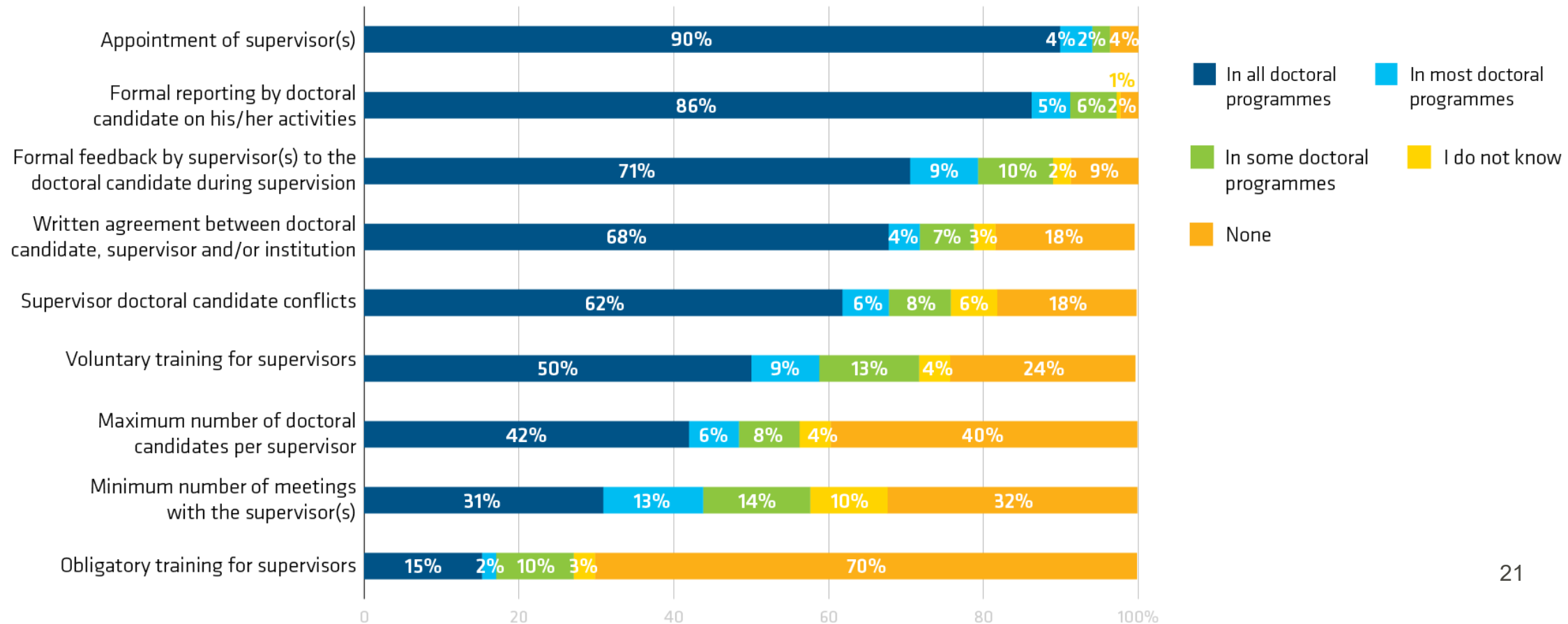
Number of respondents: 217/217



# Trends in supervision

In your institution, are there rules or guidelines regarding the following aspects of doctoral supervision?

Number of respondents: 217/217

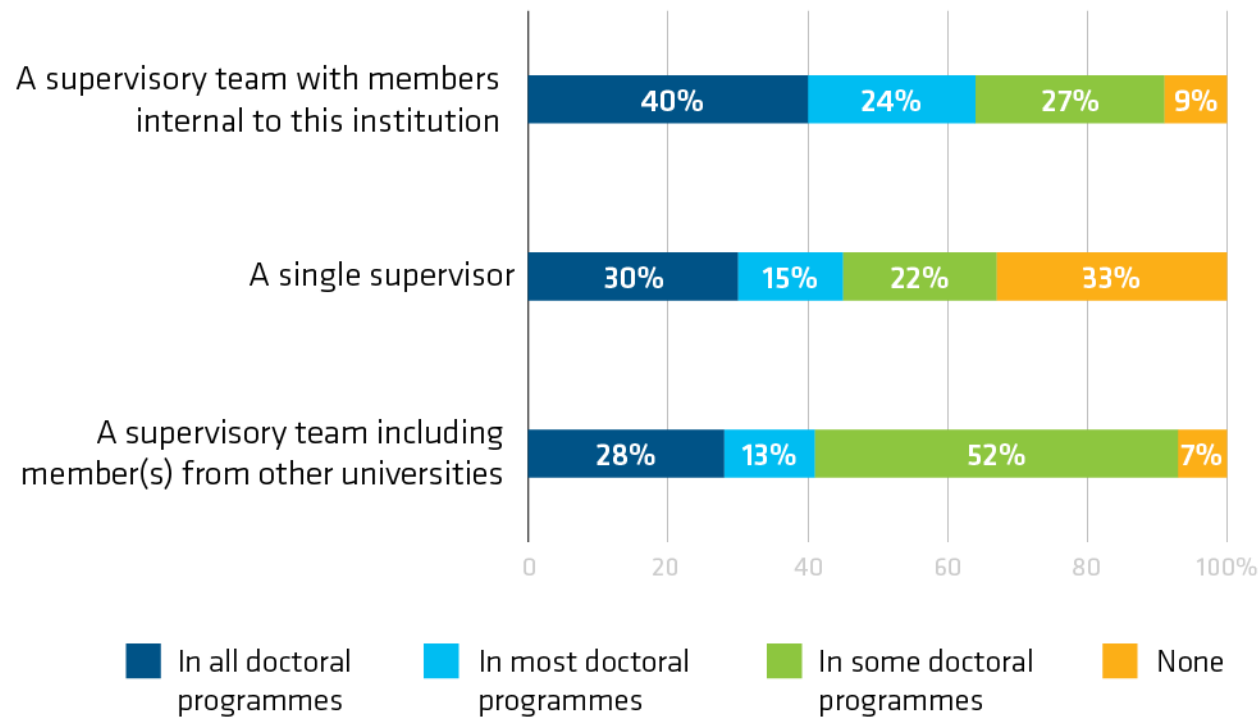


## Comparison of rules and guidelines on doctoral supervision in 2017/2018 and 2025

	In all doctoral programmes	
	2017/2018 EUA-CDE survey	2025 EUA-CDE survey
Appointment of supervisors	81%	90%
Formal reporting by doctoral candidate	77%	86%
Formal feedback by supervisor to doctoral candidate	60%	71%
Written agreement	56%	68%
Supervisor- doctoral candidate conflicts	51%	62%
Minimum number of meetings with supervisor(s)	40%	31%
Voluntary training for supervisors	36%	50%
Maximum number of doctoral candidates per supervisor	33%	42%
Obligatory training for supervisors	12%	15%

## To what extent are doctoral candidates in your institution supervised by ...

Number of respondents: 213/217-217/217



## Comparison of team vs. single supervision in 2017/2018 and 2025

	In all + in most doctoral programmes	
	2017/2018 EUA-CDE survey	2025 EUA-CDE survey
A supervisory team with members internal to this institution	47%	64%
A single supervisor	49%	45%
A supervisory team including members from other universities	24%	41%



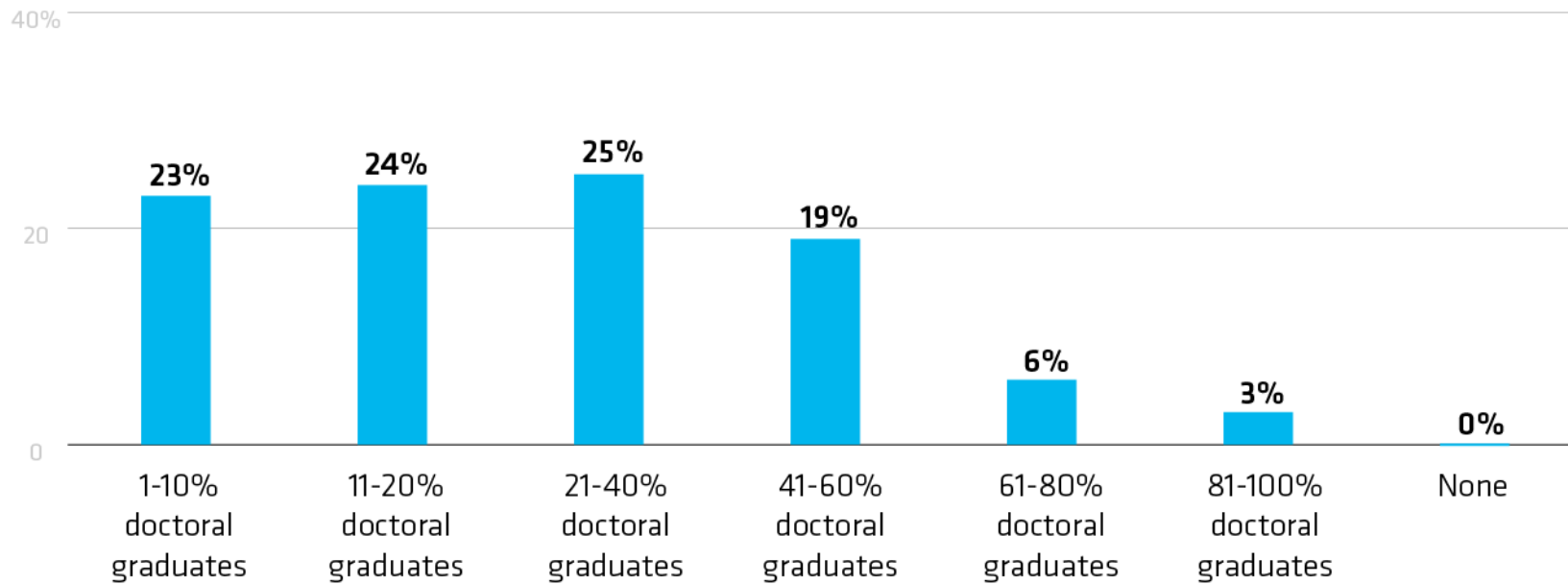
**Doctoral education in Europe today: enhanced structures and practices for the European knowledge society**

# Möglichkeiten der Karriereentwicklung

# Career trajectories within and beyond academia

**How many doctoral graduates from your university do you estimate will find a permanent position in academia?**

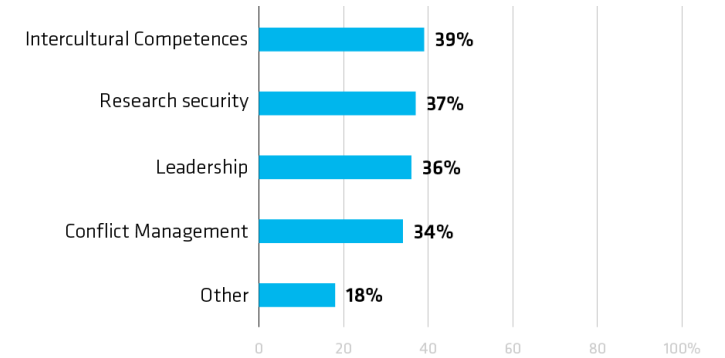
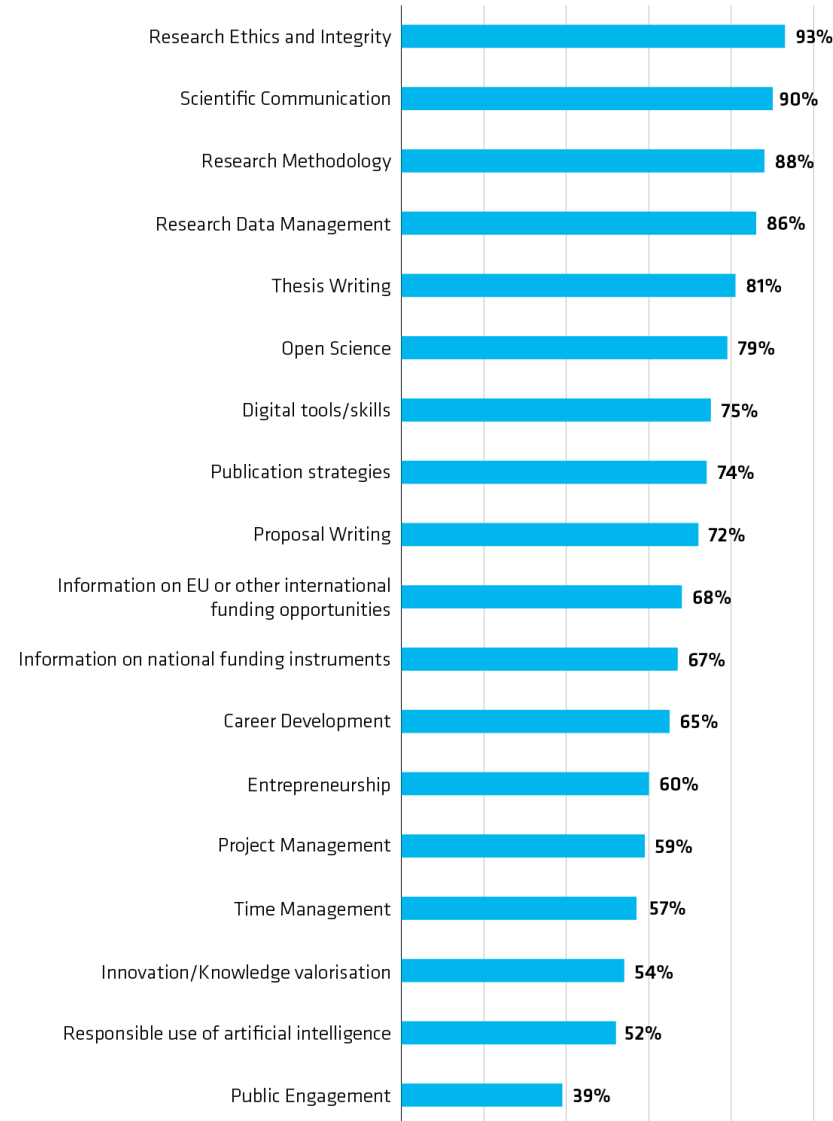
*Number of respondents: 211/217*



# Skills offered

What type of transferable skills training is offered to doctoral candidates at your institution? – select all that apply.

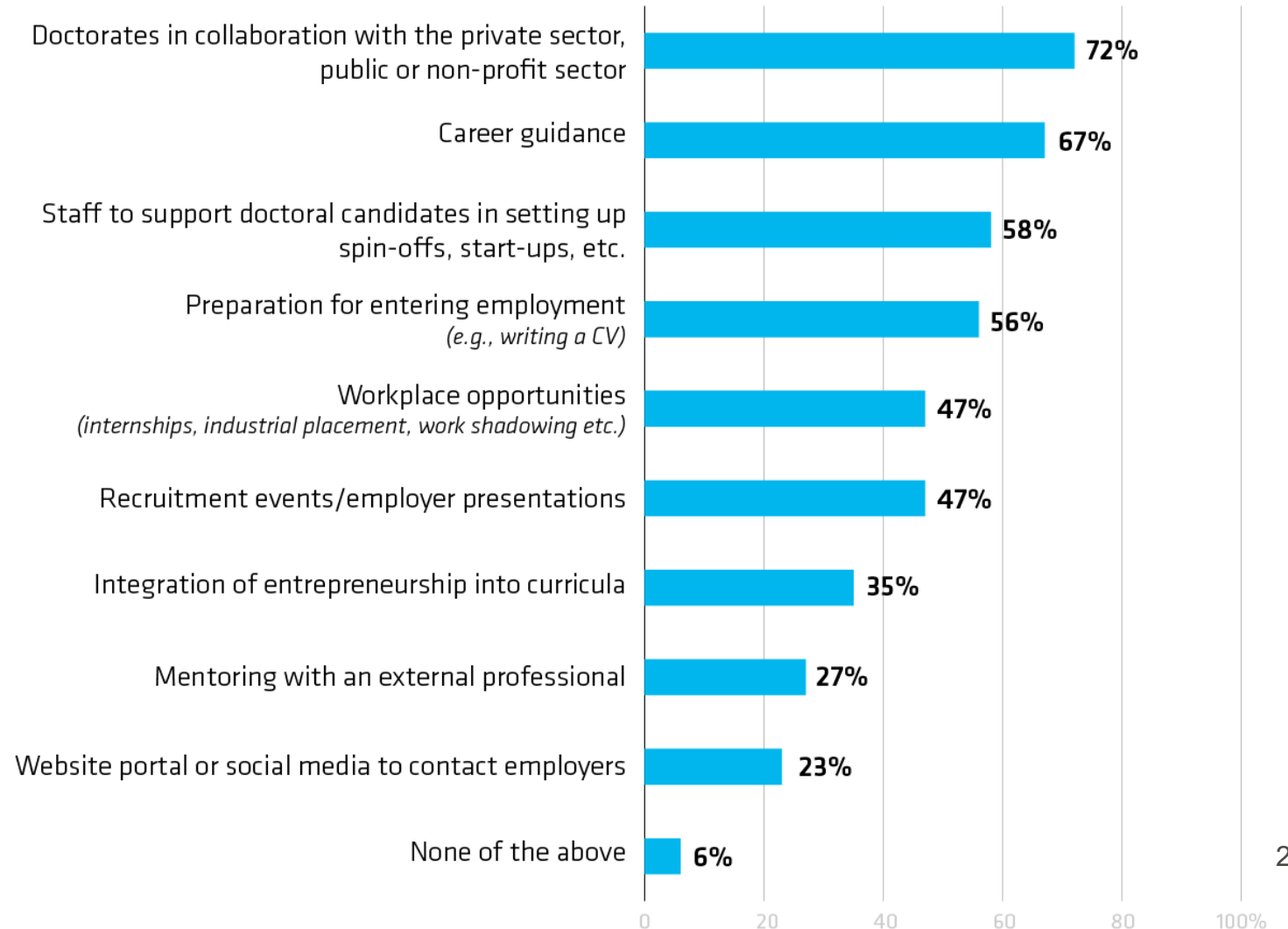
*Number of respondents: 217/217*



# Career development opportunities beyond academia

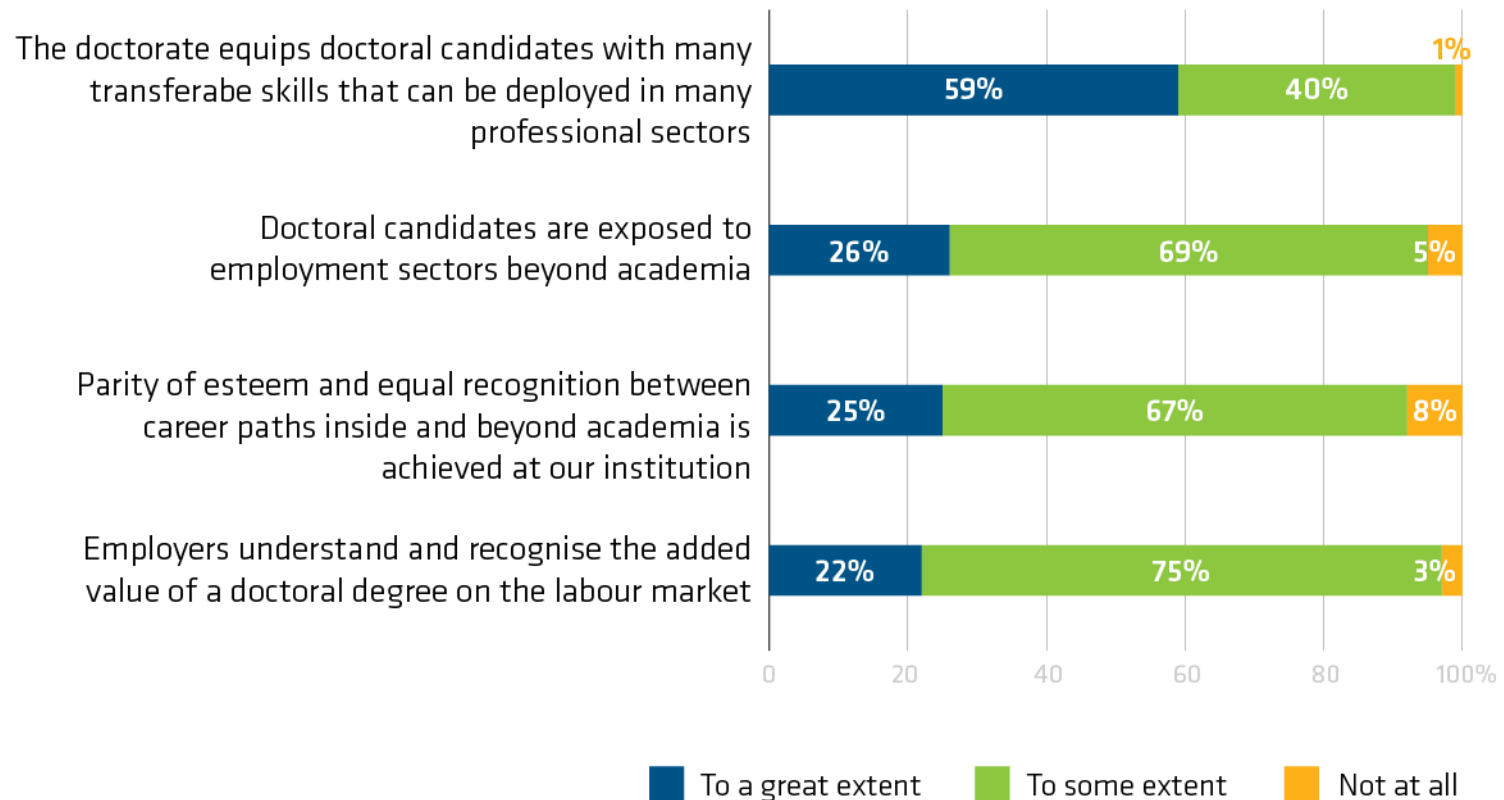
**Does your institution provide any of the following to promote the employment of doctoral candidates outside academia? – select all that apply.**

*Number of respondents: 217/217*



## To what extent do the following statements apply from the perspective of your institution?

Number of respondents: 210/217-216/217



< BACK

EUA events

# 2026 EUA-CDE Thematic Workshop

Doctoral education for the future of European R&I

15 - 16 Jan 2026

on-site

📍 University Of Liège, Liège, Belgium

📅 Add to Calendar

# Thank you for your attention

Simon Marti, Head of EUA-CDE

[simon.marti@eua.eu](mailto:simon.marti@eua.eu)