

# EU-CARIBBEAN WORKSHOP ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

## EC ACTION "SUPPORT TO THE EU- CARIBBEAN COOPERATION ON MARINE RESEARCH UNDER THE HORIZON EUROPE PROGRAMME"

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# 1. EU-CARIBBEAN STUDY ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- March-December 2023
- Two key experts:  
Roland Brouwer
- Desk research
- **Survey:**  
<http://survey.spi.pt/index.php/873726?lang=en>
- Map research and capacity building priorities
- Map funding schemes and knowledge gaps
- Foster cooperation for HE
- Missions: Dominican Republic, Belize, Sint Maarten, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Curacao
- Bi regional Workshop – JIRI Summit 28-29 Brussels
- FINAL REPORT

## 2. BACKGROUND

Oceans are basic to a number of SDGs: 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,16,17 and International agreements, i.a. Paris, BBNJ



## 2. BACKGROUND-CONTEX

- Global framework: NEW instruments, i.a. UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction ( 2/3 oceans) in June 2023 to protect 30% marine ecosystems by 2030, UN Decade on Oceans Science
- EU-CELAC July and up coming Summit and Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI) Brussels 28-29 November 2023
- Heterogenous region, COMMON CHALLENGES with limited research capacities and intraregional cooperation although :
  - 0,08% GERD in the CAR, 0,66% LA, 1,79% global ( UNESCO science report 2018)
  - Only 2% co publications in CARICOM, 40% USA
- Need for research to advise policy and empower society, youth, gender, inequalities and OCEANS are key



## 2. BACKGROUND-CONTEX

### NO ONE LEFT BEHIND:

- Poverty and inequality biggest barriers to the SDGs- [UNESCO,2019](#)
  - Disalignment between policy needs and research production
  - LAC being the most unequal region in the world, requiring special focus on inclusion and diversity: gender, youth, rural communities, Indigenous and Local Knowledge, LGTBI, others.
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- NEED for Social Sciences and Humanities, Arts, Culture, ILK – social and cultural integration for the CAR region
- 
- **Gender equality** is more than a question of justice or equity. Countries, businesses and institutions which create an enabling environment for women increase their innovative capacity and competitiveness. The scientific endeavour benefits from the creativity and vibrancy of the interaction of different perspectives and expertise. Gender equality will encourage new solutions and expand the scope of research. This should be considered a priority by all if the global community is serious about reaching the next set of development goals.



Interviews to national and regional actors: RFOs, RPOs, Ministries Environment/ Fisheries, STI, Tourism, civil society, business associations,, STI commissions, and regional actors as CANARI, CMO, CRFM, IOCARIBE, UN, EC, OECS,

University of West Indies (UWI) key RFO, regional settings/centers

- Region invests in education and research but suffers from brain drain and capacity to invest differs between the countries and territories.
- Home-grown technical innovation (patents) very limited, not well supported by policy/funders, informal sector
- A large variety of environmental and conservation issues with insufficient resources and scientific critical mass to provide an adequate response- need to foster intra national and intra regional cooperation as well as other regions
- There is a lack of baseline data and open data, national/regional (FAIR) repositories
- Some well-equipped research facilities (labs), vessels , buoys, scarce not shared at national level/regional- law enforcement, governance issues
- Financing of research and conservation dependent on projects; other, more sustainable, models are needed- also capacity enhancement and foster intra regional cooperation, risk of agenda setting by donors not meeting policy needs



- Evidence based policy making needs data (populations, migrations, changes, causes, etc.) to sustain it; but these data are not available: i.a. Deep sea mapping, Spatial data-satellite, Marine habitats, pollutants
- The key is access to data with the right resolution and the right geographic coverage; data and management collection capacity
- Natural resource management requires **community involvement**; there is no understanding of coastal communities, their culture and their economies, ILK, conflict of uses/stakeholders
- Need to involve them rightly, meaningful cooperation for both: need tools and methods from SHS: ethics, sociology, social sciences, education, ocean literacy, livelihoods, CC resilience, ethical approaches, Intellectual property, data use, etc.
- Inclusive and diverse



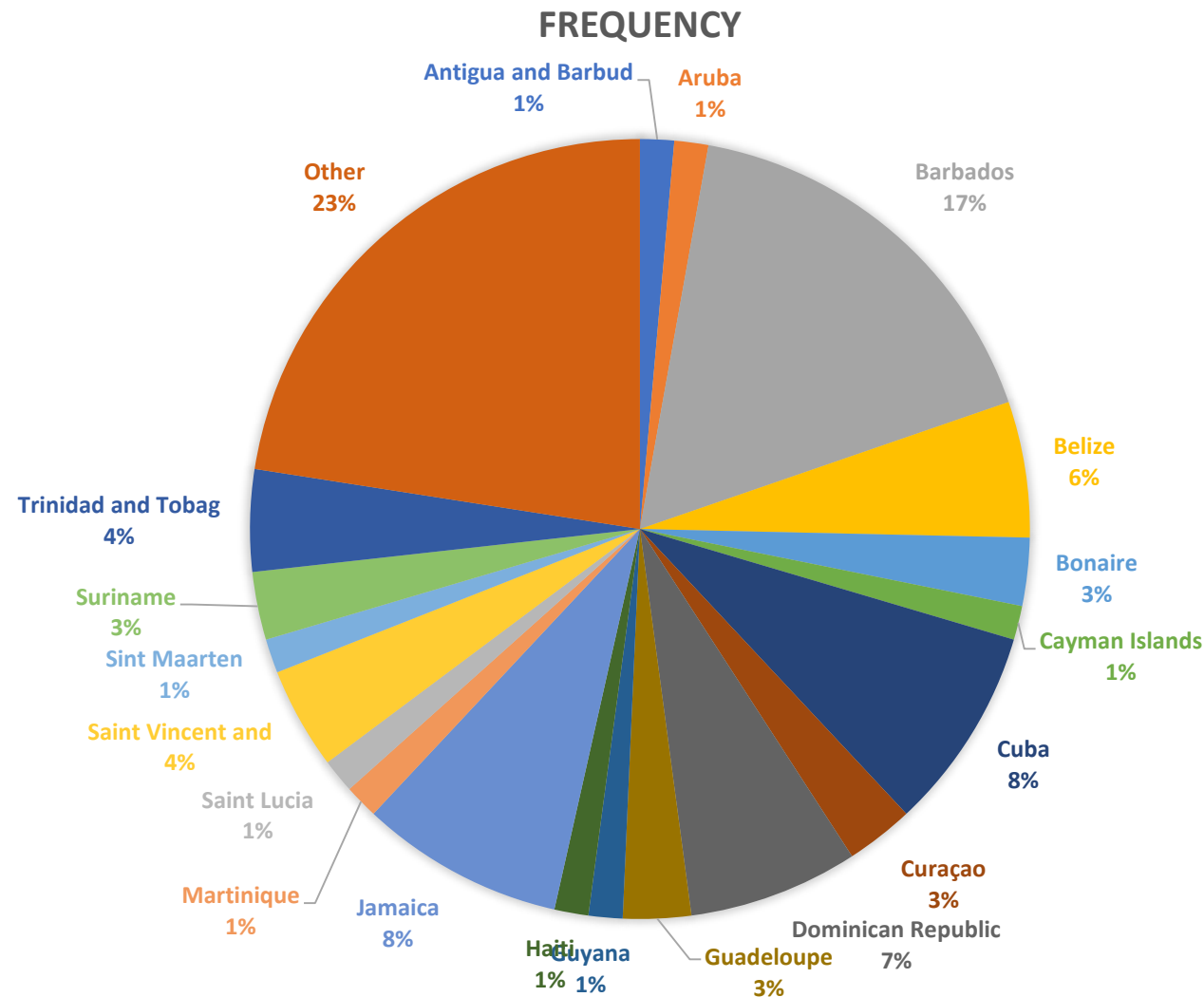
- Thematic networks coordinated by **centers of excellence** across the region to monitor and prioritize regional marine research agenda and capacity building needs to meet regional and international agreements and addressing societal needs- Community focus with joint infrastructures and reducing brain drain : Gender and youth focused
- **Virtual research labs** for international cooperation- diáspora ( blue cloud)
- Data sharing and data management and digital repositories- CB, digital infrastructures
- **Horizon Europe topics-** to be discussed now keeping attention to
  - Intra Regional funding calls
  - Multistakeholders calls ( CSO, ILK, Industry, policy with researchers)
  - Interdisciplinary- SHS, arts, culture, innovation

# Results on-line survey among marine research community members

Juliana Chaves

Roland Brouwer

# Where are we from



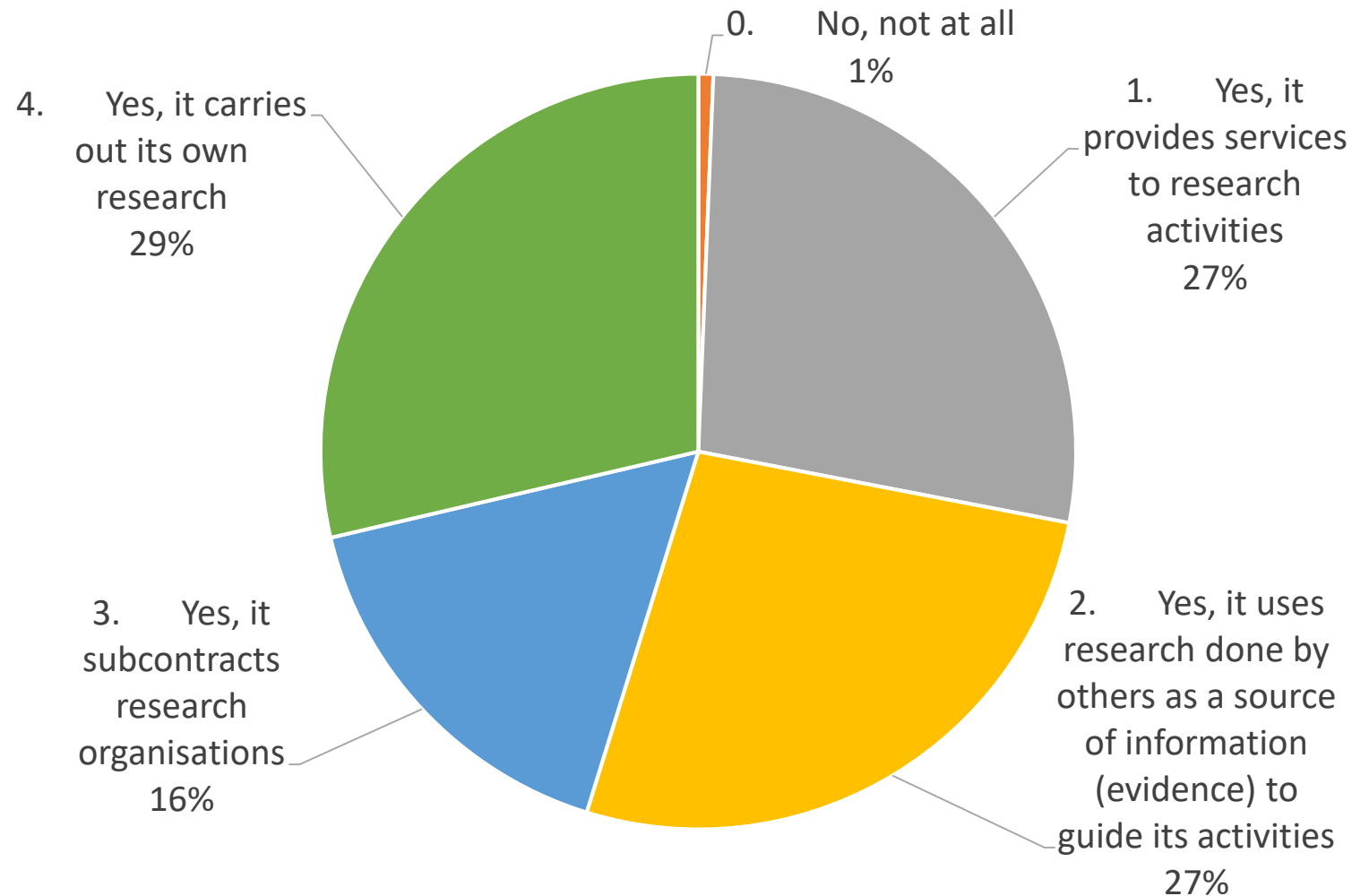
## Summary:

- 71 valid responses
- 55 from 19 Caribbean states and territories
- Caribbean territories with most respondents are Barbados (12) and Cuba (6)
- 16 from outside the Caribbean region (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Colombia, Belgium, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Greece, USA)

# Organizations represented and kind of activities

Type of institution		Kind of activities			
Where	Freq	Top 5: Most mentioned	freq	Bottom 5: Least mentioned	freq
Government	22	Biodiversity	34	Construction and Development	0
NGO	13	Climate change	32	Employment	0
Other	14	NR management	30	Welfare	1
Private business	2	Nature conservation	25	Mining (gas, oil, minerals)	1
Research institute	7	Environment	24	Transformative industries	1
University	12	Science, technology and innovation	20	Tourism (hospitality)	1
Organization's involvement in scientific research					Freq.
No, not at all					1
Yes, it provides services to research activities					43
Yes, it uses research done by others as a source of information (evidence) to guide its activities					42
Yes, it subcontracts research organisations					26
Yes, it carries out its own research					45

# Respondents' organizations' involvement in research (n=71)



# Regional distribution of partnerships of researchers

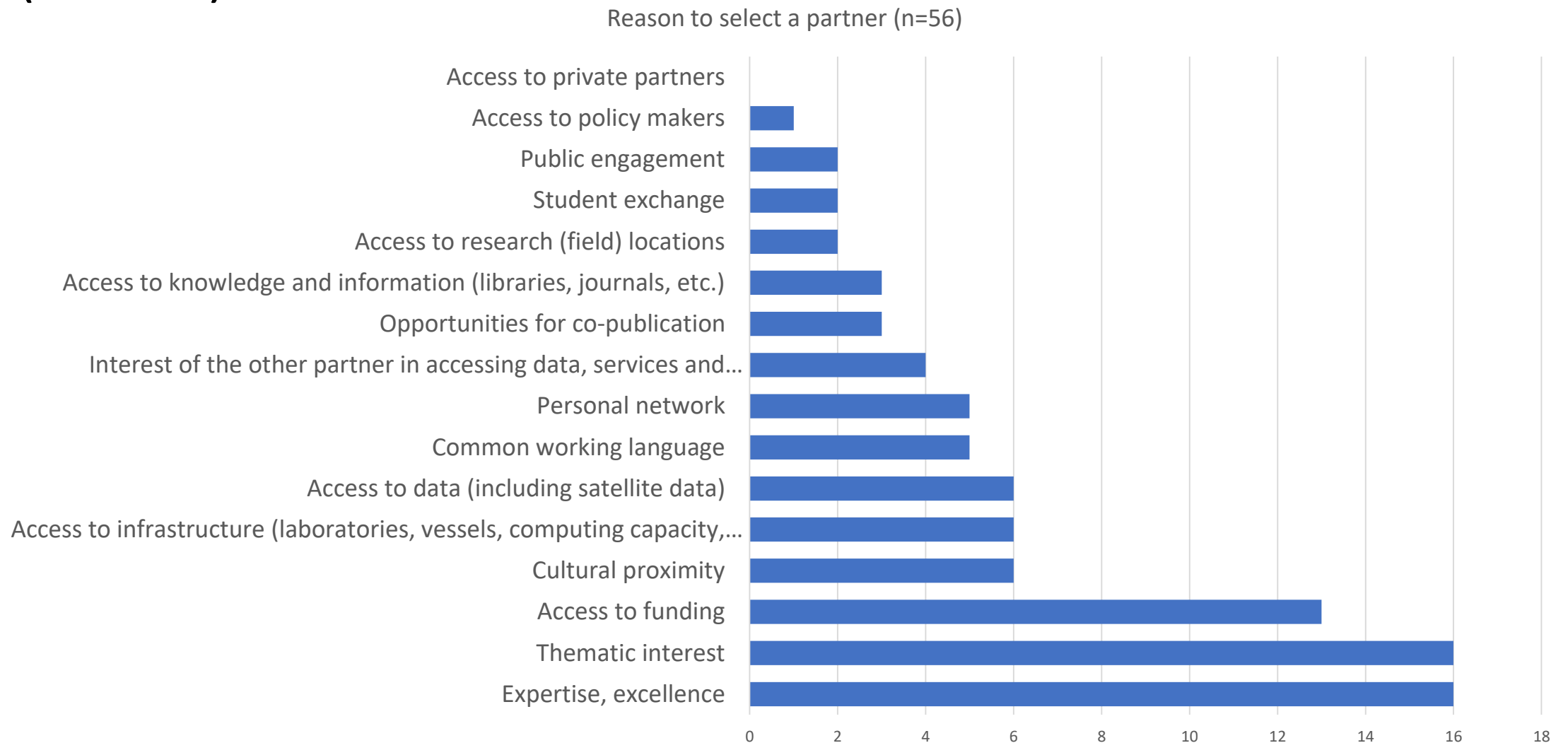
Do you partner with researchers and/or institutions in other countries?	All	Non Carin	Carib-ean
Respondents mentioning partnerships	56	15	41
Caribbean	47	9	38
Latin America	30	9	21
North America (US, Canada)	26	4	22
European Union	34	14	20
Other European countries (e.g., Norway, Switzerland, UK)	15	7	8
Asia	5	2	3
Africa	9	8	1
Pacific	4	2	2
Other	47	9	38

- Intra Caribbean partnerships are the most common (mentioned by 38)
- EU (mentioned by 22) and European countries (mentioned by 8) are important partners of Caribbean researchers but less than North and Latin America,
- Mostly non-Caribbeans have partnerships with Africa;
- Only 4 researchers did not have international partners

NB: Questions only answered by the 60 respondents who themselves carry out research

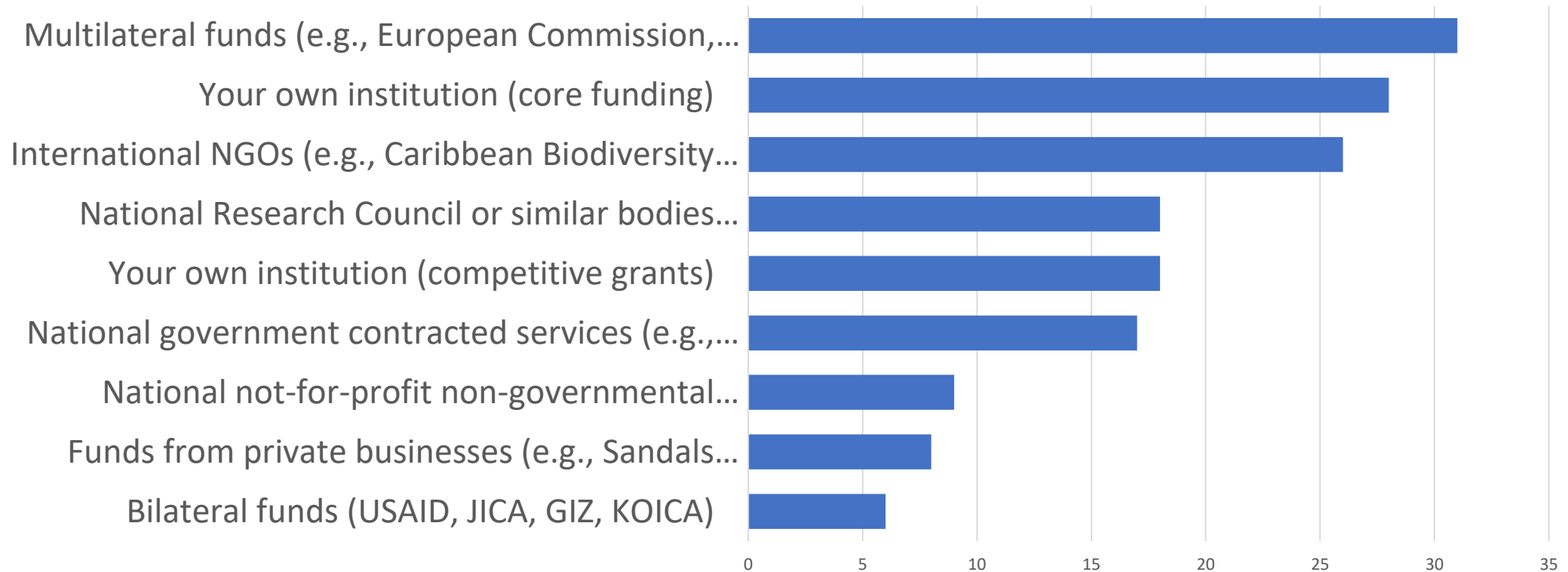


# Motives mentioned for selecting a partner (n=56)



# Who pays for the research

Sources of research finance for research over the last five years (n=51)



- Most mentioned are multilateral funds and funds from one's own institution (core funding)
- National NGOs, private businesses and bilateral funds are the least mentioned

NB: Number of citations  $\neq$  amount of money involved

# Multilateral funders (n=31)

Name	Freq	Perc	Name	Freq	Perc
Global Environmental Facility	17	54.8	Caribbean Development Bank	5	16.1
UNDP	13	41.9	UNESCO	5	16.1
UNEP	13	41.9	European Development Bank	3	9.7
European Commission	10	32.3	OECS	3	9.7
World Bank	10	32.3	CELAC	1	3.2
Inter American Development Bank	9	29.0	UNESCO-IOC	1	3.2
FAO	7	22.6	CYTED	0	0.0
CARICOM i.e. Green Climate Fund	6	19.4	OCDE	0	0.0

Note: Table in order of number of times mentioned.

# EU windows mentioned (n=10)

EU mechanism	Freq	Perc	EU mechanism	Freq	Perc
Horizon 2020	2	20.0	All Atl. Oc. R. and I. Alliance	2	20.0
Horizon Europe	3	30.0	Erasmus +	2	20.0
Interreg	4	40.0	European Investment Bank	1	10.0
Euroclima	0	0.0	LIFE	3	30.0

Certain windows are not cited (Euroclima)

Difficulties with EU funding most frequently mentioned by respondents:

- Reporting format and frame;
- timely availability of funds;
- problem definition, drafting the budget, implementation

# Importance of research infrastructure

Access of specific infrastructure and its importance if there is no access at the moment (n=71)	National	Regional	Global	Important No access but	No access and not important
Library (electronic) and electronic journals	23	21	29	22	0
Off-line data storage capacity	34	6	5	21	2
Research vessels (including crew)	25	9	5	21	12
Software, including GIS	34	18	20	18	1
Aquaria	21	9	7	18	19
Computing facilities and capacity	38	16	10	17	0
Measuring devices (geology, meteorology, hydrology, etc.)	31	13	10	17	10
On-line computing and data storage capacity	37	12	14	16	2
Research assistants (including graduate and post-graduate students)	33	28	18	16	3
Other data collection equipment (cameras, sonar, etc.)	31	14	13	16	9
Traps and other devices to sample populations	27	10	10	16	13
Data sets (including geospatial data)	34	31	28	15	2
Laboratory equipment and reagents	29	12	11	15	12
Equipment for on-line meetings (video conferences, etc.)	38	14	14	13	2
Laboratory (chemistry, physics, other)	31	14	13	13	11
Vehicles	36	5	3	13	11
Class rooms	42	7	4	11	7
Co-researchers, colleagues	42	44	34	10	0
Library (physical)	35	14	5	10	8
Meeting rooms	47	11	6	8	1
Internet connectivity	48	21	14	3	0

## Important resources with no or little (domestic) access:

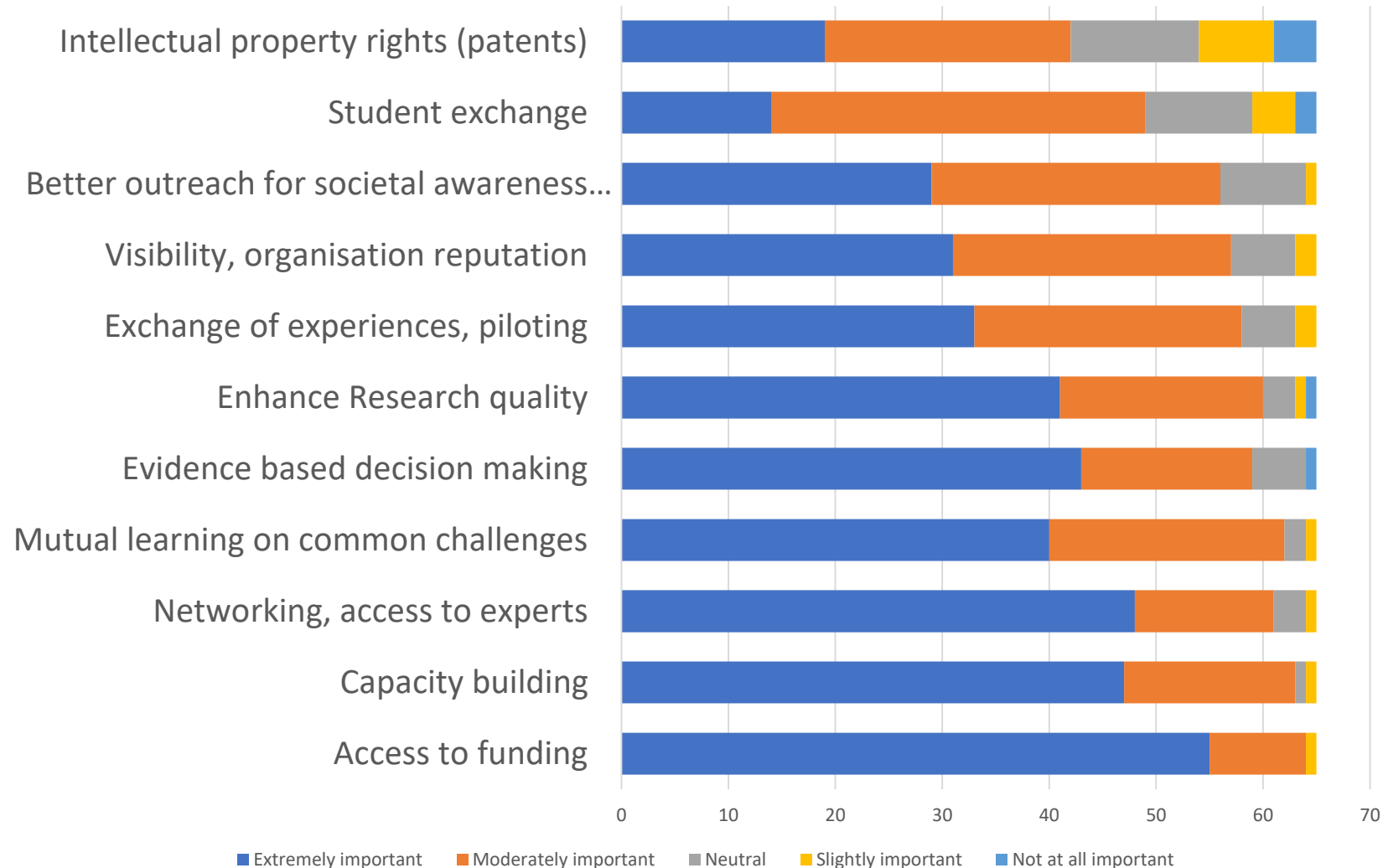
- Electronic libraries/journals;
- Data storage and computing facility
- Software
- Data collection equipment (vessel, traps, recorders)
- Data sets
- Research assistants (students)
- Laboratory equipment and reagents

## Resources that are easily accessible

- Teaching and (on-line) meeting infrastructure
- Internet connectivity
- Colleagues and co-researchers

Approach: ranking “no access but important” from high to low followed by “national access” from low to high.

# Importance of possible research objectives (n=65)



**All 11 listed objectives are important**

**Most important are:**

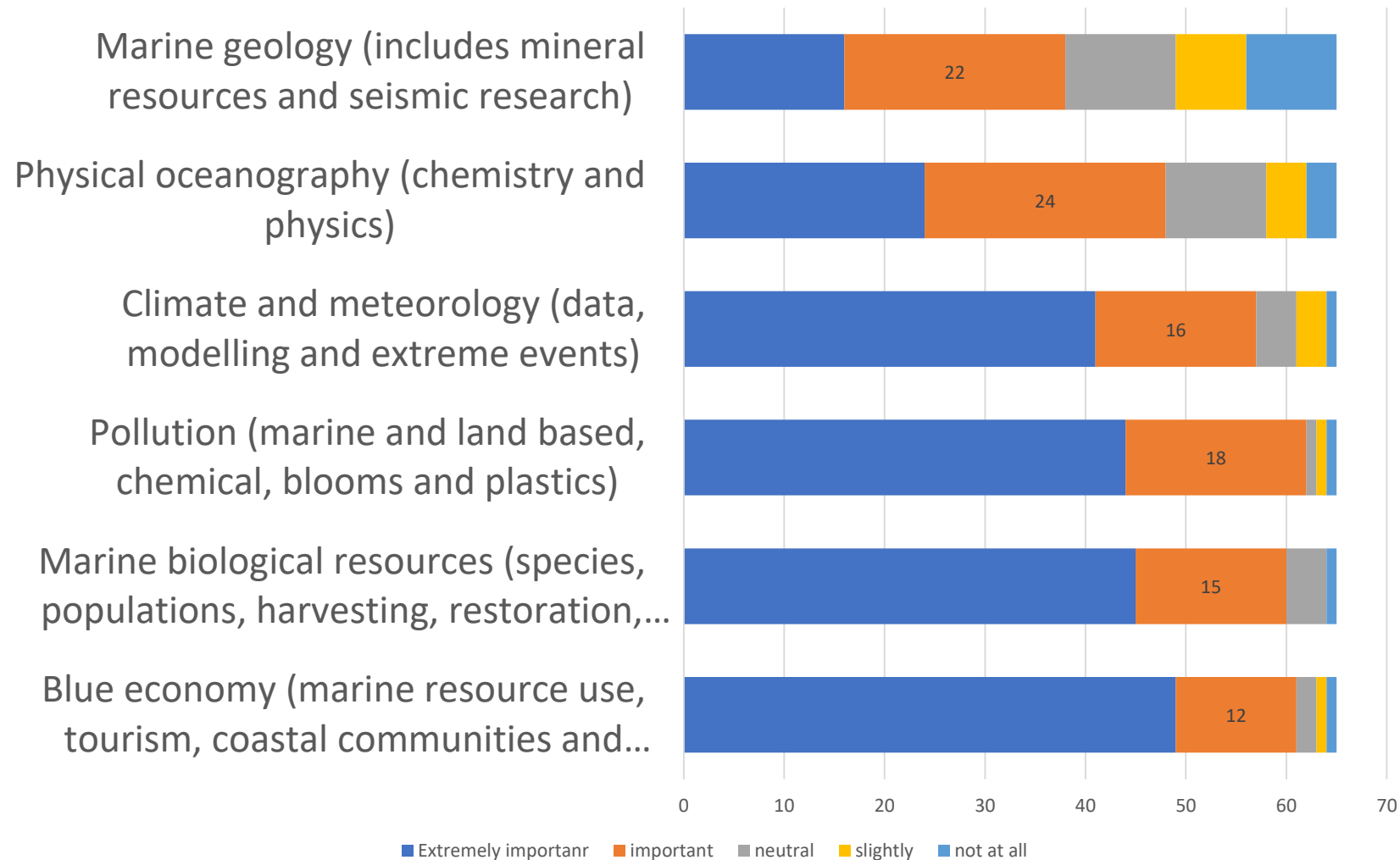
- Funding
- Capacity building
- Networking
- Evidence based decision making

**Least important are:**

- Outreach and societal awareness
- Student exchange
- Intellectual property rights



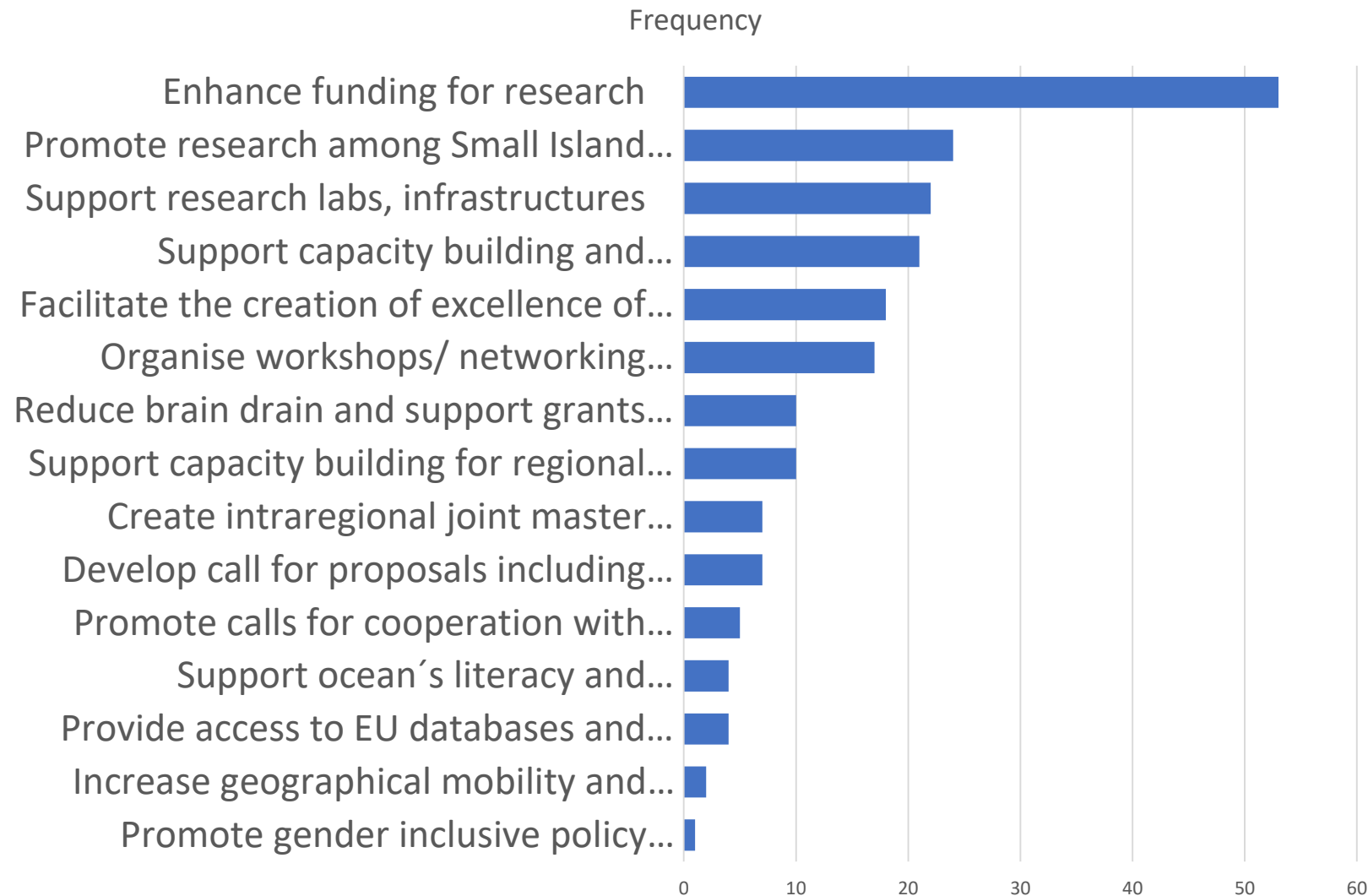
# Importance of issues for research (n=65)



Respondents prioritize, blue economy, marine biology, and pollution

Physical oceanography and geology are not seen as important even though several countries rely on mining for their economies

# Three most important actions mentioned (n=65)



## Top priorities:

- Enhance funding
- Promote research among SIDS
- Support capacity building

## Least important:

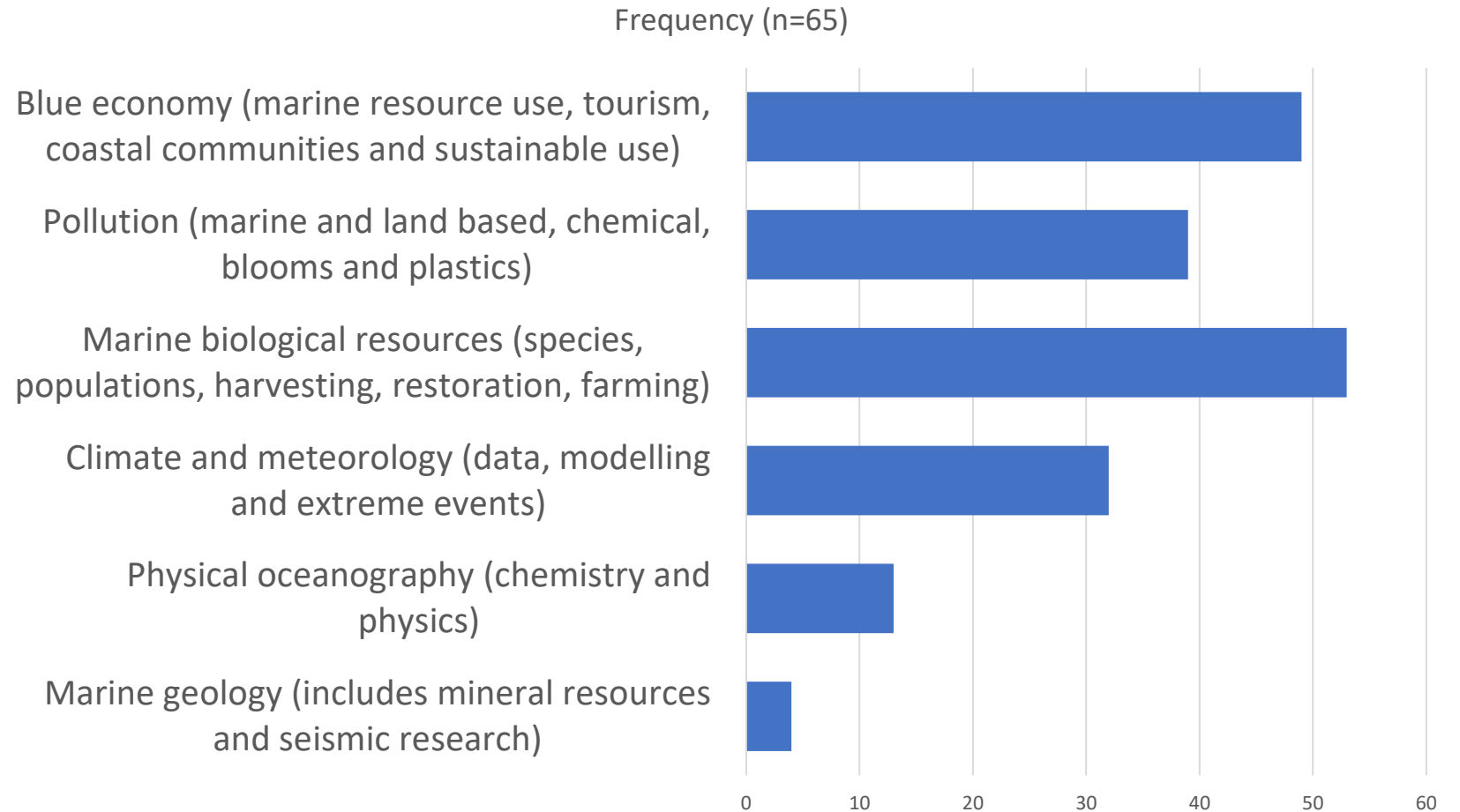
- Provide access to EU databases
- Increase geographical mobility to EU spaces
- Include business and CSO in calls for proposals

# Priorities for capacity building

## Key priorities

Marine biology, blue economy, and pollution

Physical oceanography and geology are low priority topics



# Summary and conclusion

- 71 Respondents are from Caribbean (emphasis on Barbados) and EU member states
- One-third are from government institutions and two-thirds engaged in biodiversity management or conservation and climate
- Funds for research are a major constraint and highest priority
- EU is an important partner (bias?)
- Key lacking supporting infrastructures are access to online libraries and journals, data storage and computing facilities, and data collection equipment and research assistants
- Priority areas are marine biology and blue economy (“the socio-economic dimension” of marine biodiversity)

***“Caminante no hay camino, se hace camino al andar  
Caminante no hay camino, sino estelas en la mar”***

Antonio Machado

Let's co desing the path together for sustainable oceans

Send your comments, fill in the survey

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