



Consultation on Long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures

Preliminary Results

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The presentation shall neither be binding nor construed as constituting commitment by the European Commission

Research & Innovation



Policy context

- **Mission statement of Commissioner Moedas:** "Improving research infrastructure and making better use of research results is essential to strengthen innovation further, develop new activities and boost the productivity and competitiveness of our economy"

- Contribution to **President Juncker's objectives** by:
 - Fostering investment in research infrastructures
 - Contributing to the development of a Digital Single Market

- **Informal Competitiveness Council of 22 July 2014:** strong focus on long-term sustainability of RI

- Contribution of Research Infrastructures to priorities of Commissioner Moedas on **Open Innovation, Open Science & Open to the world**



Scope of the consultation

➤ **Input: Stakeholders targeted consultation**

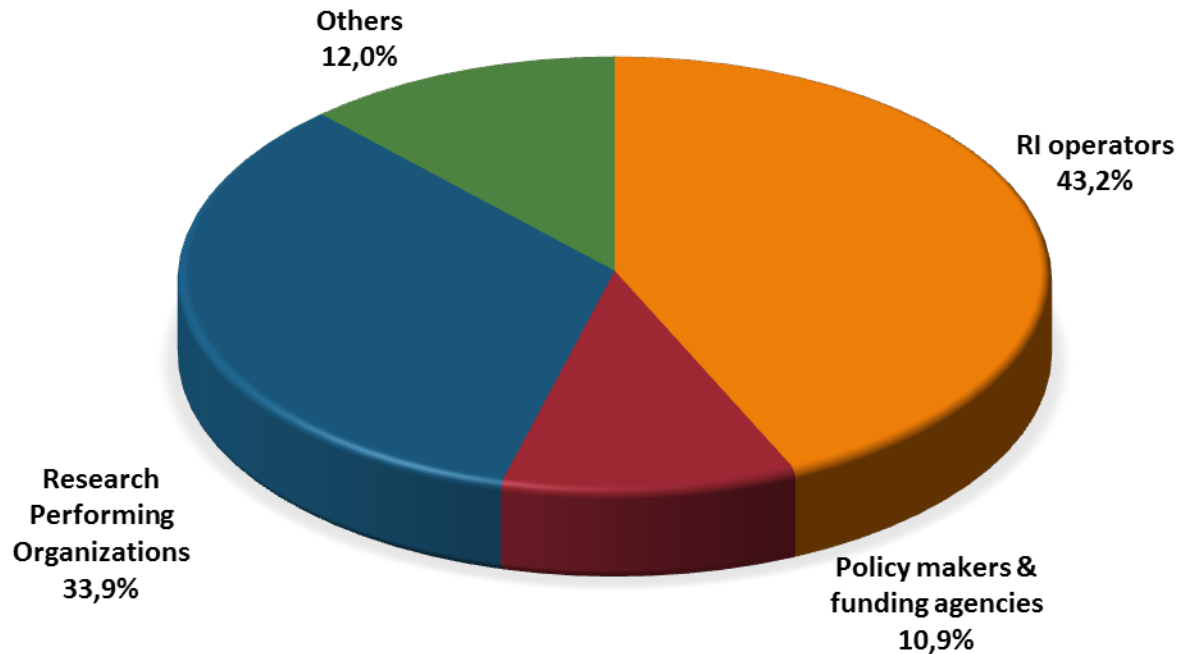
- ERA stakeholders,
- ESFRI projects and ERICs,
- ESFRI delegations/ PC members, e-IRG,
- EIROforum,
- International Organizations, RI associations (eg. ERF),
- NCPs (dissemination within key stakeholders),
- Science attaches from strategic third country partners.

➤ **Context Analysis:**

- Build on current RI best practices,
- Show case possible solutions to be considered by the appropriate services and relevant stakeholders,
- Identify potential new approaches to policy bottlenecks.

Profile of the respondents

- 200 responses received
- 50% respondents from Biomedical sciences, Physics, Material & Analytical Facilities
- 50% respondents from 5 EU Member States (DE, ES, FR, IT, NL)



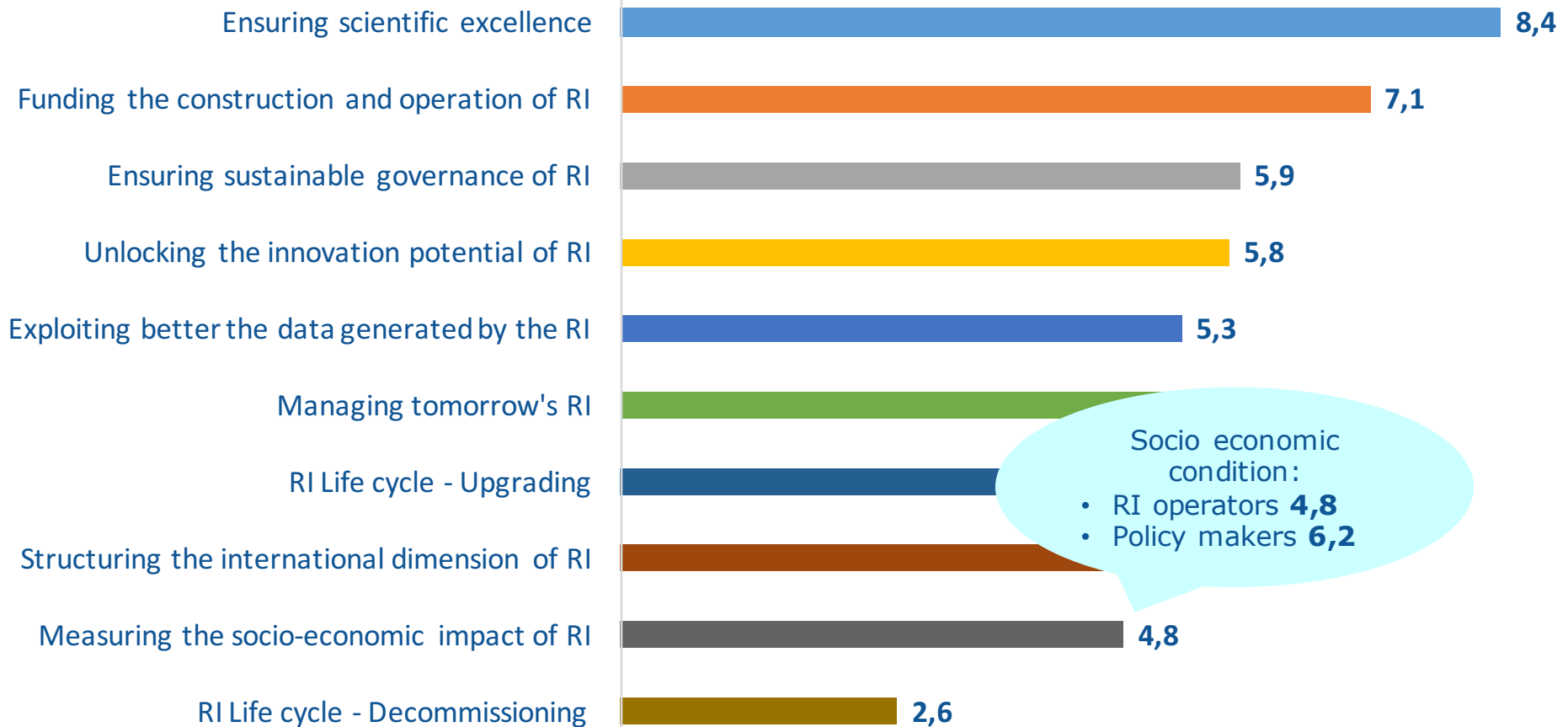
Questionnaire structure

Long Term Sustainability Preconditions:

- A. Ensuring Scientific excellence
- B. Skills of managers, operators and users
- C. Unlocking the Innovation potential of RI
- D. Measuring socio-economic impact of RI
- E. Exploiting better the data generated by the RI
- F. RI Life cycle – Upgrading of RI
- G. RI Life cycle – Decommissioning of RI
- H. Ensuring sustainable governance of RI
- I. Funding the construction and operation of RI
- J. Structuring the international dimension of RI

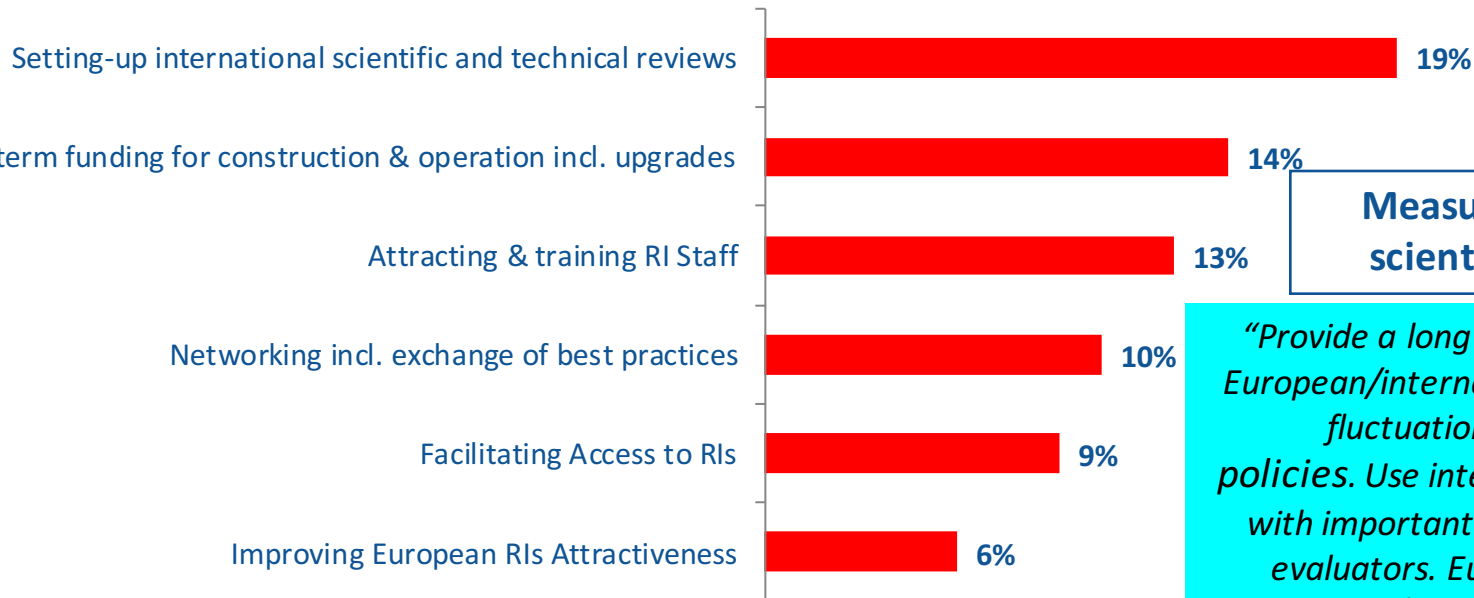
Pre-conditions ranking

(ranking scale 1-10: averages)



Ensuring Scientific Excellence

- **79%** RI have an international Scientific Advisory Committee but only **53%** have an international peer-review system for selecting user projects and attributing access



Measures to support scientific excellence

“Provide a long time financing at the European/international level, avoiding fluctuations of national science policies. Use international evaluation, with important role of non-European evaluators. European/international coordination/supervision of the projects from the very beginning”



RI staff training

- **48%** have a programme in place for managers' skills development
- **80% indicate the need for a staff exchange programme targeting managers and operators of RI**
- **65%** indicate no need for an harmonised accredited curriculum

Funding/Investment in Training
Cooperation with Industry
Develop (harmonized) curriculum
Support European networking
Improve Attractiveness of RI Careers
Deliver an Educational Programme
Support initiatives like the RAMIRI/RItrain project
Business Development Training

Promote exchange programmes

Develop dedicated training for RI Managers

Promote workshops, meeting, seminars, conference
Support Mobility of RI Staff

Sharing of experience and best practice

Attractiveness of RI as employers

“The most important would be to have a viable career path for RI managers and employees, i.e. some type of tenure structure and possibility for advancement and long-term perspectives. There is currently no such path, with RI employees often “falling in between the cracks” since they do not fit into the traditional basic research pathway”

RI operator



Developing user skills and outreach

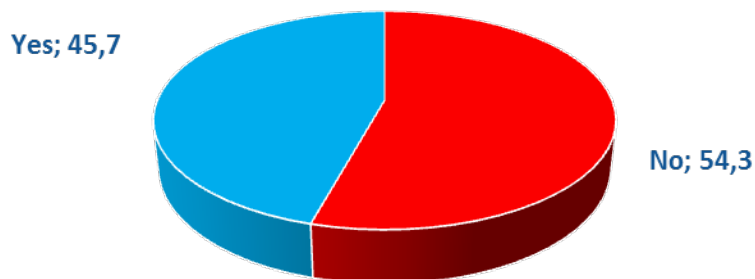
- **87%** have a training programme for their users
- **62% do not have** in place a programme that enables **short term exchanges of young researchers** from other RI, within or outside Europe
- **57%** expressed the need for a dedicated training programme for industry users



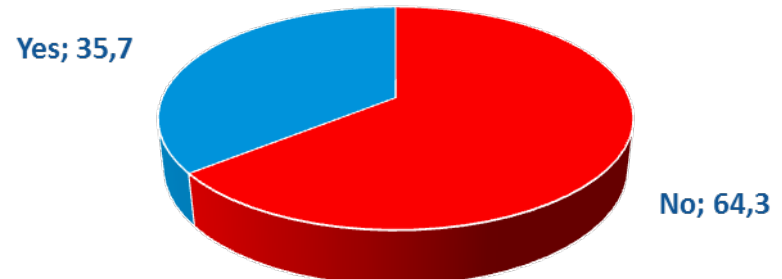
Unlocking the innovation potential of RI

- **46% do not have a business model** that includes the development of commercial applications of RI services and tools
- **64% do not have an Innovation Advisory Committee** with representatives from industry and public sector

Do you have a business model that includes the development of commercial applications of RI services and tools?

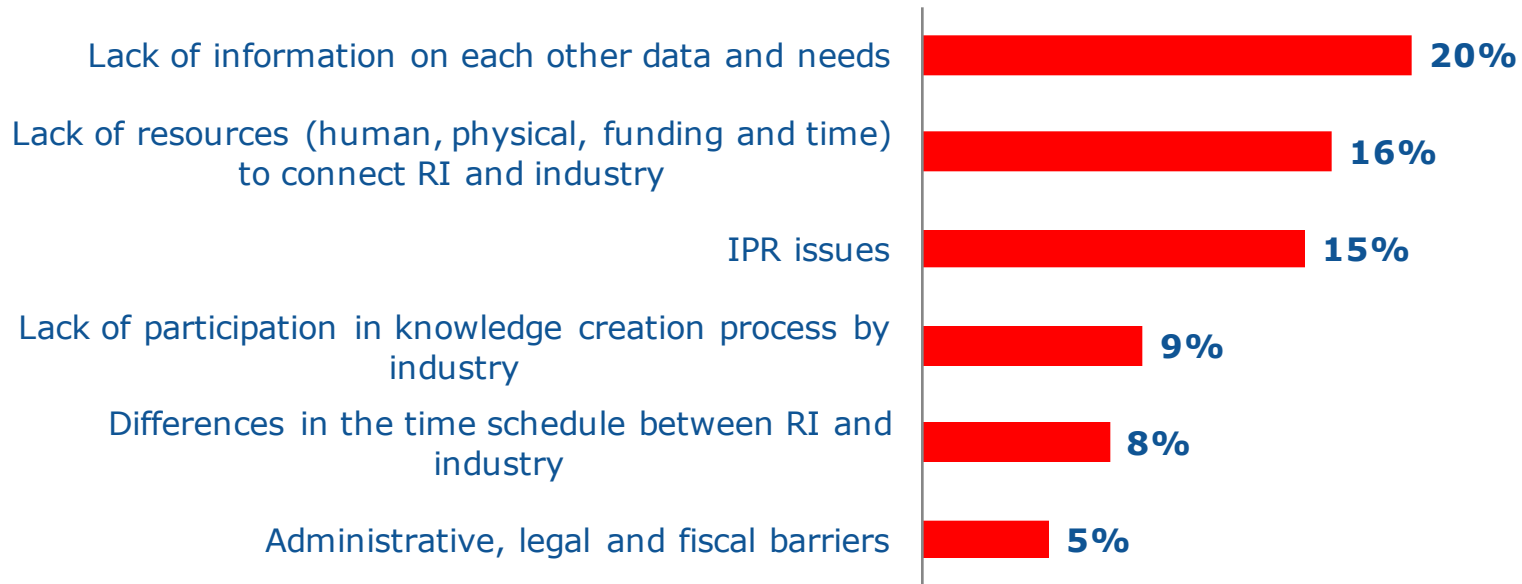


Do you have an Innovation Advisory Committee with representatives from industry and public sector?



Unlocking the innovation potential of RI

➤ Barriers for cooperation with industry:



➤ Possible measures could include:

- New funding mechanisms incl. co-investment
- Mediation schemes (technology transfer offices, brokers...)
- Mobility scheme with industry

Socio economic impact of RI

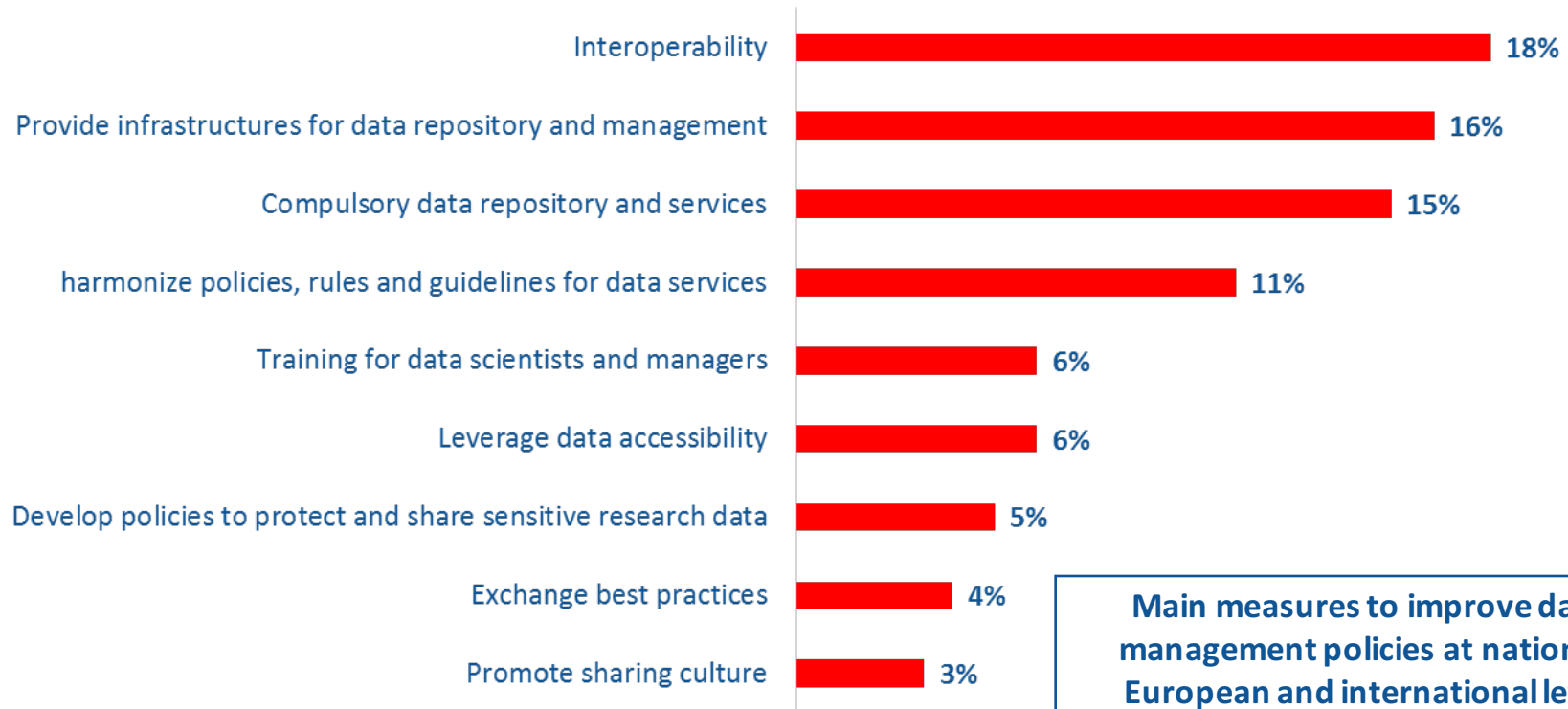
- **63%** assess the socio-economic impact but only **26%** do it on a regular basis
- The majority of respondents believe that is very relevant to develop a consolidate socio-economic impact model

Example:

“the improvement of citizen's health and productivity, the cost containment in healthcare systems, the development of innovation and of the health industry sector, the public investment in clinical trials projects, the public investment in clinical trials infrastructure, the public funding programme and evaluation process”

RI operator

Exploiting better the data generated by the RI



RI Life cycle

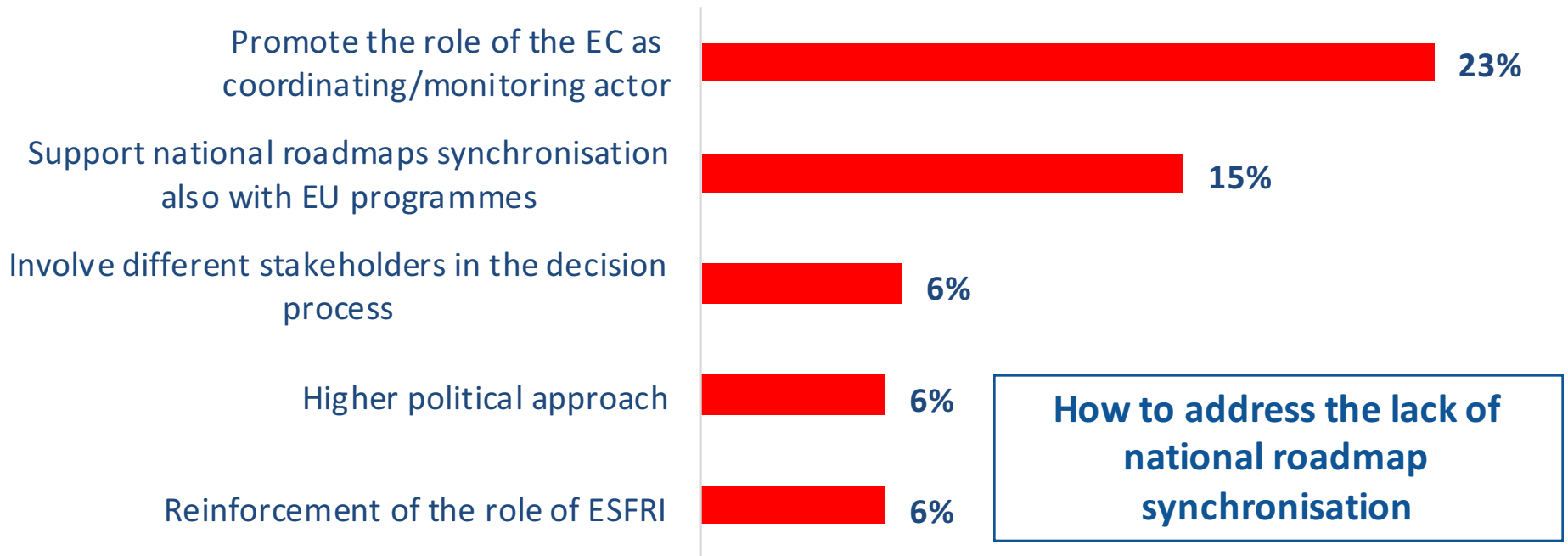
Upgrading:

- **82%** have included upgrades in the life cycle planning;
- **73%** take into account a scientific landscape analysis;
- **53%** express no need for (international) evaluation standards to support decision makers on upgrading

Decommissioning:

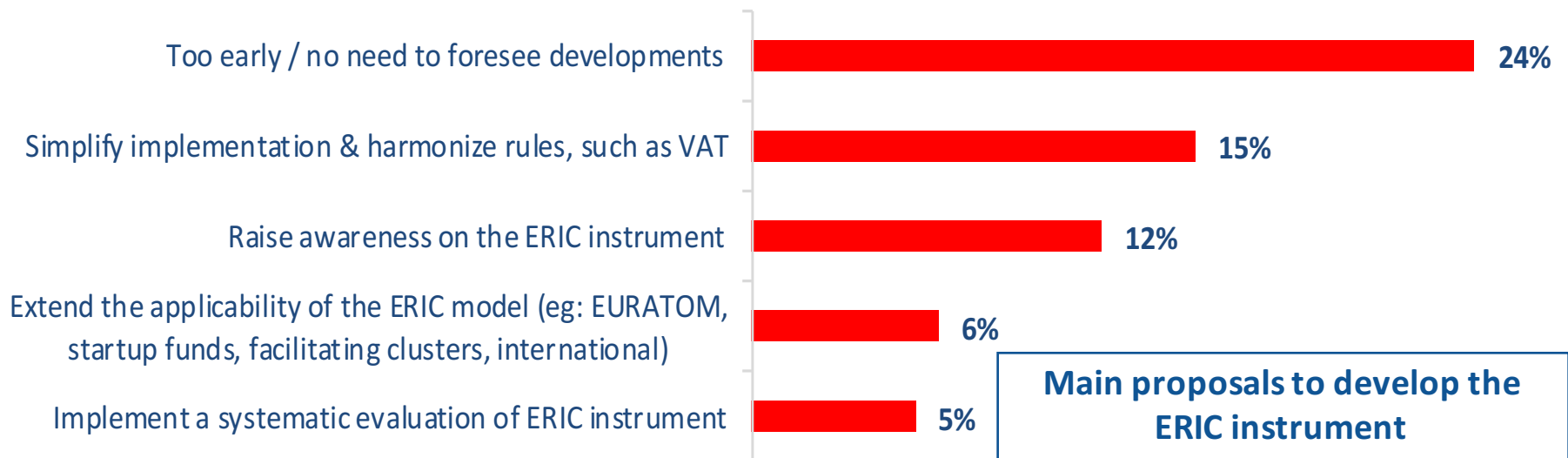
- **69%** do not include decommissioning in the lifecycle management and business plan
- **62%** express no need for international evaluation and accounting standards to support decision makers on decommissioning

Governance



Further developments of the ERIC

- 33% of the responses N/A
- 25% responses proposing specific measures to be analysed case by case

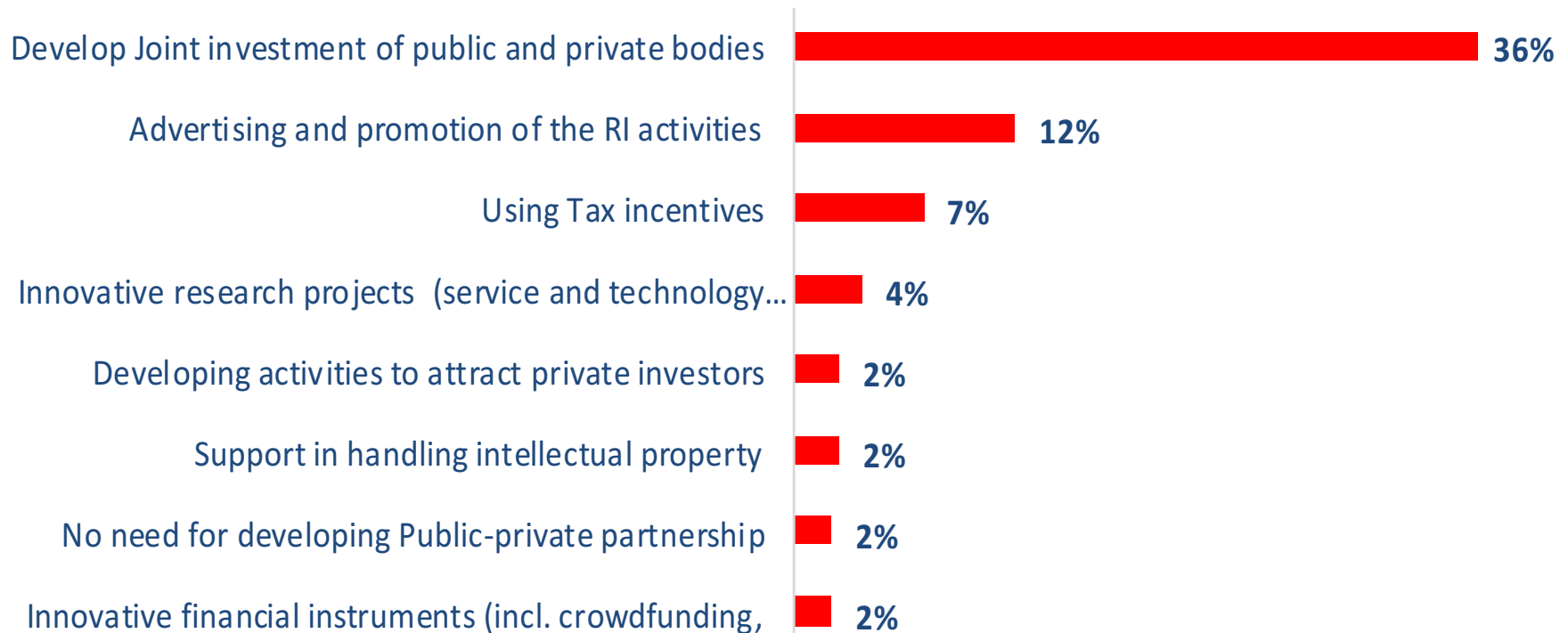


Funding the construction and operation of RI

- **More than half** of the RIs have not developed a business plan;
- The respondents put forward as emerging measures to improve bankability:
 - Development of a credible business model,
 - Encouragement of new sources of funding, including private funding,
 - Better channelling of public funding/ structural funds,
 - Stronger cooperation with industry.
- **51 %** considered relevant investing in the joint development of commercial technologies and services with other RIs, industry and academia

Funding the construction and operation of RI

Measures to encourage private funding for the development of commercial technologies and services



Structuring the international dimension of RI

Measures to support the international outreach and visibility of pan-European RI such as the ESFRI projects and ERICs





Main Findings

While some results confirmed current understanding, the consultation points to specific challenges that require attention:

- untapped innovation potential of RI and increase awareness of the RI operators;
- willingness to use data repositories, data management plans and (open) access to data;
- need of awareness on the importance of RI bankability (operators & funders);
- limited relevance of measuring socio-economic impact of RI;
- increase visibility of RIs and expand their services;
- staff exchange programmes for RI managers;



Way Forward

- 11 March: presentation to the EU Research Working Party
- April : drafting of the Consultation report
- May: Competitiveness Council conclusions
- June – November: develop LTS measures with key stakeholders (incl. ESFRI)
- End 2016 – Mid 2017: discussion with MS and agreement on the way forward