EURAM: ACTIVITIES AND CONFERENCE REARRANGEMENTS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2nd round

Results of the 2nd member survey, 6 September, 2020

Miia Martinsuo and Nicola Pellegrino

Survey background and purpose

- **Background**
    - Pandemic situation in Europe: traveling will not be possible for the intended EURAM conference in December.
    - EURAM ExCom decision to go for a virtual conference in August
    - Need for information on members' expectations toward a virtual event
- **Purpose: to collect information on**
    - the national, institutional and personal issues affecting our members' participation in the December conference
    - our members' expectations towards a virtual conference
- **Implementation**
    - SurveyMonkey survey
    - Open 21 – 31 August

Invitations

- **2,284** opened (56.0%)
- **1,777** unopened (43.6%)
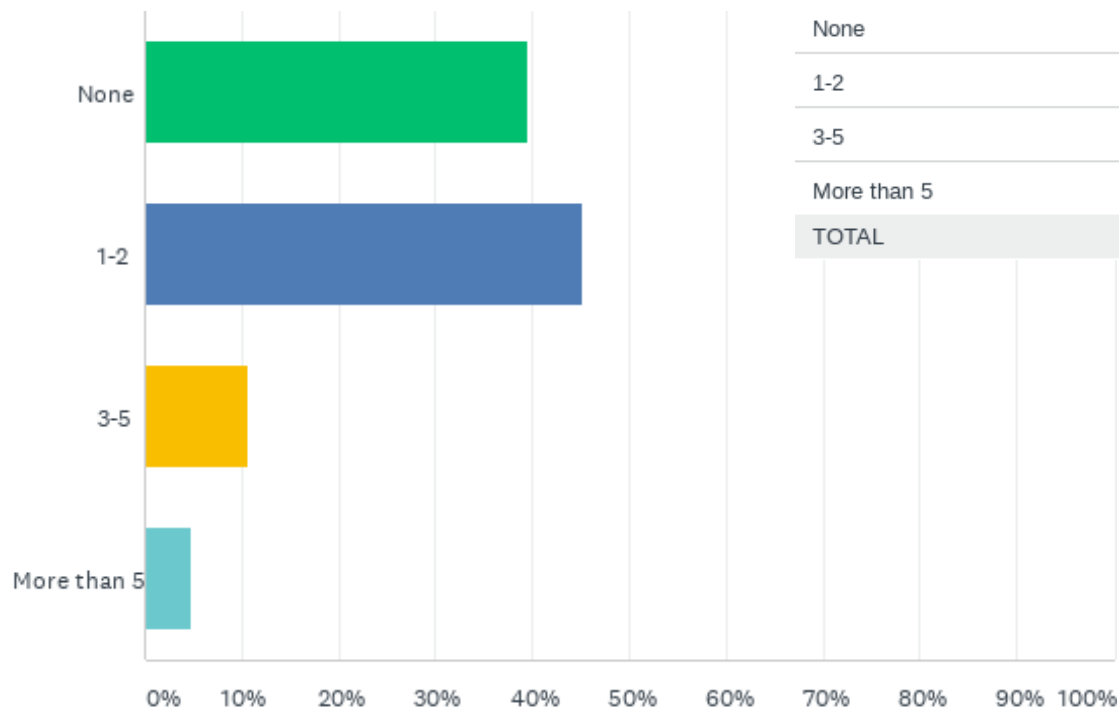- **7** bounced (0.2%)

928 clicked through (22.8%)

7 opted out (0.2%)

4,075
TOTAL
INVITATIONS

Responses

- **527** complete (100%)
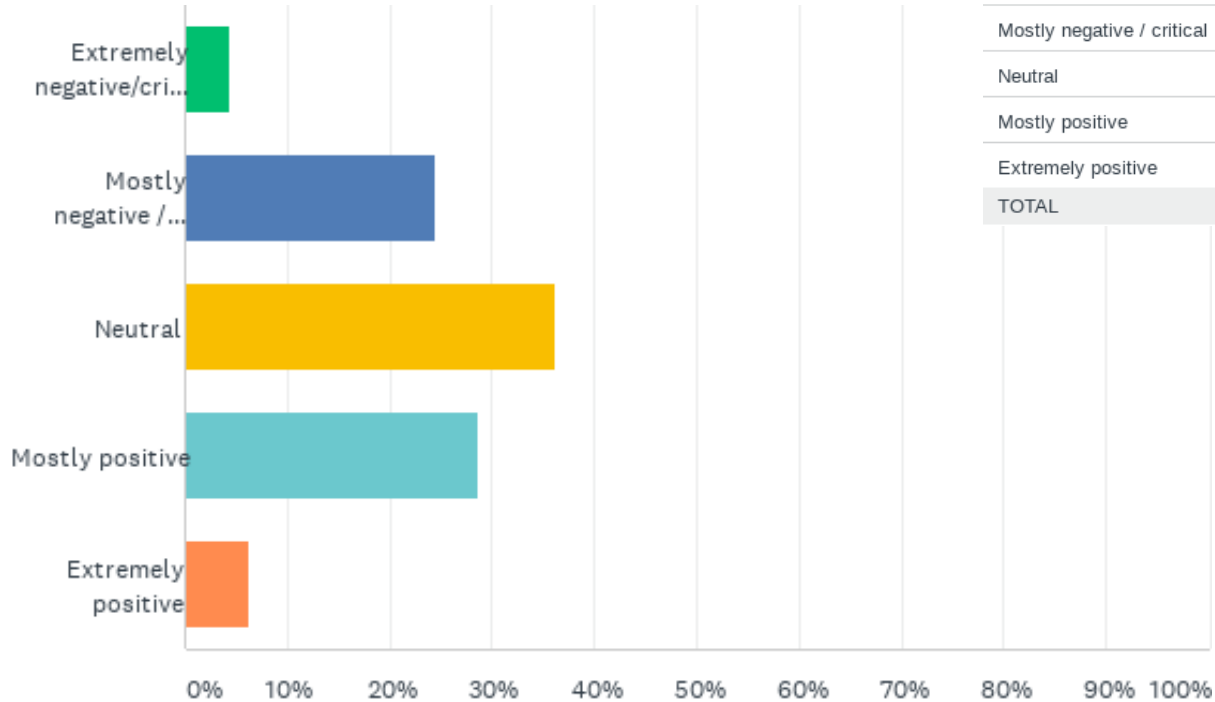- **0** partial (0%)

527
TOTAL
RESPONSES

Q1: How many virtual conferences (events outside your home institution with over 100 participants) have you attended during this year?

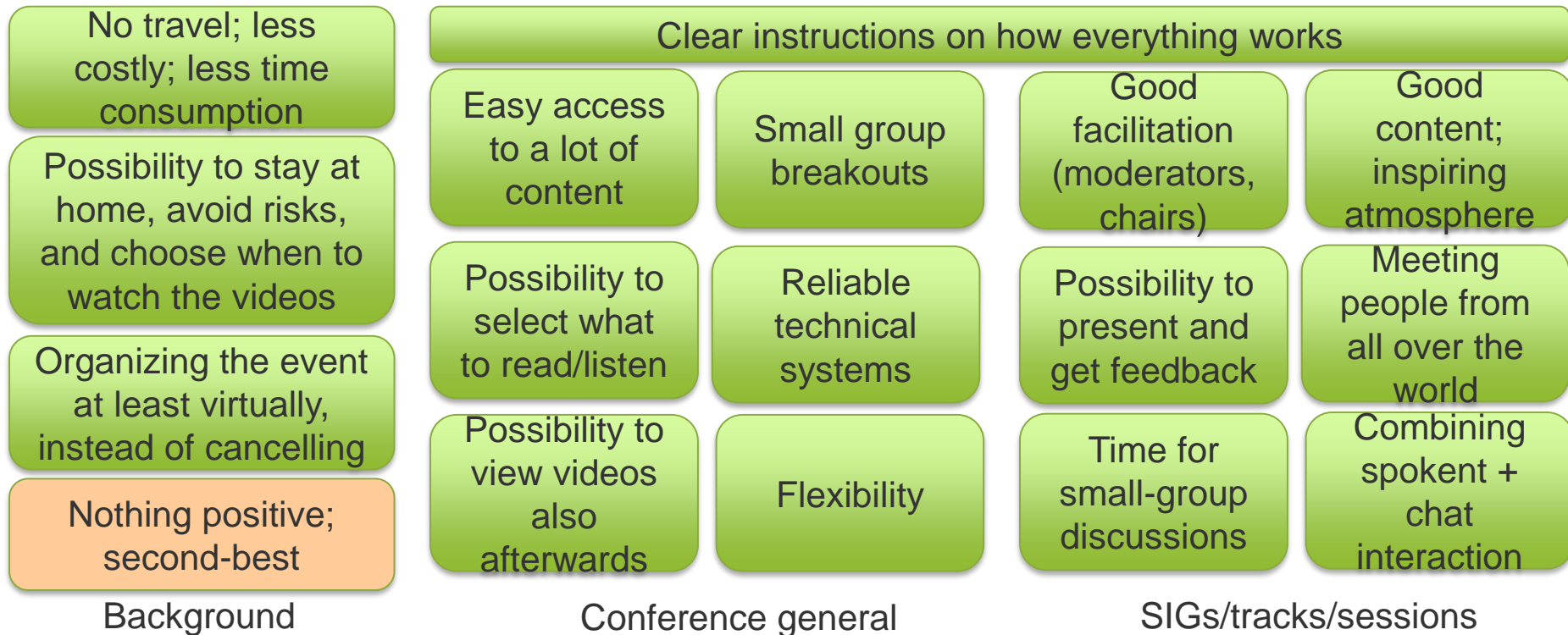| ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	39.47%	208
1-2	45.16%	238
3-5	10.63%	56
More than 5	4.74%	25
TOTAL		527

Q2: What is your general attitude about virtual conferences?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely negative/critical	4.36%	23
Mostly negative / critical	24.48%	129
Neutral	36.24%	191
Mostly positive	28.65%	151
Extremely positive	6.26%	33
TOTAL		527

Q3: Please describe in your own words what made the virtual conference experience positive (can deal with content, arrangements, communication…).

306 responses

Background
No travel; less costly; less time consumption
Possibility to stay at home, avoid risks, and choose when to watch the videos
Organizing the event at least virtually, instead of cancelling
Nothing positive; second-best

Clear instructions on how everything works

Conference general		SIGs/tracks/sessions	
Easy access to a lot of content	Small group breakouts	Good facilitation (moderators, chairs)	Good content; inspiring atmosphere
Possibility to select what to read/listen	Reliable technical systems	Possibility to present and get feedback	Meeting people from all over the world
Possibility to view videos also afterwards	Flexibility	Time for small-group discussions	Combining spokent + chat interaction

Q4: Please describe in your own words what made the virtual conference experience negative (can deal with content, arrangements, communication…).

311 responses

- Technical problems; network issues; frustration
- Too complex guidelines; awkward entry to the system
- Energy level / digital fatigue: virtual meetings are exhausting
- Too fast, too much content, too high information density, no breaks/relaxation
- Timezones make global interaction difficult
- Lack of concentration (people doing other work simultaneously)
- Death by powerpoint / just listening; boring presentations
- No feedback (particularly in an asynchronous event)
- Difficult to separate work from family time
- Passiveness of participants
- No interaction, socialization, engagement, networking No personal presence and spontaneity
- Nothing; the experience was positive
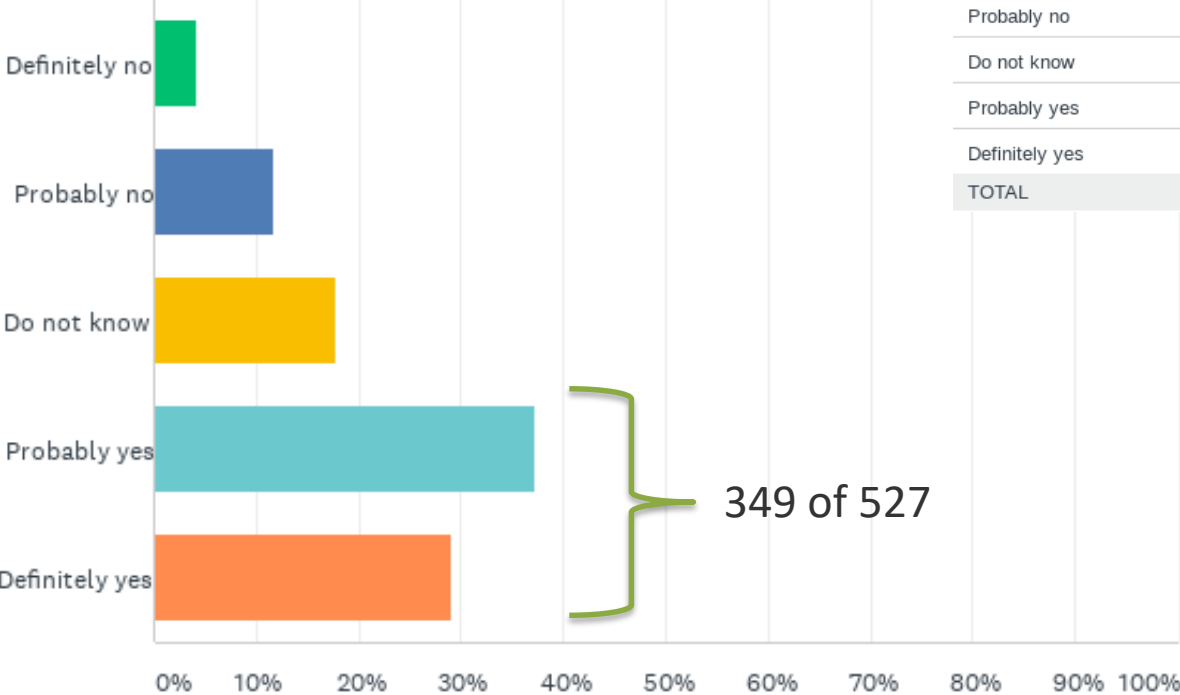- The fun parts of conferences missing (e.g. drinks)
- Enthusiasm is difficult to reach and share
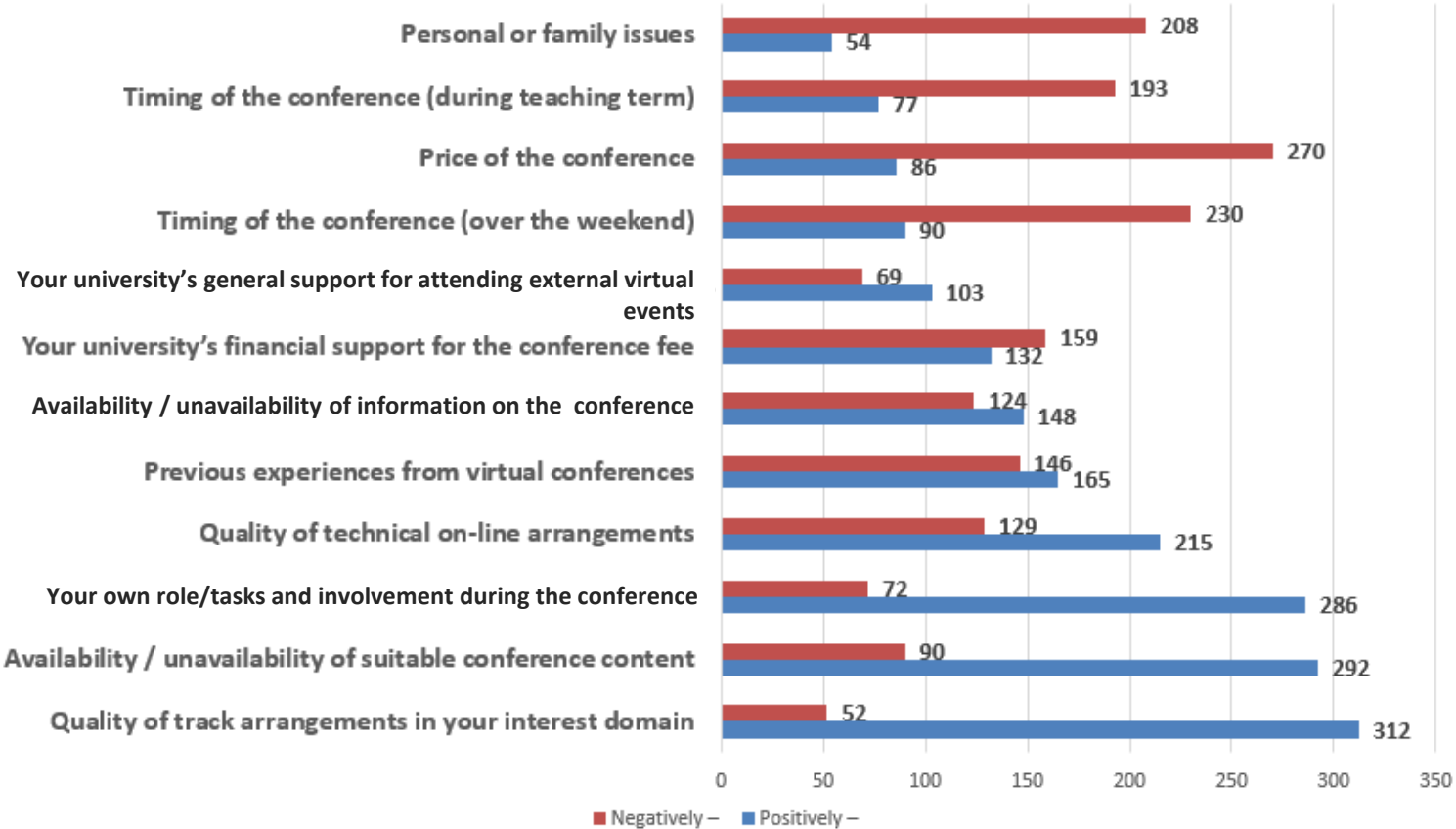
Background and conference general

SIGs/tracks/sessions

Q5: Do you plan to attend the virtual, on-line EURAM conference 4-6 December (over the weekend)?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Definitely no	4.17%	22
Probably no	11.76%	62
Do not know	17.84%	94
Probably yes	37.19%	196
Definitely yes	29.03%	153
TOTAL		527

349 of 527

Q6: Which factors will affect your decision to attend the virtual, on-line conference? Select the most important 3 that will influence positively, and 3 that will influence negatively
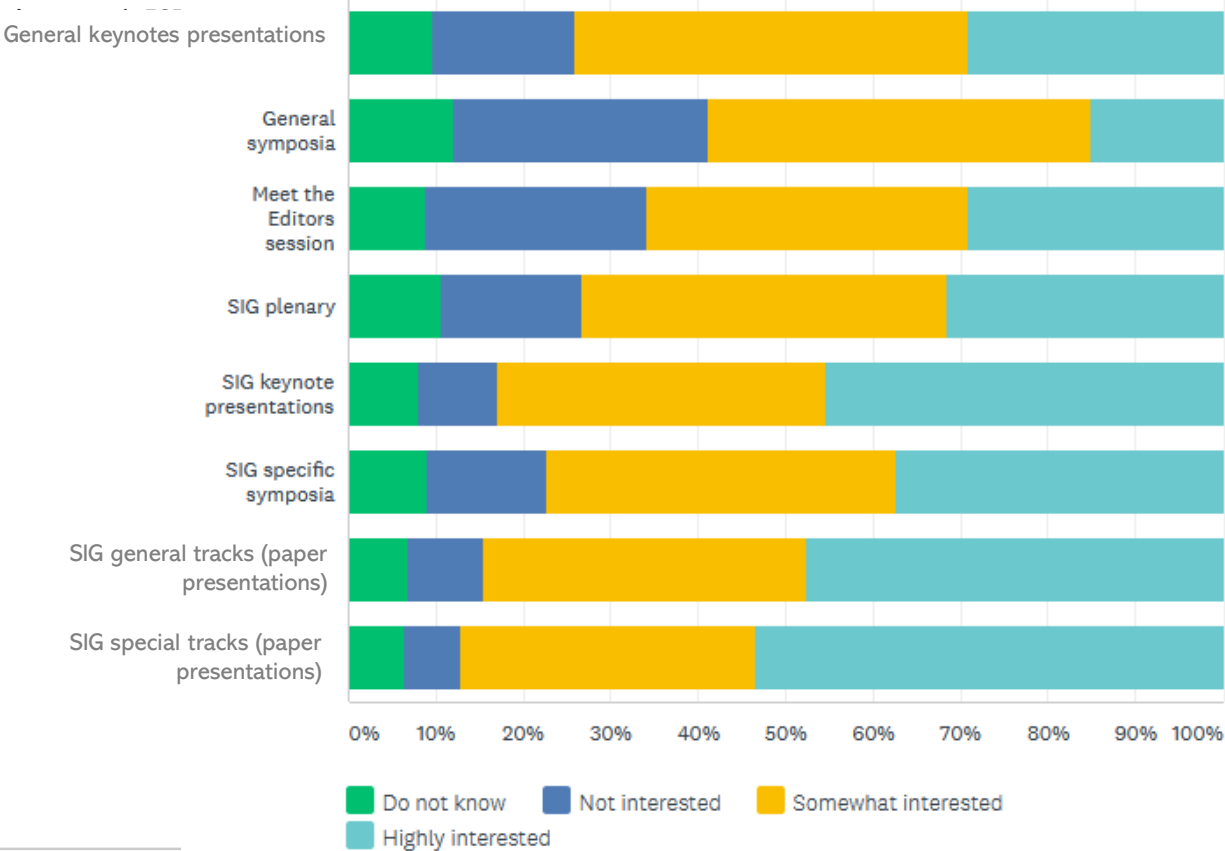
Factor	Negatively	Positively
Personal or family issues	208	54
Timing of the conference (during teaching term)	193	77
Price of the conference	270	86
Timing of the conference (over the weekend)	230	90
Your university's general support for attending external virtual events	69	103
Your university's financial support for the conference fee	159	132
Availability / unavailability of information on the conference	124	148
Previous experiences from virtual conferences	146	165
Quality of technical on-line arrangements	129	215
Your own role/tasks and involvement during the conference	72	286
Availability / unavailability of suitable conference content	90	292
Quality of track arrangements in your interest domain	52	312

N=527

Negatively —   Positively —

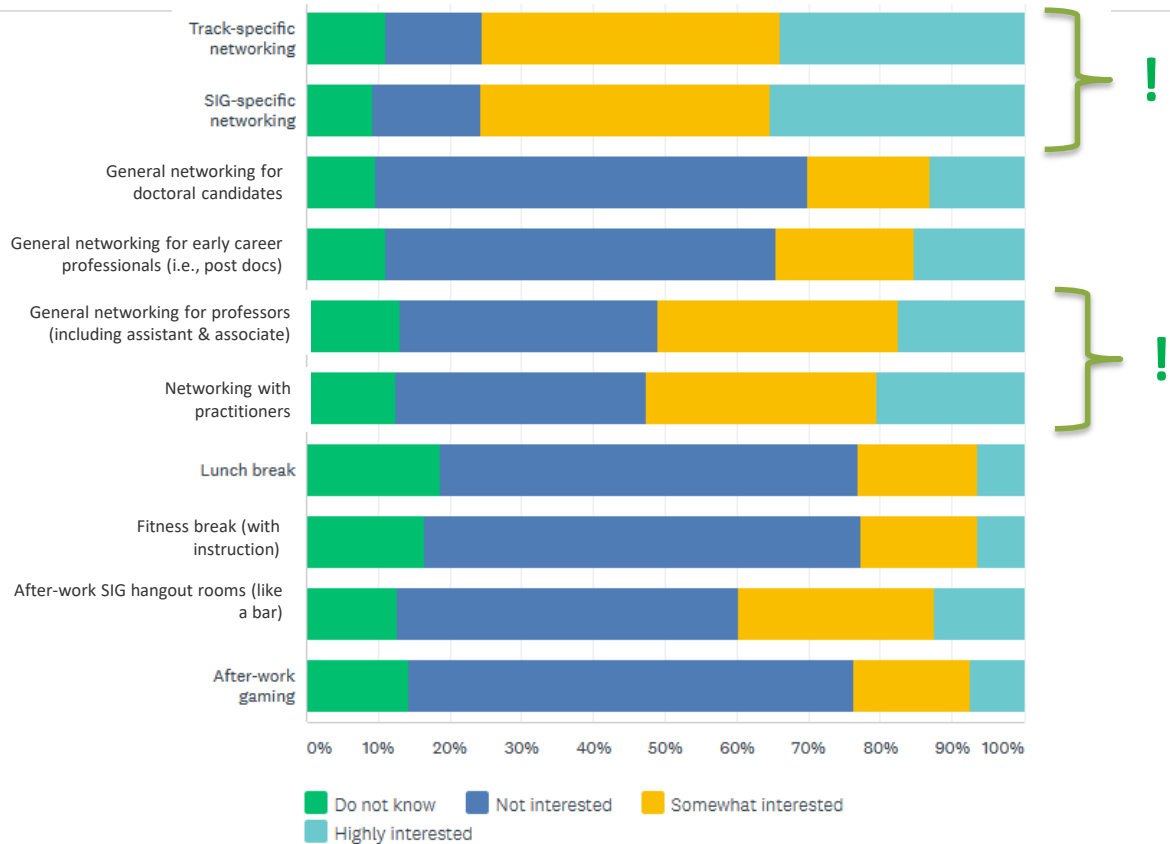# Q7: What kinds of pre-conference activities would you like to attend before the 4-6 December main conference?

- None / do not know /not sure / no expectations for pre-conference activities **310**

- **Info session(s) on the forthcoming conference 41**
  - Opening / welcome video
  - Guidance of how everything will work in the conference platform
  - Test of the technicalities
  - Access to materials and conference content
- **Networking 70**
  - Discussions / any social activities / breakout sessions / informal / "reunions" /
  - SIG meetings / track meetings / "meet the people in my domain" / preparations
  - Country / area specific meetings
- **Workshops / paper development workshops 68**
  - Research methods
  - Topic specific sessions / symposia
  - Professional development
  - Labs / training

- **Keynotes / plenaries 12**
- **Doctoral workshop/colloquium 7**
- **Meet the editors 8**
- **Other, e.g.**
  - Governance meetings (board, excom, presidential etc.)
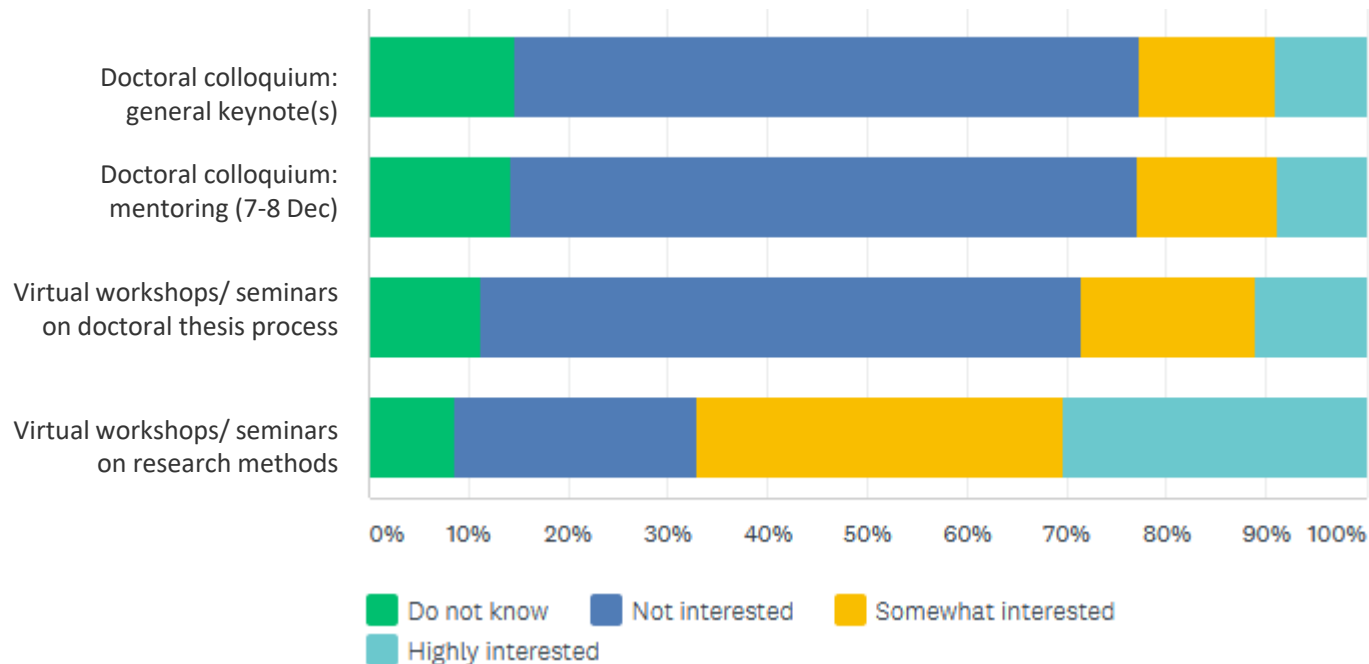 - Local face to face
  - Experience Ireland

Q8: Which official activities would you like to attend in a virtual on-line conference? SIG = strategic interest group.
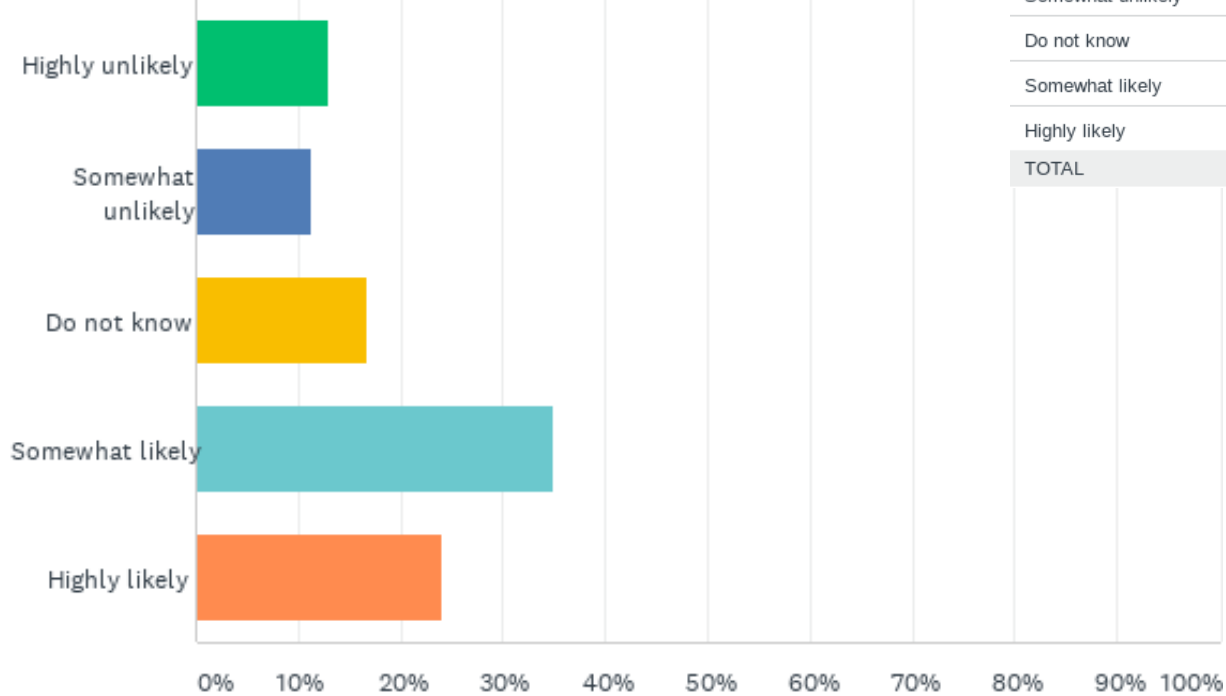
Q9: What kinds of unofficial networking activities do you want to participate in a virtual on-line conference? SIG = strategic interest group.

Legend:
- Do not know
- Not interested
- Somewhat interested
- Highly interested

Q10: What kinds of post-conference activities would you like to attend after the 4-6 December main conference?

Legend:
- Do not know
- Not interested
- Somewhat interested
- Highly interested

Categories:
- Doctoral colloquium: general keynote(s)
- Doctoral colloquium: mentoring (7-8 Dec)
- Virtual workshops/ seminars on doctoral thesis process
- Virtual workshops/ seminars on research methods

Q11: How likely is it for you to use recorded conference presentations after the conference, if they are made available to participants for some weeks?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Highly unlikely	12.90%	68
Somewhat unlikely	11.39%	60
Do not know	16.70%	88
Somewhat likely	34.91%	184
Highly likely	24.10%	127
TOTAL		527

Q12: If you have other ideas and comments concerning the possible rearrangements for EURAM 2020 conference and other activities during this year, please write them below.

Concerns

- Availability of funding for conferences / fee
- Time zones
- Timing: weekend in teaching term
- Online will not match the face-to-face
- Loss of members / participants who really hate online events and will not participate
- Doctoral candidates / junior scholars really need an interactive conference experience and support in their academic development – can we offer that
- General atmosphere due to COVID-19, country-specific restrictions, work load etc. (this can be sensed in the answers)

Ideas

- Research maps to sigs and tracks – cluster analysis
- Live presentations vs. recorded (not unanimous)
- Make it easy to attend
- Scale down / cancel / allow moving a paper to next year
- Diploma for participation
- How can the event be made memorable in a positive way
- Scale of each session is of importance (smaller are better)
- Feedback from papers is crucial; interaction, discussion, well facilitated

Q13: Your country of residence from where you would participate in the conference (dropdown menu, choose one)
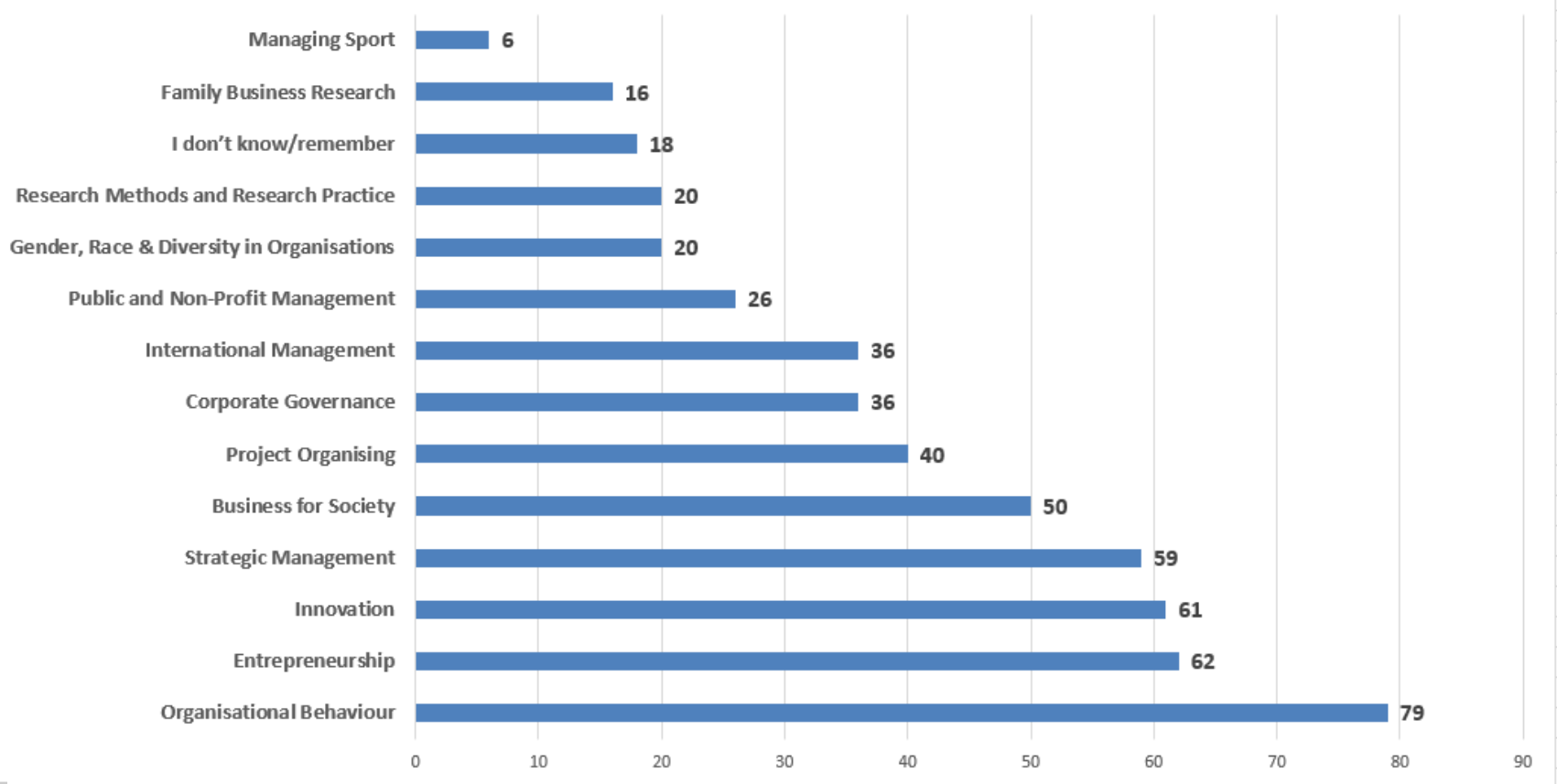
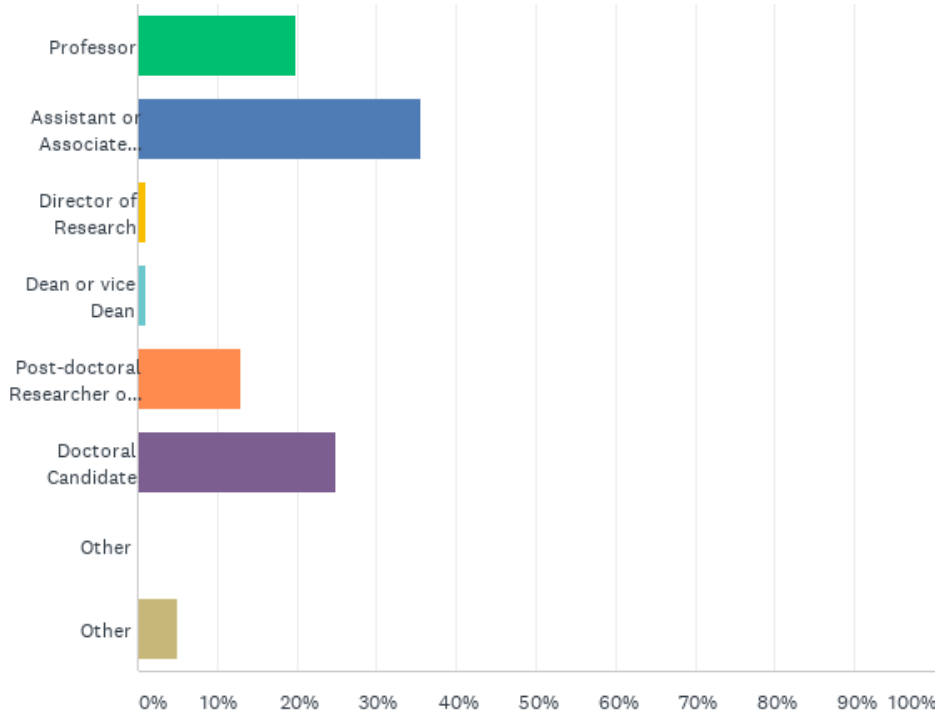| ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Italy	12.14%
Germany	9.49%
UK	8.73%
France	8.54%
Spain	5.50%
USA	4.93%
Netherlands	4.17%
Poland	3.04%
Canada	2.85%
Ireland	2.85%
Sweden	2.85%
Portugal	2.66%
Finland	2.47%
Other Responses	2.47%
Australia	2.28%
China	2.09%
Austria	1.90%
Brazil	1.71%
Greece	1.71%
Switzerland	1.71%
Belgium	1.33%
India	1.33%
Denmark	1.14%
Norway	1.14%
Israel	0.95%
Turkey	0.95%
Lithuania	0.76%
Taiwan Region	0.76%
Hungary	0.57%
Japan	0.57%
Mexico	0.57%
New Zealand	0.57%
Pakistan	0.57%
Russia	0.57%
Czech Republic	0.38%
Lebanon	0.38%

Q13: Your country of residence from where you would participate in the conference (dropdown menu, choose one)

▾	Romania	0.38%
▾	Singapore	0.38%
▾	Slovenia	0.38%
▾	South Africa	0.38%
▾	Croatia	0.19%
▾	Cyprus	0.19%
▾	Estonia	0.19%
▾	Hong Kong	0.19%
▾	Iceland	0.19%
▾	Kenya	0.19%
▾	Luxembourg	0.19%
▾	Malaysia	0.19%
▾	Morocco	0.19%
▾	United Arab Emirates	0.19%

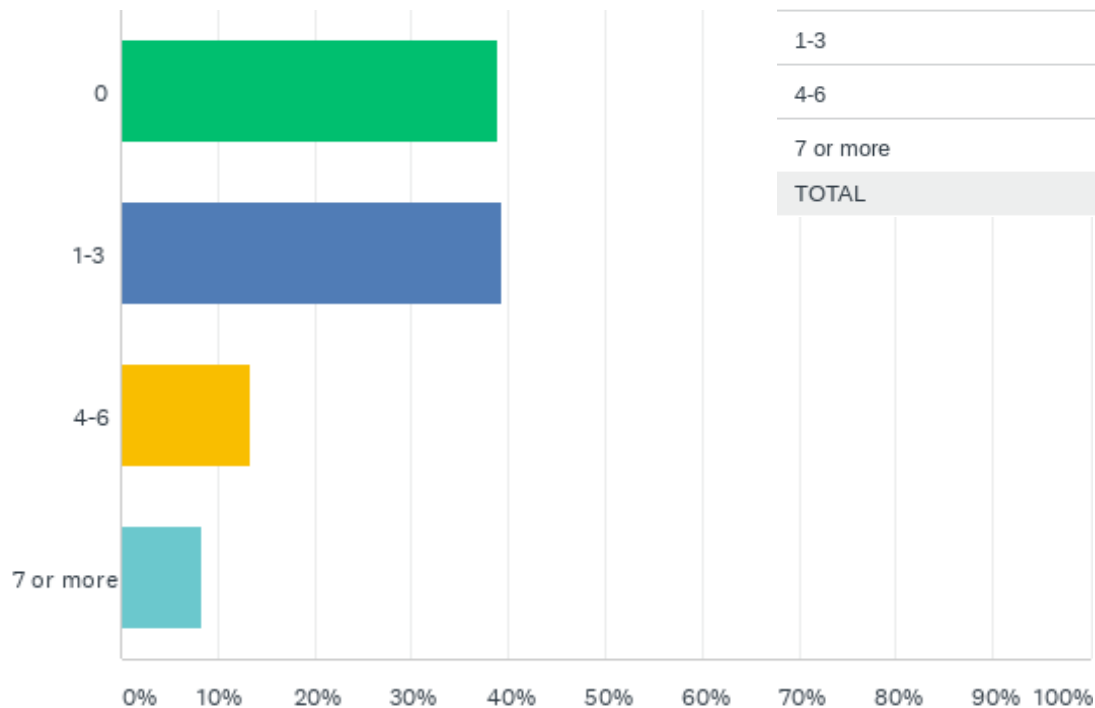# Q14: Your primary SIG (strategic interest group) (dropdown menu, choose one):

SIG	Count
Managing Sport	6
Family Business Research	16
I don't know/remember	18
Research Methods and Research Practice	20
Gender, Race & Diversity in Organisations	20
Public and Non-Profit Management	26
International Management	36
Corporate Governance	36
Project Organising	40
Business for Society	50
Strategic Management	59
Innovation	61
Entrepreneurship	62
Organisational Behaviour	79

Q15: Your job position (dropdown menu, choose one):

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Professor	19.92%	105
Assistant or Associate Professor	35.48%	187
Director of Research	0.95%	5
Dean or vice Dean	0.95%	5
Post-doctoral Researcher or Lecturer	12.90%	68
Doctoral Candidate	24.86%	131
Other	0.00%	0
Other	4.93%	26
TOTAL		527

Q16: How many times have you participated in EURAM conferences before:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	38.90%	205
1-3	39.28%	207
4-6	13.47%	71
7 or more	8.35%	44
TOTAL		527