

A decorative border of diverse human icons in various colors and poses surrounds the central text.

PILOT CASE STUDY

SOČA SLOVENIA

WHICH PARTICIPATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SOČA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES?

MAY 2017

SHORT INTRODUCTION SURVEY IN THE PILOT CASE STUDY

This report aims at collecting the views of residents, associations, private companies and all other actors about the management and the protection of the Soča river.

The report is framed on WPTI PCS6 large scale local individual pre-assessment / survey: for each PCS, a large scale public survey on river perception, issues, governance, proposals has been disseminated. Results of this survey will help the preparation of the

subsequent phases of the project in which these actors will be actively involved in identifying future actions and management plans for the river. The survey was open to ALL and anonymous, whether or not residing near the Soča river, and whether or not knowledgeable about water management. A common decision was made to send the information about the questionnaire over all possible media sources and contacts.

The WPTI (PCS6) questionnaire was modified for the Soča PCS needs. It included questions that could help design common steps for future river basin? governance. The questionnaire was uploaded onto a Slovenian web platform that provides web questionnaires and data review (www.1ka.si).

To reach the widest possible audience, we have decided to promote the web questionnaire over national and local newspapers. Two separate graphic

designs for advertising the questionnaire were prepared since every newspaper had its own demands on the dimensions of the ads. The questionnaire in the local newspaper called Goriška reached at least 49.000 households, the national newspaper Primorske novice has been printed and distributed in 21.000 copies. Website ad was created for the website of Primorske novice newsletter.

We bought the rights for advertising the web questionnaire on the home page of Primorske novice for a whole week. The web ad was sent to 13 municipalities in the Goriška region, 10 municipalities uploaded the ad on their home page. Participants got more information about the web questionnaire on the webpage of Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IzVRS) and Soča Development Centre (SDC).

A link to the web questionnaire was sent throughout mailing list of IzVRS and SDC. The link was also sent

to the key stakeholders from “Soča Day 2016” meeting. Some persons were invited to take part of the survey over telephone. Link to web questionnaire: <https://www.1ka.si/a/116997>

The present report is an articulate wrap up of survey replies to put in evidence PCS perception of river and related issues by stakeholders and local communities. Replies have been analysed one by one and, when possible, depicted in a visual way to ease comprehension of river context.

01

WHICH KEYWORDS
BEST REPRESENT
THE SOČA RIVER
AND ITS TRIBUTARIES?

"Soča with its crystal clear water and emerald colour attracts tourism, especially water sports and fishing. With its unique beauty and untouched nature it can be also a powerful and dangerous river. Rivers potential is for now an underexploited resource".

NATURAL WEALTH CLEAR & CLEAN
WATER EMERALD COLOUR NATIONAL PARK
TOURISM POLLUTION FLOODS NATURE
UNIQUE CONSEQUENCES ENERGY & ELECTRICITY
BEAUTY WATER VIPAVA MARBLE
TROUT & FISHING

VERY FREQUENT

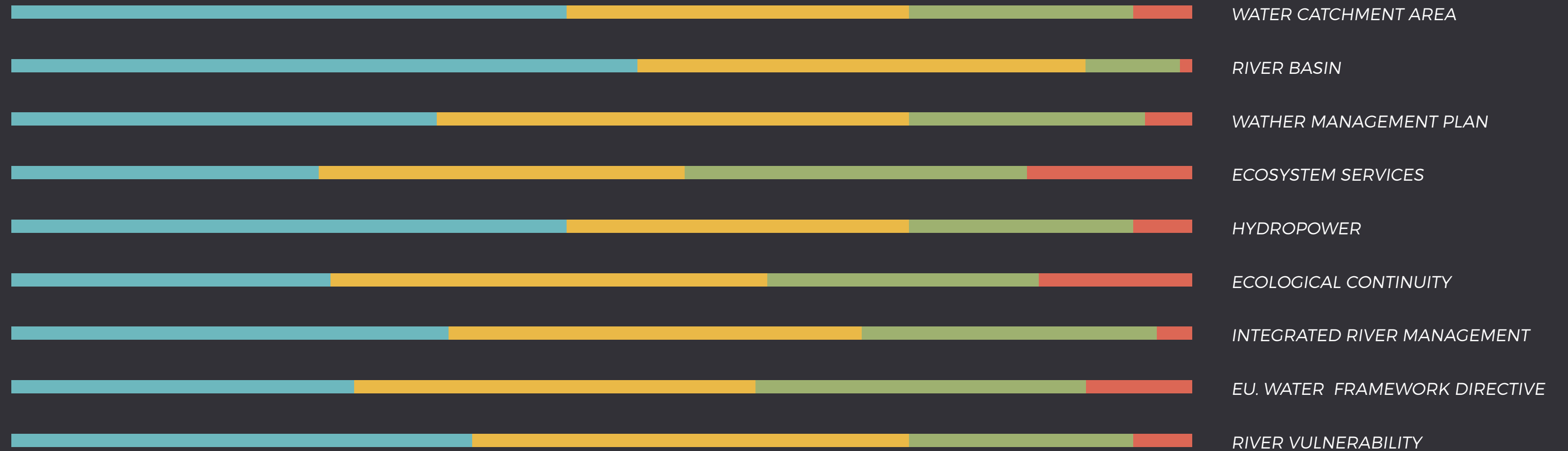
FREQUENT

NOT FREQUENT

02

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE FOLLOWING TERMS?

Most known term among participants are "Hydropower" and "River basin". Less than half of the participants knew the meaning of "Water management plan". For participants it is hard to explain the meaning of "Ecosystem services" and "European Water Framework Directive" although they already heard for the term somewhere.



I KNOW IT WELL AND
I CAN EXPLAIN IT TO SOMEONE

I KNOW
WHAT IT MEANS

I HAVE ALREADY HEARD,
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS

I HAVE NEVER
HEARD OF IT

03

FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE RIVERS, HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR YOU?

Soča river and its tributaries are everyone's heritage and responsibility. The river with its tributaries is useful for its recreational activities and energy production. It is a source of a clean drinking water. People have a strong spiritual/symbolic/religious connection to the river.



VERY IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

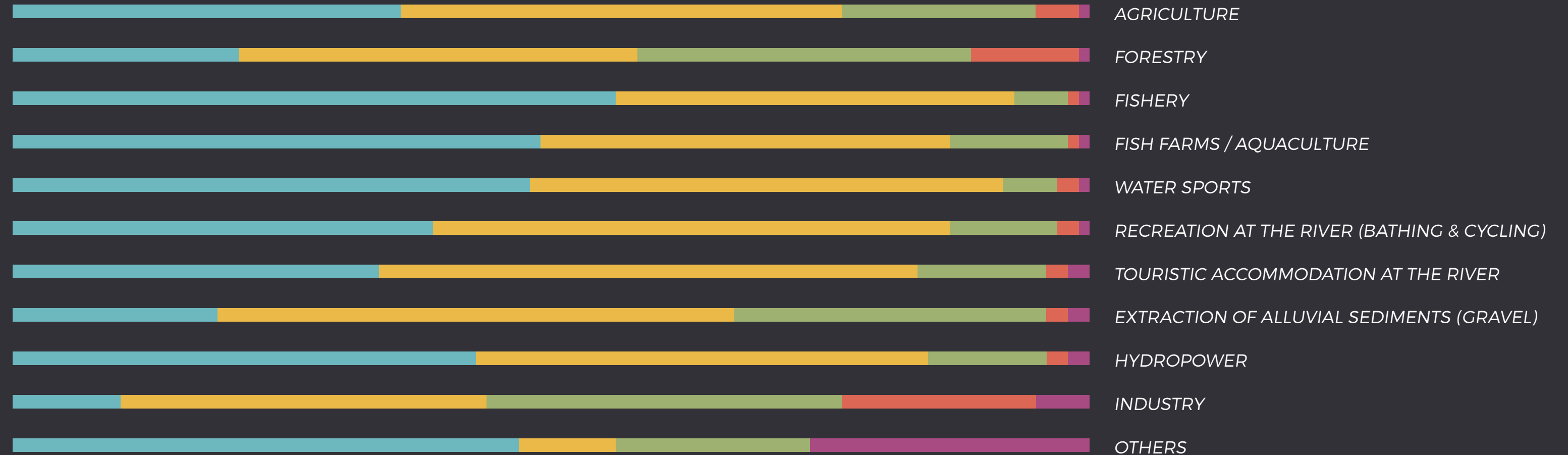
NEITHER IMPORTANT / NEITHER UNIMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

THE ECONOMICAL IMPORTANCE OF SPECIFIC SECTORS/ACTIVITIES WITH DIRECT IMPACT IN THE SOČA RIVER

Main activities with economic importance that directly affect riverine are "Fishing activities", "Water sports" and "Hydropower". Also important activities are related to touristic accommodation and recreation. According to respondents, "Industry" and "Forestry" have indifferent economic importance.



VERY IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

NEITHER IMPORTANT / NEITHER UNIMPORTANT

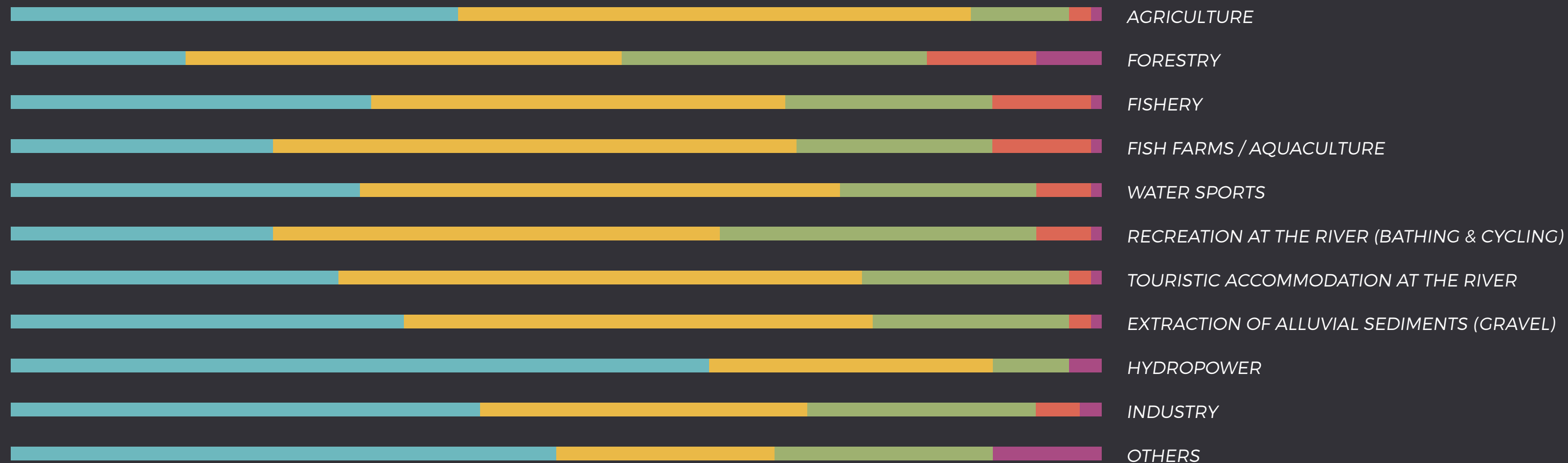
NOT IMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

05

THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF SPECIFIC SECTORS/ACTIVITIES WITH DIRECT IMPACT IN THE SOČA RIVER

Hydropower as a specific sector has a very important influence on the ecological footprint of riverine and riparian areas. Extraction of alluvial sediments (gravel) has no important role. Important sectors that have influence on the ecological footprint are: "Touristic accommodation at the river (camps)", "Fish farms/aquaculture" and "Agriculture". Recreation at the river shows insignificant impact to ecological footprint.



VERY IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

NEITHER IMPORTANT / NEITHER UNIMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

06

HOW ARE THE CLAIMS/ACTIVITIES MENTIONED BELOW ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROCESS OF WATER MANAGEMENT?

Care for water quality is the most important activity related to the process of water management. Integrated spatial planning and flood protection activities are necessary for the river with its tributaries that can affect the entire watershed.



VERY IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

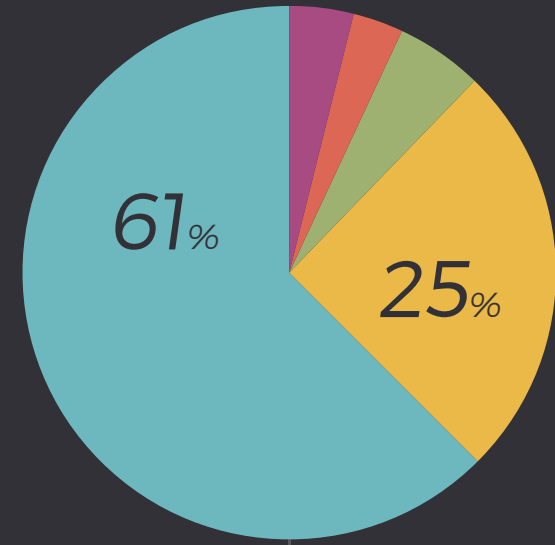
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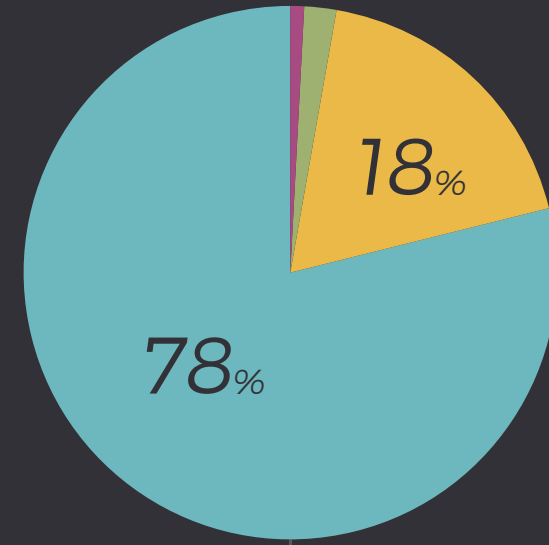
NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

WHO SHOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS OF RIVER MANAGEMENT?

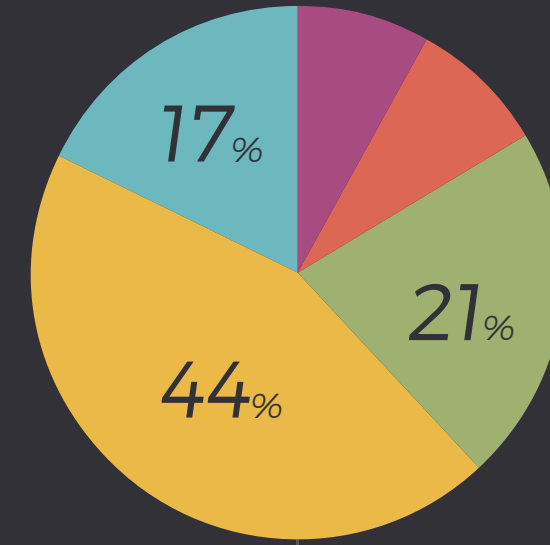
It is very important that municipalities and relevant ministries actively participate in the process of river management. In addition, private sector and citizens should be included in the processes.



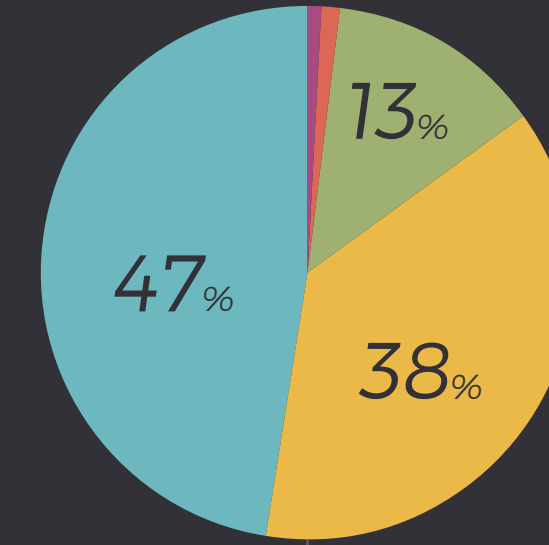
MINISTRIES AND STATE AGENCIES



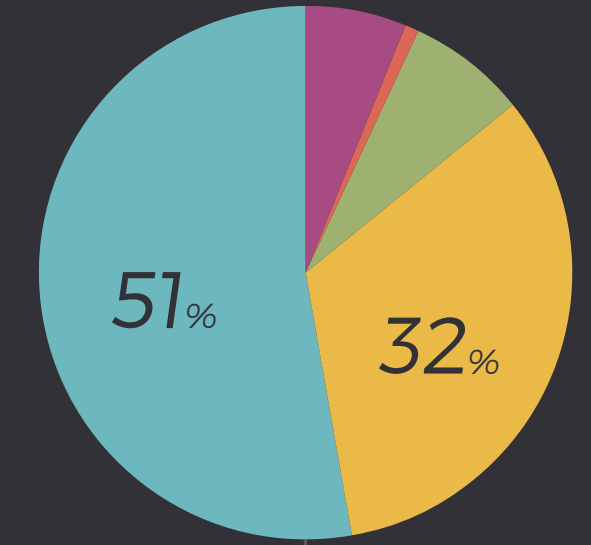
MUNICIPALITIES



PRIVATE SECTOR



CITIZENS



INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

VERY IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

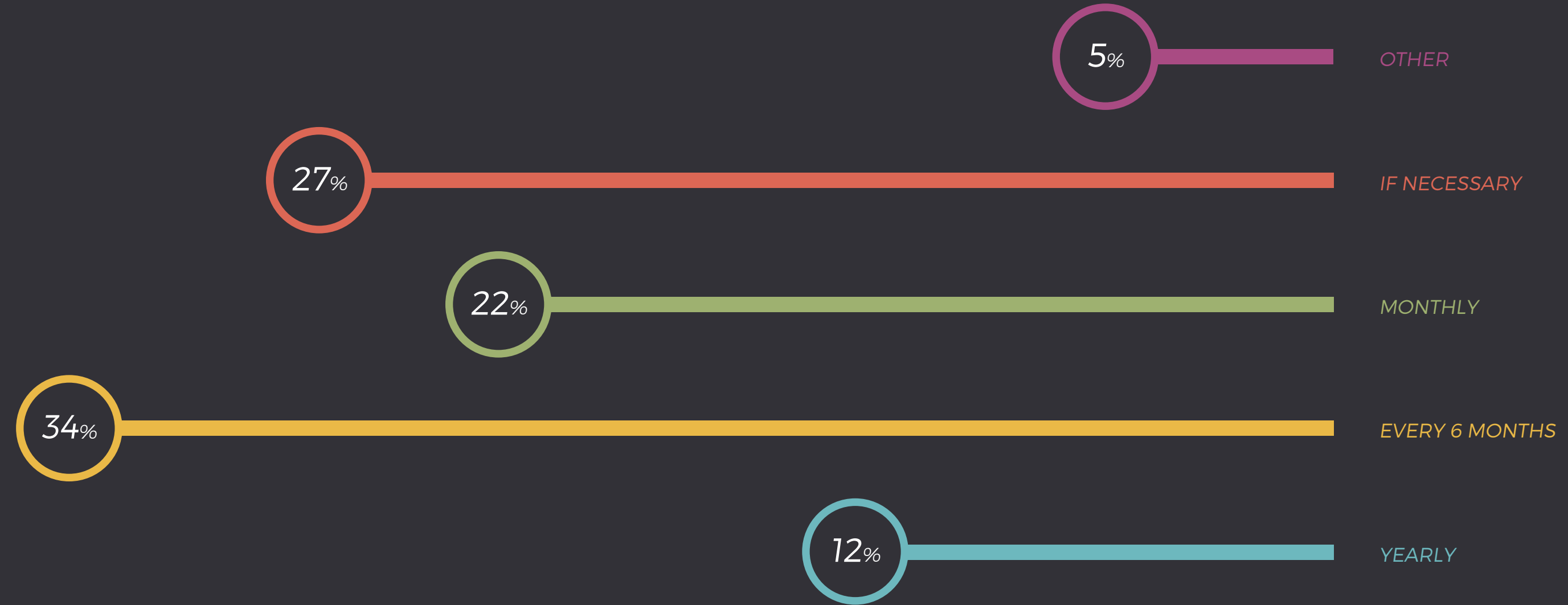
NEITHER IMPORTANT / NEITHER UNIMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

HOW OFTEN SHOULD THE STAKEHOLDERS MEET?

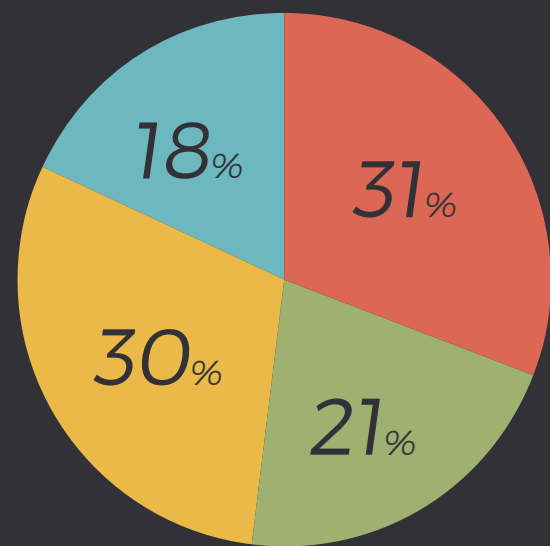
Stakeholders should meet at least every 6 months. If necessary, they should meet more often.



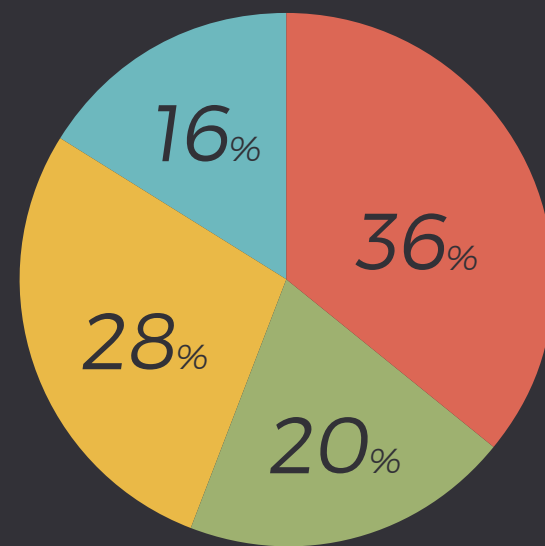
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE LISTED ORGANISATIONS/INITIATIVES?

Most participants have never heard for the listed organisations/initiatives. Respondents heard of Soča river foundation but didn't knew its meaning.

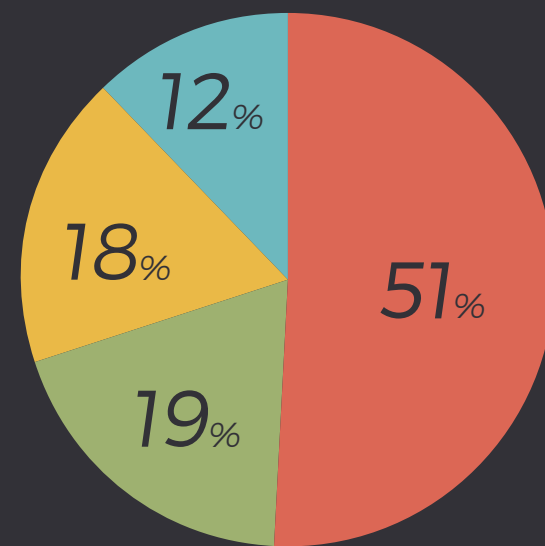
Few people knew Svet regije well and could easily explain it to someone.



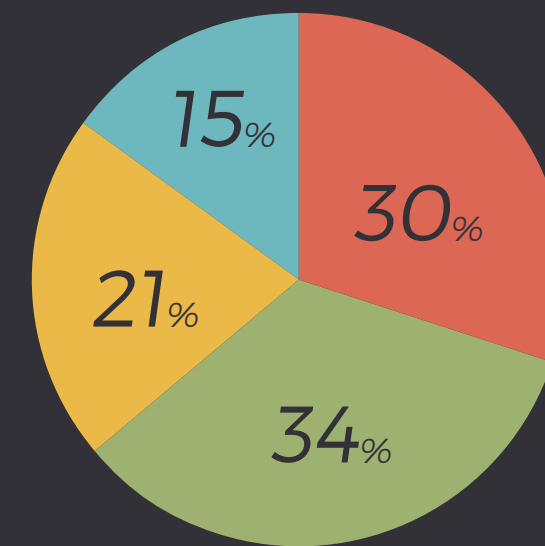
SVET REGIJE



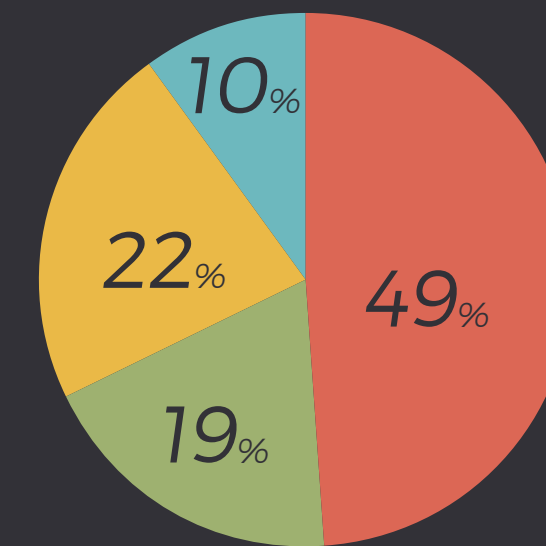
OHRANIMO SOČO,
ZAVEZNIŠTVO ZA
ŽIVO REKO



SVET ZA VIPAVO



USTANOVA
FUNDACIJA ZA SOČO



STALNA SLOVENSKO-
ITALIJANSKA
KOMISIJA ZA VODNO
GOSPODARSTVO

I KNOW IT WELL AND I CAN EXPLAIN IT TO SOMEONE

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS

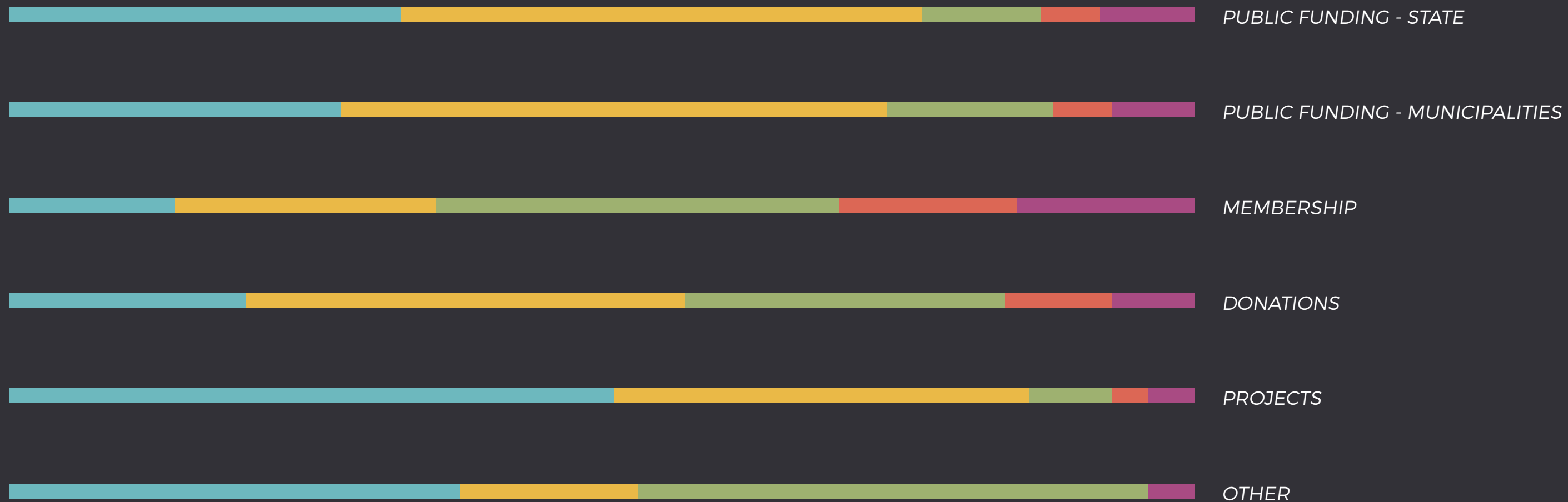
I HAVE ALREADY HEARD, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS

I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF IT

10

HOW SHOULD THE SOČA RIVER FOUNDATION (AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS) BE FINANCED?

Soča River Foundation should be financed from projects. In order to function well, it should get public funds from municipalities and the state. Other ways of financing are donations and membership.



VERY IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT

NEITHER IMPORTANT / NEITHER UNIMPORTANT

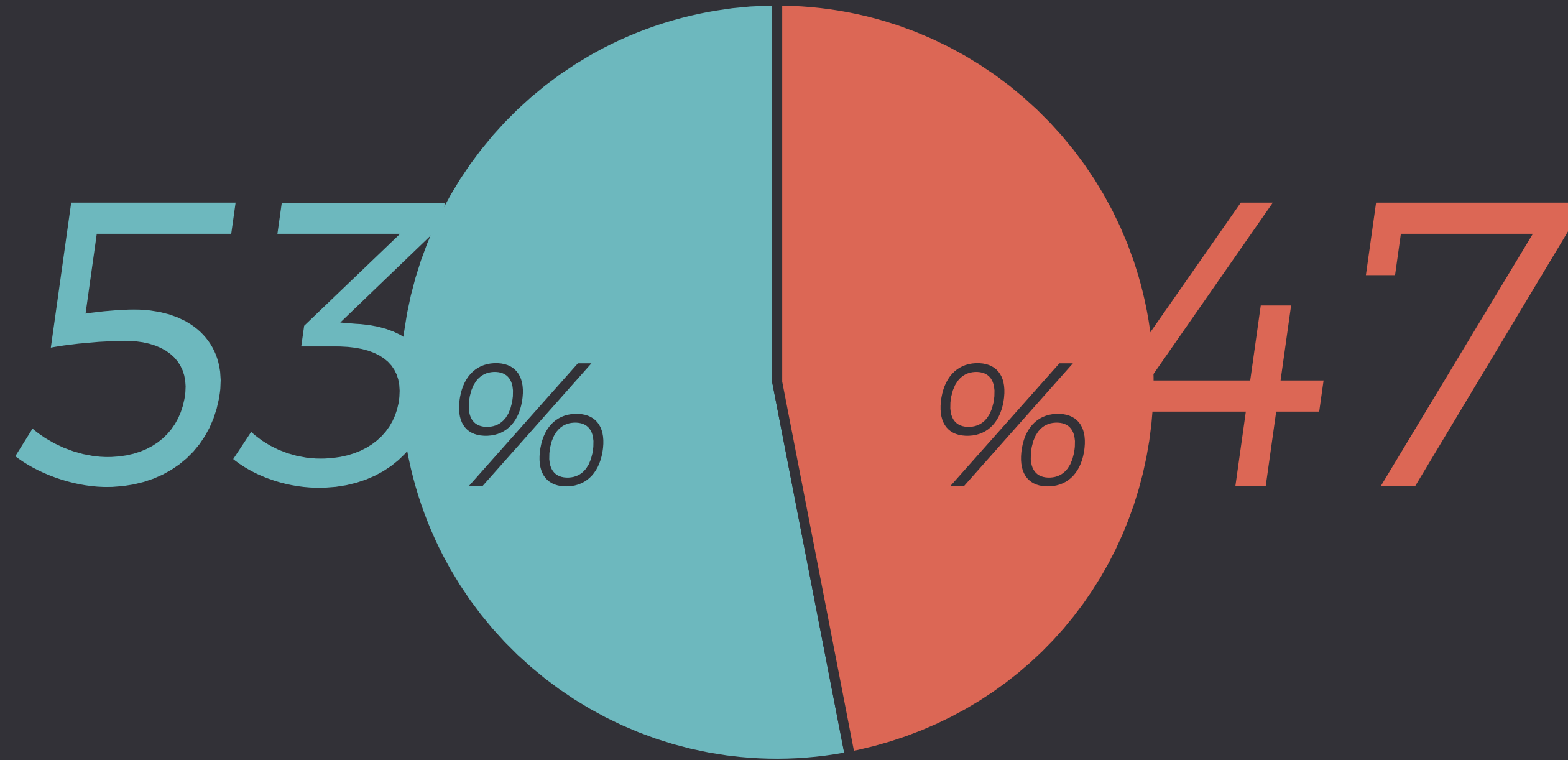
NOT IMPORTANT

NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL

11

ABOUT YOU
SURVEY SAMPLE
INFORMATION
GENDER

Participation in the questionnaire was almost equally represented by both genders.



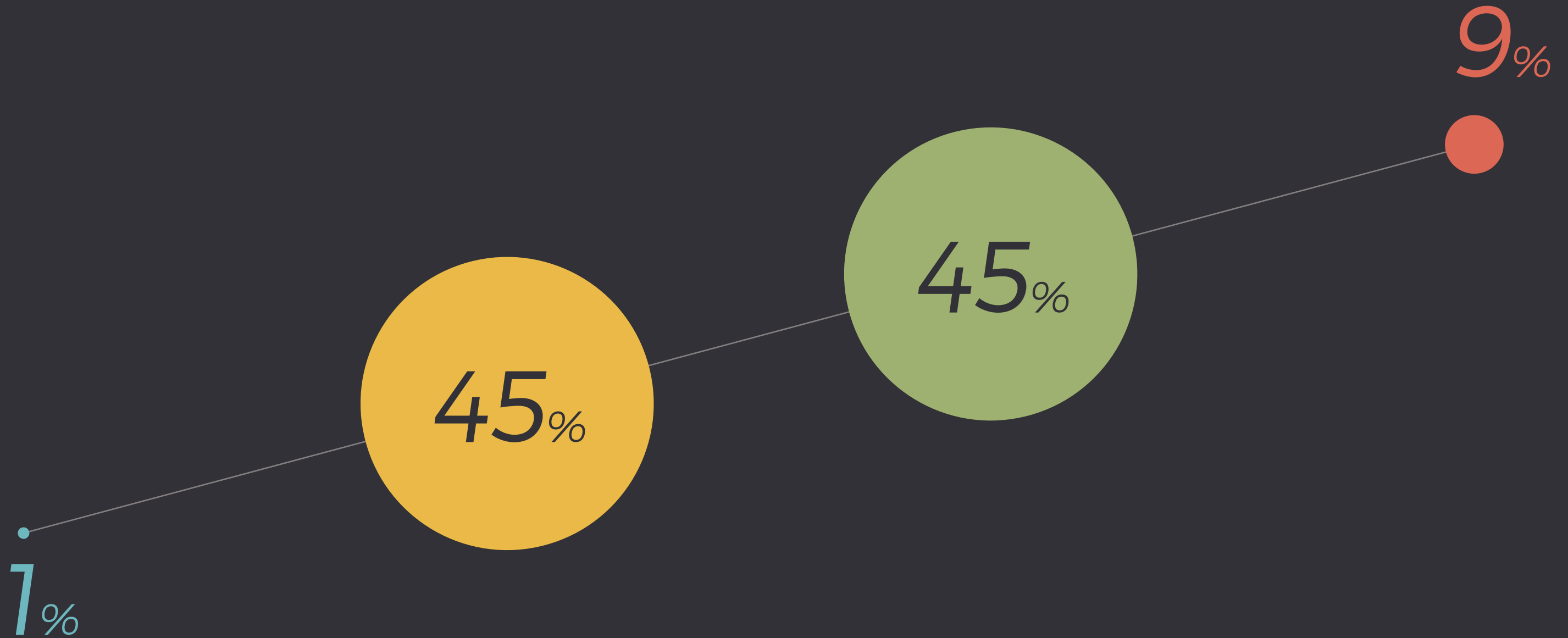
MALE

FEMALE

12

ABOUT YOU SURVEY SAMPLE INFORMATION YOUR AGE

The survey was represented mainly by respondents in age range between 21 – 40 and 41 – 60 years. A lack of younger participants was noticed.



UNDER 21 YEARS OLD

21 TO 40 YEARS OLD

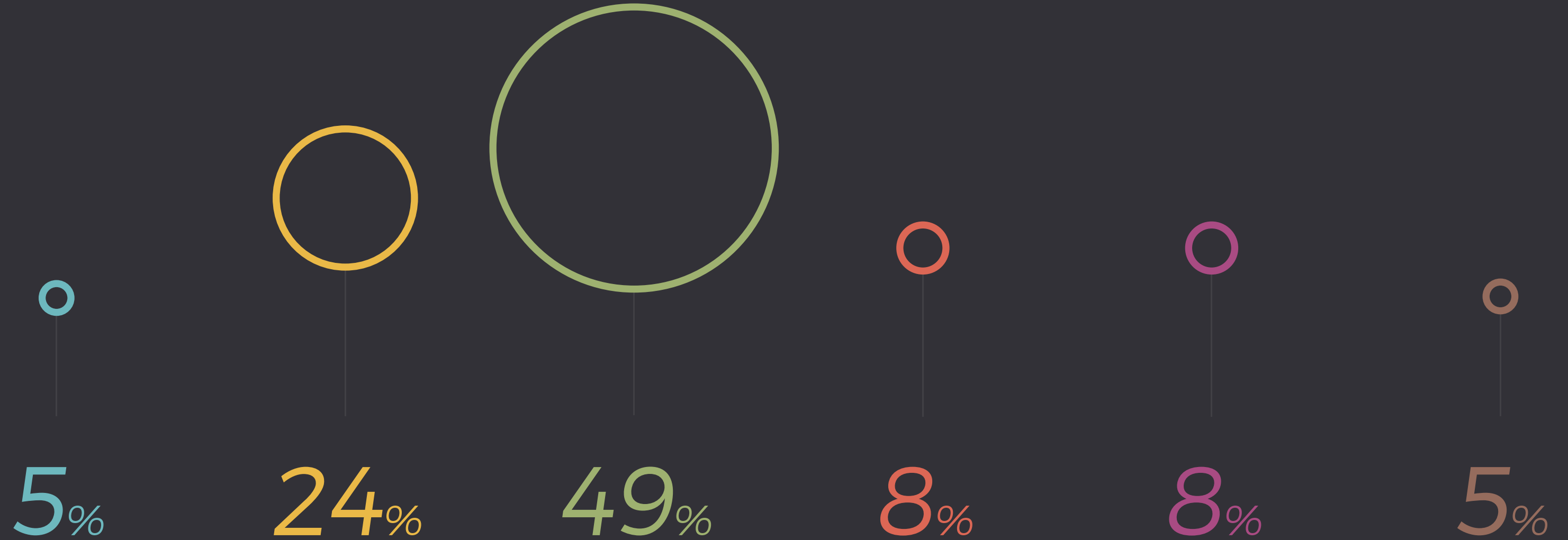
41 TO 60 YEARS OLD

61 YEARS OLD OR MORE

13

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATUS?

Participants that are employed in public sector were the most numerous respondents. Also a big interest for the questionnaire was shown by respondents that work in the private sector.



STILL IN SCHOOL

EMPLOYED IN PRIVATE SECTOR

EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC SECTOR

UNEMPLOYED

RETIRED

OTHER

14+

WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF EDUCATION?

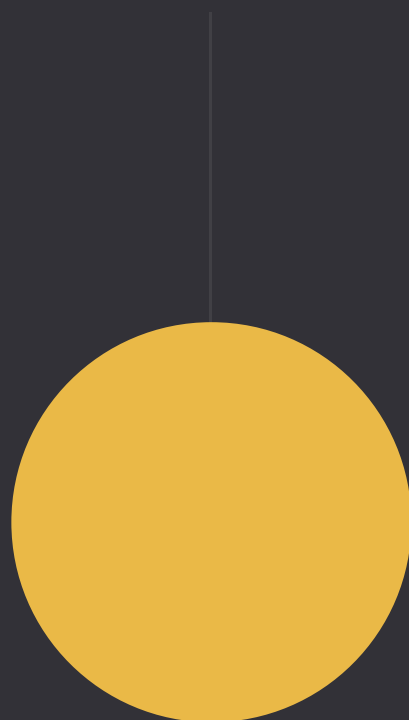
The survey was mainly filled out by participants with university education, closely followed by participants with higher and high education.

The smallest percentage of participants had primary education or less.

12%



52%



18%



17%



1%



MSC OR PHD

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

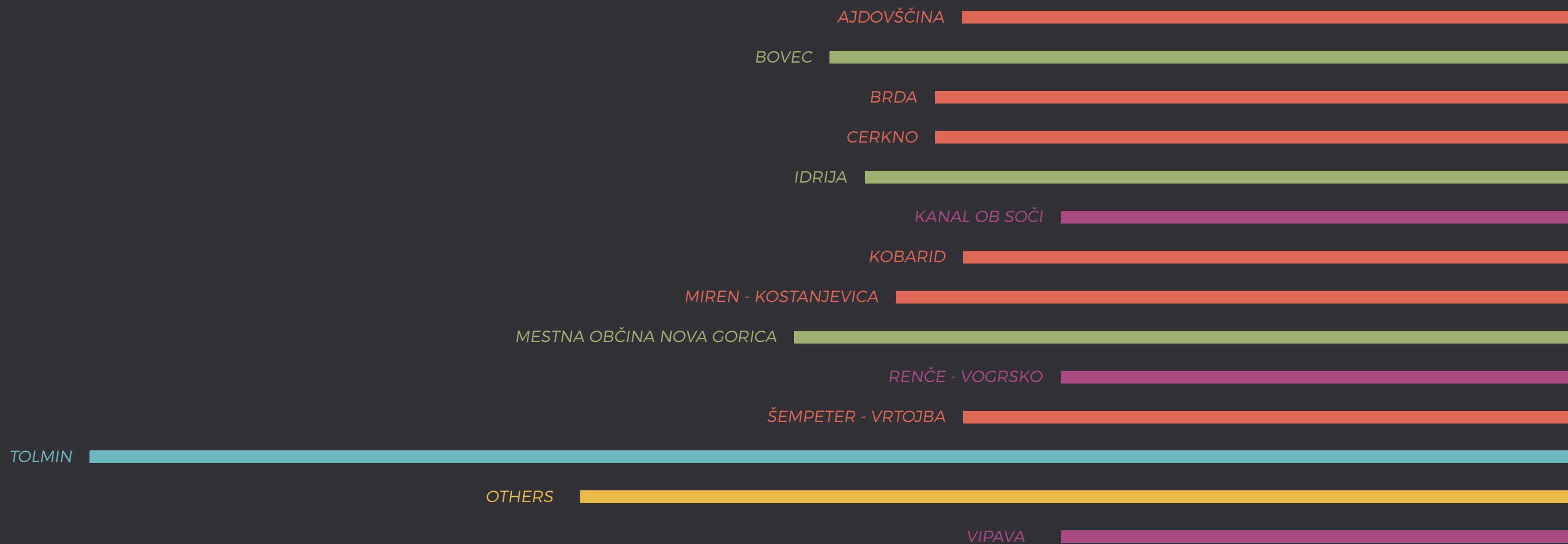
HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

PRIMARY EDUCATION OR LESS

15

MUNICIPALITY OF YOUR RESIDENCE?

The questionnaire was mostly filled out by residents of Primorska region. Least participants in the survey were from municipality of Vipava and Kanal ob Soči.



30 %

18 %

8 - 15 %

5 - 8 %

0 - 3 %

Interreg
Alpine Space



SPARE

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

PROJECT

SPARE- Strategic Planning for Alpine Rivers Ecosystems

ACTION

WPT3 – action 4.1

DELIVERABLE

WPT3 – deliverables 4.1.3

DISSEMINATION

Public

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