The background is a painting of a building facade. On the left, a white building with a red roof and a window with a brown frame. In the center, three white-framed windows with white curtains are set against a blue sky with light clouds. On the right, a red building with a grey roof and a circular window. The overall style is a soft, painterly aesthetic.

# The Perils of Being Invisible

## Collective Funding Models for Open Science Infrastructure

OS Fair Conference 21 September 2021

# Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS)

**Challenge:** OA & OS infrastructure has grown in number and usage and may no longer be sustainable providing no pathway forward for continuation and further development.

Funding for operations neglected.  
We want an equitable and inclusive research culture.

**Risk:** Services risk stagnation, downsizing or pay walling

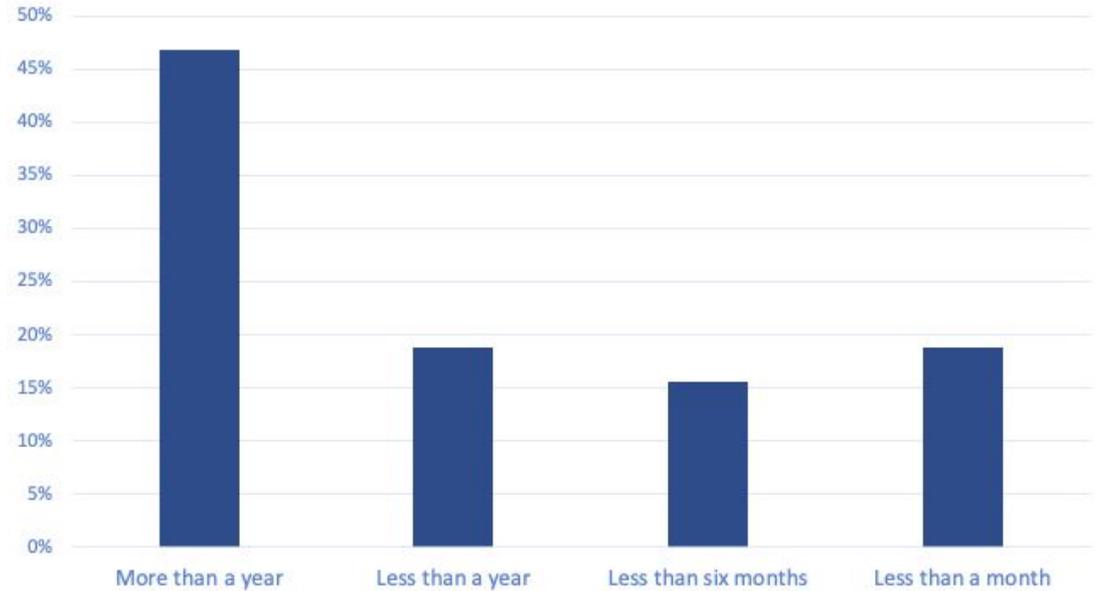
<https://scoss.org>

[@scossfunding](https://twitter.com/scossfunding)

**Aim:** Helping sustain the infrastructure to support the implementation of OS

Officially formed in early 2017, SCOSS's purpose is to provide a new co-ordinated cost-sharing framework that will ultimately enable the broader OA and OS community to support the non-commercial services on which it depends

W/out grants,  
how long  
remain viable?



Scoping the Open Science Infrastructure Landscape in Europe. Zenodo.  
<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4159838>, p48

If we don't take  
concerted  
action...

- **Less control** over infra we **helped create**;  
**waste**
  - Our services may be **compromised**
  - **Flexibility essential**: facing further lock-in
  - We **lose touch** with **researchers** and with  
the **OS community**
  - We **cannot comply** with policy / reach OA  
targets
  - We lose our **capacity to influence**
  - *It's more difficult to **shape our future***
-

# SCOSS

## Who we are and what do we do

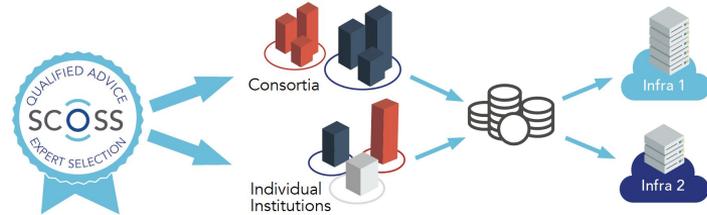
### Community-led and governed

**A consolidated voice that vets OS not for profit infra before recommending it for funding to help infra on unstable footing**

- **Assess funding needs**
- **Alert funding needs** to the community
- Provide **more transparency on costs**
- **Increases efficiency** for investors
- **! Strongly encourage good governance !**

***Not a subscription or payment agency***

SCOSS endorses infrastructure for investment



SCOSS

# SCOSS Members



<https://scoss.org/what-is-scoss/who-is-behind-scoss>  
<https://scoss.org/what-is-scoss/governance>



# Pledges to date

**283** institutions

**19** countries

**6** infrastructures so far

---

**Total pledged: 3,358,518 euros**

<https://scoss.org/how-it-works/current-funding-calls>

# Pilot cycle

Sherpa Romeo

DOAJ

43% of target reached

100% of target reached

Target: 1, 549, 301

# 2nd funding cycle



<https://doabooks.org>

&



<https://oopen.org>

**100%** of target reached



<https://opencitations.net/>

**28%** of target reached

Pledged to date € 434 175

Remaining target € 1 096 023

**PKP**

PUBLIC  
KNOWLEDGE  
PROJECT

<https://pkp.sfu.ca/>

**42%** of target reached

Pledged to date € 308 350

Remaining target € 426 297

<https://scoss.org/how-it-works/current-funding-calls>



# Interview with Marin Dacos



**“You absolutely need it,  
but you don't see it unless it's  
broken”**

**Marin Dacos**

Open Science Advisor for  
the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and  
Innovation

SPARC Europe  
and SCOSS  
Interview  
11 June 2021



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCY5r9q9CEY&t=11s>



# Strategy

- **Analysis of SCOSS:** historical results, status update
- **Gathering feedback on perceptions of SCOSS,** its effectiveness, and asking how one might fund OSI going forward  
analysis of the community-funding landscape, demand for SCOSS, etc
- **Key activities**
  - Stakeholder and market analysis
  - Short survey, focus groups and interviews
  - Strategic Plan
- **Strategy due out in autumn 2021**

# More information

Take things up with the infra directly  
<https://scoss.org/help-sustain-open-infra/become-a-funder/>

Contact [info@scoss.org](mailto:info@scoss.org)  
**WWW.SCROSS.ORG**

We also have a newsletter:  
<https://scoss.org/newsletter/>

Cover image: René Magritte, *L'État de veille*, 1959

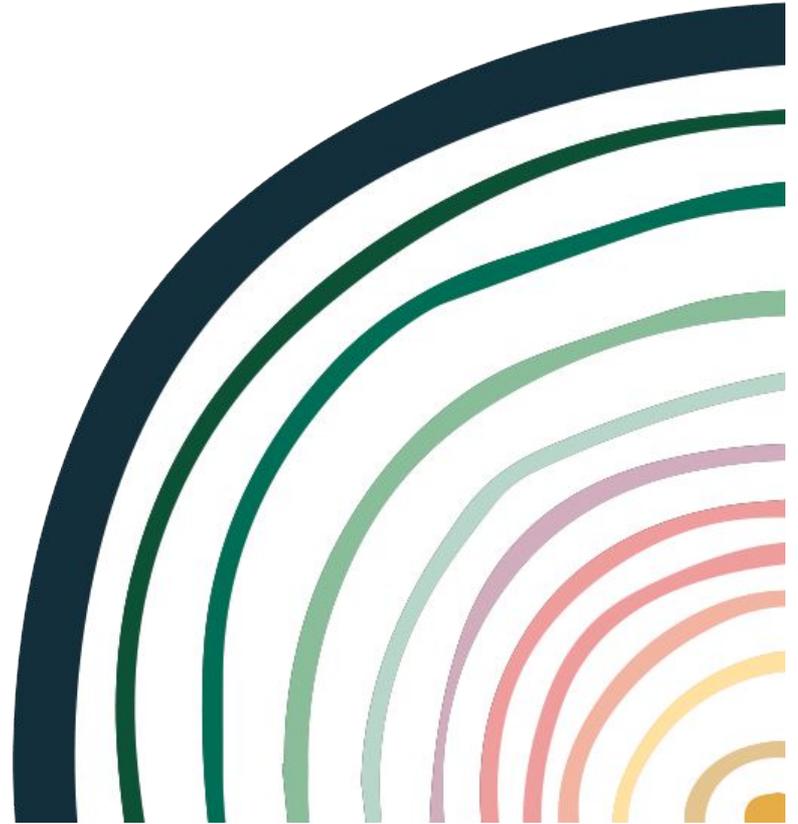


# SCOSS strategy survey - results overview for OS Fair 2021 Panel

13 September 2021



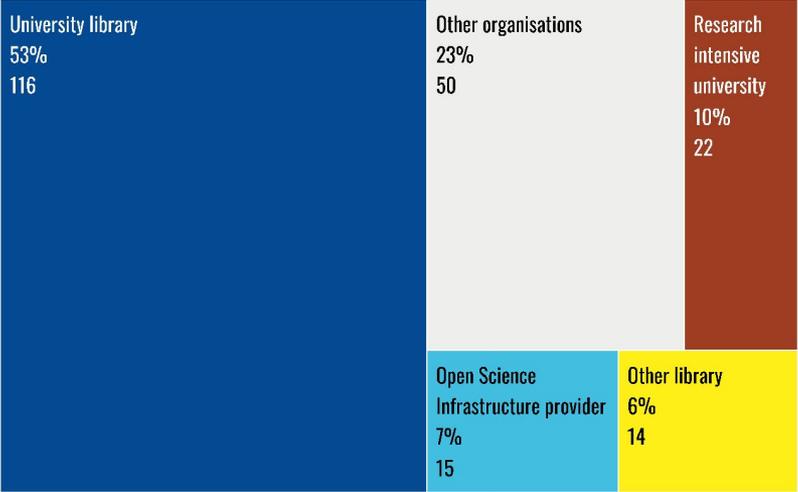
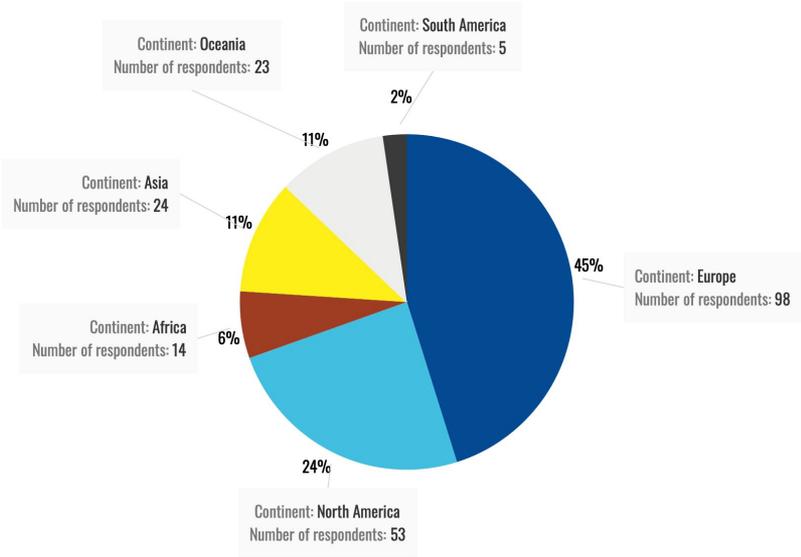
Great North Wood  
Consulting



# Breakdown of respondents

## Demographic profile of survey respondents

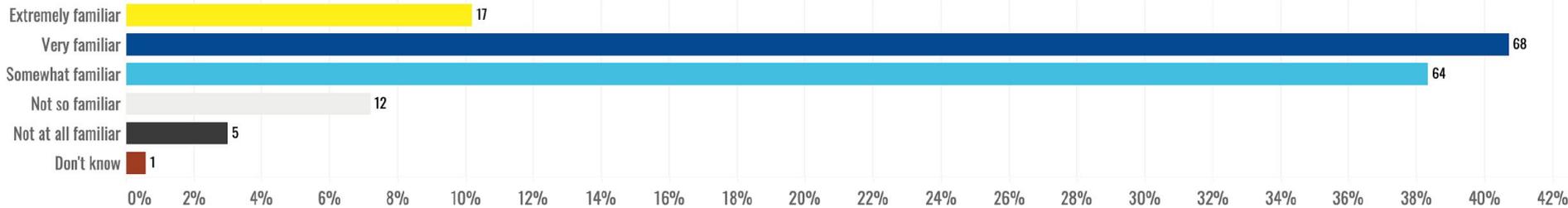
Continents n = 217



# Familiarity with Open Science Infrastructure

High level of awareness of Open Science Infrastructure

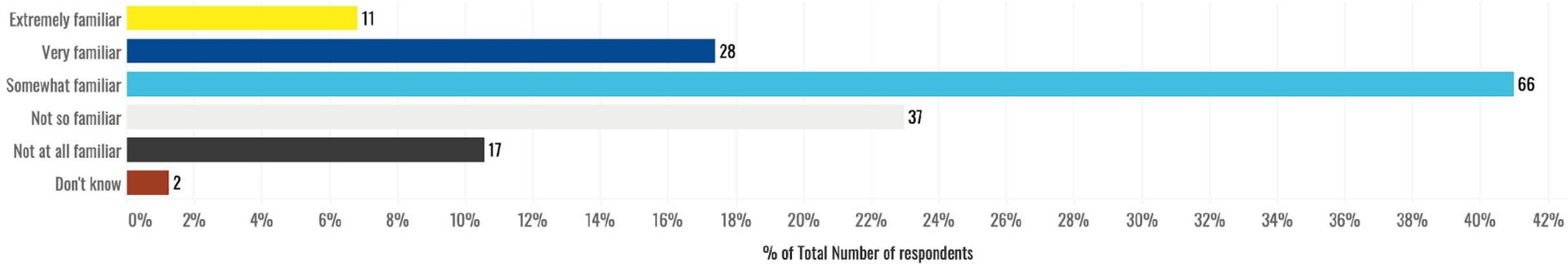
How familiar are you with Open Science Infrastructure and the organizations which provide it? n = 167



# Familiarity with SCOSS

High level of awareness of SCOSS, though not as high as for Open Science Infrastructure as a whole

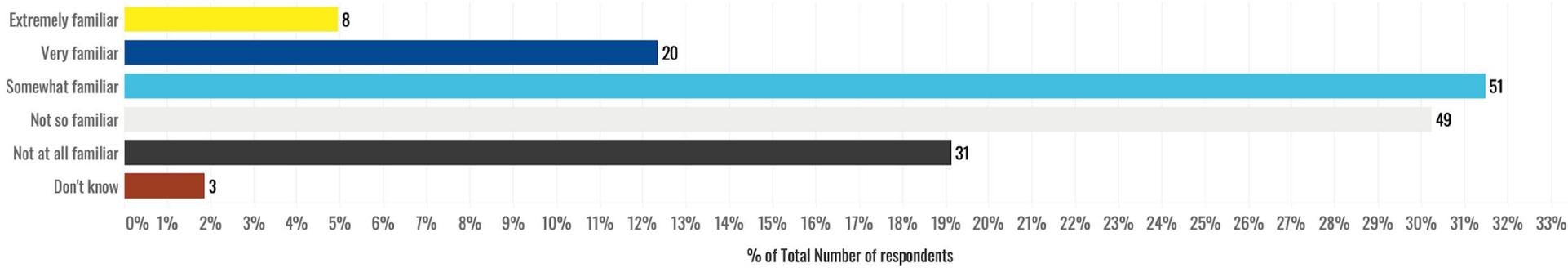
How familiar are you with SCOSS? n = 161



# Familiarity with how SCOSS operates

Awareness of SCOSS operating model is viewed positively but highlights further opportunities

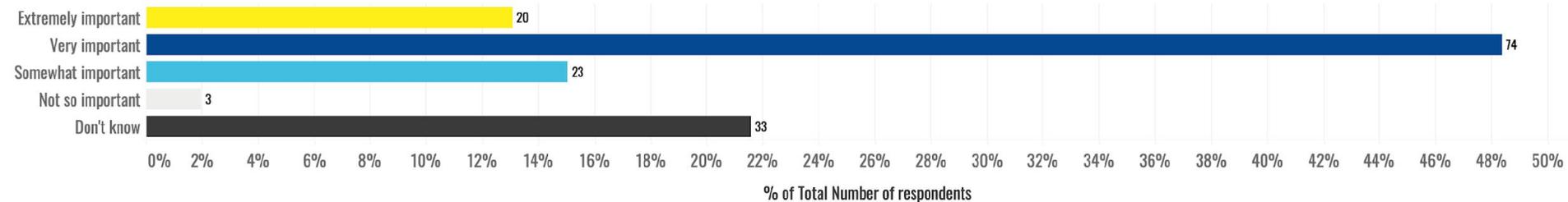
How familiar are you with how SCOSS operates? n = 162



# Importance of SCOSS

More than three quarters of respondents believe that SCOSS is currently important

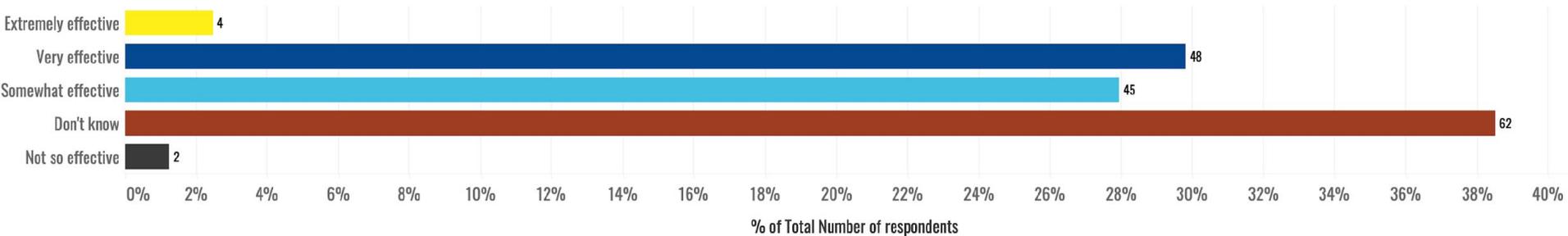
How important do you think SCOSS is currently as a source of support to Open Science Infrastructure? n = 153



# Effectiveness of SCOSS

Assessment of effectiveness driven by awareness of SCOSS and how it operates

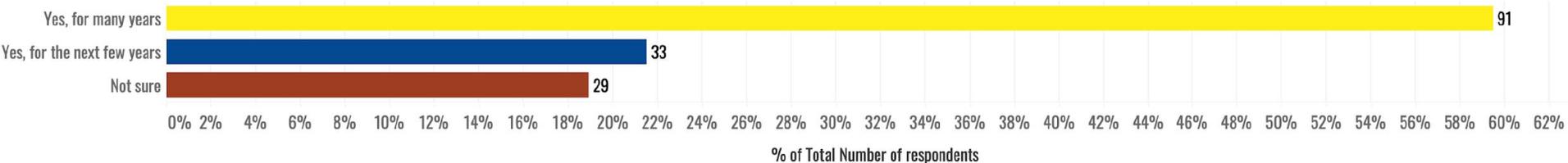
How effective do you feel that SCOSS has been in helping sustain Open Science Infrastructure? n = 161



# Future need for SCOSS

Strong belief that support for SCOSS will be required for many years to come

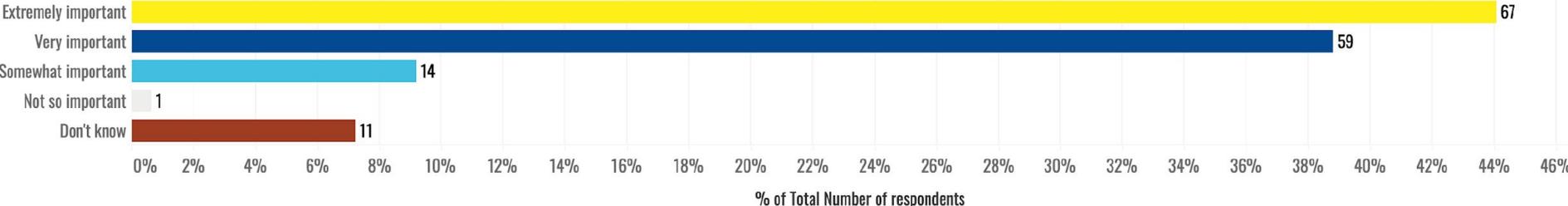
In the future, do you think SCOSS will be needed as a source of support to Open Science Infrastructure? n = 153



# Open practices

Promotion of open practices received the strongest endorsement of any answer from respondents

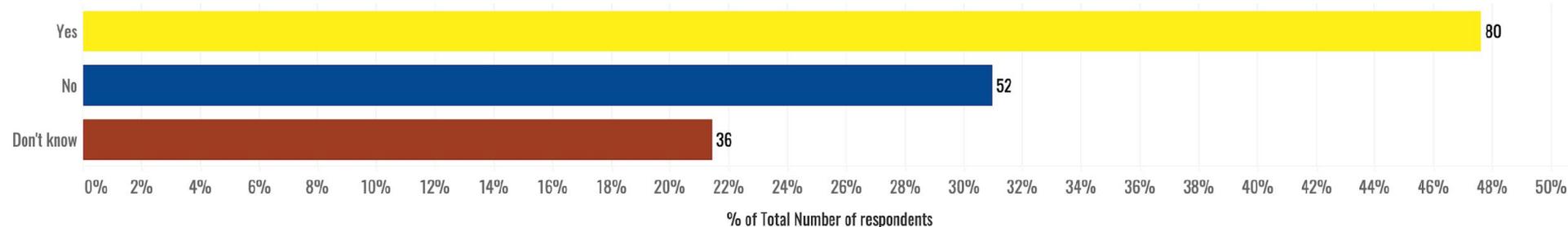
How important is it that an intermediary like SCOSS promotes open practices in the infrastructure it supports? n = 152



# Other initiatives

Around 30 other initiatives providing support to Open Science, Open Access and the infrastructure underpinning them were identified

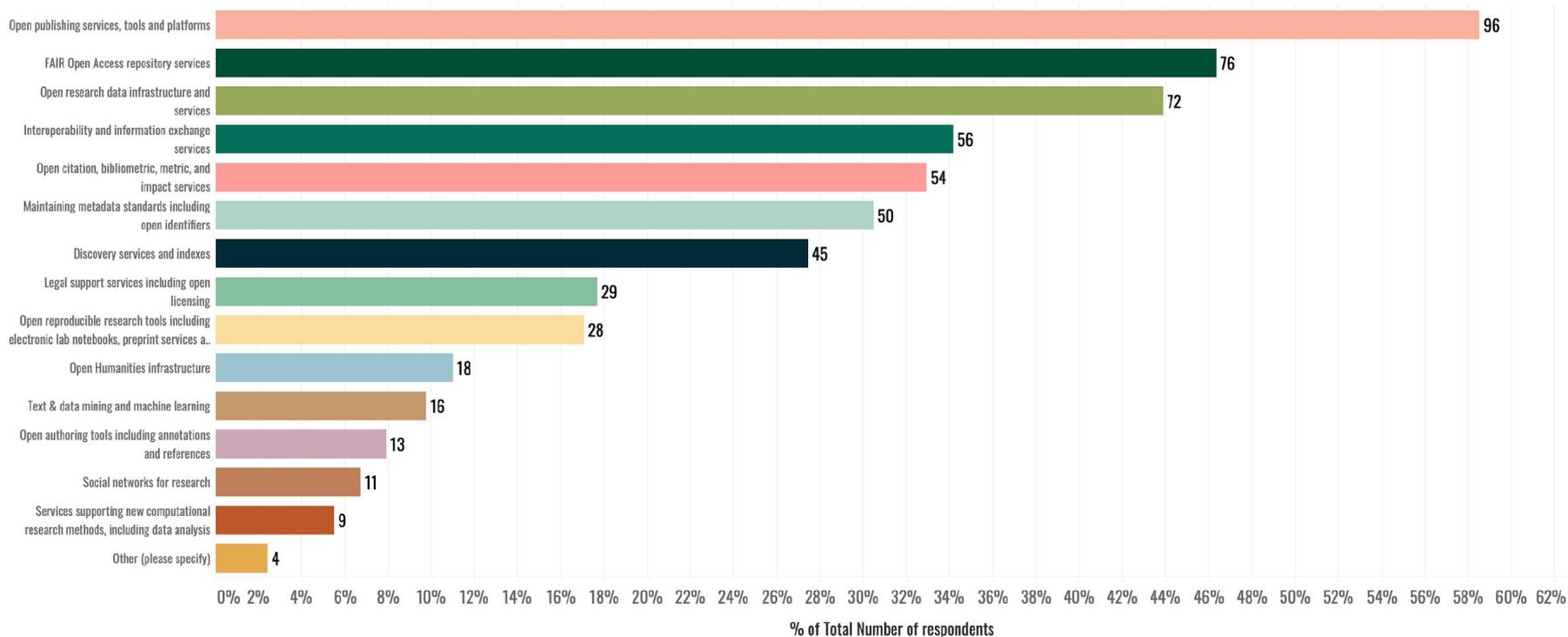
Are you aware of initiatives other than SCOSS which facilitate funding to Open Science Infrastructure? n = 168



# Priorities for funding

Five areas identified as priorities by over 40% of respondents, seven by over 25% of respondents; mirrored almost exactly when respondents asked what should be priorities for SCOSS

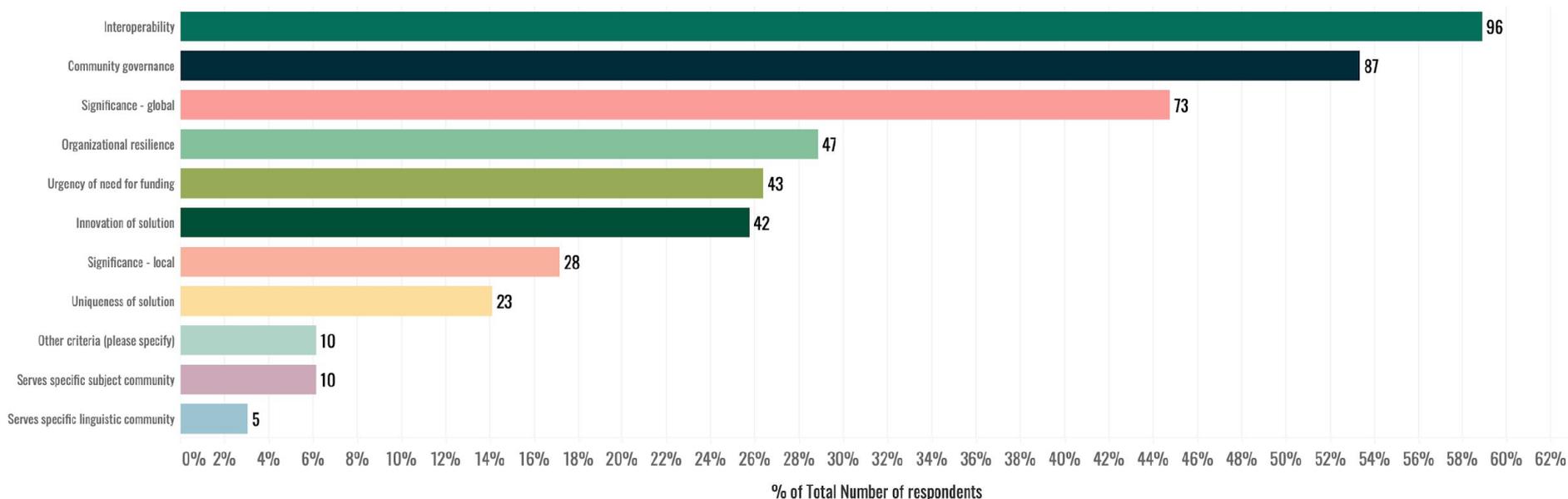
In your opinion, what types of Open Science Infrastructure should be prioritised for funding? (preferably select no more than three) n = 164



# Criteria for funding

Tiers of priorities emerge – three chosen by >40% of respondents, three more by >25%

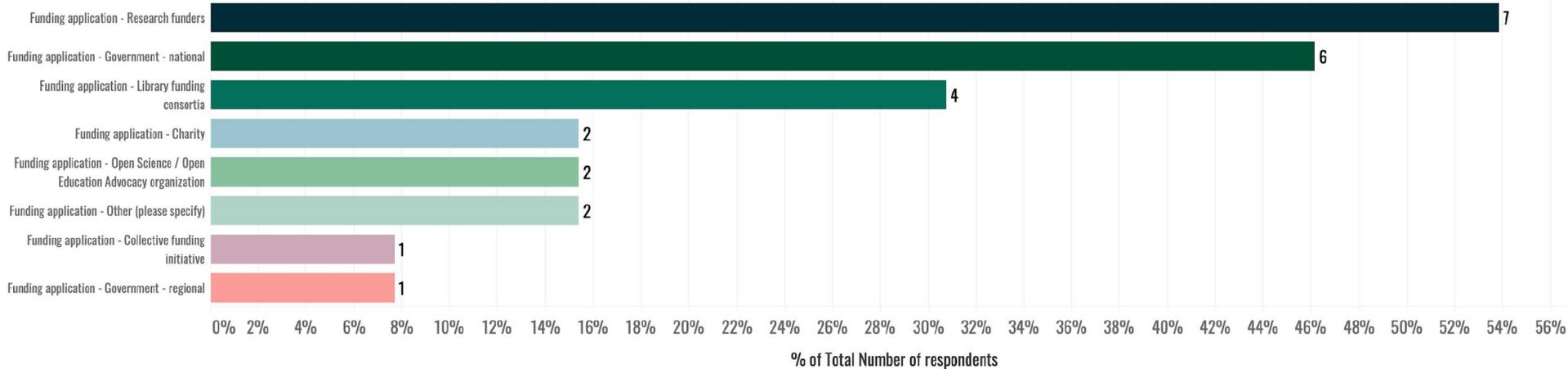
What criteria would you prioritise when considering which Open Science Infrastructure initiatives to support? (preferably select no more than three) n = 163



# Infrastructure providers & where they seek funds

Infrastructure providers are actively seeking funds from other sources, correlating with the entities respondents believe should seek funding

What type of organization(s) did you apply to? (please select all that apply) n = 13



**THANK YOU**



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