

## Global Researcher Attitudes to Societal Impact: SDG6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

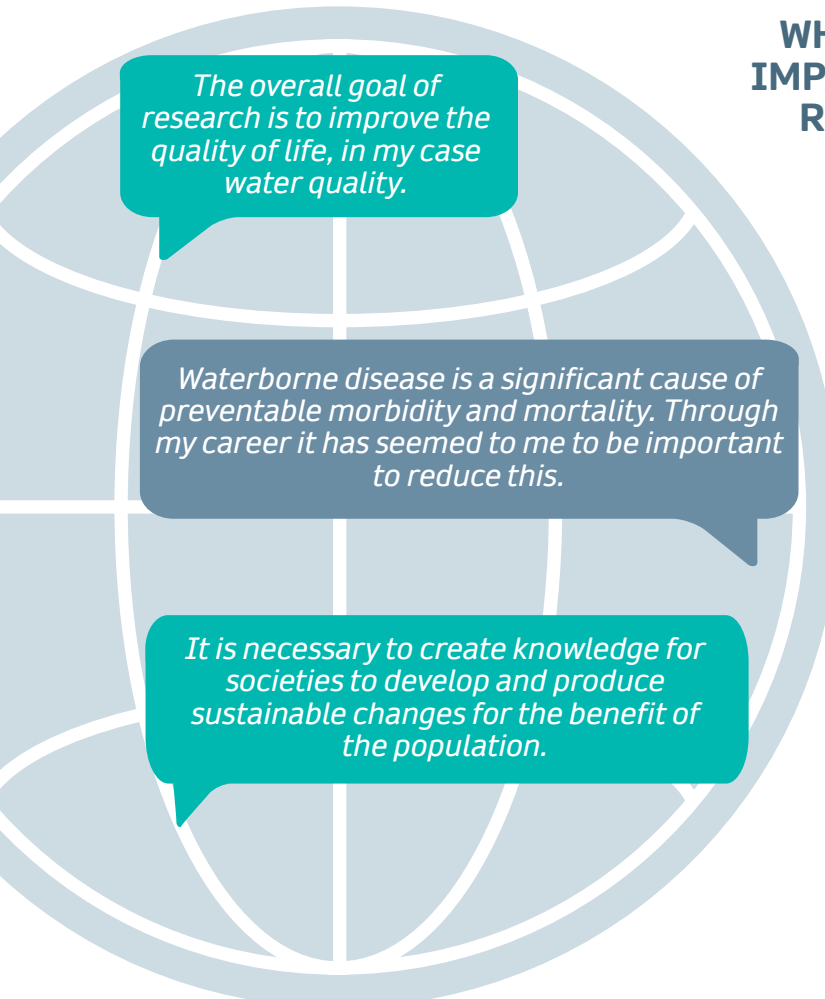


These findings are part of a **GLOBAL SURVEY** of more than **9,000** researchers. About **700** researchers identified SDG6 as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to their research.

Researchers who identified **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION** as relevant to their research most often said that **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (54%)** and **CLIMATE ACTION (51%)** were related to their work as well.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIETAL IMPACT TO RESEARCHERS

**77%** of researchers who identify SDG6 as related to their research describe **societal impact** as either **extremely or very important**.

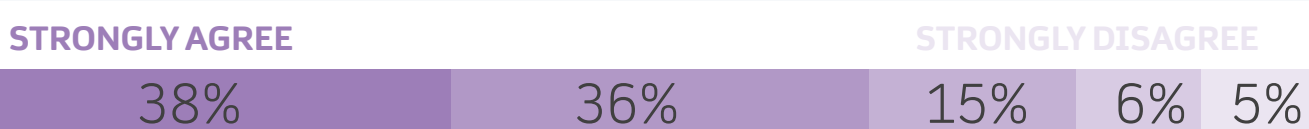


### WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF IMPACT DO YOU HOPE THAT YOUR MOST RECENT PUBLICATION WILL HAVE?



### THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH FUNDING

The majority of researchers believe that the funding of research should be more strongly linked to demonstrable societal impact.



**WHILE SOME DISAGREE** →

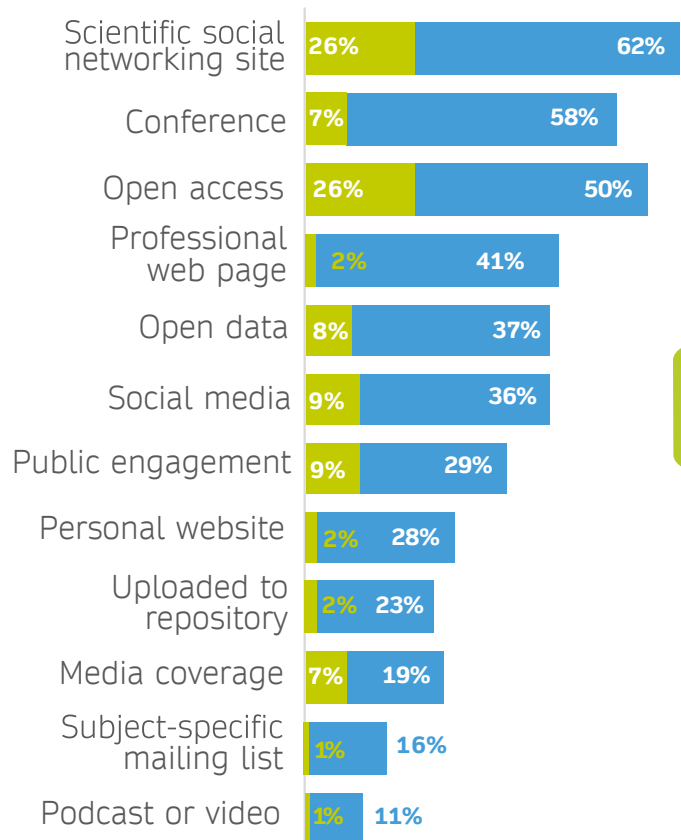
- ...Research needs to have impact on society and human welfare, actually that is the critical objective of research.*
- The tax payer should know where their money is spent.*
- The aim should be making a difference in particular to vulnerable communities.*
- This is a short sighted vision for a long-term endeavour.*
- Funding should be all about the science rather than additional, hard to quantify, metrics. Why not just trust the person writing the grant?*

### COMMUNICATING RESEARCH

**51%** of researchers say their choice of journal was influenced 'a great deal' or 'a lot' by the intended societal impact of their research.



**Scientific social networking sites** are the most popular way SDG6 researchers increase their societal impact.



And researchers also believe **this method has the greatest impact**, as well as **open access**.

*NOT all researchers or academics can attend the conference. Research promoted on scientific social networking sites is free and easily accessible.*

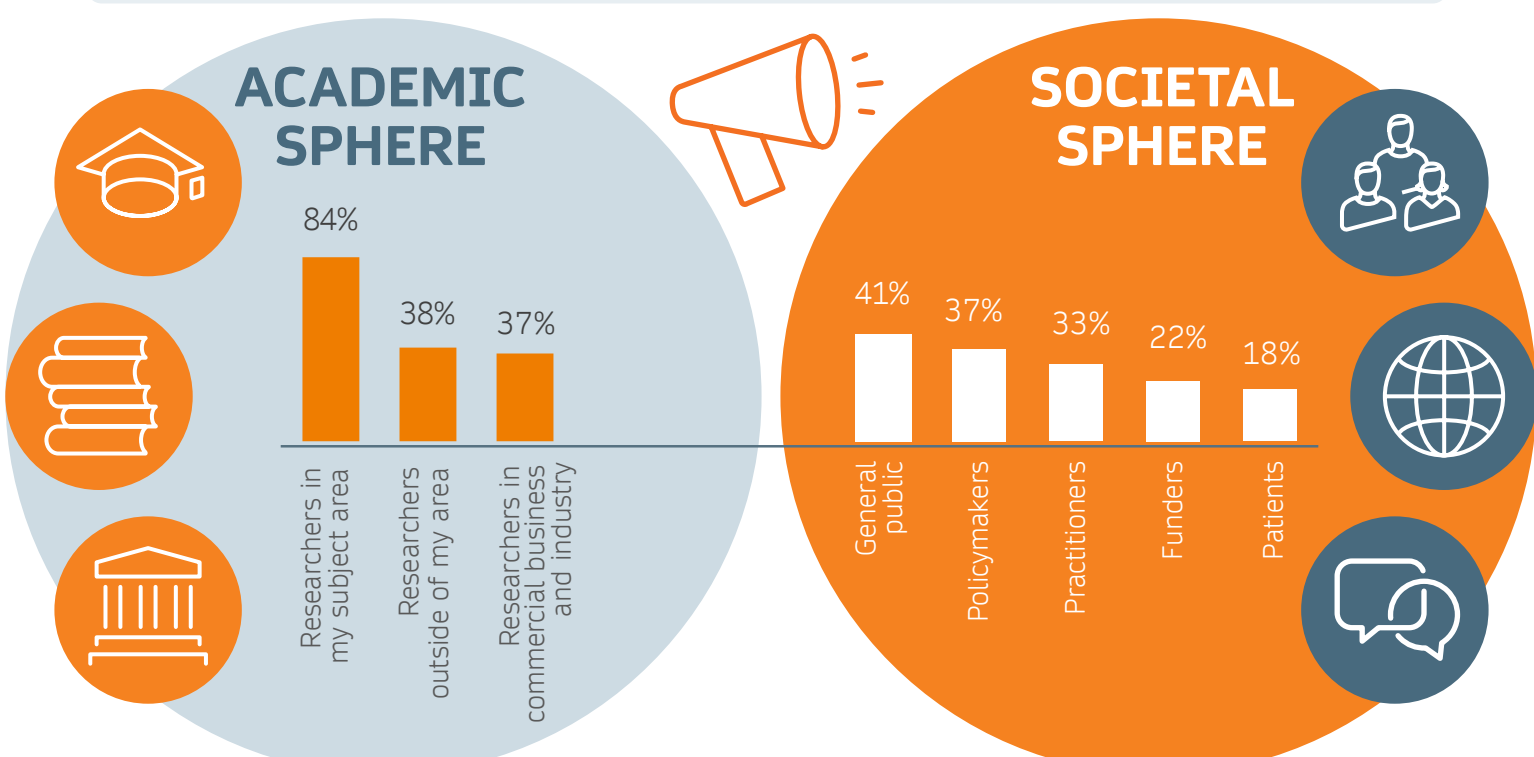
*Open access means open for the public to read and learn. This could also spur interest in the field of specialization and further research.*

*If papers are open access, they can be found by google and so when anybody googles something related to it, my paper would be readable.*

### MEASURING ACADEMIC VS. SOCIETAL IMPACT

An overwhelming majority of researchers track the societal impact of their research to some extent, but there is limited tracking of impact outside of academic research.

**Q** Which of the following audiences were you trying to reach with your most recent publication?



**Q** Which **one** method do you think is the best for tracking the societal impact of your research?



What are the **biggest roadblocks** stopping researchers from measuring the societal impact of their work?



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