

Global Researcher Attitudes to Societal Impact:
SDG11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



These findings are part of a **GLOBAL SURVEY** of more than **9,000** researchers. Over **700** researchers identified SDG11 as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to their research.

Researchers who identified **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES** as relevant to their research most often said that **INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE (46%)** and **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING (46%)** were related to their work as well.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIETAL IMPACT TO RESEARCHERS

78% of researchers who identify SDG11 as related to their research describe **societal impact** as either **extremely or very important**.

I work with the issue of cities sustainability, therefore it is important that managers take my recommendations into account and even develop policies.

Because science must be useful to the society and citizens.

If my work is to have practical results, they will have to be realized by scientists, technologists, policymakers, and citizens collaborating.

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



ACADEMIC IMPACT TO INFORM FUTURE RESEARCH
76%



SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
52%



IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE
51%

THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH FUNDING

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

STRONGLY AGREE

33%

34%

STRONGLY DISAGREE

18%

9%

5%

The research funding should be linked to societal impact in order to transform laboratory research to future sustainable development.

Any funders should link to the societal regardless of the type of project or the status of the researcher. The aim should be making a difference in particular to vulnerable communities.

Research is not for a small group of people; it is for the society.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the US gov't insist on relevance to the advancement of human health.

WHILE SOME DISAGREE



Basic research gives us unexpected breakthroughs. It's better to leave passionate people [to] drive their research rather than following what the mass public wants/likes.

COMMUNICATING RESEARCH

46% of researchers say their choice of journal was influenced 'a great deal' or 'a lot' by the intended societal impact of their research.

A GREAT DEAL

19%

27%

28%

NOT APPLICABLE

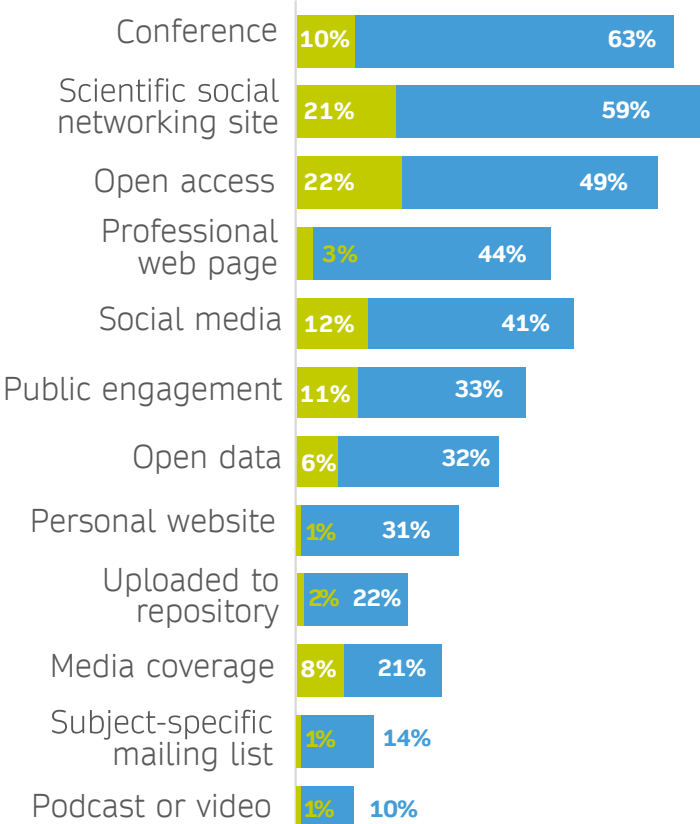
14%

10%

2%



Presenting at a conference is the most popular way SDG11 researchers increase their societal impact.



■ Which have you done?

■ Which one has the greatest effect?

But more researchers consider **scientific social networking sites and open access to have the greatest impact**.



When found in public search engines, open access publications can be read by decision-makers, managers, and the general public and may be viewed as useful by them.

Open access allows free access to researchers. A majority of researchers, especially in developing countries, have access to paid journals/research papers due to financial constraints.



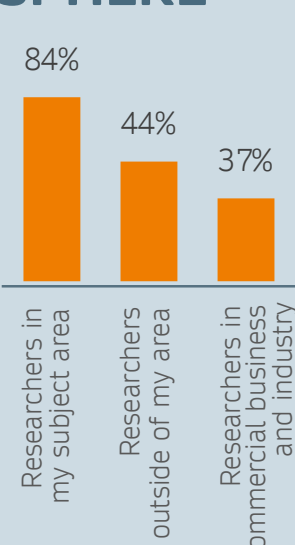
MEASURING ACADEMIC VS. SOCIETAL IMPACT

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.

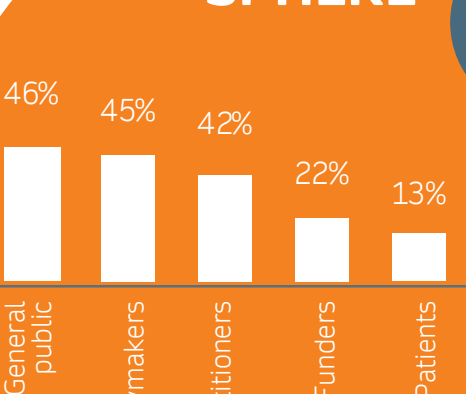
Q

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

ACADEMIC SPHERE



SOCIETAL SPHERE



Q

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

CITATIONS FROM OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS
30%

CITATIONS/ REFERENCES IN POLICY DOCUMENTS
17%

DOWNLOADS OF YOUR RESEARCH PAPERS
12%

PROFILE OF READERS OF YOUR RESEARCH PUBLICATION
12%

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



TIME



TOOLS



COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

To learn more about our new strategic partnership to accelerate progress on global societal challenges through open research, visit:

springernature.com/SDGImpact

SPRINGER NATURE GROUP
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Our partners



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