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Deliverable 7.5

SURVEY REPORT ON THE FUTURE NEEDS

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Abstract

This user survey report on the future needs described the main insights from a user survey that reached out to data users in the fields of living and working conditions, poverty, vulnerability or precariousness, inclusion, social and labour policy, and related domains. The user survey focuses on identifying and prioritising data users' needs to gather further insight into the main challenges regarding the European scientific and policy communities concerned with inclusive growth. The results of this user survey can be used to expand the current state of data, indicators, methods and tools, as well as opportunities for training and networking in the discussed areas. This report first describes the applied methodology. Then it focuses on the users' needs regarding data, indicators and methods and stipulates how InGRID-2 or resembling futuring projects can address these needs. Next data users' opinions on availability and shortages regarding training and networking activities in the respondents' respective fields of interest are described with special attention for the visiting grants offered for transnational access, which is also partly an evaluation of the ongoing InGRID-2 activities.

This report constitutes Deliverable 7.5, for Work Package 7 of the InGRID-2 project.

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1. Objectives

In 2020, we live in a world where it was never easier to create, communicate or consult new information. The rise of fast, direct and digital (social) media has led to a situation in which every citizen can disseminate messages to large crowds and influence the public opinion without difficulty. A nefast consequence of this is that the role of neutral news is often questioned, that the balance between facts and false news is increasingly up for debate, and that the relationship between policymaking and scientific research is more and more challenged. As a counteraction, journalists and scientists create fact checking tools in an effort to correct the public's world view and to facilitate *evidence-based policymaking*.

Even though policymaking is not an exact science, evidence-based policymaking is often put forward as the ideal and recommended strategy for 'good and sustainable policymaking' (Sutcliffe & Court, 2005; UNESCO, 2010). Evidence-based policymaking can be defined as *'an approach that helps people make well informed decisions about policies, programmes and projects by putting the best available evidence from research at the heart of policy development and implementation.'* (Davis, 2004 in Sutcliffe & Court, 2005).

The InGRID-1 and InGRID-2 research infrastructure projects are positioned on the intersection line between evidence-based policymaking and academic research by supporting and facilitating research on inclusive growth in Europe. In addition to addressing and filling existing data and research gaps, it is important to reflect on the current challenges researchers and policymakers face. This report describes the main observations of a user survey that reached out to data users in the fields of living and working conditions, poverty, vulnerability or precariousness, inclusion, social and labour policy, and related domains. This survey attempts to identify and prioritise data users' needs to gather further insight into the main challenges regarding the European scientific and policy communities concerned with inclusive growth. Within the InGRID-1 research infrastructure project a first expert survey was conducted to get insights on the needs of the inclusive growth research community regarding data, tools, methods, etc. The current user survey does a follow up on the main topics that came forward from this expert survey and tries to deepen some of the insights.

The results of this user survey can be used to expand the current state of data, indicators, methods and tools, as well as opportunities for training and networking in the discussed areas. This can include a further development of existing data sources or the creation of new data sources, either by researchers or by policymakers and the broader stakeholder community.

This report first describes the applied methodology, with extensive descriptive information on the population of respondents in Chapter 2. Chapters 3 and 4 present the main findings with regard to the needs and priorities of researchers and policymakers. More specifically, Chapter 3 focuses on the users' needs regarding data, indicators and methods and stipulates how InGRID-2 or resembling futuring projects can address these needs. Chapter 4 then highlights the availability and shortages regarding training and networking activities in the respondents' respective fields of interest. This chapter is presented as an evaluation of the ongoing InGRID-2 activities, with special attention for the visiting grants offered for transnational access to the InGRID-2 research infrastructures.

2. Methodology

The input for this report is a user survey that was conducted among data users in the field of inclusive growth. This chapter describes the survey methodology and gives some descriptive information on the survey respondents. Given the purposive sampling method of this survey, this profile of the respondents is important background information to properly understand the responses of the participants and the insights that can result from this survey.

2.1 Survey methodology

2.1.1 Survey methodology

The aim of this user survey is to gain insights in the research infrastructure needs of data users in the fields of living and working conditions, poverty, vulnerability or precariousness, inclusion, social and labour policy, and related domains with regard to data, methods, tools, etc. Therefore a survey was sent out to experts across Europe.

To this end, a web survey was created using Limesurvey, which could be filled in using a personalised closed link (which experts received in a personal invitation to participate) and an open link which was spread through the InGRID-2 website and social media and the InGRID-2 partners' websites, as well as through the personal network of the InGRID-2 partners.

The user survey consists of two large parts. In the first part questions are included aiming to get a good view on the profile of the respondents in terms of age, gender, country of professional activity, and professional background and activities. The second part zooms in on six topics related to the research infrastructure needs:

- the thematic priorities for the coming years in terms of European policymaking and research;
- data and indicator challenges and priorities;
- challenges and priorities related to methods and tools;
- challenges related to the European research context and policymaking;
- preferences in terms of training and networking events and an evaluation related to InGRID-2 events;
- experiences related to the InGRID-2 visiting grants and preferences for research visits.

The full user survey can be found in Appendix 1.

2.1.2 Survey timing

Table 1 gives an overview of the timing of the user survey. The survey was launched in August 2019 through a mailing of invitations for participation to the broad network of the InGRID-2 project. Throughout August 2019 the survey was also announced on different websites of the InGRID-2 project and its partners and the personal networks of the partners. A first reminder was sent out mid-August, a second reminder followed at the beginning of September. The survey officially closed in November 2019.

Table 1. Time table of the user survey

	Closed survey by invitation	Open survey
01/08/2019	Invitation emails to InGRID-2 network	
12/08/2019		Announcement of survey on InGRID-2 website and partners' websites, personal network of InGRID-2 partners
19/08/2019	Reminder 1	
03/09/2019	Reminder 2	Announcement in InGRID newsflash of September
05/11/2019	Close survey	Close survey

2.1.3 Population & sample

Given the purpose of the user survey, a non-probability purposive sampling method was used, as in the survey conducted in the light of the InGRID-1 project. In this method respondents are selected based on their relevance for the survey aims (Teddlie & Yu, 2007; Tongco, 2007). The aim of purposive sampling is not representativity but rather covering the diversity of relevant experts related to the topics of the survey. The survey done in the InGRID-1 project ensured us that the InGRID research infrastructure and network is a good starting point for a diverse sample of the relevant experts in the related research and policy fields and therefore the main sample for this user survey started from the InGRID-2 network. In the second part of this chapter we will also first look in to the profile of the respondents who actually participated in the survey, and interpret the findings of the rest of the survey keeping this profile of respondents in mind.

The invitation to participate in the user survey was sent to 5,008 academics and policymakers in the field of poverty, work and inclusive growth. To do so, the networks of the InGRID-1 and InGRID-2 projects and partners were contacted by e-mail. After correction for emails that could not be delivered a net population of 4,980 experts were contacted by email to fill in the user survey. From them 222 fully completed the survey, which gives a response rate of 4.46%. Further 26 experts completed the survey through the open weblink. In total 248 people fully completed the user survey. This report will focus on the results based on this full response in the user survey. Data analysis is done using StataMP 15.

2.2 Descriptive information on survey respondents

A purposive sampling method is a good way to address the research questions given the objectives of this user survey. When analysing the data collected with such a method, it is however very important to have a good image of the profile of the respondents and to keep this in mind when interpreting the results. Next to that, our approach implies we do not have a detailed picture of the population we addressed, so we cannot evaluate how representative our group of respondents is for the population. Since the main aim of this sampling method is to collect data from a diverse set of respondents more than a representative data collection, this is however not a problem. Before digging into the results of the survey, we will therefore start with a description of the survey respondents in terms of gender, age, country in which they work and their professional background.

2.2.1 Gender, age and country in which respondents work

The participation of male and female respondents in our survey is rather equal, with 55% being female and 43% male (Figure 1). Considering, however, that the academic sector is still male dominated, we can note that male respondents are somewhat underrepresented in our sample. This distribution is similar for both academic participants and policy practioners.

Figure 1. The participation of male and female respondents in the survey is rather equal, in percentage, n=248

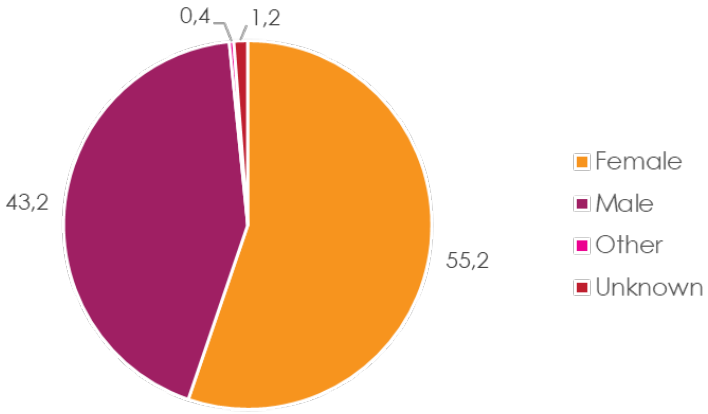
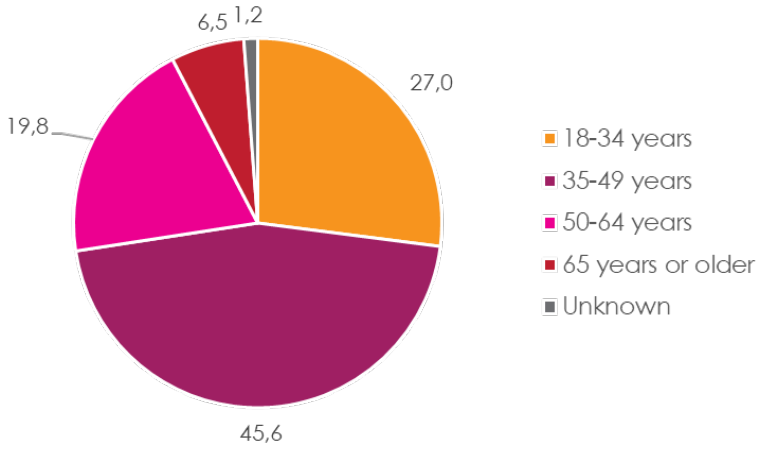


Figure 2 gives the distribution of the age categories of the respondents. The main group of respondents (46%) is between 35 and 49 years old. This is not surprising, since our survey targeted academic and policy experts, which requires some years of experience in the field of course. However, still about a quarter of the respondents are younger experts, in the beginning of their professional careers. Thus we have a diverse set of both younger and very experienced academics and policymakers in our sample.

Figure 2. The main part of the respondents are between 35 and 49 years old, in percentage, n=248



The survey was sent to a broad list of experts from across the EU and abroad. Figure 3 gives an overview of participants from the EU countries.[1] Italy is represented the most in our sample, with 12.5% of the respondents. Further a substantial part of the respondents come from Belgium (8.1%), Germany (7.7%) and Spain (5.7%), all countries in which InGRID partners are present. Only two EU-28 countries are not represented in our sample, namely Latvia and Slovenia. Further also fifteen non-EU but European countries are represented, representing a total of 16.1% of the respondents to our survey. In addition, 4.0% of the respondents come from nine non-European countries

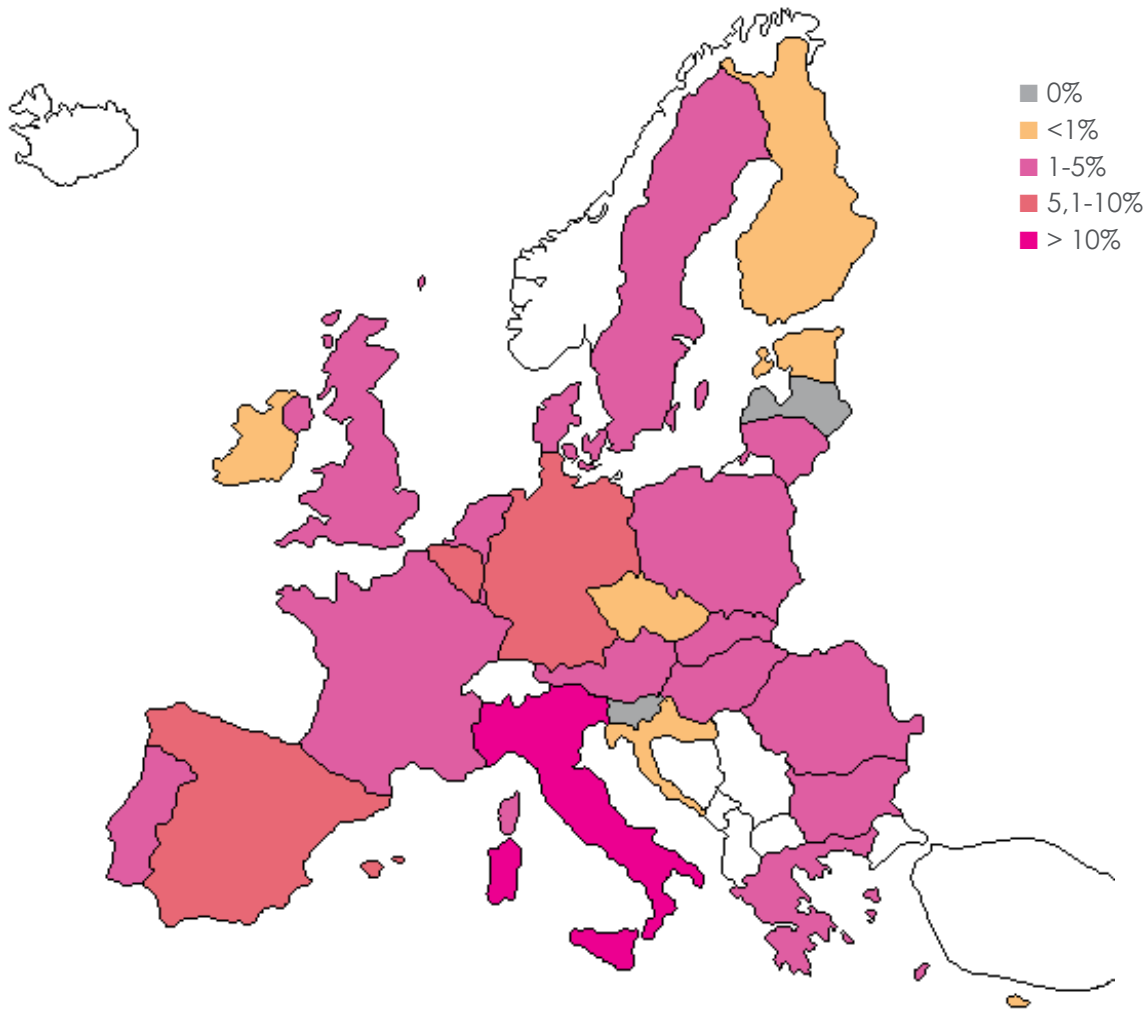
1 Since this survey took place in 2019, when the United Kingdom was still part of the EU, the UK will be considered a part of the EU-28 in this report.

(Table 2). In general we could thus conclude our sample consists of a good and diverse representation of EU-28, European and some non-European countries.

Table 2. Respondents from European countries outside the EU-28 and countries outside of Europe, in percentage

European countries- non EU		**Countries outside Europe**	
Albania	2.8	Algeria	0.4
Azerbaijan	0.4	Chile	0.4
Belarus	0.8	Colombia	0.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.4	India	0.8
Georgia	0.4	Ecuador	0.4
Israel	0.8	Mexico	0.4
Liechtenstein	0.4	Republic of Korea	0.4
Moldova	2.4	Tanzania	0.4
Montenegro	0.4	Tunisia	0.4
Northern Macedonia	2.8		
Norway	0.4		
Serbia	1.2		
Switzerland	1.6		
Turkey	0.8		
Ukraine	0.4		
Total	**16.1** (n=40)	**Total**	**4.0** (n=10)

Figure 3. Respondents come from across the EU, with a largest response of 12.5% in Italy. Further 5 to 10% of the respondents come from Belgium, Germany or Spain. Only in two EU countries there were no participants: Latvia and Slovenia, in percentage



* Since this survey took place in 2019, when the United Kingdom was still part of the EU, the UK will be treated as a part of the EU-28 in this report.

2.2.2 Professional background of respondents

The survey addressed both academic experts and policymakers. The vast majority of the respondents (82.7% or 205 respondents) are academic experts. Policymakers represent only 16.5% of our sample, which accounts for 41 respondents (Figure 4). This is a small group, but still considerably large enough to be able to discriminate between academic experts and policymakers in further analyses in this report. Table 3 presents a cross tabulation of the percentage of academics and policymakers split up by location in which they are active. From the respondents of the EU countries, 87% are academics and 13% are policymakers. Among the respondents from other European countries and countries from outside Europe, 70% are academics and 30% are policymakers.

Figure 4. The main share of the respondents are academic experts. However, with 16.5% or 41 respondents also policymakers are clearly represented in our sample, which will allow for separate analysis for both groups where relevant, in percentage, n=248

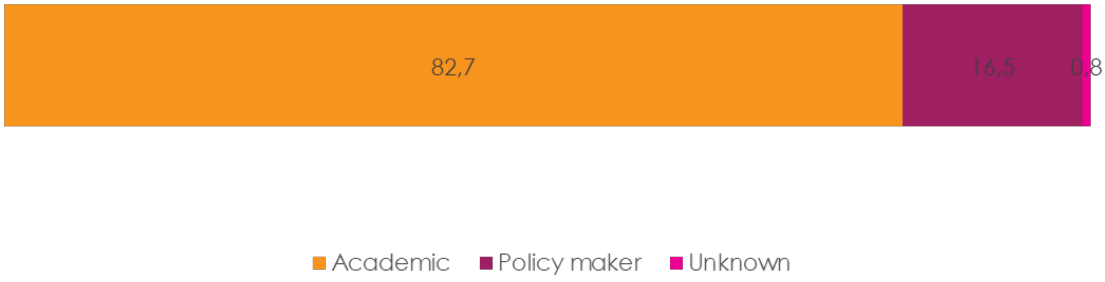


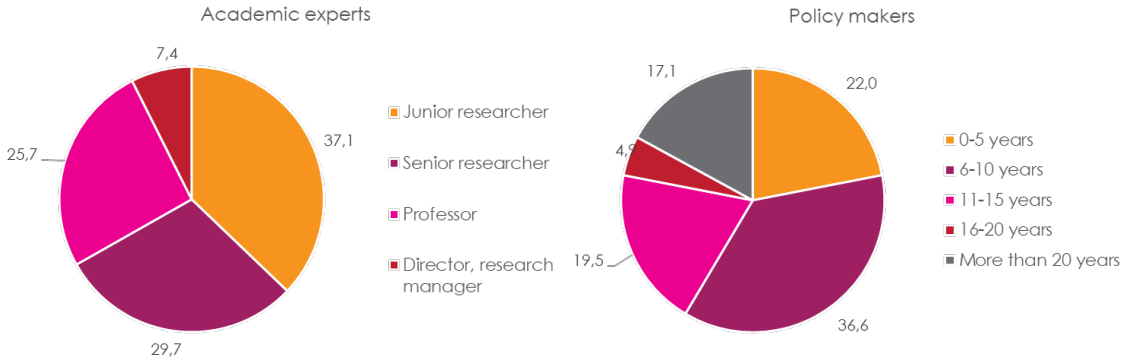
Table 3. From the respondents of the EU countries, 87% are academics and 13% are policymakers. Among the respondents from other European countries and countries from outside Europe, 70% are academics and 30% are policymakers

	EU countries	European countries non-EU	Countries outside Europe
Academic	87% (n=167)	70% (n=28)	70% (n=7)
Policymakers	13% (n=25)	30% (n=12)	30% (n=3)

* Cross-tabulation of percentage of academics and policymakers by location they are active.

Figure 5 presents the distribution of the level of experience of the respondents, split up for academic experts and policymakers. There is a nice distribution of participants of different levels of expertise among the academics, with 37% junior researchers, 30% senior researcher and 26% professors. Likewise we also see that both starting policymakers as more experience policymakers participated in the survey. Remarkable is the high share of policymakers with more than 20 years experience (17%).

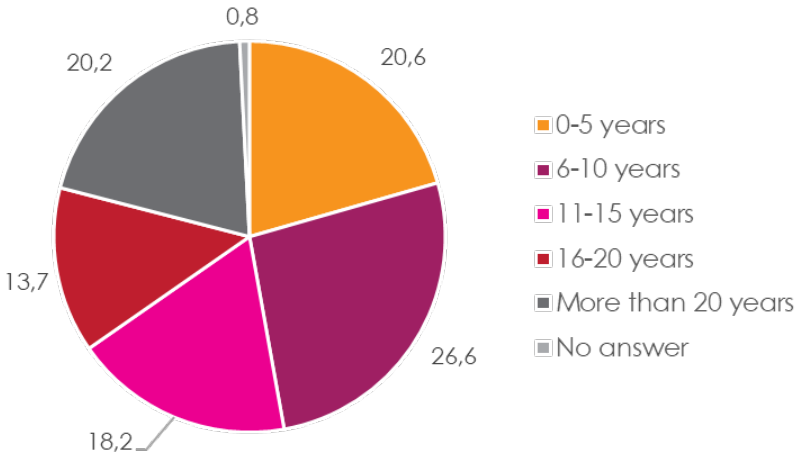
Figure 5. There is a good distribution of participants of different levels of expertise among the survey participants, both among academics and policymakers, in percentage



* Level or years of experience for academics (n=202) and policymakers (n=41).

Also Figure 6 gives us insight in the division of the experience level of our respondents. The respondents are rather evenly distributed across the different levels of experience. In general we can conclude that the opinions of starting researchers and policymakers as well as those in the midst of their career or those who that have been around for already a long time are represented in our survey.

Figure 6. The respondents are rather evenly distributed across different levels of experience in their working area, in percentage, n=248



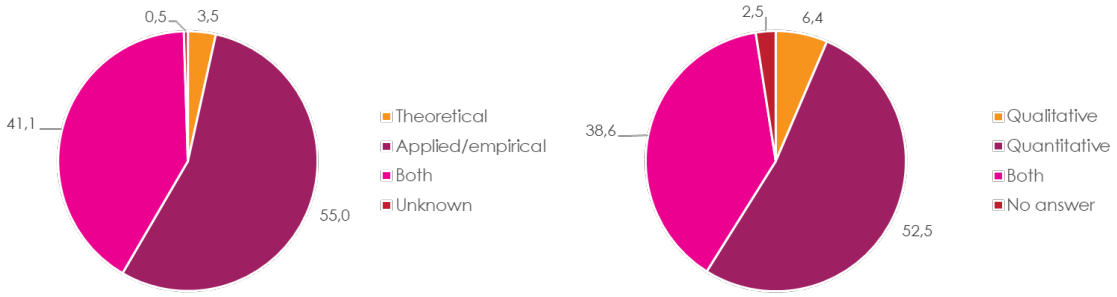
2.2.3 Main area of expertise of academic respondents

Respondents from academia or with a research background were asked to give more details about their research activities and domain. As Figure 7 shows most academic respondents are familiar with empirical or applied research: 55% indicates they mainly conduct empirical or applied research, 41% combines theoretical and empirical research. Only a very small share of the respondents (3.5%) indicates they only do theoretical research.

Further the broad majority of the academic respondents has experience with quantitative research: 53% only conducts quantitative research, 39% combines both qualitative and quantitative research methods in their research activities.

Since our user survey and the InGRID research infrastructure mainly focuses on the availability of data and methods for quantitative research, this overrepresentation of academics with an empirical and quantitative research orientation is relevant for our survey, indicating the participating academics have the appropriate research background to give valuable input to our survey.

Figure 7. The research activities of the academic experts are mainly empirical or a combination of theoretical and empirical research. Likewise most research activities are either quantitative or both quantitative and qualitative, in percentage
Type of research (question only asked to academic respondents) (n=202)



Respondents both from academics as the policy context were requested to indicate their main area of expertise and other expertise areas. Figure 8 represents the distribution of the main area of expertise of the experts in our survey. We notice that the experts are nicely distributed across the different

domains related to inclusive growth. In other words, and more importantly, there is no large overrepresentation of experts from a specific domain, though some areas of expertise are represented somewhat more than others. About 16% of the respondents indicate they have another main area of expertise than the ones suggested (and closely related to inclusive growth). Those experts are mainly active in a broad set of domains which are close to inclusive growth and social policy topics, such as migration (4%), broader social policy topics (2.4%), methodologists, survey experts or statisticians (2.8%) and other domains (6.5%) (f.e. human rights, law, public health, education).

Figure 8. The experts are distributed well across the different expertise areas related to inclusive growth, in percentage, n=248

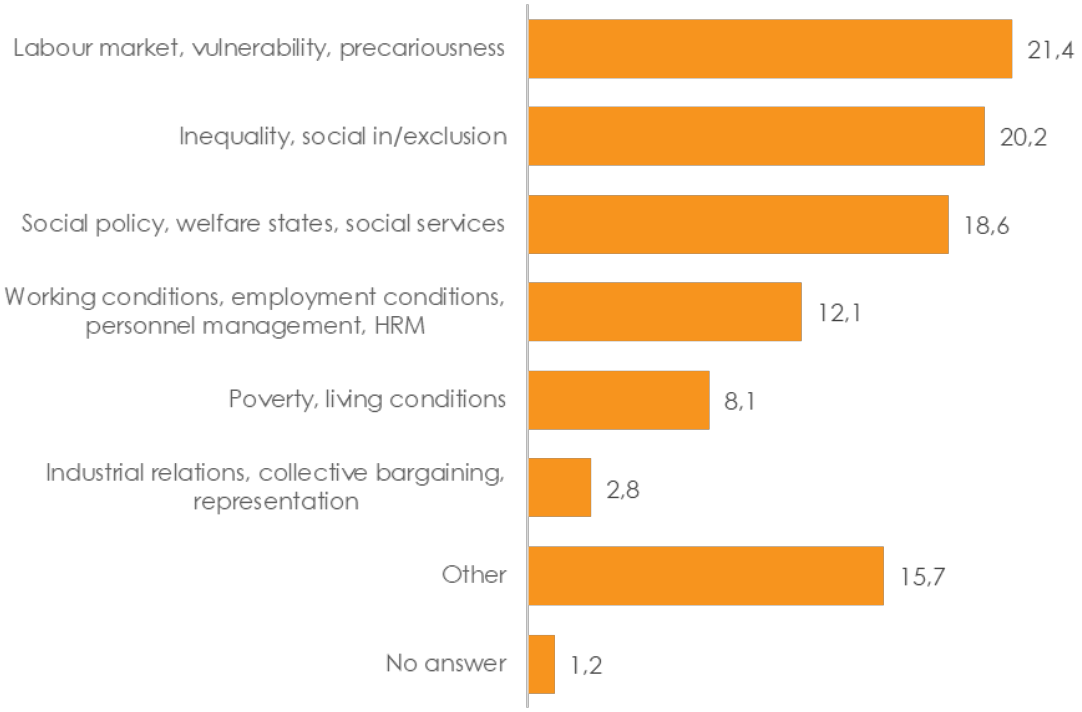
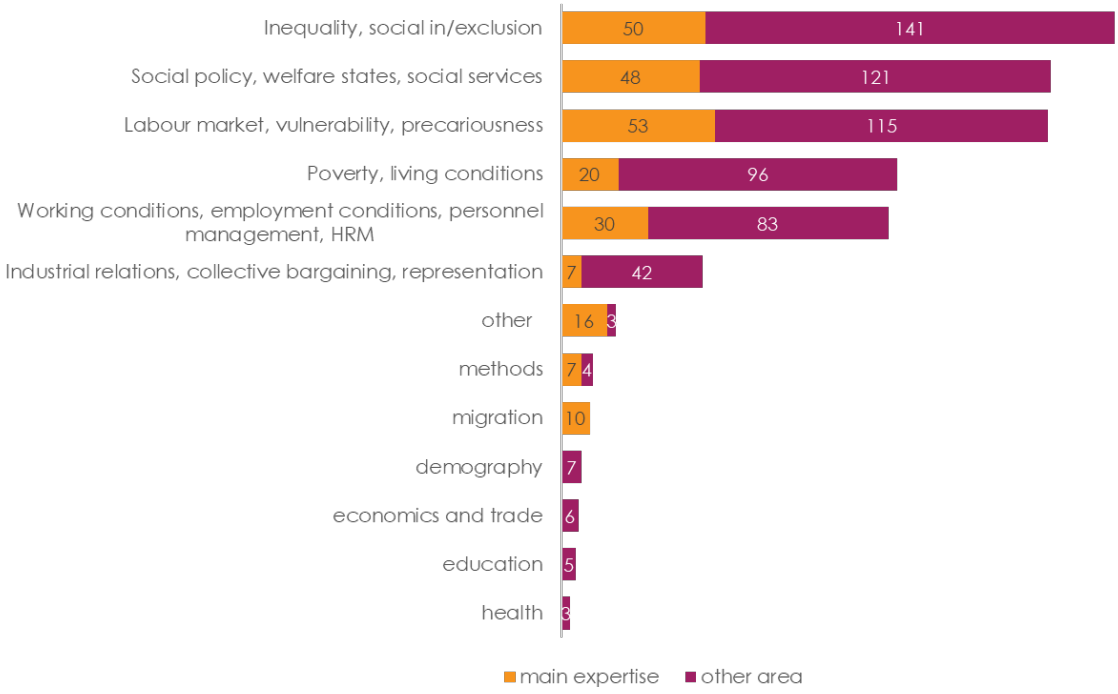


Figure 9 represents the numbers of experts for each expertise domain indicating this is their main expertise area (orange) or a domain in which they also work (purple). As above we can conclude from these figures that there is good distribution of the expertise of our respondents across different domains related to inclusive growth, such as inequality, social policy, labour market policies, poverty, working conditions, ... This ensures us we were able to collect the opinions on research infrastructure needs of the broad and diverse set of academics and policymakers involved in the European research and policymaking regarding inclusive growth, allowing for a nuanced and in-depth picture of the research infrastructure needs.

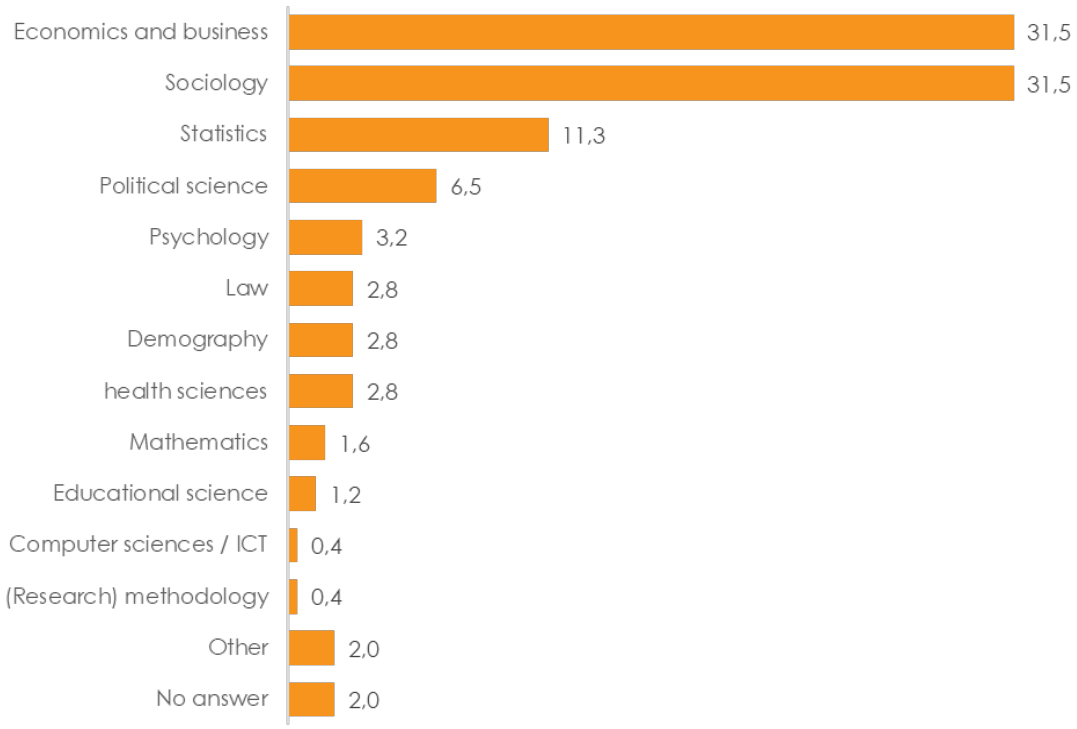
Figure 9. There is a good distribution of the expertise of the respondents across different domains regarding inclusive growth

Frequencies of experts indicating the area as their main area of expertise or an area in which they also work (n=867)



Another way to look at the background of the respondents, is the distribution across scientific fields, as presented in Figure 10. Experts from either economics and business (31.5%) or sociology (32.5%) clearly make up the majority of the respondents. Furthermore, the respondents are active in the field of statistics (11.3%) and political sciences (6.5%) and other human and social sciences.

Figure 10. The majority of the respondents is active in the field of economics and business or sociology, in percentage, n=248



3. Research infrastructure needs

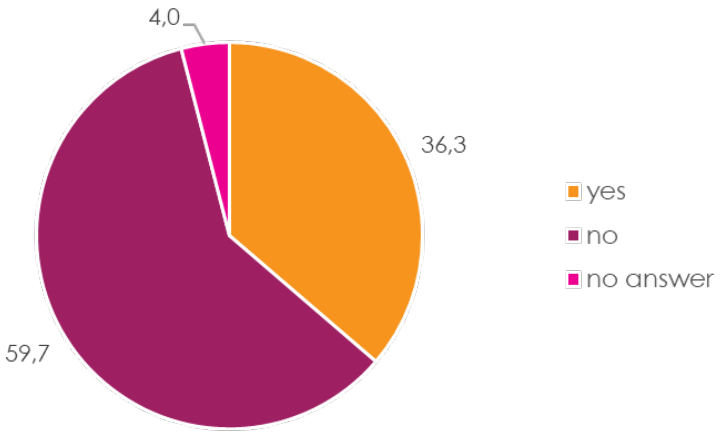
This chapter focuses on the needs and priorities that are identified by researchers and policymakers in terms of data, indicators, methods and tools. First, respondents were asked to stipulate thematic priorities related to their field of expertise that will gain importance in European policymaking and research, and whether there currently is sufficient (high-quality) data available to analyse these topics. Second, various questions verify the respondents' data use and the issues they encounter when using existing data sources and indicators. The main drivers for these issues and the priorities for new initiatives are also presented. Third, similar questions were presented regarding the methods and tools with which the respondents usually work. Fourth, both policymakers and researchers were asked about the challenges for bridging the gap between research and policy.

3.1 Future thematic priorities in the field of inclusive growth

In this part of the survey, respondents were first asked to formulate some central topics in their field of expertise that are expected to gain in relevance for future policymaking and research in Europe. Respondents listed a very detailed and broad set of topics which might gain importance. Related to poverty, inclusive growth and social policies often mentioned themes are related to migration and integration, (health) inequalities, ageing, poverty research and measurement (indicators, estimations, etc.), importance of closing the gap between old and new EU Member States (convergence), digital health, distribution of resources, housing issues, social exclusion and multidimensional poverty. Regarding working conditions, vulnerability and labour policy the following topics were put forward often: digitalisation and its impact on work, minimum wages, skill needs and mismatches, lifelong learning, ageing, gender gaps, unemployment, new forms of employment and the social protection of these workers, work-life balance and job quality and working conditions. Further also topics concerning data and methods are suggested as growing in importance, such as big data, missing data, dynamic microsimulation, new data sources, small area estimations and data linkage.

When asked whether there currently are sufficient data, indicators, methods and tools available to analyse these topics, only 36% of the respondents agree. There are, moreover, differences in who agrees with this statement. In general, policymakers indicate more often that there are sufficient data, indicators, methods and tools than academics (respectively 46% and 35%), and respondents from countries outside Europe tend to agree remarkable more frequently than respondents from non-EU European and respondents from EU countries (respectively 70%, 43% and 33%). A majority of the respondents, especially academics in EU countries, thus signals that the currently available ways for analysis are not sufficient to keep up with newly upcoming research topics.

Figure 11. About 60% of the respondents indicates that the available data, methods and tools are <u>not</u> sufficient to support research and policymaking on topics which will gain importance in the coming years at the European level, in percentage, n=248



3.2 Data and indicators

Respondents were asked about the challenges they face regarding the use of data and indicators and the related issues that should be prioritised by the InGRID-2 research infrastructures. To gain insight in the reference framework of the responding researchers and policymakers, they were first asked about the type of data they use and which data sources they typically operate.

Here, the type of data refers to the difference between primary and secondary data. Primary data is data that is collected by the user, e.g. through interviews, case studies or surveys. Secondary data is data that is collected by someone else than the end user, e.g. census data or data that is received from another researcher or institution. As Figure 12 shows, a majority of 56.5% of the respondents uses both primary and secondary data. 10.9% of the respondents uses solely primary data and 31.1% uses only secondary data.

Looking at the differences between academics and policymakers, Table 4 presents that almost one in five policymakers only uses primary data, whereas this is limited to one in ten among the academic respondents. This could be because policymakers and academics refer to the same databases differently. Some widely used databases could be considered as primary data for policymakers working at the collecting institution, whereas this database is a secondary data source for academic researchers. As a remarkable majority of 90% of academic researchers use secondary data - either in combination with primary data or not, this leads to the conclusion that secondary data are extremely important for the research field of inclusive growth.

The differences between respondents based on their geographical location are rather limited. Similar to policymakers, respondents from non-European countries more often use only primary data. A possible explanation for this is that relevant secondary data is limited or that access to this data is more difficult.

Figure 12. More than half of the respondents indicate they work with a combination of primary and secondary data. Further more than 30% only uses secondary data. A small group of respondents (11%) indicates to only work with data they collected themselves, in percentage, n=248

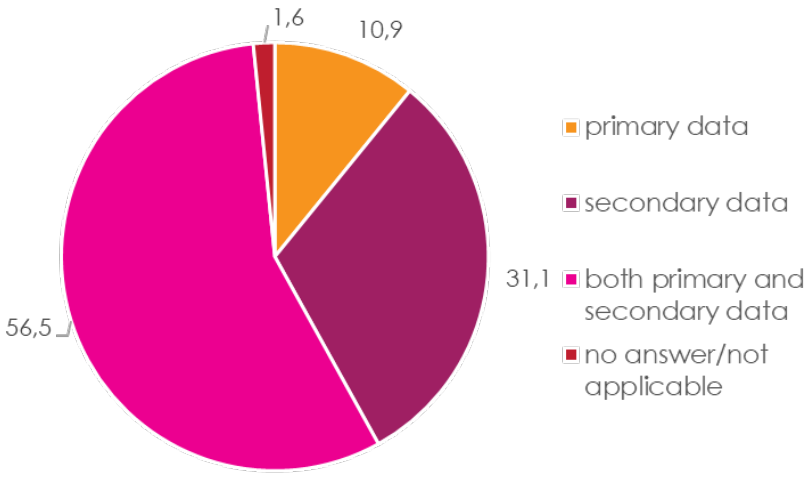


Table 4. Policymakers and respondents from non-European countries more often use only primary data, in percentage

	Academics	Policymakers	EU countries	European but non-EU countries	Non-European countries	Total
Only primary data	9.3	19.5	10.4	12.5	20	10.9
Only secondary data	35.1	12.2	33.3	20	30	31.1
Both primary and secondary data	55.1	65.9	55.7	65	50	56.5
No answer/ not applicable	0.5	2.4	0.5	2.5	0	1.6
n	**205**	**41**	**192**	**40**	**10**	**248**

Respondents using secondary data were asked to indicate the institutions that made available these data sets. The most used secondary data are data made available by the European Commission and the European Agencies - 75% of the respondents ticked this box. On the second and third place, also data made available by national governments or bodies (69%) and by international organisations (58%) are widely used. That all of these categories are widely known and used, confirms that these data sources - which are mostly collected using public funding - reach at least a part the larger public they aim for.

Other categories of data sources that were added by respondents are data from research institutes or consortia, data in repositories, and big data. These were, however, only mentioned by a small minority of the respondents, which could be due to the survey design, or it could highlight that these data sources are lesser known and/or harder to access.

Figure 13. Concerning the use of secondary data, about three in four of the respondents indicate they typically use data of the European Commission or the European agencies, which is the most frequently used data source. Further, over two in three respondents indicate to use data of national governments or bodies, and over half of the respondents uses data of other types of international organisations

Percentages of respondents that use each data set, n for each option=248

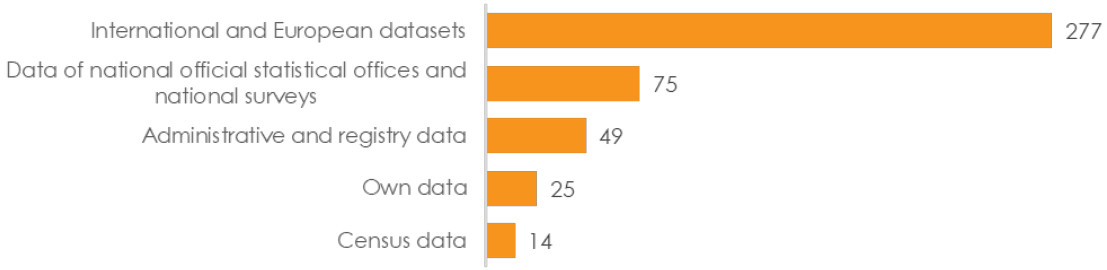
In a follow-up open question, respondents were requested to specify in more detail which data sources they use most frequently in their work. The large variety in answers can be synthesised into three major categories: mentions of data providers or data platforms, mentions of types of data, and mentions of specific data sets.

Figure 14 shows the data providers that are acknowledged in order of frequency. In this open question, 46 respondents spontaneously refer to Eurostat, and that 33 respondents do so with OECD, as the most important data providers. Next to data providers, some respondents also mentioned platforms where data can be retrieved, such as MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection), PWT (Penn World Table), CEPII data (Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales), DHS program (Demographic and Health Surveys), and UK Data Archive.

Figure 14. Eurostat and OECD are the most frequently spontaneously mentioned as data sources respondents use in their work (frequencies)

Respondents who added information about the genre of data they most frequently use, indicate that these are mostly international and European data sets. Given the target group of the InGRID-1 and InGRID-2 projects, this is not surprising. Other responses include data of national official statistical offices and national surveys, administrative and registry data, own data and census data (see Figure 15).

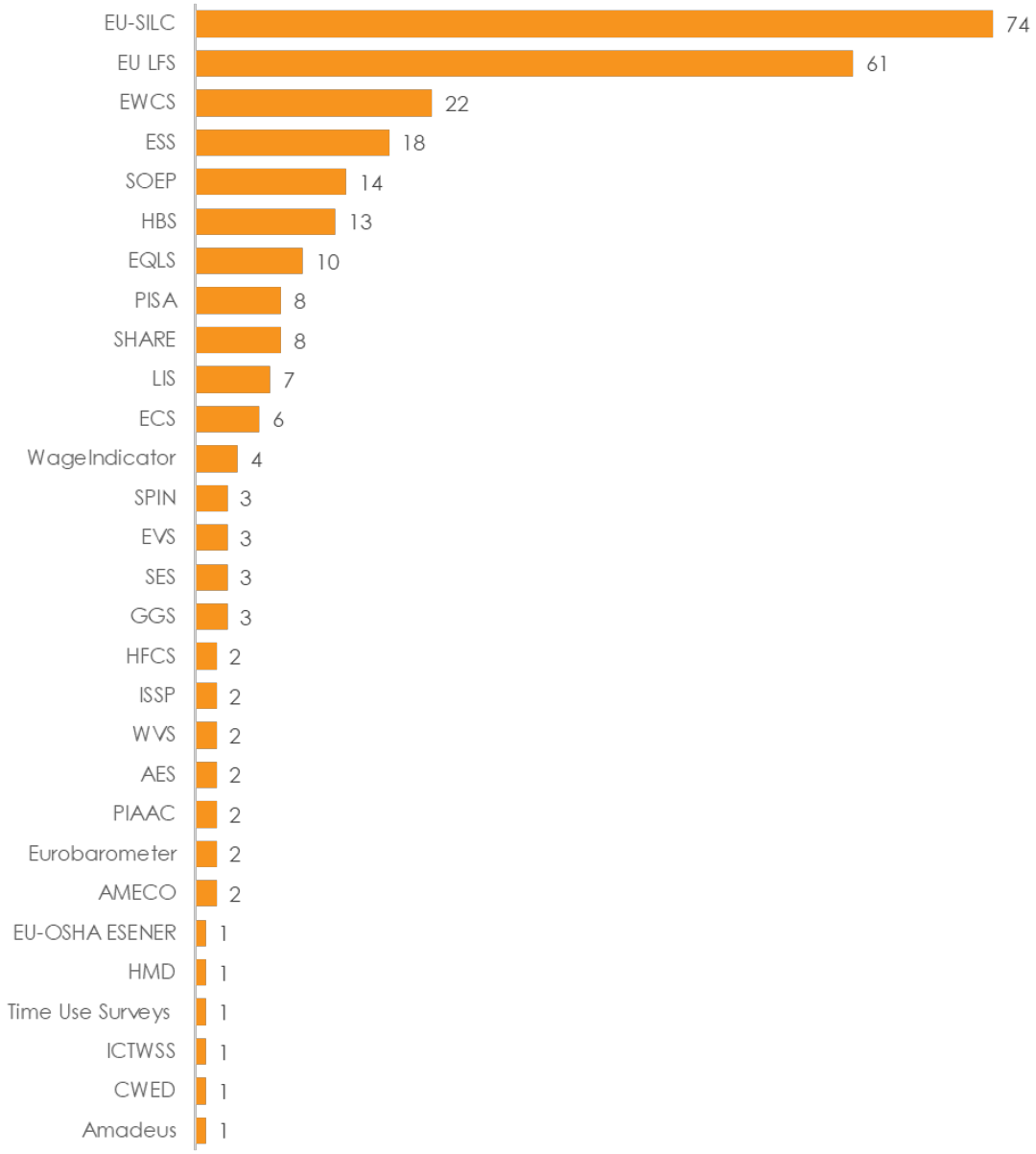
Figure 15. Almost all respondents indicate to frequently work with international and European data sets (frequencies)



With regard to specific data sets, some respondents added in detail their most frequently used European data sources, leading to a list of European or cross-national data sets. Given that these are answers to an open question, it is especially noteworthy that EU-SILC and EU-LFS are explicitly mentioned respectively 74 and 61 times. Considering the thematic focus of the EU-SILC (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) and the EU-LFS (Labour Force Survey), these data sets are rather complementary and in line with the observation that respondents are mostly involved in the topics of inequality, social policy and labour market, as stated in Chapter 2. Each in

their field of interest, these data sets are remarkable well-known, widely used, and thus crucial for research and policymaking.

Figure 16. Respondents who explicitly mention a specific data set in an open question, mostly highlight the EU-SILC and EU-LFS data sets. Further another 27 data sets are also mentioned, but less frequently (frequencies)



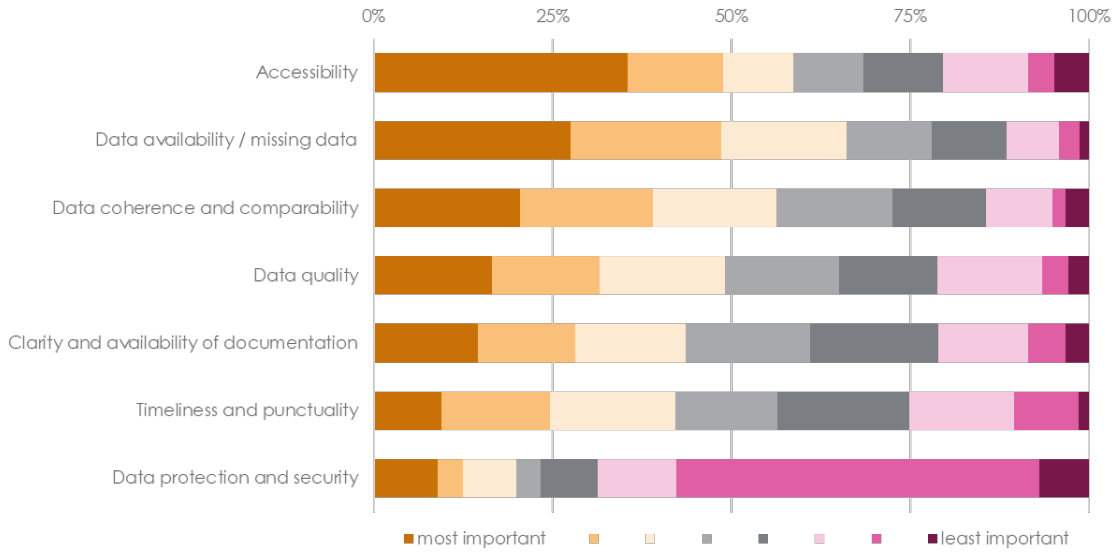
3.2.1 Issues in working with data and indicators

After an exploration of which data sets are known and used, respondents were asked about the issues they encounter when using existing data sources and indicators. The questionnaire offered eight options, which the respondents were requested to rank in importancy. Figure 17 shows these rankings in descending order. The top three of most important issues consists of accessibility, data availability, and data coherence and comparability. Almost half of the respondents indicated accessibility of the data to be the most or second most important problem when working with existing data. The

same accounts for data availability, which includes issues such as missing data, completeness of data, sample size, unit of analysis. As regards the latter, it is useful to notice that only a very limited amount of respondents indicated data availability as the least important issue. This indicates that regardless of the topic, expertise or preference of the respondent, data availability is considered a key element for future improvement.

Data protection and security (such as GDPR), on the other hand, were significantly less often mentioned as important and often selected as least important. However, this does not mean that respondents do not value this. In the context of this questionnaire, it merely shows that it is considered less important than other issues and that researchers and policymakers encounter less problems with this.

Figure 17. Data accessibility, availability and coherence are considered to be the most important issues when working with existing data, in percentage, n=248

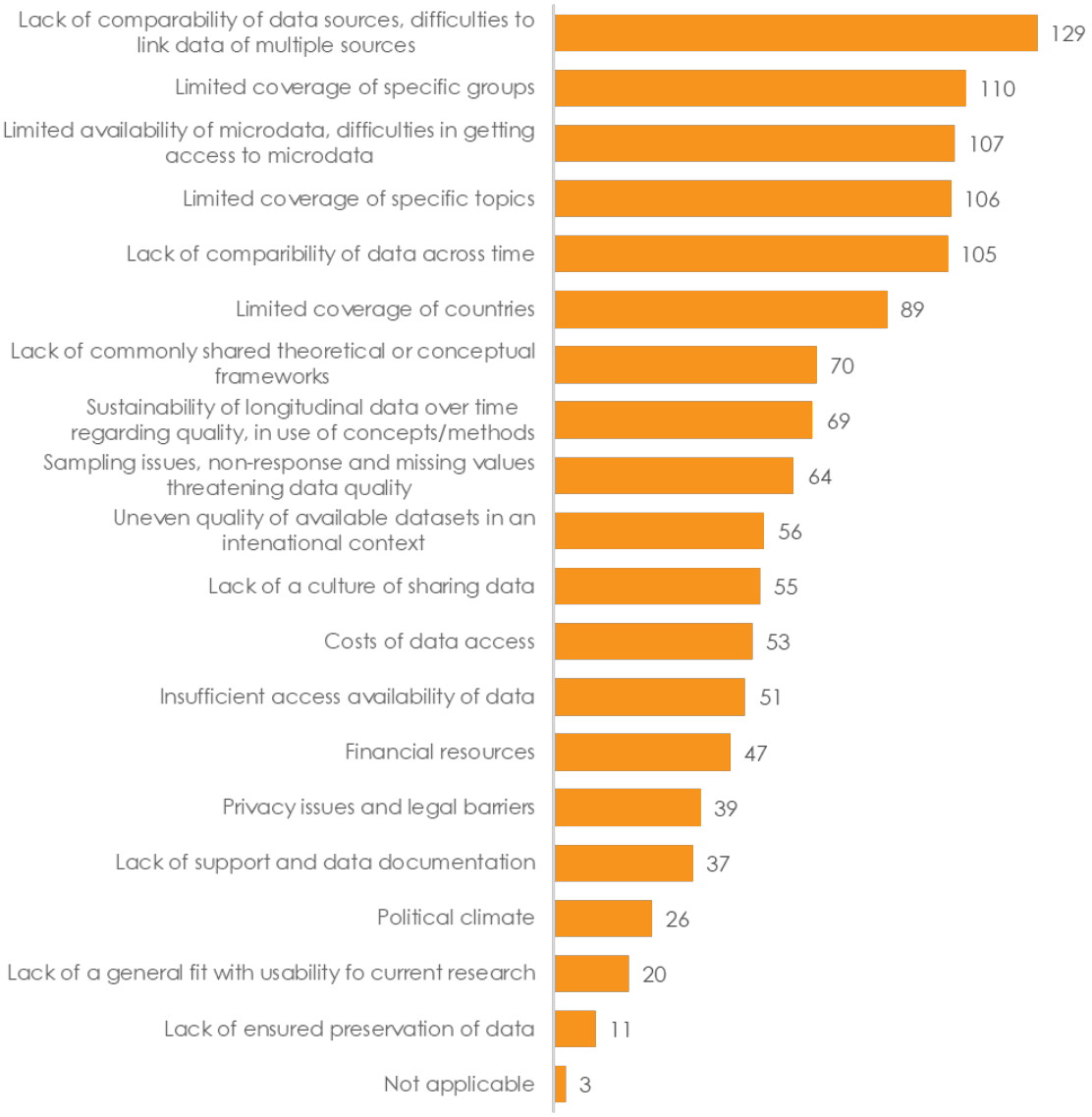


3.2.2 Drivers underpinning the above issues

To understand how these issues can be tackled in the future, respondents were asked to identify the key drivers from a list with 19 possible drivers. In total, 1,241 drivers were selected. Figure 18 shows that five drivers were mentioned over 100 times: (1) the lack of comparability of data sources, difficulties to link data of multiple sources; (2) the limited coverage of specific groups; (3) the limited availability of microdata, difficulties in getting access to microdata; (4) the limited coverage of specific topics; (5) the lack of comparability of data across times. In line with the most frequently mentioned challenges, the drivers behind these issues relate to comparability and the coverage of data.

With regard to the coverage of data, information on hard-to-reach populations is especially relevant for research on inclusive growth as this data would allow to investigate and include these groups. It is thus not surprising that the coverage of certain groups and difficulties of accessing microdata are indicated to be core drivers. These microdata are crucial for the topic of inclusive growth since they allow to focus on specific groups or regions. As presented before, especially EU-SILC and EU-LFS are important data sources. These data sets are known to have highly valuable microdata, but a long, complex and highly administrative process to access and use these microdata.

Figure 18. Respondents were asked to indicate the most important drivers behind problems to work with existing data. Drivers related to comparability, coverage and microdata were selected over 100 times (frequencies), n=1,241



Further analysis demonstrates that each respondent selected on average five drivers out of the list of 19 options. There are, however, interesting differences between respondents based on both their location and their function.

Policymakers select slightly more drivers than academics (5.8 versus 4.9 on average). In addition to the number of drivers, there are also interesting differences in the type of answers academics or policymakers choose. Generally, policymakers are more likely to point at issues relating to the representativeness of data, such as accessibility and coverage, the lack of common frameworks and the political climate as drivers of difficulties for using data. This might be linked to the reasons why they consult these data sources: mainly to substantiate statements and decisions on specific groups or topics. Academics, in comparison, place more emphasis on drivers related to data quality, such as sustainability of longitudinal data over time or in the use of concepts and methods, sampling issues, non-response and missing values. This makes sense, given that academic researchers traditionally use data to publishing purposes that require high data quality standards. Only a very small minority selects the political climate as a driver for problems with data usage.

As regards the respondents' location, respondents from EU countries select the lowest number of drivers (4.9), followed by respondents from European non-EU countries (5.2), and finally respondents from countries outside Europe (6.7). Looking at the type of drivers respondents select, some trends can be distinguished. Respondents in EU countries are relatively more concerned about a shared theoretical framework, longitudinal data, and uneven data quality. This might be explained by the observation that research and policymaking in the EU is strongly oriented towards comparison, especially with other EU countries.

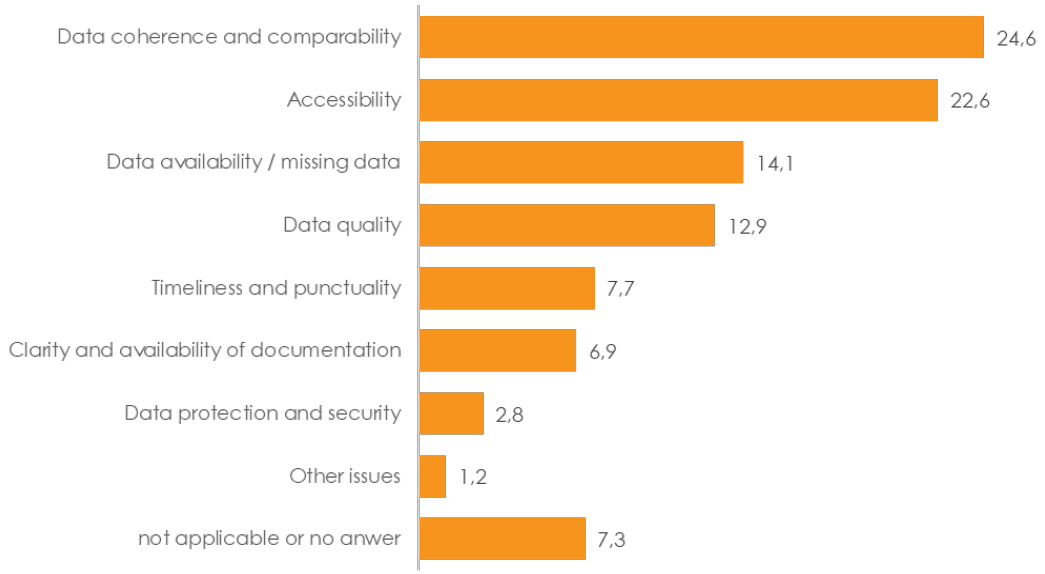
In European non-EU countries, comparability issues are completed with coverage issues regarding certain populations and topics and difficulties to access and use microdata. This can stem from a lack of participation in large international data sets or a scarcity of budgets and capacities to build national data sets with the required level of detail to analyse subpopulations or to discuss atypical topics. For example, most of these countries are included in the European Working Conditions Survey, but their small sample size hampers more detailed analysis. That these respondents also indicate difficulties for using microdata of larger data sources, could be because of more complex regulations for non-EU countries, and less supportive initiatives such as Eurostat and InGRID.

As stated before, respondents in countries outside Europe tend to select more drivers for issues in using existing data. First, they highlight drivers similar as European respondents, on limited coverage and availability of microdata. On top of that, they stress other drivers such as the limited coverage of countries, financial resources and the costs of data access, the lack of a culture of sharing data, and the lack of support and data documentation. These drivers are rarely selected by European respondents, which might confirm the relevance of the EU's efforts regarding data management and accessibility, through for example the InGRID projects.

3.2.3 Priorities for the InGRID-2 consortium

When asked about the priorities the InGRID-2 consortium should set regarding challenges on data and indicators, academics and policymakers state that attention should go to improving data coherence and comparability and increasing accessibility of existing data. The top three in Figure 19 shows the ranking of key priorities according to respondents from EU countries. Respondents from European non-EU countries also mostly selected these priorities, but put slightly more emphasis on data accessibility and put data quality and data availability on a shared third place. The future priorities of non-European respondents, however, mainly stress data availability and data quality.

Figure 19. Improving data coherence and comparability and improving accessibility of existing data should be the main priorities for the InGRID-2-consortium regarding challenges concerning data and indicators, in percentage, n=248



3.3 Methods and tools

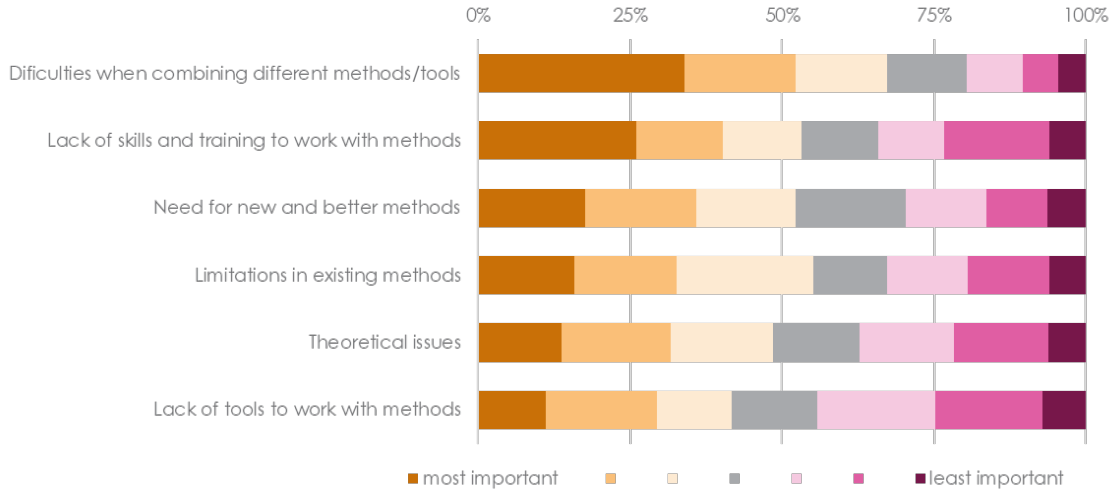
In the next part of the survey, respondents were questioned about the methods and tools they frequently use. The focus on methods and tools is very broad and encompasses the wide range of qualitative and quantitative analysis methods, statistical and analytical programmes and other research tools which might be applied by the very diverse set of experts in this user survey. Regarding qualitative methods, the respondents mention a broad set of methods in their toolkit, such as focus groups, in-depth interviews, participant observation, case studies, qualitative comparative analysis (QCA), ethnographic methods, desk research, systematic literature review methods and discourse analysis. Likewise, in terms of quantitative data analysis methods the experts put forward an extensive list of methods which they frequently use ranging from simple descriptive and bivariate statistics to complex data analysis methods. A grasp out of their toolkit gives a view on the diversity of the quantitative data analysis methods which are frequently used: linear regression analysis, logistic regression, probit and logit models, ANOVA, factor analysis, cluster analysis and latent class analysis, multilevel models, structural equations modelling (SEM), small area estimations, sequence analysis, GIS, etc. Experts also provided information on the statistical software they use. For quantitative analysis, R and STATA are mentioned most frequently, but also other software packages are used (such as SPSS, Excel, Python). The importance of open source software is highlighted, especially by R-users. For qualitative analysis, tools like NVIVO and Atlas TI are listed by the respondents. Finally, experts also discussed other 'tools' such as EUROMOD and HHoT, composite indicators and visualisation techniques as part of their toolkit for research on inclusive growth

The following sections focus on the issues respondents encounter in the use of these methods and tools and the drivers they find behind these issues and problems. Further, the experts are asked to indicate which challenges regarding methods and tools they see as a priority for the InGRID-2 consortium.

3.3.1 Issues in working with methods and tools

Respondents were asked to rank the issues they encounter when using the methods and tools mentioned earlier. Figure 20 shows that difficulties when combining different methods/tools is stated as the most or second most important issue by over 50% of the academics and policymakers. The lack of skills and training to work with the named methods and the need for new and better methods are placed second and third. Other issues that were added by respondents were problems related to the use of specific software and the time to learn and experiment with new data.

Figure 20. Difficulties when combining different methods and tools is mentioned as the most important or second most important issue with available methods and tools by more than half of the respondents. A second important issues which is put forward is the lack of skills to work with methods, in percentage, n=248

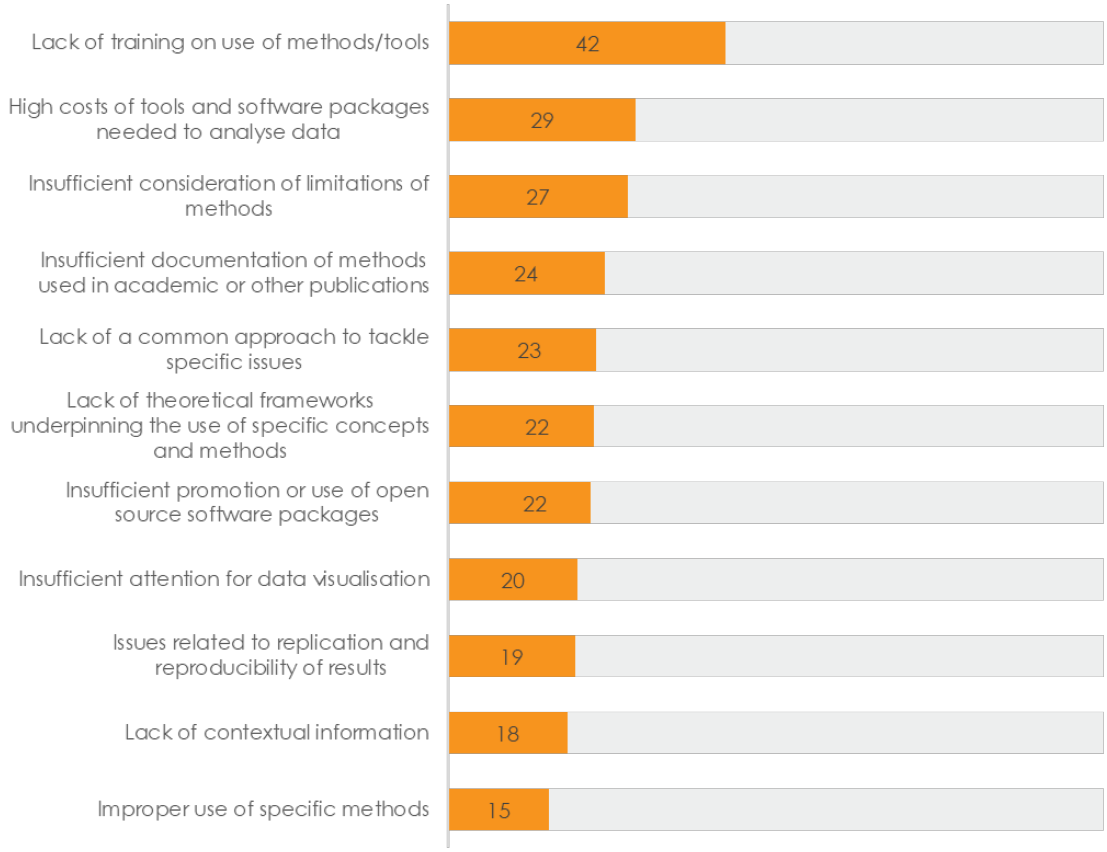


3.3.2 Drivers underpinning the issues

When asked about the main drivers causing these issues, respondents were able to select multiple answers from an 11 item list. In total, 648 drivers were selected by the respondents, which leads to an average of 2.6 drivers per respondent. Similar as for the drivers in the data and indicators section, experts from EU countries selected the least items (2.5), followed by non-EU Europeans (3.2) and experts from outside Europe (3.8).

In general, the most important driver to tackle is the lack of training to work with new tools and methods, as 42% of the respondents selects this item (Figure 21). The lack of training is selected by up to 70% of the respondents outside Europe. A variety of actors in the fields of research and policymaking could engage to address this issue. Therefore, Chapter 4 discusses more in depth how respondents prefer to follow training activities. Next to training, also the high costs of tools and software packages, and insufficient consideration of limitations of methods are drivers that are selected by more than a quarter of the respondents.

Figure 21. About 42% of the respondents indicate that a lack of training on the use of methods and tools is an important driver of the issues they encounter with methods and tools. 29% of the respondents indicate the high costs of tools and software packages as important driver. Insufficient consideration of limitations is methods is the third most indicated driver (27%)
Percentage of respondents that indicate each driver, n=248



Even though the lack of training is unanimously considered as crucial by respondents in and outside Europe and by academics and policymakers, large differences can be noticed considering the rest of their priorities. According to academics, the top five is completed by (2) the limitations of methods, (3) high costs, (4) insufficient documentation of methods used in publications, and (5) the lack of theoretical frameworks underpinning the use of specific concepts and methods.

Among policymakers, training and the costs of tools and software packages almost share a first place, followed by (3) the lack of a common approach to tackle specific issues, (4) insufficient attention for data visualisation, and (5) issues related to replication and reproducibility of results.

When asked to elaborate on these drivers in an open question, most respondents clarify the training needs they notice. This is mostly focused on the use and costs of statistical methods and programmes. Regarding the latter, respondents state that more training is needed on open source software as currently, most educational courses teach student to work with expensive software packages:

'I believe that we should start teaching students to use open source software packages i.e. R or Python so that they do not have to deal with the licensure issue and costs in the future.'

Respondents also add the general request for more documentation, especially to be provided by key data providers. For example:

'Moreover, Eurostat should provide codes of how indicators are calculated.'

This also links to contextual information that is needed to understand, work with and combine secondary data sources:

'Many social policies are regionalised. Multilevel analysis combining micro-data with regional policy indicators is very promising but the regional policy data are often missing.'

3.3.3 Priorities for InGRID-2 research infrastructure

At the end of this part on methods and tools, the respondents also put forward important priorities for the InGRID-2 research infrastructure. As is shown in Figure 22, one fourth of the respondents indicate addressing the lack of skills and training to work with the methods as a priority. Difficulties when combining different methods and tools is also mentioned the most important priority for InGRID-2 by one fourth of the respondents. This is in line with the main issues identified earlier.

Once again there are differences between academics and policymakers. Almost 30% of the academics prioritise the lack of training, followed by difficulties when combining methods/tools (almost 25%), and the need for new and better methods (almost 10%). According to policymakers, the need for new and better methods, and difficulties when combining different methods/tools share a first place (almost 25% each), followed by theoretical issues (almost 10%).

Distinguishing answers based on the respondents' location shows that European experts stipulate the same priorities as in Figure 22. Experts from outside Europe, however, highlight the lack of skills and training (50%) and the need for new and better methods (30%) but do not mention difficulties when combining methods/tools.

Figure 22. The respondents put forward to important priorities for the InGRID-2 consortium regarding methods and tools: 25% of the respondents prioritise addressing the lack of skills and training to work with the methods, 24% indicate that addressing difficulties when combining different methods and tools is the most important priority for InGRID-2, in percentage, n=248

3.4 Research context and policymaking

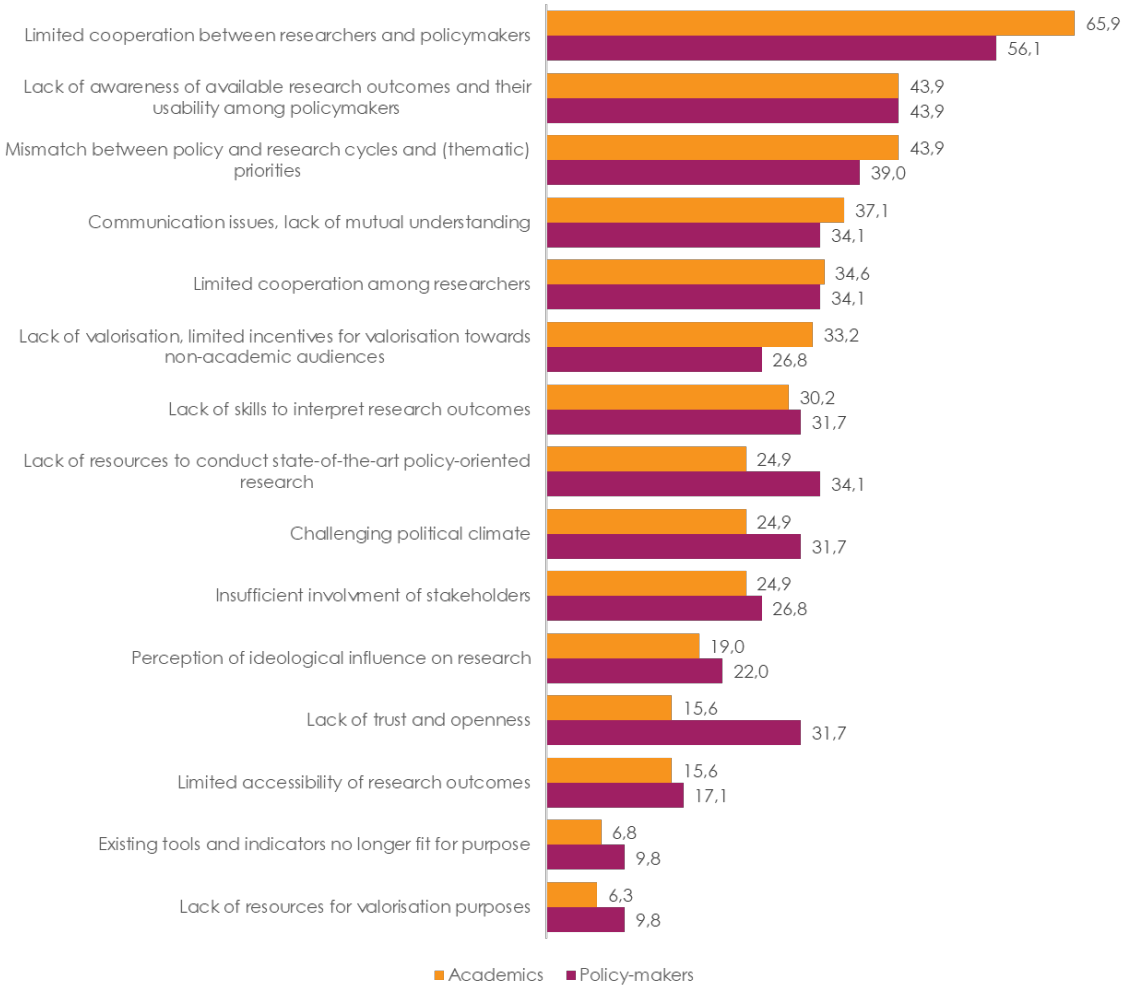
In the first InGRID project, a similar user survey was conducted and served as a basis for the current survey and report. According to the InGRID-1 report, bridging the gap between policymaking and research is considered as an important challenge for policy-oriented research and evidence-based policymaking. To follow-up on this challenge, respondents in the current survey were asked about the issue and were requested to indicate all possible issues they found important. Figure 23 presents

the percentage of academics and policymakers that indicated each of the suggested challenges. We focus here on academics and policymakers separately because it is relevant to see to which extent they agree or disagree regarding challenges to bridge the gap between these two groups.

A first important observation is that academics and policymakers in general agree regarding the top five challenges: both groups identify the 'limited cooperation between researchers and policymakers' as the main challenge, followed by 'the lack awareness of available research outcomes and their usability among policymakers' and 'the mismatch between policy and research cycles and thematic priorities'. Also 'communication issues and lack of mutual understanding' and 'limited cooperation among researchers' are frequently mentioned as challenges by both groups. Further, policymakers more than academics indicate that issues such as 'lack of trust and openness', 'lack of resources to conduct state-of-the art policy-oriented research' and 'challenging political climate' are important challenges concerning this issue.

In addition, an interesting difference between European and non-European respondents can be observed. European respondents put limited cooperation between researchers and policymakers as the most important challenge. According to EU-respondents, this is followed by a lack of awareness of available outcomes, while non-EU European respondents point at limited cooperation between researchers. This difference might be explained by the large amount of collaborations between EU-researchers in projects. Respondents outside Europe highlight other challenges. They mention the lack of valorisation, limited incentives for valorisation towards non-academics as the most important challenge, followed by the lack of awareness for available outcomes.

Figure 23. Both academics and policymakers put forward the same top 5 of challenges related to bridging the gap between research and policy. Most mentioned challenges are the limited cooperation between researchers and policymakers, the lack of awareness of available research outcomes and their usability among policymakers and the mismatch between policy and research cycles and thematic priorities, in percentage



* n academics = 205, n policymakers = 41.

Finally, respondents were asked to explain how InGRID-2 can best help to bridge the gap between data and policy. In this open question, six points were mentioned frequently. First, InGRID-2 could increase the interaction between both parties through events such as round tables, seminars, workshops, and conferences. These events should embody investments in actual interaction and cooperation. One respondent states the following:

'A big problem is certainly a lack of regular interaction between both policymakers and stakeholders within the wider political sector (whether civil society organisations, employee and employer organisations, industry or political groupings) -- conferences and seminars often seem to consist solely of academics.'

Second, InGRID-2 could improve communication by advertising research results. These should be more accessible and understandable for policymakers; long and complex research report and peer-reviewed journal articles could be completed by short policy-oriented articles, podcasts, presentations, graphs, newsletters, visualisations, and infographics. Also translating research in multiple languages and to the linguistic register of policymakers can help. These actions would allow to present research results more often to non-academic audiences. In addition, InGRID-2 could promote open science to avoid research articles to be behind paywalls.

'Help with data visualisation/communication - I think the future is not in complicated reports but in simple infographics/presentations.'

'Most of academia suffers from an inability to clearly and concisely communicate findings to a non-expert or non-academic audience.'

Third, universities, governments and other financing bodies can contribute to bridging the gap by putting more value to non-academic output.

'We should learn how to make [this] and to train commissioners to value this kind of output over the lengthy narratives (which can instead be considered annexes).'

'Create a climate in which universities and governments also value output that is not strictly academic (such as lectures and publications for non-academic audience, participation in summer schools for practioners, ...).'

Fourth, it is mentioned that training for policymakers on e.g. reading research findings, or working with and interpreting complex data could help. Fifth, InGRID-2 could provide and lobby for more support for networks between policymakers and researchers. Finally, in addition to the current InGRID-2 data portal, a portal could be created on which policymakers and academics can interact and exchange information.

4. Needs and challenges for InGRID-2 regarding training, networking activities and visiting grants

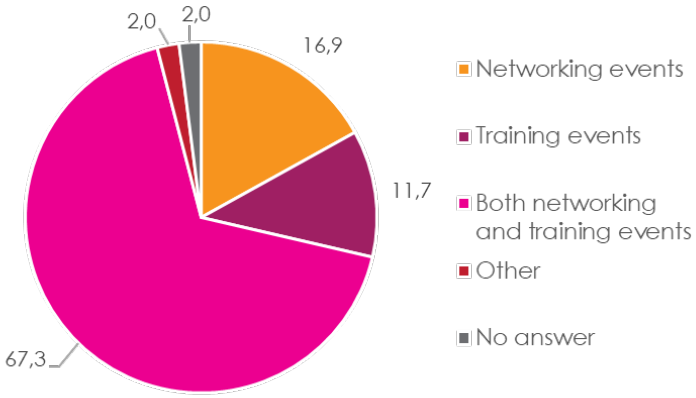
A large focus of the InGRID-2 research infrastructure is on organising events for various groups on topics related to inclusive growth research, such as summer schools, expert workshops, data forums, special interest groups, stakeholder platform conferences and round tables. Further InGRID-2 offers the opportunity for visiting grants to 16 InGRID research institutes for a short-term visit (maximum 20 days) for in total 250 visitors. Finally virtual and off-site data access opportunities to data sets of LIS and LWS microdata and to EUROMOD are provided.

The user survey inquires among the respondents about their interests for specific training and networking events, their participation in InGRID-2 events and their use of the visiting grant for transnational access opportunities of the InGRID-2 project.

4.1 Experts on inclusive growth experience a high need for training and networking events related to data and methods

Respondents were asked which types of training and networking events they are most interested in. Figure 24 gives an overview of their preferences. The main share (67%) of the respondents indicate they are interested in both networking events such as conferences, workshops or seminars, and training events such as summer schools. A few respondents indicated 'other' and suggested more interest in conferences that focus on working together on a specific theme in a problem solving oriented way (instead of the typical paper presentations) and more interest in research visits.

Figure 24. The main share of the respondents are interested in both networking and training events, in percentage, n=248



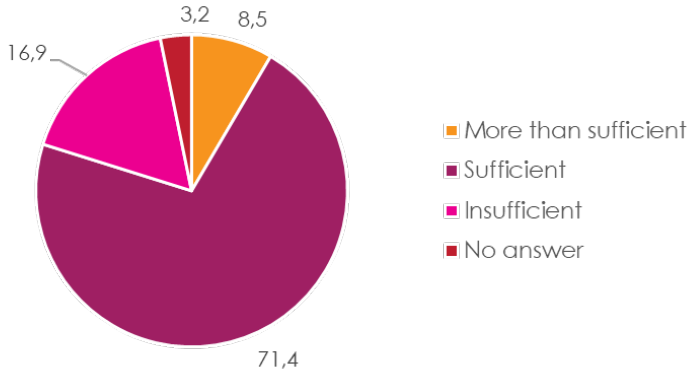
As is shown in Table 5, policymakers even more often than academics indicate an interest in both training events and networking events. Further, there are no large differences between respondents from countries of the EU, other European countries and countries from outside Europe.

Table 5. There are no large differences between different groups of respondents in the preferences for events, in percentage

	Academics	Policymakers	EU countries	European but non-EU countries	Non-European countries	Total
Networking events	18.5	9.8	17.7	17.5	0	16.9
Training events	12.2	9.8	11.5	15	10	11.7
Both networking and training events	66.8	73.3	67.7	65	80	67.3
Other	1	7.3	2.1	2.5	0	2
No answer	1.5	0	1	0	10	2
n	**205**	**41**	**192**	**40**	**10**	**248**

Experts are asked to evaluate the current offer of events (training events and networking events) in Europe. Figure 25 shows that almost 80% of the respondents find the current offer sufficient or even more than sufficient. There is however a small share of 17% that indicates that the current offer is insufficient.

Figure 25. About 80% of the respondents evaluate the current offer of events in Europe as sufficient or more than sufficient, in percentage, n=248



Policymakers are more polarised about the existing offer of events for training and networking in Europe compared to academics (Table 6). They more often find it more than sufficient (15%) or insufficient (24%). There are no large differences between respondents from EU countries, other European countries and non-European countries, although these last two groups are also somewhat more polarised in their opinions. But in general for all groups the largest share of the respondents agrees that the existing offer is either sufficient or even more than sufficient.

Table 6. Policymakers more often find the existing offer of events in Europe either more than sufficient or insufficient than academics, in percentage

	Academics	Policymakers	EU countries	European but non-EU countries	Non-European countries	Total
More than sufficient	7.3	14.6	6.8	15	20	
Sufficient	74.6	58.5	75	65	40	
Insufficient	15.6	24.4	15.6	20	30	
No answer	2.4	2.4	2.6	0	0	
n	**205**	**41**	**192**	**40**	**10**	**248**

Respondents who found the current offer insufficient were also asked to elaborate on this. Main reasons which are pure forward are:

- offer is not sufficient for all groups of researchers. Often there is only an offer for either young and unexperienced researchers (such as PhD students) or very experienced professors. There is a gap for senior researchers;
- for some events you need to apply and only a small group of (often the same) privileged people is invited;
- more need for online courses and training;
- a lot of the events are not inclusive for researchers from non-EU countries.

We also inquired about possible topics of which experts think they should be addressed more during events in Europe. The experts could indicate seven topics suggested in the survey or do additional suggestions. Figure 26 gives an overview of share of respondents that indicated the topic should receive more attention for the seven suggested topics. Half of the respondents indicated that challenges related to linking data from different sources should be addressed more in events. Further a lot of experts list 'the use of existing methods and tools' and 'policy issues and context' as topics which should receive more attention. However, each of the suggested topics in the survey was found to be important and in need of more attention by at least one third of the experts. These are topics regarding the development of new methods and tools, challenges related to specific existing data sources, challenges related to data collection and theoretical frameworks and conceptualisation. Additional suggestions for important topics were events focussing on data visualisation and on broader policy issues and social trends.

Further we can see differences between types of respondents concerning the topics they find most important (Table 7). Policymakers prefer more attention for topics such as data linkage and policy issues, while academics list data linkage and the use of existing methods and tools most often as important topics. There are also differences across countries: within the EU and in non-European countries experts put a focus on data linkage and theoretical frameworks and conceptualisations, other European countries list policy issues and context and the use of existing methods and tools most often as important topics. On average the respondents selected 2.9 topics (out of 8 options) as topics which should be addressed more. Policymakers selected somewhat more topics (3.4) that academics (2.9), and experts from the EU indicated less topics (2.8) than those from other European countries (3.3) or countries outside Europe (3.5).

Figure 26. The top 3 list of topics which should receive more attention during events is: challenges related to linking data from different sources, the use of existing methods and tools, and policy issues and context, in percentage, n=248

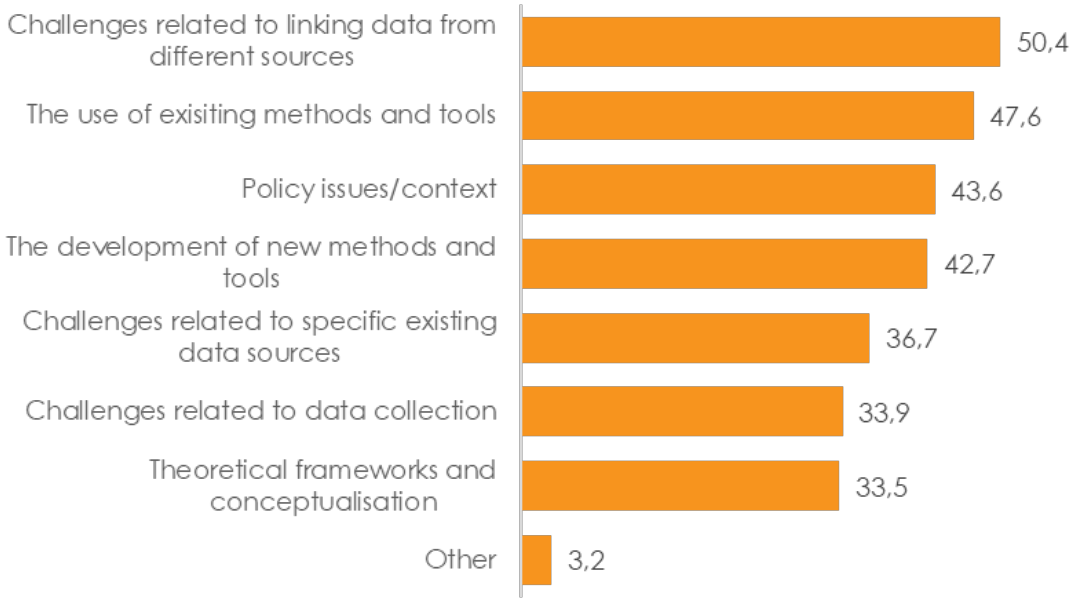


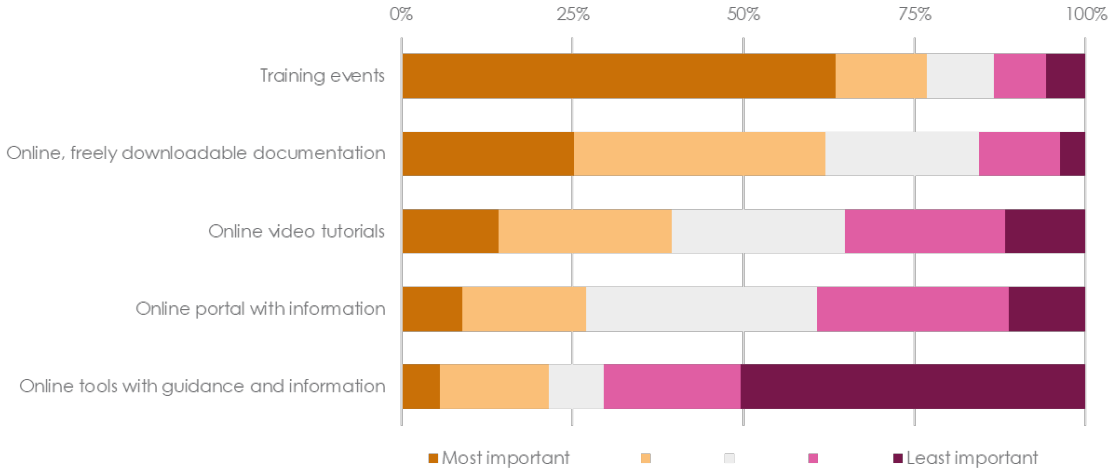
Table 7. Policymakers prefer more attention for topics such as data linkage and policy issues, while academics list data linkage and the use of existing methods and tools most often as important topics. There are also differences across countries: within the EU and in non-European countries experts put a focus on data linkage and theoretical frameworks and conceptualisations, other European countries list policy issues and context and the use of existing methods and tools most often as important topics, in percentage

	Academics	Policymakers	EU countries	European but non-EU countries	Non-European countries	Total
Challenges related to linking data from different sources	49.3	58.5	47.4	42.5	70	50.4
The use of existing methods and tools	48.8	43.9	42.2	52.5	40	47.6
Policy issues/context	41.5	56.1	39.1	62.5	50	43.6
The development of new methods and tools	42.0	48.8	33.9	47.5	50	42.7
Challenges related to specific existing data sources	35.1	46.3	32.3	32.5	50	36.7
Challenges related to data collection	33.7	36.6	35.9	25	30	33.9
Theoretical frameworks and conceptualisation	33.7	34.1	47.4	42.5	70	33.5
n	**205**	**41**	**192**	**40**	**10**	**248**

There is a wide offer of educational resources available for researchers and policymakers. In the survey we want to get insights in which types of educationals the experts think are more or less helpful

(Figure 27). Training events (such as summer schools, workshops and lectures) are by far seen as the most important and most helpful educational resources, followed by online and freely downloadable documentations (such as articles and books). Other types of resources, such as online video tutorials (e.g., online portals with information and online tools with guidance and information) are valued less. Clearly experts stress the importance of real life training events about all types of online resources.

Figure 27. Training events are by far seen as the most important and most helpful educational resource, followed by only and freely downloadable documentation, in percentage, n=248

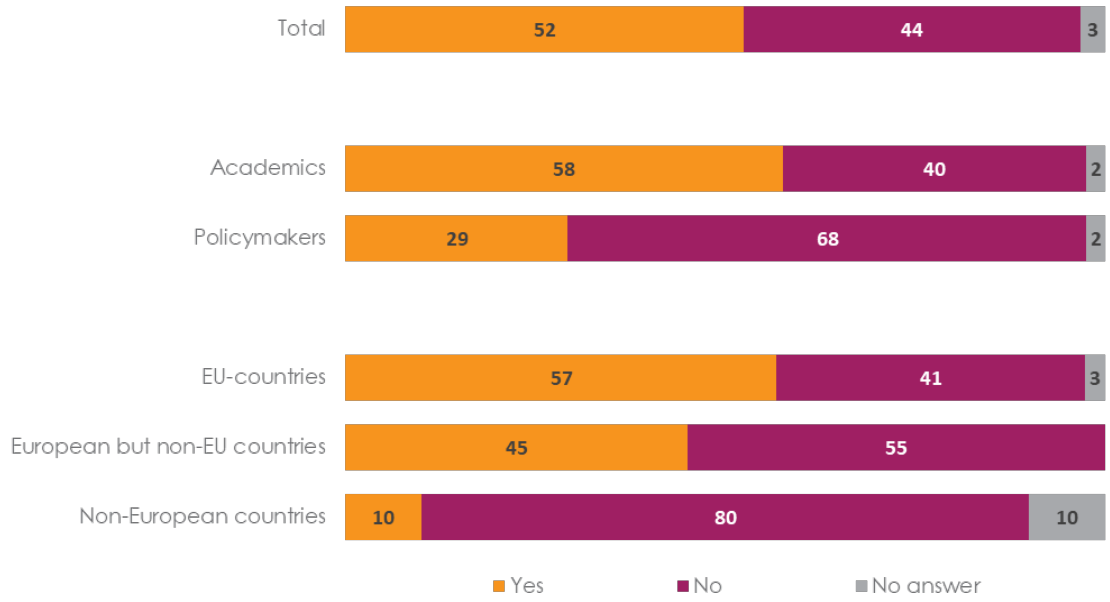


Experts were also asked how they find information on interesting events in their field. The most mentioned sources appears to be through newsletters and mailing lists which the respondents receive in their mailbox. Further also google searches and information on specific websites (such as INOMICS, summerschoolsineurope, IZA) which give overviews of training and networking opportunities are important information sources for events. Suggestions by colleagues and partners in projects are also good sources for suggestions for interesting events. Experts further mention other, less important sources: research networks, conferences, personal invitations and social media (twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn).

4.2 Participation in InGRID-2 events

Half of the respondents to this user survey indicated to have participated in one or more InGRID events in the past years (Figure 28). From them, academics participated more often (58%) than policymakers (29%). Likewise we see more participation among respondents from EU countries compared to respondents from other European countries. From the respondents from outside Europe only one (10%) indicated he or she participated in an InGRID event. This is of course not surprising since it is more difficult for these groups to apply for InGRID events (e.g. travel budget restriction, ...).

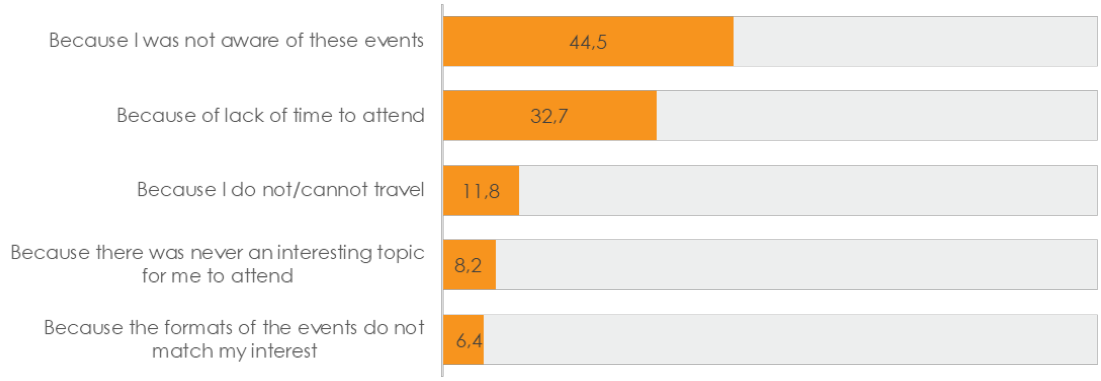
Figure 28. Half of the respondents participated in one or several InGRID events in the past years. Academics and respondents from EU-member stated indicated most often they participated in an event, in percentage



* n total=248, n academics=205, n policymakers=41, n EU countries = 192, n European but non-EU countries=40, n Non-European countries = 10.

Those respondents who did not participate in an InGRID event were asked for the reasons why they did not participate. Figure 29 gives an overview of the reasons and the percentage of respondents (of those who did not participate) that selected each of the reasons. The most mentioned reason for not participating is that they were simply not aware of the existence of these events (45%). The second most important reason is a lack of time to attend events (33%). Other reasons are because the respondent cannot travel (12%), because there was no interesting topic (8%) or because the format did not match with the interest of the respondent (6%). Respondents could indicate other reasons for not participating, which were that they applied but were not accepted, that events are oriented mostly to younger researchers and because it is too costly. This last reason is however a strange motivation, since InGRID events have no fee and all or a large part of the travel and accommodation costs are covered by the project. However this might indicate it is important to provide more information on the limited costs linked to participation in InGRID events to potential participants.

Figure 29. The most mentioned reason for not participating in InGRID events is that they were simply not aware of the existence of these events (45%). The second most important reason is a lack of time to attend events (33%), in percentage, n=110



There are some differences between the groups of respondents, as can be seen in Table 8. For 50% of the policymakers a lack of awareness is the main reason for not participating. In comparison a lack of time is a more often mentioned reason among academics, while the lack of awareness of these events is also the main reason among academics. For respondents from non-European countries a lack of awareness of the events and the impossibility to travel are the main reasons not to participate in InGRID events.

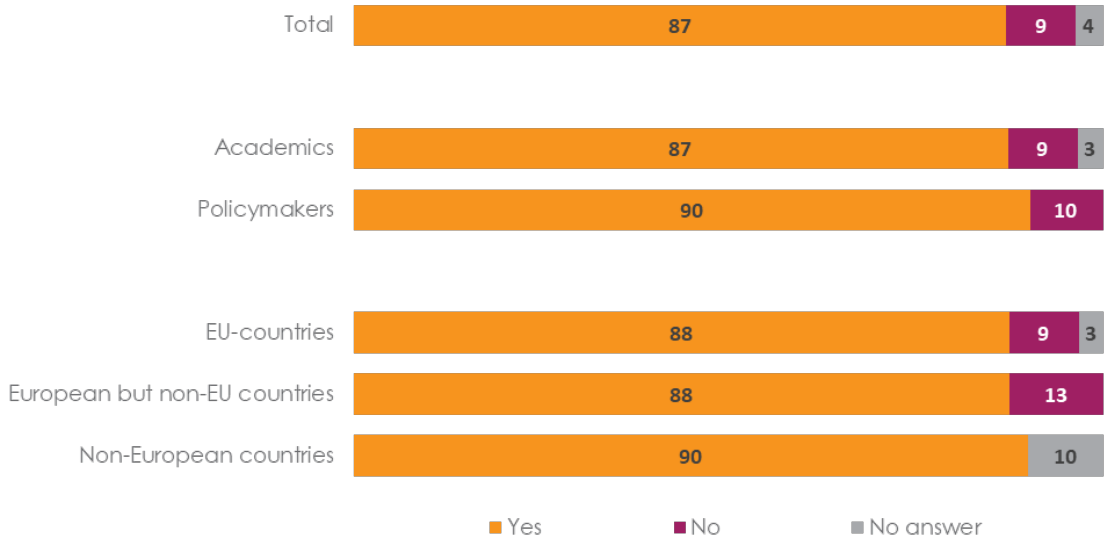
Table 8. For respondents from non-European countries, a lack of awareness of InGRID events and the impossibility to travel are the main reasons not to participate in the events. For all other groups the lack of awareness and a lack of time are the two most important reasons for not participating, in percentage

	Academics	Policymakers	EU countries	European but non-EU countries	Non-European countries	Total
Because I was not aware of these events	42.7	50.0	46.2	31.8	62.5	44.5
Because of lack of time to attend	35.4	25.0	38.5	27.3	0	32.7
Because I do not/ cannot travel	9.8	17.9	11.5	4.5	37.5	11.8
Because there was never an interesting topic for me to attend	8.5	7.1	9.0	9.1	0	8.2
Because the formats of the events do not match my interest	7.3	3.6	9.0	0	0	6,4
n (= who indicated they did not attend an InGRID event	**82**	**28**	**78**	**22**	**8**	**110**

Finally, respondents were also asked whether they would make use of freely accessible online training resources if those were made available by InGRID and the topic covered could be of interest to them. Their responses are shown in Figure 30. A vast majority (87%) of the respondents indicate they would make use of such online training resources. This percentage is even larger for policymakers than academics, and larger for respondents from non-European countries. Due to the COVID-19 crisis that started in March 2020 there are already some experiments for online training resources within

the frame of the InGRID-2 research infrastructure project. The results and insights from these first experiments will be used for future development of online training resources.

Figure 30. A vast majority of the respondents indicate they would make use of such online training resources, in percentage

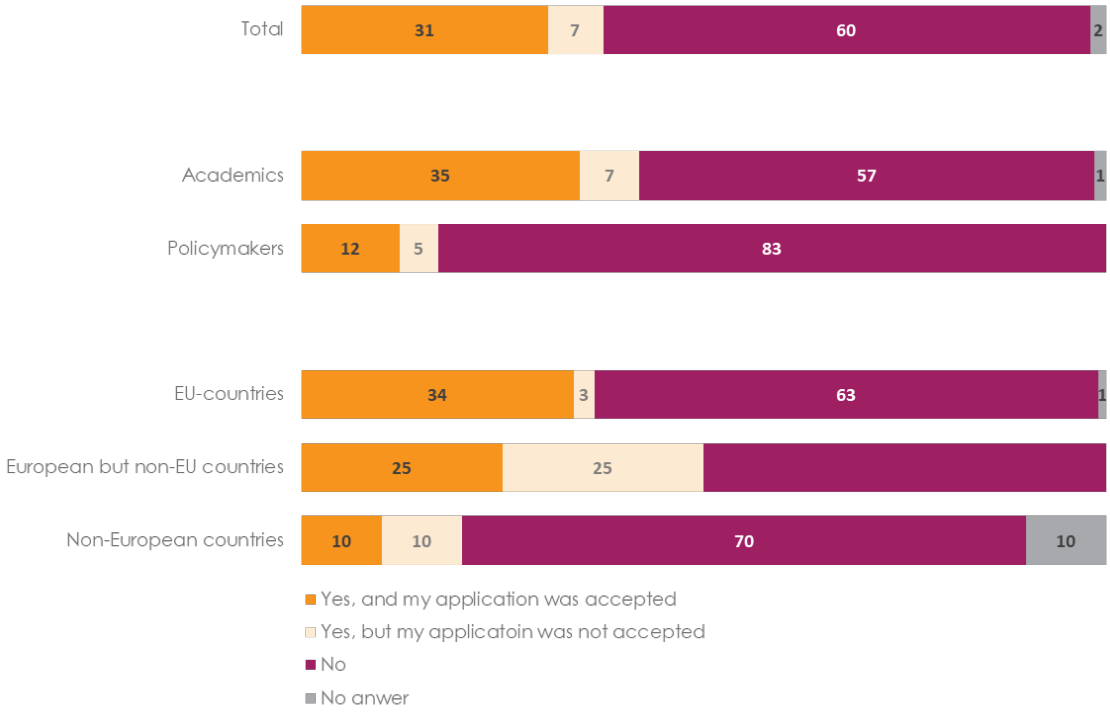


* n total=248, n academics=205, n policymakers=41, n EU countries = 192, n European but non-EU countries=40, n Non-European countries = 10.

4.3 Participation in InGRID-2 visiting grants for transnational access

The last part of the user survey focuses on the InGRID-2 visiting grants and questions respondents about their participation and future preferences for visiting grants and other forms of data access. Figure 31 shows the percentage of respondents which indicate they were accepted for a visiting grant and the percentage that indicate they applied but were not accepted. In general, about 31% of the respondents received a visiting grant, another 7% did apply but did not receive a visiting grant. There are considerable differences between academics and policymakers, who much less often applied and were accepted for a visiting grant. Further the percentages of respondents indicating they applied but were not accepted is much higher in non-EU countries. This is not surprising, because although visiting grants are open for applicants from some associated countries, this is a limited list of mainly other European countries.

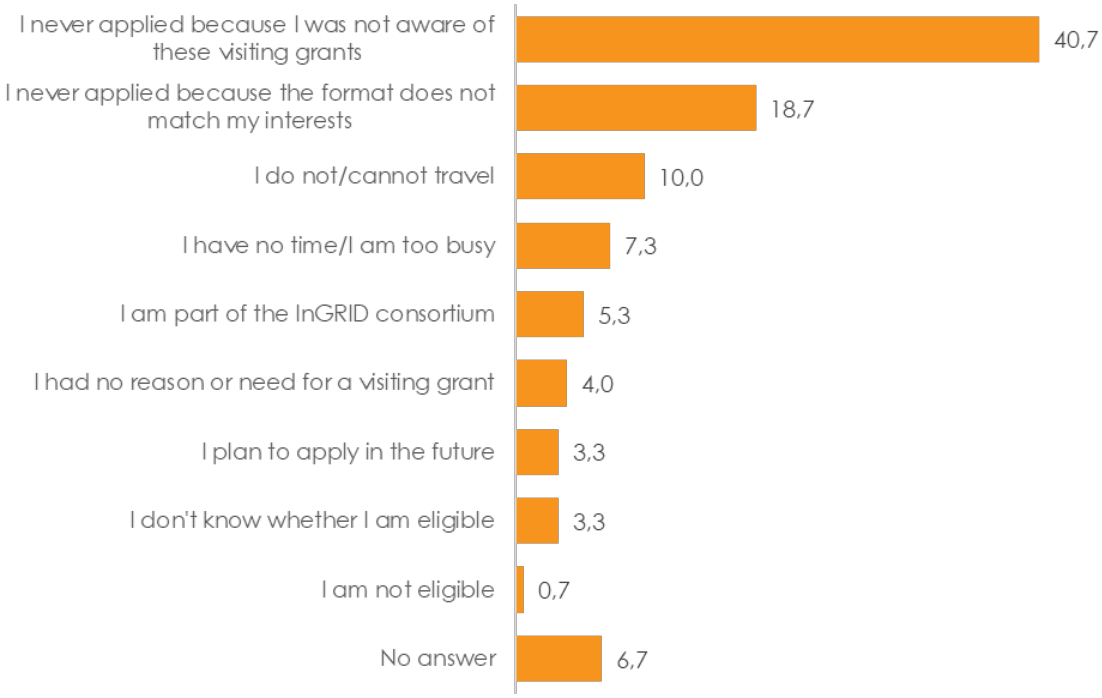
Figure 31. In general, about 31% of the respondents received a visiting grant, another 7% did apply but did not receive a visiting grant. There are considerable differences between academics and policy-makers. Further the percentages of respondents indicating they applied but were not accepted is much higher in non-EU countries, in percentage



* n total=248, n academics=205, n policymakers=41, n EU countries = 192, n European but non-EU countries=40, n Non-European countries = 10.

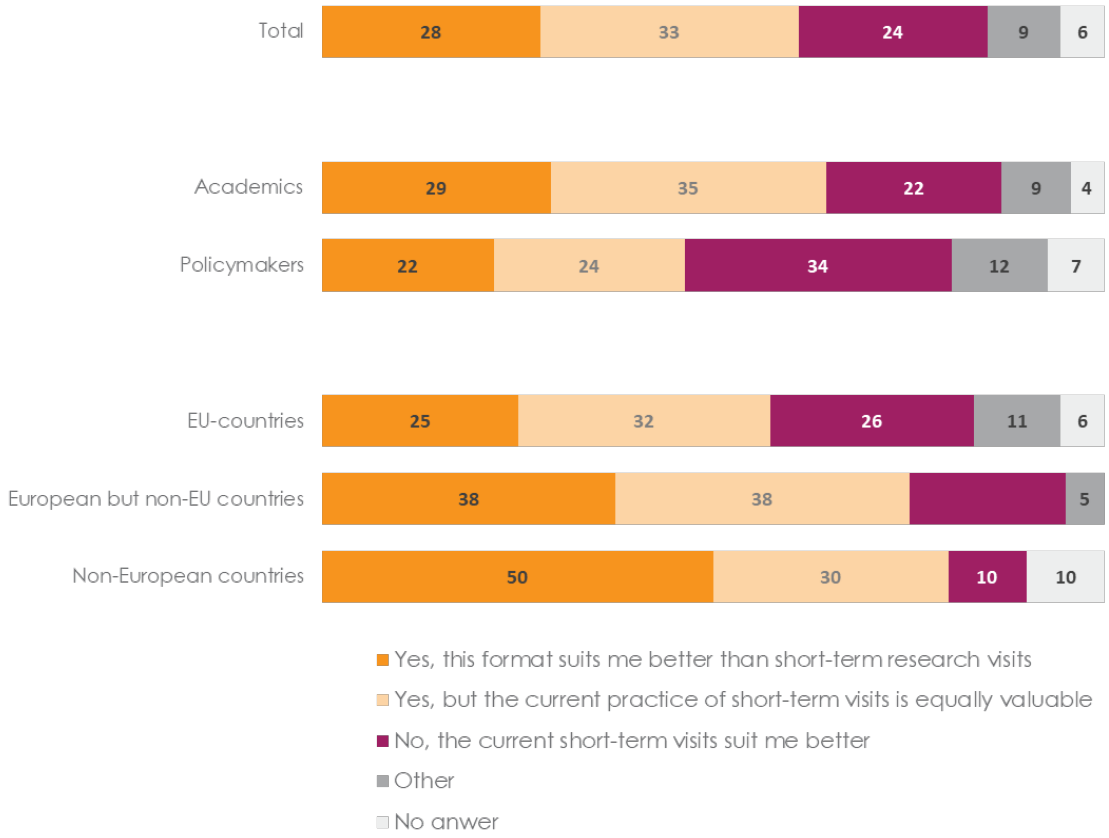
The main reason why the experts did not apply for a visiting grant, was because they were not aware of their existence (41%) (Figure 32). The second most important reason was because the format does not match with the interests (19%). Other reasons include that respondents cannot travel, they have no time, that they are part of the InGRID-2 consortium (and therefore not eligible for a visiting grant), they have no need for a visit or visiting grant, they still plan to apply in the future, or because they are not eligible or are not sure whether they are eligible. Among policymakers the argument they cannot travel is much more often given (15% compared to 7% among academics), and also the lack of awareness is more prominent in this group (59% compared to 35%).

Figure 32. The main reason why the experts did not apply for a visiting grant, was because they were not aware of their existence. The second most important reason was because the format does not match with the interests, in percentage, n=150



The next questions wanted to get insights in potential interests of the respondents in other forms of (virtual) transnational access to InGRID-2 research infrastructures. The first question explores whether there would be interest in longer research visits or sabbaticals to InGRID-2 research infrastructures. Figure 33 gives an overview of the responses. About 28% of the respondents indicate that the format of long-term visits would fit them better than the current short-term visiting grants. Another 33% also finds this an interesting option, but evaluates the current short-term visiting grants as equally valuable. On the other hand 24% prefers short-term visits. There are clearly very diverse opinions about the preferred types of visiting grants. The opinions also differ across groups of respondents. Policymakers are somewhat less interested in long-term visiting grant options. Also the interest in long-term visit opportunities is much higher among respondents from non-EU and non-European countries.

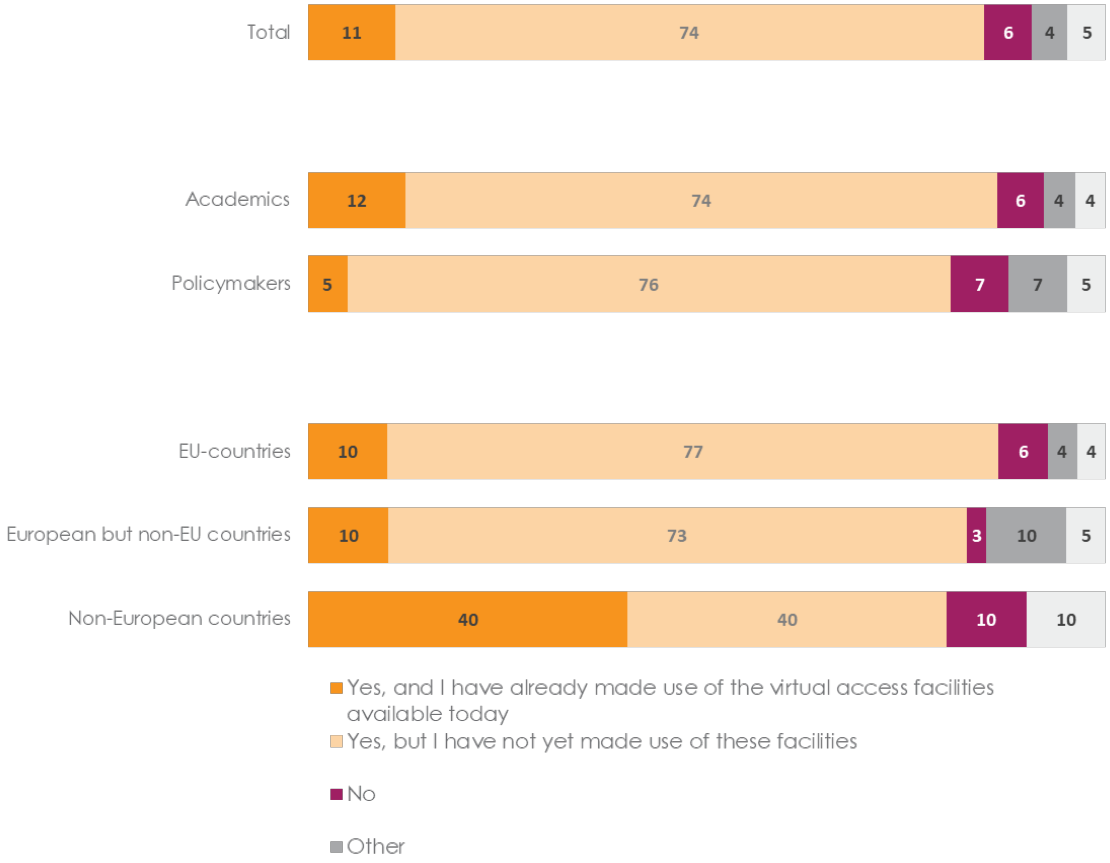
Figure 33. About 28% of the respondents indicate that the format of long-term visits would fit them better than the current short-term visiting grants. Another 33% also finds this an interesting option, but evaluates the current short-term visiting grants as equally valuable. On the other hand 24% prefers short-term visits, in percentage



* n total=248, n academics=205, n policymakers=41, n EU countries = 192, n European but non-EU countries=40, n Non-European countries = 10.

In InGRID-2 virtual access possibilities are provided for access to the LIS and LWS databases and EUROMOD. The user survey asks respondents whether they are interested in these possibilities and whether they have already made use of the current possibilities (Figure 34). About 85% of all respondents indicate they are interested in the possibility to get free-of-charge virtual access to the InGRID-2 research infrastructures. However only 11% of the respondents also already made use of the current possibilities. These virtual access opportunities were much more exploited by respondents from non-European countries (40%). Academics also used these possibilities somewhat more (12%) than policymakers (5%).

Figure 34. About 85% of all respondents indicate they are interested in the possibility to get free-of-charge virtual access to the InGRID-2 research infrastructures. However only 11% of the respondents also already made use of the current possibilities. These virtual access opportunities were much more exploited by respondents from non-European countries, in percentage



* n total=248, n academics=205, n policymakers=41, n EU countries = 192, n European but non-EU countries=40, n Non-European countries = 10.

appendix 1 User survey Questionnaire

InGRID-2 User Survey

Dear participant,

Thank you very much for participating in this survey, which was launched as part of the InGRID-2 project on inclusive growth. InGRID-2 is a research infrastructure project, funded under the European Union's H2020 programme. A research infrastructure is a facility or platform that provides the scientific community with resources and services to conduct state-of-the art research in their fields. InGRID-2 aims to facilitate research related to inclusive growth, and to poverty and work in particular, to foster evidence-based policymaking in this area.

The present survey is intended as a users' needs survey, by which the InGRID-2 consortium aims to gather further insights into the main challenges facing the European scientific and policy communities concerned with inclusive growth. The survey sets out to identify gaps with regard to data, indicators, methods and tools, and with regard to opportunities for training and networking, in the area of living and working conditions, poverty, vulnerability or precariousness, inclusion, social and labour policy, and related domains. The survey additionally explores how the InGRID-2 research infrastructure can be further developed and improved to help fill some of these gaps.

Any information gathered through this survey will only be used and processed by HIVA-KU Leuven, within the framework of the InGRID-2 project. All responses will be analysed and reported on in a fully anonymised and aggregated way. No data will be handed over to a third party.

Thank you in advance for your valuable contribution! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or remarks regarding this survey or the InGRID-2 project (ine.smits@kuleuven.be).

Kind regards on behalf of the InGRID-2 consortium,

Monique Ramioul, Karolien Lenaerts and Ine Smits
The InGRID-2 coordination team

a1.1 PART A. Participant profile

PART A of the questionnaire consists of questions about your background and expertise.

A1: What is your gender? *(only one answer possible)* → A2

- Female
- Male
- Other

A2: What is your age? *(only one answer possible)* → A3

- 18-34 years old

- 35-49 years old
- 50-64 years old
- 65 years old or older

A3: In which country do you work? *(only one answer possible)* → A4

EU countries	**Non-EU countries**
• Austria • Belgium • Bulgaria • Croatia • Cyprus • Czechia • Denmark • Estonia • Finland • France • Germany • Greece • Hungary • Ireland • Italy • Latvia • Lithuania • Luxembourg • Malta • Netherlands • Poland • Portugal • Romania • Slovakia • Slovenia • Spain • Sweden • United Kingdom	• Albania • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Faroe Islands • Iceland • Israel • Liechtenstein • Montenegro • Northern Macedonia • Norway • Serbia • Switzerland • Turkey • Other: ……..

A4: Which of the categories below best describes your current or last job? *(only one answer possible)*

- Academic, scientist, researcher, or similar → A4a
- Policy advisor, policy officer, policy expert, civil servant, or similar → A4b
- Other, please specify: …….. → A4b

A4a: Which of the categories below best describes your current position? *(only one answer possible)* → A5

- Junior researcher
- Senior researcher
- Professor
- Director, research manager

A4b: How many years of experience do you have in your current position? *(only one answer possible)* → A7

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- More than 20 years

A5: What type of research do you typically conduct? *(only one answer possible)* → A6

- Qualitative research
- Quantitative research
- Both qualitative and quantitative research

A6: What type of research do you typically conduct? *(only one answer possible)* → A7

- Theoretical research
- Applied/empirical research
- Both theoretical and empirical research

A7: What is your **main area** of expertise? *(only one answer possible)* → A8

- Poverty, living conditions
- Social policy, welfare states, social services
- Inequality, social in/exclusion
- Labour market, vulnerability, precariousness
- Working conditions, employment conditions, personnel management, HRM
- Industrial relations, collective bargaining, representation
- Other, please specify: …….

A8: Please indicate all other areas you work in. *(multiple answers possible)* → A9

- Poverty, living conditions
- Social policy, welfare states, social services
- Inequality, social in/exclusion
- Labour market, vulnerability, precariousness
- Working conditions, employment conditions, personnel management, HRM
- Industrial relations, collective bargaining, representation
- Other, please specify: …….

A9: What is your **main scientific field**? *(only one answer possible)* → A10

- Economics and business
- Sociology
- Political science
- Educational science
- Psychology
- Law
- Demography
- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Computer sciences / ICT

- Health sciences
- (Research) methodology
- Other, please specify: …….
- Not applicable

A10: How many years of experience do you have in your main area of expertise? *(only one answer possible)* → B1
- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- More than 20 years

a1.2 PART B. Research infrastructure needs

PART B of the questionnaire holds questions about your needs, and those of researchers and policymakers more generally, with regard to data, indicators, methodologies and (analytical or visualisation) tools, as well as training and networking events. PART B further comprises questions about the main thematic priorities you expect to emerge in your domain.

Thematic priorities

B1: Which topics, related to your field of expertise, will gain in importance in European policy-making and research in the coming years, in your view? → B2
…….

B2: Are the currently available data, indicators, methods and tools sufficient to support research and policymaking on these topics? *(only one answer possible)* → B3
- Yes
- No, please briefly explain: ……

Data & indicators

B3: Do you use primary data, secondary data, or both, in your work? (*only one answer possible*) → B4
- Primary data (data you collect yourself, e.g. through interviews or case studies)
- Secondary data (data collected by someone else, e.g. census data)
- Both primary and secondary data
- Not applicable

B4: Which of the below data sets do you typically use? *(multiple answers possible)* → B5
- Data sets made available by international organisations (e.g. data made available by the ILO, OECD, World Bank, IMF, UN, etc.)
- Data sets made available by the European Commission and its agencies (e.g. EU-LFS, EU-SILC, EWCS, ECS, EQLS etc.)
- Data sets made available by national governments or bodies (e.g. administrative data, data from the population or company register, social security records, etc.)
- Other data sets, please specify ……

- Not applicable

B5: Please list the three data sources you use most frequently in your work: → B6

1. ……
2. ……
3. ……

B6: What issues do you encounter when **using existing data sources and indicators**? Please rank the options below with (1) indicating the most important issue and (8) the least important issue. → B7 *(ranking)*

- Accessibility
- Clarity and availability of documentation
- Data availability / missing data (incl. completeness, size of sample, unit of analysis)
- Data coherence and comparability (incl. degree of harmonisation)
- Timeliness and punctuality (incl. coverage of topical issues)
- Data quality (incl. relevance, accuracy, reliability)
- Data protection and security (incl. GDPR)
- Other, please specify: ……..

B7: What are the **main drivers** underpinning these issues? *(multiple answers possible)* → B8

- Lack of comparability of data sources, difficulties to link data of multiple source
- Lack of comparability of data across time
- Lack of commonly shared theoretical or conceptual frameworks
- Limited coverage of countries
- Limited coverage of specific groups (e.g. sectors, companies, hard-to-reach individuals)
- Limited coverage of specific topics
- Limited availability of microdata, difficulties in getting access to microdata
- Sustainability of longitudinal data over time regarding quality, in use of concepts /methods
- Sampling issues, non-response and missing values threatening data quality
- Uneven quality of available data sets in an international context
- Lack of a general fit with usability for current research
- Insufficient access availability of data
- Costs of data access
- Lack of a culture of sharing data
- Lack of support and data documentation
- Lack of ensured preservation of data
- Political climate
- Financial resources
- Privacy issues and legal barriers
- Other, please specify: ……..
- Not applicable

B8: Please elaborate your answer. → B9

……..

B9: Which of the challenges regarding data and indicators you indicated above should be a priority for the InGRID-2 consortium in the coming years? (*only one possible answer*) → B10

- Accessibility
- Clarity and availability of documentation
- Data availability / missing data (incl. completeness, size of sample, unit of analysis)

- Data coherence and comparability (incl. degree of harmonisation, linking data)
- Timeliness and punctuality (incl. coverage of topical issues)
- Data quality (incl. relevance, accuracy, reliability)
- Data protection and security (incl. GDPR)
- Other, please specify: ……..
- Not applicable

Methods and tools

B10: What research methods and/or tools do you generally use in your work? → B11
……..

B11: What issues do you encounter when **using these methods and/or tools**? Please rank the options below with (1) indicating the most important issue and (7) the least important issue. → B12 *(ranking)*

- ☐ Limitations in existing methods
- ☐ Difficulties when combining different methods/tools
- ☐ Need for new and better methods
- ☐ Theoretical issues
- ☐ Lack of skills and training to work with methods
- ☐ Lack of tools to work with the methods
- ☐ Other, please specify: ……..
- ☐ Not applicable

B12: What are the **main drivers** underpinning these issues? *(multiple answers possible)* → B13

- ○ Lack of a common approach to tackle specific issues
- ○ Improper use of specific methods
- ○ Insufficient consideration of the limitations of methods
- ○ Issues related to replication and reproducibility of results
- ○ Insufficient documentation of methods used in academic and other publications
- ○ Lack of contextual information
- ○ Lack of theoretical framework underpinning the use of specific concepts and methods
- ○ Lack of training on use of methods/tools
- ○ Insufficient attention for data visualisation
- ○ High costs of tools and software packages needed to analyse data
- ○ Insufficient promotion or use of open source software packages
- ○ Other, please specify: ……..
- ○ Not applicable

B13: Please elaborate your answer. → B14
……..

B14: Which of the challenges regarding methods and tools you indicated above should be a priority for the InGRID-2 consortium in the coming years? (*only one possible answer*) → B15

- Limitations in existing methods
- Difficulties when combining different methods/tools
- Need for new and better methods
- Theoretical issues

- Lack of skills and training to work with methods
- Lack of tools to work with the methods
- Other, please specify: ……..
- Not applicable

Research context and policymaking

B15: What challenges do you see in relation to bridging the gap between research and policy? *(multiple possible answers)* → B16

- Limited cooperation among researchers (e.g. across countries, disciplines)
- Limited cooperation between researchers and policymakers
- Communication issues, lack of mutual understanding
- Mismatch between policy and research cycles (incl. time gaps) and (thematic) priorities
- Lack of awareness of available research outcomes and their usability among policy-makers
- Limited accessibility of research outcomes
- Lack of valorisation; limited incentives for valorisation towards non-academic audiences
- Existing tools and indicators no longer fit for purpose
- Challenging political climate
- Perception of ideological influence on research
- Lack of trust and openness
- Insufficient involvement of stakeholders
- Lack of skills to interpret research outcomes
- Lack of resources to conduct state-of-the-art policy-oriented research
- Lack of resources for valorisation purposes
- Other, please specify: ……..

B16: In your view, how can InGRID-2 best help to bridge the gap between data and policy? → B17
……..

Training and networking events

B17: What type of events are you most interested in? *(only one answer possible)* → B18

- Networking events (e.g. conferences, workshops, seminars)
- Training events (e.g. summer schools)
- Both networking and training events
- Other, please specify: ……..

B18: How do you evaluate the current offer of events in Europe? *(only one answer possible)*

- More than sufficient → B19
- Sufficient → B19
- Insufficient → B18a

B18a: Why do you find the current offer insufficient? → B19
……..

B19: Which topics do you think should be addressed more during events? *(multiple answers possible)* → B20

- o Theoretical frameworks and conceptualisation
- o Policy issues/context
- o Challenges related to specific existing data sources
- o Challenges related to linking data from different sources
- o Challenges related to data collection
- o The use of existing methods and tools
- o The development of new methods and tools
- o Other, please specify: ……..

B20: Which educational resources do you find most helpful? Please rank the below options, with (1) being the most important one and (5) being the least important one: → B21 *(ranking)*

- ☐ Training events (e.g. summer schools, workshops, lectures)
- ☐ Online video tutorials (e.g. MOOCs)
- ☐ Online, freely downloadable documentation (e.g. articles, books)
- ☐ Online portal with information (e.g. InGRID ePortal: www.ingridportal.eu)
- ☐ Other tools, with guidance and documentation

B21: Have you attended an InGRID event in the past years? *(only one answer possible)*

- Yes → B22
- No → B21a

B21a: Why not? *(multiple answers possible)* → B22

- o Because I was not aware of these events
- o Because the formats of the events do not match my interests
- o Because there was never an interesting topic for me to attend
- o Because of lack of time to attend
- o Because I do not/cannot travel
- o Other: ……..

B22: Would you make use of freely accessible online training courses if those were made available by InGRID and the topic covered would be of interest to you? *(only one answer possible)* → B23

- Yes
- No

B23: Where do you generally find information about interesting events in your field? → B24

……

Visiting grants

B24: Have you applied for an InGRID visiting grant (transnational access) in the past years? *(only one answer possible)*

- Yes, and my application was accepted → B25
- Yes, but my application was not accepted → B25
- No → B24a

B24a: Why did you not apply for an InGRID visiting grant? *(only one answer possible)* → B25

- I never applied because I was not aware of these visiting grants
- I never applied because the format does not match my interests
- I do not/cannot travel
- Other, please specify: ……..

B25: Would you apply for a long-term sabbatical or research visit to one of the InGRID research infrastructures if this was offered? *(only one answer possible)* → B26

- Yes, this format suits me better than short-term research visits
- Yes, but the current practice of short-term visits is equally valuable
- No, the current short-term visits suits me better
- Other, please specify: …….

B26: Would you be interested in the possibility to get free-of-charge virtual access to the InGRID-2 research infrastructures? *(only one answer possible)* → B27

- Yes, and I have already made use of the virtual access facilities available today
- Yes, but I have not yet made use of these facilities
- No
- Other, please specify: …….

B27: Do you have any further feedback or suggestions for the InGRID-2 consortium?
…….

Thank you very much for your participation!

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InGRID-2
Integrating Research Infrastructure for European expertise on Inclusive Growth from data to policy

Referring to the increasingly challenging EU2020-ambitions of Inclusive Growth, the objectives of the InGRID-2 project are to advance the integration and innovation of distributed social sciences research infrastructures (RI) on 'poverty, living conditions and social policies' as well as on 'working conditions, vulnerability and labour policies'. InGRID-2 will extend transnational on-site and virtual access, organise mutual learning and discussions of innovations, and improve data services and facilities of comparative research. The focus areas are (a) integrated and harmonised data, (b) links between policy and practice, and (c) indicator-building tools.
Lead users are social scientist involved in comparative research to provide new evidence for European policy innovations. Key science actors and their stakeholders are coupled in the consortium to provide expert services to users of comparative research infrastructures by investing in collaborative efforts to better integrate microdata, identify new ways of collecting data, establish and improve harmonised classification tools, extend available policy databases, optimise statistical quality, and set-up micro-simulation environments and indicator-building tools as important means of valorisation. Helping scientists to enhance their expertise from data to policy is the advanced mission of InGRID-2. A new research portal will be the gateway to this European science infrastructure.

This project is supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 730998.

More detailed information is available on the website: www.inclusivegrowth.eu

Co-ordinator
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InGRID-2

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