



Local & Regional
Europe



SDGs 2023 STUDY from CEMR and PLATFORMA

European territories localise the SDG:

**Only six summers left to make
the most of the Decade of Action**

24 October 2023, EP Urban Intergroup

Our contribution to 2030 Agenda

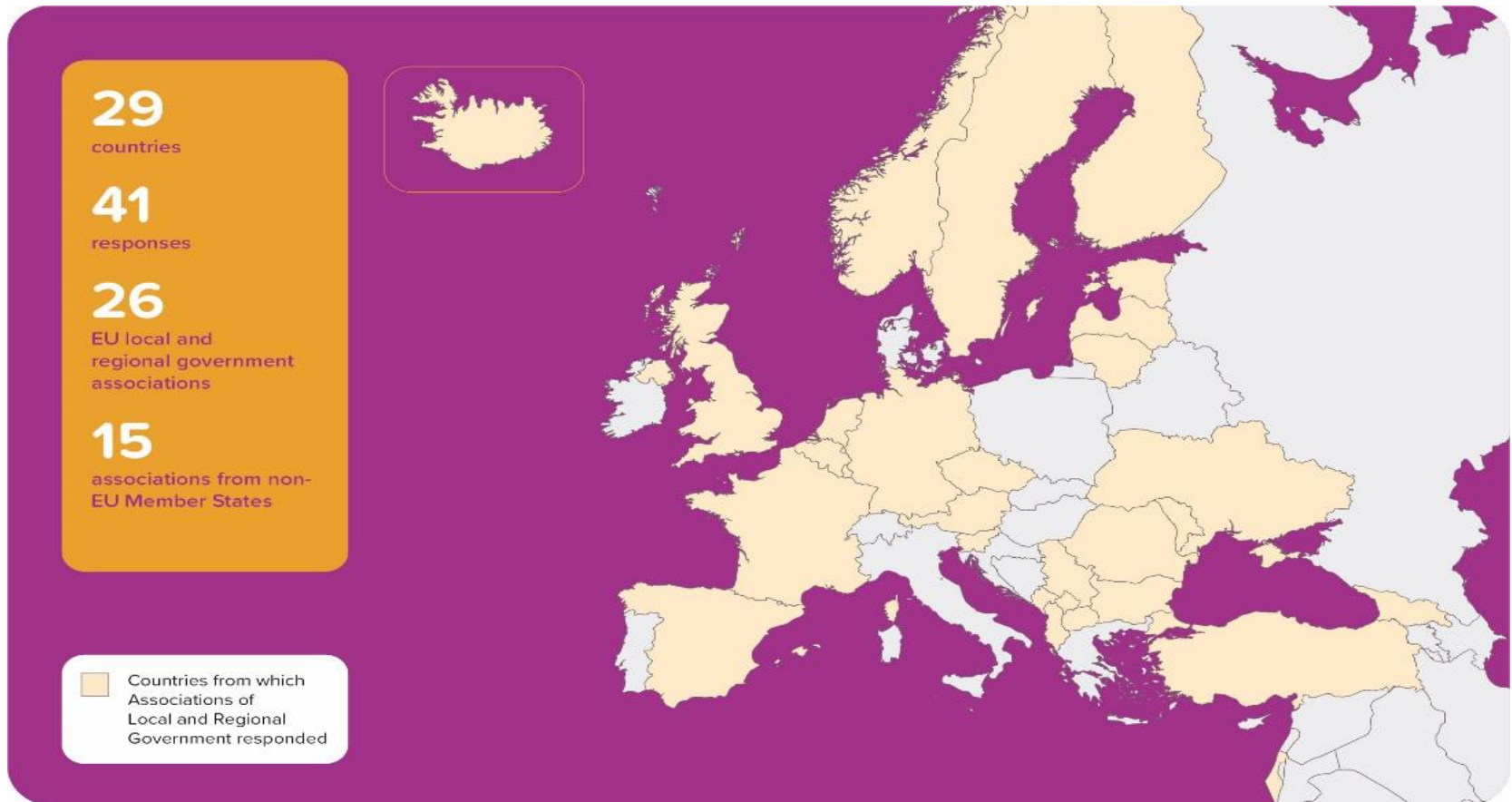


INTRODUCTION

- Study is based on a joint survey conducted in February 2023 by CEMR/PLATFORMA and UCLG, which coordinated with all its regional sections to produce a parallel global report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Purpose: to collect the most recent information on how and to what extent Local and Regional Government Associations (LRGAs) and networks have been involved in localising the SDGs, both in Europe and among their global peers.
- Annual production of these studies and presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) every July since 2016.
- HLPF is the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- CEMR/PLATFORMA have been contributing annually to the HLPF since 2017.
- **Current study: presented on 12 July 2023, at the 6th LRGs forum at HLPF and further disseminated at the UN SDG summit last September**

RESPONDENTS:

41 responses to the survey from members of CEMR and partners of PLATFORMA representing 29 countries (26 Associations of LRGs from the EU and 15 from non-EU Member States)



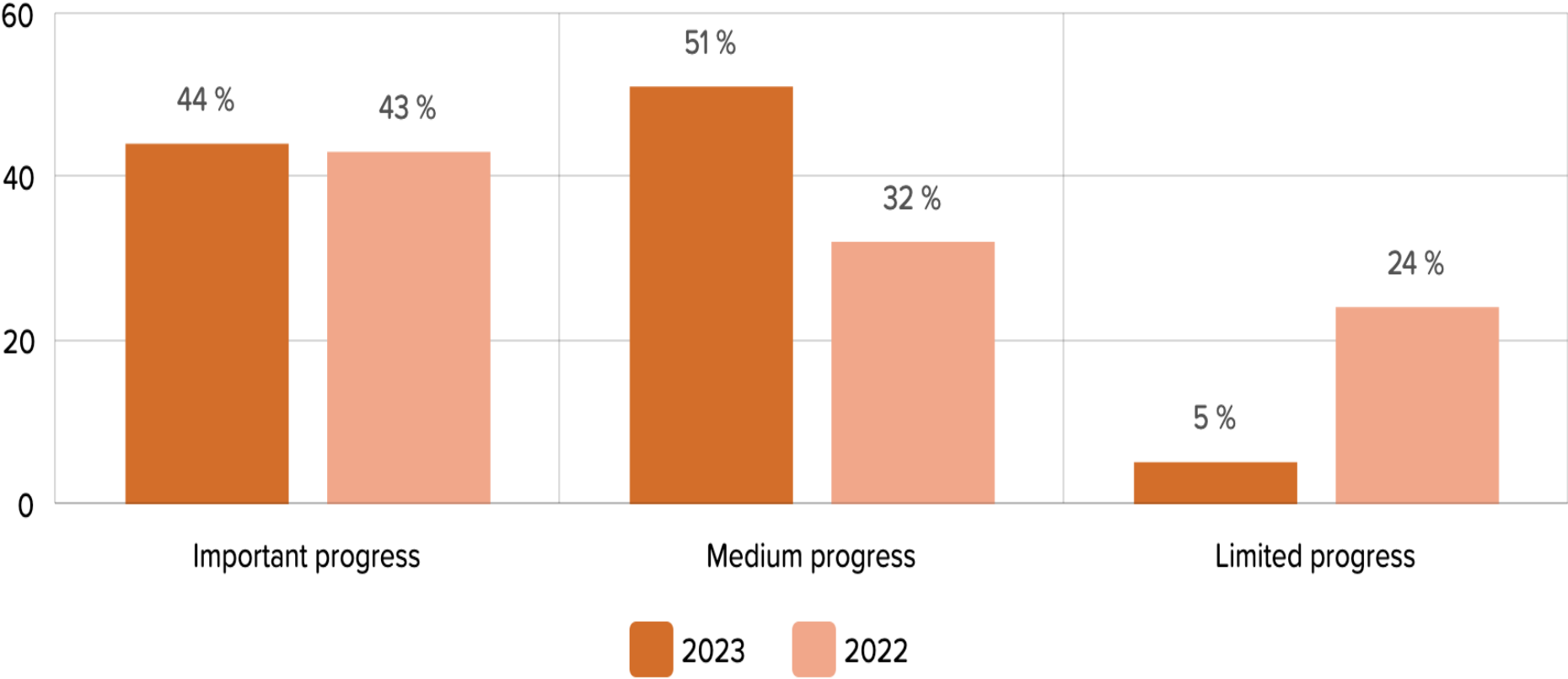
LIST OF ASSOCIATIONS RESPONDING

Albania: Association for Local Autonomy of Albania (AAM); **Austria:** Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT); **Belgium:** Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (Brulocalis); Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG); Union of Cities and Municipalities of Wallonia (UVCW); **Bulgaria:** National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB); **Czech Republic:** Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic (SMOČR); **Estonia:** Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities (AECM); **Finland:** Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (AFLRA); **France:** French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE); Cites Unies France (CUF); **Georgia:** National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG); **Germany:** Association of German Cities (DST); German County Association (Deutscher Landkreistag – DLT); **Iceland:** Association of Local Authorities in Iceland (SAMBAND); **Israel:** Federation of Local Authorities in Israel (Masham); **Kosovo:** Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM); **Latvia:** Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG); **Lithuania:** Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (LSA); **Luxembourg:** Association of Luxembourg Cities and Municipalities (SYVICOL); **Moldova:** Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova (CALM); **Montenegro:** Union of Municipalities of Montenegro (UOM); **The Netherlands:** Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), National Town-Twinning Council Netherlands-Nicaragua (LBSNN); **North Macedonia:** Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS); Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (ZELS); **Norway:** Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS); **Romania:** Association of Communes of Romania (ACOR); **Serbia:** Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SKGO); **Slovenia:** Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (ZMOS-SI); **Spain:** eLankidetza-Basque Government Agency for Development Cooperation and Euskal Fundoa/Basque Local Authorities Cooperation Fund (EUSKADI); Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP); Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL); Andalusian Municipal Fund for International Solidarity (FAMSI); Majorcan Fund for Solidarity and Cooperation; Barcelona Provincial Council (DIBA); **Sweden:** Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR); **Turkey:** Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU); **Ukraine:** Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC); **United Kingdom:** Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA); Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).

Main findings of the CEMR/PLATFORMA SDG study



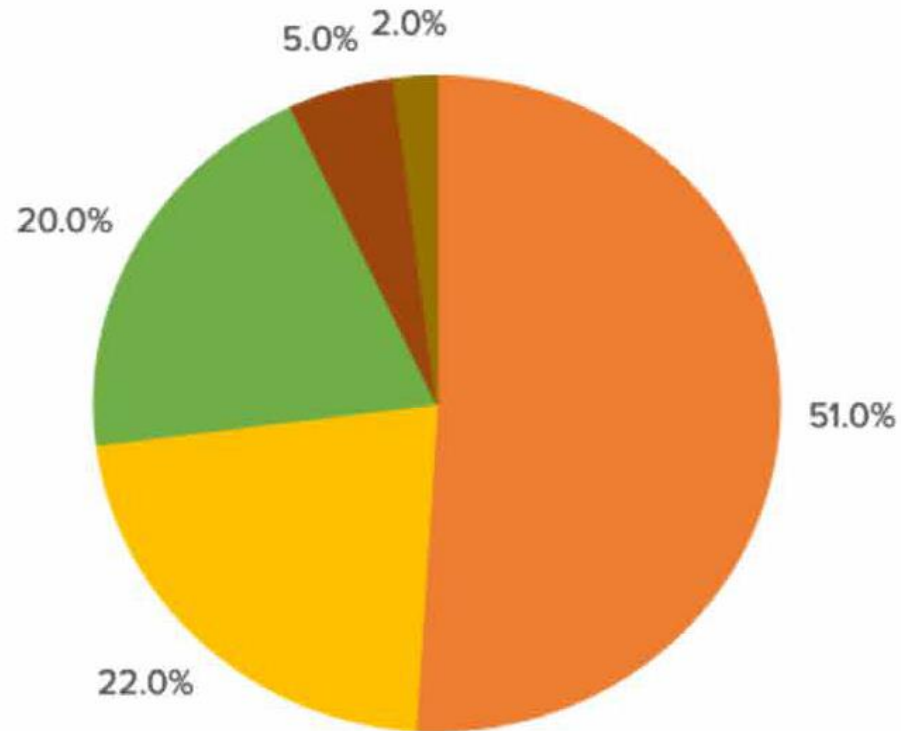
Progress made in broadening knowledge of SDGs in the organisation




Responsibility for the coordination of SDG within the organisation





ACTIONS TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG CITIZENS AND STAKEHOLDERS



 Strong and regular actions

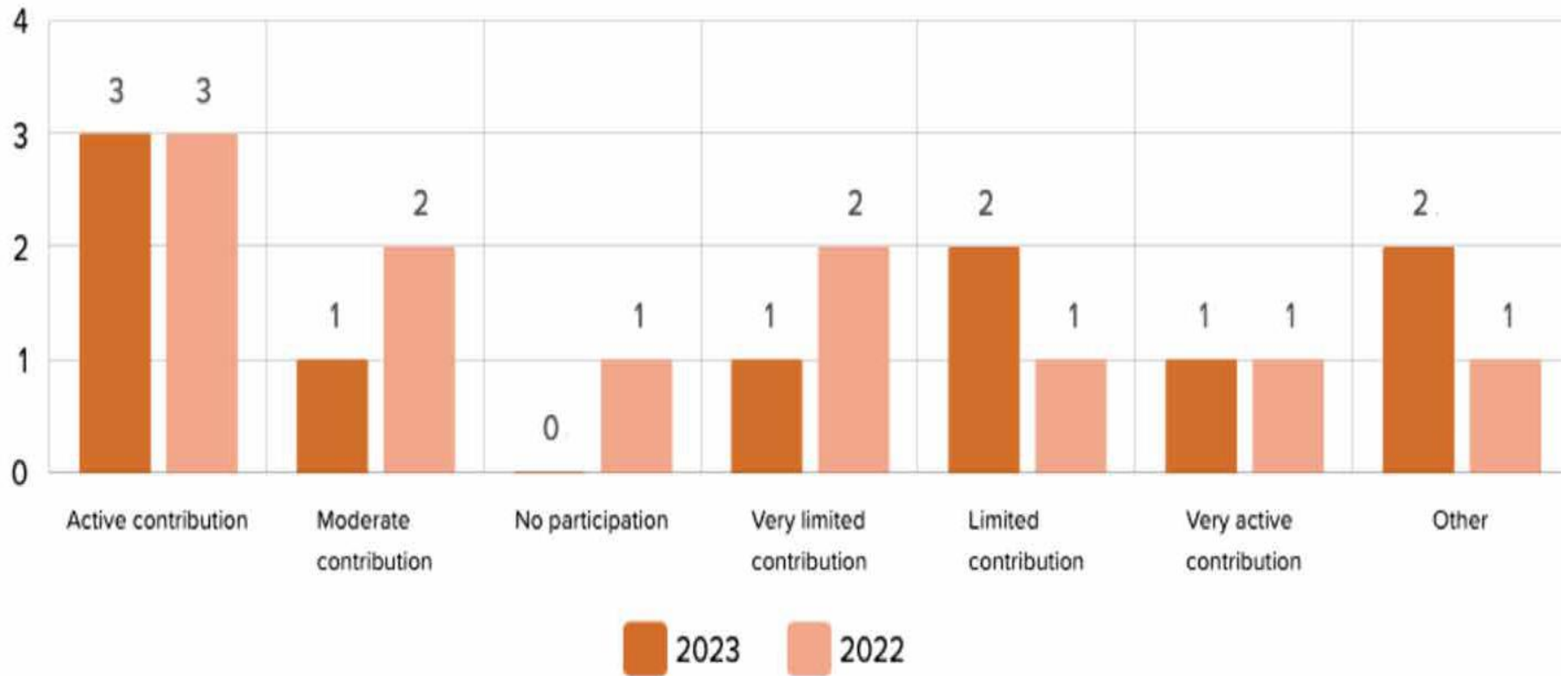
 Limited action

 Low-key mobilisation

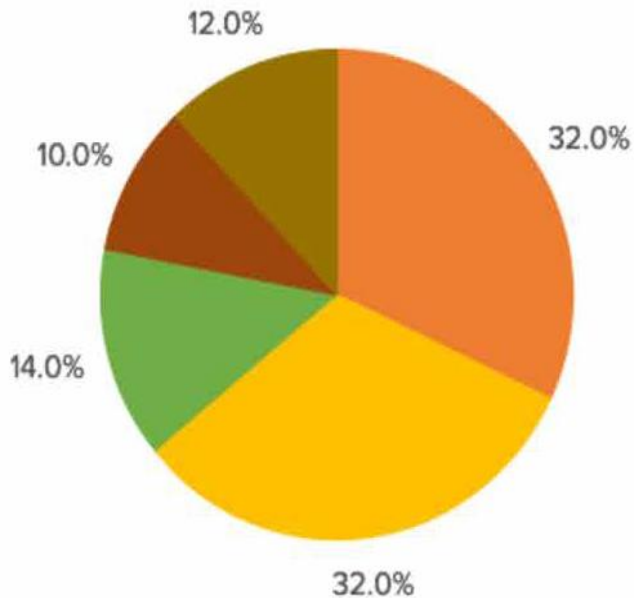
 No promotion or activities at all

 Others

Involvement in the reporting process (n. associations)

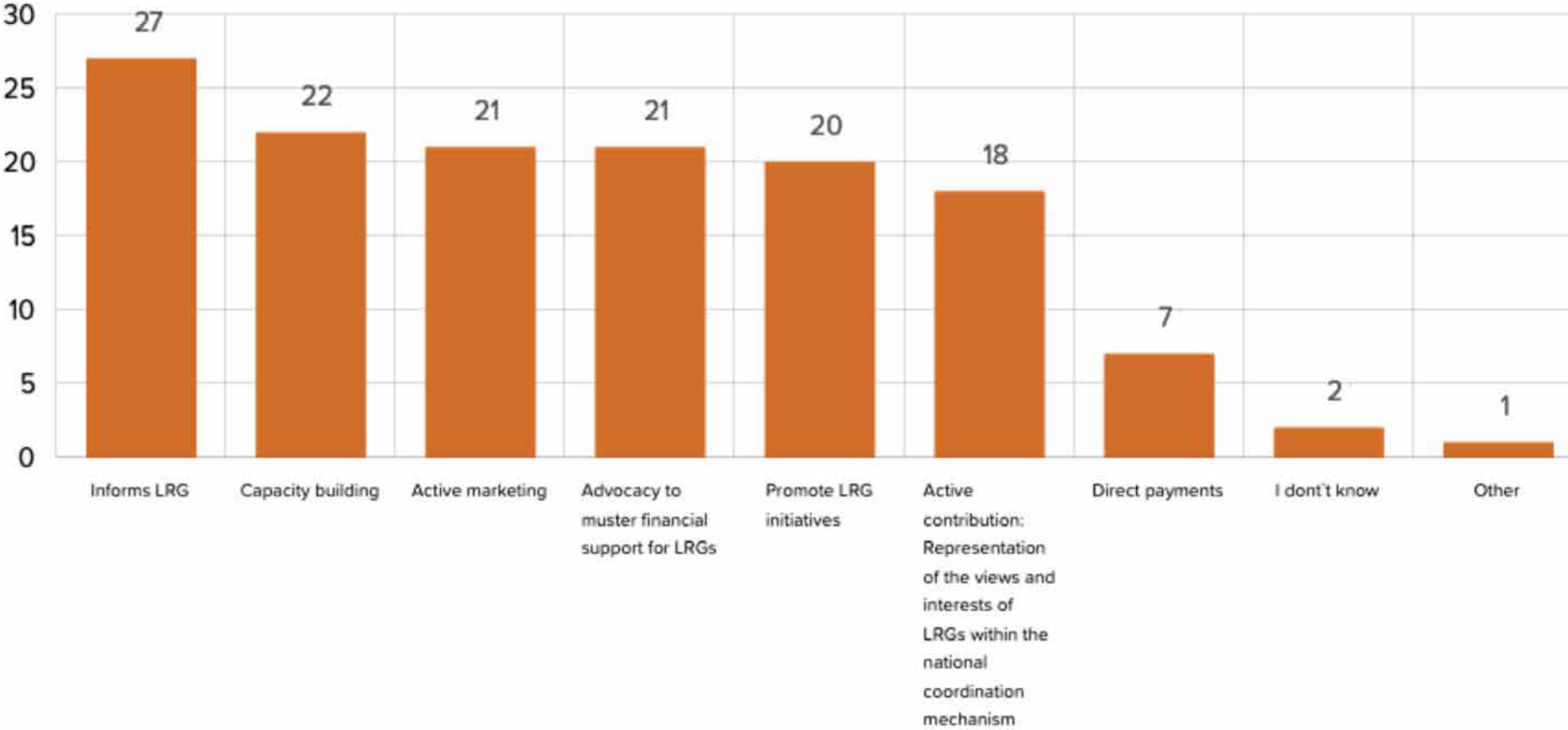


LRG involvement in SDG implementation coordination mechanism put in place by the national governments

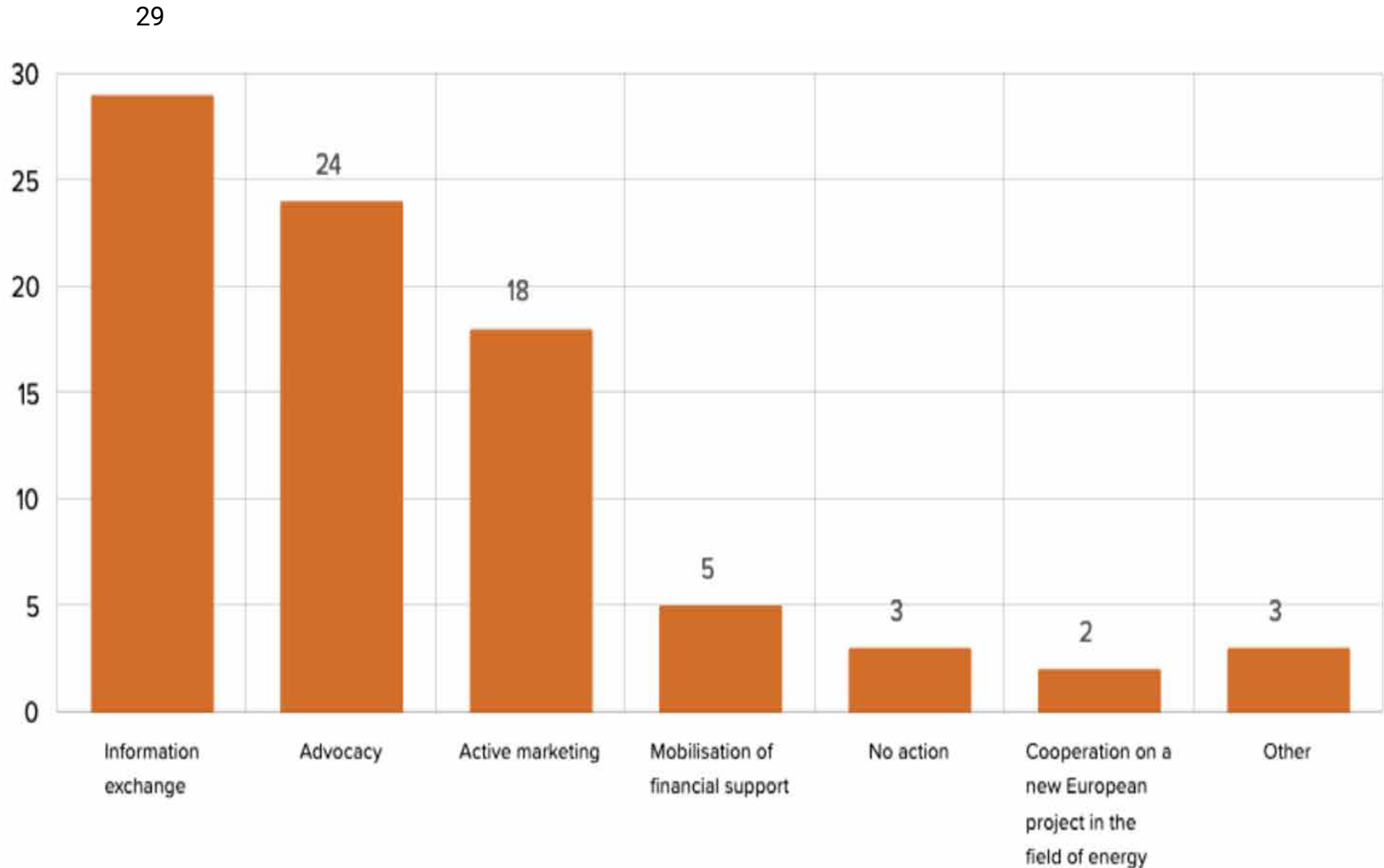


- Through ad hoc consultations, in occasional or one-off meetings but not as a permanent member
- Regular participation but at the consultative level
- No involvement at all
- Regular participation in the decision-making process as an equal partner
- Other

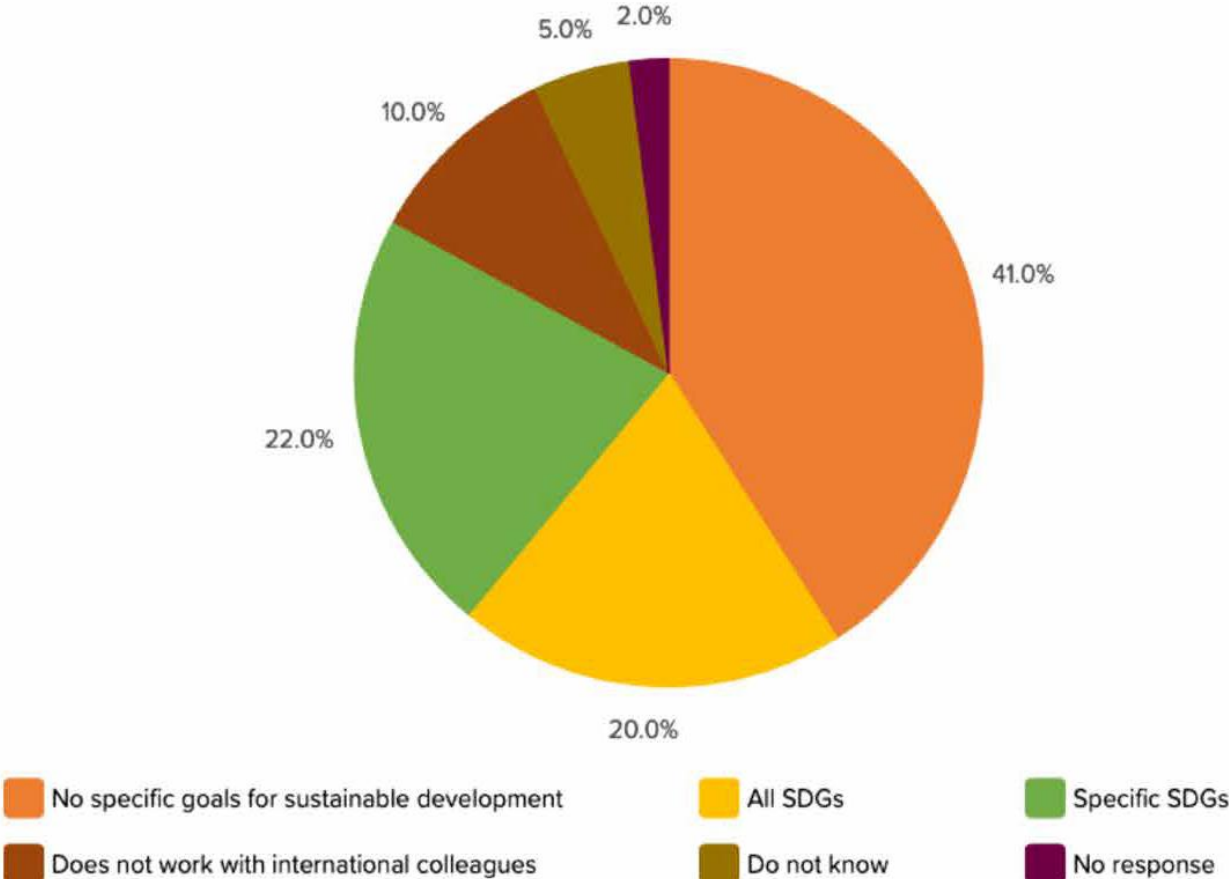
KEY ACTIONS BY LRGS TO PROMOTE SDG LOCALISATION AND ACCELERATE POST PANDEMIC AND CRISIS RECOVERY (n. associations)



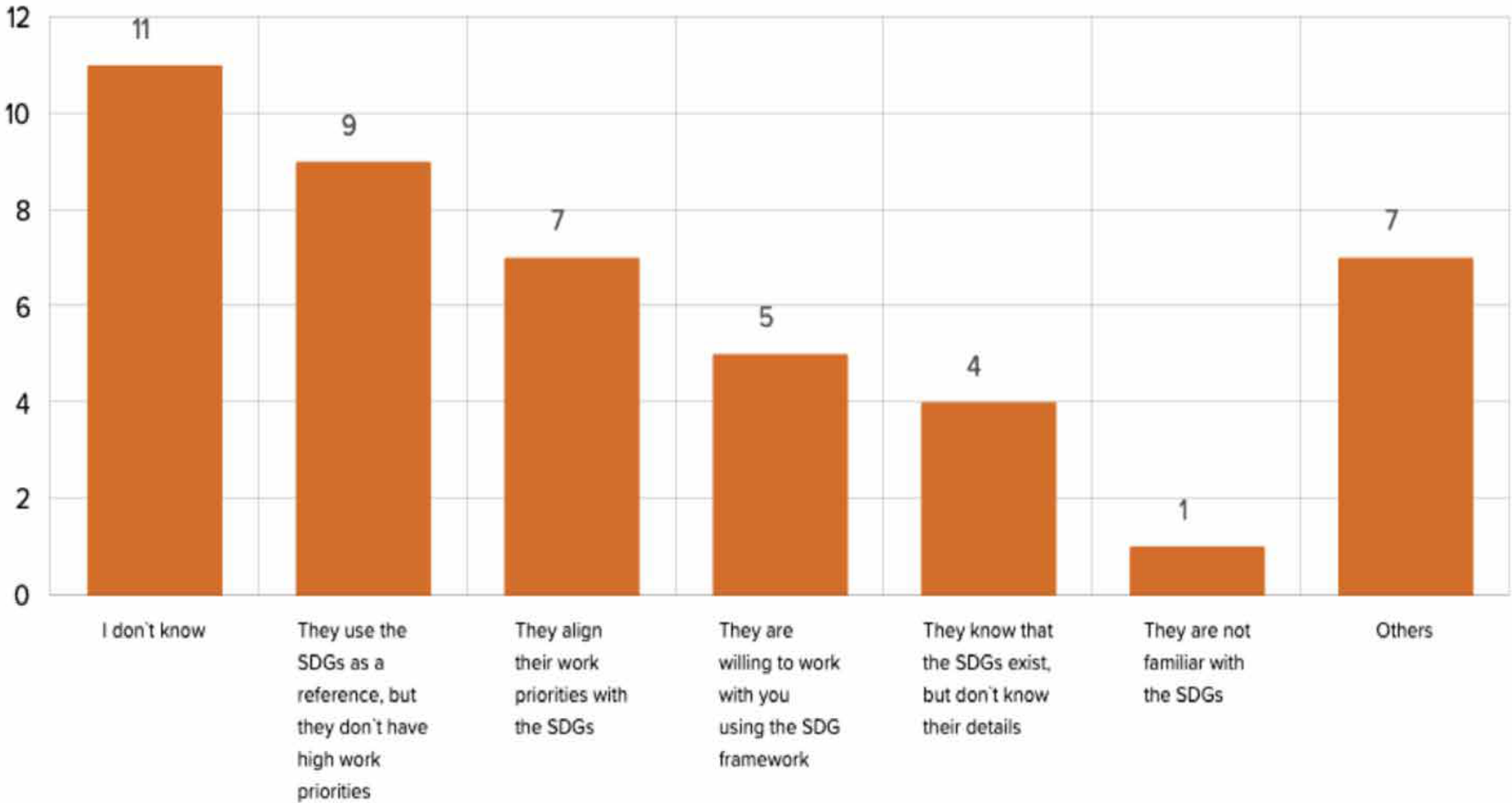
KEY ACTIONS BY LRGS TO COMBAT CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS (n. associations)



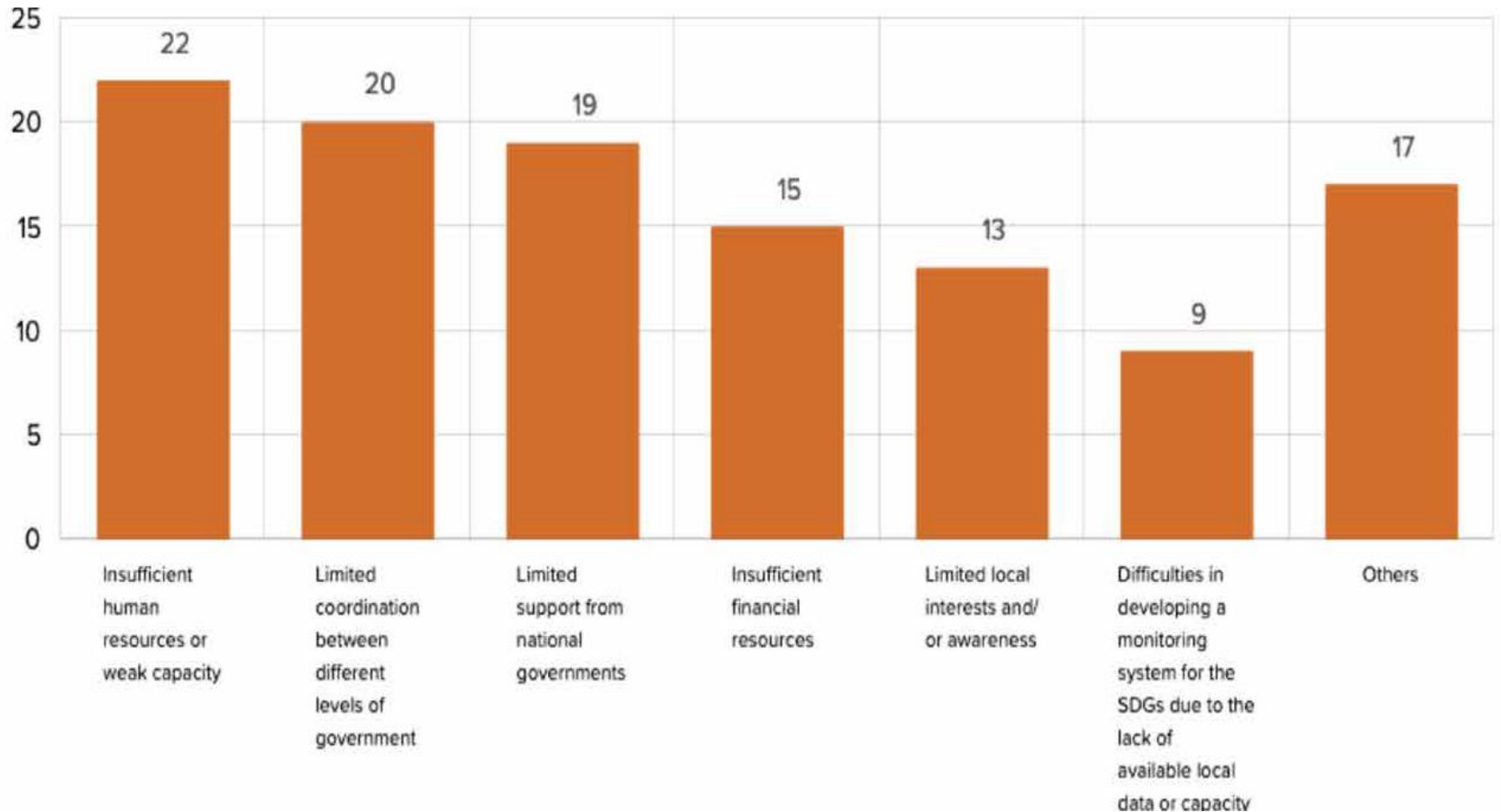
WHICH SDG YOU FOCUS ON YOUR WORK WITH PARTNERS OUTSIDE THE EU



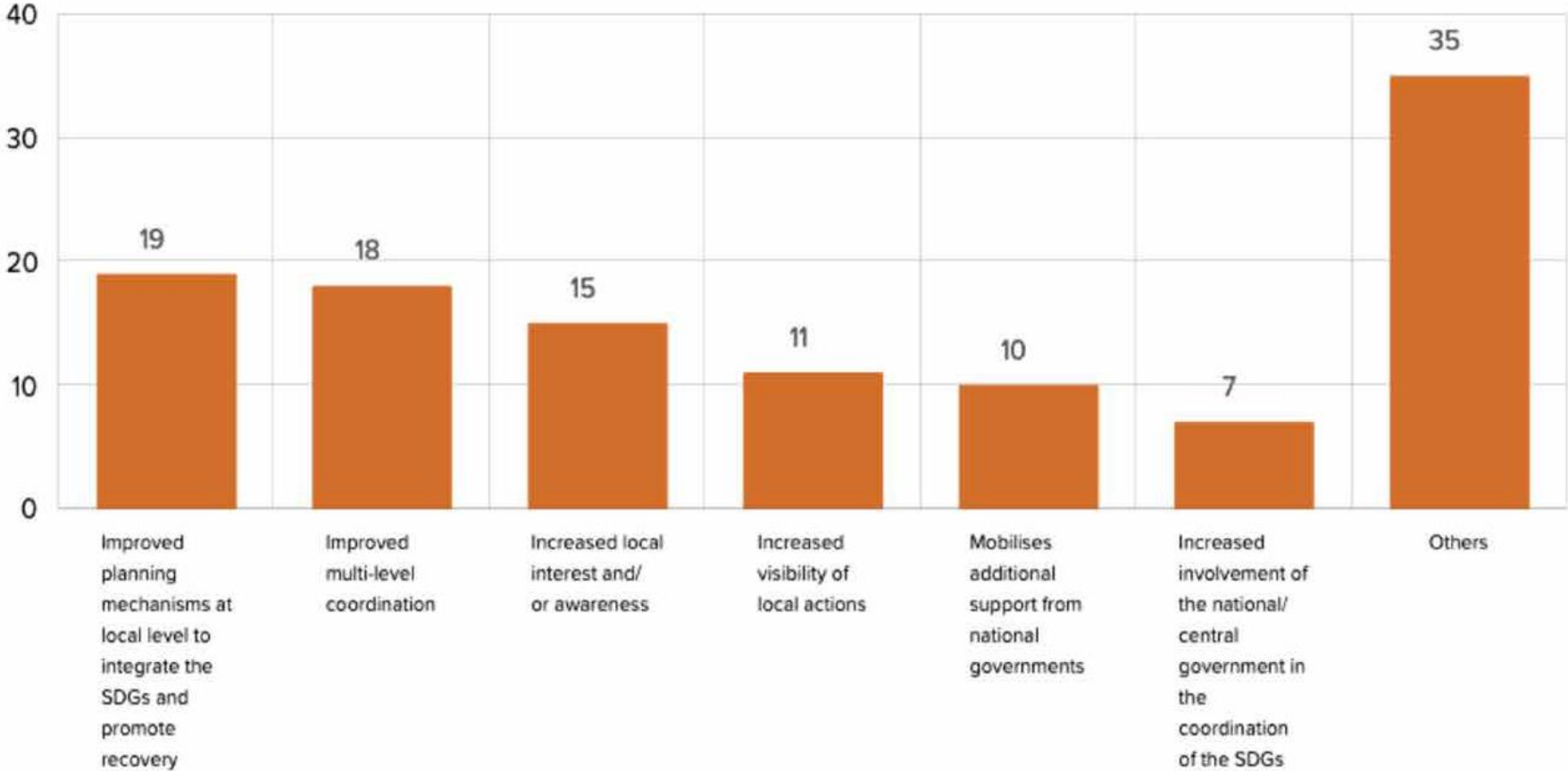
HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR NON-EU PARTNERS ABOUT SDGS (n. associations)



BIGGEST CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE SDGs AND OTHER GLOBAL AGENDAS



BIGGEST BENEFITS FROM WORKING ON SDGS AND OTHER GLOBAL AGENDAS



7 Recommendations - 1)

1) For its **first EU Voluntary Review**, in reporting on any progress made in achieving the SDGs in Europe, it should be very clearly indicated by the European Union how the different levels of governance and civil society organisations have contributed to this process.

2) National governments and the EU should accelerate the **localisation and territorialisation of the SDGs**. To do this, they need to give LRGs appropriate autonomy of action, adequate means and resources to implement the 2030 Agenda in their communities. All directives and new initiatives and funds must be developed in close consultation with LRGs and their representative associations in order to determine whether the necessary transformation can actually materialise on the ground.

7 Recommendations - 2)

3) The **production of VLRs and VSRs**, as tools to engage with citizens, must be further encouraged and integrated in the VNRs. It would help raise people's awareness and broaden their knowledge of global challenges, thus reinforcing the capacity of all to contribute to the societal changes necessary.

4) **VNRs need to include relevant disaggregated data** and information for the subnational level. Consequently, LRGs call for the unwavering recognition and inclusion by national governments of LRGs and their associations in their monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of SDGs.

5) The EU institutions and the European States should give political space and recognition to LRGs by establishing **regular dialogue with the subnational levels** and by including local elected representatives in their delegations to any relevant high-level meetings (such as the HLPF, SDG summits and others hosted by the United Nations and the European institutions).

7 Recommendations – 3)

6) **International cooperation to achieve the 2030** Agenda at the local and regional levels is crucial and LRGs are asking for more support to accomplish this. Sharing and learning among peers in Europe and further afield can bring positive change at local level and improve local public policies through co-inspiration. We continue to support the global 2030 Agenda in Europe and around the world, particularly through more innovative partnerships with peers, as well as through a model of governance based on partnerships and decentralised cooperation .

7) The true implementation of SDGs will not transpire without the specific **inclusion of youth, women and vulnerable groups** in decision-making and all related activities that contribute to achieving the SDGs.

NEXT GLOBAL MILESTONE – HLPF and summit of the Future

Summit of the Future - 22-24 September 2024

- Once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance
- Reaffirms existing commitments including the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and the [United Nations Charter](#)
- Moves towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives.
- Building on the SDG Summit in 2023, [Member States](#) will consider ways to lay the foundations for more effective global cooperation that can deal with today's challenges as well as new threats in the future.

Advisory Group of the United Nations Secretary-General on Local and Regional Governments

- Launch 6 October 2023
- Will contribute to the Summit of the Future

Links to CEMR/PLATFORMA SDG report

Online version:

in EN local-sdgs.eu

in FR [European Territories Localise the SDGs \(local-sdgs.eu\)](https://EuropeanTerritories.Localise.the.SDGs(local-sdgs.eu))

In pdf

in [EN](#)

in [FR](#)

Annex

nearly 200 examples on the SDGs implementation from our member associations [annex](#)

Full annual UCLG report, presented at HLPF July 2023: [7th report](#) “Towards the localisation of SDGs: from local action to global impact: how localising SDG11 empowers communities for sustainable transformation” containing information from all members

UCLG report: “7 years of Local and Regional governments reporting on the localization of the SDGs, presented at SDG summit September 2023: [Triptico_WEB \(global-taskforce.org\)](https://global-taskforce.org)



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