



# Minutes of the EUOPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Members Assembly 2019

Time 27 May 2019 at 14:00-16:45 and 28 May 2019 at 09:45-10:30  
Venue Grand Hotel (27 May) and Naturum Kullaberg (28 May), Mölle, Kullaberg Nature Reserve, Sweden

|         |                          |  |           |
|---------|--------------------------|--|-----------|
| Present | Rolands Auziņš           | Nature Conservation Agency                 | Latvia    |
|         | Agnese Balandina         | Nature Conservation Agency                 | Latvia    |
|         | Elena Bazhenova          | Kullaberg Nature Reserve                   | Sweden    |
|         | Jimena Castillo          | Kullaberg Nature Reserve                   | Sweden    |
|         | Lina Diksaite            | Curonian Spit National Park Administration | Lithuania |
|         | Thomas Hansson           | Consultant                                 | Sweden    |
|         | Stig Johansson           | Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland     | Finland   |
|         | Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen      | Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland     | Finland   |
|         | Kaja Lotman              | Environmental Board                        | Estonia   |
|         | (participated via Skype) |  |           |
|         | Ramunas Lydis            | Directorate of Zemaitija National Park     | Lithuania |
|         | Paulius Mika             | Zemaitija National Park                    | Lithuania |
|         | Emma Sandler Berlin      | Söderåsen National Park                    | Sweden    |
|         | Evelina Selander         | Swedish Environmental Protection Agency    | Sweden    |
|         | Nele Söber               | Environmental Board                        | Estonia   |
|         | (participated via Skype) |  |           |
|         | Johan Uebel              | Skuleskogen National Park                  | Sweden    |
|         | Carina Wennström         | Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland     | Finland   |
|         | Jesper Witzell           | Söderåsen National Park                    | Sweden    |
|         | Jan Woolhead             | Parks'nTrails                              | Denmark   |
|         | Daniel Åberg             | Kullaberg Nature Reserve                   | Sweden    |



*Note: The meeting was held in two sessions: 27 May 2019 at 14:00-16:45 and 28 May 2019 at 09:45-10:30.*

## 1 Words of welcome

Daniel Åberg, Site Manager of Kullaberg Nature Reserve, County Administrative Board of Scania, welcomed the participants to Kullaberg Nature Reserve. Kullaberg Nature Reserve hosted this Members Assembly and get-together of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section (NBS) with support of Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland. The programme is presented as Annex 1.

## 2 Opening of the meeting

Stig Johansson, President of the NBS and Director of International Affairs of Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland opened the first session of the meeting at 14:00.

## 3 Tour de Table

The participants presented themselves. There were participants of five of the eight countries of NBS.

## 4 Updates from Members

- Daniel Åberg told that there had been substantial budget cuts which had made their work more difficult, including the organisation of this meeting.
- Thomas Hansson told about his work in consulting the Kullaberg Nature Reserve in finding solutions to the problem of transportation and parking when visiting the reserve. New solutions are being discussed as well as new funding mechanisms to combine state funding with municipality and commercial investments for investments in services. Nature conservation is state-funded but services could be funded jointly.
- Jesper Witzell and Emma Sandler Berlin told that Söderåsen National Park is going to apply for European Charter for Sustainable Tourism this autumn. A joint plan for tourism is being developed by four municipalities funded by a LEADER project. Tourism companies are also collaborating.
- Johan Uebel informed that they are implementing the national park logo. Skuleskogen National Park receives about 60 000 visits each year.
- Evelina Selander gave information that there are 33 visitor centres with 1.8 million visits to them in Sweden. Of the visitors about 35 000 are students and pupils visiting the centres as part of their school programme. Swedish national parks receive approximately 2.7 million visits. Long-term educational programmes are implemented. Laponia World Heritage Site is a case in which local actors are included in the management of the site. The state, municipality and Sámi manage the site together. National parks cover about 80% of the World Heritage Site area. There are plans for new national parks in Sweden. In 2018, there were severe forest fires that also affected protected areas. Protected area staff participated in the firefighting efforts. There have been efforts to work with forest owners regarding spruce bark beetle that the forest owners consider a pest, but which has a role to play in natural regeneration of spruce forests.
- Ramunas Lydis informed that there have been resource cuts as well which makes EU funding more sought after. There is a LIFE Integrated project "Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania". There might be some plans for a national organisation for parks. They will renew their Charter at end of the year.
- Lina Diksaite also emphasised the importance of projects, such as international projects on nature guides that they have. Curonian Spit National Park will have a new visitor centre in a few years, the national park receives about 1 000 000 visits each year. The park is also a World Heritage Site. There have been discussions to form a transboundary park with Russia.
- Jan Woolhead told that there are five national parks in Denmark. There are also regional parks that are based on certification managed by the Danish Outdoor Council. There are two sites that will become Geoparks in addition to one existing Geopark. There is also one Biosphere Reserve and two World Heritage Sites as well as 26 Ramsar sites. Many of these are overlapping nominations and also Natura 2000 sites. IUCN National Committee of Denmark is making a review of conservation areas in Denmark in order to find out which fulfil the criteria of IUCN protected area definition. So far 385 sites have fulfilled the criteria. In Denmark, it is the municipalities that have a large responsibility of protected areas. Municipalities are interested in nature tourism and development. Preservation of peatlands for climate change has become important.

- Rolands Auziņš told about the EUROPARC Conference 2019 that will be in Ķemeri National Park in Latvia on 24-27 September 2019. The registration is open and as the space is limited to 350 people for the Gala Dinner, the members are encouraged to register as soon as possible. The venue is such that everything will be within a walking distance.
- Stig Johansson told that Finland just had Parliamentary elections and there is now hope for better financing for nature conservation. In recent years, the trend has been that financing has decreased as responsibilities have increased which has resulted in a maintenance gap in protected areas. The gap has been estimated to be about 40 million Euros in maintenance of services and facilities and about 70 million in maintenance of cultural heritage sites managed by Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland. There is also a conservation management intervention gap as there have not been sufficient resources to carry out all necessary management actions for nature conservation in protected areas. New ways of financing are sought after, such as voluntary work input and possible sponsorship scenarios. The aim is to use data-based decision making in all protected area management. The use of the method Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) is being piloted. National Urban Parks is a concept implemented in several urban areas and is becoming more important in the future due to rapid urbanisation. Finland just finished the presidency of the Arctic Council and will start EU presidency in the beginning of July 2019. The Red List of Ecosystem and of Species have been published. IUCN standards were used to evaluate ecosystems and species. Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 was updated.
- Kaja Lotman informed that the sixth national park in Estonia, Alutaguse National Park, was established at the end of 2018. Estonia is celebrating the month of nature protection and European Day of Parks with hiking days in different protected areas. The slogan is Everybody's Nature Conservation. In Estonia, funds were allocated for renovation of fish spawning areas also in protected areas. The Action plan for seminatural grasslands is being renewed. Forestry development plans are in process, taking under protection additional 32 739 ha in 136 areas. Also, marine area planning is in process. There are also several EU-funded LIFE projects ongoing in Estonia. Lahemaa National Park is close to becoming the second Charter Park in Estonia. Maybe also Matsalu National Park will start working on this. There will be a Junior Ranger Camp in Estonia on 7-13 July 2019 in Lahemaa National Park. The Environmental Board has a new General Director Riho Kuppert and there is also a new Minister of the Environment Rene Kokk. The merge of Environmental Inspection with Environmental Board was stopped by the last Parliament. Lahemaa and Matsalu National Parks are on Facebook, please "look, like, love and share":  
[https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Lahemaa%20National%20Park&epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Lahemaa%20National%20Park&epa=SEARCH_BOX)  
<https://www.facebook.com/matsalunationalpark/>

## 5 Updates from the Council, Nele Söber

Nele Söber informed that EUROPARC Federation is now more dependent on projects as before and there was a need to take a bridging loan. The membership fees counted for 38% of the EUROPARC budget in 2018 and in 2015 56%. A fundraising strategy will be developed to find new sources of income. There have been discussions on the Conference format as well as on Council efficiency including travel costs. There will be a new EUROPARC strategy and the Sections and members will be involved in the development of it. The timeline for strategy development is as follows:

- First ideas at the General Assembly in 2019
- Online questionnaire for members in early 2020
- Consultations within Directorate, with Council and Sections in early 2020
- Further inputs at General Assembly in 2020
- Closing consultation in December 2020
- Data elaboration in early 2021
- Strategy writing in spring 2021
- Dissemination of the draft for feedback in May-June 2021
- Final review in Aug 2021.

Stig mentioned that the Post 2020 biodiversity agenda should be taken into account in the development of the new EUROPARC strategy. He also said that it is important to have correct data in the World Database on Protected Areas and to have all protected areas that are in the pipeline to be established in the near future. The reason for this is that the data is needed to have a good picture of the state of protected areas in the world for global post 2020 biodiversity agenda.

Nele also had some suggestions for NBS work. She suggested that it would be good to start sharing and liking member Facebook pages, Instagram updates as well as other social media updates between members. This would help with an active circulation of EUROPARC news. She also said that the Section contact list should be updated and then shared with EUROPARC Federation as this is also an invoicing issue for EUROPARC. It was discussed that Country Focal Points of NBS could help with this. Nele told that there had been a contact from the Tatra National Park in Poland for possible cooperation. Maybe NBS could start cooperation with Poland.

## 6 Updates from Commissions, Transboundary Parks, Charter Parks

### **Agriculture and Protected Areas Commission, Kaja Lotman**

Kaja informed that a draft Charter of Sustainable Agriculture will be discussed at the EUROPARC Conference 2019 in Latvia.

<https://www.euoparc.org/european-policy/sustainable-agriculture/>

A regional platform seminar in the framework of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores was held in Grosseto in Italy as there are conflicts between the rising number of wolves and sheep and goat breeding farms.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence\\_platform.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence_platform.htm)

### **Health and Protected Areas Commission, prepared by Joel Erkkonen, information given by Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen**

The Commission is preparing three workshops for the EUROPARC Conference 2019 in Latvia as well as drafting the Riga communique which sets out key elements of a common European approach to Healthy Parks, Healthy People (HPPH).

### **Natura 2000 Commission, prepared by Pirkko Siikamäki, information given by Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen**

There have been one online and one live meeting scheduled in 2019. The proposal for the live meeting is to be in Brussels in October 2019 prior to the seminar with the European Commission ("Dialogue"). One of the main tasks of the Commission is to update regularly toolkit on the Natura 2000. Members are asked to provide any relevant study or document that could be posted to the website: <https://www.euoparc.org/toolbox/natura-2000/>. Specific information will be collected about the following habitat groups: forests, meadows and agriculture. The Commission will organise one thematic webinar and one workshop at the EUROPARC Conference 2019 on Natura 2000. The Commission will also support the policy work of EUROPARC Brussels office upon request through e.g. inputs for presentations, case studies, speakers, and feedback on consultations from EC or new guidelines being developed. All Commission members will upload interesting case studies on Natura 2000 management using the form <https://www.euoparc.org/toolbox/submit-case-study/> and distribute the link to other potential contributors.

### **Fedenatur/Periurban, information given by Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen**

Anukka Rasinmäki is a new member of the Commission from Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland.

### **TransParcNet, prepared by Riina Tervo, information given by Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen**

The highlight of the year, the annual meeting of the transboundary parks TransParcNet 2019, will take place in Oulanka-Paanajärvi Transboundary Parks (Finland/Russia), in Kuusamo in Finland on 11-14 2019, followed by a post seminar trip to Paanajärvi National Park in Russia. The theme of the meeting is Management Challenges in Transboundary Parks. Around 40 experts of transboundary nature conservation cooperation from different corners of Europe will get together to share best practices and learn more. New infographic of the benefits of the Transboundary Parks programme is being prepared. Large carnivores in Transboundary Parks webinar was held on 16 April 2019. Species discussed were brown bear and lynx. See the link for further information:

<https://www.euoparc.org/tools-and-training/europarc-webinars/previous-webinars/webinar-large-carnivores-in-transboundary-parks-2019/>

### **Charter Parks, Agnese Balandina**

The XI Charter Network Meeting was held on 9-11 April 2019 in Tzoumerka, Acheloos Valley, Agrafa and Meteora National Park in Greece. Agnese participated in the meeting and informed that it provided good information and exchange of experiences. The meeting material is found here:

<https://www.europarc.org/sustainable-tourism/network-sustainable-destinations/xi-charter-network-meeting-2019/>

## 7 Updates from the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Coordination

### Report from the EUROPARC Sections meeting 7-8 May 2019

The EUROPARC Sections meeting was held on 7-8 May 2019 in Charlbury, Cotswolds (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) in the United Kingdom. Representatives of Atlantic Isles Section, German Section, Spanish Section, Low Countries Section and Nordic-Baltic Section (Stig and Sanna) were present along with Carol Ritchie Executive Director of EUROPARC Federation and Pete Rawcliffe, chair of Health and Protected Areas Commission. There was no participation of French, Italian and Central and Eastern Europe Sections in the meeting for various reasons. Main activities and challenges of the different Sections were discussed. Atlantic Isles Sections does many webinars. It was discussed that NBS could joint them to do a joint webinar on some topic in the future. The European Day of Parks on 24 of May was discussed and Sections were asked to promote registration of activities by their members in the website of EUROPARC. Pete Rawcliffe presented the Health and Protected Areas Commission toolkit that is available on the website <https://www.europarc.org/toolkit-health-benefits-from-parks/>. Upcoming EUROPARC Conference 2019 in Latvia was discussed and participation of young people in the Conference was encouraged. The Youth Manifesto was discussed and how to implement it in the Sections. Sections were encouraged to develop webinars as EUROPARC has facilities for this. There are opportunities to participate in the e-learning activities developed within the LIFE Preparatory project "Supporting e-learning and open education for Natura 2000 managers" lead by EUROPARC. The next Sections online meeting will be on 5 September 2019 and a live one with the EUROPARC Council on 24 September 2019 in conjunction with the EUROPARC Conference 2019.

### Nordic-Baltic Section Activity Plan 2018-2020, year 2019

Sanna presented the Section Activity Plan for the year 2019. It is attached as Annex 2.

### Questionnaire results

Carina presented the results of the questionnaire. A summary of the results and a report is attached as Annex 3. The results will be taken into account in planning of Section activities.

### Country Focal Point

Country Focal Points:

- Denmark: Jan Woolhead
- Estonia: Nele Söber
- Finland: Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen
- Latvia: Rolands Auziņš
- Lithuania: Giedrius Norvaisas
- Sweden: Evelina Selander

The coordination will work further on finding country focal points for Iceland and Norway.

### Web site of the Nordic-Baltic Section

Carina informed that the coordination has been thinking about renewing the NBS website. The other Sections also have their own websites, except the Low Countries. The NBS site is currently hosted by EUROPARC but the system is old and does not allow for certain changes to be made. The domain name costs 15 €/year and hosting 130 €/year, totalling 145 €/year. The coordination has been looking into WordPress as a possible new host and website platform. The cost of hosting is 300 €/year in order to have a website that allows sufficient capacity. This would mean 900 €/NBS coordination as the NBS coordination would assume the cost of hosting the website for the coordination period. It seemed that the members present could agree on this. It is possible that there is a need for a separate archive to store information on past activities that is not linked to the website. It was discussed whether a Google Drive could function as such an archive but e.g. the Swedish members cannot access Google Drive. The coordination will work further on finding the best solution for hosting the website and finding an archive space.

### **Organisation of a webinar**

Organisation of a webinar during autumn of 2019 was discussed. The topics suggested included sustainable tourism, visitor management, Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) methodology, and monitoring, all with focus on practical tools for managers. The coordination will check with EUROPARC Communications and Marketing Manager Barbara Pais what would be the best time for a webinar as the webinar can be hosted on the EUROPARC platform. The coordination will also check whether other Sections would like to join forces in putting a webinar together.

### **Next presidency of the Section**

It was discussed that maybe Denmark could take the next presidency of the Section. Stig will discuss this further with Denmark. It was also discussed whether it would be a good idea to have a theme for the next presidency as this might help to get funding for coordination and Section work.

### **Next Section meeting**

The next Section meeting will be on 25 September at 18:40-20:00 during the EUROPARC Conference 2019 in Latvia. It was also discussed how to encourage more members to participate in the Section work more actively. The members are interested in participating in the EUROPARC work if the European network gives them more than their national network (if such exists). It was also discussed that workshops organised by NBS are interesting for members.

## **8 Closing of the meeting**

The meeting was held in two sessions: 27 May 2019 at 14:00-16:45 and 28 May 2019 at 09:45-10:30. Stig Johansson closed the second session at 10:30.

### **Annexes**

- Annex 1 Programme
- Annex 2 EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Activity Plan 2018-2020, year 2019
- Annex 3 Report of the results of the questionnaire in 2018



Länsstyrelsen  
Skåne



## EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section and Kullaberg Nature Reserve

### Agenda for the Members Assembly and get-together 2019

Mölle, Sweden

27-28 May, 2019

#### Mon, 27<sup>th</sup> of May

Arrival to Helsingborg Train Station no later than 11:30, group transfer to Mölle by bus  
Check in to Pensionat Strandgården in Mölle upon arrival

12:30 – 13:30 – lunch at Pensionat Strandgården

14:00 – 16:30 – Members Assembly

Words of welcome

*Daniel Åberg, Site Manager of Kullaberg Nature Reserve, County Administrative Board of Scania*

Opening of the Members Assembly

*Stig Johansson, President of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section & Director of International Affairs, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland*

1. Tour de Table
2. Updates from Members
3. Updates from the Council
4. Updates from Commissions, Transboundary Parks, Charter Parks
5. Updates from the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Coordination
  - Report from the EUROPARC Sections meeting 7-8 May 2019
  - Nordic-Baltic Section Activity Plan 2018-2020, year 2019
  - Questionnaire results
  - Web site
  - Country Focal Point
  - Next presidency of the Section
  - Next Section meeting: 25 September 2019 18.00-20.00, EUROPARC Conference 2019 venue

16:30 – 17:30 – Kullaberg Nature Reserve and ECST – European Charter for Sustainable Tourism: how we made it happen in Kullaberg Nature Reserve.

18:00 – dinner at Pensionat Strandgården

19:00 – short hike in Kullaberg Nature Reserve.

## **Tue, 28<sup>th</sup> of May**

7:30 – 8:45 - breakfast at Pensionat Strandgården

9:00 – 9:45 – Naturum Kullaberg – presentation and tour

9:45 – 10:30 – Discussion about possible collaboration in the NBS, project ideas, funding.

10:30 – 12:30 – Porpoise safari with Kullabergsguiderna

13:00 – lunch at Kv.Kvarnen in Höganäs

14:00 – departure from Höganäs to Helsingborg Train Station by bus

15:00 – arrival to Helsingborg Train Station.





## EUROPARC NORDIC-BALTIC SECTION ACTIVITY PLAN 2018-2020

The EUROPARC Federation is the network for Europe's natural and cultural heritage. The Federation works to improve the management of protected areas in Europe through international cooperation, exchange of ideas and experience, and by influencing policy.

The EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section is one of eight regional and national units which have been established to make the work of the EUROPARC Federation more effective. It represents member organisations from the eight Nordic and Baltic countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

The main goal of the section is to promote exchange of information and expertise and encourage cooperation between the members to improve management of protected areas. The Section follows the key aims of the EUROPARC Federation and maintains active connections between the Section members and the EUROPARC Federation.

### Coordination 2018-2020

Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland is the Nordic-Baltic Section coordinator for 2018-2020. The coordination team include:

- **Mr. Stig Johansson** is the president. He works as Director of International Affairs within Parks & Wildlife Finland.  
Contact: stig.johansson@metsa.fi, tel. +358 40 578 4328
- **Ms. Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen** is the coordinator. She works as Senior Advisor with protected areas and historical sites in the Coastal and Metropolitan Area of Parks & Wildlife Finland.  
Contact: sanna-kaisa.juvonen@metsa.fi, tel. +358 40 774 3933
- **Ms. Carina Wennström** is the communicator. She works as Senior Advisor in the Coastal and Metropolitan Area of Parks & Wildlife Finland as part of a team of experts on sustainability and management of recreation and tourism.  
Contact: carina.wennstrom@metsa.fi, tel. +358 40 179 8035
- **Ms. Liisa Nikula** is our liaison with EUROPARC Federation. She works as Senior Advisor in International Cooperation in Parks & Wildlife Finland.  
Contact: liisa.nikula@metsa.fi, tel. +358 40 528 8467

## ACTIVITY PLAN 2018-2020

- Sharing of information on upcoming events of interest to the Section members;
- Arranging of thematic seminars in cooperation with member organisations;
- Supporting and facilitating exchange of member organisation staff for capacity building and information exchange;
- Providing the members with help in finding project partners for projects within the Nordic-Baltic member countries and in relation with EUROPARC Federation and other EUROPARC sections;
- Actively seeking project funding possibilities for joint projects within the Section region;
- Maintaining and strengthening the links between the Nordic-Baltic Section, the EUROPARC Federation and its other sections;
- Participation in EUROPARC work through i.e. Commissions, TransParcNet, and Charter Parks;
- Strengthening of cooperation with other Nordic-Baltic networks in nature conservation, such as the Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

## ACTIVITY PLAN 2019

### Section coordination

- Constant updating of the member e-mail list.
- Finding a country focal point for each country in the Section.
- Preparations for selection of the next Section presidency.
- Sharing of the results of the questionnaire done in 2018 about the activities the members would like the Section to be engaged with and further gathering of information from members on this topic.
- Exchange of experience and sharing of knowledge and best practices: Gathering of information from members on what they would like to share with the other members and what they would like to learn from others.

### Member meetings and seminars

- Members Assembly and get-together, 27-28 May 2019, Kullaberg Nature Reserve, Sweden.
- Members meeting 25 September 2019 at 18:40-20:00 during the EUROPARC Conference 2019 in Ķemeri National Park, Latvia.
- Organising a webinar through EUROPARC system. The topic will be discussed with the members and members are asked to participate as presenters depending on the topic.

### Participation in EUROPARC activities

- The Section is involved in the work and activities of the EUROPARC Federation.
  - o Participation in Commission work
    - Agriculture and Protected Areas Commission
    - Fedenatur/Periurban Commission
    - Health and Protected Areas Commission
    - Natura 2000 Commission
  - o Participation in the Transboundary Network TransParcNet
  - o Participation in the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas
- Nele Sõber from Estonia works as Councillor in the EUROPARC Council.
- The Section president and/or coordinator will participate, if possible, in meetings with the Federation and its sections and other meetings/seminars that are organised by the Nordic-Baltic Section members.
  - o Sections Meeting 6-8 May 2019, Charlbury, United Kingdom
  - o Sections and Council Meeting on 24 September during the EUROPARC Conference 2019 in Latvia.

### Participation in the EUROPARC Conference 2019

- The Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia organises the EUROPARC Conference 2019 "Nature on your mind – understanding our values" in Ķemeri National Park on 24-27 September 2019.
- Section members are involved in organising workshops in the Conference.

### The European Charter of Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas Part II

- Kullaberg Nature Reserve is working on the revision of the Guidelines for Implementing Part II of the Charter (working with tourism business partners) within the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section.

### Communication activities

- Sharing of information from EUROPARC Federation to members.
- Sharing of information from coordination and members.
- Information will be sent to members via e-mail and/or posted on the Section web site, if posted notices with links to the site will be e-mailed to members.
- Website will be hosted on a new platform and content will be transferred to it. The intention is to keep the same domain name if possible.
- Maintenance and updating of the website contents will be a continuous work.
- Information will be shared on the Section Facebook page.
- Members are encouraged to send relevant information about their activities and protected areas to be posted on the web site or on the Facebook page.
- Web site: [www.europarc-nb.org](http://www.europarc-nb.org)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EuroparcNordicBalticSection/](https://www.facebook.com/EuroparcNordicBalticSection/)
- Use of other social media channels: information from members if there is an interest among the members to use also other social media channels, such as Twitter.

# EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Questionnaire 2018 - Summary



Number of responders in the questionnaire was 39 and the most active ones to take part were the Danish and Finnish.

Regarding the joint activities the Nordic Baltic Section, seminars (68%), training and capacity building (55%) and projects (55%) got the most answers.

Nature conservation (56%) and visitor management (54%) were issues felt that we should address. Communication (44%) was also seen as a very important. Regarding the current issues the sustainability of protected areas (59%), health and protected areas (46%) and the economic valuation of protected areas (44%) rose highest on the list.

Recognizing and maximizing benefits from protected areas (54%), ensuring sustainable financing (46%) and reconciling local needs with conservation (41%) was seen as the most important challenges for the protected areas.

It was very obvious, that working on protected area management level was held as the most important one. Sharing of experiences and best practices were considered very important.

Most participants (84%) had an interest in cooperation between different EUROPARC Sections. Surprisingly only 50 % reported the different members of Europarc in the country had regular contact. To have a EUROPARC focal point in every country was considered a good idea.

Regarding communication within the section information by e-mail got the most answers.

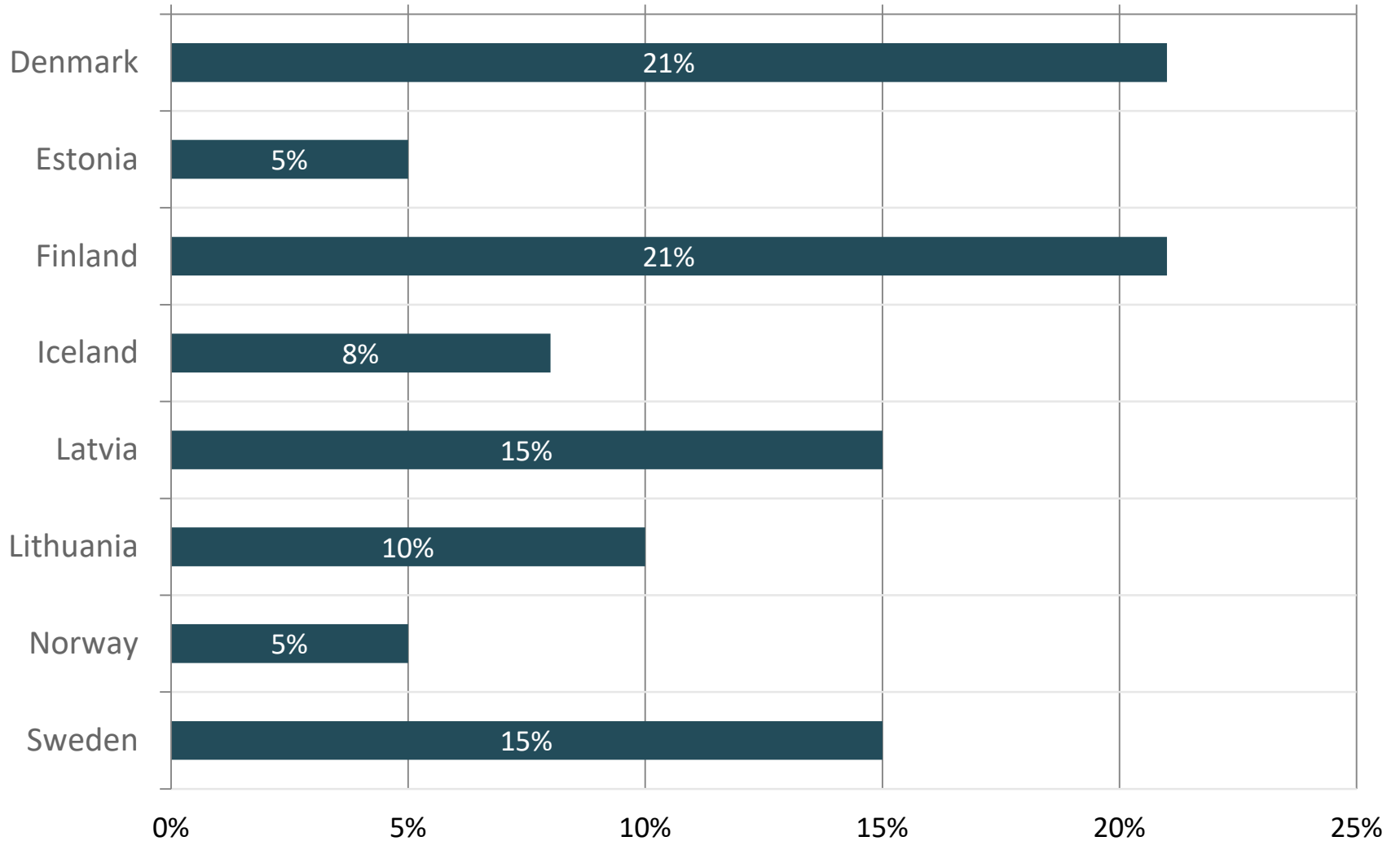
## EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section activities 2018

This questionnaire is sent to all EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section members. With this questionnaire we would like to find out what ideas members have in relation to future activities of the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section. Please fill out the questionnaire, it will only take 5-10 minutes!

Total number of respondents: 39

# 1. I am from:

Number of respondents: 39



# 1. I am from:

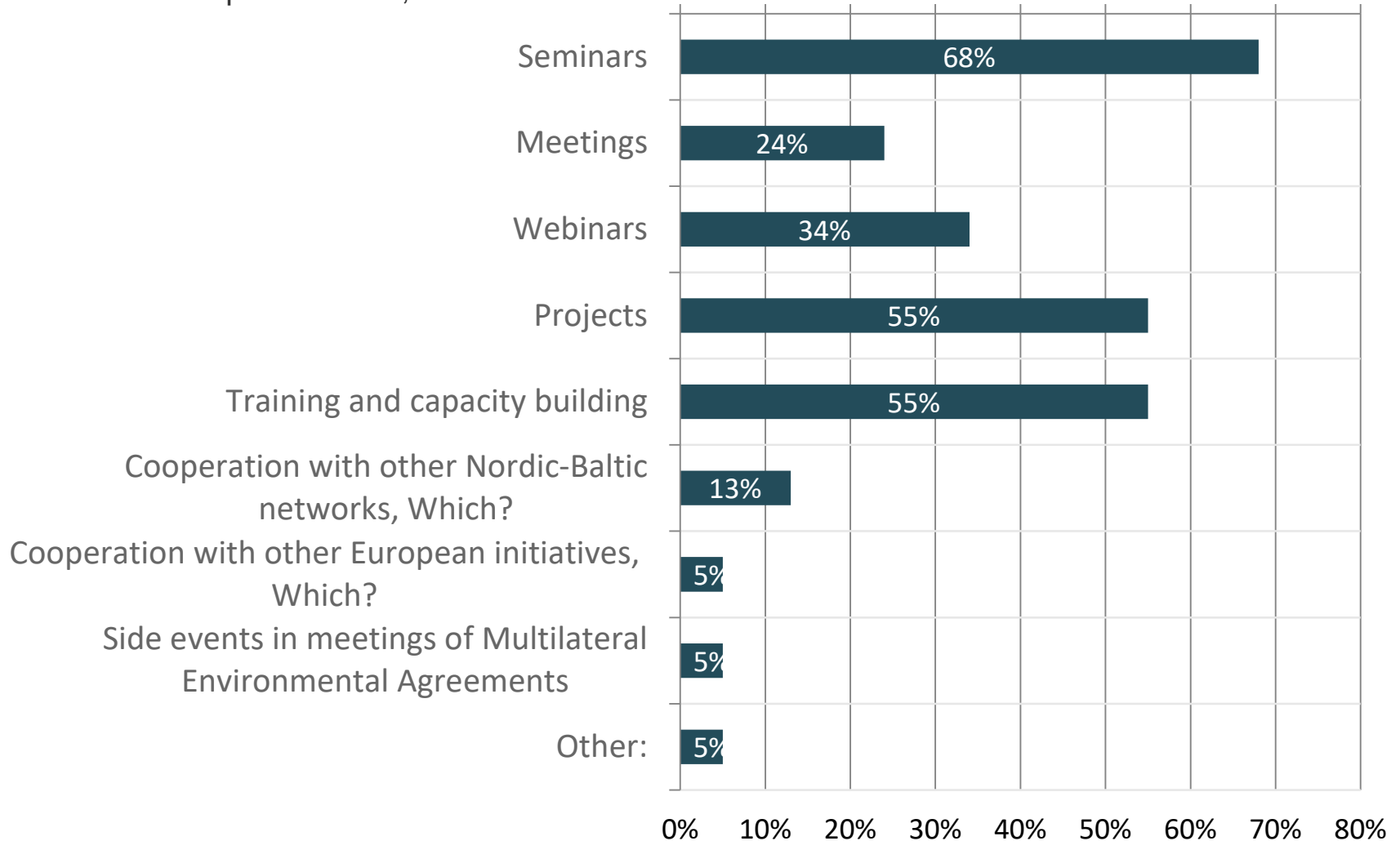
Number of respondents: 39

|           | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------|----------|----------------|
| Denmark   | 8        | 20,51%         |
| Estonia   | 2        | 5,13%          |
| Finland   | 8        | 20,51%         |
| Iceland   | 3        | 7,69%          |
| Latvia    | 6        | 15,39%         |
| Lithuania | 4        | 10,26%         |
| Norway    | 2        | 5,13%          |
| Sweden    | 6        | 15,38%         |



## 2. What kind of joint activities would you like the Nordic-Baltic Section to do? Please choose three most important activities.

Number of respondents: 38, selected answers: 101



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Number of respondents: 38, selected answers: 101

|  | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--|----------|----------------|
| Seminars   | 26       | 68,42%         |
| Meetings   | 9        | 23,68%         |
| Webinars   | 13       | 34,21%         |
| Projects   | 21       | 55,26%         |
| Training and capacity building                                   | 21       | 55,26%         |
| Cooperation with other Nordic-Baltic networks, Which?            | 5        | 13,16%         |
| Cooperation with other European initiatives, Which?              | 2        | 5,26%          |
| Side events in meetings of Multilateral Environmental Agreements | 2        | 5,26%          |
| Other:   | 2        | 5,26%          |

## 2. What kind of joint activities would you like the Nordic-Baltic Section to do? Please choose three most important activities.

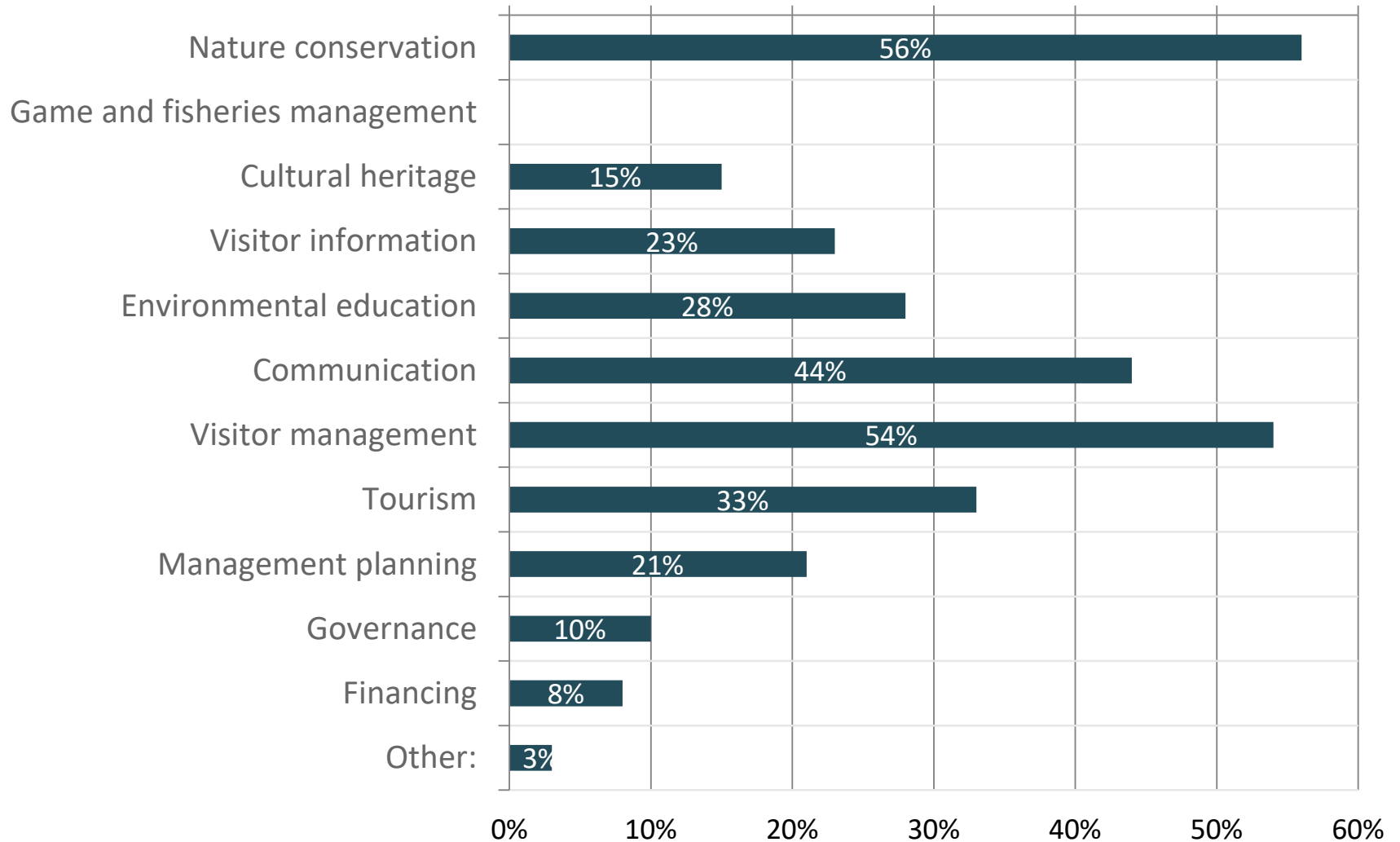
Other:

- World heritage and others
- NordMap, NordWet
- Ramsar NorBalWet
- European Charter
- Sustainable tourism; Nature capital Accounting; HPHP.
- Related to specific topics seminars and cooperations can be interesting
- Fieldtrips along with meetings to exchange ideas

### 3. What protected area issues should we address?

Please choose three most important issues.

Number of respondents: 39, selected answers: 115



### 3. What protected area issues should we address?

Please choose three most important issues.

Number of respondents: 39, selected answers: 115

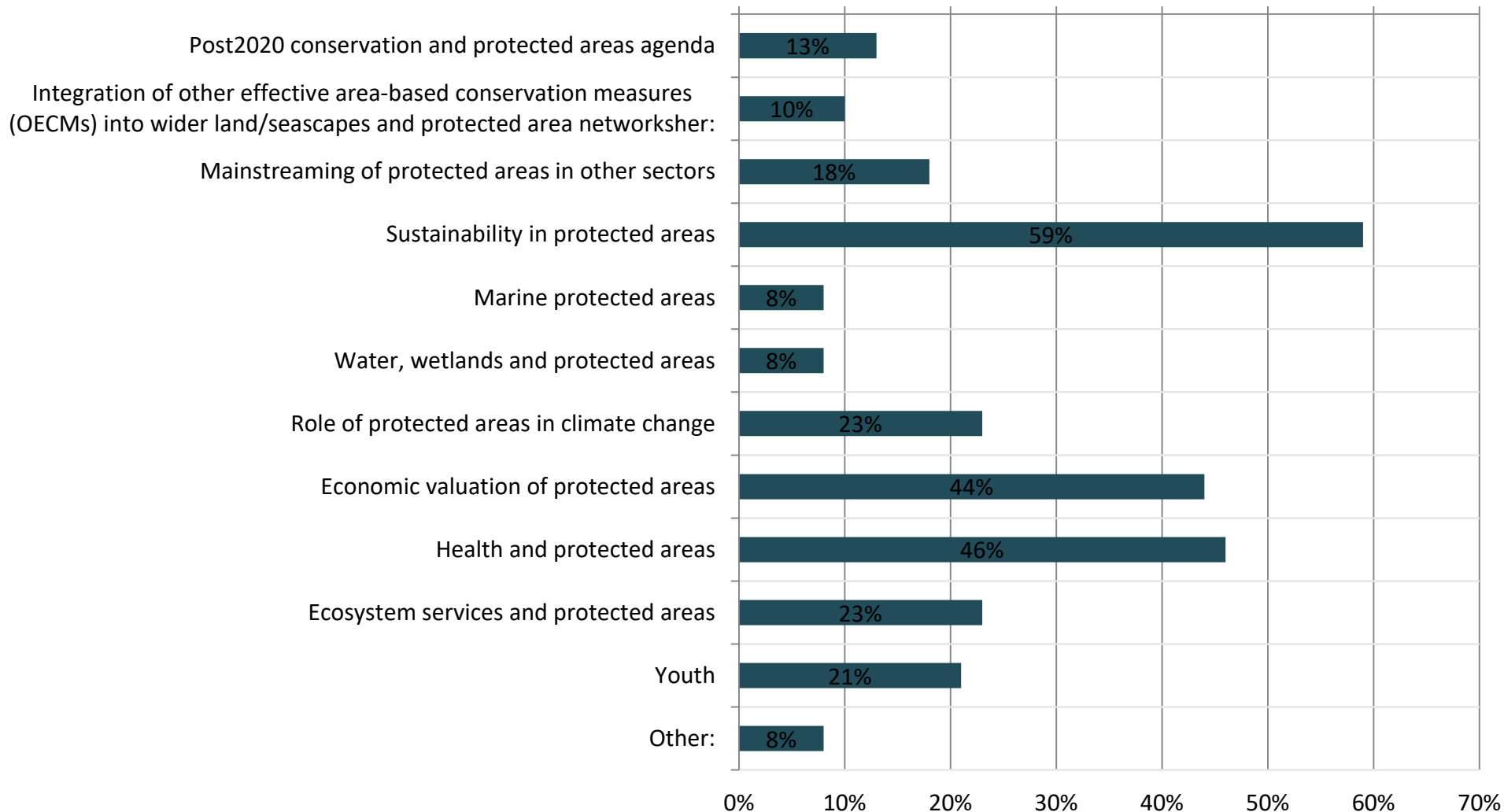
|                               | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Nature conservation           | 22       | 56,41%         |
| Game and fisheries management | 0        | 0%             |
| Cultural heritage             | 6        | 15,38%         |
| Visitor information           | 9        | 23,08%         |
| Environmental education       | 11       | 28,21%         |
| Communication                 | 17       | 43,59%         |
| Visitor management            | 21       | 53,85%         |
| Tourism                       | 13       | 33,33%         |
| Management planning           | 8        | 20,51%         |
| Governance                    | 4        | 10,26%         |
| Financing                     | 3        | 7,69%          |
| Other:                        | 1        | 2,56%          |

Partnership management

## 4. What current protected area issues should we address?

Please choose three most important issues.

Number of respondents: 39, selected answers: 109



## 4. What current protected area issues should we address?

Please choose three most important issues.

Number of respondents: 39, selected answers: 109

|   | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|---|----------|----------------|
| Post2020 conservation and protected areas agenda  | 5        | 12,82%         |
| Integration of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) into wider land/seascapes and protected area networkshes: | 4        | 10,26%         |
| Mainstreaming of protected areas in other sectors   | 7        | 17,95%         |
| Sustainability in protected areas   | 23       | 58,97%         |
| Marine protected areas  | 3        | 7,69%          |
| Water, wetlands and protected areas   | 3        | 7,69%          |
| Role of protected areas in climate change   | 9        | 23,08%         |
| Economic valuation of protected areas   | 17       | 43,59%         |
| Health and protected areas  | 18       | 46,15%         |
| Ecosystem services and protected areas  | 9        | 23,08%         |
| Youth   | 8        | 20,51%         |
| Other:  | 3        | 7,69%          |

## 4. What current protected area issues should we address?

Please choose three most important issues.

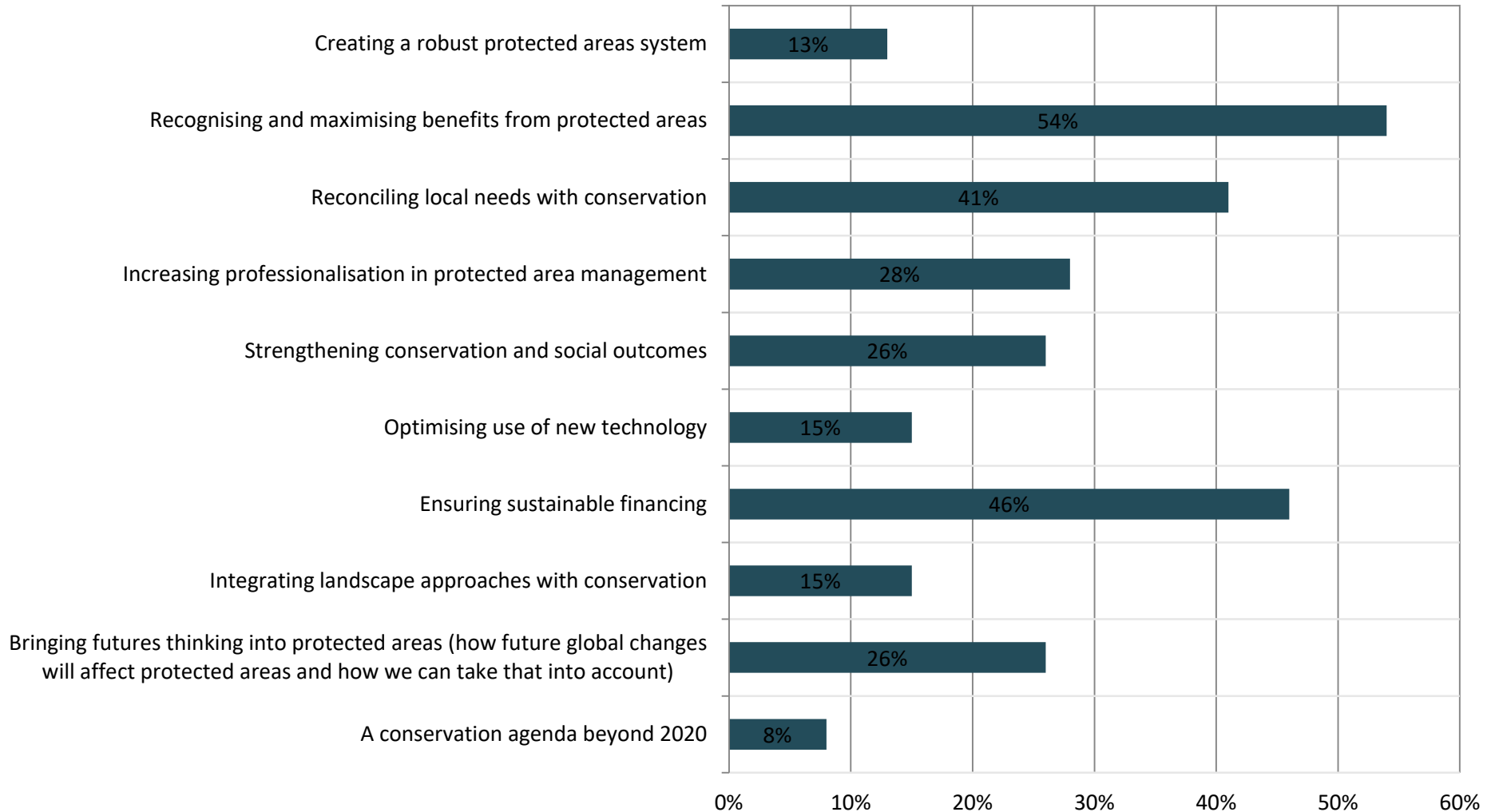
Other:

- Visitor management / crowdedness
- Participation and partnership of SMEs in park management
- Restoration of habitats



## 5. What are the most important challenges for protected areas in your country? Please choose three most important challenges.

Number of respondents: 39, selected answers: 106



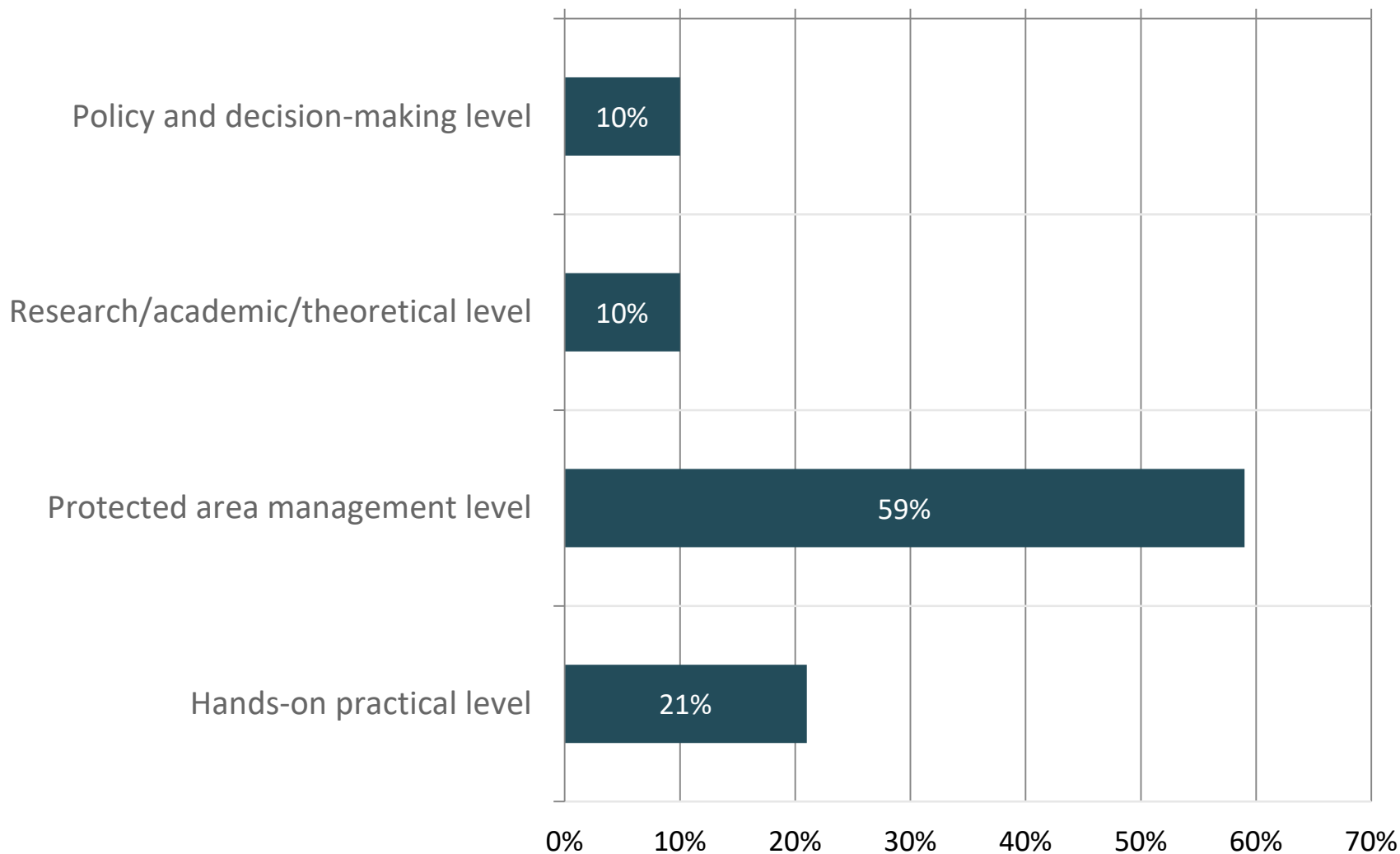
## 5. What are the most important challenges for protected areas in your country? Please choose three most important challenges.

Number of respondents: 39, selected answers: 106

|  | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--|----------|----------------|
| Creating a robust protected areas system   | 5        | 12,82%         |
| Recognising and maximising benefits from protected areas   | 21       | 53,85%         |
| Reconciling local needs with conservation  | 16       | 41,03%         |
| Increasing professionalisation in protected area management  | 11       | 28,21%         |
| Strengthening conservation and social outcomes   | 10       | 25,64%         |
| Optimising use of new technology   | 6        | 15,38%         |
| Ensuring sustainable financing   | 18       | 46,15%         |
| Integrating landscape approaches with conservation   | 6        | 15,38%         |
| Bringing futures thinking into protected areas (how future global changes will affect protected areas and how we can take that into account) | 10       | 25,64%         |
| A conservation agenda beyond 2020  | 3        | 7,69%          |

## 6. On what level should the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section work most? Please choose the most important one.

Number of respondents: 39



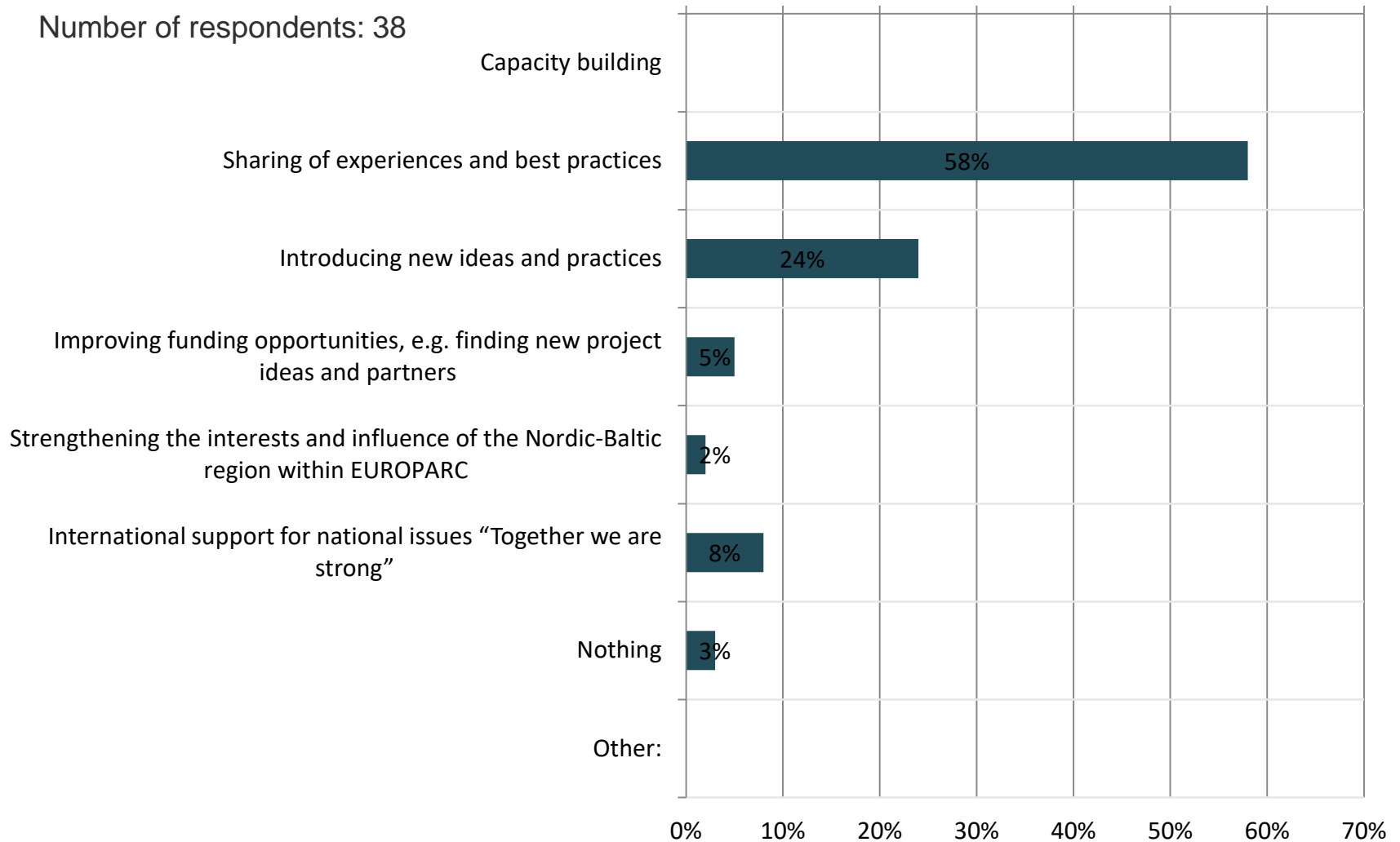
## 6. On what level should the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section work most? Please choose the most important one.

Number of respondents: 39

|                                     | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Policy and decision-making level    | 4        | 10,26%         |
| Research/academic/theoretical level | 4        | 10,26%         |
| Protected area management level     | 23       | 58,97%         |
| Hands-on practical level            | 8        | 20,51%         |

## 7. What added value does the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section give to your organisation? Please choose the most important one.

Number of respondents: 38



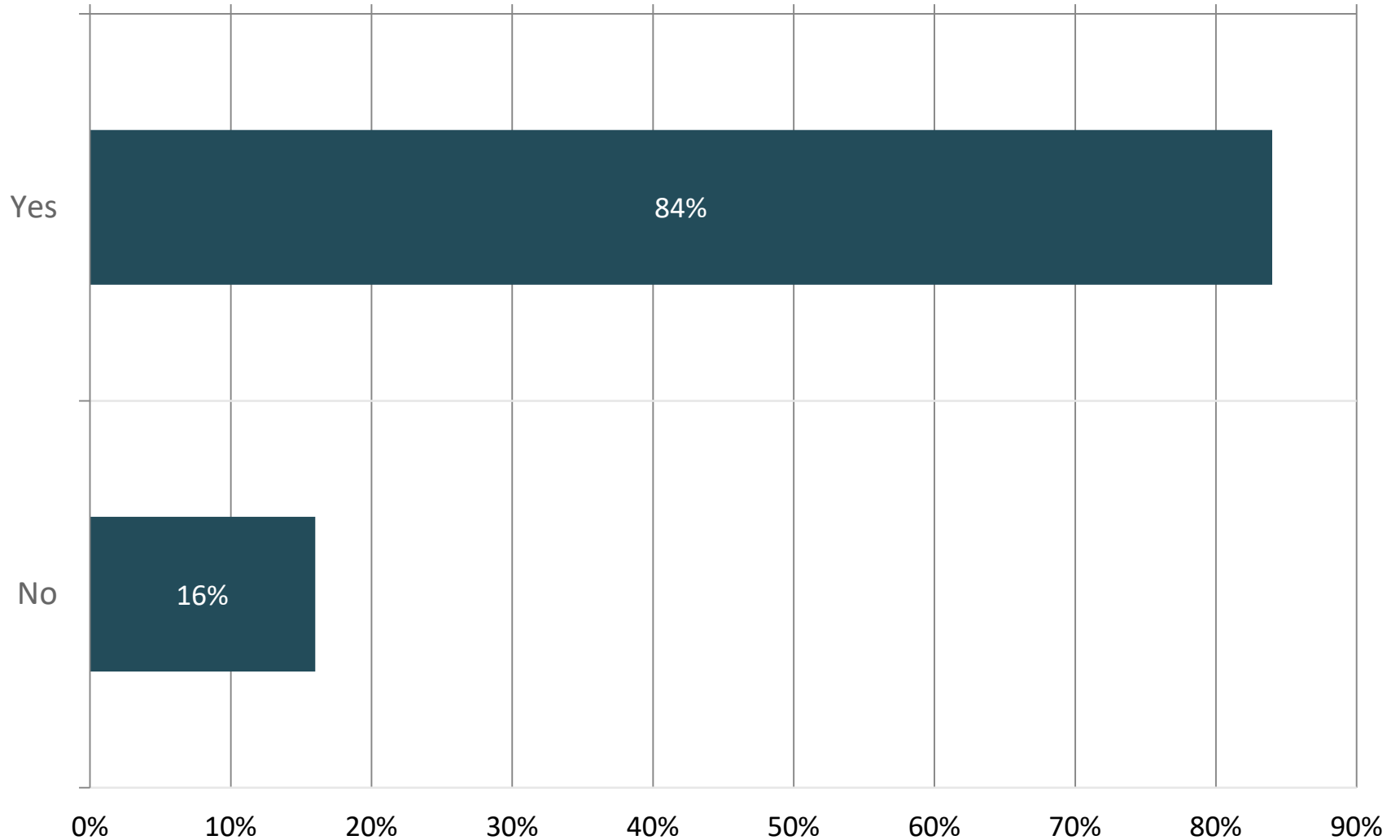
## 7. What added value does the EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section give to your organisation? Please choose the most important one.

Number of respondents: 38

|   | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|---|----------|----------------|
| Capacity building   | 0        | 0%             |
| Sharing of experiences and best practices   | 22       | 57,9%          |
| Introducing new ideas and practices   | 9        | 23,68%         |
| Improving funding opportunities, e.g. finding new project ideas and partners          | 2        | 5,26%          |
| Strengthening the interests and influence of the Nordic-Baltic region within EUROPARC | 1        | 2,63%          |
| International support for national issues "Together we are strong"                    | 3        | 7,9%           |
| Nothing   | 1        | 2,63%          |
| Other:  | 0        | 0%             |

## 8. Are you interested in cooperation between different EUROPARC Sections?

Number of respondents: 37



## 8. Are you interested in cooperation between different EUROPARC Sections?

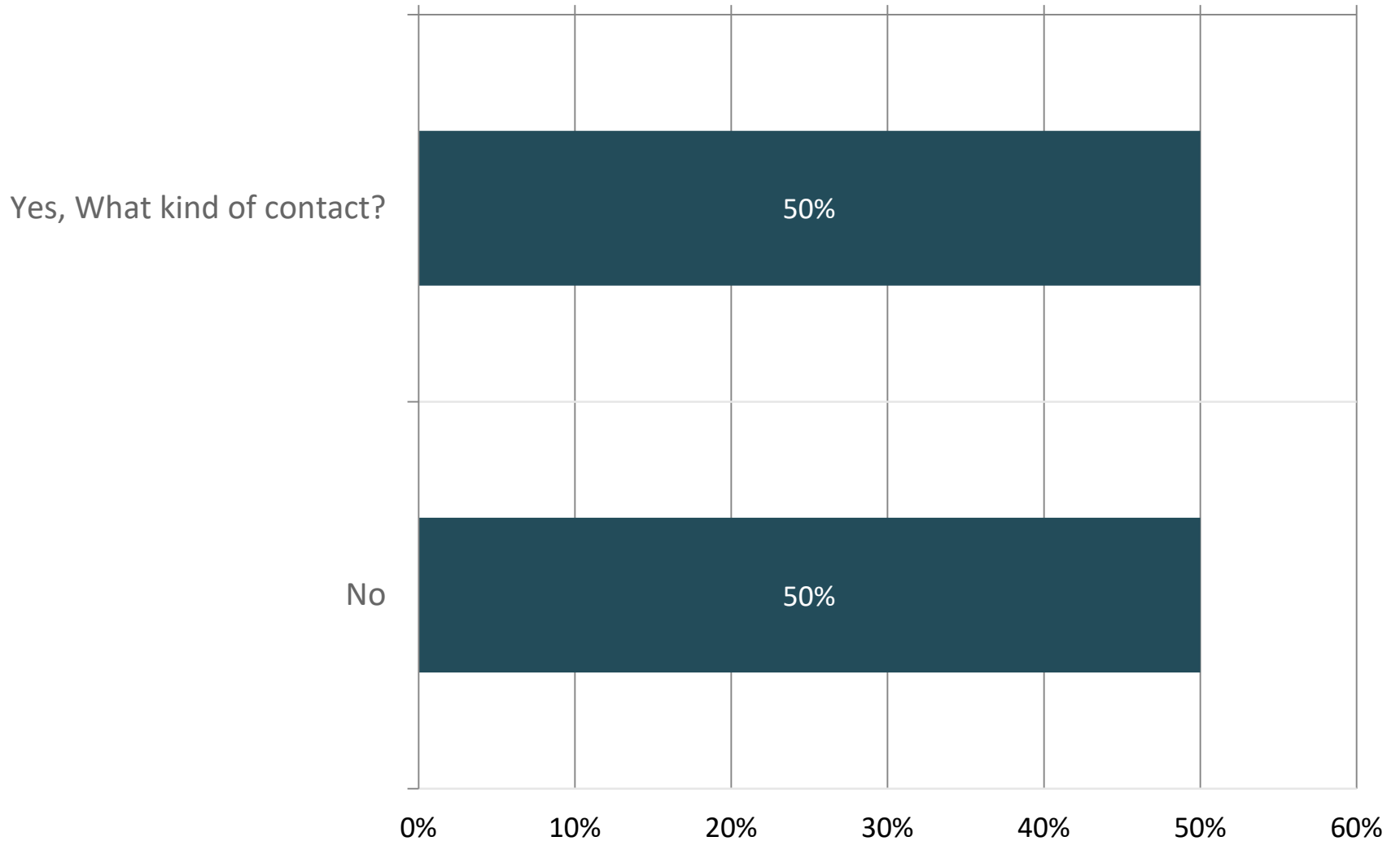
Number of respondents: 37

|     | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----|----------|----------------|
| Yes | 31       | 83,78%         |
| No  | 6        | 16,22%         |



# 9. Do the members of EUROPARC in your country have regular contact?

Number of respondents: 36



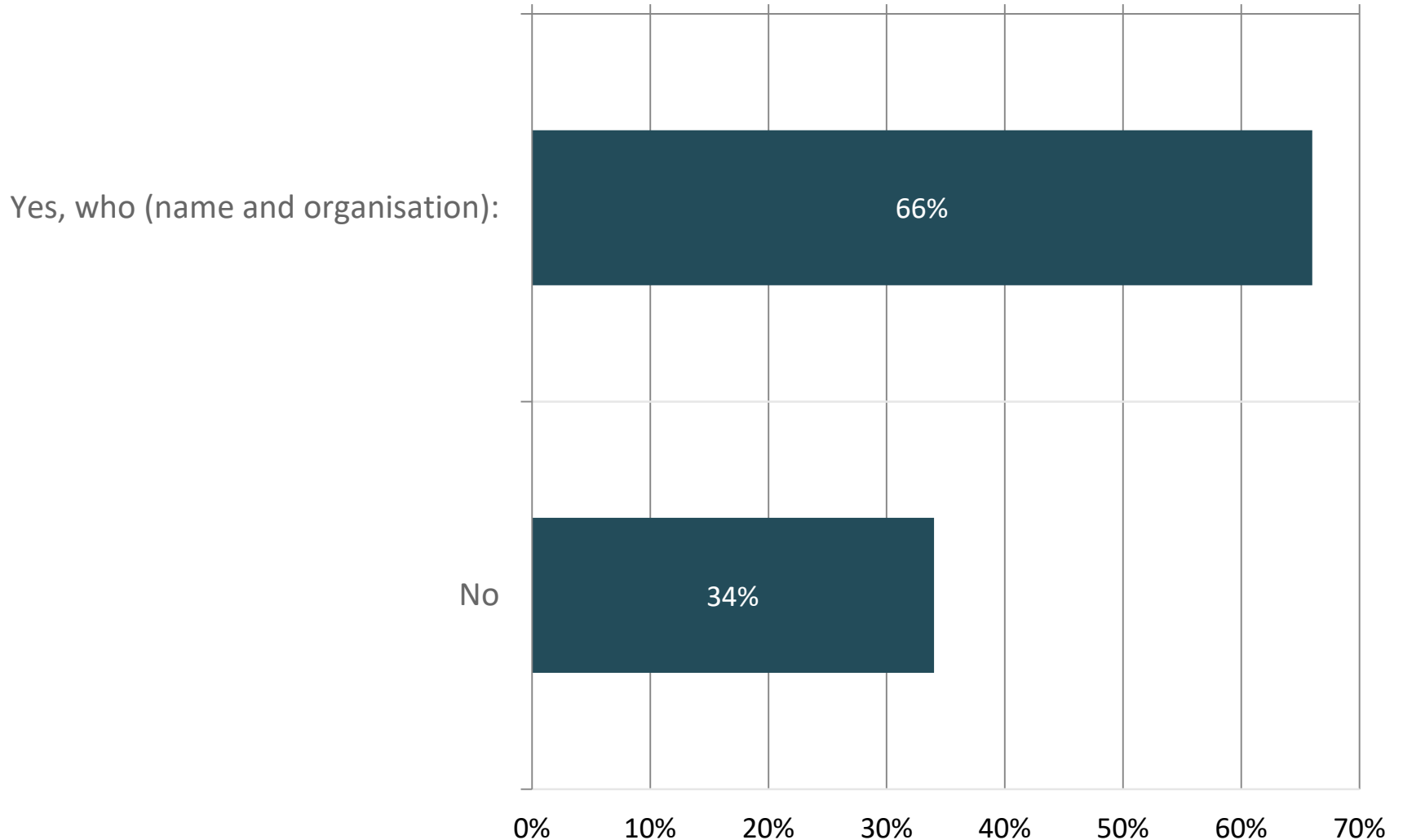
## 9. Do the members of EUROPARC in your country have regular contact?

Number of respondents: 36

|                            | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Yes, What kind of contact? | 18       | 50%            |
| No                         | 18       | 50%            |

# 10. Would you like to have a EUROPARC Country Focal Point for your country?

Number of respondents: 35



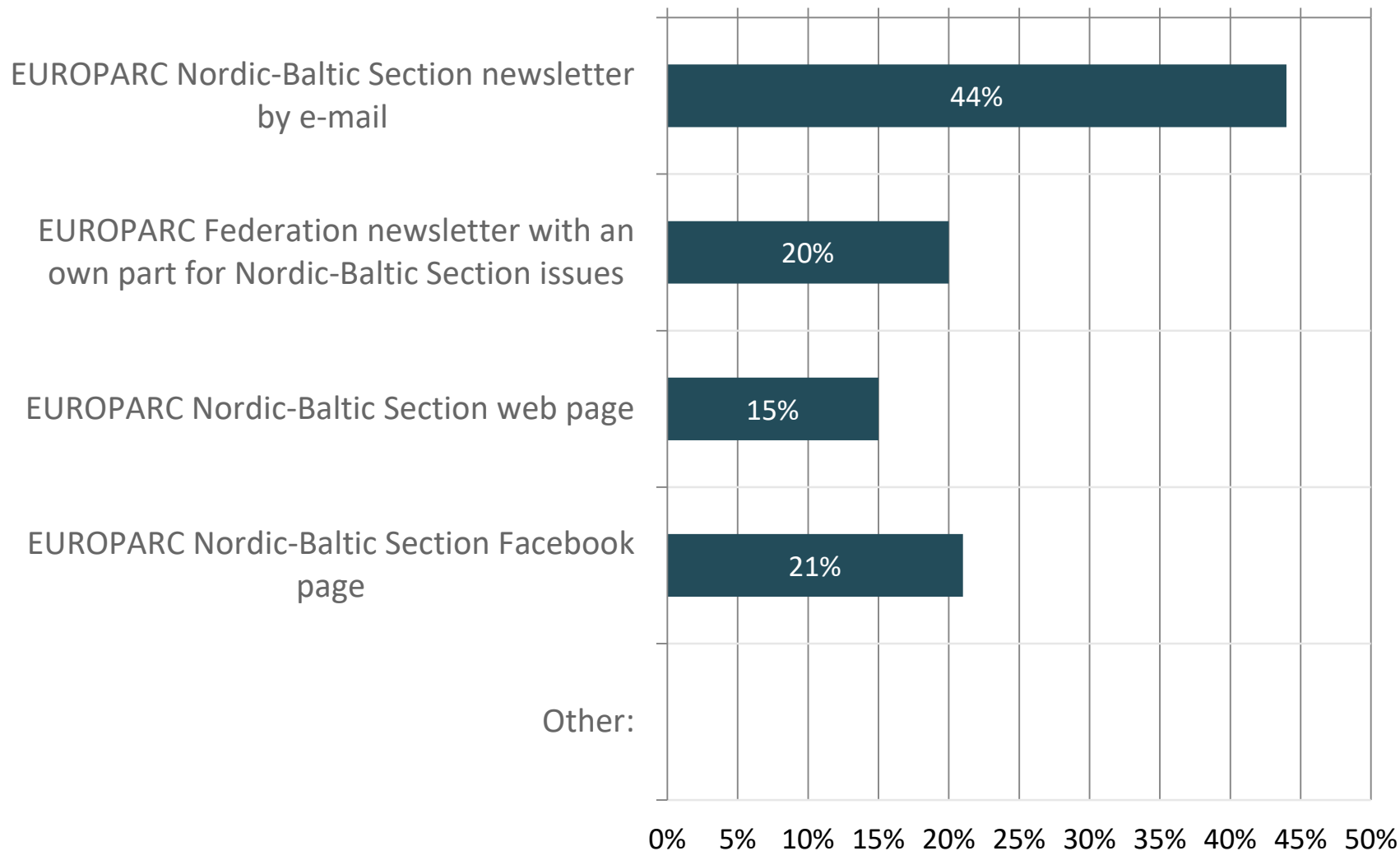
# 10. Would you like to have a EUROPARC Country Focal Point for your country?

Number of respondents: 35

|                                   | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Yes, who (name and organisation): | 23       | 65,71%         |
| No                                | 12       | 34,29%         |

# 11. What kind of communication methods would you prefer? Please choose the most important one.

Number of respondents: 39



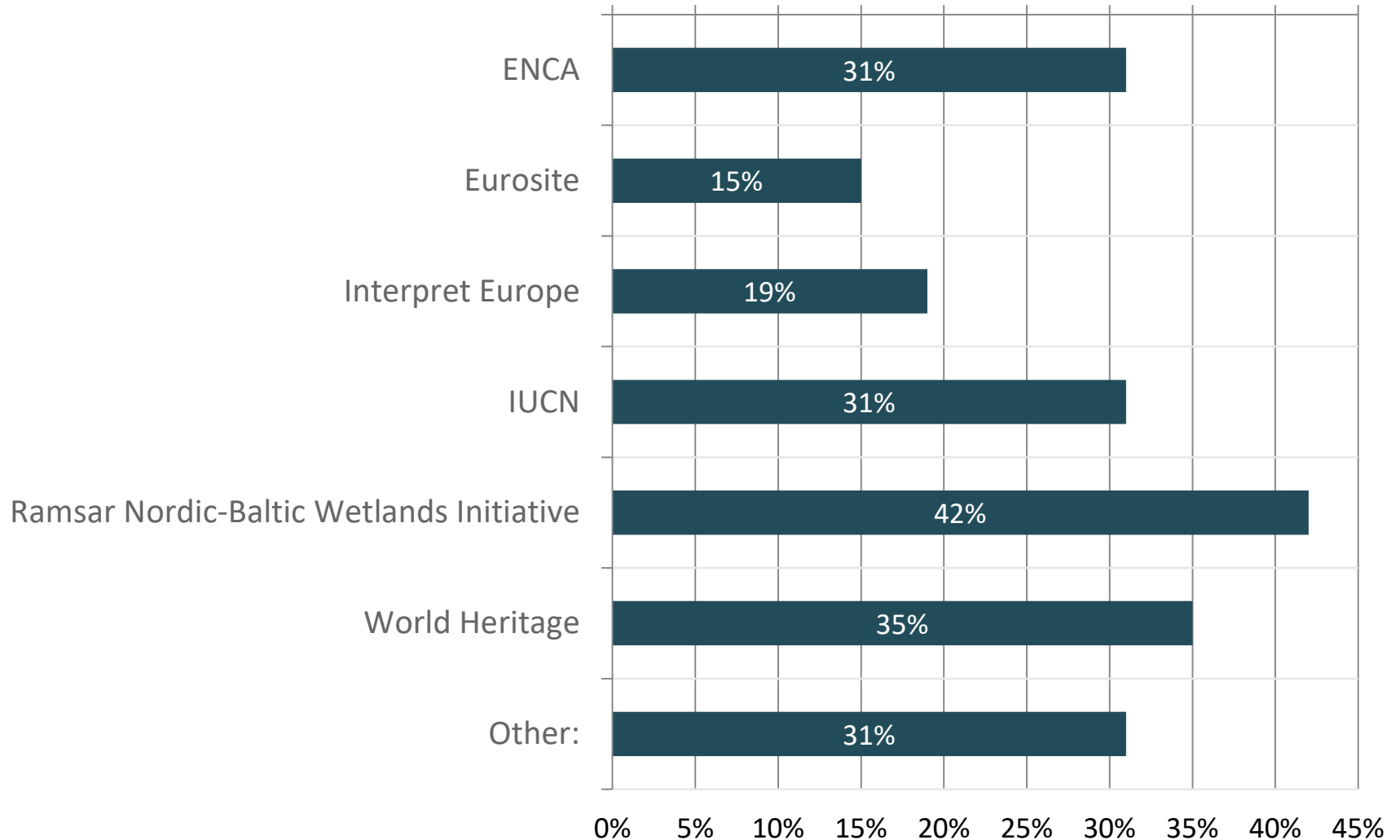
# 11. What kind of communication methods would you prefer? Please choose the most important one.

Number of respondents: 39

|  | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--|----------|----------------|
| EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section newsletter by e-mail                              | 17       | 43,59%         |
| EUROPARC Federation newsletter with an own part for Nordic-Baltic Section issues | 8        | 20,51%         |
| EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section web page  | 6        | 15,39%         |
| EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section Facebook page                                     | 8        | 20,51%         |
| Other:   | 0        | 0%             |

## 12. In which other international networks is your organisation active?

Number of respondents: 26, selected answers: 53



## 12. In which other international networks is your organisation active?

Number of respondents: 26, selected answers: 53

|  | <b>n</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--|----------|----------------|
| ENCA                                     | 8        | 30,77%         |
| Eurosite                                 | 4        | 15,38%         |
| Interpret Europe                         | 5        | 19,23%         |
| IUCN                                     | 8        | 30,77%         |
| Ramsar Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative | 11       | 42,31%         |
| World Heritage                           | 9        | 34,62%         |
| Other:                                   | 8        | 30,77%         |



## 12. In which other international networks is your organisation active?

Other:

- I don't know for sure
- Friends of Parks
- None
- ERF The European Ranger Federation (also IRF)
- UNESCO MAB
- Green Belts Europe and Fennoscandia, Pasvik-Inari cooperation, Barents Environmental cooperation (WGE and RWGE), North Calotte Environmental Council, FI-NO transboundary water comission, NO-RU environmental Comission
- not active at all!
- CIC