

AEIP Final Event

13:45 – Africon EU in a Nutshell (10 Minutes) – Ana Aleixo (INOVA+)
13:55 – African DIH: local context and needs analysis (10 minutes) – Eunice Baguma Ball (ATBN)
14:05 – EU DIH – existing initiatives and possible partnership with Africa (10 minutes) – Saša Štraus (ICT)
14:15 – Q&A

30th June 2021

AfriConEU



AfriConEU in a Nutshell

AfriConEU



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.



AfriConEU

The first trans-continental Networking Academy for
African and European Digital Innovation Hubs.



February 2021 – January 2024



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.

Aim



The AfriConEU project aspires to create the first Trans-Continental Networking Academy to support African and European Digital Innovation Hubs in capacity building, knowledge sharing, networking, collaboration, joint projects, and venture development.

Consortium



INOVA⁺



outbox

dpixel

STIMULI
for social change

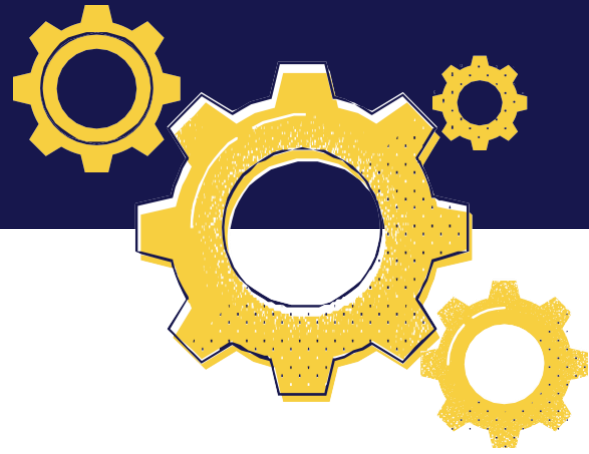


ATBN
AFRICA TECHNOLOGY
BUSINESS NETWORK

HAPA SPACE

Locations





General Objectives

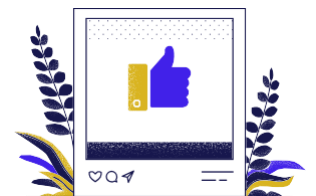


The main objective of the project is to develop the first Networking Academy between African and European DIHs with the aim to:

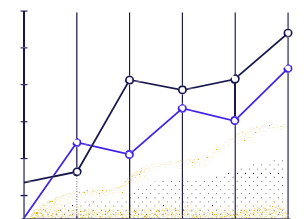
1 Facilitate knowledge and experience sharing,



2 Drive the development of mutually beneficial partnerships,



3 Support the creation of collective projects to boost the digital economy, empowering youth and women and fostering innovation and growth.





Specific Objectives



- 1 To explore the digital innovation ecosystem in Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, and Tanzania and analyse local DIHs needs to create tailor-made programmes for transforming regional hubs into catalysts for digital transformation and entrepreneurship.



- 2 To develop the Flagship Programme on Capacity Building for African DIHs and support thus their further development and their potential to drive the digitisation process.



- 3 To create the Flagship programme on Trans-continental Partnerships.



- 4 To create and enforce cooperation on an equal footing between African and European DIHs.





Specific Objectives



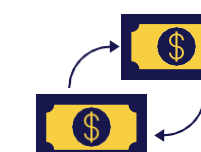
- 5 To organise and deliver capacity building programmes, knowledge sharing, and new partnership development activities among African and European DIHs and contribute towards a vibrant digital economy and new job opportunities for the benefit of both continents.



- 6 To engage African and European DIHs, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers in a community of networked ecosystems that will foster the project results' sustainability and exploit opportunities between the two continents.



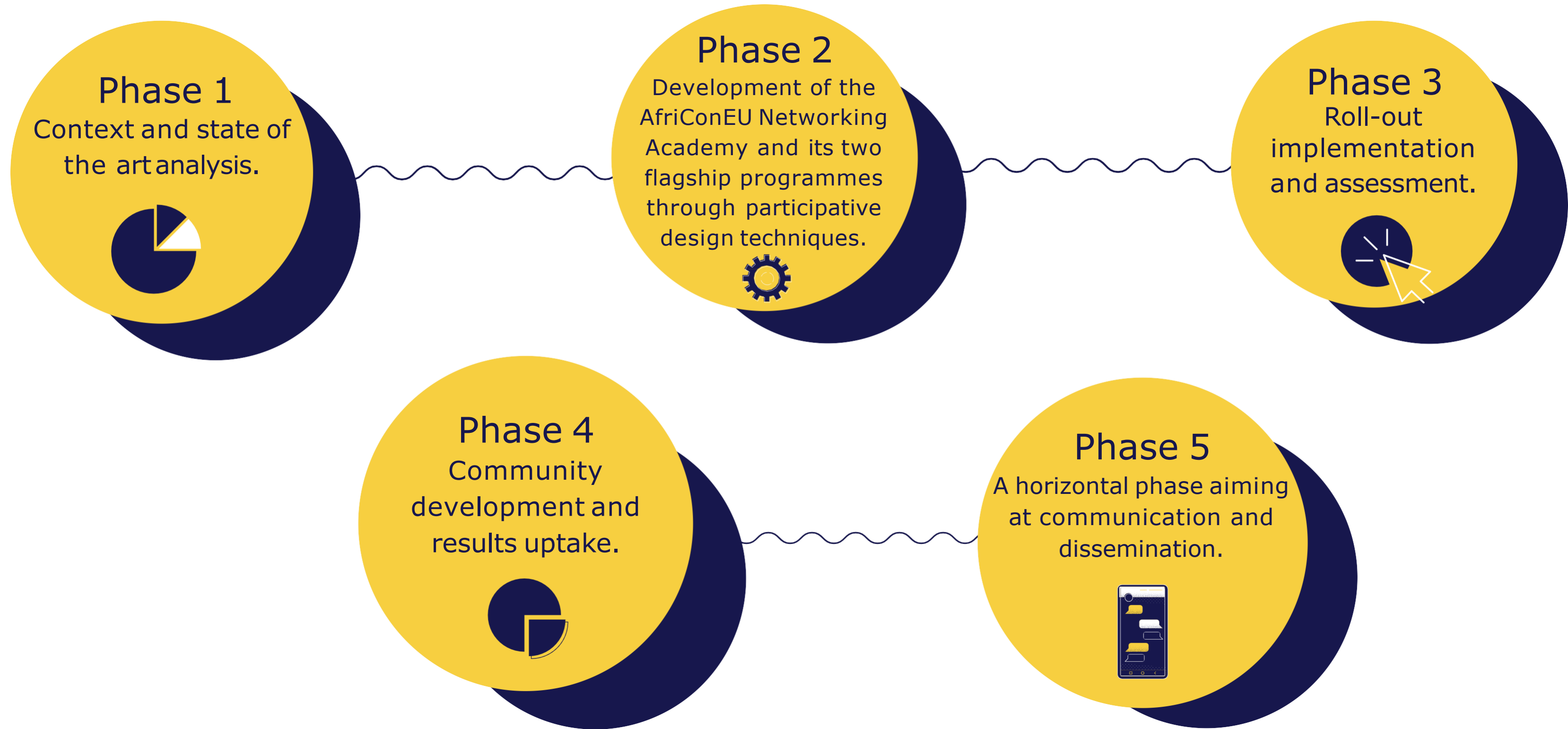
- 7 To foster the diffusion and uptake of the AfriConEU Academy within and beyond the targeted countries, contributing thus to the realisation of the "AU-EU digital economy partnership."



- 8 To deliver capacity building and knowledge sharing through AfriConEU Academy about the contribution of DIHs to combat the coronavirus outbreak in Europe and Africa.



Phases



Networking Academy



2 Flagship Programmes

DIHs Capacity Building

- 1 Technology Transfer and experimentation.
- 2 DIHs development models.
- 3 Startups access to finance.
- 4 Entrepreneurial & Digital skills development for professionals, women, and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Trans-continental Partnership Development

- 1 Common digital market and connected start-up ecosystem.
- 2 Jobs for the 21st century and employment opportunities.
- 3 Business & investment opportunities in the African market.

AfriConEU Community



DIHs Capacity Building

Capacity Building for reinforcing the role of African DIHs as innovation intermediaries matching demand and offer of digital services and technologies and supporting digital entrepreneurs.



Transcontinental Partnership Development



Trans-continental Partnership Development between Digital Innovation Hubs, Startups, entrepreneurs, investors, etc., from both continents.



Online Community

 An online multi-actor community facilitating dialogue, experience sharing, and collaboration between stakeholders from both continents.

 A talent matchmaking feature contributing to the shortage of talents with digital skills that are a well-reported need for Startups and SMEs.



KPIs



12 Workshops

200 Participants attend the 12 local Networking and Knowledge-sharing Workshops.

20 Webinars

300 Participants attend the 20 Capacity Building Webinars.

8 Masterclasses

200 Participants attend the 8 Online Masterclasses.

1 International Brokerage Event

200 Attendees and more than 10 connections for Strategic Partnerships made during the Brokerage event.

4 Design Thinking Bootcamps

160 Participants and more than 30 Joint Projects developed during the Bootcamps.

1 Final Event

More than 400 Attendees in the Final Capitalisation and Celebration Event.

KPIs



1000 Stakeholders

More than 1000 Innovation Stakeholders reached through the Engagement Activities.

300 DIHs & Stakeholders

More than 300 DIHs and Innovation Stakeholders directly trained by the Programmes.

200 DIHs

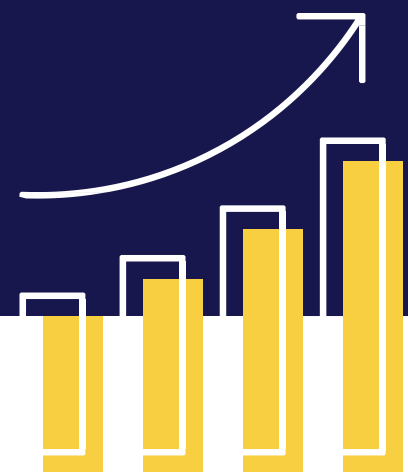
More than 200 DIHs improved their Networks & Connections with other hubs within Local Ecosystems and beyond through Local Networking Events.

3000 Members

Online Community with over 3000 Members (DIHs, startups, investors, corporates, ecosystem builders, African diaspora community members & any other relevant stakeholders).

200 Connections

More than 200 Connections for the Exchange of Knowledge and Learnings through the AfriConEU Online Community.

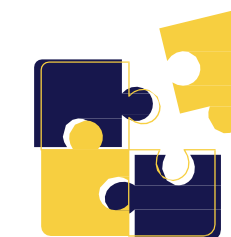


Expected Impact



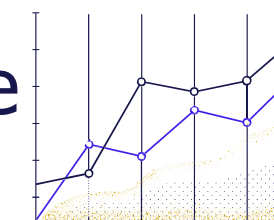
1

Support DIHs in Africa through capacity building and new partnership development services.



2

Detect, assess and analyse local ecosystems and DIHs needs and integrate them into an innovative entrepreneurs-focused learning offering.



3

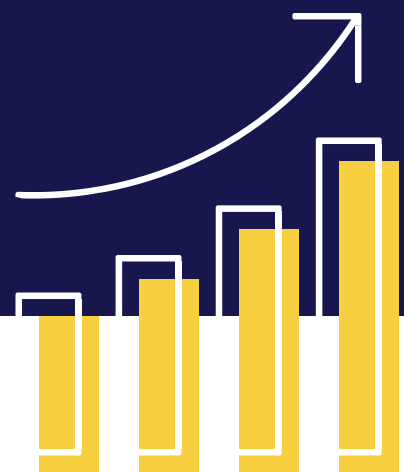
Support youth employment opportunities.



4

Support African DIHs to enhance the entrepreneurial and innovation skills of professionals.





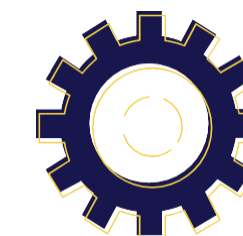
Expected Impact



- 5 Produce concrete evidence and tools for the sustainable uptake of the project's results beyond the project's completion.



- 6 Intensify transcontinental cooperation between Europe and Africa and create a common digital innovation ecosystem between the two continents.



- 7 Pave the way for a new kind of partnership between EU and Africa.



AEIP Final Event

**African DIHs: local
context and needs
analysis**

30th June 2021

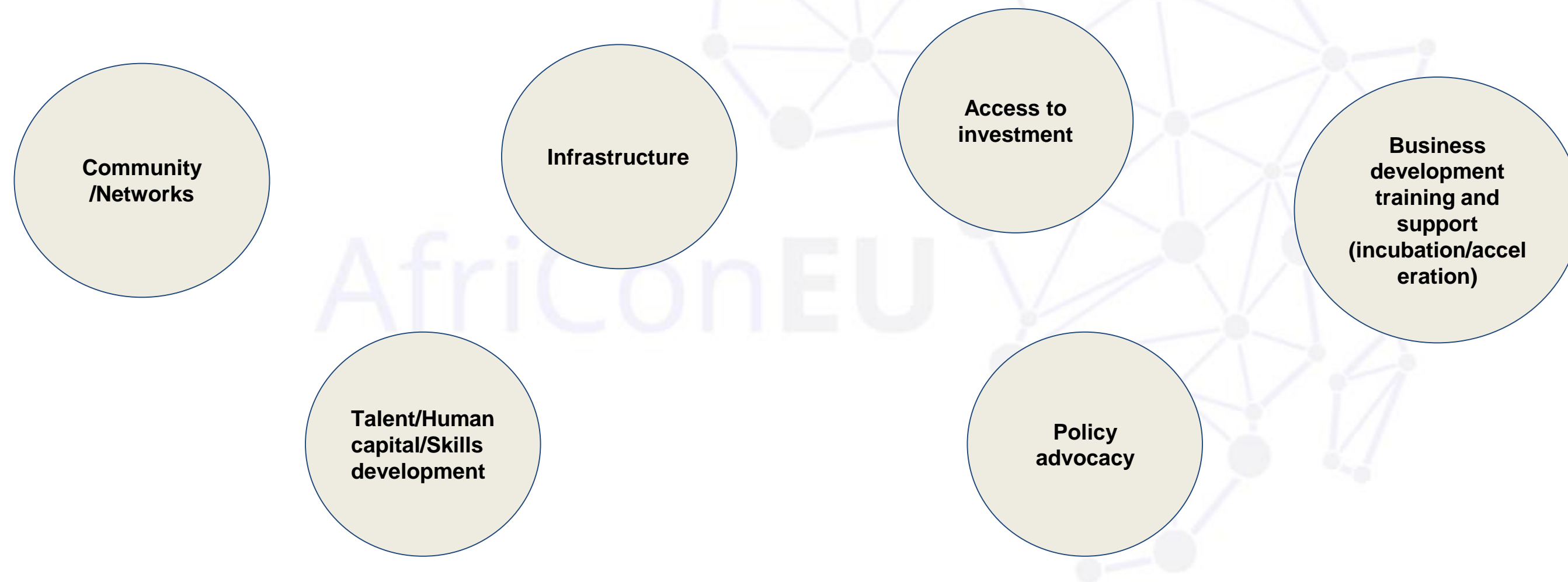
AfriConEU



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.

Preliminary findings

The role of African Digital Innovation Hubs



Preliminary findings



Challenges faced by African DIHs

- Short term funding affects ability to create long term impact e.g building a consistent pipeline of startups and talent
- Lack of core funding as funding is mainly programme focused
- Lack of specialisation makes them ineffective
- Vulnerable to shifts in focus by funders e.g post Covid
- Policy advocacy challenges e.g could be seen as having political affiliation
- Competition among hubs affecting joint efforts and collaboration

Preliminary findings



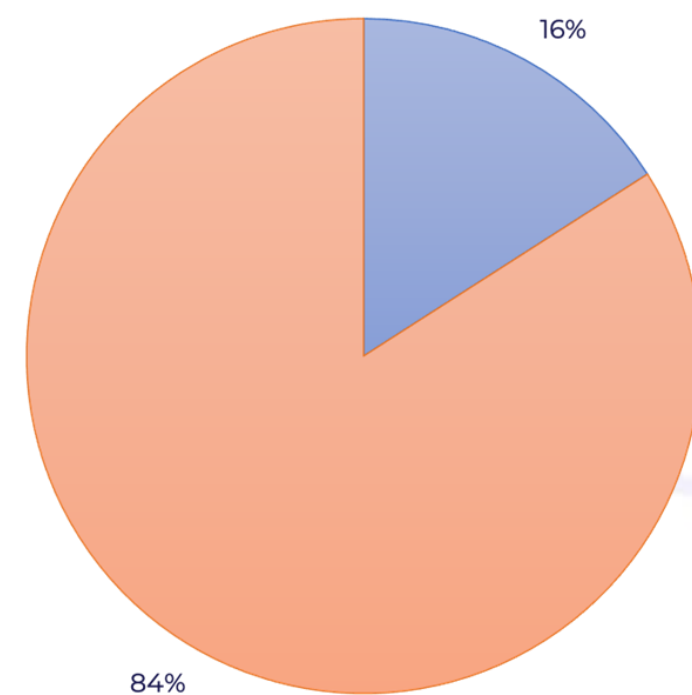
Capacity needs of African DIHs

- Support to build more diversified and sustainable revenue streams
- Core funding with long-term view
- Support from international partners in advocating and lobbying Government
- Support structures to enable joint initiatives and collaboration between hubs
- Build capacity to intermediate investment into startups e.g taking equity, investing in funds
- Increased access to grant opportunities, grant writing expertise
- Impact evaluation frameworks and capacity to enable longer term monitoring of impact beyond individual programmes

Preliminary findings

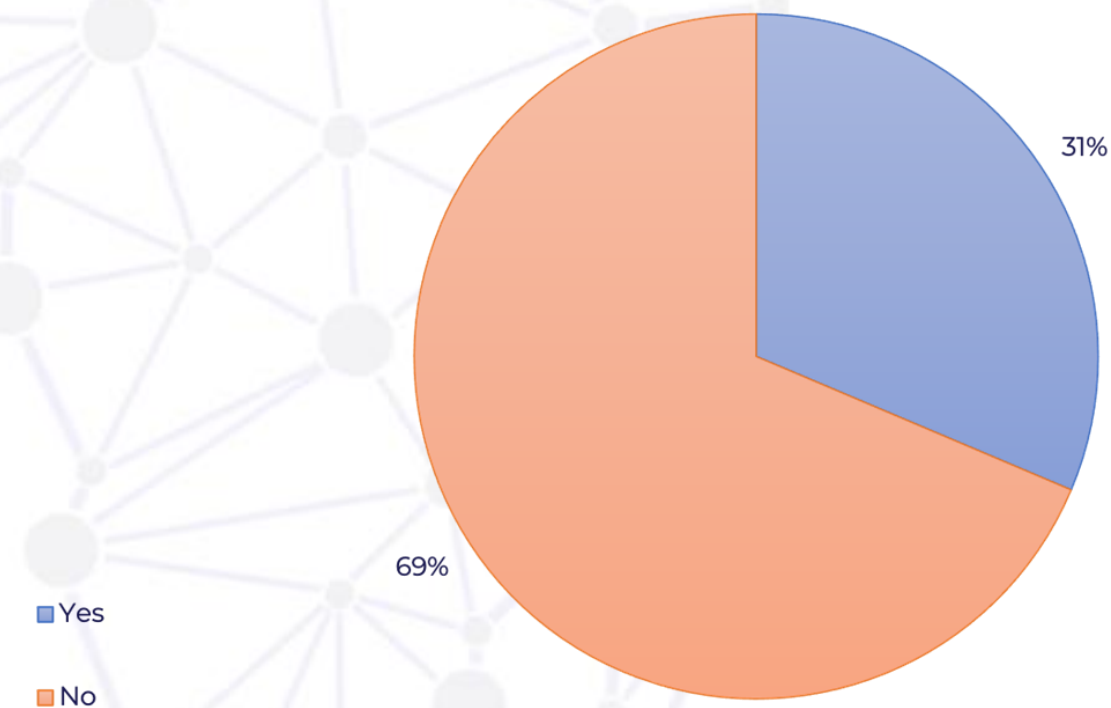
Existing access to EU-Africa networks

Nigeria: Involvement in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities



■ Yes
■ No

Ghana: Involvement in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities

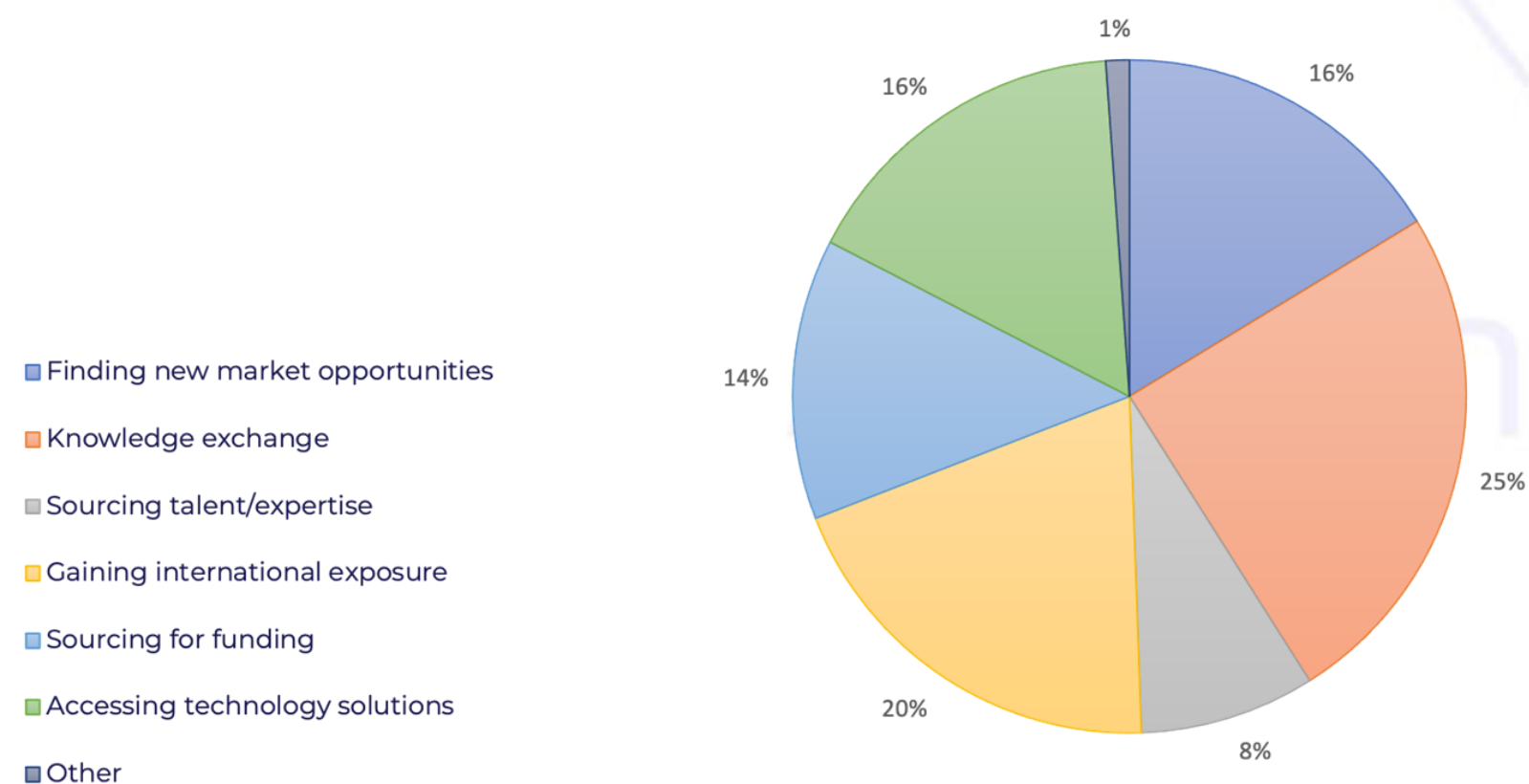


■ Yes
■ No

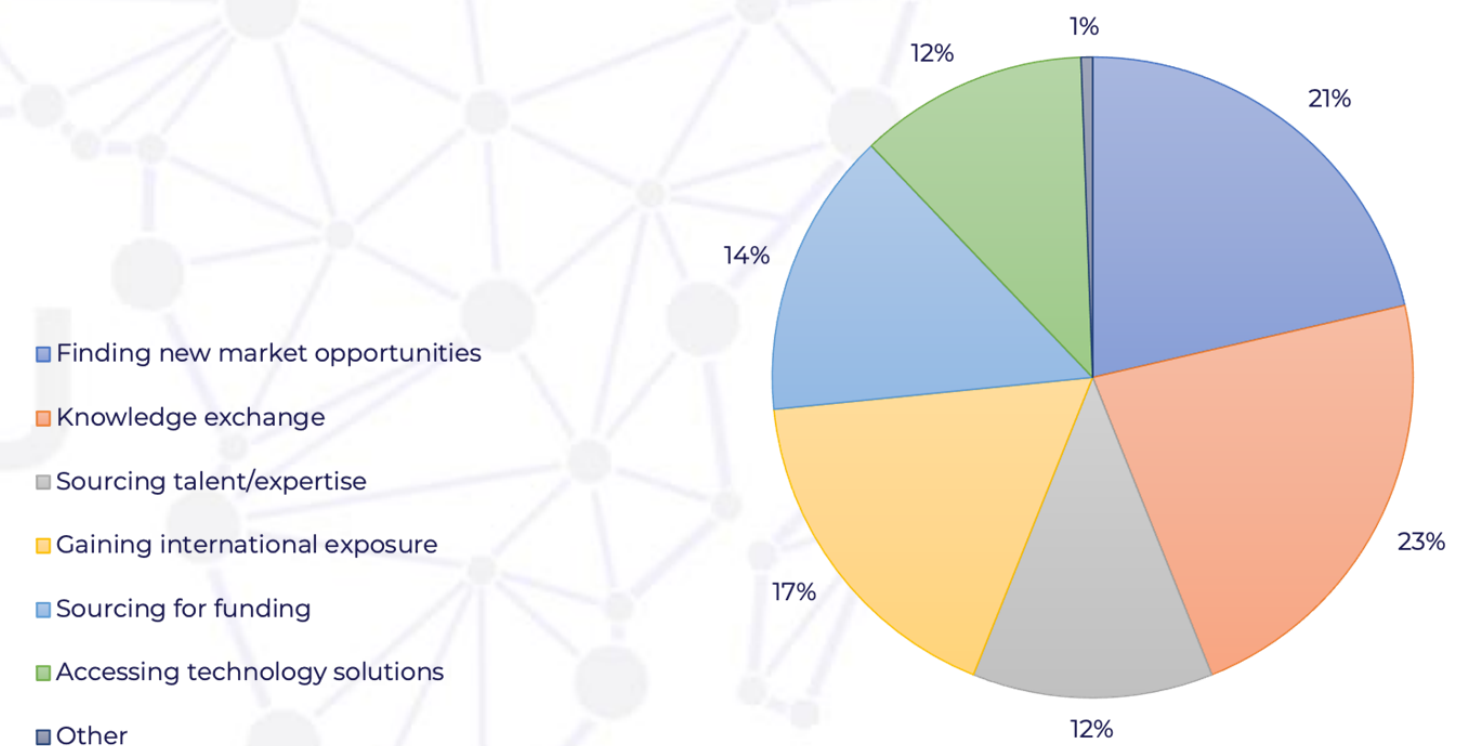
Preliminary findings

Interests/motivation for EU-Africa networking

Nigeria: Biggest interest for participating in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities



Ghana: Biggest interest for participating in Europe-Africa networking or partnership development activities



Preliminary findings

EU-Africa collaboration opportunities and challenges

What benefits and opportunities can actors African and European digital ecosystem actors offer each other?

Africa to Europe



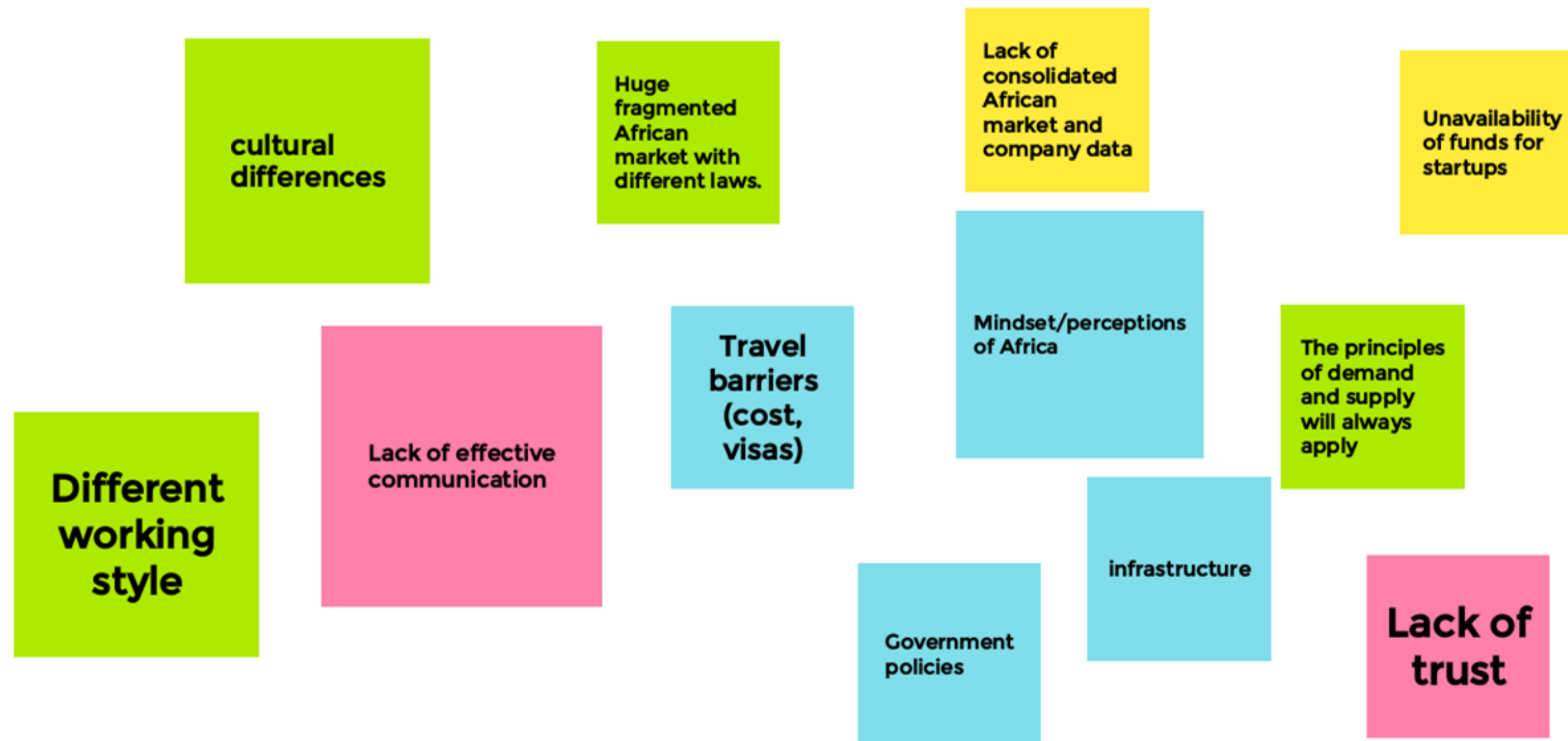
Europe to Africa



Preliminary findings

EU-Africa collaboration opportunities and challenges

Group 3: What are some of the barriers to effective partnership and collaboration between Europe and African digital ecosystems?



Preliminary findings

EU-Africa collaboration opportunities and challenges

How can the barriers to effective partnership between EU and Africa digital ecosystems be addressed?



Thank you very much for your attention.

www.africoneu.eu
africoneu@inova.business



AfriConEU



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.

EU DIH: Exploration of existing initiatives and good practices for supporting DIHs

AfriConEU



AGRIFOOD
DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB



ITC
INOVACIJSKO TEHNOLOŠKI GROZD
INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER

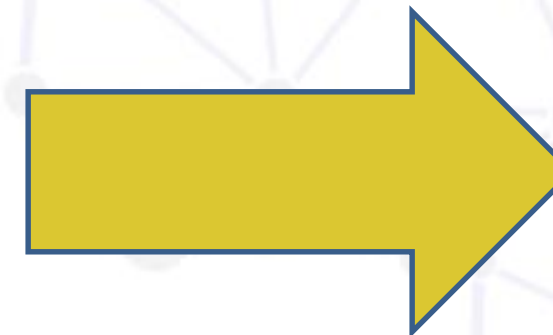


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.

Topics

- **DIH supporters, providers, helpers** = organizations (network, project, initiative) focused on strengthening DIHs capacities → helping DIHs
- **DIH services** (based on EC DIHs catalogue) are main topics:

Awareness creation
Ecosystem building, scouting, brokerage, networking
Visioning and Strategy Development for Businesses
Collaborative researches
Concept validation and prototyping
Testing and validation
Pre-competitive series production
Commercial infrastructure
Digital Maturity Assessment
Incubator/accelerator support
Voice of the customer, product consortia
Market intelligence
Access to Funding and Investor Readiness Services
Monitoring
Education and skills development




DIH establishment
DIH strategy & business development
DIH service portfolio and development
DIH expansion & networking
DIH skills & knowledge creation
DIH communication & awareness creation
DIH sector-specific topics

- **DIH capacity building** = whatever is needed to bring a organization to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, so it may more effectively and efficiently advance its mission into the future → continuous improvement strategy toward the creation of a sustainable and effective organization.

DIH supporters



- identifying, documenting and mapping

Who?	Digital Innovation Hub Networks
Logo	
Web page	https://dihnet.eu/
Type of organisation	Project
Short description	The DIHNET.EU project enables the coordination of European, national and regional initiatives directly supporting the digital transformation and Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs). The project creates a sustainable pan-European network of networks, with a focus on regional DIHs.
Capacity building programmes	DIH establishment DIH expansion & networking → DIHNET.EU Community

Who?	SMART AGRI HUBS
Logo	
Web page	https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/
Type of organisation	Project
Short description	SmartAgriHubs is a consortium of well over 164 partners in the European agri-food sector. The project aims to realise European agriculture's digitalisation by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success.
Capacity building programmes offer	In the portal , there are Open calls, Network, Library, Training (E-learning, On location, Webinar) on topics: DIH establishment DIH strategy&business development DIH service portfolio and development DIH expansion&networking DIH skills&networking DIH communication&awareness creation DIH sector-specific topics

DIH support programme	Type	DIH support programme	Type
DIH Network	Project	European cluster collaboration platform	Initiative
		Africa European Innovation Partnership	Initiative
DIH Help	Organization	Ghana Hubs Network	Network
DIHNET.EU Community	Network	ISN Hubs	Network
Smart Agri Hubs	Project	ASSEK	Network
AI DIH Network	Network	Solar Taxi	Project
I4MS	Initiative	COTEC Portugal	Organization
SAE	Initiative	GALI	Project
Smart Factories	Project	ANI- Agência Nacional de Inovação	Organization
ITU Innovation platform	Network	Funding Box	Organization
EIT Digital Academy	Organization	Aii4EU	Project
Afrilabs	Network	I4Trust	Project
BOWI	Project	IMPACT EdTech	Project
DIH-WORLD	Project	ECHORD	Project
ODINE-Open Data Incubator Europe	Project	ROBOTT-NeT	Project
DG RTD- EPPN network	Project	Smart factories in new EU Member State	Project
EUHubs4Data - European Federation of Data Driven Innovation Hubs	Network	HUBCAP	Project
HubCAP		DIGIFED	Project
HUBiquitous	Project	D4D Hub	Initiative
DIGILOGIC	Project	African-European Digital Innovation Bridge (AEDIB)	Network



Capacity building programmes

- spreadsheet → online till the end of July

Title	Tool	Who?	Web page	Payable /Free	Duration	Short description
Skills and capacities for DIH	Webinar	Smart Agri Hubs	https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/trainings?id=1925	free	1h	Developing skills and offering trainings is essential to allow farmers and citizens to make the best of the digital opportunities. But what skills exactly are needed? And how can DIHs address different groups of stakeholders? What skills do the hubs need to develop themselves? What instruments and training approaches can be used by hubs?
SAH Capacity Building training: SmartAgriHubs DIH Innovation Services Maturity model	Webinar	Smart Agri Hubs	https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/trainings?search=on%20Services%20Maturity%20model&id=5854	free	1h	SAH Innovation Services Maturity Model – a practical tool to help DIHs assess the state of development of their services! SmartAgriHubs has developed an Innovation Services Maturity Model, which allows you (a DIH affiliate) to assess the state of development of the technology, business and ecosystem services you provide to your partners in your ecosystem. This helps you to identify your strengths and weaknesses and helps you to identify concrete steps to go to the next levels.

Title	Skills and capacities for Digital Innovation Hubs
Tool	Webinar
Who?	Smart Agri Hubs
Web page	https://www.smartagrihubs.eu/portal/trainings?id=1925
Payable or free	Free
Duration	1 Hour
Short description	Developing skills and offering training is essential to allow farmers and citizens to make the best of digital opportunities. However, what skills exactly are needed? Besides, how can DIHs address different groups of stakeholders? What skills do the hubs need to develop themselves? What hubs can use instruments and training approaches?
Topics	DIH establishment

Research DIH supporters and DIHs on capacity building programmes



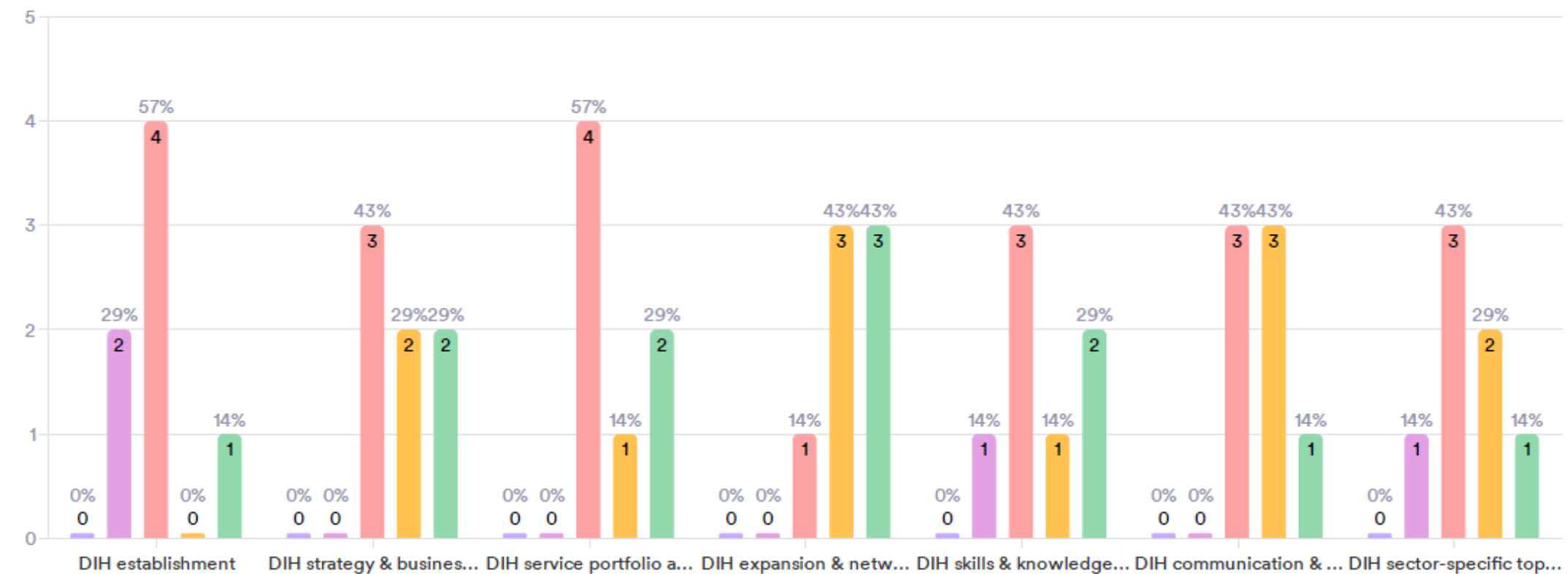
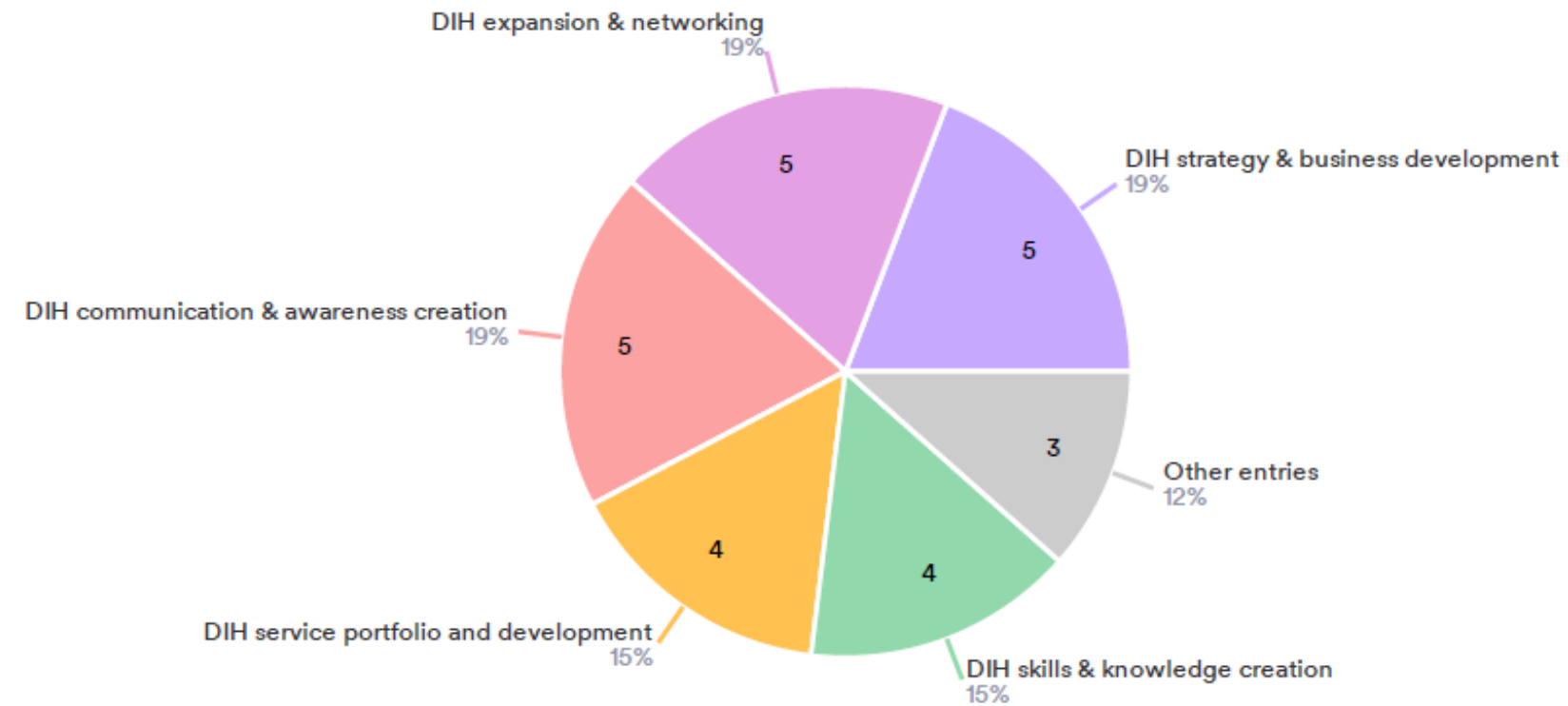
- Starts: 15. May → Ends: 30. June → preliminary findings
- 116 answers from DIHs and 20 answers from DIH supporters)
- Main research questions:
 - Topics
 - Training methods
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Outcomes → measurement of achievement
 - Contextual and cultural factors



AIM:
better understanding of
existing state of the art and
DIHs needs

Preliminary results from DIH supporters

- All topics covered
- The most interest in:
 - DIH establishment
 - DIH strategy & business development
 - DIH service portfolio & development

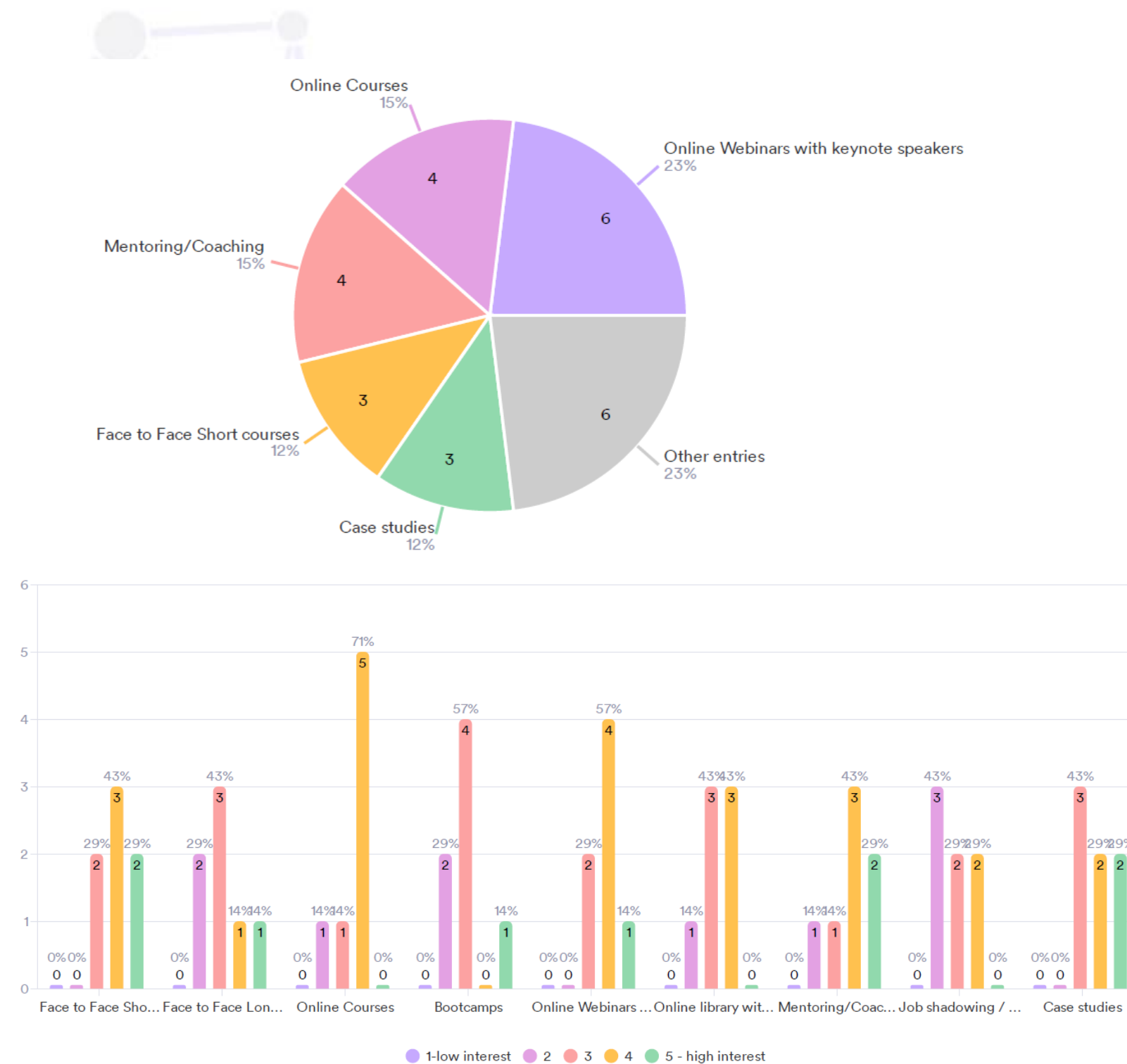
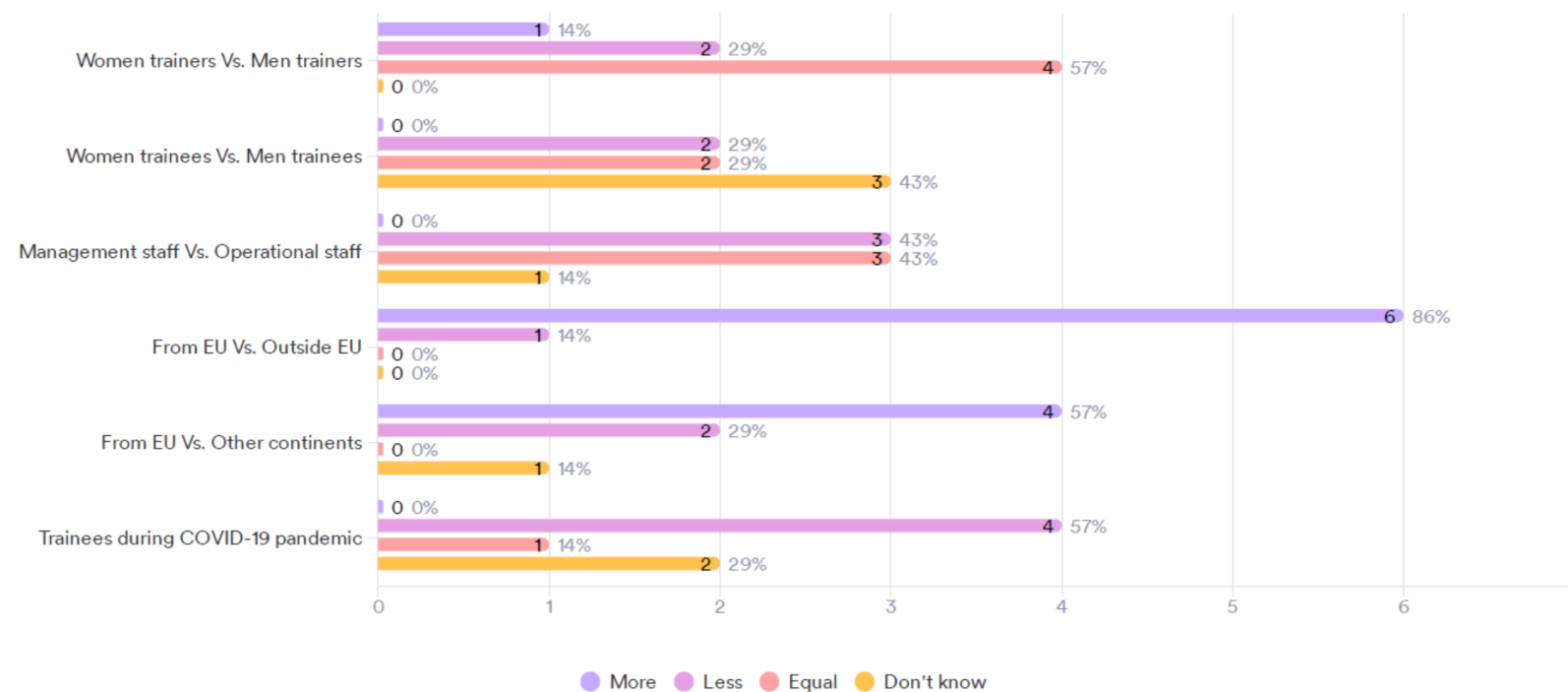


Preliminary results from DIH supporters



- Methods:

- Online webinars & courses → also the most desirable for participants
- Impact of covid-19



Preliminary results from DIH supporters and trainees



- Obstacles:

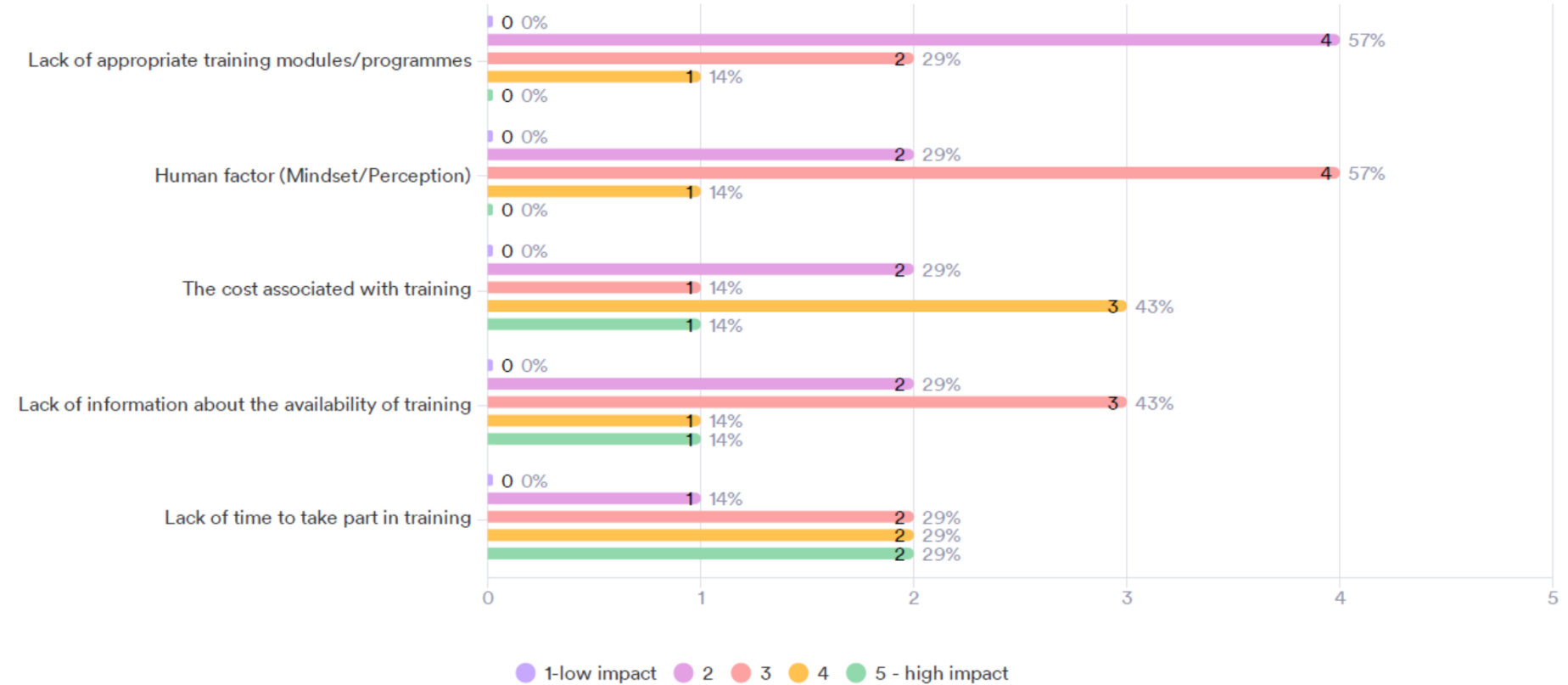
- DIH supporters say: cost, time



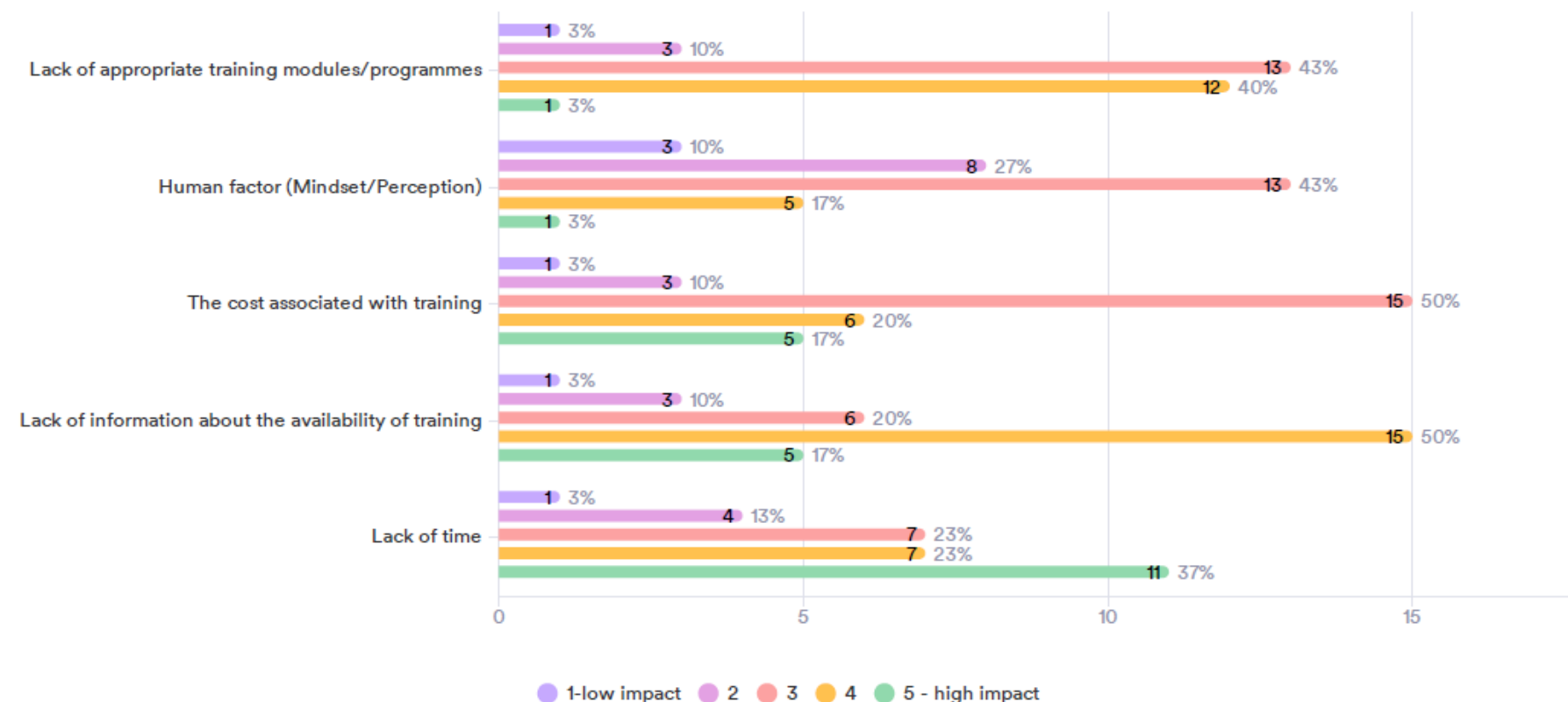
- DIHs say: lack of appropriate programmes, human factor, information



12. What are obstacles for DIHs to take more training modules/programmes and support?

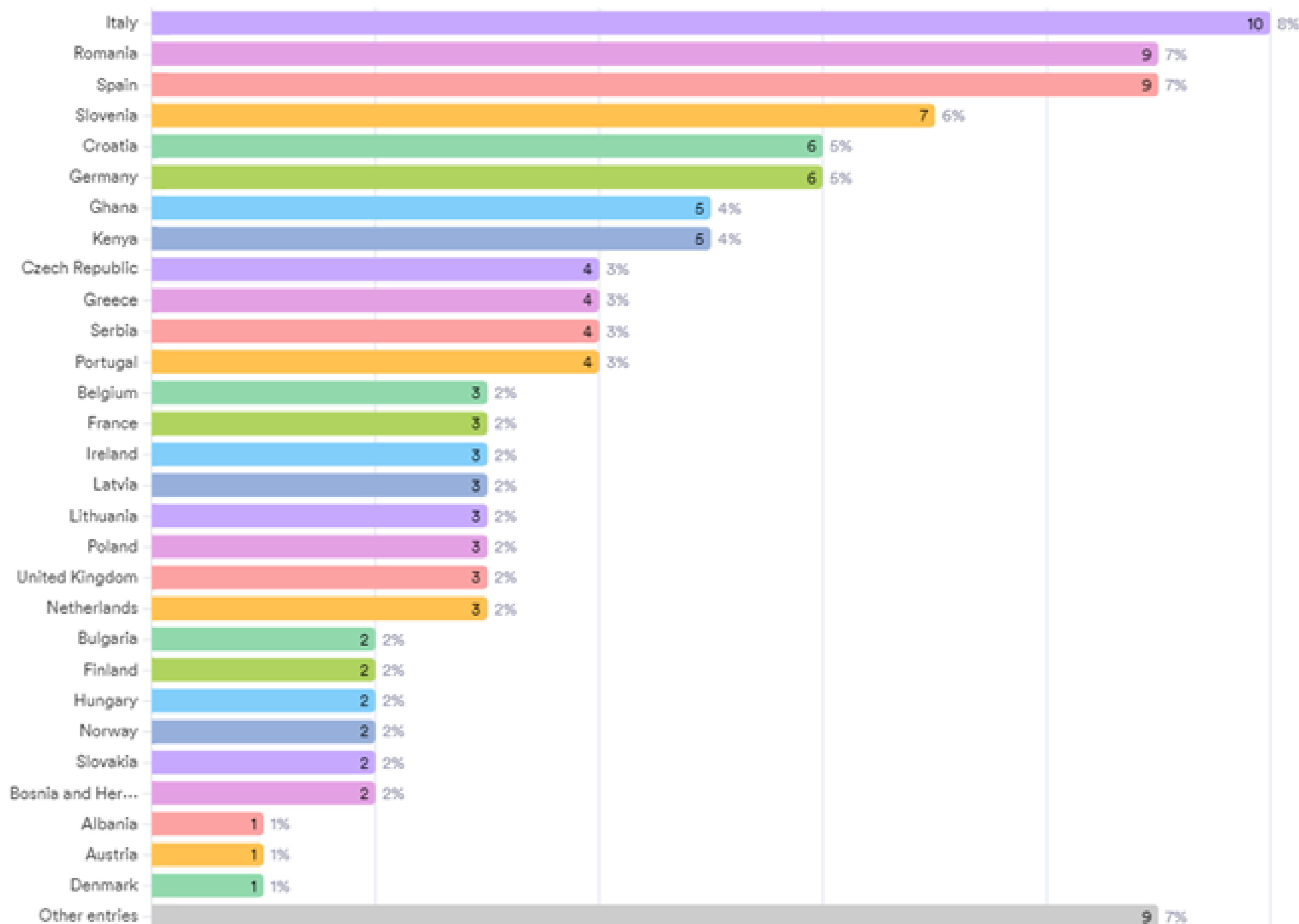


16. What are obst.



Preliminary results from DIH trainees

- DIH's location



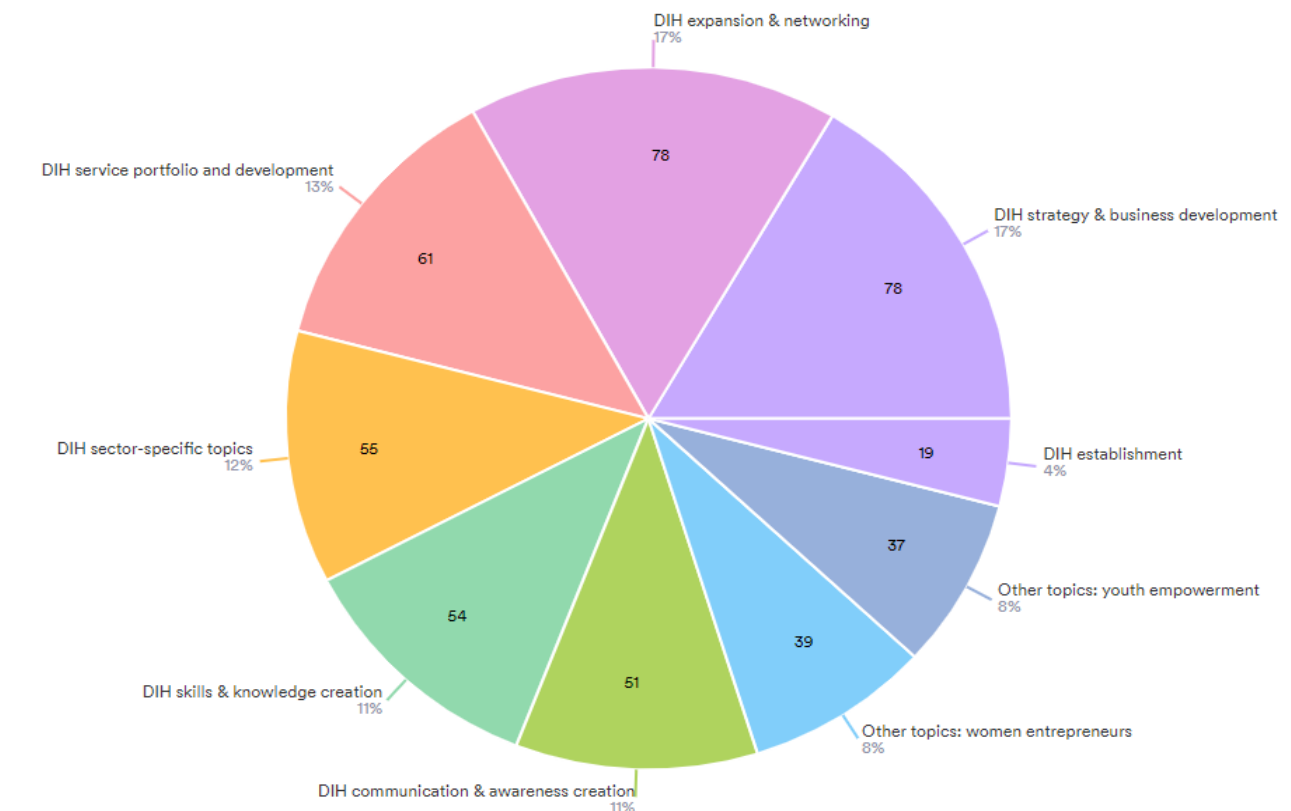
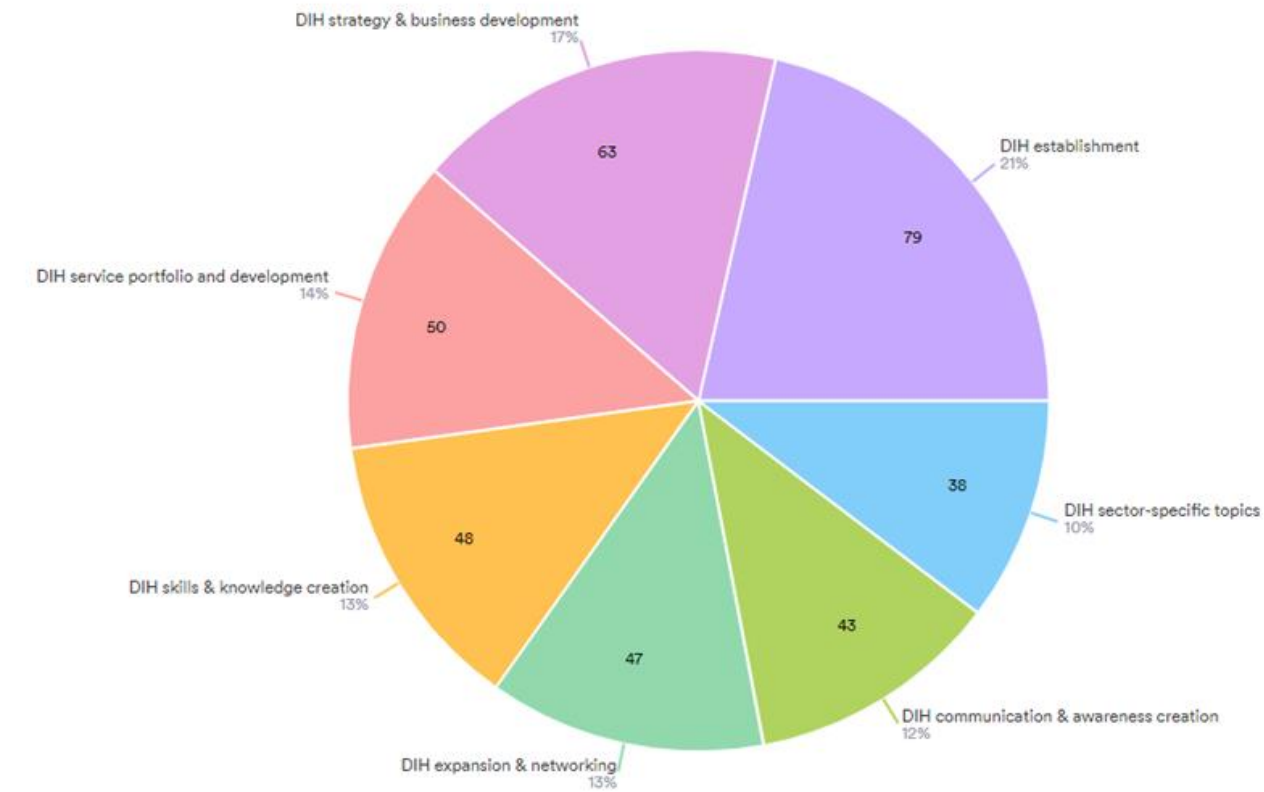
Preliminary results from DIH trainees

- Topics:

- Already: strategy & business development, establishment

- Further support needed:

- Strategy & business development
- Sector-specific topics
- Service portfolio & development
- Expansion & networking

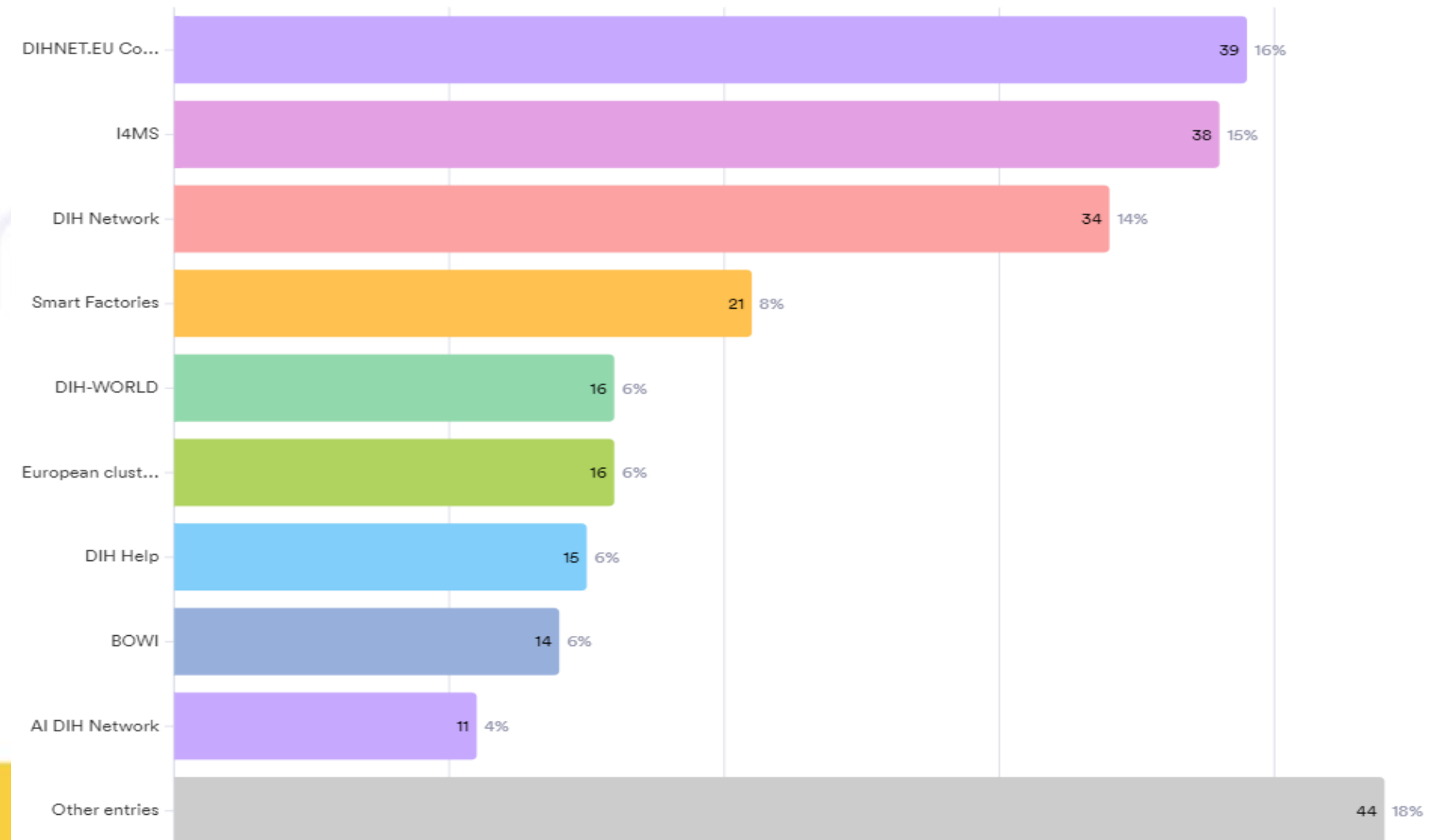
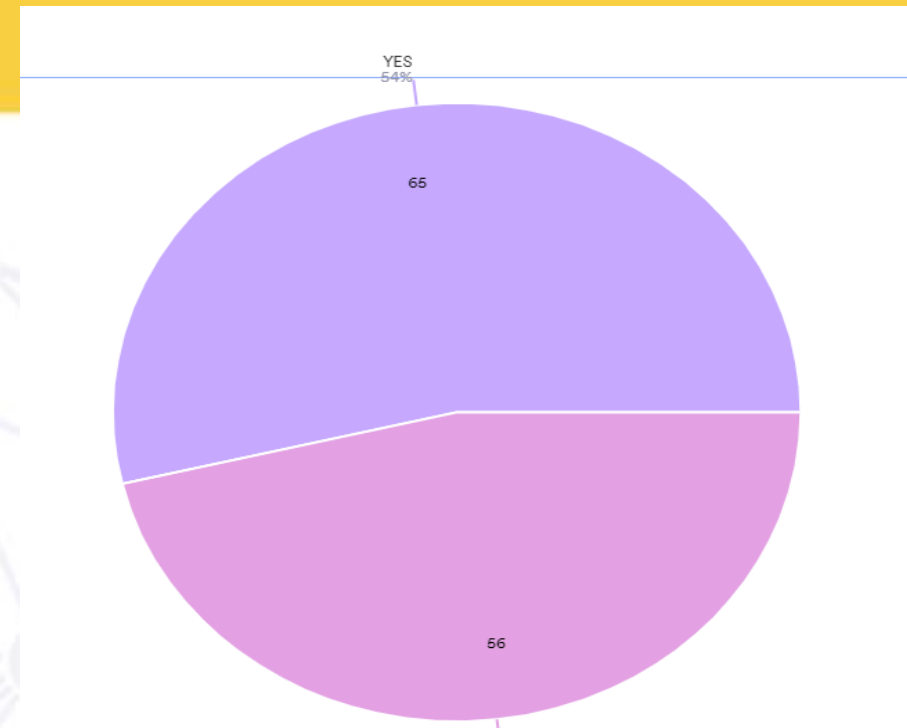


Preliminary results from DIH trainees

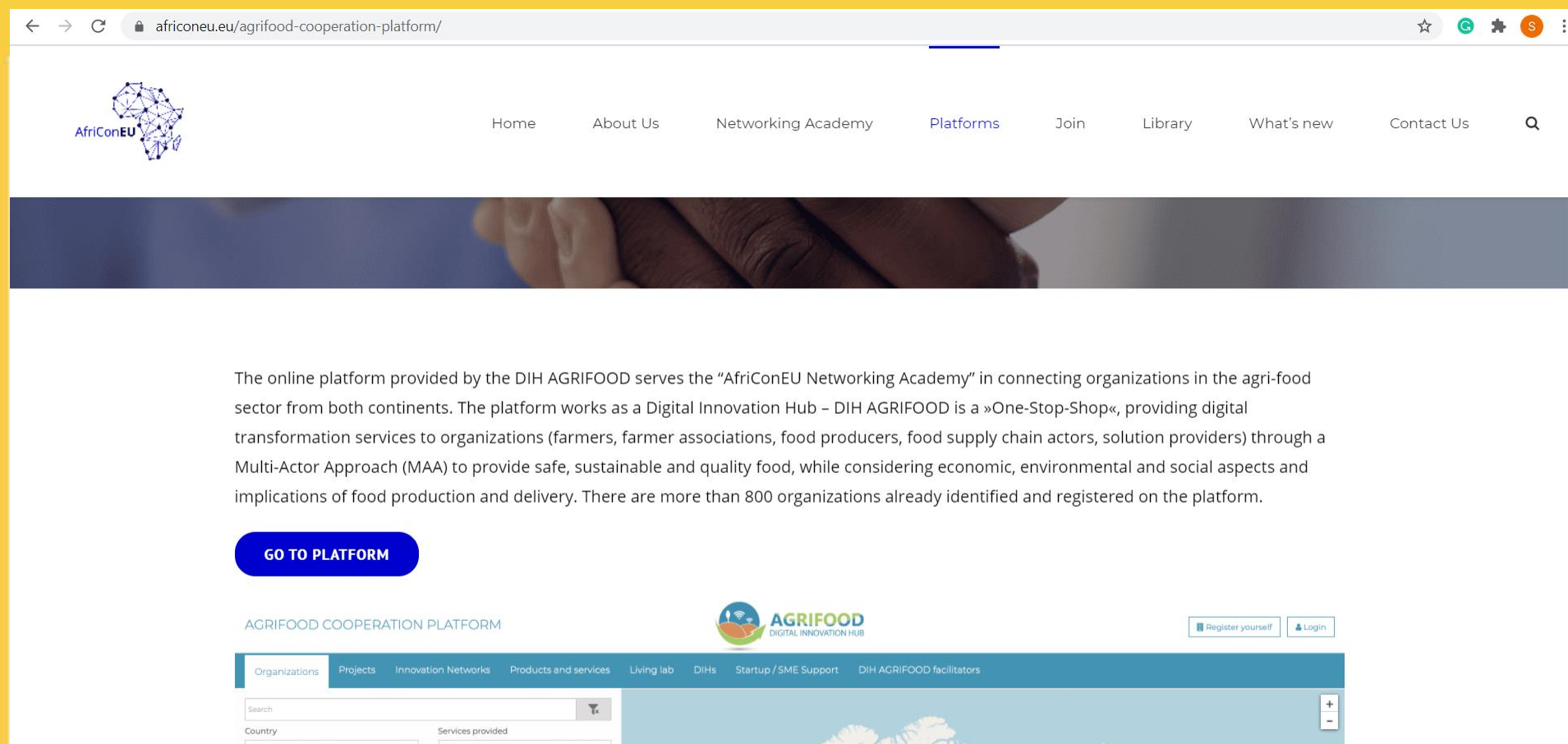
- 54 % recieved support from DIH supporters

- The most popular:

- DIHNET.EU
- I4MS
- DIH Network



DIH AGRIFOOD



The **COLLABORATION** and **NETWORKING** platform, based on **FACILITATION**, hosting:

Organizations	> 800, reaching > 6.000
Projects	> 25 projects
Innovation Networks	2 IN
Products and Serv.	>170 P/S
Living lab	>20 Living Lab cases
DIHs	>60 DIHs
SME/Startup support	>120 support organizations
Facilitators	22 from 7 countries

It is open, free, participatory based networking platform!

<https://mapping.dih-agrifood.com>



Thank you very much for your attention.

www.africoneu.eu

africoneu@inova.business



AfriConEU



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.

Contact us

www.africoneu.eu

africoneu@inova.business



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016687.