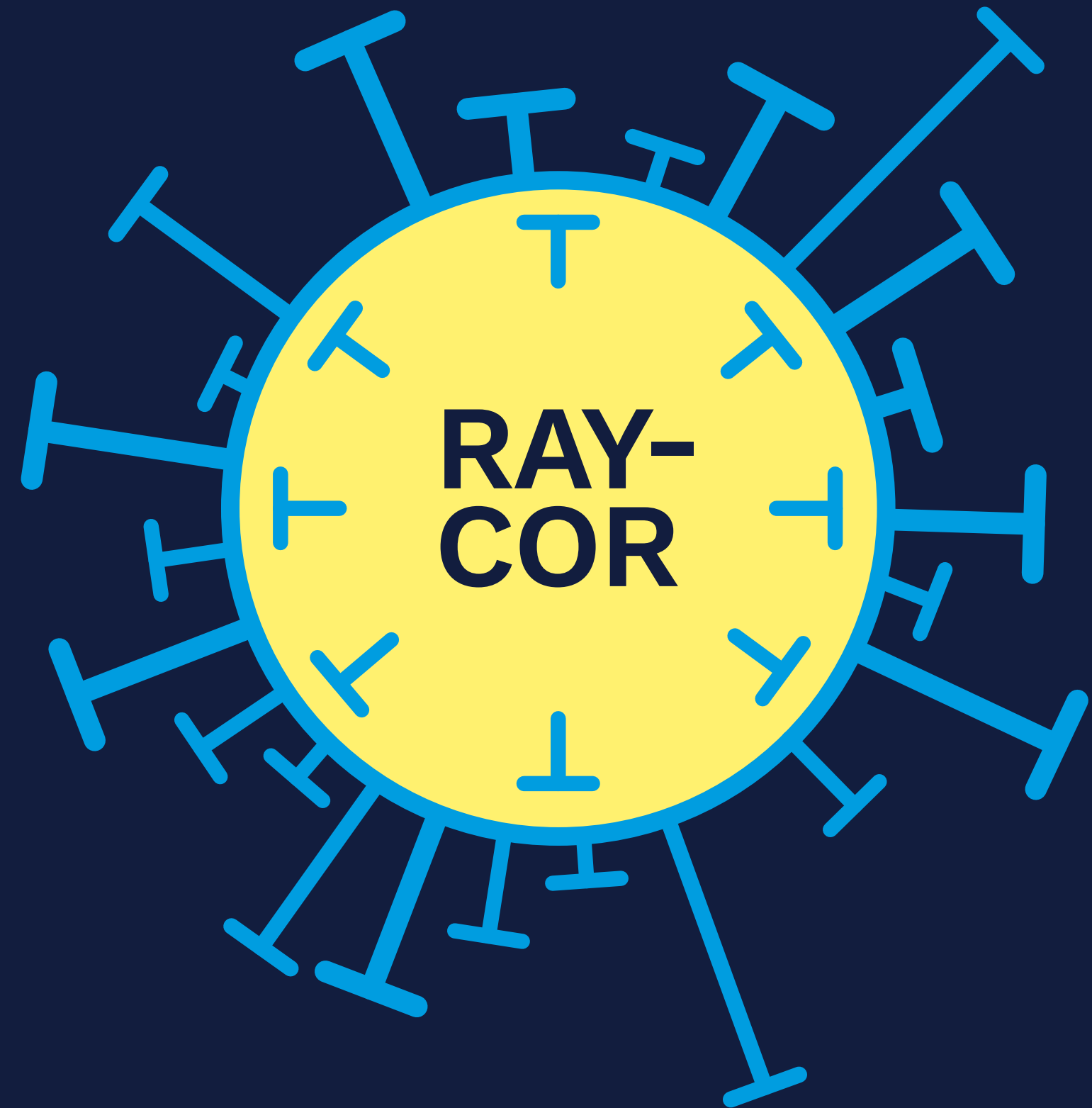


09.12.2020

# The impact of the corona pandemic on youth work in Europe



European Youth Work Convention  
07.–10. December 2020 | Online



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# FRAMEWORK

**RAY stands for “Research-based analysis of European youth programmes” and is the self-governed network of 36 National Agencies of the European youth programmes and their research partners.**

**[researchyouth.net/network/](https://researchyouth.net/network/)**

**“The aim of this research project is to document and analyse the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe, including the European youth programmes, and the response of youth work across Europe to the pandemic and its effects.”**

# RAY-COR

**20+ countries, 5 modules**

- 1 Literature review**
- 2 Monolingual survey (Spring)**
- 3 Expert interviews & focus groups**
- 4 Multilingual survey (now)**
- 5 Response case studies**



Young  
people

Youth  
workers

**RAY-COR**

**Ongoing survey**

**<https://www.researchyouth.net/corona>**

A

# STARTLING NEWS



**Research shows that pandemics have a larger effect on the mental health of young people compared to other age groups. In the past, pandemics have caused youth-specific mental health crises.**

**Research also shows that youth policy responses during and after pandemics focus largely on education and employment, and tend to ignore or downplay questions of mental health and wellbeing.**

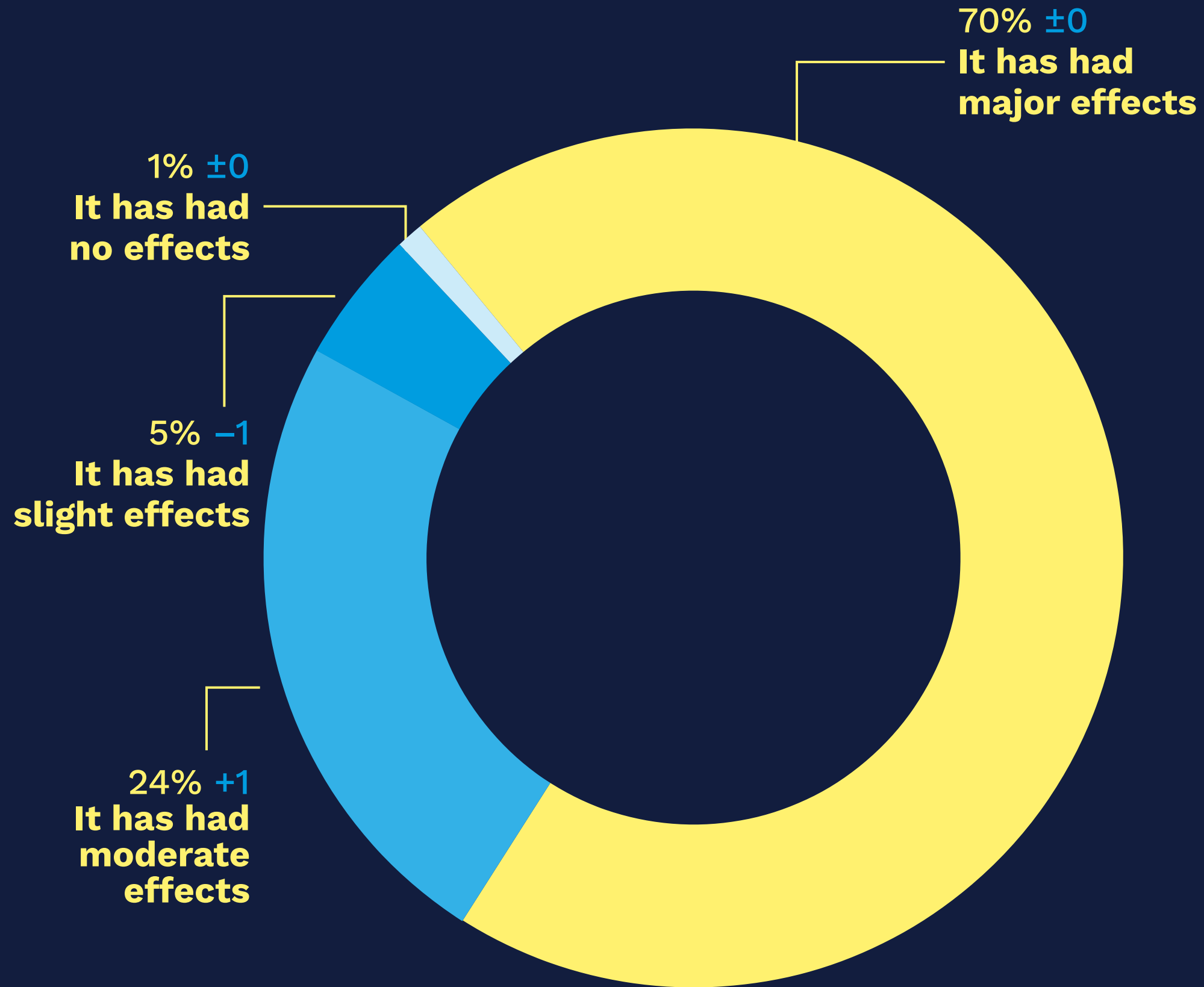
**First evidence seems to show that at least the initial policy responses during this pandemic focus again largely on education, to a lesser extent on employment – and again ignore the question of mental health.**

B

# OBVIOUS NEWS

**THE PANDEMIC KEEPS  
SHAKING YOUTH WORK  
TO THE CORE**

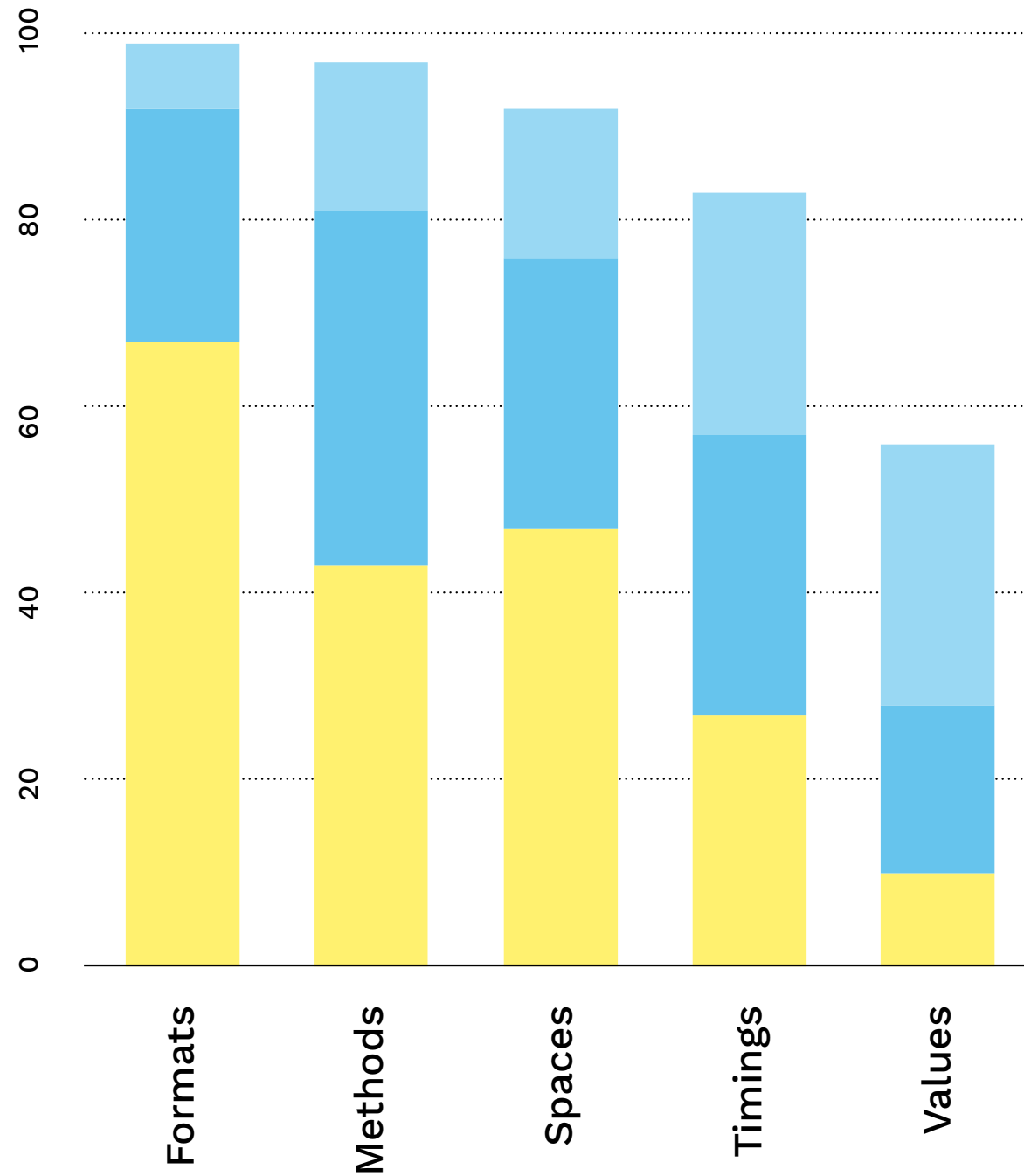
Q: Has the corona pandemic affected your youth work?



These values have remained largely unchanged over time, since May 2020 through to December 2020.

Q: Which aspects of your youth work have been affected?

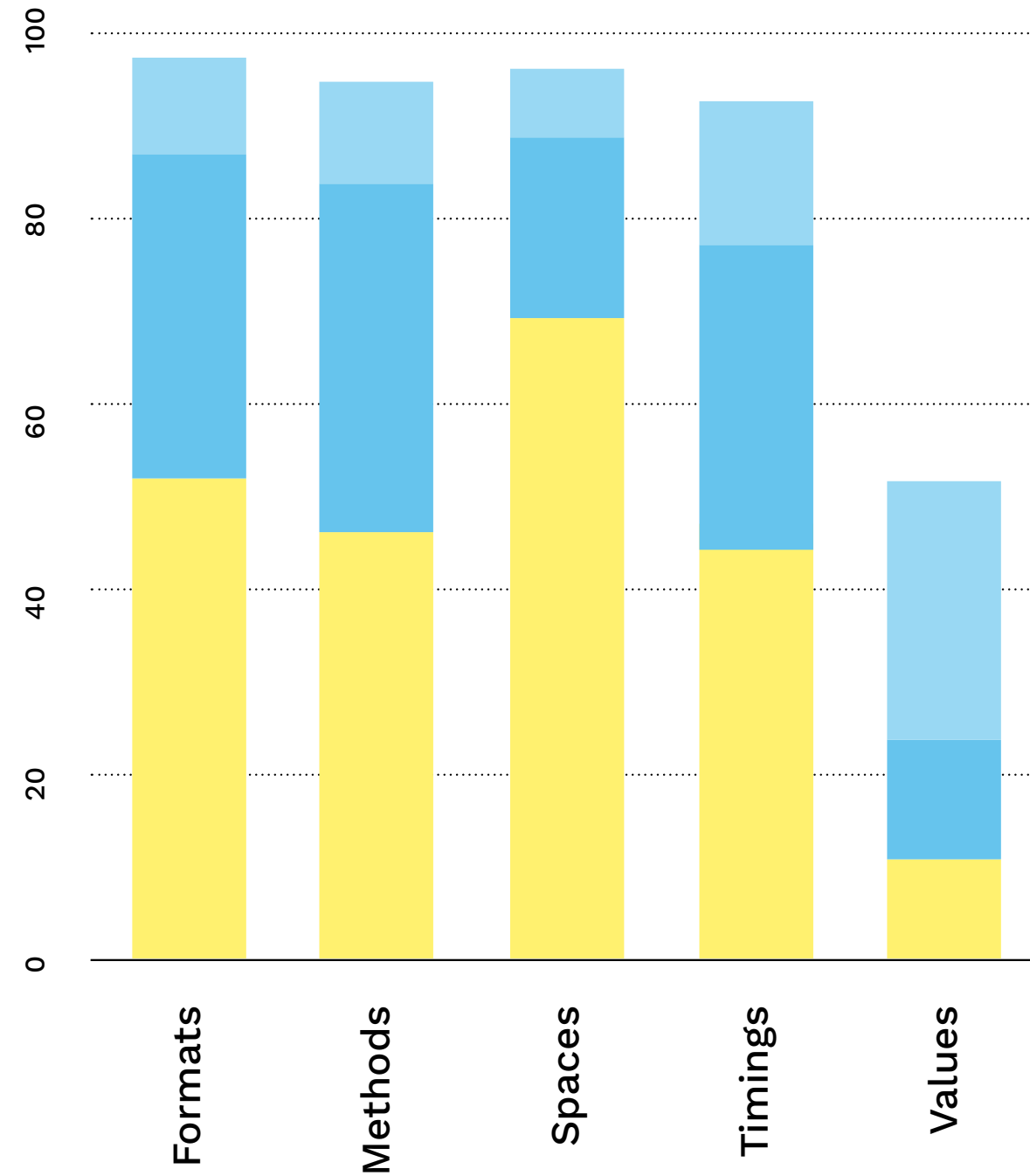
majorly moderately slightly



November 2020

Q: Which aspects of your youth work have been affected?

majorly moderately slightly



June 2020

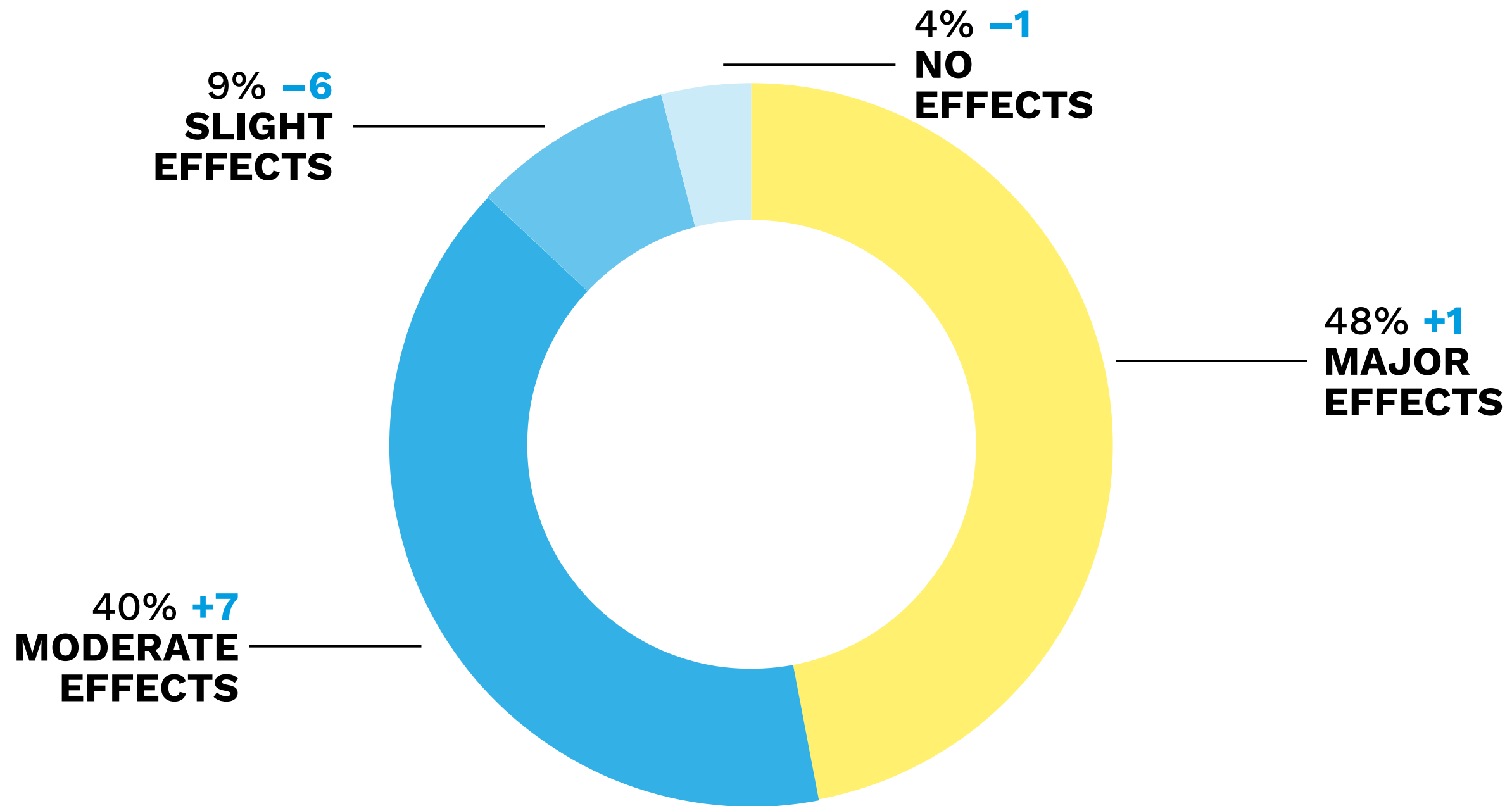
C

# **BAD NEWS**



**THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ARE SEVERE – AND KEEP INCREASING**

Q. Has the corona pandemic affected your own youth work structure – be that an organisation, an administration, a network, a department, a team?



**“Our budget has been cut in half. New funding is entirely uncertain. The financial impact is hitting us very hard at the moment.”**

Online survey respondent

**“The economic effects of the crisis have undermined our financial stability. We had to cut wages and reduce staff to be able to cope.”**

Online survey respondent

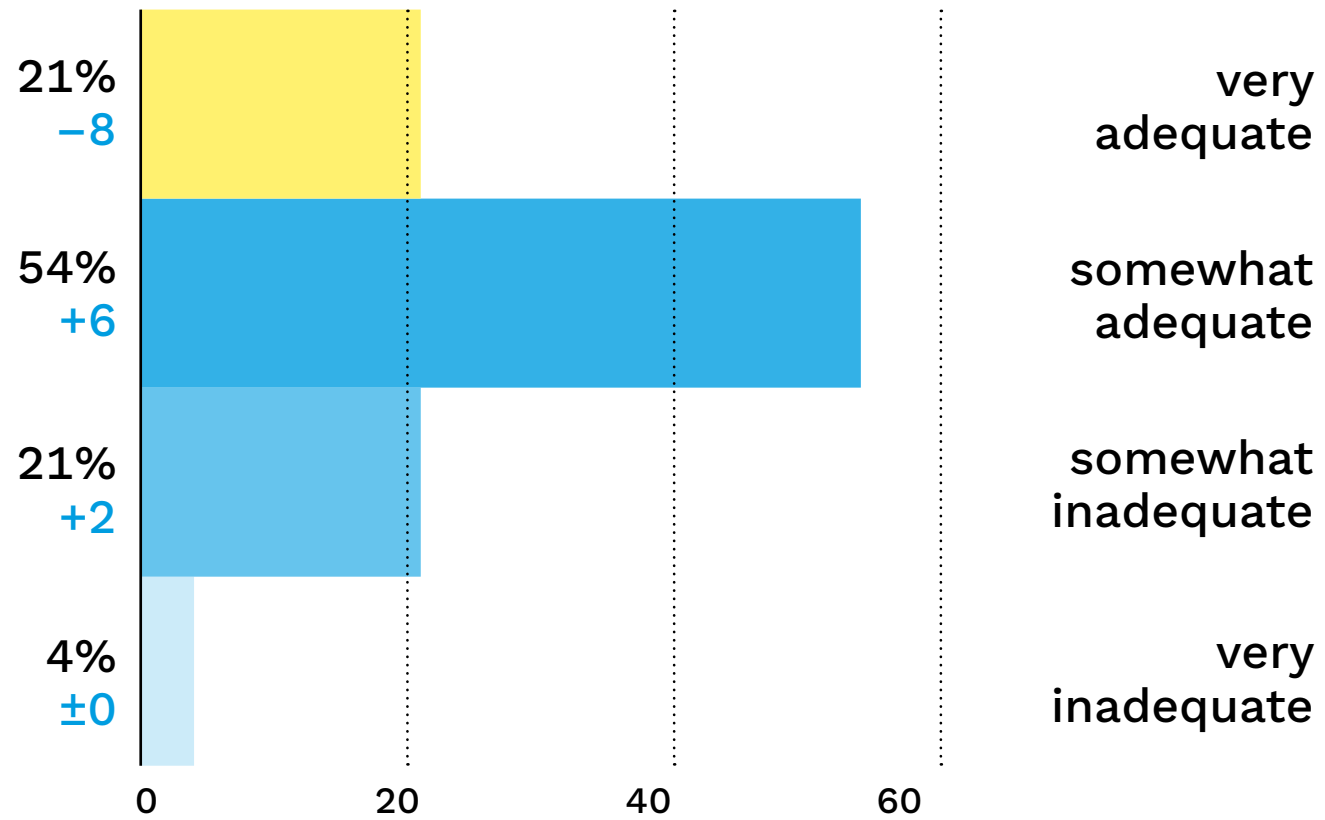
D

**GOOD NEWS**

**YOUTH WORK IS  
EXPERIMENTING AND  
ADAPTING AS BEST AS  
CURRENTLY POSSIBLE**

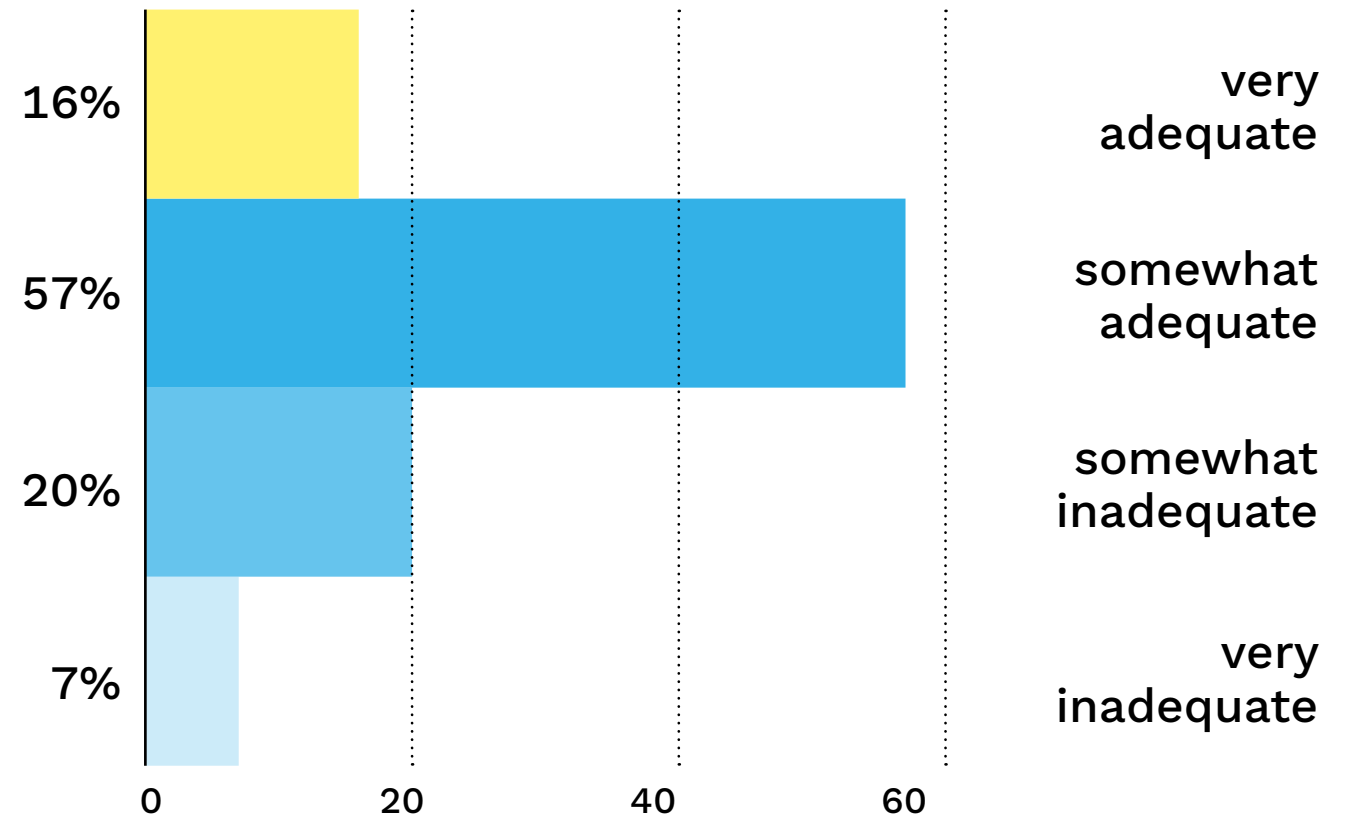
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Q: In your opinion and context, how well has *youth work* as a field responded to the crisis so far?



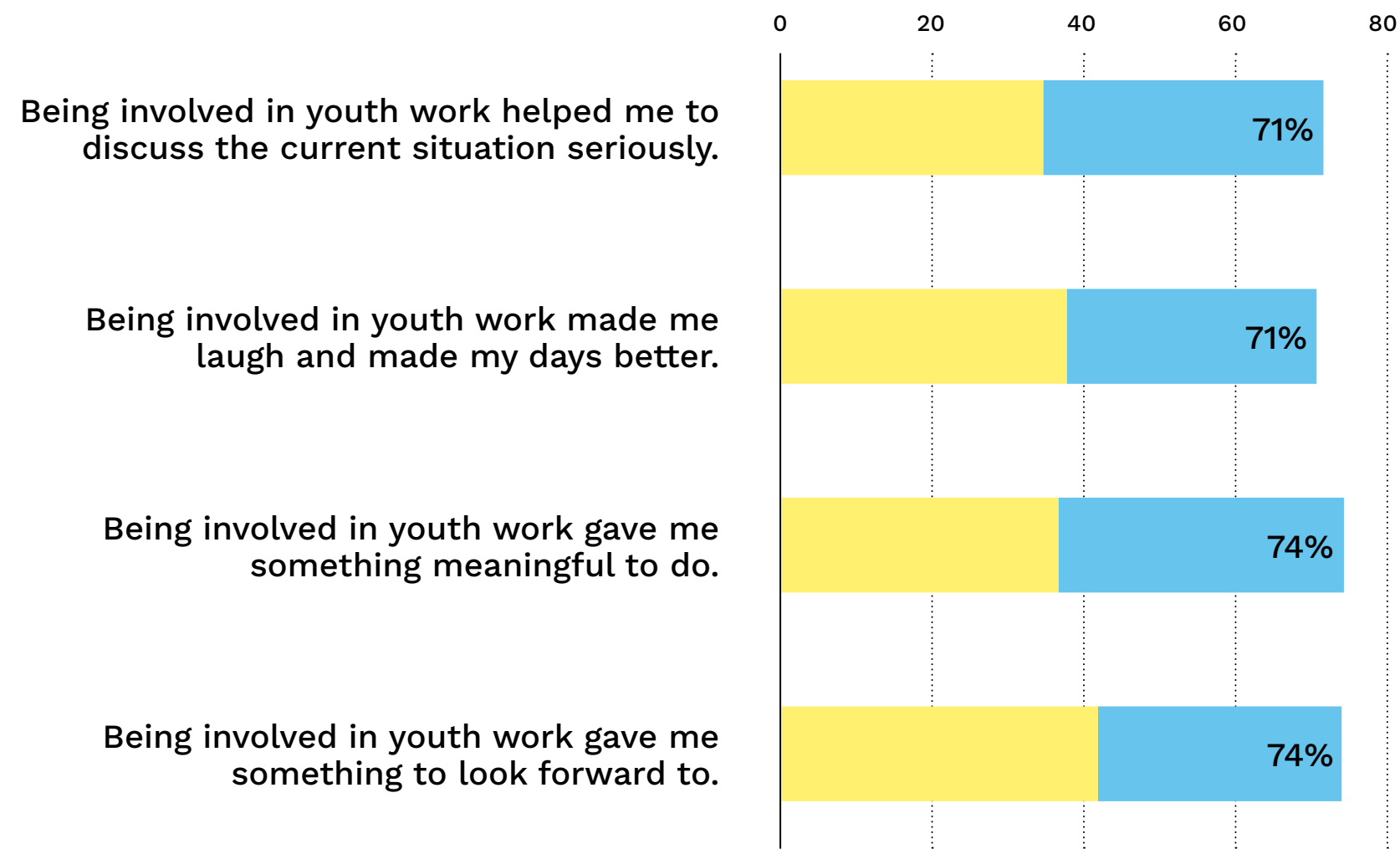
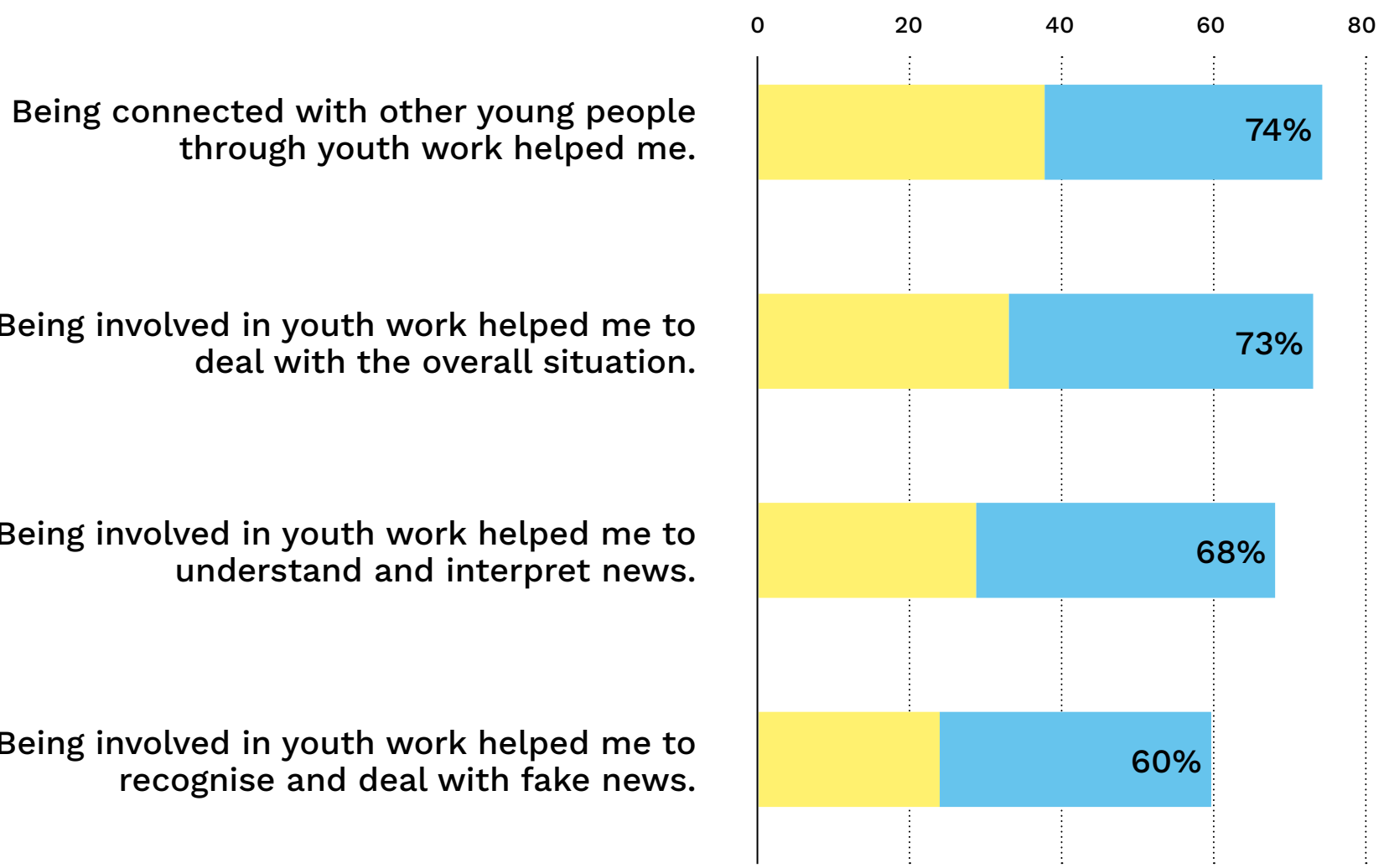
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Q: In your opinion and context, how well has *European youth work* as a field responded to the crisis so far?



**YOUTH WORK KEEPS  
HELPING MANY YOUNG  
PEOPLE TO NAVIGATE  
THE CRISIS**

Q: Has your involvement in youth work helped you during these times?





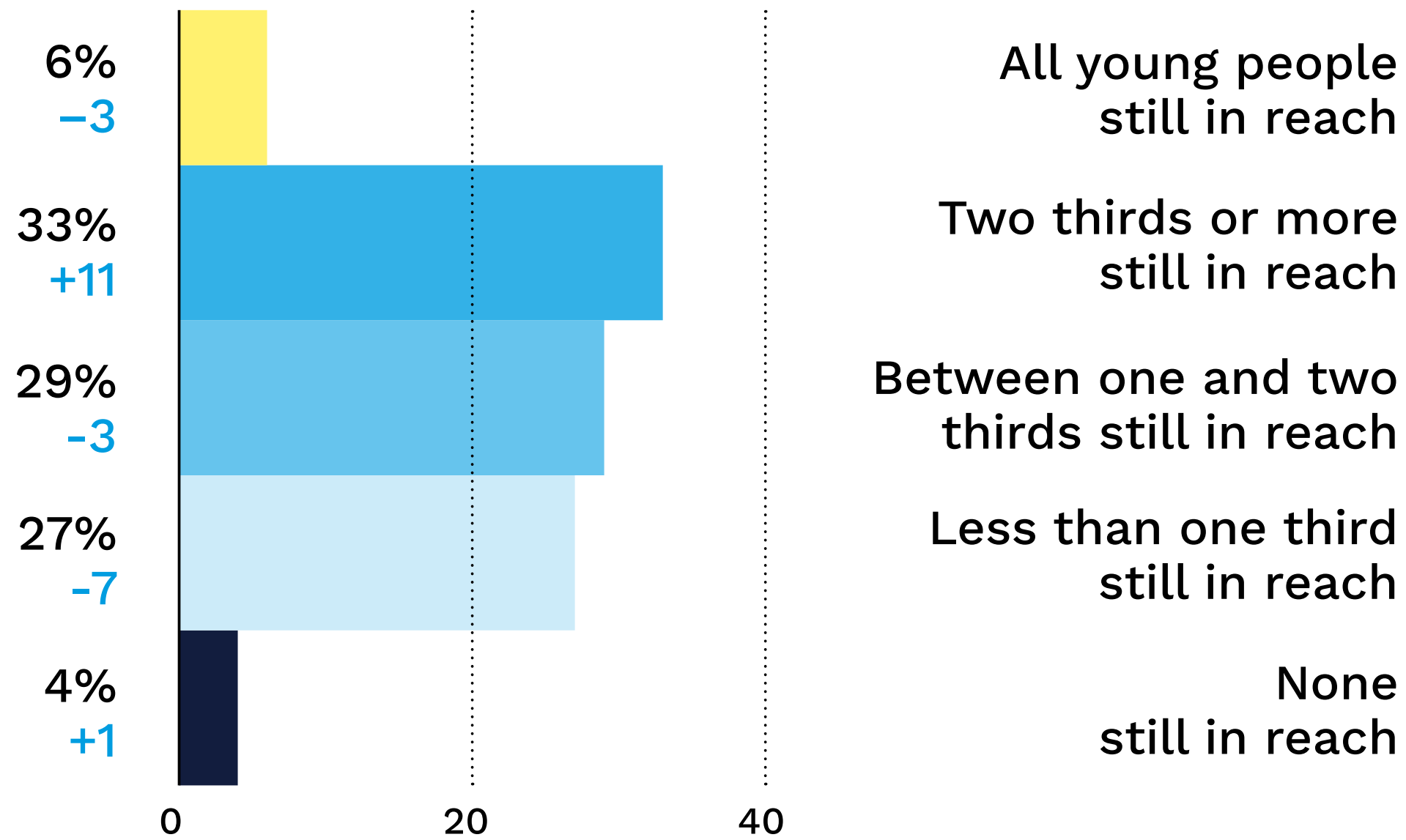
**E**

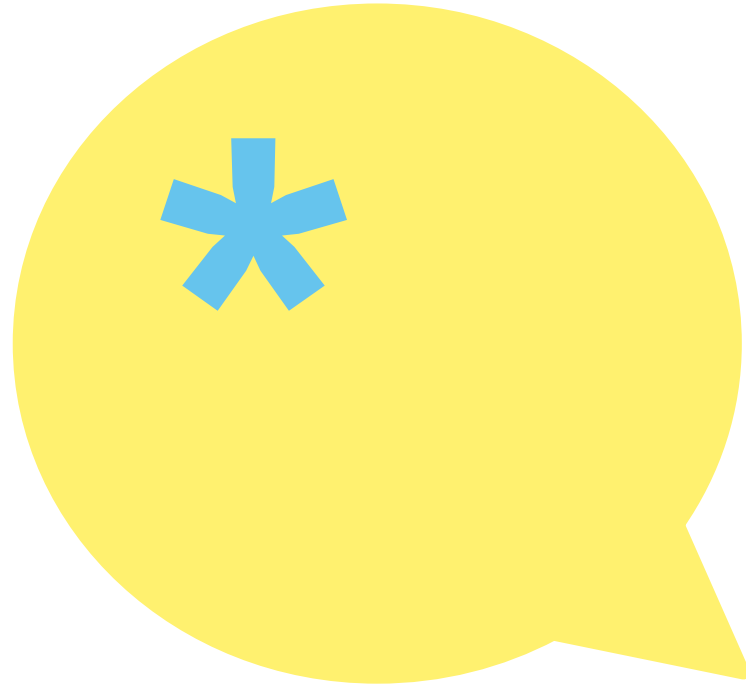
# **SAD NEWS**

**MARGINALISED YOUNG  
PEOPLE FELL OUT OF  
REACH – AND NOT ALL  
ARE (YET) RETURNING**

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Q. How many of the young people you normally work with do you currently still reach with your youth work?





**“It is those young people we care most about in our daily work that we cannot get in touch with anymore. They have almost completely disappeared from our work. I am worried.”**

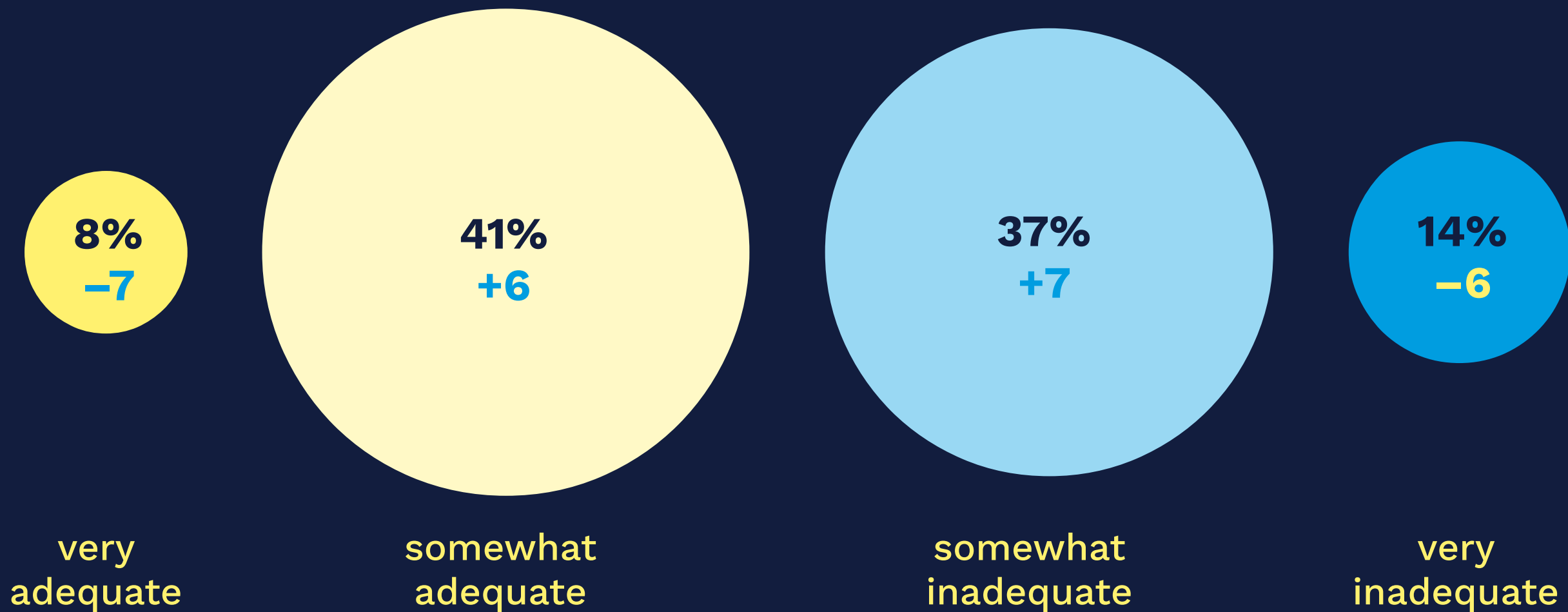
Online survey respondent

F

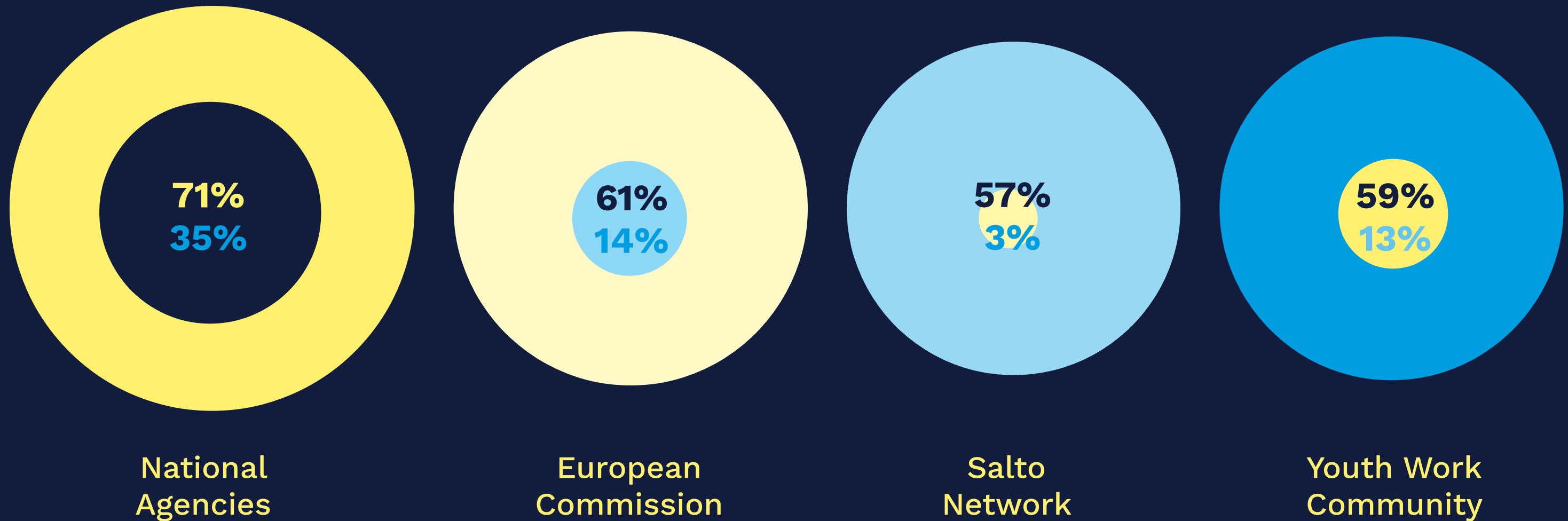
# CHALLENGING NEWS

**THE SUPPORT OF  
YOUTH WORK NEEDS  
FAST AND VAST  
IMPROVEMENTS**

Q. In your opinion and context, how well has youth work as a field been supported during the crisis so far?



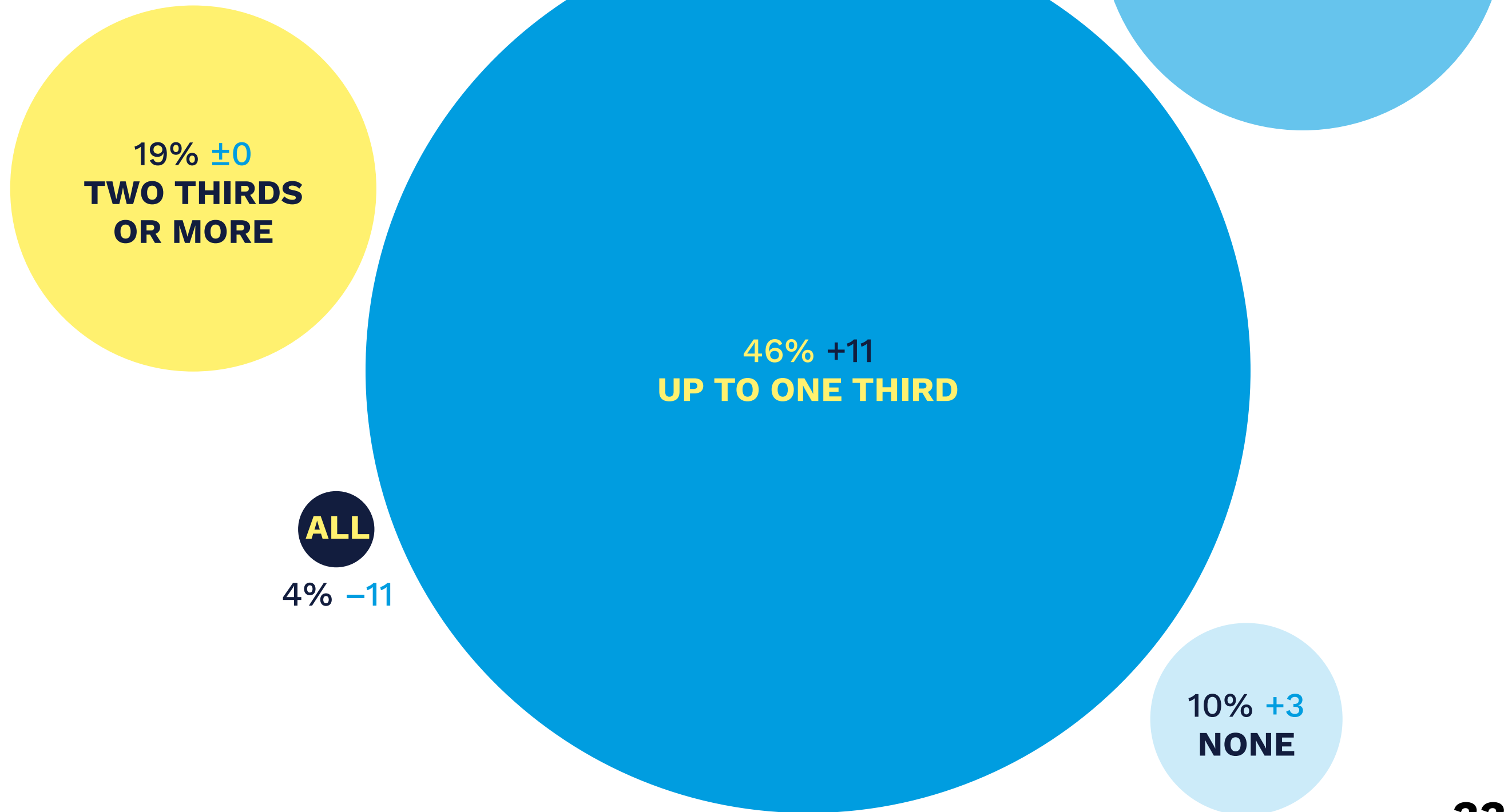
Q. In your opinion and context, how well has youth work as a field been supported during the crisis so far by...?



showing adequate (in combination) with very adequate at the centre

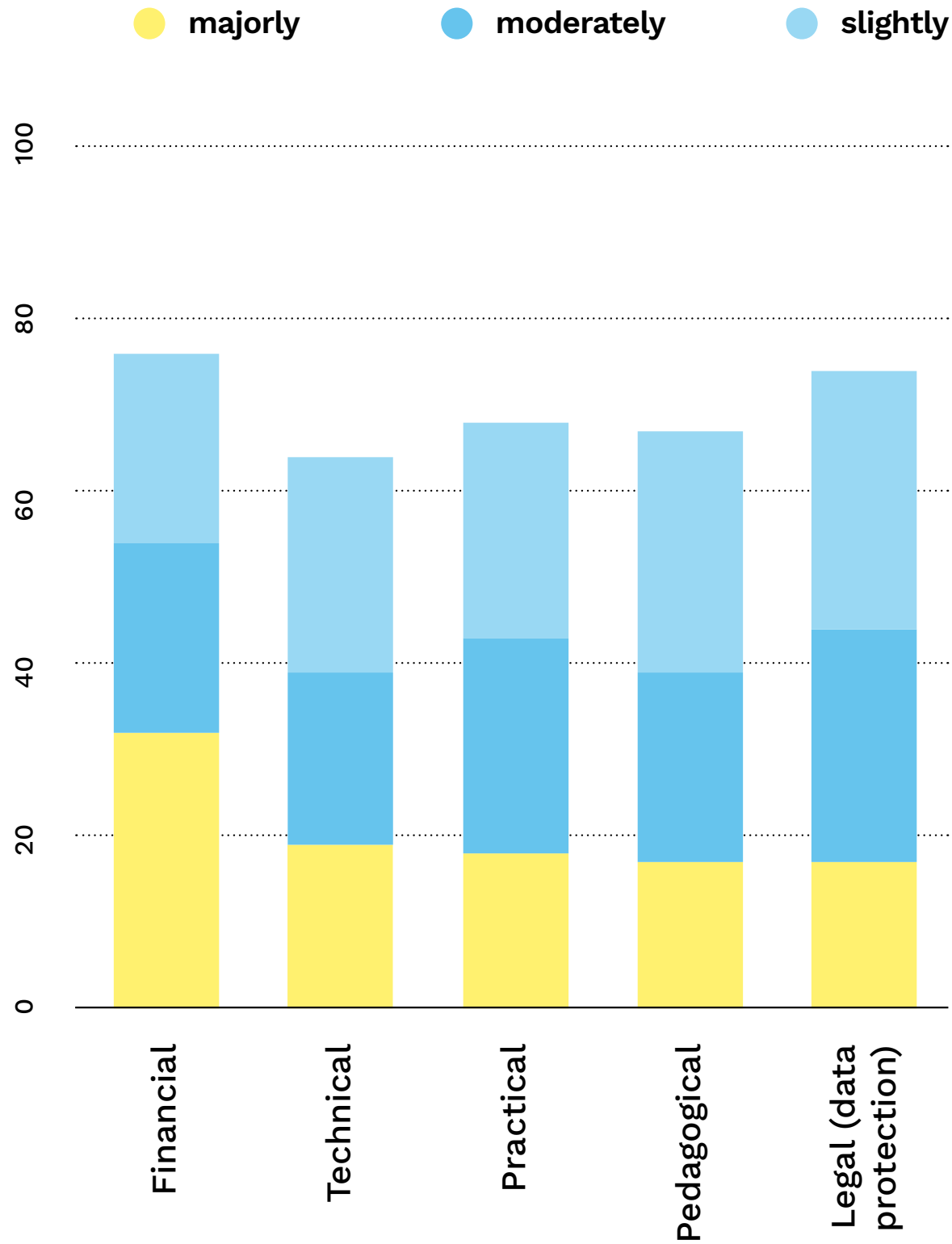


Q. How much of your youth work has been transferred online?



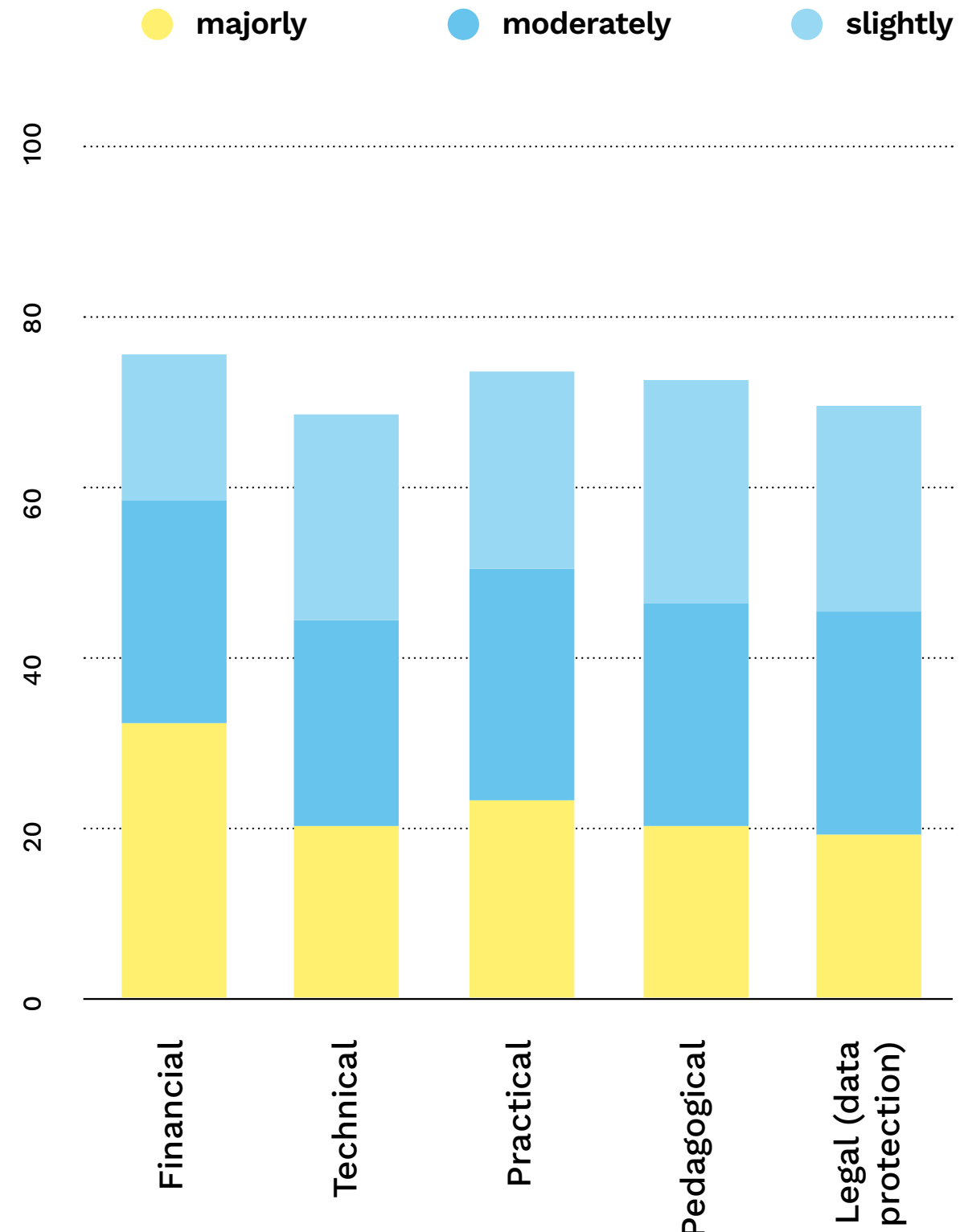
Median 30%  
Mean 37 %

Q: Which hardware support would help you to take your youth work online?



HARDWARE-RELATED

Q: Which software support would help you to take your youth work online?



SOFTWARE-RELATED

**“In the broader context of the European youth work sector, I feel alone. There is no reliable network at this level which would allow for solidarity or support. Some youth workers I know are considering leaving the field entirely. We should not be forced to decide between doing youth work or a secure future.”**

Online survey respondent

09.12.2020

**Thank you.**

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[researchyouth.net](https://researchyouth.net)

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