

# POSTER PRESENTATION

## Vascular e-Learning in Middle East & North Africa during the COVID pandemic: regional results and variations of the EL-COVID survey

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### INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed training and education. The overall utility of vascular e-Learning (eL) during the COVID-19 pandemic was assessed through the vascular e-Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic (EL-COVID) study (1). Regional variability was observed amongst participating nations.

### AIM

This study aims in investigating the adherence and adoption of vascular eL in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions and to examine the variability between regional results and global results.

### METHODS

An online survey was disseminated during the early phase of the COVID pandemic. Vascular surgeons and vascular trainees were invited to participate by open invitations through social media and direct contact from local collaborators. 17 closed questions were used as well as one open question for improvement propositions. The full version of the questionnaire can be accessed online by scanning the QR code at the end of this poster. For an activity to be considered, it had to be offered exclusively online during the first months of the pandemic and to cover a vascular or endovascular topic. Ethical approval was obtained from the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens- Greece. EL-COVID regulations for data protection were followed. Answers were described in percentages. N-1 cchi-squared test was used to compare MENA regions results with EL-COVID survey global results.

### RESULTS

The integral results of EL-COVID survey are published and can be accessed online (2). When compared with EL-COVID global results, MENA results shows no statistically significant difference in post-training experience, number of activities attended, national of international status of the activity, activity accreditation, reasons and obstacles for participation, channels of diffusion, overall impression and ease of delayed access.

In specific points of the survey there is however significant variation as when it comes to gender ratio with female/male ratio of 1/7.7 in MENA regions in comparison with the global 1/3.7 ratio. While the geographical distribution of the participants does not reflect the size of the national vascular societies, it does however illustrate the importance of national societies endorsement. The endorsement of this research by the Lebanese Society for Vascular Surgery resulted in a higher participation rate among its members.

Only half of the participants benefited from employer support and the majority of activities, whether national or international, did not offer any official accreditation.

Table 1: Geographical Distribution of Participants (N=78, Countries= 16)

COUNTRY	Number Of Participants
Algeria	3
Bahrain	1
Egypt	8
Iran	10
Israel	2
Jordan	1
Lebanon	24
Morocco	2
Palestine	1
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	9
Syria	2
Tunisia	1
Turkey	9
UAE	3
Yemen	1

Fig.1: Variations between global results and MENA results

Point examined	MENA results when compared to global results
Participation of women	Lower
Accreditation's role	Lower
Role of social media	Higher
Workload issues	Lower
Time-zone issues	Higher

Fig. 2: Dissemination of activity related information

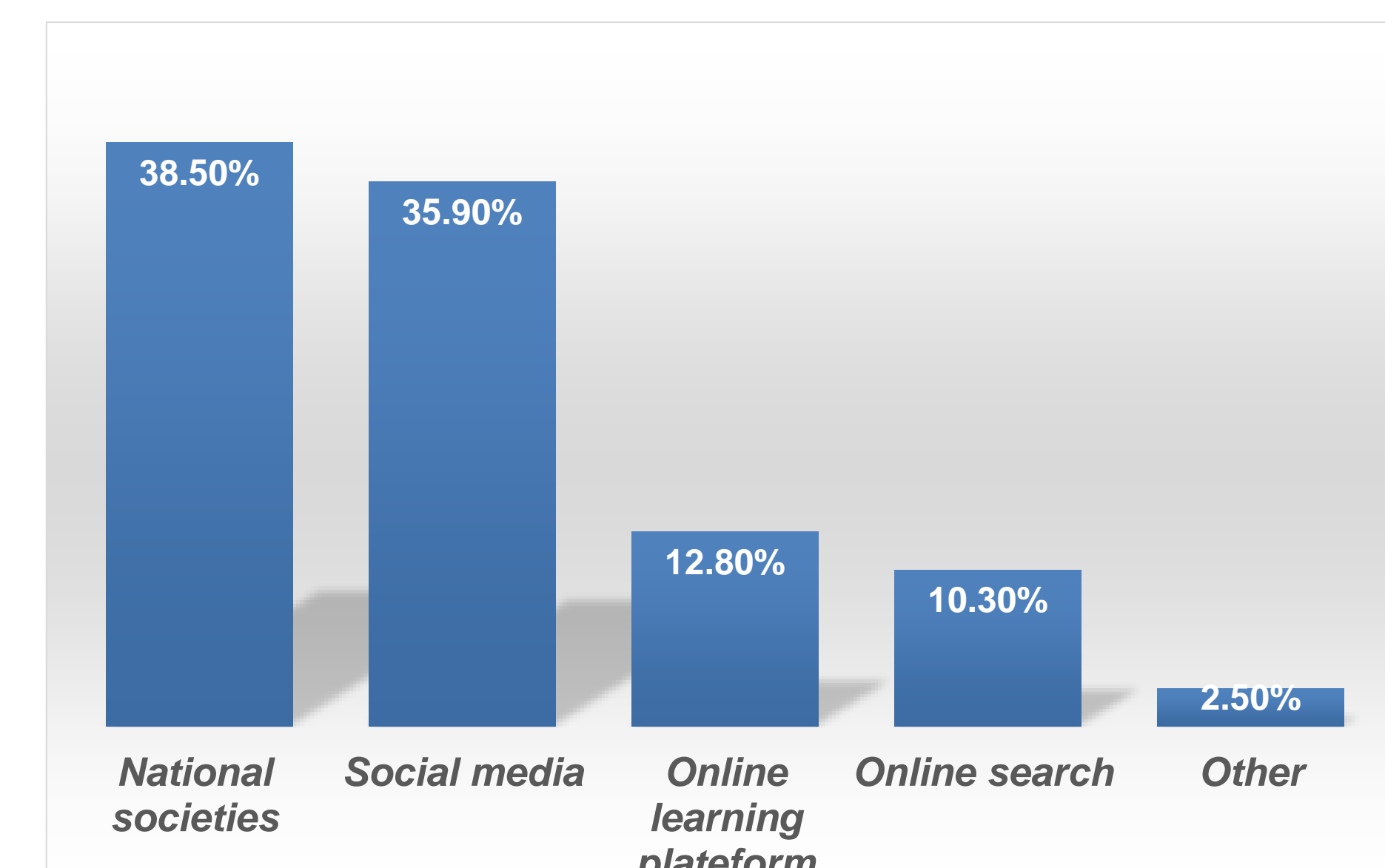


Fig. 3: Gender repartition among participants in MENA regions (N=78) (A) and globally (N=856) (B)

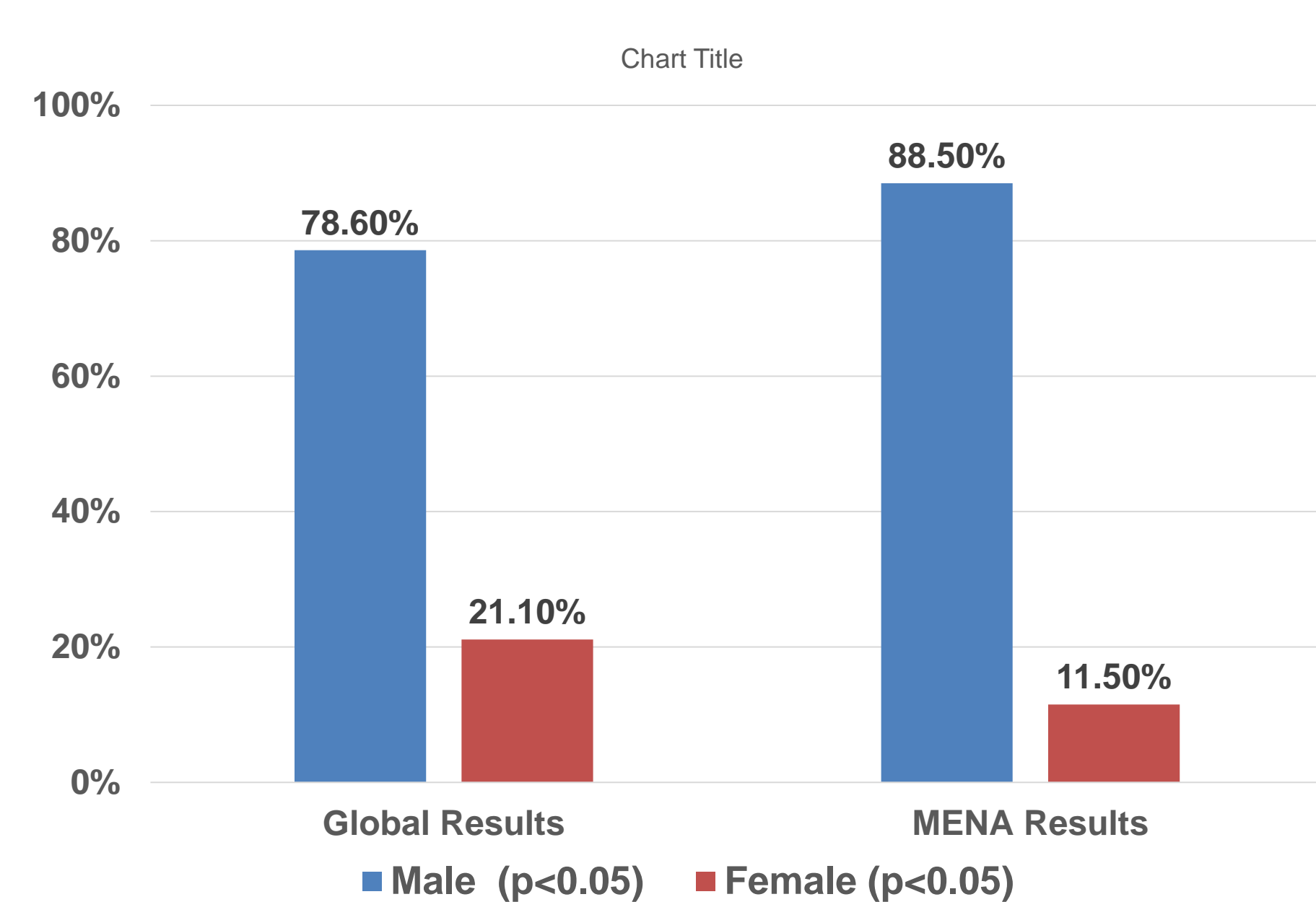


Fig. 4: Professional expertise of the participants

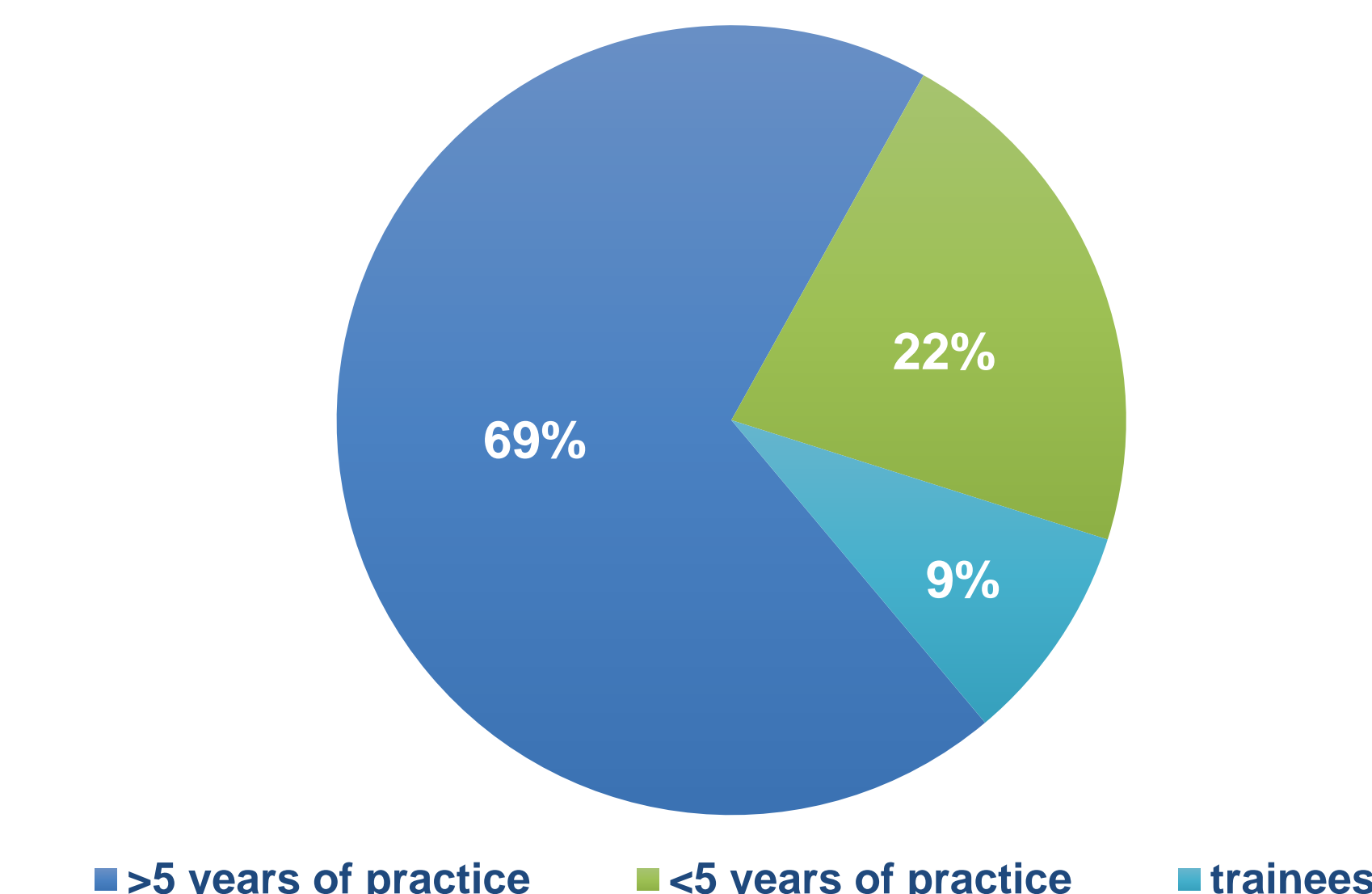


Fig. 5: Primary determinants for attending an activity

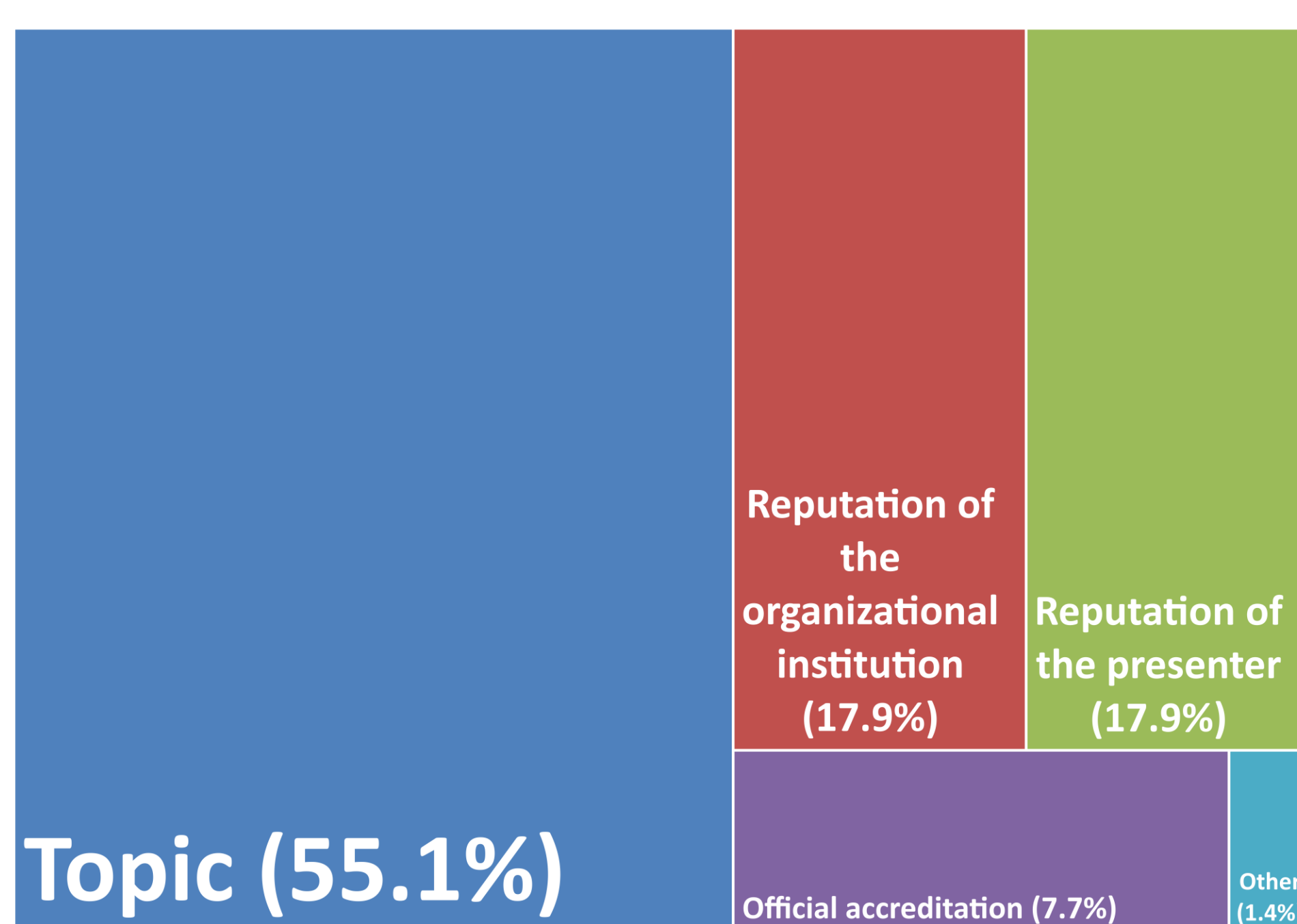


Fig. 6: Reasons for skipping an activity

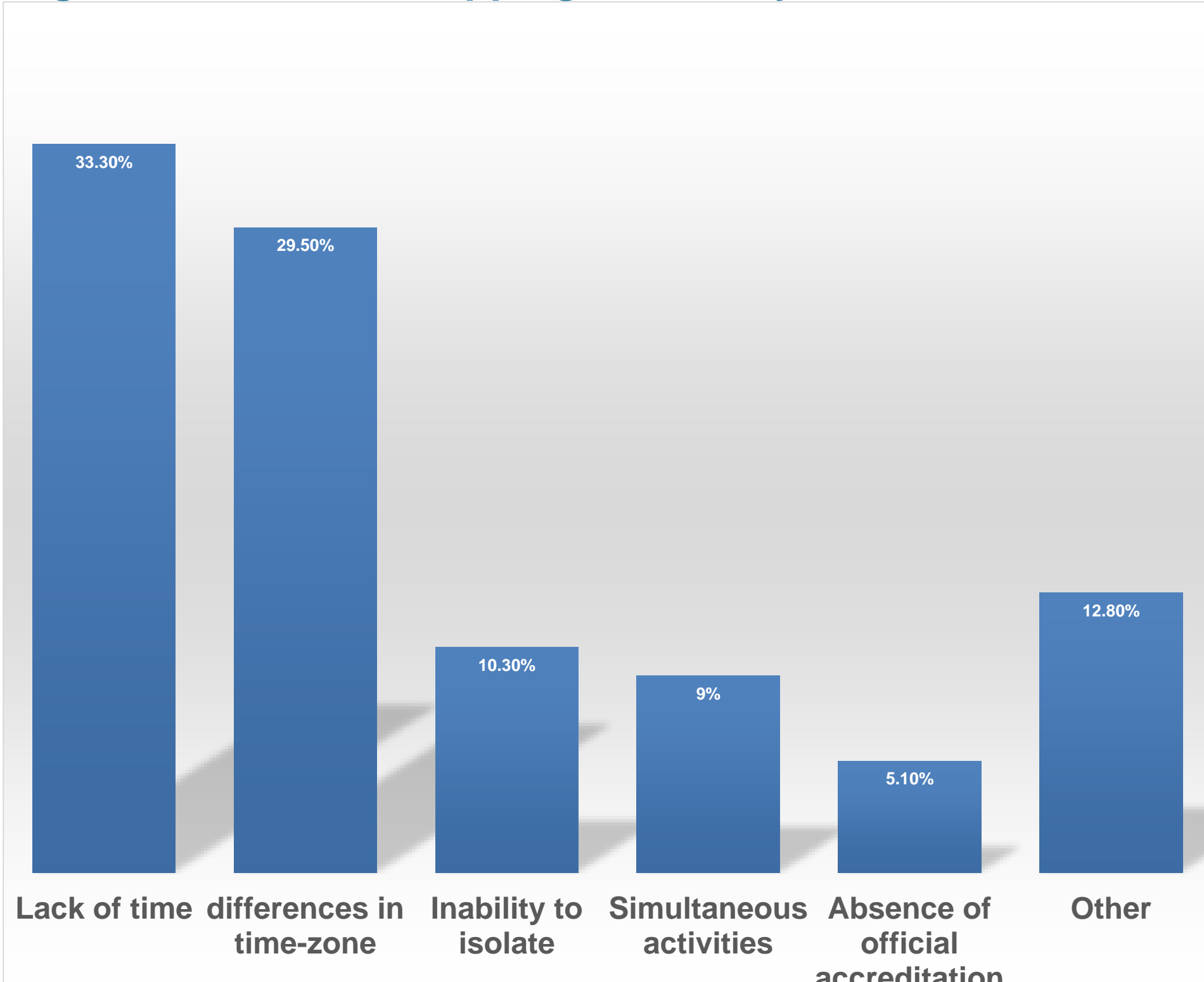


Fig. 7: Number of activities attended

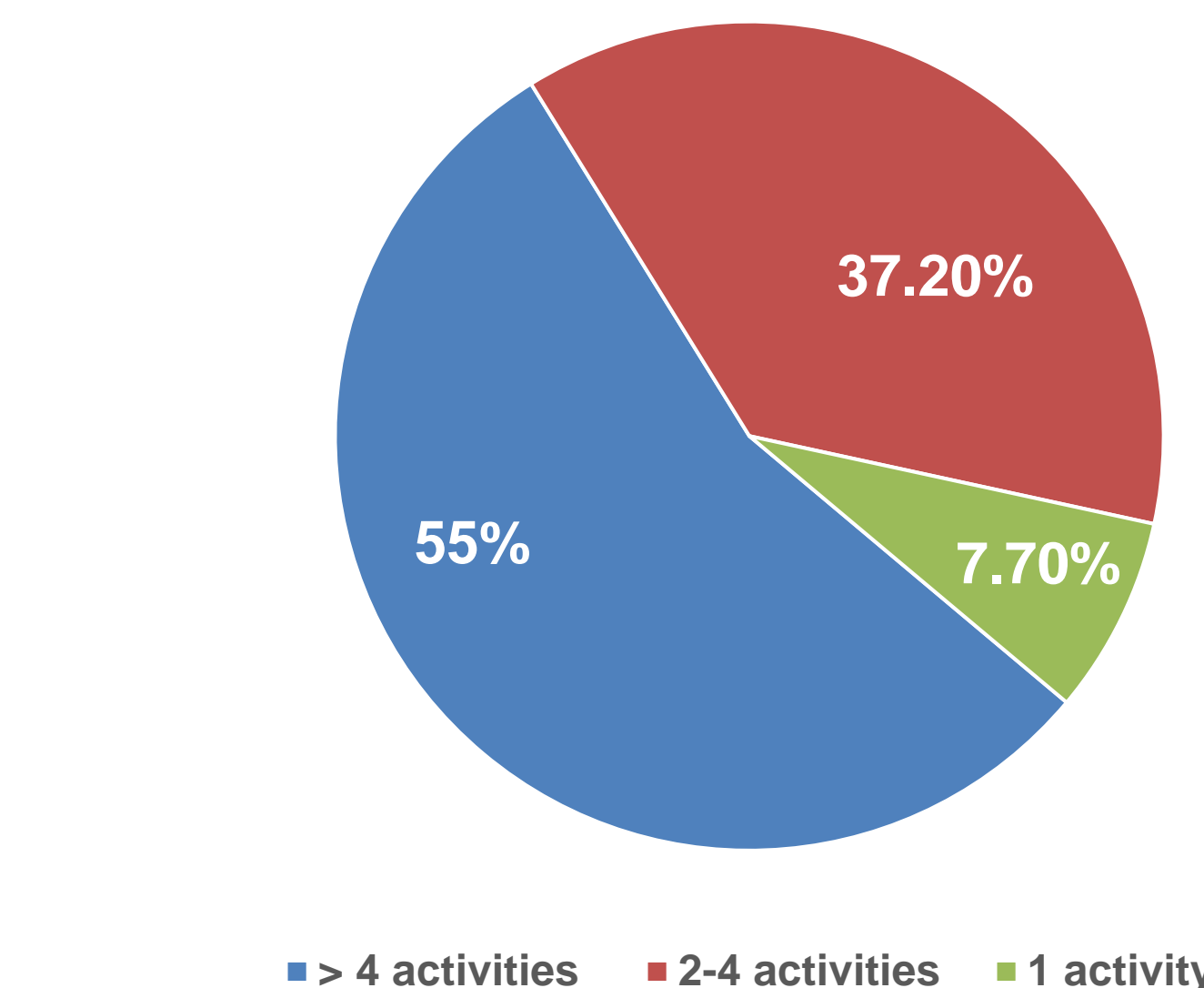


Fig. 8: Ease of activity retrieval

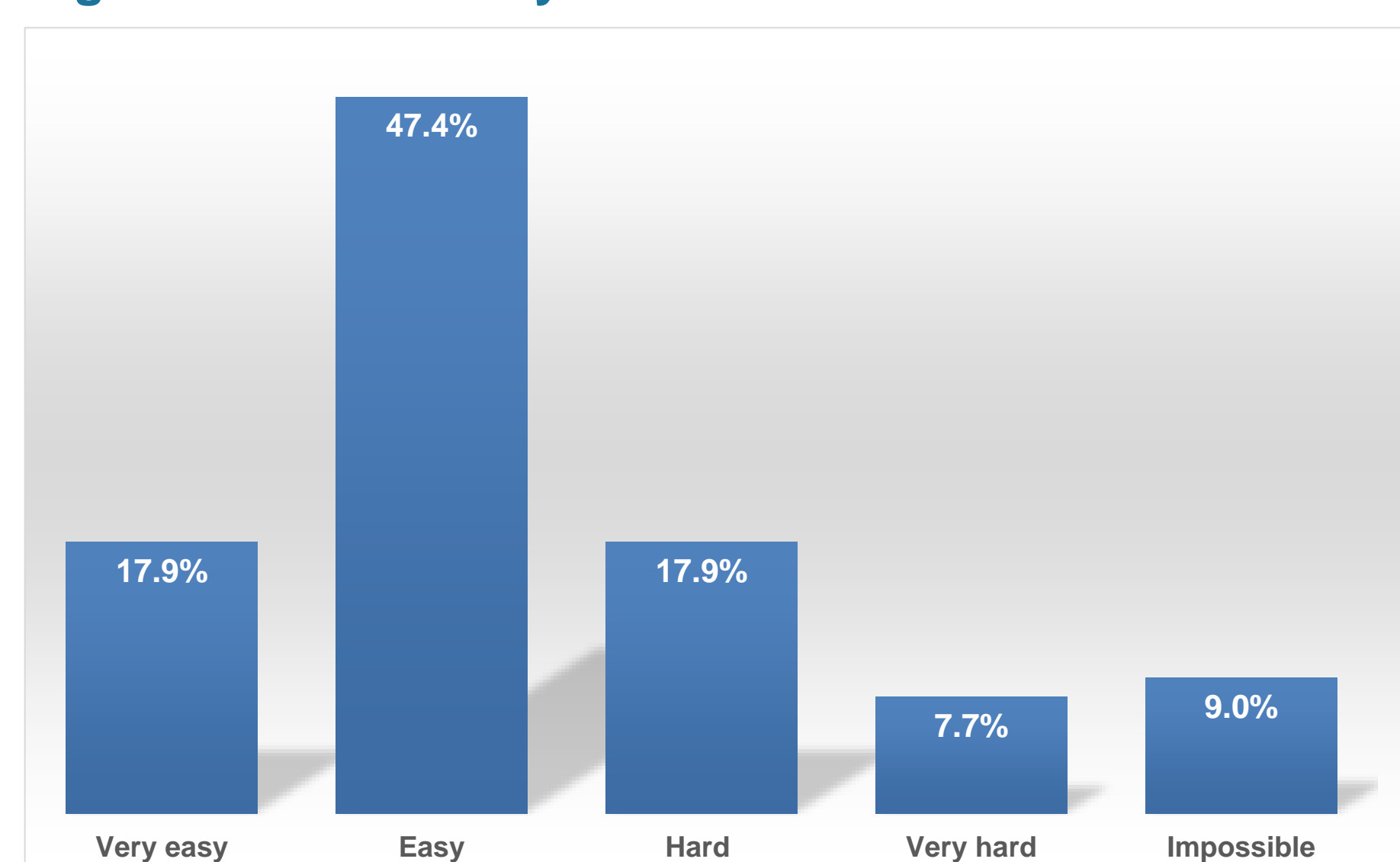
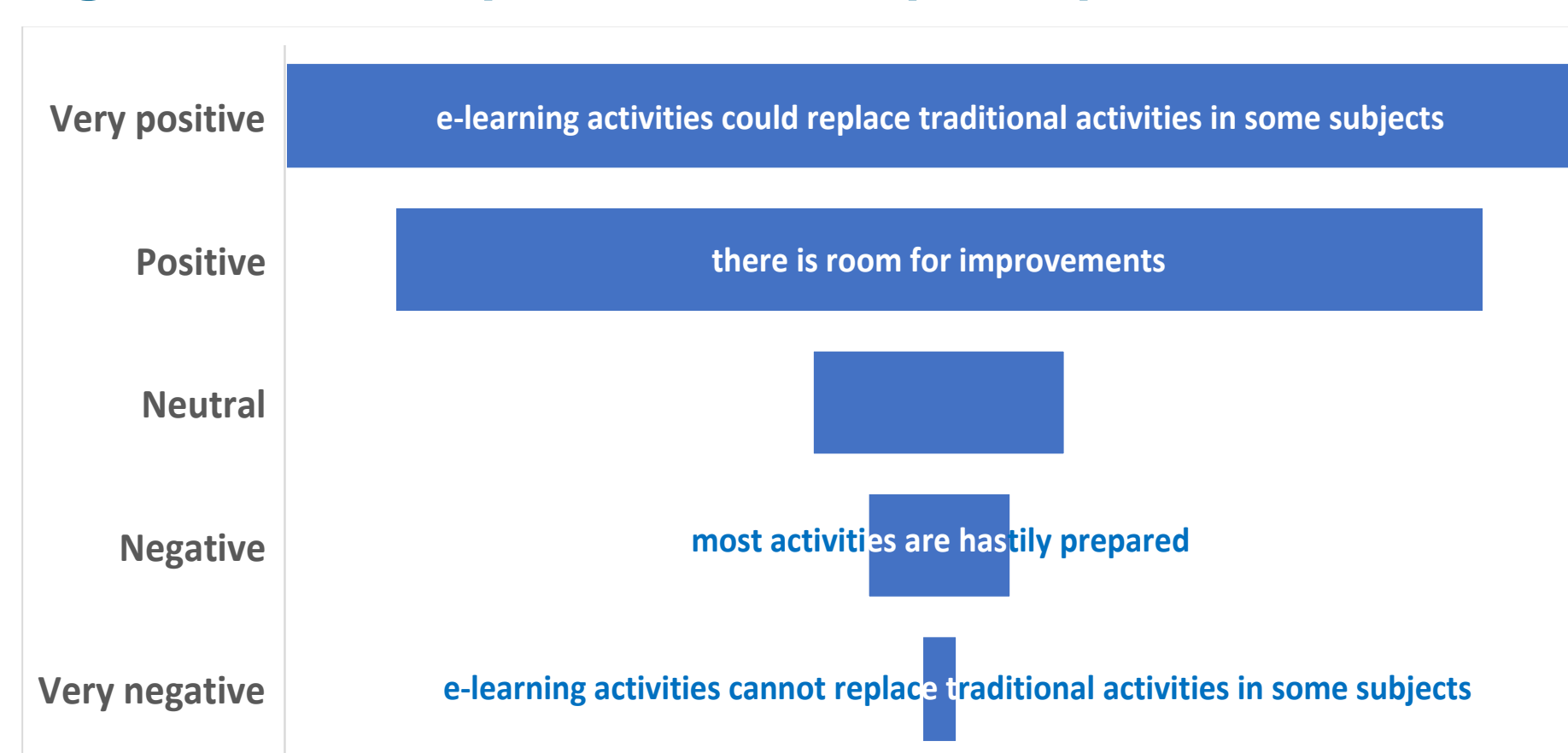


Fig. 9: Overall impression of the participants



### CONCLUSIONS

Covid 19 pandemic accelerated the pace of eL in a dramatic way. While the majority of the participants reported a positive experience, further changes should be undertaken to improve the results. Efficacy and efficiency of vascular eL should be assessed in a more global manner. National Societies endorsement of such researches could play a determinant role.

### EL COVID COLLABORATORS

Sean Matheiken, Theodosios Bisada, Zaiping Jing, Jiaxuan Feng, Matthias Trenner, Paulo Eduardo Ocke Reis, Stephane Elkouri, Alexandre Lecis, Dirk Le Roux, Mihai Inoac, Marton Berczeli, Vincent Jongkind, Kak Khee Yeung, Athanasios Katsargyris, Dimitrios Moris, Andrew Choong, Jun Jie Ng, Ivan Cvetko, George Antoniou, Philippe Ghibu, Alexei Svetlikov, Harm P Ebben, Hubert Stepakm Sviatoslav Kostiv, Stefano Ancetti, Niki Tadayon, Lilliano Fidalgo-Domingos, Eduardo Sebastian Sarutte Rosello, Arda Isik, Kyriaki Kakavia, Sotirios Georgopoulos.

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- Patelis N, Bisdas T, Jing Z *et al.* Dataset of the vascular e-Learning during the COVID-19 pandemic (EL-COVID) survey. *Data in Brief* 2021;(38):1. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352340921007241>.

### SCAN QR CODE FOR RELATED SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS



Poster Code: P303