

# Results of the survey of the ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships 2018 supported by ERA-LEARN

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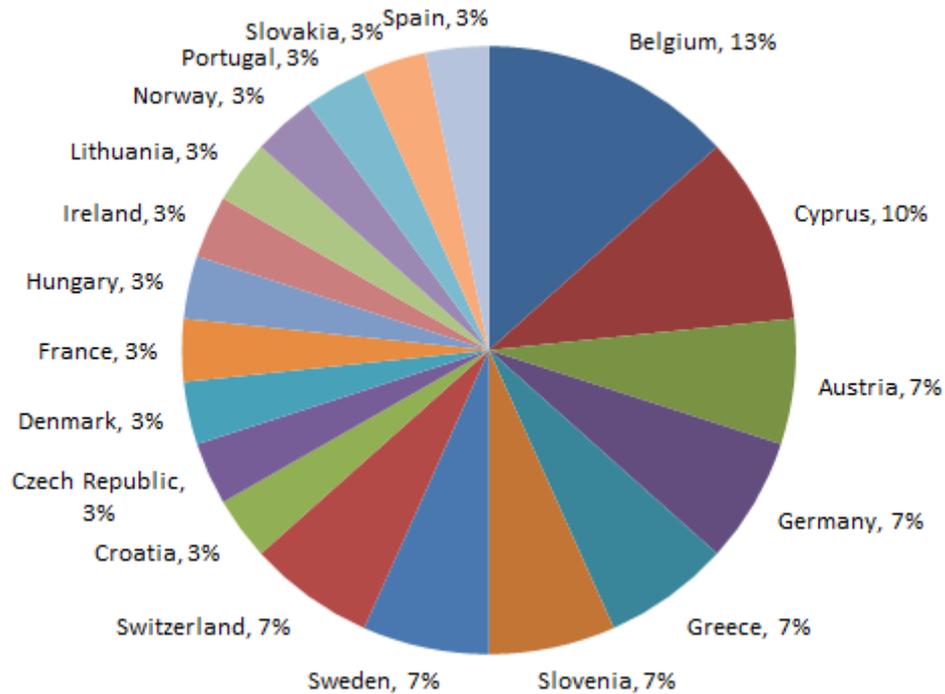
## 1. Introduction

The ERAC Ad-hoc Working Group on Partnerships has developed the concept of a survey, addressed to ERAC members, research funders implementing P2Ps and researchers funded by P2Ps. This has been further developed and implemented with the support of the Commission Services and ERA-LEARN (University of Manchester and OPTIMAT).

The final extraction of results took place in mid-March 2018. The following figures show the full results and conclusions for the questionnaires responses submitted by ERA members, research funders and researchers funded by P2Ps. Responses not fully completed have been included in the analysis.

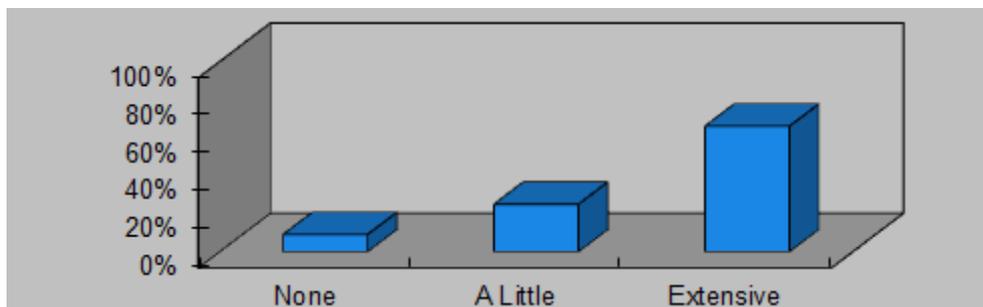
## 2. Descriptive statistics

Figure 1: Geographical distribution of respondents from ERA Members



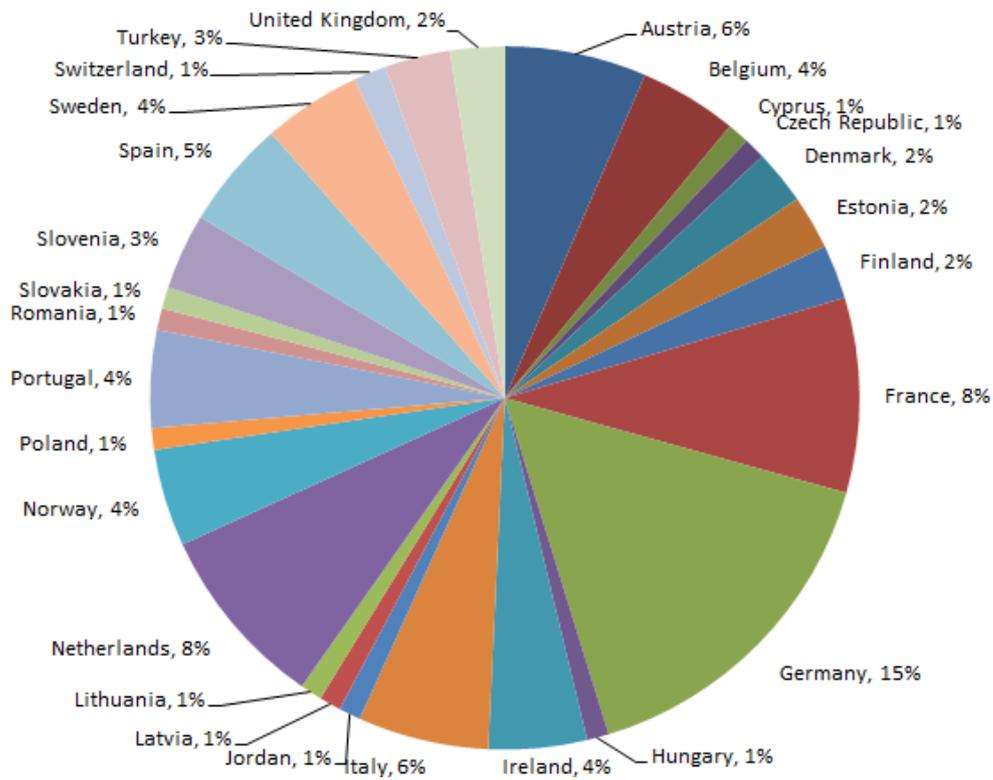
32 responses were received from ERA Members, out of which 23 were complete. The countries with the most replies are: Belgium [4], Cyprus [3], Germany [2], Austria [2], Sweden [2], Greece [2], Slovenia [2] and Switzerland [2].

Figure 2: Extent of experience of participation in P2Ps for ERA Members



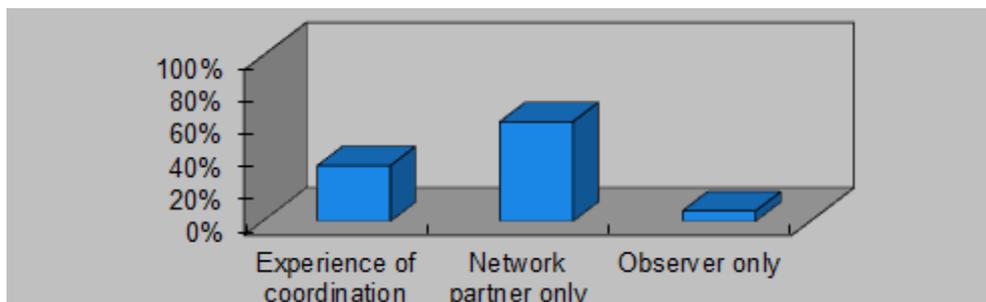
Two thirds of the respondents from ERAC Members possess extensive experience with P2Ps, while 25% declare they had some level of experience in dealing with P2Ps.

Figure 3: Geographical distribution of respondents from funding organisations



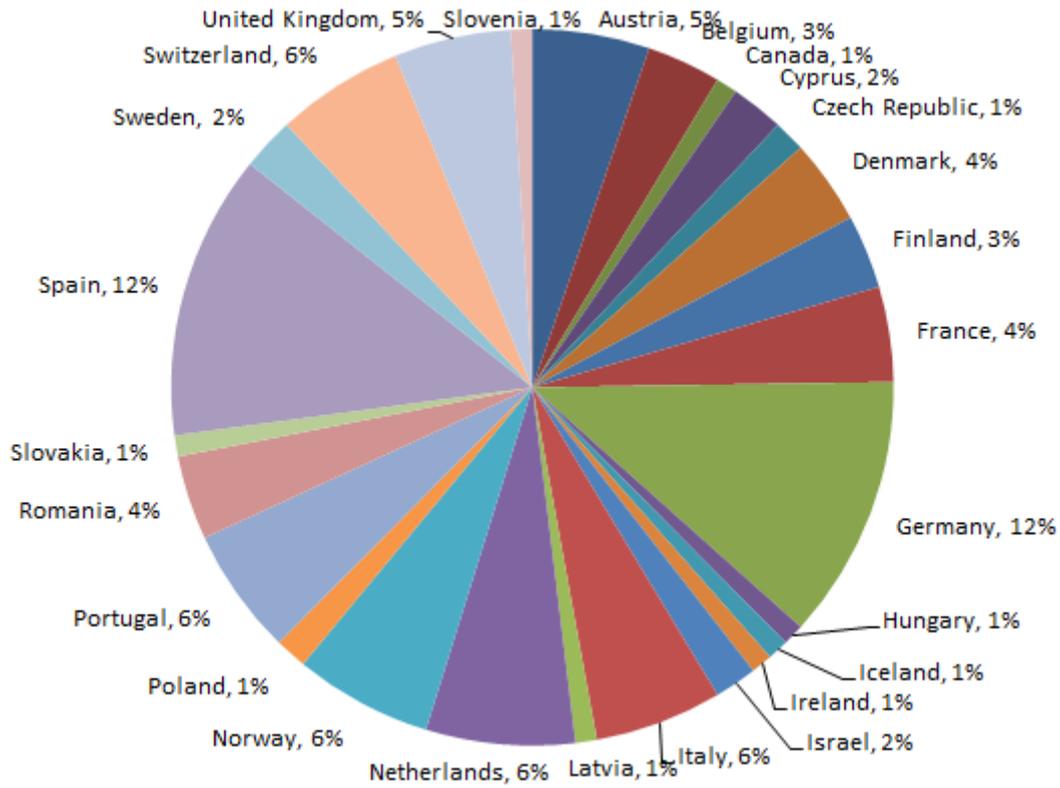
213 responses were received from funding organisations, out of which 153 were complete. The majority of them come from Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy and Austria, representing 43%.

Figure 4: Type of participation in P2P networks for respondents from funding organisations



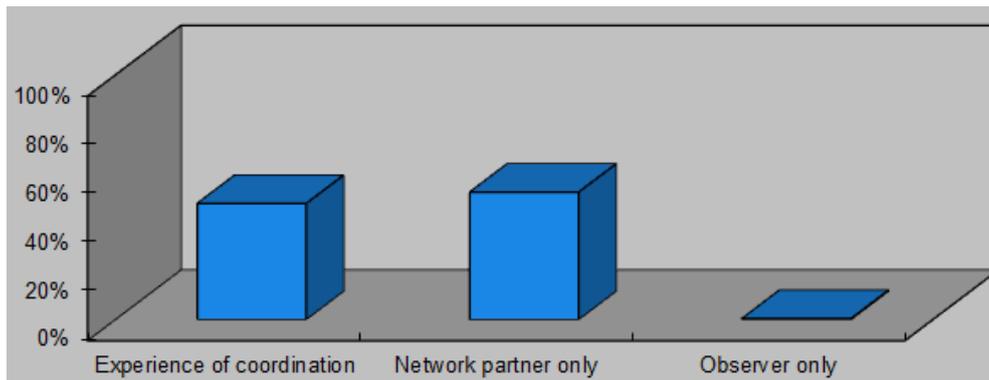
Over a third (34%) of respondents from funding organisations had coordination experience in P2P networks, while 60% participated only as a network partner, thus validating the relevance of the survey results.

Figure 5: Geographical distribution of respondents from beneficiaries of research projects



216 responses were received from funding organisations, out of which 182 were complete. The majority of respondents are found in Germany, Spain, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland, representing 48% of replies.

Figure 6: Type of participation in P2P networks for beneficiaries of research projects



Almost half of the respondents from beneficiaries (47%) possess coordination experience in research projects, whereas the other half (53%) participate in the P2P networks only in the capacity of a partner.

### 3. Main findings of the survey

The results of the survey to ERAC members (32 replies) and research funders (213 replies) lead to the following conclusions:

1. Securing commitment and funding continue to be the main challenges for successful participation in P2P activities;
2. Further centralisation of activities related to implementation of joint calls are considered key in increasing the efficiency of their implementation, but there is significantly less support for centralising the management of funds;
3. A centralised management of data on proposals, projects including financial data, and their results, outcomes and impacts under CORDIS / eCORDA or ERA-LEARN is strongly supported;
4. Policy makers are in general in favour of centralised implementation structures, whereas the research funders are more reluctant to transfer part of their activities to centralised structures;
5. Relevance and impact of P2P depend highly on an increased political commitment at national level and stronger links with national policy priorities and end-users in the R&I community.

The main findings from the survey responses of researchers funded by P2Ps can be summarised as follows:

- The overall experience with the different stages from proposal submission to funding is very positive;
- Negative experiences relate to the submission of applications to both national and central platforms, double evaluations and getting through the red tape
- Standardisation is very much requested, beneficiaries considering it very useful to have common rules (funding, reporting, etc) and timelines among funding agencies, with a single platform and single management like Horizon 2020 standard projects
- The following issues are considered major or moderate challenges from the applicants point of view:
  - Different rules for research funding between participating countries resulting in complex management of grants (80%);
  - Different timing in securing all national funding contributions for selected projects resulting in delays/cancellation of project start (74%);
  - Different grant management and reporting procedures resulting in double reporting (59%)
  - Different proposal submission or evaluation procedures resulting in double submission and/or evaluation (57%).

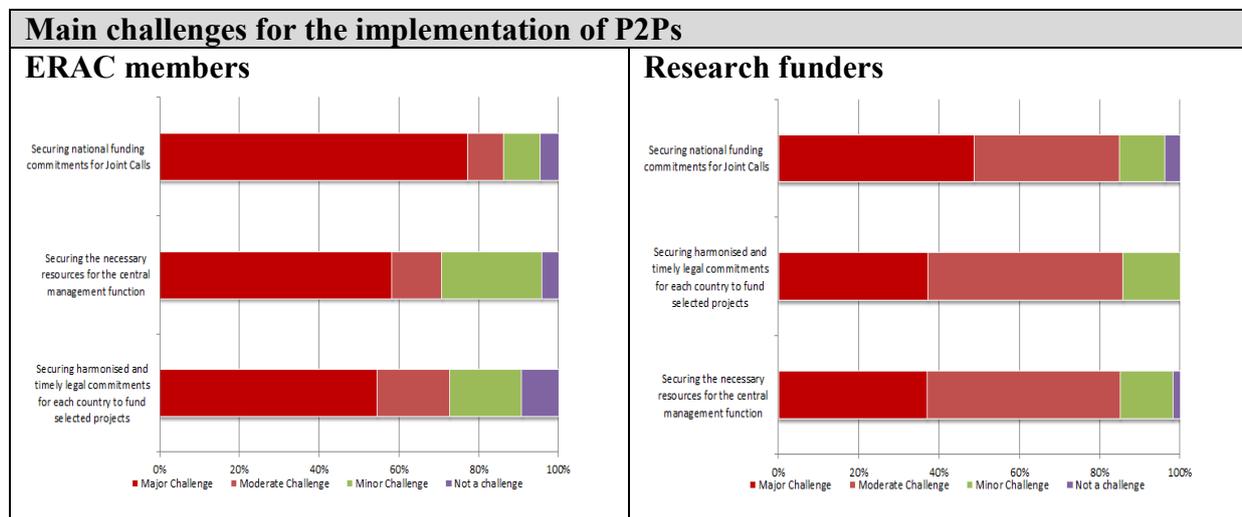
These findings clearly support further centralisation in terms of harmonisation and synchronisation of the joint call preparation and implementation as main element to substantially improve the efficiency of implementation.

The results of the ERA-LEARN survey underlined among all (public) core stakeholders the willingness to establish a central information hub for the collection and analysis of project/activity related data stemming from R&I partnerships.

## 4. Full survey results

### 4.1 Challenges for implementation of P2Ps

Figure 7: Main challenges for the implementation of P2Ps



#### Survey results

The chart shows that the three main challenges for the implementation of P2P identified by the ERAC members and the research funders are the same, with a certain variation in order and absolute values:

- Securing national funding commitments for Joint Calls;
- Securing the necessary resources for the central management function;
- Securing harmonised and timely legal commitments for each country to fund selected projects.

Other noteworthy challenges include developing consensus on priorities for Joint Calls for R&I projects and organising the management and distribution of funding for each beneficiary

#### Conclusions

From a national perspective the main issues for a successful participation on P2P activities remain to be the financial commitments to the joint calls and resulting projects, as well as providing resources for participation in networks and activities.

Figure 8: Least burdensome issues for the implementation of P2Ps

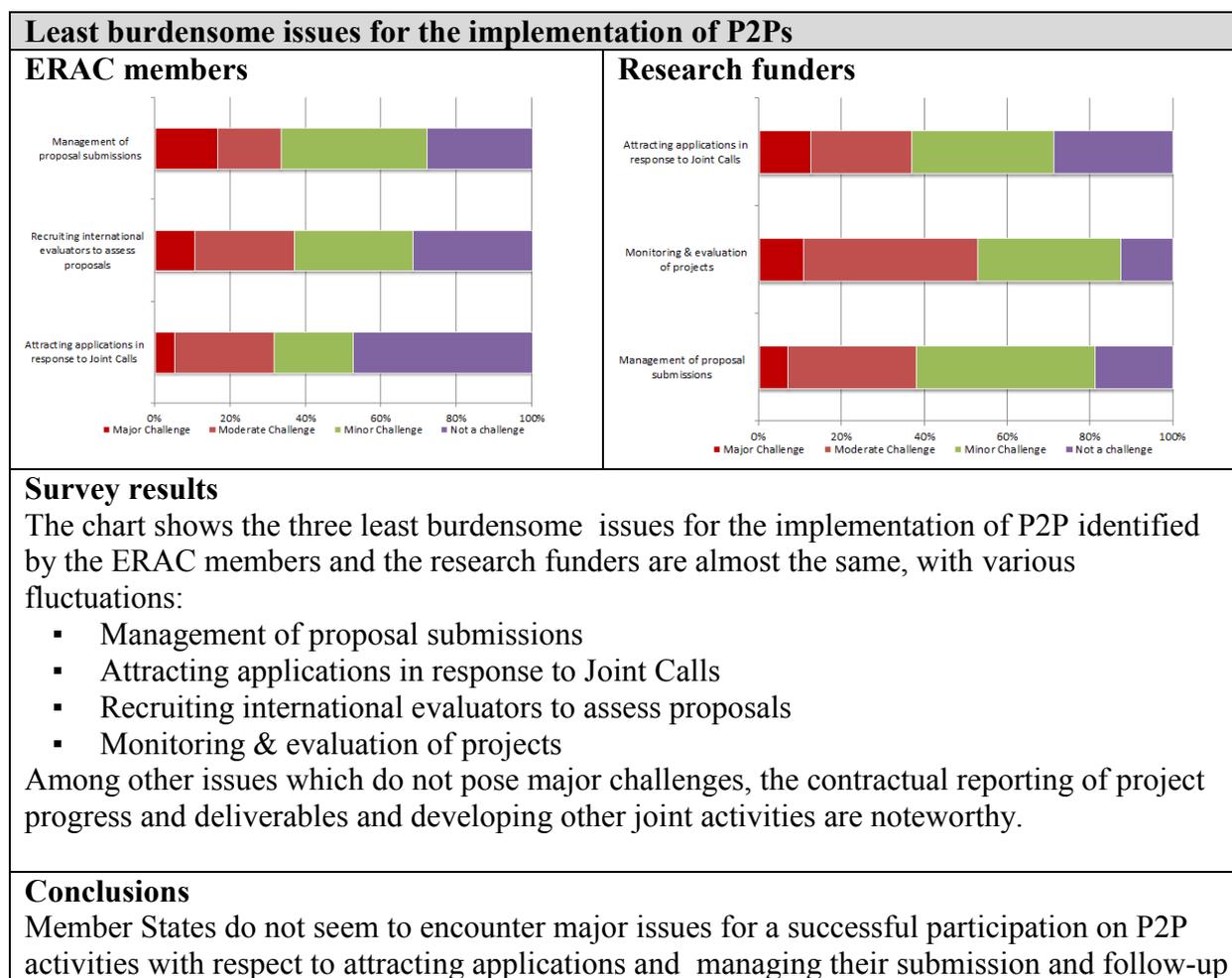
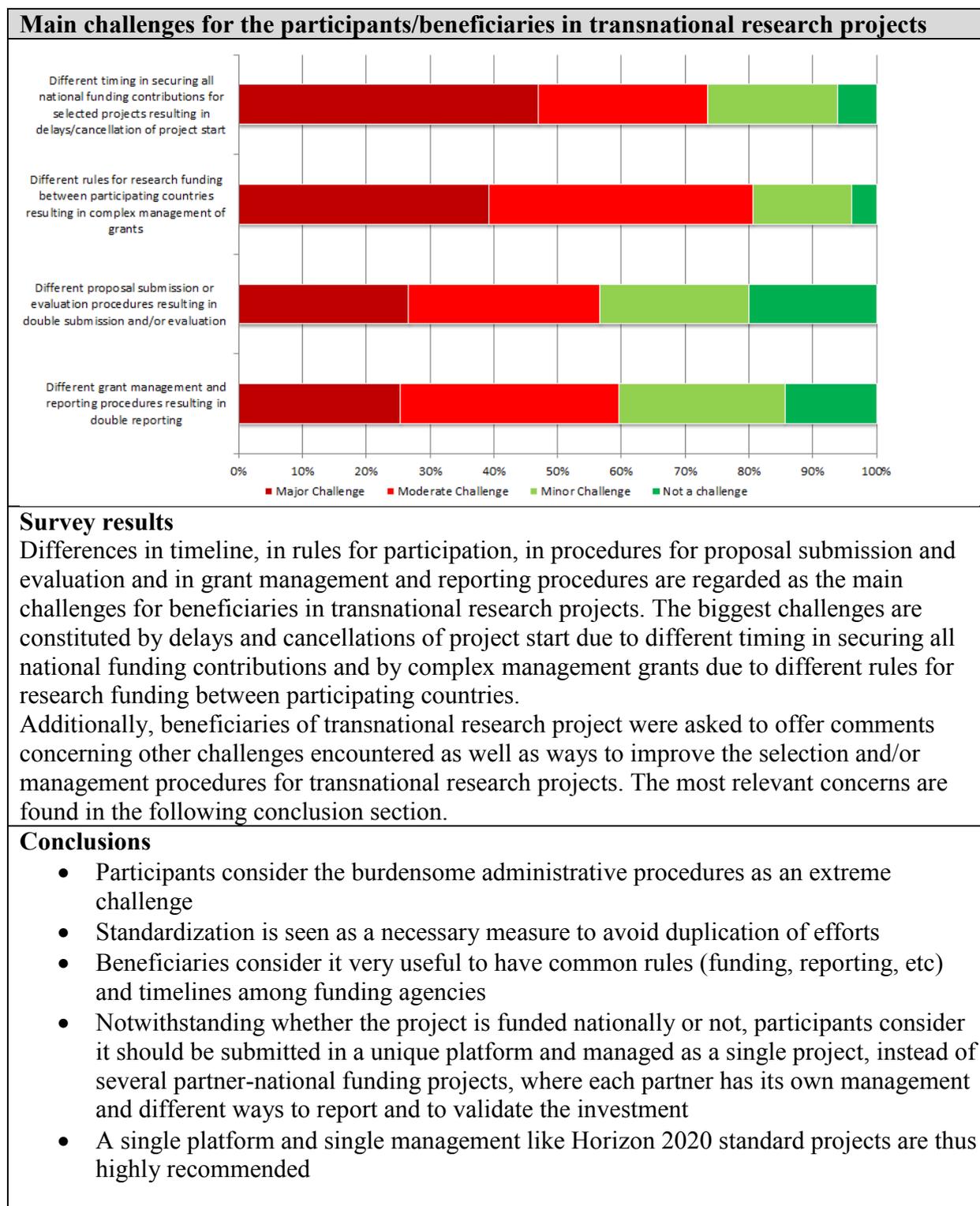


Figure 9: Main challenges for the participants/beneficiaries in transnational research projects



## 4.2 Improving efficiency of implementation for P2Ps

Figure 10: Desirable measures to improve the efficiency of implementing Joint Calls of P2Ps

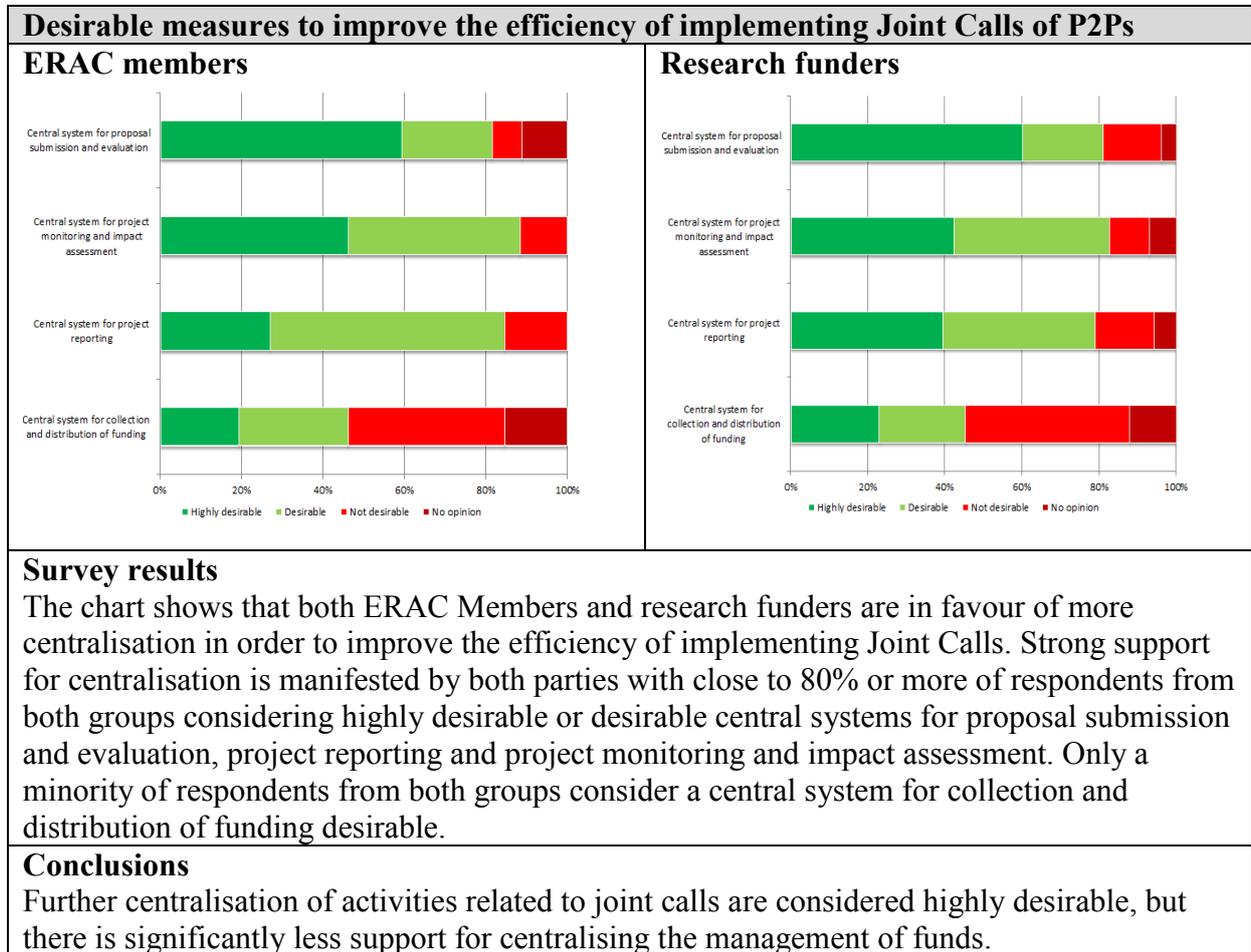
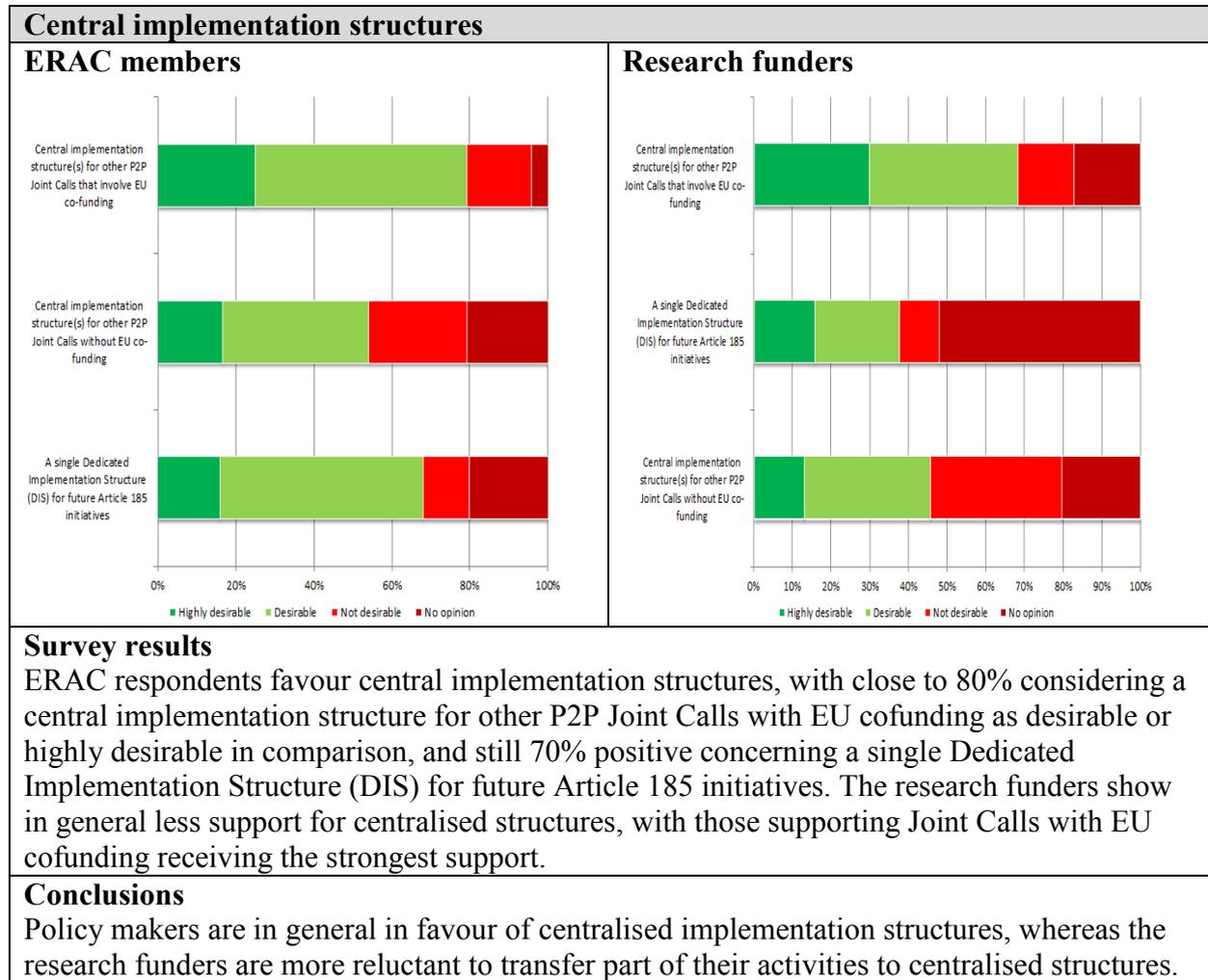


Figure 11: Central implementation structures



### 4.3 Data management

Figure 12: Centralisation of data management functions (ERA-LEARN Survey)

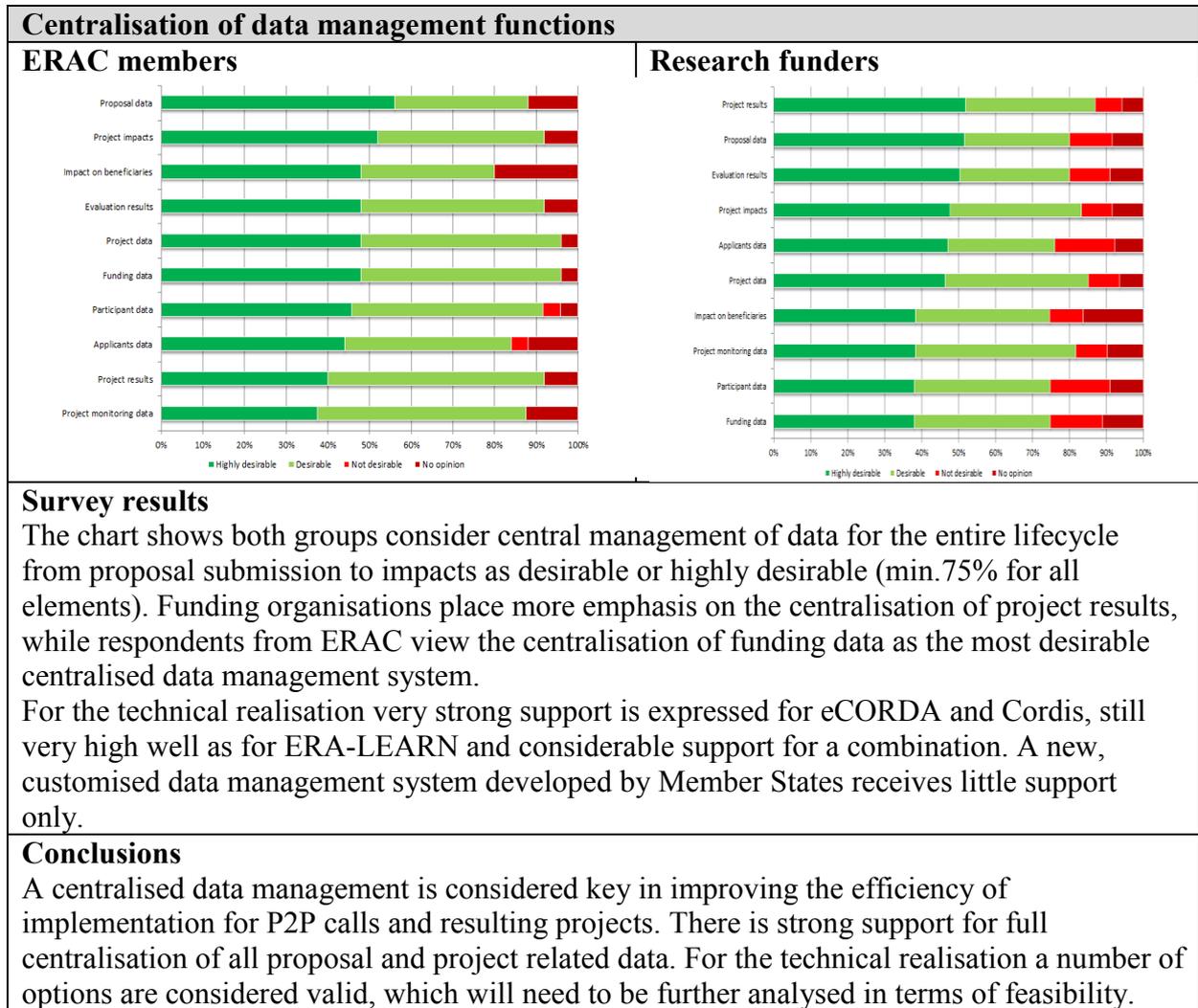
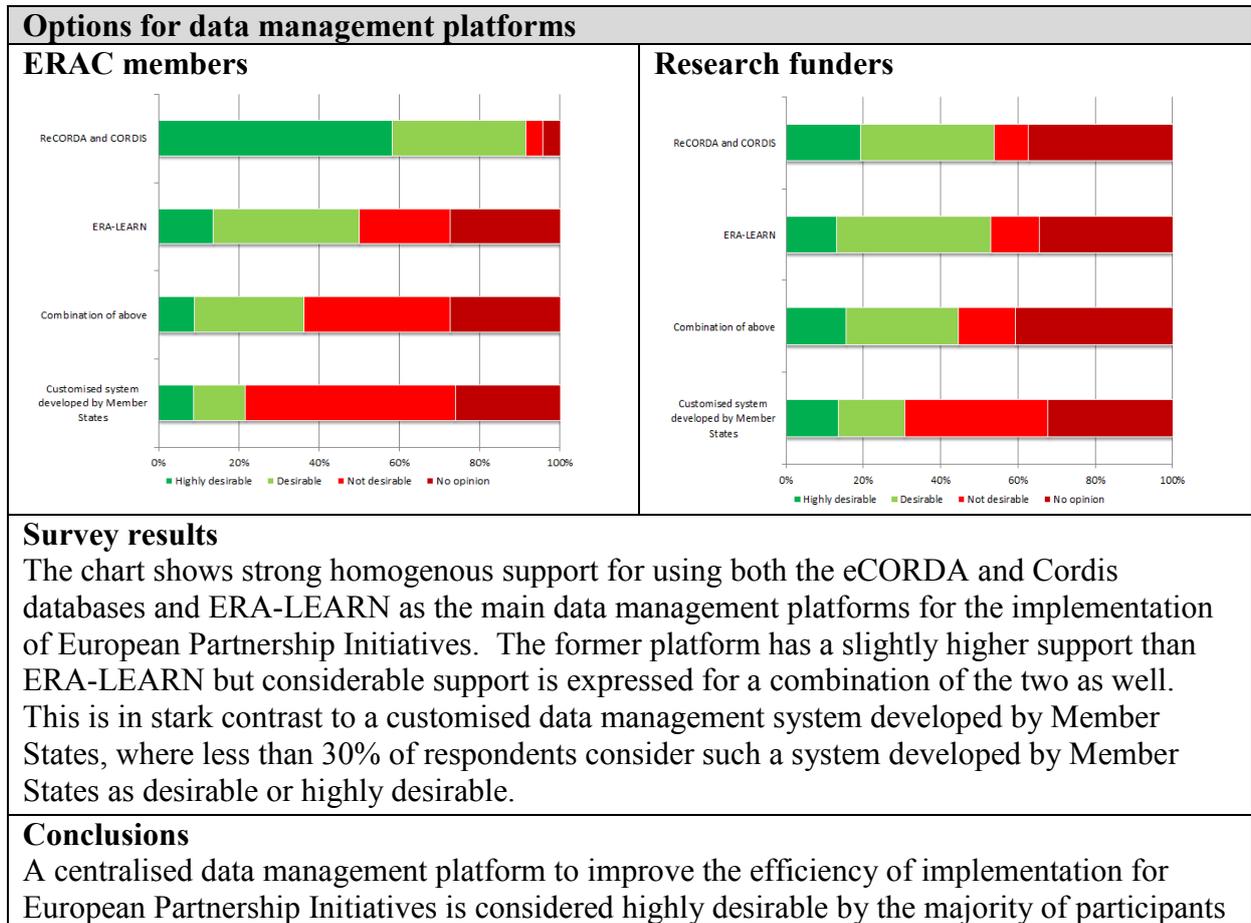
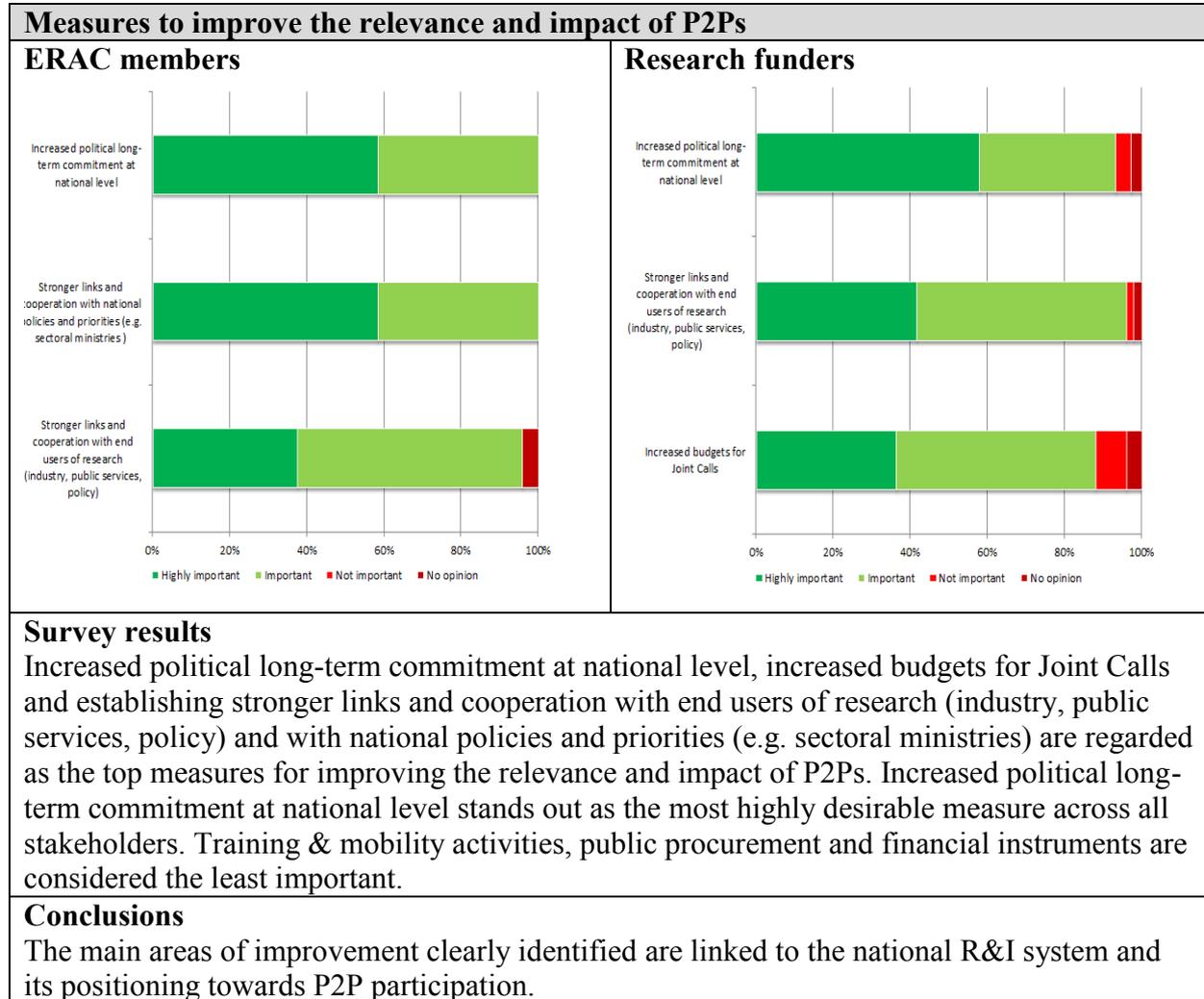


Figure 13: Options for data management platforms



## 4.4 Improving the relevance and impact of P2Ps

Figure 14: Measures to improve the relevance and impact of P2Ps (ERA-LEARN Survey)



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