

A person in a dark grey dress is pointing at a laptop screen in a meeting room. The table is covered with papers, sticky notes, and a pen holder. The background is blurred, showing other people and office furniture.

INNOVATION FUND

Lessons learnt from the applications
to the 2020 calls

28 April - 10.00 CEST

First call for small-scale projects

Applicants' survey



Contents

Findings from the survey on the application process for the Small-Scale Call

- Survey background
- Information on respondents
- Support through Helpdesk and webinars
- Application process



Survey on Small-Scale Call application process

Objective

- To identify key challenges applicants faced with the call process and to provide recommendations for how forms, procedures, applied methodologies and guidance could be improved in the future.

Process

- Implemented via EU Survey
- Sent via email to all applicants, all Helpdesk users and the IFEG
- Open between 8 – 29 March 2021
- 130 responses

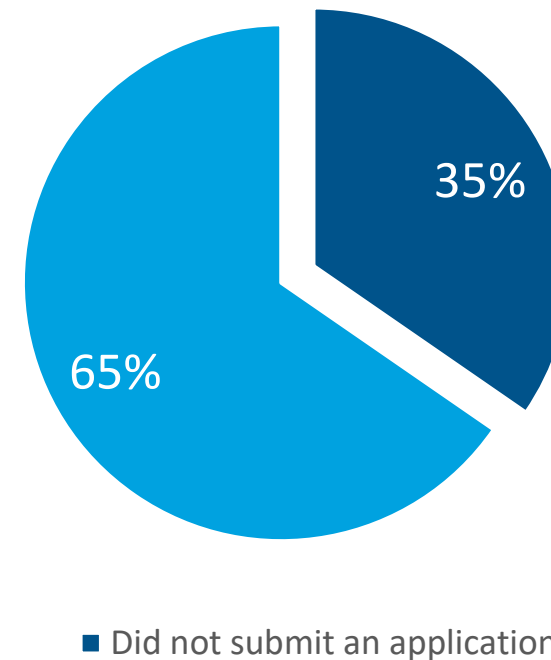


Background of survey respondents

Survey background

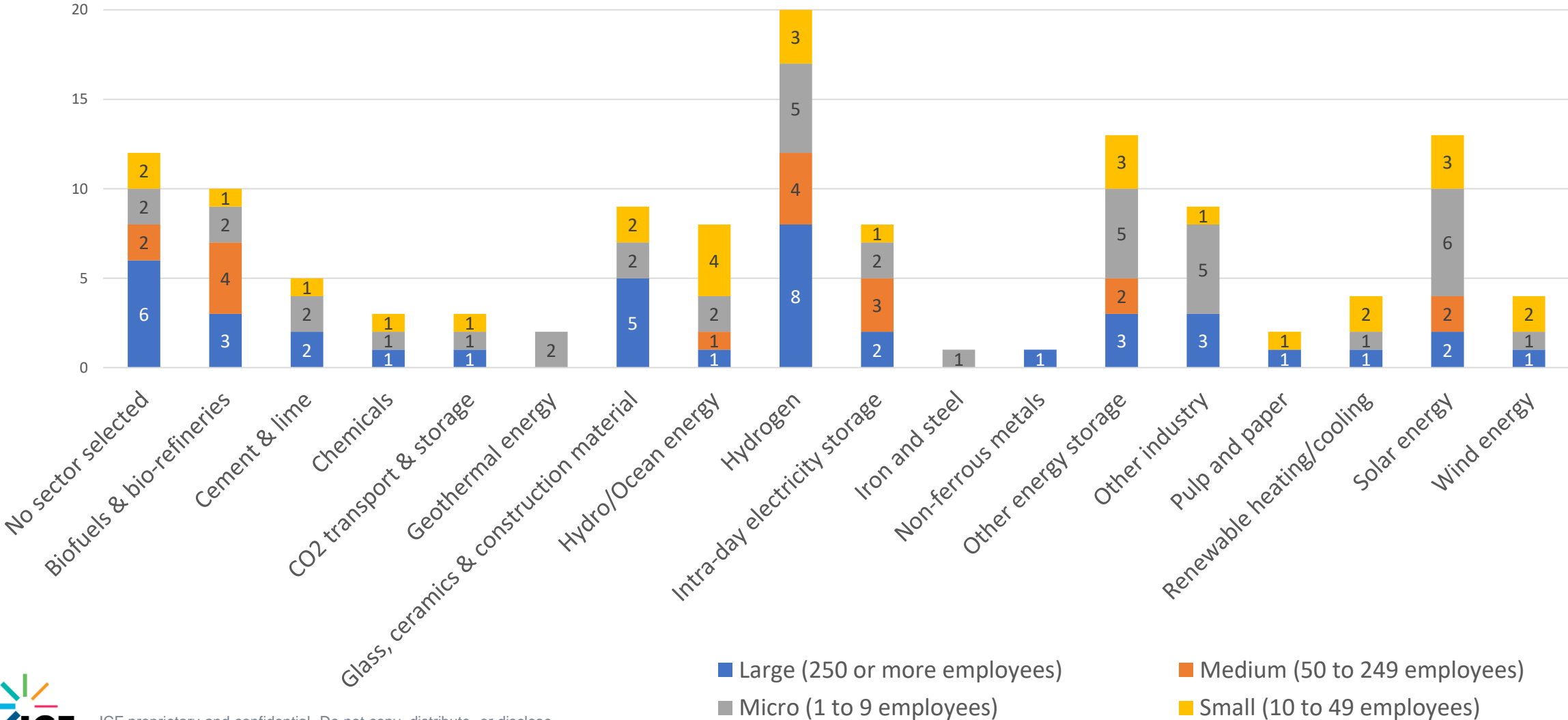
- **The survey had 130 respondents.**
 - 85 submitted an application for the SSC
 - Total number of applications for the SSC was 232
 - Survey responses represent 37% of SSC applications
- **Of the 35% of respondents (45) who did not submit an application, a little over half (25) intended to apply but did not due to among other things:**
 - Lack of time and/or resources
 - Maturity level of project

Application submission status (N=130)



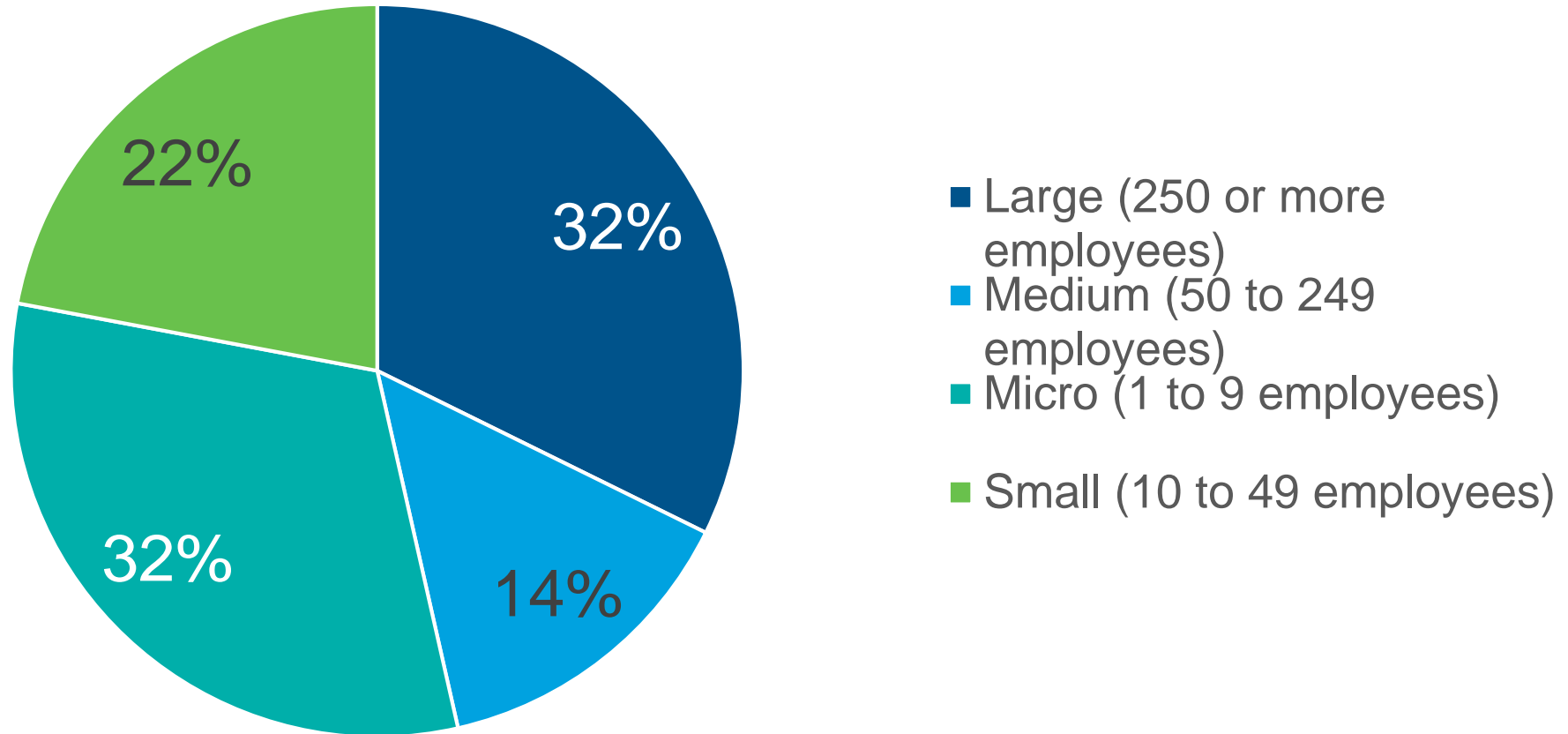
Survey achieved broad sectoral coverage

Sectoral coverage (N = 130)



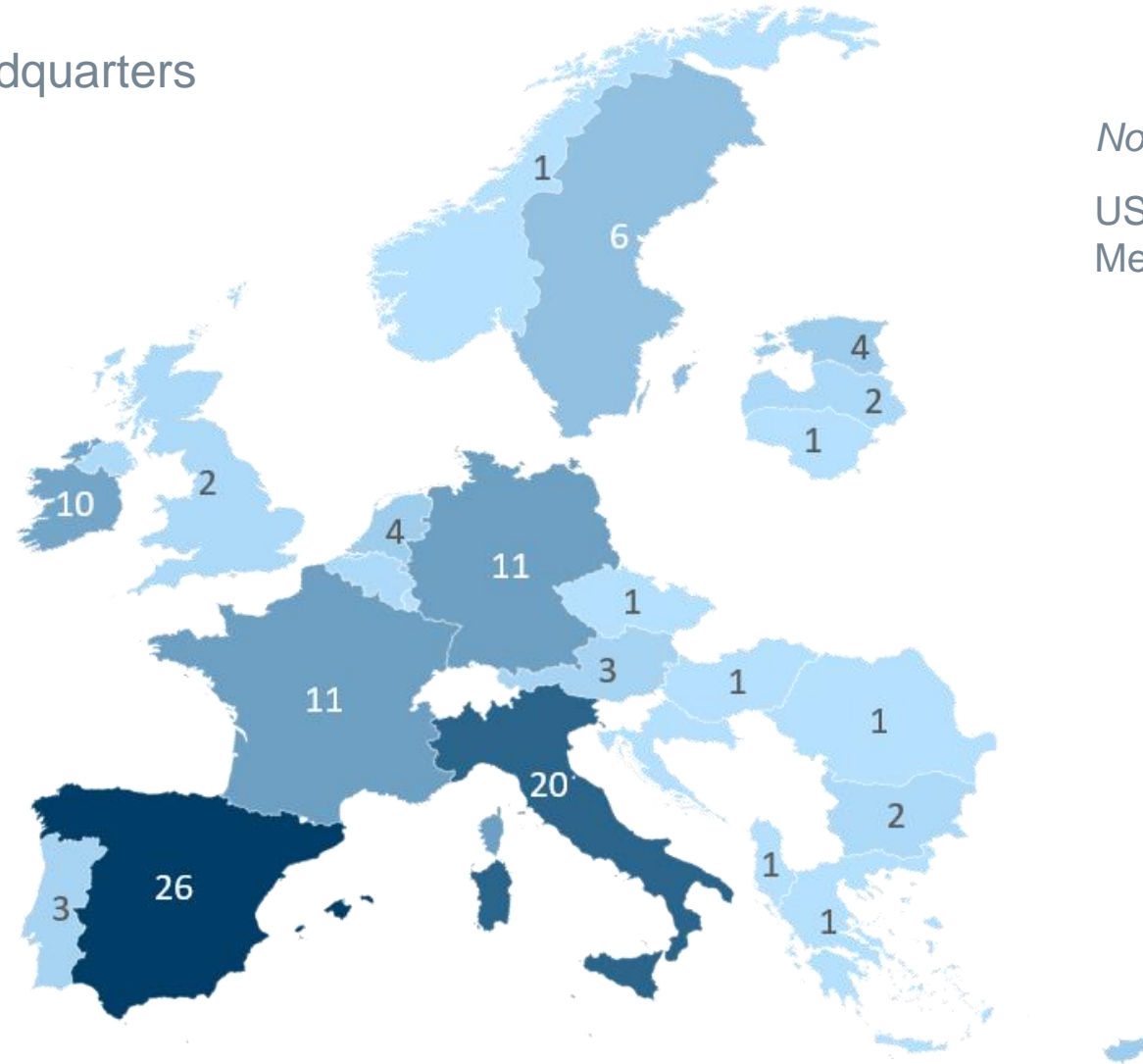
Good balance achieved across firm sizes

Respondents by firm size (N = 127)



Good geographical spread of respondents

Location of company headquarters
(N = 130)



Not shown:

USA (4) and
Mexico (2)



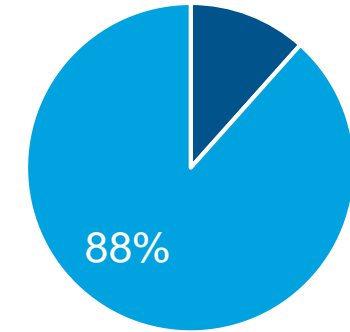
Support for applicants

Helpdesk and webinars

Helpdesk support

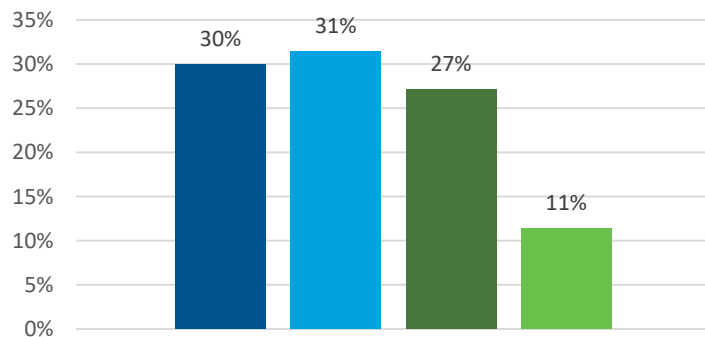
- Of the 128 respondents, 55% (i.e. 70 in total) submitted a helpdesk question.
- Vast majority (88%) of respondents report that the answer to their Helpdesk question helped them complete the application.

Helpfulness of answer (N=69)

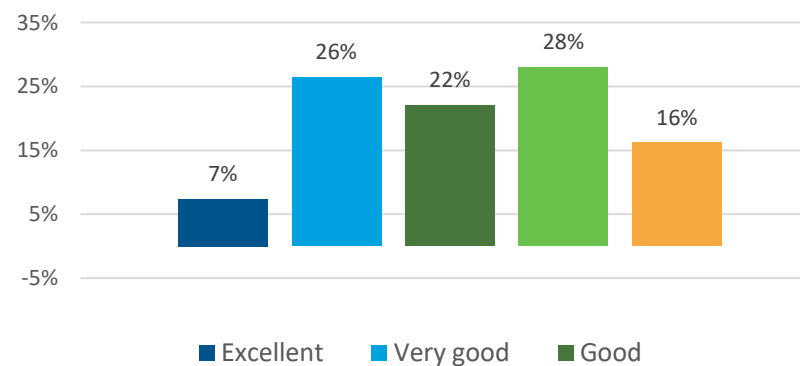


- Answer did not help complete the application

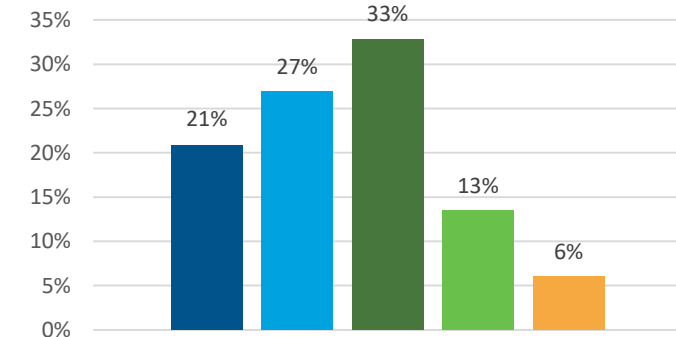
Ease of submitting a question (N=70)



Response time (N=68)

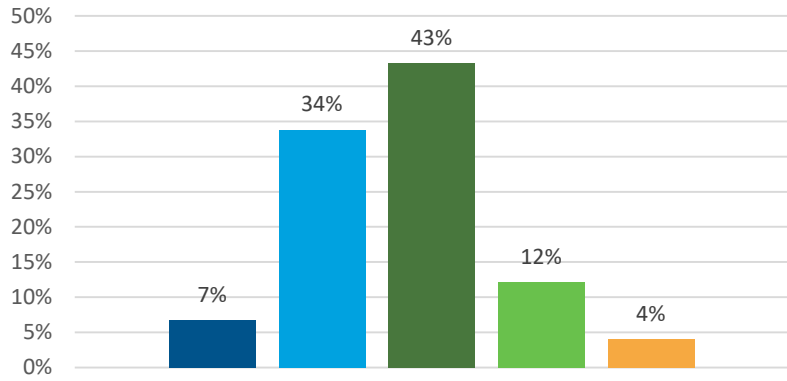


Usefulness of the response (N=67)

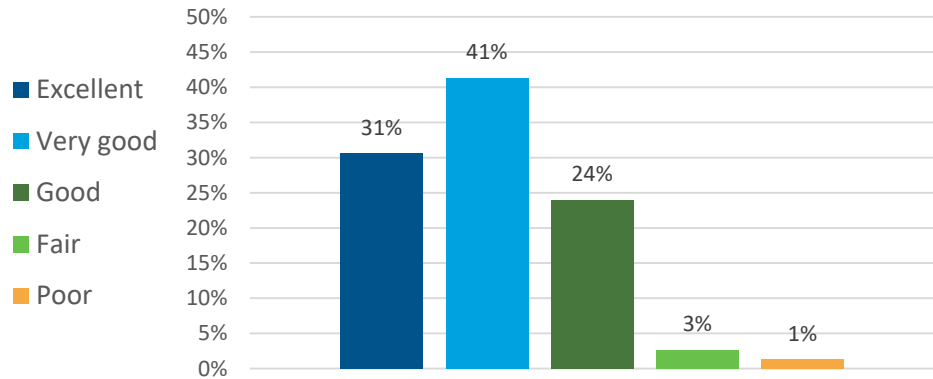


- 56% of applicants are satisfied with the response time (voting from excellent to good), while 44% considered that it took too long.

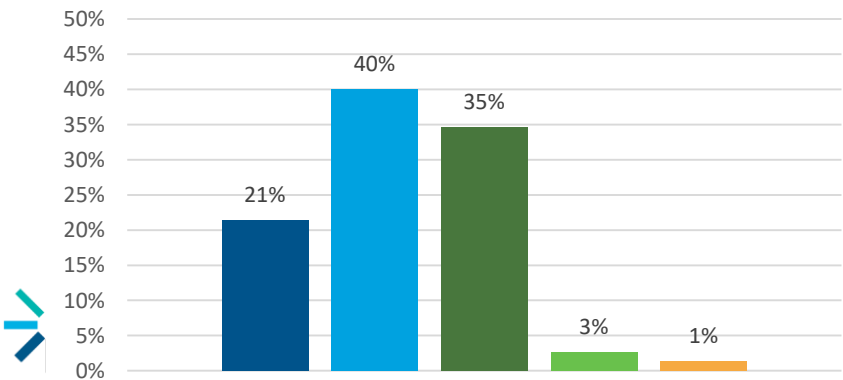
Publicity for the webinar (N=74)



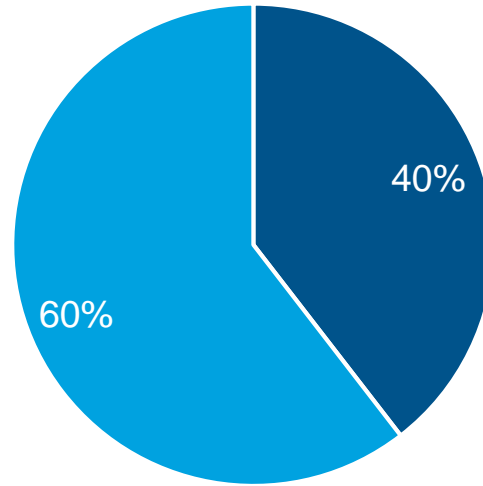
Ease of connecting (N=75)



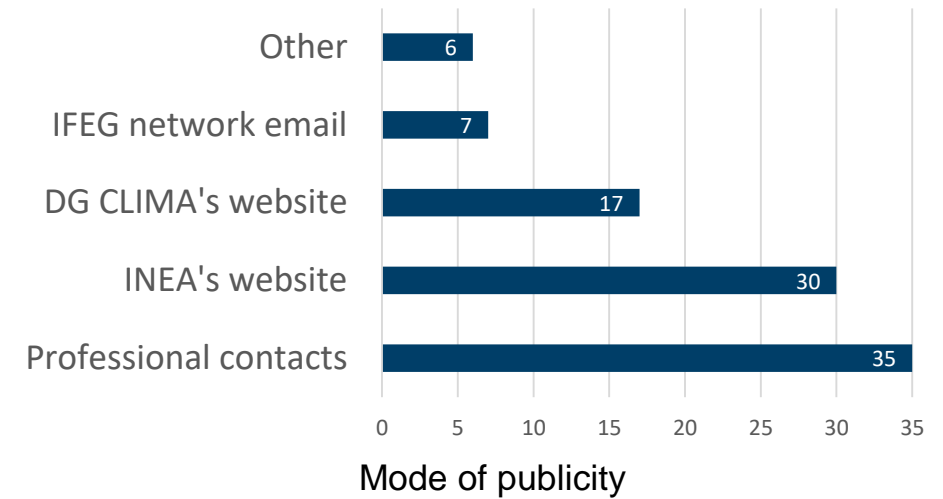
Usefulness of information (N=75)



Webinar attendance



■ Did not attend a webinar
■ Attended a webinar



- High webinar attendance – 60% of respondents
- Respondents request for more specific information to be shared
- Webinars should be publicised more broadly
- Improved ratings of webinars compared to LSC survey

N = 129



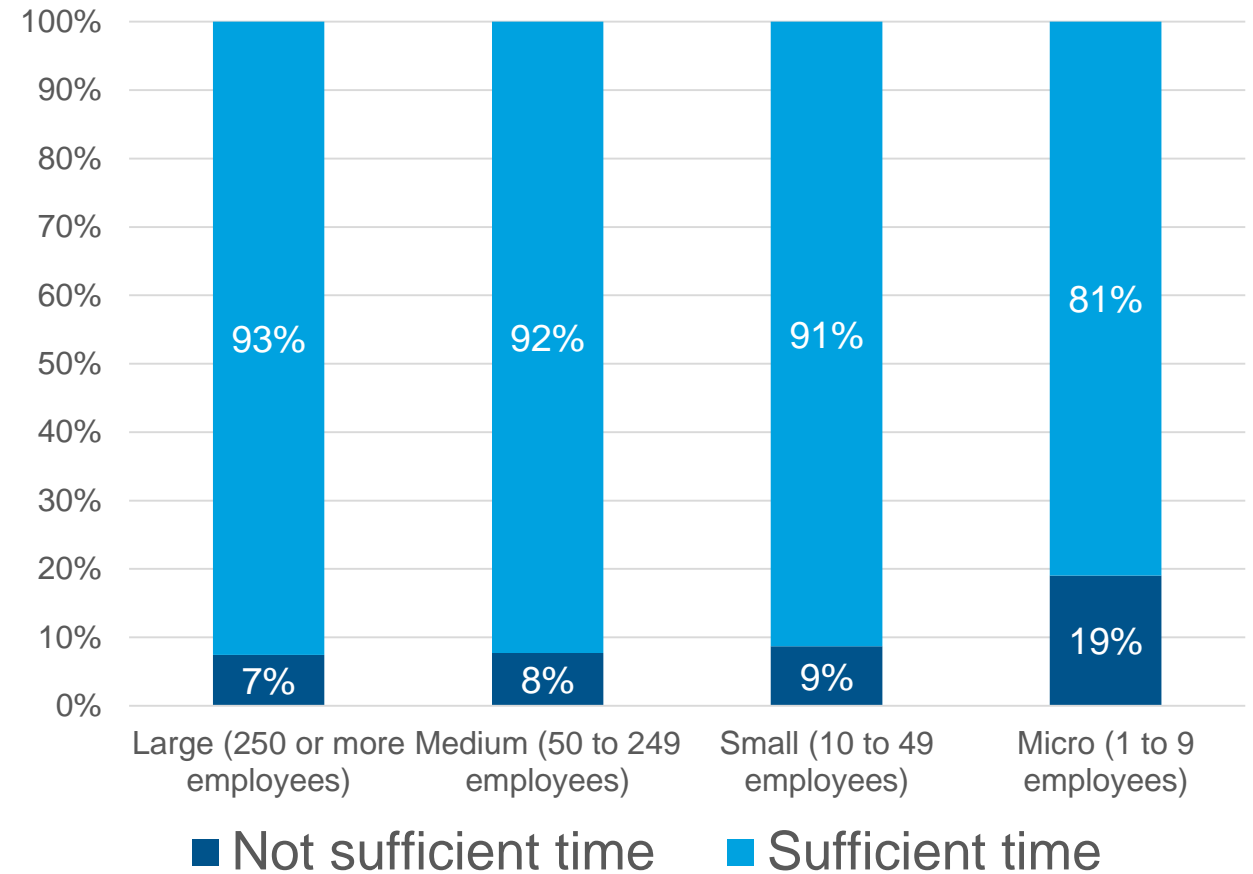
Application process



Logistics & availability of data

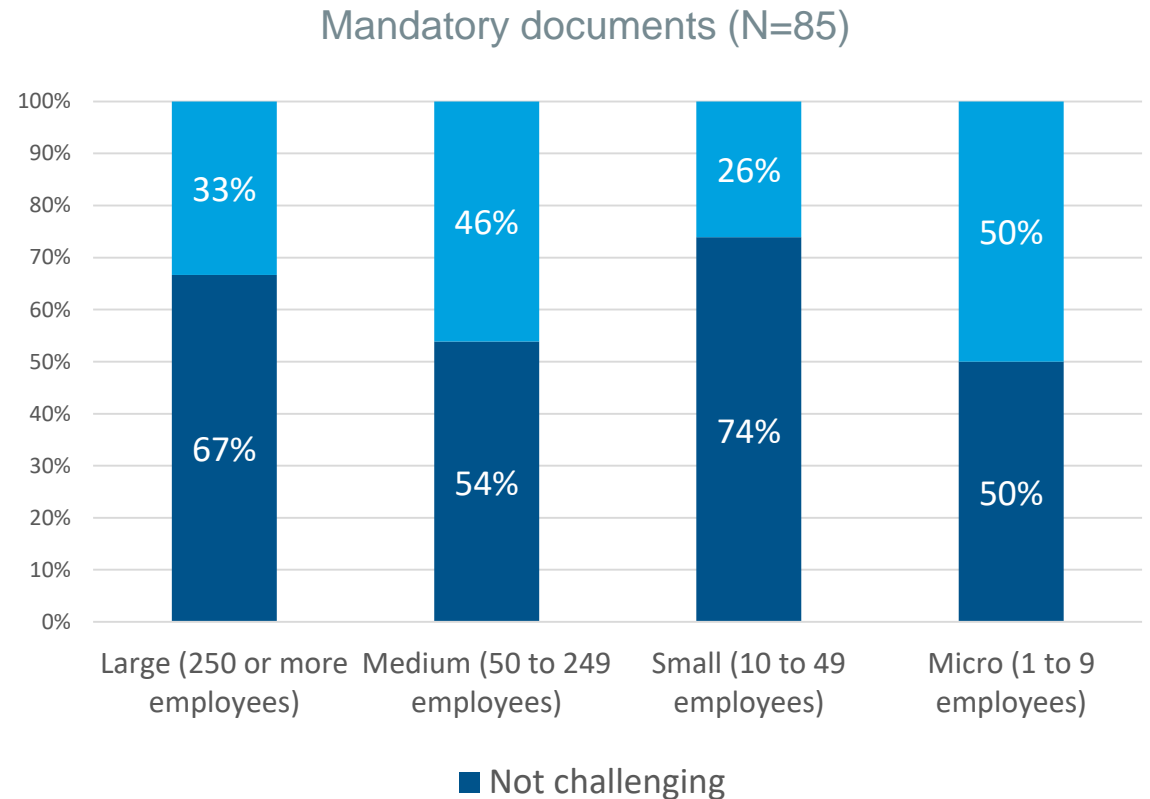
- **89% of respondents found the allotted time for completing the application to be sufficient**
 - Average time to prepare application was 6.5 weeks
 - Most common time was 4 weeks
- **94% found the Funding & Tenders portal easy to navigate**
- **82% report that it was easy to decide on the principal product**

Allotted time by size of company (N = 84)



Ability to meet mandatory document requirements and stick to page limits

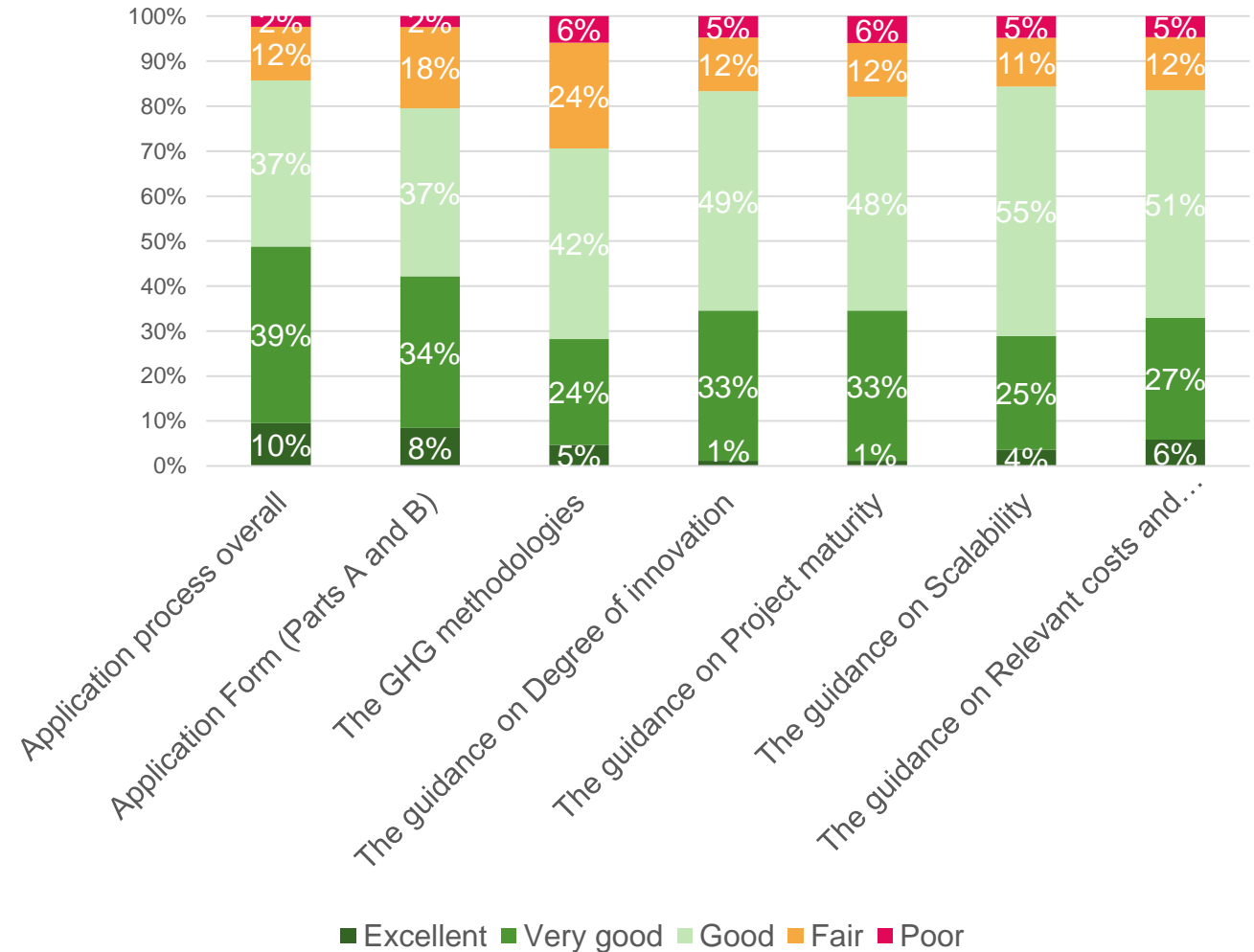
- More than half of respondents (62%) report the mandatory documents were not challenging to produce (small variation across business size).
- A limited number of applicants asked for the provision of templates (e.g. for CAPEX).



Clarity of application documents

- Vast majority of respondents found the clarity of the documents to be *good* or better
- Between 2-6% of respondents found the documents' clarity to be *poor*
- GHG methodologies were the least clear

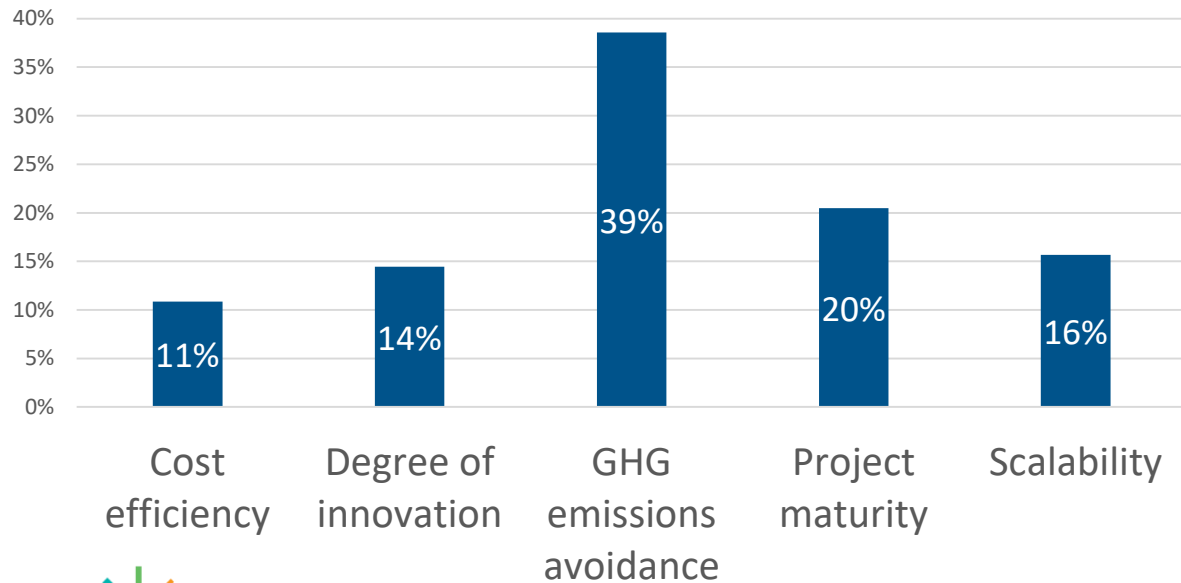
Clarity of the application process and documents (N=84)



Evaluation criteria & GHG tools

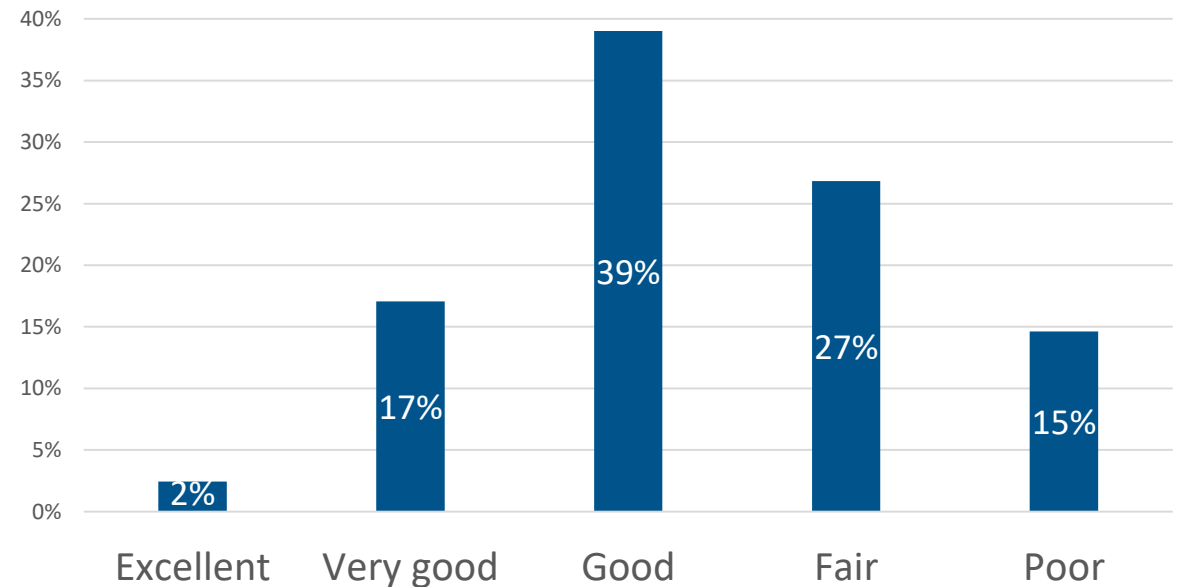
- GHG emissions avoidance criterion was the most challenging element to complete, followed by Project maturity, Scalability, Degree of innovation, and Cost efficiency

Most challenging element of the application (N = 85)



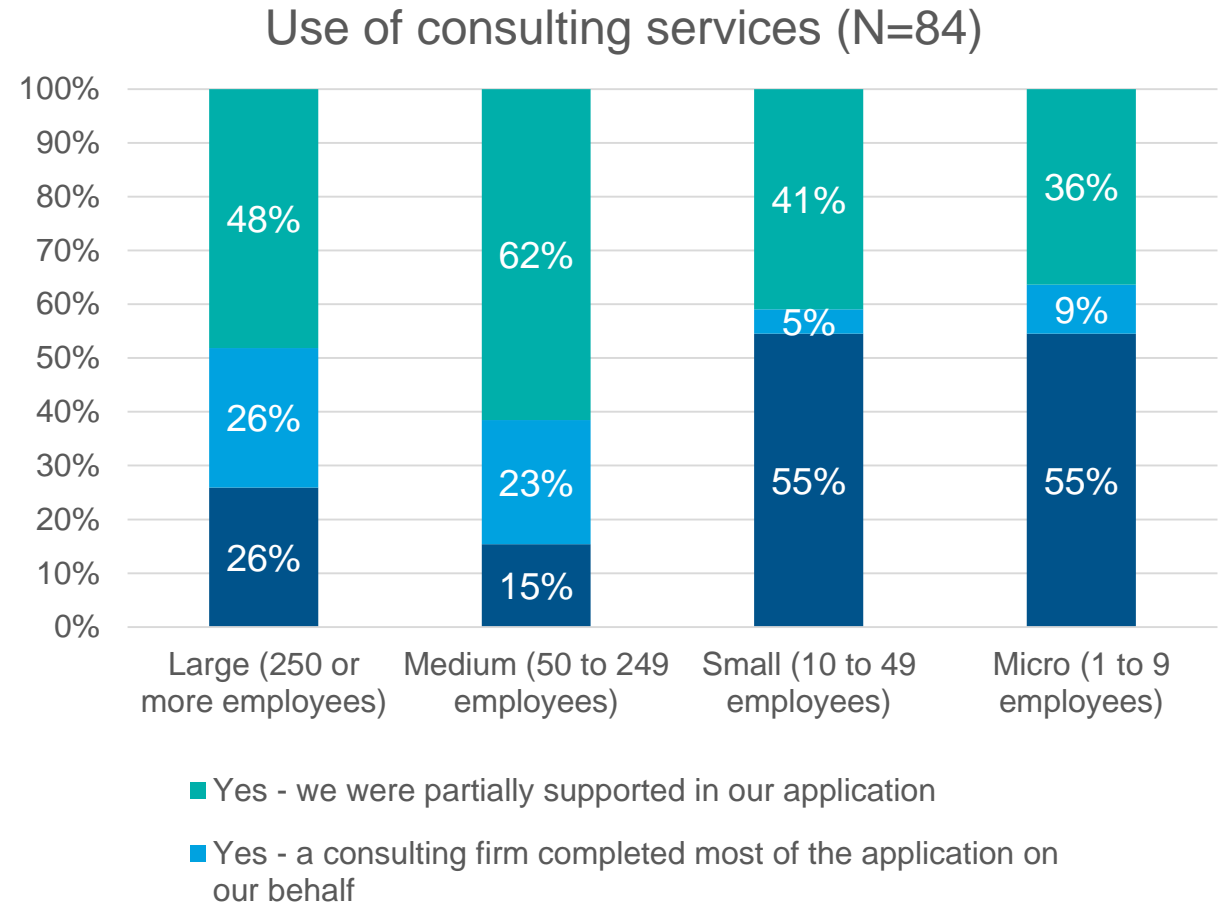
- More than half of respondents (58%) rate the ease of working with the GHG calculation tools as *good, very good or excellent*

Ease of working with GHG calculation tools (N=82)



Use of consulting services to help applicants

- **Use of consulting services is common to support and/or complete application**
- **Usage varies across company size:**
 - Large companies and mid-caps tend to resort more to consulting services



THANK YOU

we are  ICF