

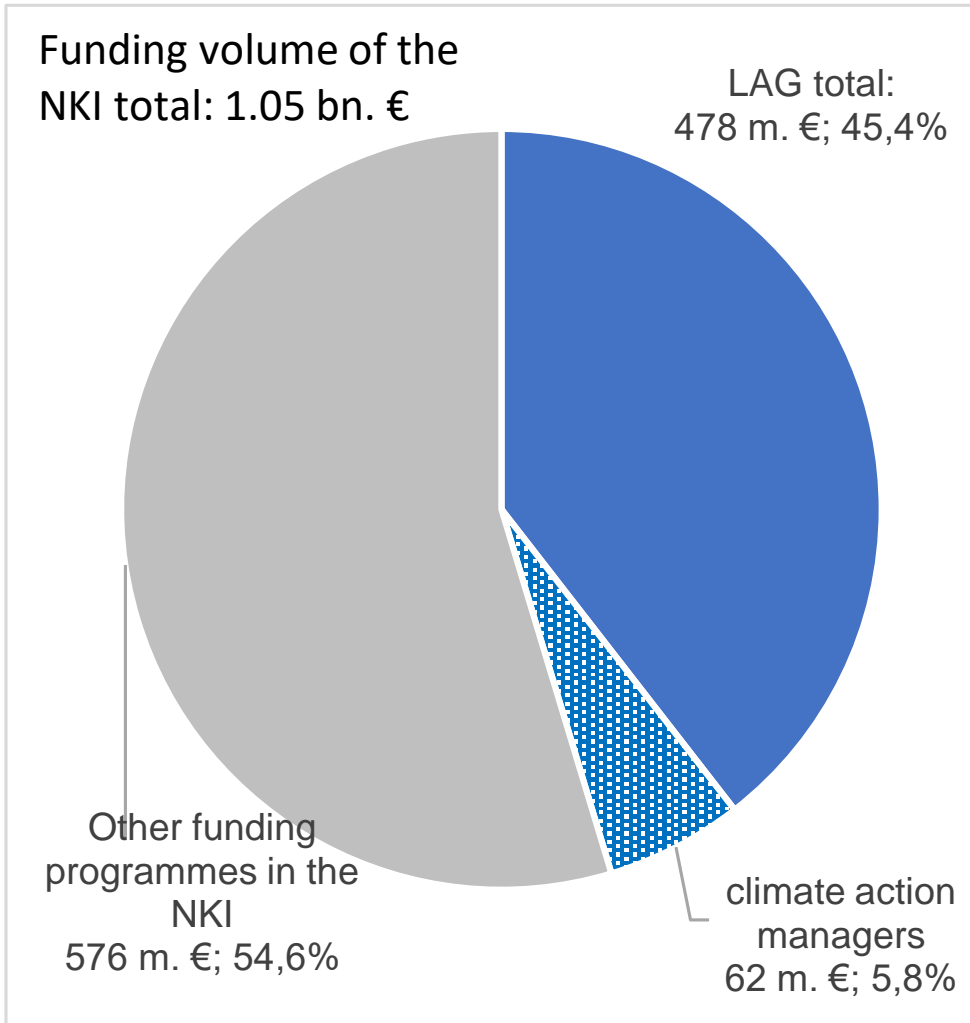


Municipal climate action managers: Evaluating the impact ecccc summer study 2021

Kenkmann, Tanja | 09.06.2021

Funding of climate action managers as part of the National Climate Initiative

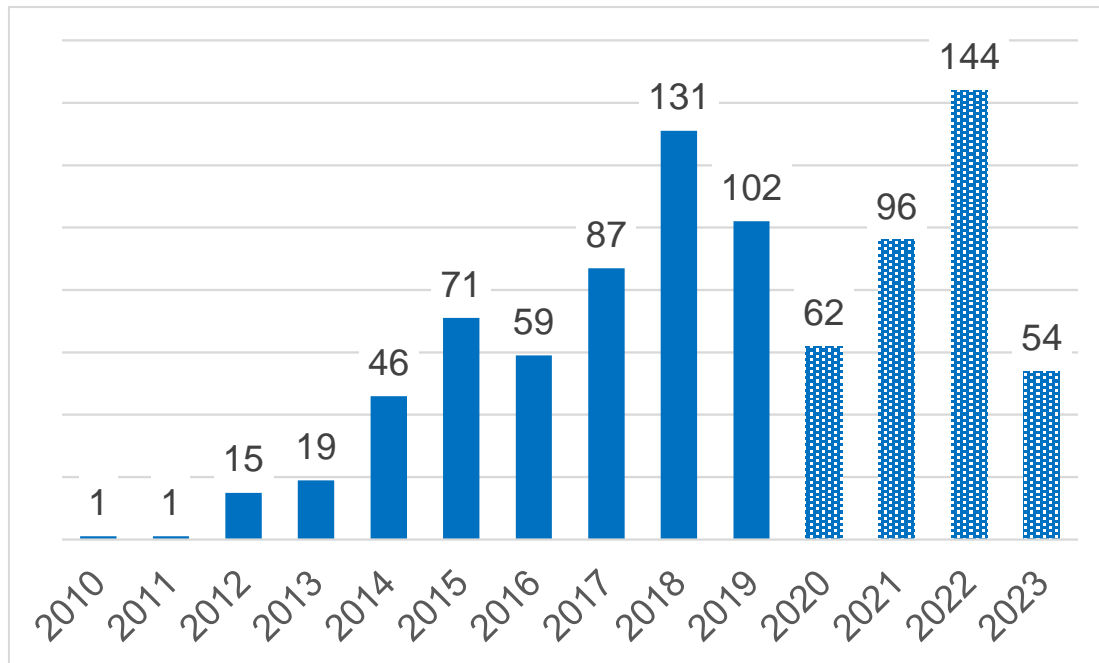
Funding volume NKI 2008 to 2019



- Climate Action Managers for municipalities are funded through the Local Authorities funding Guideline (LAG), which is part of the National Climate Initiative (NKI)
- With the NKI the Federal Ministry for the Environment promotes and initiates climate protection projects throughout Germany
- A multitude of projects and programmes, ranging from activities for raising energy-awareness and climate-friendly behaviour, the use of efficient technologies and renewable energy, to measures relating to all aspects of climate-friendly mobility are funded
- Climate action managers received about 6 percent of the total funds between 2008 and 2019

Funding of climate action managers as part of the National Climate Initiative

Number of climate action managers funded (as of August 2020; by year of end of funding)



- Climate Action Managers can be funded for up to five years
- Their main task is to implement the climate action plan of the municipalities and to monitor the implementation
- Specific tasks are very different
- More than 800 climate action managers have been funded up to August 2020
- Usually one staff position or less per municipality is funded
- Evaluation of NCI is essential; however, evaluating climate action managers is a challenge

Research Questions

- Are municipalities with climate action managers more active in climate protection than municipalities without climate action managers?
- Can the effect of the climate action managers' work on the municipalities' climate policies and activities be determined?

The analysis was part of the evaluation of the Local Authorities funding Guideline (LAG), therefore there were two more targets:

- ...to assess the effectiveness of funding, and
- ...to collect arguments for (or against) the hiring of climate action managers for municipalities.



Methods

Survey design and selection of the sample

- Online survey in two federal states: North Rhine-Westphalia, Brandenburg
- Full survey of all municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants
- 423 municipalities were contacted, which corresponds to 30 % of the municipalities of this size in Germany.
- 46 questions in six questions blocks were asked

Methods

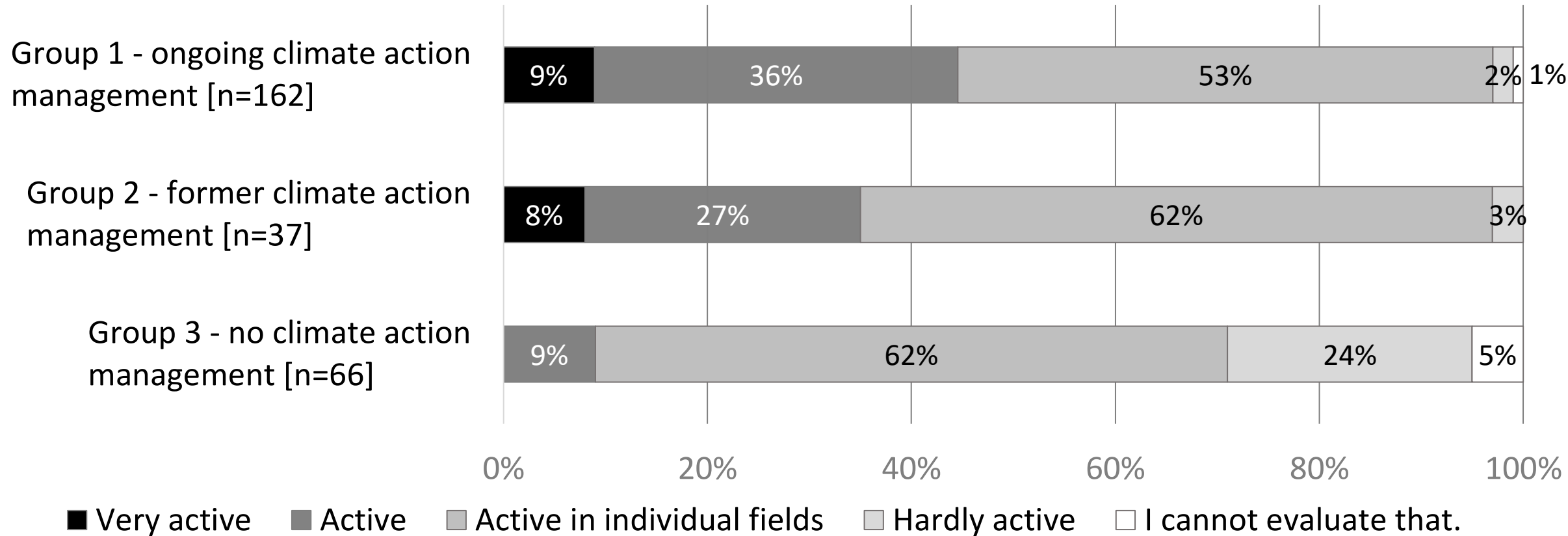
Evaluation of the responses in three groups:

- Group 1: Municipalities with climate action management position, regardless of whether funded or not.
- Group 2: Municipalities that once had a climate action management position, regardless of whether funded or not, but no longer had one at the time of the survey.
- Group 3: Municipalities that had never had a climate action management position at the time of the survey.

→ A total response rate of 63 percent was achieved!

Selected results 1

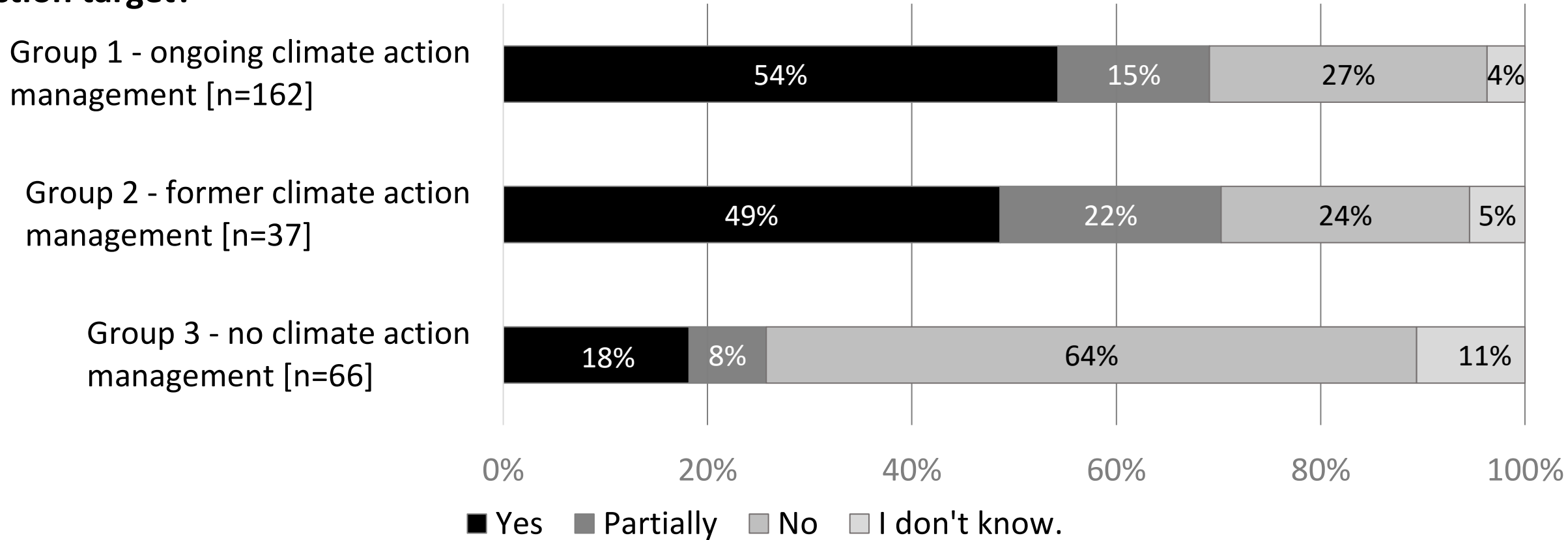
How do you rate your administration in terms of implementing climate protection measures?



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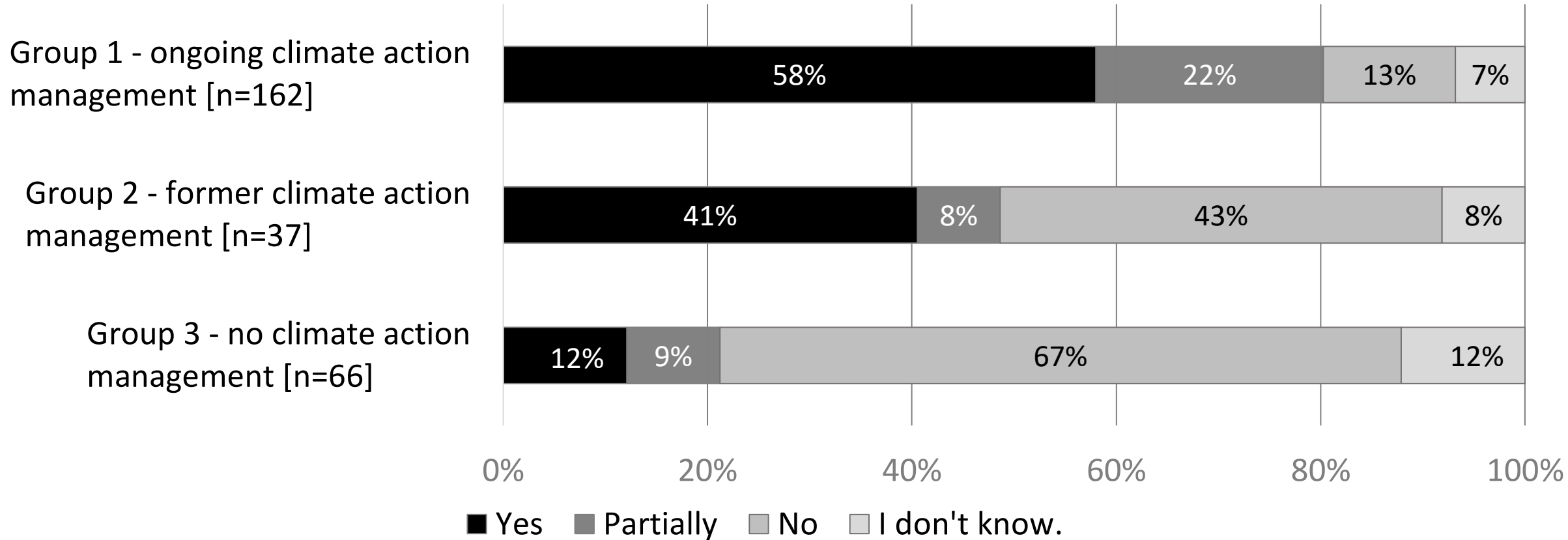
Selected results 2

Has your city/municipal council decided on a concrete climate action target, i.e. an emissions reduction target?



Selected results 3

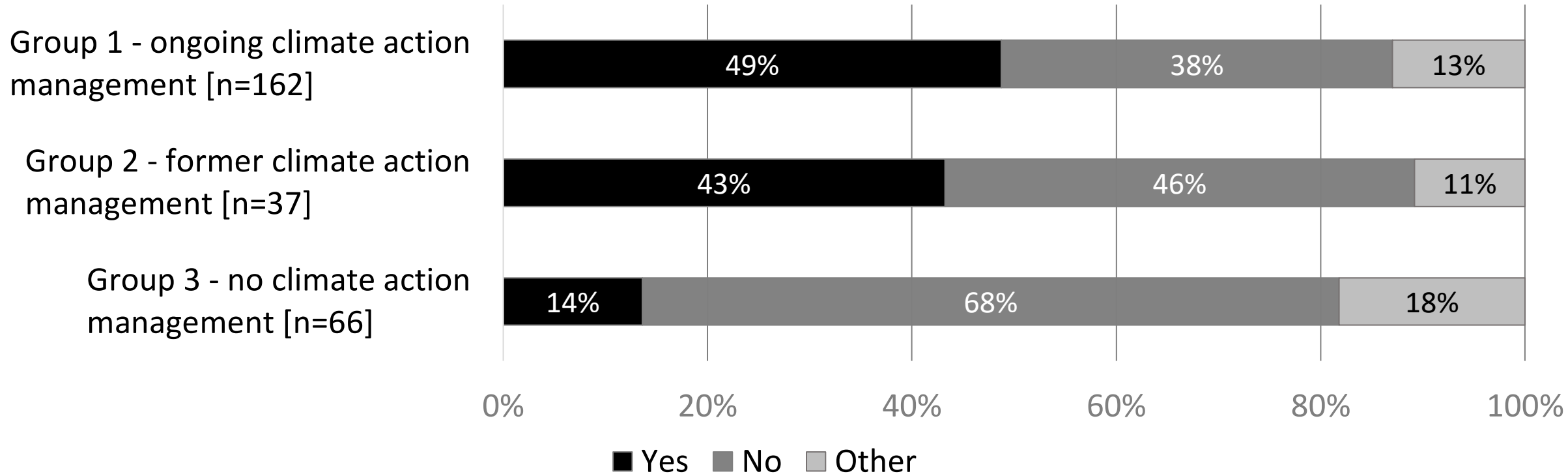
Does your administration have an annual budget for climate action tasks?



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Selected results 4

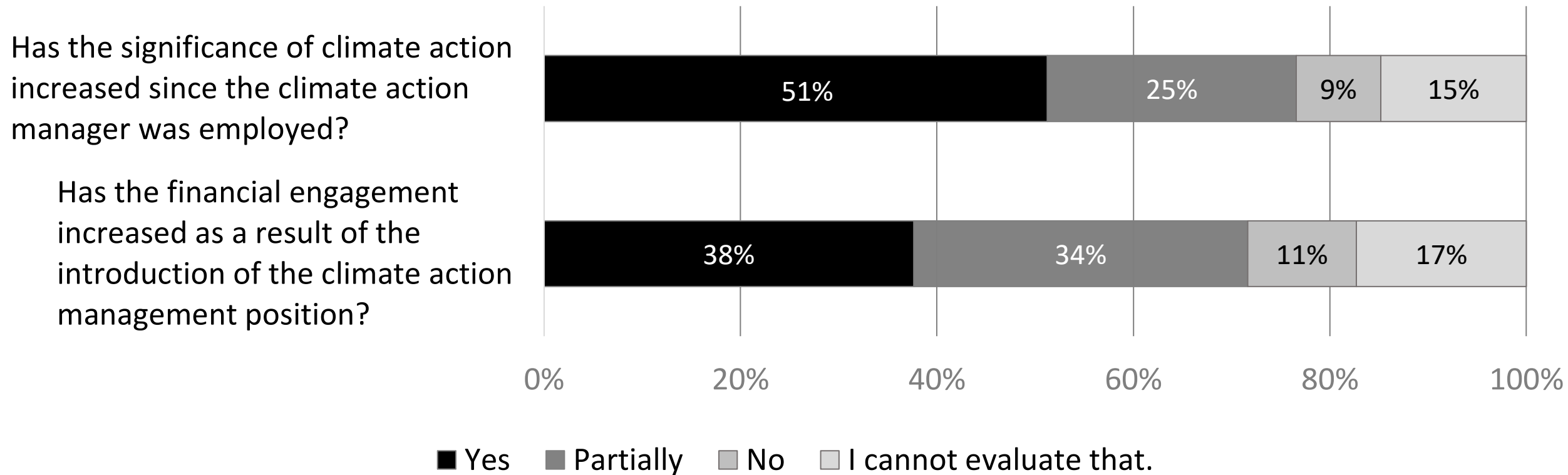
Does the municipal administration have a panel (e.g. an interdisciplinary working group on climate action, an advisory board, a steering committee) that deals with climate action topics comprehensively?



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Selected results 5

Group 1 only - Municipalities with climate action management [n=162]



Selected results 6

Use of funds from federal climate protection and energy efficiency funding programmes:

- Municipalities with a climate action manager tap into such funding programmes significantly more often and the knowledge of the programmes is significantly higher in this group than in municipalities without climate action management
- Cities with climate action manager often have a staff member who is responsible for applying for funding to implement energy efficiency or climate protection measures or who supports other colleagues in doing so. In group 3, this is rarely the case.

Discussion

The following factors could influence the results of the survey:

- The size of the cities: The proportion of smaller cities with 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants without climate action management is significantly higher than in cities with climate action management
- The person who answered the survey: In cities with climate action management mainly the managers themselves answered the questionnaire
- The amount of working hours of the climate action manager, and the total number of staff positions available for climate action management
- The involvement of climate action managers in the administration (specialised department vs. staff unit at the mayor's office)

Conclusion

The importance of climate action managers for municipal climate policy and action could be demonstrated:

- Municipalities with a climate action manager perform better than municipalities without in practically all the climate protection aspects surveyed
- Climate action has a higher priority, generally finds stronger support in municipal politics and greater attention also outside the environmental protection sector, there is more often a climate protection committee within the administration and a financial budget available, more experts are involved, and more funding programmes are used.
- Cities that once had a climate action management position but did not make it permanent still perform better in almost all aspects than municipalities that never had one

Conclusion

- Climate action managers significantly increase the municipality's climate protection activities
- Municipalities need climate action managers to become better and more active in climate protection matters
- The effectiveness of the funding could be proven; the number of municipalities should be increased, the funding should be continued
- There should be a focus on smaller cities in the funding programme
- Municipalities with less than 10,000 inhabitants should be in the focus of further research

Acknowledgement

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