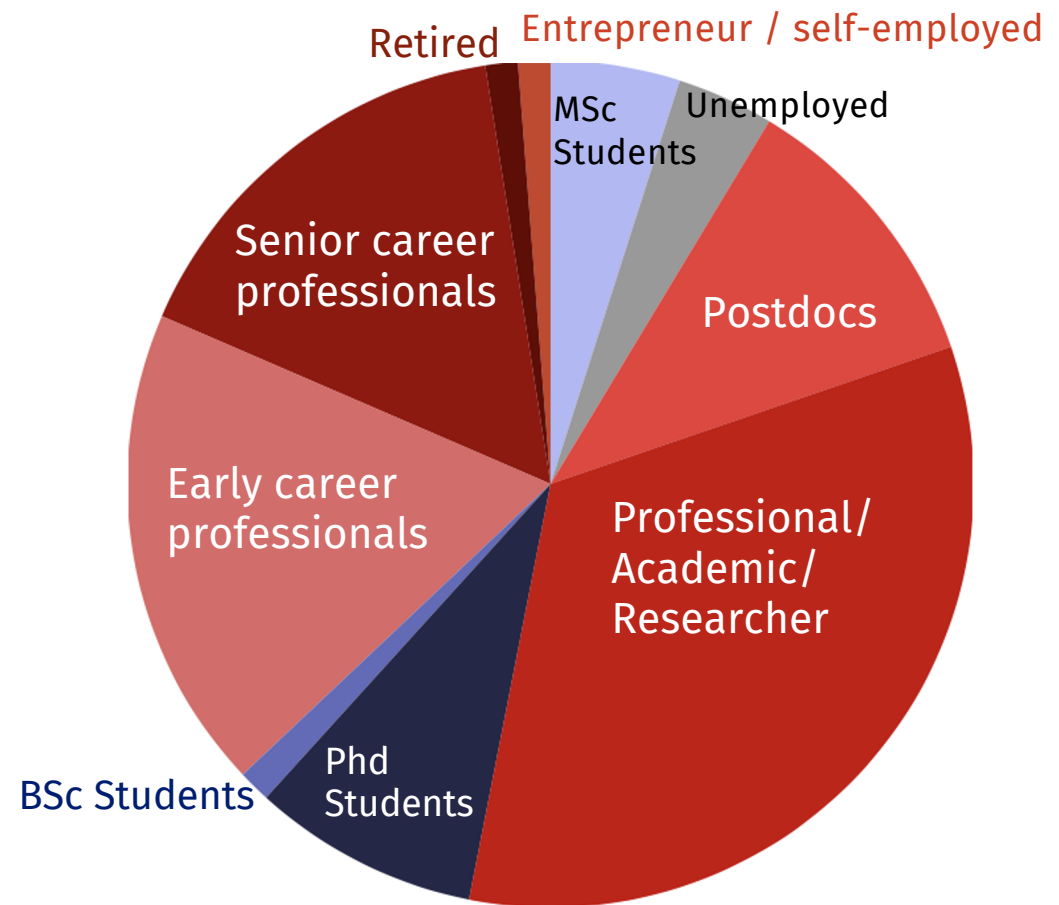
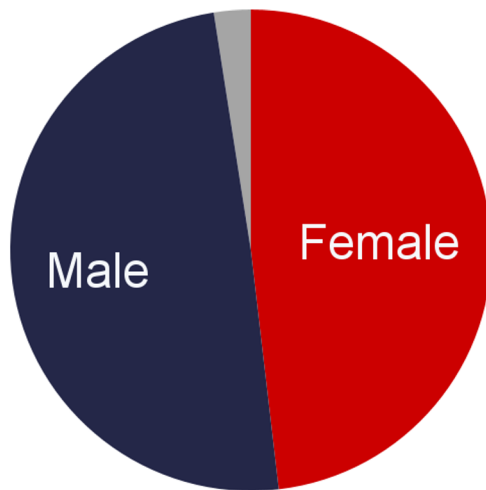




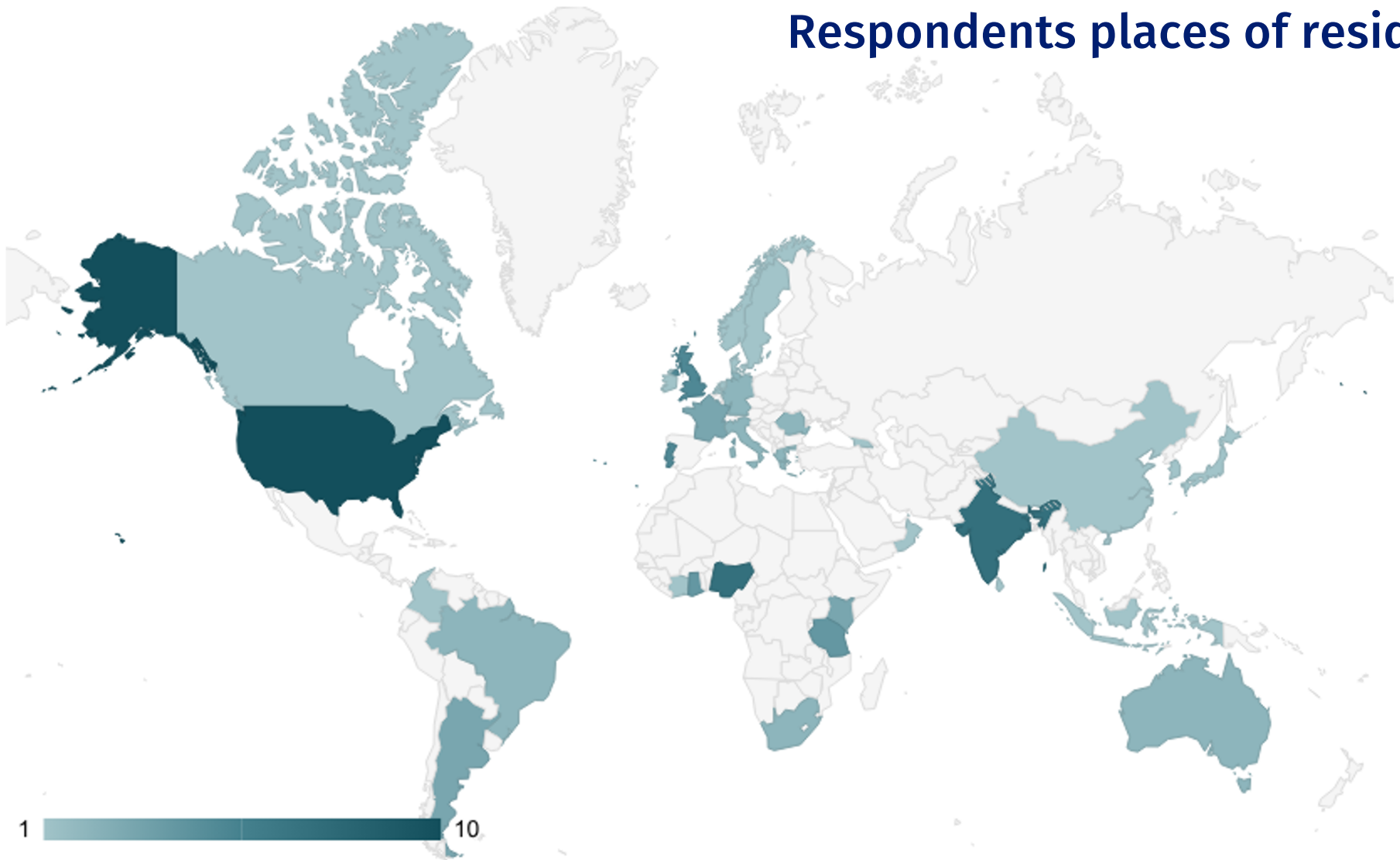
Results of Capacity-Building Survey & Town Hall at IOCS-2025

IOCCG-30 Committee Meeting, Tokyo, Japan
19 – 21 May 2026
Prepared by IOCCG Project Office

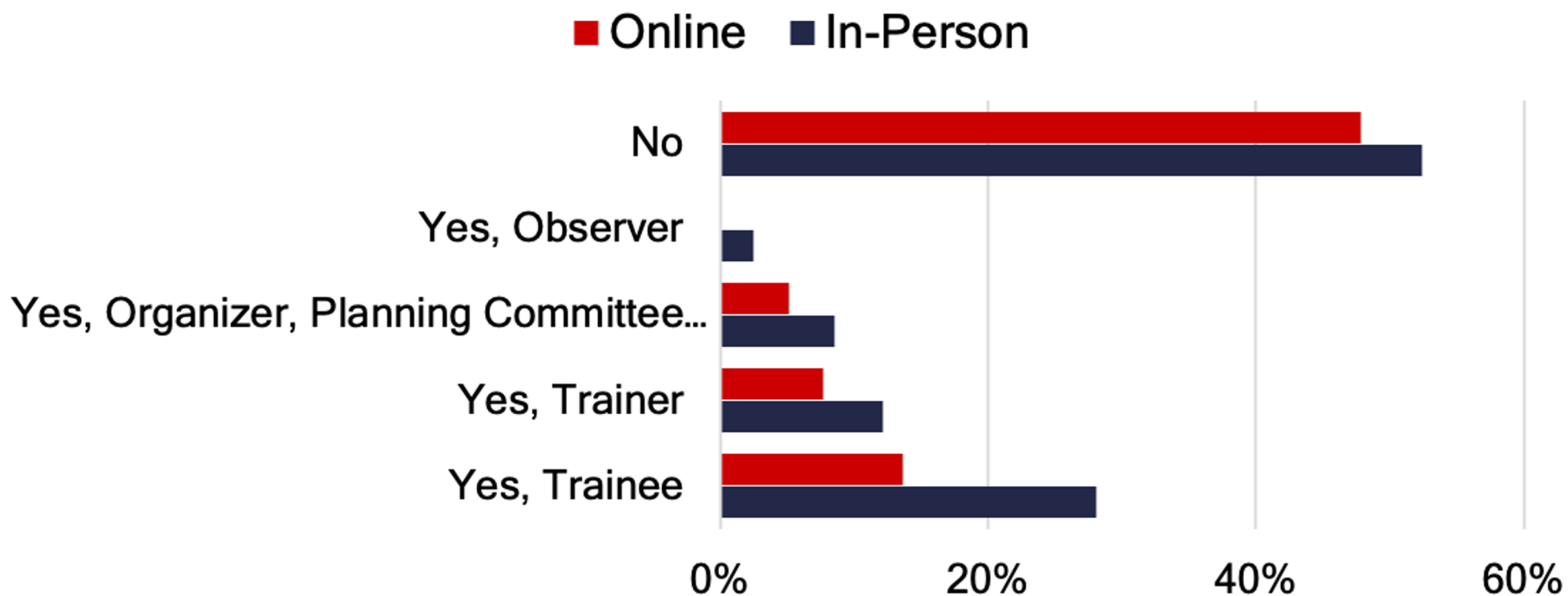
81 people responded to the survey



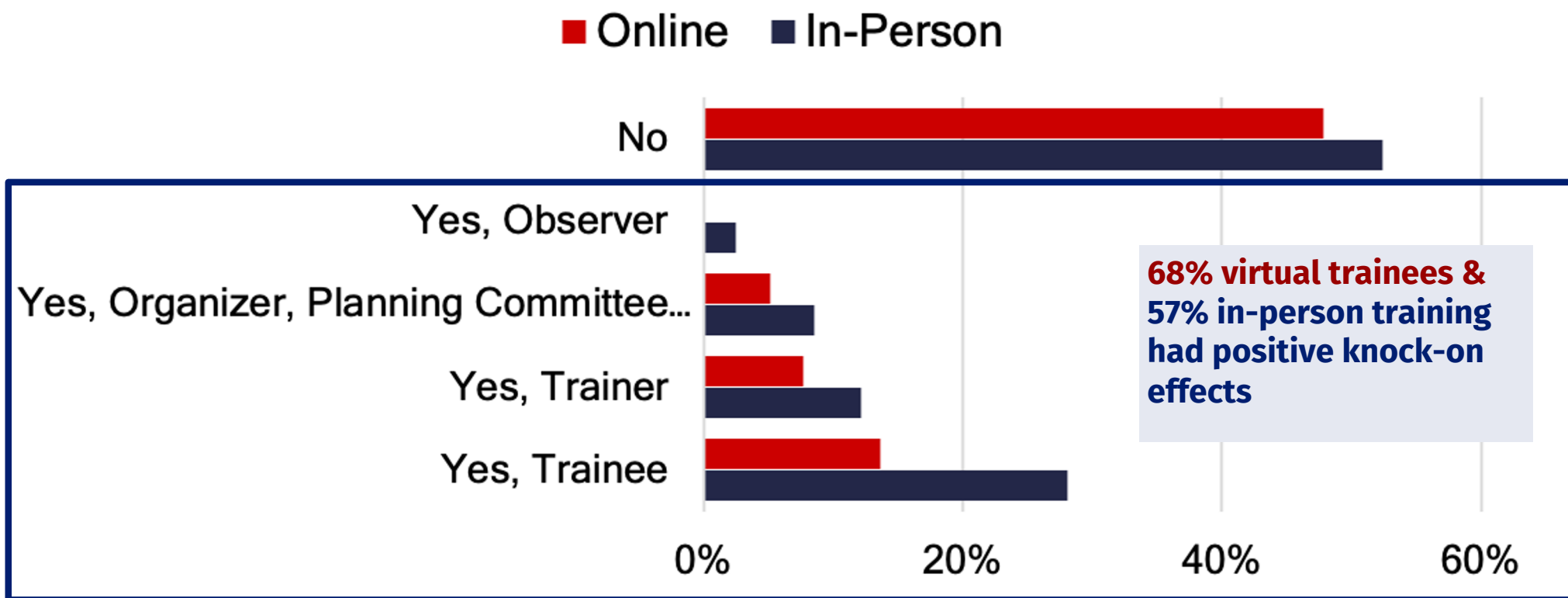
Respondents places of residency



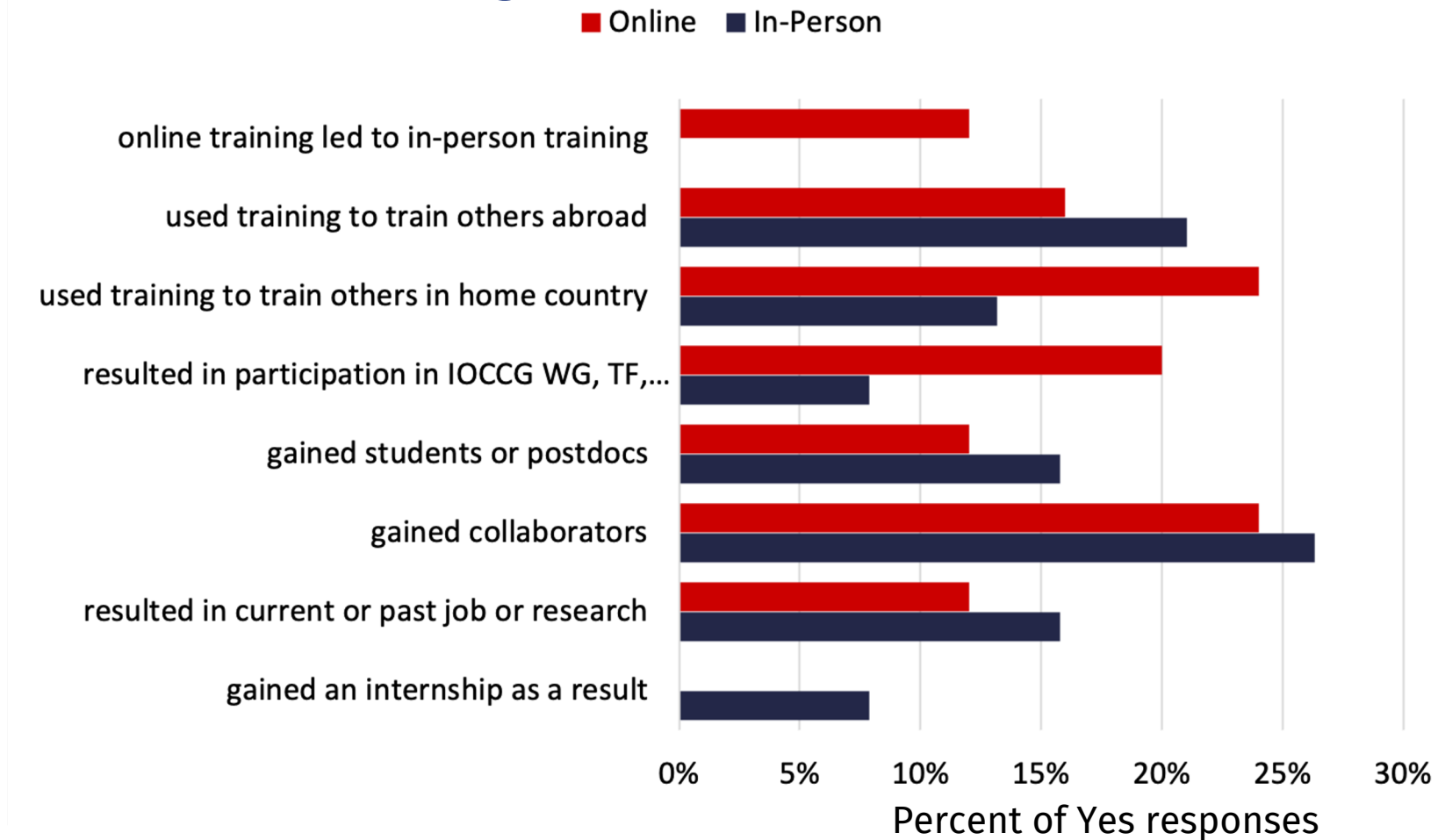
Participation in IOCCG Training



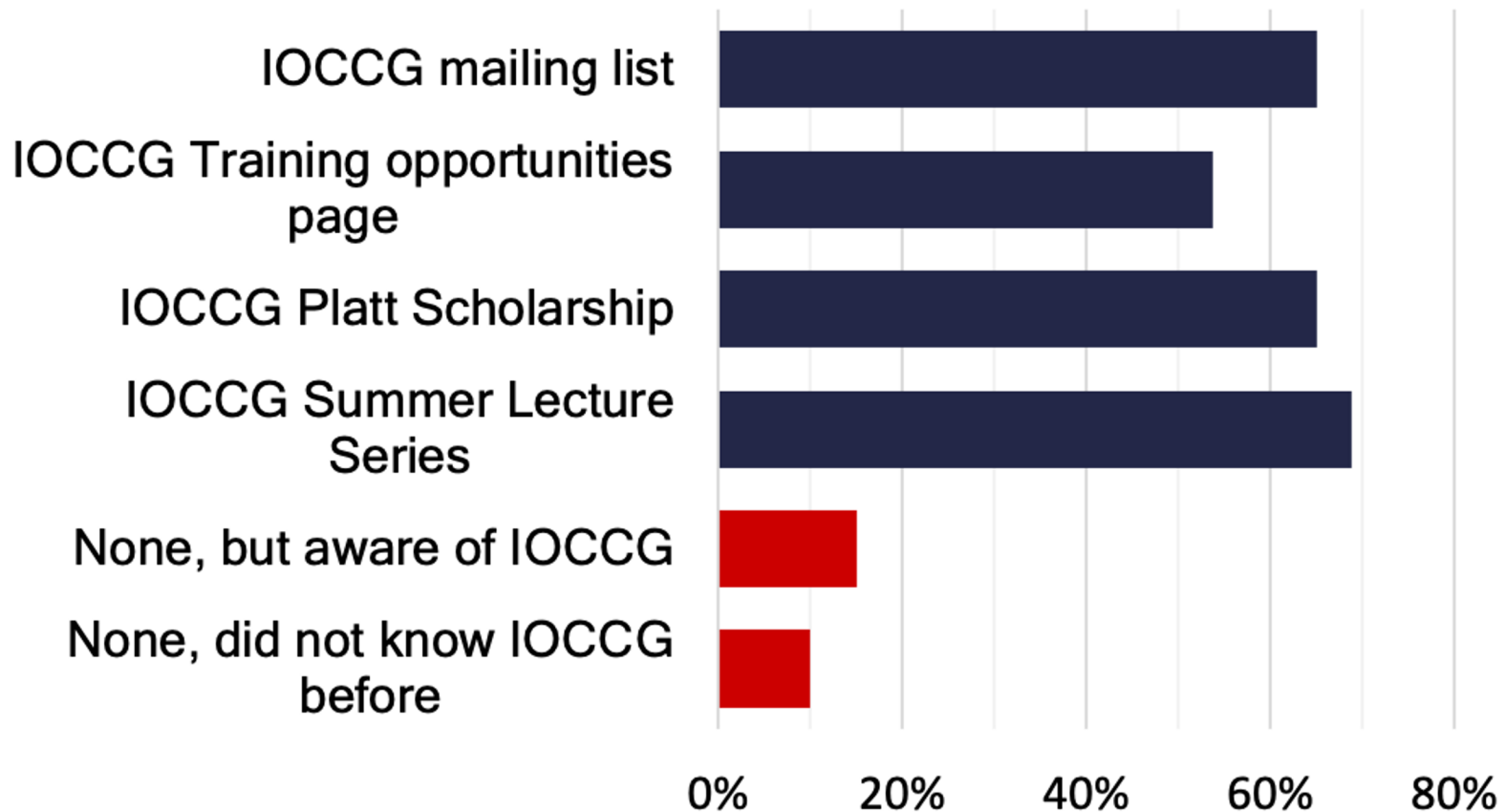
Participation in IOCCG Training



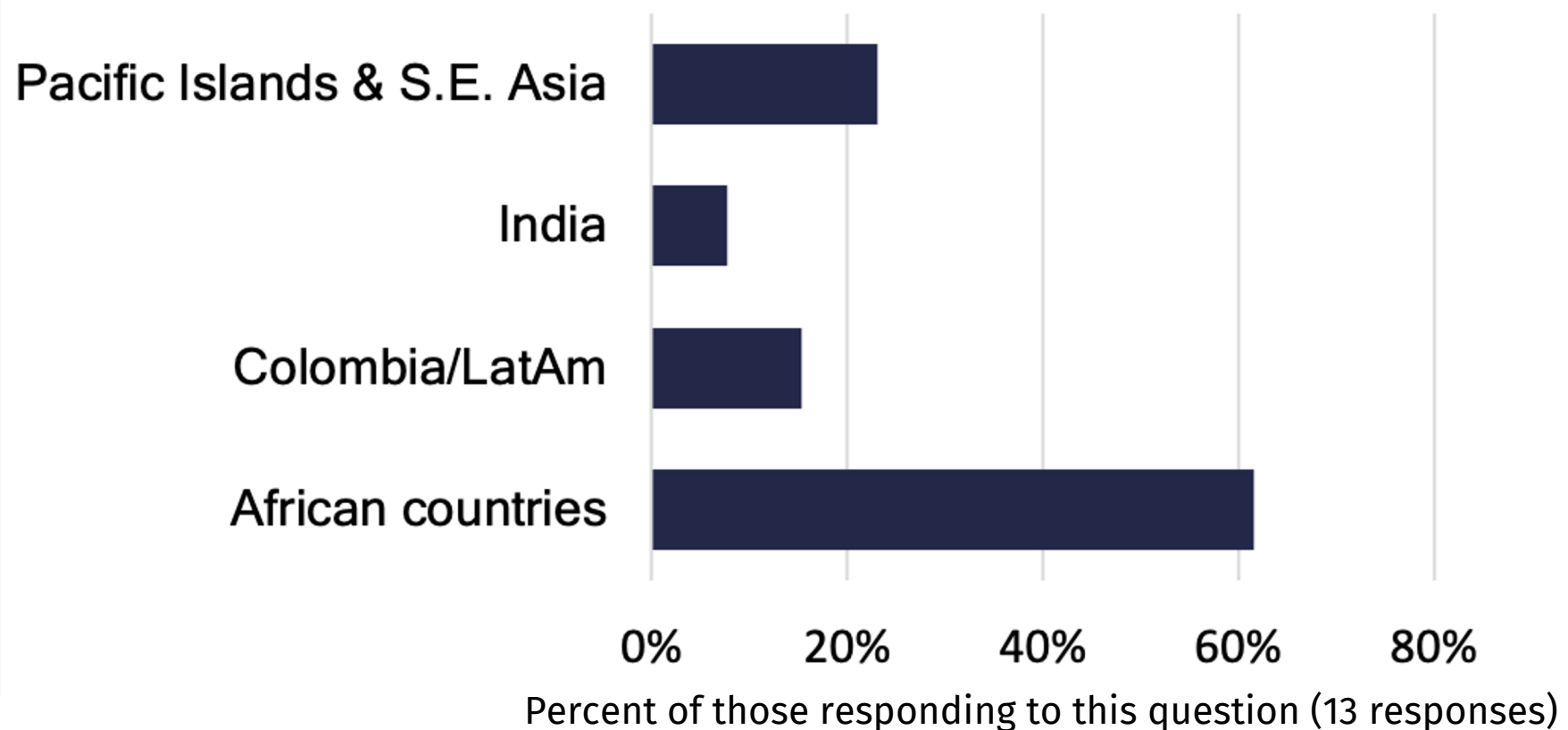
Knock-on effects of training



Awareness of IOCCG Initiatives



Continents or countries identified where respondents personally saw a need for more capacity building



Key themes from open answers (39 responses)

Regional Training

- Provide in-person, region-specific training tailored to local environmental issue
 - Regions mentioned: Global South, Africa, Latin America, South/Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, remote islands.
- Provide training in native languages and more region-specific case studies.
- Build regional networks and partner with local universities, NGOs, and mandated institutions. Build center of excellence.
- Increase visibility to ensure regions know IOCCG exists and can participate.
- Engage with regional bodies (e.g., Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, ACARE, OTGA).
- Improve outreach, communication channels, and awareness-building at universities and research institutes.
- Create regional centers of excellence for ocean-colour training.
 - Interdisciplinary modules that integrate oceanography, ecology, climate science, and technology.

Key themes from open answers (39 responses)

Societal Application

- Training that links ocean colour to practical applications (HAB alerts, fisheries, water quality, ship-strike zones).
- Demonstrate use cases for policy, climate resilience, public health, ecosystem services, and socioeconomic benefits.
- Provide decision-ready products and guidance on converting Rrs into actionable indicators.
- Help non-expert managers understand and use satellite-derived information.
- Encourage applied research connecting ocean colour to societal challenges (e.g., microplastics, surfactants, productivity impacts).

Applications most relevant to respondents (65 responses)

- **water quality**
- **HAB detection**
- **fisheries/aquaculture**
- marine pollution/oil spills
- regional-specific algorithms
- climate change
- primary productivity
- marine biodiversity
- ecosystem monitoring
- coastal erosion
- acidification

Key themes from open answers (39 responses)

Tools & Data Access

- Improve access to high-resolution coastal datasets, bio-optical repositories, and in situ measurement capabilities.
- Promote open-source tools, cloud-based processing, and simplified workflows for low-bandwidth regions.
- Provide guidance on instrumentation, data acquisition, and what to prioritize when building monitoring programs.
- Support continuous monitoring stations globally, including for specialized parameters (e.g., UV/CDOM, phytoplankton characteristics).
- Integrate citizen science and smartphone-based approaches.
- Training on remote-sensing processing, retrieval with **uncertainty**.
- **Standardized protocols for in situ validation (sampling depth, laboratory methods, time differences).**

Key themes from open answers (39 responses)

Training Expansion

- More webinars, workshops, and year-round learning (e.g., office hours, communities of practice = **Protocols**).
- **Long-term mentorship**, including bachelor's and master's students.
- More in-person training, especially **delivered locally** by experts who can adapt to regional contexts.
- **Train-the-trainer programs** with micro-credentials to scale knowledge.
- Avoid creating a “two-tier” system of training for developed vs. less developed countries [but maintain targeted training based on needs]
- Increase engagement with emerging user communities outside traditional oceanography.
- Foster adoption of new satellite sensors and methods.
- Improve integration with adjacent fields (climate, fisheries, health, conservation).
- Consider structural updates to modernize IOCCG and expand relevance.
- Expand funding for scholarships (e.g., Platt Scholarship) for **long-term, international research stays**. [best done through funding agencies]

Key themes from open answers (39 responses)

Other Comments

- IOCCG must increase program visibility through stronger outreach, partnerships, and communication channels / Join forces with other like-minded organisations to maximise impact and reduce effort per organisation.
- conduct more trainings that involve early career researchers in their working groups, provide ship board opportunities for more ECOPS
- Creation of awareness through focal points at the University and Institutional levels. Organizing frequent virtual seminars and in-person workshops.
- *Scholarship and Jobs opportunities*
 - Communicate more effectively who IOCCG is and what it does, and how people can be involved.

Ideas/Discussion from Capacity-Building Town Hall

In situ data and protocols training

- Can we get more dedication to building and utilizing low-cost sensors?
 - Spurs innovation
 - Rewarding to build, collect + analyze own data
 - Leads to better appreciation of instrumentation used for data collection
 - Suggestion to have training model that includes distribution of low-cost sensors (even if not built as part of course) + data collection and submission as part of course completion.
 - **Ensuring data quality remains an open question**
- *Copernicus FRM4SOC Training In Above-Water Radiometry (aka FICE)* = great example. Can it be continued/expanded?
 - Had training built into project development
 - Had small instrument pool of calibrated equipment for rental + free calibration of instruments within program

Demand for training > Capacity

- Effectiveness does not scale by adding more attendees to existing trainings
- Suggestion to train trainers and have more capacity for additional courses
 - Can help to meet regional needs especially in developing nations
 - People volunteered as trainers: e.g. Eric Rehm, radiative transfer, USA; and Remika Gupana (FICE alumni, Philippines)

Alumni Networks

- Better networking from smaller trainings.
- Suggest to use the POGO model of having networks of alumni from training courses. The IOCCG SLS has a self-organized alumni network – maybe formalize a bit more.