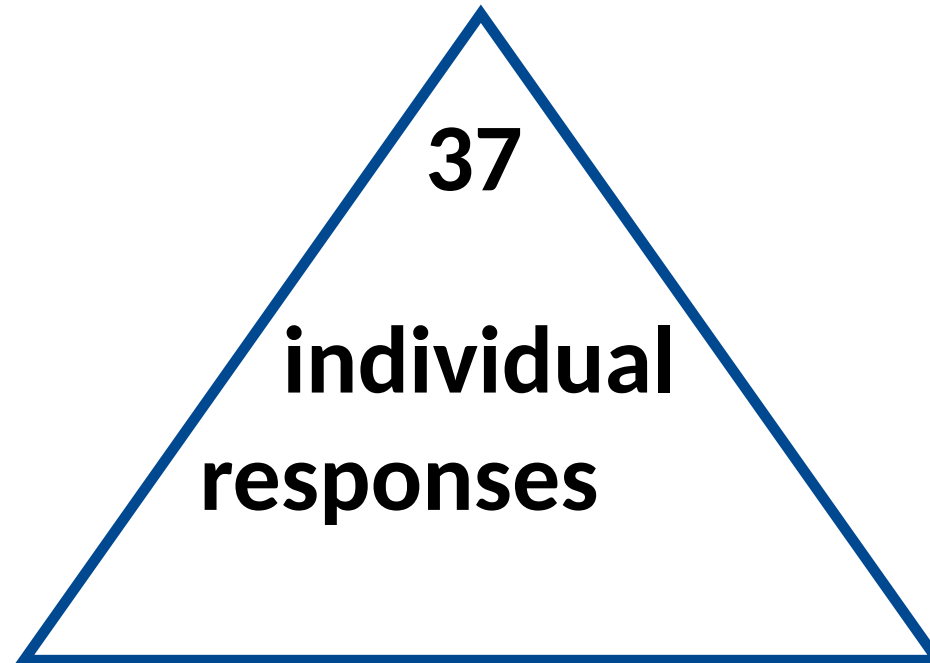


EVN Users' Survey 2026

The results



Email: usersupport@jive.eu

Mattermost: coms.evlbi.org/evn-user-support



- Participant background
- Using the EVN
- EVN user support at JIVE
- Data processing
- Future EVN improvements
- EVN travel support



Section 1 - Participant Background

1. What is your academic position?
2. What is your background?
3. Your expertise in VLBI?
4. How many years of VLBI?
5. What is your favourite science?



Academic position

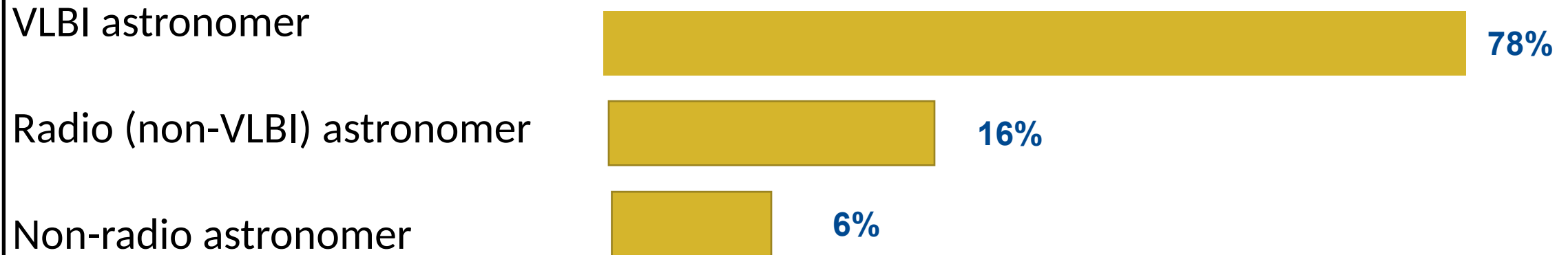
49%
Institute staff

24%
Postdoc

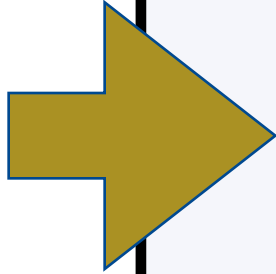
14%
Student

13%
University faculty

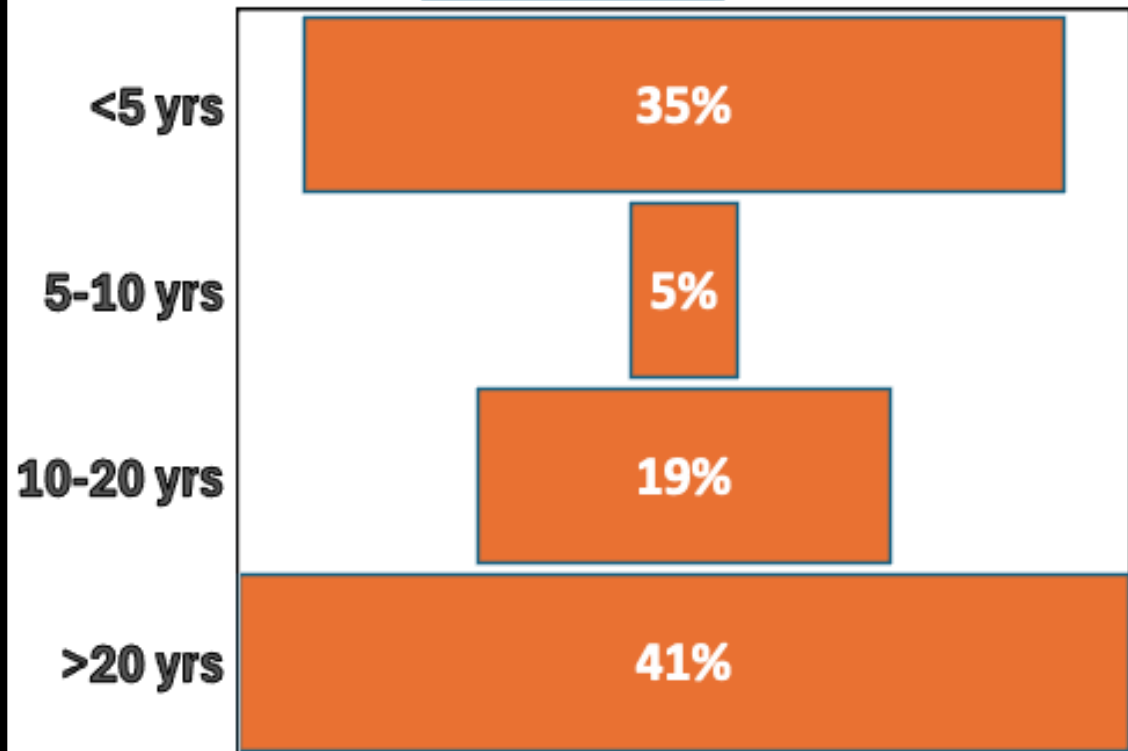
Background



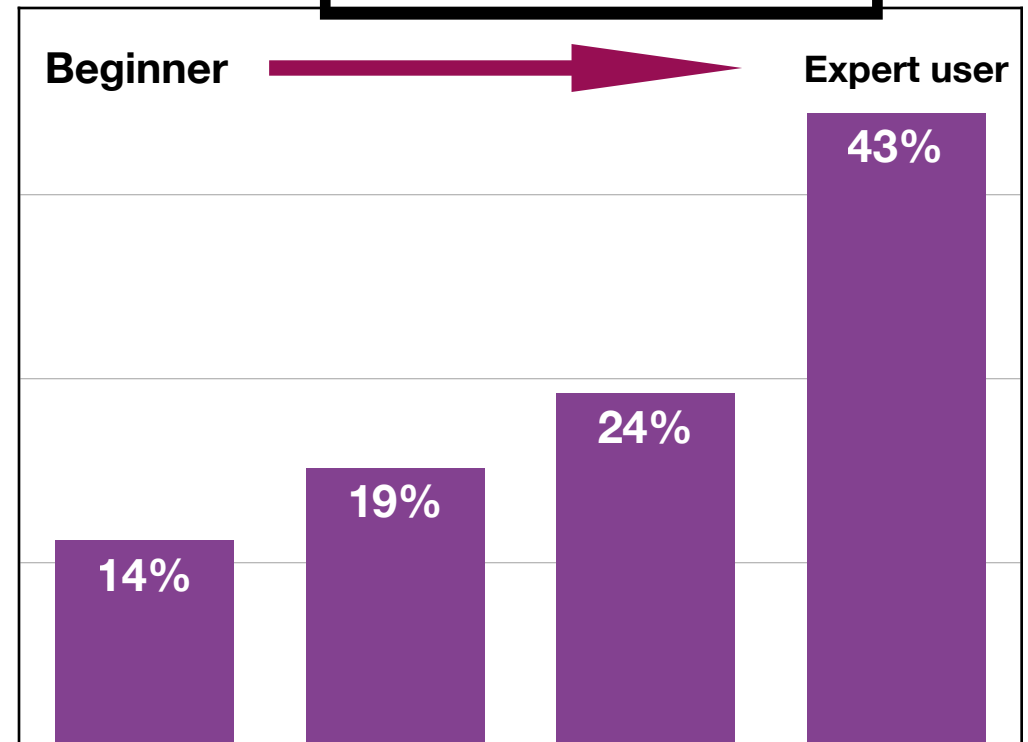
Science
areas



Years of VLBI



VLBI Expertise



Section 2 — Using the EVN

1. How many times have you used the EVN
2. Different proposal types
3. Biggest pros and cons of the EVN
4. Rating EVN tools and processes



EVN observations

35%
A few times

33%
So many that I lost count

16%
A dozen or so

8%
Never

8%
Once or twice

Yes

86%

No

3%

Other

11%

Clarity on proposal
types: ToO, triggered
proposal

EVN pros

- High angular resolution
- Sensitivity
- (u,v)-coverage (unfortunately reduced after "ejecting" the Russian antennas)
- e-Merlin inclusion
- JIVE user support
- Visiting JIVE for data reduction
- High precision in astrometry
- Frequent calls for proposals
- Detailed proposal feedback
- Global baselines/network
- Planobs tool is fantastic

EVN cons

- Russian telescope ban
- Slow data release
- Sparse (u,v)-coverage
- Limited observing sessions
- Slow to trigger
- Failed telescopes during observations
- Lack of joint proposals
- Inhomogeneous array-calibration mess
- Requested vs final array can be different
- Unreliable gain curves



Rating EVN tools and processes

EVN website

EVN call for proposals

Proposal feedback from EVN Programme Committee

NorthStar proposal tool

Scheduling process

Observation planner (PlanObs)

Using pySCHED

Correlation instructions

Data archive

Data reduction

Bad Good

Elaboration

- Century old and poor archive-needs more advanced search and output
- Long and complex call for proposals
- pySCHED installation errors on Mac M2 and Ubuntu 24
- Block schedule on website be kept to date
- Requires experts to reduce data
- Provide EVN data pipeline and high quality pipeline products

100%

0%

100%

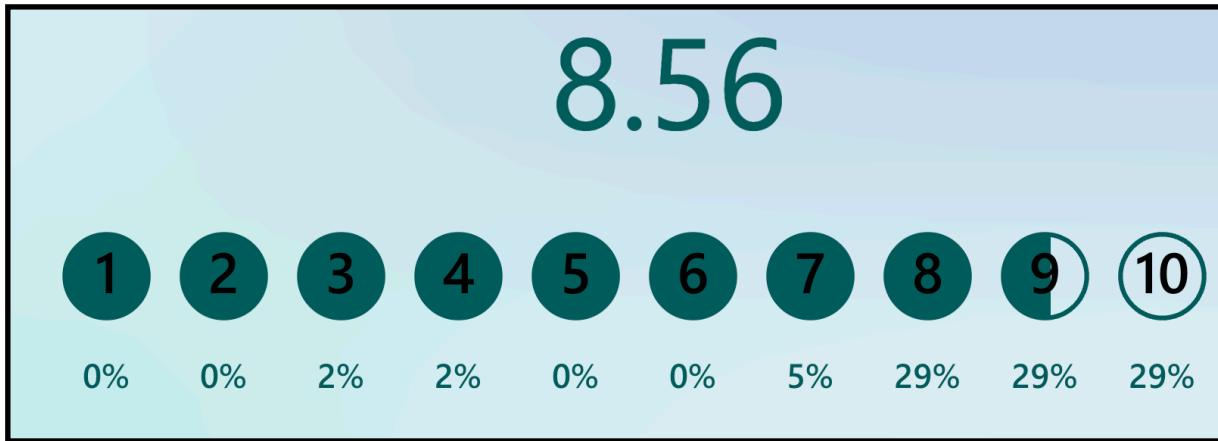
Section 3 — User Support at JIVE



1. How is the EVN user support at JIVE?
2. EVN online training and it's usefulness
3. Overall JIVE support



Overall JIVE support



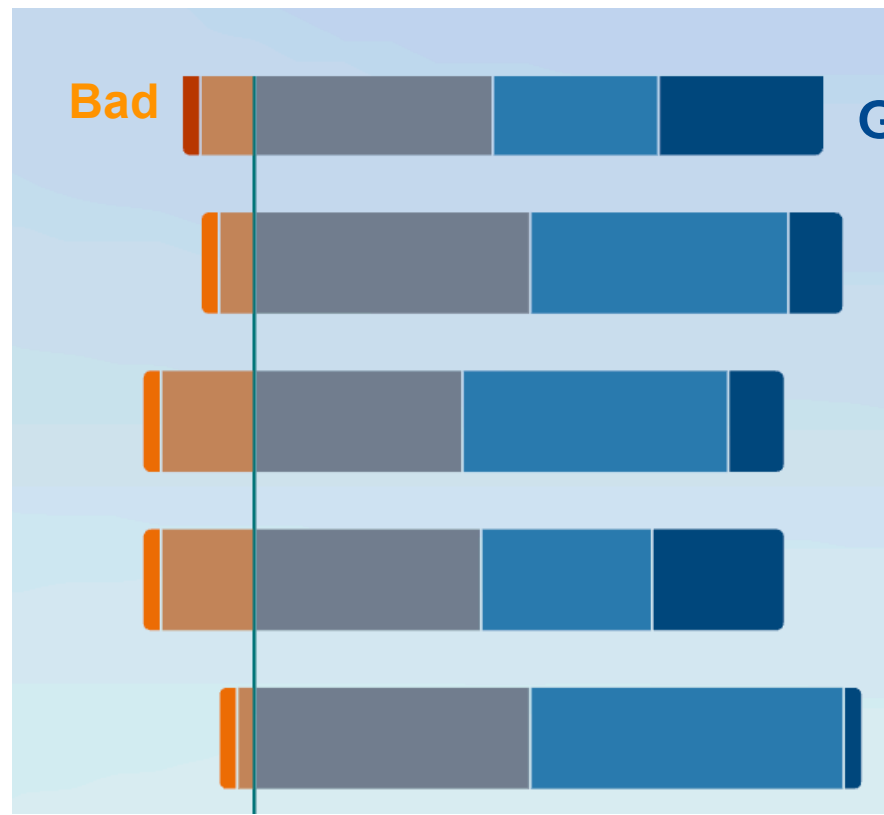
Proposal preparation

Experiment scheduling

Post-correlation and data release

Data reduction support

General interactions (emails, clarity, availability, helpfulness)



Online training

67%
Yes

22%
No

11%
..

How useful it was.

Things to improve on

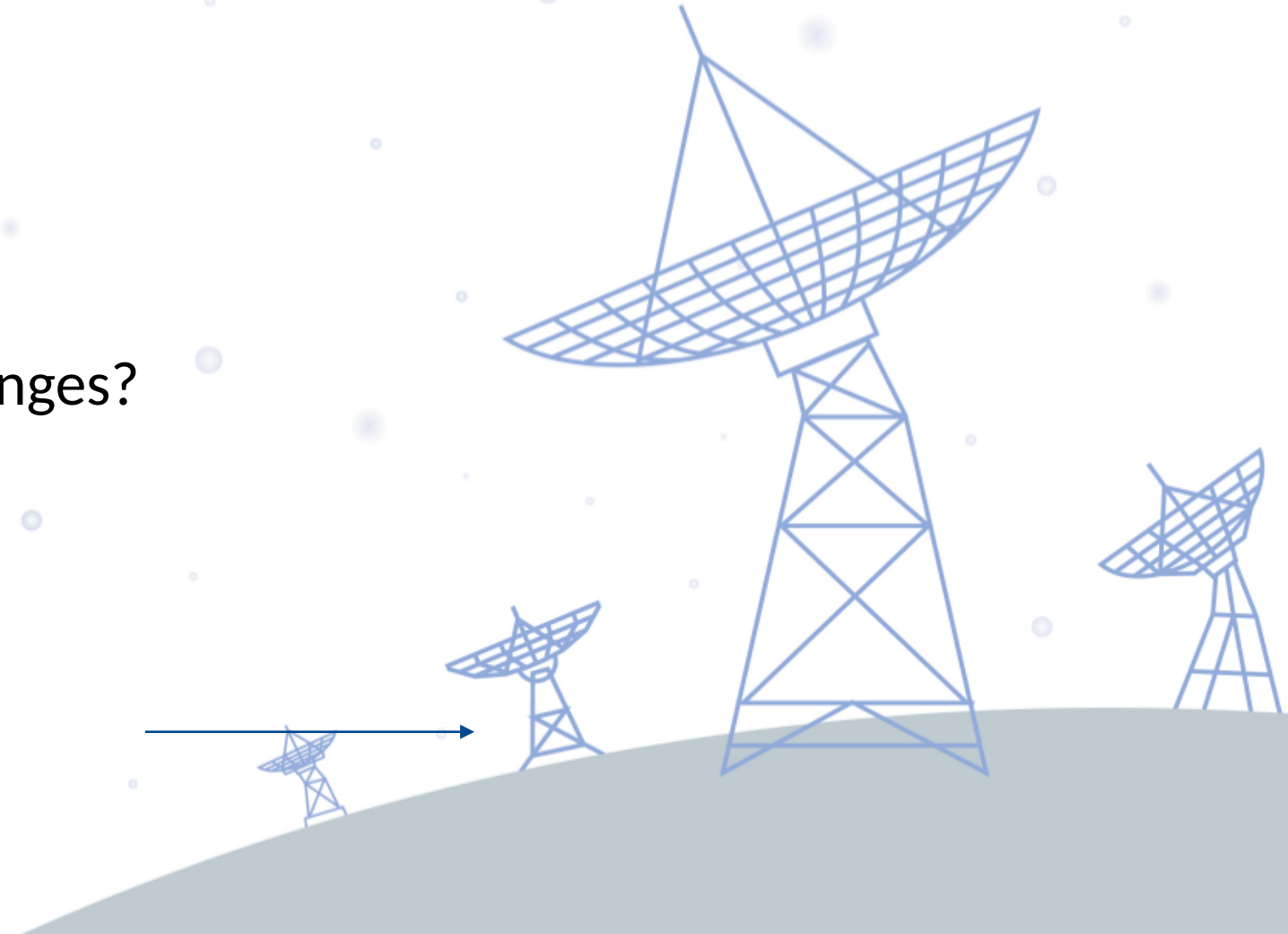
- Provide detailed online data reduction tutorials (CASA and AIPS)
- Weekly VLBI observations
- Hard to find relevant information- always hidden somewhere

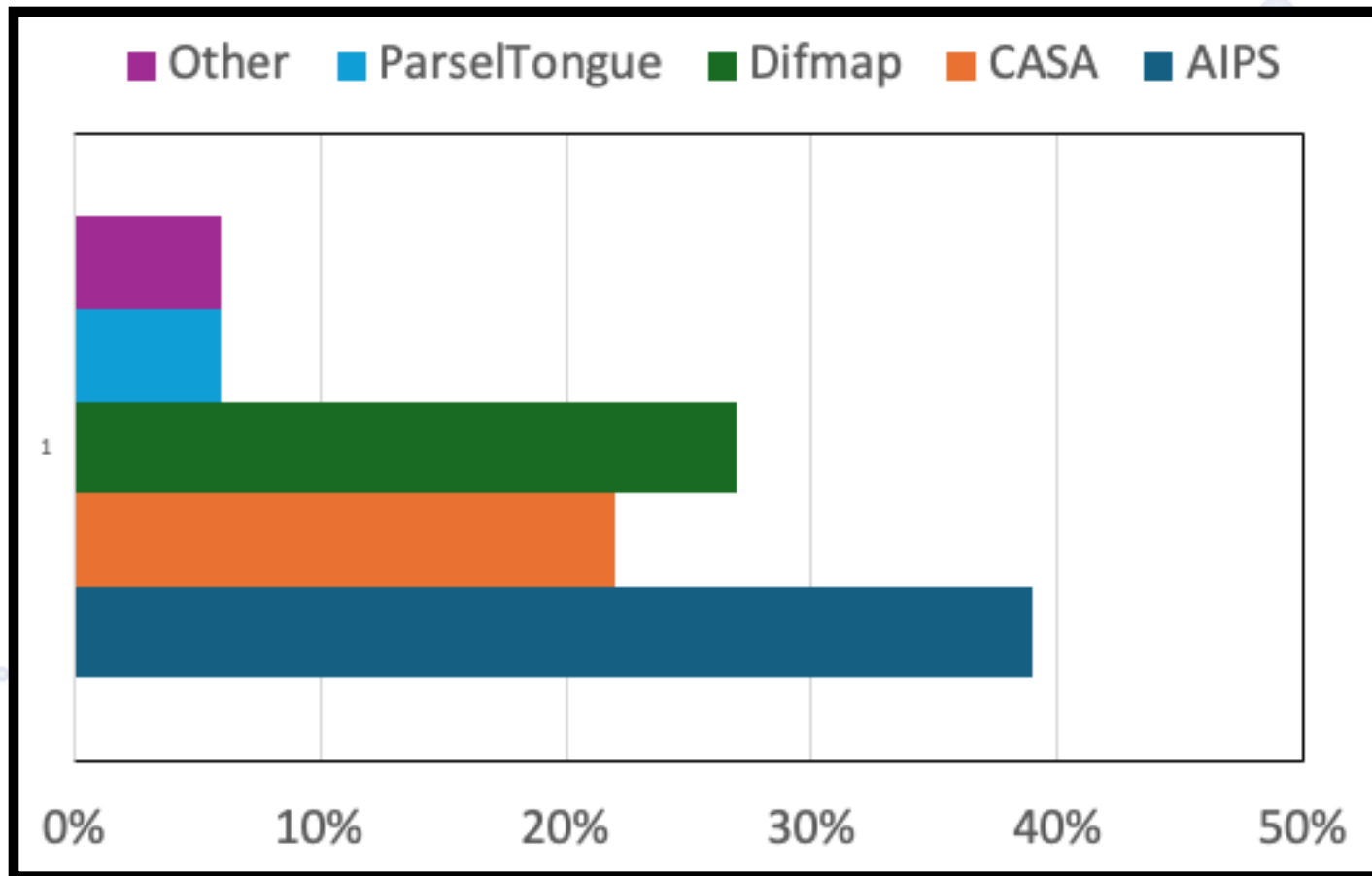
8.20



Section 4 — Data processing

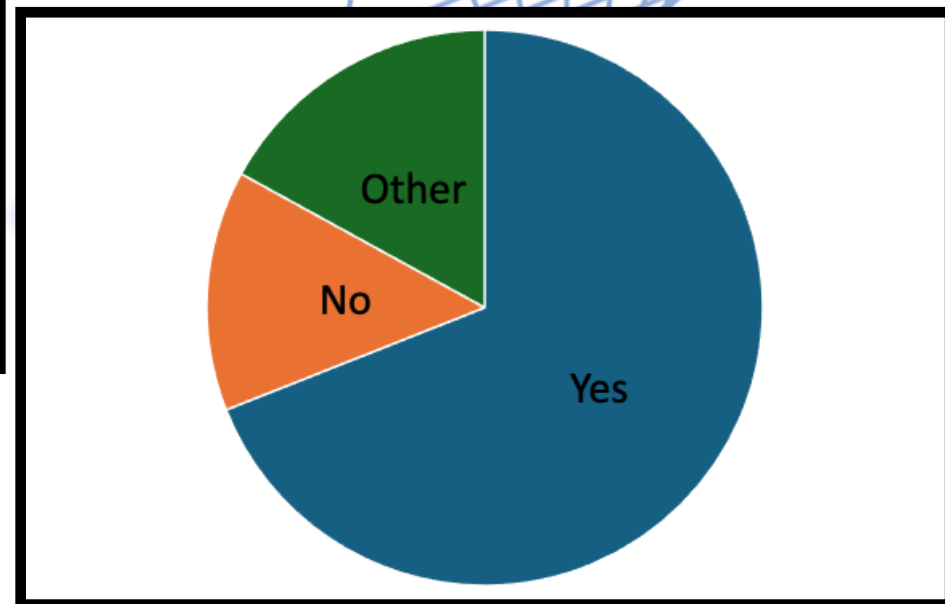
1. VLBI packages
2. JIVE processing?
3. Improvements to EVN
4. Other VLBI arrays use?
5. Priority of possible changes?
6. Observing sessions





Use of packages to reduce EVN data

How about EVN data processing platform?



50%
Regularly

31%
Sometimes

11%
Never

8%
Rarely

Using other VLBI arrays

Desired improvements

- Get the antennas the PI asked for
- Higher frequency observations
- Fill gaps in uv-coverage and update gain curves
- Broad-band observations at 8 Gbps
- Frequent observations (EVN +e-MERLIN +MeerKAT)
- Get Ghana telescope observing
- Drop Russian ban
- Include polarisation performance
- Calibration tutorial
- Better flagging guideline

Priority changes

38%

Easier access to global VLBI
(across the globe)

38%

Better spreading EVN
observing opportunities
through the year

12%

Easy access to
multi-facility
observations (EVN..

12%

Other

EVN new observing schedule

- Improves observations intervals
- Flexibility in time-domain astronomy, multi-wavelength observations and astrometry observations
- Good for time critical observations
- Good for observations affected by the sun

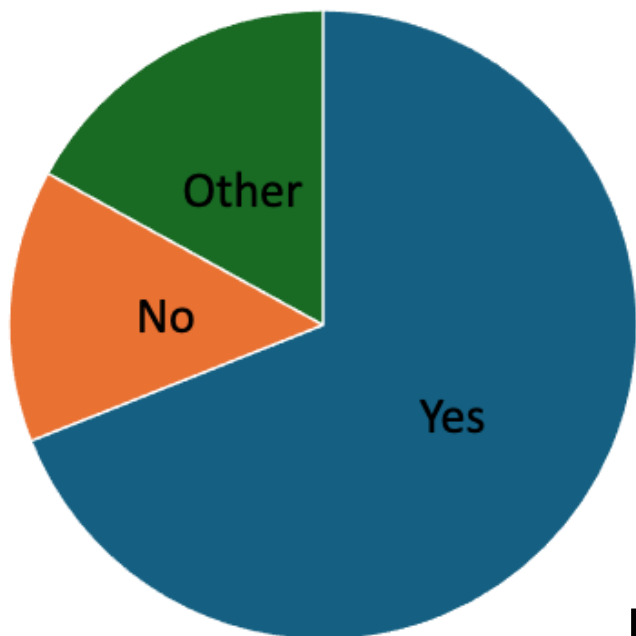
Section 5-EVN support



- Opportunities for travel support to JIVE?
- Did you ever get it?
- Were the funds enough?

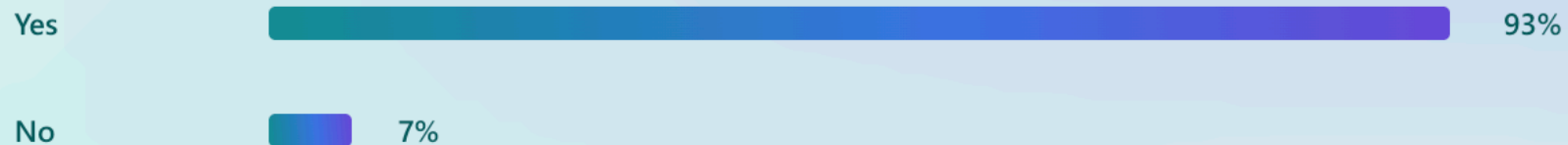
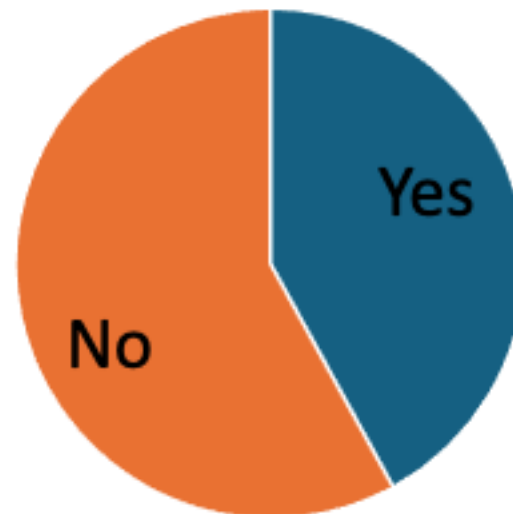


Heard about travel support for visiting JIVE?



Was it enough?

Received any?



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