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The role and tasks of an ILO – Spain as an example from an agency perspective

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Spanish ILO for ESO and SKA
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ILO Network in Spain

- In Spain, the three ILOs are employed by CDTI, E.P.E.
- CDTI: Spanish innovation agency
- CDTI mission: to improve the technological level of the Spanish companies by means of implementing the following activities:
 - Financial support with soft loans, grants and tax-exemption official certificates to industrial R&D projects.
 - Management and fosterage of Spanish participation in international R&D and innovation programmes: Horizon Europe, Eureka, Eurostars, etc.
 - Promotion of international business technology transfer and support services for technological innovation.
 - Support of tech startups and growth
 - Industrial return from scientific research infrastructures and ESA

ILO responsibilities in Spain

ILO ↔ RI

- Official contact point for all industrial matters
- Participation in ILO meetings and in Finance Committees
- Information source for national industrial capabilities
- Collaboration agreements (eg. magnets with CERN and CIEMAT)

ILO ↔ Industry

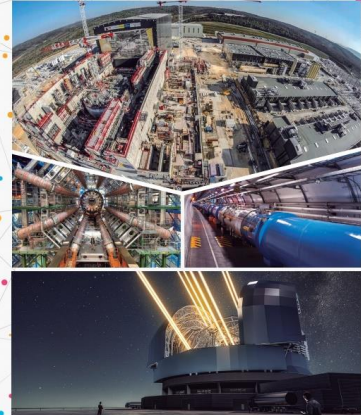
- Distribution of opportunities, tenders, long term strategies
- Support in tender preparation, partner search
- Organisation of industrial days and visits to RIs
- Support in R&D project application to CDTI
- Monitoring of spanish contracts and support when dealing with RIs. Monitoring of georeturn
- Catalogue of industrial capabilities as a supplier of Big Science organisations

ILO ↔ Ministry

- Expertise and support in all industrial matters
- Definition of in-kind contributions
- Support to RI candidacies, análisis and enhancement of industrial capabilities

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Big Science
Business
Forum
2022



**SPANISH CAPACITIES
IN LARGE SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES**



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ILO KPIs in Spain

- Our main KPI is **industrial return**
- Other relevant KPIs:
 - Collaboration agreements
 - Public procurement projects
 - Activities towards RIs to be hosted in Spain (e.g. DONES)
 - Preparatory R&D projects for industry as a supplier of Big Science facilities
 - Brokerage events and workshops (e.g. Big Science Business Forum)
- Still room for improvement on:
 - Technology transfer
 - Industry as a user of RIs
 - Analysis of the quality of industrial return: % of SMEs, % of new companies, added value

Our strengths as ILOs employed by a governmental agency

- Funding for the ILO network guaranteed, fixed CDTI staff
- ILOs with technical background in industry
- All ILOs working together -> orientation towards Big Science technologies rather than RI
- Good collaboration with Ministry of Science and Innovation: access to Finance Committees as experts and in some cases to Councils
- Support to Ministry of Science for national research infrastructures
- Experts in Horizon Europe RI committee
- Strong connection and synergies with ESA delegates (also belonging to CDTI, same directorate)

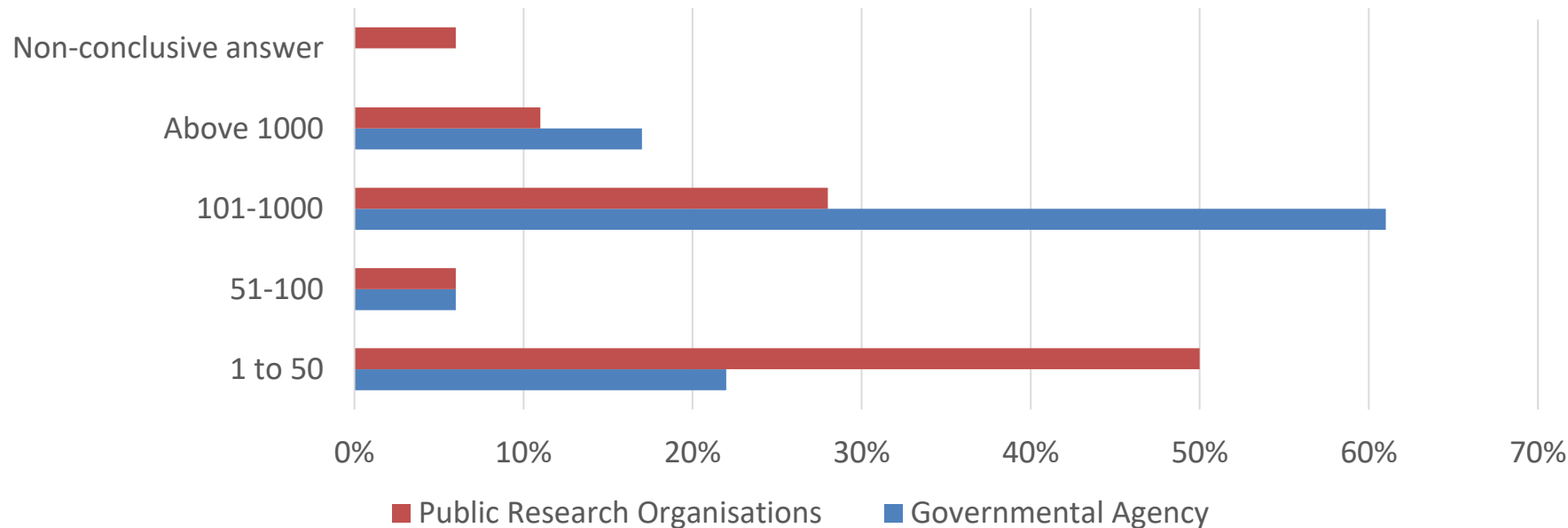
Our strengths as ILOs employed by a governmental agency

- Access to R&D funding instruments
- Access to project and proposals database
- Collaboration with CDTI marketing and communication divisions.
- Enhanced visibility of the Big Science market towards national authorities
- Funding for events (e.g. BSBF 2022)

Constraints:

- Non-scientific background
- Subject to national procurement rules
- Accountability for every action and decision taken
- Very much focused on industry as a supplier

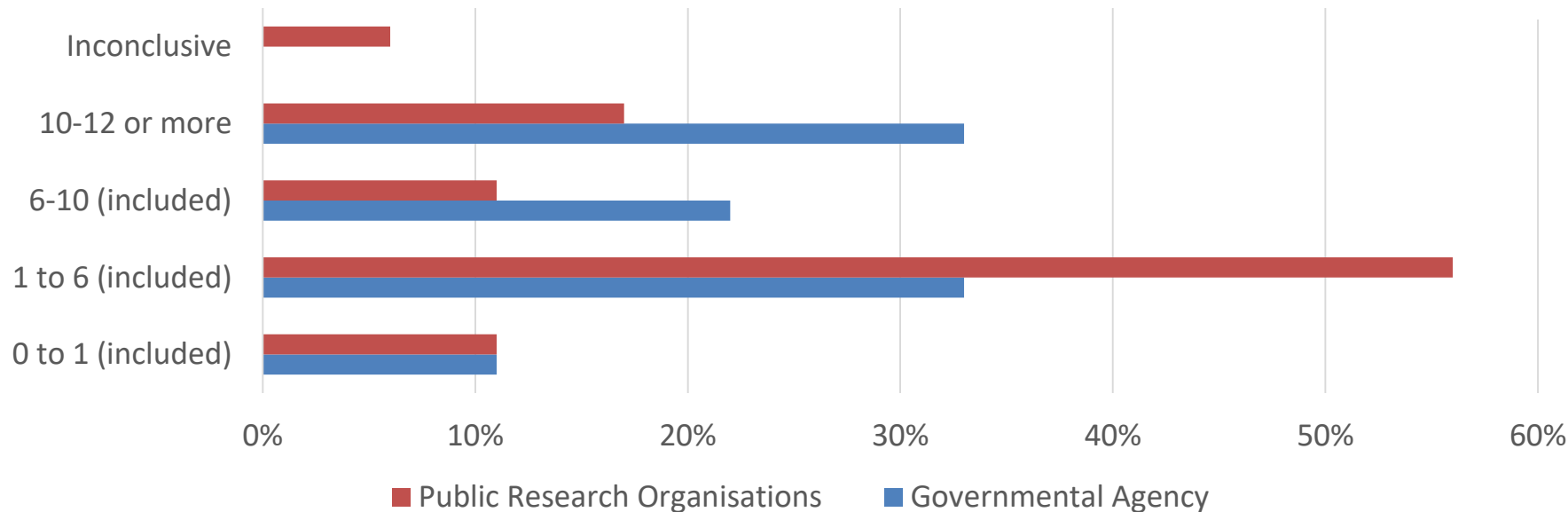
What were the findings of the ENRIITC survey to ILOs?



Number of companies engaged with ILO via ILO network

Smaller industry base for ILOs working for Public Research Organisations

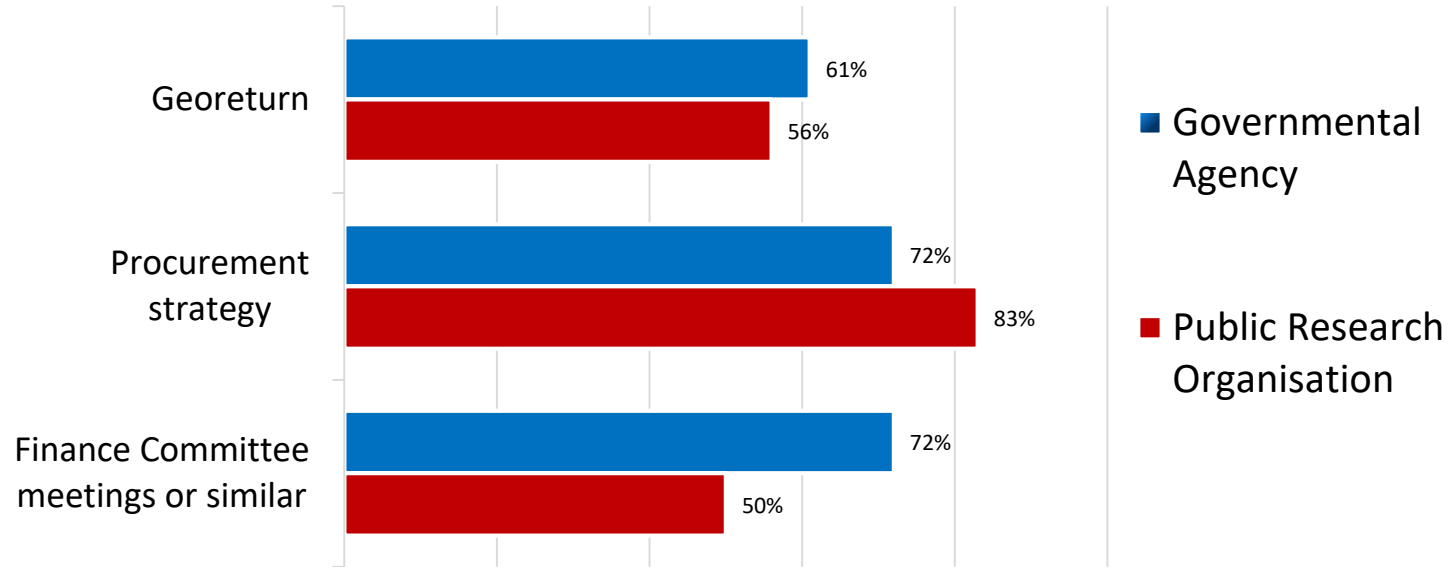
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ILO working time

ILOs working in Governmental Agencies are more full time but probably cover more RIs

What were the findings of the ENRIITC survey to ILOs?

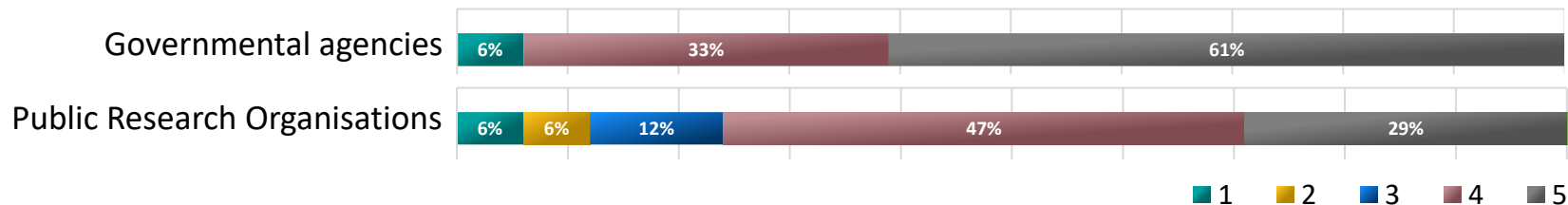


Level of information coming from your RI on georeturn, procurement strategy, and finance committee meetings or similar – % of ILOs according to the place of employment.

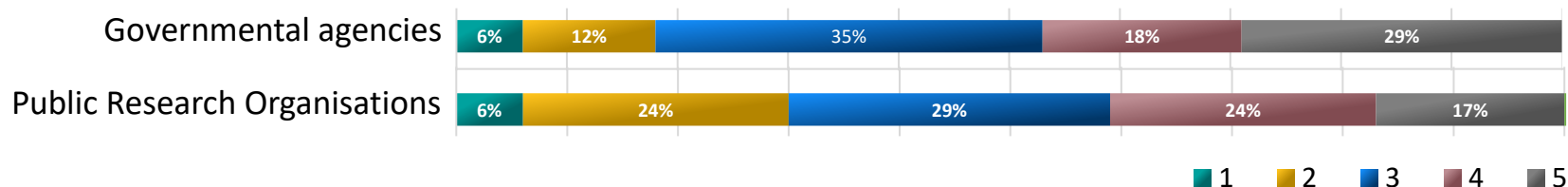
Information from FC seems to flow better to governmentally employed ILOs

What were the findings of the ENRIITC survey to ILOs?

Raising georeturn/value of national contracts



Improving supplier base for the RI

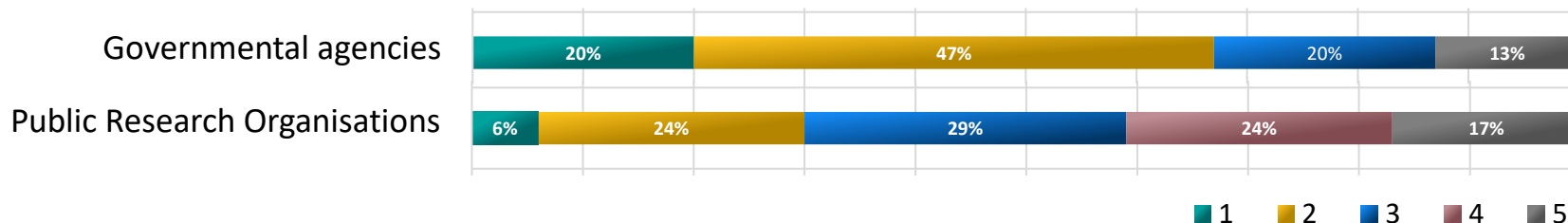


Employer's evaluation of ILOs' performance

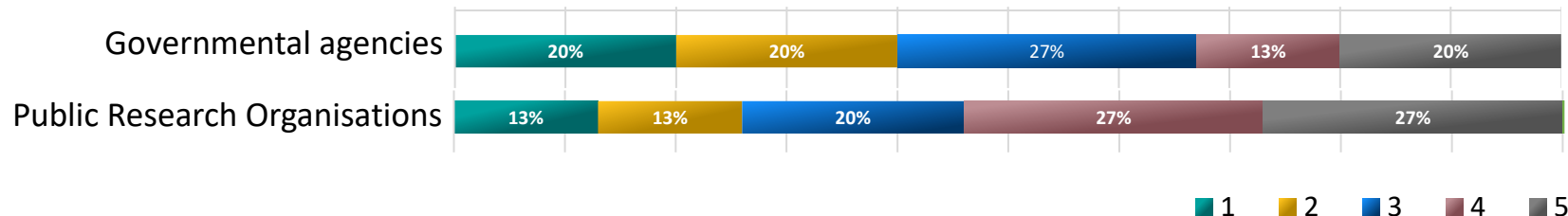
Georeturn and to a less extent improving the supplier base are more important KPIs for ILOs employed by governmental agencies compared to public research organisations.

What were the findings of the ENRIITC survey to ILOs?

Promoting technology-transfer activities



Promoting industry-RI-university collaborations



Employer's evaluation of ILOs' performance

ILOs employed by Public Research organisations demonstrate a broader view of other ILO functions like tech transfer or industry-RI collaborations

Some conclusions worth exploring

- There is more to the ILO role than the traditional role of liaison with industry as a supplier; synergy can be created between the goals of raising georeturn, creating co-development and promoting technology transfer.
- Diversity in the different national ILO networks across Europe brings different understandings of the ILO role; a common and official job description could improve mutual understanding
- We need to share our success stories and learn from each other to determine what works, on an international level; this emphasizes the added value of a European ILO network. Also, from ENRIITC, how ICOs work with industry as a supplier but also other less explored domains.
- The activities of ILOs can cover the entire innovation chain; from low TRL technology development to applications in many social and economic markets, but these innovation chain are often fragmented

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