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Methods and practices in the hydro power development in the Lower Mekong Basin

- The results of the Internet questionnaire and interviews

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Content

- Objectives of the work
- Realization
- Main results
- Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA)
 - What is MCDA?
 - Respondents opinions related to MCDA and its use in the LMB
- Conclusions

Objectives and realization

- Find out opinions of different actors to
 - planning methods and practices in hydropower development projects
 - multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) and water footprint approach, to analyse state-of-the-art in education of water resources planning at the universities in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

- Internet questionnaire and interviews
 - Internet questionnaire was open from 12th July to 13th August
 - Local consultants and Juha Sarkkula

- 44 persons answered (of which 22 to the Internet questionnaire)

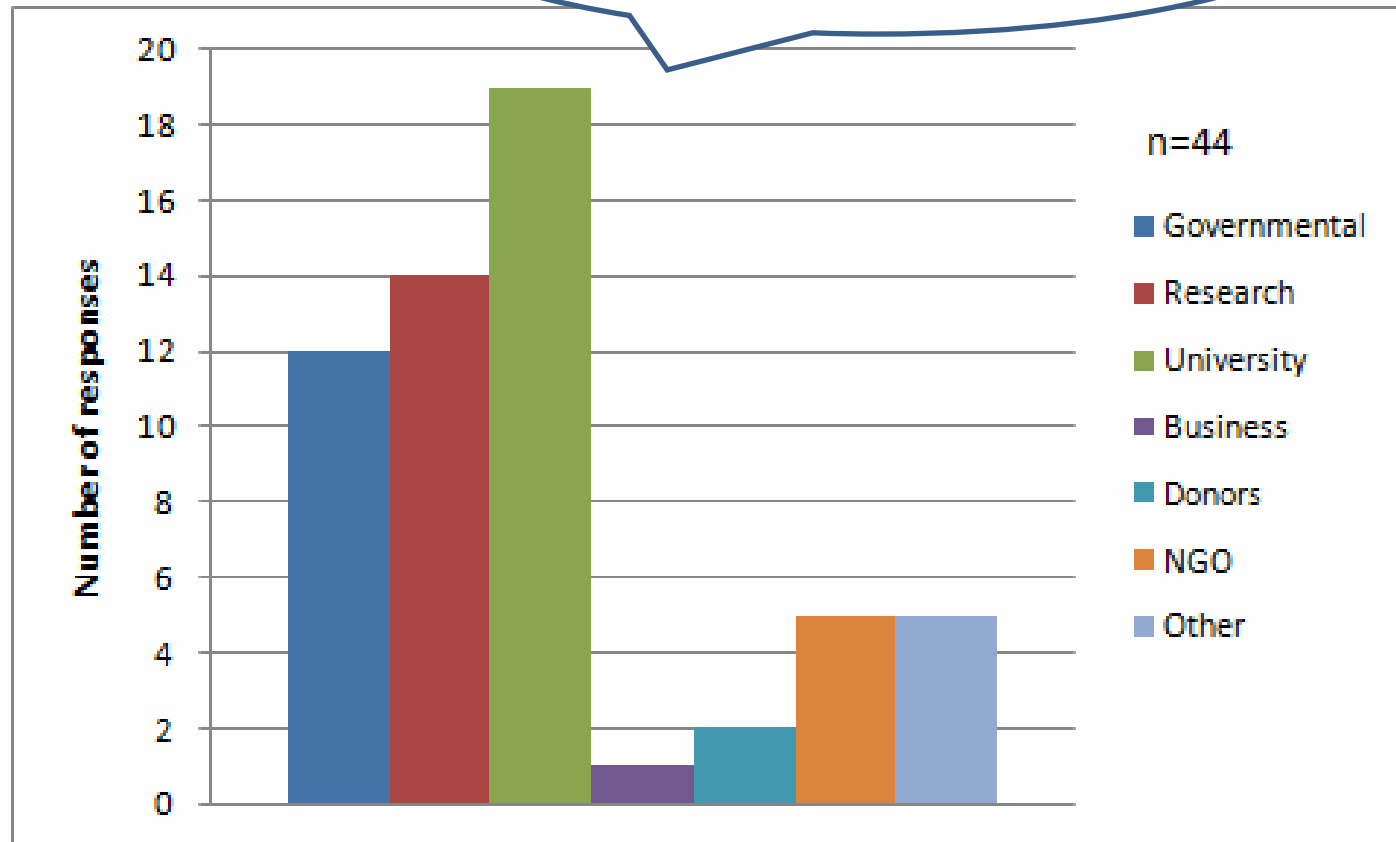
- Results will be used when compiling recommendations for future work.

Questionnaire form

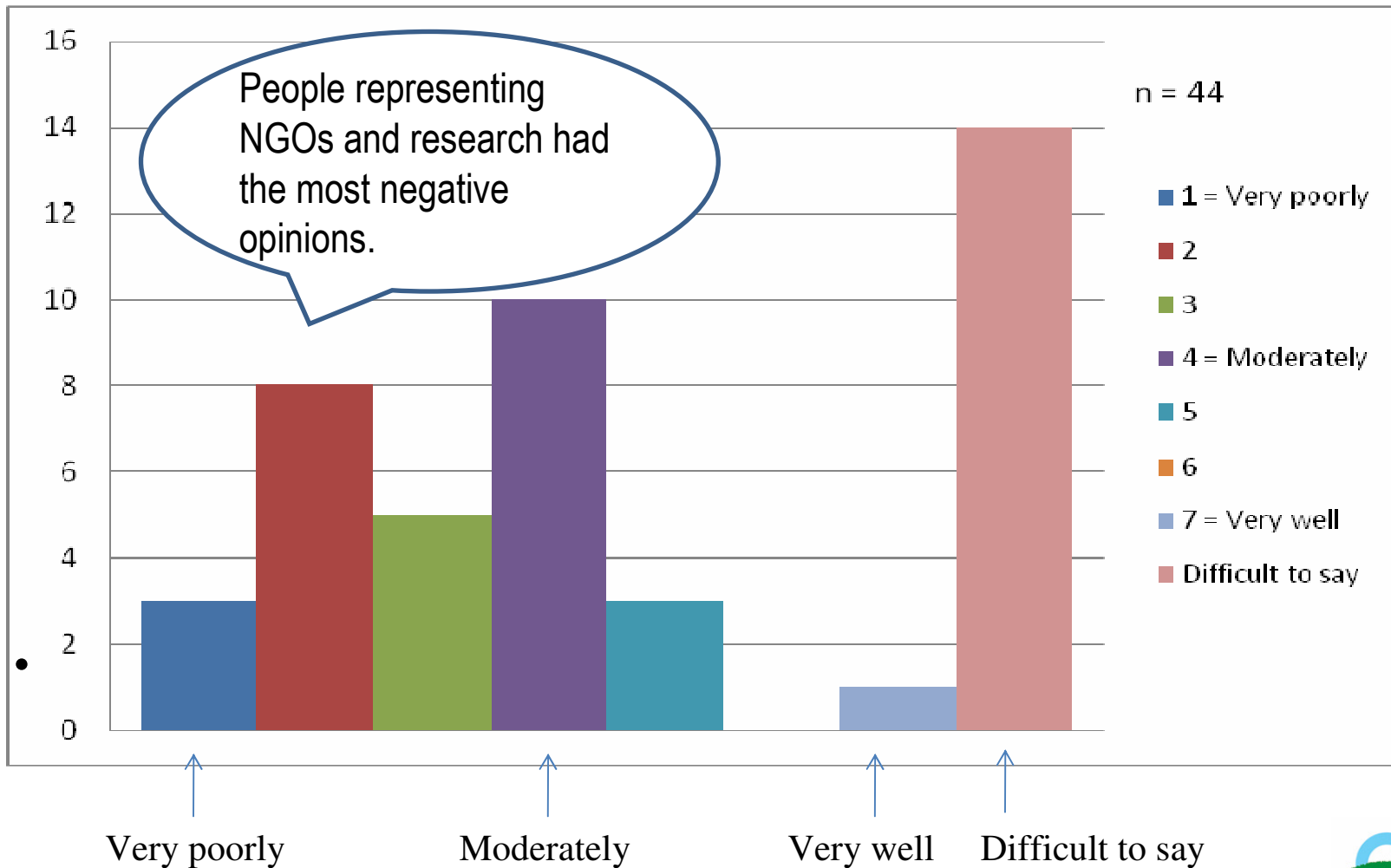
- 22 questions in five themes
- Respondent's background (4 questions)
- Planning methods and practices (8 questions)
- Multi-criteria decision analysis (3 questions)
- Water footprint analysis (3 questions)
- Capacity building and education (4 questions)
- Two slightly different versions of the questionnaire

"In what kind of organization do you work at the moment?"

Most of the respondents worked in universities (19 responses) and in research (14 responses).

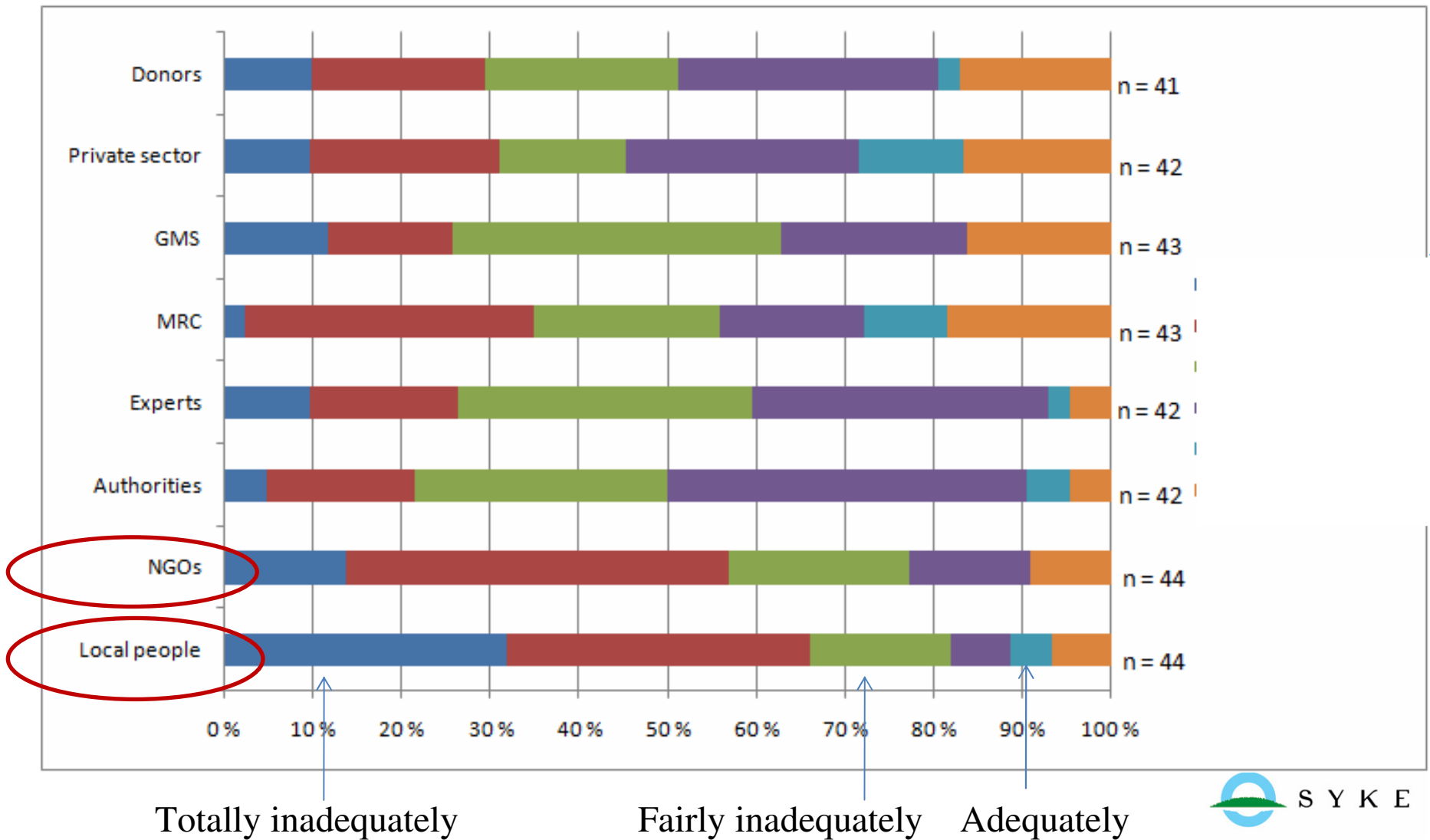


“How well do currently used planning methods and practices support sustainable hydropower development in the region?”



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“How well are the knowledge and objectives of the different actors incorporated in the planning of hydropower in the Lower Mekong Basin at the moment?”



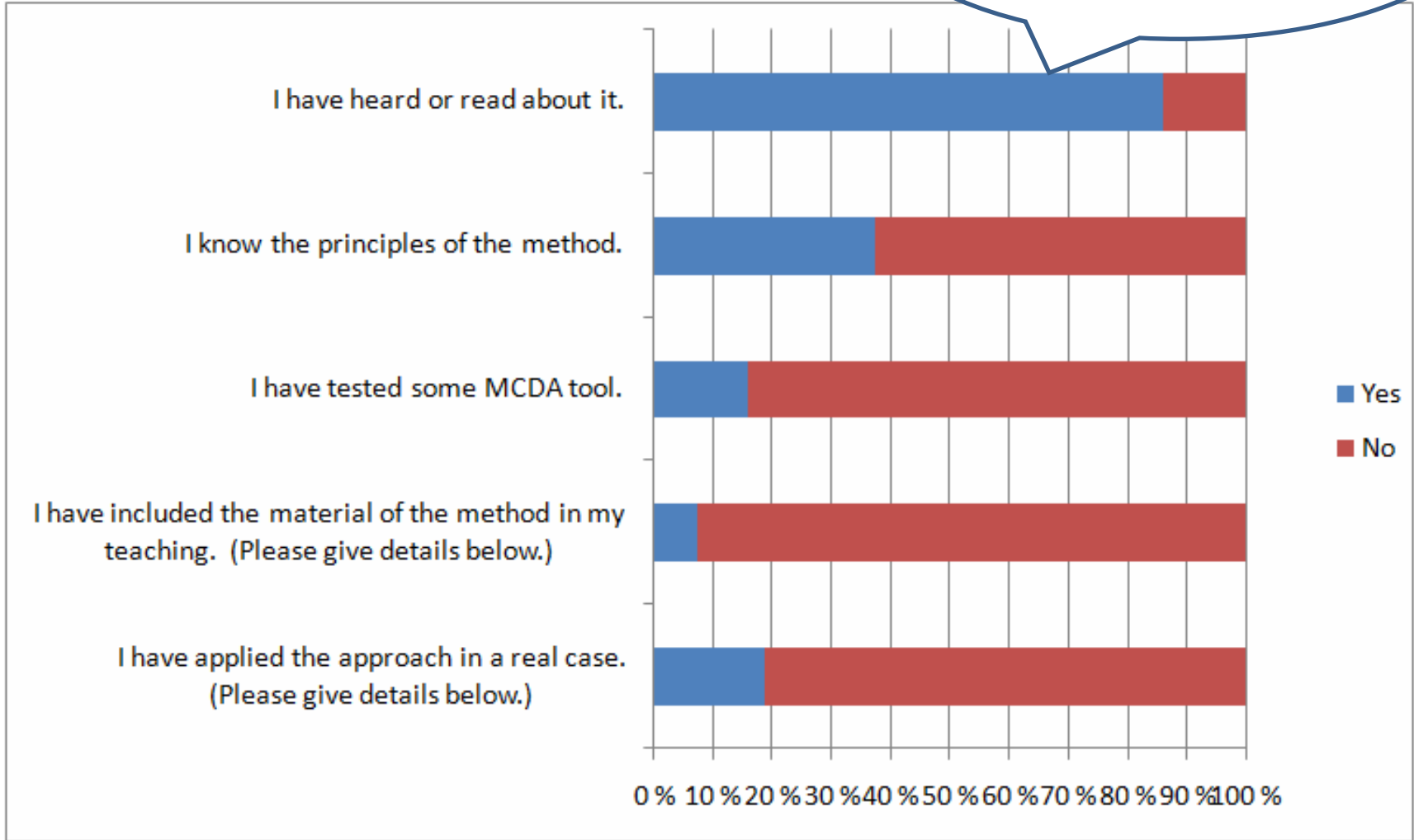
"What are the development needs regarding planning and evaluation of hydropower development projects in the Lower Mekong Basin?"

- All issues mentioned in the questionnaire were considered very important - Three most important ones in red
 - *Improving the quality of the use of the impact assessment methods*
 - *Balancing ecological, social and economic aspects in the planning*
 - *Transparency and systematic evaluation of projects*
 - Long term planning horizon (e.g. evaluation of future scenarios)
 - Identification of significant and less significant impacts
 - Inclusion of economic impacts (e.g. hydro power, fishery, agriculture, tourism)
 - Inclusion of social impacts (e.g. food security, human development, social and gender equity, local fisheries)
 - Inclusion of ecological aspects (e.g. water quality, biodiversity, status of fish fauna)
 - Communication between experts and stakeholders

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"How familiar are you with the multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) method?"

86 % of the respondents had heard or read about MCDA, less than 40 %, knew the principles of the method.



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What is MCDA?

- An approach to take explicitly into account multiple criteria in helping individuals or groups in evaluating decision situations.
- MCDA aims at improving the quality of decisions by making choices more explicit, transparent, rational and efficient.
- The goal is to create a structured process to identify objectives, create alternatives and compare them from different perspectives.
- The result: clarification of values and facts and improved overall understanding

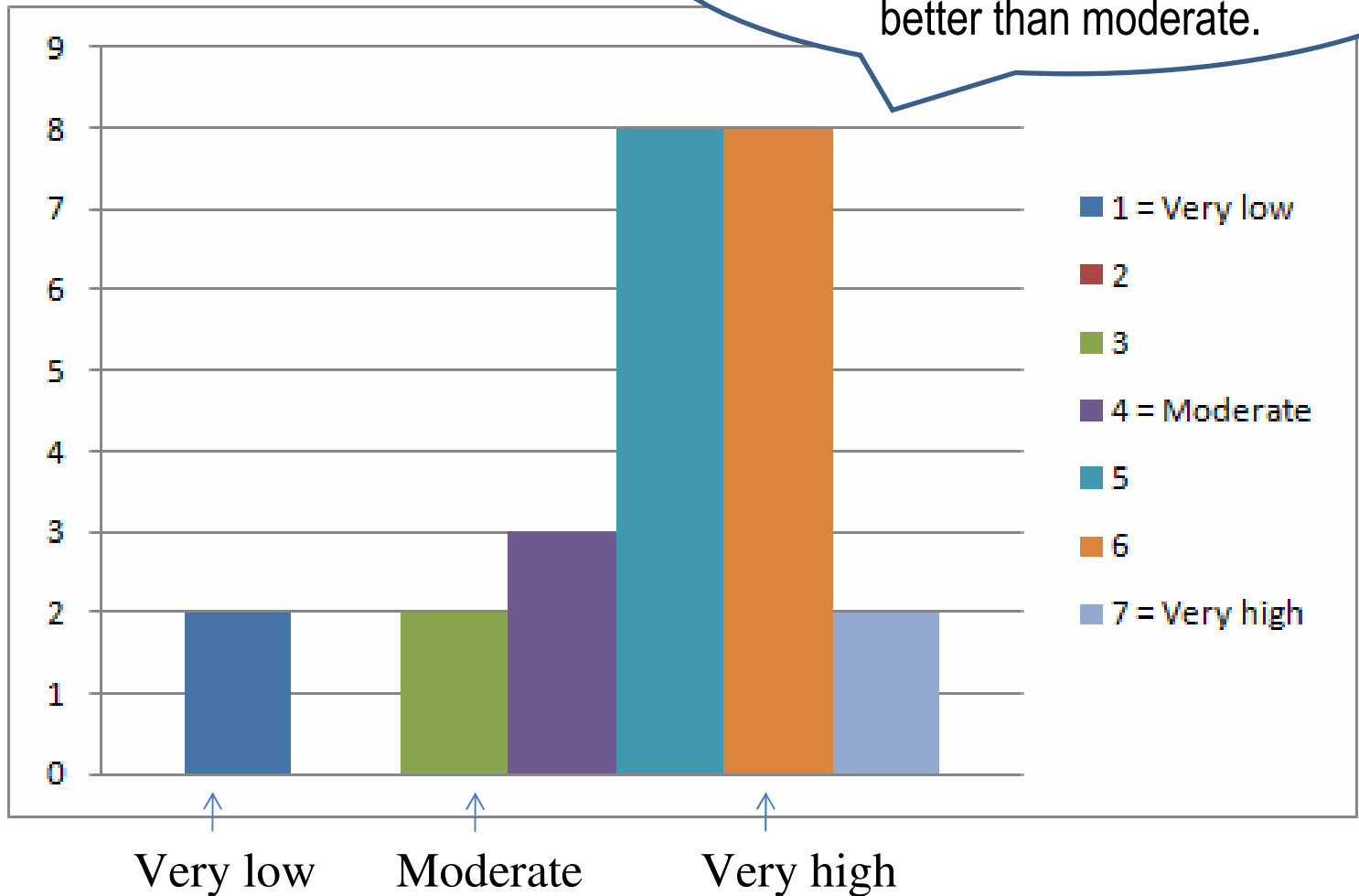
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SPECIAL SESSION ON MCDA ON WEDNESDAY



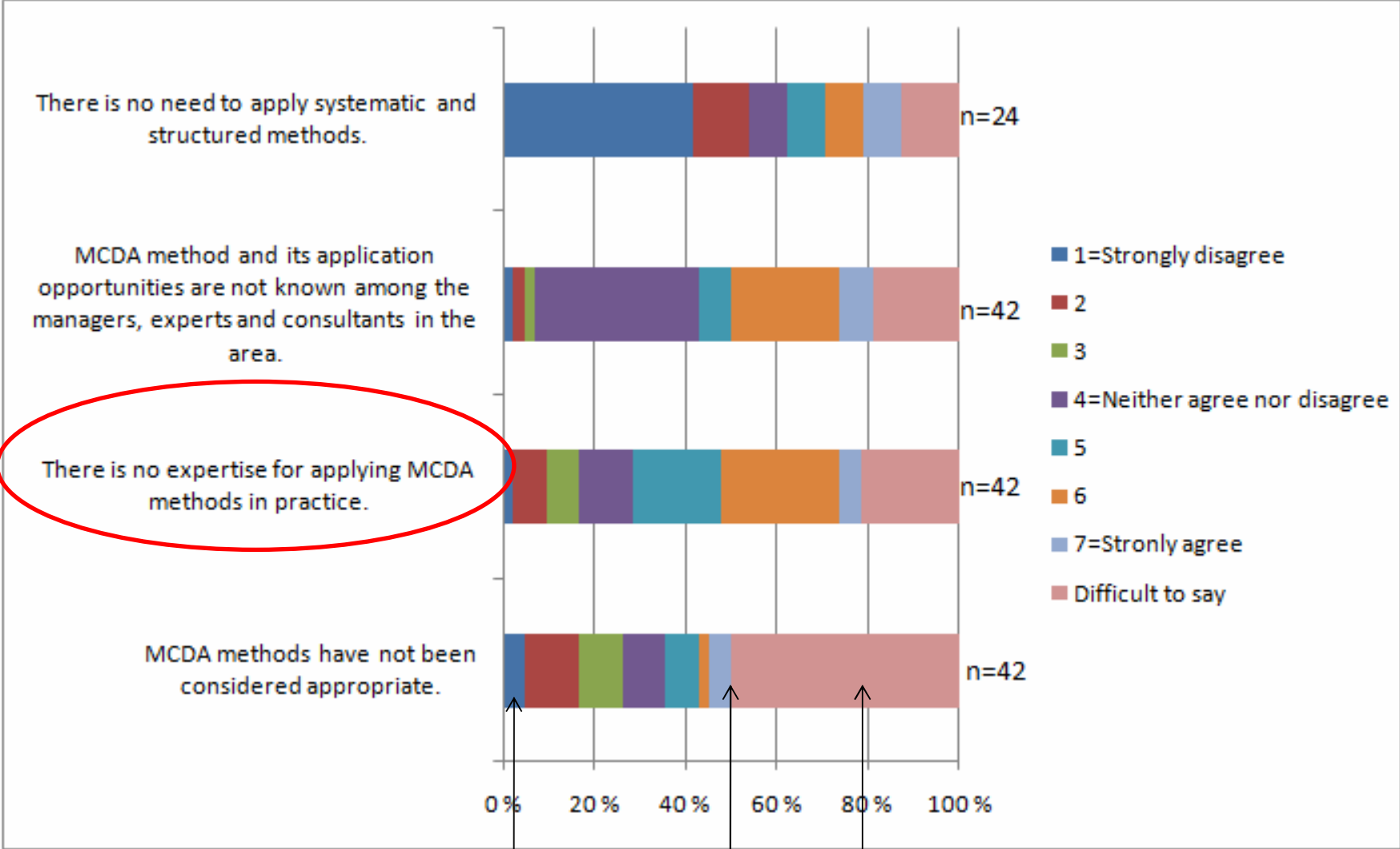
"What is your opinion of the applicability of MCDA in hydropower development projects in the Lower Mekong Basin?"

Respondents had a positive attitude toward MCDA. 72 % considered its applicability better than moderate.



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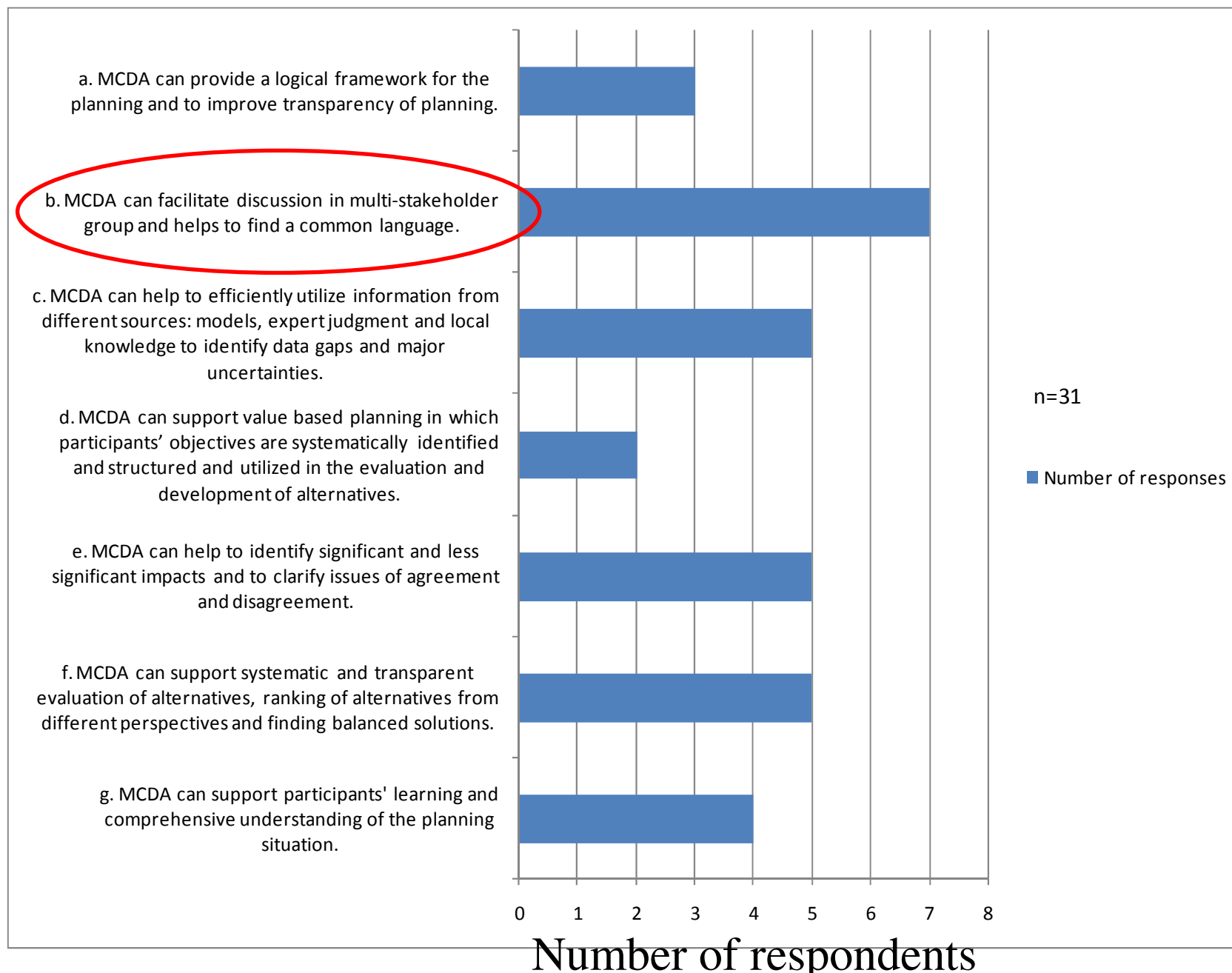
“What are the possible reasons for the limited use of multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) method in the Lower Mekong Basin?”



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Strongly disagree Strongly agree Difficult to say

"Which of the benefits would be most valuable when planning hydro power development projects in the Mekong Region?"



Comments about MCDA

I have heard but never read about it. However, I doubt if it is anything special but just a simple principle with a fancy name. I would rather count on people who implement the participation mission rather than the tools." (Intergovernment)

"MCDA is a tool for sophisticated discussion. There are very few sophisticated deliberative processes re[garding] hydro." (Governmental)

*MCDA should be included in the TORs of the projects."
(Business)*

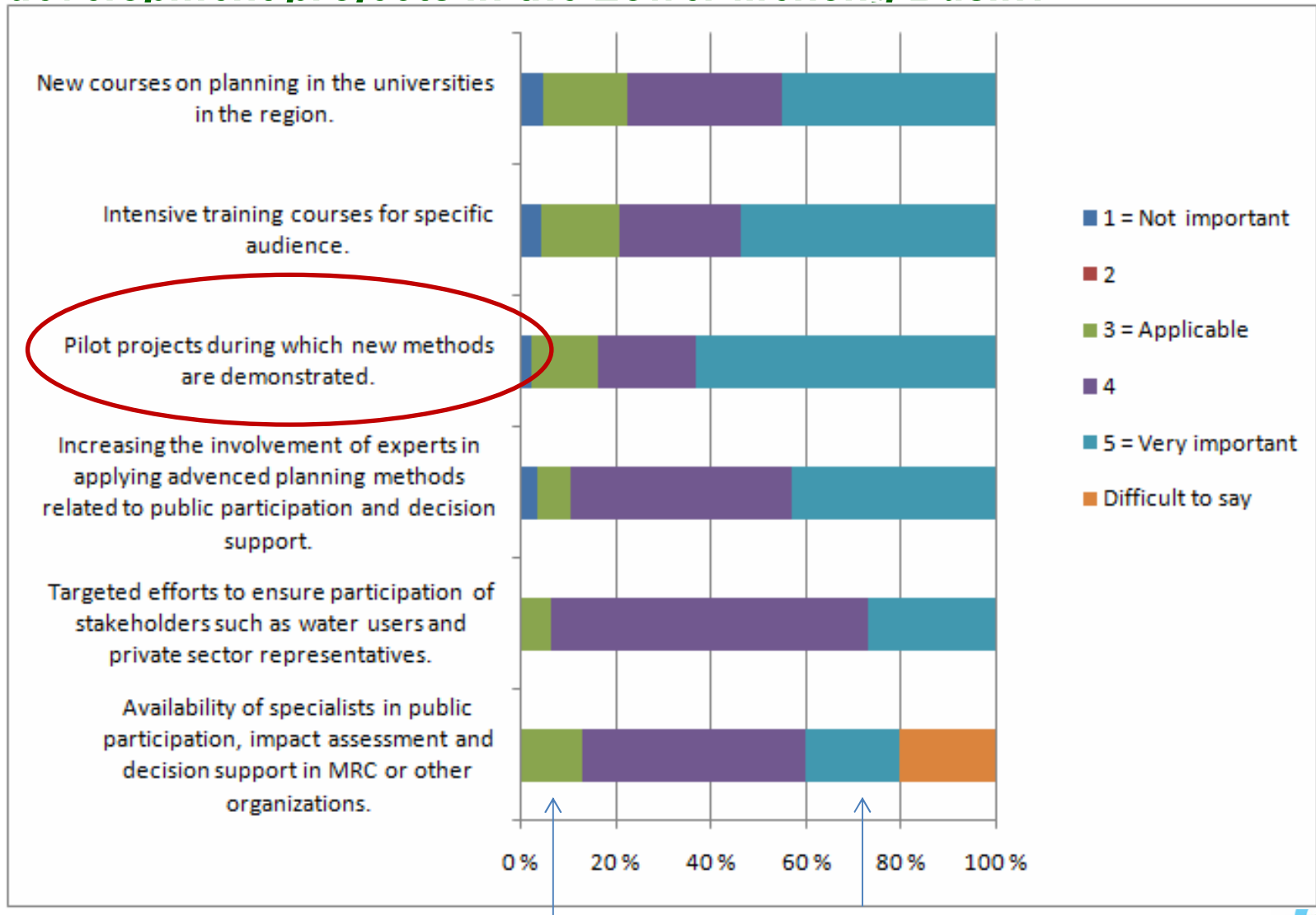
MCDA could also be used to "develop capacity at the university". (University)

"I would like to see more training course in MCDA and its application in hydropower development projects as case studies to show the difference in outcomes and alternatives selected based on the same project with and without the application of MCDA."

"Little experience with MCDA. I have read project evaluations with MCDA included but was not convinced of the rigorousness of the methodology. I would like to attend a training program to review the method and see it applied to a real hydropower project case study in the GMS to evaluate the benefits." (University)

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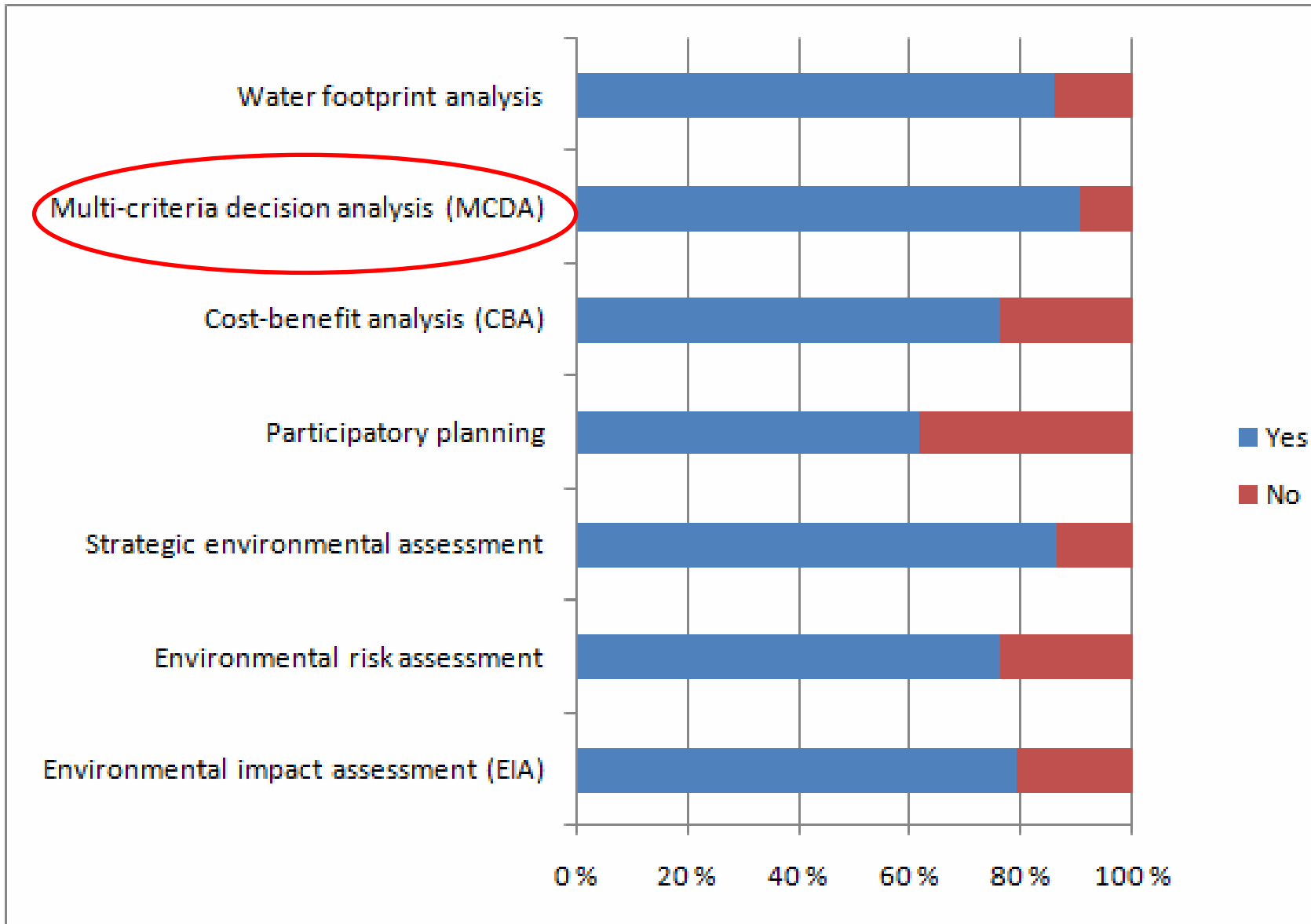
"What is your opinion of the importance of following means to improve planning practices in the hydropower development projects in the Lower Mekong Basin?"



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Applicable Very important

"Would you or your colleagues like to participate in trainings for capacity building related to following subjects?"



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Conclusions

- Current planning practices including stakeholder involvement in hydro power development projects were widely considered inadequate.
- It is not only the lack of appropriate methods but also that they are not used in an appropriate way or their results are not taken into account.
- Positive attitude toward MCDA and its use in the hydro power development projects. Currently the use of MCDA methods is very limited.
- The respondents were unanimous that more education is needed to improve planning practices in the hydropower development projects.

Thank you!



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