

Survey on further education for medical librarians summary & reflections

Based on the work by **Rudolf Mumenthaler, Gerhard Bissels
and Ekaterina Vardanyan**

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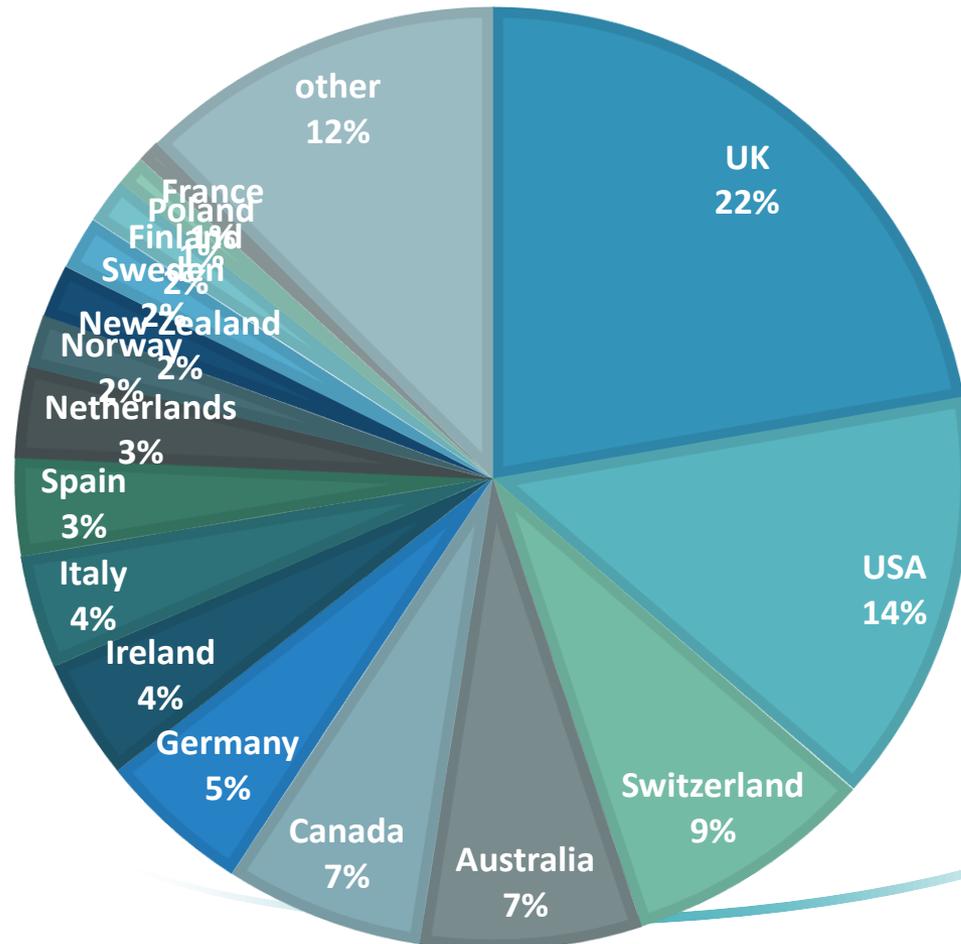
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BMF Spring Seminar 7.4.2017

Background

- funding: Swiss Academy for Medical Science
- participants were invited in international mailing lists
- survey was open in November-December 2016
- is there a need for postgraduate program in medical librarianship
- if so, what topics should be covered, in which format and to what price

Participants

- 499 respondents from 38 countries (22 % UK; 14 % US, 9 % Switzerland, 8 % Australia,... 1% Finland)

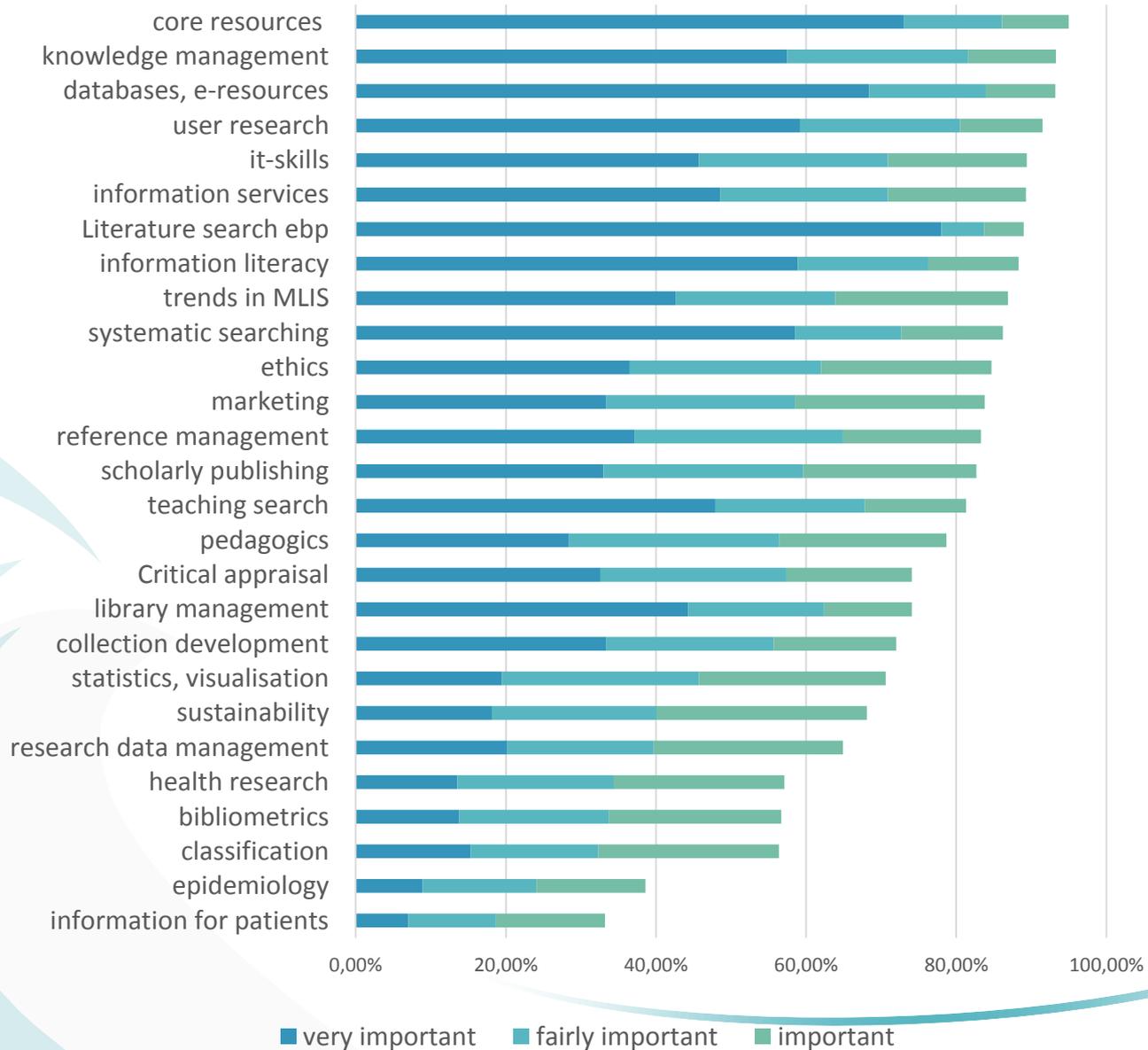


Skills included in the survey

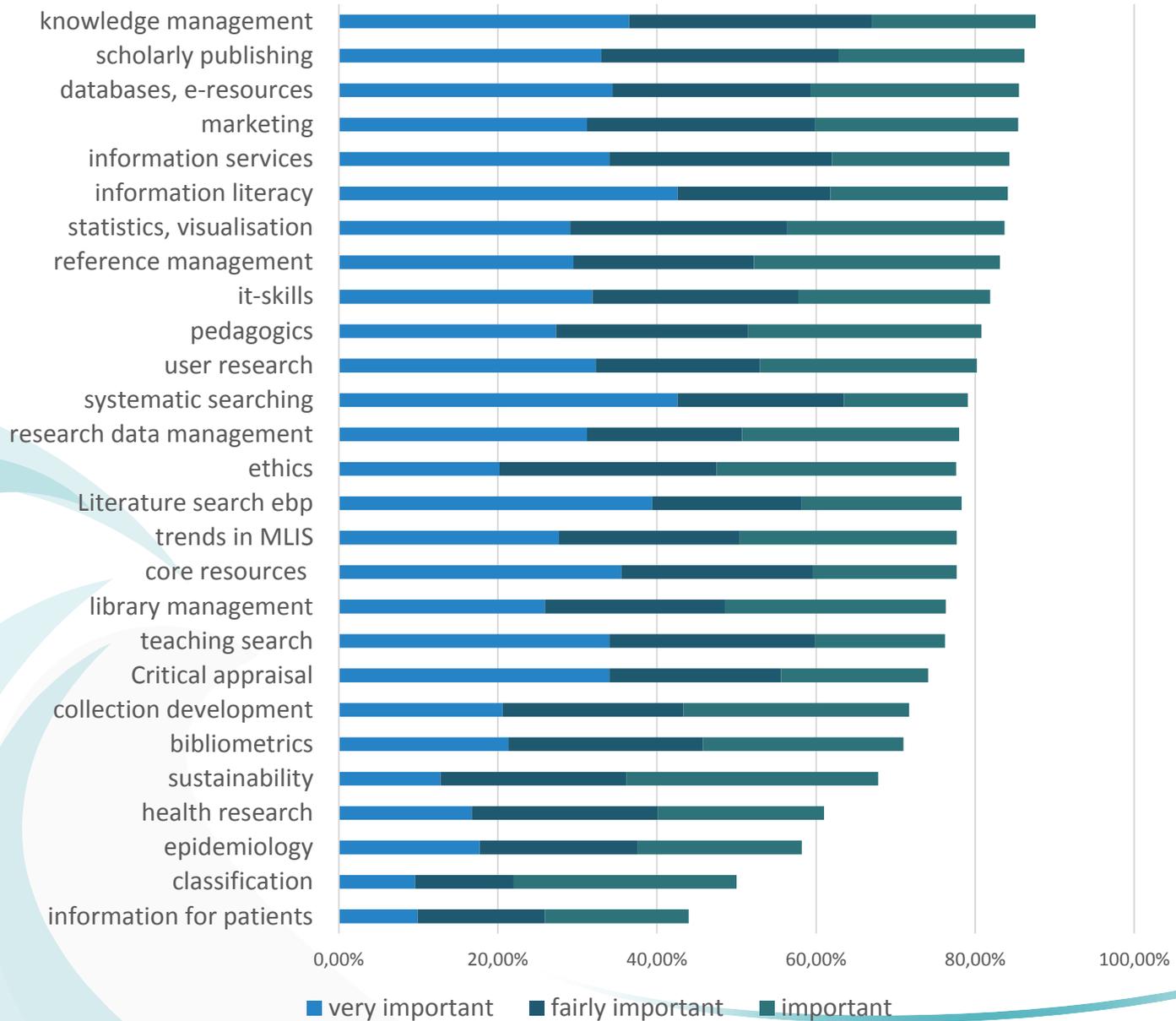
- three group of skills included: generic, LIS and EBM-related
- each group contained large set of individual skills
- “soft skills” were not included in survey
- scale: very important... not important at all

EBM-related skills	LIS skills	Generic skills
Literature search for evidence based practice	information literacy	knowledge management
Critical appraisal	user research	ethics
systematic searching	collection development	scholarly publishing
teaching search	databases, e-resources	pedagogics
health research	library management	sustainability
Epidemiology	information services	marketing
information for patients	research data management	statistics, visualization
trends in MLIS	classification	it-skills
core resources in health science	reference management	
	bibliometrics	

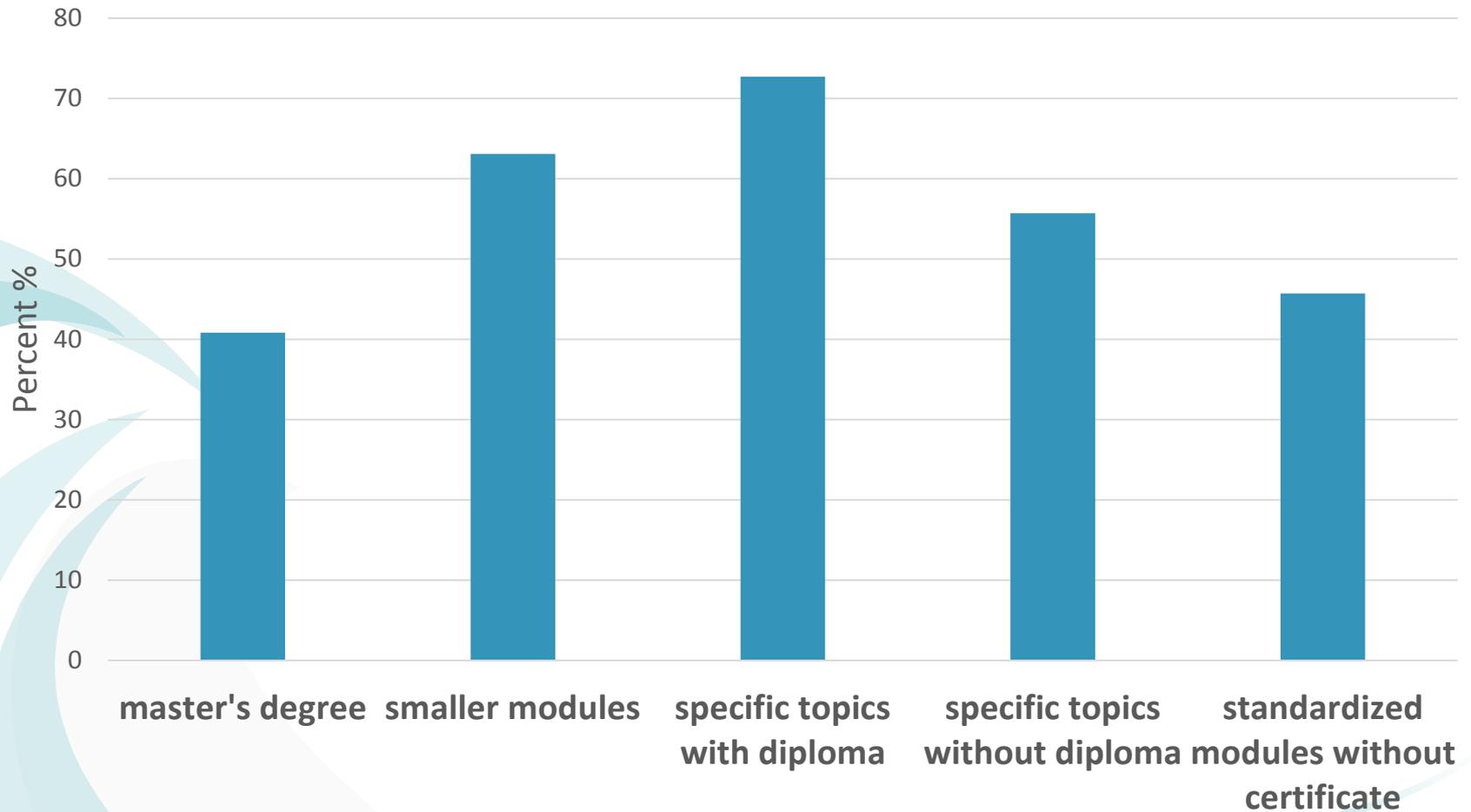
Importance of skills for work



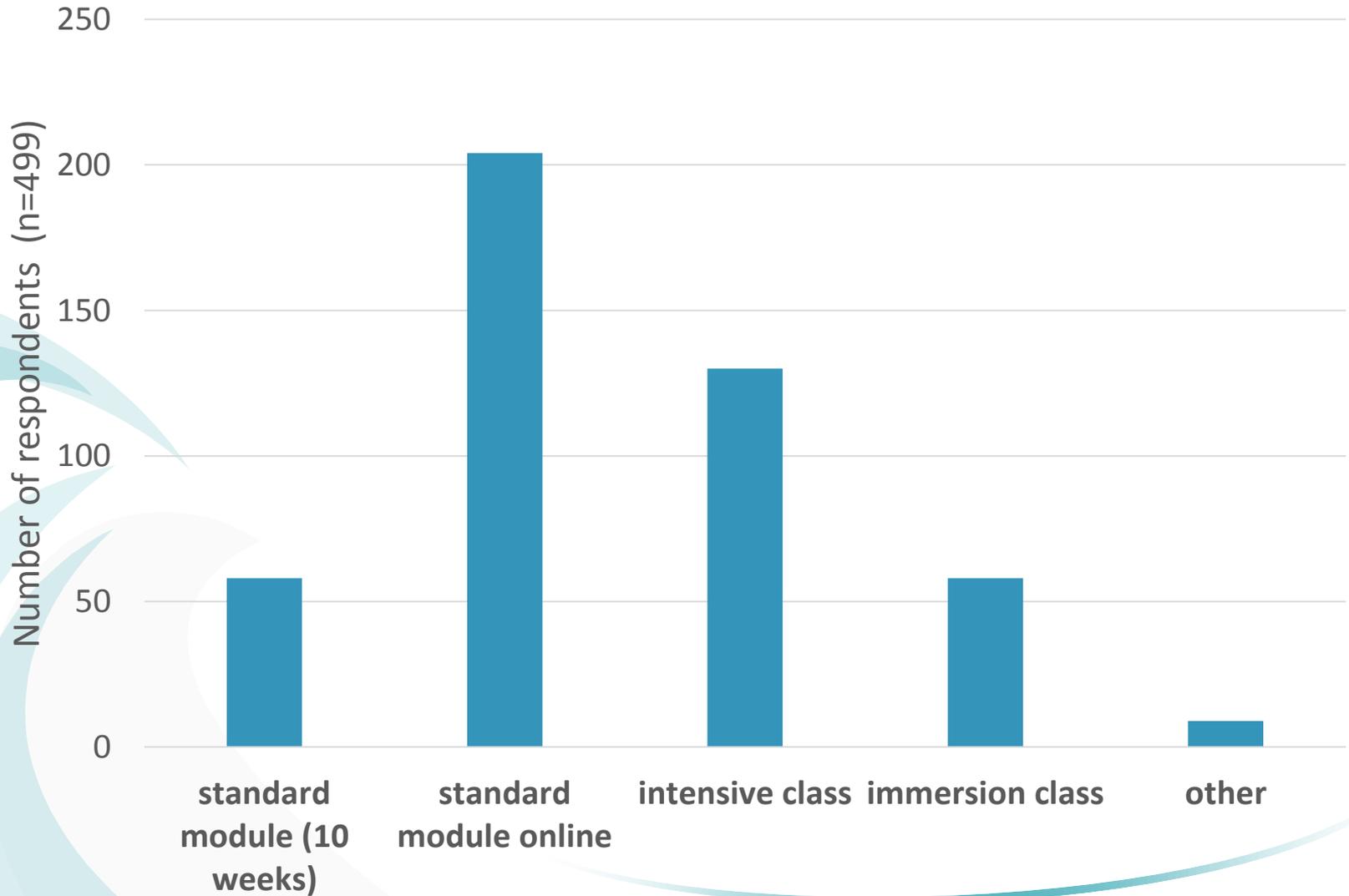
Topics for further education



Scope and format

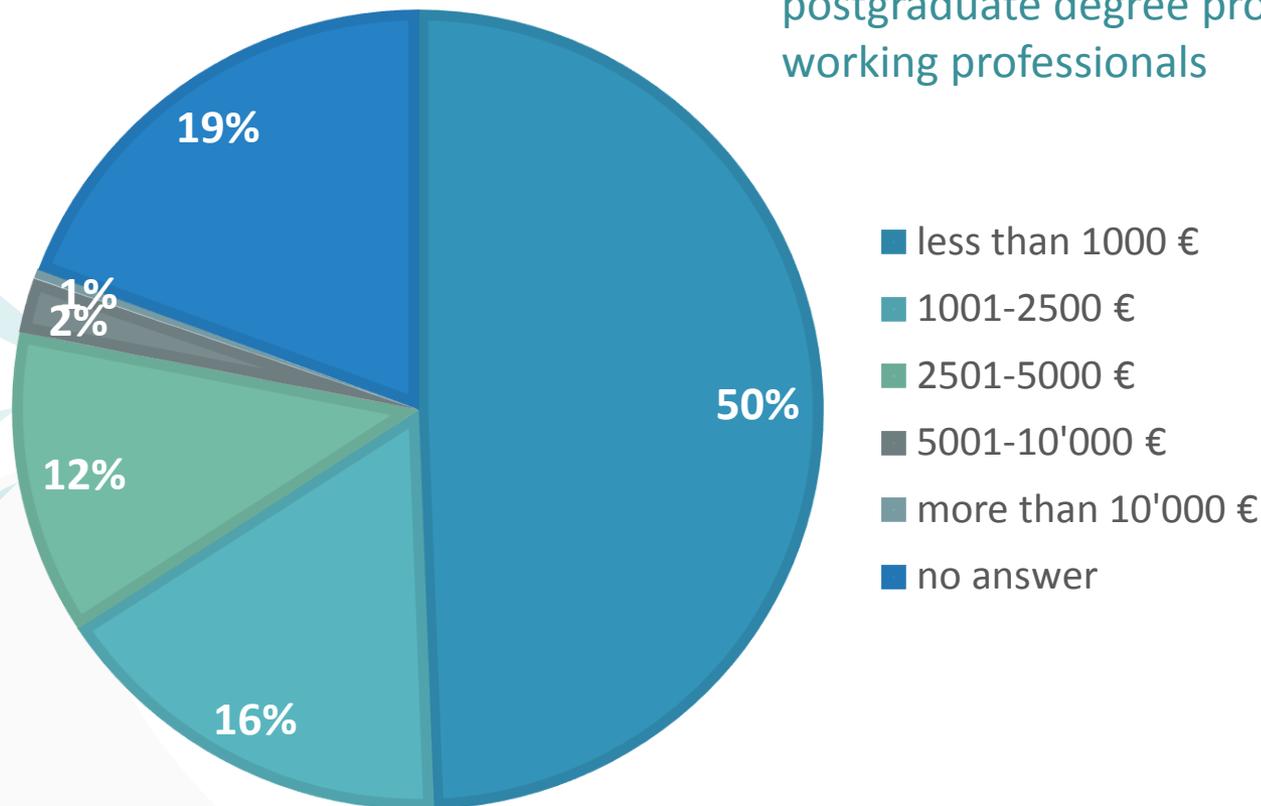


Course delivery format



Readiness to pay for a MAS (60 ECTS)

Master of advanced studies MAS:
postgraduate degree program for
working professionals



Suggestions and remarks

- “The absence of a health background is not necessarily a barrier to excellence in this field of specialization. My arts background has been extremely useful. I have been able to learn the specialized skills and knowledge on the job and through CE opportunities. More ***important than a specialized Masters would be to ensure that professionals are able to travel to conferences and attend CE***”
- “To a large extent, ***we are each responsible for making every day a learning day***, and it's hard to predict all the things you will need to learn for a career: ***versatility, resilience, creativity are aptitudes and attitudes that we need to foster*** in colleagues from the start.”

Conclusions drawn by the authors

- there is substantial demand for further education
- the need for training in general LIS-related topics is higher than in topics related to Evidence Based Medicine
- people prefer standardized (and smaller) online modules that provide a diploma.
- not too expensive
- can be offered in English

Let's reflect and discuss together

- **What are our conclusions**
- About the survey:
 - methodology, e.g. scope, data gathering, survey questions, grouping/selection of skills etc.
 - reporting the results, conclusions drawn by the authors etc.
 - did you answer the survey (6 answers from Finland)?
- About the results:
 - Any surprises?
 - Something missing?
 - Do you agree with the respondents views?
 - How would you like further educate yourselves?

THANK YOU!

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