

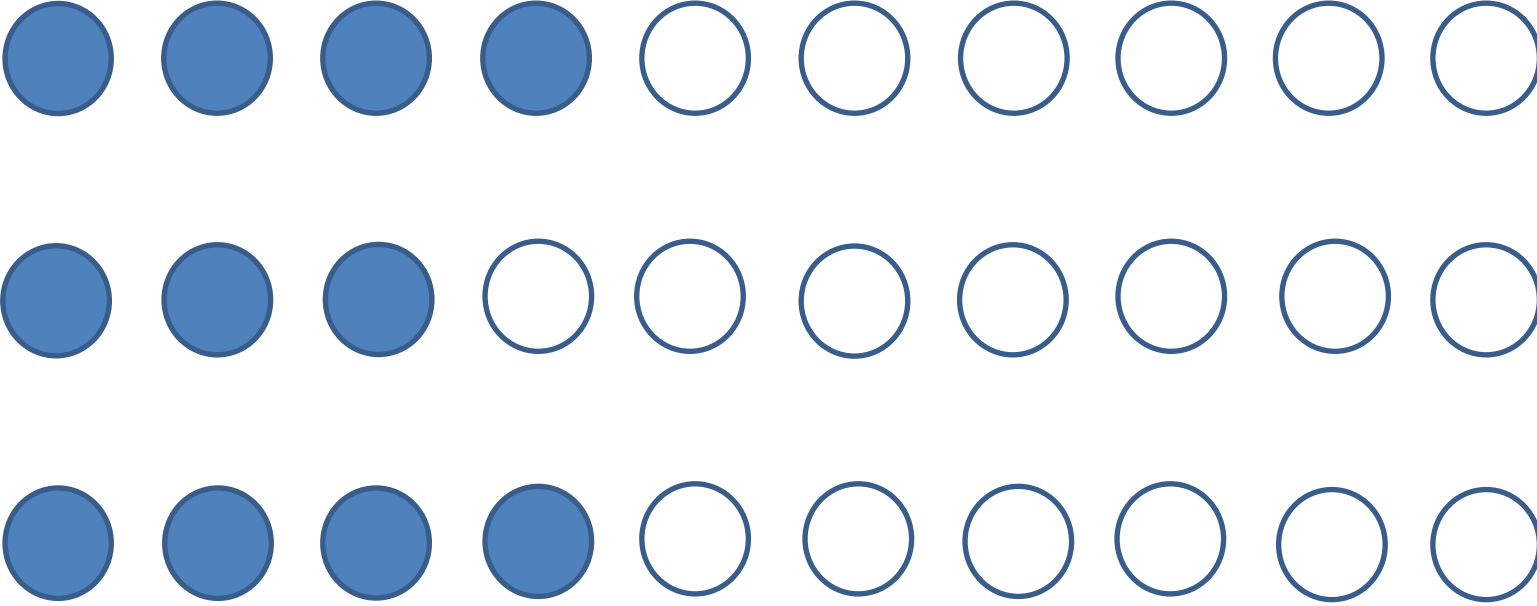
Open Government for Stronger Democracies

Launch of the Global Assessment on Open Government

15 November | 13:00-14:30 CET



Democracies face challenges



Citizens that...

Trust their national government

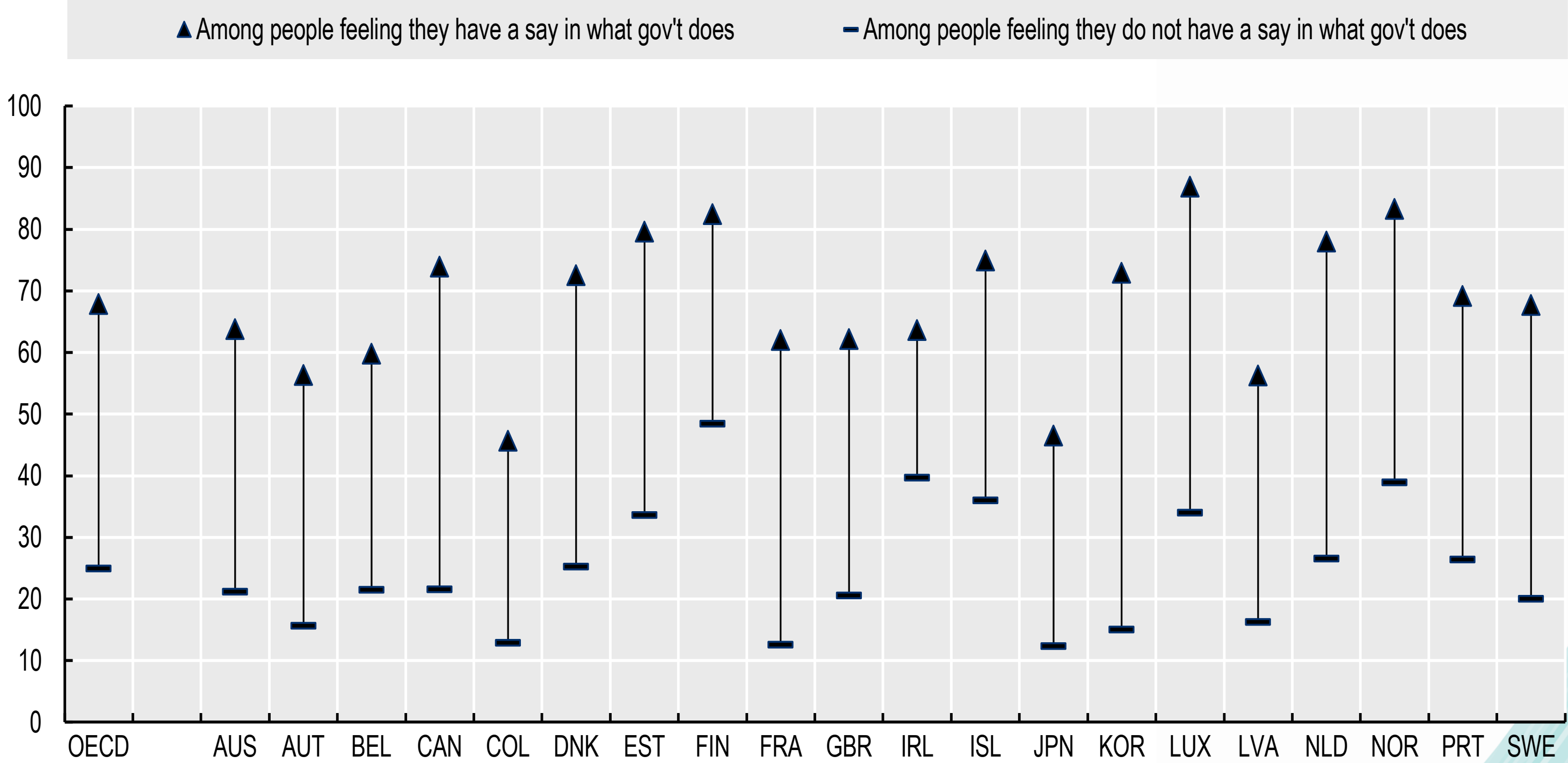
Believe government would adopt opinions expressed in a public consultation

Believe the political system in their country lets them have a say

Source: 2021 OECD Trust Survey

Open government matters for democracy

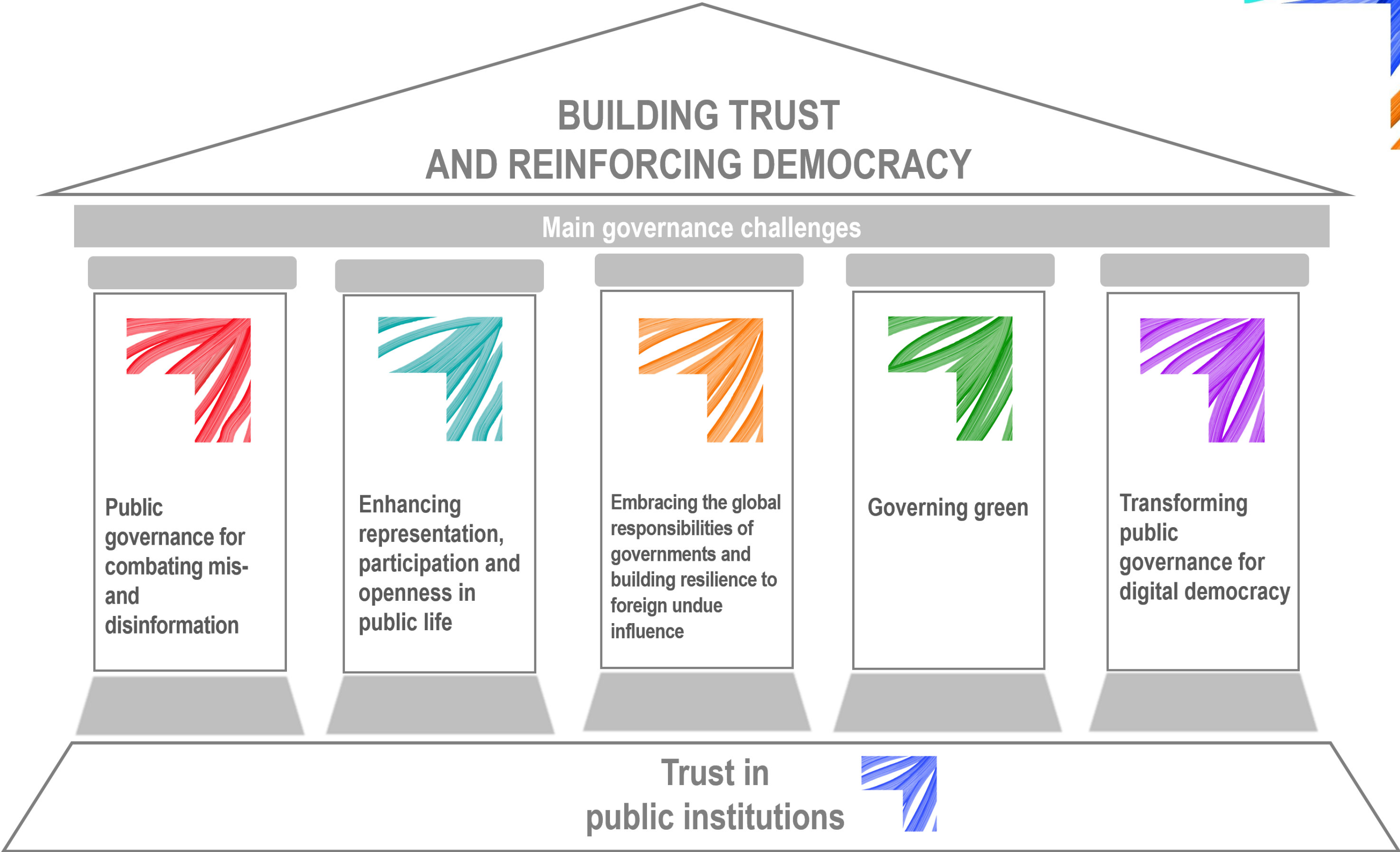
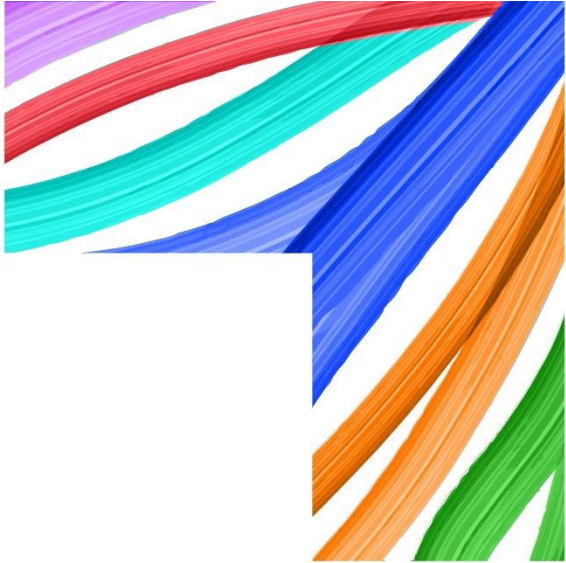
People who feel they have a say in what the government does have also higher trust in government



Note: Share of respondents reporting they trust the national government (responses 6-10 on an 11-point scale) by whether they feel they have a say in what the government does, 2021

Source: OECD Trust Survey (<http://oe.cd/trust>)

OECD Reinforcing Democracy Initiative



The OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government

A tool to strengthen open government

The OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government
The pathway for the first international legal instrument on Open Government

Open government strategies and initiatives are needed more than ever to regain citizens' trust in governments. Countries are increasingly acknowledging the role of Open Government as a catalyst for good governance, democracy and inclusive growth. Open government principles – i.e. transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholders' participation – are progressively changing the relationship between public officials and citizens in many countries. A scan of existing initiatives, however, reveals that there is a diversity of definitions, objectives, and implementation methodologies that characterize open government strategies. The OECD has therefore developed a **Recommendation of the Council on Open Government** that defines a set of criteria that will help adhering countries to design and implement successful open government agendas.

First international legal instrument on Open Government

- Informal Experts Group on Open Government
- 2016 Global Forum on Open Government – attended by 30 Ministers and 50 HOD
- Regional Networks on Open and Innovative Government in IAC, MENA, SEA

Online Public Consultation on the Draft Recommendation

- > 100 participants from 44 different countries
- Input received from NGOs, citizens, government officials, private sector, academia, media
- Remarkable outreach on social media

A firm evidence base for the Recommendation

- 2015 Survey on Open Government – 54 countries (all OECD members)
- 2016 OECD Global Report on Open Government
- 2017 Survey on Ombudsman Institutions

OECD at the forefront of Open Government for 15 years

- Open Government Reviews
- Capacity building seminars
- Open State
- Public Governance Reviews
- 2001 Citizens as Partners

Rationale for developing the Recommendation and its scope

1. Ensure that open government principles are rooted in the public management culture;
2. Identify an enabling environment that is conducive to an efficient, effective and integrated governance of open government;
3. Promote the alignment of open government strategies and initiatives with, and their contribution to, all relevant national and sectoral socio-economic policy objectives, at all levels of the administration;
4. Foster monitoring and evaluation practices and data collection.

Process for developing the Draft Recommendation

November 2016 (54th PGC):
• Establishment of the Informal experts group on Open Government comprising 16 OECD Members and Partners

December 2016:
• Launch of the OECD Report on Open Government: *the Global Context and the Way Forward*

March 2017:
• First meeting of the Informal Experts Group to inform the development of the Recommendation

July – September 2017:
• Online public consultation

December 2017:
• Council adoption

- **Adopted in 2017** by the OECD Council, following a public consultation
- **First and only international legal instrument** on Open Government
- 10 Provisions that provide a framework for both the **governance and implementation** of Adherents' open government agendas
- **Adherents:** OECD Members + Argentina, Brazil, Morocco, Romania, Tunisia

THE REPORT

Open Government for Stronger Democracies



The Report: Open Government for Stronger Democracies

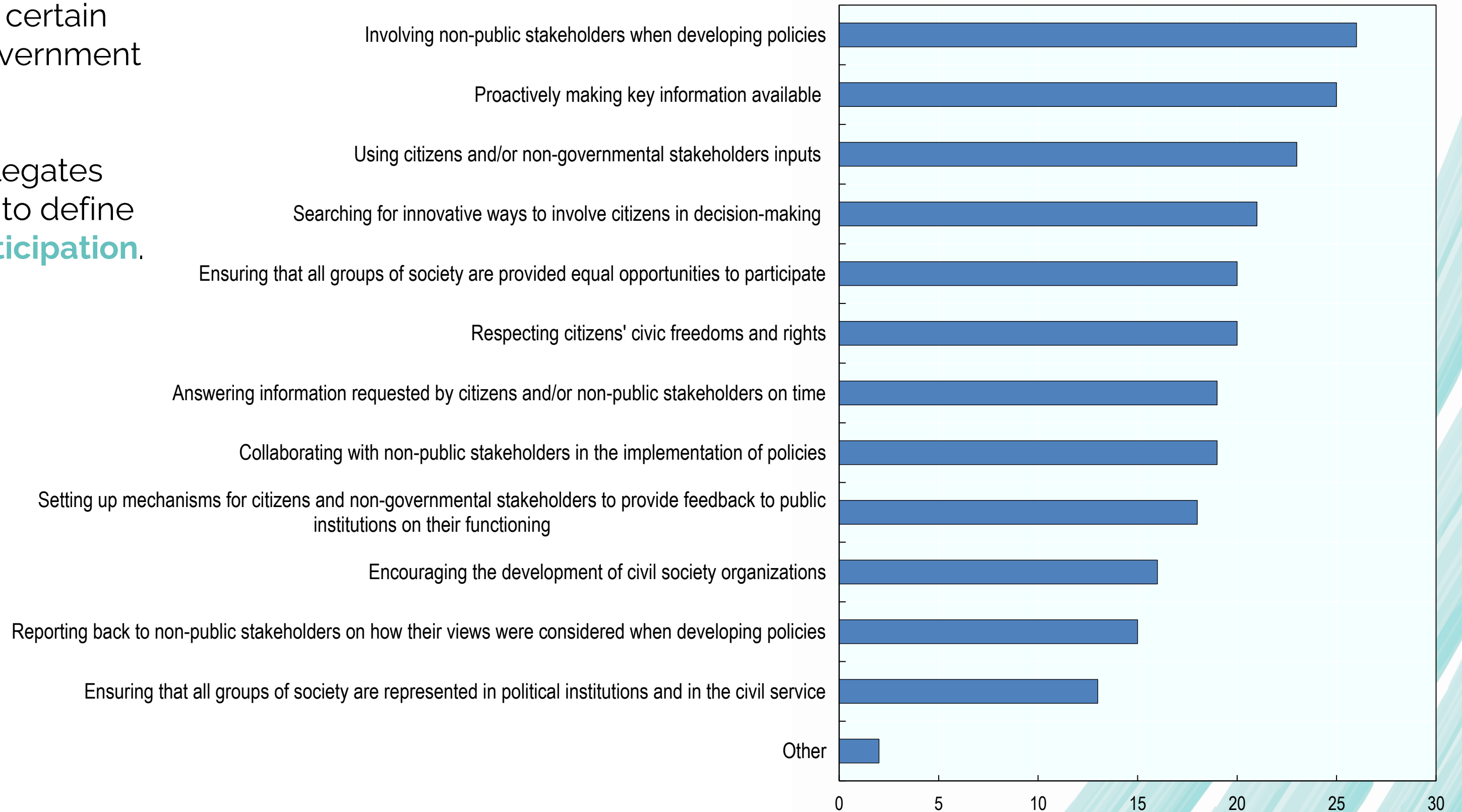
Methodology and process

Objective	Desk research & partnerships	Benchmarking & Data Collection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation progress against the 10 Provisions of the OECD Recommendation on Open Government• Suggestions to foster implementation• Involved committees: WPOG and PGC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publicly available information & existing research (academics, other IOs, etc.)• Legislations, policy documents, action plans• Collaboration with OGP and other key players (European Agency for Fundamental Rights, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OECD Survey on Open Government (2020)• OECD Perception Survey on the relevance of the Recommendation for Delegates of the Working Party on Open Government (2021)• Results of >20 OECD Open Government Reviews and Scans

Open government is widely recognised as an umbrella concept

The relevance of certain areas of open government has increased.

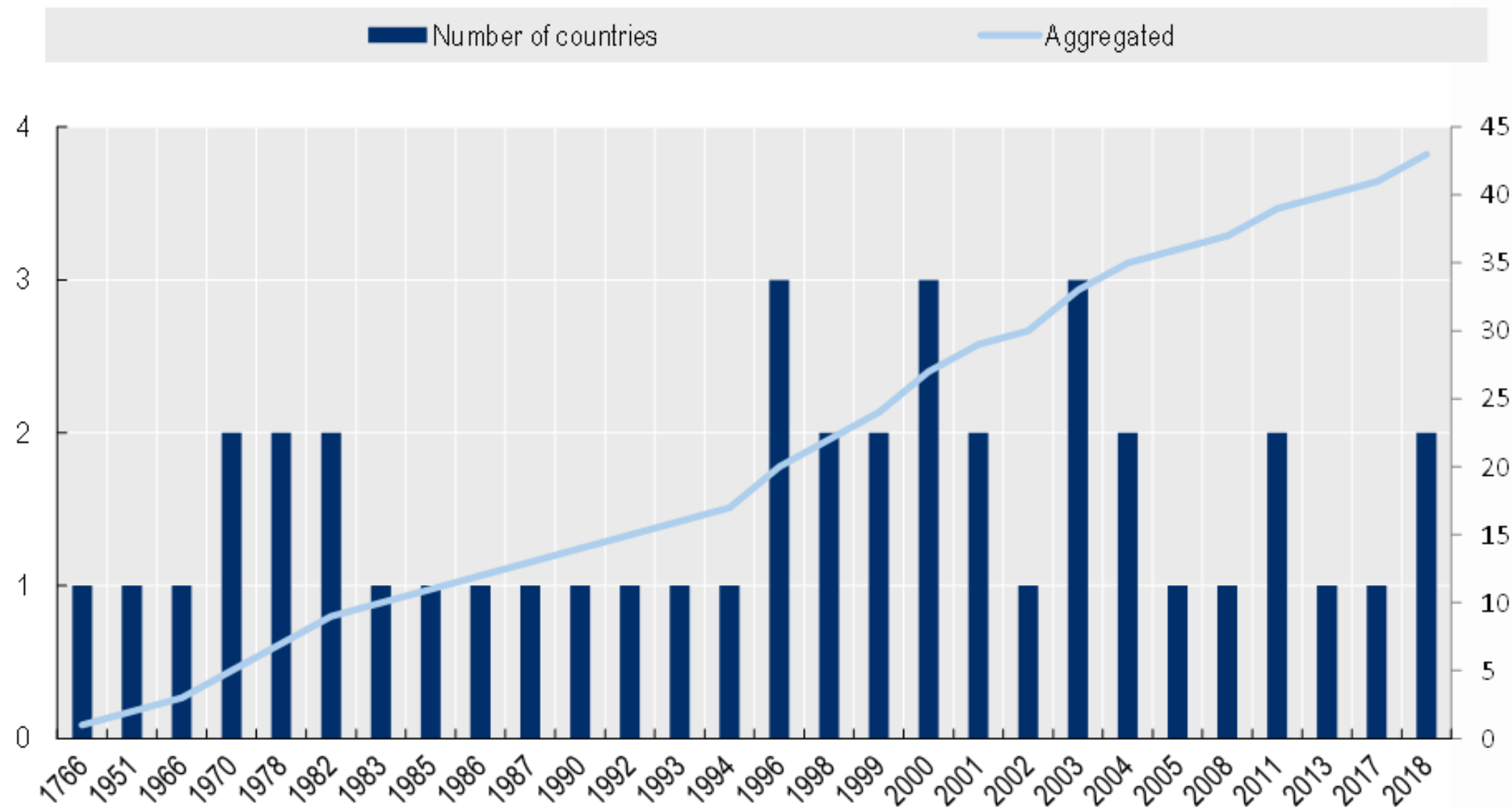
Overall, most Delegates selected options to define openness as **participation**.



Note: N=32

Countries are increasingly opening their governments to citizens' inputs and scrutiny

Evolution of the adoption of Access to Information laws by Adherents, 1766-2018

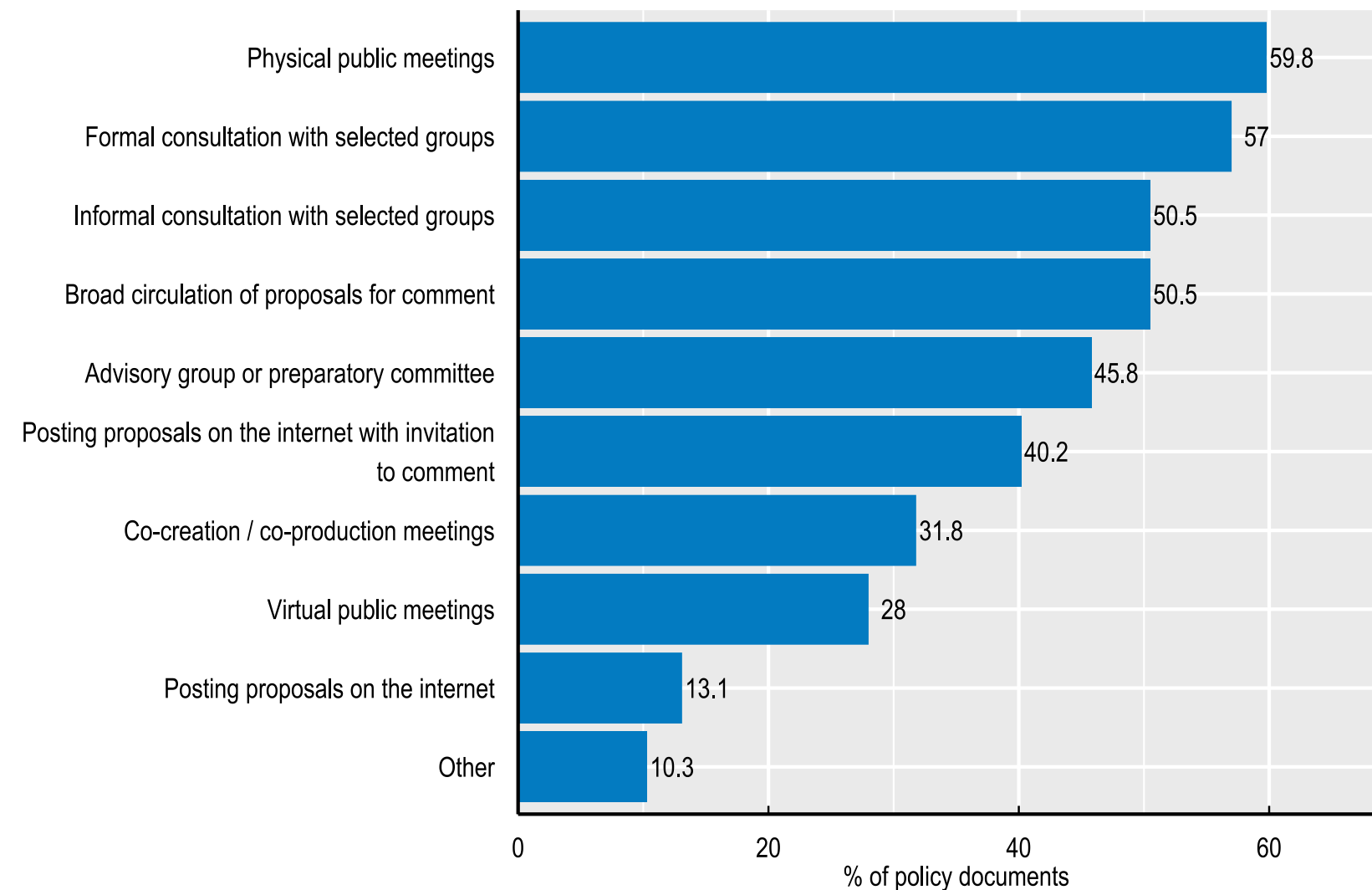


Access to Information, some forms of participation (e.g. referenda) and protection of civic space (e.g. freedom of speech and peaceful protest) are largely present in Adherent's constitutions.

Source: Author, based on Global Right to Information Rating, "By country", <https://www.rti-rating.org/country-data/> (accessed on 16 December 2021).

Countries are increasingly opening their governments to citizens' inputs and scrutiny

Channels used to involve non-public stakeholders in developing the main policy documents on open government in Adherents

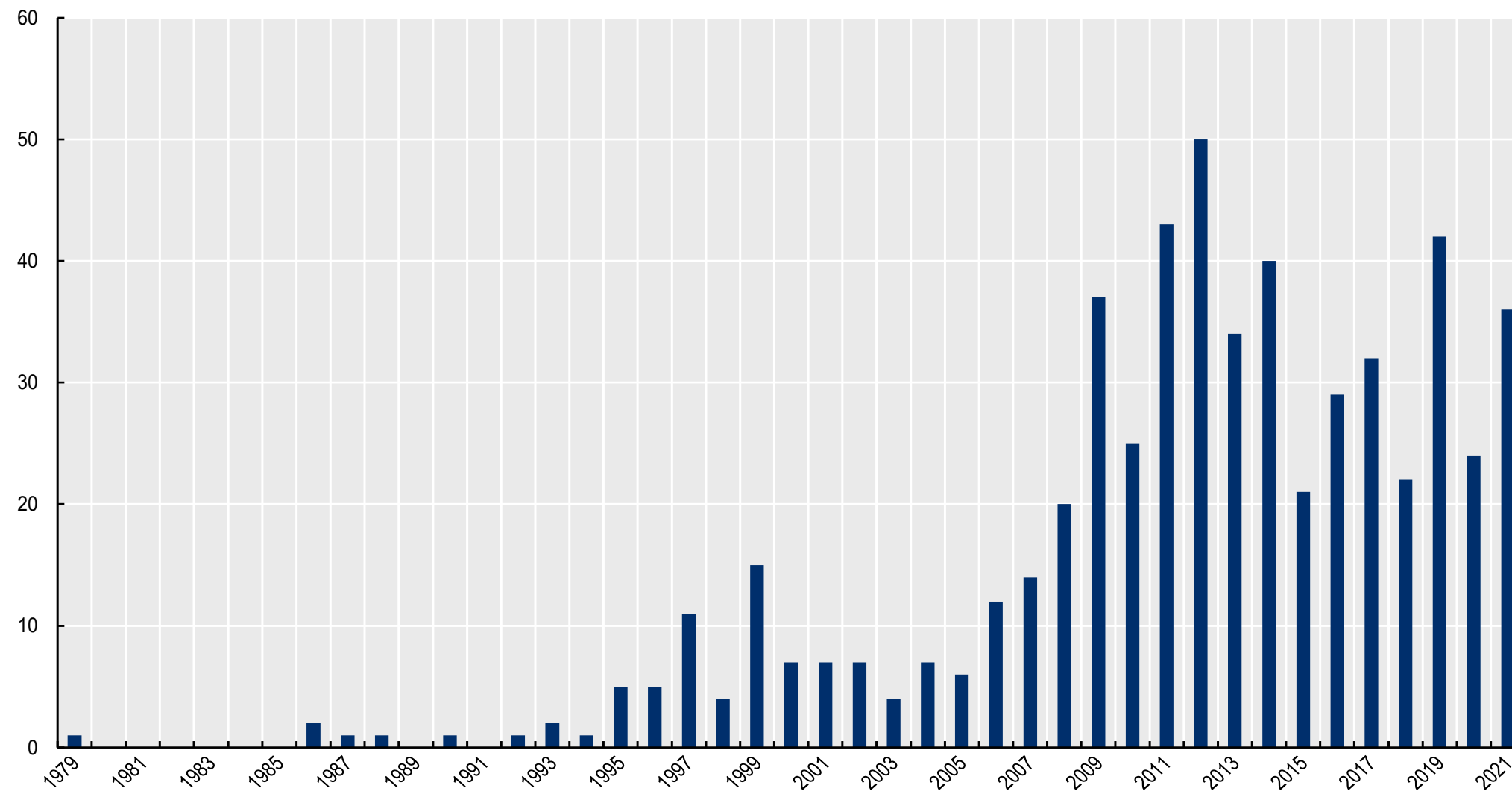


All Adherents are involving citizens and stakeholders at some point of their open government policy cycles. However, there is a tendency for **engaging relatively late in the design process and rarely during implementation.**

Note: N=37 for 107 policy documents. Multiple selection possible.
Source: OECD (2021), 2020 Survey on Open Government

Countries are increasingly **opening** their governments to **citizens' inputs and scrutiny**

The deliberative wave has been building



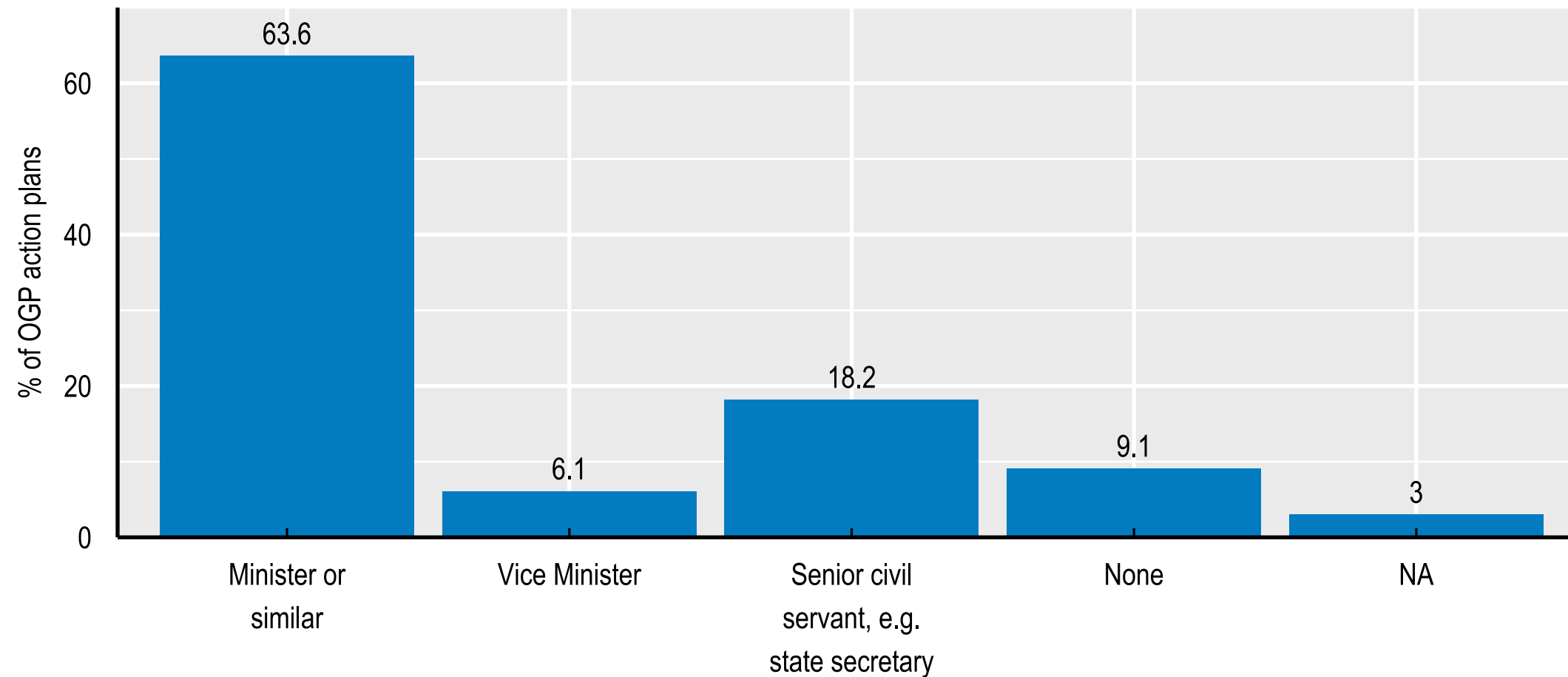
New and innovative ways to involve citizens and stakeholders are emerging across Adherents (e.g. representative deliberative processes, participatory budgeting, open innovation, etc.).

Number of representative deliberative processes over time, 1979-2021

Source: OECD (2021), Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions.

The OGP has played a key role in shaping the global open government movement

High-level representative overseeing the OGP Action Plan



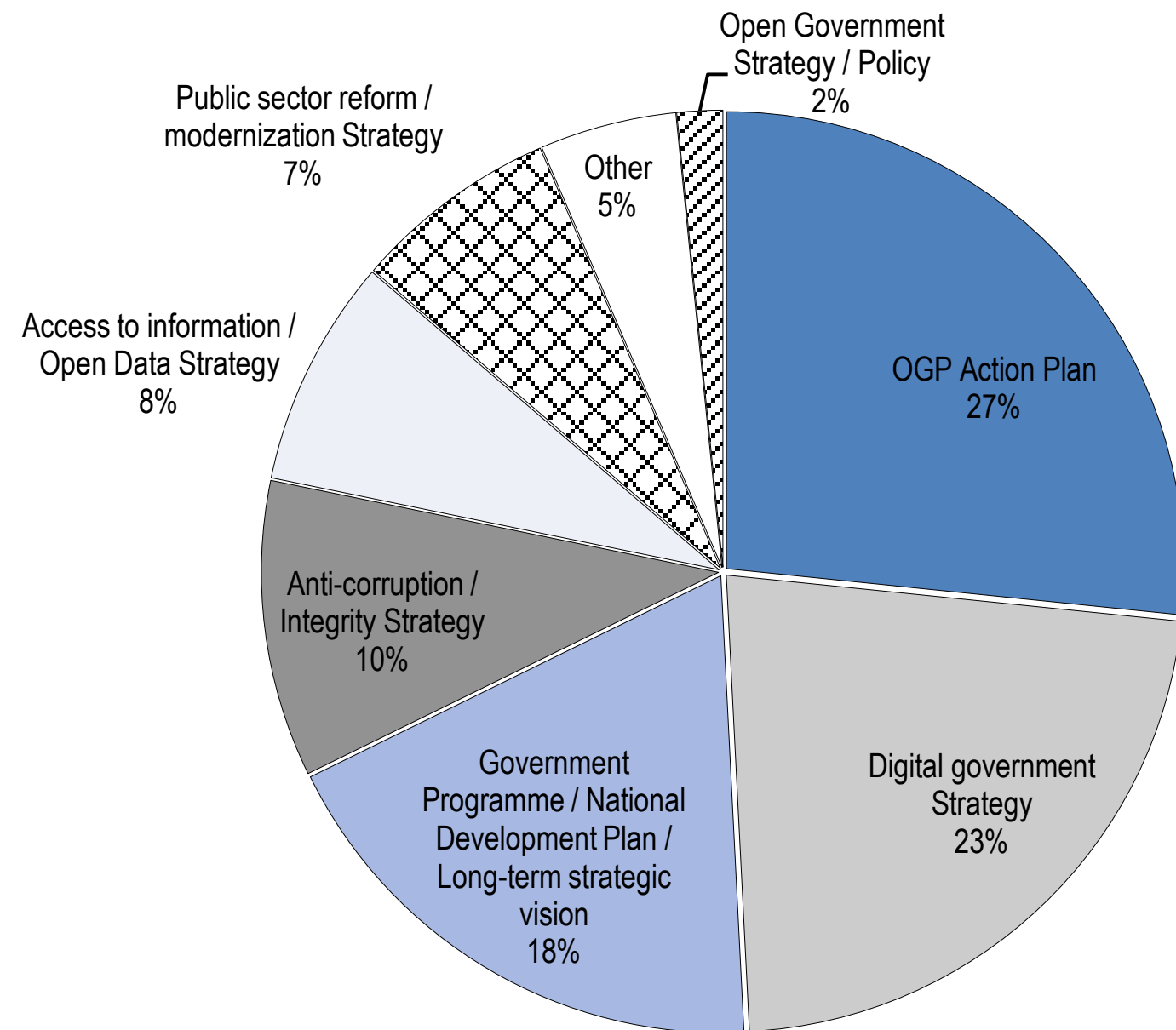
Adherents have taken initial steps to ensure high-level support for open government.

Greater, broader and long-term commitment is needed.

Note: Author's categorisation based on open text response. N=33.
Source: OECD (2021), 2020 Survey on Open Government

The OGP has played a key role in shaping the global open government movement

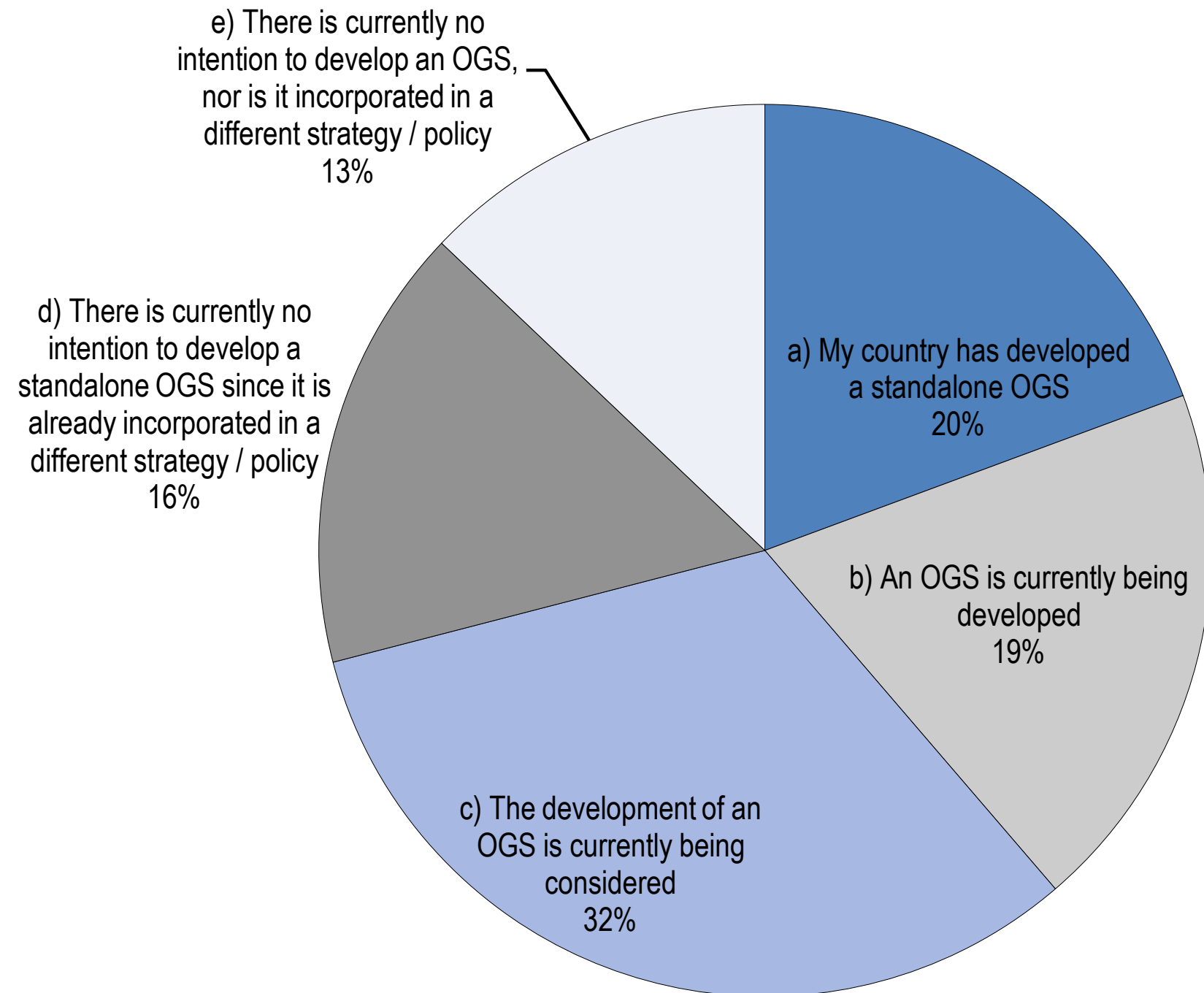
Main policy documents promoting open government policies and practices at the level of the central government (up to 5 per Adherent)



All Adherents are taking dedicated measures to develop and implement policy agendas that aim to promote the open government principles. **However, they often don't "add-up and scale-up" (S. Pradhan).**

Note: Data is shown as % of policy documents. Based on 124 policy documents by 38 Adherents.
Source: OECD (2021), 2020 Survey on Open Government

Some pioneering countries are moving towards integrated open government agendas



Some pioneering Adherents are moving towards integrated open government agendas.

20% of countries already have an Open Government Strategy.

Note: N=32.

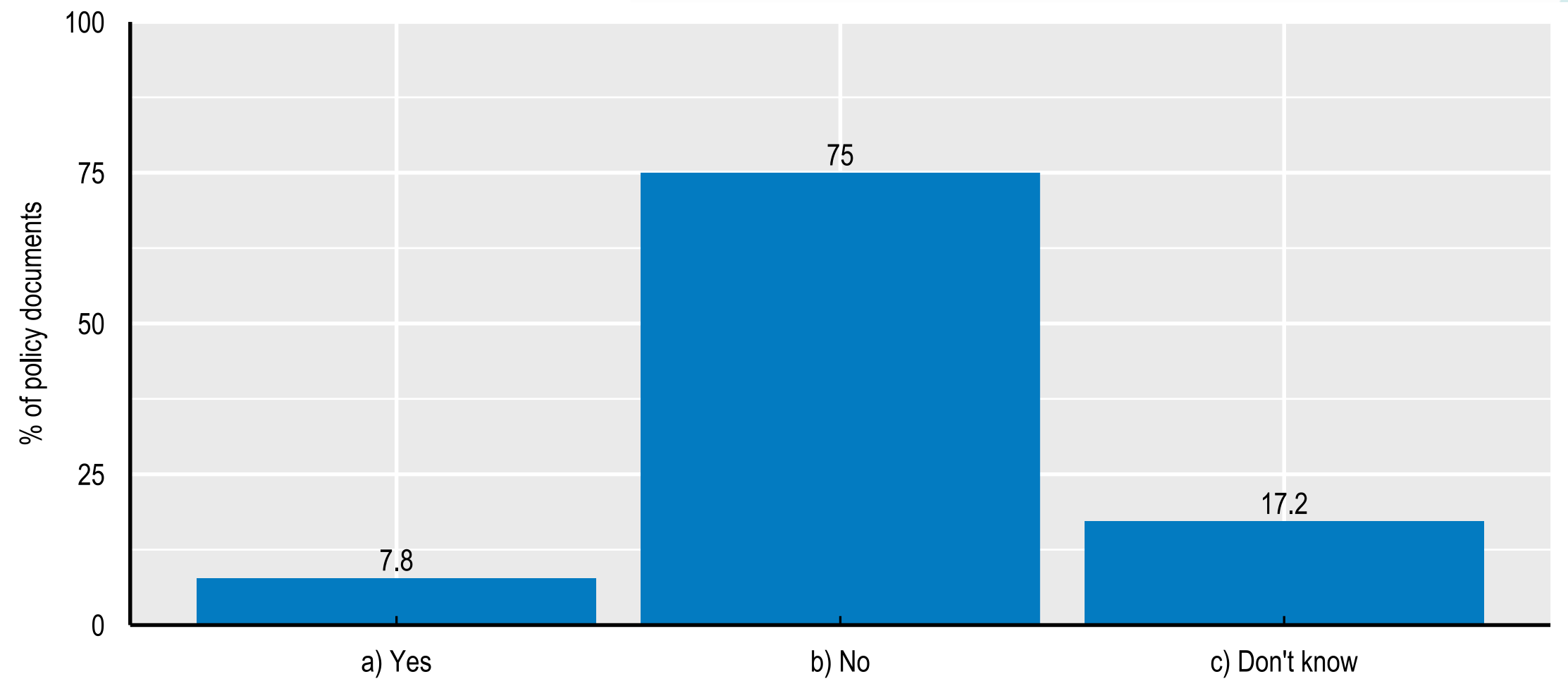
Source: OECD (2021), Perception Survey for Delegates of the OECD Working Party on Open Government.

Medium- and long-term impacts of open government policies and practices are not yet fully documented

Almost 9 in 10 policy documents' implementation is monitored.

But evaluating outcomes and impact remains rare.

Share of policy documents with impact evaluation

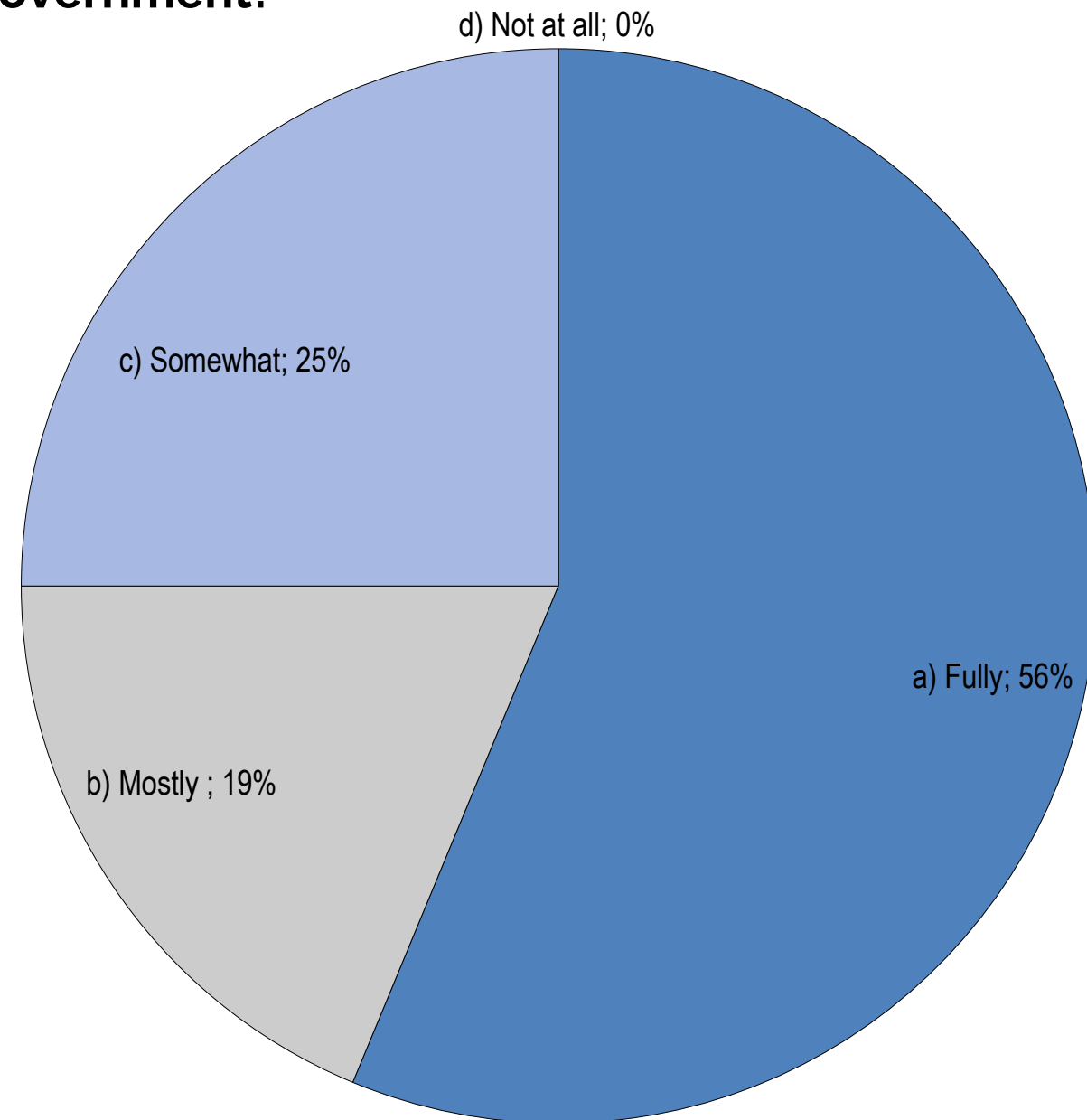


Note: N=37 for 116 policy documents.

Source: OECD (2021), 2020 Survey on Open Government

Civic space is now widely recognised as a pre-condition for an open government.

Do you feel that the protection of civic space is relevant to your work on open government?"



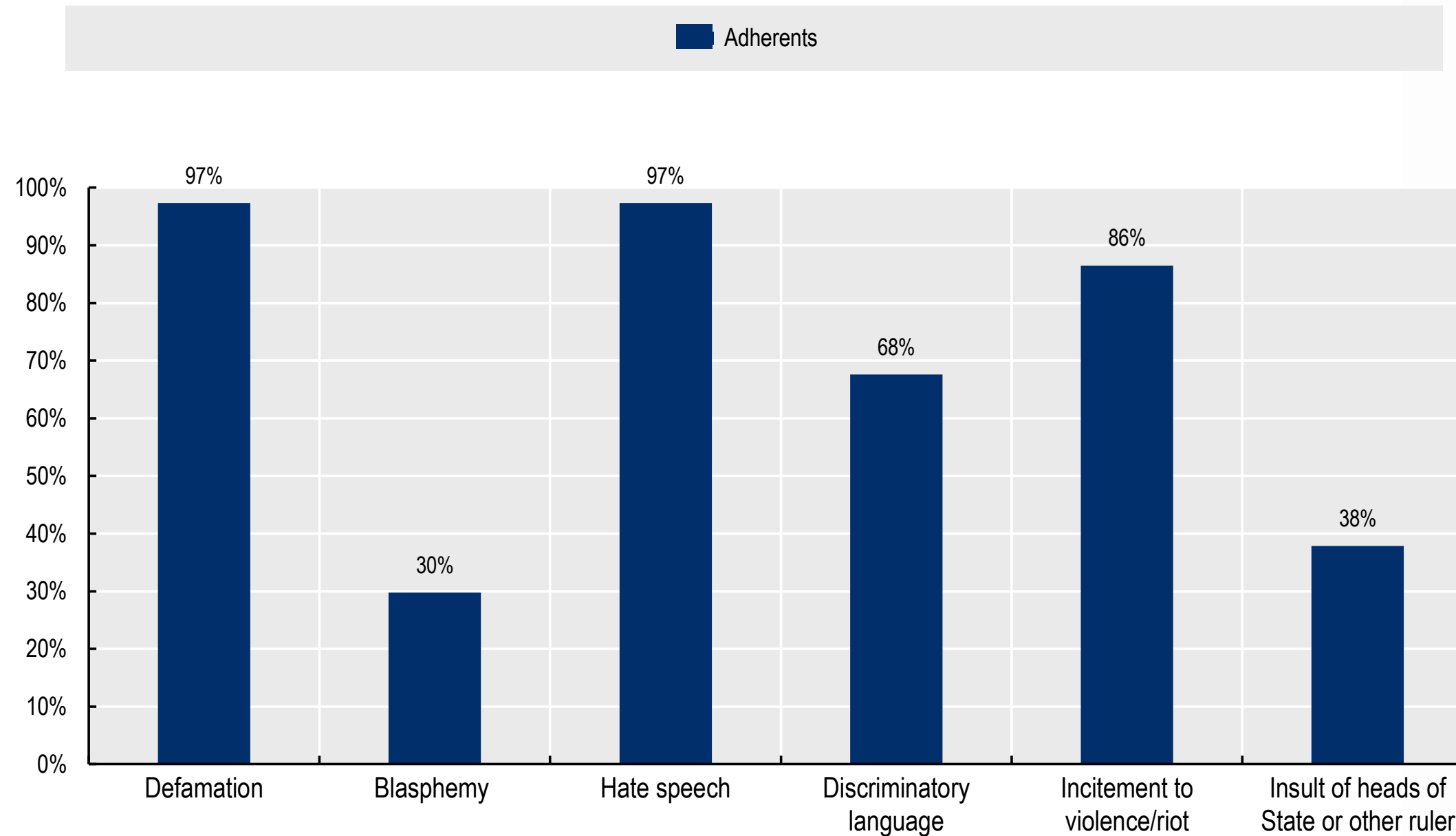
Respondents acknowledge the relevance of civic space for open government, but the links to the open government agendas can be strengthened

Note: N=32

Source: 2021 Perception Survey among Delegates to the Working Party on Open Government

Civic space frameworks have been strengthened

Legally mandated exceptions to freedom of expression, 2020



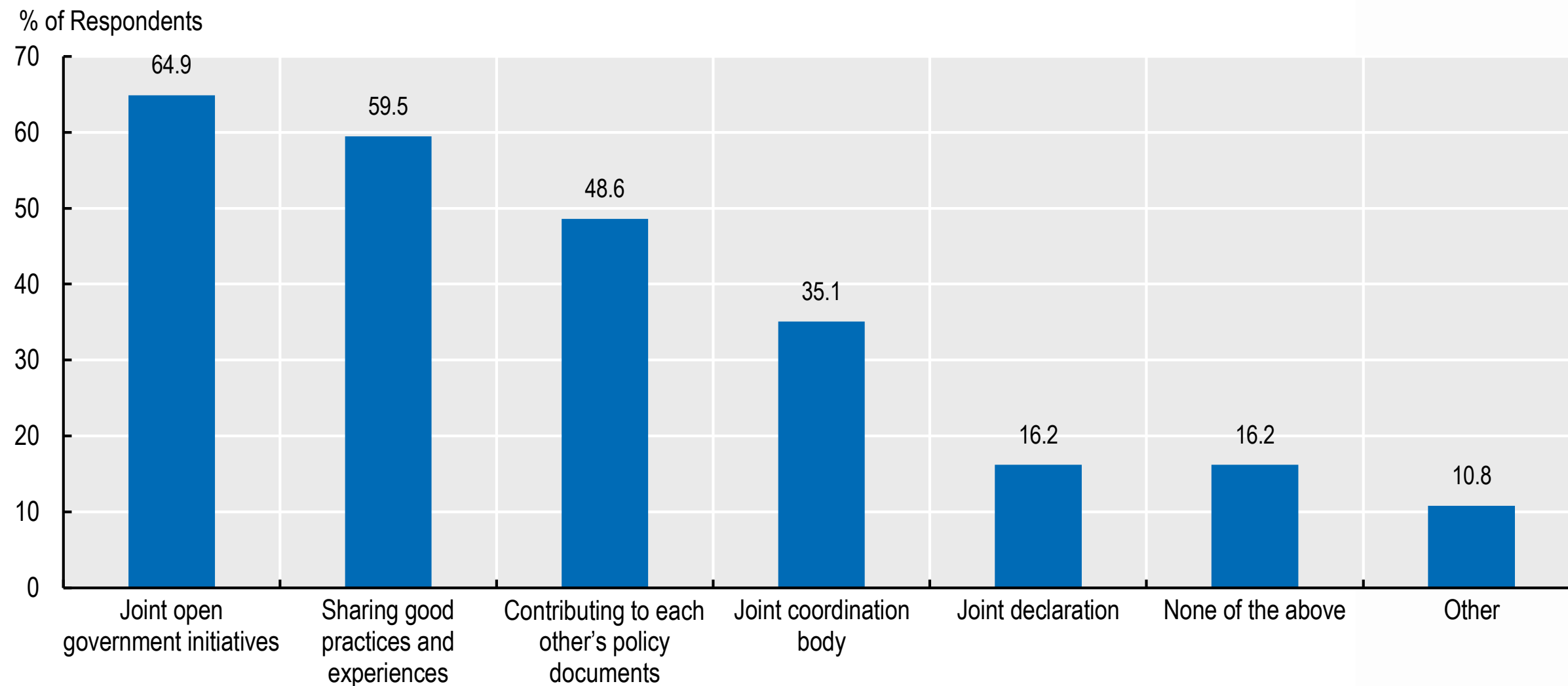
The foundations are strong, but legal gaps and implementation challenges **can threaten civic space.**

Note: N=37

Source: OECD (2021), 2020 Survey on Open Government

The open government movement is gradually transitioning towards new horizons

Open state initiatives in Respondents



Adherents recognise that open government strategies and initiatives are a shared responsibility of all branches and levels of government

Note: N=37

Source: OECD (2021), 2020 Survey on Open Government

CONCLUSION



The Recommendation remains the **only legal instrument** in the area of open government

The Recommendation has proven its relevance as it:

- Covers essential areas to enhance **openness**
- Constitutes a key component of the **OECD Reinforcing Democracy Initiative** and **the Action Plan on Enhancing Representation, Participation, and Openness in Public Life**
- Provided impetus to bring the global open government movement to **new frontiers**, including by introducing new concepts such as “**Open State**”
- Allowed for the exploration of new topics, such as the protection and promotion of **civic space and innovative citizen participation** practices under the umbrella of Adherents’ open government work.

Key recommendations moving forward

1

Foster sustainable long-term commitment to open government

2

Continue making efforts to protect and promote access to information

3

Implement additional reforms and measures to ensure the sustainability, inclusion, quality, and impact of participatory processes

4

Foster and institutionalise mechanisms for public accountability

5

Pursue efforts to design and implement comprehensive and integrated open government strategies.

6

Continue to protect and promote civic space as a key enabler of open government reforms.

7

Ramp up efforts to measure, monitor and evaluate the impacts that open government reforms are having.

8

Continue the move towards an open state, broadening open government reforms beyond the executive branch

The way forward: Priorities of the OECD

Working Paper on
Participation,
Representation and
Civic Tech

The OECD Practical
Guide for
Policymakers on
Protecting and
Promoting Civic
Space

Linking Public
Communication
and Open
Government

The OECD Citizen
Participation Index

The OECD Maturity
Models for Access
to Information

Thank you

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