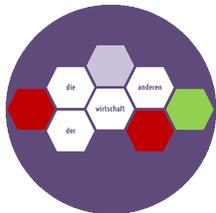


# Are we there yet?

How practitioners, multipliers and the public perceive the status  
and perspectives of a new economy

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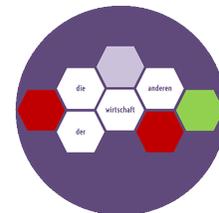
5th International Degrowth Conference  
Budapest, 01.09.2016  
Jana Gebauer



# Background

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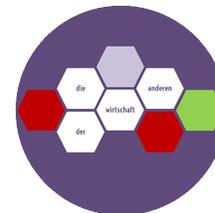
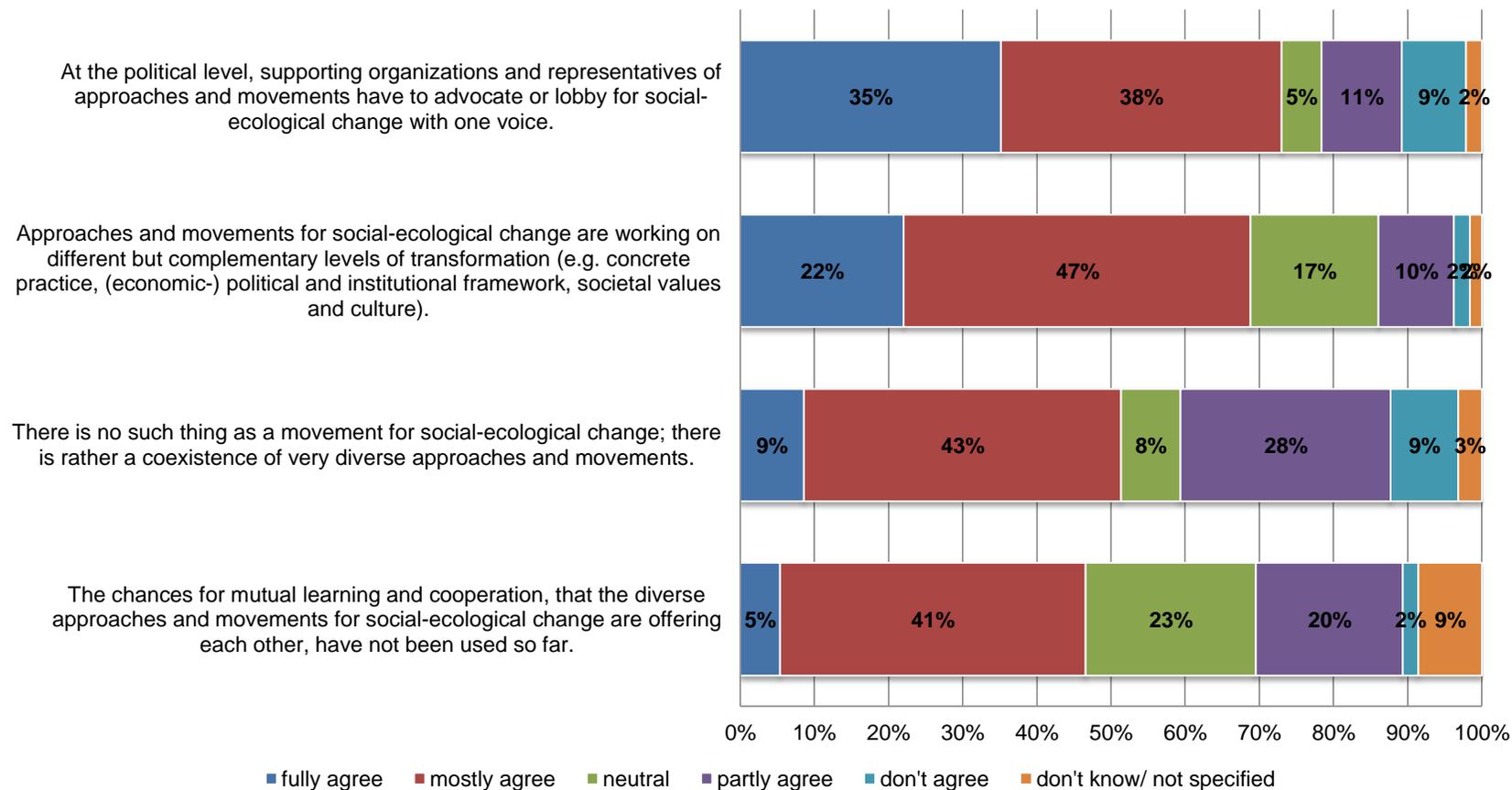
- SOLIKON 2015 – Week of change and Solidarity Economy and Transformation Conference
- 05. – 13. September 2015, Technical University Berlin
- organized by Forum Solidarity Economy, RIPESS Europe, Center for Technology and Society
- 300 speakers, 1,150 participants – activists, practitioners, multipliers, interested people
- evaluation: feedback as well as thematic discussions regarding status and perspectives of an alternative economic model
  - face-to-face interviews: 19 participants (activists and practitioners)
  - online-survey: 249/ 22% (177/ 15%) participants



# No, we're not "there", yet – we'd generally need more cooperation and one voice

How do you perceive the following statements?

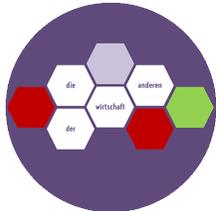
N = 186



## ... supported by interviewees

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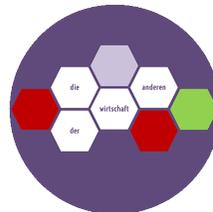
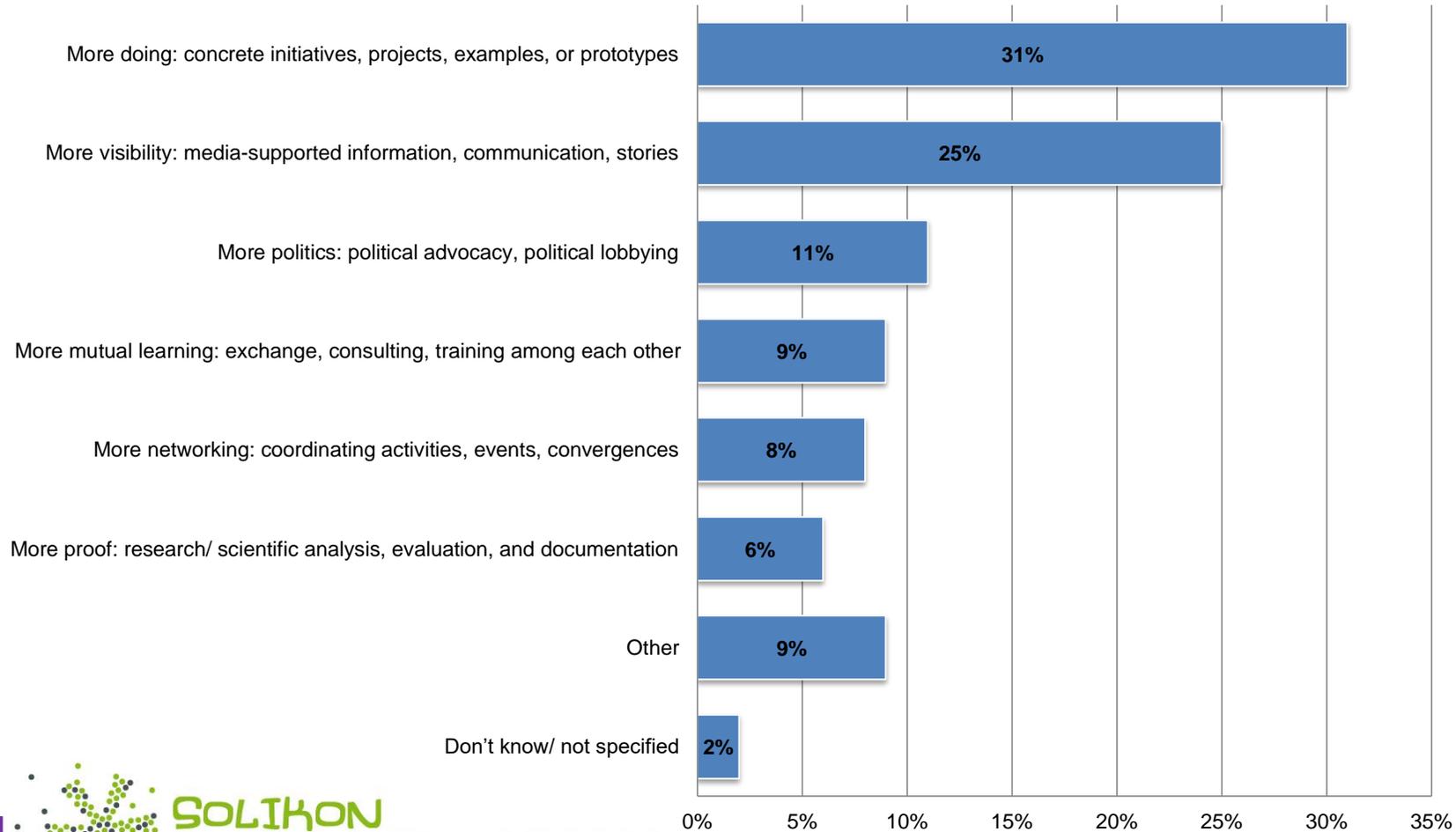
- so far, it's definitely a niche
  - far too few actors and initiatives & only limited visibility
  - their innovations and approaches are often hijacked and absorbed by “the normal economy”
- within the niche, actors, initiatives and movements are not sufficiently interconnected
  - limited exchange, learning, cooperation
  - hardly constructive discussions of commonalities – rather of distinctions and differentiations
  - occasions for joint action are rarely used
- this de-centrality and segmentation might foster the resilience of the niche – but the overall impact is very limited
- real cooperation – practically and politically – is necessary
  - but it needs to be of use to those involved, otherwise it's only time-consuming
  - networking is more important than growth of single actors



# But first we need to become more & more visible

In the current state of development, what would most effectively support the diffusion of ideas of an alternative economy for social-ecological change?

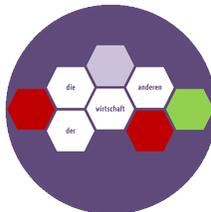
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## But first we need to become more & more visible

“It’s not enough to declare: ‘we want to have another economic system/ society’ - we have to practice it.

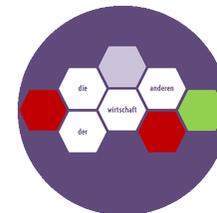
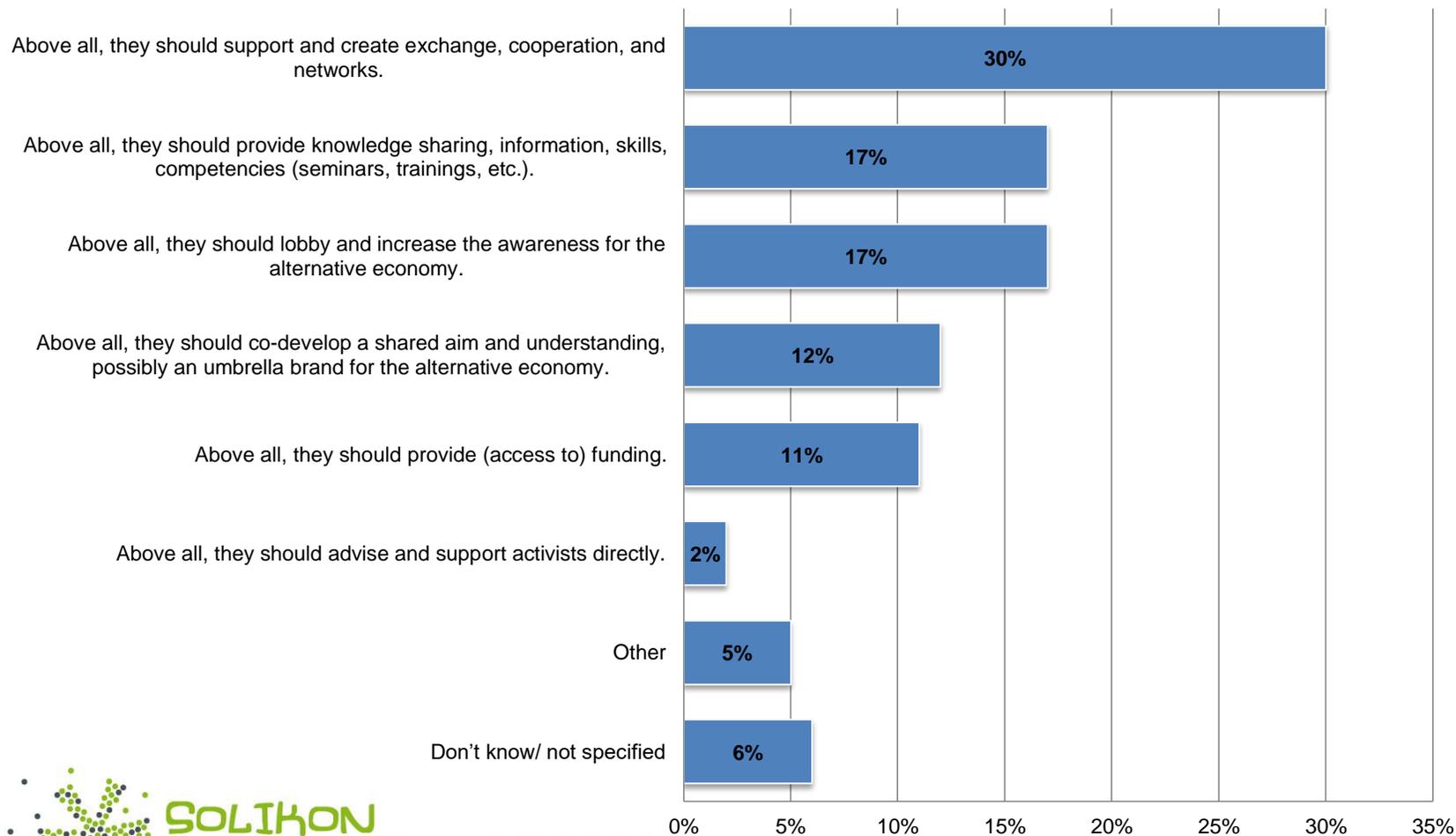
And then, by the pure testimony, we're living an example to convince people that it's actually possible.”



# Than, multipliers should support cooperation, knowledge sharing, and lobbying

What should be the primary contribution of multipliers [...] to support the activists of an alternative economy for a social-ecological change most efficiently and most effectively?

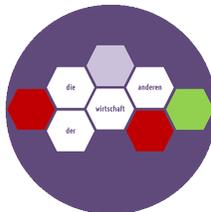
N = 186



## Then, multipliers should support cooperation, knowledge sharing, and lobbying

“The practitioners don’t have to do this [advocating work] themselves – it’s always voluntary to act politically – but [they] have to become aware of the fact that they act within framework conditions that can be changed and that they can contribute to it themselves.

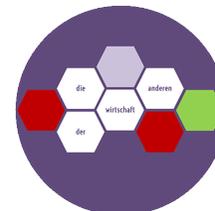
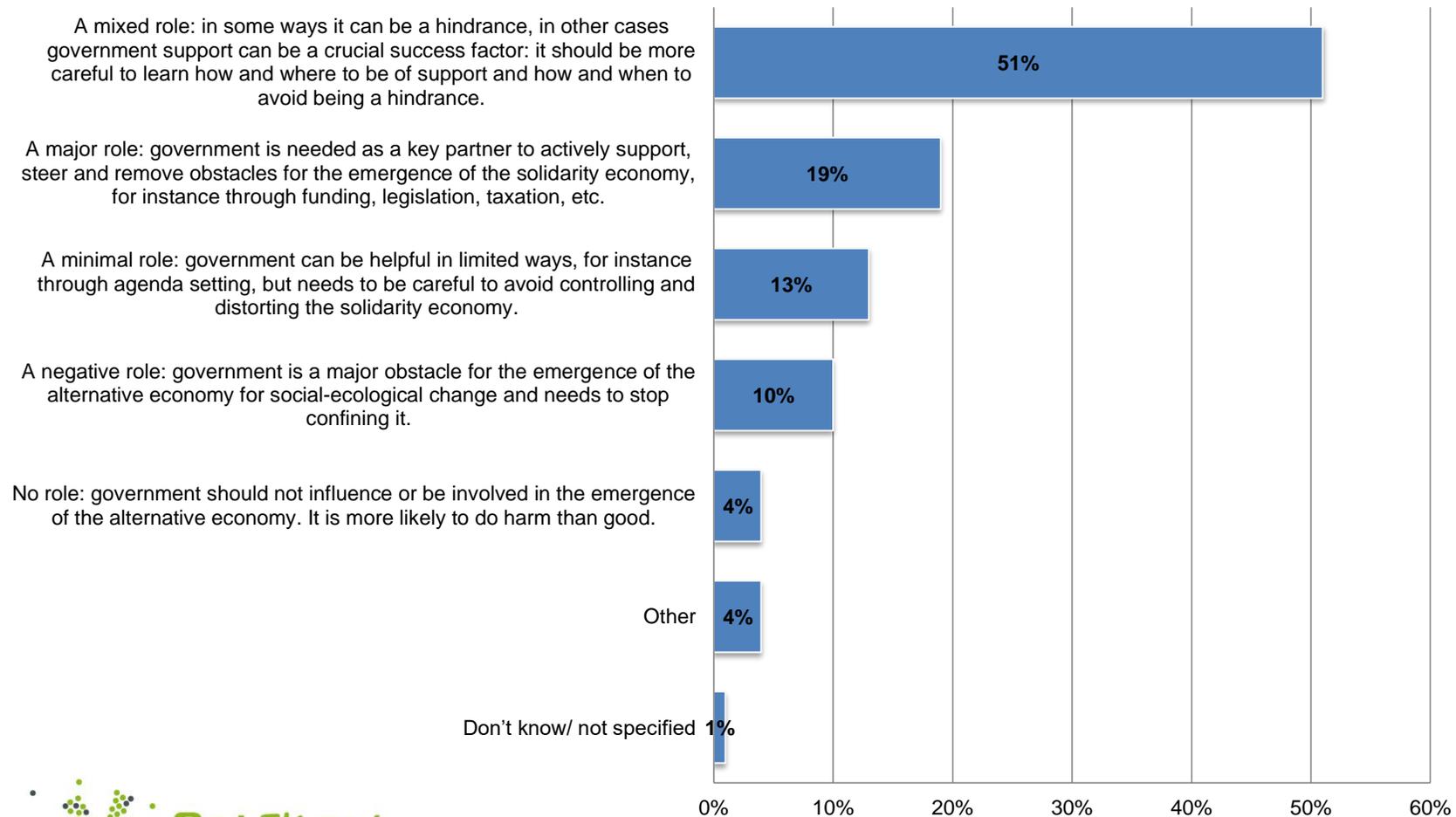
It doesn’t matter if this is happening via fora or networks or... The main thing is, that it is happening and that there are actors, who become stronger and claim the political change. [It’s a matter of] labor division: lobby organizations are important for those companies.”



# And the government (as the regulator) should be less of a hindrance but more of a support

## What do you see as the role of government in fostering the alternative economy?

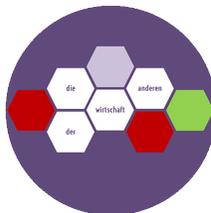
N = 186



# And the government (as the regulator) should be less of a hindrance but more of a support

“[The] legal framework and financial system of today are designed for another economy and that is in itself an obstacle ...

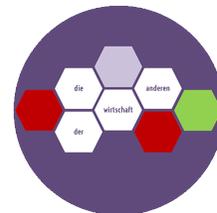
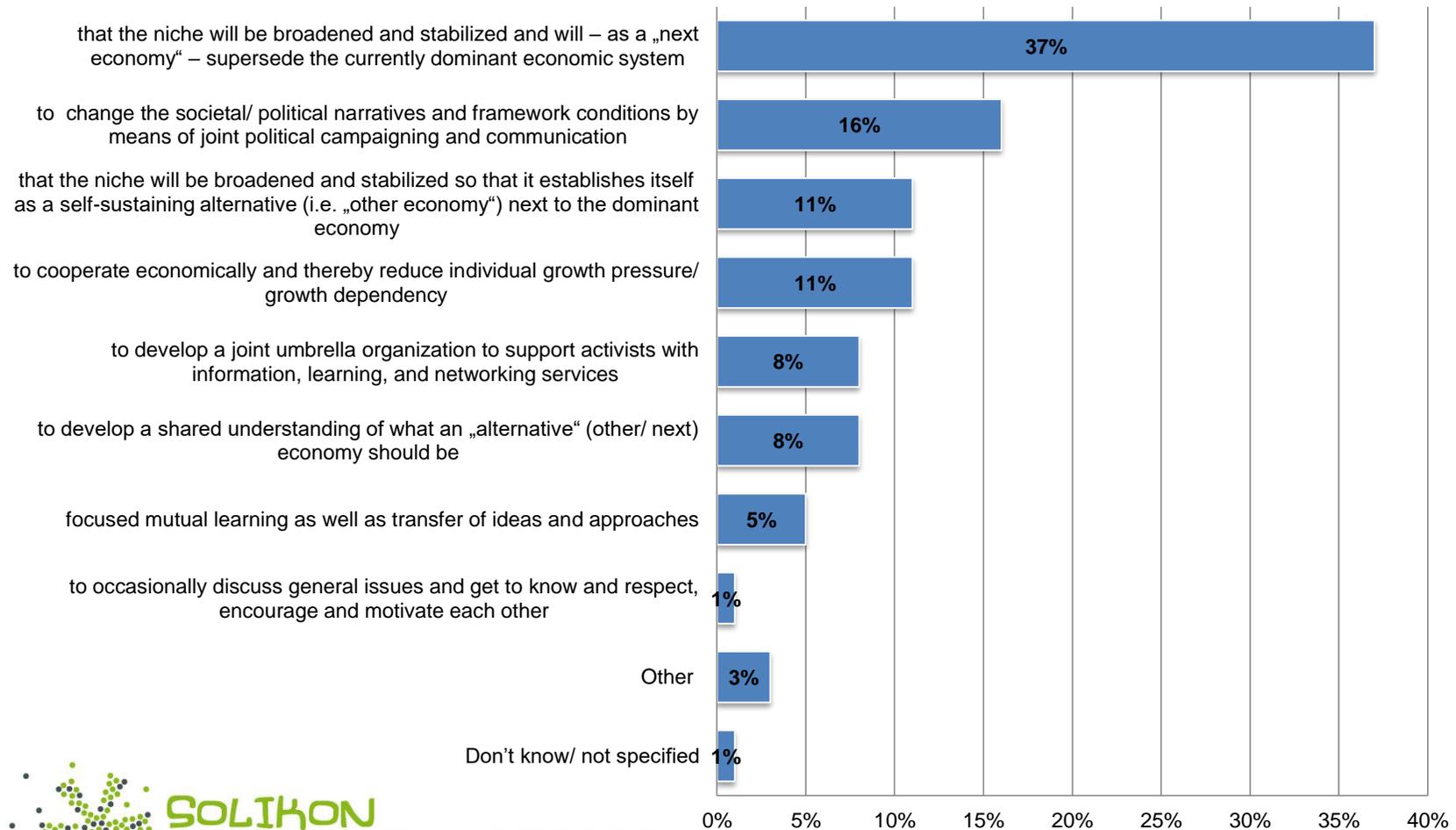
So we need – rather than to create new legislations that define what solidarity economy is – new legislations that leave space for the emergence of these things without putting obstacles.”



# And then: Yes, we can ... get “there” and supersede the dominant economic system

The greatest possible benefit of fostering cooperation and convergence among the different approaches and movements for an alternative economy could be...

N = 186



Information and documentation: <http://solikon2015.org/en>

# Köszönöm a figyelmet.

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**Jana Gebauer**

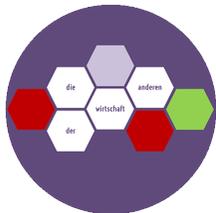
Die Wirtschaft der Anderen

Research and consulting on post-growth and the (alternative) economy,  
Fellow of the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW)

[jana.gebauer@die-wirtschaft-der-anderen.org](mailto:jana.gebauer@die-wirtschaft-der-anderen.org)

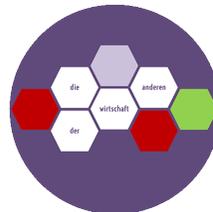
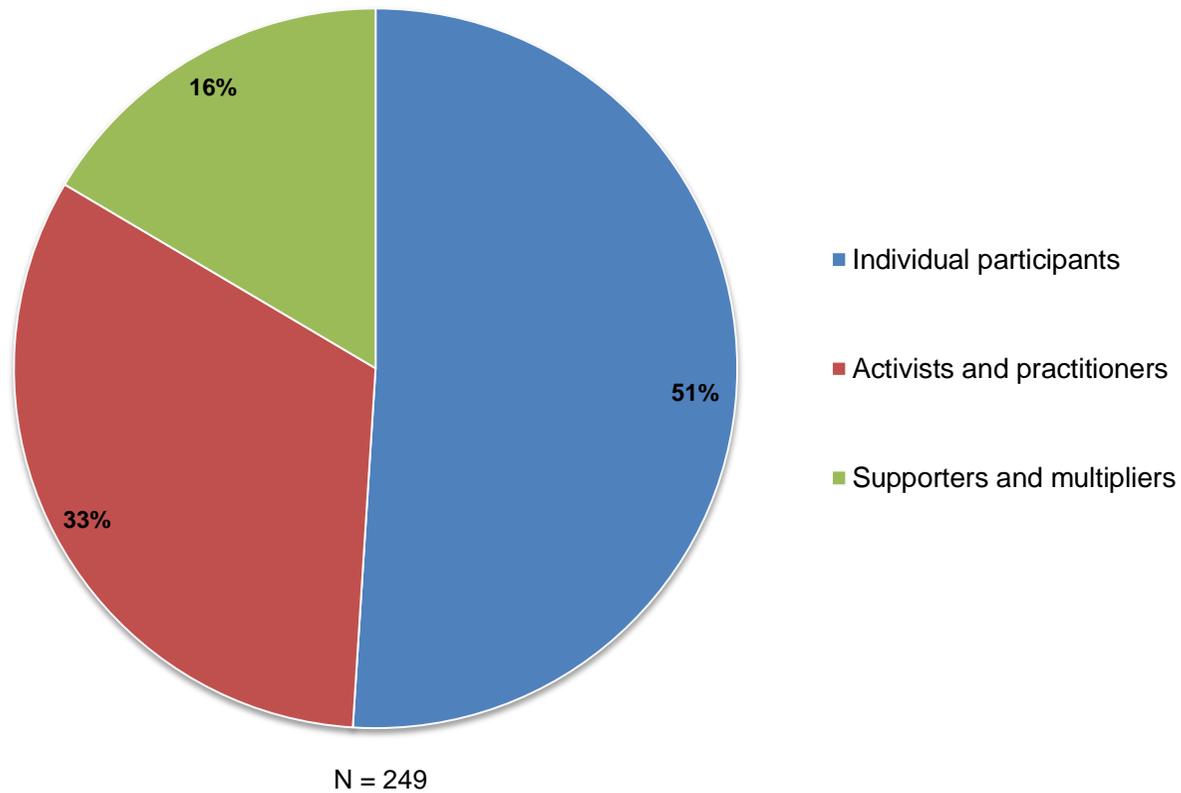
[www.die-wirtschaft-der-anderen.org](http://www.die-wirtschaft-der-anderen.org)

@jana\_gebauer



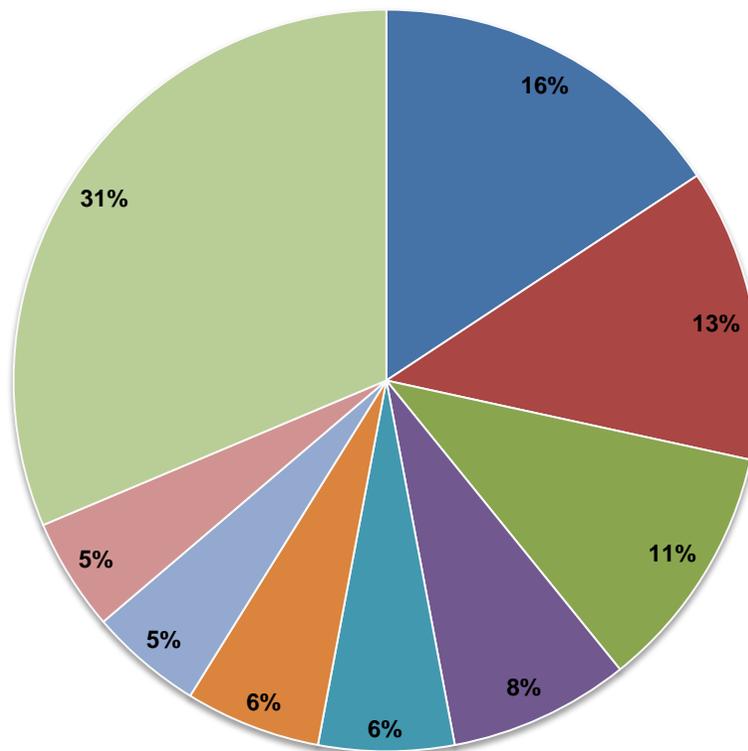
# Participants of the online survey

Participants of the SOLIKON online survey  
[according to SOLIKON target groups]



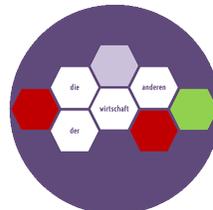
# Charakteristika einer Postwachstumsgesellschaft

Primary thematic domains of activists and practitioners



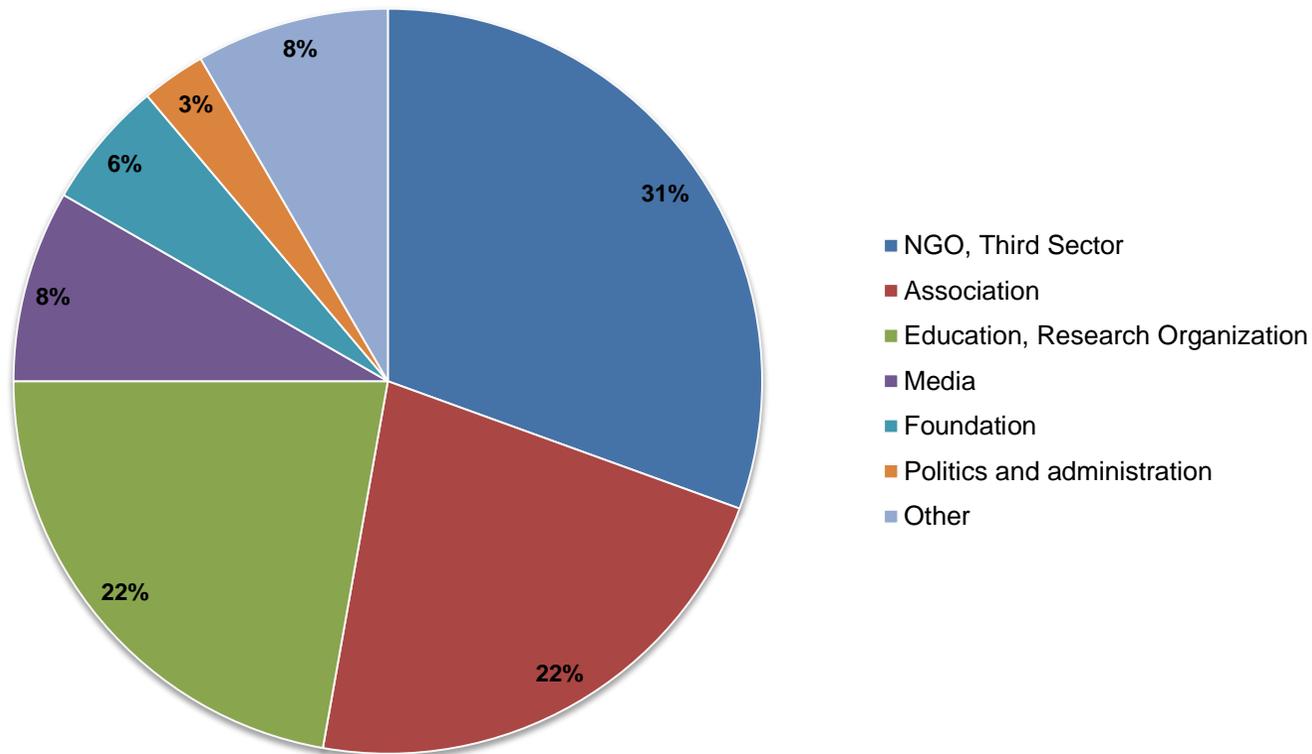
- Alternative ways and forms of doing business
- Concepts and values related to Solidarity Economy
- Food sovereignty and small scale agriculture
- Social and solidarity finances
- Movement organizing and networking (nationally and internationally)
- Solidarity and Responsible production, trade and consumption
- Environment and commons
- Popular education and training
- Other (combined)

N = 64

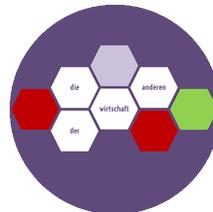


# Die Mehrheit kleiner und mittlerer Unternehmen (KMU) zielt ohnehin nicht auf Wachstum

Types of supporter and multiplier organizations

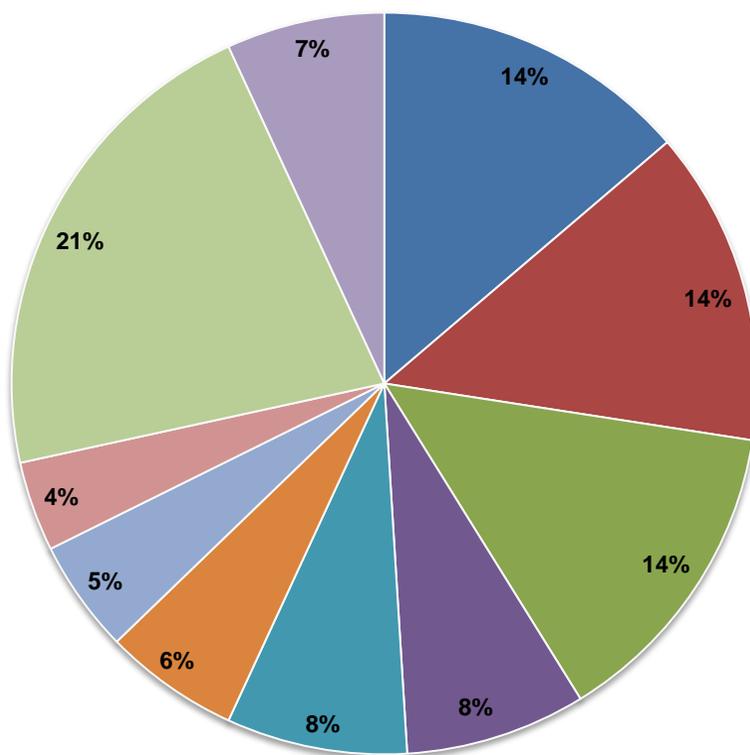


N = 36



# Charakteristika von Postwachstumsunternehmen

Thematic fields or movements individual participants feel associated with



- Degrowth/ post-growth
- Alternative ways and forms of doing business
- Solidarity and Responsible production, trade and consumption
- Environment and commons
- Social Justice, insertion and fight against poverty
- Concepts and values related to Solidarity Economy
- Food sovereignty and small scale agriculture
- Territorial development and "Buen Vivir"
- Other (combined)
- Don't know/ not specified

N = 106

