GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

Joint GEO Working Groups Evaluation Survey: Analysis and Recommendations

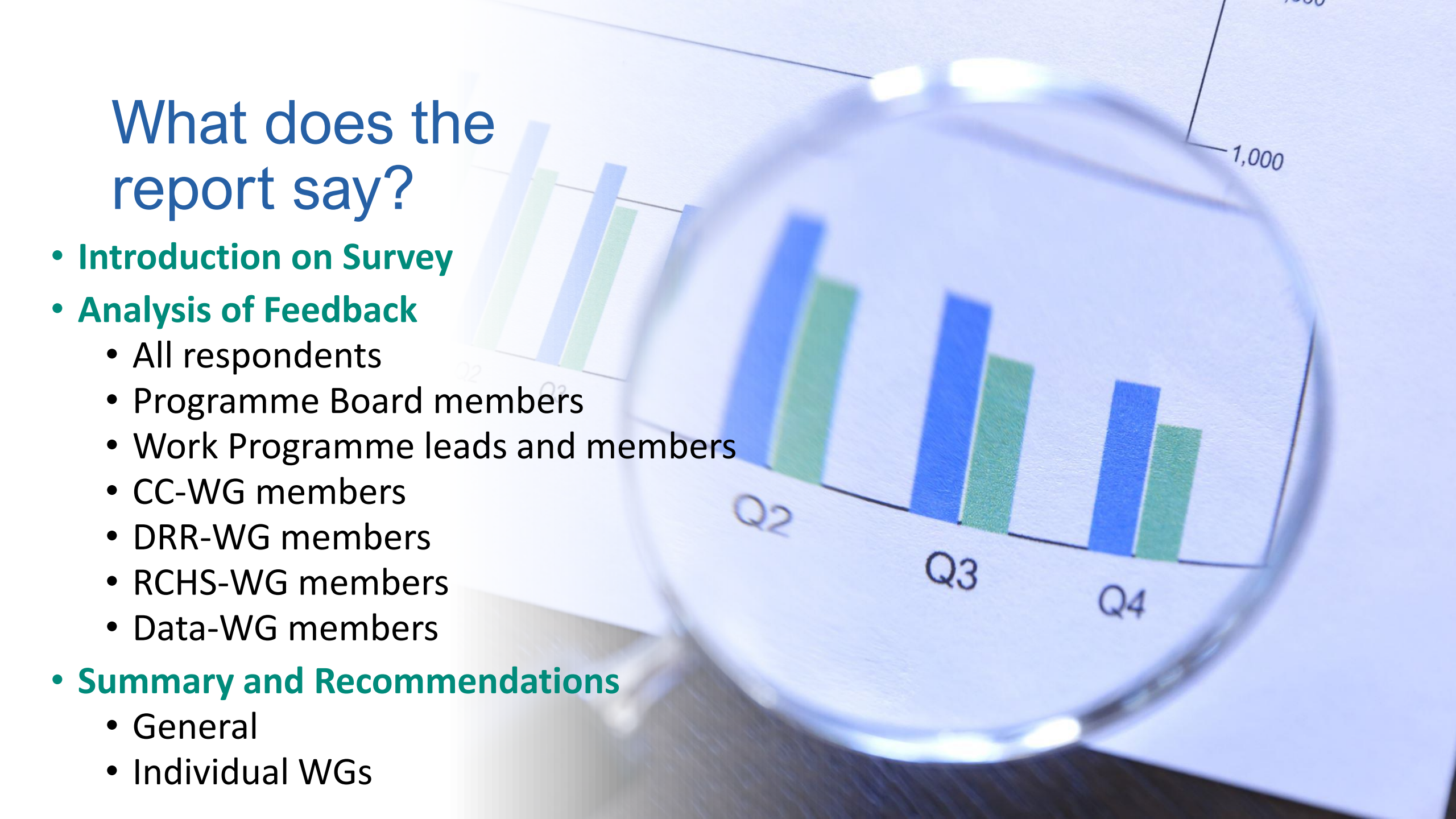
PB-26: 15-16 June 2023
Geneva, Switzerland

GEO Secretariat WG coordinators

Sara Venturini, Rui Kotani, Ernest Acheampong,
Martyn Clark, Florian Franziskakis, Paola De Salvo

What does the report say?

- **Introduction on Survey**
- **Analysis of Feedback**
  - All respondents
  - Programme Board members
  - Work Programme leads and members
  - CC-WG members
  - DRR-WG members
  - RCHS-WG members
  - Data-WG members
- **Summary and Recommendations**
  - General
  - Individual WGs



Why another survey?

PB-25 requested GEO Secretariat to launch a survey to assess the impact and usefulness of WGs as part of the Foundational Tasks review process.

The survey was jointly developed by GEO Secretariat WG coordinators, and reviewed by WG Co-chairs and PB members.

It was launched online on 27 March and run until 17 April 2023.

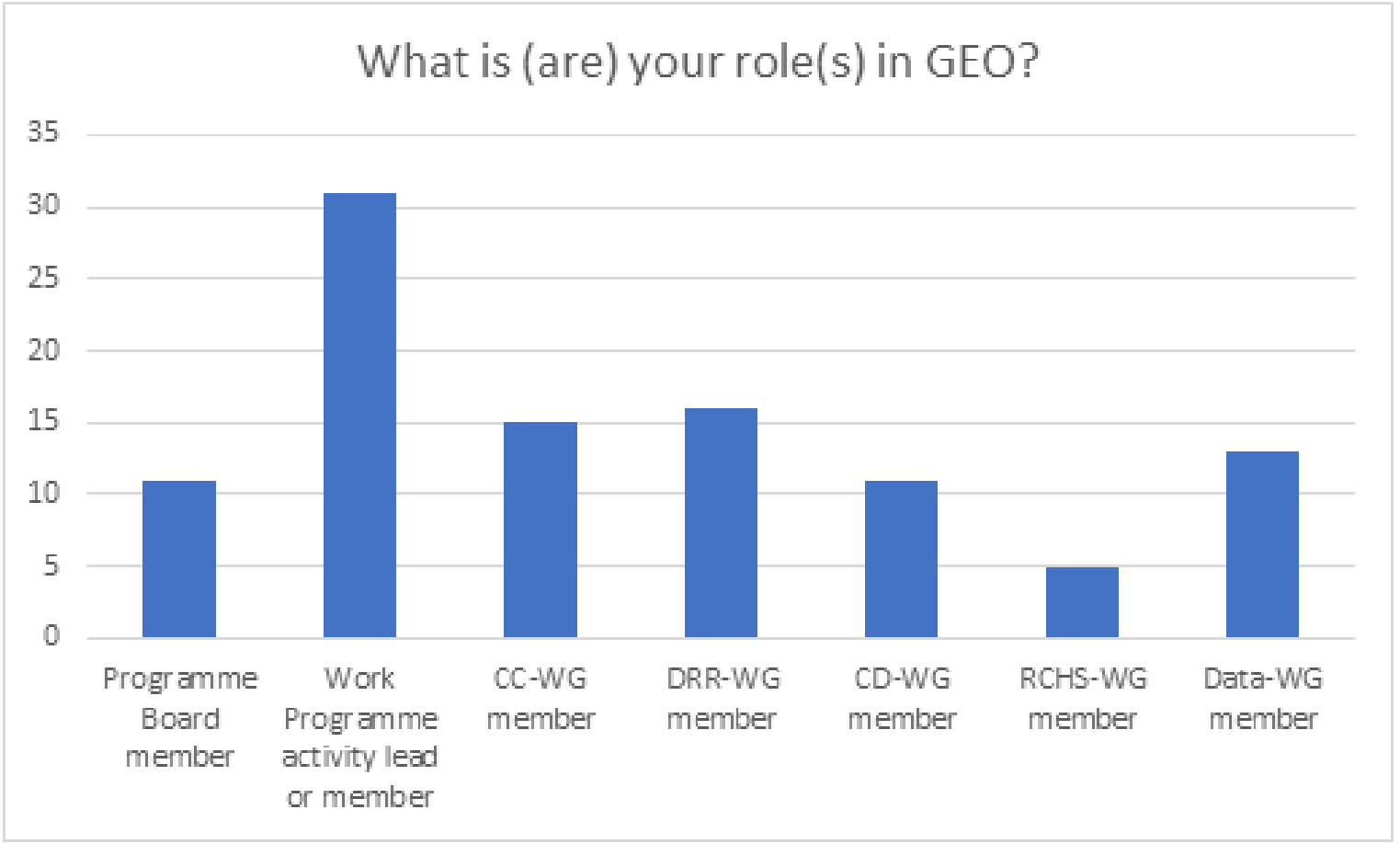
It was disseminated to key stakeholders including WG members, Programme Board members, and Work Programme activity leads.

Who responded?

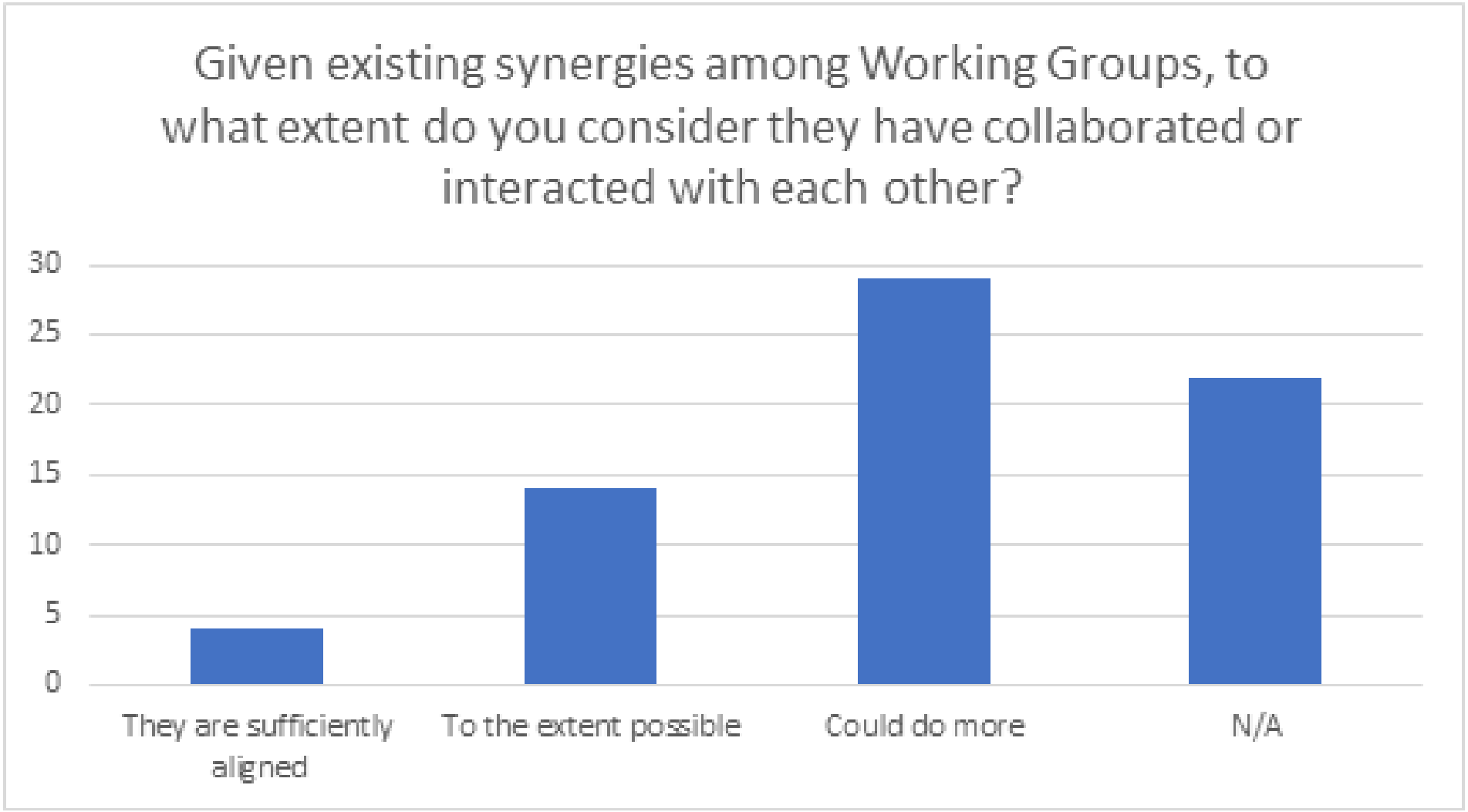
70

respondents in total with multiple roles

26 out of 48 GEO Work Programme activities represented

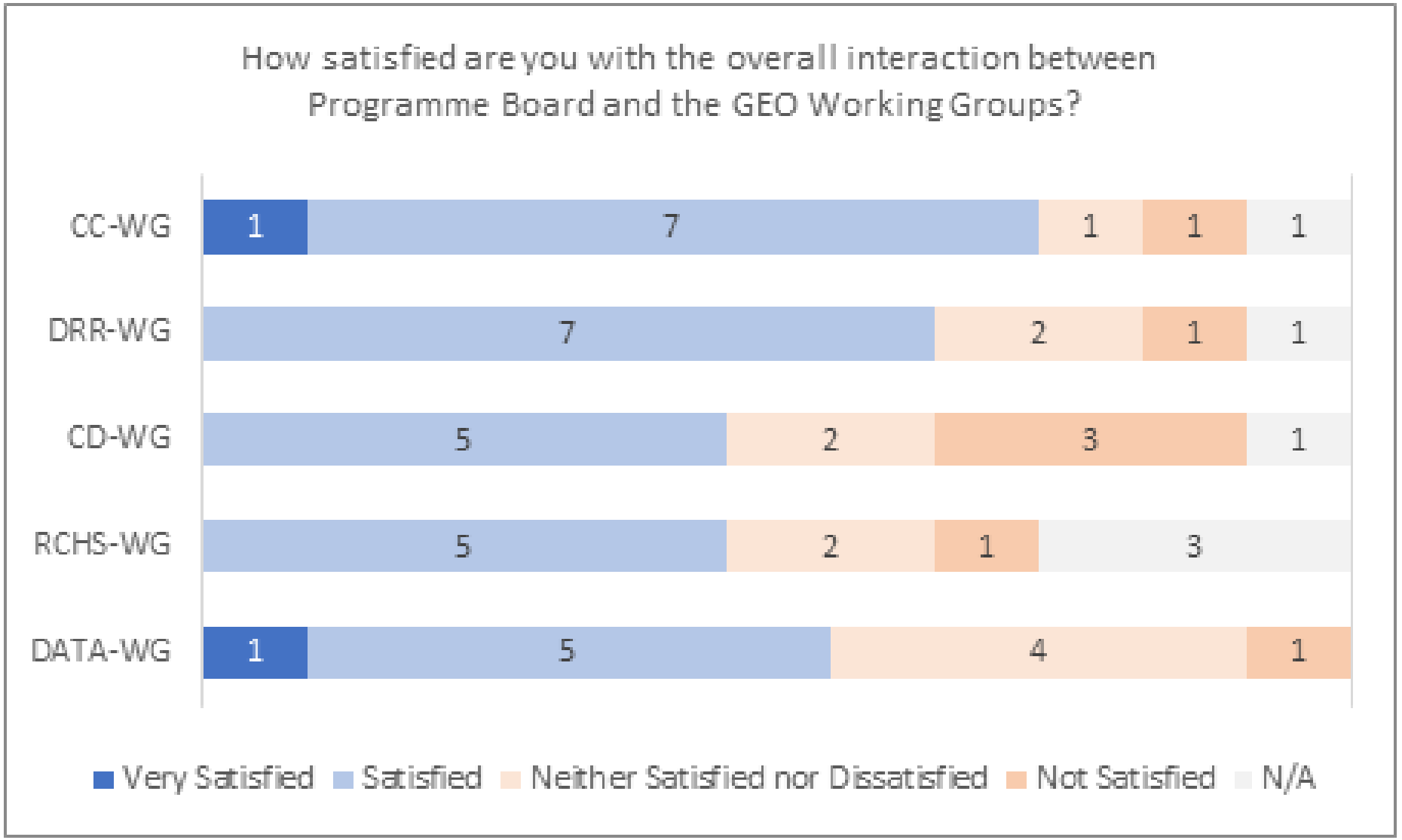


General feedback



Most respondents concur that the WGs could do more to collaborate or interact with each other

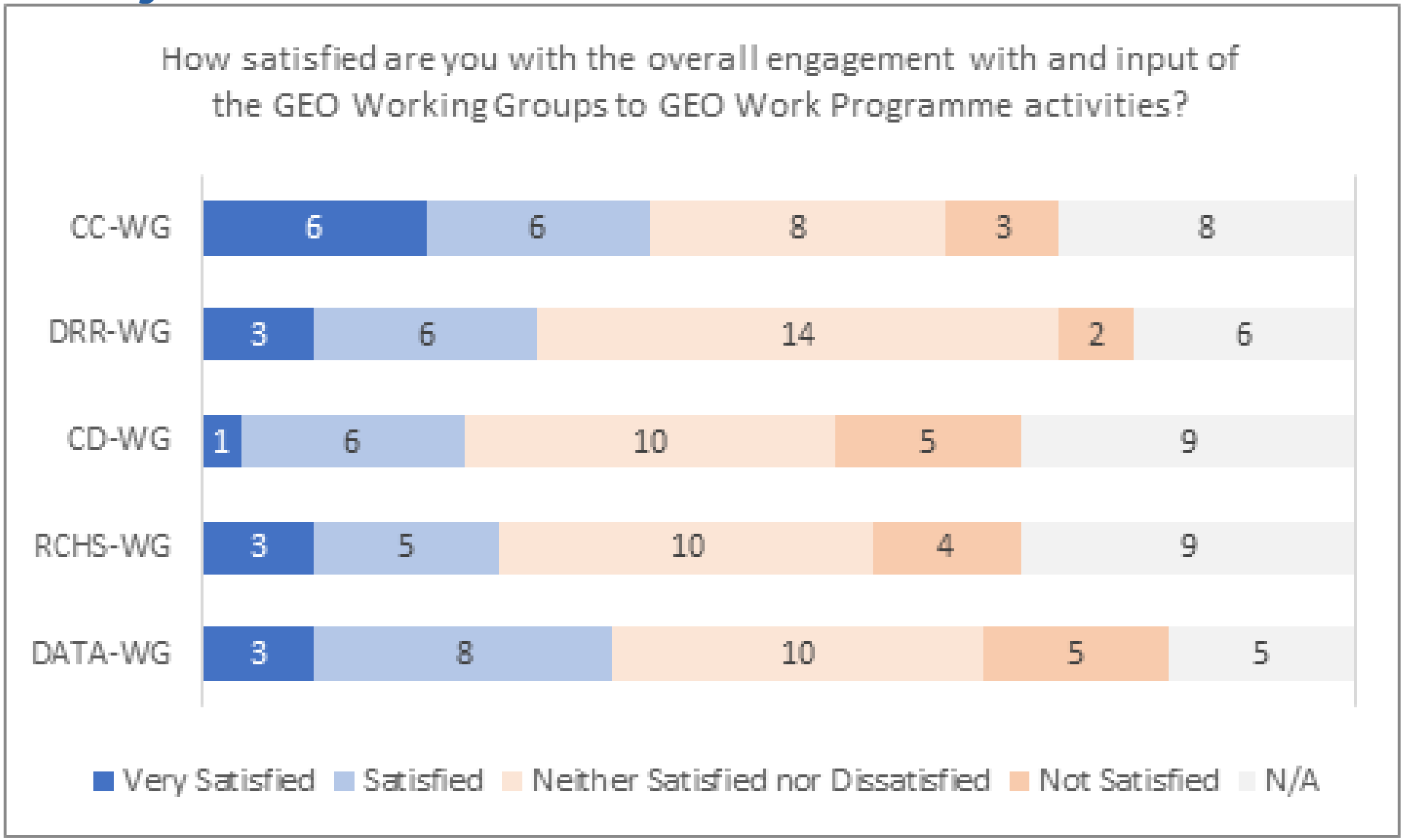
Feedback by PB members



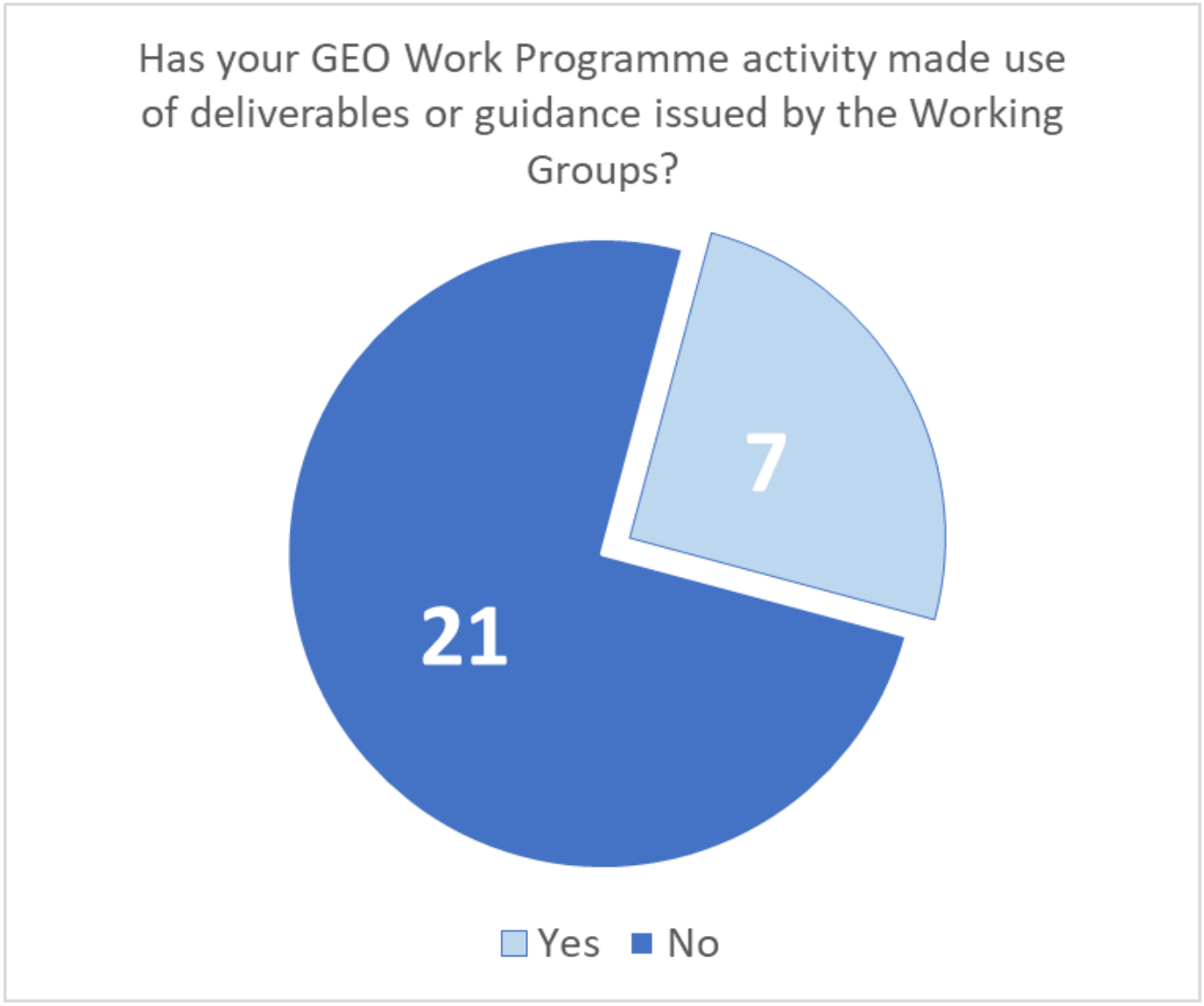
PB is generally satisfied with interaction with all WGs

Feedback by GWP leads and members

GWP activity leads and members are less satisfied about their engagement in WGs



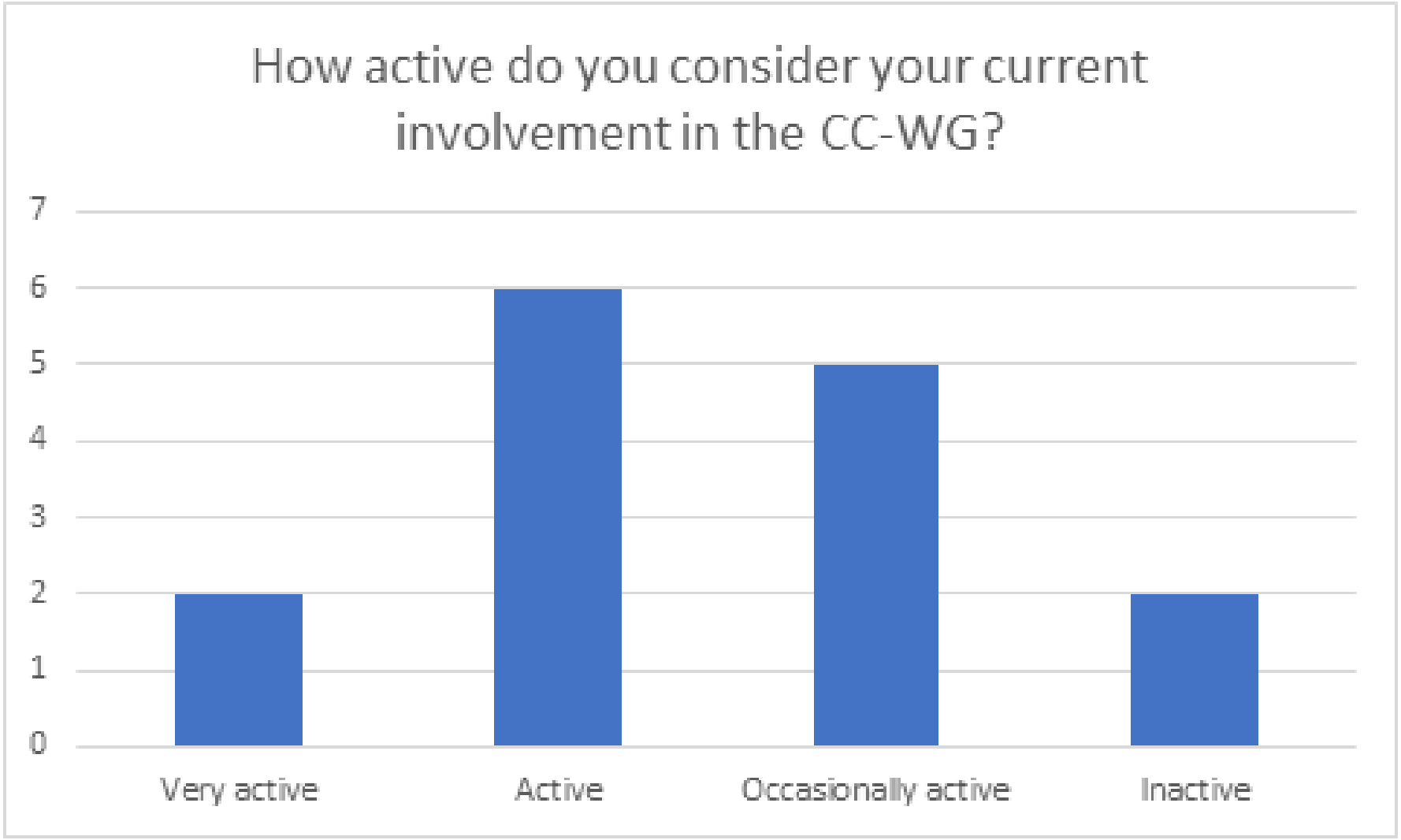
Feedback by GWP leads and members



GWP activity leads and members generally do not use WG deliverables or guidance, except some of Data-WG and CD-WG.

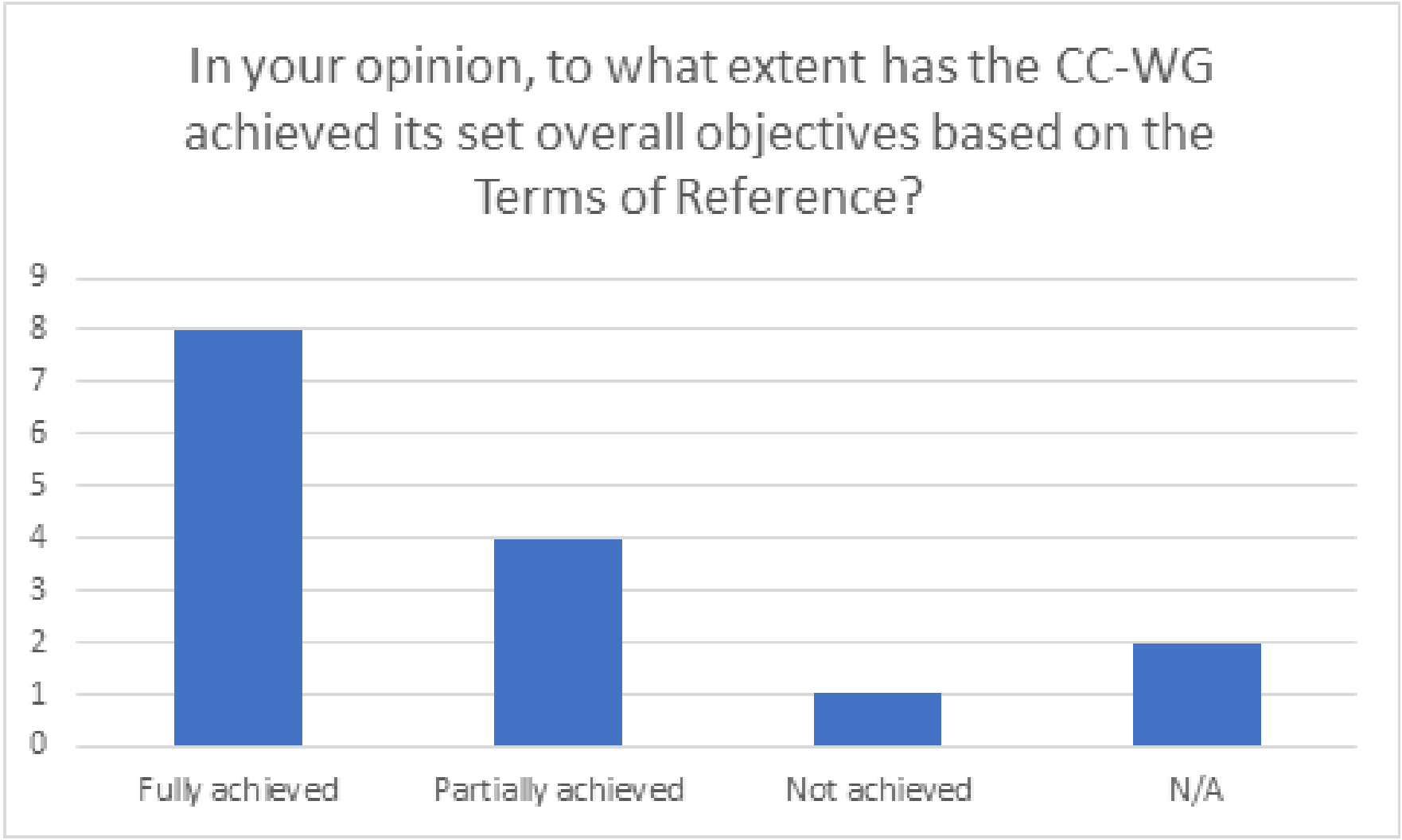
Other WGs promote the EO-based tools and solutions generated by the GEO Work Programme activities for uptake by policy makers in the context of international agendas.

Feedback by CC-WG members



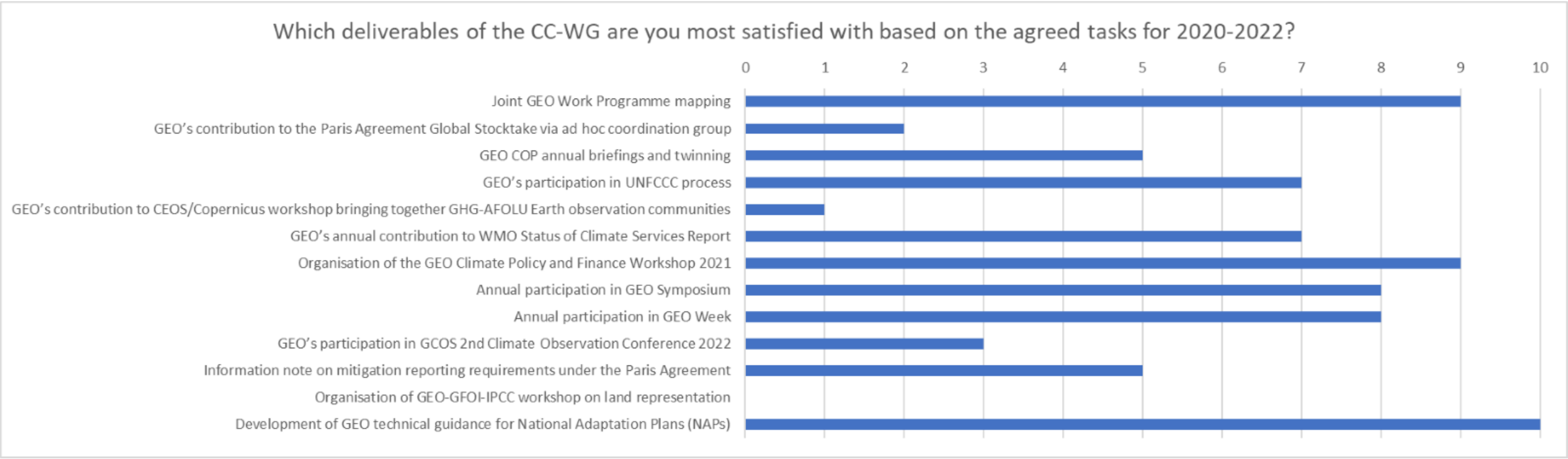
CC-WG member are mostly active or occasionally active

Feedback by CC-WG members



CC-WG members deem the WG objectives have been fully achieved

Feedback by CC-WG members



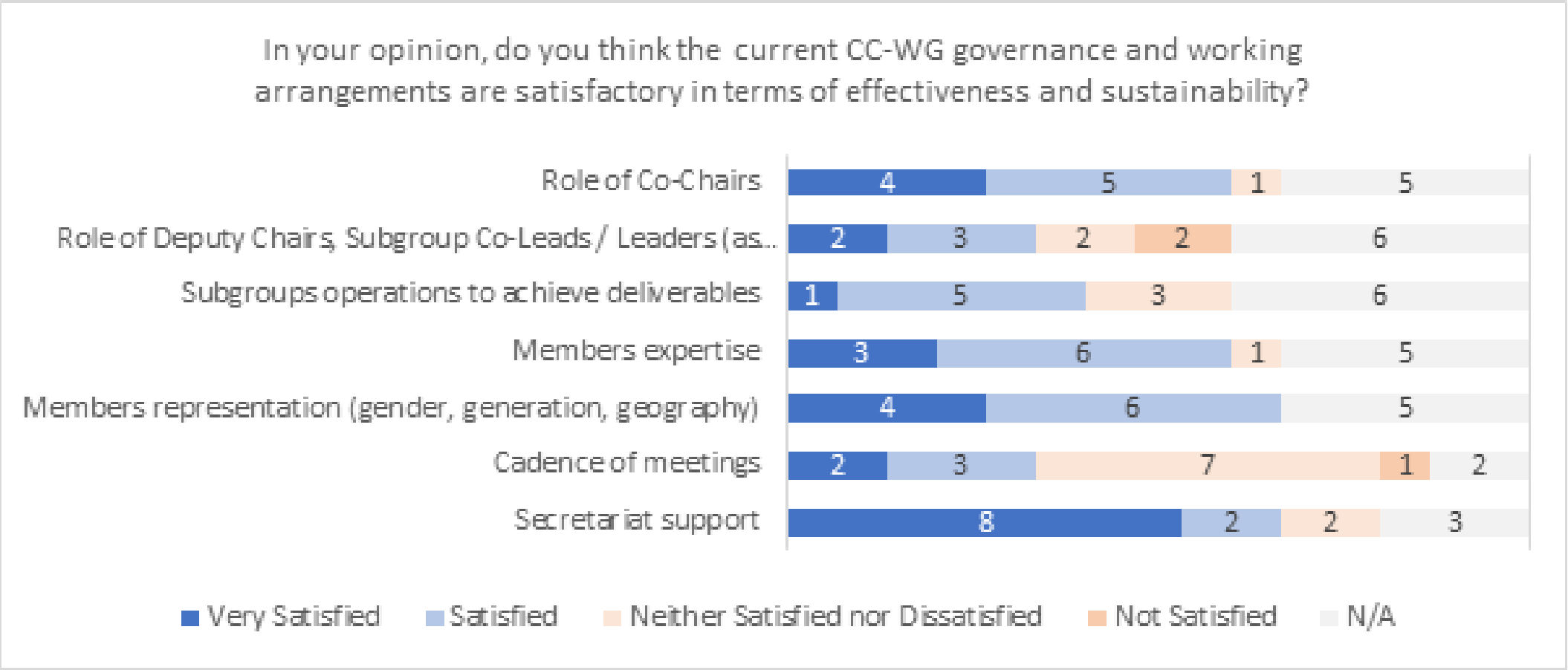
CC-WG members are most satisfied with:

1) Development of the GEO technical guidance for NAPs

2) Joint GEO Work Programme mapping

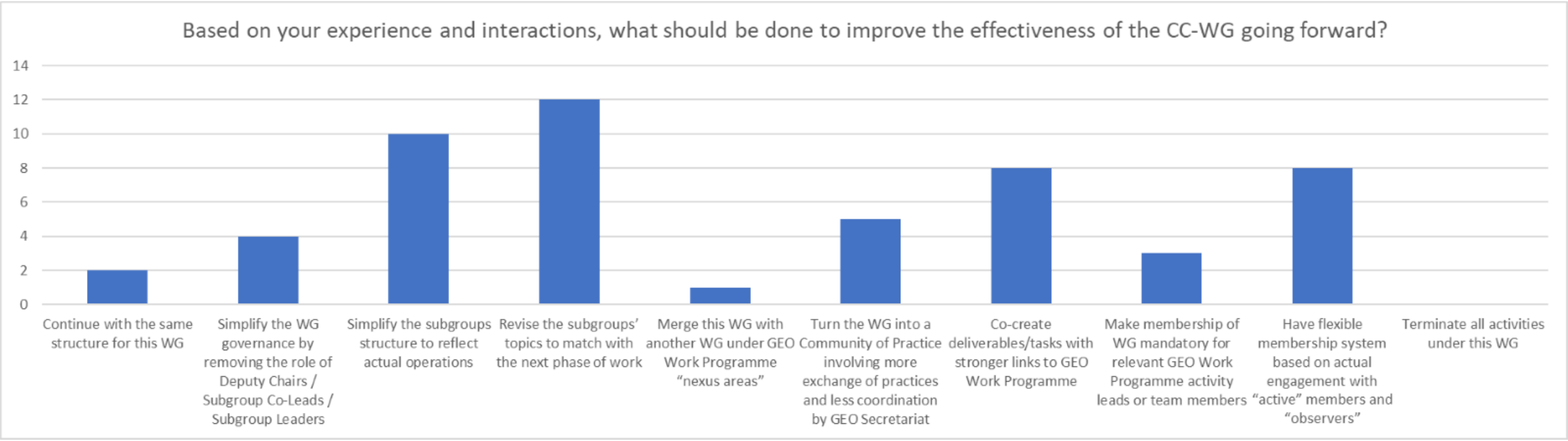
3) Organisation of the GEO Climate Policy and Finance Workshop 2021

Feedback by CC-WG members



CC-WG members are generally happy with working arrangements, while the cadence of meetings can be improved

Feedback by CC-WG members

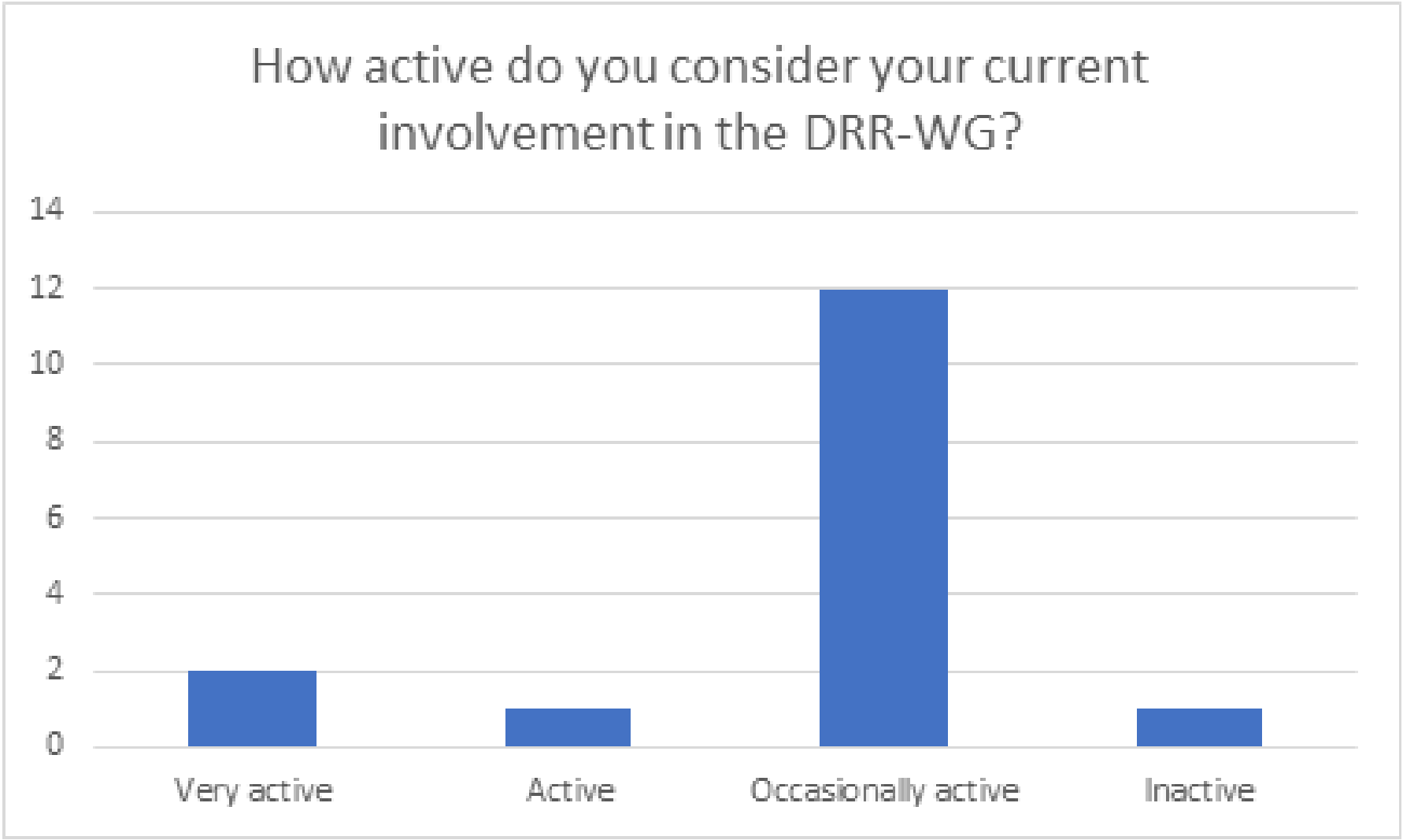


CC-WG members suggest revising the subgroups' topics and structure, co-creating deliverables with GWP, and having flexible membership

CC-WG way forward

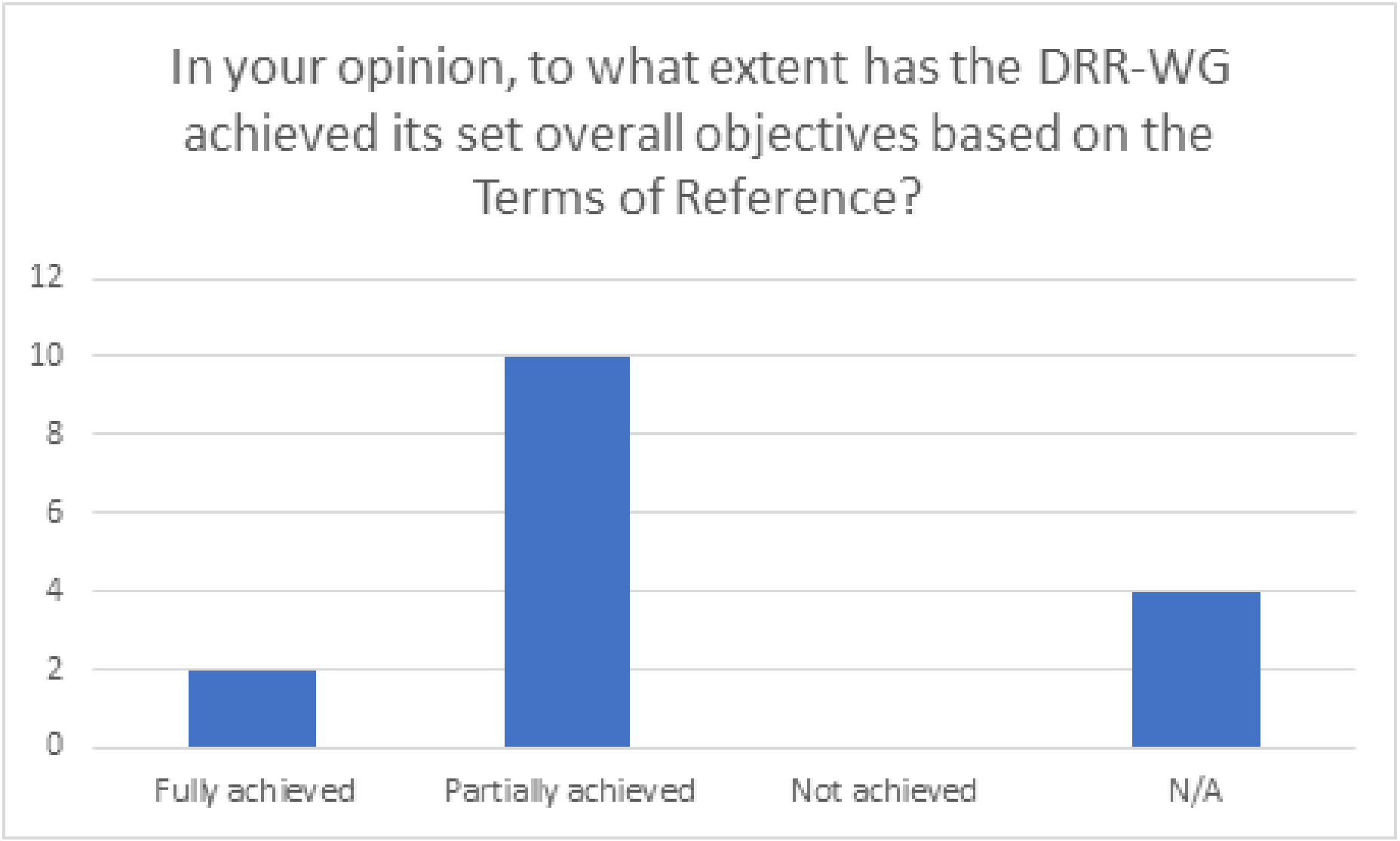
- **The CC-WG members suggest that the CC-WG prioritizes actions that deliver tangible outcomes and operational tools, particularly for supporting climate adaptation, while also working to align GEO activities with the broader global climate change community.**

Feedback by DRR-WG members



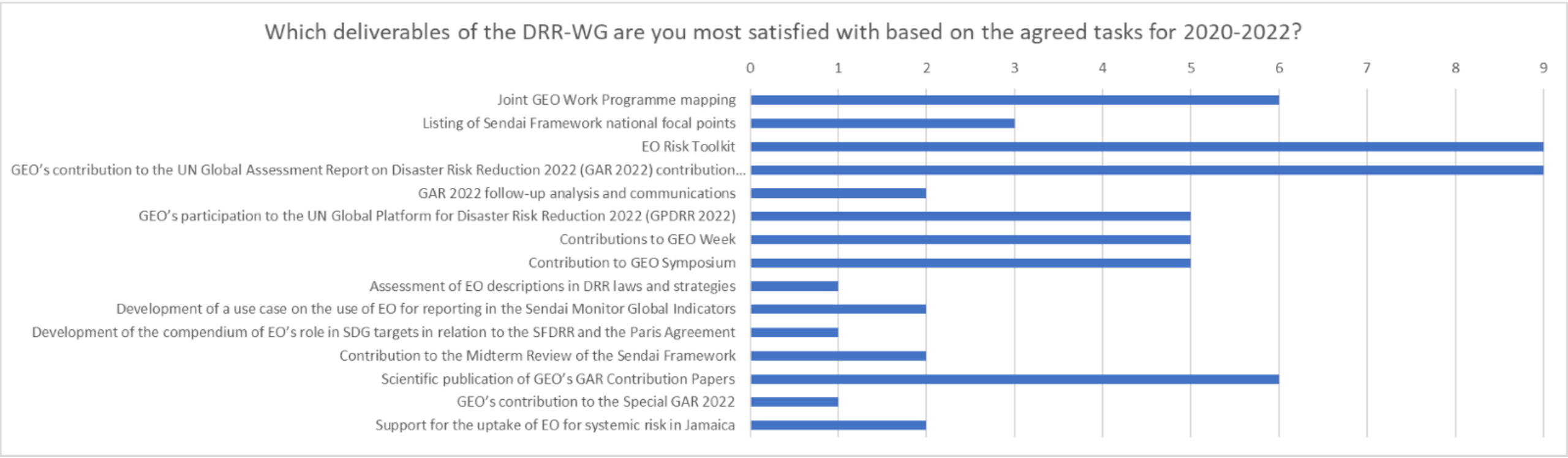
DRR-WG members are occasionally active

Feedback by DRR-WG members



DRR-WG members deem the WG objectives have been partially achieved

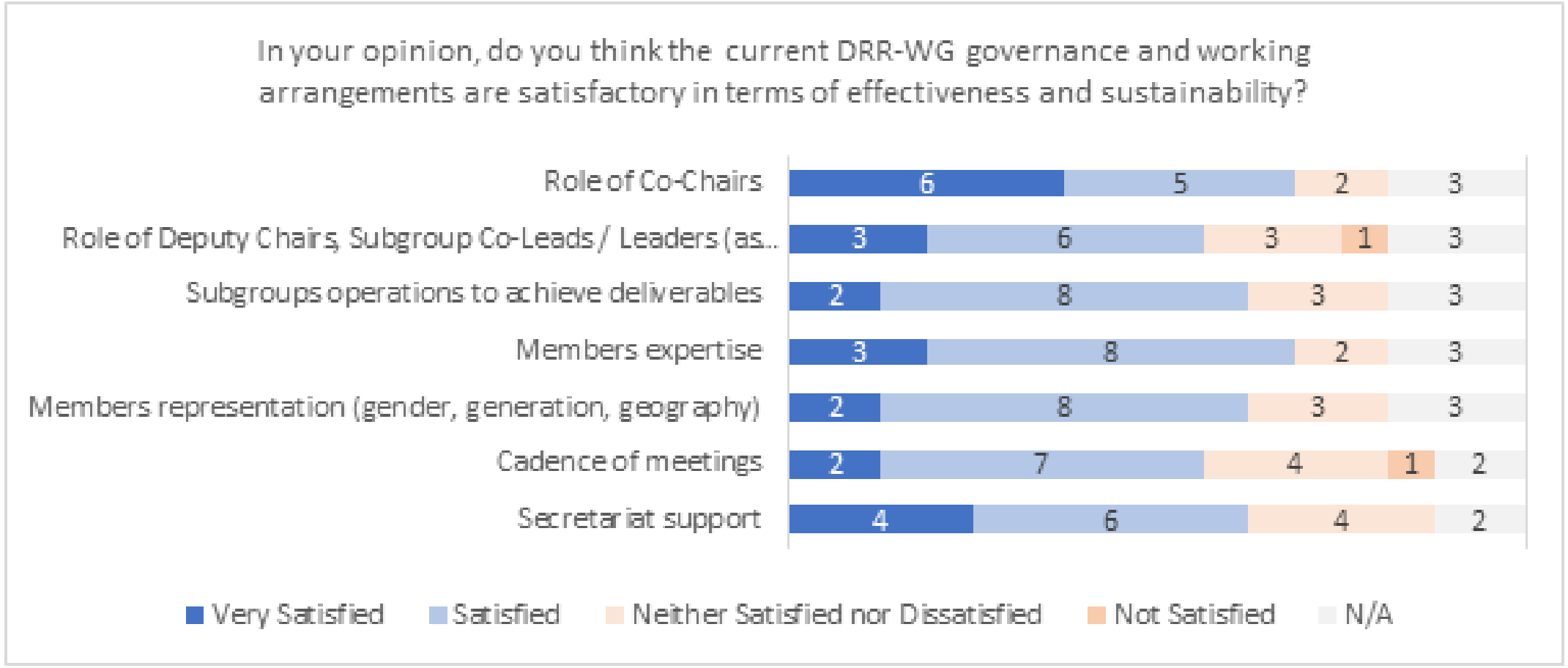
Feedback by DRR-WG members



DRR-WG members are most satisfied with:

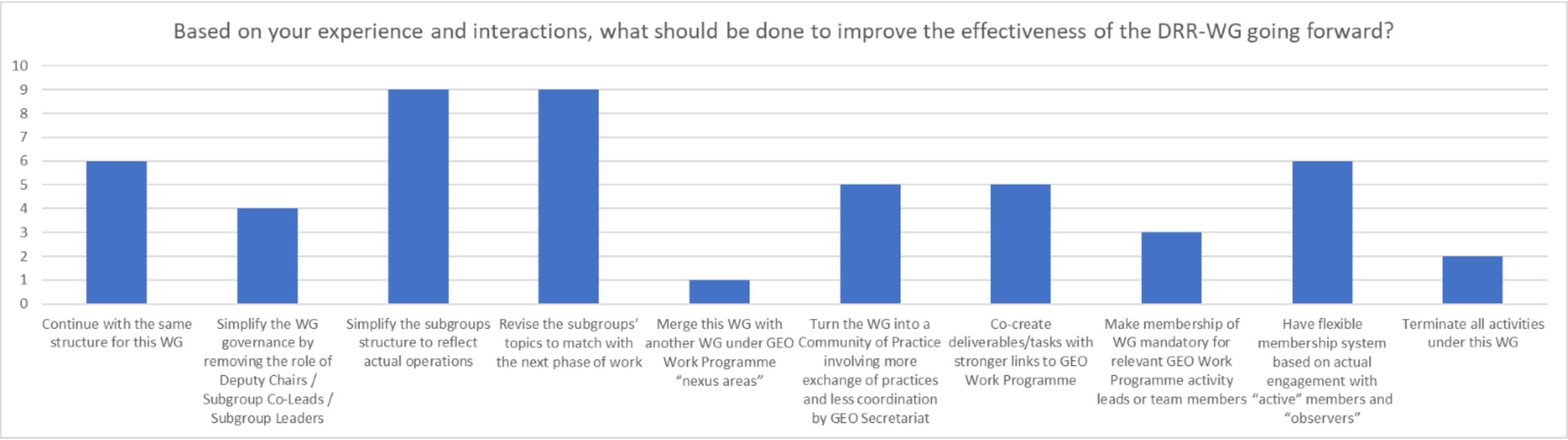
1) **EO Risk Toolkit**
2) **GEO's contribution to the UN Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 (GAR 2022)**
3) **Joint GEO Work Programme mapping / 4) Scientific publication of GEO's GAR Contribution Papers**

Feedback by DRR-WG members



DRR-WG members are generally happy with working arrangements

Feedback by DRR-WG members

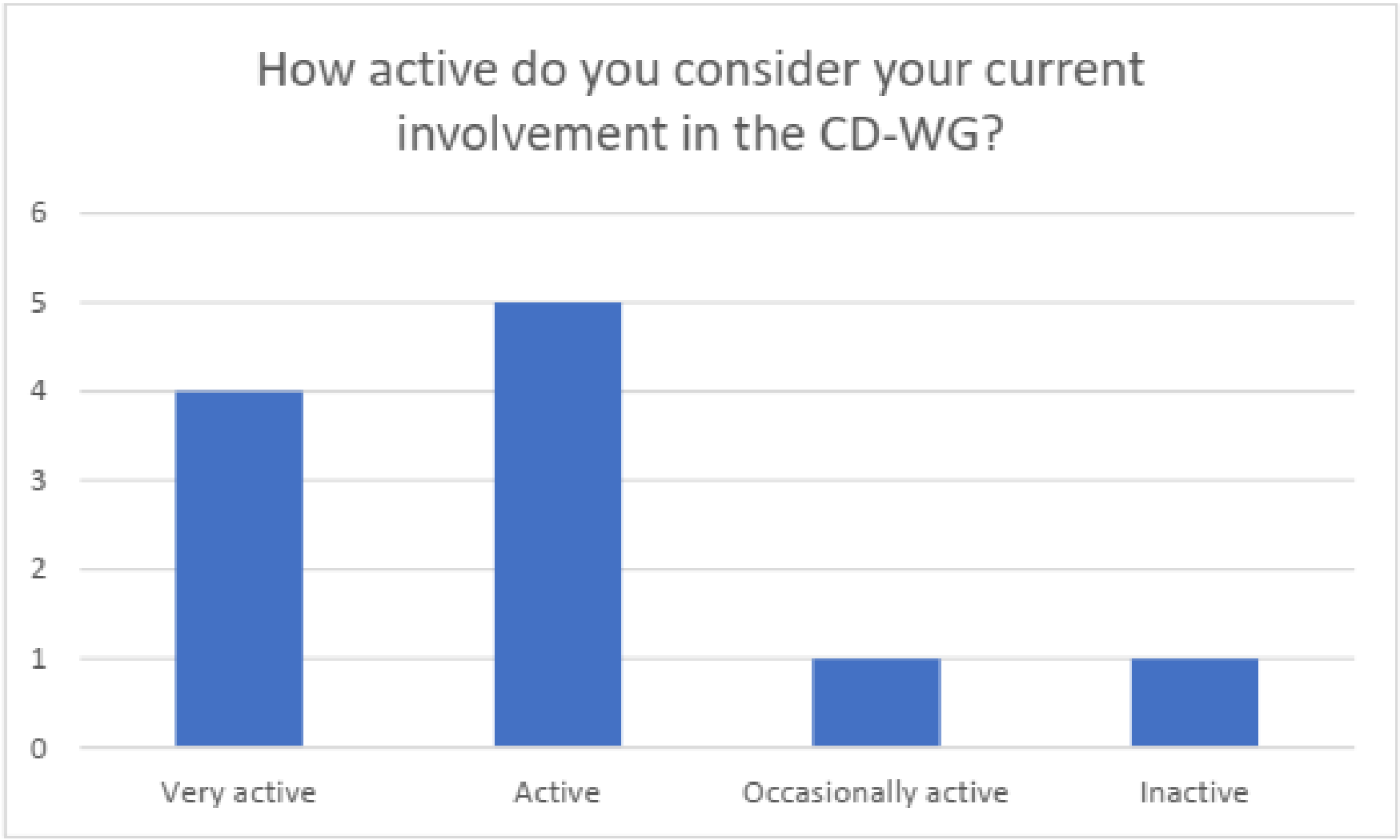


DRR-WG members suggest revising the subgroups' topics and structure, and having flexible membership. Co-creating deliverables with GWP is also important.

DRR-WG way forward

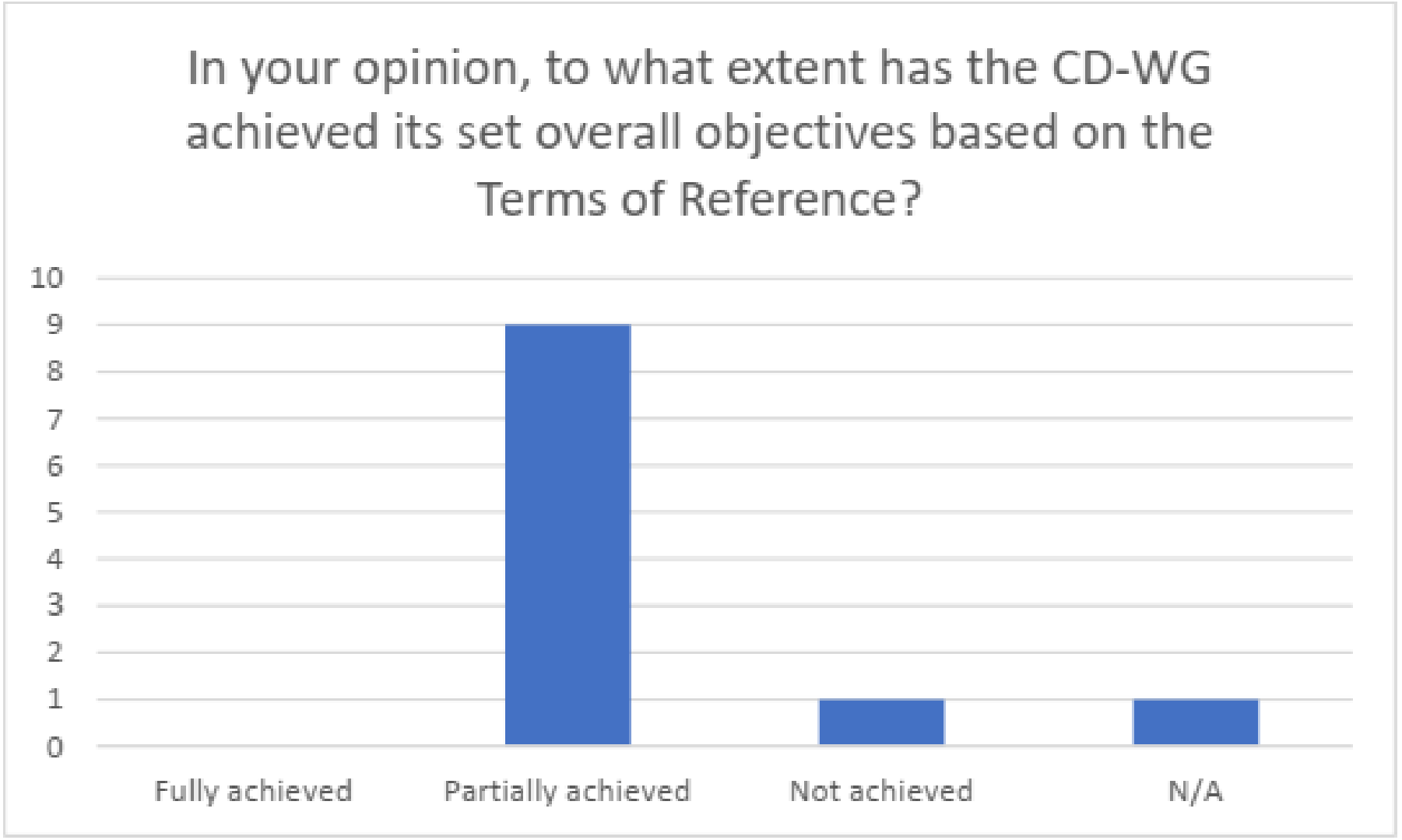
- **The DRR-WG members suggest that the DRR-WG prioritize actions that deliver tangible outcomes and contribute to initiation of new activities, pilots, case studies, EO solution developments and policy and programmatic support, especially at country level.**
- **In doing so, they emphasized the importance of co-creation with stakeholders leveraging GEO's vast network.**

Feedback by CD-WG members



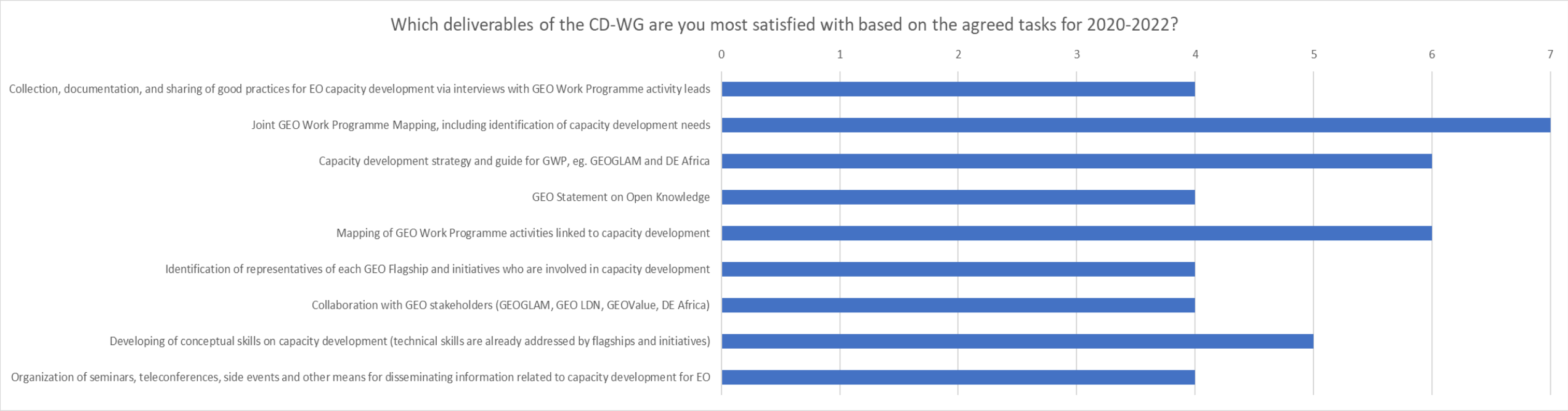
CD-WG members are mostly active or very active

Feedback by CD-WG members



CD-WG members deem the WG objectives have been partially achieved

Feedback by CD-WG members



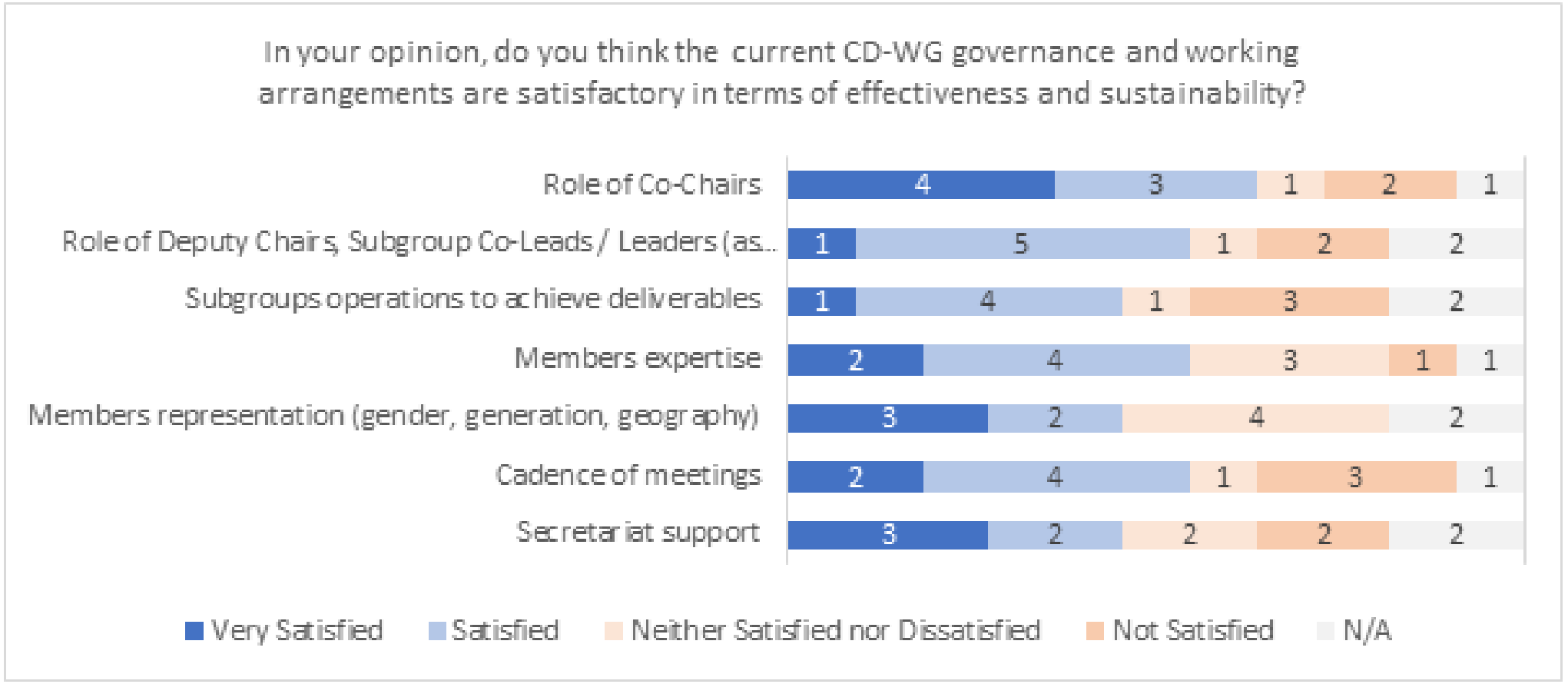
CD-WG members are most satisfied with:

1) Joint GEO Work Programme Mapping

2) Capacity Development Strategy and guide for GEO Work Programme

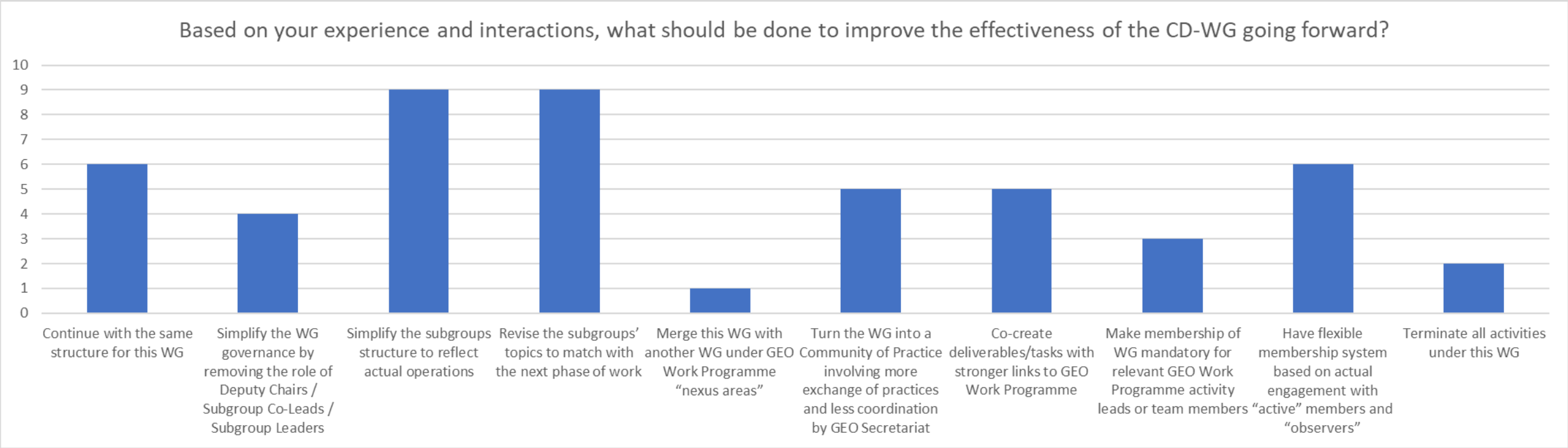
3) Mapping GEO Work Programme activities linked to capacity development

Feedback by CD-WG members



CD-WG members are generally happy with working arrangements, though only a small core group of active members have successfully contributed to the deliverables. Some also mentioned that the WG has not been able to organize concrete CD activities around the GWP, or meet regularly.

Feedback by CD-WG members



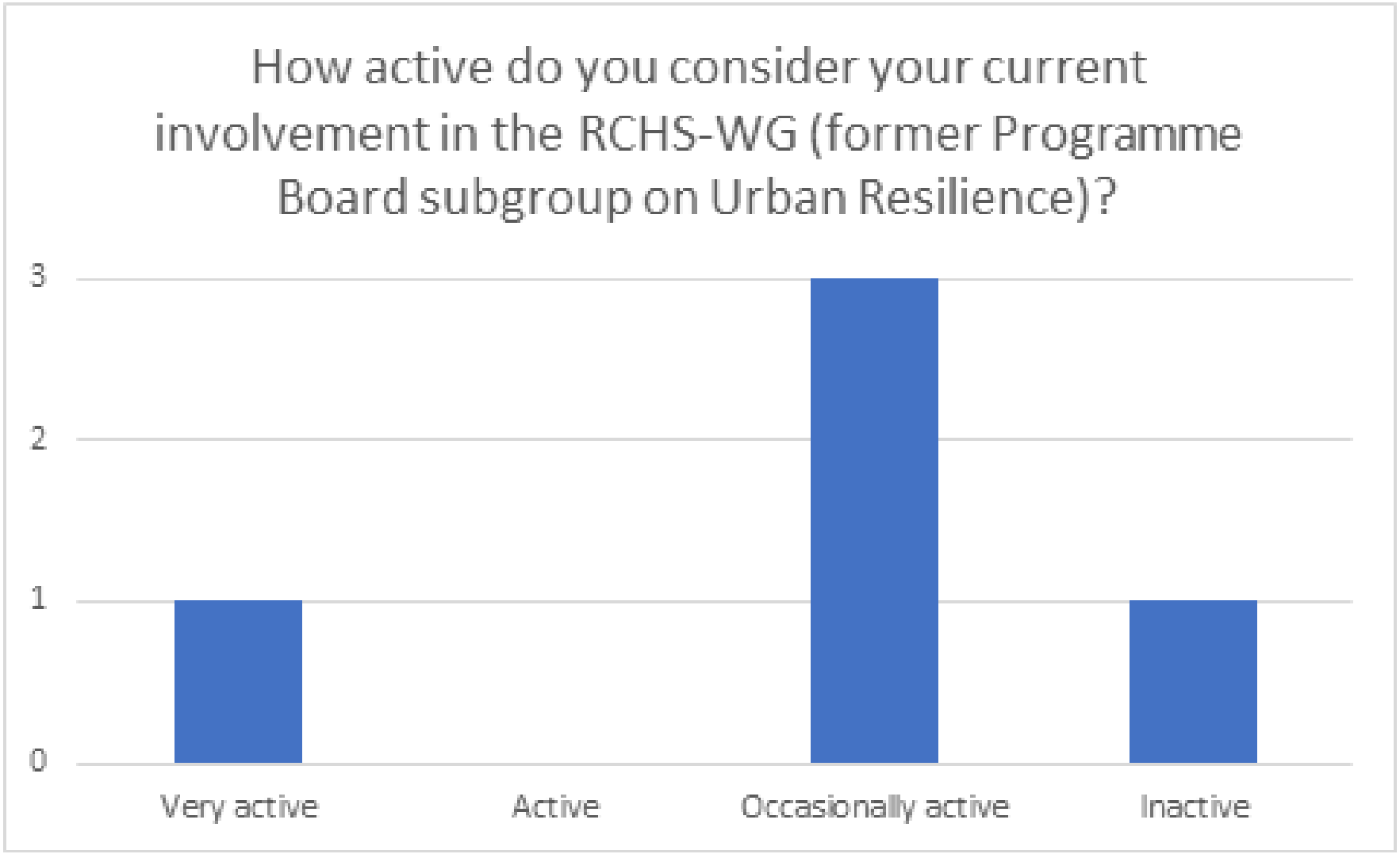
DRR-WG members suggest revising the subgroups' topics and structure. While some wish to continue with the same structure, others suggest evolving into a Community of Practice reflecting the need to tap into a broader pool of members and their expertise.

CD-WG way forward

- **The CD-WG members suggest that the WG identify shared needs and priorities for the common users in alignment with the GWP activities, to help to improve and provide capacity development tools for use by the GEO community.**

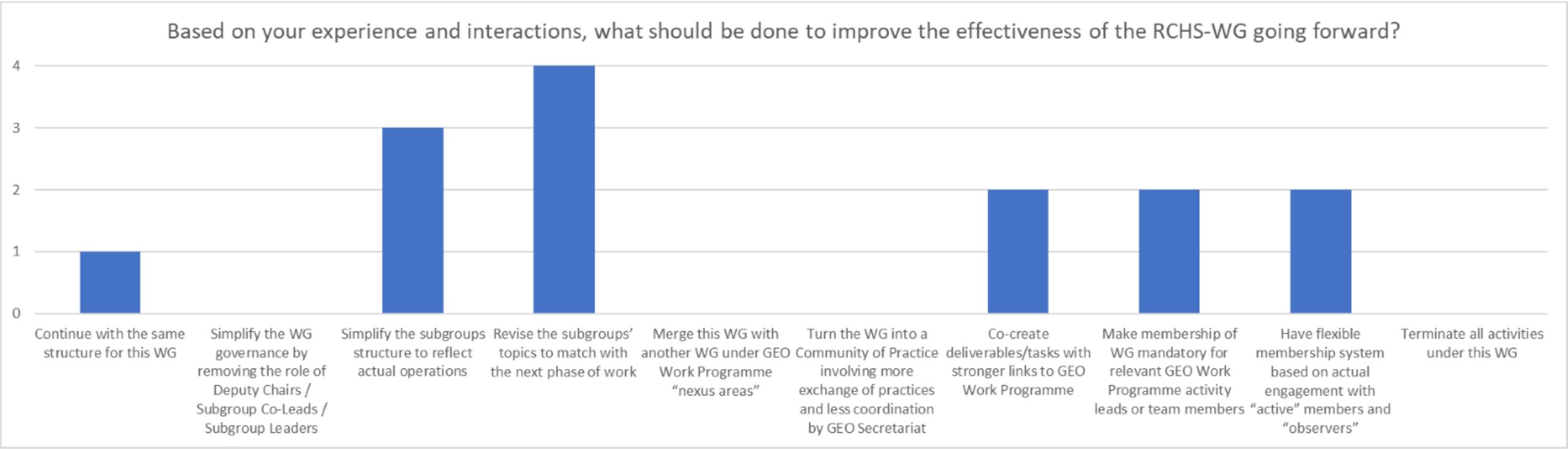
- **The CD-WG members suggest the need to implement concrete activities targeting developing countries.**

Feedback by RCHS-WG members



RCHS-WG members are occasionally active

Feedback by RCHS-WG members

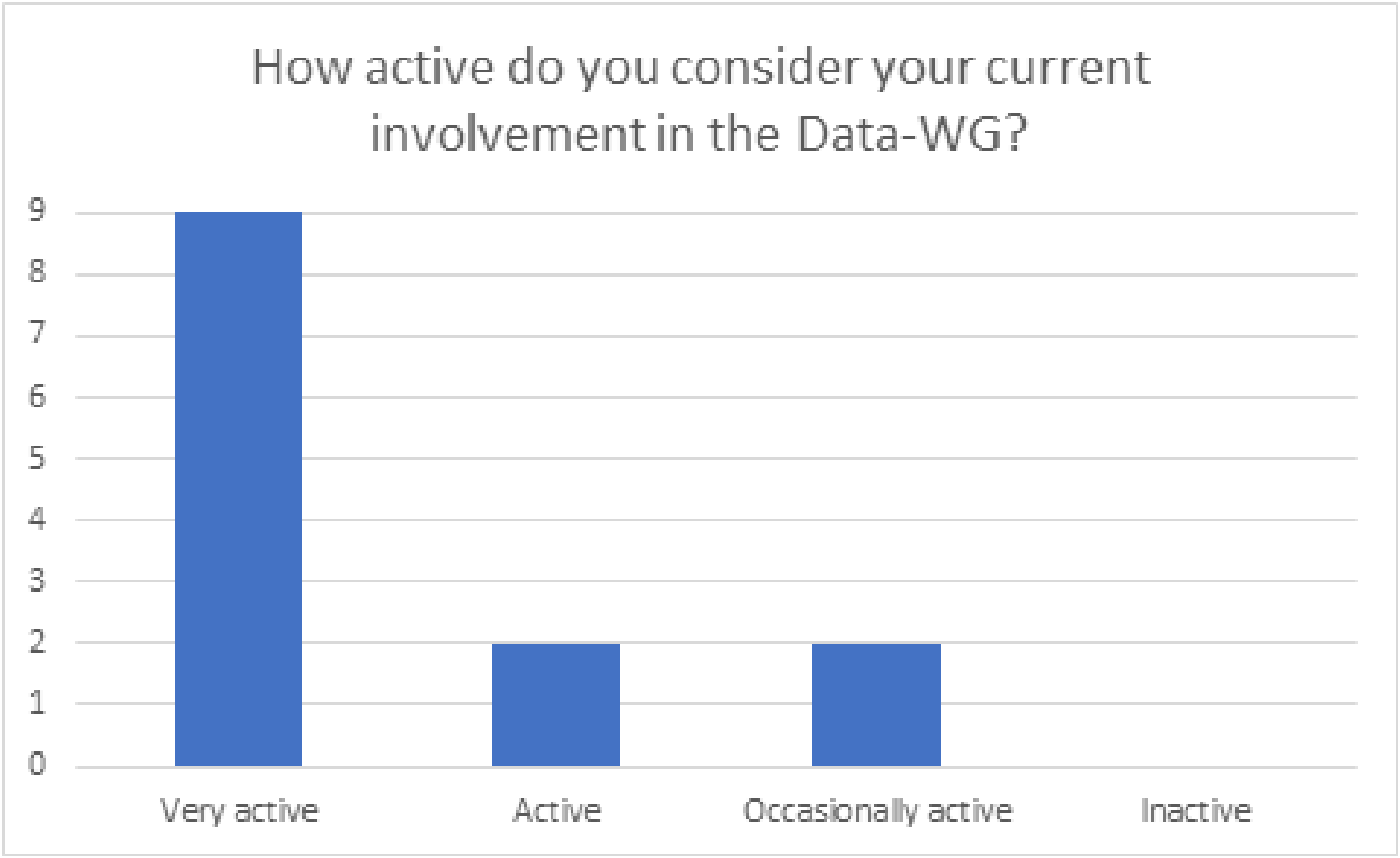


There is a general feeling that the future RCHS-WG should be simple, with sub-groups and deliverables to reflect operations and clearly link to GWP activities.

RCHS-WG way forward

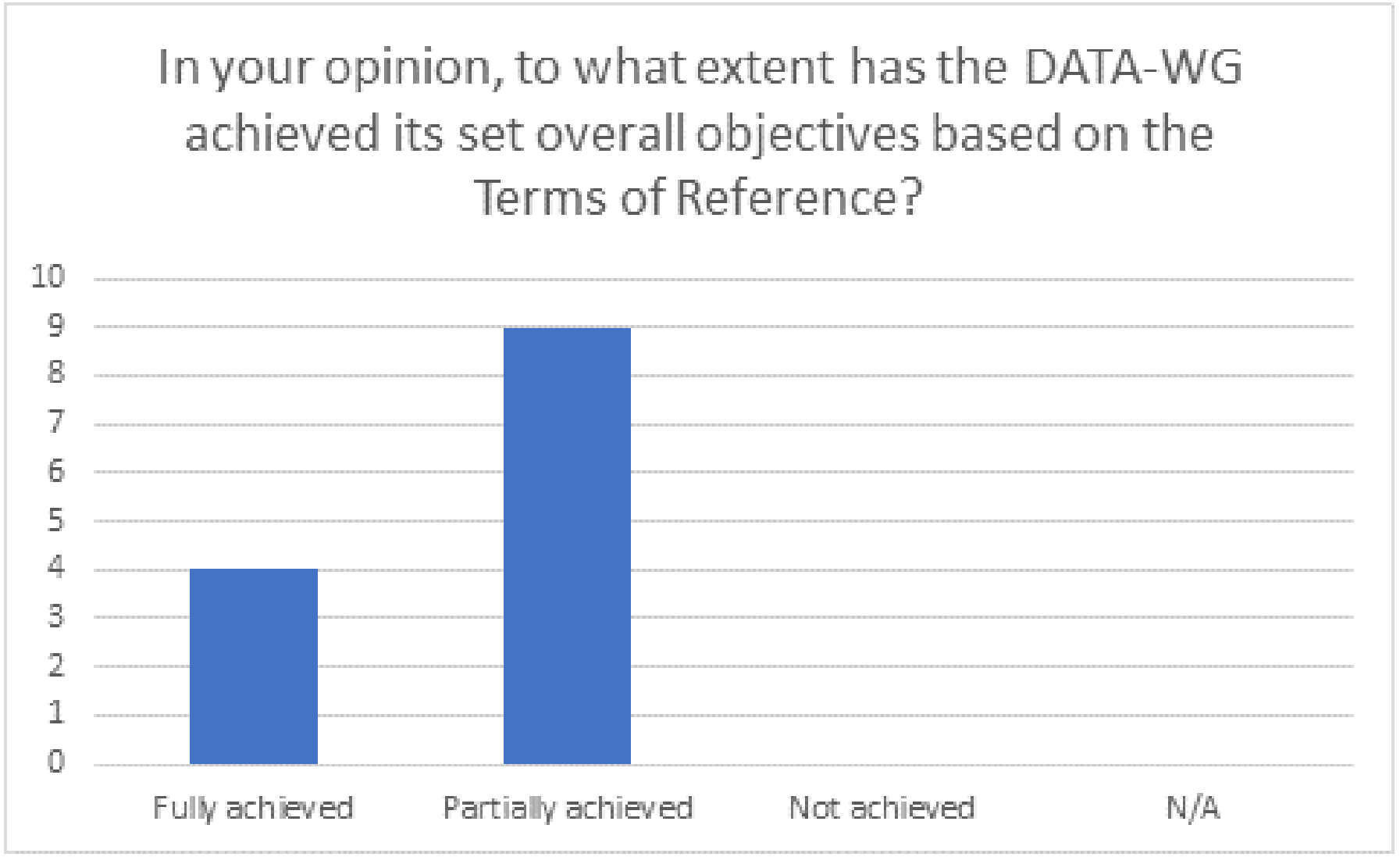
- There is a real need and desire to activate city-level partners / users both through existing GWP activities.
- Improved coordination between and across different GWP activities should be facilitated to ensure GEO captures value and synergy in relation to the use and uptake of EO in relation to urban resilience.
- In addition, the RCHS-WG should prioritise engagement at important global and regional events that relate to matters of urban resilience, urbanisation, sustainable urban development.

Feedback by Data-WG members



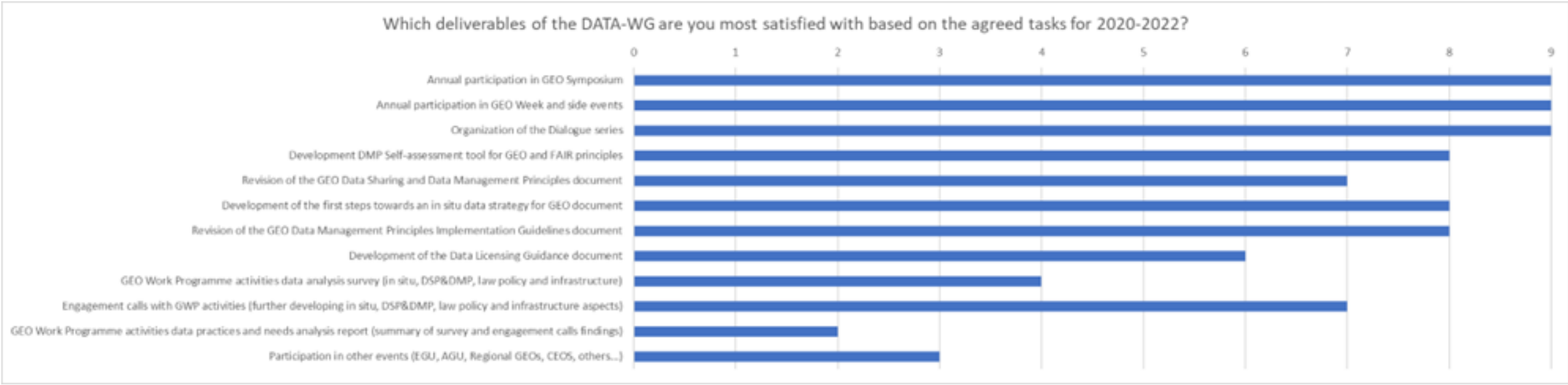
Data-WG members are generally very active

Feedback by Data-WG members



Data-WG members deem the WG objectives have been partially achieved

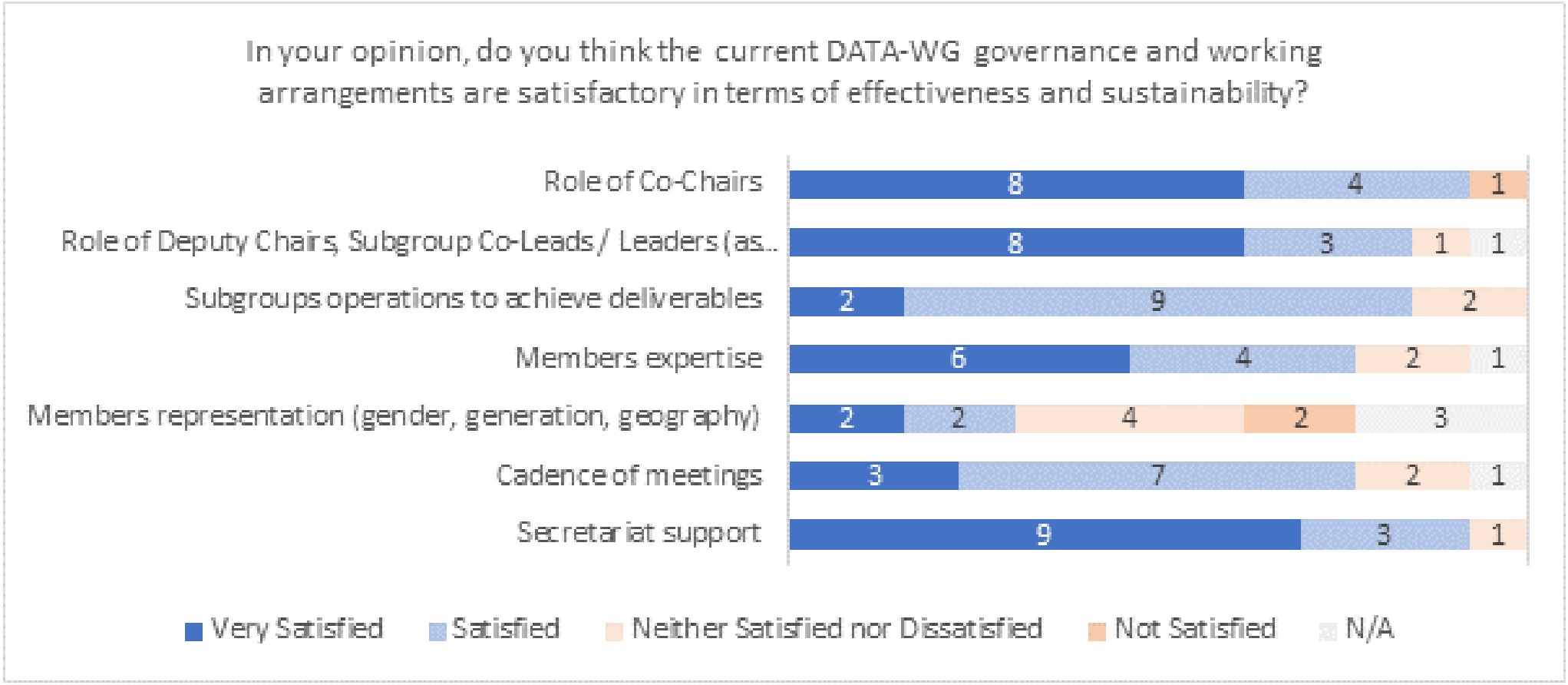
Feedback by Data-WG members



Data-WG members are most satisfied with:

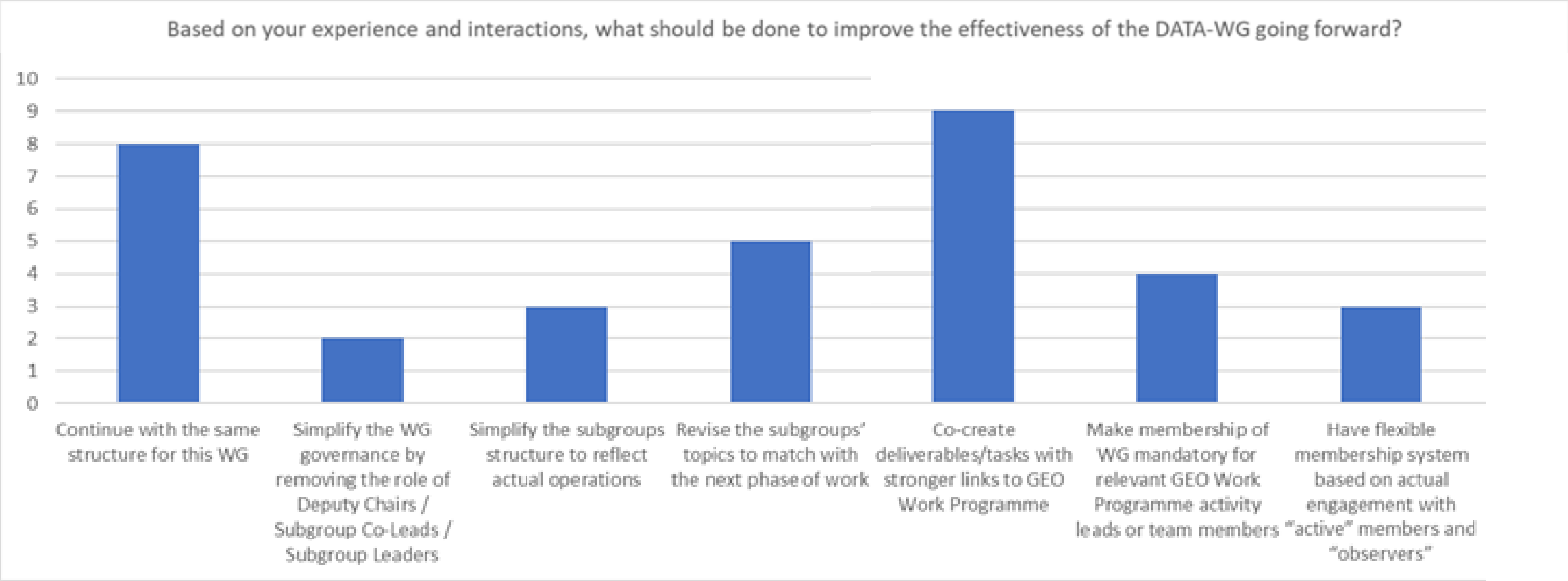
1) **Annual participation in the GEO Symposium / GEO Week and side events**
2) **Organization of the dialogue series**
3) **Development Data Management Principles self-assessment tool for GEO and FAIR principles / Revision of the GEO Data Management Principles Implementation Guidelines document**
4) **Development of the first step towards an in situ data strategy for GEO**

Feedback by Data-WG members



Data-WG members are generally happy with working arrangements - noting that 2 Secretariat staff are dedicated to this WG. Progress is still needed to advance the representativity of some regions, as currently most members are from the global North.

Feedback by Data-WG members



Data-WG members suggest continuing with the same structure, which is decentralized and driven by the three current subgroups. Stronger links with the GWP are clearly called for.

Data-WG way forward

1. Connecting more with the GWP activities, as they are the most immediate consumers of the Data-WG outputs.
2. Continuing to promote the GEO Data Management and Data Sharing Principles adoption and open data licenses to advance towards open knowledge.
3. Documenting the impact and the value of open data and open knowledge.
4. Recommending ways to advance interoperability of EO, including in situ and complementary data.
5. Promoting practical approaches for use, management and sharing of data, especially in situ.

An annual in-person technical event to support the Foundational Task “Data and Knowledge Management” is organized, in collaboration with relevant GEO bodies, and hosted by a GEO Member or Participating Organization.

General Recommendations for approval by PB

01

The GEO WGs consider more flexible structures and modes of operation that are based on the needs of the GEO Work Programme activities and the broader policy landscape within which they operate.

02

The GEO WGs' activities align with the efforts taking place under the Programme Board on GEO Work Programme engagement, coordination and integration, including via the post-2025 incubators.

03

The GEO WGs revise their Terms of Reference (ToR) to align with the post-2025 GEO strategy, once approved.

04

The GEO WGs membership be reviewed and differentiated between active members and observers, with active members being able to contribute to deliverables and regularly participate in WG meetings.

05

The GEO WGs membership include nominations from GEO Work Programme leads, in addition to nominations from GEO Members, Participating Organizations, and Associates.

06

The GEO WGs establish and coordinate annual workplans, identifying concrete outputs, as well as resource implications and leads among Co-Chairs and active members.

07

The GEO WGs hold a standing joint WG meeting and/or session, with a theme to be determined, at the annual GEO Symposium.

General Recommendations for approval by PB

Also, respondents requested:

TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

MORE REGULAR MEETINGS

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON EVENTS

LANGUAGE RESOURCES

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION SUPPORT TO PROMOTE EVENTS AND DELIVERABLES

In order to be able to meet these needs, the GEO Secretariat will require additional resources to be provided by the GEO membership. One possible cost-effective option could be intern support to WG coordinators.

Individual WG Recommendations for approval by PB

The CC-WG continue its activities with the support of GEO Secretariat Climate and Biodiversity Coordinator.

The DRR-WG continue its activities with the support of GEO Secretariat DRR Coordinator.

The CD-WG be transformed into a Community of Practice (CoP) with the support of the Capacity Development Coordinator.

The formation and direction of a future RCHS-WG be supported by the GEO Secretariat Urban Resilience Coordinator.

The Data-WG continue its activities with the support of GEO Secretariat GEOSS Coordinator and In Situ Data Specialist.