

Impacts of citizen science projects with schools – Consolidating partnerships between research and education

Sparkling Science (SPA) – Facts & Figures

Funding Programme

- Duration: 2007-2019
- Budget: 34.9 Mill. Euro
- Funded projects: 299

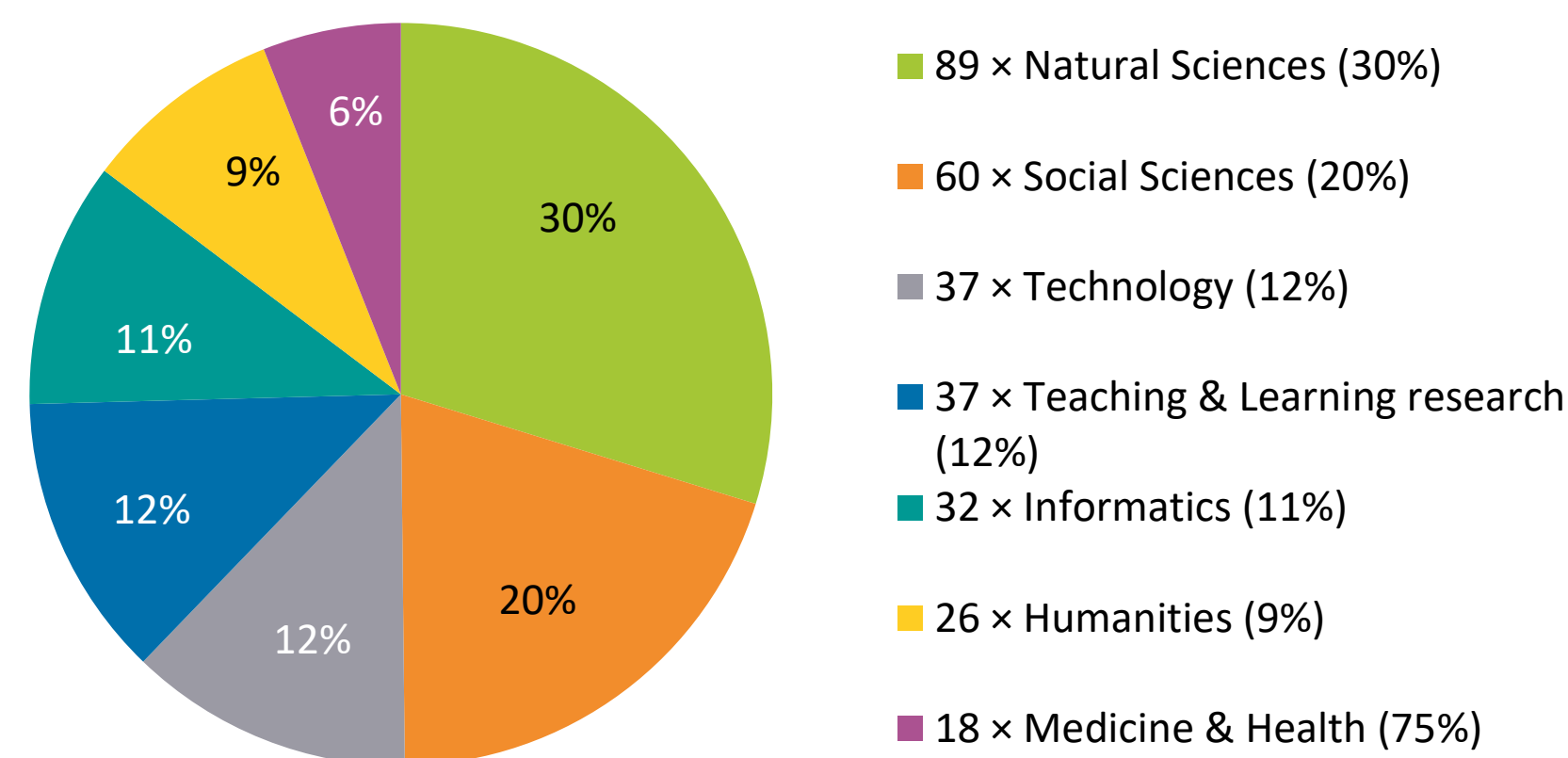
Institutions

- Schools: 529
- Research institutions: 200
- Partners from economy & society: 185

Participants

- Pupils: ~ 95,000
- (Prospective) Teachers: ~ 2,600
- Scientists & students: ~ 4,300

Research Disciplines



2 Programme Evaluations (out of 5)

- Tiefenthaler, B. (2018): Analyse der institutionellen Wirkungen von Sparkling Science. Technopolis.
- Soyer, L., Schwarz-Wölzl, M., Kieslinger, B., Schäfer, T. (2018): Ergänzende Analyse struktureller Effekte des Programms Sparkling Science. Zentrum für Soziale Innovation.

Methods

- Interviews
- Online surveys

- Analysis of project reports
- Case vignettes
- Workshops

→ Available at: sparkling-science.at/de/info/evaluierungen.html

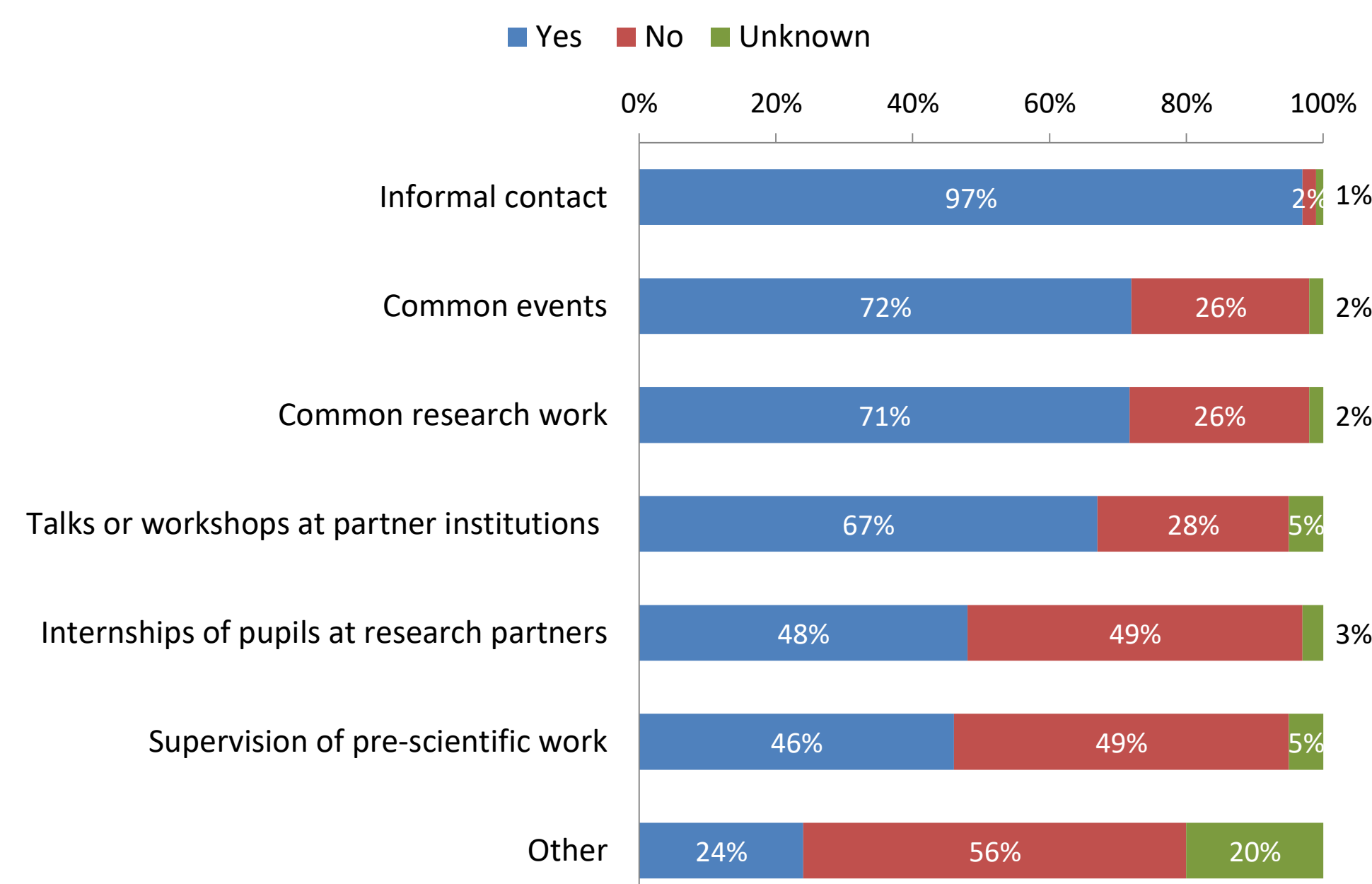
Cooperations with SPA project partners

(Tiefenthaler 2018)

With whom are institutions in contact beyond the project?

Over 90% of the respondents (n=310) are still in contact with one or more of their SPA partners. The vast majority of these contacts are with **schools (74%)** and **universities (64%)**.

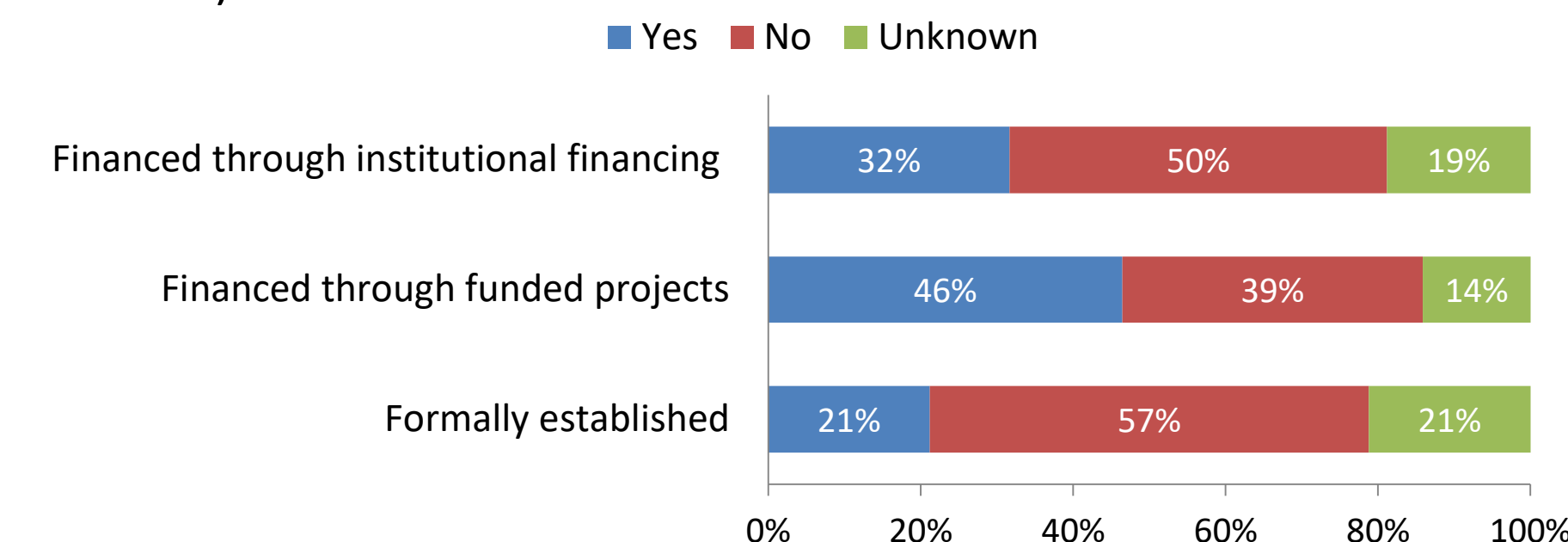
What are the types of cooperation? (n=260)



Federal Ministry
Education, Science
and Research

How are these cooperations financed? (Tiefenthaler, 2018)

It is often very **difficult to continue partnerships** without a funded project, even if costs may be relatively low (e.g. for visits)



New cooperations (Tiefenthaler 2018)

Many SPA participants were approached by third parties because of their **SPA experience**, which in many cases led to new collaborations. Examples:

- Stronger collaboration within research organisations & schools
- Participation in new (international) research projects
- Higher visibility e.g. in the region

Impacts on participants (based on Soyer et al. 2018)

Teachers	Pupils	Scientists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong learning • Connection with academia • New perspectives & knowledge • Recognition • New learning material • Break out of daily routine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness building and new knowledge and interests • Scientific working • Skills e.g. critical thinking, social & communication competences • Self-confidence • Support regarding career choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to life worlds of young people • Scientific knowledge and methodical learnings • Science communication skills • Acceptance of education-science-cooperations