

A photograph of three scientists in a laboratory setting. A man in the background is wearing safety goggles and a lab coat, holding a pipette. A woman in the middle is also wearing safety goggles and a lab coat, looking down at a notebook. A man in the foreground is wearing safety goggles and a lab coat, writing in a notebook. The background is slightly blurred, showing laboratory equipment and shelves.

# **BREXIT: Global researchers' views on opportunities and challenges**

**Full Report – November 2017**

# Contents

Section	Slide Number
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TOP INSIGHTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>5</b>
Awareness	6
Actions Taken: UK and EU Institutes	8
Implications for Government	11
Implications for Universities and Others	13
<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>18</b>
Global View	19
Current and Future: UK	27
Current and Future: EU	31
Current and Future: Non-EU	34
Understanding of Implications of Brexit	37
<b>Ipsos MORI standards and accreditations</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>41</b>
Additional breakdowns	42
Methodology: Stage 1, 2, 3, and supporting research	44
Qualitative Insight: Voice of the Researcher	47

# Research methodology

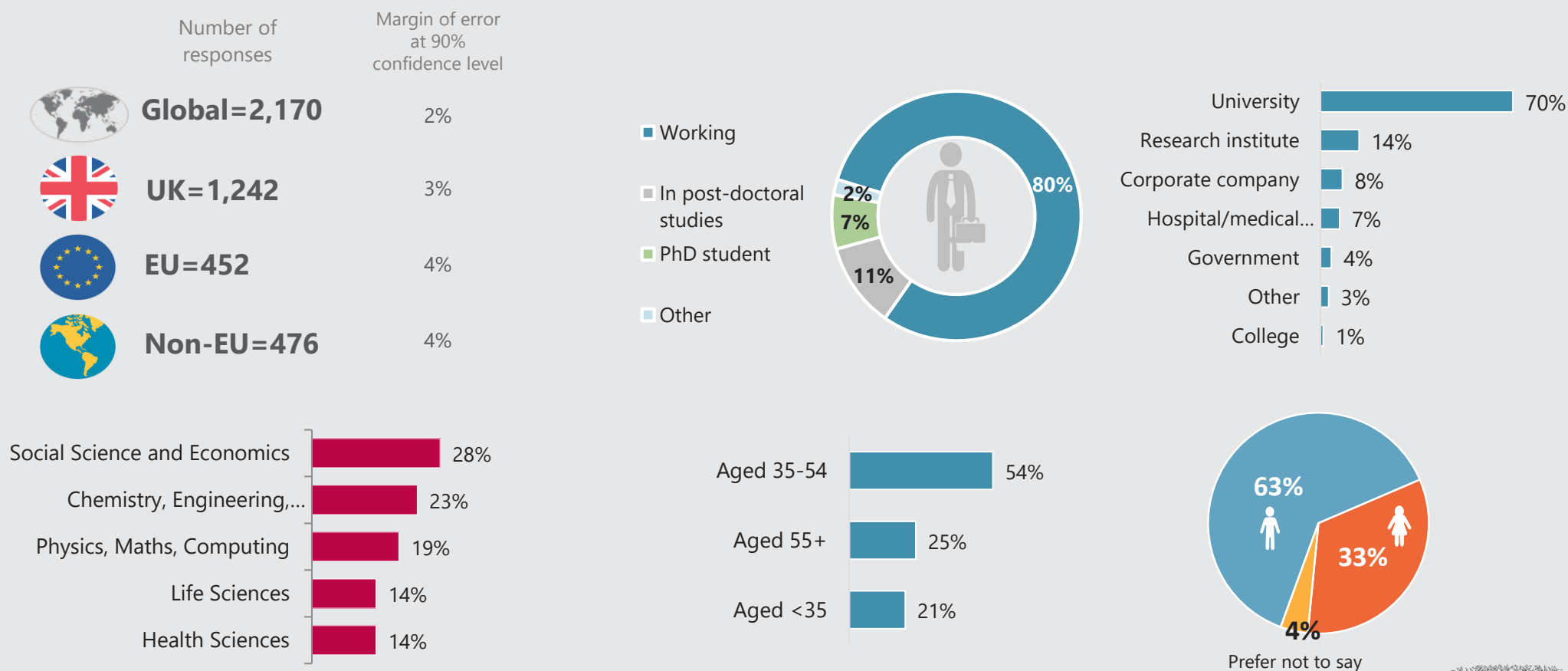
## - survey conducted in October 2017

**Online survey** (29<sup>th</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017)

*Aim: to collect information with regards to the challenges and opportunities faced by the research community in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU.*

*Comparison: Highlight change when compared to findings from previous research carried out in May 2017 (n=2,469).*

*Questionnaire length: 16 minutes on average*



*Sample: Obtained through a random selection of researchers from the Scopus database of published researchers. This database covers 20,000 different journals, including >3 million researchers around the world. The sample was profiled so country and subject area speciality could be tracked during fieldwork to ensure sufficient responses by area. To ensure results were representative they are weighted to reflect the OECD distribution of researchers. The UK population was oversampled to ensure that the UK results are very robust, the weighting ensures the UK's contribution to the global scores reflects its size.*

# Top insights

## Strategies and next steps

UK-based researchers are highly supportive of the various strategies and actions the **Government** could take in order to face the challenges posed by Brexit. This applies both to measures which are related to the legal status of EU researchers who wish to work in the UK, as well as to collaborations and to research funding. Actions which receive the most support are those related to the free movement of EU researchers working in the UK and replacement of any funding no longer accessible to UK academic institutions.

Researchers' expectations are high, both with regards to measures coming from the UK Government, as well as from British universities and research institutes.

Actions noticed so far suggest that **universities** are mainly focused communication and information, while, according to British researchers, their main focus should be on partnering with EU universities, and on supporting visa applications for EU staff, both legally and financially.

Compared to the outcomes of the survey conducted in May 2017, support for actions coming from UK universities such as free legal assistance for EU staff, or covering their costs for visa and citizenship applications is increasing.

## Impact

On the whole, researchers across the UK and the EU feel that an impact of the UK leaving the EU will be felt in the UK, the EU, and within their research communities. This feeling is stronger among UK-based researchers than it is among their EU and non EU-based colleagues.

In particular, it is expected to impact on mobility, access to research funds, ability of UK universities to attract foreign staff and students, as well as collaboration between EU and UK universities. While some impact is already perceived, it is expected to impact further in the future.

EU-based researchers feel that there may be less collaboration with UK institutes in the future. On most aspects, uncertainty is particularly high among researchers based the EU.

## Knowledge

The majority of researchers feel that they know at least a fair amount about the implications of Brexit for the UK, the EU and the UK research community.

Although UK based researchers tend to feel more informed on potential impact than their colleagues based in the EU and outside the EU, awareness levels among UK-based researchers have fallen a little since May 2017 as enhanced uncertainty has set in.





## **Awareness of current actions**

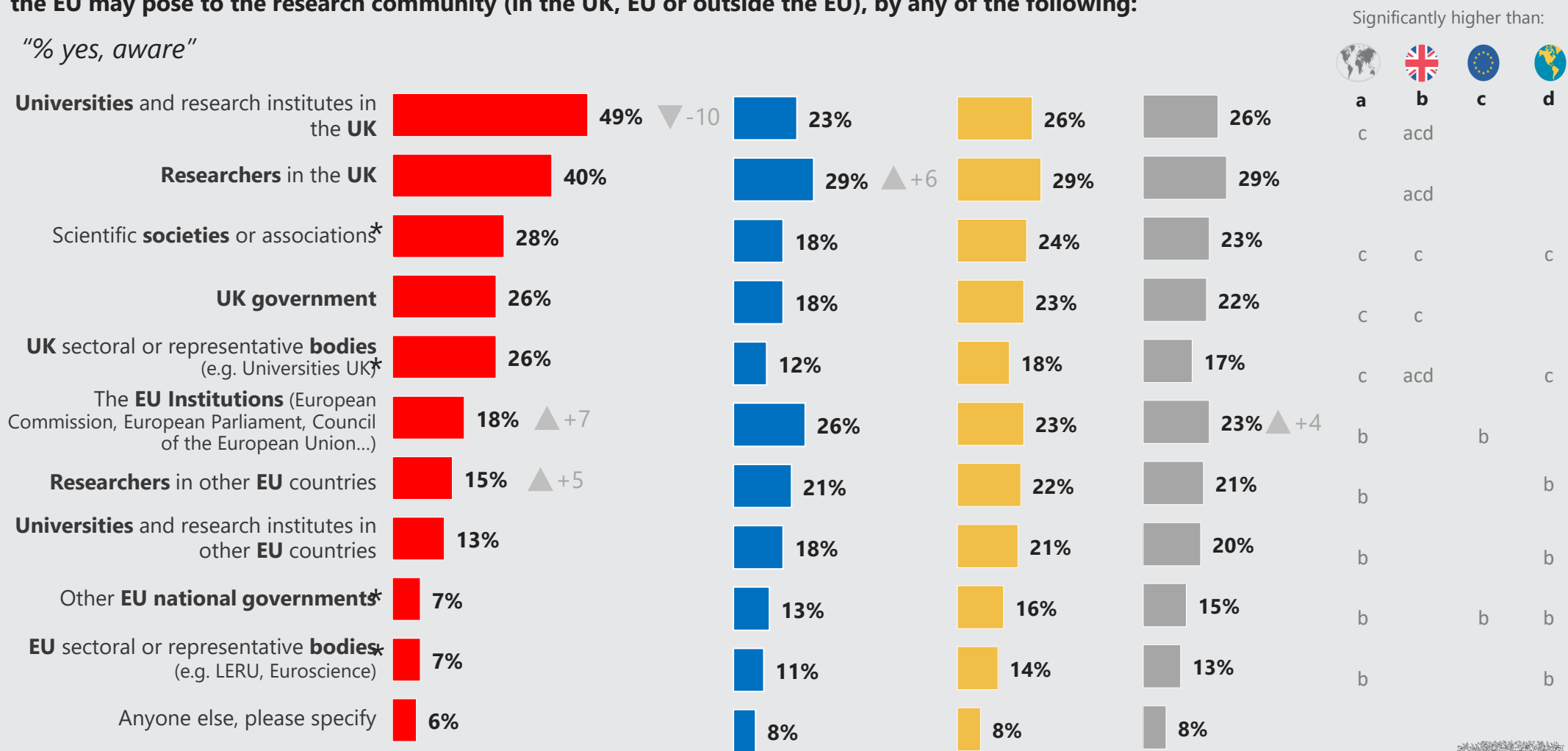
**Awareness levels for actions undertaken is highest for UK universities, these are related to information and communication - EU universities have focused less on this**

## ACTIONS AWARENESS

**Awareness of strategies undertaken by key players varies considerably. UK-based researchers are most aware of the actions taken by UK institutes and researchers, while EU researchers are most aware of actions taken by their UK colleagues.**

**Q8. Are you aware, or not, of any actions or strategies undertaken so far in order to face some of the challenges the UK's decision to leave the EU may pose to the research community (in the UK, EU or outside the EU), by any of the following:**

"% yes, aware"



\*Item asked only in Oct 2017



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+ Significant change since May 2017  
- Significant change since May 2017

a/b/c/d: letter stat higher at 90%



UK (1,242)



EU (452)



NON-EU (476)



TOTAL (2,170)



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# Awareness of actions undertaken so far are primarily focused on funding and collaborations.

**Q9. Please name or describe the actions you are aware of, which have been undertaken in order to face some of the challenges the UK's decision to leave the EU may pose to the research community by the...**

*(open ended question)*

## UK Government



Base: Those who were asked about actions undertaken by the UK Government; n=478

The UK government has claimed that it will continue funding the research institutes and universities so that they will not lose out from not being part of the EU research programmes anymore.

## UK unis and institutes



Base: Those who were asked about actions undertaken by the UK universities; n=571

## UK researchers



Base: Those who were asked about actions undertaken by the UK researchers; n=634

Conscious efforts to assure EU and wider research community that UK universities are still open for collaboration.

Base: Those who are aware of at least one type of action; n=1357

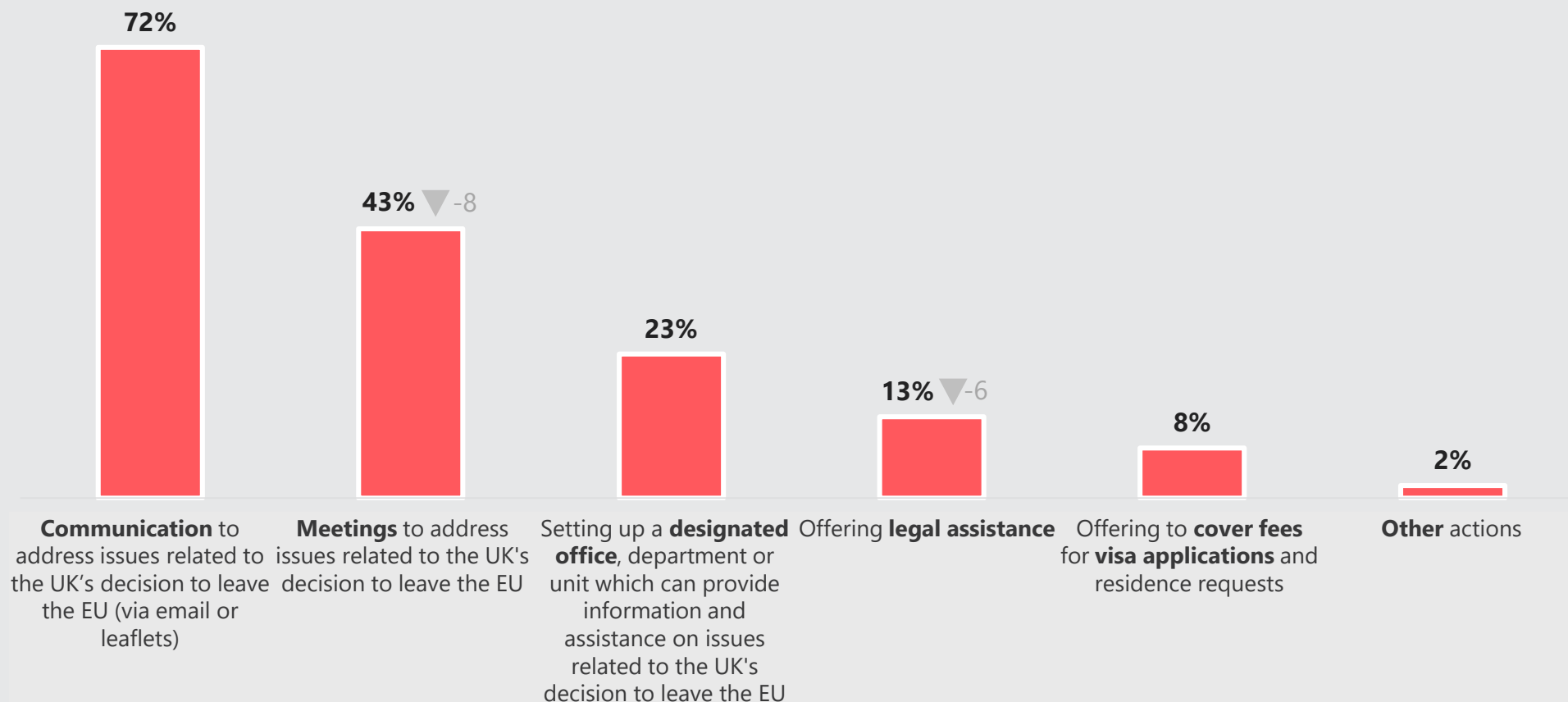


## ACTIONS AWARENESS

The majority of UK researchers say their institution has addressed Brexit issues to EU staff through communication and meetings, although fewer cite meetings than they did in May.

Q12a. Since the referendum, has the **institute you mainly work** for undertaken any of the following actions related to EU staff members, or not? Please select all which apply:

« Yes »



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+ Significant  
change since  
May 2017  
-

Base: UK; n=1,242



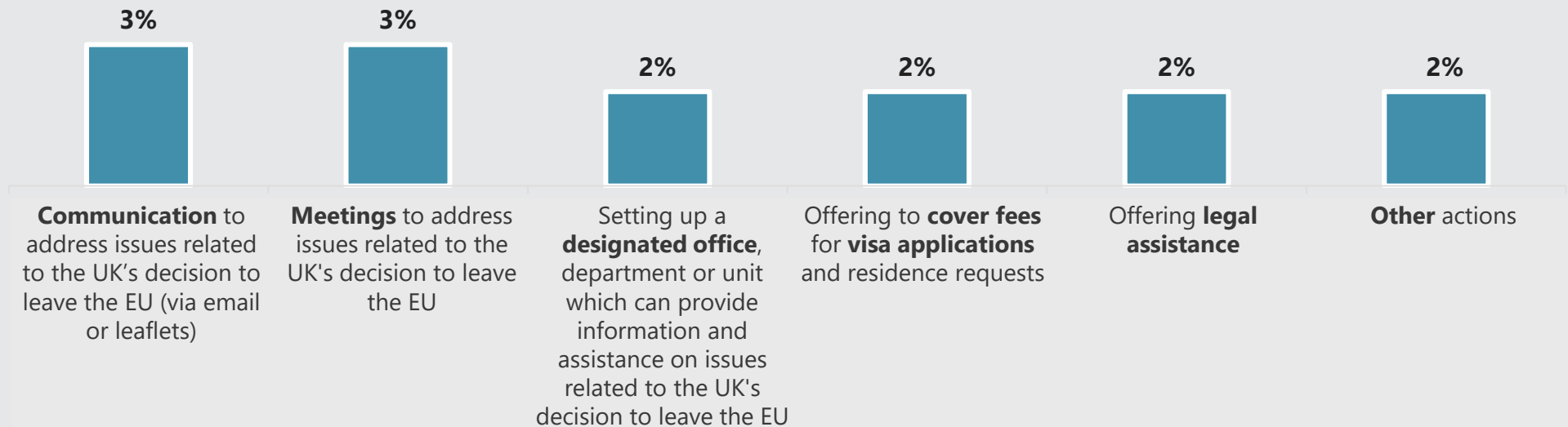




## A small minority of EU-based researchers are aware of strategies for British staff at their institute.

Q14a. Since the referendum, has the **institute** you mainly work for undertaken any of the following actions related to British staff members? Please select all which apply:

« Yes »



The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of Euro currency. In the foreground, a portion of a gold-colored Euro coin is visible, showing the embossed design of a rose and the year '2019'. Behind it, several Euro banknotes are layered, with the 'EUR' text and intricate security patterns visible. The overall tone is professional and financial.

# Implications for different organisations

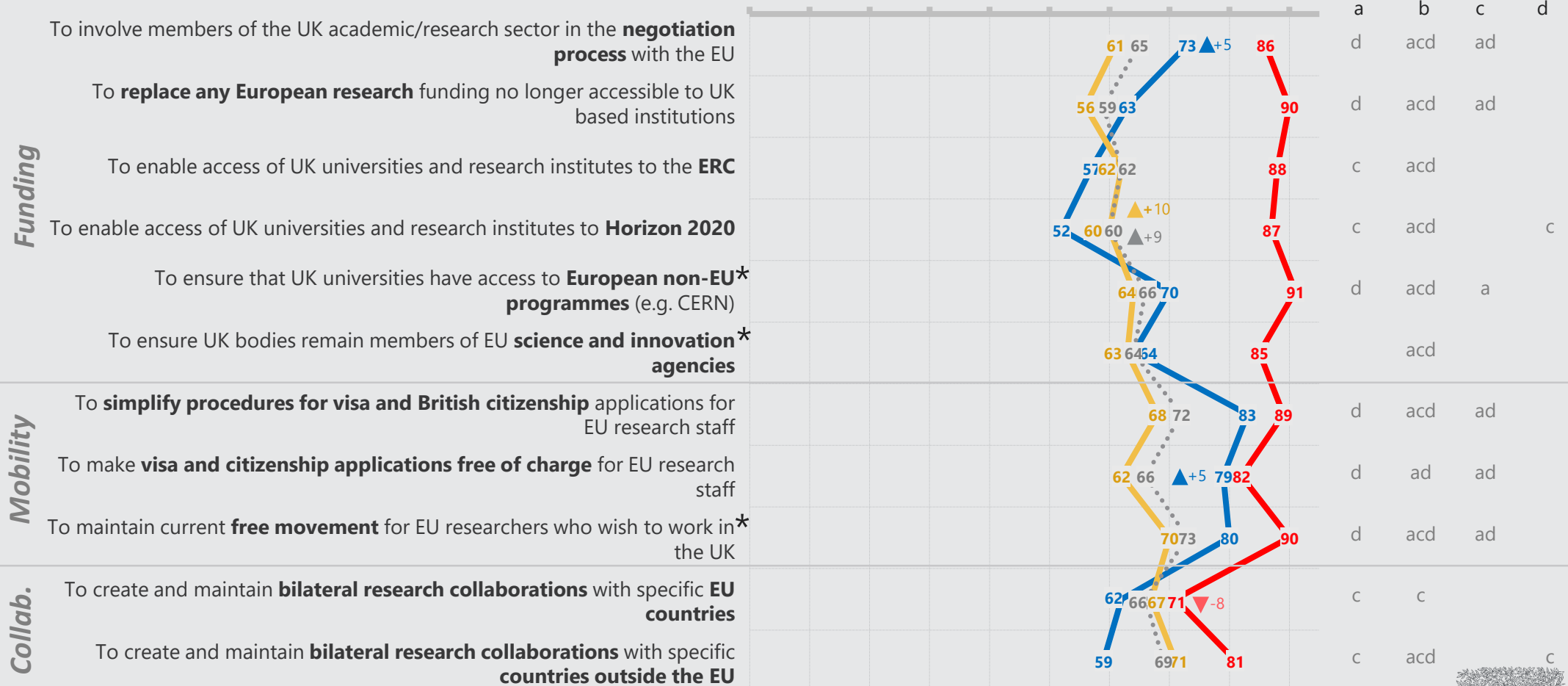
**Support for a series of proposed actions is high. Government to secure free movement, visas & funding. Universities to assist & cover visas costs.**

## IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

**UK researchers strongly support numerous types of actions; funding is a particular priority. UK and EU researchers favour simple visa arrangements and free movement. Although still high, support for bi-lateral collaboration with specific EU countries has slipped since May amongst UK researchers.**

**Q16. The following statements describe possible actions which can be undertaken by different organisations in order to overcome some of the potential challenges to the research community posed by the UK's decision to leave the EU. How strongly do you support or oppose each of these to be done **by the UK government**?**

"% strongly support/tend to support"



\*Items asked only in Oct 2017



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+ Significant change since May 2017  
- Significant change since May 2017

a/b/c/d: letter stat higher at 90%



UK (1,242)



EU (452)



NON-EU (476)



TOTAL (2,170)



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**Researchers advocating the UK should form closer bilateral partnerships are most likely to focus on Germany, the USA and France.**

**Q16d/Q17a. In your opinion, with which country/countries do you think the UK should form a closer partnership for the purposes of collaborating on research projects? Please select up to 3.**

*strongly/tend to support bilateral research collaborations with specific EU countries:*



**EU=62%**



**Non EU=67%**



**UK=71% ▼ -8**

- **43% Germany**
- **30% France**
- **7% Netherlands**
- **6% Italy**
- **5% Spain**
- **4% Sweden**
- **3% Denmark**
- **2% Belgium, Ireland**

*Base: All those who strongly support/tend to support the UK should create/maintain bilateral relationships with other EU countries; n=1572*

*strongly/tend to support bilateral research collaborations with specific countries outside the EU*



**EU=59%**



**Non EU=71%**



**UK=81%**

- **39% USA**
- **13% China**
- **12% Canada, Australia**
- **11% India**
- **8% Japan**
- **4% Switzerland**
- **3% Brazil**
- **2% Norway, New Zealand, Russia**

*Base: All those who strongly support/tend to support the UK should create/maintain bilateral relationships with non-EU countries; n=1,639*





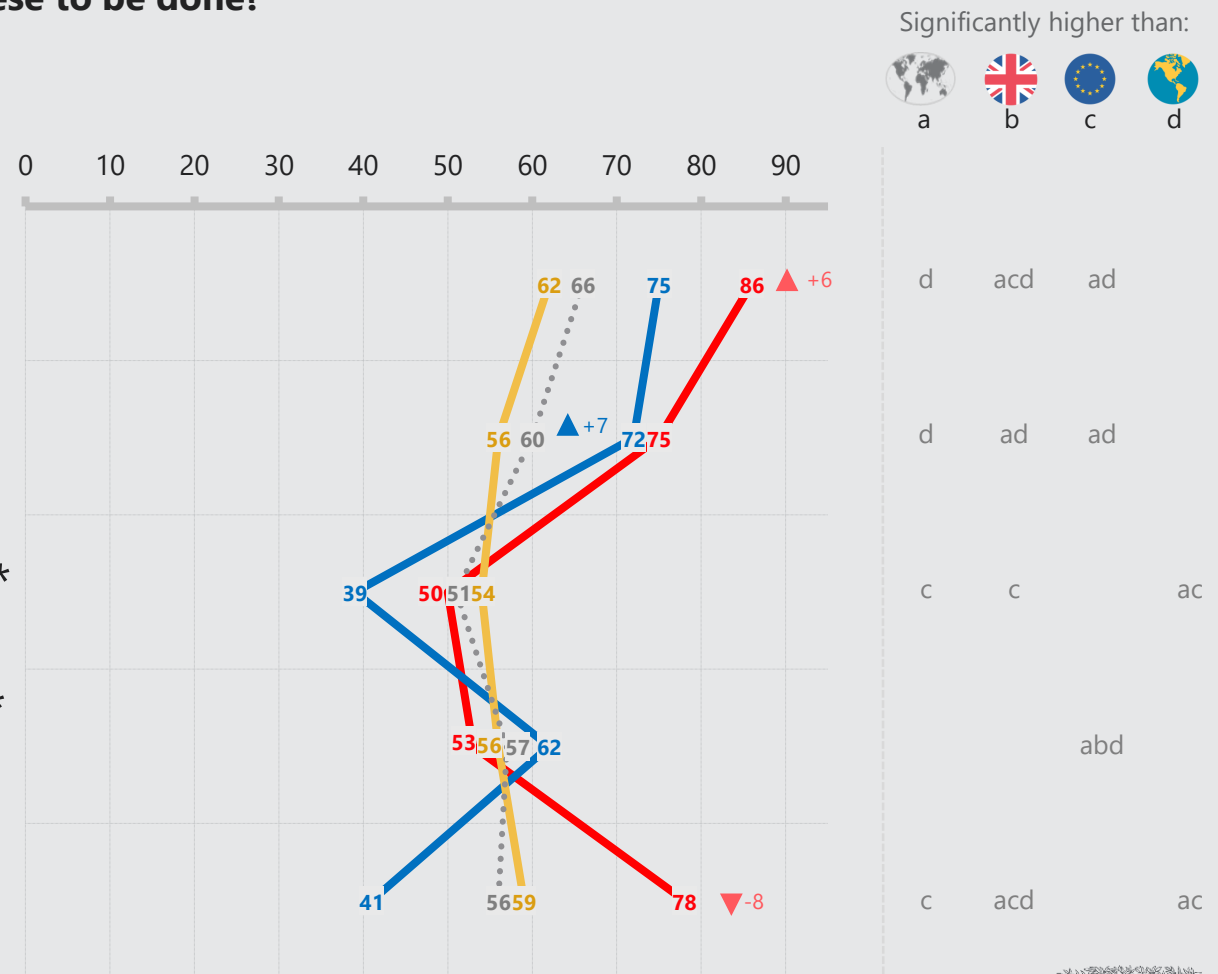
## IMPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITIES AND OTHERS

The vast majority of UK researchers support UK institutes offering free legal assistance to EU staff. Three quarters of UK researchers believe the EU should continue to allow UK academic institutes access to EU scientific funding.

**Q16. The following statements describe possible actions which can be undertaken by different organisations in order to overcome some of the potential challenges to the research community posed by the UK's decision to leave the EU. How strongly do you support or oppose each of these to be done?**

*"% strongly support/tend to support"*

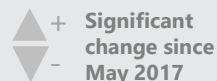
- UK universities** and research institutes to offer **free legal assistance to EU staff** members and their families for British visa and citizenship applications
- UK universities** and research institutes to **cover costs related to British visa** and citizenship applications for EU staff and their family
- UK universities** and research institutes to **open branches in EU** countries so that those institutes can attract EU researchers\* and have access to EU funding
- Researchers** take on the responsibility for **ensuring cross-border collaboration** (UK and EU) on research projects
- The **EU** to enable access of UK unis and research institutes to **Horizon 2020/FP9** on the same basis as other EU countries



\*Items asked only in Oct 2017



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a/b/c/d: letter stat higher at 90%



UK (1,242)



EU (452)



NON-EU (476)



TOTAL (2,170)



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## IMPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITIES AND OTHERS

When it comes to what UK institutes can do, UK researchers prioritise partnering with EU universities to ensure cross-border collaboration. They also favoured asking their institute to offer legal assistance to EU staff, and to cover any fees for EU staff members' relocation to the UK.

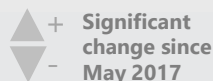
**Q13. And which, if any, of these actions do you think that the **institute** you mainly work for should undertake regarding the UK's decision to leave the EU. Please select up to three measures which you consider most important.**



\*Item asked only in Oct 2017



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Base: UK; n=1,242

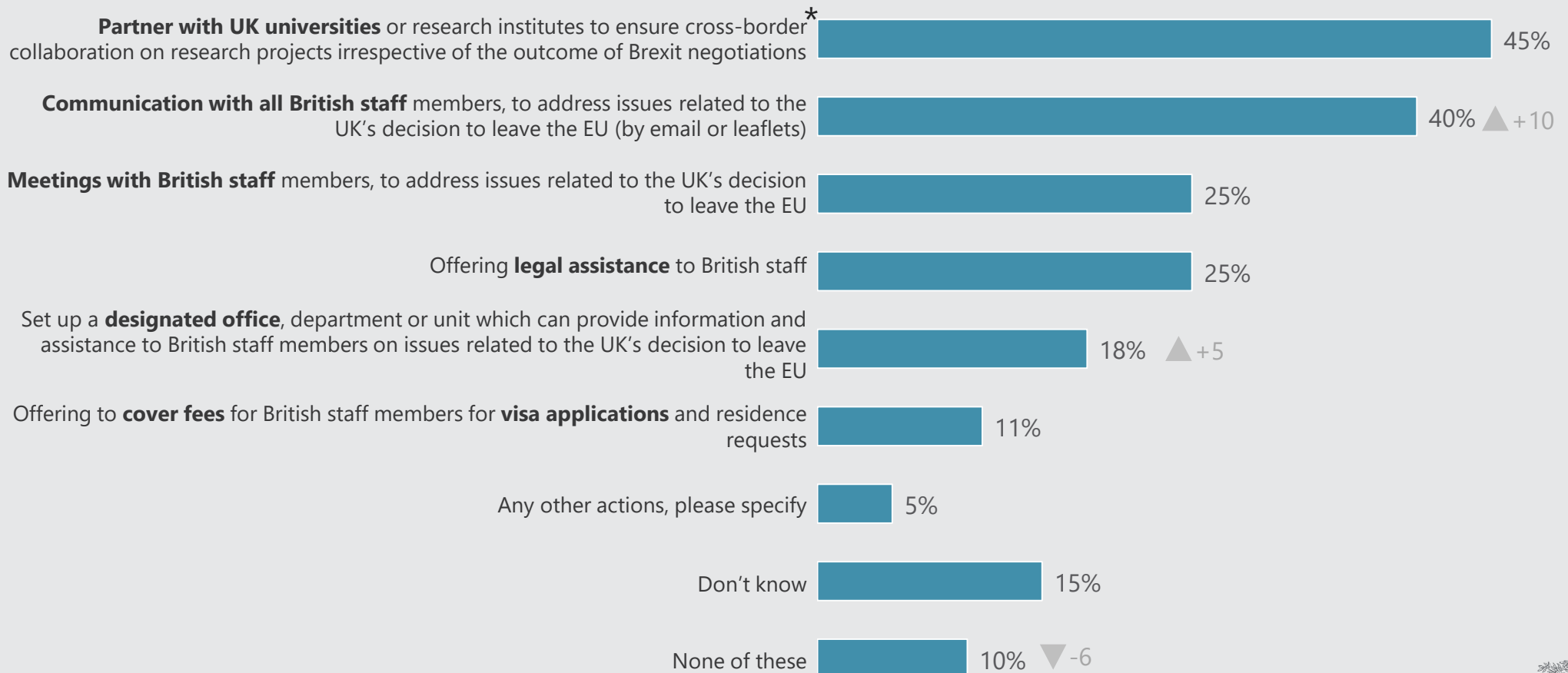




## IMPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITIES AND OTHERS

**Much like their British colleagues, EU researchers find that partnering with UK universities is most important. More importance is placed on communication with British staff members compared to May 2017.**

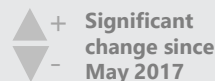
**Q15. And which of the following actions, if any, do you think the **institute** you work for should undertake regarding the UK's decision to leave the EU? *Please select up to three measures which you consider most important.***



\*Item asked only in Oct 2017



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Base: EU; n=452



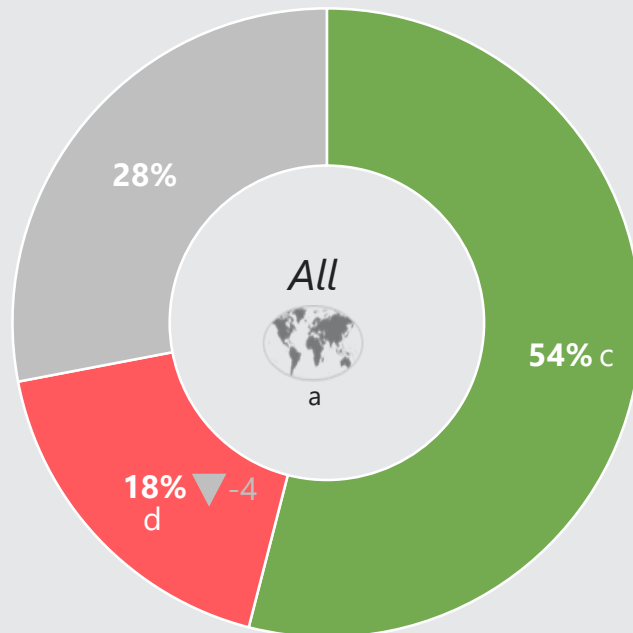


## IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

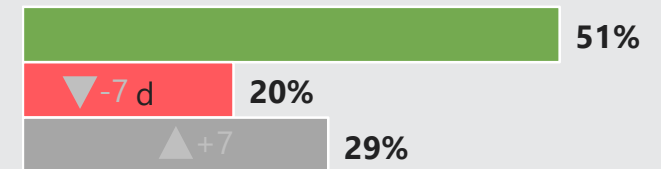
# The majority of researchers support the creation of a global research body.

**Q24. As you may know, European Member States contribute financially through the EU framework programme (Horizon 2020/FP9) to fund research projects overseen by the European Research Council. Do you think that a similar global research body should be formed over the next 5-10 years or not?**

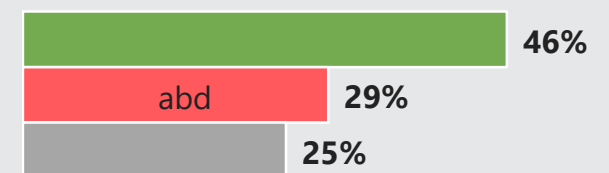
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know



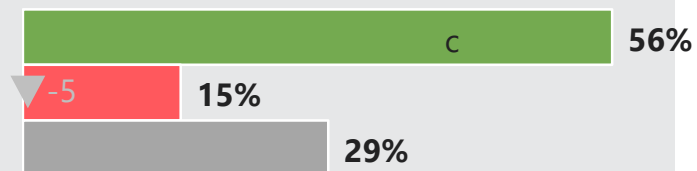
b



c



d



Base: All; n=2,170



UK=1,242



EU=452



Non-EU=476



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+ Significant  
change since  
May 2017  
-

a/b/c/d: letter stat difference shown at 90%



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## IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

**Uncertainty is high among researchers with regards to who should be responsible for managing a global research fund. Most advocate for existing international organisations, while others feel that a new body should be created for this purpose.**

**Q25. Which organization do you think should be responsible for managing such a global research fund?\***  
(open ended question)



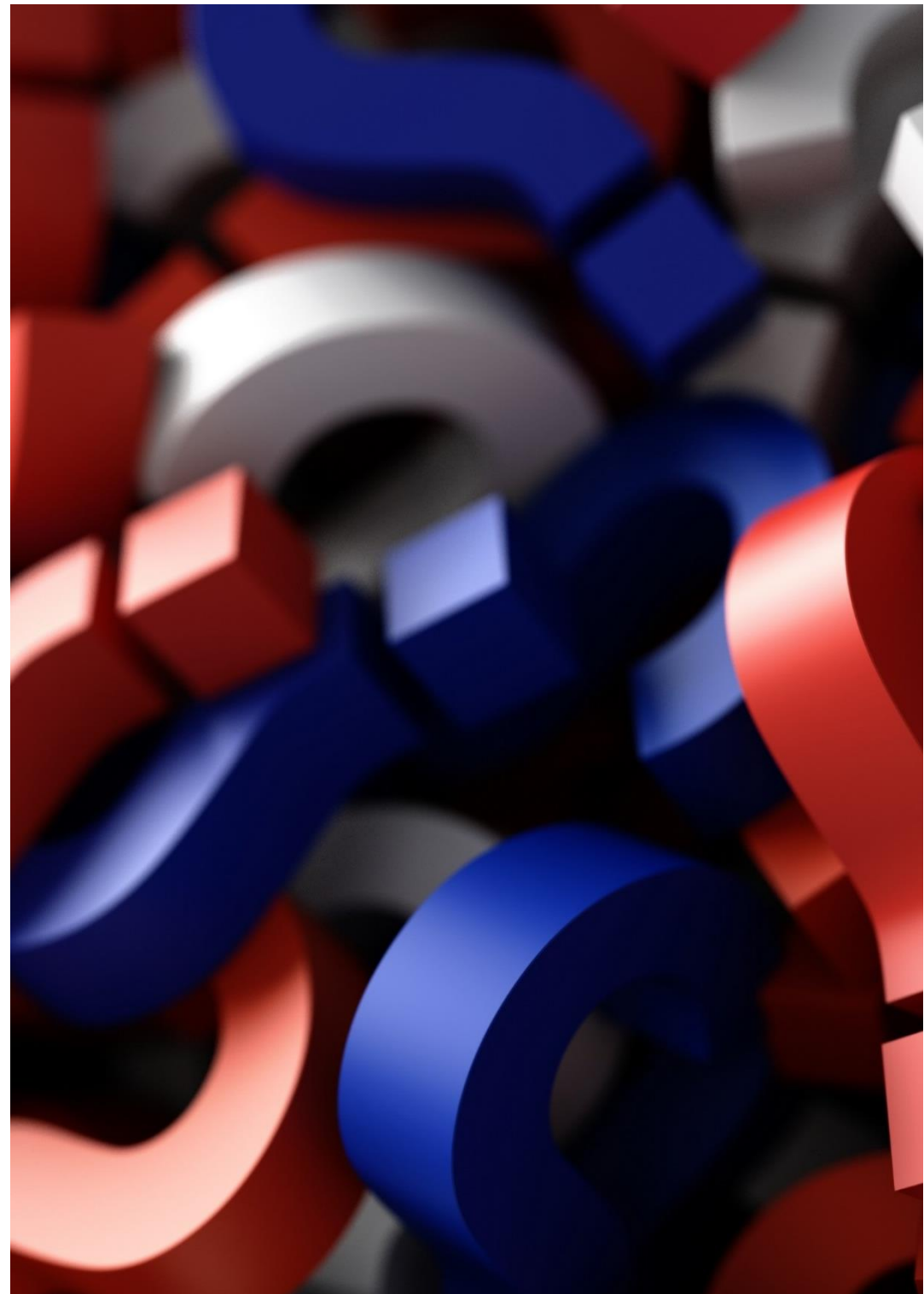
Base: All who feel that a global research body should be formed; n=1148

# IMPACT

Why are such  
actions needed?



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# **The global view of the broad impact of BREXIT on the UK, the EU and worldwide**

**Perceived impact of Brexit is high on the UK & EU academic and research communities. Researchers believe the UK is now a less attractive place to do research**

# IMPACT

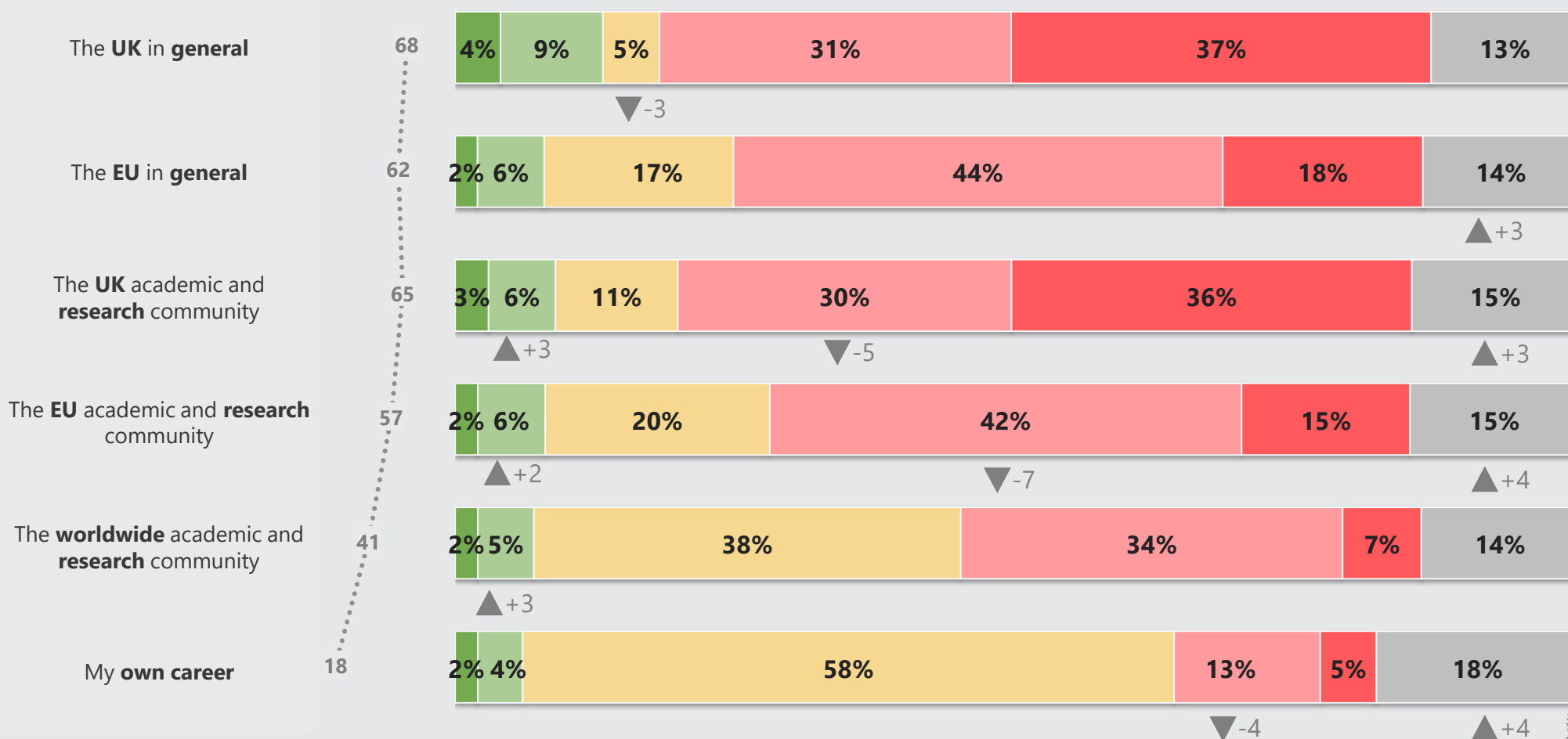
Researchers globally perceive that Brexit will have most impact on the UK. Uncertainty has increased since May 2017, which explains why over a third of EU and UK based researchers feel that communication is important.



General

**Q3. In your opinion, do you think that the UK leaving the EU will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following, or will it make no difference?**

% Very/Fairly negative    ■ Very positive   ■ Fairly positive   ■ No difference   ■ Fairly negative   ■ Very negative   ■ Don't know/Prefer not to say



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+ Significant change since May 2017  
- Significant change since May 2017

Base: all; n=2,170



# IMPACT

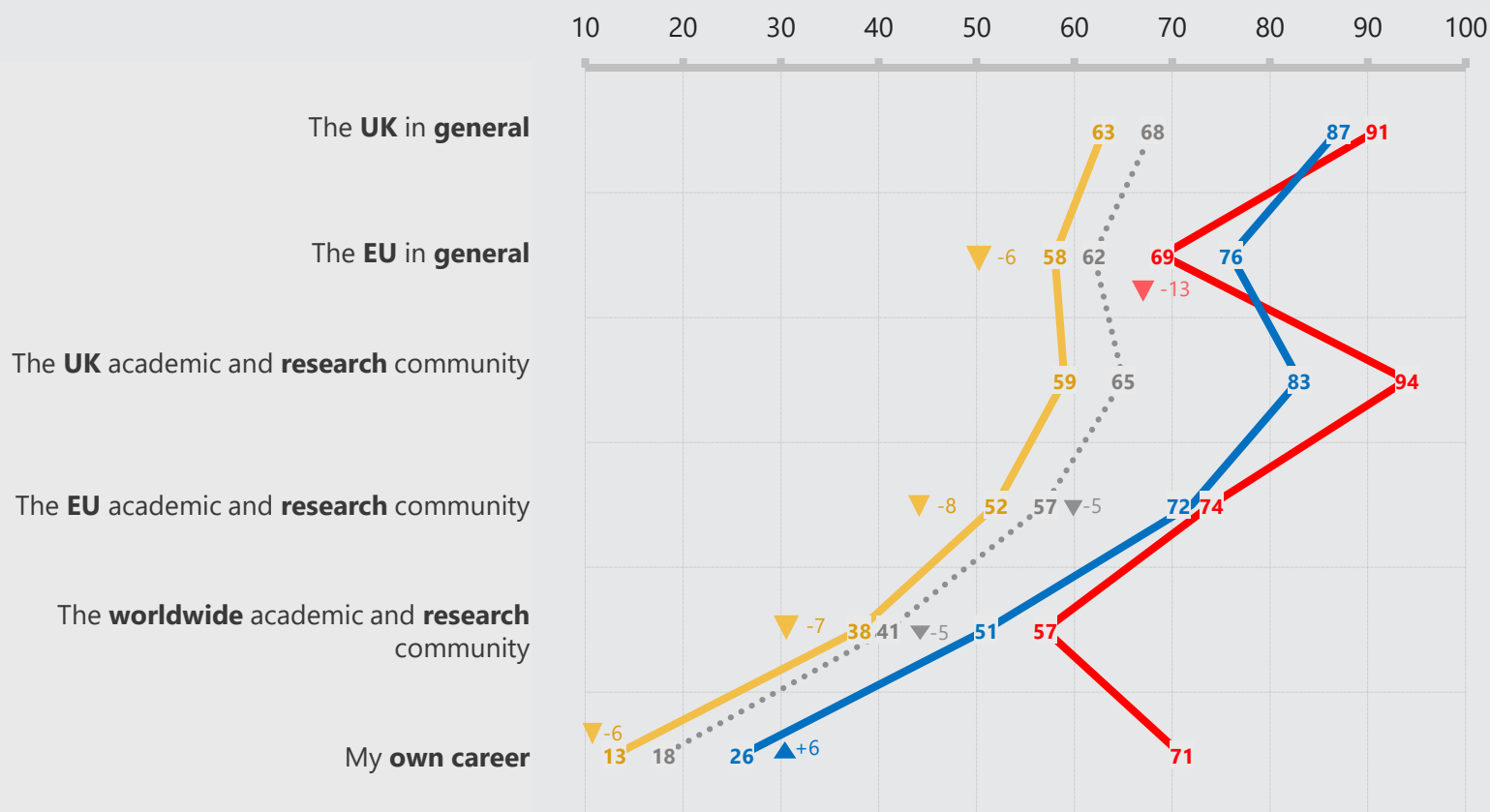
General

Both UK and EU researchers expect the impact of Brexit to be greatest on the UK and the research community within the UK.

Q3. In your opinion, do you think that the UK leaving the EU will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following, or will it make no difference?

% Very/fairly negative

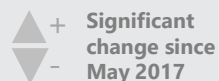
Significantly higher than:



d	ad	ad
d	ad	abd
d	acd	ad
d	ad	ad
d	ad	ad
d	acd	ad



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a/b/c/d: letter stat higher at 90%



UK (1,242)



EU (452)



NON-EU (476)



TOTAL (2,170)



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# IMPACT

This perception of an impact is expected across a number of areas: the mobility of UK researchers, the ability of the UK to attract foreign researchers, UK access to research funding and international collaboration.



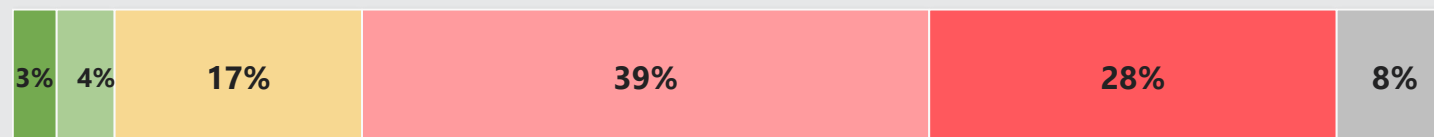
## Research projects

**Q3.1. In your opinion, do you think that the UK's decision to leave the EU will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following, or will it make no difference?**

% Very/Fairly negative    ■ Very positive    ■ Fairly positive    ■ No difference    ■ Fairly negative    ■ Very negative    ■ Don't know/Prefer not to say

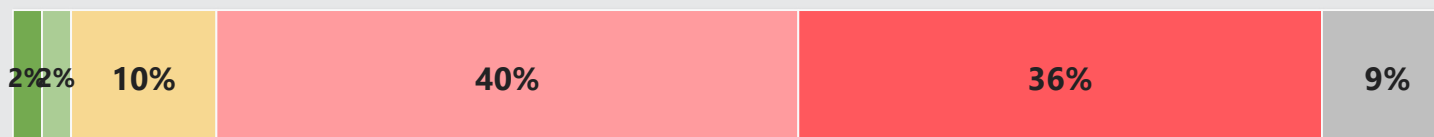
The ability of UK universities to **attract foreign staff** and students

67



The **mobility** of UK university staff and students between the UK and other EU countries

76



▲+2

Access of UK universities to **research funds**

68

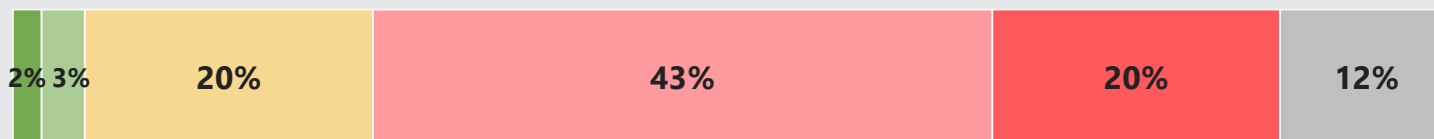


▲+3

▼-5

**Collaboration** between UK universities and non-UK based universities

62



▲+5



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+ Significant change since May 2017  
- Significant change since May 2017

Please note some summary figures may not equal the sum of constituent parts due to rounding

Base: all; n=2,170



# IMPACT

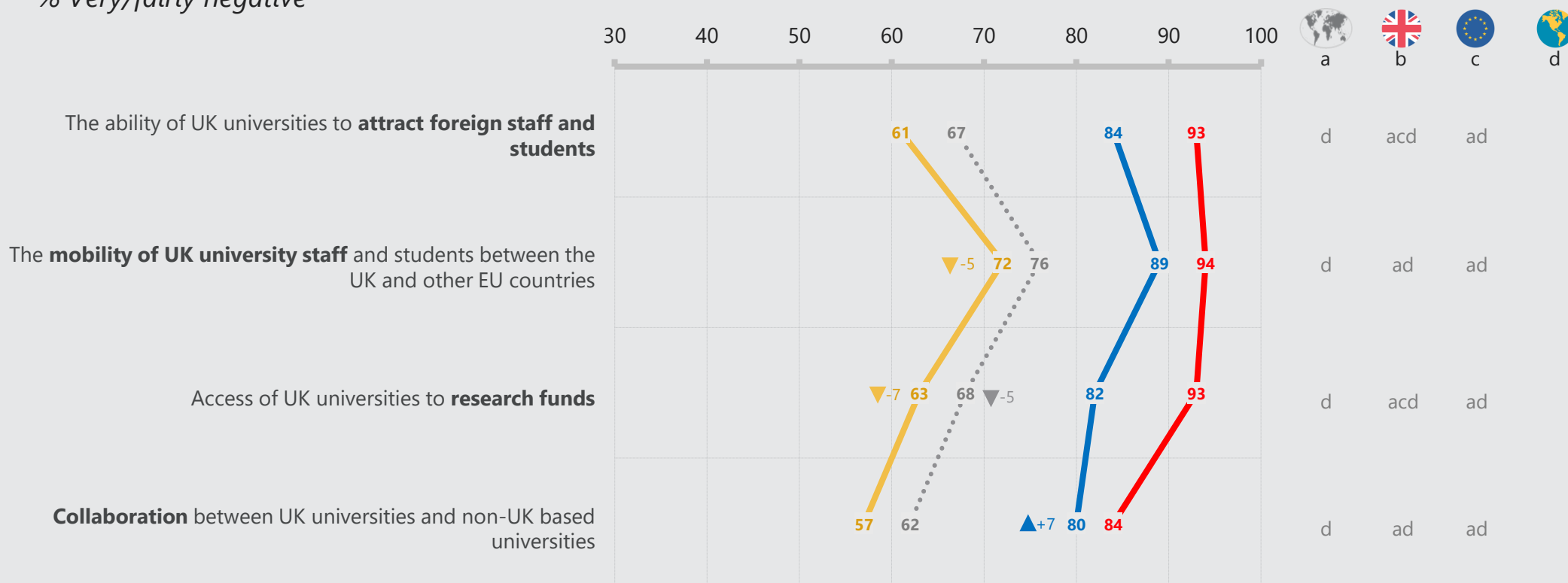
## Mobility/Activity

Perceived negative impact on mobility, UK research funding and collaboration is greatest amongst UK and EU researcher. More EU researchers believe international collaboration will be impacted than they did in May. There are high levels of support for actions around these topics.

**Q3.1. In your opinion, do you think that the UK's decision to leave the EU will have a positive or negative impact on each of the following, or will it make no difference?**

% Very/fairly negative

Significantly higher than:



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+ Significant change since May 2017  
- Significant change since May 2017

a/b/c/d: letter stat higher at 90%



**UK** (1,242)



**EU** (452)



**NON-EU** (476)



**TOTAL** (2,170)



**ELSEVIER**



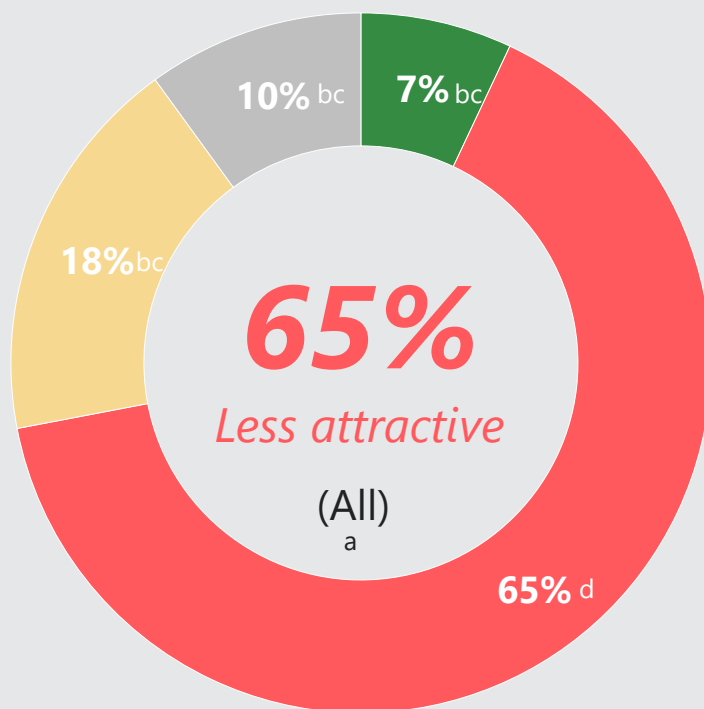
## IMPACT

Among researchers as a whole, the various impacts on mobility, funding and collaboration contributes to an overall perception on the attractiveness of the UK as a place to do research.

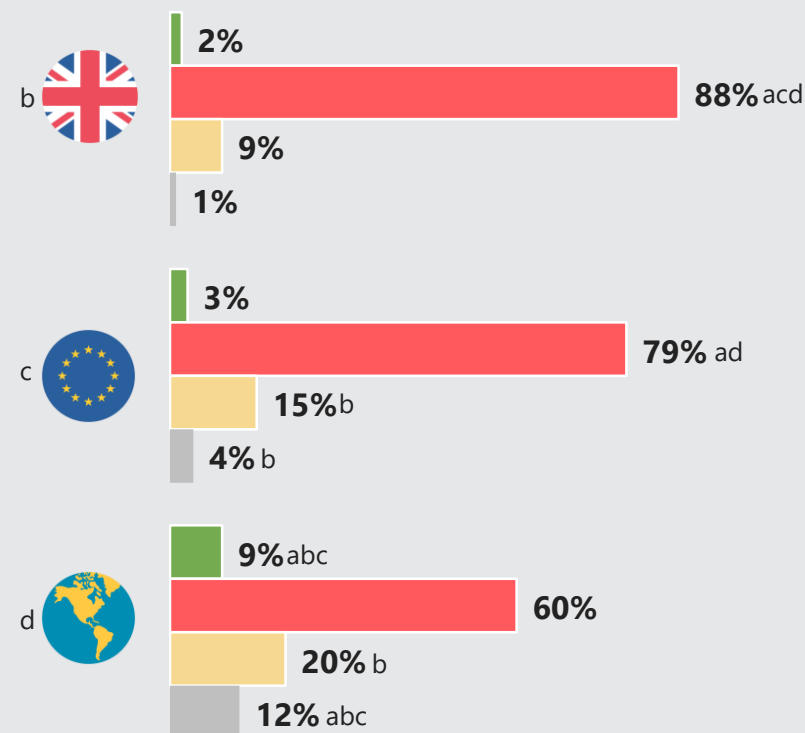


UK Image

Q20. In your opinion, does the UK's decision to leave the EU, make the UK...



- A more attractive place to do research
- A less attractive place to do research
- Just as an attractive place to do research
- Don't know



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+ Significant  
change since  
May 2017

Base: all; n=2,170

a/b/c/d: letter stat difference shown at 90%



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# IMPACT

## Among EU and international researchers, Brexit is impacting individual career choices.

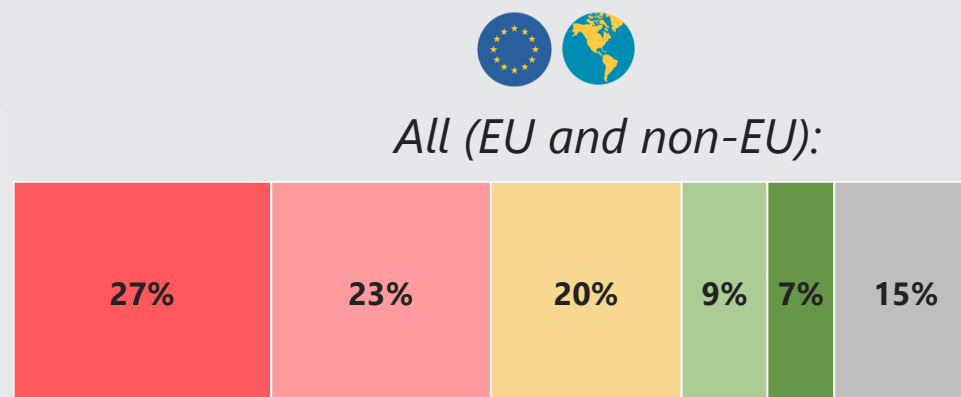


UK Image

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

%Strongly agree/tend to agree

If I were offered a position, better than the one I have now, in a university or research institute **in the UK**, I am **more likely to accept it now** than I would have been before the referendum



16%

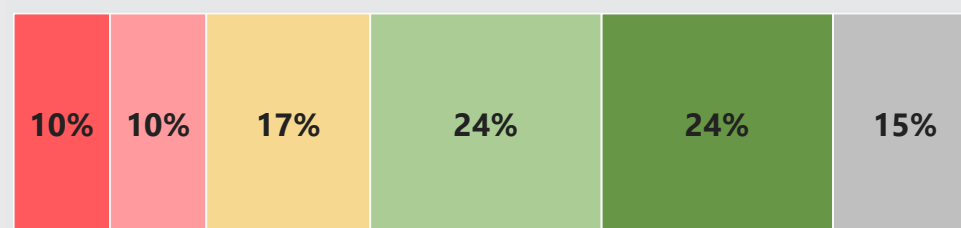


6%



18%

I am **less inclined to consider applying** for a position in a university/institute **in the UK** than I was before the referendum



48%

70%

43%

▼-5

■ Strongly disagree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Tend to agree ■ Strongly agree ■ NA/NR/DK



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Social Research Institute

+ Significant change since May 2017  
- Significant change since May 2017

Base: EU and non-EU, n=928



## IMPACT

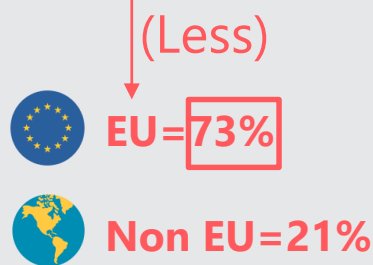
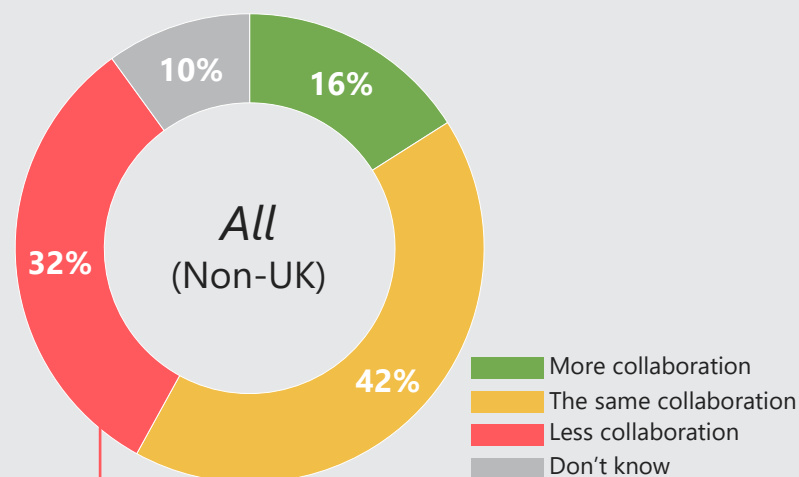


Mobility/Collab.

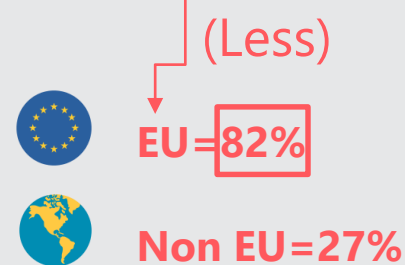
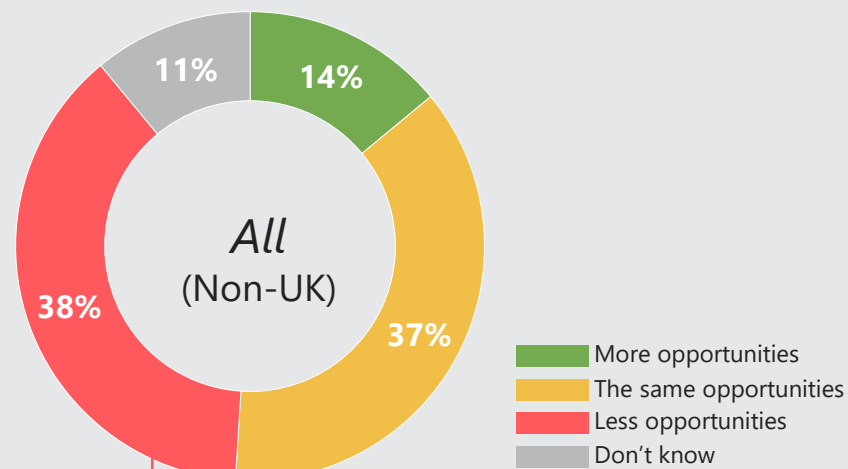
**Most EU researchers also perceive an impact on collaboration and mobility between their own country and the UK, which adds context to the support seen for strategies that encourage collaboration and mobility.**

**Do you think that, after the UK's decision to leave the EU, there will be more/the same/less ...**

Q21. collaboration between  
unis/institutes from [COUNTRY]  
and unis/institutes from the UK?



Q22. opportunities for research  
and teaching staff to move  
between [COUNTRY] and the  
UK?





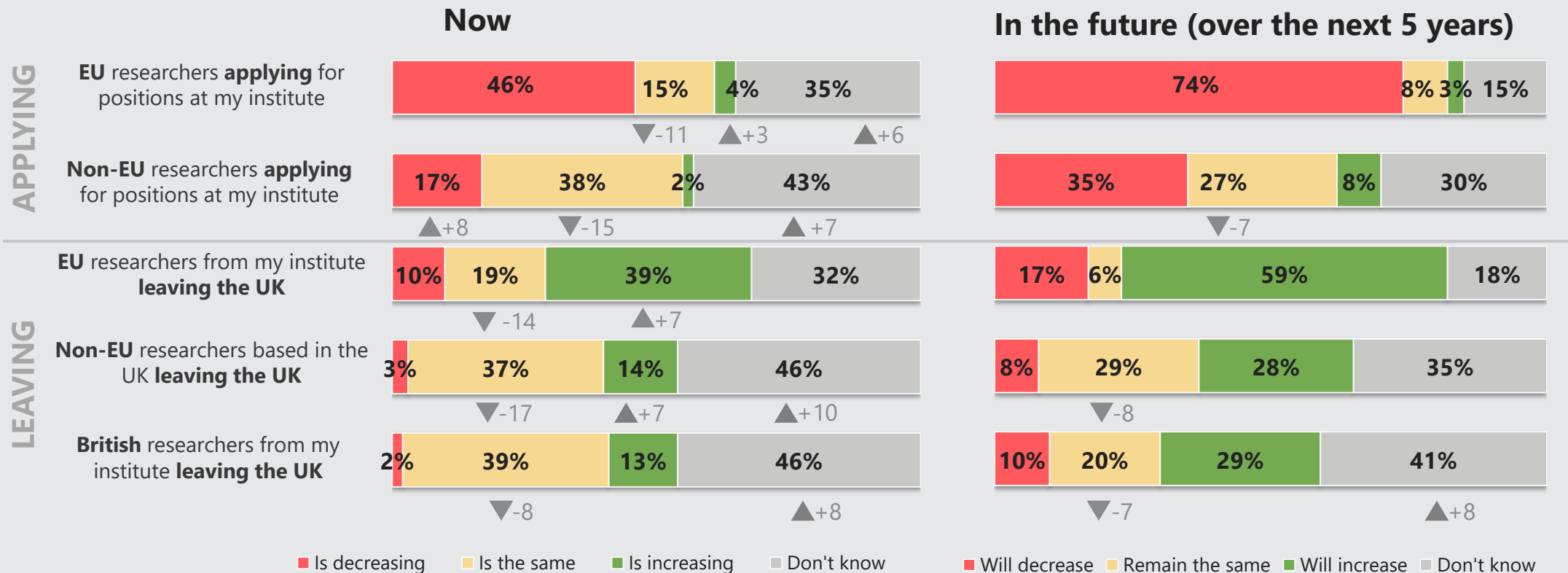
# **UK researchers' views on the impact of BREXIT on their institute now and over the next 5 years**

**any already see an impact and expect more to come particularly on mobility**

**UK researchers report they are seeing changes in the number of EU researchers applying to and leaving their institutes. 46% think there are fewer EU applications. More expect an impact in the next 5 years, which explains high levels of support for action in the UK.**



***The number of...***



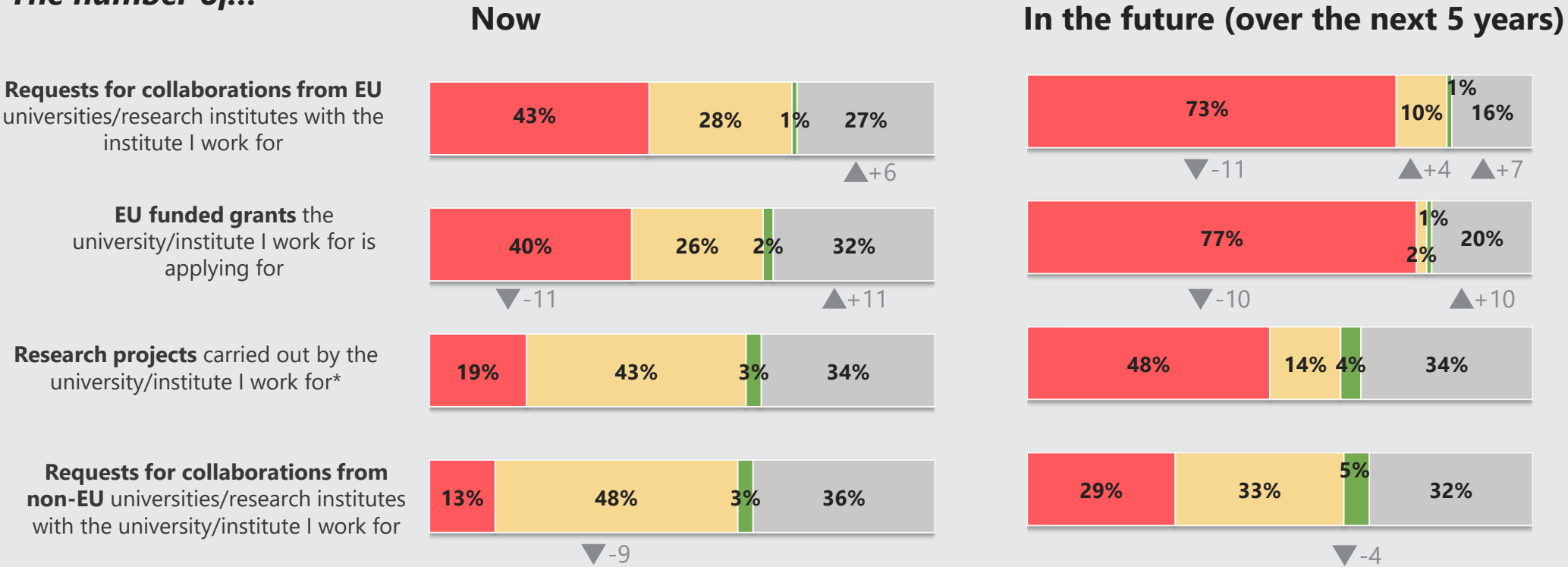
■ Will decrease ■ Remain the same ■ Will increase ■ Don't know



UK based researchers also report effects on the number of collaborative projects their institute is being invited to take part in by EU institutes. 43% say requests for collaborations have decreased. Much more expect an impact within the next five years.

Q5c. Still thinking about the institute you mainly work for, how, if at all, do you think each of the following is being/will be impacted by the decision of the UK to leave the EU compared to if it had decided to stay in the EU?

The number of...



Is already decreasing

Is the same

Is already increasing

Don't know

Will decrease

Remain the same

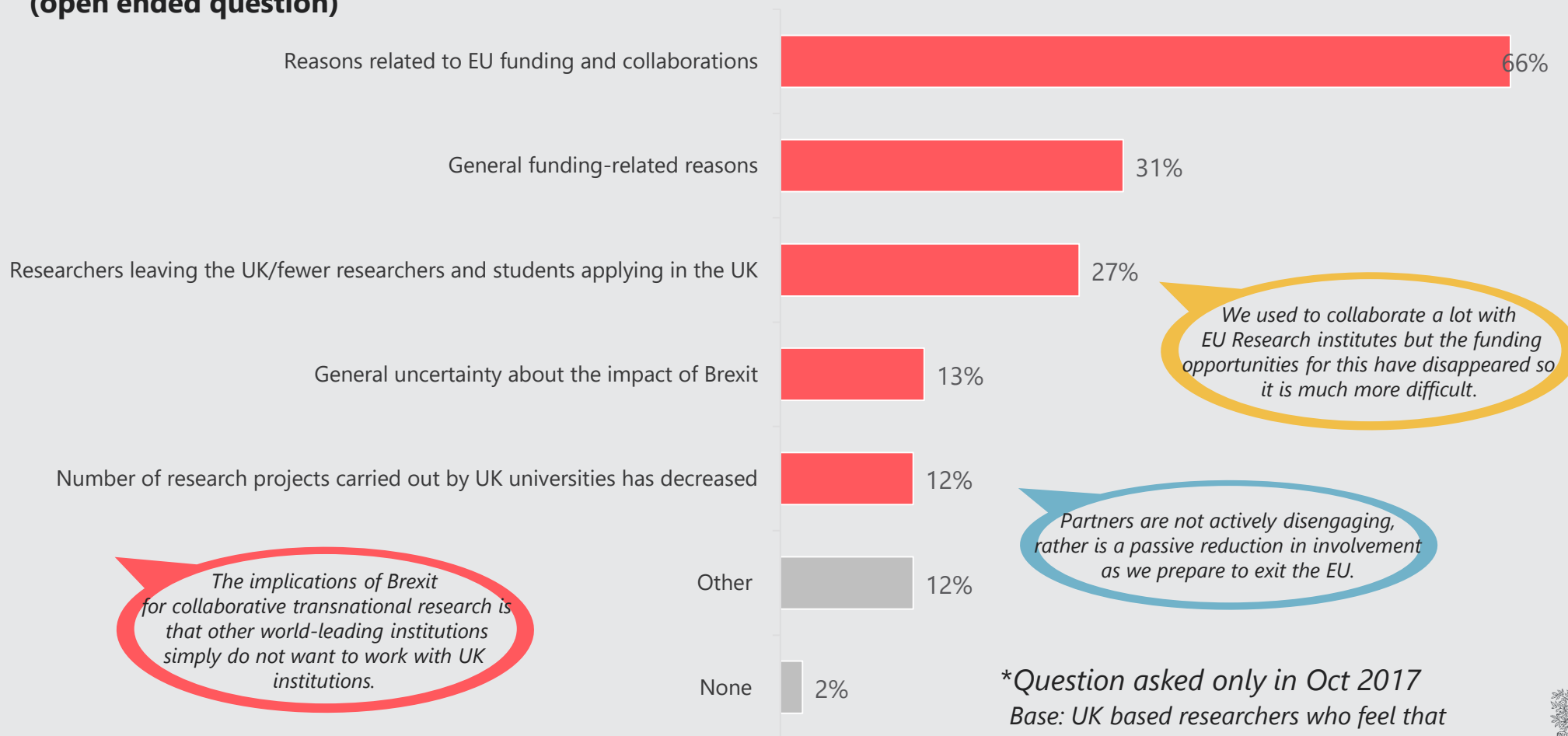
Will increase

Don't know

\*Item asked only in Oct 2017



**Q5d. You indicated that you believe that 'Research projects carried out by UK universities/institute I work for' are already decreasing. Why is that?\***  
(open ended question)



*\*Question asked only in Oct 2017  
Base: UK based researchers who feel that the number of research projects carried out by their university is decreasing; n=242*



# **EU researchers' views on the impact of BREXIT on their institute now and over the next 5 years**

**Uncertainty about collaboration and exchange with the UK in the future is high among EU researchers**



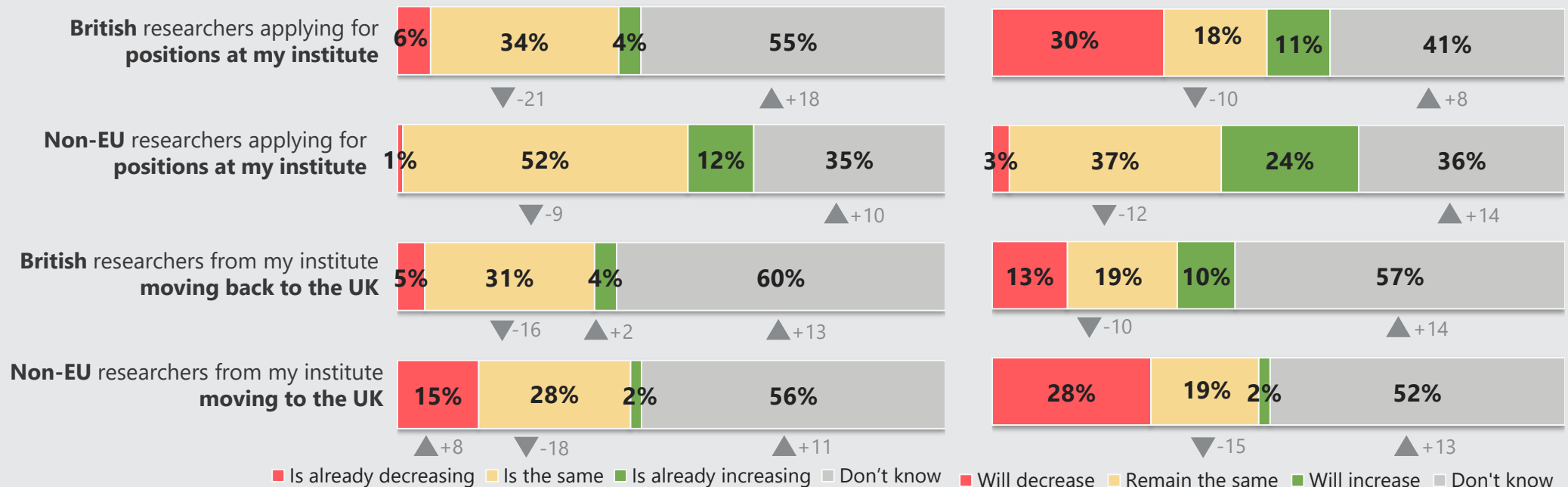
**EU based researchers do not perceive large movements of UK or Non EU staff in their own institution. However, uncertainty is higher than previously, and UK applications for positions are expected to decrease and Non-EU increase over the next 5 years.**

**Q5.1a. Now, please think about researchers at your own institution. How, if at all, do you think each of the following is being/will be impacted by the decision of the UK to leave the EU compared to if it had decided to stay in the EU?**

*The number of...*

**Now**

**In the future (over the next 5 years)**





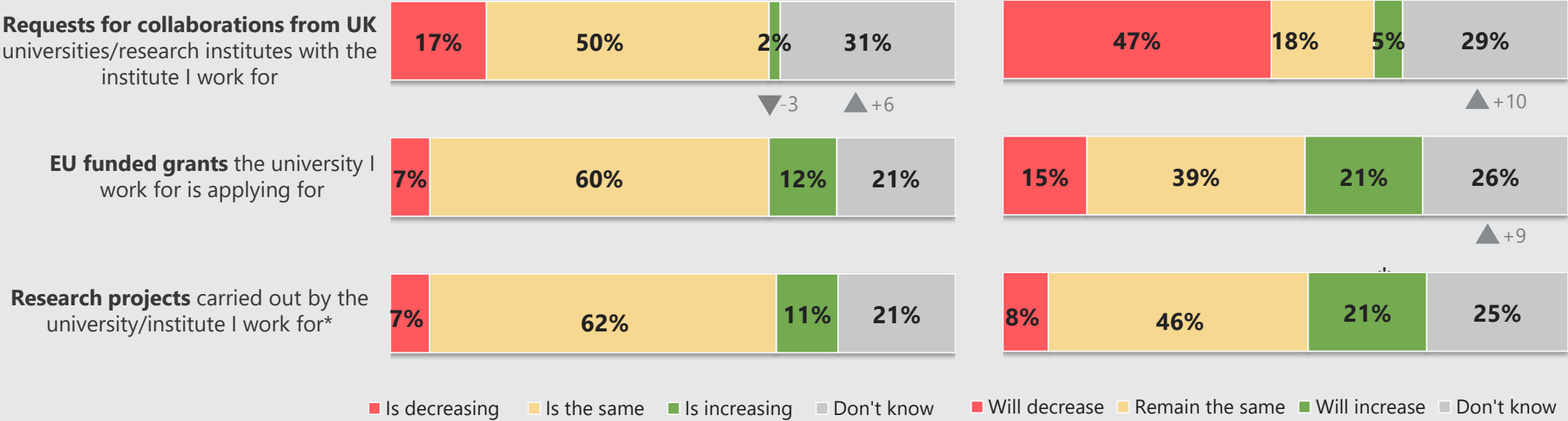
Few EU-based researchers believe the volume of requests for collaborations from UK universities is being impacted. However , they expect a big impact in the future. EU researchers also believe their institutes will benefit, and will receive more funding and undertake more projects.

Q5.1c. Still thinking about the institute you mainly work for, how, if at all, do you think each of the following is being/will be impacted by the decision of the UK to leave the EU compared to if it had decided to stay in the EU?

The number of...

Now

In the future (over the next 5 years)



\*Item asked only in Oct 2017



# **Non-EU researchers' views on the impact of BREXIT now and over the next 5 years**

**There is a great deal of uncertainty among non-EU researchers with many expecting the impact of Brexit to be felt over the next 5 years**

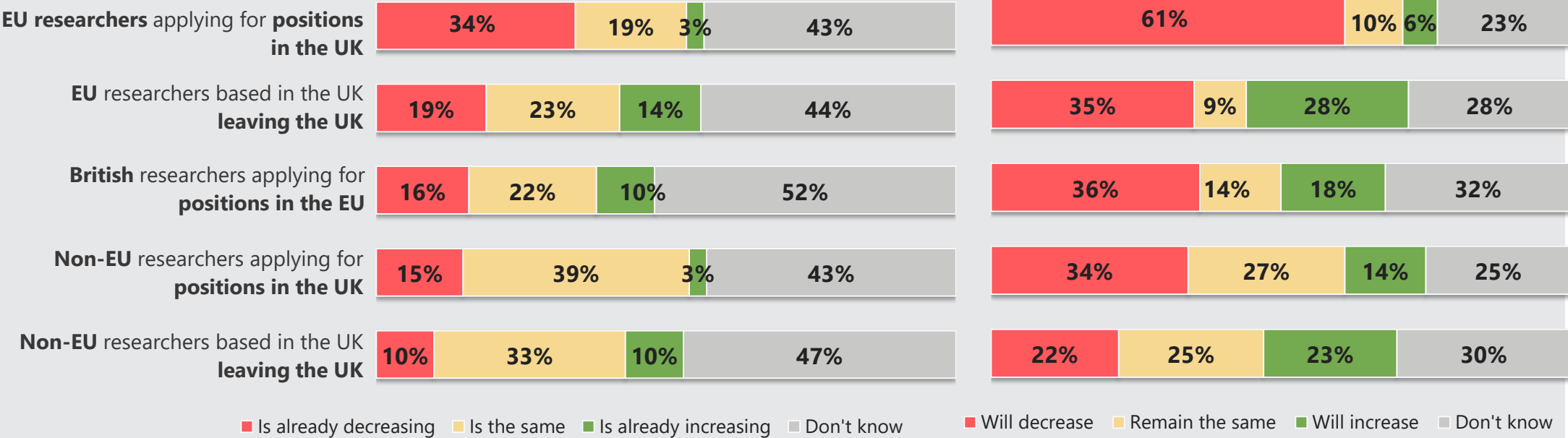
Among non-EU researchers there is a lot of uncertainty about the current impact of BREXIT on mobility. They expect the negative impact over the next five years.

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think each of the following is being/will be impacted by the decision of the UK to leave the EU compared to if it had decided to stay in the EU?

The number of...

Now

In the future (over the next 5 years)

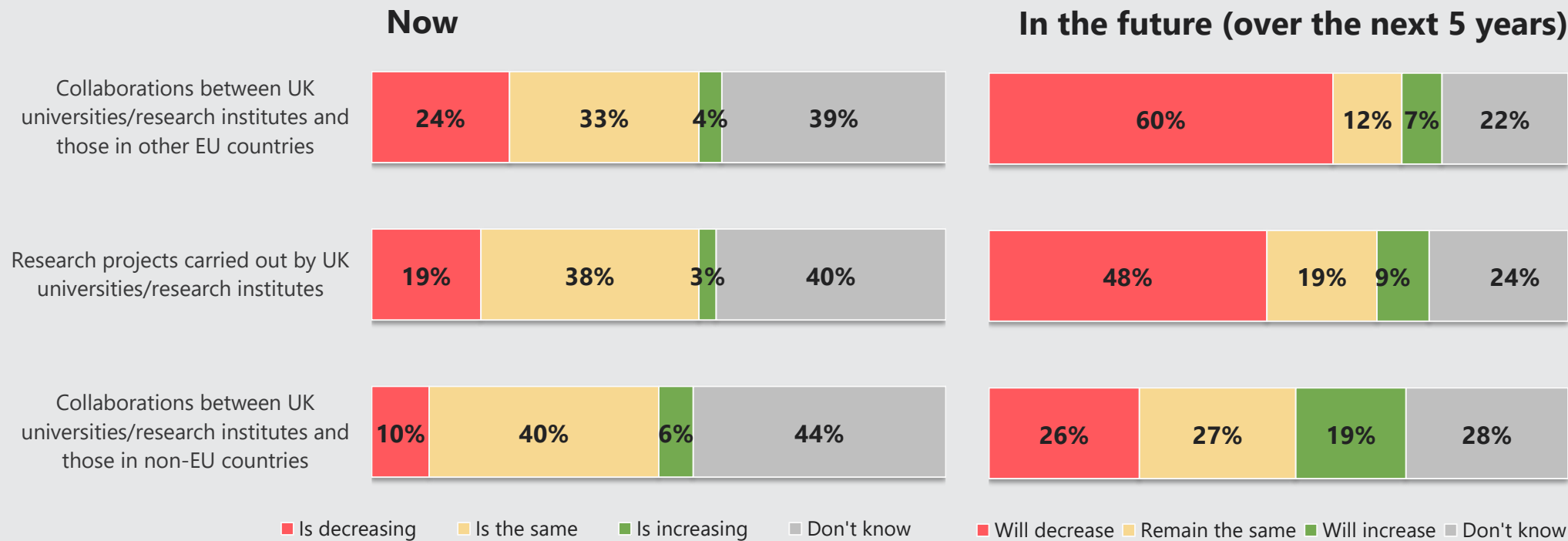




Some non-EU researchers see an impact on collaboration and research projects now, while much more expect an impact in the next five years.

Q4c. More generally, how, if at all, do you think each of the following is being/will be impacted by the decision of the UK to leave the EU compared to if it had decided to stay in the EU?

The number of...



A person in a dark blue suit and white shirt is carefully balancing a tall tower of wooden Jenga blocks. The person's hands are visible, with fingers delicately holding the blocks. The background is a solid dark blue. The image is used as a background for a presentation slide.

# **Understanding of implications of BREXIT**

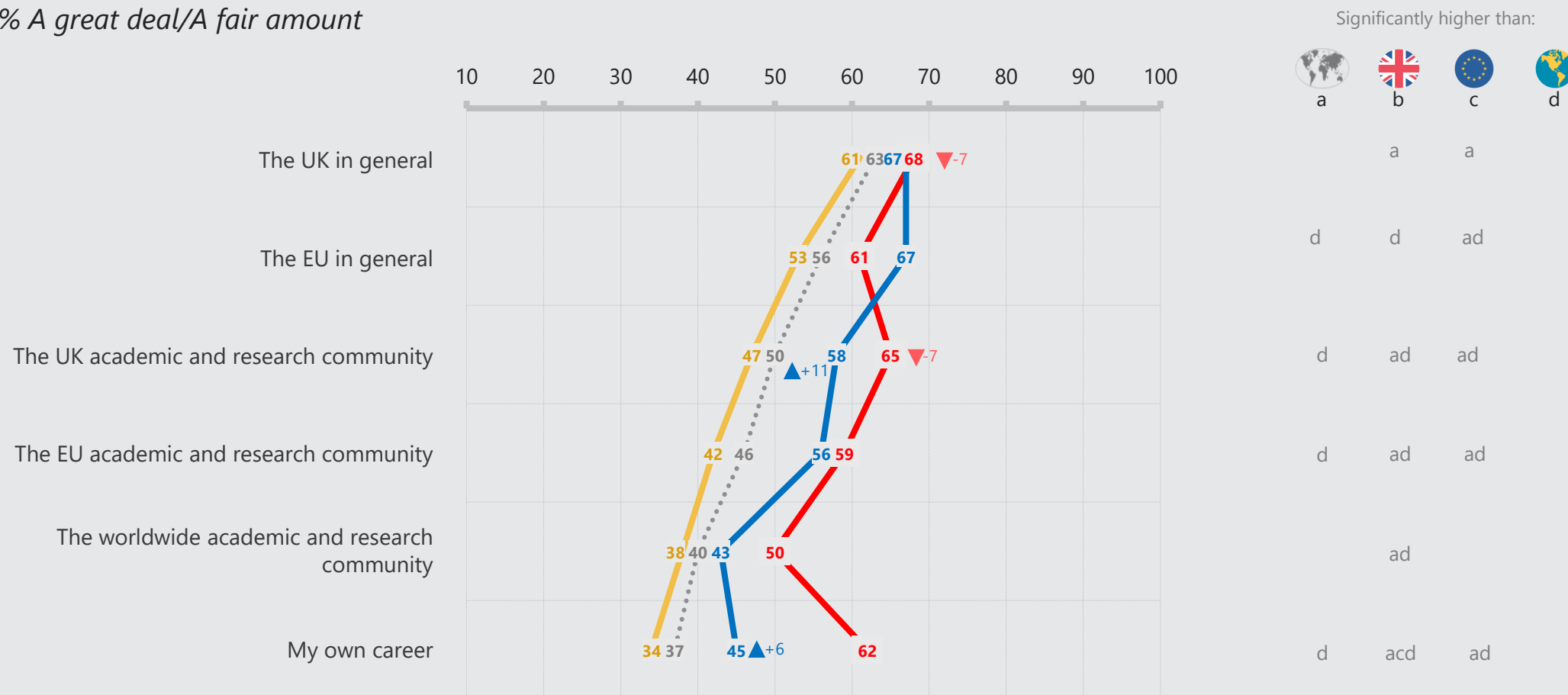
**High stated awareness of the implications of  
BREXIT particularly in the UK**

## UNDERSTANDING OF IMPLICATIONS

Researchers have reasonably high levels of awareness of the implications of BREXIT. Awareness is highest among UK-based researchers, which has fallen since May 2017.

Q2. As you may know, in June 2016 the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). How much, if at all, do you feel you know about any implications of this for:

% A great deal/A fair amount

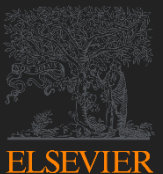


# Thank you.

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# Ipsos MORI's standards and accreditations

Ipsos MORI's standards and accreditations provide our clients with the peace of mind that they can always depend on us to deliver reliable, sustainable findings. Our focus on quality and continuous improvement means we have embedded a 'right first time' approach throughout our organisation.



## ISO 2052:2012

The international market research specific standard that supersedes BS 7911 / MRQSA & incorporates IQCS (Interviewer Quality Control Scheme); it covers the 5 stages of a Market Research project. Ipsos MORI was the first company in the world to gain this accreditation.



## MRS Company Partnership

By being an MRS Company Partner, Ipsos MORI endorse and support the core MRS brand values of professionalism, research excellence and business effectiveness, and commit to comply with the MRS Code of Conduct throughout the organisation.



## ISO 9001:2008

International general company standard with a focus on continual improvement through quality management systems. In 1994 we became one of the early adopters of the ISO 9001 business standard.



## ISO 27001:2005

International standard for information security designed to ensure the selection of adequate and proportionate security controls. Ipsos MORI was the first research company in the UK to be awarded this in August 2008.

## Data Protection Act

Ipsos MORI is required to comply with the Data Protection Act; it covers the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy

**This work was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the international quality standard for market research, ISO 2052:2012 and with the Ipsos MORI Terms and Conditions.**



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# Appendix

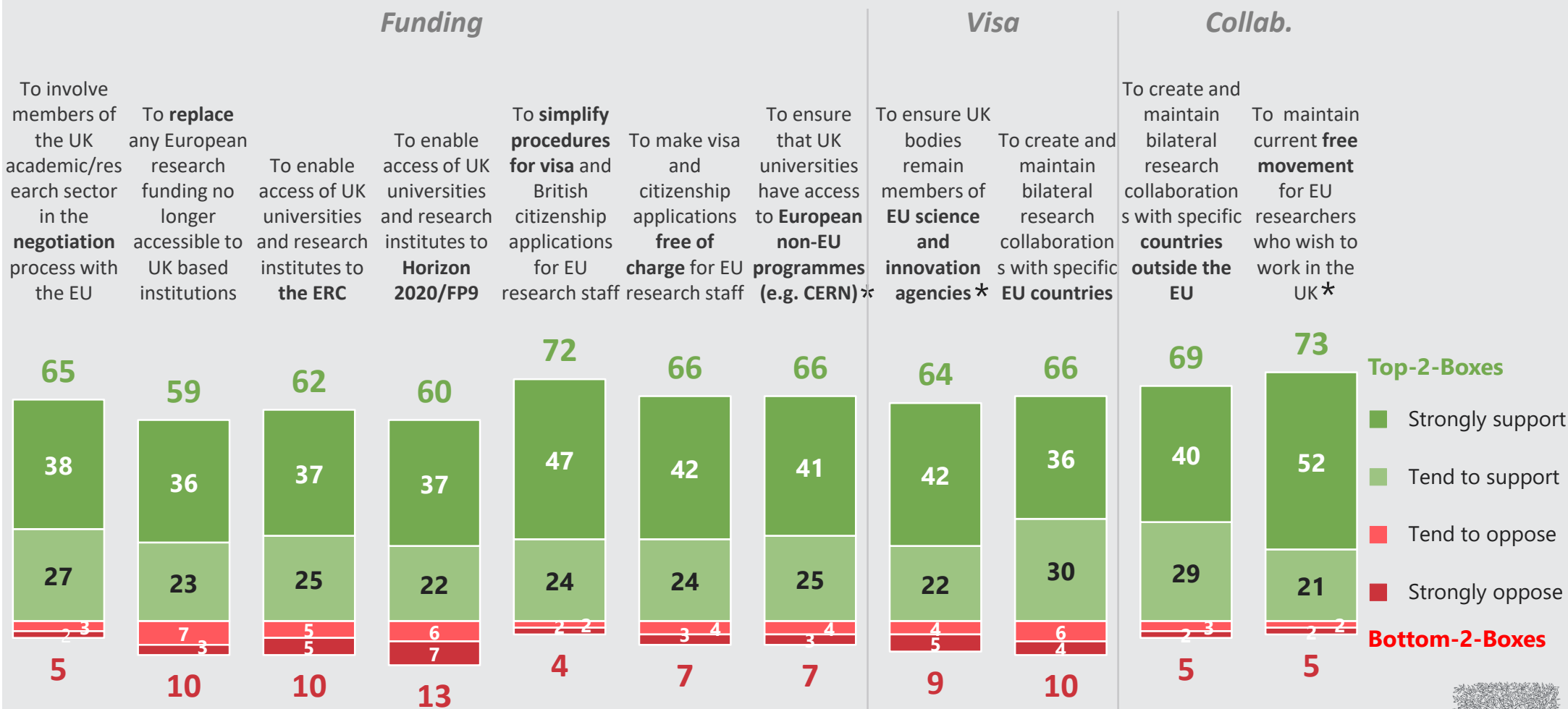


## IMPLICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

Funding, visas and collaborations

Researchers advocate UK government action, with support highest for maintaining current free movement for EU researchers, and simplifying visa and citizenship procedures.

**Q16. The following statements describe possible actions which can be undertaken by different parties in order to overcome some of the potential challenges to the research community posed by the UK's decision to leave the EU. How strongly do you support or oppose each of these to be done **by the UK government**?**



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+ Significant change since May 2017  
- Significant change since May 2017

\*Items asked only in Oct 2017

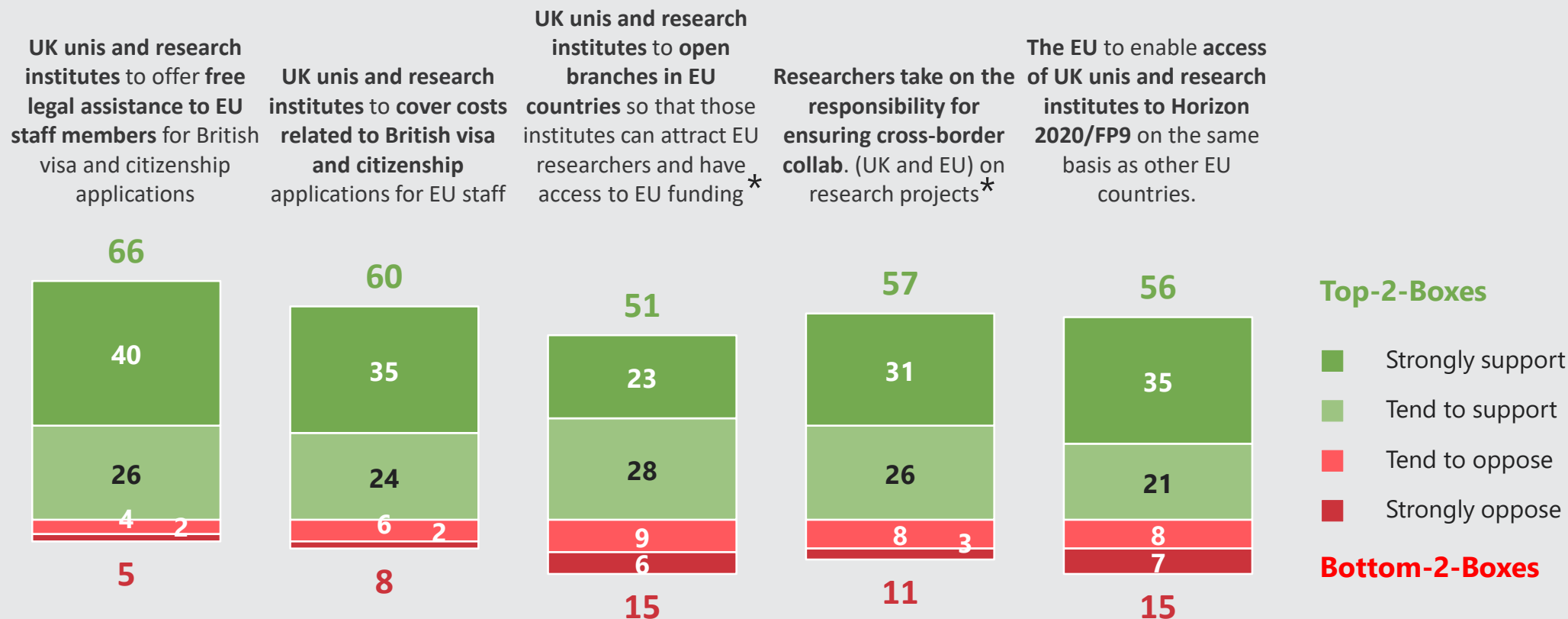


Base: all; n=2,170



## Support for different potential actions to be undertaken by UK universities and the EU is generally high.

**Q16. The following statements describe possible actions which can be undertaken by different organisations in order to overcome some of the potential challenges to the research community posed by the UK's decision to leave the EU. How strongly do you support or oppose each of these to be done?**



# Methodology

**Research carried out in February-May and in October 2017**

# Research methodology

## Stage 1 – Qualitative research (28<sup>th</sup> February – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017)

*Aim: to gather preliminary findings on the research topic, and to prepare the questionnaire design for the online survey.*



- **1 Focus group (2h; London)** with 3 researchers working in the United Kingdom
- **3 In-depth telephone interviews (1h each)** with researchers working in other EU countries (from Belgium, Italy and Spain)

## Stage 2 – Quantitative research (online survey 14<sup>th</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017)

*Aim: to collect information with regards to the challenges and opportunities faced by the research community in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU.*



- Sample: random selection of researchers from the Scopus database of published authors, which covers 20,000 different journals. The sample was profiled so country and subject area speciality representation broadly reflected the research community as a whole.
- Responses: N=2,469\* of which 1,145 researchers in the UK, 820 in the EU and 504 outside the EU
- Questionnaire length – 21 mins on average

# Research methodology

## Stage 3a – Qualitative research (5<sup>th</sup> May – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017)



*Aim: to further explore the research topic, as well as to discuss some of the survey findings with researchers and have their views on these.*

**6 In-depth telephone interviews (1h each), carried out with researchers who had taken part in the online survey.**

- 2 researchers working in the United Kingdom
- 2 researchers working in other EU countries (France and Germany)
- 2 researchers working in non-EU countries (Turkey and India)

## Stage 3b - Qualitative research – in collaboration with Cspace



*Aim: C-Space has conducted a study alongside the research produced by Ipsos, in order to provide additional context to some of the survey findings.*

- Target – N=120 researchers from the public sector, as well as from the corporate sphere, from the UK, the EU and from outside the EU
- Sample description: UK researchers – 7%, EU researchers – 26%, Non-EU researchers – 67%

## Stage 4 – Quantitative research (see slide 3)



*Aim: to collect information with regards to the challenges and opportunities faced by the research community in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU.*

- Responses: N=2,170 of which 1,242 researchers in the UK, 452 in the EU and 476 outside the EU

# IMPLICATIONS

**Findings from qualitative research  
carried out in February-May 2017**



Researchers feel that strategies should mainly come from the UK government – because aspects related to funding and immigration rely on governmental decisions (qualitative findings).

**At governmental level, the main strategies should be:**

- The UK continuing to have access to the European Research Council (ERC)
- The UK continuing to have access to the Horizon 2020 programme
- Free movement of talent, simplified visa arrangements for talent

**At institute level, some of the main strategies (already adopted by some universities in the UK) are:**

- Actively trying to recruit and retain EU staff (for some universities, this includes efforts to pay for visas for EU staff)
- Actively trying to reach out to EU students
- Strengthening bilateral collaboration with institutes based in the EU
- Creating/maintaining bilateral collaboration with institutes in non-EU countries, and seeking to attract non-EU students
- Lobbying and attending meetings (such as the March for Science)

Researchers are aware of some strategies implemented at university/research institute level, but they consider these individual initiatives to be less effective than coordinated, national ones.



*I think they're all individual initiatives [...] I don't think there is a national plan for this. And partly this is because Brexit is being sold as a huge success. So of course it would be contradictory to have in place a system that tries to mitigate Brexit [...]. So of course these are more university-level initiatives. And it would be more efficient if it were a national coordinated effort rather than left to improvisation" (EU researcher working in the UK).*

Findings from CSpace research\* show that both EU and non-EU researchers feel that the main reasons for which the UK government should replace EU funding are to maintain the quality/competitiveness of UK research and to keep talent within the UK.

We have heard that some researchers don't necessarily support the UK government replacing EU research funding after Brexit. Is this something you would support?

*I would think this **would be expected** given Brexit and the need to continue to support researchers who are in the UK. I don't know what the counterarguments are.* Researcher, Canada – CSpace report findings

***Otherwise the UK institutions will have a competitive disadvantage** compared to EU institutions in terms of financial support.* Researcher, Germany – CSpace report findings

***UK scientists** are very good at what they do, and **should be supported/funded** - **otherwise they will migrate** and the UK will lose a valuable resource.* Researcher, USA – CSpace report findings

## Findings from qualitative research show that bilateral agreements are seen as important, but less beneficial than multilateral collaborations within the EU.

### Less collaboration with smaller countries, more focus on larger ones



Bilateral agreements are very **complicated**. They want multilateral agreements... The EU through the framework programme has bilateral negotiations with the US, Canada and many industrialized countries but they are extremely complicated and they don't lead to very much collaboration [...]. Multilateral frameworks are much more flexible and open. **Smaller countries like Denmark, the Netherlands which have excellent research and want to collaborate with the UK and the UK with them, maybe they are lower on the pecking order for the UK** if you look at government level they will first go to France, Germany Spain because they are the bigger countries. (UK researcher working in the EU)

### Less beneficial for science as well as for people's careers



I think it has to do with this coordination, one of the strengths of doing something on the EU level is the fact that it is coordinated at the supranational level and there is a lot more you can do if you align. In the last 5-6 years there have been a very strong series of initiatives across EU to align what the national research councils do because it makes a big difference if one country makes a big investment in stem cell research and all other countries also put their resources on this and they synchronize their efforts then there is a synergy of publication and cross fertilization vs one country putting all its money in stem cell and moving on to nuclear energy and others things and another country doing it in the opposite order then it's random [...]. This could be one of the reasons why people are not so keen to do this bilateral, **less efficient and use a lot of money in a focused way between two countries on one topic, and two other countries on another topic**. Not as good for people's careers, they may need to jump countries every 2 years to other countries, instead of being able to stay home and do what they do... (EU researcher working in the UK)

### Seen as a "last resort" option



Probably because of the UK researchers reaching out to the last option on the horizon, better than no option at all. Usually that's a classical political question, what is better bilateral or multilateral. An educated EU citizen understand multilateralism, I would hope so and assume so. That's the way ahead and preferred road map, possible a UK researcher understands it less or sees it as an option of last resource. **Better to have bilateral agreements than nothing**. It sounds too negative, but it could also be seen as the drowning man who catches a straw, as the last option. (EU researcher, Germany)

**Support among UK-based researchers is especially high regarding access to Horizon 2020 programmes; however this strategy is least supported by EU-based researchers.**

**Findings from the qualitative research show that this is due to concerns about UK universities being able to benefit from EU funding without being in the EU, concerns about EU researchers being able to travel freely and work in the UK, and to the prospect of having more funding available for EU universities, once the UK is no longer part of the EU.**

People know very well that the UK received more, so the UK people are very keen to keep this because it has advantages but in the continent, they strongly feel this competitiveness from the UK. Also because it means that they are free to go to the UK and work at a great lab or project, but the barrier is then **that they can win the money but people can't travel freely** so it will still feel unfair. The UK having the advantage to **win the money but not allowing them to go there and benefit from such projects** so I do understand the sentiment. It's obvious why, and I think they are right in feeling that way. (EU researcher working in the UK)

In the EU already there are people saying '**no, we want to keep the money for us**'. [...] In the EU they feel that they have a chance to get more money than they can. They already think that "if they want to go out, this is a chance for me because I can get more money". It's very important to get the UK to stay in H2020 but I'm not sure it's possible. Why would EU pay British projects and research, if the UK doesn't want to share anymore their research with us. A lot of individuals who may think, "they want to leave, let them leave and it's more chance for us". (EU researcher, France)

**On the other hand, this is seen as a short-term advantage for EU universities but also as a potential risk for ERC**

There is also a little bit of short-sightedness. "If the UK doesn't participate then they'll be more funding available potentially for us" but this is very short-sighted. The budget of course will be impacted without the UK, it will go down and there will be less funding than currently but also in terms of excellence. If you are competing in a ERC without the UK and potentially even without Switzerland and Israel who have the institutions getting the most out of it, **then the excellence of the ERC goes down substantially and that's not in the long term interest of the EU**. (UK researcher working in the EU)

## IMPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITIES AND OTHERS

### GLOBAL RESEARCH BODY

## Majority of researchers support formation of global research body, but EU researchers are slightly less enthusiastic.

Findings from qualitative research flag some of the arguments why this wouldn't be a good solution or wouldn't be feasible: it's a long shot, a very complex mission, possibly insufficient funds.

Seen as a "long shot"

It's because the UK thinks that that is **a long shot** and they worry that the politics are so complex with regards to EU that this would be even more complex. **There is likely to be less funding on a global level** because there is no natural body to implement that, you need to build that into the World Trade Organization or the UN but they don't naturally have a competence in research as has the EU. Given the way the political climate in the UK, more towards closeness, the UK research perceive this is too much a long shot and they would rather focus now on getting full access to the EU framework programme rather than a new project. (UK researcher working in the EU)

More complex to set up and to coordinate than at EU level

Less funding, diluted resources

It's possible that people see a global one as **harder to direct, govern, also diluting resources**. They feel they have more control and participation in a EU system than in a global one. We've seen what happened recently for climate science, the fact that the US has gone on a tangent has meant that all the Paris agreements we had achieved very recently are now threatened. So if you're trying to do something global and countries such as China, US, Australia, come in and start with their own internal issues and want to take it in a certain direction or want to block it for their particular ideological reasons will make it much harder to make progress. **At the EU level, there is more closeness but also a lot more similarity** in culture, intent, where society is going it would make it much **easier to govern**. All things to do with ethics and medicine, frankly, EU culture is homogenous despite national disparity compared to the whole globe where you have all the issues of culture, religion, economic conditions come in and make it much harder to do science because they immediately hit particular beliefs in a particular region. Things cannot progress. That's possible why there is a lot more skepticism about a global funding body, that might be strongly controlled by ideology and not by scientific principles. (EU researcher working in the UK)

Dominated by larger countries

EU level – easier to direct as countries more similar in terms of culture, ethics and economy

**From a non-EU perspective however, a global research body is seen as having its benefits**

Collaborating research has its won benefits, **brings down research costs significantly** as costs are shared with all the other countries. The **results are faster, and good research** so I don't see why anybody should not support it. (non-EU researcher, India)



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UK Base 7, 46



## Findings from CSpace research\* highlight some of the pros and cons of a global research body, from an international (EU and non-EU) perspective.

As a final question: at the moment European Member States contribute financially to an organisation called the European Research Council, which finances research projects and grants for researchers, universities and research institutes. What do you think about a similar global research body being formed over the next 5-10 years?

*I think a global research body should be formed because...*

Global research is **useful to everyone**, political issues should have nothing to do with these kinds of transnational agreements.  
Researcher, USA, CSpace findings

It will **help the more deprived countries** to be part of the main stream and will help **easy movement of researchers** in different countries.  
Researcher, India, CSpace findings

*I don't think a global research body should be formed because...*

**Hard to implement. Poor countries are probably not to collaborate with the budget.** Normally this type of organization is going to establish a % of money to go to poor countries, the ones do not have money. For example, some countries (inside) establish 20%-10% budget must go to research for that poor area. **Projects normally are low quality.** Researcher, Brazil, CSpace findings

**Politicians will fail to fund anything in their own countries if they can point to an international consortium.** While it would encourage international collaboration and give opportunity to researchers in less affluent countries, it would result in a **decrease in total funds available.** Researcher, Canada, CSpace findings

There are too many **differences in the local regulations** and I would be afraid that such a research body would be **US dominated.**  
Researcher, Germany, CSpace findings



# Impact and awareness

**Findings from qualitative research  
carried out in February-May 2017**

UK-based researchers feel that Brexit will have an impact on various aspects – including their own career - a finding explained further by qualitative research.



People come to us **not just for salaries**, but also because they will work with other brilliant people and have a lot of autonomy in their work. Very important (...). But if you know that now the quality is lower and not with the very best around the world, then you'll go somewhere else. **So we do have to offer other things: brilliant colleagues, international environment, autonomy, merit based promotions.** Some of those things are outside our control."

(British researcher working in the UK)



**I would also make it more broad than funding.** The UK government could, but won't, say it would replace all EU funding. It's also about **networks, anything that gives the impression that the UK is less open to international collaborations** or harder to achieve in practice will be the detriment."

(British researcher working in the UK)

Findings from the qualitative research show that the main impact already felt is on recruitment and retention of EU staff and students.



**Recruitment of EU students and staff.** *I don't know the number of students or income generated from that but we have had a lot of European staff and that added to the diversity of the science, which matters. **We will start to lose that.** On the research student level, the ability to recruit well trained undergraduates with clear EU background will start to fade".*

(British researcher working in the UK)



*The day after Brexit I received several emails **from people who were recruited from the EU asking if they should still come to the UK.** We are trying to recruit top people and they are hugely aware of this. It happened in many cases in Horizon 2020, it's very challenging and many partners are not standing still. And I'm sure our competitors will be delighted to take the core technology to their side".*

(EU researcher working in the UK)



**Some [challenges] have started already, the issue around staff.** *We've had a huge number of staff inquiring about how they can get citizenship. And if the university will help them get it (it's very expensive, citizenship), also for spouses and dependent children. **Very significant decline of applications from EU students already.** It's happening already. We're still eligible for EU funding and we will be until the time we formerly leave the EU".*

(British researcher working in the UK).

# What would discourage an international researcher from accepting a better position in the UK?

**Uncertainty about funding**, and about the UK's access to Horizon 2020 in the future

Difficulties of going through **the process of asking for residence**

For **non-EU researchers**: no longer having access to the rest of Europe

Concerns about not being able to evolve in an **international environment**

**Referring to EU:** [...] "The current situation of uncertainty, but also episodes of xenophobia, and also **serious uncertainty about funding for science and access to European funding makes it a lot less desirable to be here**. There is an expectation that the economy might suffer, and when that happens, scientific funding will also suffer. But it also uncertain where will be positioned with regards to Horizon 2020 [...] for now there is no clarity [...] we don't know whether we will be allowed to bid or not. [...]. And with that there are also the difficulties so for instance I've been here for so many years **I do have the right to remain, but I'd have to go through this process which is very time consuming and expensive to establish my right to remain here** and in many ways you say well, if I'm already here [...] but if I'm coming from overseas why would I want to go through so many things, when there are nice opportunities on the continent and also much higher living standards in most European countries" (EU researcher working in the UK)

**Referring to non-EU:** "I think non-European.... They are all worried that my European funding would come to an end before the end of contract. They're all worried I might lose the funding and their jobs would be shortened. They're reluctant to take the position because they don't understand whether or not I'll have money to pay them [...]. **People overseas are very confused and they see turmoil and uncertainty and don't seem to want to take the risk** [...]. And it's very difficult for me to say something but I don't know. We might sign into the Horizon 2020 scheme or not, I don't know [...]. **One more issue for the non-EU, before the fact that they came here allowed them to circulate through Europe. It makes it a lot less interesting to be here if you don't have access to the rest of Europe.**" (EU researcher working in the UK)

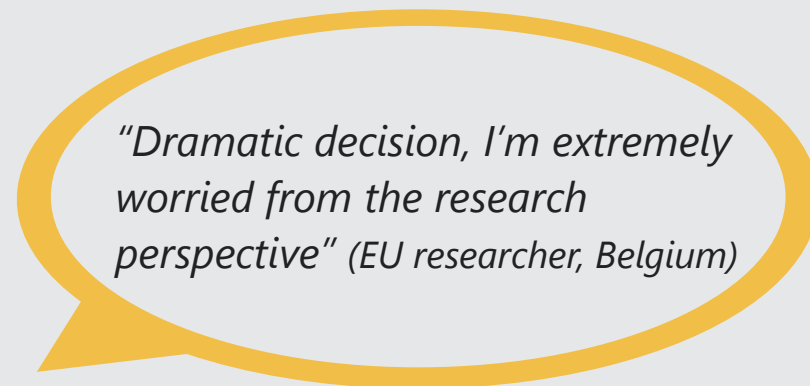
# UK-based researchers' attitudes are mirrored by concern among EU-based researchers.



*This is not a very good sign for our European community in the large sense but, on the other hand, I understand that one should be free to select the rules in your own country. The UK is part of Europe but still it should be allowed to have a bit more freedom economically.*

***Working in scientific research, we can collaborate any way, even outside Europe.***

*I think it's mainly a question feeling part of the same system than a problem for science in a strict sense".*  
(EU researcher, Italy)



*"Dramatic decision, I'm extremely worried from the research perspective" (EU researcher, Belgium)*




## UK universities are seen as having a key role in European science




*The UK has the best performing universities and was a huge contributor to the ideology of research within Europe. There is a lot of cooperation in the field and they help shape EU policy and programmes in this field. **The EU Research Council without the UK universities represented there will be very strange.*** (EU researcher, Belgium)

# Qualitative research suggests EU researchers don't feel their own career will be impacted.

## EU researchers will have the same access to funding and mobility opportunities as they did before

-  The impact will be bigger in the UK. The EU researchers will **still have access to the framework programme and the ERC** and they still have **free movement**, and are able to go to other countries to expand on their career so it has less impact but the UK researchers are cut off completely potentially from the whole of Europe and that's why it affects them more and they would have to make a physical move to be part of the EU research area, whereas the other would not. Naturally it would have a bigger impact on the UK than on the rest of Europe. (UK researcher working in the EU)
-  This is not affecting my personal career. **If would only affect me if I intended to spend more of my time in the UK.** In the UK it will impact their career because they will have less projects. My UK colleagues wonder what will happen to their project. Every project that is now running and which has been funded by EU funding, what will happen in the future? I don't know [...] Open your eyes now, and realize it [Brexit] is bad for the UK, but why do they still do it? (EU researcher, France)
-  There are still 27 other countries where you can conduct research, of course if you are a UK citizen, where would you go? It becomes much more difficult to find a research job in Italy, Slovenia, Sweden, whereas for a Slovak, Spanish there are still **27 countries to choose from**. For your personal career, it's much easier for a EU citizen than for a UK citizen. (EU researcher, Germany)

## Professional status, country's social stability, type of contract

-  It's possible that in EU countries, scientific careers are more connected to public-civil servant jobs so they think anyway there will be a market. **Maybe the research will not be as successful, as world-leading, but they will have anyway job security.** That's one possibility. I've seen in many countries that there are many civil servant jobs available. So, public safety net, where jobs will be available anyway. [...] It's possible that this perception is related to how socially stable to country is and how many **social protections are in place for young scientists and even mid-career scientists**. A lot less job insecurity for that category of personnel." (EU researcher working in the UK)

## AWARENESS

Despite a high interest in the topic from researchers, findings from the qualitative research show that awareness of the actual implications of Brexit is low. The research community feels like it is simply having to wait to see what happens next.

*"It's all so **new and dynamic** that I'm not sure if it is possible to take action right now [...]. **Not clear** what is going to happen so difficult to take action"* (EU researcher, Italy)

*"Well, not very [aware], because the things we hear are very... Partial... Contradictory, basically we're always told to wait. **It's all very undefined, very uncertain**"* (EU researcher, working in the UK)