

UNECE Task Force on Population Projections: Survey results

Eurostat-UNECE Work Session on Demographic Projections

Geneva, April 18-20 2016

NSO Survey

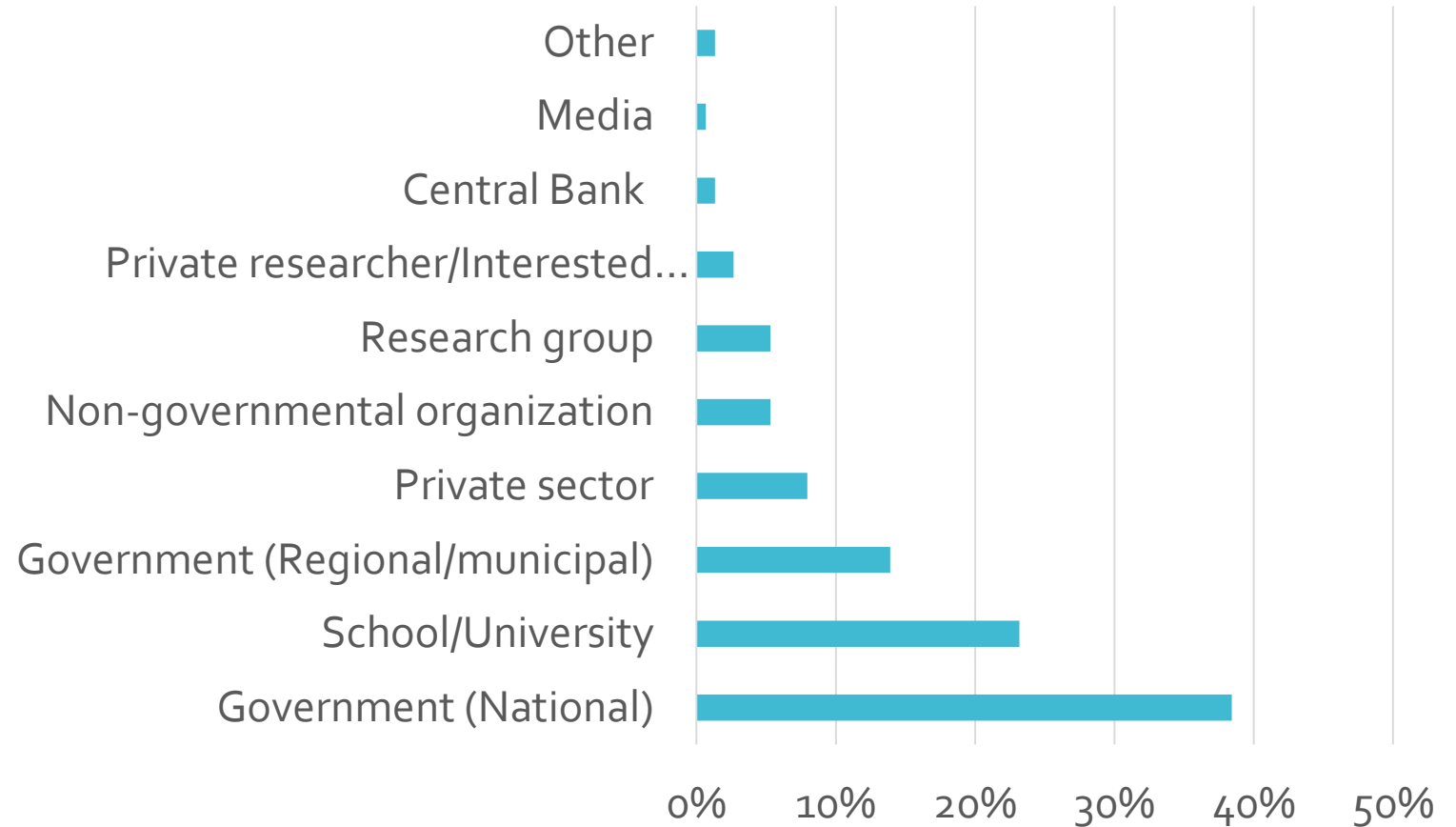
- NSO Survey: (N=32; Q=31)
 - Sample = UNECE-member NSOs
 - Basic questions about their projections (metadata content)
 - Information disseminated in publications
 - Approach to communicating uncertainty
 - Level of interaction with users
 - Main challenges in communicating to users

User Survey

- User Survey: (N=151; Q=22)
 - Background/affiliation
 - For what purpose they use the projections
 - Importance of various elements of dissemination
 - Level of satisfaction with dissemination
 - Contact with NSO and associated level of satisfaction
 - Aspects of communication that could be improved
- Limitations (sample method):
 - Limited to users of task member NSO projections
 - Largely limited to users who had previously contacted their NSO for information
 - Majority considered themselves to have “high” or “intermediate” familiarity with population projections

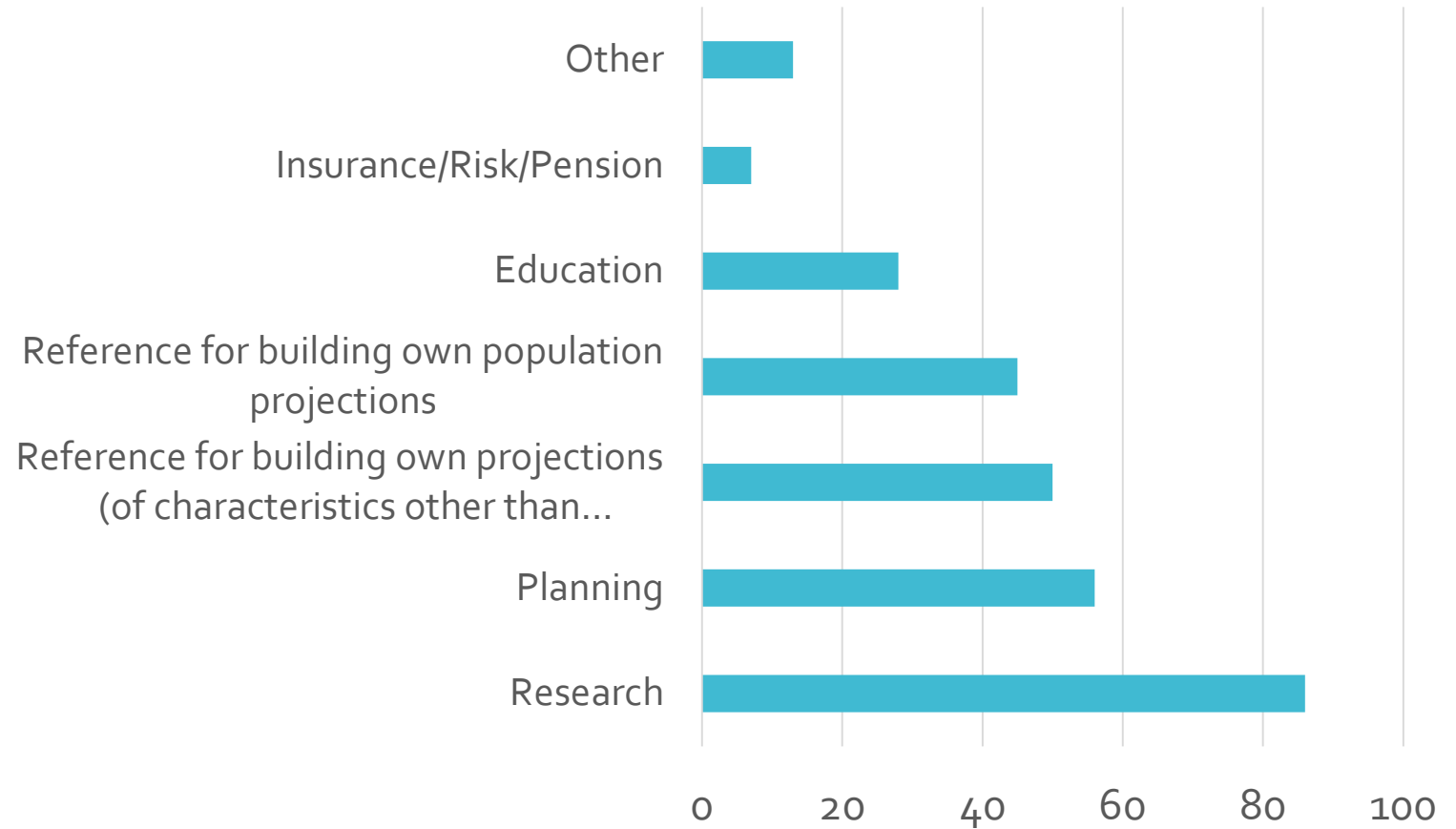
User Survey: How projections are used

How would you categorize yourself/your organization? (N=150)



User Survey: How projections are used

For what purpose do you use projections? Indicate all that apply



User Survey: How projections are used

- Which of the following statements best characterizes your use of population projection data?
 - You use data from several variants/scenarios to obtain a range of possible future outcomes (38%)
 - You primarily use data from the variant/ scenario that was labelled as most likely by the projection makers (36%)
 - While the projection makers did not identify specifically a variant/scenario as the most likely, you primarily use data from the medium variant/scenario (14%)
 - You primarily use data from a variant/scenario that you specifically chose as being the most useful for your specific needs, based on the specifications of that variant/scenario (10%)
 - While the projection makers did not identify specifically a variant/scenario as the most likely, you primarily use data from a variant/scenario that you considered to be the most likely result, based on the specifications of that variant/scenario (3%)

User Survey: User experience

- Generally, interactions between NSOs and users appeared to be fruitful from the user perspective.
 - 90% of those who had ever contacted their NSO felt that the NSO provided an adequate response to their request(s).
- The majority of user respondents were satisfied with the amount of information provided in terms of various projection elements (current demographic context, assumptions, data quality, analysis of results)
- The majority of users feel the projection data is easily accessible and the language used in the projection dissemination to be appropriate.

User survey: What users want

- User respondents considered nearly all projection elements to be important or very important:
 - Information about current demographic context (90%)
 - Assumptions (86%)
 - Methodology (78%)
 - Quality of underlying data sources (76%)
 - Detailed analysis of results (70%)
 - Customizable data tables (78%)
 - Summary of results (69%)
 - Visual description of results (69%)
 - Designation of a “most likely” scenario/variant (79%)
 - Provision of several different scenarios/variants (77%)

User survey: What users want

- What users would like to see expanded or improved (open-ended question):
 - More detailed projection data
 - Improved electronic accessibility of the projections
 - Greater elaboration of methodology and assumptions
 - Expanded analysis of the uncertainty of projections/accuracy of previous projections
 - Expanded analysis of changes in outlook from previous editions
 - Elaboration of the quality of data sources
 - Customizable/interactive databases
 - Enhanced communication/notice of forthcoming releases

NSO Survey: NSO perspectives about users

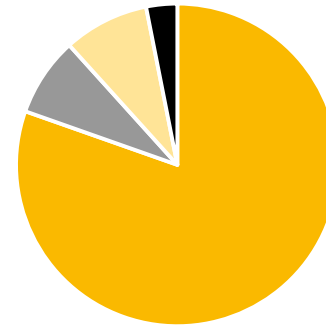
- NSOs do understand broadly the areas in which Users feel they could improve their communications:
 - Improved electronic accessibility, customizable/interactive applications
 - Seem less aware of the general desire for more detailed information/outputs

NSO Survey: NSO perspectives about users

- Most successful strategies for communicating population projections to users (open-ended question):
 - press conferences
 - disseminating detailed data
 - various "outreach activities", including statistical literacy training/training courses on population projections for users, scientific conference presentations, working groups with key stakeholders, and producing articles in professional journals.

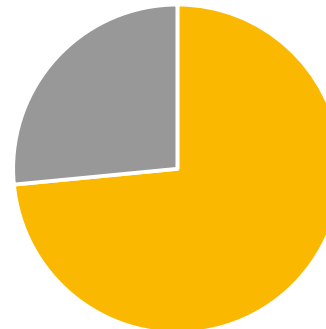
NSO Survey: Variation in approach across NSOs: Terminology

In your disseminations, did you use the term(s)
(N=32)



■ Only Projection ■ Only Forecast ■ Both ■ Neither

Do you define the term in your disseminations?
(N=31)

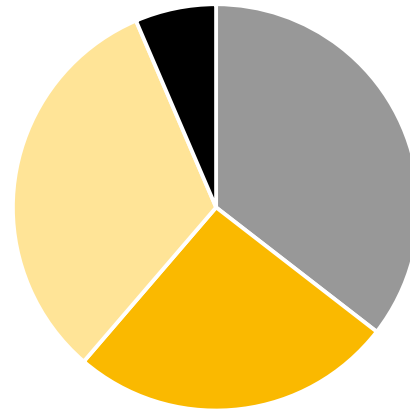


■ Yes ■ No

NSO Survey: Variation in approach across NSOs: Documentation

If you consulted any bodies during production of the projections, were these consultations noted in disseminated products?

(N=31)



- All of the consultations were noted
- Some of the consultations were noted
- No, the consultations were not noted
- Not applicable (there were no consultations)

NSO Survey: Variation in approach across NSOs: Number of scenarios

Number of scenarios/variants disseminated by NSOs
(N=32)

