



MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE JASPERS INITIATIVE IN 2014-2020

Appendix D: Report on the online targeted
consultation results

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APPENDIX D REPORT ON THE ONLINE TARGETED CONSULTATION RESULTS

D.1 Introduction to the online targeted consultation activity

In line with the Better Regulation guidelines, an online targeted consultation was carried out with the purpose to collect views and information from the stakeholders that would not be reached through the in-depth evaluation of a sample of JASPERS assignments.

The online targeted consultation was launched on 3rd June 2019 and closed after 17 weeks, on 30th September 2019. The closure was postponed with respect to the initial agreement (closure after 12 weeks) in order to widen, as much as possible, the group of respondents, also by taking advantage of the seminar held on 19th September 2019 during which the online consultation was further disseminated.

D.1.1 Identification of the target group

As part of the target group, stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in JASPERS activities within the different mandates and types of assignments were included. They could be either direct beneficiaries of JASPERS support (i.e. project promoters in the case of advisory support for major project preparation or REGIO major project team in case of a post-submission appraisal report) or stakeholders indirectly involved in JASPERS activities (i.e. private consultants preparing feasibility studies for project promoters and receiving comments by JASPERS or independent experts hired by JASPERS to develop some technical content for the delivery of guidelines or training sessions). In principle, the online consultation was designed for the following stakeholders:

- EU staff (e.g. REGIO major project team and geographical desks, NEAR, INEA);
- National coordination units (both Member States and IPA countries) for the use of EU funds;
- Managing Authorities;
- Project beneficiaries (e.g. local authorities, service providers);
- External consultants and stakeholders involved in project preparation and implementation.

D.1.2 Invitation strategy

Given the wide range of activities of JASPERS and the way stakeholders get involved in their activities, a centralized system of invitation to the survey, requiring a unique and comprehensive repository of contact details, was not feasible. On contrary, a snowball sampling system and diffused invitation strategy was implemented to reach out also those whose interactions with JASPERS staff may be mediated by public counterpart within the Managing Authority or project beneficiaries.

The invitation strategy relied on a two-steps approach:

- **STEP ONE:** invitations were sent to personal email addresses¹ by REGIO to REGIO, INEA and NEAR staff involved in JASPERS activities as well as to a list of stakeholders suggested both by JASPERS staff on the basis of their counterparts in the countries and by the Consortium members on the basis of a list of stakeholders they have been in contact with for the interview plan, both during the scoping phase and the assignment forms assessment (TASK 3);
- **STEP TWO:** official and informal reminders were sent to all invitees contacted in STEP ONE by both DG REGIO and JASPERS staff and the Consortium members respectively. In addition, all invitees were required to send the survey link to those they believed are familiar with JASPERS.

The snowball (or respondent-driven) sampling system was deemed appropriate for the JASPERS network connecting the hidden professional population which cannot be known since the outset. This strategy was expected to increase the response rate, keeping the circulation of the survey among a restricted group of relevant population. The identification of the relevant target group was further ensured by a self-selection system based on the message in the welcome page of the survey asking to pick up the survey if familiar with JASPERS otherwise to send it to relevant colleagues.

D.1.3 Final composition of the sample targeted by the online consultation

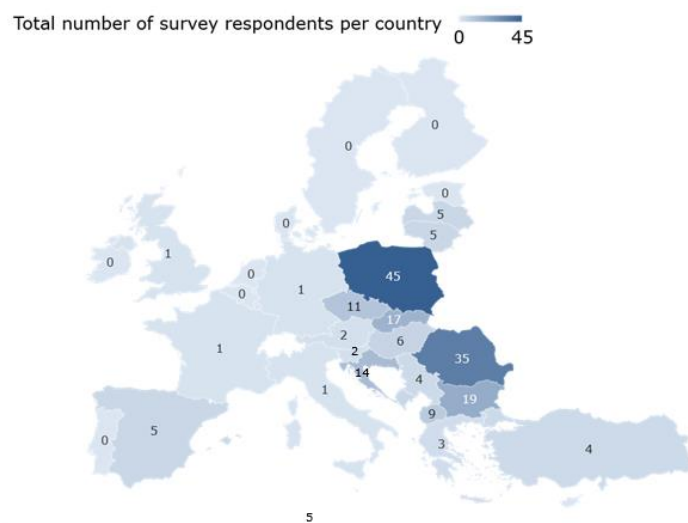
Amongst the total of 554 accesses registered to the link at which the online targeted consultation was available, the online targeted consultation collected a total of 210 “completed”² questionnaires, whereas the other 344 questionnaires were considered invalid either because they were empty (283) or completed only partially (61).

As concerns the distribution of the valid questionnaires across European countries, *Figure 1-1* shows that most of respondents are from Poland and, although to a lesser extent, also from Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia. North Macedonia, Czechia and Croatia are also represented by a significant number of respondents. Other countries such as Spain, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Turkey and Greece are also covered, although by a less significant number of respondents. Conversely countries such as France, Italy, Germany are represented by a unique respondent and Northern European countries as well as Portugal, Ireland or Denmark are not even covered.

¹ CSIL uploaded the questionnaires on the online platform and made available the link of the survey. Exchanges of personal email addresses among the different institutions was avoided as far as possible in order to avoid possible issues in terms of data protection management.

² Questionnaires were considered “completed” when filled in until question D4 “For the mandates and activities you are familiar with, what do you think is the added value of the following JASPERS services as compared to possible alternatives (e.g. private consultancy, in-house advisory, others)?”.

Figure 1-1. Total number of respondents by country³



Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

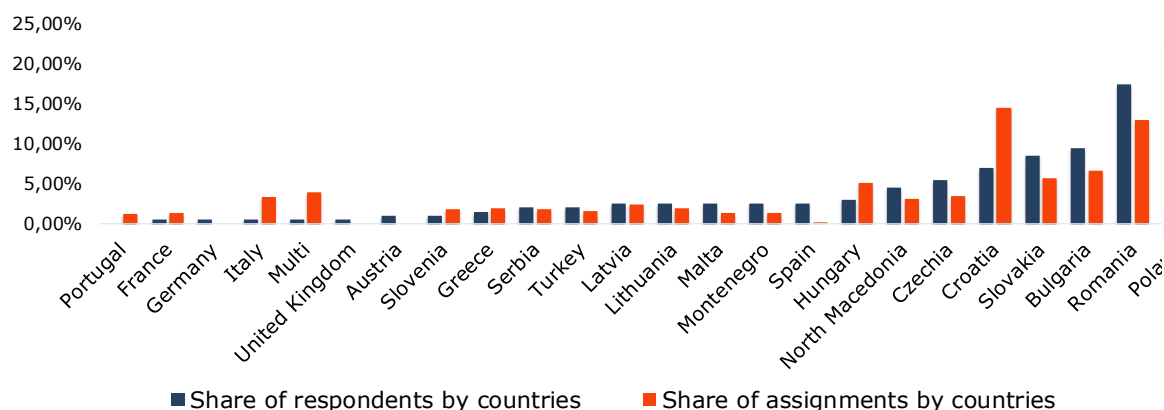
Note: The total number of respondents considered is 200 (9 European Commission Officials and one multi-country respondent were excluded)

By **comparing the distribution of survey respondents with the distribution of the 517 JASPERS assignments** composing the complete JASPERS Portfolio⁴ over the period 2014-mid 2018, Figure 1-1 shows a homogeneous distribution across countries, with the most frequent recipients of JASPERS support being overall well represented also within the online targeted consultation. More in detail, the percentage of survey respondents is a bit higher than the percentage of JASPERS assignments in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Czechia and North Macedonia, while the opposite is true for Poland, Croatia or Italy. Conversely, discrepancies between the two distributions should be detected as concerns Portugal, where JASPERS has operated but no representative of Managing Authorities, project beneficiaries or consultancies providing technical expertise have participated in the online targeted consultation.

³ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: A1. Please select your country.

⁴ Source: First Interim Report, JASPERS Mid-Term Evaluation Database, 2014-2020.

Figure 1-1. Compared distribution of survey respondents and JASPERS assignments 2014-2020 across countries

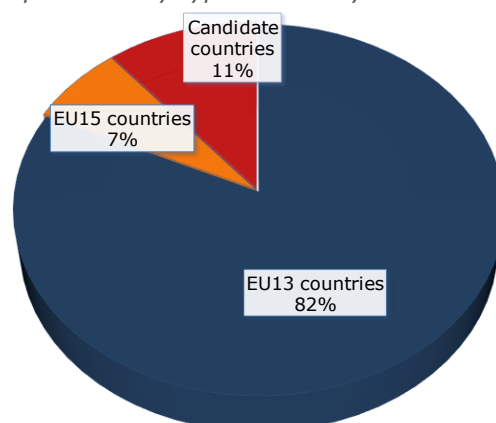


Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results and JASPERS Mid-Term Evaluation Database, 2014-2020

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 200 (9 European Commission Officials and one multi-country respondent were excluded), while the total number of JASPERS assignments is 517

As a result, the survey mostly covers EU13 countries (82%), followed by IPA/candidate countries (11%) and EU15 countries (7%) [see Figure 1-2].

Figure 1-2. Percentage of respondents by type of country



Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 200 (9 European Commission Officials and one multi-country respondent were excluded)

National public authorities and service providers/private sector represent the **main institutions** covered by the online consultation, followed by regional and local public authorities and other types of respondents who identified themselves as Corporate organization with 50% public participation, Regional operator companies, State Joint Stock Company of the public railway infrastructure, Municipal company, Port Authority, Institution providing services - ownership of the commune, Water and sewage company, Railway Infrastructure of the Slovak Republic, 100% public service provider, Public hospital, Gas Transmission Operator, Public transport carrier, Public transport service provider in the public interest (Entity 100% owned by the city). European Commission Officials, conversely, represents only 4% of respondents (see Table 1.1).

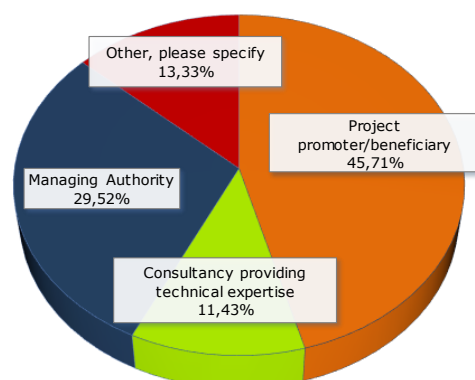
Table 1-1 Type of institutions of respondents⁵

Type of institution	Number of respondents	Share out of the total
European Commission	9	4%
National public authority	99	47%
Regional public authority	22	10,5%
Local public authority	22	10,5%
Service provider/private sector	31	15%
Academic/independent expert	1	0,5%
Other ⁶	26	12,5%
TOTAL	210	100%

Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Most of respondents from the above-mentioned institutions identified themselves as project promoters or beneficiaries (45,71%) or as Managing Authorities (29%), as shown in Figure 1-3. A lower percentage, around 11,43% of the total number of respondents, is represented by Consultancies providing technical expertise. Another 13% of respondents, instead, does not fall under these categories and identified themselves as *European Commission Officials, Cooperating institutions, Intermediate Bodies*.

Figure 1-3. Roles of respondents in the project cycle (in percentage of the total number of respondents)⁷



Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210

As concerns the **mandates** under which JASPERS may operate, Figure 1-4 shows that the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) is the mandate with which survey respondents stated familiarity the most, thus reflecting the higher percentage of the ESIF mandate across JASPERS assignments which stands at 87% of the total. Conversely, the distribution of CEF and

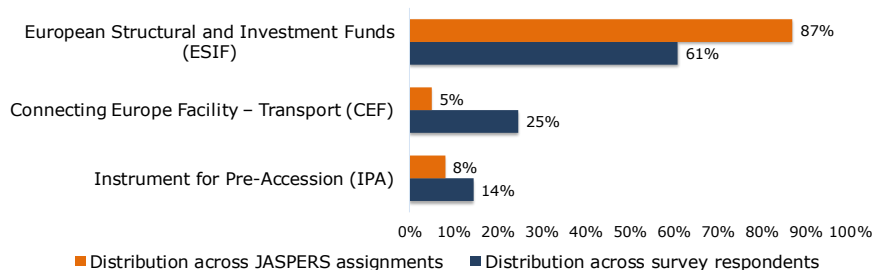
⁵ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: A3. Type of institution.

⁶ Others identified themselves as: Corporate organization with 50% public participation, Regional operator companies, State Joint Stock Company of the public railway infrastructure, Municipal company, Port Authority, Institution providing services - ownership of the commune, Water and sewage company, Railway Infrastructure of the Slovak Republic, 100% public service provider, Public hospital, Gas Transmission Operator, Public transport carrier, Public transport service provider in the public interest (Entity 100% owned by the city).

⁷ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: A5. Role in the project cycle.

IPA mandates across JASPERS assignments is not mirrored across survey respondents. In fact, evidence stemming from the online targeted consultation reveals a higher familiarity of respondents with the CEF rather than with the IPA mandate. Nevertheless, a considerably lower percentage of respondents declared familiarity with these two mandates as compared with the ESIF, in line with the overall distribution of mandates across JASPERS assignments.

Figure 1-4. Compared distribution of mandates across survey respondents and JASPERS assignments 2014-mid 2018⁸

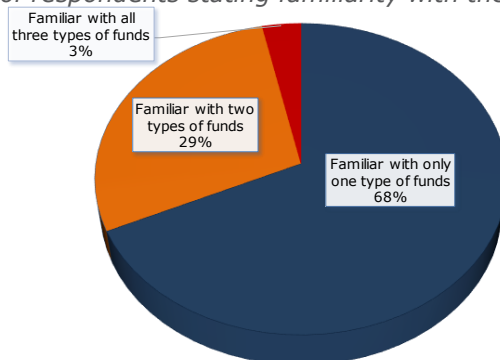


Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation’s results and JASPERS Mid-Term Evaluation Database, 2014-2020

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210, while the total number of JASPERS assignments is 517

Moreover, it should be noted that these slightly different distributions of mandates may find an explanation in the fact that the same respondent could provide more than answer to the corresponding question within the online targeted consultation. In fact, as Figure 1-5 shows, respondents generally declared to be familiar with only one type of fund, but one third of the sample stated to be familiar with two (29%) or with all types of funds (3%).

Figure 1-5. Percentage of respondents stating familiarity with the one, two or all types of funds



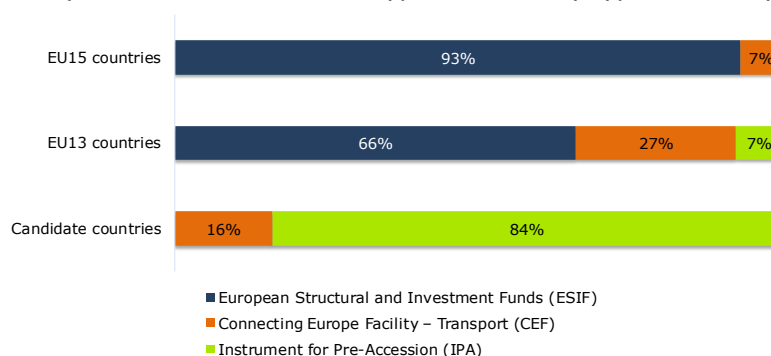
Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation’s results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210

By focusing on the different types of countries, it should be noted that, coherently with the time and geographical distribution of JASPERS support, EU15 and EU13 countries are more familiar with the Structural Funds and Cohesion mandate, while candidate countries show familiarity especially with the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and, although to a lesser extent, also with the CEF mandate (see Figure 1-6).

⁸ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: A6. Type of funds you are familiar with. Please note, respondents could provide more than one answer to this question.

Figure 1-6. Familiarity with the three different types of funds by type of country⁹



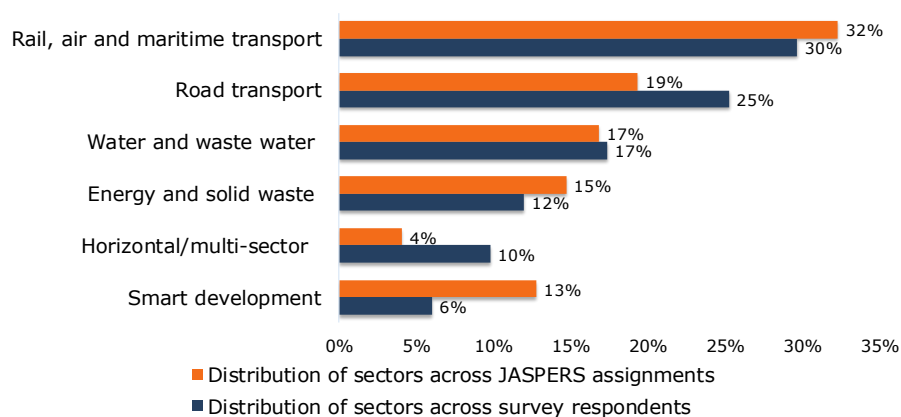
Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation’s results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 200 (9 European Commission Officials and one multi-country respondent were excluded)

In terms of **sectors of activities**, survey results (Figure 1-7) confirm the distribution of the different sectors across JASPERS assignments, with the Rail, air and maritime transport sector having the largest number of assignments and being the sector with which respondents are generally more familiar. However, there is quite strong difference between the distribution of the horizontal-multi sector and the smart development across JASPERS assignments and survey respondents. More in detail, the former appears to be over-represented within the online consultation, while the opposite is true for the latter. Nevertheless, in more general terms, with the exclusion of these two cases, the distribution of sectors of activity within the online consultation may be considered quite homogeneous with respect to their distribution across JASPERS assignments.

⁹ As respondents could provide more than one answer to this question, the percentage represents the number of responses stating familiarity with each different fund over the total number of responses given by each type of country.

Figure 1-7. Compared distribution of sectors of activity across survey respondents (in percentage of the total number of responses) and JASPERS assignments 2014-mid 2018¹⁰



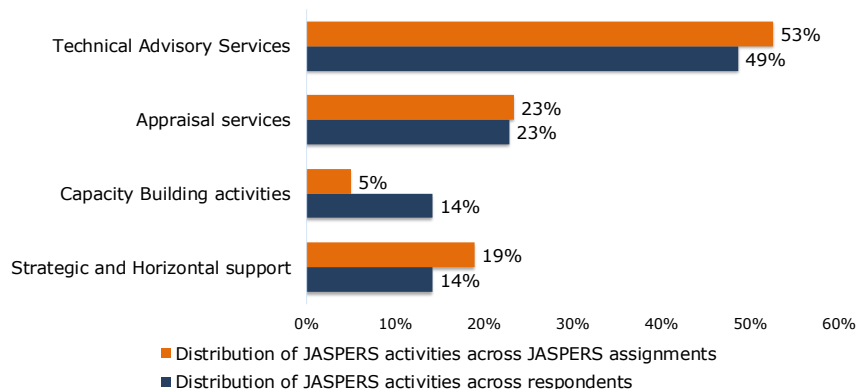
Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results and JASPERS Mid-Term Evaluation Database, 2014-2020

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210, while the total number of JASPERS assignments is 517. Amongst these respondents, 37 of them also stated to be familiar, beyond the traditional sectors listed above, with other sectors such as: Cultural heritage, Tourism, Healthcare, Emergency Situations - Civil Protection, Land Administration, Inland waterways.

As concerns the different JASPERS functions (JASPERS Strategic and Horizontal support, JASPERS Technical Advisory function, JASPERS Appraisal function and JASPERS Networking and capacity building activities), survey results appears to be generally in line with the distribution of these activities across JASPERS assignments (see Figure 1-8). Only in the case of JASPERS Networking and capacity building activities a slight overrepresentation can be detected with respect to the number of respondents stating to be familiar with this specific service (more than 14% respondents compared to a total of 5% of assignments).

¹⁰ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: A7. Sectors of activity you are familiar with. Please note, respondents could provide more than one answer to this question.

Figure 1-8. Compared distribution of JASPERS activities across survey respondents (in percentage of the total number of responses) and JASPERS assignments 2014-mid 2018¹¹

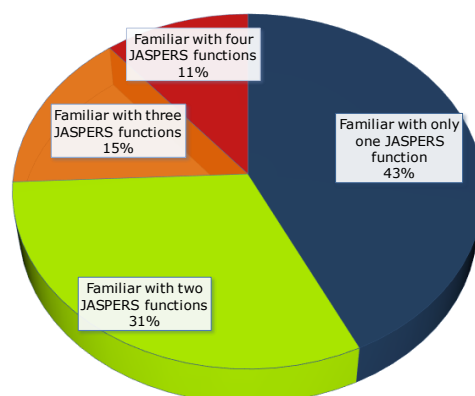


Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results and JASPERS Mid-Term Evaluation Database, 2014-2020

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210, while the total number of JASPERS assignments is 517

In this respect, it should be noted that respondents generally declared to be familiar with one or two types of JASPERS function, while only a small percentage of them stated to be familiar with three (15%) or with all types of JASPERS functions (11%), as shown in Figure 1-9.

Figure 1-9. Percentage of respondents stating to have experience with one or more of the main JASPERS activities



Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210

Most frequent combinations of JASPERS activities are summarized in the table below.

¹¹ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: B1. Type of activities you have experience with. Please note, respondents could provide more than one answer to this question. Also note that, as it was designed, this question does not reflect anymore the classification of JASPERS services currently used in the FIR and SIR. To overcome this limitation, answers were aggregated.

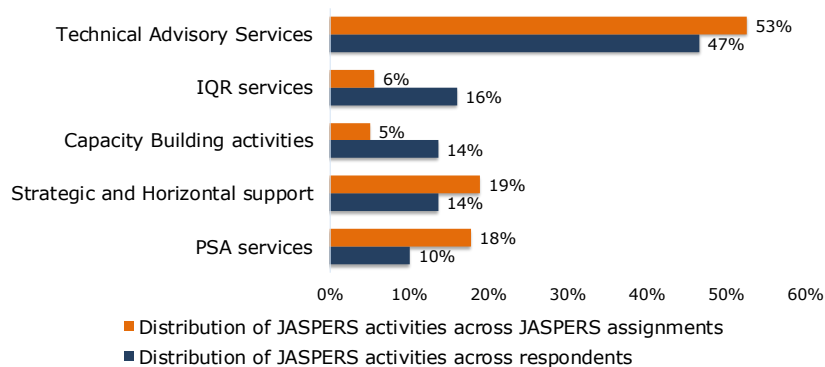
Table 1-2. Combinations of JASPERS activities with which survey respondents stated to be familiar with

Number of JASPERS activities respondents were familiar with	Total number of respondents	Most frequent combinations
Familiarity with one JASPERS activity	90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Advisory (89%) ▪ Appraisal services (7,5%) ▪ Capacity Building activities (3,5%)
Familiarity with two JASPERS activities	66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Advisory and Appraisal services (65%) of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Advisory and IQR services (55,9%) • Technical Advisory and PSA services (34,8%) • Technical Advisory and both Appraisal services (9,3%)
Familiarity with three JASPERS activities	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Advisory, Strategic and Horizontal support and Appraisal services (42%) ▪ Technical Advisory, Strategic and Horizontal support and Capacity Building activities (35,4%) ▪ Technical Advisory, Capacity Building activities and Appraisal services (22,6%)
Familiarity with all four JASPERS activities	23	/
TOTAL	210	/

Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Less homogeneous distributions of JASPERS activities across survey respondents and JASPERS assignments are identified when isolating the PSA and IQR services (see *Figure 1-10*). With respect to IQR services, in fact, it should be noted that while 16% survey respondents appear to be familiar with this service, the concentration of IQR services across JASPERS assignments is very low, standing at only 6% of the total. Conversely, PSA services are "underrepresented" within the online targeted consultation with respect to their distribution across JASPERS assignments. This consideration finds an explanation in the fact that European Commission Officials are generally more familiar with PSA services than other types of respondents and, in the context of the online targeted consultation, they represent only 4% of the total.

Figure 1-10. Compared distribution of JASPERS activities across survey respondents (in percentage of the total number of responses) and JASPERS assignments 2014-mid 2018 by splitting Appraisal services¹²

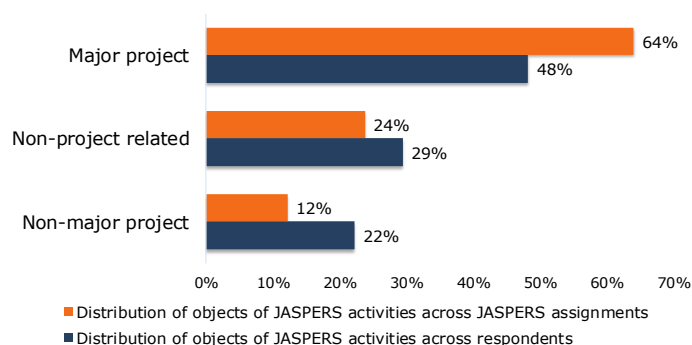


Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results and JASPERS Mid-Term Evaluation Database, 2014-2020

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210, while the total number of JASPERS assignments is 517

In terms of objects of JASPERS activities, survey results shows that most of respondents are familiar with major projects and, although to a lesser extent, with non-project related aspects, in line with the distribution of objects of JASPERS support across assignments for the period 2014-mid 2018 (see Figure 1-11).

Figure 1-11. Compared distribution of objects of JASPERS activities across survey respondents (in percentage of the total number of responses) and JASPERS assignments 2014-mid¹³



Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results and JASPERS Mid-Term Evaluation Database, 2014-2020

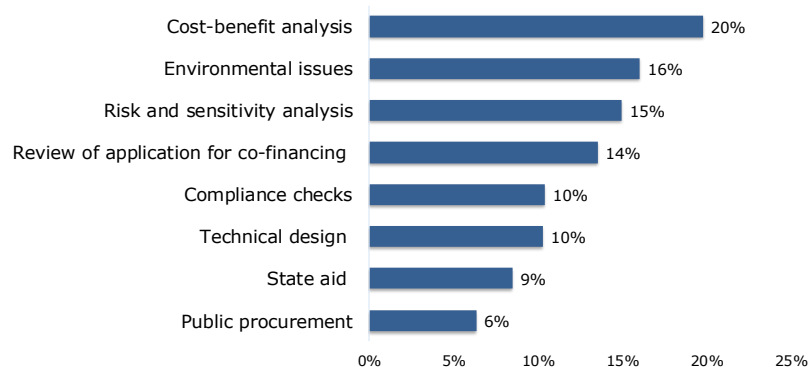
Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210, while the total number of JASPERS assignments is 517

In terms of areas of JASPERS activities, Figure 1-12 shows that most of respondents have experience with cost-benefit analysis and environmental issues and, although to a lesser extent, also with risk and sensitivity analysis and the review of application for co-financing. Conversely, State aid and public procurement result to be the areas of which respondents have lower knowledge.

¹² Corresponding question within the questionnaire: B1. Type of activities you have experience with. Please note, respondents could provide more than one answer to this question.

¹³ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: B2. Object of JASPERS activities you have experience with. Please note, respondents could provide more than one answer to this question.

Figure 1-12. Percentage of respondents stating to have experience with the different areas of JASPERS activities¹⁴

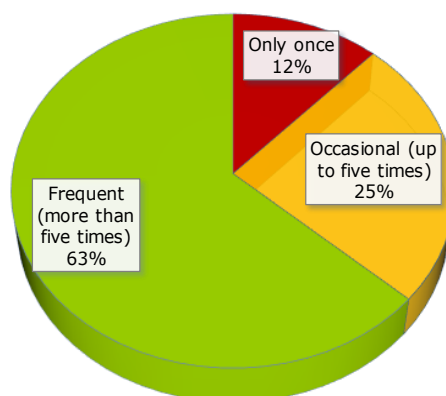


Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210. Amongst these respondents, 23 of them also stated to be familiar, beyond the traditional areas listed above, with other areas such as: Evaluation of Strategic documents, Transport strategy, Consultation related to EU co-financing etc.

In terms of frequency of interaction/involvement with JASPERS/JASPERS activities in the period 2014-2020, most of respondents taking part in the survey declared to have interacted with JASPERS on a frequent (63%) or occasional (25%) basis. Only 12% of them, instead, benefitted from JASPERS only once (see Figure 1-13).

Figure 1-13. Percentage of respondents and frequency of interactions with JASPERS¹⁵



Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

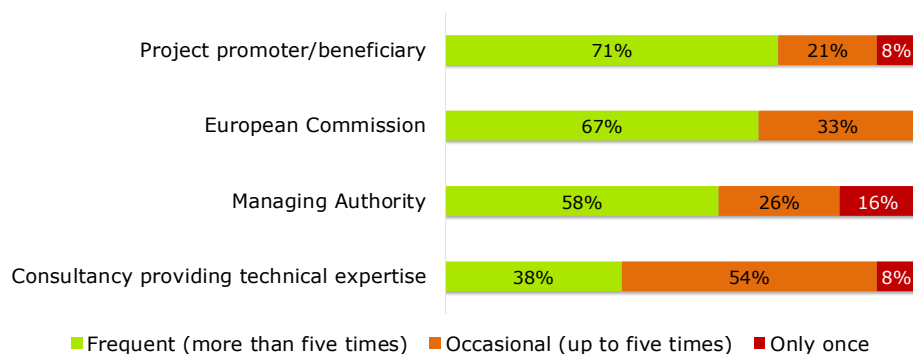
Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210

By focusing on the different types of roles within the project cycle, Figure 1-14 shows that the majority of all types of respondents have had frequent exchanges with JASPERS. Only Consultancy providing technical expertise are an exception in this regard, declaring to have interacted with JASPERS mostly on an occasional basis (54%) or only once (8%), as they generally may have experience only on individual projects.

¹⁴ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: B3. Areas of JASPERS activities you have experience with. Please note, respondents could provide more than one answer to this question.

¹⁵ Corresponding question within the questionnaire: B4. Frequency of interaction/involvement with JASPERS/JASPERS activities in the period 2014-2020.

Figure 1-14. Frequency of interactions with JASPERS by type of respondent (type of institution and role in the project cycle)

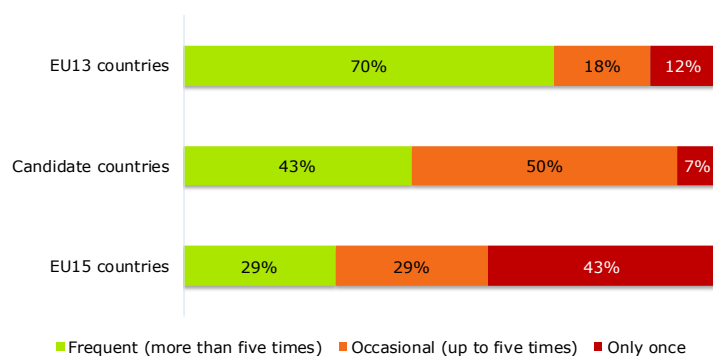


Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 210. Amongst these respondents, 28 identified as "Other respondents" [see Figure 1-3]. Amongst them, 74% have had frequent exchanges with JASPERS, while only 26% declared to have had exchanges only once.

By differentiating by type of countries, Figure 1-15 reveals that EU13 and candidate countries have generally had frequent or occasional interactions with JASPERS, while the majority of EU15 countries mostly once or on an occasional basis.

Figure 1-15. Frequency of interactions with JASPERS by type of country



Source: CSIL processing of online targeted consultation's results

Note: The total number of respondents considered is 200 (9 European Commission Officials and one multi-country respondent were excluded)

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