

Peer review in Croatian scholarly journals: the potential of open peer review

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Traditional concept of peer review

- Quality control by peers
- Basic concept has existed since 1665
- Development of peer review as we know today
- Double blind
- Single blind
- Pre-publication

Old and new concepts

- Pre-publication & post-publication peer review
- Quick peer review – soundness, not significance
- Cascade peer review
- Open commentaries – open participation
- Open reports – transparent peer review
- Open peer review
- ...

Open peer review

- More than 200 definitions!
- Our definition:

the simplest form of **open peer review** is to publish the reviews alongside the final paper, and identities of both author and **reviewer** are **disclosed** to each other – public disclosure of the identities of the reviewers **is not mandatory**

- Pre-publication open peer review
- Post-publication (transparent) peer review

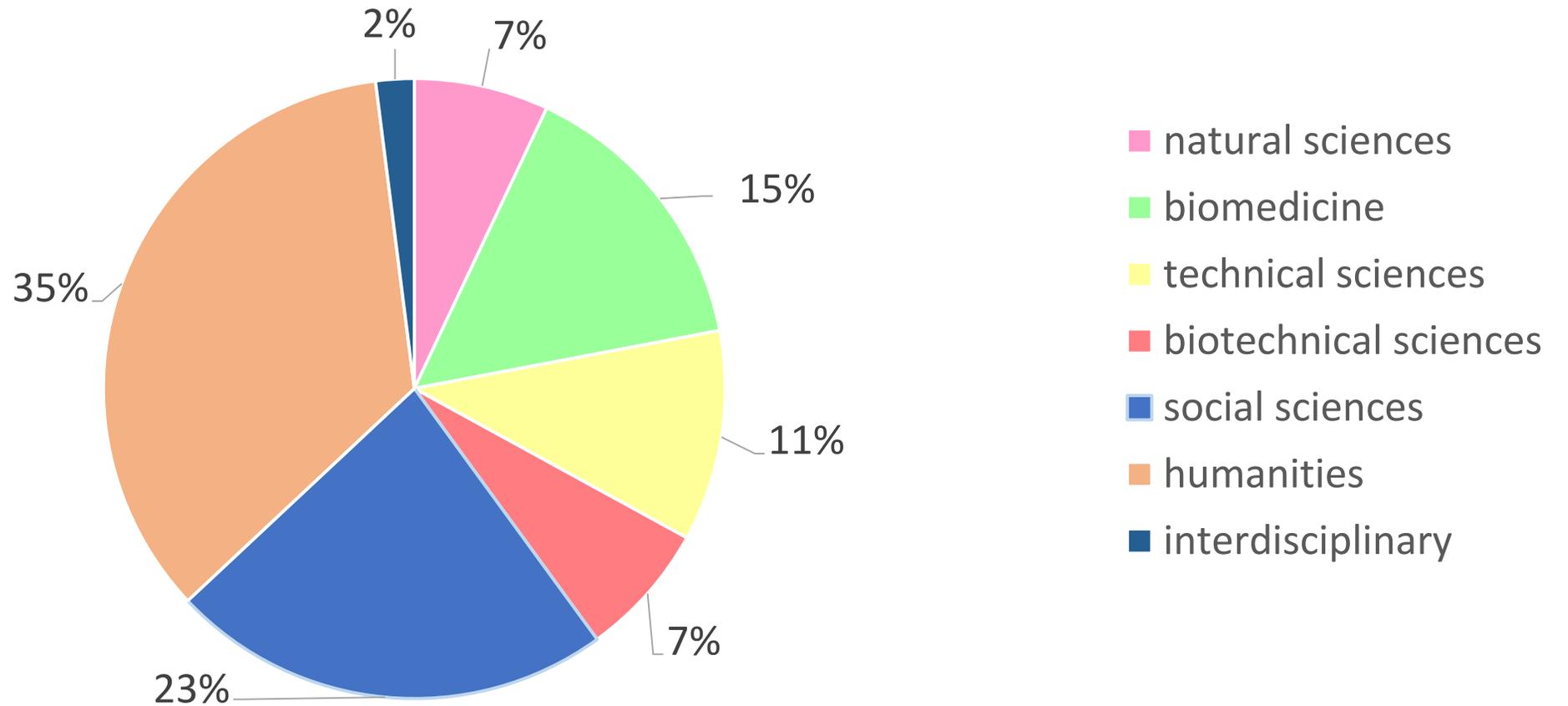
Aims of our research

- Characteristics of the peer review used by the Croatian OA journals?
- What do editors think about open peer review and are they familiar with the concept of open peer review?
- Are the editors ready to implement open peer review?
- Would open peer review enhance scientific communication in Croatia?
- Would open peer review help Croatia to set better position in global scientific community?

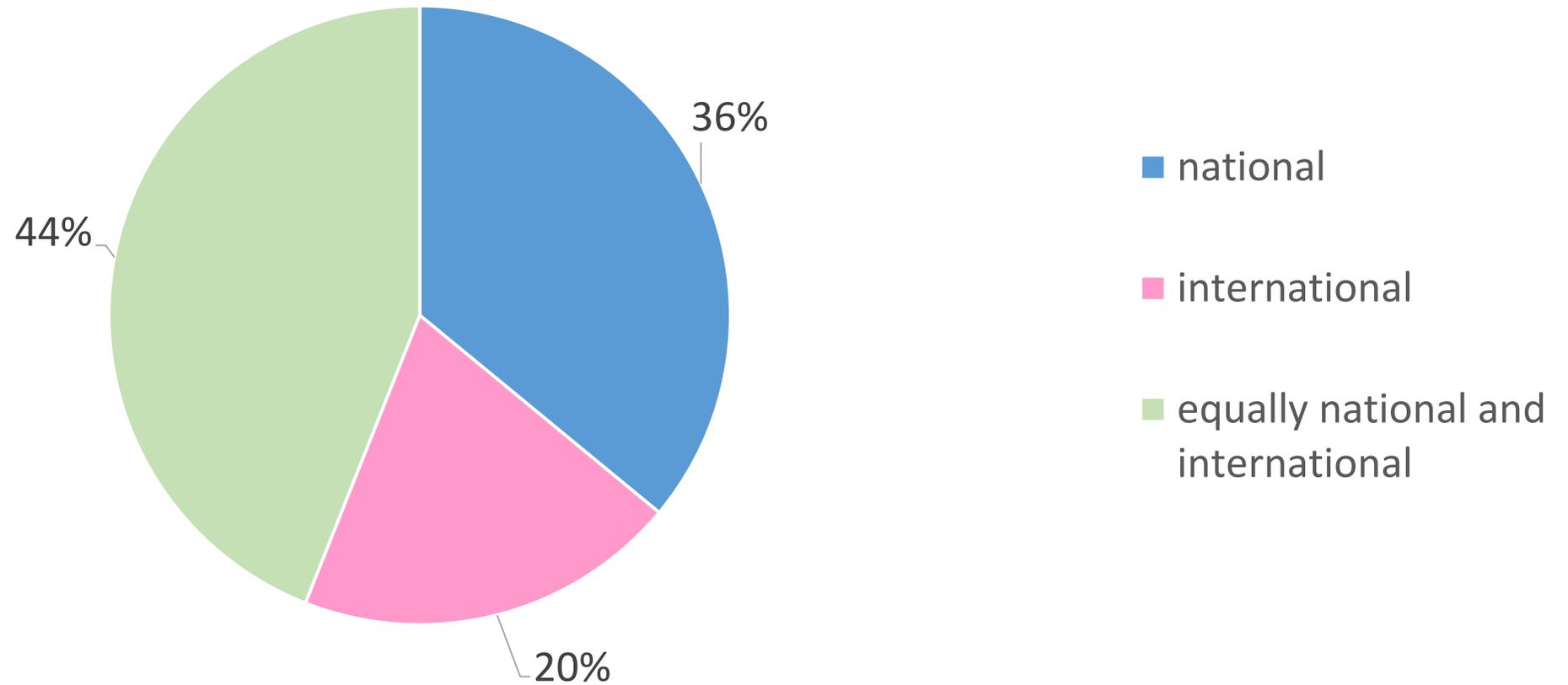
Sample and methodology

- 217 journals on the Hrčak portal that publish peer reviewed articles
- Online questionnaire – 39 questions
- 141 responses
- May-July 2017

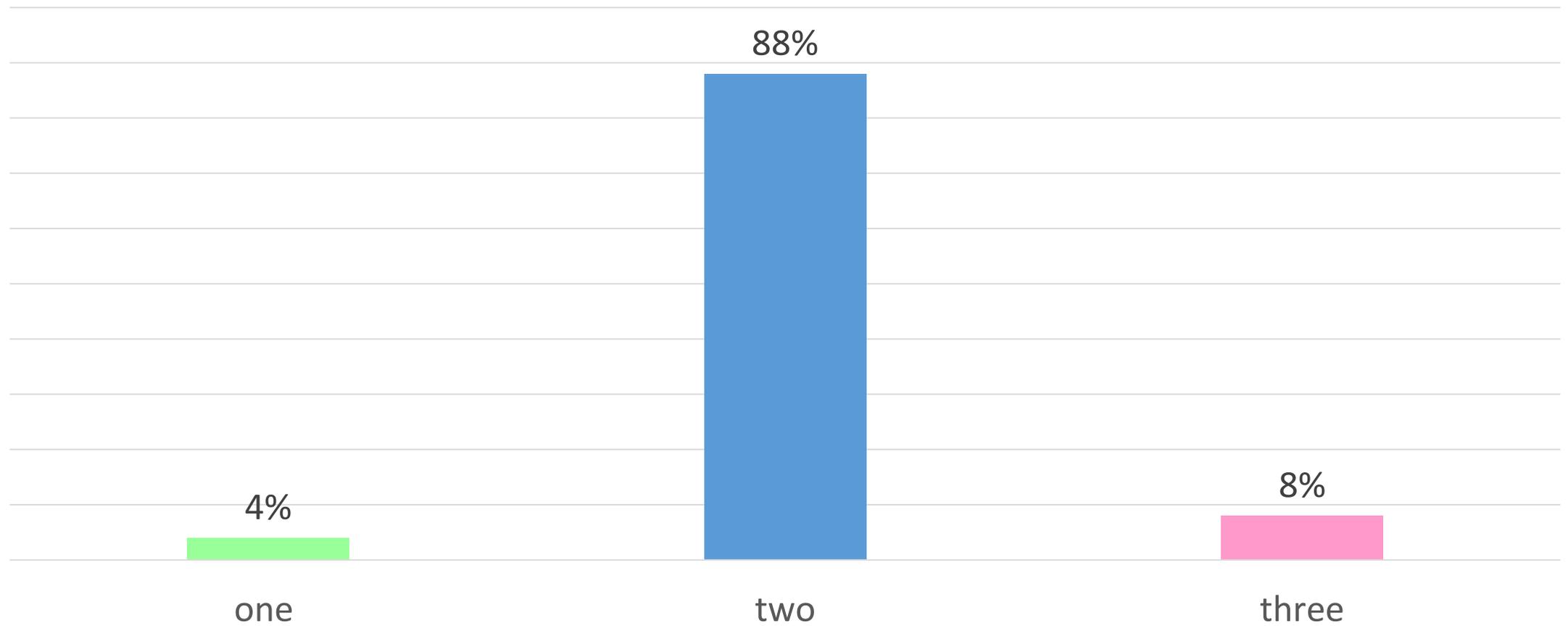
Scientific area



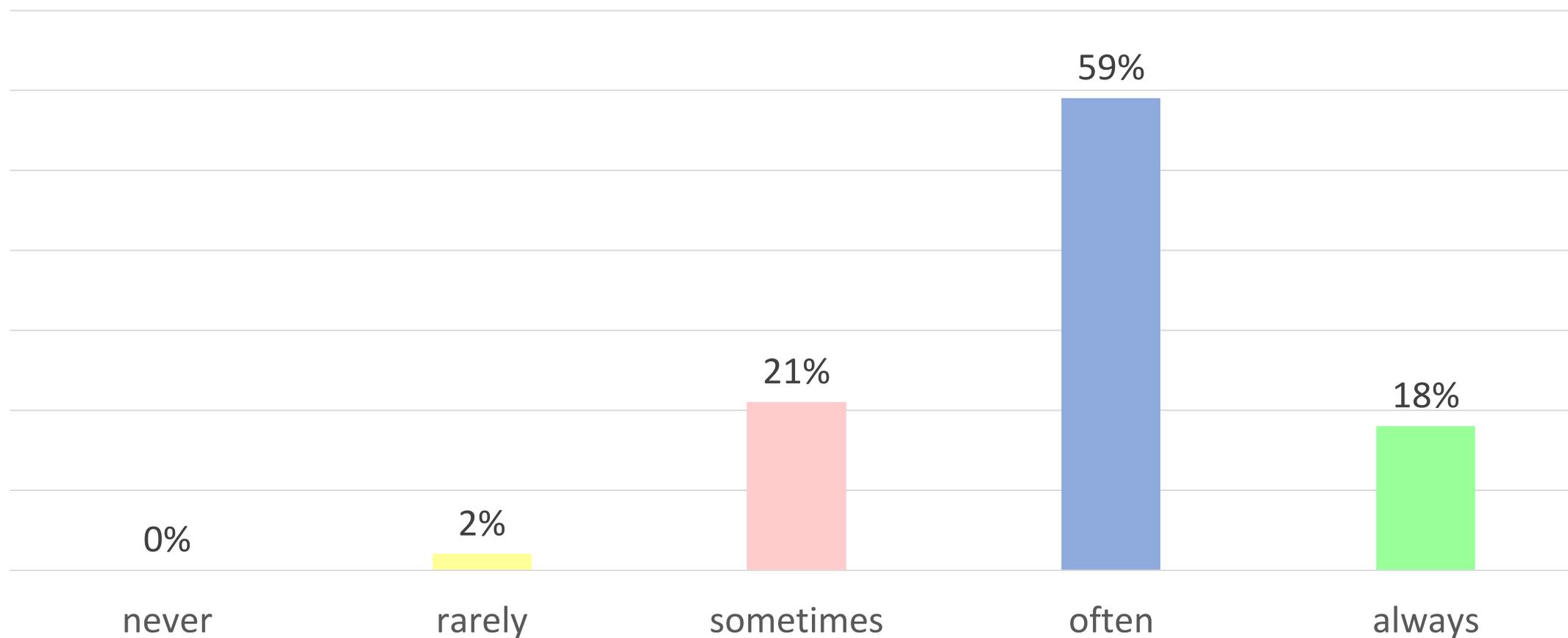
Peer reviewer's affiliation



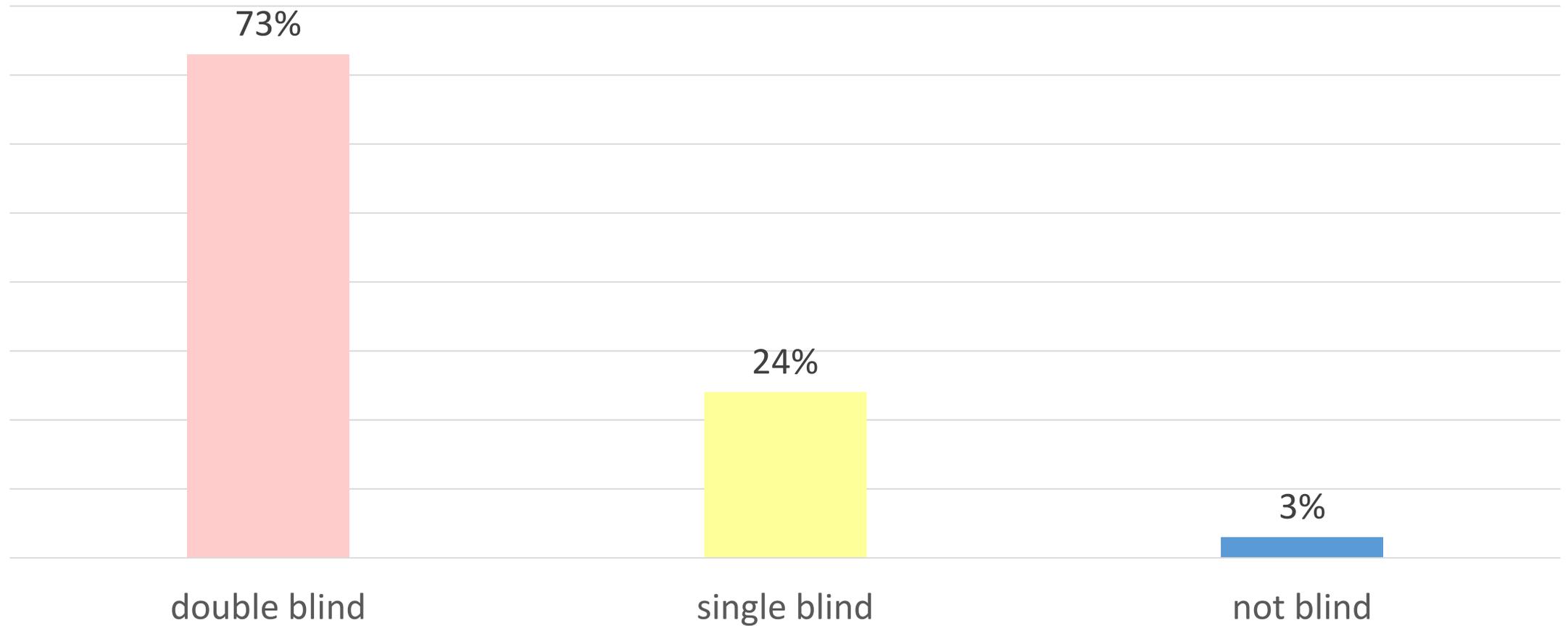
Number of peer reviewers per manuscript



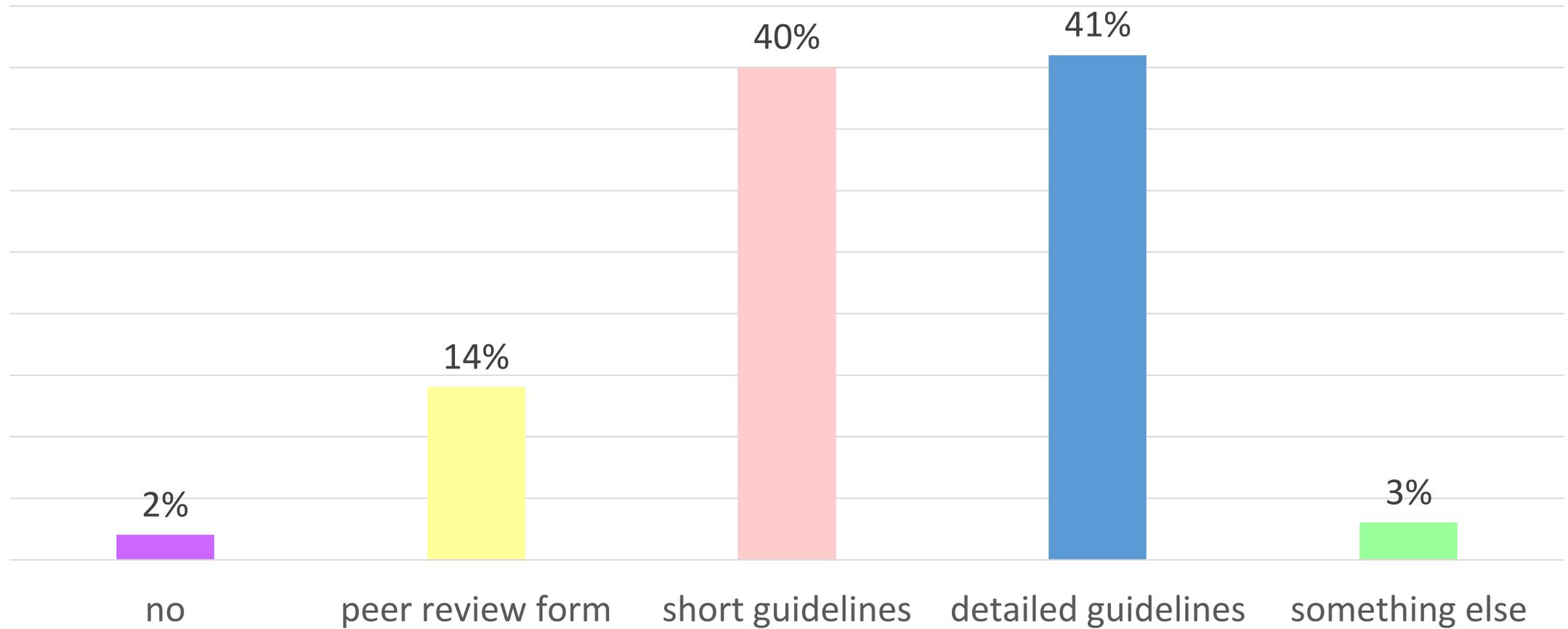
High quality of peer reviewers' reports



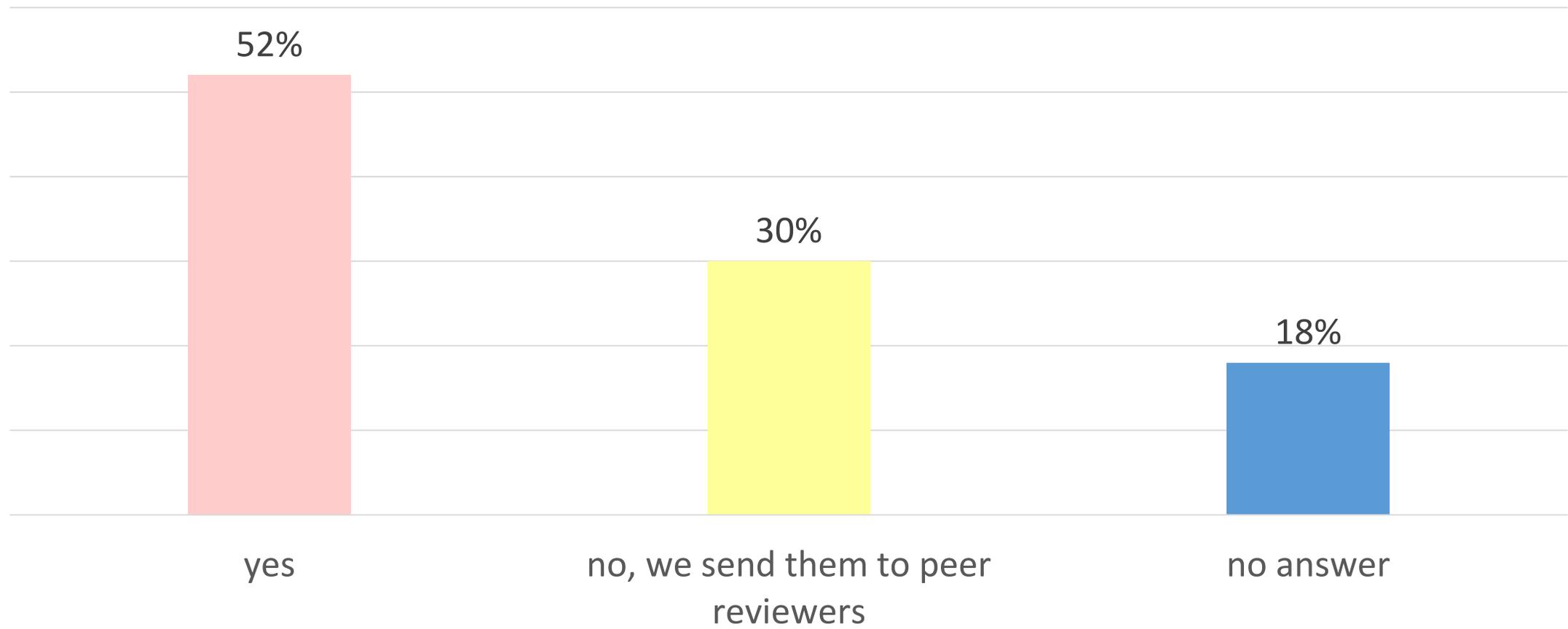
Peer review type



Guidelines for peer reviewers



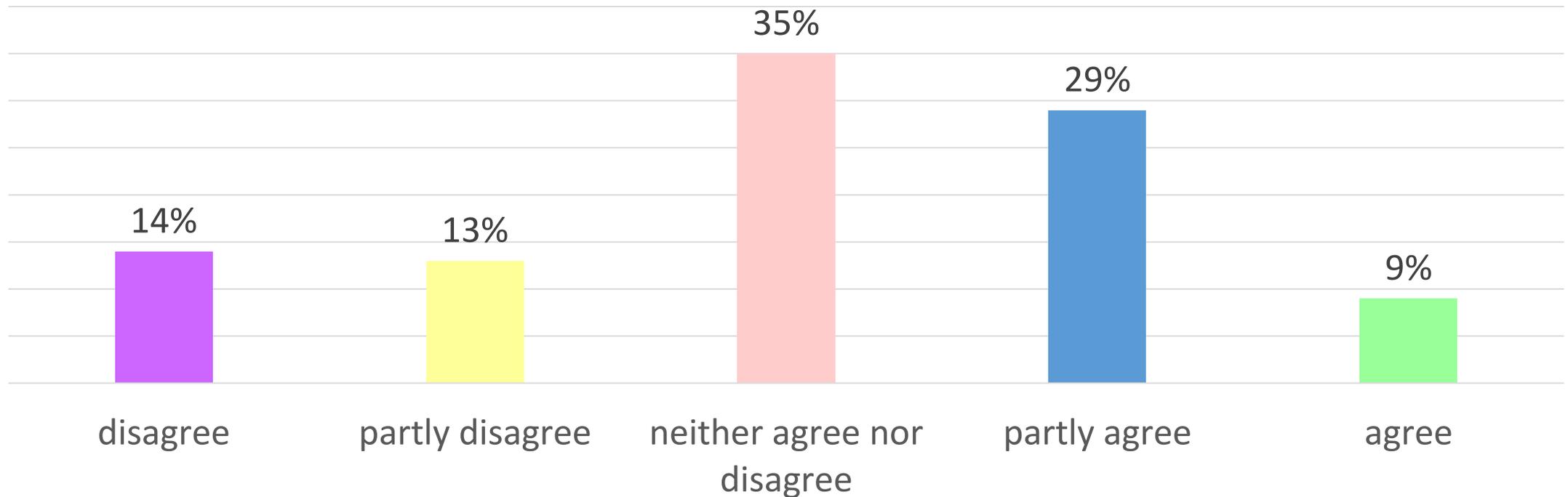
Are the guidelines publicly available?



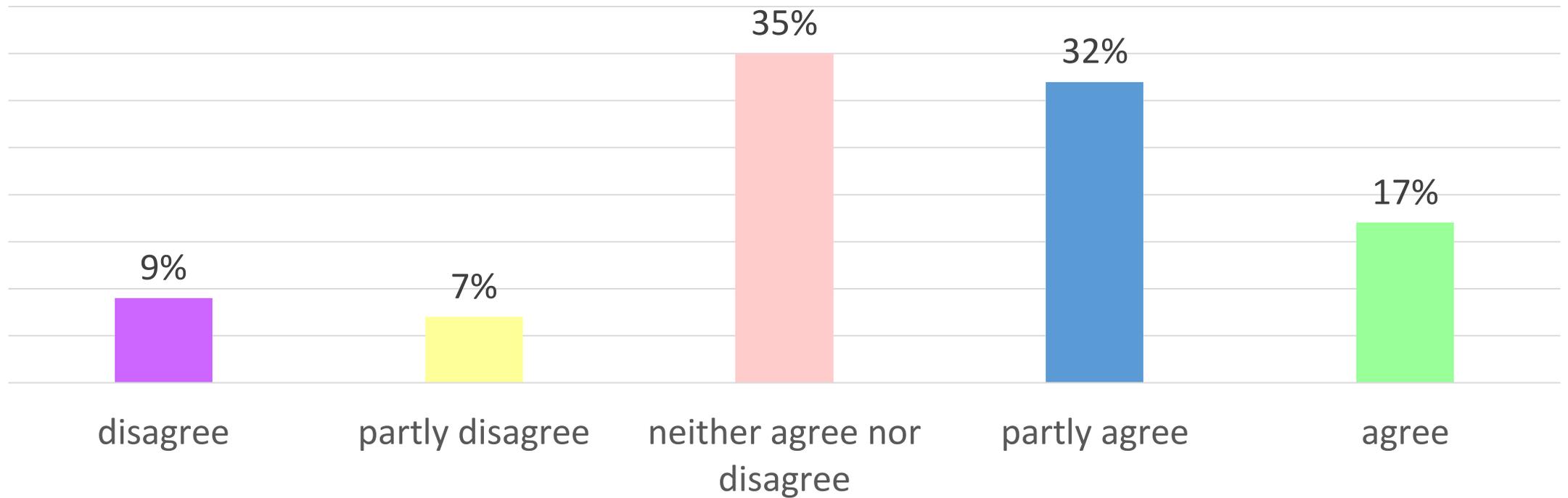
What is open peer review?

Answer	Respondents
Open reports	47%
Open responses	33%
Open identities	26%
Open previous versions	20%
Open participation	17%
Post-publication peer review	13%
Single blind	11%
Do not know	23%

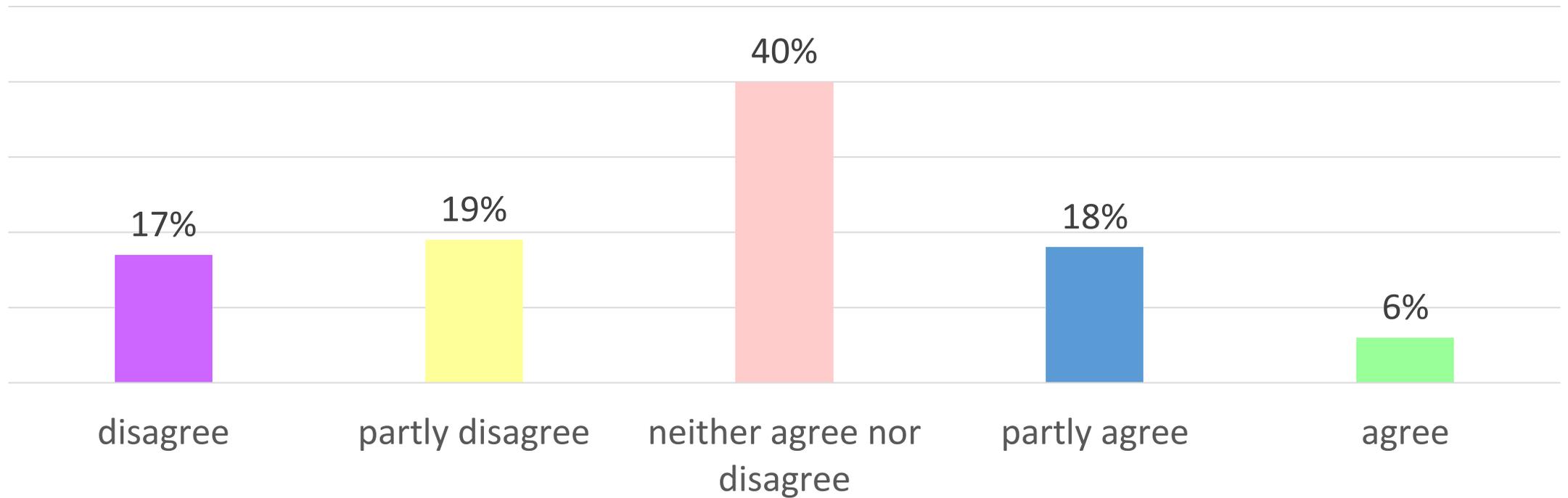
Open peer review would result in higher quality of published papers



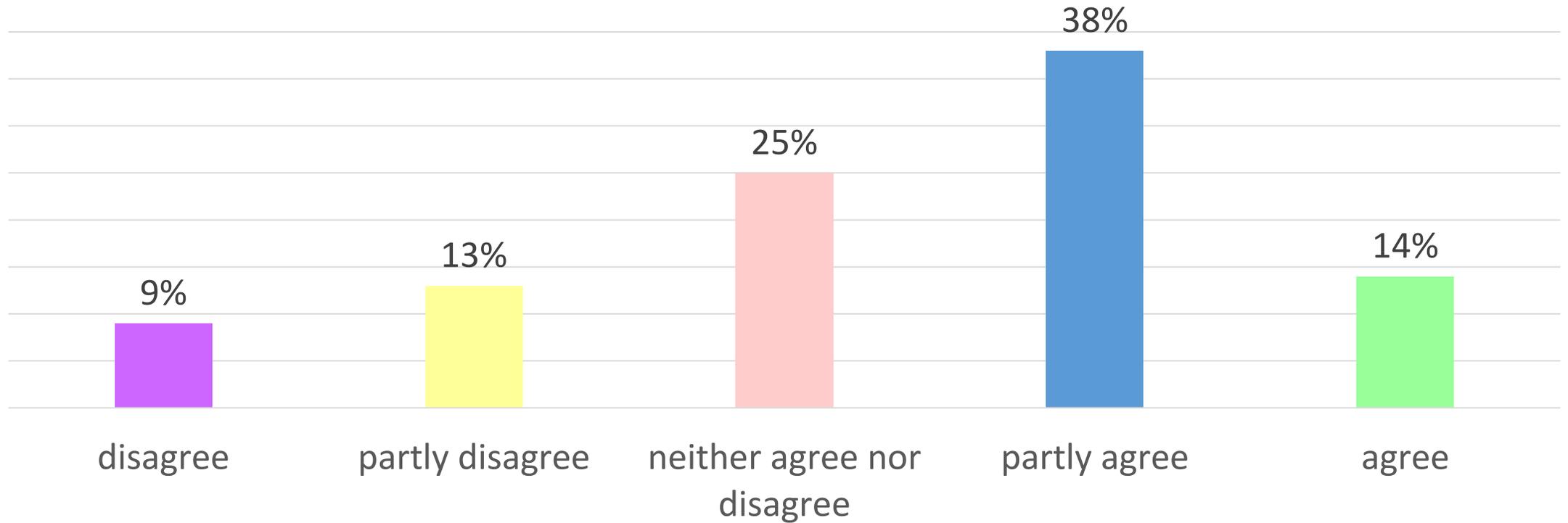
Open peer review is not good for Croatia



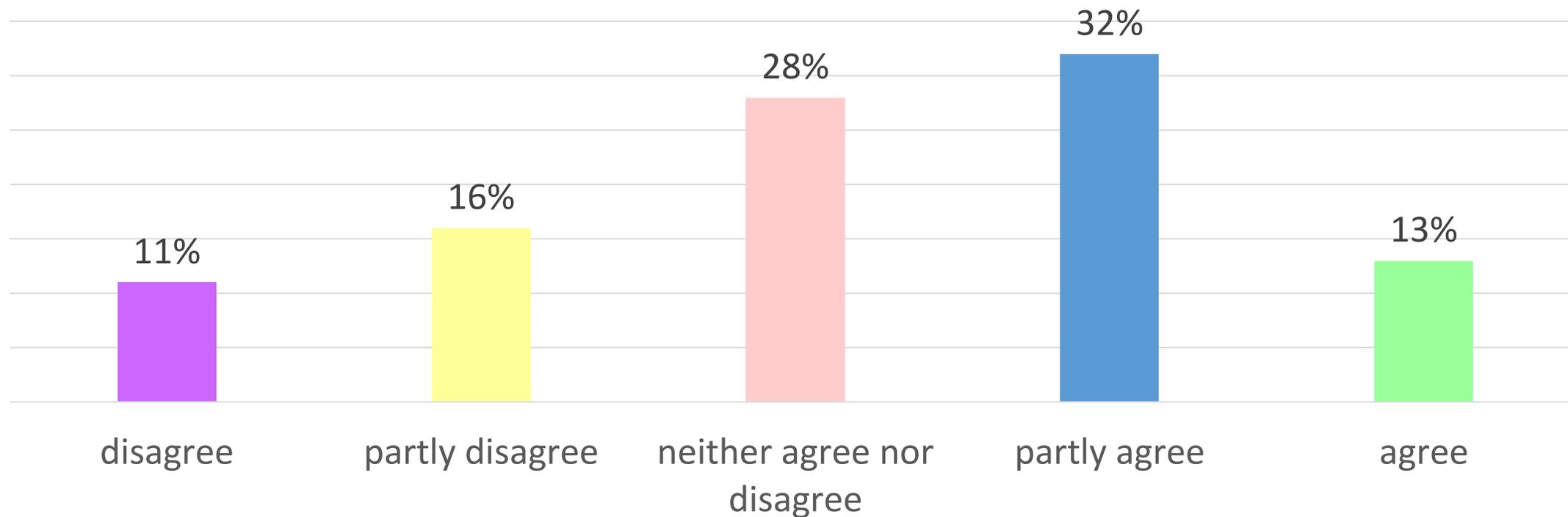
Peer reviewers would accept to write open reports



Open peer review would encourage discussions



Open peer review would endanger objectivity



Conclusion

- Majority of journals use double blind peer review and have high level of editorial freedom and integrity
- High quality of review reports
- There is a need to raise awareness of the importance of transparent guidelines for the reviewers
- None of the journals have implemented open peer review
- Editors are not sure what open peer review is
- Editors do not think that open peer review would enhance scientific communication

Next steps

- Research of peer reviewers (selected journals)
- Encourage some journals to try to implement (or at least to experiment with) open peer review
- Consequences of open peer review for Croatian scientific community (Croatian science, Croatian journals...)

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