



Youth and Participation

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Why involve youth?

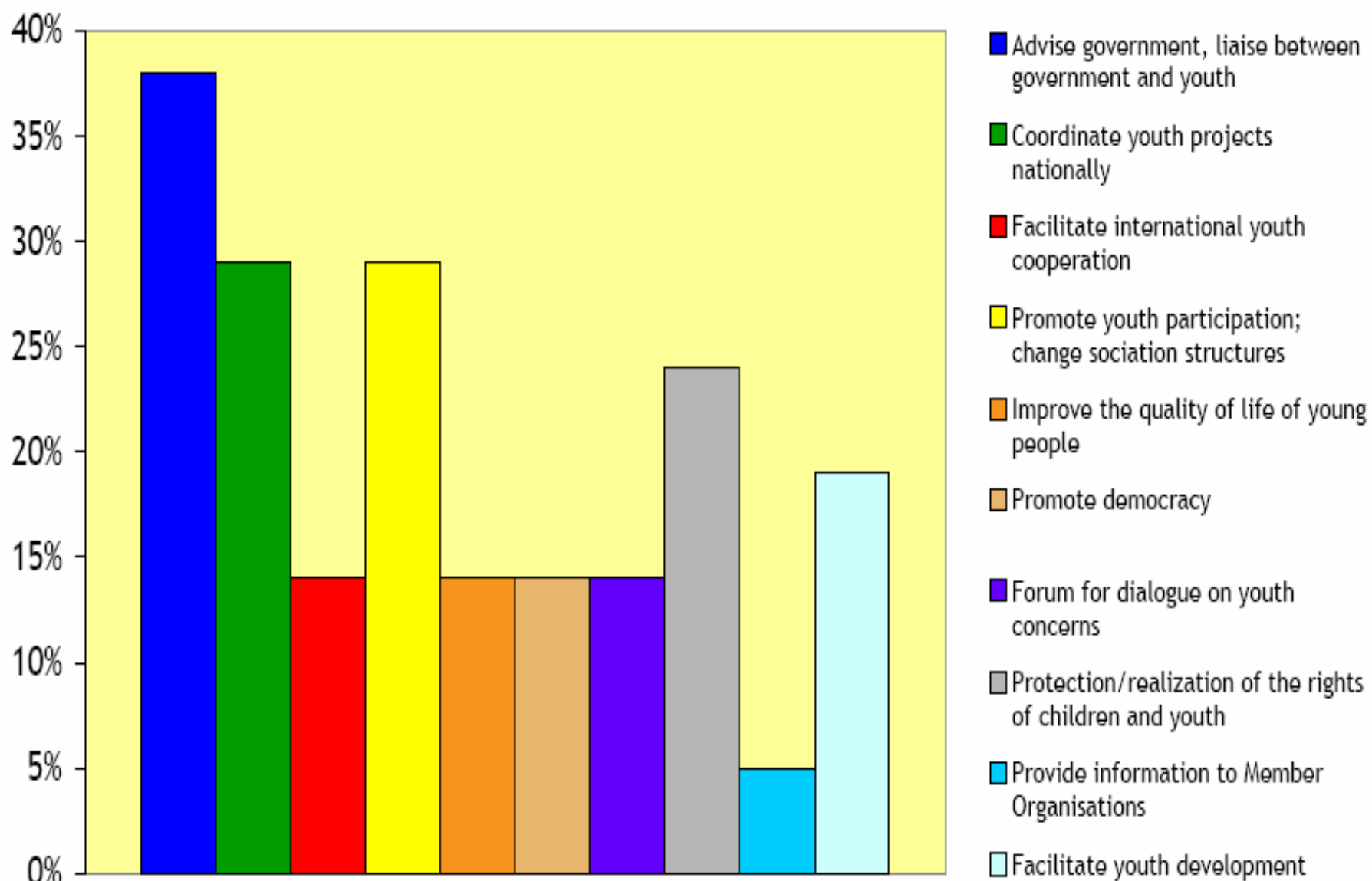
- The right to participate
- Improve policies and outcomes
 - “...when one looks at some of the [youth] policies one wonders if the people that made them ever were youths themselves.” – Participant from Nigeria, e-consultation on Citizen Centred Policies and Services (2008)



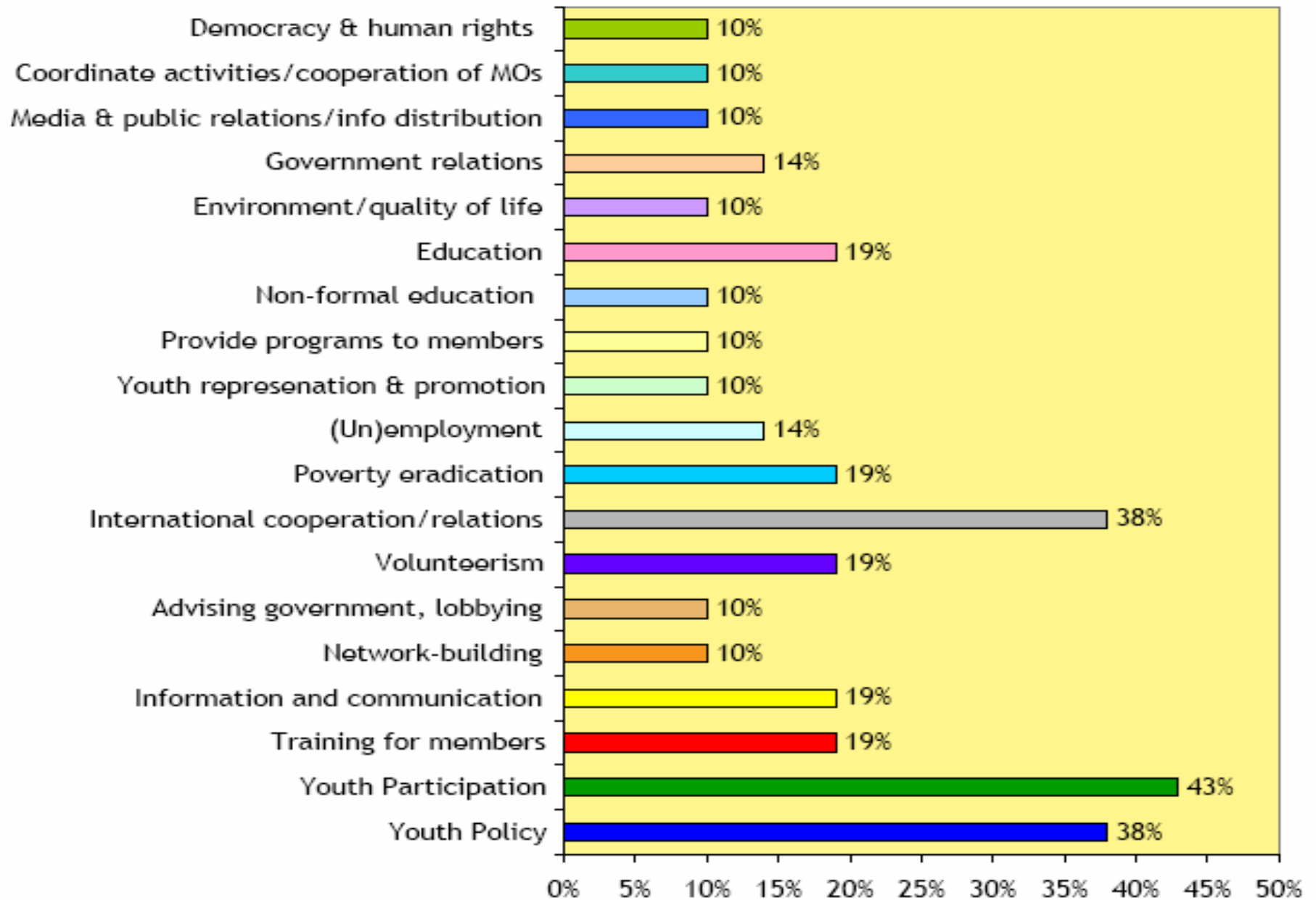
National Youth Councils

- Why are they established?
 - Create an umbrella organization
 - Link between youth organizations and governments
 - Promote youth issues and youth participation
 - Represent youth of the country internationally

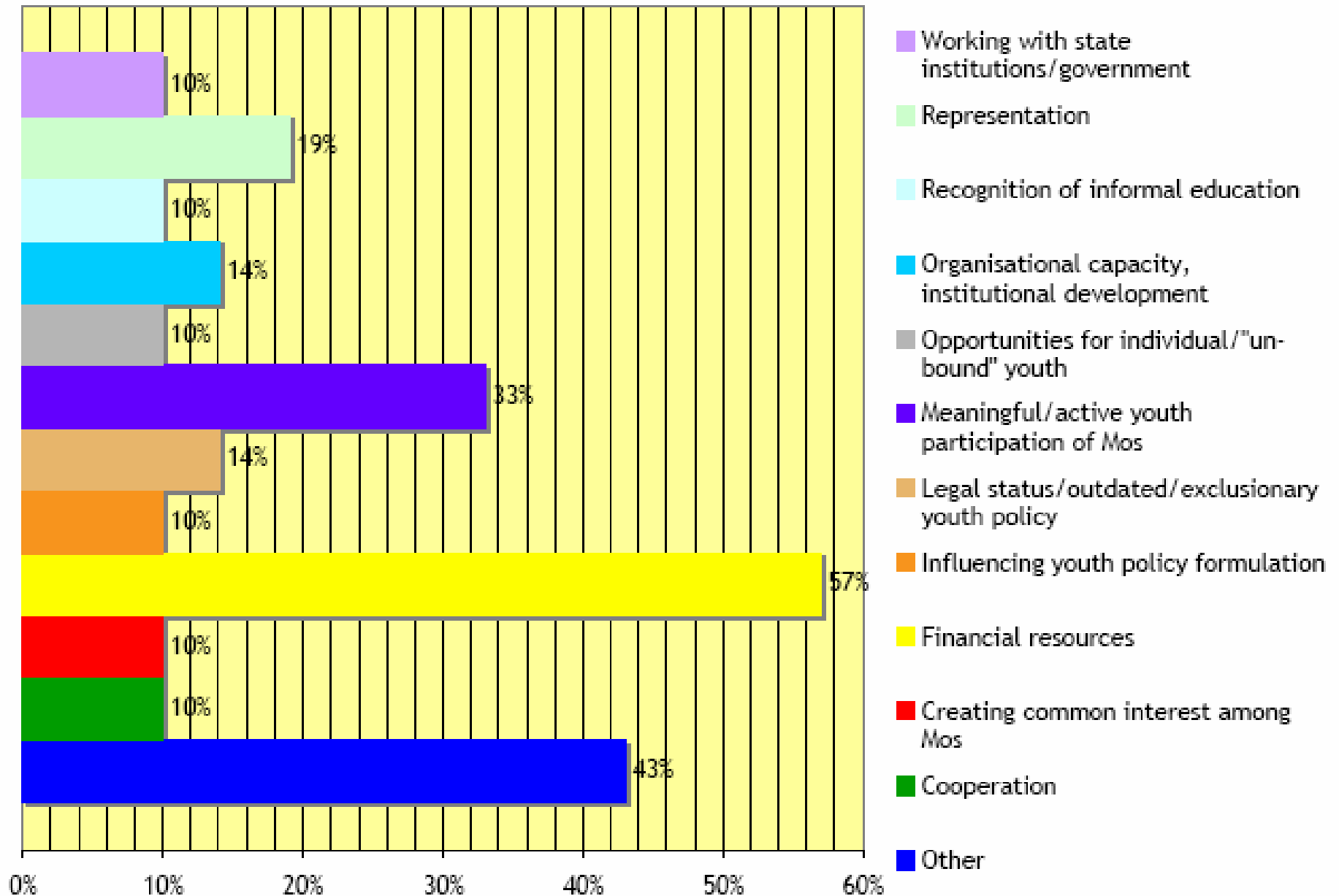
Objectives Identified in Mission Statements



Priorities of National Youth Councils



Challenges of National Youth Councils





National Youth Councils

- Three-step process for establishment of NYC:
 - The founding members must agree to a basic spirit of cooperation
 - The NYC must be recognized by the national government
 - The NYC should ideally be protected by legislation
- Recommendation for actors outside the youth movement:
 - Limit your own role to that of a facilitator. The process of setting up a NYC must be led by youth organizations themselves.



New Modes of Participation

- New technologies increase access to information, opportunities and channels of participation.
 - “Through cross-boundary web sites, tele- and video-conferencing, chat boards and webcams, information and communication technologies are creating new forms of ‘cyber participation’ that provide young people with creative, open and non-hierarchical channels of participation. Insight can be obtained when these activities are subsequently submitted to policy-making channels.” – World Youth Report (2005)
- Challenge to involve marginalized and rural youth



Key Areas for Targets

- Establishment of national youth platforms (National Youth Councils)
- Participatory formulation of national youth policies
- Official youth delegates to the UN General Assembly
- Opportunities available to all young people, including marginalized groups