



Multilingualism: Insights from the MCAA Survey 2024

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Public Webinar: Multilingualism and Language Biases in Research Assessment



MCAA Background



*Marie Skłodowska -Curie
(1867-1934)*

- Founded in 2012, the MCAA grew to a dynamic network boasting **more than 22 000 members** . As of 2014, an AISBL based in Belgium.
- Membership is free and open to any past or present beneficiary of funding under any of the past or present schemes of the European Commission's MSCA programme (fellows, supervisors, project managers...).
- Funding and support for the MCAA is provided mainly by the European Commission Directorate General for Education and Culture, while increasingly diversifying funding sources.

The MCAA provides **lifetime opportunities**: continuous support of beneficiaries, regardless of career path, stage, location, or research field.

Survey Objectives and Key Areas



Survey Objective

- Gather insights from current and past MSCA fellows on their experiences, career trajectories, workplace dynamics, and professional activities.

Key Survey Areas:

Current Professional Activities

Employment Experience Post-Fellowship

Fellowship Experience

Supervision

Career Plans and Opportunities

Mental Health in the Workplace

Open Science

Environmental Protection in Research
Activities

Multilingualism and Language use

Survey Methodology



Survey Design :

- Descriptive, cross-sectional design;
- Mix of closed-ended and open-ended questions;
- Likert scales for views, satisfaction, and agreement;
- Open-ended questions for qualitative feedback.

Sampling :

- Target: Current and past MSCA fellows, particularly MCAA members.
- Over 22,000 members, with additional participants reached via social media.

Data Collection :

- 16-week period (15 March – 5 July 2024).
- Online distribution via email and social media.
- Incentives offered (micro-grants, Coursera licenses).
- ~1,600 responses received, with ~1,200 valid responses (response rate: ~5.5%), ~320 responses for multilingualism .

Data Processing:

- Closed-ended questions numerically coded for statistical analysis.
- Open-ended responses categorized into themes.
- Data cleaning to remove inconsistencies, missing values, and duplicates.

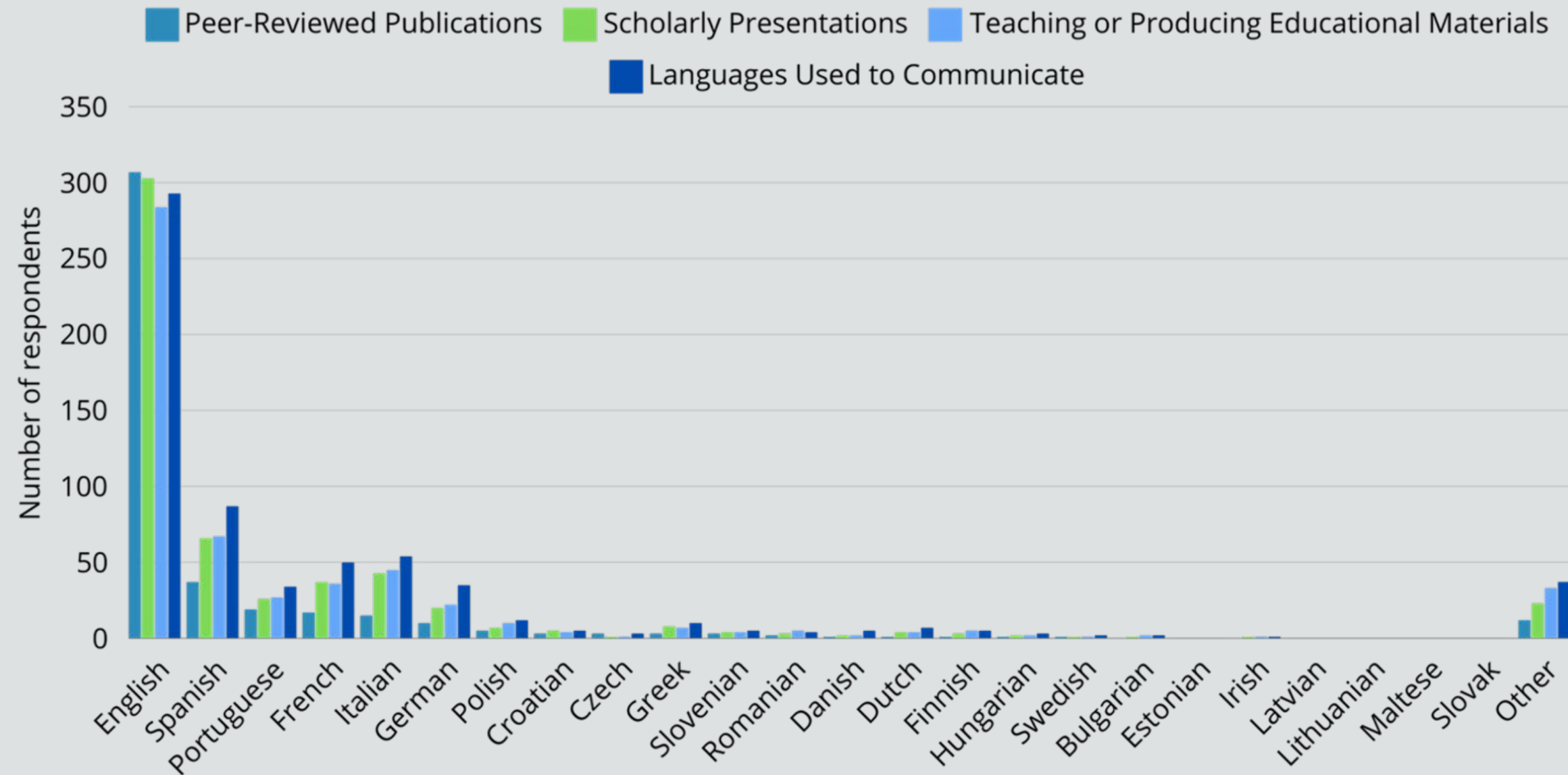
Ethical Considerations:

- Voluntary participation and confidentiality ensured.
- Informed consent obtained via an online form.

Limitations:

- Response bias potential (more active fellows might have participated);
- Generalizability limited to reachable MSCA fellows and MCAA members.
- More responses from past fellows than current fellows.

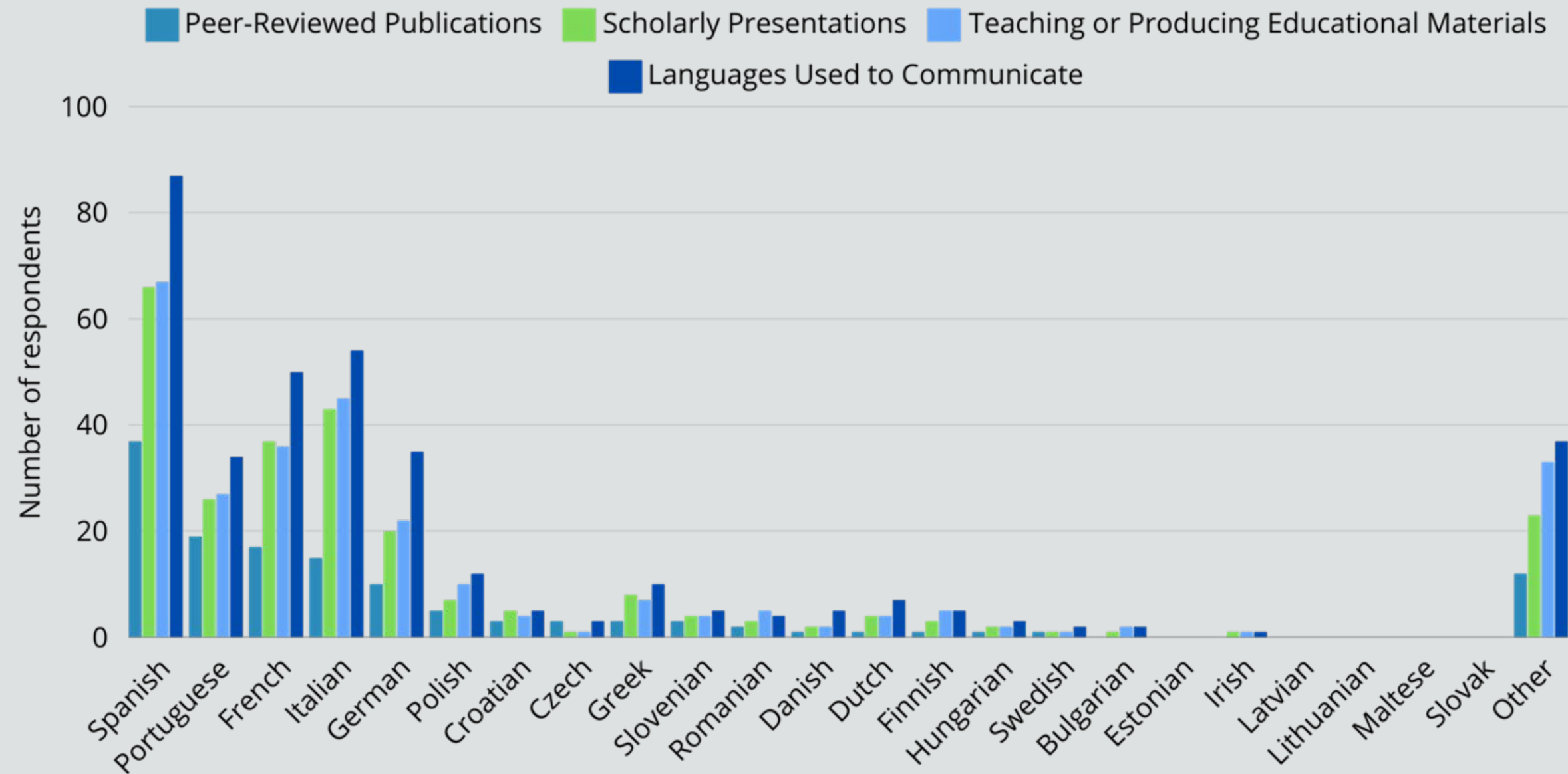
Dominance of English Language in Scholarly Communication



Source: MCAA Survey 2024

Questions: In what languages have you published peer-reviewed publications; scholarly presentations; taught or produced educational materials; used to communicate (in written or oral form) your research beyond scholarly audiences?

Non-English Language Use in Scholarly Communication



Source: MCAA Survey 2024

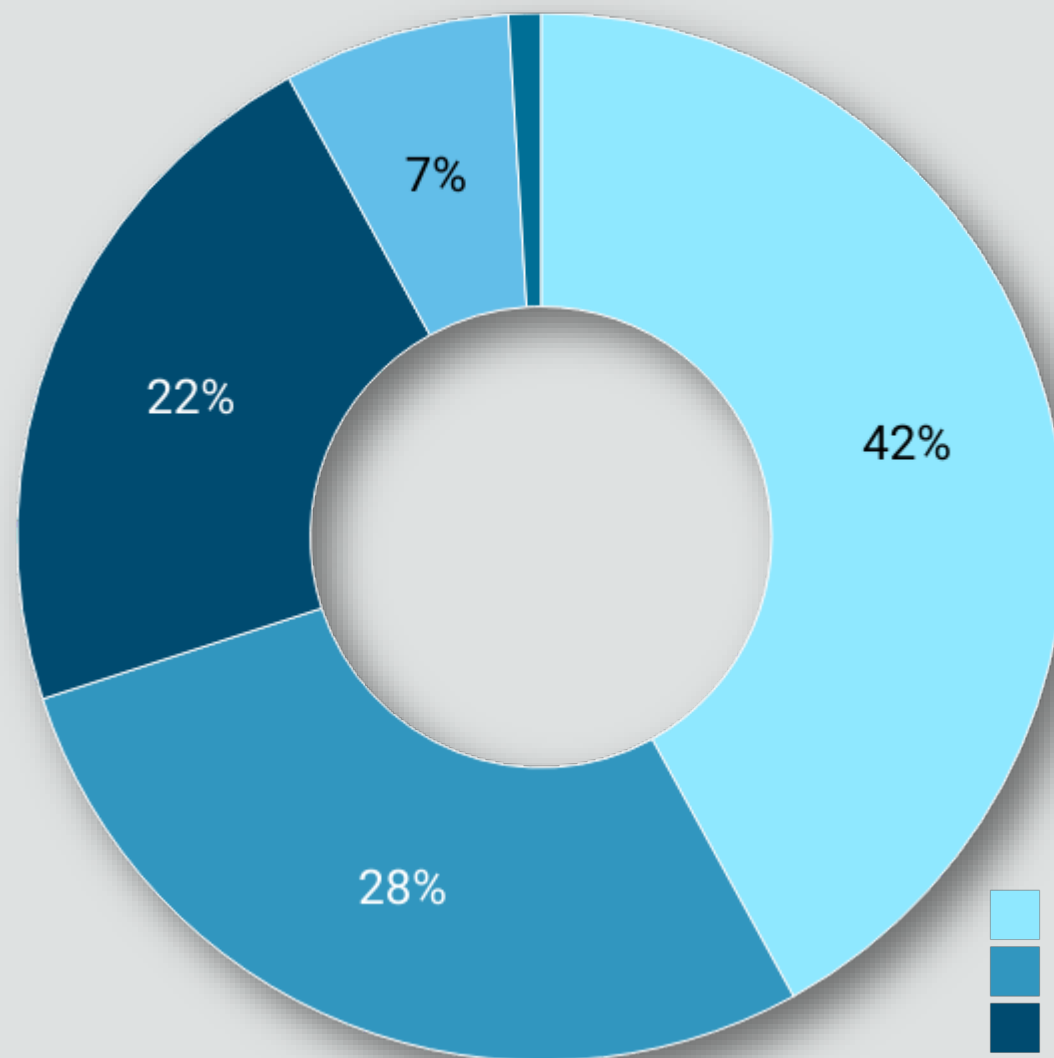
Questions: In what languages have you published peer-reviewed publications; scholarly presentations; taught or produced educational materials; used to communicate (in written or oral form) your research beyond scholarly audiences?

Note: English is not shown, in order to highlight trends for other languages

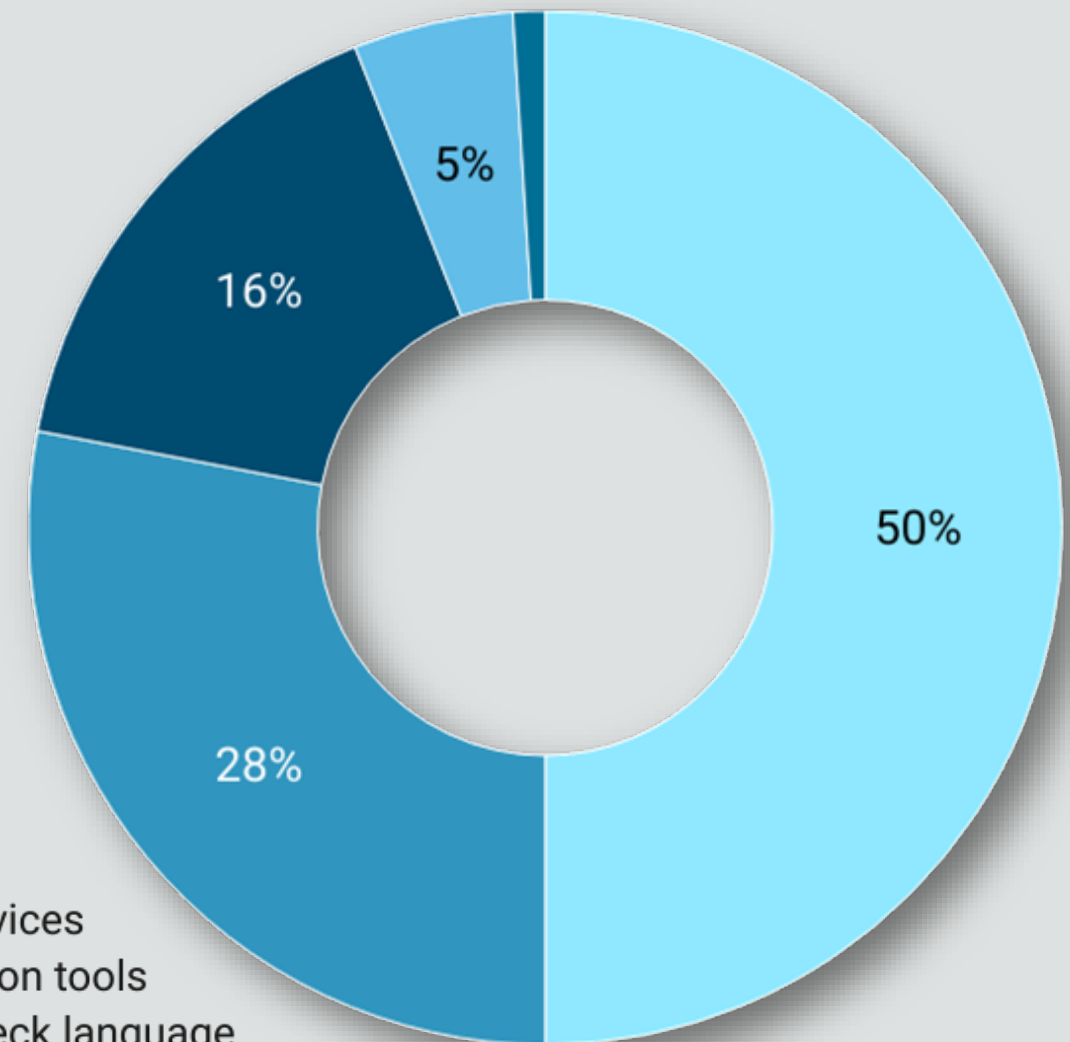
Translation Service Usage in Scholarly English Publications



Scholarly Audience



Non-Scholarly Audience



- I have not used translation services
- I used online machine translation tools
- I have asked a colleague to check language
- I used human translation services
- I never published in English

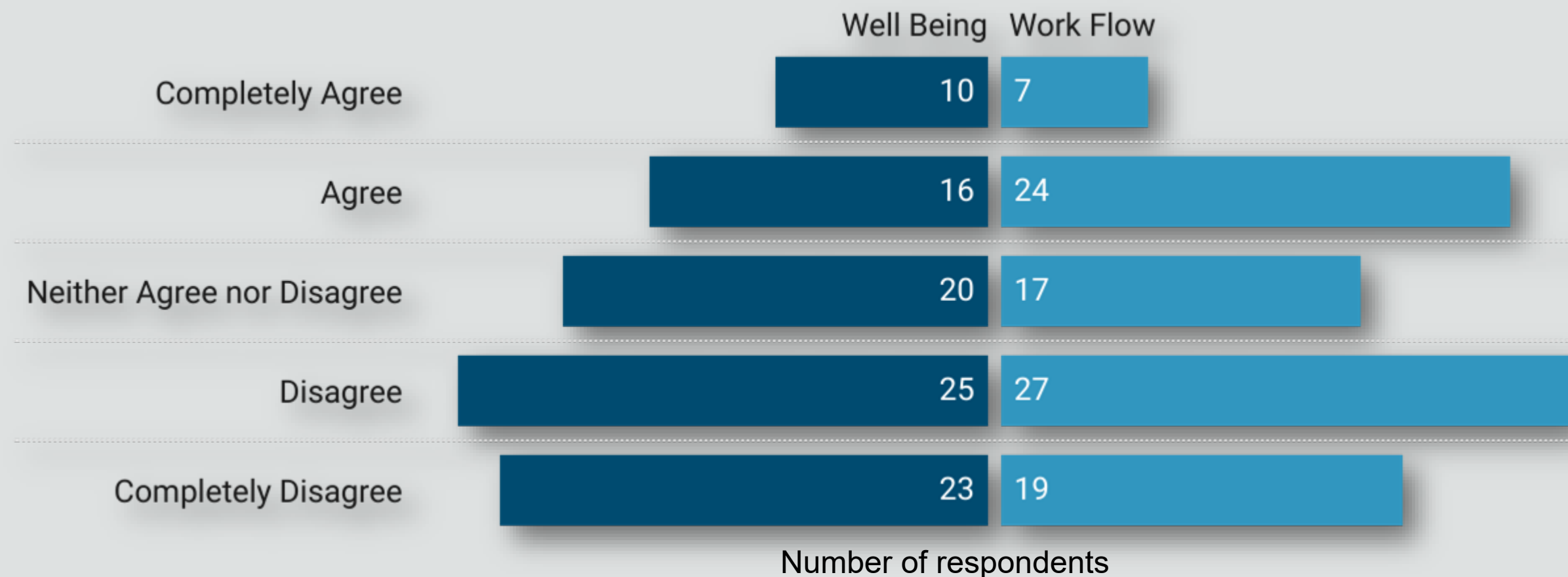
Source: MCAA Survey 2024

Questions: In what languages have you published peer-reviewed publications; scholarly presentations; taught or produced educational materials; used to communicate (in written or oral form) your research beyond scholarly audiences?

Impact of Language Barrier for non -EU respondents



While a majority of non-EU MSCA researchers did not feel that language barriers significantly impacted their work or well-being, a notable portion—especially in terms of workflow—reported challenges, highlighting the need for continued support in overcoming language -related obstacles in the EU research environment



Source: MCAA Survey 2024

Questions: Please answer the following questions regarding the issues you might have experienced during the implementation of your MSCA research project in the EU: Language barrier impacted my work flow; Language barrier impacted my well being.

Note: Shown only responses from non-EU nationals carrying out (or having carried out) their MSCA research in an EU country. EU citizens were not asked to respond to this question (94 responses).



Thank you for attention

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Acknowledgement to my colleagues at the MCAA for their efforts in designing, conducting, and analyzing this comprehensive survey.