

35th State of the Network

Based on the results from the 35th State of the Network Inquiry conducted before the 84th ICM Tbilisi 2023.

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Foreword

Dear Network,

We are pleased to present you the 35th State of the Network.

We would like to thank all the National Groups who filled out the inquiry, as well as the Secretary General of the International Board, Yordan Kyurkchiyski, for always being there when we had questions and uncertainties.

We hope that this report helps the International Board of ELSA as well as the entire Network in shaping the future of our Association.

Best regards,

Gabriela Tomaszewska & Anna Szulc

Assistants for Internal Management of ELSA International 2023/2024

The logo for ELSA, featuring the lowercase letters 'elsa' in a bold, white, serif font.

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Abbreviations

- NG – National Group
- LG – Local Group
- IFP – International Focus Programm
- SotN – State of the Network
- HR – Human Resources
- OYOP – One Year Operational Plan
- NTP – National Trainers' Pool
- SG – Strategic Goals
- CI – Corporate Identity
- EDF – ELSA Development Foundation

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Information about the Report

Number of National Groups represented: 35

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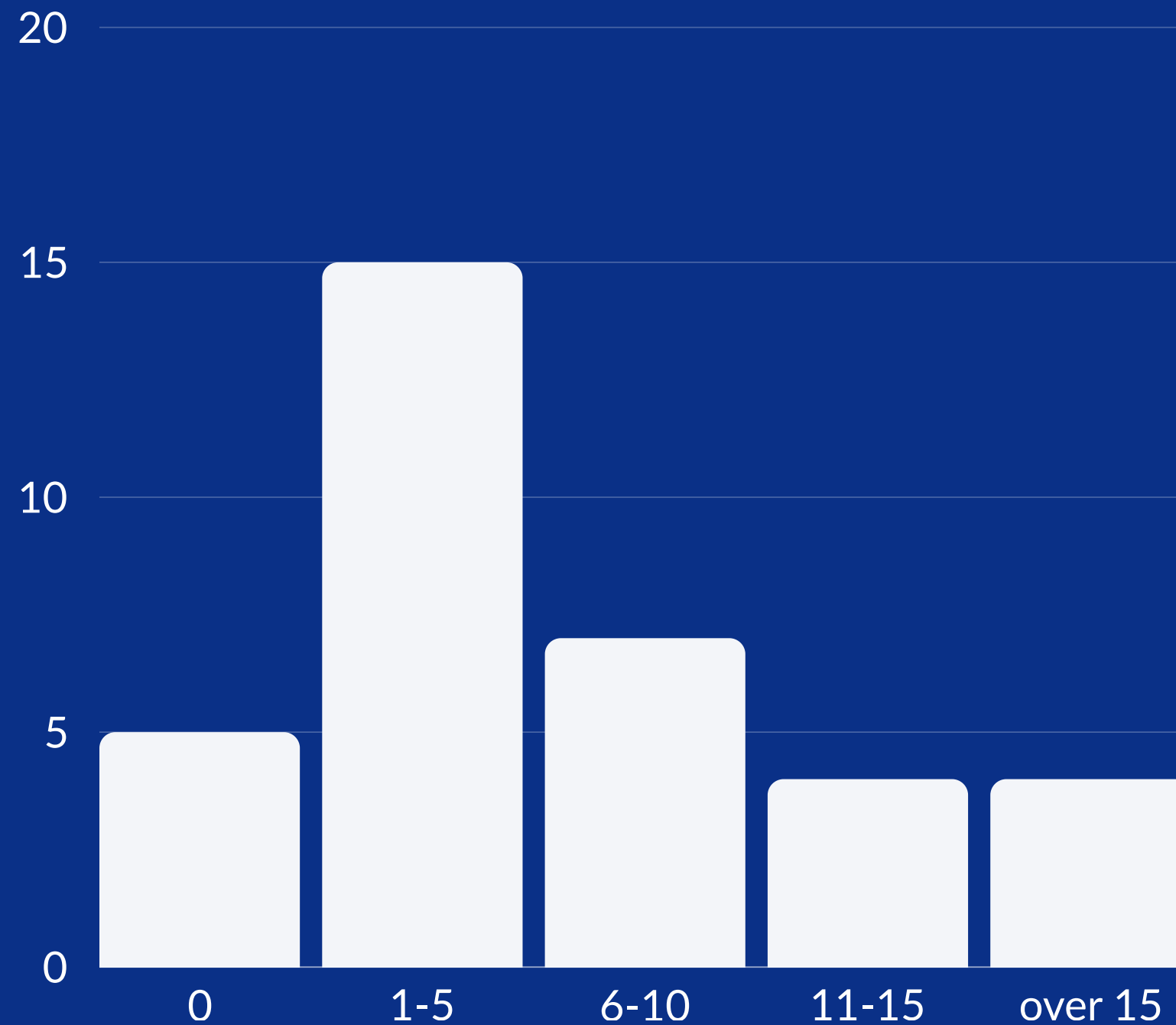
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General Information

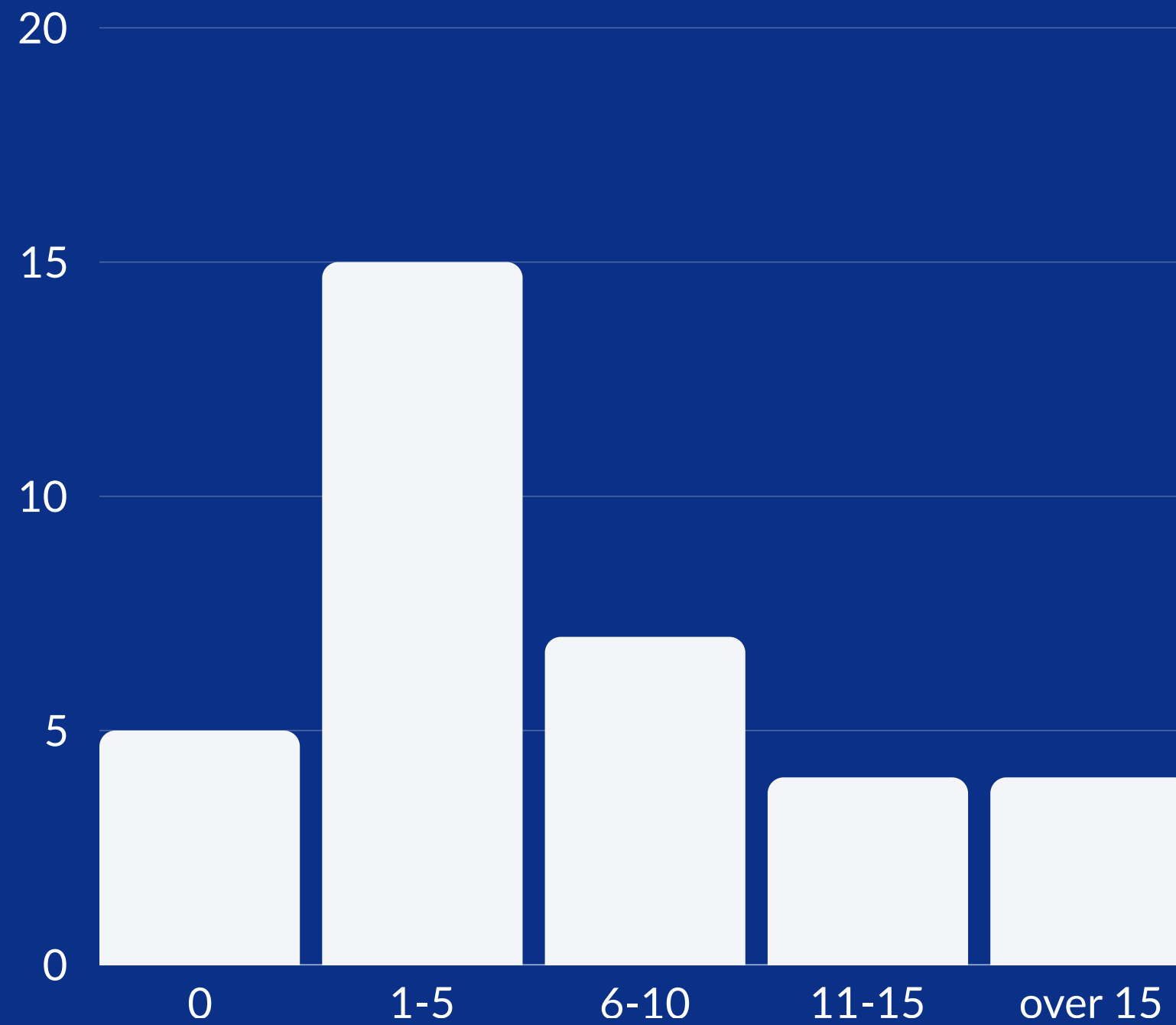
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2. How many Local Groups do you have within your National Group (including both Members and Observers)?



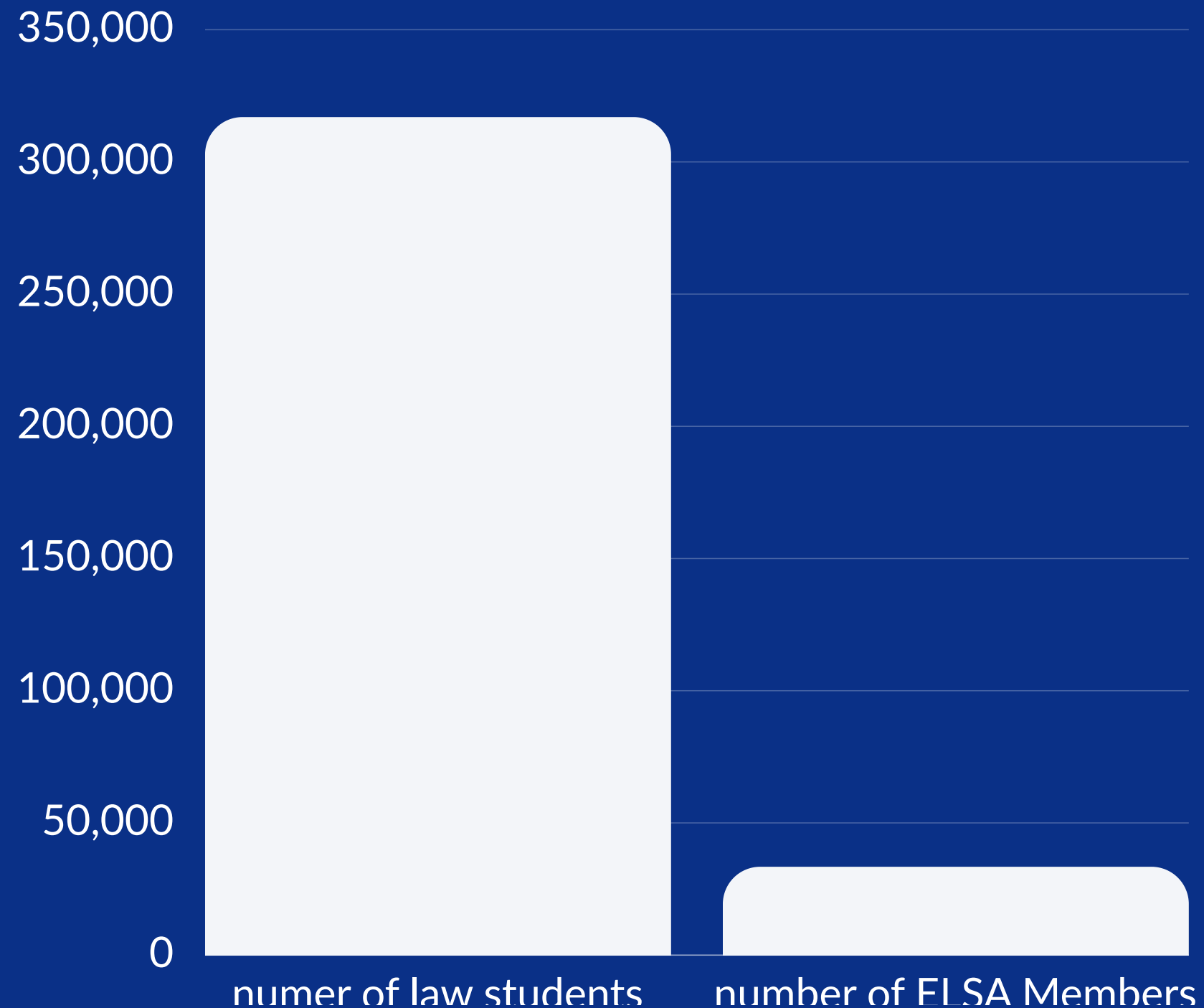
2. Number of Law Students & Number of ELSA Members



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Number of Law Students & Number of ELSA Members



29th SotN:

Number of law student: 1050362

Number of ELSA Members: 45617

35th SotN:

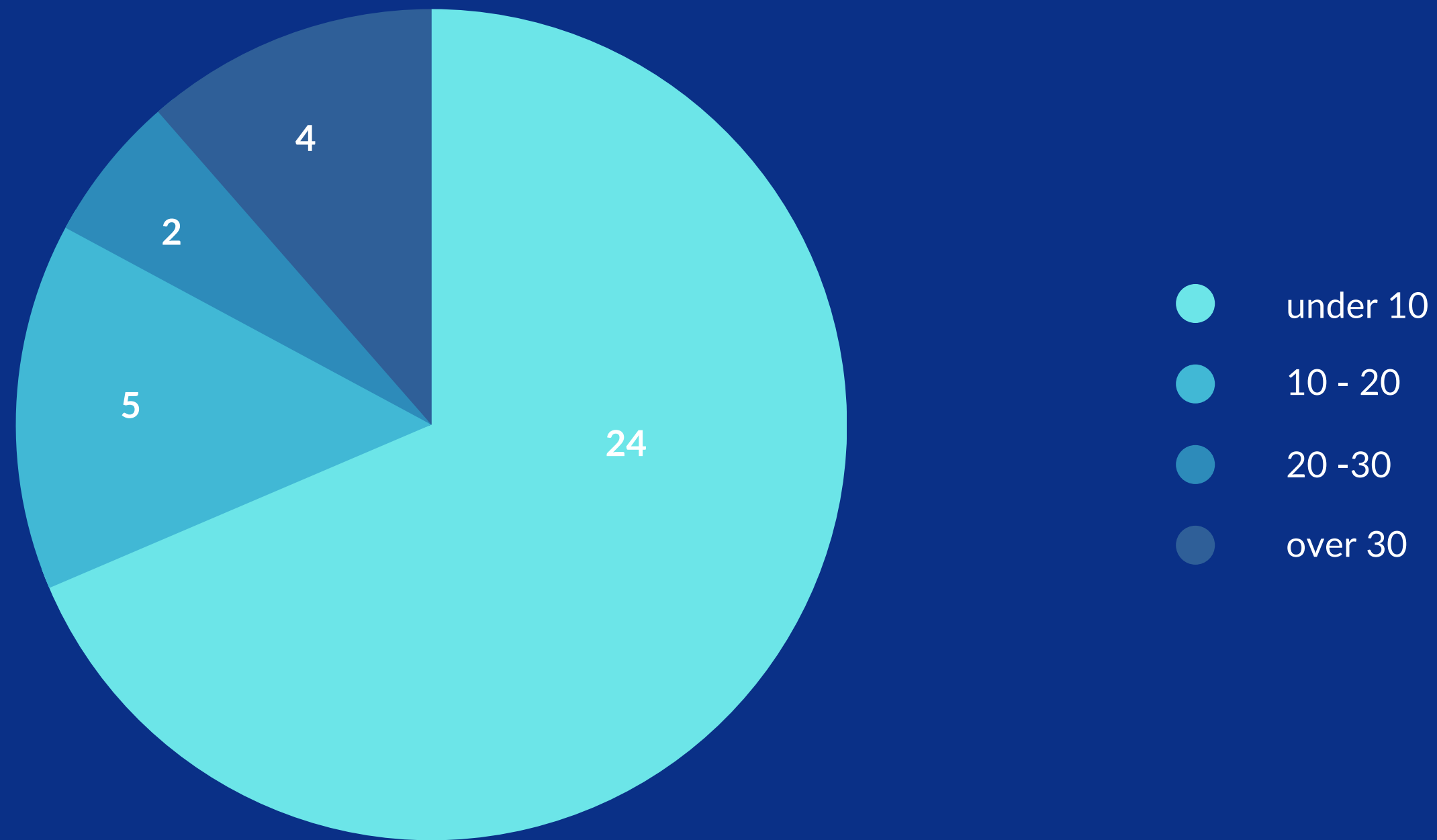
Number of law students: 316953

Number of ELSA Members: 33412

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5. How many law faculties does your National Group cover?

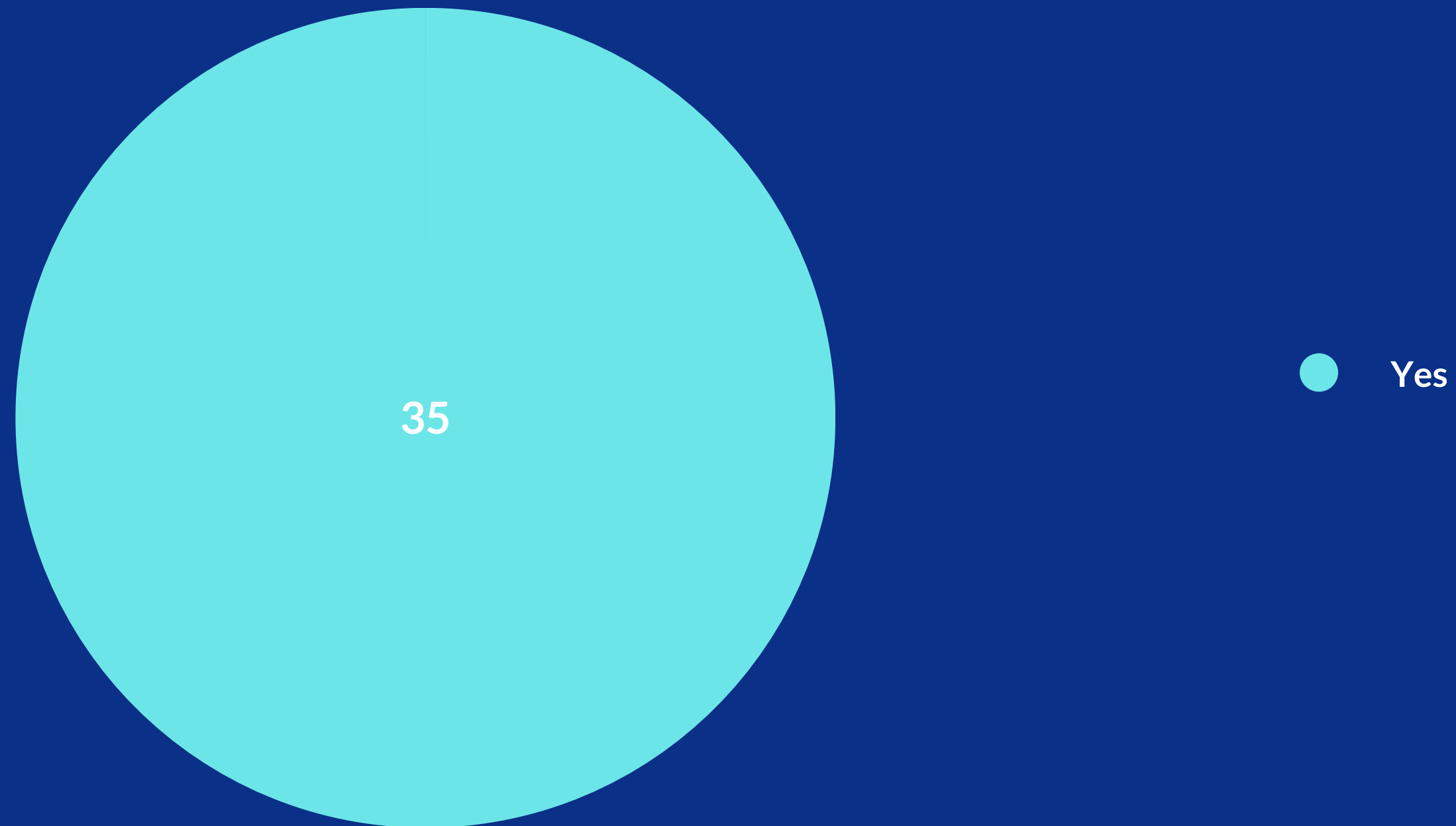


Board Management, External Relations and Expansion

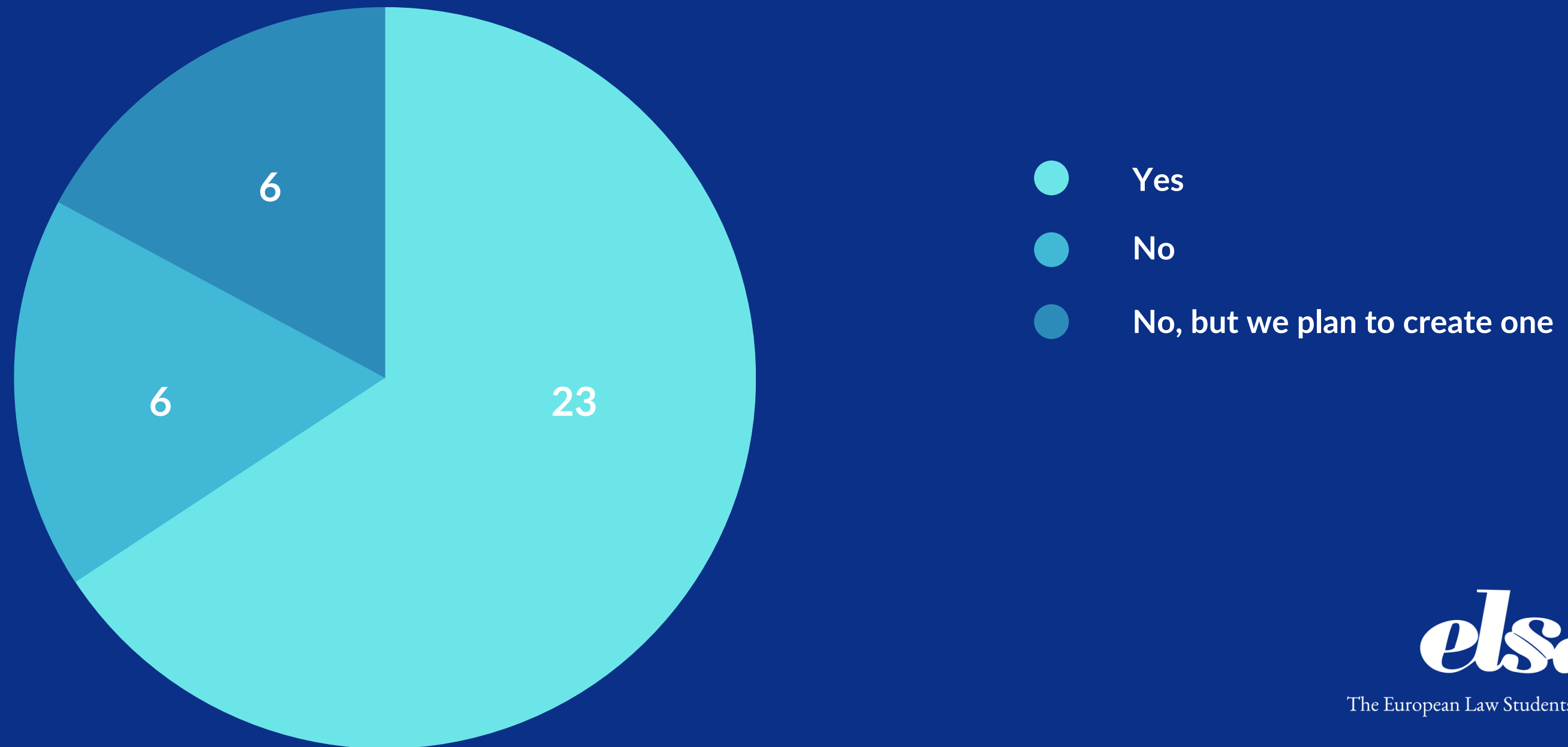
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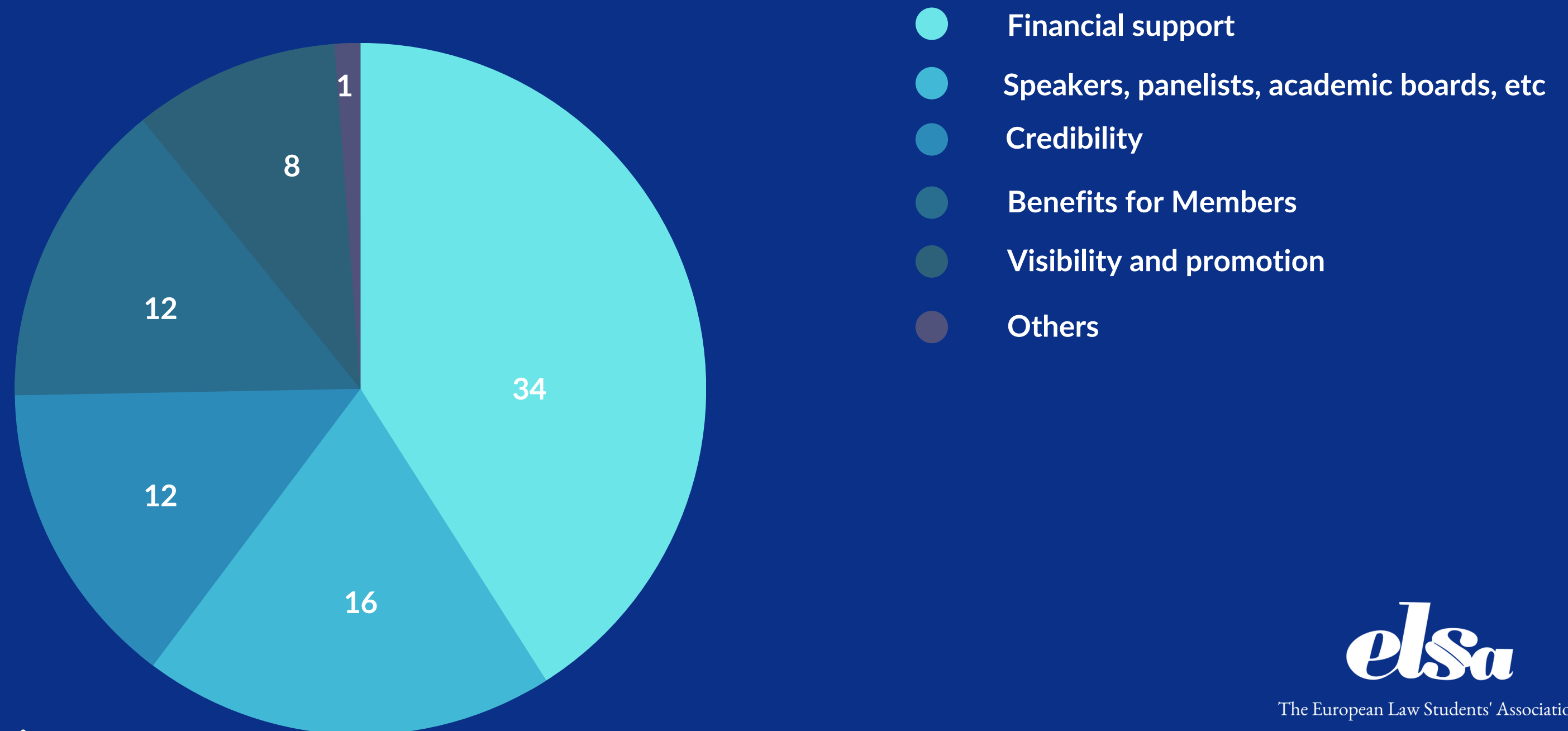
6. The External Relations Database is up to date



7. Do you have any regulations on the national level regarding the approach of external contacts?



8. What are the top two priorities you have when searching for partners?

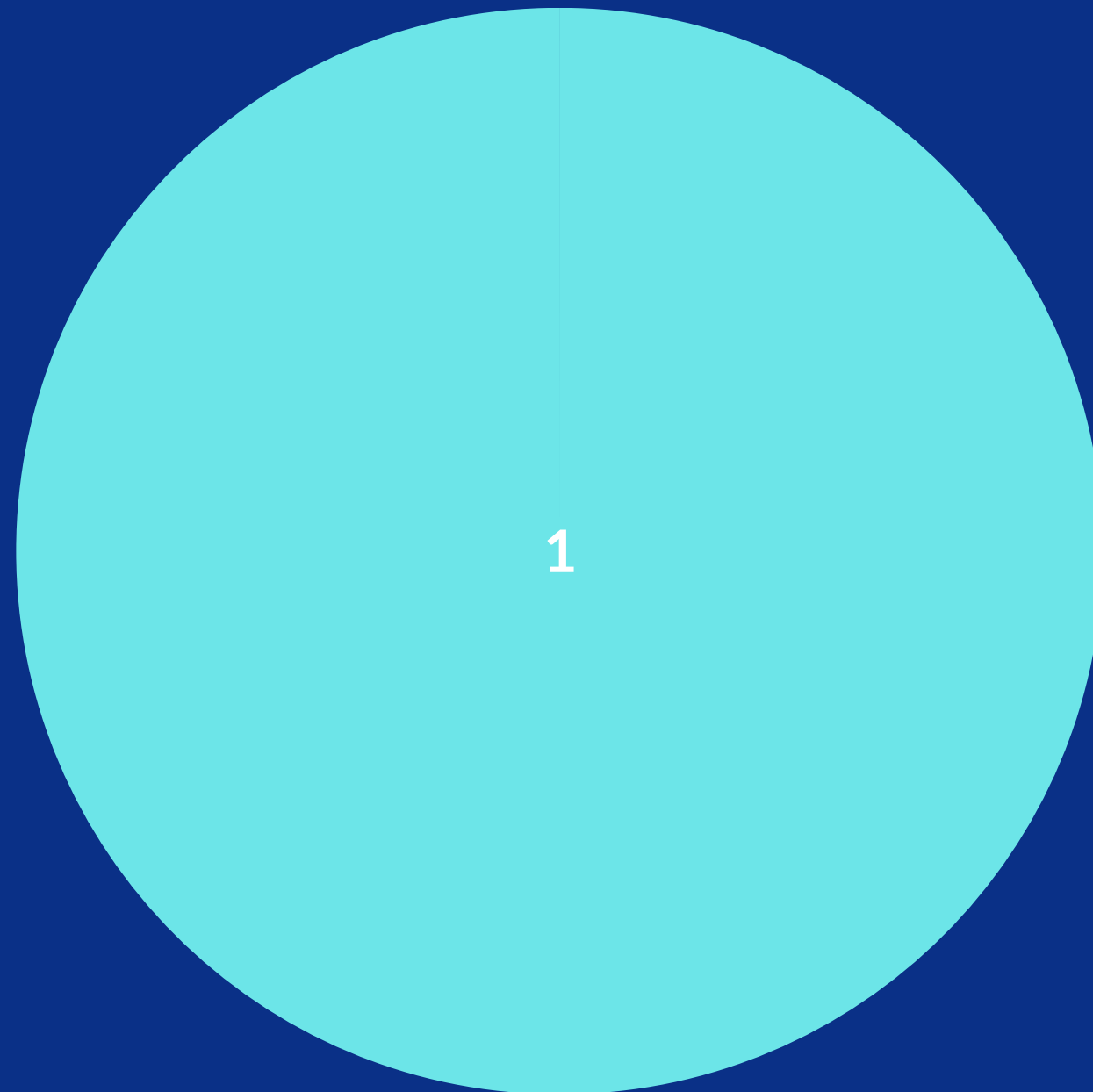


A multi-select question

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8-A. If other - which?

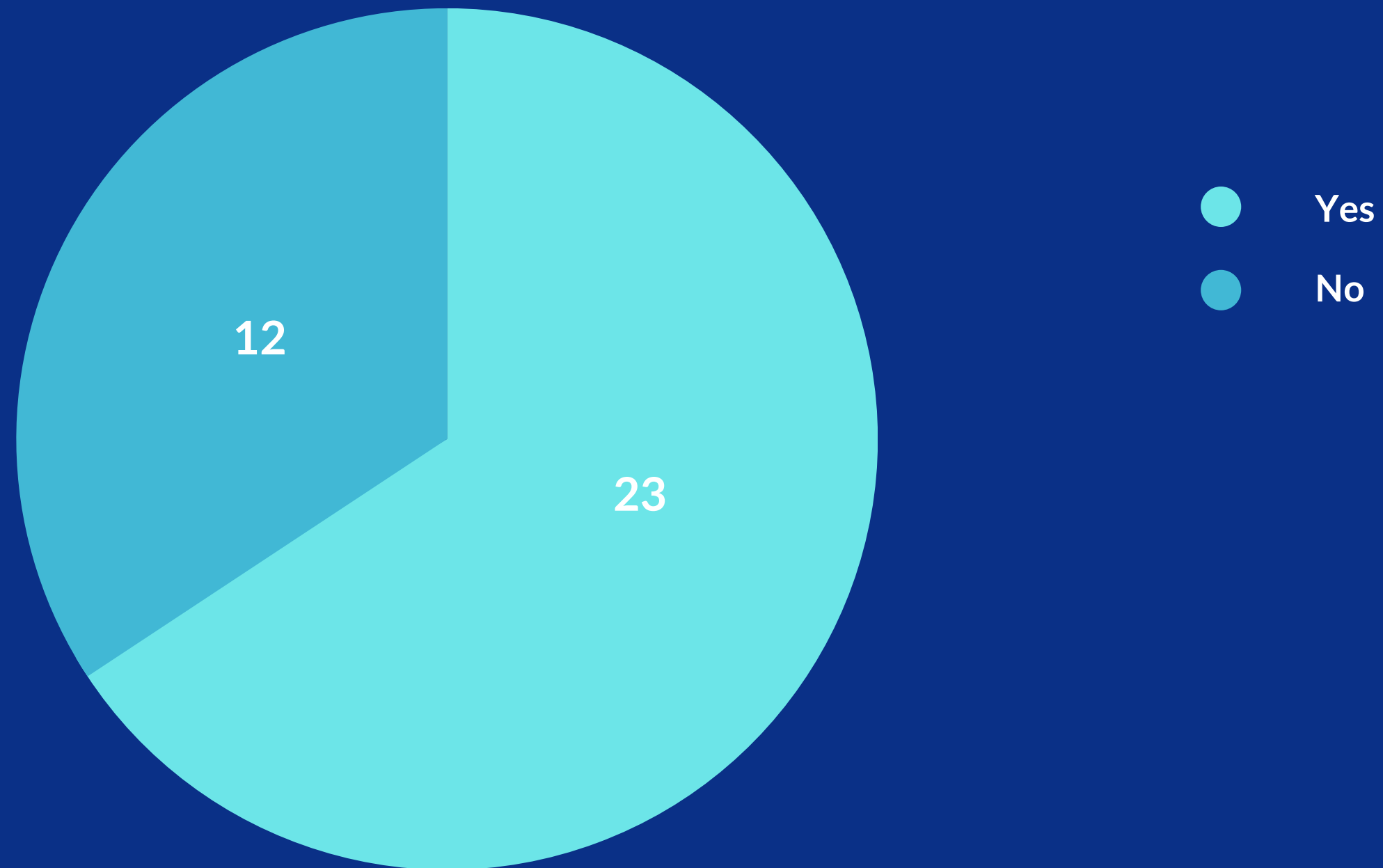


● Project cooperations

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9. Do your current partners answer the needs of your National Group?



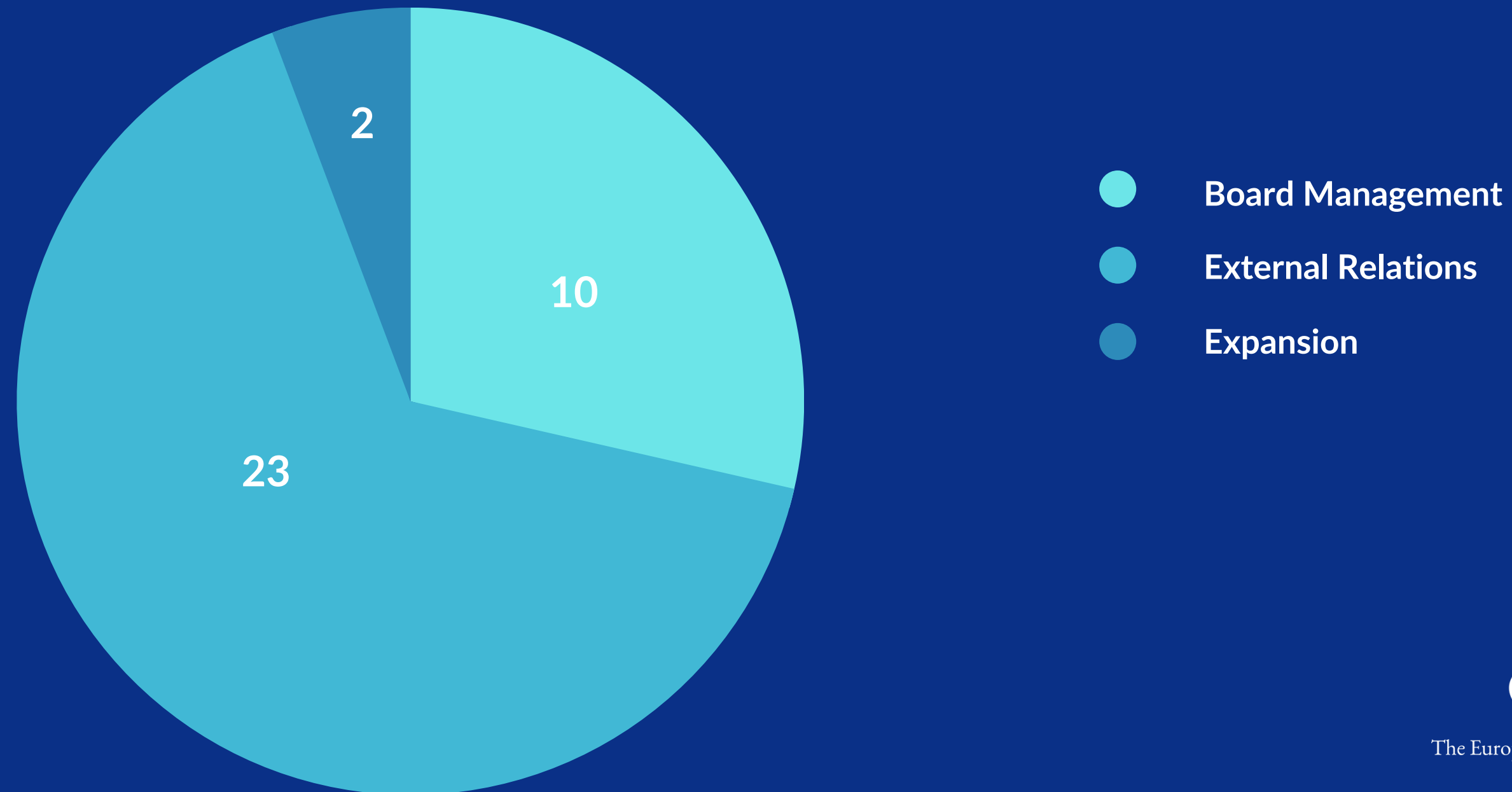
9-A. If the answer for the previous question was No, explain why and what you would need to cover.

- For the moment we have no partner and are looking for one, our only support is our university;
- We have no main sponsor at the moment, so internal costs are not being covered. We need funds to cover internal costs;
- We need more financial support to expand the reach of understanding of law students in Iceland;
- At the moment, all of our partners are supporting us either academically or technically, but we need financial support as well;
- More financial support;
- None of our current partners offer any financial support, which is a priority at this moment;
- We would need a partner for the National Moot Court Competition;
- In Croatia it is difficult to establish long term partnerships, and so even though we manage to get attractive partners for our projects, most of them are just interested in projects and not in developing a relationship. So for this reason our financial situation is very dependent on our projects, and this results in instability both regarding amounts and the time frame in which financial support is received. We would need general partners that give us at least a modest stable starting point of financial support from the get-go;
- We should get more financial support;
- We are trying to find partners who can provide us with financial support for the projects;
- We are starting from scratch this year and have no ongoing financial partnerships but hoping this changes;
- As we have an ongoing war most of partners can't provide financial support which is extremely needed for us right now.

The logo for the European Law Students' Association (elsa) is displayed in a white, lowercase, serif font.

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10. On which part of BEE are you putting the most focus this year?

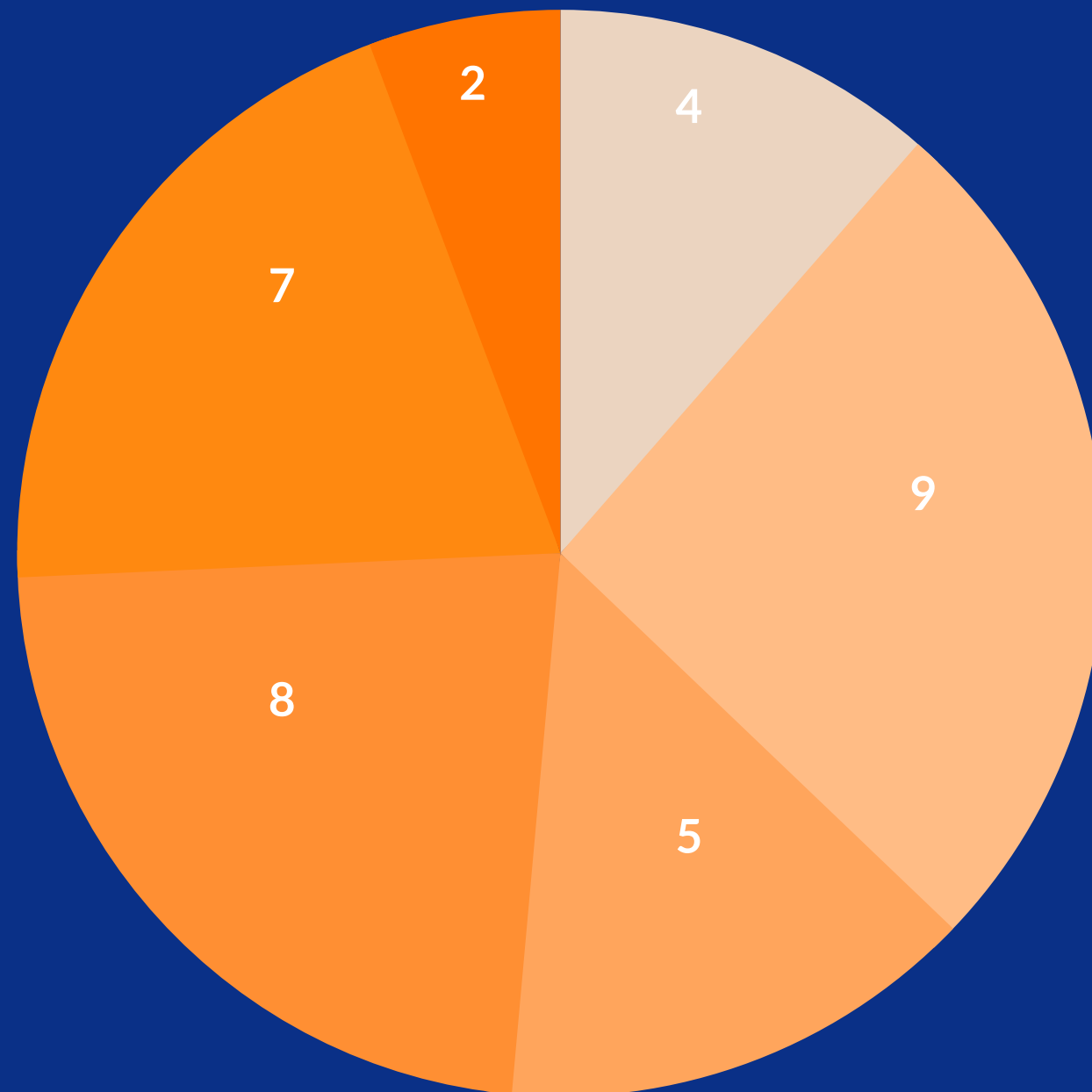


Internal Management

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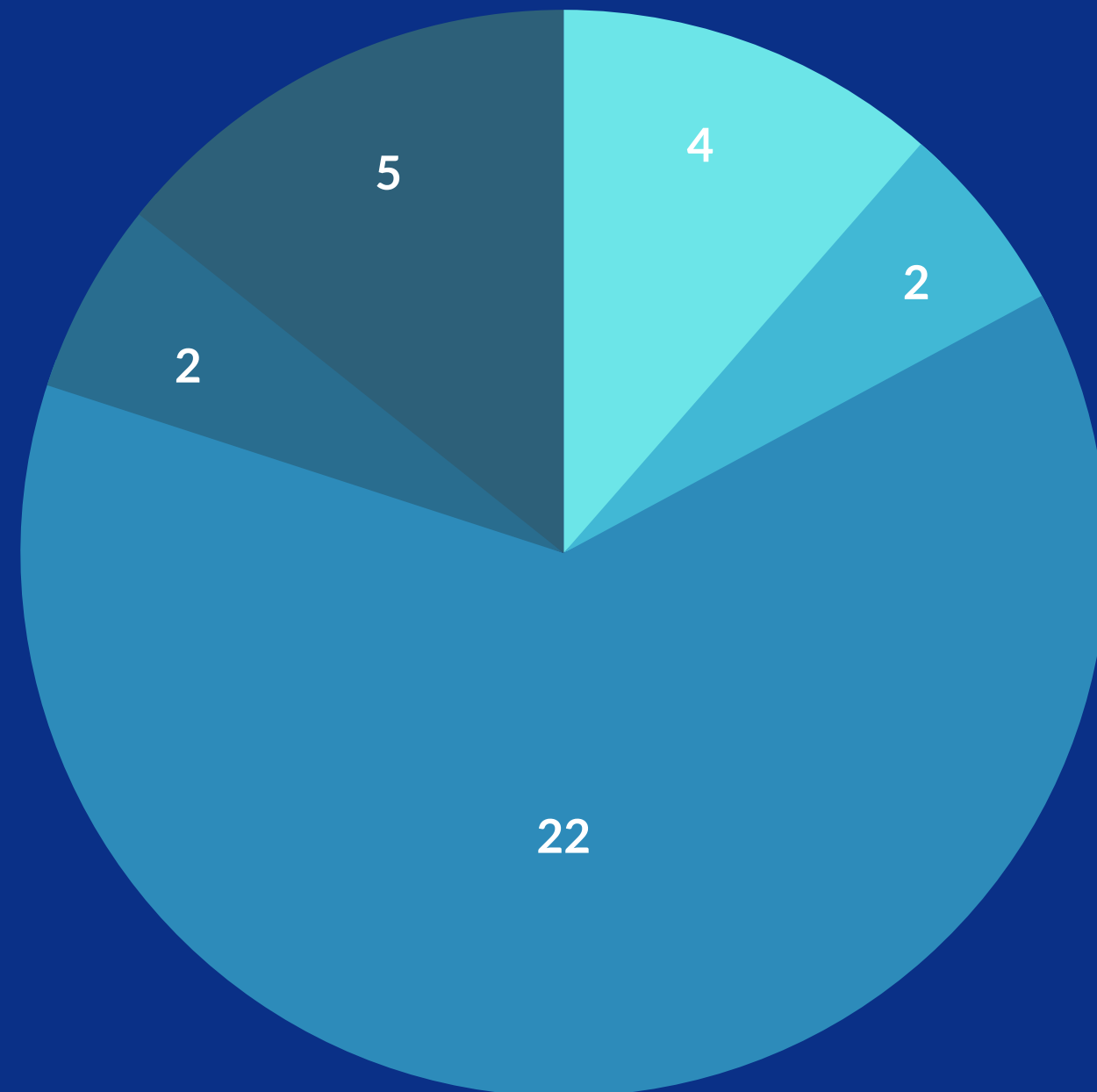
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11. For how many days (and in which combination) should the International Training Meeting be running?



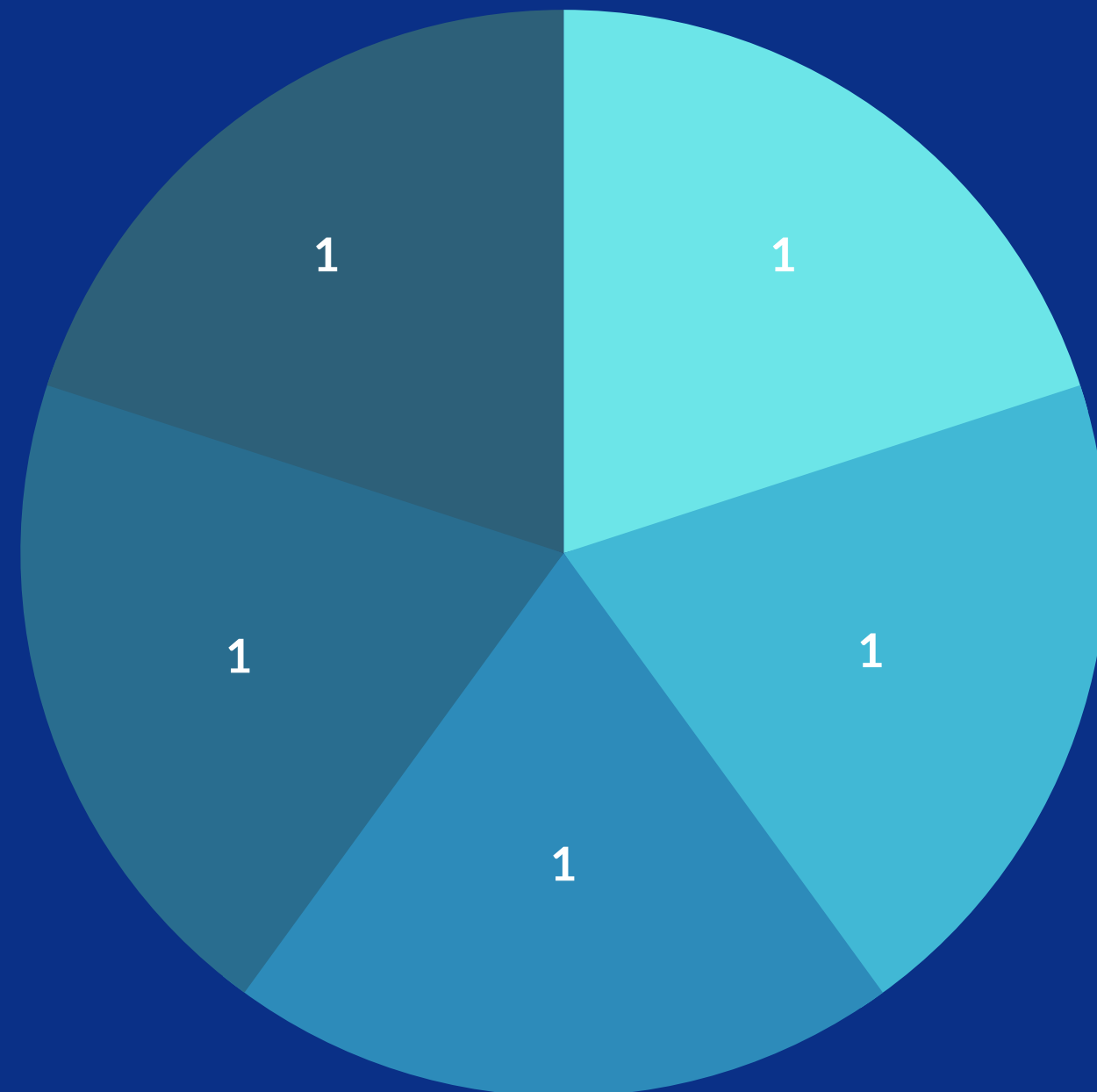
- 2 days (Saturday and Sunday)
- 3 days (Friday to Sunday, but Friday only in the evening)
- 3 days (Friday to Sunday)
- 4 days (Thursday to Sunday, but Thursday and Friday only in the evening)
- 4 days (Thursday to Sunday) (Current Format)
- The Meeting format should be entirely reformed

12. Who is responsible for Human Resources within your National Group?



- A Director for Human Resources (or equivalent) only
- A Vice President in charge of Human Resources
- The Secretary General
- We do not have a person in charge of Human Resources
- Other

12-A. If other - who?

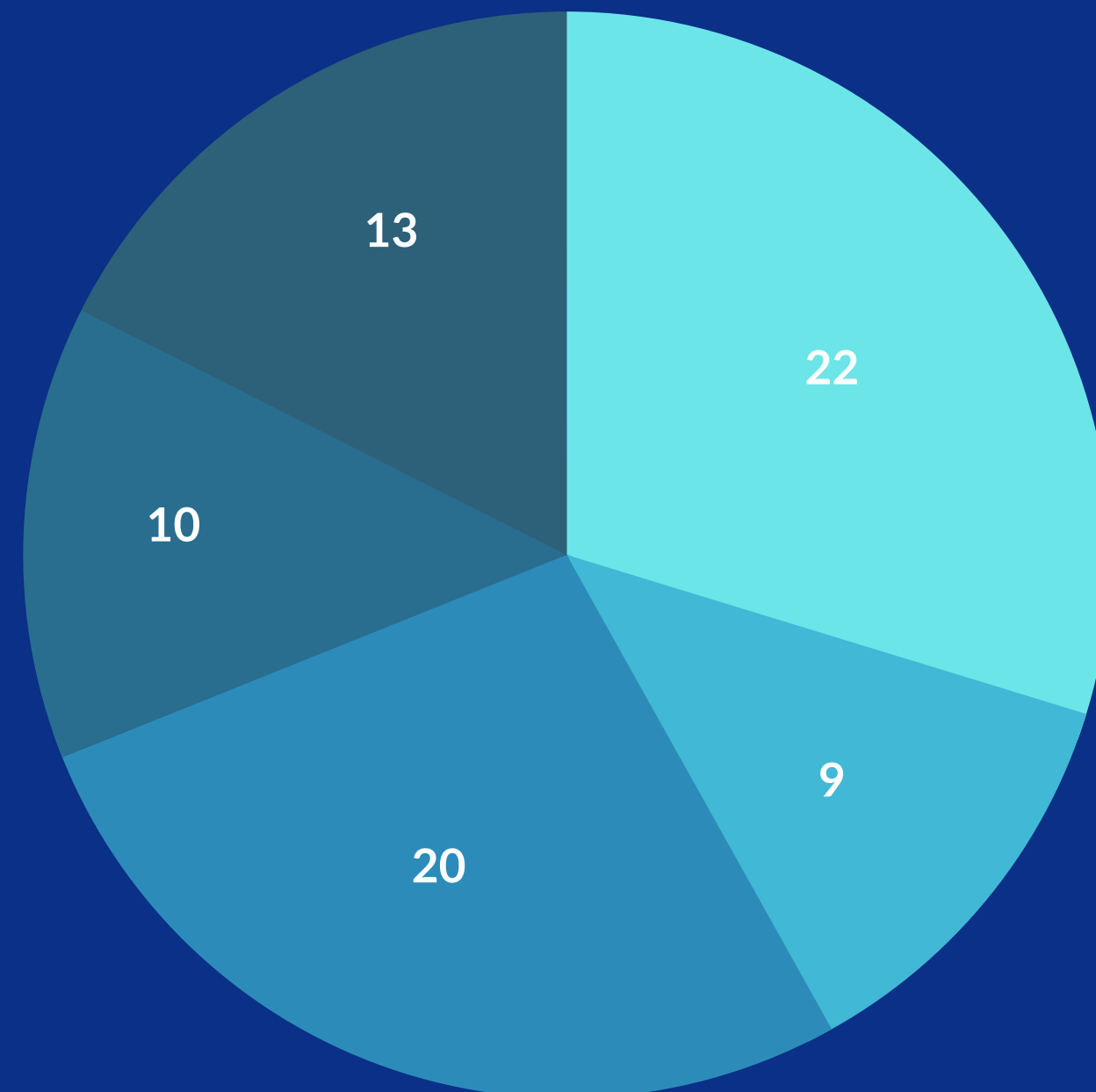


- Assistant for Human Resources
- Vice President in charge of Academic Activities
- Director for Internal Management
- Vice President in charge of Marketing
- The Secretary General and a Director for Human Resources together

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13. What measures would you suggest to improve the Human Resources situation within our Association?



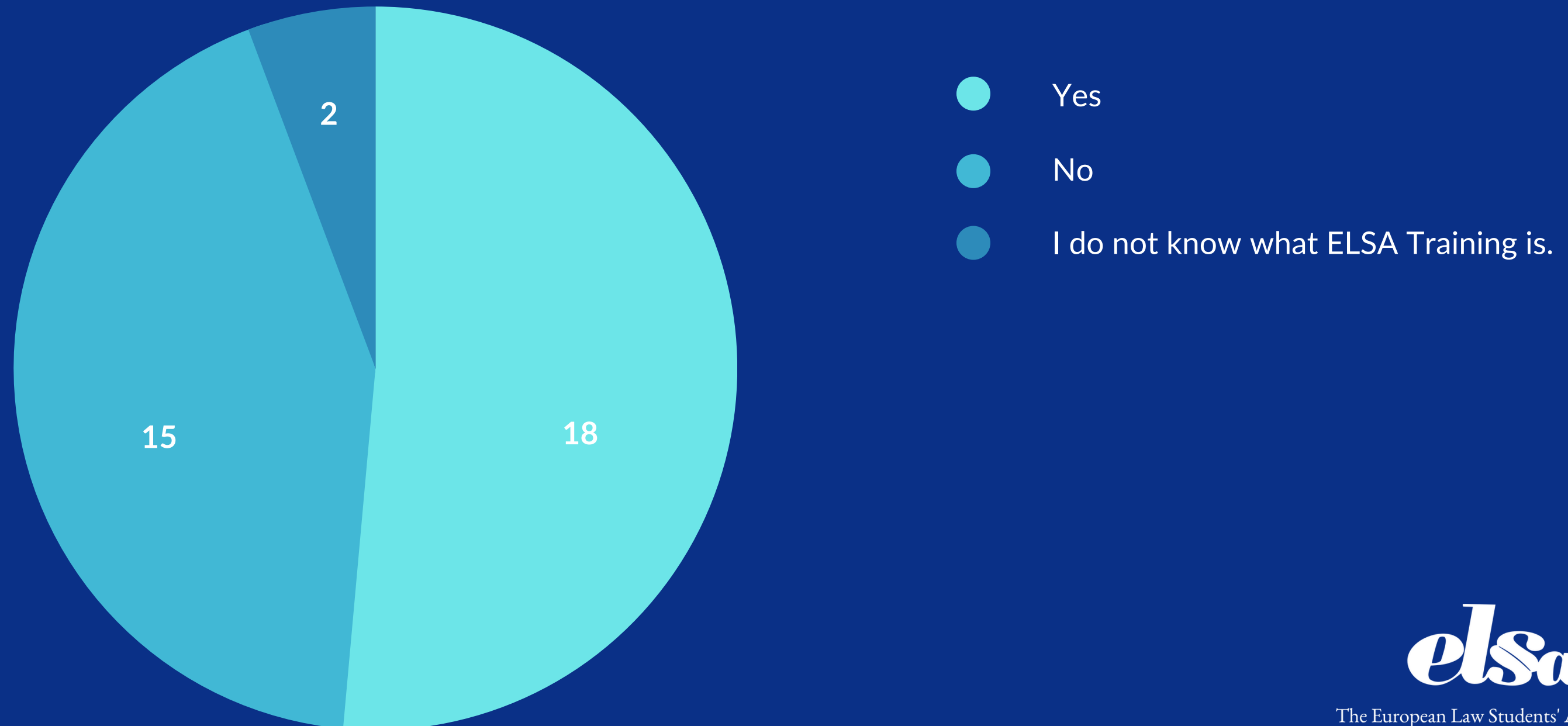
- Written knowledge management materials (Handbooks, Checklists, etc.)
- Audiovisual knowledge management materials
- Further opportunities for training coordinated by ELSA International (Such as the ELSA Skills Academy)
- Further opportunities for recognition coordinated by ELSA International (Such as the ELSA Awards)
- Further involvement of alumni
- Other - 0

A multi-select question

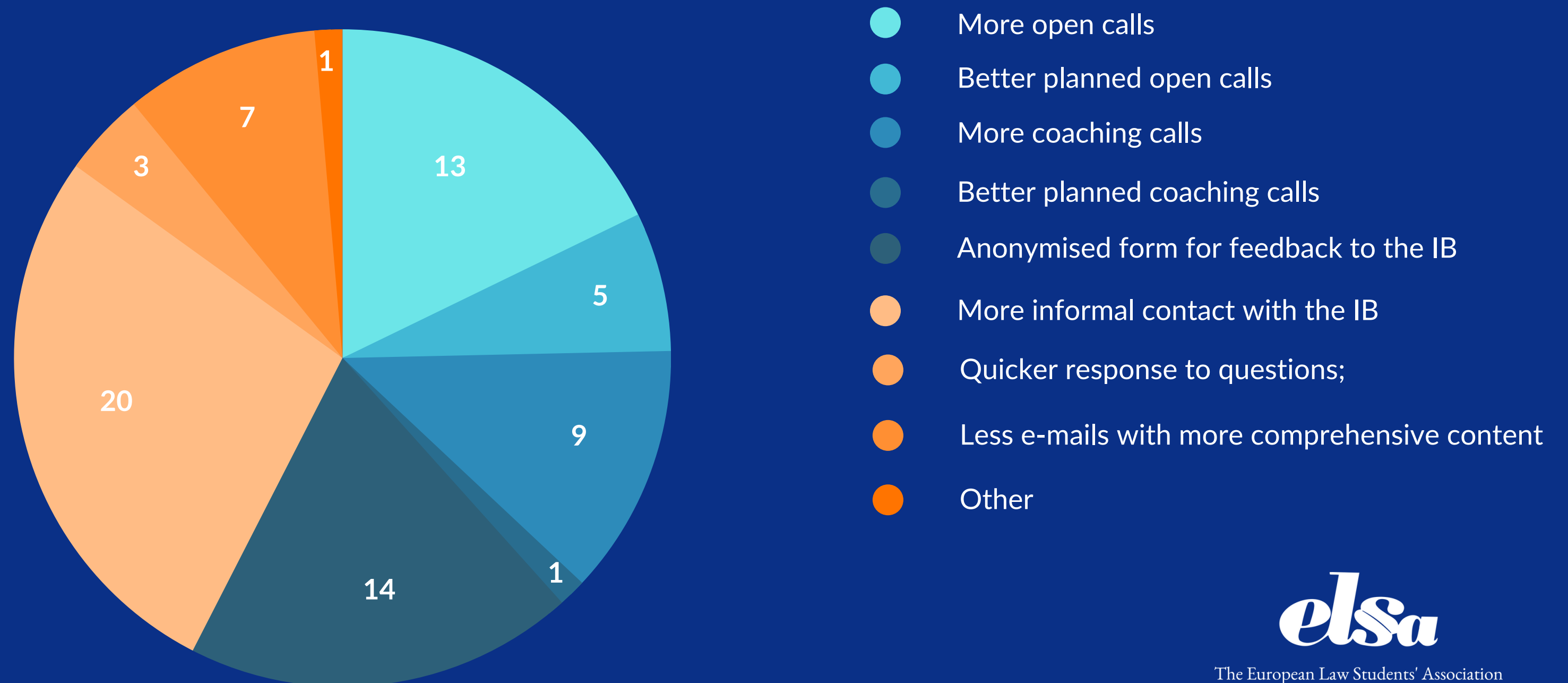
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14. Are you inclined to organise an ELSA Training Session this year?

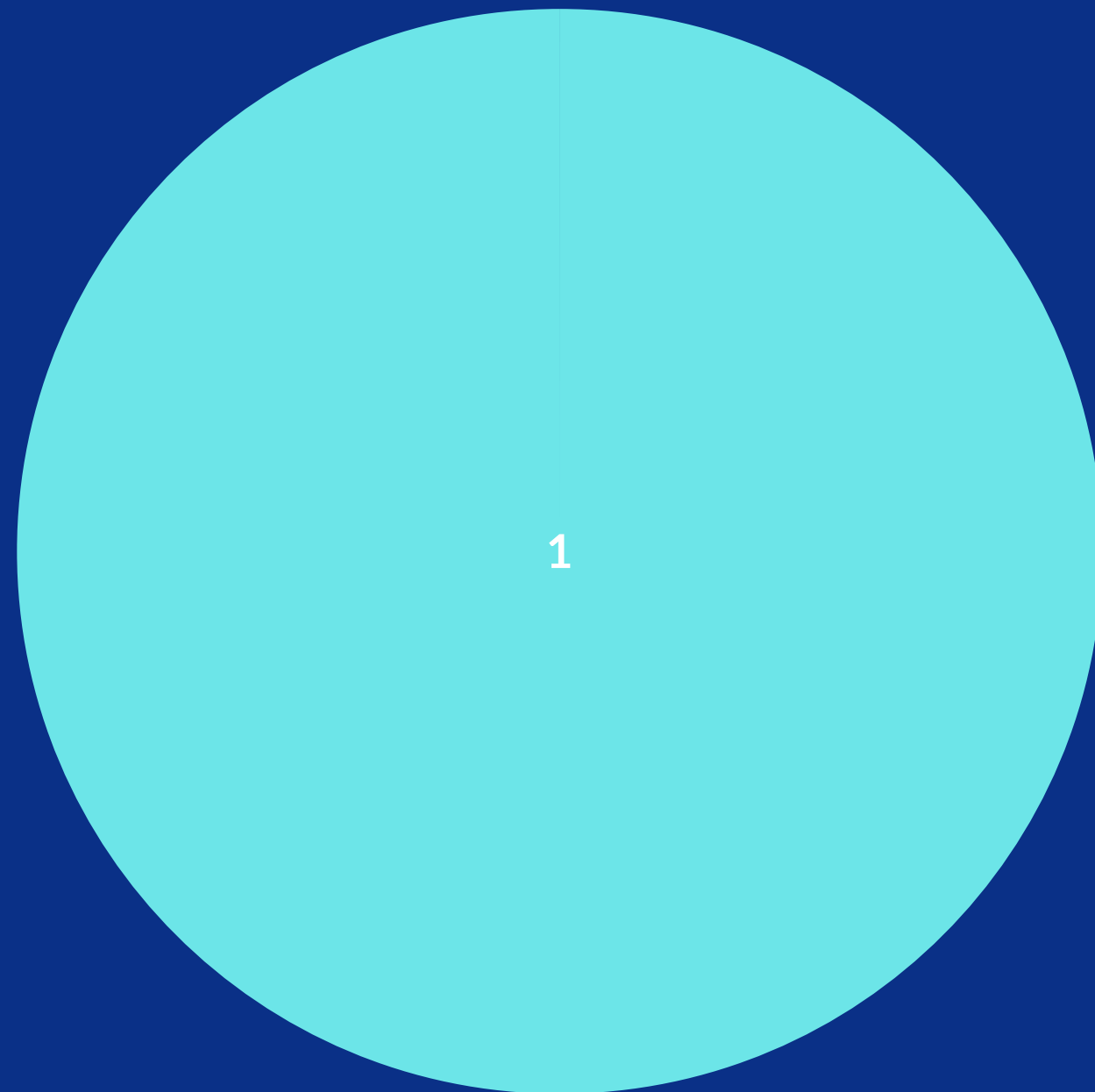


15. How would you improve the communication between ELSA International and the National Networks?



A multi-select question

15-A. If Other - In what way?



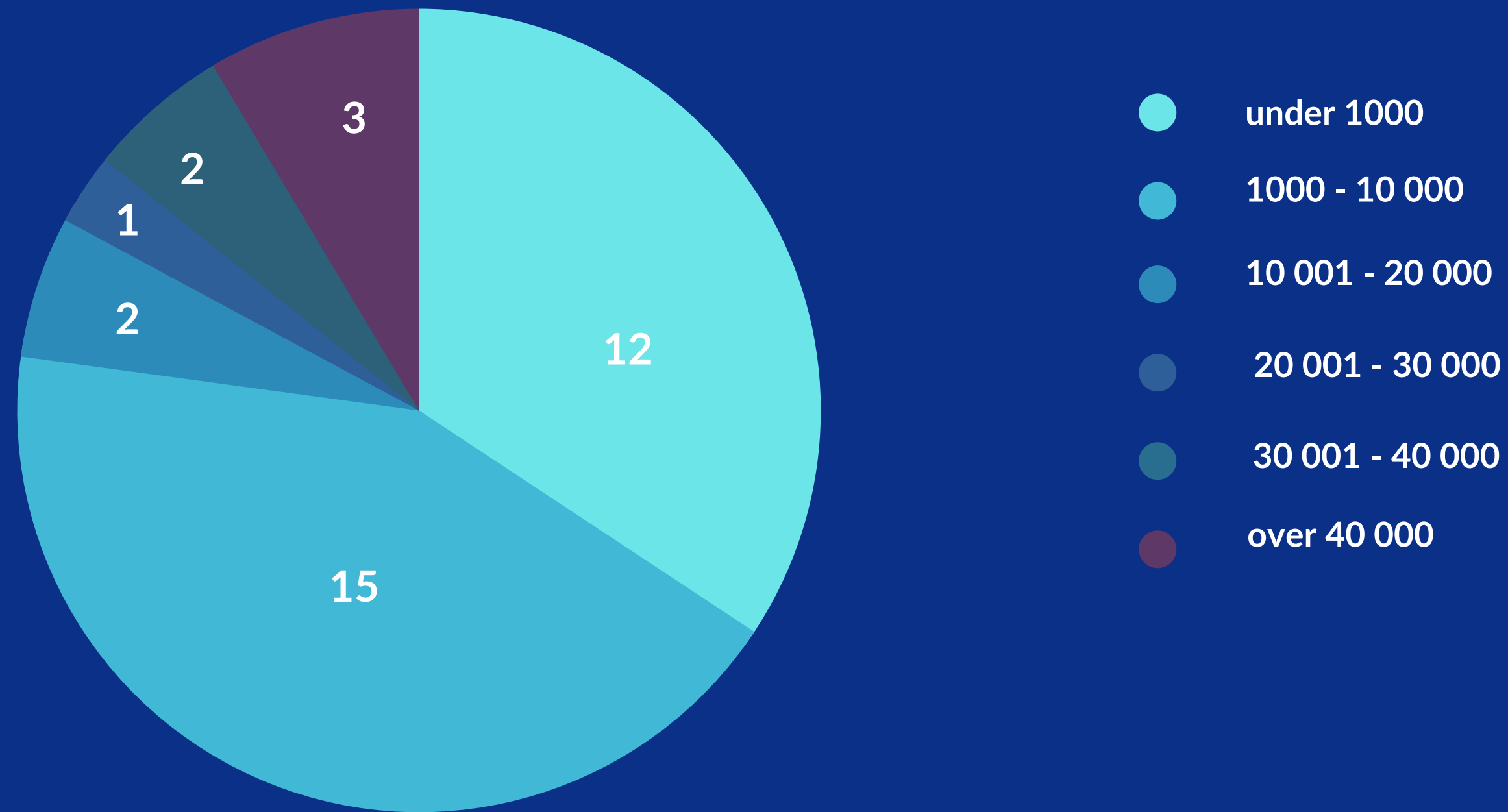
- More focus on communication regarding to the IIMs (between ELSA International and the host).

Financial Management

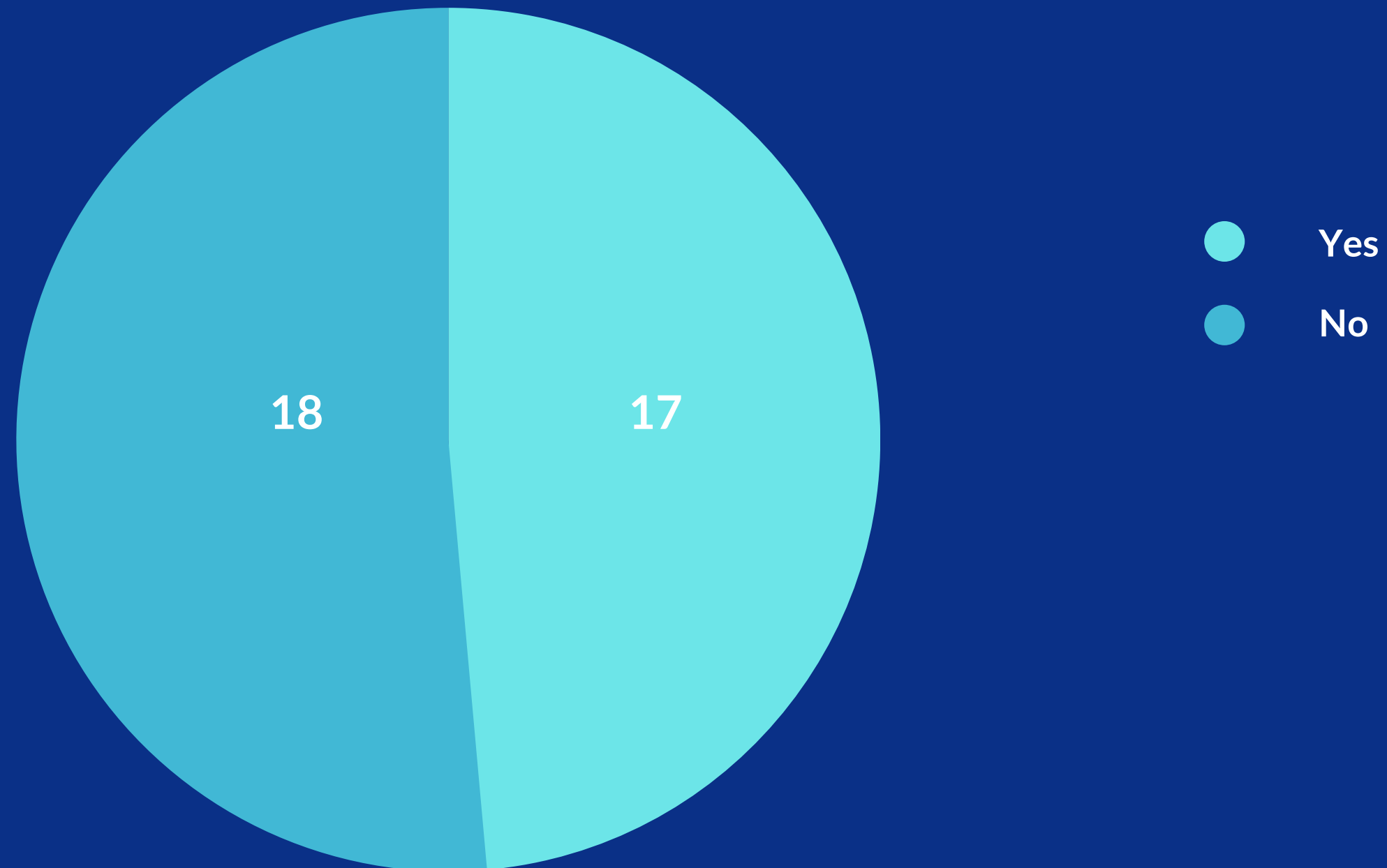
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16. How much is the “Annual General Income” of your National Group gathered in the immediate previous financial year expressed in EURO?



17. Has your National Group ever applied for a grant?



17-A. Please name which grant(s) your National Group applied for and if it was a general or project grant.

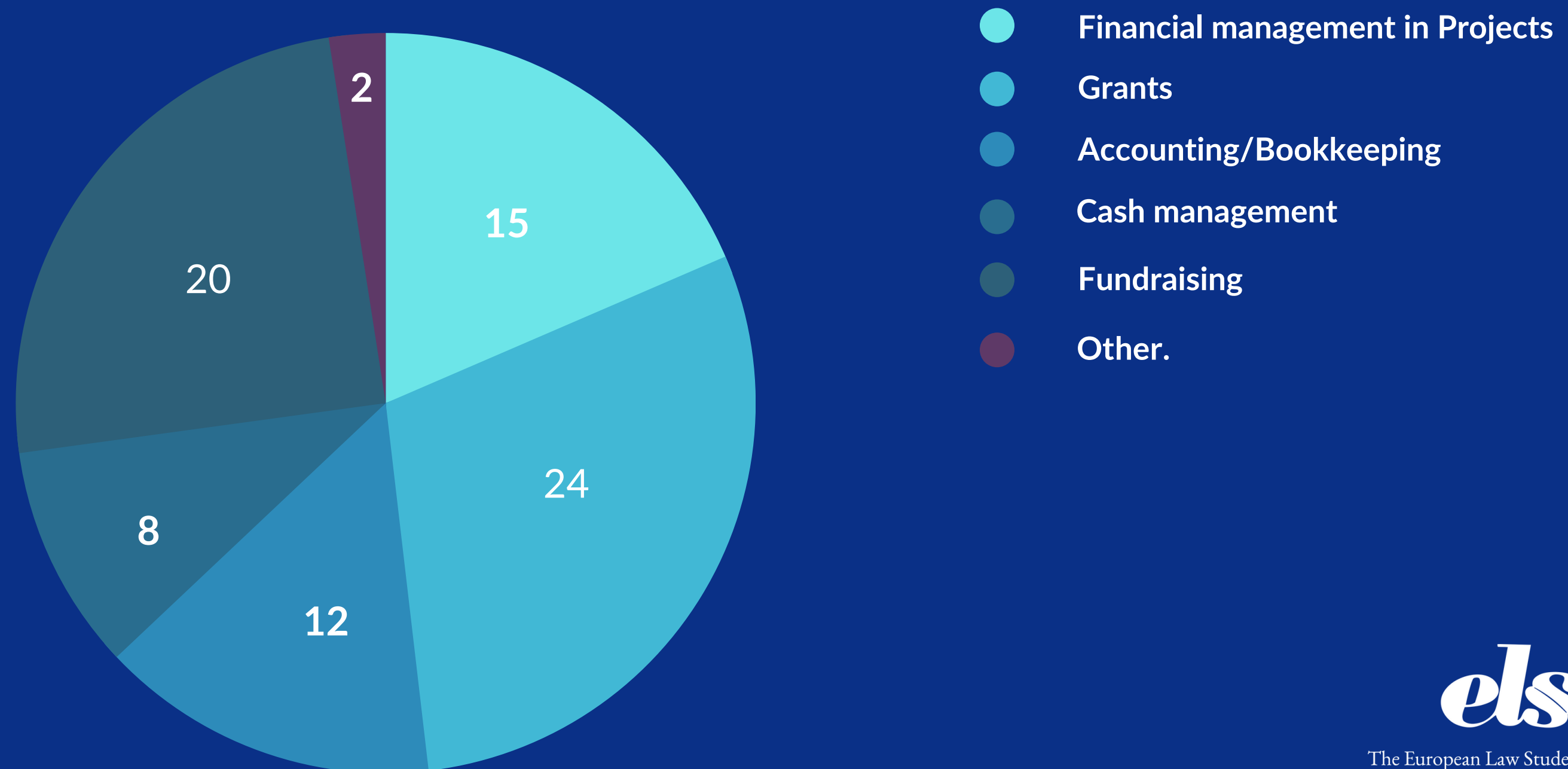
- We have applied for "Advokatforeningens Studiestøtteordning", this is a project grant;
- ERASMUS Grant, project grant;
- project grant;
- We have been applying for the grant of Ministry of Justice of Georgia for National Moot Court Competition. Moreover, we have just now applied for USAID grant for financing our new project;
- 1st winter law school for young lawyers, Azerbaijan model of open government Court simulation competition in television format, Organization of seminars on the Azerbaijan model of the fight against human trafficking, Promotion of the economic and cultural development of the city of Shusha in the international arena, Legal Academy in the field of anti-corruption, Expanding the literature base in the field of fighting against corruption;
- MUCF, Swedish State restricted grant;
- Last financial year we applied for one external grant: Suomalais-ruotsalainen kulttuurirahasto (in English "Finnish-Swedish culture fund") Project grant (for BSX ~ Baltic Sea exchange which is a project between ELSA Finland and ELSA Sweden to enhance cooperation between our countries);
- General Grant from the Education branch of our Government called PAAJ;
- Fondation Roi Baudoin :general bureau Glatigny : SELS 2023;
- University of Zagreb and it was for a project;
- ELSA Romania applied for EDF with ELSA Cluj-Napoca as the beneficiary Local Group and it was awarded as a project grant, namely for organising the NCM.
- Tblisi NCM grant.
- Wistifonden (Project grant) ,Dreyers fond (Project grant) ,Tuborgfondet (Project grant);
- Noorte heaks, noorte osalus fund, Tallinn Education Department, Development Fund of the Student Union of the University of Tartu. All project grants;
- DF Grant - project grant for I Kyiv NMUN organised by ELSA Kyiv Local Group with ELSA Ukraine, DF Grant - project grant (166 EUR) - for Sofia Kulka's participation at the 83rd International Council Meeting Malta by ELSA International AVELLUM Law Firm Grant (250 EUR) - project grant - for I National Competition on Mediation Skills organised by ELSA Ukraine National Group
- eutsche Stiftung für Engagement und Ehrenamt (general grant) Federal Ministry of Education and Research (project grant) EDF (project grant)



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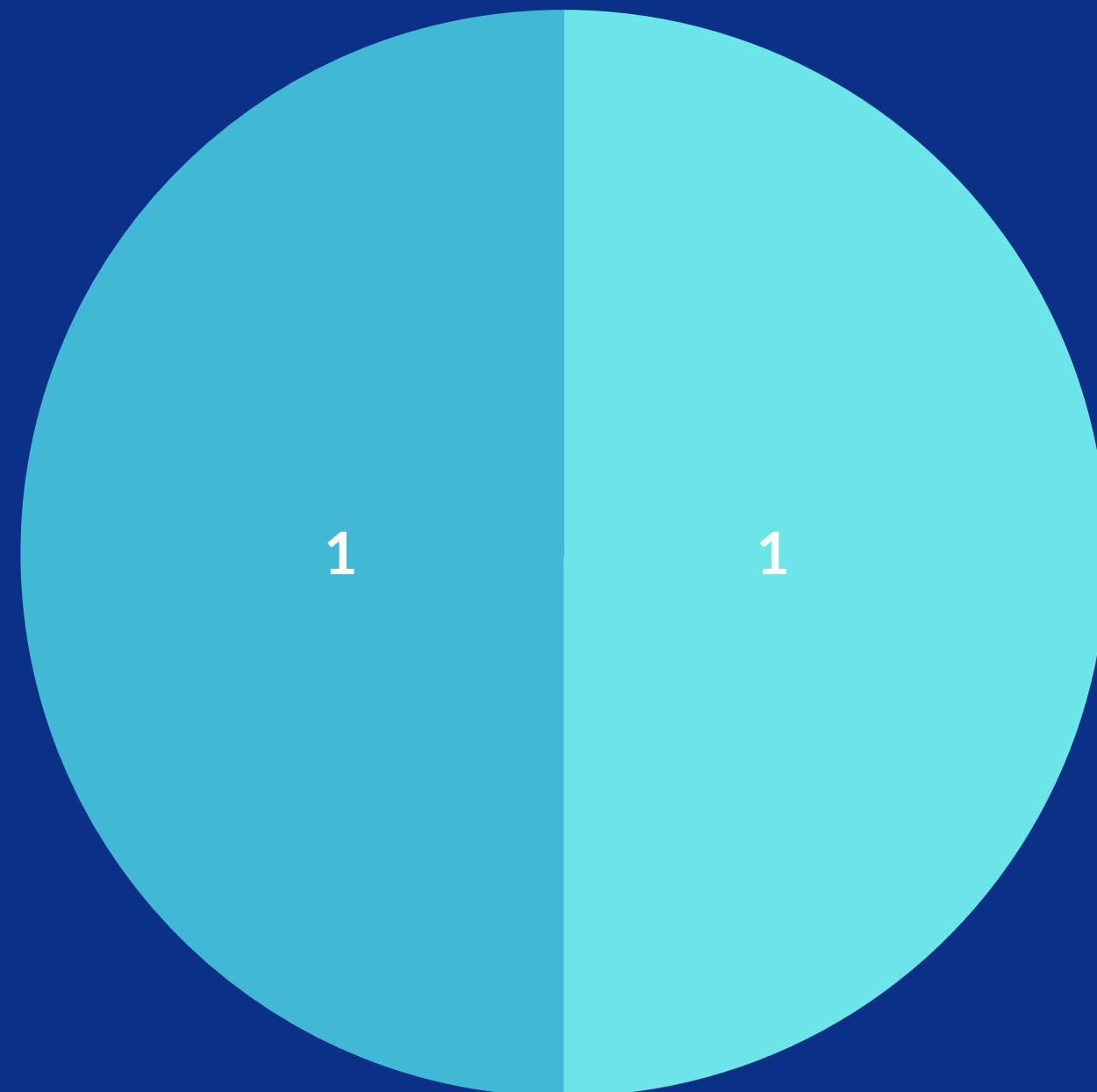
An open question

18. On which topics you would like to have an FM Webinar?



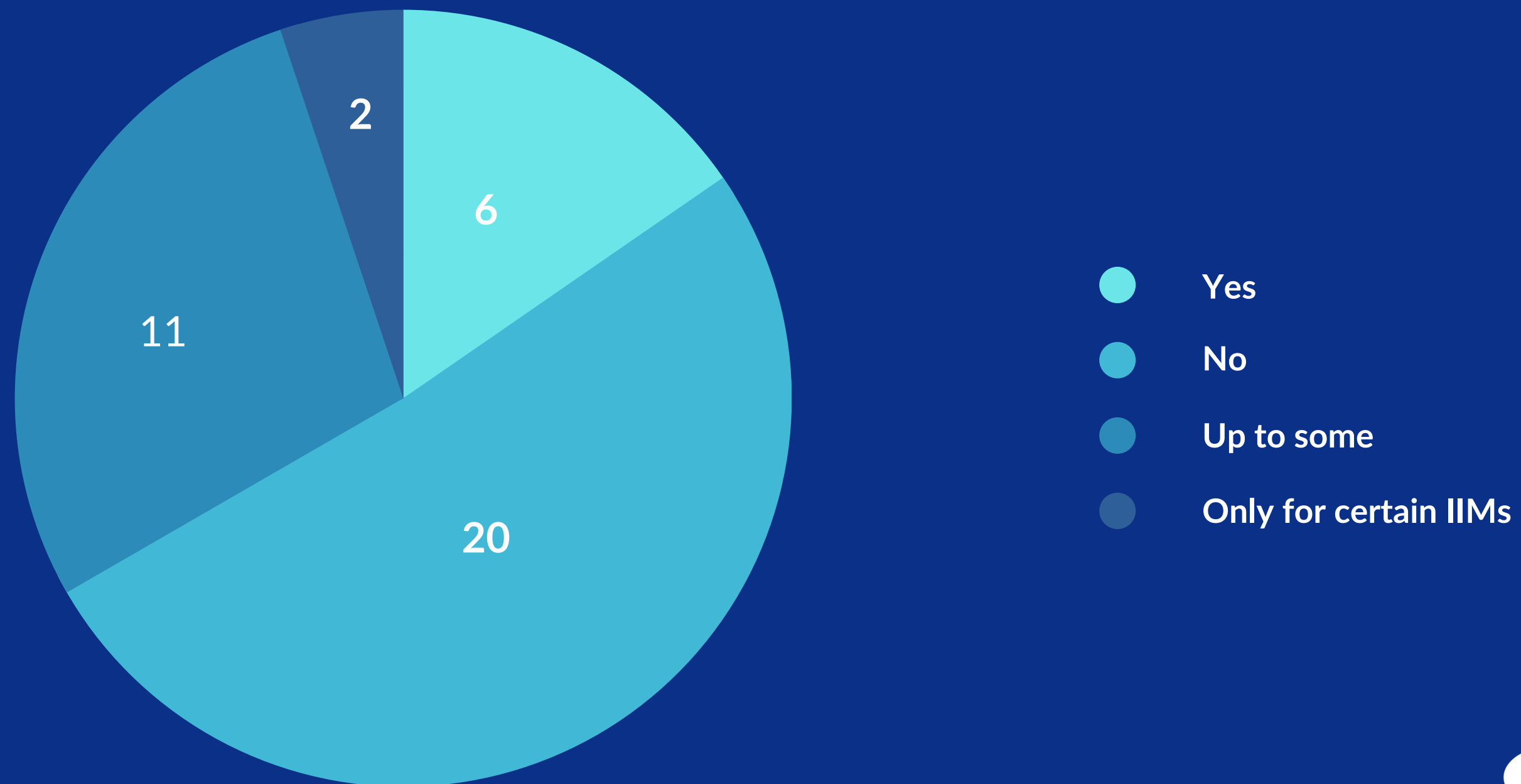
A multi-select question

18-A. If other- which?



- Budgeting;
- None

19. Does your National Board cover the expenses of the delegates for International Internal Meetings?

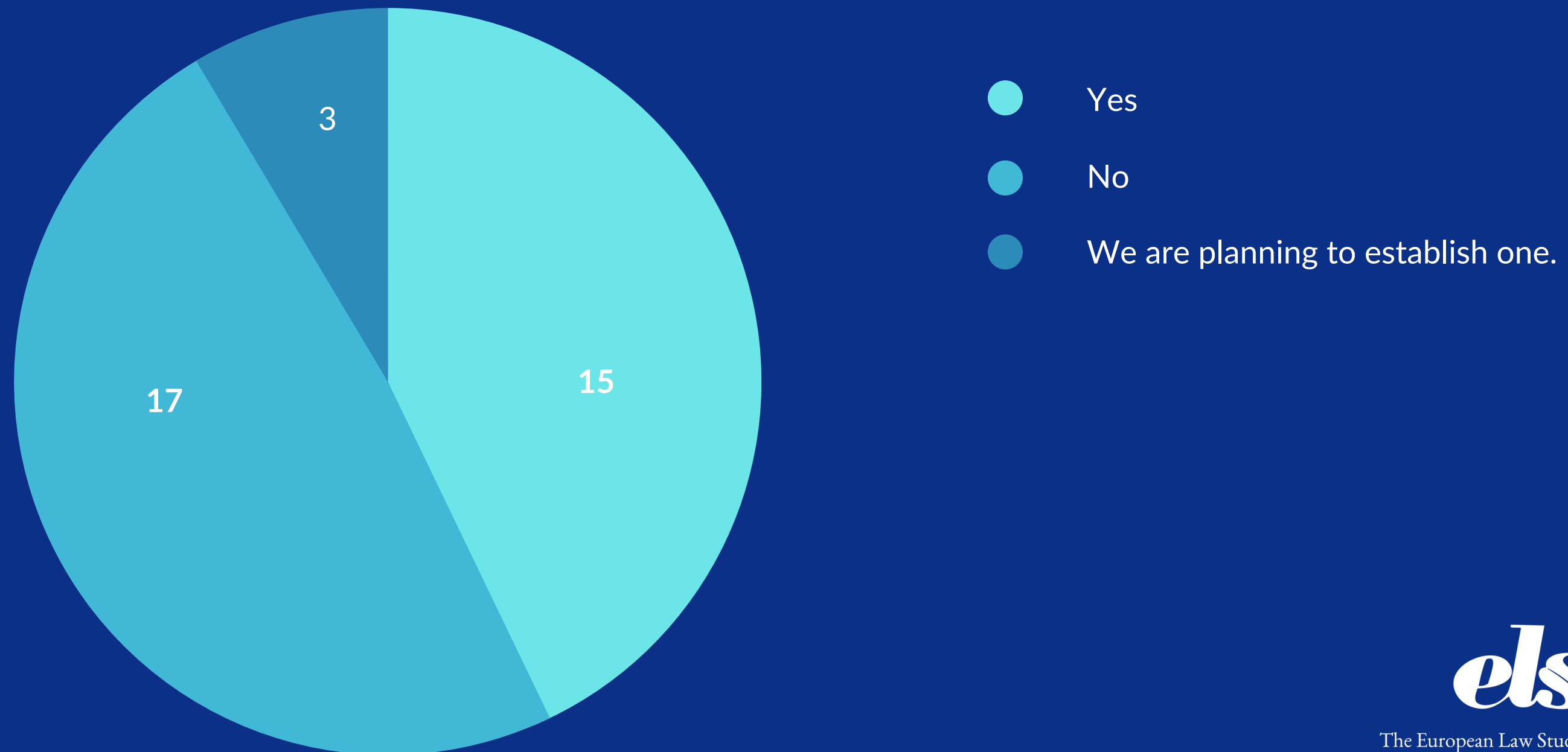


Marketing

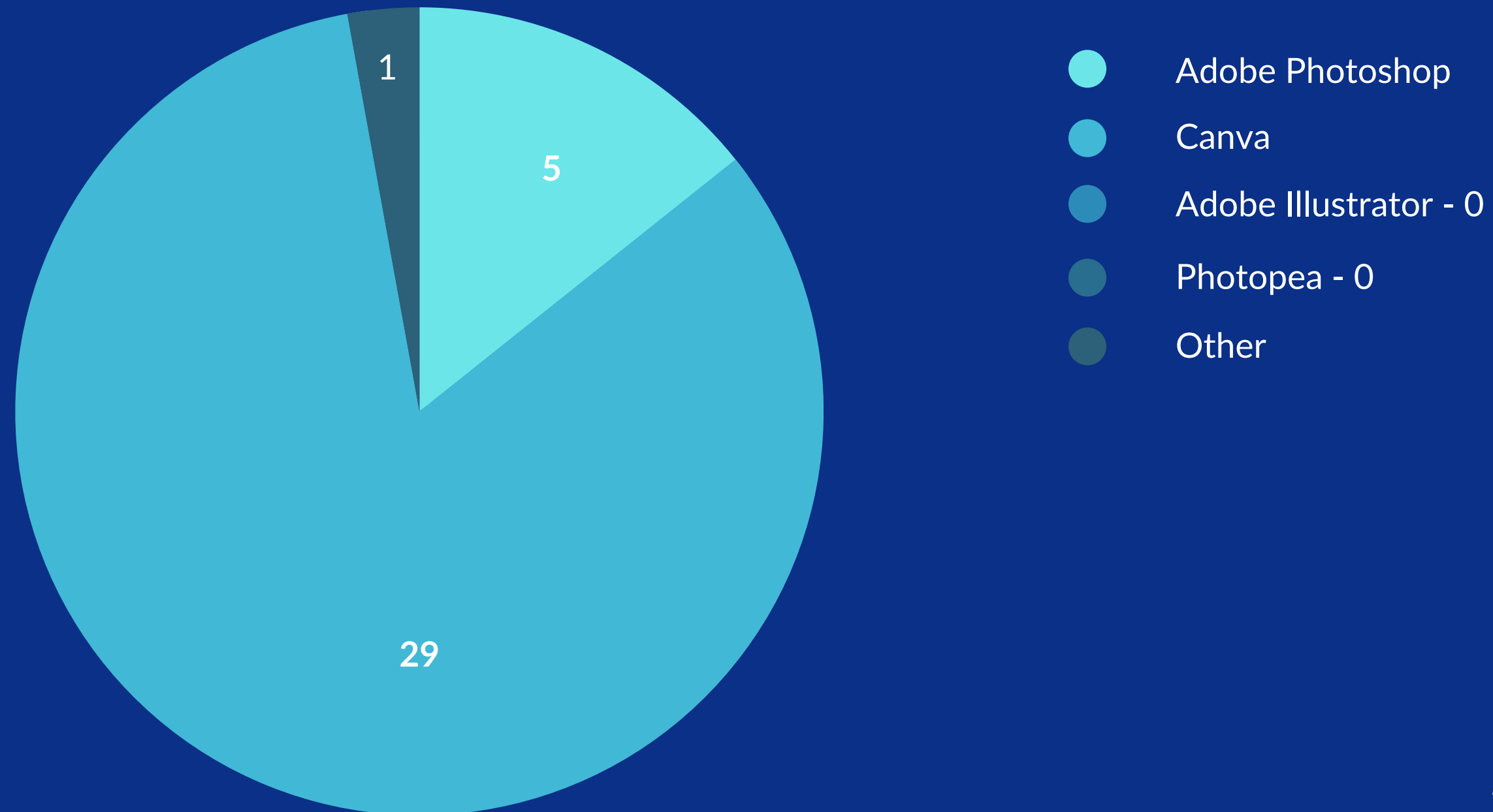
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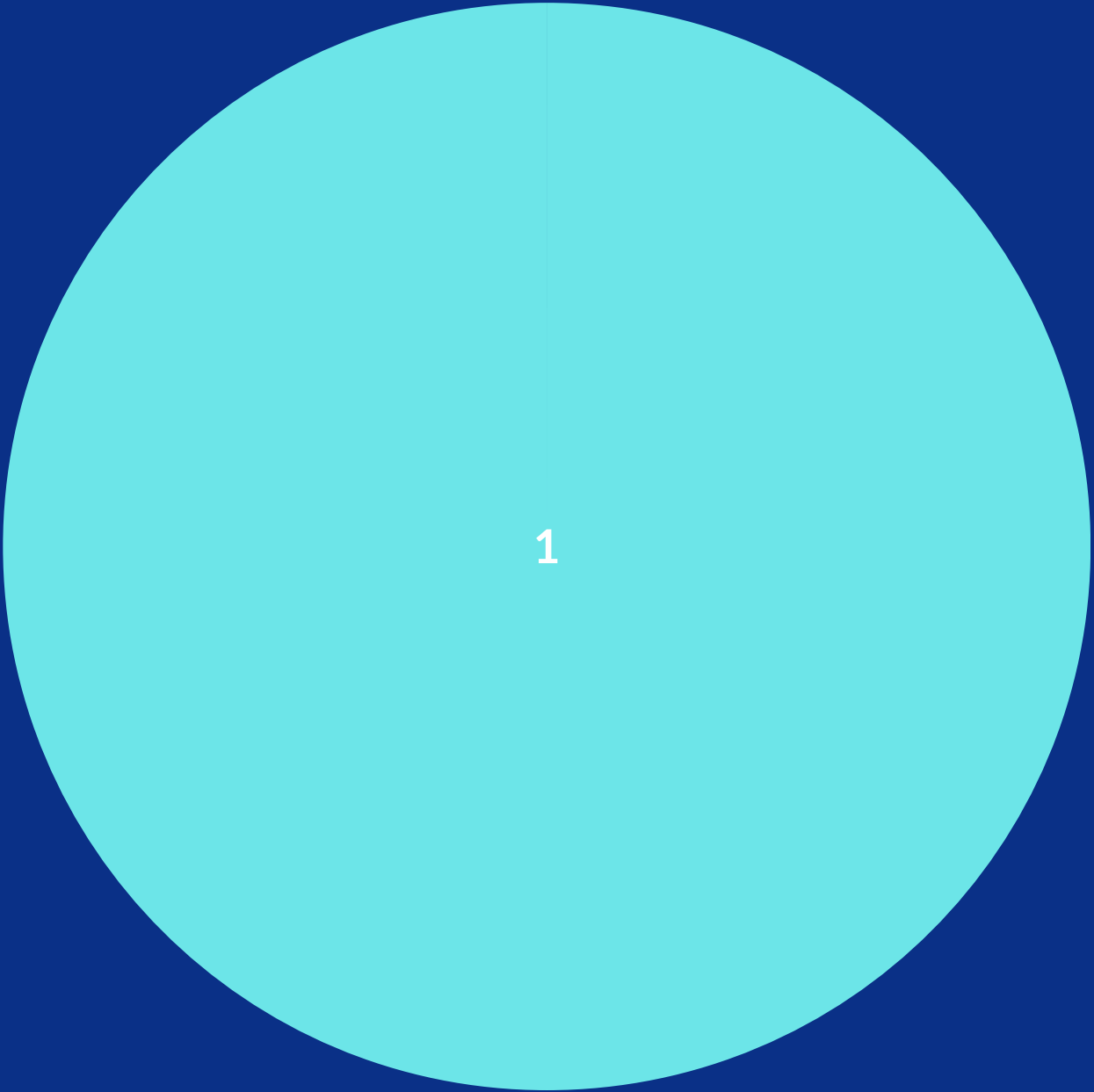
20. Do you have a Magazine/Newsletter/Blog where you share your ELSA related activities regularly?



21. What is the main design tool you use to develop your graphics?



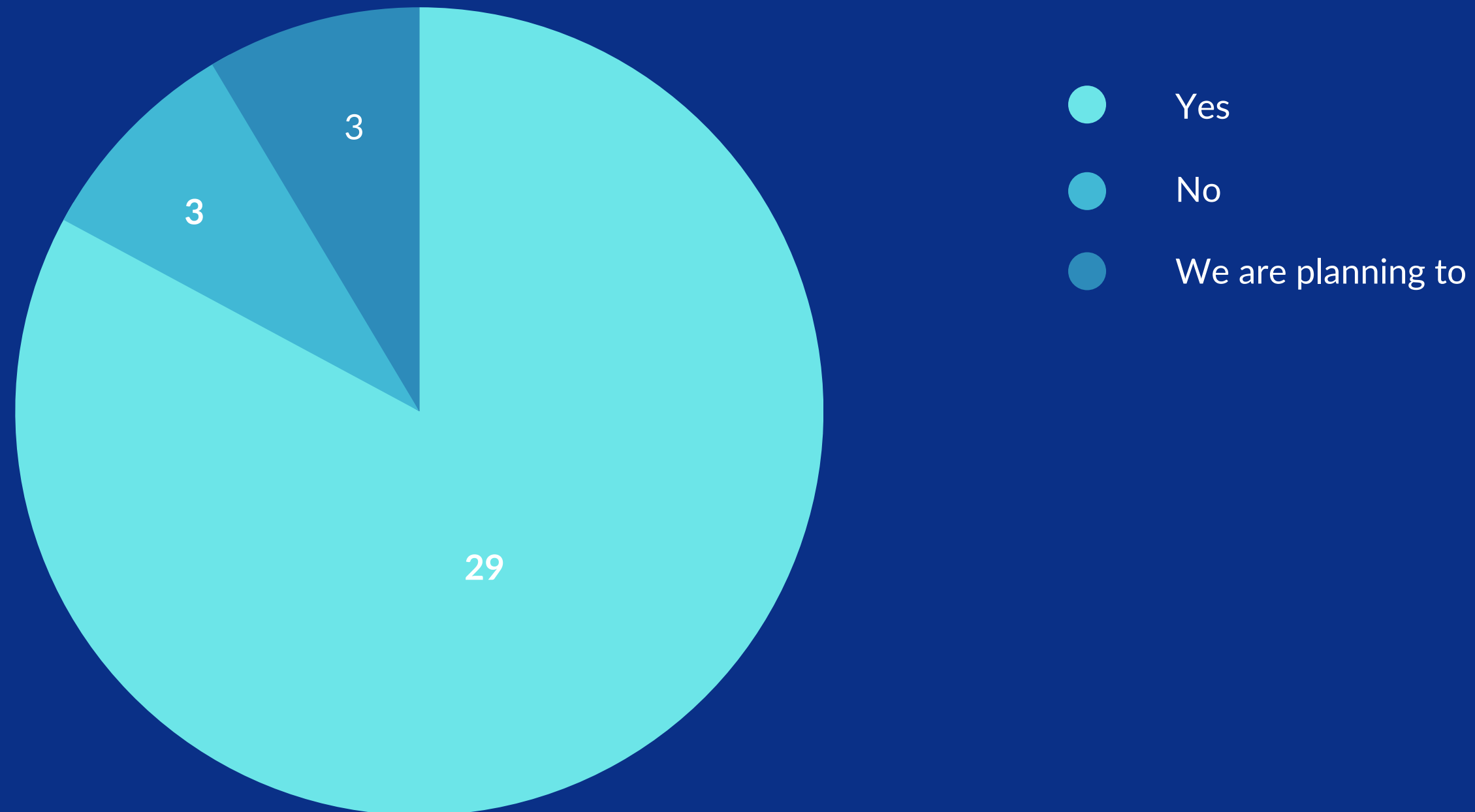
21-A. If other - which?



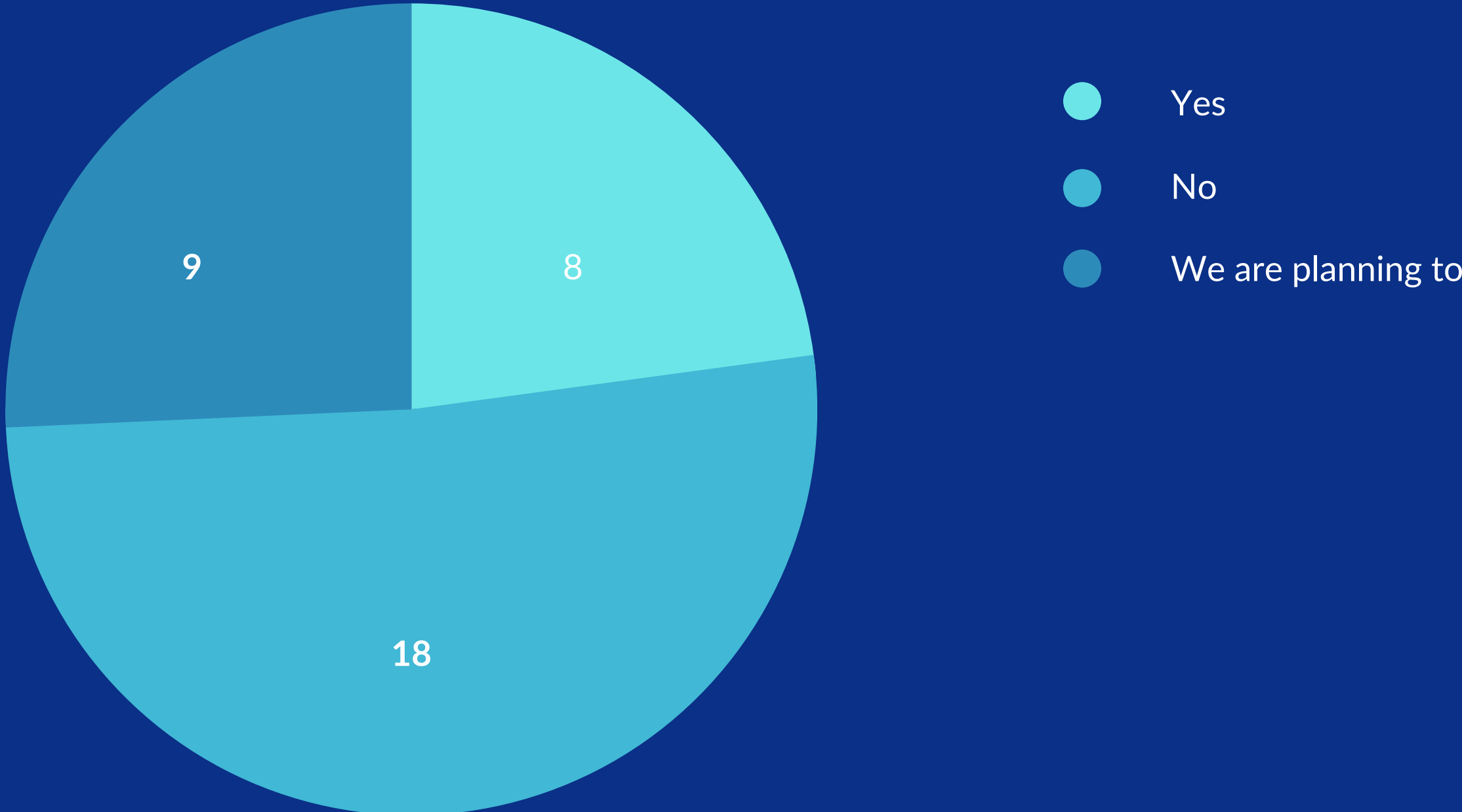
● Illustrator and Photoshop



22. Does your LGs/NG produce (or did in the recent past) ELSA merchandising (such as hoodies, shirts, mugs, pens, etc)?



24. Do you have a National/Local Brandbook?



Academic Activities

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25. Which activities are you organizing?



A multi-select question



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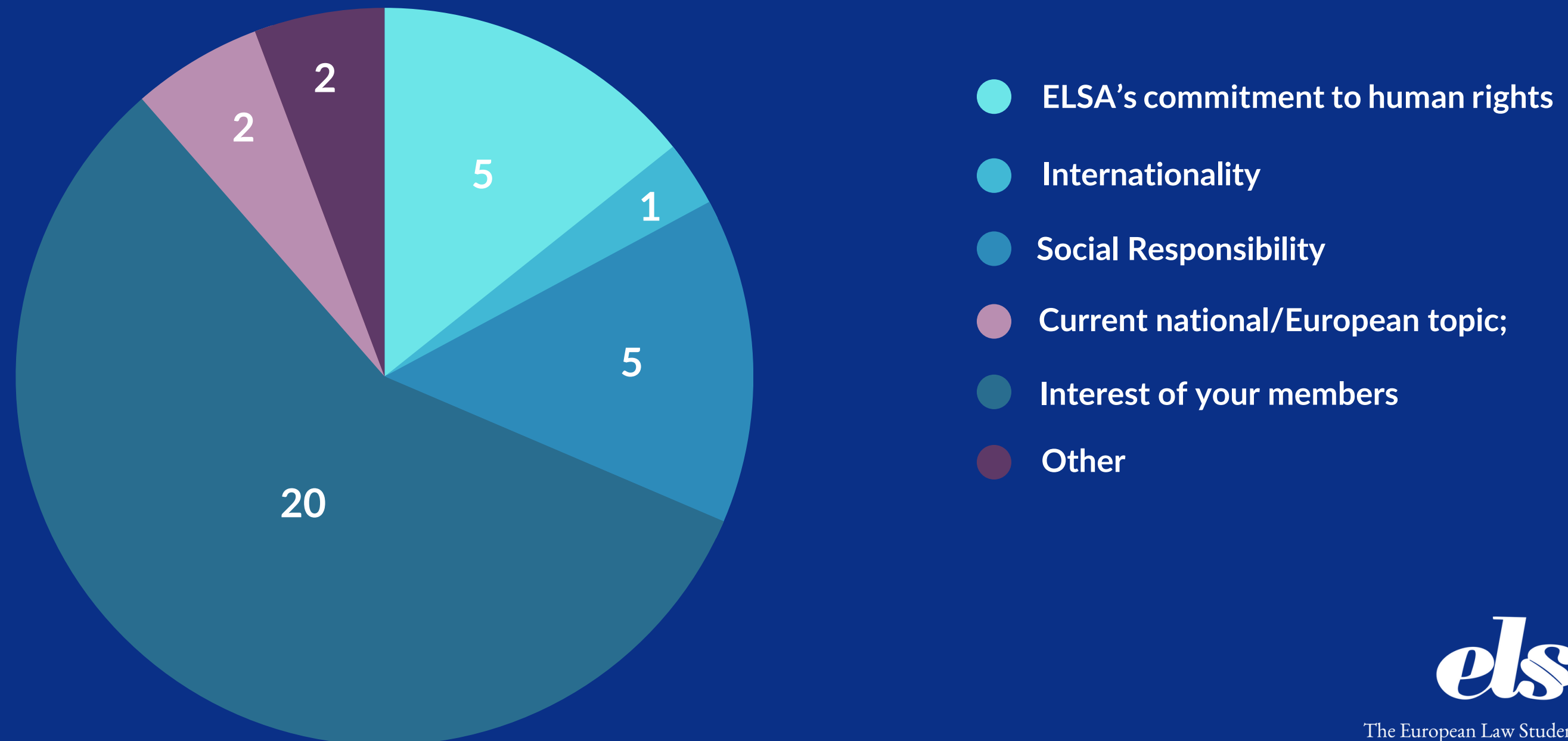
25-A. If other - which?

- Negotiation competition (on the national level);
- Moot Court Competitions, Seminars and Conferences on current legal issues and trend fields of law and lastly one of the regional rounds of HPMCC will be held in Ankara, Türkiye;
- Moot Court (on local and national level), Subject competitions (on local level), Legal opinion competition (on national level);
- Podcast, Social Responsibility Initiatives, Amnesty International Masterclasses;
- Case nights, guest lectures and "tentanights" - which is an event where we help students before an exam (on a local level);
- Human Rights Blog, ELSA Day, Volunteering, Legal Clinics and Advocacy;
- Elsa4schools, elsa negotiation competition;
- We have our own magazine called Legal point on national level and some of our local group have their own magazines as well (for example ELSA Trnava has Corpus Delicti);
- Model United Nations, ENC, WIC, Workshops;
- The National ELSA Moot Court of Denmark;
- Negotiation Competition, Client Interviewing Competition;
- How to Sessions including several events which will help students of various years tackle their assignments, exams, open book exams and even dissertation writing;
- ENC.

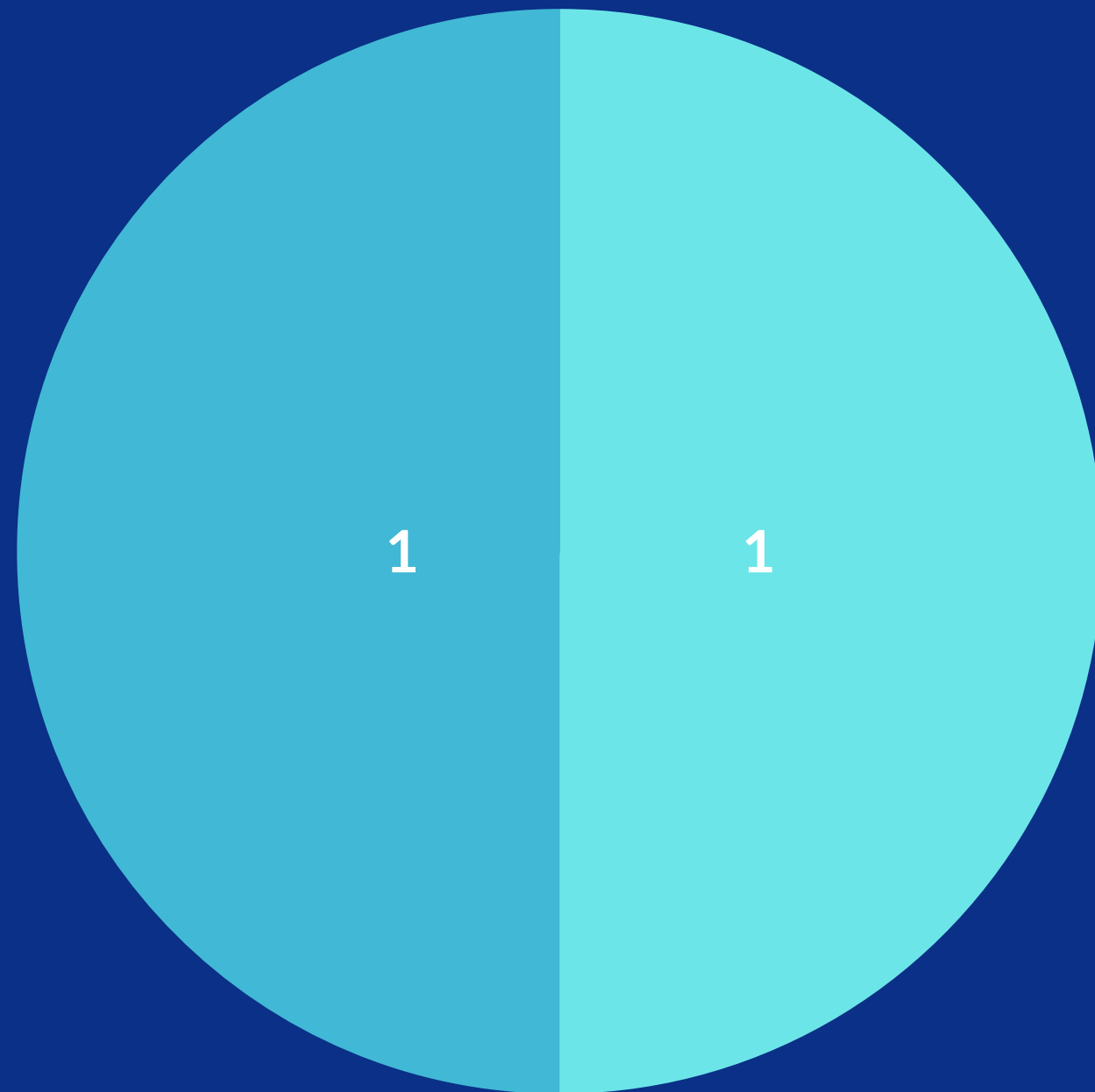
The logo for the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) features the word "elsa" in a white, lowercase, serif font. The letters are closely spaced, with the 'e' and 's' having a distinctive, slightly overlapping appearance.

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26. When you are planning your Academic Activities, especially the content, what is your main focus/motivation?

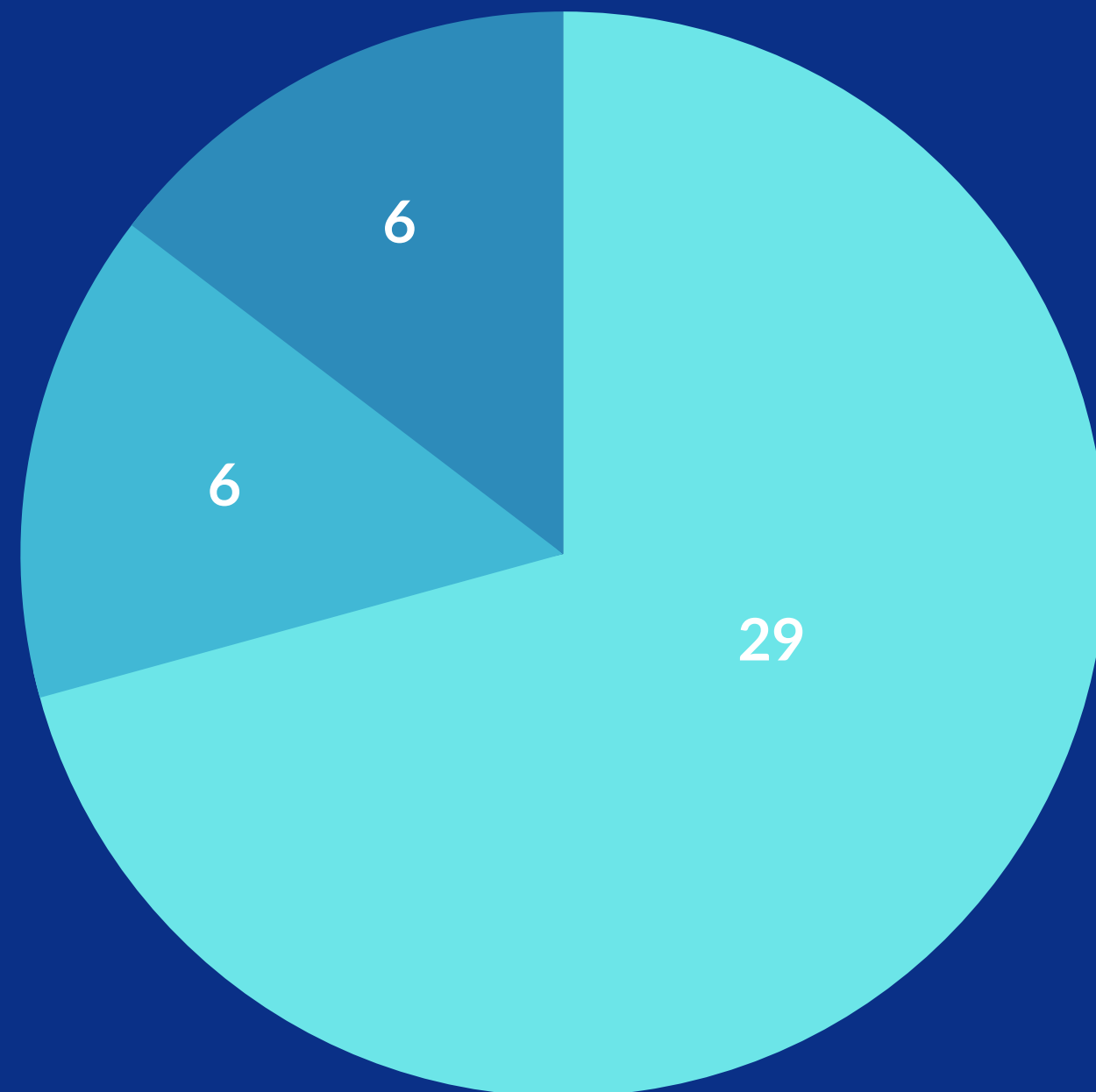


25-A. If other - which?



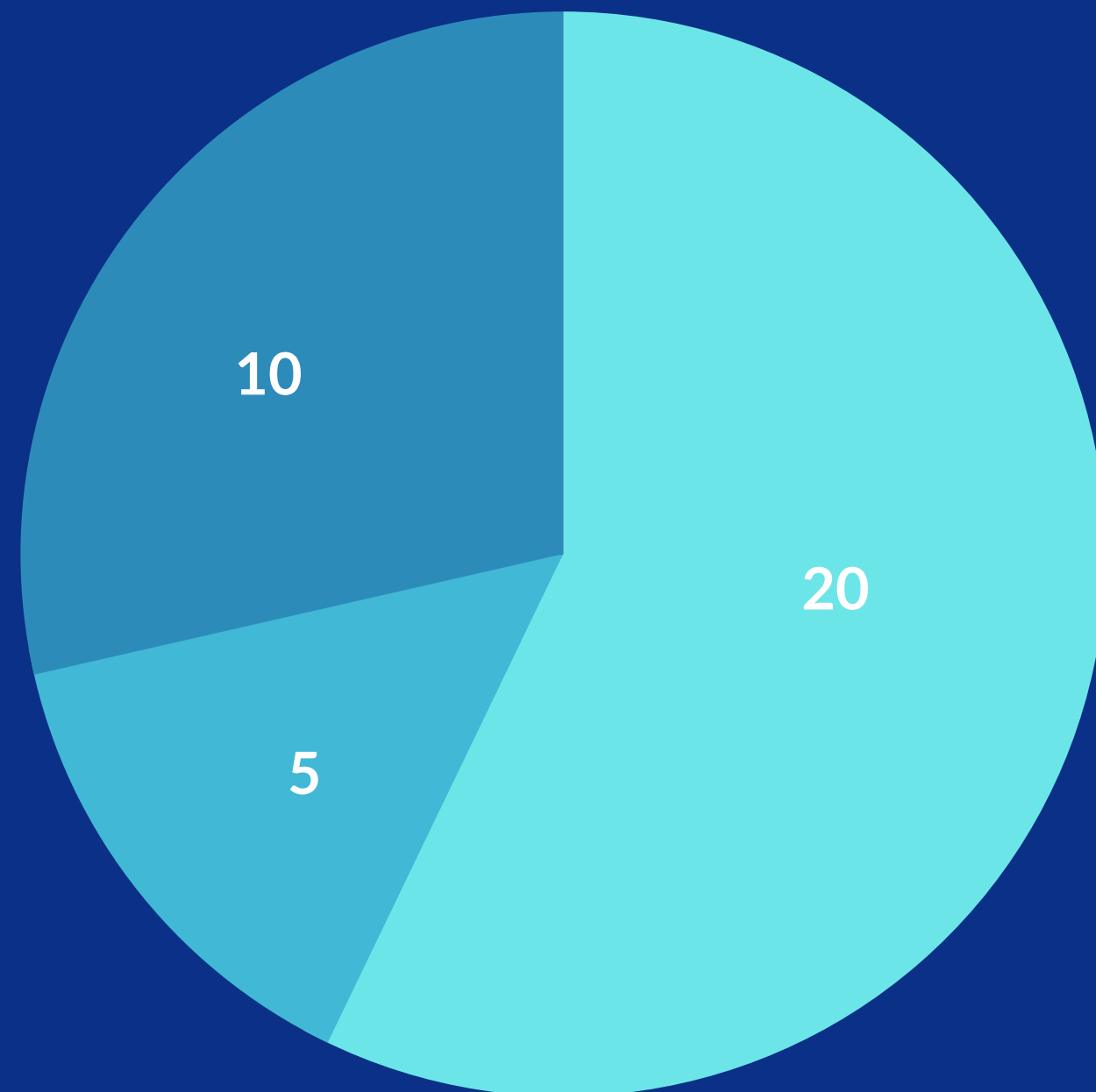
- Trends and interests of the target group
- Not indicated

27. Are you using the tools provided by ELSA International for your Academic Activities projects?



- Yes, handbooks, supporting materials, manuals etc.
- Evaluation and Specification forms
- No, I only use materials provided by my National Board

28. Is there enough visibility of the international AA projects for the members of Local Groups?



- Yes, they are well promoted and the concept is easily comprehensible
- No. Members focus on local and national projects and they are not well aware of the international ones;
- Other

28-A. If other please specify.

- we don't have a local group, our visibility is minimal;
- here are no local groups in Iceland to communicate with;
- I would say it is something in-between and it depends on how interested each member is, meaning for active members it is easily comprehensible, but more passive members focus more on national or local projects;
- They are aware of the international projects, but they care too less about it sometimes;
- We inform and promote the international AA projects among our officers; as far as we know there is some participation of our members, i.e. the recent Essay Competition, but there is still potential concerning the visibility of the international AA projects (that are legally possible in Germany);

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29. Please indicate which projects you want more information about from ELSA International?

- The local groups want more information about LRG and LW, and the Witness Interviewing Competition (WIC);
- None;
- ROLE;
- We would need to develop our current projects a bit further before we can answer that, since we are still working on a very basic stage with the ROLE;
- Not the problem of ELSA International, the materials are good, we just need to make our local groups aware of them;
- Perhaps something more approachable for ELSA day and the ARHC competition (they are still very confused about it);
- ENC;
- ELSA4SCHOOLS;
- Moot Courts, Legal Research Groups, SELS, WELS, Delegations;
- Law Review and International Legal Research Group;
- Annual Human Rights Campaign;
- Legal Courses;
- We would appreciate more information about ELSA Day, Human Rights Campaign;
- International focus programme;
- Negotiation competition, Client Interviewing Competition;
- ELR;

The logo for ELSA, featuring the word "elsa" in a lowercase, white, serif font.

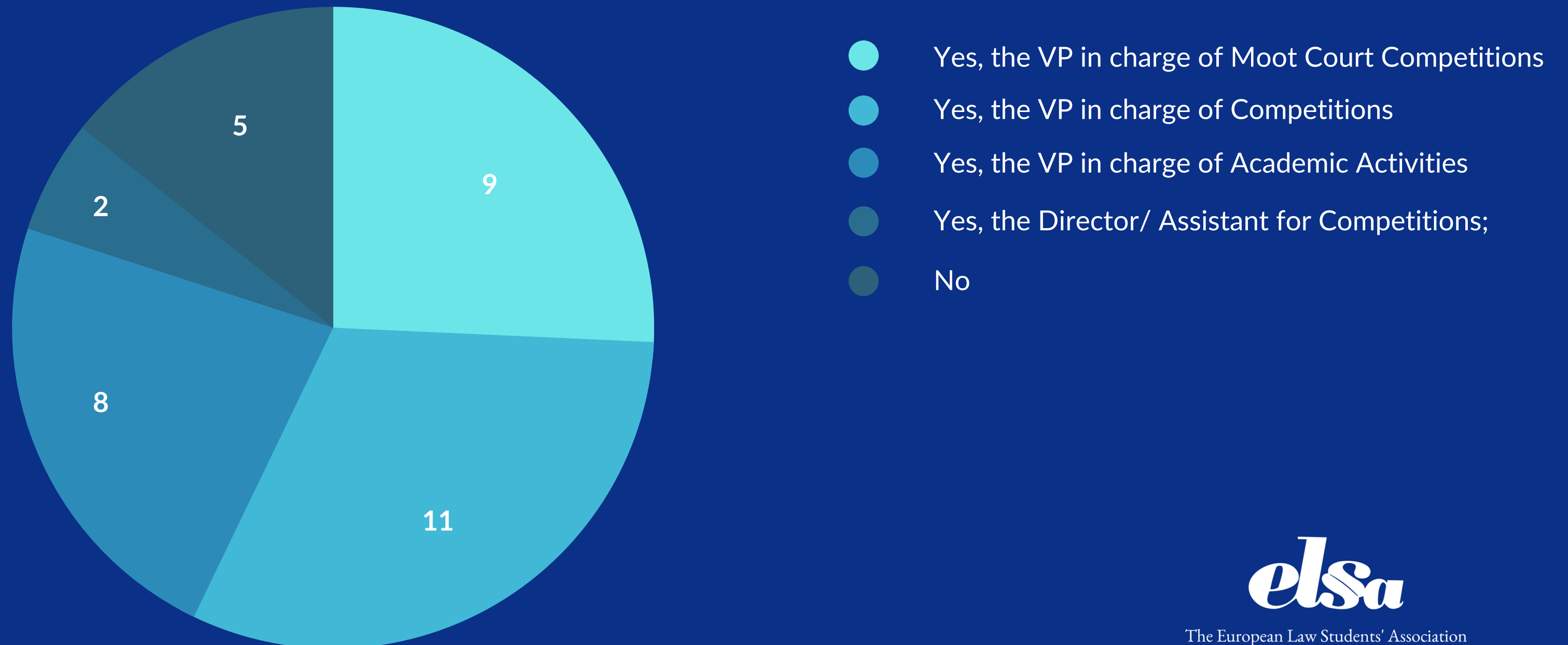
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Competitions

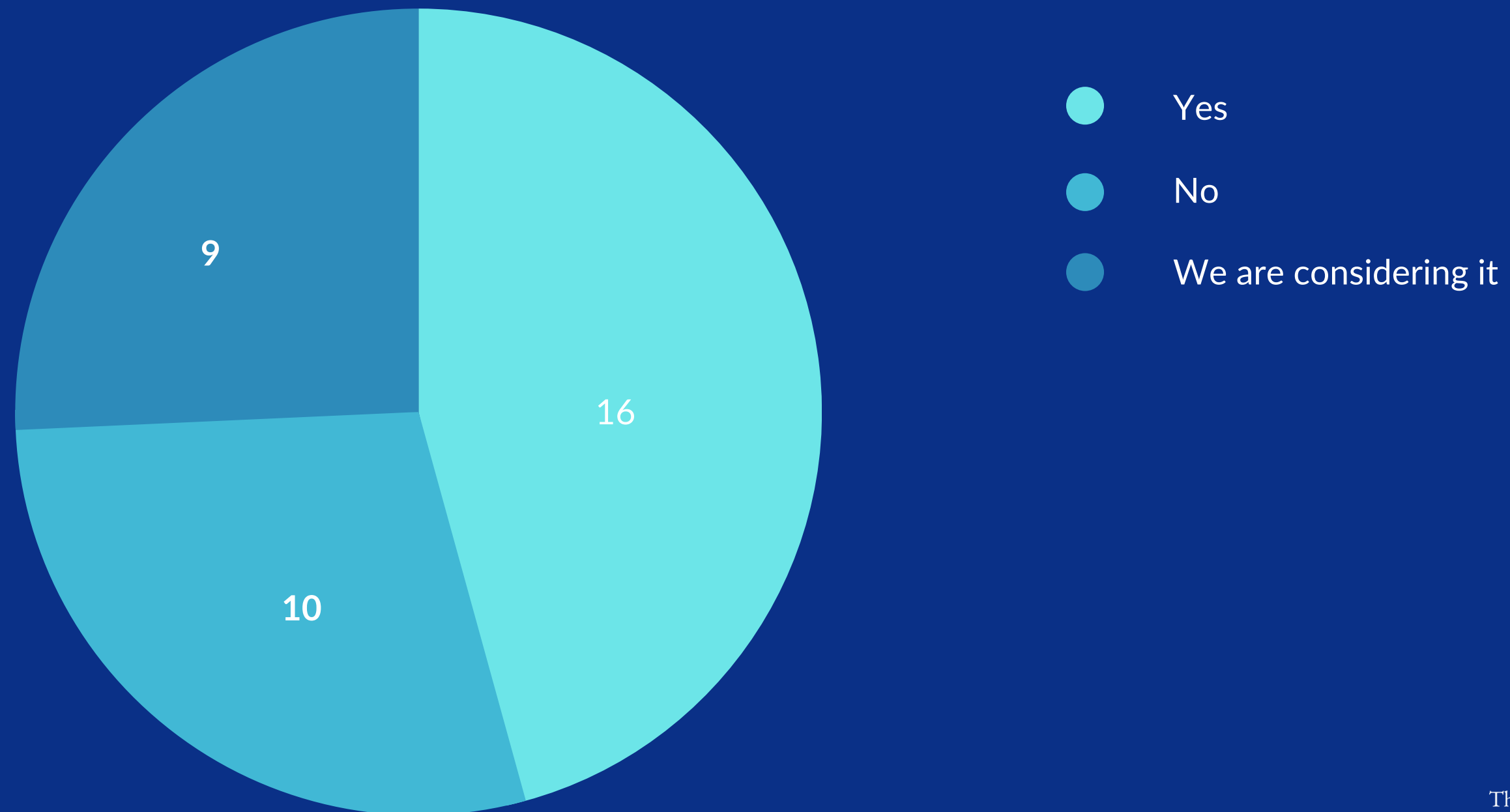
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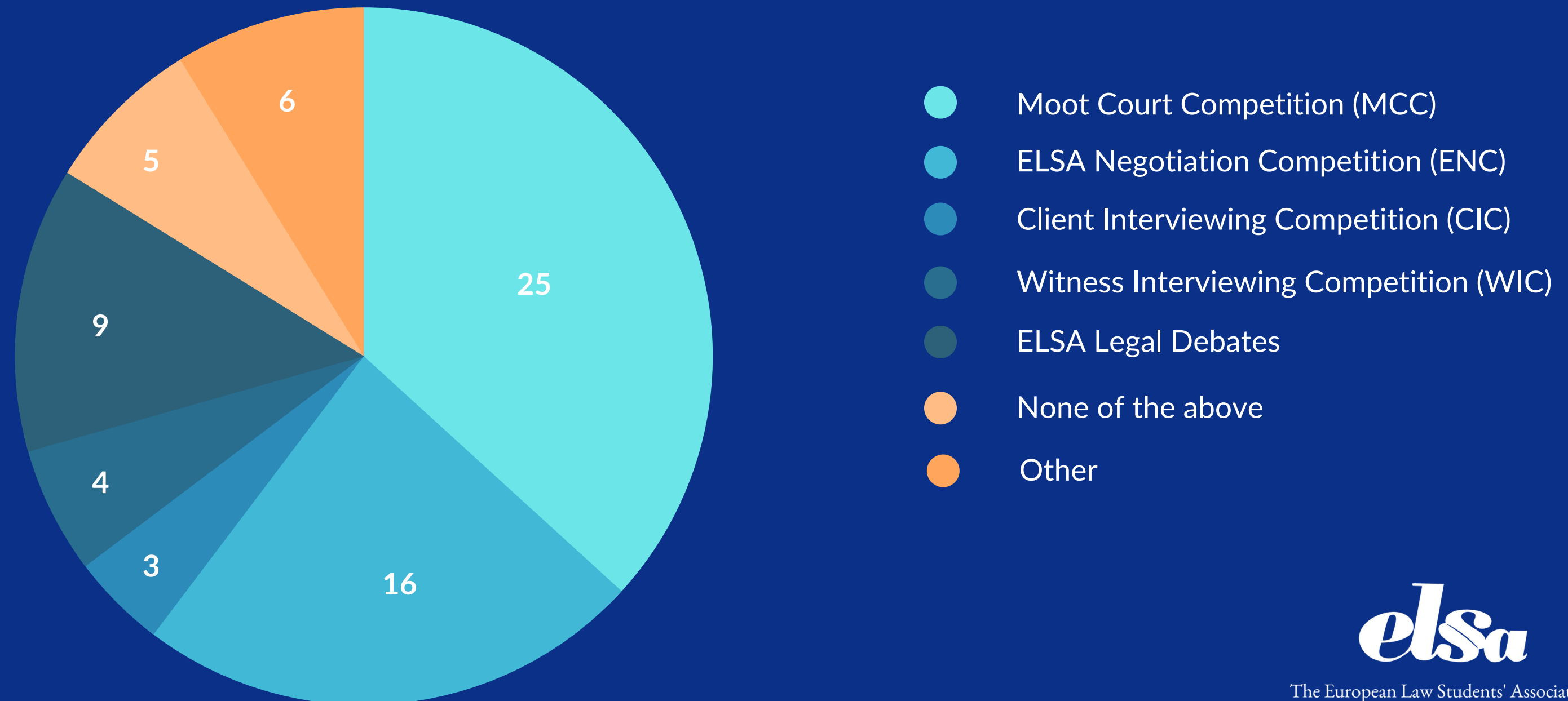
30. Do you have a person in charge of Competitions on the National Level?



31. Do you plan on implementing the position of the VP in charge of Competitions this year / following years?



32. Which of the following Competitions do you plan on organising Nationally this year?

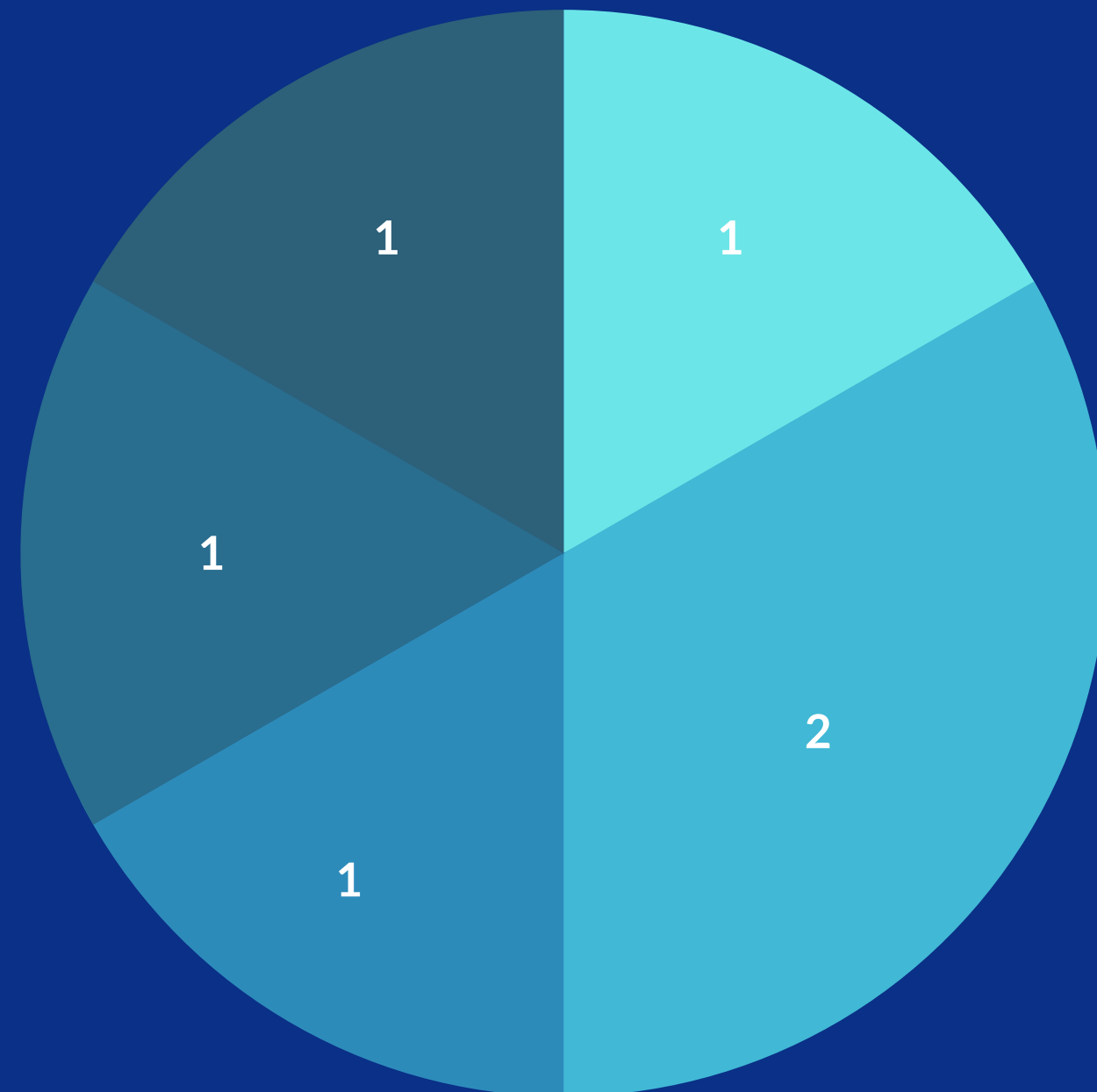


A multi-select question

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32-A. If other please specify.

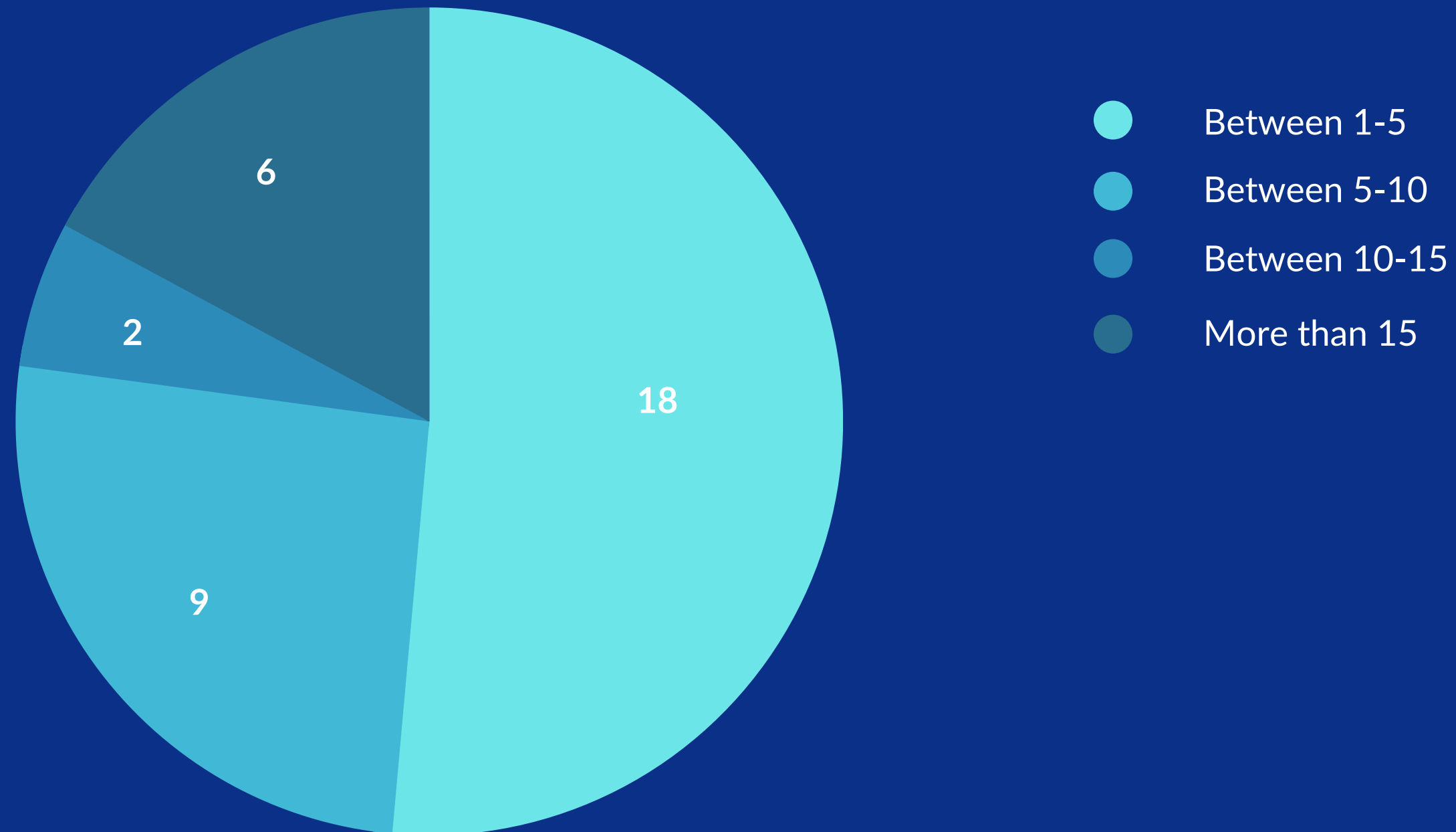


- Arbitration Competition
- Essay Competition
- Roman Law Mootcourt, Constitutional law mootcourt and Civil law mootcourt are being considered
- II National Cross Examination Moot Competition. In question 33, we did not organize this event, so the answer is random.
- We are not planning to organise any of the competition nationally this year. However, we plan to start working towards a national ENC in the future as there has not been a ENC held in Sweden before.

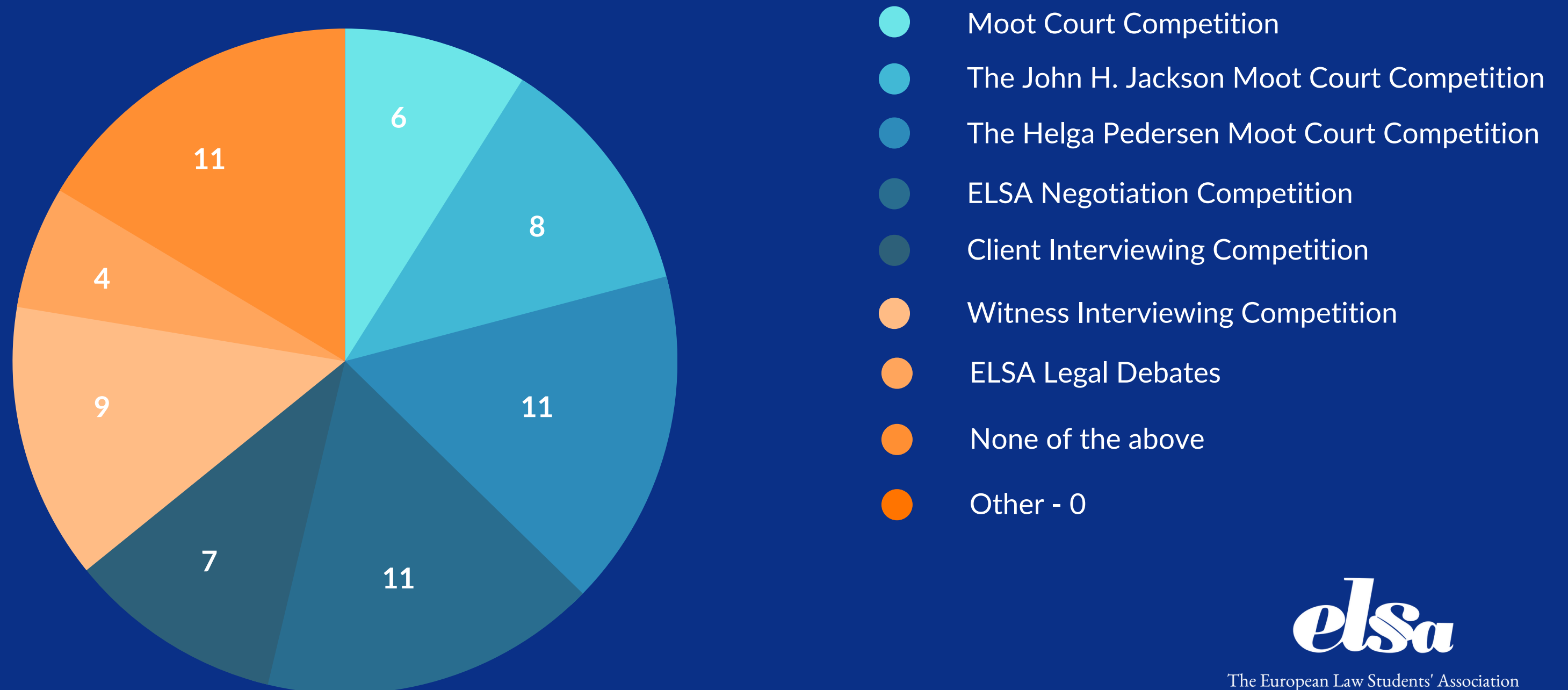
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33. If you organise a national ENC, how many teams participated in the last edition?



34. We will need guidance from ELSA International with the following competitions



A multi-select question

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35. We will need guidance from ELSA International in the following steps of the process of organising a competition



A multi-select question

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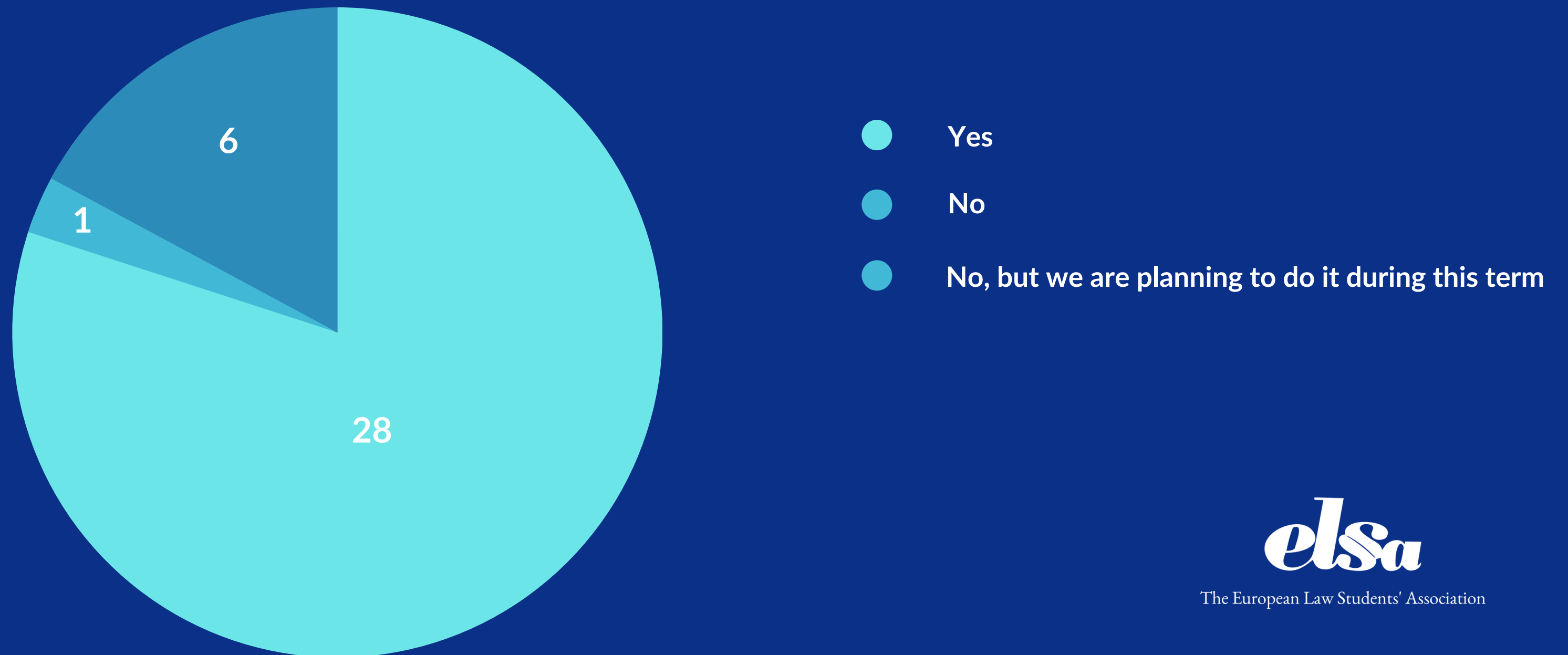
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Professional Development

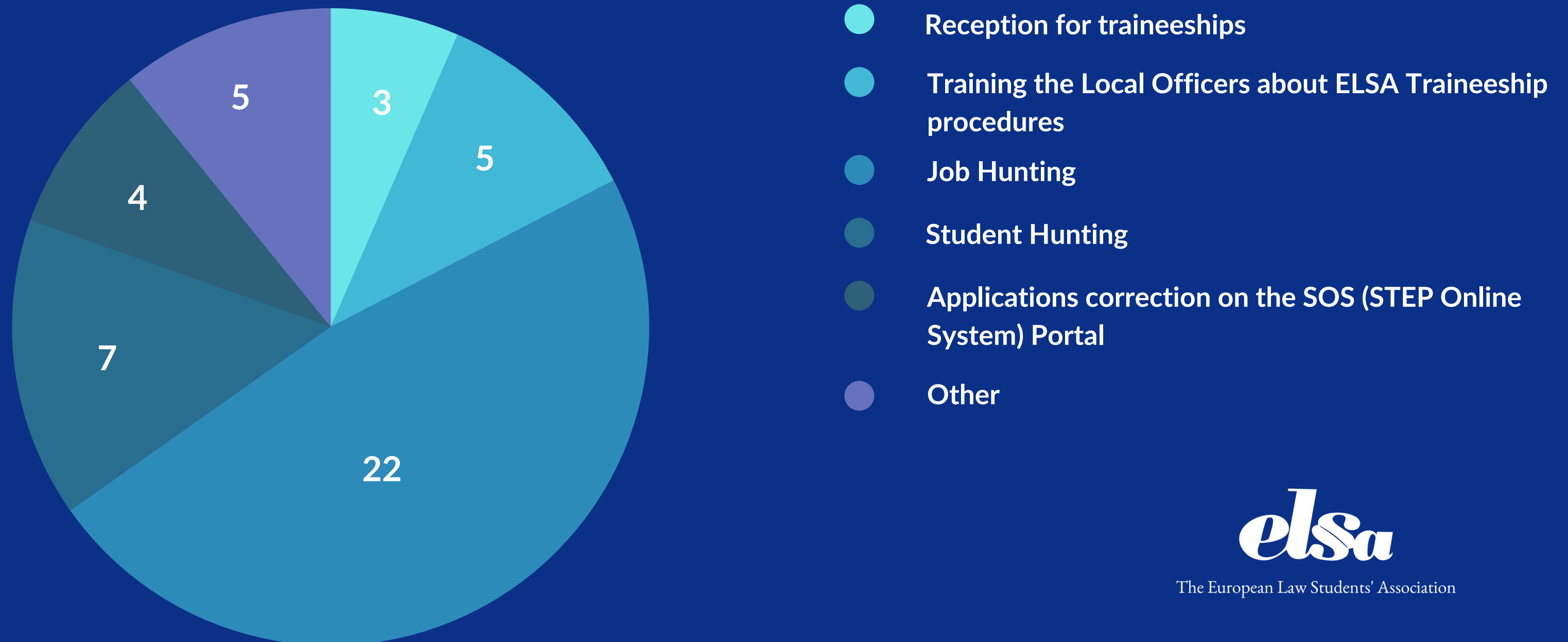
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36. Did you already change the name of the Professional Development position of the National Board in your Regulations?



37. Which activities connected to ELSA Traineeships caused you the most difficulties?



37-A. If other - which?

- All of the above, im the president and I received the job by default because there was no one to take it and my predecessor didn't explain much about it, so I'm mostly swimming in uncharted waters;
- ELSA Iceland has never had a national board member of PD. Therefore it has been hard to establish ELSA Traineeships;
- Job hunting has caused most difficulties, because it's quite hard to find traineeships providers in Finland, because most of the organizations require skills in Finnish. Also after covid19 pandemic the application numbers have been lower, so student hunting has caused some problems too. New students don't seem to be as interested in student associations' activities as before.
- Since we have organised only workshops and informative sessions, we didn't have any difficulties.
- We do not organise ELSA Traineeships as such.

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38. Describe briefly how the Reception process at the national and local level is organised and if you have a specific officer for this in your National Team.

- I don't know what it is, so I assume we don't have a Reception process;
- Currently there is no specific methodology for the reception process, but we are working on implementing more standardized reception procedures. We are in general following the guidelines of contacting the Trainees early, following up on them during their Traineeship, and making sure to be available for them during their stay. In Oslo the payment for the Trainee is conducted by the local group. In Tromsø the payment has been covered by the TNP;
- We don't have a specific officer for this position in our National Team yet we have our standards set for the reception. Local Teams are free to do some more as an addition;
- We have specific officer;
- Reception in Poland is problem-free. At the local level, Vice Presidents organize accommodation, show the city and take care of the intern's well-being. The VP and the intern are in constant contact;
- We have none;
- ELSA Switzerland does not have a specific officer for Reception in our National Team. The VP PD of ELSA Switzerland is the first contact for any questions a Trainee might have. It is also the responsibility of the VP PD of ELSA Switzerland to forward/establish ;
- The reception process of the traineeships both at the national and the local level are identical - after the trainee sends an acceptance email of the traineeship offer, we begin our communications to assist both Traineeship providers and trainees to contact each other. we introduce ourselves to the trainee, then we introduce a Traineeship Provider and provide them with further detailed information about them, we give them the provider's contact information to make the communication easier, while simultaneously, we also contact the traineeship provider, providing them with more detailed information about the trainee and make sure that communication between them is going smoothly. We also connect a trainee with other trainees of the same Traineeship Provider if possible and propose a meeting with them. Before trainees arrive, we assist them if any problems occur with the visa procedure, we prepare welcome bags including a digital map of the city in which their traineeship will begin, we also suggest a trainee with a must-visit local places and must-try local cuisine..



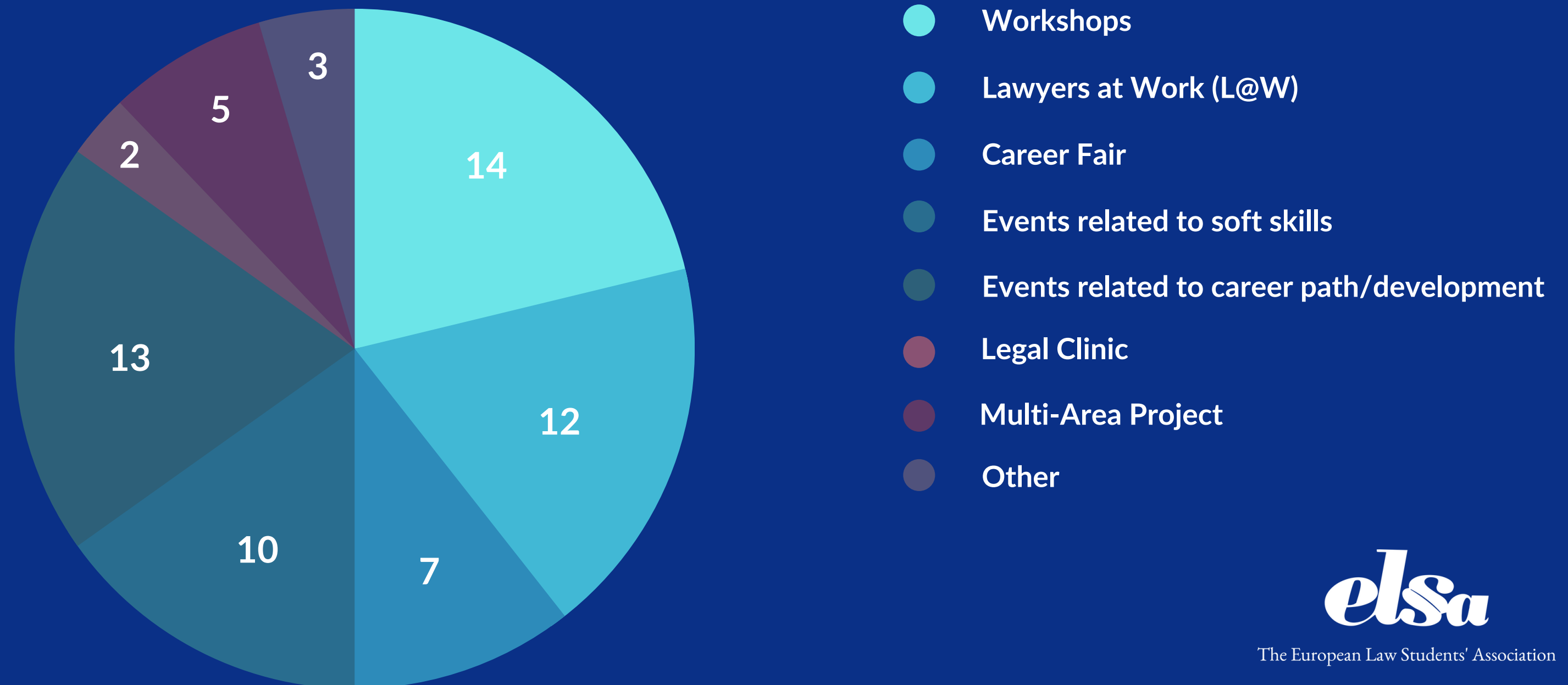
- Reception did not play a big role in the previous terms, hence, I first try to show my local VPs, how Reception is to be done. I intend to create Reception books like ELSA Belgium and ELSA Germany;
- Each year we have one officer in the team who is responsible for the Reception. This term I am planning to keep constant contact with the trainee, firstly via mail and afterwards via other social network such as whatsapp. We also plan to help trainee with the arrival (airport - place of staying a vice versa). Also in case if it will be needed we will be helping trainee with finding the accommodation during their stay Main intention of our team is to spend as much time as possible with a trainee. So if possible I am planning to invite trainee to our projects and do social activities with trainee, National Board and Professional Development team;
- Since we don't have any traineeship providers, we don't have a specific reception process. We do have one local project which is IBP (buddy program) that accepts exchange students in general in Uppsala;
- National Level -> There is an application period, where applicants have to submit their documents (CV, ELSA CV, motivation letter, action plan), after which there is a voting session by the Council. Local Level -> There is an application period, where applicants have to submit their documents (CV, motivation letter, action plan), after which there is a voting session by the LG Board. Our National Board does not have a specific officer for this process.
- We don't have a specific officer for Reception in our national team. Local groups send a reception package to the trainee before arriving to Finland, then they receive the trainee, and help the trainee with everything they need (such as taxing). ELSA Finland takes care of updating the reception materials and helps local groups with the reception when needed, and answers all the questions related to it;
- We do have a specific team for reception on the ELSA Italy team. They follow the Italian selected candidates from the first step to the traineeship period. The team, also, is responsible for trainees coming to Italy, in particular the goal is to give them the contact of the LG and to train the LG to welcome trainees;
- There isn't a specific Officer for reception. Each Local Group organises the reception for their trainees;
- Reception is mostly organized on the local level, we have a handbook as support for them;
- We do not have a specific officer for the Reception process in our National Team;
- The reception process is conducted at the local level, with support from the national officer. Future trainees are contacted by both the local officer where the traineeship takes place and by the national officer. Local officers offer help with accommodation, activities etc;
- The Reception process is regulated in the National Decision Book. This local process consists in 12 stages (from 1st stage - establishing a Reception Team to 12th stage - the day when the student are leaving). For every stage there are a number of tasks which local officers should take care of. At the national level, the main task is to supervise the local officers and coordinate them when is necessary. We don't have a specific officers for the Reception process in our National Team.



- The national officer firstly provides the trainees with contact information of the local officer, depending in which city the internship will take place. The local officer is then encouraged to contact the trainee first, ask if the communication with the provider is going smoothly, assist with any other needs and also start planning the reception. The national officer also creates an excel sheets for the local officers, where they can see the names of trainees that have been accepted in their city and their contact info. They are encouraged to find out the exact dates of the trainees arrival through email communication and include that into the excel sheet as well;
- Before the arrival of the trainee, we help them organise their stay in Bulgaria by keeping in touch with them and by providing them with all of the information needed in regards of accommodation, needed documents, etc. After the trainees arrive, we ensure their integration by having regular meetings with them (both live and online) during which we socialise, make them familiar with the bulgarian culture and help them solve the problems they face while they are here both in concerning the traineeship and in general;
- We do not have a specific officer as we have only organised workshops and informative sessions regarding ELSA Traineeships;
- LSA Austria is responsible for the Trainees of the self-acquired Traineeships and leads the rest of the Trainees to the LG that acquired the traineeship to take care of. Firstly the Trainees contact me (EA) and I explain the essentials and what is further going to happen and lead to the LG;
- It's delegated to Local Groups;
- We do not organise ELSA Traineeships as such; In the event that an internship in Denmark becomes available, the relevant local group, along with the person responsible for Professional Development in ELSA Denmark, will be responsible for the Reception.
- This area is not well established;
- We only have a National Team and no Local Teams. The VP In Charge Of PD is the person who does that;
- Throughout their stay in our country, we ensure continuous care and regularly check in on students/externals. We organize the first meeting with students in an informal environment;
- Since we are currently at war, we only have online internships. Therefore, we don't have a single designated person, and the Local VP is responsible for this process together with the National VP PD;
- When dealing with this ELSA Malta is considered to solely be a National Group considering the fact that we have only one faculty at the University of Malta;
- According to the Reception Procedures in the local groups of ELSA Greece after the call for the Hosting Group we manage whatever is necessary for the trainee (visa, accommodation provision) and then every local VP PD organise the construction. Most of the times we create a welcome package, we accompany the trainee the first day in the traineeship and also we plan some cultural tours for each city and generally we spend time together. Now for the National Group we give the guidelines, the workshops and the trainings for the Reception, we are in charge of the communication with the ELSA International for specific procedures like the visa's acquisition. Lastly, we get in touch with foreign organisations like ESN (Erasmus Student Network) for a cooperation and combined activities with our trainees from ELSA Traineeships and we are always here for every concern or difficulty a local officer might be facing of. No we haven't a specific person for the Reception in our national team. Most of the times the VP PD of the National Group is the responsible for that;
- The reception is mainly covered by our Local Groups who support the trainees; the National Board only assists. The Vice Presidents in charge of Professional Development or responsible officers cover every task regarding the ELSA Traineeships. We had problems with Traineeships acquired by ELSA International after we/our Local Groups weren't informed that they existed;



39. Which type of Professional Development event/events are organised most on a national level?



39-A. If other - which?

- I would like to organise things but no partner and no instructions on the job, but maybe a career fair maybe if possible;
- None;
- The international projects, like career launch;

40. Which type of Professional Development event/events are organised most on a local level?



40-A. If other - which?

- Legal Tandem;
- Our local was created this year, thus everything is still on the beginning level.

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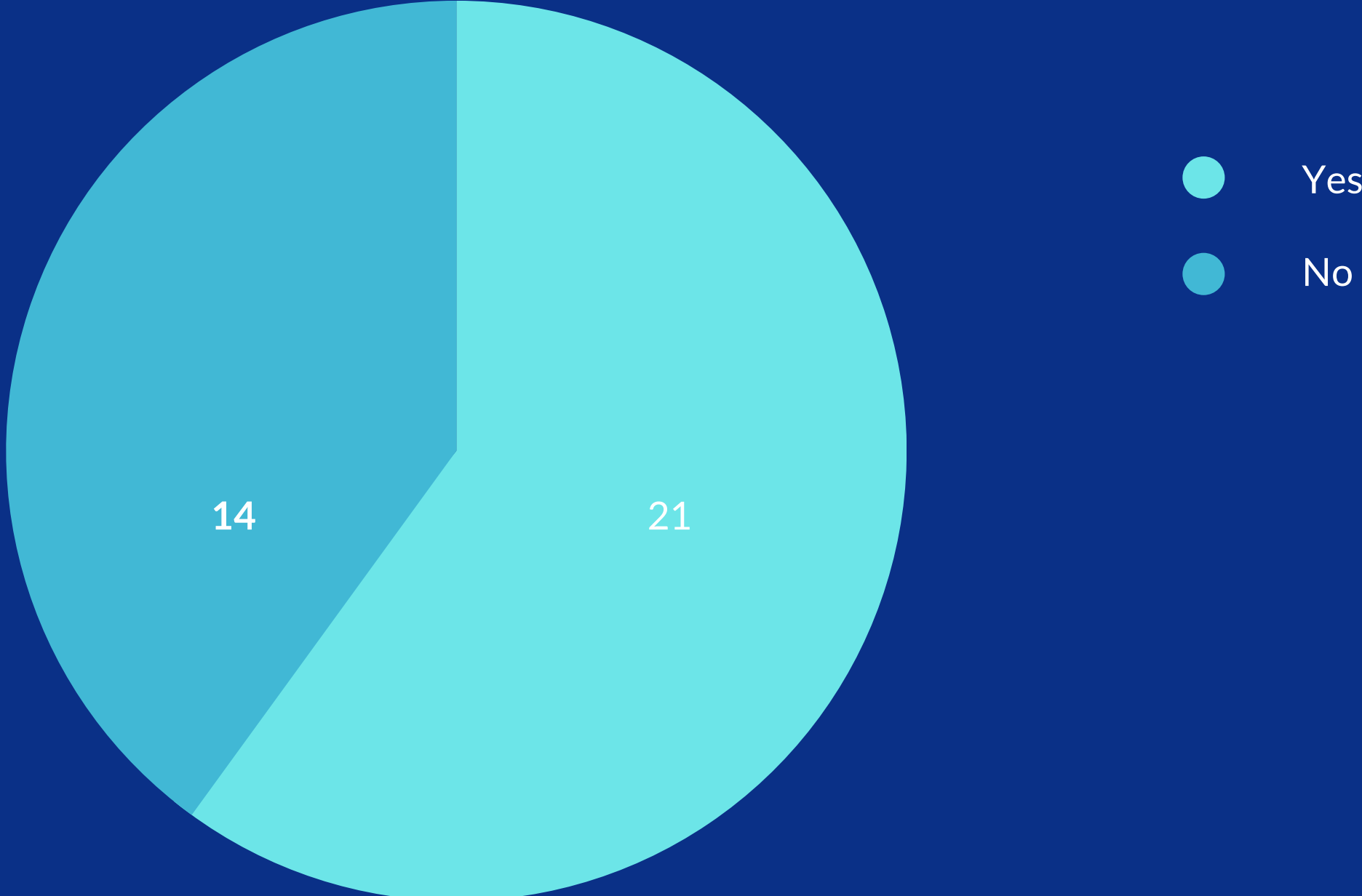
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Seminars & Conferences

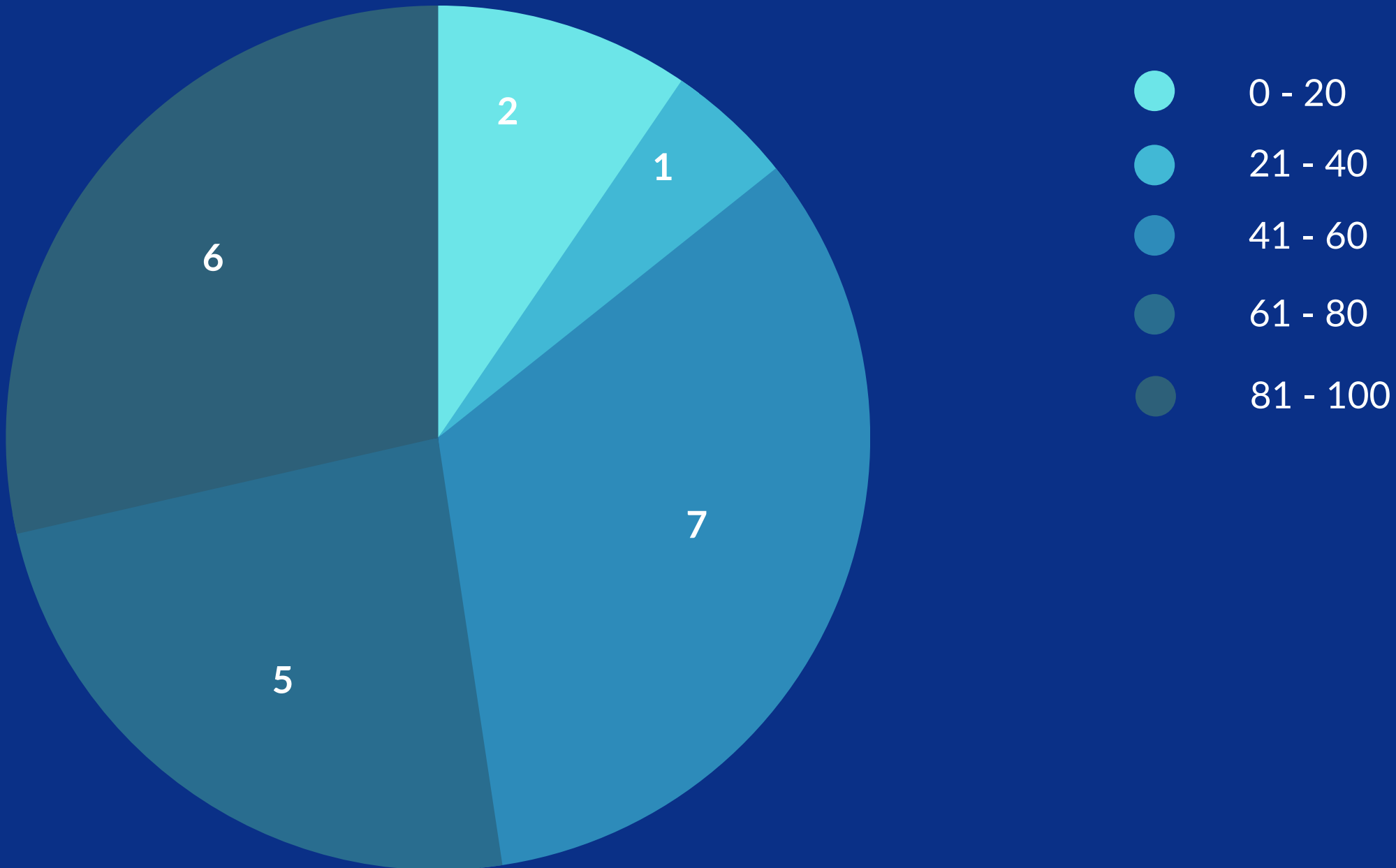
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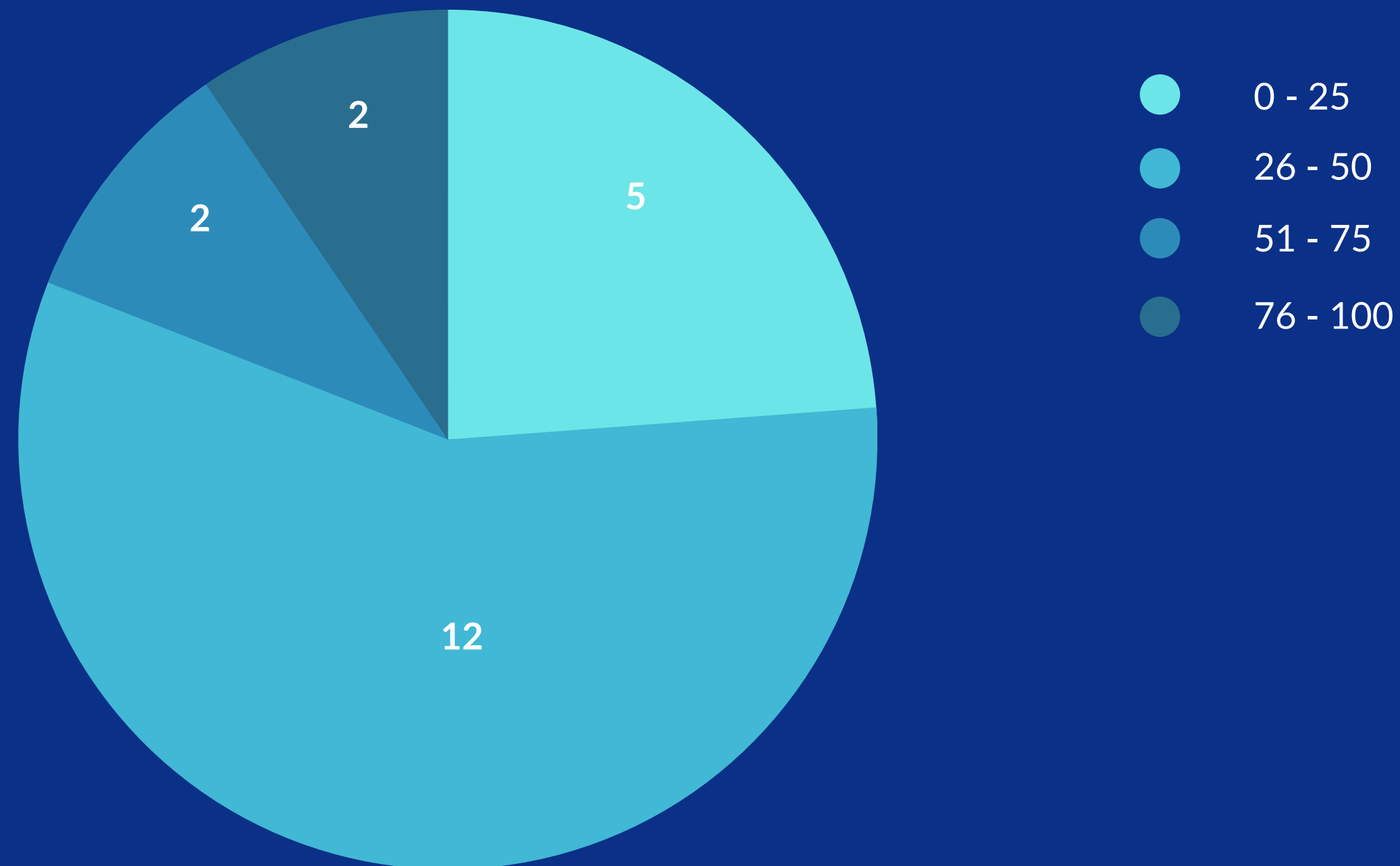
41. Do you think that a refund policy with clear amounts/percentages will be useful for Participants and Organising Committees of ELSA Law Schools?



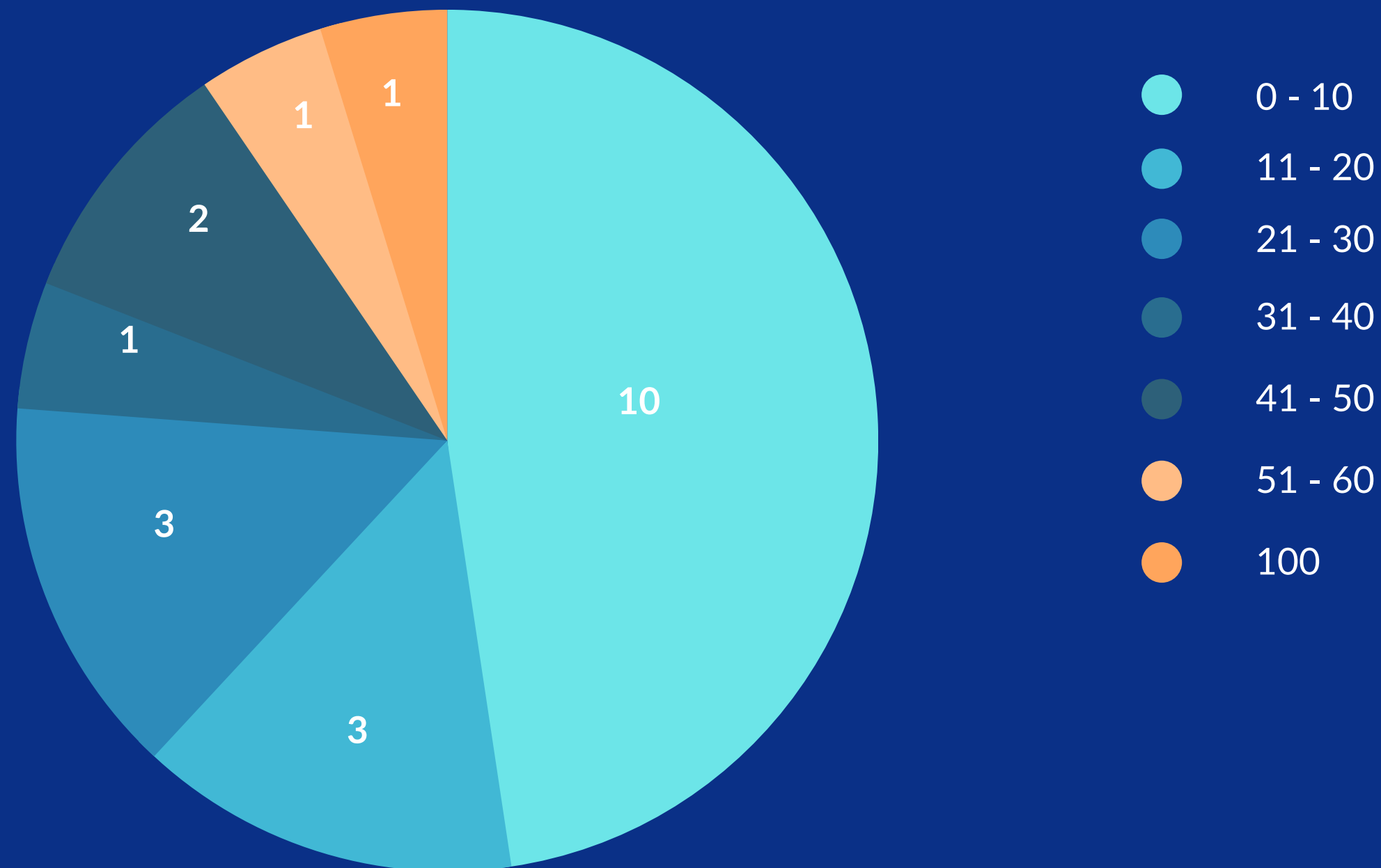
41-A. How much do you think that a Participant should be reimbursed if they cancel more than two months before the event takes place? Please provide a percentage.



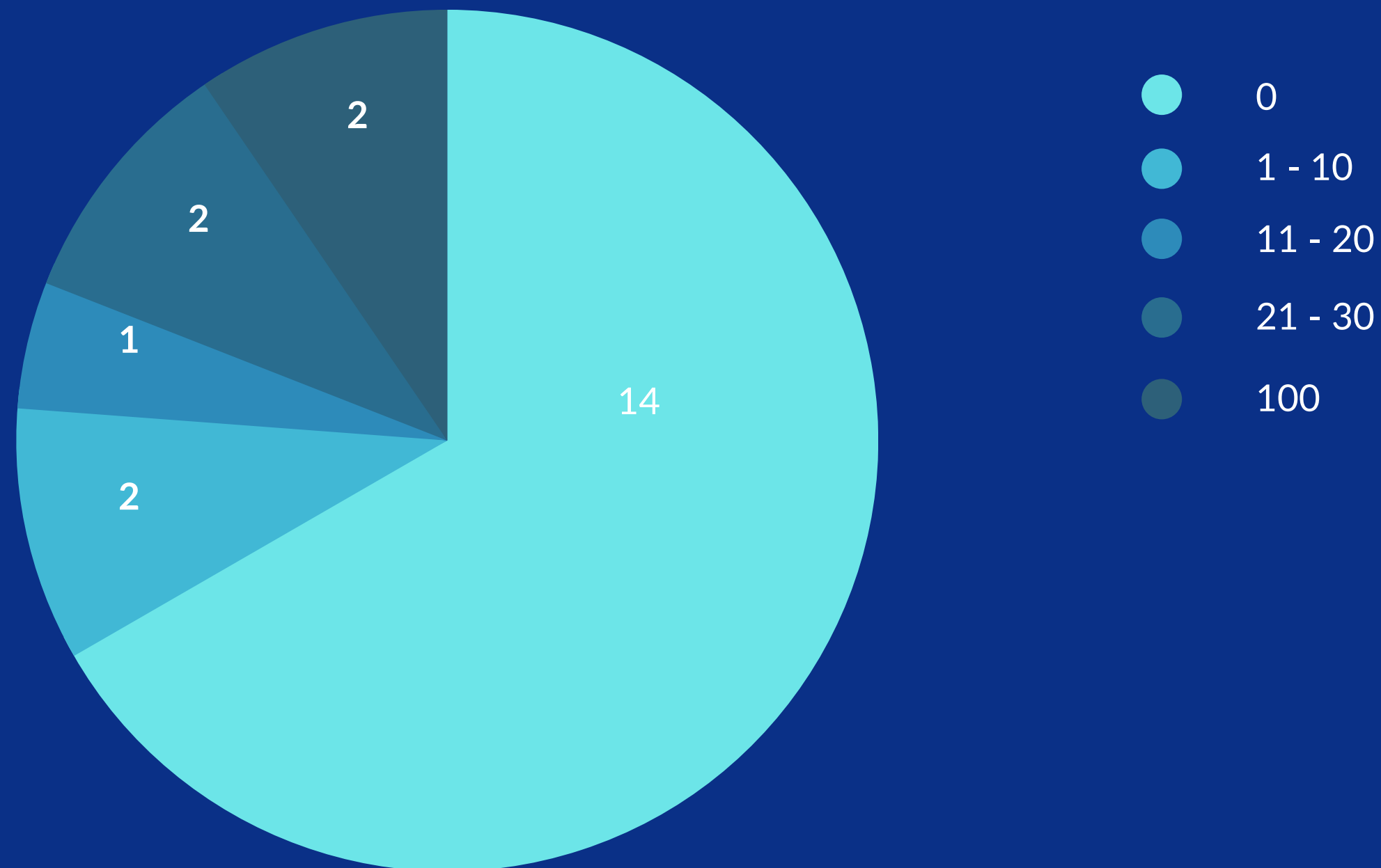
41-B. How much do you think that a Participant should be reimbursed if they cancel more than one month before the event takes place? Please provide a percentage.



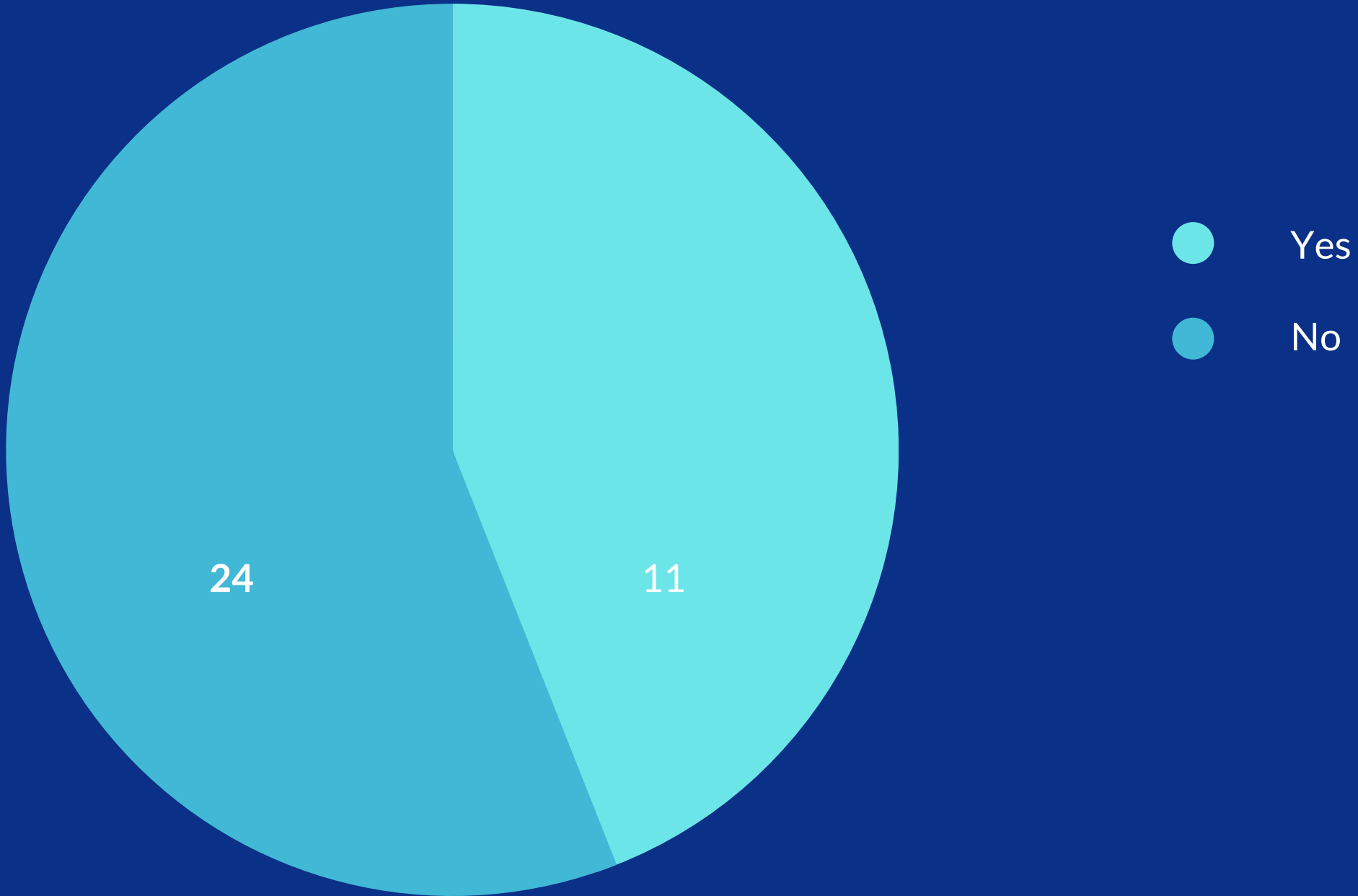
41-C. How much do you think that a Participant should be reimbursed if they cancel two weeks before the event takes place?
Please provide a percentage.



41-D. How much do you think that a Participant should be reimbursed if they cancel one week before the event takes place?
Please provide a percentage.



42. Do you plan to organise an International Conference of ELSA (ICE) this year?



43. What is the S&C project that is being organised most within your National Group?

- none as of now, I as the president has the job since we don't have a member to take the job, but we do have a GA soon, so hopefully we will be able to organise things. But by myself will balancing the VP PD, President, VP Marketing and VP S&C, it is not feasible.
- Study trips.
- ELSA Law Schools
- National Conferences.
- This term we are putting an emphasis on Study Visits to strengthen our international community.
- On a National Level, we have organised a SELS every other year. In 2024, we will have the 6th edition of SELS Geneva! ICE have been organised on a National Level as well as by Local Groups in the past. Generally, among all the different S&C projects, Local Groups tend to focus on Study Visits, as they are organised quite easily and attract a lot of participants. We as ELSA Switzerland also organised a Study Visit this term.
- Study Visits
- Institutional Visit
- Seminars
- Almost every local group in Sweden organises a trip to Brussels.
- Job (career) fair and workshops
- Lectures

An open question

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43. What is the S&C project that is being organised most within your National Group?

- In ELSA Bulgaria the most organised project by the S&C area is the "Public Lectures", but the projects that receive the best response and are the most important to us are "SELS" and "Study Visit".
- Seminars about legal topics such as legal system in Albania, the justice reform and the implementation etc.
- Law student conference where students present their research.
- ELSA Day (on a general national level with all the local groups having different events) as well as SELS in Copenhagen and Aarhus.
- ELSA Webinar Academy
- Law and Democracy, Medicolegal, Joint event with the Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Advocates and an event on ESG.
- ELSA Delegations
- For ELSA Delegations, I would love to get some assistance from ELSA International to be able to organise an informational event for future applicants. In that regard, the applicants that are selected for ELSA Delegations of course require additional assistance to be as prepared for their conferences. For SELS Geneva 2024, I will also require some assistance from ELSA International.
- ICE
- We do not need assistance at the moment but we appreciate the help of handbooks and manuals as we look through them before organising an event.

An open question

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