

Youth Focus Group

Investing in the Future

The Role of Human Capital in Enabling the Just Energy Transition

09 July 2024



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ESCWA's work on youth and human capital

- Human capital survey
 - Over 420 respondents, representing every ESCWA member state
- Youth focus group
 - Build on survey inputs and discuss solutions to the highlighted barriers
 - Integrate insights and experiences into the upcoming publication
- Publication
 - Fall 2024 launch

Preliminary results from ESCWA's human capital survey

English (United States) ▾

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Investing in the future: The role of human capital in enabling the just energy transition

This survey will take about 12 minutes to complete and will be used to inform an upcoming publication from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

The publication will focus on the role of human capital in accelerating just, inclusive, and sustainable energy transitions in the Arab region.

Data collected from this survey will form an integral part of the analysis.

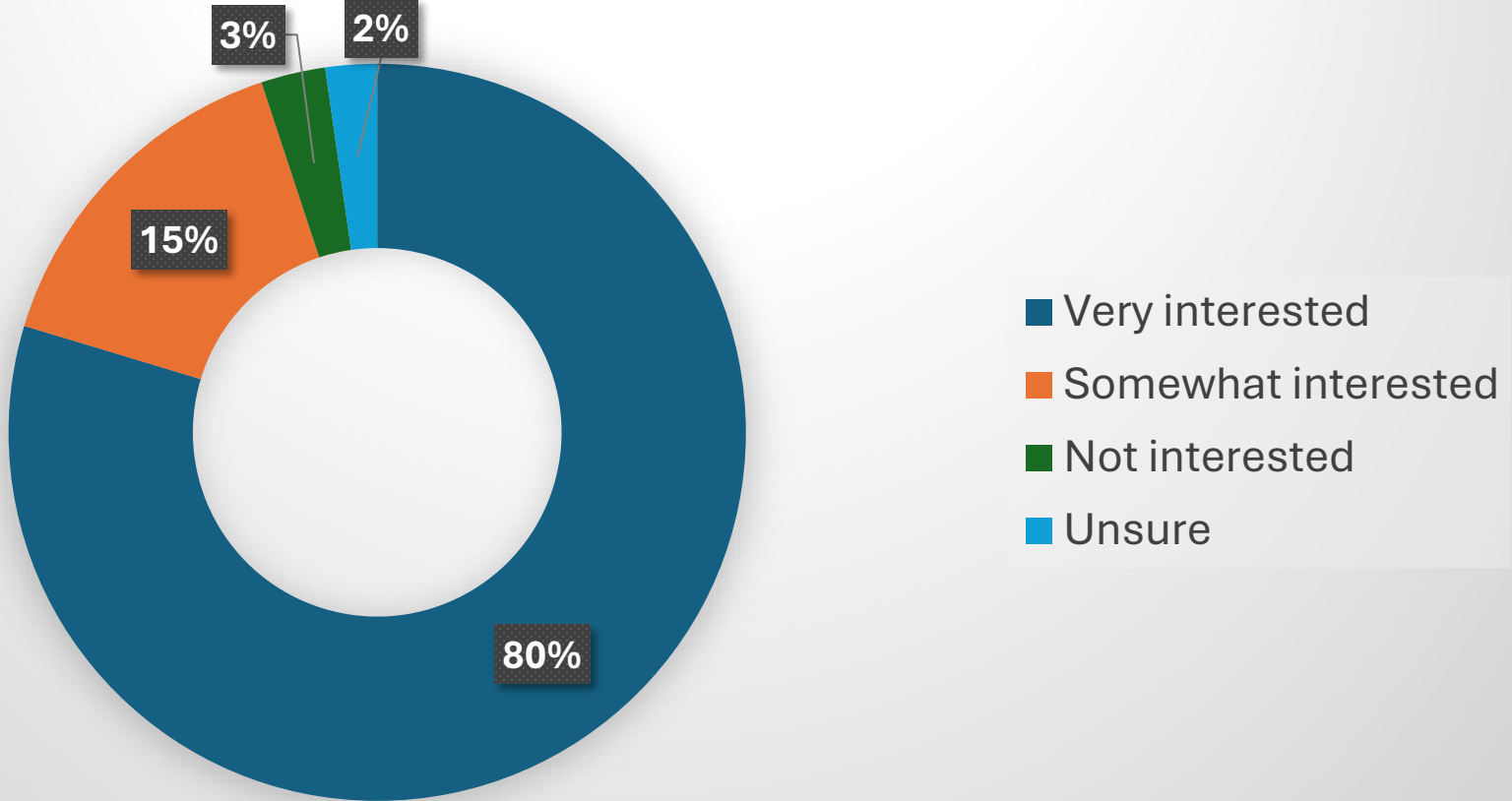
Your responses will be anonymized and kept confidential.

* Required

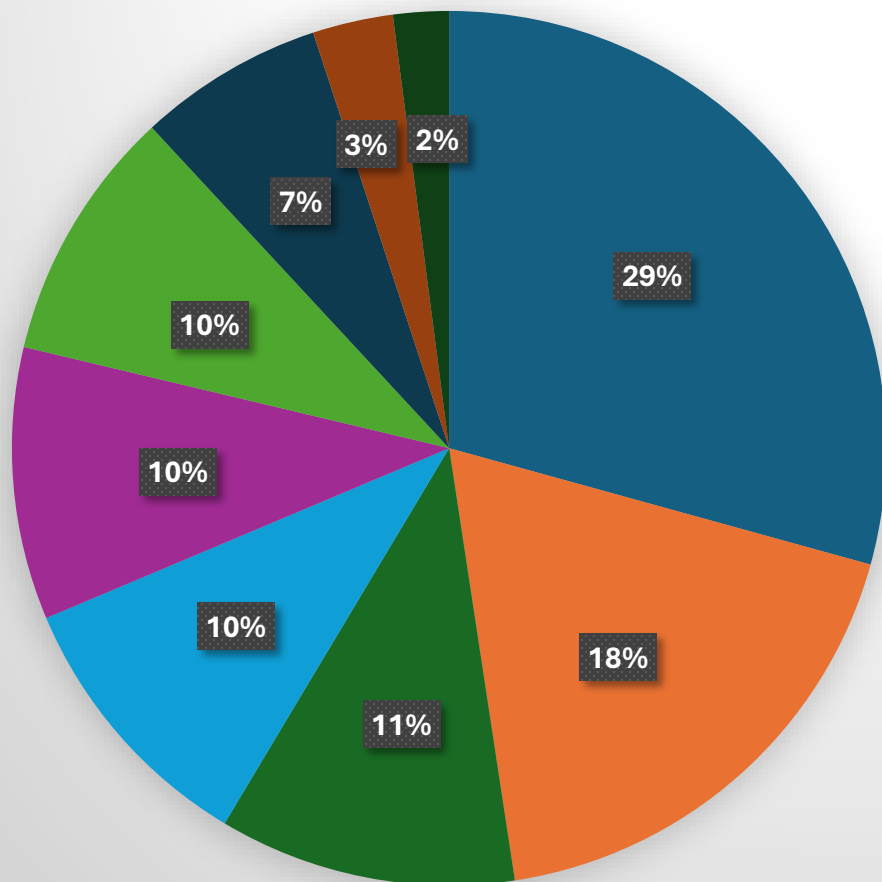
1. Please provide your name (optional)

2. Please provide your email address (optional)

Interest in working in sustainable energy or related sector among young respondents

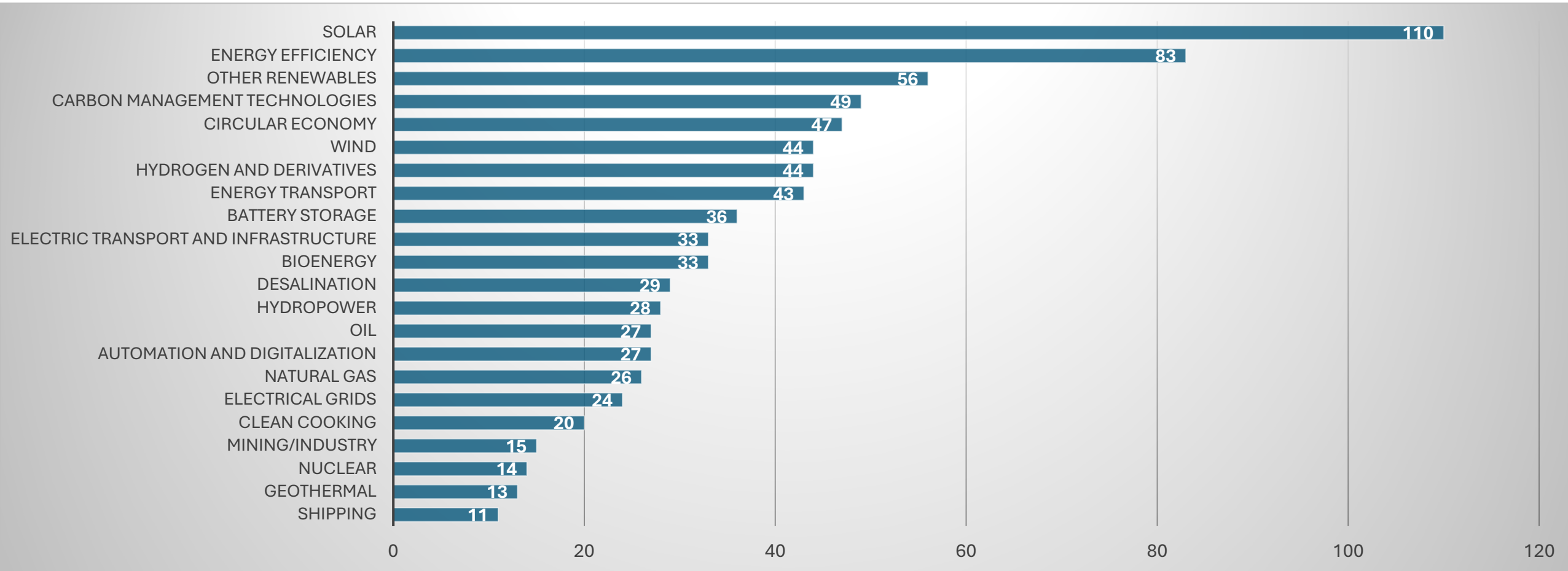


Main reasons for pursuing a career in sustainable energy among young respondents



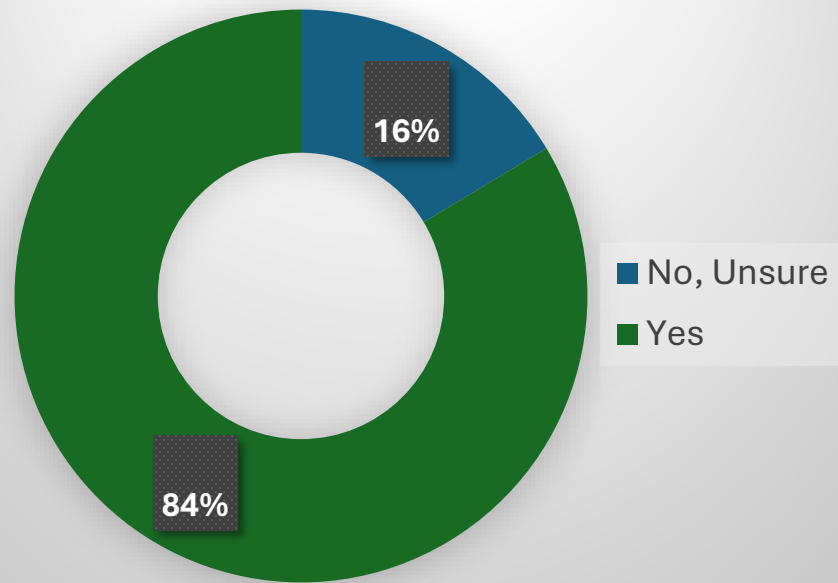
- Concerned about climate change
- Other environmental concerns
- Job security
- High salaries
- Many job opportunities
- Prestigious
- More opportunities for disadvantaged groups like women and persons with disabilities
- Interest in the field
- Unsure

Preferred sustainable energy-related sectors among young respondents



Barriers to staying and working in the Arab region

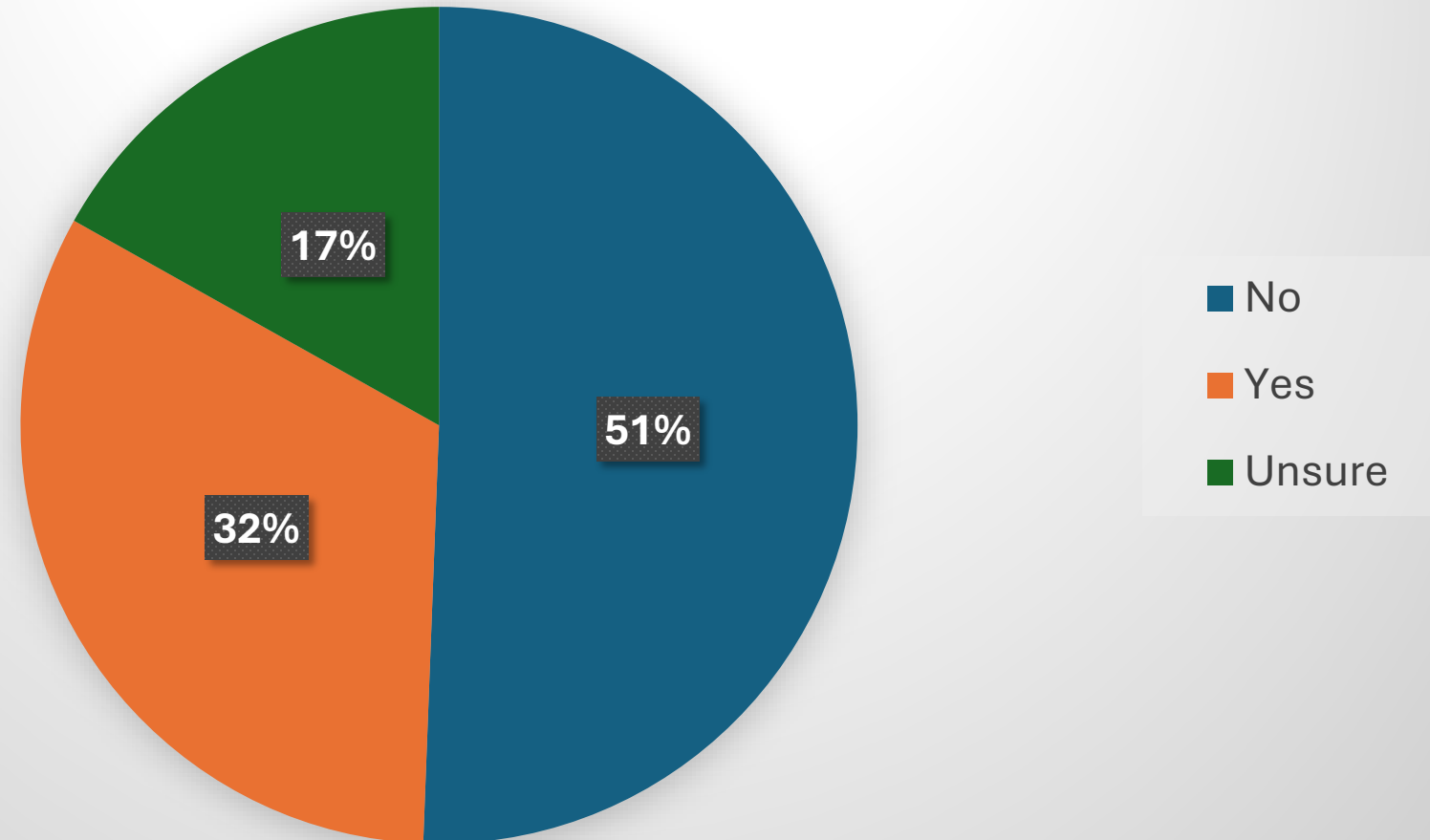
Percentage of youth willing and not willing & unsure to work in the Arab region



Reasons/challenges for not staying and working in the region

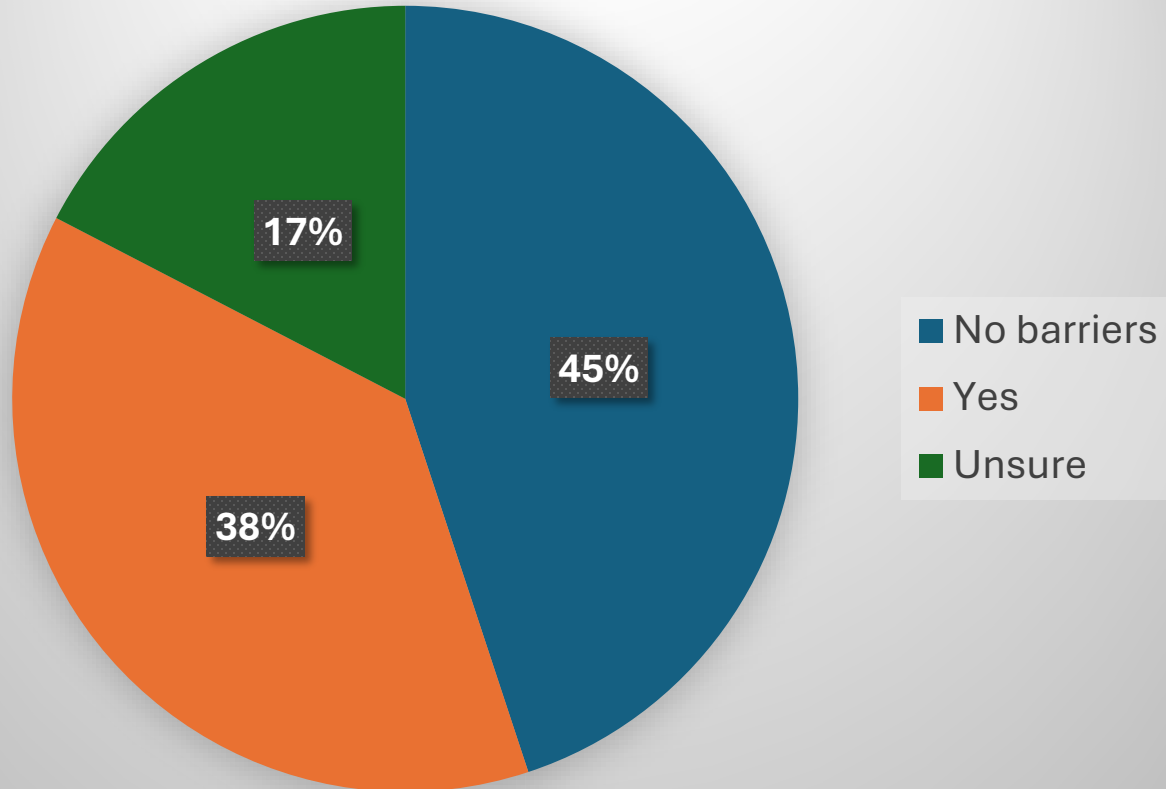


Barriers faced by young people in receiving education and training on sustainable energy

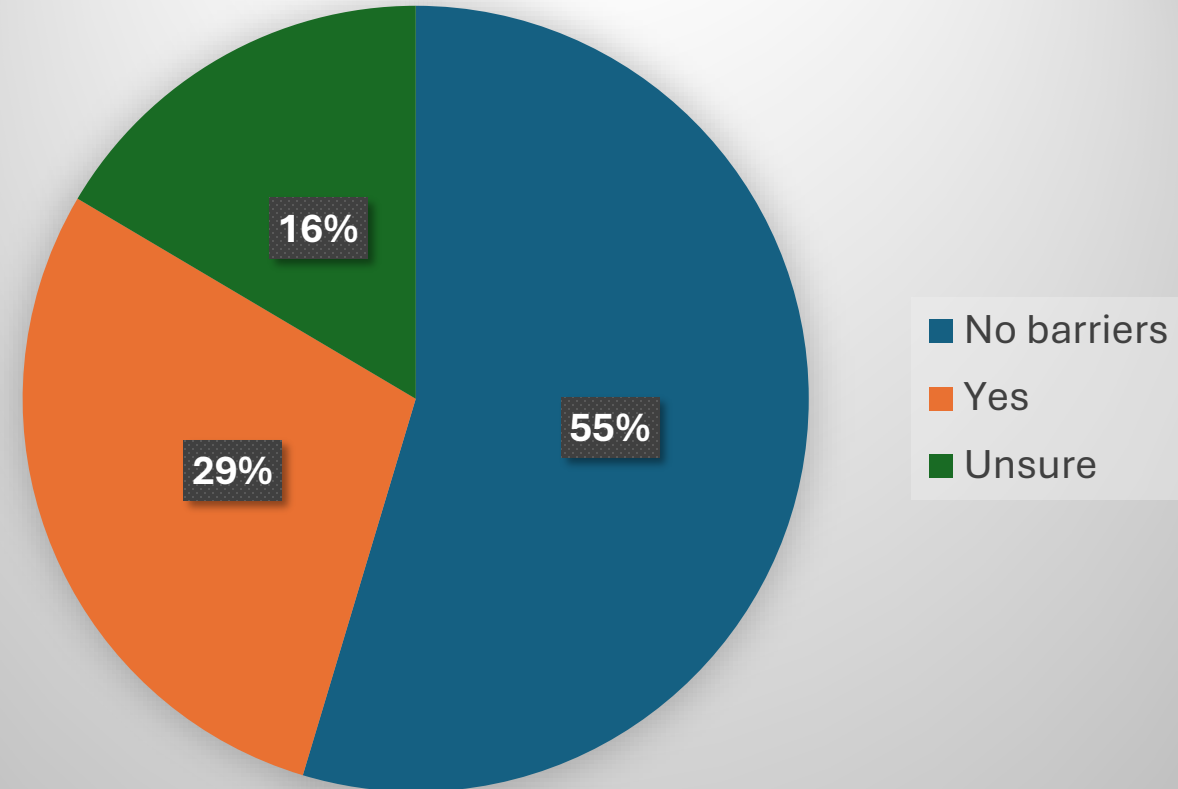


Barriers faced by young people in receiving education and training on sustainable energy (male vs female)

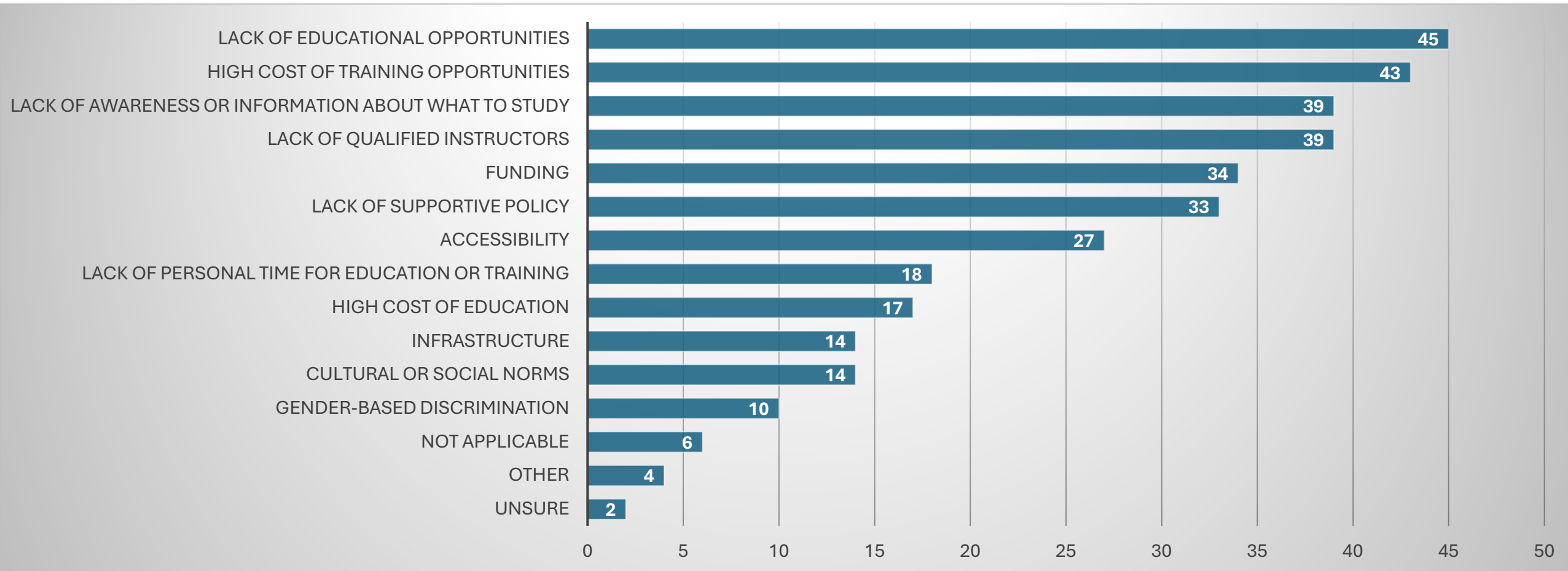
Female



Male



Barriers faced by young people in receiving education and training on sustainable energy



Top five solutions

1. Financial support and scholarships:

including scholarships for sustainable energy studies and funding for sustainable energy projects.



4. Practical experience and research opportunities:

including hands-on projects, research opportunities, and partnerships with industry to facilitate internships and eventual employment opportunities.



2. Curriculum development:

including integrating sustainable energy topics into curricula starting from primary and secondary schools and developing interdisciplinary programs in high school, technical school, and university that combine engineering, environmental science, policy, and economics to provide a holistic understanding of the sustainable energy landscape.



3. Skills development:

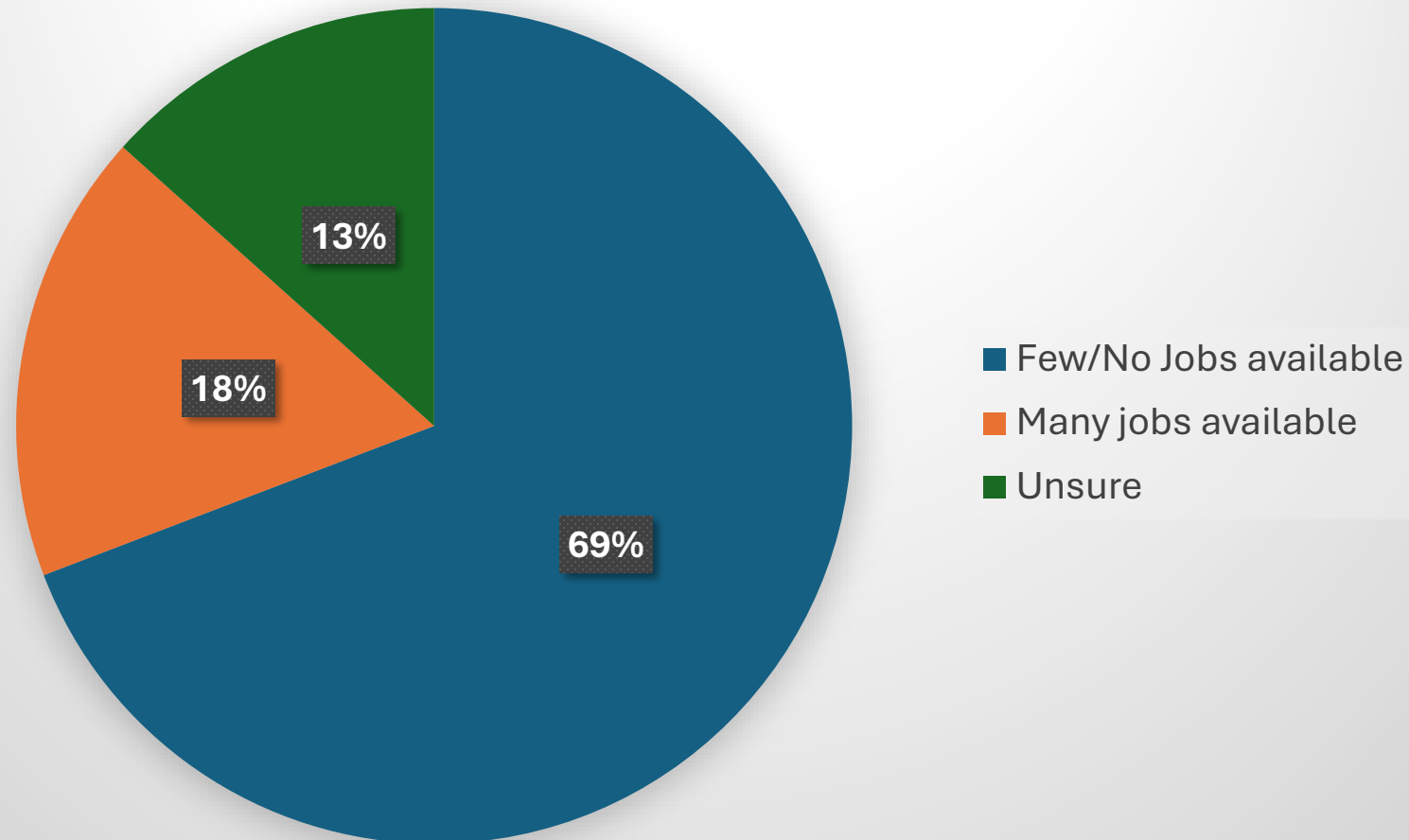
including technical skills training and soft skills development.



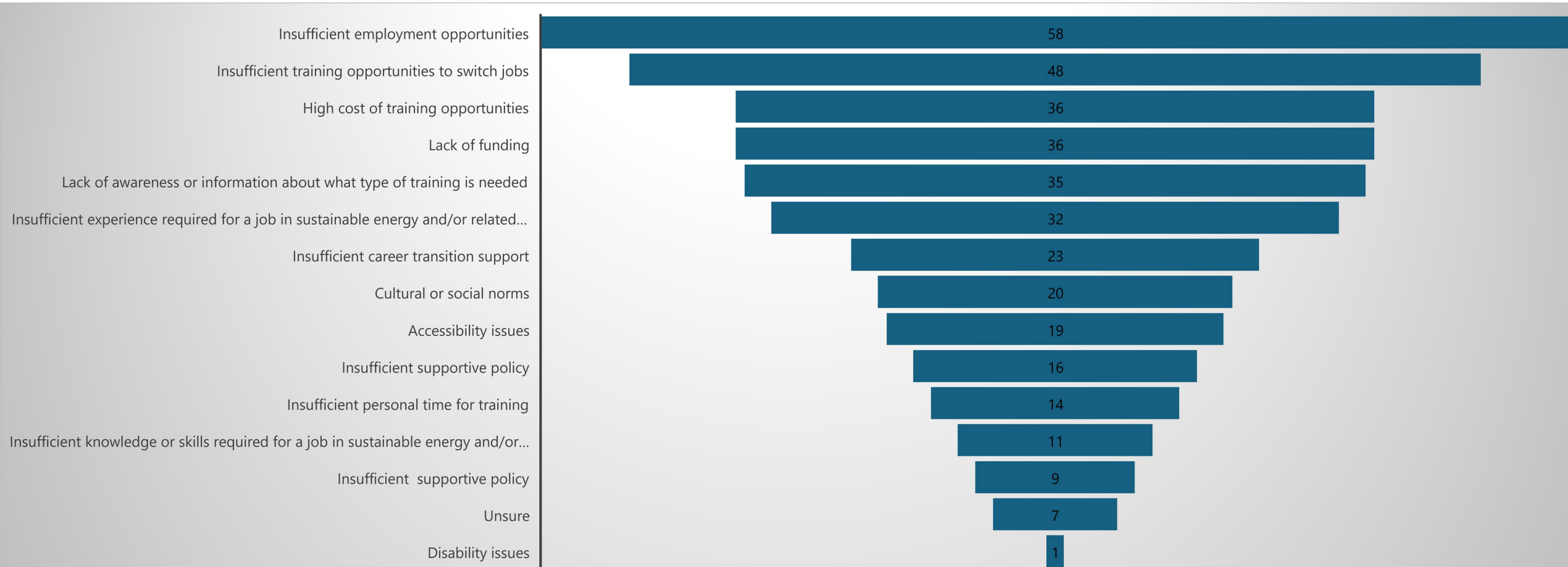
5. Career services and guidance at technical schools and universities:

including career counselling, job fairs, and networking events.

Job opportunities in sustainable energy and related sectors in the Arab region



Employment barriers for young respondents



Top five solutions

1. Education and training:

including specialized courses and workshops, scholarships and fellowships, and capacity building.



4. Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship:

including incubators and accelerators.



2. Policy and regulatory support:

including incentives to work on sustainable energy transitions, alignment with SDGs, accessibility initiatives.



5. Increased collaboration:

including knowledge exchange programs and collaborative research initiatives, public private partnerships.

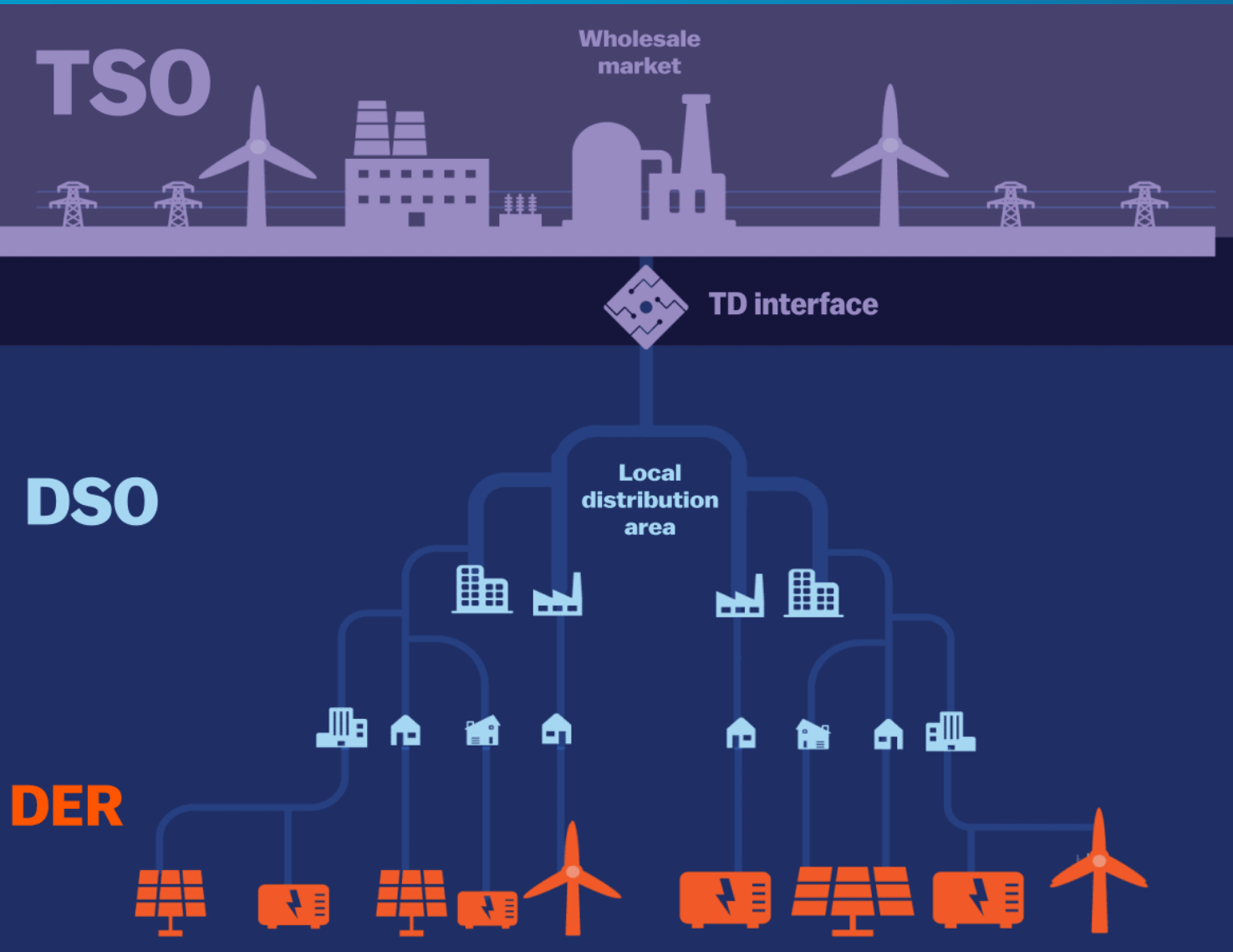


3. Financial incentives:

including grants, funding, R&D spending



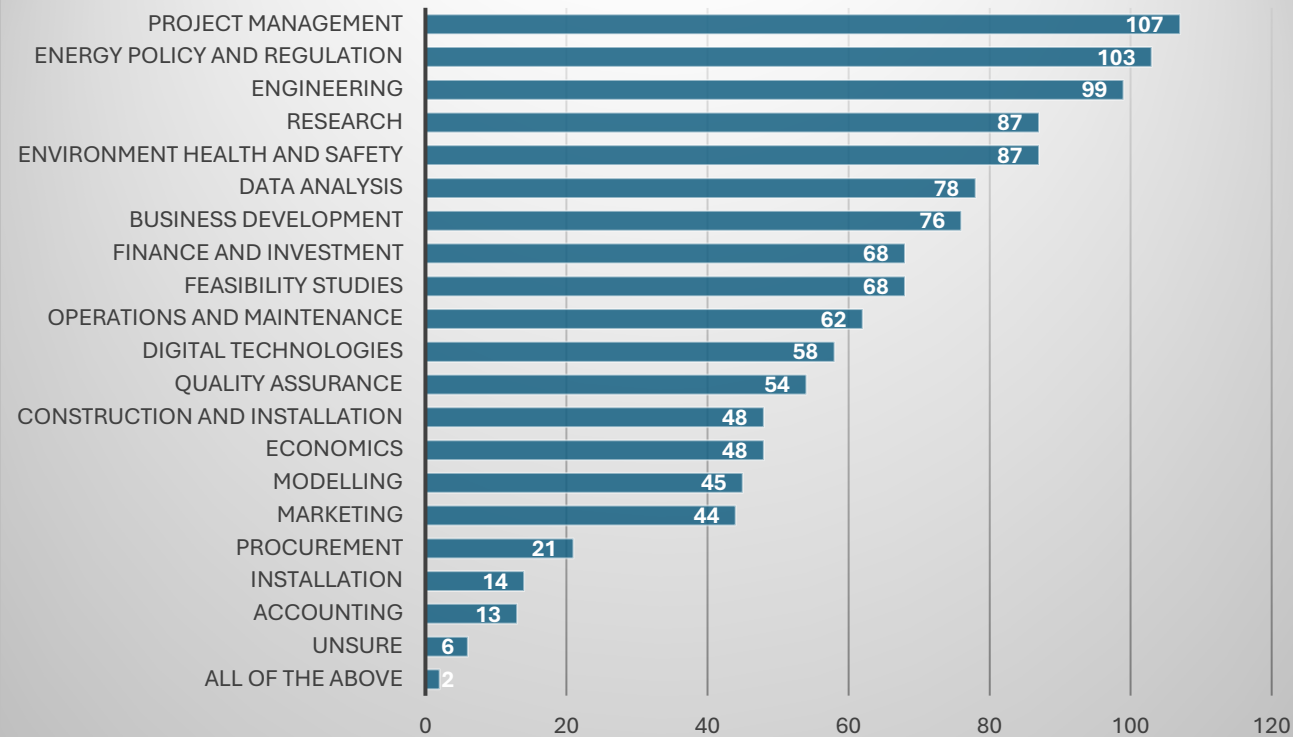
Innovative technologies and the necessary skills



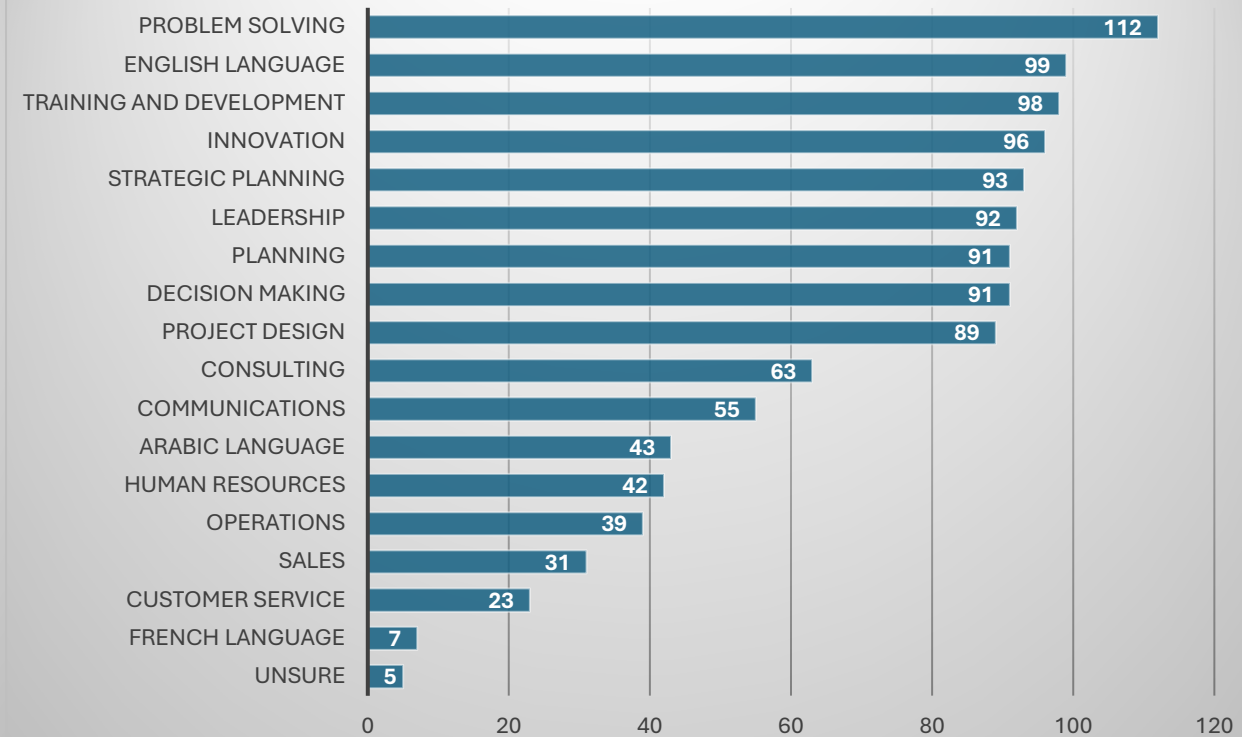
- Energy systems are fundamentally changing (decentralization, electrification, digitalization)
- From a top-down structure to decentralized models
- More variable renewables and storage solutions, smart grids, H2 production, EVs
- New technologies like AI, Blockchain are needed to manage this complexity

Skills needed to gain employment in sustainable energy or related sectors

Technical/Manual Skills



Management/Interpersonal Skills



Open discussion

Breakout group 1

- **Educational challenges for youth to contribute to the sustainable energy transition and policies to enable more youth participation:**
 - Identifying major barriers for youth in receiving proper education/training on sustainable energy and related sectors.
 - Exploring solutions to overcome these challenges, analyzing existing policies to identify gaps, and proposing new or improved policies to enhance youth engagement in the sector.

Breakout group 2

- **Employment challenges for youth to contribute to the sustainable energy transition & policies to enable more youth participation:**
 - Identifying major barriers for youth in gaining employment in sustainable energy and related sectors.
 - Exploring solutions to overcome these challenges, analyzing existing policies to identify gaps, and proposing new or improved policies to enhance youth engagement in the sector.

Breakout group 3

- **Skills, innovative approaches and technologies in sustainable energy:**
 - Exploring the skills needed and emerging technologies and innovations in the sustainable energy sector.
 - Discussing how youth can be involved in the development and implementation of these technologies.

Closing remarks



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