GEFÖRDERT VOM
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
Gemeinsame Wissenschaftskonferenz GWK
Innovative Hochschule

Wissens- und Ideentransfer für Innovation in der Verwaltung
Deutsche Universität für Verwaltungswissenschaften Speyer

The other side of knowledge transfer – science commisioners in city governments

Jahrestagung der GfHF

Wien, 16.09.2022

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Universität Speyer

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Knowledge and the City
3. Survey results
4. Conclusion

1. Introduction

Context of this research

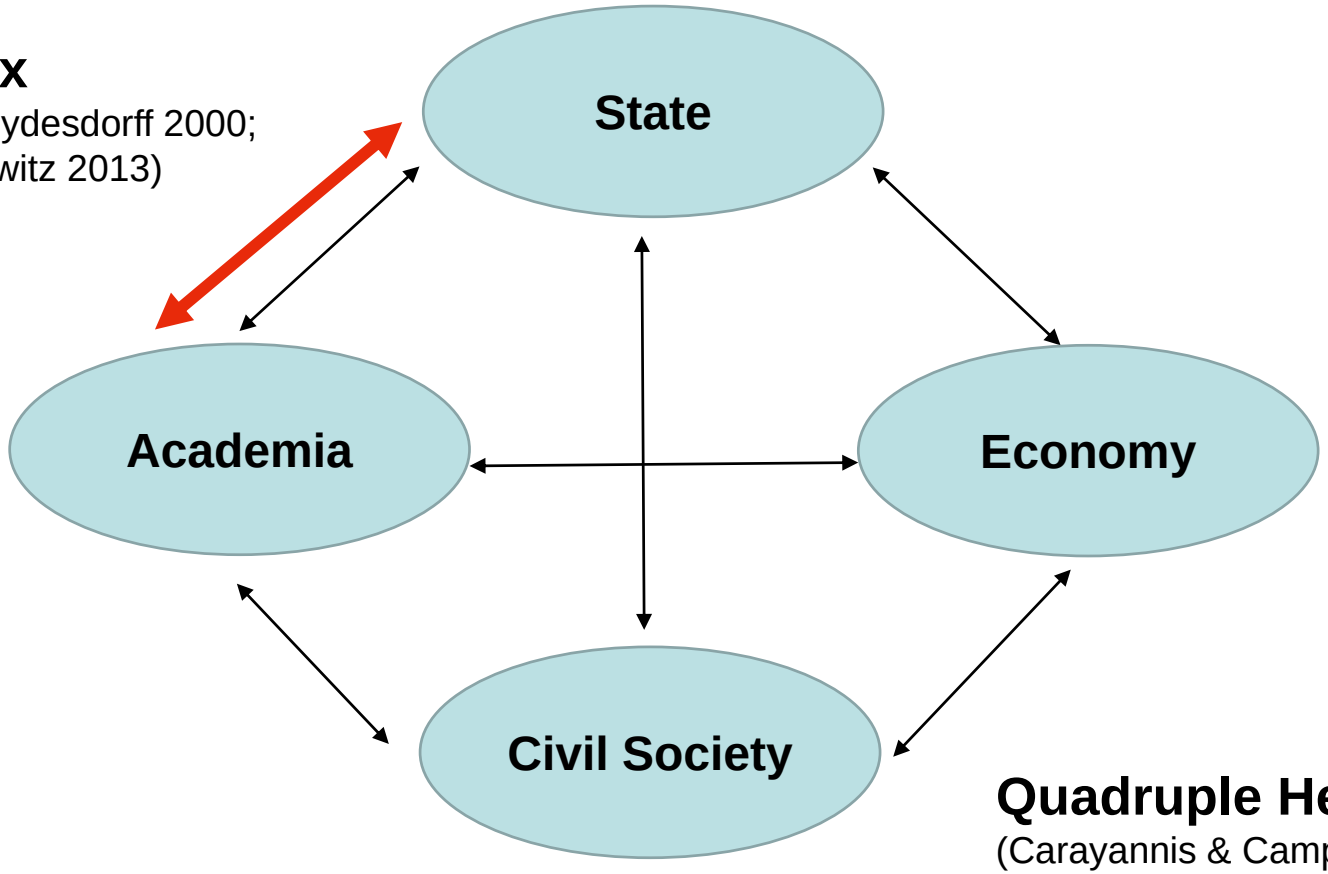
- „Town & Gown: Improving the collaboration between city-administrations and their regional research organisations“
  - Part of a 5-year project, financed jointly by the GWK and the BMBF: WITI (Knowledge- and Idea-Transfer for Innovation in the Public Administration)

- Experiences with a series of real-world labs (“Reallabore”), where universities, city administrations, citizens and companies co-worked

2. Knowledge and the City

HEIs as part of the (regional) innovation system

Triple Helix
(Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff 2000; Ranga & Etzkowitz 2013)



Quadruple Helix
(Carayannis & Campbell 2009)

2. Knowledge and City

Knowledge as significant factor for regional development

„Third Mission“

„Knowledge society“

„Knowledge-based city development“

„Learning region“

„Knowledge City“

„Creative milieus“

(innovative) „knowledge milieus“

e.g. Berghaeuser & Hoelscher 2020, Boehme & Stehr 1986, Florida 2002, Franz 2007, Landry 2000, Matthiesen & Mahnken 2009 , Merkel 2012, Meusburger 2006 Yigitcanlar & Velibeyoglu 2008, Ziegenbein 2009

2. Knowledge and City

Anchoring intersectoral cooperation with science

- Universities: anchoring transfer in university management and transfer offices
- Industry: Personnel in R&D departments of companies or management consultancies
- Associations: Higher education officers in trade unions and professional associations
- Public administration: science officers in municipal administrations

➢ **Focus Municipality: How do cities work together with "their" science institutions?**

2. Knowledge and City

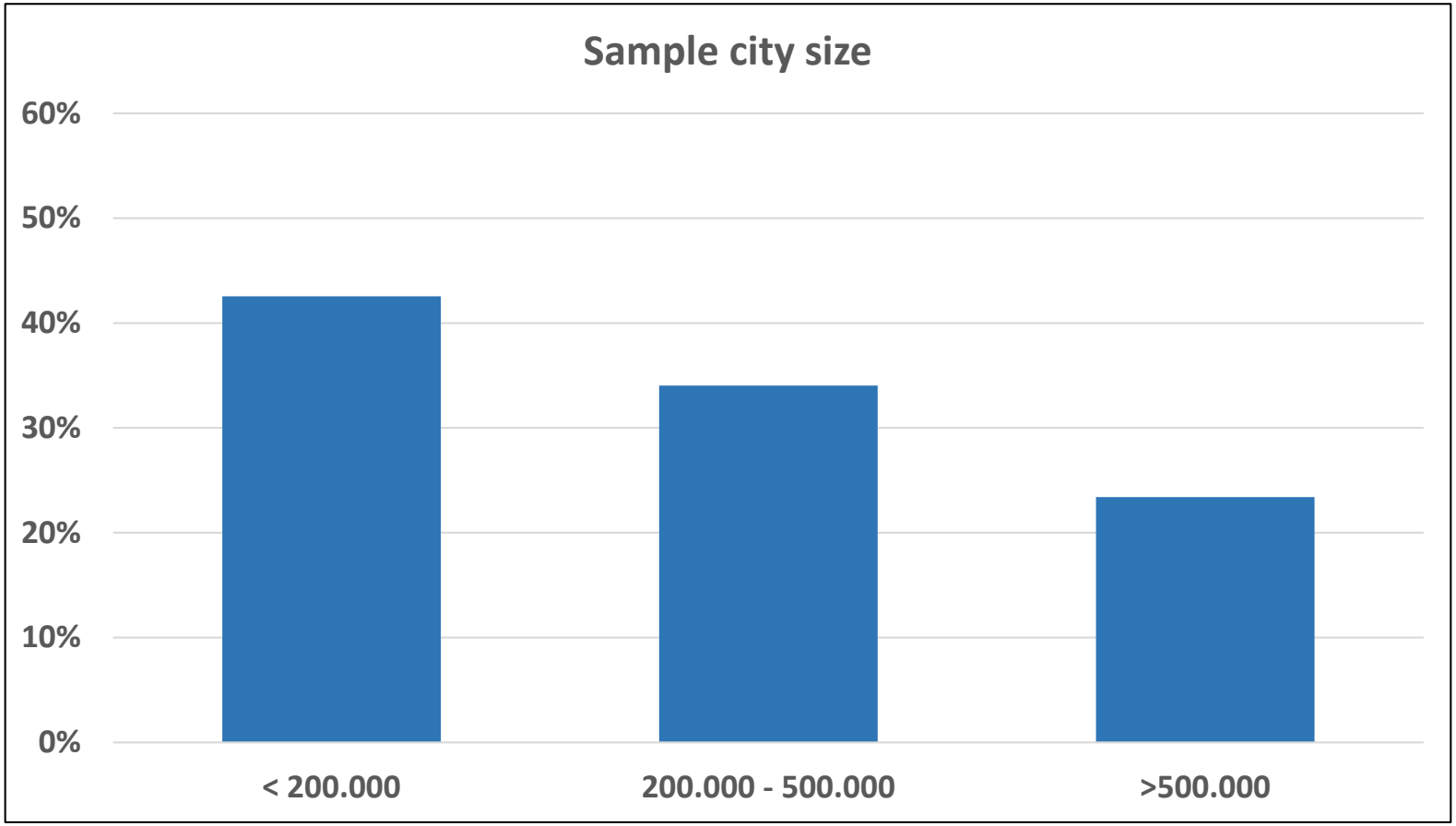
Science Officers in Municipalities as Innovation Agents

- People
  - working within city administration
  - with the task to organize the exchange / collaboration with (regional) research organizations (such as universities, universities of applied sciences ("Fachhochschulen", comparable to polytechnics in UK), non-university research organizations (Max-Planck-Institutes, Fraunhofer, Leibniz, Helmholtz), museums etc.)
  - formal / informal position
- Serve as „neutral" networkers in their communities
  - Bring together people from different institutions
  - Integrate diverse bodies of knowledge

3. Survey results: Sampling

- 80 largest German cities + 10 smaller university towns
- Survey period: February-May 2020
  - Challenging: start of the Covid-19 pandemic
- High response rate - 47 fully completed questionnaires

3. Survey results: Sampling



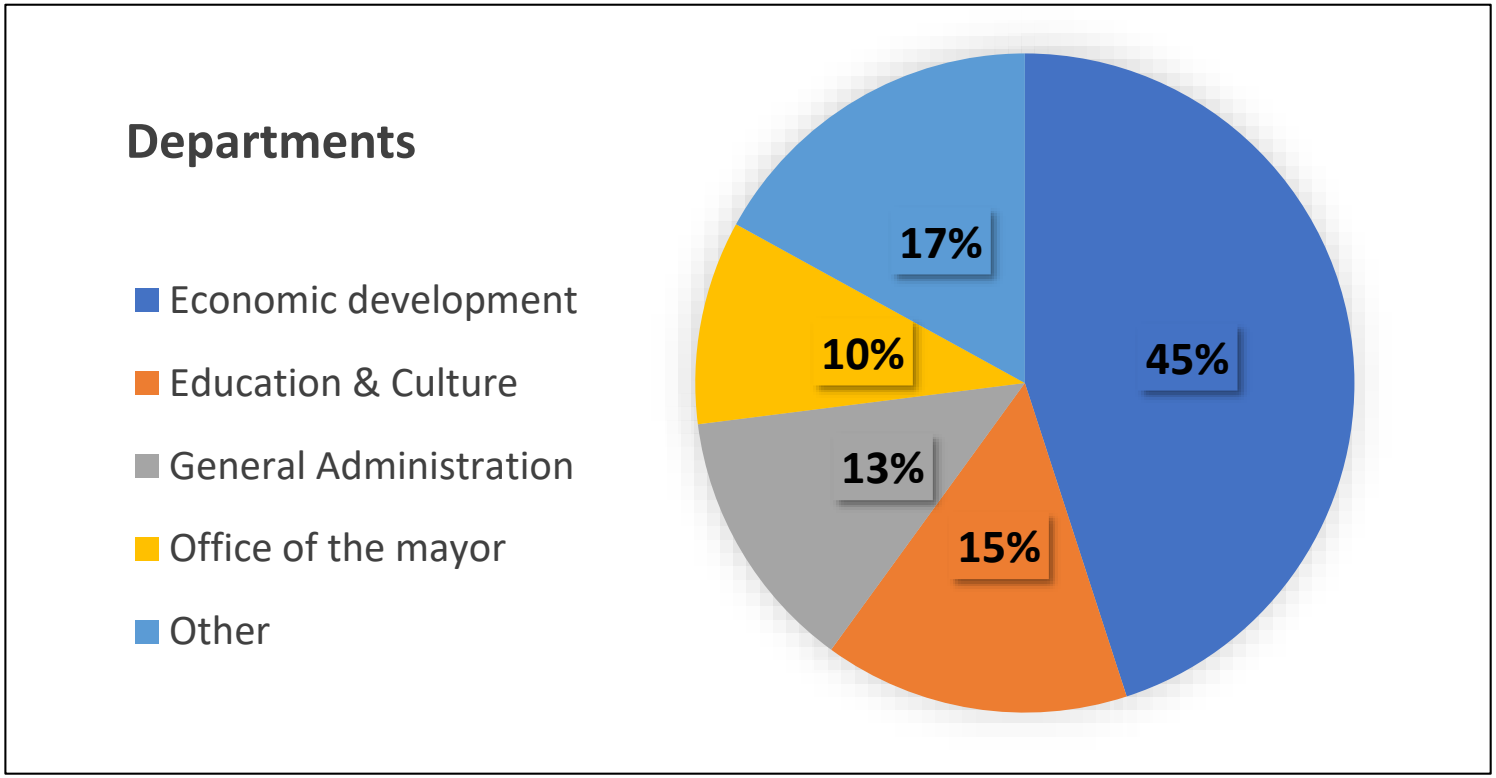
3. Survey results: Who are the science officers?

The „typical“ science officer is:

- Gender: balanced
- Age: over 45
- Academic degree
- For more than 10 years in the city council
- Holds the position for several years

3. Survey results: Anchoring in the municipality

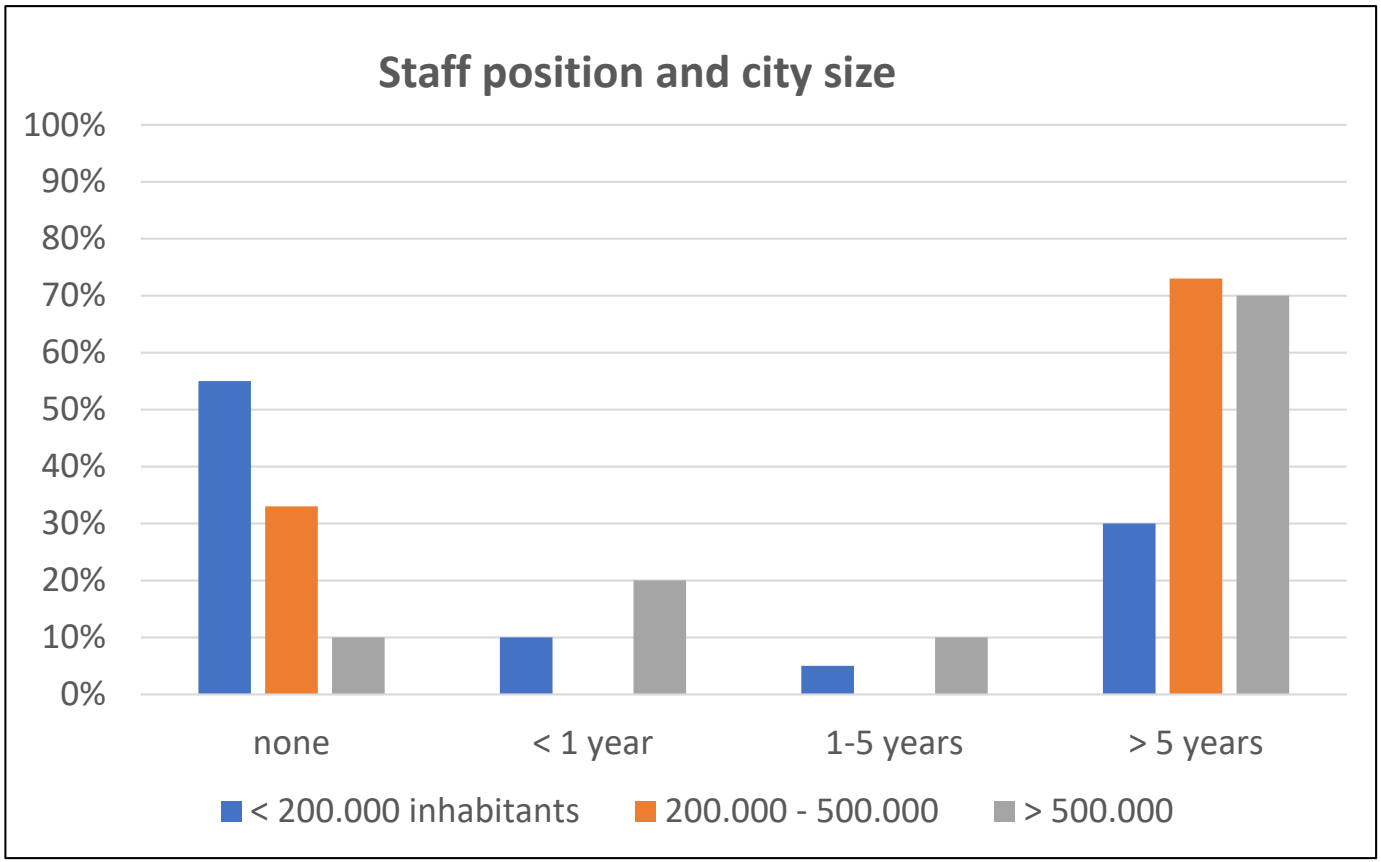
To which city departments is „cooperation with science“ assigned?



(N=47; own representation; Source: T&G Survey, own data)

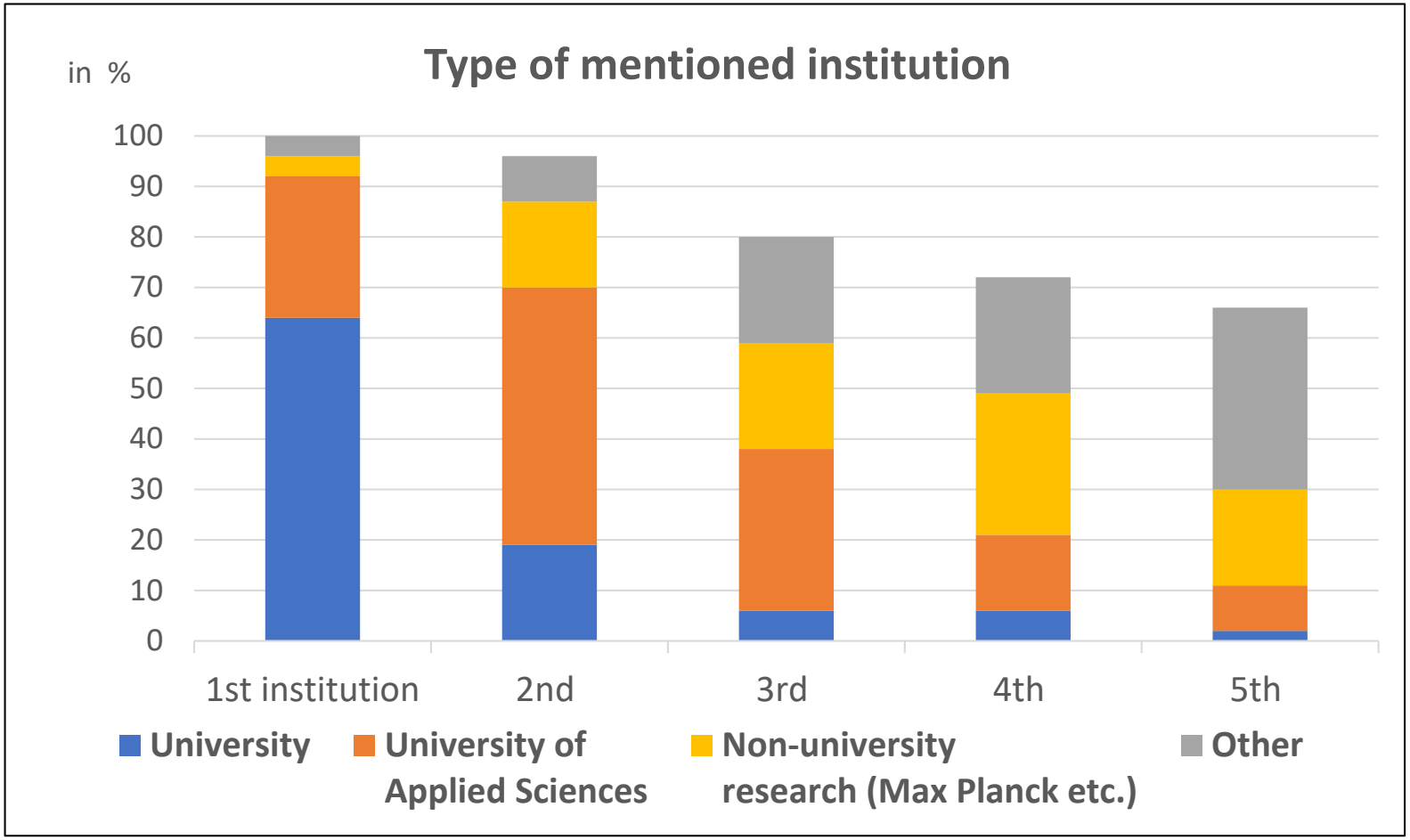
3. Survey results: Anchoring in the municipality

- Larger cities more often exhibit specific positions than smaller ones



(N=47; own representation; Source: T&G Survey, own data)

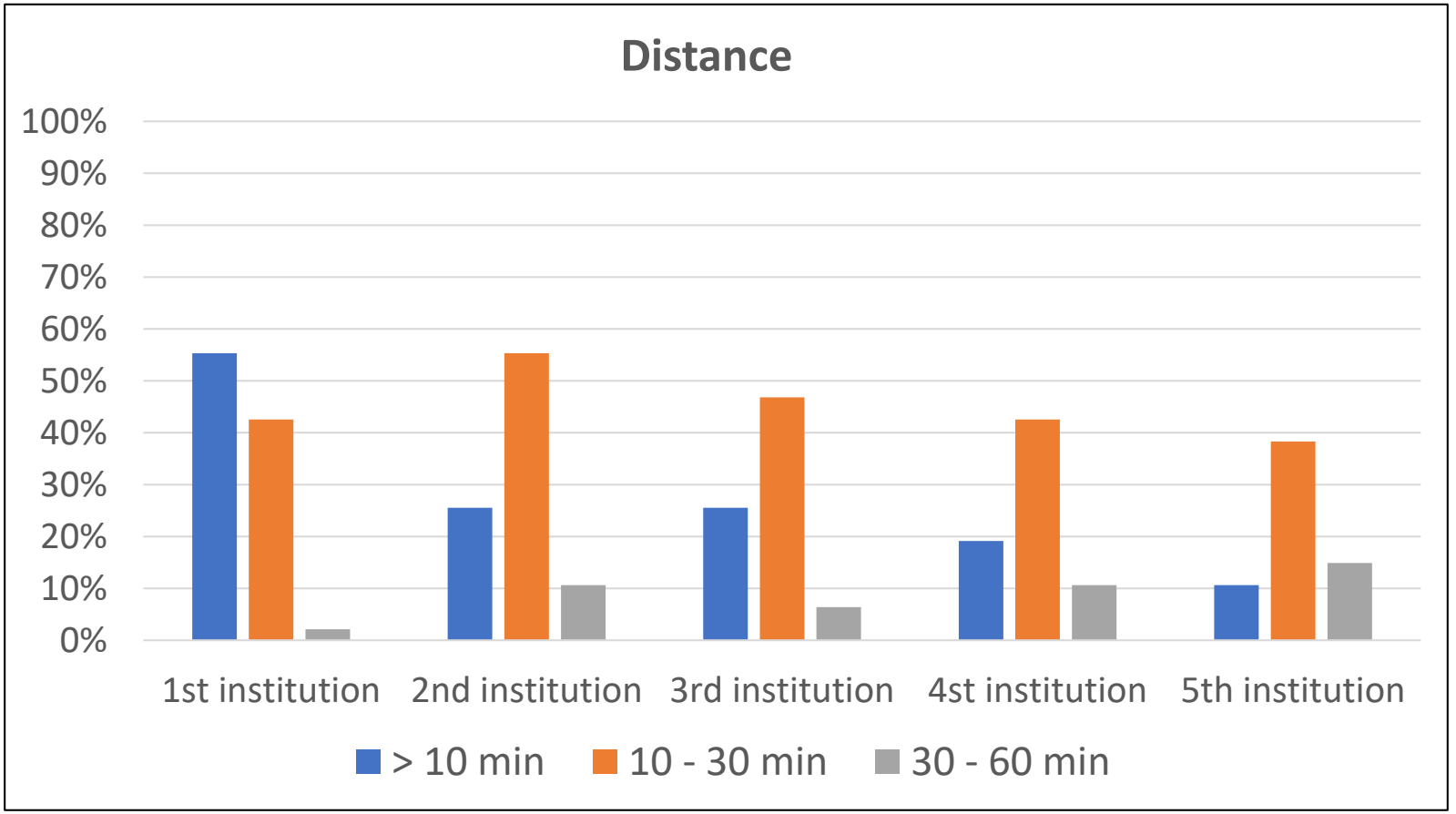
3. Survey results: Cooperation network



(N=47; own representation; Source: T&G Survey, own data)

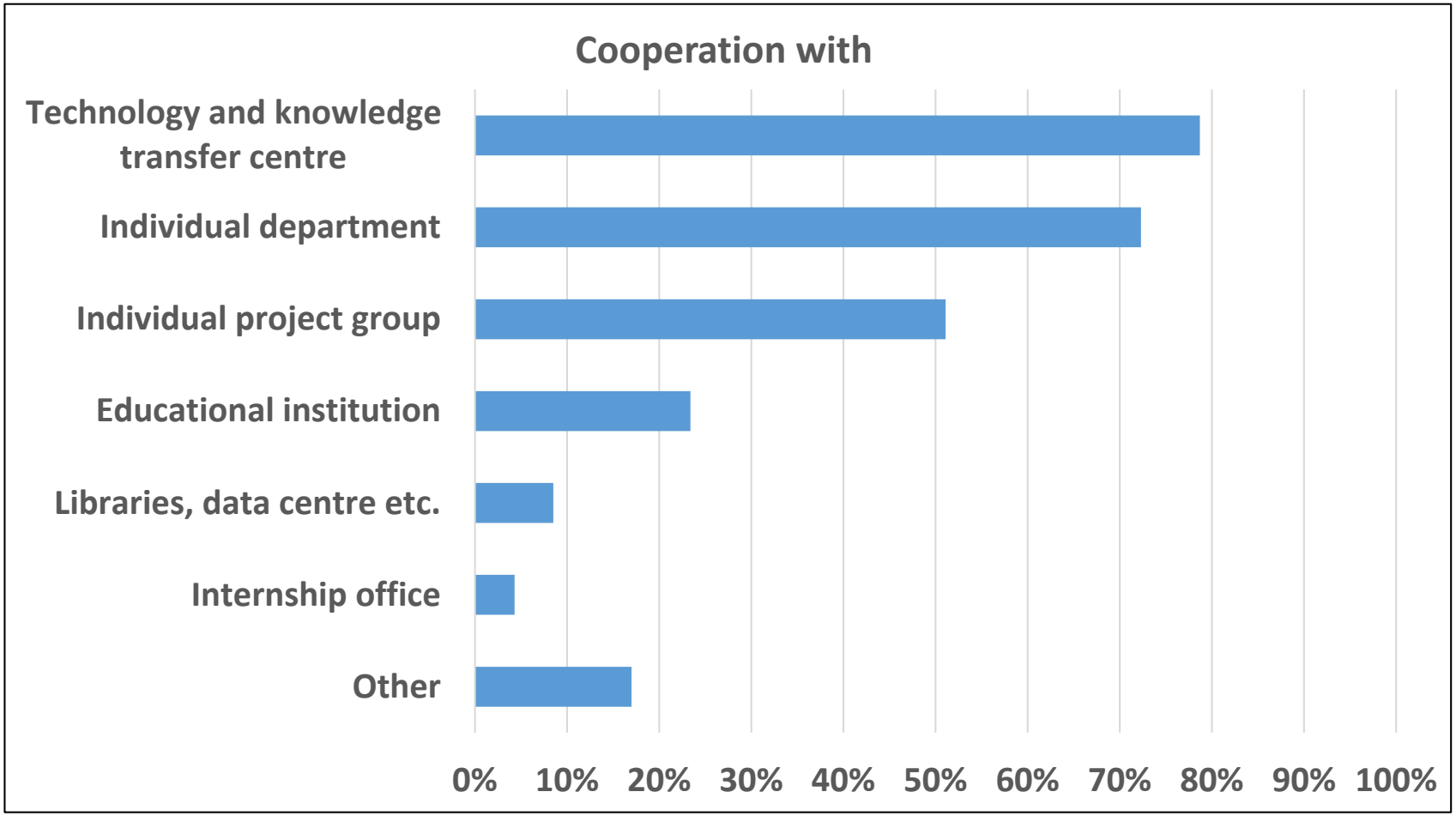
3. Survey results: Proximity and Distance

Proximity is important!



(N=47; own representation; Source: T&G Survey, own data)

3. Survey results: Levels of Cooperation



Question: Which departments in science institutions have you mainly dealt with professionally in the last 12 months?

(N=47; own representation; Source: T&G Survey, own data)

Factors for a successful cooperation

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Success factors

Committed individuals	72%
Good personal relationships	63%
Permanent position in the city administration	55%
Find common themes	48%
Permanent position in the science institutions	17%
Plan events together	10%
New forms of cooperation	6%
Digital platform for cooperation opportunities	0%

Barriers

Lack of (temporal, human) resources for cooperation	74%
Different ways of working	46%
Different self-interest of city administration and science institutions	40%
Lack of political will	14%
No interest in a cooperation	12%
Different terms and technical language	12%
Lack of willingness	8%

4. Conclusion / Outlook

- Science officers
  - fulfill an important task in their regional innovation systems
  - hold heterogeneous positions
- Cooperation with research institutions (in their views)
  - needs resources
  - is mainly seen (very) positive
  - people matter!
  - space / distance matters

- So far only descriptive results, further research useful

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Many thanks for your attention!

Prof. Dr. Michael Hölscher & Dr. Editha Marquardt, Universität Speyer

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