FACTUAL SUMMARY REPORT: PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR AN EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACT – DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

21 November 2025

Contents

1 Introduction

The European Innovation Act (EIA) is expected to improve the horizontal framework conditions in the EU to accelerate the commercialisation, uptake and diffusion of innovations. It will be one of the key initiatives for closing the innovation gap between the EU and its global competitors.

This report provides a detailed analysis of public consultation activities conducted in the context of the impact assessment, from 8 July 2025 to 3 October 2025 or 13 weeks. The following types of consultation took place:

- Call for evidence: A total of 336 responses were received, including193 position papers.
- Public consultation in context of the Call for Evidence through an online questionnaire that covered six main topics: regulatory framework, access to finance, talent, procurement, access to research and technology infrastructure, commercialisation of research results. The survey consisted mainly of closed questions, with several open-ended questions allowing respondents to elaborate on their views. They were also encouraged to upload documents and further evidence that supported their opinion. A total of 202 contributions were received.

Contributions received in the context of the public consultation published on the 'Have Your Say' portal do not represent the official position of the Commission or its services and thus do not bind the Commission, nor do they constitute a representative sample of the EU population.

2 Results of the public consultation

2.1 Who responded to the consultation?

The public consultation received 202 responses representing diverse groups of stakeholders. 54 out of the 202 replies to the public consultation included additional uploaded files, including documents to support the answers and position papers. Another 336 respondents also contributed their views but preferred to express them via position papers that were not submitted via the public consultation, but via the call for evidence that ran simultaneously with the public consultation.

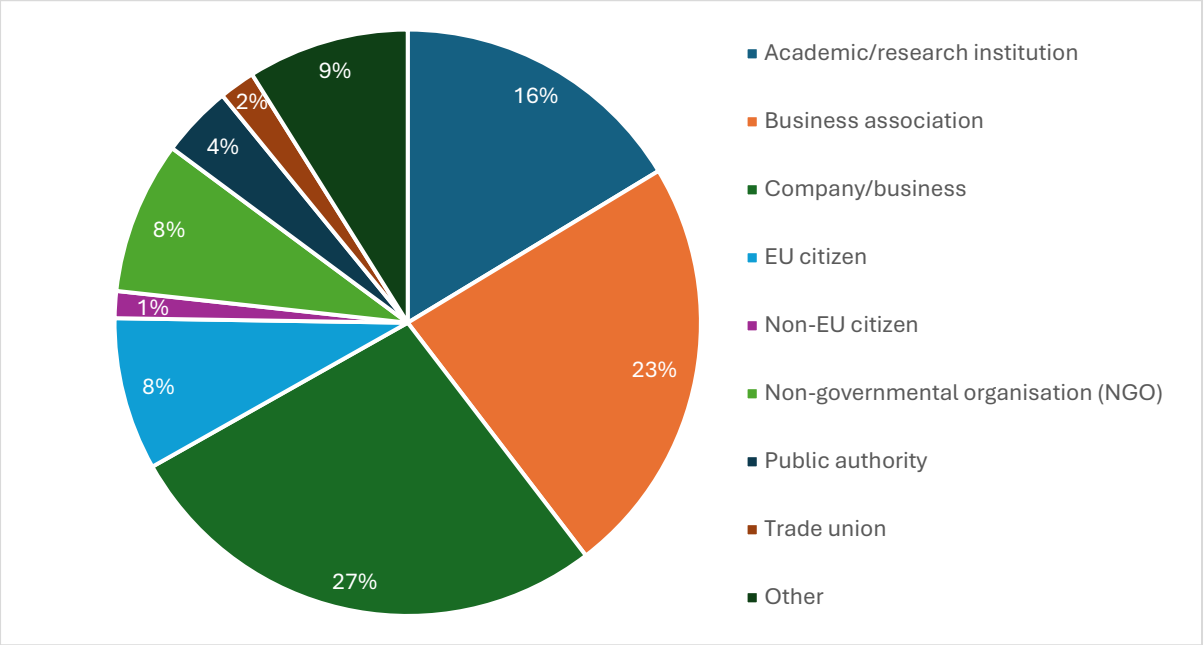
Most replies to the public consultation were received by companies and businesses (27% - 55 replies), followed by business associations (23% - 47 replies) and academic and research institutions (16% - 33 replies). Other respondents included EU citizens (8% - 17 replies), non-governmental organisations (8% - 17 replies), public authorities (4% - 8 replies), trade unions (2% - 4 replies), non-EU citizens (1% - 3 replies) and a category 'other' (9% -18 replies).

Most of the companies and businesses that participated in the consultation are micro businesses (1 to 9 employees) – 33% or 18 participants out of 55, followed by large companies with over 250 employees (29% or 16 responses out of 55), small companies with 20% (11 responses out of 55) and medium companies (18% or 10 responses out of 55).

The distribution of all organisations by size shows that 32% (59 out of 182) are large organisations, 25% (45 out of 182) are micro organisations and the small and medium organisations are 21% each (39 out of 182 each).

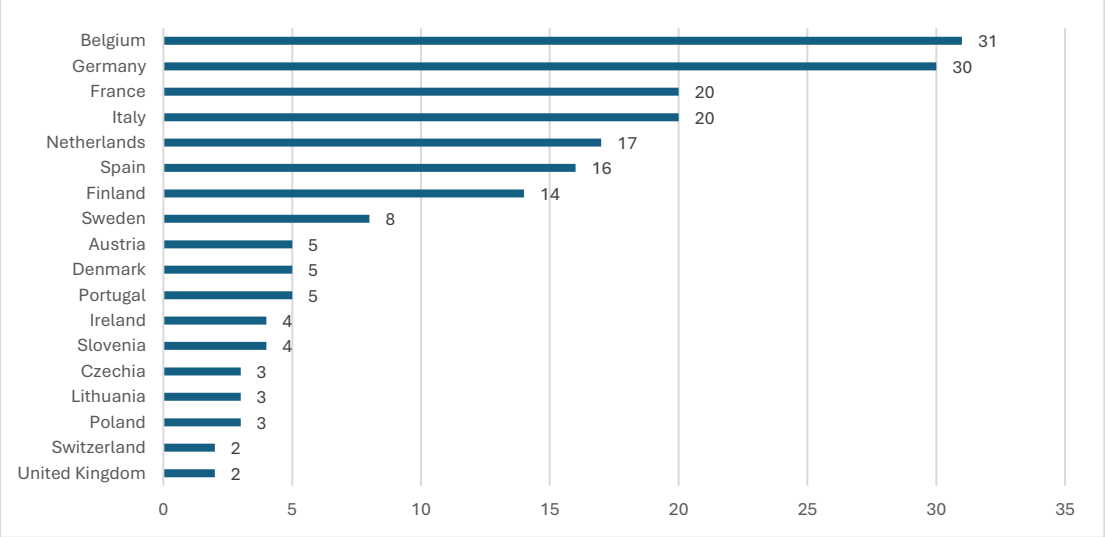
The public authorities that participated in the consultations are from Spain (3 out of 8, 38%), Sweden (2 out of 8, 25%) and one participant from Estonia, the Netherlands and Slovakia. Furthermore, 4 replies (50%) are from regional authorities, 3 (38%) from national authorities and one (13%) from local authorities.

Figure 1 OPC participants by type



The distribution of respondents by country shows that most of the participants are from Belgium (15% - 31 replies), Germany (15% - 30 replies), France (10% - 20 replies), Italy (10% - 20 replies) and the Netherlands (8% - 17 replies). Countries with only one respondent are Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, North Macedonia, Norway, United States.

Figure 2 Geographical distribution of OPC participants by country

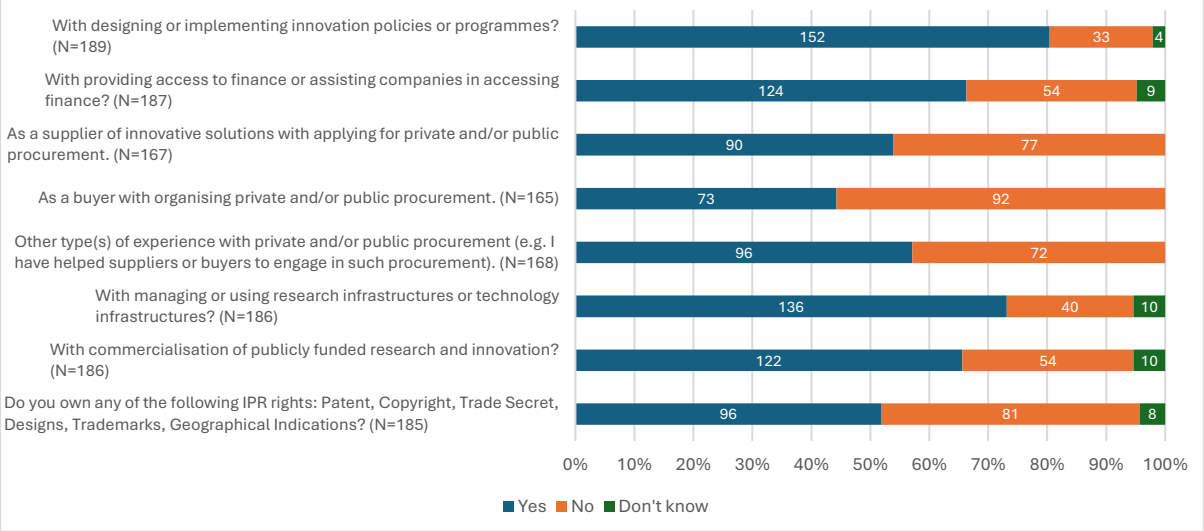


One response from Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, North Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, United States

Overall, the participants in the consultation have experience with its topics, particularly with designing or implementing innovation policies or programmes, with managing or using research

infrastructures or technology infrastructures, with providing access to finance or assisting companies in accessing finance, with public or private procurement, with commercialisation of publicly funded research and innovation and with IPR rights.

Figure 3 Experience of OPC participants with the topics in the consultation, all respondents



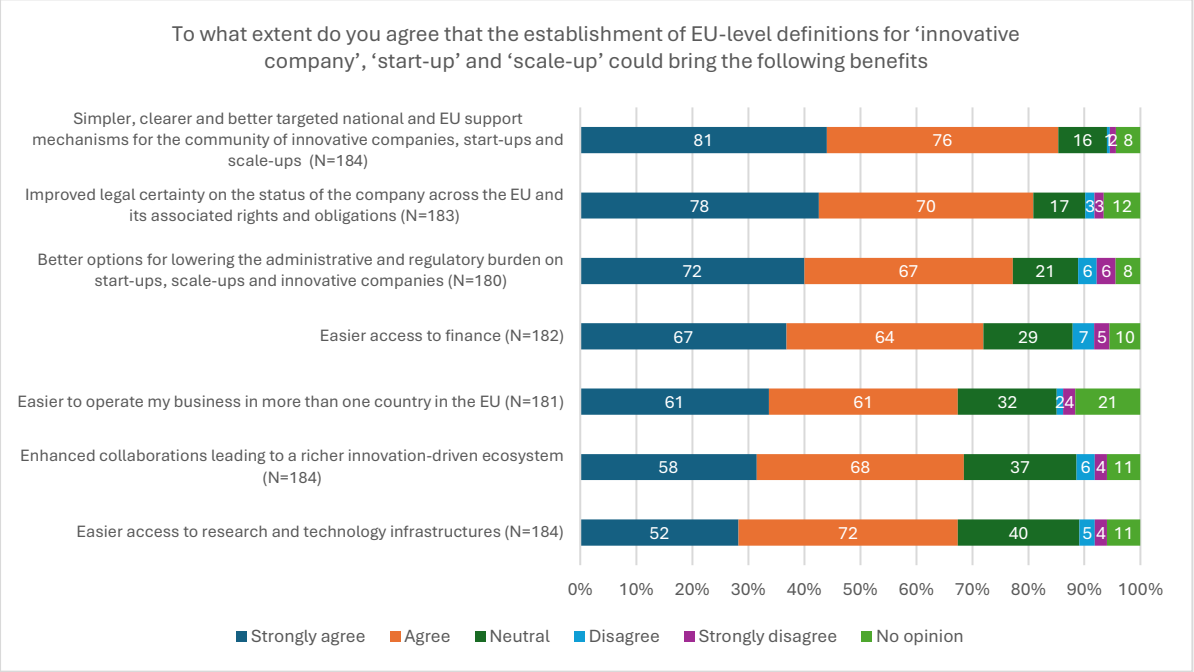
2.2 Regulatory framework

2.2.1 Definitions of start-up, scale-up and innovative company

EU Member States apply **different definitions of 'start-up', 'scale-up' or 'innovative company'**. For 38% of the respondents the current application of the national definitions in their countries is beneficial, for 37% it is problematic and 33% report that they have experienced problems because different countries in which they operate are using different definitions. For companies, 54% report that the definitions applied in their country are beneficial, and 40% that they are problematic.

Establishing EU-level definitions for 'innovative company', 'start-up' and 'scale-up' are expected to contribute mainly to simpler, clearer and better targeted national and EU support mechanisms for the community of innovative companies, start-ups and scale-ups.

Figure 4 Expected benefits from establishing EU-level definitions for 'innovative company', 'start-up' and 'scale-up', all respondents



For companies, the **most relevant benefits of establishing EU-level definitions** are the following: 81% agree that EU-level definitions will improve national and EU support mechanisms and 75% agree that EU-level definitions will improve the legal certainty of company status in the EU. Academic and research institutions share similar views, but they also pointed out that unified definitions can enhance collaboration and enrich the innovation-driven ecosystem (82% agree) and can improve access to research and technology infrastructures (79% agree).

Respondents believe that the **definitions should not be based on rigid criteria** such as age of the company, revenues, headcount. This approach risks excluding companies in sectors that require longer innovation development cycles, high initial capital investments, delayed revenues, and apply different business models (B2B vs B2C), and fails to accommodate modern and digital-era innovations. The definitions should be simple, transparent, sector-neutral and flexible to remain relevant as markets evolve. They should consider factors such as innovation intensity, share of turnover from new products, growth trajectory, technological maturity, regulatory complexity, capital requirements, collaboration with research centres and universities and the existence of certification mechanisms.

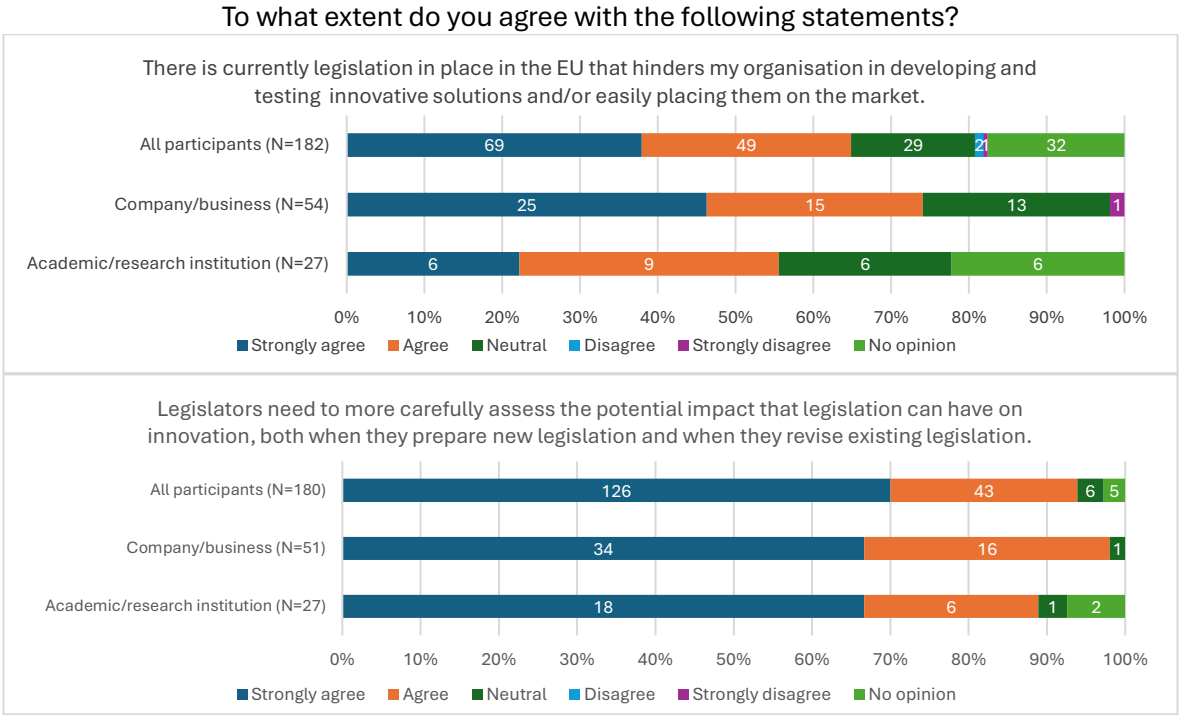
Respondents believe that **EU-wide definitions create simplifications** in areas such as incorporation rules, State aid and procurement rules, access to EU-level funding, tax burden, access to financing, IP protection, simplified regulatory reporting, employment and talent retention.

2.2.2 Innovation Stress Test

An **innovation stress test** could provide a checklist of questions to **help legislators assess the potential impact of upcoming legislation on innovation** when it is under preparation. It could help ensure that new rules do not place disproportionate restrictions on innovation and that, where possible, they actively stimulate innovation.

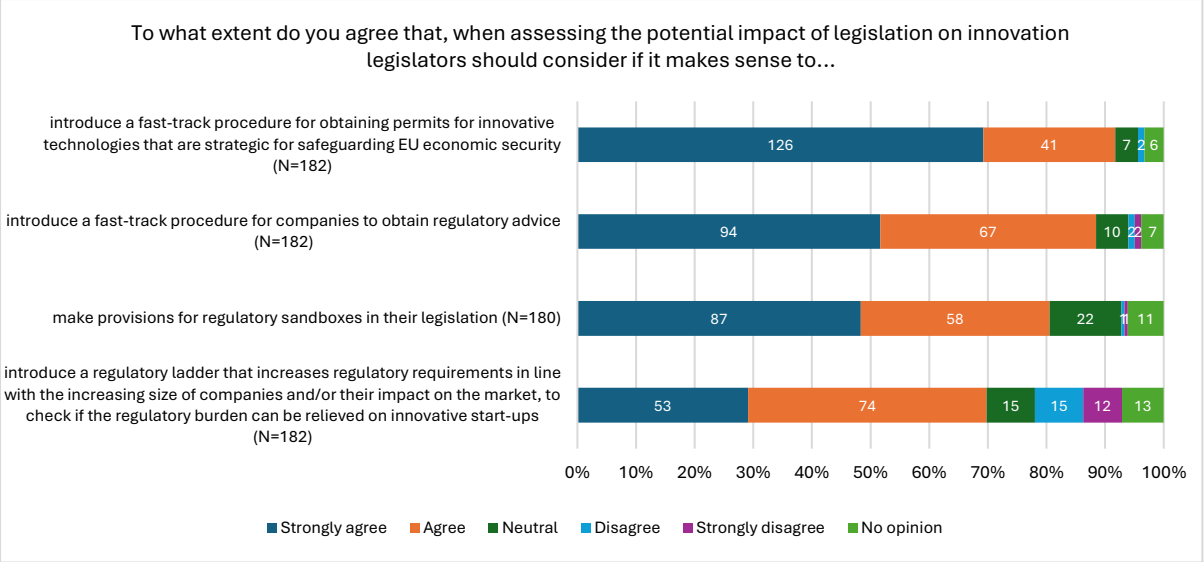
74% of company respondents and 56% of academic respondents highlight that they are still hindered by legislation in developing and testing innovative solutions and/or easily placing them on the market. 94% of all types of respondents agree that legislators need to more carefully assess the potential impacts that legislation can have on innovation. There is thus **broad stakeholder support** for introducing an innovation stress test.

Figure 5 Impact of legislation on innovation



All types of stakeholders agree that the following **tools should be used more widely to design legislation in a more innovation-friendly way**: introducing a fast-track procedure for obtaining regulatory advice (88%) and for obtaining permits for innovative technologies that are strategic for safeguarding EU economic security (92% agree), introduce provisions for regulatory sandboxes (81% agree) and a regulatory ladder (70%) in their legislation.

Figure 6 Areas to be considered when assessing the potential impact of legislation on innovation, all respondents



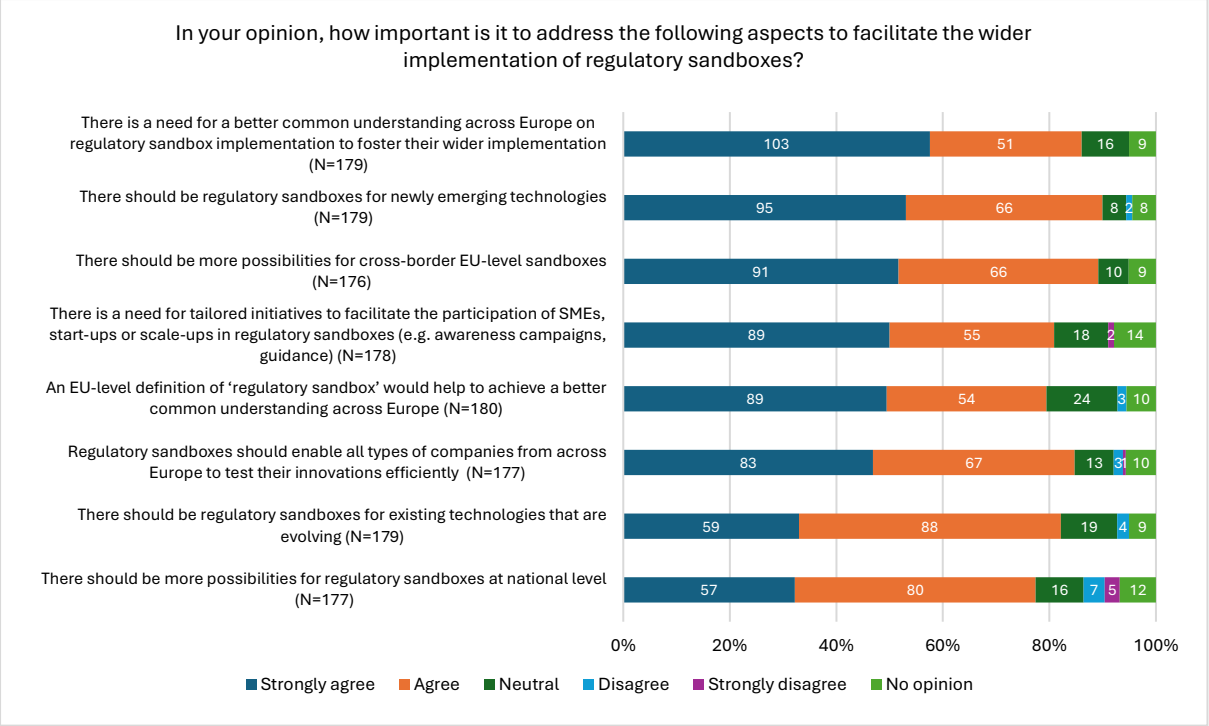
Respondents also made **specific implementation suggestions for the stress test**: stakeholders request that they are consulted on the potential impacts of legislation on innovation, that the innovation stress test would be mandatory for both EU and national regulators, that it would assess the potential impacts on all types of stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem (not only on companies, but also on universities, investors, customers etc.) and on all stages of the R&I cycle (not only on R&D, respondents emphasise that the stress test should also ensure the legislation does not block real-world testing and market entry of innovations). The test should also assess the impacts on speed of innovation, on innovation incentives and support, on legal and financial uncertainty and risk, on access to skilled workers, on international competitiveness of EU companies. Respondents highlight that also that the stress test should ensure that legislation in EU is at least as ambitious on fostering innovation as in the US and Asia.

2.2.3 Regulatory sandboxes

Respondents identify several **benefits of regulatory sandboxes**: faster time-to-market, early structured dialogue with regulators and identification of regulatory risks, easier compliance, safer real-world testing, timely adaptation of the product and increased attractiveness for investors.

Respondents also identify several **problems with the current fragmentated landscape** of different national regulatory sandbox systems: innovators report barriers in accessing regulatory sandboxes in other countries, lack of EU wide definitions and legal framework for regulatory sandboxes and lack of cross-border/EU level recognition of results is hindering the scaling up of companies and makes setting up cross-border regulatory sandboxes too complex, and also results in slow and inconsistent feedback from different authorities, time consuming process, limited safeguards for confidential information, and difficult access for smaller companies due to limited resources .

Figure 7 Facilitation of wider implementation of regulatory sandboxes, all respondents

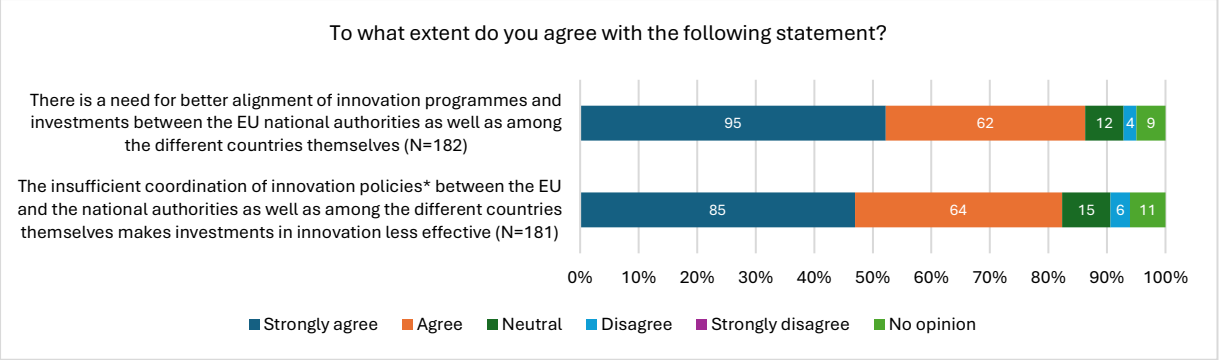


Respondents have a clear view on what are the **most important aspects to be addressed** to facilitate the wider implementation of regulatory sandboxes: All types of respondents share the view that establishing EU-wide legal definition (79% agree) and key mechanisms that achieve a commonly shared understanding on how to implement regulatory sandboxes (86%) would be beneficial to foster their wider implementation across the EU. 85% of respondents also stress the importance of ensuring that companies from all across Europe can access regulatory sandboxes to test their innovations. There is very strong support for creating more cross-border EU-level regulatory sandboxes (89%) and national-level regulatory sandboxes (77%). Respondents also believe that there should be regulatory sandboxes both for newly emerging technologies (90% agree) and for existing technologies that are evolving (82% agree). There is also strong support on establishing tailored initiatives to facilitate the participation of SMEs, start-ups or scale-ups in regulatory sandboxes (81% agree).

2.2.4 Better coordination of innovation policies and programmes

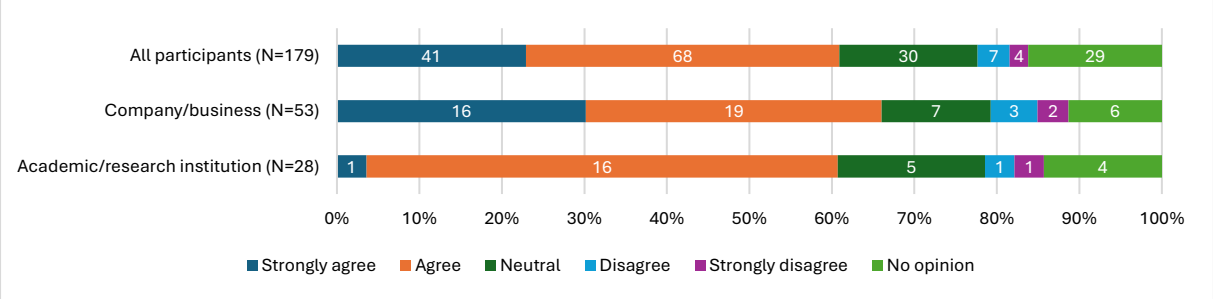
Most participants agree (86%) that the innovation programmes and investments between the EU national authorities and among the different countries should be better aligned and that the current situation of insufficient coordination makes investment in innovation less effective (82%). Respondents also highlight **specific bottlenecks** arising from operative and administrative misalignment such as differences in criteria, reporting requirements and timelines of various programmes, which result in duplication of efforts, fragmented instruments, underexploited synergies, and overlapping calls.

Figure 8 Coordination of innovation policies and programmes, all respondents



The majority of respondents (61%) believe that the **coordination between innovation policies and programmes can be improved** if the European Innovation Council Forum is turned into an official innovation forum at EU level with proper coordination mandate.

Figure 9 Answers to question: To what extent do you agree that the following approach is well-suited to improving coordination between innovation policies and programmes? Turning the existing European Innovation Council Forum into an official innovation forum at EU level – which would be composed of national high-level representatives responsible for innovation policy and programmes and the Commission – with a mandate to coordinate innovation policies, programmes and investments between the EU and national authorities, as well as among the different counties themselves.

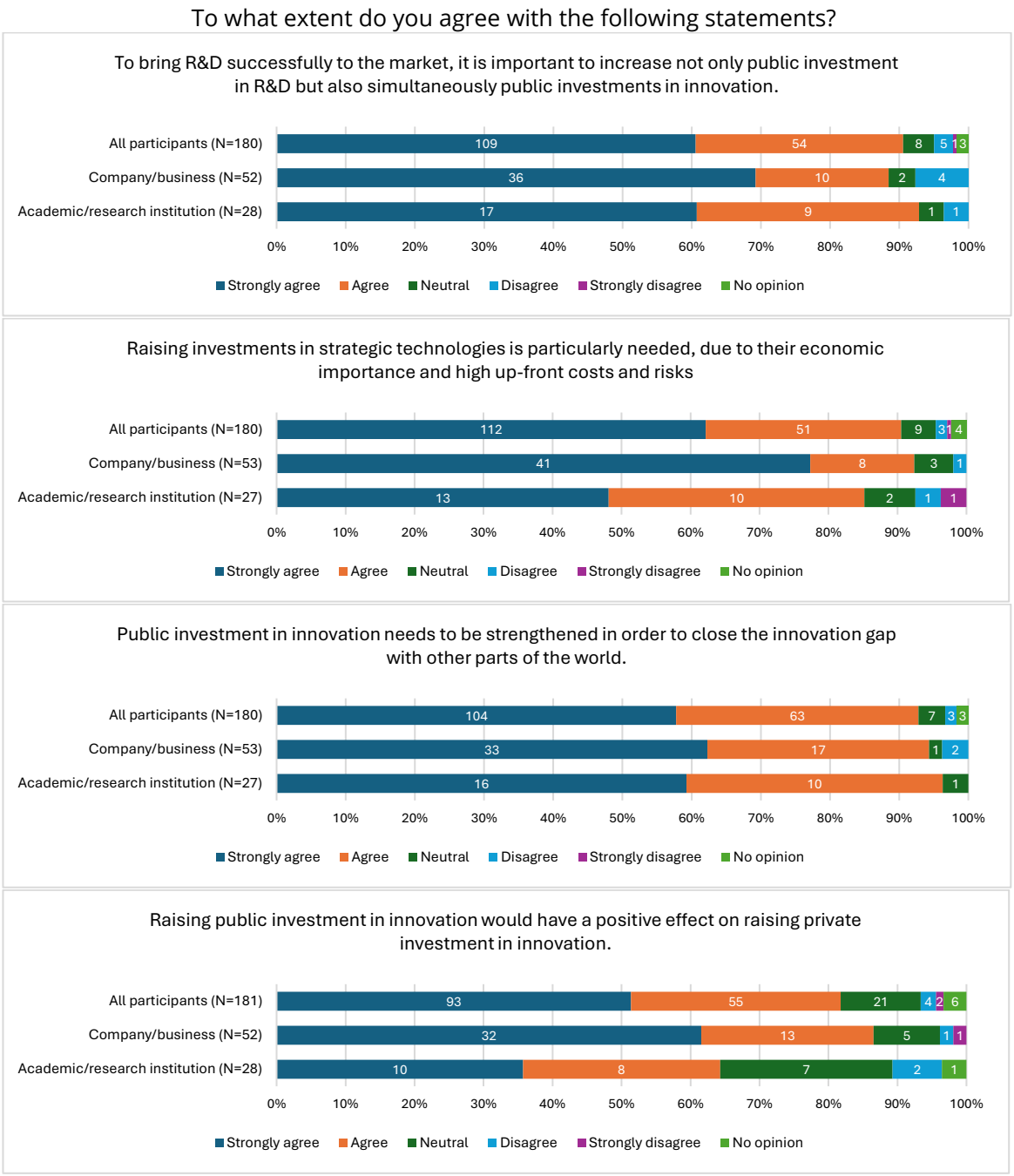


2.3 Access to finance

2.3.1 Raising public and private investments in innovation

Respondents strongly believe that the main needs for bringing innovations to the market are **strengthened public investment in innovation activities that support the commercialisation, uptake and wide diffusion of innovative solutions** (91%) to close the international innovation gap (93%) and to raise private investments in innovation (82%) so that total public and private investments can be raised also for strategic technologies that need large up front coordinated investments (91%).

Figure 10 Main needs associated with lack of access to sufficient financing for bringing innovations to the market

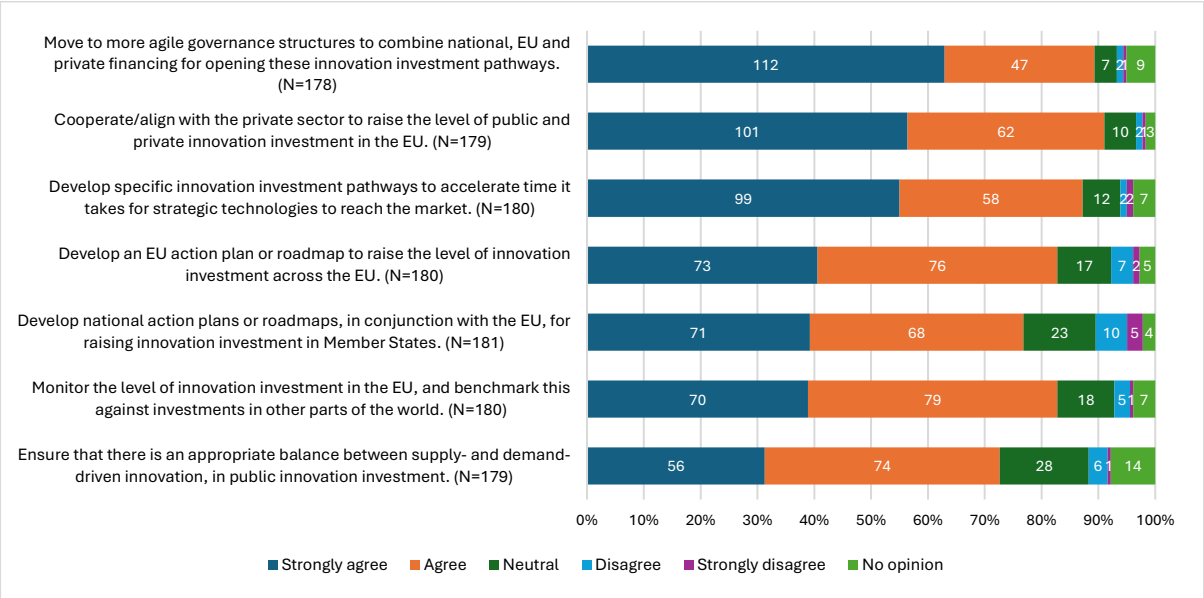


The **main barriers** that survey participants faced when attempting to raise sufficient investment in bringing innovation to the market are associated with temporal mismatch between the interest of investors that demand quick returns and the innovation lifecycle that calls for long time-to-market; lack of blended models where public (EU/national) funds are used to reduce the risk for private investors; underdeveloped and fragmented capital markets and exit options for investors, risk aversion of public and private procurers.

The following **proposed measures** gained strong support from all types of survey participants: cooperate with the private sector to raise the level of public and private innovation investments (91% agree), move to more agile government structures to combine national, EU and private financing to open innovation investment (89% agree); develop specific innovation investment

pathways to accelerate time to reach the market for strategic technologies (87% agree); develop an EU roadmap (83% agree) and national action plans (77% agree) to raise innovation investments and benchmark the investments levels in the EU against other parts of the world (83% agree); and ensure that there is an appropriate balance between supply and demand driven innovation (73% agree).

Figure 11 Measures to facilitate access to financing, all respondents

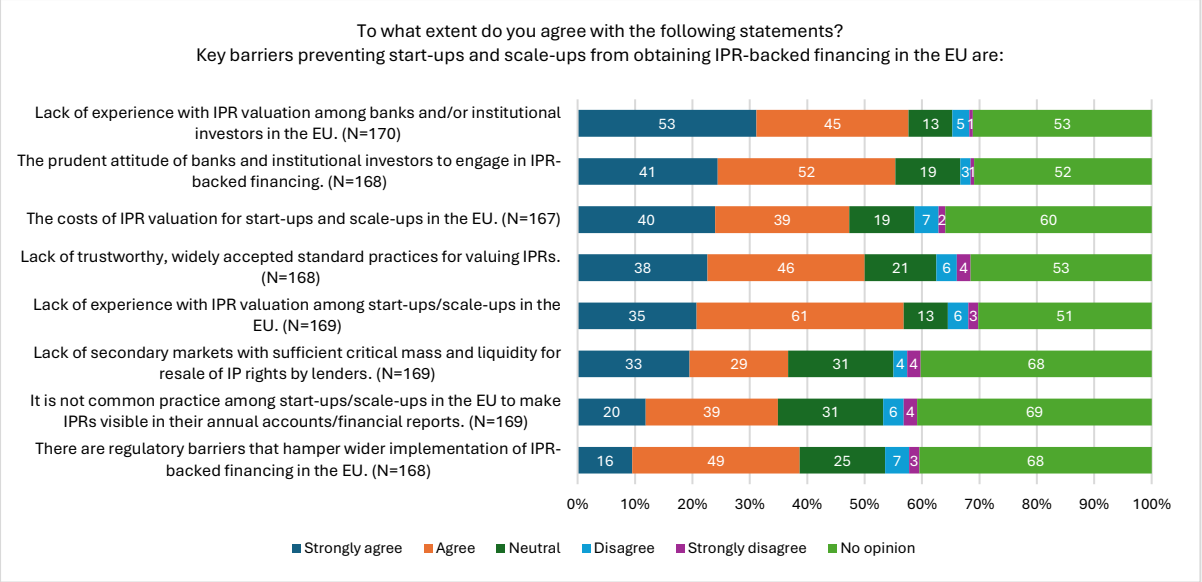


Other measures suggested by the survey participants encompass various forms of tax stimuli, completing the Capital Market Union, establishing a pan-European fund-of-funds or EU co-investment fund to crowd in private capital, simplification and acceleration of the public funding, using public procurement to provide not only large but also smaller innovative companies with first paying customers, initiatives to facilitate visibility and match-making between investors and companies.

2.3.2 IPR-backed financing

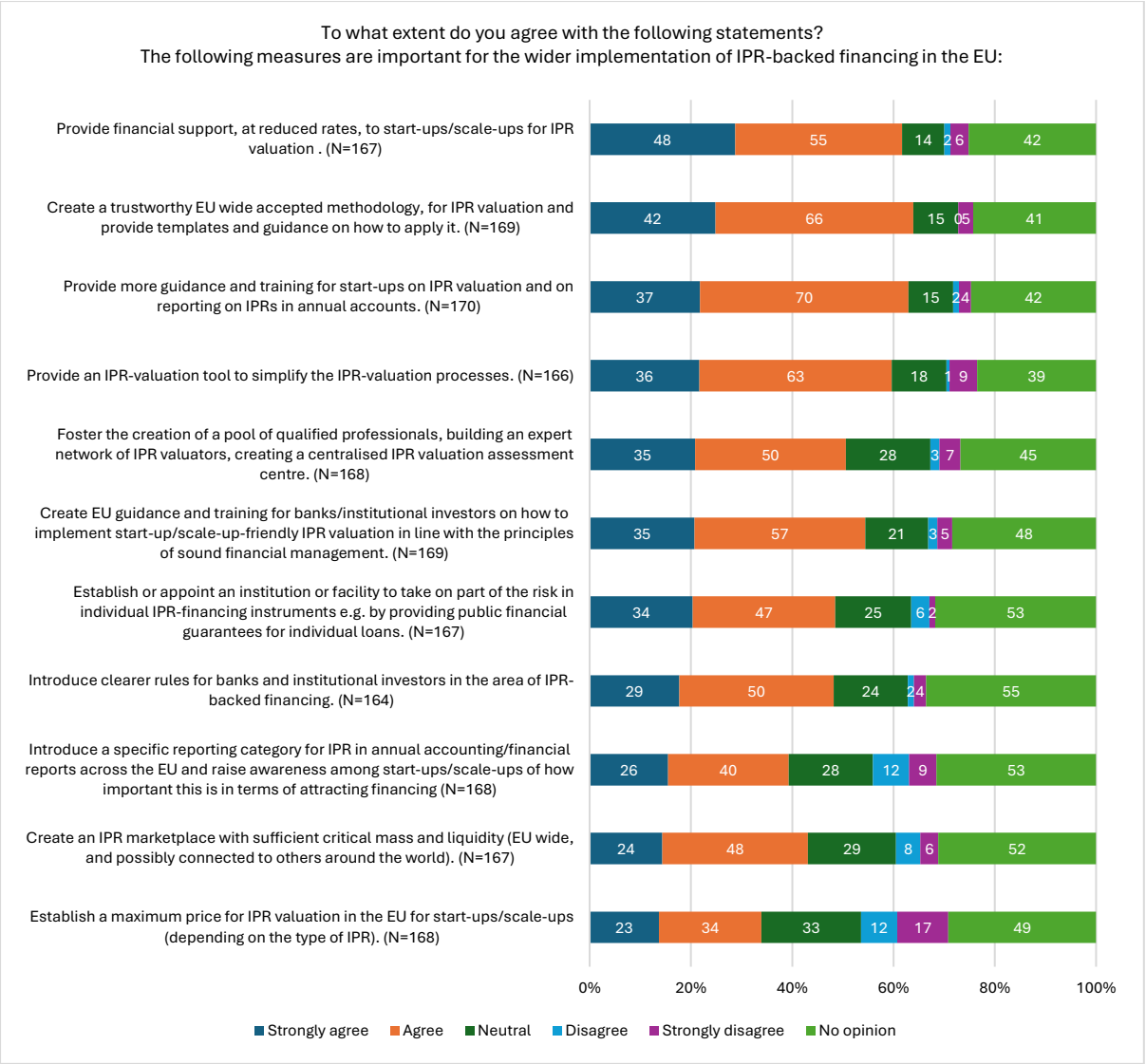
Respondents believe that the **key barriers** that prevent start-ups and scale-ups from obtaining IPR-backed financing are lack of experience with IPR valuations among banks and institutional investors (58% agree) and start-ups and scale-ups (57% agree) as well as the prudent attitude of investors (55% agree). Other key barriers are valuation uncertainty due to lack of trustworthy, widely accepted standard practices for IPR valuation (50% agree), high valuation and litigation costs (47%). Other arguments are that there are regulatory barriers that hamper wider implementation of IPR backed financing in the EU (39% agree), that there is a lack of secondary IPR markets (37% agree) and that it is not common practice among start-ups/scale-ups in the EU to make IPRs visible in their annual accounts or financial reporting (35%).

Figure 12 Key barriers preventing start-ups and scale-ups from obtaining IPR-backed financing, all respondents



Respondents think that the **most important measures for fostering the IPR-backed financing** in the EU would be establishing an EU-wide accepted IPR valuation methodology (64% agree) and providing an IPR-valuation tool to simplify the valuation process (60% agree). Also important are providing guidance and training for start-ups on IPR valuation and reporting (63% agree) and providing financial support for IPR valuation to start-ups and scale-ups (62% agree), which is considered clearly more useful than setting a maximum price for IPR valuation (34% agree). About half of the respondents think that it is important to create also a pool of qualified professionals (51% agree) and to create both better guidance (54%) and clearer rules (48%) for banks and institutional investors on IPR backed financing. One third of respondents (33%) agree that if an IPR marketplace with sufficient critical mass and liquidity is established, it should be established by private actors with the support of public institutions.

Figure 13 Important measures for wider implementation of IPR-backed financing, all respondents

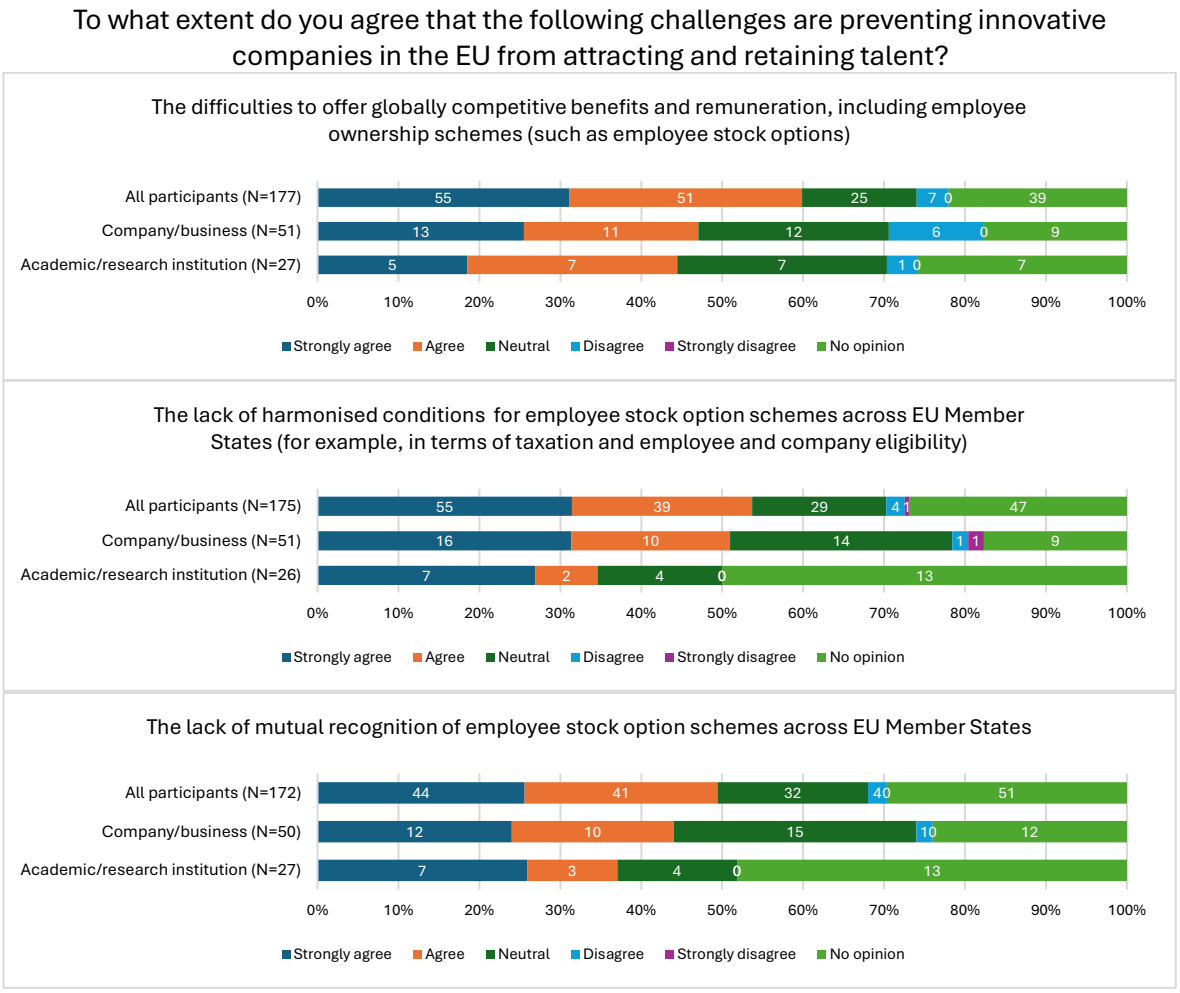


2.4 Talent

All respondents agree that the **main challenges** that innovative companies in the EU are facing in attracting and retaining talent are difficulties in offering globally competitive benefits and remuneration (60% agree). For companies specifically, the main challenge is the lack of harmonised conditions for employee stock option schemes across Member States (51% agree) and the lack of mutual recognition of employee stock option schemes across EU Member States (44% agree).

Other challenges with the employee stock option schemes shared by survey participants are complicated procedures for establishing such schemes and their relatively rigid model, difficulties when the employee is relocating to another country as well as the temporal mismatch of the duration of such schemes with innovations with longer development lifecycle. Challenges outside the stock option schemes include limited support for family allocation, as well as shortage of experienced business professionals.

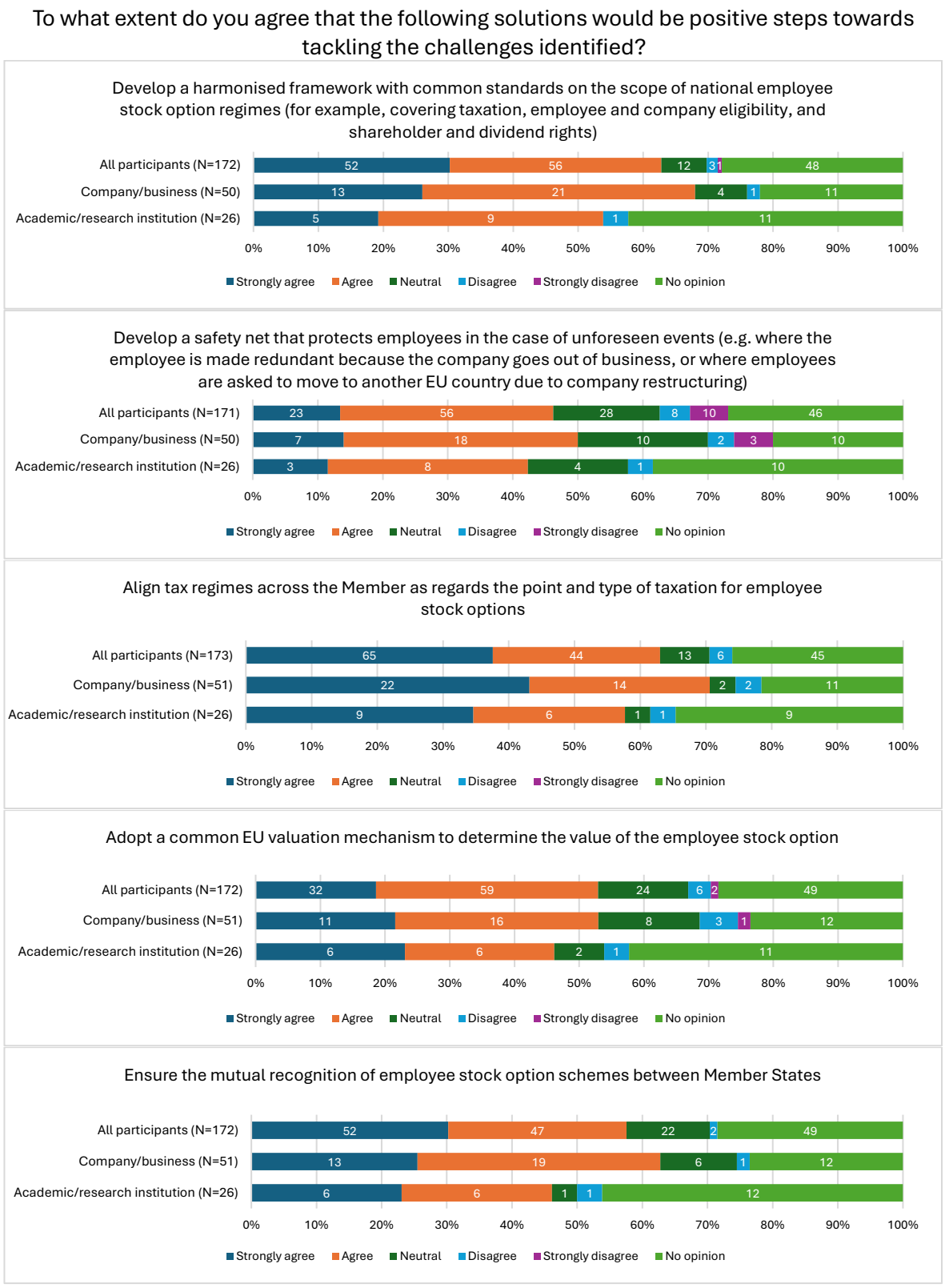
Figure 14 Main challenges for talent attraction and retention



Possible solutions to tackle the challenges that gained highest support are: alignment of the tax regimes in regards to the point and type of taxation for the employee stock options (63% agree), developing a harmonised framework with common standards on the scope of national employee stock option regimes (63% agree), and ensuring mutual recognition of the schemes between Member States (58% agree). Academic and research institutions demonstrated relatively low support for all suggested measures (except for alignment of the tax regimes where support was 58%) mainly because of high share of no opinion answers. 53% of all respondents also wants a common EU valuation mechanism to determine the value of employee stock options and 46% of all respondents desires a safety net that protects employees against unforeseen events.

Other measures proposed by the survey participants are longer exercise windows, tax incentives for long-term retention of options, awareness campaigns, guidance and practical support for SMEs and employees, fast track visa processing and family allocation support.

Figure 15 Measures for attracting and retaining talent in innovative companies

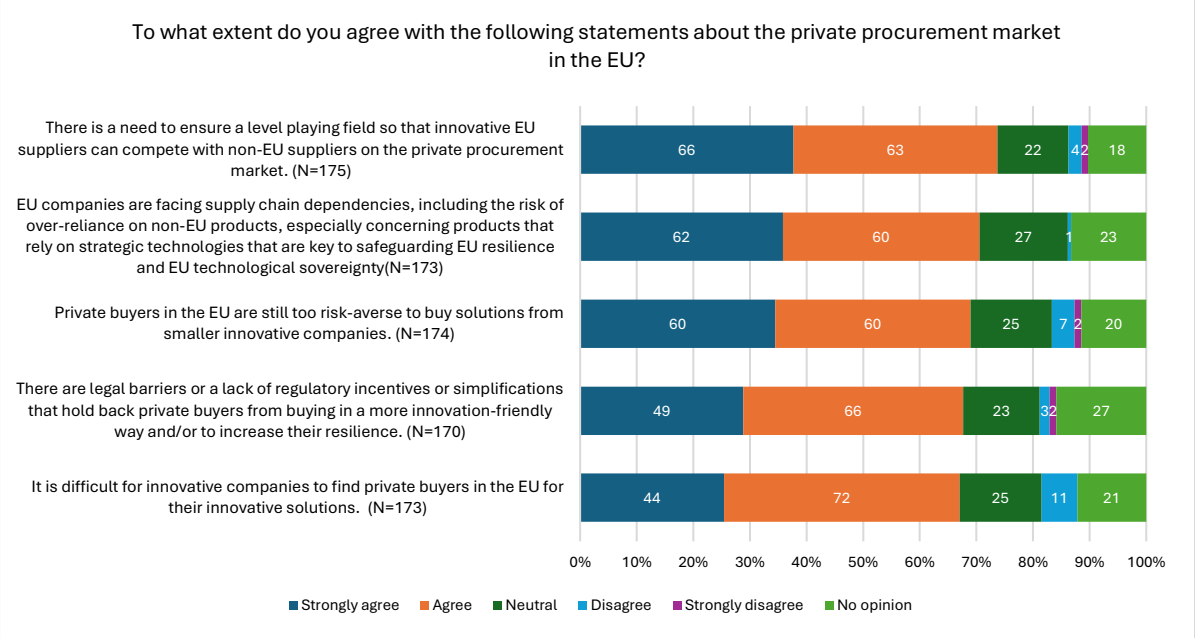


2.5 Access to public and private procurement markets

2.5.1 Access to the private procurement market

When it comes to the private procurement market, the **main problems that need to be addressed** according to all survey participants are: the lack of a level playing field so that innovative EU suppliers can compete with non-EU suppliers (74% agree), EU companies are facing supply chain dependencies especially for products that rely on strategic technologies that are key to safeguarding EU resilience and technological sovereignty (71% agree) and private buyers are too risk averse to buy from small innovative companies (69% agree). **Companies** agree with these problems of the private procurement market. In addition, 75% of companies believe that there are legal barriers or a lack of regulatory incentives or simplifications that hold back private buyers from buying in a more innovation-friendly way. For **academic and research institutions**, the most important issues are associated with the risk aversion of private buyers (65% agree) and a general difficulty to find private buyers for innovative solutions (62% agree).

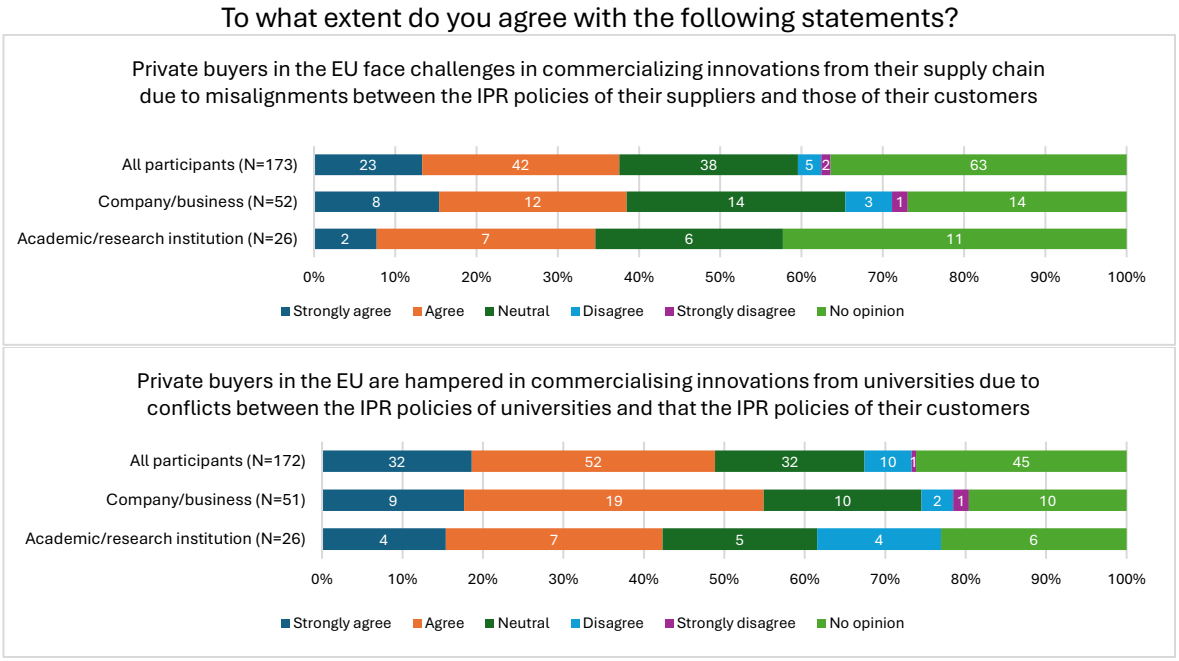
Figure 16 Needs related to the private procurement market, all respondents



Possible next steps to encourage private procurement of innovative solutions include requiring private buyers that receive public funding to procure solutions to adopt procurement practices that promote innovation and support the participation of start-ups and innovative companies (72% agree). Other measures include requiring private buyers that own/operate critical infrastructure to procure in a way that safeguards the resilience of the supply chains (68% agree) and requiring these buyers to adopt procurement practices that enable access to innovative solutions and facilitate participation by startups (66% agree). The ranking order of the measures is the same for both companies and academic and research institutions.

55% of companies highlight that private buyers can face challenges in the EU to commercialise innovations from universities due to conflicts in the IPR policies of universities and customers. 38% of companies highlight that there are also problems due the misalignment between the IPR policies of their suppliers and those of their customers. This indicates a **need to ensure better alignment of IPR policies along value chains**.

Figure 17 Challenges faced by private buyers in commercialisation of innovations



Other suggested measures included: tax deductions, risk-sharing mechanisms or co-financing schemes for companies investing in innovative suppliers could accelerate uptake. Pre-commercial procurement should also be more accessible to private buyers, not just public buyers.

2.5.2 Access to the public procurement market

Support among all types of respondents is high for several measures to **address the barriers** faced by innovative companies in the **public procurement market**. Most respondents agree that contracts should be awarded based not only on lowest price, but also on other criteria when buying R&D and/or innovative solutions by all public buyers (82% agree) and in particular also by public buyers that own/operate critical infrastructures (80%). 72% of respondents also thinks that public buyers that own/operate critical infrastructures should be encouraged to buy in a more innovation-friendly way. Three quarters of respondents (74%) believe it is important to create a set of EU innovation procurement criteria that provide legal certainty on how public buyers can take into account factors other than price and to remove legal barriers that prevent public buyers from different EU countries to procure R&D and/or innovative solutions collaboratively. 65% of respondents want clear legal provisions on how public buyers can reinforce EU technological sovereignty in innovation procurements.

67% of respondents also think that a simpler way to implement multi sourcing is needed. 70% of respondents also highlight that companies sometimes miss business opportunities because announcements for upcoming market consultations are calls for tenders for innovation procurements are not published and they demand more transparency. 59% of respondents thinks there is a need for more innovation-friendly IPR conditions allowing companies to retain their IPR rights. 57% of respondents also wants the EU to provide more legal clarity on how to apply value engineering in public procurement. 59% of respondents think it is important to provide a template subcontracting agreement to better protect the rights of subcontractors in public procurements.

71% of companies expressed also significant support for three other measures: wider use of functional or performance-based specifications for public procurements that buy R&D and/or

innovation solutions, making payment methods used in public procurements of R&D and/or innovative solutions more suitable for start-ups and scale-ups, and preventing unjust disqualification of bidders in procurements based on financial, professional or administrative selection grounds.

Other suggested measures included: provide a standardised fast-track procedures for pre-commercial procurement allowing public buyers to procure R&D and first innovative solutions outside traditional EU public procurement directives, promote cross-sectorial calls for tenders for innovation procurements, enforce proportionality tests on financial and administrative selection conditions, timeframes to submit and evaluate offers should be of the same duration.

Figure 18 Measures to address the barriers faced by innovative companies in such public procurement, all respondents

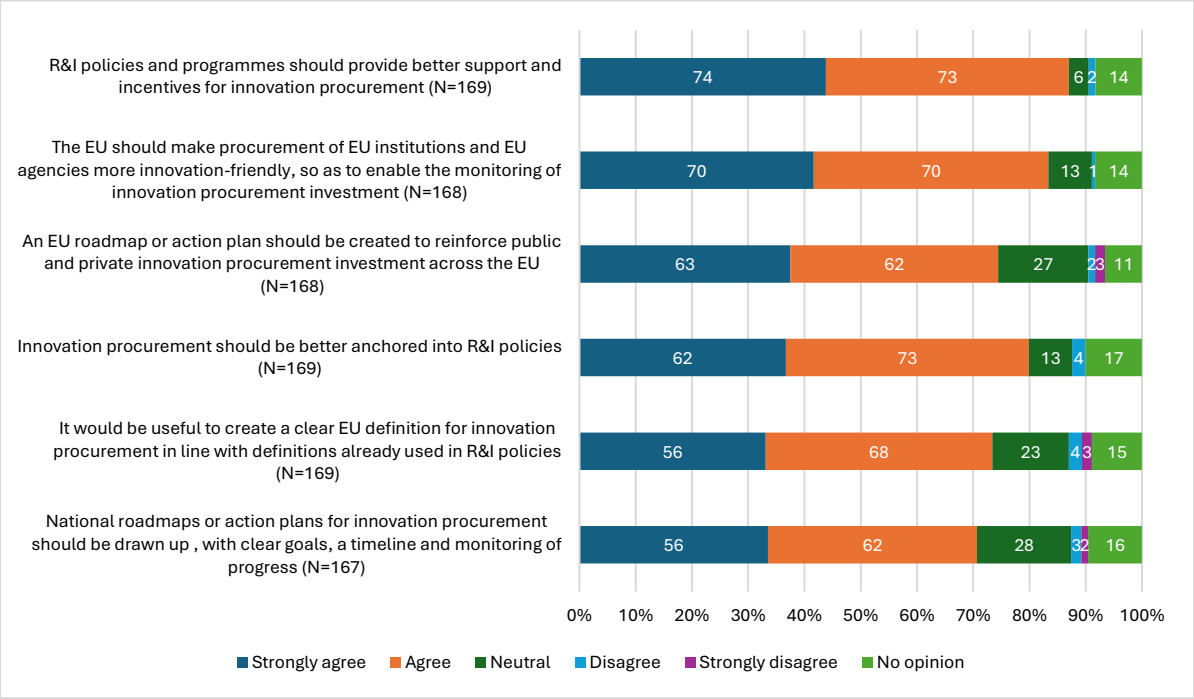
2.5.3 Supporting innovation procurement through R&I policies

87% of all respondents agree that R&I policies and programmes should provide **better support and incentives for innovation procurement**, for example through financial support for public and private procurers to implement lighthouse projects including on strategic technologies. 80%

of respondents agree that innovation procurement should be **better anchored into R&I policies** (through R&I policies for specific sectors and strategic technologies, and by monitoring the contribution of innovation procurement investment to total R&I investments). 74% of respondents agree that an **EU roadmap or action plan** should be created to reinforce public and private innovation procurement investment across the EU with a view to making Europe competitive with other major economies in this field. 71% of respondents believe that EU Member States should draw up **national action plans/roadmaps for innovation procurement** with clear goals and timeline. 73% of respondents also highlight that creating a **clear EU definition for innovation procurement** in line with definitions already used in R&I policies would be a useful measure. 83% of respondents are of the opinion that also **EU institutions and EU agencies should make their own public procurements more innovation friendly**.

The replies of all types of respondents for the questions in this section were aligned.

Figure 19 Measures for improving strategic planning and anchoring of innovation procurement in R&I policies, all respondents

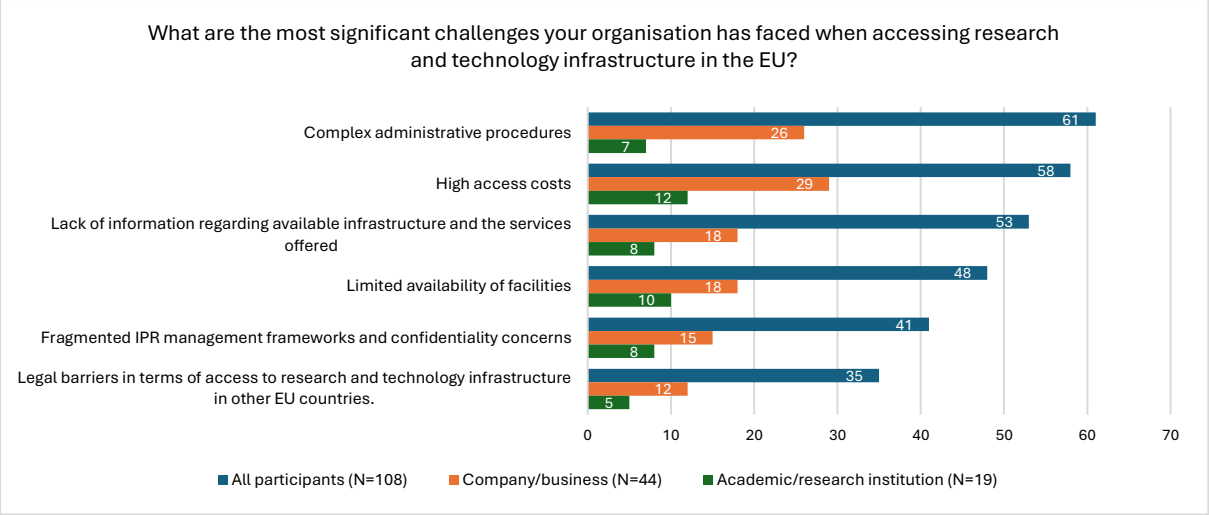


2.6 Access to research and technology infrastructure

The most significant **challenges** survey participants faced when accessing research and technology (R&T) infrastructure were complex administrative procedures (56%), high access costs (54%), and lack of information regarding available infrastructure and the services offered (49%). Other hurdles mentioned by respondents are limited availability of facilities (44%), fragmented IPR frameworks and confidential concerns in agreements with R&T infrastructures (38%) and legal barriers to access R&T infrastructures in other EU countries (32%).

For companies, of the main challenges are high access costs, complex administrative procedures, and availability of facilities and lack of information. For academic and research institutions, it is mainly the access costs and the availability of facilities.

Figure 20 Challenges when accessing research and technology infrastructure



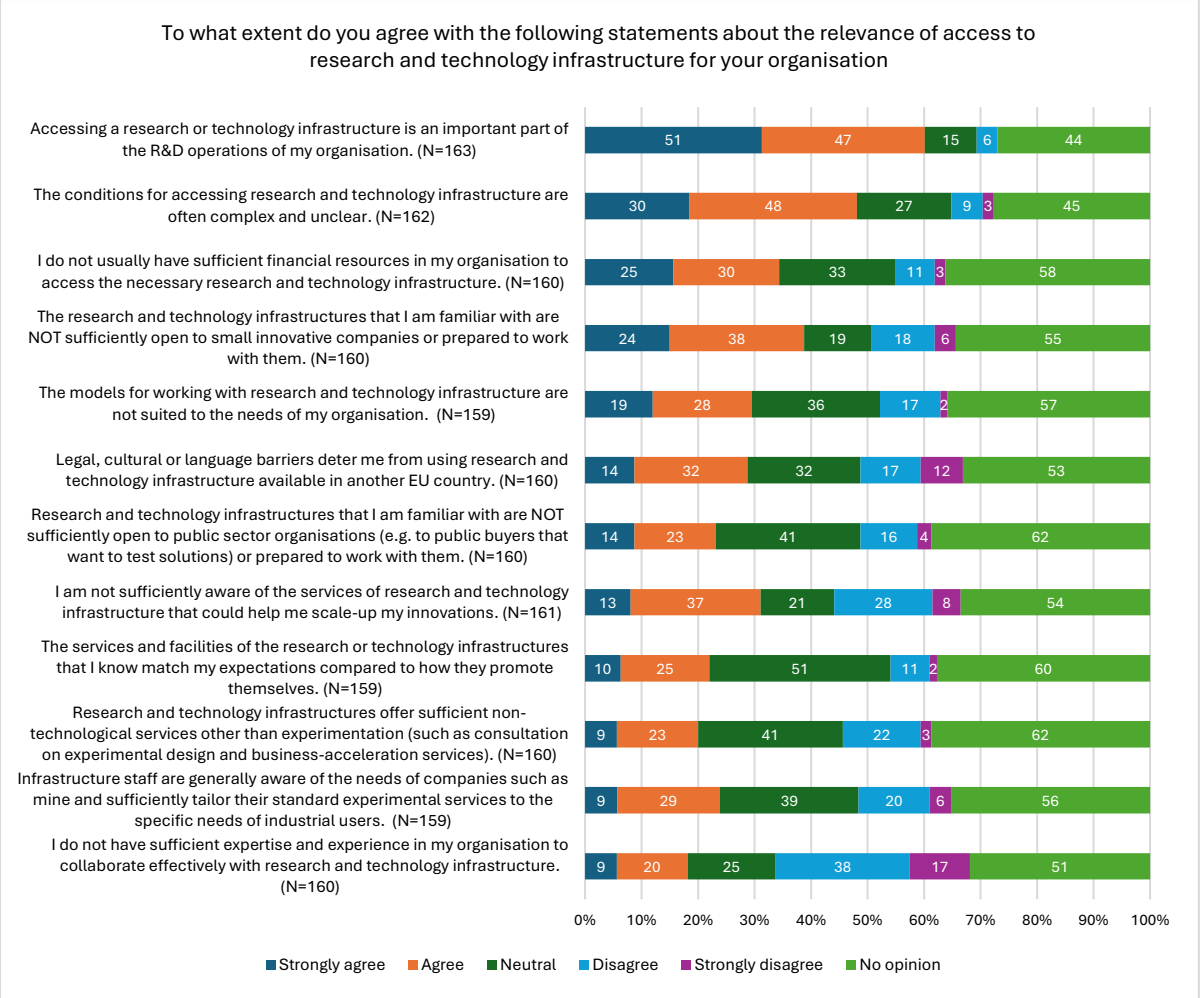
While accessing a R&T infrastructure is an important part for the R&D operations of 60% of respondents, the conditions for accessing R&T infrastructure are often too complex and unclear (48% agree). 54% of companies also agree that they do not usually have sufficient financial resources to access the necessary R&T infrastructure.

39% of all respondents highlights that the R&T infrastructures that they are familiar with are not open enough to small innovative companies or not prepared to work with them. 68% of respondents are of the opinion that innovative companies should be given discounted rates to access R&T infrastructures. 23% of respondents highlight that they are not sufficiently open to public sector organisations (e.g. to public buyers that want to test solutions) or prepared to work with them.

31% of respondents are not aware of the services that R&T infrastructures can offer to scale up their business and only 20% of respondents think that R&T infrastructures offer sufficient non-technological services. Only 24% of respondents think that R&T infrastructures are aware of the needs of companies and tailor their standard experimentation services to the specific needs of industrial users. However, only 18% of respondents believe that they do not have the expertise and experience themselves to work with R&T infrastructures. 29% of respondents suffer from legal, cultural or language barriers to access R&T infrastructures.

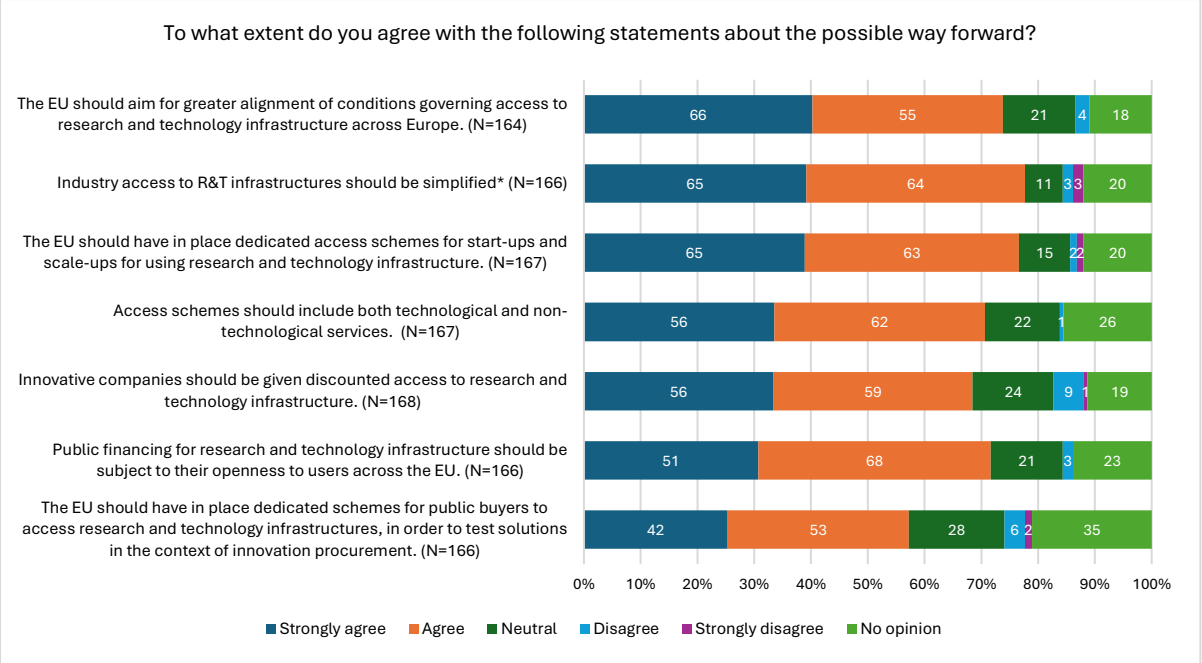
Only 22% of respondents think that services and facilities of R&T infrastructures that they know really match their expectations, and 30% of respondents thinks that the models for working with R&T infrastructures are not suited to their needs.

Figure 21 Relevance of access to R&T infrastructure, all respondents



The most **popular measures for addressing the barriers** to accessing R&T infrastructure are simplification by providing an EU blueprint for collaboration agreements with these infrastructures that clarifies specific contractual provisions such as IPR management and liability (78%), establishing dedicated access schemes for start-ups and scale-ups for using R&T infrastructure (77%) and greater alignment of conditions governing access to R&T infrastructure across Europe (74%). Also, many agree that public financing for R&T infrastructure should be subject to their openness to users across the EU (72%), that access schemes should include both technological and non-technological services (71%) and that the EU should have in place dedicated schemes for public buyers to access R&T infrastructures, in order to test solutions in the context of innovation procurement (57%).

Figure 22 Measures addressing the barriers to accessing research and technology infrastructure, all respondents



*Full answer is: *Industry access to research and technology infrastructures should be simplified, for example by proposing an EU blueprint for collaboration agreements with these infrastructures that clarifies specific contractual provisions such as IPR management and liability.*

There are some differences between the answers of companies and academic and research institutions. **For companies**, most relevant measures would be related to industry access to infrastructure (80% agree), with linking public financing of infrastructure with open access to users across EU (78%), and with establishing dedicated access schemes (76%). 73% of companies also agree that innovative companies should be given discounted access to infrastructure.

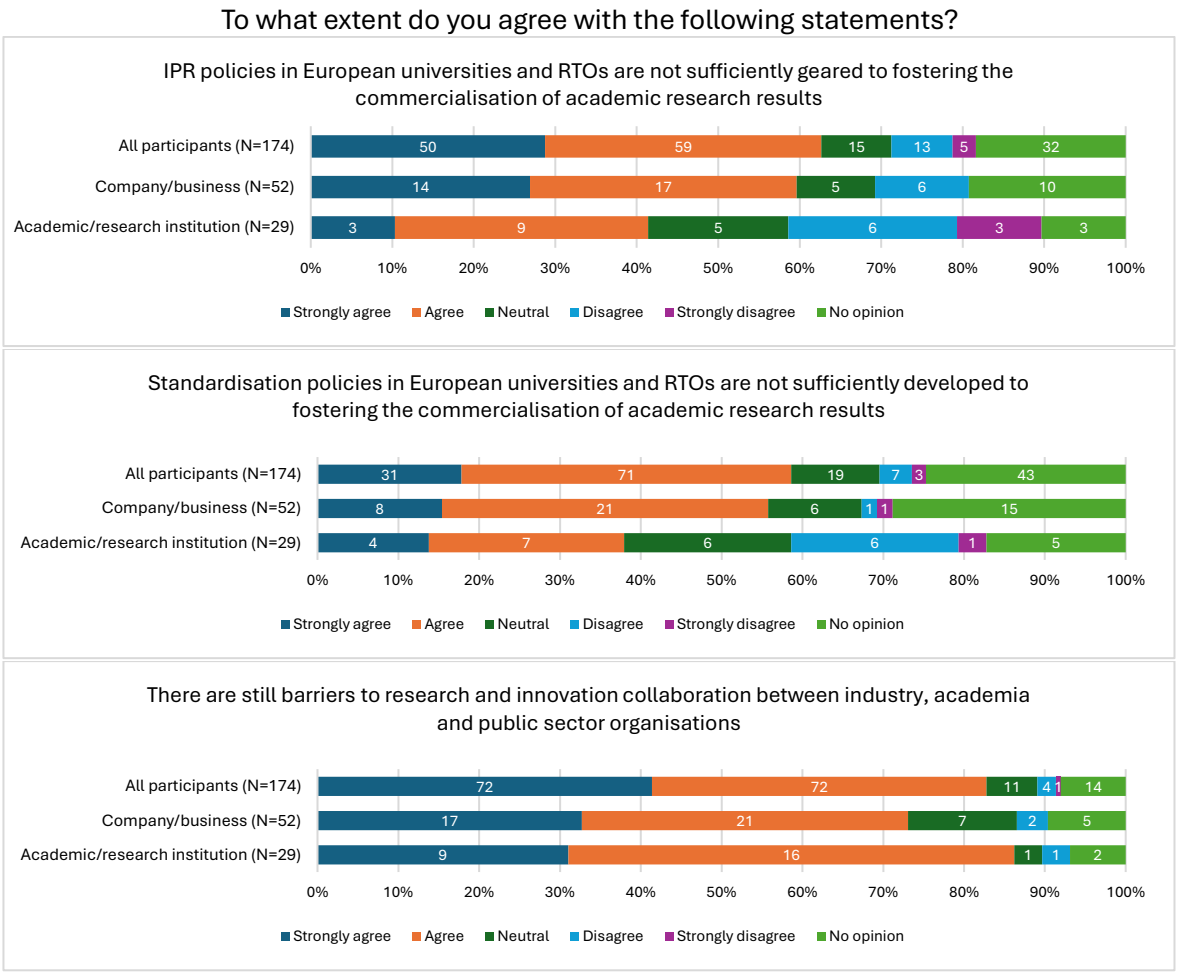
Academic and research institutions value most dedicated access schemes (78%), greater alignment of access conditions (77%), and simplified industry access (70%). 70% also agree that access schemes should include both technological and non-technological services.

Other measures, proposed by the survey participants, include establishing a web portal that presents in a comprehensive way information on available research and technology infrastructure, access conditions and costs for using them (a 'one-stop-shop' approach), simplification of State Aid rules for research infrastructure access as well as dedicated EU funding for supporting access to infrastructure for startups, scaleups and SMEs.

2.7 Commercialisation of research results

The commercialisation of publicly funded research and innovation faces **several challenges** such as: barriers to research and innovation collaboration between industry, academia and public sector organisations (83% agree), insufficiently developed standardisation policies in universities and RTOs (59% agree), and IPR policies in universities and RTOs that are not geared to fostering the commercialisation of academic research results (63% agree).

Figure 23 Commercialisation of publicly funded research and innovation challenges

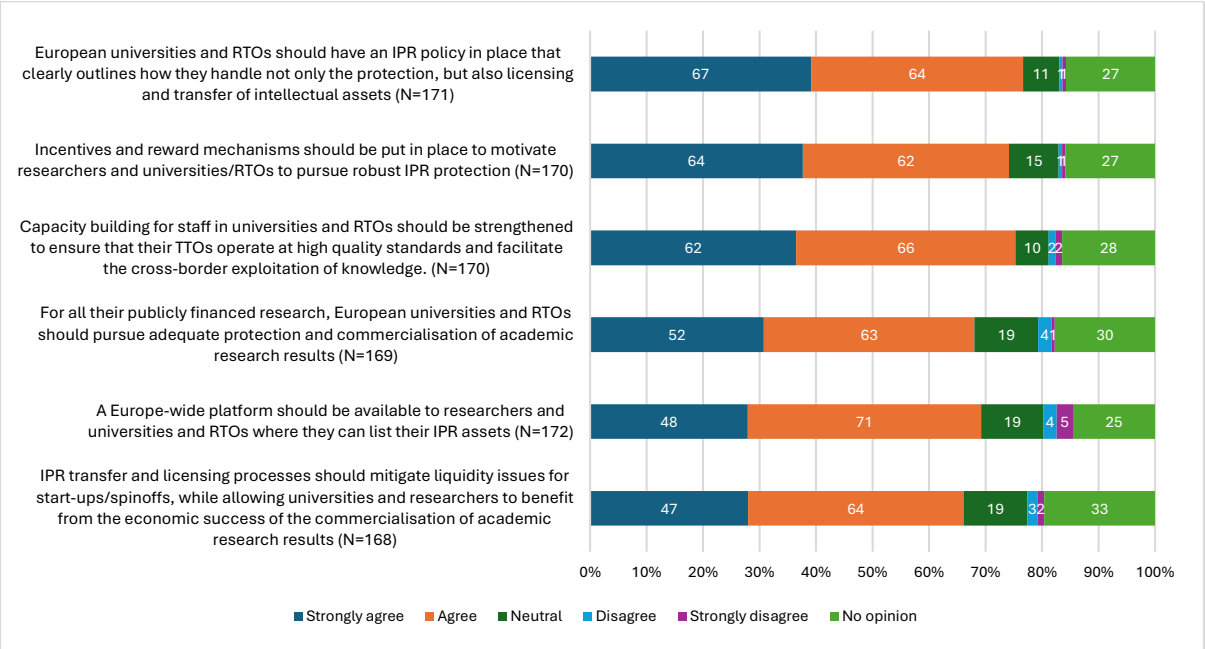


Considering the **commercialisation of academic research results**, 81% of survey participants believe that Member States should adopt strategies that promote the commercialisation of publicly funded research results generated in universities and RTOs, including intellectual asset management, spin-off creation, and go-to-market strategies. This measure is supported by 75% of the companies and by 86% of the academic and research institutions.

For **IPR policies**, the measures that collected highest support are requiring European universities and RTOs to have an IPR policy in place that clearly outlines how they handle the protection, licensing and transfer of intellectual assets (77% agree), reinforcing capacity building for staff in universities and RTOs (75% agree) and designing financial and non-financial incentives and reward mechanisms to motivate researchers and universities/RTOs to pursue robust IPR protection and to enable them to benefit from successful commercialisation of academic IPRs (74% agree). These measures are supported by both companies and academic and research institutions.

Other supported measures include: establishing a Europe-wide platform where researchers and universities and RTOs can list their IPR assets (69% agree), universities and RTOs should pursue adequate protection and commercialisation of academic research results from publicly financed research by setting up their own transfer offices or joint transfer offices (68%) and IPR transfer and licensing processes should mitigate liquidity issues for start-ups/spinoffs, while allowing universities and researchers to benefit from the economic success of the commercialisation of academic research results (66%).

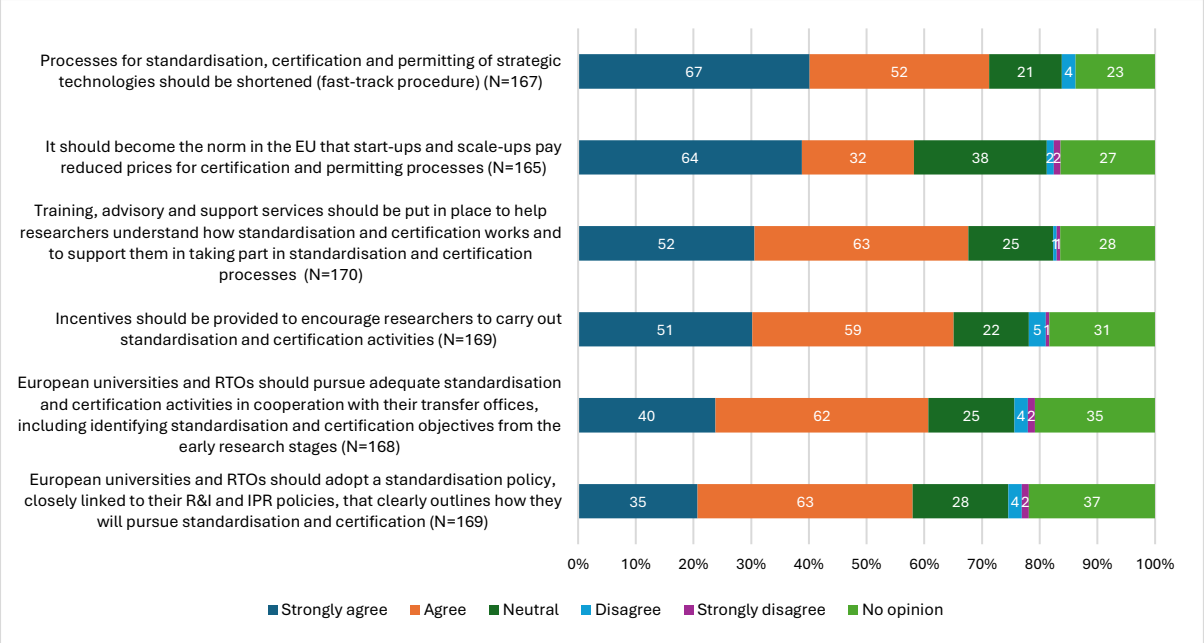
Figure 24 Measures to overcome IPR-related barriers that hamper the commercialisation of academic research results, all respondents



For overcoming the barriers relating to **standardisation and certification,** the measures that received most support are: shortening the procedures for standardisation, certification and permitting of strategic technologies (71% agree), providing training, advisory and support services to researchers to improve understanding and support their participation in the standardisation and certification processes (68% agree), and incentivising researchers to carry out standardisation and certification activities (65% agree).

Other supported measures are: universities and RTOs to pursue adequate standardisation and certification activities in cooperation with the transfer offices, including identifying standardisation and certification objectives from the early research stages (61%), start-ups and scale-ups should pay reduced prices for certification and permitting processes (58%) and European universities and RTOs to adopt a standardisation policy that is closely linked to their research and innovation and IPR policies (58%).

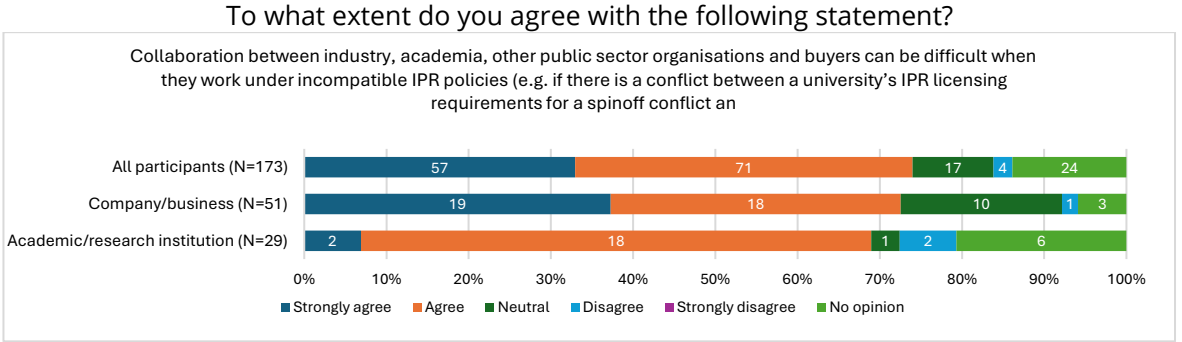
Figure 25 Measures to overcome barriers relating to standardisation and certification, all respondents

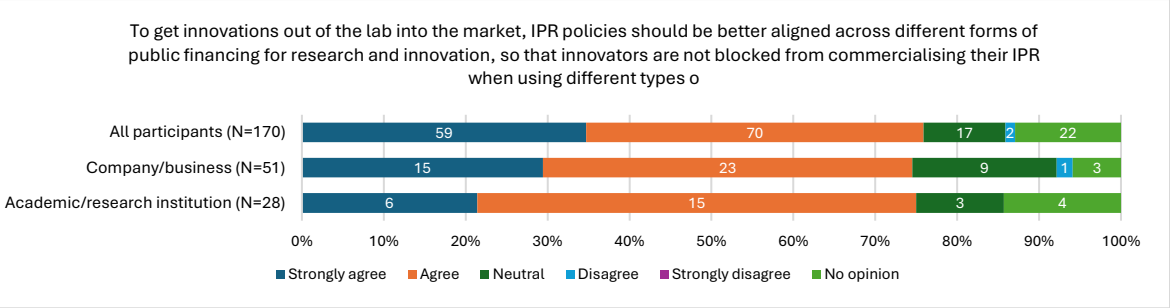


For companies, fast-track procedures for standardisation, certification and permitting is the most important measure (70% agree). Other very relevant measure is for start-ups and scale-ups to pay reduced prices for certification and permitting processes (65% agree). For academic and research institutions the most relevant measures are the provision of training, advisory and support services to researchers (79% agree) and incentivising researchers to carry out standardisation and certification activities (76% agree).

Collaboration between industry, academia, other public sector organisations and buyers can be difficult when they work under incompatible IPR policies: 74% of the consultation participants agree with this view. Another 76% agree that IPR policies should be better aligned across different forms of public financing for research and innovation to get innovations out of the lab into the market. A number of respondents recommend the EU to adopt a Bayh-Dole-type IPR regime in the EU to address these issues, leaving IPR ownership by default with the innovator that is going to commercialise the solution in all the different public financing instruments.

Figure 26 Collaboration between industry, academia and public sector: problems and measures





3 Methodology

This section outlines the approach used to analyse the public consultation responses and position papers received.

The analysis of the closed consultation questions reports statistics on aggregated and disaggregated stakeholder views and explored variations by stakeholder type. This report focuses on the most relevant divergences and trends.

The Commission's eTranslation tool was used for non-English contributions. Following categorisation, the study analysed responses to identify stakeholder perspectives.

As the consultation relied on self-selected respondents who were not required to comment on every issue area, the qualitative analysis is not statistically representative. Instead, it complements the quantitative results by illustrating stakeholder perspectives through specific examples and identifying recurring themes across position papers and open-text responses.

All other responses received were considered in the analysis.