

# BIOREGIONS

Forest bioeconomy in action

## North Karelia Results

Regional Bioeconomy Perceptions Survey

[www.bioregions.efi.int](http://www.bioregions.efi.int)

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POHJOIS-KARJALA  
Maakuntaliitto



EFI

# Survey Aims

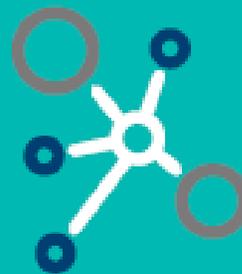
Bioeconomy Perceptions Regional Survey was targeted at different groups within government and industry, to understand how they perceive the bioeconomy, its benefits, and its challenges. What we learn about the perceptions of these different groups can be essential to help prioritise regional bioeconomy actions and communications to maximise their impacts.



Inform bioeconomy-related policies and planning



Communications and awareness raising for the bioeconomy



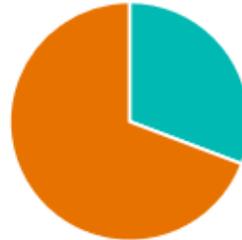
Engage actors in government and industry in the bioeconomy

# Bioeconomy perceptions of North Karelian business and policy actors

■ TRUE ■ FALSE



The bioeconomy helps mitigate the effects of climate change



There is not enough biomass to implement the bioeconomy



The bioeconomy contributes to deforestation



The bioeconomy contributes to the creation of new jobs

- Respondents generally perceived bioeconomy as promising for North Karelia
- The majority of the respondents considered the benefits of the bioeconomy to be “true” and the risks to be “false”
- All respondents consider that the bioeconomy contributes to the creation of new jobs



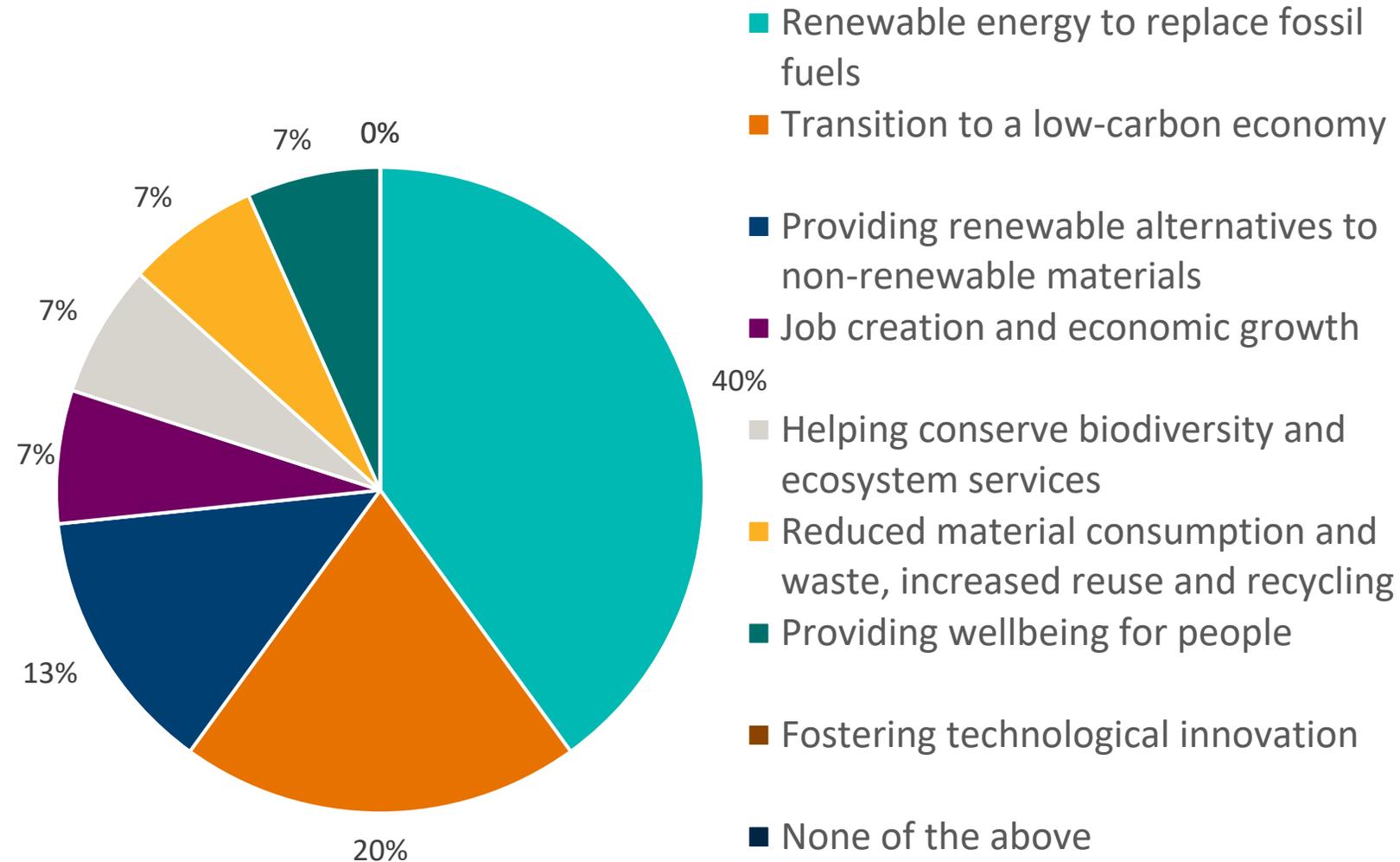
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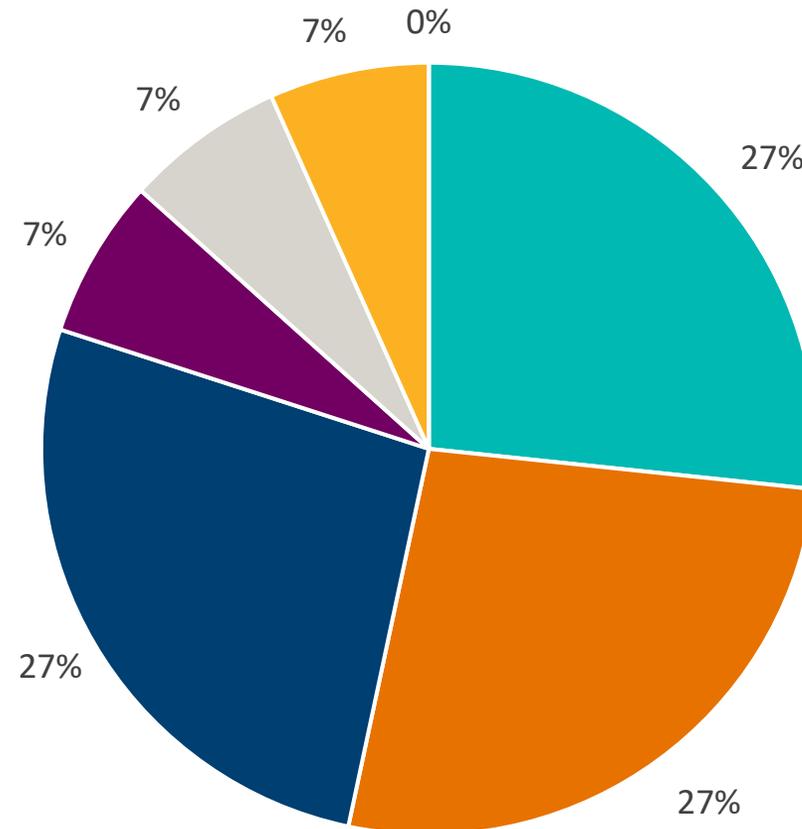
# Perceptions: Most important benefits of the bioeconomy

- North Karelia government and industry actors consider the potential to *replace non-renewable resources* and to *transition to a low-carbon economy* the most important benefits of the bioeconomy.
- Economic and social benefits of the bioeconomy were less considered to be the most important benefits.



# Perceptions: Most important risk of the bioeconomy

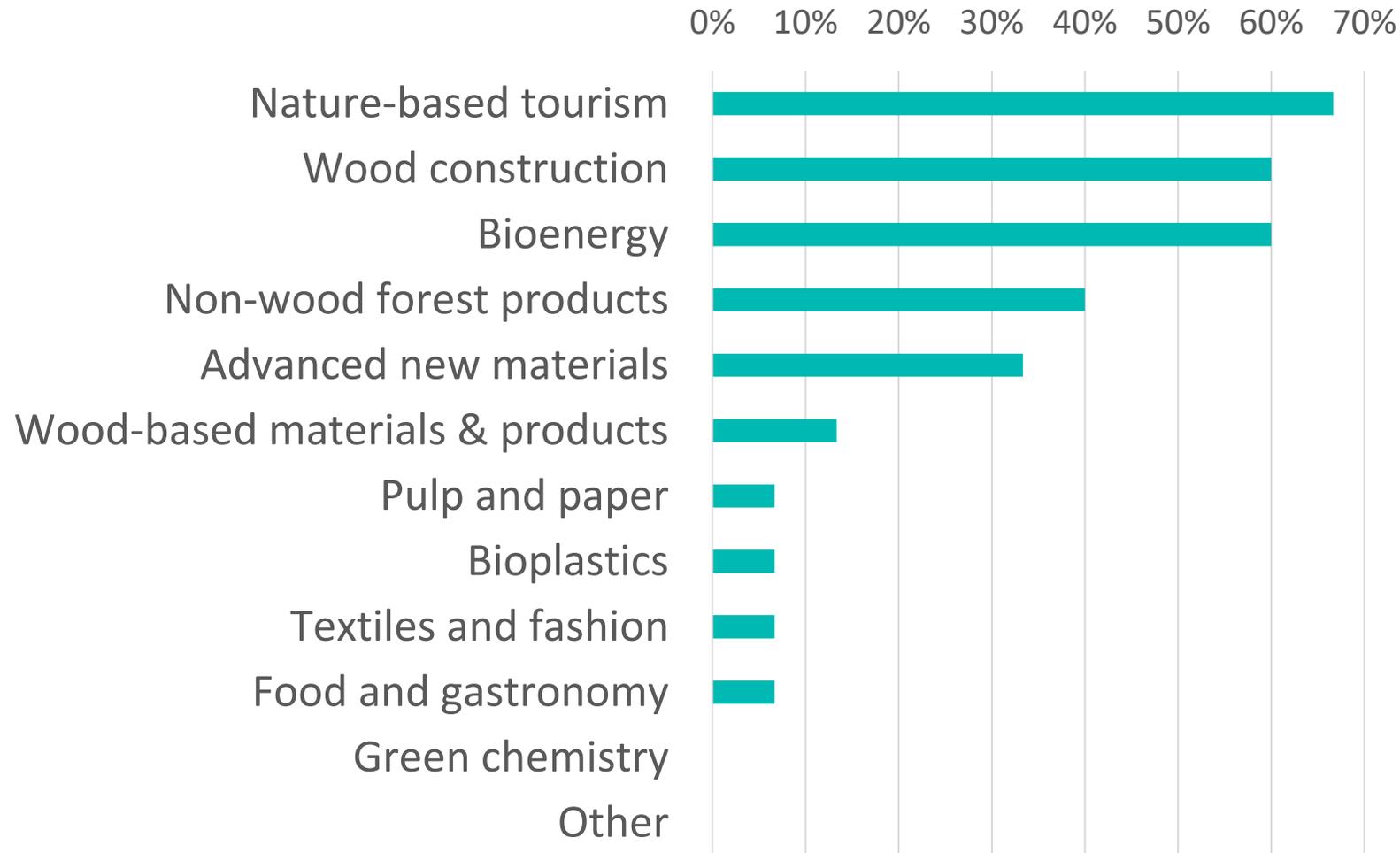
- North Karelia government and industry actors consider *Not enough biomass to supply the bioeconomy*, *Impacts on ecosystem services* and *Increasing energy costs* the most important risks of the bioeconomy.



- Not enough biomass to supply the bioeconomy
- Impacts on ecosystem services
- Increasing energy costs
- Increased imports of biomass to Europe may have dangerous impacts on developing countries
- Higher cost of essential goods (e.g. food, water, shelter, etc)
- Impacts on poverty or food sovereignty
- None of the above



# Prioritise value chains



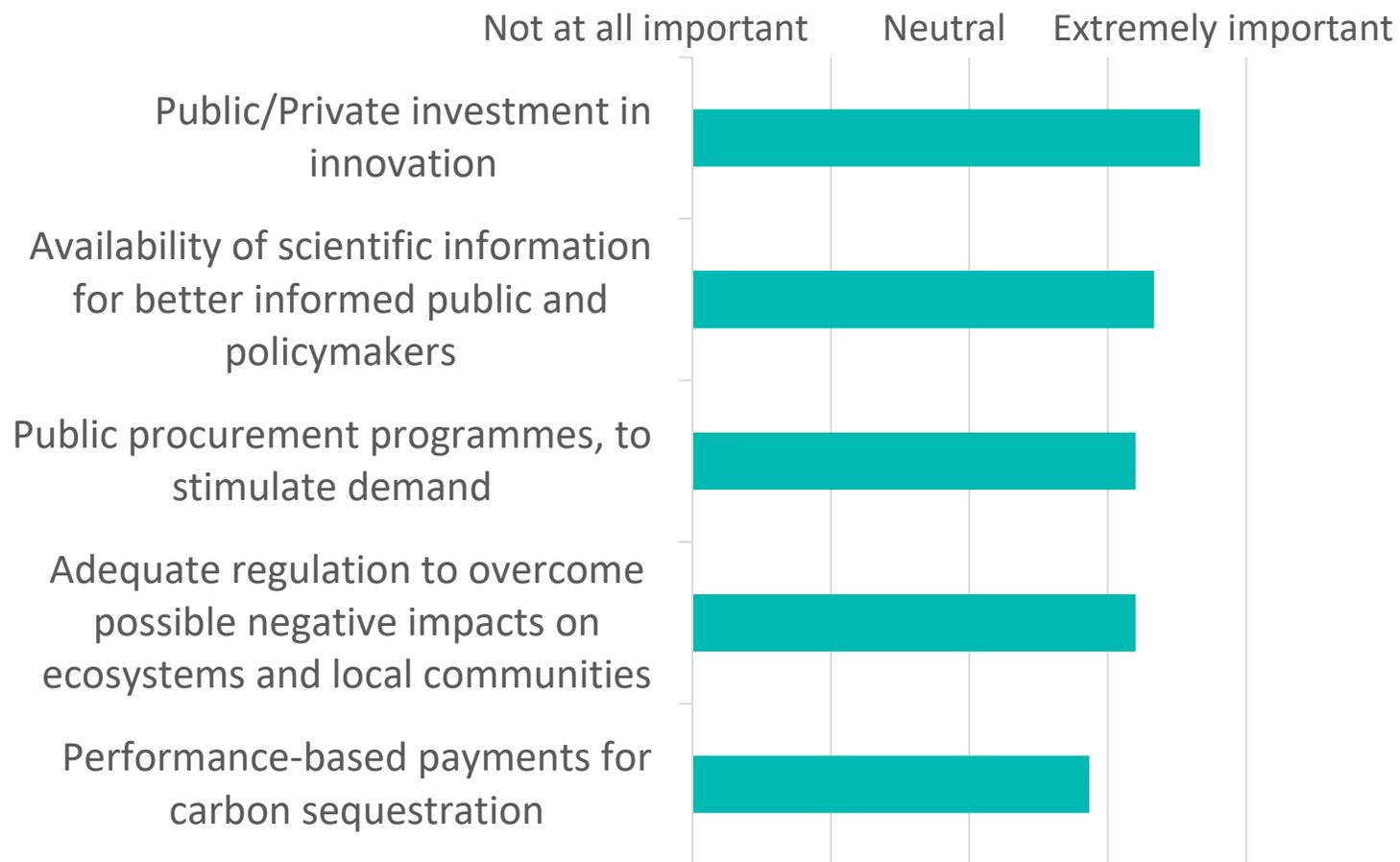
North Karelia business and policy actors suggest that *Nature-based tourism, Bioenergy* and *Wood construction* are the bioeconomy sectors with highest potential for growth in North Karelia.



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# Supporting conditions for bioeconomy development



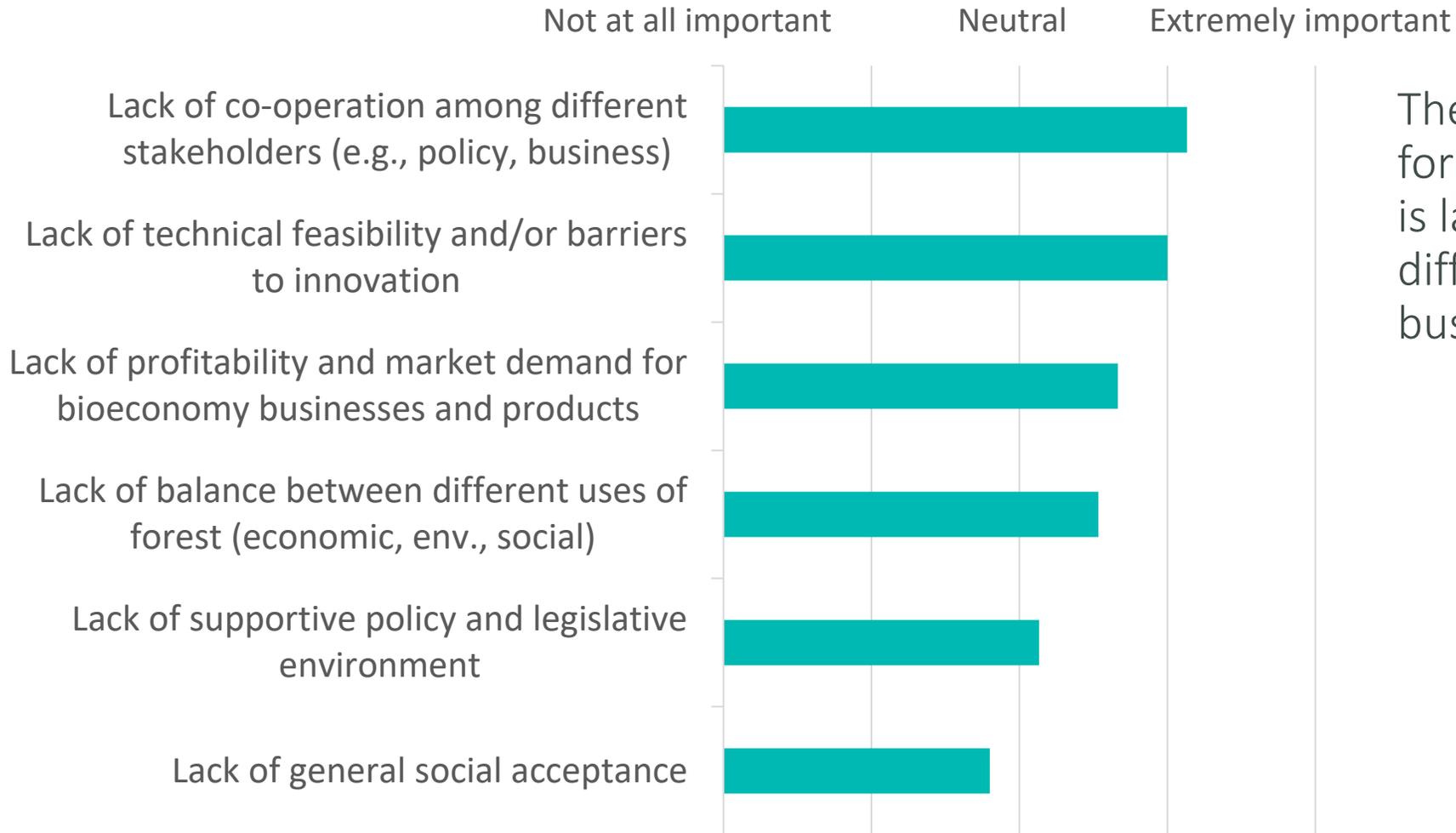
All predefined supporting conditions were considered important with *Investment in innovation* the most important supporting condition.



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# Barriers for bioeconomy development



The most important barrier for bioeconomy development is lack of co-operation among different stakeholders (policy, business, etc.).



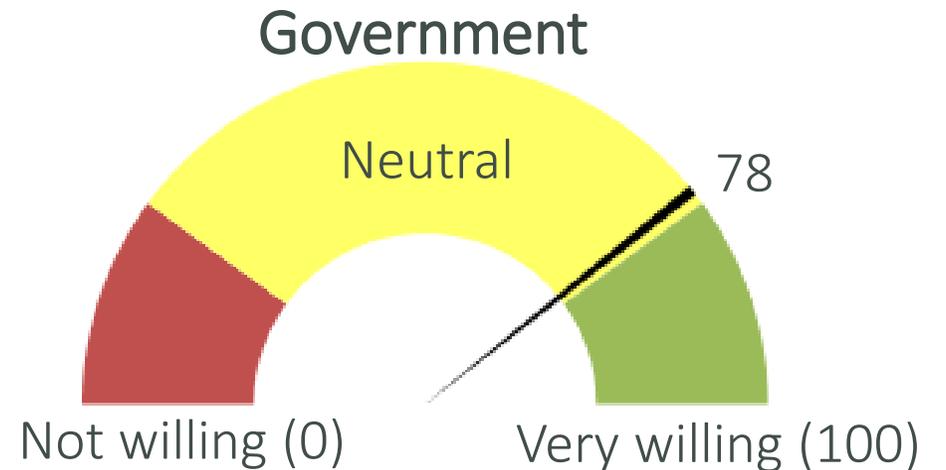
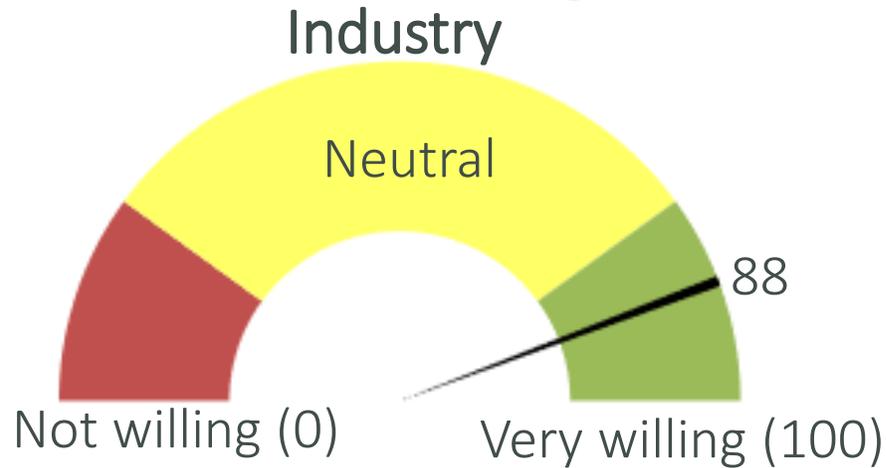
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# Willingness to engage with the bioeconomy

- 71% of industry respondents said to have undertaken an investment project in the bioeconomy in the past.
- 50% of government respondents said to have undertaken a bioeconomy regulation or initiative in the past.

## Willingness to develop the bioeconomy



- Both government and industry are very willing to develop the bioeconomy, although industry sectors seem to be slightly more willing.

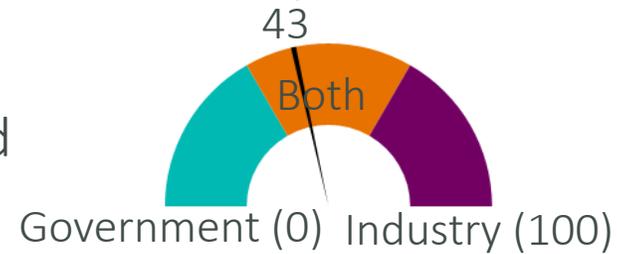


# Improve collaboration with government and industry

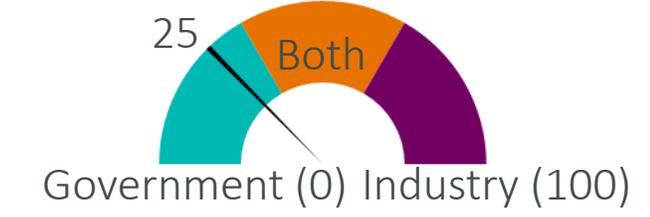
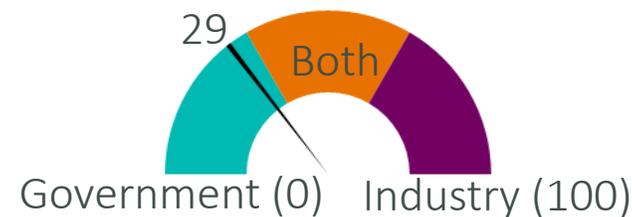
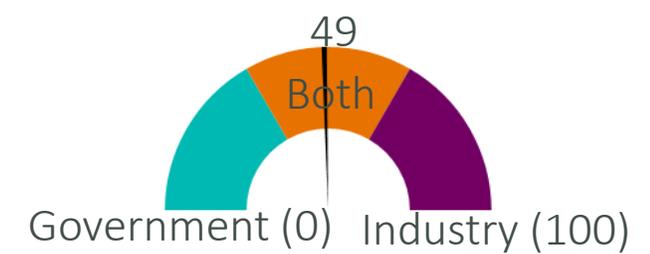
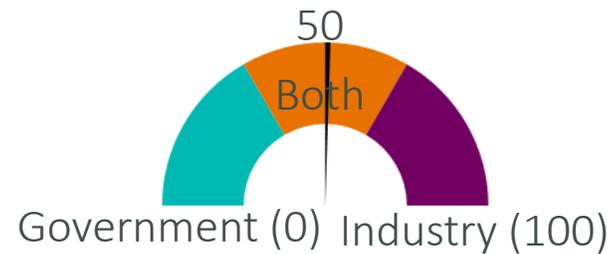
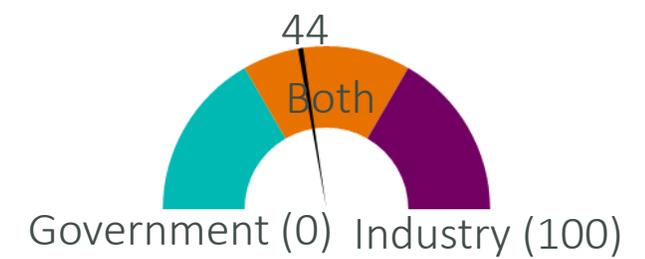
## Who is more responsible for:

- Ensuring the positive environmental and social impacts of the bioeconomy
- Investment in research, development, and innovation
- Communicating and promoting the bioeconomy among the general public

According to government respondents



According to industry respondents



Government and industry respondents are very much aligned!

Both groups emphasised that the government is more responsible in communicating the bioeconomy among the general public.

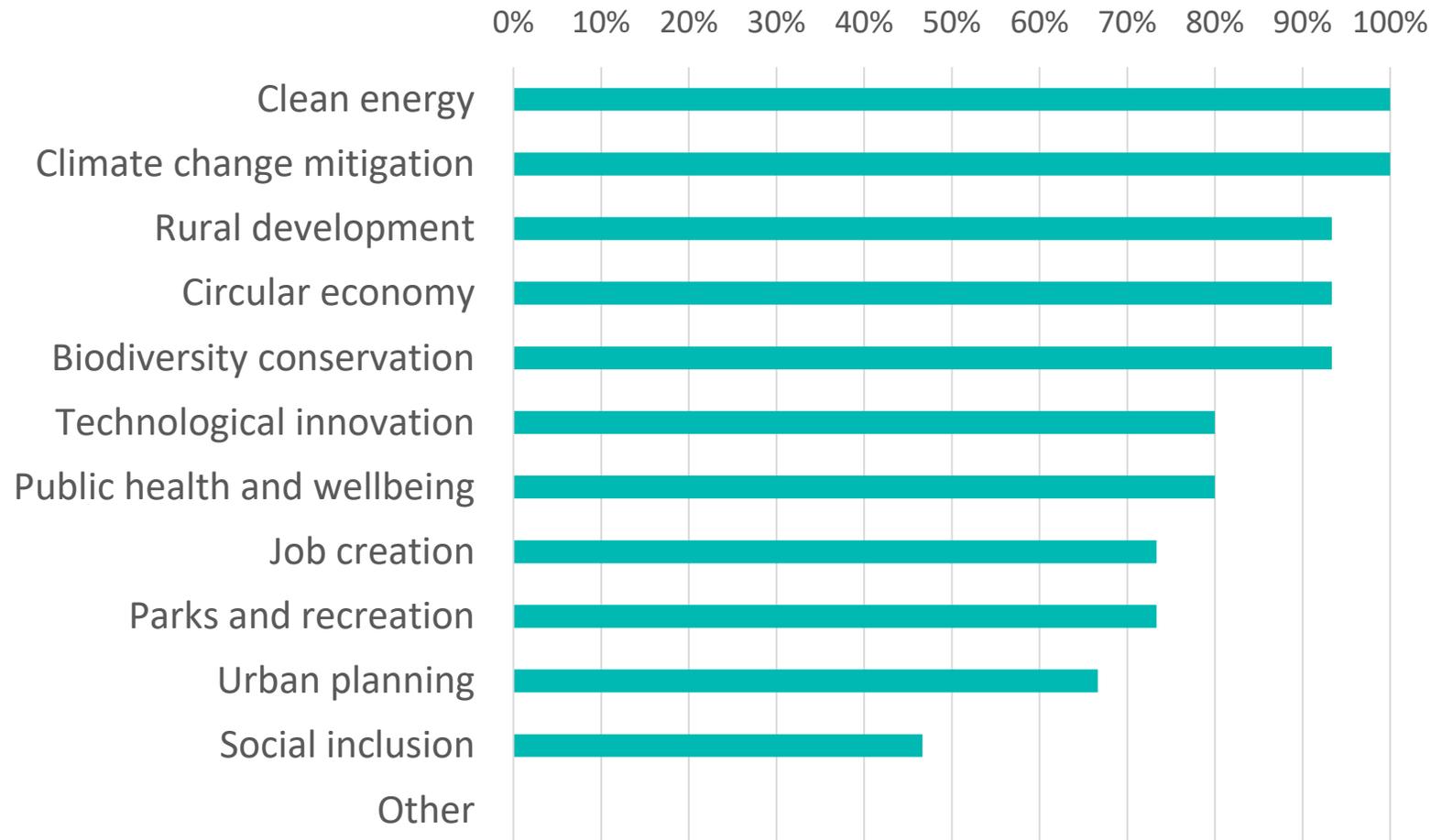


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# Key leverage points

Overlaps between bioeconomy and other policy areas



- Bioeconomy has strong goal alignment with several policy areas, especially *Climate change mitigation* and *Clean energy*.
- Other policy areas with very high overlap are *Biodiversity conservation*, *Circular economy*, and *Rural development*.
- Bioeconomy was considered to have less goal alignment with social and economic policy areas.





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To learn more about the regional bioeconomy in North Karelia, or to launch the survey in your region, visit:

[www.bioregions.efi.int](http://www.bioregions.efi.int)

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