

REVIEW

**of the UNECE activities under the Espoo Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in a
Transboundary Context
and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental
Assessment**

MANDATE and METHODOLOGY

- Mandatory for all UN programmes
- Conducted by independent & external evaluator (George Safonov)
- Desk review (treaty texts; workplans; financial reports, etc.)
- Survey
 - in March-April 2016
 - Sent to all focal points and stakeholders
 - Only 20 responses: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, as well as the European Commission - DG Environment, and Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN).
- Interviews (selected and available)
 - (selected and available): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, European Commission, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland
- Evaluation forms of Working Group's 5th meeting (April 2016)

Aims

- Evaluate **relevance, effectiveness and efficiency** of UNECE activities under the Convention and Protocol
- Contribute to ensuring continued relevance + increased effectiveness and impact of the activities
- Contribute to ensuring relevance of policy and workplan activities for 2017–2020
- Enable more effective procedures for delivery of future activities, where necessary

RELEVANCE of workplan activities

- i.e. whether meet Treaties' aims and countries' needs
- review of work under 2011–2014 and 2014–2017 workplans (and receive feedback on proposals for 2017-2020 draft workplan)
 - Compliance and implementation;
 - Subregional cooperation and capacity-building;
 - Exchange of good practice
 - Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA (including outreach, strategic planning, etc.)
 - Financial and in-kind contributions

EFFECTIVENESS of secretariat support...

- to governing and subsidiary bodies – in bringing results, achieving goals, meeting objectives
- Issues assessed:
 - Procedure of the review of compliance
 - Reporting and review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol
 - Communication between the Secretariat and the Parties
 - The capacity building activities

EFFICIENCY of the work

- Whether carried out in an optimal way of spending available resources
- Elements assessed:
 - Organization of the meetings
 - Preparation of the meeting documentation
 - Implementation of the workplan activities
 - Review of compliance
 - Reporting and the review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol
 - Monitoring of expenditures based on the reports on use of funds by the Secretariat
 - Communication between the Secretariat and Parties
 - The capacity building activities
 - **Maintaining the gender equality** in the work

Quantitative analysis of estimates (scores)

1 - highly ineffective/irrelevant

2 - somewhat ineffective/irrelevant

3 - somewhat effective/relevant

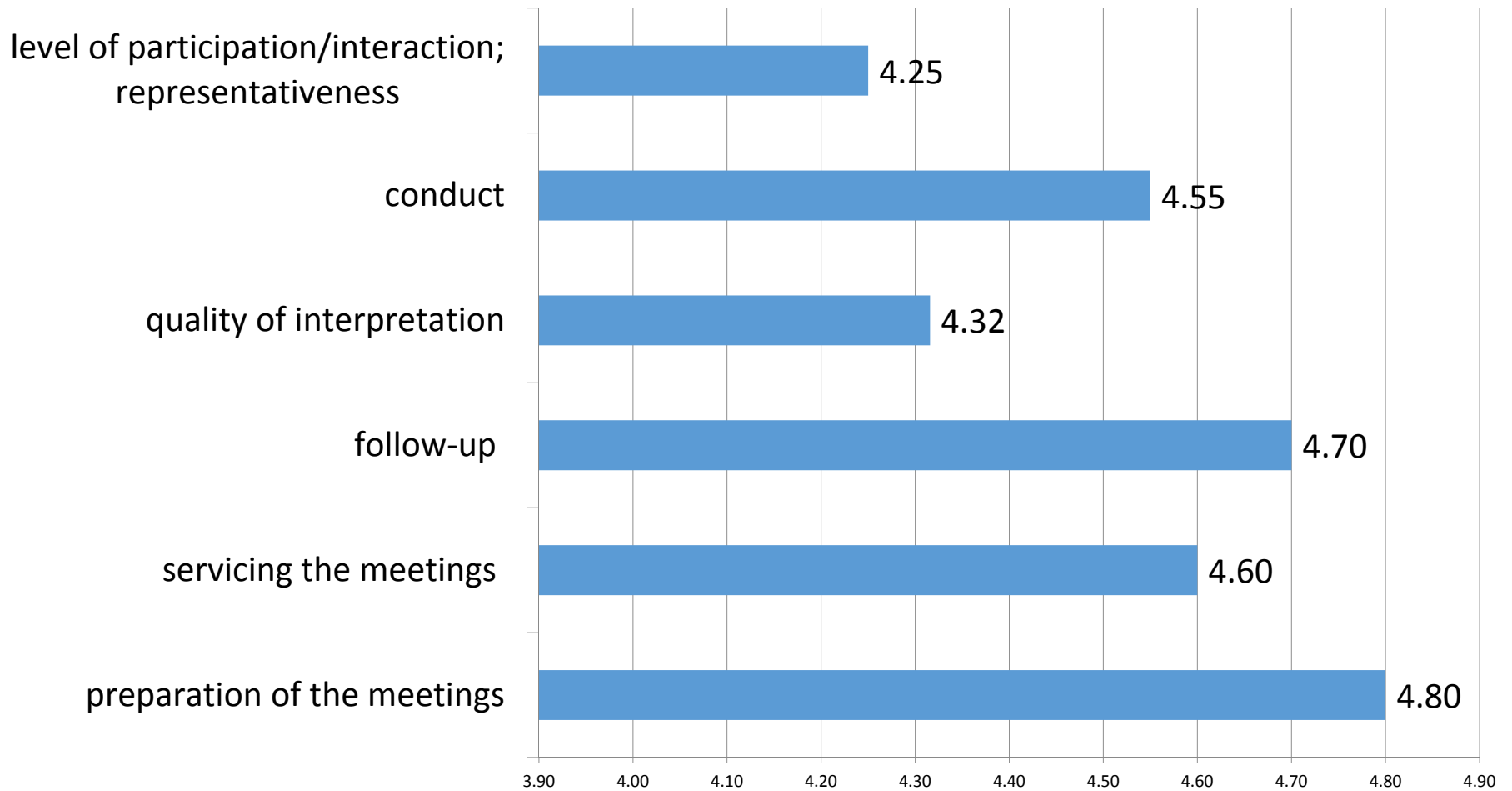
4 - mostly effective/relevant

5 - very effective/relevant

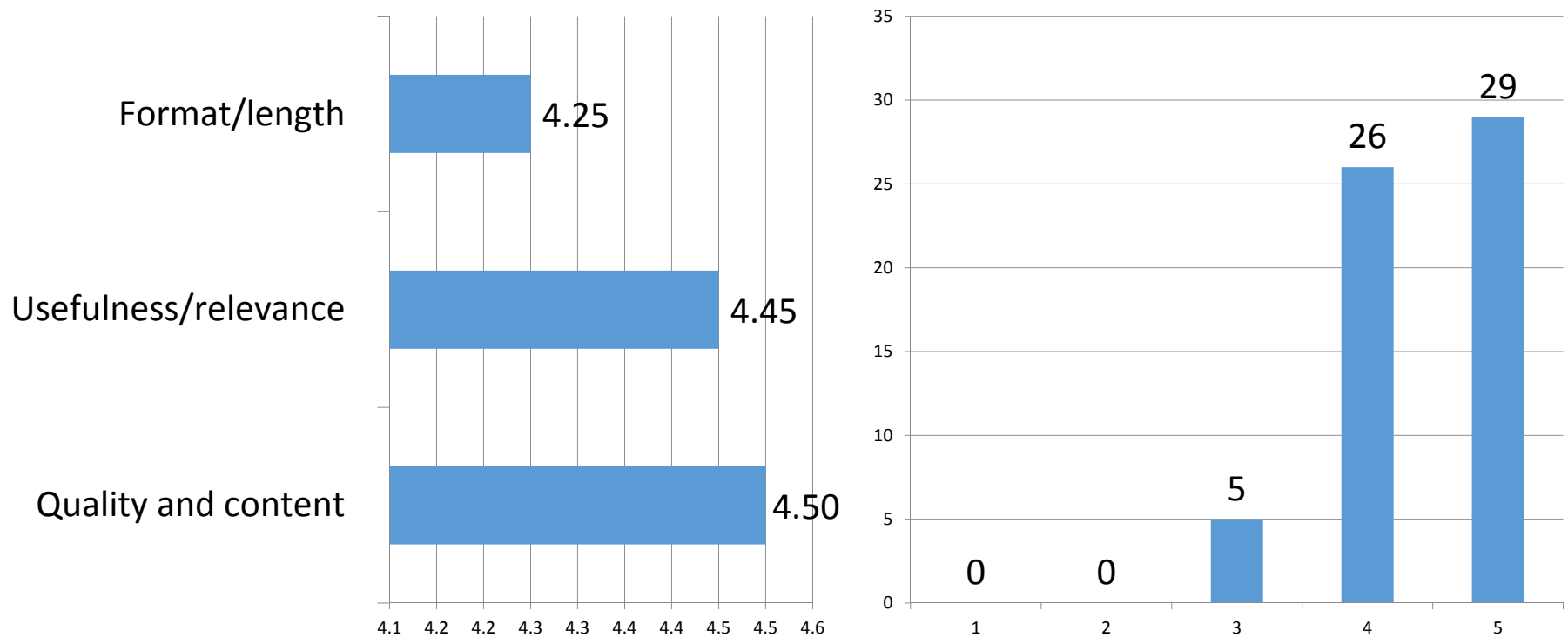
Outcomes = positive

- Overall effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of UNECE activities assessed very positively, with majority of “mostly and very satisfactory” estimates (95% of estimates)
- No evidence of failures, poor performance, inefficient use of resources, misguiding in treaty implementation
- Total score of 4.19 (out of 5)
- Highest level of satisfaction: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, and Spain (average > 4.5).
- Lowest average estimates (< 3.5) from Bosnia and Herzegovina; and Finland
- Remaining 11 respondents’ average (close to 4 and above)

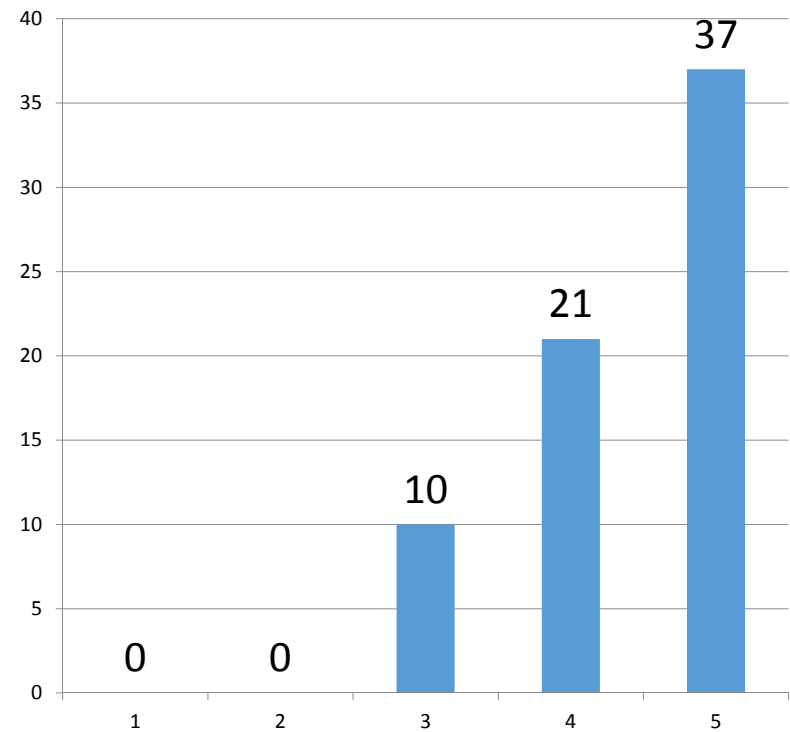
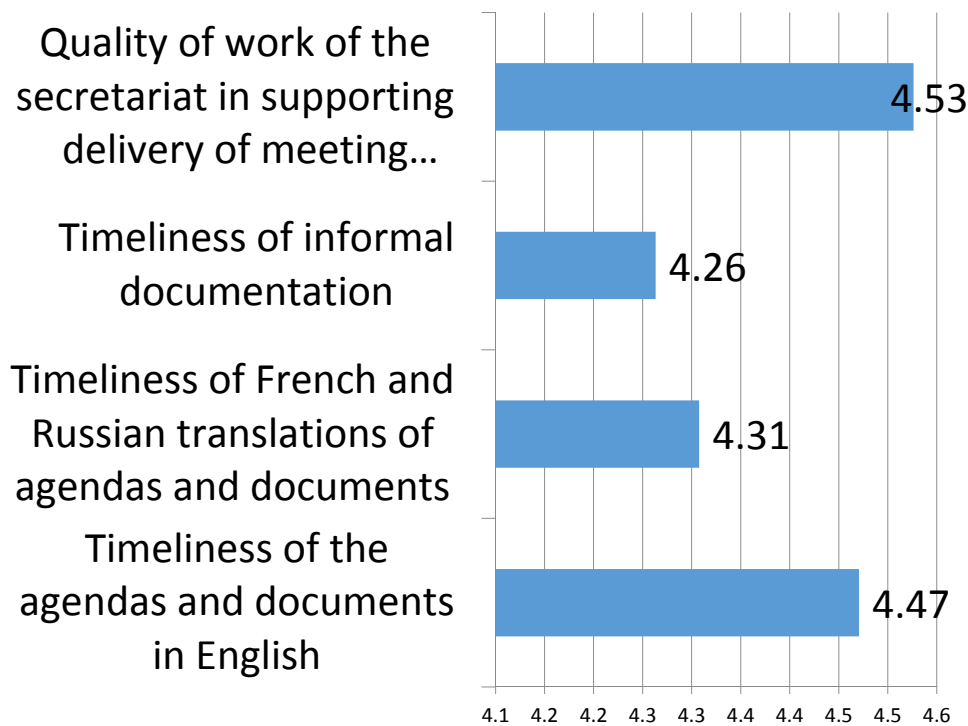
Quality of meetings = very high



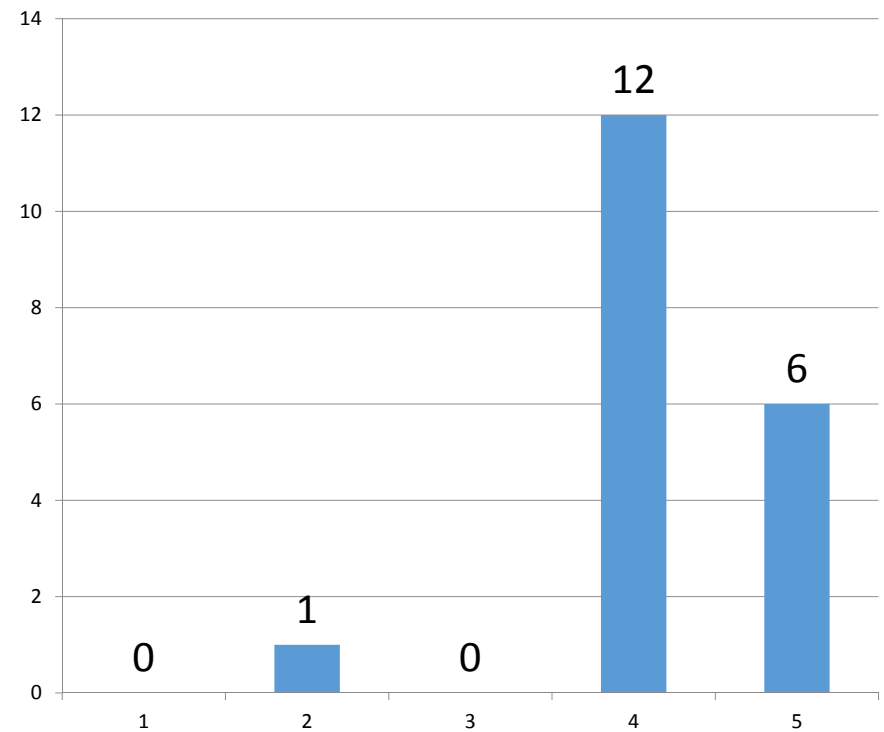
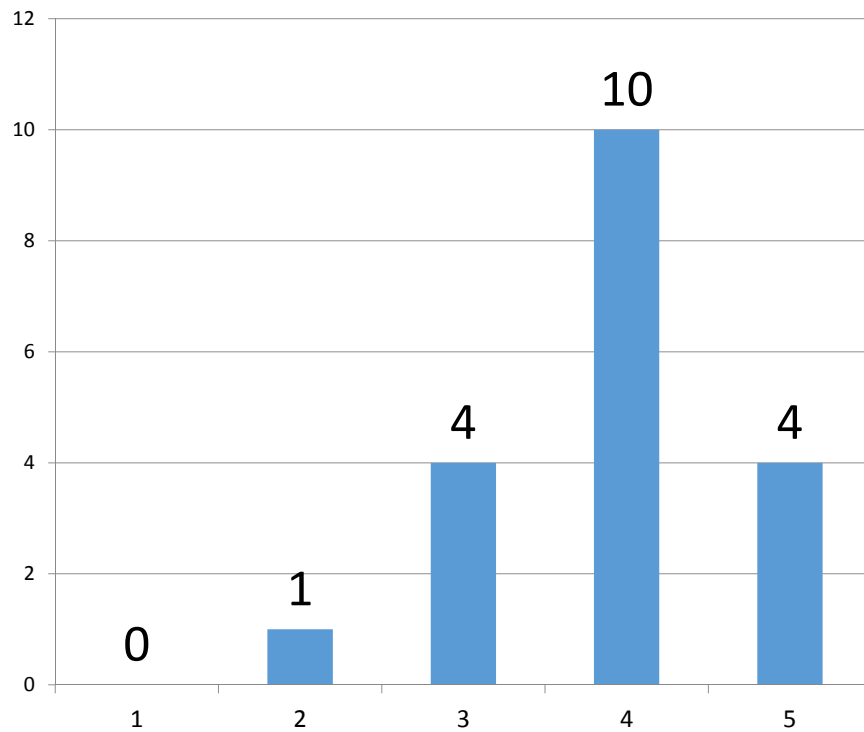
Effectiveness of preparation of meeting documentation = very high



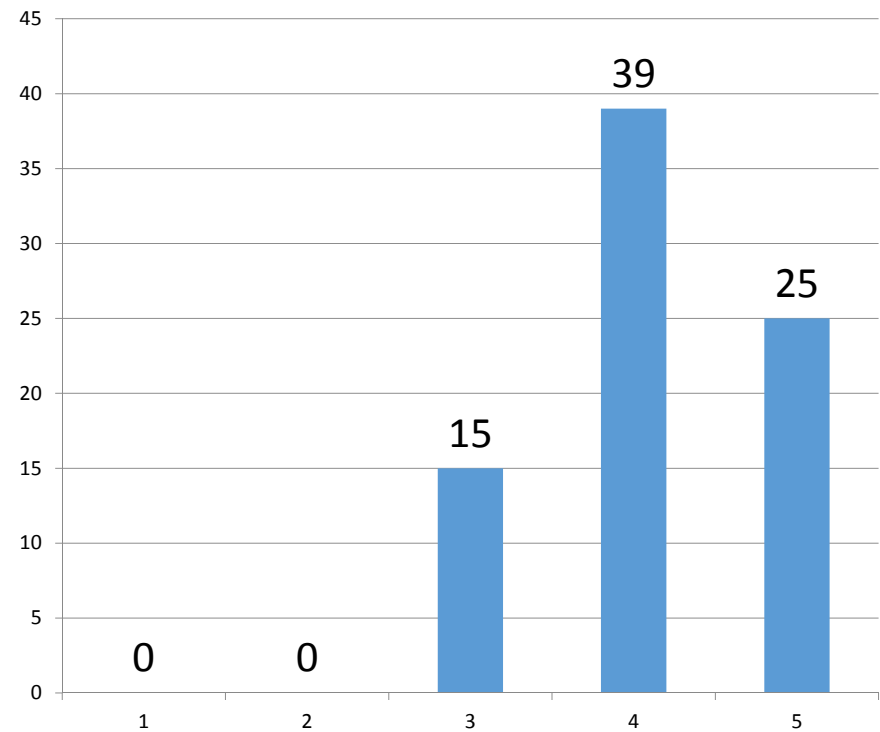
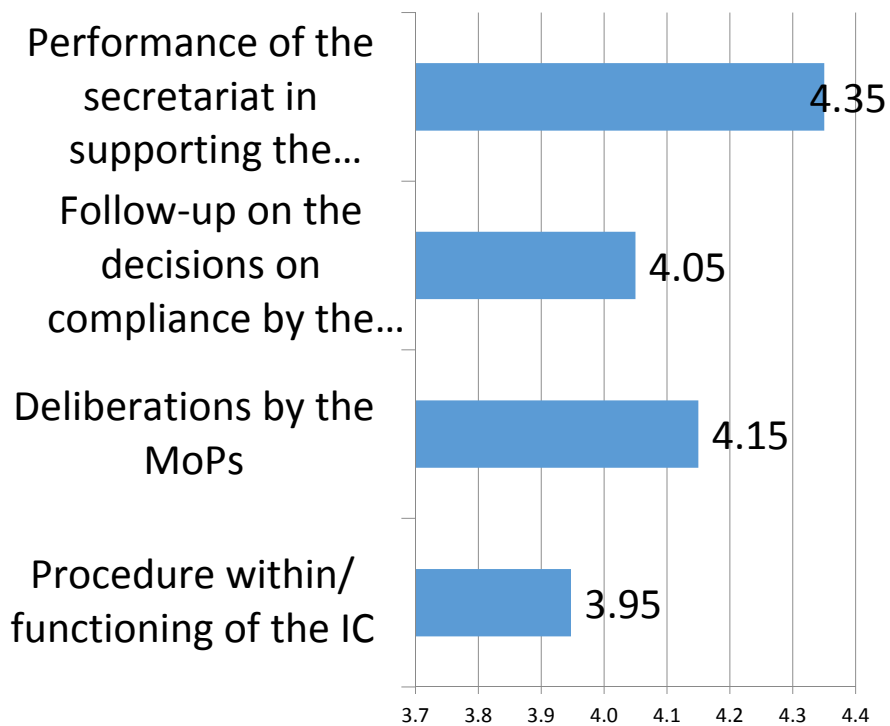
Efficiency in preparation of documentation = highly efficient



Degree of implementation of workplan + secretariat's support = mostly effective

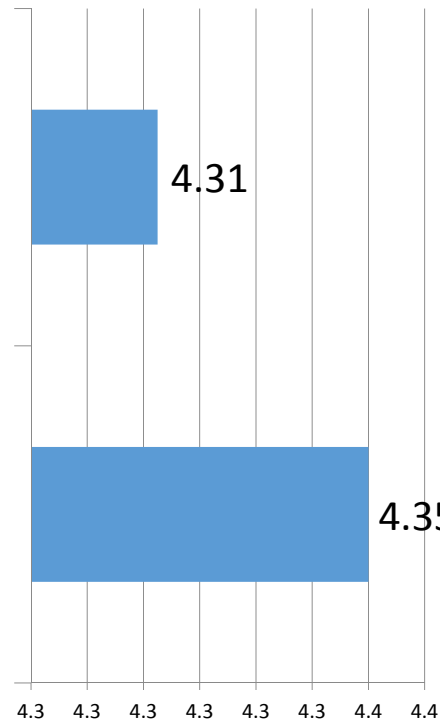


Effectiveness of the review of compliance= mostly effective

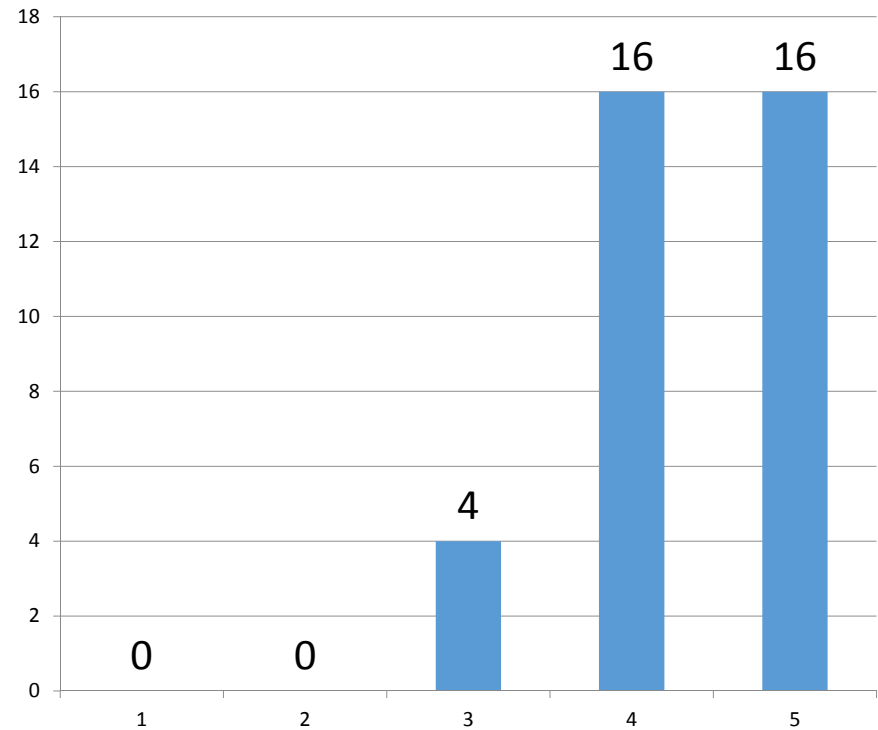


Compliance review = highly efficient

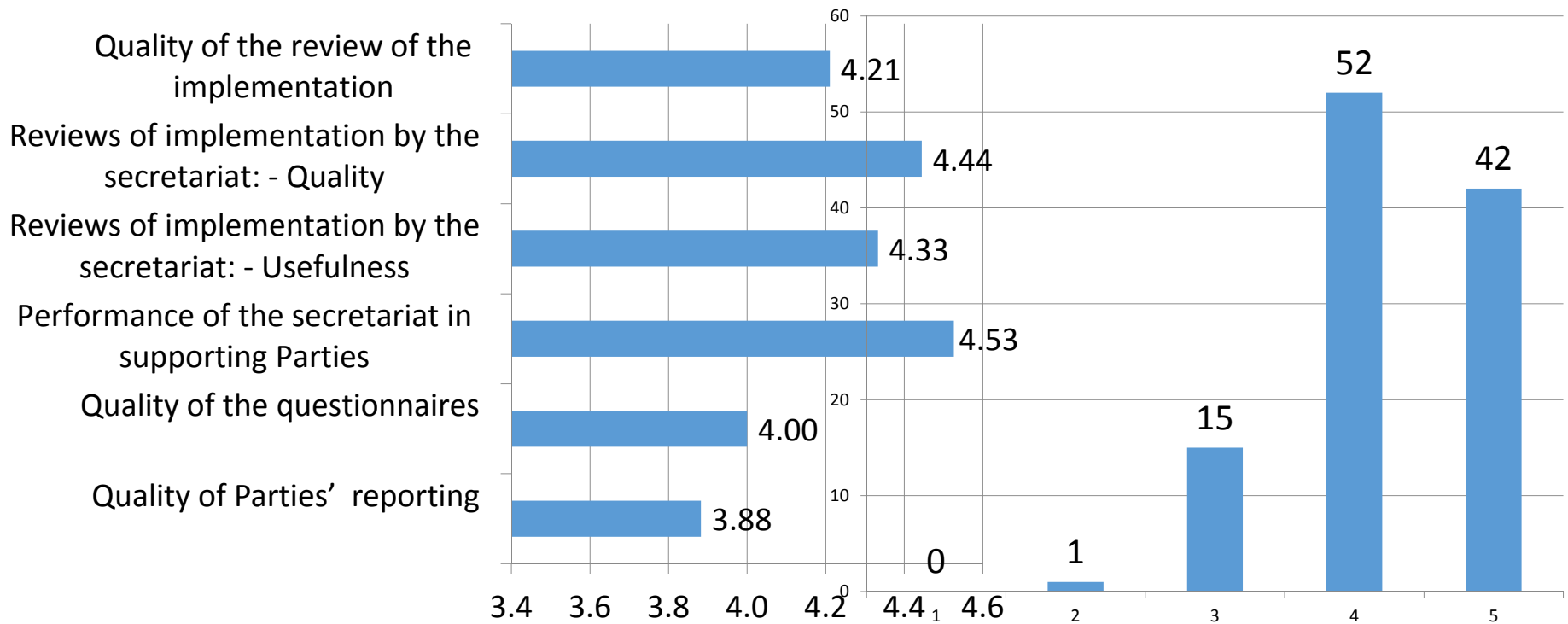
Efficiency of the secretariat promote the timeliness of the review of...



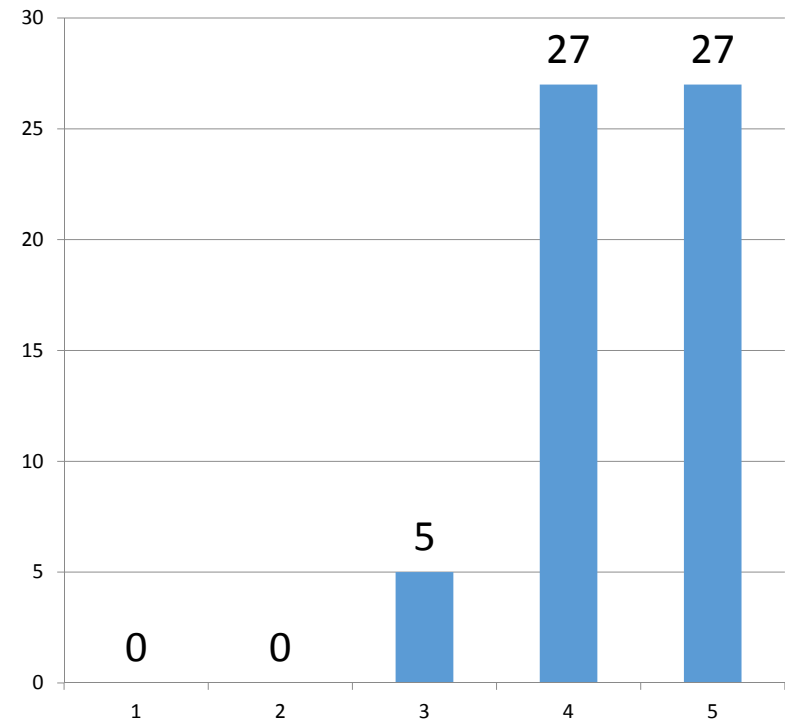
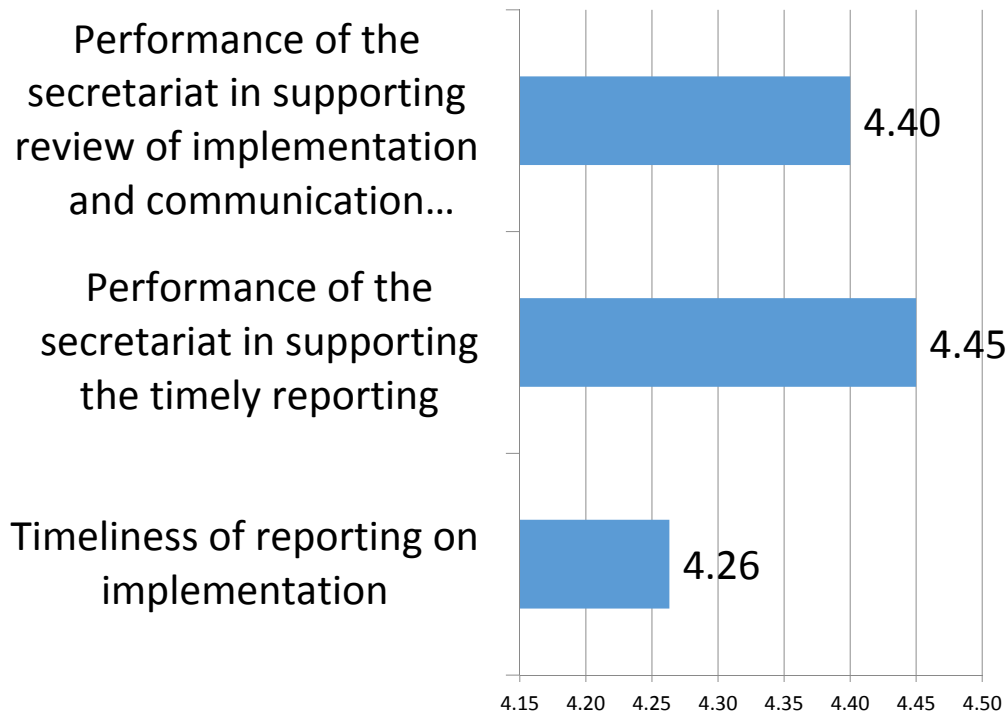
Timeliness of the compliance review



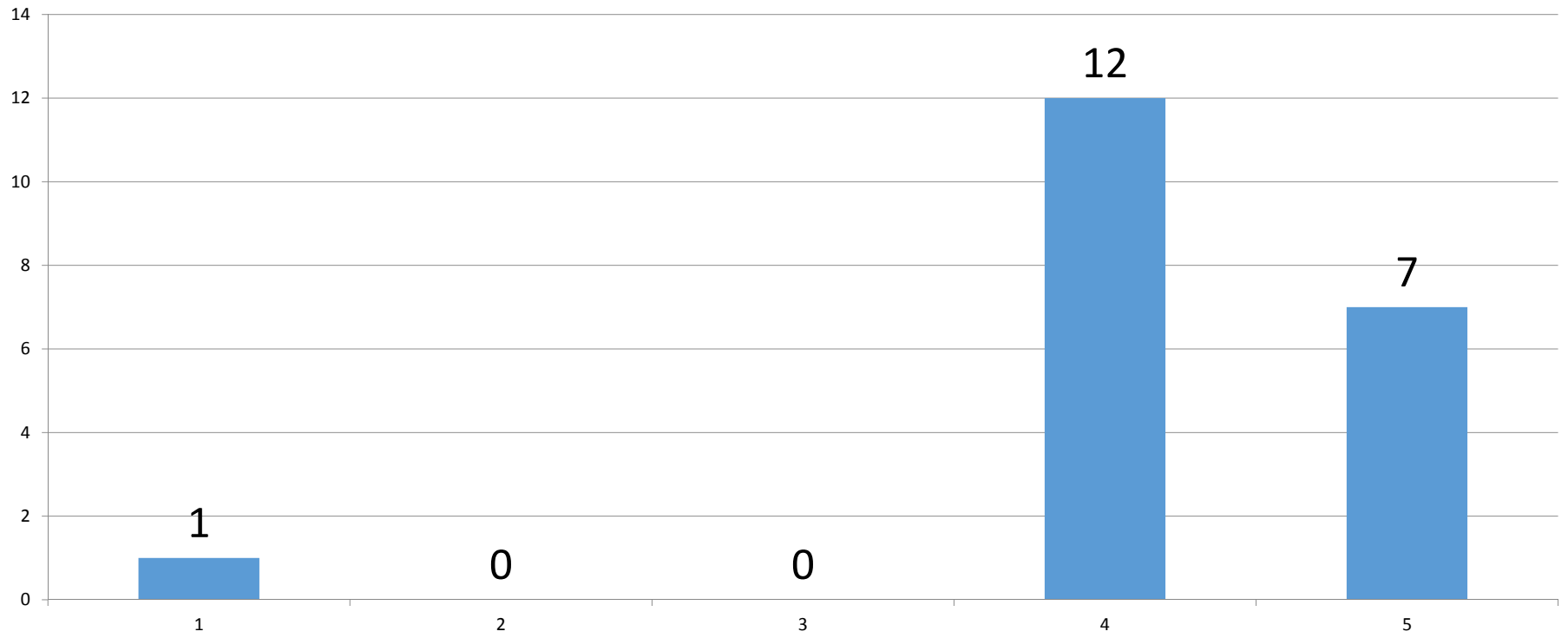
Reporting and review of implementation = mostly effective



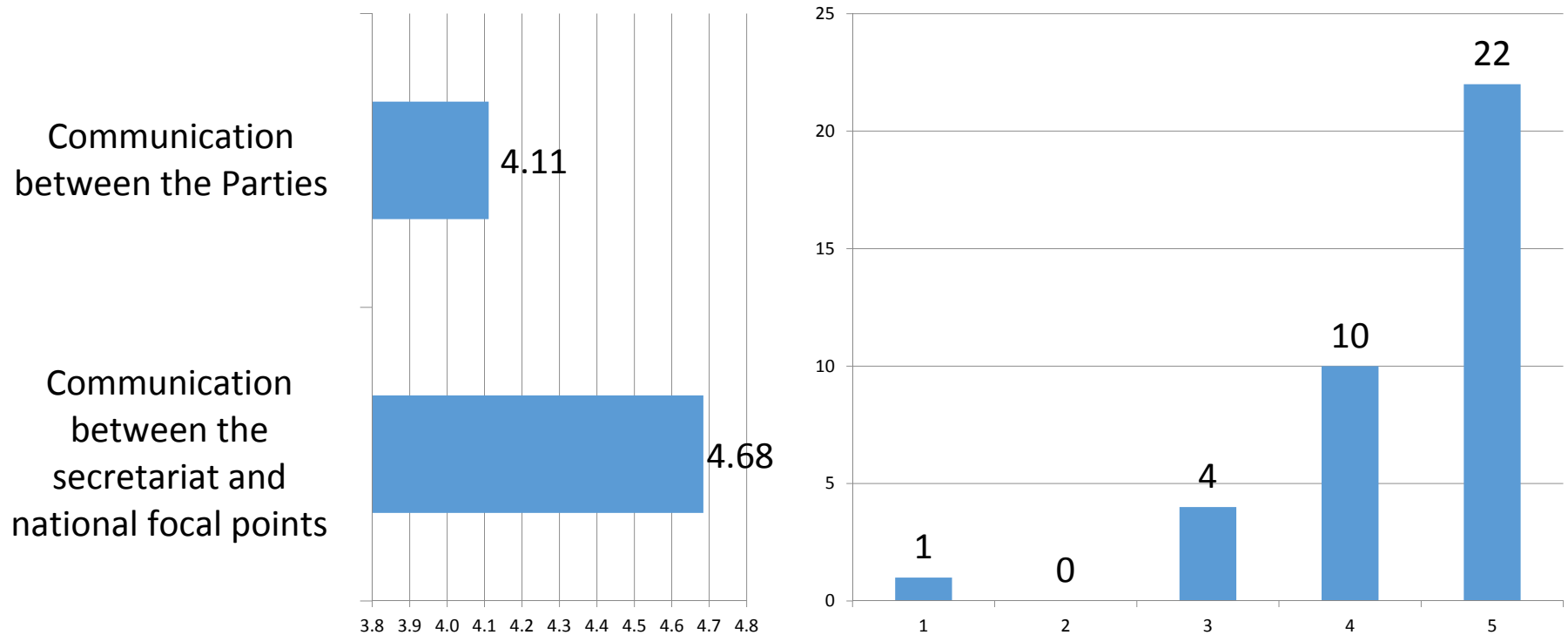
Reporting and review of implementation = highly efficient



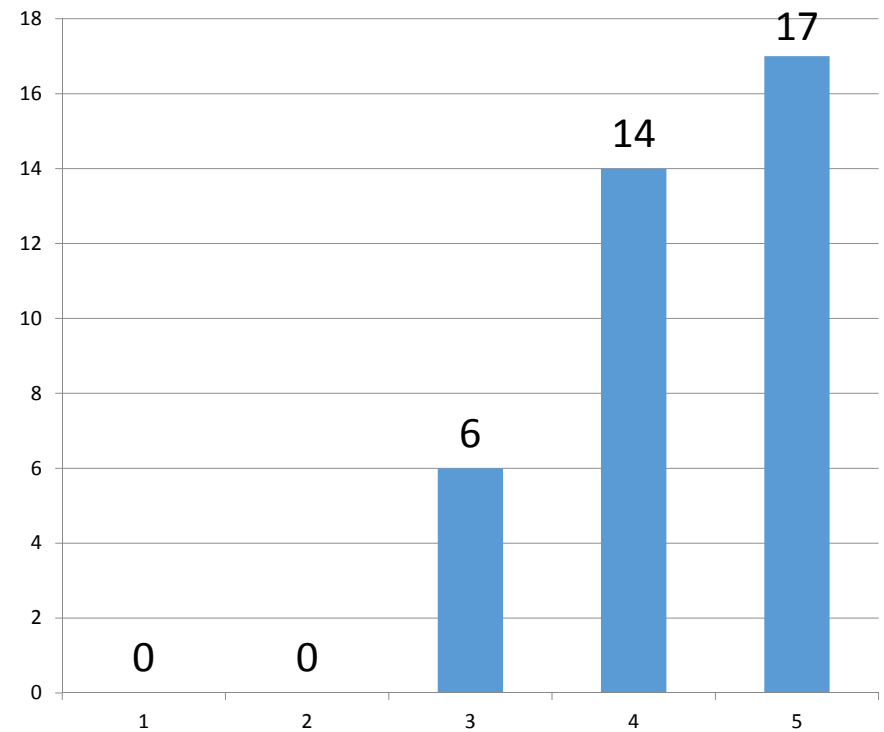
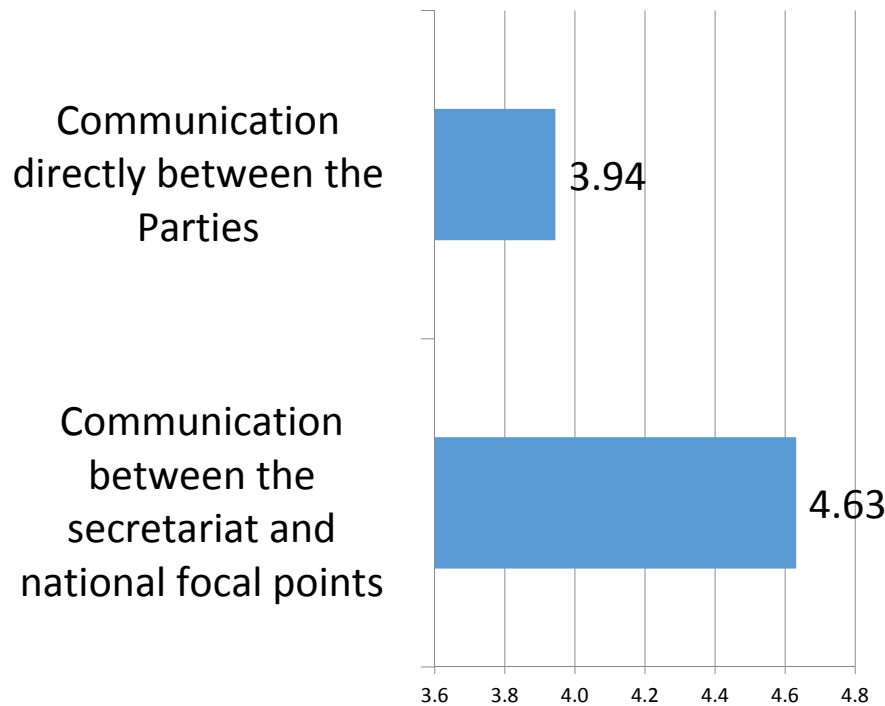
Monitoring of expenditures = highly effective



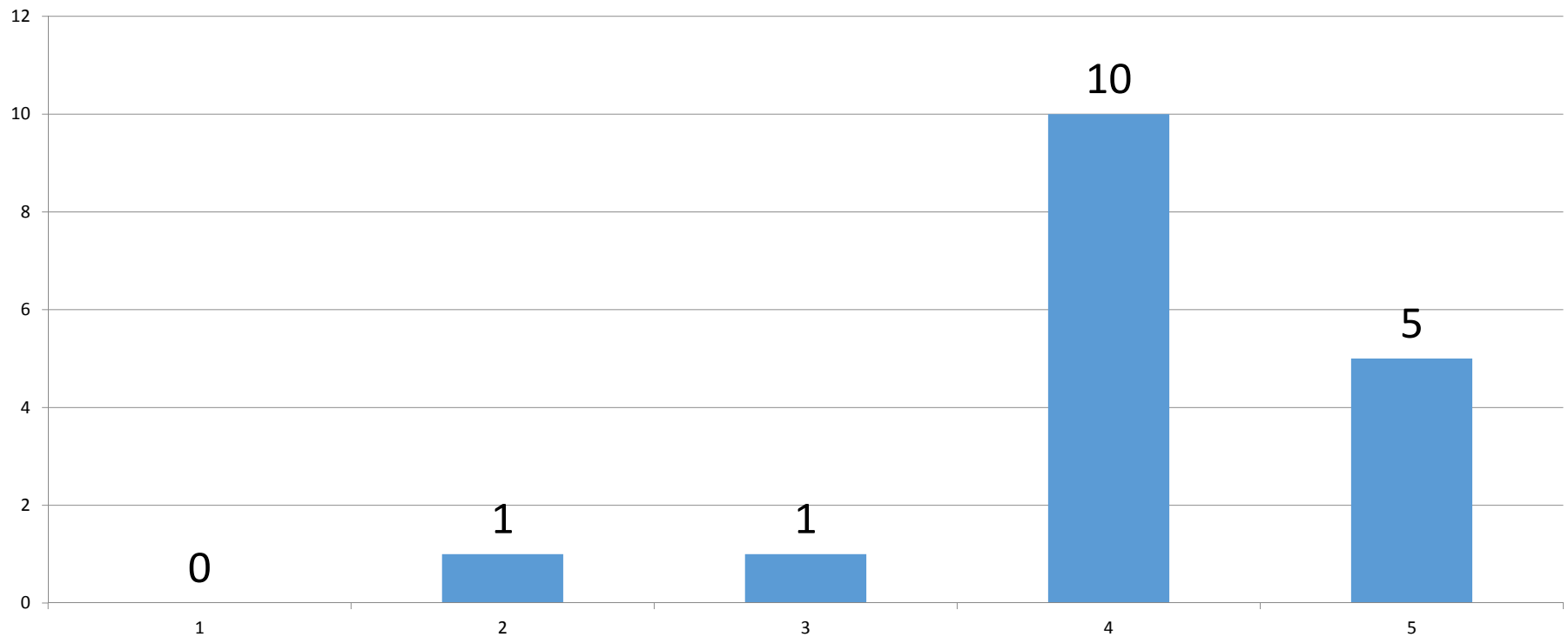
Communication between Secretariat and Parties = highly effective; Between Parties = moderately effective



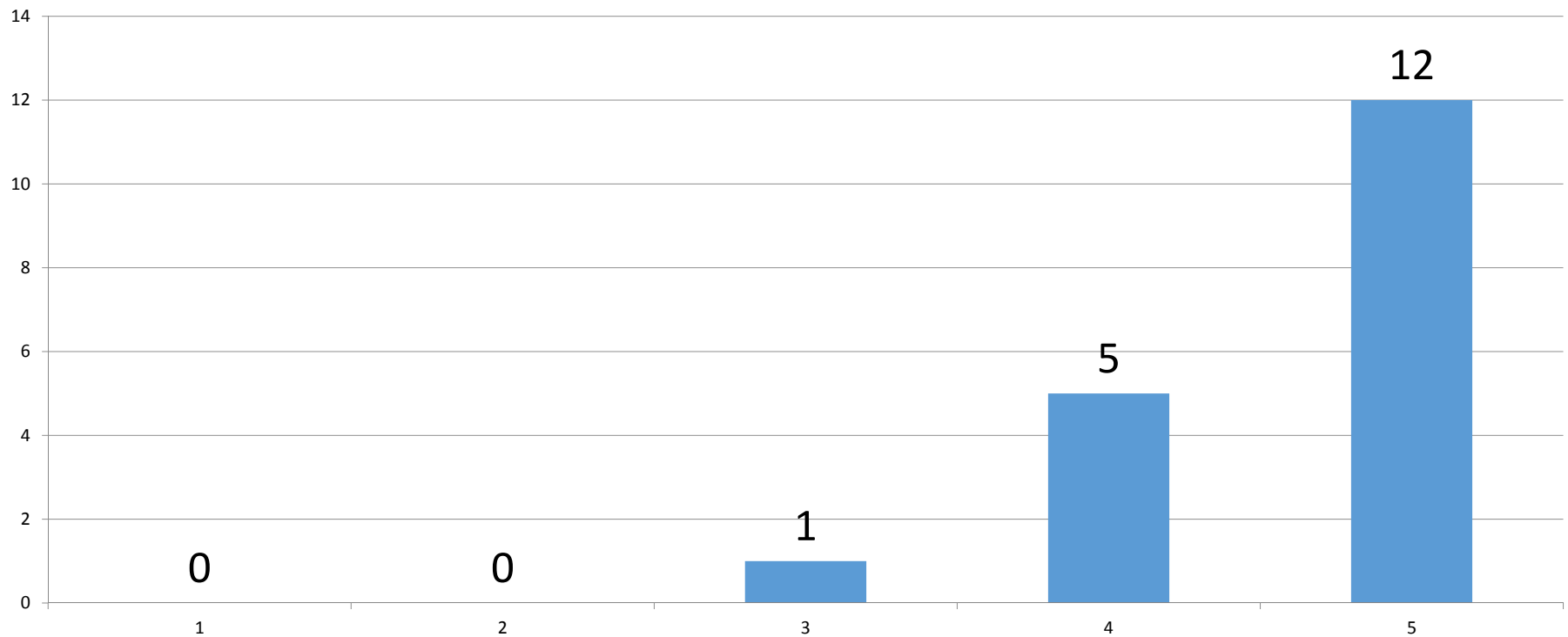
Communication between Secretariat and Parties = highly efficient; Parties' direct communication = moderately efficient



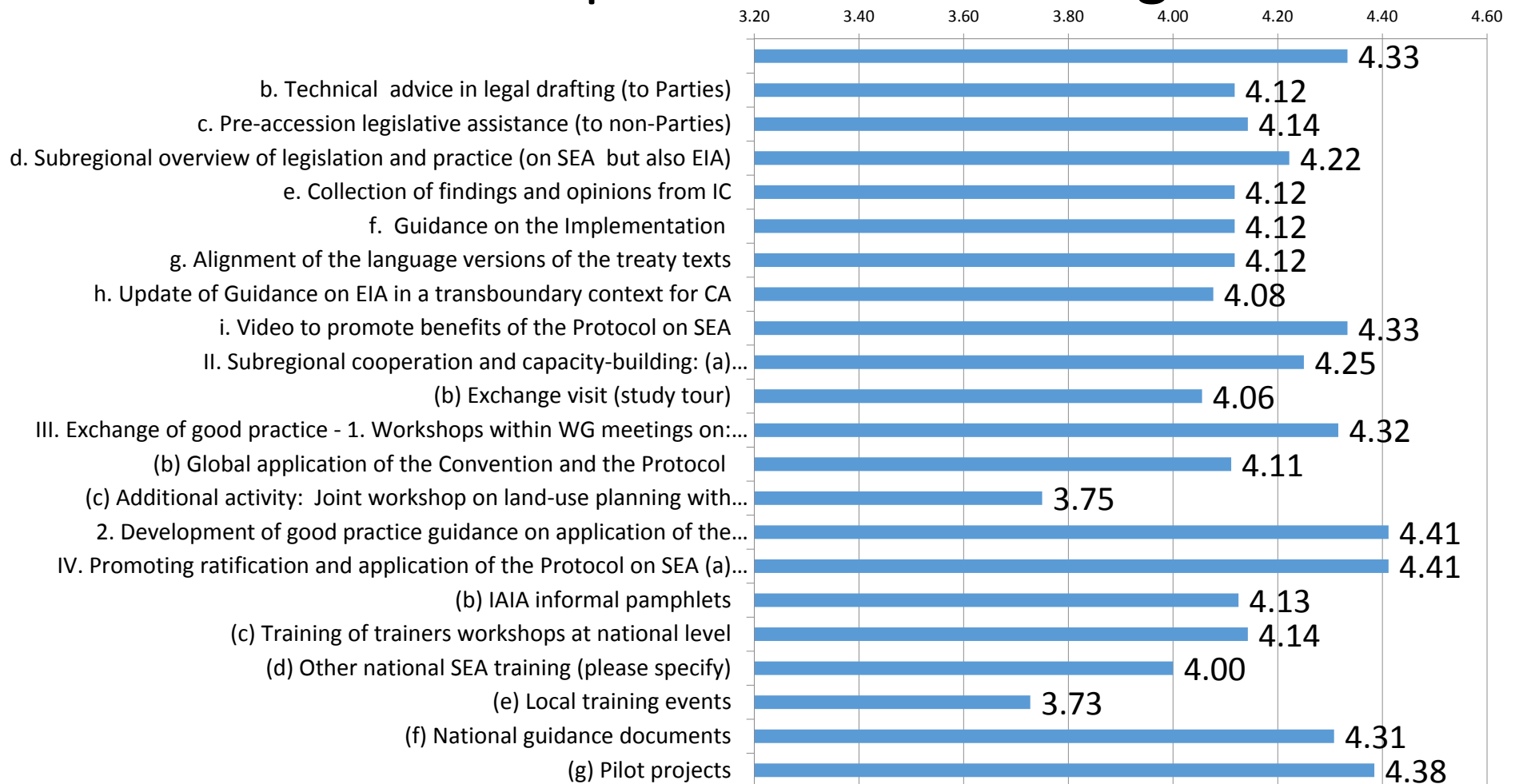
Effectiveness of capacity building activities = highly effective



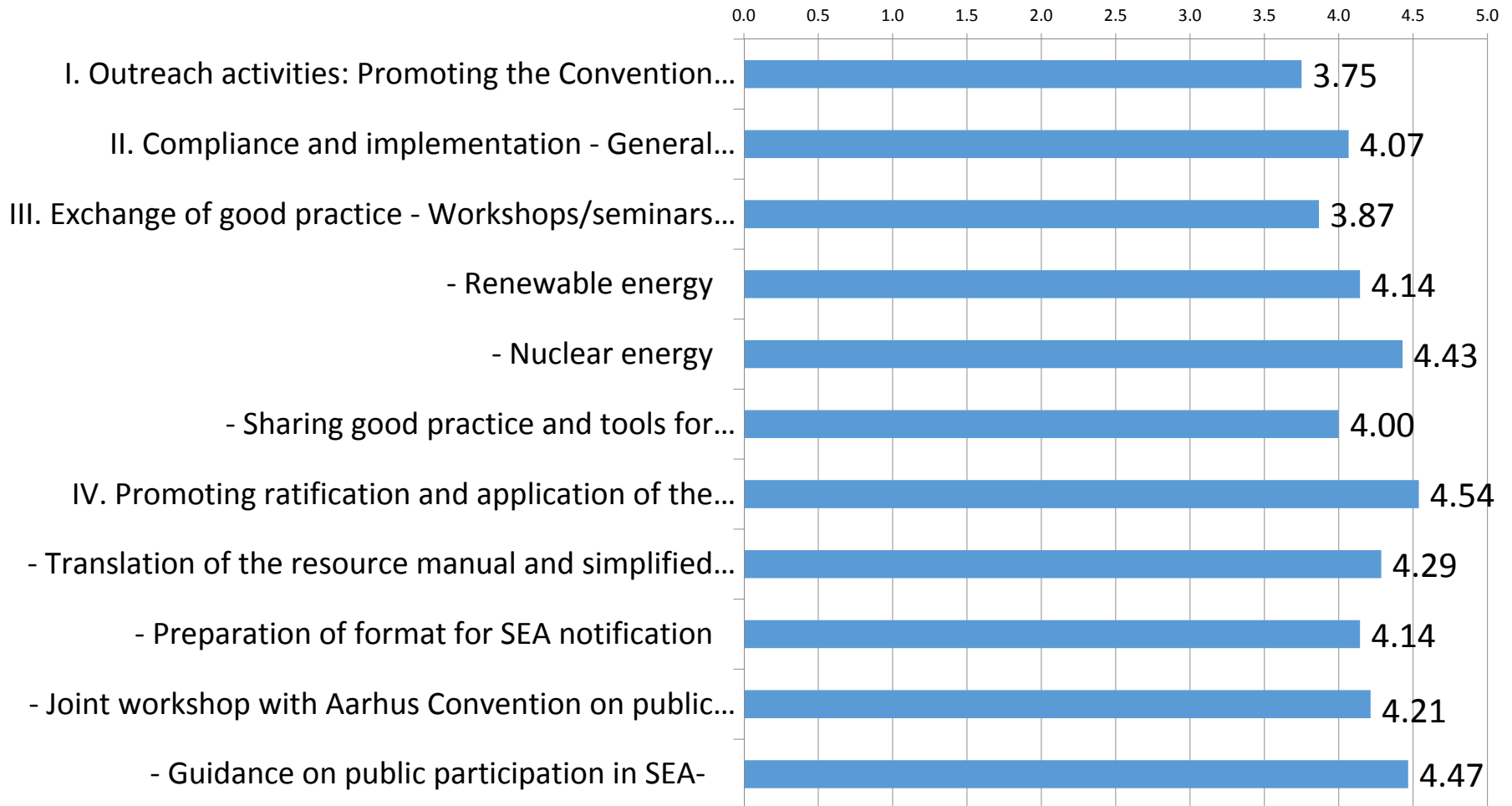
Maintaining gender equality = highly effective



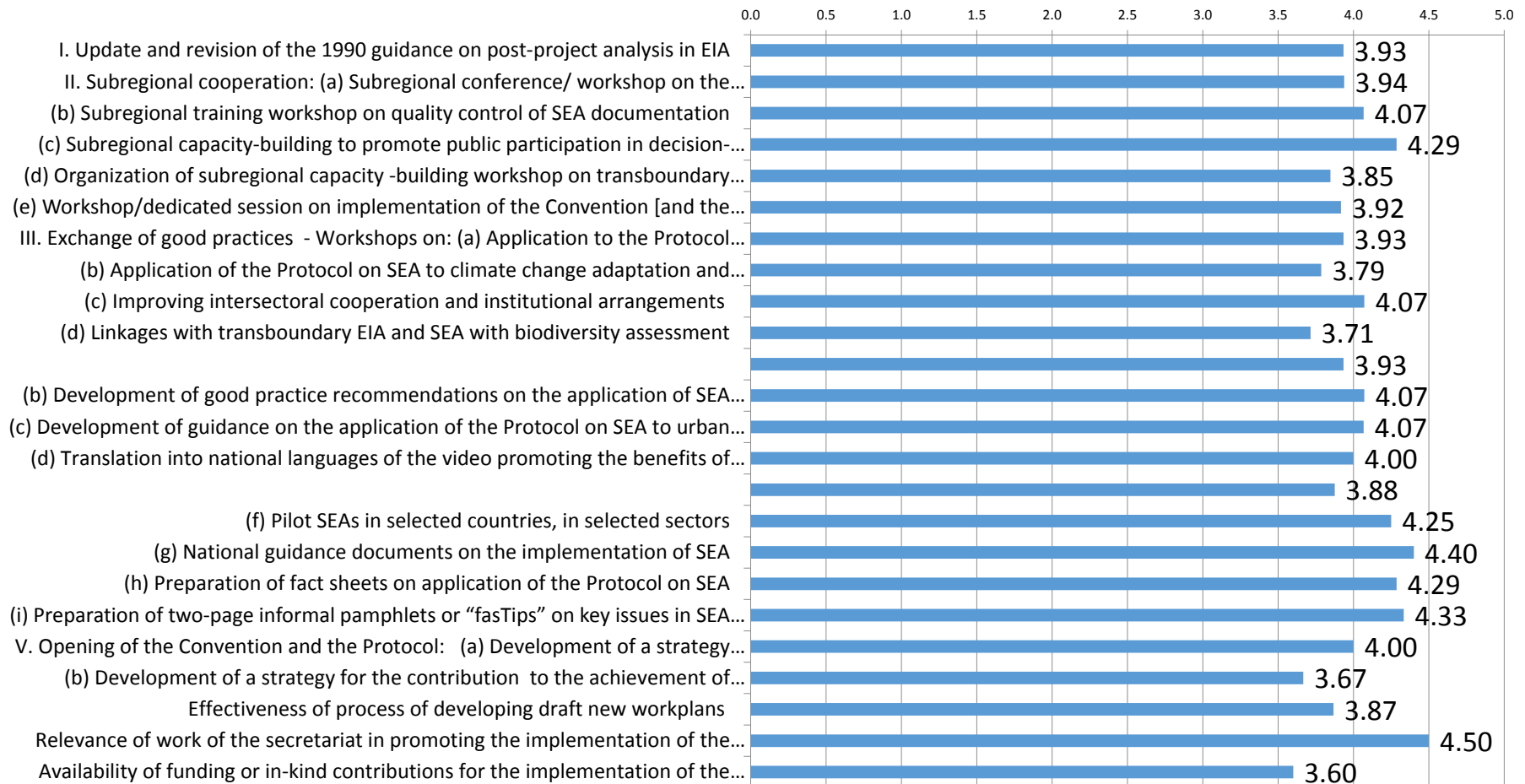
Relevance of workplan 2014-2017 = high



2011-2014 workplan = highly relevant



Proposals for 2017-2020 draft workplan = relevant



Most relevant proposals for 2017-2020 draft workplan

- National guidance documents on the implementation of SEA (4.40)
- Informal pamphlets or “FasTips” on key issues in SEA practice (4.33)
- Preparation of fact sheets on application of the Protocol on SEA (4.29)
- Subregional capacity-building activities to promote public participation in decision-making on EIA and SEA (4.29)
- Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors (4.25)
- Subregional training workshop on quality control of SEA documentation 4.07
- Improving intersectoral cooperation and institutional arrangements for the application of the Protocol and the Convention (4.07)
- Development of good practice recommendations on the application of SEA to climate change mitigation (4.07)
- Development of guidance on application of the Protocol to urban planning (4.07)
- Development of strategy for the implementation of Conv. and Prot. at global level
- Translation of video on SEA to national languages (4)