

Migration and remittances measurement in the pandemic

Results of the national statistical offices survey in UNECE countries

(with EECCA countries in focus)

27 October 2020

25 countries, online survey, October 10-16, 2020

Albania

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Belarus

Bulgaria

Croatia

Denmark

Estonia

France

Georgia

Hungary

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Montenegro

North Macedonia

Republic of Moldova

Russian Federation

Slovenia

Spain

Switzerland

Ukraine

United States

Uzbekistan

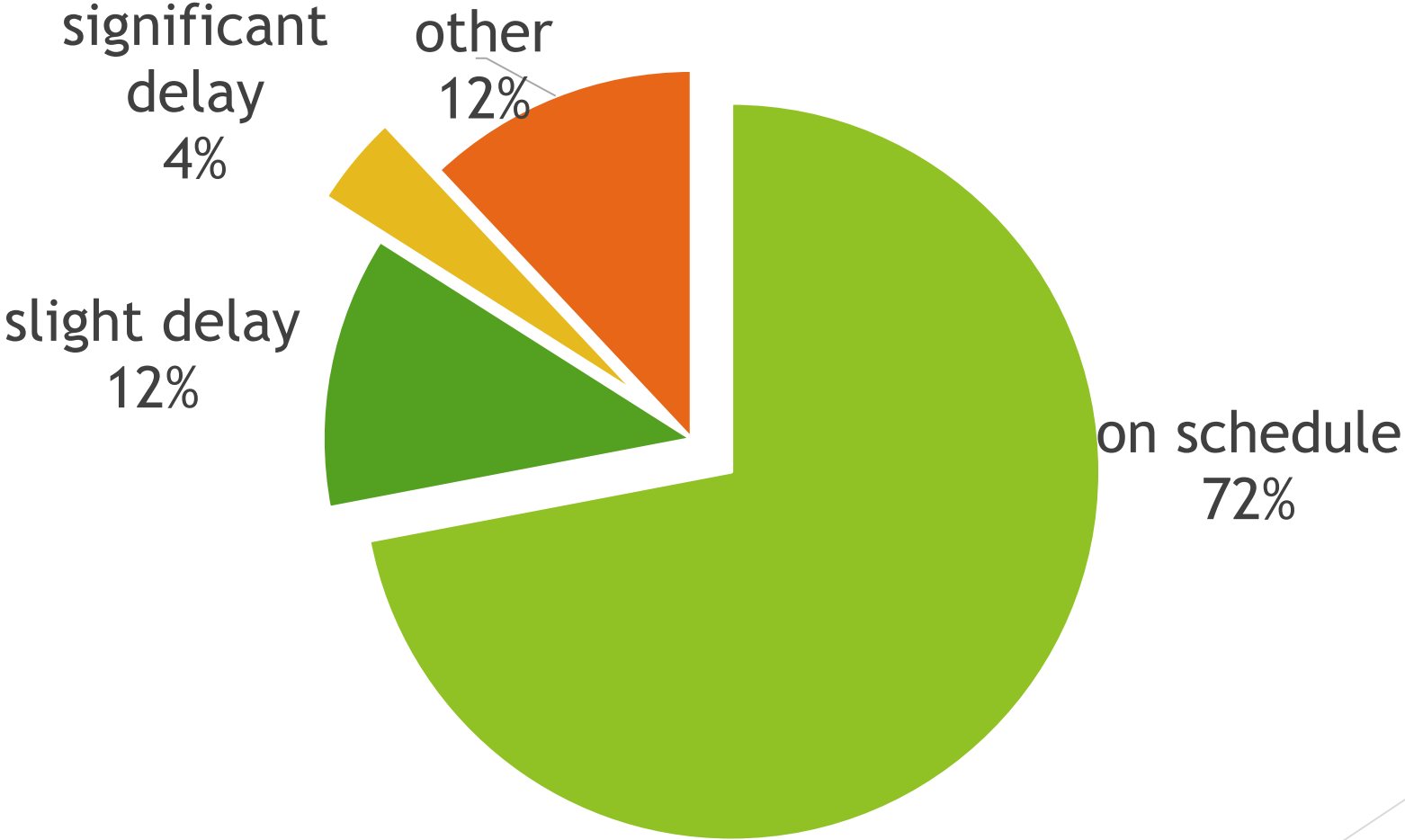
Key areas of research

- ▶ Data sources used
- ▶ Methods of data collection
- ▶ Demand and supply of data on the COVID-19 impact
- ▶ Difficulties faced and solutions applied

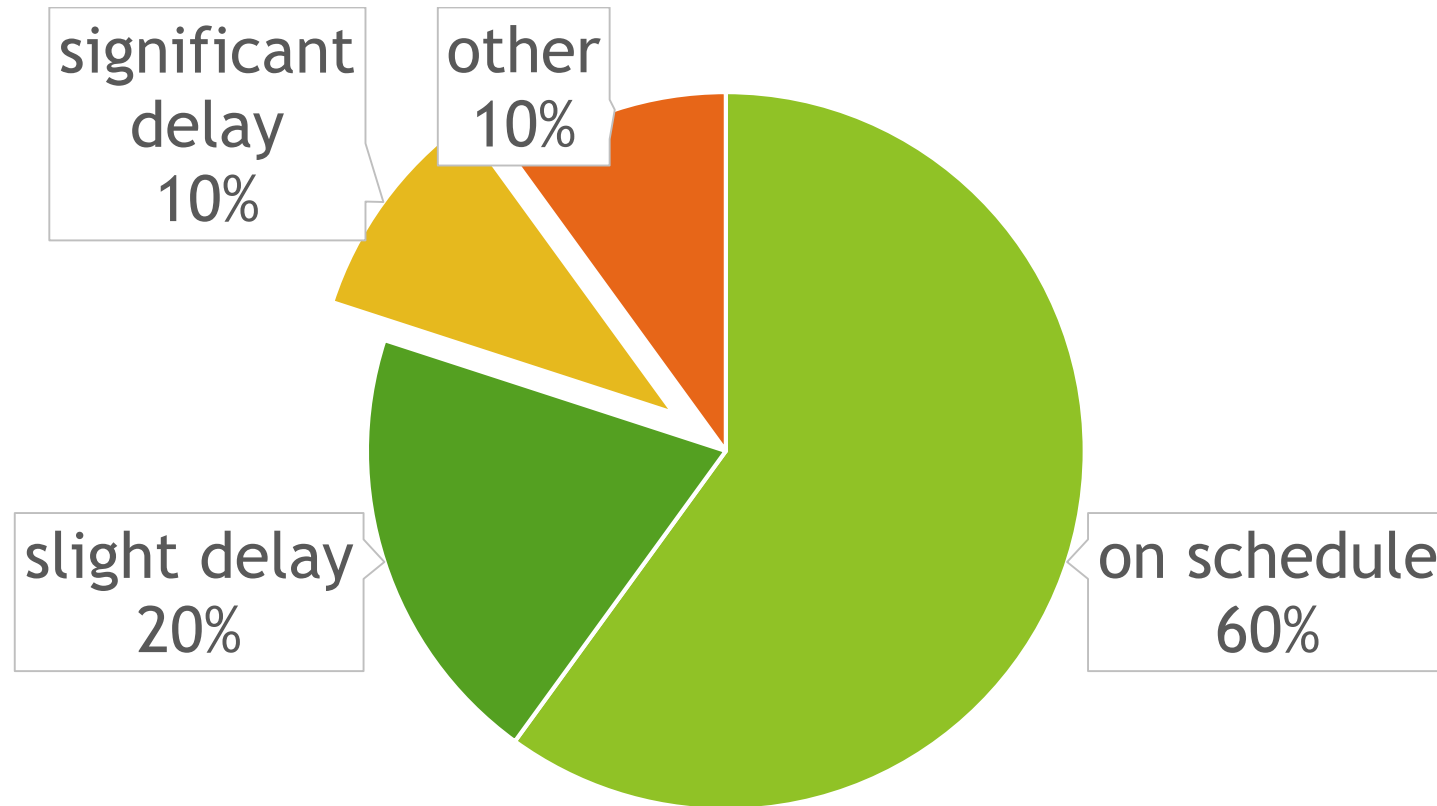
Disruptions in data collection

The data was collected mostly without significant delays - both through administrative sources and surveys, but the quality of data raises concerns.

Receiving administrative sources data: changes in procedure across UNECE



Receiving administrative sources data: changes in procedure across EECCA only



Data quality concerns: administrative sources

Collection of administrative data was constrained due to the restrictions of mobility and limited physical access to public offices.

Survey taking in pandemic

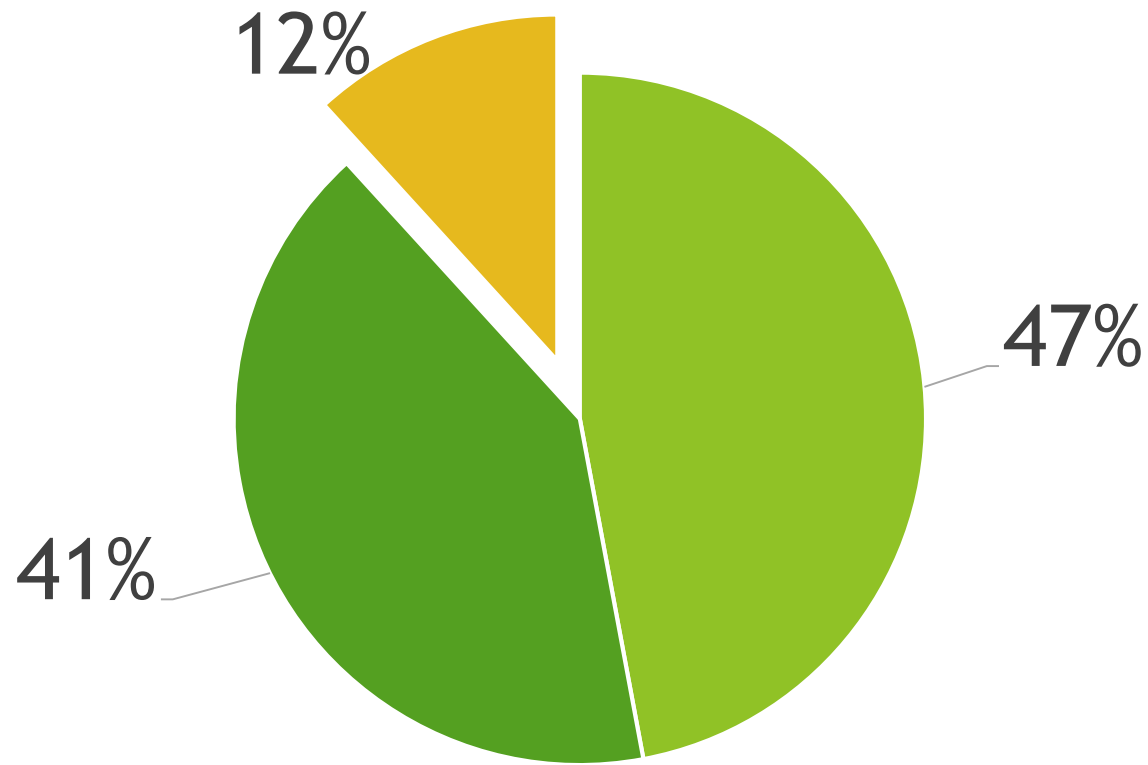
- ▶ Tourism surveys cancelled
- ▶ 17 surveys conducted by the surveyed UNECE countries, including 5 in EECCA countries
- ▶ Half of them - remotely:

Telephone

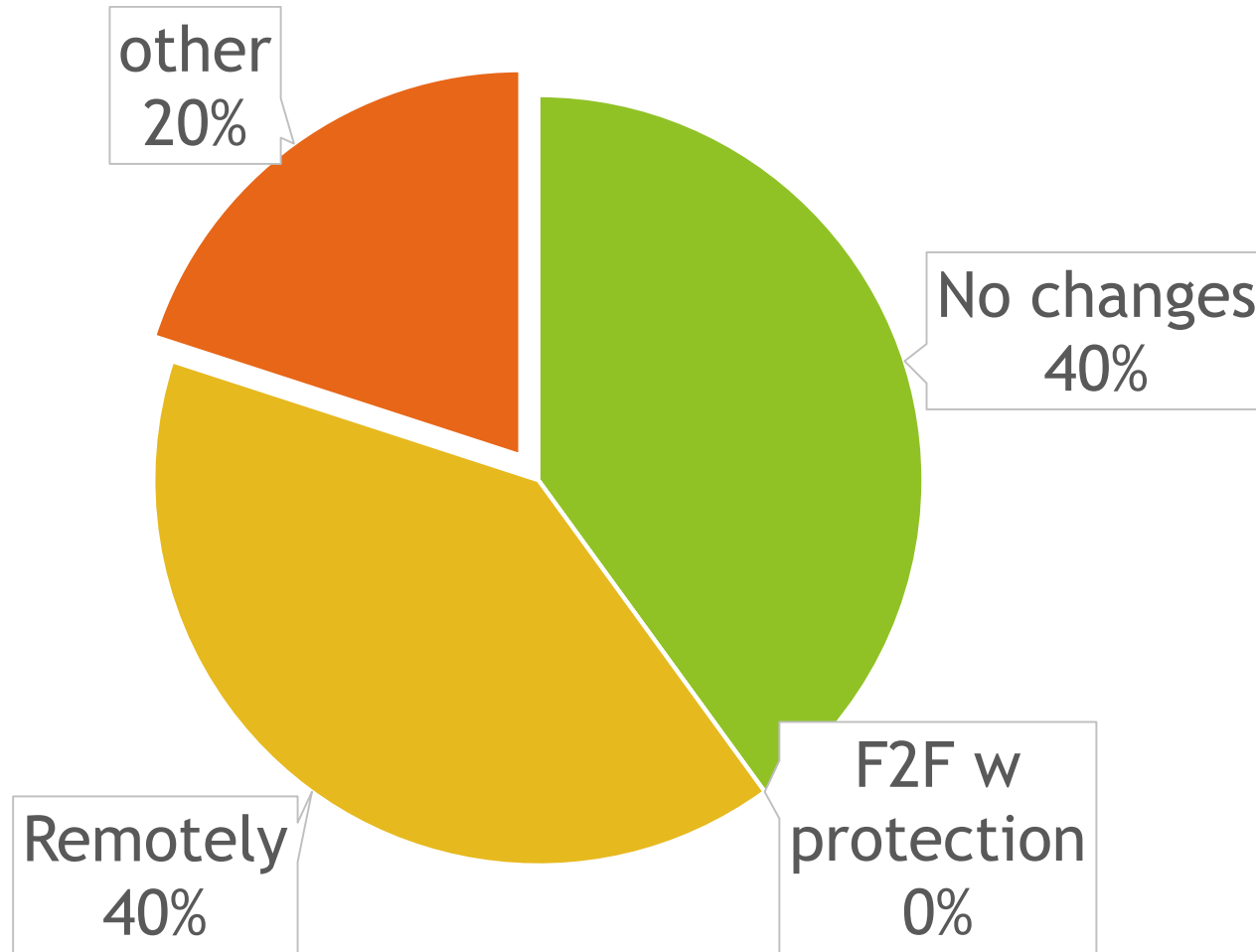
Self-administered online surveys

Interviewing via zoom, skype or similar programs.

Survey taking methods in UNECE: no changes (47%), remotely (41%), F2F w protection gear (12%)



Survey taking methods EECCA only



Data quality concerns: surveys

Collection of survey data was associated with higher non-response rates and limited skills of respondents to work with online questionnaire

Remote data collection methods

Adjustments in the data collection procedure -
remote survey taking - appeared not always
successful and require further consideration.

Specialized surveys on COVID-19 and migration

The impact of COVID-19 on migration/migrants was not yet addressed by most UNECE countries' statistical offices

Among EECCA countries, only Moldova reported taking steps to studying COVID -19 impact

How COVID -19 impact was studied

Developed new COVID-19 impact questionnaires	HUNGARY, MOLDOVA
Added COVID-19 related questions to the standard questionnaire	LUXEMBURG, MOLDOVA
Changed data collection mode	HUNGARY, NORTH MACEDONIA, UNITED STATES

How COVID -19 impact was studied

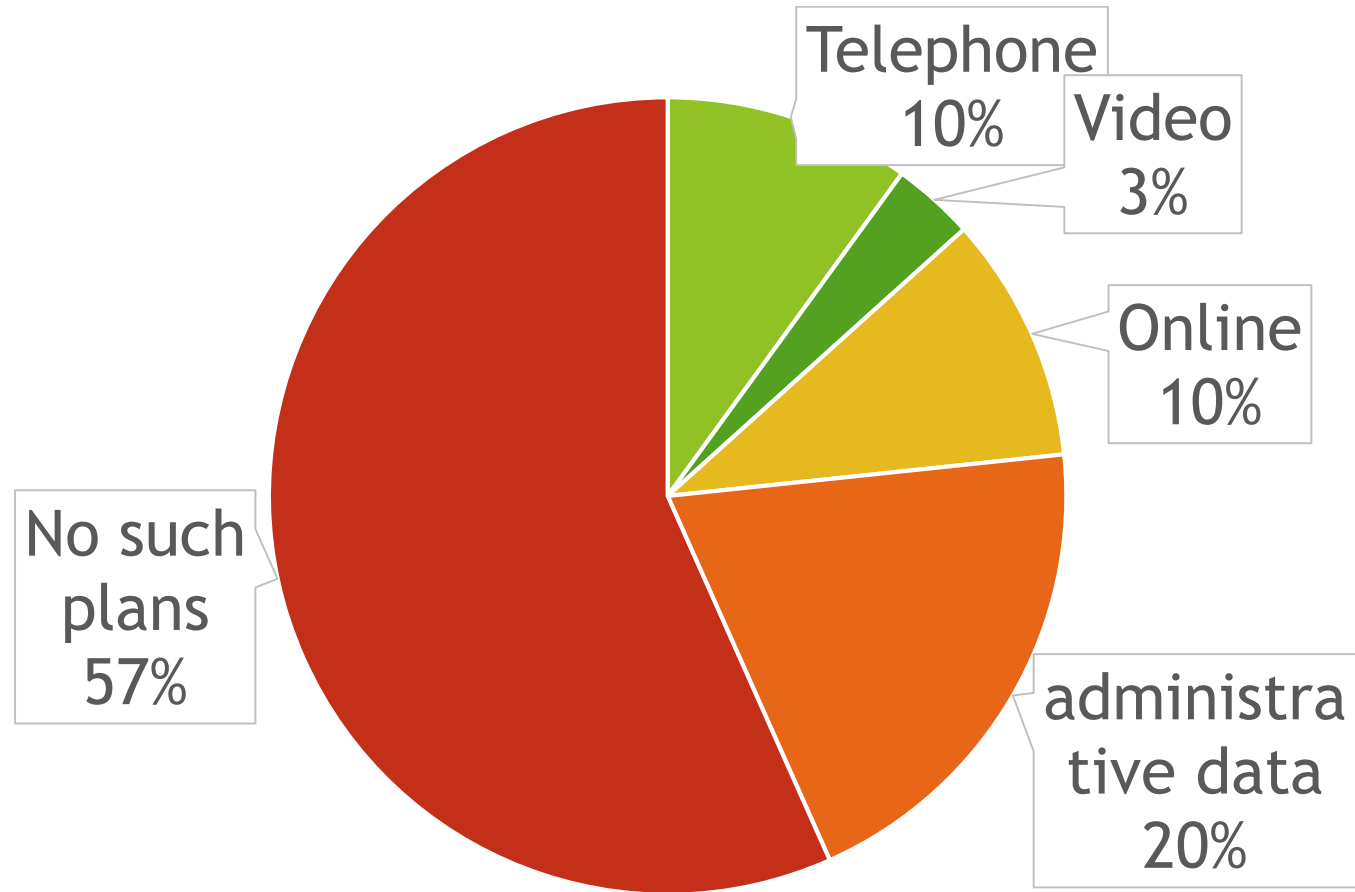
COVID-19 related questions addressed in surveys:

Changes in income level

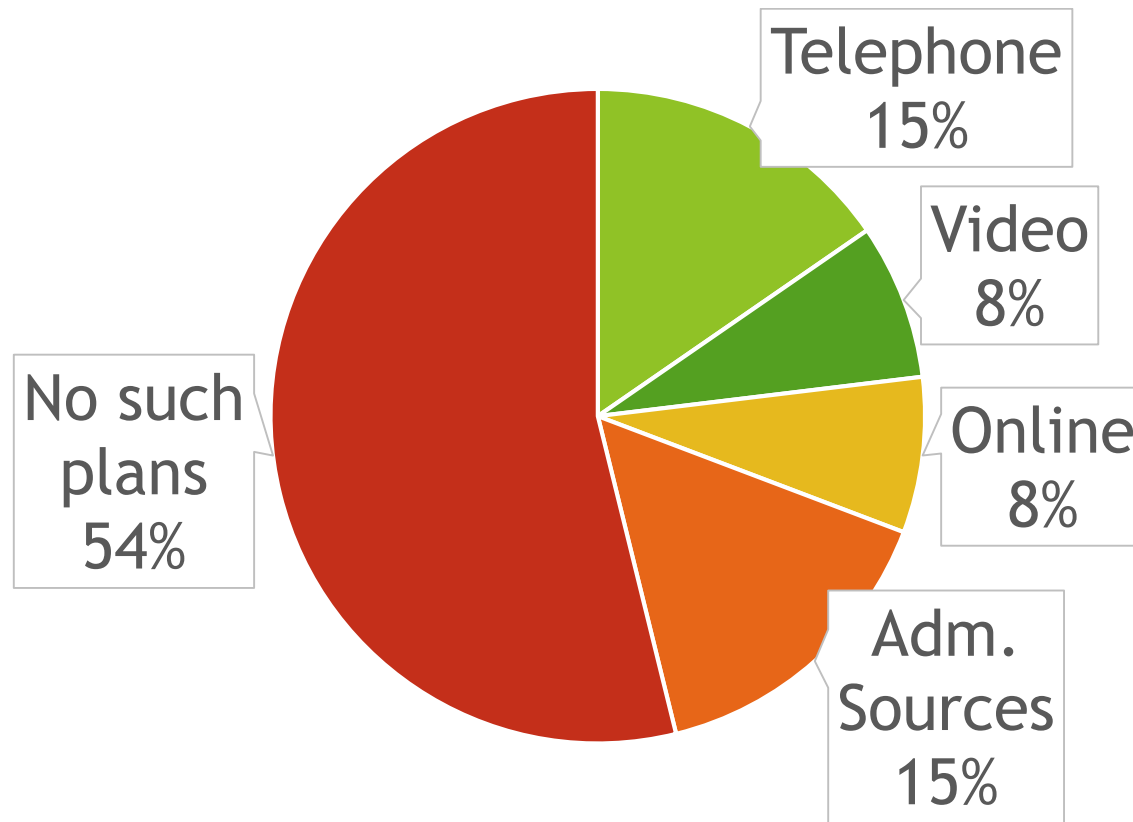
Changes in living conditions

Changes in employment status

Methods for future studies of COVID-19 impact on migration: UNECE countries



Methods for future studies of COVID-19 impact on migration: EECCA countries



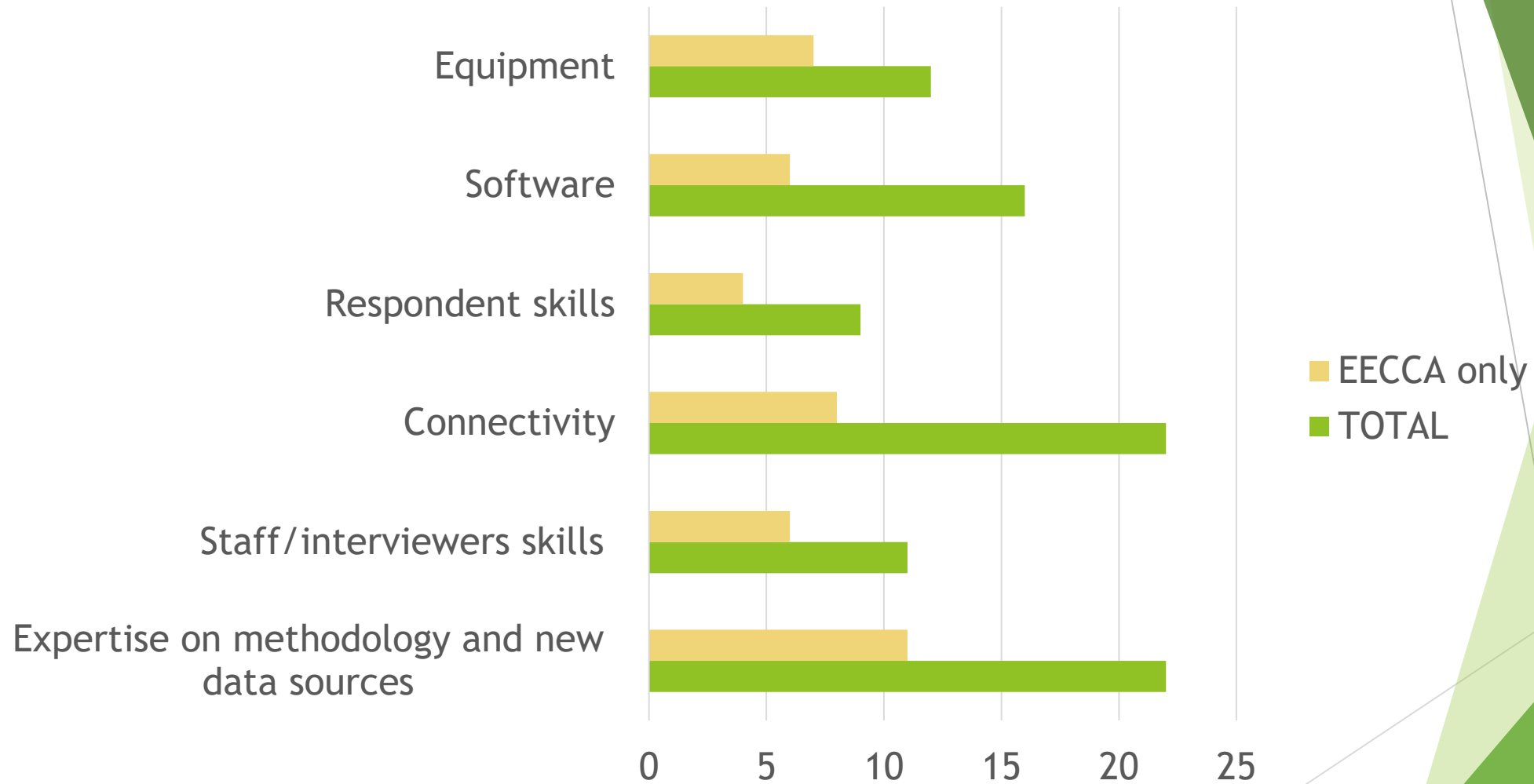
Use of the Harmonized module on migration and remittances in EECCA countries

RUSSIA	Harmonised module is partially incorporated in the LFS (starting 2021)
KAZAKHSTAN	The module can be used after adjustment to study COVID-19 impact

Administrative challenges

Remote work appeared challenging for most National statistical offices in UNECE countries

Highlighted challenges (num. of responses)



Summary of key findings

- ▶ The data was collected mostly without significant delays - both through administrative sources and surveys, but the quality of data raises concerns.
- ▶ Collection of administrative data was constrained due to the restrictions of mobility and limited physical access to public offices.
- ▶ Collection of survey data was associated with higher non-response rates and limited skills of respondents to work with online questionnaire

Summary of key findings (continued)

- ▶ Adjustments in the data collection procedure - remote survey taking - appeared not always successful and require further consideration.
- ▶ For future studies on the COVID-19 impact on migration, most UNECE countries seem to opt for telephone and online surveys, but prefer to rely on administrative data sources.
- ▶ Remote work appeared challenging for most National statistical offices in UNECE countries: better connectivity appeared as urgent as expertise on new data collection methodology.

Thank you for your attention!