

LIBRARIES ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA?!

INSIGHTS AND RESULTS OF THE ACTION

**„RAISE AWARENESS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES ON A EUROPEAN AND
NATIONAL LEVEL“**

IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE URBAN AGENDA

Daniel Deppe, Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe

Webinar „Sustainability in Public Libraries – Better Funding for a Great Good Place“

23rd November 2021

BERLIN



About the Urban Agenda



Multi-level working method

between EU Member States, cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders

Objective

stimulate growth, liveability and innovation in the cities of Europe and to identify and successfully tackle social challenges

Scope

Better regulation, better funding, better knowledge

Thematic Partnerships with actions to be implemented

e.g. Partnership “Culture and Cultural Heritage”

Action „Raise Awareness for Public Libraries on a European and National Level“

- **Objectives**

- Raise awareness for public libraries and their significant role for digital and social participation and community empowerment
- Support public libraries on their way to become a „great good place“ (Ray Oldenburg)
- Draw attention on missed opportunities concerning library potentials in policies and politics
- Gain knowledge about the situation and needs of public libraries in Europe

Action „Raise Awareness for Public Libraries on a European and National Level“

Some milestones (among other activities)	Objectives	
Questionnaire with national public library associations	Find out on which topics public libraries would like more support from the European level	February 2021
Document/Policy Analysis in cooperation with the School of Library and Information Science (Humboldt University Berlin)	Draw attention on missed opportunities concerning library potentials in policies and politics	March 2021 until now
Overview Report by Public Libraries 2030	Analysis of where public libraries make important contributions to European and national policies	May 2021
Survey on funding structures for public libraries in Europe	Knowledge about financial sources and opportunities to modernize and innovate	September 2021 until now
Final report	Recommendations for action for the EU and national stakeholders	Spring 2022

What did we find out?

High response to the action shows:
This is a relevant topic!

Public libraries can support the EU achieving its goals.

Libraries can be important local partners and multipliers for promoting the European idea and common goals for the future - because they reach citizens in their neighbourhoods, they enjoy a very high level of trust among citizens.

What are the obstacles?

There is a lack of clearly defined contacts, knowledge and data base for public libraries at the European level.

There is a difficulty for public libraries to access European funding.

What needs to be done?

The EU needs to actively involve public libraries as strategic partners when it comes to the design and implementation of policies and programmes.

Public libraries and their associations need to involve themselves more in European formats.

Survey on funding structures for public libraries in Europe

Survey period

29th September to 29th October

Target group

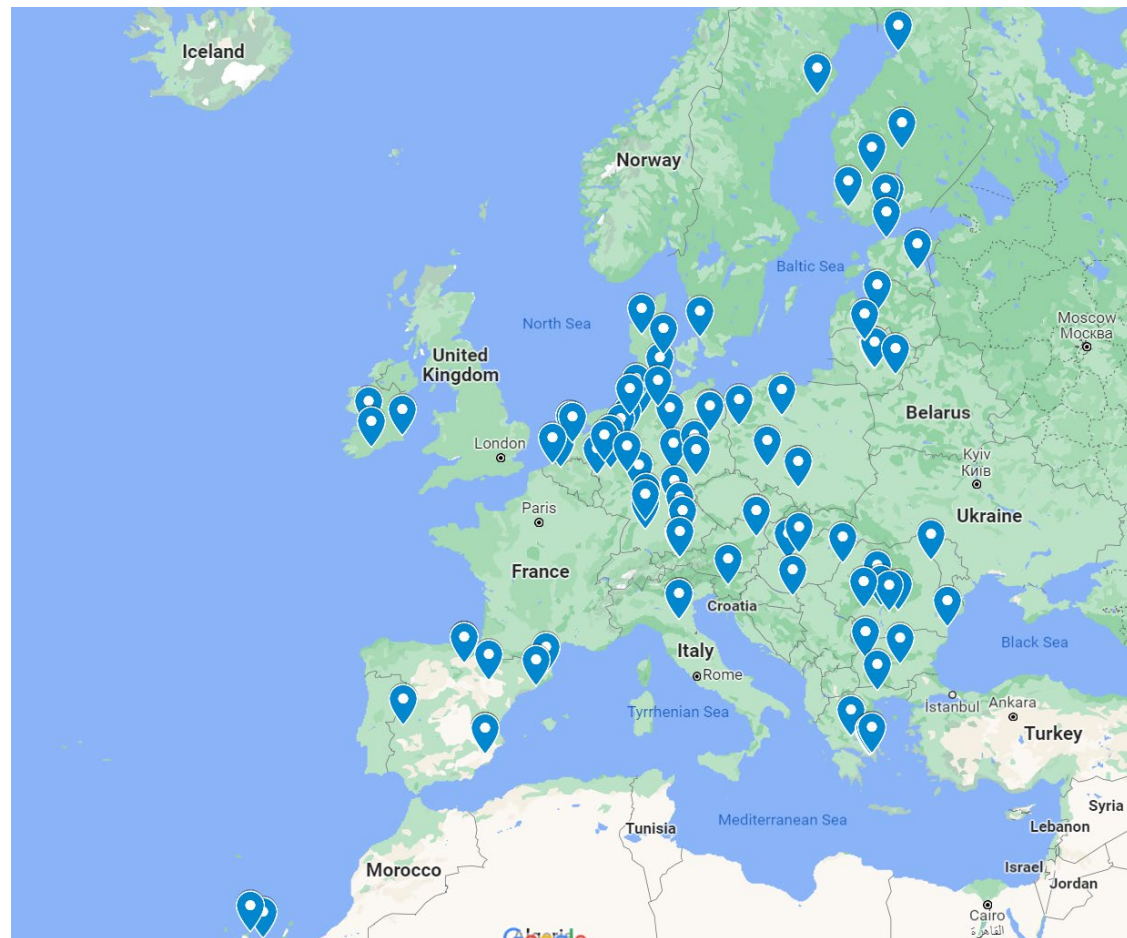
Public libraries in EU cities with more than 90,000 inhabitants

Response

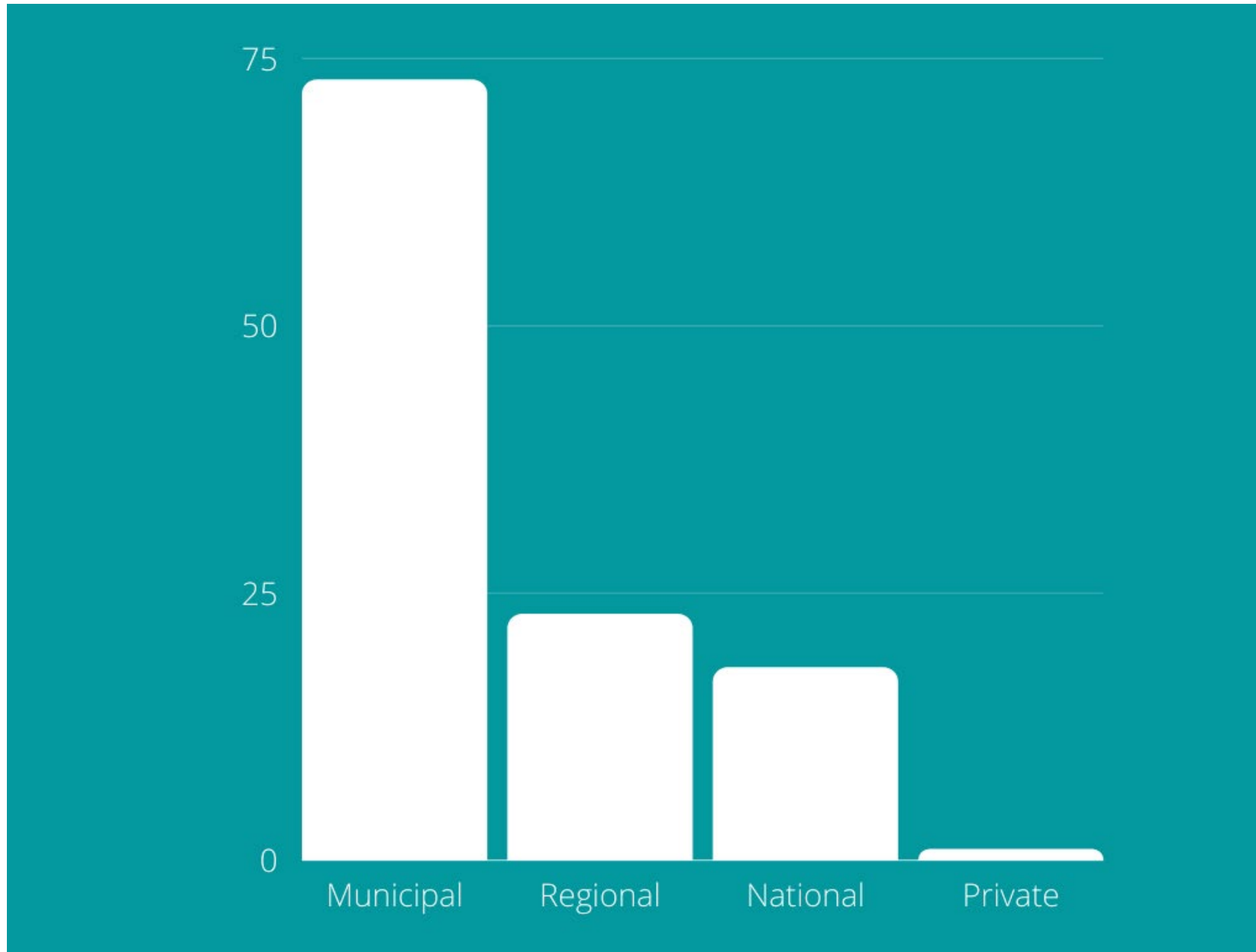
92 public libraries from 20 different EU member states were participating

General information

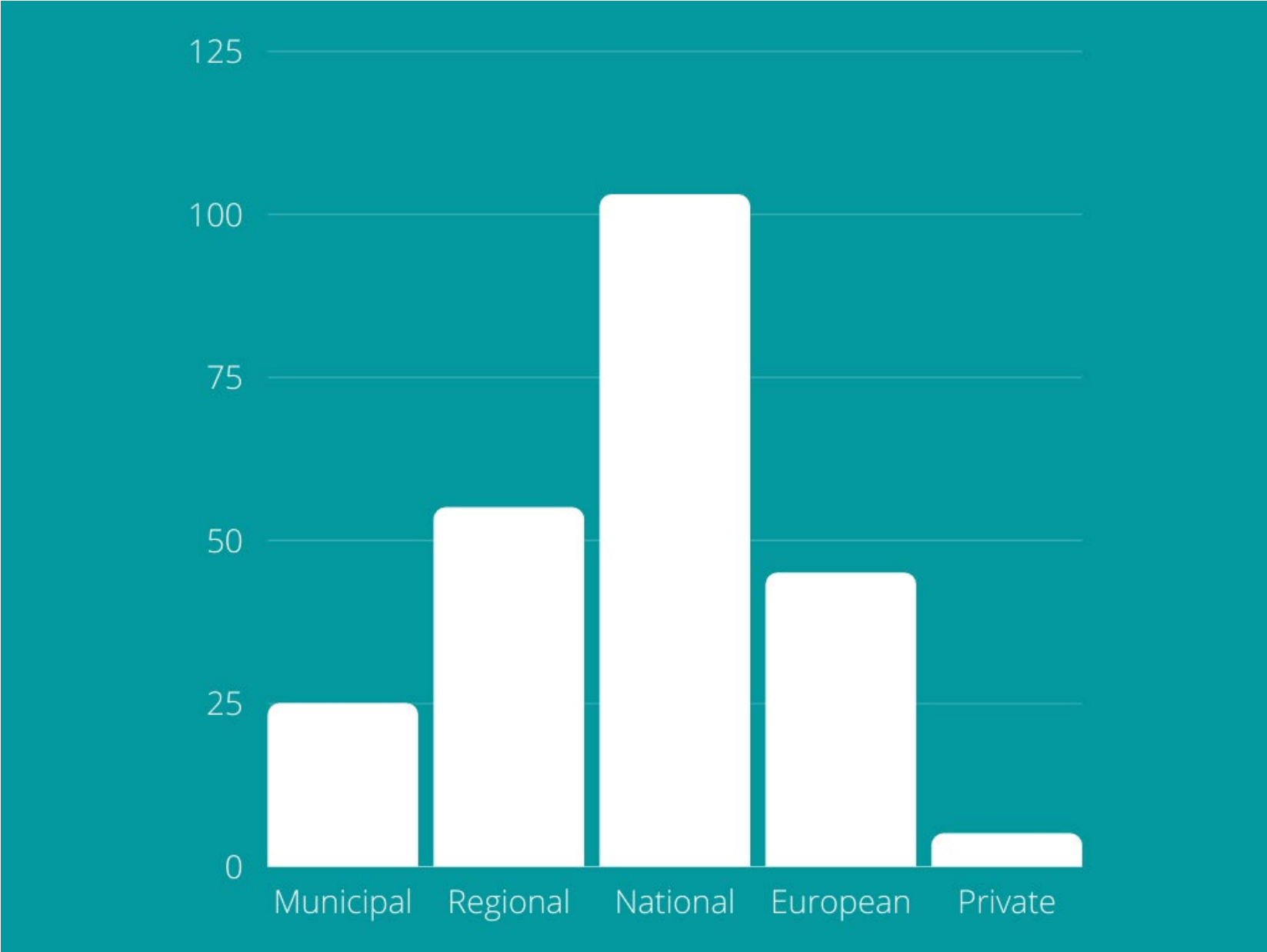
The results are *not* representative but provide a rough overview of the funding situation of public libraries in Europe.



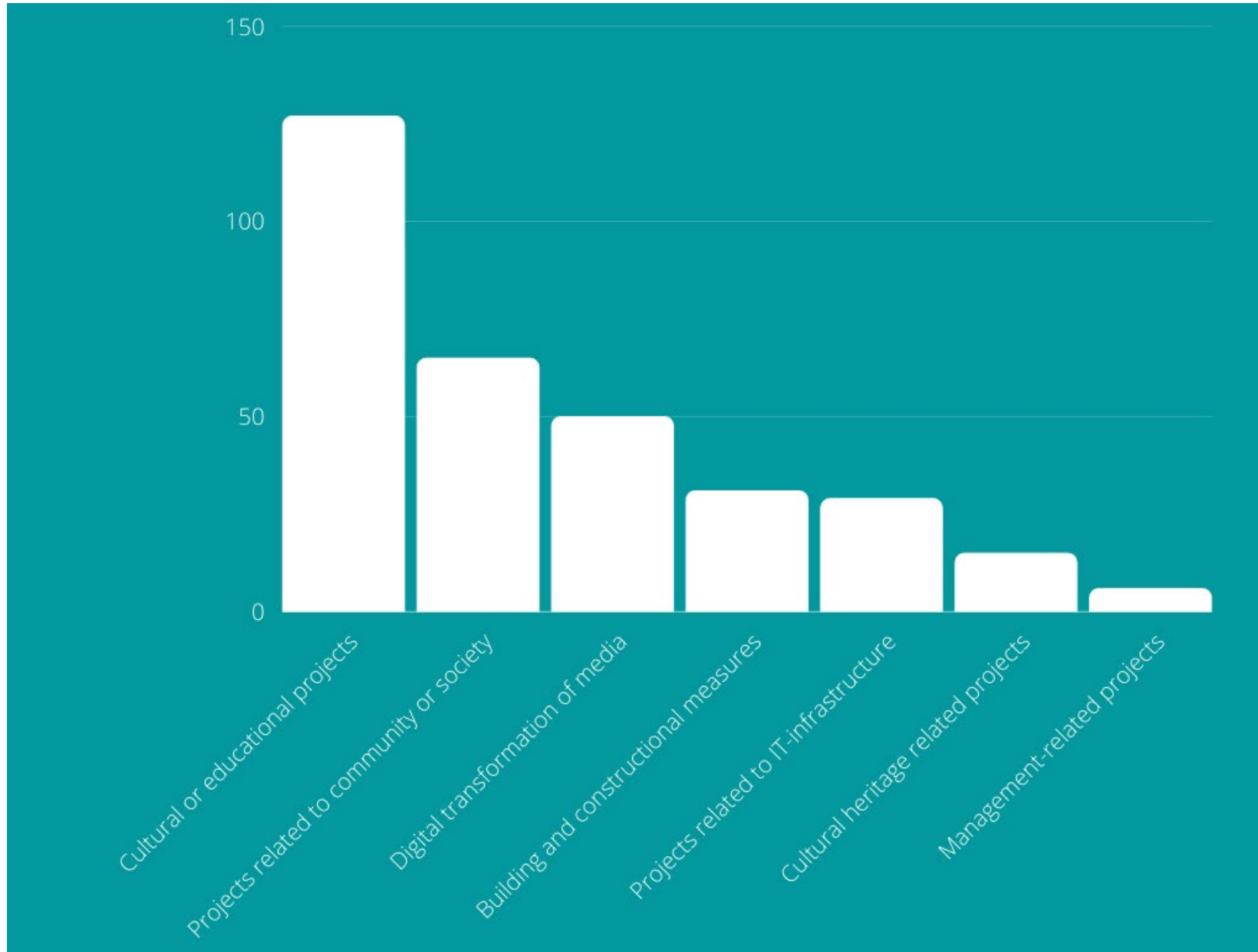
Where does your library get its core financing from?



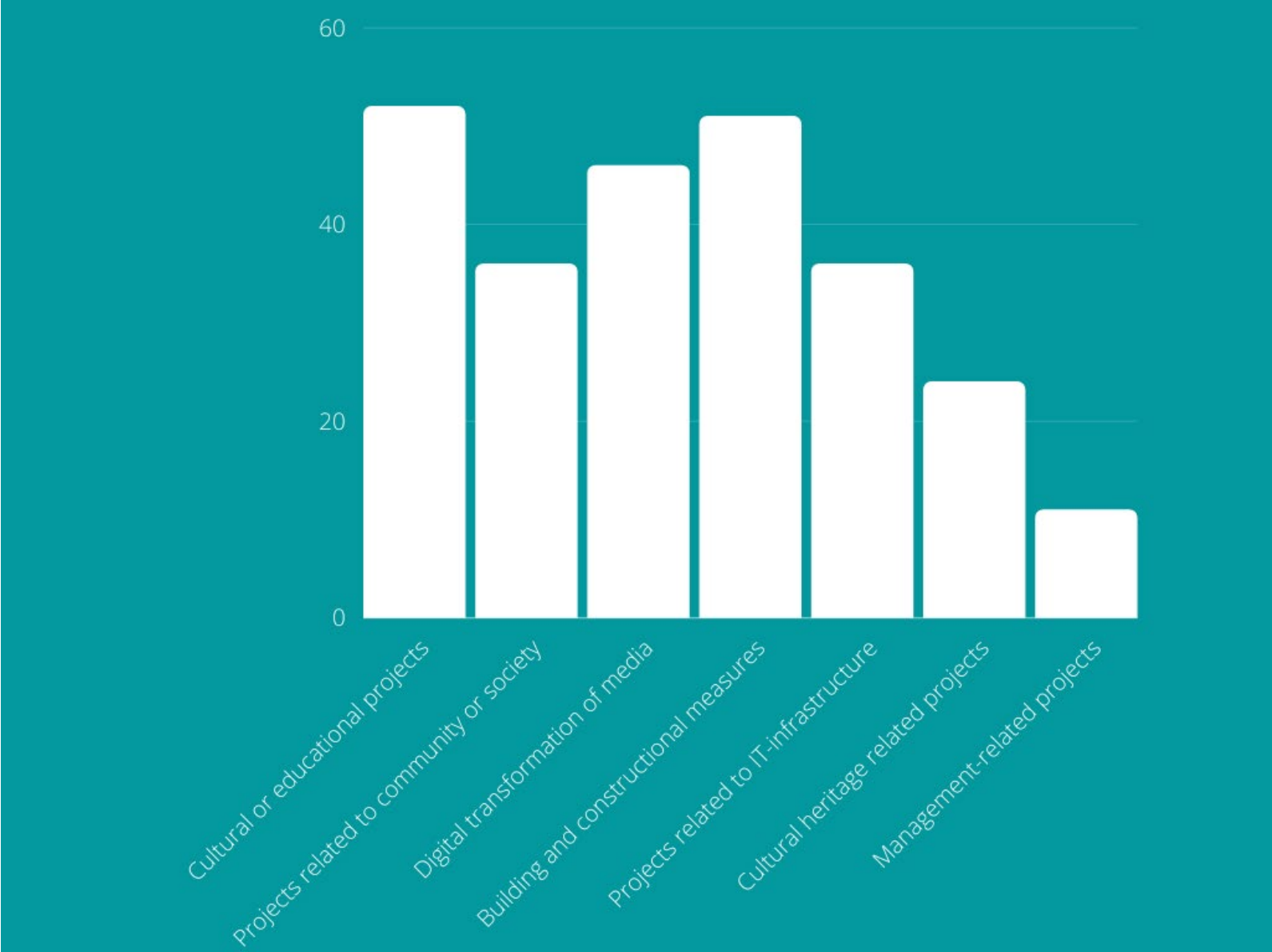
Level of the grant provider for the project funding



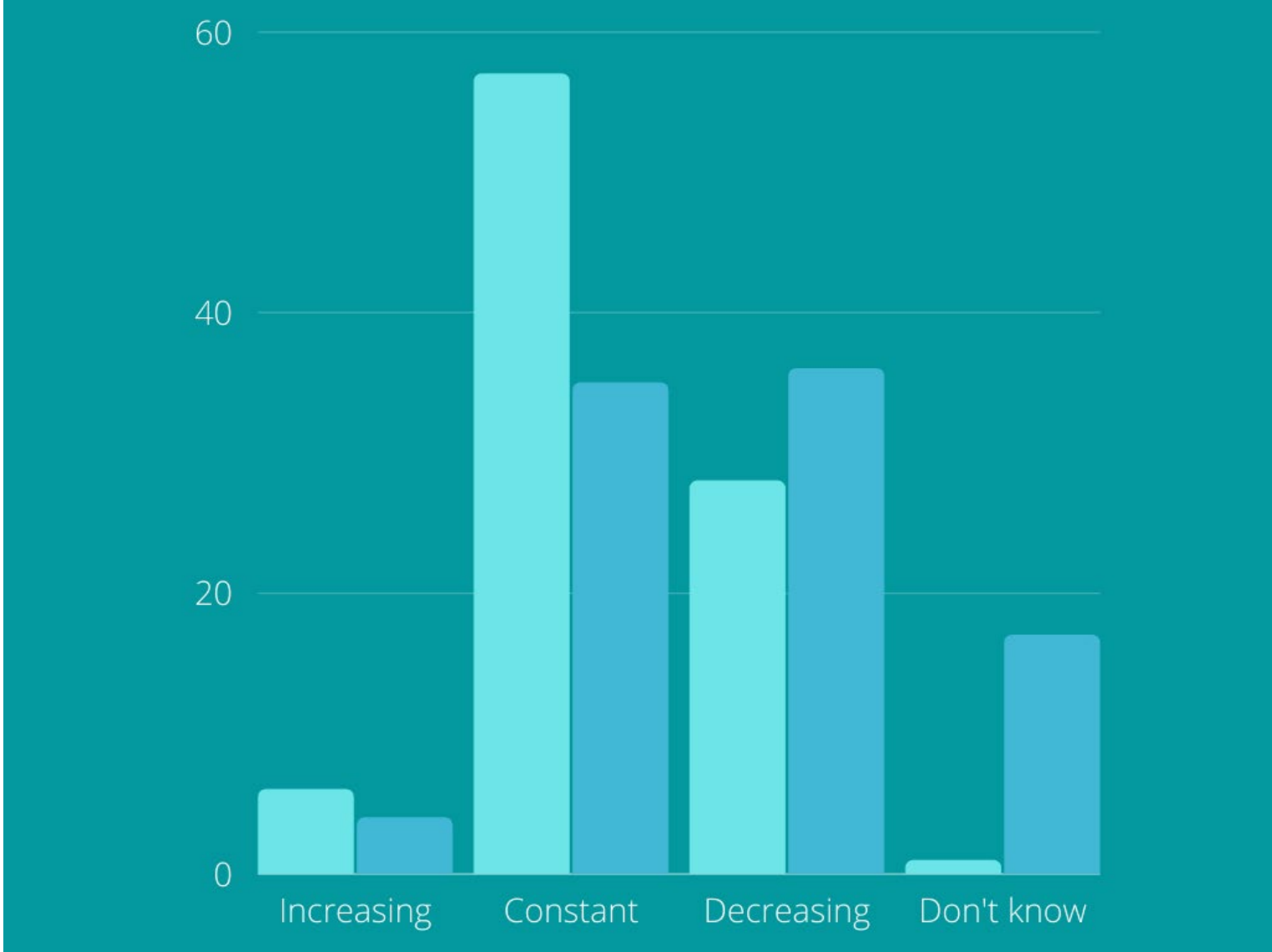
What has the project funding mainly been used for?



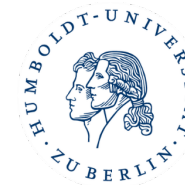
For what types of projects in the next 5 years could your library use additional funds from project funding?



How has the COVID-19 pandemic so far affected the regular budget of your library? / How do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the regular budget of your library in the next 1-2 years?



Partners



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Thank you for your attention!