

The logo for Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), consisting of the letters 'VUB' in white on a blue square background.

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SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

International Setting

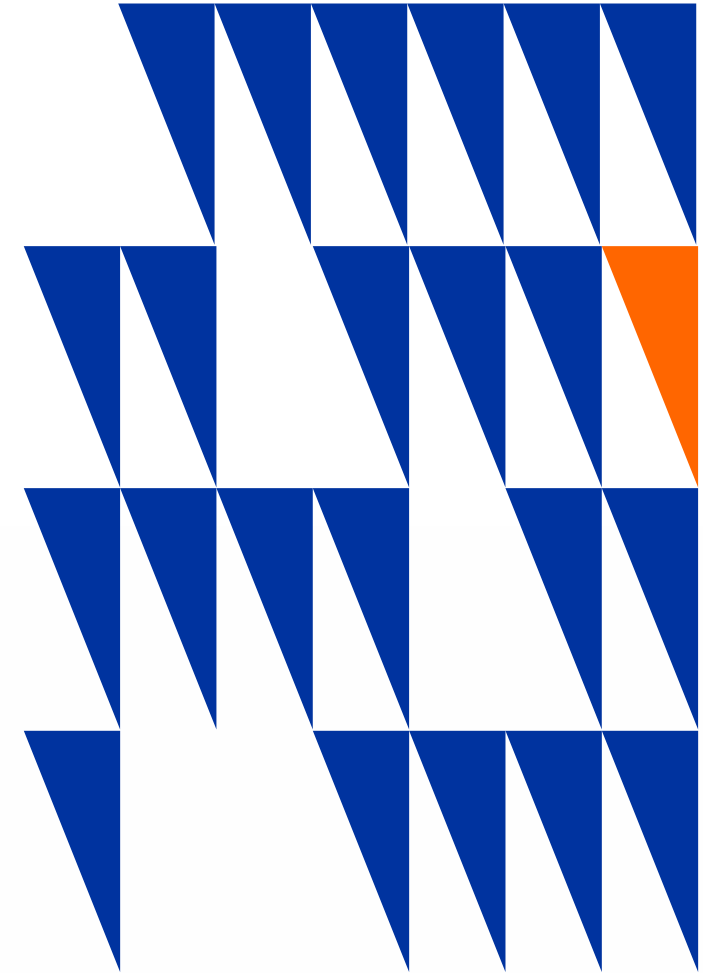
drs. Magali Geerts

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*General Assembly
of the MEDports Association*

23rd of June

CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH



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INTERNATIONAL SETTING OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

*"A **sustainability report** conveys disclosures on an organization's impacts – be positive or negative – on the environment, society and the economy."*

*"**Sustainability reporting** helps organizations to set goals, measure performance and manage change in order to make their operations more sustainable."*

- Existing sustainability reports show significant differences at the level of indicators reported, boundary levels of reporting and stakeholder inclusion in the process
- Practice remains mainly voluntary
- Why do some port managing bodies report and others do not?

CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH

INTERNATIONAL SETTING OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

OBJECTIVE:

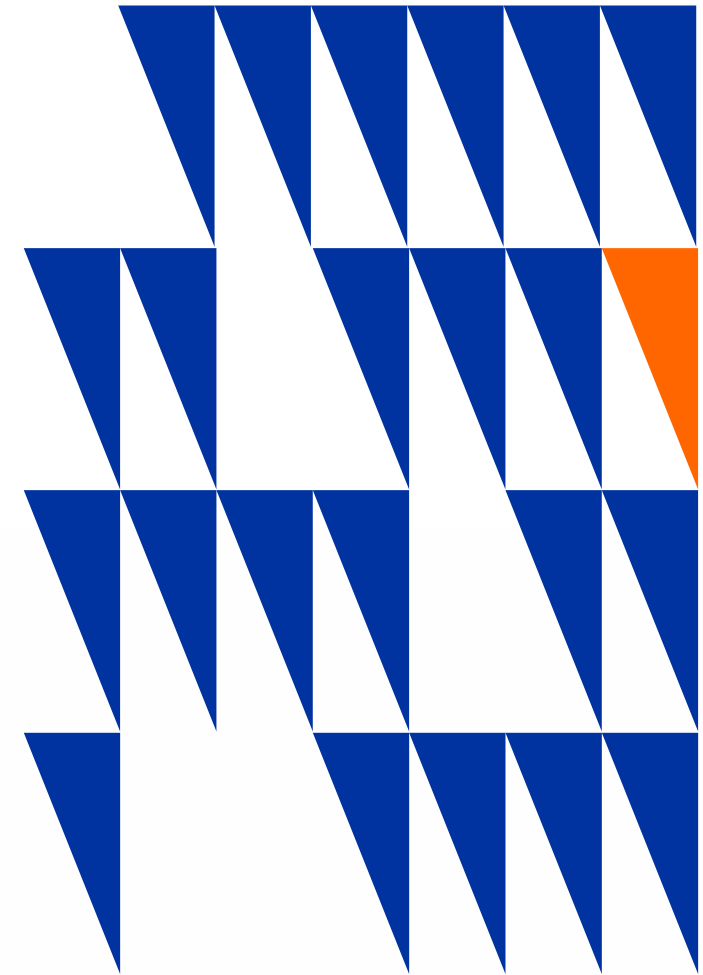
Gaining insights in the present situation of sustainability reporting from the point of view of port managing bodies to provide certain ways forward in order to promote the practice (and thus its advantages) in the industry.



Survey consisting of 25-30 questions have been distributed (from May 2019 until October 2019)

1. *Idea and feeling about sustainability (reporting)*
2. *Materiality analysis*
3. *Boundary-setting*
4. *Stakeholder engagement*

OVERVIEW GENERAL FINDINGS

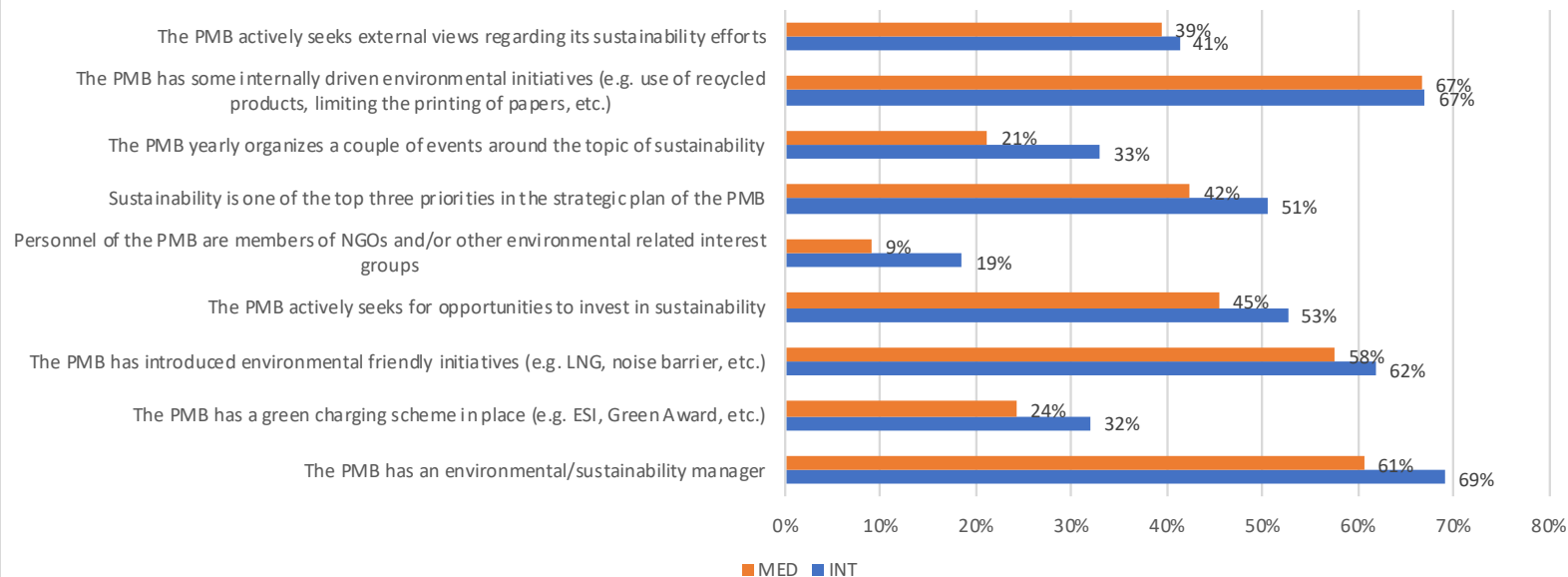


RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE (N=97) VS. MEDITERRANEAN AREA (N=33)

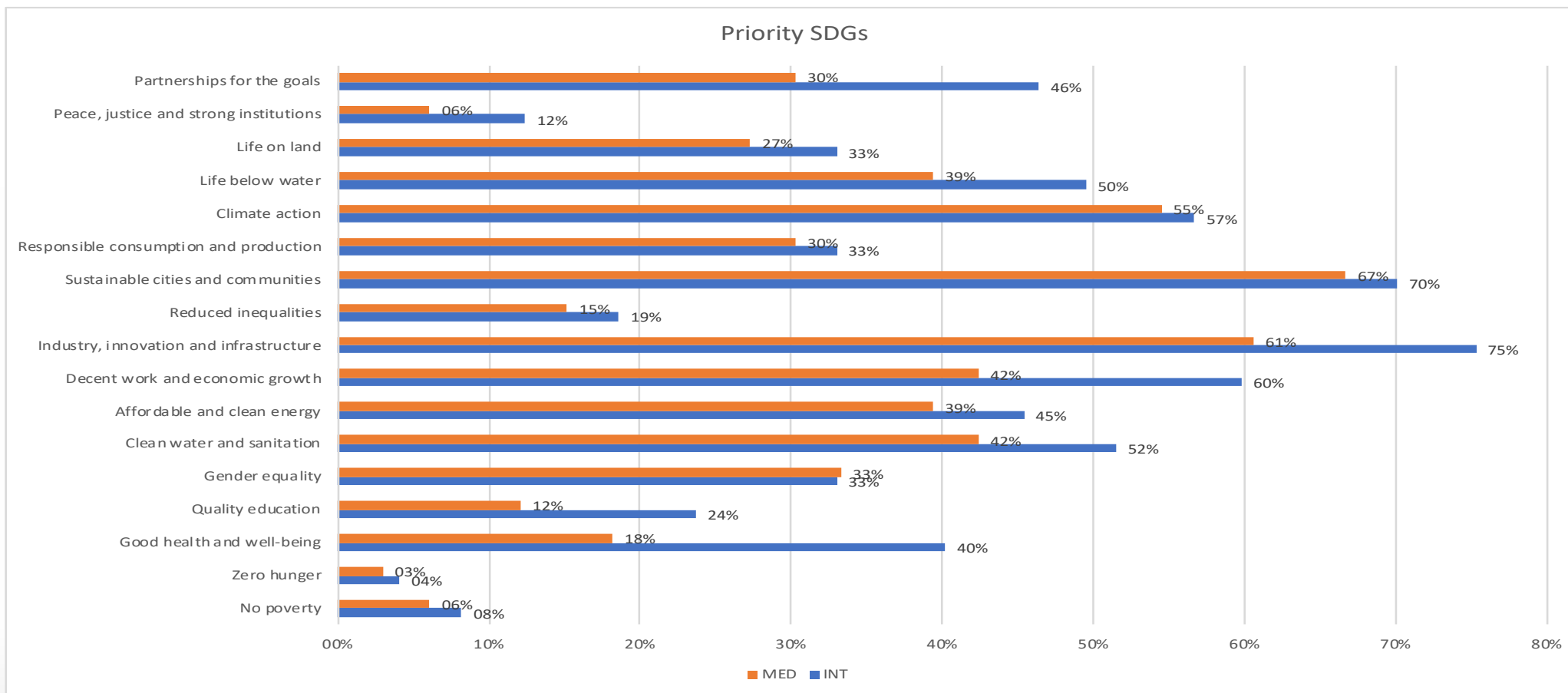
Does the PMB report on sustainability?	Percentage INT	Percentage MED
Yes, certified sustainability report according to international standards (e.g. GRI)	15,5%	18,2%
Yes, separate annual sustainability report, but not certified or following another international standard	19,6%	21,2%
Yes, integrated in annual report	25,8%	27,3%
Ad-hoc report	12,4%	6,1%
No	26,8%	27,3%

Integration sustainability initiatives



RESULTS

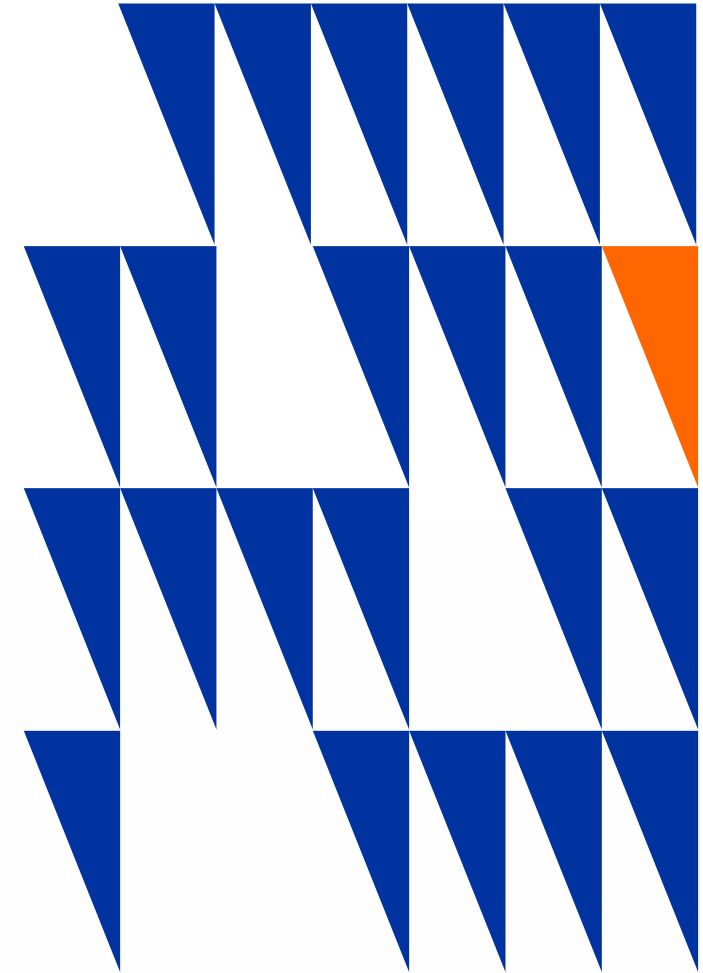
INTERNATIONAL SAMPLE (N=97) VS. MEDITERRANEAN AREA (N=33)



POINTS OF ATTENTION

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THE WAY FORWARD



POINTS OF ATTENTION

THE WAY FORWARD

Boundary-setting

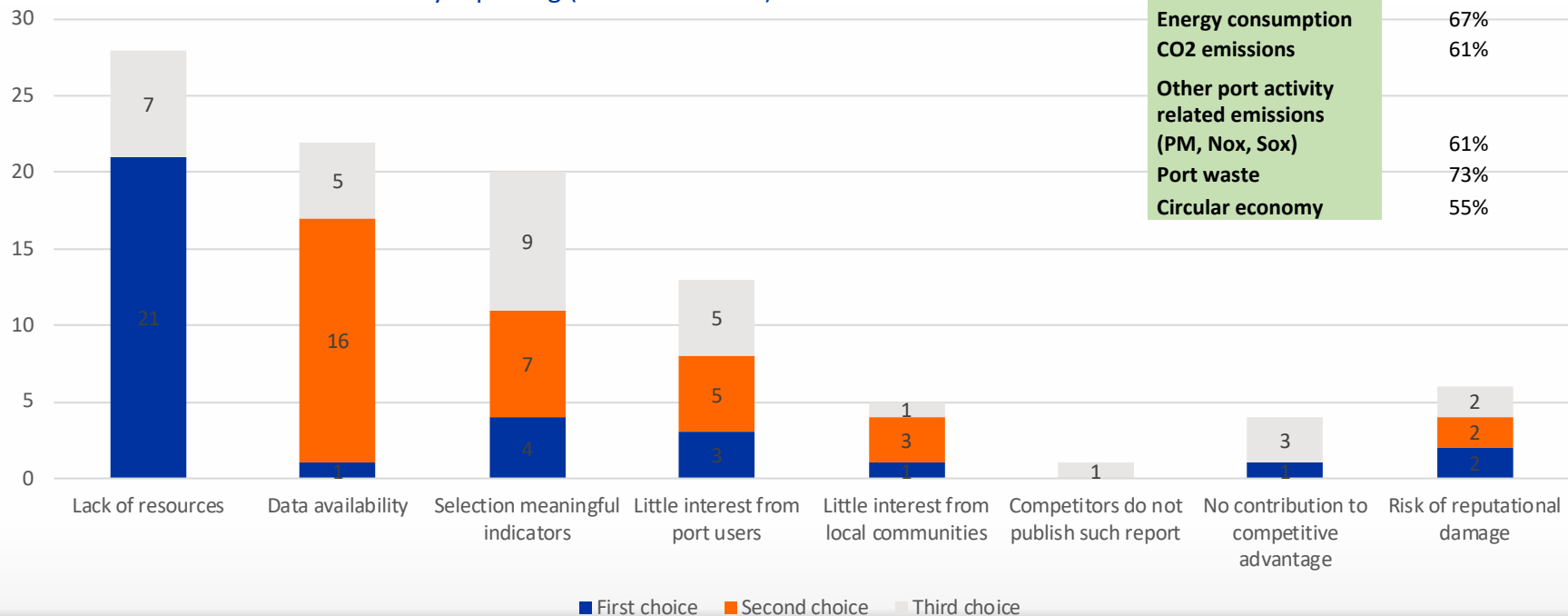
Investments in trust
relationship building
with stakeholders

Port collaboration

BOUNDARY-SETTING

	A	B	C	D	GM
Indirect / direct economic impact	67%	30%	24%	6%	12%
Traffic volumes	58%	58%	18%	3%	6%
Investment volume	76%	33%	24%	3%	9%
R&D expenses	67%	24%	6%	0%	21%
Modal Split	36%	27%	21%	9%	39%
Operational performance	61%	36%	9%	3%	24%
Direct / indirect employment	55%	42%	30%	12%	15%
Safety / accident rate	67%	42%	12%	6%	6%
Training	70%	30%	9%	6%	21%
Job creation	64%	27%	33%	15%	15%
Energy consumption	67%	42%	21%	9%	9%
CO2 emissions	61%	36%	24%	15%	12%
Other port activity related emissions (PM, Nox, Sox)	61%	33%	24%	12%	15%
Port waste	73%	52%	18%	9%	6%
Circular economy	55%	33%	12%	6%	33%

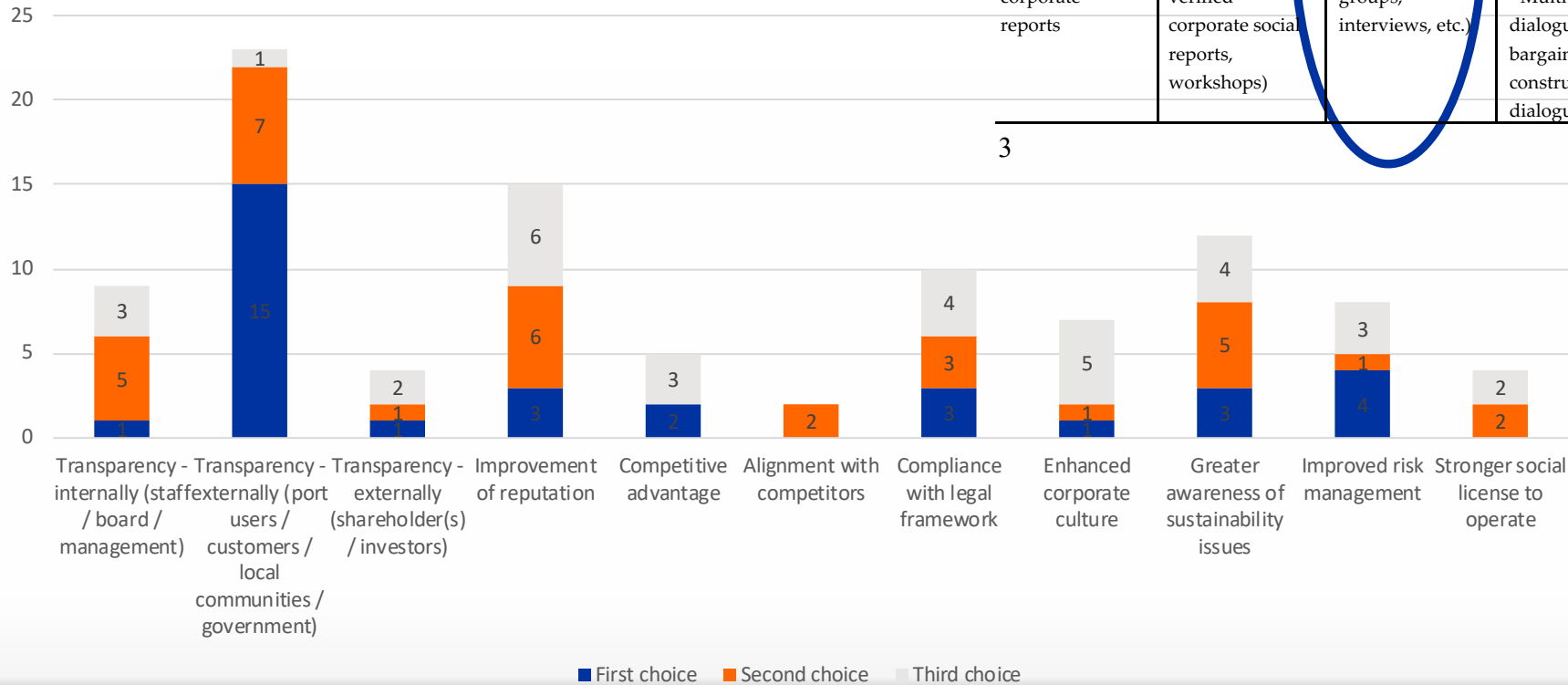
Main barriers for sustainability reporting (absolute counts)



- A = Port Managing Body organization
- B = Port area//cluster (including industry//logistics and including the hinterland interface)
- C = Local//regional community
- D = Impact of upstream and downstream supply chain activities taking place outside the port borders and beyond the local/regional community

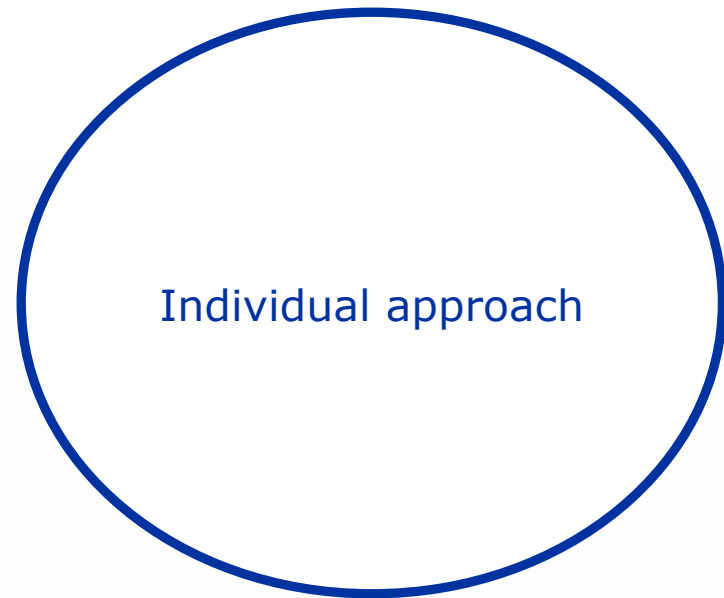
RELATIONSHIP BUILDING WITH THE STAKEHOLDERS

Main benefits/reasons for sustainability reporting (absolute counts)

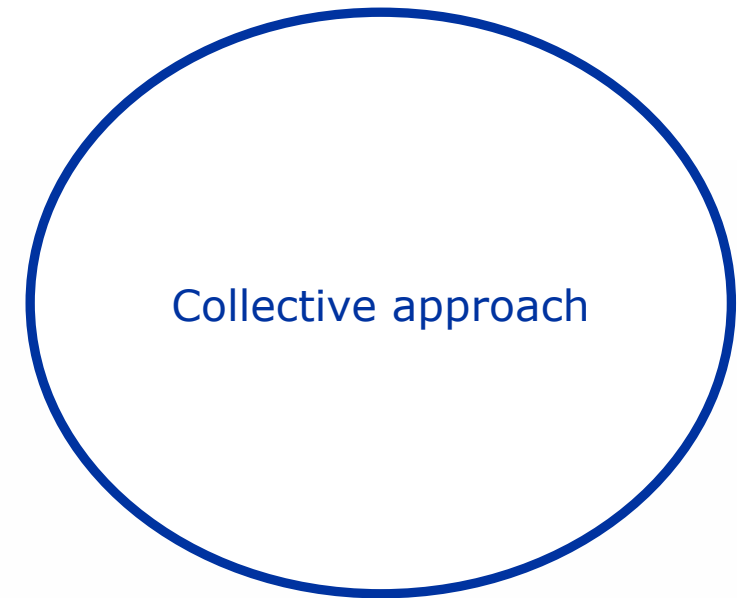


1			2				3	
No or limited inclusion			Full inclusion					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
- Knowledge about the decisions - One-way dialogue (e.g. briefing sessions, leaflets, corporate reports)	- Educate, explaining and informing stakeholders - One-way and/or two-way dialogue (e.g. verified corporate social reports, workshops)	- Stakeholders may advise - Being heard before a decision - Two-way dialogue (e.g. surveys, focus groups, interviews, etc.)	- Stakeholders provide conditional support - Having an influence on decisions - Multi-way dialogue (e.g. bargaining, constructive dialogue)	- Collaboration / partnership - Some or joint decision-making power - Multi-way dialogue (e.g. strategic alliances, joint ventures)	- Minority representation of stakeholders in the decision-making process - Multi-way dialogue (e.g. board representation)	- Majority representation of stakeholders in the decision-making process - Multi-way dialogue (e.g. community projects)		

PORT COLLABORATION



Port collaboration



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