

# CON ————— COMITENTES

MAKING ART TOGETHER

**A questionnaire for the future**

**Report #1, July 2020**

## A questionnaire for the future

*REPORT #1, 07/24/2020*

In April 2020, we launched a questionnaire that invited citizens to reflect on the future of the common and the public in a post-COVID-19 era.

During the beginning of the pandemic and in this strange moment of global disorientation, we wanted to see if this health tragedy could also be conceived as an opportunity to identify what is important to us: at an individual level, but also as a society.

The survey, entitled "A Questionnaire for the Future" was available in English, German and Spanish from 22 April to 22 June . There were 498 participants, mainly from Spain, but we also received many responses from Germany and a dozen other countries, mainly from Europe.

From the very start we suspected that with this survey we would not obtain values with such a statistical validity as to dare to draw general conclusions, specifically that the number of surveys would not be high enough, nor would we succeed in overcoming the sectoral barrier. And indeed, the numbers of participants were discreet and most of the people who answered worked in the cultural and social sector.

However, we believe that the soft data that we obtained with this survey, the testimonies, clarifications and stories with which people made us aware of their ideas, desires and fears concerning the future, have a high value for the experimental research with which we want to continue investigating the incidence of the pandemic in our societies, above all in relation to public space.

This research, with the working title MUTATIONS IN PUBLIC SPACE, will make good use of some of the main topics of the questionnaire. We will produce a series of podcasts and a publication that offers a kaleidoscopic set of voices and visions on the value of the common and of public space in times of collective crisis.

What follows in the following pages is a first graphic summary of the data obtained through this survey.

## A questionnaire for the future

We experience a unique moment in history. Nobody dares to foretell not even our most immediate future, but all of us share the fear that we will be facing a major crisis that could affect many aspects of our lives.

In this strange moment of global disorientation, we propose to imagine our future. Every crisis causes changes, be it on a personal, professional or systemic level and we should not miss this opportunity to think about what is important to us: on an individual level, but also as society.

With these ideas in mind we have launched this questionnaire: as a tool for speculating about the future and certain questions that have the potential to reshape the world we live in for the next decades.

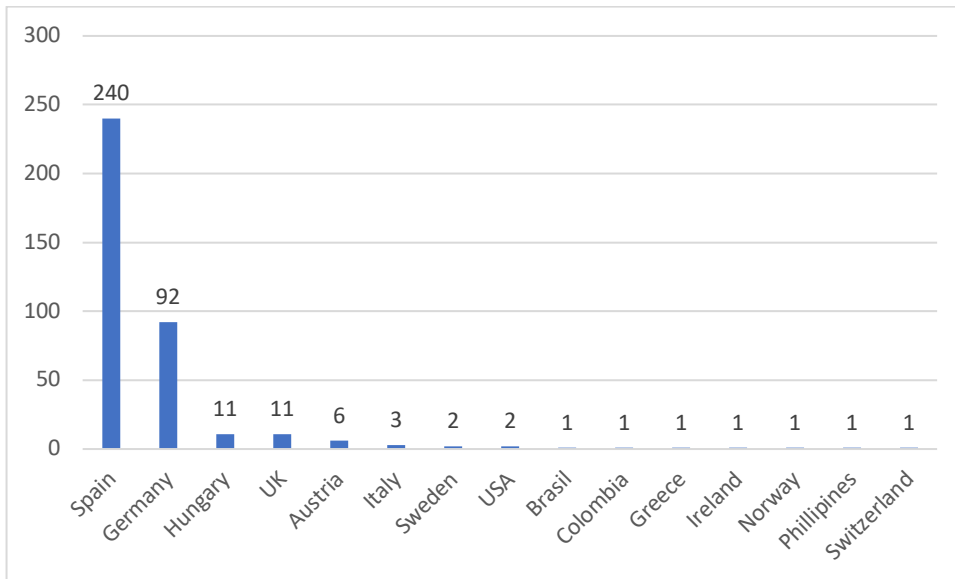
The findings of the questionnaire, as well as a series of interviews, will be published in a book that will question the social role that art can play in the context of a crisis of community and public space.

This survey has been initiated by Concomitentes, a non-profit cultural and social organisation based in Spain. It is, of course, completely anonymous. The data will also be made available to social and academic institutions on request.

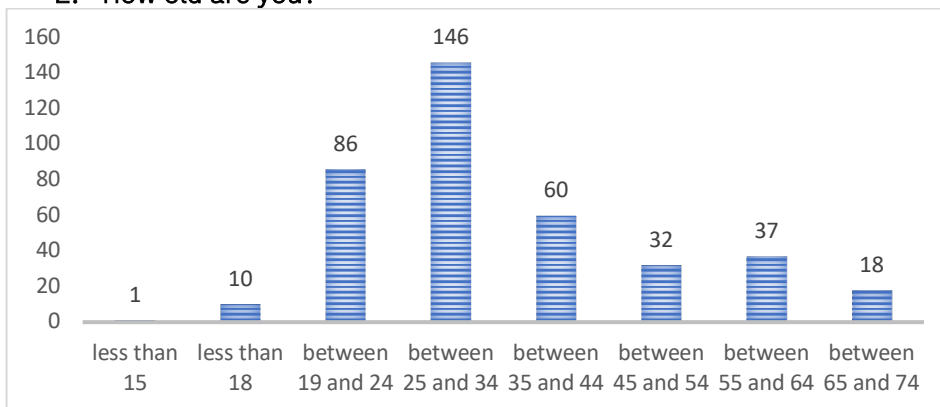
For more information, please visit [www.concomitentes.org/en](http://www.concomitentes.org/en) or write to [info@concomitentes.org](mailto:info@concomitentes.org)

## I. Statistical data

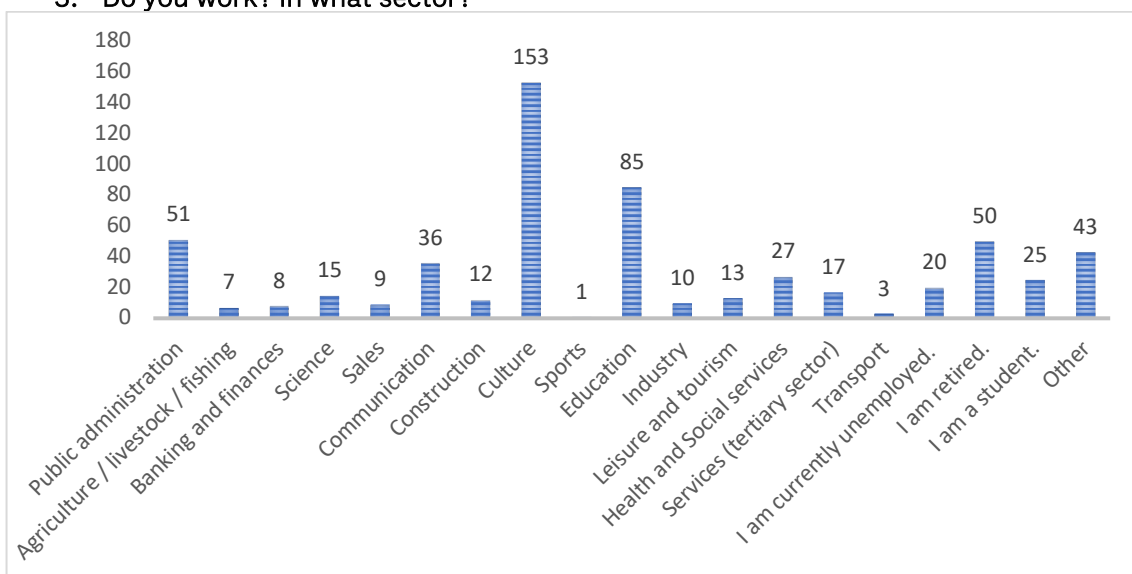
### 1. Where are you staying during lockdown?



### 2. How old are you?

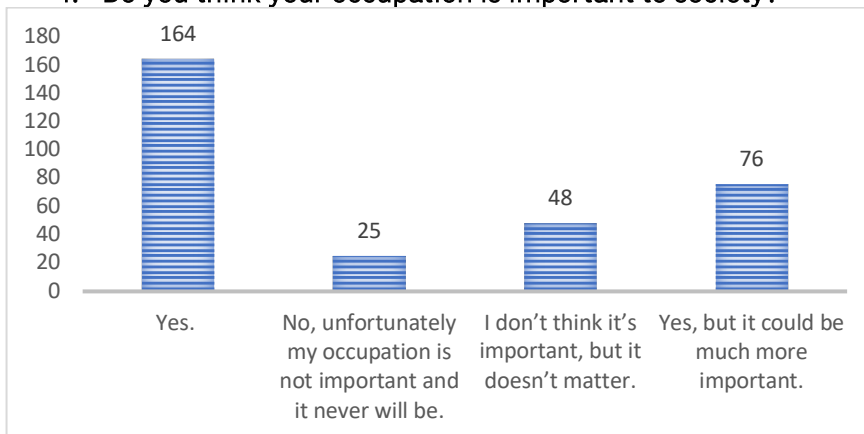


### 3. Do you work? In what sector?

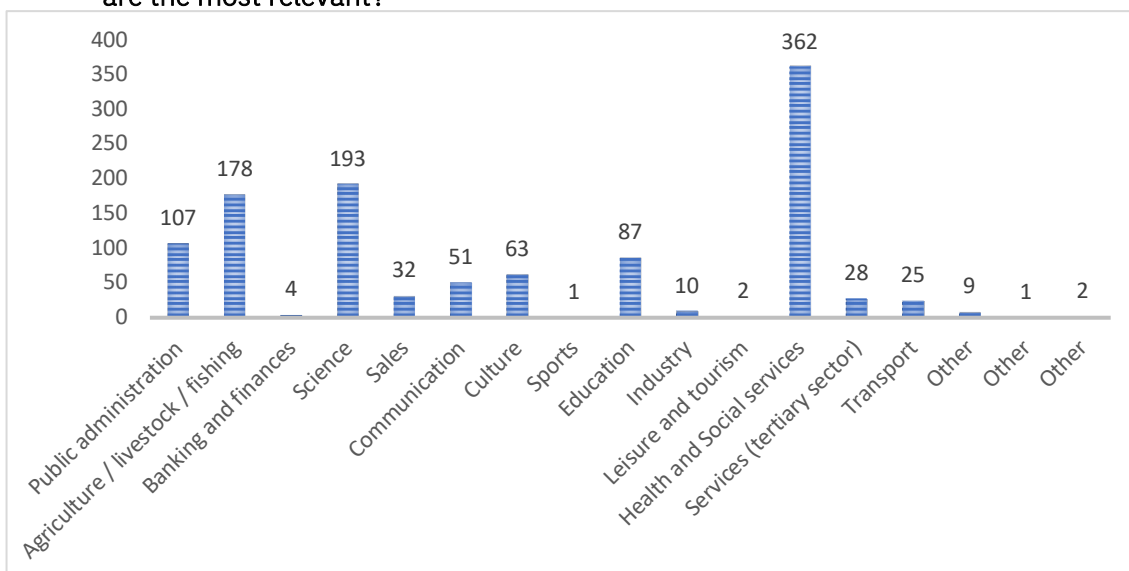


## II. Current mood

### 4. Do you think your occupation is important to society?

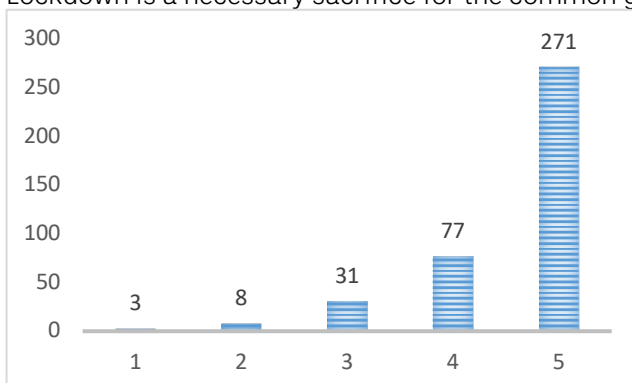


### 5. During this health crisis and the period of lock-down, which sectors do you think are the most relevant?

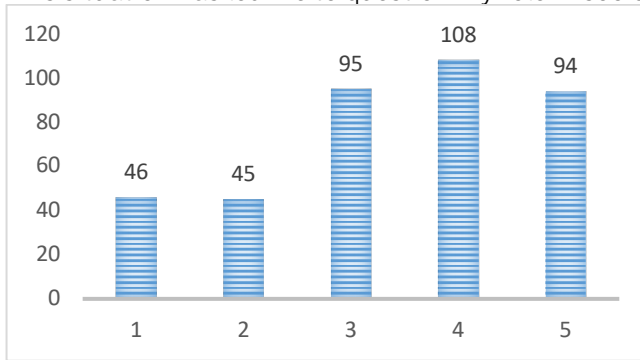


### 6. Do you agree with the following statements? (1 I disagree -> 5 I affirm)

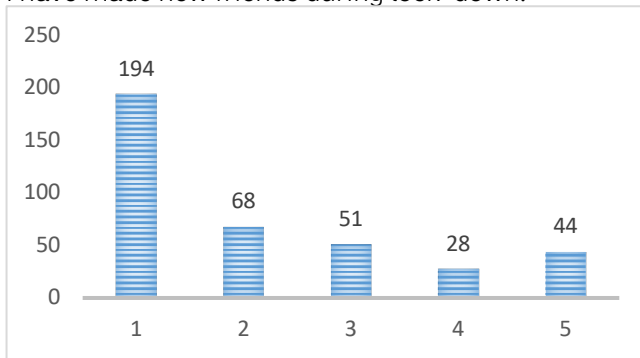
Lockdown is a necessary sacrifice for the common good.



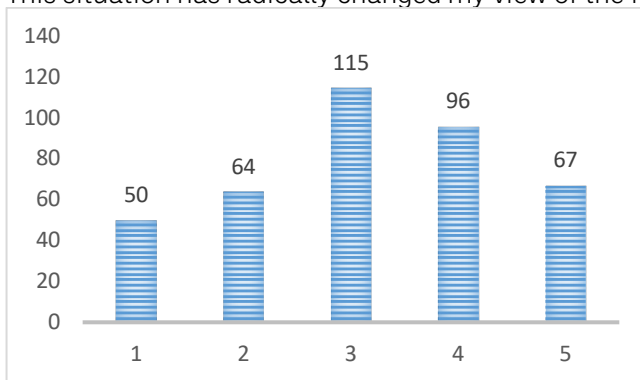
This situation has led me to question my role in society.



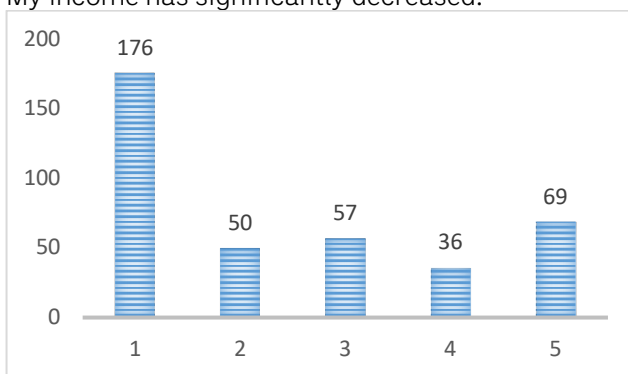
I have made new friends during lock-down.



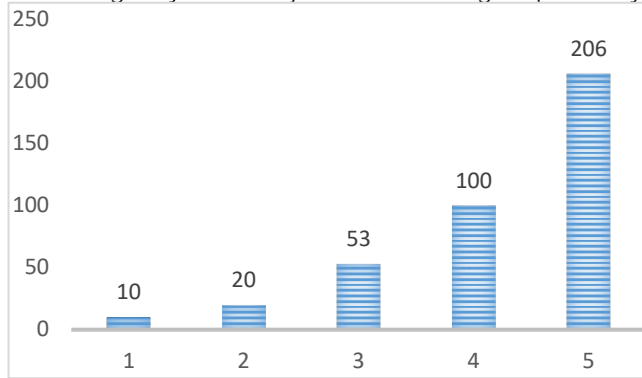
This situation has radically changed my view of the future.



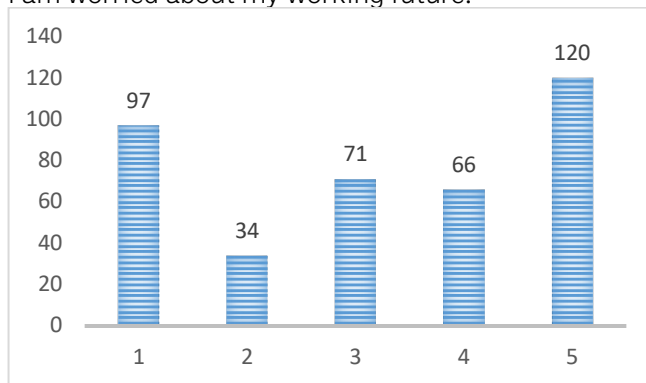
My income has significantly decreased.



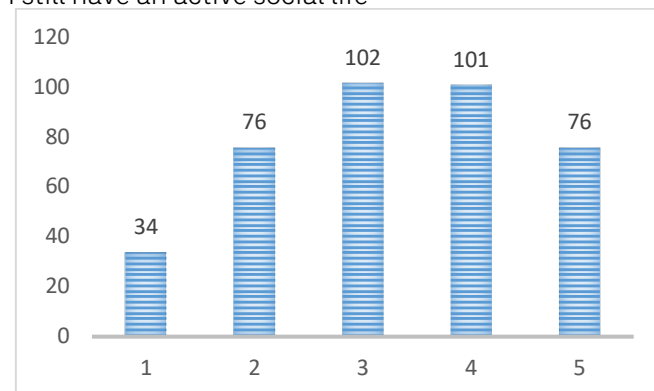
An emergency like this justifies a strong response by public administration.



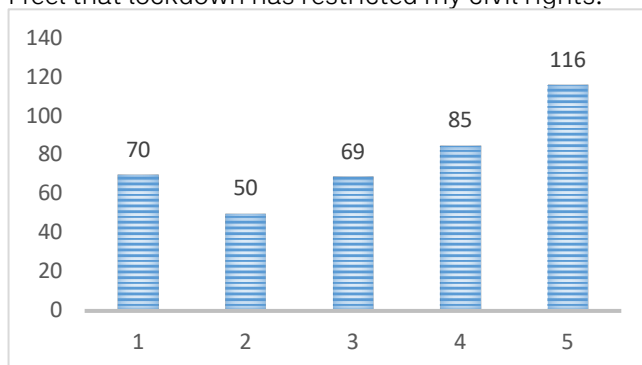
I am worried about my working future.



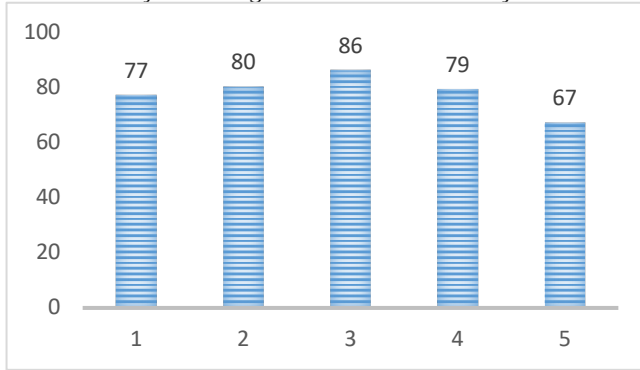
I still have an active social life



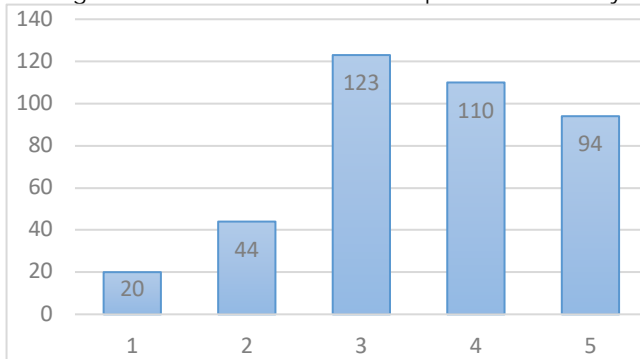
I feel that lockdown has restricted my civil rights.



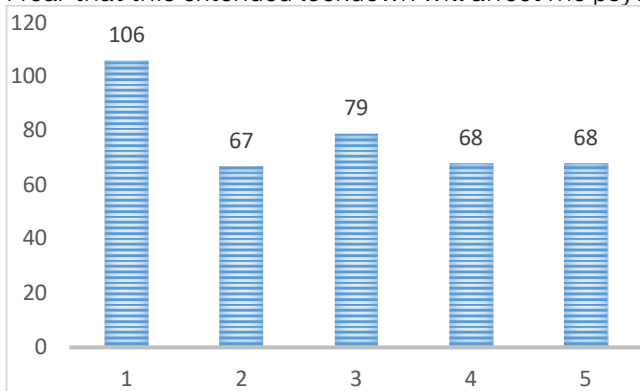
I feel uneasy when I go outside and I worry about being infected or fined.



During lockdown I have seen examples of solidarity in my local area.



I fear that this extended lockdown will affect me psychologically.

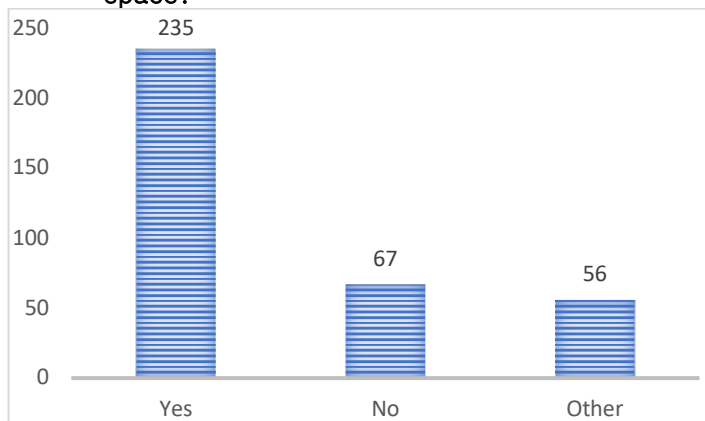




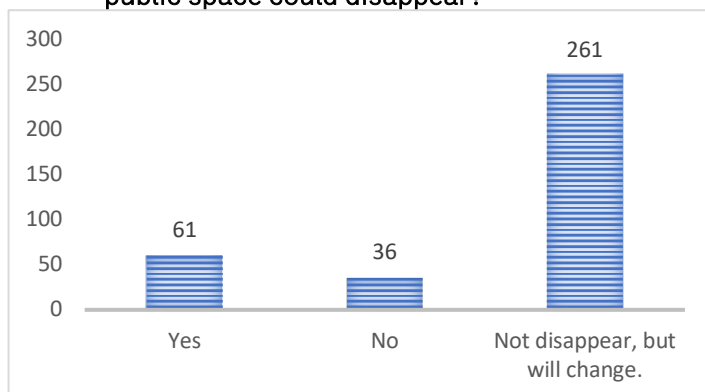
### III. Public space and relationship with others

Several governments have already announced that the strict lockdown will be lifted gradually. But apart from this vague promise, nobody dares to predict what the “new normal” will be. We only know that our social life will be different, at least for a while. As a society, we will have to take steps to avoid a new outbreak, and as individuals we will also have to deal with the experience of lockdown.

#### 7. Once the lockdown is over, do you think you will behave differently in the public space?



#### 8. Do you think that due to this experience, some habits that we associate with public space could disappear?

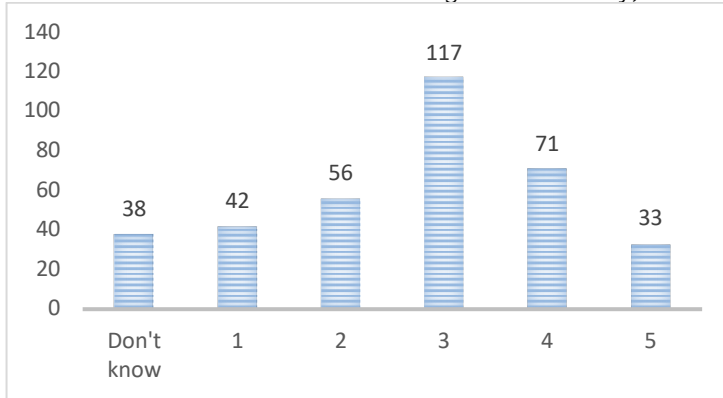


#### 9. If you answered yes, which one?

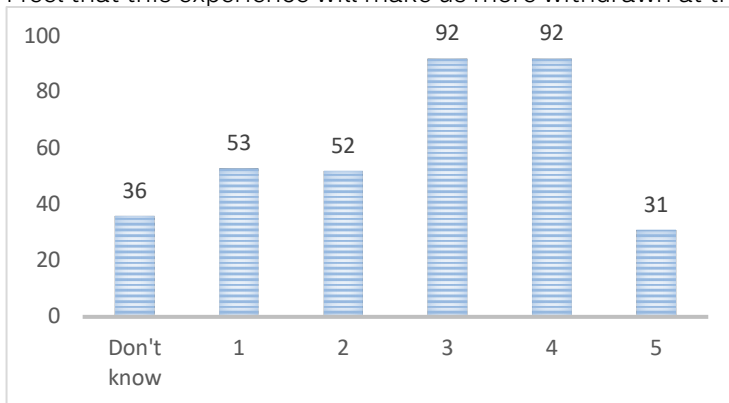
- Tendency to avoid physical contact / more distance / fear of others
  - less encounters in public space
  - other rituals of greeting and dismissal
  - less physical contact rituals (dance, party)
  - less massive events / crowding
  - less cultural events (concerts, theaters, movies, ...)
  - less commercial entertainment venues (bars restaurants discotheques shopping centres)
  - less tourism
  - less sporting events
  - less public transport
- Only mainstream spaces and initiatives survive, less variety, small initiatives
- improved hygiene
- increased digital interaction
- increased outdoor activity
- less purposeless activity / wandering around / drifting
- bureaucratization of space
- need for space management

#### 10. Do you agree with the following statements? (1 I disagree -> 5 I affirm)

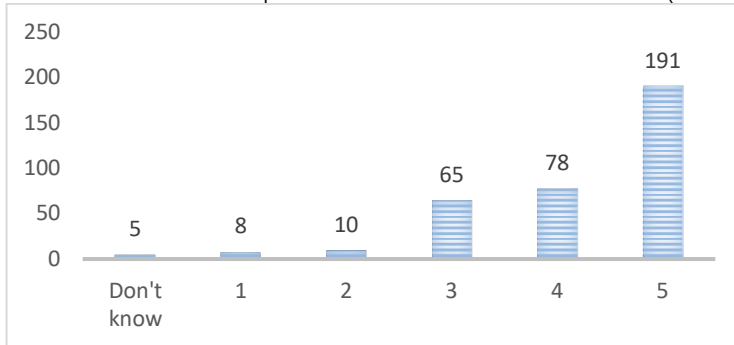
I think we will come out of this stronger as a society, and with more solidarity.



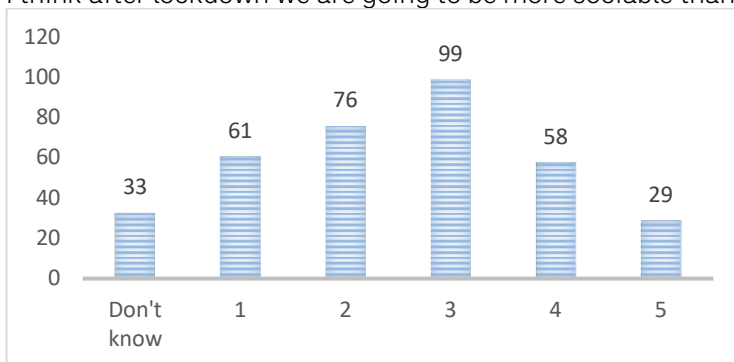
I feel that this experience will make us more withdrawn at the individual level.



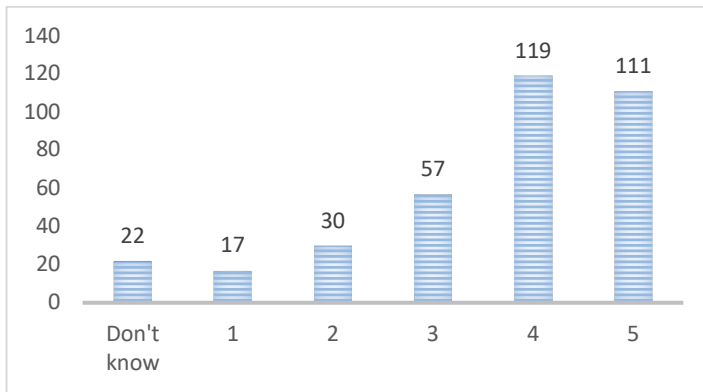
I have realised the importance of close social contacts (family / partner / group of friends).



I think after lockdown we are going to be more sociable than ever.



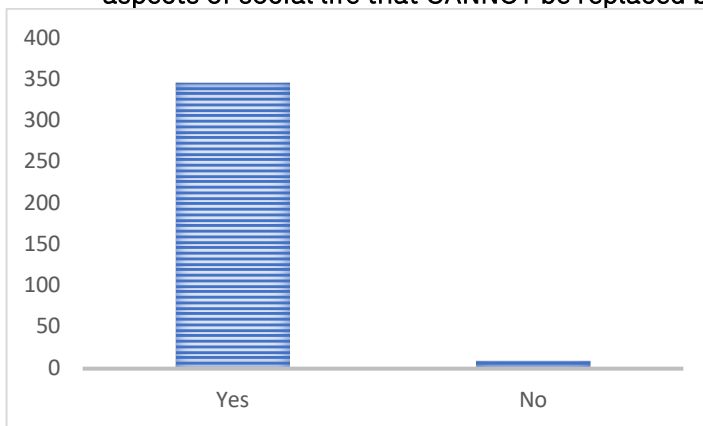
I think this experience will make us more aware of caring for others



**11. People usually express their political opinions in public space. How can gatherings, protests, or demonstrations be organised when social distancing is in place? Briefly state your ideas.**

- Political work
  - lobbying work
  - popular consultations / referendums
  - mail campaigns, letter and call campaigns
- Personal/private actions
  - protest from the balconies (pots, banners, applause)
  - acting as an example / role model
  - strikes from home (consumption, care, ...)
- Affecting physical space
  - smaller congregations
  - sitting, human chains, walking, cycling, driving, not demonstrations
  - strengthening partnerships
  - protests that extend over time (virtual chains)
  - guerrilla communication techniques: protest similar to those applied by Act Up / creative protests
  - Projections in public space (like Unitarian School or hologram manifestation of We Are Not Crime to circumvent the Gag Rule)
- Impact on digital/virtual space
  - Classic media (TV, newspapers)
  - gathering in social media
  - online petitions
  - assemblies via videoconference
- Other notes/ideas/comments
  - The left wing party in Sweden will hold a demonstration in world of Warcraft during 1st of may.
  - impact (effectiveness) will be more important than the symbolic (quantity)
  - protest only works if it generates irritation, discomfort, attention. And since protest is now more risky, it will also be more visible
  - We have to wait for the vaccine.
  - The new regulations will be based on the interests of the ruling political parties. It will not bring any good! We, civilians will have to find new ways to express our opinion as the elected in power will not leave any chance for us. Its a great opportunity for the ones in power to suppress the others. I think, the EU will have a special importance in this situation to set the baseline and to keep an eye on such governments as the Hungarian.

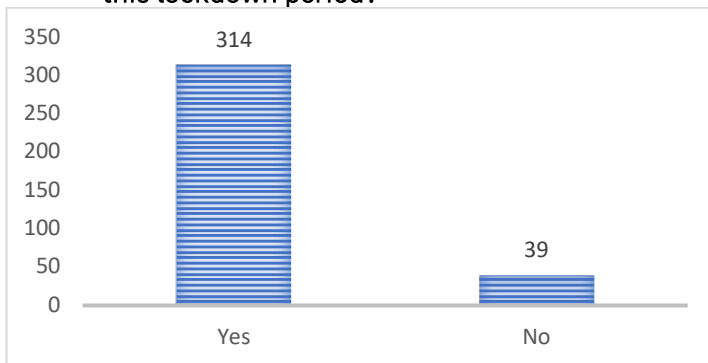
12. During lockdown, internet has confirmed itself as a strong alternative to a social and professional life that still requires a physical presence. Do you think there are aspects of social life that CANNOT be replaced by digital media?



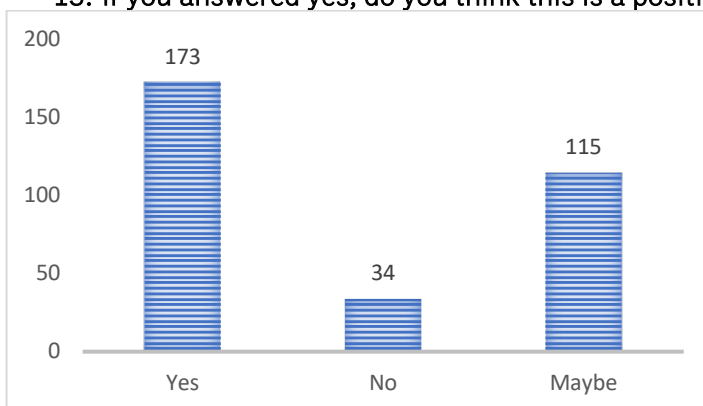
13. If you answered yes, which ones?

- SOCIAL LIFE
  - be part of a collective/group
  - cultural group activity
  - group sport activity
- THE RANDOM
  - Unplanned social events (random, spontaneous, serendipity), drift
- NON VERBAL / SUBLIMINAL
- -expressions of affection through the body
  - human, physical and personal contact
  - physical presence
  - smell
- -the discrete experiences that are held in a larger one.
- RELATIONSHIP WITH VULNERABLE GROUPS
  - Needs of children and the elderly
  - children's education
- BUSINESS LIFE
  - complex creation or construction activities
  - Professional life can be developed entirely in digital space. Social and personal life cannot.
- THE AFFECTIVE
  - sex, kisses, hugs, signs of affection
- THE COMMUNION
  - feel like part of a whole
  - Cultural experience in a group (That feeling of hearing the same song at the same time and space together with other people.)
  - Eating in restaurants, drinking
  - go for a drink
- CRITICISM OF THE DIGITAL
  - I think it's terribly wrong to think that digital media offers us a true social experience
  - I believe that Internet can be a complement, a tool, but never a (definitive) alternative
  - Everything can be replaced, but the question is: if its enjoyable or not.

14. Do you think being forced to work remotely will change the way we work, beyond this lockdown period?



15. If you answered yes, do you think this is a positive change?



- YES:
  - traffic reduction (and less business travel)
  - more flexibility (work/life balance)
  - family reconciliation
  - regains the local dimension (proximity trade)
  - makes live in the province more attractive
  - reduces costs for companies
  - less distraction by co-workers
  - more sense of responsibility and delegation
  - more professional exchange on a global level
  - positive for gender equality
  
- NO:
  - danger of not separating between professional and private (always work)
  - impossible for many jobs (industry, teaching, medicine...)
  - personal expenses increase due to work (electricity, water, internet, furniture...)
  - not everyone has a pleasant workspace at home
  - makes it difficult to organize work
  - will eliminate jobs
  - lack of close contact with colleagues
  - people will no longer have to leave their homes (-> physical and mental health)
  - We show different sides of our character at home and work
  - Makes union action a lot more complicated
  - Has a devastating gender impact.
  - The informal conversation that often leads to professional projects is missing
  - Dependence on third party technology, digital vulnerability
  
- MAYBE

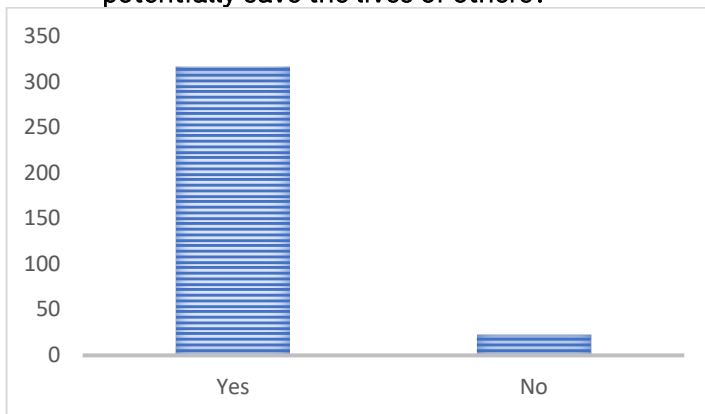
- As long as it is used as an occasional tool, not a substitute.
- As long as it's voluntary.
- only for some sectors
- only for a few working days a week
- only if there is a time control
- depends on many factors: on each one, on the field of work and on the situation in which each one lives

#### IV. State and citizenry

The political decision to order the lockdown of much of the world's population is an unprecedented step. And it is remarkable that there have been so few protests.

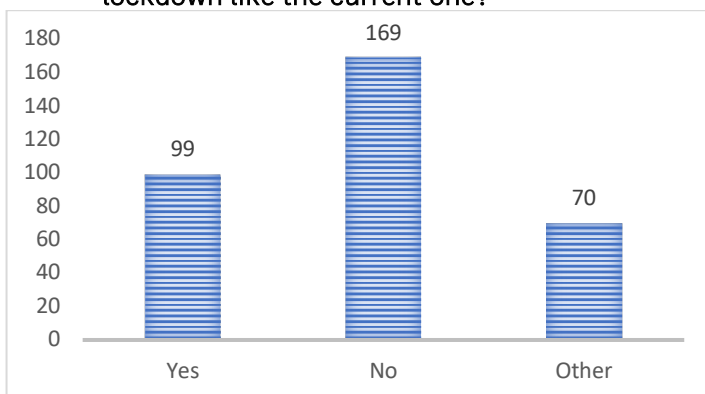
*Imagine that a new wave of infections arise in October 2020.*

**16. Would you support the decision to curtail your individual rights again in order to potentially save the lives of others?**



*Imagine that the government creates a digital app that tracks our movements, contacts, and health indicators to prevent this new wave.*

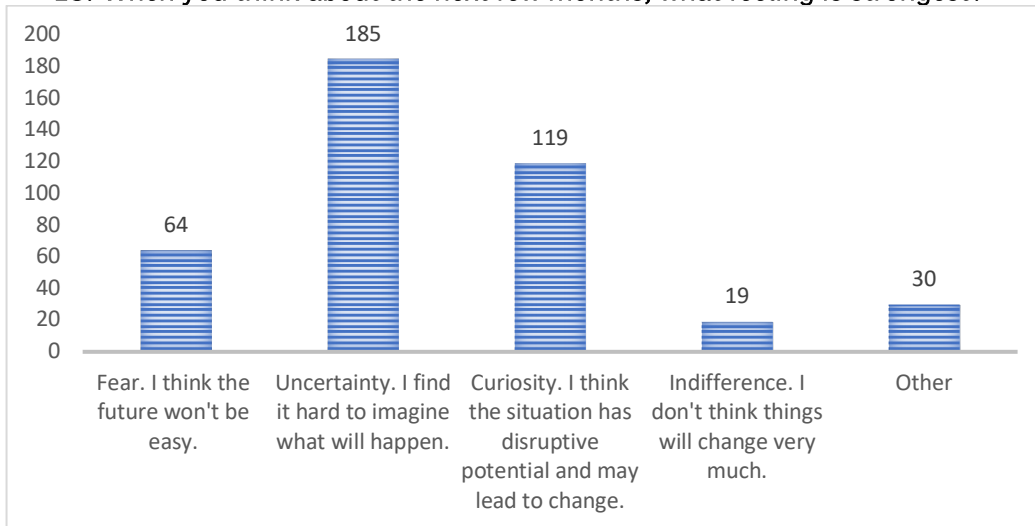
**17. Would you prefer a technological system of this kind, rather than another lockdown like the current one?**



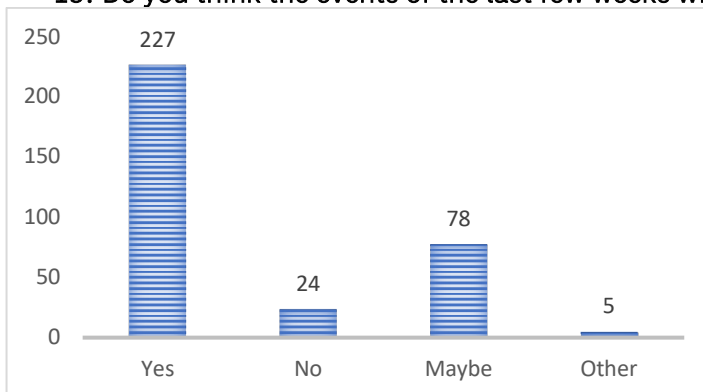
## V. Crisis?

According to one interpretation, this period is a unique opportunity to sow the seeds of a society based on greater solidarity and awareness of human values. But many other voices believe that this crisis may lead to widespread distrust of others and to the emergence of extreme, authoritarian nationalist tendencies that could undermine international cooperation frameworks.

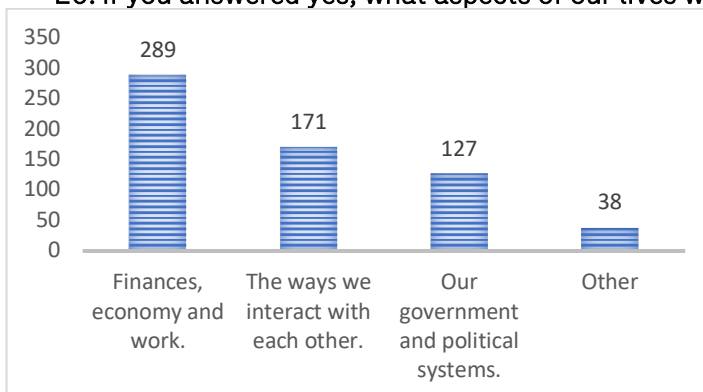
### 18. When you think about the next few months, what feeling is strongest?



### 19. Do you think the events of the last few weeks will result in a crisis?

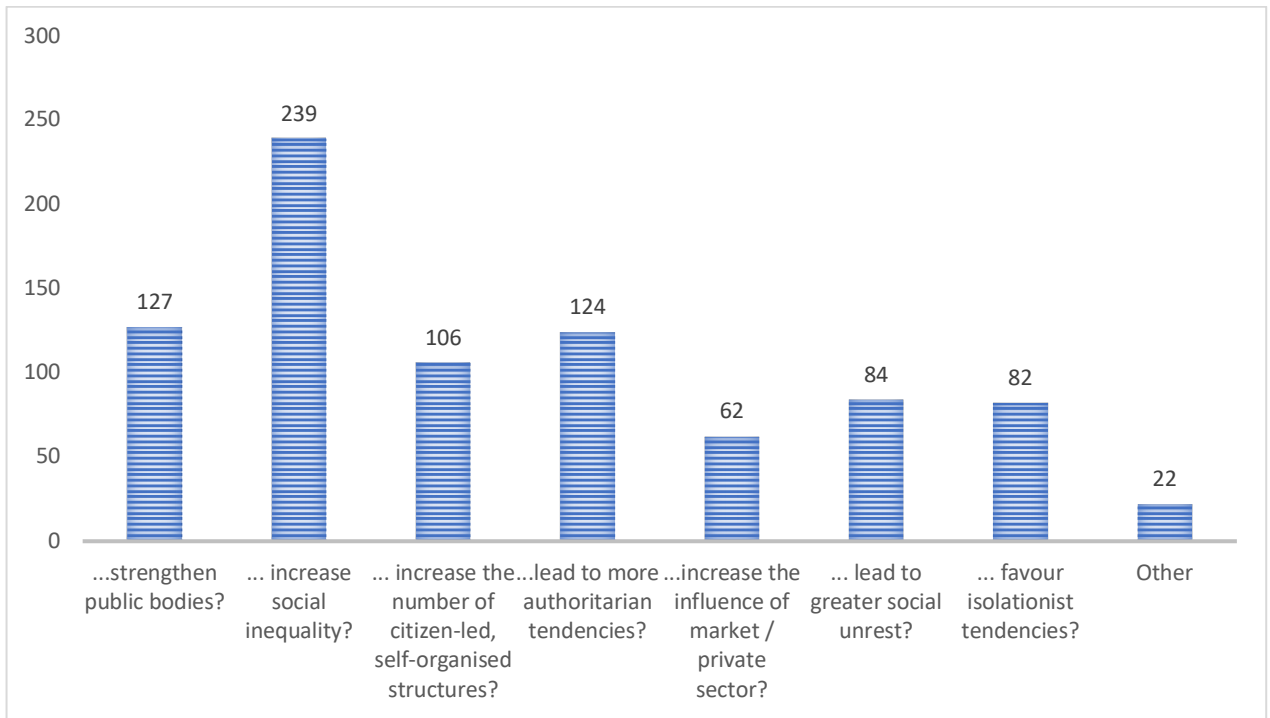


### 20. If you answered yes, what aspects of our lives will be affected by this crisis?

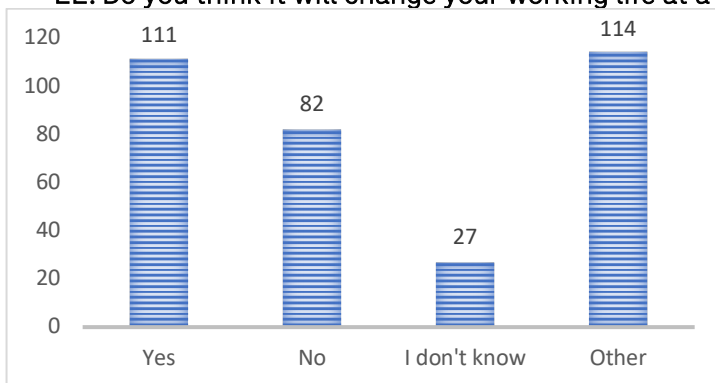


### 21. If you answered yes, do you think it will...





**22. Do you think it will change your working life at a personal level?**

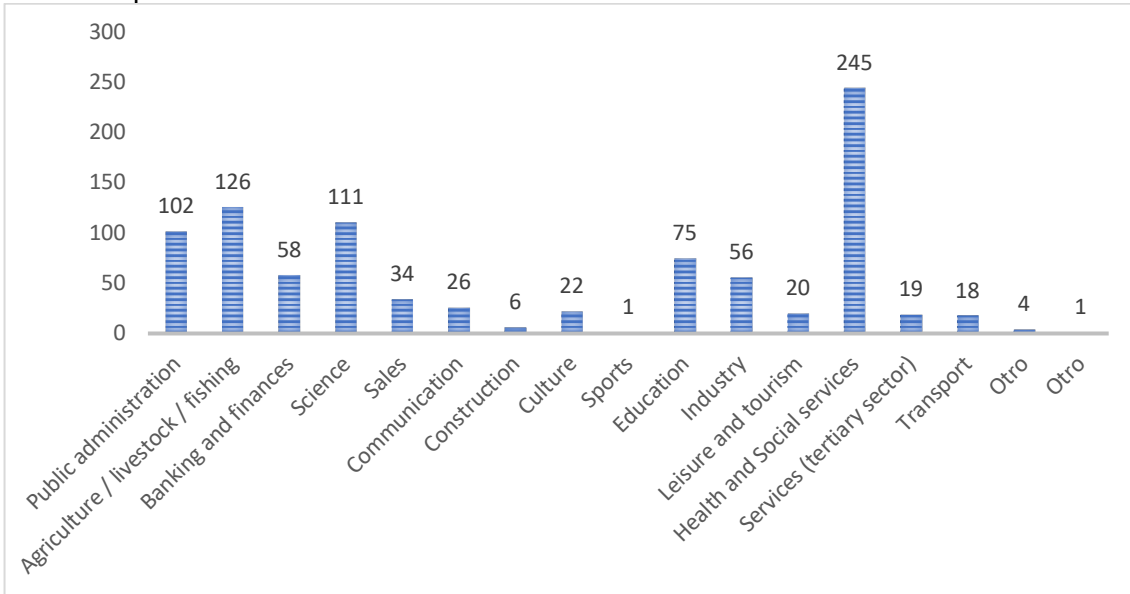


## VI. Which economy do I want?

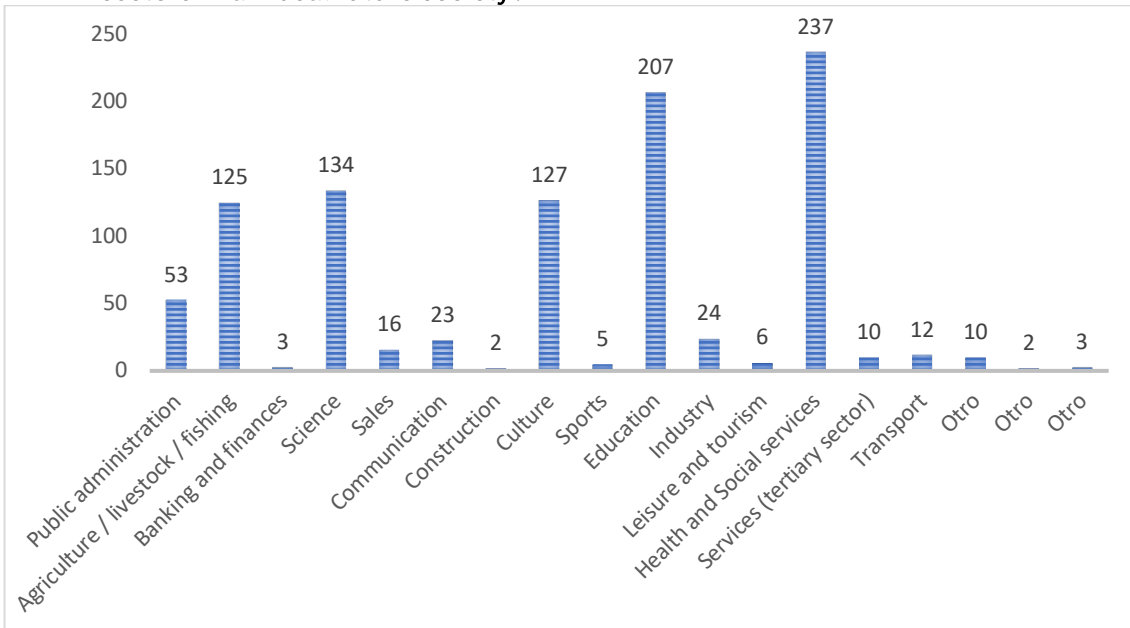
When we talk about the systemic importance of one industry sector over another, we are usually considering which economic and social system we want to protect.

In the 2008 financial crisis, for example, the government decided it was essential to bail out the financial and bank system. The current health crisis, on the other hand, is showing us the importance of the health sector and certain occupations, many of which have been underpaid and/or neglected. We still don't know which sectors will be considered important in a future financial crisis, but given that we are speculating..

### 23. During a future financial crisis, what sectors will be considered systemically important?

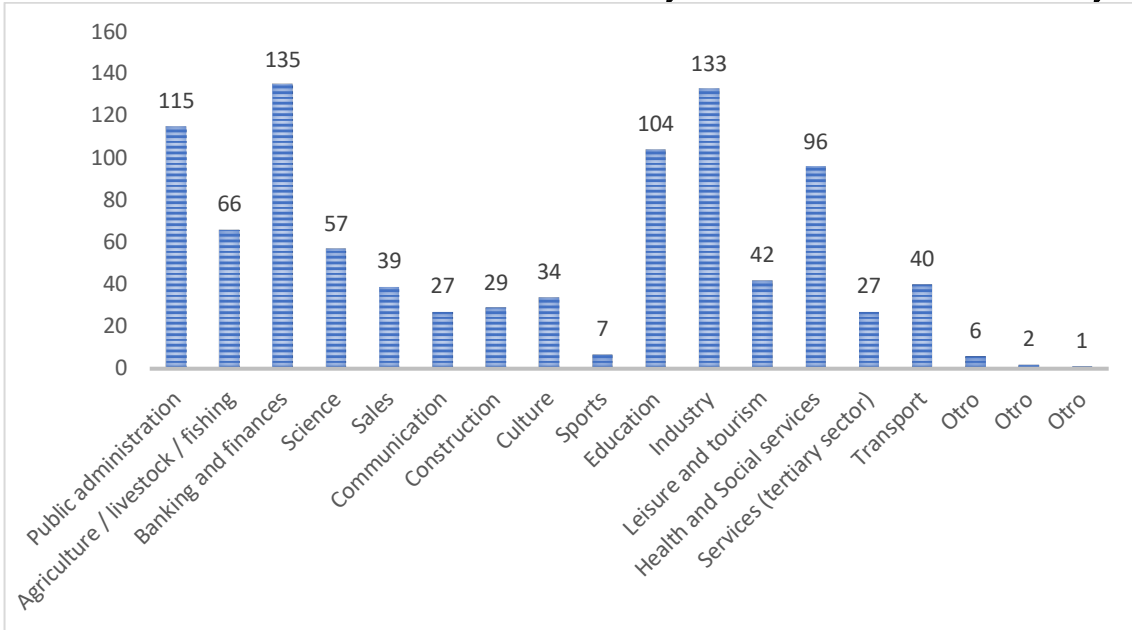


### 24. And to continue speculating.. what do you think would be the most important sectors in an ideal future society?



The crisis has shown that economic change is not as impossible as many of us thought. At least when it is necessary to respond to a major health crisis (General Motors is suddenly producing ventilators, Zara and other clothing brands are making face masks, Chinese crews built a hospital in two weeks). Given this capacity for adaptation and change...

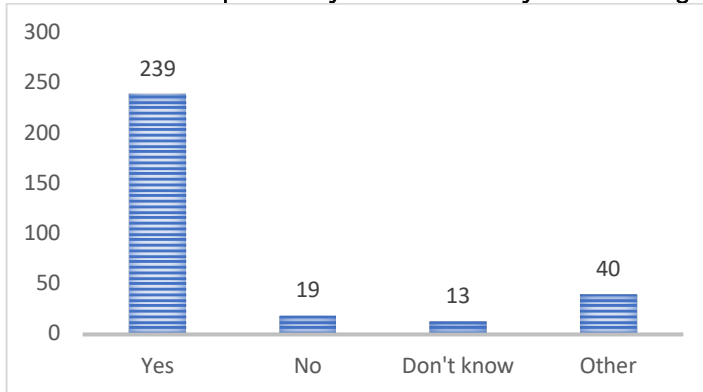
25. What sectors need to be modified so that they can contribute to an ideal society?



## VII. The end of globalisation

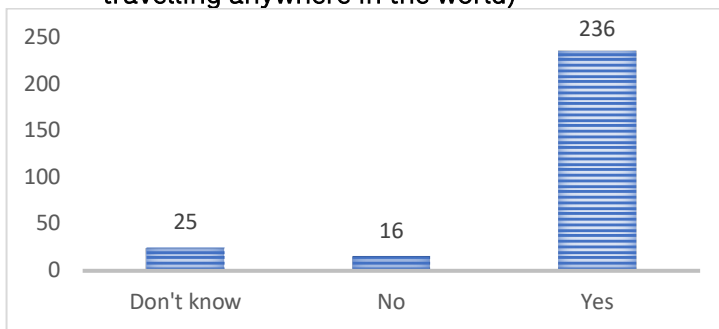
In recent decades, we have all benefited in some way from globalisation. But this health crisis has shown how vulnerable our global interconnectedness has made us.

**26. In light of this, do you think that economic production systems and lifestyles based on proximity could be a way of resolving this situation?**

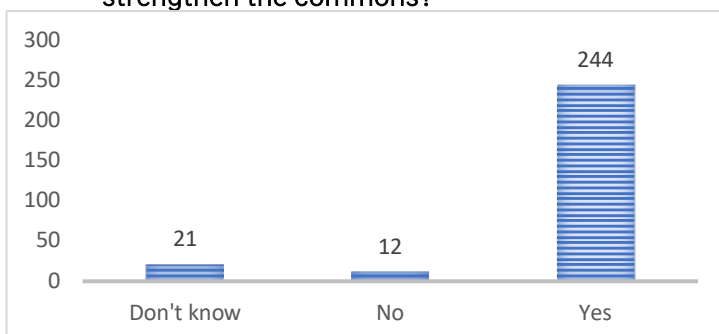


If you answered yes,...

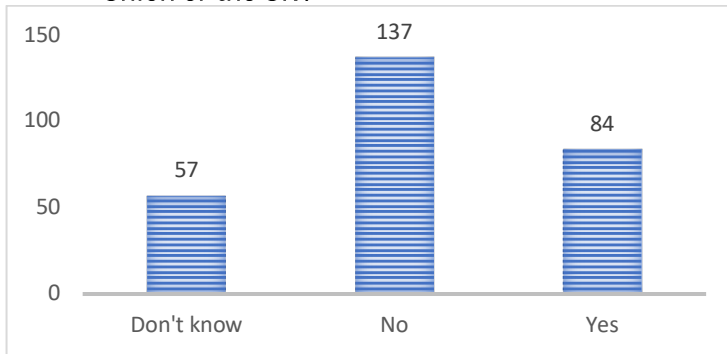
**27. ...would you be willing to sacrifice some personal wellbeing to this end? (for example, access to all kinds of products at all times, and the possibility of travelling anywhere in the world)"**



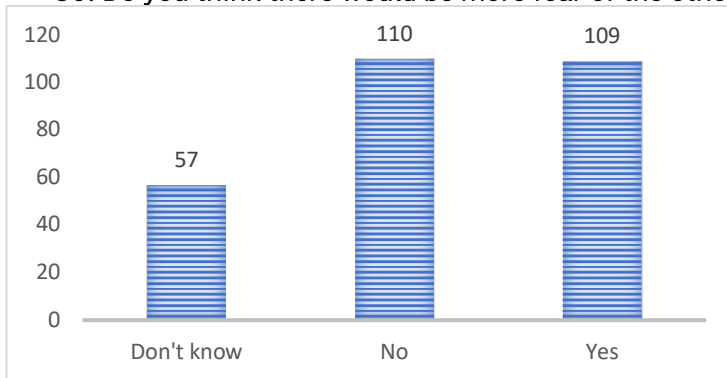
**28. ...would you be willing to give some of your time to contribute to projects that strengthen the commons?"**



29. Do you think this trend could harm supranational organisations like the European Union or the UN?



30. Do you think there would be more fear of the other in a society of this kind

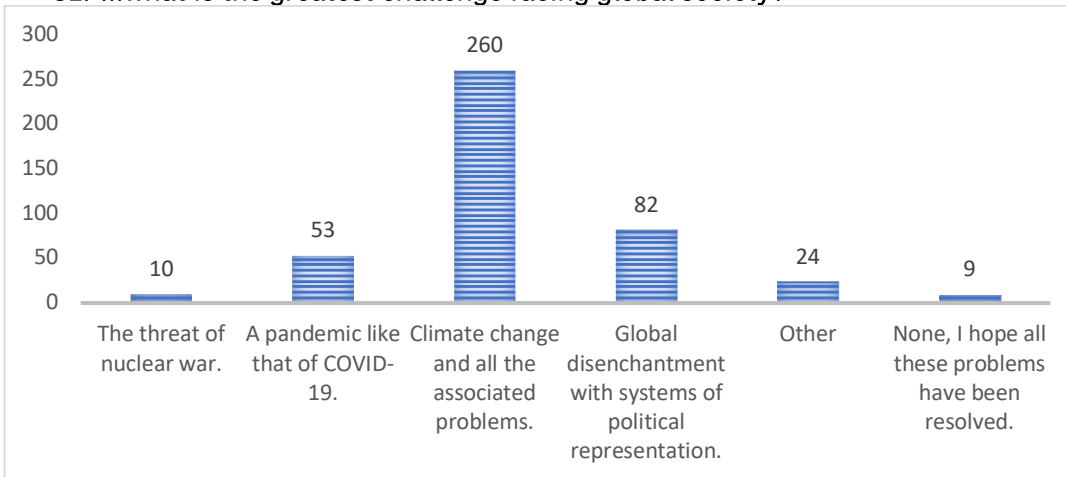


## VIII. Looking back from the future

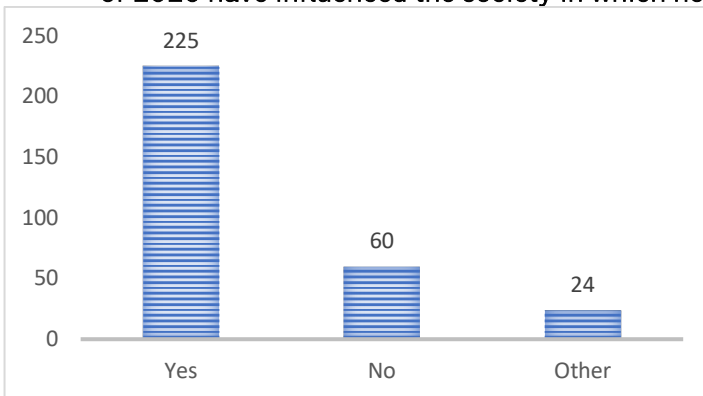
The health crisis and the looming economic downturn are dwarfing all the issues that had previously dominated the political agenda. Nobody is talking about the many crises that have constantly been with us in recent years: climate change, the wars and civil wars in the Middle East, widening social inequality, the aftermath of the financial crisis, the migration crisis, the crisis of representative democracy, and the many other problems that exist at a local, national, and global level.

*In a hypothetical 2040..*

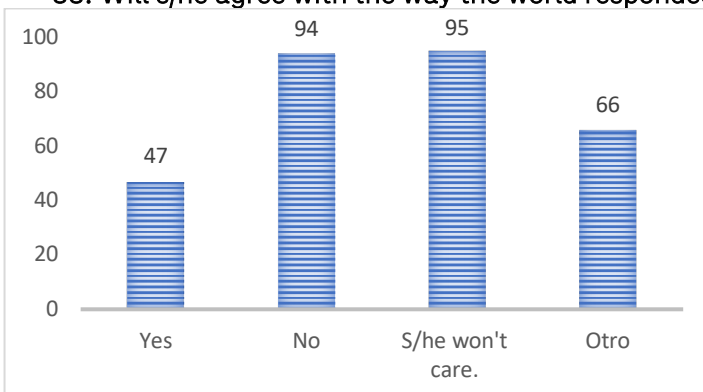
### 31. ...what is the greatest challenge facing global society?



### 32. A child who is 10 today will turn 30 in 2040. Will she or he believe that the events of 2020 have influenced the society in which he/she lives now?



### 33. Will s/he agree with the way the world responded to this 2020 crisis?



# CON COMITENTES

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