

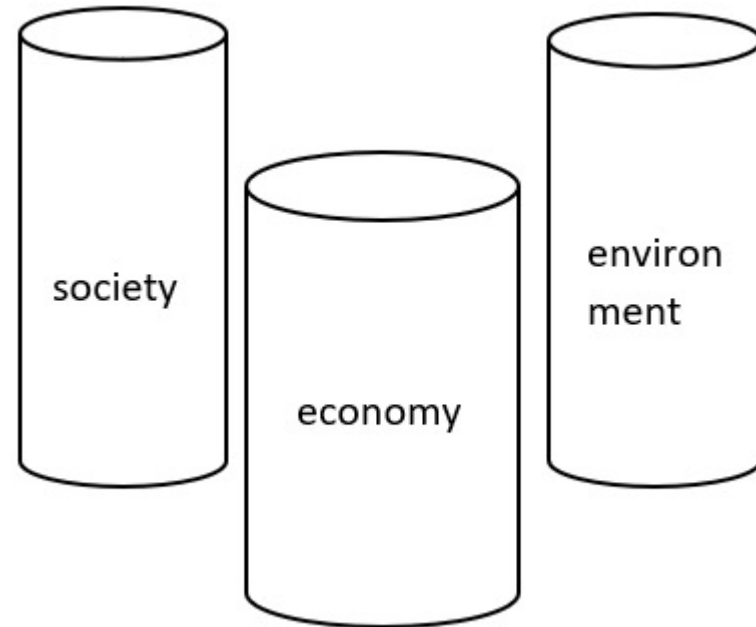
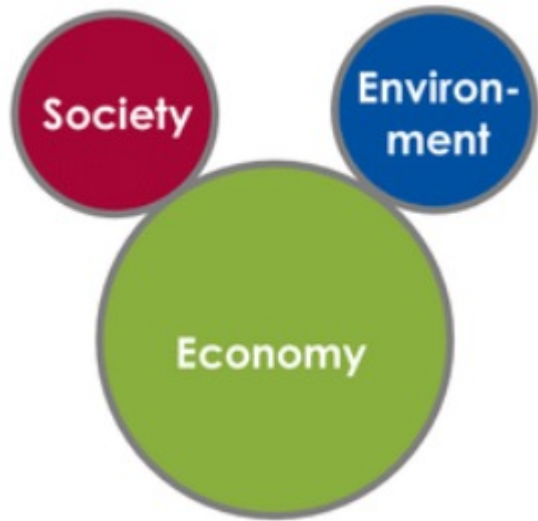
Integrated sustainability and the SDGs - An expert survey

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Traditional development: the silos



Reality check: we need to break the silos



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Research Questions

- ❖ How and to what extent do professionals across the globe understand, operationalise and practise notions of integrated sustainability?
- ❖ Have the SDGs played a role in informing their perceptions, priorities, and practices?

Outline

- ❖ Methodology
- ❖ Operationalisation: independent and dependent variables
- ❖ Next steps and possible findings

Method: online survey

- ❖ Inferential population: experts and professionals across the globe
- ❖ Sampling frame: 'snowball' sample of experts and professionals (300+):
 - networks (UN Major groups)
 - personal contacts at various IOs, NGOs etc.
 - social media



Independent variables

- ❖ Factual information:
 - Professional affiliation
 - Seniority
 - Geographical location
 - Familiarity with the **SDGs**
- ❖ Sustainability affiliation/priorities:
 - Which of the three pillars?
 - Which (SDG) sustainability themes?
- ❖ **SDGs**



Examples

What is your main professional affiliation?

- academia
- government/public administration
- civil society organisations
- business
- international organisations
- other (specify)

I am familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Very unfamiliar
- Unfamiliar
- Neither familiar nor unfamiliar
- Familiar
- Very familiar
- Don't know/prefer not to say

Your organisation's main objectives can be described as...? **Rank** the following options from most to least. - **FILTER B**

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental

Dependent variables: perceptions

- ❖ **Scope:** what *is* integrated sustainability (IS)?
- ❖ **Objectives:** how *should* IS be pursued?
- ❖ **Process:** what is my *role* in IS?
- ❖ **Evidence:** what do I *do* to pursue IS?
- ❖ **SDGs:** do they play a role in any of these?



Examples

Economic, social and environmental objectives are interdependent: pursuing one influences the pursuit of the other two

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/prefer not to say

We must protect the environment even at the cost of economic development and social welfare

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree
- Don't know/prefer not to say

It is the responsibility of my organisation to contribute to sustainability

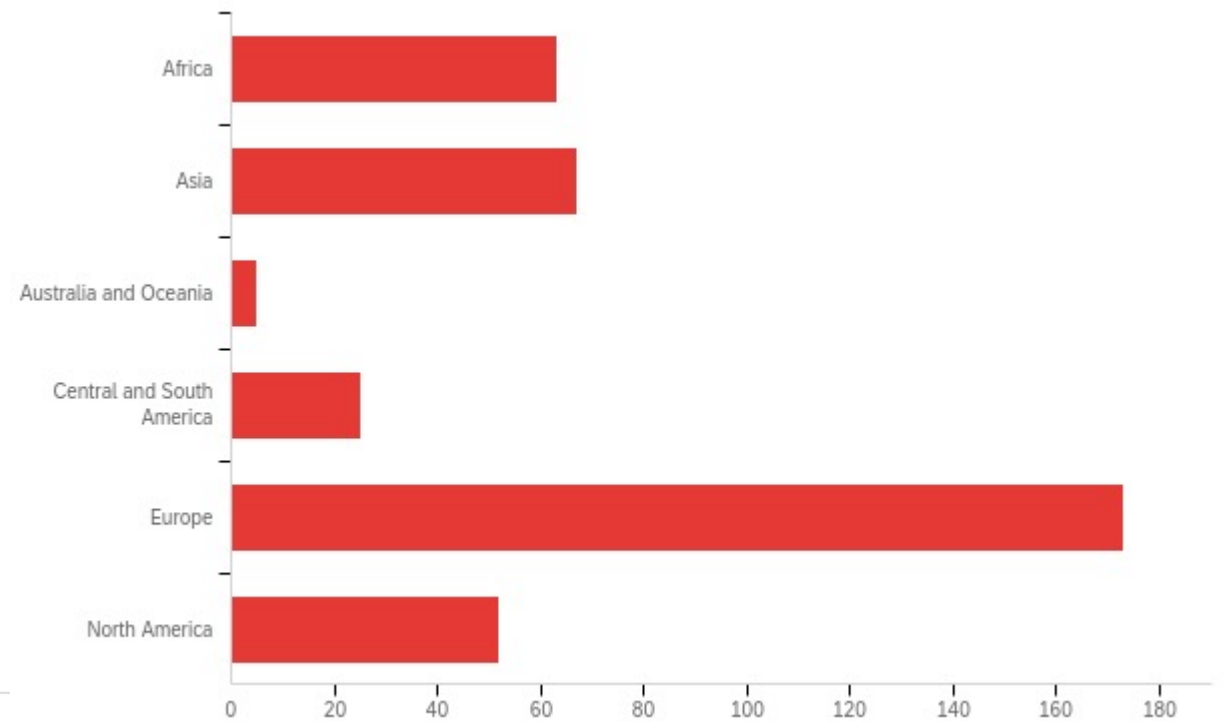
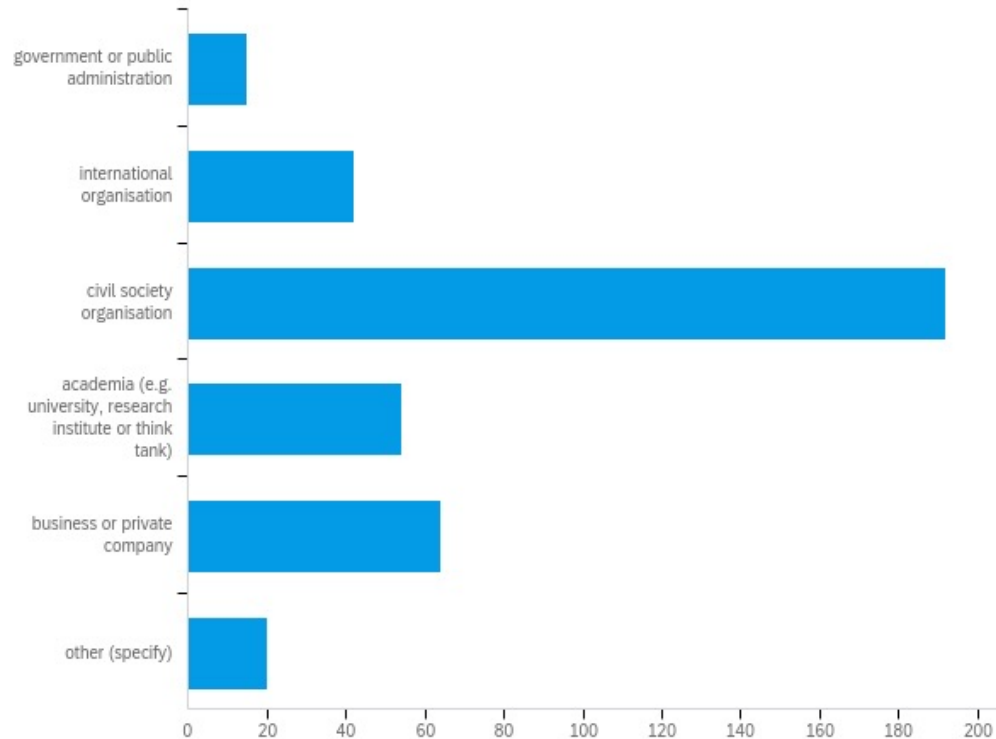
- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

The budget of my organisation has been adapted to be more in line with the SDGs

- Yes
- No
- I don't know/prefer not to say

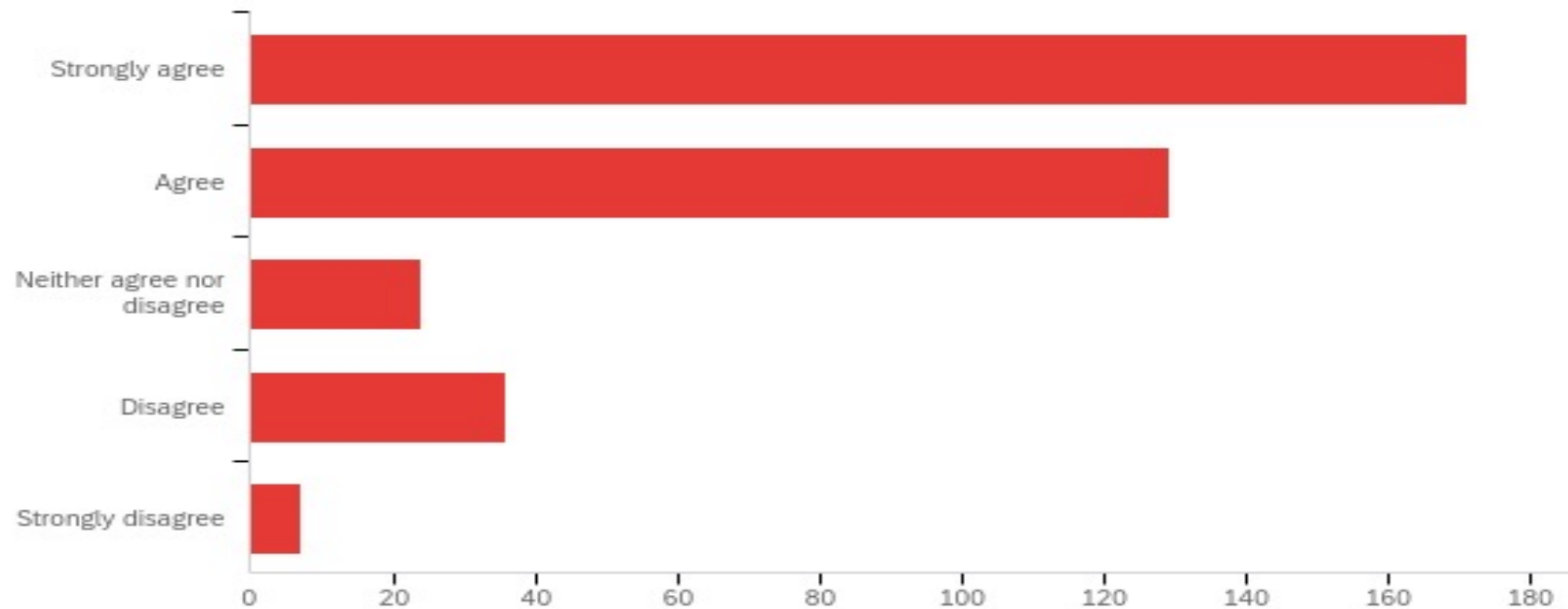
Dissemination

❖ 393 respondents (as of July 9)



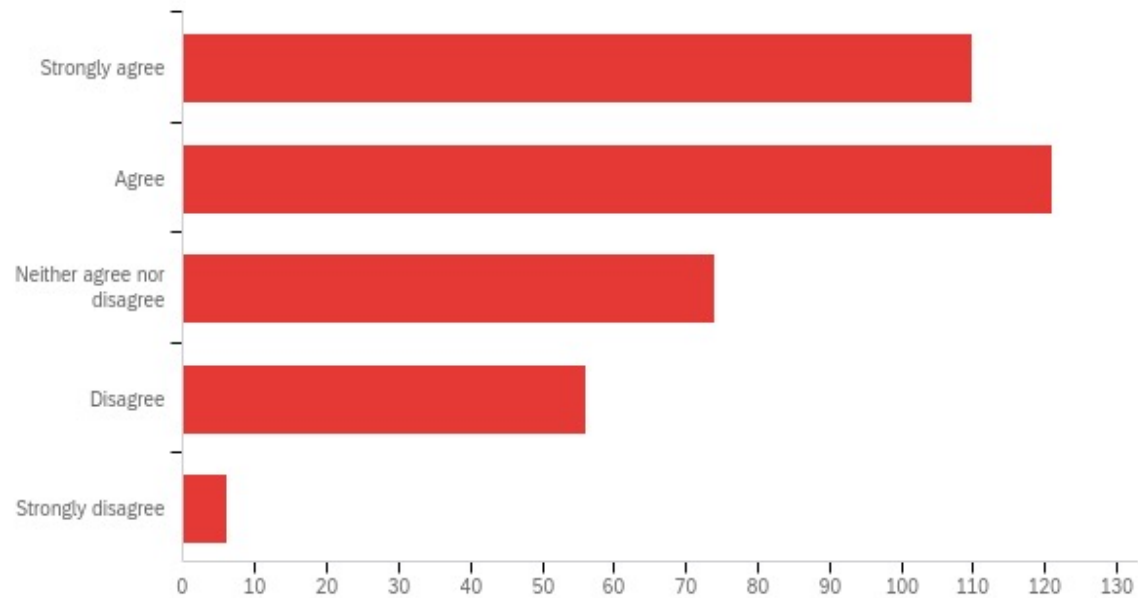
Some (very!) preliminary findings

Economic growth, social welfare and environmental protection are all equally important.

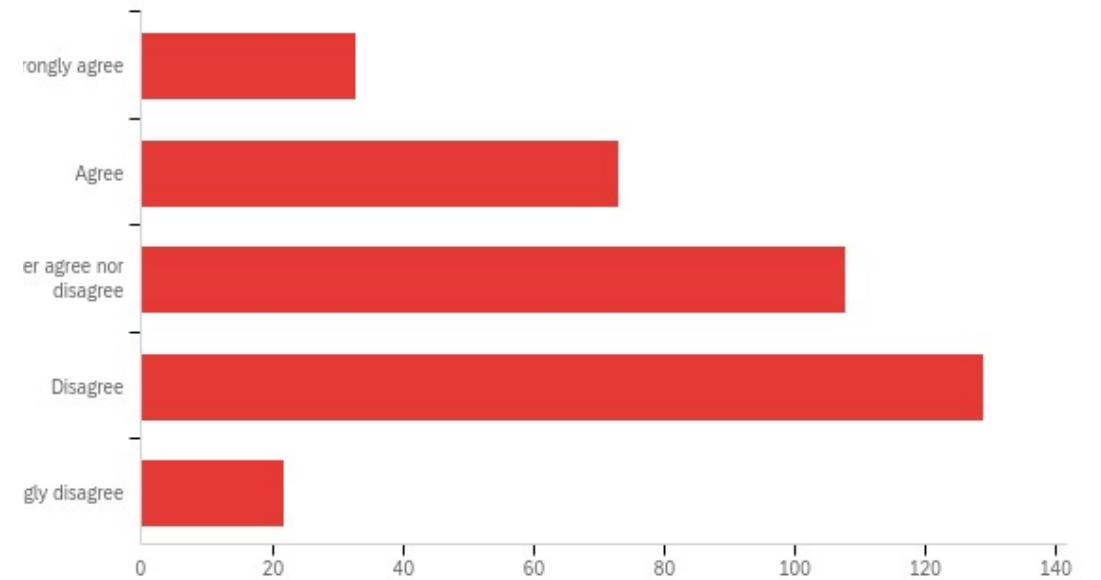


Promoting environmental protection even at the cost of...?

economic growth

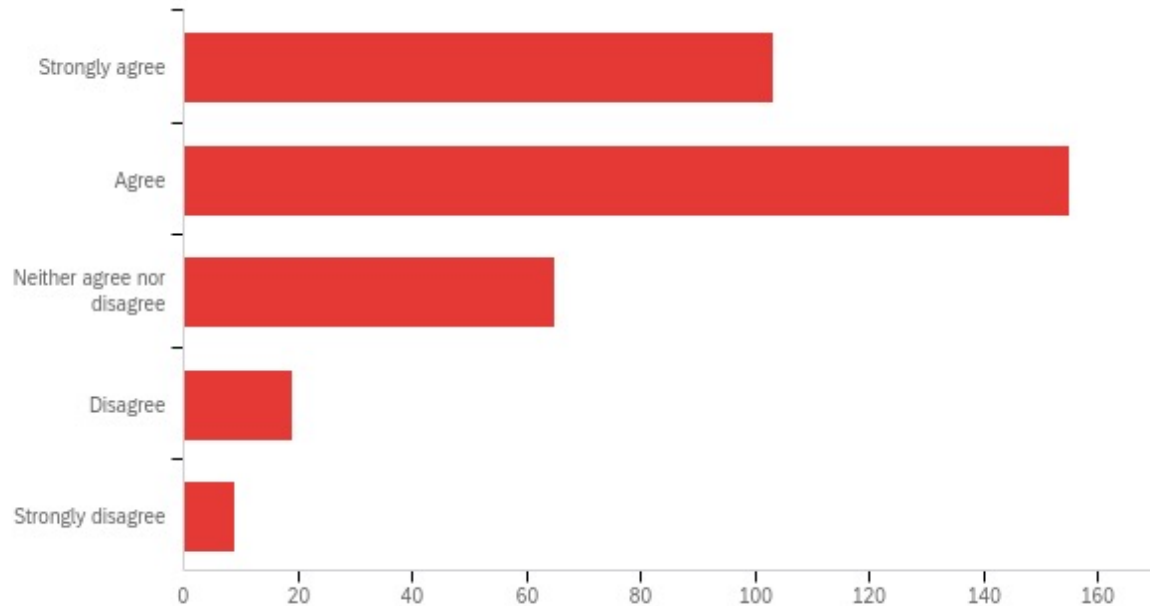


social welfare

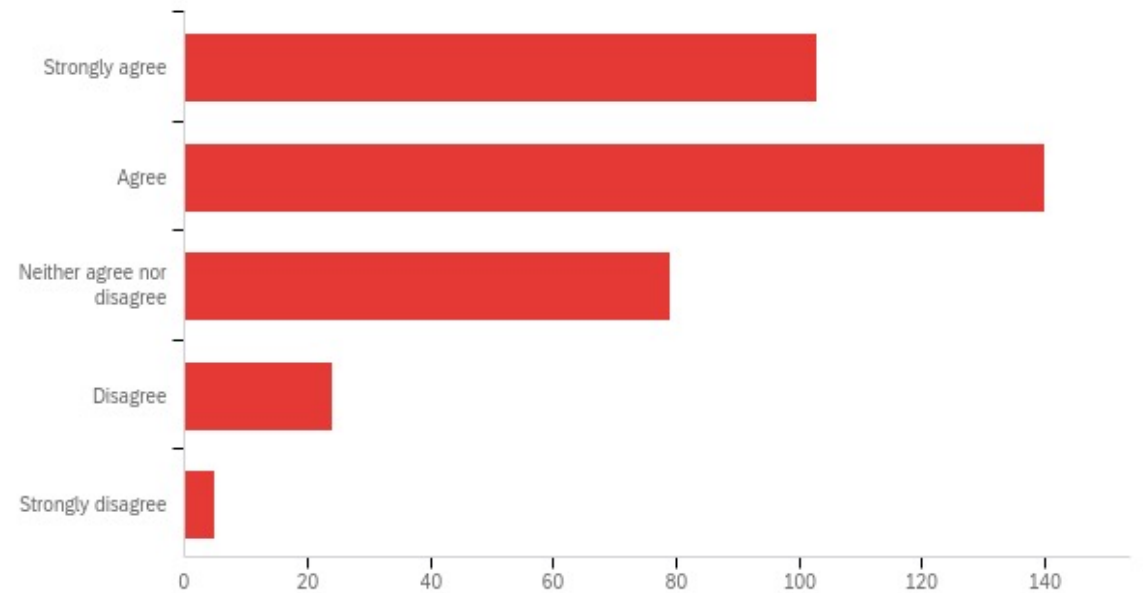


And the SDGs?

The SDGs help my organisation understand how economic growth, social welfare and environmental protection are interdependent.



The SDGs incentivise my organisation to promote environmental protection.



What next?

- ❖ Further data analysis: clustering
- ❖ Findings (hopefully!)
 - ❖ Which factors influence perceptions on IS?
 - ❖ Are environmental actors more or less open to IS than social and economic ones?
 - ❖ Do the SDGs play a role (dependent or independent)?



Thank you!



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