

# NIMBioS

National Institute for Mathematical  
and Biological Synthesis

Working Group

# Ecological Network Dynamics

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

December 2017

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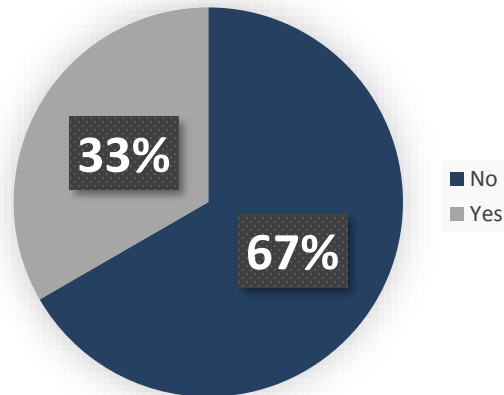
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**Figure 1.** Were you able to attend all of the working group’s meetings? (N = 9)



What prevented you from attending all of the meetings (e.g. scheduling conflicts, childcare)?

*I missed the second meeting because of scheduling conflicts.*

*I only unattended one meeting (I attend two of them); the reasons were scheduling conflicts: some PhD students of mine were obtaining their degree near those dates, besides my participation in some classes.*

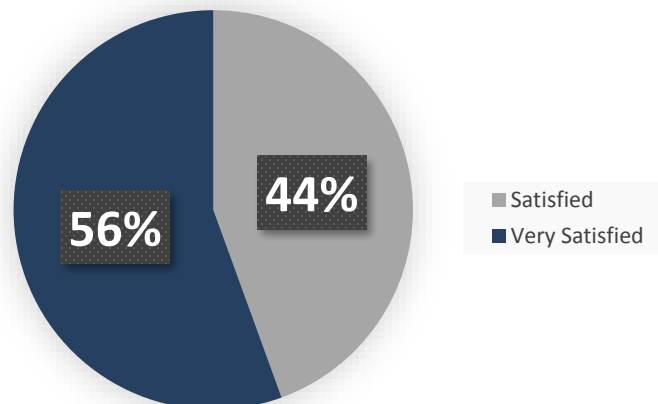
*scheduling conflicts*

*scheduling conflicts*

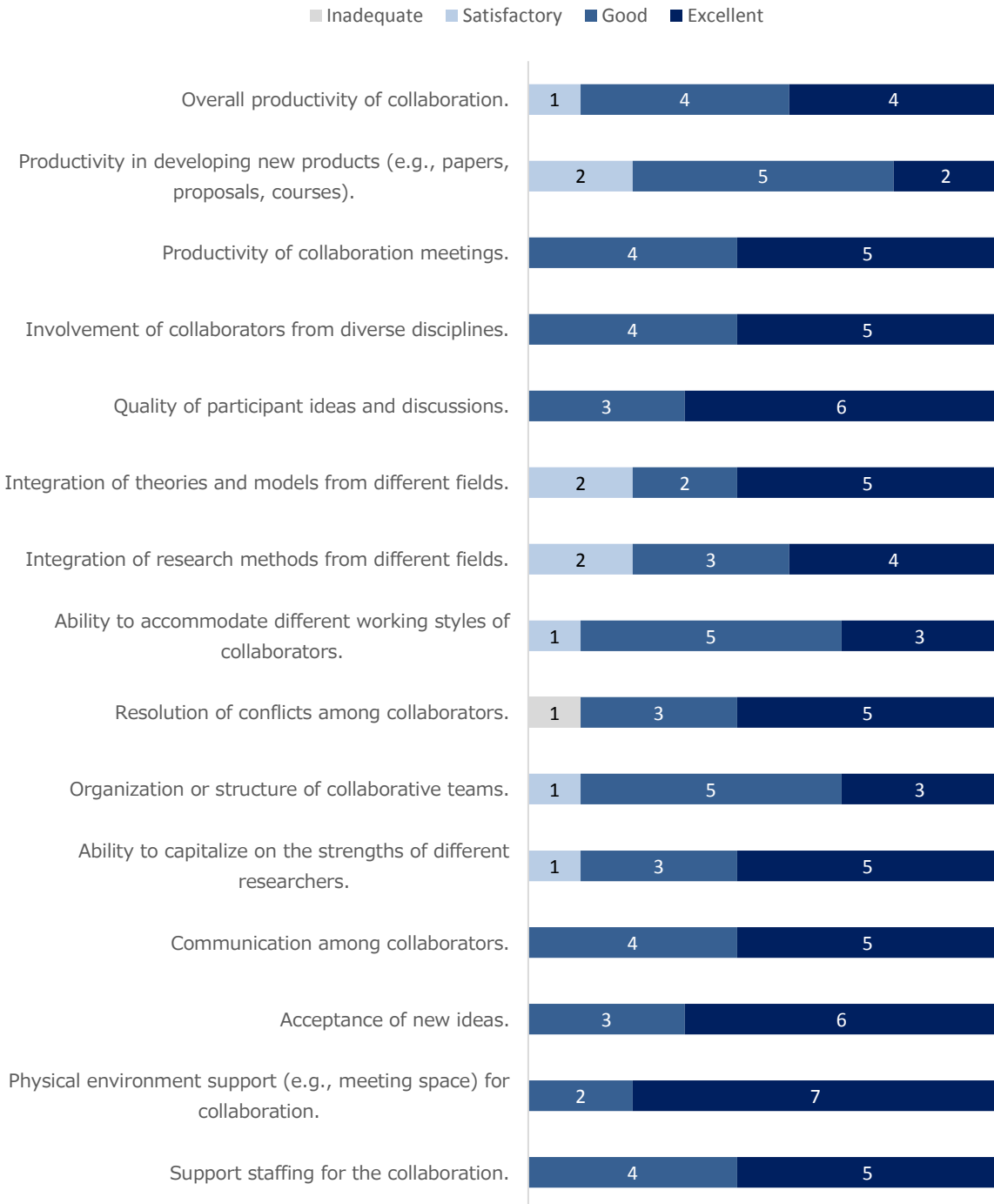
*teaching obligations*

*Too much travelling*

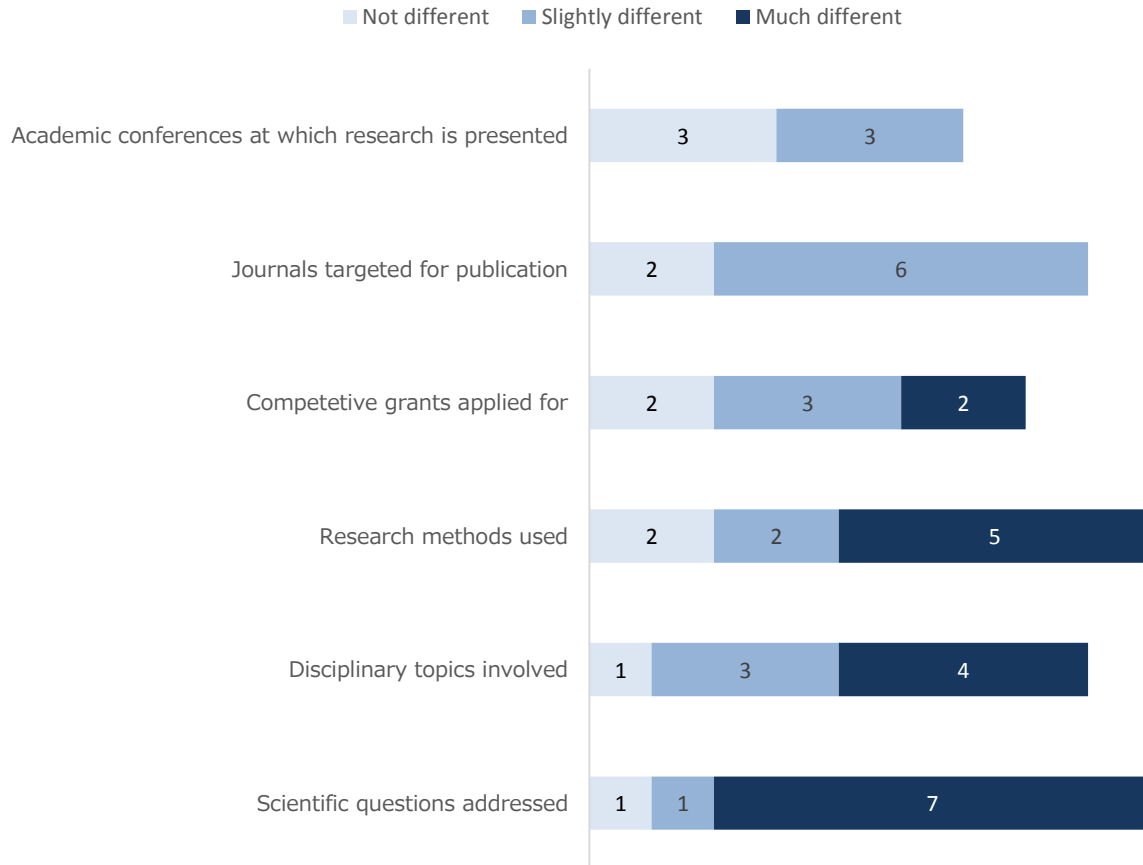
**Figure 2.** Rate your overall satisfaction level with the Working Group: (N = 9)



**Figure 3.** Please evaluate your experience within your NIMBioS Working Group in the following areas:



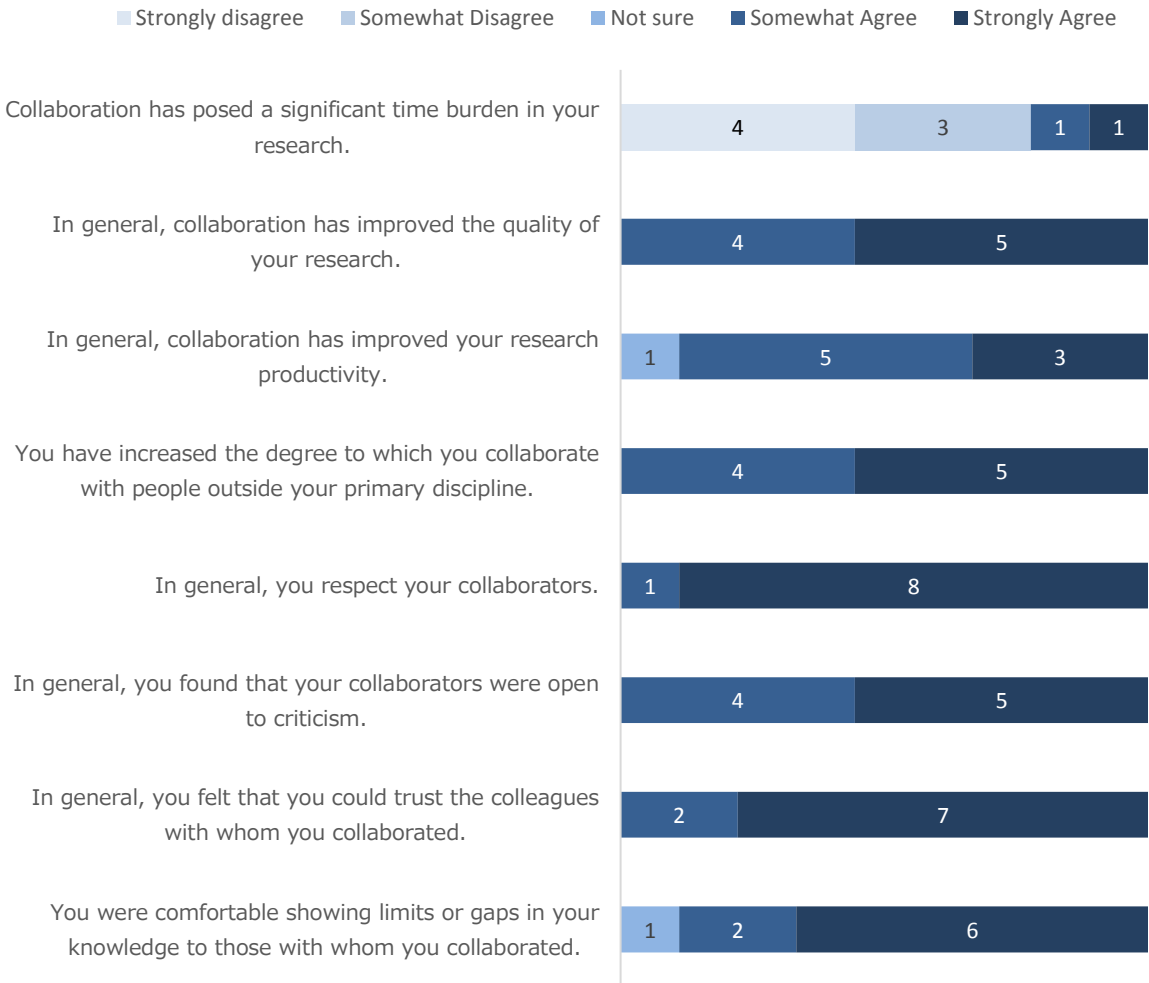
**Figure 4.** Research collaborations are defined here as two or more people who work together towards a common research goal. In which of the following ways (if any) did your Working Group research collaborations differ from your other research collaborations (i.e. collaborations with others not in this working group)?



**Comments:**

*I consider the range and scope of the undergoing products to be slightly higher and different at this workgroup than my average research collaborations. There are very positive synergistic effects of this workgroup, especially given by the methodological innovations and knowledge provided by my colleagues.*

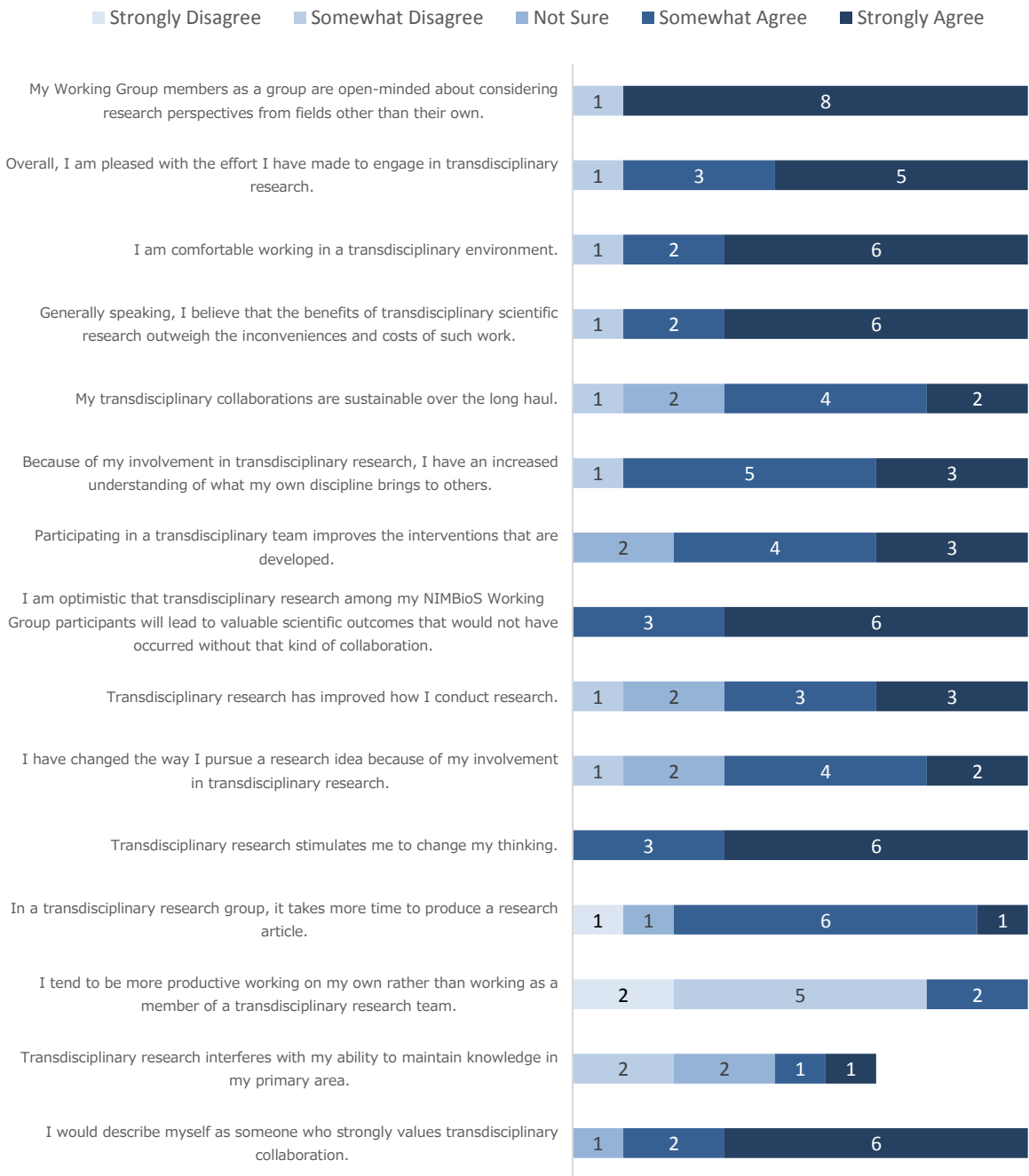
**Figure 5.** Please rate your views about collaboration with respect to your NIMBioS Working Group-related research:



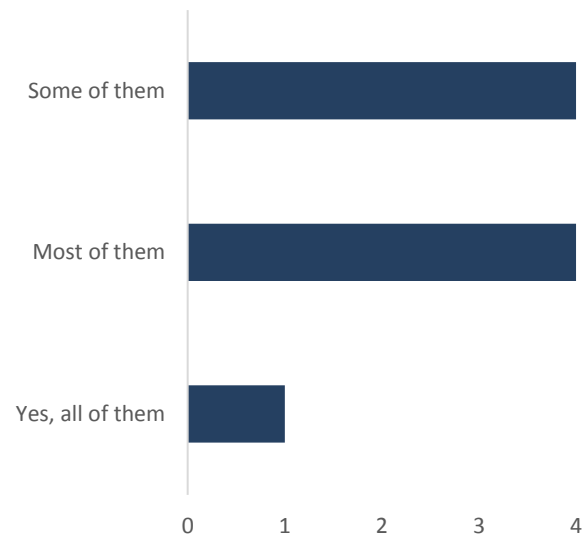
**Figure 6.** The questions in this section pertain specifically to transdisciplinary research as you understand or perceive it. Transdisciplinary research as defined here:

*Collaboration in which exchanging information, altering discipline-specific approaches, sharing resources and integrating disciplines achieves a common scientific goal (Rosenberg 1992).*

Please rate the following attitudes about transdisciplinary research:



**Figure 7.** Do you feel the Working Group achieved its goals?



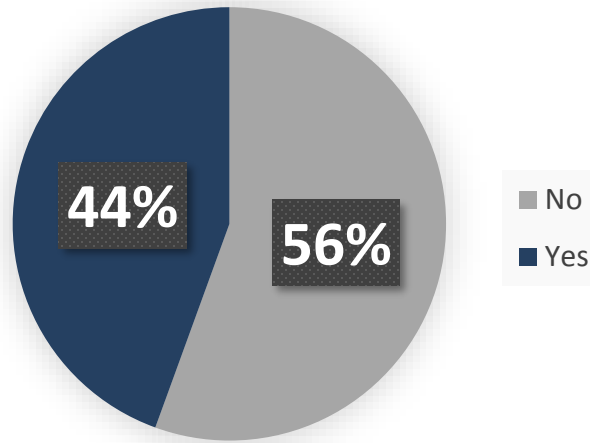
**Comments:**

*lingering disconnect between the empiricists (few in the group) and modelers (many in the group) limited the scope and integration of our resulting projects (dominated by model perspective).*

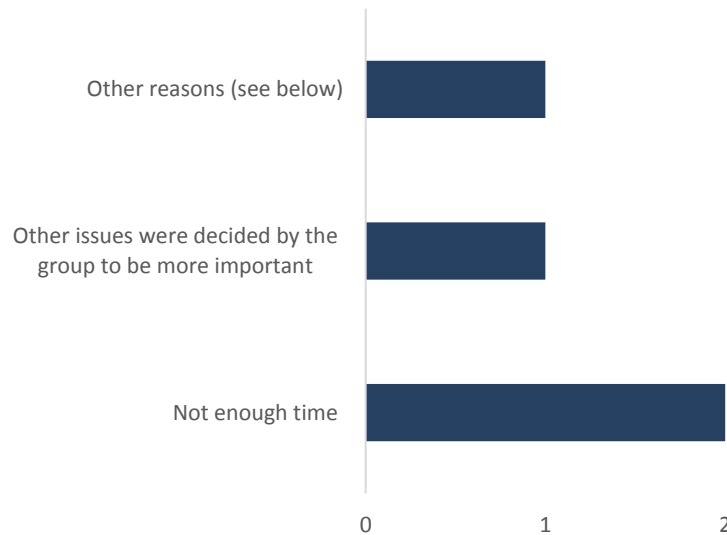
*I feel we still have a lot to do as a group. The group meetings resulted in many more ideas than we were able to tackle so far.*

*This workgroup had very clear, innovative and important goals, that I consider have been addressed effectively; however many of the planned products are still "ongoing work" and would need more time to be completed or fullfield (this is the case of the paper I am participating / leading).*

**Figure 8.** Were there research issues that you considered important to the proposed effort, and expected this group to address, that were not dealt with?



What were the reasons that you feel these research issues were not addressed?  
(check any that apply)

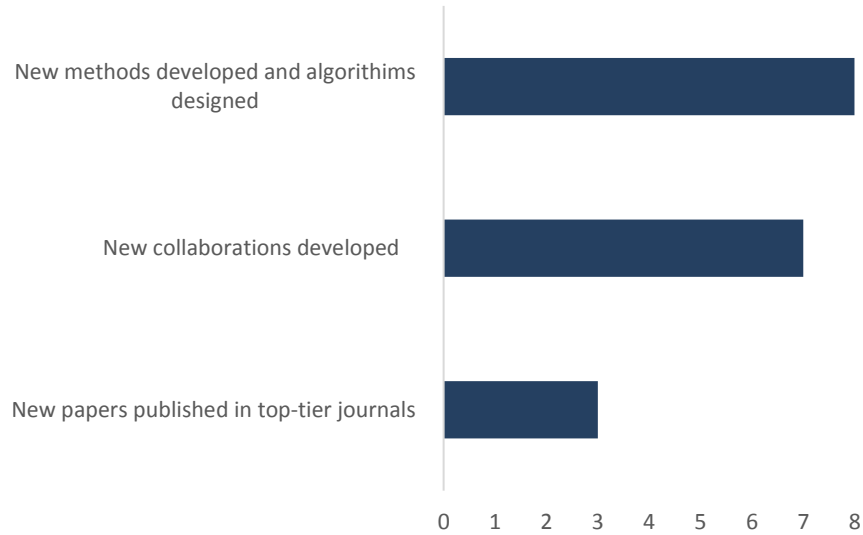


Other reasons:

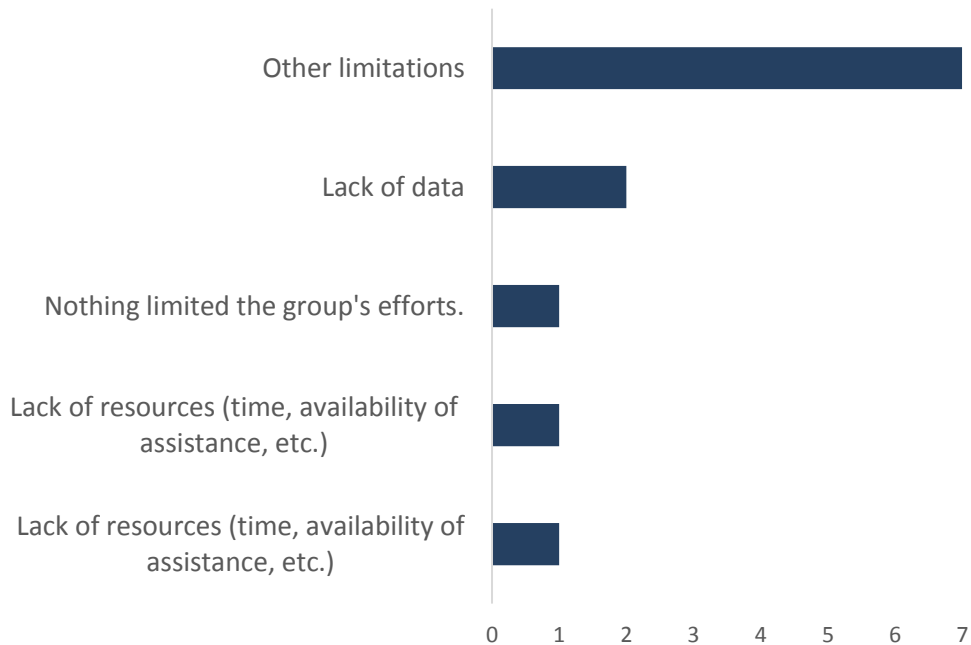
*limited integration between empiricists and modelers*



**Figure 9.** What evidence is there to support new insights and collaborations developed within the Working Group? (Check all that apply)



**Figure 10.** What do you feel limited the working group's efforts? (check any that apply)



## Other limitations:

*Availability of group members to come to meetings*

*lack of balance in expertise of people involved, limited facilitation to integrate people's expertise*

*lack of time*

*Maybe the contribution of the collaborators with more an empirical approach (such as myself) could not be as important or helpfull as the contribution of colleagues with more strongly theoretical biological, mathematical or informatic background.*

*not enough time*

*really needed a 4th in-person working group session to finalize projects*

*The main constraint is that all participants are involved in a number of other activities, but I strongly believe that we will be able to produce significant contributions with the ongoing projects.*

## Looking back, is there anything you would have changed about the working group format or content?

*I think there were too many topics proposed at the first meeting. I would narrow the list of topics down to 2 or 3 so as to increase focus.*

*include more balance between empiricists and modelers*

*no*

*no*

*No*

*no*

*Not really-- though I wish we had more time!*

*Not really; however I think that It would have been desirable to be more specific (from the very proposal of the workgroup) about what was expected from each participant, so contributions would be more addressed from the very begining.*

## Please provide any additional comments about your overall experience with the working group:

*great group, glad to have the opportunity to participate!*

*My overall experience was very good. We are still working on a long paper that originated from the working group discussions. The paper involves new software and we are hoping to have it submitted in a few weeks.*

*The working group I participated in was great in many aspects: collaborative, well coordinated, addressed important topics both with innovative mind and methods. Also the coordinators provided a good collaborative, integrative and nice working environment. Really, workgroup coordinators did great. My only concern is on my contribution and communication skills (not only because of the language but because of my more empirical approach to the topics addressed) given that most colleagues were either very solid theoretical biologists or have a very solid mathematical / computational background.*