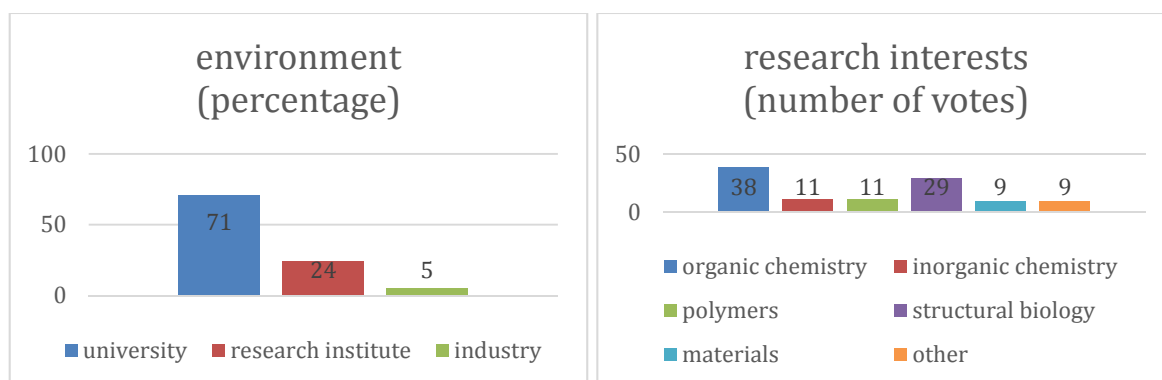


### 2.1.9 G-NMR Survey

In order to assess and receive feedback regarding the G-NMR activities during the first funding period we conducted an on-line survey in March 2015. G-NMR PIs, facility managers and all members of the G-NMR mailing list were asked to provide feedback regarding their **research interest**, the G-NMR **teaching school** and the G-NMR **working groups** and their suggestions for improvements and future activities.

**G-NMR members and research.** A participation of about **87% of all G-NMR members** was achieved, with 62% of fully (n = 59) and 25% of partially filled (n = 24) survey forms. In the following, we analyzed the completely filled forms. The majority of the survey participants works at universities (71%) and research institutes (24%) and mainly consists of group leaders (47%) and scientific staff (49%). From the G-NMR members, 64% attended one or more of the annual G-NMR general assembly meetings (which are normally connected with the annual meeting of the German Magnetic Resonance Society, FGMR). Moreover, 23% of the survey participants have been active in the workgroups (*vide infra*).

**Research interest.** Interestingly, there are two main scientific areas represented by the G-NMR community, namely, **organic chemistry** and **structural biology**, as shown by the number of votes in the figure below (multiple votes possible).



**Implementation of by-laws for NMR facilities.** One success of the first G-NMR period was that the NMR community agreed on **By-laws and management of NMR facilities**. We therefore asked the NMR staff scientists and facility managers on the implementation and use of these possibilities. About one third of all facilities have established user rules (“Nutzerordnung”), while up-to-now, only 10% of their users currently have requested funding for the use of the NMR facility in their DFG projects (“Nutzungskostenpauschale”).

**G-NMR teaching school.** With the survey, we wanted to explore how to organize the school on a regular basis in the future at alternating locations across Germany. The following topics were considered:

#### 2.1.9.1 Format of the G-NMR teaching school

In the future, the duration of the G-NMR teaching school is proposed to be five days with a “**3+2**” **concept**, where the first **three days** are devoted to introduce the **basic concepts of solution- and solid-state NMR** independent of a specific NMR research area, while the final **two days** are devoted to more **specialized topics** (i.e. biomolecules, small molecules, materials, polymers, etc.) in parallel sessions. Notably, 95% of all participants support this concept of the G-NMR school. Several individual comments were made, also based on the experience of the first G-NMR school. Comments are summarized in the following:

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- The audience was considered too heterogenic with respect to level of prior knowledge. Also, the target audience was not well defined.
- More practical sessions and more exercises were requested.
- Topics focused mainly on biomolecular NMR, additional topics from organic/inorganic chemistry, small molecules, materials, polymers should be included.
- Funding support for students was requested (conference fees, traveling expenses)

We believe that the proposed “3+2” concept for the future G-NMR teaching school and the introduction of parallel sessions addresses many of the comments and will allow us to cover a broader range of topics and knowledge levels.

We also requested suggestions for topics and research areas to cover during the last two days of the 3+2 concept of the school. The majority voted for small molecules and biomolecules (multiple votes possible).

Additionally requested topics were related to metabolomics, new NMR methods, kinetics and natural products.

### 2.1.9.2. Funding of the G-NMR Teaching School.

The first G-NMR School was supported by sponsors and some G-NMR funds to support traveling costs for the instructors as well as local costs for coffee breaks and dinners. Since sustainable funding without G-NMR support is planned in the future, the survey inquired the possibility of conference fees, the expected attendance of the school and the willingness of PIs and facility managers to contribute as instructors.

75% of the PIs agreed that fees up to 200 € would be acceptable and that they would send 1-2 students per year to attend the summer school. 60% of PIs would also cover the traveling costs of their students. 66% of the survey participants would be willing to actively participate in the teaching school by giving a lecture.

### 2.1.9.3. Working groups

The aims of the G-NMR project were pursued by the establishment of several working groups on topics that we had identified in our first grant application. Most of these groups were very active and successful. We therefore inquired in the survey which of the working groups should be extended in the future and asked for suggestions for new topics that are required. The survey response showed that there is and remains a broad interest in all aspects (multiple votes possible). As one important novel topic it was suggested to establish a working group on NMR of small molecules.

