



for a stronger third sector

‘Big Society. Big Deal?’ survey results

November 2010

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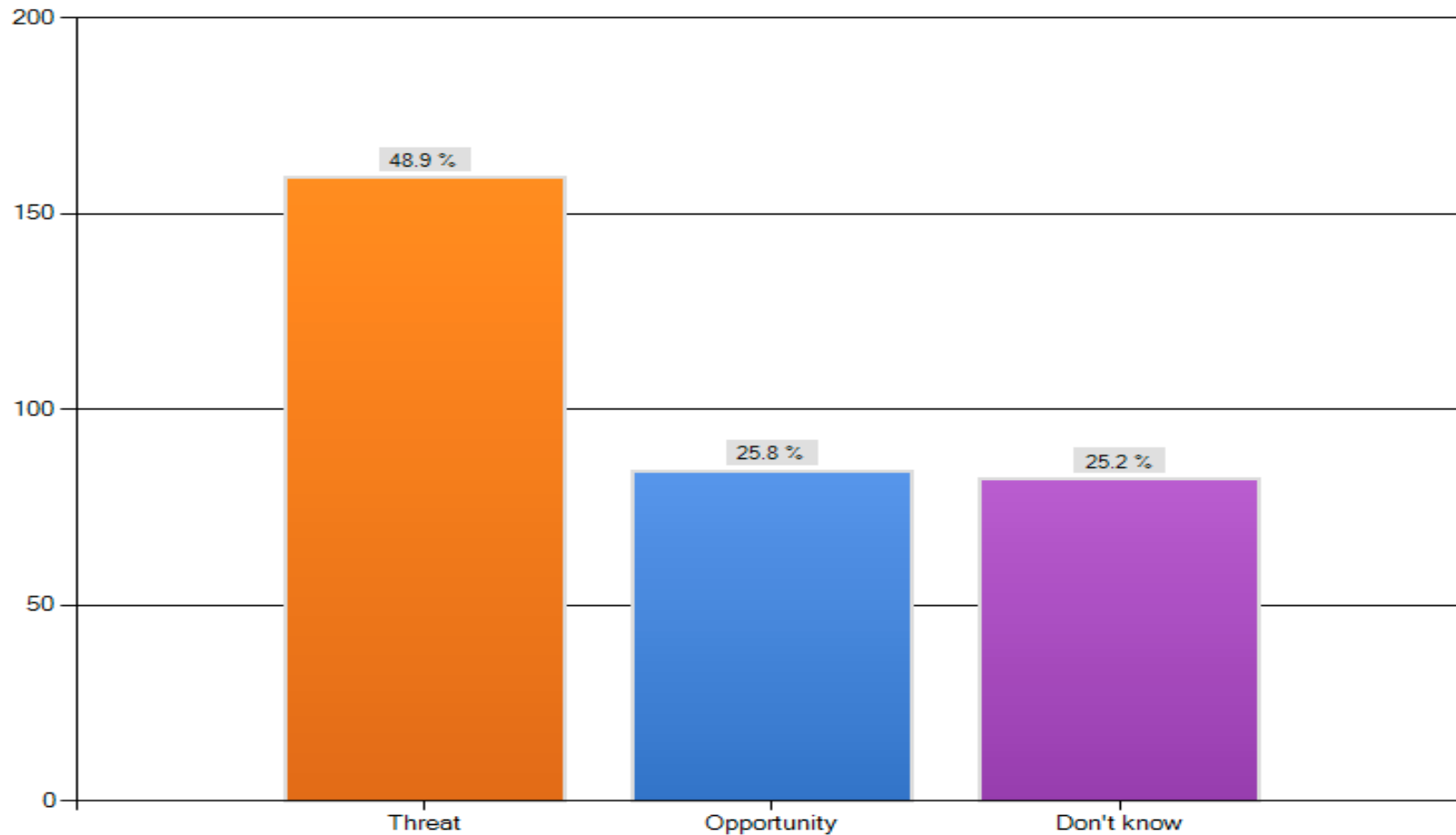


Summary of key findings

Lasa surveyed more than 425 charity sector professionals in October 2010 and discovered that:

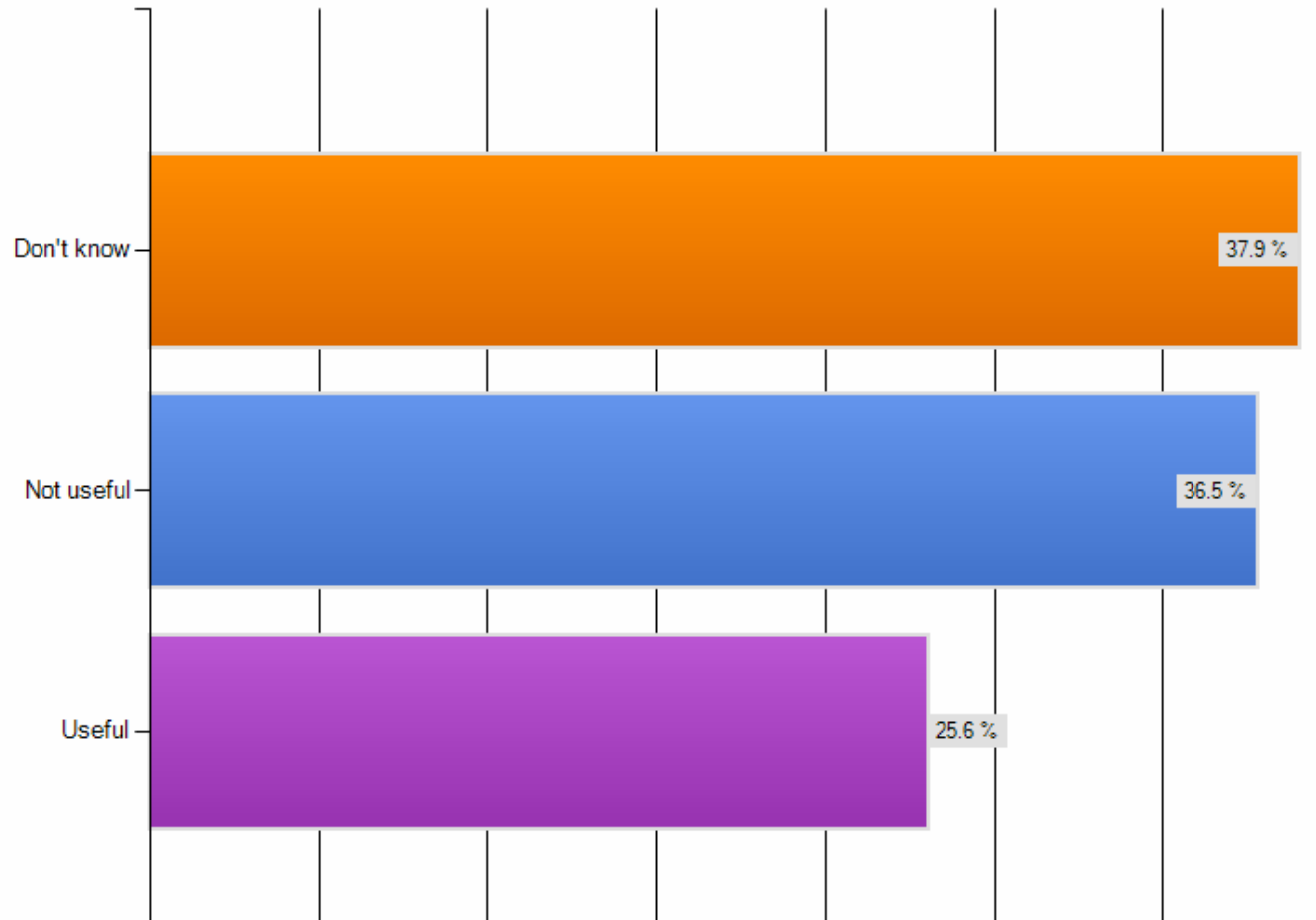
- Nearly half (49%) think that the Big Society is a threat to their funding
- More than a third (37%) say the Big Society agenda is 'not useful', with 38% saying they don't know if it's useful and only 26% saying it is useful
- Almost half (45%) of respondents said their organisation is interested in running public services (36% are not and 19% say they don't know)
- Around two thirds (62%) of people surveyed say their charity plans to use technology to collaborate more nationally and internationally (19% don't know and 18% will not)

1. Do you see the Big Society as an opportunity or threat to your funding?



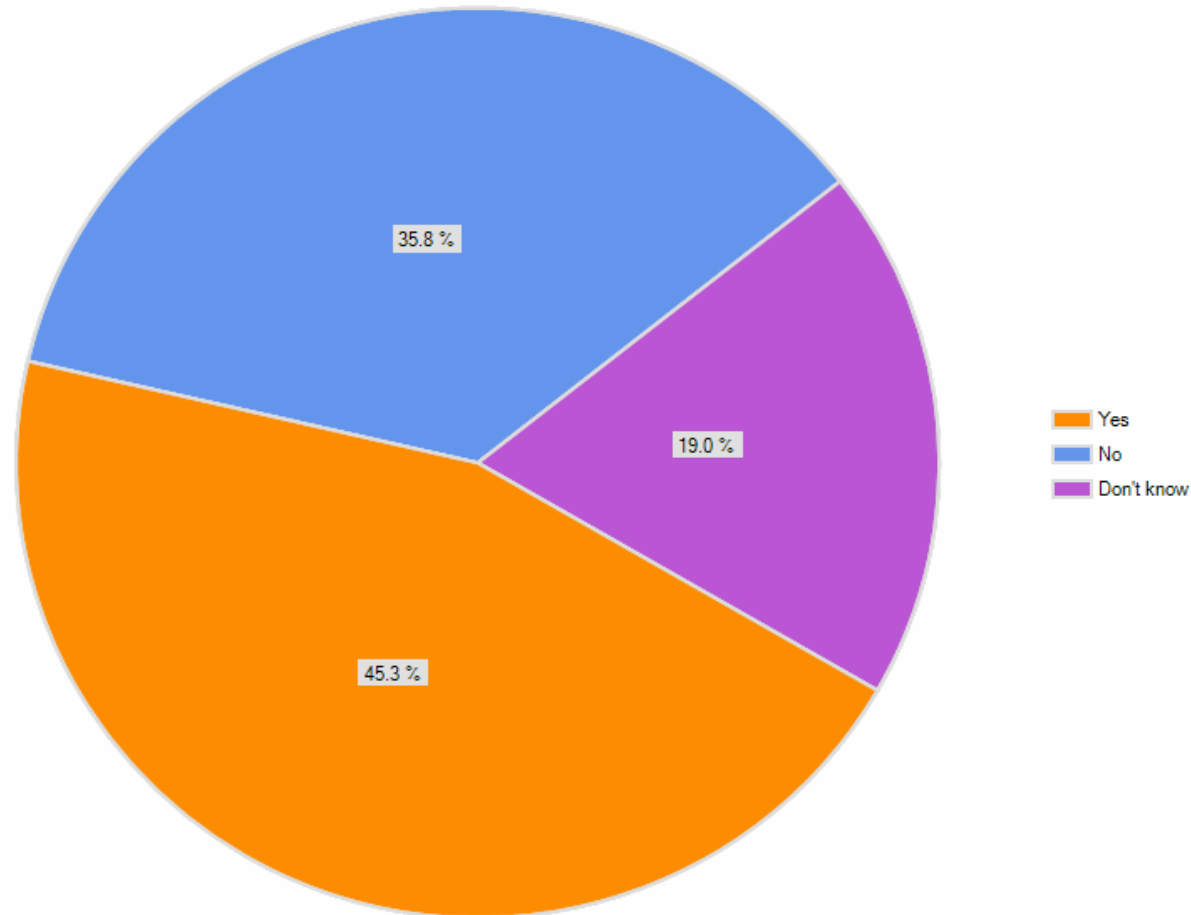
Nearly half of respondents (49%) think that the Big Society is a threat to their funding

2. How useful do you think the Big Society agenda is?



More than a third (37%) say the Big Society agenda is 'not useful', with 38% saying they don't know if it's useful and only 26% saying it is useful

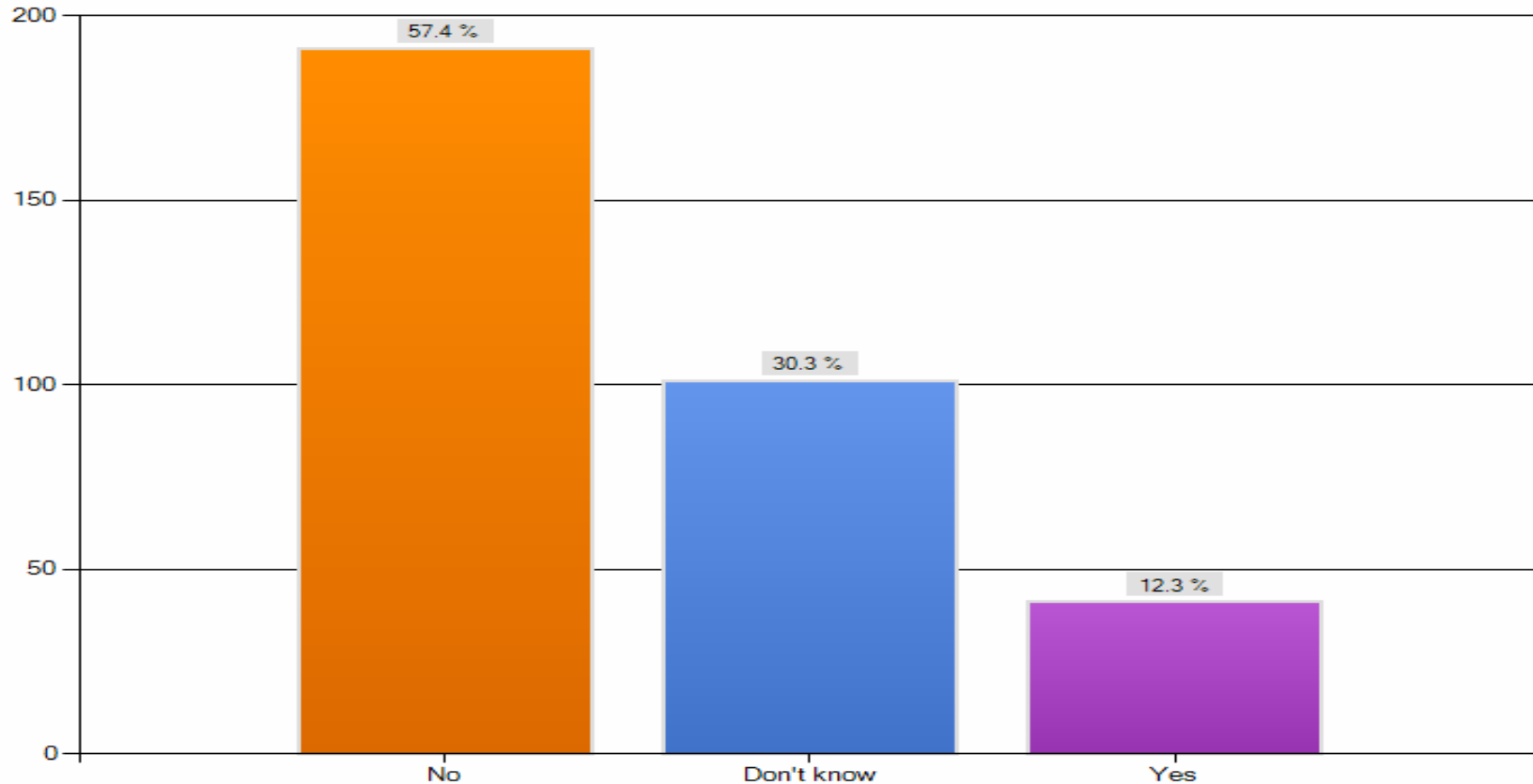
3. Is your charity interested in running public services?



Almost half (45%) of respondents said their organisation is interested in running public services (36% are not and 19% say they don't know)

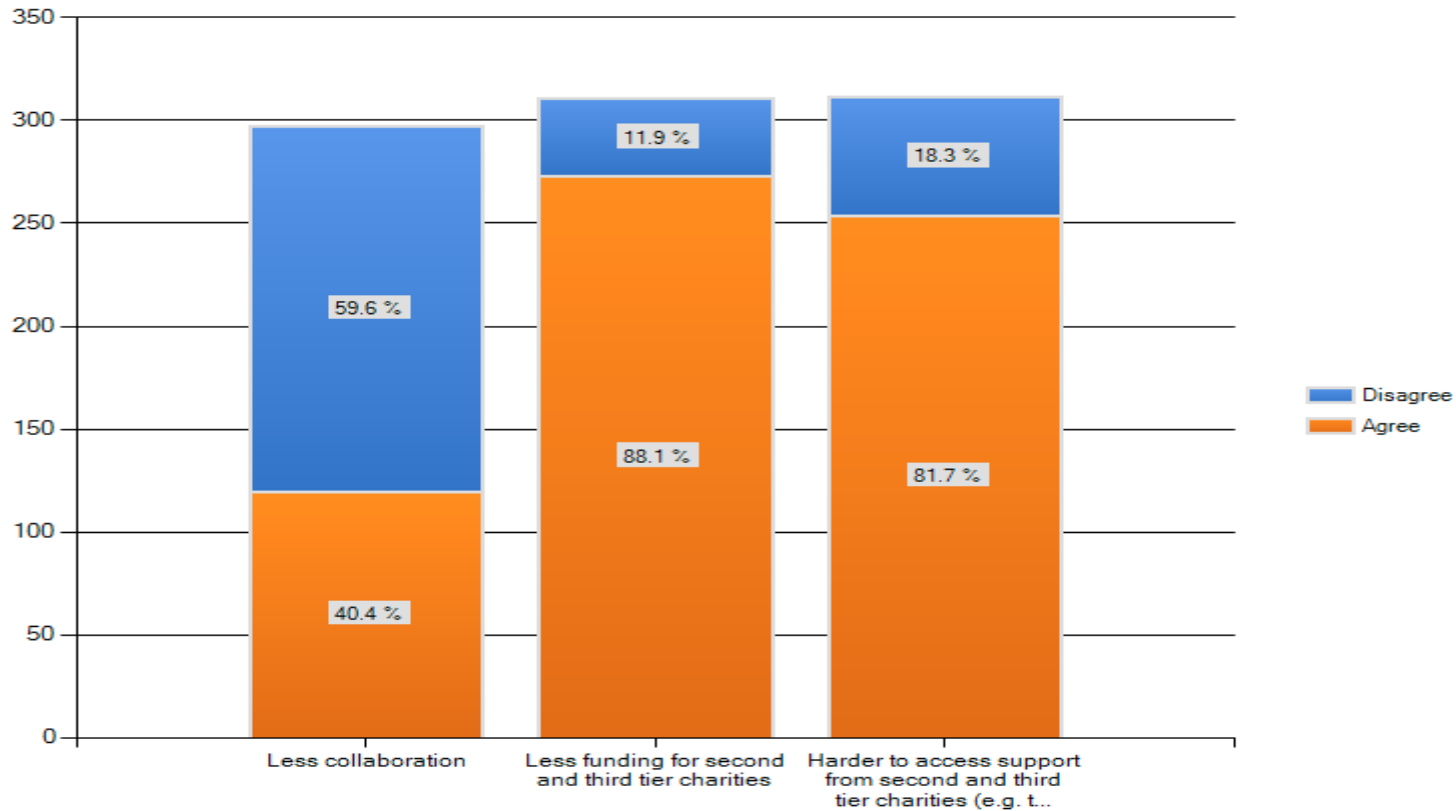


4. Do you think that the Big Society agenda will help the third sector be more efficient and effective?



57% think that the Big Society agenda will not help the third sector be more efficient and effective (30% said they don't know; 12% said it will help the sector be more efficient and effective)

5. How do you think that the Big Society emphasis on localism will affect the way third sector organisations work together?



- 88% say there will be less funding for second and third tier charities
- 82% say it will be harder to access support from second and third tier charities
- 60% said this would NOT mean less collaboration among the charity sector



6. In ten years' time, how do you think the Big Society will have changed the third sector?

Sample of responses which highlight common themes amongst the answers:

“Nobody seems to know exactly what the Big Society is.”

“I think it’s a load of hot air.”

“Many types of charities will have disappeared.”

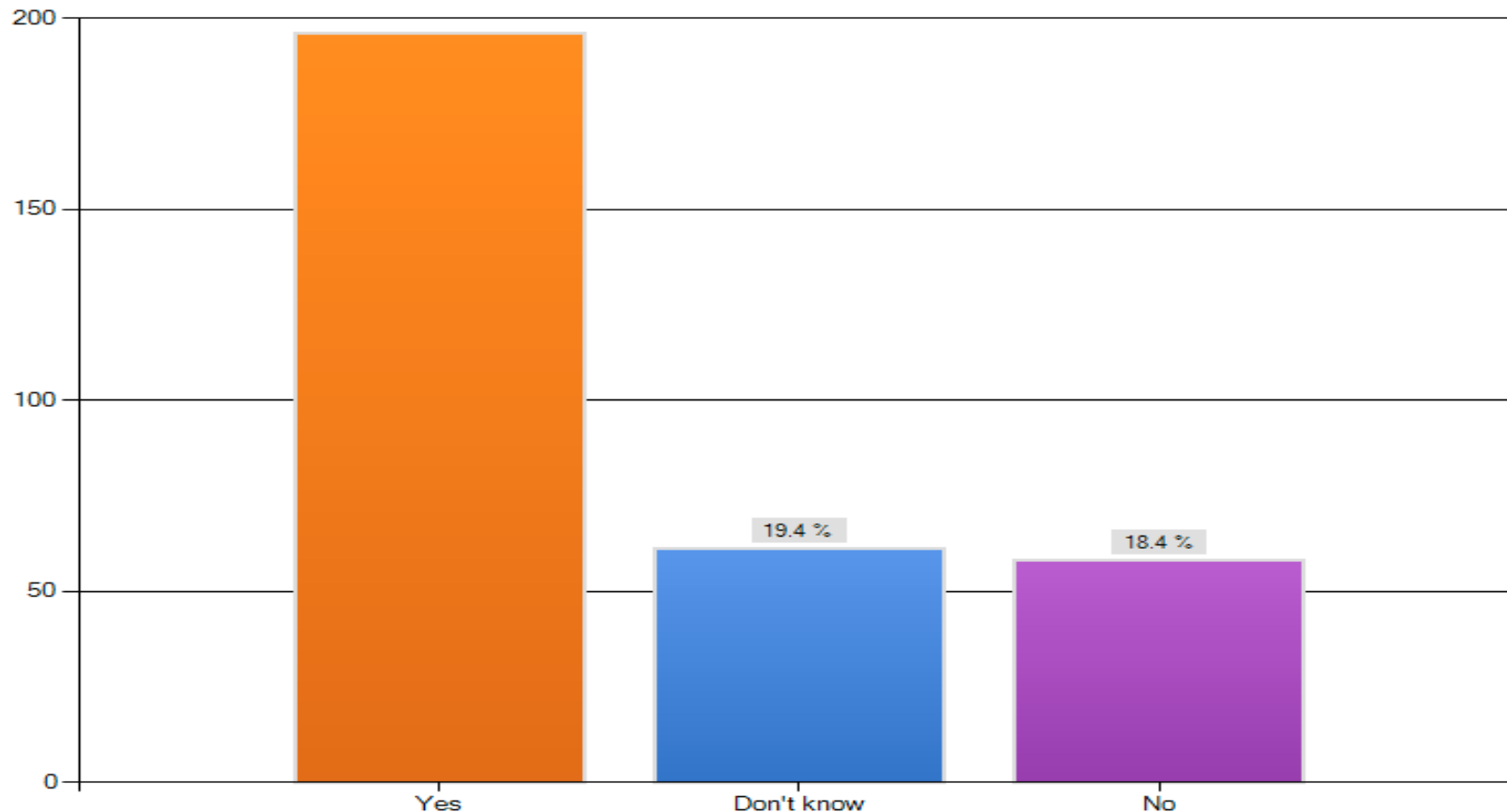
“‘Big Society’ is a buzz phrase without definition.”

“It is impossible to say, as no-one really knows how the Big Society will work / develop. I think it is a cover for cuts...”

“Many small charities will go to the wall.”



7. Do you think that your charity will use technology to try to collaborate more nationally and/or internationally?

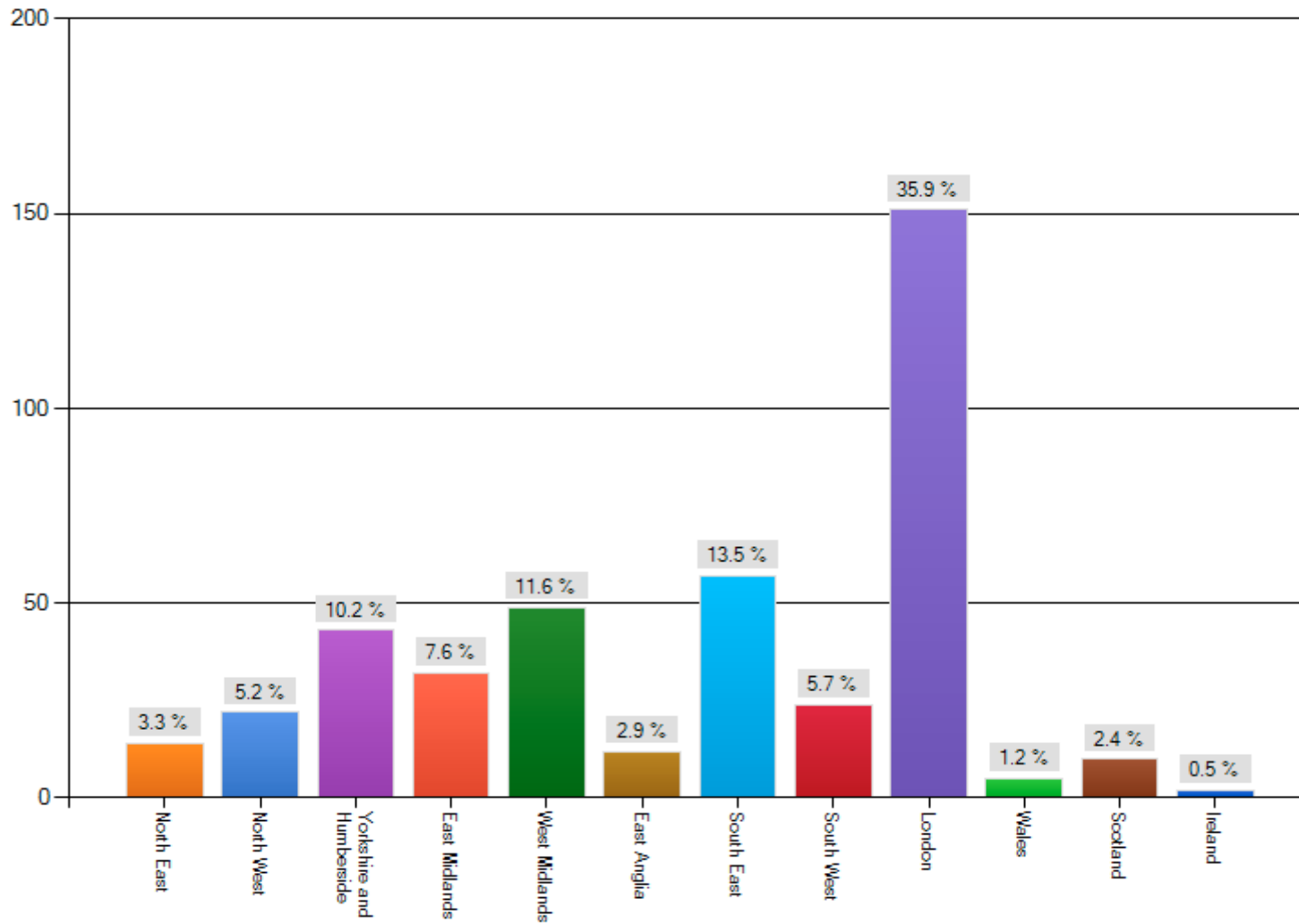


Around two thirds (62%) of people surveyed say their charity plans to use technology to collaborate more nationally and internationally (19% don't know and 18% will not)

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8. Whereabouts in the UK is your organisation based?





Thank you very much to everyone who took the time to respond to this survey.

Please contact Zoe Amar on zamar@lasa.org.uk or 0207 426 4488 to discuss these results further.

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