

EJOLT Evaluation Report

May 2014

Submitted by Jennifer Clapp, Independent Evaluator

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Project Details:

Project Title: Environmental Justice Organizations, Liabilities and Trade

Acronym: EJOLT

Funding Scheme: FP7 Science in Society (SiS-2010-1.0.1)

Start Date: Spring 2011

Duration: March 2011- March 2015

Evaluation Reporting Period: September 2012-March 2014

Project Coordinator and Organization: Professor Joan Martinez-Alier, ICTA-UAB, Barcelona, Spain

Project Website: <http://www.ejolt.org/>

Independent Evaluator: Professor Jennifer Clapp, University of Waterloo, Canada

EU Project Officer: Antonio Scarafino

Executive Summary:

This is the second report of the independent evaluator of the EU funded FP 7 Project entitled Environmental Justice Organizations, Liabilities and Trade (EJOLT). The EJOLT project has been in operation for approximately 3 years and will run for a total of 4 years. The evaluation for this project covers scientific quality and quantity of the research, the implementation of the project, and the societal impact of the project over the period September 2012-March 2014. The main evaluation findings are as follows:

Scientific Quality and Quantity: Both the quality and quantity of the research reports associated with the project are excellent. The project produced 8 research reports and 6 policy briefs in the evaluation period, as well as four documentary films and a number of fact sheets. The map of ecological justice conflicts was also launched with great success. The quality of these outputs is very high, with state-of-the-art information and analysis covering both empirical cases of environmental justice issues, such as mining, fossil fuels, biodiversity, and land grabbing, as well as cross cutting themes such as legal issues, environmental valuation, and ecological debt. There were some slight delays in the preparation of some of these outputs, but these delays were only minor and do not detract from the quality and impact of the project's research component.

Implementation: The collaborative research processes embedded in the EJOLT project, involving both academic researchers and environmental justice organizations, have been very synergistic and overall have greatly enhanced the project quality. The project meetings during this period – Abuja (Nigeria), Rome (Italy) and Lund (Sweden) - were well-received by participants. Networking among academics and environmental justice organizations has blossomed further since the first evaluation period, and capacity building among participating organizations has continued. The project training activities have continued to be strong.

Societal Impact: The project has matured to the point where societal impacts of research processes and outputs are beginning to make themselves evident, highlighting the unique nature of the project. Thanks to an excellent media and communications strategy, the project has had outstanding outreach for raising broader awareness of the project's aims and research. Policy briefs have been distributed to policy-makers and there is evidence that the project is already contributing more broadly to social mobilization around ecological justice issues, including the strengthening of environmental justice organizations and their advocacy and the contribution of the conceptual themes developed by the project to broader norms and understanding of environmental justice issues in academia and in policy settings.

Overall, the project has progressed very well with very impressive outputs, implementation and impact. There are some minor challenges and concerns that arose during this evaluation period. These issues included some slight delays in outputs, some reassigning of tasks and funding associated with those tasks, minor communication issues, industry feedback on the map, and the need to plan maintenance of the map after EJOLT funding ends. These issues are minor and should not discount the broader successes that the project has achieved. In sum, the project has been highly successful in this evaluation period, achieving excellent results on a number of fronts.

1. Introduction and Methods

This is the second report of the independent evaluator of the EU funded FP 7 Project Environmental Justice Organizations, Liabilities and Trade (EJOLT). The EJOLT project has been in operation for approximately 3 years and will run for a total of 4 years. The evaluation for this project covers scientific quality and quantity of the research, the implementation of the project, and the societal impact of the project over the period September 2012-March 2014.

This evaluation is based on mixed methods of assessment, an approach adopted in light of the multiple aims of the project – from research to social change to capacity-building. The methodology is based on both **formative** (engagement of stakeholders, training and research collaboration) and **summative** (outputs and impacts) aspects of the project (see EJOLT Evaluation Methodology report, October 2011, and EJOLT Evaluation Report September 2012).

The external evaluator collected and consulted several types of data that were analyzed for this evaluation report. These include: work package (WP) leader questionnaires; EJOLT participant surveys; project reports and policy briefs; academic articles linked to the project; the EJOLT website; the EJOLT database and map; and documentation from EJOLT partners regarding training activities and dissemination progress. The project evaluator is grateful to all contributors including the project management team for their willingness to share their documentation as well as the project work package leaders and participants who gave their time to share their frank assessment of their experiences with the project. The response rate to the survey of participants was high at 75%, and the work package leader questionnaire response rate was 67%.

The success of the project is evaluated here based on indicators that focus on three key areas of the project: **Scientific Quality and Quantity** (the published outputs from the project, including reports, the database/map, and academic articles); **Implementation** (collaborative research process, including networking and training); and **Impact** (the broader impact on society, including media outreach, and engagement with policy and societal processes). These indicators were outlined in the initial methodology. These indicators will be discussed in terms of their quality during the evaluation period - noting whether the project's accomplishments with respect to each indicator is "excellent," "very good", "good", "acceptable", "unsatisfactory."

2. Research Evaluation: Quality, Process and Impact

As noted in the first evaluation report, the research contributions of the EJOLT project are: 1) it is the first major study to try to establish an empirical link between ecological conflicts and unequal material flows associated with ecological unequal exchange; 2) it has a unique design in terms of its structure and process for this research that provides for interactive collaboration and capacity building among academics and social activists; and 3) it seeks not only to provide new insights to the research community, but also to effect broader societal change.

At the three-year mark, the project has launched the Map of Environmental Conflicts, published 12 Research Reports and 8 Policy Briefs, launched a total of 7 short documentary videos, and

generated a number of academic articles. All of these outputs stem from the research activities of the project, although some of these outputs aim to reach broader audiences beyond academia.

All project participants surveyed felt that research objectives were met to some extent, with an overwhelming majority – 92 percent – rating research objectives being very successful or mostly successful, and 8 percent rating objectives as somewhat successful (see Appendix 1, Figure 1).

A. Scientific quality and quantity of the research output

i. Scientific quality and quantity of project reports and policy briefs

The scientific research reports of the EJOLT project have been released in the quantity planned and with excellent quality. During the second evaluation period, 8 research reports and 6 policy briefs have been published, along with 4 documentary videos, among other outputs. This section focuses on the written components of the research outputs.

The 8 research reports issued in the reporting period are of very high quality, demonstrating excellent performance for this indicator. The reports convey state-of-the-art information and analysis across a range of environmental justice issues: mining, oil and gas, land grabbing, climate and biodiversity. Several of the reports are more conceptual and advance knowledge on methods and evaluation tools for civil society organization work, including legal issues, valuation, ecological debt, and multi-criteria evaluation. Together, these project reports bring different aspects of research on environmental justice issues together in novel ways that advances understanding of these complex issues for both future scientific study of these issues as well as their application in real-world settings.

There was some slight delay in the release of some of these outputs, averaging around 6 months from planned release dates. Such delays in research outputs are to be expected given the highly collaborative nature of the research involving variety of researchers and activists in dispersed geographical locations combined with the aim to present state of the art research in a rapidly evolving landscape. These minor delays do not pose any concerns to the evaluator.

The policy briefs published in the reporting period are also of excellent quality. They are short, highly readable, with clear policy recommendations.

ii. Map and database

A primary research output of the EJOLT project is the map of ecological conflicts. This unique database is both a research output and a research tool that is useful not just to EJOLT researchers, but also to other researchers. The map depicts conflicts around nuclear power, oil and gas, biomass, mining, shipbreaking, land grabs, biodiversity, water and industrial utilities.

This map was launched in March 2014, about a year after its initial planned release date. This delay is due to several factors. There was a desire to have a more complete number of conflicts mapped at time of release in order to increase its impact. The entry and verification of the data on environmental justice conflicts was also more challenging than initially foreseen. This data compilation and entry process required an enormous amount of detailed work coordinated across a number of environmental justice organizations (EJOs) and others working on data entry (including

some graduate students). The map at its launch included over 900 conflicts. There also was a change in the web platform, as the initial contracted NGO ran into technical glitches. This change was widely viewed to have been positive, especially because of the visually pleasing and user-friendly nature of the final product. The map has been a central contribution of the EJOLT project, and it has generated impressive media coverage.

The map's entries are clustered in Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe. The gap of China and Southeast Asia was foreseen early on in the project due to resource constraints and the difficulty of bringing in Chinese and Southeast Asian partners to work on that component. There is a feasible plan for the project participants and management to fill these gaps. In the first reporting period, the project management noted that India was also potentially a gap, but the project was able to bring in Indian partners to complete that portion of the map.

iii. Academic publications

A number of the participants are engaged in scientific research designed for academic audiences that builds on and complements EJOLT research. These scientific research papers are unique in that they often are a collaborative effort of both academics and activists involved in the project. These academic papers were not promised deliverables of the EJOLT project, but rather have emerged independently and synergistically. These additional outputs are very impressive and add immensely to the scientific quality of the project as a whole.

These additional academic outputs include refereed journal articles, special journal issues, edited volumes, book chapters, and conference papers on themes that overlap with the EJOLT project and in some cases reflecting on the EJOLT project itself. These publications are all in high quality outlets, including top rated journals and book presses.

The project coordinator along with a number of project participants co-authored a major academic article that was recently published in the high profile *Journal of Political Ecology*. This article provides important analysis regarding conceptual developments that have come into academia from the work of environmental justice organizations, and reflects on the ways in which activists and academics have together advanced these themes through multiple channels in both academia and on the ground. Several project participants are also engaged in organizing a special journal issue on mining conflicts in the journal *Geoforum*. Other articles by project participants that draw on cases that are included in the map have also been submitted to and published in high quality scientific journals such as *Ecological Economics* and *Conservation and Society*.

An edited volume, *Ecological Economics from the Ground Up*, was published (edited by Joan Martinz Alier, Leah Temper and Hali Healy, among others) in late 2012 by Routledge Press and includes analyses that arose from an earlier FP7 project as well as the EJOLT project, and features chapters by a number of EJOLT participants. More edited volumes are in the planning phase – e.g. from the Lund workshop there are plans for an edited book on the theme of ecologically unequal exchange.

These academic works that emanate from the project are impressive. They are innovative and combine new empirical data linked to the EJOLT work with rich theoretical analysis that also is linked to the research on these conceptual themes within the EJOLT project. These academic works

have already made an important contribution to the broader field of ecological economics and legal studies by providing grounded analysis and fresh conceptual thinking.

B. Implementation

As noted above, EJOLT is unique as an interactive and collaborative project linking EJOs with academics. The project has met with great success with respect to research collaboration, networking and capacity building dimensions, which have flourished in this second reporting period. There is an exceptionally high degree of belief in the project aims and purpose among participants, which no doubt has strengthened these interactions and contributed in positive ways to this success.

i. Collaborative research processes

The collaborative research process has remained excellent in this second reporting period. Project participants who took part in work package leaders' questionnaire and participant survey were on the whole very enthusiastic about the collaborations that have taken place in the context of the project. Positive synergies have been spurred by the close collaboration between environmental justice organizations and scientific researchers.

Particularly noteworthy is the development of new research methods and the refinement of concepts by the project's research processes. Collaborative research among academics and activists that aims to have direct relevance to justice advocacy work has required the articulation of new research methods that incorporate activist knowledge as well as on the ground testing of academic concepts. The research within the project has made important advances with respect to our understanding of environmental valuation, measures of liabilities, scope for legal action, political and legal definitions of ecological debt and evaluation tools for environmental justice. In addition, the research has advanced theoretical understandings of the concepts of ecological unequal exchange, ecological debt and social metabolism, through the interaction of activist and academic researchers. Methods were also developed and refined for cataloguing ecological justice conflicts and entering that data into the map database.

The outreach within and across work packages has been very good. The linkages across WPs has been important for some of the transversal conceptual work that is the theoretical and practical 'glue' of the project as a whole. Some of these interactions have been more successful than others. Several participants, for example, highlighted very fruitful collaborations and communications between work packages 3 (nuclear energy), 8 (liabilities and valuation), and 9 (law and institutions).

The interaction between academics and EJOs continued to be positive for nearly all participants. Many noted that their own views were widened by exposure to the perspectives of others with whom they had interactions through the project. This occurred not just across participants from different academic disciplines, but also between academics and EJOs. Many participants were pleased with the cross-fertilization of new ideas and application of ecological economic concepts to on the ground cases of direct concern to activist groups participating in the project.

These interactions were one of the most innovative and influential aspects of the project for participants – both personally and in terms of the research outputs. This reflected some change from the first reporting period, when concerns were raised about the differences between activists and academics who came into the project with different aims (advancing academic credentials vs. direct action for social change). In this second reporting period, these concerns have become much less, and as intended, academic and activist participants have developed shared understandings of not just the project but also the key concepts and their application in practice.

ii. Networking and workshops

The networking component of the project has continued to be excellent through the second evaluation period. Project participants were extremely enthusiastic about this component of the project with 90% of survey respondents reporting that they made valuable contacts which were useful for mutual learning as well as future collaborations (see Appendix 1, Figure 2).

The project workshops were well attended and well received. In the 2013-14 period, workshops were held in Abuja, Nigeria (April 2013), Rome, Italy (November 2013) and Lund, Sweden (March 2014). Each of these workshops focused on a different theme linked to the project and were led by different WPs (e.g. oil extraction conflicts, ecological debt, climate justice, law, valuation and liabilities, and ecologically unequal exchange), enabling in-depth consideration of key conceptual and cross cutting themes of the overall project.

Some participants noted that meetings were perhaps too long and could have more chance for interaction, but on the whole very well received by those in attendance. Nearly 80% of those surveyed saw workshops as being ‘very useful’ or ‘extremely useful’ (see Appendix 1, Figure 3). Collaborative research processes, including meetings and workshops where face-to-face interactions took place, continued to foster new connections that otherwise would likely not have occurred.

Beyond the research collaborations, both academic and activist participants were especially appreciative of the ability to learn from EJOs regarding local cases of environmental injustice and how information of this sort related to their theoretical and scientific work. EJO participants were also pleased with the opportunity to have enhanced interactions with academics as well as other EJOs with whom they could share experiences and strategies. Networking with academics has also enabled EJOs to learn new ways to advocate their causes using scientific language. EJOs were also appreciative of the financial and legal advice support provided by EJOLT that fed into their advocacy work. New relationships have also been made among academic organizations, as well as among environmental justice organizations that work on related themes.

This networking has resulted in many planned future collaborations, both formal and informal, as well as new connections with those outside the project team, including with colleagues at the University of Michigan and Oxford University.

iii. Training

Overall, training and capacity building components of the EJOLT project have been well received by participants (see Appendix 1, Figure 4). The performance of this component of the project has been very good to excellent.

The EJOLT project has built-in a formal training component in the form of an online course on themes of ecological economics and environmental justice. The first online course was first offered in Fall 2011 and was very well received by those enrolled in it. A second one was held in the first semester of 2013. A third online course, in conjunction with a civil society in Costa Rica, has been prepared and is currently underway. This course has 40 students enrolled. The map of environmental conflicts and the EJOLT reports are part of the teaching materials together with the book “Ecological Economics from the Ground Up” published in December 2012 and is available electronically.

A number of participants noted their appreciation for the case-based approach to academic concepts, which illustrated how ideas play out on the ground through case studies across the world. One of the challenges noted by instructors was the difficulty at times of advancing the students beyond normative opinions and toward analytical thinking. Some participants were more inclined than others to apply the ideas learned in their own advocacy work. Some participants expressed a desire for more legal training.

Other capacity-building activities incorporated within the project included training in communities by CRIIAD on how to test for radioactivity. Participants noted that this training was very beneficial to EJOs to enable them to both document and raise awareness about cases of ecological injustice around mining issues.

Several graduate students are integrated into the project through their academic institution's participation in the project network, e.g. at UAB, Lund, and IFF (Vienna). EJOLT themes and collaborations have provided an excellent training opportunity for these graduate students. Some graduate students from the University of Michigan (Environmental Justice Unit) also had interaction with the project by entering a number of conflict cases to the map and database.

C. Societal impact

The broader societal impact of the project has been much more visible in this second evaluation period. This is a natural outcome given that the project's research and outreach have advanced significantly at this point in the project. Many participants expressed excitement about the broader societal impact of the project (see Appendix 1, Figure 5). One of the more interesting findings from the survey of participants is the range of interpretations of 'societal impact' that they offered as examples. These examples include: policy engagement; capacity building; empowerment of EJOs within their own countries; contribution of shaping social and legal norms around environmental justice issues; and public awareness of environmental justice issues, among others. The wide range of societal impacts cited by participants broadens our understanding of the many dimensions along which social mobilization is taking place as a result of EJOLT activities.

i. Dissemination

The dissemination of EJOLT project outputs for a general audience has been beyond excellent in this second evaluation period. The project website design and updating work has been simply outstanding. The webpage is updated regularly with new information including topical and timely blogs (around 10/month), and is visually pleasing and easy to navigate. The website has attracted around 500 visitors per day, which is remarkable for a project website. The project also joined Twitter near the end of the last evaluation period, and the number of followers of the EJOLT account increased from 500 in 2012 to over 2000 in 2014. This is a phenomenal number of followers of the EJOLT tweets which no doubt helps to drive traffic to the webpage and to the project's research and public outreach content.

Since the last evaluation period the project dissemination team has issued press releases more regularly to highlight key events and reports. This strategy appears to have been very successful. The work of the project has generated significant and very impressive media coverage in this evaluation period. Spikes in web traffic occurred around the visit of an EJOLT project member with the Pope during the Rome workshop in November 2013, as well as at the map launch in March 2014. Web hits doubled during this period.

The media coverage of the map launch was particularly impressive, being covered in over 130 press stories in 21 countries. The project was mentioned in very high profile and high quality outlets, including *Science* magazine, *Le Monde*, the BBC news, and was linked to the *TIME* magazine website. The map also generated some coverage that interpreted its significance in local contexts. One news outlet in Columbia, for example, generated impressive info graphics drawn from data available in the map to illustrate its importance. This example demonstrates the ways in which the map is also a research tool that takes on its own life and is interpreted in local contexts.

Several short documentaries were also produced in this evaluation period, as well as a number of pod-casts from project participants on key themes of the research. The pod-casts are posted on the webpage, but not all of the new videos are as yet posted to the EJOLT website.

The project has also held a number of public events, including those associated with the Workshops as well as one organized by the dissemination team with UNEP in Brussels at the time of the map launch. The map launch at the London School of Economics on March 13th, 2014 was also a major public event. These events have done a great deal to increase public visibility of the research institutes and EJOs involved in the project.

ii. Engagement with policy-makers

The project has now released 8 policy briefs (6 in this evaluation period). One recommendation from the first evaluation report was to produce more policy briefs, and in this second period the project has adopted a more deliberate strategy for these briefs. These briefs provide a background on the issue as well as explicit policy recommendations. Such tools are for environmental groups to get their message to policy-makers in an efficient and effective way.

The project also had more engagement with policy-makers during this evaluation period. The project team has built confidence to engage in this way as the research reports were completed and

as policy recommendations started to stream out directly from the research. Some participants noted that it is not always easy to link up the research outputs that are planned in advance with what is on policy-makers' agendas at any given time. However, EJOLT has been successful in bringing EJ issues higher up on political agenda with press releases and media coverage, and policy briefs, which have captured the attention of policymakers. The project has receiving recognition from established institutes in a number of European countries and international policy bodies such as UNEP. It was presented at the European Environmental Agency in March 2014. It has been present at several regional conferences of the International Society for Ecological Economics (India and Latin America).

iii. Societal transformation/mobilization

Broader dimensions of social mobilization and transformation are difficult to measure with precision. There is evidence, however, that EJOLT has contributed to broader societal change along a number of fronts. Below are specific examples of social mobilization that were noted by EJOLT project participants.

- Empowerment of environmental justice organizations through capacity and confidence building as well as networking at the international level. Several participants noted that the EJOLT project provided 'shelter' for small EJOs by linking them to broader international networks which builds their legitimacy both within their own country and internationally.
- Legal support for environmental justice organizations helps them to better position themselves in legal actions and policy contexts in their own country context.
- Increased use of project concepts in EJO work contributes to broader changes in norms and policy dialogue around environmental justice issues. For example, the concepts of ecologically unequal exchange and ecological debt are increasingly referred to in global discussions on climate justice.
- Wider use of valuation tools (multi-criteria assessments) and the concept of social metabolism among EJOs and in global discussions on sustainability.
- Public awareness of environmental justice conflicts more generally and of the EJOLT project in particular, which greatly enhances the legitimacy and visibility of organizations and the justice issues on which they are campaigning.
- The map of ecological conflicts and media coverage it generated legitimizes and collates work of disparate EJOs. This builds on EJO mobilization and builds confidence. The impact of the map is bound to increase as coverage improves in some countries and regions.

The variety of broader social mobilization impacts of the project is truly impressive and demonstrates the transformative capacity of the EJOLT project which effectively incorporates collaborative research between activists and academics in ways that go far beyond academic contributions to bring about real-world social change.

3. Challenges and Concerns

The project has progressed extremely well, although some concerns and challenges have emerged in this evaluation period. These are briefly noted below. It is the assessment of the evaluator that

these issues have not had a negative impact on the project overall, and to date most of these issues have been handled effectively and professionally by the project management and others within the EJOLT team.

Changes in assignment of tasks/funding

Some elements of some of the work packages have been changed during this evaluation period, which has resulted in shifts in some tasks and funding among institutions within the project. Some elements of the work on valuation, for example, were reassigned, resulting in some shifts in funding from REEDS-UVSQ to ICTA-UAB. There was also some disagreement between IFF UNI KLU regarding work task specification (on development of the map and on material flows data analysis) that has resulted in a shift of some funding from that institution to ICTA UAB, the latter of which will now complete that work. These shifts did result in some unfortunate tensions, especially in the latter case. With the assistance of the project ombudsperson from CDCA, these issues have now been sorted out with professional relationships among the involved parties being maintained. All parties involved worked hard to resolve these issues.

The platform for the map was also changed in this reporting period. Initially, the project sought to locate the map on a platform provided by the UK NGO, Mapping for Change. But due to technical difficulties, the platform was changed to another organization, which has worked out quite well. Although there were some tensions around this move when it occurred, the transition to this new platform is widely viewed as a positive one for the project.

Industry feedback on the map

Some Spanish cement firms involved in some of the conflicts in the map/database contacted the project regarding the portrayal of their activities. These inputs from industry were brought to a UAB appointed ombudsperson who has been liaising between the parties to reach an acceptable solution. These inputs were handled very professionally by the project management and UAB, and resulted in the establishment of procedures in cases where industries identified in the map raise concerns (putting those entries 'in quarantine' and investigation into their concerns as well as revision of the entries to ensure that they are accurate before posted them back to the map). The map provides a space for comments on each case.

Internal communications

In the first reporting period, there were some concerns raised by participants about communication with the project management and among WPs. These concerns have been alleviated to some extent although several participants still noted that they would like to see more regular meetings and communications with the project management, perhaps via an online tool such as Basecamp. Some WP Leaders also expressed interest in a template for monitoring and reporting that could make that task go more smoothly, as it took a lot of time for the WP leaders to put together the period reports both on work done and on expenditure, which some felt were onerous given the many tasks they had to complete on other aspects of the project, such as the research.

Maintenance of the map post-EJOLT funding

The map is widely viewed within the project as a central and significant feature and output of the project. Some participants plan to publish articles and books with the map as a central reference

point, and it is also important for the online course. Because it is not just a research output, but also an important research tool for political ecologists, environmental sociologists and other environmental scientists and activists, built with extensive participation, many participants expressed a desire to see work on updating and maintaining the map continue even after the EJOLT funding ends in 2015. The project management plans to add a further 1000 entries by the time the project is completed. Some discussions are ongoing about how its maintenance can be continued beyond 2015 that would enable the map to be a living product moving forward rather than merely a snapshot of a certain time period.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The EJOLT project has been highly successful in meeting its objectives in this second evaluation period from mid 2012-early 2014. The project launched the map of ecological conflicts, and published 8 research reports and 6 policy briefs, as well as additional academic outputs. This quantity of outputs on the research front has been truly impressive. The scientific quality of these various outputs has also been very high. The implementation of the project has also been a success in this evaluation period, with excellent collaboration, networking and training activities taking place. In terms of societal impact, the project has had very successful media coverage, policy engagement, and the beginnings of very promising influence on social transformation along a number of dimensions. The success of the project is felt widely among participants, nearly all of whom view their participation in the project positively (Appendix 1, Figure 6).

Although some concerns have been voiced, the issues about which these concerns were raised seem to have been resolved, and this appears to have been done in a productive and professional way. These concerns did not dilute the project successes, and this demonstrates the strong cohesion of the project themes as well as the sense of shared purpose in the aims and goals of the project among its participants.

The recommendations of the first evaluation report seem to have been taken up for the most part, which has enhanced the effectiveness of the project, e.g. closer copyediting of the reports, map data entry quality control, more deliberate strategy for academic publications, tracking of research outputs, easing of bottlenecks with some organizations, online course put more within EJO context, press releases issued more regularly, more policy briefs with deliberate strategy for engagement, media inquiries handled well, maintained communications and social media outreach, and enhanced communication of the project steering committee.

The recommendations from this evaluation are less extensive, and include:

- Continue to strive for excellence in research outputs and in public outreach;
- Maintain positive environment for synergistic collaboration in the remaining research activities;
- Continue to foster broader social transformation aspects of the project, including documentation of the various impacts;
- Implement dissemination strategy for the videos not yet uploaded in the EJOLT website;

- Implement plan for publication of articles / books in the last year of the project so that all outputs are in the hands of journals / publishers before the end of the project;
- Develop potential strategies to maintain the map once the EJOLT funding ends; and
- Continue to work toward more transparency and interaction within the steering committee and between the steering committee and the participants in the project.

Overall, the project as a whole is in many ways greater than the sum of its various parts. This fact is perhaps difficult for the project participants, and even the project management, to see when they are so close to it. From the outside evaluator perspective, the accomplishments of the project are very impressive with both research outputs and societal impact. The synergies brought about by the project have resulted in a path-breaking model for collaborative research and social transformation projects.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Select Survey Results

Figure 1:

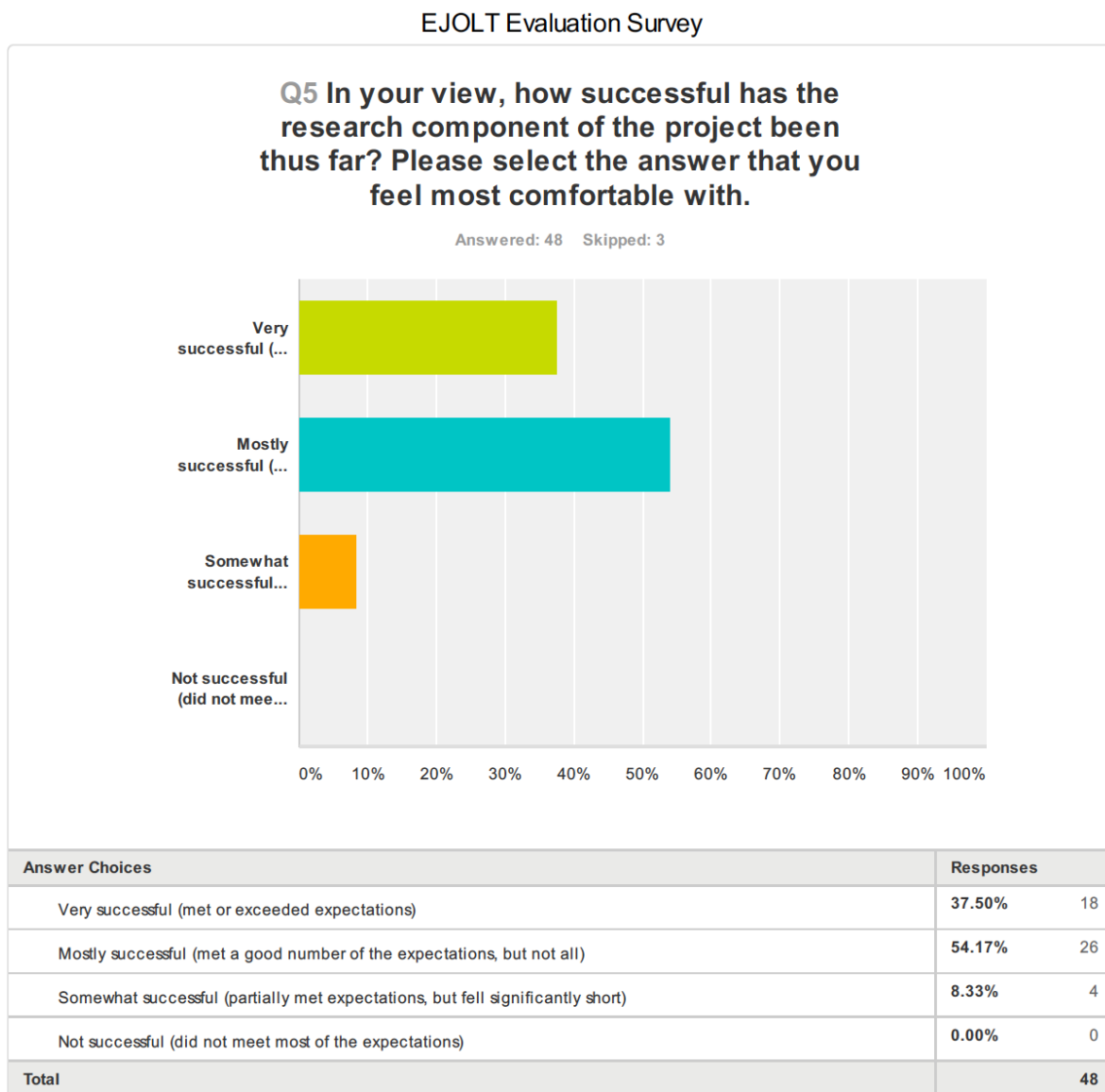


Figure 2

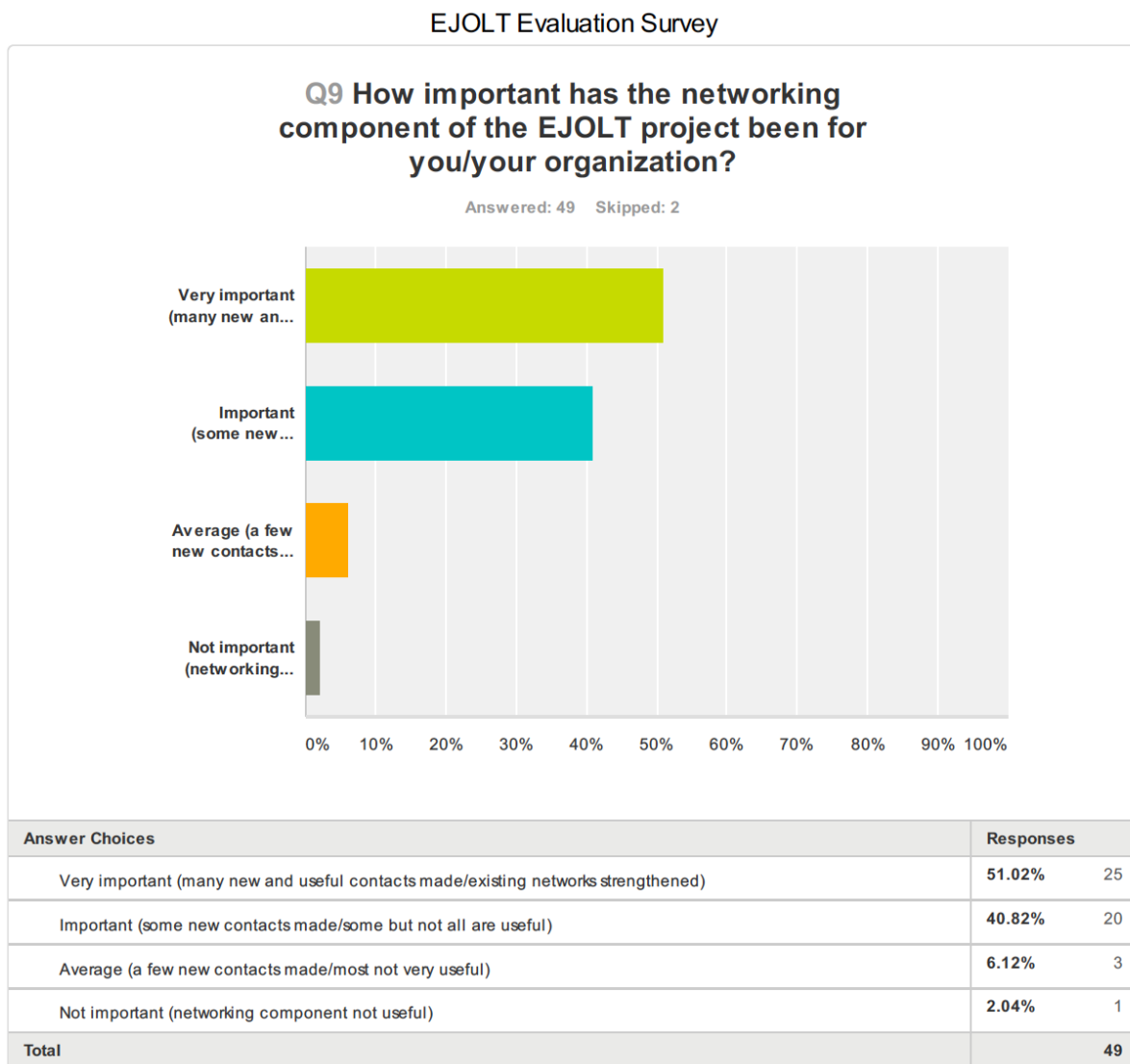


Figure 3

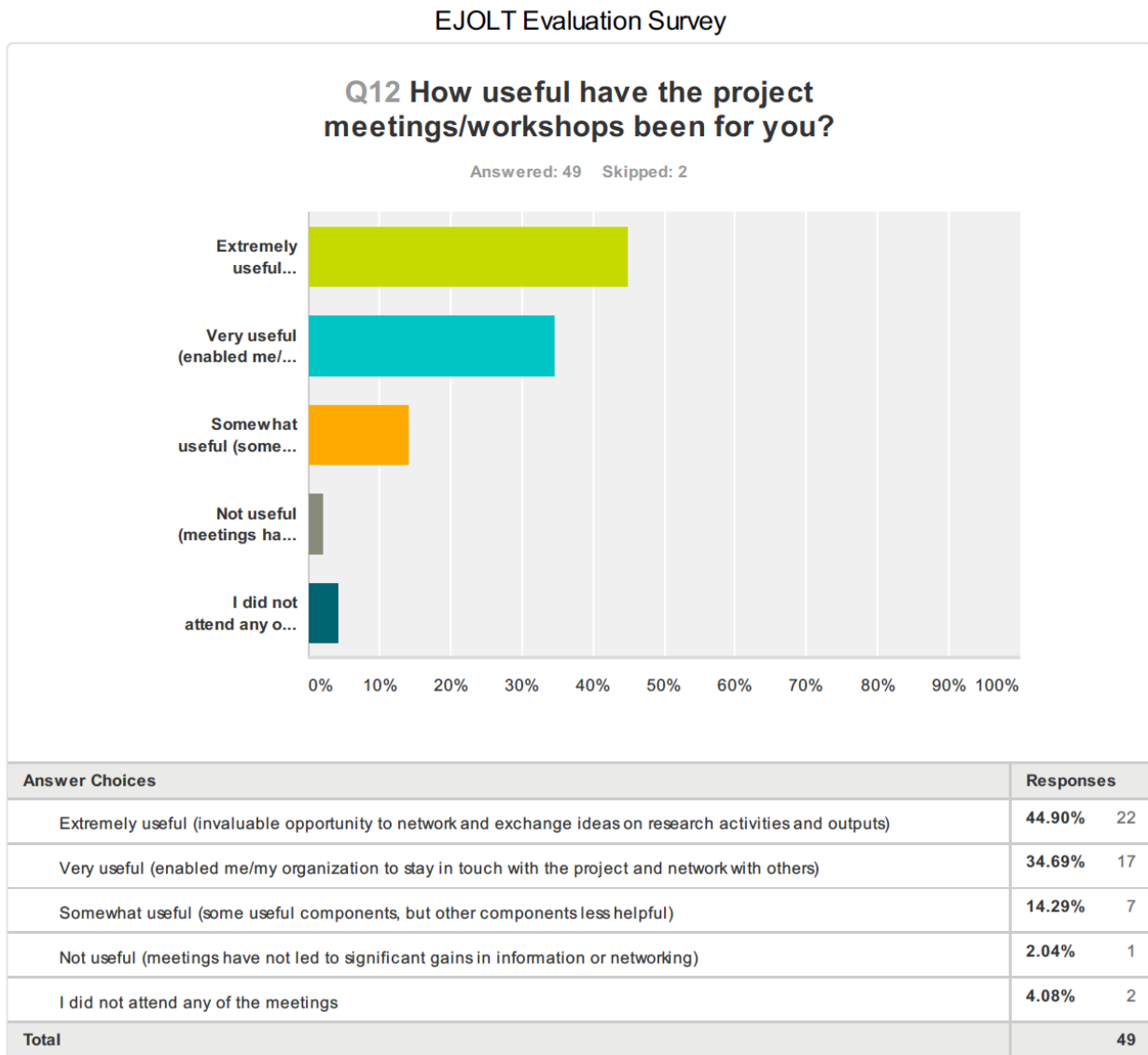


Figure 4:

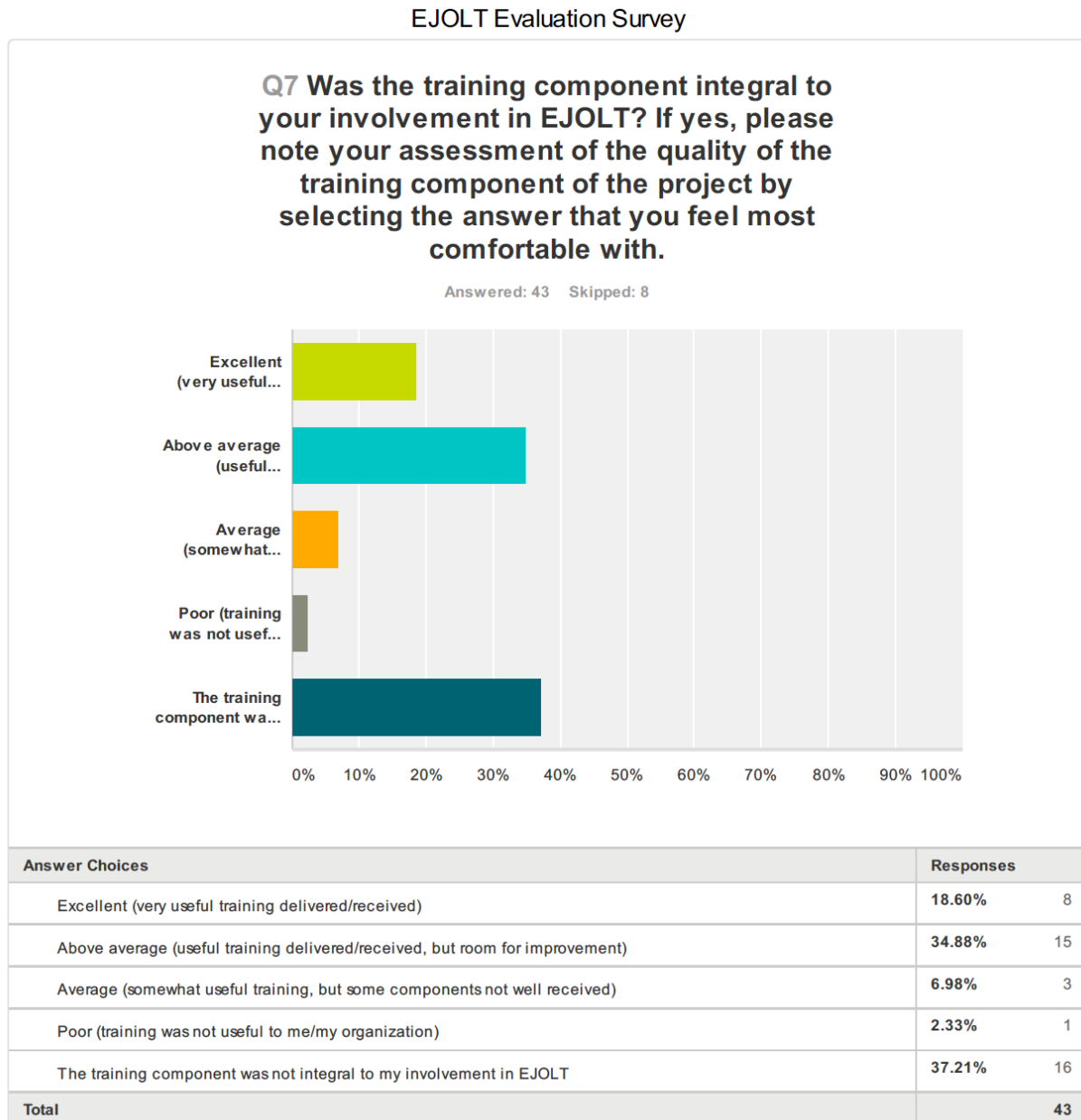


Figure 5:

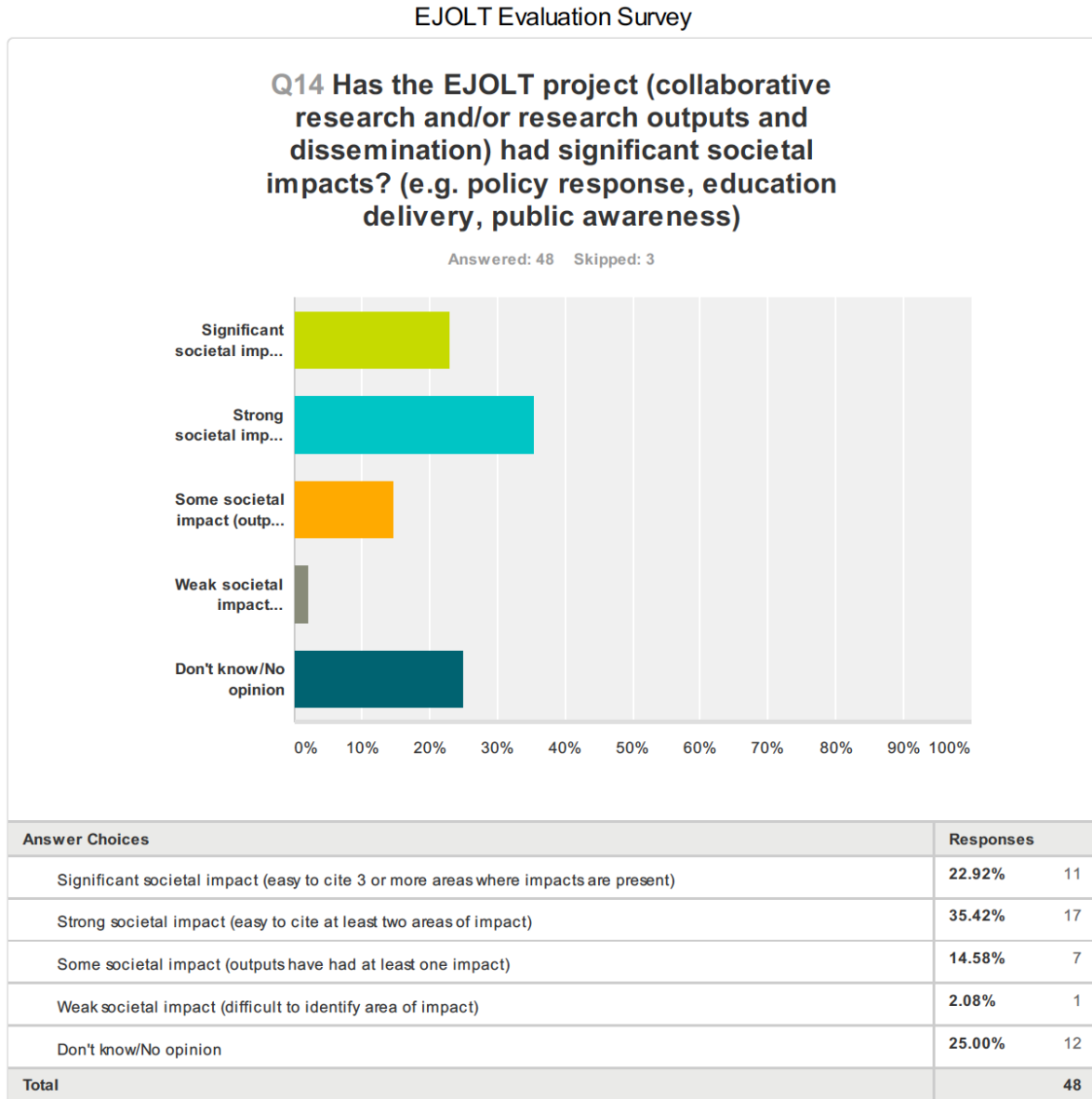
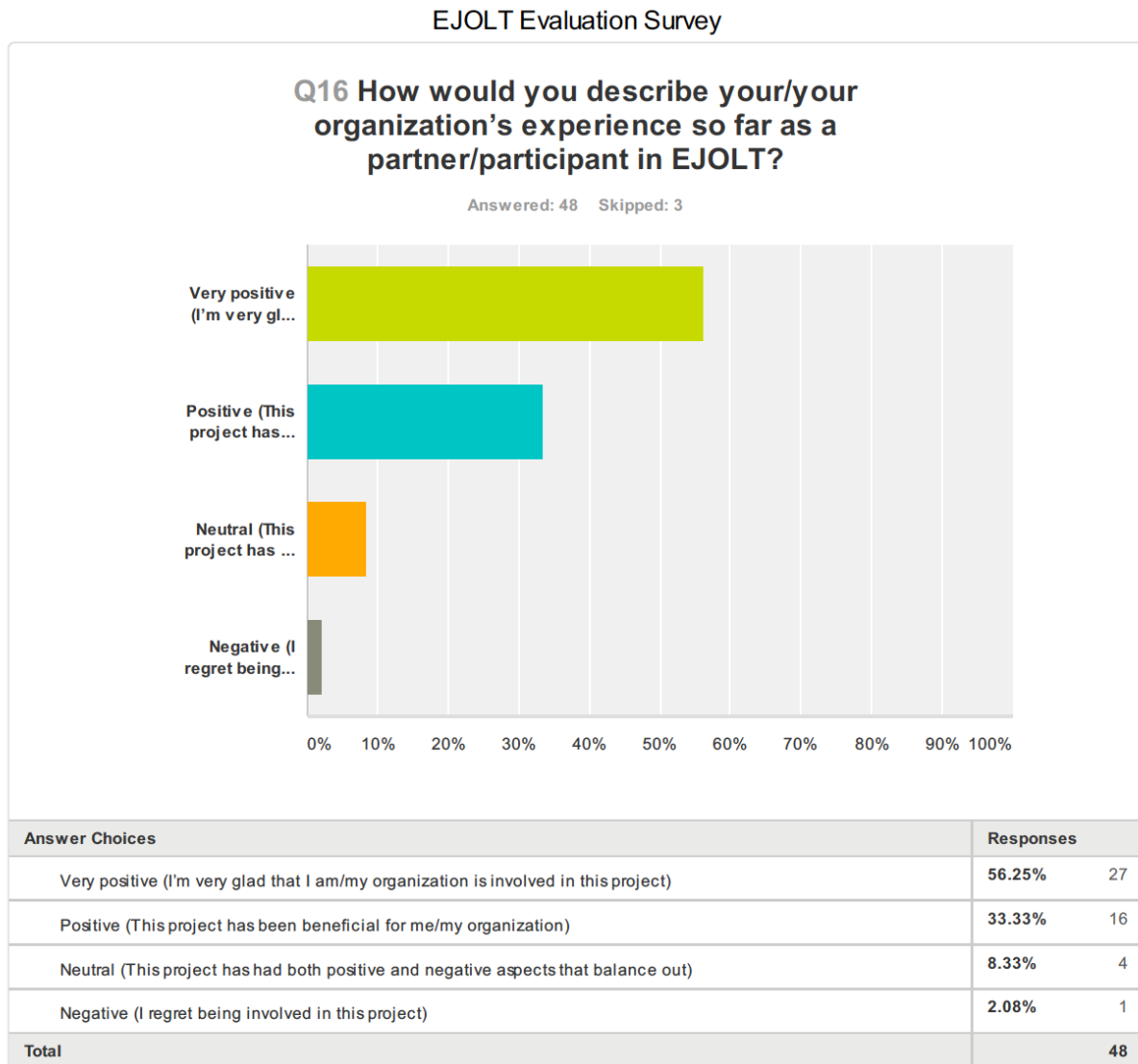


Figure 6:



[Appendix 2: Survey of Participants \(attached as PDF document\)](#)

[Appendix 3: Questionnaire for WP Leaders \(attached as PDF document\)](#)

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Purpose and Participant Details

Dear EJOLT Participants,

The EJOLT project has now been operational for almost 3 years. As the External Evaluator for the project, I am now in the process of collecting data on the project's progress over the past year and a half since the last evaluation report. This survey is an important tool for the collection of information on your experience with the project thus far.

Please reflect on your participation in this project to date and provide your responses to the questions in this survey. The survey contains 20 questions and will probably take you 20-30 minutes to complete. Your inputs are very valuable to the evaluation process and you are encouraged to take the time to complete the survey. I would like all participants and WP leaders to fill out this survey, and I will also contact each WP leader to ask further questions which can be answered by questionnaire or by Skype interview.

Please note that your comments will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shared in their raw form with anyone else. All survey results will be collated to look for general trends and the results will be anonymized in the evaluation report.

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey for the EJOLT project. If you have any questions or would like to respond separately by email, please contact me (Jennifer Clapp) at jclapp@uwaterloo.ca.

I would appreciate if you could complete this survey no later than April 11, 2014. Thanks!

Best wishes,

Jennifer

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)

Q1

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1. Name (optional - I am only asking for your name for tracking purposes. Your identity will not be revealed)

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)

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Q2 [Edit Question](#) [Move](#) [Delete](#)

2. Organization (optional)

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)

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Q3 [Edit Question](#) [Add Question Logic](#) [Move](#) [Delete](#)

3. Please indicate the work packages you are or have been associated with (select all that apply).

WP1: Management

WP2: Database - Map of Environmental Injustice

WP3: Nuclear Energy

WP4: Oil and Gas Extraction/Climate Justice

WP5: Biomass and Land Conflicts

WP6: Mining and Ship Dismantling

WP7: Environmental Health and Risk Assessment

WP8: Liabilities and Valuation

WP9: Law and Institutions

WP10: Consumption, Ecologically Unequal Exchange and Ecological Debt

WP11: Training, Best Practices and Policy Recommendations

WP12: Dissemination

Other (please specify)

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)

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Q4 [Edit Question](#) [Add Question Logic](#) [Move](#) [Delete](#)

4. Please select what role(s) you have held within the WPs.

WP Leader

Participant

I was both a WP leader as well as a participant in one or more groups where I was not a leader.

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)[+ Add Page](#)**PAGE 2**[Edit Page Options ▼](#)[Add Page Logic](#)[Move](#)[Delete](#)[Show this page only](#)**Research**[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)**Q5**[Edit Question ▼](#)[Add Question Logic](#)[Move](#)[Delete](#)

5. In your view, how successful has the research component of the project been thus far? Please select the answer that you feel most comfortable with.

Very successful (met or exceeded expectations)

Mostly successful (met a good number of the expectations, but not all)

Somewhat successful (partially met expectations, but fell significantly short)

Not successful (did not meet most of the expectations)

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)[Split Page Here](#)**Q6**[Edit Question ▼](#)[Move](#)[Delete](#)

6. Please note in the box below any examples of successes or challenges related to the research component of your involvement in the EJOLT project.

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)[+ Add Page](#)**PAGE 3**[Edit Page Options ▼](#)[Add Page Logic](#)[Move](#)[Delete](#)[Show this page only](#)**Training**[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)**Q7**[Edit Question ▼](#)[Add Question Logic](#)[Move](#)[Delete](#)

7. Was the training component integral to your involvement in EJOLT? If yes, please note your assessment of the quality of the training component of the project by selecting the answer that you feel most comfortable with.

Excellent (very useful training delivered/received)

Above average (useful training delivered/received, but room for improvement)

Average (somewhat useful training, but some components not well received)

Poor (training was not useful to me/my organization)

The training component was not integral to my involvement in EJOLT

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)

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Q8

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8. Please note in the box below any specific examples of successes and/or challenges with respect to the training.

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Networking

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)

Q9

[Edit Question](#)



[Add Question Logic](#)

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[Delete](#)

9. How important has the networking component of the EJOLT project been for you/your organization?

Very important (many new and useful contacts made/existing networks strengthened)

Important (some new contacts made/some but not all are useful)

Average (a few new contacts made/most not very useful)

Not important (networking component not useful)

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)

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Q10

[Edit Question](#)



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10. Please share any examples of positive connections that have been made as a direct result of your organization's involvement in EJOLT.

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Project Meetings and Workshops

Upgrade to Add More Questions

Q11

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Delete

11. Please select the meetings you have attended (select all that apply).

Barcelona (2011)

Rio (2012)

Abuja (2013)

Rome (2013)

Lund (2014)

Upgrade to Add More Questions

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Q12

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12. How useful have the project meetings/workshops been for you?

Extremely useful (invaluable opportunity to network and exchange ideas on research activities and outputs)

Very useful (enabled me/my organization to stay in touch with the project and network with others)

Somewhat useful (some useful components, but other components less helpful)

Not useful (meetings have not led to significant gains in information or networking)

I did not attend any of the meetings

Upgrade to Add More Questions

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Q13

Edit Question ▼

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13. Please feel free to comment on the usefulness of any specific meetings in the box below.

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EJOLT Impacts

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Q14

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14. Has the EJOLT project (collaborative research and/or research outputs and dissemination) had significant societal impacts? (e.g. policy response, education delivery, public awareness)

Significant societal impact (easy to cite 3 or more areas where impacts are present)

Strong societal impact (easy to cite at least two areas of impact)

Some societal impact (outputs have had at least one impact)

Weak societal impact (difficult to identify area of impact)

Don't know/No opinion

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Q15

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15. Please share in the box below any specific examples of successes and/or challenges linked to your organization's involvement in the project.

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)[Split Page Here](#)

Q16

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16. How would you describe your/your organization's experience so far as a partner/participant in EJOLT?

Very positive (I'm very glad that I am/my organization is involved in this project)

Positive (This project has been beneficial for me/my organization)

Neutral (This project has had both positive and negative aspects that balance out)

Negative (I regret being involved in this project)

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)[Split Page Here](#)

Q17

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17. Please elaborate on the most positive or negative aspects of your/your organization's involvement in this project.

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Additional Feedback

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Q18

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18. Please list any academic or other publications that you have authored or co-authored and that are associated with/linked to the EJOLT project in any way.

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)[Split Page Here](#)

Q19

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19. Do you have any concerns about the EJOLT project? (processes, communications, funding, etc.)?

[Upgrade to Add More Questions](#)[Split Page Here](#)

Q20

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20. Please note any additional comments you wish to make available to the evaluator.

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WP Leaders Interview

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WP Leaders Interview

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Participant Information

Dear Work Package Leaders,

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

As was the case with the first evaluation report, I will not explicitly link specific issues in specific work packages in a way that will reveal your identity. Please feel free to comment as you wish on the questions below and I will keep all inputs anonymous. Your responses in their raw form will not be shared with anyone else. I will collate responses and look for general trends.

Thank again for your participation. I appreciate the time you put into answering these questions. If you would prefer to talk by Skype or telephone, please let me know and we can arrange at time to discuss these questions.

I would greatly appreciate if you could respond by April 11, 2014. Thank you!

Best,
Jennifer

+ Add Question ▼

Q1

Edit Question ▼

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1. Name (for tracking purposes; your identity will not be revealed)

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Q2

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2. Organization

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Q3

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3. Please indicate the WP(s) for which you were a leader (select all that apply).

- WP1: Management
- WP2: Database - Map of Environmental Injustice
- WP3: Nuclear Energy
- WP4: Oil and Gas Extraction/Climate Justice
- WP5: Biomass and Land Conflicts
- WP6: Mining and Ship Dismantling
- WP7: Environmental Health and Risk Assessment
- WP8: Liabilities and Valuation
- WP9: Law and Institutions
- WP10: Consumption, Ecologically Unequal Exchange and Ecological Debt
- WP11: Training, Best Practices and Policy Recommendations
- WP12: Dissemination

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Survey Questions

Please answer the following questions in relation to the WP(s) for which you were a leader. If you led more than one WP please specify which comments apply to which program.

+ Add Question

▼

Q4

Edit Question

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4. Have the activities in your WP taken place as planned?

Yes

No

Partially (please explain)

Please note additional comments on WP implementation, including responses specifying work with more than one WP, if relevant, in the box below.

+ Add Question ▼ Split Page Here

Q5    

5. Please discuss your WP's greatest successes/accomplishments in the project so far.

+ Add Question ▼ Split Page Here

Q6    

6. Please describe the main challenges that your WP has faced thus far.

+ Add Question ▼ Split Page Here

Q7    

7. What is your impression of the EJOLT project's societal impact as linked to your specific work package?

+ Add Question ▼ Split Page Here

Q8 Edit Question ▼ Move Copy Delete

8. Please describe your WP's interactions with project management.

+ Add Question ▼ Split Page Here

Q9 Edit Question ▼ Move Copy Delete

9. How well have the various WPs worked together across issues?

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Q10 Edit Question ▼ Move Copy Delete

10. What is your assessment of the WP leader meetings/communications throughout the project? Have they been regular? Useful?

+ Add Question ▼ Split Page Here

Q11 Edit Question ▼ Move Copy Delete

11. What suggestions would you make for areas for improvement with respect to the project organization and/or management?

+ Add Question ▼

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