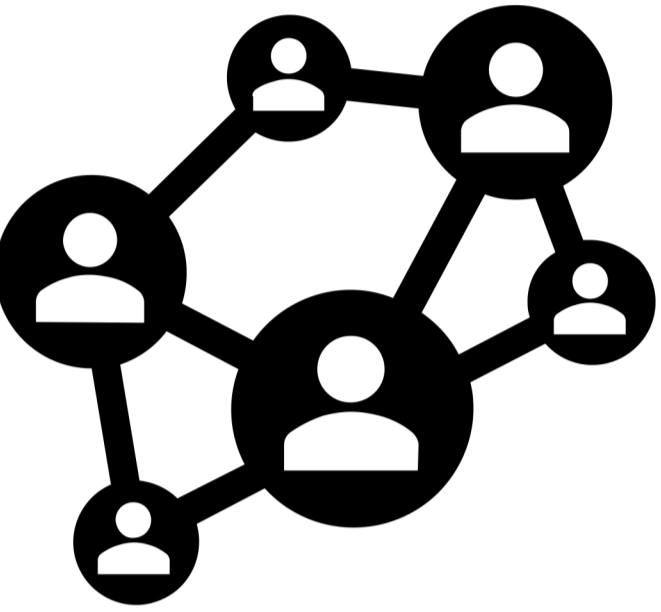


Introduction

'The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) is the key independent European organisation dedicated to improving and protecting public health by strengthening education and training of public health professionals for both practice and research.' (ASPHER, 2022)



Updating core competencies based on an updated European core curriculum in public health is more important than ever in the context of planetary health threats and challenges to world populations.

It is timely to update and rethink current public health curricula to ensure adequate representation of planetary health and upskilling of future workforces equipped with knowledge and skills to address these threats and challenges.

Methods

As part of the process of updating core competencies for public health professionals published by ASPHER in 2018, a scoping exercise of subject areas relevant to academic public health was carried out.

A survey developed and distributed to ASPHER member Schools and Institutes of Public Health in Europe aimed to establish special expertise in public health programmes, with specific emphasis on 32 topic areas which included areas relevant to planetary health. Based on responses received, respondents were invited to share indicative content of their curricula in these areas. Curricular concept maps were created from this information as part of ASPHER Core Curriculum Programme (CCP).



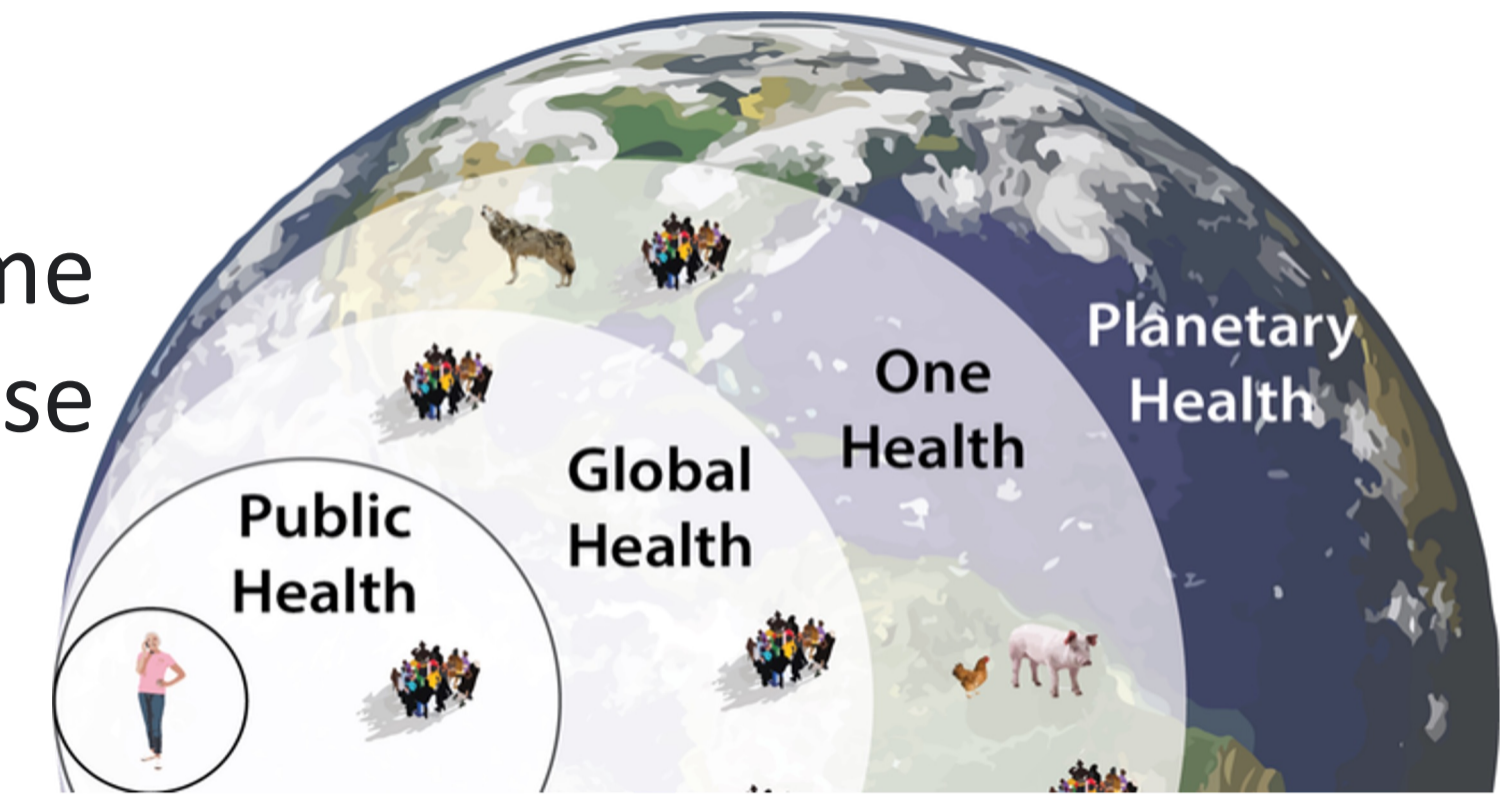
Table 1, presents how Information received was collated into the domains of environment, health impacts, prevention, resolution, practice, policy and implementation science, a potentially useful template for planetary health education.

Table 1: Excerpt of Broad Curricular Concept Map (In Development)

ASPHER CCP Broad Concepts Map				
AREA: CLIMATE HEALTH / CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH				
Yellow used for Concepts which connect different themes.				
THEMES				
PRACTICE; POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE	RESOLUTION	PREVENTION	HEALTH IMPACTS	ENVIRONMENT
Global Warming (Human-induced and Industry induced Climate Change)				
Damage to Ecosystems (Land and Sea)				
Food Shortages, Food Security and Starvation				
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Ecological Production of Food	Infectious Disease Patterns Change & Novel Disease from Zoonosis / Vectors		
The Paris Agreement	One Health Initiatives	Drought and its effects		
European Green Deal	Environmental Justice	Increasing Sea Levels	Asthma	Fossil Fuel Use Reduction
Health Policy and Climate Change	Free Carbon sequestration	Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention Levels	Cardiovascular Health	Greenhouse Effect and its associated gasses
Interprofessional Collaboration	Air Pollution (Increased CO2 and Allergens)			
Role of National, European and Global Policy Frameworks and Governance Structures	Environmental protection which is economically viable to Food producers			
Strategic Alliances, Coalitions, Professional Networks and Partnerships	Near-term Health Co-benefits (e.g. Improved Air Quality) - Risk of Fine particulates	At Risk groups: Migrants, Homeless People, Ethnic Minority groups and people with a Disability		Drivers of climate change (both natural and human-induced)
Barriers to Successful Collaboration to Improve Climate and Health	Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improve Health	Injuries, Death, and Mental Health impacts from severe weather	(Extreme) heat-related illness and death, and cardiovascular failure	Population Growth and Economic Growth and its effect on Climate

Results

From a total of 30 replies at the time of writing, 23 (77%) noted expertise in aspects of planetary health.



Source: Marty E. (2021)- Forbes – Planetary Health

Fig 1: Country of Origin of Respondents

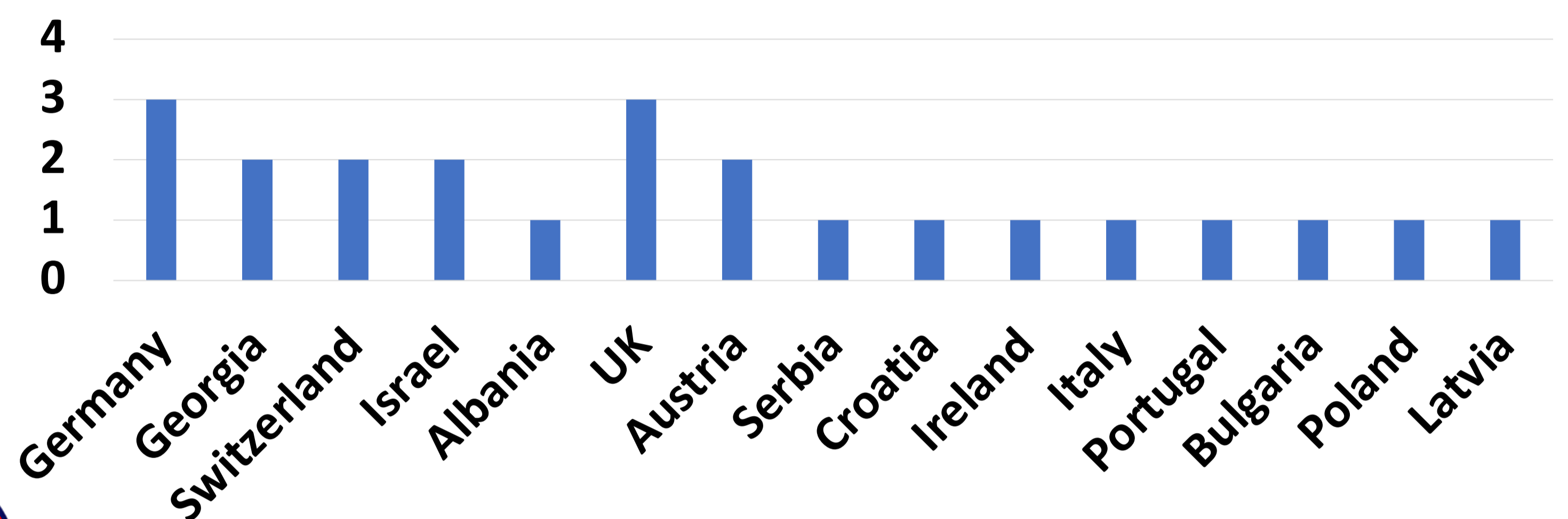


Fig 2: Areas of Planetary Health Covered

These included environmental science (19/23; 82.6%); climate change (6/23; 26%); the built environment (2/23; 8.6%); physical, radiological, chemical and biological exposures (3/23; 12.9%); one health (8/23; 34.7%); and combinations of same.

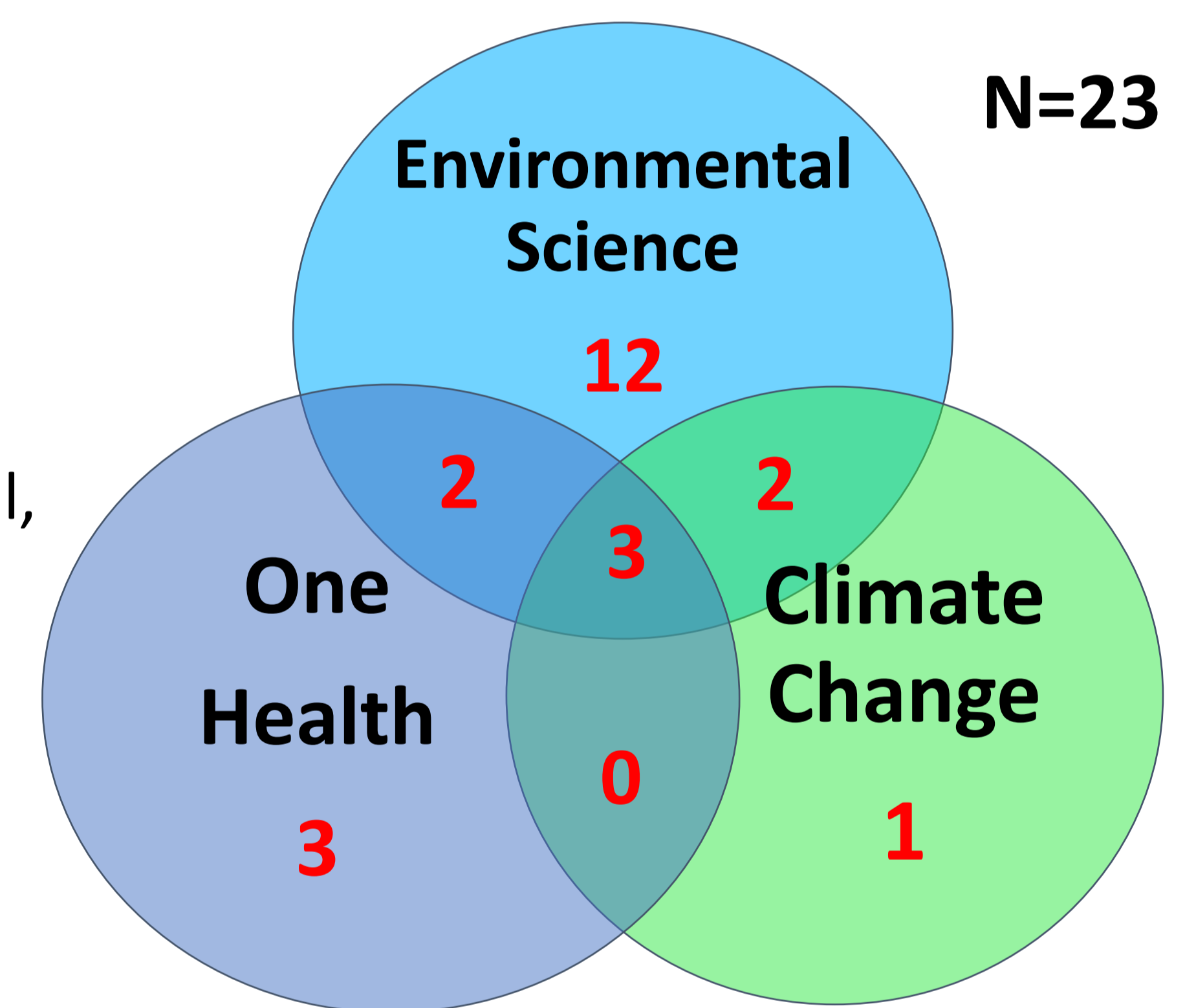
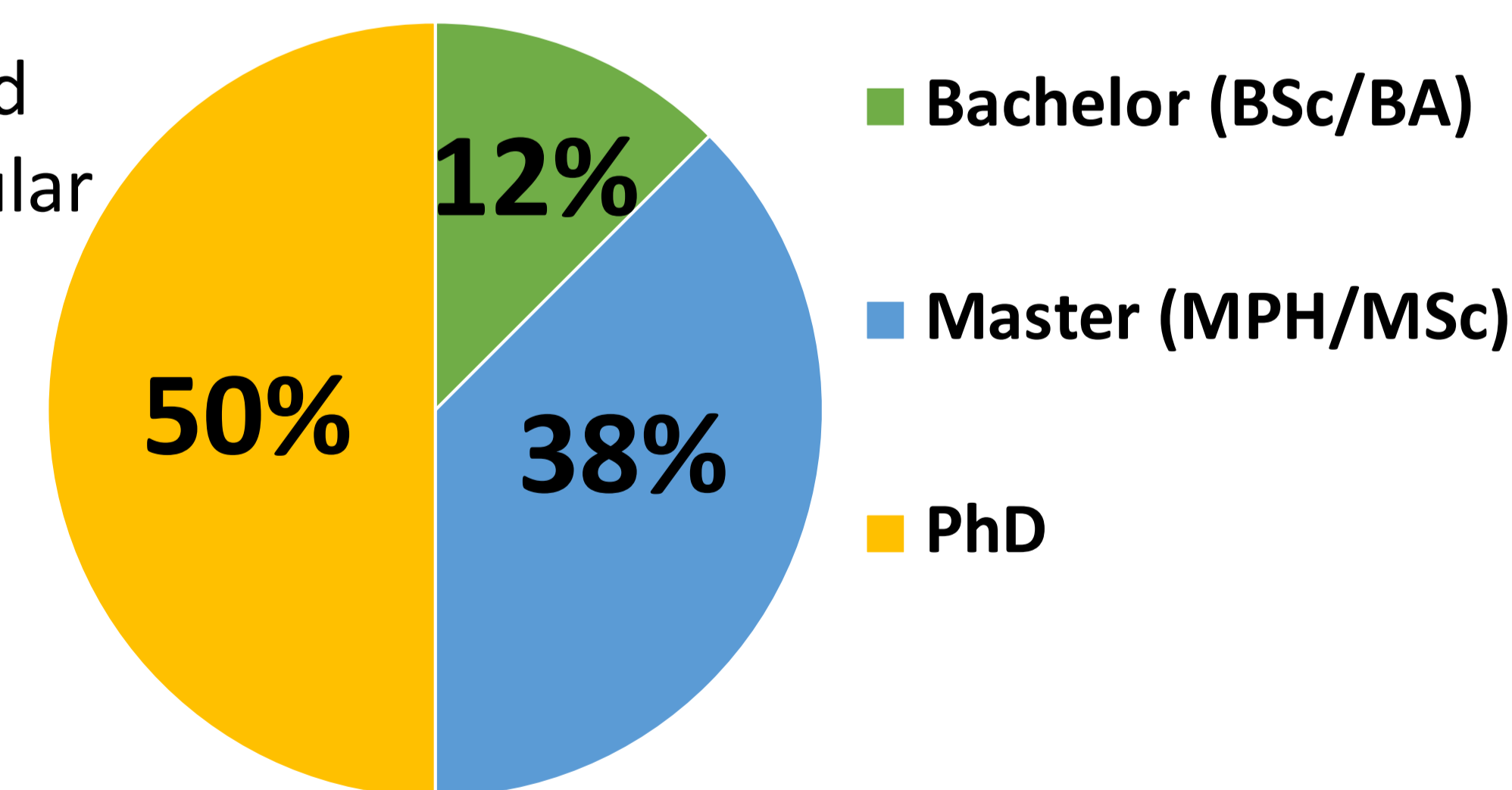


Fig 3: Level of Environmental Science Courses

Respondents were invited to share indicative curricular elements from their programmes for inclusion for updating the CCP.



Conclusion

Planetary health in all its domains is inextricably linked with human activity and health. It is an increasingly vital component of public health education. Recognising that not all schools may be in a position to offer teaching in planetary health, consideration could be given to collating existing training materials and tools and sharing information and expertise through online platforms so that planetary health education can be integrated into all public health curricula.

