

# 2017 REPORT ON RESULTS

An annual summary of project  
outputs and outcomes

## **ABOUT THE CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION**

Created by the Government of Canada in 1997, the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) strives to build our nation's capacity to undertake world-class research and technology development to benefit Canadians.

The CFI's expected results are to enhance the capacity of institutions to:

- attract and retain the world's top research talent;
- train the next generation of researchers;
- enable researchers to undertake world-class research and technology development that lead to social, economic and environmental benefits for Canada; and
- support private-sector innovation and commercialization.

Since its creation, the CFI has committed more than \$7.7 billion in support of 10,081 projects at 148 research institutions in 71 municipalities across Canada (as of October 2017). For more information about the CFI, please visit [Innovation.ca](http://Innovation.ca).

## **THE REPORT ON RESULTS**

The purpose of the report on results is to provide a summary of the outputs and outcomes achieved through CFI-funded infrastructure as they relate to the overall objectives of the CFI, based on information provided through annual project progress reports (PPR). The PPR is an online questionnaire which is completed by the project leader and submitted by the host institution. Institutions are required to submit a PPR for each funded project by June 30 each year, for up to five years after the infrastructure becomes operational. The data collected pertains only to the past year (CFI fiscal year April 1 to March 31). Data is self-reported, and not independently verified.

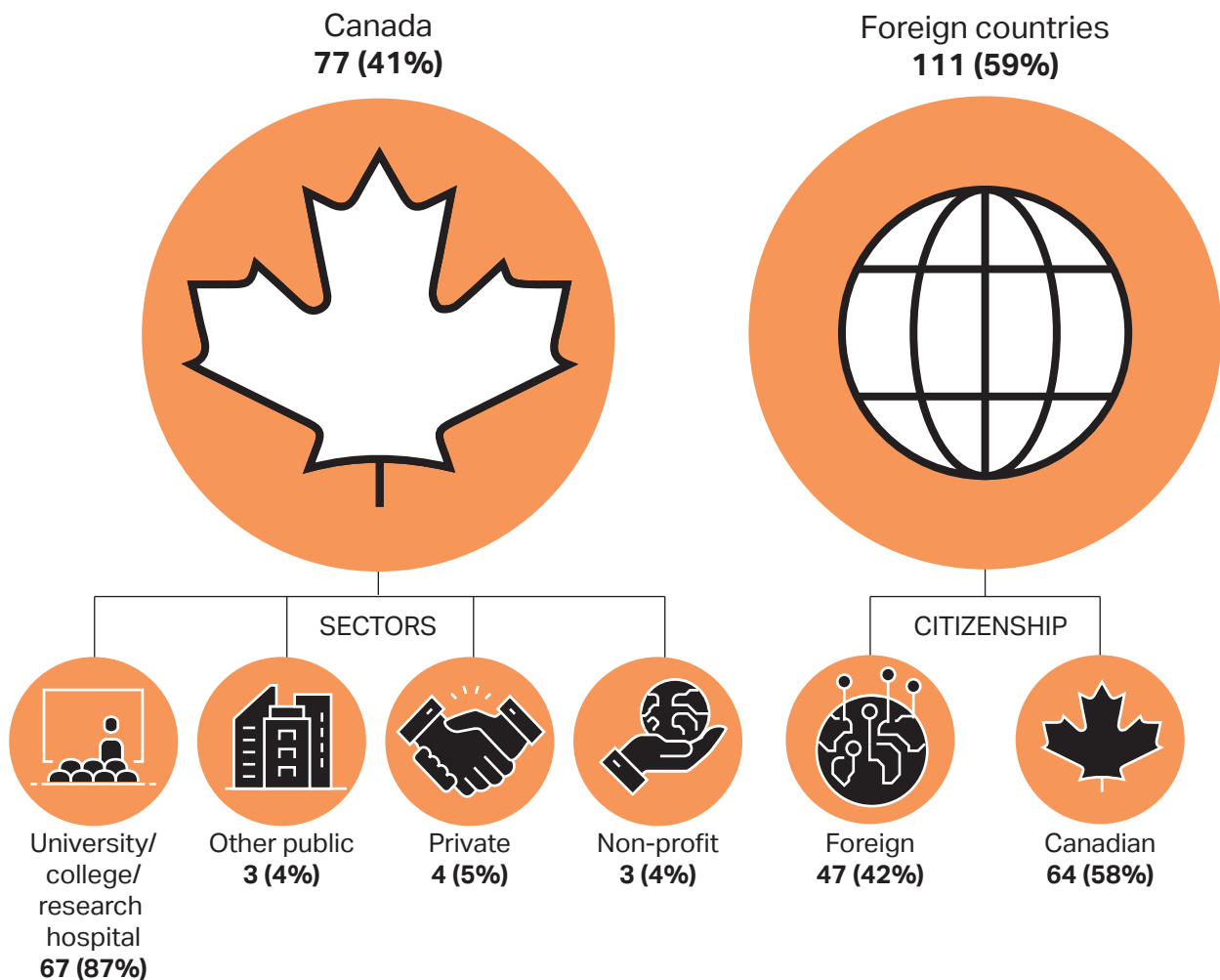
For information on the composition of the 2017 PPR sample, see the Appendix.

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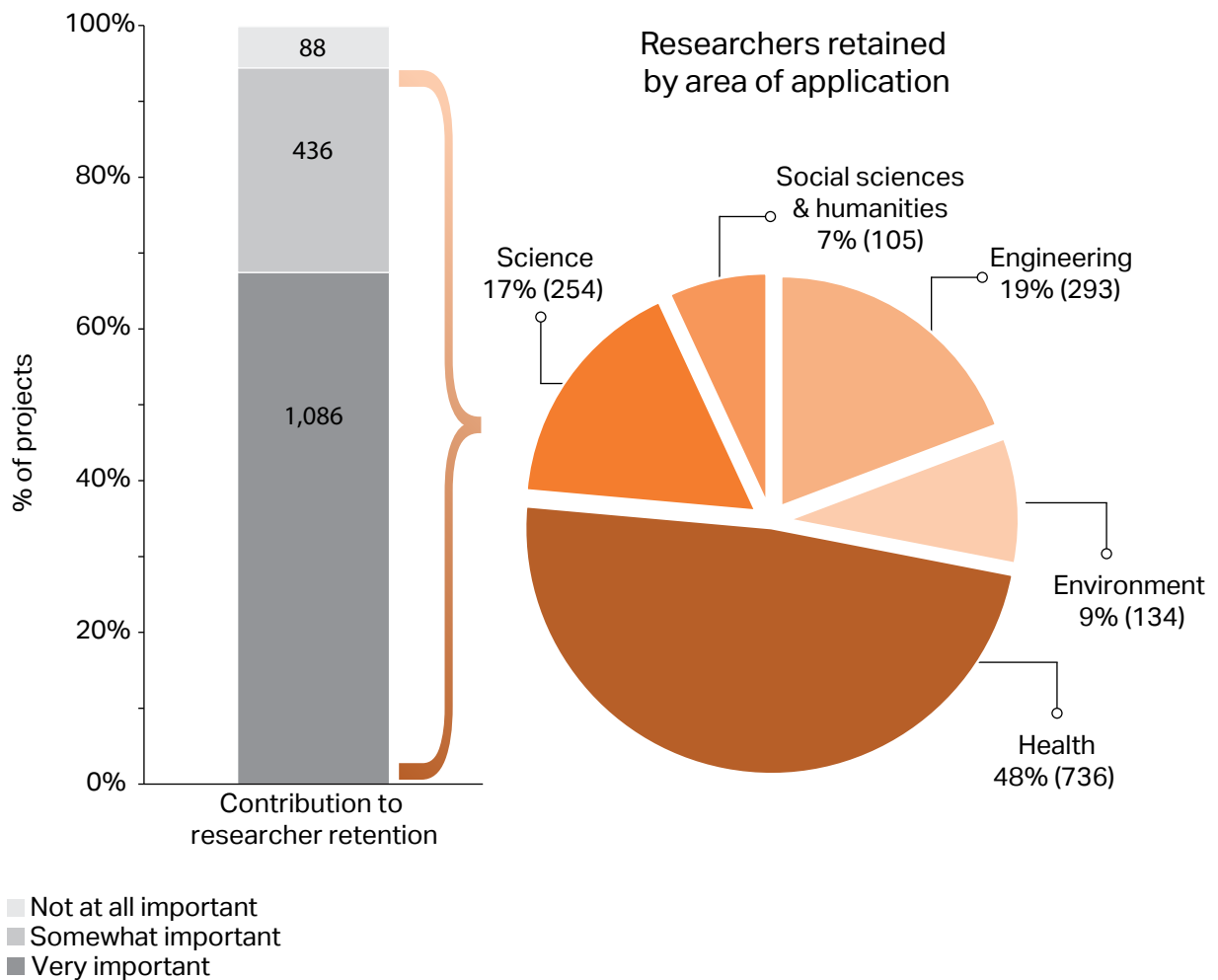
# RESEARCHER ATTRACTION

Among the 188 newly recruited project leaders, 97% indicated that CFI-funded infrastructure positively influenced their decision to join their institution. Nearly 60% of new recruits (of Canadian or non-Canadian citizenship) were in foreign countries at the time of their hiring, suggesting that CFI-funded infrastructure **contributed to attracting international talent and internationally trained Canadian talent**. New recruits that were already in Canada (41%) came from all sectors but were predominantly from academia.



# RESEARCHER RETENTION

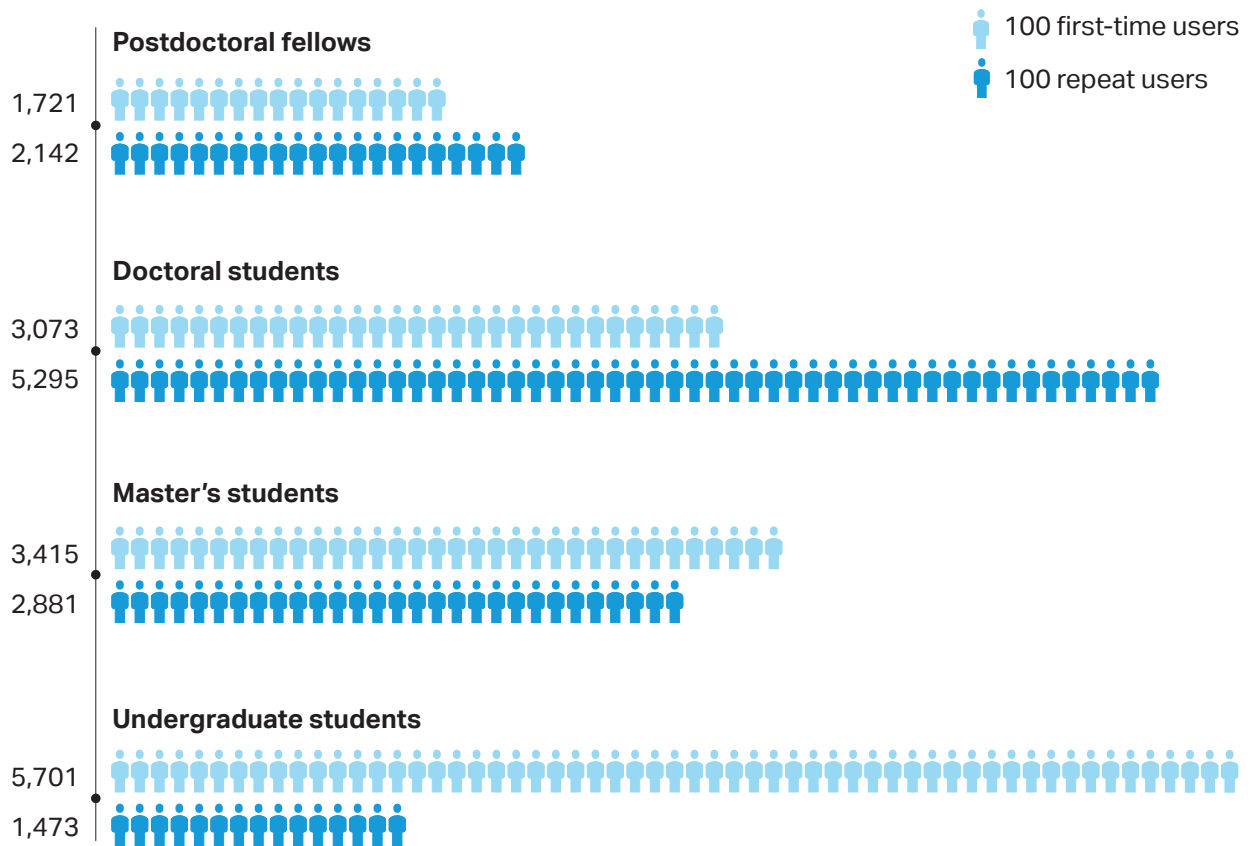
95% of project leaders indicated that CFI-funded infrastructure **was important in their decision to remain at their institution**. Infrastructure funding helped retain researchers from all disciplines.



# TRAINEES USING INFRASTRUCTURE

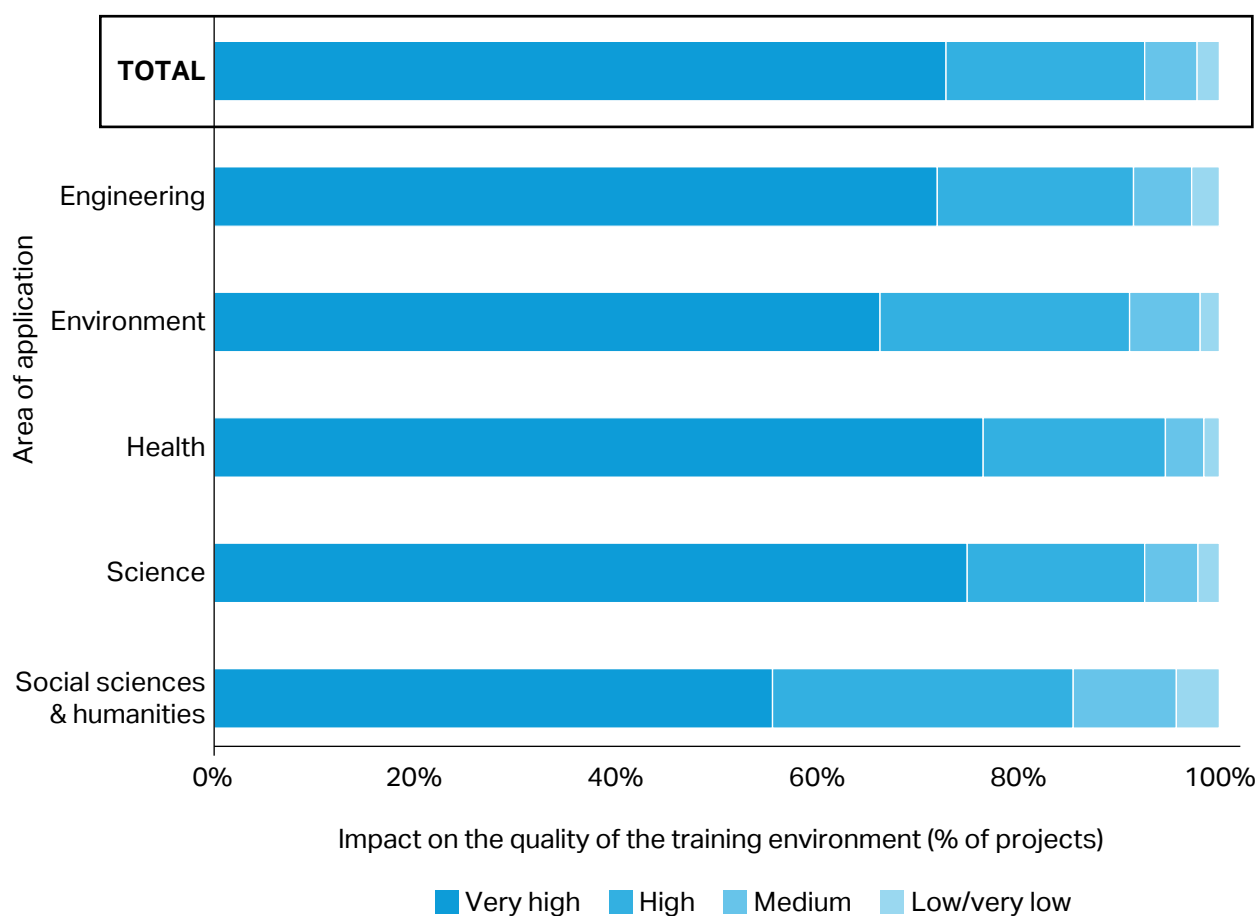
97% of project leaders reported that CFI-funded infrastructure **was a key resource for the next generation of researchers.**

25,701 postdoctoral fellows and higher education students had the opportunity to expand their research skills using CFI-funded infrastructure. Of those, 54% used the infrastructure for the first time in 2017.



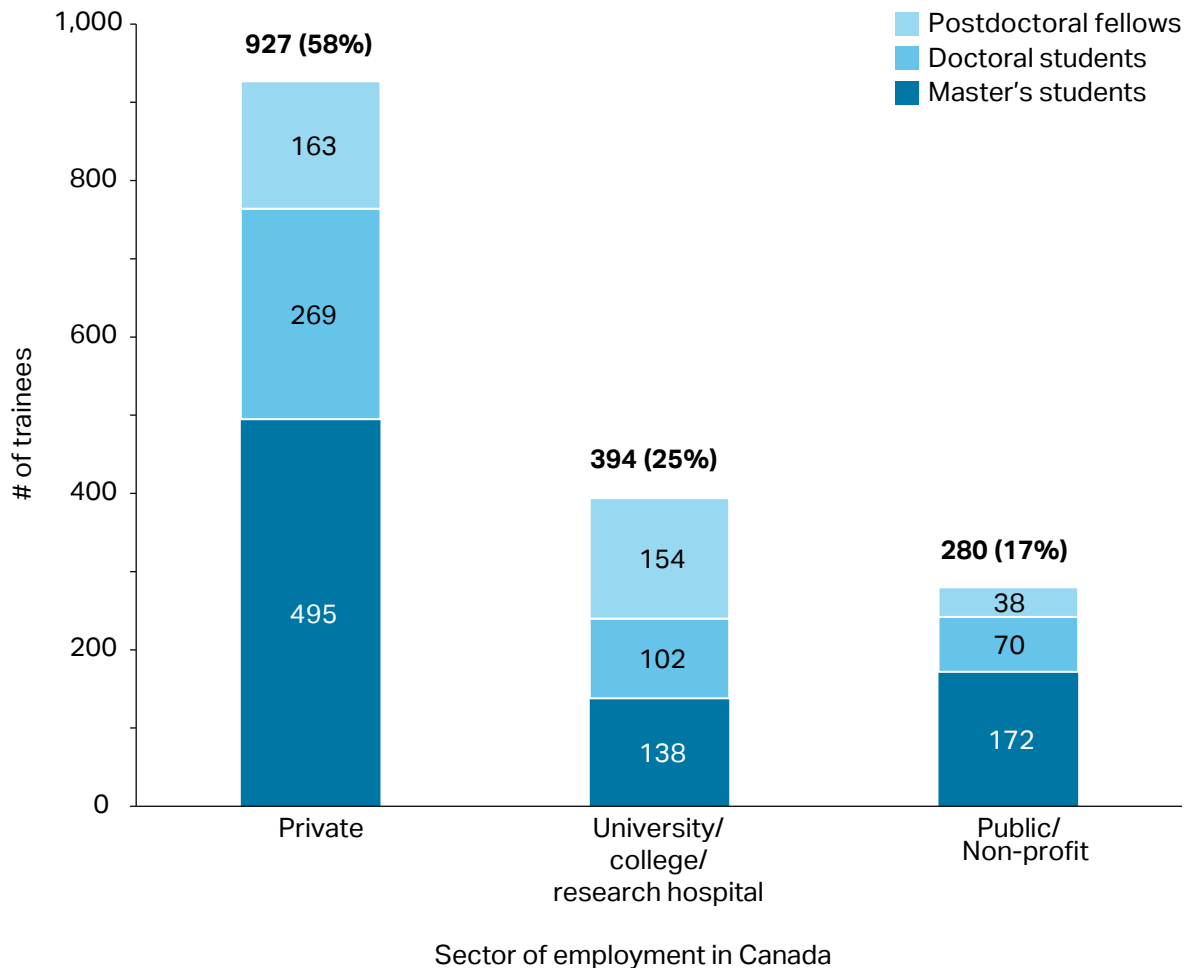
# QUALITY OF TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

93% of project leaders credited their CFI-funded infrastructure with **having a high or very high impact on the quality of the training environment**. The data is relatively consistent across all areas of application except social sciences and humanities where ratings are slightly lower.



# HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT

A total of 1,997 postdoctoral fellows and graduate students using the infrastructure last year completed their training and moved into the workforce. Among them, 80% (1,601) **secured employment in Canada**, the majority (58%) of whom joined the private sector.

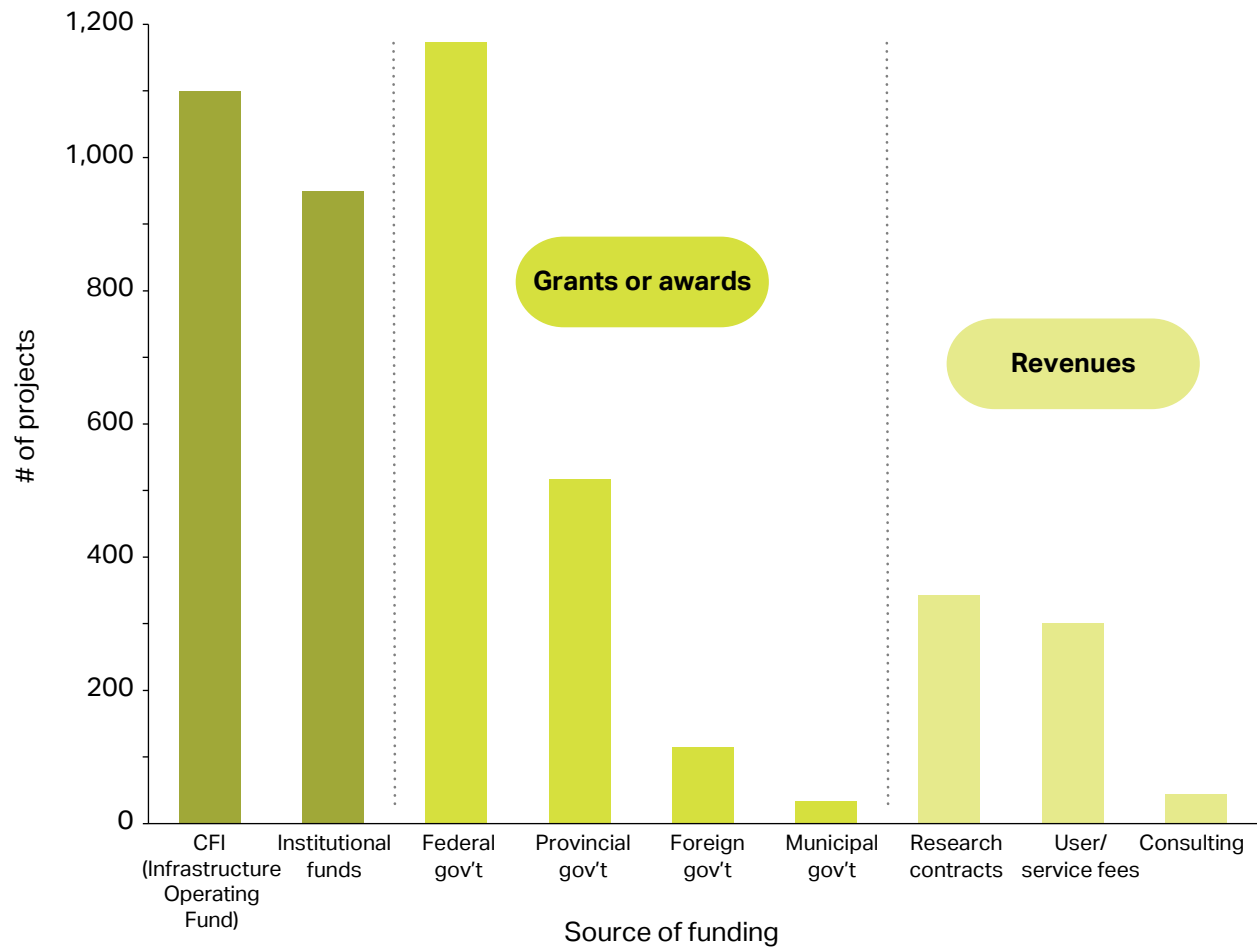




# OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

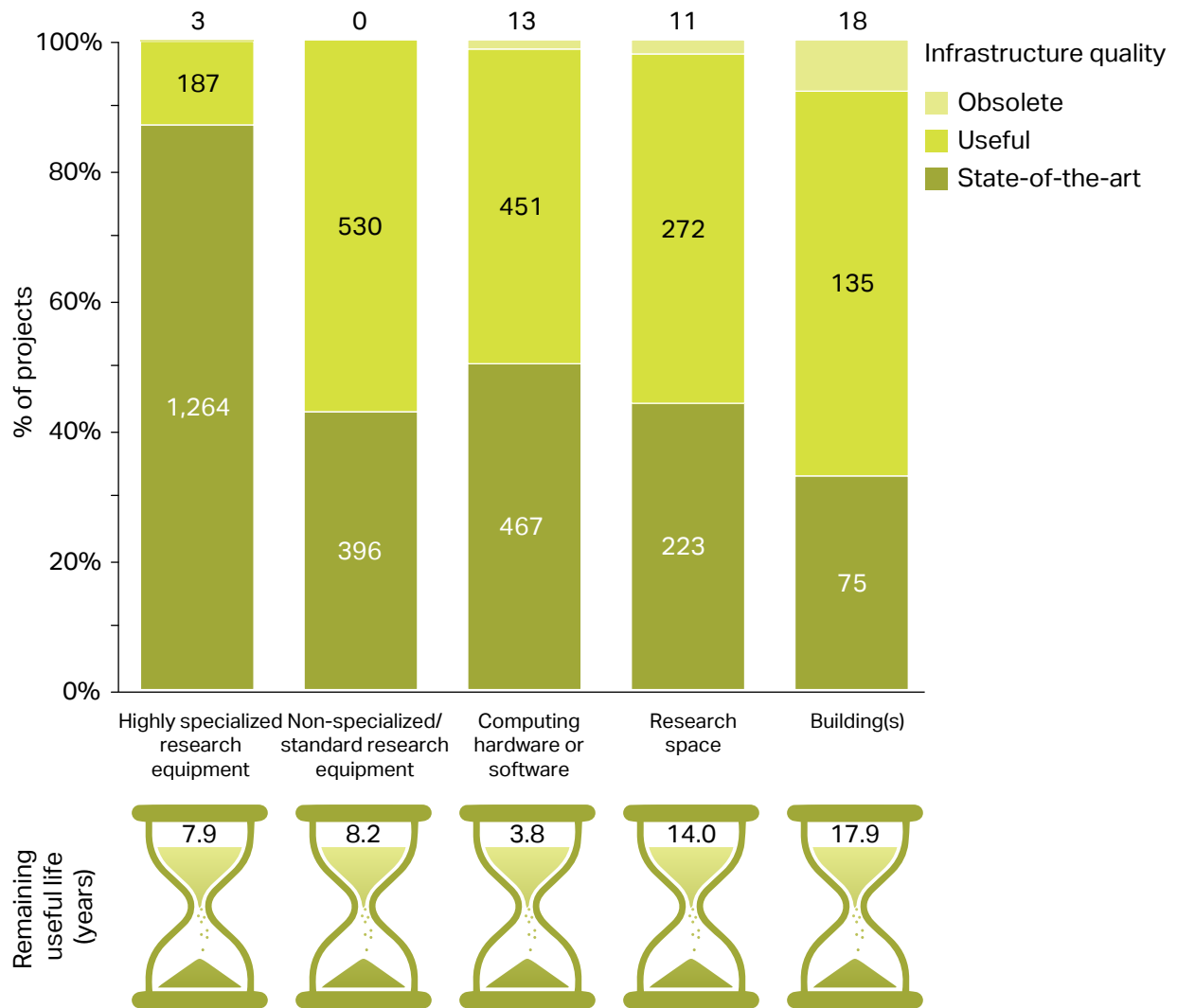
87% of project leaders reported that they **had both adequate financial and human resources** for the operation and maintenance of their CFI-funded infrastructure.

Diverse funding sources, including research contracts and user fees, contribute to the sustainability of the infrastructure.



# INFRASTRUCTURE QUALITY AND USEFUL LIFE

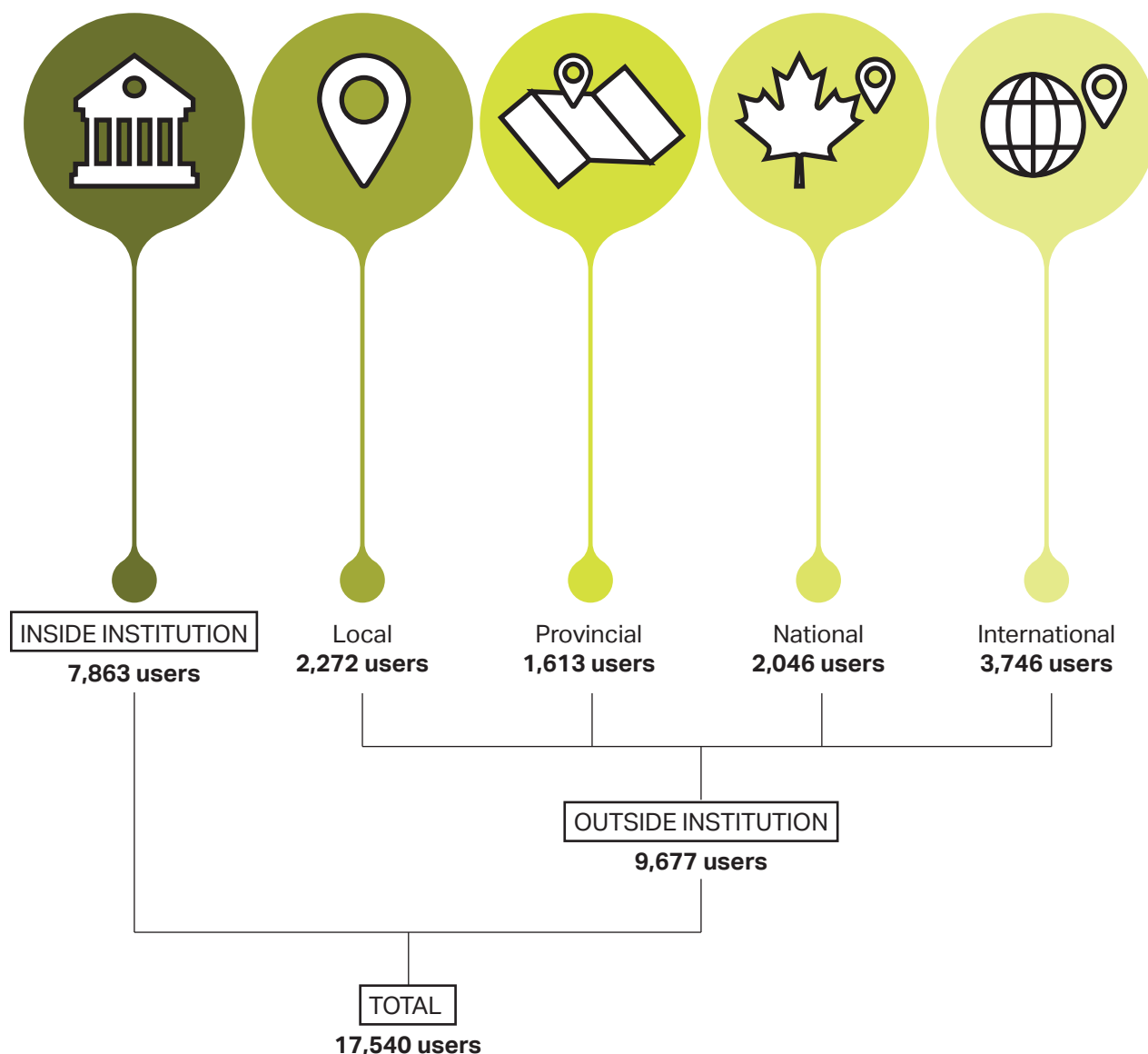
The quality of CFI-funded infrastructure was highly rated overall, with 88% of **highly specialized research equipment** reported as **state-of-the-art**.



# INFRASTRUCTURE USE

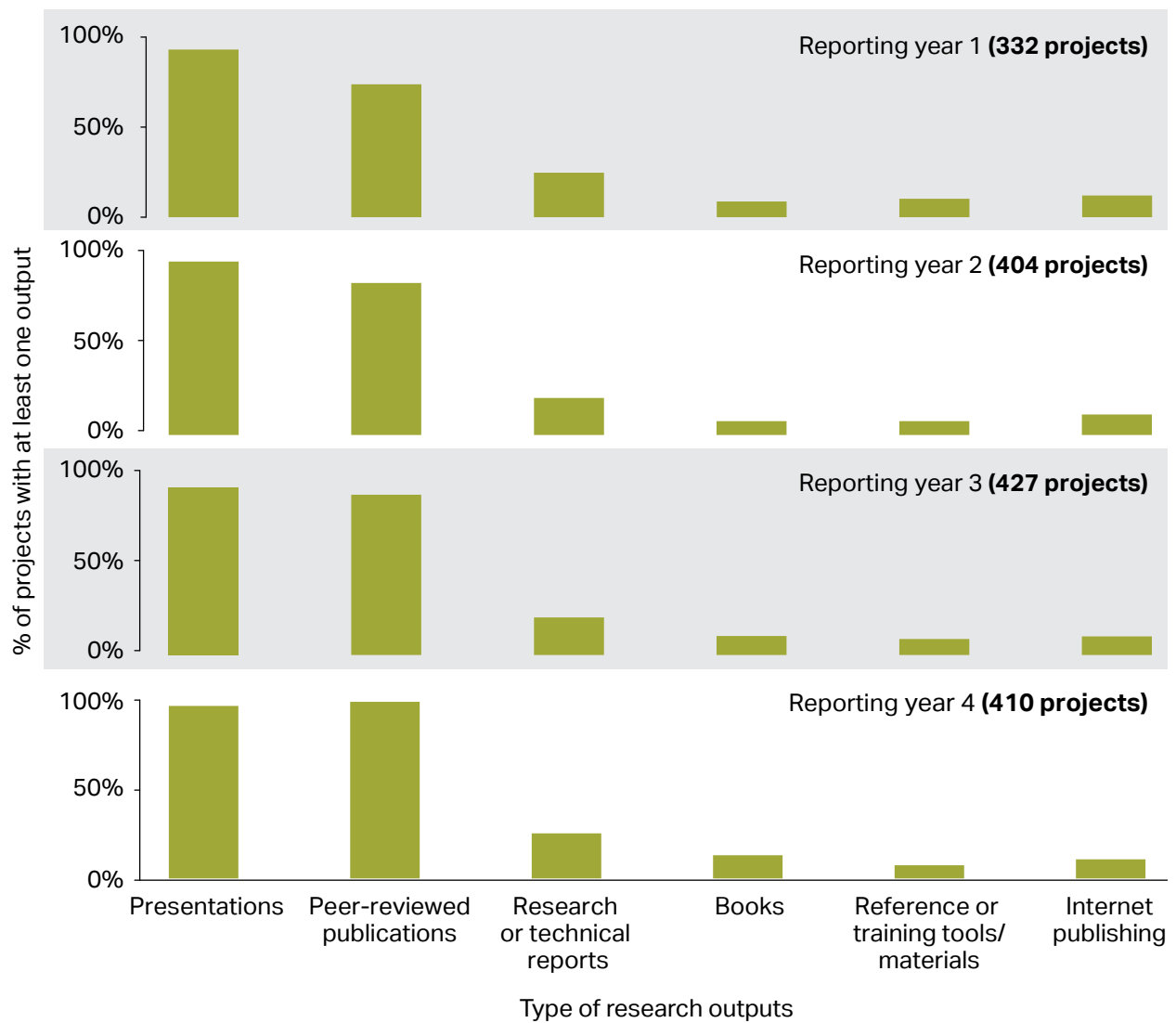
86% of project leaders reported that their **CFI-funded infrastructure was used to maximum capacity**. Overall, 17,540 researchers (excluding students, postdoctoral fellows and technical and professional personnel) advanced their research using CFI-funded infrastructure.

The majority of international infrastructure users were from the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.



# SHARING RESEARCH RESULTS

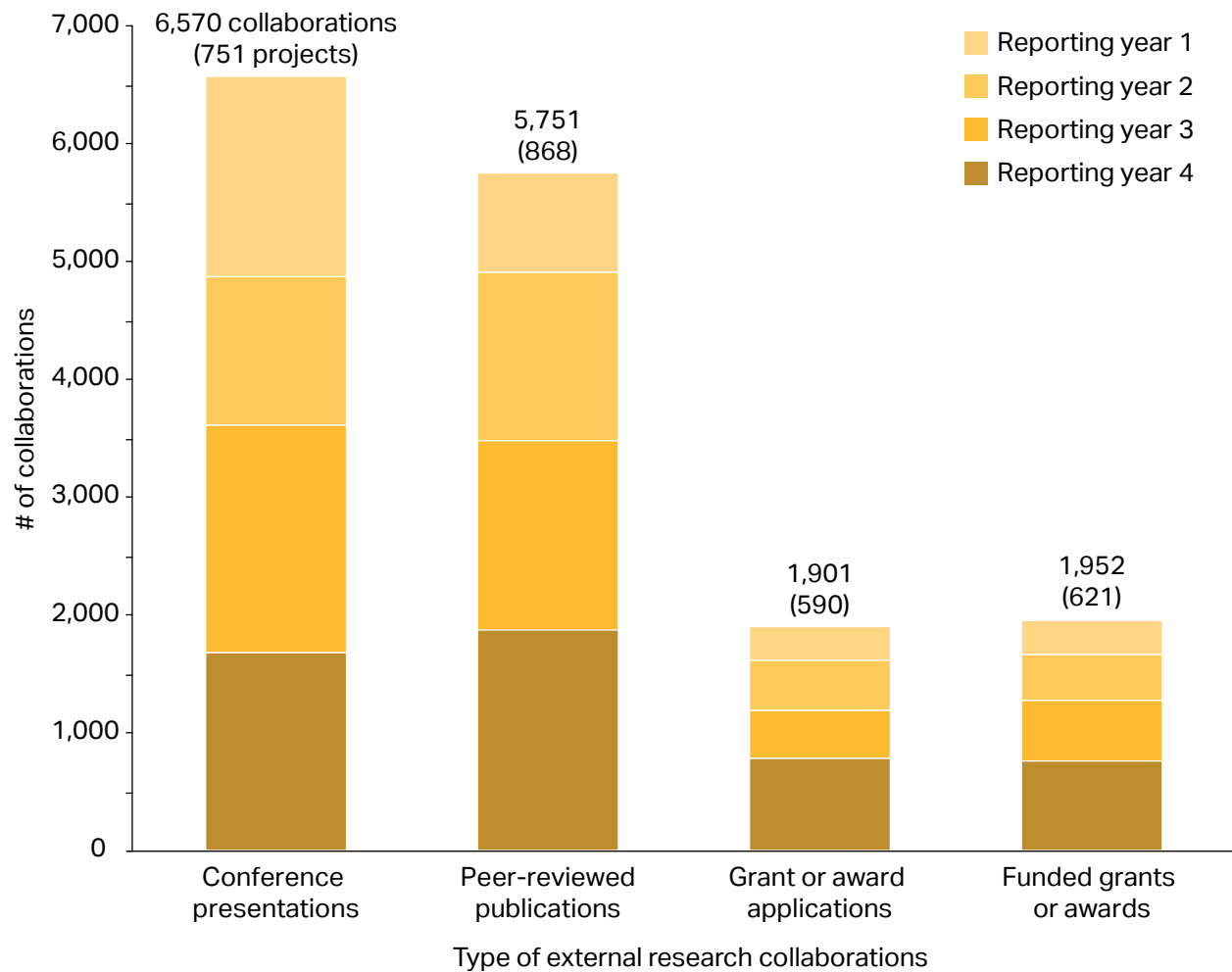
**Conference, symposium and workshop presentations are the most frequent type of research output** reported, closely followed by peer-reviewed publications. The proportion of projects reporting the various types of outputs varies little by reporting year except for peer-reviewed publications.



# PRODUCTIVE COLLABORATIONS

Researchers have made use of CFI-funded infrastructure to **enable external research collaborations** that resulted in traditional academic activities and outputs. The most common is conference presentations with 6,570 reported by 751 project leaders.

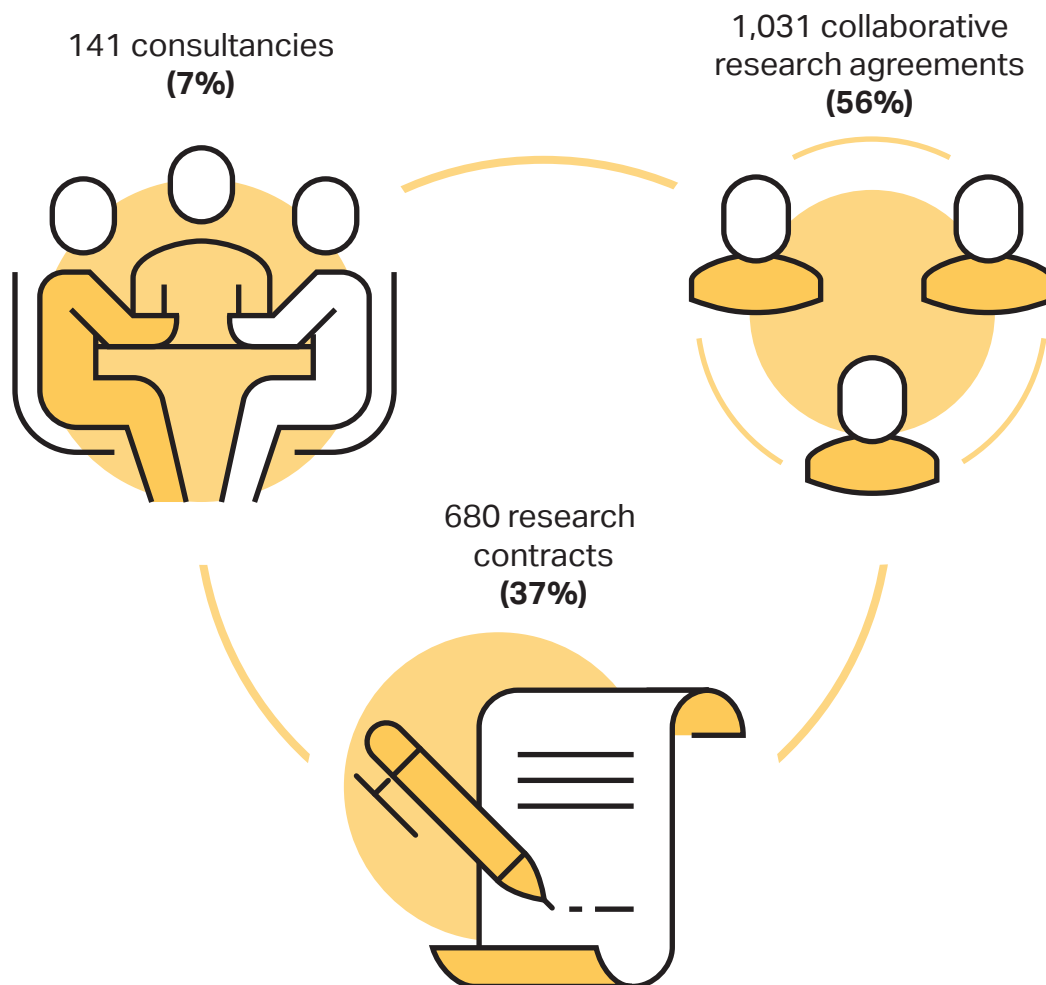
23% of project leaders reported all four types, suggesting CFI-funded infrastructure **enables broad and varied collaboration**.



# RESEARCH AGREEMENTS

CFI-funded infrastructure **facilitated new formal collaborative research agreements** in 33% of projects, for a total of 1,852 agreements.

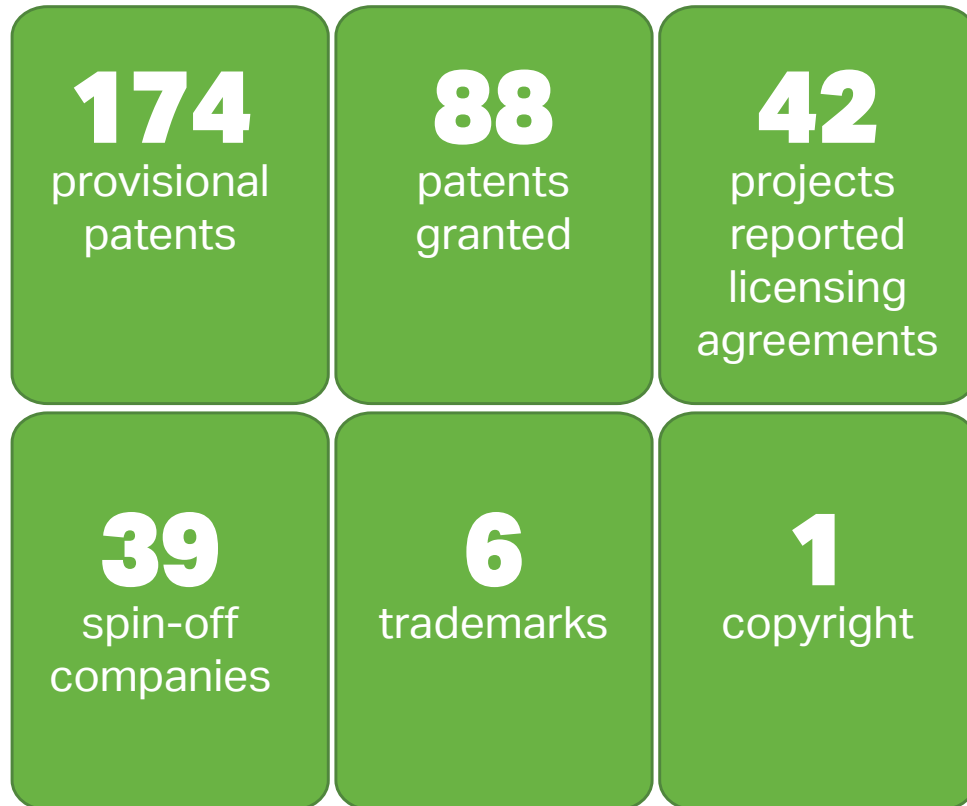
The private sector was the most often identified sector for both consultancies and research contracts while the academic sector was most frequently reported for collaborative research.



# FROM RESEARCH TO INNOVATION

CFI-funded infrastructure has **contributed to the development of new intellectual property and the creation of new companies.**

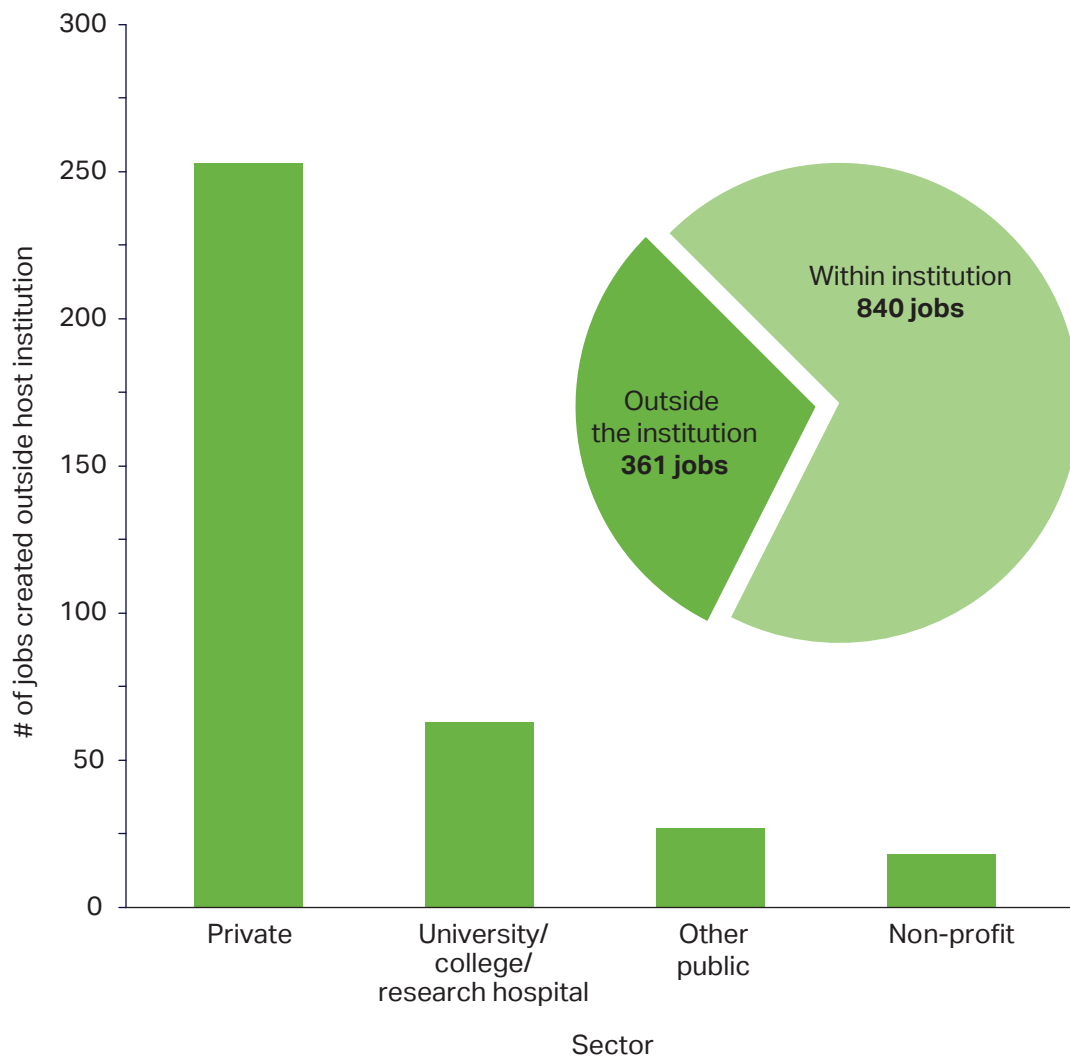
176 project leaders reported at least one of the six types of research outcomes below.



# NEW JOBS

28% of project leaders **reported one or more jobs created** due to CFI-funded infrastructure.

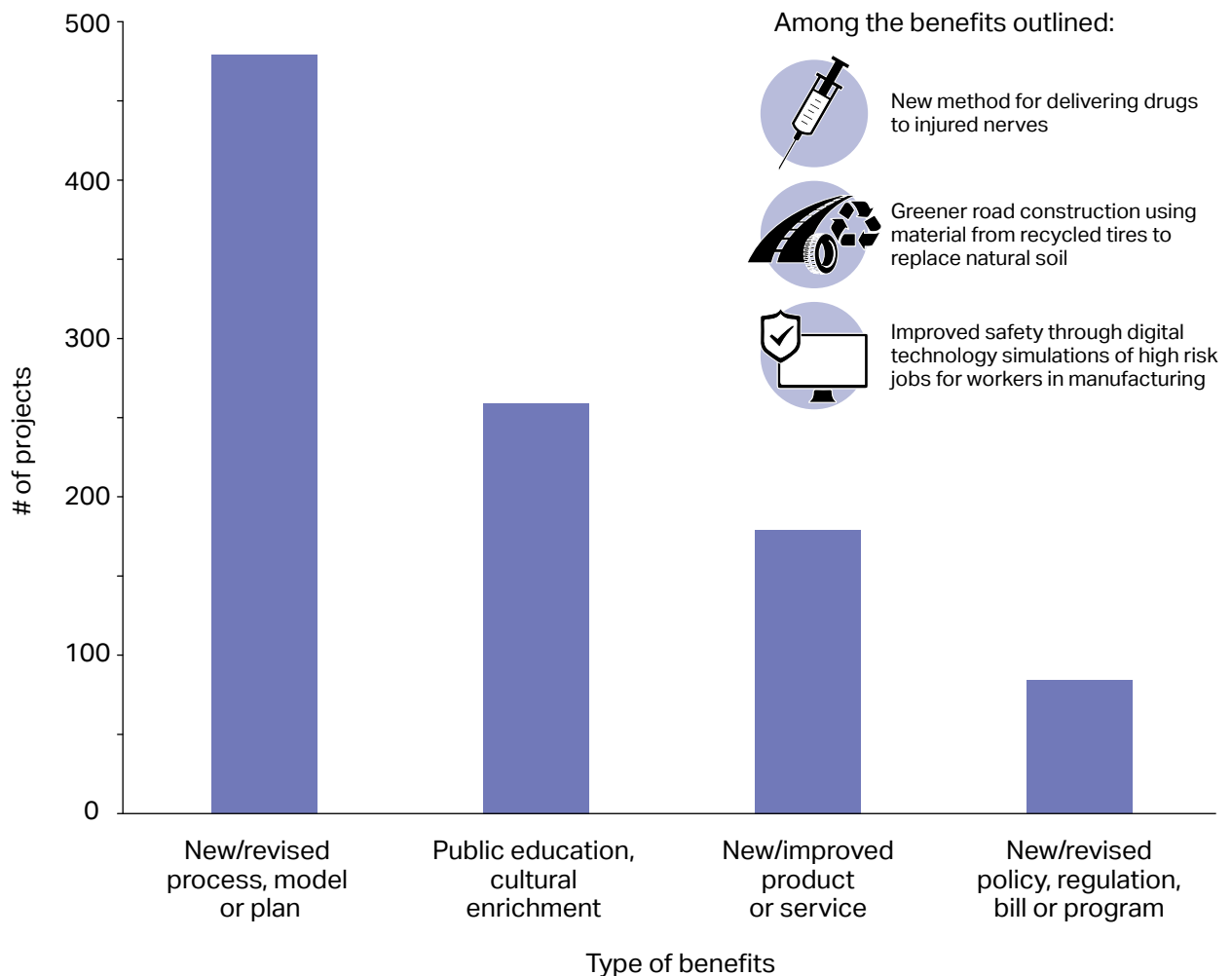
Just over two-thirds of all jobs created were within the host institutions. 70% of the 361 jobs created outside the institution were in the private sector.





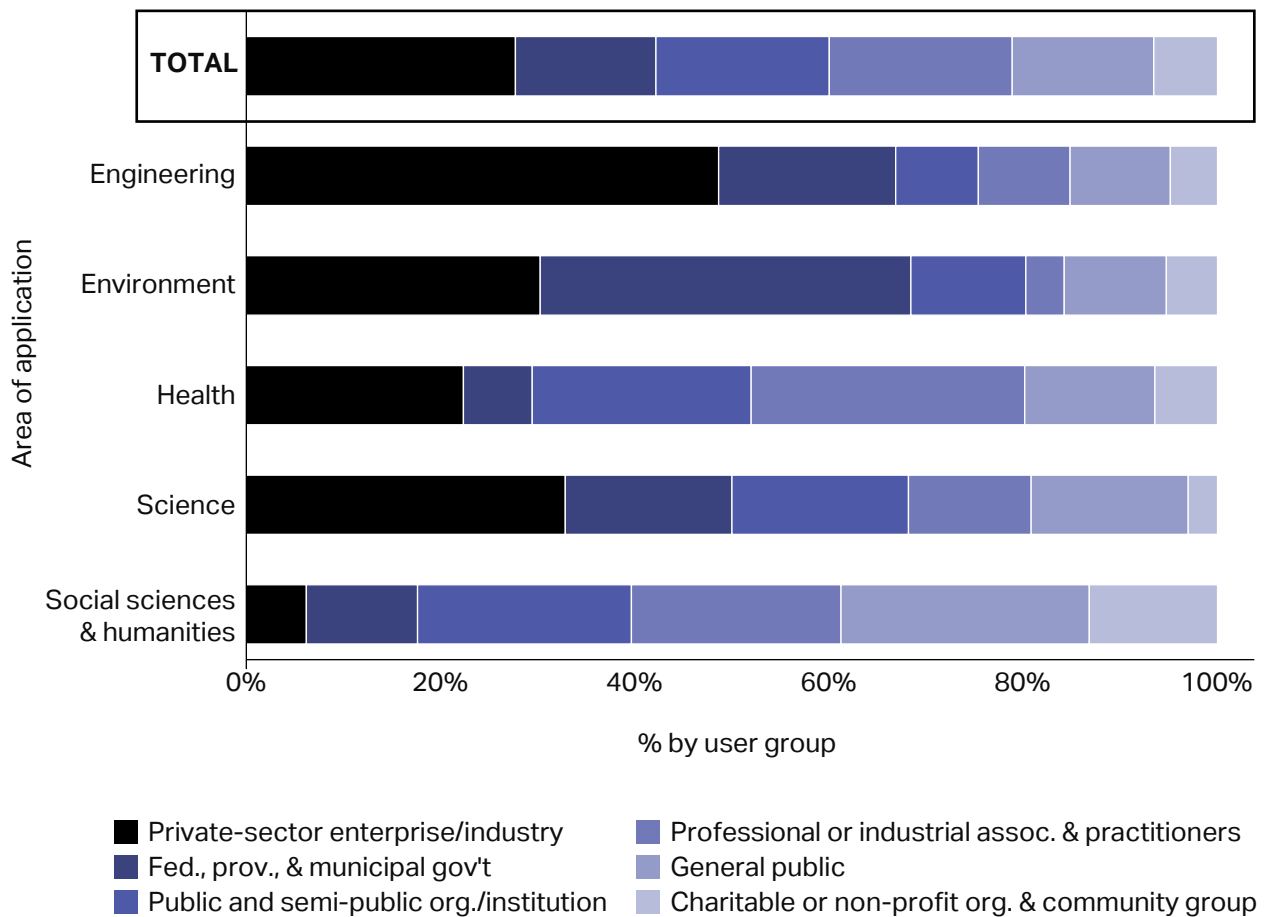
# A RANGE OF BENEFITS

Almost half (47%) of all project leaders **reported at least one type of benefit**, highlighting the role of CFI-funded infrastructure in enabling research that produces outcomes for Canadians.



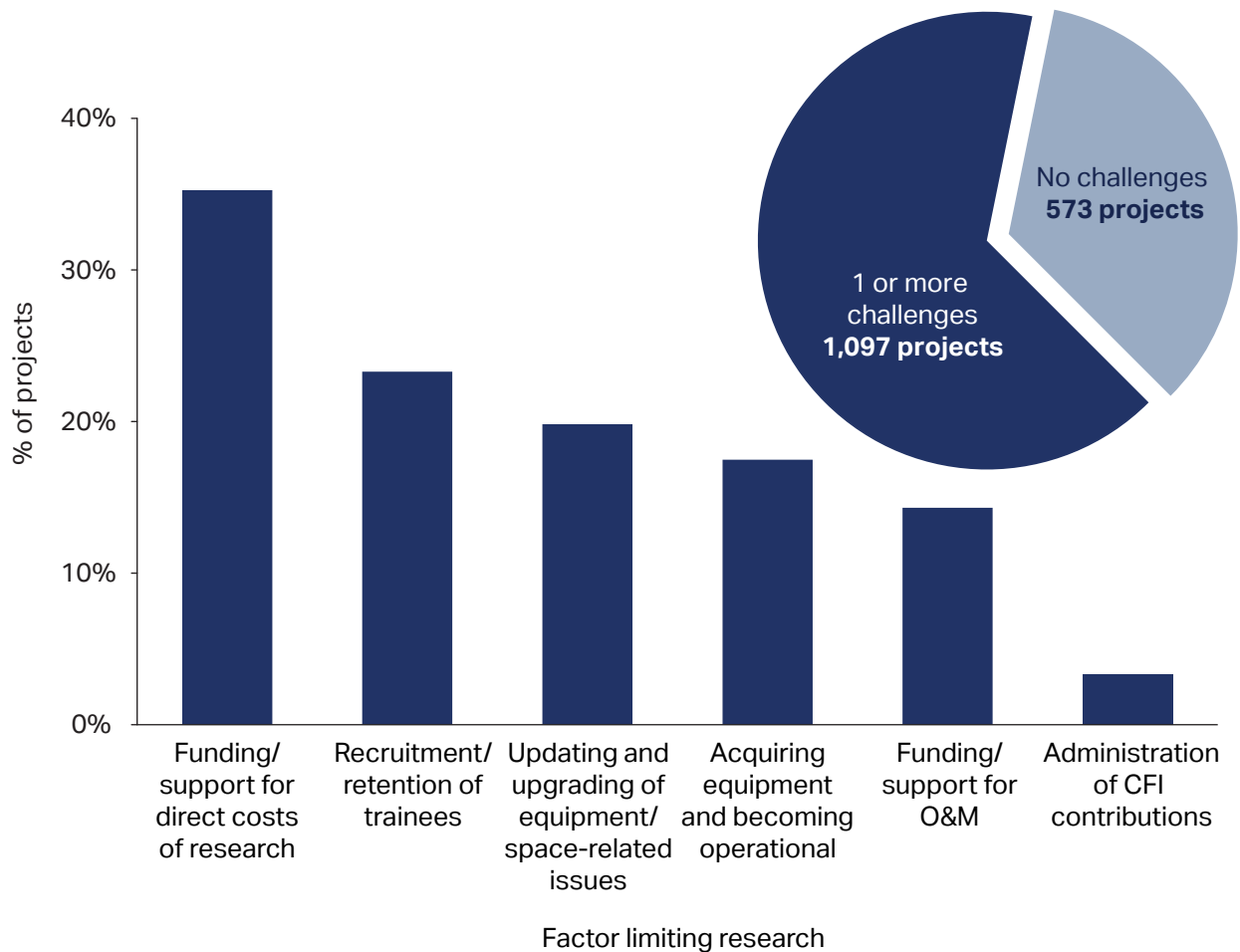
# USERS OF RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Overall, **the most frequently reported user group benefiting from the research results was the private sector, followed by professional or industrial associations and practitioners.** Research users varied by area of application of the research; for example engineering projects tended to benefit the private sector most while social sciences and humanities research tended to benefit the general public.

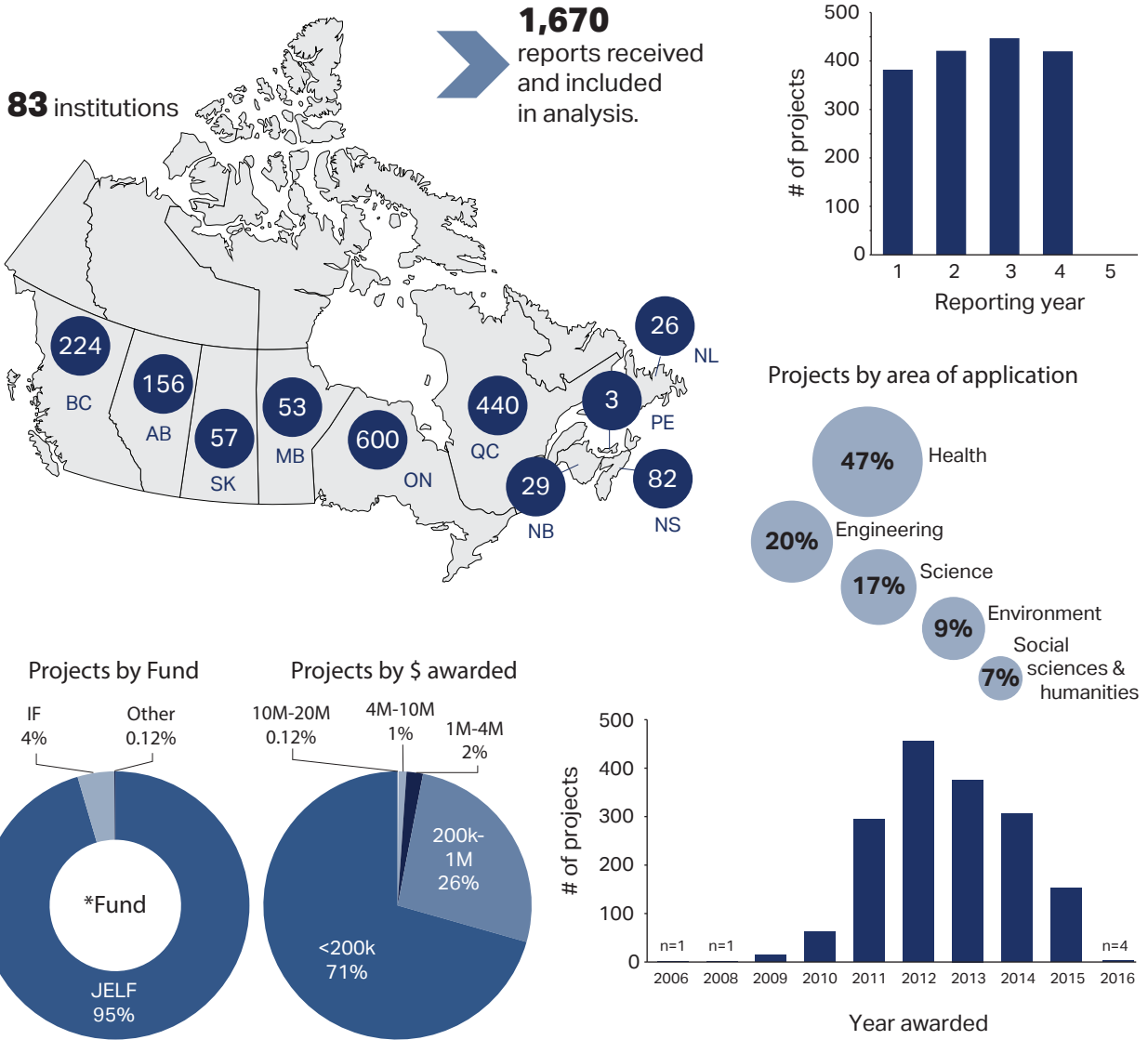


# CHALLENGES

Two-thirds of the project leaders reported one or more factors limiting the quality and impact of the research enabled by the infrastructure. **The most common factor reported was funding support for the direct costs of research.**



# COMPOSITION OF THE 2017 PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT SAMPLE



\* **Innovation Fund (IF) type:** Innovation Fund 2015, Leading Edge Fund 2006/2009/2012 and New Initiatives Fund 2009/2012.  
**John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) type:** Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF) – \$1M to \$2M, LOF-CRC, LOF-NSERC, LOF-SSHRC, JELF-Funding for research infrastructure, JELF-CRC, JELF-CERC, JELF-NSERC and JELF-SSHRC.  
**Other Funds:** Research Hospital Fund-Large Scale Institutional Endeavors and 2013 Digging into Data Challenge.



