

Towards a more competitive
NSTS in Portugal



Portuguese Association of
Researchers in Science &
Technology

<http://www.anict.pt>

A.N.I.C.T.

Portuguese Association of Researchers in Science and Technology

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HOMO SCIENTIFICUS EUROPAEUS

Barcelona, 2013.11.08



ANICT *genesis*

- In 2010, a group of PhD holder researchers recently engaged at the NSTS as “Investigadores Auxiliares”, joined together to create ANICT.
- Why? Between 2007 and 2010 approximately 1500 young researchers (mostly Postdocs) were engaged in the NSTS with 5-year contracts (MCTES - “CIÊNCIA PROGRAM”). No existing association could address properly the concerns and expectations of this group.

ANICT's mission:

1. To be the “Voice” of full-time researchers working in Portugal
2. Be an effective partner of the NSTS stakeholders
3. To promote academic freedom, autonomy, ethics and excellence in research
4. To contribute to the dissemination of scientific knowledge to the society



Diagnosed problems of the Portuguese National Scientific and Technological System (NSTS)

- Lack of a long-run continued policy (e.g., EU funds management)
- Not generalised culture of excellence
- Coexistence of teaching (too stable!) and researchers (too instable!) in the NSTS
- Lack of an effective evaluation of Researchers (and Professors)
- MSc/PhD/PostDoc programs not adequate to the country's economy needs
- No responsabilization of stakeholders

And more recently...

- Education and Science are unfortunately not among the very first priorities of the actual government (budget cuts affecting also the NSTS)



Budget cuts consequences

- Less PhD and Postdoc grants (FCT)
- Less frequent calls for FCT projects (not once a year anymore)
- New rules for evaluation research centers in 2013
- Researchers are being dismissed due to lack of funds and uncertainty regarding the coming years

... and more to come?

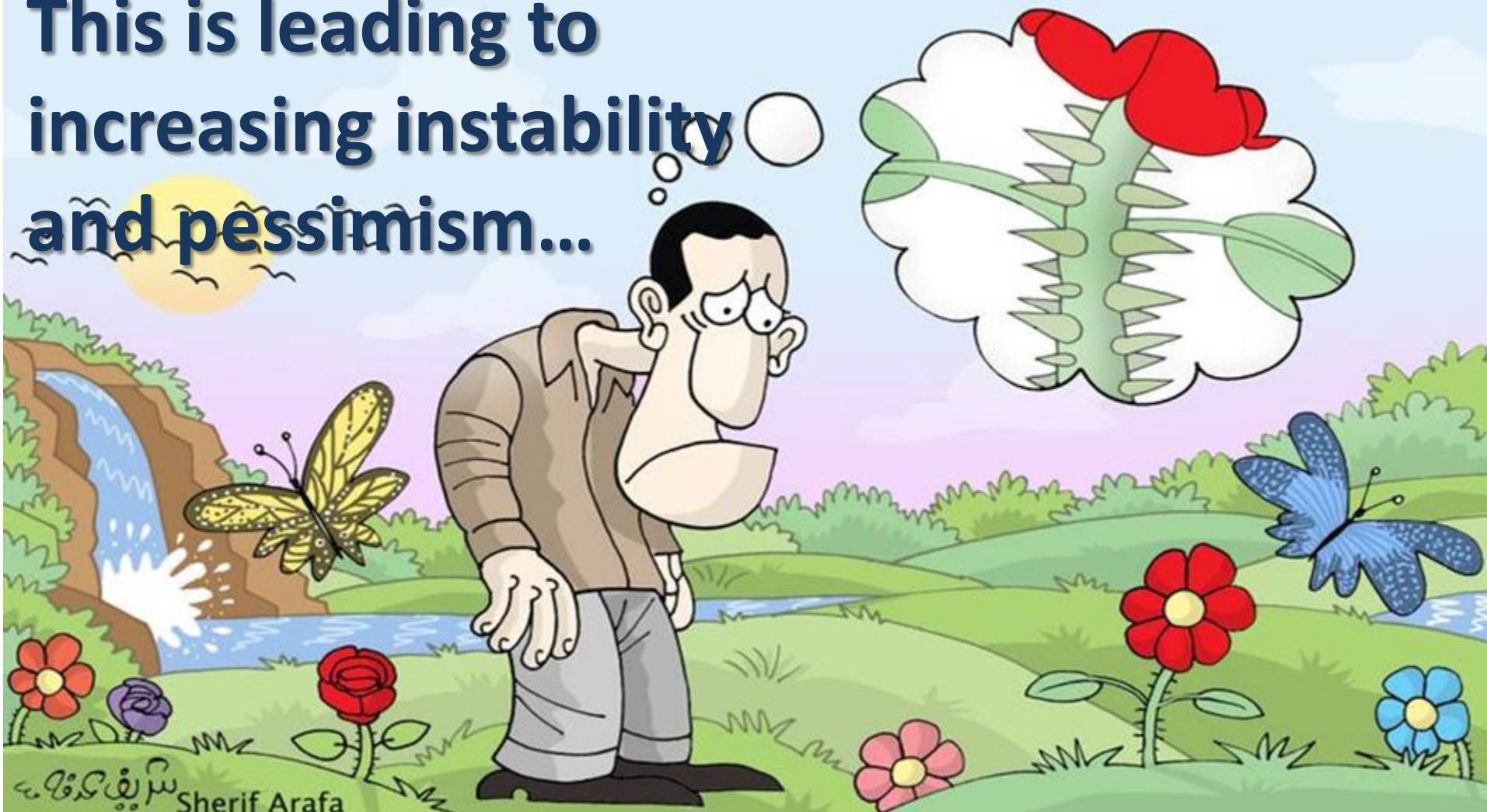
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This is leading to increasing instability and pessimism...



شريف ارفا
Sherif Arafa

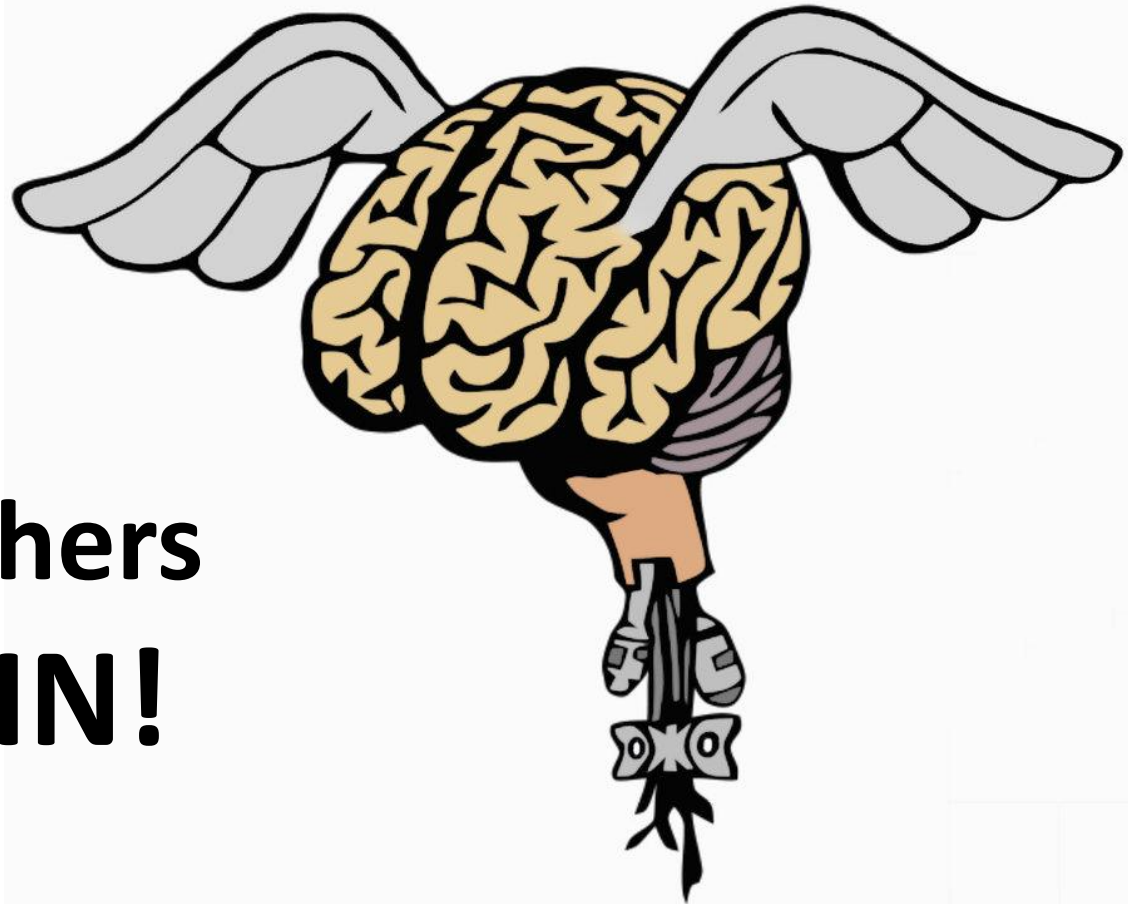
Brain Drain Survey



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... and
young researchers
BRAIN DRAIN!



ANICT conducted a brain drain survey on its members by July 2013 – **250 responses**

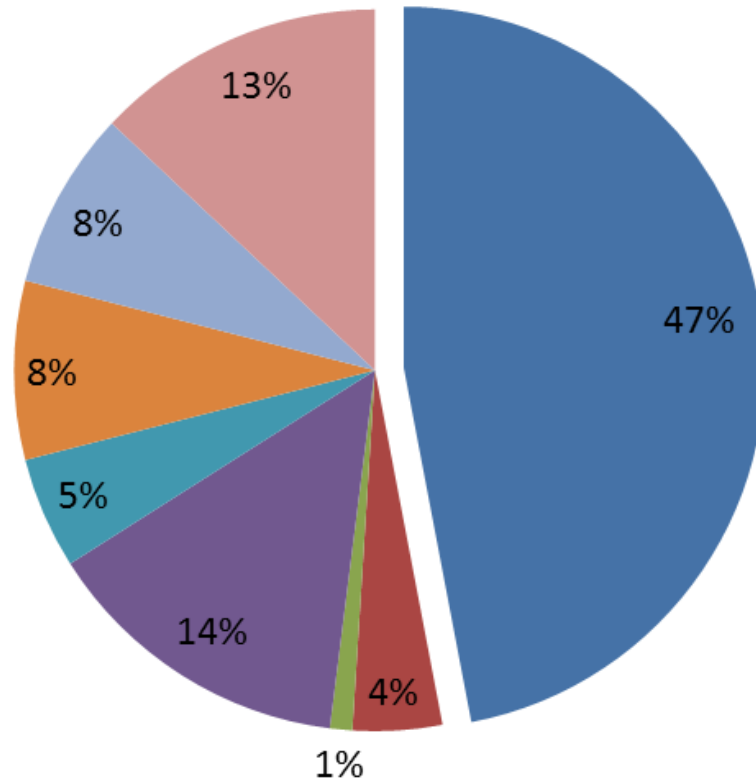
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What is your current status?



Investigador Auxiliar (47%)

Investigador Principal (4%)

Investigador Coordenador (1%)

Postdoc researcher (14%)

Professor (any level) (5%)

Currently unemployed (8%)

I'm between researcher contracts/grants (8%)

Other (13%)

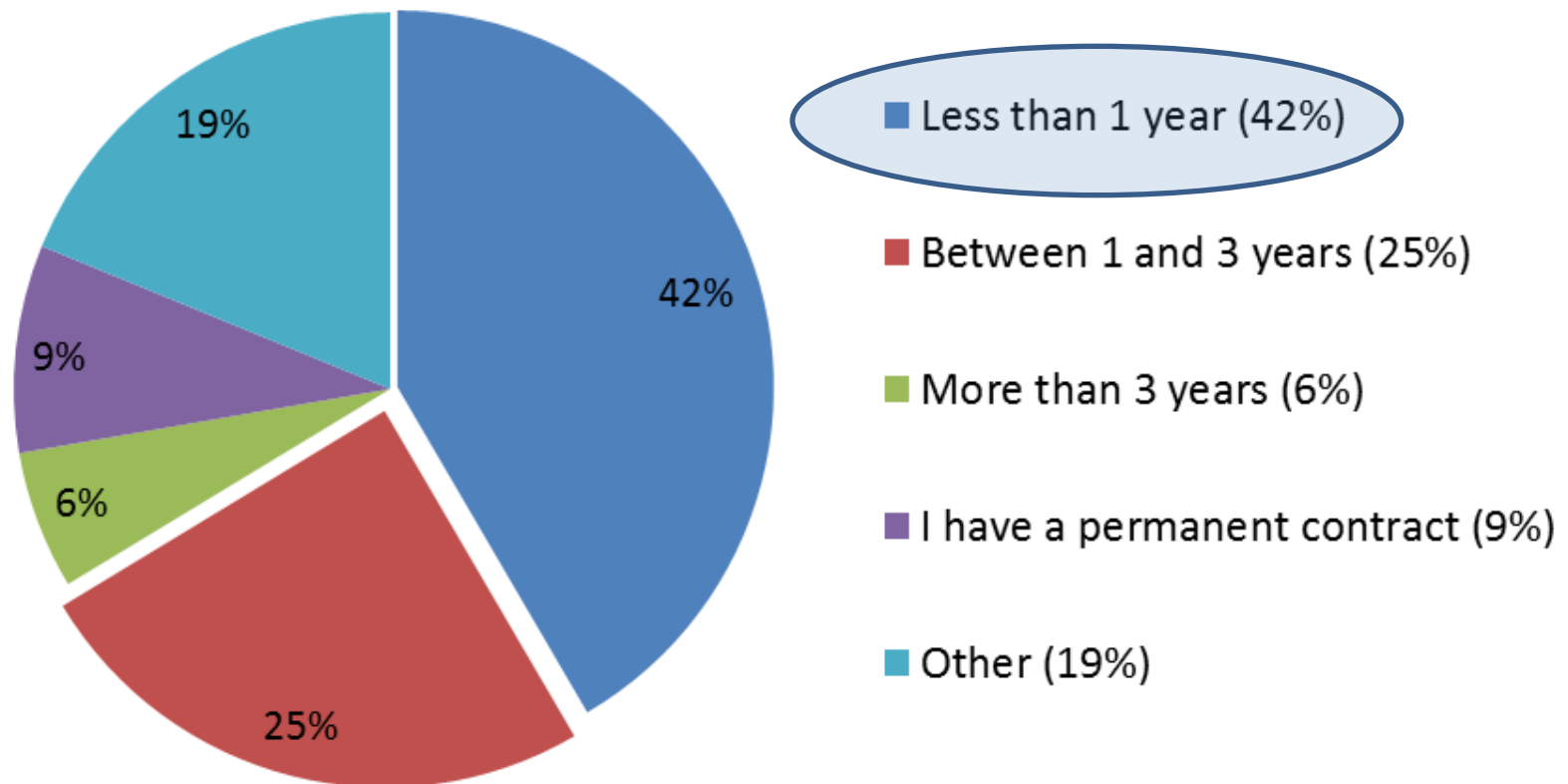
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How much time do you have before the end of your contract?



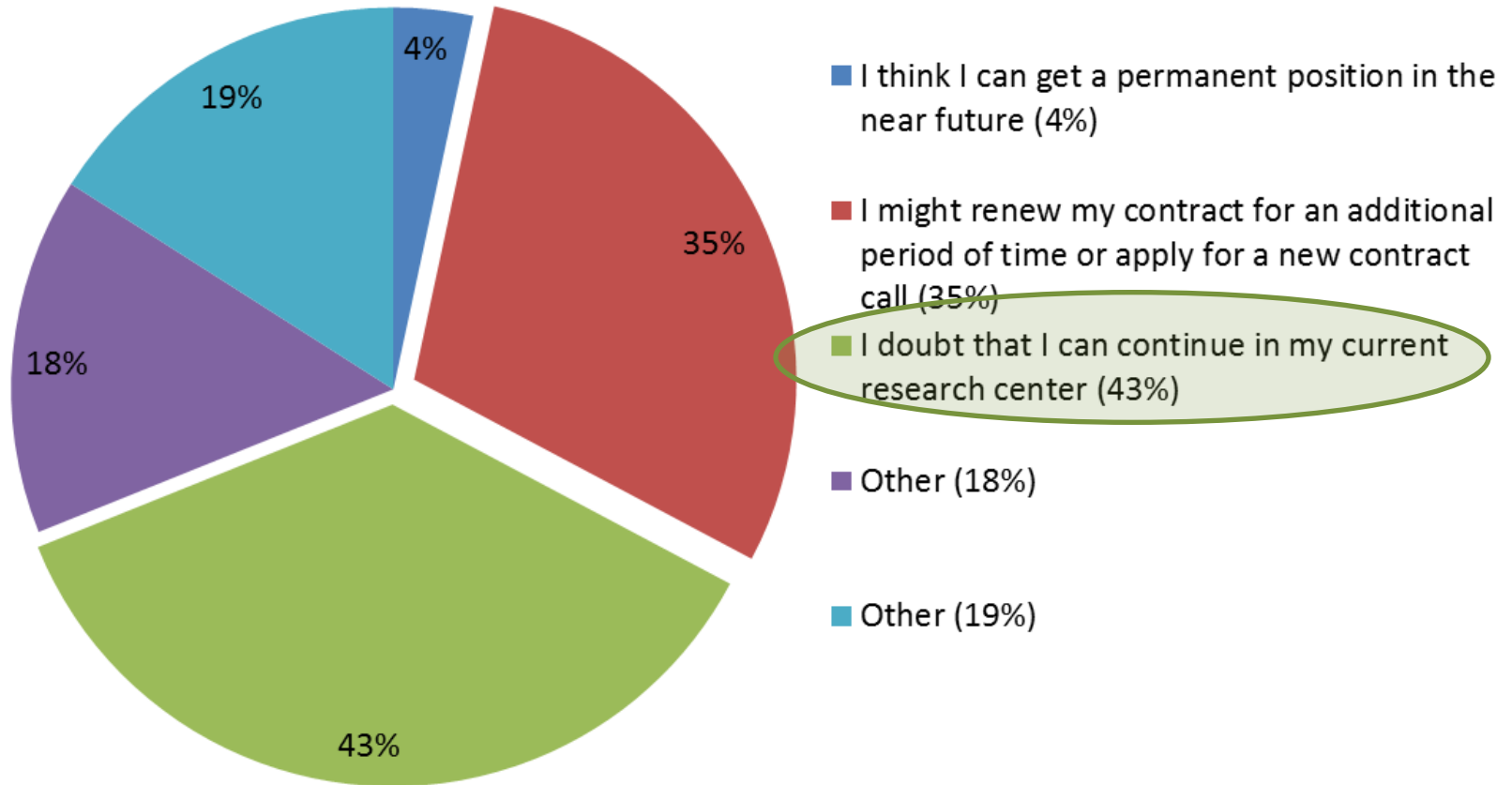
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What are your realistic perspectives for the future in your research center?



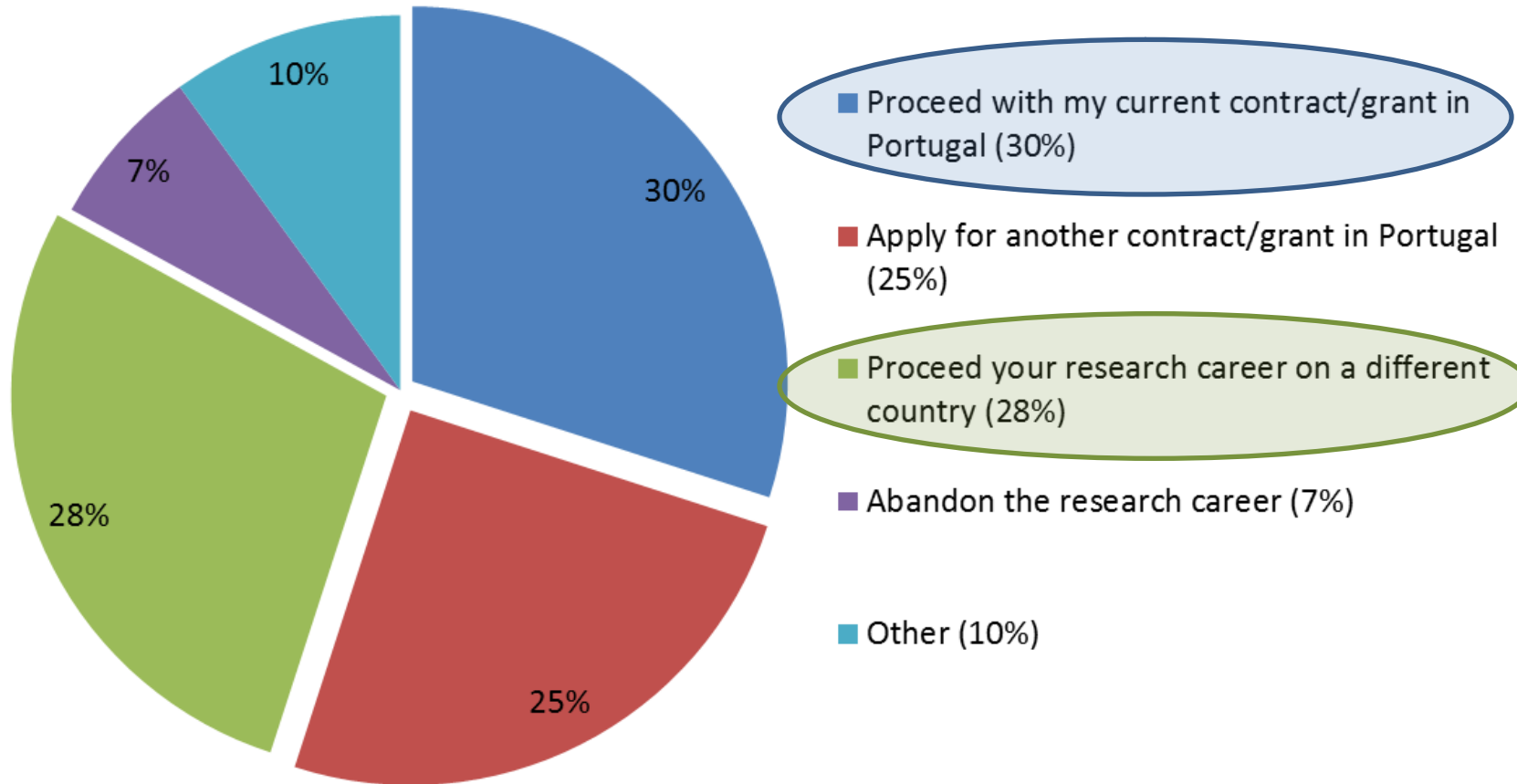
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What are your plans for next year?



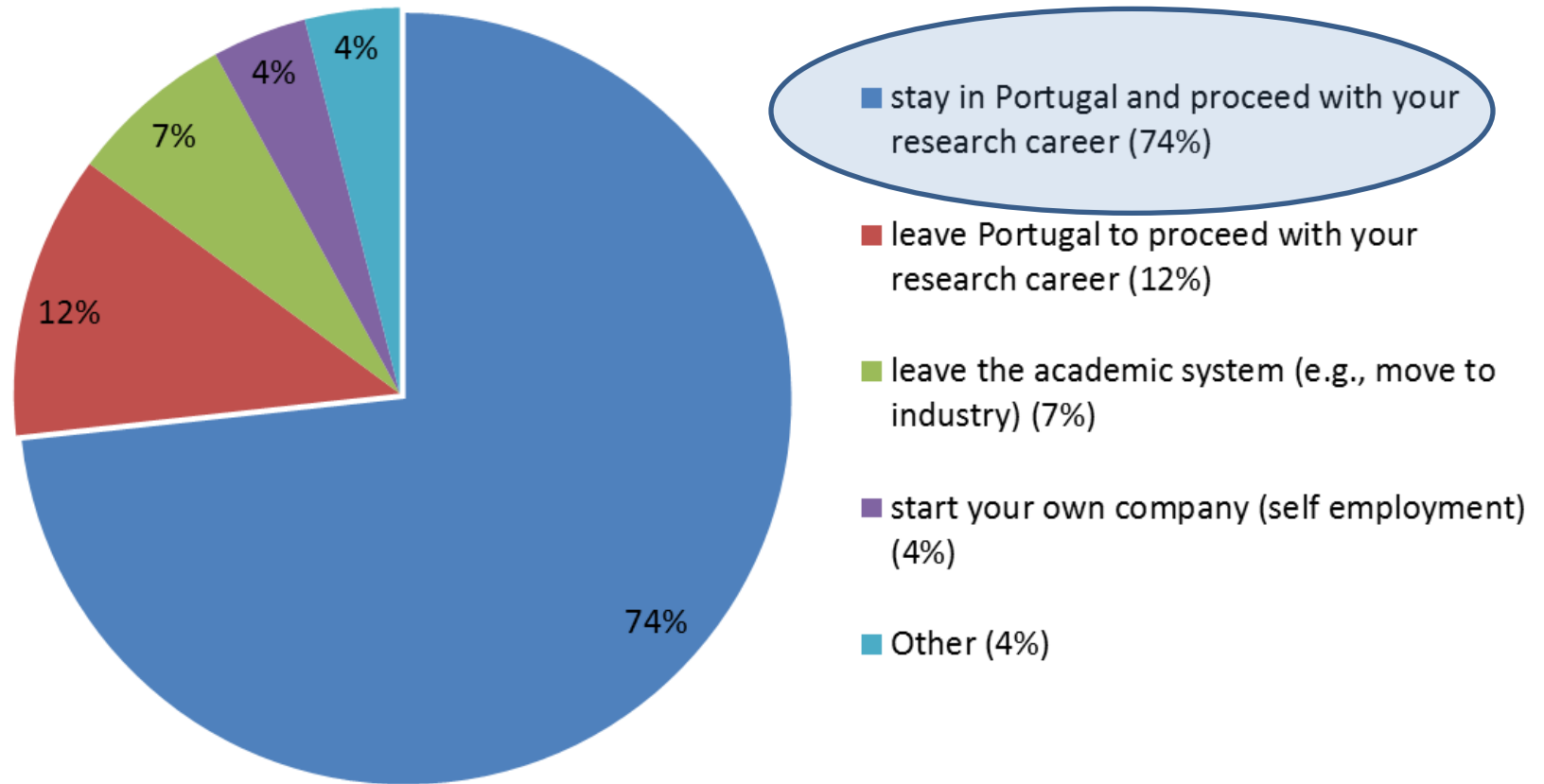
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If you had the possibility to choose you would...



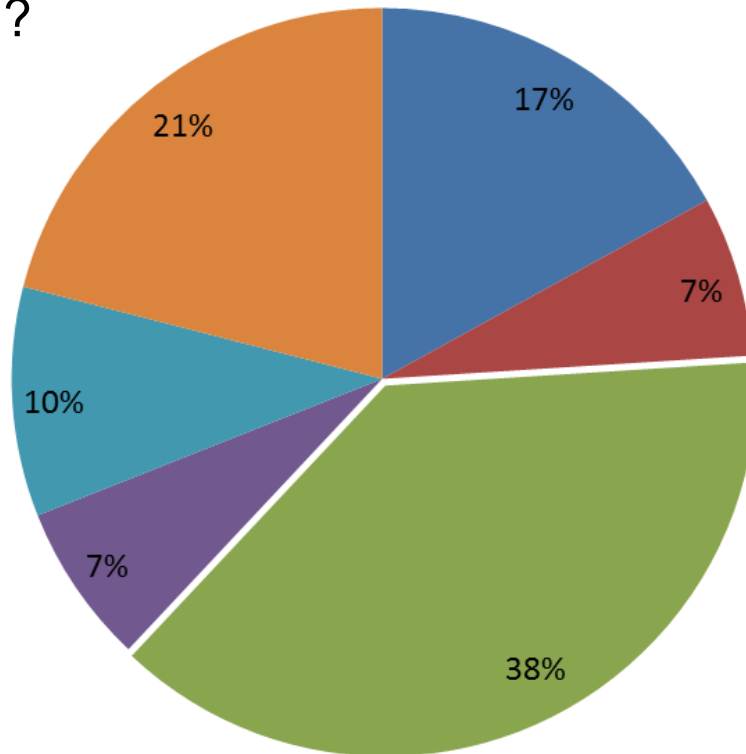
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Which one of these motivations best justifies your decision to leave Portugal?



- You feel disappointed with the research career conditions in Portugal in general (17%)
- You think there are no funding opportunities to support your research (7%)
- Both previous items apply (38%)
- You'll leave because you find mobility is important (7%)
- You have personal reasons (family and others) (10%)
- Other (21%)

Forthcoming Events



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How European research system can better support jobs, the growth and societal well-being, and how European research investment can enhance competitiveness of European industry and increase the innovative capacity.

Vilnius, 14-15 November 2013



RAISING RESEARCHERS' VOICES

OPINIONS ON JOBS, CAREERS AND RIGHTS

Brussels, 21-22 November 2013

Voice of the Researchers Initiative