

Survey of Organized Groups in the Wikimedia Movement

February - March 2019

Report to the Community

**Roles & Responsibilities Working Group
for the Wikimedia Movement Strategy
25 March 2019**

Introduction

The Roles & Responsibilities Working Group for the Wikimedia Movement Strategy undertook to survey 153 organized groups currently operating within the Wikimedia Movement to obtain some baseline information on these groups. A total of 86 groups provided responses, which are summarized in this report; this is a 56% response rate.

No recommendations will be made in this report, as the survey was intended solely to collect baseline information. Further analysis and additional research is likely to be sparked by these initial findings.

The survey was carried out using Qualtrics software under the license of the Wikimedia Foundation. Participants were advised that summary results will be published broadly and will be available to the Wikimedia Community. Summary lists of groups that gave specific responses to particular questions may be provided to other Strategy Working Groups that are seeking particular types of information.

The survey was open from February 1 to March 9, 2019.

For the purpose of this report, the terms “group”, “organization” and “entity” have been used interchangeably.

Limitations of the Survey

An email explaining the purpose of the survey, as well as a link to the survey, was sent out to 153 entities using a contact list for the Wikimedia Summit and a separate contact list maintained by the Wikimedia Foundation Learning & Evaluation team. These two contact lists were not identical, and many groups had different contact names on the two lists. Other groups were present only on one list or the other. As a result, several organizations responded more than once to the survey. The survey team worked with organizations that had multiple responses to ensure the most accurate information was included in the results.

As well, the survey team was aware of the existence of other organized and informal groups within the movement, but had no contact information so could not invite them to participate in the survey.

In addition to the groups included on the two contact lists, the survey team also requested participation of other groups such as WMF Board of Trustees, WMF Board-designated committees, and additional known non-affiliate movement groups for which contact information could be identified.

The survey was available only in English.

There were some technical issues with the survey, which suggests that additional groups may have responded but their responses were not properly registered. There was also difficulty in sending out a reminder email to some groups; the survey closing date was extended to accommodate this.

The response rate was only 56% of the groups that were contacted. Because of this, the results cannot be considered to be completely representative of the organizations in the movement.

One question, (“What year was this group or organization started?”) was interpreted in different ways depending on the group. Some identified the year in which the first informal meetings of the group occurred. Others identified the year in which the group was formally recognized by the WMF or the Affiliations Committee. Because of this discrepancy, this question is not included in the results.

What was surveyed

The survey collected information on the following types of information:

- Basic demographics - type of group, how members join, number of members, when formed
- Structure - level of formalization, number of employees, accountability
- Finances - approximate budget, where funds come from
- Key functions of the group

Interpreting the Results

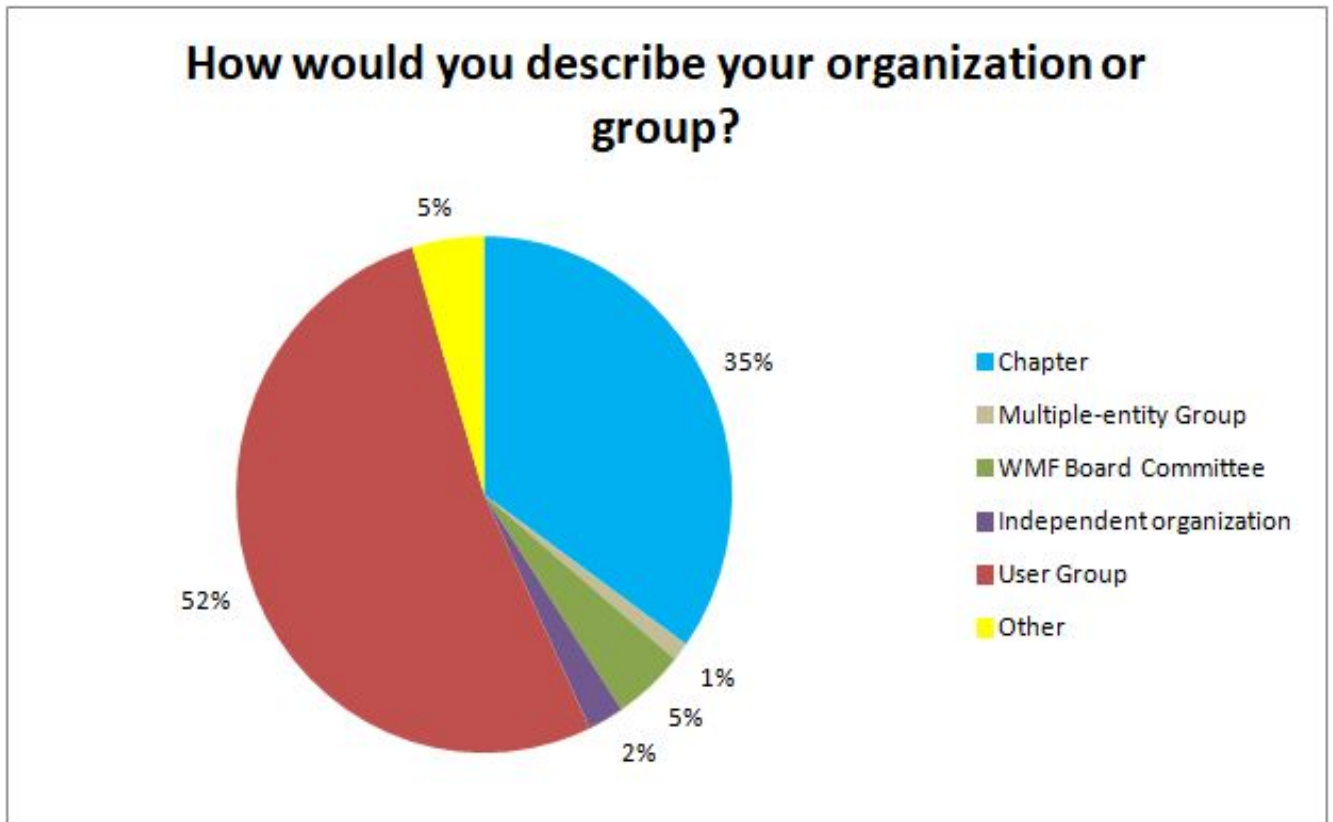
Many of the questions in the survey permitted multiple responses to the same question. These questions are visually represented by bar charts.

Questions that permitted only one response are visually represented by pie charts.

Many questions included an option to identify one or more “other” responses. Those “other” responses were grouped and summarized below the chart.

The Results

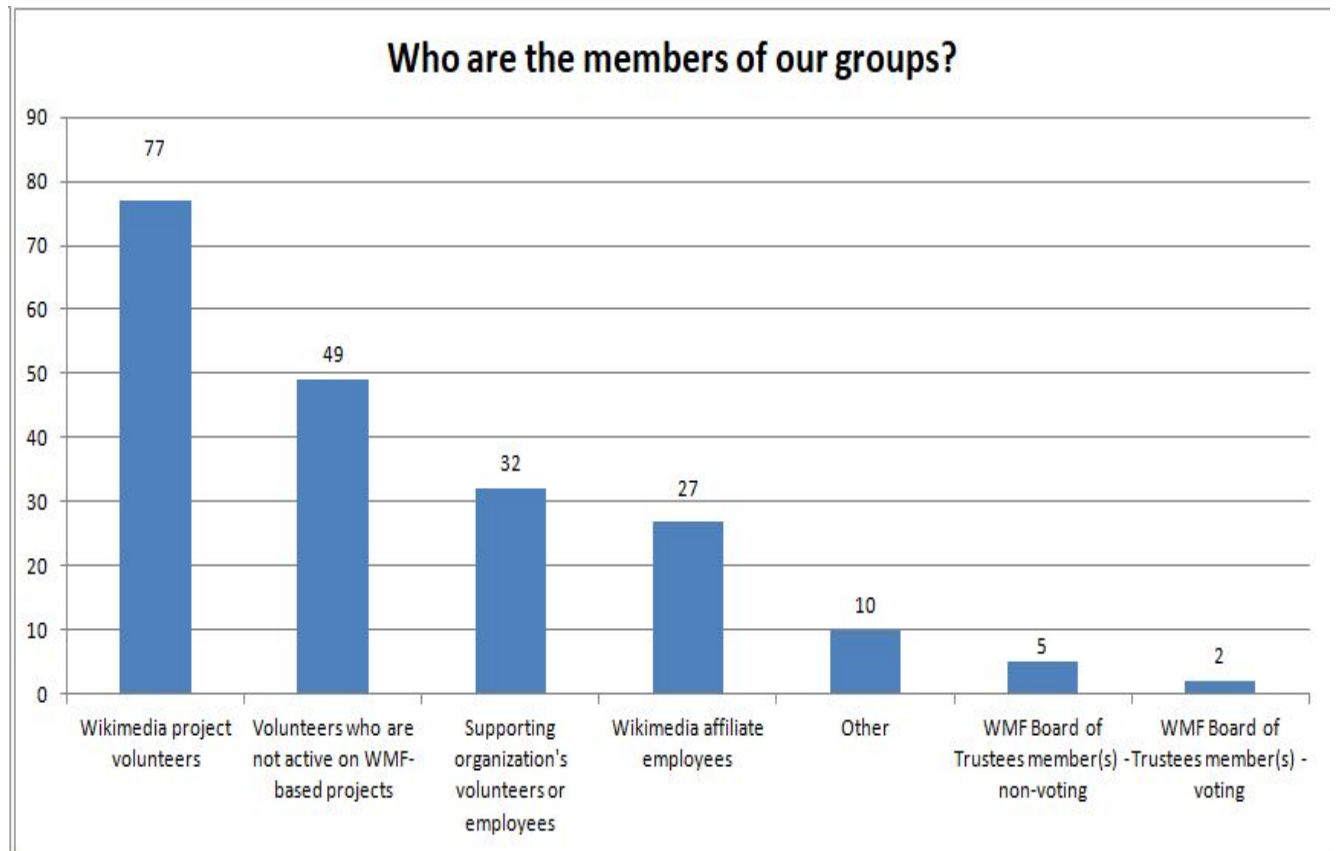
Question: How would you describe your organization or group?



Other responses included:

- Small group of editors
- Informal group (example: Executive Directors group)
- Group in the process of obtaining recognition
- Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees

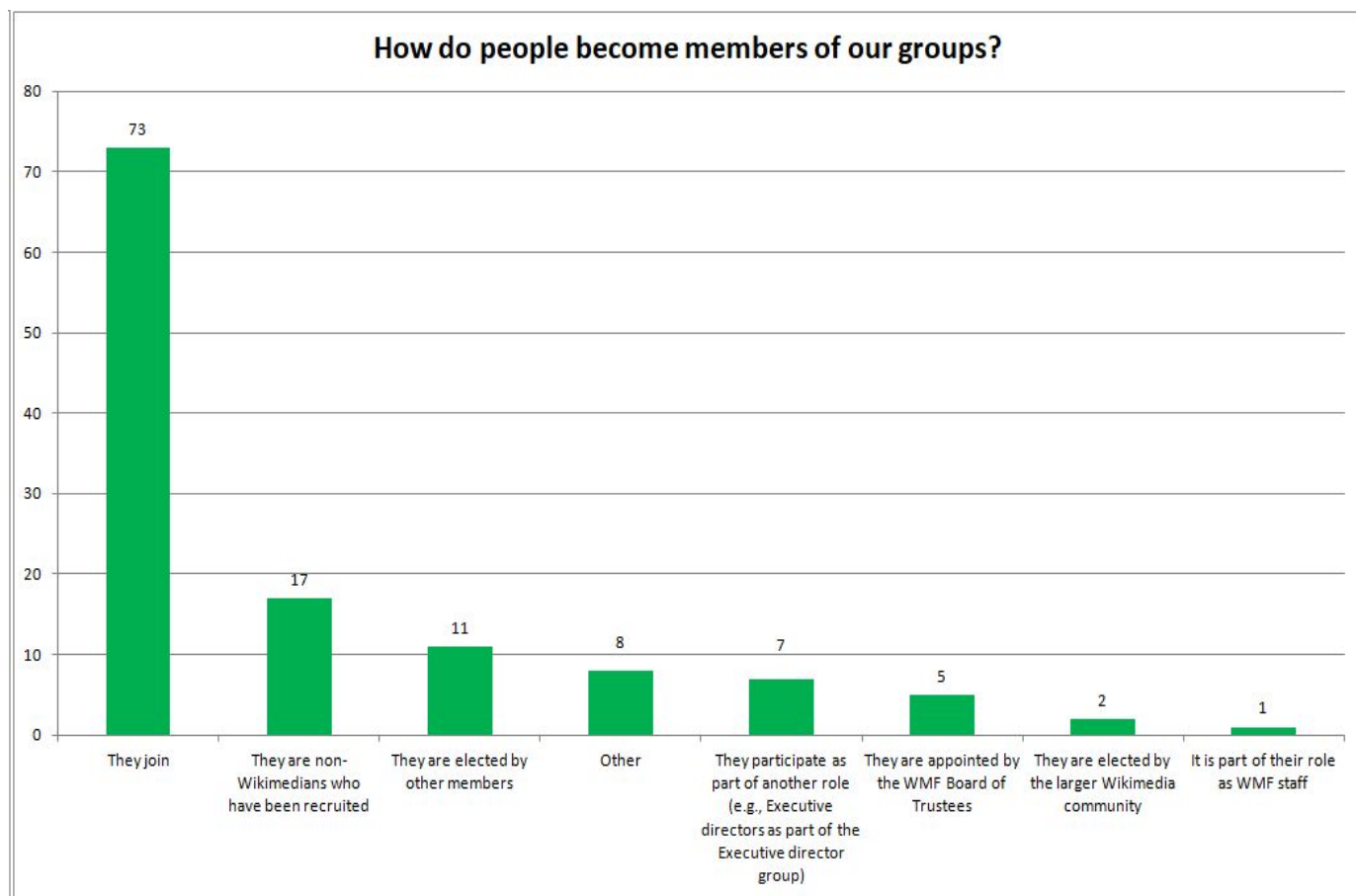
Question: Does your group or organization have any of these types of members? (Choose as many as apply)



Other responses included:

- WMF employees (including non-voting employees, WMF CEO)
- Developers
- Supporters of free knowledge
- Effective members
- Consultants

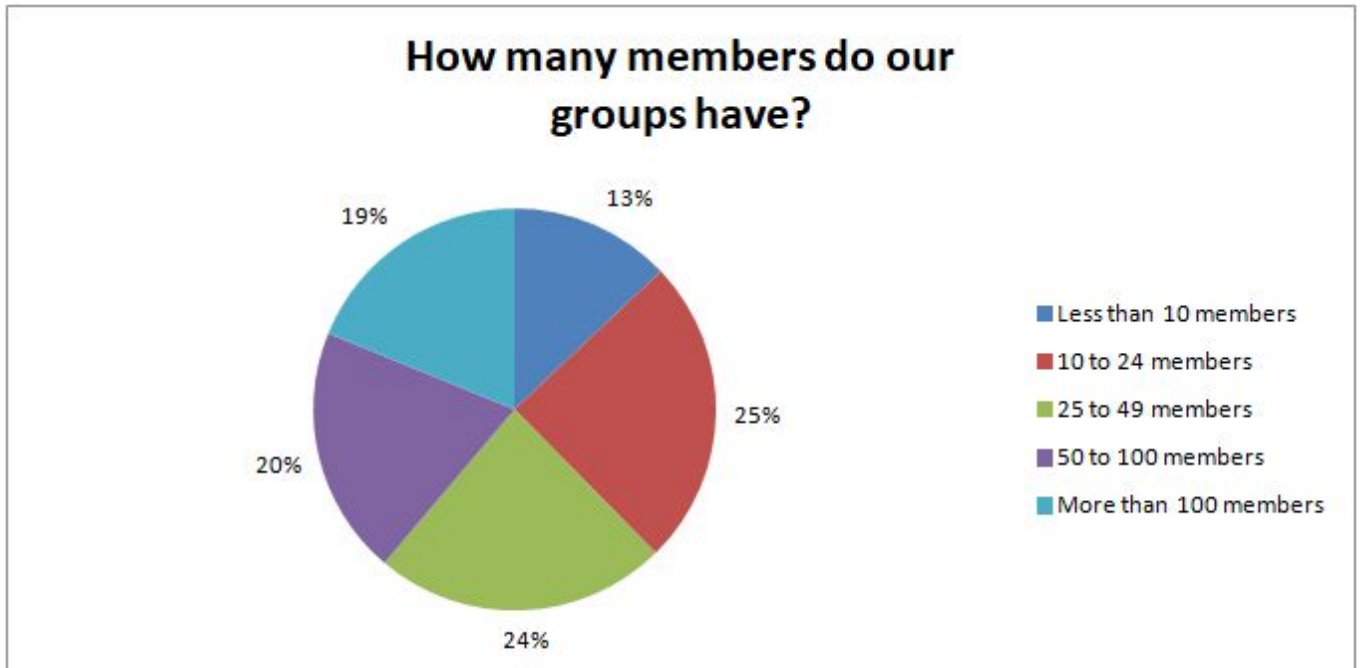
Question: How do people become members of your group or organization? (Choose as many as apply)



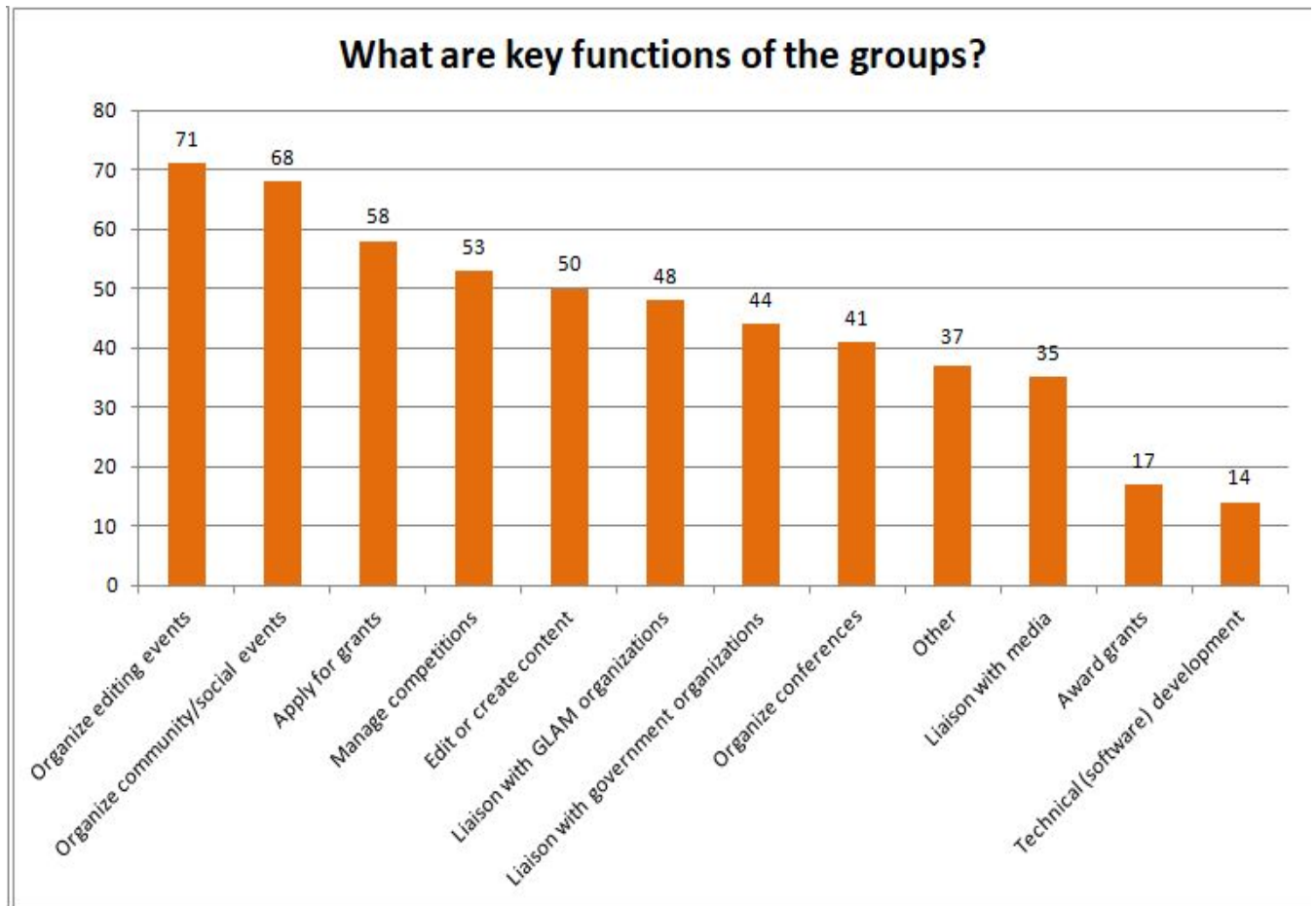
Other responses:

- Prospective members apply and are approved by (chapter) Board
- Accepted by the (chapter) general assembly
- Prospective members must attend a meetup
- Open to anyone
- If they say they are members, they are accepted as members

Question: How many members does your group or organization have now?



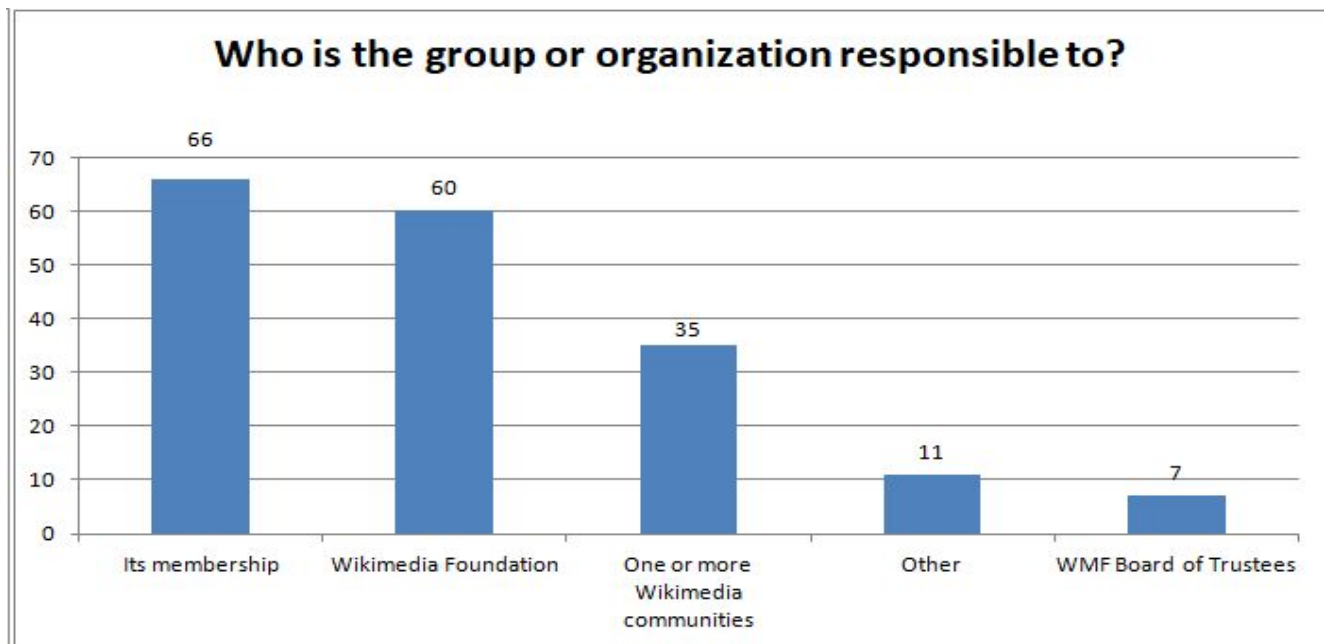
Question: What are the key functions of your group or organization?



Other responses:

- Recruit other/more diverse volunteers
- Create/build partnerships with other institutions (educational, cultural, other non-profits, etc)
- Training/education of new editors
- Create a network of professionals and be a contact point
- Mutual support on technical questions
- WMF Board committees identified their defined purposes (election, privacy policy issues, etc)
- Collaborations across the same project in different languages
- Support members in running their initiatives and participating in local/global events
- Advocacy (local, national, European Union)
- Education & development of leaders, organizational executives, and staff
- Support Wikimedia movement work in countries where there is no formal presence
- Educating and collaborating with others about free knowledge, open data, etc.
- Collaborate with other chapters and movement groups (geographic proximity or shared/similar language)

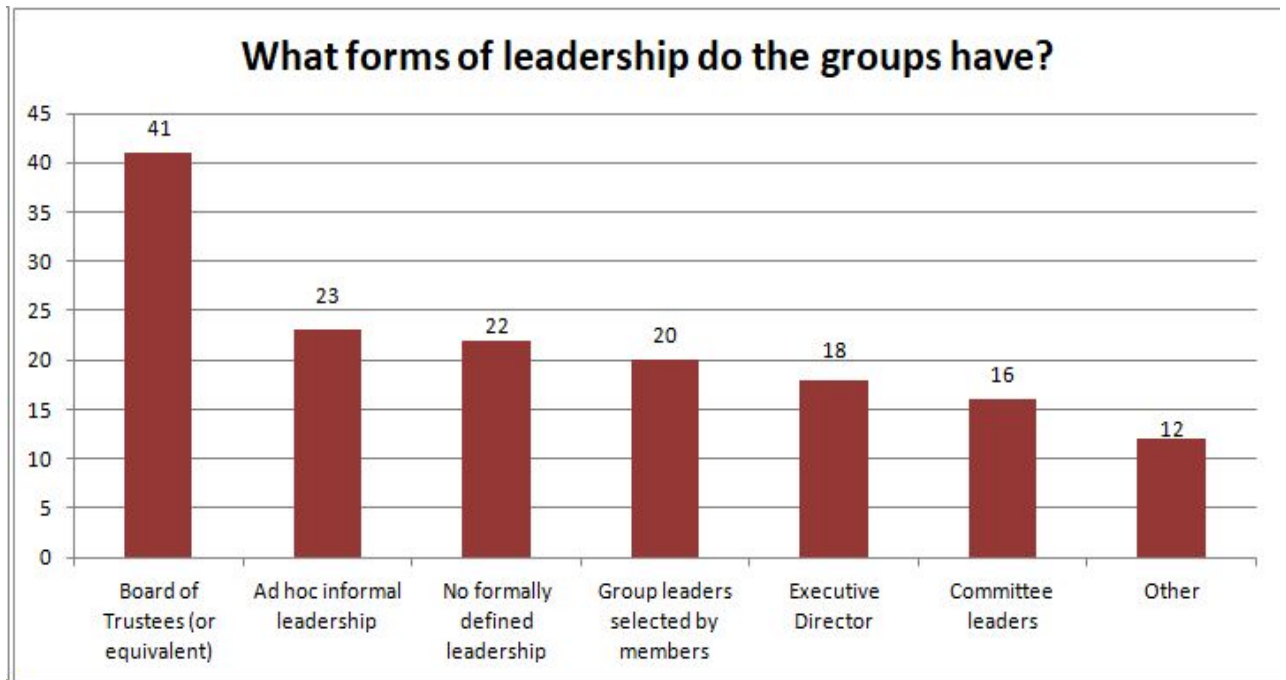
Question: Who is your group or organization responsible to? (Choose as many as apply)



Other responses:

- Local/national governmental or regulatory body
- General public
- Donors and funders
- Internal board of directors
- Third party MediaWiki users
- Other stakeholders

Question: What forms of leadership does your group have? (Choose as many as apply)

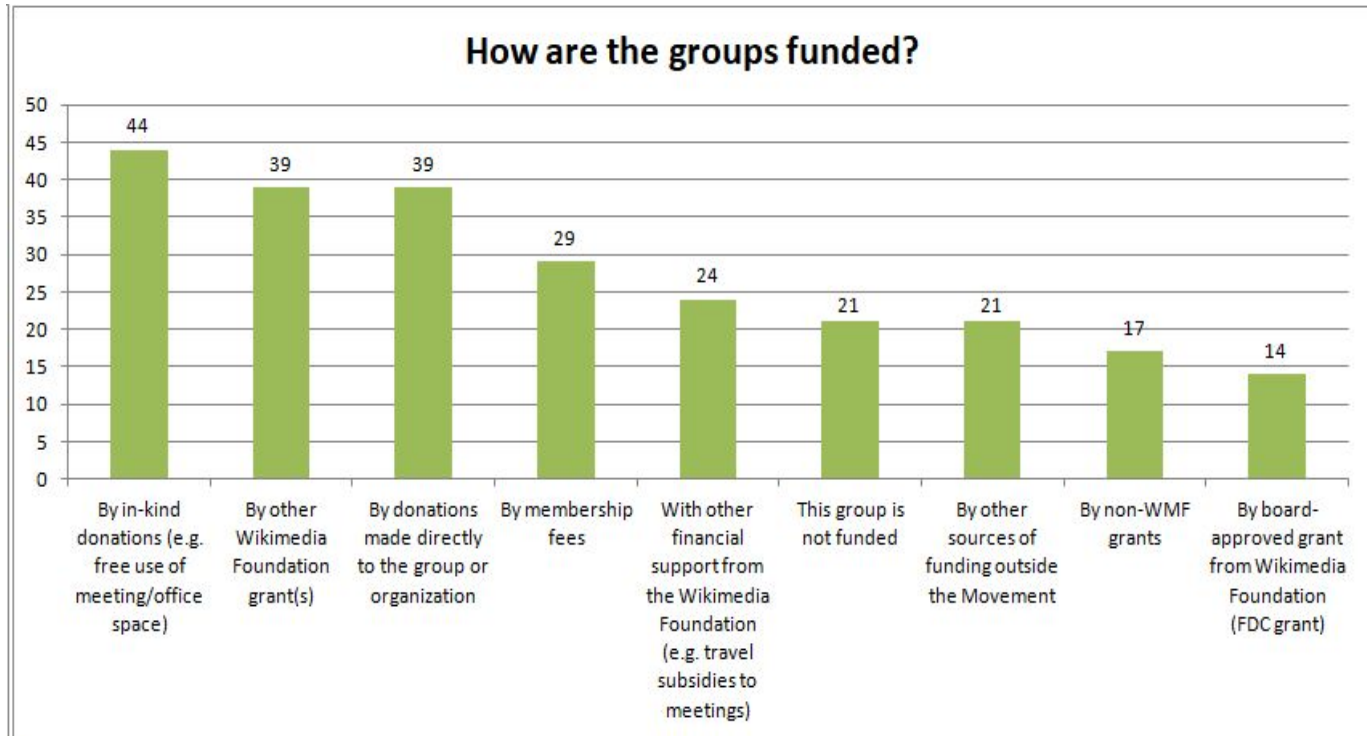


Other responses:

- Expert groups working in thematic areas
- Appointed volunteer regional co-ordinators
- Transitioning from informal leadership to formal non-profit with directors & officers
- Staff, in accord with their defined scope
- Program manager
- General Assembly
- Group votes for particular topics (via mailing list or on-wiki)
- Informal leadership partly selected by community, with direct appointments

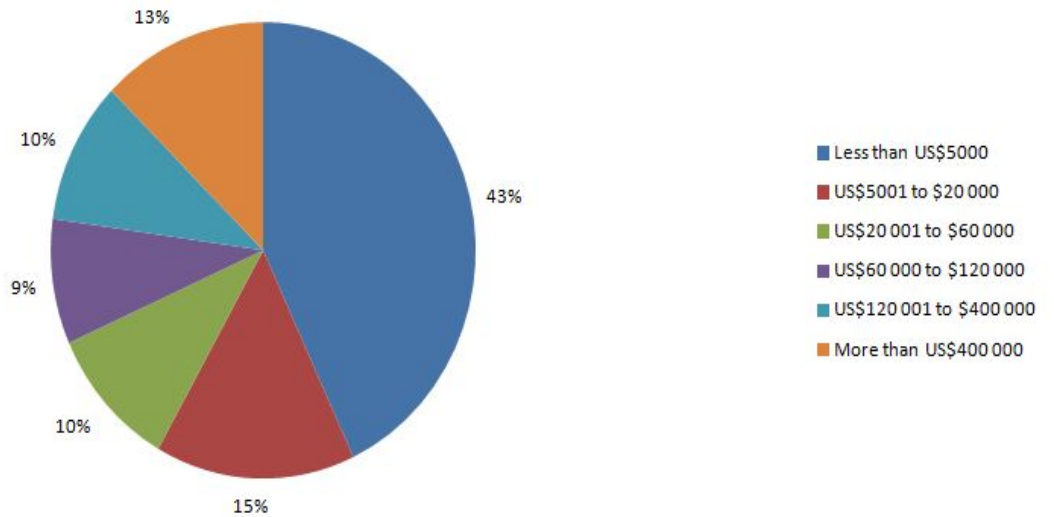
Question: How is your group or organization funded? (Choose as many as apply)

NOTE: The responses to this question were curated by the survey team. Specifically, only FDC-funded chapters are included in that category, and other groups that had selected that category were changed to funding by other WMF grants. As well, any group that received any kind of grant was removed from the “Not funded” category.



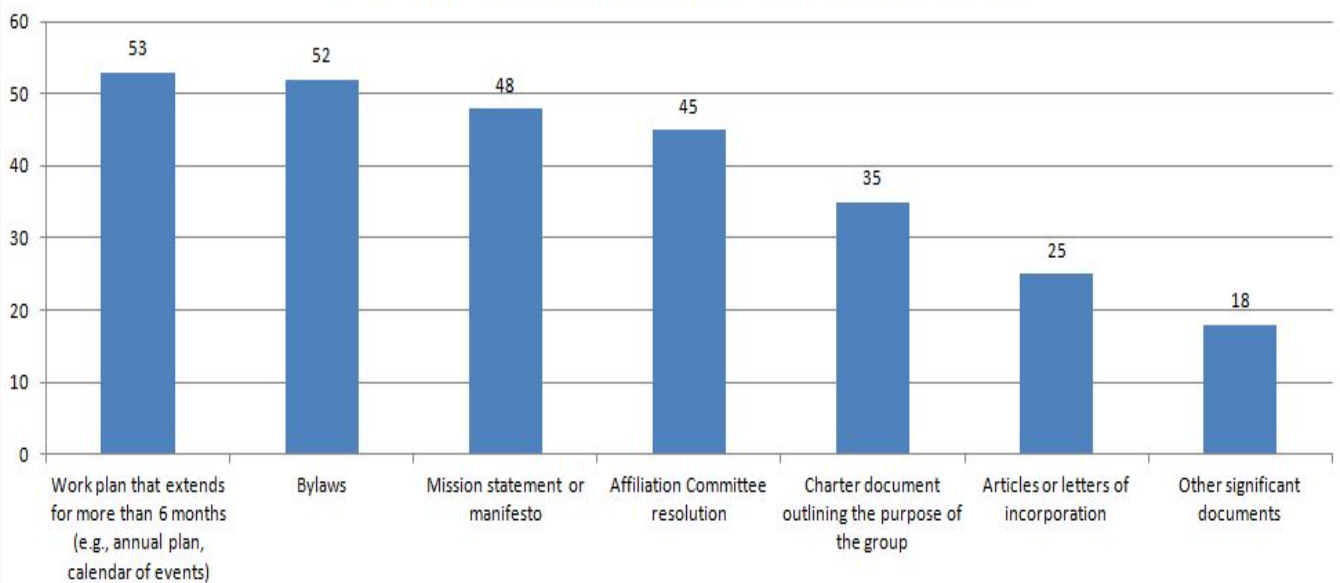
Question: What is your group's annual operating budget?

What is the annual operating budget of the groups?



Question: Does your group have any of the following...? (Choose as many as apply)

What types of documentation do the groups have?

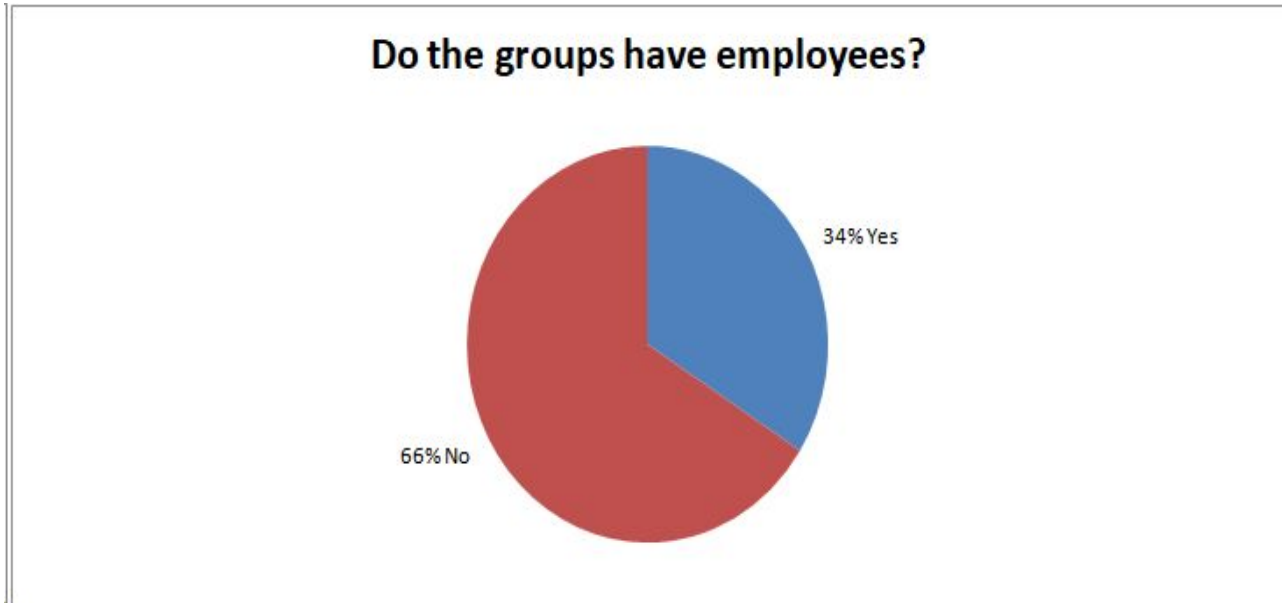


Other significant documents:

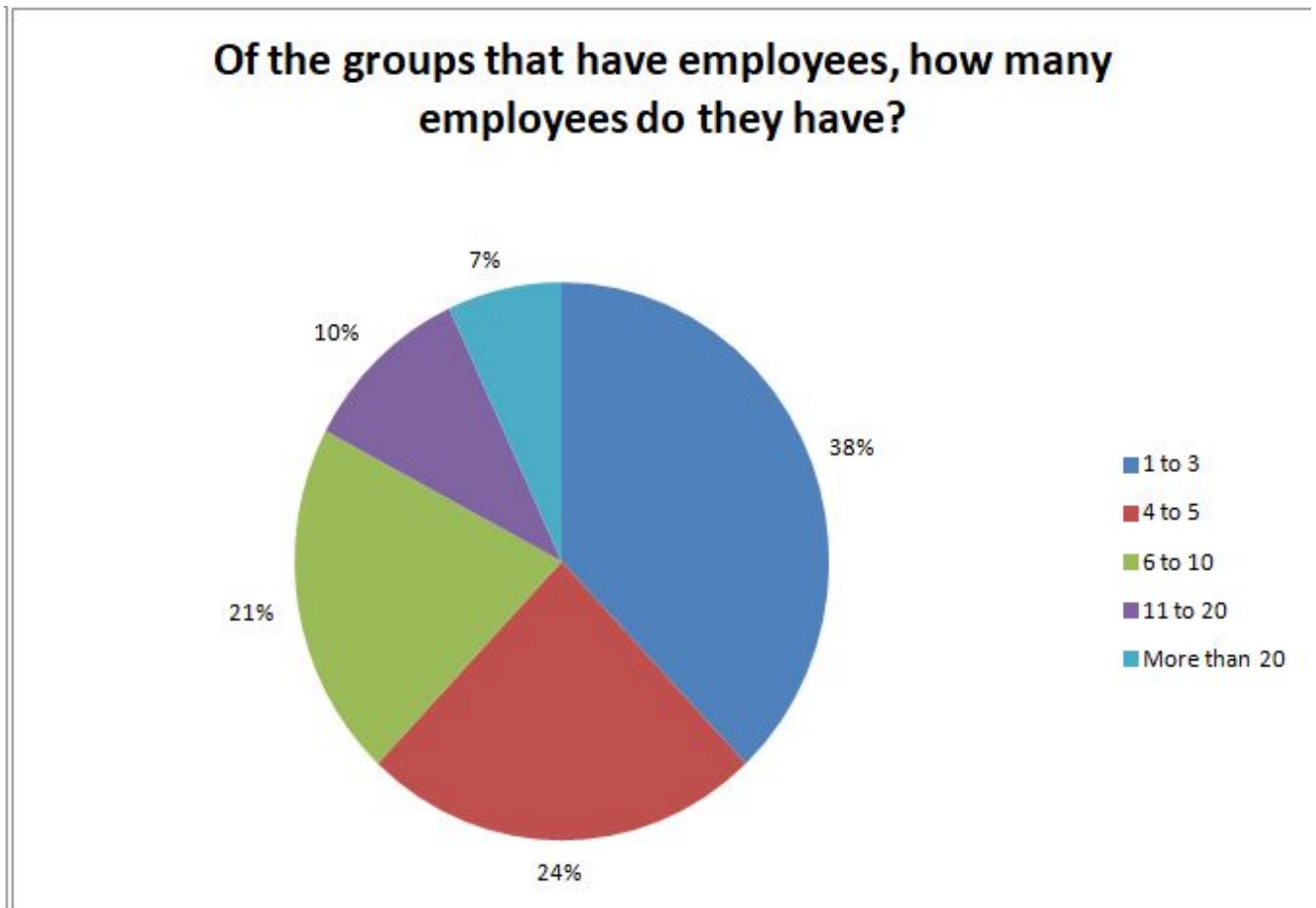
- Strategic plan
- Documentation of activities on-wiki or through Google Drive
- Internal policies, procedures, rules
- Code of conduct
- Board handbook
- Documents are in development
- Awaiting approval from Affiliations Committee for bylaws in order to proceed to incorporate

- Ethics statement
- Informal documents outlining purpose of group

Question: Does your group or organization have employees?



Question: (If yes to having employees) How many employees?



Question: Does your group or organization partner with other Wikimedia Movement organizations?

