Digital Horizons: Transforming Early Childhood Intervention from Global Trends to German Practices

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Content

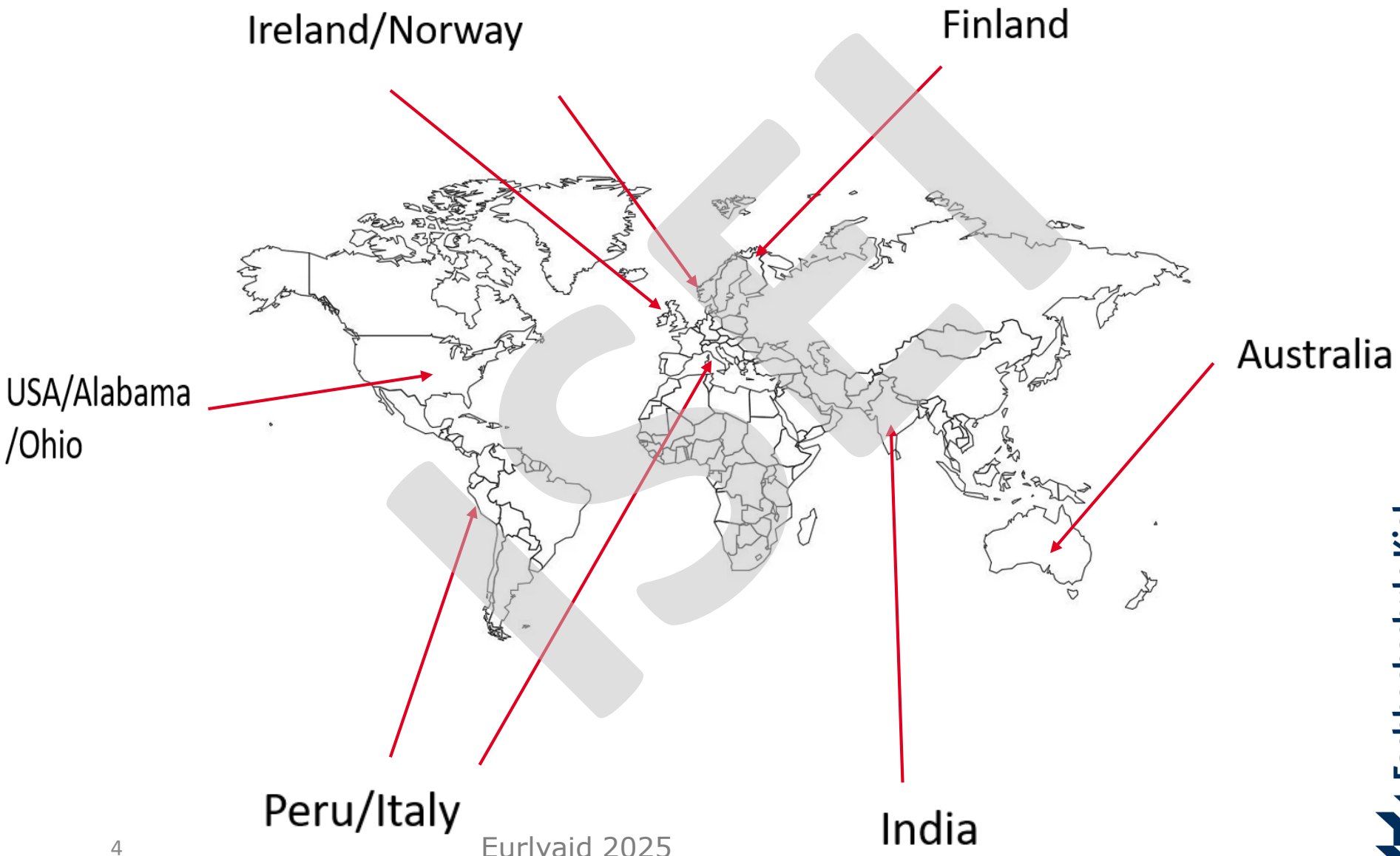
- Digitality as reality
- State of the art
- Online-survey: Germany
- Discussion

Digitality as reality

- Prenatal googling (Lev 2013)
- Momfluencer/Kidfluencer (Menzel 2024; Digón-Regueiro & Sánchez-Blanco 2024)
- miniKIM study (MPFS 2023)
- …

Given the flood of digital information available to parents of young children, how can professionals in early childhood intervention remain an authentic and accessible source of reliable information?

State of the art: global trends



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Global trends

Aguilar et al. (2018):
Evidence of the effectiveness of web-based training for parents of three- to nine-year-old children with traumatic brain injury in promoting executive functions

Tomeny et al. (2025):
Feasibility of remote coaching for ECI professionals in mobile ECI for families with young children under three years of age with ASD. Results include: Remote coaching is a professional method that can be implemented at the community level to support ECI professionals in their work.

Global Trends

Cimino et al. (2022): Effectiveness of an online intervention for 24-month-old children with eating problems, improvement in the quality of mother-child interaction, and reduction in psychopathological symptoms in mothers (including anxiety and depression)

Global trends

Sourander et al. (2018): Effects of an internet-based training program for parents of four-year-old children with oppositional behavior, instructional videos, weekly telephone conversations with therapists, behavioral changes in children were examined using the CBCL, follow-up after two years showed stable positive behavioral changes

Rissanen et al. (2024): Investigation of the cost-effectiveness of digital parenting training for parents with young children exhibiting behavioral problems. Overall, it was not found that digital intervention resulted in cost savings compared to non-digital intervention.

Global trends

Bharat et al. (2023): Review of the benefits of mHealth apps in supporting parents of children with autism spectrum disorder in everyday life; parents rated the benefits of the apps as similarly positive as personal support from specialists, while also noting cost savings and promotion of desired changes in the child

Global trends

OECD/Wyeth et al. (2023): Use of digital technologies to support children with disabilities, systematic review of assistive technologies for children with disabilities, examples of the use of digital tools, emphasis on training and continuing education for professionals who use the tools together with the children

Fleming et al. (2021): Effectiveness of an online training program on parent-child interaction for parents of children (aged 1½–4 years) with behavioral problems, significant improvements in children's behavioral problems and parent-child interaction, high parental satisfaction with the intervention

Global trends

Ferguson et al. (2022):
Impact of a digital platform for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders: access to relevant information for parents through use of the platform, better informed, increased self-efficacy, exchange with other parents, and social support

Medin et al. (2024): The digital information platform "Nutrition Now" provides parents and professionals who work with children aged 0 to 2 years with reliable, easily accessible, and up-to-date recommendations on infant nutrition.

Digitality as reality (in Germany)

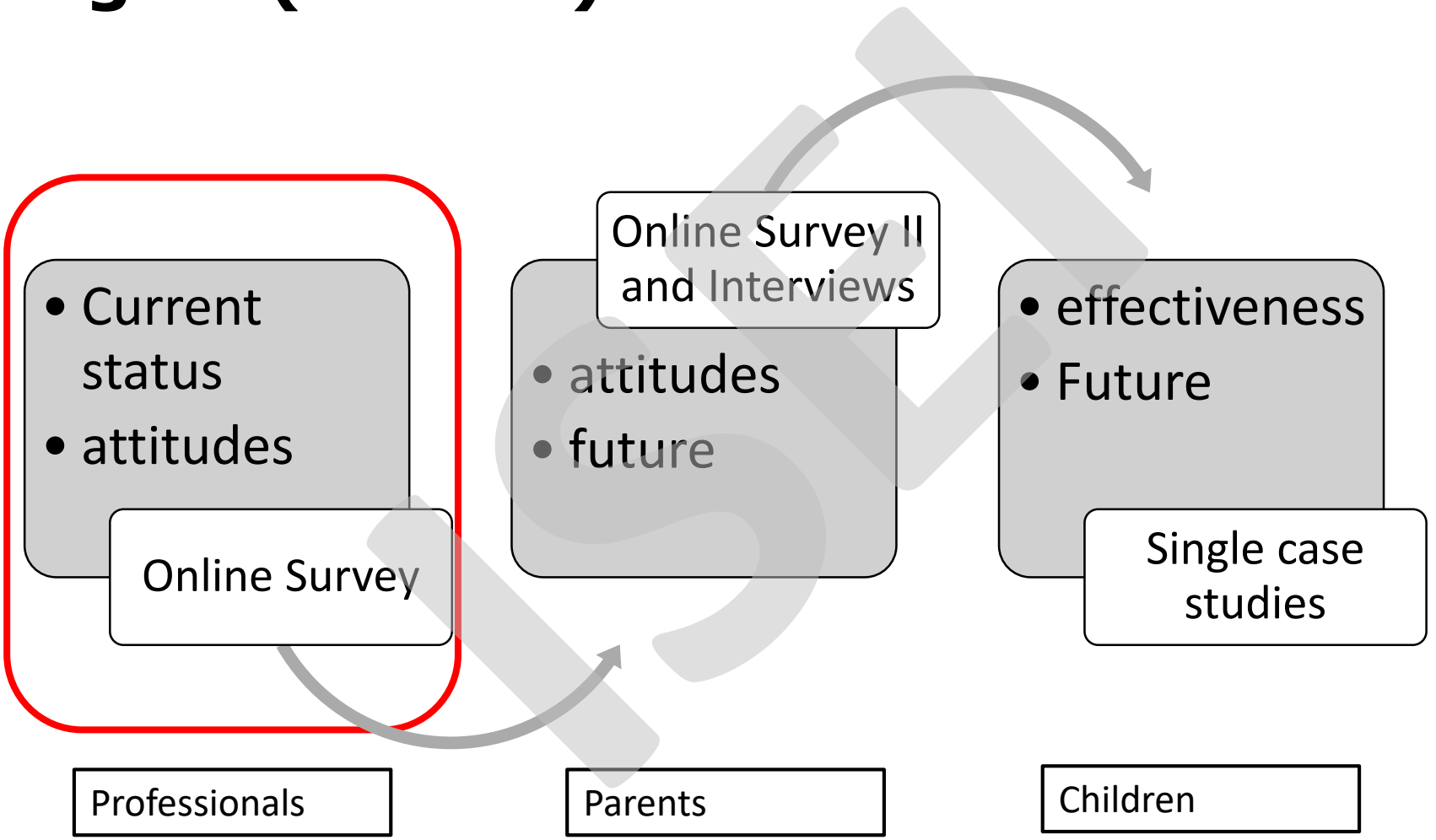
- Around every fifth child at the age of 2-3 years has personal access to a laptop for children
- 98% of all households with small children have access to internet
- 95% of these households dispose at least one smartphone
- 28% of all children between 4-5 years have personal access to a tablet

(MPFS 2023, 6ff)

Aims of DigiFF

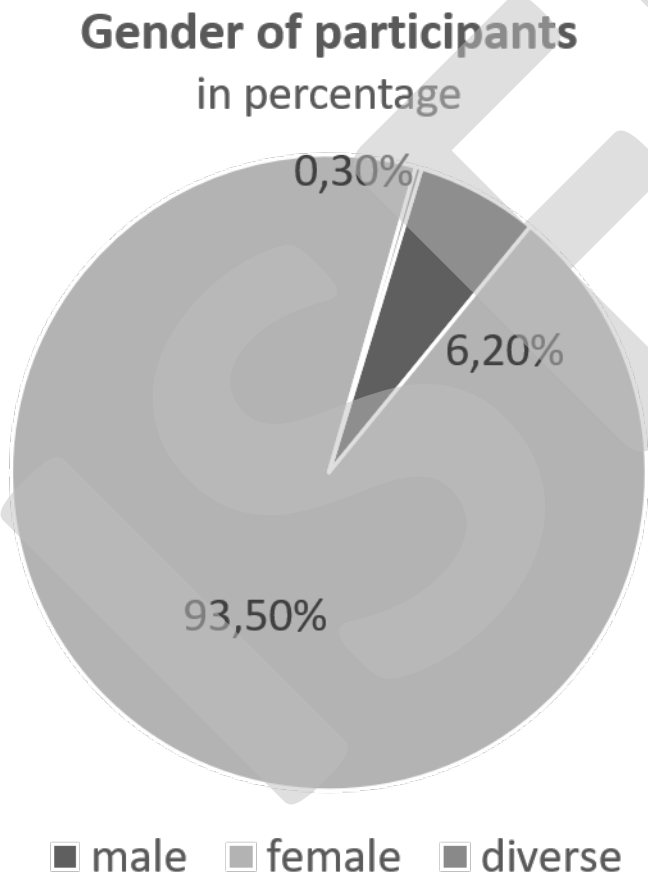
1. Analysis of existing digital methods and offerings
2. Investigation of the acceptance and needs of digital-supported intervention from the perspective of professionals and parents
3. Reviewing the effectiveness of digital-supported intervention
4. Development of possible targeted future use of digital-supported intervention in ECI

DigiFF (2022-?)



Pilot study: Online Survey (2022)

participants: 323 (professionals in ECI)



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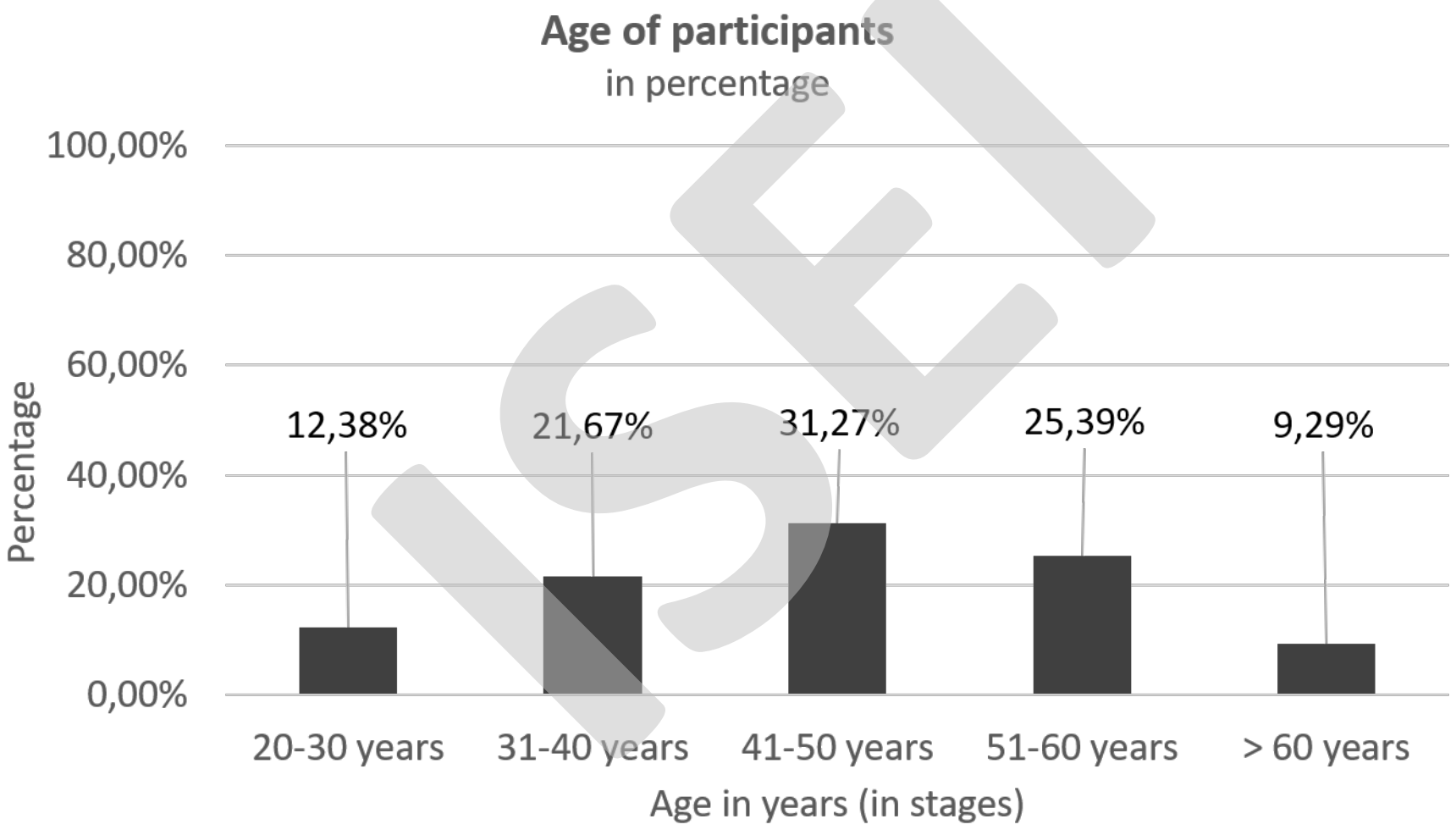
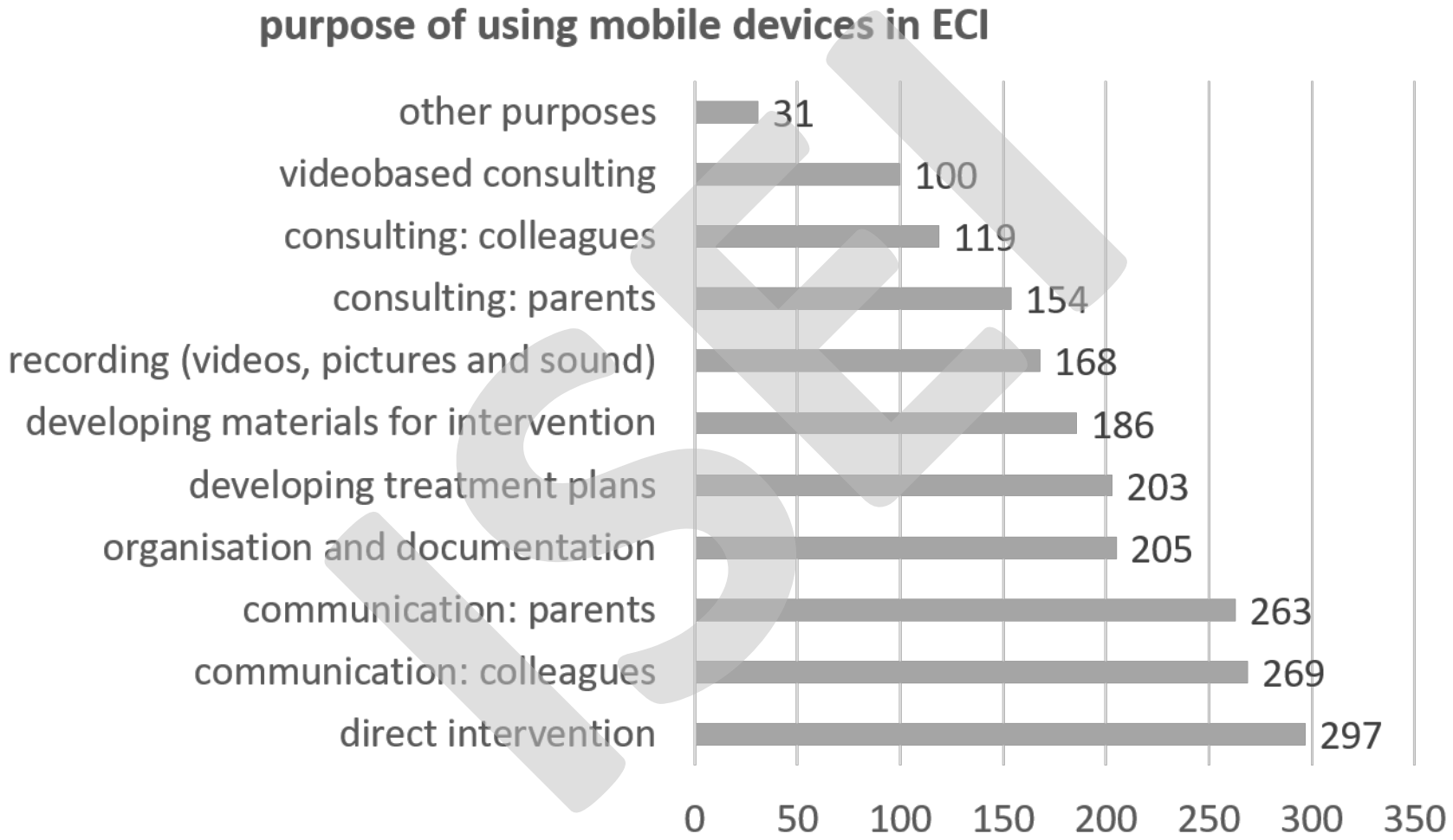
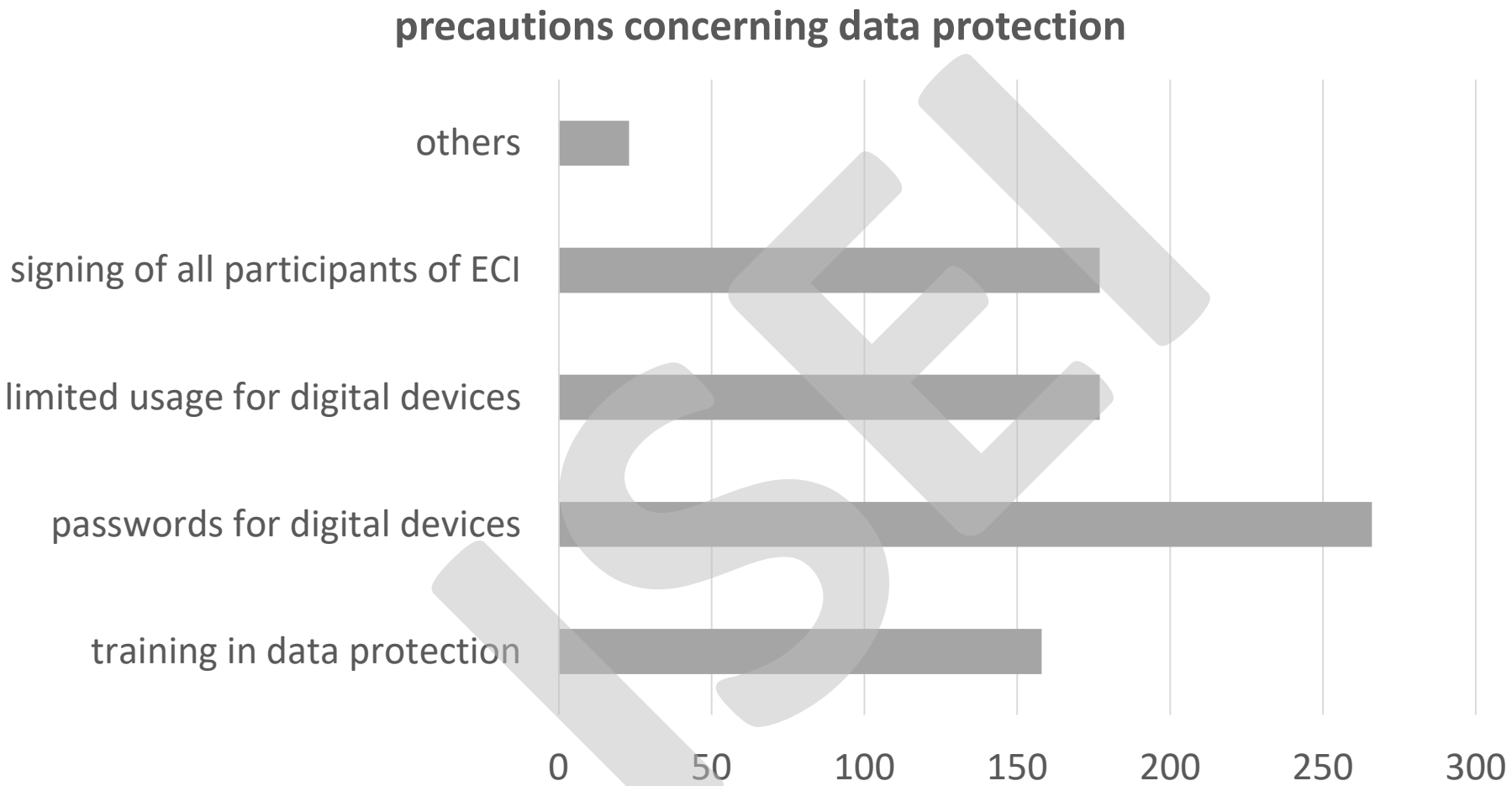
Results: sociodemographic information

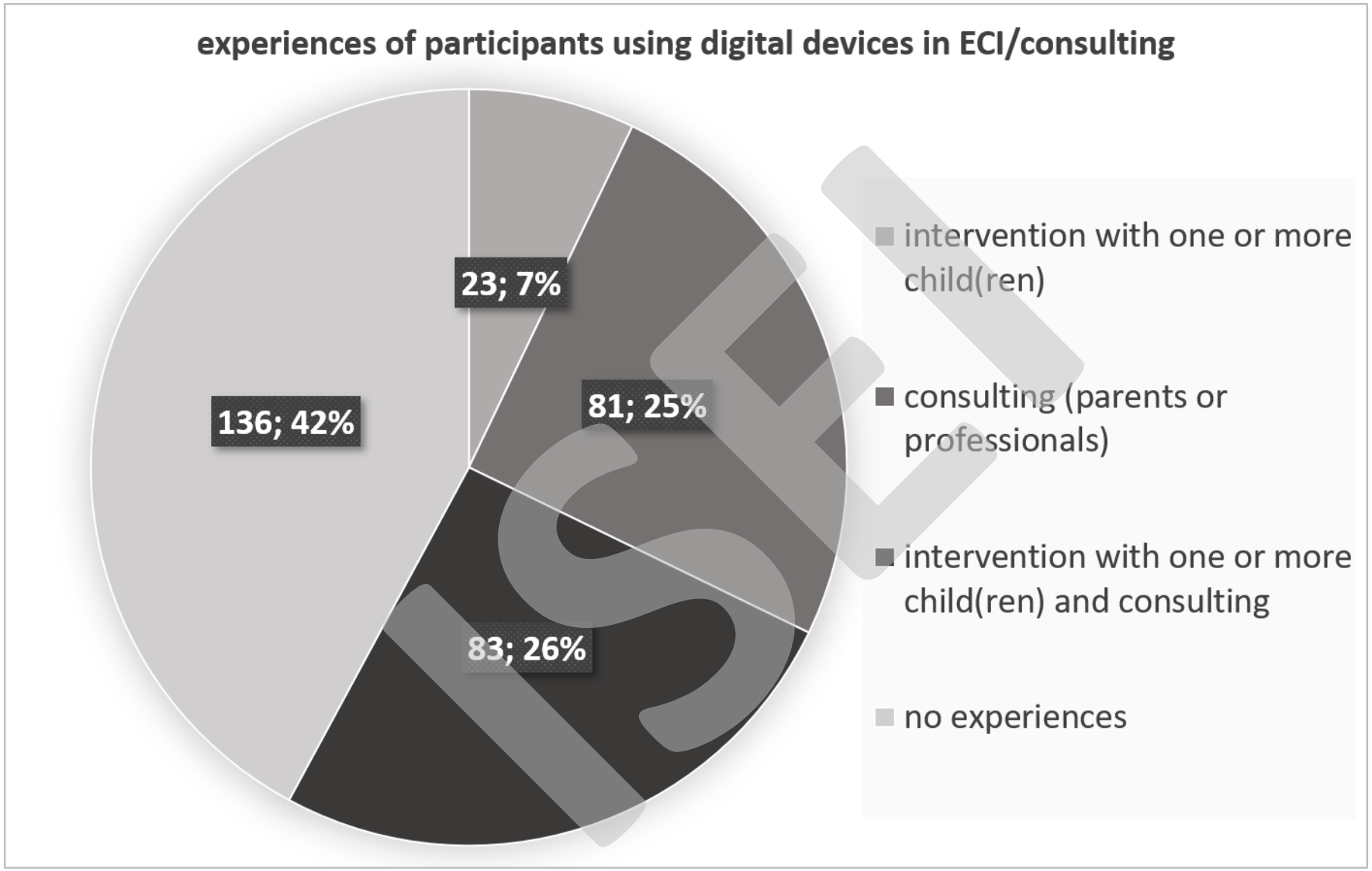




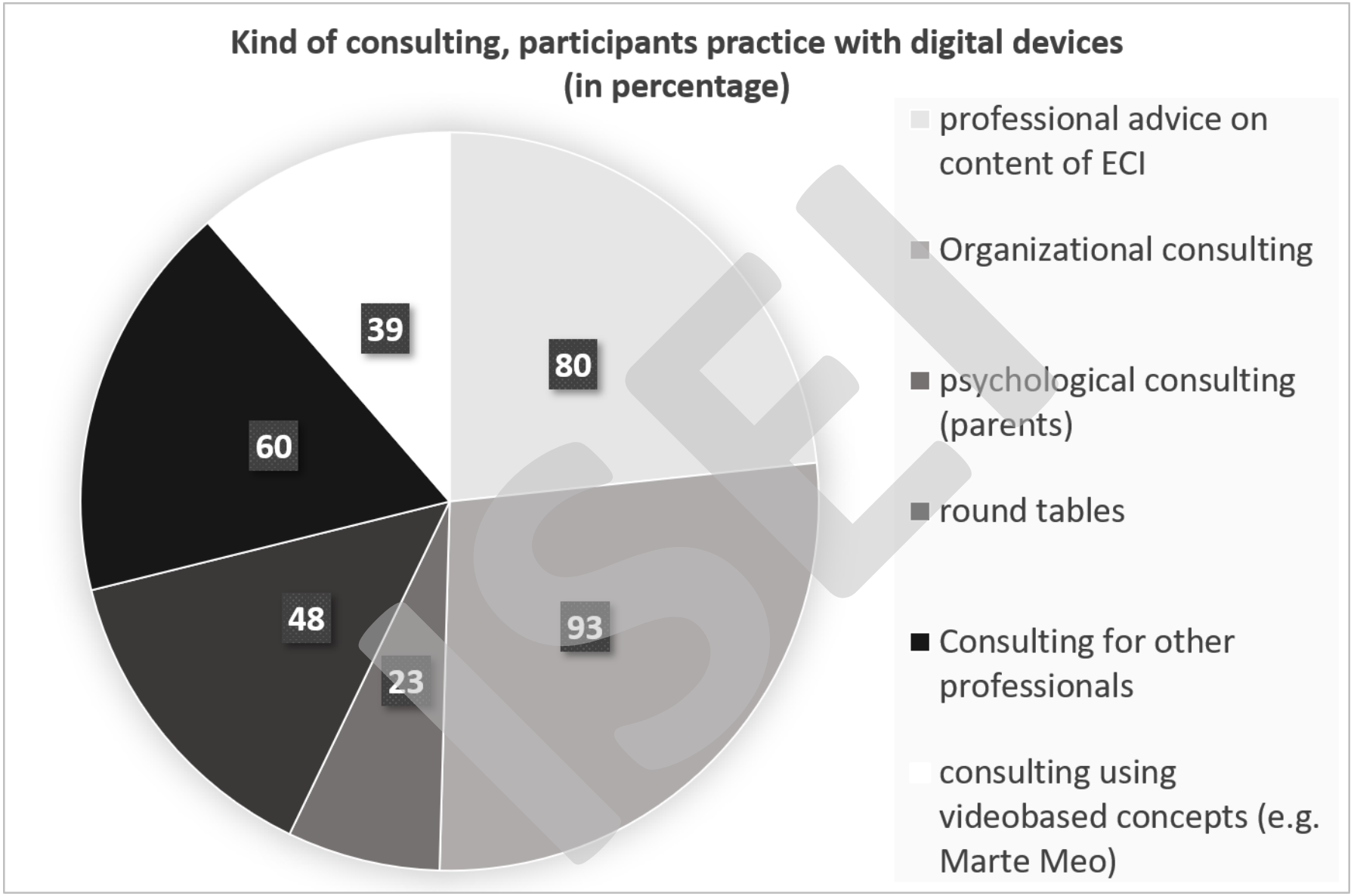
Results in absolute numbers, multiple mention possible, n=323



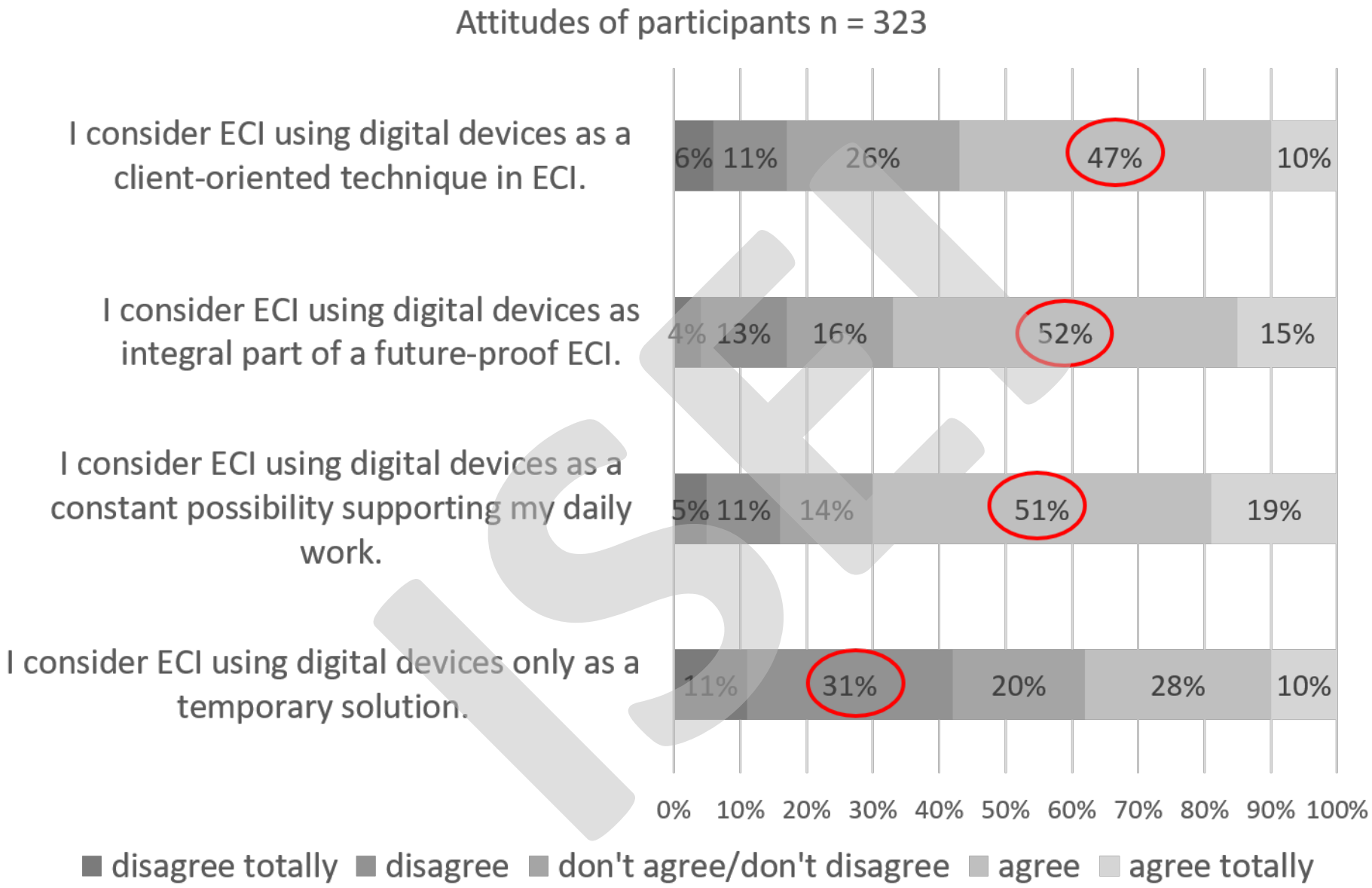
Results in absolute numbers, multiple mention possible, n=323



Results in absolute numbers and percentage, n=323



Results in absolute numbers, multiple mention possible, n=164



Conclusion of Results

- Ambivalence in acceptance
- Uncertainties in data protection
- Primary use: consulting

Discussion

- What are your experiences with digitality in ECI?
- What are next steps to implement the usage of digital devices in ECI practice facing the results?
- What can be global initiatives to establish concepts and methods based on digitality in ECI?

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Thank you for your attention!

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