



2016 DRUSSA Benchmarking Survey

Leadership and Benchmarking Conference

– Key findings and lessons for the future

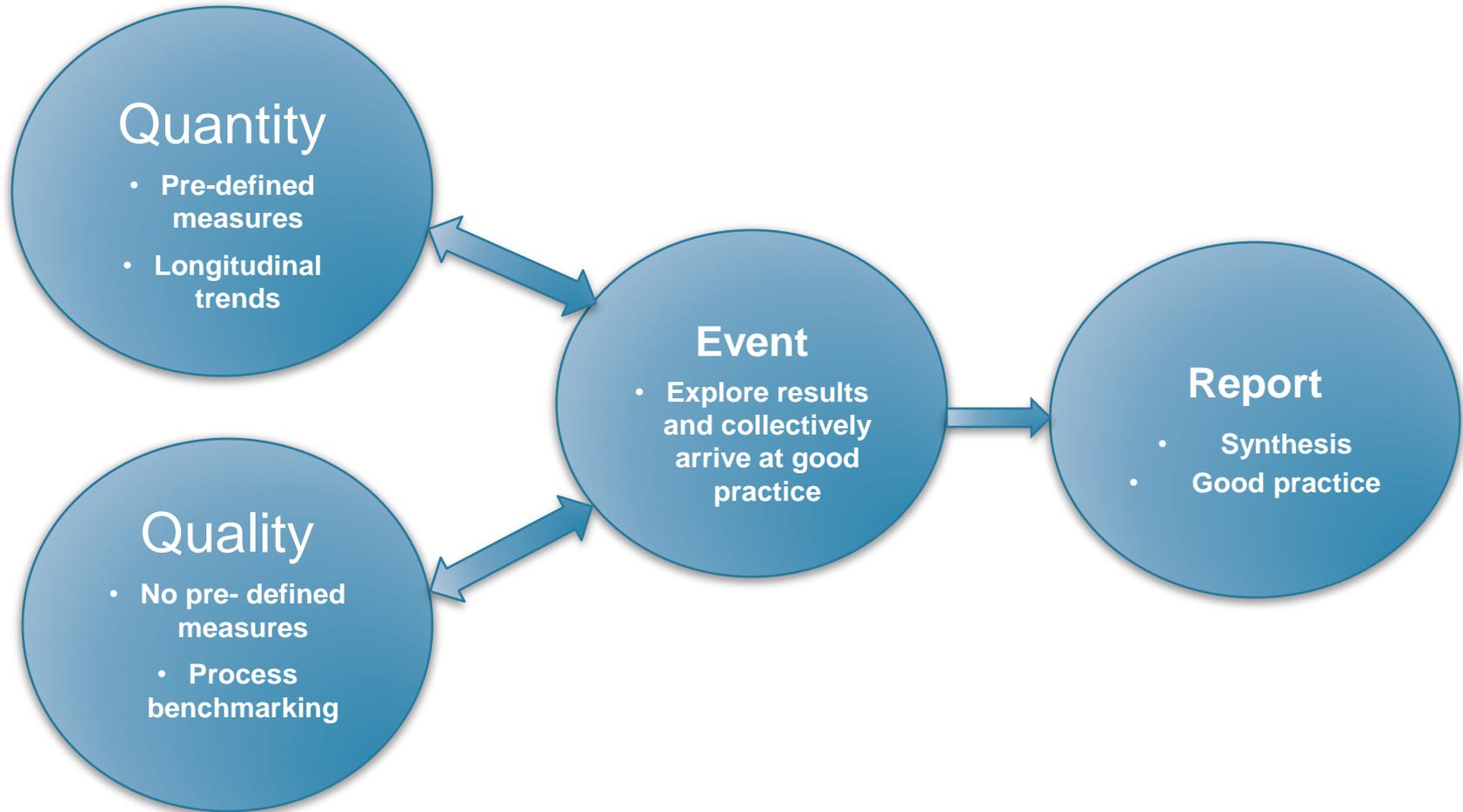
April 25-27 2016, Reduit, Mauritius



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



Approach to benchmarking in DRUSSA



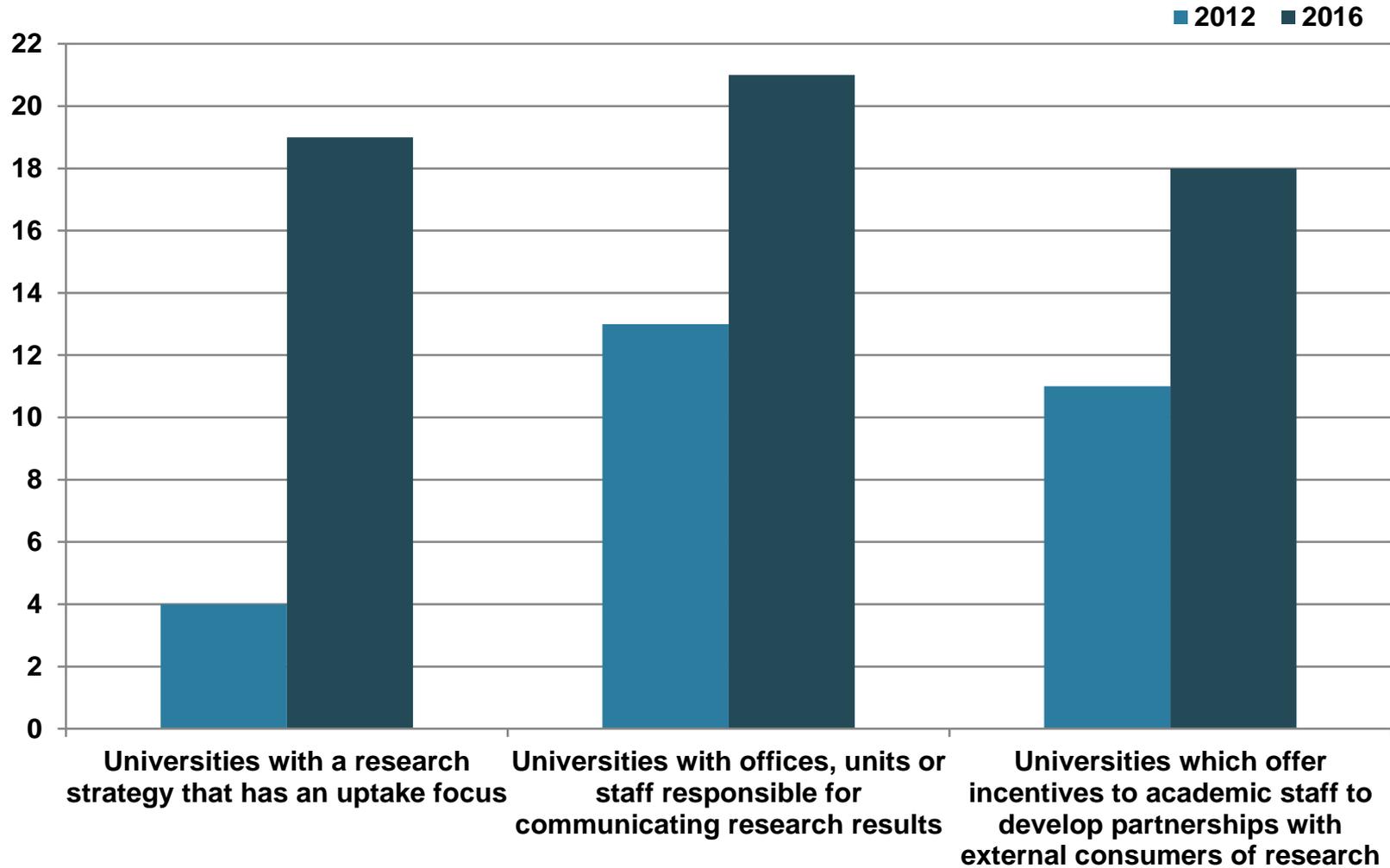
Benchmarking 2016 – Themes

- **Research Uptake Strategy:** covers university management, structures and functions relating to Research Uptake, focusing on top-level support
- **Research Uptake Processes:** looks at university processes to communicate research results, including how results are prepared and assessed for end-users of research
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** covers university procedures to engage external stakeholders, particularly relationships with key stakeholders to drive research results into policy and practice.
- **Disseminating research:** addresses university processes to communicate and publicise research to the wider public to raise the profile of the university.

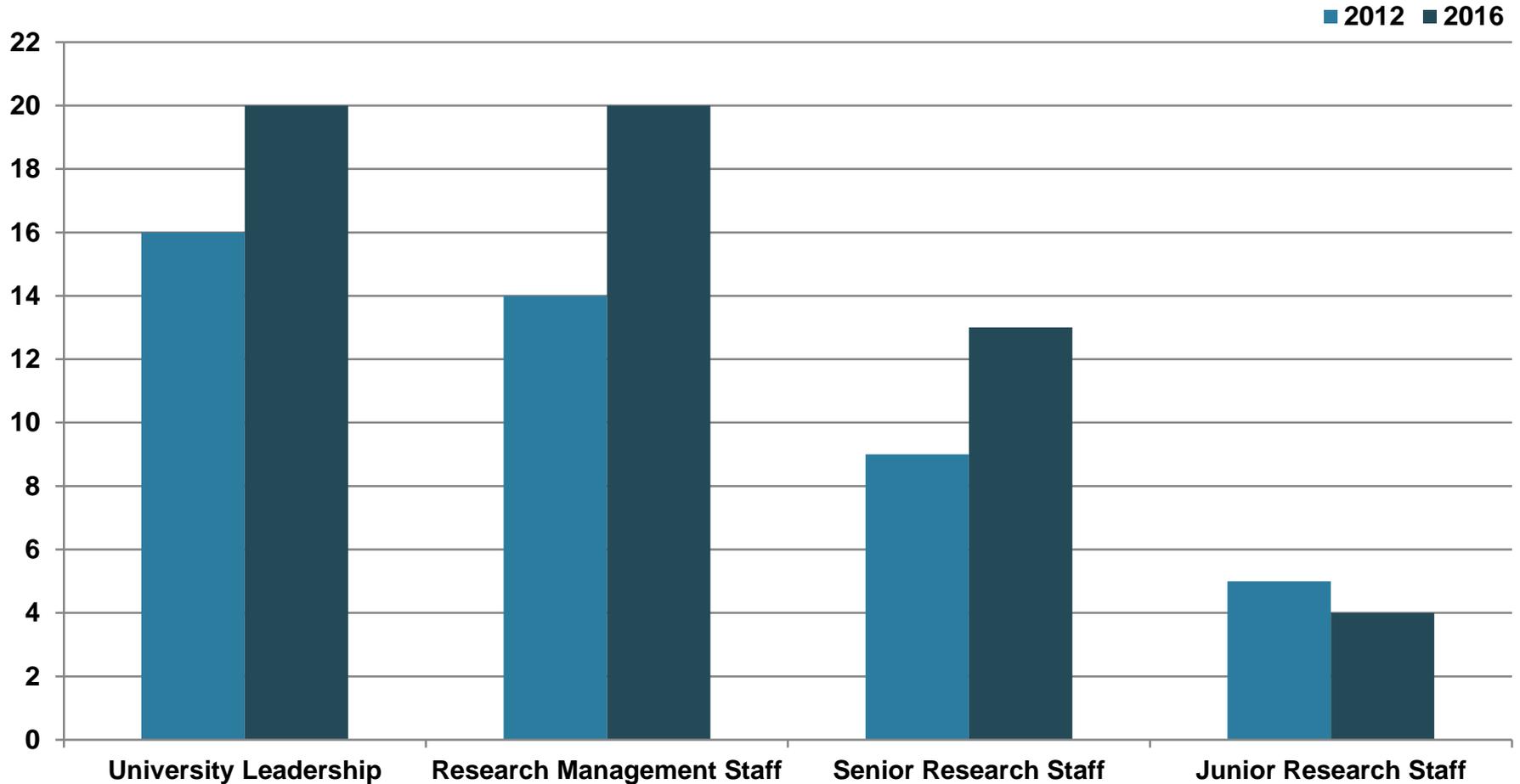
Results – 2012-2016

Theme	Key findings
Research Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="660 225 1754 344">• Increase in research policies / strategies emphasising research uptake<li data-bbox="660 401 1624 519">• Increase in number of offices/posts dedicated to research uptake<li data-bbox="660 576 1798 752">• Increased in incentives for academic staff/departments to develop partnerships with external stakeholders<li data-bbox="660 809 1669 928">• Growth in interest in research uptake across university offices<li data-bbox="660 985 1760 1160">• University leadership and research management staff most enthusiastic and actively supportive of research uptake

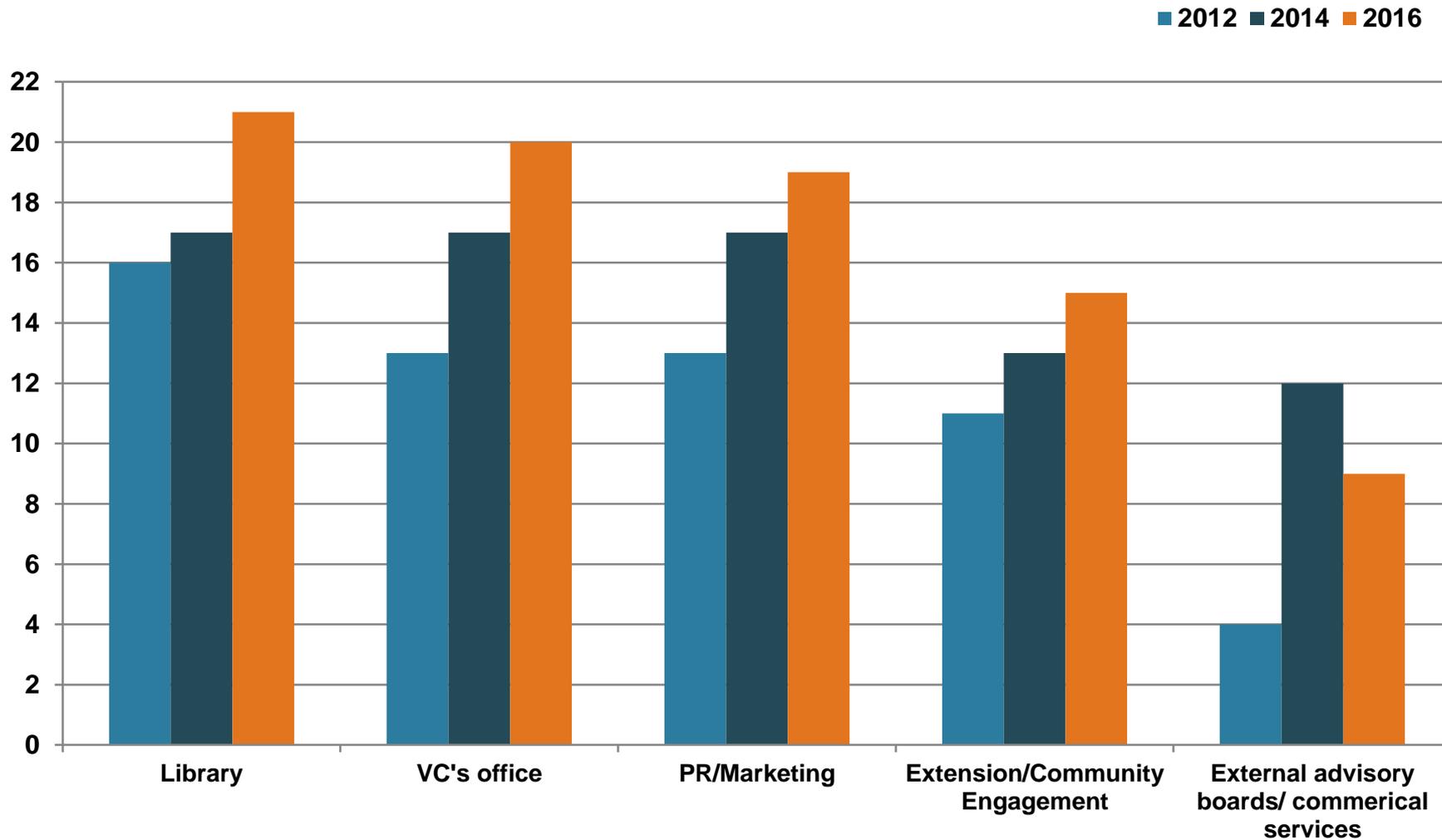
Research uptake strategy changes 2012-2016



Enthusiastic, actively supportive and engaged attitudes towards research uptake – 2012-2016



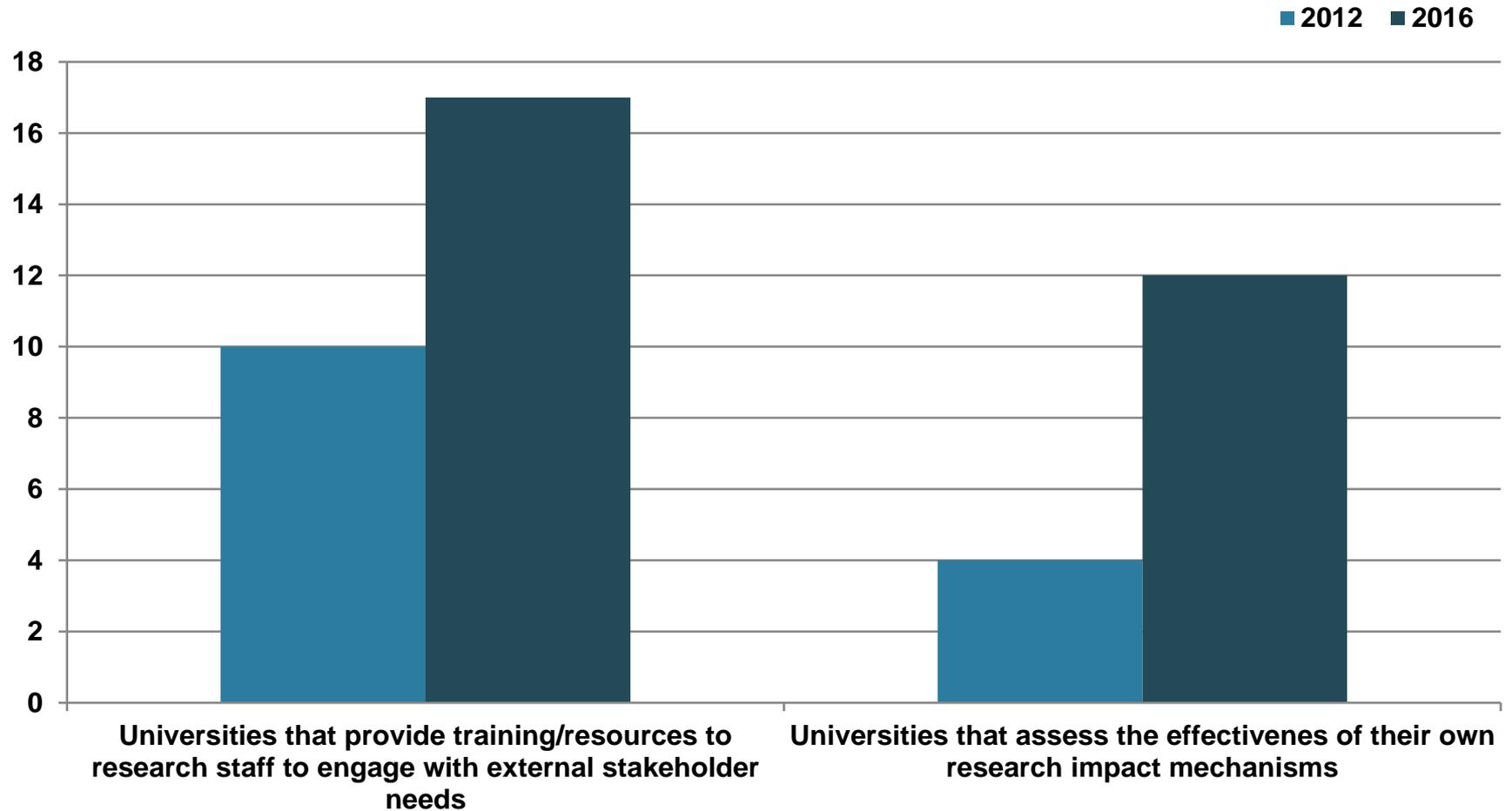
Offices with an interest in research uptake 2012-2016



Results – 2012-2016

Theme	Key findings
Research Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="660 354 1845 721">• Increase in universities providing training/resources to academic staff to identify external stakeholder needs and incorporate these into research planning<li data-bbox="660 782 1845 921">• Increase in mechanisms to assess the impact of university research

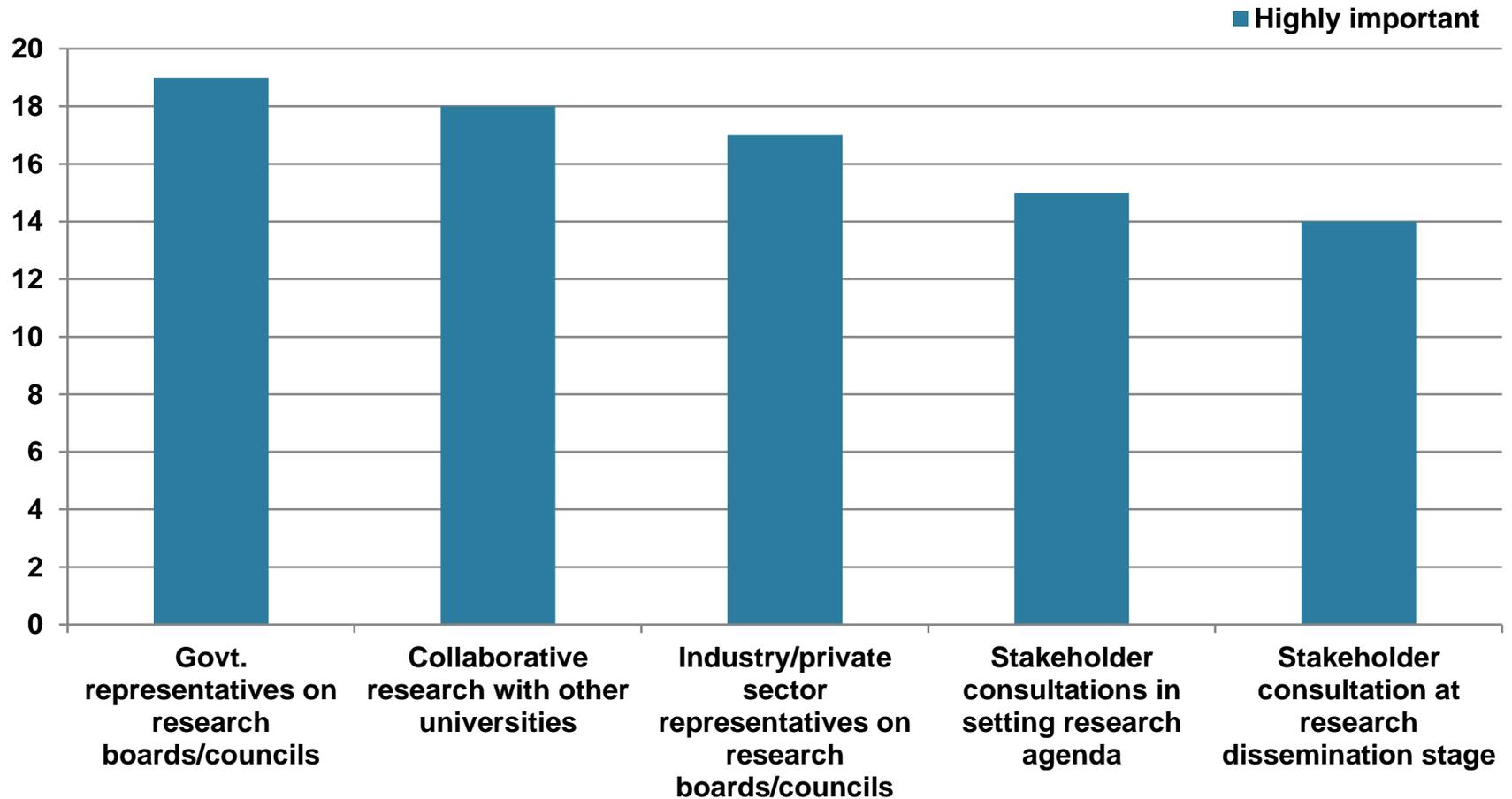
Research uptake process changes – 2012-2016



Results – 2012-2016

Theme	University – stakeholder relationships
Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Most highly prioritised stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government ministries /departments / councils• Research funders / donors• Enterprise / industry

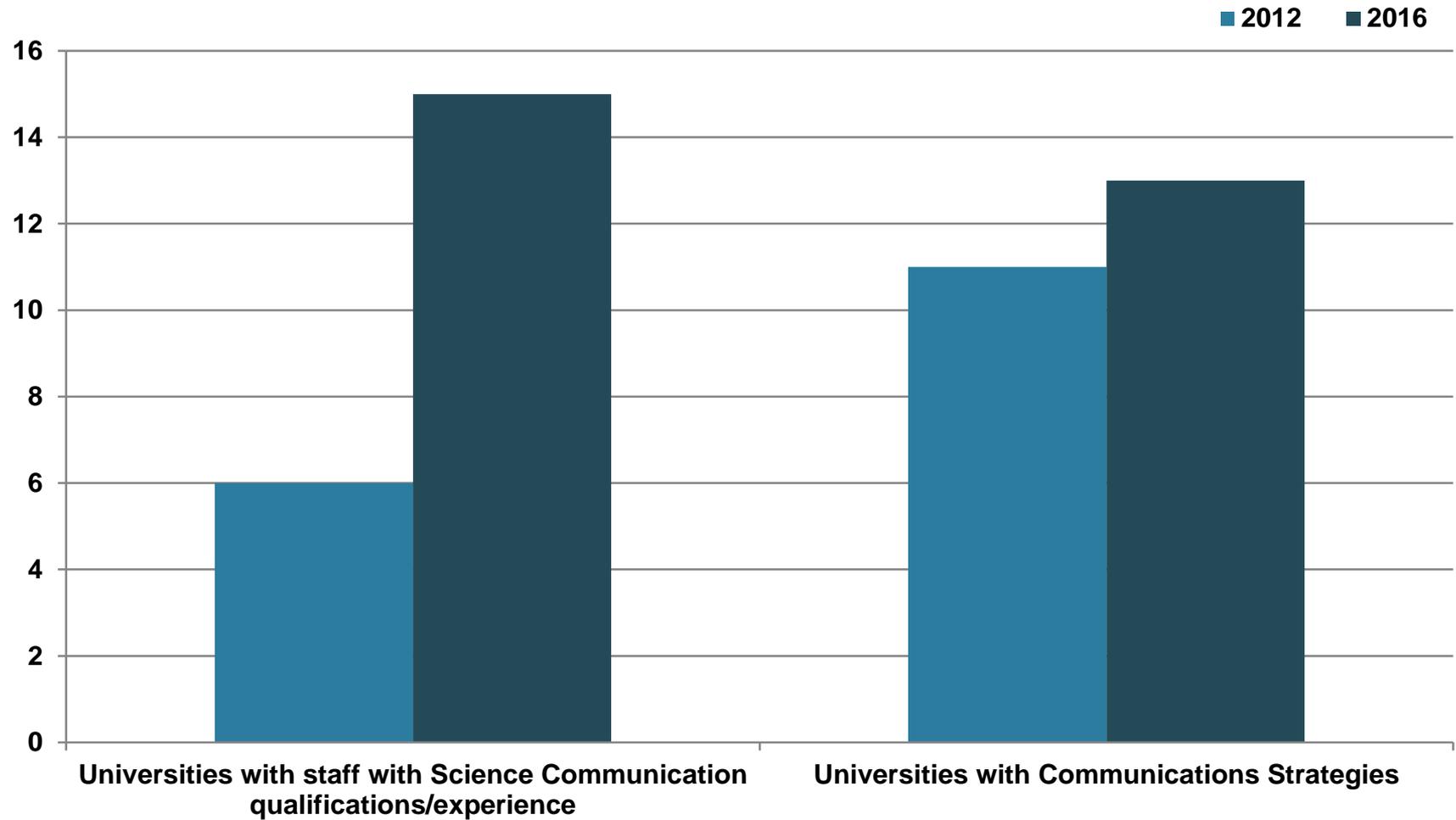
Top five mechanisms to engage with external stakeholders – 2016



Results – 2012-2016

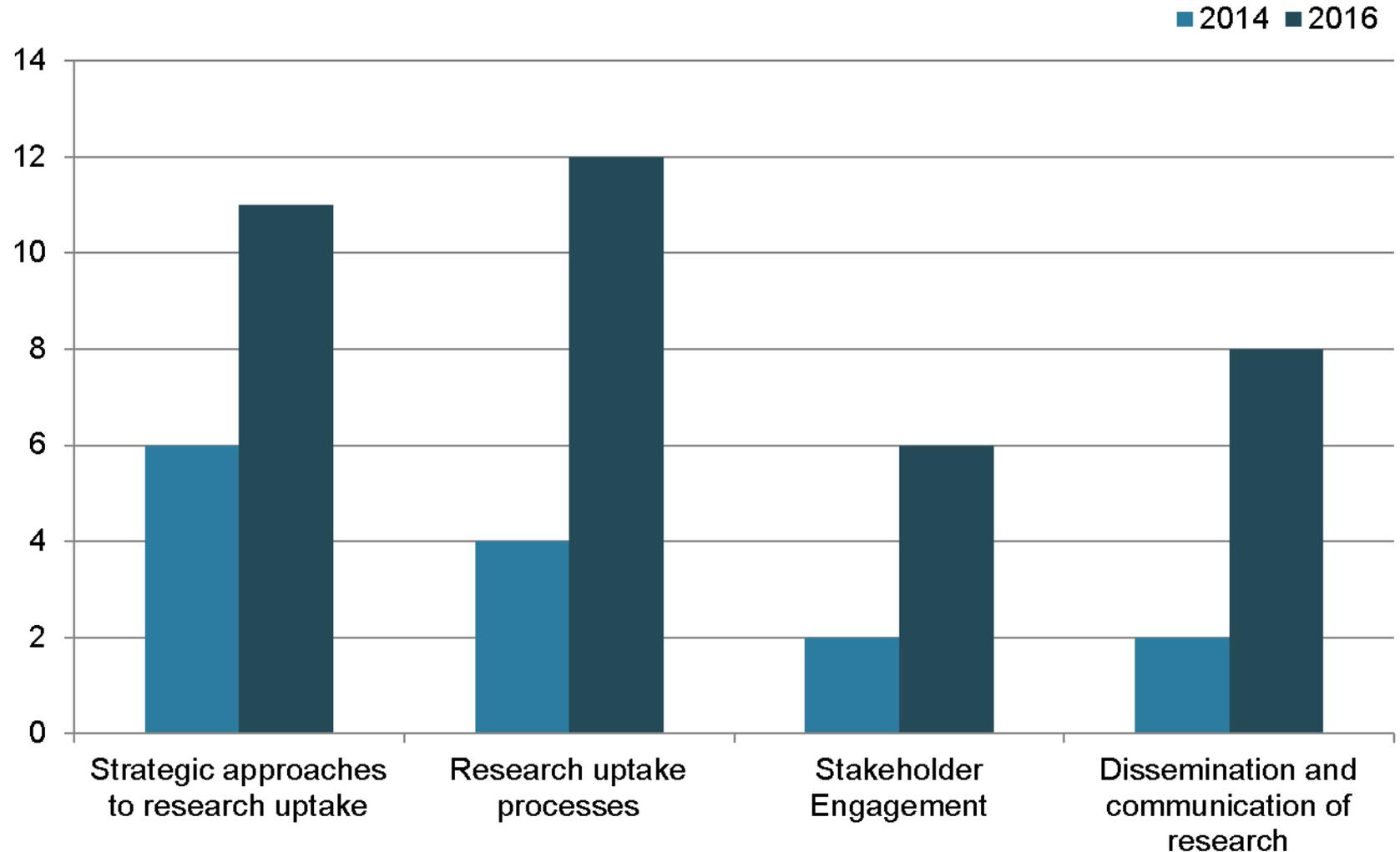
Theme	Key findings
Disseminating and communicating research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="662 339 1715 518">• All universities have central offices responsible for coordinating university publicity<li data-bbox="662 575 1734 753">• Increase in universities noting that their staff have qualifications / experience in science communication (75%)<li data-bbox="662 811 1696 989">• 95% of universities reported having or currently developing Communication Strategies

Dissemination and communication changes – 2012-2016



Sustainability of research uptake

'Very significant' influence of DRUSSA programme on change



Sustainability of research uptake cont.

Thematic analysis	Research uptake strategy
<p data-bbox="102 535 552 858">Influence of DRUSSA programme on change</p>	<ul data-bbox="612 339 1831 1158" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="612 339 1831 525">• Research uptake in policies and strategies<li data-bbox="612 606 1831 792">• Resources allocated to research uptake<li data-bbox="612 873 1831 1158">• Awareness among university staff of the importance of research uptake

Sustainability of research uptake cont.

Thematic analysis

Research uptake processes

**Influence of
DRUSSA
programme on
change**

- **Institutionalisation of research uptake**
- **Research uptake in internal research fund allocation**
- **Research uptake in project planning and reporting**

Sustainability of research uptake cont.

Thematic analysis	Stakeholder Engagement
<p data-bbox="102 534 552 858">Influence of DRUSSA programme on change</p>	<ul data-bbox="614 329 1850 1072" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="614 329 1850 811">• Awareness among university staff of importance of Stakeholder Engagement and of existing research within university<li data-bbox="614 896 1348 1072">• Cross-university collaboration

Sustainability of research uptake cont.

Thematic analysis	Dissemination and communication of research
<p data-bbox="102 535 552 858">Influence of DRUSSA programme on change</p>	<ul data-bbox="614 429 1765 876" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="614 429 1765 601">• Resources/support for communication of research<li data-bbox="614 696 1765 876">• Development of communications strategies

Sustainability of research uptake cont.

Thematic analysis	Key findings
Challenges to sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resources• Staff turn-over and continued university support• Continuous training• Continuous stakeholder engagement

Sustainability of research uptake cont.

Thematic analysis	Key findings
Elements / activities promoting sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training workshops and short courses (MPhil/PhD)• Access to resources and community of universities• Overall programme support structure