

Philea

Philanthropy Europe Association



# EXPLORING 21st century philanthropy

Philea & Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies

**Discussion of survey outcomes**



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**About Futures philanthropy and next steps**

## Why Futures philanthropy & what is the unmet need?



### Need

**Anticipation for public good**

**Better data on Europe**

**Using-the-future to inform strategy**

**Collaboration on futures agenda**

### Rationale

**Foresight informed by and applied to philanthropic and civil society context**

**Major future issues for philanthropy in Europe**

**Using futures thinking to build capacity and drive strategy and action**

**Sharing knowledge and acting collectively**

### Voice

*"The foresight conversation is dominated by the tech industry. The voice of civil society is missing."*

*"There is lack of data on European philanthropy and where grantmaking is going"*

*"Doing things that are proven, that already work – this is not the role of philanthropy"*

*"We have the facts that prove that our obsession with the past and economic growth does not provide better conditions for the development and the present day"*



# Methodology & Audience

## Overview of methodology



- **Process:** The survey was designed by Philea anticipate team, with feedback loops with CIFS and Barry Knight as well as critical review from Lizzy Eilbracht, Adessium Foundation, David Hesse, Mercator Foundation Switzerland and Joe Elborn, Evens Foundation



- **Survey design:** 5 parts in total with 15 questions, closed and open-end.



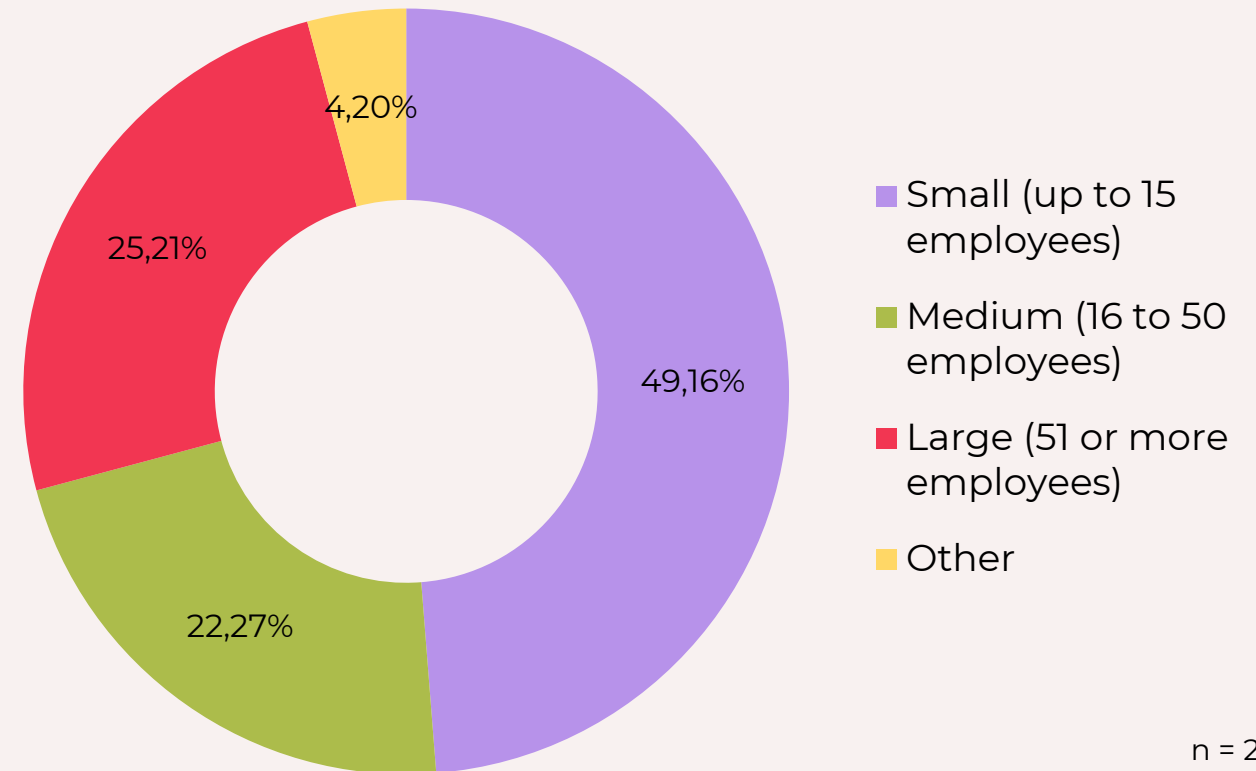
- The main **objectives** of the survey are to:
  1. Generate ranking of and suggest **megatrends** impacting society and philanthropy according to their relevance
  2. Understand **key risks, opportunities and vulnerabilities** facing society and philanthropy
  3. Provide insights into **future areas to inspire action**

## Sample description

### Responses and statistics

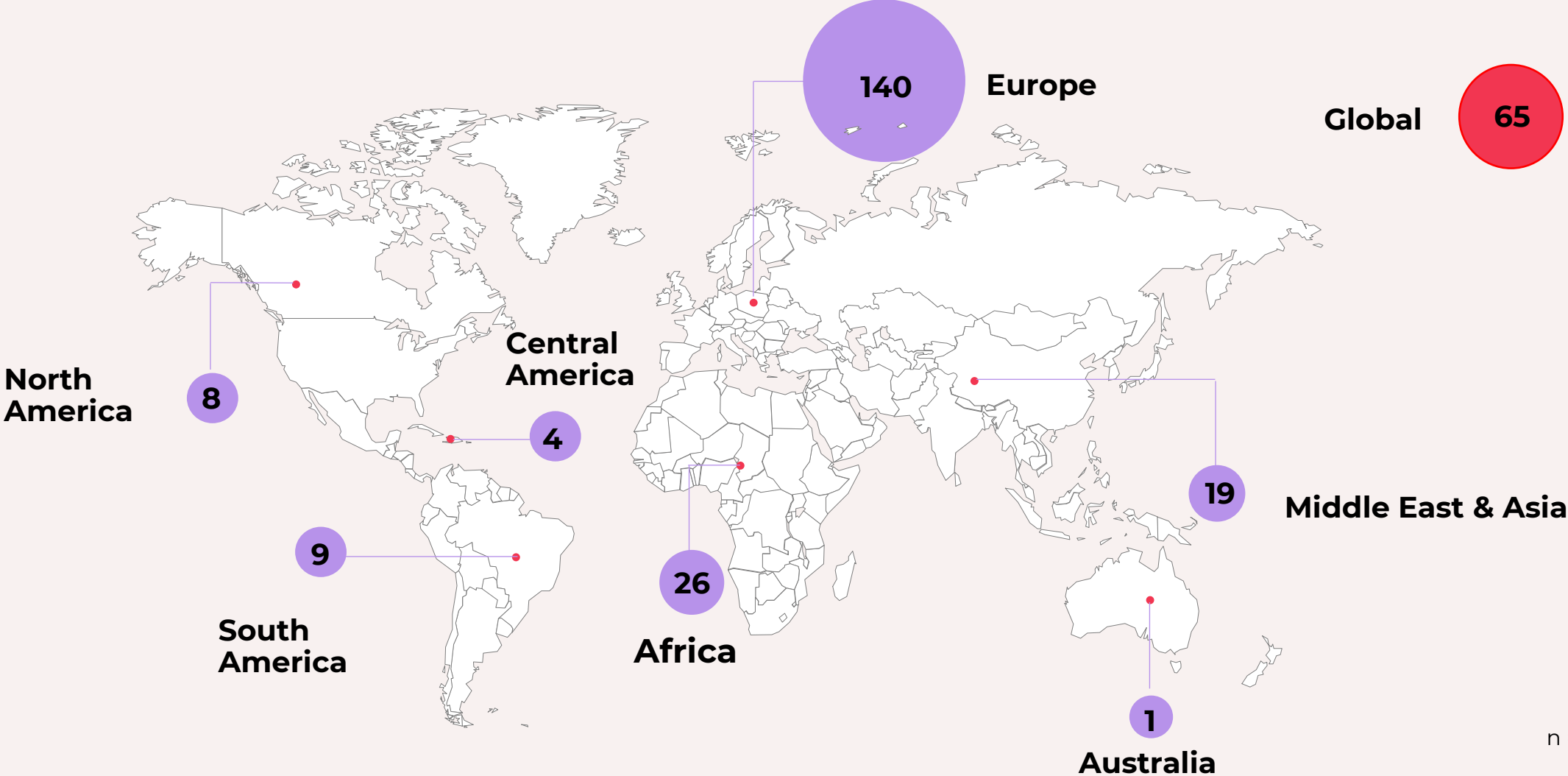
- **238 responses in total**
- **71%** completion rate
- **19 min** spent on average

### Size of organisations



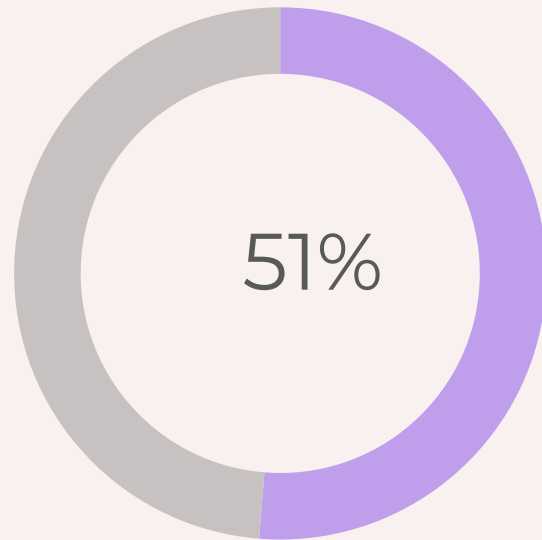
n = 238

# Geographic focus of respondents

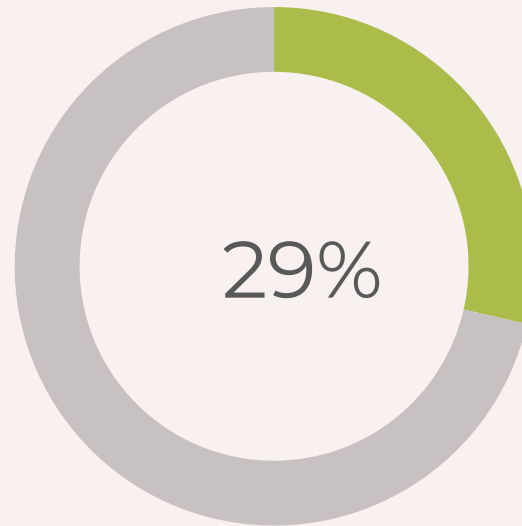




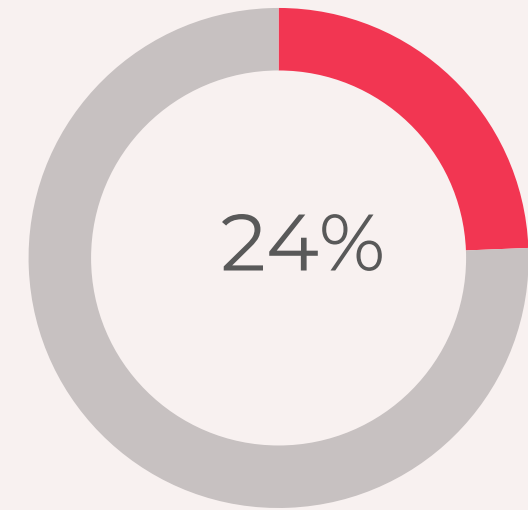
## Types of respondents – *multiple* response options were possible



■ Philanthropic organisations



■ Civil society organisations



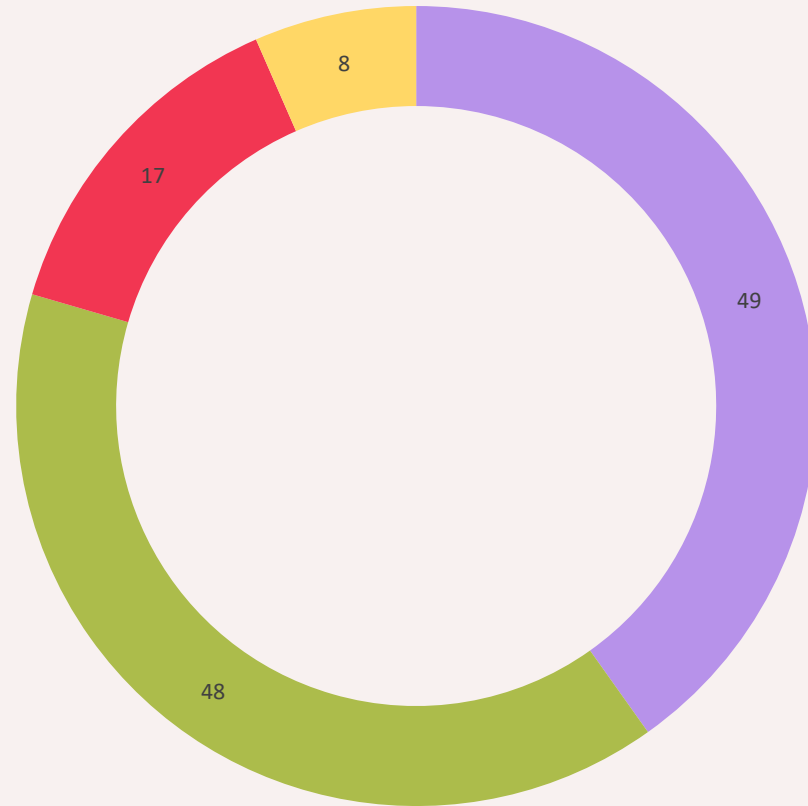
■ Research institutions, think tanks, business, governments and media

**Other: 19,33%** Donor collaboratives, pooled funds, non-endowed philanthropic organisations, fundraising foundations, philanthropic networks, member associations, regranters and intermediaries, consultancies, social enterprises and international organisations

n = 238



## Philanthropic organisations within the sample



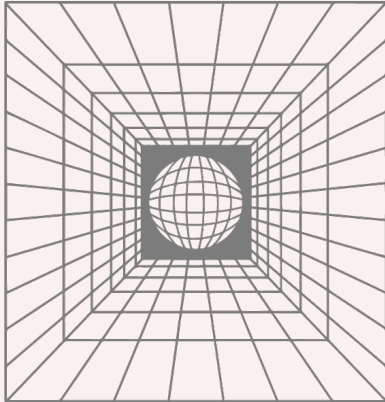
- Endowed foundation
- Philanthropy support organisation
- Corporate foundation
- Community foundation

n = 122

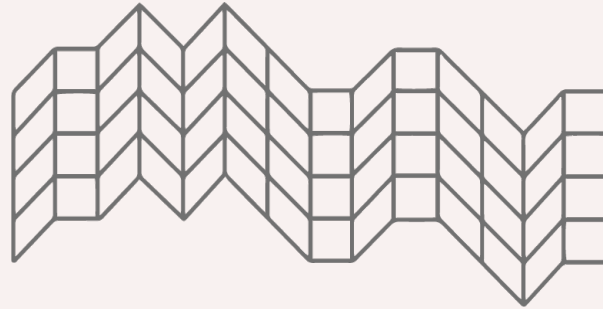
# Megatrends

## Why megatrends?

THREE REASONS WHY



**1.** Understanding of how future-shaping trends are interrelated & interdependent.



**2.** The future is determined by the interaction of unstable forces and stable trends.



**3.** Understanding megatrends is critical for every decision-maker.

“

Trends, like horses, are easier to ride in the direction they are going

”

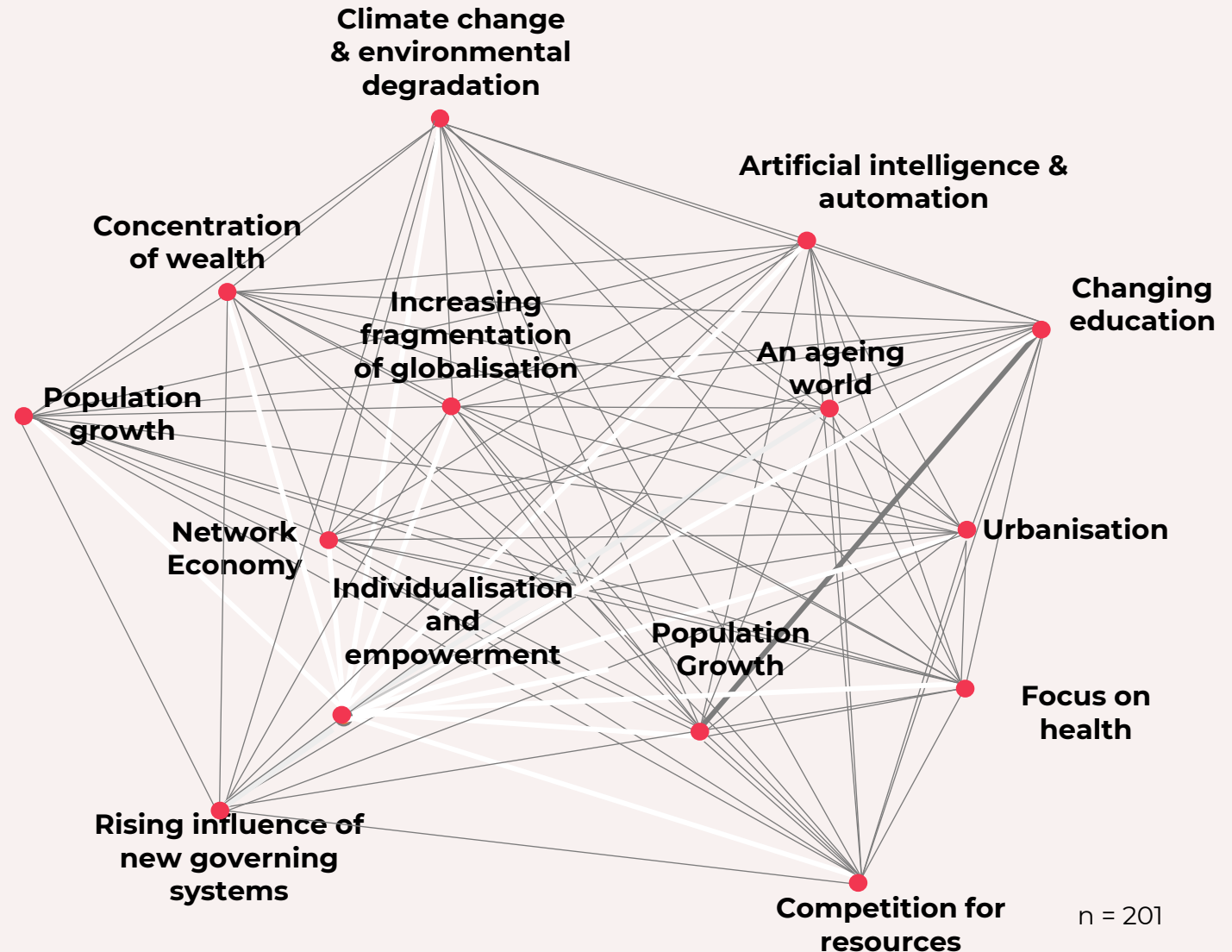
John Naisbitt

AUTHOR OF MEGATRENDS: TEN NEW DIRECTIONS TRANSFORMING OUR LIVES

## Where do megatrends meet?

A HOLISTIC, ECOSYSTEMS APPROACH

- *Future-shaping trends are interconnected and interdependent*
- *They have different time horizons and level of impact*
- *They form a complex weave, where pulling one thread may change the details of the overall tapestry.*
- *Trends also blend into one another, making it difficult to separate one from another.*
- *These complexities, and the uncertainties contained in them, are what make foresight and strategic planning difficult, but important.*



# Megatrends based on additional comments

- 1. Climate change and environmental degradation:** Pollution and greenhouse gas emissions carry key risks for ecosystems, cultures and personal health.
- 2. Artificial intelligence and automation:** Advances in artificial intelligence and robotics will change not only how we work in the future, but also how we live, learn, and entertain ourselves.
- 3. Concentration of wealth:** While global inequality between countries has declined, income and wealth inequality within countries are growing in many parts of the world.
- 4. \*\*\*NEW: Climate migration:** Extreme weather events, sea level rise and resource scarcity are threatening the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and are fueling global migration.
- 5. \*\*\*NEW: Rising influence of new governing systems:** A strong competition of governing systems emerges globally. There is a wide range of new, multi-layered actors influencing decision-making. Democracy is retreating worldwide despite growing interest in participatory governance approaches.
- 6. Increasing fragmentation of globalisation:** The world is growing closer together: Regional trade and cooperation with like-minded partners is strengthened, while global travel, trade, and communication remain an important pillar.
- 7. An ageing world:** As the world grows older, the balance between workers and retirees is shifting, putting pressure on healthcare systems, and giving rise to new consumption patterns.
- 8. Population growth:** The world population will see explosive growth throughout the 21st century.
- 9. Individualisation and empowerment:** Networks of empowered individuals form new communities in both physical and digital realms, giving rise to a pluralisation of ways of living and working.
- 10. Focus on health:** With a growing understanding of how genetics and lifestyle influence health, coupled with new technologies, we may see a greater personalisation of health in the future.
- 11. Urbanisation:** In the future, urban areas will be much larger, more complex, and interconnected than today.
- 12. Network economy:** The ongoing digitalisation of society gives rise to new peer-to-peer processes and the creation of value in decentralised networks that rely on flat hierarchies and collaboration.
- 13. \*\*\*NEW: Competition for resources:** Demand for water, food, energy and land is increasing. Population growth and aggravating competition for resources contribute to the rise of conflicts both between states and communities and amplify security challenges.
- 14. \*\*\*NEW: Changing education:** Ubiquitous access to digital technology and hyperconnectivity have a lasting impact on education. The landscape of skills, knowledge and capabilities needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is rapidly changing. There are shifting dynamics from formal, standardised curriculum to informal, more flexible learning and individual fulfilment.

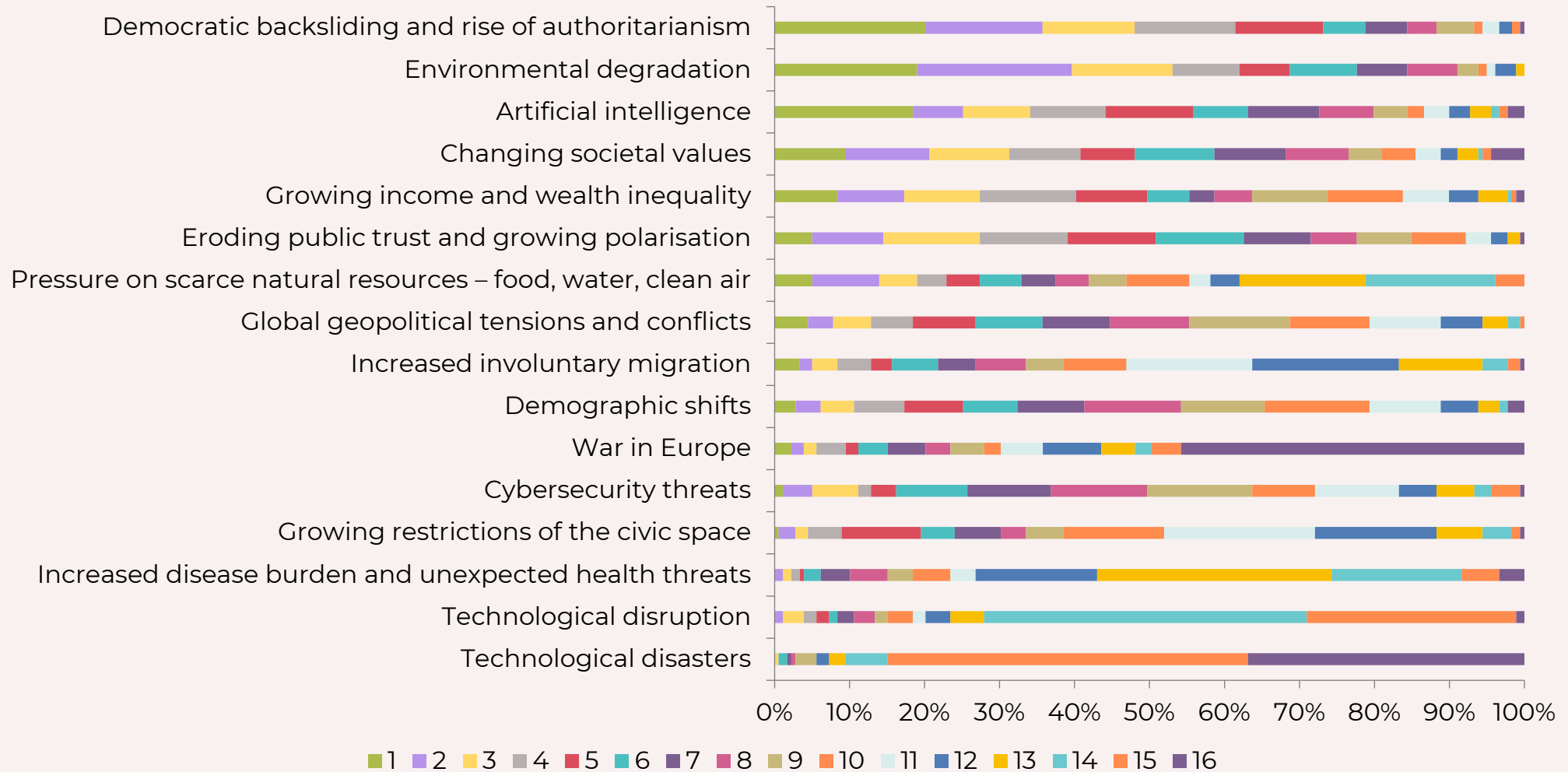
n = 201



**External context**



## Ranking uncertainties: The most critical societal issues that philanthropy needs to pay attention to in the next 10 years



n = 179



# Critical upcoming issues



## Democracy

**Democratic backsliding** and rise of authoritarianism

*“**Declining Democracy:** More former democratic states will develop into semi-democratic, populist and authoritarian systems; there will be a **strong competition** of systems where **democracy is only one option as a path ahead**”*



## Climate

**Environmental degradation**

*“Lack of awareness of **what is driving the issues** (climate change and interlinkages to livelihoods etc.) and **possible solutions.**”*



## Technology

**Artificial intelligence**

*Philanthropy could be “a leader in adaptation and social innovation; **not leaving technology to be the main driver of innovation in creating new social environments**; changing own practices to allow more flexibility, long term thinking, realistic assessments, building of options and alternative, wider reach*

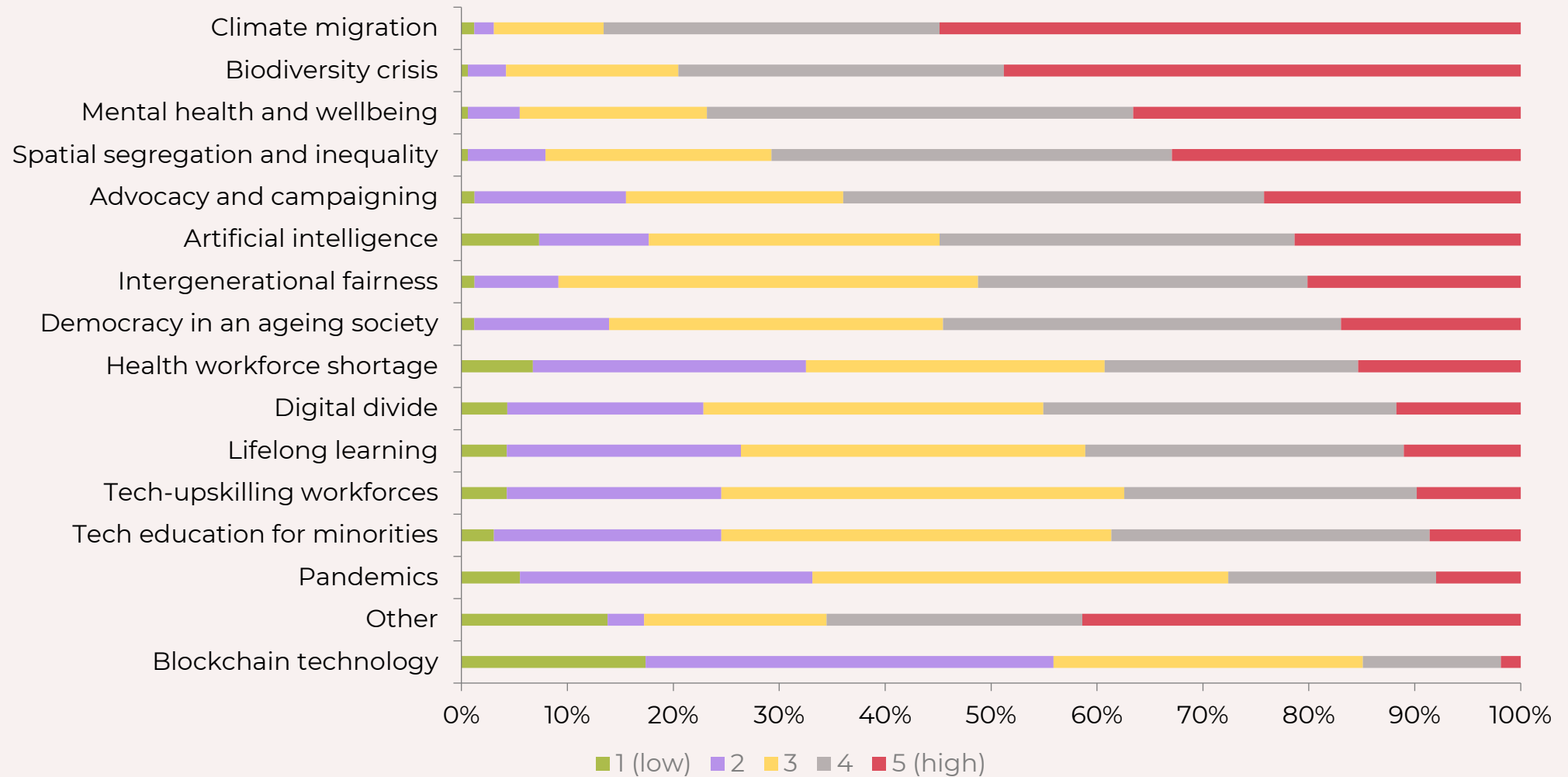


## Society

**Changing societal values**  
**Growing income and wealth inequality**

*“21st century philanthropy needs to **focus on urgent issues, move with agility**, embrace modern ways of thinking and operating, and **recognize shifting values in society**”*

## Potential future societal vulnerabilities that will need more philanthropic engagement in the next decade

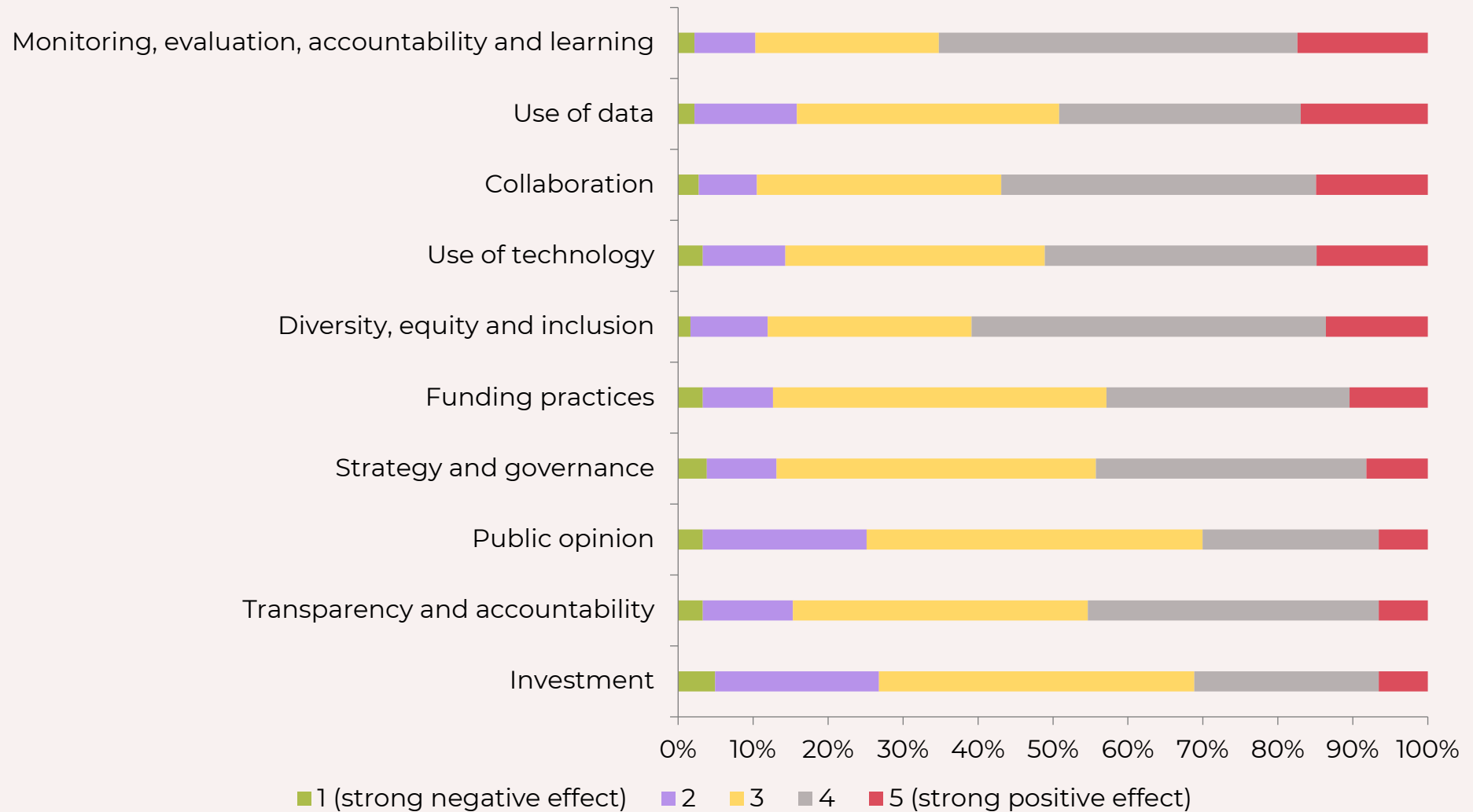


n = 168

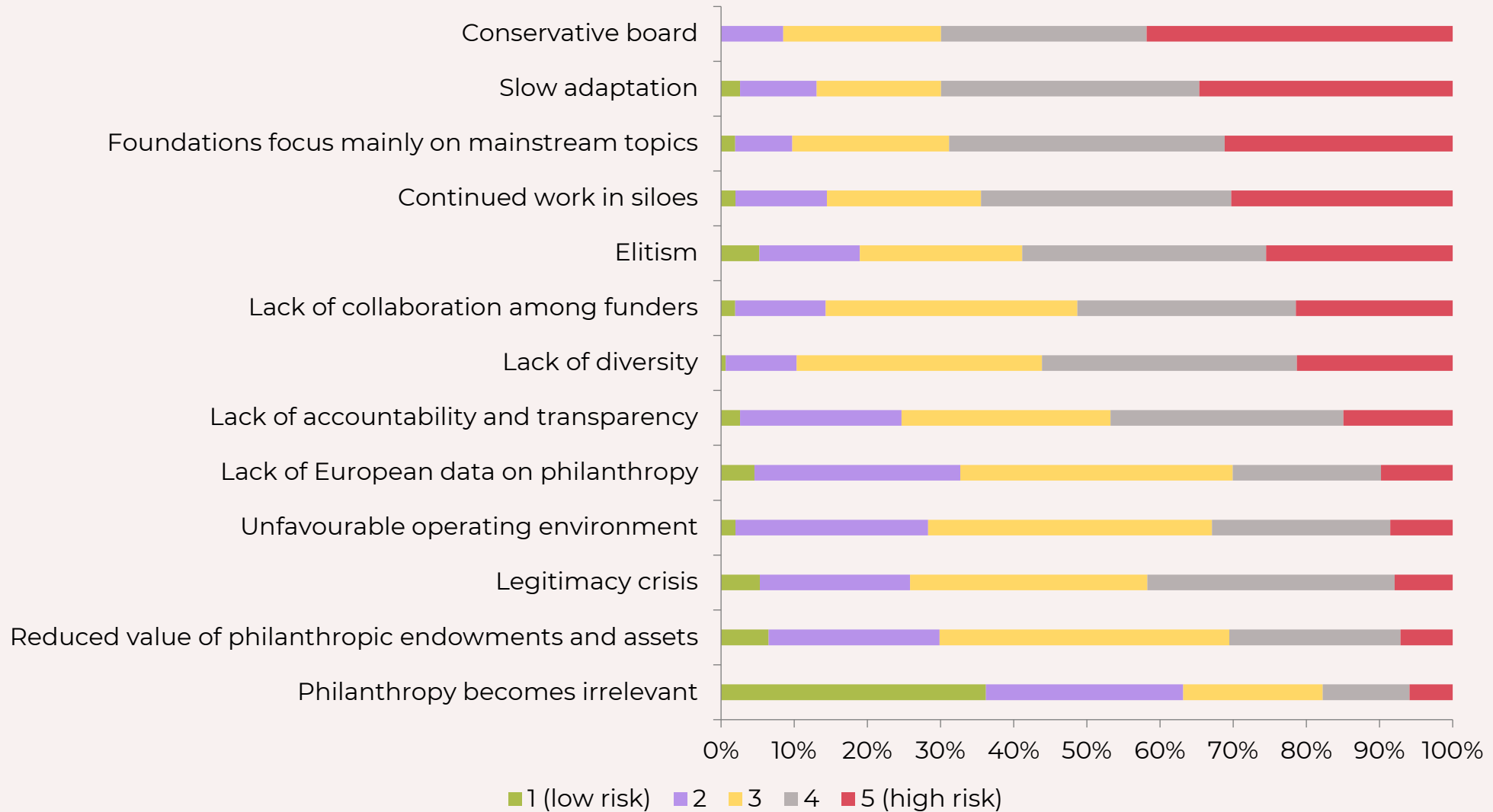


**Internal context**

## How philanthropic ways of working changed in these areas in the last 10 years



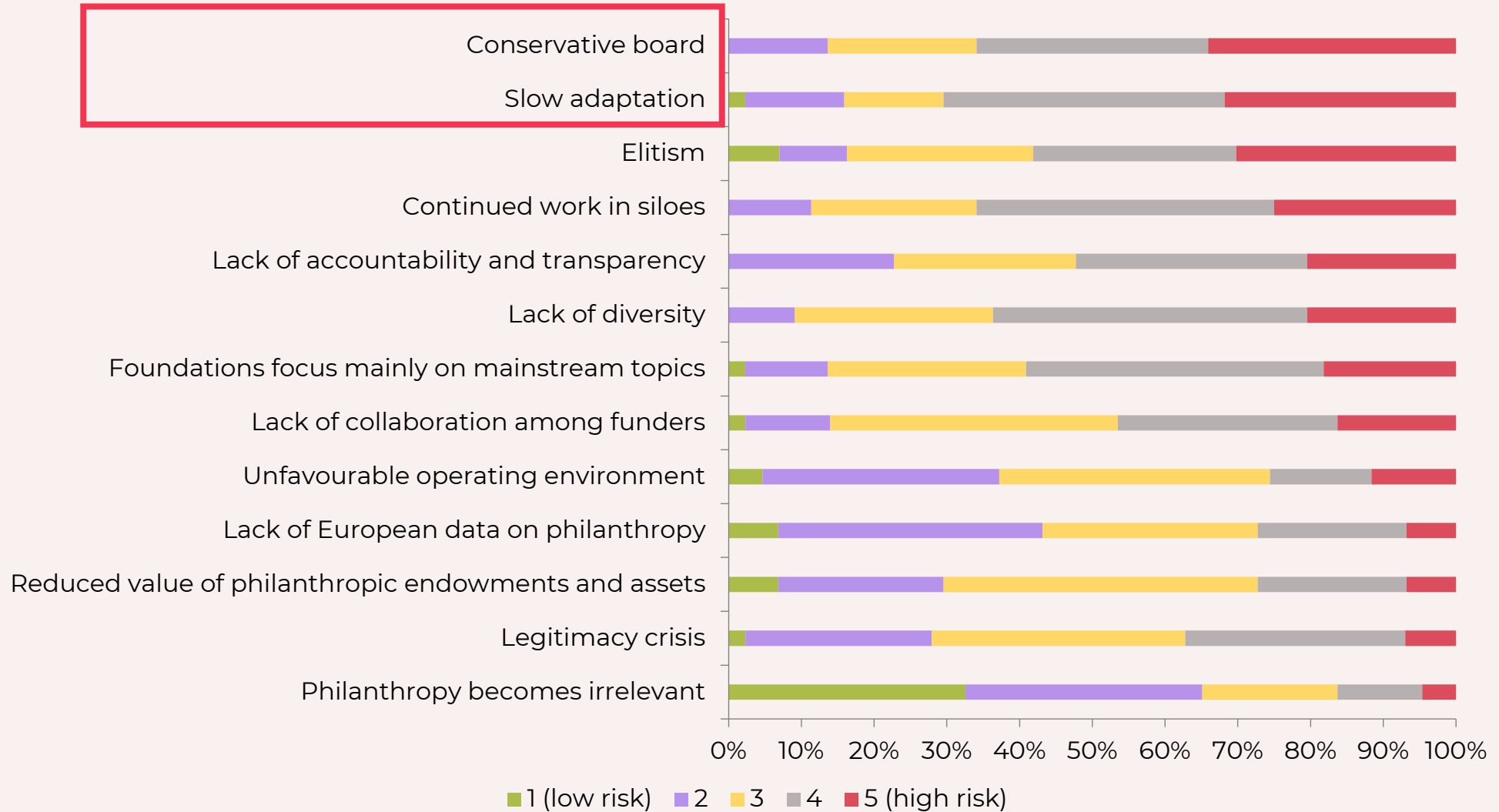
## The biggest internal risks facing philanthropy in the next 10 years



n = 168



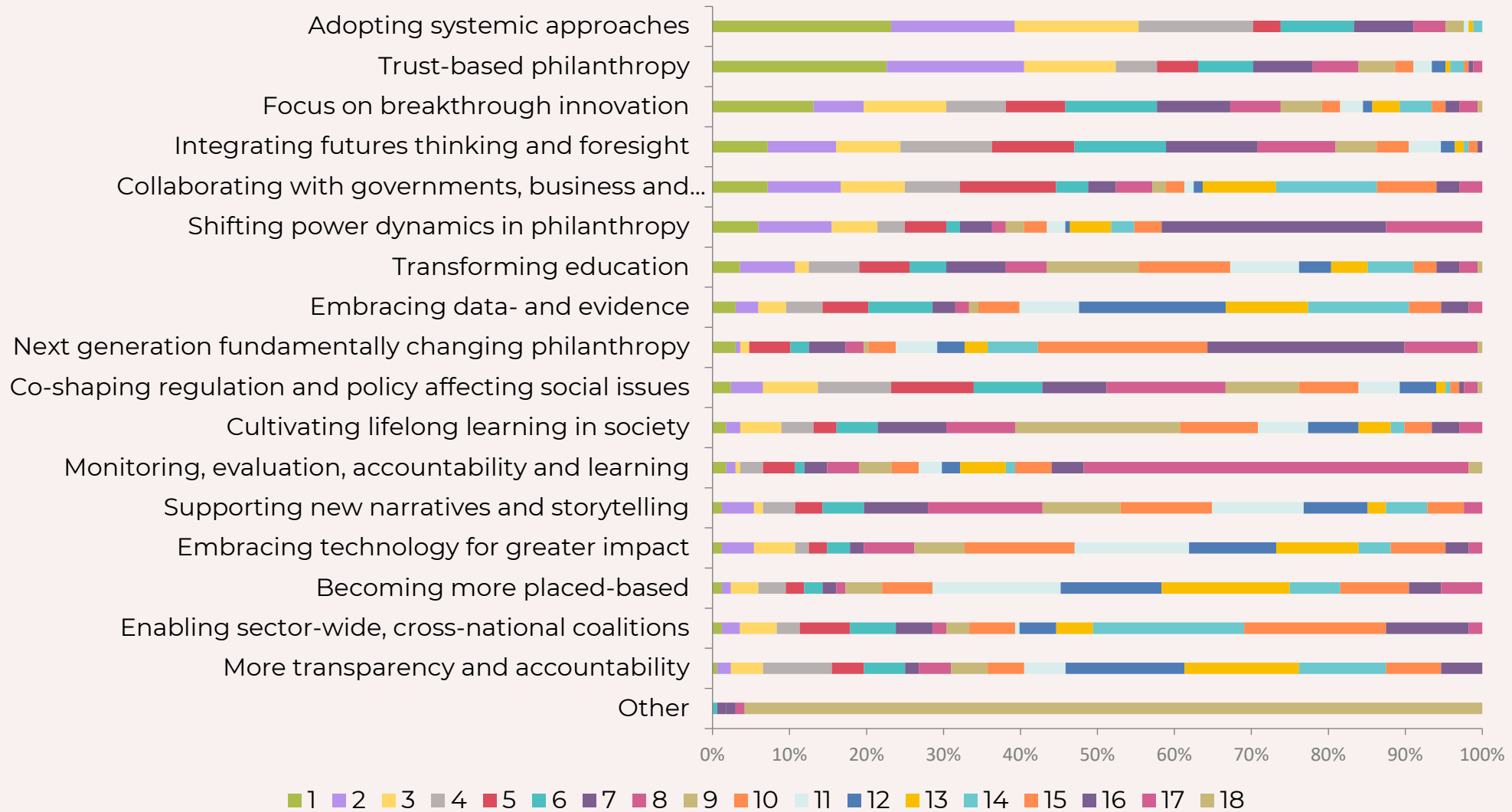
## Risk assessment only by philanthropic organisations



n = 44



# The most relevant opportunities for philanthropy in the next 10 years.

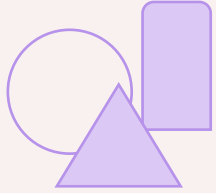


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## First implications for future action



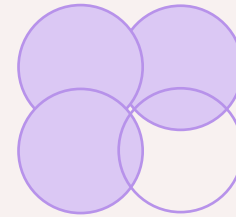
### GOVERNANCE

- Enable structures allowing you to stay agile and flexible and adapt to the pace of change we experience
- Involve governance strategically



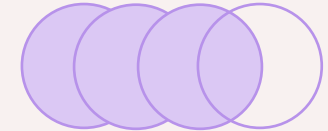
### STRATEGY AND GRANTMAKING

- Identify areas new of priority for the organisation
- Long-term impact assessments
- Adaptive strategies
- Fund organisations over a long period



### COLLABORATION

- Follow ecosystem approaches and build coalitions for social change
- Engage with a diverse range of stakeholders to discuss future scenarios



### ANTICIPATION

- Strengthen internal foresight and imagination capacity
- Build resilience by assessing vulnerabilities and risks
- Identify gaps and underfunded areas
- Develop policy, risk and innovation initiatives

# **About Futures Philanthropy and next steps**



Onward, onward (1918), Marc Chagall

## Futures Philanthropy – towards regenerative societies

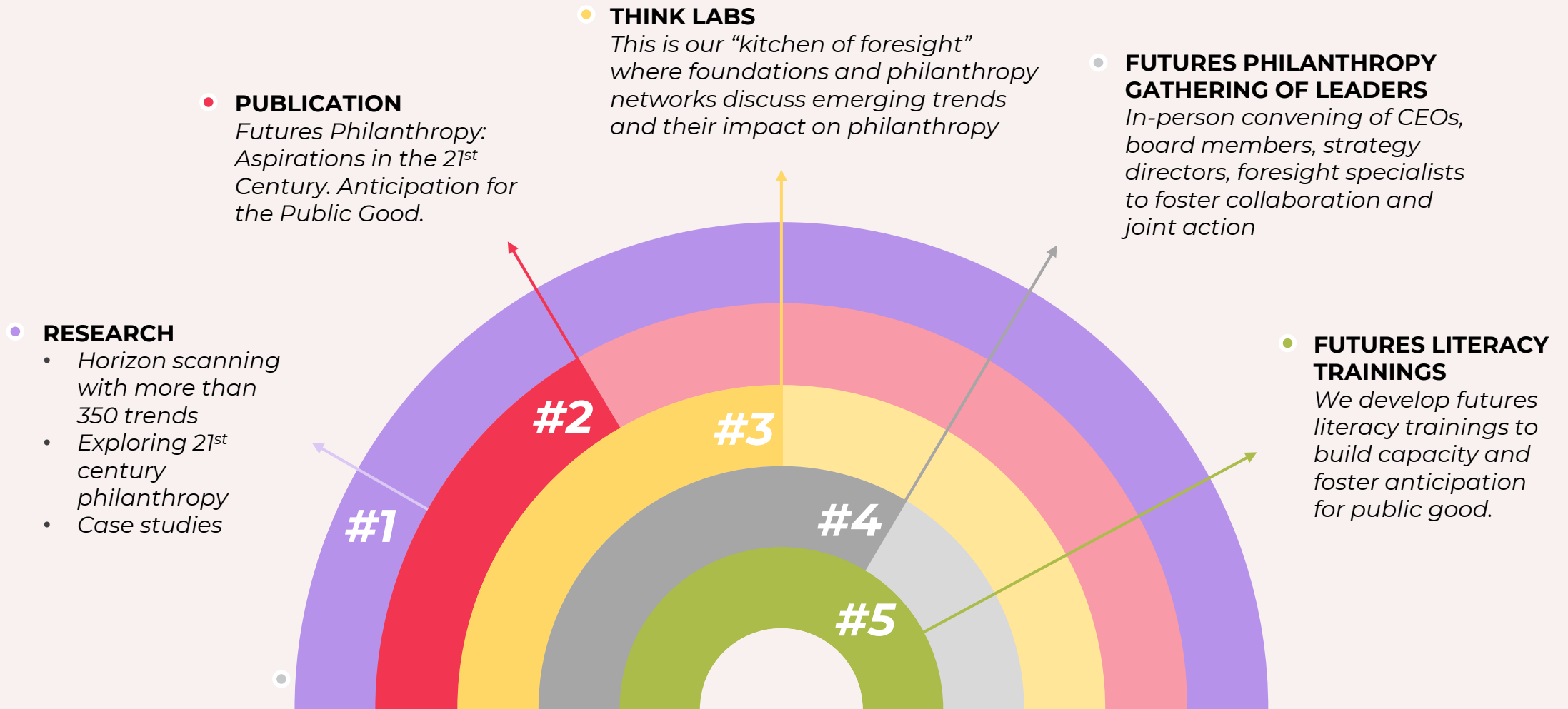
Our vision is **diverse, future-fit European philanthropy** that rises to the challenges of our times and keeps asking **relevant questions**.

We collectively build futures literacy to support long-term thinking and transformative change – **for philanthropy, for civil society, for Europe**.

We do this through the provision of research and a wide-ranging programme that offers **opportunities for collaboration and learning** to support relevance, legitimacy and **impact** of European philanthropy to embark on a **pathway towards regenerative societies**.



## Futures philanthropy – what we do



# END TIMES

Elites, Counter-Elites and  
the Path of Political  
Disintegration



PETER TURCHIN

allen lane

## Peter Turchin will speak at Philea's EuroPhilantopics on 29 November 2023

- Philea is organising Europhilantopics, event designed for EU policymakers and philanthropy representatives.
- Peter Turchin, author of „End Times“ and complexity historian, will speak at the event and join future scenarios workshop. Be ready for making sense of rising inequalities, elite overproduction and what it means in the age of discord, or his own words:

***“When the equilibrium between ruling elites and the majority tips too far in favor of elites, political instability is all but inevitable”***







# Futures Philanthropy: Aspirations in the 21st century. Anticipation for the Public Good.

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