



Towards a strategic concept for innovative learning programmes and tools in the Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure (MIRRI)

www.mirri.org
info@mirri.org

Sofia R Costa, André Antunes, Nelson Lima, The MIRRI Consortium
Micoteca da Universidade do Minho (MUM-UMinho), Centre of Biological Engineering, Universidade do Minho, Portugal
sofia.costa@ceb.uminho.pt

The Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure, currently in its preparatory phase (MIRRI EU-FP7), aims to establish a European coordinated research infrastructure dedicated to microbial resources. One of its main goals is to design an integrated long-term capacity building strategy for microbiological resource centres (mBRCs), to guarantee training for their staff and scientists and also for their stakeholders.

Training offer/demand

- Surveys were conducted on the training offer of mBRCs within MIRRI and on the demands of costumers/users (profit and non-profit sector);
- **Wide gap detected** between current training offered by mBRCs and the demands of our customers - especially in the profit sector (A).

Reasons behind the gap

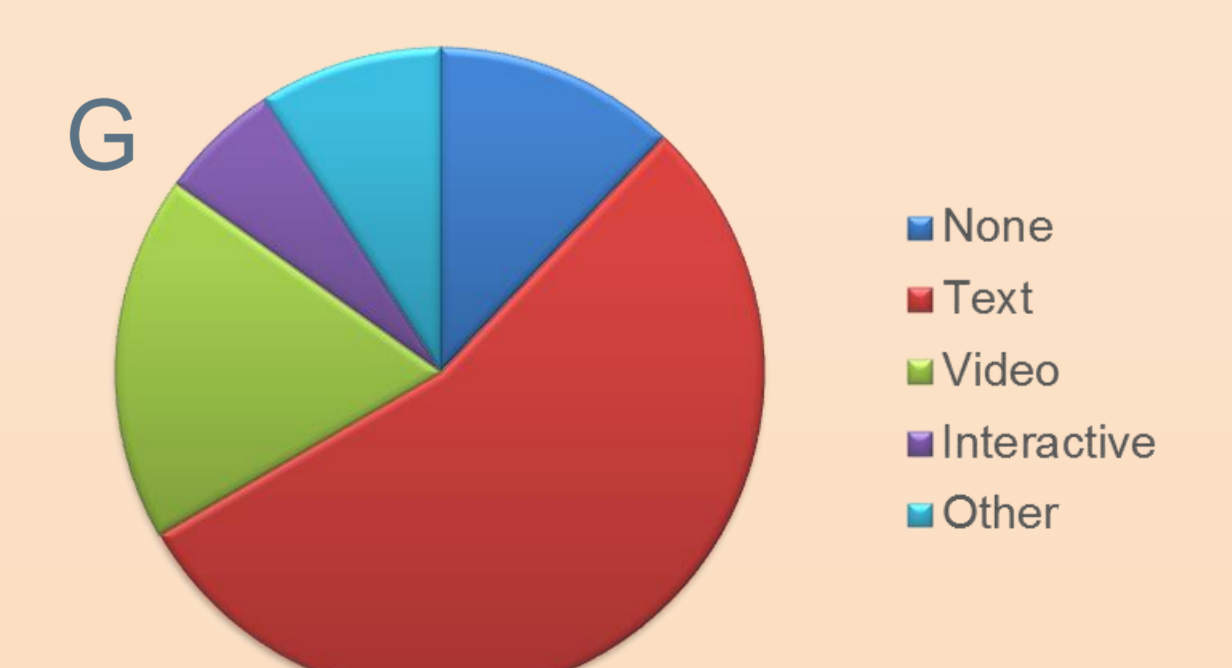
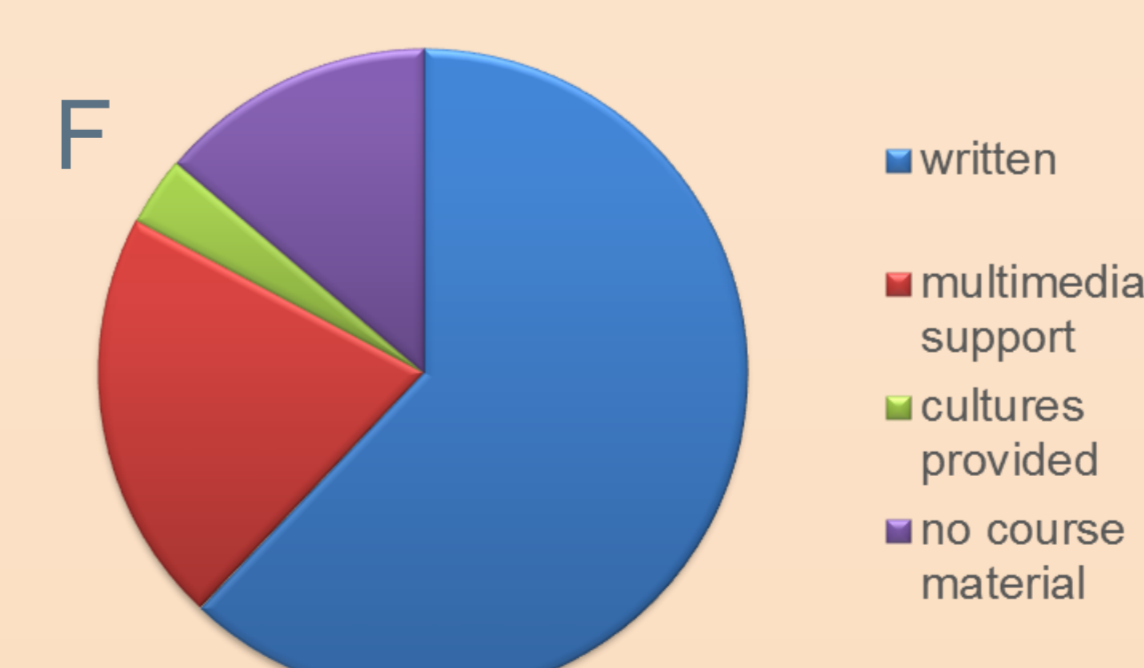
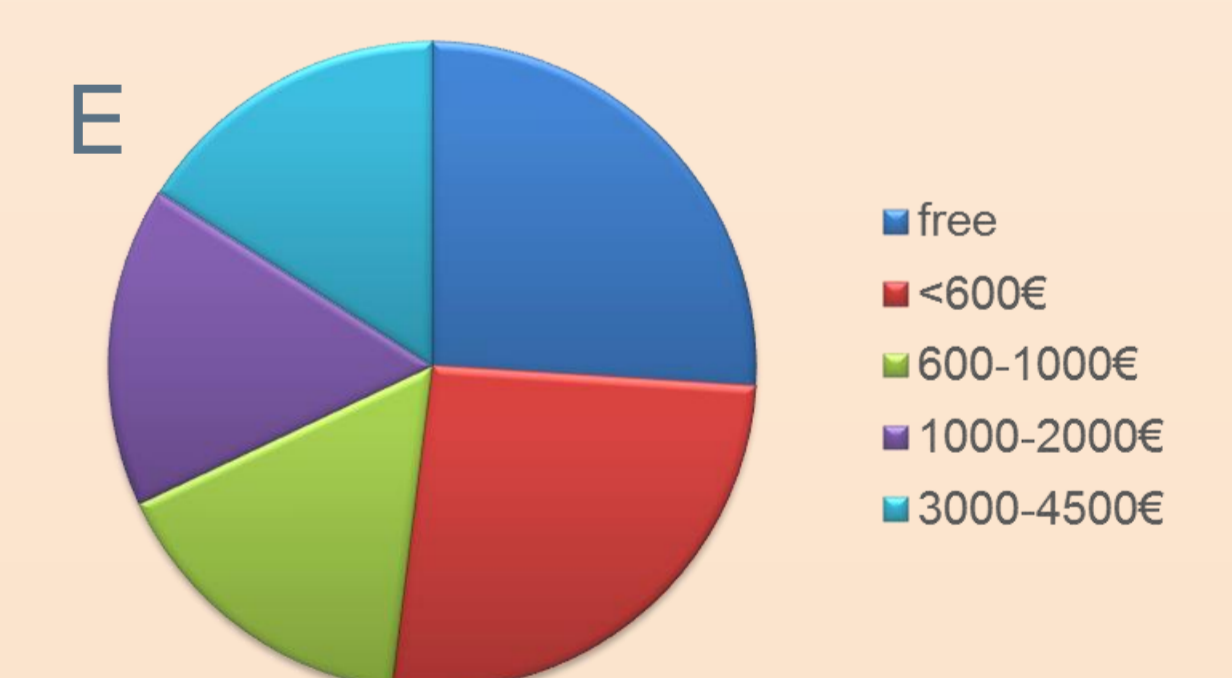
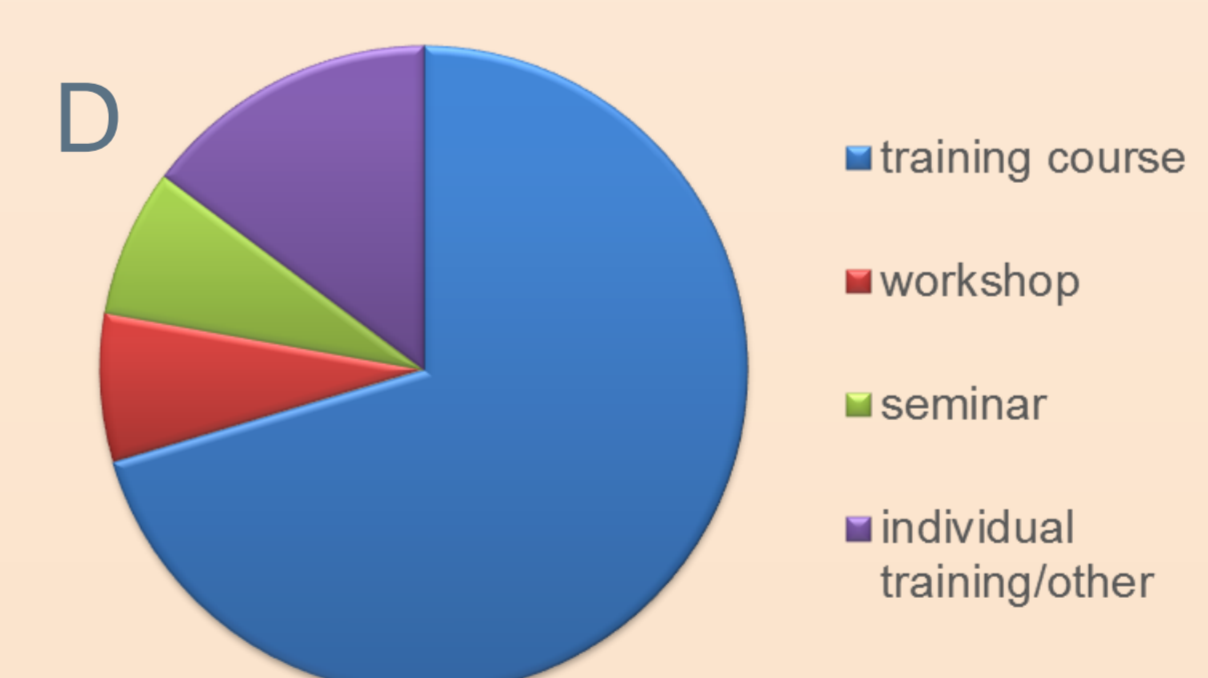
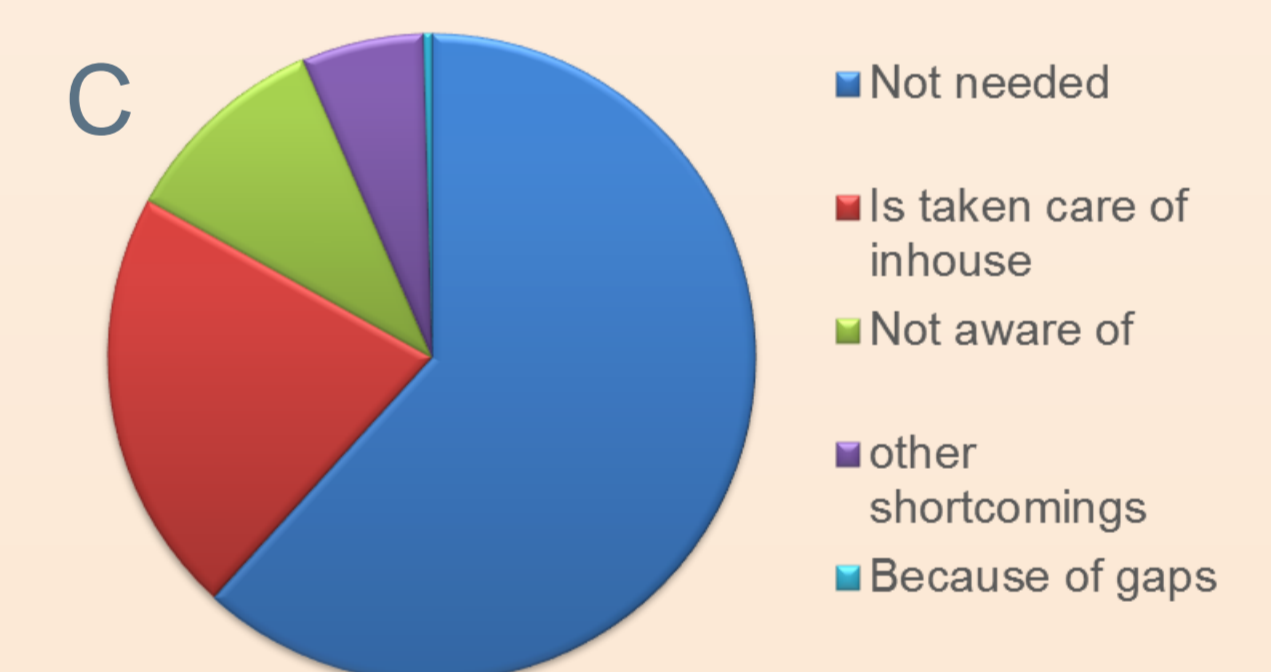
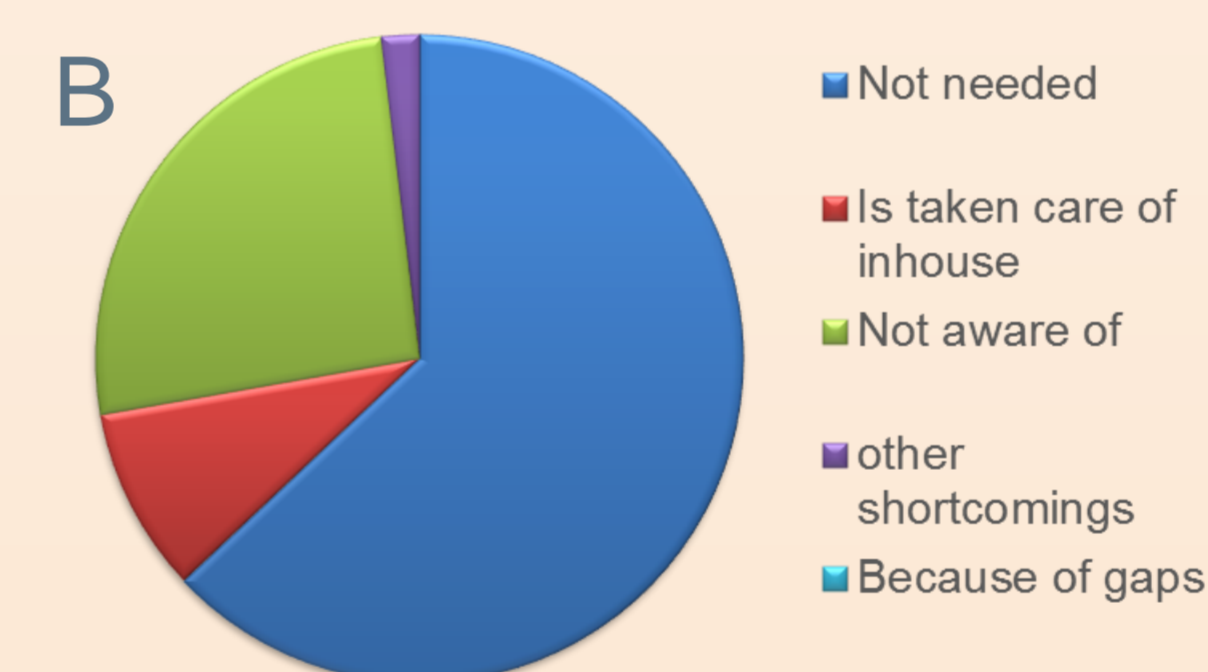
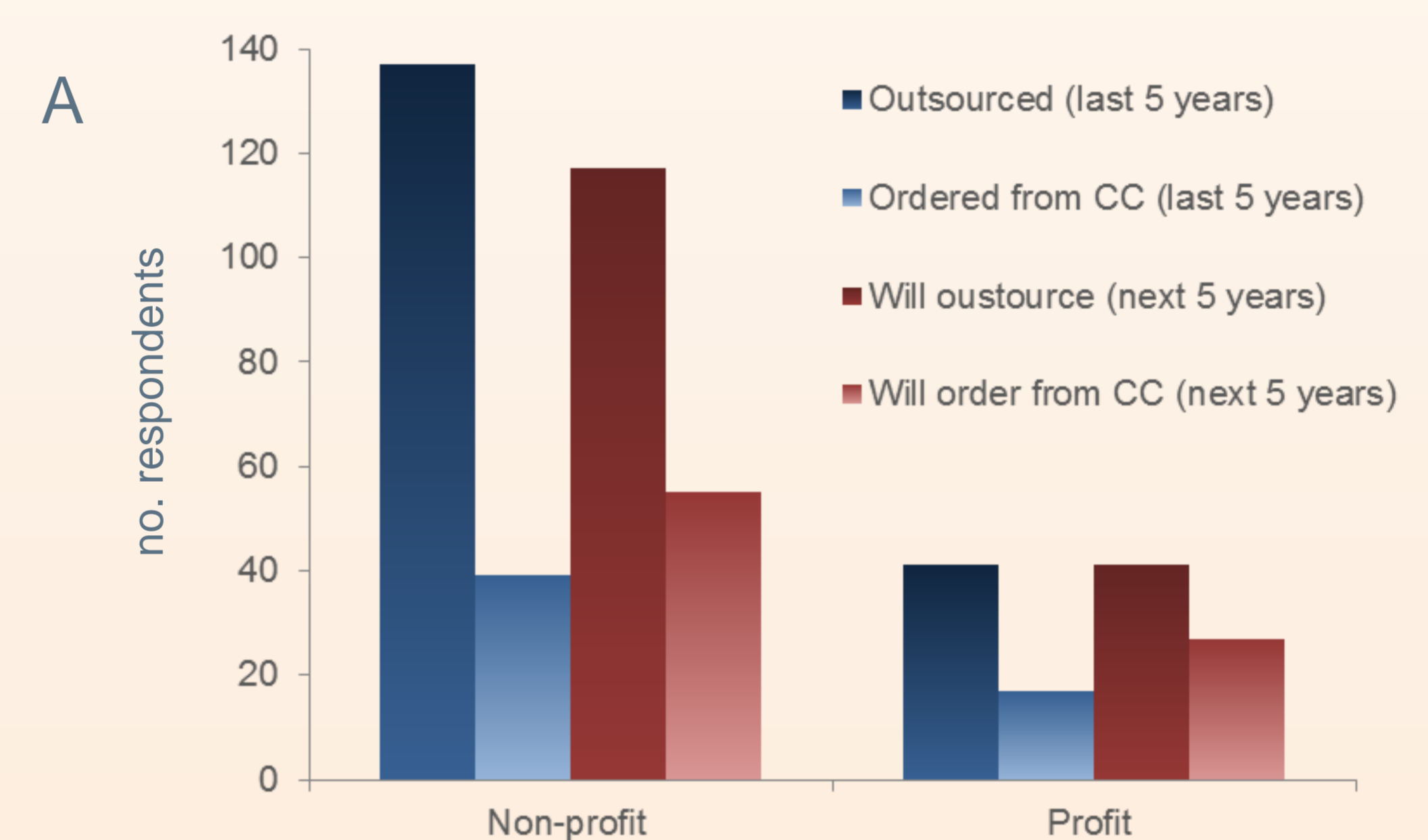
- The main reason for not obtaining services from mBRCs is that a **need is not perceived** or training is taken care of in-house (B,C);
- Over 10% of profit and 25% of non-profit sector users are **unaware that mBRCs provide services** (B,C).

The training offer

- Training courses are the main E&T service provided by mBRCs (70%); these are face-to-face, **combined practical and theoretical courses** (D);
- Over half the training courses are free or up to 600€; but, **over 30% cost more than 1000€** (E).

Training materials

- Training materials composed **mainly of written resources** (F);
- **Text comprises over half the digital content**; only ca. 1/3 provide video, interactive or other formats, mostly produced elsewhere (G).



Conclusions

The current offer on training is still fragmented and largely dominated by classic content types and delivery. MIRRI needs to revise, adapt and possibly produce mBRCs training contents. Training delivery by e-learning and b-learning (especially for combined theoretical/practical courses) should improve cost-efficiency and be available to a wider network of customers. Finally, advertising of E&T services will be key to increase visibility of training provided by mBRCs within MIRRI.

