Data Mesh: Game Changer or Just Hot Air?

Is data mesh a sustainable approach to data responsibility in the business

Detailed results

For internal use only

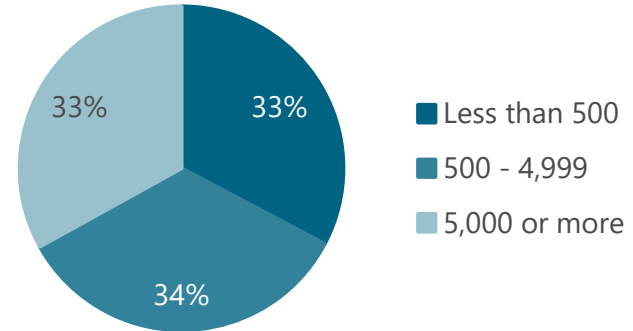# Data Mesh: Game Changer or Just Hot Air?

> 300 participants

Global survey

Wide coverage of industries...

...and company sizes

Manufacturing	32%
Services	18%
Public sector	15%
IT	14%
Banking and finance	12%
Retail / Wholesale / Trade	8%
Other	1%

- Less than 500 — 33%
- 500 - 4,999 — 34%
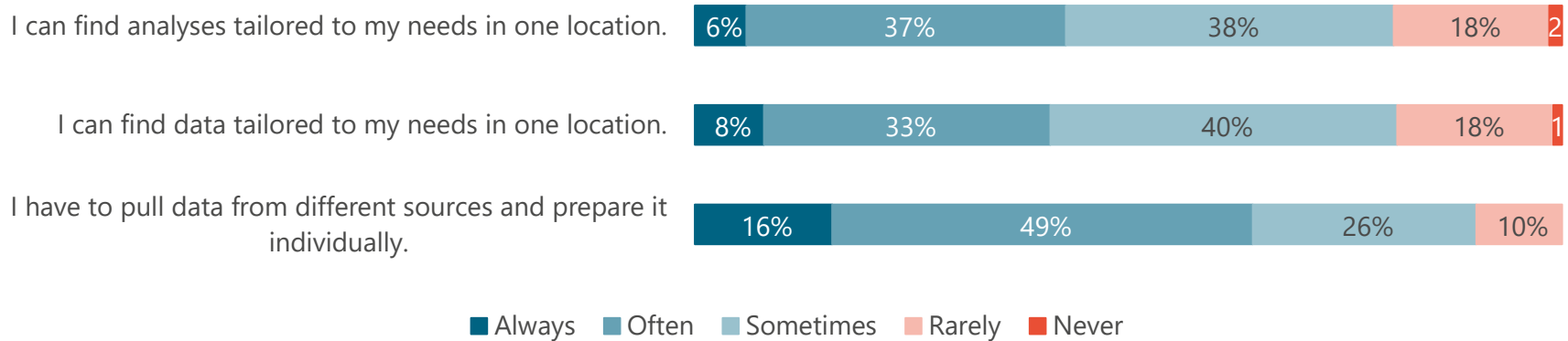- 5,000 or more — 33%

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Single Analysis

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To what extent do you agree with these statements?

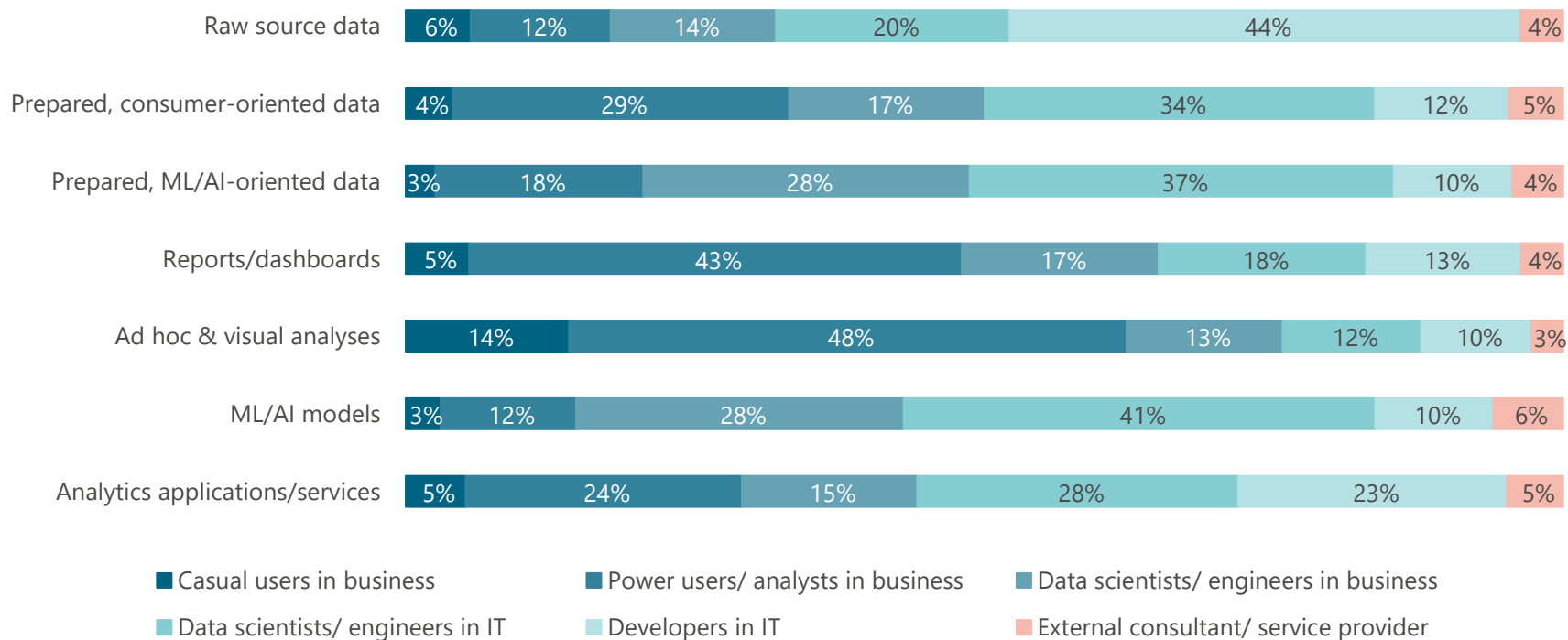| Statement	Strongly agree	Mostly agree	Mostly disagree	Strongly disagree
We could benefit from more effective means of collecting and documenting expert knowledge about our data.	43%	48%	5%	3
Business users require a higher level of data & analytics empowerment.	42%	50%	5%	2
Data is a revenue driver.	39%	46%	11%	3
An increasingly distributed data & application landscape requires a more distributed approach to data & analytics.	28%	56%	13%	3
Data governance is a tedious obligation and a limiting factor.	13%	29%	25%	33%
Central D&A-teams lack business domain expertise, which is a risk to data & analytics assets.	13%	50%	28%	9%
There is so much duplication of data and analyses in our organization that I don't know what I can rely on.	13%	44%	33%	11%
The value of data is sufficiently transparent, we know what data is used by whom and for what purpose.	12%	30%	40%	18%
Central D&A-teams do not scale.	12%	43%	34%	11%
I can find relevant data quickly and easily.	10%	43%	37%	10%

■ Strongly agree   ■ Mostly agree   ■ Mostly disagree   ■ Strongly disagree

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=334

BARC

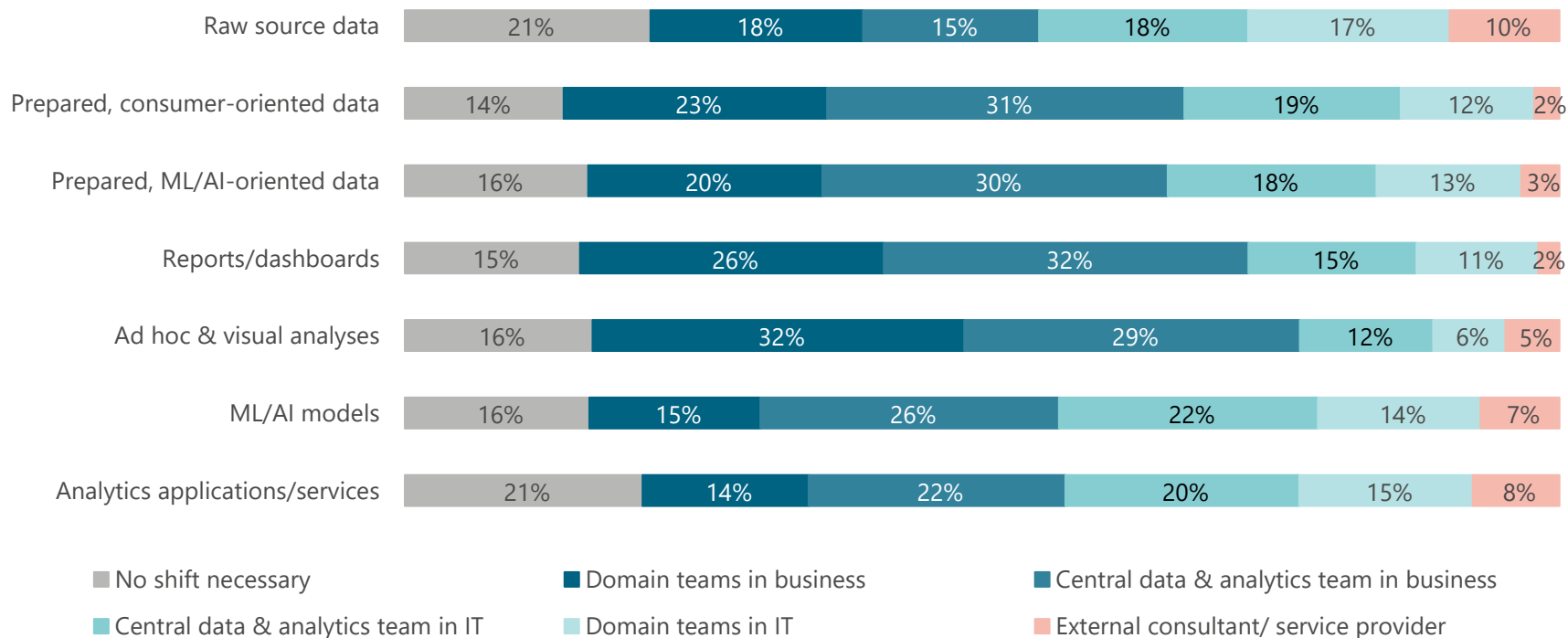# How often do you meet your information needs through the following sources?

I can find analyses tailored to my needs in one location.
- 6% | 37% | 38% | 18% | 2

I can find data tailored to my needs in one location.
- 8% | 33% | 40% | 18% | 1

I have to pull data from different sources and prepare it individually.
- 16% | 49% | 26% | 10%

■ Always ■ Often ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely ■ Never

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=335

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Who is mostly responsible for the following data products in your company?

	Casual users in business	Power users/ analysts in business	Data scientists/ engineers in business	Data scientists/ engineers in IT	Developers in IT	External consultant/ service provider
Raw source data	6%	12%	14%	20%	44%	4%
Prepared, consumer-oriented data	4%	29%	17%	34%	12%	5%
Prepared, ML/AI-oriented data	3%	18%	28%	37%	10%	4%
Reports/dashboards	5%	43%	17%	18%	13%	4%
Ad hoc & visual analyses	14%	48%	13%	12%	10%	3%
ML/AI models	3%	12%	28%	41%	10%	6%
Analytics applications/services	5%	24%	15%	28%	23%	5%

■ Casual users in business ■ Power users/ analysts in business ■ Data scientists/ engineers in business
■ Data scientists/ engineers in IT ■ Developers in IT ■ External consultant/ service provider
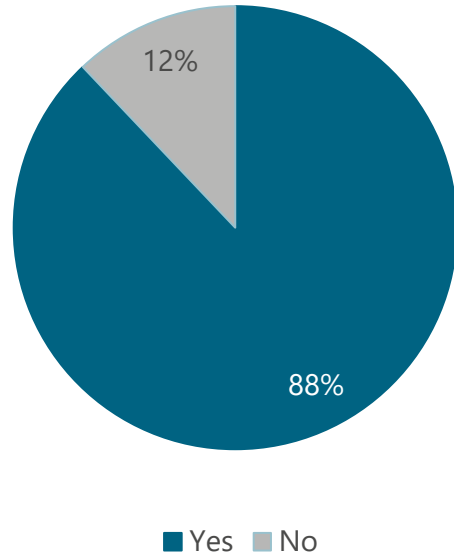
Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=326

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Where should more responsibility be shifted to improve the quality and usefulness of the following data products in the future?

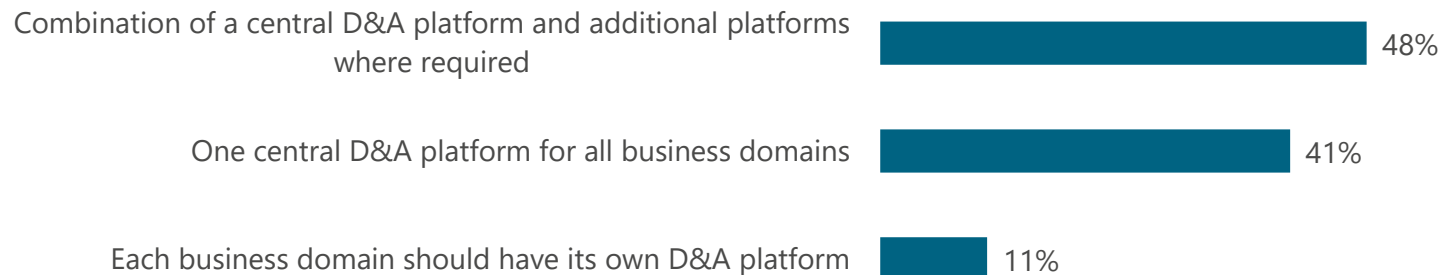|	No shift necessary	Domain teams in business	Central data & analytics team in business	Central data & analytics team in IT	Domain teams in IT	External consultant/ service provider
Raw source data	21%	18%	15%	18%	17%	10%
Prepared, consumer-oriented data	14%	23%	31%	19%	12%	2%
Prepared, ML/AI-oriented data	16%	20%	30%	18%	13%	3%
Reports/dashboards	15%	26%	32%	15%	11%	2%
Ad hoc & visual analyses	16%	32%	29%	12%	6%	5%
ML/AI models	16%	15%	26%	22%	14%	7%
Analytics applications/services	21%	14%	22%	20%	15%	8%

- ■ No shift necessary
- ■ Domain teams in business
- ■ Central data & analytics team in business
- ■ Central data & analytics team in IT
- ■ Domain teams in IT
- ■ External consultant/ service provider

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=323

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Should business domains have a dedicated area for their own data & analytics assets and for sharing with other domains?
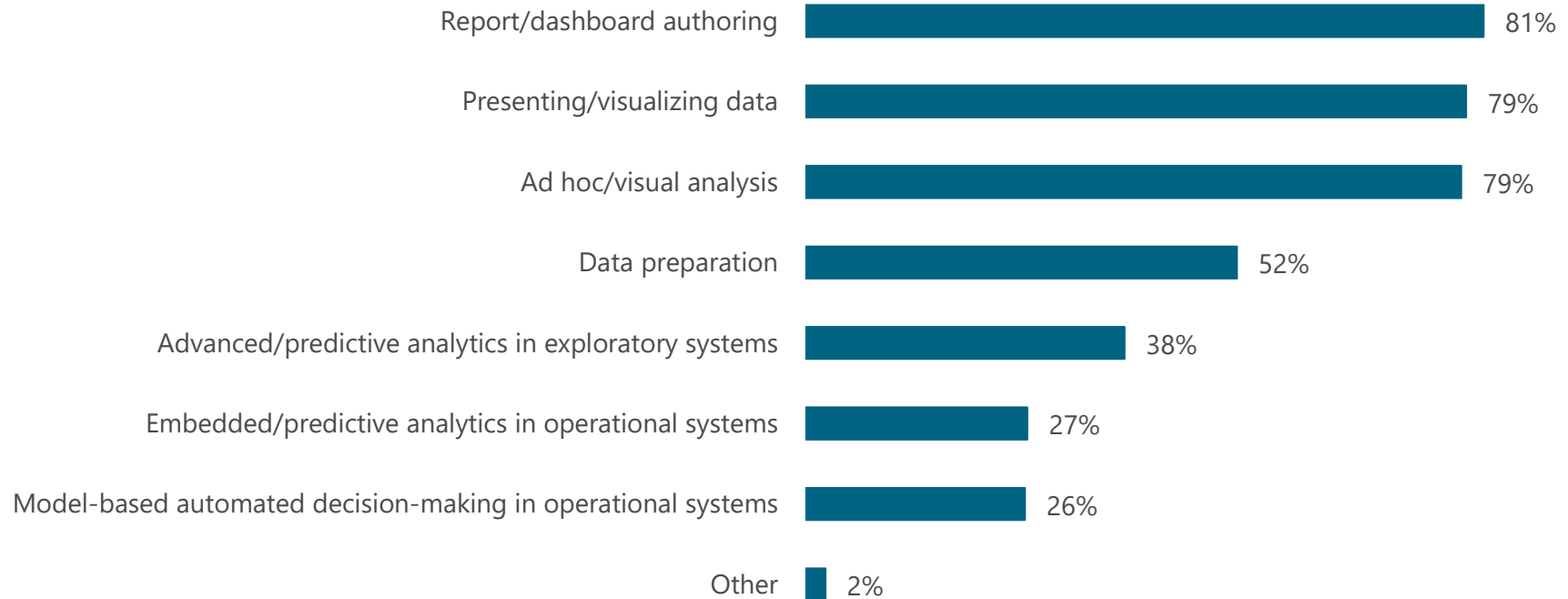

12%

88%

■ Yes ■ No

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=298

BARC

How should data & analytics platforms be allocated between a company´s business domains?

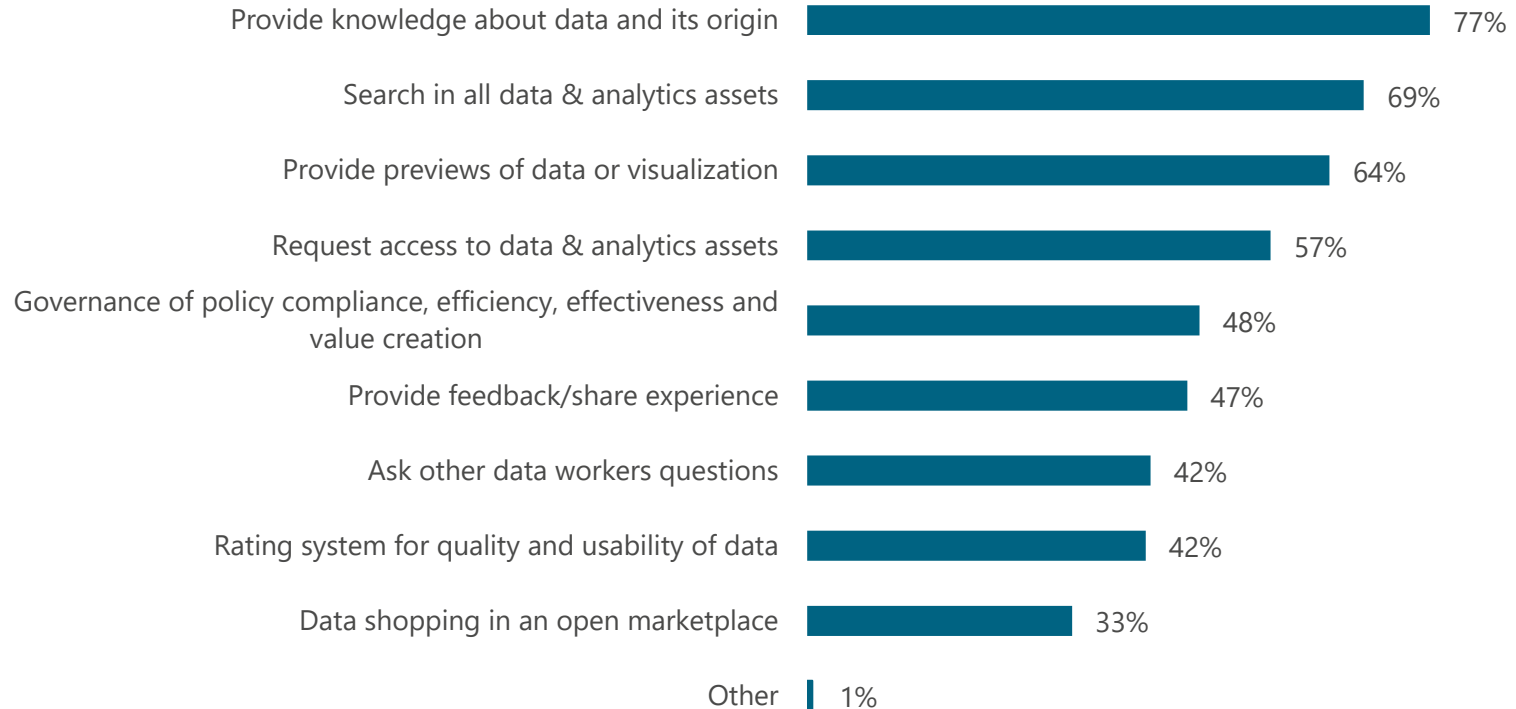Combination of a central D&A platform and additional platforms where required — 48%

One central D&A platform for all business domains — 41%

Each business domain should have its own D&A platform — 11%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=328

BARC

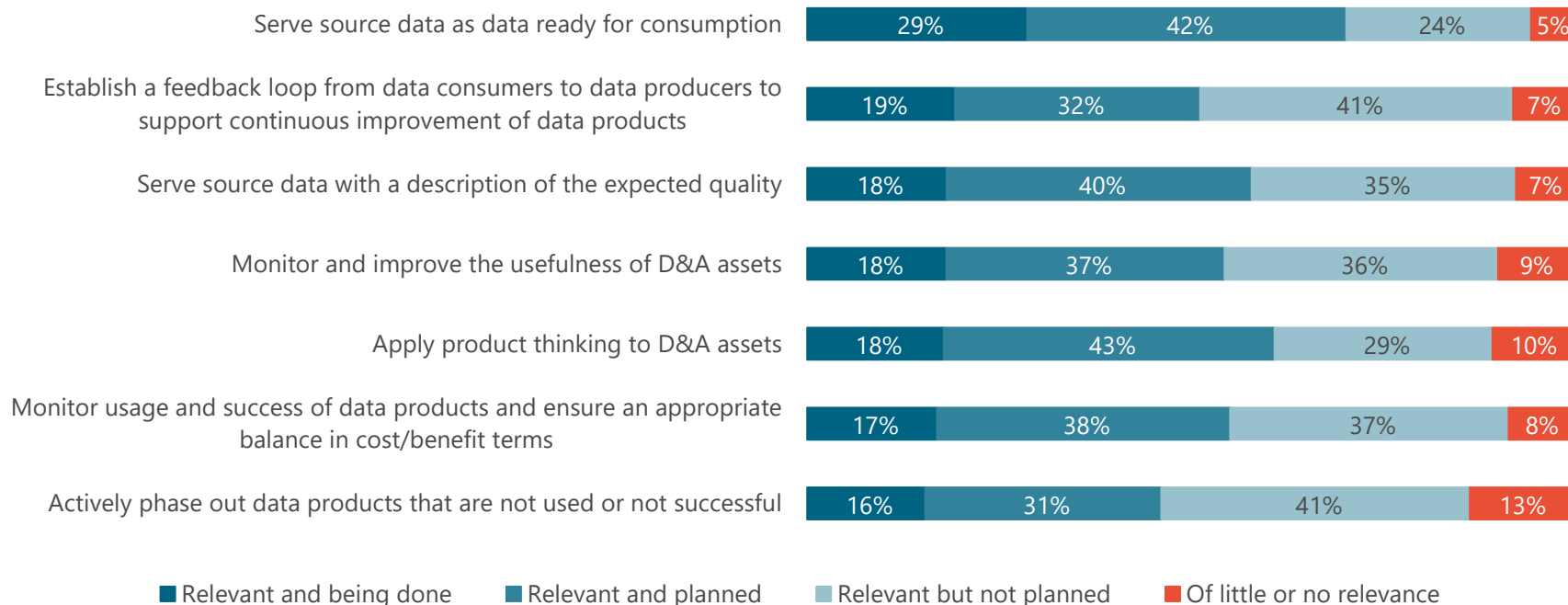# Which core functional areas should a self-service D&A platform for business users cover?

Functional Area	Percentage
Report/dashboard authoring	81%
Presenting/visualizing data	79%
Ad hoc/visual analysis	79%
Data preparation	52%
Advanced/predictive analytics in exploratory systems	38%
Embedded/predictive analytics in operational systems	27%
Model-based automated decision-making in operational systems	26%
Other	2%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=334

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Which supporting features should a self-service D&A platform provide to help business users work more efficiently and effectively with data & analytics assets?
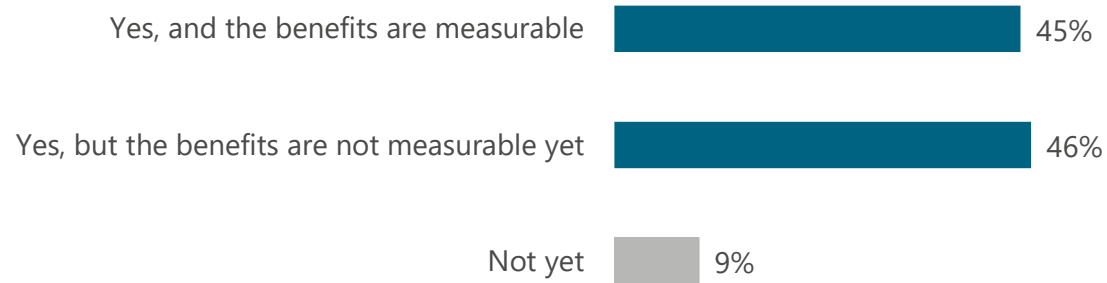
Feature	%
Provide knowledge about data and its origin	77%
Search in all data & analytics assets	69%
Provide previews of data or visualization	64%
Request access to data & analytics assets	57%
Governance of policy compliance, efficiency, effectiveness and value creation	48%
Provide feedback/share experience	47%
Ask other data workers questions	42%
Rating system for quality and usability of data	42%
Data shopping in an open marketplace	33%
Other	1%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=331

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Which of these measures are relevant for your company to improve the quality of its data & analytics-assets?
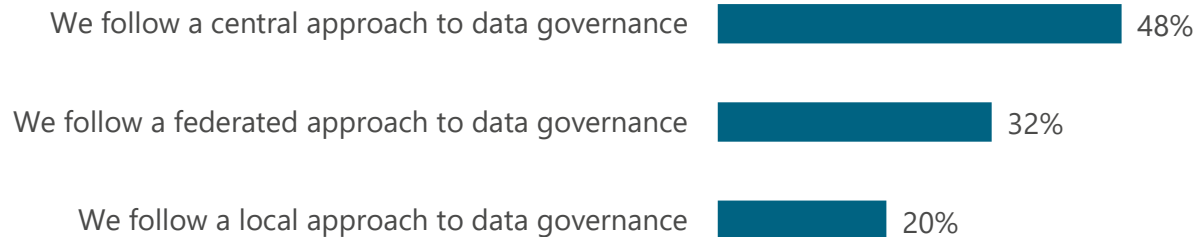
Measure	Relevant and being done	Relevant and planned	Relevant but not planned	Of little or no relevance
Serve source data as data ready for consumption	29%	42%	24%	5%
Establish a feedback loop from data consumers to data producers to support continuous improvement of data products	19%	32%	41%	7%
Serve source data with a description of the expected quality	18%	40%	35%	7%
Monitor and improve the usefulness of D&A assets	18%	37%	36%	9%
Apply product thinking to D&A assets	18%	43%	29%	10%
Monitor usage and success of data products and ensure an appropriate balance in cost/benefit terms	17%	38%	37%	8%
Actively phase out data products that are not used or not successful	16%	31%	41%	13%

■ Relevant and being done ■ Relevant and planned ■ Relevant but not planned ■ Of little or no relevance

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=322

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Have these measures to improve the quality of D&A assets generated benefits?

Yes, and the benefits are measurable — 45%

Yes, but the benefits are not measurable yet — 46%

Not yet — 9%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=172

BARC

Which organizational data governance approach does your company follow today?

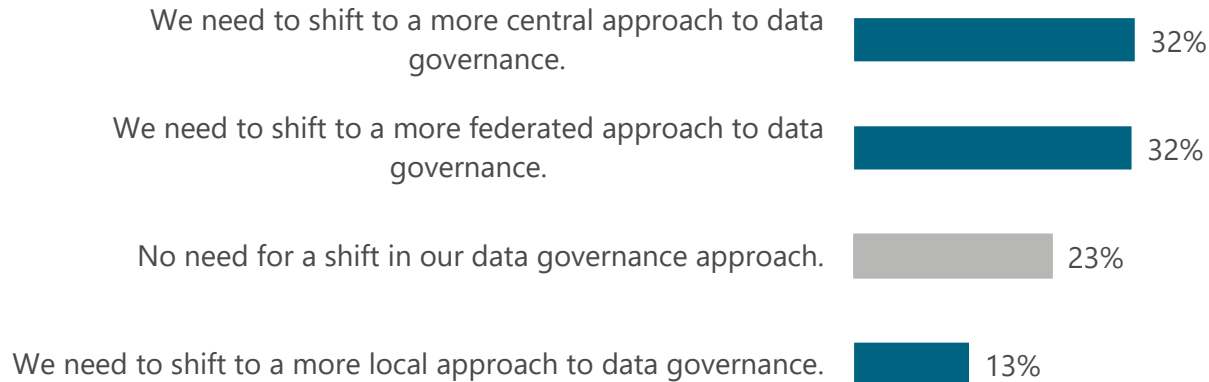We follow a central approach to data governance ████████████ 48%

We follow a federated approach to data governance ████████ 32%

We follow a local approach to data governance ████ 20%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=306

BARC

Has your organizational data governance approach generated measurable benefits?

Yes, and the benefits are measurable ▬ 32%

Yes, but the benefits are not measurable yet ▬ 42%

Not yet ▬ 26%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=268

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Do you see the need for a shift in your company's organizational data governance approach in the future?

We need to shift to a more central approach to data governance.	32%
We need to shift to a more federated approach to data governance.	32%
No need for a shift in our data governance approach.	23%
We need to shift to a more local approach to data governance.	13%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=273

BARC

How relevant is the data mesh concept for your company?

Relevant and being done — 19%
Relevant and planned — 35%
Relevant but not planned — 31%
Of little or no relevance — 15%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=293

BARC

How relevant is data intelligence for your company?

Relevant and being done	43%
Relevant and planned	37%
Relevant but not planned	16%
Of little or no relevance	4%
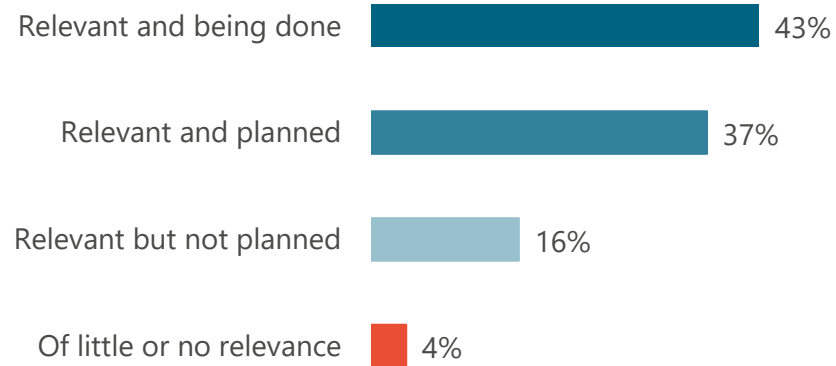
Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=313

BARC

Demography

BARC

How do you rate the skills and competencies in the handling of data in your company compared to your main competitors?

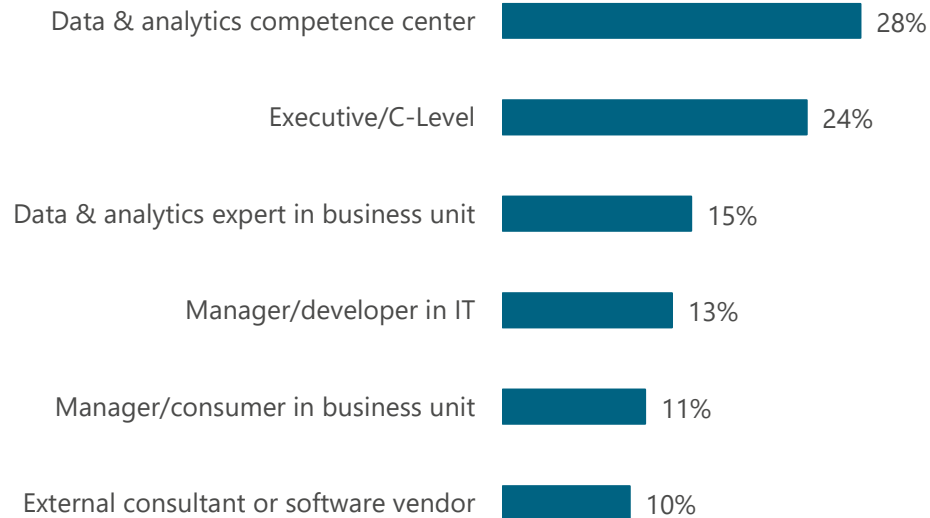|	
Much better	23%
Slightly better	29%
Similar	31%
Slightly worse	13%
Much worse	3%
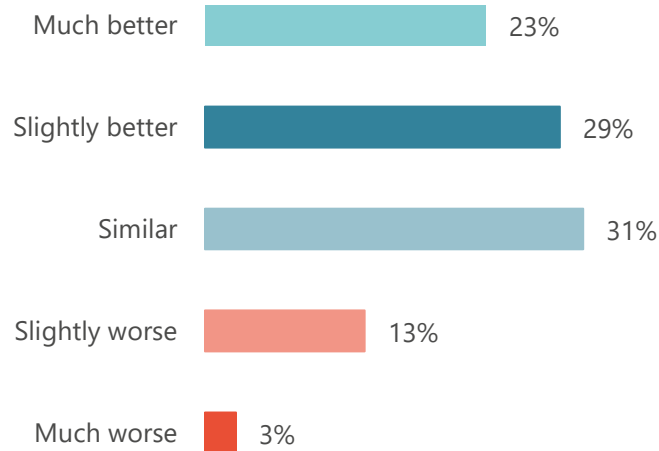
Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=309

BARC

How many employees does your company have?

Legend:
- Less than 500 — 33%
- 500 - 4,999 — 34%
- 5,000 or more — 33%
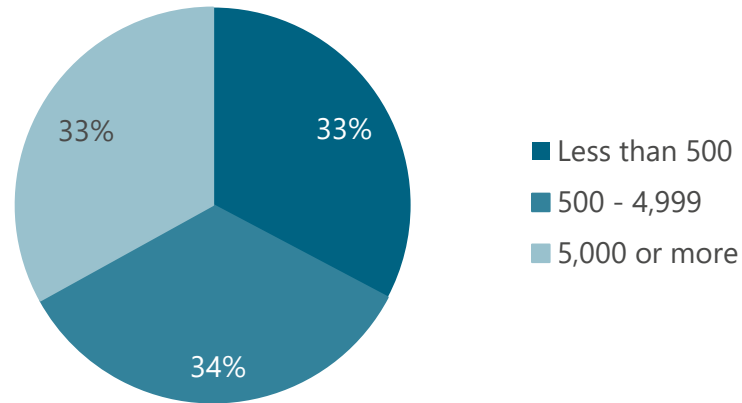
Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=336

BARC

What is your role in the company?

Data & analytics competence center — 28%

Executive/C-Level — 24%

Data & analytics expert in business unit — 15%

Manager/developer in IT — 13%

Manager/consumer in business unit — 11%

External consultant or software vendor — 10%

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In which region are you located?

- Europe: 69%
- North America: 24%
- Asia and Pacific: 4%
- South America: 1%
- Africa: 1%
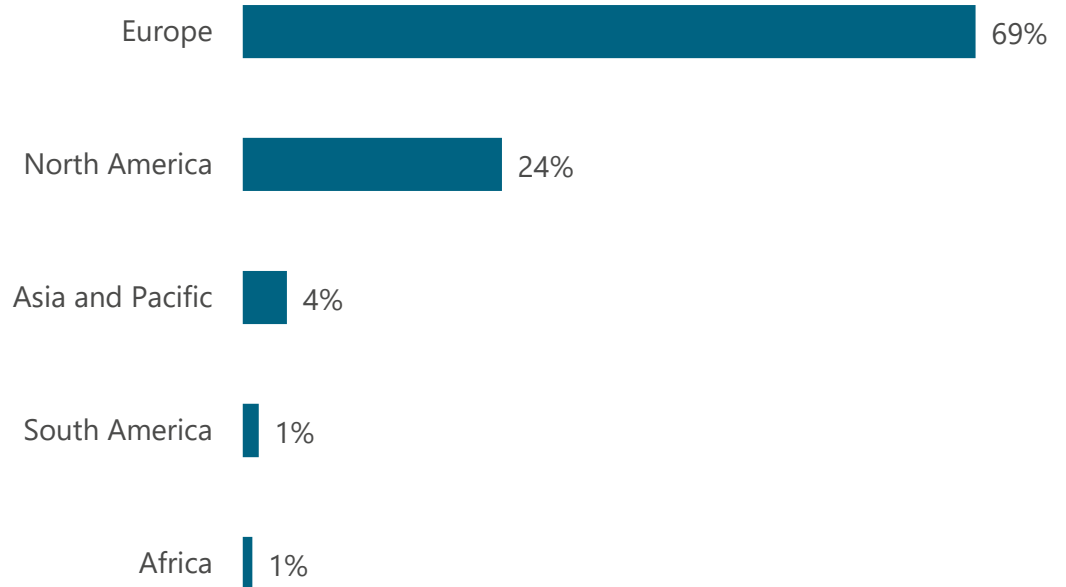
Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=336

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Which of the following best describes your organization´s industry sector?
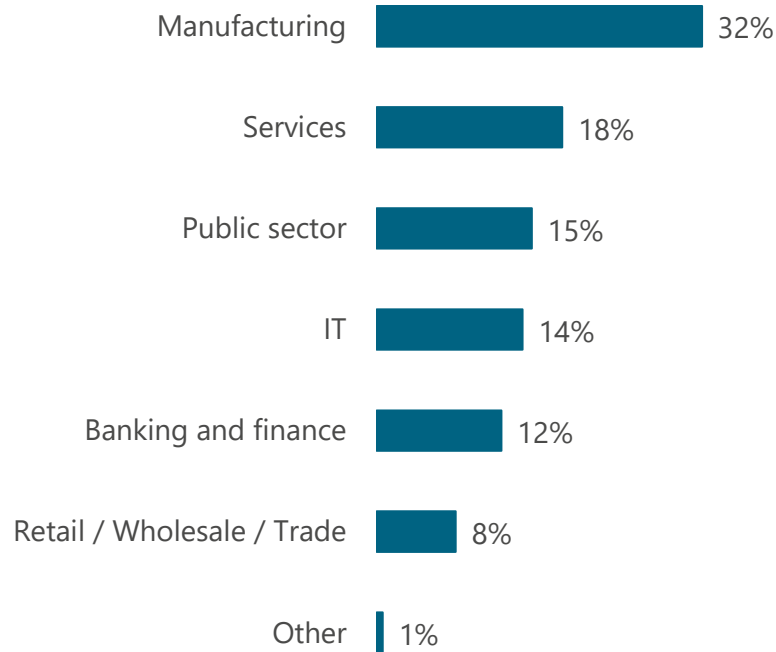
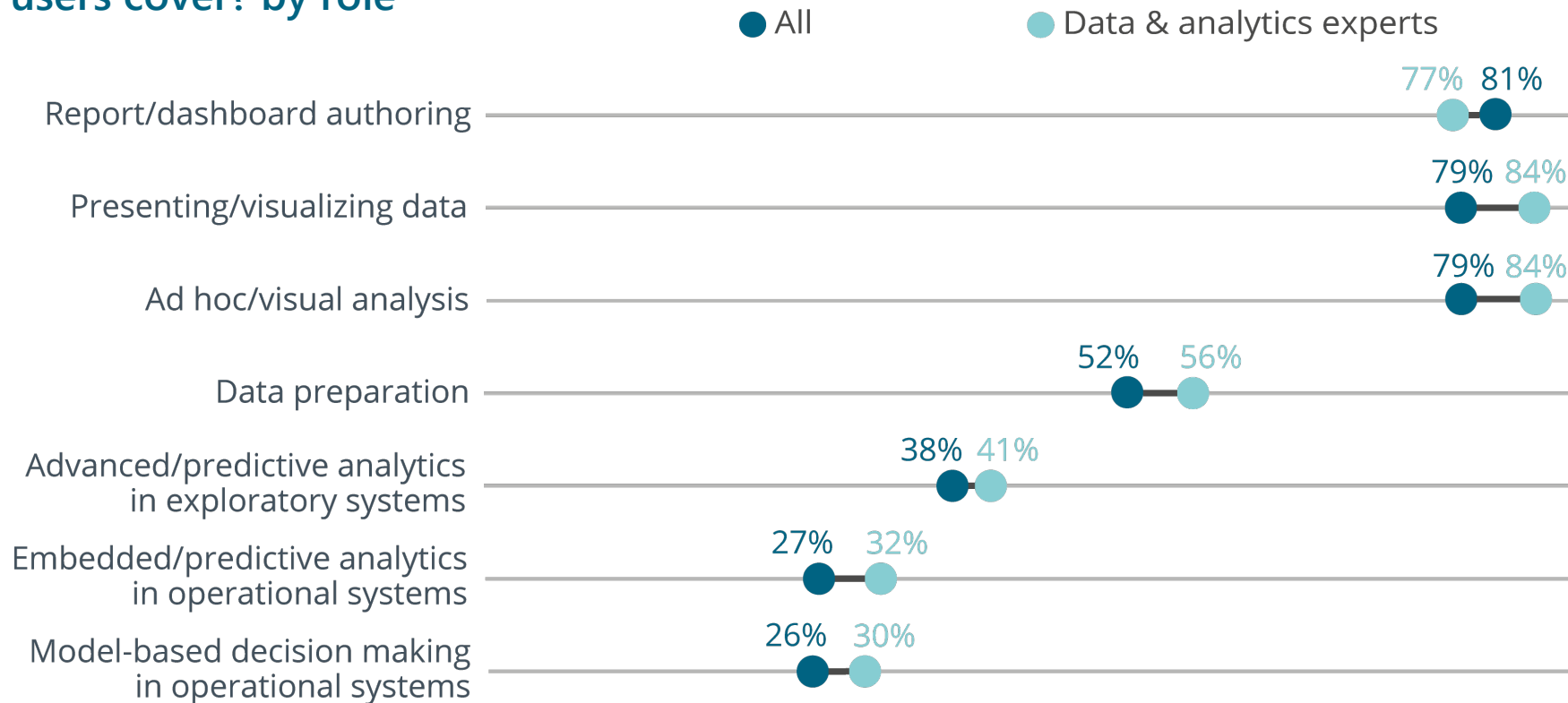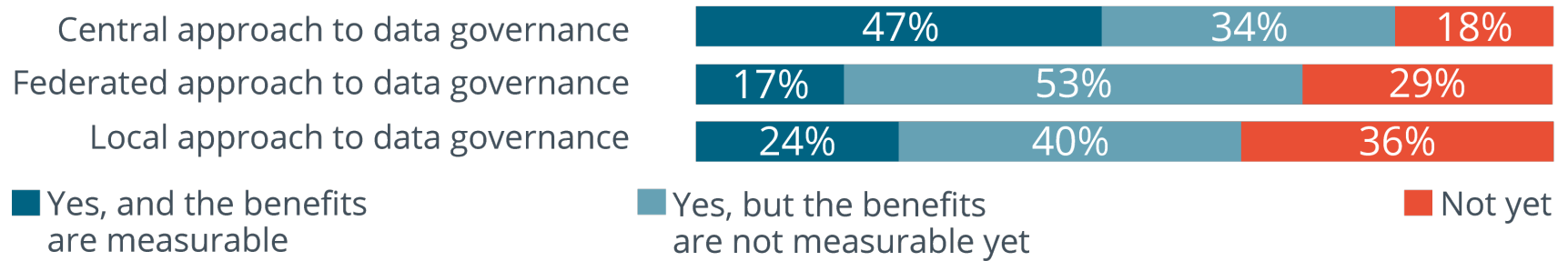| Industry Sector	Percentage
Manufacturing	32%
Services	18%
Public sector	15%
IT	14%
Banking and finance	12%
Retail / Wholesale / Trade	8%
Other	1%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=336

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Cross Analysis

BARC

Which core functional areas should a self-service D&A platform for business users cover? by role

● All   ● Data & analytics experts

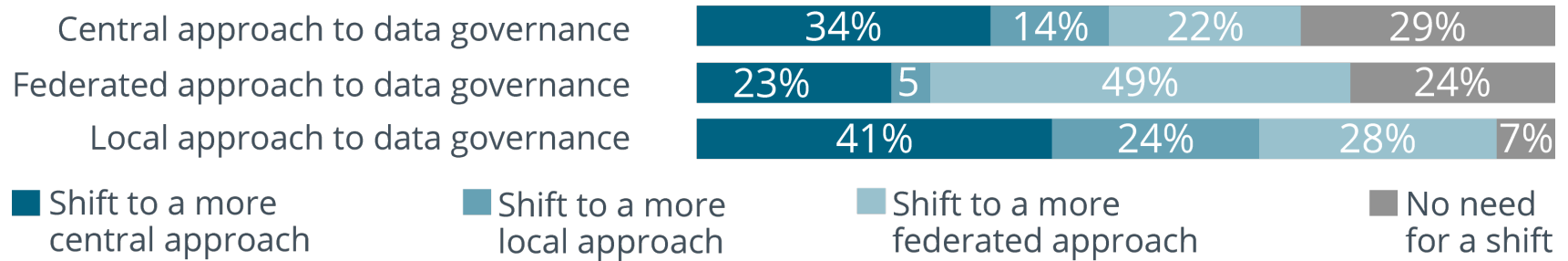| Functional area		
Report/dashboard authoring	77%	81%
Presenting/visualizing data	79%	84%
Ad hoc/visual analysis	79%	84%
Data preparation	52%	56%
Advanced/predictive analytics in exploratory systems	38%	41%
Embedded/predictive analytics in operational systems	27%	32%
Model-based decision making in operational systems	26%	30%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, all n=334, role n=333

BARC

Which organizational data governance approach does your company follow today? by Has your organizational data governance approach generated measurable benefits?
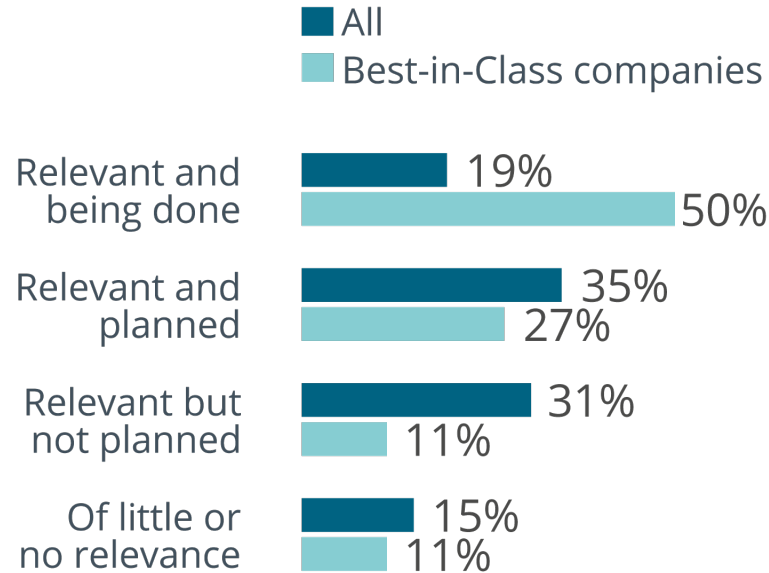
Approach	Yes, and the benefits are measurable	Yes, but the benefits are not measurable yet	Not yet
Central approach to data governance	47%	34%	18%
Federated approach to data governance	17%	53%	29%
Local approach to data governance	24%	40%	36%

■ Yes, and the benefits are measurable   ■ Yes, but the benefits are not measurable yet   ■ Not yet

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=306

27

BARC

Which organizational data governance approach does your company follow today? by Do you see the need for a shift in your company's organizational data governance approach in the future?
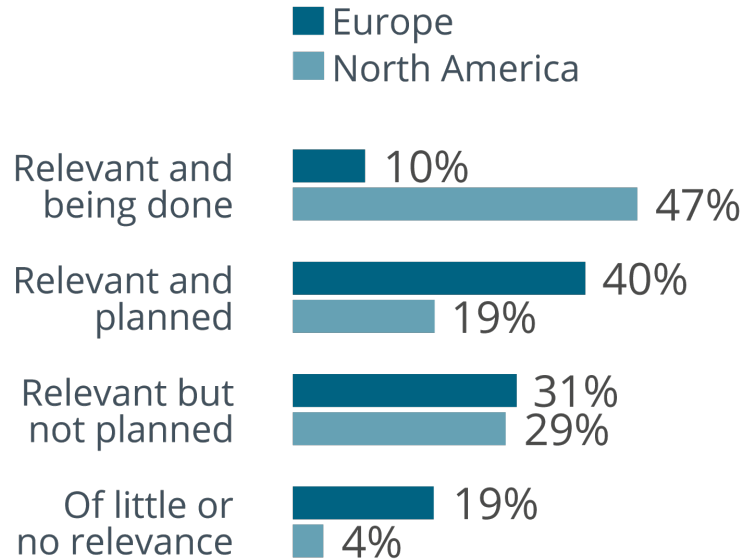
Approach	Shift to a more central approach	Shift to a more local approach	Shift to a more federated approach	No need for a shift
Central approach to data governance	34%	14%	22%	29%
Federated approach to data governance	23%	5	49%	24%
Local approach to data governance	41%	24%	28%	7%

■ Shift to a more central approach
■ Shift to a more local approach
■ Shift to a more federated approach
■ No need for a shift

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How relevant is the data mesh concept for your company? by Best-in-Class

Legend:
- All
- Best-in-Class companies

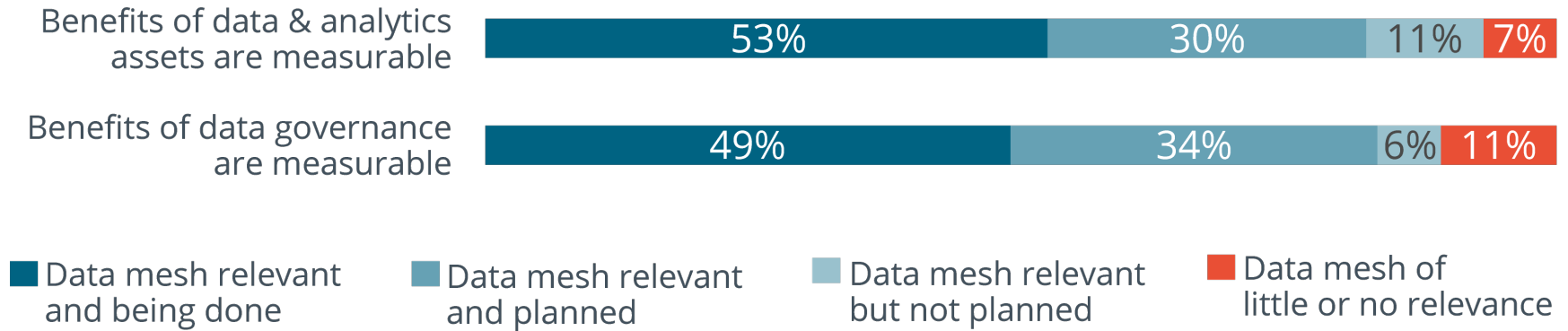| Category	All	Best-in-Class companies
Relevant and being done	19%	50%
Relevant and planned	35%	27%
Relevant but not planned	31%	11%
Of little or no relevance	15%	11%

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, all n=293, Best-in-Class n=110

BARC

How relevant is the data mesh concept for your company? by region

■ Europe
■ North America

	Europe	North America
Relevant and being done	10%	47%
Relevant and planned	40%	19%
Relevant but not planned	31%	29%
Of little or no relevance	19%	4%

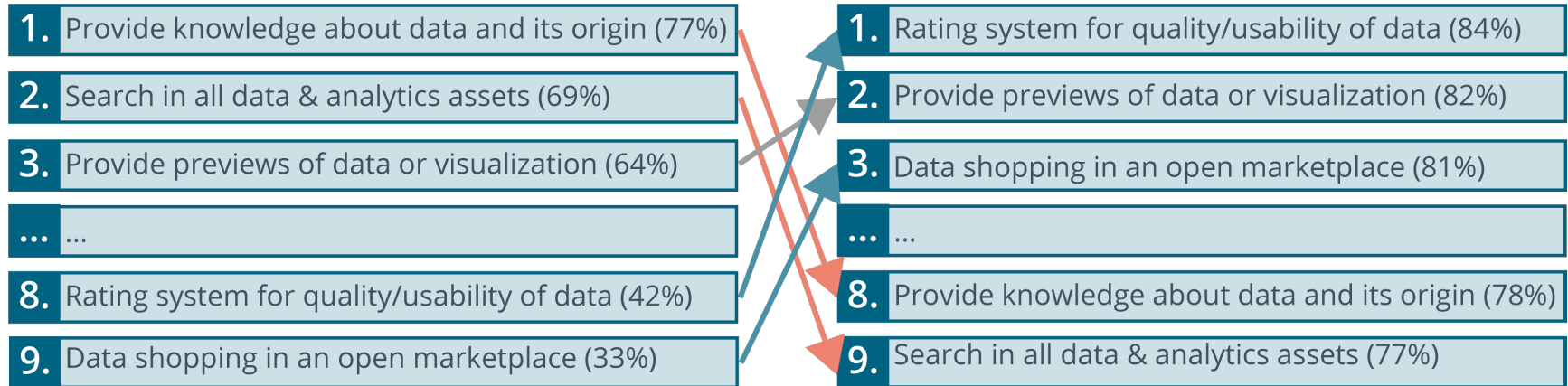Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, n=293

BARC

How relevant is the data mesh concept for your company? by Have these measures to improve the quality of D&A assets generated benefits? by Has your organizational data governance approach generated measurable benefits?

Benefits of data & analytics assets are measurable
- 53%
- 30%
- 11%
- 7%

Benefits of data governance are measurable
- 49%
- 34%
- 6%
- 11%

- ■ Data mesh relevant and being done
- ■ Data mesh relevant and planned
- ■ Data mesh relevant but not planned
- ■ Data mesh of little or no relevance

Source: BARC Survey Data Mesh, D&A assets n=160; data governance n=241

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Which supporting features should a self-service D&A platform provide to help business users work more efficiently and effectively with data & analytics assets? by "Data intelligence: relevant and being done or planned"

Supporting features of a self-service D&A platform are important to all, but data intelligence practitioners see other priorities to be successful:

1. Provide knowledge about data and its origin (77%)	**1.** Rating system for quality/usability of data (84%)
2. Search in all data & analytics assets (69%)	**2.** Provide previews of data or visualization (82%)
3. Provide previews of data or visualization (64%)	**3.** Data shopping in an open marketplace (81%)
... ...	**...** ...
8. Rating system for quality/usability of data (42%)	**8.** Provide knowledge about data and its origin (78%)
9. Data shopping in an open marketplace (33%)	**9.** Search in all data & analytics assets (77%)

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