

# “How to build a biobank” course: overall feedback and prospects

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## Introduction

Starting in 2015, Biobank Graz has set-up an annually held 3-days biobanking course called “How to build a biobank: Learning by doing”. This course was designed to provide best practices, introduce state-of-the-art equipment and to support scientists and managers taking the first steps in setting up an efficient biobank.

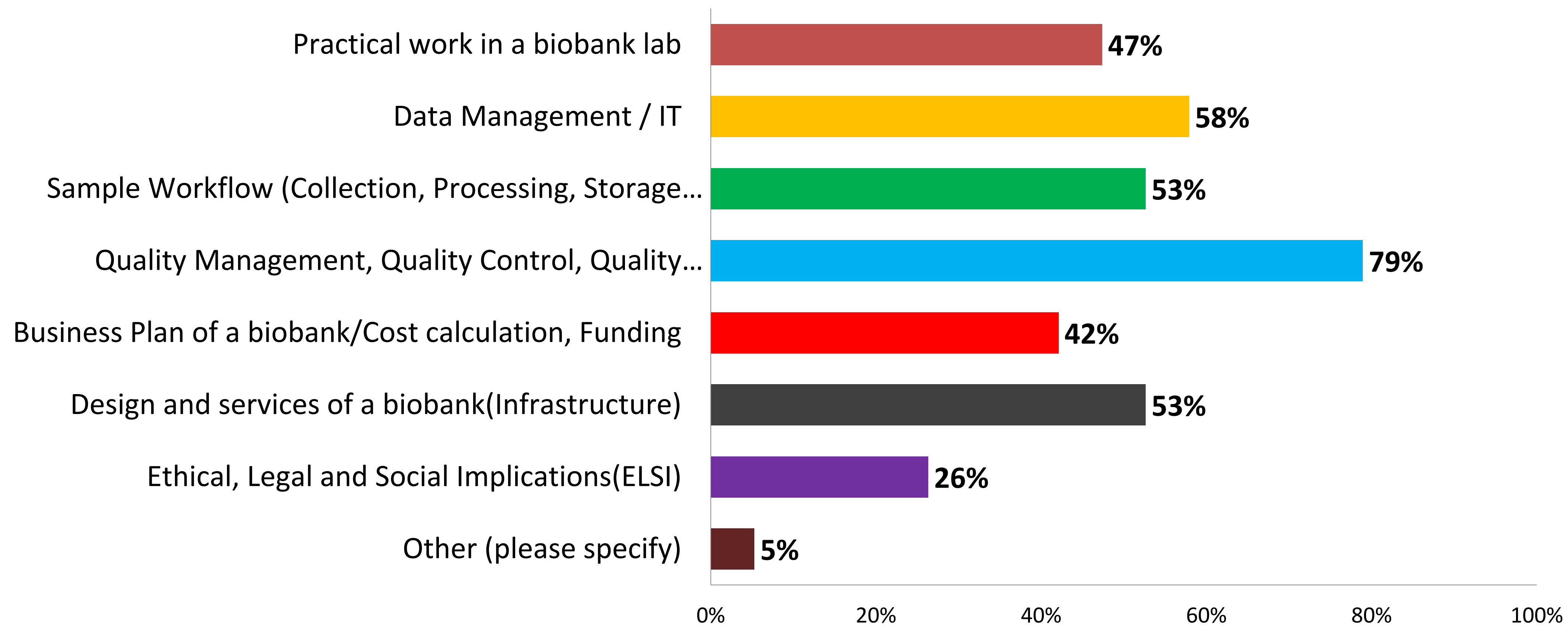
## Methods

With the objective of course refinement, an anonymous questionnaire survey link (Survey Monkey) was sent to 59 former participants. The survey consisted of seven short questions and a “free comments” field.

The first three questions aimed to have a quick feedback on the personal preferences: 1) practical aspect, management or theoretical parts, 2) suitability of course duration, and 3) course usefulness. The four last questions aimed to identify future interests in biobanking education, preferences regarding sponsor presentations and finally their opinion on advanced courses and topic-based webinars.

## Results

In total, 19 answers were collected which represent 32% of the former participants. On a scale from 1 (not useful) to 4 (very useful), an average of 3.05 was obtained regarding the usefulness of the course. In particular, the practical aspect (hands-on training in the lab: handling and preservation of tissues and liquid samples) was preferred (47%). 42% of the respondents would have preferred more time. Further, most of the participants would be interested in information on modernization of biobanks (84%) and webinars covering specific issues (89%), for example quality management, quality control and quality assurance. Regarding biobanking associated products, participants have mainly shown interest in “IT solutions for biobank databases” (74%).



### Future interests in biobanking expressed by the respondents

The category “other” illustrates an interest from one respondent in documental workflow during sample acquisition and sample output.

## Conclusion

The overall result of the survey is positive and very supportive to further develop the content of this basic biobanking course. Based on this feedback and in accordance with current biobanking interests, changes have been made to adapt the future program. Furthermore, based on the feedback an advanced 5-days course “How to operate a biobank sustainably successful” was established (details on all courses: <https://biobank.medunigraz.at/education> )

Additionally, Med Uni Graz offers a highly comprehensive academic distance-learning master course in professional biobanking (details on <https://medunigraz.at/mscbiobanking> )