

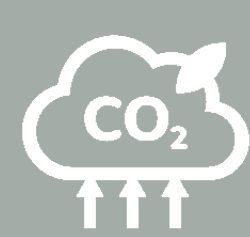
Barriers and motivational factors for implementing climate change mitigation measures in Austrian healthcare facilities

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BACKGROUND & AIM



The Austrian healthcare sector contributes approximately 7% to the national carbon footprint (Weisz et al., 2020) and therefore is a crucial sector for reducing GHG emissions. Up to now, the extent to which mitigation measures have been put into practice within healthcare facilities remains rather limited. To achieve national and international climate targets it is important to promote the implementation of mitigation measures in healthcare facilities. Here we present a questionnaire study to **identify motivations and barriers to implementing mitigation measures**. The results serve as a scientific basis for interventions at a policy level.

METHODS

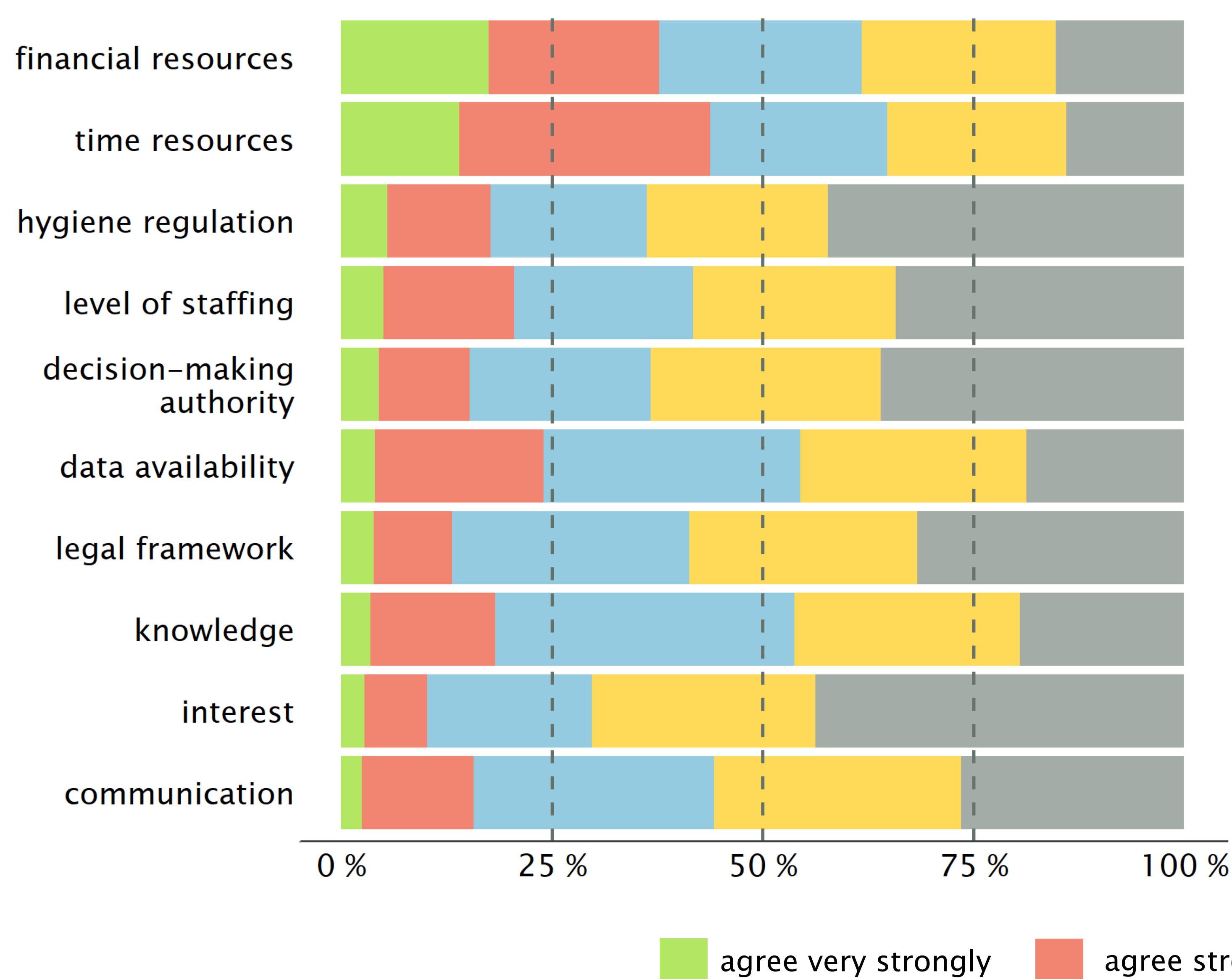


To assess motivating and obstructive factors for implementing climate mitigation measures, a **quantitative, non-representative online survey among healthcare professionals and managers** (n = 400) from Austrian healthcare facilities (e.g. hospitals, nursing homes, doctor's offices, pharmacies) was conducted. The survey comprises the following sections: knowledge about climate mitigation and adaptation, effects of climate change on health and the healthcare system, motivation for and barriers against implementing mitigation measures, assessment of the current situation of the facility, and future needs to implement mitigation measures.

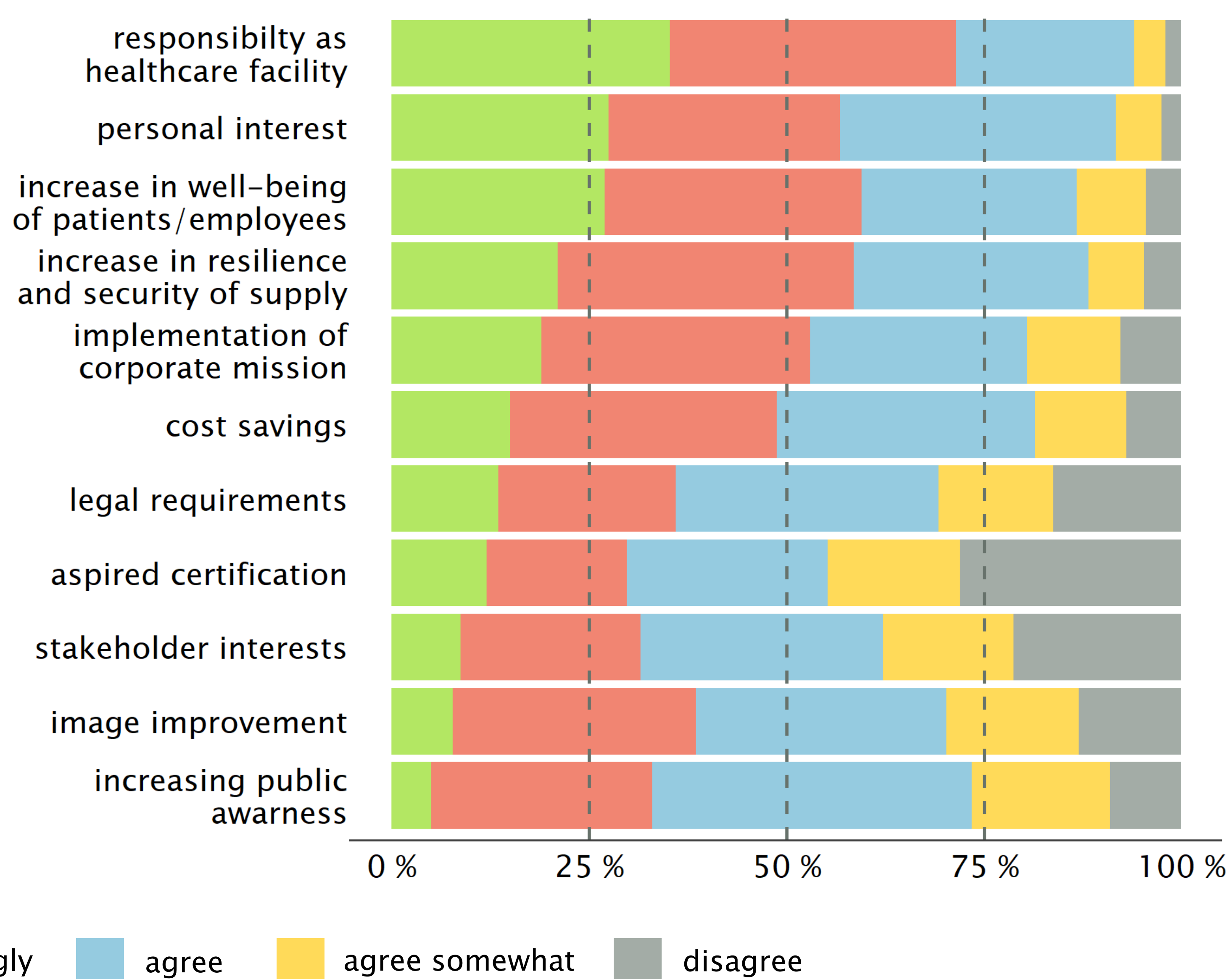
RESULTS



Barriers



Motivational factors



KEY FINDINGS



- the **lack of financial resources** (38% of the respondents agree very strongly or strongly) and the **lack of time resources** (44%) are identified as the **main barriers** for implementing climate mitigation measures in Austrian healthcare facilities
- the **primary motivational factors** for taking first steps towards implementing mitigation measures are **perceived responsibility** as a healthcare facility (71% agreeing very strongly or strongly), the **personal interest** of the surveyed healthcare professional/manager (57%), the **increase in well-being of patients and employees** (60%), and the **increase in resilience and security of supply** (59%).

CONCLUSION



The results of the study point to a **structural problem** hindering the implementation of climate change mitigation in healthcare facilities. While healthcare providers are well aware of their **responsibility to protect human and planetary health** and are willing to act on it, we find a **substantial lack of financial and time resources** to implement mitigation measures. These findings underline the need of policies that facilitate **funding and legal frameworks** of mitigation measures in healthcare facilities to achieve national and international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

