Achievements and Future Challenges in Establishing Research Ethics at the Korean University Council of Research Ethics(KUCRE)
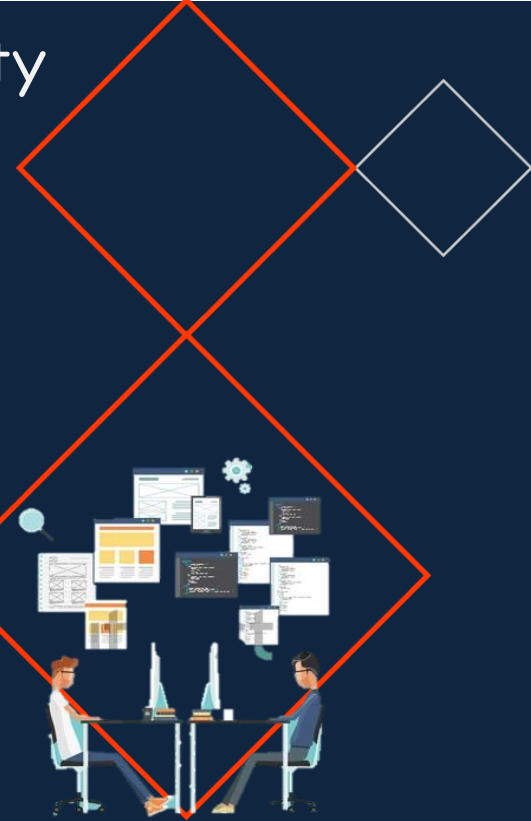
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Acknowledgments

- **This presentation are based on the results of the "2021 Research Ethics Activities Support Project" conducted by KUCRE from 2021 to 2023.**

- **I would like to thank the Ministry of Education, the National Research Foundation of Korea, and the co-authors of this paper for their support.**

❖ Objective:

  ✓ To establish an organic system of cooperation among the research ethics (integrity) committees of each university

  ✓ To exchange of knowledge and information related to research ethics and cooperation on verification of research misconduct

  ✓ To contribute to the establishment of research ethics in universities

❖ Establishment: June 2015, changed to a corporation in February 2019

❖ Member universities: 67 universities

❖ Major Activities

  ✓ Seminars for members of university research ethics committees

  ✓ Workshops for university research ethics practitioners

  ✓ Conducting verification of research misconduct on behalf of universities

  ✓ Consulting on research ethics activities and concerns of universities

  ✓ Implemented the project "Support for Improving University Research Ethics Verification Capacity" (2021–2023): Supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea

2021 Seoul APRI Network Conference

4th 2021 Seoul APRI

2021 Seoul APRI Network Conference

Current Issues and Tasks to Establish Research Ethics in the Era of Covid-19

Date and time	February 25, 2021 from 09:30 -18:00 (Korea Standard Time)
Location	Seoul, South Korea
Host	National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)
Organizer	Korean University Council of Research Ethics (KUCRE)
Sponsor	Ministry of Education (MOE)
	Korean Association of Academic Societies (KAOAS)
	The Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies (KOFST)
	The Center for Research Ethics Information (CRE)

Co-Chairs of the 2021 Seoul APRI Network Conference

- **Chang-Sub Uhm, South Korea**

- **Michael Kalichman, U.S.**

- **Daniel Barr, Australia**

- **Zoe Hammatt, U.S.**

Local-Lead of the 2021 Seoul APRI Network Conference

- **InJae Lee, South Korea**

4th 2021
Seoul APRI
NETWORK CONFERENCE

February 25, 2021 (Thursday)
09:30 – 18:00 (Korea Standard Time)

❖ Background

  ➢ Since Hwang's scandal in 2005, regulations and systems for establishing research ethics have steadily improved.

  ➢ However, the frequency of research misconduct in universities has not decreased and systematic efforts to prevent it have not been made.

  ➢ This is due to low awareness of research ethics and lack of experience and know-how to establish and operate research ethics systems.

  ➢ Research misconduct has been steadily increasing, but there has been no research ethics education and fair verification of research misconduct to prevent it.

  ➢ Therefore, practical consulting on the establishment and operation of research ethics systems is required to increase the capacity of universities to establish research ethics on their own.

  ➢ To prevent research misconduct, it is necessary to train and support experts who can transparently and fairly verify research misconduct.

❖ **Goals**

➢ Build capacity to verify research misconduct at universities

➢ Establishing a research ethics system in universities and internalizing research ethics activities

➢ Enhance the ability to verify research misconduct and ensure fair verification

❖ **Overview**

➢ Project Period: 3 years from 2021 to 2023

➢ Detailed Program

✓ Dispatch of research misconduct verification experts

✓ Consulting on research ethics system operation

✓ Provide training to foster research misconduct verification experts

❖ Objectives

➢ Diagnosis and consulting on research ethics systems at universities

➢ Consulting on the university's research misconduct prevention activities

➢ Checking and disseminating the implementation of consulting contents

❖ Operating Principle

➢ Divided the whole country into three regions and organized 3 research ethics experts into one team

➢ The main areas of consulting conducted by each team:

✓ Establishment and application of research ethics regulations, organization and activities of permanent research ethics committees, and establishment and operation of systems to establish research ethics

✓ Operation of research ethics education (program contents, use of education experts, use of educational materials, etc.)

✓ Problems or questions arising from the application of regulations, recruitment of verification experts, and the verification procedure of research misconduct.
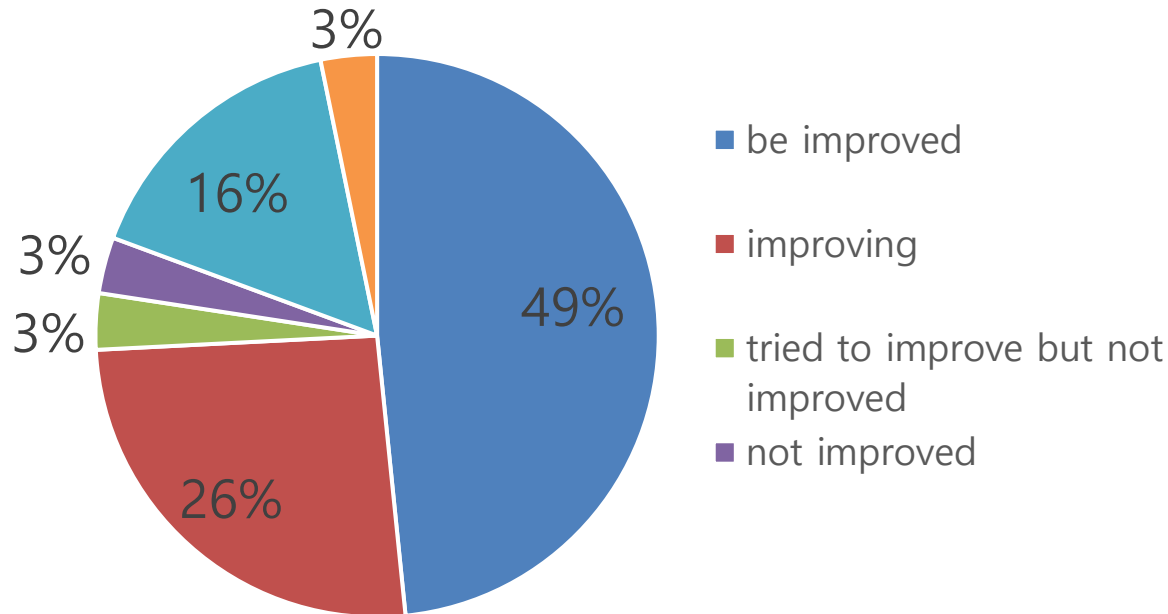
❖ **Method**

➢ Obtain information on the current state of research ethics at universities.

✓ Research Ethics Operational Level Self-Assessment Report
✓ Research ethics regulations
✓ Research misconduct verification status for the last 3 years

➢ Online or face-to-face interviews in consideration of the university's needs and circumstances

➢ Provide improvement opinions and recommendations according to the items under consultation

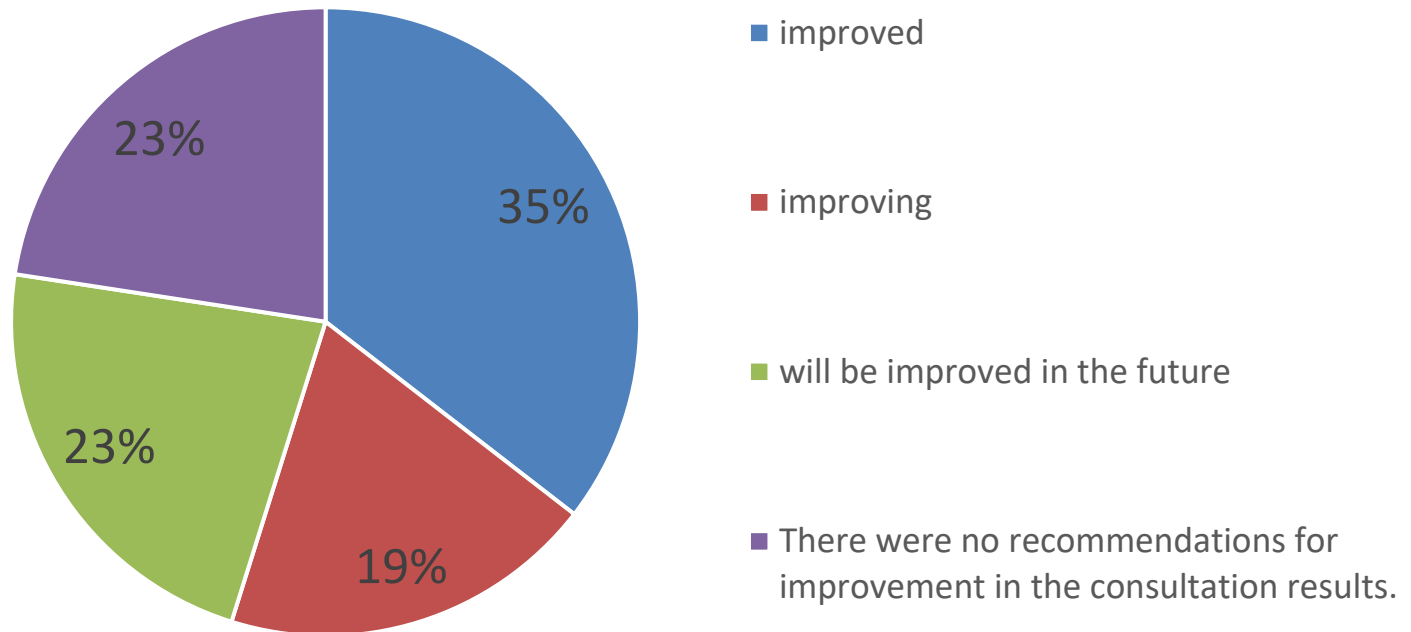➢ Confirmation of implementation of improvement opinions and recommendations

❖ **Participated universities: 31 over 3 years**

➢ 15 in 2021
➢ 6 in 2022
➢ 10 in 2023 (with follow-up consultations for participating universities in 2021 and 2022)
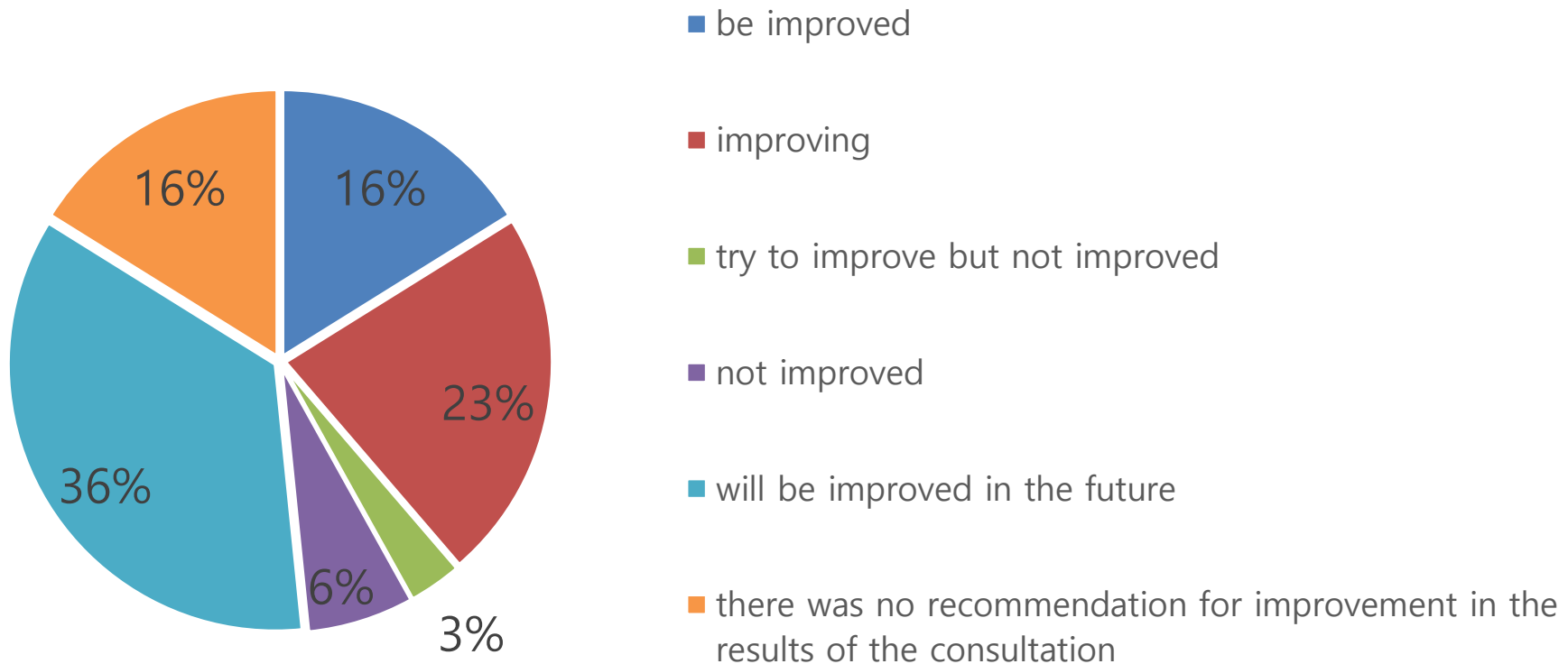
Research ethics(integrity) regulations

Legend:
- be improved — 49%
- improving — 26%
- tried to improve but not improved — 3%
- not improved — 3%
- (16%)
- (3%)

Establishment and operation of research ethics(integrity) committee

- improved
- improving
- will be improved in the future
- There were no recommendations for improvement in the consultation results.

35%
19%
23%
23%

System operation of research ethics

Pie chart: System operation of research ethics

- be improved — 16%
- improving — 23%
- try to improve but not improved — 3%
- not improved — 6%
- will be improved in the future — 36%
- there was no recommendation for improvement in the results of the consultation — 16%

Reporting center of research misconduct

- **be improved** — 26%
- **improving** — 22%
- **not be improved** — 6%
- **will be improve in the future** — 23%
- **There were no recommendations for improvement in the consultation results.** — 23%
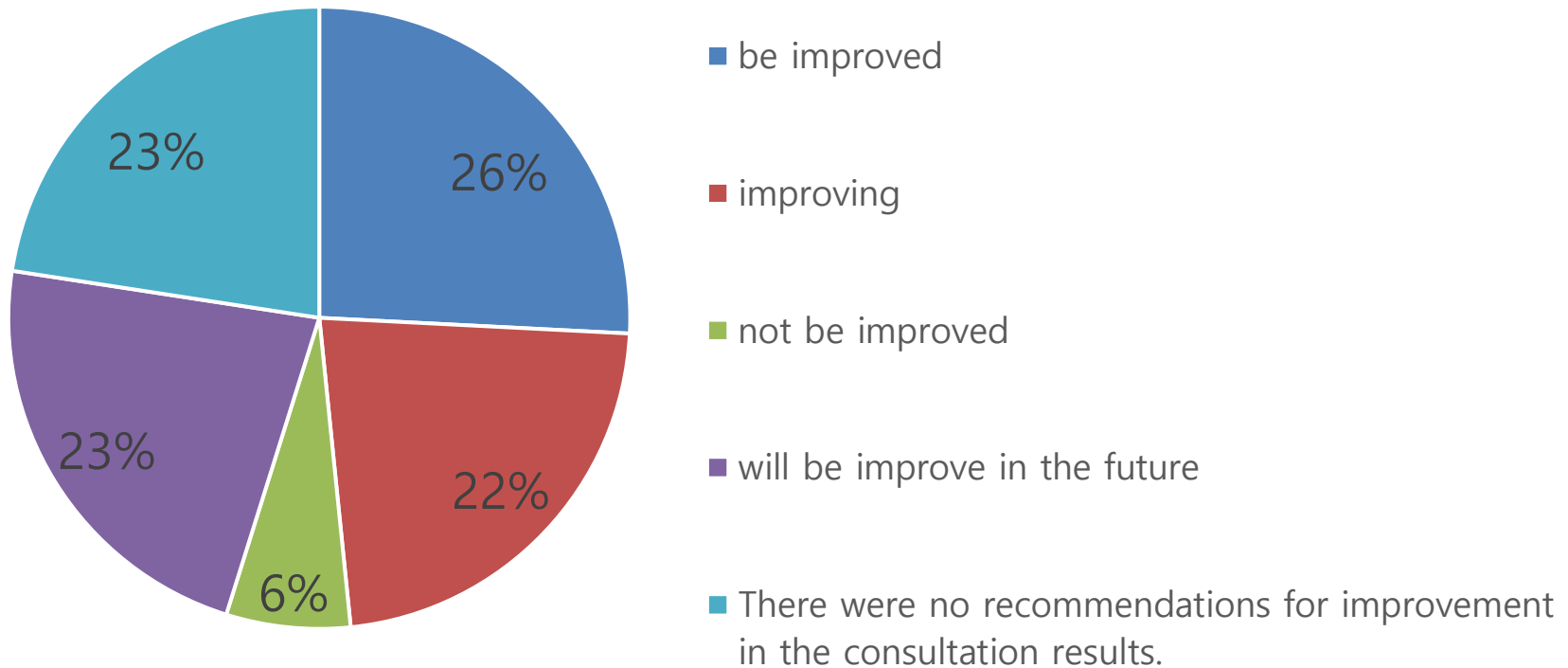
Appropriateness of investigating research misconduct

- be improved
- improving
- not be improved
- will be improved in the future
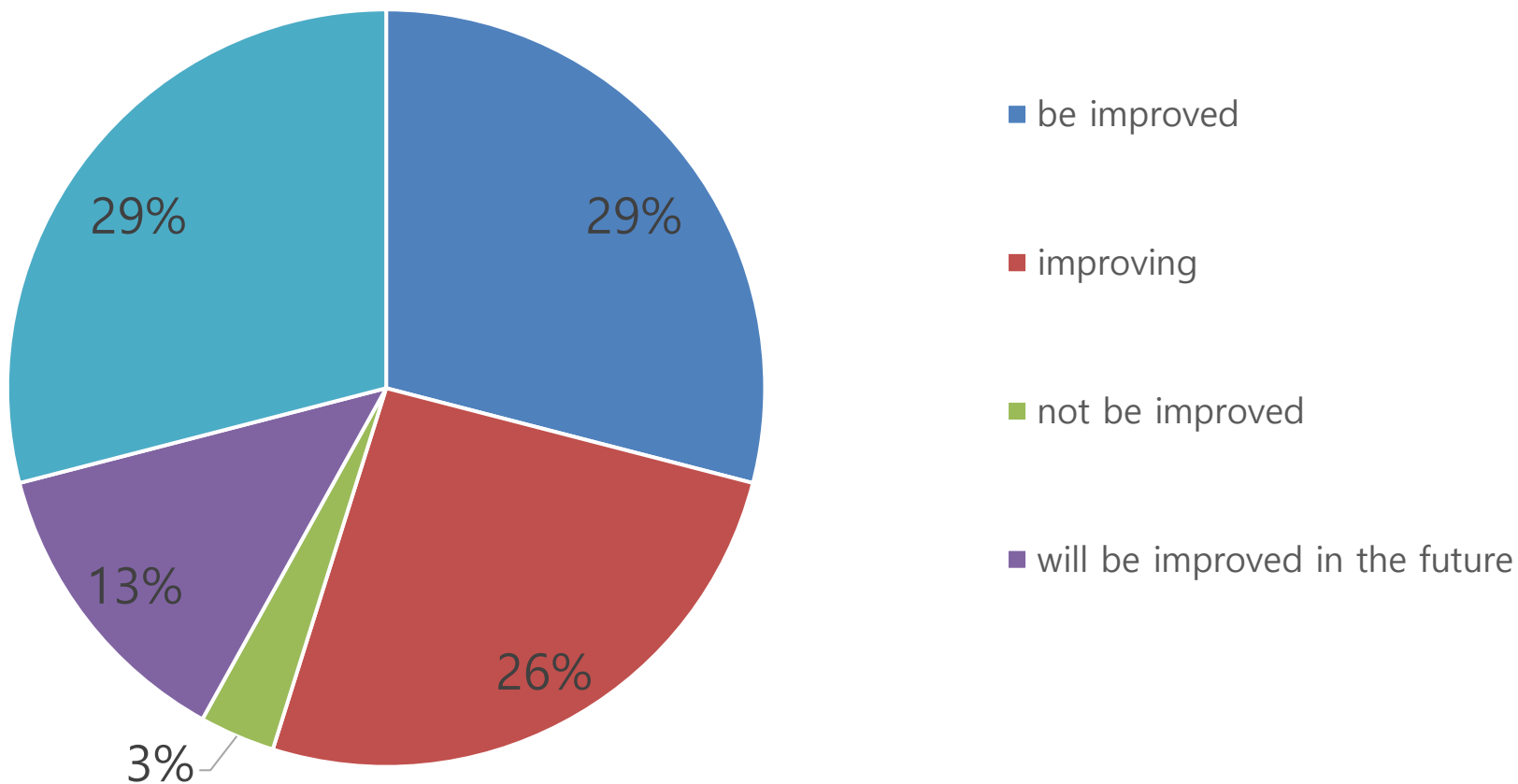
Research ethics education(training) for preventing research misconduct
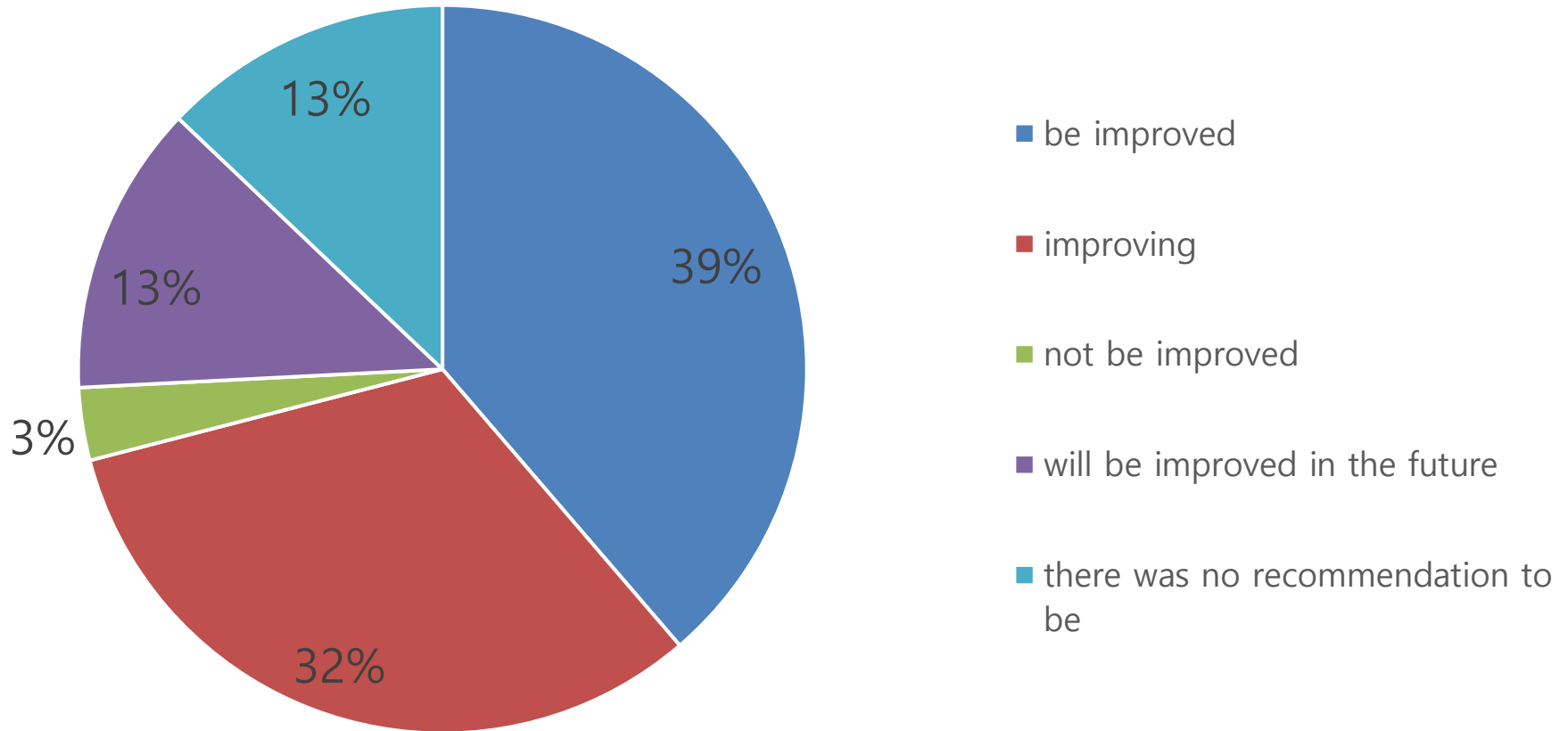
Establishment of system to prevent plagiarism

- be improved
- improving
- will be improved in the future
- There were no recommendations for improvement in the consultation results.

23%

19%

16%

42%
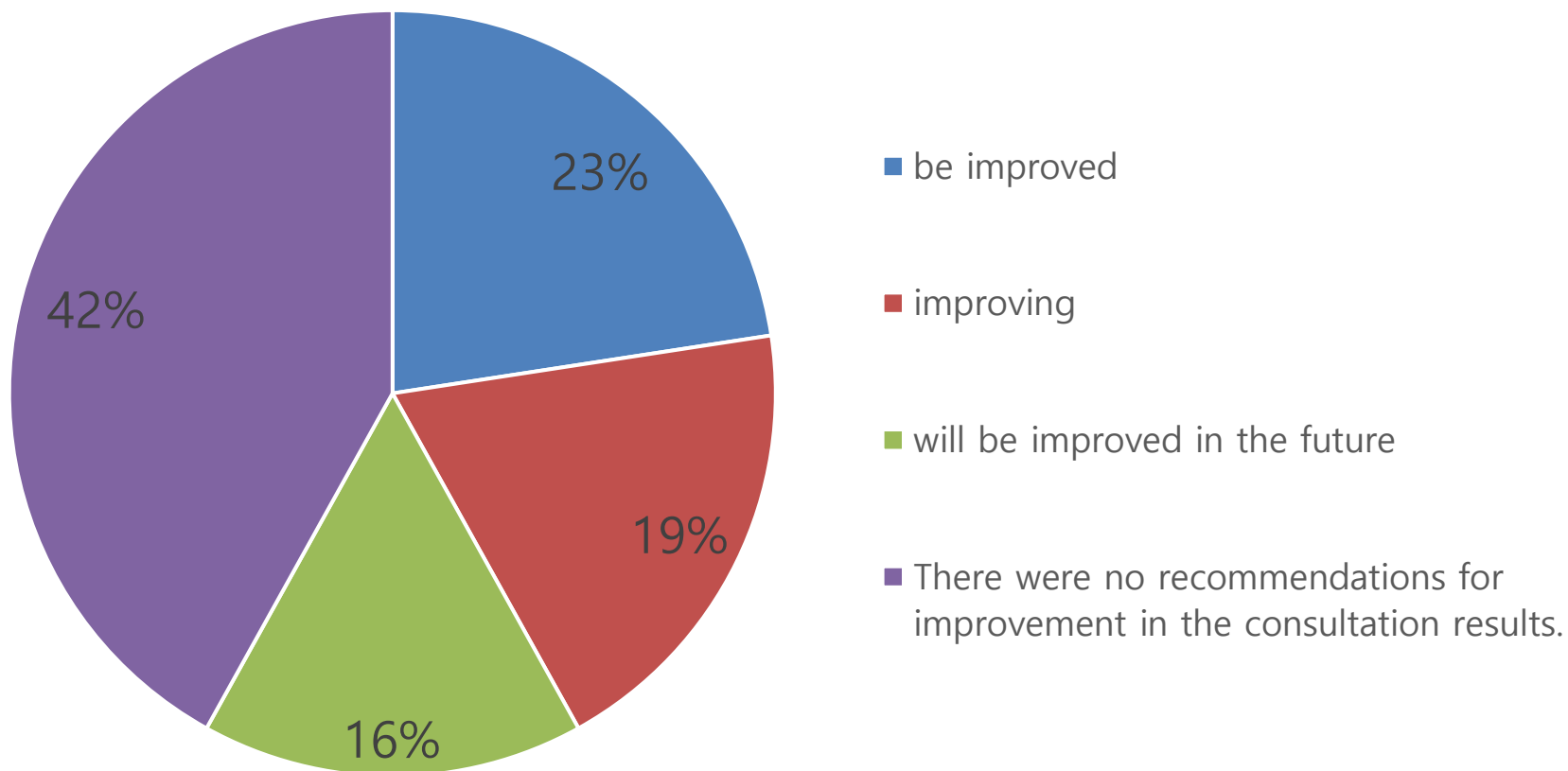
❖ Objective:
  ➢ To identify and train research misconduct verification experts so that universities have the capacity to verify and respond to research misconduct themselves
  ➢ To establish a network of research ethics experts to expand expert exchanges and explore ways to cooperate

❖ Target:
  ➢ Chairpersons and members of research ethics (integrity) committees
  ➢ People who are willing to act as research misconduct verification experts within their universities

❖ Method:
  ➢ Operated twice a year
  ➢ Total time: 24 hours (5 weeks)
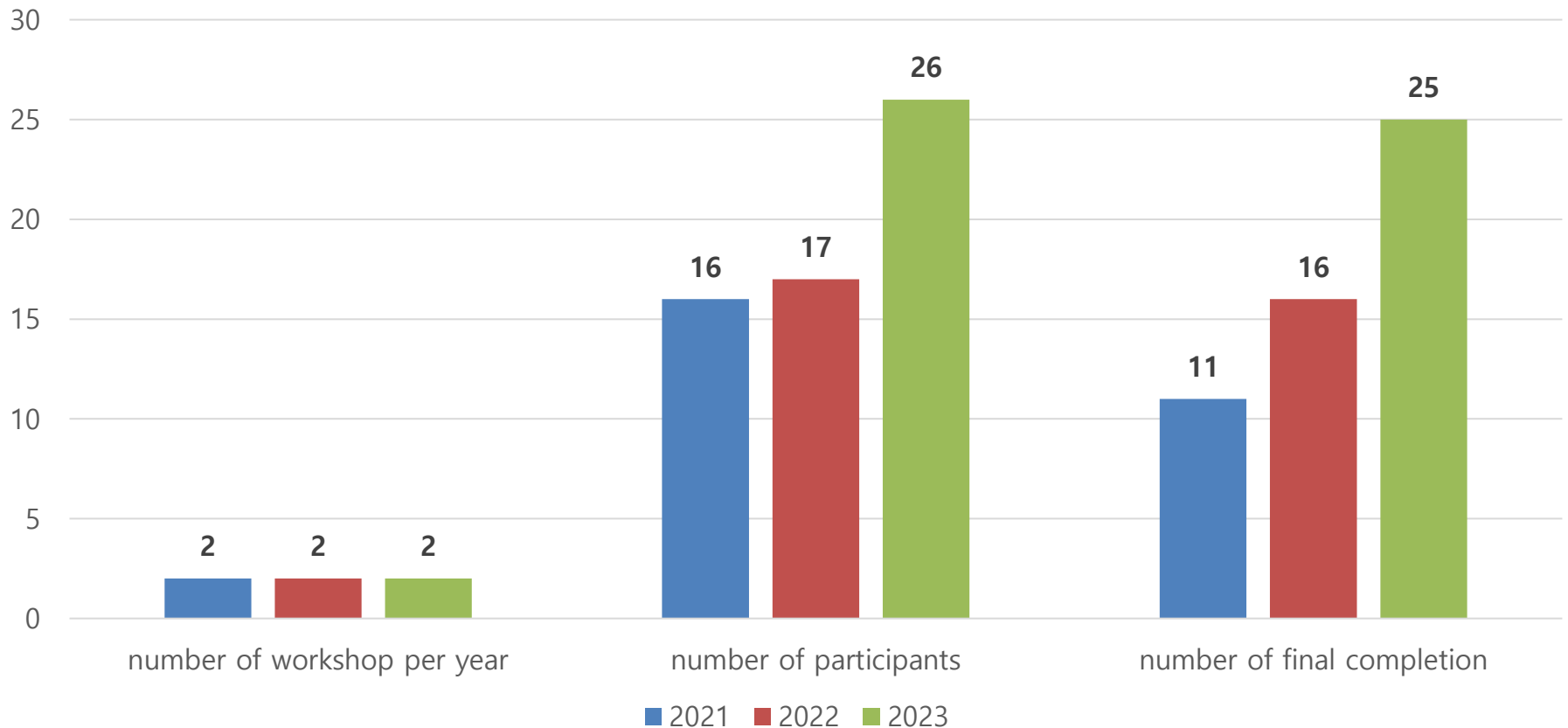 ➢ Online training(COVID-19) + in-person training

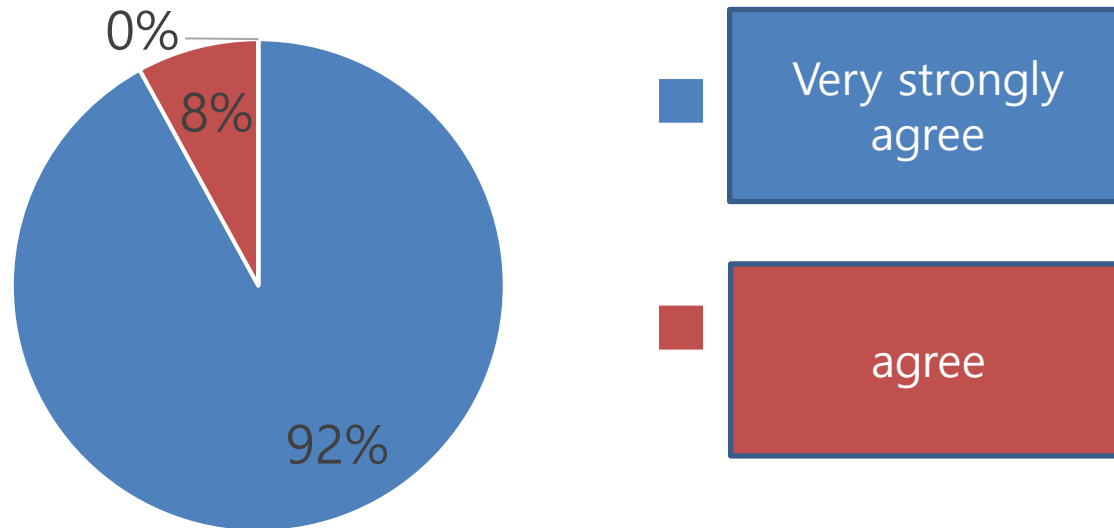| Topics	Specific details
Responsible conduct of research(RCR)	-National and international research ethics trends -National laws or regulations related to research ethics -Scope of research misconduct and criteria for judgment
Sharing research misconduct verification	-Exploring research misconduct cases (Focusing on Court Cases) -Exploring how to verify research misconduct in the humanities and social sciences -Exploring how to verify research misconduct in natural sciences, engineering, and medicine
Research misconduct verification procedures and methods	-Regulations and Procedures for Research Misconduct Investigations -Organization of the investigation committee and the actual investigation -Reporting and follow-up on verification results
Sharing and disseminating university experience with research integrity committee	-How Seoul National University's Research Integrity Committee operates (handling appeals, reporting to higher authorities, disciplinary actions) -Yonsei University's Research Integrity Committee (prevention of research misconduct, operation of research ethics system)

Training to foster research misconduct verification experts

| Topics	Specific details
Importance of research ethics	National and international research ethics issues and the importance of research ethics
Responsible conduct of research(RCR)	National laws and regulations on research ethics Criteria for determining research misconduct
Good academic behavior	Predatory Societies and Journals Researcher's social responsibility
Case law on research misconduct	Exploring Research Misconduct in Court Cases
Research misconduct verification procedures and methods	-Research Misconduct Verification Policy and Procedures -Organization of the Investigation Committee and Methods of Investigation -Reporting and follow-up on verification results
Research misconduct cases	-Know-how to verify research misconduct in the humanities and social sciences -Know-how to verify research misconduct in natural sciences, engineering, and medicine
Sharing and disseminating university experience with research integrity committee	-Research Integrity committee Composition, Roles, and Operational Practices -Know-how on post-processing after verification of research misconduct -Sharing of activities to establish research ethics (research ethics education, research note writing, creation of research ethics education materials, etc.)

❖ **Conducted total 6 workshops over 3 years**

❖ **Trained 59 participants, with 52 finally graduates**

	2021	2022	2023
number of workshop per year	2	2	2
number of participants	16	17	26
number of final completion	11	16	25

Overall, are you satisfied with the construction and content of this training program?

0%

8%

92%

Very strongly agree

agree

Would you recommend this program to other universities stakeholders or practitioners, etc.?

0%

15%

85%

Very strongly agree

agree
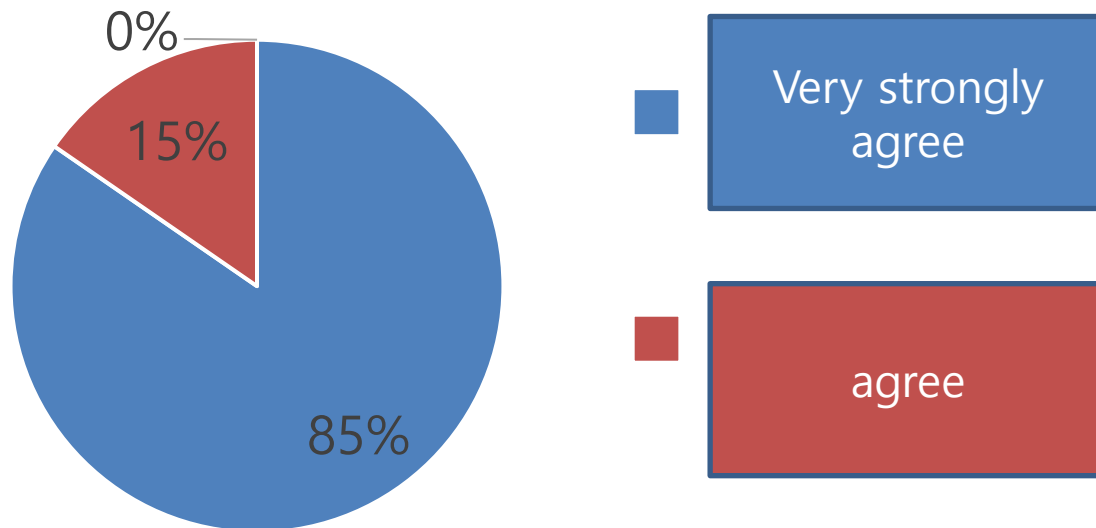
Satisfaction after training completion

❖ Practically helpful as it covered the content needed for research sites based on case studies.

❖ Training for research ethics committee members should be mandatory.

❖ It was very beneficial to gain new knowledge about various research ethics issues.

❖ This program was well organized and taught by excellent instructors.

❖ It was a good training to get a general understanding of research ethics with specific examples for each research fields.

❖ Consulting on the operation of research ethics systems

➤ Frequent changes in the person in charge of research ethics work, making it difficult to promote research ethics work continuously and systematically.

➤ Urgent need to secure specialized staff dedicated to research ethics work.

➤ There is a large gap in the level and operation of research ethics systems among universities, and information exchange and support among universities should be expanded to address this imbalance.

❖ Training of research misconduct verification experts

➢ Training needs to be customized to researchers' academic fields, research career, and level of research ethics experience.

➢ Specific, case-based, learner-led training programs that reflect the characteristics and needs of each academic field are needed.

➢ Diversification of training methods and various training materials is required

Questions?

Picture of Meerkat clan from bingwallpaper.com

Thank you

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