

The DIRECT Framework

STEP-UP RSLondon 2026

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What is DIRECT?

A community-developed framework to help digital research professionals identify, visualise, and develop competencies to support careers, collaboration, and sustainable research

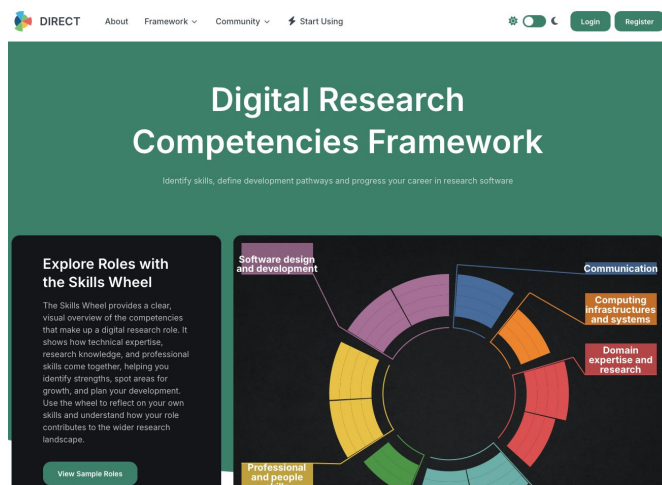
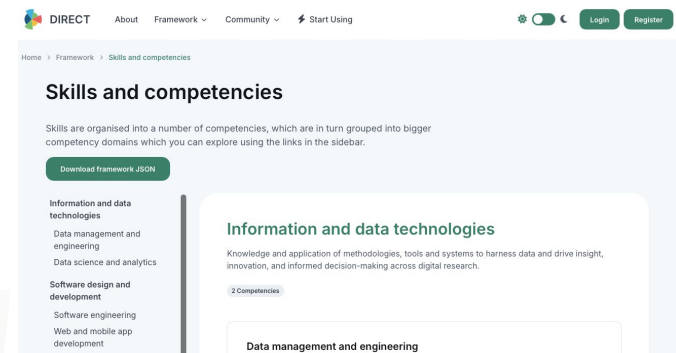
Why it exists... digital research roles are:

- ⇒ Diverse
- ⇒ Often poorly defined
- ⇒ Lacking clear progression pathways



The Web App

directframework.com

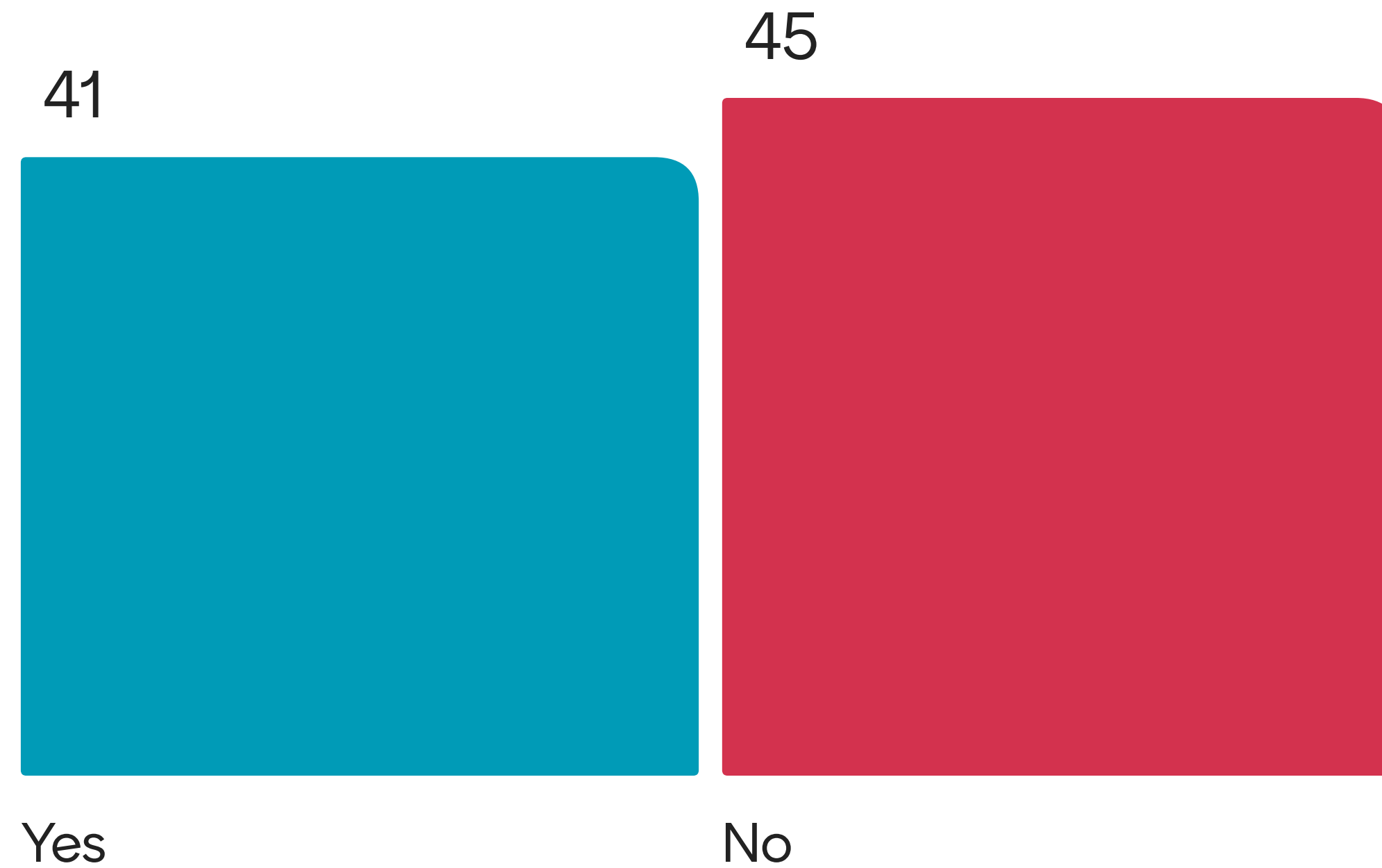


SSI Fellowship

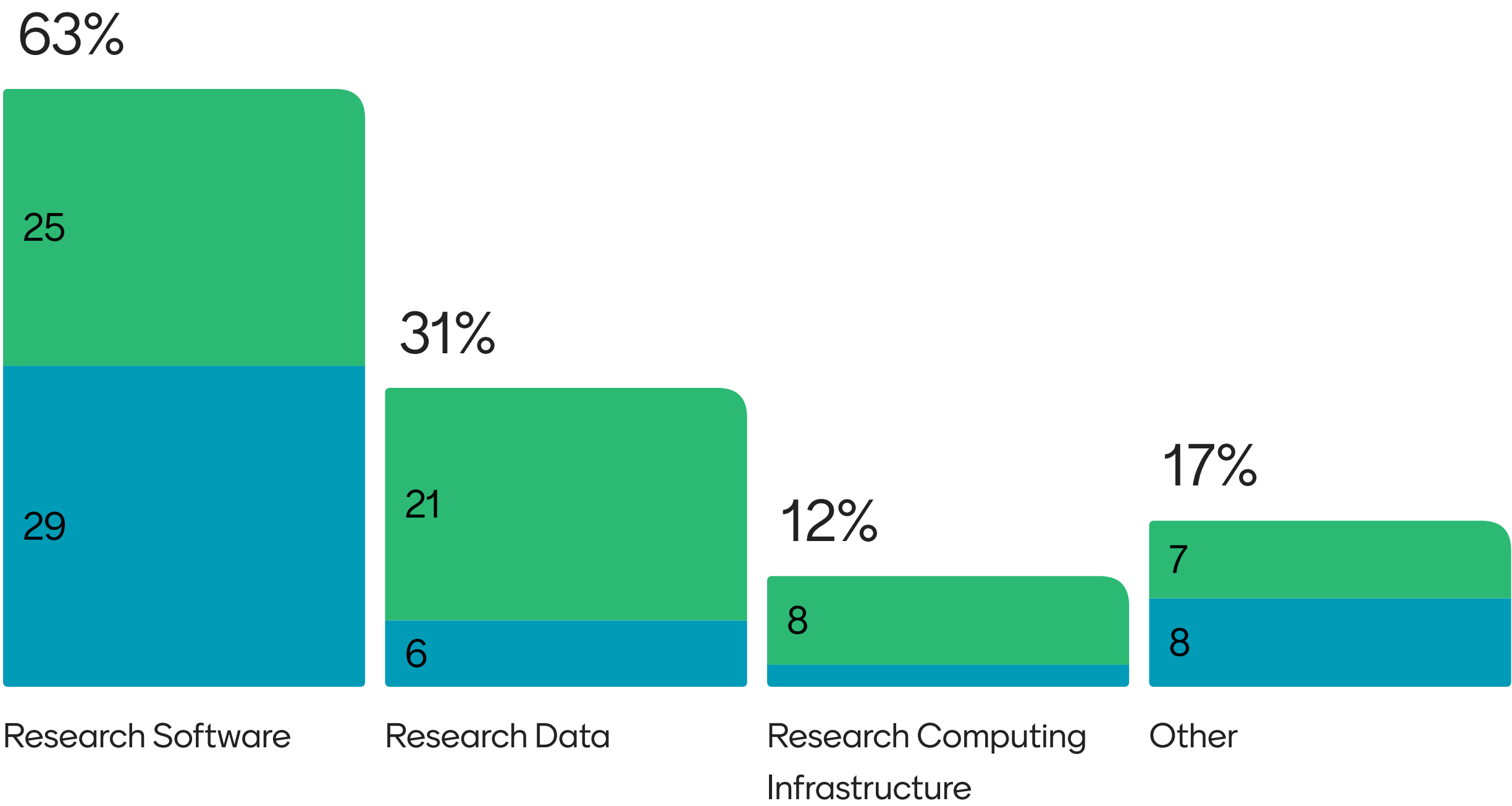
- Community-informed development
- More community contributions



Had you heard of the DIRECT Framework before today?



What kind of dRTP are you?



Segment

Had you heard of the DIRECT Framework before today?

- Yes
- No

How useful would the following features be?

Teams of users - managers can view profiles and see overall team skill profiles

3.7

Roles and career pathways - to filter the questionnaire and find skills gaps for career progression

4.3

"Persona" profiles - examples of real people skill profiles

3.7

Recommendations - based off self-reported skills and selected goal role

3.7

A framework contribution mechanism other than GitHub - to suggest changes, report errors, etc

3.1

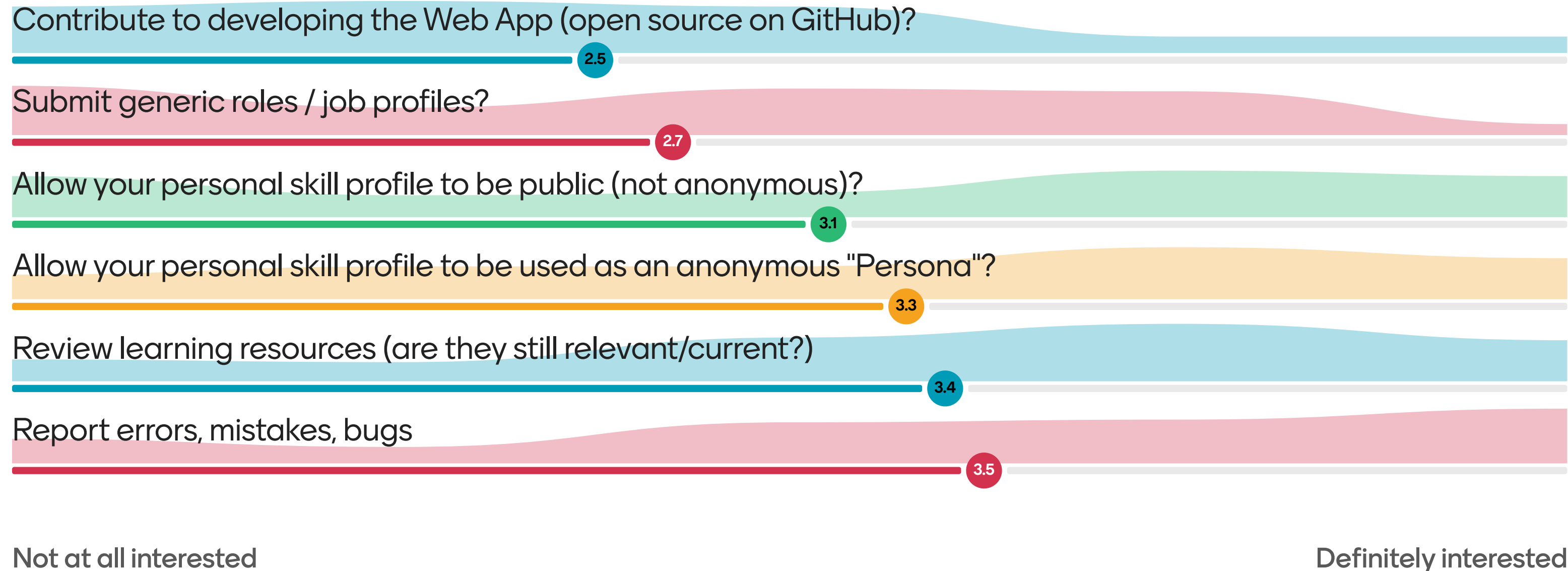
Labelling skills as relevant to community of practice or value areas (Green, FAIR, Mental Health, etc)

3.8

Not at all useful

Extremely useful

As a user of the web app, how likely are you to...



Suggestions, questions, concerns or requested features

Na

None

I'd love to be able to view the spread / variance across profiles in my team vs variation between the "average" profile across different teams.

What is a drtp?

none

none

none

none

Suggestions, questions, concerns or requested features

none

none

Are you collaborating with organisational psychologists, HR and careers hub folks?

There's always an issue in granularity of the the skills selected for the framework

Be inclusive in terms of roles - idea should to get people into technical careers and support talents across a variety of skills / competences / attitudes rather than creating defined boxes.

none

None

Be able to share one's profile while not making it fully public.

Suggestions, questions, concerns or requested features

Is there any way you can link into the digital research skills catalyst for people to identify appropriate training.
<https://digitalskillscatalyst.ac.uk/about.html>