



ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
AGENTUR FÜR  
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE  
INTEGRITÄT



# The ÖAWI Model of fostering research integrity: looking back and learning forward

Stephan Rixen

Austrian Commission for Research Integrity

# Members of the ÖAWI: 38 research institutions

- 23 Universities (all public, one private)
- 4 Universities of Applied Sciences
- 7 non-university research institutions
- 4 research funding agencies

# Composition, tasks and modus operandi of the Commission

- Composition of the Commission
- How the Commissions's members are appointed
- Independence
- A unique model: the „Austrian model“

# Members of the Commission



Prof. Stephan Rixen  
Chair of the Commission  
Law



Prof. Eveline  
Baumgart-Vogt  
Life Sciences



Prof. Beatrice Beck  
Schimmer  
Medical Sciences



Prof. Andreas  
Diekmann  
Social Sciences



Prof. Gerd Müller  
Natural and Technical  
Sciences



Prof. Michael Hagner  
Humanities



Prof.  
Kerstin Schneider  
Economic Sciences



Prof. Elisabeth  
Staudegger  
Austrian Law

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# Composition, tasks and modus operandi of the Commission

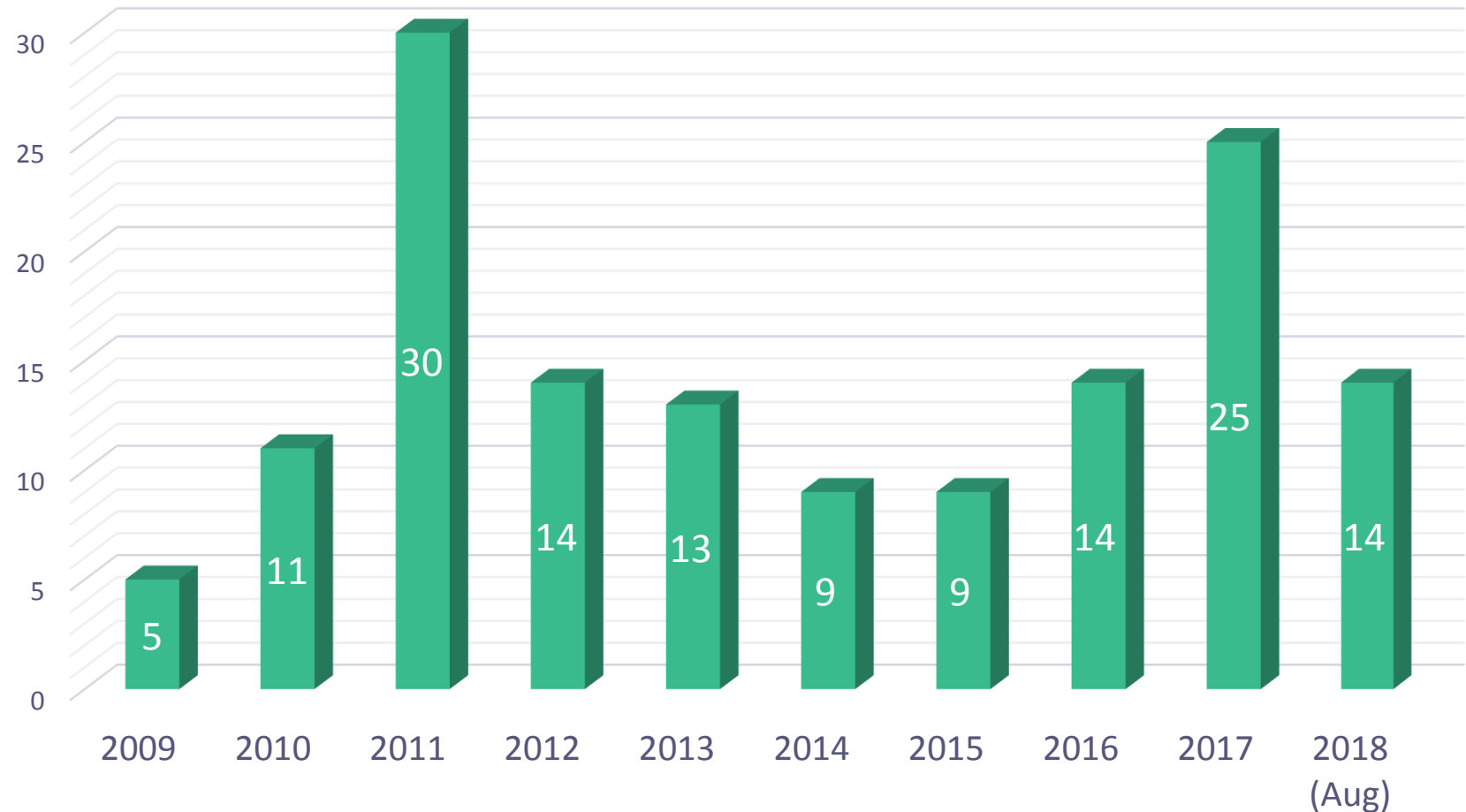
The Commission for Research Integrity is to *promote adherence* to the rules of good scientific practice and *to ensure an independent investigation* in cases of suspected scientific misconduct. The Commission for Research Integrity shall conduct activities for [ÖAWI] members and *advise them in all matters related to scientific integrity* [...], with due attention to international developments.”

# Composition, tasks and modus operandi of the Commission

- Connection to the Austrian research system
- Confidentiality
- Not mandatory to consult the Commission
- Commission meetings and communication – Administrative Office

Inquiries June 2009 – August 2018 (144)

# Number of inquiries (144)



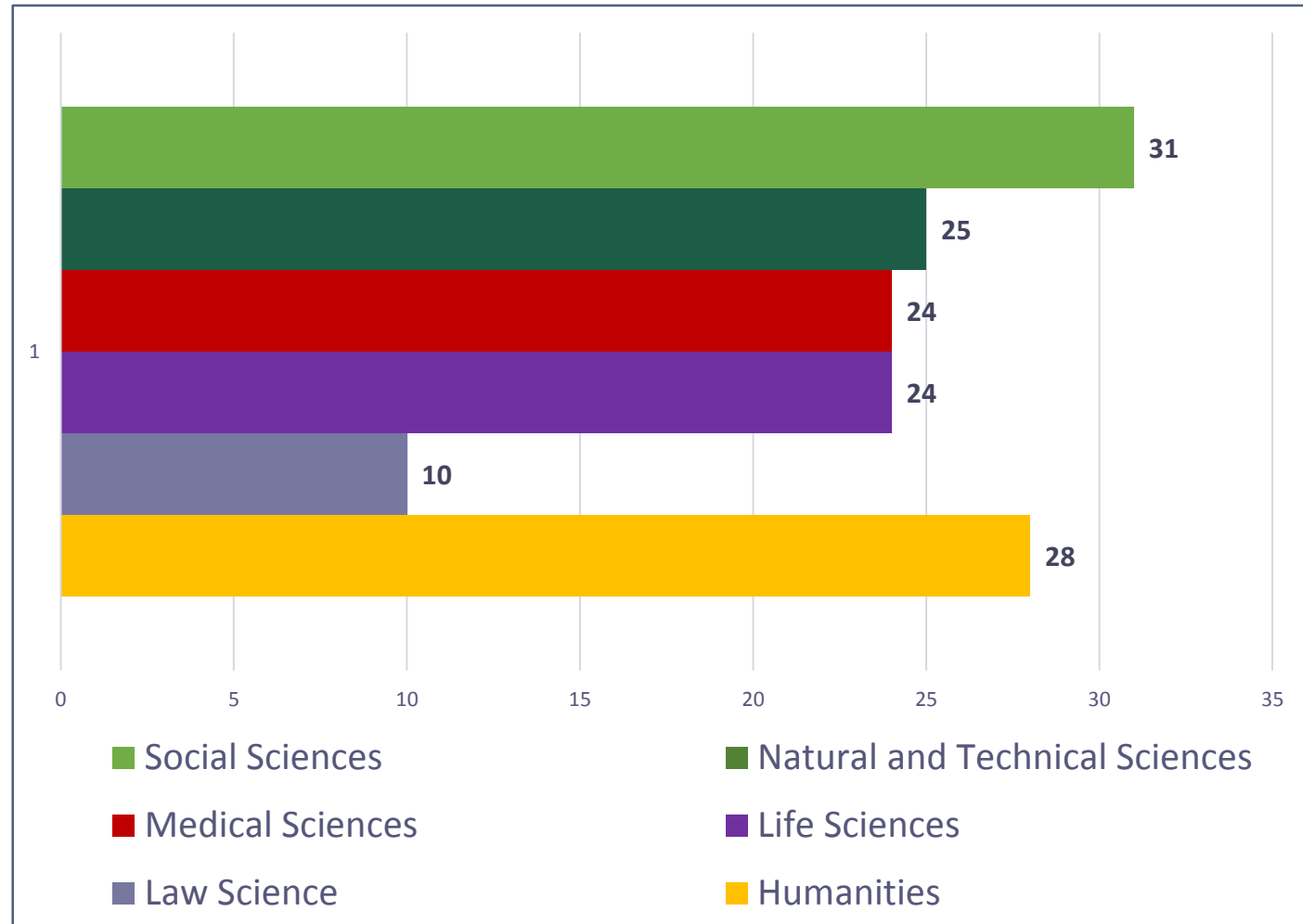


# Kind of inquiries



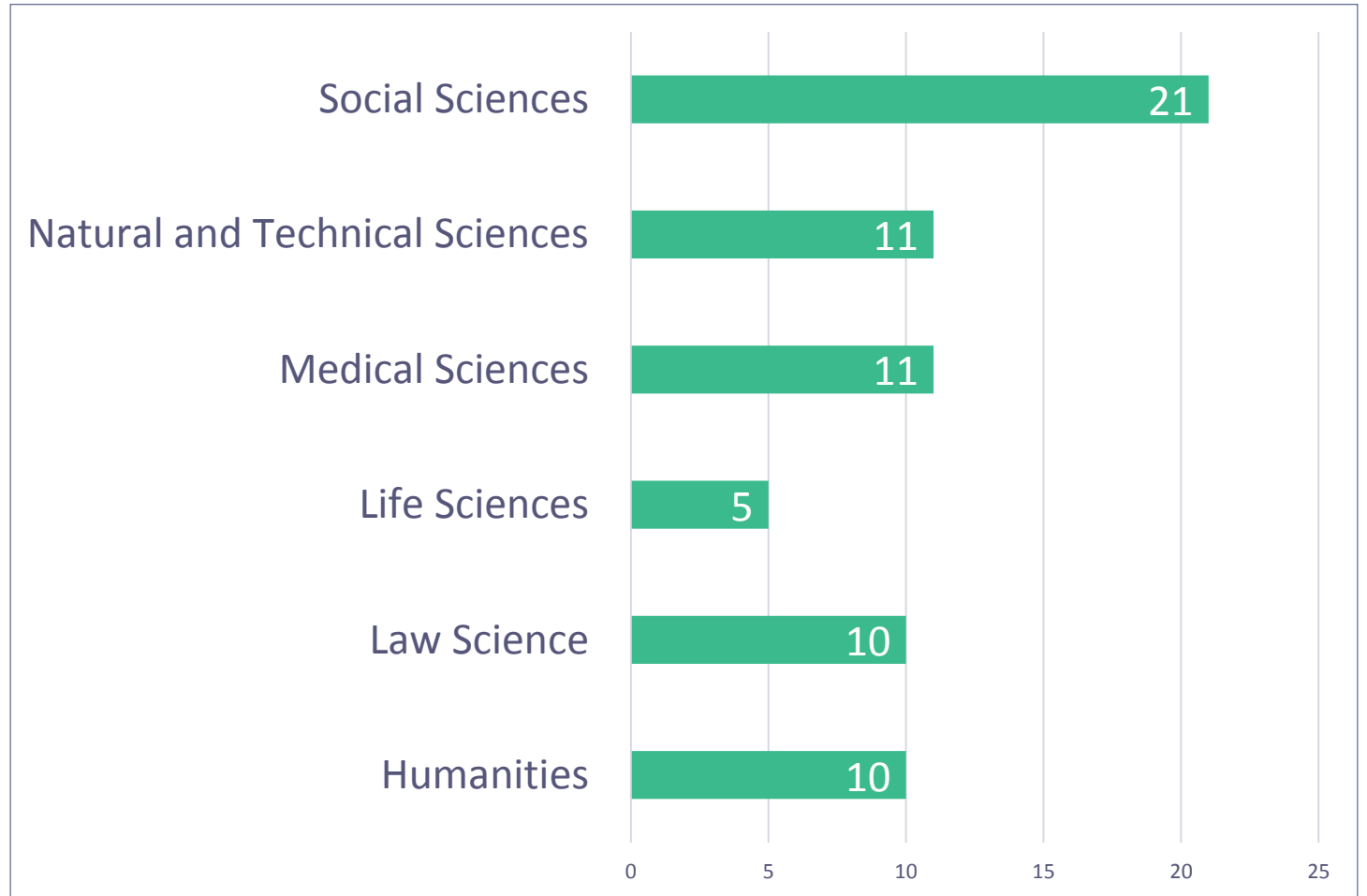
Inquiries June 2009 – August 2018 (x=144)

# Inquiries: disciplines



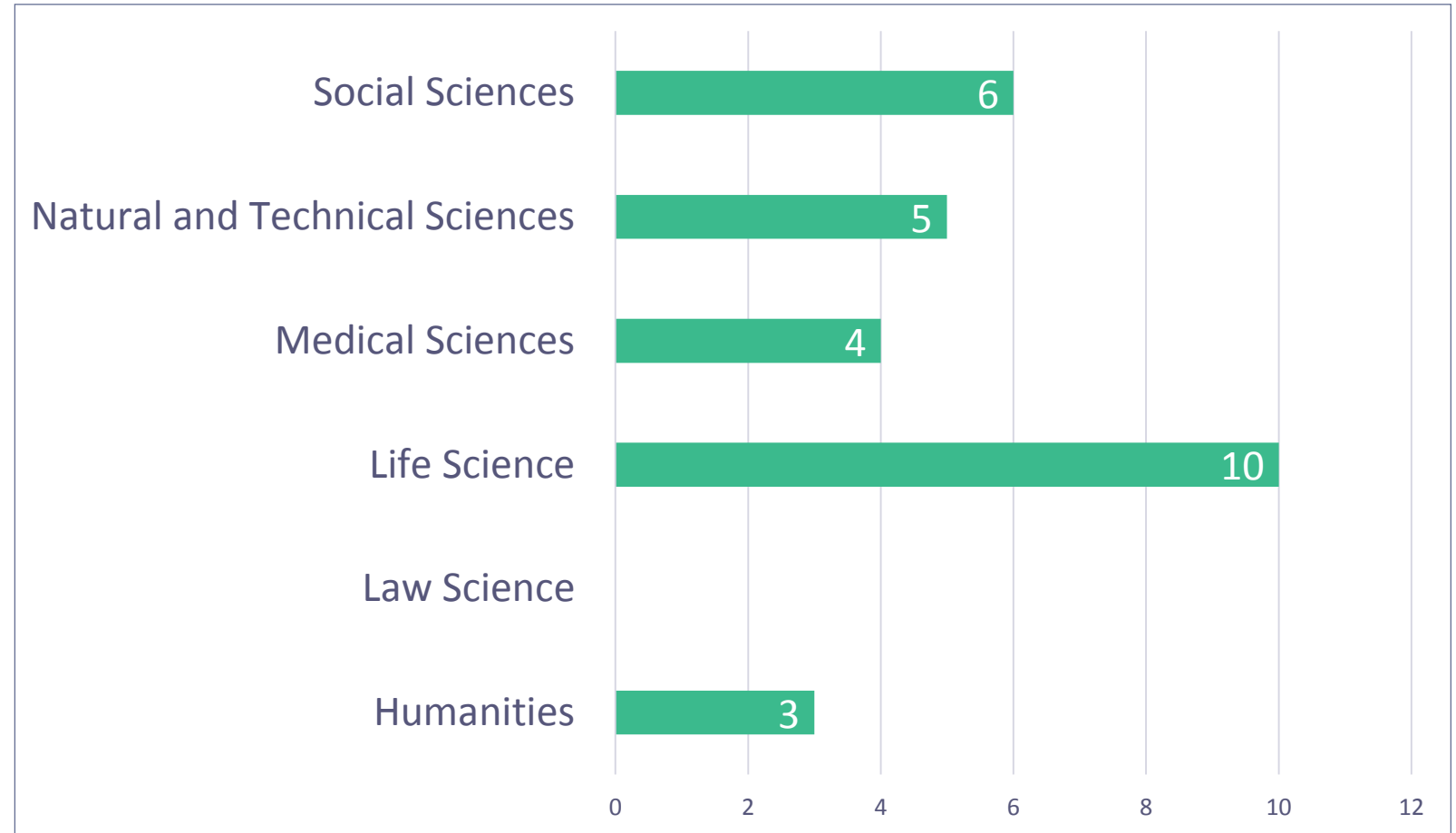
Inquiries June 2009 – August 2018 (x=68)

# Kind of inquiries: plagiarism



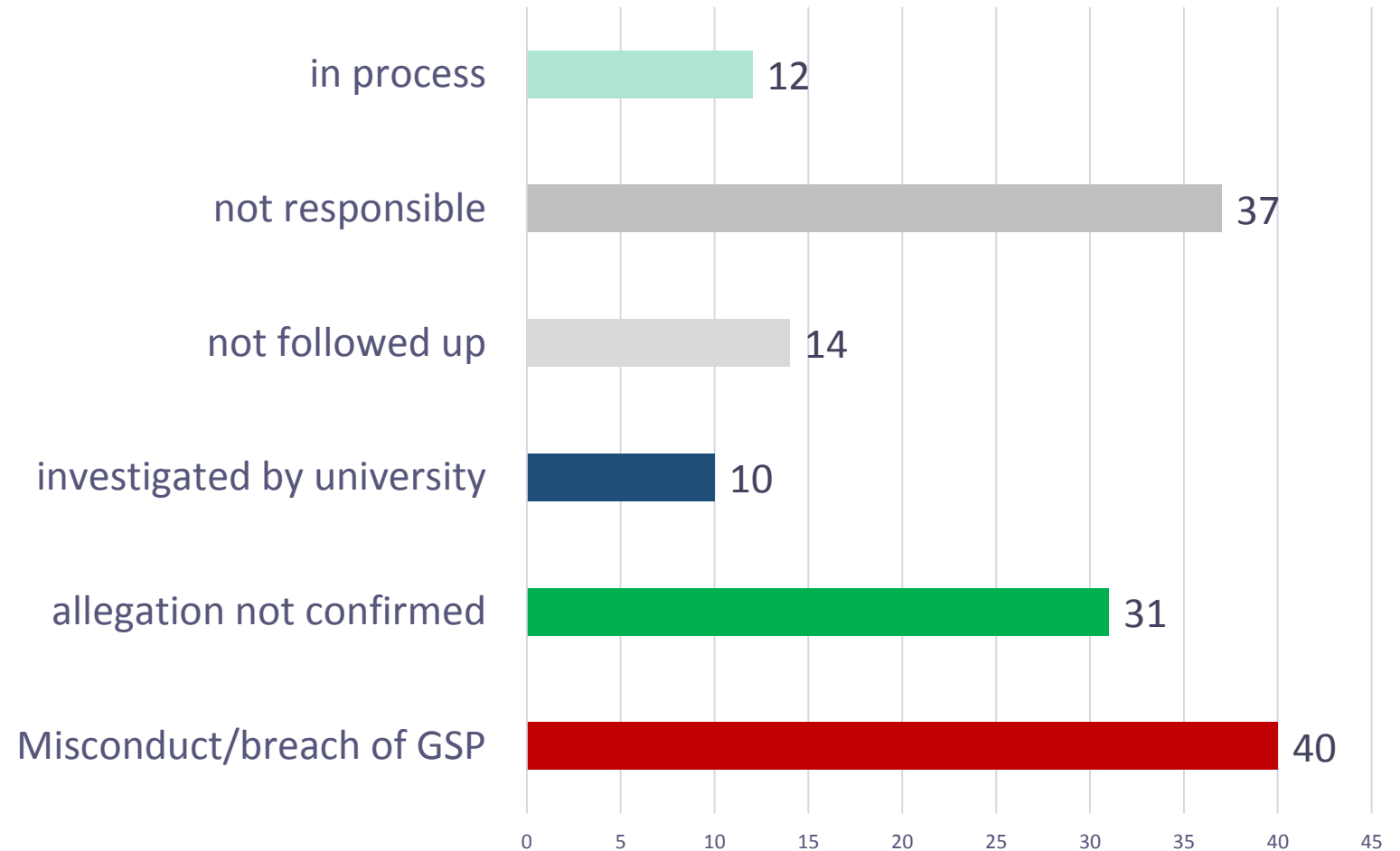
Inquiries June 2009 – August 2018 (x=28)

# Kind of inquiries: authorship conflicts



Inquiries June 2009 – August 2018 (x=144)

# Investigations



# Observations and recommendations

- Looking for structural / systemic shortcomings
- Authorship conflicts: inadequate communication
- Inadequate mentoring and supervision
- Prevention
- Plagiarism and „celebrities“
- Scientific policy advice

# Conclusion

- Science stands in the way of our beloved prejudices, and it forces us to question our cherished truths.
- Research integrity as trust-building measure
- Only science with integrity is science that is worthy of trust.