

ISEE SWOT survey – description and results

- An initial SWOT was developed by a small committee chaired by Ulrike Gehring. This initial SWOT included many options for each of the SWOT components and was sent to a total of 86 people who were asked to prioritize the different items. They included council members, chairs of committees and chapters, listserv members, Sao Paolo volunteers.
- They were contacted on May 12, 2016 and a final reminder has been sent on May 30, 2016
- N = 53 responses from 49 different IP-addresses. In case of 2 responses from the same address, I decided to keep the first non-empty record (2 of the 4 had 1 empty record). In addition, 4 of the 49 remaining records were empty, leaving a total of N = 45 records for analysis.
- A summary of the SWOT results can be found on page 2 of this document.
- The initial SWOT that has been sent to the 86 persons can be found on pages 3 and 4 of this document.
- Frequency distributions of the responses to the SWOT survey are presented in Figures 1-4 on pages 5-9.
- Mean responses are presented in Figure 5 on page 10.

Summary of responses to the survey

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • membership, consisting of a good blend of senior and junior researchers and engaged and committed members • international representation • active Students and New Researchers Network (SNRN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small number of actively engaged members • limited activities outside the annual conference • absence in large geographic areas of the world
Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual conference 	
Recognition & coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognition as the premiere society in environmental epidemiology worldwide • coverage of most of the important areas in environmental epidemiology 	
Communication & website		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the website
Finances		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited financial resources
	Opportunities	Threats
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large potential member base • expansion of the SNRN 	
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental health/epidemiological transition in developing countries • climate change and environment recognized as major worldwide problem 	
Financial		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political priority/support not being translated to research funds • General reduction of research funds

Initial SWOT sent to 86 persons

Please indicate below to what extent you agree with the following statements about ISEE's major strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Major strengths of ISEE include...

1. its membership, consisting of a good blend of senior and junior researchers.
2. a core group of engaged and committed members.
3. its active Students and New Researchers Network (SNRN).
4. its international representation.
5. its council and committee members.
6. the development of active regional chapters.
7. its advocacy - Policy and Ethics committees are active and strong.
8. its coverage of most of the important areas in environmental epidemiology.
9. its recognition as the premiere society in environmental epidemiology worldwide
10. its annual conference
11. its relative unique emphasis on ethics and philosophy among similar research societies.
12. its award program

Major weaknesses of ISEE include...

1. its small number of (approx. 700-900) members.
2. the fact that most members are not actively engaged in society.
3. its absence in large geographic areas of the world (most members are from North American and Europe).
4. the lack of established partners in the wider public health area.
5. the lack of extensive action in important areas (education, policy).
6. the limited activities outside of annual conference (limited value for members).
7. the limited engagement with external stakeholders.
8. the lack of dissemination activities.
9. its website, which is text heavy and outdated.
10. the lack of modern communication activity including social media usage.
11. its limited financial resources.
12. its inefficiency in annual conference site selection and conference organization.
13. its membership system
14. the lack of membership benefits beyond the annual conference and journal
15. the lack of communication with members in between the annual conferences
16. the lack of clarity in projecting the society's image; whether the essential characteristic of the society is "international" or "environmental".
17. its lack of a board of directors insurance and/or occasional legal counsel is a concern, especially with issuing policy statements.

Major opportunities of ISEE include...

1. its large potential member base (past and present).
2. climate change and environment being recognized as major worldwide problems.
3. emerging technologies (e.g. citizen science, etc) and big data.

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4. environmental health/epidemiological transition in developing countries.
5. the Exposome
6. possibilities for dissemination of environmental health in mass media including internet and social media.
7. the expansion of SNRN opportunities and outreach on campuses.
8. increasing and encouraging donations to scientific activities.

Major threats of ISEE include...

1. the movement towards interdisciplinary environmental health research.
2. political priority/support to environmental health not being translated to research funds
3. the general reduction of research funds in many parts of the world.
4. the competition for membership with other societies.
5. the fact that the role of scientific associations may become less clear/important.

Figure 1. Responses to SWOT survey - strengths

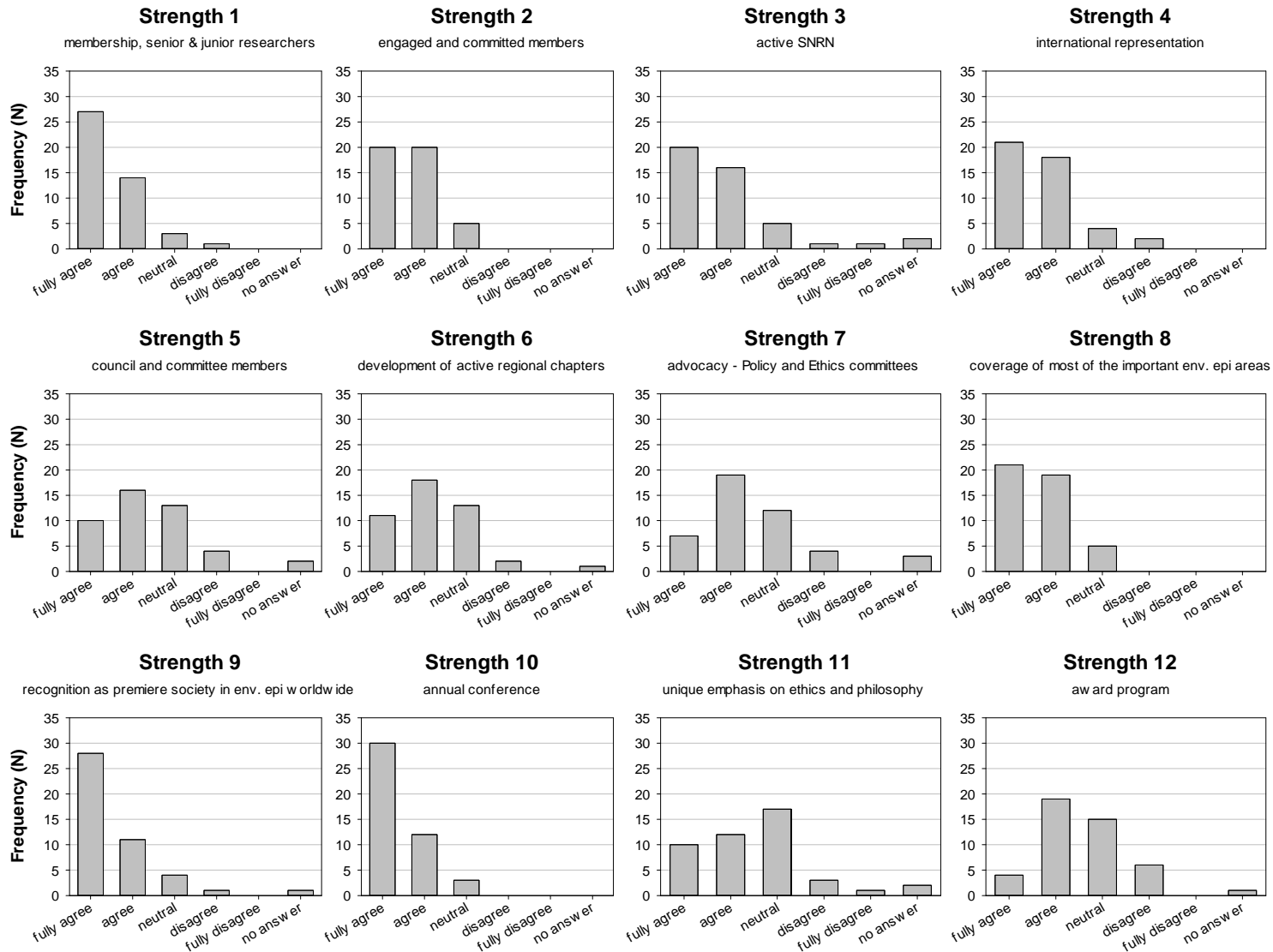


Figure 2. Responses to SWOT survey – weaknesses

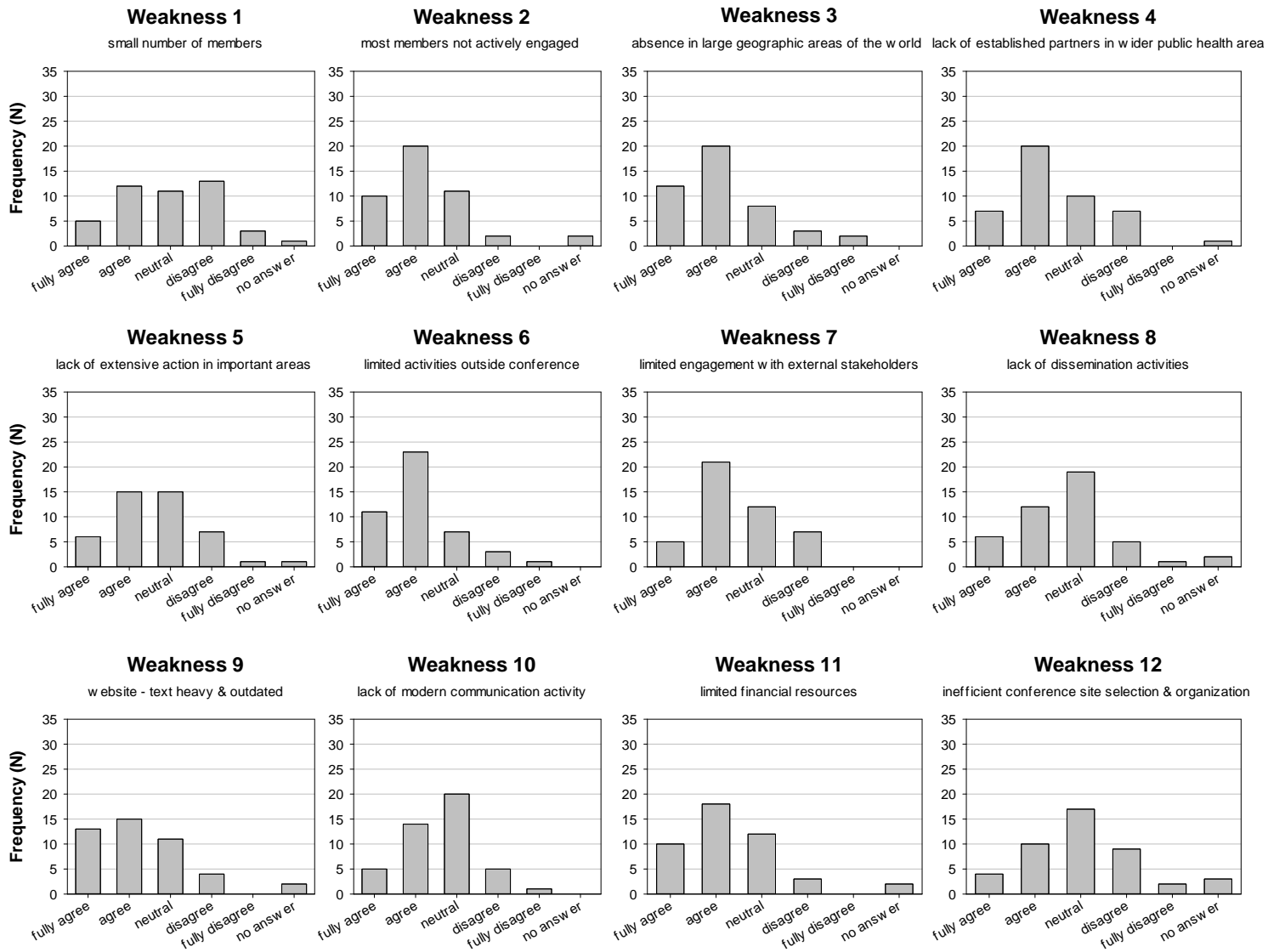


Figure 2. (continued)

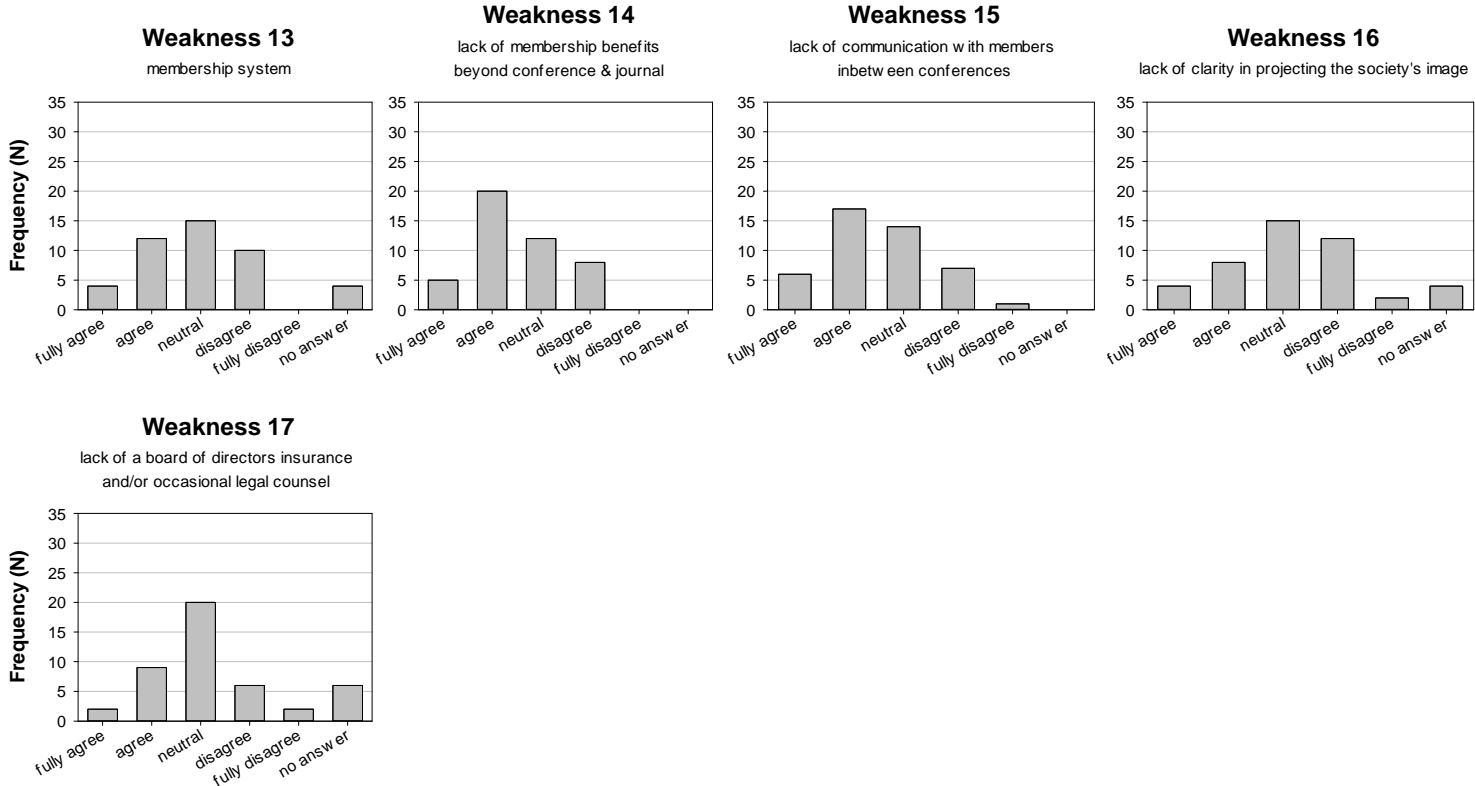


Figure 3. Responses to SWOT survey – opportunities

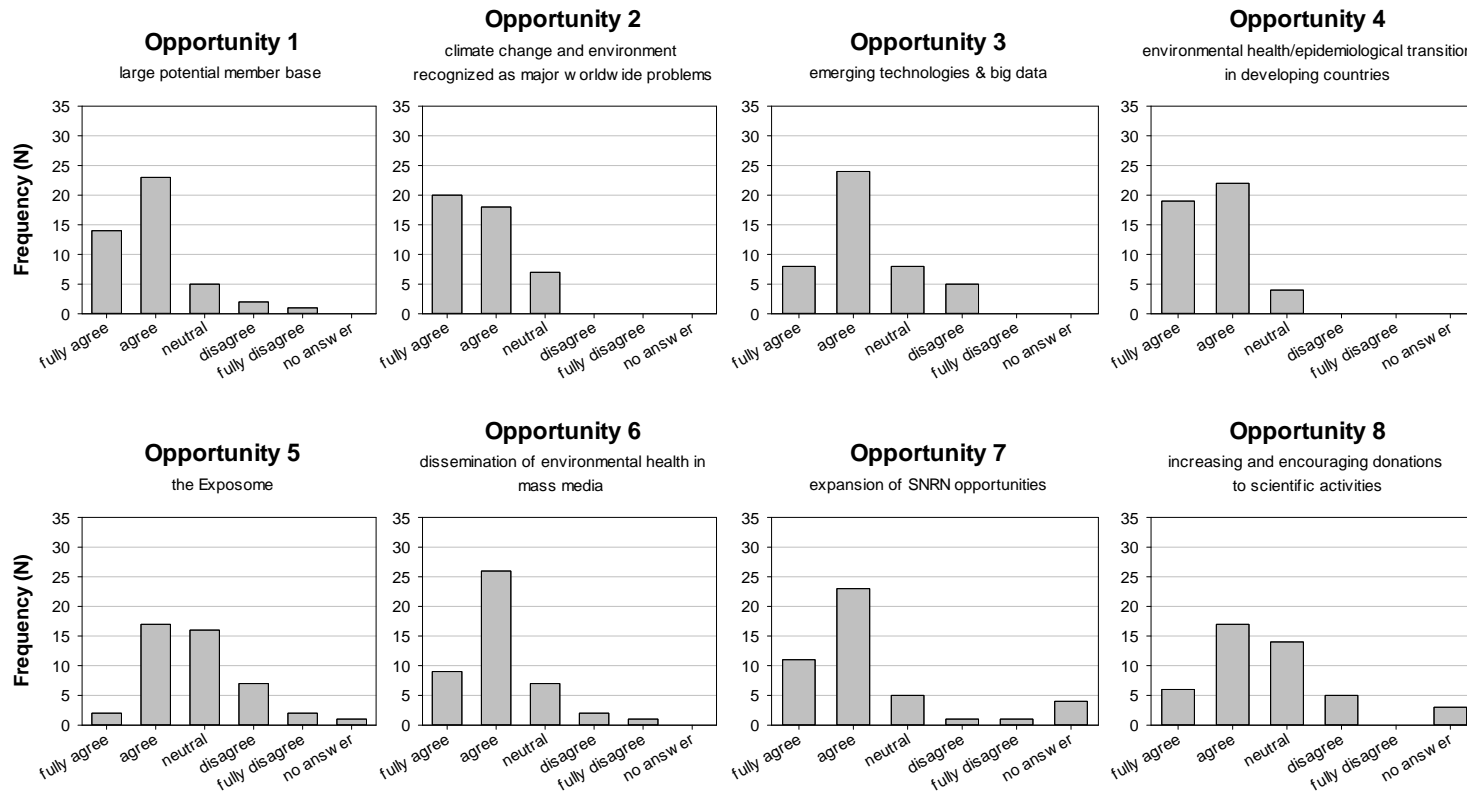


Figure 4. Responses to SWOT survey – threats

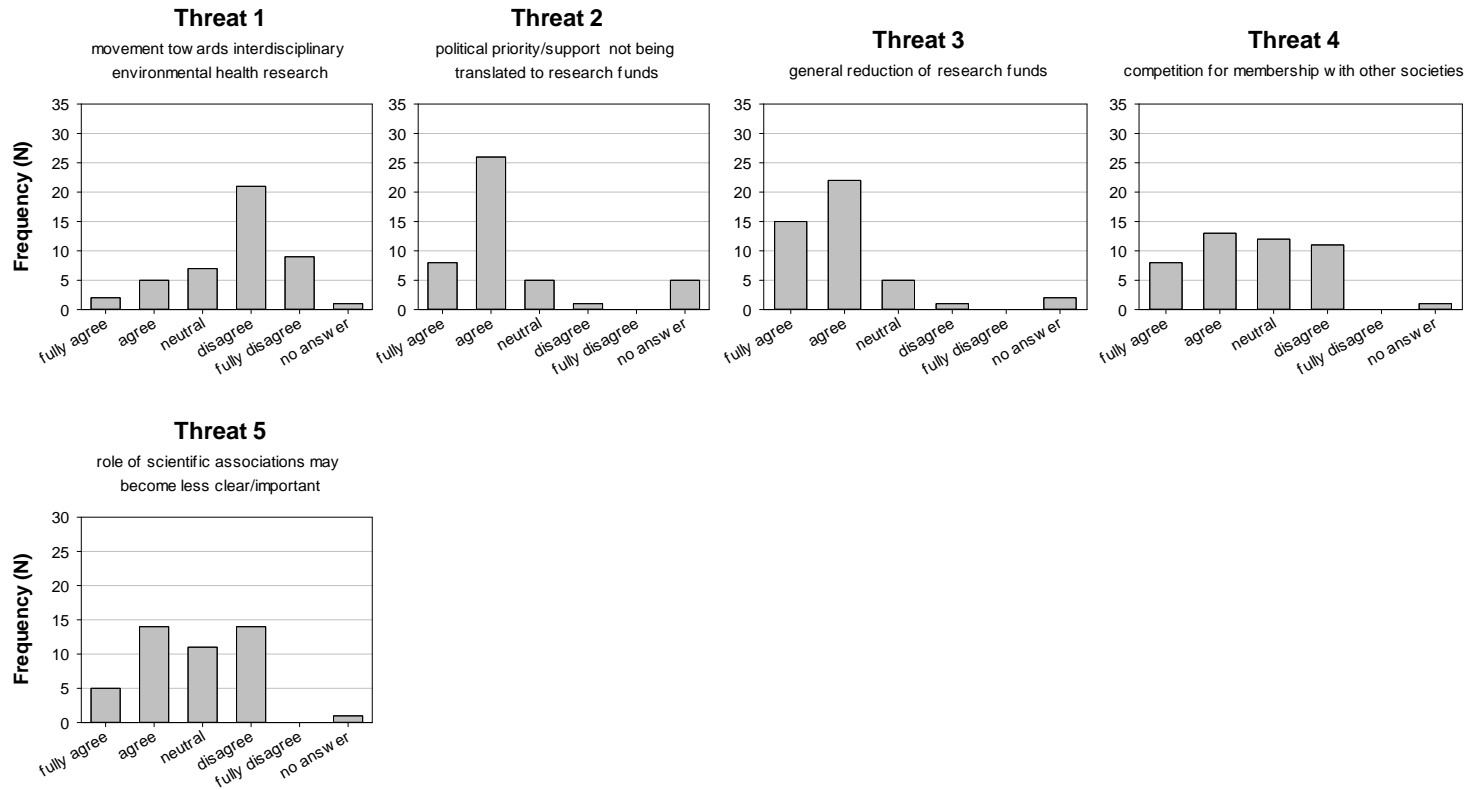
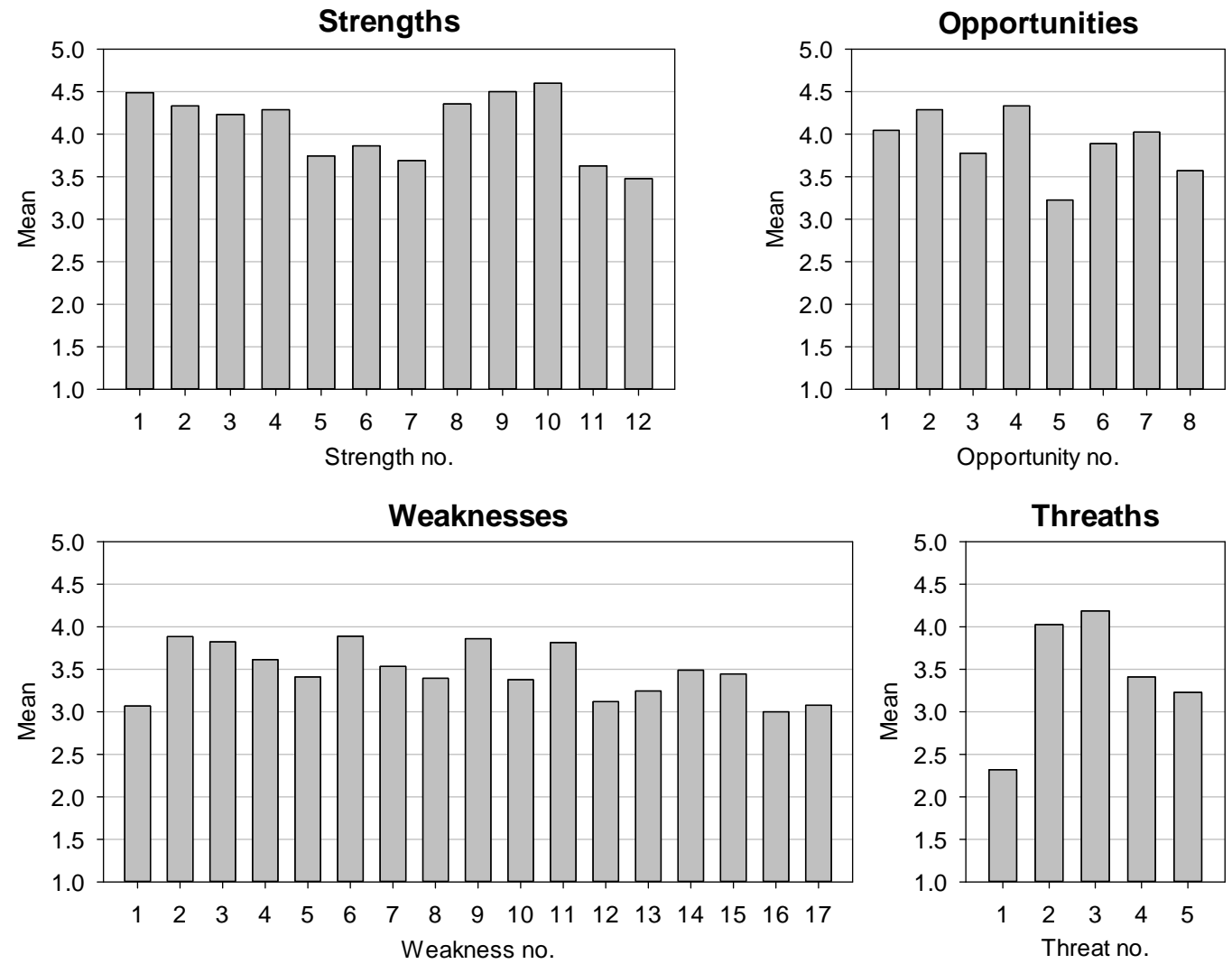


Figure 5. Mean responses per question - strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. *



* 5 = fully agree, 4 = agree, 3 = neutral, 2 = disagree, 1 = fully disagree