

Current status of Training, Accreditation
and Supervision of Balint Group Leaders
in the Member Societies of the
International Balint Federation (IBF)

The IBF Task Force on leadership
2022

Standards of leadership training and supervision of accredited Balint group leaders are known to be quite different among the IBF member societies.

In the spring of 2022, the IBF Task Force on Leadership has sent out a questionnaire to all member societies of the IBF to find out the current status of leadership training, accreditation and supervision. A previous survey of this kind had been performed in 2015.

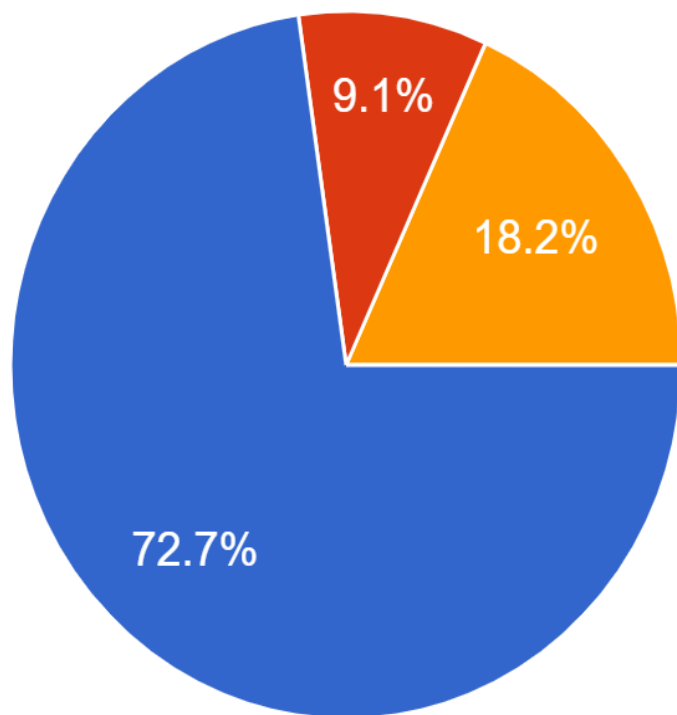
The practical aim of the survey was to gain information about the needs and wishes of the member societies, in order to develop the work of the Task Force on Leadership in supporting leadership training, practice and supervision in the member societies.

22 out of 29 member societies contributed information.

This poster is a first analysis of the survey data.

Does your Balint society have a formalized training program for Balint group leaders?

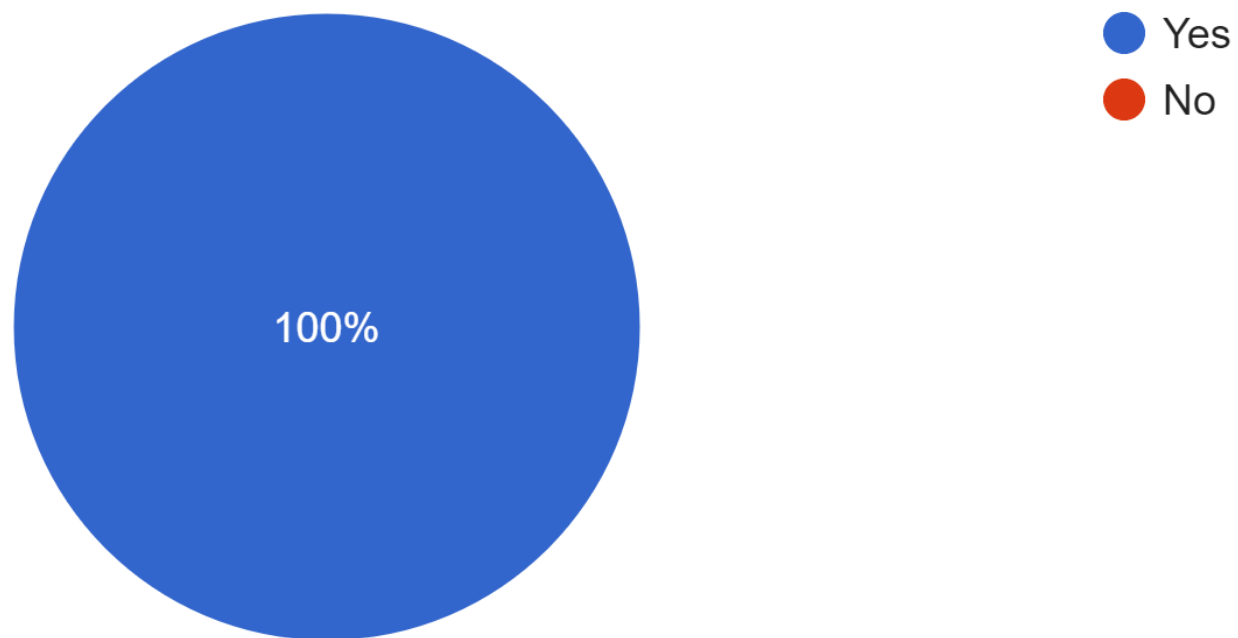
22 responses



- Yes (please send us by e-mail a description of this program in any language)
- No
- Not yet, but we are planning to have one in the near future

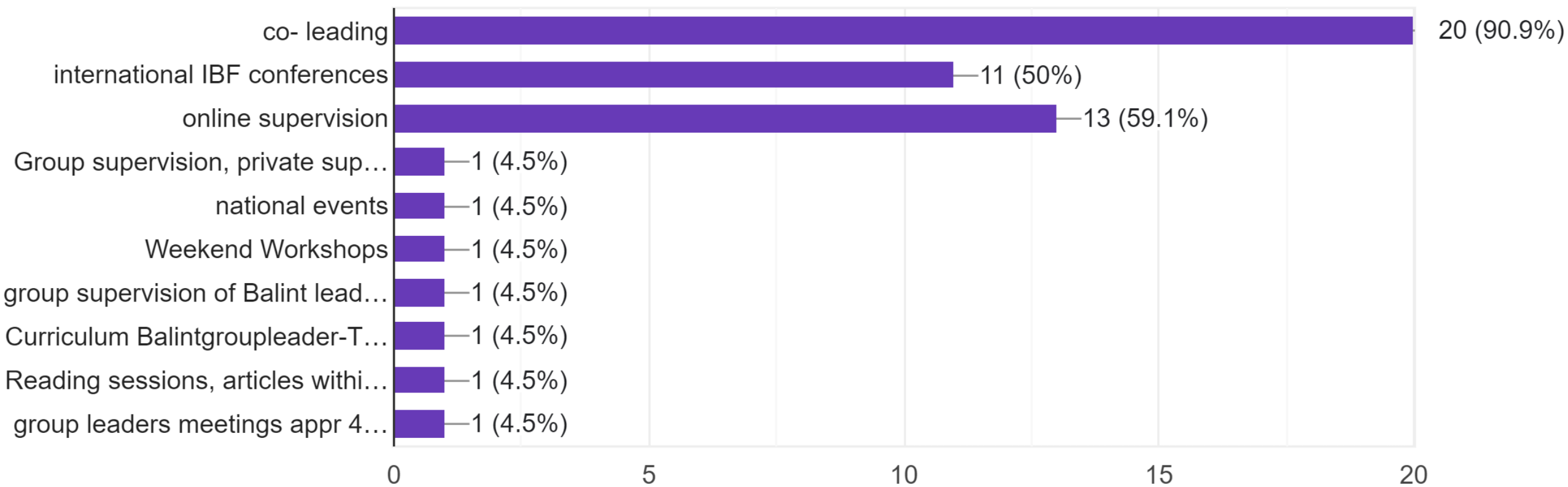
Does your Balint society have other informal methods of training Balint group leaders (e.g. co-leading with experienced leader, participation i... on international conferences, online-supervision)?

22 responses



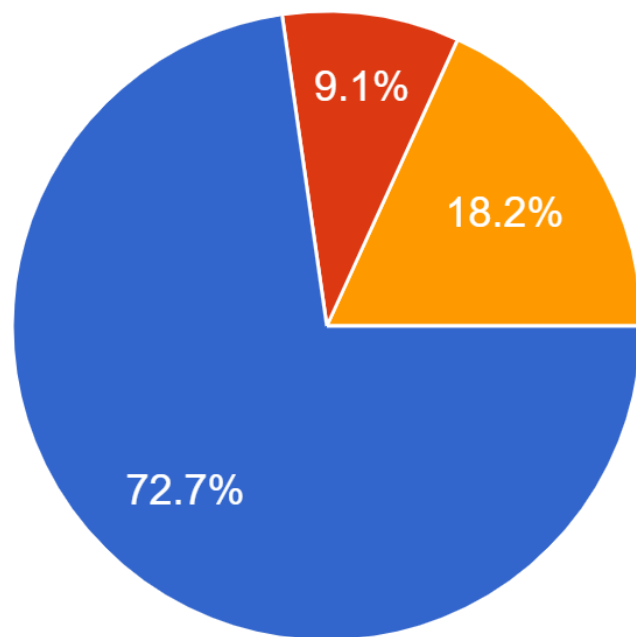
If you replied yes to the previous question, please specify what kind of training activities? (you can tick more than one)

22 responses



Does your Balint society have an accreditation procedure for Balint group leaders?

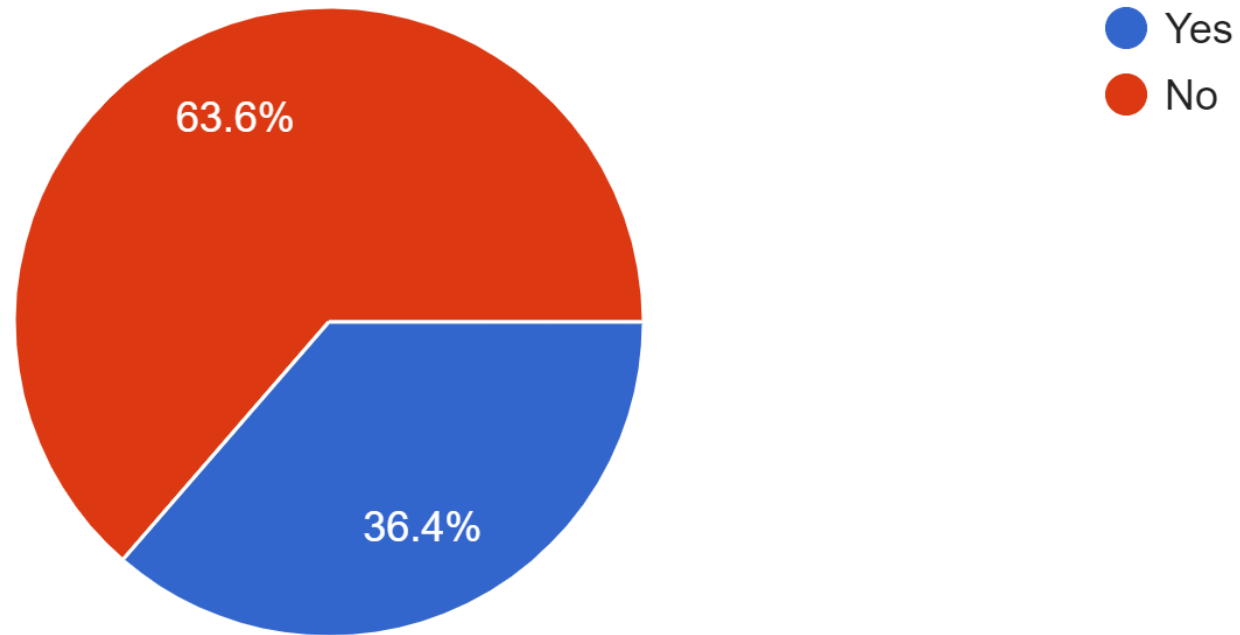
22 responses



- Yes (please send us by e-mail a description of this program in any language)
- No
- Not yet, but we are planning to have one in the near future

Does your Balint society rely on other Balint Societies for training Balint group leaders?

22 responses



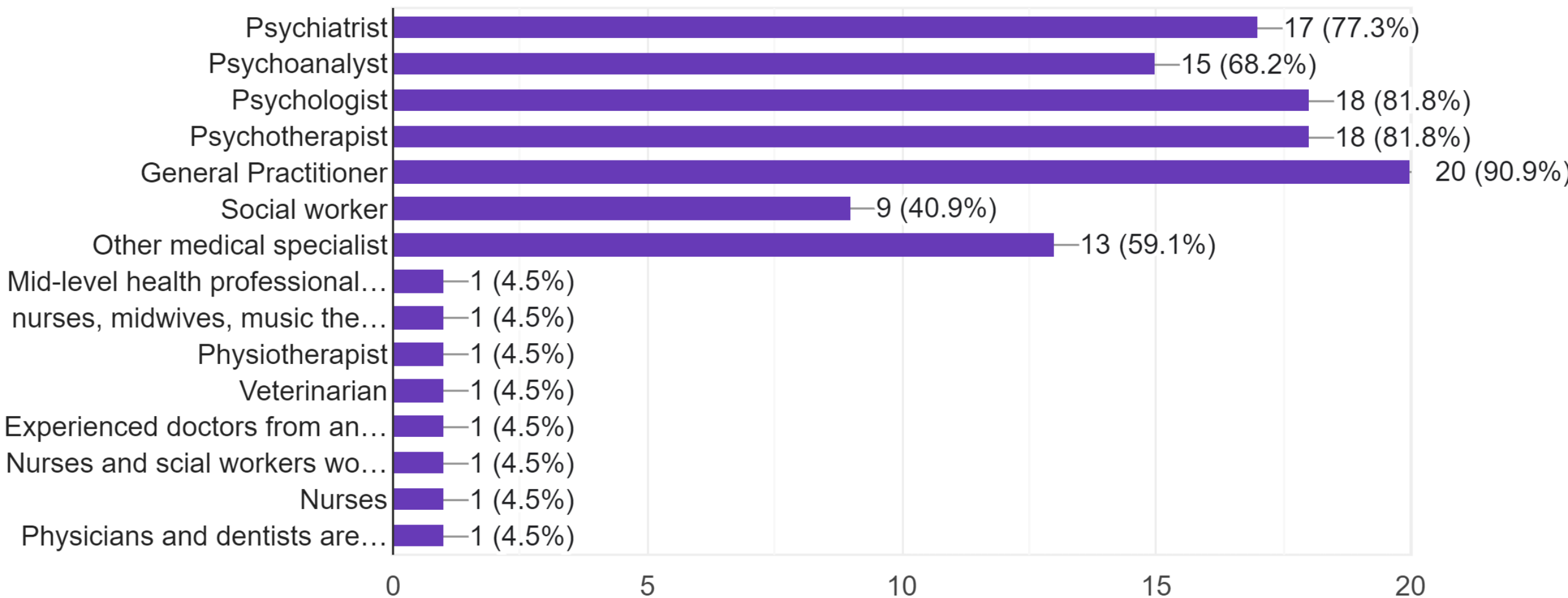
If yes , which societies ?

- We don't exactly rely on other Societies but we collaborate with supervisors from the English-speaking societies mainly the UK but also the American and Australia and New Zealand Societies for the training of our leaders.
- We traditionally invite every second year an experienced Balint leader to provide further training for the accredited trainers of our association.
- German BS, UK BS
- Balint Society from Romania
- "Russian Balint Society" Pan-Russian Public Organisation of Doctors, Psychologists, Medical and Social Workers

- British, German
- Association de Formation Balint (Paris)
- German and Switzerland
- We do not rely physically on other societies. The accumulated knowledge and experience of the British Balint Society on Leadership is a corner-stone in our training. The exchange with the US, French, Danish, and Finnish societies is also important and inspiring.

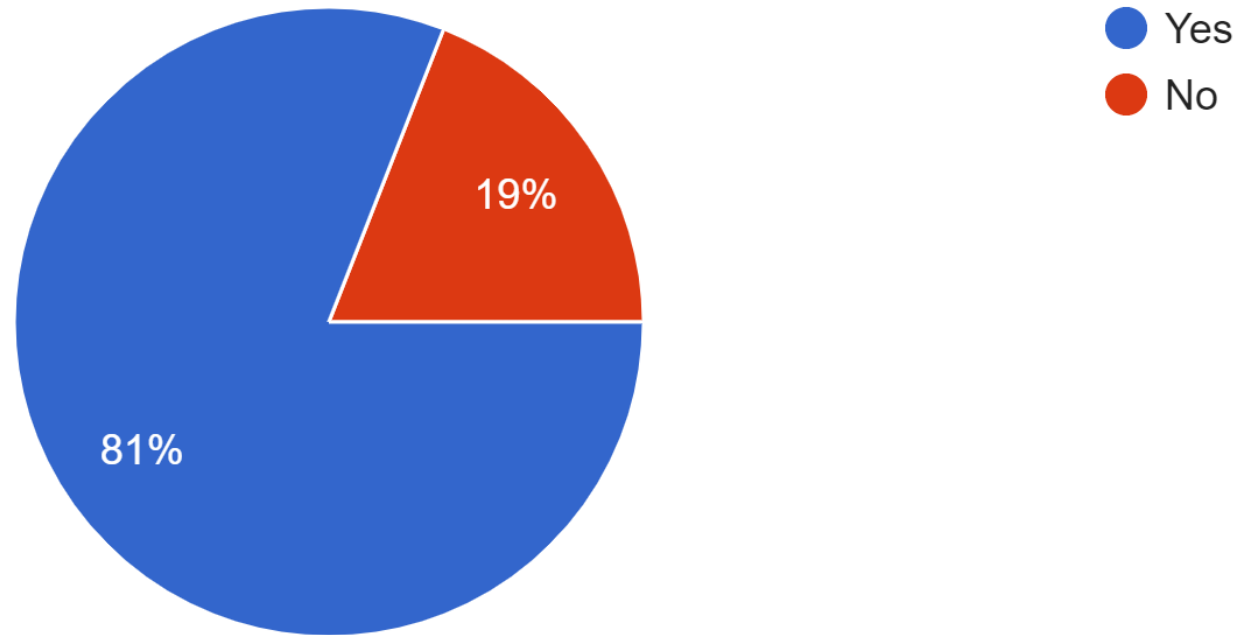
Which entry qualifications for Balint group leadership training does your society have?

22 responses



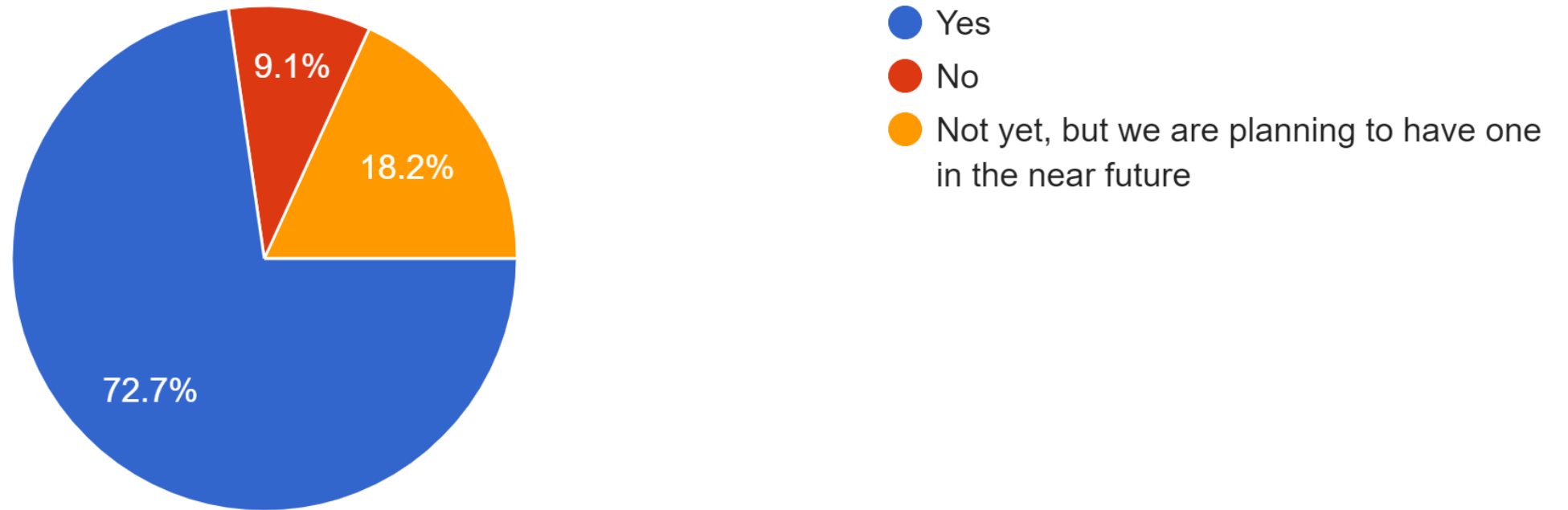
Does your Balint Society offer regular meetings for accredited Balint group leaders?

21 responses



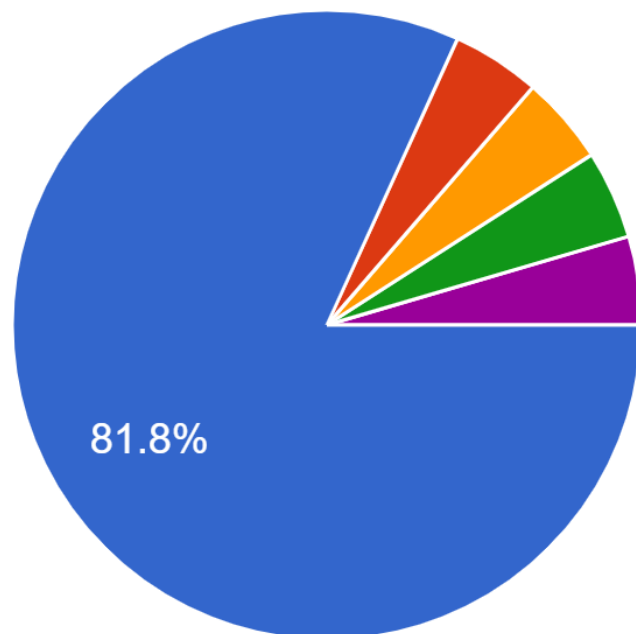
Is on-going supervision for Balint group leaders available in your society?

22 responses



Would your Balint society be interested in leadership training if offered at international IBF conferences?

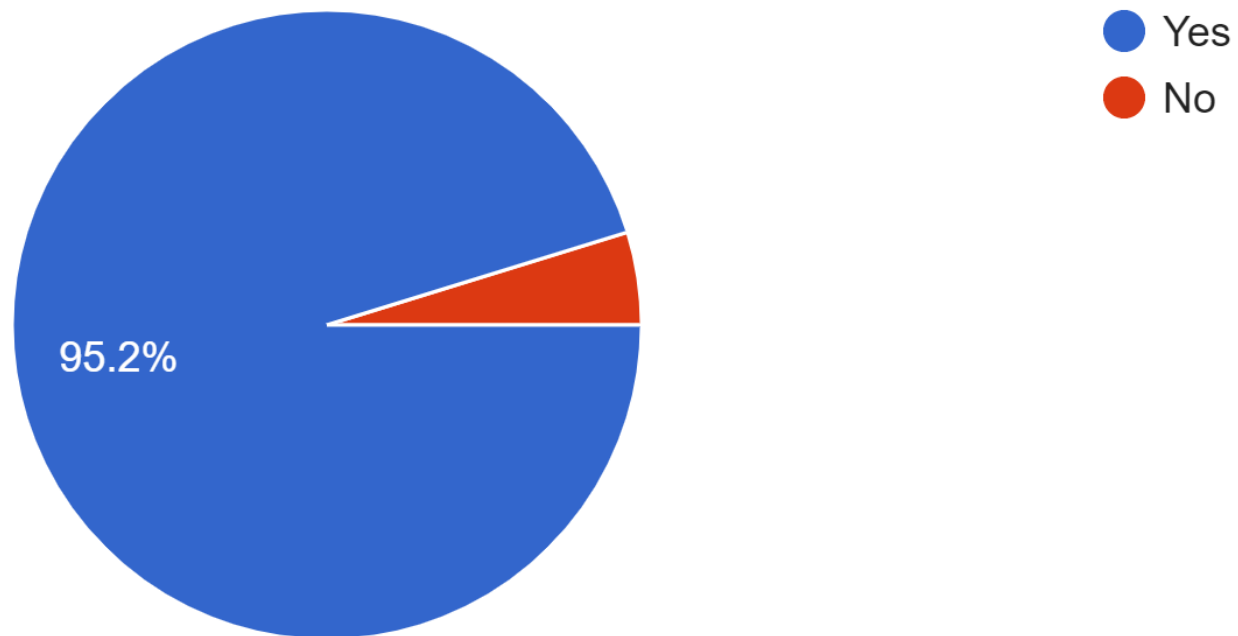
22 responses



- Yes
- No
- We find it very rewarding to participate in the biannual conferences on leadership training
- As an addition to the national training programme, participation and experience from national and international conferences
- Member's are invited to benefit training proposition from ibf. With the limitation...

Would your Balint society be interested in leaders' supervision groups if offered at IBF international conferences?

21 responses



Please provide us any more information you think is relevant, also suggestions for the Task Force

- It would be useful if the IBF could set general guidelines for accreditation that all societies must follow. If we want to maintain the tradition and quality of the Balint method, then the training and accreditation of group leaders is in our opinion a prerequisite.
- The ABR group leaders regularly participate in the joint group with the Balint group leaders from Hungary (in Hungarian). Our Association (ABR) trains Balint leaders for the Balint Association of the Republic of Moldova. The communication is facilitated because they also speak Romanian.
- We have three levels of training: the minimum is attendance at a 4-day Leadership Training Intensive. The middle level involves that plus a one-year Fellowship, in cohorts of four, with taped group review, assigned readings, and discussion. The highest level, full credentialing, adds individual review of taped groups with an assigned supervisor, another intensive training, and an Intensive where the candidate is observed leading groups.

- To become an accredited supervisor in the ABS, one must also have served as faculty at more than one Intensive and must receive recommendations from colleagues. To maintain one's status as Credentialed Leader or Supervisor requires ongoing continuing education with opportunity to reflect on the method, such as attendance at an IBF conference. The ABS provides some activities that qualify for maintenance of credentialing or supervisor status.
- The big question at the moment is whether on-line education of leaders should be handled differently from face-to-face training. We see that the skills for the two kinds of groups, in person and virtual, are somewhat different. We know that training using one method exclusively will not prepare leaders well for the other, and we are trying to discern what we think will work best.
- People on leadership pathway would gain a lot from international leadership events as well as the national events we provide. Supervision groups for leaders are always useful and we recommend that leaders find suitable groups nationally or internationally.

- In Greece, trained psychologists are not required to have any special psychotherapeutic training in order to open their own practice. This means that many have not carried out their own psychotherapy. The HBS tries to compensate for this with extra teaching units. Since the Balint groups are not (yet) part of psychotherapeutic training, the acquisition of members is difficult.
- We are working with the university professors to change this in the future. Our training program is designed to accommodate these tough local conditions while maintaining quality. We suggest that local conditions in different countries should be taken into account by the IBF
- Our leaders are already involved in IBF groups, supervision groups would be well received.

- Theoretical training in psychoanalysis, group dynamics, multiperspectivity and assessment
- We regard competent and experienced international Balinters as important contributors as guest teachers and supervisors for our national training programme.
- Interest for stay connected events, to support frame or facilities for online Balint groups or leadership group

Name of your society

- Balint society of Serbia
- Hellenic Society of Medical Psychology and Balint Groups
- Israeli Balint society
- The Romanian Balint Association
- Pan-Russian Public Organization "Russian Balint society"
- Balint Society from Moldova
- American Balint Society

- Armenian Balint Society
- Bulgarian Balint Society
- UK Balint Society
- HELLENIC BALINT SOCIETY
- SBB Société Balint Belge
- Balint Assoc. (Russia)
- Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand
- Danish Balint Society
- Association Internationale du Psychodrame Balint
- Austrian Balint Society
- The Swedish Balint Society
- ABRABALINT
- German Balint Society
- Société médicale balint
- The Finnish Balint Society

Number of Balint group leaders in your society (22 responses)

| Number of leaders | Number of societies |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1-10 | 5 |
| 11-50 | 11 |
| 51-100 | 3 |
| >100 | 3 |

Conclusions

- A thematic analysis of the responses highlights several areas for further consideration and development:
 1. Several societies rely on other more established societies for help with setting up leadership training and supervision. There are also some regional collaboration initiatives and joint leadership and supervision taking place as well as international leadership training and supervision groups online already taking place.

Is further input / support from the IBF / task Force needed?

2. How to maintain on going CPD for Accredited leaders and should that be a requirement?
3. Should online training be different from face-to-face leadership training, what should it involve ? does it require different sets of skills ? Is leading groups exclusively online enough to become accredited ?
4. What should the basic training requirements include in addition to leading groups and having supervision: I.e., theoretical training in psychoanalytic theory, group dynamics, personal therapy, observations, written work etc.
5. Should the Task Force /IBF provide a guideline for training and accreditation requirements for leadership training? I.e., IBF accredited training??
6. There is a strong endorsement of the added value of international groups for leadership training and supervision.

Action points for the Task Force:

- Identify local / regional societies who would like help and facilitate setting up leadership training and supervision
- pursue with the IBF Board further opportunities for international leadership training and supervision groups: online / in person.
- continue to develop our thinking on the roles, skills and levels of training recommended for accredited leaders and accredited supervisors.