

WUCWO



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Synodality according to women co-responsible for the synodal process

PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS

World Women's Observatory

The survey



Synodality according to women responsible for the synodal process.

Rethinking women's participation is a critical point in the conversion of the Church's culture, according to the Working Document for the Continental Stage (DCS) of the Synod. "From all continents comes an appeal for Catholic women to be valued" (DCS 61); and continues: "In a Church where almost all decision-makers are men, there are few spaces where women can make their voices heard". The WORLD WOMEN'S OBSERVATORY of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) is one of such spaces. We ask you to respond to this survey as soon as possible, in order to give visibility to women who were or are co-responsible for the synodal process and who are "invisible" for many.

Deadline: February 1st, 2023.

You will find the first results from March 1st 2023 onwards at:
<https://www.worldwomensobservatory.org/en>

The survey is anonymous. By answering these 10 questions you consent to the use and dissemination of your answers.

10 questions.

Target group: women co-responsible for the synodal process: Diocesan, National or Continental level.

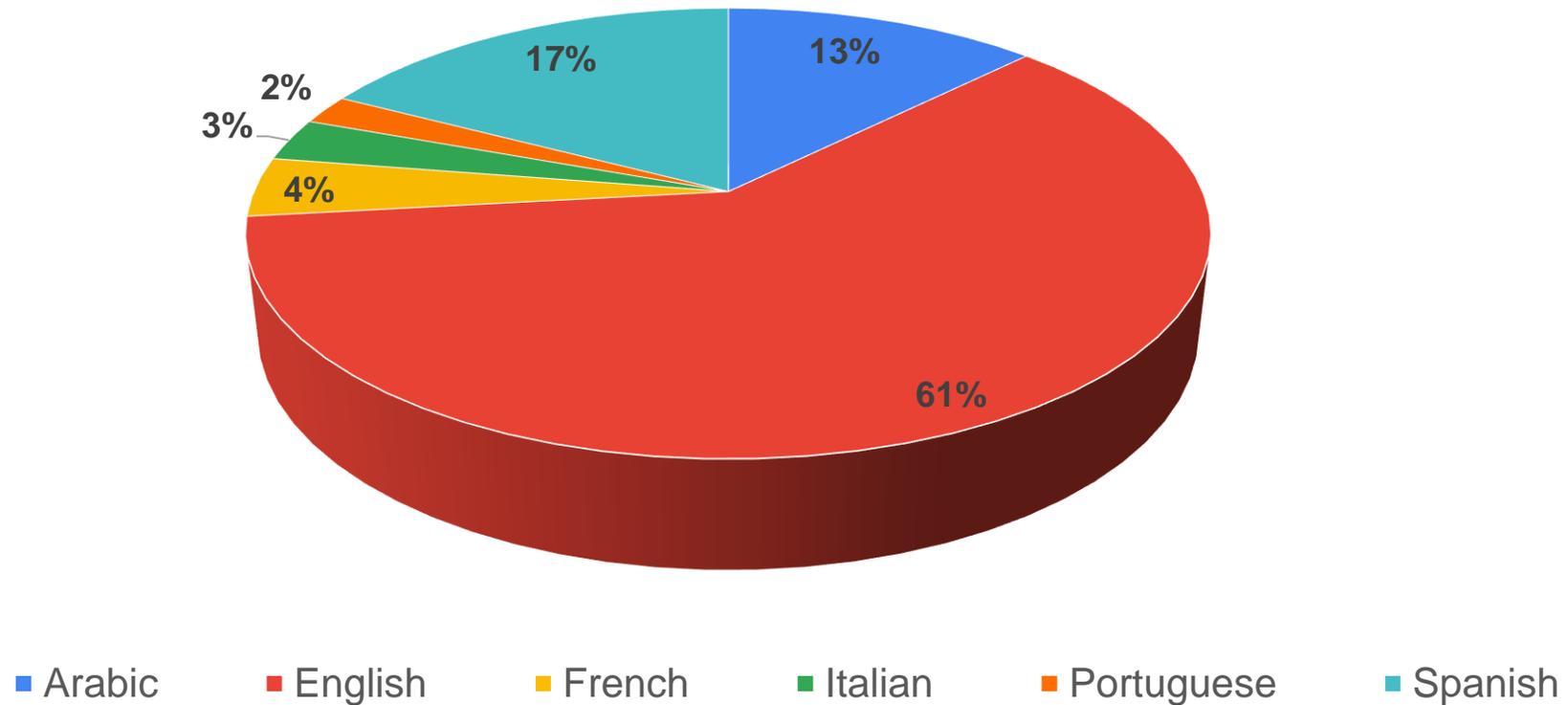
Number of participants in the first phase: 422

The survey includes questions on:

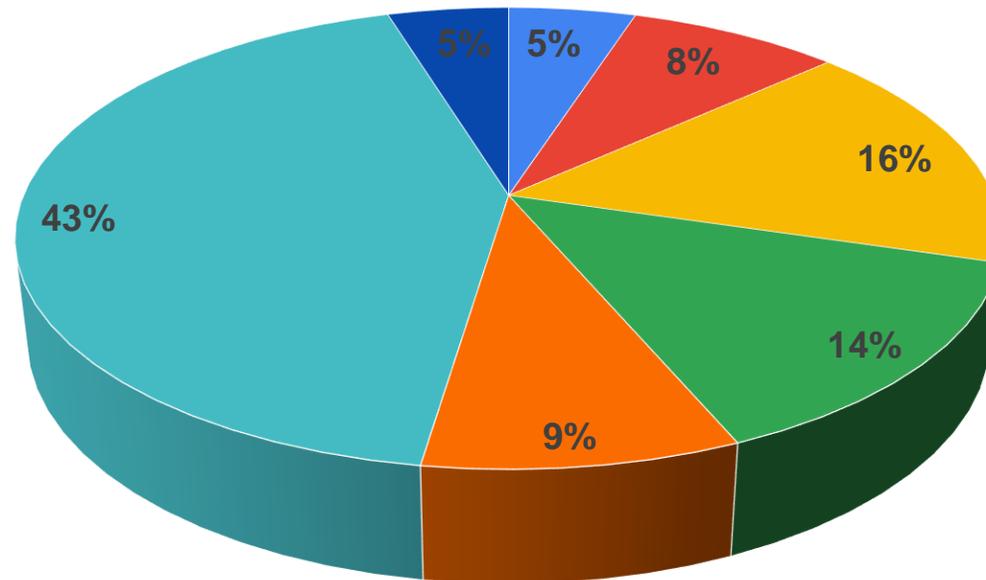
- Geographical area and role played in the synodal process
- How was the process experienced
- How to improve the rest of the synodal process (main challenges and initiatives)
- Proposals to enhance women's leadership in the Church

Distribution of languages of 422 women, co-responsible of the synodal process

Survey language

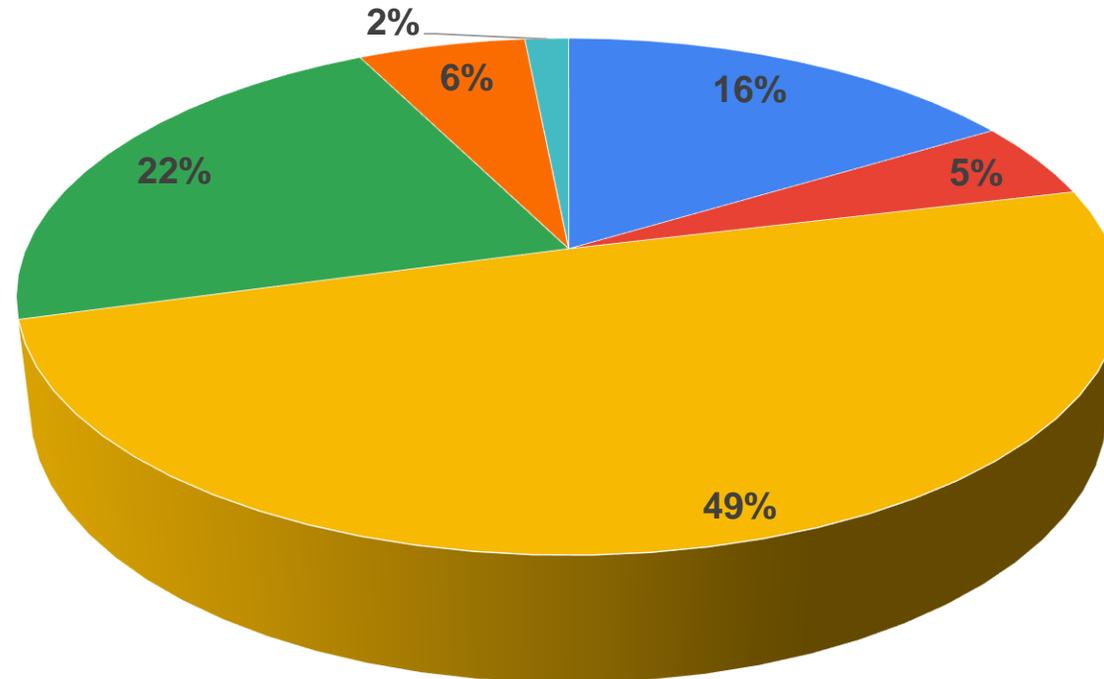


Continental participation in the survey



■ Africa ■ Asia ■ Europe ■ Latin America and the Caribbean ■ Middle East ■ North America ■ Oceania

Why do you think you were summoned?



■ Because I am a theologian

■ Because of my pastoral background

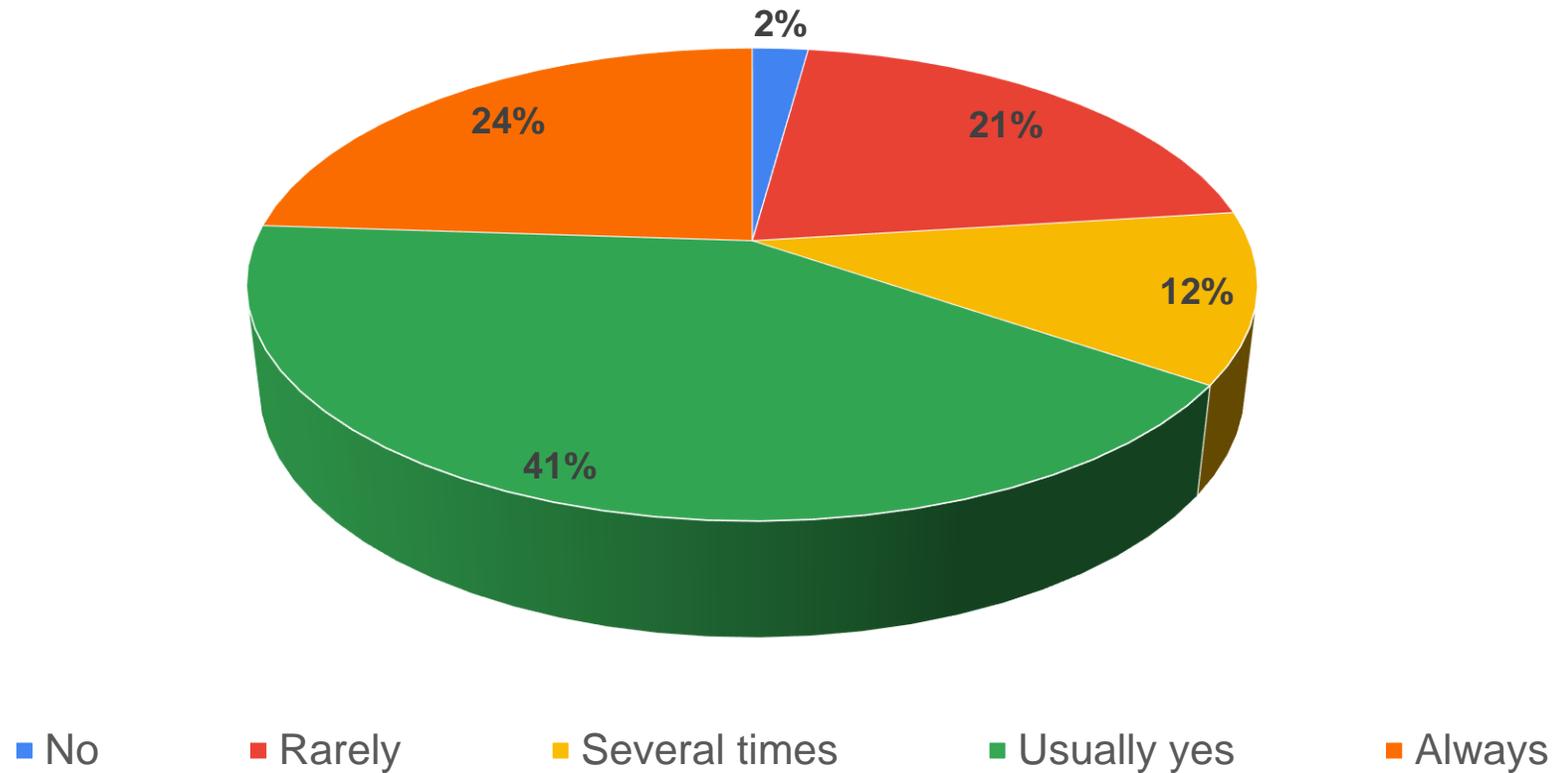
■ I don't know

■ Because I am considered as a good secretary

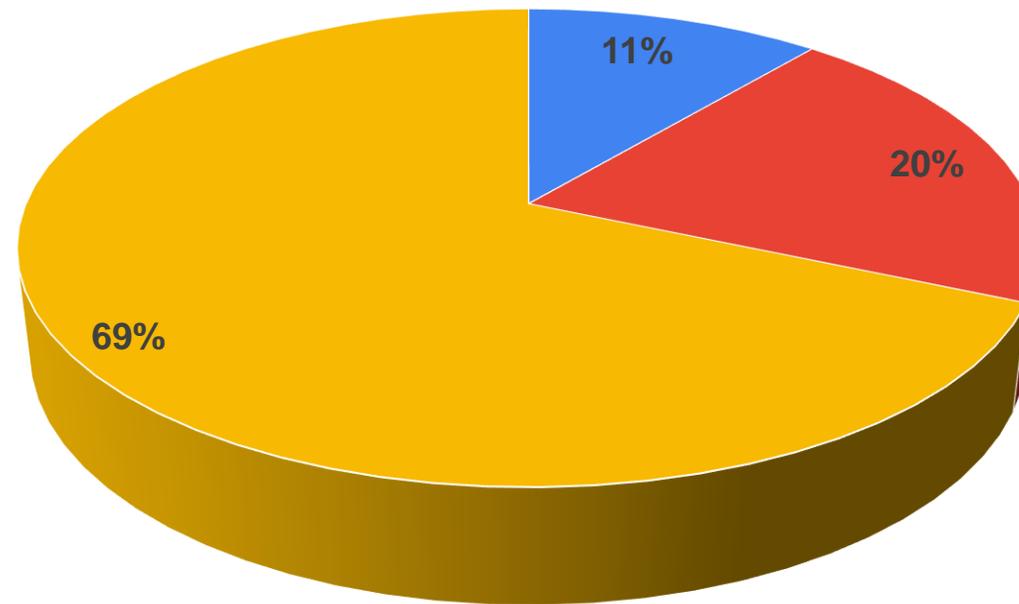
■ Because I am an employee in the structure of the Church

■ I am a religious Sister

Has your opinion been listened to during the work of the synodal process?

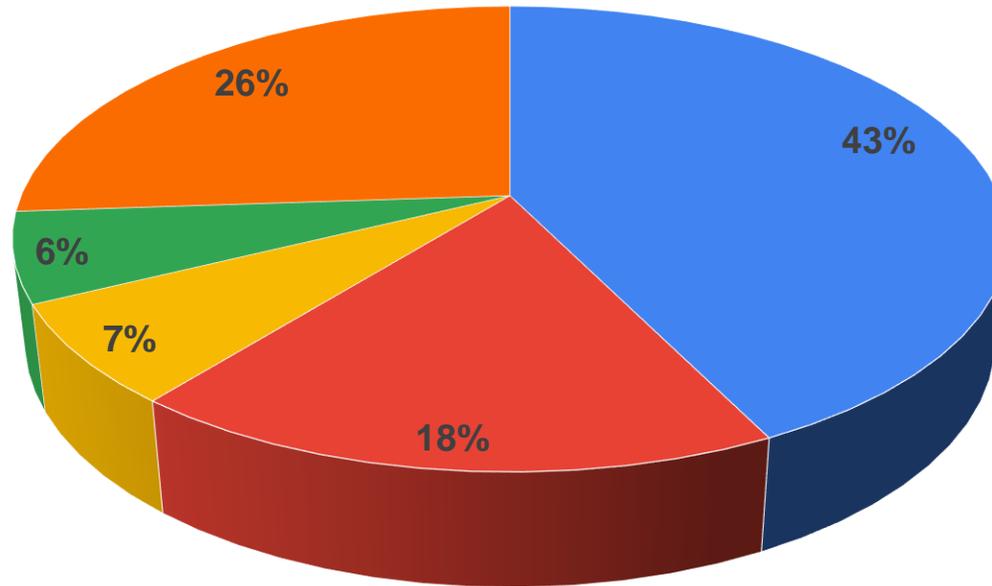


Were you effectively involved in decision-making during this process?



■ I don't know ■ No ■ Yes

Where did you encounter the main obstacles during the process?



- In ordained ministers
- In other members of the community
- In speaking before a formal audience of the Church hierarchy
- In my lack of experience
- I encountered no obstacles during the process

MAIN CHALLENGES REGARDING THE SYNODAL PROCESS

- ❑ Great need to be give women visibility and overcome clericalism & patriarchal structures
- ❑ Lack of equal and active participation / Not only to be heard but also to be taken into account
- ❑ Women are insufficiently involved in decision-making processes and final decisions

PARTICULAR CHALLENGES HIGHLIGHTED IN SOME REGIONS

- ❑ **Women from Middle East/Asia:** lack of openness to women's participation in the synod within a male dominated society
- ❑ **Women from Africa:** women's fear to share their views because of the lack of self confidence derived from a masculine cultural mentality
- ❑ **Women from North America:** fear and resistance among clergy to the synodal process and to changes in the institution
- ❑ **Women from Europe:** absence of theological formation of the laity, in general, and of women, in particular
- ❑ **Women from Latin America and the Caribbean:** overcome clericalism, give women visibility and have them speak up

MAIN INITIATIVES REGARDING THE SYNODAL PROCESS

- ❑ **Strengthen participation and dialogue-** promote systematic channels for women participation
- ❑ **Empower and train laity, particularly women, for their participation**
- ❑ **Build capacities on synodal methods** - train bishops and other members of the church to listen more closely
- ❑ **Make the synodal process more inclusive and equal**

PARTICULAR/CONCRETE INICIATIVES REGARDING THE SYNODAL PROCESS BY CONTINENTS/REGIONS

- ❑ **Women from Europe/Africa/Oceania:** changes in structure and governance to improve participation and greater synergy among clergy, laity, in general, and women
- ❑ **Women from North America:** continuity of the synodal process as a permanent strategy, including the training of clergy, bishops and laity
- ❑ **Women from Europe/North America:** women should vote in the final phase of the synodal process
- ❑ **Women from Europe:** increase transparency of the process by disseminating its results
- ❑ **Women from Latin America/Middle East/Oceania/Europe/North America:** enhance the listening and inclusion of minority groups

MAIN CHANGES TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CHURCH

- Systemic changes in leadership structures to allow women's access to leading positions
- Promotion of listening and participation
- Value women and educate all for equality
- Empower women and provide more opportunities for formation & training
- Female diaconate is required particularly by North American and European women
- Several North American and European women ask for women priesthood

SOME PRELIMINARY CROSS-SECTIONAL FINDINGS

- ❑ Enthusiasm, love and even passion for a synodal church
- ❑ Longing for the integration of people and groups that have been marginalized
- ❑ Formation of laity and, particularly, empowerment of women for decision-making within ecclesial structures
- ❑ New educational lines to transform seminars involving trained women

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WORLD WOMEN'S OBSERVATORY

Listening to transform lives

The survey is still open and these are only preliminary results