Participants' experiences of the Irish Research Network in Childhood Bilingualism and Multilingualism
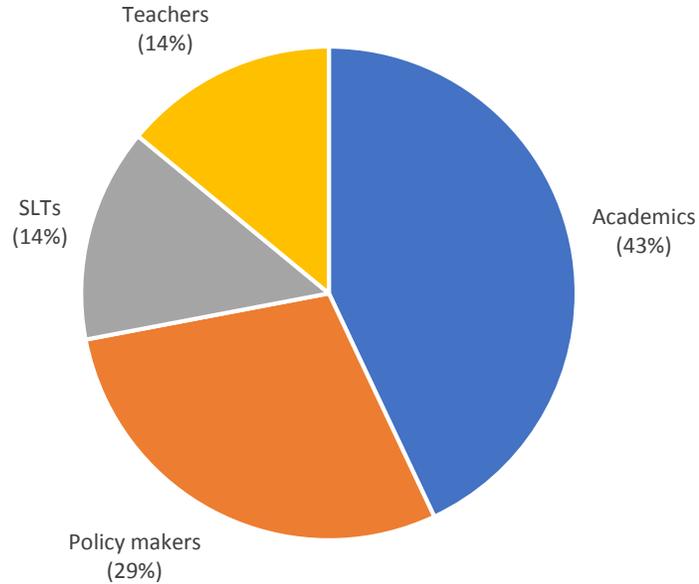
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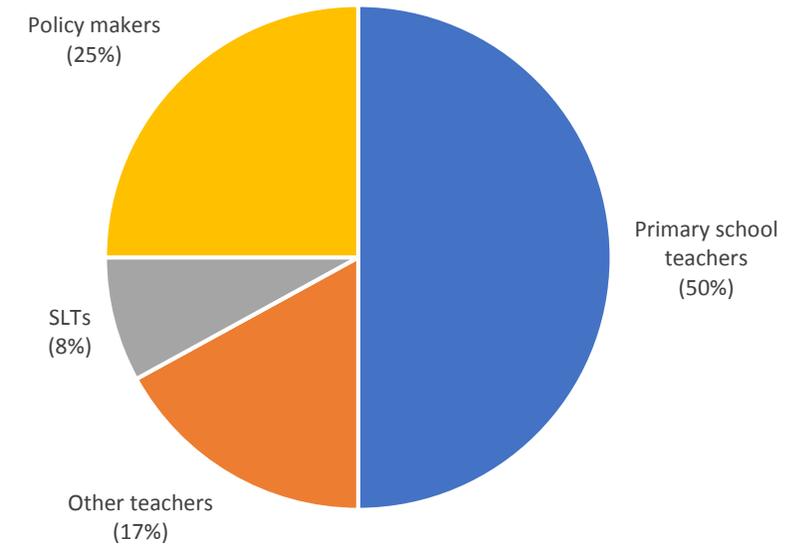
Which events were assessed?

- **World café on childhood bilingualism** (May 3rd 2018)

- **Public panel:** *Bilingual education for children with speech, language and communication needs.* (May 3rd 2018)

- **Workshop:** *Becoming Language Explorers: a short course for primary school teachers.* (September 13th 2018)
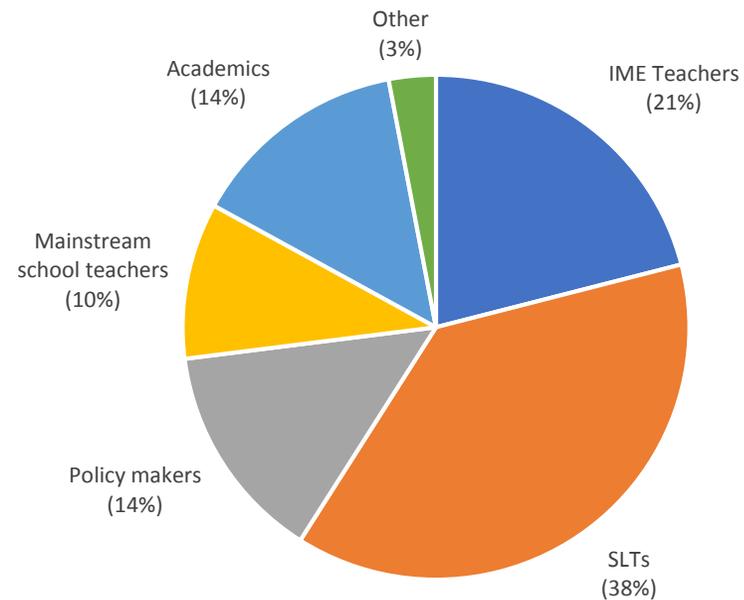
Who were the participants?

World café
- Teachers (14%)
- SLTs (14%)
- Policy makers (29%)
- Academics (43%)

Panel
- Other (3%)
- Academics (14%)
- IME Teachers (21%)
- Mainstream school teachers (10%)
- Policy makers (14%)
- SLTs (38%)

Workshop
- Policy makers (25%)
- SLTs (8%)
- Primary school teachers (50%)
- Other teachers (17%)

What did they find most useful?

- Meeting people:

  "Great to meet with people from different professional backgrounds and with varying insights." (Academic, World café)

- Sharing experiences:

  "It was really good to meet other teachers with different experience re. teaching." (Teacher, Workshop)

- Getting resources:

  "It gave lots of ideas to bring back to the classroom." (Teacher, Workshop)

What did they find most useful? (cont.)

- Hearing about research:

  "Good to have research to provide to parents to help inform their decision re. educational placement." (SLT, Panel)

  "I learned that Irish medium school is a possible choice for my child." (Parent, Panel)

  "Making informed decisions regarding how to balance bilingualism/multilingualism at home" (Parent, panel)

- Getting reassurance:

  "Great to see that so many professionals are working and researching the subject." (Policy maker, World café)

  "I gained confidence in my parenting." (Parent, Panel)

What can we learn from their feedback?

- Most participants to such events are expecting to hear about research.

- Being able to share experiences is valuable for both parents and professionals.

- Accessibility should be improved to reach more people and more stakeholders.

- Collaboration should be ongoing:

    "This day has only scratched the surface" (SLT, World café)