

How do future publication plans affect  
theses availability in UiT's open access  
research archive?

# Background and research questions

- Background

- Munin is UiTs institutional archive
- Master and PhD theses are delivered directly through Munin and can be made openly available on-line.
- Despite of this some candidates chose to not make their theses openly available.

- Research questions

- What are the reasons for not making theses openly available through Munin?
- What factors could influence this decision?

# Collection of theses publication data

- Study I and II: Analyzing metadata from previously delivered master and PhD theses where the candidate wished to withhold their theses from being made openly available in Munin.
- Study III: Electronic survey among current students at UiT to examine their attitude towards open availability in Munin.

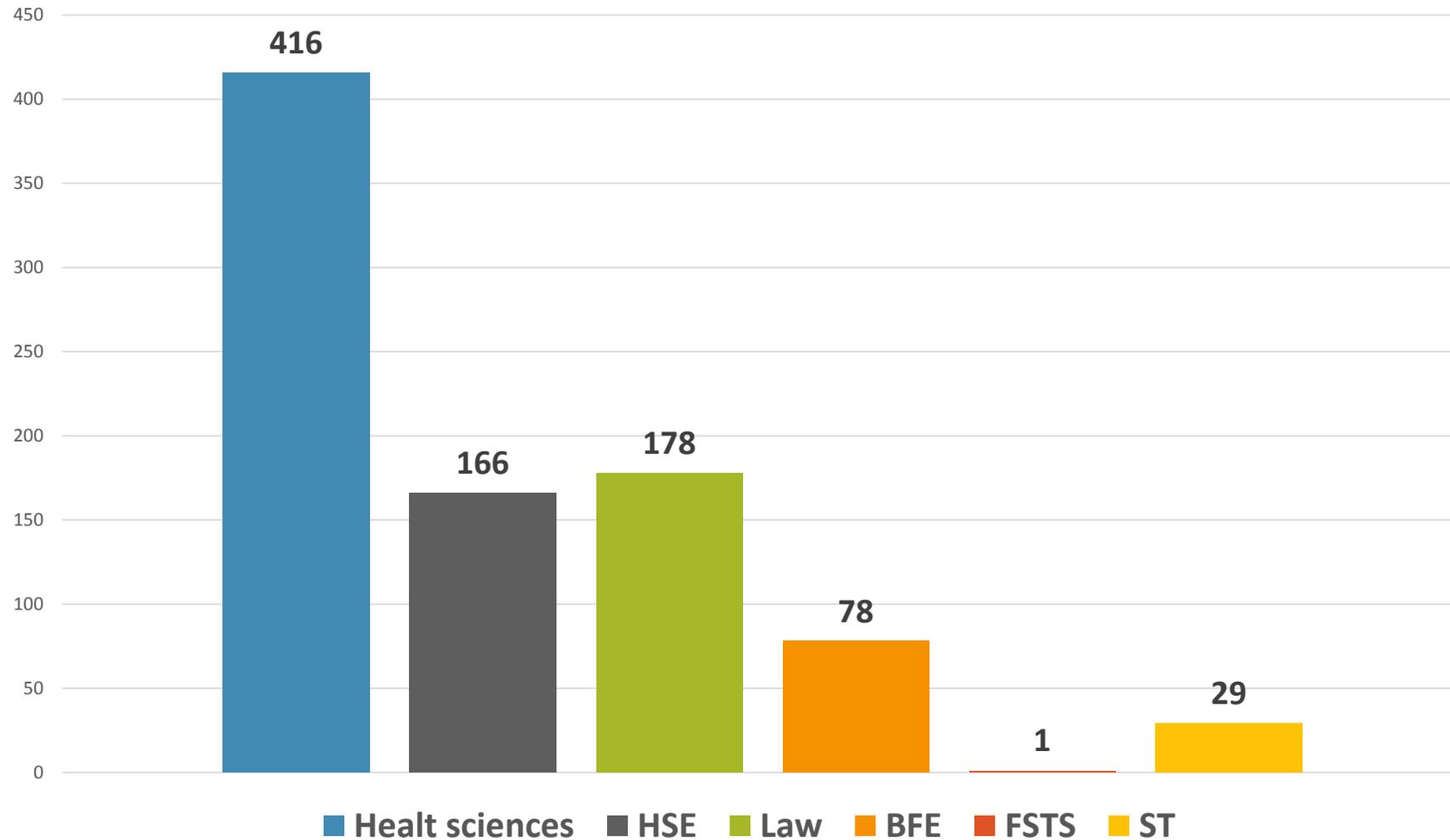
# Study I. Delivered master theses

- Metadata from 868 delivered master theses.
  - Delivered between 2009 and 2015
- 620 of 868 candidates provided a reason for making this decision
  - The reasons stated by the candidates for this choice became the foundation for study I

# Results study I

- Health Sciences
- Law
- Fine arts
- Biosciences, Fisheries and Economics: BFE
- Humanities, Social Sciences and Education: HSE
- Science and Technology: ST
- Sports, Tourism, and Social work: FSTS

# Distribution within different faculties



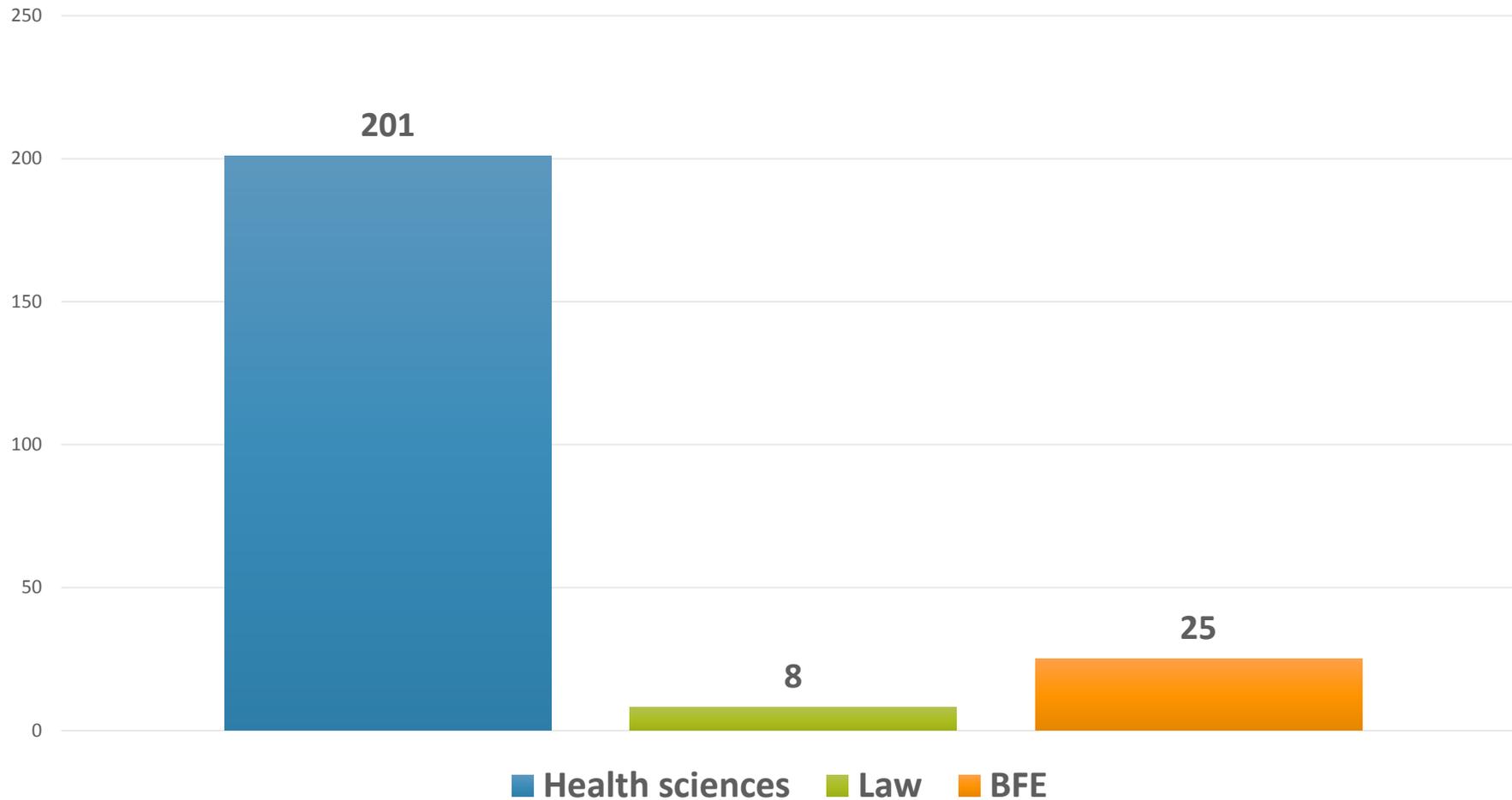
# Results study I

- The reasons where sorted into different categories:
  - Publication plans: PP
  - Personal information/privacy/ exempt from public/ confidentiality agreement
  - Copyrights/trade secrets: PI
  - After grading: AG
  - Not available: NA
  - Don't want to: D
  - Other: O

# Distribution within the different categories

Category	Number (of the 620 delivered theses with provided reason)
Publication plans (PP)	249
Personal/sensitive information/ Exempt from public (PI)	83
Copyrighted material (C)	52
After grading (AG)	65
Not available (NA)	75
Dont want to (D)	11
Other (O)	68
Unsure of quality	17

# Distribution within different faculties: category Publication plans

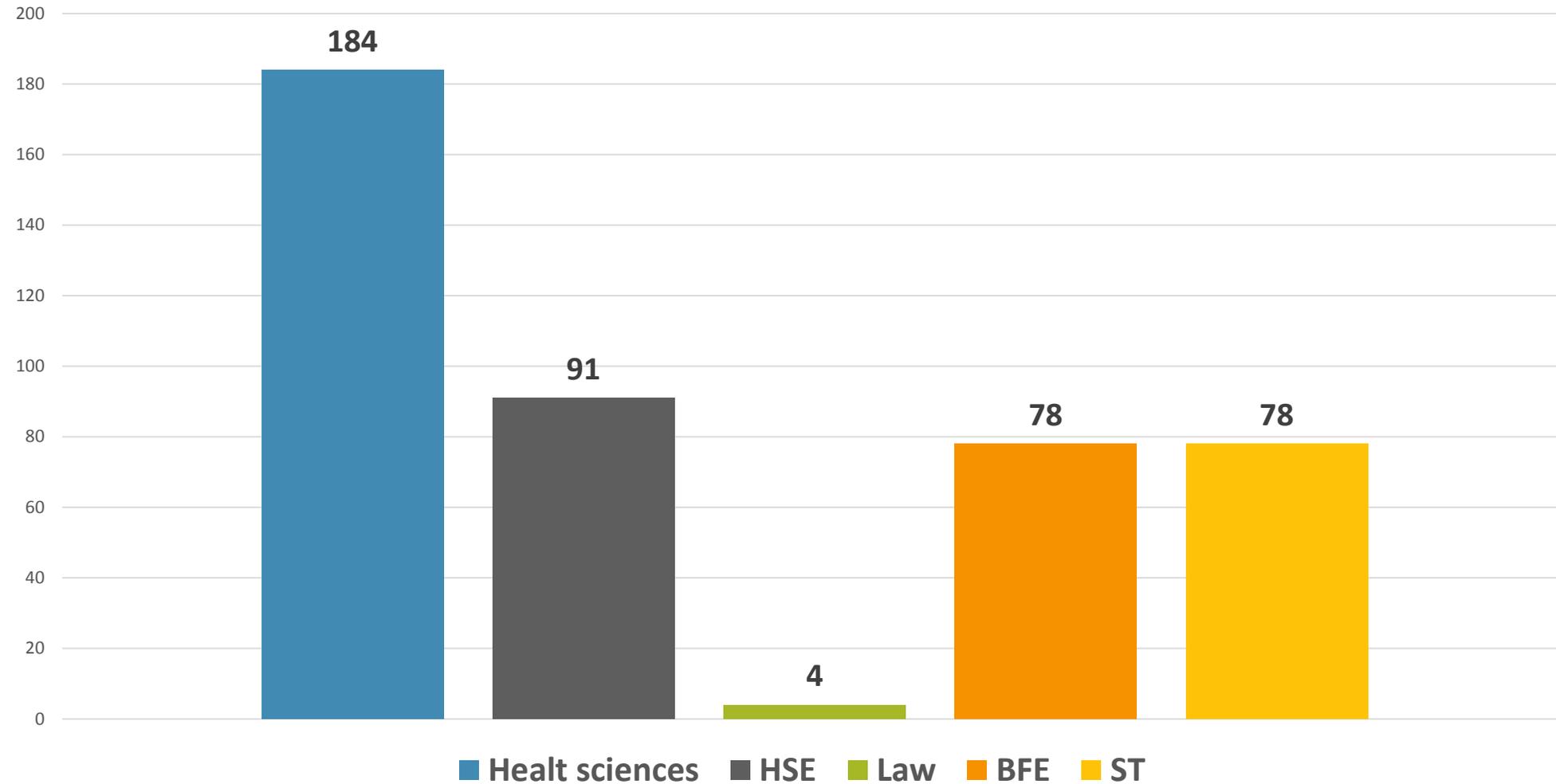


# Study 2. Delivered PhD theses

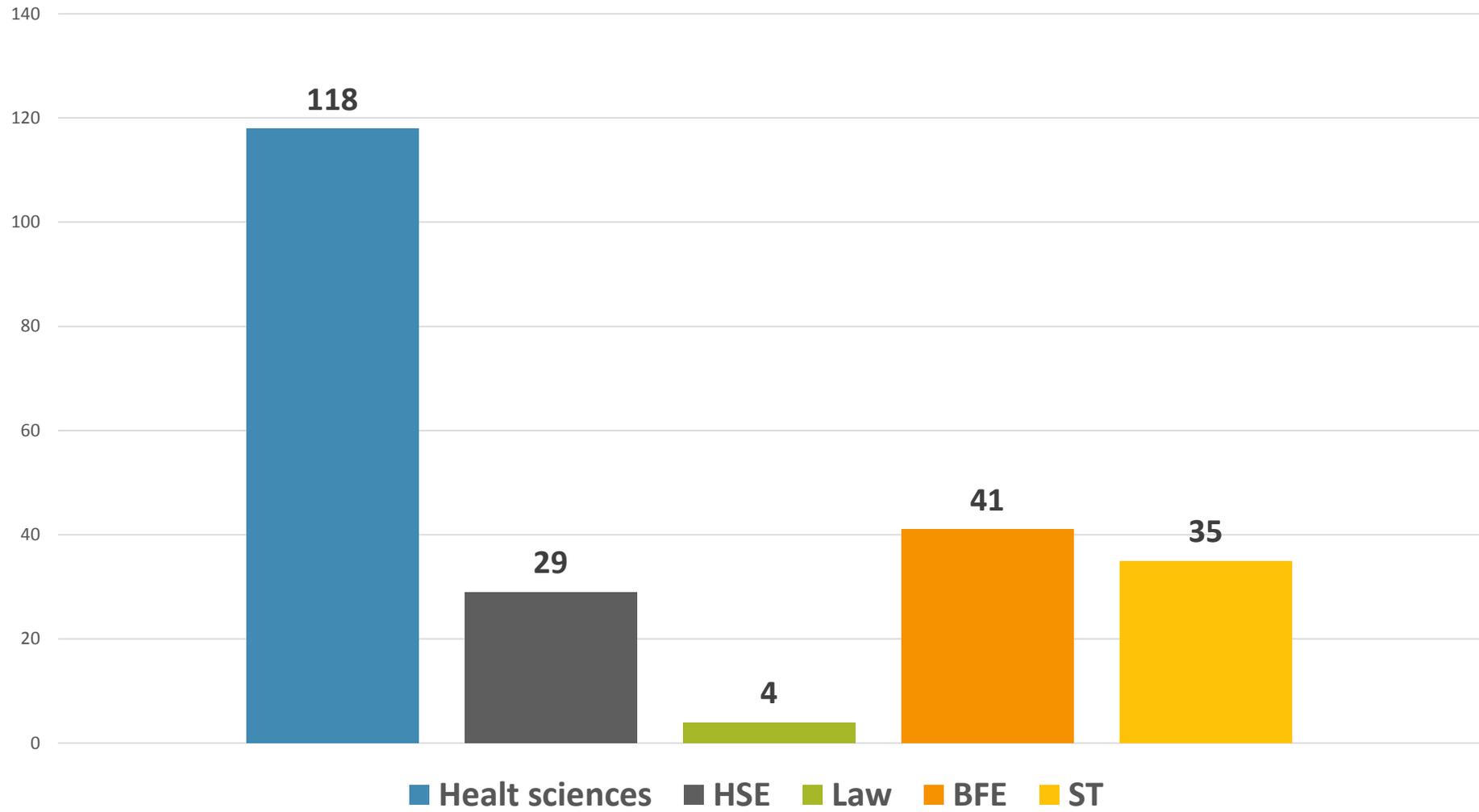
- 435 delivered PhD theses
- Candidates choose if they want their theses made available in Munin “now” or “never”,
  - Can provide a reason for their choice
- The categories compiled for the master theses used to categorize the reasons provided by PhD candidates

# Results study II

## Distribution different faculties



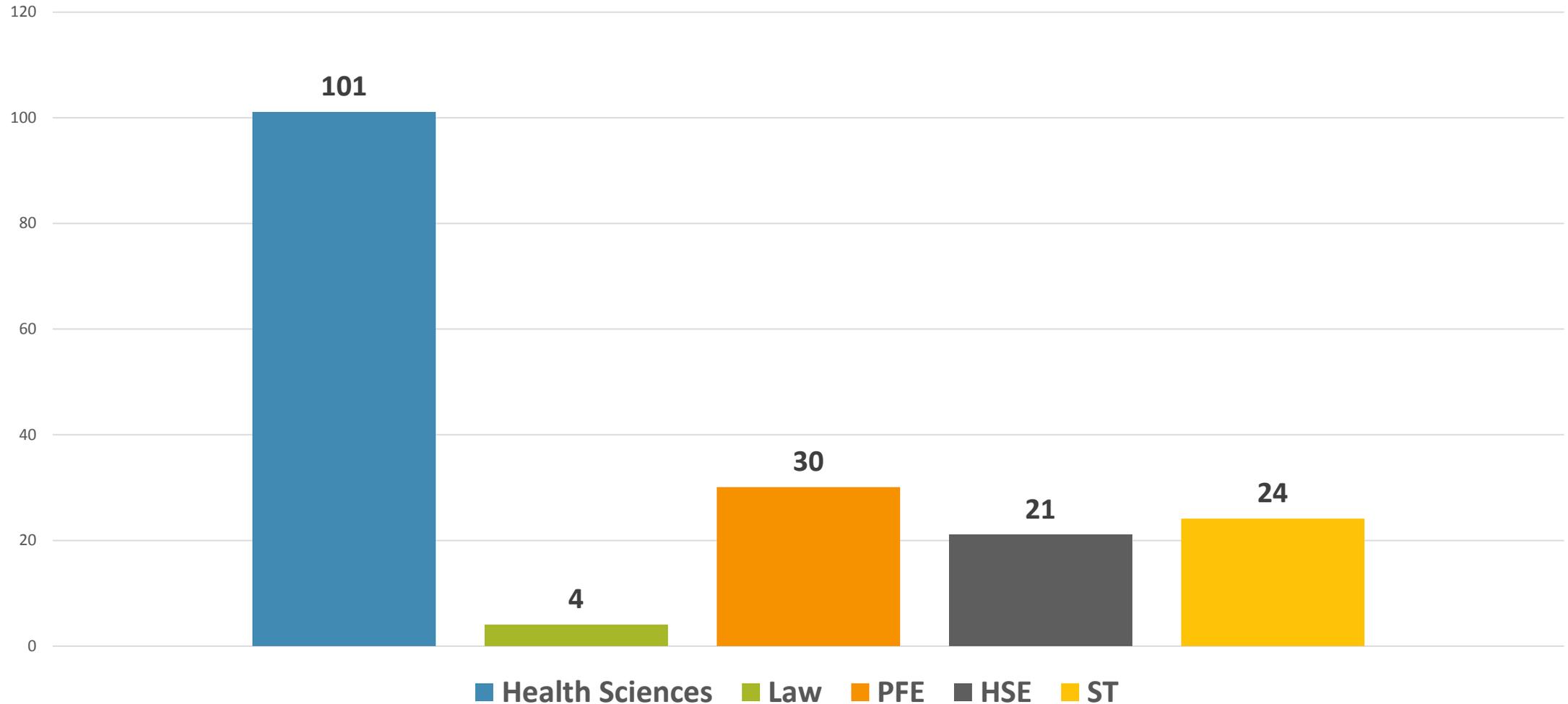
# Results study II: Distribution between faculties of theses with restrictions



# Results study II: Distribution within different categories

<b>Publication plans (PP)</b>	107
<b>Copyrighted material (C)</b>	47
<b>Publication plans and copyrighted material (PP/C)</b>	26
<b>Not disclose (ND)</b>	1
<b>Other (O)</b>	9
<b>Not stated</b>	37

# Distribution between faculties: the category publication plans/copyright restrictions:



# Study 3. Current students

- Online questionnaire
  - 133 respondents
- Majority of the respondents attended the faculty of Health sciences.
- The majority of the respondents from this study want to make their theses openly available in Munin.
  - Only 37 stated that they did not want to make their theses available through Munin

# Why do you want to make your thesis available through Munin?

- Respondents who answered that they wanted to make their thesis available could provide a reason for this.
  - 59 out of 71 answered provided a reason
- «To help other students writing their thesis»
- «Research done at publicly founded institutions, including universities, should be publicly available»
- «I feel that it is expected of me. I don't want to make a fuss even though I feel it is wrong that everything should be made public»

### Study I master theses

Total	620		
Category	PP		
Number	249		
Percent	40 %		

### Study II PhD theses

Total	190		
Category	PP	CC	PP/CR
Number	107	47	26
Percent	56,50 %	25 %	14 %

### Study III current students

Total	38		
Category	PP		
Number	12		
Percent	31,50 %		

# Discussion

- The category «publication plans» indicates that the candidate have concerns regarding getting their work published if it is already openly available in an institutional archive.
- My results indicate that candidates from the faculty of Humanities, Social sciences and Education show a positive attitude towards making their work openly available, and that Health sciences candidates are more negative.
- Why do Health sciences have high numbers of theses with reservations against open access in Munin, and with “Publication plan” as stated reason for this?

# Myths or facts?

- OA through Munin will hinder future publication plans
  - Different publicist have different restrictions
  - Varying knowledge on copyright-status
- OA through Munin is hindered by publishers copyright restrictions
  - Embargo period for availability in an institutional OA archive could prevent potential conflicts with publishers.

# How to encourage OA among students and PhD candidates at UiT?

- 1/3 of master theses are being left out of Munin
  - The proportion available theses only show a slight increase the last 5 years (in 2015)
- Between 2013 and 2015, 227 out of 435 delivered PhD theses could not be made immediately available through Munin

- PhD candidates and students may be more inclined to make their work available if they are shown what advantages this could bring them.
- Master students could see the value of building on earlier research.
- Availability could increase their number of readers.
  - Demonstrate the use of the material in OA archives by displaying number of viewings and downloads
- Not everyone is aware that search engines, as Google Scholar, crawls institutional archives.
- Supervisors also influence where and how candidates publish their work.

- Candidates should be made aware of the benefits of OA availability to their work and informed of instances that could demand embargo.
- One needs to focus on the issue of future publication if one wishes to increase the number of student work in Munin.

Thank you for your attention!