



**International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions**

Regional Advocacy Priorities 2023 Study Results

Global Report

19 August 2023

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1. Introduction

Where does library advocacy focus around the world, and how active is it?

IFLA's Regional Council and Regional Division Committees are working to support effective advocacy for libraries around the world. Doing this most effectively relies on having a strong sense of what is needed and what makes a difference.

Following our first regional advocacy priorities survey in 2021, we ran a 2023 edition, in order to give the incoming 2023-2025 mandate of the Committees insights to plan their own work.

Through this, we looked to build an understanding of the following:

- 1) Levels of focus on legal and financial support for different library types
- 2) Levels of focus on different lobbying issues relevant for library advocacy
- 3) Level of engagement in different thematic advocacy activities associated with library advocacy
- 4) Level of importance of further evidence on different issues related to library advocacy
- 5) Level of importance of what IFLA could look to build evidence in support of advocacy

We also asked respondents to set out whether they were answering on behalf of an association or institution, or rather as an individual, and then to say what size of association or institution they represent. This allows us to get an idea of differences not only between regions, but between associations (which tend to have a stronger focus on advocacy anyway) and institutions, and between larger and smaller players. Analysis would only be carried out if there was a meaningful sample size of course.

The survey was open over a period of weeks in April-June 2023. It does not claim to be exhaustive at all, but rather hopefully offers some useful conversation starters, not just in IFLA's new regional structures but also more broadly. We hope it will inspire further reflection, and then action to respond to the field's advocacy needs. Happy reading!

Please note that we use the following abbreviations in this report:

AO	= Asia-Oceania
EU	= Europe
LAC	= Latin America and the Caribbean
MENA	= Middle East and North Africa
NA	= North America
SSA	= Sub-Saharan Africa

2. Responses

In total, there were 231 responses to the survey, out of which we had 151 complete ones and 80 partial ones. This report is based on the 151 complete responses. Respondents came from all regions of the world.

2.1 Responses per region

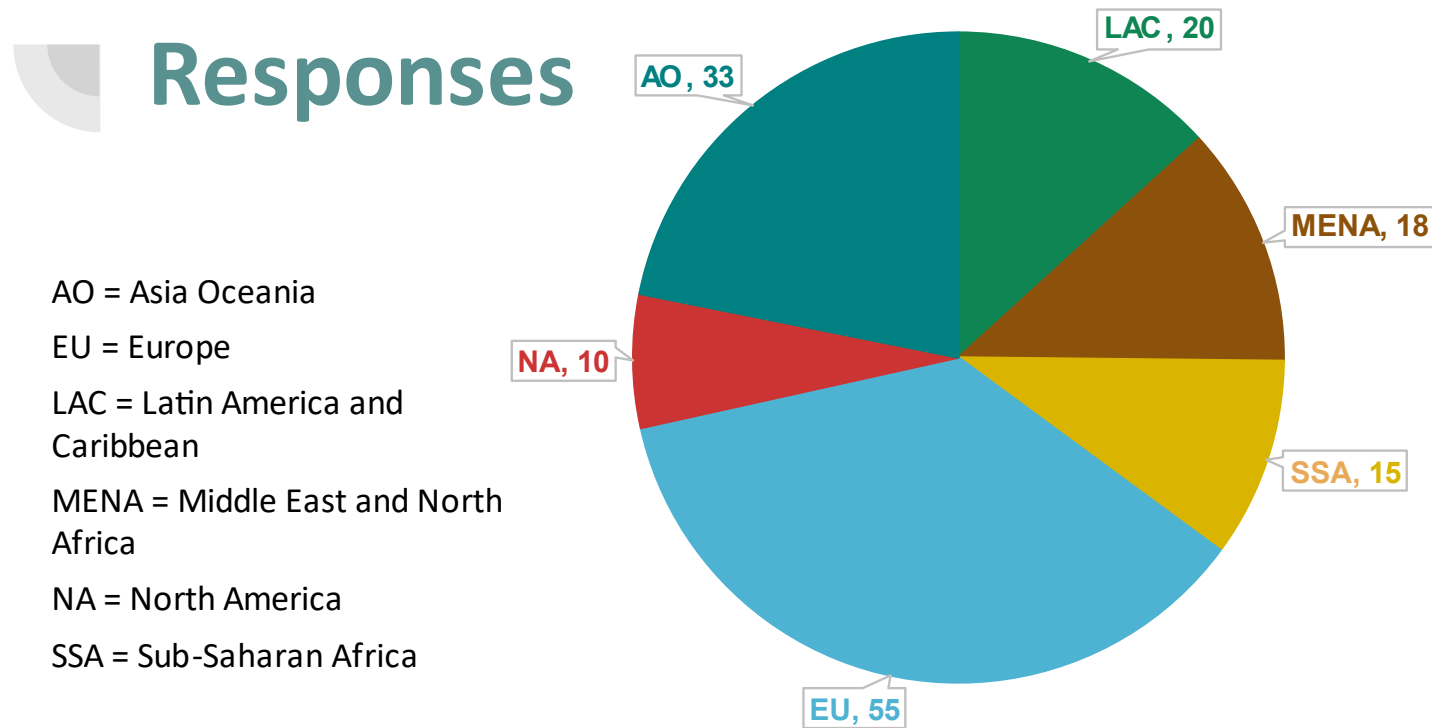


Chart 2.1 In this pie chart you see the distribution of answers per region. All 151 responses came with an identified country of origin, which allowed us to attribute them to a specific region, according to the [country classification we are using](#). Out of these responses, the European region (EU) and the Asia and Oceania region (AO) had the most respondents, with 55 and 33 respectively. The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region follows with 20 respondents. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) comes next, with 15 responses, then Middle East and North Africa (MENA) with 18 responses, while the survey was answered by 10 respondents in the North America (NA) region. We note that there must be more work in engaging members and non-members in some regions, in order to get a wider view of advocacy priorities, practices and capacities.

2.2 Responses per country

2.2.1 Global list of countries



REGIONAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES AN IFLA SURVEY – WORLD RESPONSES

Argentina	Croatia	Ghana	Lithuania	Portugal	Switzerland
Australia	Cuba	Greece	Malaysia	Republic of	Thailand
Bahamas	Czechia	Guatemala	Mali	Korea	Tunisia
Bangladesh	Denmark	Hungary	Mexico	Romania	Turkey
Belarus	Ecuador	India	Myanmar	Russian	Uganda
Botswana	Egypt	Ireland	Netherlands	Federation	Ukraine
Brazil	El Salvador	Italy	New Zealand	Singapore	United Arab
Canada	Estonia	Japan	Nigeria	Slovakia	Emirates
Chile	Eswatini	Kazakhstan	Panama	South Africa	United Kingdom
China	Finland	Kenya	Peru	Spain	United States of
China Hong	France	Latvia	Philippines	Sri Lanka	America
Kong Special	Germany	Lebanon	Poland	Sweden	
Administrative					
Region					

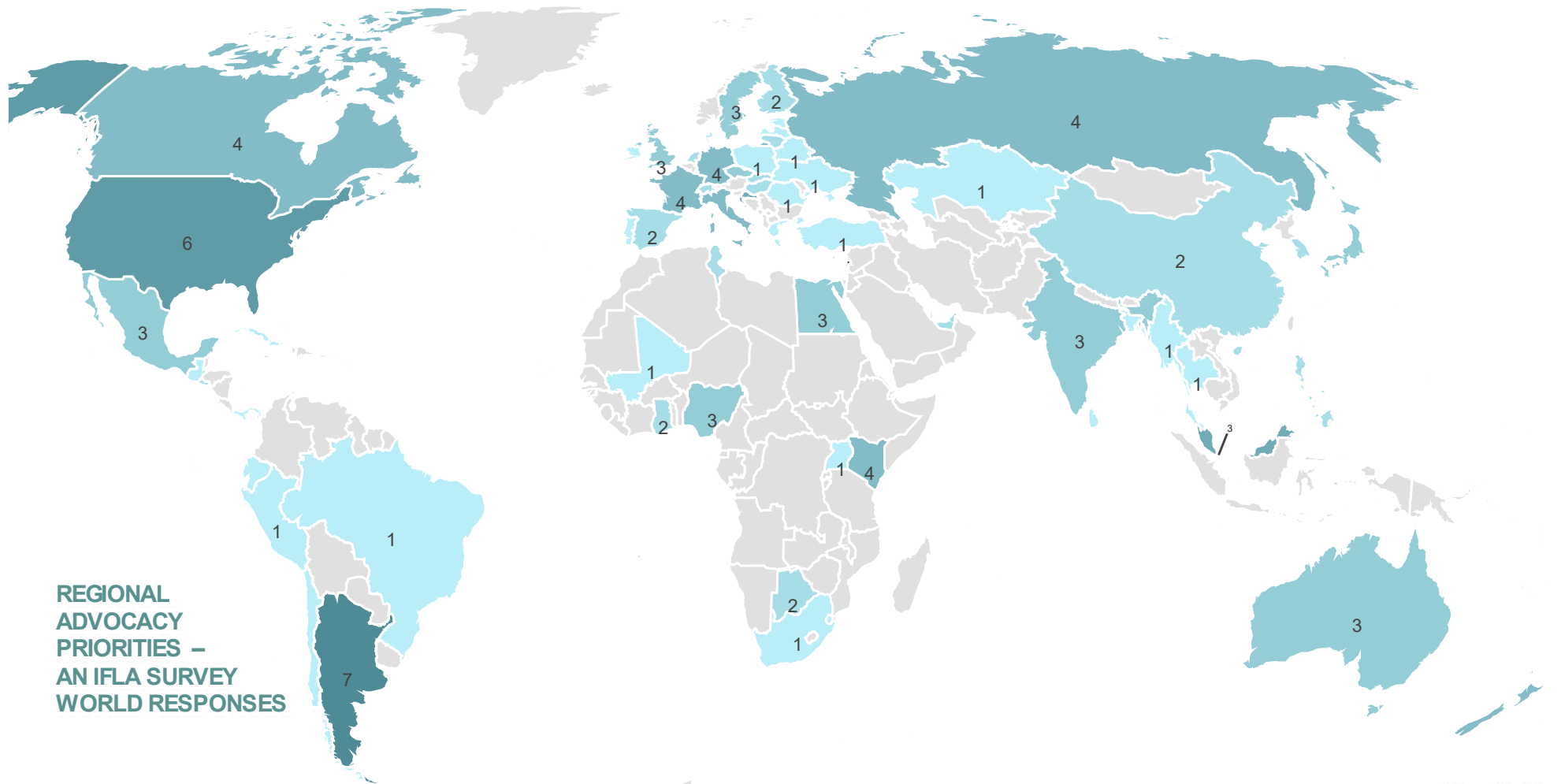
Chart 2.2.1 This is the alphabetical list of countries, from which we received responses to this survey. We received responses from 66 countries.

2.2.2 Global list of responses per country

Argentina	7
Australia	3
Bahamas	1
Bangladesh	1
Belarus	1
Botswana	2
Brazil	1
Canada	4
Chile	1
China	2
China Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	1
Croatia	5
Cuba	1
Czechia	3
Denmark	1
Ecuador	1
Egypt	3
El Salvador	2
Estonia	1
Eswatini	1
Finland	2
France	4
Germany	4
Ghana	2
Greece	1
Guatemala	1
Hungary	2
India	3
Ireland	1
Italy	4
Japan	3
Kazakhstan	1
Kenya	4
Latvia	1
Lebanon	11

Lithuania	2
Malaysia	5
Mali	1
Mexico	3
Myanmar	1
Netherlands	2
New Zealand	4
Nigeria	3
Panama	1
Peru	1
Philippines	2
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Republic of Korea	2
Romania	1
Russian Federation	4
Singapore	3
Slovakia	2
South Africa	1
Spain	2
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	3
Switzerland	2
Thailand	1
Tunisia	2
Turkey	1
Uganda	1
Ukraine	1
United Arab Emirates	2
United Kingdom	3
United States of America	6
Grand Total	151

2.2.3 World Map



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Chart 2.2.3 This World Map shows visually the number of responses per country. The darker the blue colour, the more responses were received. Where there is brighter blue, there were fewer responses. The countries that are in grey are the ones that we have not heard from – something to work on in the future.

2.3 Responses - who submitted the survey

2.3.1 Association/institution/individual – global view

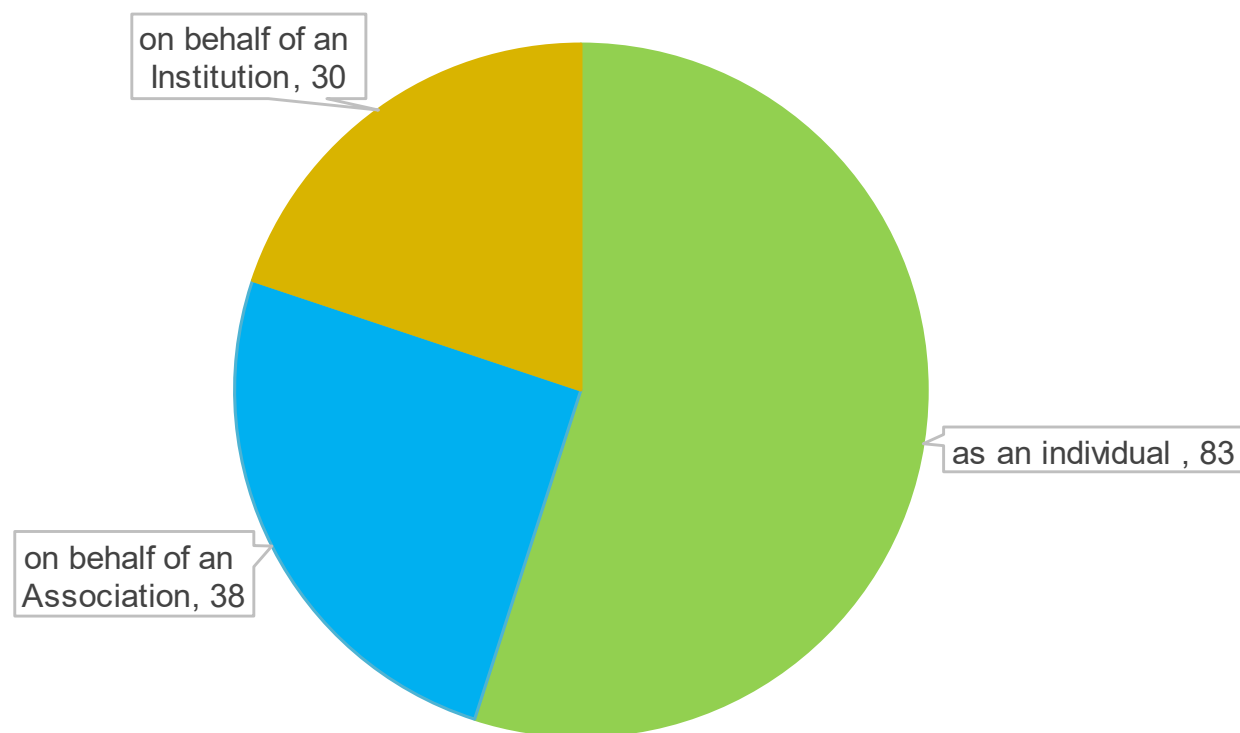


Chart 2.3.1 In this pie chart you see the distribution of answers as per the capacity in which respondents filled in the survey. Most answers (83) came from individuals, while 38 answers came from respondents who were representing Library Associations and 30 answers came from respondents who were representing Institutions.

2.3.2 Association/institution/individual – per region

	as an individual	on behalf of an Association	on behalf of an Institution	Total
AO	22	6	5	33
EU	24	21	10	55
LAC	13	4	3	20
MENA	11	1	6	18
NA	2	4	4	10
SSA	11	2	2	15
Total	83	38	30	151

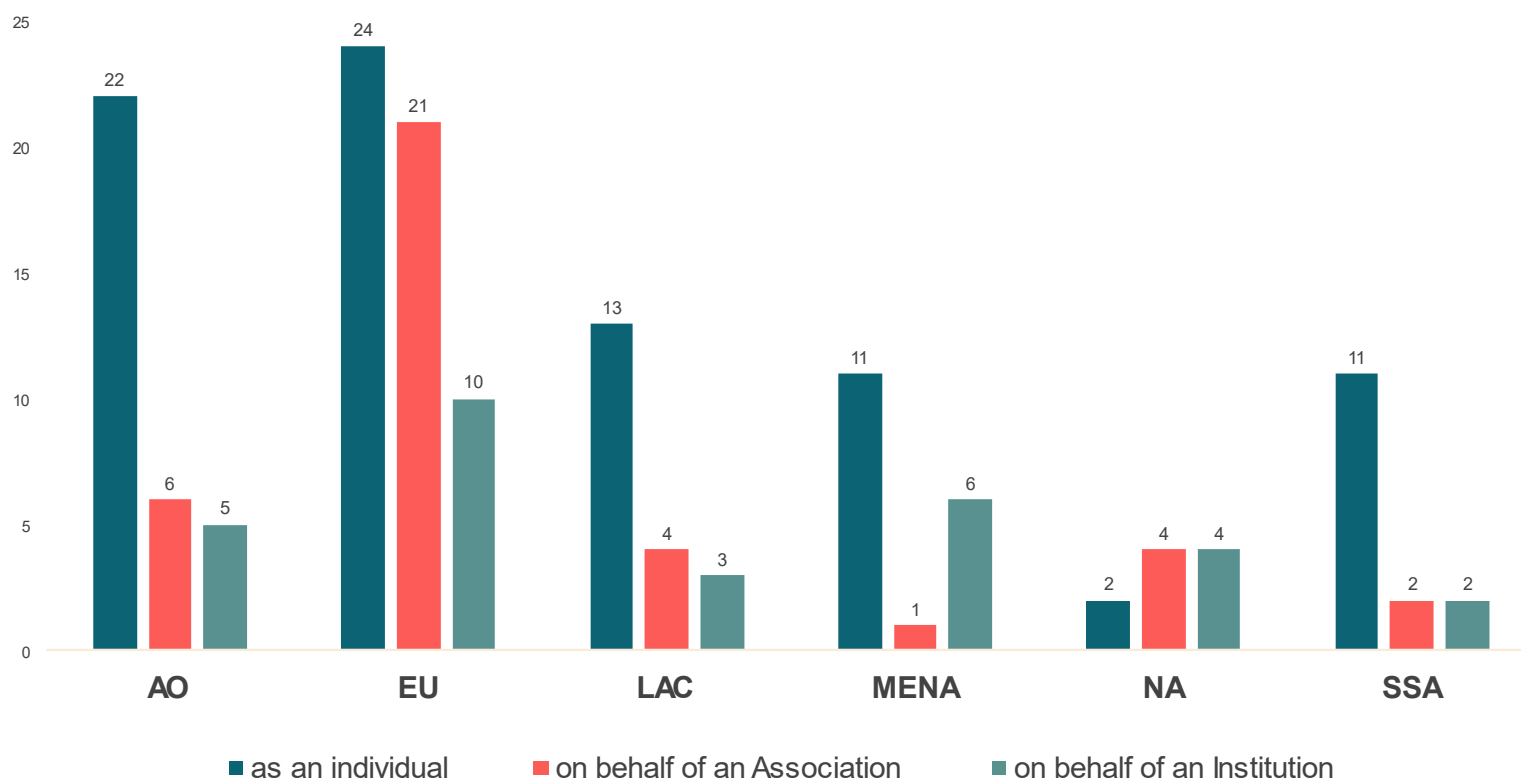


Chart 2.3.2 In this chart we see how many individuals or representatives of institutions or associations submitted the survey per region. In most regions the largest single number of responses came from individuals, except for the NA region where more responses came from institutions and library associations.

3. Ensuring Legal and Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type (1st question)

A first question in the survey was about the levels of focus on legal and financial support for different library types. More specifically the question was:

“How much of a priority is advocacy for legal and financial support for different library types?”

The goal was to identify whether any library type represented a greater priority in some regions than others, in particular for associations. The results could indicate areas where there may be scope for Regional Division Committees to partner with Sections representing specific library types, in order to identify activities or projects of value.

In the question we asked respondents to ascribe a level of priority to each of the answers. In the Y axis, 1 means “Not at all a priority” and 5 means “Essential”.

3.1 Global and Regional view

3.1.1 Global view – per region

Ensuring Legal & Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type

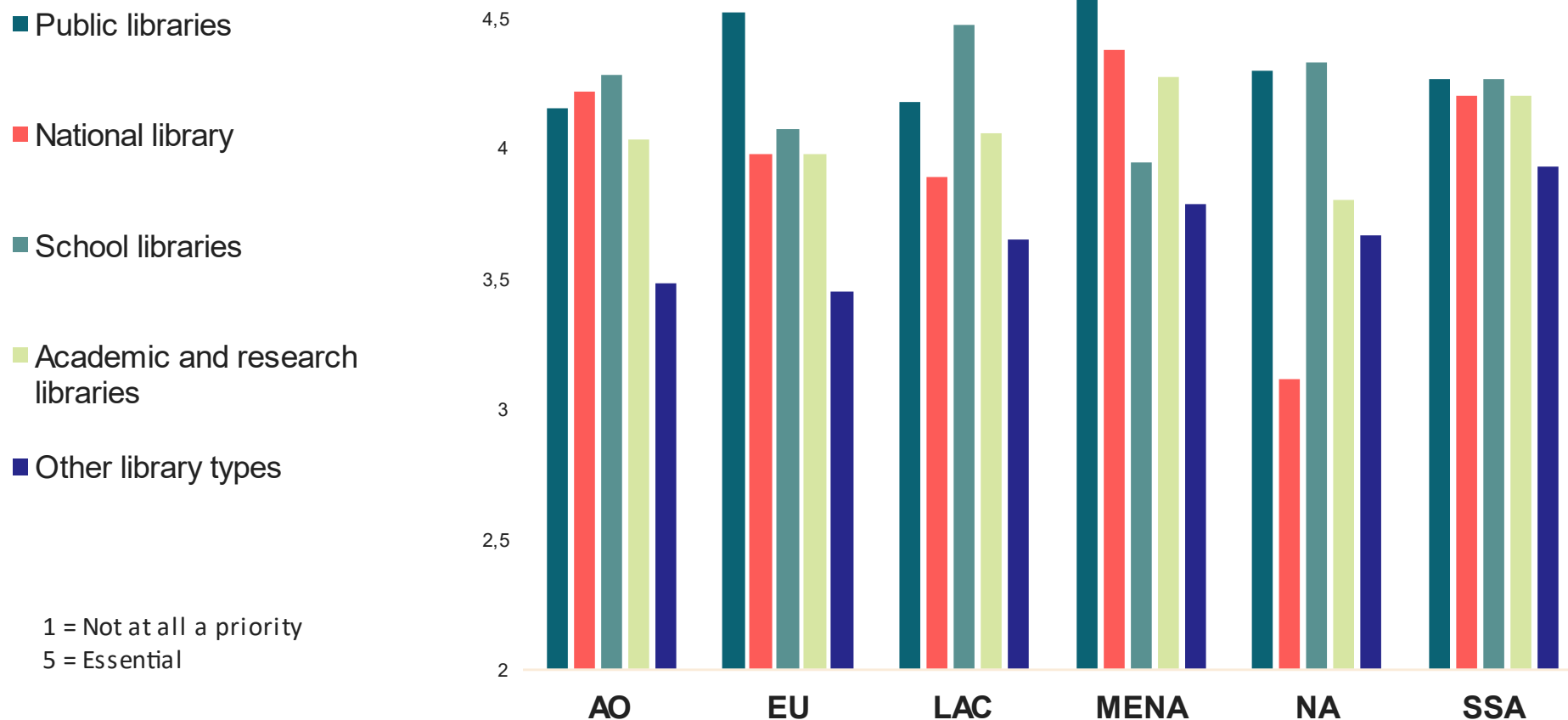


Chart 3.1.1 This is the global view of the answers to the first question about the degree to which respondents were focused on specific library types in their advocacy work. The nature of the respondents may have influenced this result, but we can see that public and school libraries are number one priorities in all regions (PL are for EU, MENA and SL are for AO, LAC, where in NA and SSA PL and SL are of the same or almost the same importance). Academic libraries come close behind as a priority in MENA, NA and SSA, while national libraries come close behind as a priority in all regions except for NA -but the latter is also probably due to the fact that there were no NA National Libraries submitting the report.

3.1.2 Global view – per library type, per region

Ensuring Legal & Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type

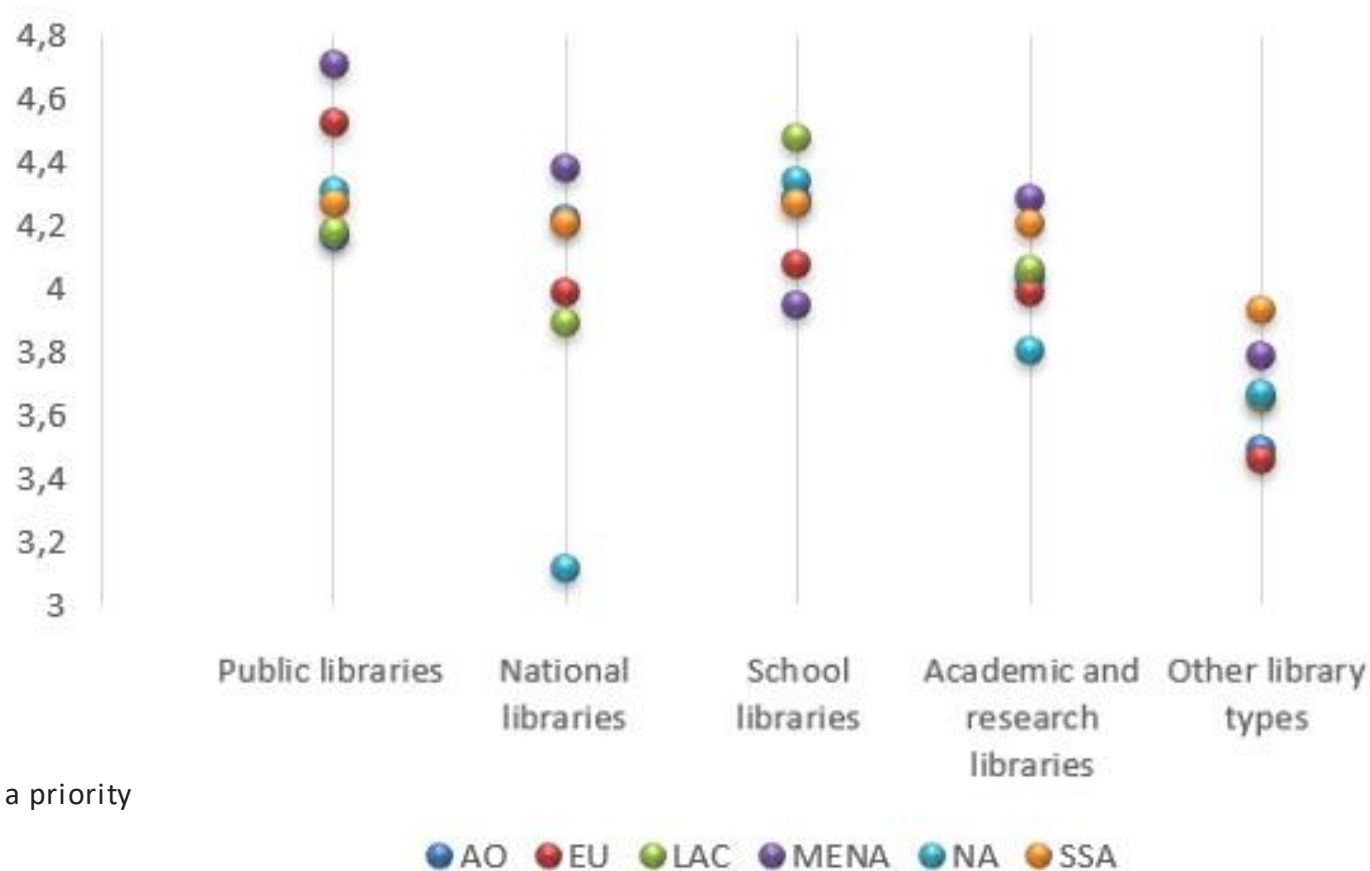


Chart 3.1.2 This is another global view of the answers to the first question about the degree to which respondents were focused on specific library types in their advocacy work. This is a very interesting chart, where we can easily see similarities and differences, what makes regions unique and different to others or where RDCs could work together, since their interests seem to concentrate on the same library type.

3.1.3 Regional views

Ensuring Legal & Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type AO REGION

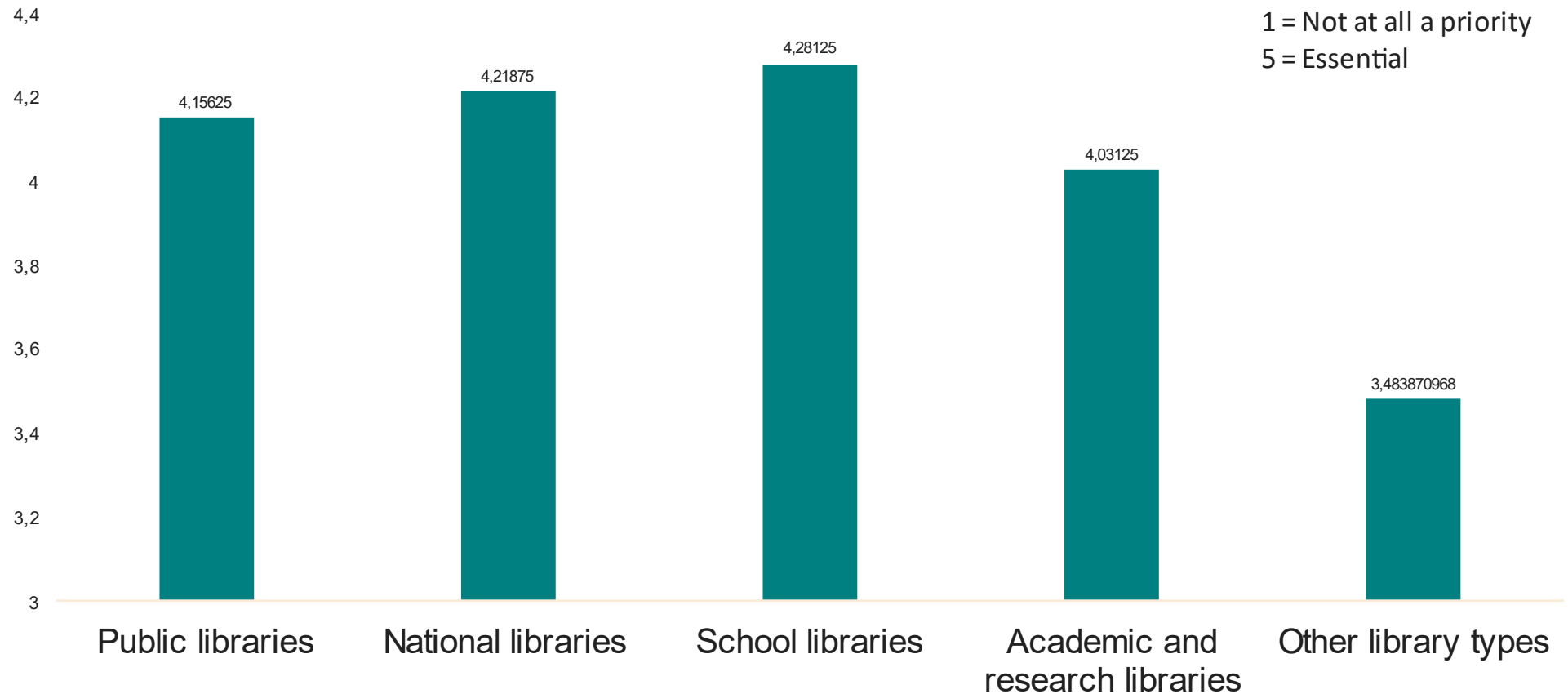


Chart 3.1.3.1 These are the results of the first question for the AO region only. There is a relatively even distribution of the library types. However, legal and financial support for school and national libraries are seen as top priorities when we are talking about library advocacy. This is different to the 2021 results where public libraries were the top priority.

Ensuring Legal & Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type EU REGION

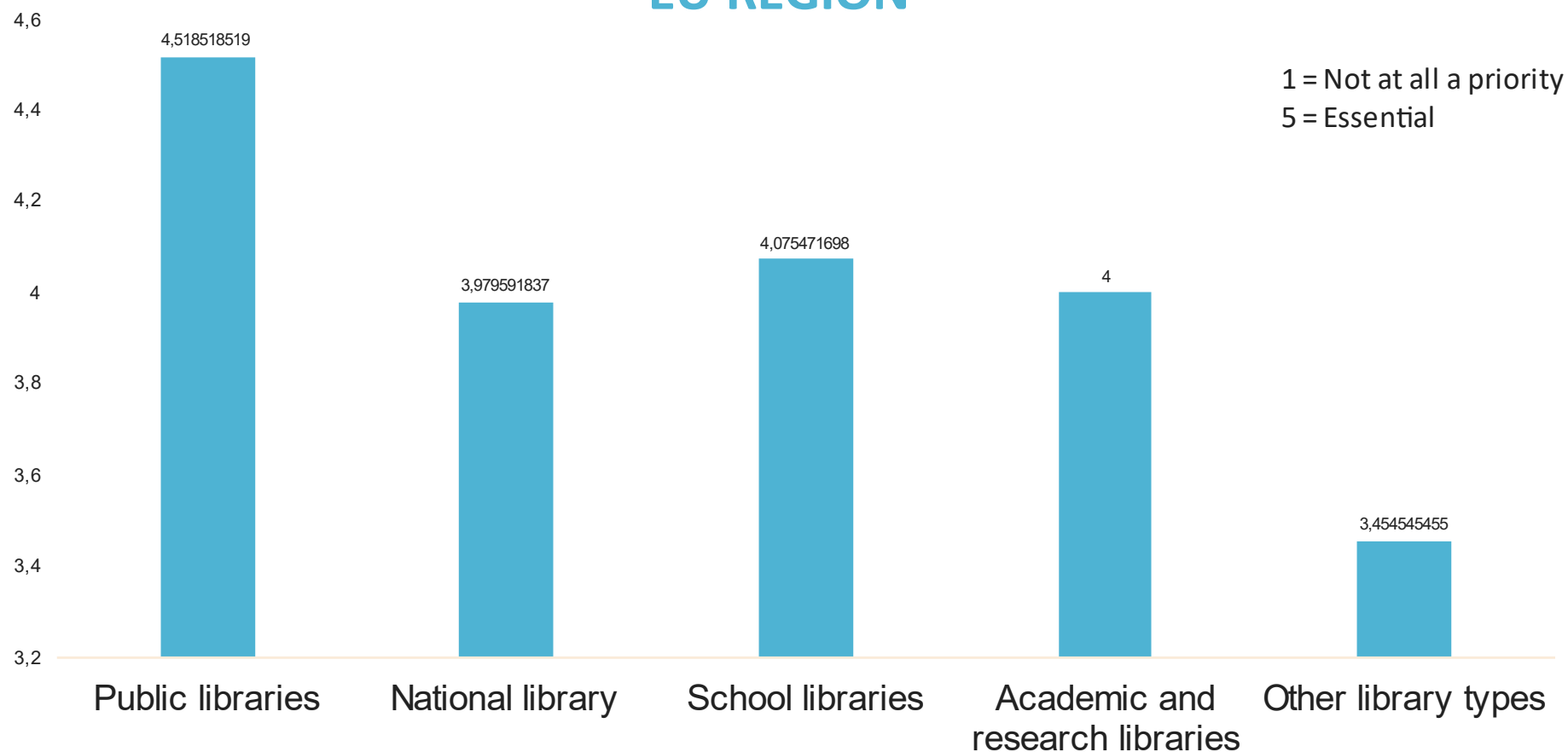


Chart 3.1.3.2 These are the results of the first question for the EU region only. Legal and financial support for public libraries is the top priority, with school libraries coming next and then academic/research and national libraries following. Academic/research libraries are number 3, and National libraries are number 4, while for example in AO national libraries are considered the second priority. This may be down to the fact that national libraries are relatively well-supported in Europe, the nature of the respondents, or other factors.

Ensuring Legal & Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type

LAC REGION

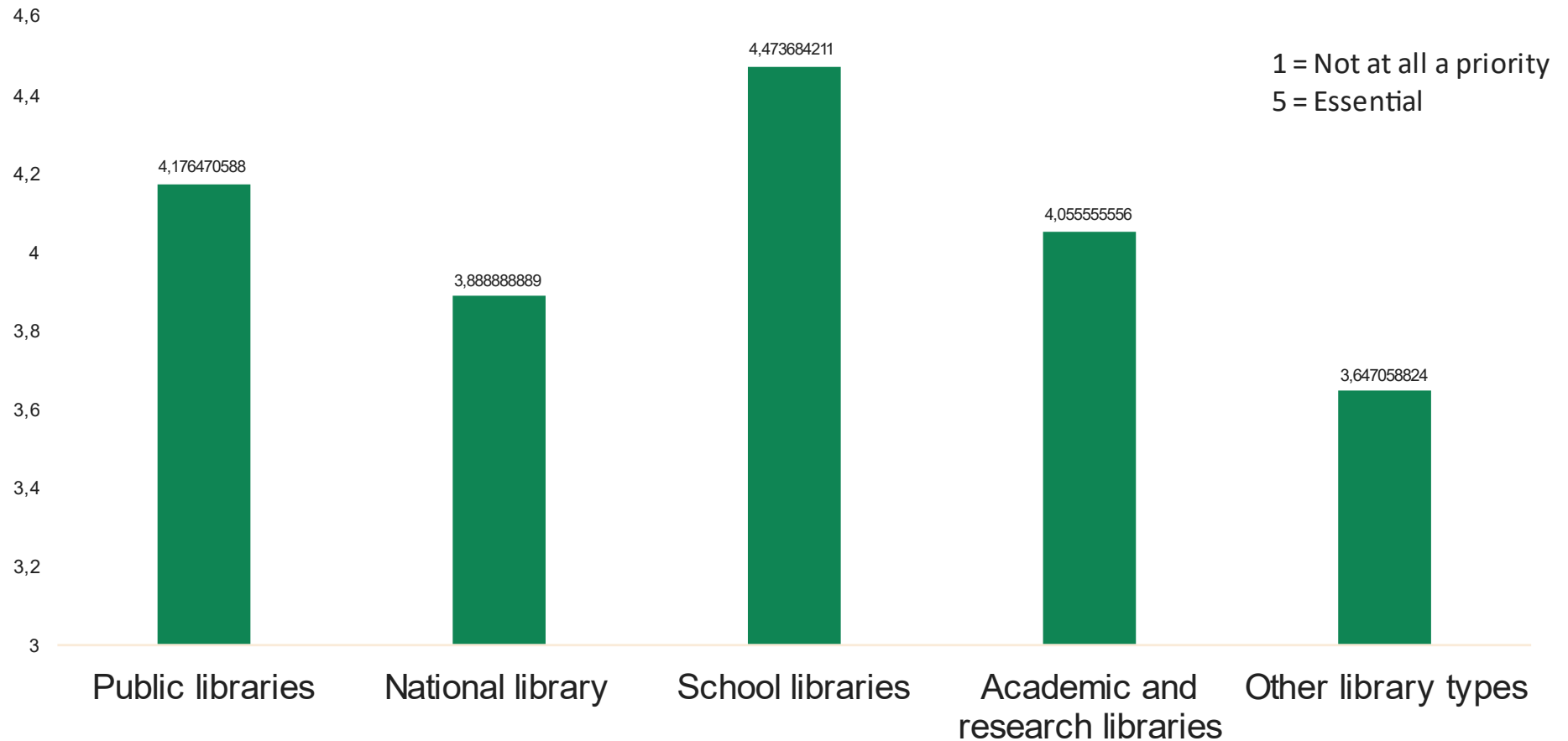


Chart 3.1.3.3 These are the results of the first question for the LAC region only. Legal and financial support for school libraries come as the top priority, with public libraries coming up next as the most important thematic priority for advocacy in the LAC region. National and academic/research libraries are even and come as a third priority in the LAC region.

Ensuring Legal & Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type

MENA REGION

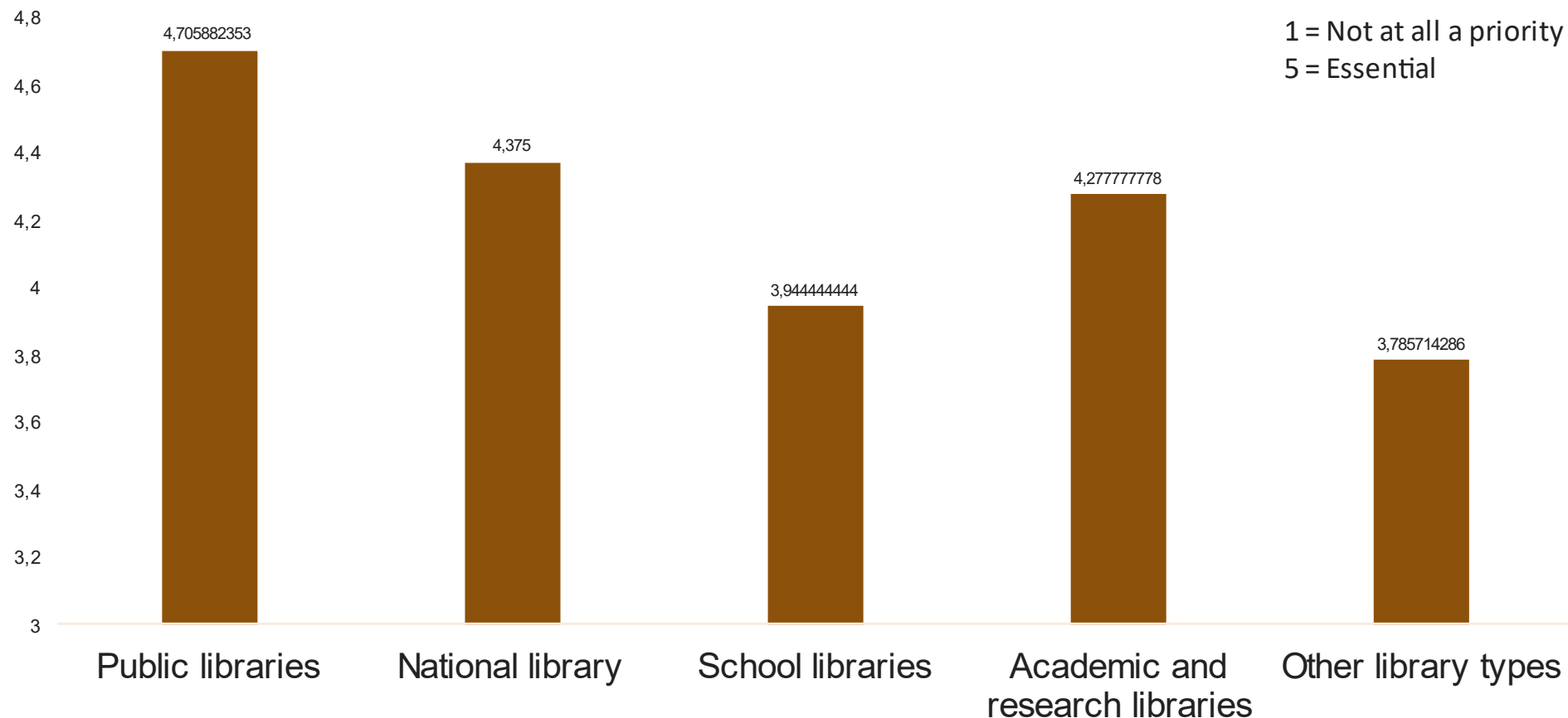


Chart 3.1.3.4 These are the results of the first question for the MENA region only. Public libraries are the priority. Showing a different result to other regions, Academic/research libraries come out as the third priority, just after national libraries following. School libraries come as the fourth priority, while they come much higher in other regions. This result contrasts with that of 2021 where school libraries came higher than academic/research libraries.

Ensuring Legal & Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type

NA REGION

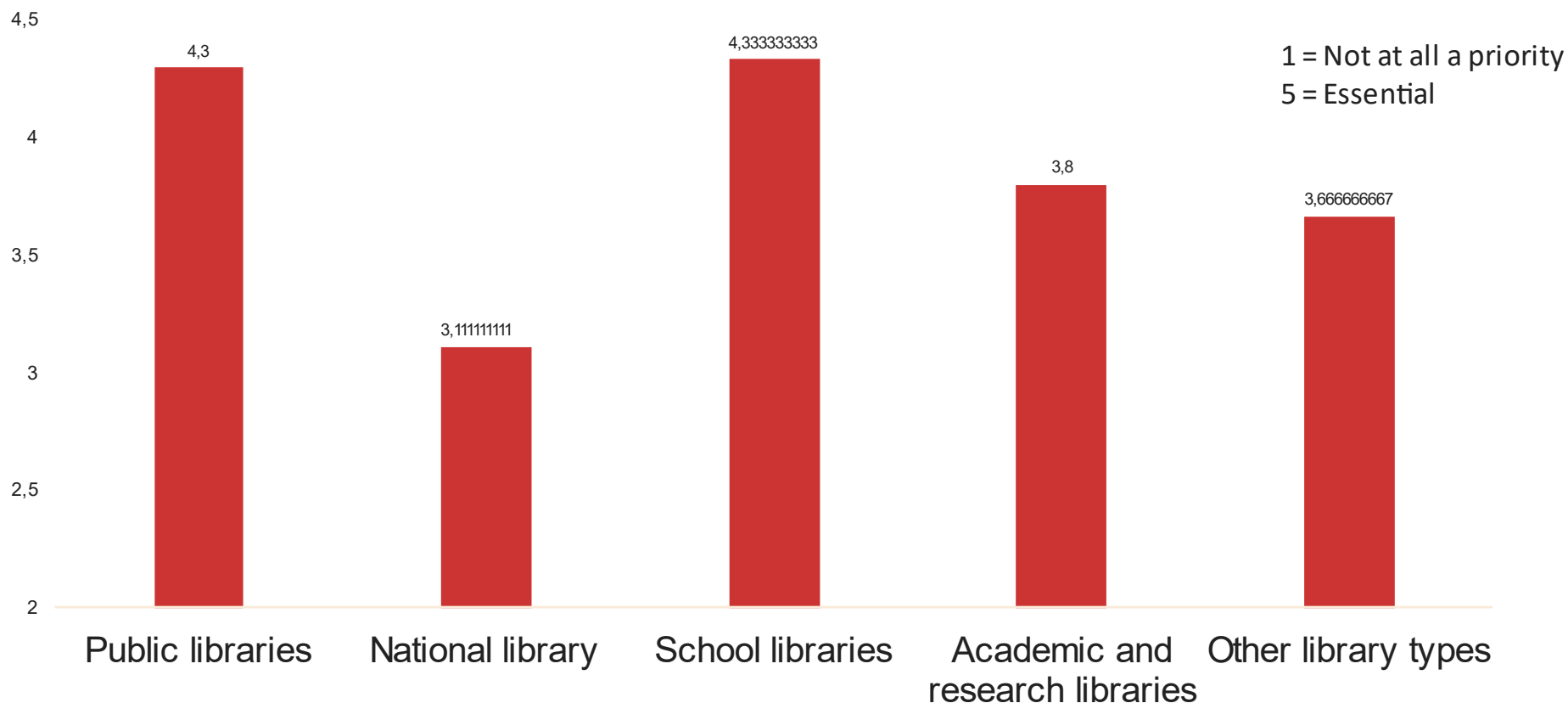


Chart 3.1.3.5 These are the results of the first question for the NA region only. School libraries comes out as the most important thematic priority for advocacy to ensure legal and financial support. Public libraries come just behind school libraries, so we could consider them as almost equally important. Academic/research libraries seem also very important in the NA region. Interestingly, national libraries come as the fifth priority even below the 'other library types' -this may be down to the fact that national libraries are relatively well-supported in NA, the nature of the respondents, or other factors.

Ensuring Financial Support: Priorities by Library Type SSA REGION

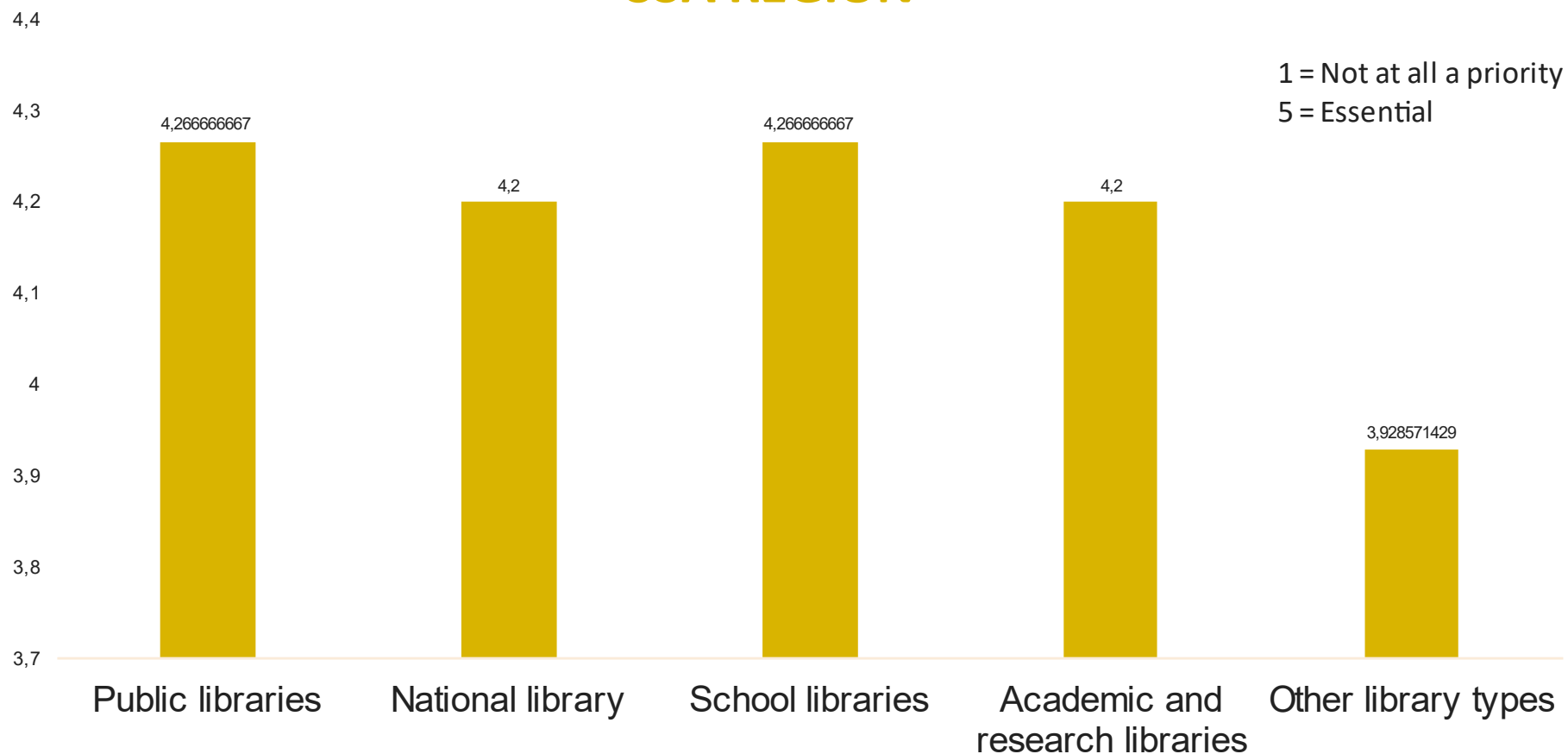


Chart 3.1.3.6 These are the results of the first question for the SSA region only. School libraries are the top priority here again as in the results in 2021 and like in other regions as well this time. In the SSA region school libraries this time are the same important as public libraries. National and academic/research libraries follow behind as the next priority.

4. Lobbying priorities (2nd question)

A second question was about lobbying priorities and the levels of focus on different issues relevant for library advocacy. The answer options were based both on existing areas of focus at IFLA Headquarters, and those which frequently appear in efforts by national associations. More specifically the question was:

“How important are the following issues for you in your lobbying?”

These represent just one way of categorising the different themes of course, and Regional Division Committees may wish to dig further into the results, in order to understand specific priorities that are not brought out clearly here. Committees can also, of course, use the results already as a basis for discussion about what sort of activities may strengthen progress towards identified priorities.

In the question we asked respondents to ascribe a level of priority to each of the answers. In the Y axis, 1 means “Not at all a priority” and 5 means “Essential”.

The categories were as follows:

Library laws	= The status, rights and responsibilities of libraries (library laws)
Library staff laws	= Laws and policies around library staffing (status, training)
Copyright	= Copyright, licencing and open access
Literacy awareness	= Literacy and reading promotion
Education	= Education and Lifelong learning
Digital inclusion	= Digital inclusion and connectivity to ensure that everyone can get online and make the most of the internet
Heritage	= Heritage (preservation and access)
Legal deposit	= Legal deposit
Social issues	= Social issues (inclusion, health and wellbeing, employment, and work)
Environmental issues	= Environmental, climate and other sustainability-related issues
Civic engagement	= Democratic participation and civic engagement
Regional development	= Local and regional development
Internet governance	= Internet governance and regulation
Cultural diversity	= Cultural diversity and contemporary creation and creativity

4.1 Global and Regional View

4.1.1 Global view

Lobbying priorities globally

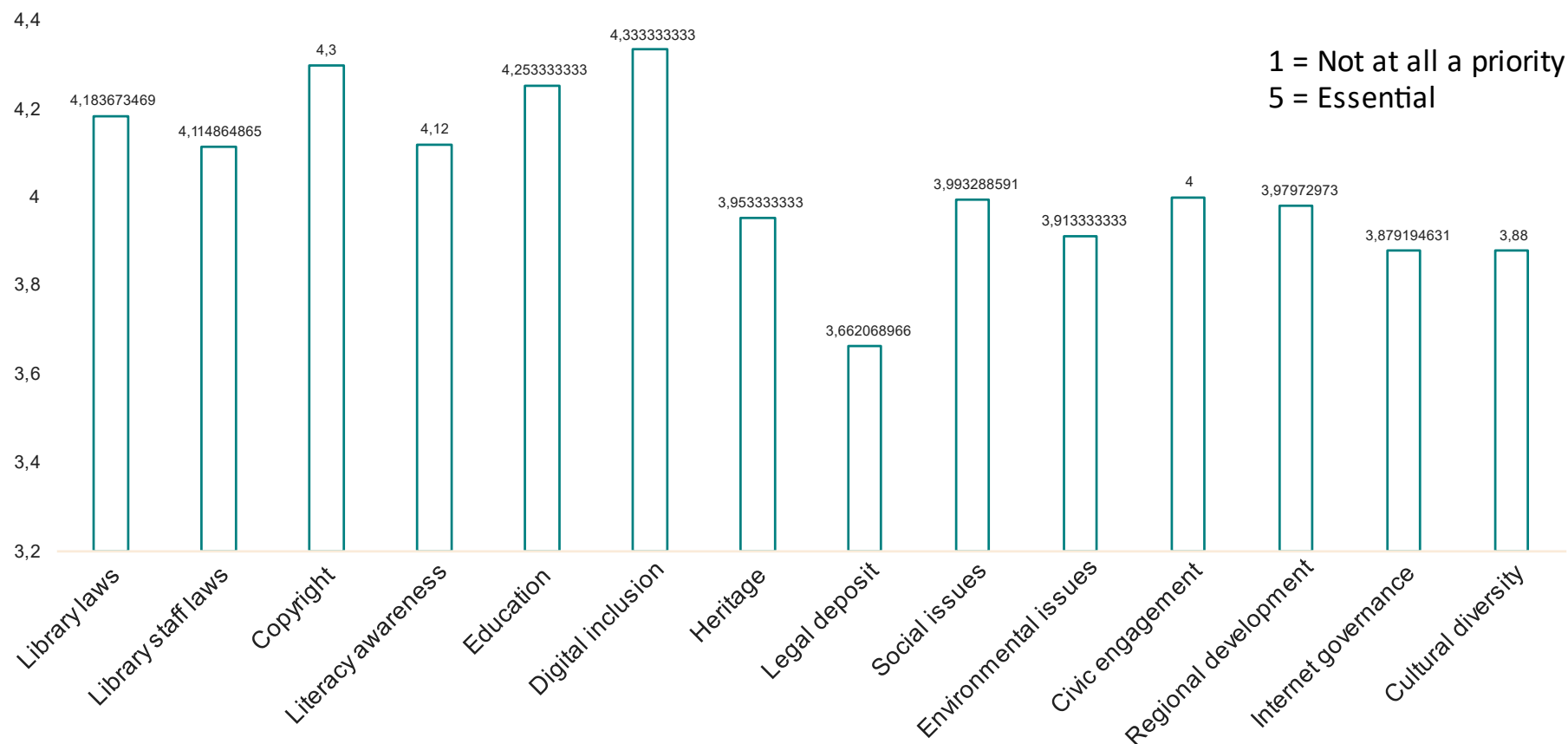


Chart 4.1.1 This is the global view of the answers to the second question about different lobbying priorities on which libraries and library associations focus their advocacy. Digital inclusion, copyright, education and library laws come out as the highest priorities. These could indicate areas for action for the Regional Council and give a general steer for the Regional Divisions, or at least areas for collaboration with other IFLA units.

4.1.2 Global view – per lobbying priority, per region

Lobbying Priorities per region

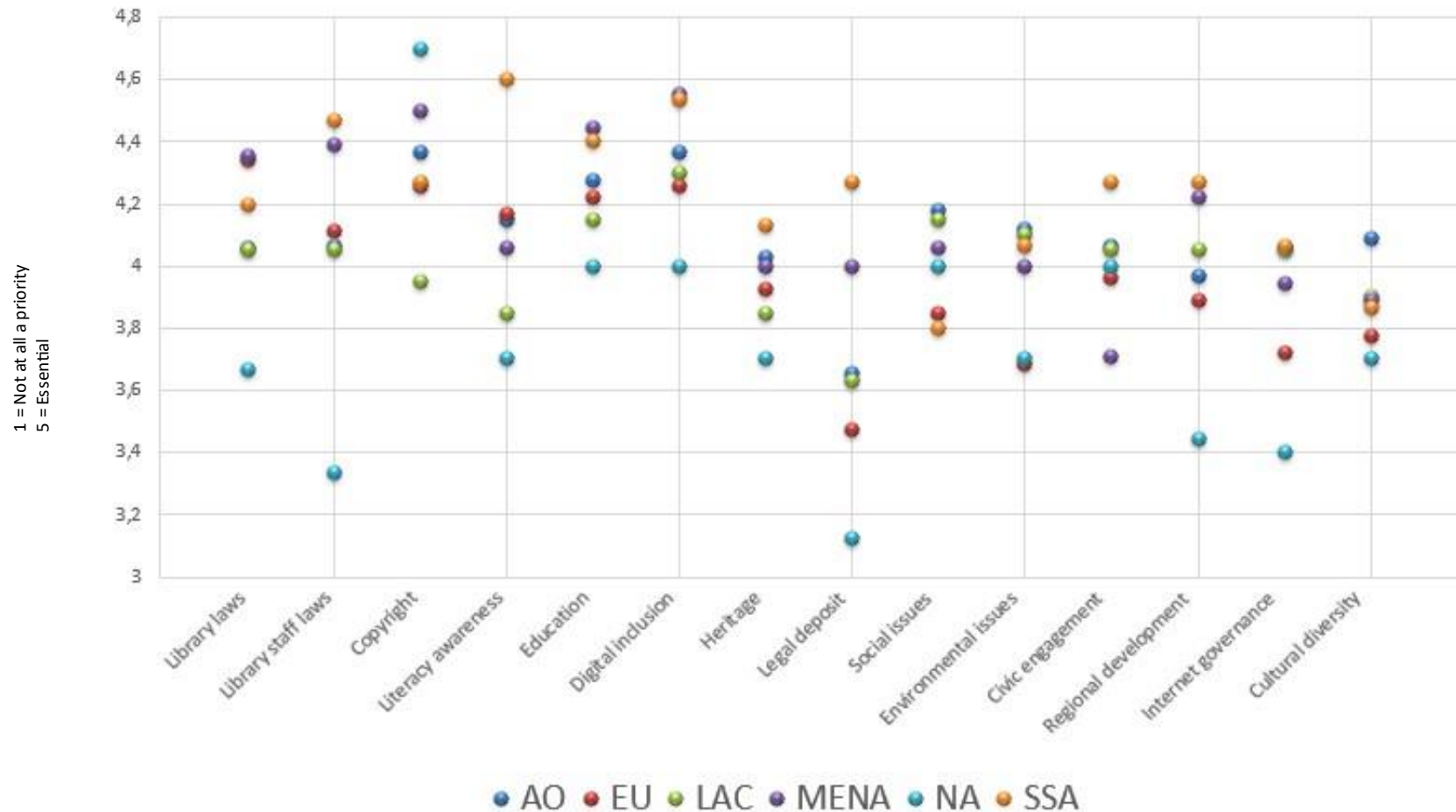


Chart 4.1.2 This is a global view per region of the answers to the second question about the different lobbying priorities, on which libraries and library associations focus their advocacy. In this chart we can find out areas of common work or unique characteristics in different regions, something that will enable the Regional Divisions to explore working together. For example, the SSA region finds digital inclusion very important to work on like MENA, but NA doesn't. This may lead to a project among those RDCs, if the NA RDC has already made progress that they can share with others. Alternatively, MENA and EU have ranked library laws quite high, so the two RDCs could think of a project to work together.

4.1.3 Regional views

Lobbying priorities AO REGION

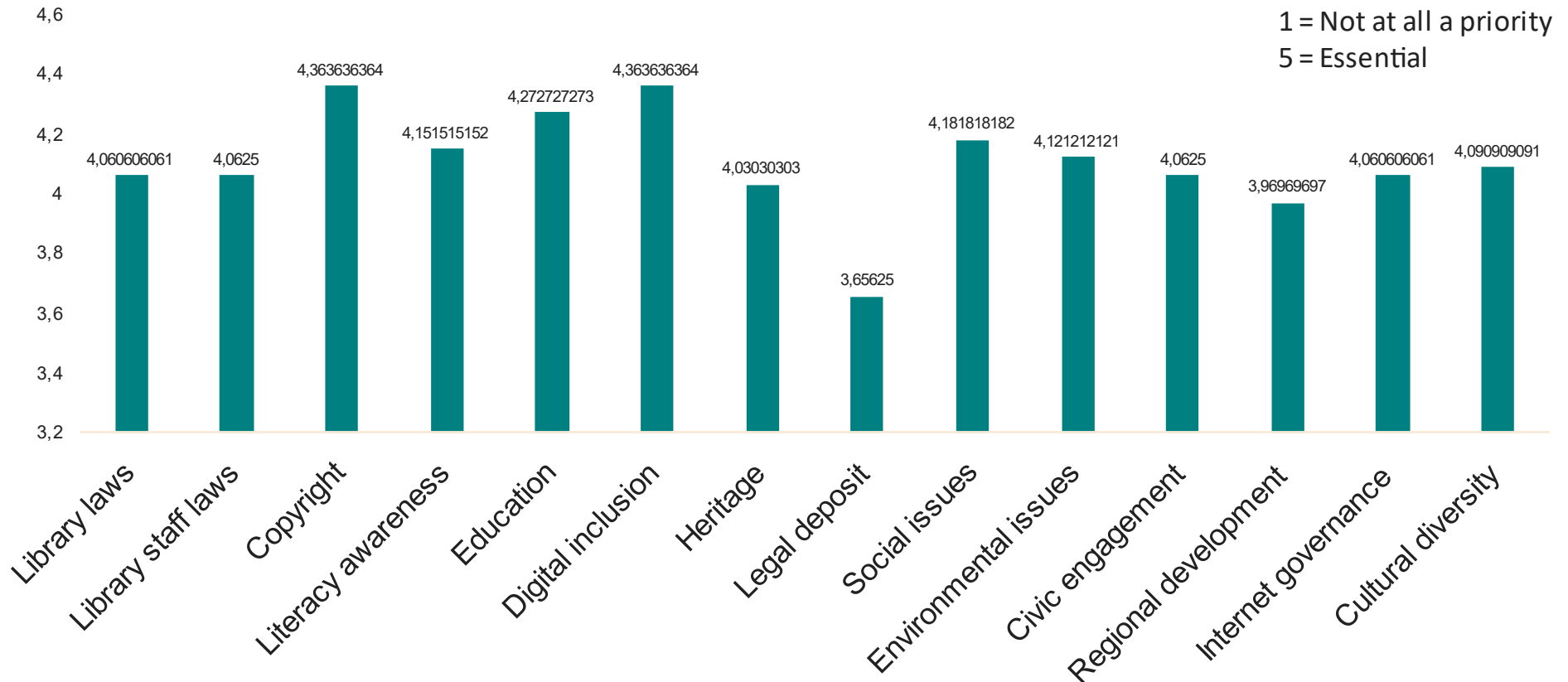


Chart 4.1.3.1 These are the results of the second question for the AO region only. Copyright and Digital inclusion are the biggest lobbying priorities for the AO region, as in almost all other regions, they are the top 2 global priorities (see Chart 4.1.1 and 4.1.2). Education is the third priority in this region, followed by social issues, literacy awareness, environmental issues, and cultural diversity. Internet governance and laws seem to be equally important in Asia-Oceania.

Lobbying priorities EU REGION

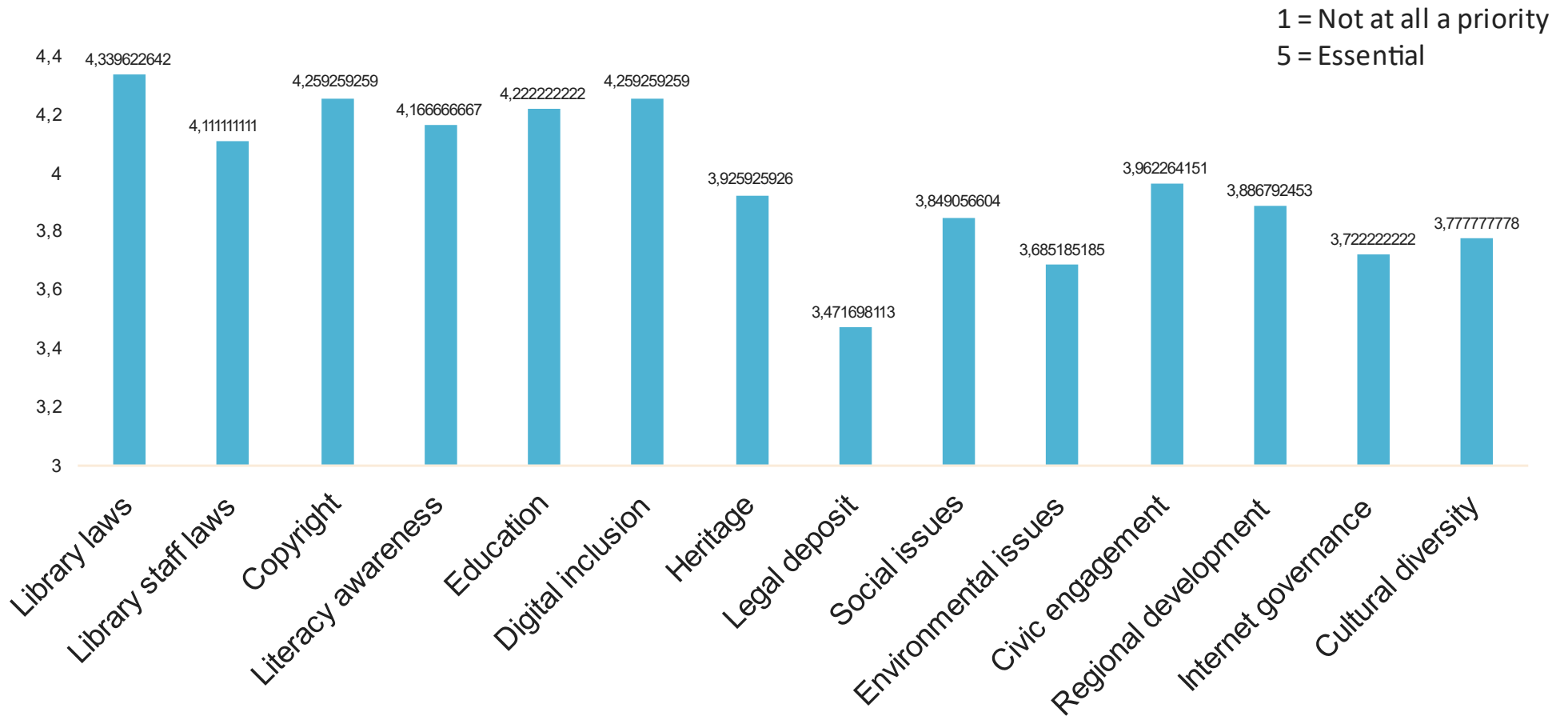


Chart 4.1.3.2 These are the results of the second question for the EU region only. Library laws seem to be the biggest lobbying priority for the EU region. See the Chart 4.1.1 for the global view and 4.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world. Copyright and digital inclusion are the next equally important priorities for this region. Education, literacy awareness, and library staff laws hold the next positions -all are quite high for respondents in the EU region.

Lobbying priorities LAC REGION

1 = Not at all a priority
5 = Essential

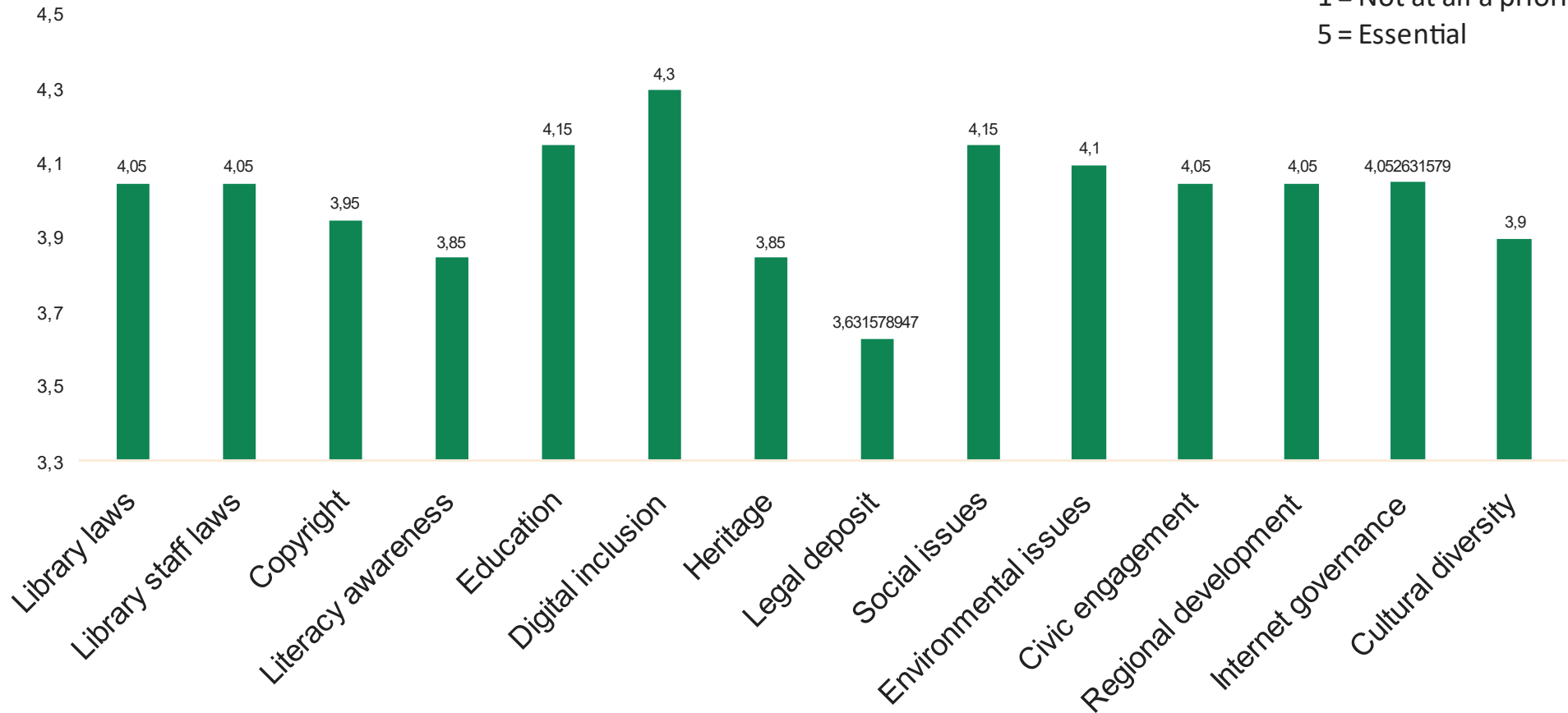


Chart 4.1.3.3 These are the results of the second question for the LAC region only. Digital inclusion is the biggest lobbying priority for the LAC region. See the Chart 4.1.1 for the global view and 4.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world. Social issues seem to be the number two priority for this region, equally important with to education. Environmental issues come next and then internet governance, library laws, library staff laws, civic engagement and regional development follow and are roughly of the same importance in the LAC region.

Lobbying priorities MENA REGION

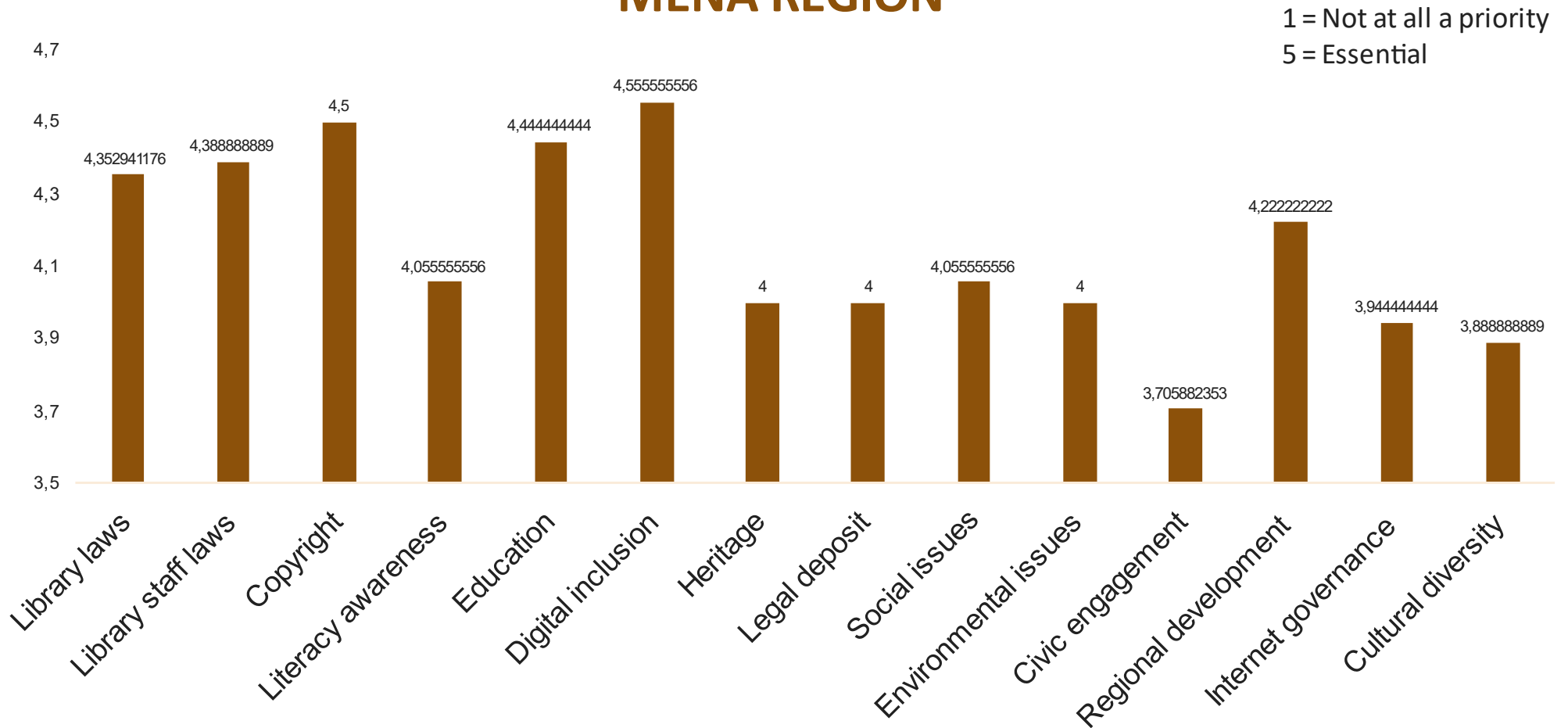


Chart 4.1.3.4 These are the results of the second question for the MENA region only. Digital inclusion is the biggest lobbying priority for the MENA region, like in the LAC region. Then copyright and education follow. Library laws and library staff laws are almost of the same importance, getting the fourth biggest priority. See the Chart 4.1.1 for the global view and 4.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world. Regional development, social issues, heritage and legal deposit are the next priorities for this region.

Lobbying priorities NA REGION

1 = Not at all a priority
5 = Essential

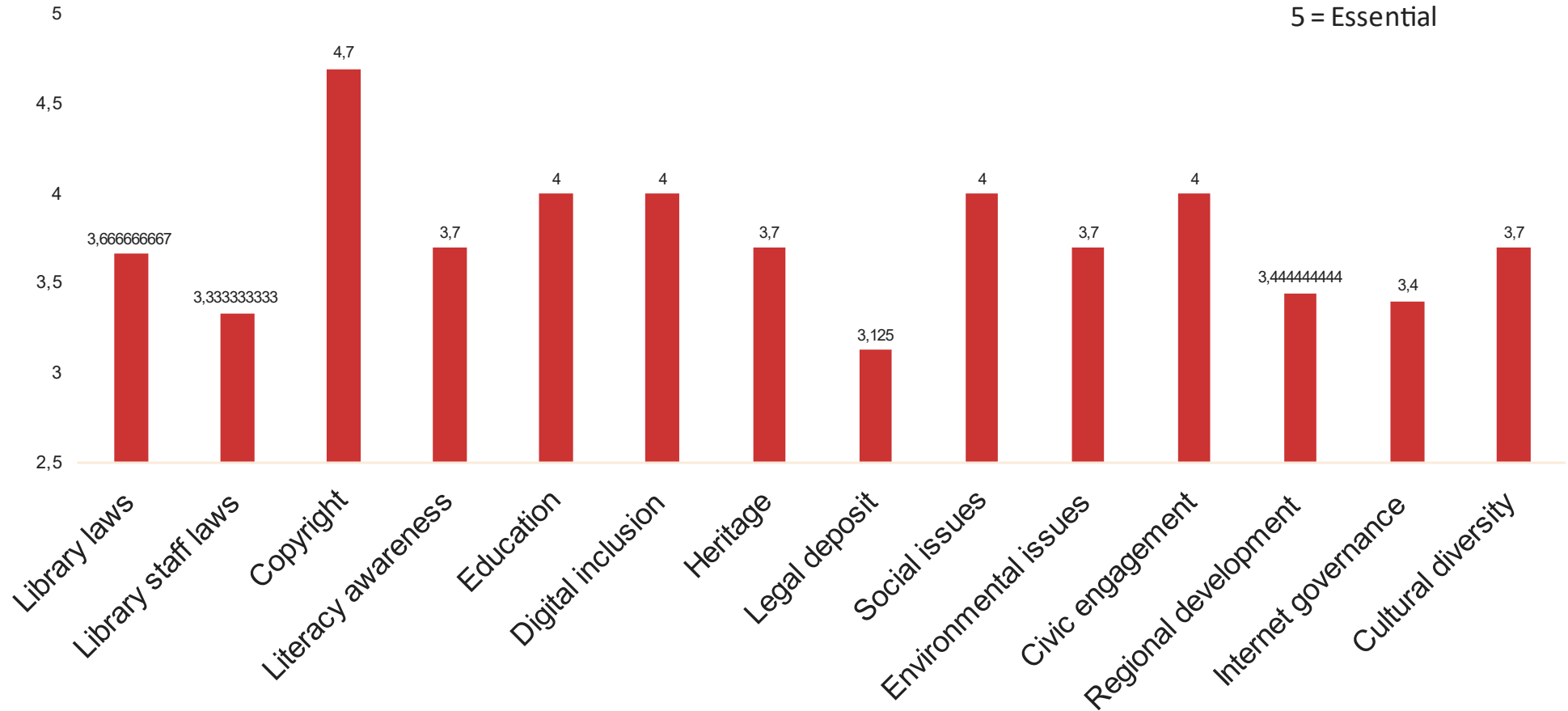


Chart 4.1.3.5 These are the results of the second question for the NA region only. Copyright is clearly the biggest lobbying priority for the NA region, like in the AO region. See the Chart 4.1.1 for the global view and 4.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world. Second priorities and of the exact same importance are: Education, Digital Inclusion, Social Issues, Civic engagement.

Lobbying priorities SSA REGION

1 = Not at all a priority
5 = Essential

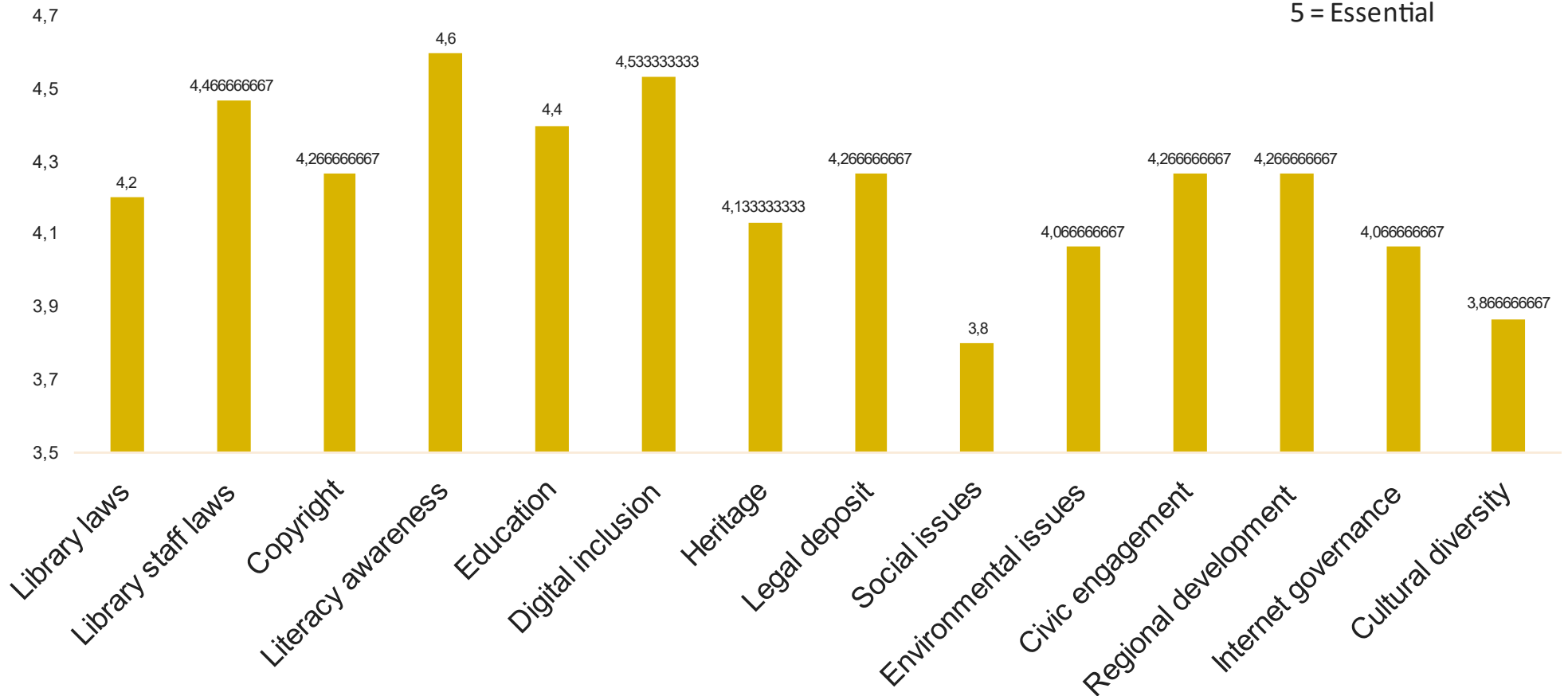


Chart 4.1.3.6 These are the results of the second question for the SSA region only. Unlikely to all other regions, literacy awareness is the biggest lobbying priority in the SSA region. See the Chart 4.1.1 for the global view and 4.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world. Digital inclusion and library staff laws come out as the number the second and third priorities in the SSA.

5. Last year's Advocacy Activities (3rd question)

A third question in the survey focused on the types of activities carried out for advocacy in the last year. More specifically the question was:

"Can you share a few words about any thematic advocacy activities in which you have been involved in the last year?"

It was an open-ended question and here are the answers received. Translations have been made possible through DeepL and the answers have been classified in 13 categories. Note: some answers are repeated in different sections.

1. Democracy advocacy

- Social justice, inclusiveness, accessible information, and effective school library implementation
- Combating fake news
- Continuous Professional Development for library staff - working on diversity and possibilities. Libraries as part of the civic defence - something which has really increased after the Russia starting the war in Ukraine.
- We have supported projects under theme "Libraries as forums for democratic participation"
- Importance of Trove for First Nations, regional and rural citizens; importance of National Library of Australia collections relating to development and characteristics of Australian democracy.
- Fighting against book bans and uplifting democratic principles as they are centered in public libraries.
- Book bans and library funding are rapidly growing issues in the USA and are a major area of advocacy.
- January 2023: Journées d'étude "La Bibliothèque à l'épreuve des diversités" (Study days "The Library put to the test of diversity", January 17-18, in cooperation with Essib and Bpi. It was an advocacy action on a topic that has not been widely discussed in France until now. Was very successful.
- Social issues, democratic participation, climate, sustainability, library status, digital inclusion, role of librarians, indigenous world view

2. Library laws and policies

- The status and policies around the library regulations
- Copyright; Information Law; Library legislation including library cooperation and the need of Librarians for the high level quality of the service
- Library law, GDPR, author law, employees' law.
- Laws governing the use of library materials
- - free libraries campaign - inclusion of the question of libraries in the presidential and legislative elections - support for the Robert law (law on libraries)
- working with the new public libraries act, e-books lending, access to e-resources, librarians education, LIS studies, for not closing the libraries (due to the high energy prices and need to lower the expenses, libraries as centers of the community, dialogues led by librarians)
- Our local government approved last October a policy paper ("Carta di Milano delle biblioteche") and proposed its signature to other Italian cities.
- Open public libraries on Sundays
- The Free Libraries Network (India) has presented 2 papers at the Indian Library Association (ILA) conference in January 2023 that take a critical look at India's library legislation in 3 Indian states and the National Mission on Libraries. FLN has actively translated the IFLA-UNESCO 2022 manifesto into several Indian languages to disseminate amongst library practitioners and others in India. These translations are also hosted on IFLA's website. See more here: <https://www.fln.org.in/fln-advocacy/>

3. Copyright and eLending

- My role focuses on copyright in higher education, so copyright issues, especially fair dealing, crown copyright, open access
- Significant copyright advocacy related to internet regulation and digital licensing issues. Locally and provincially advocacy around funding, which recently resulted in \$45M additional provincial funding for public libraries.
- Laws governing the use of library materials
- Copyright for researcher/teachers
- Currently ALA is asking members and library advocates to contact Congress about the following: Network Neutrality Privacy Government Information Library Founding Copyright School Libraries
- Copyright reform
- The right to e-read (e-books and e-audiobooks in libraries, legislation in this area)
- Sunday opening and e-lending are explicitly featuring in the coalition treaty of the German government. We are therefore now working hard for the government to actually implement these promises.
- E-lending
- For CARL, most of our advocacy has focused on copyright issues, although we are getting interested in e-book/textbook pricing and licensing, and in advocating for federal support to open education (on top of provincial/territorial funding).
- -making a national e-library possible (permanent government funding, exceptions to copyright legislation or a whole renewal of it, convince publishers that they will benefit of it, etc.) -explaining why financial resourcing of public libraries on local level should increase
- Copyright, national statistics, library awareness campaign, internet governance
- Copyright, licensing, and open access

4. Internet governance advocates

- Internet governance and regulation
- IGF Forum

5. Open access activism

- Activism in favour of the open movement and free culture.
- Open access, predatory journals Creative commons
- More openness of archived data of Internet contents
- Free open knowledge advocacy

6. Freedom of expression advocacy

- Promotion of professions. Defence of freedom of expression and Library Story Hour activities hosted by drag queens.
- Intellectual freedom, funding, digital inclusion, literacy
- Developed and published a whole school (PK-12) library policy - Initiated the creation of a committee to address Requests for Removal, including administrators, students and parents - Support in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives within the school - The school and library is under the spotlight due to concerns of student access to age-relevant information and specific content (LGBTQ+). I have contributed to parent presentations as well as the creation of responses to the ministry of education, including how the library approaches diversity within the collection development policy. I have organized an audit and inventory of classroom collections as well as worked with classroom teachers to develop guidelines for further development of classroom collections - Provided a platform for student led library programming (open mic, girl empowerment club, book club, etc.)
- For CARL, most of our advocacy has focused on copyright issues, although we are getting interested in e-book/textbook pricing and licensing, and in advocating for federal support to open education (on top of provincial/territorial funding).
- Issues around inclusion, trans rights (drag queen story times e.g.), FAIFE type queries (banned books) and staff safety/inclusive spaces (public libraries), also the use of the indigenous language of NZ, in signage etc. and working with indigenous tribes

7. Cultural heritage

- Cultural heritage faces the culture wars being brought in as a cynical tool by politicians.
- I am working on highlighting Lebanese heritage
- I have been involved actively in heritage preservation, especially ancient manuscripts, copyright, licensing, open access, and digital inclusion and connectivity in my region.

8. SDGs-related advocacy (UN Agenda 2030)

- Climate changes Holocaust
- UNESCO 2030
- SDGs
- Storytelling, reading workshops, author visits. Book fairs and festivals participations that thematically support SDGs.

9. Women's empowerment

- In March 2022 the Nazarbayev University Library in partnership with the NU Gender Consortium (GenCon) held the Week of Women (WOW) event, including the following activities:
 - Virtual and Offline Book Display - to inspire students and teaching staff with the books selected according to various aspects of the theme
 - Conducting the 2nd Annual GenCon Gender Forum "Opportunities and Challenges for Gender Equity in Central Asia: Bridging Researchers, Policy Makers, and Practitioners" at the library; - Roundtable #BreakTheBias (a roundtable with notable persons talk about their achievements)
 - Essay Competition - Instagram Post Contest "The Woman Who Inspires Me" (taking a post with a picture about any woman - member of the NU community - who inspires you) - SASA Women's March - The Women's March aims to raise awareness of the problems women face on campus and to support women in academia
 - Instagram Photo Flashmob by the Nazarbayev University Library - flash mob to support the global campaign #BreakTheBias (posting a photo with crossed arms)

10. Public awareness of libraries

- Just talking to the public about what librarians do. There is little understanding of our professional expertise among the public at large.
- Reading promotion activities County cultural Exhibition County Art exhibition play and learn activities at the public library publics speaking for junior secondary community social responsibility donating assistive devices and sanitary pads in partnership with key library stakeholders storytelling training school librarians on advocacy
- We have promoted the involvement of citizens in offering time and abilities for our public library. This has brought two main results: a) more attention to activities promoted by the library and b) more participation to the activities (people who are involved as outsiders are more keen to attract new and potential users).
- promotion of literacy
- Promoting reading and libraries: - Library Week (8-15 May) - competitions: Master of Promoting Reading, the Best Library Activity during Library Week, the Best Librarian of the Year
- Community engagement on media information literacy, training the trainee program in university and organizing webinar for team work leadership
- Digital promoting
- Online participation in various online awareness-raising activities through publications on social networks
- Librarians Who Care Advocates-Cebu
- Involved in developing an attractive library website outlining all library services. library.busitema.ac.ug Am currently a retiree
- The Free Libraries Network's strength lies in its network of over 150 library organisations & practitioners, with whom advocacy is daily work. The Network meets on platforms like WhatsApp to discuss 'why free matters', 'why libraries need to focus as much on who is excluded as who walks into the library', 'what is the state's responsibility towards libraries, when they take taxes from the public for this purpose' etc. See more here: <https://www.fln.org.in/fln-advocacy/>

11. Advocacy training

- Some webinars provided by the association
- The Arab Federation for Libraries and Information in partnership with IFLA MENA RDC conducted e-training courses on Advocacy targeting librarians from public, school, academic libraries.

12. General advocacy for libraries

- Active work with the Association of Librarians of El Salvador, ABES. Union with academia, especially with the University of El Salvador. Synchronised work with the Ministry of Culture, presentation of the modernisation of school libraries with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.
- Active work with the Association of Librarians of El Salvador, ABES. Union with academia, especially with the University of El Salvador. Synchronised work with the Ministry of Culture, presentation of the modernisation of school libraries with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.
- The Myanmar Library Association (MLA) supports the professional development of librarians (Academic, and Public) and provides library education monthly basis MLA empowers the library community and promotes high standards of library practice by organizing the workshop, and library forum in 2022 and 2023. MLA facilitates and encourages cooperation between school libraries and academic, and community libraries nationwide for school library development project in 2022-2023.
- Meeting of the Interdepartmental Council for the development of librarianship in the Russian Federation. August 12, 2022, Moscow
- In Ecuador, campaigns such as "Yes to Librarianship" have been carried out and there has been a greater relationship with the authorities of Higher Education Institutions so that librarians are valued in all types of libraries.
- Funding: advocacy to complete National Library Building

- 2021 was a year after the quarantine, with many layoffs and library closures, however the Association of Librarians of El Salvador, ABES did not stop its work at the same time, supporting the academy with the University of El Salvador and presenting modernisation projects for the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education of El Salvador.
- In 2021-23, the Free Libraries Network (India) has worked with several governments at the district, state and central levels to promote its model & curriculum of a free library, including talks to build pilot programs (Delhi, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Telangana). FLN has also been part of government and private think tanks to discuss library reform & implementation (in Maharashtra & Karnataka, India). FLN also works closely with Indian publishers & literary folks to bring them into partnerships in the #freelibrarymovement through the FLN Compact for Publishers, Writers & Illustrators.
- Joining the sectors of education, culture, and social affairs - signing a memorandum of understanding and working on establishing joint projects.
- We are the leading institution in the defence and development of the library profession, consolidating its contribution to society as a manager and promoter of policies that contribute to the democratisation of information. 1. We represent our members at the levels of government, for the decision making and benefit of the activities of promotion and defence of the profession. 2. We develop training and professional development activities in strategic alliances with institutions and within our own institution. We promote the communication of all national and international librarian activities through our website and social networks (Facebook, WhatsApp, twitter). We promote the profession and advocate for the permanent incorporation of new members to our institution. 5. We constitute ourselves as the authorised consulting body on the subjects of reading, books and libraries for all levels and institutions of government.
- Most of the thematic advocacy activities in which our association has been involved relate to the defence of the teaching status of "documentalist teachers" working in the Documentation and Information Centres of secondary schools.

13. Continuous Professional Development for librarians and status

- Continuous training of librarians
- I have carried out and participated in different training and reflection activities on the profession that I have chosen and defend throughout my life. I have been training librarians since 2007 in my country. Since 2010 we formed a working group with other librarians and we managed to form a union of librarian workers in Argentina, last year because as professionals who live on their salary, we are not represented or defended in our rights by any entity in the country. Other projects or comments submitted by participants
- Advocating for school libraries in the rural villages in Kenya and building capacity of young library professionals.
- 1. Status: advocacy to ensure that only qualified librarians were appointed to manage libraries 2. Curriculum review: ensured library and information Science curriculum had more Library content
- STIBA, the new librarians' union in Argentina, is fighting hard to improve our working conditions, rights, and pay.
- From January to November 2022, the Nazarbayev University Library, in cooperation with the Republican Scientific and Pedagogical Library of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan and JSC "National Center for Advanced Studies "Orleu", implemented the "SauattyKeleşek" project aimed to develop knowledge, skills, and abilities in media and information literacy among school librarians and schoolchildren in Kazakhstan, particularly in the Akmola region.

6. Current Advocacy (4th question)

The fourth question in the survey focused on the types of activities currently carried out for advocacy. The options given as answers are broadly based on IFLA's [Advocacy Capacities Grid](#), which looks to break down advocacy into a range of actions, each requiring different sets of skills. More specifically the question was:

“Your current advocacy capacity: We are interested to understand how you are carrying out advocacy in your association/institution or more broadly in your national library field. Please help us by answering the following questions. In each case, say how much you agree with each of the following statements (strongly disagree, disagree, so-so, agree, strongly agree)?”

While the answers may vary by country, the results here do offer an idea of where there may be scope to exchange experience or develop tools to support more effective advocacy around the world. What is interesting here to look at lower scores as areas where more work needs to be done in the future, where the Regional Council and the Regional Divisions could focus on.

In the question we asked respondents to ascribe a level of activity to each of the answers. In the Y axis, 1 means “Not at all active” and 5 means “Very active”.

The categories were as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Detailed understanding of how key library decisions are taken | = We have a detailed understanding of how key decisions about libraries (laws and funding) are taken |
| Strong contacts with government officials | = We have strong contacts with an extensive range of officials in government and parliament who take decisions about libraries |
| Well organised internally to engage in advocacy | = We are well organised internally to engage in advocacy, with clear roles and responsibilities |
| Able to gather and present impact data | = We are able to gather and present data and other evidence of the impact of libraries in an effective way to support advocacy |
| Able to create attractive communications tools | = We have the ability to create attractive communications tools to support advocacy |
| Able to mobilise colleagues to engage in advocacy activities | = We are able to mobilise colleagues from across the library field to engage in advocacy activities |
| Good contacts with journalists and other organisations | = We have good contacts with journalists and other organisations who can support us in our advocacy |
| Able to set goals and evaluate effectively the impact of our advocacy | = We are able to set goals and evaluate effectively the impact of our advocacy |

6.1 Global and Regional View

6.1.1 Global view

Current Advocacy (global view)

1 = Not at all active
5 = Very active

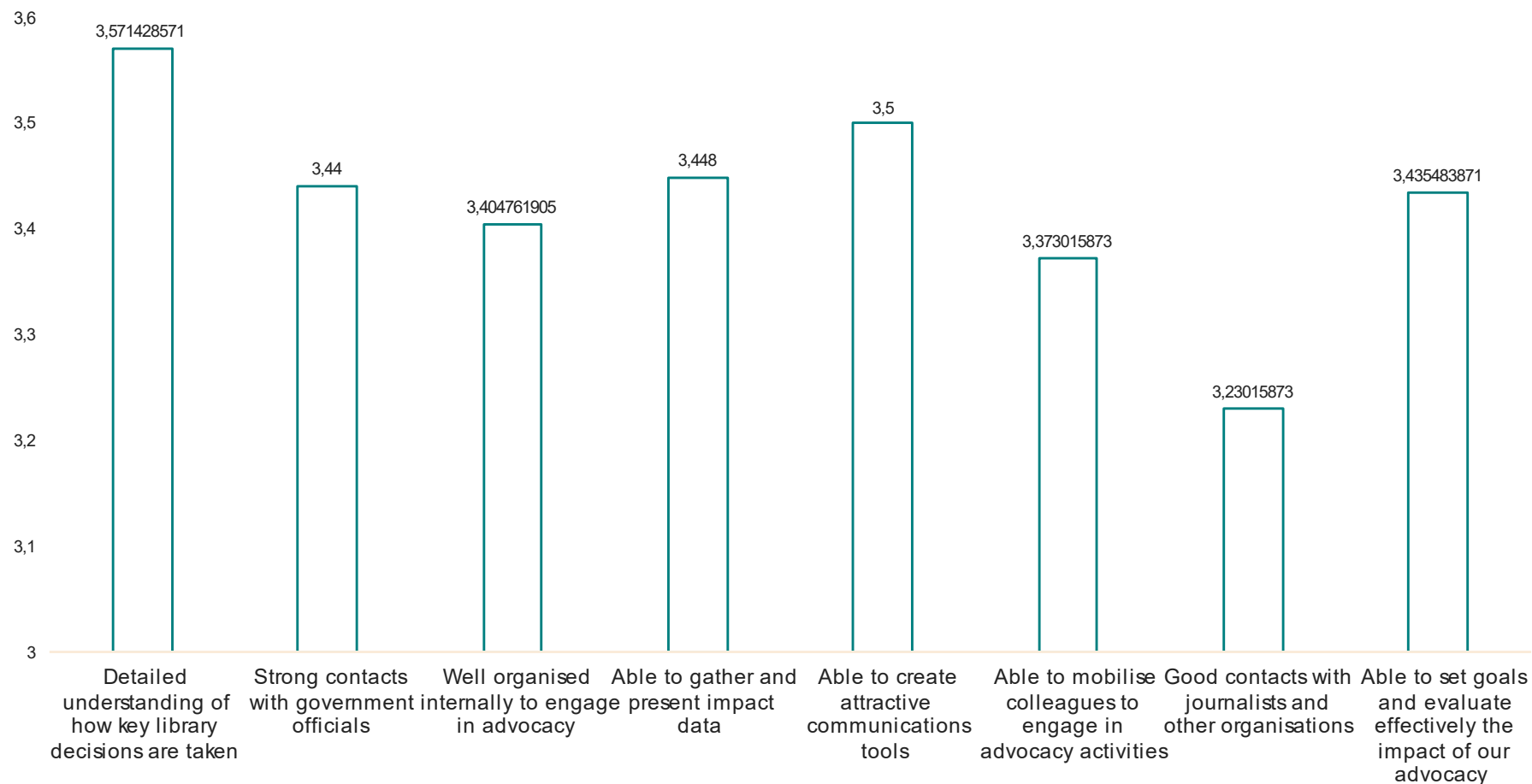


Chart 6.1.1 This is the global view of the answers to the fourth question about the way advocacy is being carried out by libraries and library associations. What is interesting here is to look at lower scores as areas where more work needs to be done in the future by the Regional Council and Divisions, for example, around establishing contacts with journalists and other organisations who can support libraries in advocacy.

6.1.2 Global view – per current advocacy, per region

Current Advocacy (per region)

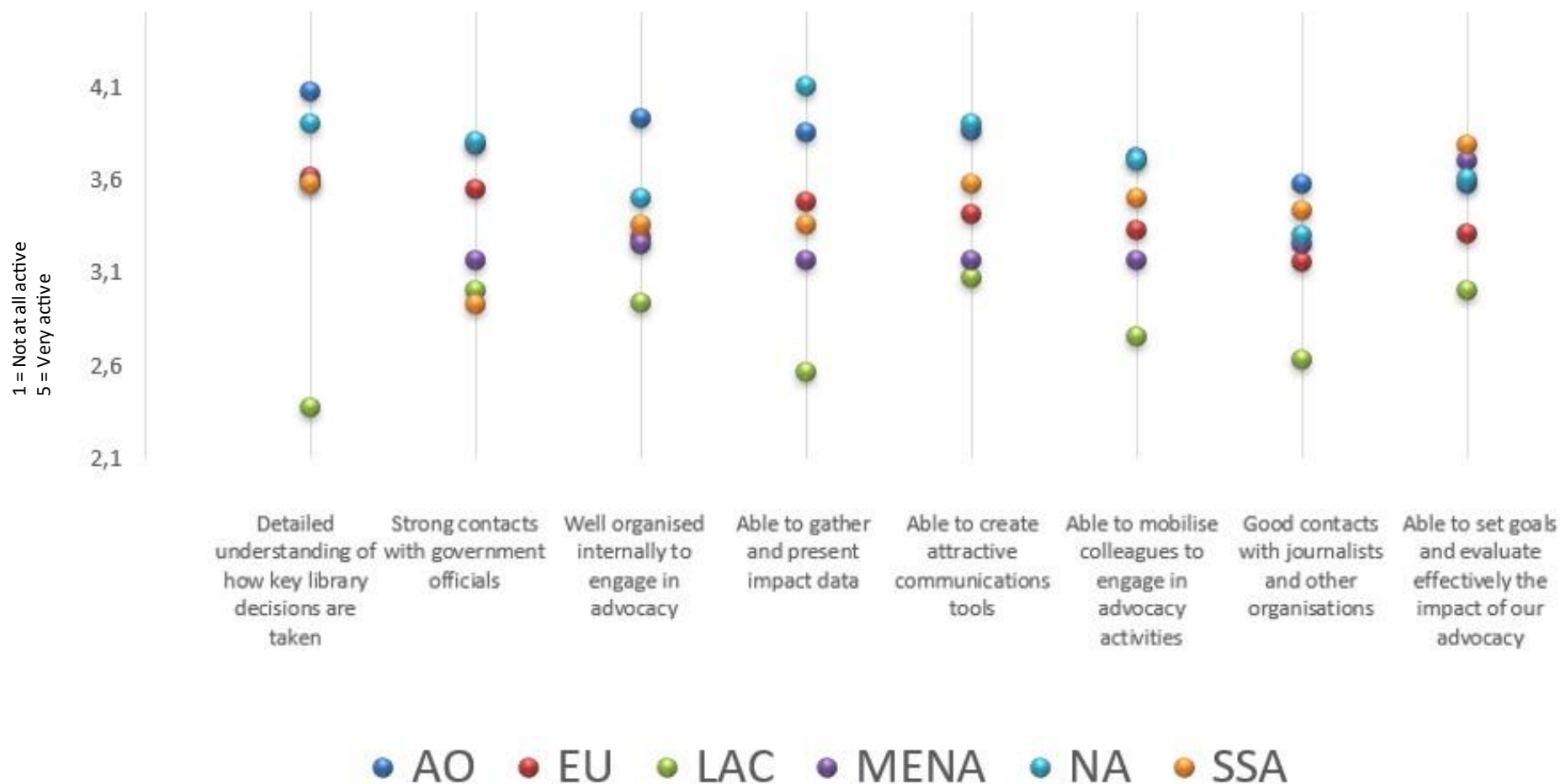


Chart 6.1.2 This is the view per region of the answers to the fourth question about the way advocacy is being carried out by libraries and library associations. In this chart we can find out where regions feel that they are more or less engaged, and so potentially find areas of collaboration and knowledge exchange. For example, LAC could work with others to get more familiar with how key library decisions are taken, with members in AO potentially offering lessons. There are numerous possibilities here.

6.1.3 Regional views

Current Advocacy AO REGION

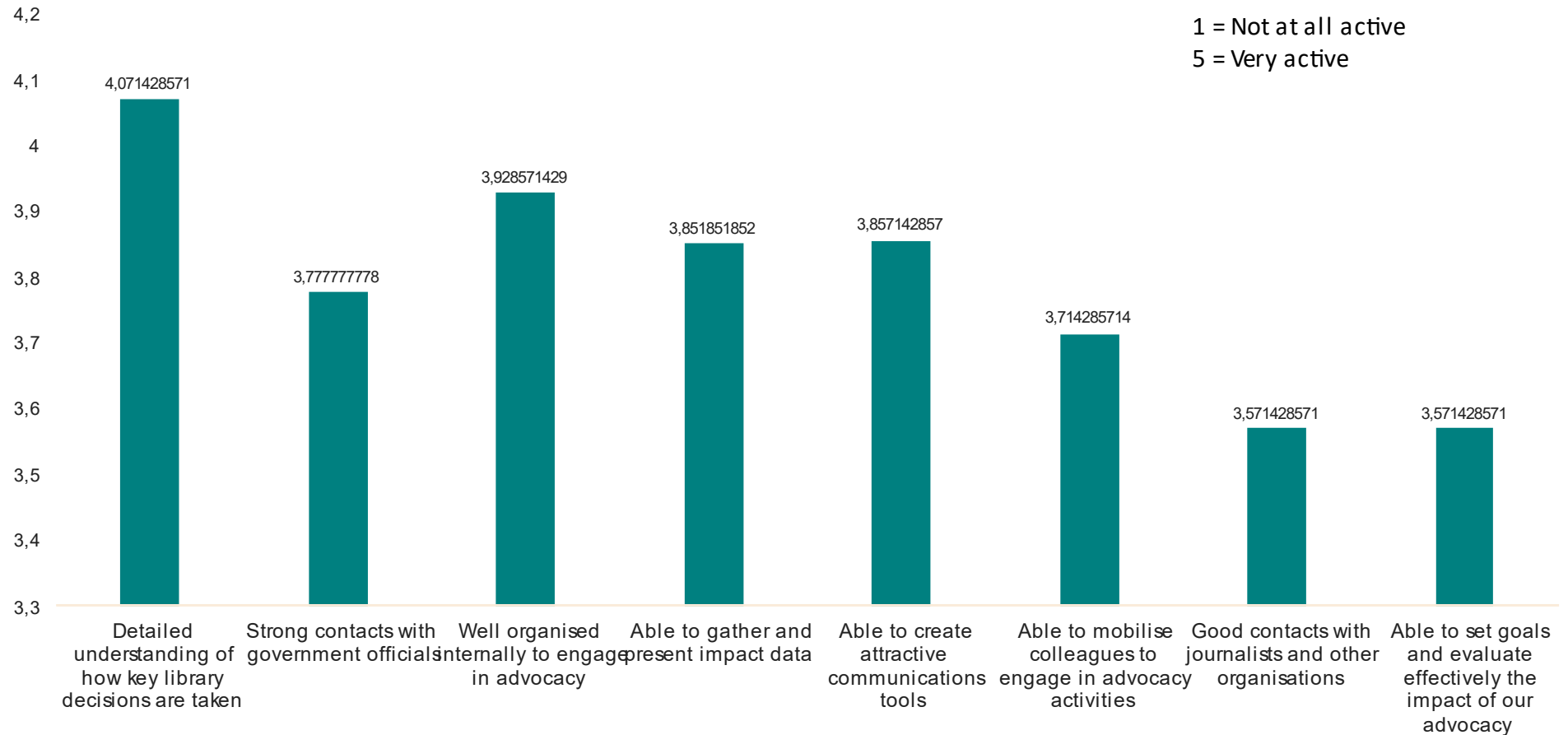


Chart 6.1.3.1 These are the results of the fourth question for the AO region only. What is interesting here is to look at lower scores as areas where more work could be done in the future. Establishing contacts with journalists and organisations who can support libraries and setting up goals and evaluating the advocacy impact are the two lowest scores, and so are potential areas for improvement. On the other hand, we note that libraries in the AO region seem to have a good understanding on how key library decisions are made, and could help other regions on that matter.

Current Advocacy EU REGION

1 = Not at all active
5 = Very active

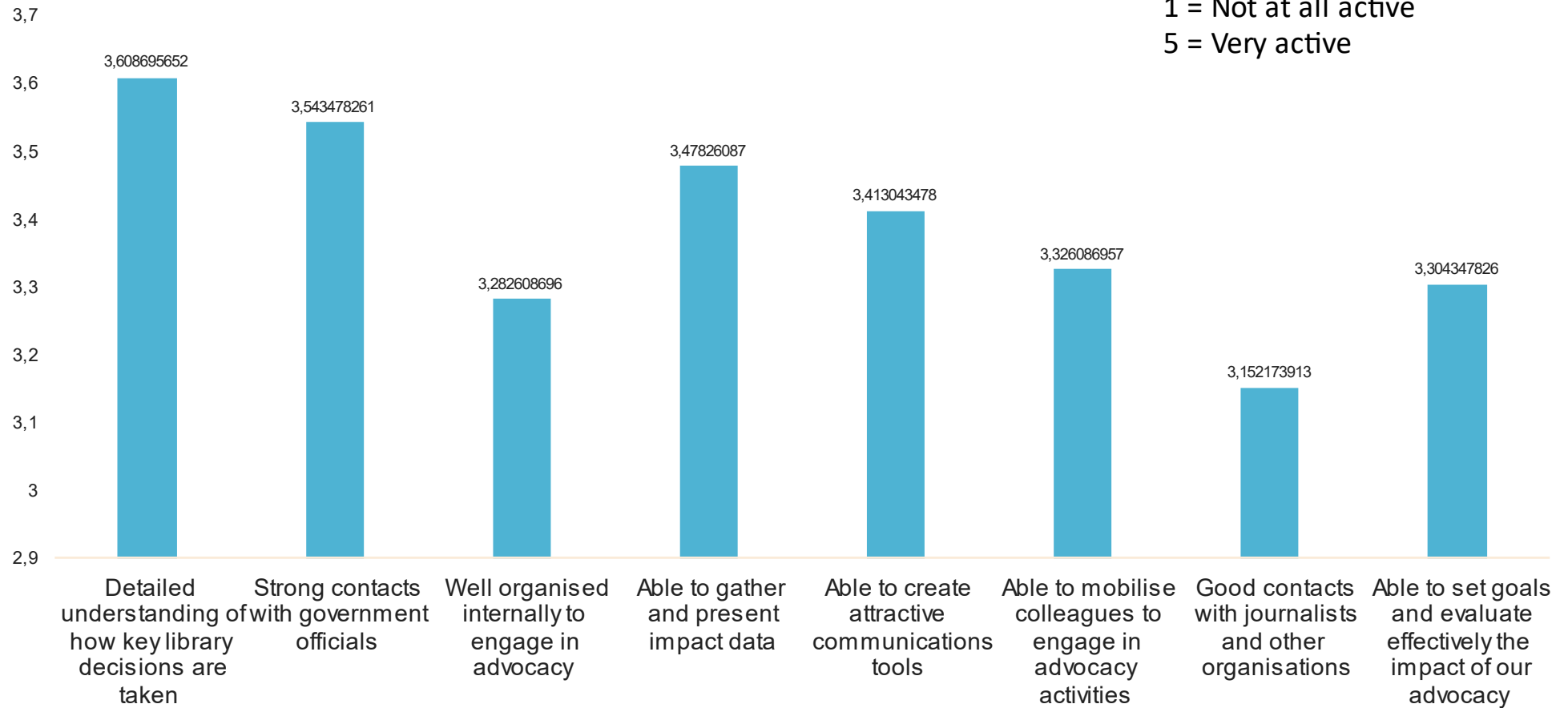


Chart 6.1.3.2 These are the results of the fourth question for the EU region only. What is interesting here is to look at lower scores as areas where more work needs to be done in the future. Establishing contacts with journalists and organisations who can support libraries and being better organised internally to engage in advocacy are the two lowest scores -so there should be space for improvement here. On the other hand, they seem to have a good understanding of how key library decisions are made and strong contacts with government officials.

Current Advocacy LAC REGION

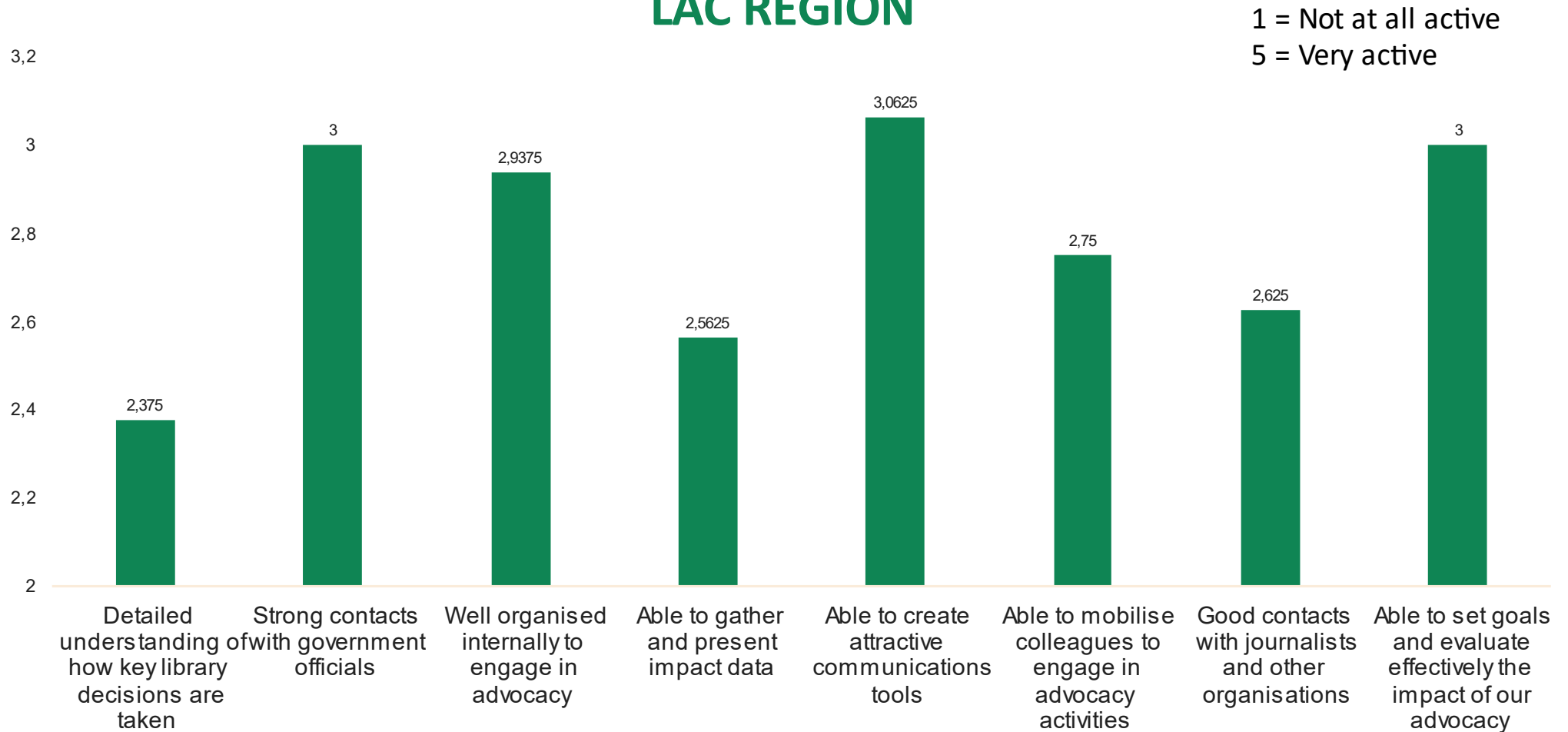


Chart 6.1.3.3 These are the results of the fourth question for the LAC region only. What is interesting here is to look at lower scores as areas where more work needs to be done in the future. The LAC region would be helped if professionals in that region would own a better understanding of how key library decisions are taken and a better knowledge of gathering and presenting impact data. On the other hand, they seem to excel in communication tools, evaluation, and contacts with government officials, and could teach other regions how they do this.

Current Advocacy MENA REGION

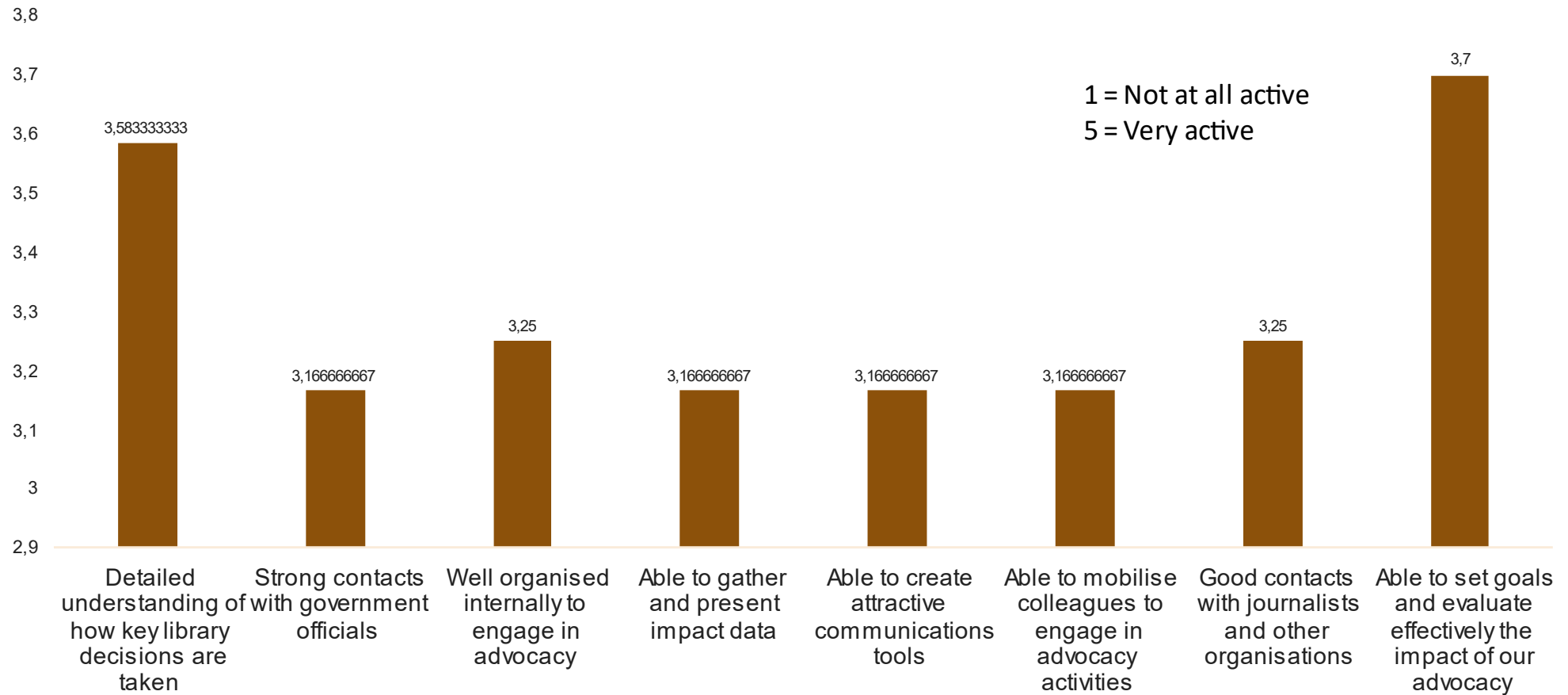


Chart 6.1.3.4 These are the results of the fourth question for the MENA region only. What is interesting here is to look at lower scores as areas where more work needs to be done in the future. It seems that work is needed in all issues, apart from evaluation and having a good understanding of how key library decisions are taken. There seems to be room for improvement and collaboration here with other RDCs to enable the MENA professionals in most of the matters.

Current Advocacy NA REGION

1 = Not at all active

5 = Very active

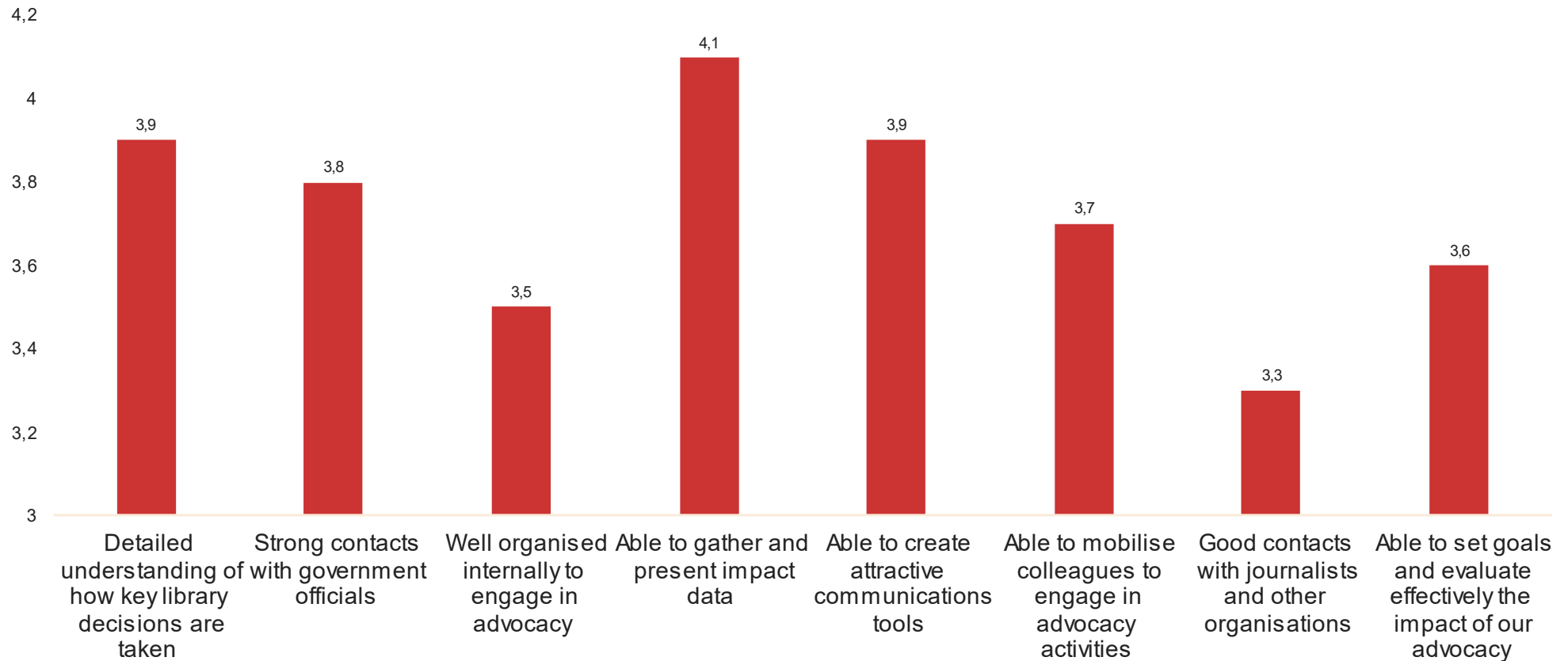


Chart 6.1.2.5 These are the results of the fourth question for the NA region only. What is interesting here is to look at lower scores as areas where more work needs to be done in the future. Making contacts with journalists and organisations that can support library advocacy and being well organised internally to be able to engage in advocacy are the two lowest scores in the NA region. On the other hand, we note that libraries in the NA region seem to do better in gathering and presenting impact data and creating attractive communications. Other regions could consider inviting the NA RDC to share knowledge and give examples on how they do these, so that others who lack in these can learn from them and apply their good example.

Current Advocacy

SSA REGION

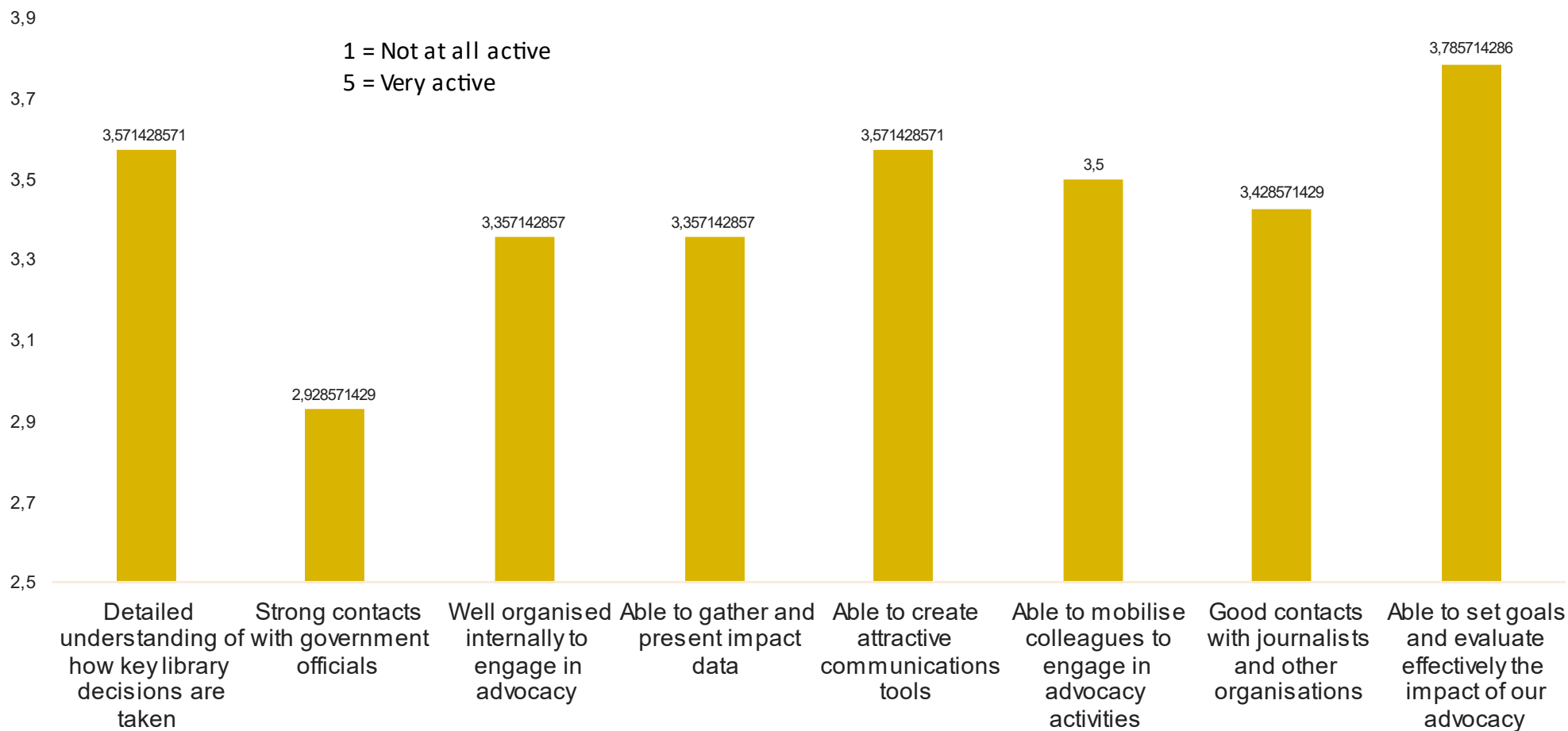


Chart 6.1.3.6 These are the results of the fourth question for the SSA region only. What is interesting here is to look at lower scores as areas where more work needs to be done in the future. Having strong contacts with government officials is the lowest score in the SSA region. On the other hand, libraries in the SSA region seem to do better in setting goals and evaluating the advocacy impact -a thematic area to keep in mind for knowledge sharing opportunities with other Regional Divisions that may lack those skills.

7. Future Advocacy: evidence needed (5th question)

The fifth question in the survey focused more on the level of importance of further evidence on different issues related to library advocacy. More specifically the question was:

“How important would further evidence on the following issues be for you in your advocacy?”

The answer options were based both on existing areas of focus at IFLA Headquarters, and those which frequently appear in efforts by national associations. These represent just one way of categorising the different themes of course, and Regional Division Committees may wish to dig further into the results, in order to understand specific priorities that are not brought out clearly here. Committees can also, of course, use the results already as a basis for discussion about what sort of activities may strengthen progress towards identified priorities.

In the question we asked respondents to ascribe a level of activity to each of the answers. In the Y axis, 1 means “Not at all active” and 5 means “Very active”.

The categories were as follows:

Library laws	= The status, rights and responsibilities of libraries (library laws)
Library staff laws	= Laws and policies around library staffing (status, training)
Copyright	= Copyright, licencing and open access
Literacy awareness	= Literacy and reading promotion
Education	= Education and Lifelong learning
Digital inclusion	= Digital inclusion and connectivity to ensure that everyone can get online and make the most of the internet
Heritage	= Heritage (preservation and access)
Legal deposit	= Legal deposit
Social issues	= Social issues (inclusion, health and wellbeing, employment, and work)
Environmental issues	= Environmental, climate and other sustainability-related issues
Civic engagement	= Democratic participation and civic engagement
Regional development	= Local and regional development
Internet governance	= Internet governance and regulation
Cultural diversity	= Cultural diversity and contemporary creation and creativity

7.1 Global and Regional View

7.1.1 Global view

Future advocacy: evidence needed (global level)

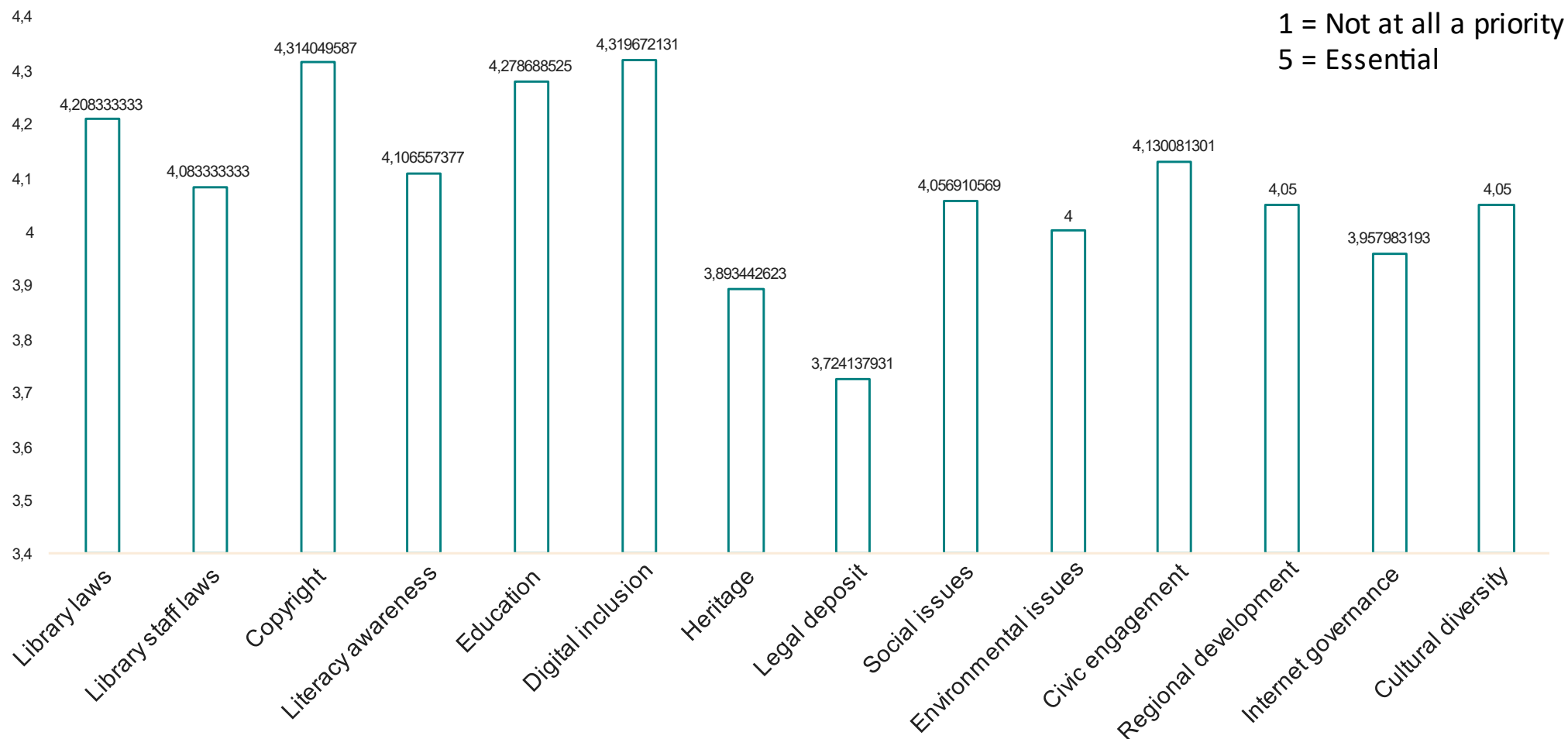


Chart 7.1.1 This is the global view of the answers to the fifth question about where further evidence is important for future library advocacy. In this chart we can see which are the biggest priorities on a global level: digital inclusion, copyright, education and library laws. These are the same categories, like lobbying priorities (Chart 4.1.1). These could indicate priority areas for action for the Regional Council and give a general steer for the Regional Divisions.

7.1.2 Global view – per future advocacy, per region

Future advocacy: evidence needed (per region)

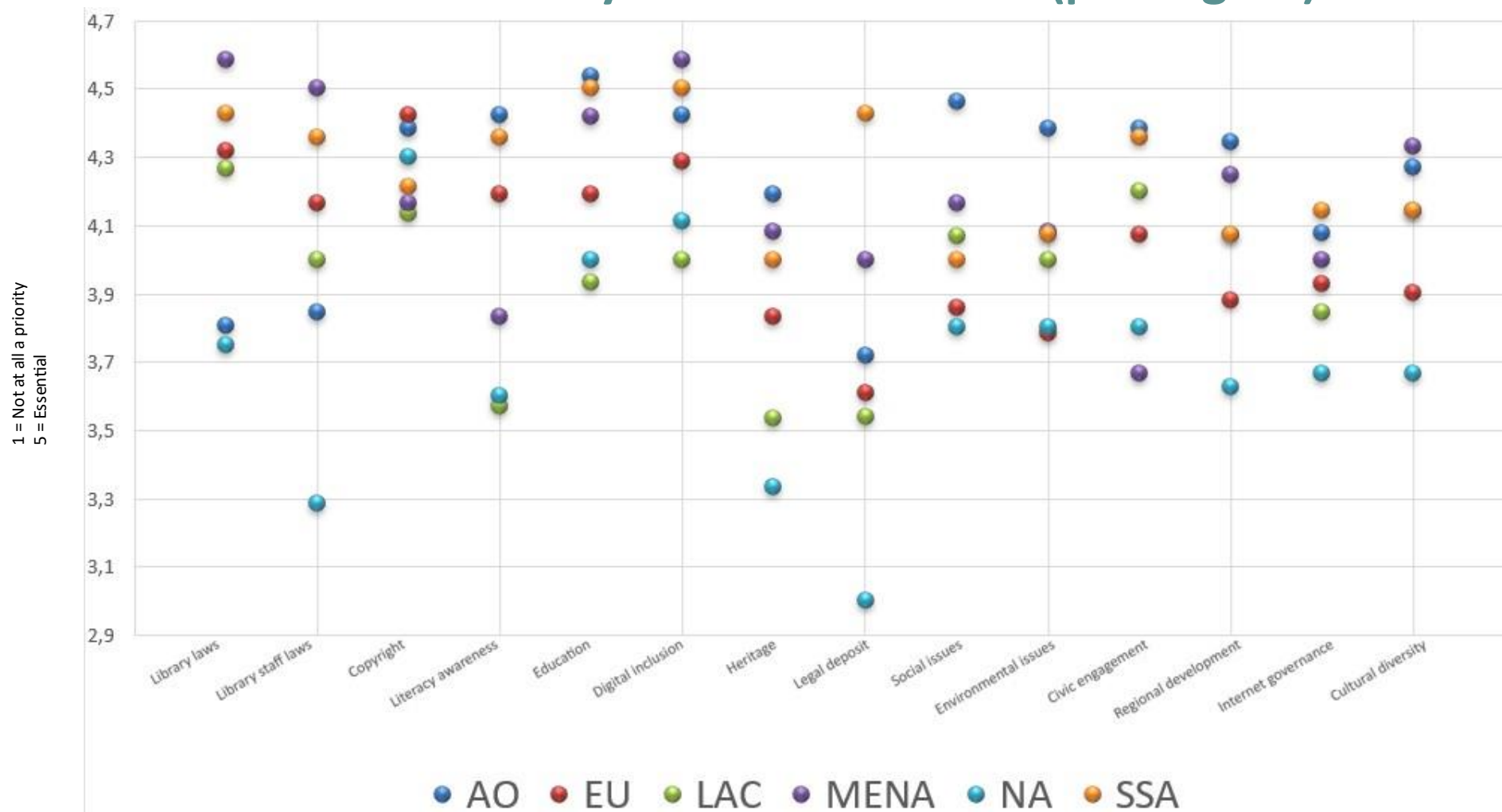


Chart 7.1.2 This is the global view of the answers to the fifth question about where further evidence is important for future library advocacy. In this chart we can find out areas of common work or not in different regions, something that will enable the Regional Divisions to explore working together, for example to gather evidence about the role of libraries in achieving policy goals on this question. For example, the SSA region finds it very important to work on digital inclusion, as does MENA. Another example: EU and LAC have ranked library laws quite high and at the same level, so the two RDCs could think of a collaborative project. Such similarities or differences could form the basis for collaborations between different Regional Division Committees.

7.1.3 Regional views

Future advocacy: evidence needed AO REGION

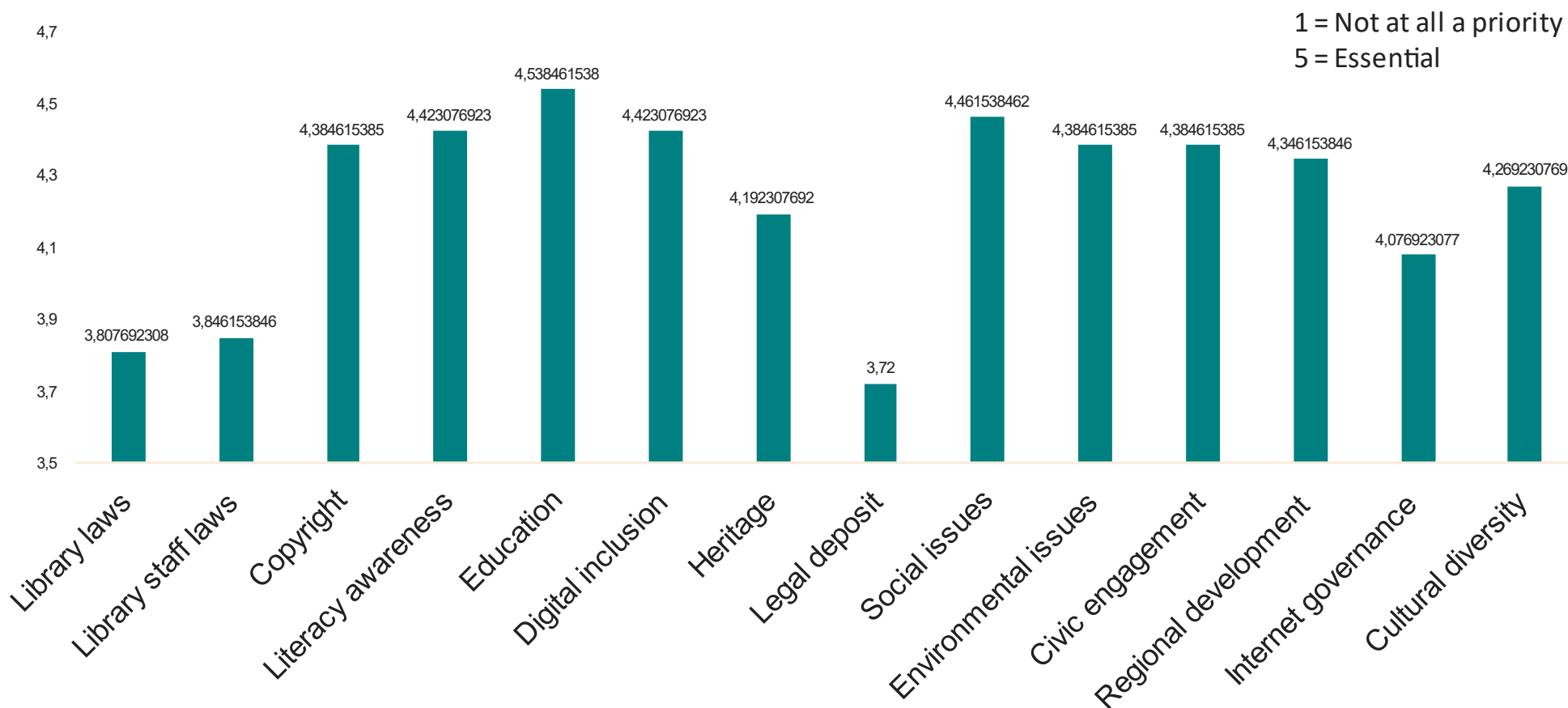


Chart 7.1.3.1 These are the results of the fifth question for the AO region only. Education is the top priority here (like in SSA), with social issues following. Copyright, Environmental issues and Civic engagement seem to be of similar importance as third priorities. See the Charts 7.1.1 for the global view and 7.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world.

Future advocacy: evidence needed EU REGION

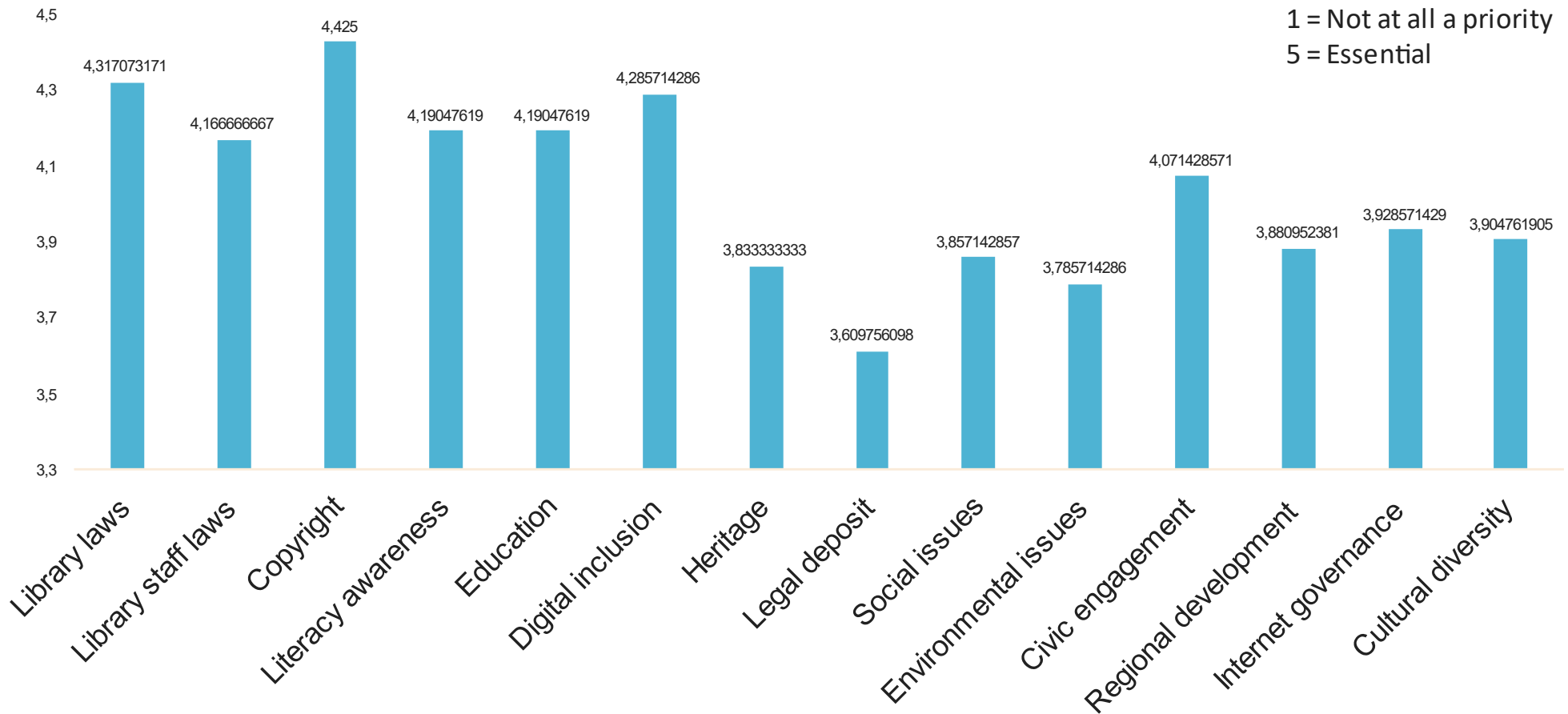


Chart 7.1.3.2 These are the results of the fifth question for the EU region only. Copyright is the top priority here (like in the NA region), with library laws following. See the Charts 7.1.1 for the global view and 7.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world.

Future advocacy: evidence needed

LAC REGION

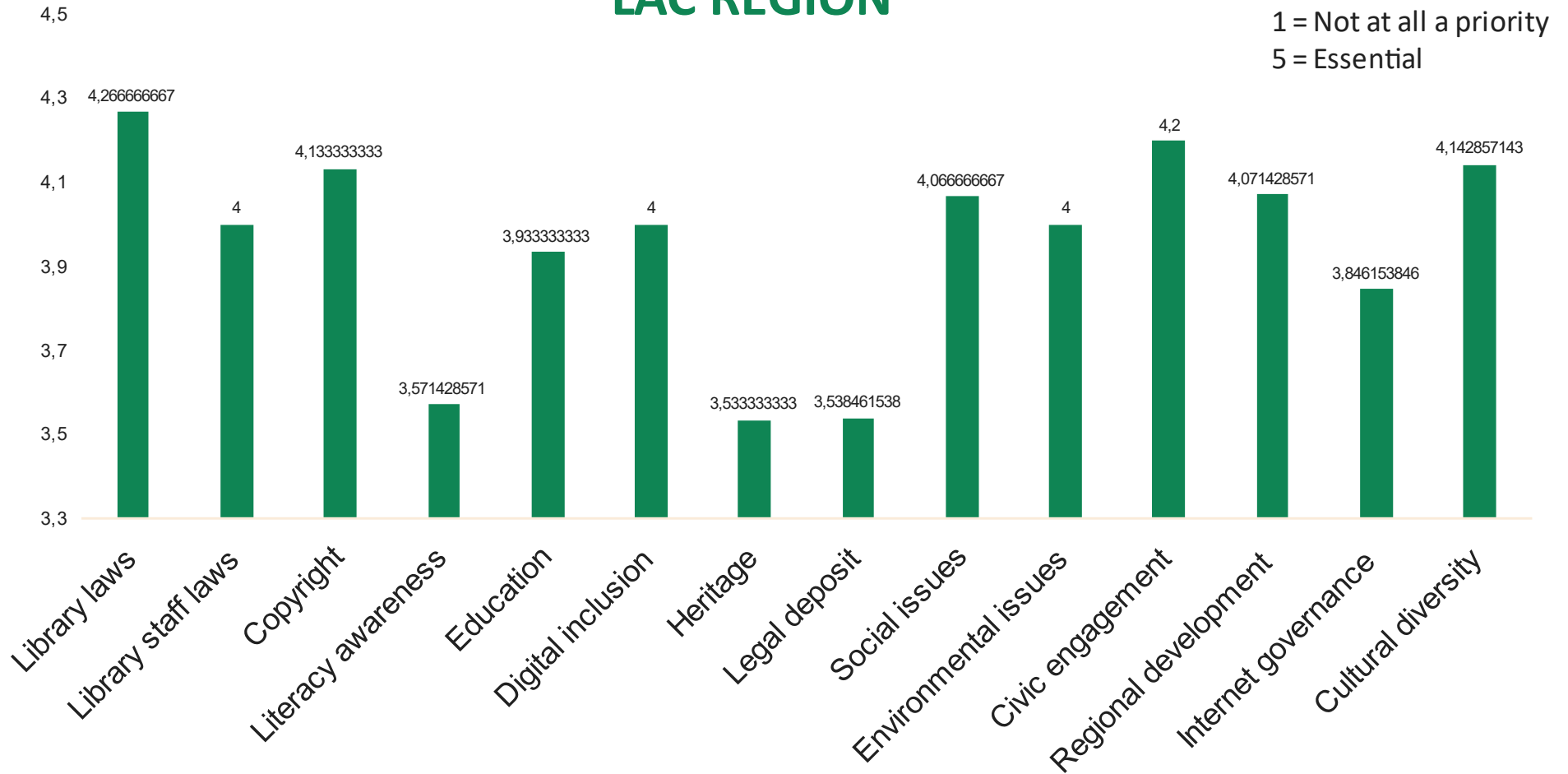


Chart 7.1.3.3 These are the results of the fifth question for the LAC region only. Library laws are the top priority here, with democratic participation/civic engagement following. Cultural diversity, Copyright, Regional development and social issues come next. See the Charts 7.1.1 for the global view and 7.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world.

Future advocacy: evidence needed

MENA REGION

1 = Not at all a priority
5 = Essential

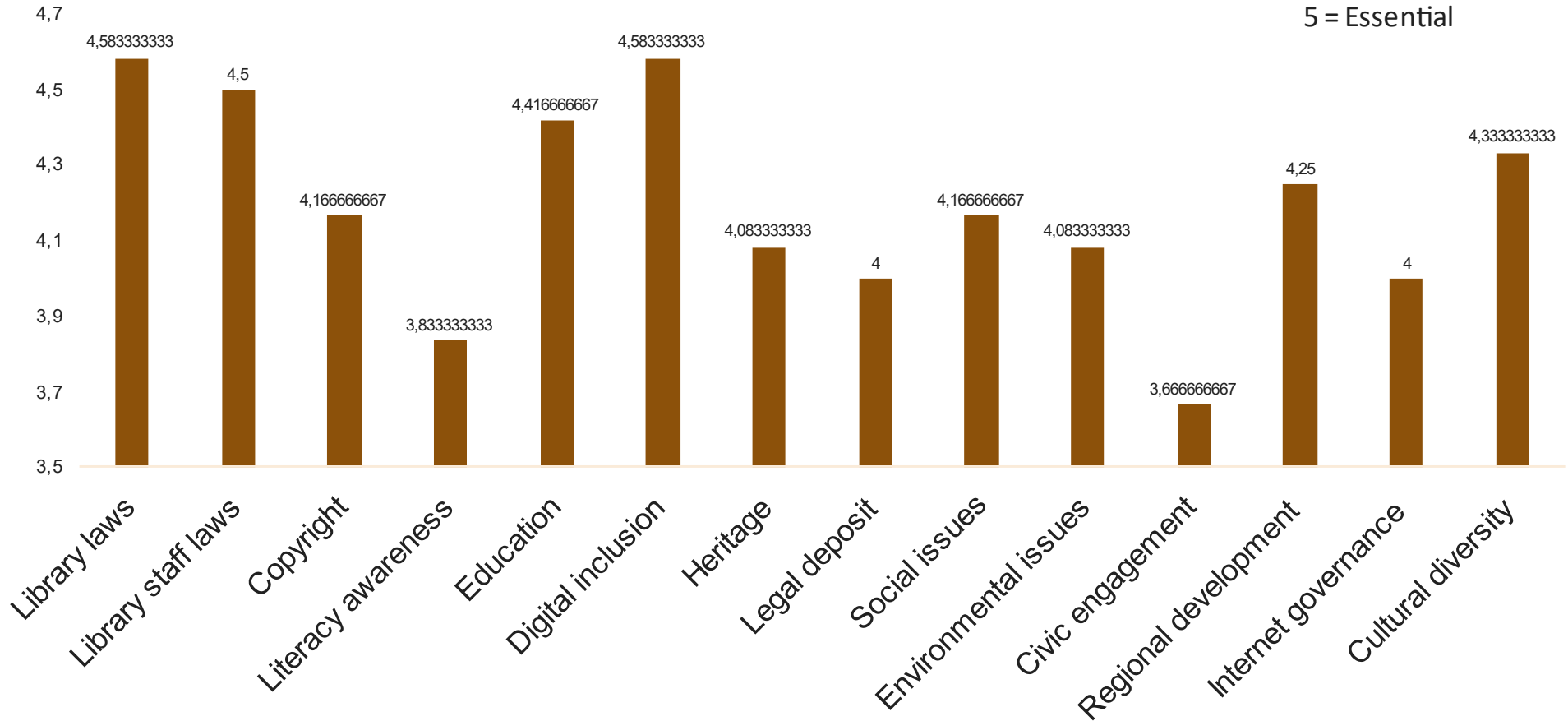


Chart 7.1.3.4 These are the results of the fifth question for the MENA region only. Library laws and digital inclusion are evenly at the top as the number 1 priorities in MENA. Library staff laws, Education, and Cultural diversity follow. See the Charts 7.1.1 for the global view and 7.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world.

Future advocacy: evidence needed

NA REGION

1 = Not at all a priority
5 = Essential

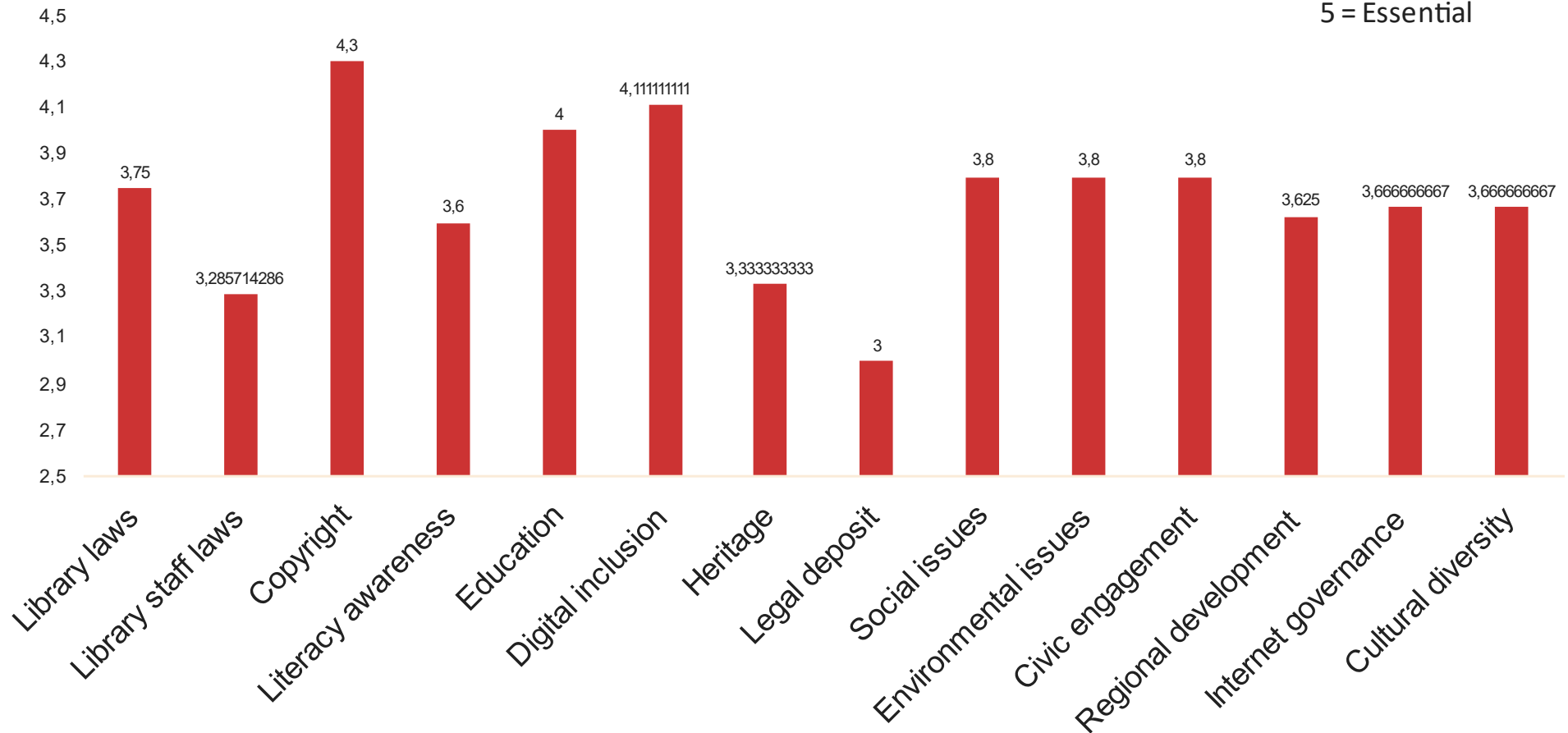


Chart 7.1.3.5 These are the results of the fifth question for the NA region only. Copyright is the top priority here (like in the EU region), with digital inclusion and Education following. Social issues, Environmental issues, and Civic engagement seem to be of similar importance as third priorities. See the Charts 7.1.1 for the global view and 7.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world.

Future advocacy: evidence needed

SSA REGION

1 = Not at all a priority
5 = Essential

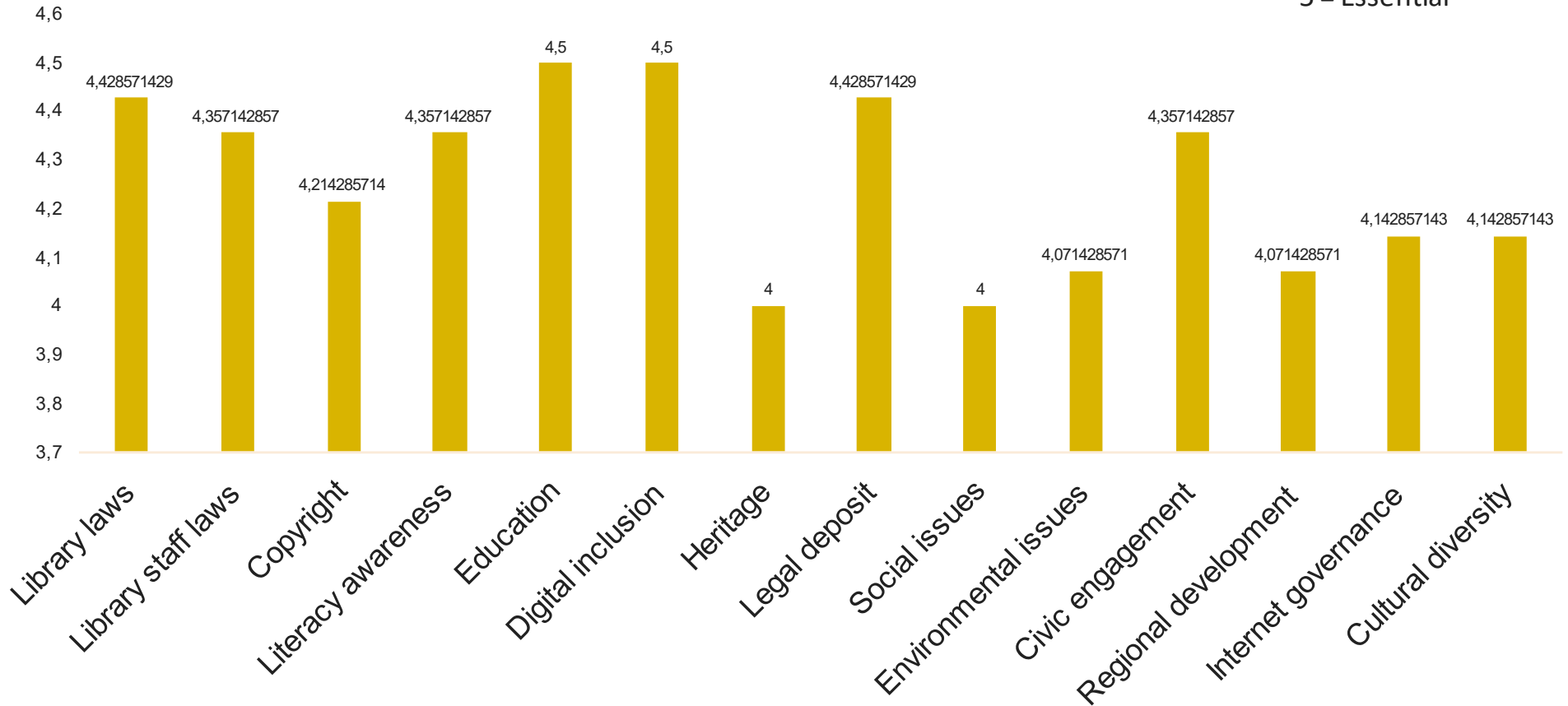


Chart 7.1.3.6 These are the results of the fifth question for the SSA region only. Education and Digital Inclusion are evenly at the top, as the number one priorities here, with Library Laws and Legal Deposit following. Copyright, and Civic engagement seem to be of similar importance as third priorities. See the Charts 7.1.1 for the global view and 7.1.2 to find similarities with other regions of the world.

8. IFLA support: what could IFLA offer? (6th question)

The sixth and last question in the survey focused on one single question to IFLA that could help build evidence in support of advocacy. More specifically the question was:

“What, for you, is the single most important question on which IFLA could look to build evidence in support of advocacy?”

It was an open-ended question and here are the answers received. Translations have been made possible through DeepL and the answers have been classified in 15 categories. Note: some pieces of feedback have been classified twice.

1. Library laws and status

- The status of the library profession at the global level
- The status, rights and responsibilities of libraries (library laws)
- What national structures exist to support libraries?
- The status, rights and responsibilities of libraries in different countries
- Laws and policies around library staffing (status, training)

2. Data

- How many libraries are there in the world? How many librarians?
- What is the true, accurate and documented data on Indian libraries, their relevance, accessibility and impact on Indian populations from all socio-economic strata?
- We need statistic that prove the importance of libraries and the positives effects on long term on the society. We need statistic who prove that is better to invest before because it cost less money. And we need national, provincial, and local statistic.

3. Training on specific aspects of advocacy

- Engaging stockholders

4. General

- How can IFLA strengthen its network capabilities to include the MENA region? IFLA should consider this in order to build evidence in support of advocacy.
- The single most important question would be the Local and regional development
- Libraries on the political agenda
- Accessible information for all
- The impact of libraries on the information ecosystem
- How central we are to public knowledge and awareness of correct information and inclusive spaces
- Information access and freedom to read.
- Why libraries are important
- Why should libraries exist, why should they be accessible, why are physical facilities important. we are still in the basic stage.
- What role do libraries play in the development of society?

- To certify that strong libraries are a cost-efficient means of making societies flourish also in economic sector (literate people get better jobs)
- Do you really support Central American countries, especially El Salvador?
- Help to those small libraries in the Philippines
- How IFLA supports the associations from third world countries financially
- It would be good if IFLA could support associations and countries by visiting some or holding joint events.
- Promote support and inclusion to libraries in Kenya
- Since Librarians are the advocates, my personal point of view is that we should offer a safe and free space and support to those in need in developing countries like Myanmar. Could IFLA provide training for the librarians' leaders from the most underserved population?

5. Engagement in international fora

- IFLA does a lot for advocacy and if there is a chance to keep doing one thing is international advocacy for libraries in the UN, EU, etc. We don't have so good possibilities to present our libraries there.

6. Supporting materials around education

- Recognizing libraries as an important partner in education, especially in furthering adult education (20–60+ years of age), understanding libraries as "second age universities" (including assurance of this for personnel – motivation, education).
- Are the authorities at different levels of government aware of the importance of information for the education of citizens and citizenship in the knowledge era and the role of libraries in this development?
- Update on literacy rates and the impact of library presence on those rates.

7. Building partnerships

- Inclusiveness of all stakeholders in the academic, political and CSOs.
- Communication with international state bodies and commercial companies to promote library and librarians

8. Copyright and open access, legal deposit

- In Canada, the publishing sector is challenging higher education's (via academic libraries) right to access fair dealing in the dissemination of teaching materials. We need to defend fair dealing and its use in education.
- Equal laws for libraries across the world (ideally "fair use" principle)
- Legislation to support universal access to and re-use of digital knowledge materials
- Continuing building the case to support fair practices to purchase e-books.
- Legal support against monopoly in editorial and book industry
- Fair and accessible use
- E-Lending/ Copyright: Advancement on EU-level would be of great support.
- The value of legal deposit as stakeholders don't see the benefit, especially of e-legal deposit which is not fully accessible.

9. SDGs

- The diverse roles and vital importance of libraries in relation to the societal goals set out in the SDGs.
- Climate - libraries not just mitigating their own carbon footprint but supporting wider resilience and mitigation. This is a new area where libraries can play a key role and needs to be properly understood.
- I still think the SDGs and climate crisis has to be one of the most important issues of this generation and, indigenous matters and the AI debate.
- For me, 'environmental, climate and other sustainability-related issues' is the single most important question on which IFLA could look to build evidence in support of advocacy.
- Social issues are the most important at the moment.

10. Democracy

- Democratic participation and civic engagement
- Democracy and strengthening civic spaces
- Civic engagement

11. Digital inclusion

- The role of libraries in promoting digital inclusion
- Impact of libraries on digital inclusion would likely have the most impact.
- Digital inclusion and connectivity / Cultural diversity and contemporary creation
- How libraries could go on fulfilling their duty of furthering literacy and promoting reading in digital environment? Commercial actors try to limit this.
- Libraries and librarians essential to the modern world experiencing a technology transformation
- Continuing building the case to support fair practices to purchase e-books.
- Digital inclusion and connectivity
- The AI debate

12. Preservation and Conservation

- Preservation and conservation of cultural data
- Historical forum and archive as evidence

13. Advocacy training and young leaders

- For the last six months, I have been conducting an academic research study on this subject in my country. I haven't finished my research yet, but as far as I can see, there are good studies on advocacy like the USA. But in the rest of the world, I still think there is a lack of advocacy in librarians and professional associations. For this reason, I find it important that the deficiencies of librarians and professional associations in advocacy should be eliminated first. How can librarians improve in advocacy? Another issue is how can professional associations be made better in advocacy? These are important questions that IFLA must address.
- Empowerment of libraries and librarians

- Librarians, their role and education (curriculums for librarians are closed, our profession needs to develop, new skills and knowledge should be taught to the young students. In our country, also the salary is a big issue, young people are not ready to come to work to the library, because of the low income and big amount of very different skills are needed (work and pay are not in balance)
- Can IFLA expand its developing young leaders programs to lead the advocacy initiatives Leaders who can convey the Library's role in good development.
- Continuous capacity development in advocacy

14. Funding

- Library budget that contributes to their development (not only ensures existence)
- Funding
- How do we measure success and accountability of funding in library professional bodies?

15. Miscellaneous, Other comments/questions:

- Evidence with regard to the advantages of Sunday openings of libraries (e.g. how does this function in different European countries?) would be of great support as well.
- How to make libraries open for change in line with the local community need. And in this using experiences from other organisations.
- As a library staff, what do you need to engage more in the lives and future development of your community?
- Community engagement & School intervention programs
- Who manages the information in your country? What training do you have to fill this position? Applying this to all kinds of local, national, regional libraries. You should be the first to demand that whoever represents us in your fields be a graduate of the race.

Regional Advocacy Priorities 2023 Study Results
Global Report

19 August 2023

