

Demographics

Development & Enhancement Repository



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Introduction

This document provides details of the various project data types that are included in the ISBSG D&E (Development & Enhancement) repository August 2026.

You will note that the project totals shown at the bottom of the tables rarely equal the 13,718 projects in the Repository. This is because submitters do not necessarily provide project data for all the data fields that ISBSG offers. The “ISBSG Field Descriptions” document explains the contents of the various data fields that the Repository caters for.

By studying the demographics that follow, you will be able to establish the areas that are of specific interest to you. The data in the Repository projects have come from over thirty countries. This is what makes the ISBSG Repository unique. A broad range of project types from many industries and many business areas are available for you to use for estimating, awareness of trends, comparison of platforms and languages or benchmarking.

Executive summary

The projects in the Repository cover a broad cross-section of the software industry. In general, they have a business focus.

Project origin

- The projects have been submitted from more than 26 different countries. Major contributors are Netherlands (26.1%), Spain (23.5%), United States (15.7%), Australia (6.2%), Japan (6.2%), Finland (4.4%), China (3.6%), France (3.5%), Canada (2.6%), India (2.4%), Brazil (1.3%), Denmark (1.3%), Mexico (1.1%) and United Kingdom (0.7%).
- The projects were performed in more than 30 different countries. Major contributors are Spain (29.1% of all projects where the country of effort is known), Netherlands (28.4%), United States (7.5%), Finland (5.6%), France (4.4%), India (4.1%), Australia (3.8%), China (3.8%) and Japan (2.6%).

Project context

- Industry sector: major sectors are Communications (29.4% of all projects where the organization type is known), Insurance (11.9%), Government (10.1%), Manufacturing (9.5%), Banking (7.3%), Medical and health care (4.2%), Financial (3.6%) Wholesale/Retail (2.7%), Utilities (2.6%), Electronics/computers (1.6%) and Service industry (1.6%).
- Business area: major areas are Communications (38.0% of all projects where the business area is known), Insurance (15.6%), Banking (9.2%), Manufacturing (7.5%), Government (7.1%), Medical & Health Care (5.6%), Finance (4.4%), Public Sector (2.6%), Computers & Software (1.7%) and Community Services (1.3%).

Type of project

- Development type: 76.8% are enhancement projects, 22.0% are new developments, and 0.8% are re-developments.
- Intended market: 94.5% of projects are developed for internal use, (i.e. for the organization that contributed the project to the Repository), and 5.5% for external use. 25.4% are developed in-house and 74.6% are outsourced.
- Team size: 39.5% of projects have up to 4 people in the development team, 31.2% have 5 to 9 people, 17.8% have 10 to 19 people, and 11.5% have 20 or more people.

Type of product

- Application group: 94.1% are business applications, 3.1% are real-time applications, and 2.3% are mathematically-intensive applications.

- Architecture: 35.9% of projects for which this information is available have a client-server architecture, and 27.9% have a multi-tier architecture (there is some overlap between these groups of projects). 36.1% are stand-alone systems.

Development environment

- Platform: 27.5% are mainframe projects, 9.2% midrange, and 34.7% personal computers. 28.6% of projects involve multiple platforms.

Development methods

- For ISBSG purposes a methodology applies to the whole project development process. This is distinct from techniques, which apply to individual activities within the development process.
- Methodology: 55.2% of projects that describe methodologies report using a waterfall model. Other methodologies include Agile and/or RUP (37.6%), Rapid Application Development (1.8%), Joint Application Development (1.7%), Multi-functional teams (1.6%) and Timeboxing (0.4%).

Demographics

Project origin

Country of origin

Projects have been contributed from 27 different countries.

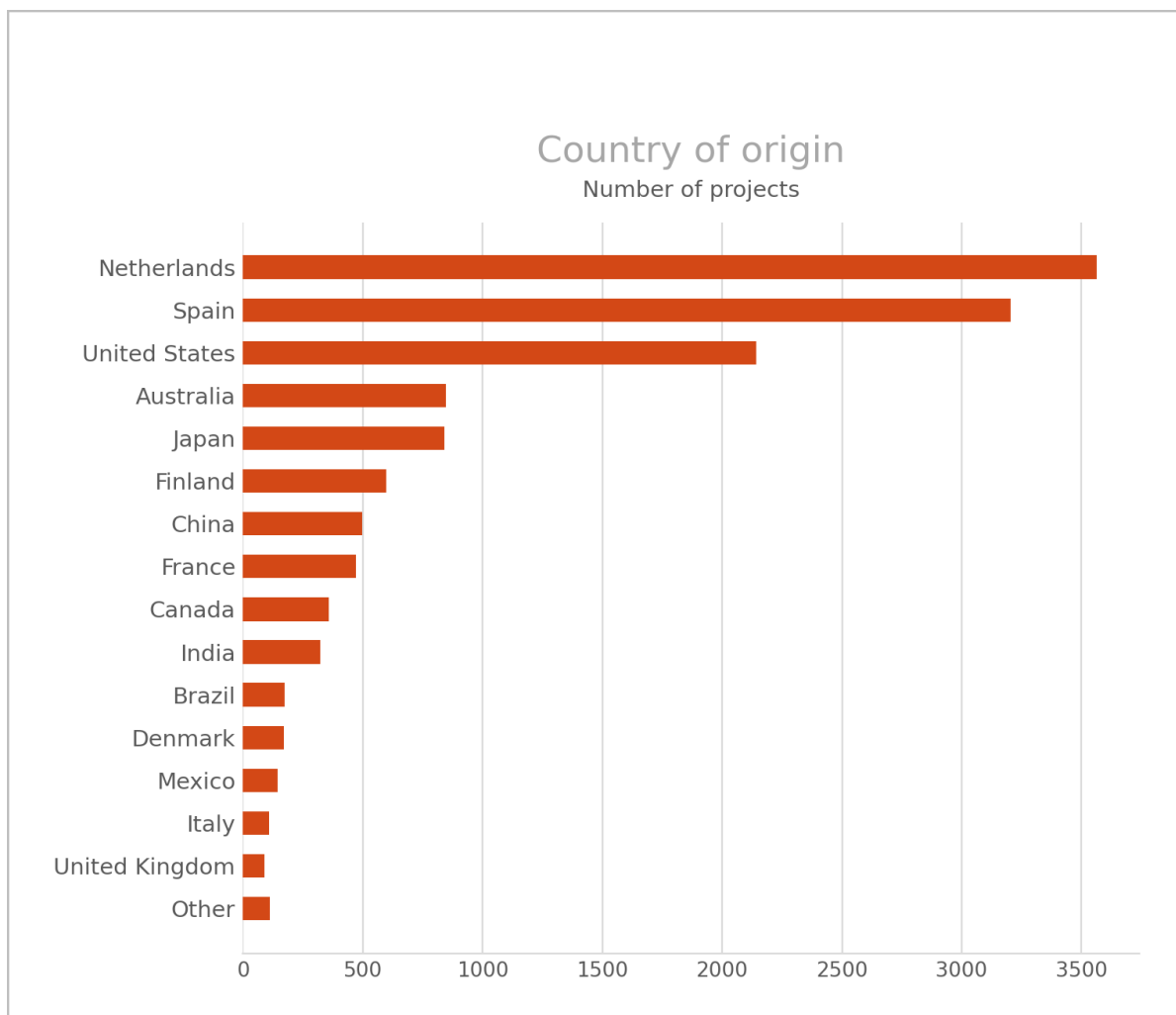


Figure 1 - Demographics country of origin

Demographics		
Country of origin	Projects	Percentage
Countries	N	%
Netherlands	3562	26.1%
Spain	3205	23.5%
United States	2142	15.7%
Australia	847	6.2%
Japan	841	6.2%
Finland	599	4.4%
China	497	3.6%
France	471	3.5%
Canada	360	2.6%
India	324	2.4%
Brazil	173	1.3%
Denmark	172	1.3%
Mexico	145	1.1%
Italy	109	0.8%
United Kingdom	91	0.7%
Other	111	0.8%
Total	13649	100%

Table 1 - Demographics country of origin

Country of effort

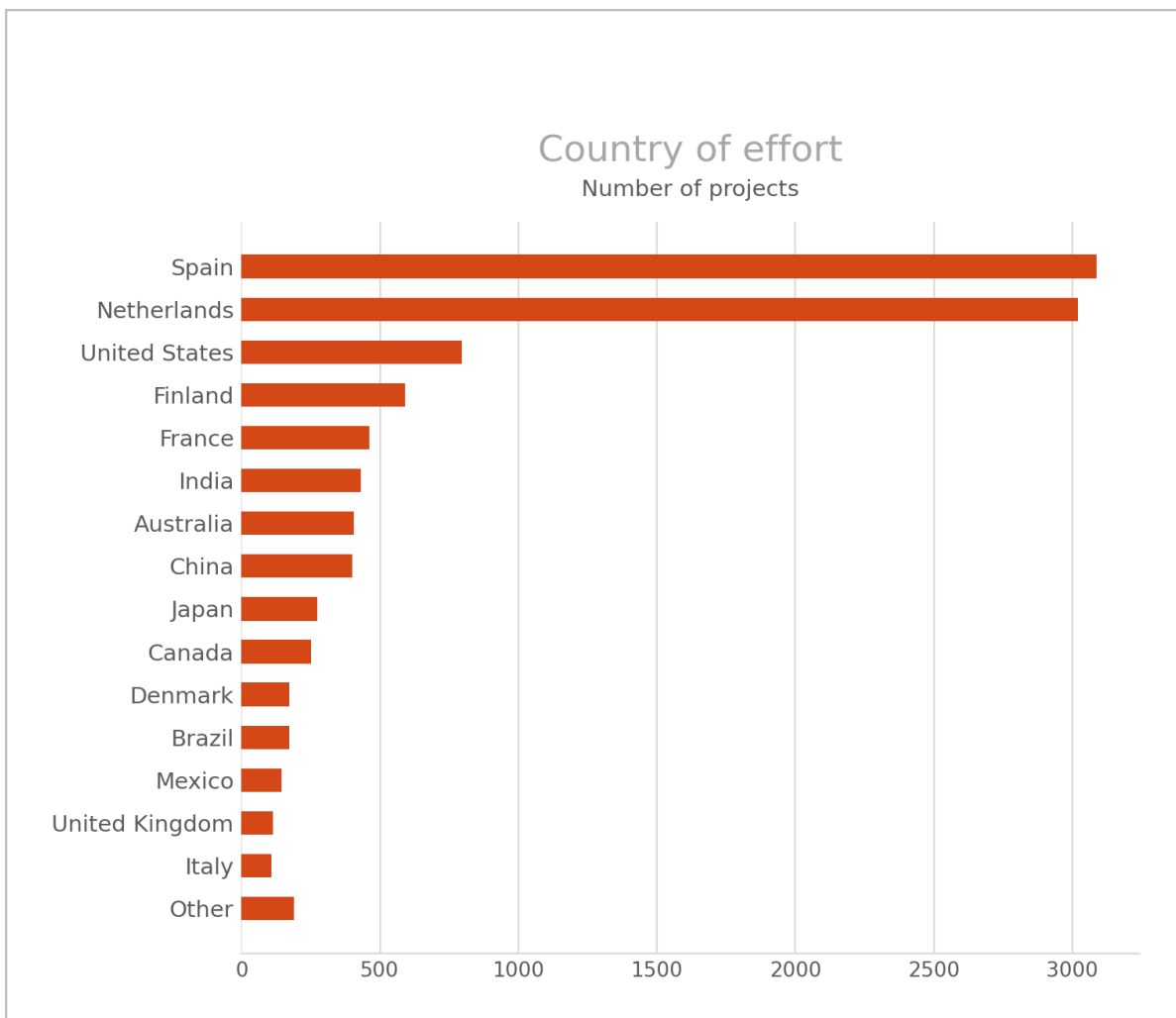


Figure 2 - Demographics country of effort

Demographics		
Country of effort	Projects	Percentage
Countries	N	%
Spain	3086	29.1%
Netherlands	3019	28.4%
United States	796	7.5%
Finland	592	5.6%
France	463	4.4%
India	432	4.1%
Australia	405	3.8%
China	400	3.8%
Japan	275	2.6%
Canada	251	2.4%
Denmark	173	1.6%
Brazil	172	1.6%
Mexico	145	1.4%

Demographics		
Country of effort	Projects	Percentage
Countries	N	%
United Kingdom	114	1.1%
Italy	109	1.0%
Other	190	1.8%
Total	10622	100%

Table 2 - Demographics country of effort

Project context

Industry sector

The Industry Sector summarizes the industry, or type of organization, for which each project has been developed.

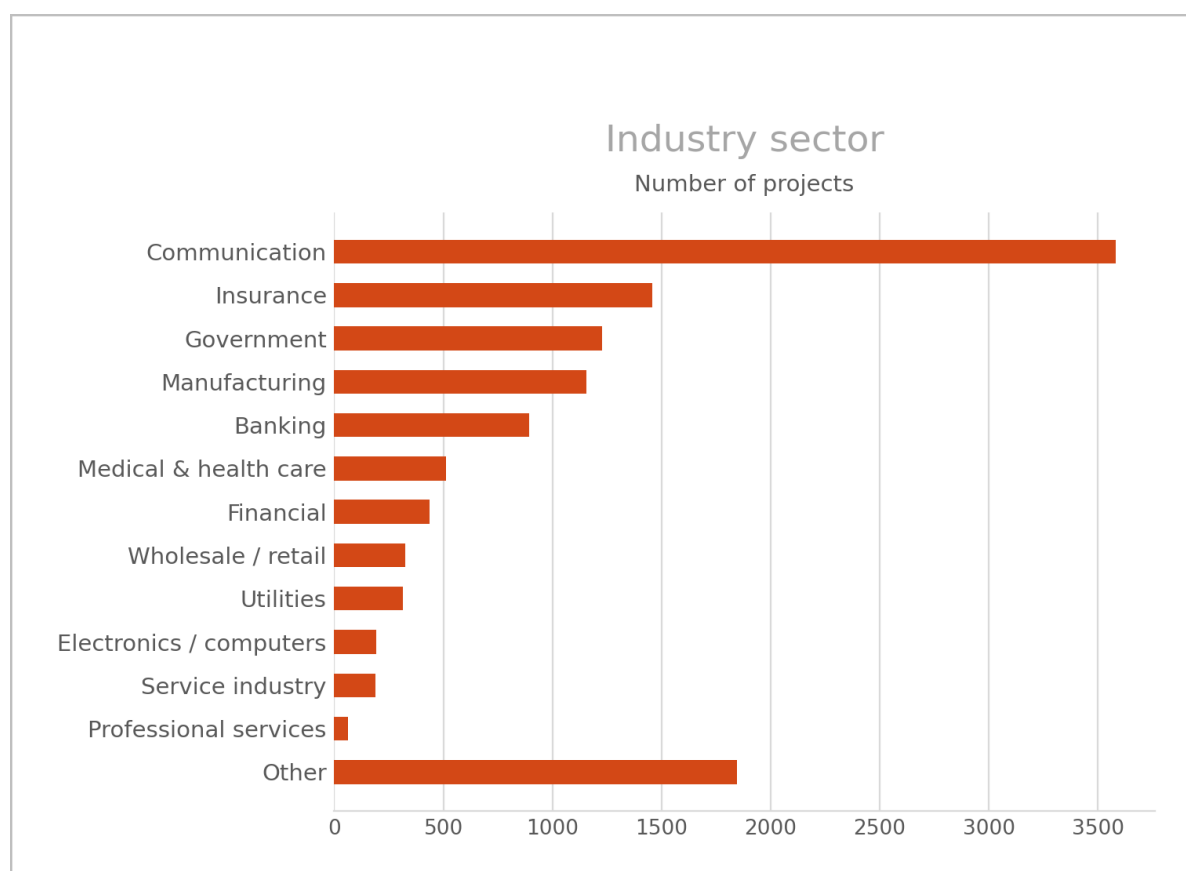


Figure 3 - Demographics industry sector

Demographics		
Industry sector	Projects	Percentage
Industries	N	%
Communication	3581	29.4%
Insurance	1456	11.9%
Government	1228	10.1%
Manufacturing	1155	9.5%

Demographics		
Industry sector	Projects	Percentage
Industries	N	%
Banking	895	7.3%
Medical & health care	513	4.2%
Financial	437	3.6%
Wholesale / retail	324	2.7%
Utilities	313	2.6%
Electronics / computers	192	1.6%
Service industry	190	1.6%
Professional services	64	0.5%
Other	1846	15.1%
Total	12194	100%

Table 3 - Demographics industry sector

Business area

This is the business area within the organization/industry that the project/application will be supporting.

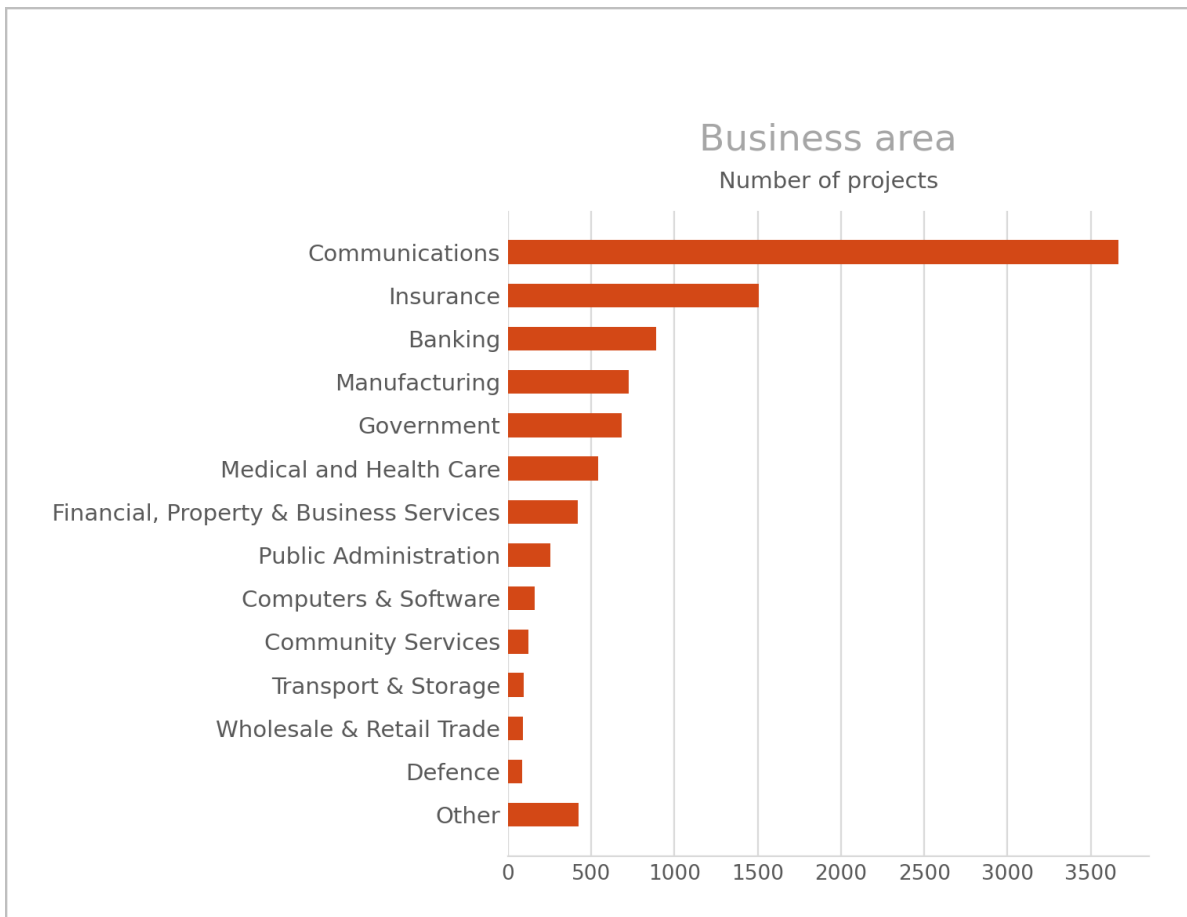


Figure 4 - Demographics business area

Demographics		
Business area	Projects	Percentage
Areas	N	%
Communications	3665	38.0%
Insurance	1505	15.6%
Banking	889	9.2%
Manufacturing	727	7.5%
Government	681	7.1%
Medical and Health Care	540	5.6%
Financial, Property & Business Services	421	4.4%
Public Administration	254	2.6%
Computers & Software	161	1.7%
Community Services	121	1.3%
Transport & Storage	93	1.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	89	0.9%
Defence	86	0.9%
Other	422	4.4%
Total	9654	100%

Table 4 - Demographics business area

Type of project

Development type

A detailed explanation of the development types is given in Appendices, Glossary of Terms.

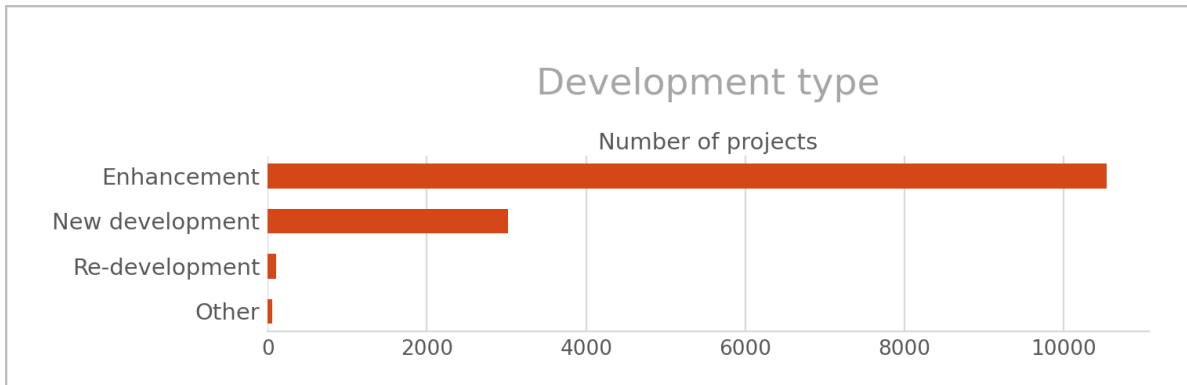


Figure 5 - Demographics development type

Demographics		
Development type	Projects	Percentage
Types	N	%
Enhancement	10537	76.8%
New development	3014	22.0%
Re-development	105	0.8%
Other	61	0.4%
Total	13717	100%

Table 5 - Demographics development type

Intended market

This defines the relationship between the customer, the project/application developer, and application user. If the customer and the developer are in the same organization, the project is assumed to be an in-house development; if the customer and user are in the same organization the project is assumed to be developed for internal use. For some projects, it is possible to determine whether the development was in-house or outsourced, or whether the users are internal or external, but not both.

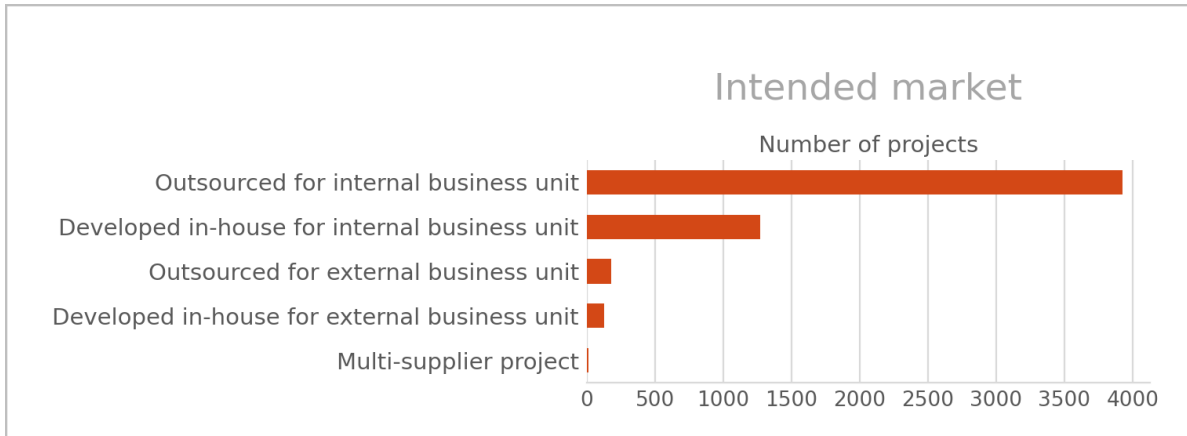


Figure 6 - Demographics intended market

Demographics		
Intended market	Projects	Percentage
Markets	N	%
Outsourced for internal business unit	3928	71.2%
Developed in-house for internal business unit	1274	23.1%
Outsourced for external business unit	178	3.2%
Developed in-house for external business unit	127	2.3%
Multi-supplier project	13	0.2%
Total	5520	100%

Table 6 - Demographics intended market

Team size

This is the maximum number of people in the development team at any given time in the project.

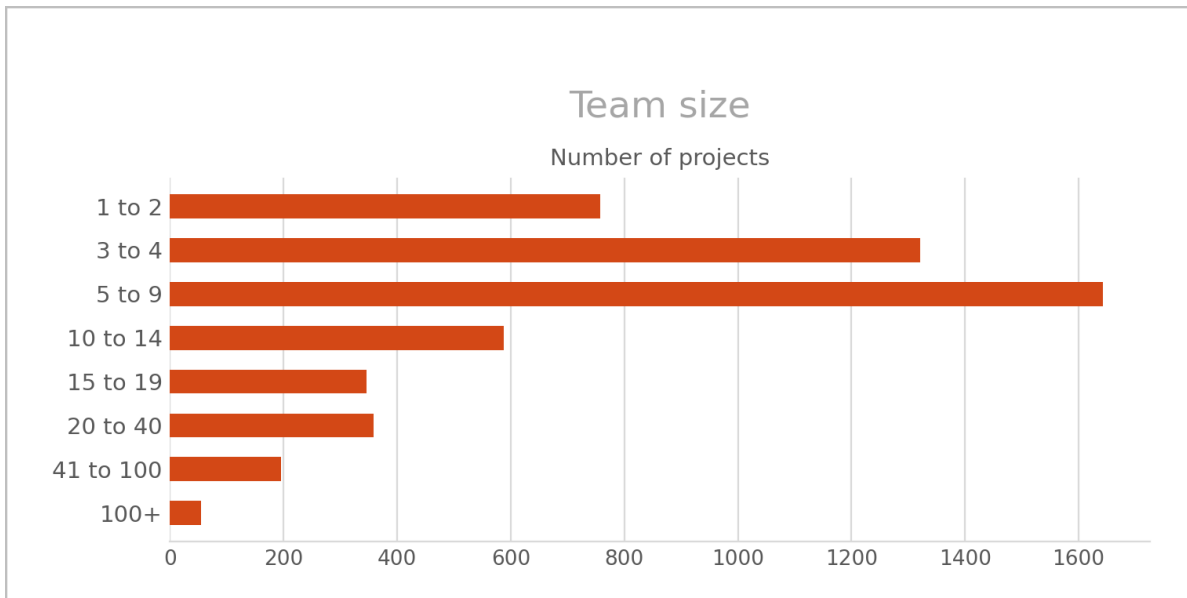


Figure 7 - Demographics team size

Demographics		
Team size	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
1 to 2	758	14.4%
3 to 4	1321	25.1%
5 to 9	1643	31.2%
10 to 14	587	11.2%
15 to 19	346	6.6%
20 to 40	358	6.8%
41 to 100	196	3.7%
100+	54	1.0%
Total	5263	100%

Table 7 - Demographics team size

Type of product

Product size

Size is measured in function points. The 5 main function point counting approaches represented in the Repository are IFPUG CPM 4.0 or later, COSMIC, FiSMA, NESMA and IFPUG Simple Function Point (SFP). Other approaches represented in the Repository include Mark II, Feature Points, and older versions of IFPUG (IFPUG 2, IFPUG 3) but there are few such projects and very few have been contributed to the Repository for many years now.

The following tables and histograms show the range of project sizes, for each of these 4 function point counting approaches.

IFPUG 4

The table shows the sizes (in UFPs) of projects sized with IFPUG function points, that are known or presumed to have been sized using CPM4.0 or later.

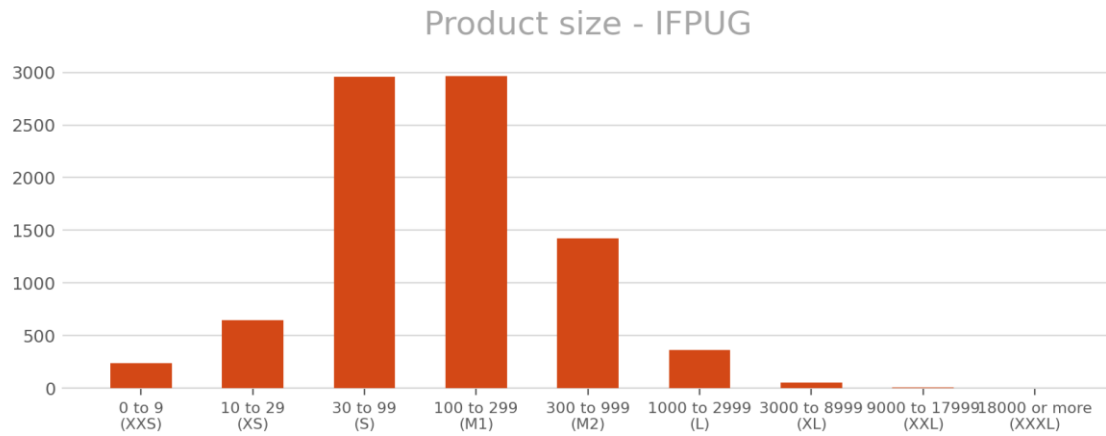


Figure 8 - Demographics product size IFPUG 4+

Demographics		
Product size IFPUG	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
0 to 9 (XXS)	237	2.7%
10 to 29 (XS)	647	7.5%
30 to 99 (S)	2955	34.2%
100 to 299 (M1)	2962	34.3%
300 to 999 (M2)	1421	16.4%
1000 to 2999 (L)	361	4.2%
3000 to 8999 (XL)	52	0.6%
9000 to 17999 (XXL)	10	0.1%
18000 or more (XXXL)	2	0.0%
Total	8647	100%

Table 8 - Demographics product size IFPUG 4+

COSMIC

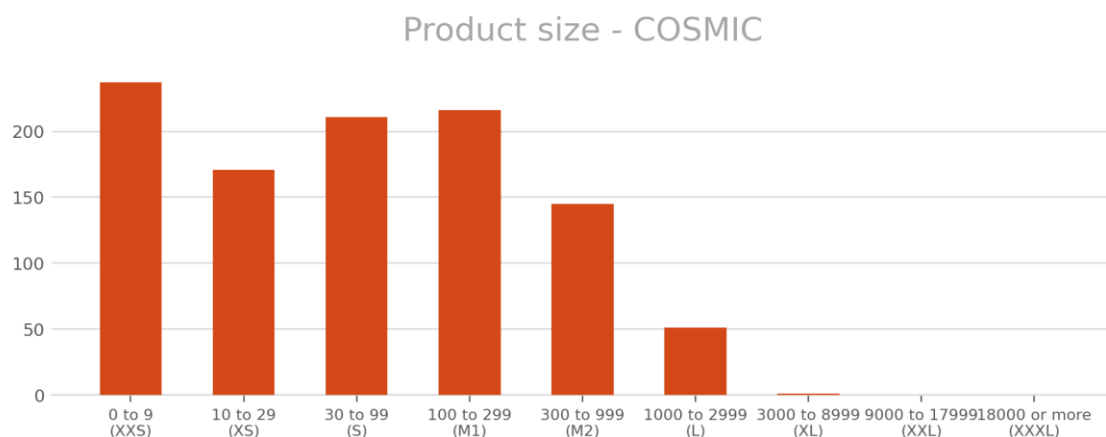


Figure 9 - Demographics product size COSMIC

Demographics		
Product size COSMIC	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
0 to 9 (XXS)	237	23.0%
10 to 29 (XS)	171	16.6%
30 to 99 (S)	211	20.4%
100 to 299 (M1)	216	20.9%
300 to 999 (M2)	145	14.1%
1000 to 2999 (L)	51	4.9%
3000 to 8999 (XL)	1	0.1%
9000 to 17999 (XXL)	0	0.0%
18000 or more (XXXL)	0	0.0%
Total	1032	100%

Table 9 - Demographics product size COSMIC

NESMA

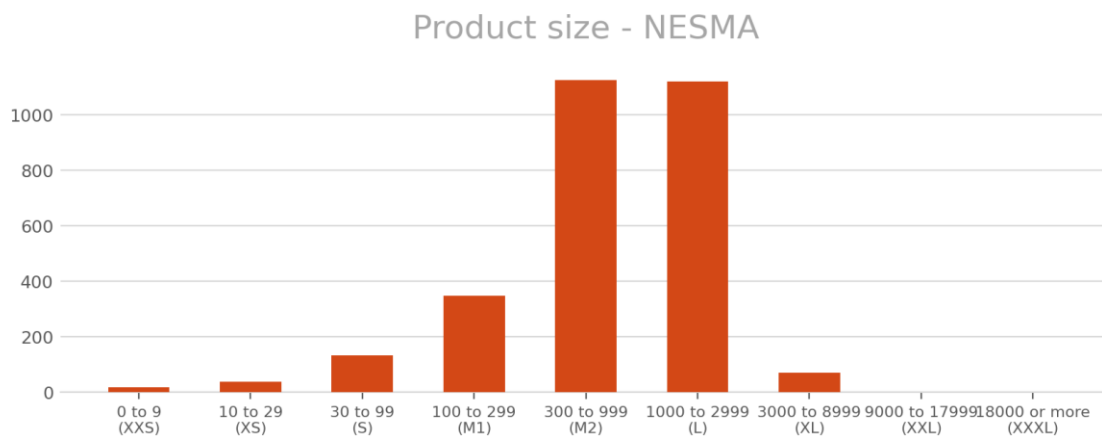


Figure 10 - Demographics product size NESMA

Demographics		
Product size NESMA	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
0 to 9 (XXS)	19	0.7%
10 to 29 (XS)	37	1.3%
30 to 99 (S)	134	4.7%
100 to 299 (M1)	348	12.2%
300 to 999 (M2)	1125	39.4%
1000 to 2999 (L)	1122	39.3%
3000 to 8999 (XL)	71	2.5%
9000 to 17999 (XXL)	1	0.0%

Demographics		
Product size NESMA	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
18000 or more (XXXL)	1	0.0%
Total	2858	100%

Table 10 - Demographics product size NESMA

FiSMA

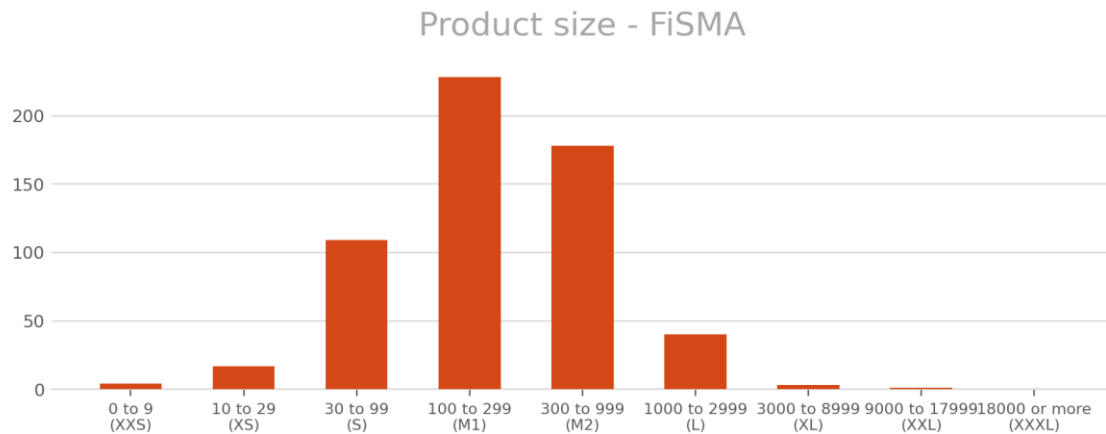


Figure 11 - Demographics product size FiSMA

Demographics		
Product size FiSMA	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
0 to 9 (XXS)	4	0.7%
10 to 29 (XS)	17	2.9%
30 to 99 (S)	109	18.8%
100 to 299 (M1)	228	39.3%
300 to 999 (M2)	178	30.7%
1000 to 2999 (L)	40	6.9%
3000 to 8999 (XL)	3	0.5%
9000 to 17999 (XXL)	1	0.2%
18000 or more (XXXL)	0	0.0%
Total	580	100%

Table 11 - Demographics product size FiSMA

IFPUG SFP

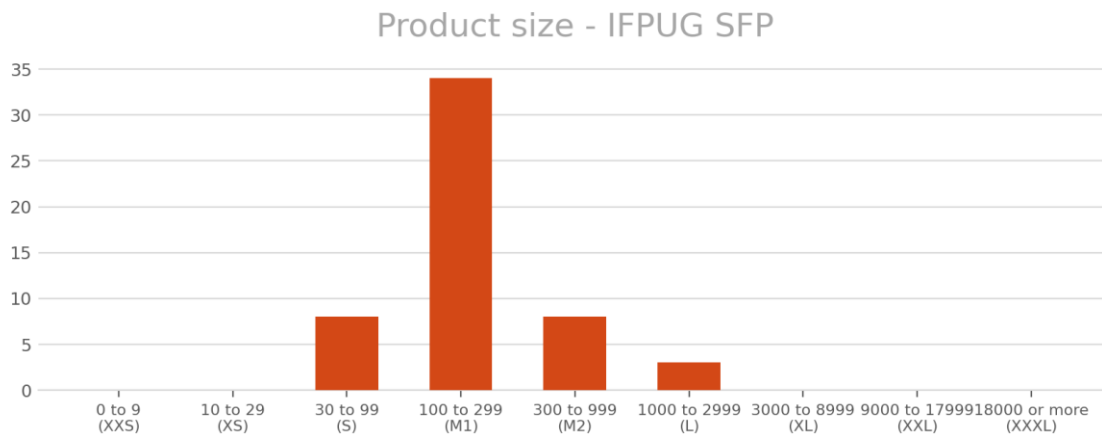


Figure 12 - Demographics product size IFPUG SFP

Demographics		
Product size IFPUG SFP	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
0 to 9 (XXS)	0	0.0%
10 to 29 (XS)	0	0.0%
30 to 99 (S)	8	15.1%
100 to 299 (M1)	34	64.2%
300 to 999 (M2)	8	15.1%
1000 to 2999 (L)	3	5.7%
3000 to 8999 (XL)	0	0.0%
9000 to 17999 (XXL)	0	0.0%
18000 or more (XXXL)	0	0.0%
Total	53	100%

Table 12 - Demographics product size IFPUG SFP

Application group

The application type identifies the type of application being addressed by the project (e.g. information system, transaction/production system, process control.)

As there are hundreds of different application types recorded, they are grouped here into 4 groups.

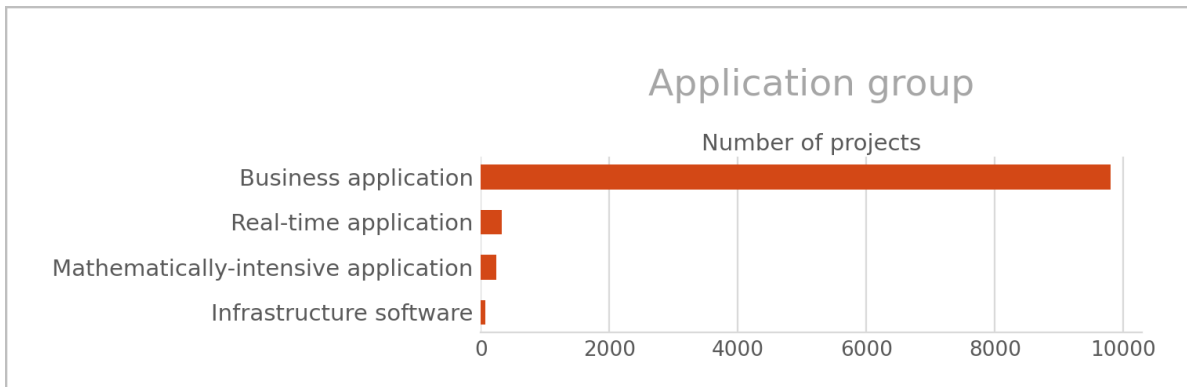


Figure 13 - Demographics application group

Demographics		
Application group	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
Business application	9804	94.1%
Real-time application	320	3.1%
Mathematically-intensive application	235	2.3%
Infrastructure software	65	0.6%
Total	10424	100%

Table 13 - Demographics application group

Application type

A finer-grained breakdown of application types follows. Because Application Type is a free-text, multi-select submission field, this table only shows the 22 named categories the Repository has historically tracked; new-cycle values that do not exactly match one of them are not yet allocated to a category (see note below the table).

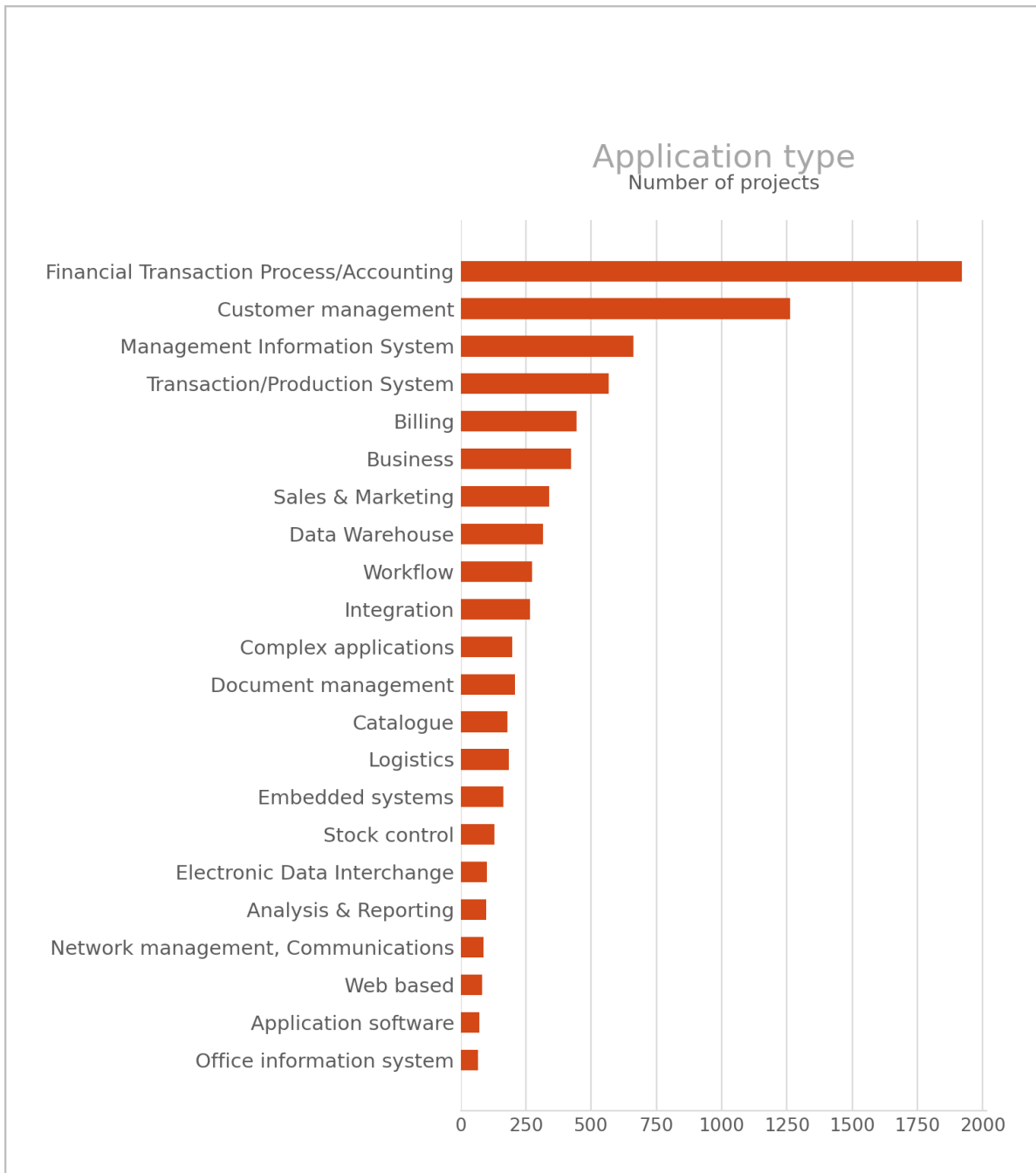


Figure 14 - Demographics application type

Demographics		
Application type	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
Financial Transaction Process/Accounting	1920	23.9%
Customer management	1261	15.7%
Management Information System	661	8.2%
Transaction/Production System	566	7.0%
Billing	444	5.5%
Business	423	5.3%
Sales & Marketing	338	4.2%
Data Warehouse	315	3.9%

Demographics		
Application type	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
Workflow	274	3.4%
Integration	266	3.3%
Complex applications	198	2.5%
Document management	208	2.6%
Catalogue	179	2.2%
Logistics	184	2.3%
Embedded systems	162	2.0%
Stock control	130	1.6%
Electronic Data Interchange	100	1.2%
Analysis & Reporting	98	1.2%
Network management, Communications	87	1.1%
Web based	81	1.0%
Application software	71	0.9%
Office information system	65	0.8%
Total	8031	100%

Table 14 - Demographics application type

Note: of the 571 projects added in this release, 99 could be matched unambiguously to one of the existing categories (57 to Workflow/Integration/Document management/Logistics/Customer management combined, as reflected above); the remainder used differently-worded Application Type labels (e.g. "Customer Relationship management", "Financial Transactions", "Data Warehousing") that were not merged into the existing categories to avoid mis-classification, consistent with how this table has always excluded non-matching labels rather than bucketing them into an "Other" row.

Architecture

Two broad types of system architecture are represented in the Repository: client-server (of various flavours), and multi-tier (of various flavours). Stand-alone systems are also recorded as a contrast to client-server systems.

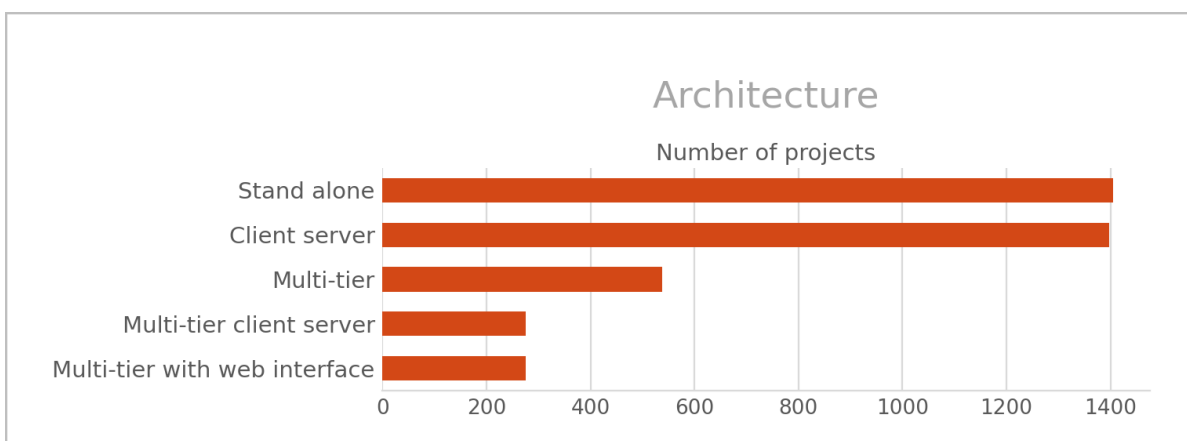


Figure 15 - Demographics architecture

Demographics		
Architecture	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
Stand alone	1405	36.1%
Client server	1397	35.9%
Multi-tier	538	13.8%
Multi-tier client server	276	7.1%
Multi-tier with web interface	275	7.1%
Total	3891	100%

Table 15 - Demographics architecture

Development environment

Development platform

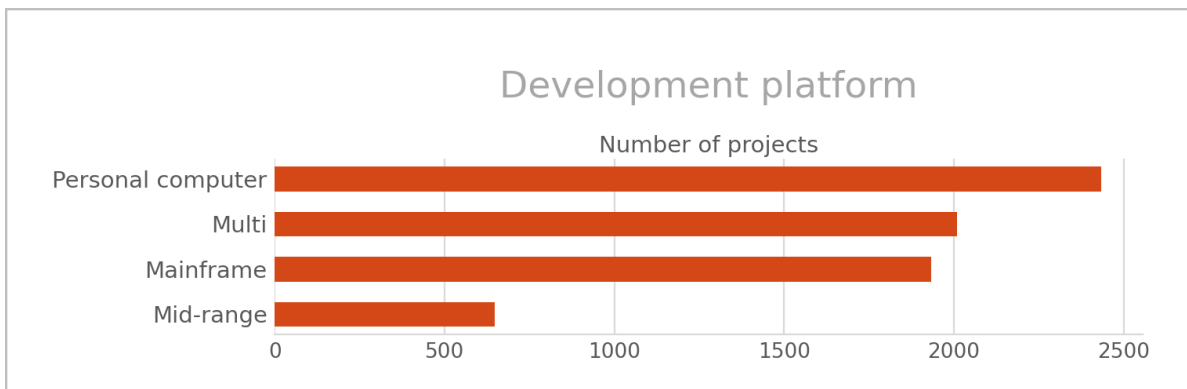


Figure 16 - Demographics development platform

Demographics		
Development platform	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
Personal computer	2435	34.7%
Multi	2010	28.6%
Mainframe	1934	27.5%
Mid-range	647	9.2%
Total	7026	100%

Table 16 - Demographics development platform

Type of programming language

There are many languages recorded in the repository. This can make it difficult to compare some projects. Consequently, languages are classified by type as shown below.

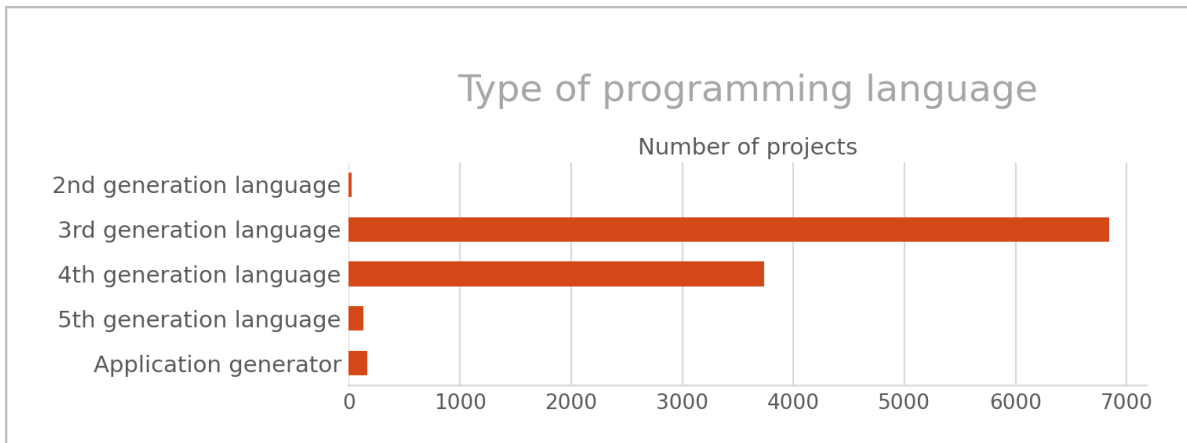


Figure 17 - Demographics type of programming language

Demographics		
Type of programming language	Projects	Percentage
Categories	N	%
2nd generation language	22	0.2%
3rd generation language	6843	62.8%
4th generation language	3737	34.3%
5th generation language	128	1.2%
Application generator	168	1.5%
Total	10898	100%

Table 17 - Demographics type of programming language

Over 160 programming languages are represented in the Repository. 3rd generation languages dominate. 4th generation languages are also very well represented and 5th generation languages such as low-code are starting to get significant number of projects.

Primary programming languages 3rd generation languages

This is the programming language that has been nominated by the project submitter as the primary programming language.

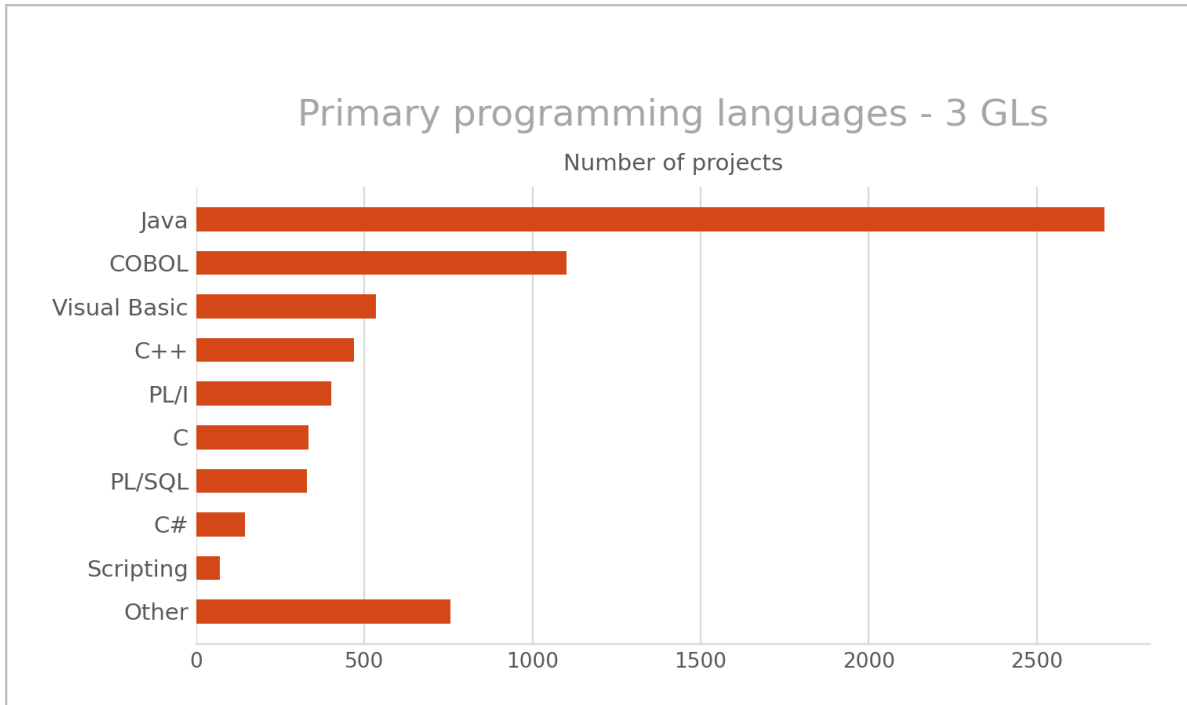


Figure 18 - Demographics primary programming languages 3rd generation languages

Demographics		
Primary programming languages	Projects	Percentage
3rd generation languages	N	%
Java	2700	39.5%
COBOL	1101	16.1%
Visual Basic	534	7.8%
C++	470	6.9%
PL/I	402	5.9%
C	335	4.9%
PL/SQL	329	4.8%
C#	145	2.1%
Scripting	71	1.0%
Other	756	11.0%
Total	6843	100%

Table 18 - Demographics primary programming languages 3rd generation languages

Other 3rd generation languages in the Repository include Python, PHP, TIBCO, Periphonics, HTML, Pro*C, C#.NET, RPG, JavaScript and Smalltalk.

Primary programming languages 4th generation languages

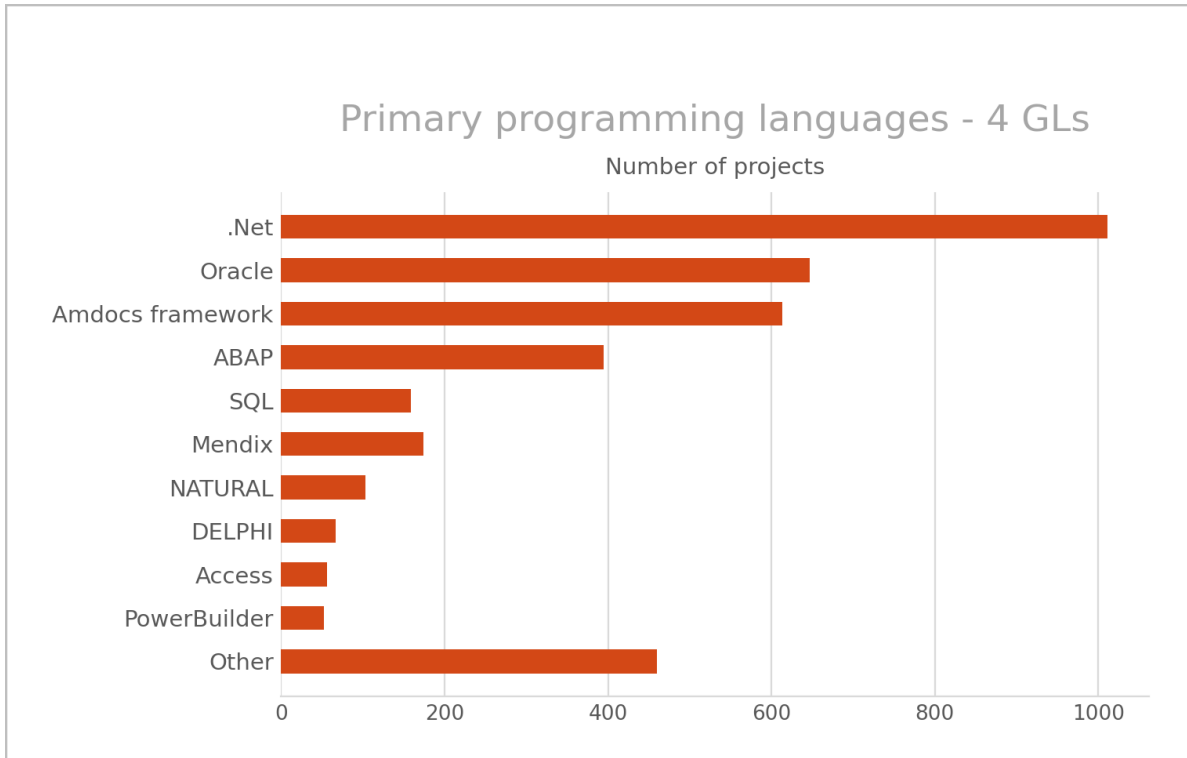


Figure 19 - Demographics primary programming languages 4th generation languages

Demographics		
Primary programming languages	Projects	Percentage
4th generation languages	N	%
.Net	1011	27.1%
Oracle	647	17.3%
Amdocs framework	613	16.4%
ABAP	395	10.6%
SQL	159	4.3%
Mendix	174	4.7%
NATURAL	103	2.8%
DELPHI	67	1.8%
Access	56	1.5%
PowerBuilder	52	1.4%
Other	460	12.3%
Total	3737	100%

Table 19 - Demographics primary programming languages 4th generation languages

Other 4GLs represented in the Repository include Siebel, Lotus Notes, Visual C++, ASP.Net, EASYTRIEVE, FOCUS, CLIPPER and CSP.

Primary programming languages 5th generation languages

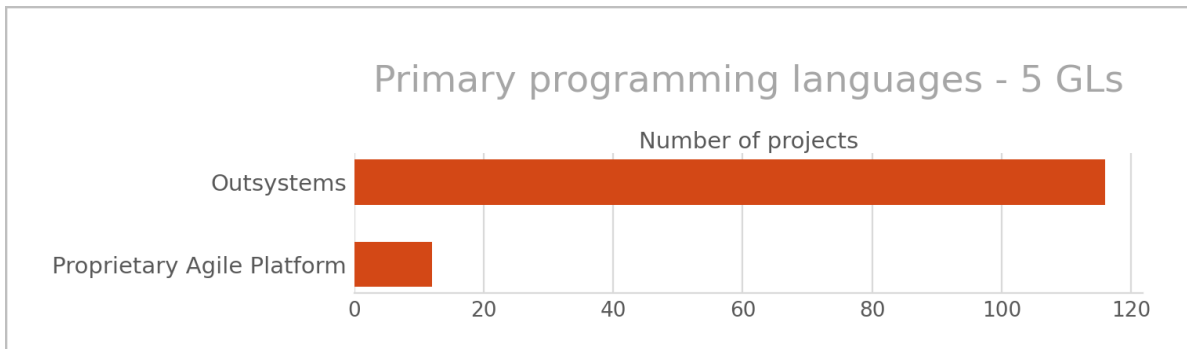


Figure 20 - Demographics primary programming languages 5th generation languages

Demographics		
Application generators	Projects	Percentage
5th generation languages	N	%
Outsystems	116	90.6%
Proprietary Agile Platform	12	9.4%
Total	128	100%

Table 20 - Demographics primary programming languages 5th generation languages

Application generators

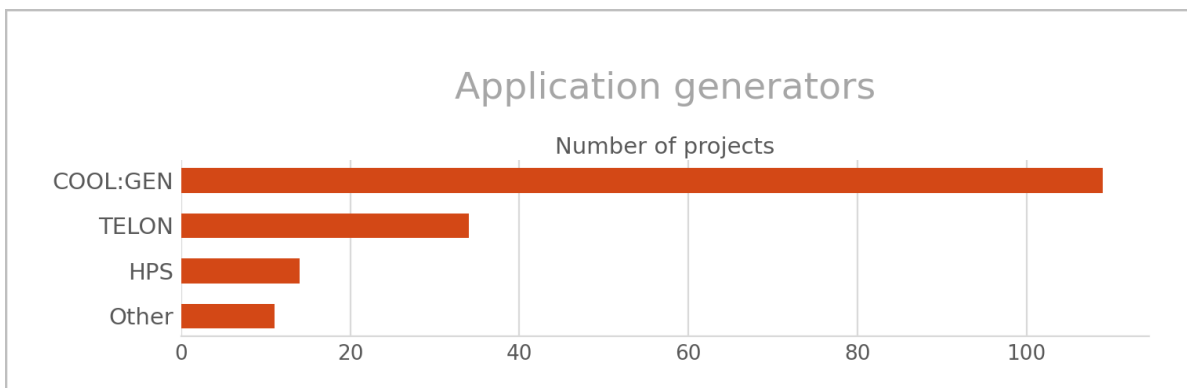


Figure 21 - Demographics application generators

Demographics		
Application generators	Projects	Percentage
Programming languages	N	%
COOL:GEN	109	64.9%
TELON	34	20.2%
HPS	14	8.3%
Other	11	6.5%
Total	168	100%

Table 21 - Demographics application generators

The most recent application generator projects are IVR.

Methodologies and Techniques

These describe the various methodologies and techniques that may have been used during the execution of a project. They have not been related to specific project activities, and therefore may apply to any part of the development lifecycle.

For ISBSG purposes a methodology (Agile, JAD, Waterfall etc.) applies to the whole project development process. This is distinct from techniques (Data Modelling, OO Analysis etc.), which apply to individual activities within the development process.

Some projects mention more than one methodology (e.g. some JAD projects also use RAD and/or timeboxing), and some mention more than one technique.

Methodology

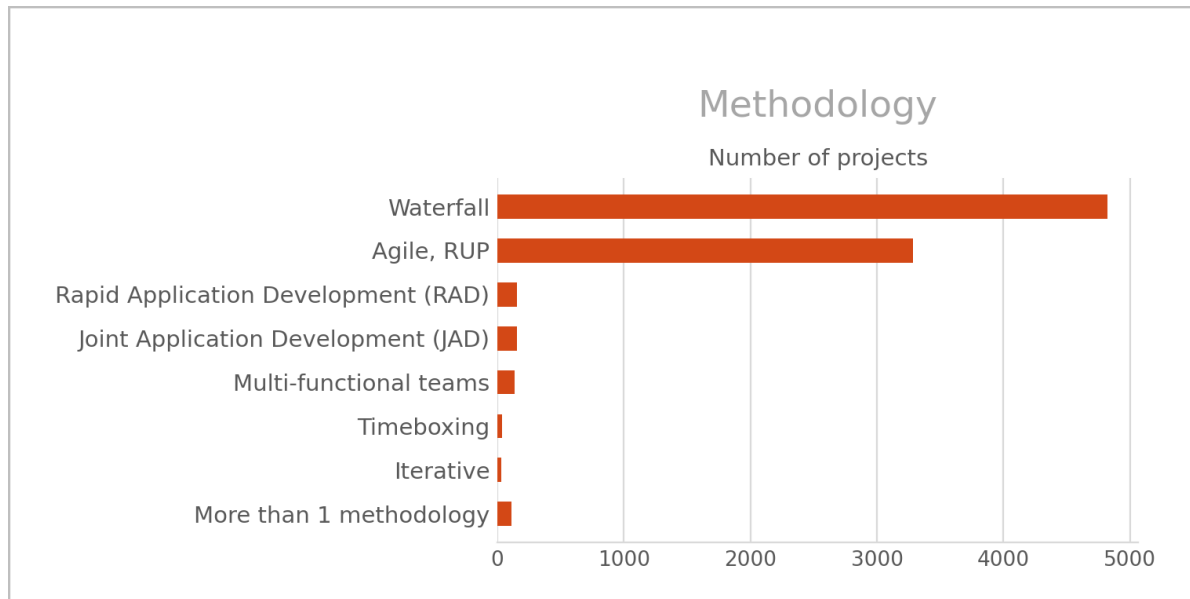


Figure 22 - Demographics methodology

Demographics		
Methodology	Projects	Percentage
Methodology	N	%
Waterfall	4824	55.2%
Agile, RUP	3285	37.6%
Rapid Application Development (RAD)	153	1.8%
Joint Application Development (JAD)	152	1.7%
Multi-functional teams	137	1.6%
Timeboxing	39	0.4%
Iterative	32	0.4%
More than 1 methodology	110	1.3%
Total	8732	100%

Table 22 - Demographics methodology

Of the 152 JAD projects, 37 also mention RAD, 45 also mention multi-functional teams, and 9 also mention timeboxing.

Specification, design and development techniques

The following graph and table combine information from all three of these fields, as well as considering specification documents, and design documents.

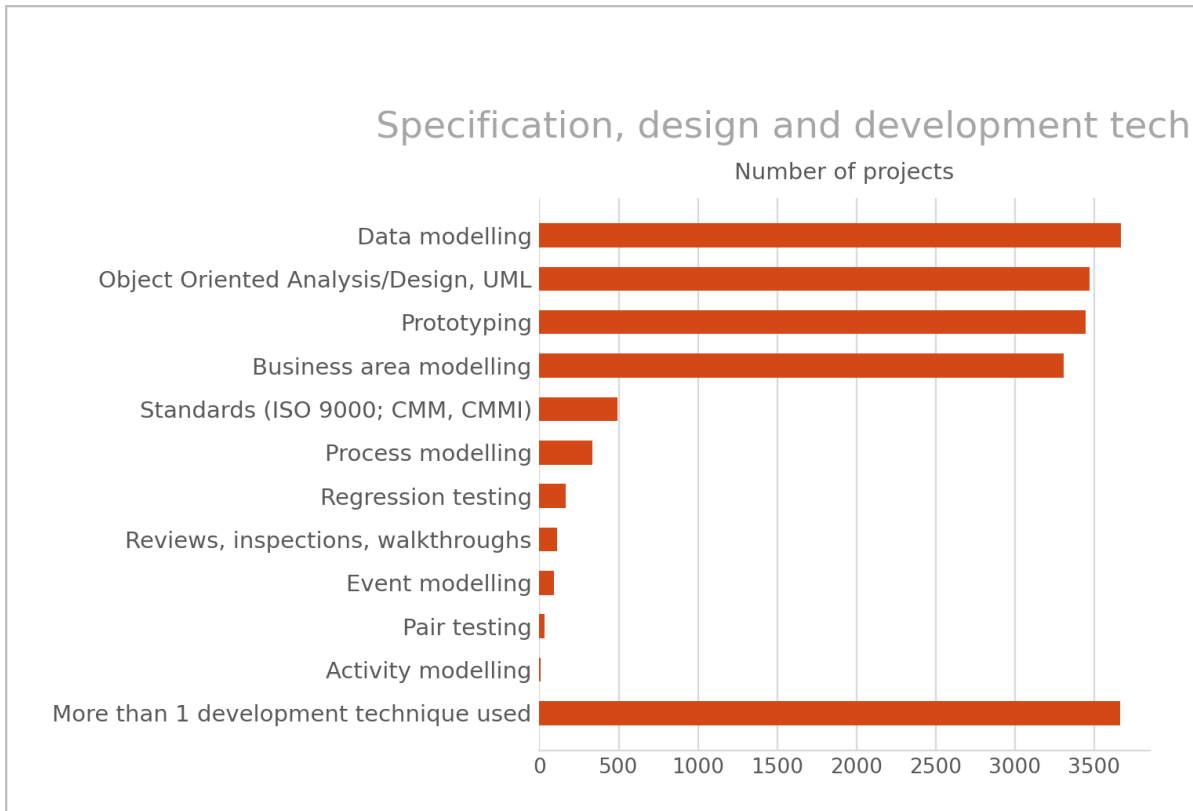


Figure 23 - Demographics specification, design and development

Demographics		
Specification, design and development techniques	Projects	Percentage
Techniques	N	%
Data modelling	3667	24.2%
Object Oriented Analysis/Design, UML	3471	23.0%
Prototyping	3447	22.8%
Business area modelling	3308	21.9%
Standards (ISO 9000; CMM, CMMI)	492	3.3%
Process modelling	332	2.2%
Regression testing	164	1.1%
Reviews, inspections, walkthroughs	111	0.7%
Event modelling	92	0.6%
Pair testing	31	0.2%
Activity modelling	9	0.1%
More than 1 development technique used	3666	24.2%

Table 23 - Demographics specification, design and development

Appendix 1 - ISBSG

The ISBSG is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1997 by a group of national software metrics associations. Their aim was to promote the use of IT industry data to improve software processes and products.

ISBSG is an independent international organization that collects and provides industry data of software development projects and maintenance & support activities in order to help all organizations (commercial and government, suppliers and customers) in the software industry to understand and to improve their performance. ISBSG sets the standards of software data collection, software data analysis and software project benchmarking processes and is considered to be the international thought leader in these practices.

The ISBSG mission is to help YOU and your organization improve the estimation, planning, control and management of your IT software projects and/or maintenance and support contracts.

To achieve this:

ISBSG maintains and grows 2 repositories of IT software development/maintenance & support data. This data originates from trusted, international IT organizations and can be obtained for a modest fee from the website <https://www.isbsg.org/subscriptions/>

Help us to collect data

ISBSG is always looking for new data. In return for your data submission, you receive a free benchmark report that shows the performance in your project or contract against relevant industry peers.

Please submit your data through one of the forms listed on <https://isbsg.org/submit-data/>

Partners

This page will help you to find an ISBSG partner in your country <https://www.isbsg.org/board/>