

# *-Evaluation Questionnaire-*

## **NIOK PhD-Platform**

Dear NIOK PhD student,

The following document shows the results of the questionnaire handed over to all NIOK PhD students during the 10<sup>th</sup> NCCC. The questionnaire resulted in many interesting answers and suggestions. The NIOK PhD Platform (NPP) wants to thank all of you for your contribution. The information obtained will be used to improve the relation between NIOK and its PhD students and the interaction between PhD students themselves.

### **NIOK PhD Platform: What and Why**

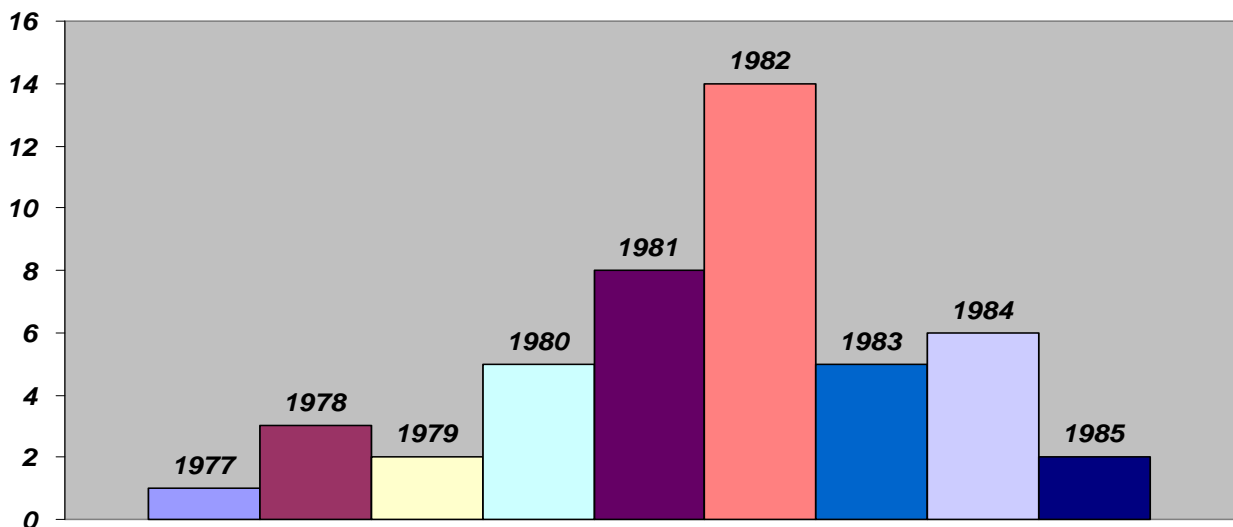
The NIOK PhD Platform (NPP) was officially established during the NCCC in March 2008. The request for the platform came from the board of NIOK itself. According to them and the evaluation of the ECOS committee of the KNAW (Royal Dutch Scientific Academy), the overall participation of PhD students to the NIOK research school needed some improvement.

The NPP has therefore the objective to improve the communication between the NIOK board and the NIOK PhD students, and between the NIOK PhD students themselves.

#### **- General Questions:**

A total of 46 PhD students took the effort to answer the questionnaire. Of this group, 29 (63%) was male and 17 (37%) was female. Of these respondents, 29% was first year PhD student, 26% was second year PhD student, 28% was third year PhD student and 17% was in the fourth year of its PhD. An overview of the age of the participants is shown in the following graph.

***Participants year of birth***



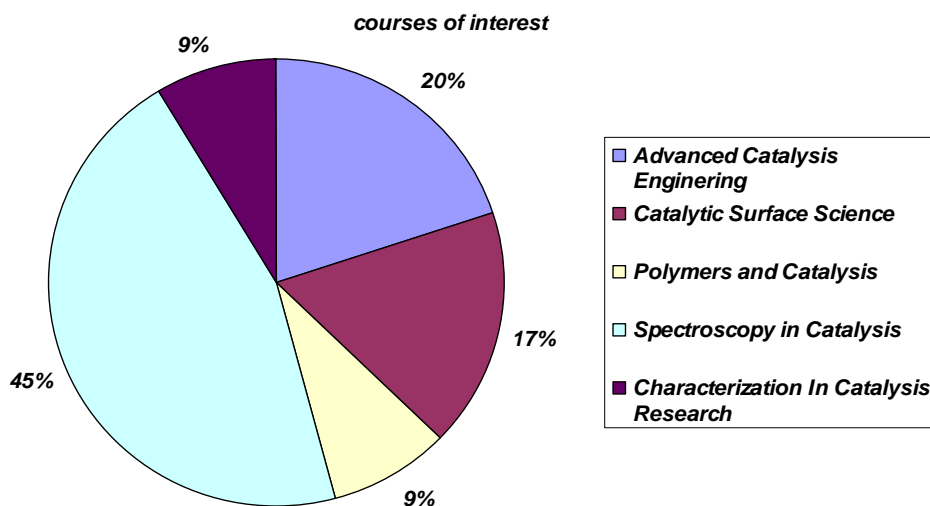
### - Catalysis, an Integrated Approach (CAIA) – Questions:

Out of the 46 responses, 40 (87%) attended the CAIA course. 21 of them passed the course when writing the questionnaire while the others are still waiting for the result of the examination or simply did not pass.

The majority of all participants (62%) wants to follow or has followed additional courses provided by NIOK. Reason for the interest in additional training is/are:

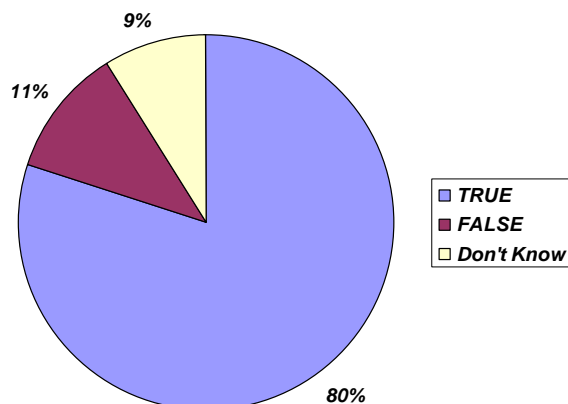
- a) Part of the PhD curriculum / suggested by supervisor (70%)
- b) To expand the knowledge on (new) subject (20%)
- c) To better cover topics highlighted at the CAIA course (10%)

The courses of interest are thereby:

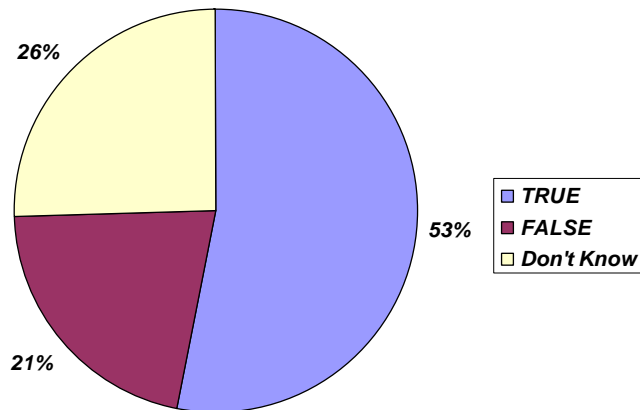


### - NIOK Certificate - Questions:

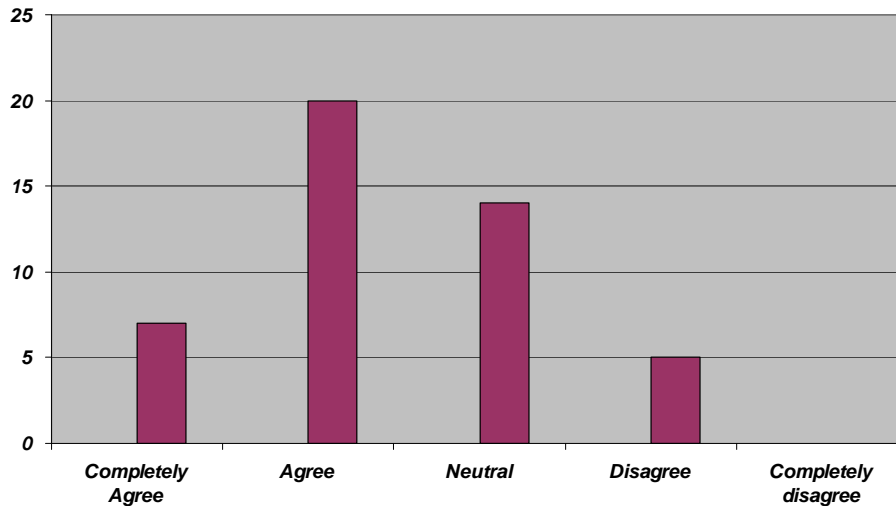
A NIOK PhD student has to follow the CAIA course in order to obtain his NIOK Certificate.



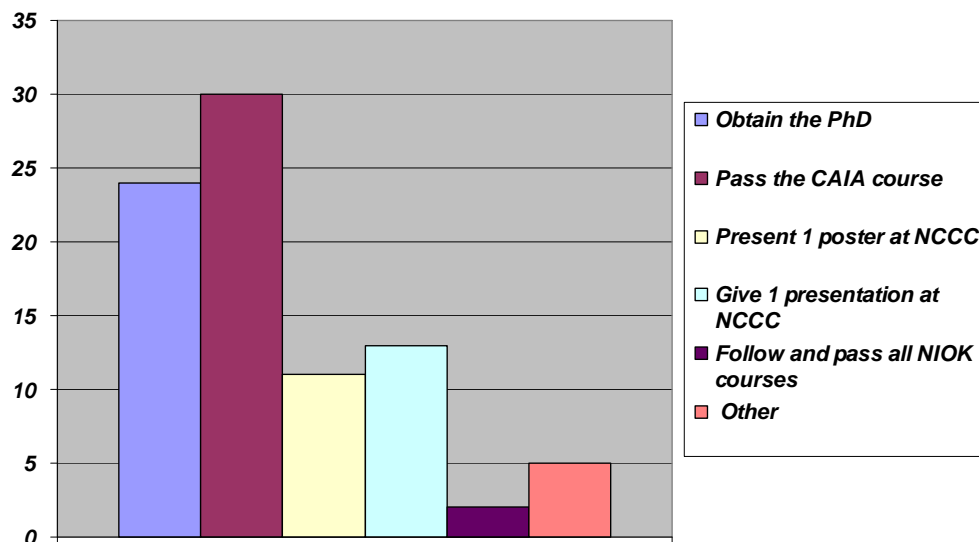
A NIOK PhD student has to pass the CAIA course in order to obtain his NIOK Certificate.



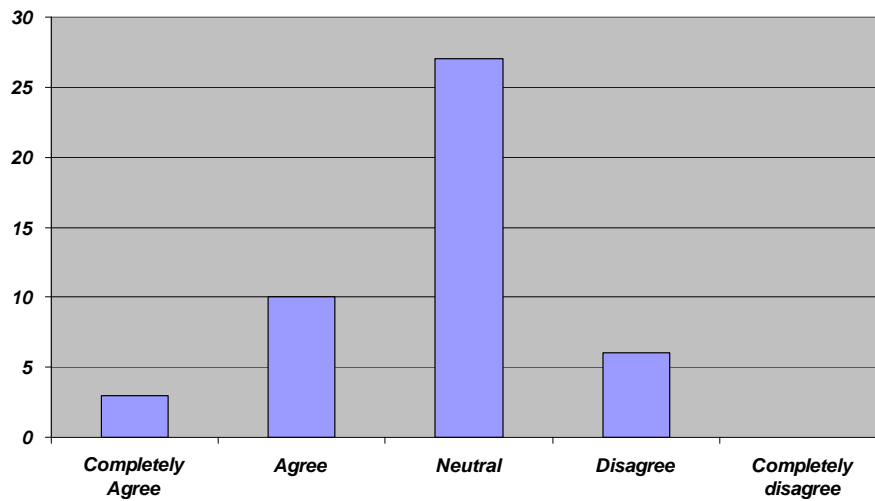
The CAIA course gives an additional value to my PhD



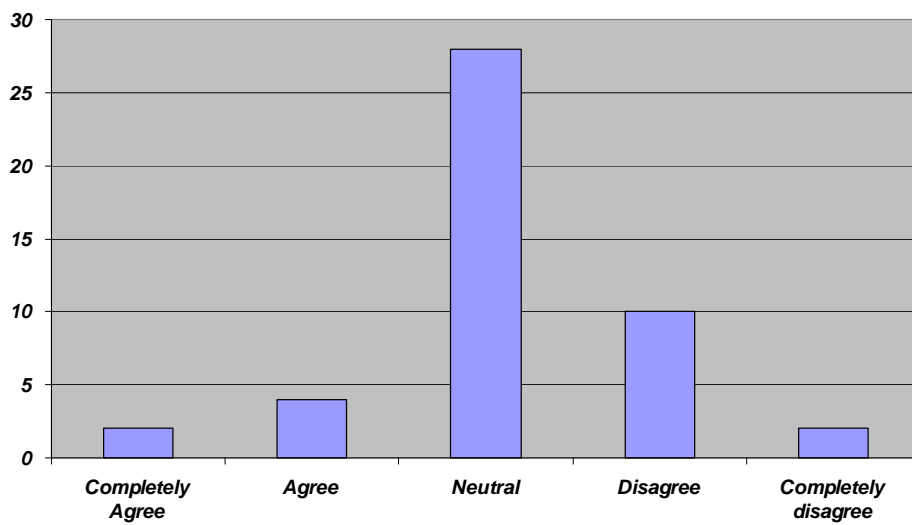
What are the requirements to obtain a NIOK certificate? (Most answers where to obtain a PhD at a NIOK related group *in combination with one* of the additional possibilities)



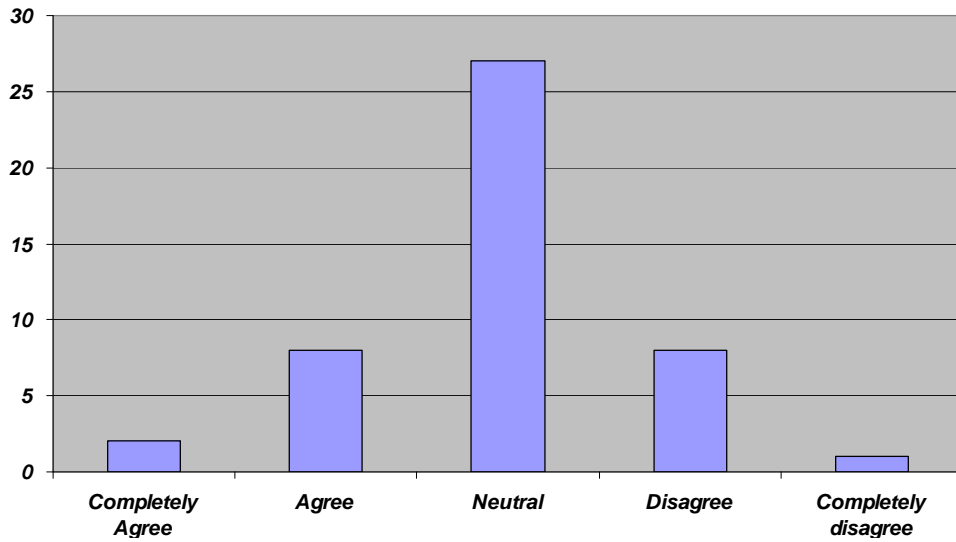
The NIOK certificate has an added value for applying to an academic position in the Netherlands



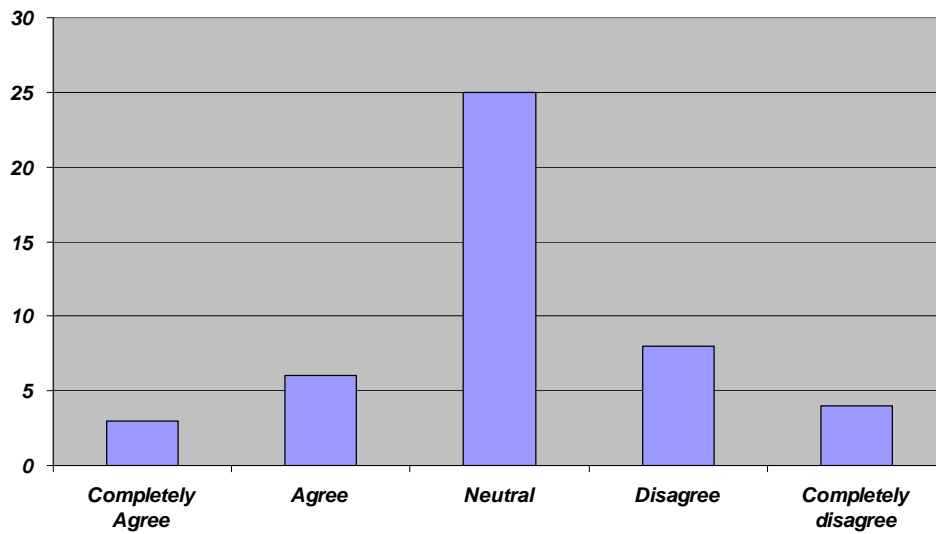
The NIOK certificate has an added value for applying to an academic position outside the Netherlands



The NIOK certificate has an added value for applying to an industrial position in the Netherlands

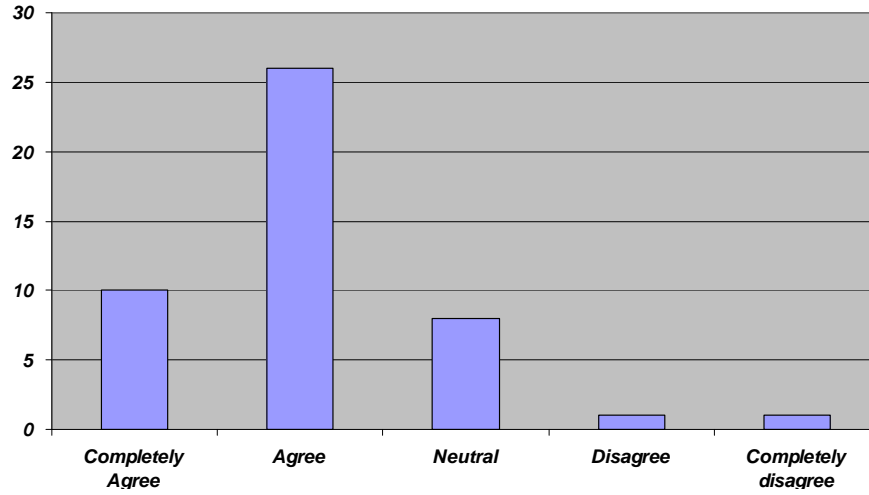


The NIOK certificate has an added value for applying to an industrial position outside the Netherlands

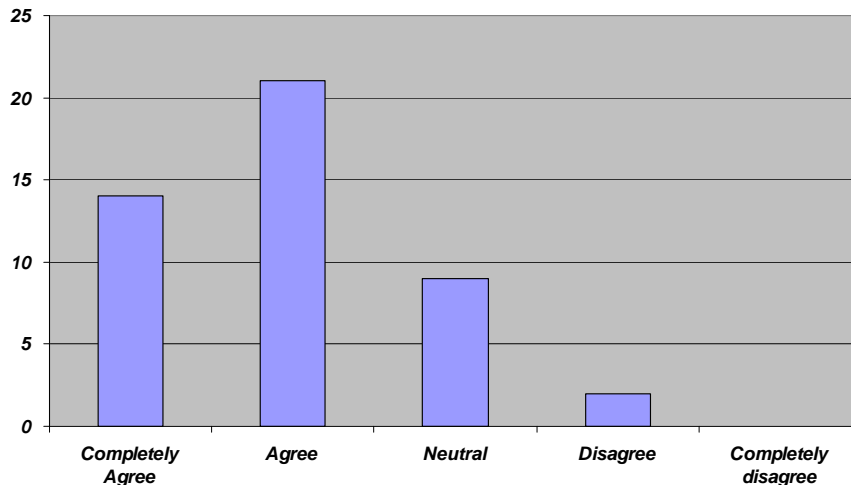


**- NIOK PhD Platform Questions:**

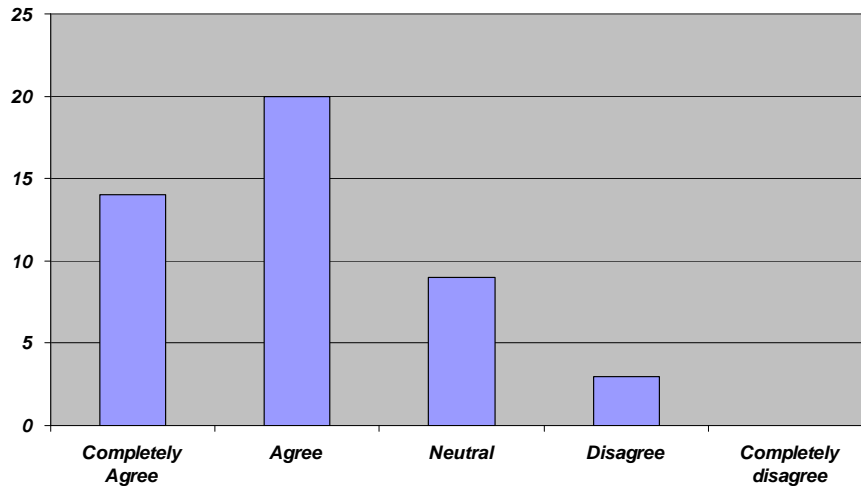
Should the NPP encourage social activities for PhD students?



Should the NPP encourage interaction between PhD students and industry?



Should the NPP encourage events with a scientific content for PhD Students?



### **- Suggestions for the NPP:**

Many suggestions have been made. And we thank all of you for that. We summarize the suggestions as follows:

- a) To arrange more interactive meetings with NIOK PhD students from other universities in order to improve the network between the PhD's.  
(Examples given: bonding activities, non scientific meetings like borrels etc)
- b) Organize lectures from foreign scientists / NIOK PhD invited lecturer at selected events
- c) To organize company visits
- d) To create a News Letter that keeps you up to date with NIOK
- e) Organize 'events' during CAIA and NCCC in order to learn knowing each other
- f) To organize post CAIA reunion
- g) To create a database containing NIOK exams and answers

### **Summary:**

- The NPP should organize scientific, career and social events.
- From the questionnaire it is clear that PhD student's do not really know what courses NIOK provides, what they are about and when they are given.
- Almost everybody agrees that it is obligatory to follow the CAIA course and that it gives an additional value to the PhD track. However, it remains unclear if passing the course is a requirement for obtaining the NIOK certificate, what else is required for obtaining the certificate and what advantages such a certificate has.
- The NPP is also working on some of the suggestions made. We are currently writing a news letter. The organization of the NIOK Soccer Tournament with barbeque is a social event that has the objective to improve the interaction between NIOK PhD students. We are also working on the organization of a company visit. We will keep you up-to-date on that.

**On behalf of the NPP: Dirk Renckens (Chairman), Sergio Pacheco (Treasurer) and Davide Mores (Secretary)**