

## **Early and mid-career researcher networks**

*Preliminary analysis (November 2025)*

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Input on early career networks of the unions and associations is currently being captured in [this spreadsheet](#).

### **Background and process**

During the June 2025 Unions and Associations roundtable, six organisations presented their networks of early career researchers. As a follow-up to that meeting, Unions and Associations were encouraged to submit the details of their early career networks and/or structures in the shared spreadsheets (linked above).

### **ANALYSIS**

#### **1. Survey completion**

As of 23 November, 18 out of 53 Unions and Associations had responded to questions in the spreadsheet.

#### **2. Prevalence of early career networks**

11/18 have an early career network, 4/18 don't, and the other 3 are either in the process of establishing a network or may have missed the question.

#### **3. Characteristics of the early career networks**

##### **Size:**

The smallest networks have 13 – 20 members, but most networks have a few hundred participants.

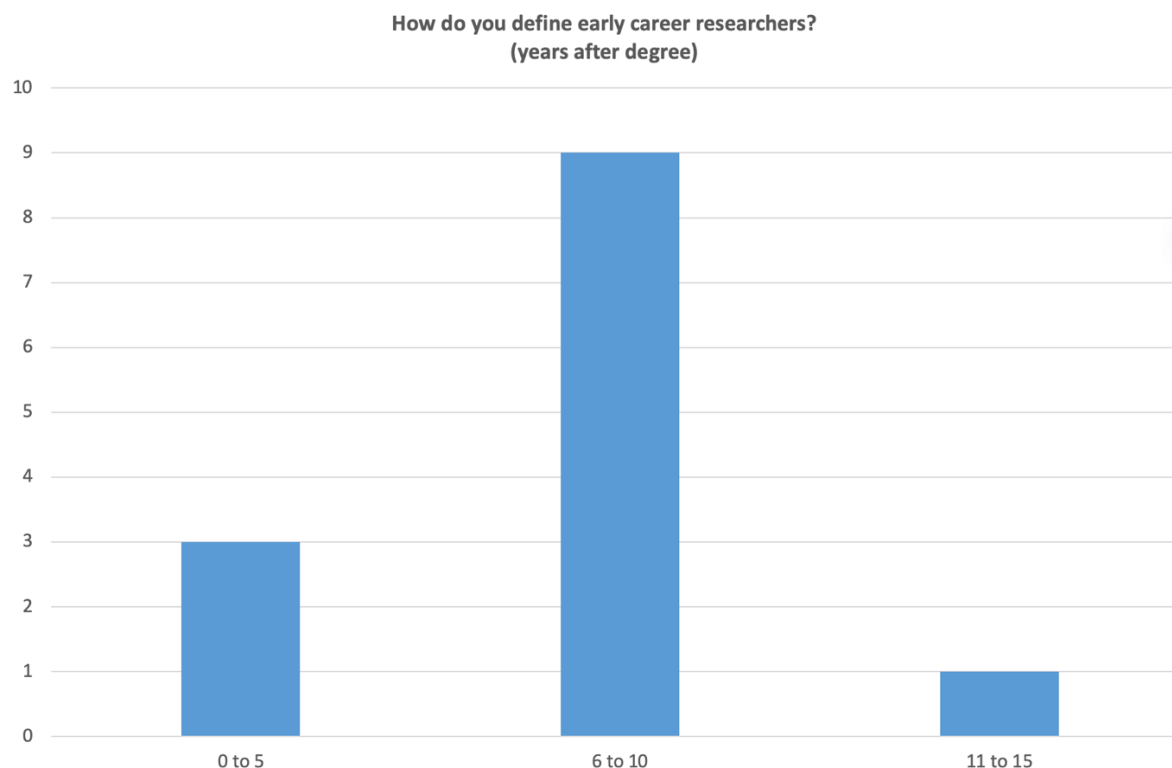
##### **Establishment:**

Five (5) networks were established prior to 2020, with the oldest being the Young Surveyors Network (FIG), established in 2006. Six (6) networks were established after 2020.



#### 4. “Definition” of early career

Most unions and associations define early career within some timeframe after degree. In some cases this is a postgraduate degree (p/g), and in some cases just the last degree acquired. The International Federation of Surveyors- FIG has a dual requirement of 10 years since graduation (unsure if this is u/g, p/g) and being under the age of 35 years. The histogram below shows the frequency of a given definition of early career among the survey respondents.



#### 5. Support for early career researchers

16 of the responding organizations have support mechanisms for early career researchers. These range from targeted prizes to support for conference travel. Many organisations have a number of awards and prizes available to early career researchers. Some organisations have ECRs as a group eligible for funding similar to other sub-areas of the discipline.

In the wish list of mechanisms and partnerships to support early career researchers, the following ideas were listed:

- industry partnerships
- publication fee waivers
- International networking mechanisms within and across disciplines
- small research grants
- university partnerships



**6. Other comments:**

- a. The realisation that “early career” was not just about research, with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) noting that “many of the associations affiliated with the IUGS have EMCR groups within them.
- b. Many of our affiliates are professional societies, hence the term EC used without the ‘research’ bit”.
- c. That the partnerships with ECRs made the International Commission on Illumination (CIE) more visible and to demonstrate the value of CIE value to “academics and their university administrators”.