

The issue

Large-scale events enable social exchange, cultural innovation, political participation and social-psychological relief. However, a convincing concept for their reopening has not been found yet. This is also due to the interacting social, technical, and organizational components that have been making event planning and implementation complex even before the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Both approving authorities and event organizers are uncertain about safe, manageable, and socially acceptable concepts for the reopening of events.

The aim

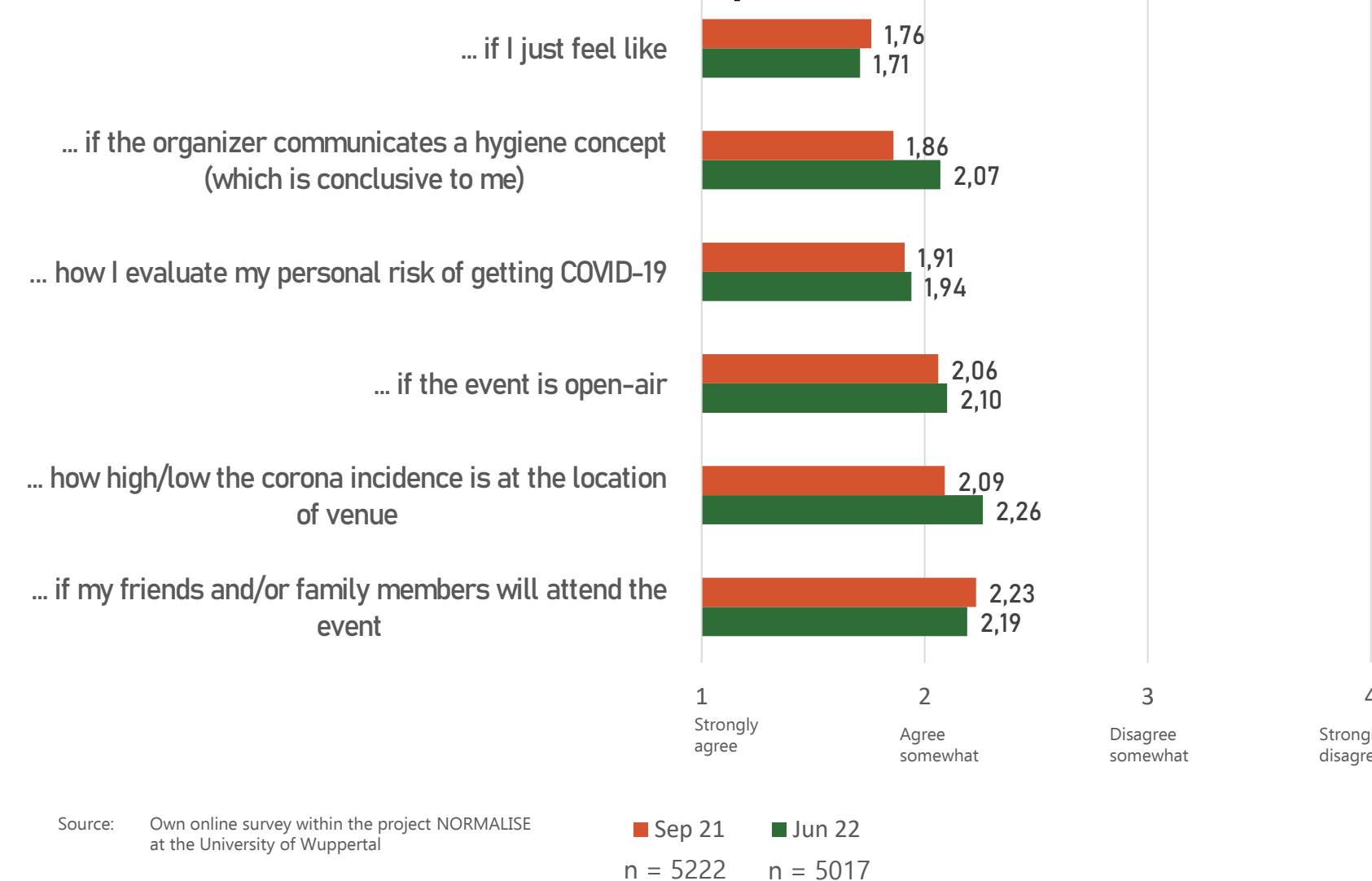
- To assess
- the compliance of the German population to non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) for infection protection at large events
 - (unwanted) interactions between hygiene and safety measures



Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) are health-related interventions that aim to prevent and/or control the transmission of a pathogen such as SARS CoV-2 in the population.

a) Compliance to NPI in the context of events

My decision to attend an event under Corona conditions depends on...

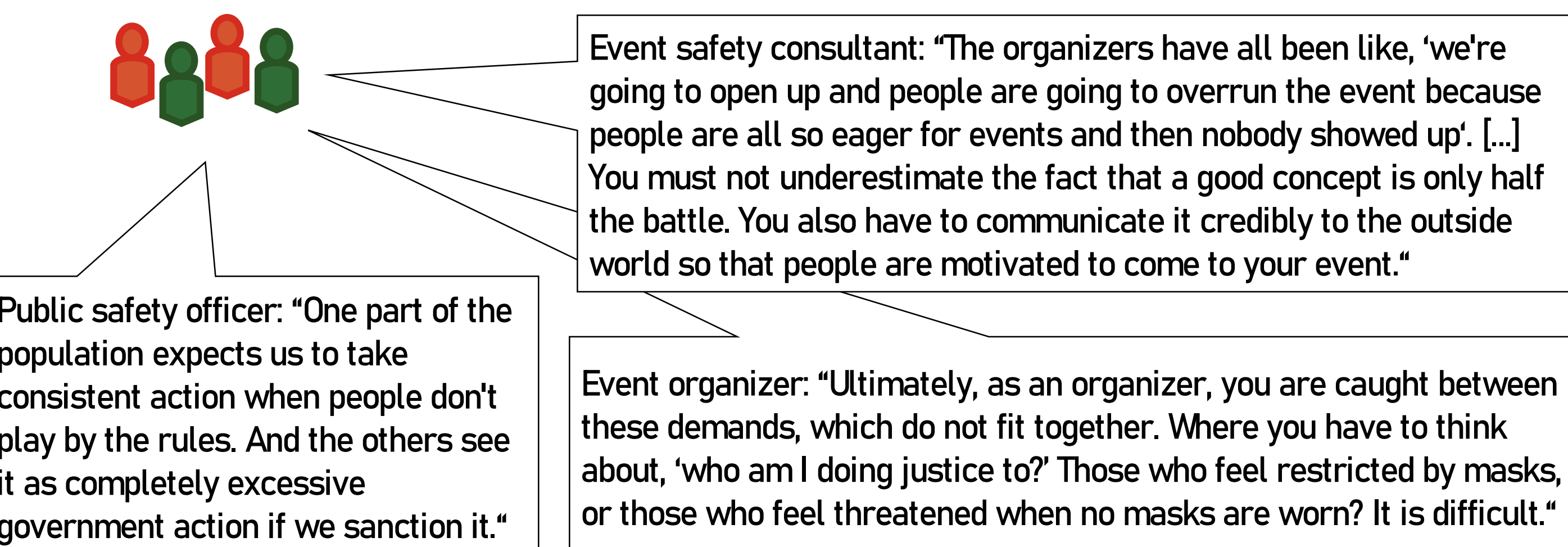
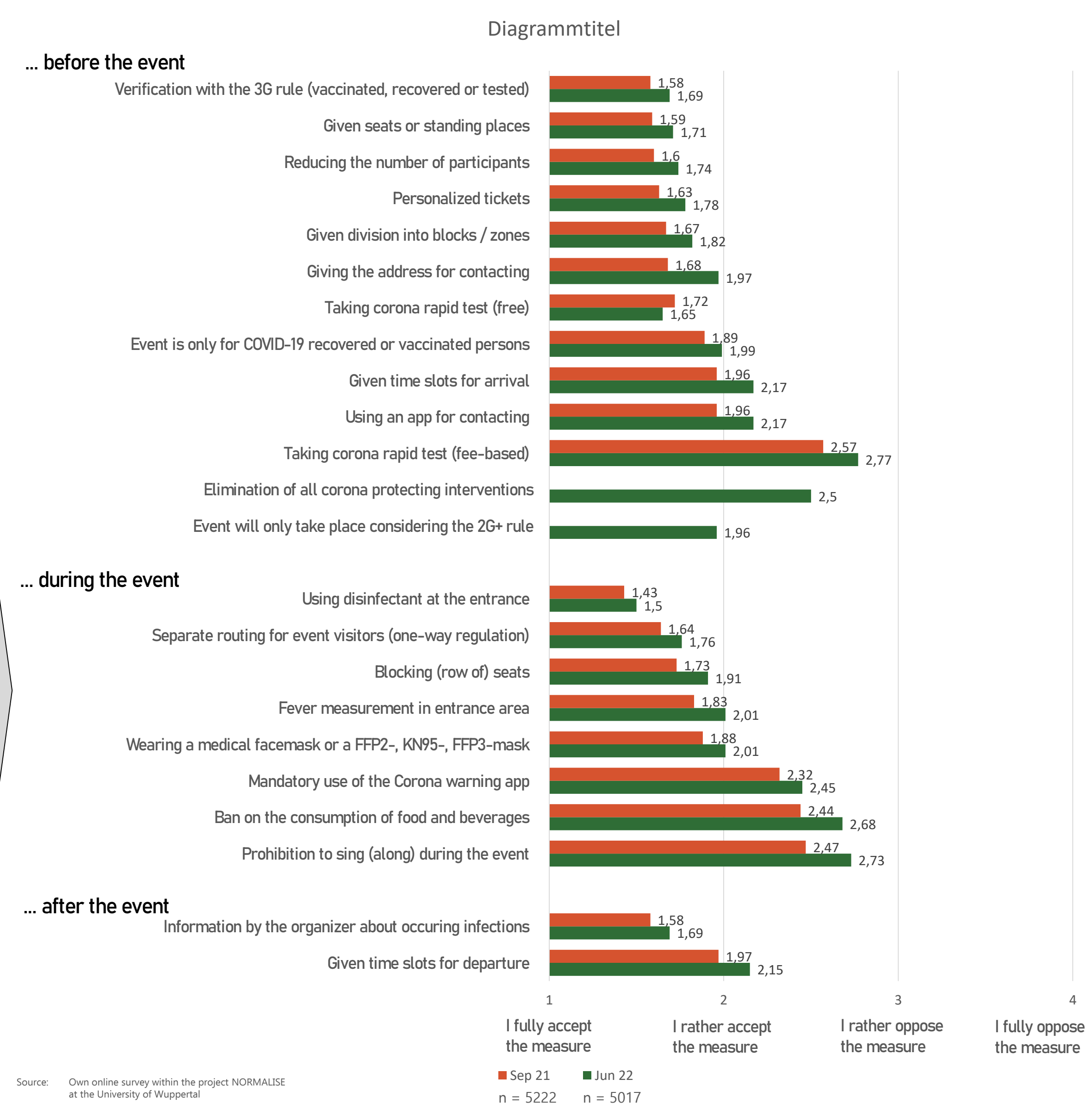


When deciding to attend an event, participants attach great importance to a coherent hygiene concept.

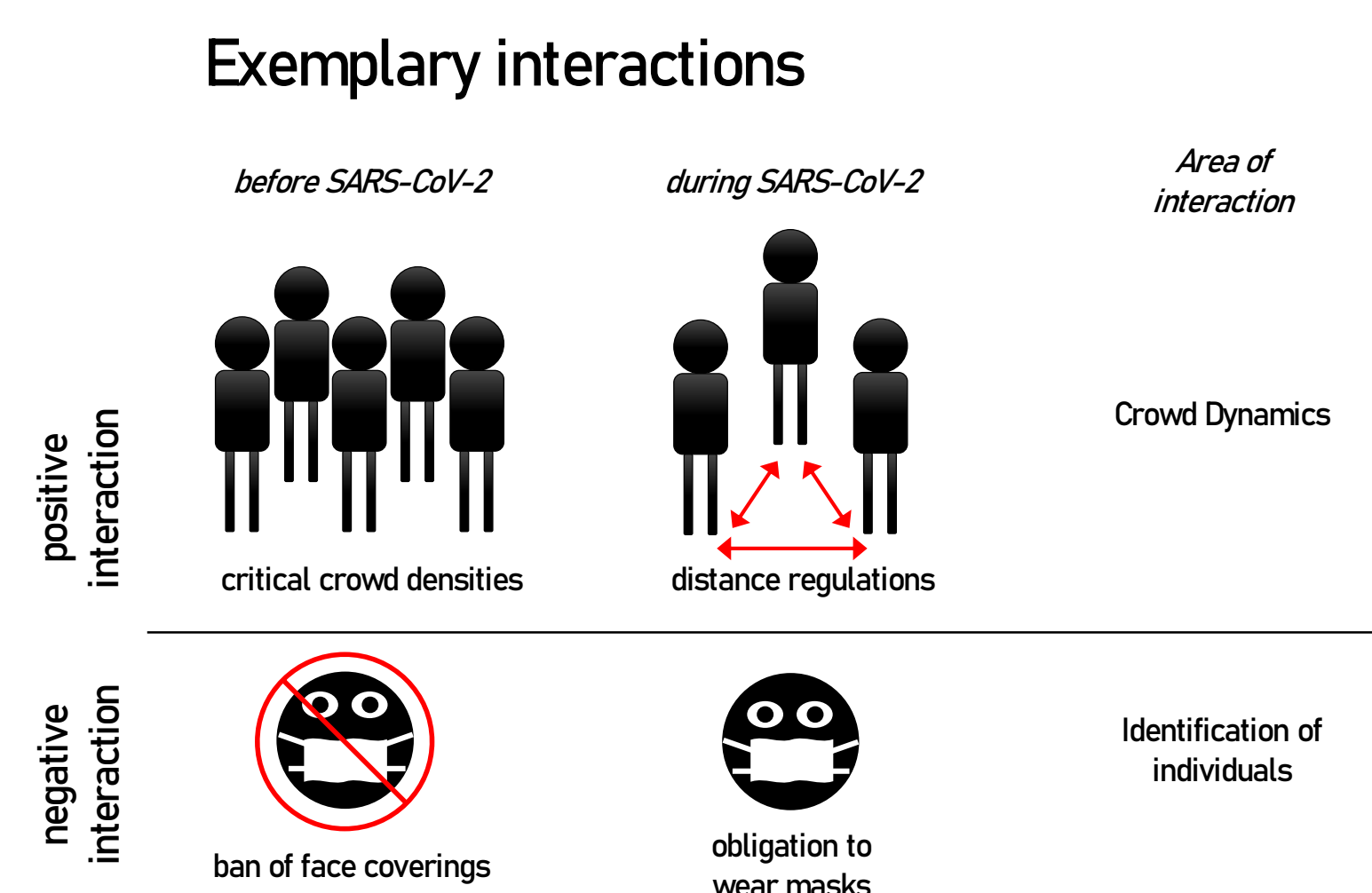
Overall, the reasons for deciding to attend an event under SARS-CoV-2 conditions become less significant in June 2022, with the only exception being whether there is simply a desire to attend an event again.

Participants were asked about their acceptance of specific NPI before, during and after the start of the event.

Overall, respondents were slightly more likely to accept the NPI in September 2021 than in June 2022, with exceptions for individual measures.



b) Interactions between hygiene and safety/security measures



Event safety consultant: "Many events have simply not come about at all because there is simply this tension between the security authority and the health authority."

There is a certain risk that pandemic circumstances lead to a narrowing of perspective for the assumed benefit of hygiene, weakening the overall level of event safety, given that resources for safety and health are limited. Another issue is the tendency of authorities as well as event organizers towards a "more is better" mentality, resulting in good-looking concepts and superficially hygienic events. A source of uncertainty is the lack of validated knowledge of single and combined health safety measures and their interaction with the overall system. It could be a more promising approach for event organizers to implement a leaner, but holistic, and stable safety architecture.

Public safety officer: "[There is a] subconscious impression in some professionals that these requirements from the hygiene measures are so ambitious that they are very focused on them. And maybe not even intentionally, [...] other points quickly fall behind."

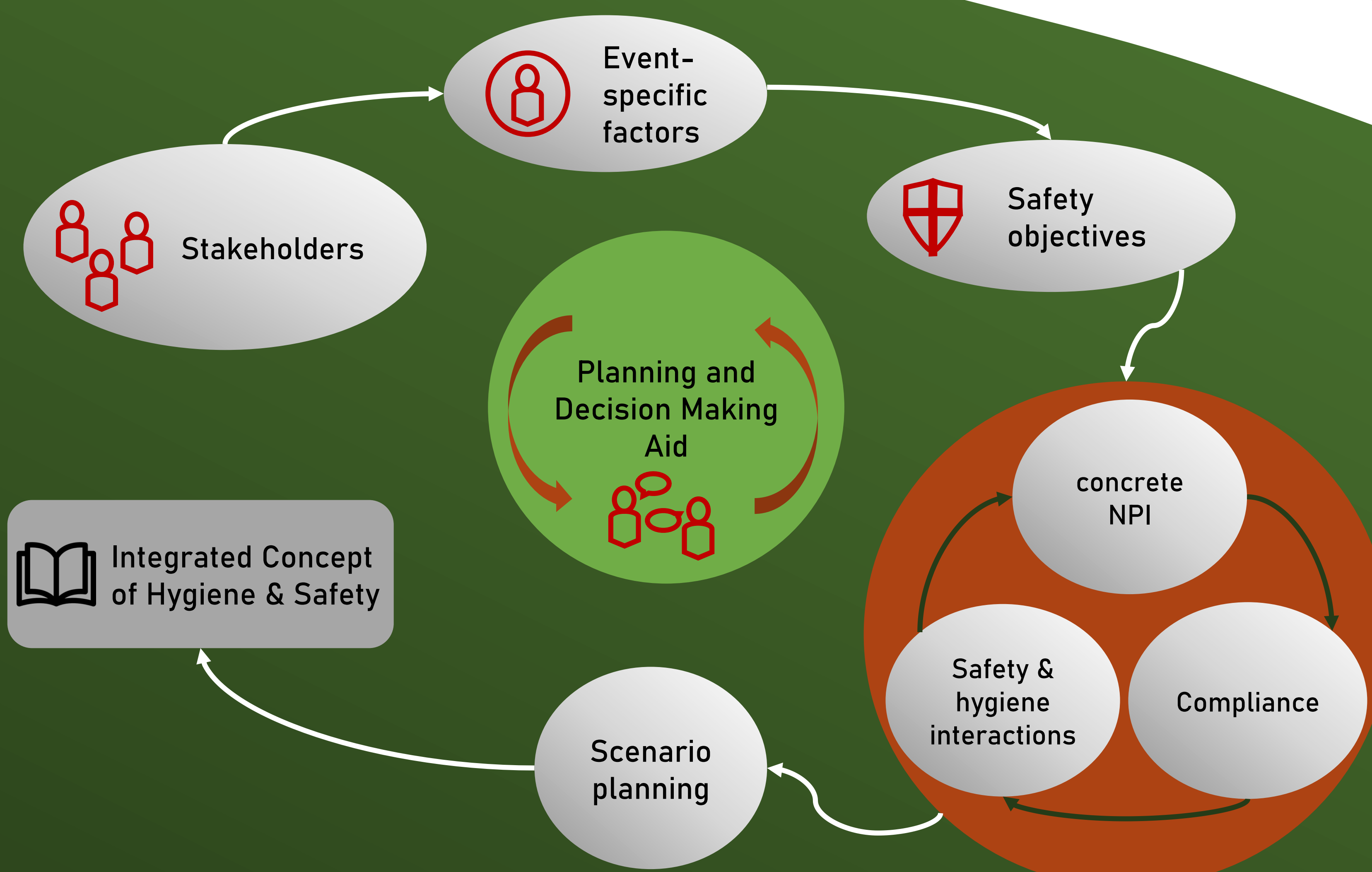
Methods used

- Interviews with relevant stakeholders
- Field observations at events
- Document analysis of hygiene concepts
- Representative surveys

Planning and decision making aid

Based on our research data, the aim of the planning and decision making aid is to be useful for event approval procedures. Target groups are approval authorities and event organizers.

It cannot be ruled out that, in the event of a change in the pandemic situation, the planning and implementation of major events will again be restricted. Due to the economic, cultural and social significance of events, operation under certain conditions is preferable to a temporary, complete ban on events, as long as the health and safety of visitors can be guaranteed to a certain extent by means of NPI.



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