8th Annual *ecopa* Workshop

"Potential improvement in the development of alternative methods: Needs in risk assessment of new technologies and their products vs. use of alternatives"

Sheraton Airport Hotel, Brussels
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8th Annual *ecopa* Workshop

INTERMEZZO

The *ecopa*, Eurogroup and P&G Analysis:

A Review of National Public Funding Programmes for 3Rs Alternatives in Europe

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Overview

- Background on drivers for funding

- Objectives of the national survey

- Survey methodology

- Survey results

- Summary and conclusions

- Acknowledgements

Drivers for Funding 3Rs Research

- Increased interest in developing and validating methods based on the concept of the 3Rs over last two decades.

- Directive 86/609 states that EU Member States should encourage the development of new alternatives.

- An additional stimulus was the campaign against testing cosmetics that resulted in EU legislation.

- REACh (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) highlighted the need for progress in order to reduce the large projected animal use (see *ecopa* CONAM).

- An explicit objective of REACh is now the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances.

- Under REACh, the Commission must publish a report every 5 years on funding of alternatives. The first report is due 2012.

Survey Objectives

- Sources of funding for research in alternatives at present are varied e.g., European Commission (under the FPs), Industry (via programmes such as SCAAT) and national governments.

- Information on 3Rs research spending by national governments is incomplete and a recent comprehensive overview is lacking.

- The aim of this current project was to establish the state of national public support in the EU and Switzerland and Norway.

- The project was carried out under the aegis of the Eurogroup for Animals and *ecopa* with support from P&G.

- Aim is to assist both the European Commission and Member States in better planning and cooperation in 3Rs research.

Survey Methodology (1)

- Questionnaire drawn up with the European Commission (including ECVAM, DG Research & DG Environment), Eurogroup for Animals, *ecopa* and representatives from industry.

- Designed to establish the extent of government funding and also funding from other sources (e,g., Commission, Industry & NGOs).

- Also collated was information on

  - the existence of a national strategy on alternatives research,

  - the focus of any such strategies,

  - the research priority setting process,

  - stakeholder consultation in that process,

  - project funding preferences or limits,

  - coordination mechanisms &

  - the separation of responsibilities of competent authorities (i.e., research support, animal welfare and chemicals).

Survey Methodology (2)

- Research into 3Rs includes *in-vitro* and non-animal replacement procedures, as well as research into refinement and reduction.

- Following receipt of the completed questionnaires, the responses were evaluated and summarised according to a set of harmonised responses to facilitate statistical analysis.

- Each summary was then returned to the original respondents for confirmation.

- Tabulated responses and a summary have been compiled for each of the co-operating countries.

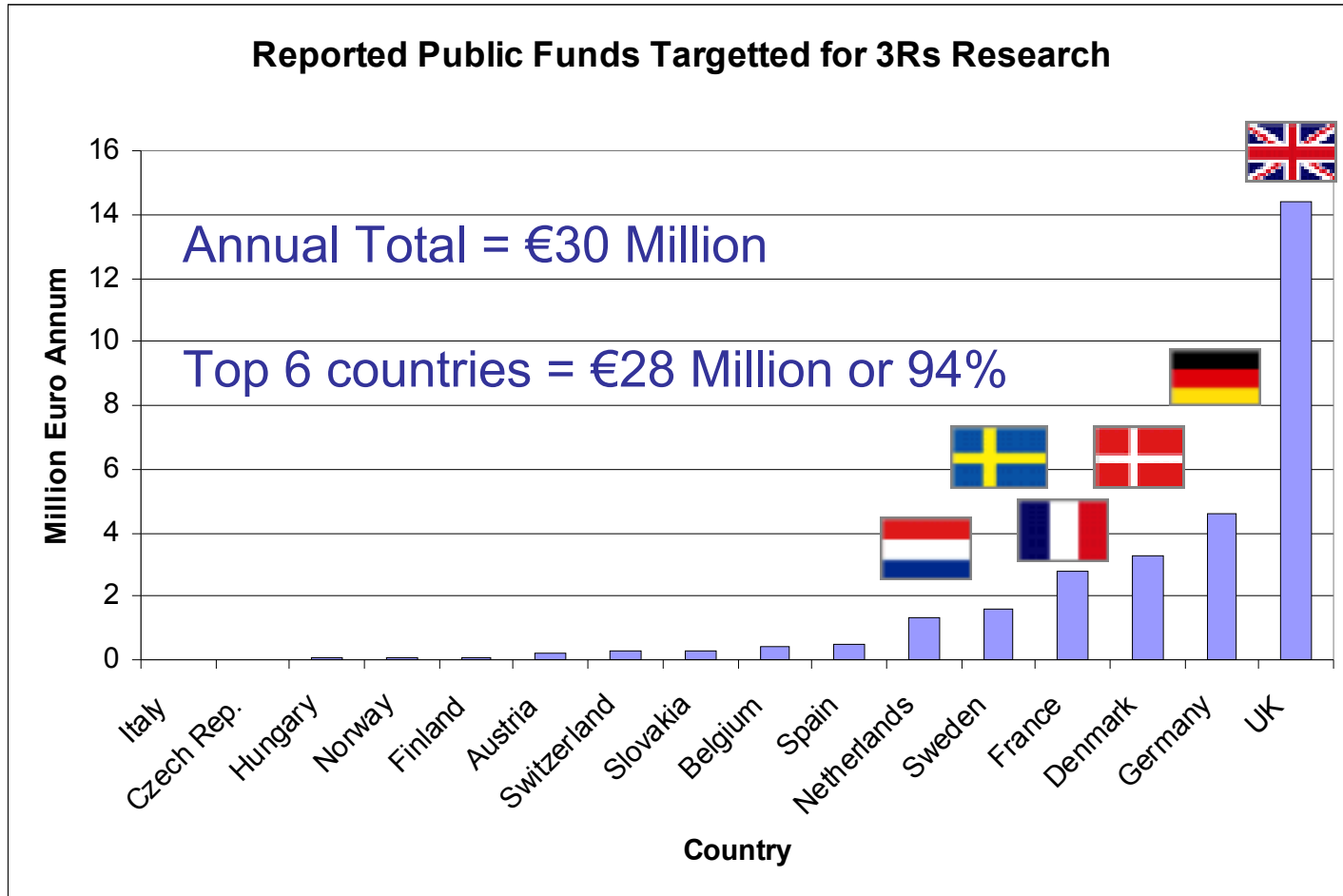- A breakdown and analysis of the overall results was also conducted.

Questionnaire Responses (National Agencies or Platforms)
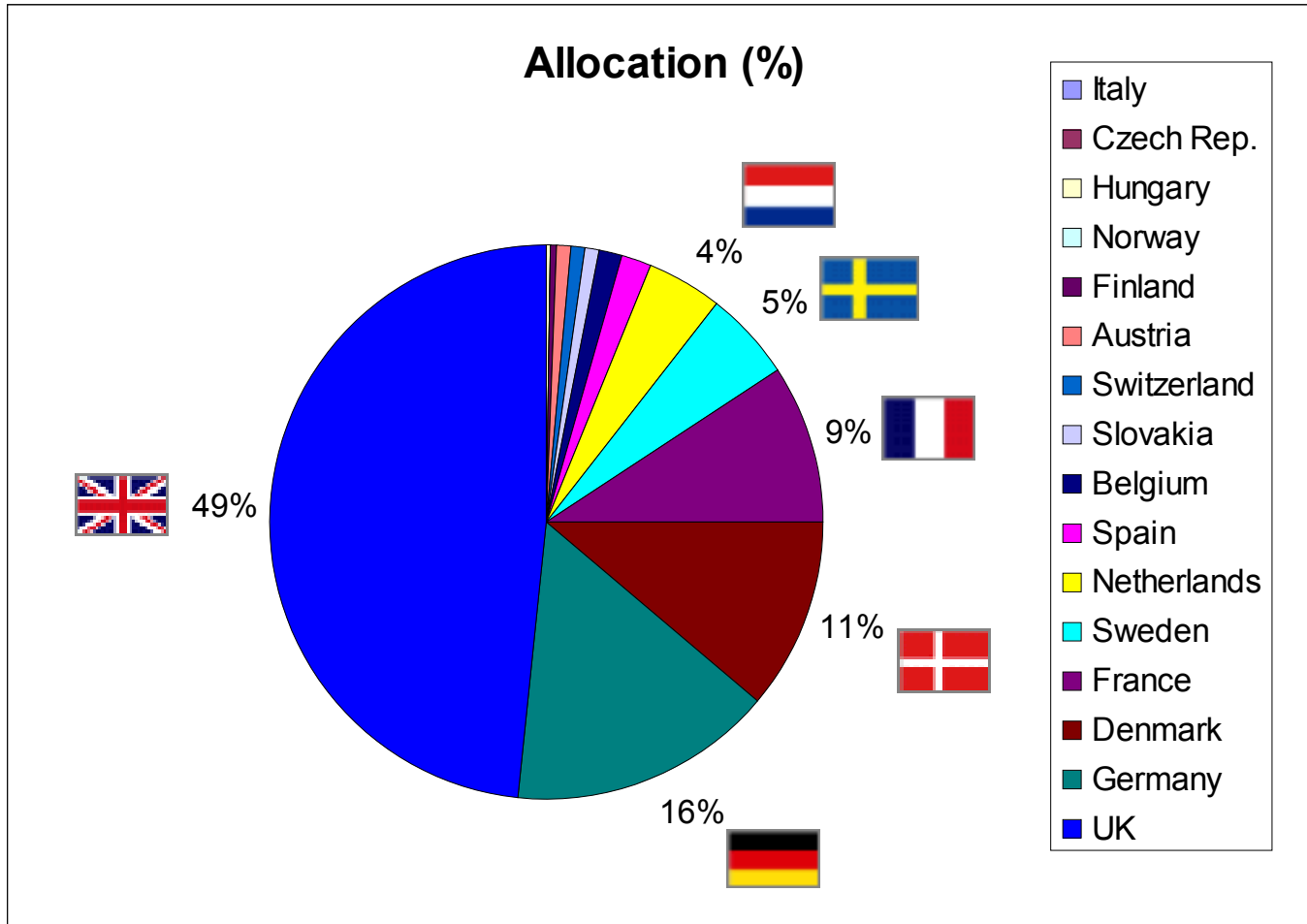
Responses from 16 Countries;
- Austria
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

Reported Public Funds for 3Rs Research

Reported Public Funds Targetted for 3Rs Research

Annual Total = €30 Million

Top 6 countries = €28 Million or 94%

Relative Importance of Allocation of Pubic Funds for 3Rs Research

Allocation (%)

49% — UK
16% — Germany (flag)
11% — Denmark (flag)
9% — France (flag)
5% — Sweden (flag)
4% — Netherlands (flag)

Legend:
- Italy
- Czech Rep.
- Hungary
- Norway
- Finland
- Austria
- Switzerland
- Slovakia
- Belgium
- Spain
- Netherlands
- Sweden
- France
- Denmark
- Germany
- UK

Allocation for 3Rs Funding

- 19% of countries reported no specific allocation

- 69% of countries reported a specific allocation

- 12% of countries reported indirect support
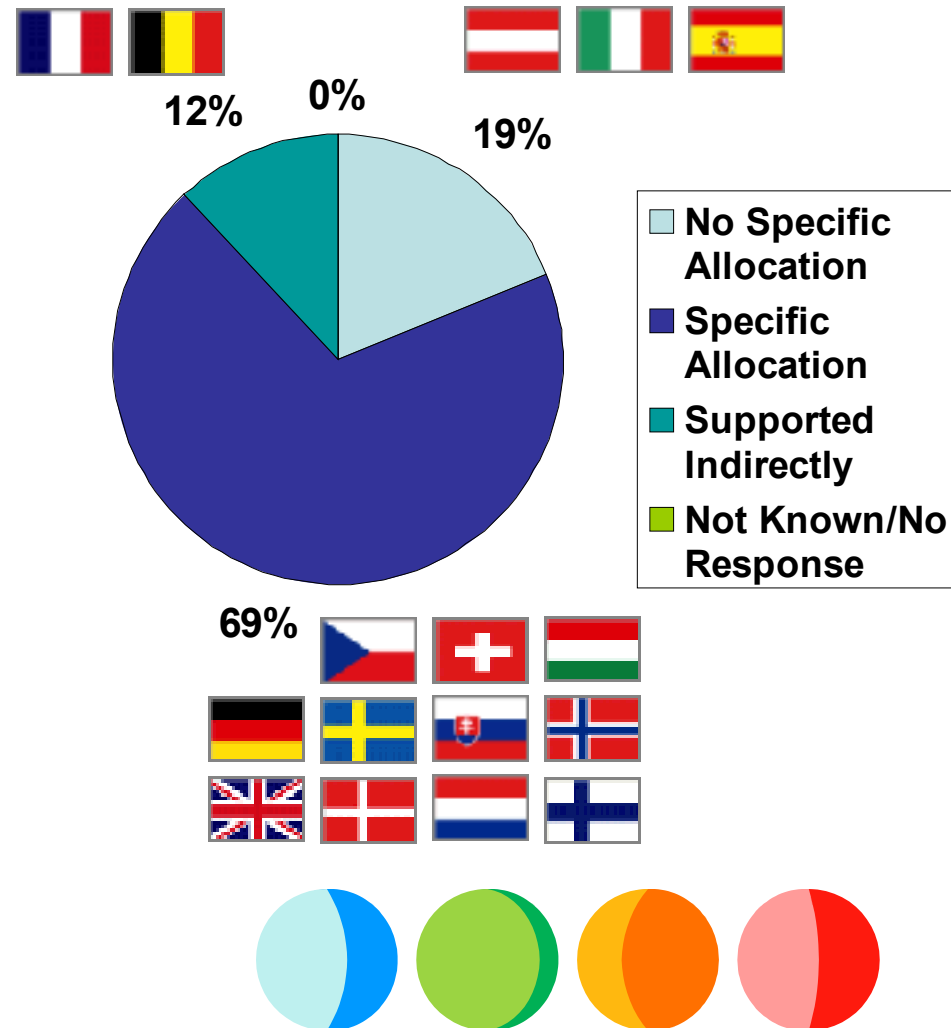
Mechanisms to Match EU Funding

- Half of the countries reported no systematic policy

- 12% of countries reported a policy to avoid co-funding

- 19% of countries reported there was a policy to match funding

19%

19%

50%

12%

Legend:
- No Policy on Matched Funds
- Policy to Avoid Co-funding
- Policy to Match Funding
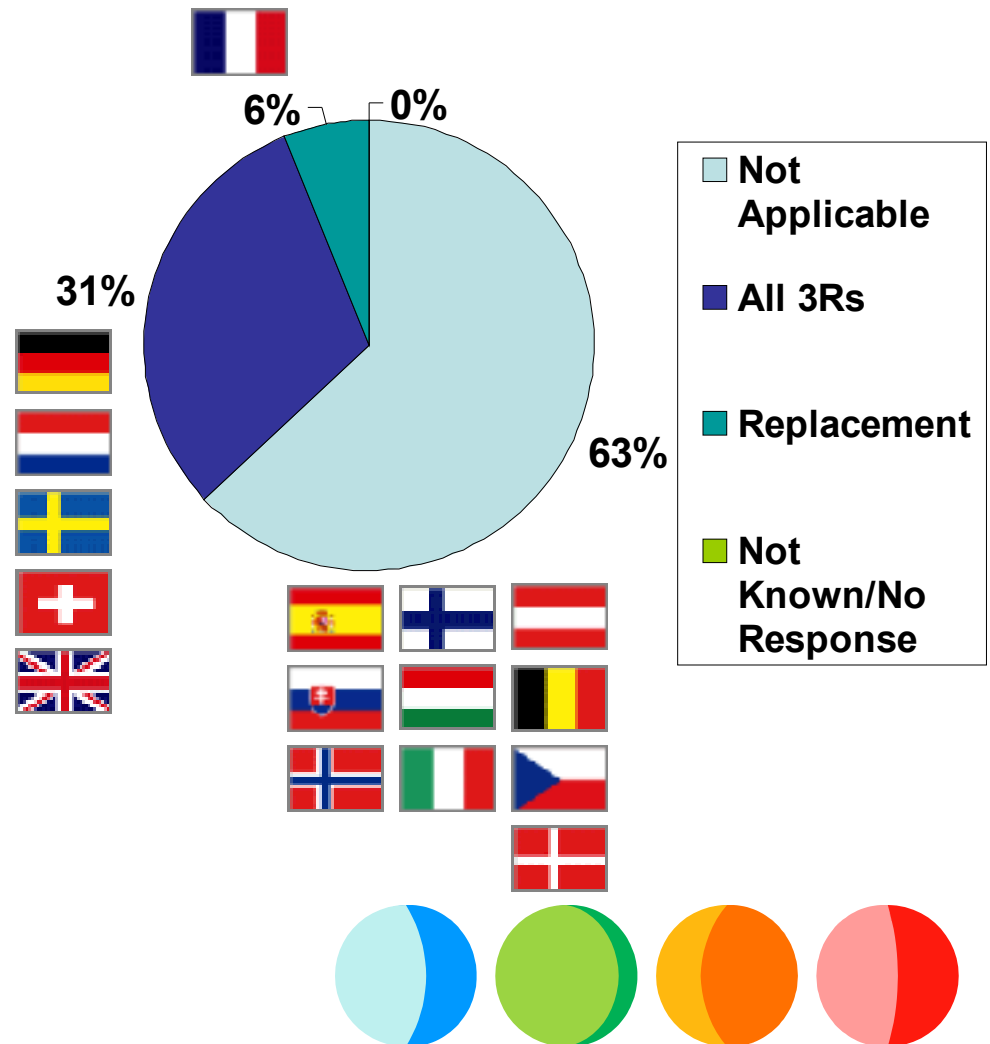- Not Known/No Response
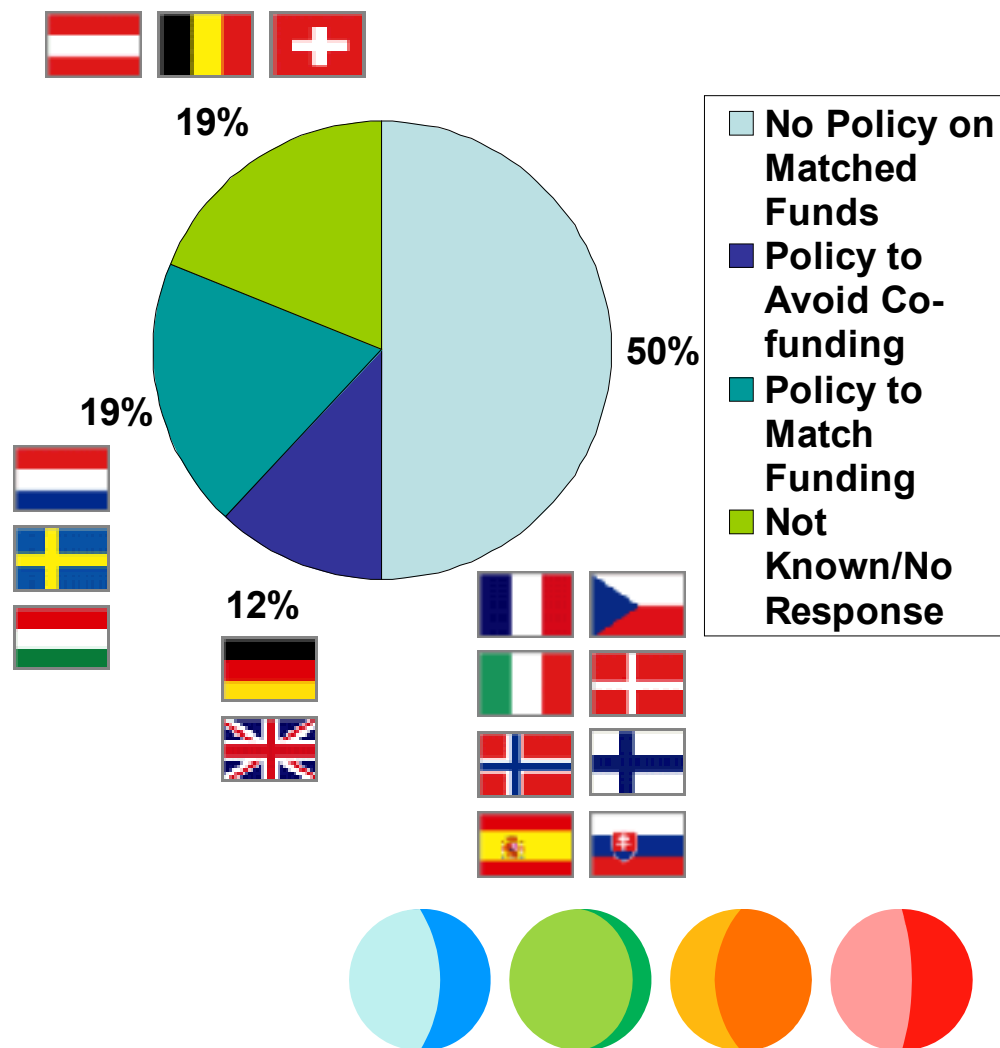
National Strategy for Alternatives Research

- 63% of countries indicated no national research strategy

- 37% of countries reported an existing national research strategy

Legend:
- No National Research Strategy
- National Research Strategy
- Not Known/No Response

0%

37%

63%
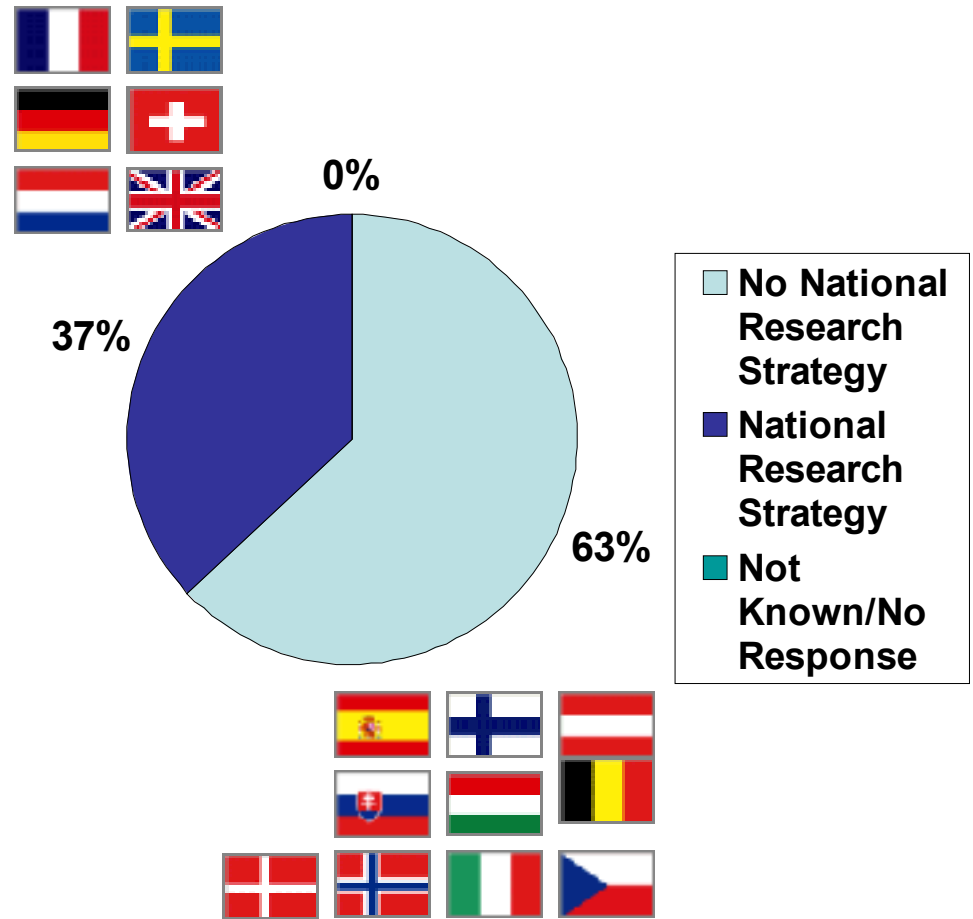
Focus of National Strategy

- Countries with a national research strategy reported a 3R focus

- France reported a focus on Replacement

6%   0%

31%

63%

Legend:
- Not Applicable
- All 3Rs
- Replacement
- Not Known/No Response

Priority Setting

- 50% of countries indicated that priority setting was coordinated at national level

- Not known or no response was the case for 38% of respondents

- In Belgium priority was reported to be set at institutional level, whilst in Spain there was no priority setting mechanism reported

6%   6%

0%

38%

50%

No Priority Setting

Institutional Level

Regional level

National Level

Not Known/No Responses
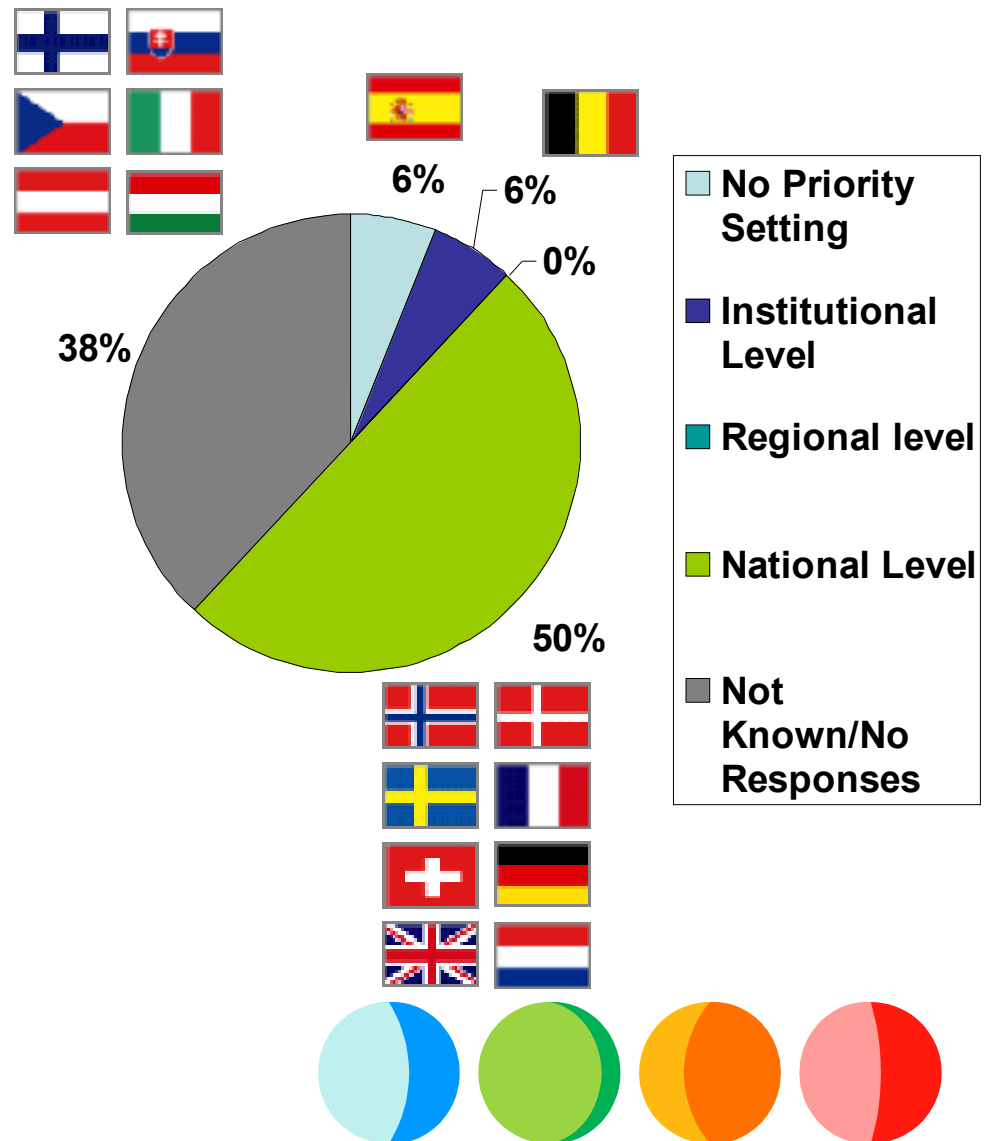
Stakeholder Consultation

- Partial stakeholder consultation was reported in 25% of countries

- 50% of countries reported consultation with all partners

- Only in Spain did the respondent report that no consultation took place.

- 19% of countries indicated not known or gave no response

6%

19%

25%

50%

Legend:
- No Consultation
- Partial Consultation
- All Partners
- Not Known/No Response
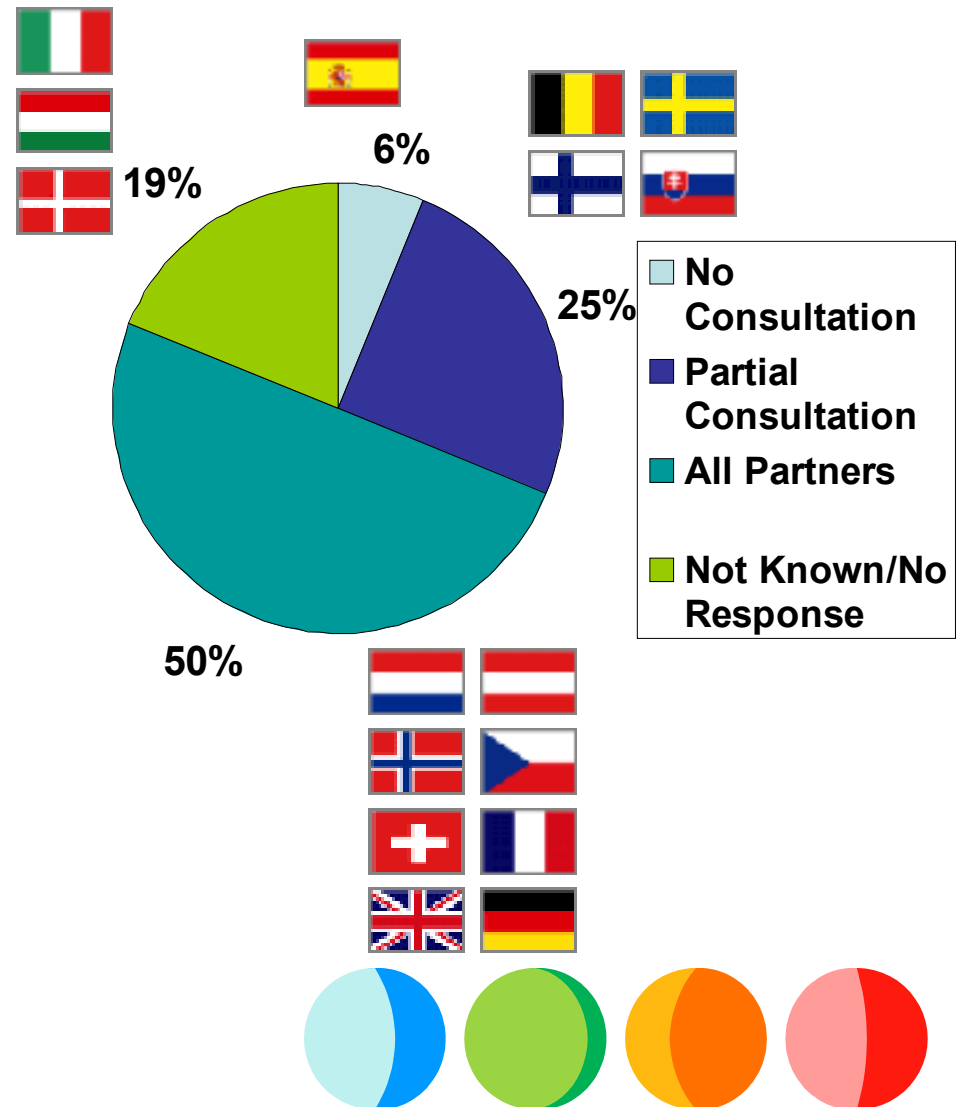
Project Magnitude Preference

- 56% of respondents indicated that there was no explicit preference vis-à-vis the magnitude of research projects

- Only the respondents from France and Slovakia indicated a preference existed

- All other respondents indicated not known or did not provide a response

31%

56%

13%

Legend:
- No Magnitude Preference
- Magnitude Preference
- Not Known/No Response
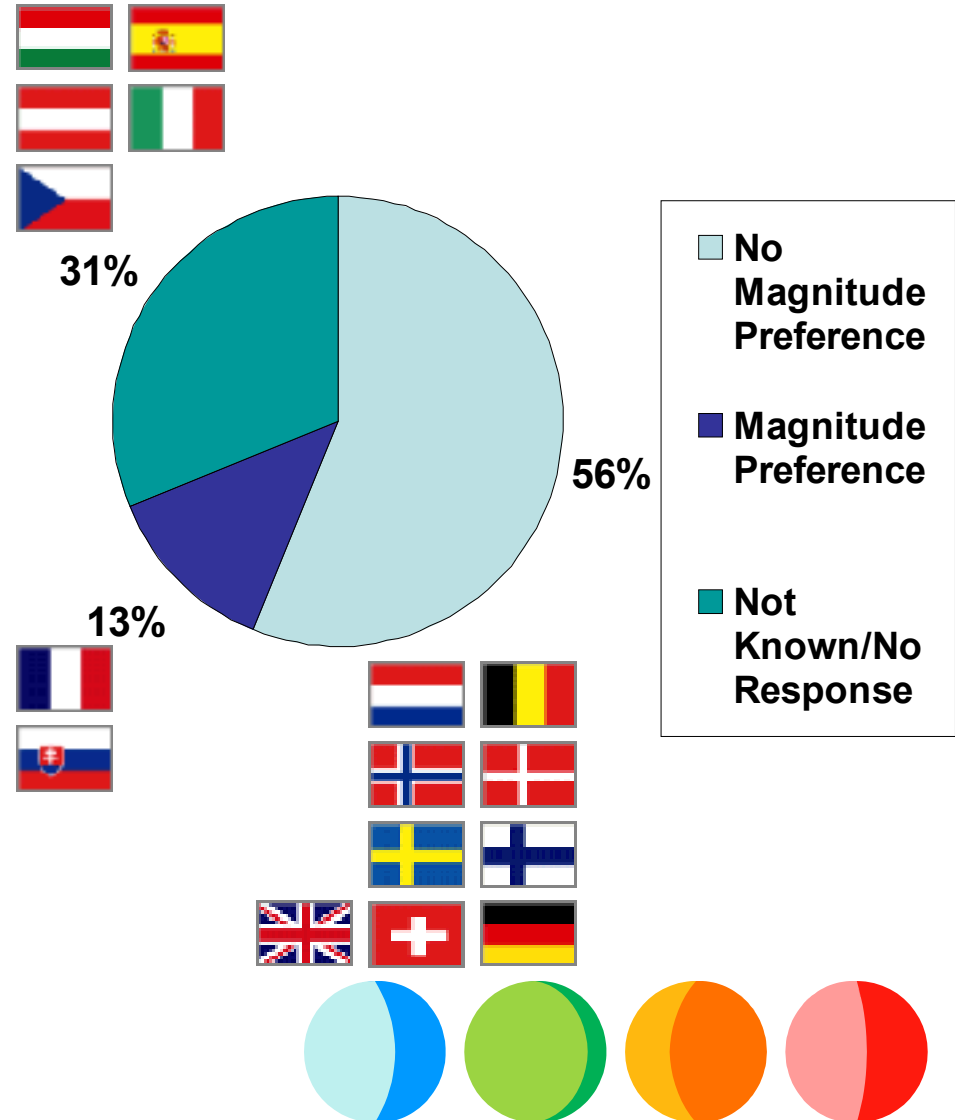
Project Funding Limits

- 31% of respondents indicated there were no limits regarding 3Rs research support in their respective countries

- Half the respondents indicated that limits existed

- All other respondents indicated not known or did not provide a response

19%

31%

50%

Legend:
- No Limits (up to 100%)
- Limits
- Not Known/No Response
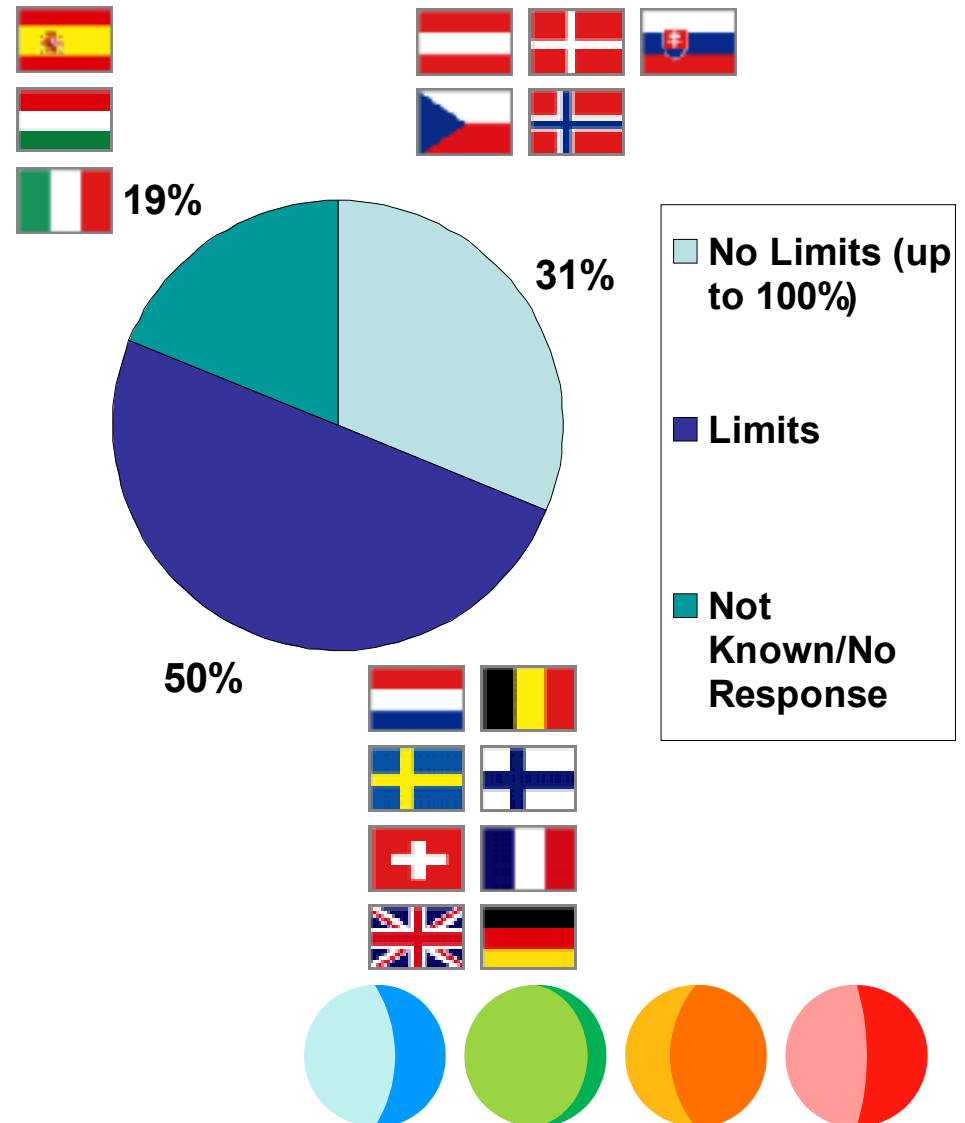
Cooperation & Coordination in Research

- 19% of countries indicated that co-operation was only at institutional level

- 44% of countries indicated that cooperation was coordinated via an agency or via the respective national platforms

- 37% of countries the respondents indicated not known or did not provide a response

0%

19%

37%

44%

Legend:
- None
- Between Institutions
- Via Agencies or Platforms
- Not Known/No Responses
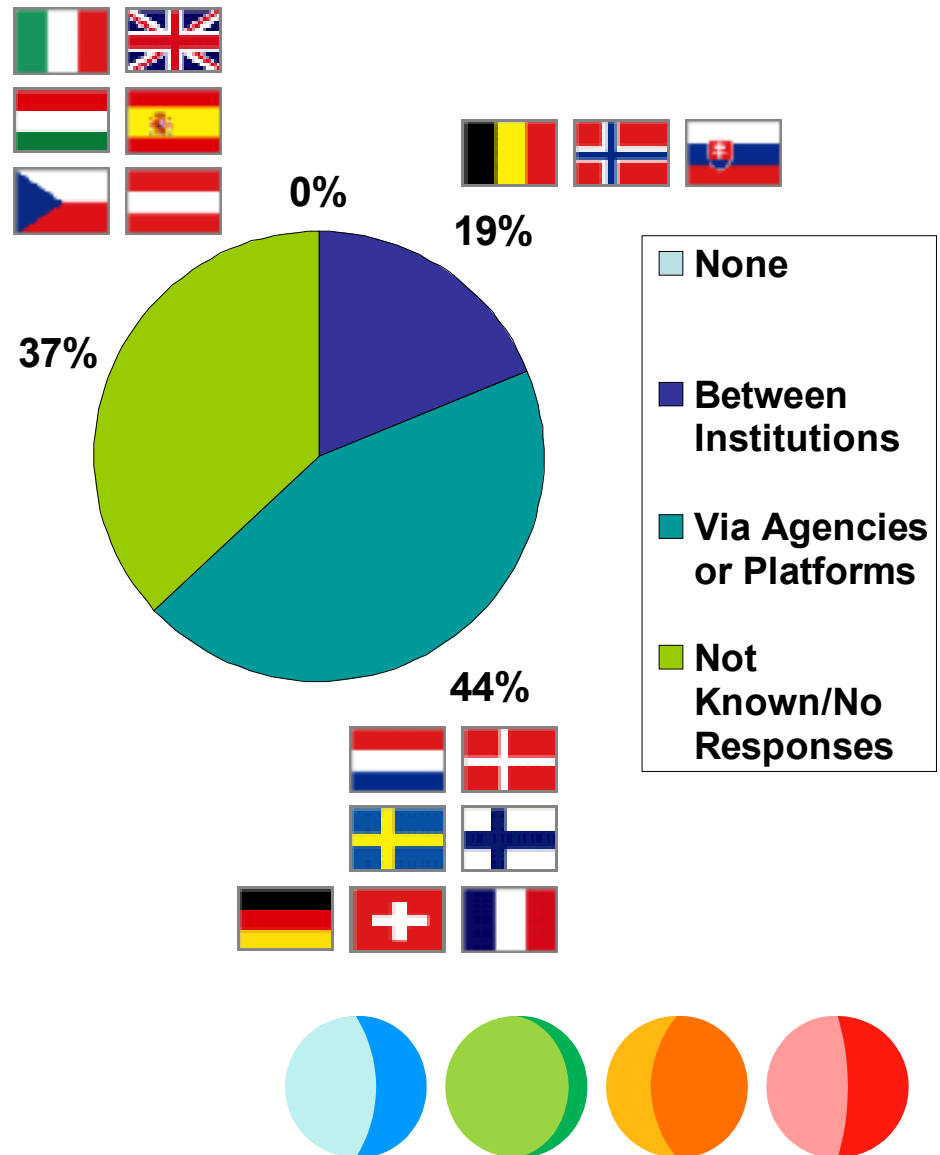
National Consensus Platforms

- The only country without a national platform was Slovakia

- Respondents from all other countries indicated the establishment of a national platform

0% 6%

94%

Legend:
- No National Platform
- National Platform
- Not Known/No Response
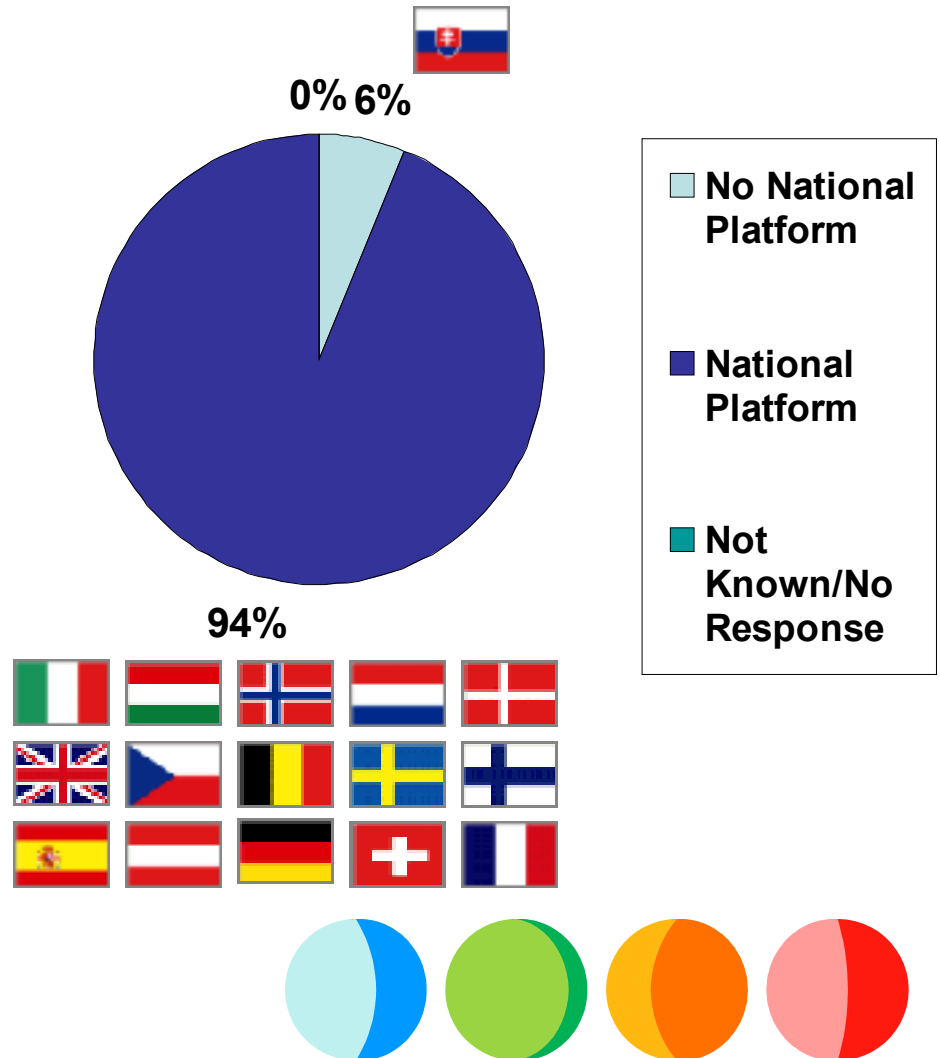
Separation of Responsibility Between Competent Authorities (CAs)

- 44% of countries indicated that the CAs for chemical management and animal welfare procedures were separate

- 37% of countries reported a degree of overlap in the CAs

- All other countries indicated not known or did not provide a response

19%

44%

37%

Separate

Overlap

Not Known/No Response
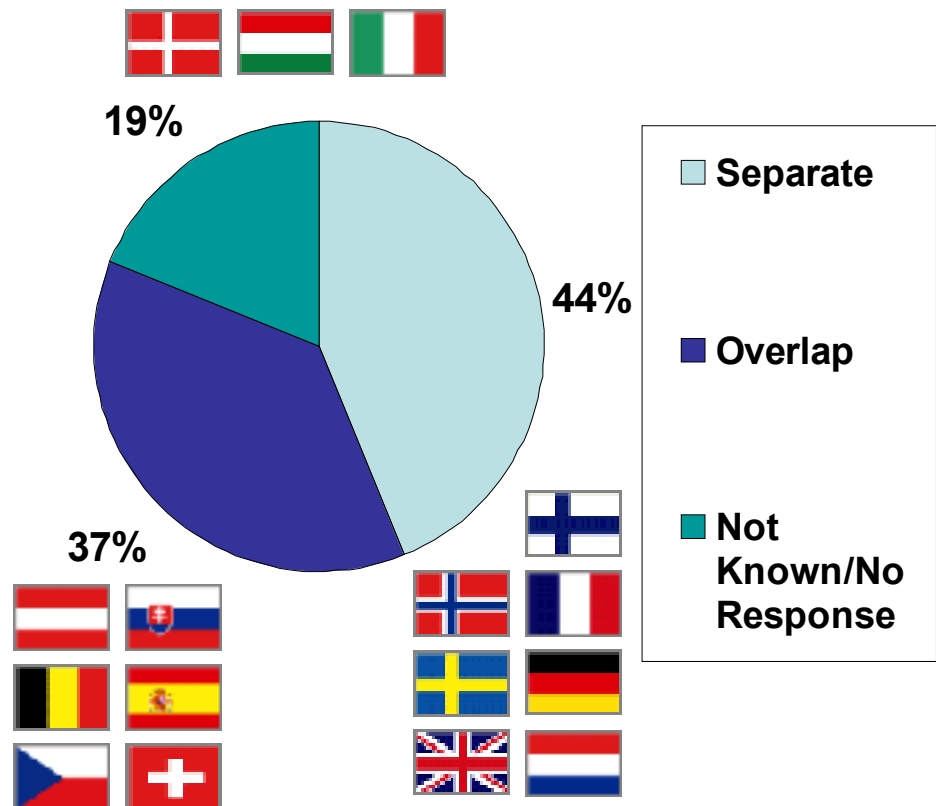
Summary (1)

- Responses compiled by national agencies or platforms.

- Current annual total in the 16 countries was €30 million.

- Comparable magnitude with FP programmes (e.g., €80 million over 5 years to 13 projects with ECVAM in FP6).

- The largest contributions are from the UK (€14.4 million) and Germany (€4.6 million).

- Countries with national alternatives funding strategies (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden Switzerland and the UK) are skewed towards the higher end of the spending distribution and account for €25 million (= 84%).

Summary (2)

- Where national strategies exist, they predominantly encompass all 3Rs rather than just replacement. This may be based on the rationale that application of a 3Rs approach is more likely to impact overall animal use.

- Most countries have no policy or even a policy to avoid matched funding (i.e., Germany and UK which jointly account for 65%). There may be a missed opportunity to leverage EU funding.

- Stakeholder consultation in research priority setting seems to be relatively common (if sometimes not always systematic or comprehensive).

Summary (3)

- Most countries have national consensus platforms. Platforms help to stimulate stakeholder consultation, better research coordination and further national spending on alternatives research.

- The situation regarding the separation of responsibilities of competent authorities is mixed. A degree of overlap exists in many cases.

- A database needs to be established for ongoing research in the countries to aid research prioritisation and to ensure alternatives are fully developed or implemented where possible.

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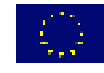
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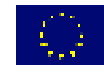
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