

Technical Report No. 2/2008
April 2008

EUROLAB INQUIRY USE OF THE ACCREDITATION SYMBOL AND ACCREDITATION WITH FLEXIBLE SCOPE RESULTS

Technical Report

EDITORIAL NOTES

This report was prepared by the Technical Secretariat of EUROLAB aisbl. It presents the results of the inquiry conducted by the Technical Secretariat of EUROLAB in collaboration with the Permanent Liaison Group (PLG), the EA secretariat, the European national accreditation bodies and the EA Laboratory Committee (EA LC).

It is the straight compilation and transcription of the data collected from all the participating laboratories.

Disclaimer : the Technical Secretariat of EUROLAB may not be responsible of any data as collected from the respondents or any interpretation thereof. The views expressed are purely those of the respondents and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of EUROLAB.

Impression

April 2008

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At the 12th meeting of the EA Laboratory Committee held on September 12-13, 2006 in Paris - France, the EUROLAB representatives proposed to organise and conduct an inquiry to have the most reliable views of the European laboratory community on the use of the accreditation symbol by the laboratories on one hand and about the practices of the European accreditation bodies regarding the accreditation with flexible scope on the other hand.

The Technical Secretariat drafted the first version of the questionnaire form for comments. It has been addressed as such to the EUROLAB board members. A new version of the questionnaire has been discussed at the PLG meeting held in Bern - Switzerland on April 16-17, 2007.

After final improvement the questionnaire was ready for translation in different national languages and for dissemination to the national laboratory communities.

The inquiry and the questionnaire have been presented at the EA General Assembly held in Sofia – Bulgaria on May 30-31, 2007. EUROLAB asked for the collaboration of the European national accreditation bodies to circulate the questionnaire to all their national accredited laboratories.

The inquiry was officially launched on June 11, 2007. It was running till mid September 2007 in a first stage. An advance analysis of the collected data has been processed and delivered to the EA LC on October 2-3, 2007 in Istanbul – Turkey.

The collection of data was definitively closed after 2 reminders in mid November 2007.

An advance presentation of the full results has been delivered at the PLG on November 14, 2007, in Berlin – Germany and at the EA General Assembly on November 20-21 2007 in Nicosia - Cyprus.

The final report has been presented for comments to the EUROLAB board on January 17, 2008. This report has been approved by the EUROLAB General Assembly on April 1st, 2008. It will go to public afterwards.

QUESTIONNAIRE

EA/PLG(07)18
 EL_04_01_07_128
 2007, 30.03

INQUIRY : USE OF THE ACCREDITATION LOGO AND APPRECIATION OF THE FLEXIBLE SCOPE IN TESTING AND CALIBRATION

Confidentiality and non disclosure of the information is guaranteed by Eurolab.

Presentation of the accredited laboratories

1.	Name of your company		Third party <input type="checkbox"/>	In house <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Name of the contact person			
3.	Country			
4.	Name of your accreditation body (AB)			
5.	Number of your different accredited units (laboratory, activity, section, site, etc)			
6.	Number of your staff			
7.	Is your laboratory involved in ?	• Testing	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		• Calibration	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Is your laboratory involved in other conformity assessment activities ?	• Inspection	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		• Products certification	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Use of the symbol (logo with accreditation number – according to art. 3.5 ISO IEC 17011)

9.	Do you know the rules of your national AB about the use of the symbol ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Are the rules of your national AB clear enough ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Does your company issue certificates or reports, which are covered by your scope of accreditation, without accreditation logo ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		if answer is yes, answer questions A to H	If answer is no, go directly to item 12
A	Number of certificates or reports within the scope of accreditation issues per year with logo	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-100	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1000
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1000-5000	<input type="checkbox"/> + 5000
B	Number of certificates or reports within the scope of accreditation issues per year without logo	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-100	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1000
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1000-5000	<input type="checkbox"/> + 5000
C	Do certificates or reports without logo differ concerning their price	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Do certificates or reports without logo differ concerning technical procedures	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
D	Does your company offer these different services because of	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Competition <input type="checkbox"/>
		Demand <input type="checkbox"/>	Requirements of the AB <input type="checkbox"/>
		Others <input type="checkbox"/>	
E	Do you expect that your clients are aware of the differences between certificates with and without accreditation logo	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

* AB : Accreditation body

EA/PLG(07)18
 EL_04_01_07_128
 2007, 30.03

F	Would you accept if your AB would prescribe that all certificates or reports covered by the scope of accreditation must be produced in full compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 and issued with the accreditation logo ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
G	Would you accept that your AB required you to claim accreditation for all work within the scope of your accreditation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> Comments
12.	Does your accreditation body assess your certificates or reports that do not contain the symbol?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13.	Does your customer accept your certificates or reports without symbol ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Other compulsory information to produce together with the logo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference of the scope <input type="checkbox"/> • Site of the laboratory <input type="checkbox"/> • Date <input type="checkbox"/> • Testing <input type="checkbox"/> / Calibration <input type="checkbox"/> 	

Flexible Scope

15.	Does your national AB accept to deliver accreditation with flexible scope ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Are you aware of how to obtain a flexible scope of accreditation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Not interested <input type="checkbox"/>
17.	Do AB documents to evaluate the flexible scope exist ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
18.	Do your organisation has competency to develop or adapt test methods?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
19.	Are you accredited with a flexible scope ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> For testing <input type="checkbox"/> For calibration <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> I don't want to <input type="checkbox"/> I can't <input type="checkbox"/>	
20.	Date of your accreditation with flexible scope ?	<input type="checkbox"/> 2003-2004	<input type="checkbox"/> 2005-2006	<input type="checkbox"/> in progress
21.	Did your laboratory already use the opportunity of the flexible scope ?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> how many documents issued with <input type="checkbox"/> 0/100 <input type="checkbox"/> 100/1000 <input type="checkbox"/> 1000/5000+ <input type="checkbox"/> 5000	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
22.	How your customer could be informed that you should perform tests with a flexible scope ?	By your AB <input type="checkbox"/>	By your laboratory <input type="checkbox"/>	Upon request <input type="checkbox"/>
23.	Are you satisfied with the procedures applied by your AB for flexible scope	why ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of the scopes yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • Rules of the audit yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • Number of days of audit yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • Frequency between audits yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • Harmonization between different laboratories yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 		

EA/PLG(07)18
EL_04_01_07_128
2007, 30.03

24.	Advantages shown by flexible scope of accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More customers <input type="checkbox"/>• Shorter delay <input type="checkbox"/>• Better reactivity to new requests and tenders <input type="checkbox"/>• Ability to test according to draft standards <input type="checkbox"/>• Better recognition of the development <input type="checkbox"/>
25.	Disadvantages shown by flexible scope of accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More expensive <input type="checkbox"/>• Loss of visibility of the scope <input type="checkbox"/>• Others

Please feel free to add some comments

Maria Serrano, thank you very much in anticipation.

Please send the completed inquiry by mail to : inquiryeurolab@ine.fr

PART 1

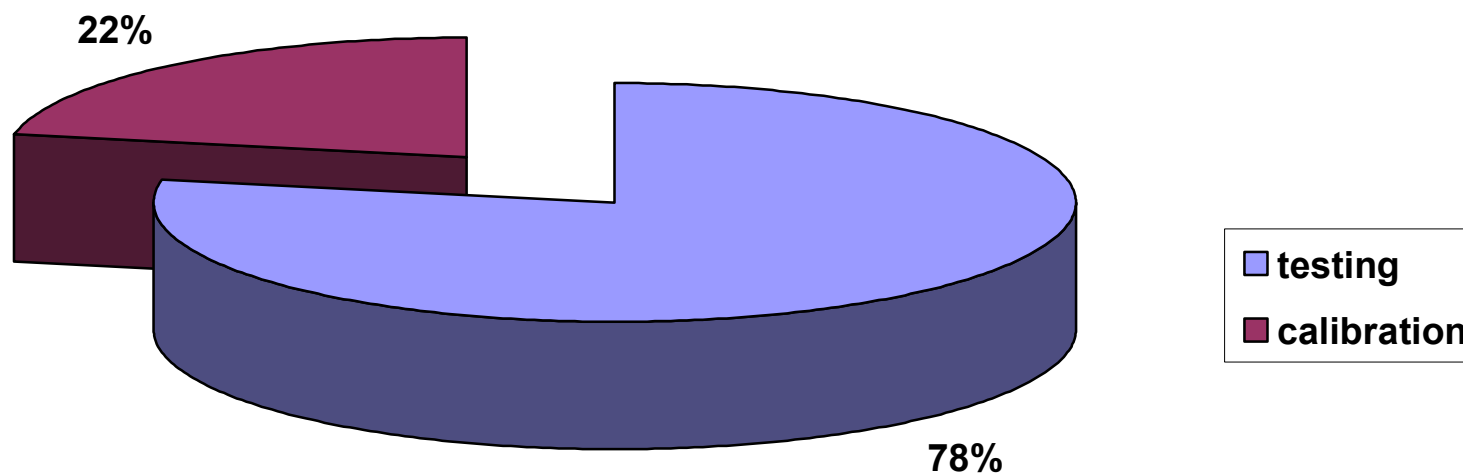
USE OF THE ACCREDITATION SYMBOL

INVOLVEMENT OF THE LABORATORIES (1044 responses received from 24 countries)

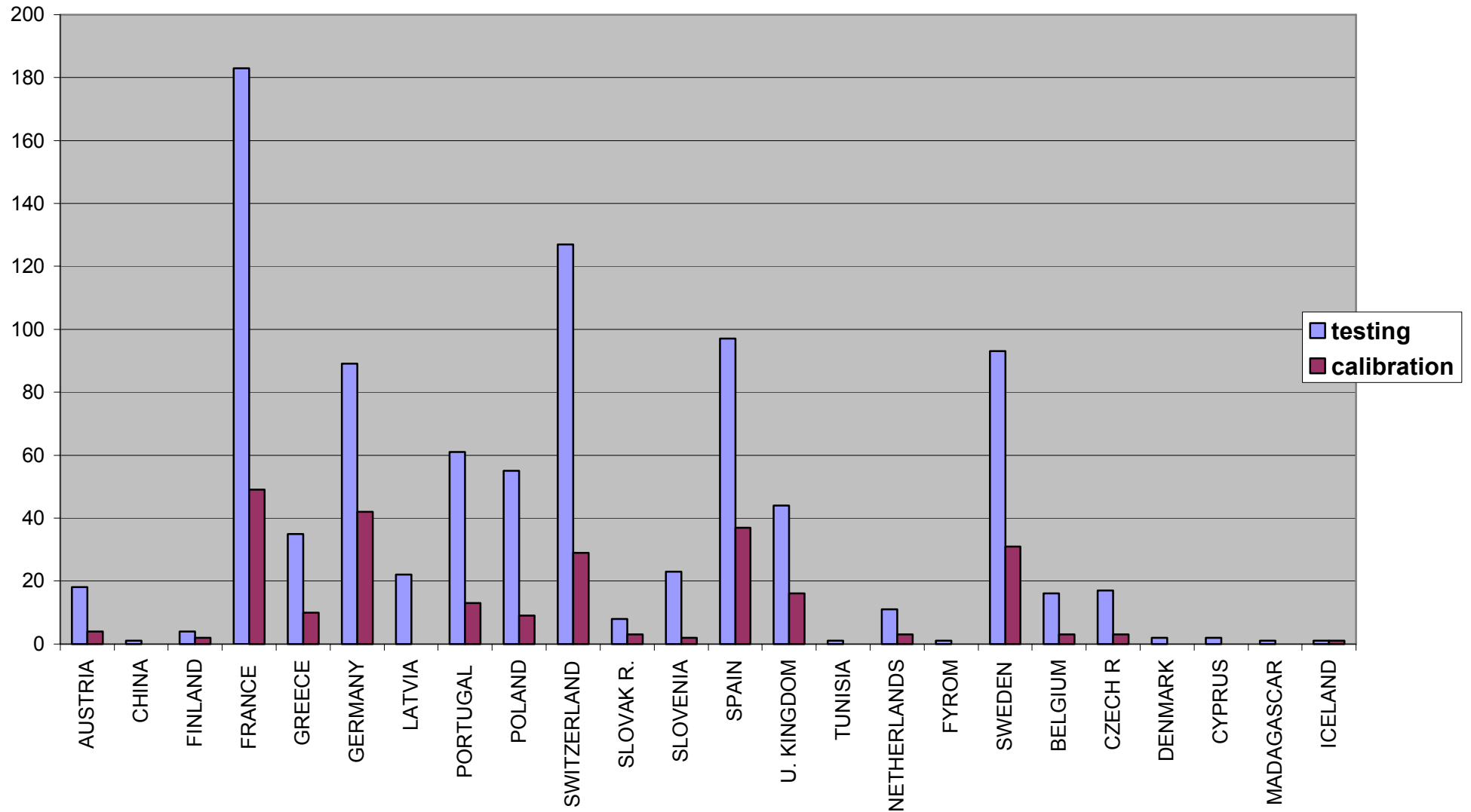
COUNTRIES	TESTING	CALIBRATION
AUSTRIA	18	4
BELGIUM	16	3
CHINA	1	0
CYPRUS	2	-
CZECH REPUBLIC	17	3
DENMARK	2	-
FINLAND	4	2
FRANCE	183	49
FYROM	1	0
GERMANY	89	42
GREECE	35	10
ICELAND	1	1
LATVIA	22	0
MADAGASCAR	1	-
POLAND	55	9
PORTUGAL	61	13
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	8	3
SLOVENIA	23	2
SPAIN	97	37
SWEDEN	93	31
SWITZERLAND	127	29
THE NETHERLANDS	11	3
TUNISIA	1	-
UNITED KINGDOM	44	16
TOTAL	912*	257*

(*) some laboratories have both activities

**Involvement of the laboratories
(all countries, from 1044 responses received)**



Involvement of the laboratories (per country, for a total of 1044 responses received)

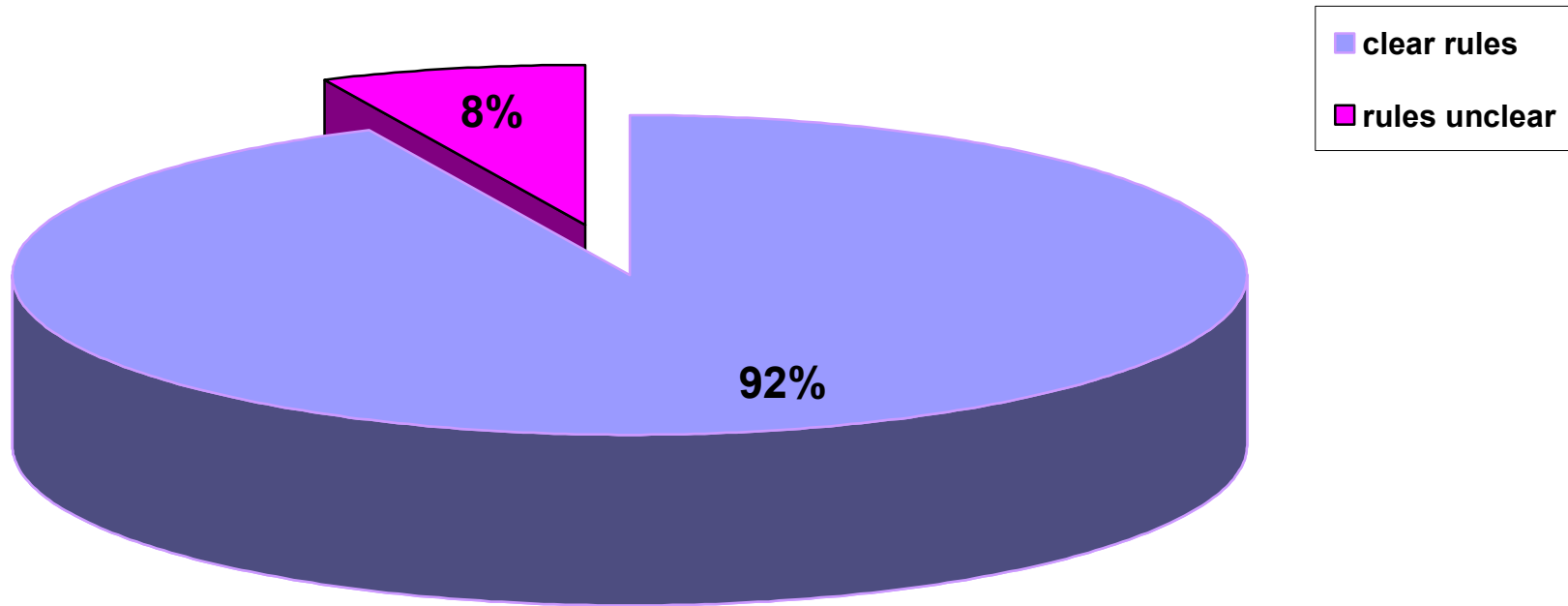


HOW ARE PERCEIVED THE RULES OF THE ACCREDITATION BODY ?

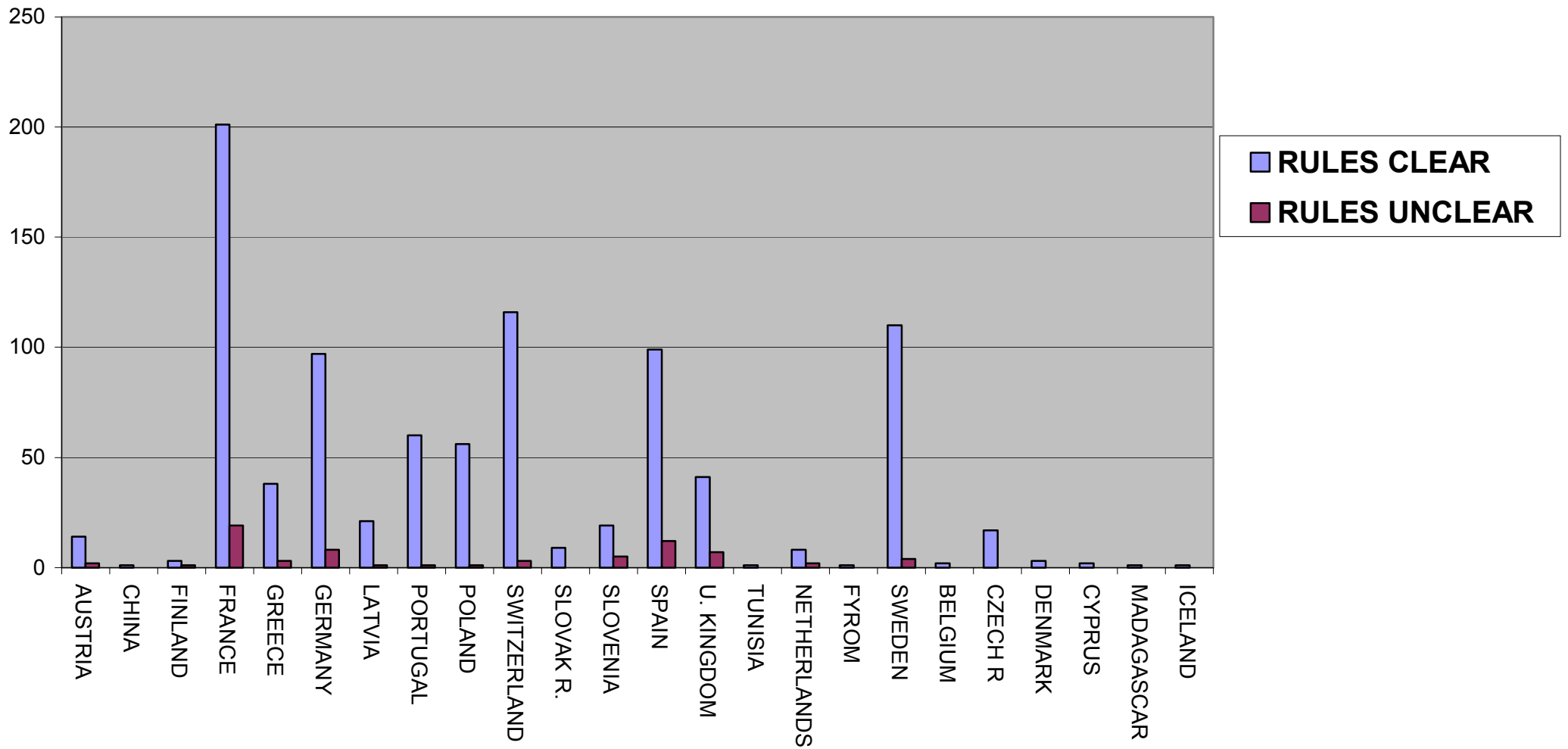
(1044 responses received from 24 countries)

COUNTRIES	CLEAR RULES	RULES NOT CLEAR
AUSTRIA	14	2
CHINA	1	0
FINLAND	3	1
FRANCE	201	19
GREECE	38	3
GERMANY	97	8
LATVIA	21	1
PORTUGAL	60	1
POLAND	56	1
SWITZERLAND	116	3
SLOVAK R.	9	0
SLOVENIA	19	5
SPAIN	99	12
U. KINGDOM	41	7
TUNISIA	1	
NETHERLANDS	8	2
FYROM	1	0
SWEDEN	110	4
BELGIUM	2	
CZECH R	17	
DENMARK	3	
CYPRUS	2	
MADAGASCAR	1	
ICELAND	1	
TOTAL	921	69

**How are perceived the rules of the accreditation body ?
(for the 1044 answers received)**



How are perceived the rules of the accreditation body ? (per country, for the 1044 answers received)



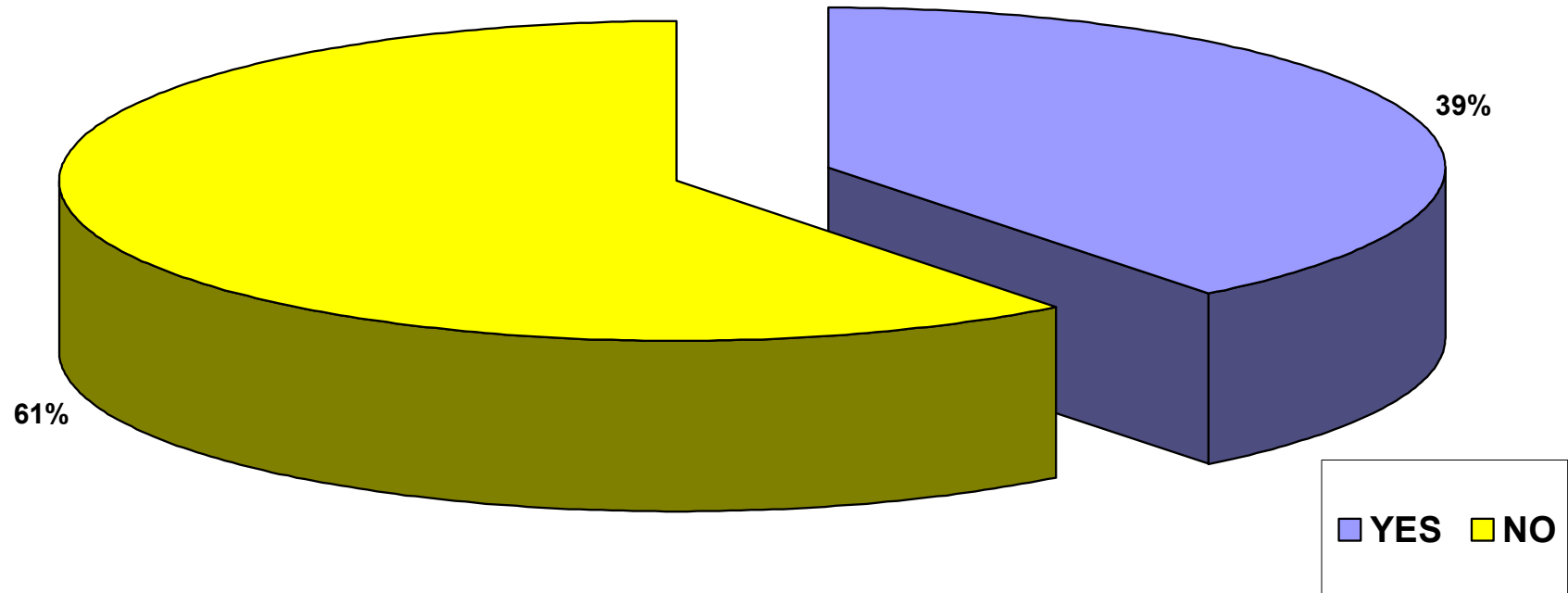
**COMPANIES ISSUING OR NOT ISSUING CERTIFICATES OR REPORTS
COVERED BY THE SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION WITHOUT
ACCREDITATION LOGO**

(1044 responses received from 24 countries)

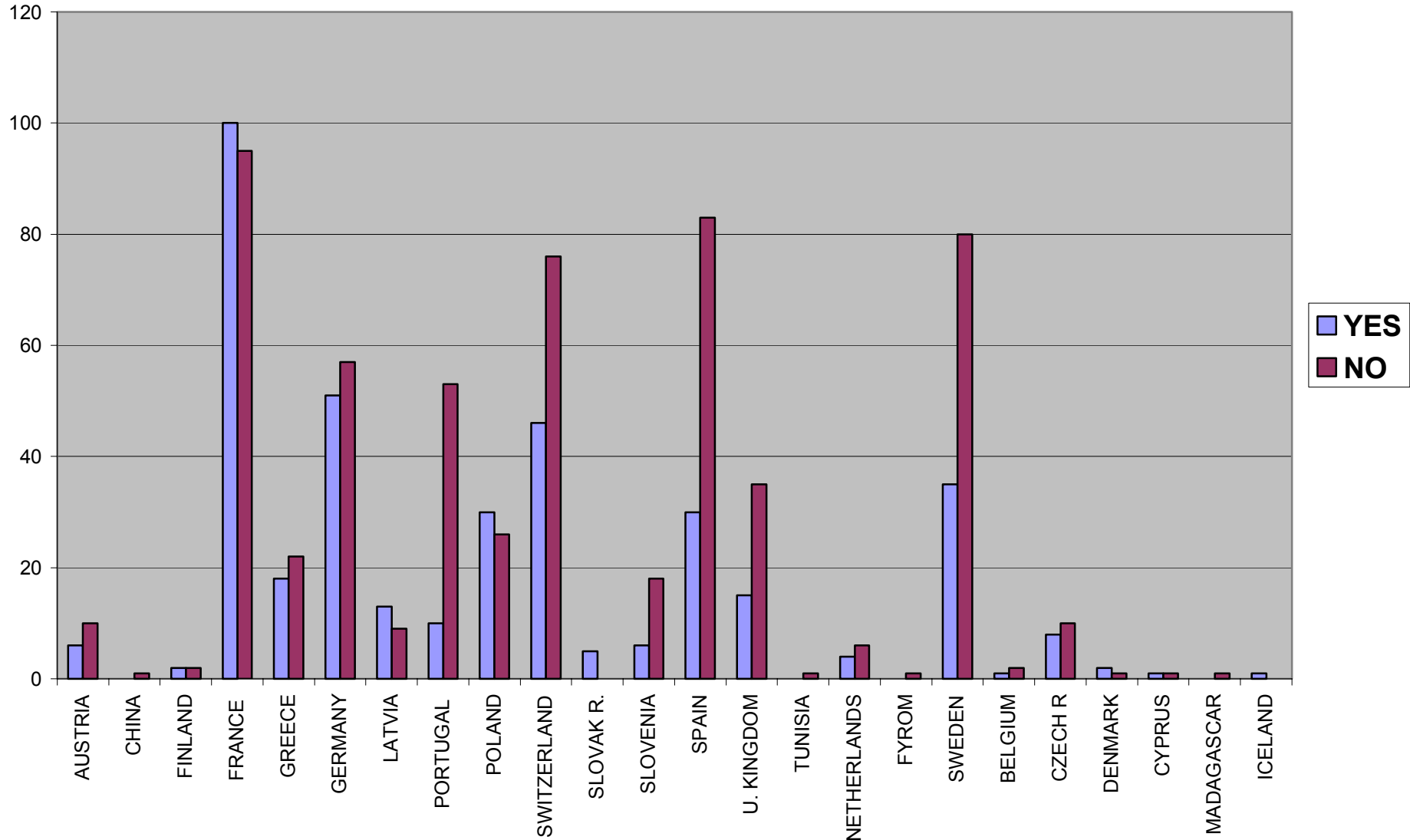
COUNTRIES	ISSUING DOCUMENTS Without accreditation logo covered by the scope of accreditation	NOT ISSUING DOCUMENTS Without accreditation logo covered by the scope of accreditation
AUSTRIA	6	10
BELGIUM	1	2
CHINA	0	1
CYPRUS	1	1
CZECH R	8	10
DENMARK	2	1
FINLAND	2	2
FRANCE	100	95
FYROM	0	1
GERMANY	51	57
GREECE	18	22
ICELAND	1	
LATVIA	13	9
MADAGASCAR		1
NETHERLANDS	4	6
POLAND	30	26
PORTUGAL	10	53
SLOVAK R.	5	0
SLOVENIA	6	18
SPAIN	30	83
SWEDEN	35	80
SWITZERLAND	46	76
TUNISIA		1
U. KINGDOM	15	35
TOTAL	384	590

Does your company issue certificates covered by the scope of accreditation without logo ?

(all countries 1044 inquiries received - 974 answers - 70 no answer)



Does your company issue certificates covered by the scope of accreditation without logo ?

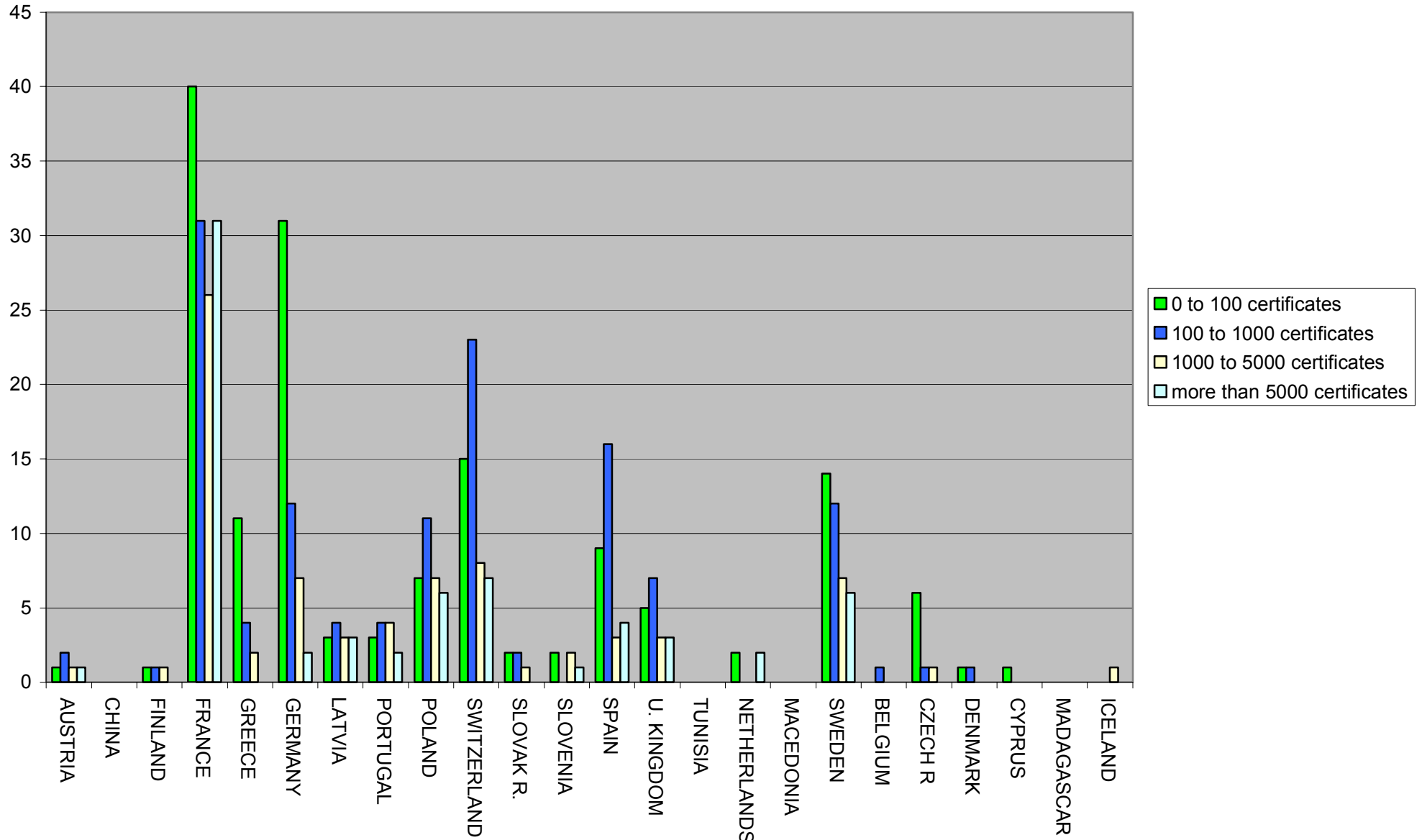


**NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES OR REPORTS ISSUED PER YEAR,
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION, WITH LOGO**

(1044 responses received from 24 countries)

COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS	NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS	NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS	NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS
	0 TO 100	100 TO 1000	1000 TO 5000	5000 AND OVER
AUSTRIA	1	2	1	1
BELGIUM		1		
CHINA	0	0	0	0
CYPRUS	1			
CZECH R	6	1	1	
DENMARK	1	1		
FINLAND	1	1	1	
FRANCE	40	31	26	31
FYROM	0	0	0	0
GERMANY	31	12	7	2
GREECE	11	4	2	
ICELAND			1	
LATVIA	3	4	3	3
MADAGASCAR				
NETHERLANDS	2			2
POLAND	7	11	7	6
PORTUGAL	3	4	4	2
SLOVAK R.	2	2	1	0
SLOVENIA	2		2	1
SPAIN	9	16	3	4
SWEDEN	14	12	7	6
SWITZERLAND	15	23	8	7
TUNISIA				
U. KINGDOM	5	7	3	3
TOTAL	154	132	77	68

Number of certificates issued per year and per country with logo

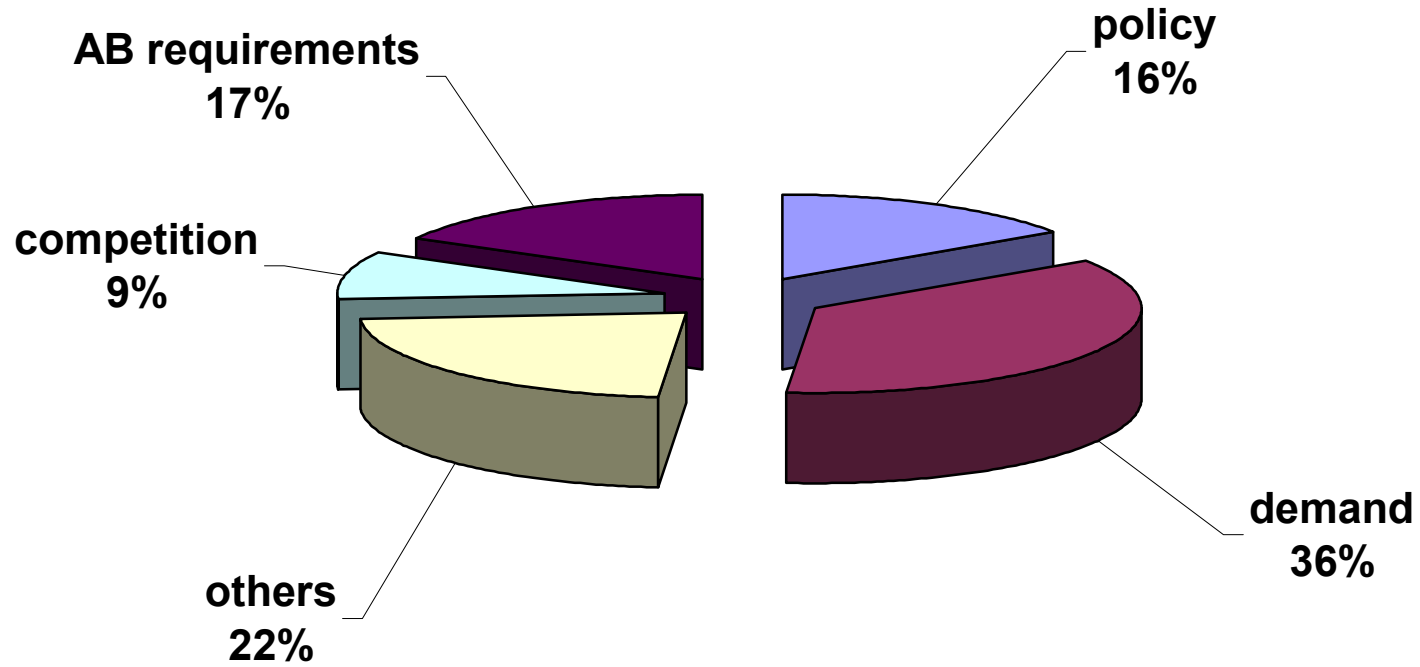


MAIN REASONS WHY COMPANIES PROPOSE THESE DIFFERENT SERVICES

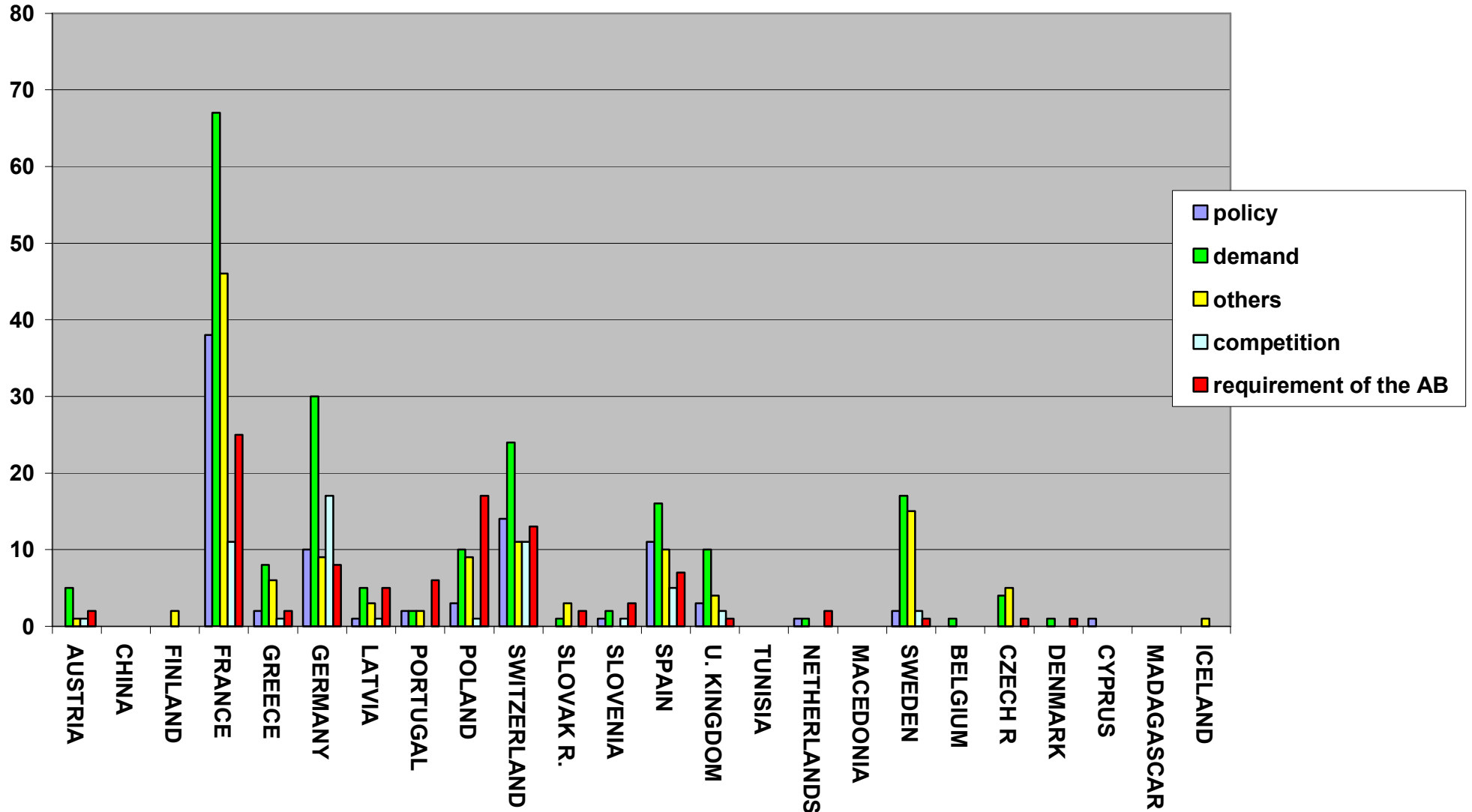
(1044 responses received from 24 countries)

COUNTRIES	POLICY	DEMAND	OTHERS	COMPETITION	AB REQUIREMENTS
AUSTRIA		5	1	1	2
BELGIUM		1			
CHINA	0	0	0	0	0
CYPRUS	1				
CZECH R		4	5		1
DENMARK		1			1
FINLAND			2		
FRANCE	38	67	46	11	25
FYROM	0	0	0	0	0
GERMANY	10	30	9	17	8
GREECE	2	8	6	1	2
ICELAND			1		
LATVIA	1	5	3	1	5
MADAGASCAR					
NETHERLANDS	1	1			2
POLAND	3	10	9	1	17
PORTUGAL	2	2	2		6
SLOVAK R.	0	1	3	0	2
SLOVENIA	1	2		1	3
SPAIN	11	16	10	5	7
SWEDEN	2	17	15	2	1
SWITZERLAND	14	24	11	11	13
TUNISIA					
U. KINGDOM	3	10	4	2	1
TOTAL	89	204	127	53	96

**Reasons why companies offer these different services
(all countries, from 1044 responses received)**



reasons why you company proposes to issue certificates or reports without logo
(per country, as per inquiries received)

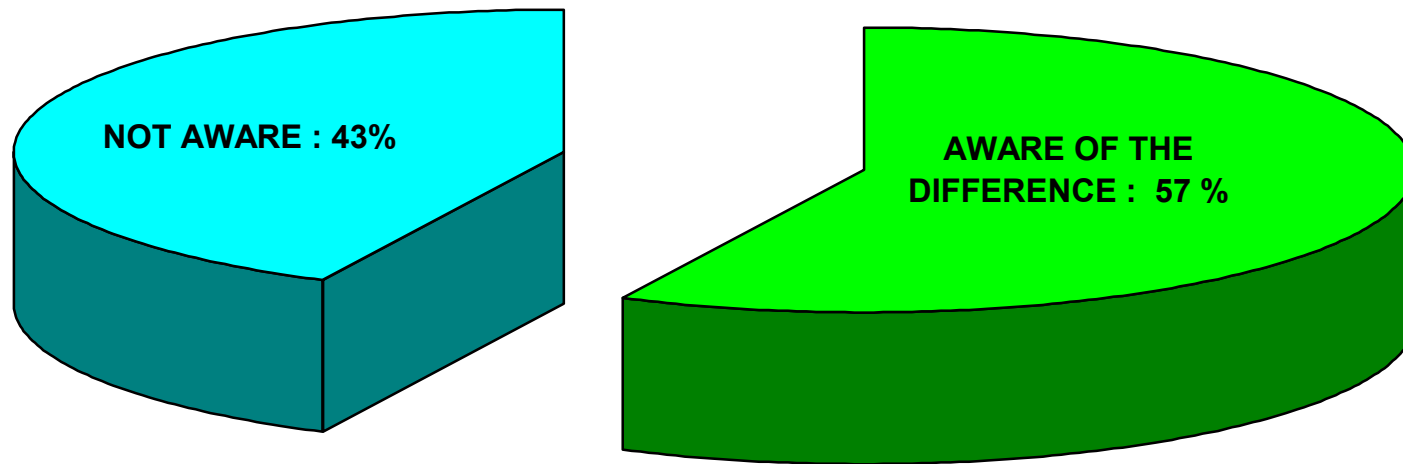


ARE CUSTOMERS AWARE OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CERTIFICATES WITH OR WITHOUT LOGO ?

(1044 responses received from 24 countries)

COUNTRIES	AWARE	NOT AWARE
AUSTRIA	3	5
BELGIUM		1
CHINA	0	0
CYPRUS		
CZECH R	3	5
DENMARK	1	1
FINLAND	1	1
France	69	61
FYR OM	0	0
GERMANY	24	24
GREECE	10	7
ICELAND		1
LATVIA	9	4
MADAGASCAR		
NETHERLANDS	2	2
POLAND	27	4
Portugal	9	3
SLOVAK R.	3	2
SLOVENIA	3	3
SPAIN	23	11
SWEDEN	21	17
SWITZERLAND	24	26
TUNISIA		
U. KINGDOM	12	5
TOTAL	244	183

Are customers aware of the difference between certificates with or without logo ?

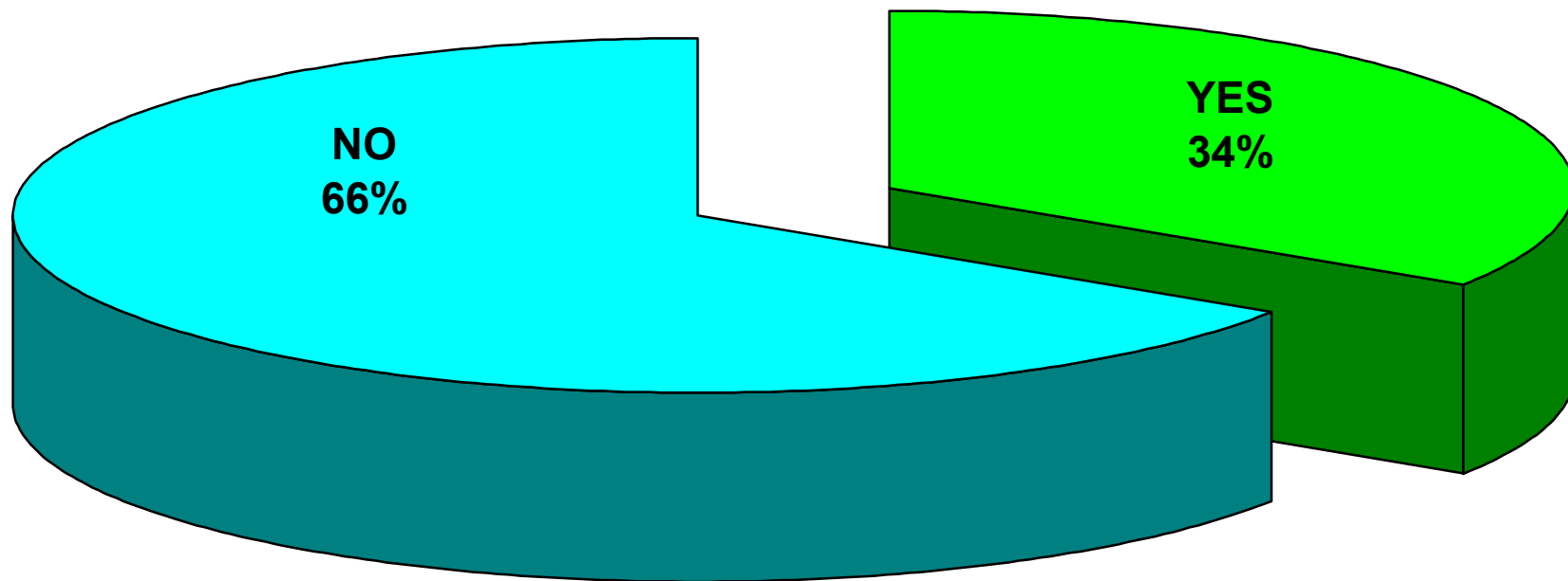


DOES THE AB ASSESS CERTIFICATES OR REPORTS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN THE SYMBOL ?

(all countries, according to 1044 responses received)

COUNTRIES	YES	NO
AUSTRIA	4	9
BELGIUM	1	2
CHINA	0	1
CYPRUS	1	
CZECH R	4	13
DENMARK		3
FINLAND		3
FRANCE	58	147
FYR OM	1	0
GERMANY	60	41
GREECE	11	25
ICELAND		1
LATVIA	11	11
MADAGASCAR		1
NETHERLANDS	4	6
POLAND	29	29
PORTUGAL	13	45
SLOVAK R	3	5
SLOVENIA	9	15
SPAIN	33	72
SWEDEN	24	87
SWITZERLAND	43	72
TUNISIA		1
U. KINGDOM	13	35
TOTAL	322	624

**Does your accreditation body assess certificates of reports that do not contain the symbol ?
(all countries, according to 1044 answers received)**



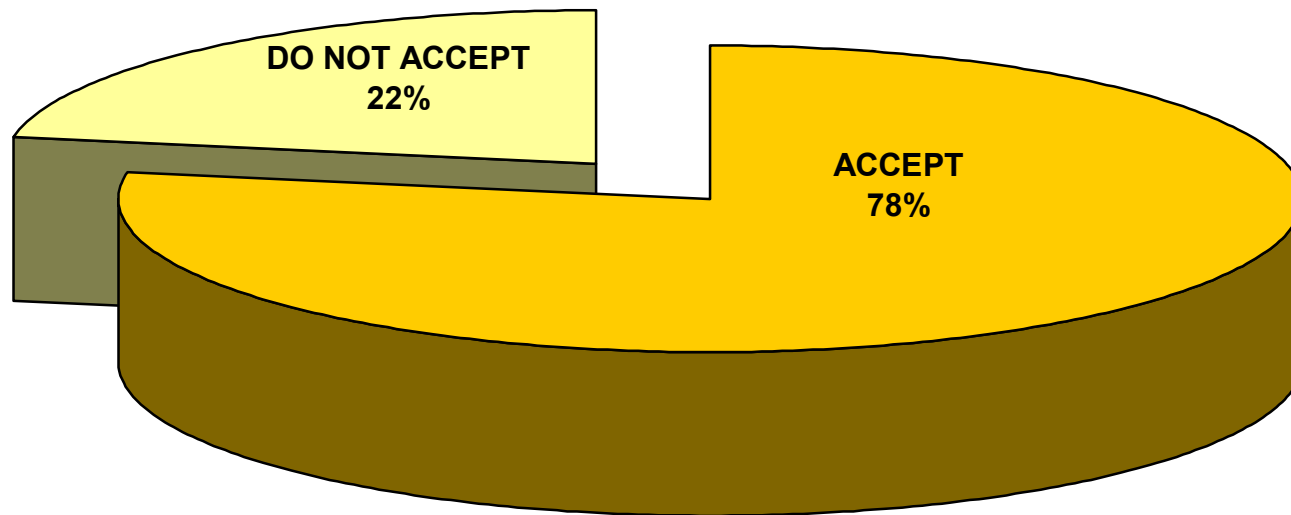
DOES YOUR CUSTOMER ACCEPT CERTIFICATES OR REPORTS WITHOUT SYMBOL ?

(all countries, according to 1044 responses received)

COUNTRIES	ACCEPT	DO NOT ACCEPT
AUSTRIA	14	1
BELGIUM	2	1
CHINA	1	0
CYPRUS	1	
CZECH R	14	3
DENMARK	3	
FINLAND	3	
FRANCE	185	23
FYR OM	0	1
GERMANY	79	24
GREECE	33	6
ICELAND	1	
LATVIA	16	6
MADAGASCAR	1	
NETHERLANDS	7	3
POLAND	52	4
PORTUGAL	41	19
SLOVAK R	9	0
SLOVENIA	18	6
SPAIN	77	35
SWEDEN	74	41
SWITZERLAND	88	28
TUNISIA	1	
U. KINGDOM	32	14
TOTAL	752	215

Does your customer accept certificates or reports without symbol ?

(all countries, according to 1044 responses received)



**OTHER COMPULSORY INFORMATION TO PRODUCE
TOGETHER WITH THE LOGO**

Countries	Reference of the scope	Site of the laboratory	Date	Testing / calibration
AUSTRIA	11	11	12	13
BELGIUM	3	2	2	1
CHINA	1	0	0	1
CYPRUS	2	1	2	2
CZECH R	12	16	16	17
DENMARK		1	1	1
FINLAND	2	4	4	4
FRANCE	172	125	145	184
FYR OM	1	1	1	1
GERMANY	61	67	65	64
GREECE	23	22	28	25
ICELAND	1	1	1	1
LATVIA	14	13	15	17
MADAGASCAR	1	1	1	1
NETHERLANDS	6	7	7	6
POLAND	42	38	42	44
PORTUGAL	39	36	37	48
SLOVAK R.	7	9	8	9
SLOVENIA	21	17	17	19
SPAIN	83	76	77	80
SWEDEN	67	77	71	77
SWITZERLAND	80	94	95	83
TUNISIA	1	1		
U. KINGDOM	29	38	40	41
TOTAL	679	658	687	739

PART II

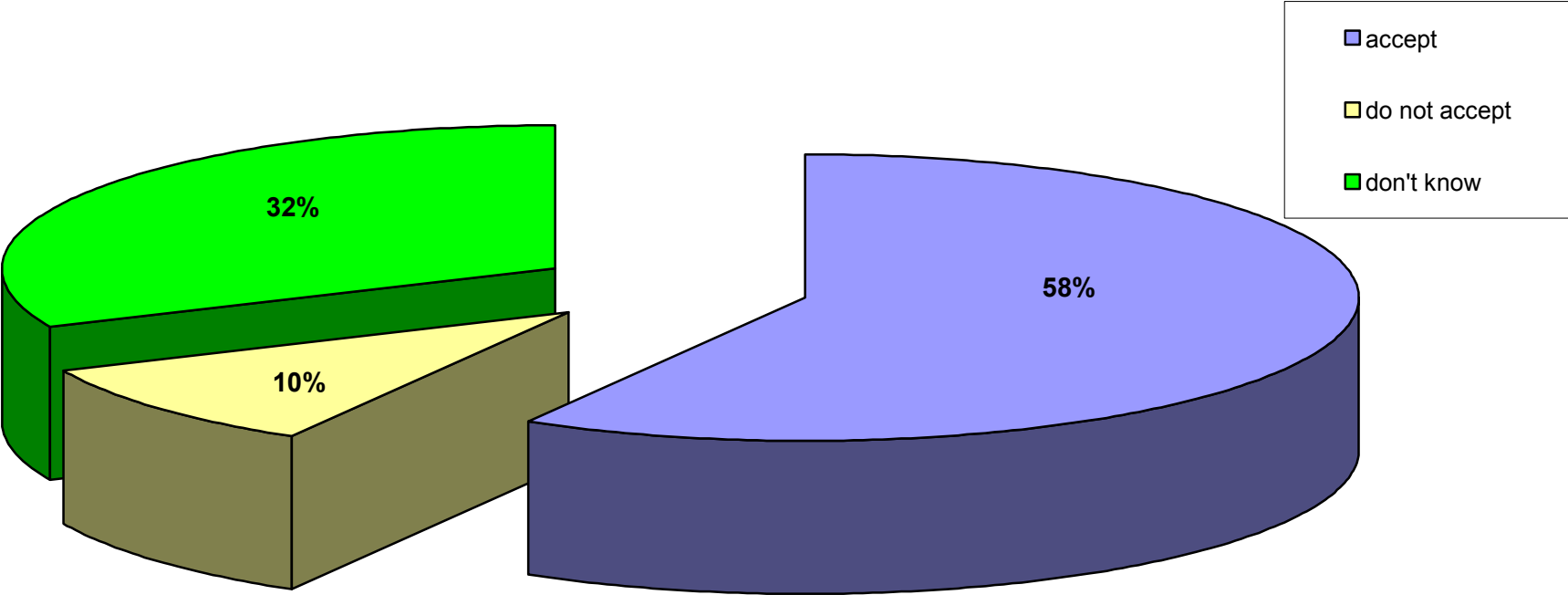
ACCREDITATION WITH FLEXIBLE SCOPE

DOES YOUR NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BODY ACCEPT TO DELIVER ACCREDITATION WITH FLEXIBLE SCOPE ?

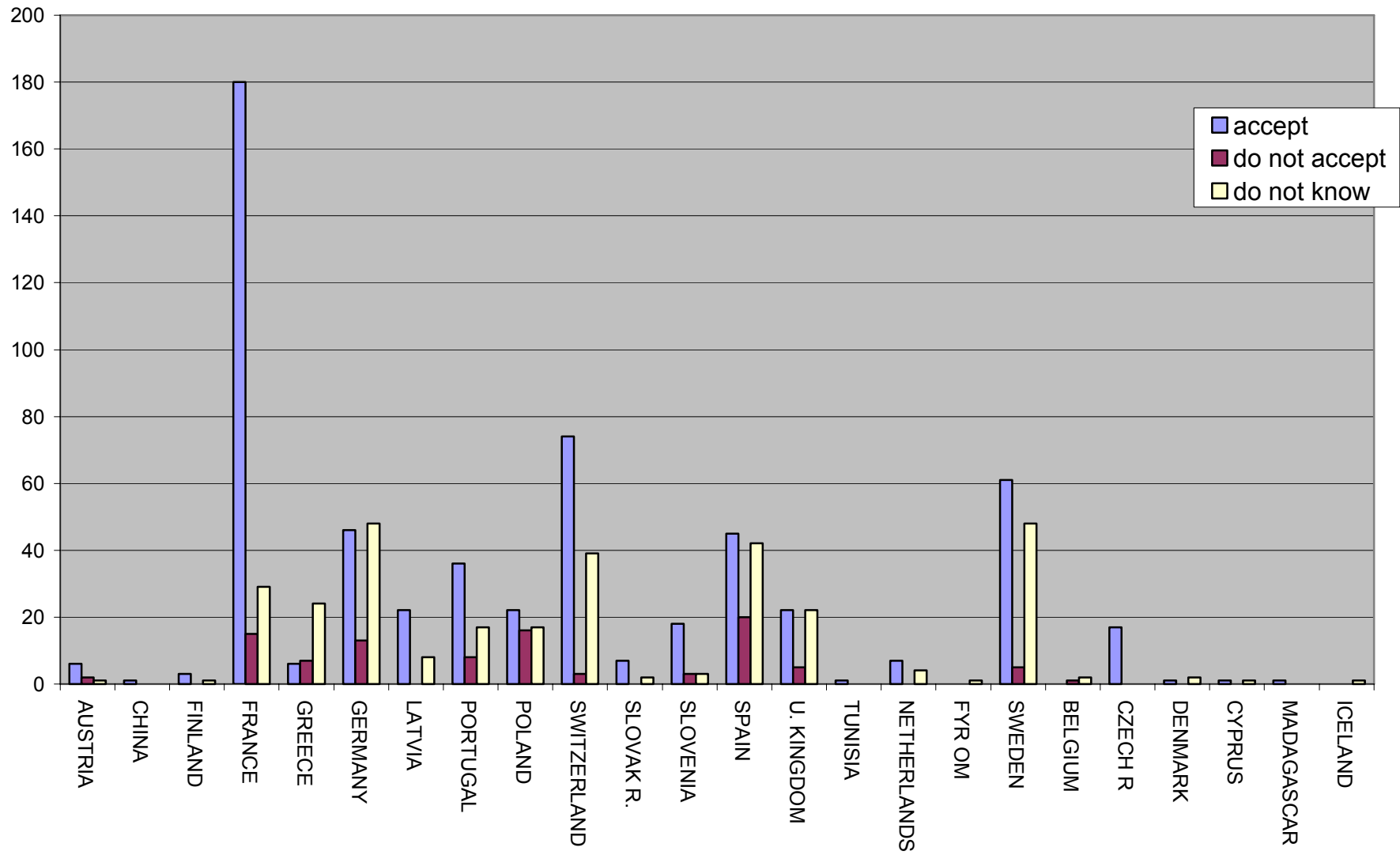
(ALL COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO 1044 ANSWERS)

COUNTRIES	YES THE AB ACCEPT	NO THE AB DOES NOT ACCEPT	I DON'T KNOW
AUSTRIA	6	2	1
BELGIUM		1	2
CHINA	1	0	0
CYPRUS	1		1
CZECH R	17		
DENMARK	1		2
FINLAND	3		1
FRANCE	180	15	29
FYR OM	0	0	1
GERMANY	46	13	48
GREECE	6	7	24
ICELAND			1
LATVIA	22	0	8
MADAGASCAR	1		
NETHERLANDS	7		4
POLAND	22	16	17
PORTUGAL	36	8	17
SLOVAK R.	7		2
SLOVENIA	18	3	3
SPAIN	45	20	42
SWEDEN	61	5	48
SWITZERLAND	74	3	39
TUNISIA	1	0	0
U. KINGDOM	22	5	22
TOTAL	577	98	312

Does the AB accept to deliver accreditation with flexible scope ?



does the AB accept to deliver accreditation with flexible scope (per country)

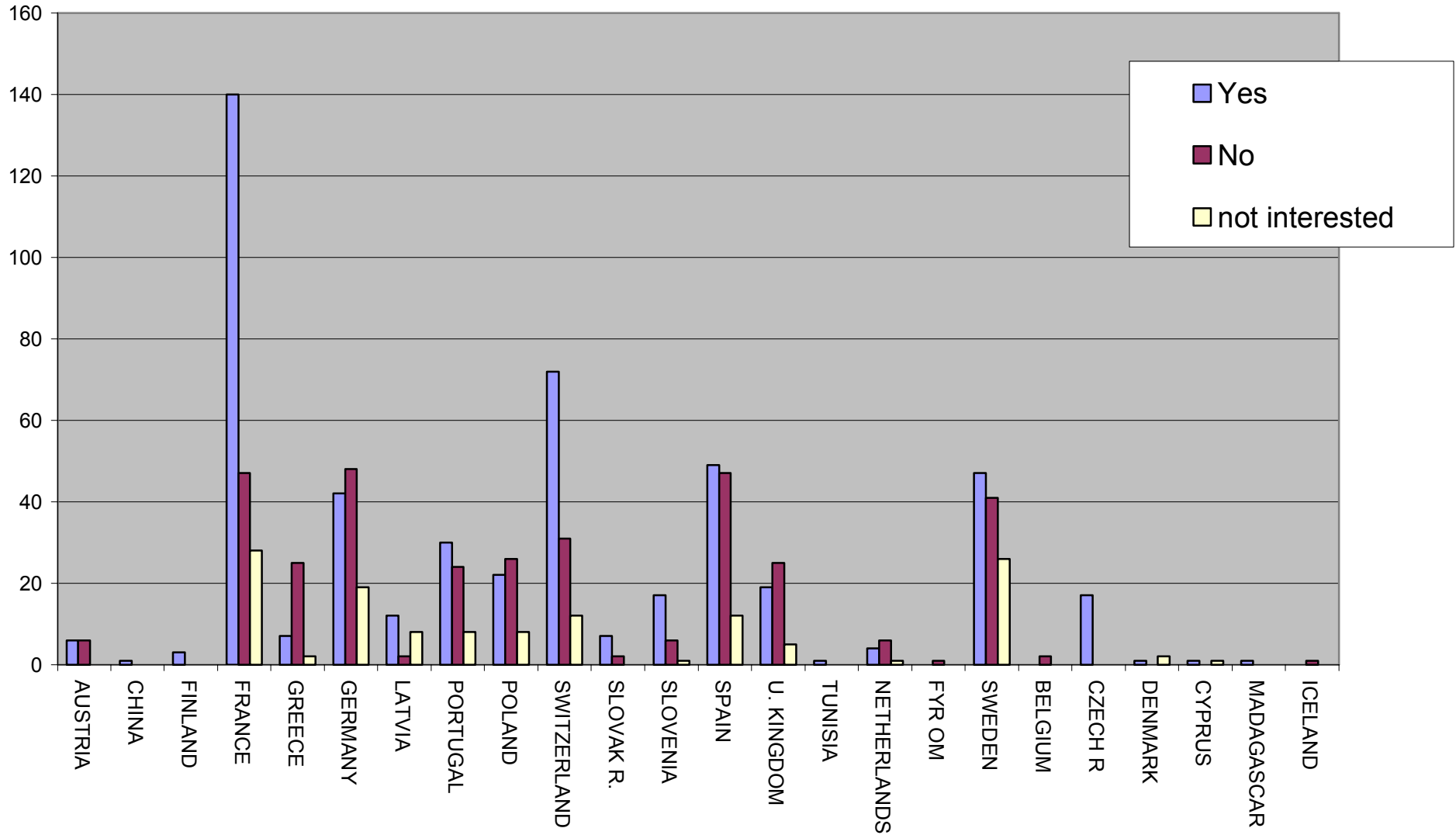


ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW TO OBTAIN A FLEXIBLE SCOPE ACCREDITATION?

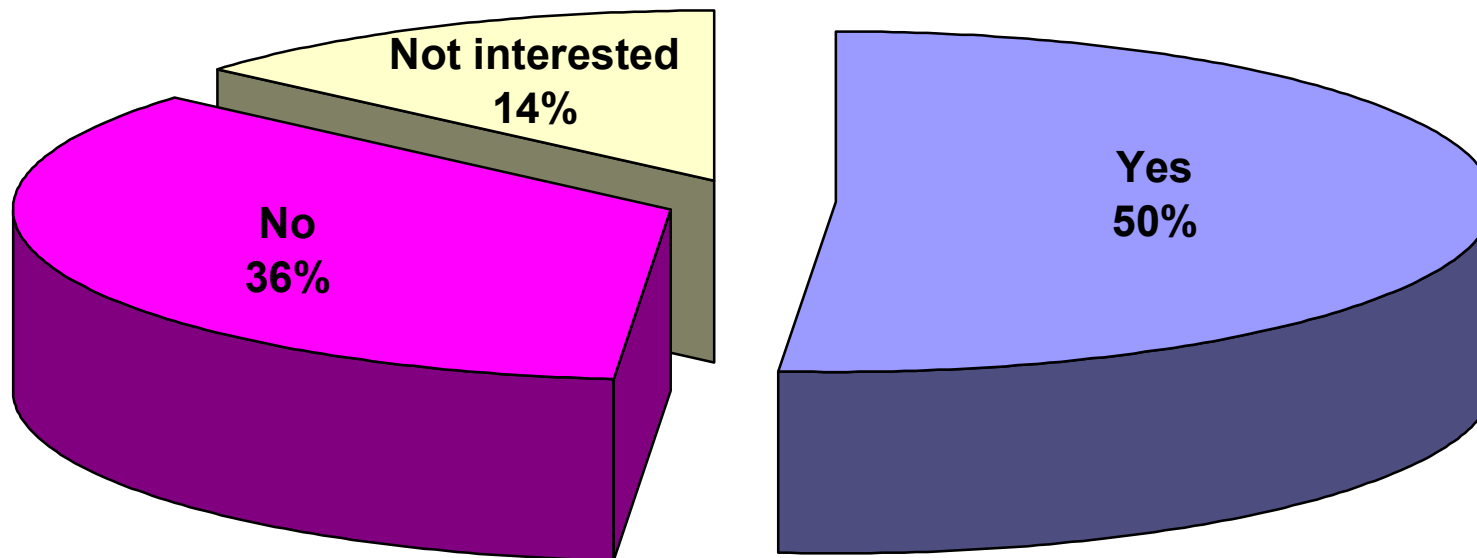
(ALL COUNTRIES, FOR 1044 ANSWERS RECEIVED)

COUNTRIES	YES I KNOW HOW TO OBTAIN FLEXIBLE SCOPE ACCREDITATION	NO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO OBTAIN FLEXIBLE SCOPE ACCREDITATION	NOT INTERESTED BY FLEXIBLE SCOPE ACCREDITATION
AUSTRIA	6	6	
BELGIUM		2	
CHINA	1	0	
CYPRUS	1		1
CZECH R	17		0
DENMARK	1		2
FINLAND	3		
FRANCE	140	47	28
FYR OM	0	1	0
GERMANY	42	48	19
GREECE	7	25	2
ICELAND		1	
LATVIA	12	2	8
MADAGASCAR	1		
NETHERLANDS	4	6	1
POLAND	22	26	8
PORTUGAL	30	24	8
SLOVAK R.	7	2	
SLOVENIA	17	6	1
SPAIN	49	47	12
SWEDEN	47	41	26
SWITZERLAND	72	31	12
TUNISIA	1	0	0
U. KINGDOM	19	25	5
TOTAL	499	340	133

**Aware on how to obtain a flexible scope of accreditation ?
(per country according to answers received)**



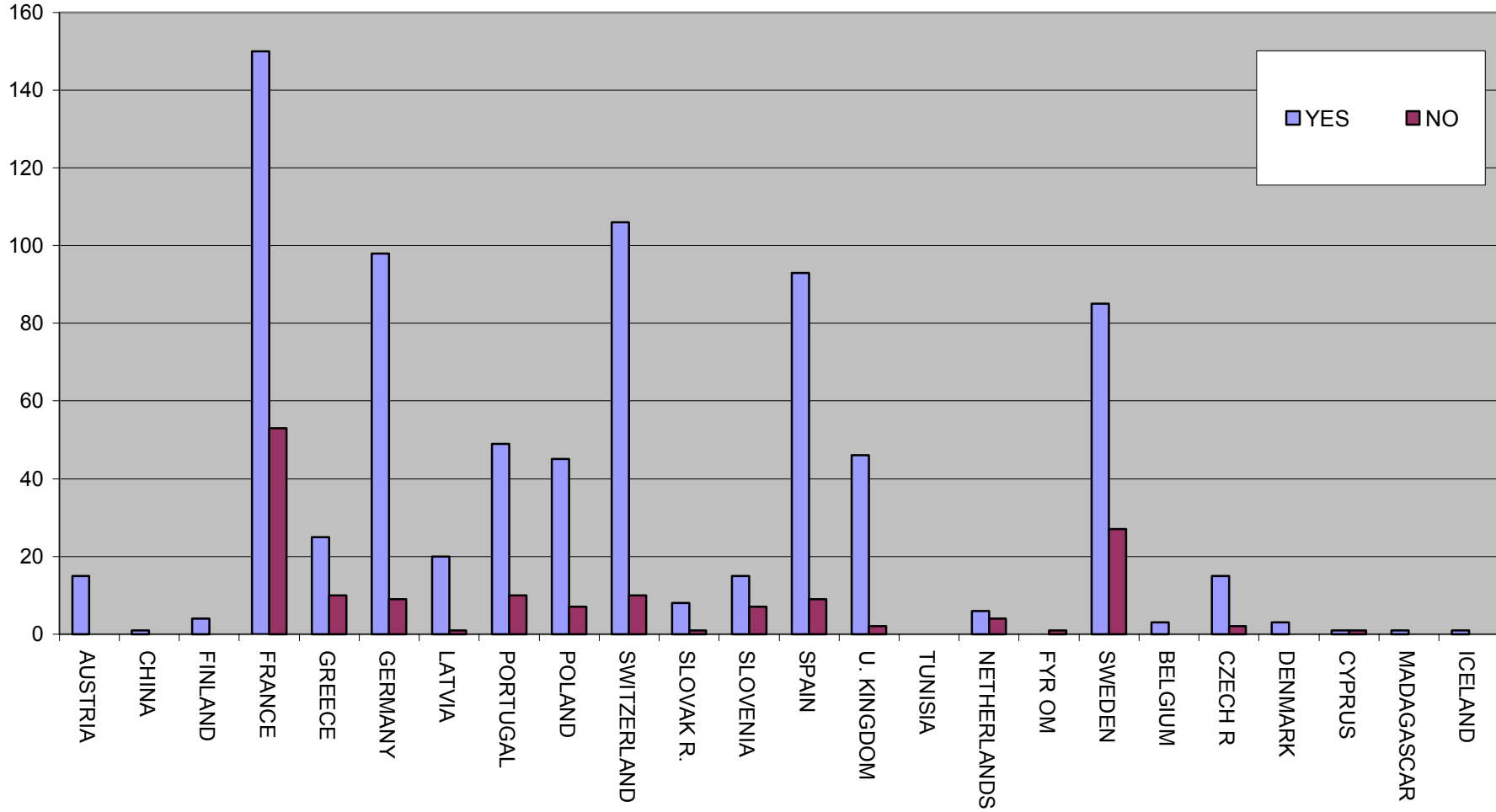
**Aware of how to obtain a flexible scope accreditation ?
(all countries, in %, from 1044 answers received)**



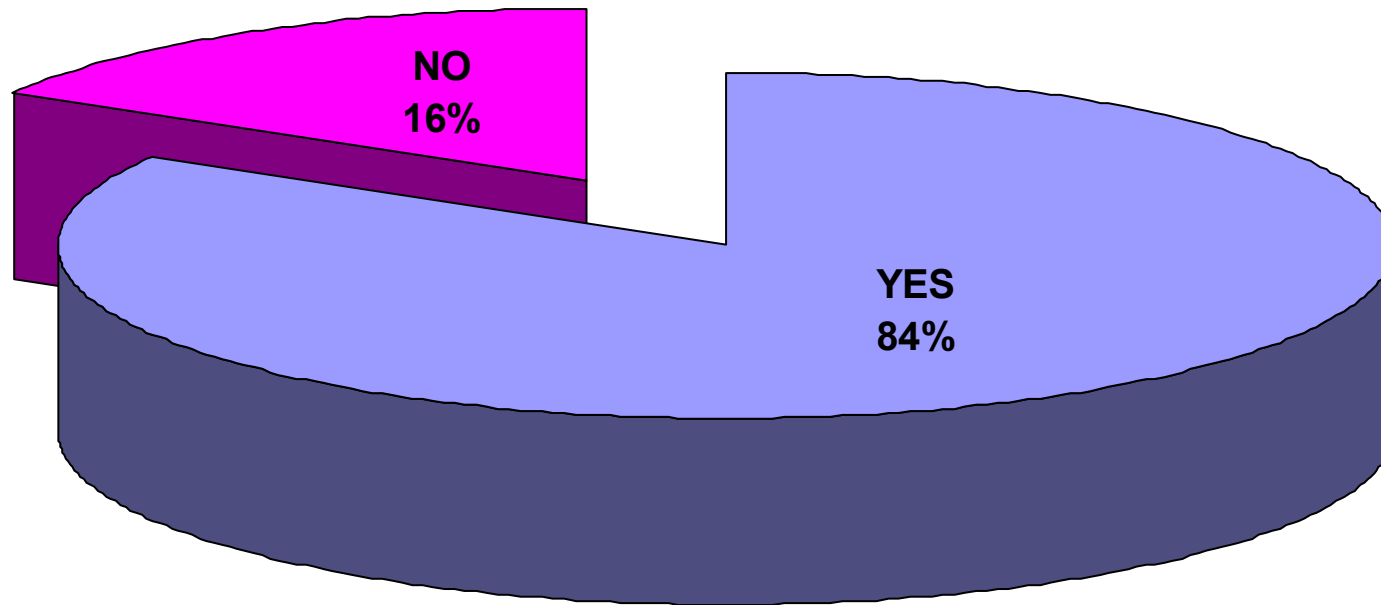
**DOES YOUR ORGANISATION HAS COMPETENCY TO DEVELOP OR
ADAPT TEST METHODS?**

COUNTRIES	YES	NO
AUSTRIA	15	
BELGIUM	3	
CHINA	1	0
CYPRUS	1	1
CZECH R	15	2
DENMARK	3	
FINLAND	4	
France	150	53
FYR OM	0	1
GERMANY	98	9
GREECE	25	10
ICELAND	1	
LATVIA	20	1
MADAGASCAR	1	
NETHERLANDS	6	4
POLAND	45	7
Portugal	49	10
SLOVAK R.	8	1
SLOVENIA	15	7
SPAIN	93	9
SWEDEN	85	27
SWITZERLAND	106	10
TUNISIA	0	0
U. KINGDOM	46	2
TOTAL	790	154

**Does your organisation has competency to develop or adapt test methods ?
(by country, according to answers received)**



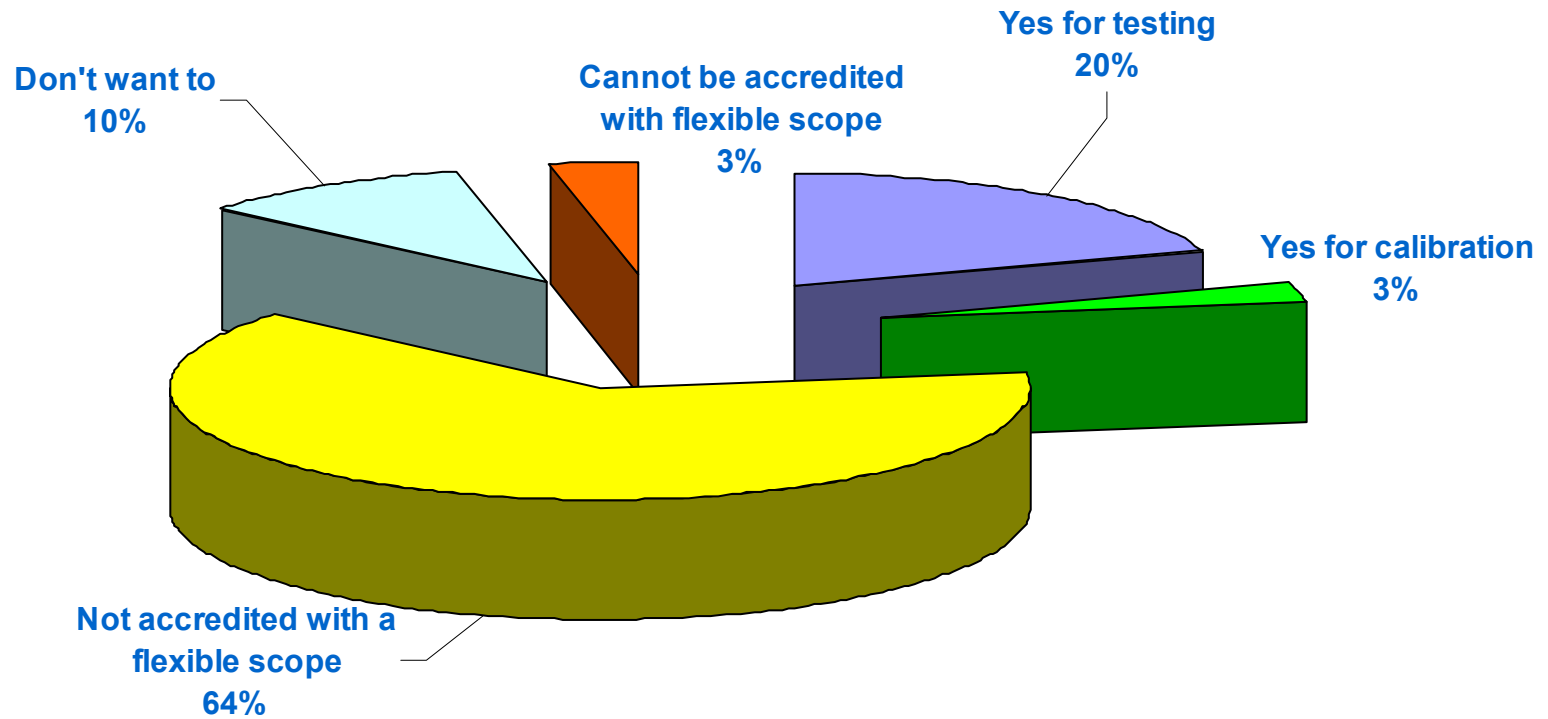
**Does your organisation has competency to develop or adapt test methods ?
(in % - all countries, from 1044 answers received)**



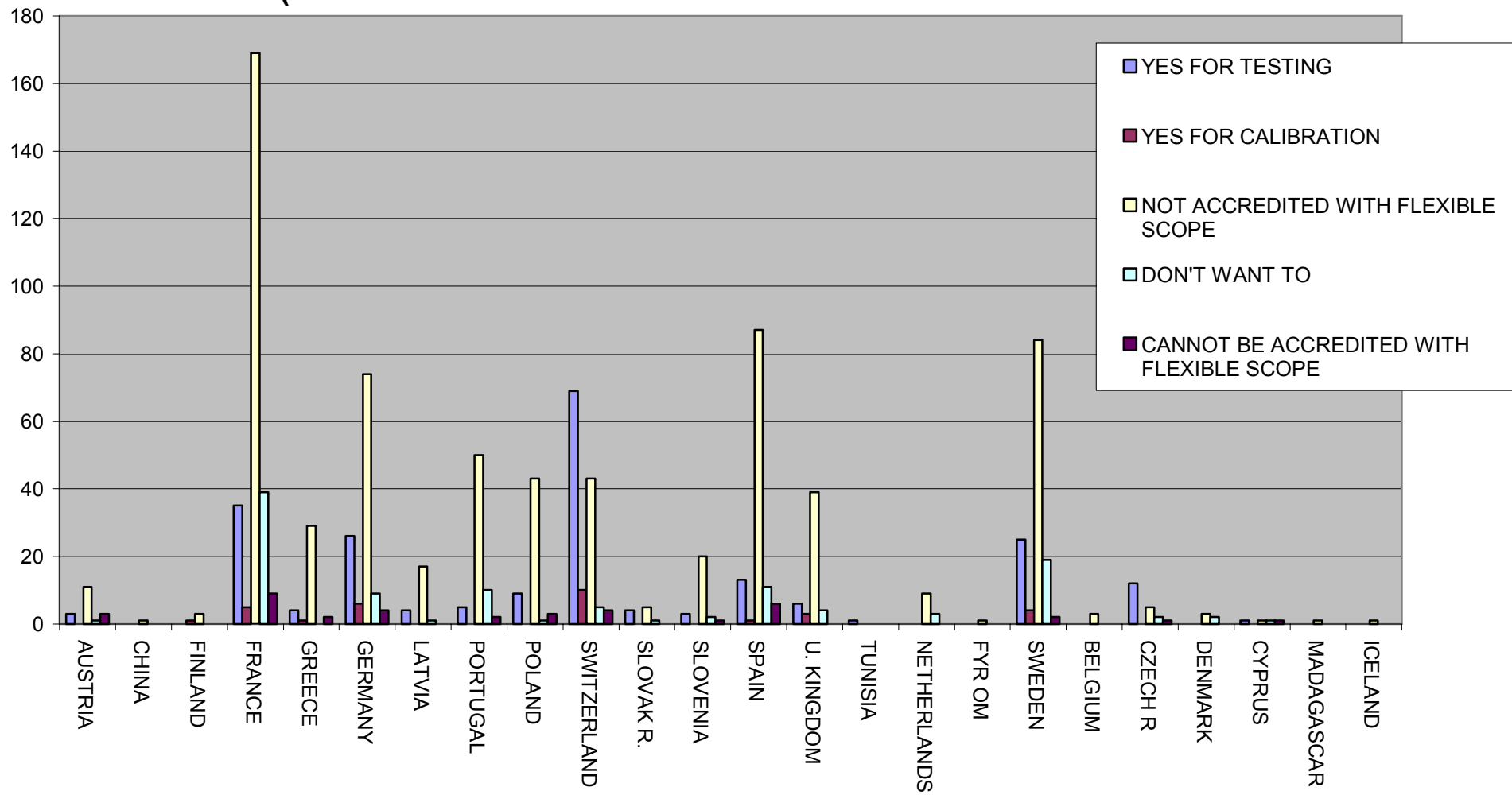
**ARE YOU ACCREDITED WITH A FLEXIBLE SCOPE ?
(ALL COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO 1044 ANSWERS RECEIVED)**

COUNTRIES	YES FOR TESTING	YES FOR CALIBRATION	NO	NO I DON'T WANT TO	NO I CAN'T
AUSTRIA	3		11	1	3
BELGIUM			3		
CHINA	0	0	1	0	0
CYPRUS	1		1	1	1
CZECH R	12		5	2	1
DENMARK			3	2	
FINLAND	0	1	3		
France	35	5	169	39	9
FYROM	0	0	1	0	0
GERMANY	26	6	74	9	4
GREECE	4	1	29		2
ICELAND			1		
LATVIA	4	0	17	1	0
MADAGASCAR			1		
NETHERLANDS			9	3	
POLAND	9		43	1	3
Portugal	5		50	10	2
SLOVAK R.	4	0	5	1	0
SLOVENIA	3		20	2	1
SPAIN	13	1	87	11	6
SWEDEN	25	4	84	19	2
SWITZERLAND	69	10	43	5	4
TUNISIA	1				
U. KINGDOM	6	3	39	4	
TOTAL	220	31	699	111	38

Are you accredited with flexible scope ?
(in %, all countries, according to 1044 answers received)



ARE YOU ACCREDITED WITH A FLEXIBLE SCOPE ? (PER COUNTRY ACCORDING TO THE ANSWERS RECEIVED° ?

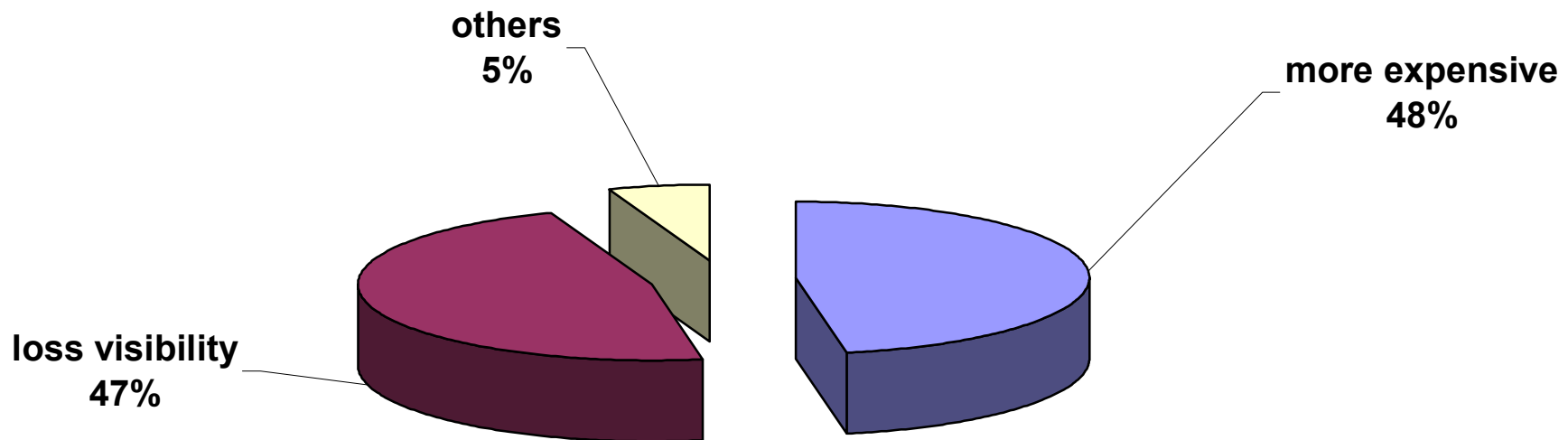


DISADVANTAGES SHOWN BY FLEXIBLE SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION

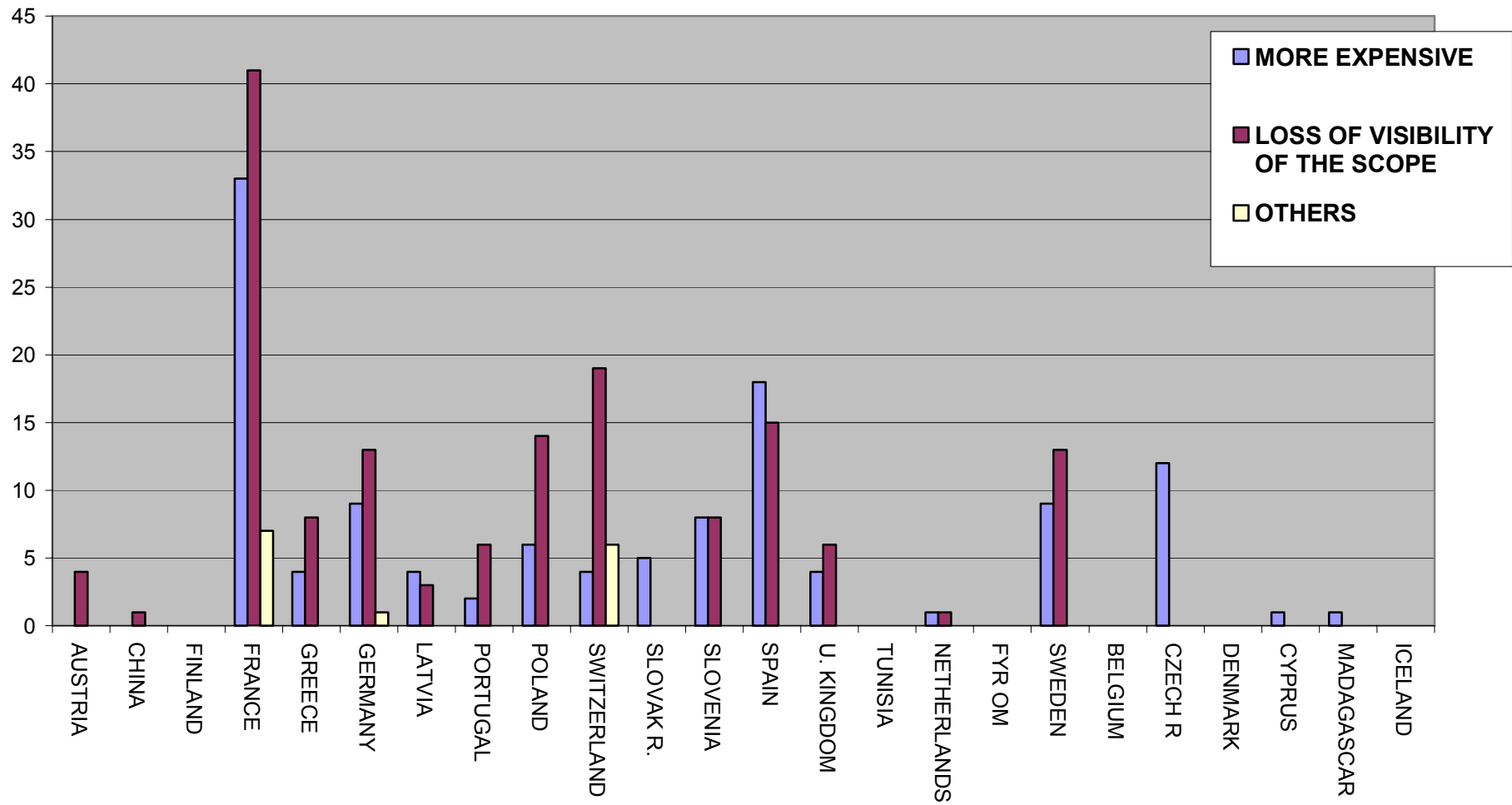
(ALL COUNTRIES, FROM 1044 ANSWERS RECEIVED)

COUNTRIES	MORE EXPENSIVE	LOSS OF VISIBILITY OF THE SCOPE	OTHERS
AUSTRIA		4	
BELGIUM			
CHINA	0	1	0
CYPRUS	1		
CZECH R	12		
DENMARK			
FINLAND			
France	33	41	7
FYR OM	0	0	0
GERMANY	9	13	1
GREECE	4	8	
ICELAND			
LATVIA	4	3	0
MADAGASCAR	1		
NETHERLANDS	1	1	
POLAND	6	14	
Portugal	2	6	
SLOVAK R.	5	0	0
SLOVENIA	8	8	
SPAIN	18	15	
SWEDEN	9	13	
SWITZERLAND	4	19	6
TUNISIA			
U. KINGDOM	4	6	
TOTAL	121	152	14

**Disadvantages shown by accreditation with flexible scope
(in %, from 1044 answers received)**



DISADVANTAGES SHOWN BY FLEXIBLE SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION (AS PER INQUIRIES RECEIVED°)



COMMENTS RECEIVED

COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE FLEXIBLE SCOPE

SPAIN :

- we don't know what flexible scope is : 4 answers
- we are interested but without any increase of the price and process of accreditation
- we are interested in further information : 2 answers

UNITED KINGDOM :

- Not been made aware of the possibility of a flexible scope must discuss with UKAS
- Had no information regarding flexible scope we are unable to be accurate with some answers
- The inquiry form is poor and too prescriptive, I don' understand : 2
- We are not assessed by national accreditation because third party accreditation does not add value when assessing and our customers prefer flexibility and professional balance when reporting

GREECE

- there is no official information on what flexible scope is
- we are interested in knowing more about flexible scope
- it is not clear if we are able to use logo with accreditation number
- we are not able to use flexible scope because of IEC61400-12-1

THE NETHERLANDS

- we tried to get accreditation with flexible scope but the Dutch AB does not allow a true flexible scope, it is impossible to fulfil all strict requirements set by the Dutch AB to gain accreditation for flexible scope. So we saw no advantage to continue to try to gain a flexible scope and changed to the usual fixed scope. We are frustrated to see German and Swiss laboratories have flexible scope that no Dutch laboratory will ever be able to have.

SWEDEN

- instead of the logo with accreditation number most of our test reports are provided with textual commentary referring to accreditation. There is a difficulty to handle the logo, the important information is the accreditation not the logo itself.

SLOVENIA

- we don't use the opportunity of flexible scope

LATVIA

- we had no information about a possibility of flexible scope of accreditation before the receipt of the inquiry. It is difficult to find impartial and technically competent experts in Latvia

POLAND

- thanks for the opportunity to share information on the flexible scope
- the use of flexible scope should be assessed by the AB for traceability reasons.
- It takes almost one year to fulfil the formal requirements of the AB is is needed to offer two part certification one part with the logo in the scope of accreditation and without logo out of scope. The costs are also an important issue. More accredited procedures cost more because audits take more time.
- I don't know what flexible scope is

AUSTRIA

- Accreditation means clear prescriptions. It is difficult to decide if a test must be carried out with the accreditation scope or not..
- The flexible scope in Austria has the same requirements or higher requirements concerning the methods validation, process, quality and qualification of the staff. We therefore do not have to inform the customer but, on the customer's request we inform him on all the dispositions of an accreditation according to the different kind of tests.

SWITZERLAND

- the word flexible scope is not used by the Swiss AB. We can chose between 3 kind of accreditation A B and C. C is the more flexible. C induces introduction of additional test process allowed for different kind of tests. I am not sure to understand the questionnaire
- is it possible to test according to draft standards ?
- do not know what flexible scope is, need more information : 3 answers
- is not sure to be accredited within a flexible scope,
- no international recognition of test reports, CB scheme for EMC could be the end of legal accreditation
- flexible scope is an advantage because it allows to schedule testing accreditation according to the importance and the number of tests.

GERMANY

- flexible scope must be explained to our customers especially in Italy and UK
- the laboratories should work and apply same standards, it would be easier
- flexible scope car be interesting when calibrating it will induce a decrease of the price but it is difficult because the customer does not know the standards to apply so it is too difficult for him,
- do not understand flexible scope, thinks flexible scope includes measures standards
- the symbols for accreditation do not meet the demand, too measurement means the customer has no time to check everything it the AB work,
- the customer will need more information on the competencies of the lab on standards and it's going to be difficult
- do not use the logo, the number of accreditation is used but are working on an integration of the number of accreditation
- accreditation according to 17025 should not be allowed, calibration is not testing
- we only meet our requirement with flexible scope the logo is not important for customers

- advantages but also disadvantages because the customers are not aware of the standards and because the number of the standard is not written in the certificate
- flexible scope definition must be transmitted to the customers and AB
- dispositions of question G and F are an intrusion in our freedom of action
- we do not use flexible scope but are interested and informed their AB
- need the definition of flexible scope, we did not define it : 2 answers
- we want to have a flexible scope and will change our AB for that
- accreditation for testing is too complicated
- Everything is not accredited because it is too expensive
- Certificates are made electronically no logo or other in the certificates, just a sentence stating the accreditation.
- To keep the importance of the value of accreditation flexible scope should not be proposed
- No experience in flexible scope but are thinking about it : 2 answers

PORTUGAL

- I need some information on flexible scope
- We don't know third party or in house
- In Portugal all certificates or reports covered by the scope of accreditation shall be issued with the accreditation otherwise it is considered outside the scope of accreditation.
- Our AB introduced flexible accreditation but it is not clear, we need further information
- We never thought about using flexible scope because we think we are too small ?
- Not allowed by our AB to issue certificates or reports within the scope of accreditation without accreditation logo

FRANCE

- we have a project of accreditation with a flexible scope requested 2 years ago to the COFRAC, actually the Cofrac is setting the criteria of accreditation for air quality in working areas and I hope to be accredited one day
- we are not concerned by flexible scope because our main aim is to generate Cofrac reports. The main impediments are customers request, capacity and price.