

"Implementation of WOAHA standards on long distance transport: current situation, gaps, solutions. Results of the survey presented at the 30th WOAHA Regional Conference for Europe"

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Introduction

- The WOAH Regional Commission for Europe recognised the crucial importance of implementing WOAH Standards on animal transport, particularly long distance
- Therefore, it was decided to assign the topic “Long distance transport of live animals: WOAH standards and best practices including societal perception and communication aspects” as one of the two Technical Items of the Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, (3-7 October 2022)
- The TI was presented by Daniela Morelli (WOAH CC for Animal Welfare)

Objective

- **To analyse** the level of implementation of WOAHA International Standards and current best practices in a long-distance transportation of animals by sea and by land
- **To provide** insight for the Regional Commission for Europe when planning future activities, to address identified gaps in standards implementation whilst taking into consideration specific Members' needs



Materials and methods

An **online questionnaire** was designed by a multi-disciplinary team:

- experts at WOAHA headquarters and at Sub-regional Representation in Brussels
- expert of WOAHA Collaborating Centre Consortium.

The questionnaire was distributed by WOAHA Sub-Regional Representation office in Brussels to all 53 Members of the Regional Commission for Europe. The survey was completed by 47 Members.

Materials and methods

Questionnaire: 4 thematic sections

- **Legislative framework** that explores different key aspects
- **Major gaps/or shortages** for the Competent Authorities to implement standards and requirements on animal transport
- **Civil society** and business operators' **awareness** regarding animal welfare issues during long distance transportation and the impact on the protection of the animals
- **Expected actions by WOA**H to assist the Competent Authorities in the implementation of standards and requirements on animal transport.

Materials and methods

- The analysis of the data obtained was carried out by **grouping similar answers** and expressing the result obtained as a percentage or as an absolute value.
- The geographical distribution proposed by the **United Nations geoscheme** was used to highlight, when proper, any spatial clustering of the results

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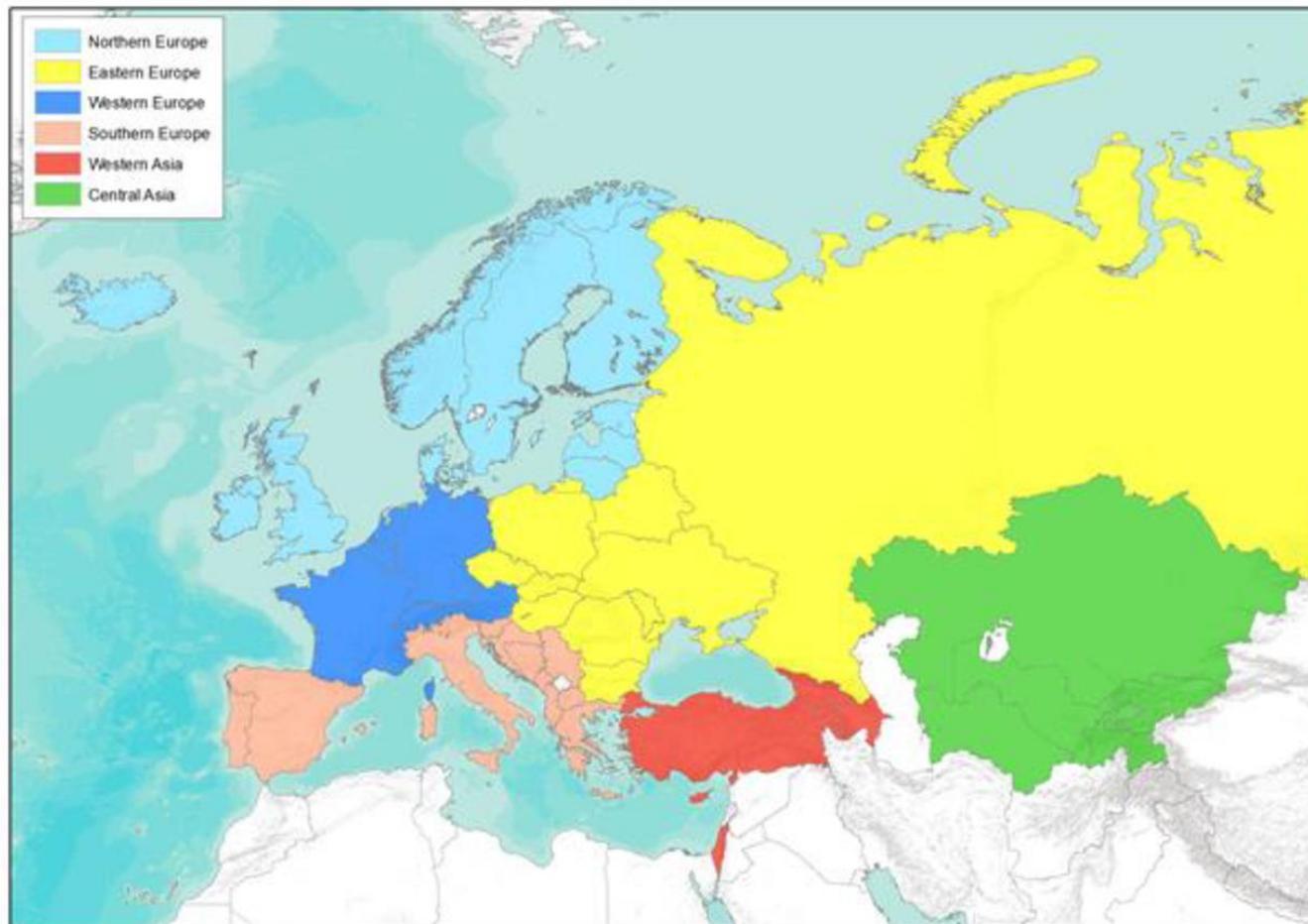
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Materials and methods

United Nations geoscheme



Results and discussion

Legislative framework

Specific legislation on animal welfare during transport

- **Forty six out of 47 Members (98%) gave a positive response and in forty one cases (87%) the legislation generally reflects WOAH Standards.**
- **Thirty three out of 47 (70%) of Members stated they have non-legislative documents such as working/operating procedures and/or best practice guidelines covering animal welfare issues during transport.**

Most Members declared to have relevant legislation in place; however, its implementation in many countries in the Region could be further supported by non-legislative documents.

Results and discussion

Legislative framework

Existence of specific regulations related to some key aspects for ensuring the welfare of the animals to be transported or during transport (inspection of animals before and during their travel, certification, record keeping, the approval of facilities, vehicles, vessels, containers, and roll-on/roll-off vessels

- Forty four (44) out of 47 responding Members (93%) gave positive response
- In particular:
- Ninety eight percent (98%) of Members pointed out that the legislation in their country concerns the **inspection of animals before and during their travel**, certification, and record keeping.
- Thirty-one (71%) of the Members declared to have specific regulations for **inspection of animals plus approval of means of transportation**, including the approval of facilities.

Results and discussion

Legislative framework

Responsibilities during transport operations

- **Animal owners or managers (39 out of 47),**
- **Drivers (37 out of 47),**
- **Animal handlers (37 out of 47),**
- **Transport companies (36 out of 47),**
- **Exporters (30 out of 47).**

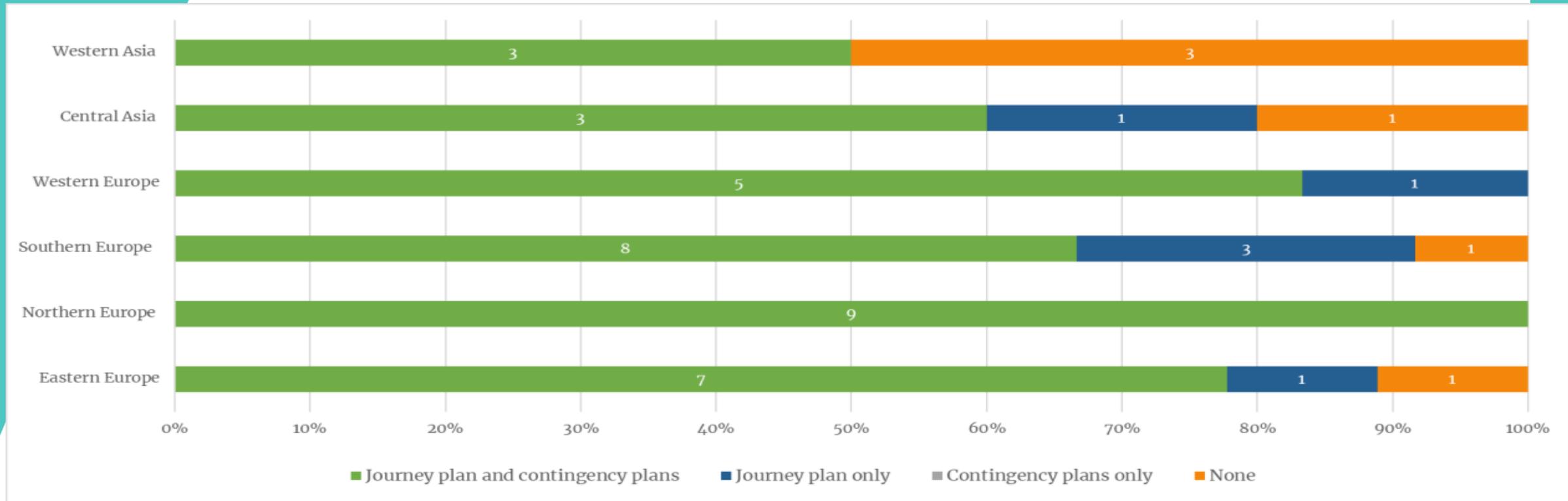
Specific competencies documented through formal training or practical experience

- **Drivers (33 out of 47),**
- **Animal handlers (28 out of 47),**
- **Transport companies (23 out of 47),**
- **Animal owners and or managers (13 out of 47).**

Results and discussion

Legislative framework

Geographical distribution of WOAH Members where legislation in force requires a **journey plan before departure** or **contingency plans** addressing emergencies



Results and discussion

Legislative framework

Monitoring and evaluation

- Almost all the respondents (45 out of 47) declared that **monitoring and evaluation** of the implementation of the legal requirements concerning animal transport are **regularly carried out by the Competent Authority** or other certification bodies.

Results and discussion

Legislative framework

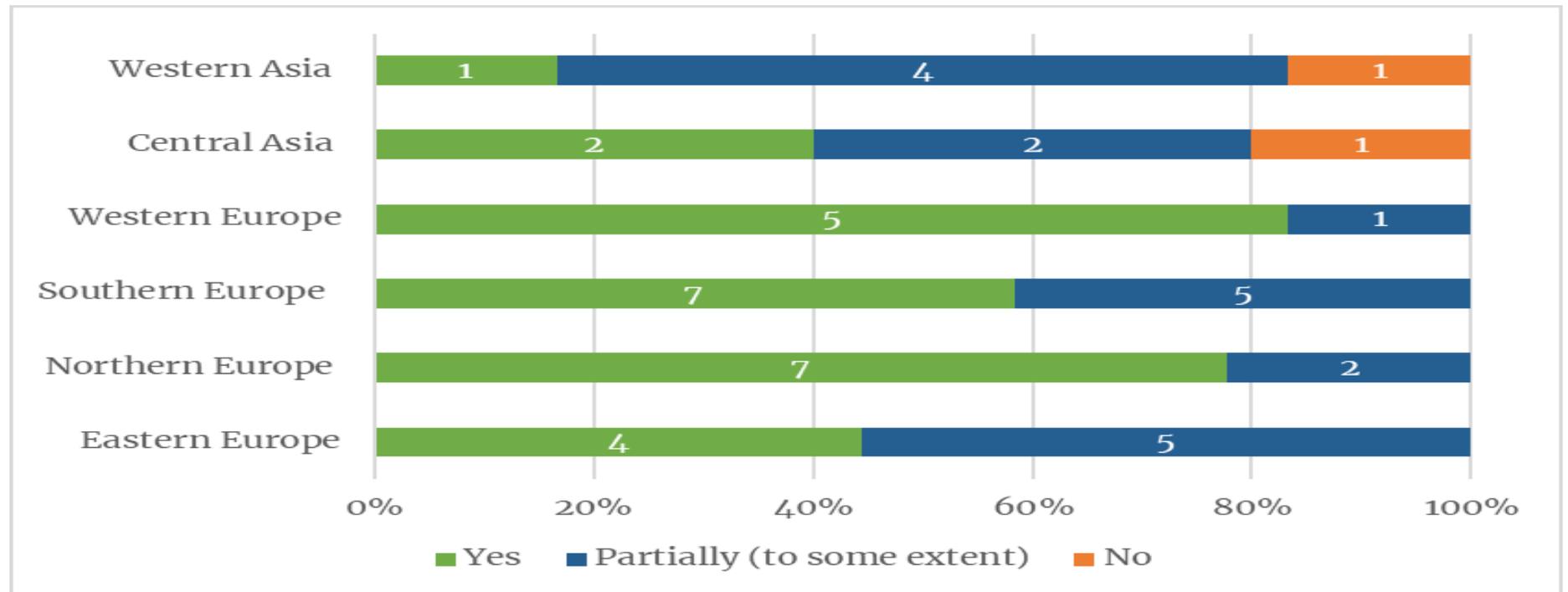
Official controls

- **In most European Countries (27 out of 47), the Central and the local Competent Authority organize or carry out official controls. In 13 out of 47 Members , official controls are conducted only by the local Competent Authority and in 7 of them, by the Central Competent Authority only.**
- **A low percentage of European Countries (38%) have a reporting system to analyse - at central level - the legal infringements.**

Results and discussion

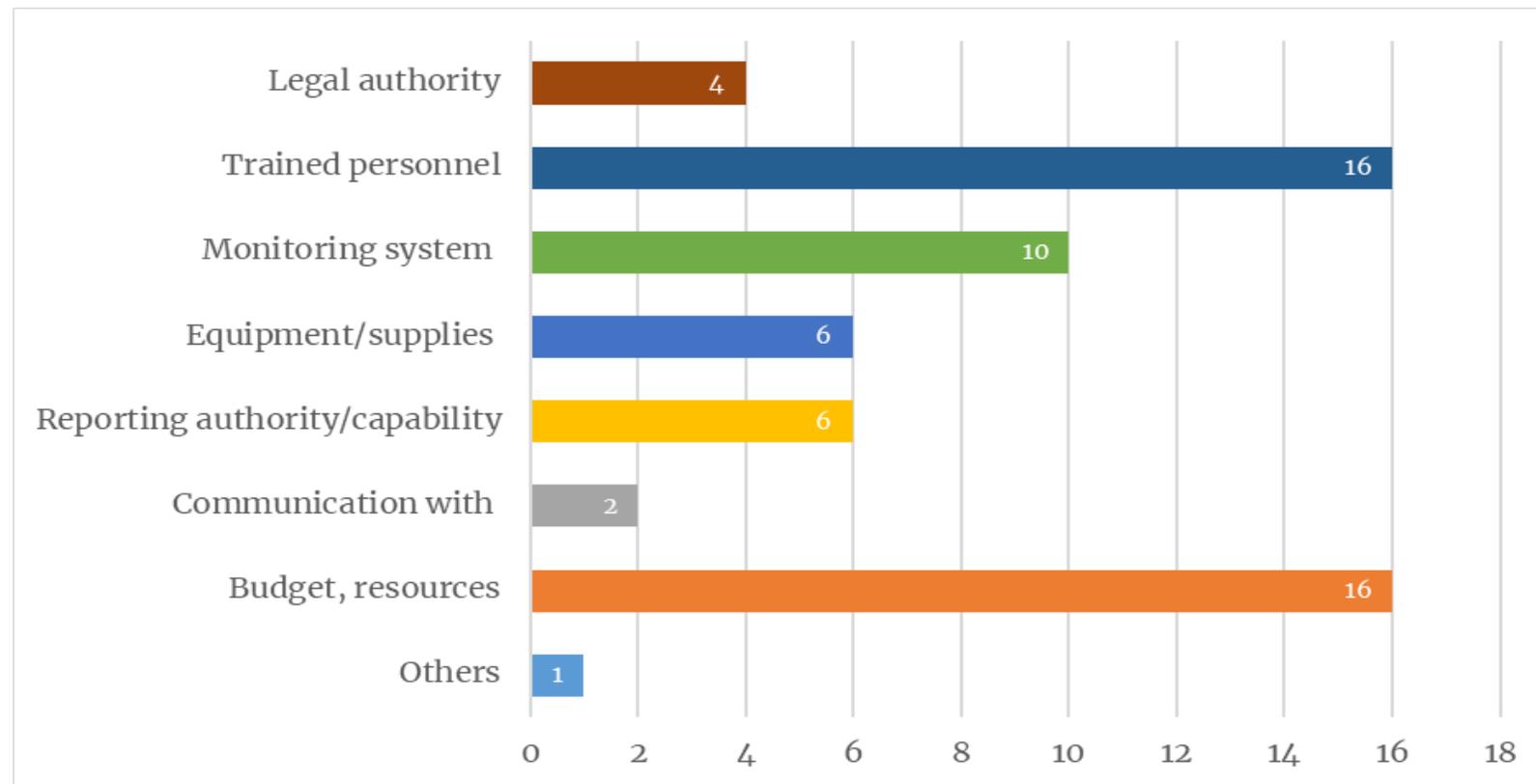
Major gaps/or shortages

WOAH Members where Competent Authority has full, partial or no **technical capacity**, trained personnel, and additional capacity to **implement standards and requirements on animal transport**



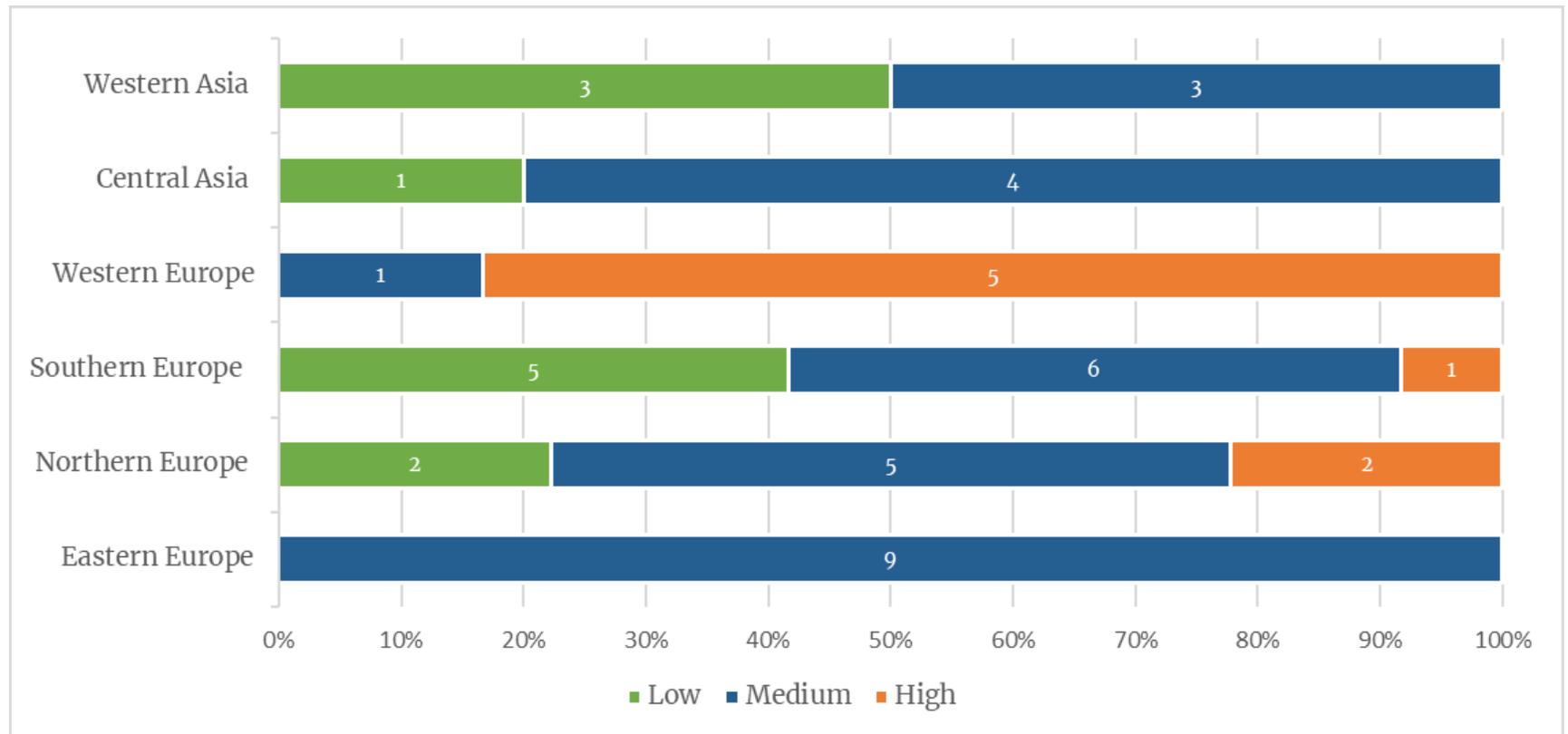
Results and discussion

Major gaps/or shortages



Results and discussion

Civil society and business operators' awareness



Results and discussion

Civil society and business operators' awareness

Impact of civil society's awareness on consumers and business operators

- **Southern Europe** and, in minor degree, **Western and Central Asia** seem to be the most skeptical areas about the possible positive effects of the civil society awareness (5 out of 10 “disagree” answers were in Southern Europe).
- **Northern and Western Europe** are more in agreement with this approach (17 out of 30 answers from these areas).

Results and discussion

Civil society and business operators' awareness

Level of awareness on role and responsibilities to protect animals expressed by business operators

- **Transport companies highly aware of their role and responsibilities to protect the transported animals**
- **Drivers, animal handlers, and resting point managers and personnel medium – high the level of awareness**
- **Farmers, exporters, business or buy/selling agents and animal truck manufacturers medium level of awareness**

Results and discussion

Civil society and business operators' awareness

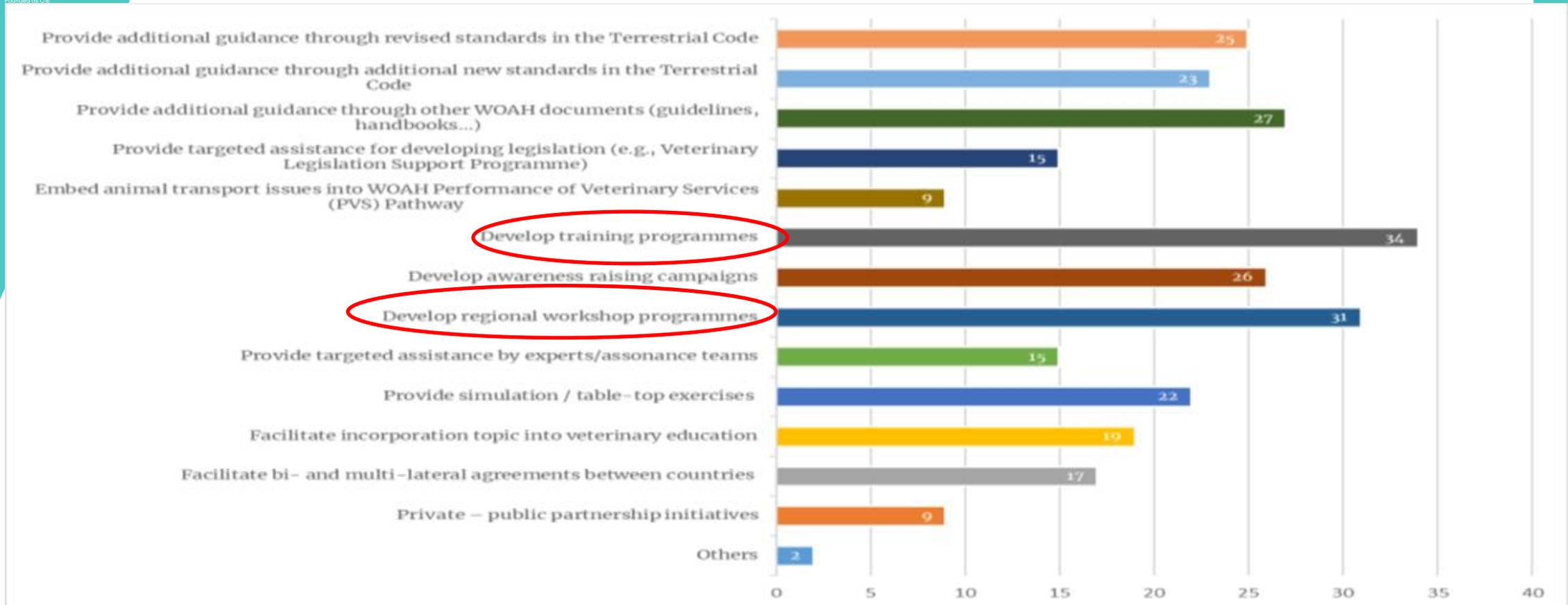
Initiatives in place to increase the level of awareness of civil society and business operators

- The majority of the Members provided a positive answer (only 16 out of 47 stated “no” to initiatives to increase the level of awareness of civil society and business operators being in place)
- Members that organize awareness raising activities are quite evenly distributed among the different geographical areas

Results and discussion

Expected actions or activities by WOA

Conclusive question: possible actions by WOA to assist the Competent Authorities in standards implementation



Conclusions

- **Transport is a critical moment** for animal welfare as it involves actions that are not part of the normal experience of animals, so they can be great stressors
- **Many different actors** could be involved in this delicate process, often in different countries
- **WOAH, as common reference organization, should favour the arising of a sense of collective and individual responsibility, effective communication and coordination amongst all participants in the transportation chain, on the basis of adequate regulatory frameworks**
- **The questionnaire highlighted some critical aspects relating the effective implementation of WOAH standards on animal welfare during transport**

Conclusions

- Legislations are “generally aligned” with Terrestrial Code standards, but certain crucial requirements often are not included
- **Additional non-legislative documents could be useful to facilitate the implementation of requirements**
- *Journey/contingency plans* and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of AW regulations by Competent Authorities, inspection, approval of means of transportation are declared but **further analysis on the level of application is needed**
- **Major gaps in budget or available resources** and trained personnel: capacity building interventions are needed
- Efforts are needed to **increase awareness among stakeholders** involved in animal welfare issues during transport
- **Additional training and guidance from WOA**H in the field of AW during transport could facilitate the role of the Competent Authorities in effectively protect transported animals

Recommendations from WOAHA on AW during long distance transport

- Members develop or update **legislation** where necessary
- Members develop procedures/guidelines to **clearly identify responsibilities** (including **training needs**) along the transport chain
- Members develop procedures for **communication** between competent authorities
- WOAHA provide **capacity building** to strengthen the **effectiveness of controls**
- Members promote the inclusion of animal welfare in **veterinary school curricula**
- Members/WOAH support **regional strategies** to address needs/priorities for AW during transport
- WOAHA, through Veterinary services, works to **increase stakeholders awareness**
- WOAHA revise/develop/update standards on the basis of **latest scientific knowledge**
- WOAHA provides relevant tools for the effective implementation of standards/national legislation also through the **Network of National Contact Points on long distance transport**
- WOAHA works closely with **regional and international organisations, donors committed to AW, competent authorities and the private sector** to implement standards (including urging the adoption of **private standards**)

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Thank you!

