

# Stakeholder Questionnaire - Answers

Policy Implementation Dialogue on Reducing Hazardous  
Substances in Construction

**Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union

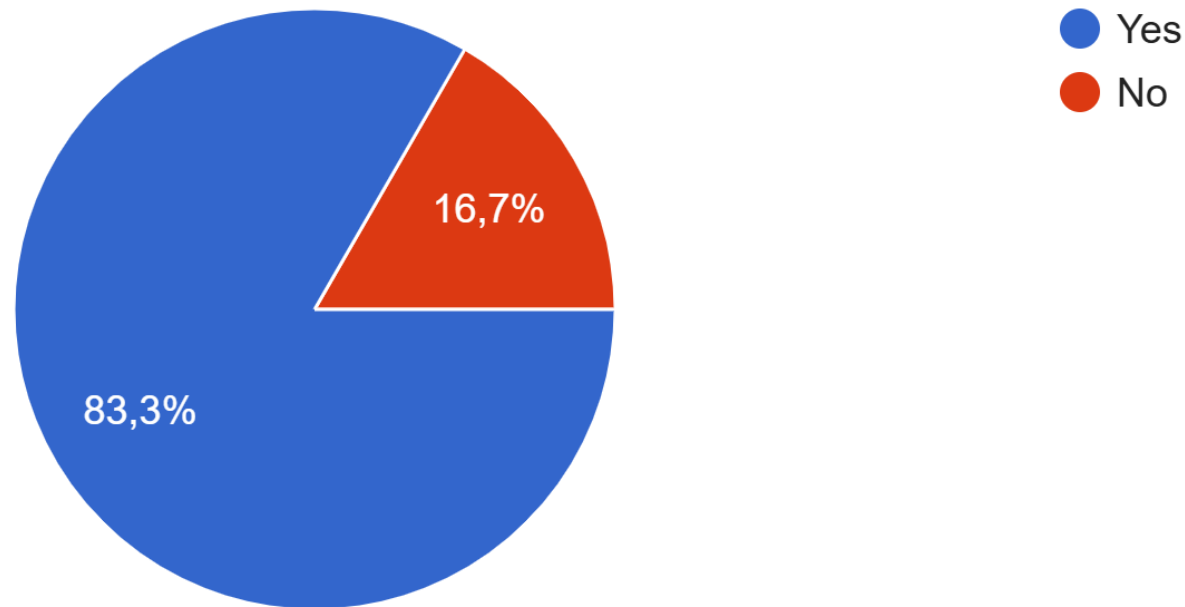


SUSTAINABLE WATERS

**NonHazCity 3**

# HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

1. Have you encountered specific **problems related to hazardous substances** in construction materials in your work context (or as a private individual)? (*e.g., issues with recycling, emission/leaching into indoor/outdoor environments, or lack of data availability*)



If you answered "yes" to previous question please describe the problems encountered shortly

**Lack of data,**  
expertise and tools

Lack of good  
alternatives

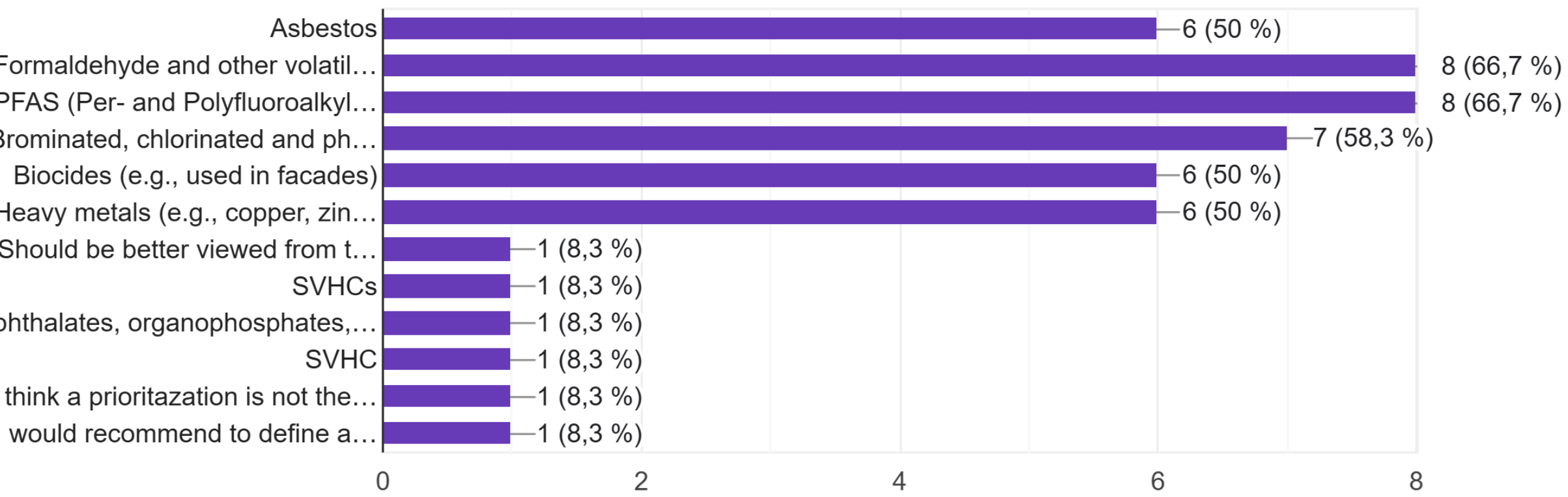
Too low priority for  
hazardous substances  
when addressing  
sustainability

Lack of advice in the  
planning system

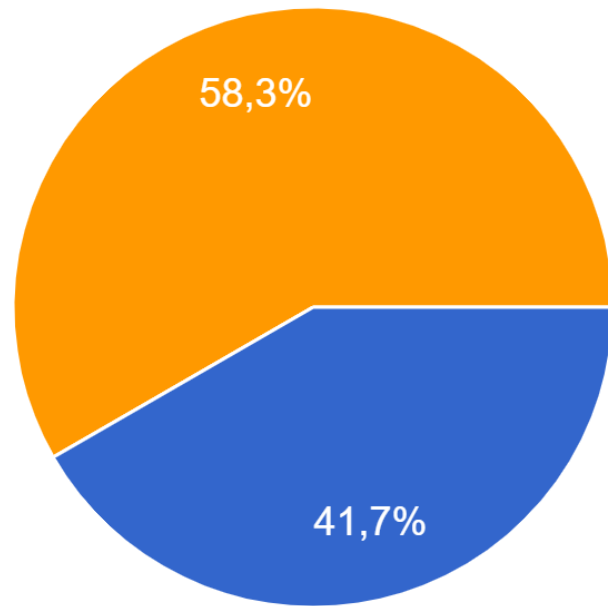
Problems with  
recyclability and  
waste regulation

Health concerns from  
presence of HS in  
products

2. In your opinion, which hazardous substances should be prioritized in green public procurement and future regulations concerning construction materials? (Please select all that apply and feel free to add additional substances.)



3. Should hazardous substances be strictly restricted or should they only be reported in construction materials?



- Strictly restricted
- Only reported
- It depends (please explain in next question)

If you answered "it depends" in previous question please explain you answer here

Distinguish between  
essential and non-  
essential use

Availability of  
substitutes

Trade-offs with wider  
environmental  
benefits

Distinction between  
manufacturing  
processes and  
products

Distinction between  
hazardous properties

In some cases  
obligatory reporting is  
adequate

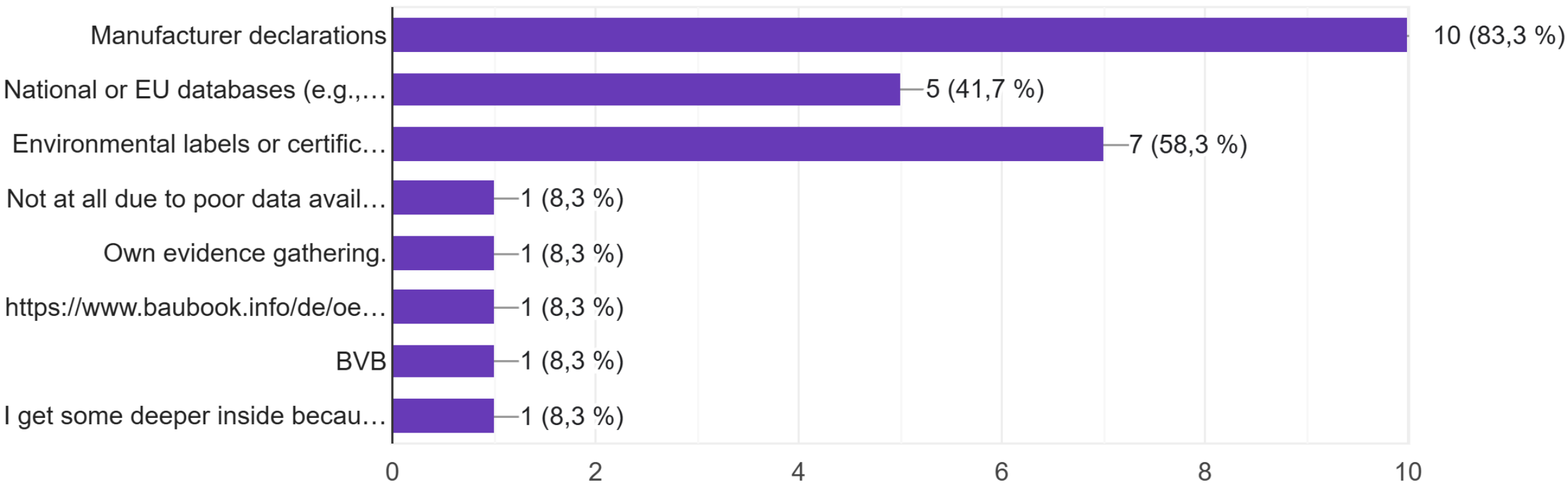
[Example] Irritating  
properties at elevated  
concentrations should  
be reported



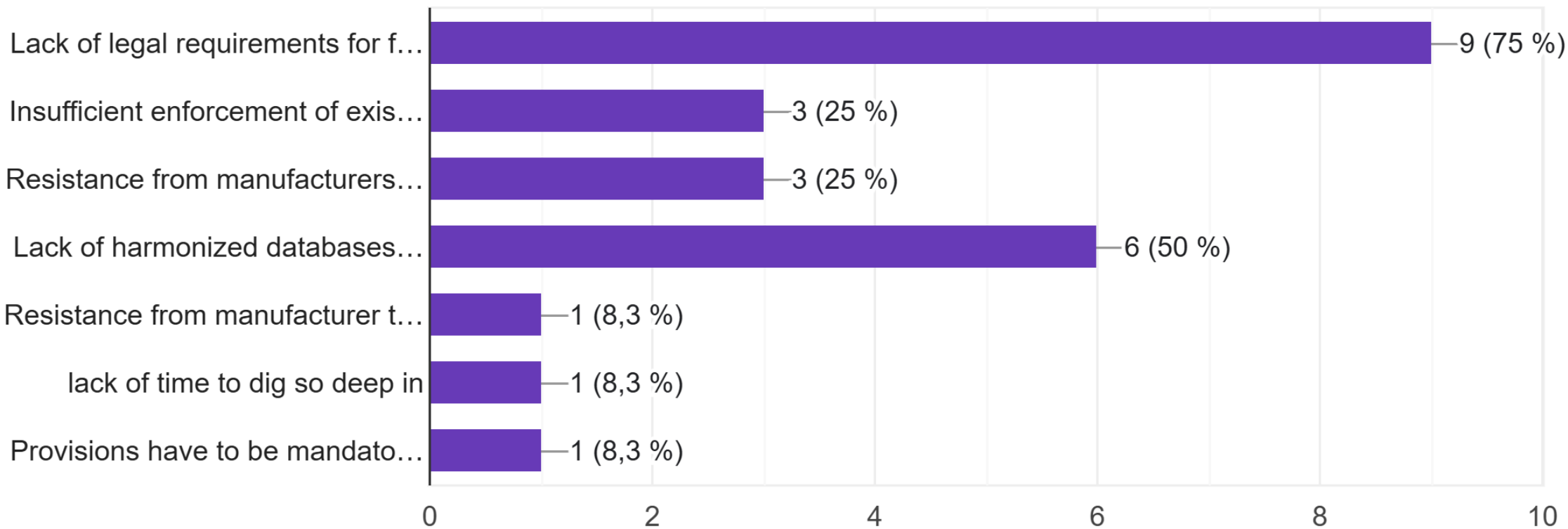
# INFORMATION AVAILABILITY & POLICY GAPS



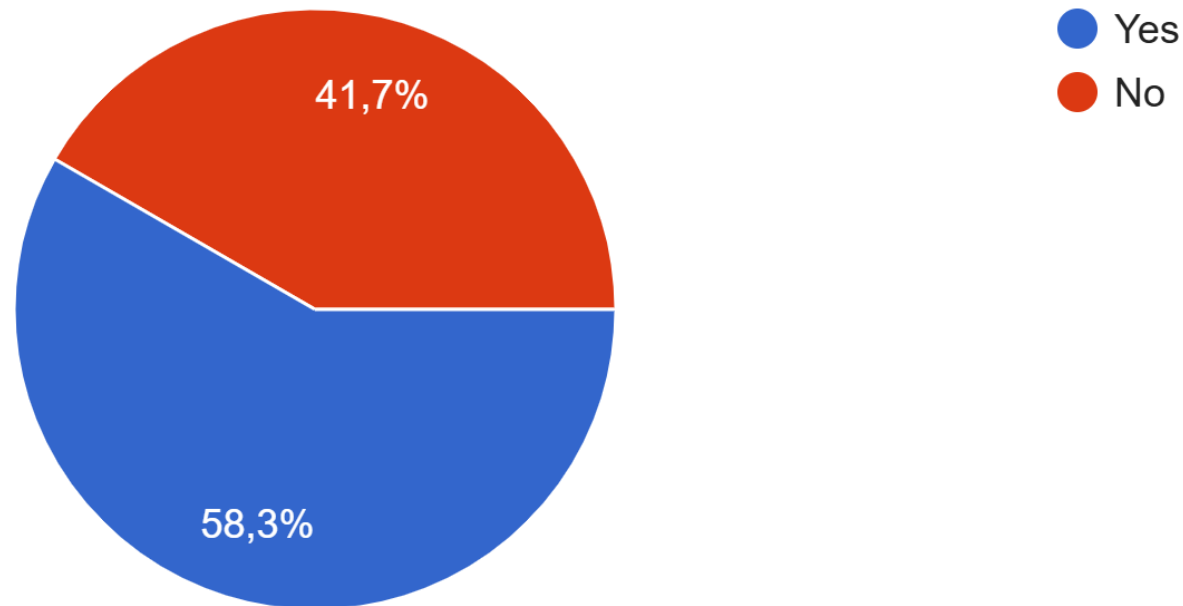
4. How do you currently access information about hazardous substances in construction materials?



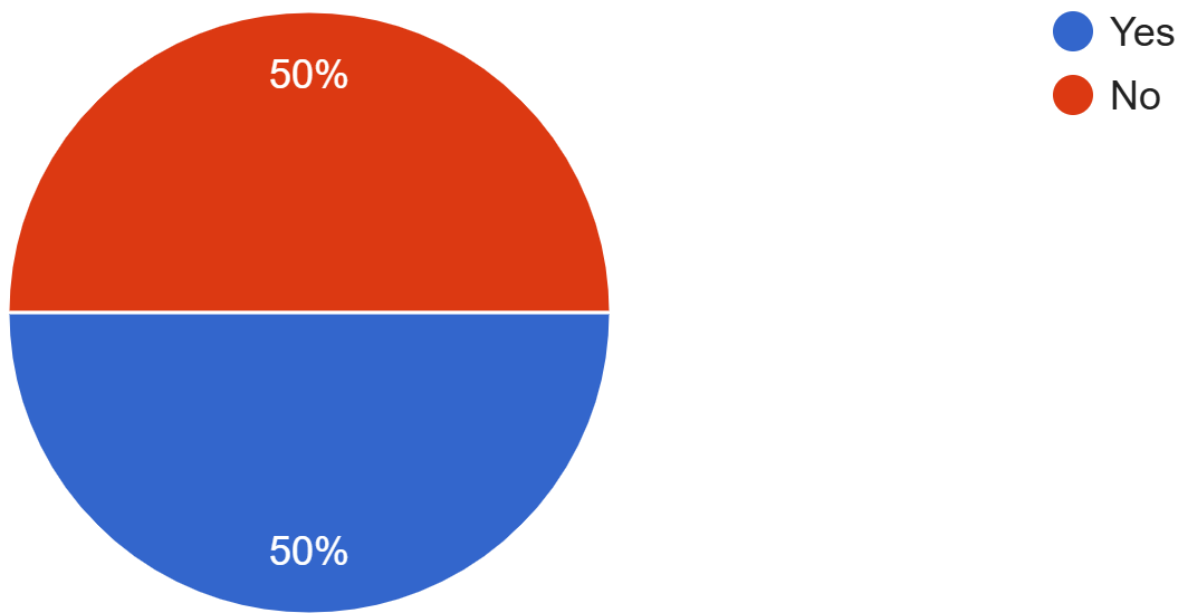
5. What are the main barriers to obtaining information on hazardous substances in construction materials? (Select up to two.)



6. Are there any positive legislative/procedural initiatives in your country that effectively reduce hazardous substances in construction materials or improve availability of information?



7. Have there been specific incidents or challenges related to hazardous substances in construction in your country in recent years?



If you answered "yes" to previous question please describe the incidents or challenges

Post-industrial  
legacy, PCB and  
asbestos

POPs, flame  
retardants,  
phthalates

Industrial interests >  
human health and  
environment

Biocide-free  
waterproofing

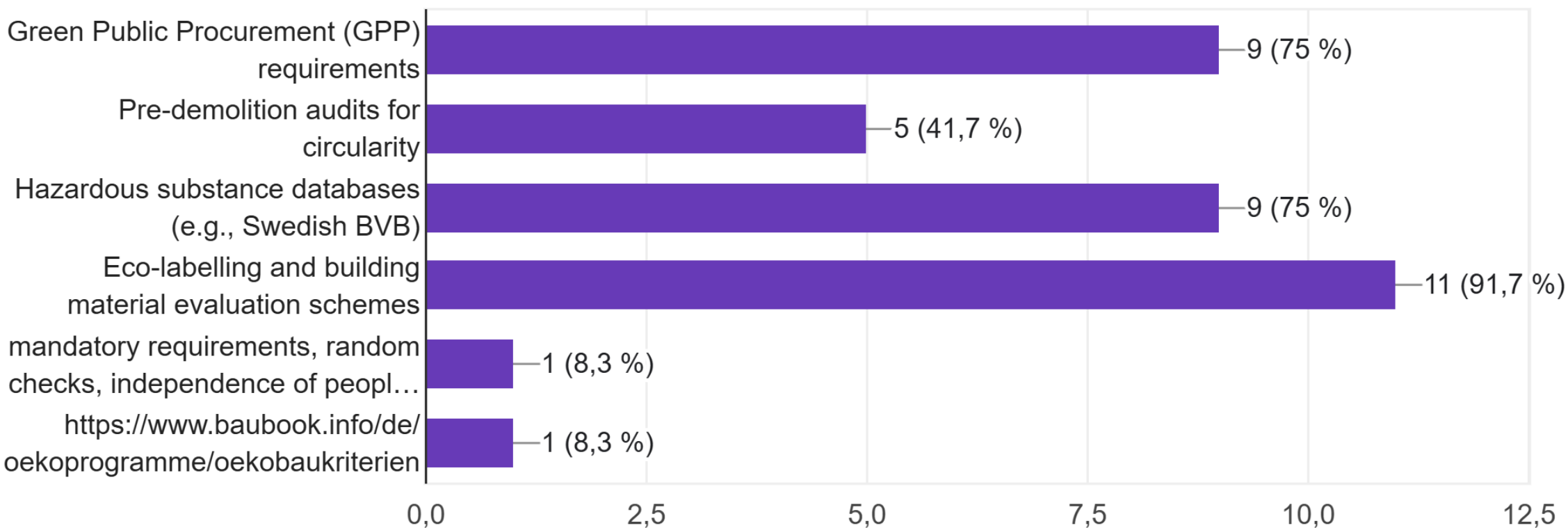
Schools with  
elevated levels of  
indoor air pollutants

Criminality  
connected to alleged  
construction waste  
(Think Pink case)



# TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS FOR NON-TOXIC CONSTRUCTION

## 8. Which tools or instruments are most effective in supporting non-toxic construction? (Select all that apply.)



## 9. What information on hazardous substances in building materials do municipalities (or other contractors) need to ensure a safe and sustainable construction sector?

Legal requirements should ensure safety and sustainability

Legal advice on what may be required

Easy to read / understand information

Positive assessment result: product is safe

ISO-type I environmental labels

Substances of very high concern (information)

Traffic light system as the Swedish BVB

<https://www.baubook.info/de/oekoprogramme/oekobaukriterien>

Good product standards specifying substances and methods for their determination

Product information about material content

Safety datasheets and other relevant documentation for tenders

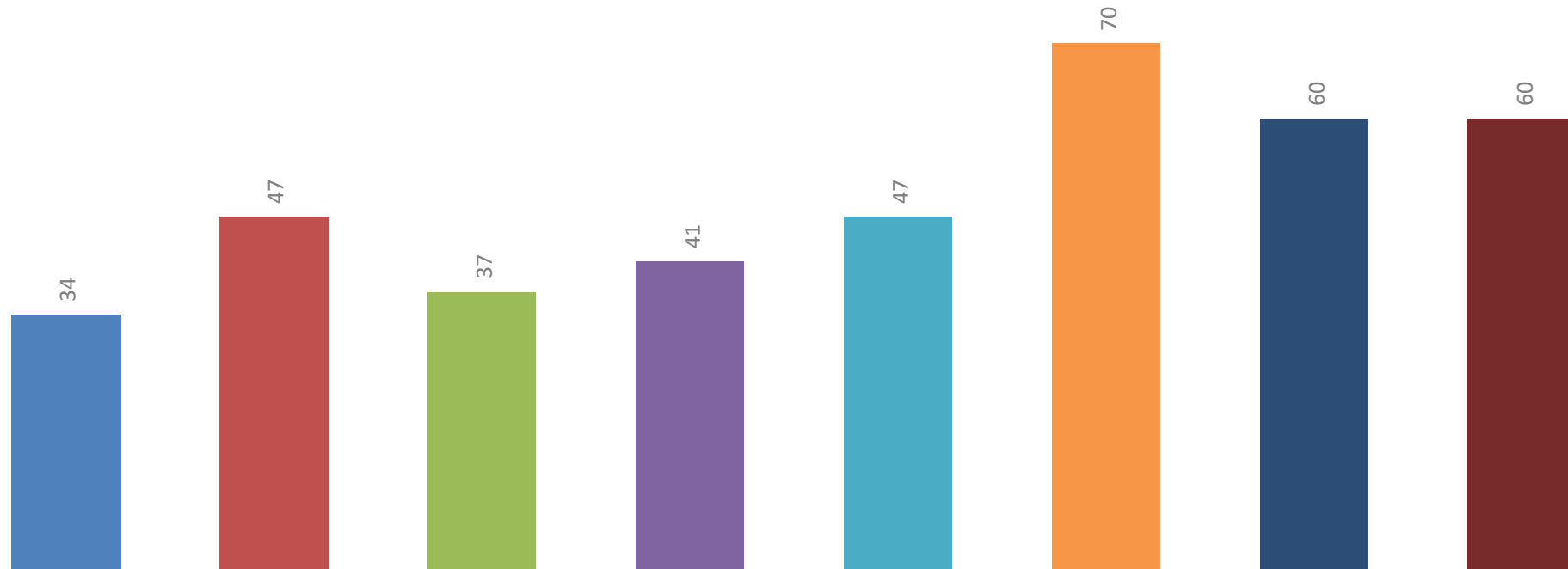




# PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE

## 10. Which solutions do you consider most important for achieving tox-free construction? (Please rank from 1 = most important to 8 = least important).

- Full information
- Pre-demolition audits
- Guidance on sustainability
- Procurement templates
- Strict GPP rules for HS
- Digital Product Passport
- strict EU “traffic light” label
- Use of taxonomy criteria in GPP



POINTS

# **STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS & WORKSHOP EXPECTATIONS**

# 11. In your view, what additional solutions or approaches could help reduce hazardous substances in construction materials?

## Regulation

- Comprehensiveness of all possible tools
- Linking policies into one holistic and non-contradictory regulation.
- Setting goals on buildings
- Harmonization of requirements in construction product standards
- Interlink with REACH
- Adopting HELCOM recommendations

## Guidance

- More transparency and role clarity on existing regulation
- Better guidance (especially for small business)
- Education to change public behaviour and increase public awareness

## Market

- Solutions for market transparency
- Monetary Incentives like to implement climate goals

## Research

- Development of low polluting products

## 12. What are your expectations for this workshop and the policy dialogue?

### Networking & exchange

- Exchange of information, knowledge and best practices
- Learning from the EU experience to apply back into a non-EU national setting.
- Gain insights into issues and established practices of other Member States
- Networking and supporting holistic ideas, since hazardous substance don't stop at borders ...

### Policy tools & solutions

- To find solutions to support tox free construction without "new bureaucracy"
- Expanding knowledge about the risks resulting from the introduction of a circular economy and solutions for reducing the occurrence of hazardous substances.
- a fruitful dialogue where all participants are open minded and willing to contribute for a more sustainable building praxis in EU

### Encouraging implementation

- Getting all angles of view on that topic and coming closer to drafting an ambitious, practicable and widely accepted regulation
- Acceleration of the discussion for declaration of construction products and a stronger focus on healthy indoor air
- Roadmap for implementation

# Thank you!

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