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Thirty-ninth session
26 - 29 February 2008
Item 3(c) of the provisional agenda
International Comparison Programme

Background document
Available in English only

Report of the Friends of the Chair on the International Comparison Programme

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	All countries
	ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
	Eurostat / OECD

Introduction

The Friends of Chair have conducted two surveys:

- The regular ICP survey covering all countries participating in the regular ICP 2005 round.
- The Ring ICP survey covers countries taking part in the Ring comparison.

Both surveys have focus on governance as experienced during the various process steps and stages.

The groups are divided into the following colours:

All countries	ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD	Eurostat / OECD
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ICP - Regular survey

Experiences from the ICP 2005 – survey background

The regular FOC survey covers all countries participating in the regular ICP 2005 round. The survey has focus on governance as experienced during the various process steps and stages.

Population

The survey population encompasses all 147 countries participating. The ICP programme covers 6 regions - number of countries participating given in parenthesis: Africa (48), Asia-Pacific (23), Western Asia (11), Latin America (10) and CIS (10). The Eurostat/OECD group (45) has for decades been organised outside the ICP programme.

The first five regions (ICP group) are under the auspices of the ICP programme and managed from the Global Office located in the World Bank. Regional agencies - being part of the governance structure - have the responsibility for the intra regional coordination - support to participating countries.

Response

By end October 77 countries have replied. Of these, 33 have participated in the Eurostat / OECD region, 15 from Asia-Pacific, 3 from Latin America, 19 from Africa, 3 from Western Asia and 4 from CIS. Most all large countries (population and economy) have responded.

Measured in number of countries, the total response rate is 53 per cent. For the ICP group in total the rate is 44 per cent. There are regional variations ranging from the Asia-Pacific rate of 65 per cent to the CIS and Latin America rates both at 30 per cent. The Eurostat/OECD rate is 73 per cent. Bearing in mind the type of survey the overall response rate is good.

68 of the countries responding have participated on the basis of a full GDP coverage while 9 participates in the consumption part only or on a test basis.

A first deadline for responding was late in July. This constituted the basis for the preliminary results presented for the Friends of Chair group in Lisbon. Based on a reminder the response rates have increased towards mid-October which is the second deadline. Although one could have wanted a larger response it should be concluded that the overall response is fairly acceptable bearing in mind the type of survey.

The survey administration – experiences

The first round ending by mid of August was fully administered by the UN. A remarkable job has been done in translating the questionnaire from English into two other languages (Spanish and French). Credits should also be given for handling the survey administration in the first round. All countries should have received the questionnaire either at the address of the general directors office or to the national coordinator.

In the second round when reminding, the questionnaire was in large sent out using the same addresses. An additional job was done at searching direct email addresses to the coordinators.

Background information on results

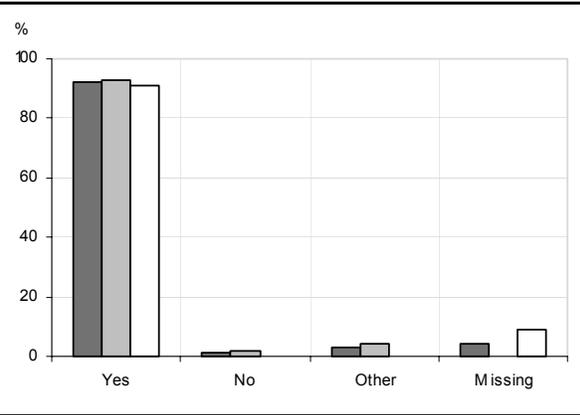
Each graph presents results for countries participating in the ICP group, in the OECD/Eurostat group and a grand total. A special focus in the regular survey has been on the ICP group. This is seen from the questionnaire (see enclosed) being designed having focus on the components, the stages and the tools used in the ICP survey program. For most subject areas these should also be relevant for countries participating in the OECD/Eurostat group. When it comes to subjects concerning the ICP ToolPack and Housing only the ICP group results are presented.

Results - Regular survey

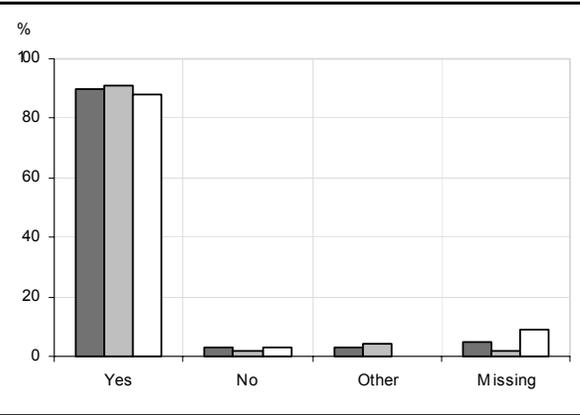
The ICP 2005 experiences

Premises for participation in future ICP surveys

1 Are you satisfied with the 2005 ICP round in which you participated?

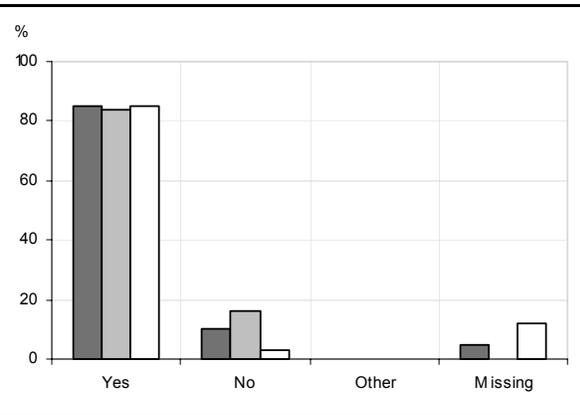


2 Would you participate on a next ICP round, based on your experience with the 2005 round?

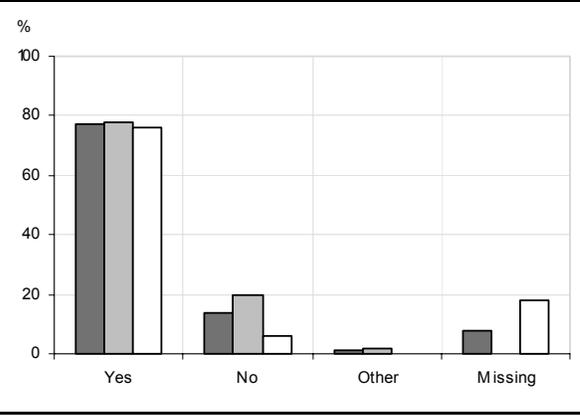


Some general governance issues

4 Was the communication about the various aspects of the programme effective?

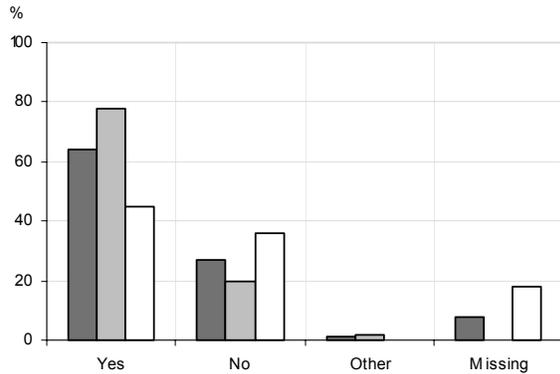


5 Were there sufficient opportunities to provide input about the decisions made?

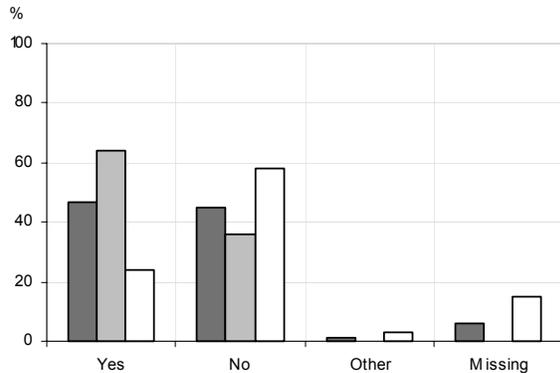


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

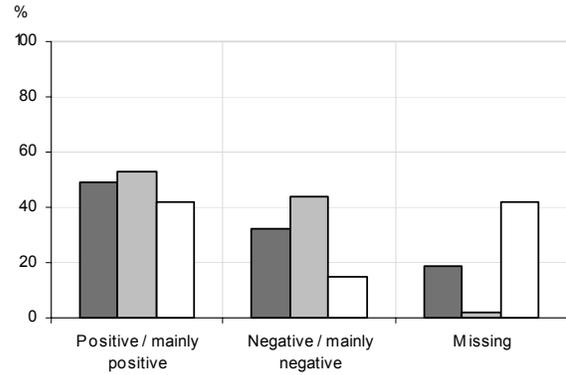
6 Has your involvement in the various parts of the ICP had a significant impact on the workload of your office?



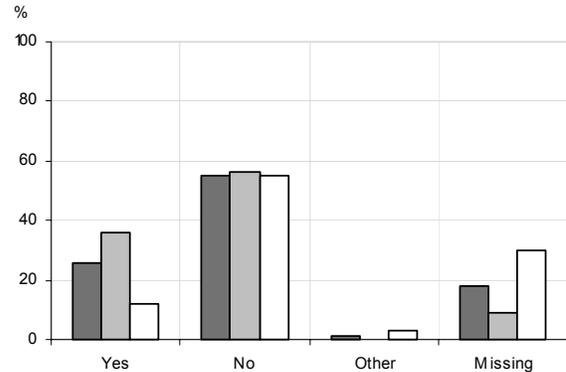
7 National capacity building in the NSOs is a focused part in the ICP programme. Technical support, training of staff, partnering arrangements, and integration of the ICP with the national CPI are some of the initiatives. Have there been concrete initiatives towards integrating the ICP surveys with other statistical products in the national statistical programme?



8 In the 2005 round, some areas like housing, government services, equipment goods and construction, were managed with less involvement from the participating countries than what was the case, for instance, for shop products. What is your attitude towards such a centrally managed approach?



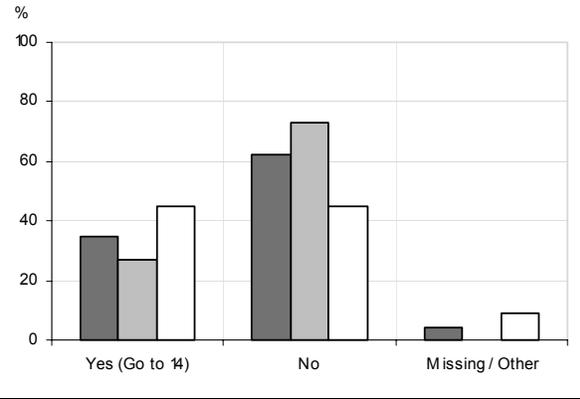
10 An implication of centrally managed surveys could be that ownership to the ICP results is challenged. Has ownership issues been a part of the management discussion underlying the decision to participate in the ICP?



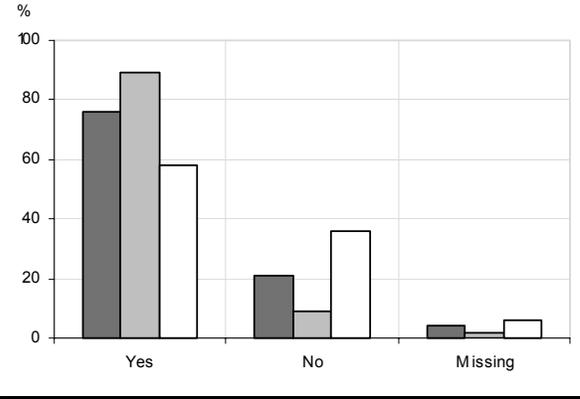
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Dissemination of ICP results and access to input data

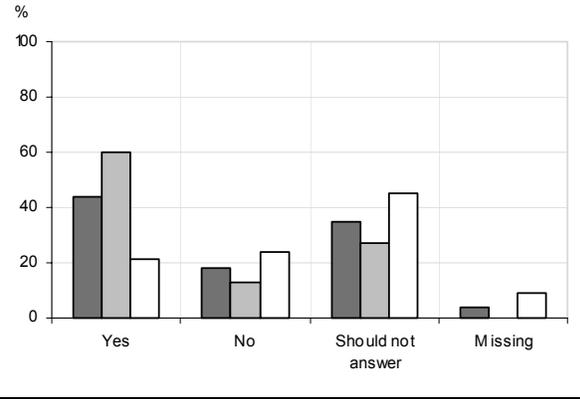
12 Have ICP results been disseminated in your country?



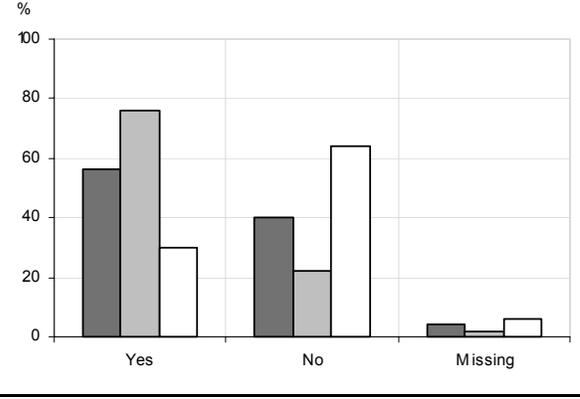
15 Do you support making national basic headings and expenditure weights available for administrative and research purposes?



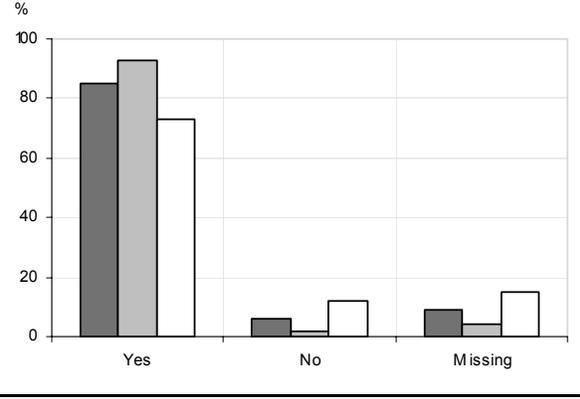
13 Are there plans for doing so in the near future?



16 Do you support making national annual average prices available for administrative and research purposes?



14 Do you support regional publishing of main aggregates like private household consumption for your country?

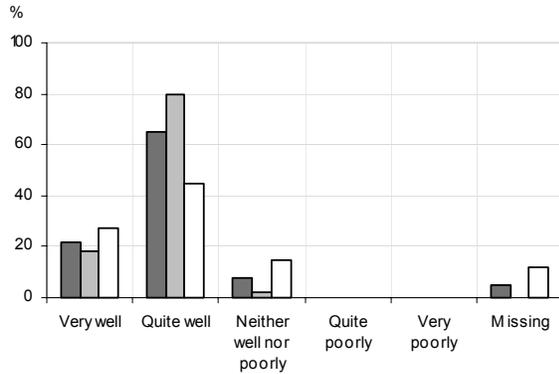


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

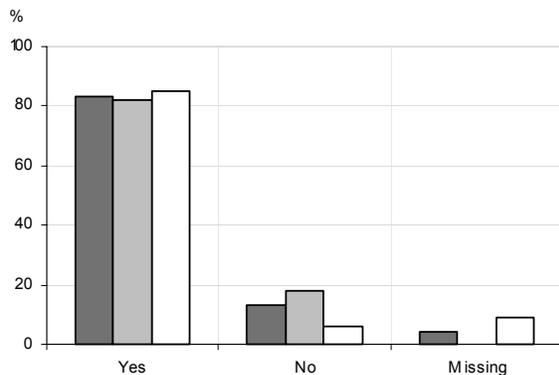
Preparing product specifications

Market or shop products

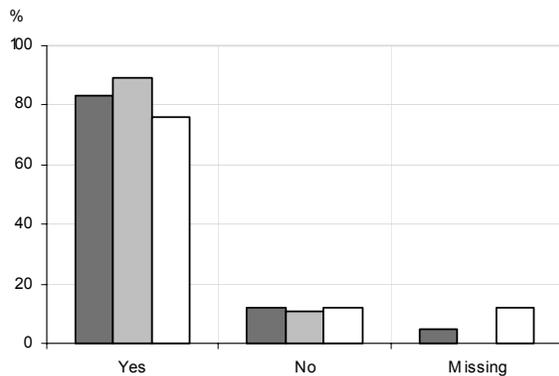
18 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the process leading to the shop product specifications went?



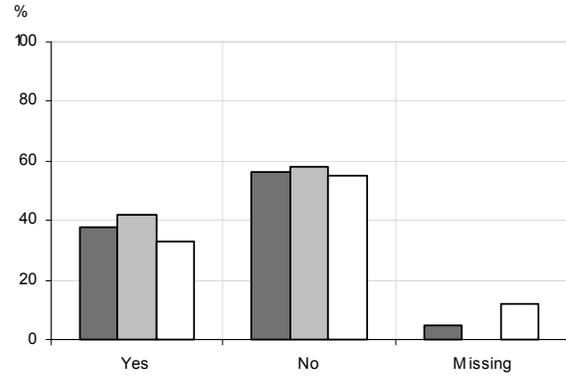
19 Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?



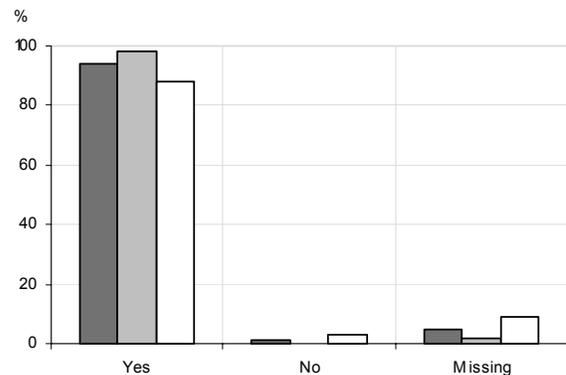
20 Did you feel that the information and training given before the preparation stage made you well prepared for the task?



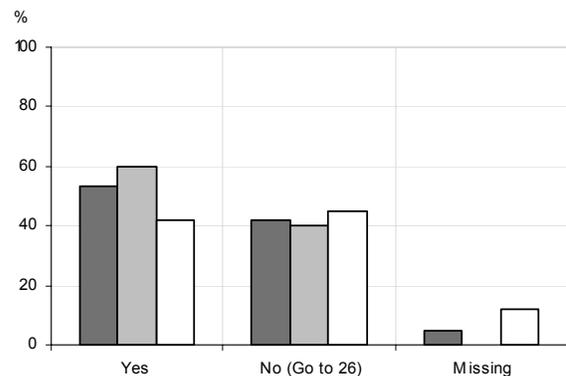
21 When taking part in the process of preparing the shop product list, most regional groups discussed problems of representativity. Looking back – did you have problems with assigning the representative indicator to the products you priced?



23 Did the final regional list contain products being representative of your economy?

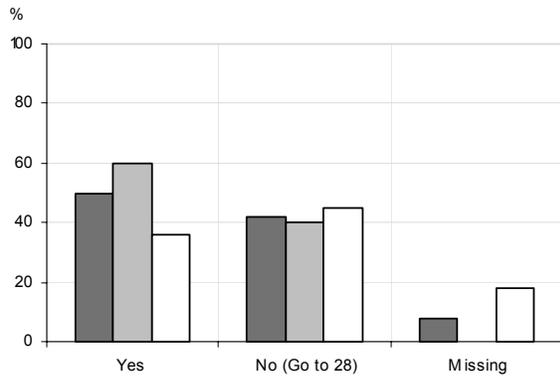


24 When taking part in the process of preparing the shop product list, most regional groups discussed problems of comparability. Did you have any problems finding the products as specified in the final regional list?

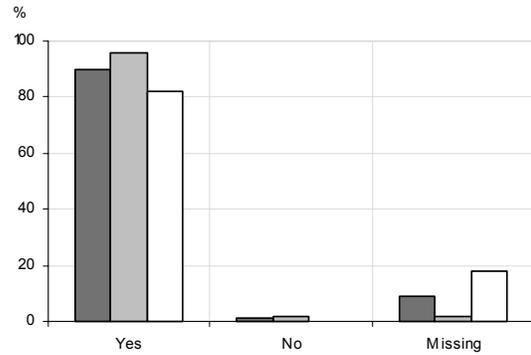


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

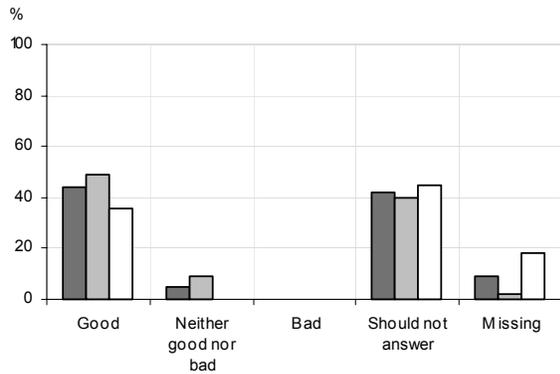
26 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems of representativity and comparability?



28 In your view, does your experience from the preparation stage form a sound basis for a similar exercise in the future?

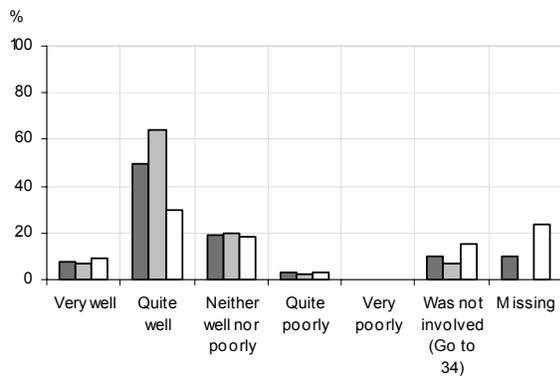


27 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

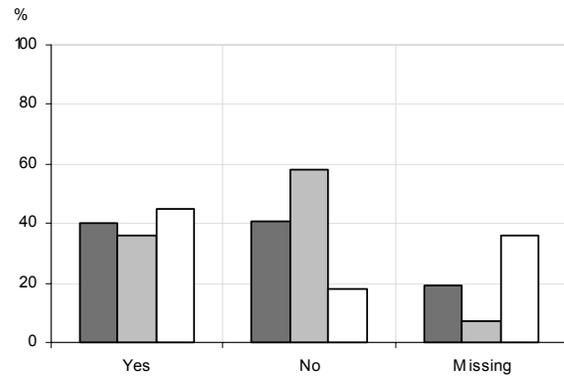


Health products, Education and Government Compensation

31 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that these processes went?

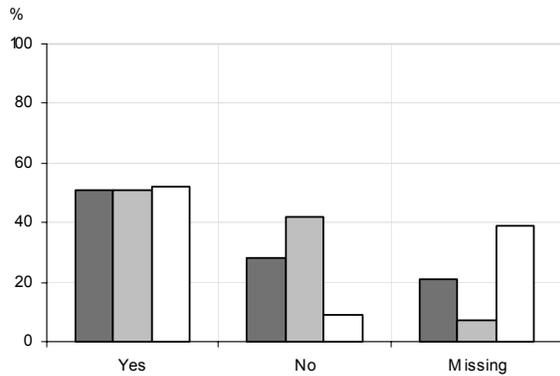


32 Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?

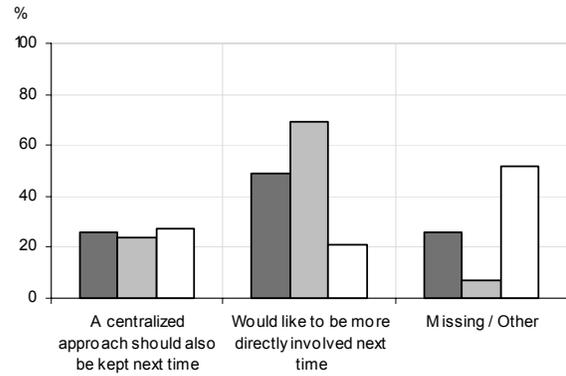


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

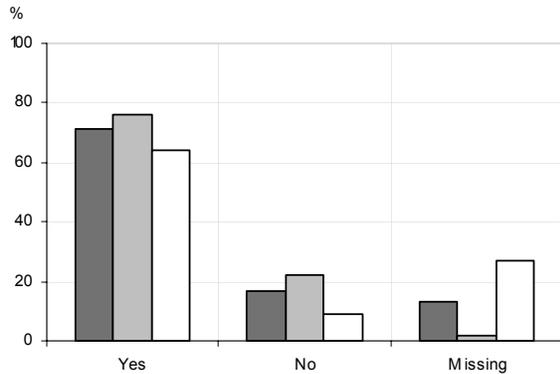
33 Did you feel that the information and training given before the preparation stage made you well prepared for the task?



35 With a view to future rounds, what is your view on this approach for these groups?

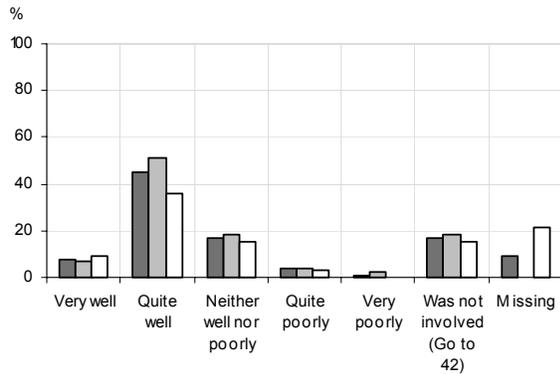


34 In your view, was the final product lists sufficiently representative for your country?

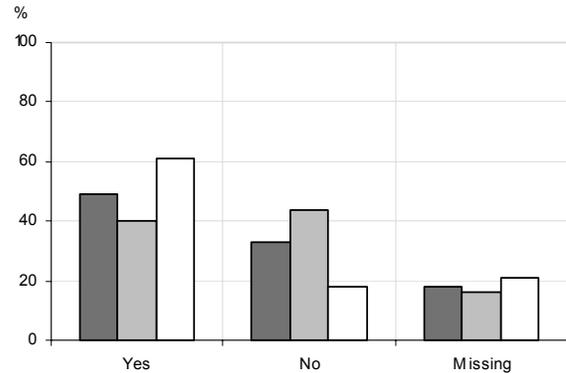


Equipment (investment) products and Construction components

37 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the preparation processes for these two surveys went?

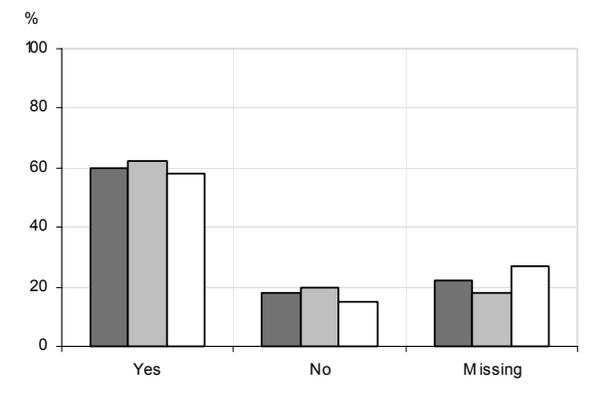


38 Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?



All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

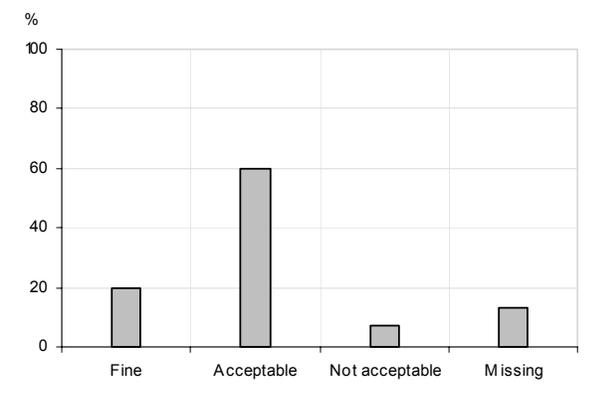
39 In your view, was the final product lists sufficiently representative?



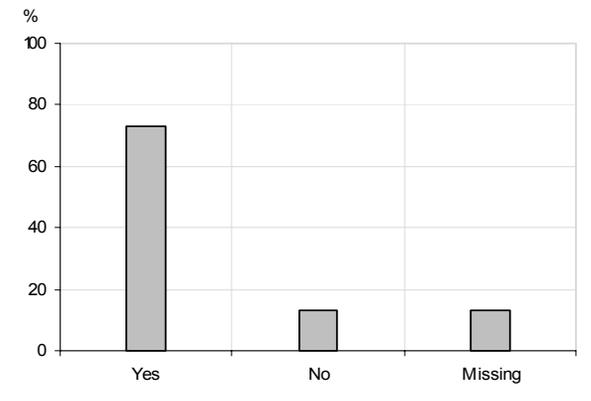
Housing

Only relevant to the ICP-group

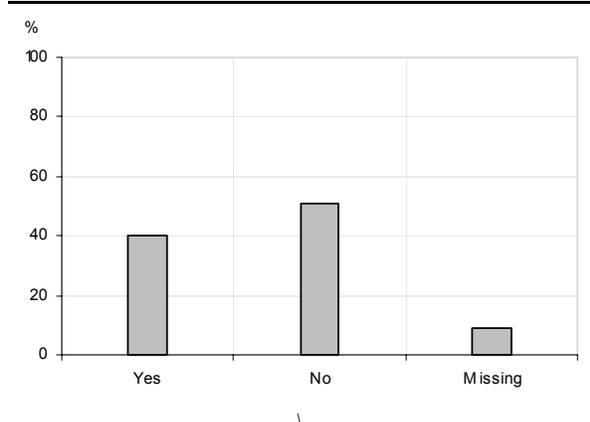
42 A quantity approach was used in order to estimate PPPs for housing. All taken into account, what is your view on this approach?



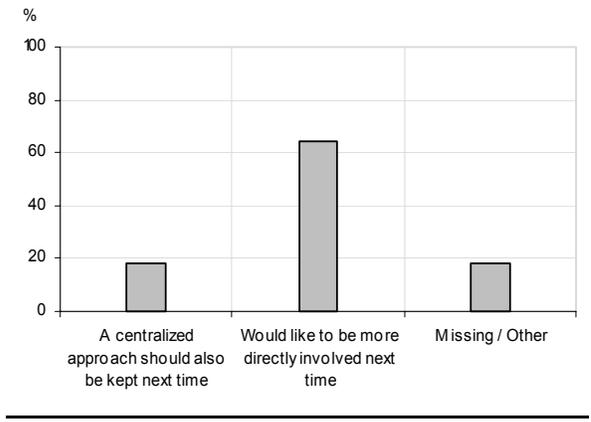
44 Do you assume that the quantity approach will produce reliable estimates of volumes and prices for your country?



43 Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunity to provide input into the decisions about the approach chosen?



45 With a view to future rounds, what is your view on this approach?

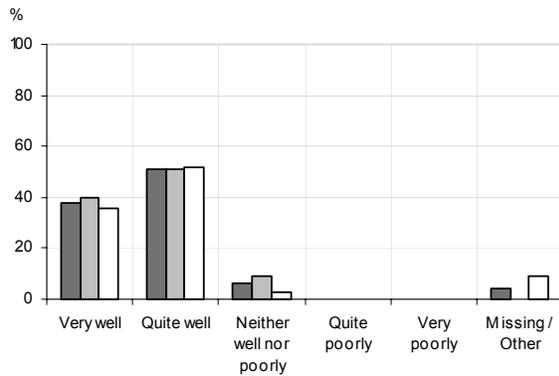


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

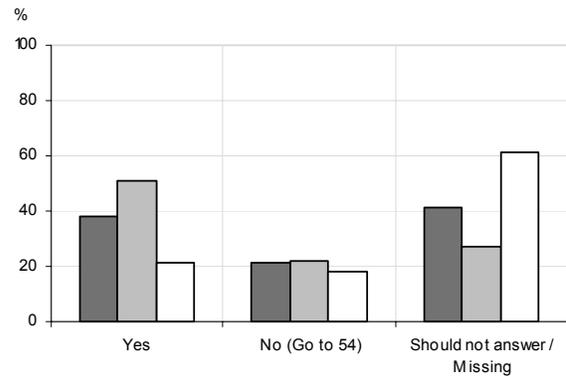
Data collection, data entry, validation and aggregation

Data collection

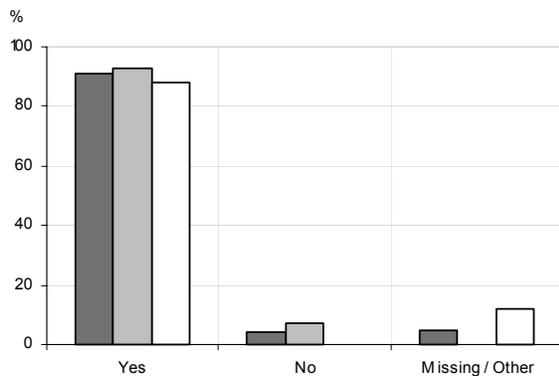
48 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the data collection went?



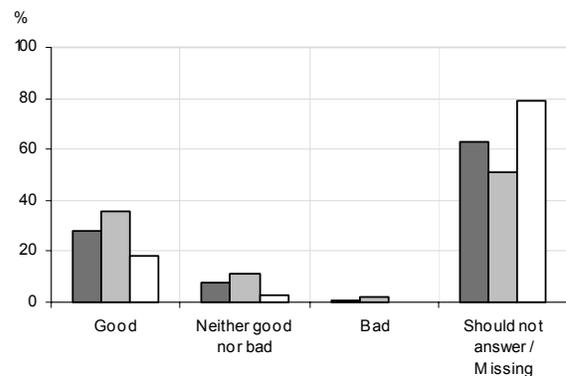
52 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems?



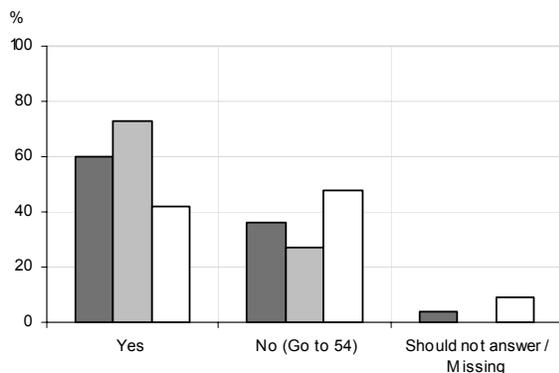
49 Do you feel that the data collection materials, guidelines and training given to you before the data collection started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?



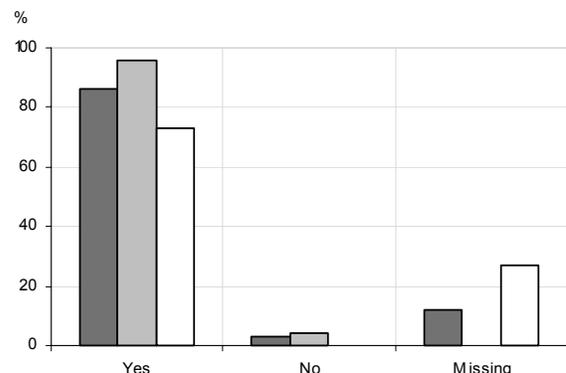
53 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



50 During the data collection, did you encounter any problems?



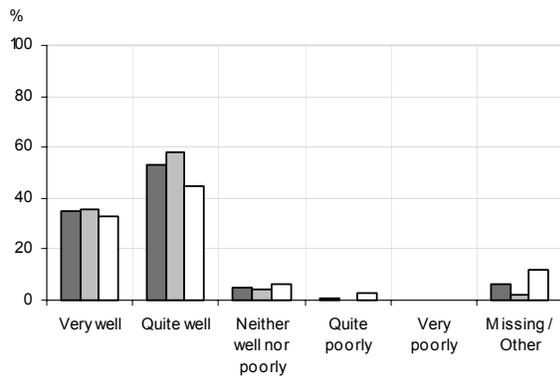
54 Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?



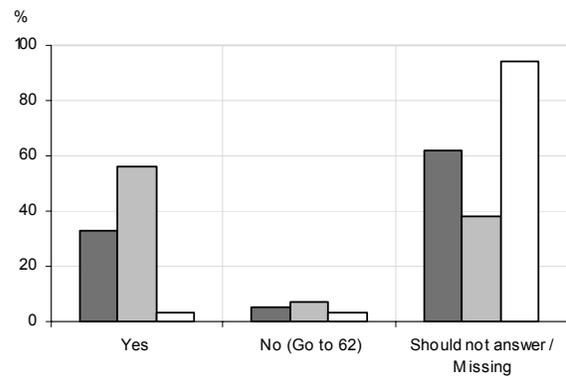
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Data entry and Data validation

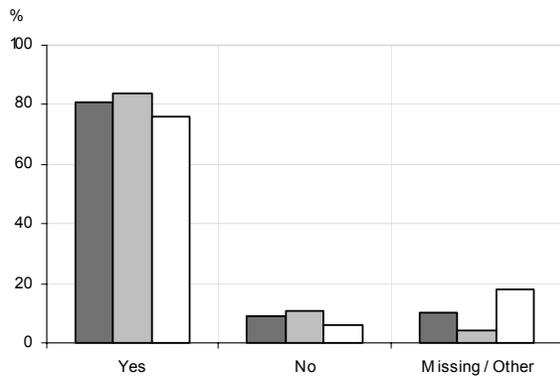
56 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the data entry and data validation went?



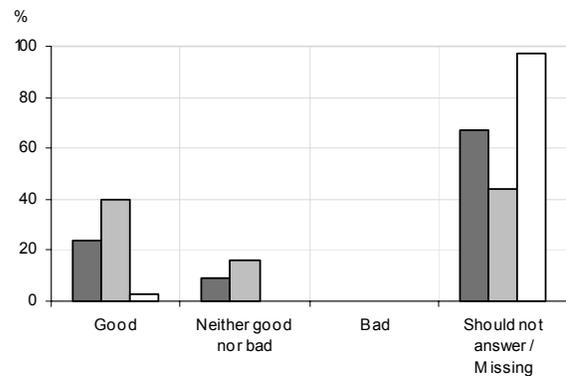
60 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems?



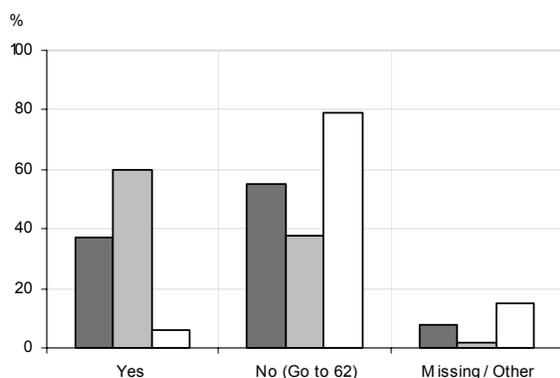
57 Do you feel that the data entry and validation materials, guidelines and training given to you before the data entry and validation processes started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?



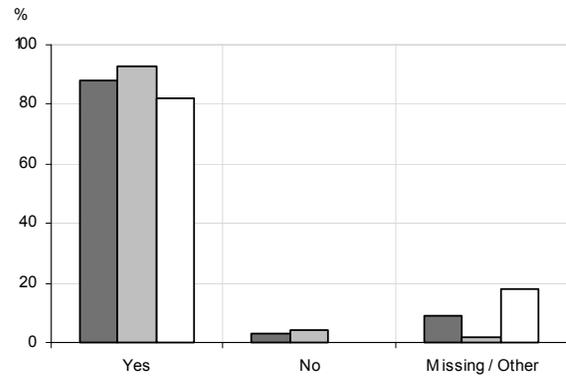
61 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



58 During the data entry and validation, did you encounter any problems?



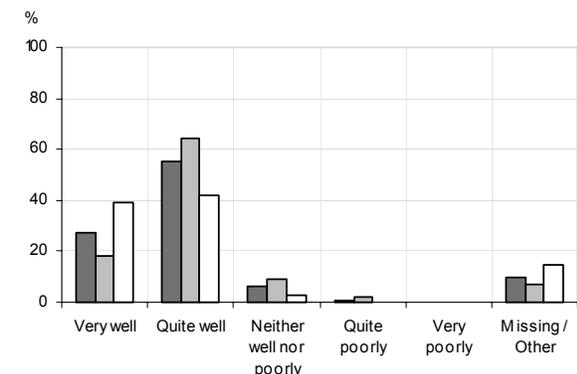
62 Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?



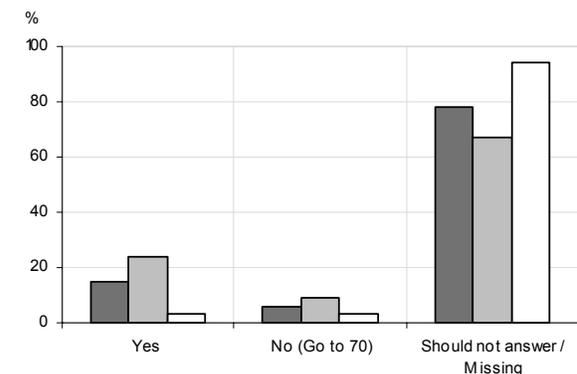
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Validating Basic Heading PPPs

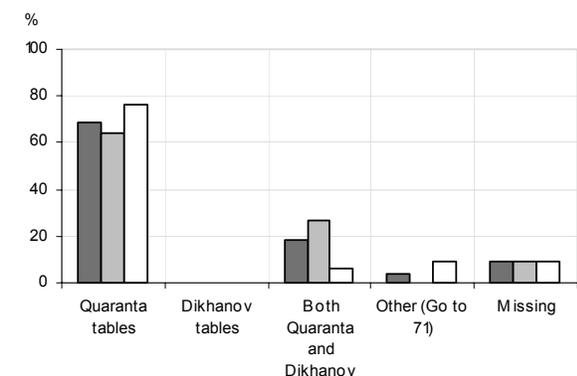
64 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the validation process for basic heading PPPs went?



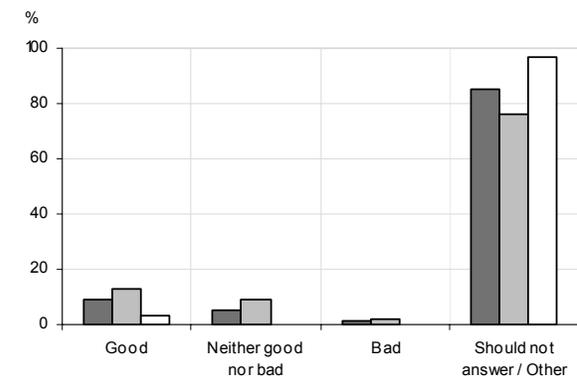
68 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



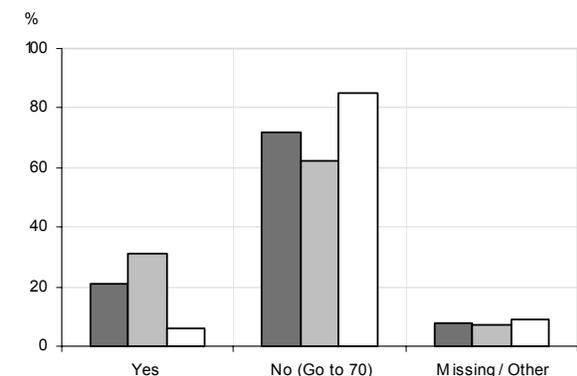
65 What kind of diagnostic tables or data did you receive for this stage of the data analysis?



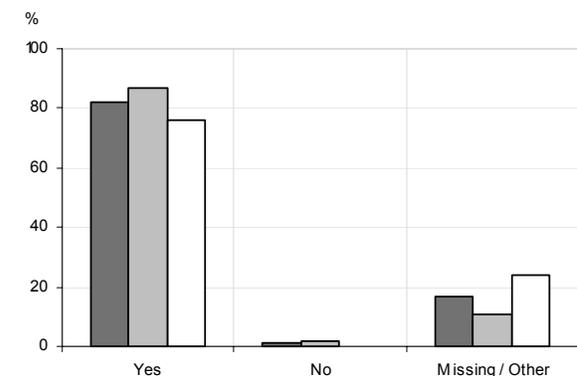
69 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



66 During the validation of Basic Heading PPPs, did you encounter any problems?



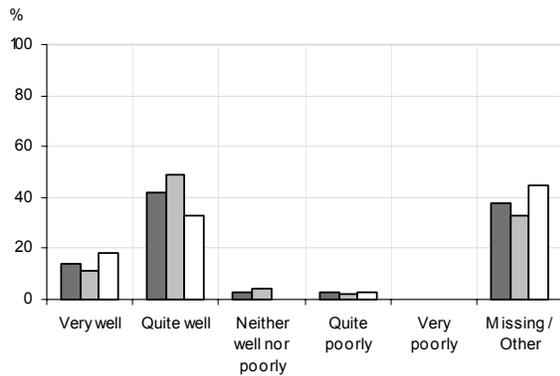
70 Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?



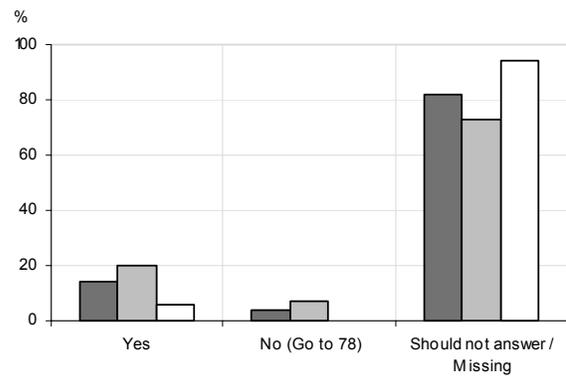
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Aggregation and Regional review of the aggregate results

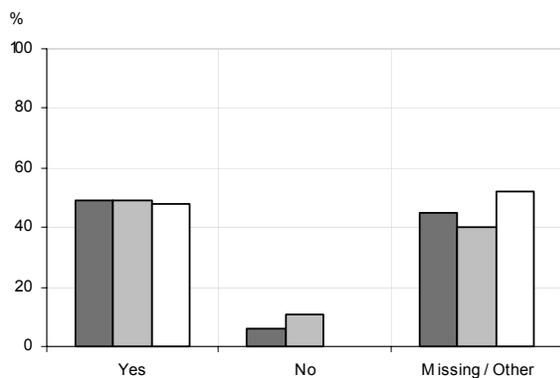
72 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the process steps for aggregation and regional review of the aggregate results went?



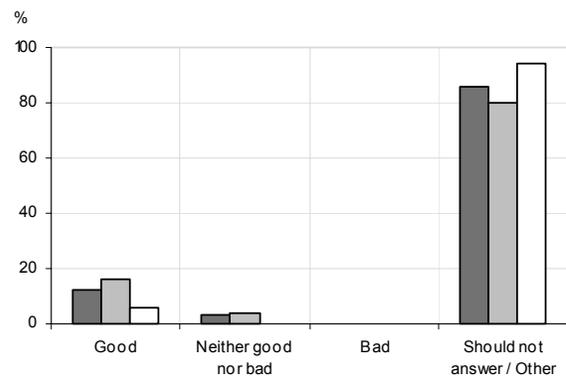
76 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



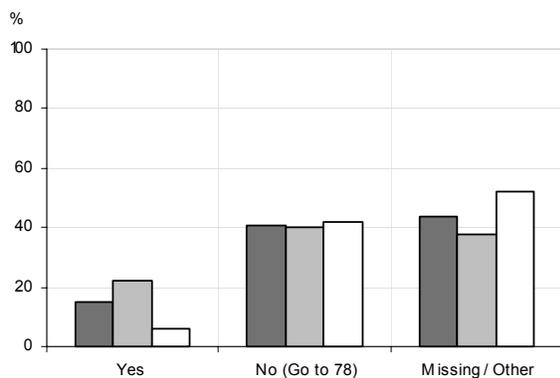
73 Do you feel that the materials, guidelines and training given to you before the aggregation process and the regional review of aggregate results started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?



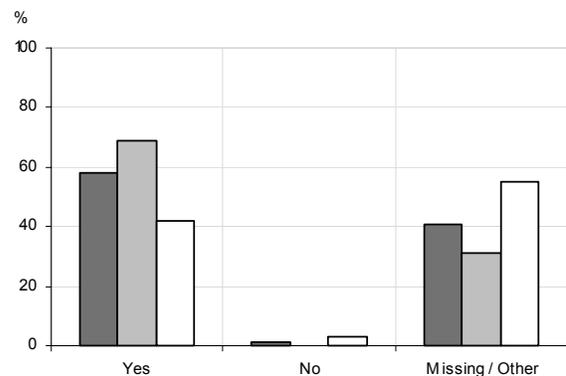
77 How do you assess the help provided in order to solve these problems?



74 During these two process steps, did you encounter any problems?



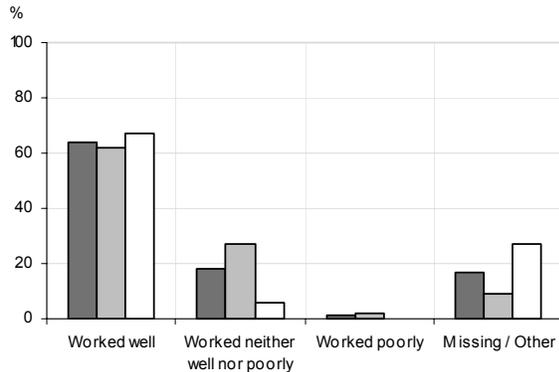
78 Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?



All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Breakdown of expenditure to Basic Headings

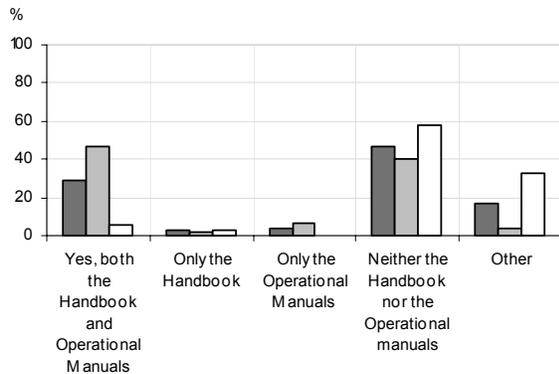
80 Please give your overall evaluation of this step in the regional programme having the focus on the functioning of the administrative processes, input and communication.



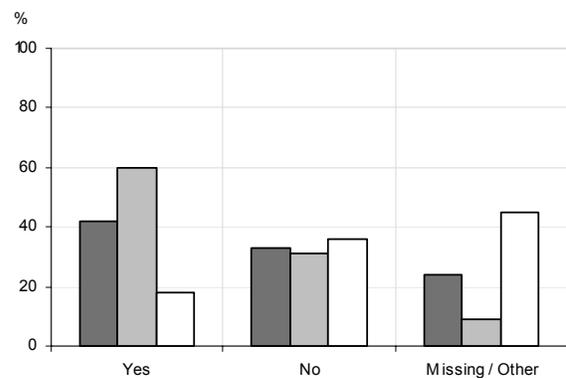
The ICP handbook, operational manuals, website and newsletter

The ICP Handbook and Operational Manuals

88 Were Handbook and Operational Manuals available in the national language during the 2005 ICP round?

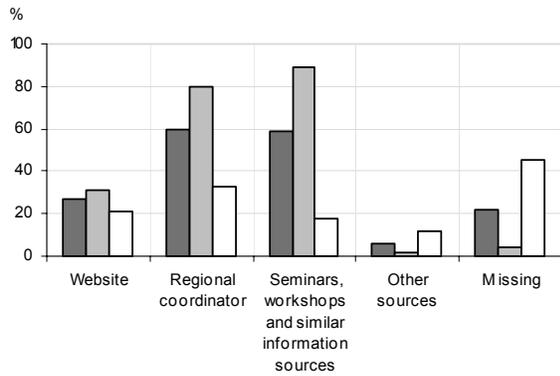


90 The ICP Handbook and the Operational manuals were revised several times during the 2005 survey period. Do you think there are reasons to believe that this work-in-progress status of these documents had influence on the quality of the final national data?

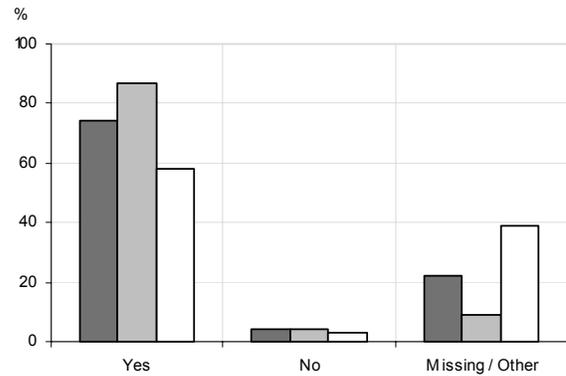


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

91 Which of the sources specified below were used to keep updated on changes that were introduced? More than one answer can be given.

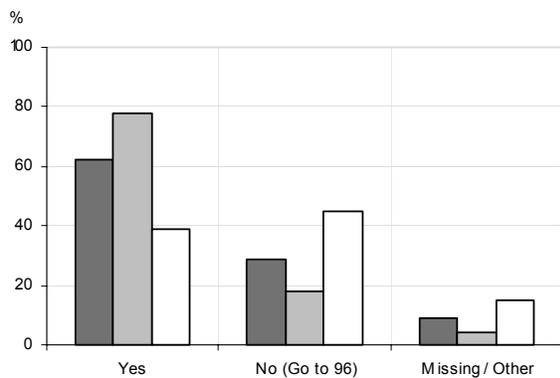


92 Do you think that the current versions of the Handbook and Operational manuals provide a sound basis for future ICP surveys?

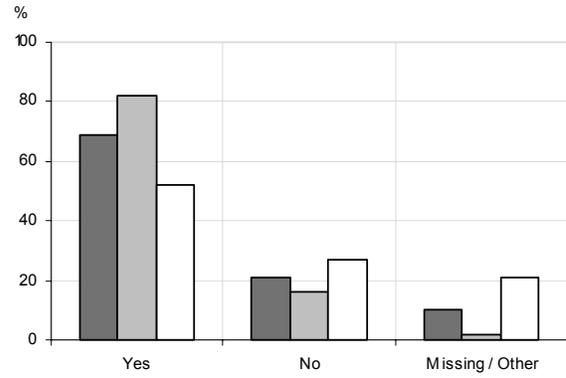


The ICP website and Newsletter

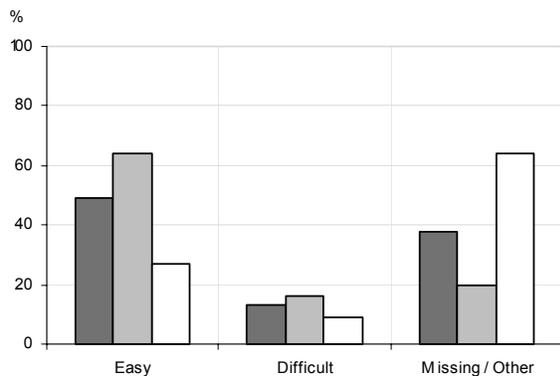
94 Have you searched for information about surveys at the ICP website?



96 The ICP Newsletter is a relevant source of information about ICP experiences in other countries, progress etc. Is the Newsletter a source being used for such purposes?



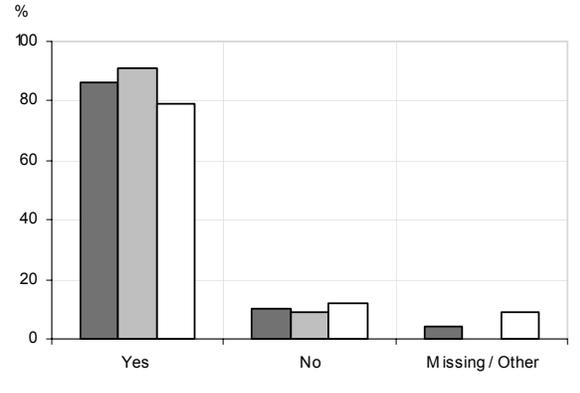
95 In general, was the information you looked for at the ICP website easy or difficult to find?



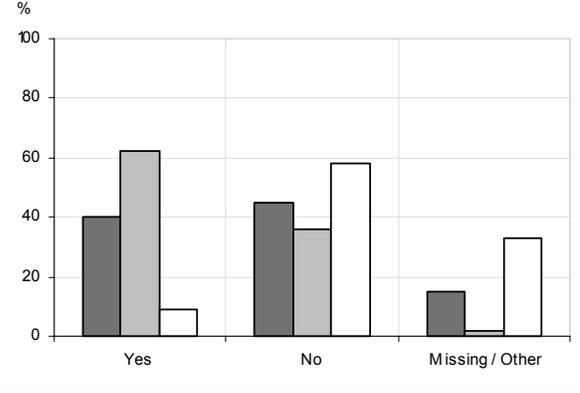
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Capacity building and integration with national statistical programmes

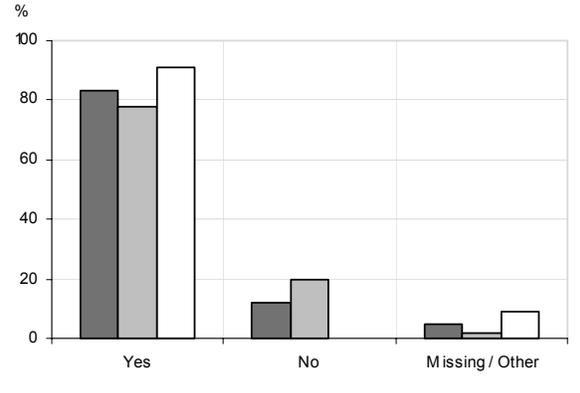
99 Does your national statistical office have the staff with qualifications and training for the price collection and national accounting requirements to move forward with the ICP?



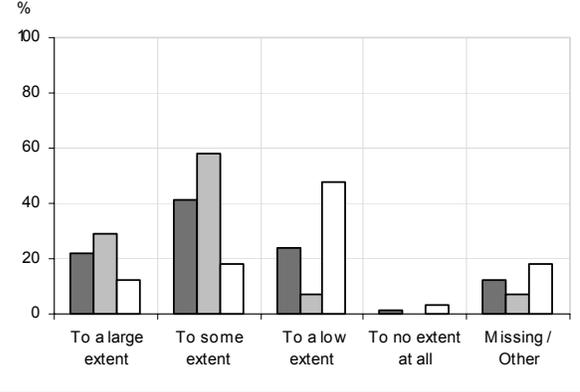
103 The ICP survey programme has for the last two decades been run periodically with several years between each benchmark. In the user environment, it has been argued that the ICP should be run with a fixed frequency. A 3-year rolling benchmark has been suggested. Would such an initiative have an effect on the level of institutional and technical capacity in your country?



101 Does your national statistical office have the hardware and software to meet the requirements of the ICP?



105 In a medium term perspective, a certain degree of integration between the ICP and the national CPI routines, in particular when it comes to data collection, is one of the goals of the ICP. To what extent do you think this could be done in your country?

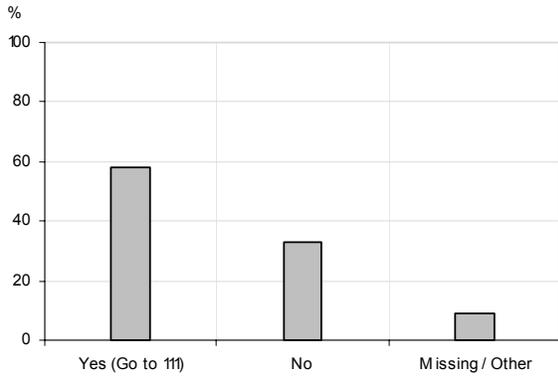


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

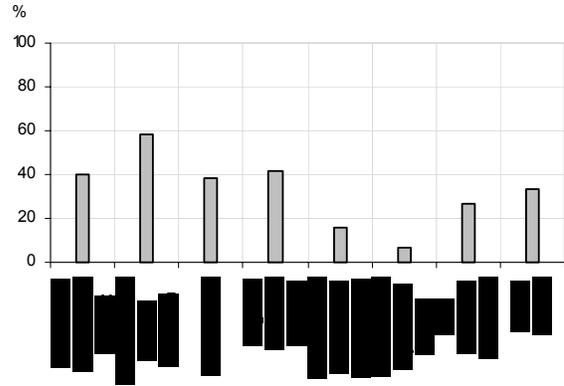
The ICP Tool Pack

Only relevant to the ICP-group

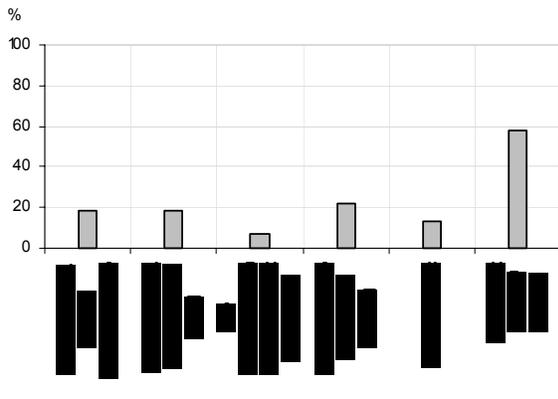
108 Have the ICP Tool Pack been in use during the 2005 round?



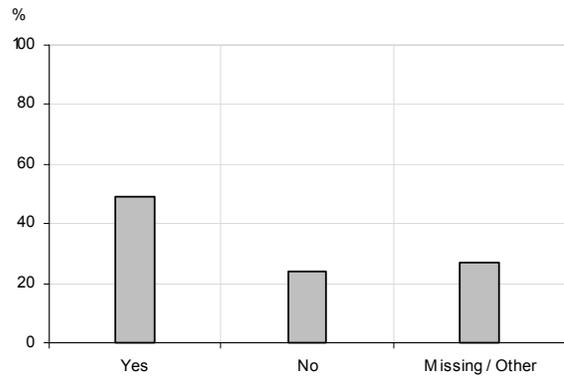
111 Which of the Tool Pack procedures listed below has been used in the 2005 ICP survey? More than one answer can be given



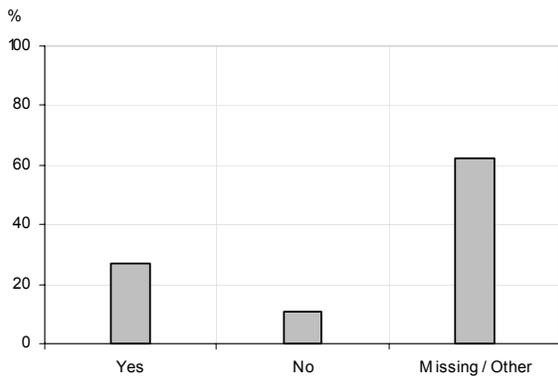
109 Why has the ICP Tool Pack not being used? More than one answer can be given



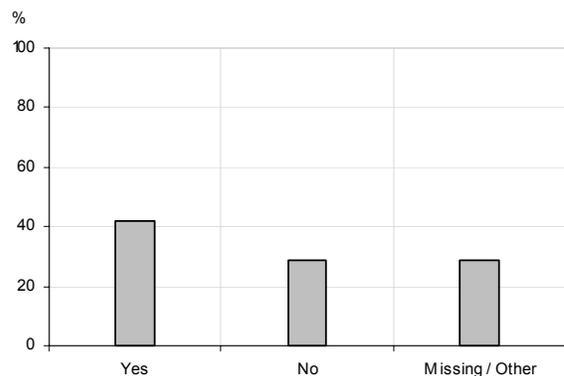
112 Do you consider the available manuals to be adequate?



110 Were any initiatives taken to solve the problems?

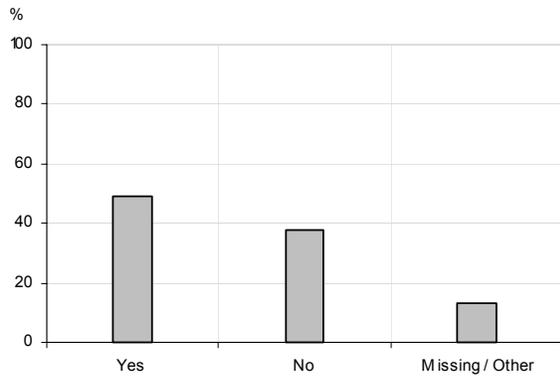


113 Have the training of staff been sufficient?



All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

**114 The ICP Tool Pack has been revised and simplified.
Have you attempted to install and use the last version?**



Questionnaire - The ICP 2005 experiences, regular survey

About this questionnaire

This questionnaire focuses on governance issues from the 2005 round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The purpose of the questionnaire is to survey the participating countries' and other involved parties' experiences with the 2005 ICP. It should thus be stressed that we are not asking for national or regional experiences from the Ring comparison at this stage. A separate questionnaire for regional agencies and the Ring countries will be distributed later.

The questionnaire consists of two parts:

1) General issues – management

- Premises for participation in future ICP surveys
- Some general governance issues
- Dissemination of ICP results and access to input data

2) Technical issues related to preparation of surveys, conducting surveys, validation etc.

- Preparing product specifications
- Price collection, data entry, validation and aggregation
- The breakdown of expenditure to Basic Headings
- The ICP handbook, operational manuals, website and newsletter
- Capacity building and integration with national statistical programmes
- The ICP Tool Pack

Who should answer this questionnaire?

The questionnaire has a focus on the countries participating in the 2005 round. The first block - general issues - involve management while the technical issues should be answered by the national coordinator.

The questionnaire should be answered by the Regional Coordinators as well, especially the technical issues dealt with in part 2. Some of the questions in part one (general issues) could be relevant for the Regional Coordinators as well.

Providing comments to the questions!

For a number of questions you are asked to provide comments using a separate textbox (question) for this purpose. In addition you will find in the end of each subject area a general textbox. This textbox should be used for comments related to the subject area issues in general – and where relevant – also for specific comments related to some of the questions covered by the subject area.

If the space for filling in comments becomes too small – feel free to write comments on a separate sheet and enclose it to this questionnaire. Please refer to the specific question(s) that is commented. Please remember filling in the name of country, of institution / agency and of contact person.

Return the filled in questionnaire to:

Alain Gaugris
Statistics Division
Department of Economics and Social Affairs
United Nations, DC2-1674, 2 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA

Email: gaugris@un.org

Questionnaire should be returned not later than: 20 July 2007

Should there be any questions do not hesitate to contact us. Please use the e-mail address: icpnor@ssb.no.

Please provide your contact information:

Name of country	
Name of institution / agency	
Name of contact person	
Email address	
Phone number	
Fax number	
Web site address	

Premises for participation in future ICP surveys

1. Are you satisfied with the 2005 ICP round in which you participated?

Yes

No

2. Would you participate on a next ICP round, based on your experience with the 2005 round?

Yes

No

3. For comments on question 1 and 2. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

--

Some general governance issues

Think about the communication between your own office and NSOs, Regional Coordinators, ICP Global Office, user communities and other parties involved in the ICP. Please reflect on the issues presented below from a management perspective.

4. Was the communication about the various aspects of the programme effective?

Yes

No

5. Were there sufficient opportunities to provide input about the decisions made?

Yes

No

6. Has your involvement in the various parts of the ICP had a significant impact on the workload of your office?

Yes

No

7. National capacity building in the NSOs is a focused part in the ICP programme. Technical support, training of staff, partnering arrangements, and integration of the ICP with the national CPI are some of the initiatives. **Have there been concrete initiatives towards integrating the ICP surveys with other statistical products in the national statistical programme?**

Yes

No

8. In the 2005 round, some areas like housing, government services, equipment goods and construction, were managed with less involvement from the participating countries than what was the case, for instance, for shop products. **What is your attitude towards such a centrally managed approach?**

Positive / mainly positive → go to question 9

Negative / mainly negative → go to question 9

9. Please elaborate your position

10. An implication of centrally managed surveys could be that ownership to the ICP results is challenged. **Has ownership issues been a part of the management discussion underlying the decision to participate in the ICP?**

Yes

No

11. **For comments on question 4 to 10.** For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Dissemination of ICP results and access to input data

In this part of the questionnaire, we focus on regional and national dissemination of the ICP results and the level of publication, as well as on access rights.

In general we would like to have your comments on the questions. Please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

12. **Have ICP results been disseminated in your country?**

Yes → go to question 14

No → go to question 13

13. **Are there plans for doing so in the near future?**

Yes

No

14. **Do you support regional publishing of main aggregates like private household consumption for your country?**

Yes

No

15. **Do you support making national basic headings and expenditure weights available for administrative and research purposes?**

Yes

No

16. Do you support making national annual average prices available for administrative and research purposes?

Yes

No

17. For comments on question 12 to 16. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Preparing product specifications

In this part of the questionnaire we ask you to evaluate the process that led to the various product specifications in the final product lists. Questions are asked for three groups of price surveys.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

Market or shop products

18. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the process leading to the shop product specifications went?

Very well

Quite well

Neither well nor poorly

Quite poorly

Very poorly

19. Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?

- Yes
- No

20. Did you feel that the information and training given before the preparation stage made you well prepared for the task?

- Yes
- No

21. When taking part in the process of preparing the shop product list, most regional groups discussed problems of representativity. **Looking back – did you have problems with assigning the representative indicator to the products you priced?**

- Yes → go to question 22
- No → go to question 23

22. Please illustrate the problems you encountered using an example:

23. Did the final regional list contain products being representative of your economy?

- Yes
- No

24. When taking part in the process of preparing the shop product list, most regional groups discussed problems of comparability. **Did you have any problems finding the products as specified in the final regional list?**

- Yes → go to question 25
- No → go to question 26

25. Please illustrate the problems you encountered using an example:

26. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems of representativity and comparability?

Yes → go to question 27

No → go to question 28

27. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

Good

Neither good nor bad

Bad

28. In your view, does your experience from the preparation stage form a sound basis for a similar exercise in the future?

Yes

No

29. Please offer any suggestions to improve this preparation process in the future

- 30. For comments on question 18 to 28.** For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Health products, Education and Government Compensation

The development of the product lists for these categories was largely managed centrally, by the Global Office.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

- 31. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that these processes went?**

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

- Was not involved → go to question 34

- 32. Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?**

- Yes
- No

- 33. Did you feel that the information and training given before the preparation stage made you well prepared for the task?**

- Yes
- No

- 34. In your view, was the final product lists sufficiently representative for your country?**

- Yes
- No

35. With a view to future rounds, what is your view on this approach for these groups?

- A centralized approach should also be kept next time
- Would like to be more directly involved next time

36. For comments on question 31 to 35. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Equipment (investment) products and Construction components

The development of the product lists for equipment goods and construction components were largely managed centrally, by the Global Office and external experts from outside the statistical community.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

37. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the preparation processes for these two surveys went?

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

- Was not involved → go to question 42

38. Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?

- Yes
- No

39. In your view, was the final product lists sufficiently representative?

- Yes
- No

40. Do you wish to make any other remarks or proposals concerning these surveys?

41. For comments on question 37 to 39. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Housing

The approach for housing was largely managed centrally, by the Global Office and external experts from outside the statistical community.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

42. A quantity approach was used in order to estimate PPPs for housing. **All taken into account, what is your view on this approach?**

- Fine
- Acceptable
- Not acceptable

43. **Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunity to provide input into the decisions about the approach chosen?**

- Yes
- No

44. **Do you assume that the quantity approach will produce reliable estimates of volumes and prices for your country?**

- Yes

No

45. With a view to future rounds, what is your view on this approach?

A centralized approach should also be kept next time

Would like to be more directly involved next time

46. Do you wish to make any other remarks or proposals concerning housing?

47. For comments on question related to housing. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Data collection, data entry, validation and aggregation

This part of the questionnaire follows the major steps taken to produce the regional PPP's and volume indicators. Some of the steps are clustered in groups. We focus only on the data (prices) collection for market and shop products, health, equipment and construction.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

Data collection

48. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the data collection went?

Very well

Quite well

Neither well nor poorly

Quite poorly

Very poorly

49. Do you feel that the data collection materials, guidelines and training given to you before the data collection started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?

Yes

No

50. During the data collection, did you encounter any problems?

Yes → go to question 51

No → go to question 54

51. What kind of problems did you encounter?

52. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems?

Yes → go to question 53

No → go to question 54

53. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

Good

Neither good nor bad

Bad

54. Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?

Yes

No

55. For comments on questions related to data collection. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Data entry and Data validation

In this part of the questionnaire we focus on the data entry and validation process. The tools provided for data entry will be covered later on.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

56. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the data entry and data validation went?

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

57. Do you feel that the data entry and validation materials, guidelines and training given to you before the data entry and validation processes started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?

- Yes
- No

58. During the data entry and validation, did you encounter any problems?

- Yes → go to question 59
- No → go to question 62

59. What kind of problems did you encounter?

60. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to

solve the problems?

Yes → go to question 61

No → go to question 62

61. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

Good

Neither good nor bad

Bad

62. Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?

Yes

No

- 63. For comments on questions covering data entry and data validation.** For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Validating Basic Heading PPPs

The focal point here is the review and validation of Basic Heading PPPs after these have been calculated and distributed by the Regional Coordinator.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

- 64. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the validation process for basic heading PPPs went?**

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

- 65. What kind of diagnostic tables or data did you receive for this stage of the data analysis?**

- Quaranta tables → go to question 66
- Dikhanov tables → go to question 66
- Other → please describe in question 71

- 66. During the validation of Basic Heading PPPs, did you encounter any problems?**

- Yes → go to question 67
- No → go to question 70

67. What kind of problems did you encounter?

68. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

Yes → go to question 69

No → go to question 70

69. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

Good

Neither good nor bad

Bad

70. Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?

Yes

No

71. For comments on questions related to validation of Basic Heading PPPs. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Aggregation and Regional review of the aggregate results

This point should be answered primarily by the Regional Coordinators. However, countries may also provide their views.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

72. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the process steps for aggregation and regional review of the aggregate results went?

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

73. Do you feel that the materials, guidelines and training given to you before the aggregation process and the regional review of aggregate results started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?

- Yes
- No

74. During these two process steps, did you encounter any problems?

- Yes → go to question 75
- No → go to question 78

75. What kind of problems did you encounter?

76. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

- Yes → go to question 77
- No → go to question 78

77. How do you assess the help provided in order to solve these problems?

- Good
- Neither good nor bad
- Bad

78. Do you think that the present materials, guidelines and training, as well as the experience gained, give you a sound basis for a new ICP round?

- Yes
- No

79. For comments on questions covering aggregation and regional review of the aggregate results. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Breakdown of expenditure to Basic Headings

This part of the questionnaire focuses on the process towards establishing the weights at Basic Heading (BH) level.

For general comments - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area.

80. Please give your overall evaluation of this step in the regional programme having the focus on the functioning of the administrative processes, input and communication.

- Worked well
- Worked neither well nor poorly
- Worked poorly

81. What is your general evaluation of the timeliness by which the materials, guidelines and training were given to you?

82. What is your general evaluation of the quality of materials, guidelines and training of staff?

83. What is your general evaluation of the support you received from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office?

84. What is your evaluation of the impact that the breakdown of expenditures to Basic Headings had on the workload on National Accounts in particular?

85. What is your evaluation of the impact the breakdown of expenditures to basic headings had on the workload on the national statistical programme in general?

86. Based on your experience from the 2005 round, we ask you to select the most difficult part of this exercise. Please specify. What do you suggest be done to improve this for future rounds?

87. For comments on questions related to breakdown of expenditure to basic heading. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

The ICP handbook, operational manuals, website and newsletter

The ICP Handbook and the operational manuals were “works in progress” during the initial years of the 2005 ICP round. For this reason, the current versions of these documents are not necessarily the ones that have been used by regional and national staff in their work. During the 2005 round, a number of preliminary versions were produced and subsequently developed in stages.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

The ICP Handbook and Operational Manuals

88. Were Handbook and Operational Manuals available in the national language during the 2005 ICP round?

- Yes, both the Handbook and Operational Manuals → go to question 90
- Only the Handbook → go to question 89
- Only the Operational Manuals → go to question 89
- Neither the Handbook nor the Operational Manuals → go to question 89

89. Please indicate how the language problems were solved

90. The ICP Handbook and the Operational manuals were revised several times during the 2005 survey period. **Do you think there are reasons to believe that this work-in-progress status of these documents had influence on the quality of the final national data?**

Yes

No

91. **Which of the sources specified below were used to keep updated on changes that were introduced?** More than one answer can be given.

Website

Regional coordinator

Seminars, workshops and similar information sources

Other sources

92. **Do you think that the current versions of the Handbook and Operational manuals provide a sound basis for future ICP surveys?**

Yes

No

93. **Please indicate how you think that the contents and quality of the Handbook and Operational Manuals could be improved in the future.**

The ICP website and Newsletter

94. **Have you searched for information about surveys at the ICP website?**

Yes → go to question 95

No → go to question 96

95. **In general, was the information you looked for at the ICP website easy or difficult to find?**

Easy

Difficult

96. The ICP Newsletter is a relevant source of information about ICP experiences in other countries, progress etc. **Is the Newsletter a source being used for such purposes?**

Yes

No

97. Please indicate how you think that the contents and quality of the ICP website and Newsletter could be improved

98. For comments on questions in this subject area. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Capacity building and integration with national statistical programmes

Here, we would like to draw on the experience of Regional and National Coordinators being involved in the capacity building tasks.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

99. Does your national statistical office have the staff with qualifications and training for the price collection and national accounting requirements to move forward with the ICP?

Yes → go to question 101

No → go to question 100

100. If prioritising, what is the most important needs in these areas?

101. Does your national statistical office have the hardware and software to meet the requirements of the ICP?

Yes → go to question 103

No → go to question 102

102. If prioritising, what is the most important needs in these areas?

103. The ICP survey programme has for the last two decades been run periodically with several years between each benchmark. In the user environment, it has been argued that the ICP should be run with a fixed frequency. A 3-year rolling benchmark has been suggested. **Would such an initiative have an effect on the level of institutional and technical capacity in your country?**

Yes → go to question 104

No → go to question 105

104. Please comment

105. In a medium term perspective, a certain degree of integration between the ICP and the national CPI routines, in particular when it comes to data collection, is one of the goals of the ICP. **To what extent do you think this could be done in your country?**

To a large extent → go to question 106

To some extent → go to question 106

To a low extent → go to question 106

To no extent at all → go to question 107

106. If you have any suggestions on how to achieve the synergies indicated, what is needed?

107. For comments on questions in this subject area. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

The ICP Tool Pack

Here, we would like to draw on the experience of Regional and National Coordinators as users or potential users of the tools contained in the ICP Tool Pack (TP). Some of the important component parts of the TP system are: The Structured Product Descriptions (SPDs), data entry and validation, data transfer, regional validation including the Quaranta and Dikhanov tables, estimation of PPPs, evaluation of expenditure weights, and the data validation module for equipment, construction and government.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

108. Have the ICP Tool Pack been in use during the 2005 round?

- Yes → go to question 111
- No → go to question 109

109. Why has the ICP Tool Pack not being used? More than one answer can be given

- The Tool Pack was not available in time
- The Tool Pack was difficult to install
- The documentation was insufficient or inadequate
- Programs were not working properly
- Other reasons

110. Were any initiatives taken to solve the problems?

- Yes → go to question 114
- No → go to question 114

111. Which of the Tool Pack procedures listed below has been used in the 2005 ICP survey? More than one answer can be given

- The module for preparing product specification (SPD)
- Data entry and national validation
- Data transfer
- Regional validation including Quaranta and Dikhanov tables

- Estimation of PPPs at the regional level
- Evaluation of expenditure weights
- Data validation module for equipment, construction and government

112. Do you consider the available manuals to be adequate?

- Yes
- No

113. Have the training of staff been sufficient?

- Yes
- No

114. The ICP Tool Pack has been revised and simplified. Have you attempted to install and use the last version?

- Yes → go to question 115
- No → go to question 117

115. What problems were encountered?

116. For comments on questions in this subject area. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

117. Thank for you for your contribution. Please return the filled in questionnaire using the address given in page 1.

ICP – Ring Comparison Survey

Experiences from the ICP 2005 Ring comparison – survey background

The FOC Ring survey covers was sent out to 17 countries all participating in the ICP Ring comparison plus the regional agencies – regional coordinators.

By end of September 16 of the countries and 3 of the regional agencies had replied.

In total the response rate is above 90 per cent being high for this type of surveys.

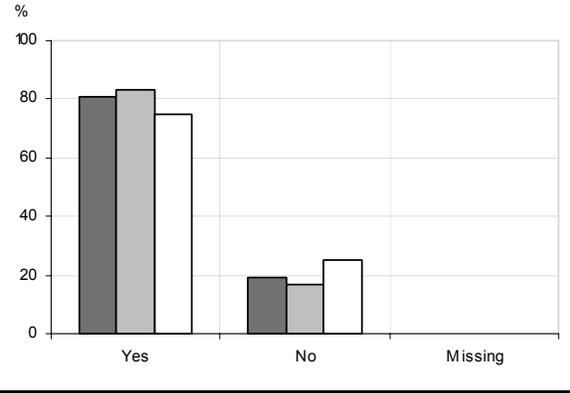
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Results – Ring comparison survey

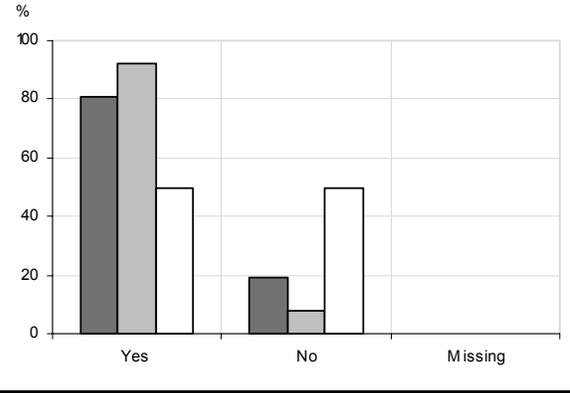
Ring Comparison - the ICP 2005 experience

Premises for participation in future

1. Are you satisfied with your Ring comparison involvement in the 2005 ICP?

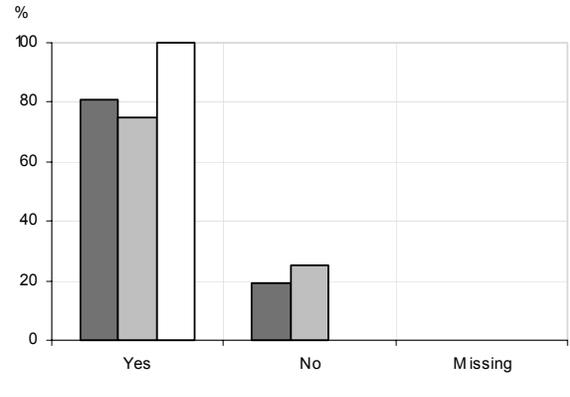


2. Would you participate on a next Ring comparison round, based on your experience with the 2005 round?

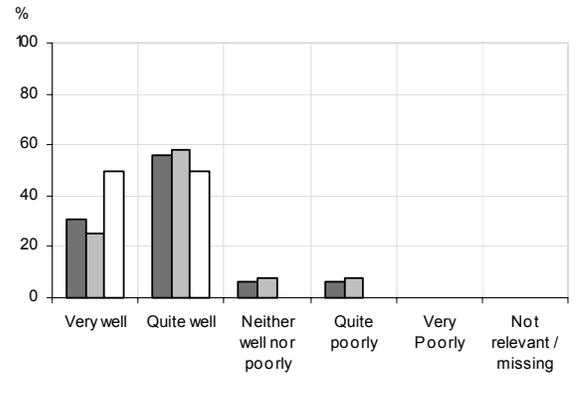


Some general governance issues

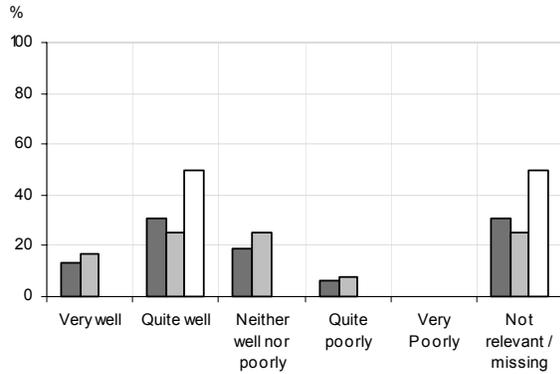
4. Was the communication about the various aspects of the Ring comparison in general effective?



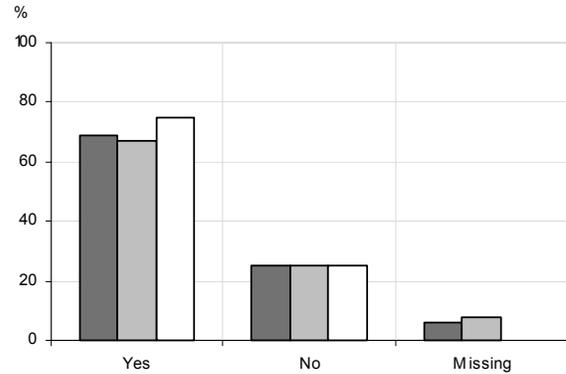
5 How do you assess the communication within the region between your country and the regional coordinator (and the regional institution)?



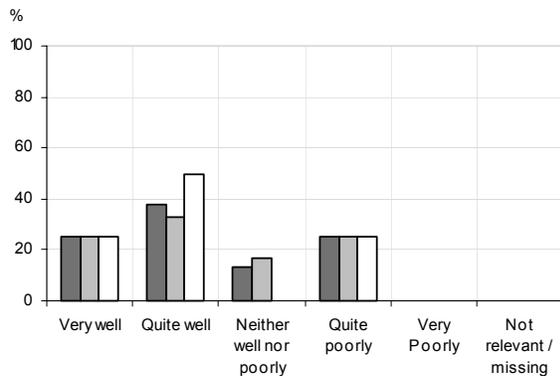
6 How do you assess the communication between the regional institution (and coordinators) and the global office?



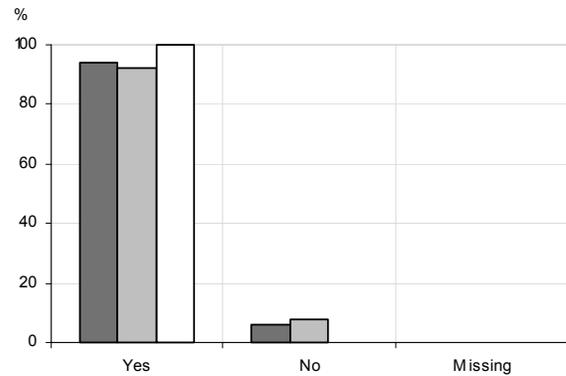
8 Were there sufficient opportunities to provide input about the decisions made?



7 How do you assess the communication between the Ring countries within the region?



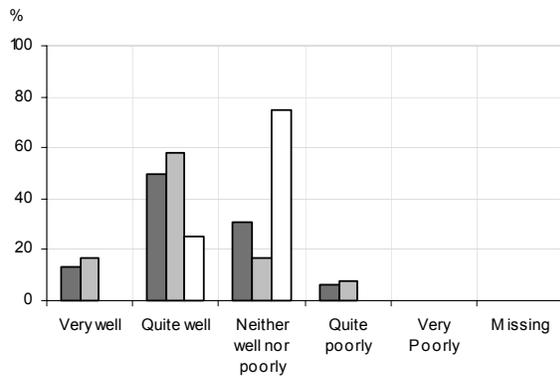
9 Has your involvement in the Ring comparison had a significant impact on the workload of your office?



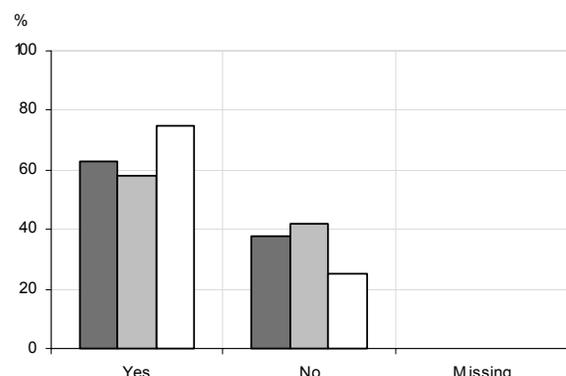
Preparing Ring comparison product specifications

Market or shop products

13 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the process leading to the Ring comparison market and shop product specifications went?

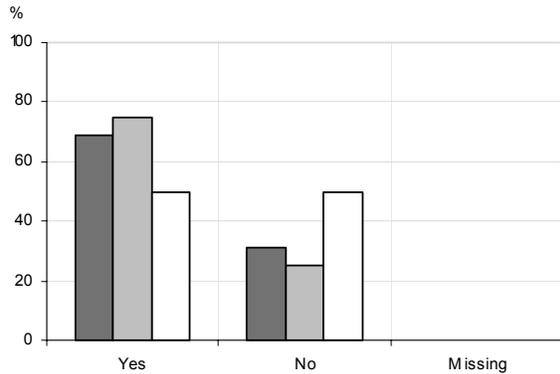


14 Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?

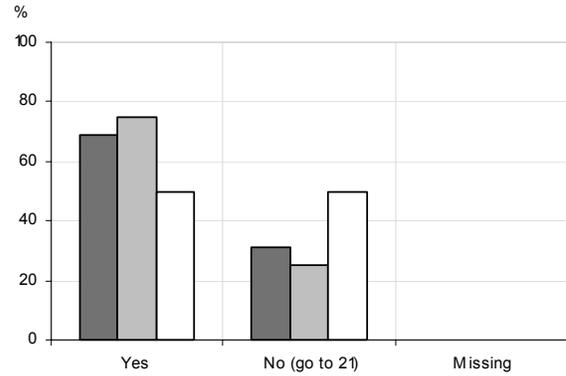


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

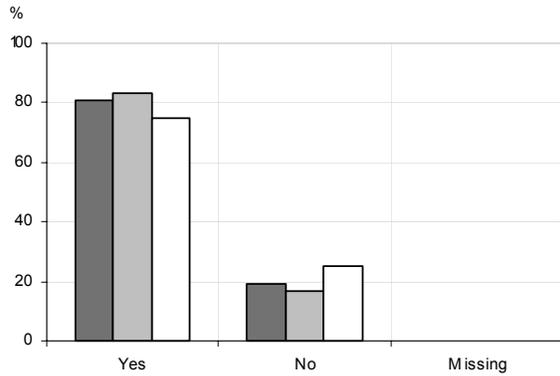
15 Did you feel that the information and training given before the preparation stage made you well prepared for the task?



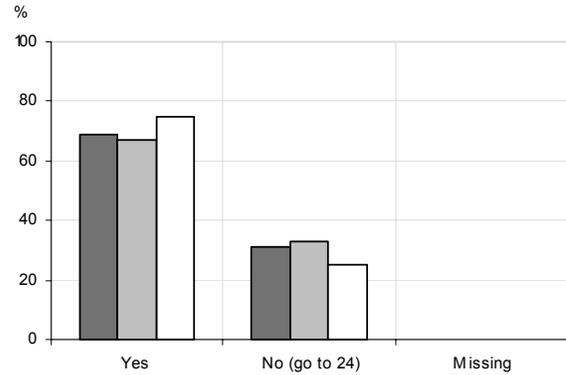
19 Did you have any problems finding the products as specified in the final Ring comparison list?



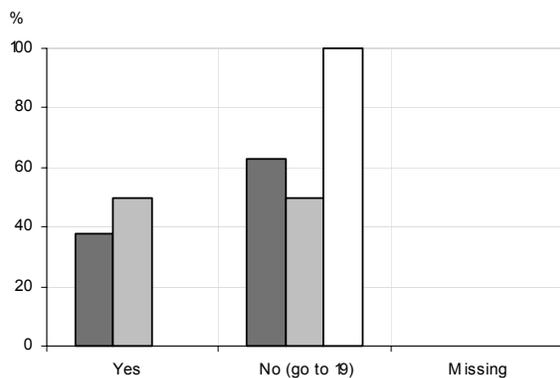
16 Did the final Ring comparison list contain products being representative of your economy?



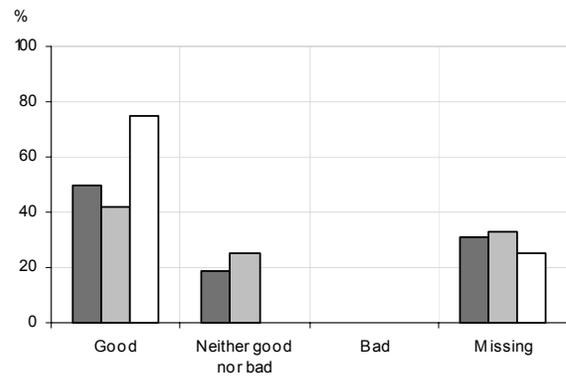
21 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems?



17 Did you have problems with assigning the representative indicator to the products you priced?



22 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

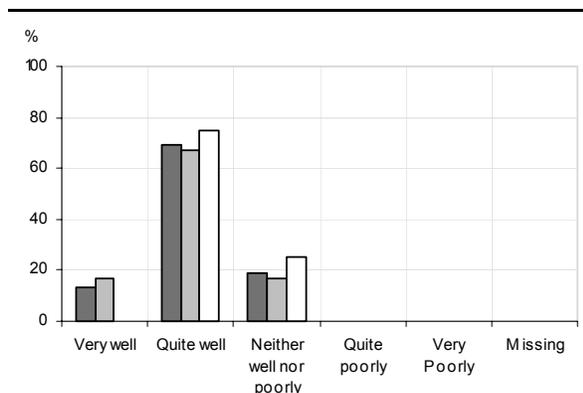


All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

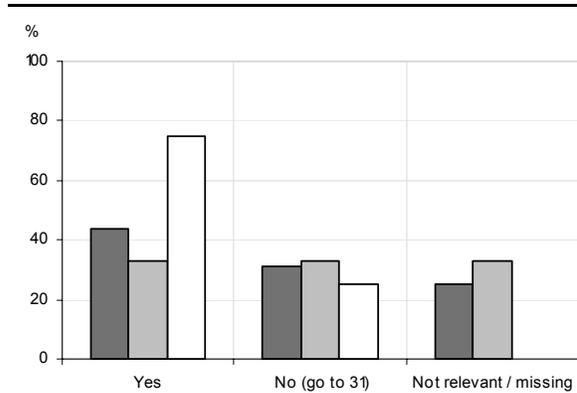
Data collection, Validation of the results between Ring countries within the region and Validation of the results between all Ring countries.

Data collection

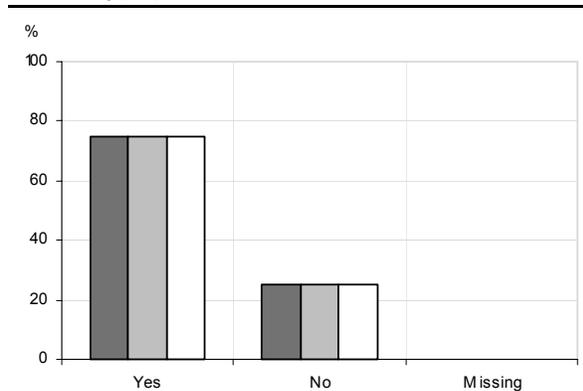
24 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the Ring comparison data collection went?



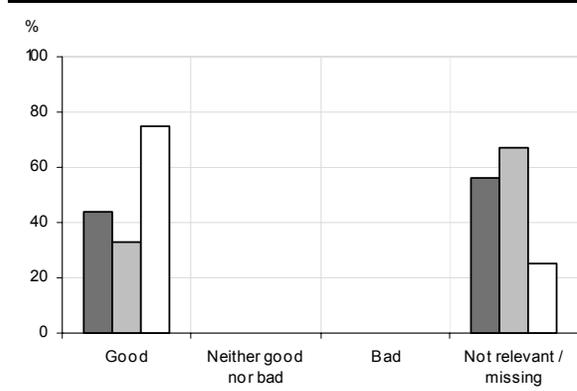
28 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems?



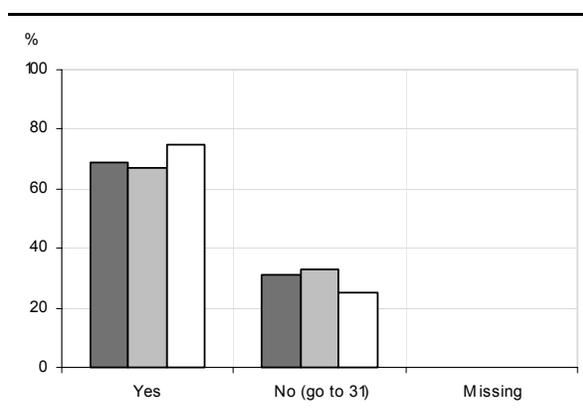
25 Do you feel that the materials, guidelines and training given to you before the data collection started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?



29 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



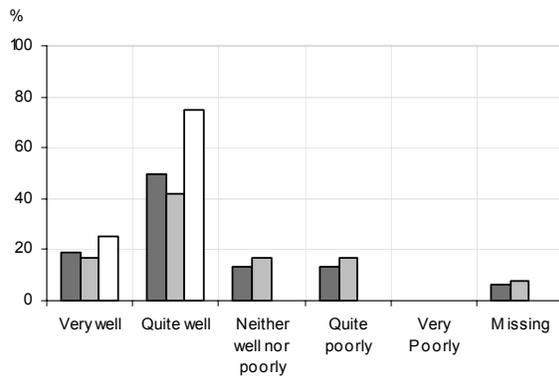
26 During the data collection, did you encounter any problems?



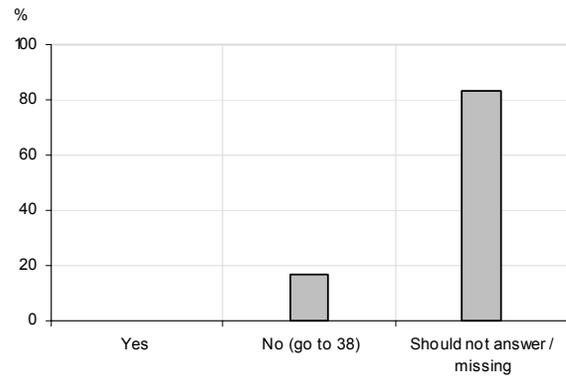
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Validation of the results between Ring countries within the region

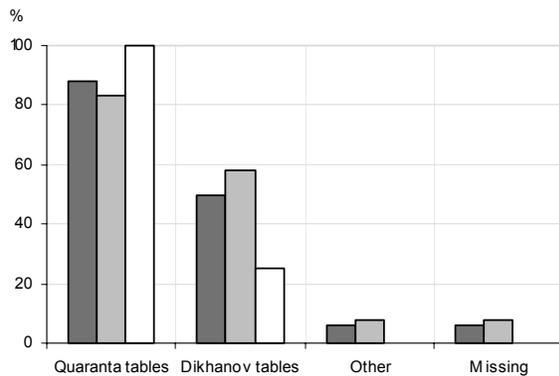
31 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the within region validation process for basic heading PPPs went?



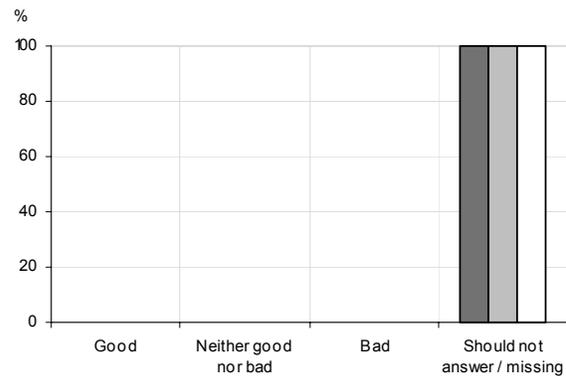
35 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



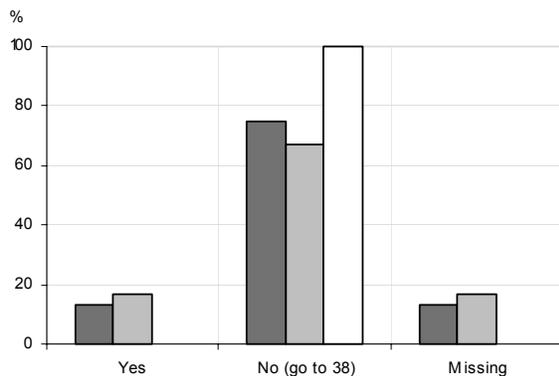
32 What kind of diagnostic tables or data did you receive for this stage of the data analysis? More than one answer can be given.



36 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



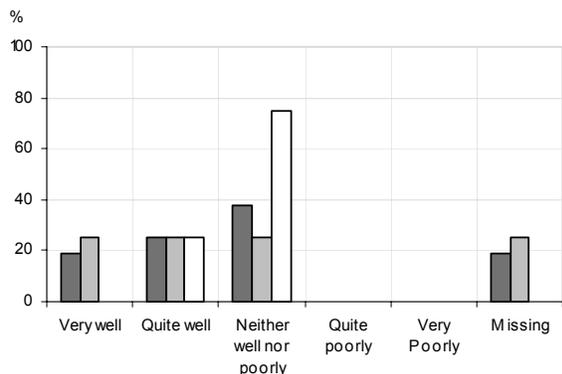
33 During the within region validation of Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs, did you encounter any problems?



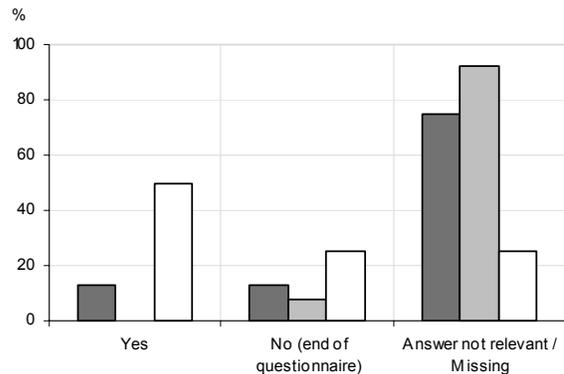
All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Validation of the results between all Ring countries

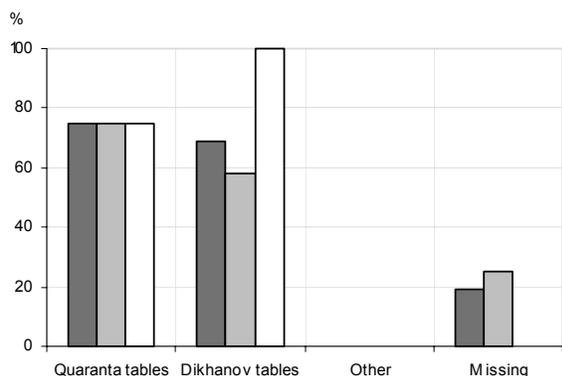
38 Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the between regions validation process for basic heading PPPs went?



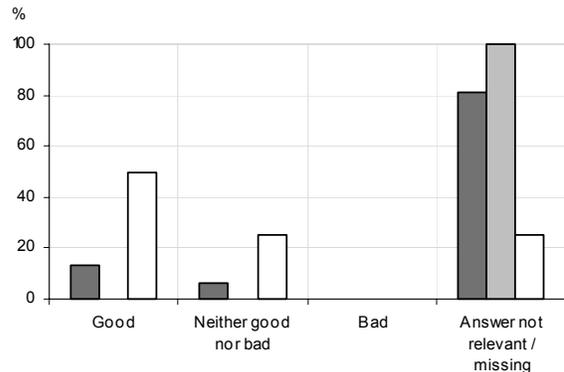
42 Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?



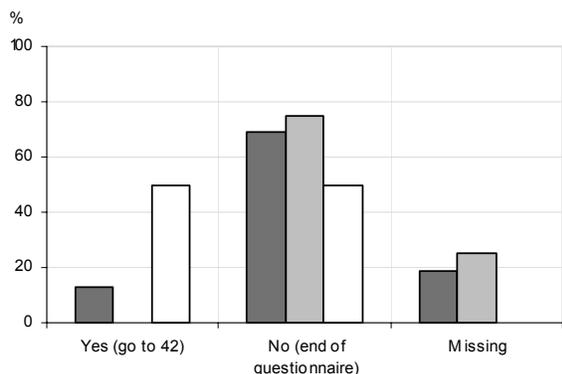
39 What kind of diagnostic tables or data did you receive for this stage of the data analysis? More than one answer can be given.



43 How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems??



40 During the between regions validation of Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs, did you encounter any problems?



All countries
ICP-group; i.e. countries excl. Eurostat / OECD
Eurostat / OECD (2)

Questionnaire - The ICP 2005 experiences, Ring comparison survey

About this questionnaire

This questionnaire focuses on governance issues from the 2005 round Ring comparison of the International Comparison Programme (ICP). The purpose of the questionnaire is to evaluate governance in practise by drawing on experiences from parties' involved in the Ring comparison.

The questionnaire consists of two parts:

1) General issues – management

- Premises for participation in future Ring comparison surveys
- Some general governance issues

2) Technical issues related to preparation of surveys, conducting surveys, validation etc.

- Preparing product specifications – Market and Shop products
- Data collection
- Validation of the results between Ring countries within the region
- Validation of the results between all Ring countries.

Who should answer this questionnaire?

The questionnaire should be answered by the countries participating in the Ring comparison. The first block – general issues – partly involves management while the technical issues should be answered by the national coordinator or the person being responsible for the Ring comparison survey programme.

All parts of the questionnaire should as well be answered by the regional agencies - regional coordinators.

Providing comments to the questions!

All comments are welcome! For some of the questions we specifically ask for your comments and for this purpose a separate textbox (question) is defined. In addition you will find in the end of each subject area a general textbox. This textbox should be used for comments related to the subject area issues in general – and where relevant – also for specific comments related to some of the questions covered by the subject area.

If the space for filling in comments becomes too small – feel free to write comments on a separate sheet and enclose it to the questionnaire when returned. Please refer to the specific question(s) that is commented. For the attachment - please remember filling in the name of country, of institution / agency and name of contact person.

Return address when using email: icpnor@ssb.no.

If you prefer using a postal return – use the address:

Ingrid Horverak
Statistics Norway
Kongensg. 6, Post box 8131, Dep 0033, Oslo, Norway

Questionnaire should be returned no later than: 25. July 2007

Should there be any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Please use the e-mail address: icpnor@ssb.no.

Please provide your contact information for the Ring comparison:

Name of country	
Name of the region	
Name of institution / agency	
Name of contact person	
Email address	
Phone number	
Fax number	

Premises for participation in future ICP Ring comparison surveys

1. Are you satisfied with your Ring comparison involvement in the 2005 ICP?

- Yes → go to question 2
 No → please elaborate in question 3

2. Would you participate on a next Ring comparison round, based on your experience with the 2005 round?

- Yes → go to question 4
 No → please elaborate in question 3

3. For comments on question 1 and 2. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Some general governance issues

Based on the Ring comparison experiences - think about the communication between your own office and NSOs, Regional Coordinators, ICP Global Office, user communities and other parties involved in the ICP. Please reflect on the issues presented below from a management perspective.

All comments are welcome! Please elaborate / explain your answer using the general textbox.

4. Was the communication about the various aspects of the Ring comparison in general effective?

- Yes
 No

In questions 5 – 7 we ask you to assess the communication between your office (country / region) and other parties involved.

If something should be added to these questions feel free to elaborate on the communication issue using the general textbox (question 10).

It should be mentioned that some of these questions might not be equally relevant to all respondents.

5. How do you assess the communication within the region between your country and the regional coordinator (and the regional institution)?

- Very well
 Quite well
 Neither well nor poorly
 Quite poorly
 Very poorly

6. How do you assess the communication between the regional institution (and coordinators) and the global office?

- Very well
 Quite well
 Neither well nor poorly
 Quite poorly
 Very poorly

7. How do you assess the communication between the Ring countries within the region?

- Very well
 Quite well
 Neither well nor poorly
 Quite poorly
 Very poorly

8. Were there sufficient opportunities to provide input about the decisions made?

Yes

No

9. Has your involvement in the Ring comparison had a significant impact on the workload of your office?

Yes

No

Participating in the Ring comparison will for parties involved imply mixed experiences – also when it comes to governance. In questions 10 – 11 we ask you to share the most important positive and the most negative aspects of governance experienced. Please describe in brief.

If you like to provide more than one experience – feel free to do so. In lack of space please elaborate using the general textbox (question 12).

10. What has been your most important positive aspect of the ICP Ring governance?

11. What has been the most important negative aspect of the ICP Ring governance?

12. For comments on question 4 to 11. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Preparing Ring comparison product specifications

In this part of the questionnaire we ask you to evaluate the process that led to the Ring product specifications.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

Market or shop products

13. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the process leading to the Ring comparison market and shop product specifications went?

- Very well
 Quite well
 Neither well nor poorly
 Quite poorly
 Very poorly

14. Did you feel that you had sufficient opportunities to provide input into the decisions about what products to price and their specifications?

- Yes
 No

15. Did you feel that the information and training given before the preparation stage made you well prepared for the task?

- Yes
 No

16. Did the final Ring comparison list contain products being representative of your economy?

- Yes
 No

17. Did you have problems with assigning the representative indicator to the products you priced?

- Yes → go to question 18
 No → go to question 19

18. Please illustrate the problems you encountered using an example:

19. Did you have any problems finding the products as specified in the final Ring comparison list?

- Yes → go to question 20
 No → go to question 21

20. Please illustrate the problems you encountered using an example:

21. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems?

- Yes → go to question 22
 No → go to question 23

22. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

- Good
 Neither good nor bad
 Bad

23. For comments on question 13 to 22. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Data collection, Validation of the results between Ring countries within the region and Validation of the results between all Ring countries.

This part of the questionnaire focuses on three important steps when producing Ring comparison PPP's.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

Data collection

24. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the Ring comparison data collection went?

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

25. Do you feel that the materials, guidelines and training given to you before the data collection started made you sufficiently prepared for the task?

- Yes
- No

26. During the data collection, did you encounter any problems?

- Yes → go to question 27
- No → go to question 30

27. What kind of problems did you encounter?

28. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve the problems?

- Yes → go to question 29
- No → go to question 30

29. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

- Good
- Neither good nor bad
- Bad

30. **For comments on questions related to Ring data collection.** For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Validation of the results between Ring countries within the region

In this step the focus is on the within region validation process when working with the Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs after these have been calculated and distributed to the parties involved.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

31. **Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the within region validation process for basic heading PPPs went?**

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

32. **What kind of diagnostic tables or data did you receive for this stage of the data analysis?**

- Quaranta tables → go to question 33
- Dikhanov tables → go to question 33
- Other → please describe in question 37

33. **During the within region validation of Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs, did you encounter any problems?**

- Yes → go to question 34
- No → go to question 37

34. What kind of problems did you encounter?

35. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

- Yes → go to question 36
- No → go to question 37

36. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

- Good
- Neither good nor bad
- Bad

37. For comments on questions related to validation of Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.

Validation of the results between all Ring countries

In this step the focus is on the validation process including all regions when working with Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs and any other results after these have been calculated and distributed to the parties involved.

In general we like to have your comments on these questions. Where separate questions for comments are not specified - please use the textbox in the end of this subject area for this purpose.

38. Everything taken into account, how well do you think that the between regions validation process for basic heading PPPs went?

- Very well
- Quite well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Quite poorly
- Very poorly

39. What kind of diagnostic tables or data did you receive for this stage of the data analysis?

- Quaranta tables → go to question 40
- Dikhanov tables → go to question 40
- Other → please describe in question 44

40. During the between regions validation of Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs, did you encounter any problems?

- Yes → go to question 41
- No → go to question 44

41. What kind of problems did you encounter?

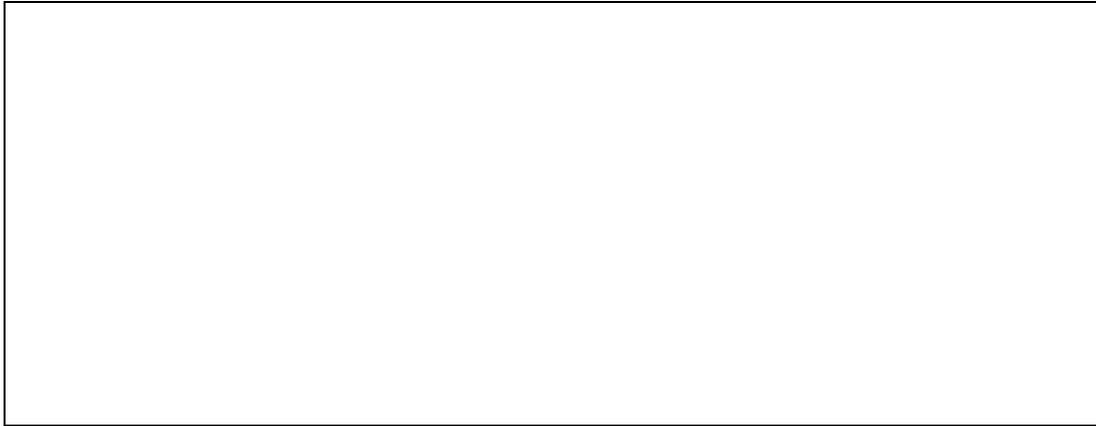
42. Did you ask for assistance from your Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

- Yes → go to question 43
- No → go to question 44

43. How do you assess the help provided by the Regional Coordinator or the Global Office in order to solve these problems?

- Good
- Neither good nor bad
- Bad

44. For comments on questions related to between regions validation of Ring comparison Basic Heading PPPs. For each comment - please refer to the question concerned.



45. **Thank for you for your contribution. Please return the filled in questionnaire using the e-mail address given in the front page.**