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Official Veterinarians in Europe – demographics and training in the times of change

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30th of March 2023

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WG5 | Eduarda Gomes-Neves

Official veterinarians (OVs) are veterinarians performing official controls for the national authorities

- EU New official controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625

- Risk-based meat inspection

- Risks managers (HEIs, FCI)

- Ongoing implementation of a modernized meat safety assurance system (MSAS)

Characterize European OVs in terms of:

- Demographics
- Academic qualification, specialization, previous experience and specific training
- Experience and daily work
- Confidence in Visual & Risk-based Meat Inspection
- Satisfaction with the career
- Continuing education & Training activities

WG5   Methods - Questionnaire
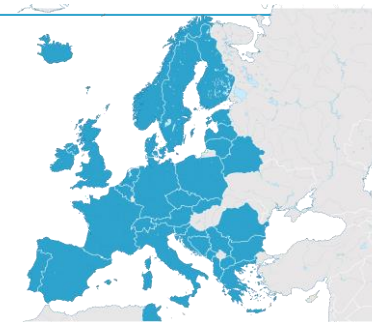
- Questionnaire design

- Target audience: OVs working in food control in Europe

- Ethics Committee approval: ICBAS-University of Porto, Portugal

- Pilot study anonymous online form

- 17 languages: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, North Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Serbian, Slovenian, Spanish, Turkish

- Online dissemination (RIBMINS participating countries, NCPs, CAs, FVE, ECVPH, professional networks)

- 1st December 21-31st March 2022

Methods - Statistical analysis

- SPSS version 28.0

- **Categorical** variables were described as **proportions**

- **Quantitative** variables were described as **mean ± standard deviation, minimum** and **maximum**

- **Score results** were described as **median** and the **interquartile range (IQR)**

1.Demographic data

- **Country of work**
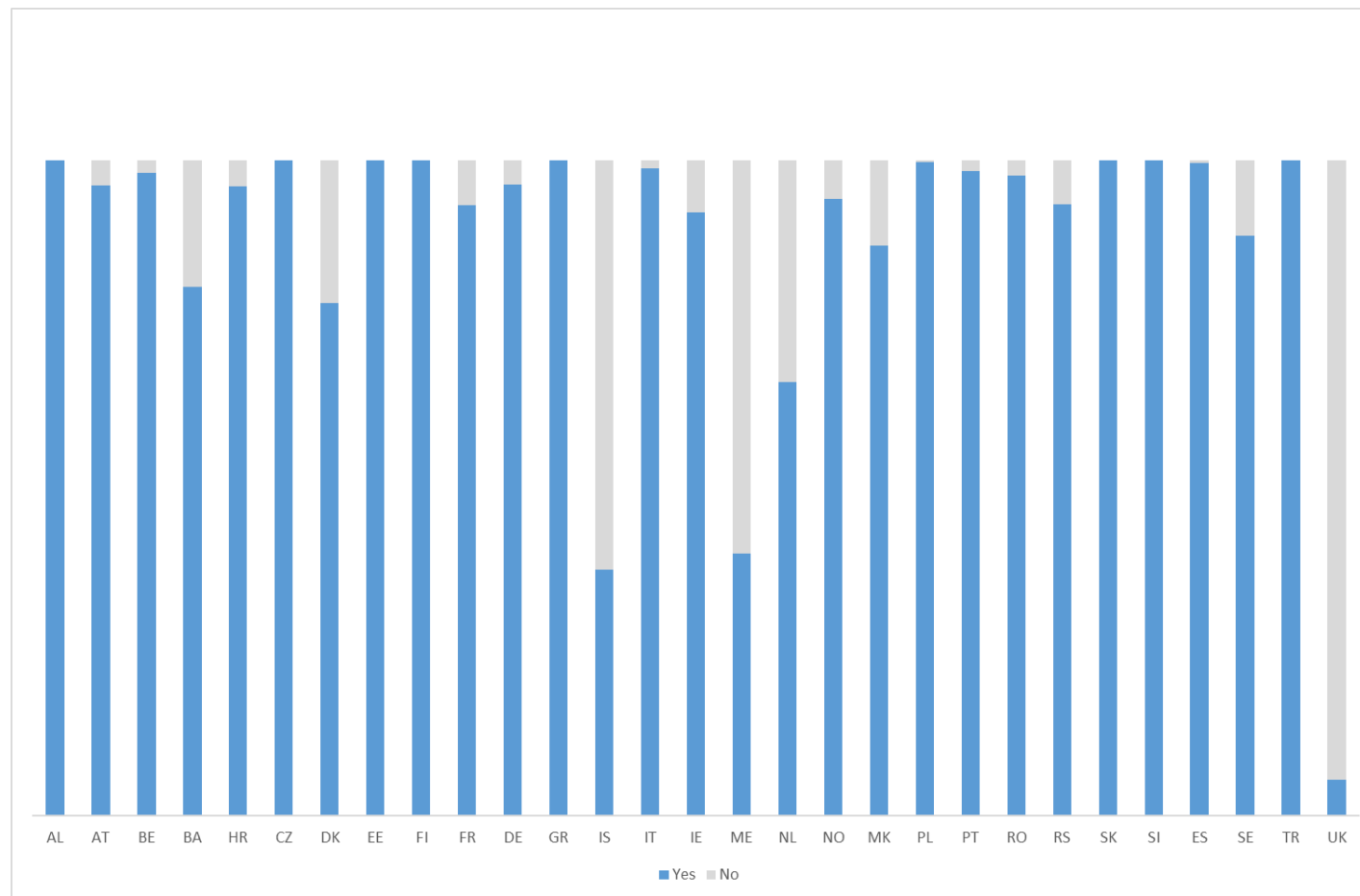
1,786 responses
30 Countries of work

17,338 OVs
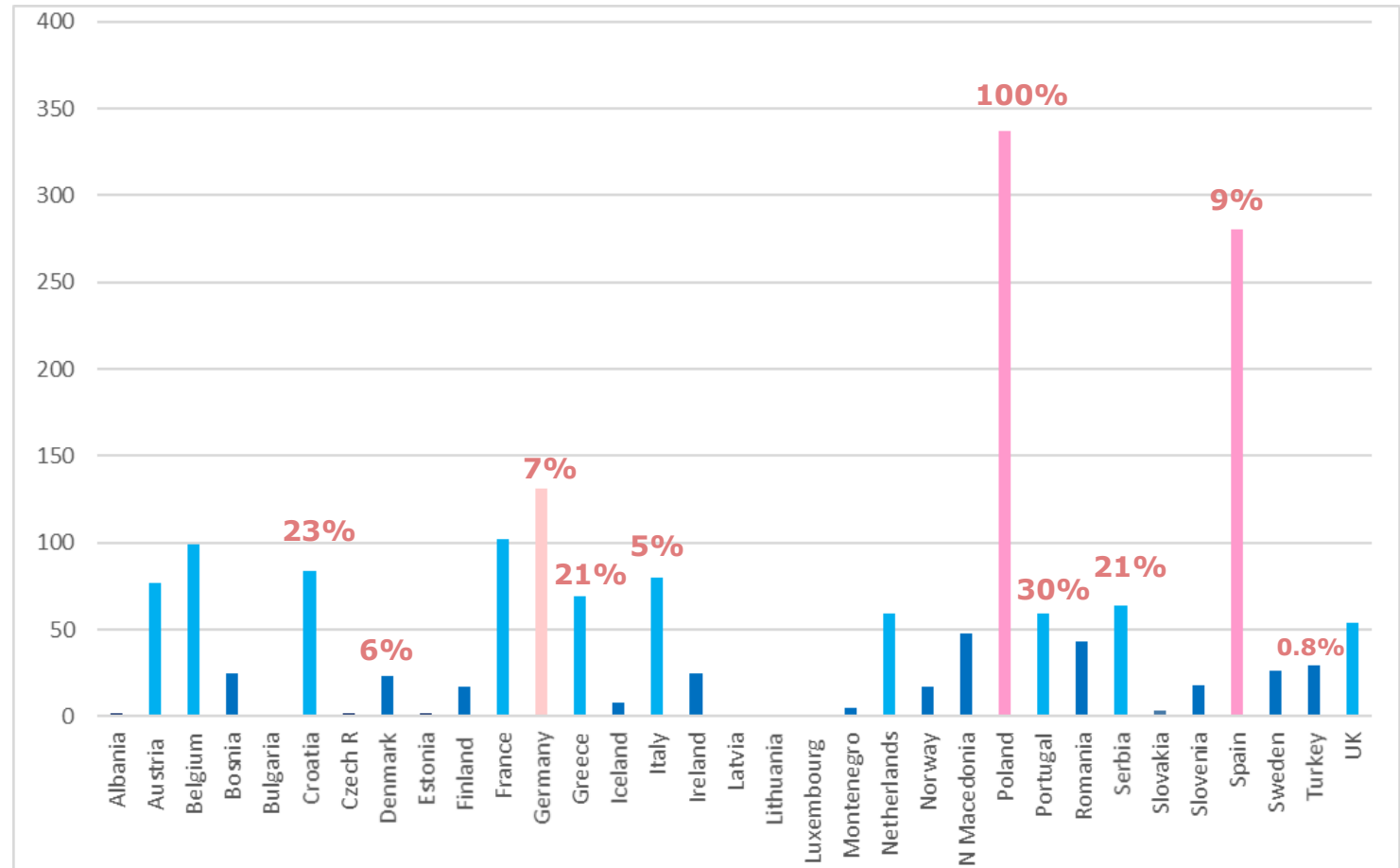
1.Demographic data

- **Country of work**
- **Nationality**

1,786 responses
30 Countries of work
33 Nationalities

1.Demographic data

- **Year of Birth**

49 (min 23-max 77)

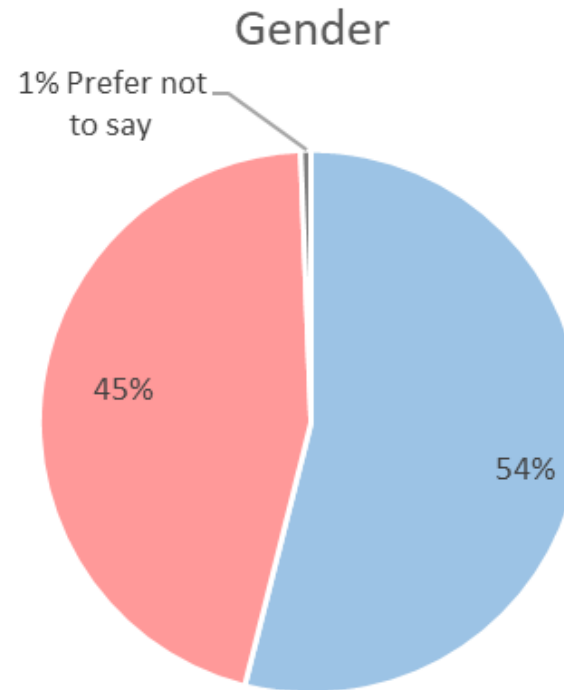n= 16 ≤ 25
n= 16 ≥ 70
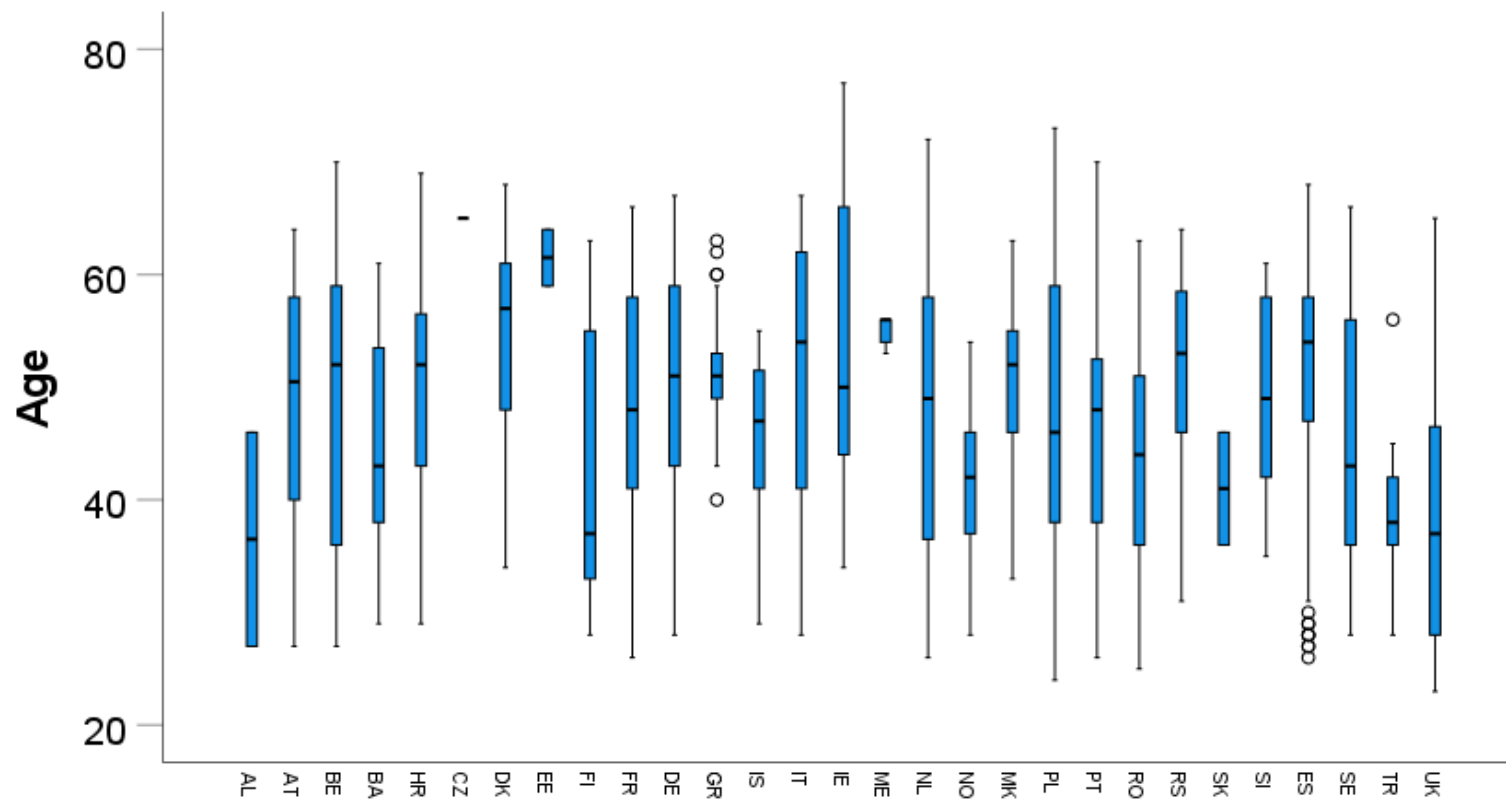
1.Demographic data

- **Gender**

82.4% Norway

24.1% Turkey

PT
RS
UK

IT
ES
PL

Gender

1% Prefer not to say

45%

54%

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WG5 | Results & Discussion

2.Qualification data
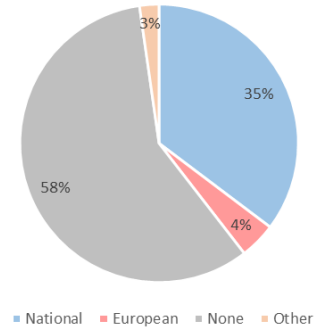
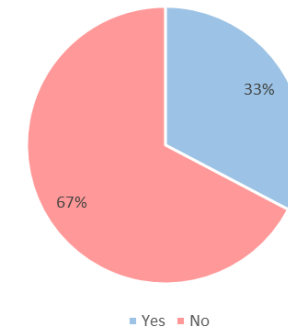- **Highest academic degree**

75% DVM
15% MSc
10% PhD

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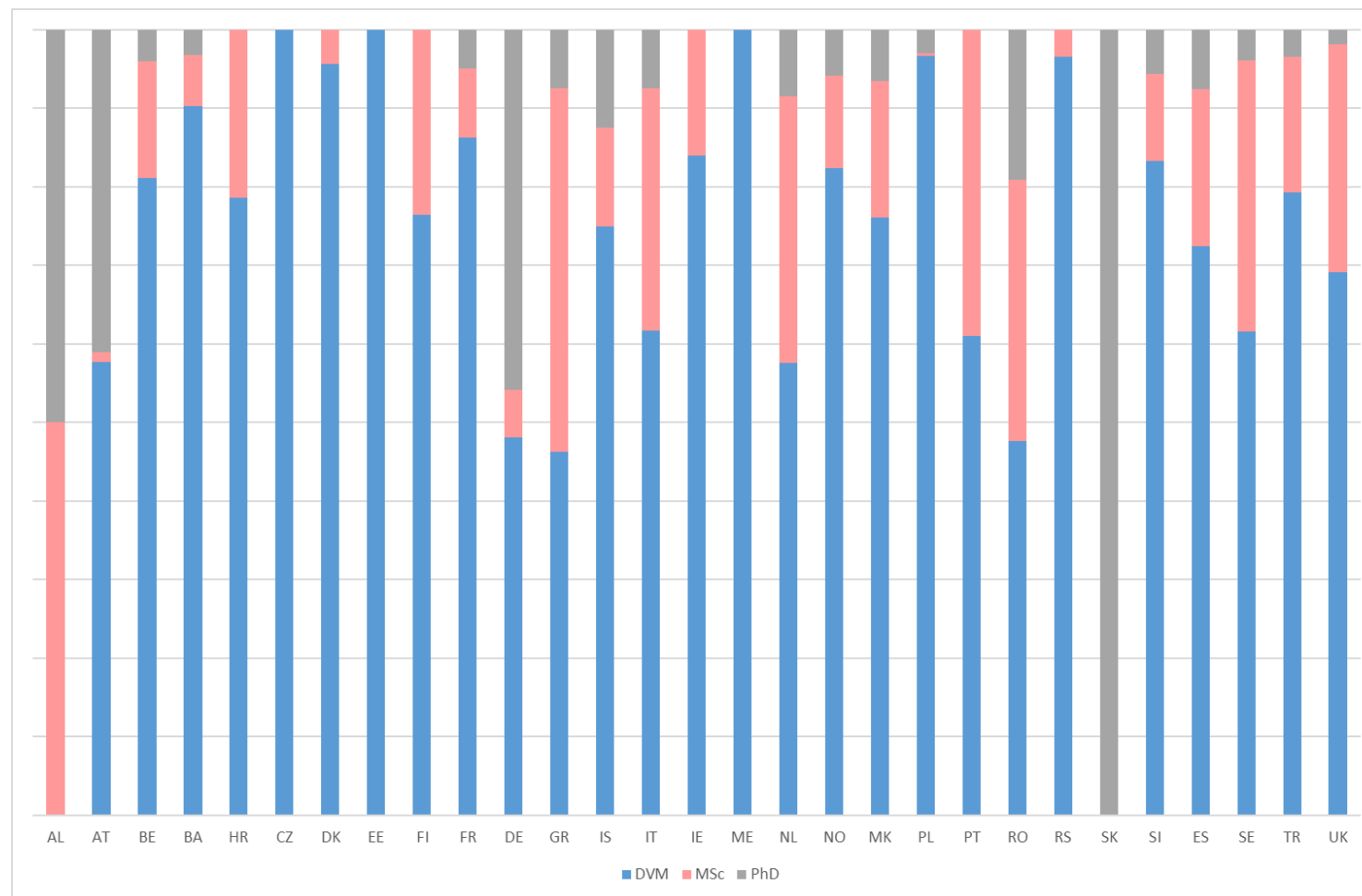
2.Qualification data

- **Specialization**
- **Previous experience**
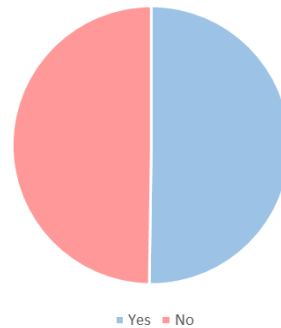- **Specific Training**
- **Specific Exam**

Specialization Diploma

35%

4%

58%

3%

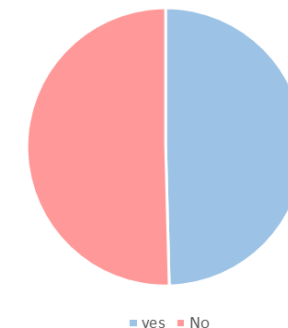National European None Other

Previous experience required

33%

67%

Yes No

HR
RS
SI

Specific Training

NL
NO
SE
UK

Yes No

Specific Exam

NO
SK
SI
UK

yes No

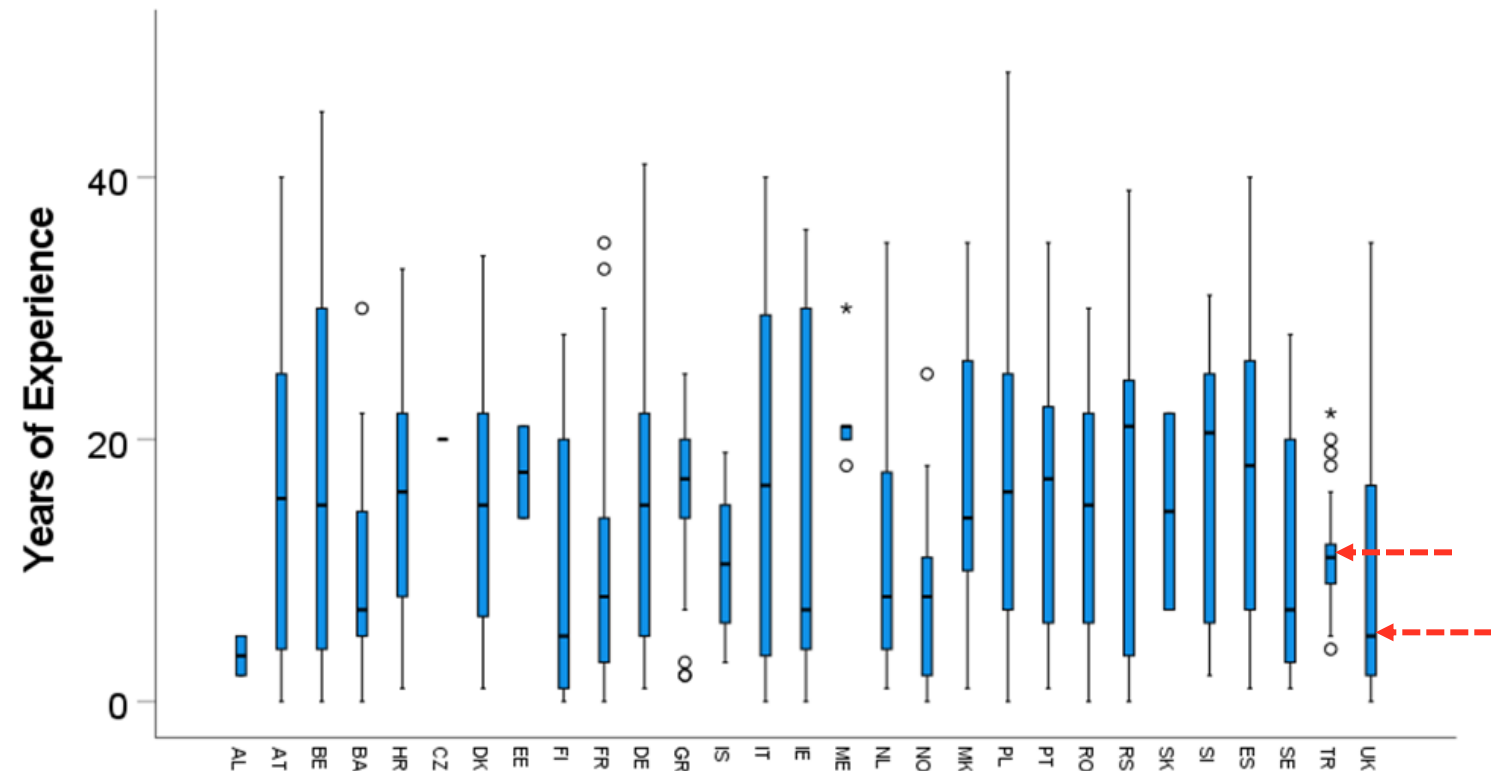RIBMINS

2.Qualification data

- **Specific Training**
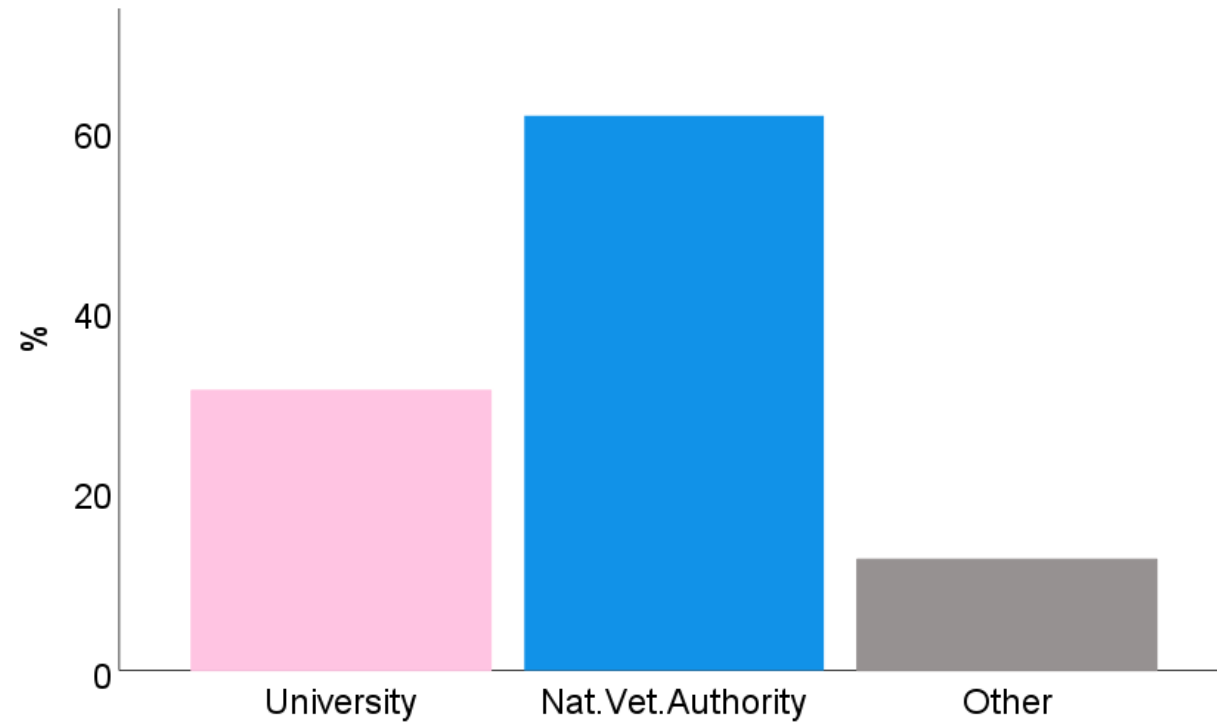
3.Work experience

- **Years of experience as an OV**

15 ± 10.6
(Mean±SD)

3.Work experience

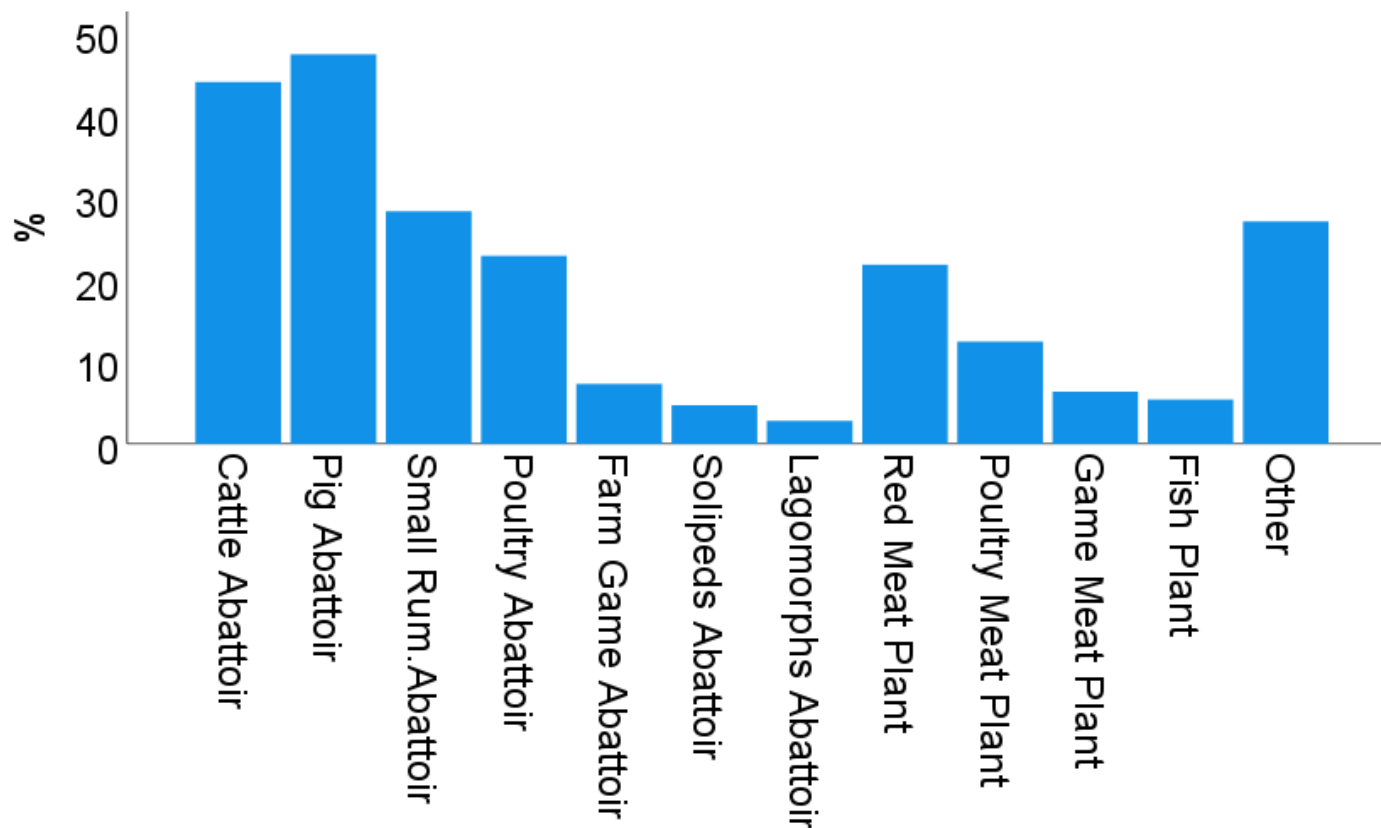- **Type of Establishment**

Other
Food Industry (Dairy, Egg)
Animal Control
Border/Airport
Restaurants, Supermarkets
Export Certification
Central Office, Laboratory…

4.Daily Work

- **%Time OV tasks**
- **Type of Team**
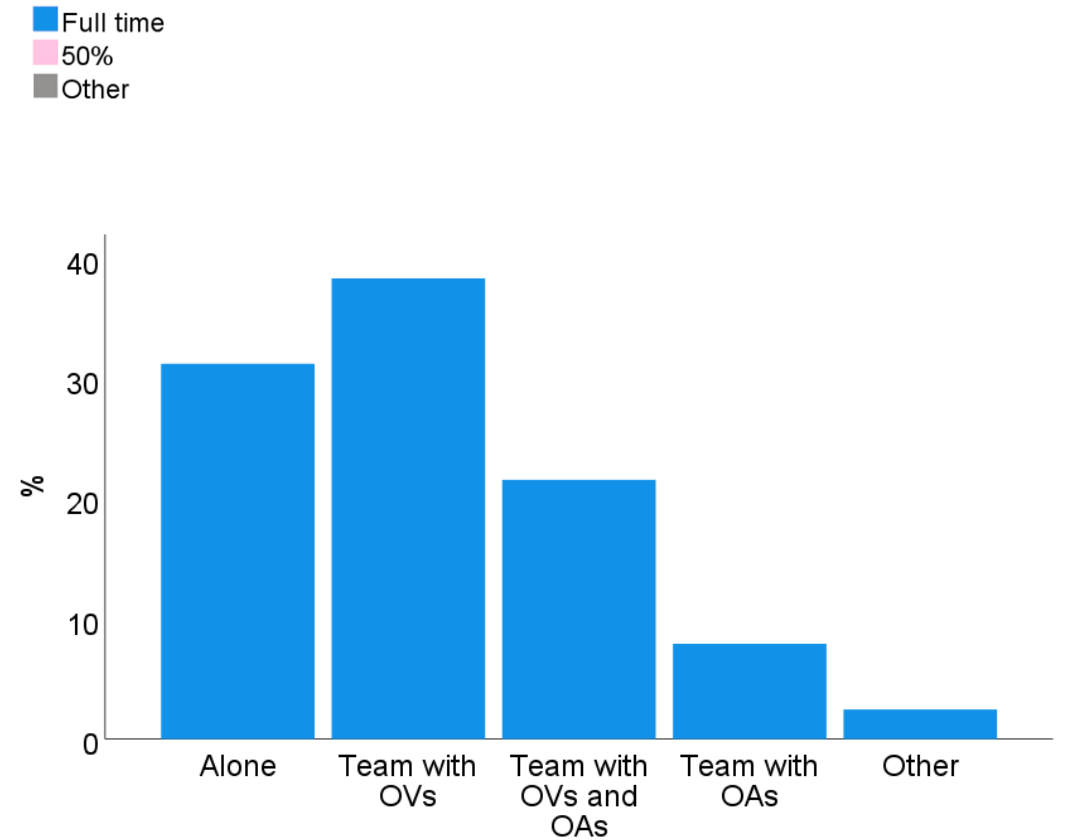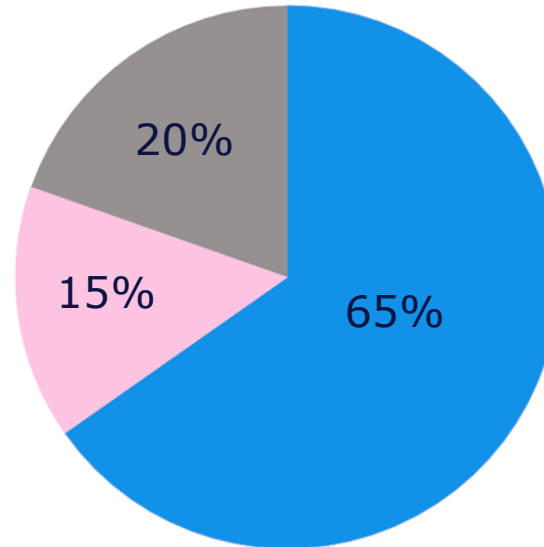
4.Daily Work

- **Confidence in VMI**

Mean±SD=3.41±1.09

Median (IQR) = 4 (3-4)

Visual Inspection

1   not at all confident

5   extremely confident

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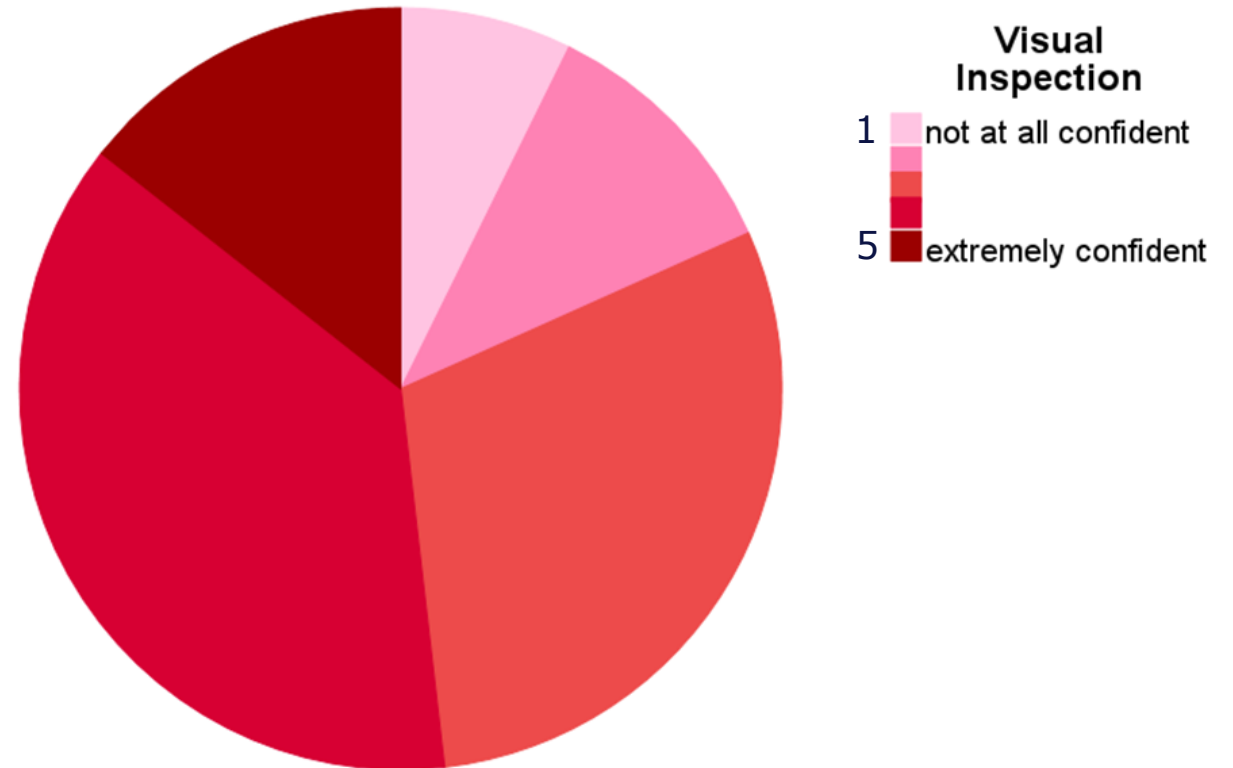
4.Daily Work

- **Confidence in RBMI**

Mean±SD=3.15±1.20

Median (IQR) = 3 (2-4)

RBMI

1 ☐ not at all confident
☐
☐
☐
5 ☐ extremely confident
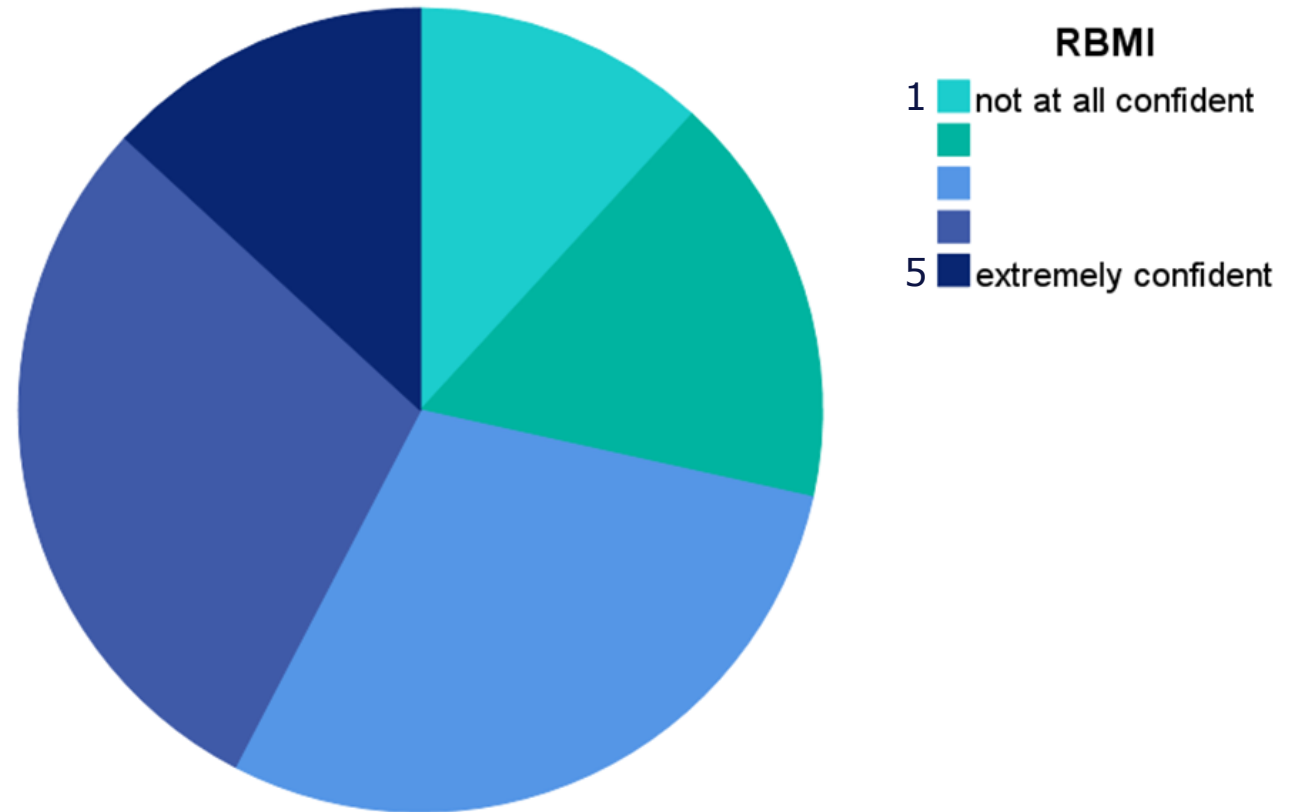
5.Employment situation

- **Type of contract**

- **Current employer**

38% Reg. Vet. Auth.

35% Nat. Vet. Auth.

24% Private Comp. or Agency
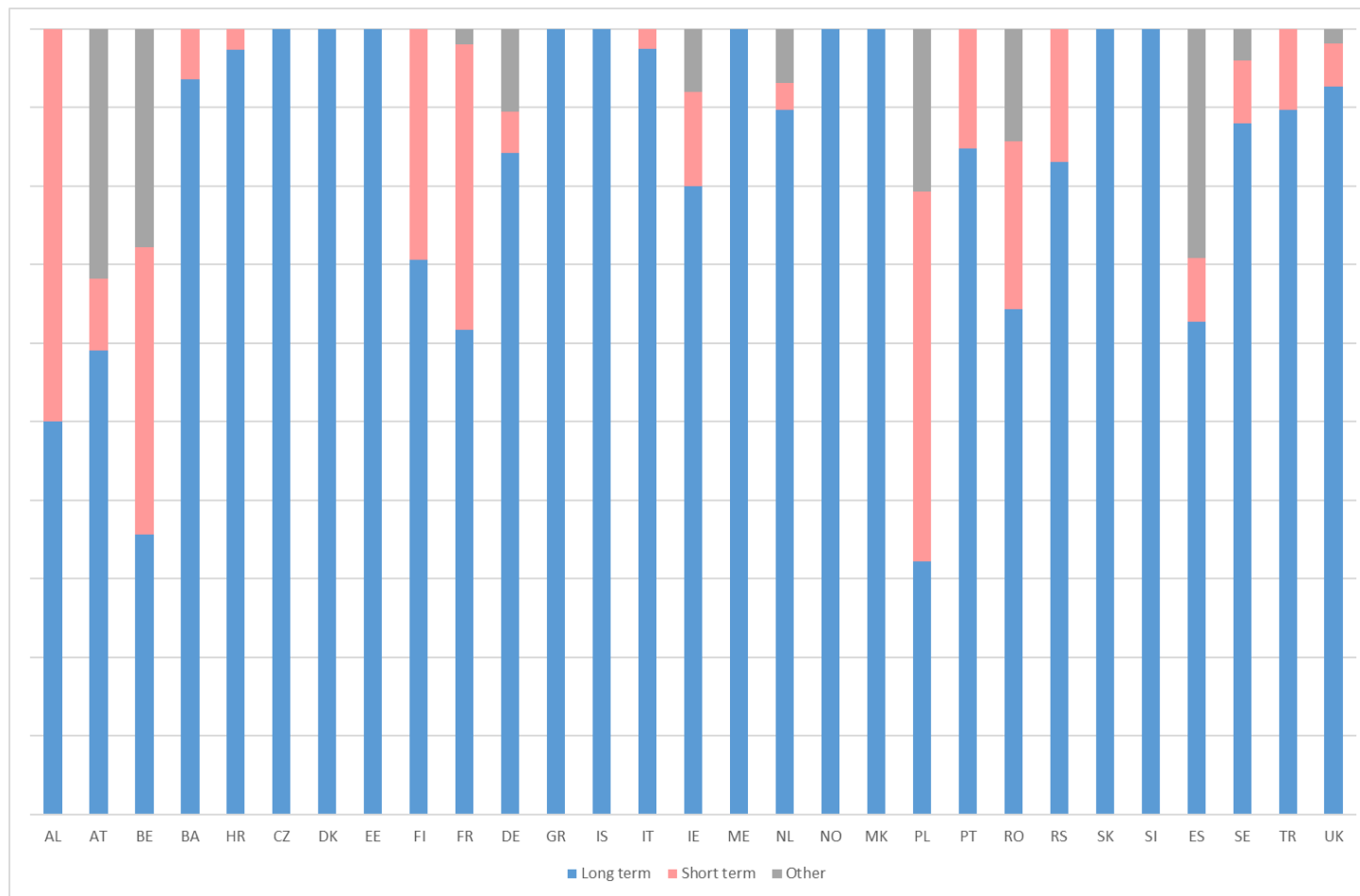
5.Employment situation

- **Satisfaction with the employment**

Mean±SD=3.59±1.03

Median (IQR) = 4 (3-4)

Satisfaction with Employment

1 not at all satisfied

5 extremely satisfied

WG5 Results & Discussion
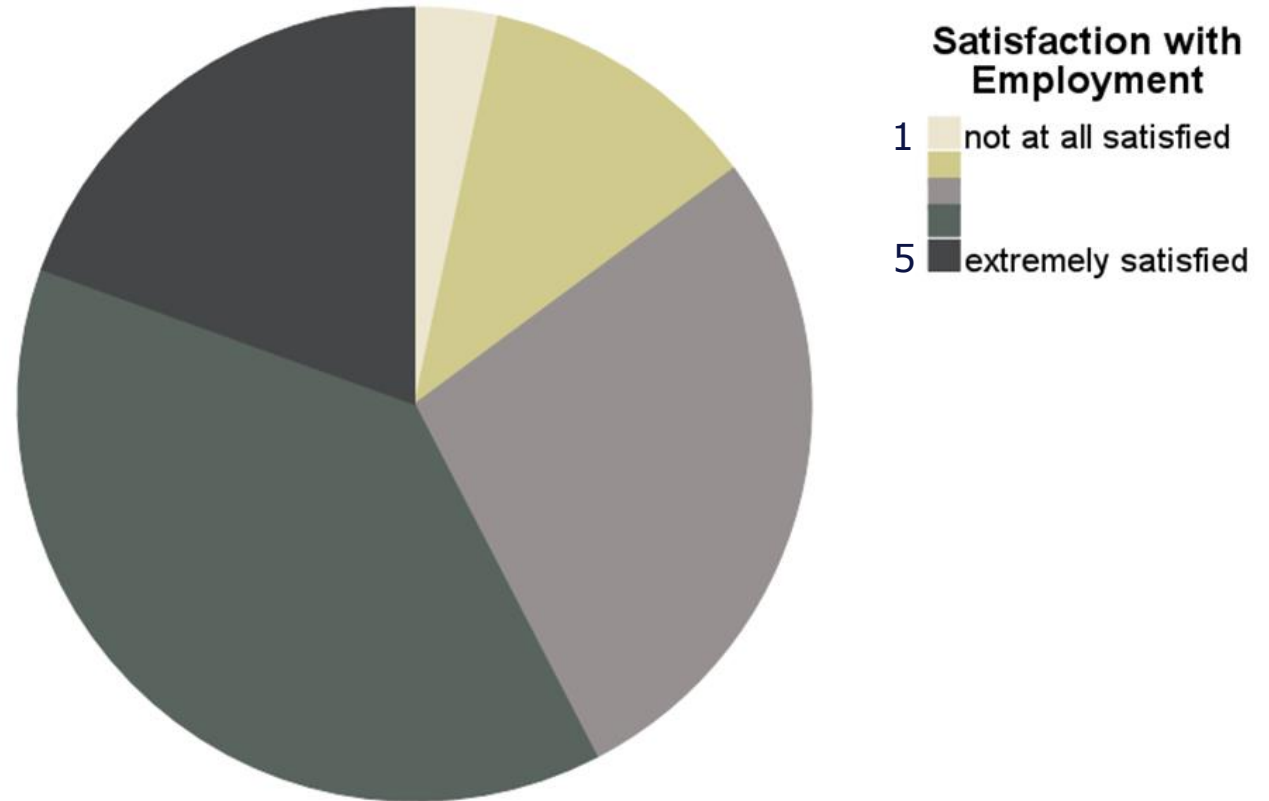
6.Continuing education

- **Frequency of training**
- **Entity responsible for training**
- **Experience as a trainer**
- **Preferred methodology**

70% Regular training

75% Nat. Vet. Authority

47% Never

61% On-site practical sessions

6.Continuing education

- **Satisfaction with training activities**

Mean±SD=3.61±0.96

Median (IQR) = 4 (3-4)
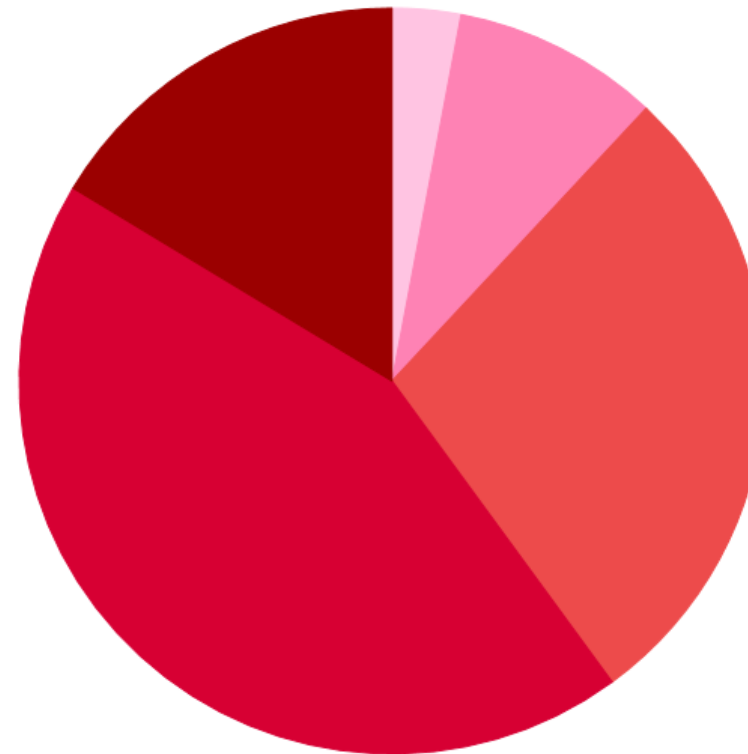
Satisfaction with training

1   Not at all satisfied

5   Extremely satisfied

7.Training topics

- **Already approached in training**

- **Future training activities**

Other
Microbiological Criteria
AMR
Biosecurity; By-products
New technology in Food Industry
Administrative procedures; Certification
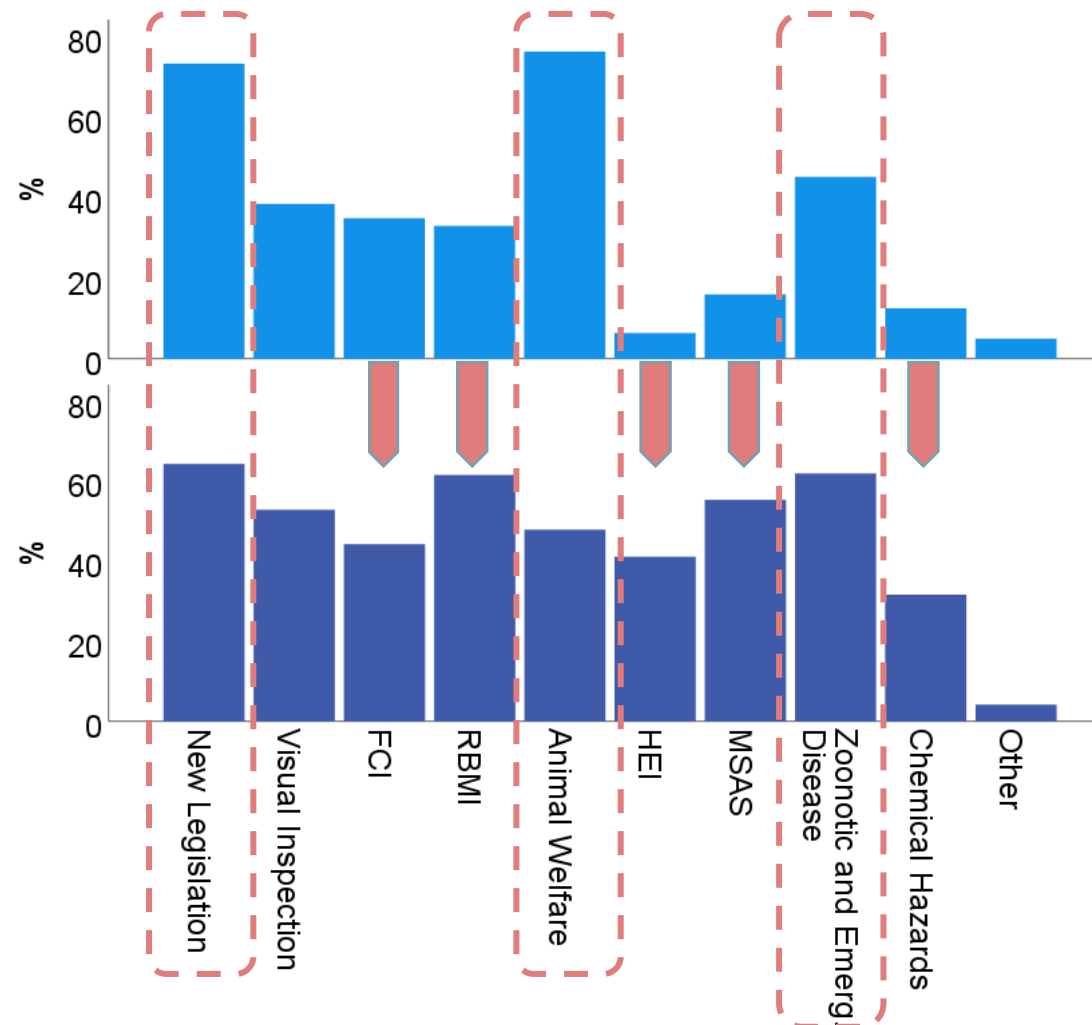
- The data obtained enabled the first characterization of OVs throughout Europe

- Highly qualified professional group

- Age: a matter of concern

- Variability in previous training and experience requirements

- Wideness in terms of daily work

- RBMI: OVs don't feel totally confident in the resources to support it

- Identification of preferred methodology for training and topics of interest

- OVs are not regular trainers and their experience and knowledge could be used in on-site practical training

- RBMI, MSAS and components (FCI, HEI), and Chemical Hazards pointed for future training and this could benefit from more collaboration with the University/Academia

WG5 **Perspectives**

- Develop effective future training tools: online platform

- The RIBMINS legacy: a dynamic and updated repository of training materials

- Regular surveys to update training activities and needs

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Thank you!