

CA18105



RIBMINS

Risk-based meat inspection and
integrated meat safety assurance

Risk categorisation of abattoirs in Europe: current situation

**Morgane Salines, Thomai Lazou, Jose Gomez-Luengo, Janne Holthe, Ivan Nastasijevic,
Martijn Bouwknecht, Nikolaos Dadios, Kurt Houf, Bojan Blagojevic, Dragan Antic**

Introduction

- Limited ability of traditional meat safety system to control the currently most important meat-borne hazards
- **Risk-based meat safety assurance system:** combination of a range of preventive and control measures, applied at farms and abattoirs and integrated longitudinally, where official meat inspection is incorporated with producers' food safety management systems
- One essential component of the risk-based meat safety assurance system: **risk categorisation of abattoirs** based on their **process hygiene** and **harmonised epidemiological indicators**
- Limited number of papers investigation abattoir risk categorisation (Nastasijevic *et al.*, 2016; Alvseike *et al.*, 2019; Cegar *et al.*, 2022; Hauge *et al.*, 2023)

Objectives of the study

- Contribute to the development of risk categorisation of abattoirs in Europe and discuss a science-based approach for this risk categorisation by:
 - providing an overview of the use of risk categorisation systems in abattoirs
 - discussing the criteria, relevance and applicability of risk categorisation systems for competent authorities

Materials and methods – questionnaire design

Objectives:

- to investigate the extent of the use of risk categorisation systems for abattoirs in Europe (or proposals for their development, if no such system has been implemented)
- to explore the relevance and the applicability of risk categorisation approaches by competent authorities

Targeted abattoirs:

Poultry, pig, bovine and small ruminant abattoirs

Targeted respondents:

Competent authorities from European countries

Materials and methods – questionnaire structure

Level of implementation of risk categorisation of abattoirs
Purpose and method for risk categorisation

Data availability

Needs for methodological developments

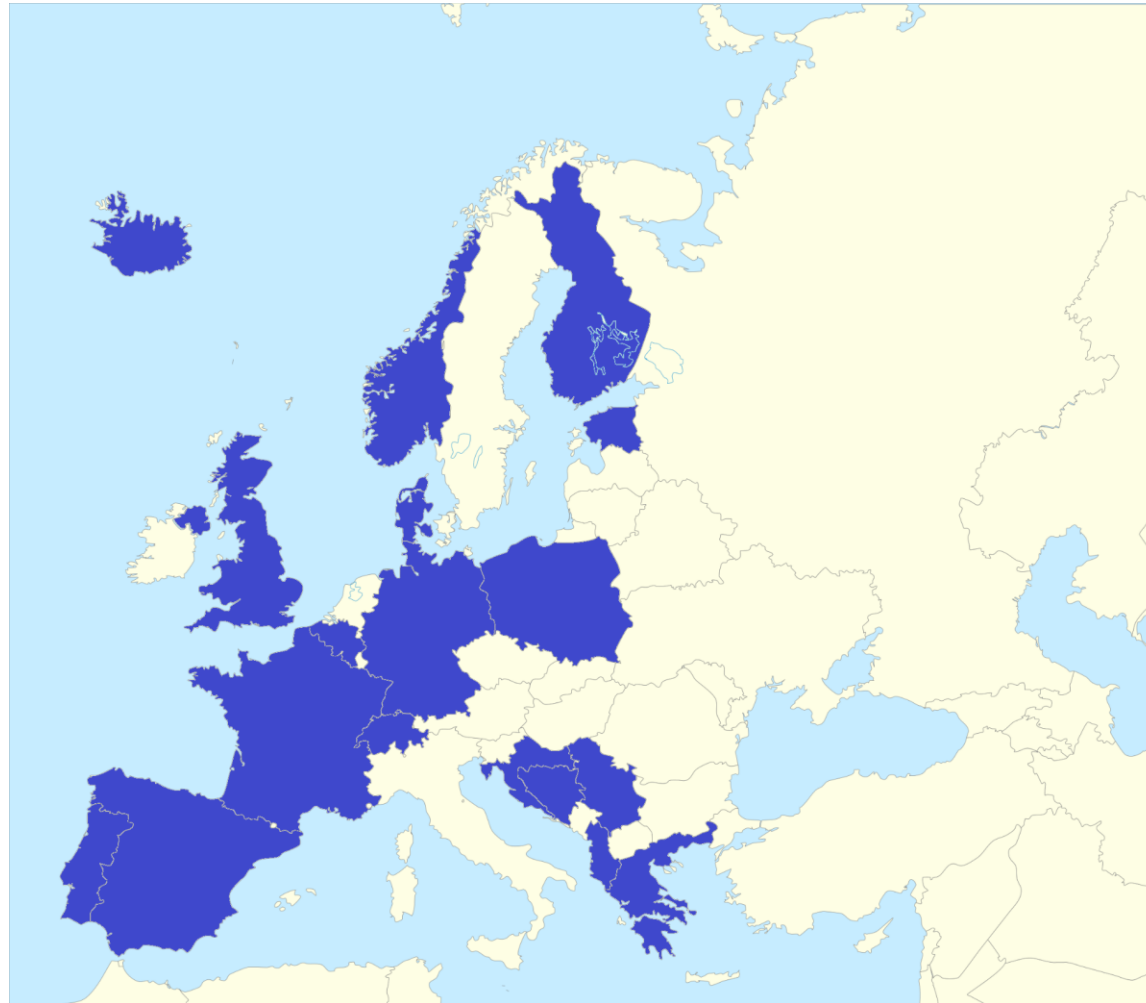
36
questions
20 min

Material and methods – data collection and analysis



Results – participants

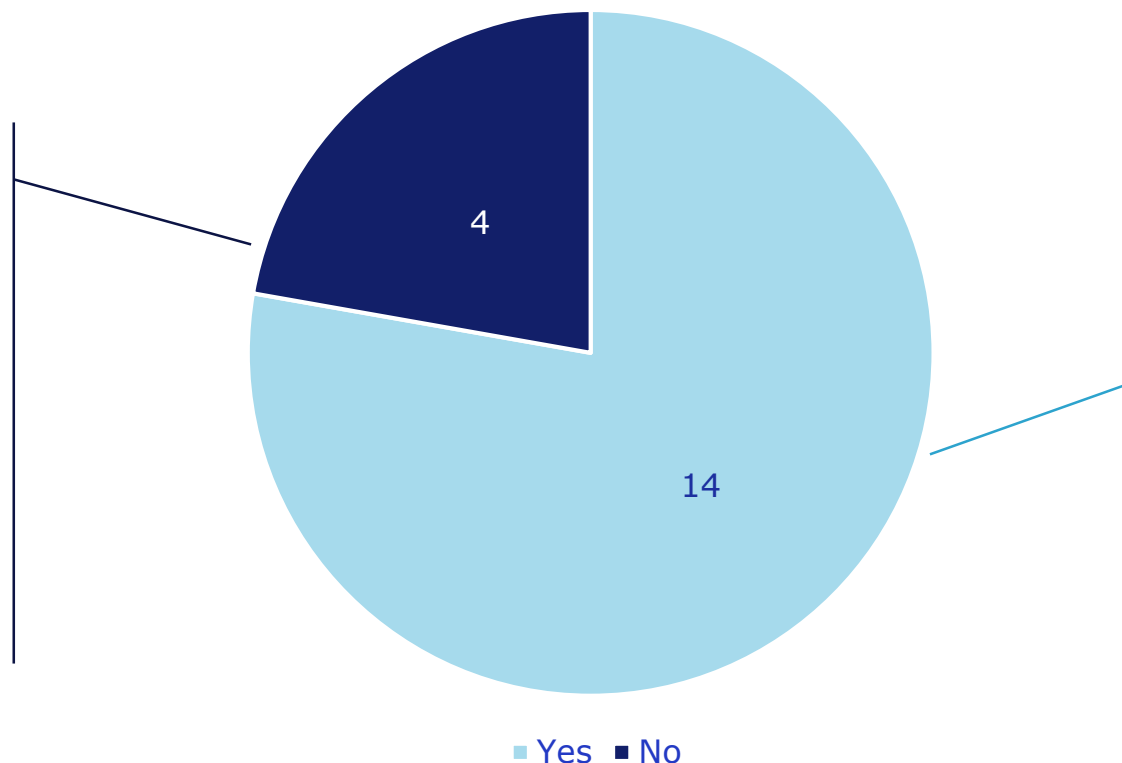
18 respondents



Results – use of risk categorisation

Risk categorisation implementation

3 countries plan to implement risk categorisation in the future (poultry abattoirs first)
The other one indicated having no experience in this area

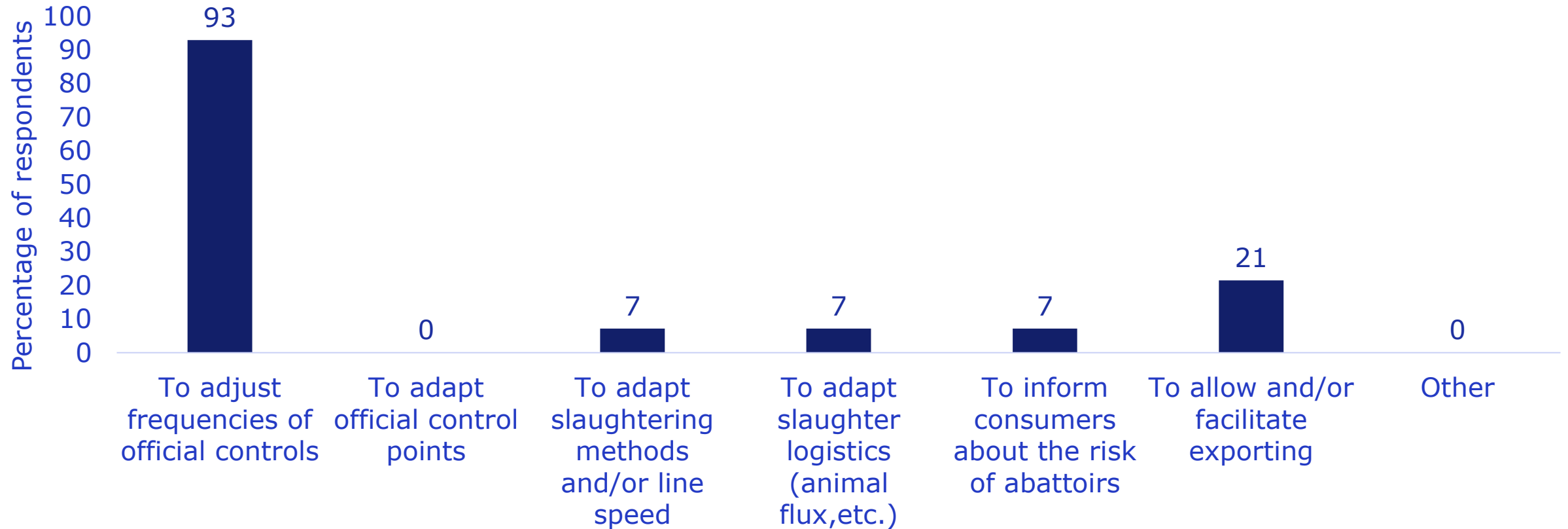


All 4 types of abattoirs
Nationwide categorisation method in 11 countries;
region-specific method in the 3 other ones

Results – purpose of risk categorisation



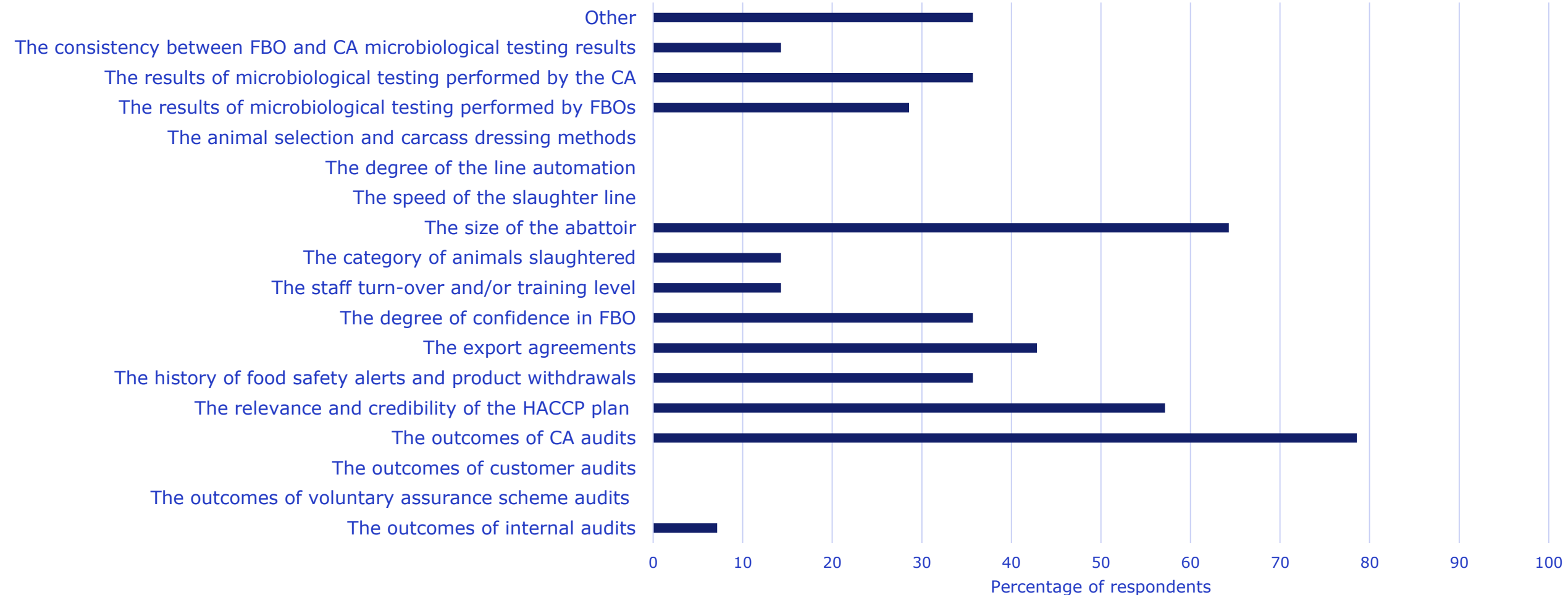
Purpose of risk categorisation



Results – parameters for risk categorisation (1)



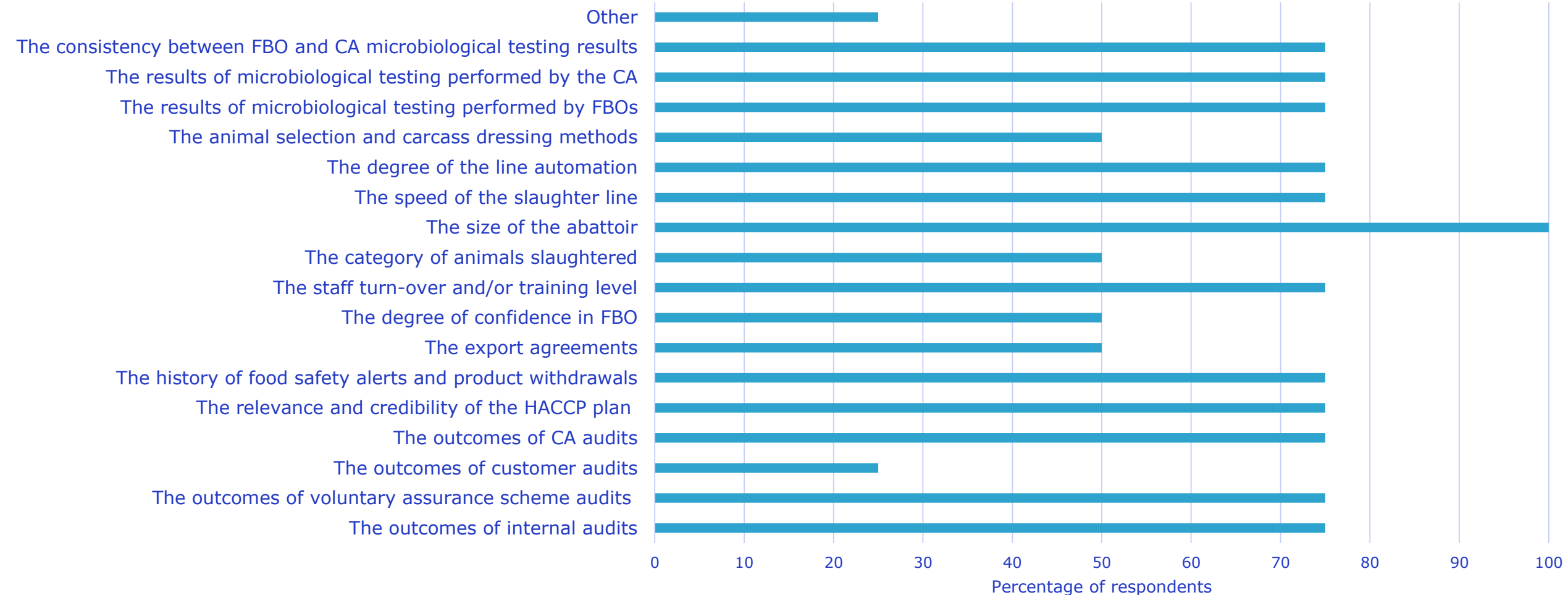
Parameters included in risk categorisation



Results – parameters for risk categorisation (2)

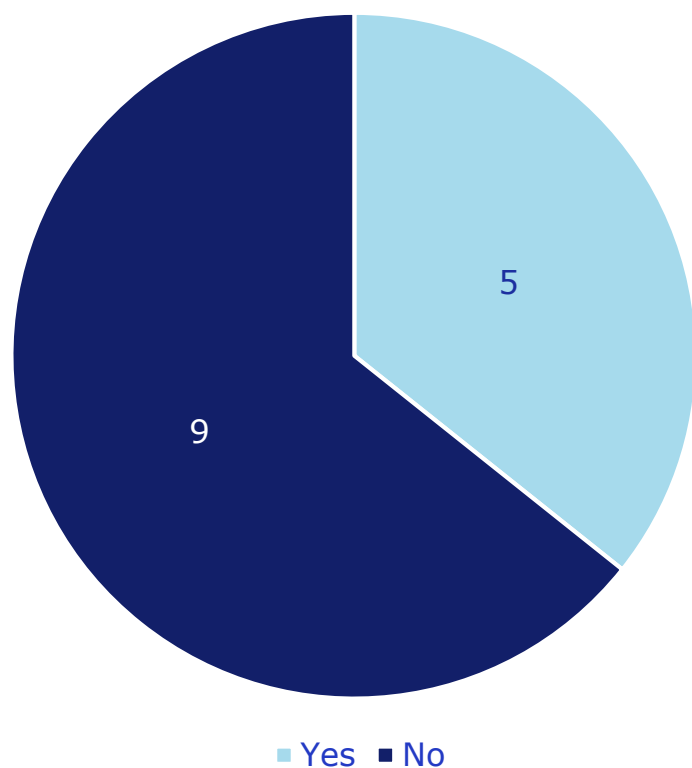


Parameters likely to be included in risk categorisation



Results – effectiveness of risk categorisation

Assessment of the effectiveness of risk categorisation

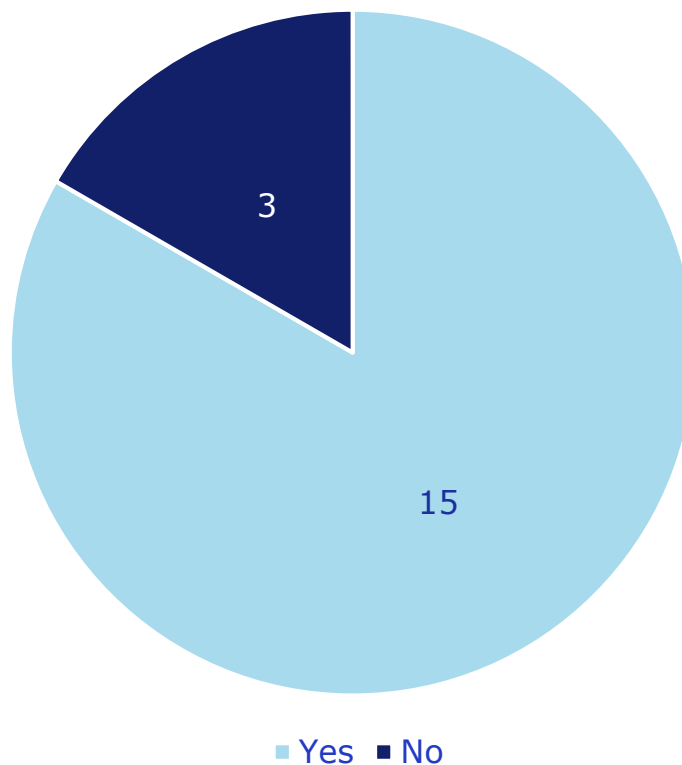


Unformal assessment on the occasion of audits, either from official control staff at abattoirs, the central competent authority, third countries or the European Commission (DG SANTE)

Satisfactory outcome

Results – capacity-building activities

Needs for methodological developments

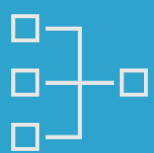


Need for a flexible method that could be adapted to the national context and/or for a method common to all European countries

Take-home messages

- The majority of the respondents have already implemented some form of abattoir risk categorisation, and those that have not intend to do so.
- The way in which abattoir risk categorisation is conducted differs widely.
- The main included parameters are the outcomes of the CA's official audits, production figures of abattoirs, the relevance and credibility of HACCP plans and export agreements of abattoirs.
- Less than a third of the surveyed countries indicated to use results of microbiological testing as a basis for risk categorisation of abattoirs.
- No country has formally included HEIs in its risk categorisation approach.
- All respondents reported the absence of combining farm and abattoir risk categorisation systems.

Next steps



More than 80% of respondents expressed their wish to be provided with a practical method for categorising abattoirs according to their pertained food safety risks.



Need to develop a fit-for-purpose and science-based framework for risk categorisation of abattoirs in Europe

Thank you for your attention.

Any question?

We thank the representatives from European Competent Authorities for the time they devoted to the survey.