

**ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT TO THE SUMMARY REPORT ON THE
ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES ON ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS
(DECISION II/3)¹**

At its first meeting (Geneva, 7–8 February 2013)², the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information requested the secretariat in consultation with the Chair to update as necessary and circulate the questionnaire (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/L.3/Add.1) to collect information regarding the implementation of the Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information adopted through decision II/3. The secretariat was also requested to report on the results of the survey at the second meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 16-17 December 2013). These summary report and accompanying document are based on the responses received to the questionnaire³ that had been circulated in English and Russian to the national focal points on 1 October 2013 with a deadline of submission by 1 November 2013.

The present report and its accompanying document, prepared at the request of the Task Force, are intended to inform the Parties of the needs, challenges and solutions in the areas of e-information, e-participation and e-access to justice and to provide a baseline from which to measure future progress. It covers, in most cases, national-level practices and resources. The information provided by the national focal points should not be interpreted as a statement on all activity carried out by the respective Parties.

The document aims to facilitate the discussion by the Task Force on Access to Information under item 3 of the provisional agenda (AC/TF.AI-2/Inf.1/Rev.1).

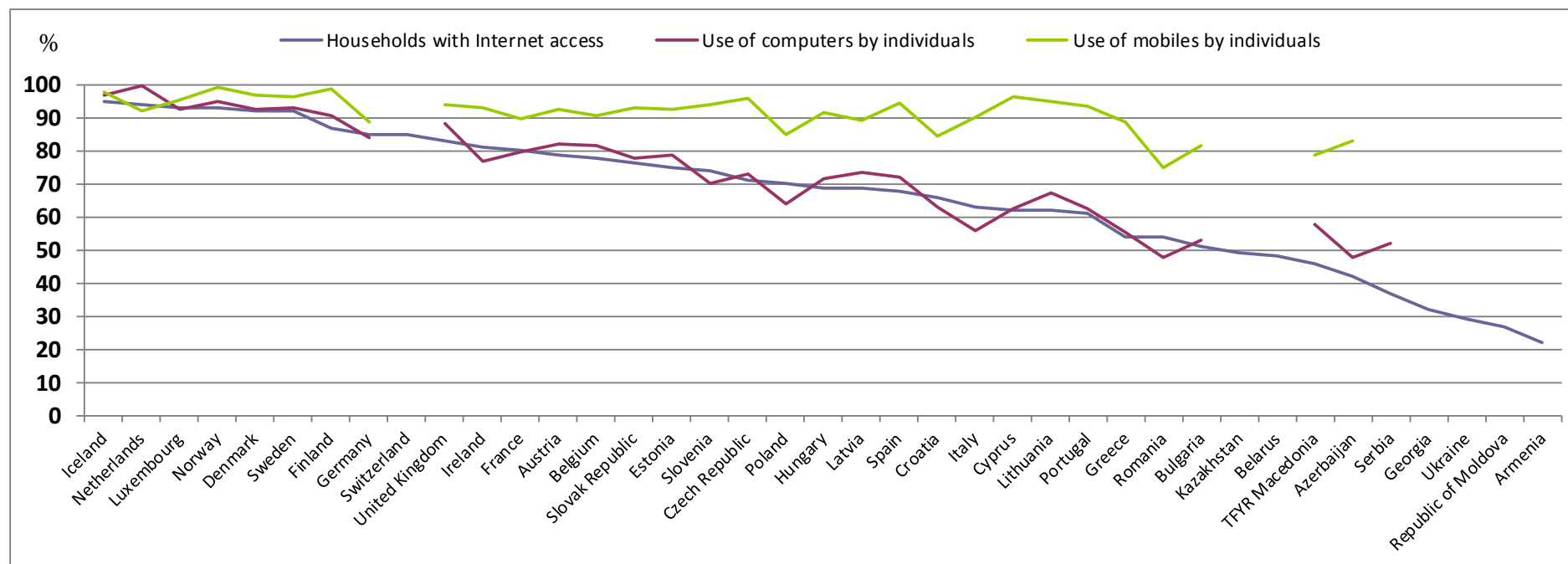
¹ This document is a preliminary unedited report.

² See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=31447>

³ Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/tfai2.html>

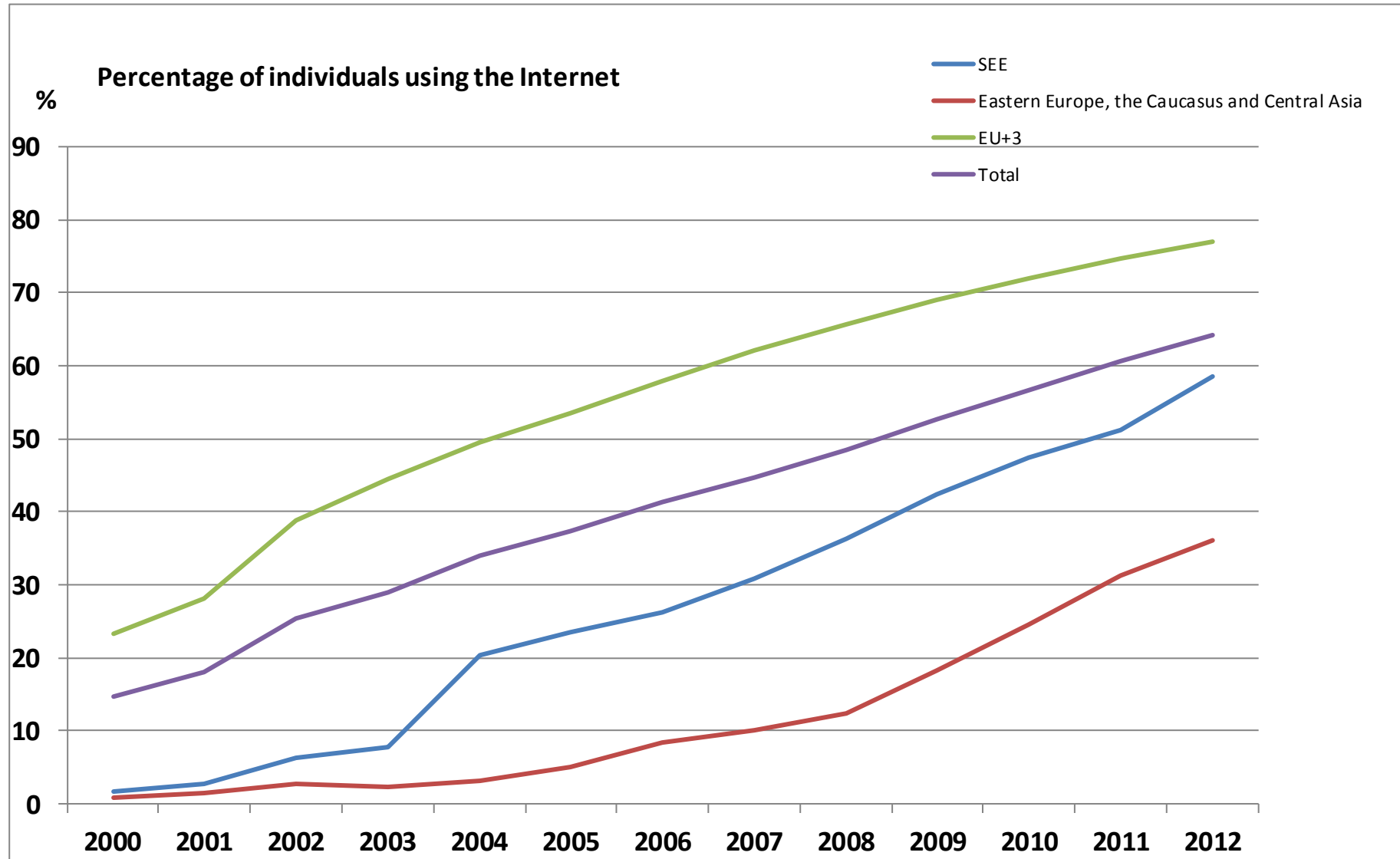
I. Access to information and communication technologies⁴

Graph 1.1 Percentage of households with Internet access and individuals using computers and mobiles

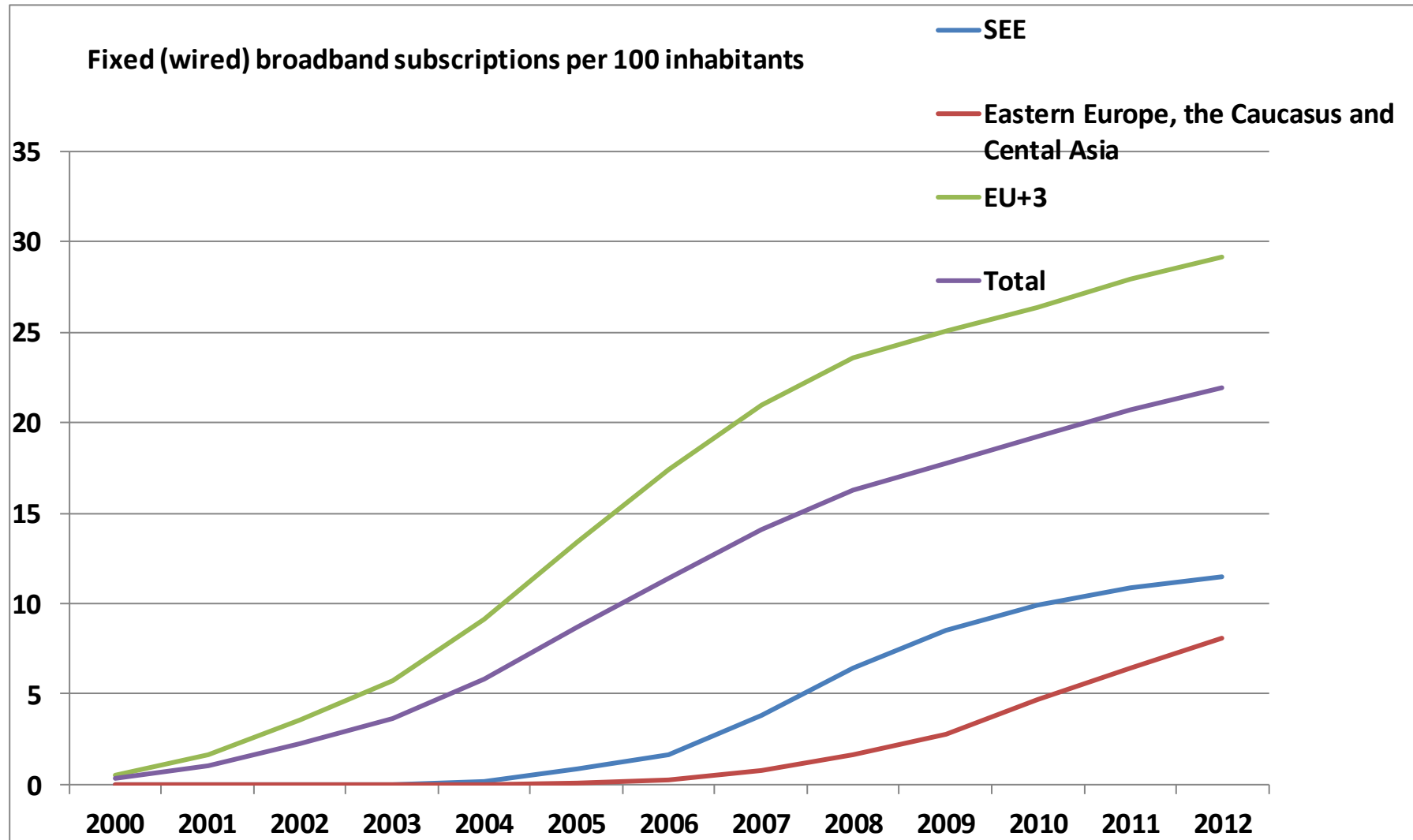


⁴ This section is prepared on the basis of the data provided by the International Telecommunication Union available from: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>

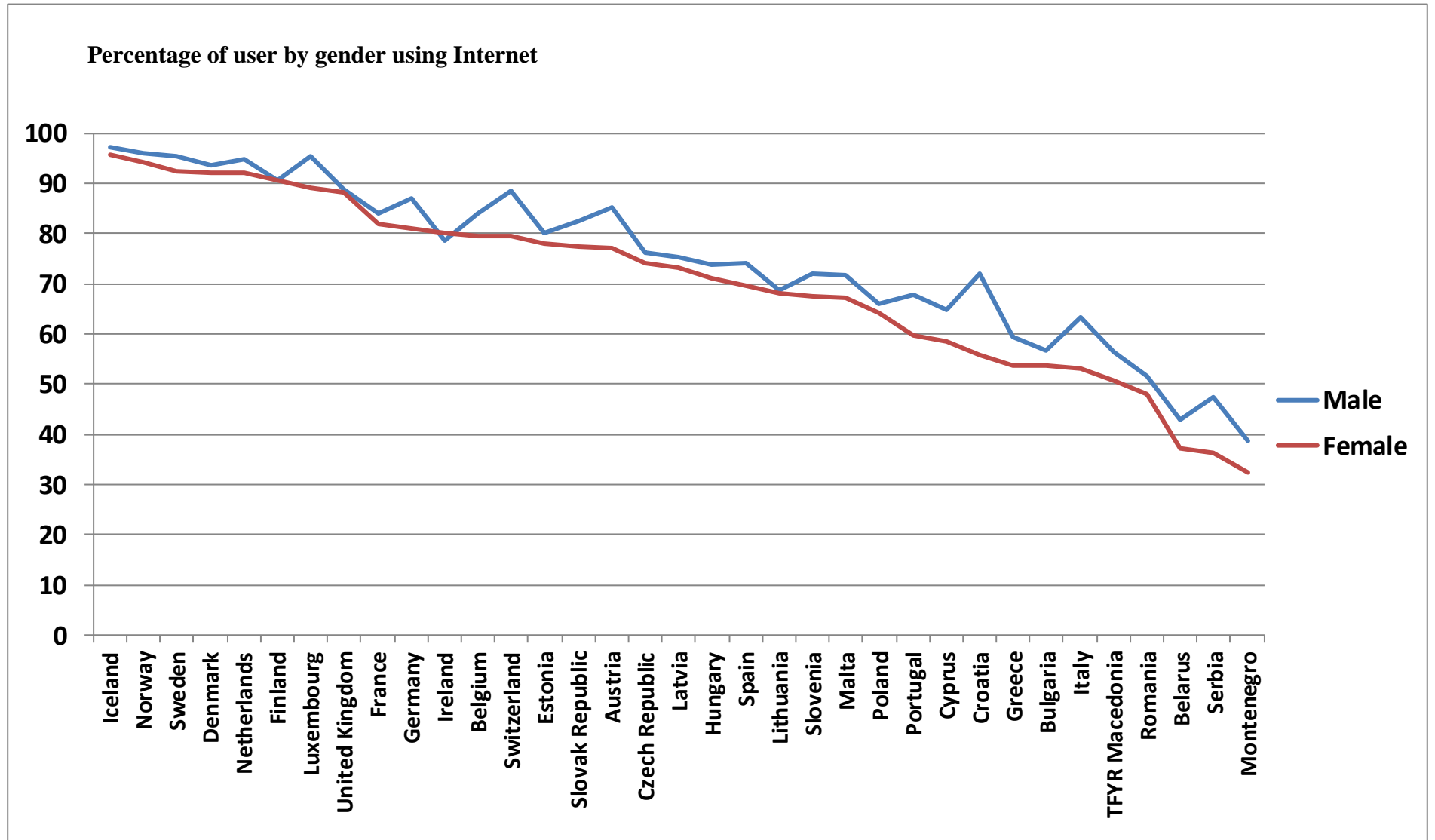
Graph 1.2. Average percentage of individuals using the Internet per subregion for 2000-2012



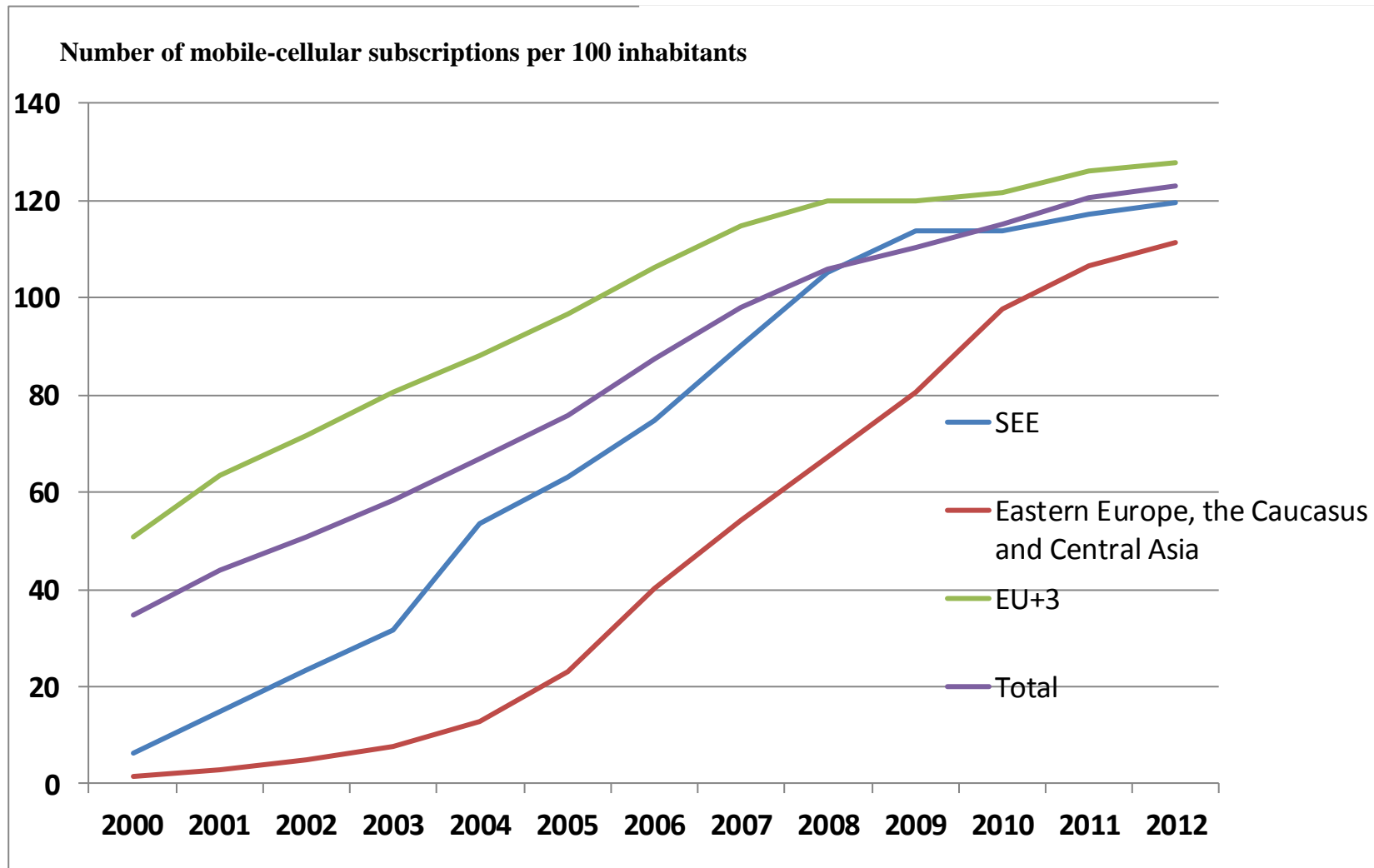
Graph 1.3. Average number of fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants per subregion for 2000-2012



Graph 1.4. Average percentage of individuals by gender using the Internet



Graph 1.5. Number of mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants per subregion for 2000-2012



II. Availability of priority categories of environmental information through internet

Table 2.1: Access to priority types of environmental information through the Internet

Title and question no.	Generally available			Partly available			Not available			Legally required			Plans for improvement		
	EECCA ⁵	EU+ ⁶ NOR	SEE ⁷	EECC A	EU+ NOR	SEE	EECC A	EU+ NOR	SEE	EECCA	EU+ NOR	SEE	EECCA	EU+ NOR	SEE
State of the environment reports	8 (6) ⁸	11 (12)	3	1 (1)	0 (0)	0	0 (1)	0 (0)	0	8 (5)	8 (11)	2	5 (2)	4 (1)	0
Legislation, regulations, rules	8 (7)	11 (12)	3	1 (1)	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	8 (6)	8 (11)	3	5 (1)	6 (0)	0
Policies, plans and programmes	6 (5)	10 (12)	3	3 (3)	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	8 (7)	8 (9)	3	5 (0)	3 (3)	1
Public notices about all decision-making procedure subject to article 6	5	7	1	4	3	1	1	0	1	7	8	1	3	4	2
Environmental impact assessments (EIA)	6 (2)	5 (3)	2	3 (4)	3 (9)	1	0 (1)	1 (0)	0	5 (6)	6 (8)	2	6 (2)	4 (4)	1
Strategic Environmental assessments (EIA)	3 (2)	7 (3)	0	3 (4)	3 (9)	2	2 (1)	1 (0)	0	3 (6)	7 (8)	2	4 (2)	5 (4)	2

⁵ Nine completed questionnaires were received from the subregion of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

⁶ Eleven completed questionnaires were from the European Union (European Commission), nine EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain), as well as from Norway.

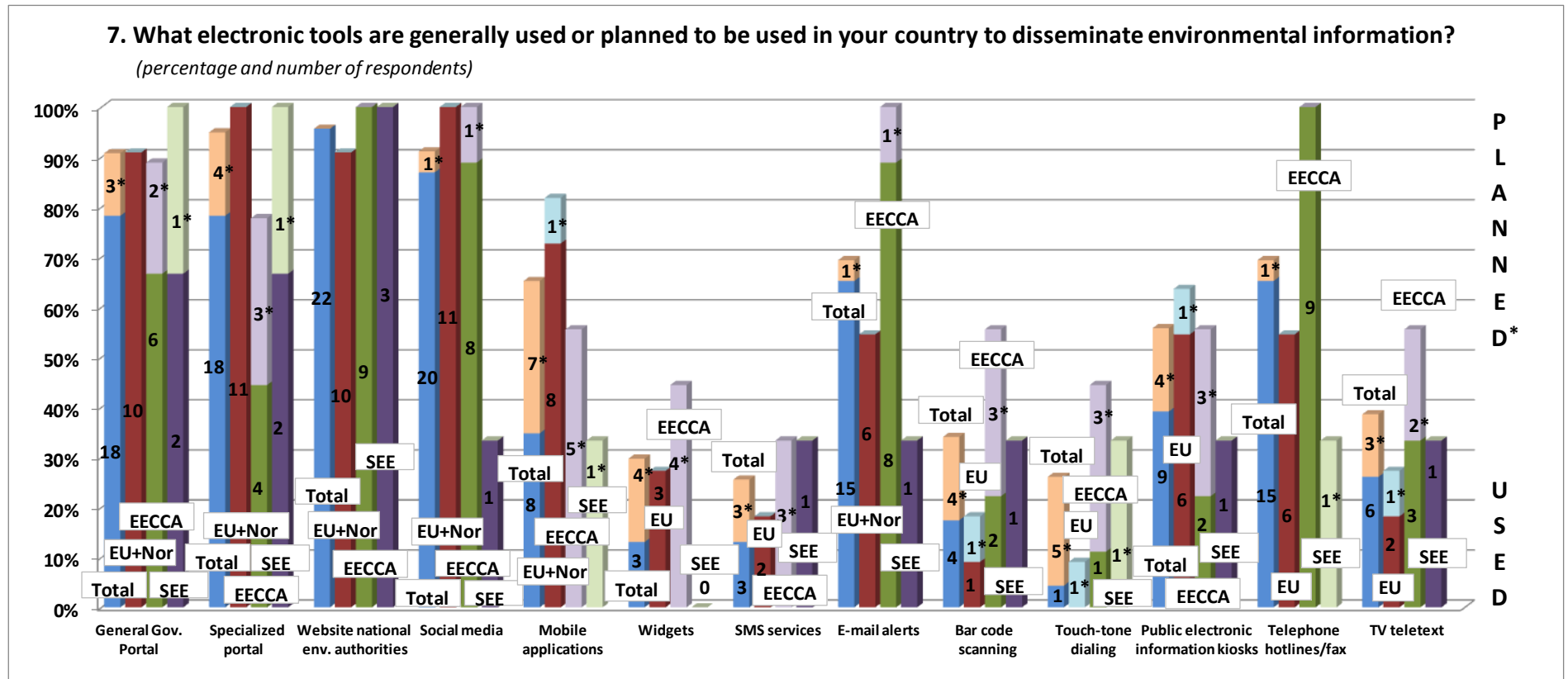
⁷ Three completed questionnaires from the subregion of South-Eastern Europe (SEE): Albania, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

⁸ Figures in brackets indicate data from the summary report on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties on electronic information tools (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2007/L.3/Add.2) available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=31447>.

Title and question no.	Generally available			Partly available			Not available			Legally required			Plans for improvement		
	EECCA ⁵	EU+ ⁶ NOR	SEE ⁷	EECC A	EU+ NOR	SEE	EECC A	EU+ NOR	SEE	EECCA	EU+ NOR	SEE	EECCA	EU+ NOR	SEE
Public notice about the SEA procedures	4	7	1	1	1	0	4	1	2	4	7	1	4	3	2
Location of EIA and SEA documentation	2 (2)	4 (6)	0	2 (3)	1 (6)	0	3 (2)	2 (0)	1	2	4	0	1	1	3
Pollutant release and transfer register data	2 (1)	10 (4)	2	5 (2)	0 (5)	0	1 (5)	0 (2)	1	4 (2)	8 (11)	2	5 (3)	4 (4)	2
Mechanisms related to access to justice	4 (3)	8 (8)	3	2 (3)	2 (2)	0	0 (1)	1 (1)	0	3 (4)	5 (7)	1	2 (1)	2 (2)	0
Decisions of courts, and whenever possible of other review bodies	3	4	1	3	7	2	1	0	0	3	4	1	3	3	1
Environmental monitoring data	2 (2)	8 (5)	1	6 (3)	2 (6)	2	0 (1)	0 (1)	0	7 (4)	7 (7)	2	5 (0)	6 (5)	3
Product information	3 (0)	3 (2)	0	3 (3)	6 (9)	0	2 (4)	0 (1)	2	4 (4)	7 (3)	1	5 (2)	5 (5)	1
Environmental management	5 (3)	6 (5)	0	1 (1)	3 (7)		1 (2)	1 (0)	2	2 (2)	4 (2)	1 0	2 (2)	3 (4)	1
Metadata on data collection	4 (2)	6 (3)	1	2 (2)	2 (6)	0	1 (4)	2 (2)	1	3 (2)	4 (4)	1	4 (1)	4 (4)	2
Catalogues of data sources	2 (2)	5 (4)	1	2 (3)	3 (4)		3 (1)	2 (2)	1	3 (3)	4 (5)	2	5 (1)	2 (5)	2

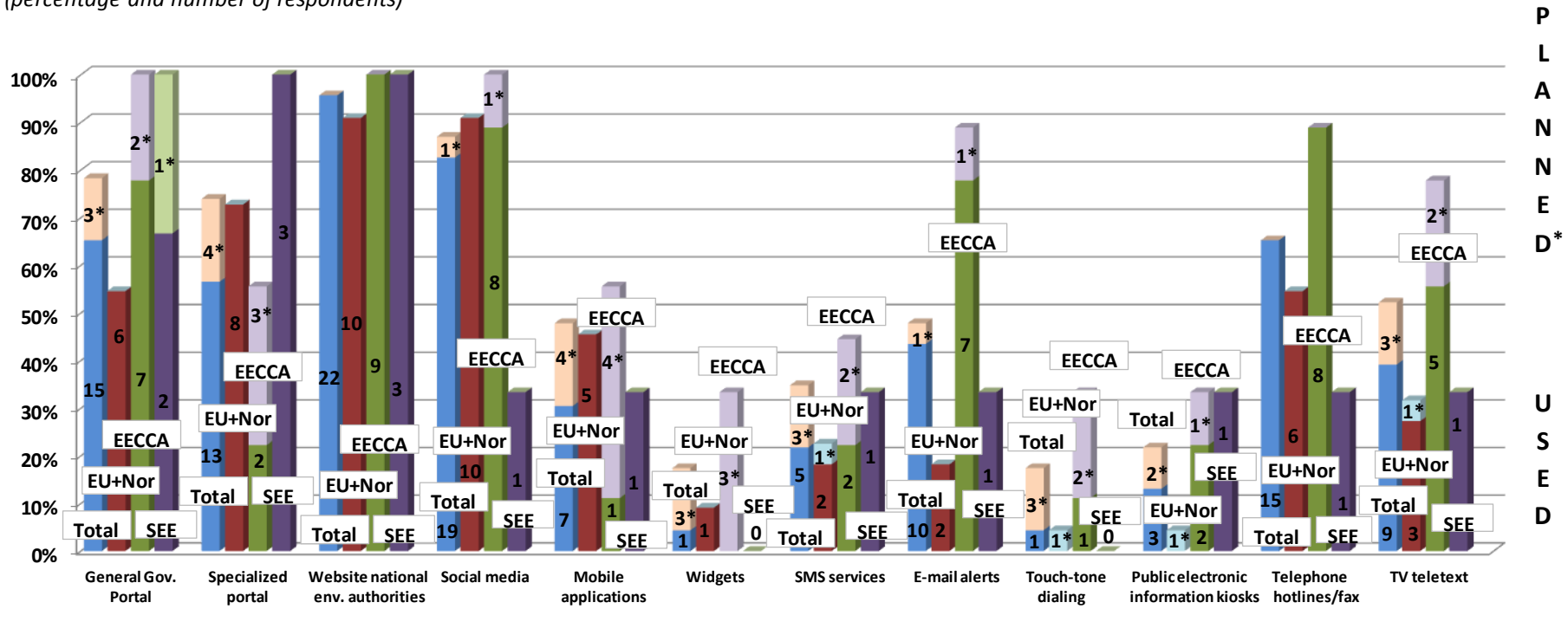
III. Types of electronic information tools used or planned to be used to provide access to environmental information and facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making

Graph 3.1

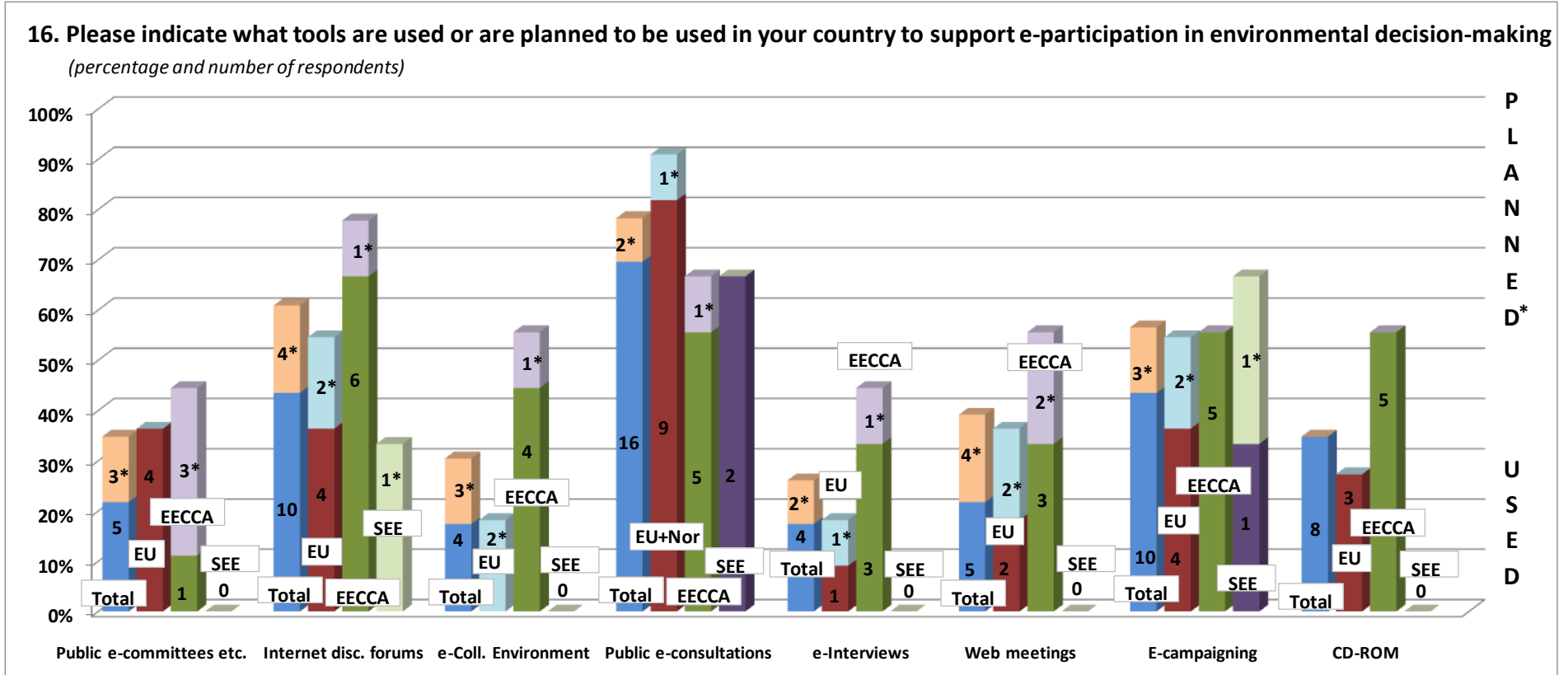


Graph 3.2

8. In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, what electronic tools will be used by a public authority in your country to disseminate information which could enable the public who may be affected to take the measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat (article 5, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention)?
 (percentage and number of respondents)

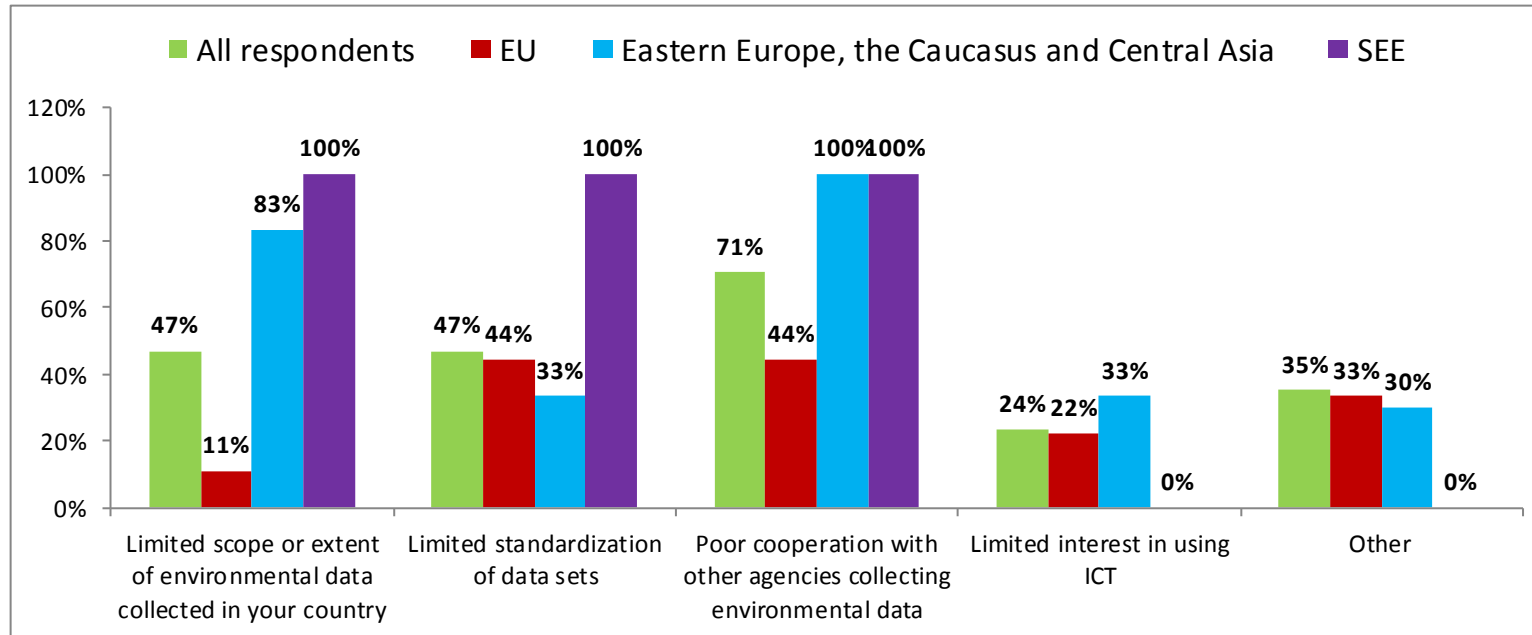


Graph 3.3

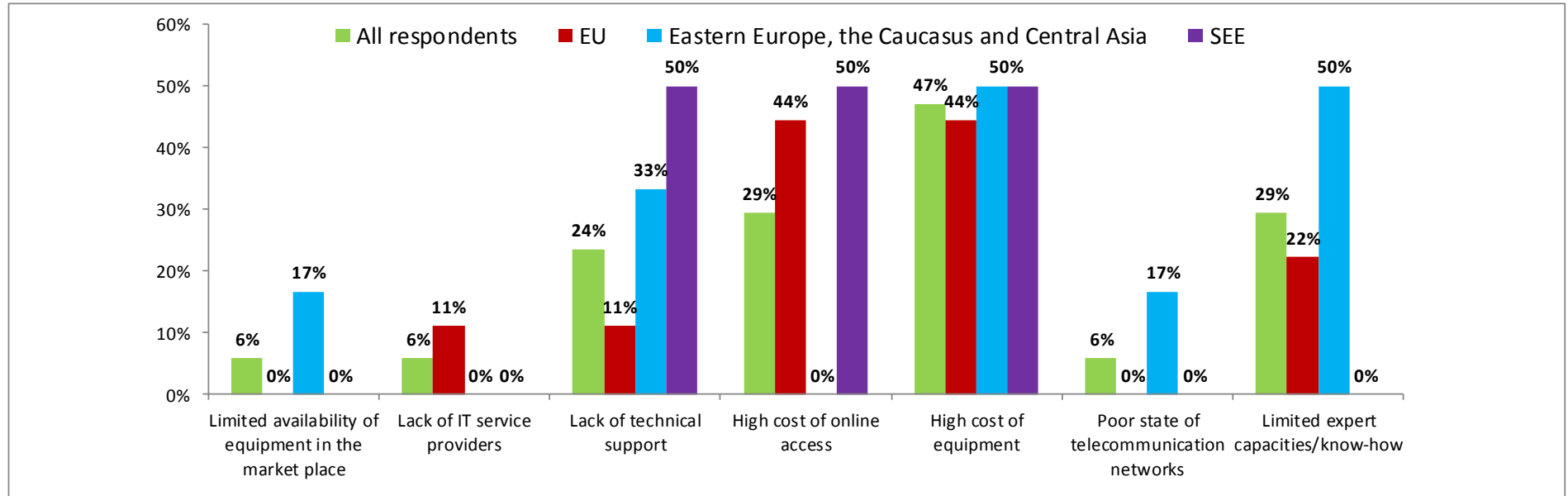


IV. Challenges and obstacles to the use of electronic information tools to provide access to environmental information and facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making

Graph 4.1 Institutional challenges



Graph 4.2 Economic challenges



Graph 4.3 Legal challenges

