

**JOINT AARHUS CONVENTION/CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY  
ROUND TABLE ON TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REGARDING LIVING MODIFIED  
ORGANISMS/GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

**15-17 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**  
(Palais des Nations, Salle V)

**Survey results analysis**

This survey was carried out as preparation for the second joint roundtable of the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Geneva, 15-17 November 2016).

The survey was distributed to all national focal points of the Aarhus Convention who were invited to address key challenges and needs in relation to

- establishing legal, institutional and financial frameworks to support ratification of the Aarhus Convention's amendment on public participation in decisions on deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms (Almaty Amendment on GMOs) and implementation of the relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention, the guidelines on access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs (Lucca Guidelines) to the Aarhus Convention, and Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- furthering access to information, public awareness, education and public participation regarding living modified organisms (LMOs)/genetically modified organisms (GMOs), that would allow for the development of national, regional and international activities;

The following 18 countries completed the survey.

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Tajikistan, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In seven cases, the response to the survey was provided by the focal point of the Aarhus Convention, in 4 cases by the focal point of the Cartagena Protocol, in two cases answers were provided jointly by the focal points to the two treaties, one survey was completed by a country representative at the Committee on Environmental Protection, one was completed by the focal point to the biosafety clearing house and one was completed by the chief desk officer of nature protection division in the ministry of environment.

The following sections provide a summary analysis of the results of the survey. For all questions with the exception of question 23, the analysis of results was automatically generated. As question 23 allowed for free text answers, the secretariat grouped several answers together to extract information regarding the benefits identified by the respondents (see semi-circle on p. 26). At the same time, to reduce bias the software to collect answers was used to generate a "word cloud" containing key words used by respondents (see p.27).

**Q1 Please name the country you are a representative of:**

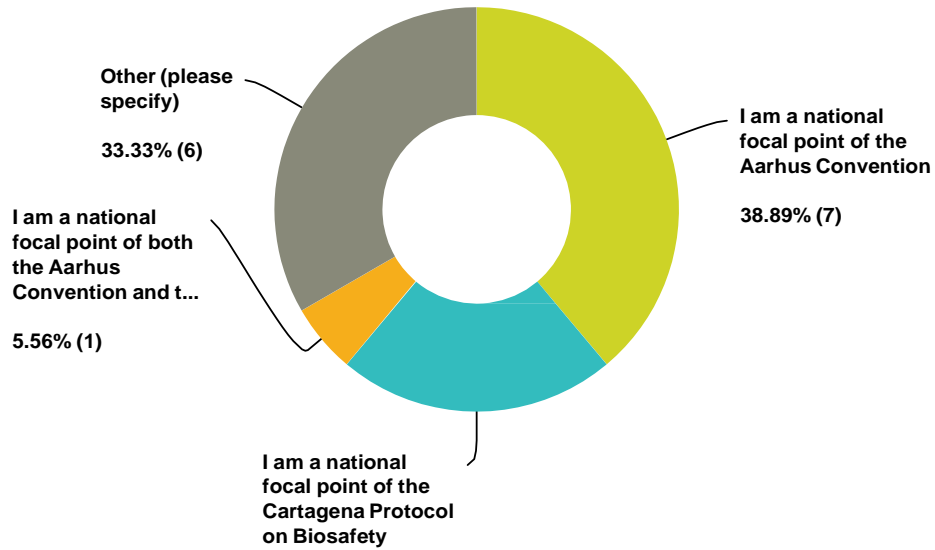
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

**LIST OF COUNTRIES THAT RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY**

**Albania  
Armenia  
Austria  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Estonia  
Georgia  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Lithuania  
Republic of Serbia  
Republic of Tajikistan  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Spain  
Sweden  
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

## Q2 Please check the appropriate answer

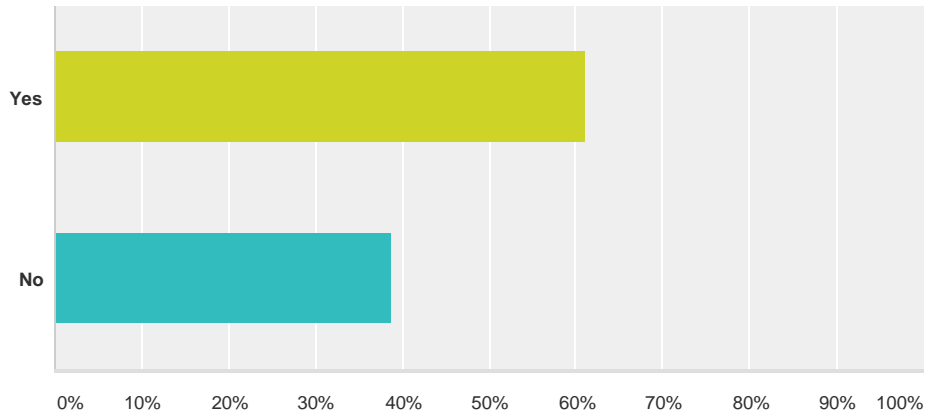
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
I am a national focal point of the Aarhus Convention	38.89%	7
I am a national focal point of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	22.22%	4
I am a national focal point of both the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	5.56%	1
Other (please specify)	33.33%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>

**Q3 Has your country already ratified the  
GMO amendment of the Aarhus Convention  
(decision II/1 on GMOs adopted by the  
Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus  
Convention at its second session (Almaty,  
25-27 May 2005)?**

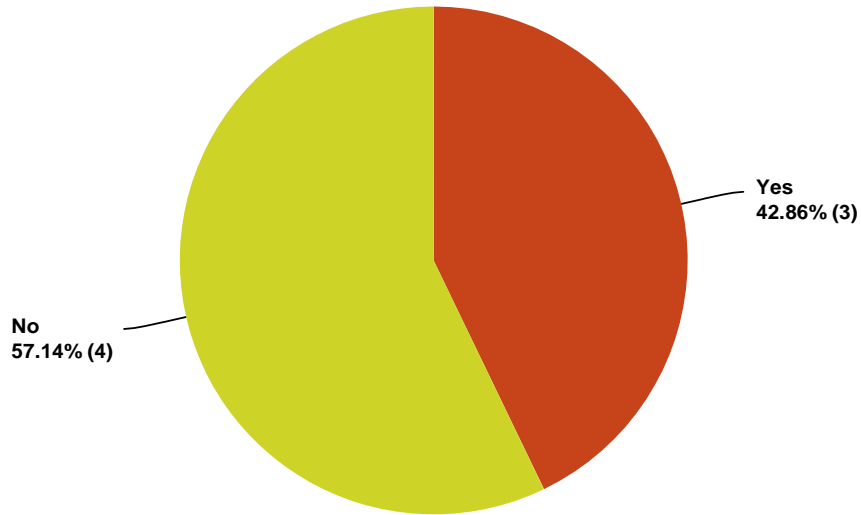
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	61.11%	11
No	38.89%	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>

**Q4 If you answered “no” to Q3, has your country initiated the procedure of ratification (acceptance or approval) of the amendment?**

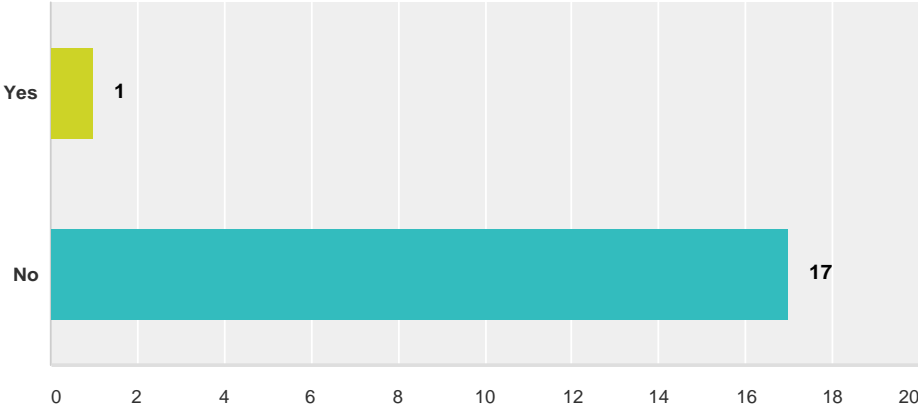
Answered: 7 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	42.86%	3
No	57.14%	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>

**Q5 Has your country engaged in bilateral cooperation/ assistance project for the promotion of the ratification of the GMO amendment of the Aarhus Convention?**

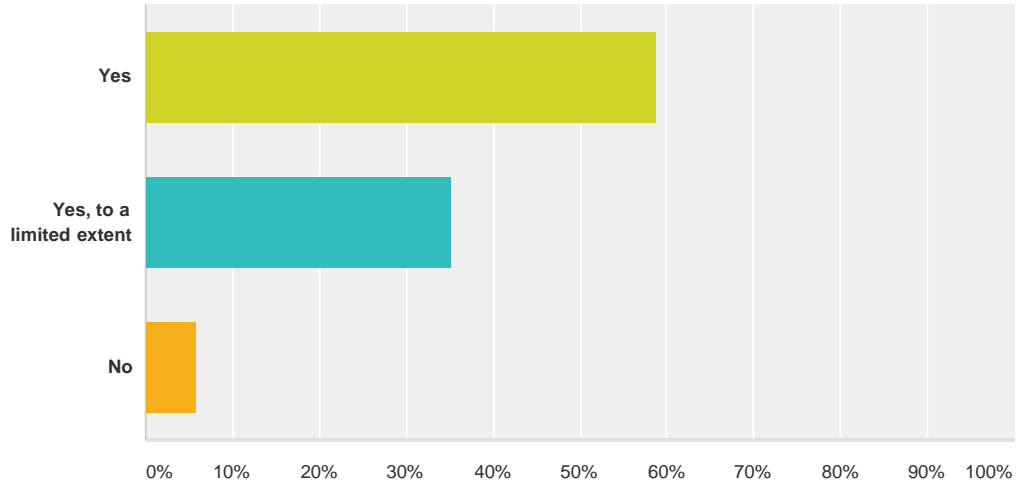
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	5.56% 1
No	94.44% 17
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

**Q6 Has your country established legal and institutional frameworks to support implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in the context of GMOs, the Almaty Amendment on GMOs and Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?**

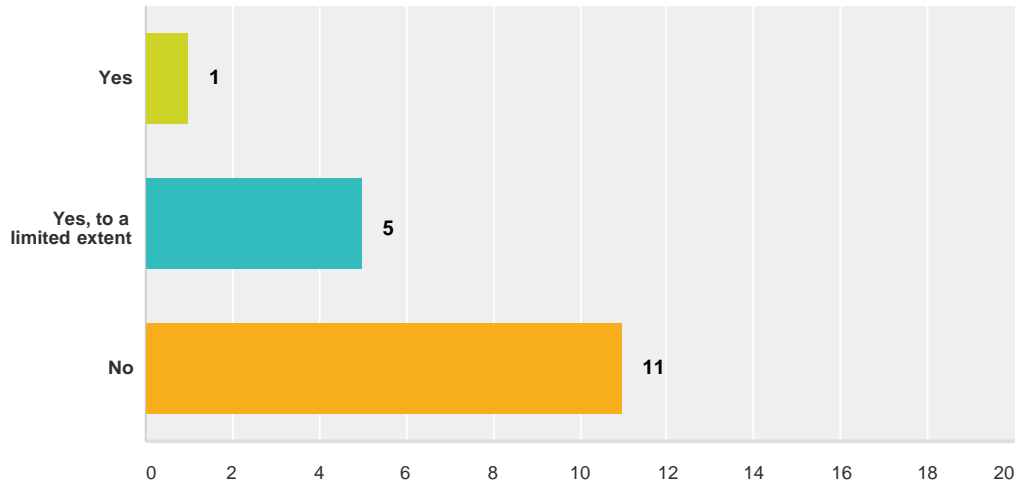
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	58.82% 10
Yes, to a limited extent	35.29% 6
No	5.88% 1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

**Q7 Has your country established financial frameworks to support implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in the context of GMOs, the Almaty Amendment on GMOs and Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?**

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1

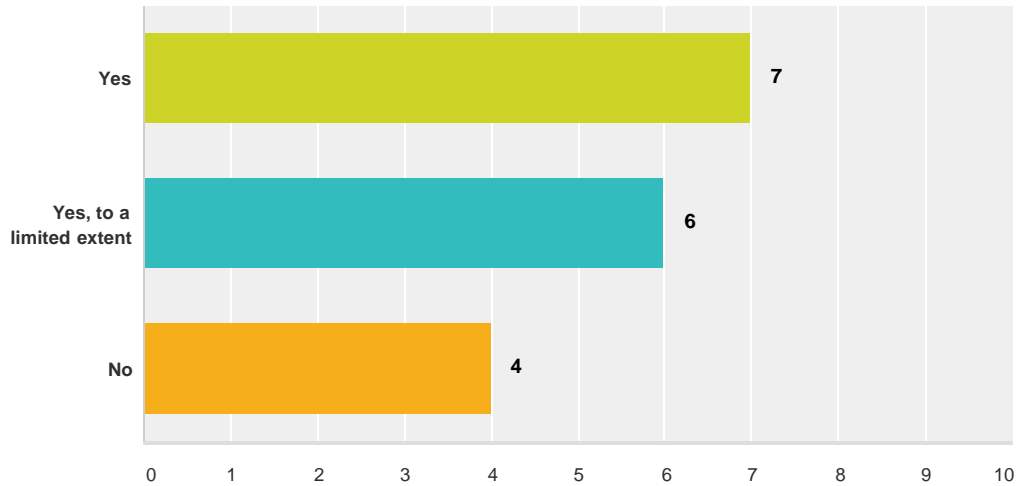


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	5.88% 1
Yes, to a limited extent	29.41% 5
No	64.71% 11
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>



**Q8 Has your country taken action to improve public awareness and participation regarding LMOs/GMOs by organizing roundtable discussions, consultative bodies involving members of the public, stakeholder dialogues, citizens' juries and etc.?**

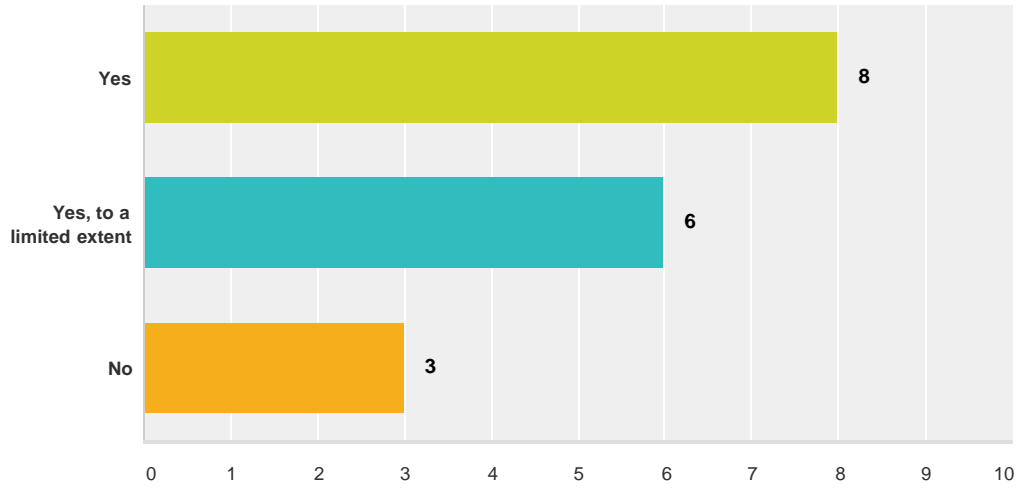
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	41.18%	7
Yes, to a limited extent	35.29%	6
No	23.53%	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>

**Q9 Has your country established a mechanism to ensure public access to information regarding LMOs/GMOs, including raw data?**

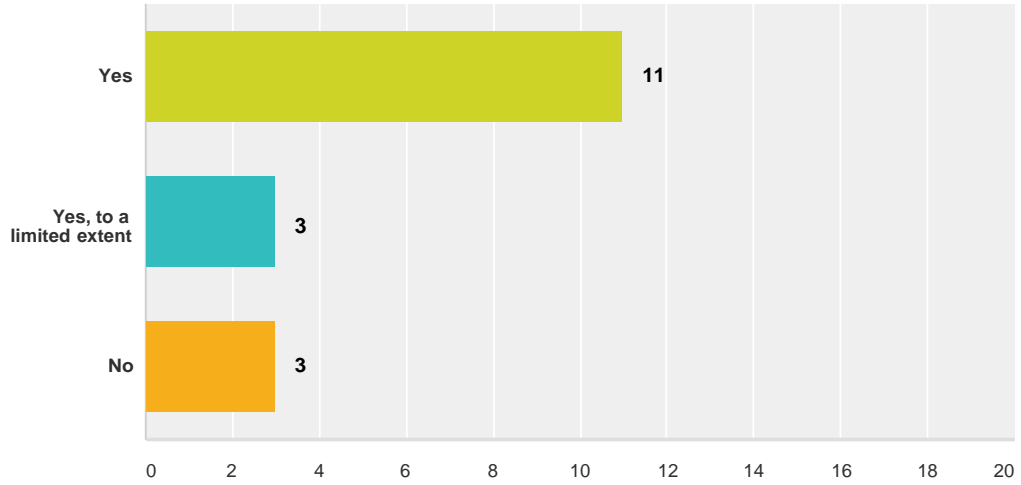
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	47.06%	8
Yes, to a limited extent	35.29%	6
No	17.65%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>

**Q10 Has your country introduced legislative provisions and practices aimed at disseminating information about the presence of GMOs in products and food to consumers?**

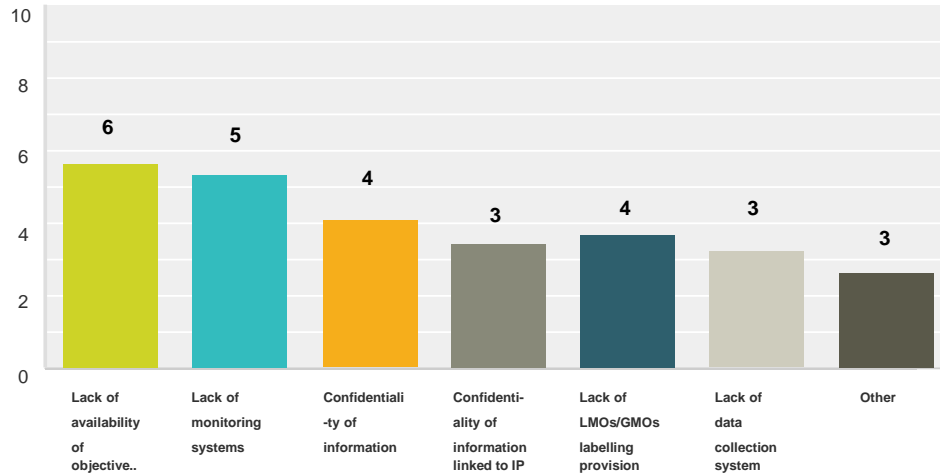
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	64.71% 11
Yes, to a limited extent	17.65% 3
No	17.65% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

**Q11 Based on your experience, what do you consider as representing the greatest challenges for ensuring public access to information regarding LMOs/GMOs, including raw data? Please rank them by selecting their importance (using number 1 for the most important)**

Answered: 13 Skipped: 5



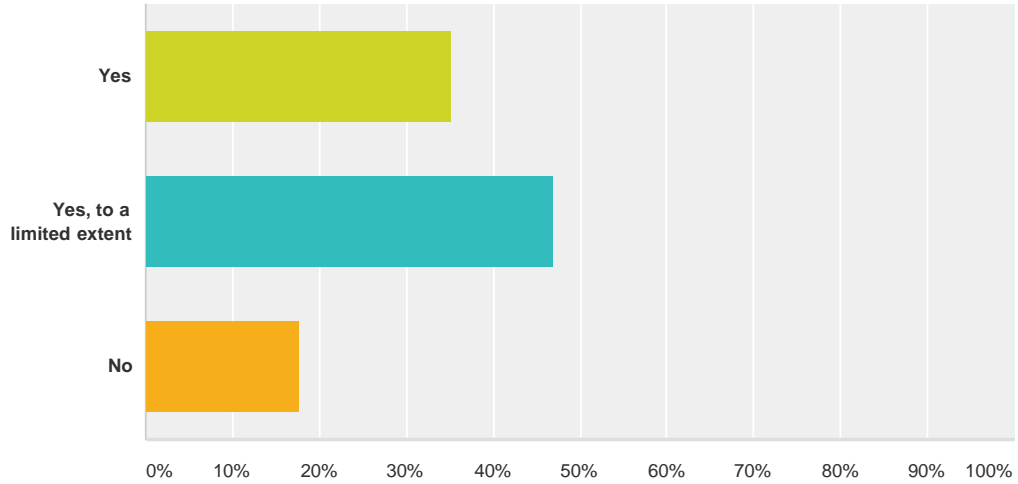
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Score
Lack of availability of objective information	54.55% 6	18.18% 2	9.09% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	9.09% 1	11	5.64
Lack of monitoring systems	27.27% 3	36.36% 4	9.09% 1	18.18% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	11	5.36
Confidentiality of information	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	40.00% 4	30.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	10	4.10
Confidentiality of information linked to intellectual property rights	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	18.18% 2	18.18% 2	27.27% 3	18.18% 2	9.09% 1	11	3.45
Lack of LMOs/GMOs labelling provision	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	10.00% 1	0.00% 0	20.00% 2	30.00% 3	10.00% 1	10	3.70
Lack of data collection system	0.00% 0	12.50% 1	12.50% 1	12.50% 1	12.50% 1	50.00% 4	0.00% 0	8	3.25
Other	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	66.67% 4	6	2.67

**Q12 If you included "Other" in your ranking please provide further information**

Answered: 2 Skipped: 16

**Q13 Has your country taken any action on promoting public awareness and education on issues related to LMOs and GMOs among the general public?**

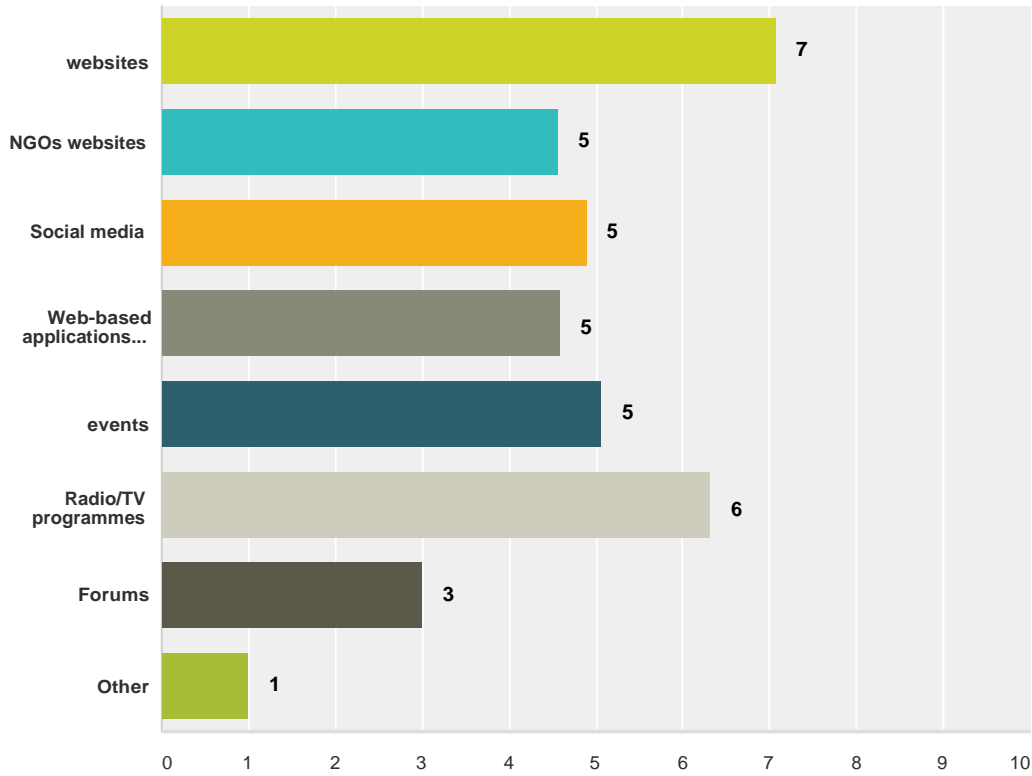
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	35.29% 6
Yes, to a limited extent	47.06% 8
No	17.65% 3
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

**Q14 Based on your experience, what methods are used the most effectively for promotion of public awareness and education on issues related to LMOs and GMOs among the general public? Please rank them by selecting their importance**

Answered: 16 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Score
Official websites	60.00% 9	20.00% 3	0.00% 0	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	15	7.07
NGOs websites	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	25.00% 3	16.67% 2	16.67% 2	25.00% 3	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	12	4.58
Social media	9.09% 1	9.09% 1	18.18% 2	18.18% 2	36.36% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	11	4.91
Web-based applications (e.g. online forums, social networks)	0.00% 0	20.00% 2	0.00% 0	40.00% 4	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	10.00% 1	0.00% 0	10	4.60
Information events	8.33% 1	16.67% 2	25.00% 3	8.33% 1	16.67% 2	16.67% 2	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	12	5.08
Radio/TV programmes	25.00% 3	41.67% 5	16.67% 2	0.00% 0	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8.33% 1	12	6.33
Forums	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	55.56% 5	0.00% 0	9	3.00

## Survey on public participation and transparency regarding LMOs/GMOs

Other	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>100.00%</b> 1	1	1.00
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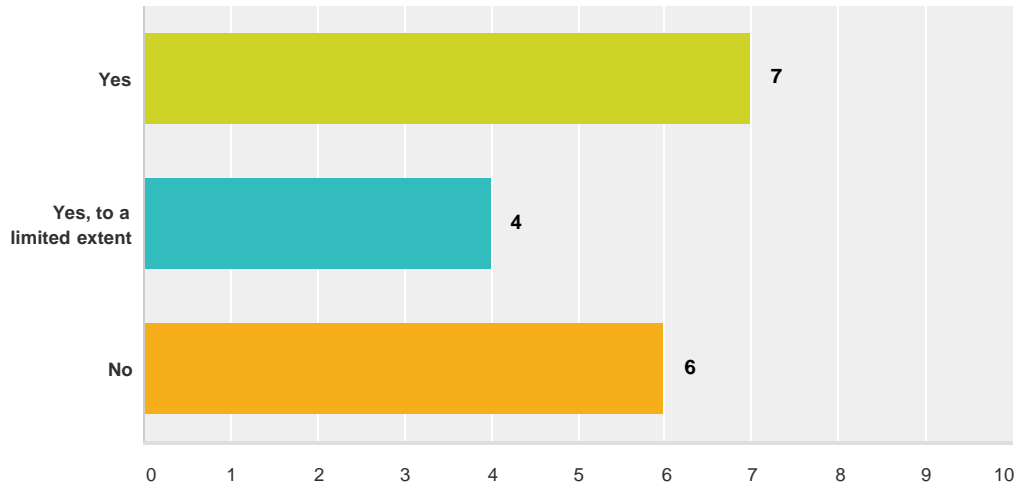


**Q15 If you included "Other" in your ranking,  
please specify**

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

**Q16 Has your country established a mechanism to promote awareness and greater understanding of issues and procedures related to LMOs and GMOs among the state authorities (central and local) and responsible agencies?**

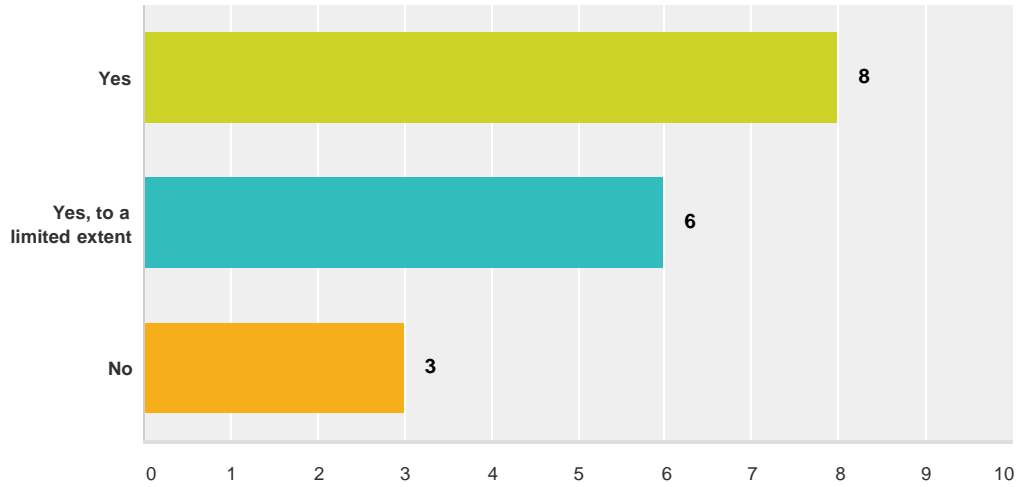
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	41.18% 7
Yes, to a limited extent	23.53% 4
No	35.29% 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

**Q17 Has your country established a mechanism to ensure public participation in the decision-making processes regarding LMOs/GMOs?**

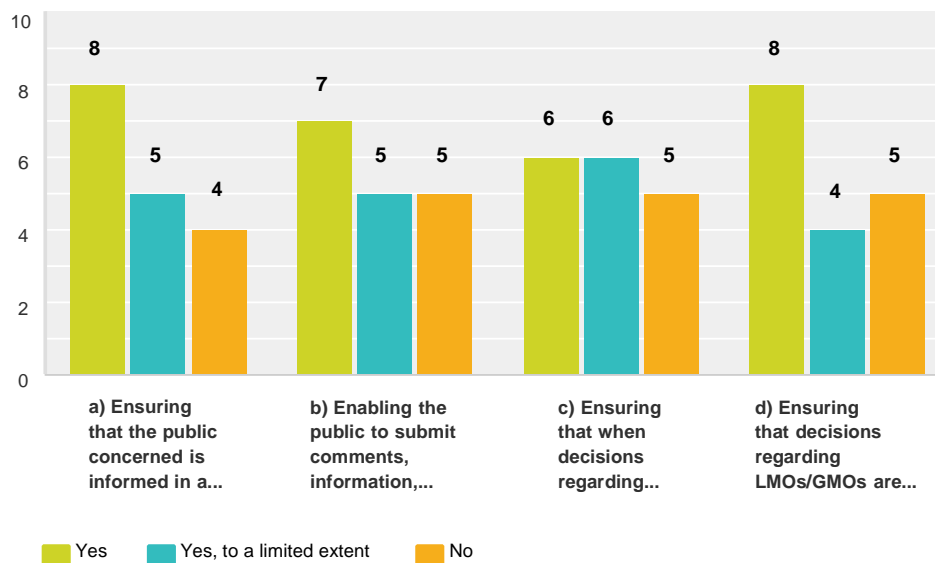
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	47.06%	8
Yes, to a limited extent	35.29%	6
No	17.65%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>

### Q18 Has your country taken any initiative on the following aspects of public participation in the decision-making processes in the last three years?

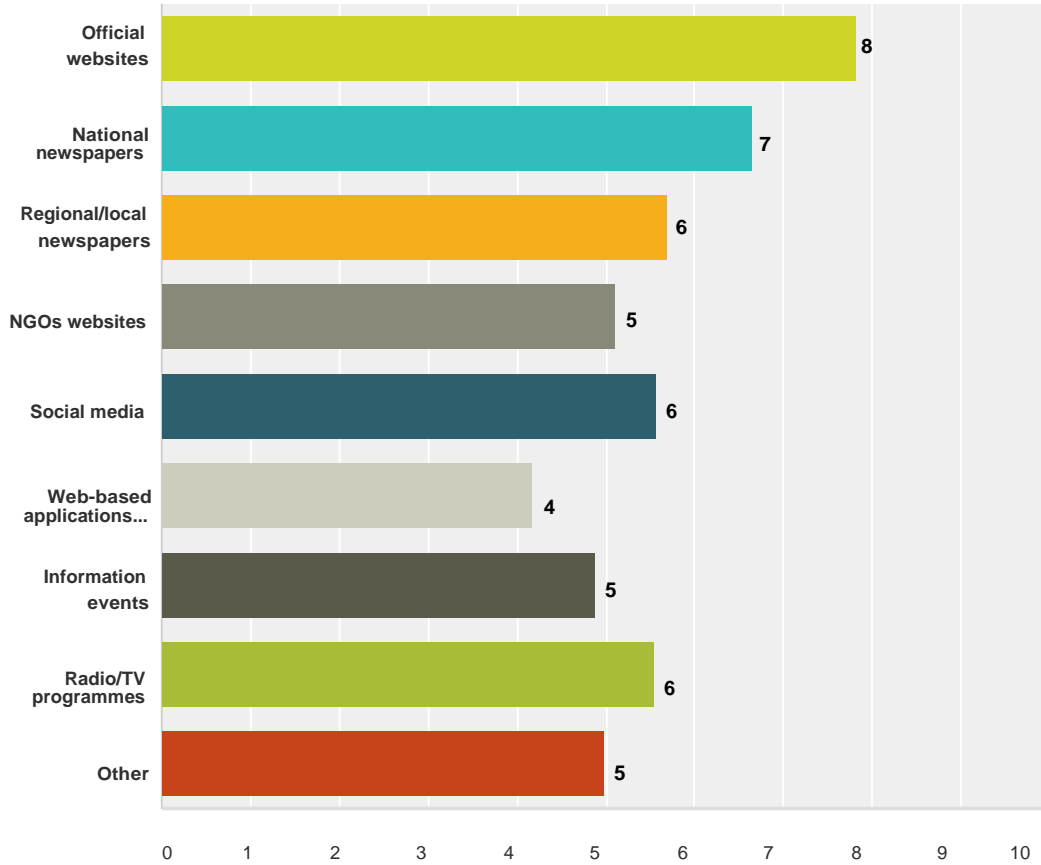
Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



	Yes	Yes, to a limited extent	No	Total	Weighted Average
a) Ensuring that the public concerned is informed in an adequate, timely and effective manner about the decision-making processes regarding LMOs/GMOs	47.06% 8	29.41% 5	23.53% 4	17	1.76
b) Enabling the public to submit comments, information, analyses or opinions that it considers relevant to the proposed deliberate release, including placing on the market, in any appropriate manner	41.18% 7	29.41% 5	29.41% 5	17	1.88
c) Ensuring that when decisions regarding LMOs/GMOs are made, due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation procedure	35.29% 6	35.29% 6	29.41% 5	17	1.94
d) Ensuring that decisions regarding LMOs/GMOs are made publicly available along with the reasons and considerations upon which it is based.	47.06% 8	23.53% 4	29.41% 5	17	1.82

**Q19 Based on your experience, what methods are used the most for distribution of information concerning decision-making processes regarding LMOs/GMOs? Please rank them by selecting their importance.**

Answered: 14 Skipped: 4



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	Score
Official websites	72.73% 8	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	9.09% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	11	7.82
National newspapers	11.11% 1	33.33% 3	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9	6.67
Regional/local newspapers	0.00% 0	30.00% 3	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	20.00% 2	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	0.00% 0	10	5.70
NGOs websites	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	22.22% 2	0.00% 0	9	5.11
Social media	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	28.57% 2	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7	5.57
Web-based applications (e.g. online forums, social networks)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	4.17
Information events	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	22.22% 2	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	0.00% 0	9	4.89

## Survey on public participation and transparency regarding LMOs/GMOs

Radio/TV programmes	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>33.33%</b> 3	<b>11.11%</b> 1	<b>22.22%</b> 2	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>11.11%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>11.11%</b> 1	<b>11.11%</b> 1	9	5.56
Other	<b>50.00%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>50.00%</b> 1	2	5.00

**Q20 If you included Other to your ranking,  
please specify**

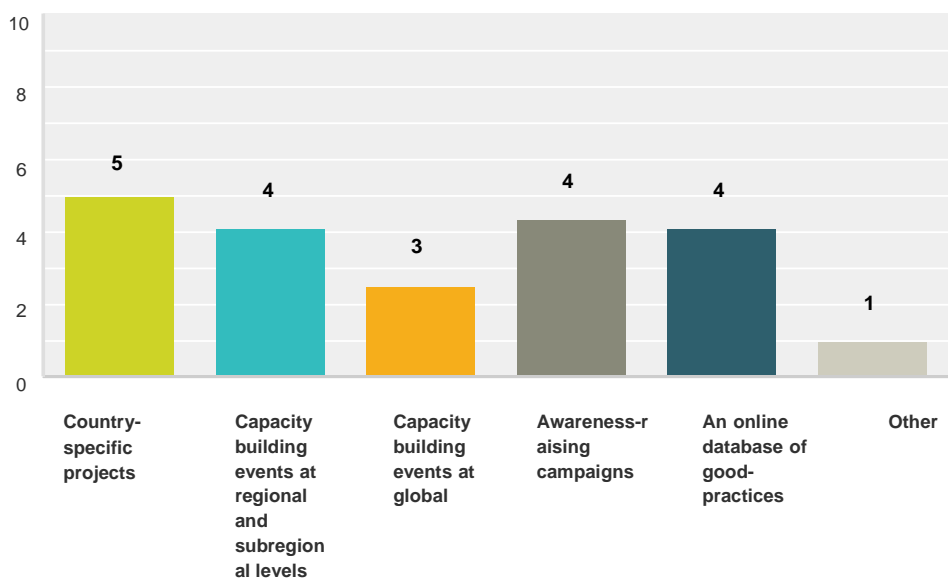
Answered: 1 Skipped: 17

**Estonia**

There have been no cultivation applications or applications to place GMO's or GMO products on the market submitted in Estonia.

**Q21 What do you believe should be the future priorities to support the effective implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in the context of GMOs, its Almaty amendment on GMOs and Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety? Please rank them in order of importance (with the most important being number 1).**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 3



	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Score
Country-specific projects	41.67% 5	25.00% 3	25.00% 3	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12	5.00
Capacity building events at regional and subregional levels	9.09% 1	45.45% 5	9.09% 1	18.18% 2	18.18% 2	0.00% 0	11	4.09
Capacity building events at global level	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	40.00% 4	20.00% 2	10	2.50
Awareness-raising campaigns	21.43% 3	21.43% 3	28.57% 4	28.57% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	14	4.36
An online database of good-practices	23.08% 3	15.38% 2	23.08% 3	23.08% 3	15.38% 2	0.00% 0	13	4.08
Other	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	1	1.00



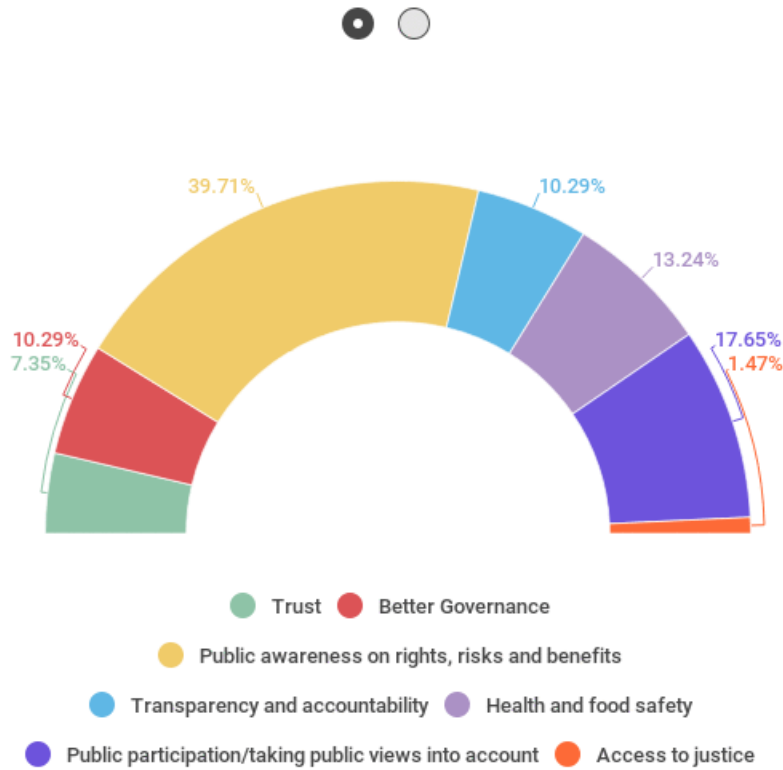
**Q22 If you included "Other" in your ranking,  
please specify**

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

**Q23 Please list up to 10 potential benefits of having access to information on LMOs/GMOs and opportunities to participate in decision-making on the deliberate release and placing on the market of LMOs/GMOs.**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 6

(The information provided in the below semi-circle was processed by the secretariat)



**Q23 Please list up to 10 potential benefits of having access to information on LMOs/GMOs and opportunities to participate in decision-making on the deliberate release and placing on the market of LMOs/GMOs.**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 6

(Information included in the below word cloud was generated by the software used to collect answers)

