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Results of survey on the conduct of the Fourth Cycle of the Environmental Performance Reviews

Background note by the secretariat¹

Summary

The Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) at its special session, Nicosia, 3–4 October 2022, took note of activities to prepare for the Fourth Cycle of Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) under the UNECE EPR Programme and invited the Expert Group on EPRs to prepare additional guidance on the conduct of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs for the consideration of CEP at its twenty-eighth session in November 2023 (ECE/CEP/S/2022/6, para 29 (j)).

The CEP Bureau, at its meeting on 8 March 2023, agreed that an option paper will be prepared to support CEP decisions on the Fourth Cycle of EPRs, based on an inclusive consultation process, including through a survey of CEP delegates and dedicated discussions with countries that have been subject to the EPRs (ECE/CEP/2023/3, para 14). The secretariat in consultation with the Expert Group on EPRs ran a survey in March–April 2023 to collect views on the conduct of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs and thus to inform discussions by the Expert Group on the options paper (ECE/CEP/2023/7) and the additional guidance (ECE/CEP/2023/6).

The present background paper presents the results of the EPR survey, including main conclusions, summary and detailed results.

I. Introduction

1. To inform the preparation of additional guidance on the conduct of Fourth Cycle of EPRs, the secretariat in consultation with the Expert Group on EPRs ran a survey to broaden the collection of views from governments and other stakeholders. The survey was sent to the mailing list for the Committee on Environmental Policy, which comprises about 400 email addresses, including those of members and observers of CEP, as well as other contacts at national and international levels (including dozens of UNECE and UNEP staff, for example); responses were invited from CEP members and observers. The survey was also sent directly to 30 national coordinators of EPRs in beneficiary countries, 8 members of the Expert Group on EPRs and 44 regular authors of EPR chapters.

¹ This document was not edited.

2. Views were collected from a total of 65 respondents, including 11 national coordinators of EPRs in beneficiary countries, 4 members of the Expert Group on EPRs, 22 regular authors of EPR chapters, and 28 members and observers of CEP.

3. The 65 respondents comprise of 44 governmental representatives from 21 countries, including 26 representatives from 12 beneficiary countries, and 21 representatives of the observers to CEP and regular authors of EPR chapters. Thus, 21 countries (36%) shared their views out of 58² countries invited to participate in the survey. For the 21 beneficiary countries, representatives of 12 countries (57%) participated in the survey.

4. The main conclusions and summary of results were prepared based on the results of the survey, by considering four groups of respondents: (i) all 65 respondents to the survey; (ii) 44 respondents from governments (21 countries)³; (iii) 26 respondents from governments of beneficiary countries (12 countries)⁴; and (iv) 21 respondents that are CEP observers or regular authors of EPR chapters.

5. The summary views of identified groups of respondents are presented by looking at the EPR themes, chapters and recommendations. A threshold of a simple majority of respondents in each of the four groups is used in presenting the survey findings. Annex 1 to the present paper contains a summary of results of the survey organized following the structure of the survey and including EPR themes (with one or more themes covered in each chapter), chapters and recommendations. Annex 2 contains the detailed results of the survey.

II. Main conclusions on the conduct of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs

A. Main conclusions of views of all respondents

6. The main conclusions of views of all sixty-five respondents to the survey are included below.

EPR themes

7. The majority of respondents (89%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 59% and 83%) identified 14 mandatory themes: Legislation; Policies; Climate change; Monitoring; Water; Institutions; Air; Biodiversity; International commitments; Waste; Public participation; Financing; Green economy; and Soil. Between 39% and 45% of respondents identified another 8 mandatory themes: Education; Compliance; Information; Chemicals; Permitting and licencing; Hazard risk; Human Health; and Circular economy (table 1).

8. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 52% and 83%) identified 25 themes as important for an EPR: Climate change; Water; Biodiversity; Waste; Air; Legislation; Policies; Monitoring; Energy; Financing; International commitments; Institutions; Green Economy; Public participation; Soil; Chemicals; Industry; Forestry; Agriculture; Circular economy; Permitting and licensing; Human health; Transport; Education; and Information. Between 37% and 49% of respondents identified another 4 themes as being important for an EPR: Compliance; Hazard risk; Land; Human settlements (table 1).

² 56 UNECE member States, Mongolia and Morocco.

³ Respondents from the following 21 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan.

⁴ Respondents from the following 12 beneficiary countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

EPR chapters

9. The majority of respondents (85%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 54% and 89%) identified 13 chapters as mandatory for an EPR: Environmental monitoring and information; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Climate change; Water management; Waste and chemical management; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Air protection; Public participation; Soil conservation; and Education for sustainable development. Between 36% and 38% of respondents identified another 2 mandatory chapters: Hazard risk management; and Human health protection (table 1).

10. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 54% and 85%) identified 20 chapters as important for an EPR: Water management; Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Air protection; Climate change; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Soil conservation; Agriculture and the environment; Education for sustainable development; Energy and the environment; Industry and the environment; Human health protection; Public participation; Transport and the environment; Forestry and the environment; and Land management and the environment. Between 45% and 48% of respondents agreed that another 3 chapters are also important for an EPR: Hazard risk management; Human settlements and the environment; and Greening selected sectors (table 1).

11. While there is no majority agreement, 43% of respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. 43% of respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review. A majority of respondents (52%) agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review.

EPR assessment, conclusions and recommendations

12. A majority of respondents (68%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed.

13. A majority of respondents (55%) agree that that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation.

14. While there is no majority agreement, 41% of all respondents agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter.

15. While there is no majority agreement, 46% of all respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice.

16. While there is no majority agreement, 37% of all respondents agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 37% of respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 49% of respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country.

17. A majority of respondents (63%) agree that 3–5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP.

18. A majority of respondents (57%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. Nonetheless, 40% of all respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities.

B. Main conclusions of views of 44 governmental respondents from 21 countries

19. Forty-four governmental respondents from 21 countries participated in the survey, namely from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan. Main conclusions of their views are included below.

EPR themes

20. The majority of respondents (86%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 58% and 79%) identified 14 mandatory themes: Legislation; Water; Climate change; Air; Monitoring; Policies; Biodiversity; Waste; Institutions; Financing; Green economy; International commitments; Public participation; and Soil. Between 37% and 47% of respondents identified another 8 mandatory themes: Chemicals; Education; Hazard risk; Human Health; Circular economy; Compliance; Information; and Permitting and licencing (table 2).

21. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 52% and 84%) identified 23 themes as important for an EPR: Climate change; Waste; Water; Air; Biodiversity; Legislation; Financing; Monitoring; Policies; Energy; Forestry; Green Economy; Chemicals; Soil; International commitments; Public participation; Agriculture; Industry; Institutions; Circular economy; Permitting and licencing; Transport; and Human health. Between 36% and 50% of respondents identified another 6 themes as being important for an EPR: Hazard risk; Compliance; Education; Information; Land; and Human settlements (table 2).

EPR chapters

22. The majority of respondents (84%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 54% and 92%) identified 13 chapters as mandatory for an EPR: Environmental monitoring and information; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Waste and chemical management; Water management; Climate change; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Air protection; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Soil conservation; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Public participation; and Education for sustainable development. 38% of respondents identified another 2 mandatory chapters: Hazard risk management; and Human health protection (table 2).

23. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 52% and 89%) identified 20 chapters as important for an EPR: Water management; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Air protection; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Climate change; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Soil conservation; Agriculture and the environment; Energy and the environment; Forestry and the environment, Human health protection; Industry and the environment; Education for sustainable development; Transport and the environment; Public participation; and Land management and the environment. Between 48% and 50% of respondents agreed that another 3 chapters are also important for an EPR; Greening selected sectors; Human settlements and the environment and Hazard risk management (table 2).

24. While there is no majority agreement, 45% of respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. 43% of respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review. A majority of all governmental respondents (52%) agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review.

EPR assessment, conclusions and recommendations

25. A majority of respondents (75%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed.

26. A majority of respondents (52%) agree that that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation.

27. While there is no majority agreement, 43% of all governmental respondents agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter.

28. While there is no majority agreement, 43% of all governmental respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice.

29. While there is no majority agreement, 32% of respondents agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 29% of respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 43% of respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country.

30. A majority of respondents (54%) agree that 3–5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP.

31. A majority of respondents (59%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. Nonetheless, 39% of respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities.

C. Main conclusions of views of 26 governmental respondents from 12 beneficiary countries

32. Twenty-six governmental respondents from 12 beneficiary countries participated in the survey, namely from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Main conclusions of their views are included below.

EPR themes

33. The majority of respondents (92%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 58% and 87%) identified 15 mandatory themes: Policies; Water; Climate change; Legislation; Air; Monitoring; Waste; Biodiversity; Institutions; International commitments; Soil; Financing; Public participation; Green economy; and Chemicals. Between 41% and 50% of respondents identified an additional 7 mandatory themes:

Education; Permitting and licencing; Hazard risk; Compliance; Circular economy; Human Health; and Information (table 3).

34. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 54 and 85%) identified 21 themes as important for an EPR: Air; Climate change; Water; Biodiversity; Legislation; Waste; Financing; Monitoring; Energy; Forestry, International commitments; Policies; Soil; Chemicals; Industry; Transport; Agriculture; Institutions; Public participation; Green Economy; and Land. Between 38% and 50% of respondents identified another 8 themes as important for an EPR: Hazard risk; Circular economy; Education; Human health; Permitting and licensing; Information; Compliance; and Human settlements (table 3).

EPR chapters

35. The majority respondents (93%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 62% and 100%) identified 13 mandatory chapters: Environmental monitoring and information; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Climate change; Waste and chemical management; Water management; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Air protection; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Soil conservation; Public participation; and Education for sustainable development. 42% of respondents identified another 2 mandatory chapters: Hazard risk management; and Human health protection (table 3).

36. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 54% and 92%) identified 21 important chapters: Water management; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Environmental monitoring and information; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Waste and chemical management; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Air protection; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Soil conservation; Climate change; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Industry and the environment; Transport and the environment; Agriculture and the environment; Forestry and the environment; Public participation; Energy and the environment; Human health protection; Land management and the environment; Education for sustainable development; and Greening selected sectors. Between 46% and 50% of respondents identified another 2 chapters as also important for an EPR: Human settlements and the environment; and Hazard risk management (table 3).

37. The majority of respondents (58%) agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. The majority of respondents (61%) agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review. While there is no majority agreement, 46% of governmental respondents from beneficiary countries agree that that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review.

EPR assessment, conclusions and recommendations

38. The majority of respondents (81%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed.

39. The majority of respondents (54%) agree that that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation.

40. The majority of respondents (61%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter.

41. While there is no majority agreement, 42% of respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice.

Also, 42% of respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR.

42. While there is no majority agreement, 23% of respondents agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 27% of respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 50% of respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country.

43. While there is no majority agreement, 42% of respondents agree that 3–5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP.

44. The majority of respondents (54%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. Nonetheless, 42% of respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities.

D. Main conclusions of views of respondents that are observers to CEP and regular authors of EPR chapters

45. Twenty-one respondents, including 4 observers to CEP, namely from European Eco-Forum, EIB and OECD and 17 regular authors of EPR chapters participated in the survey. Main conclusions of their views are included below.

EPR themes

46. The majority of respondents (95%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 60% and 100%) identified 18 mandatory themes: Policies; Institutions; International commitments; Legislation; Monitoring; Climate change; Public participation; Water; Biodiversity; Air; Information; Compliance; Financing; Permitting and licencing; Waste; Education; Green economy; and Soil. Between 45% and 50% of respondents identified another 4 mandatory themes: Circular economy; Hazard risk; Human Health; and Chemicals (table 4).

47. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 52% and 86%) identified 26 themes as important for an EPR: Policies; Biodiversity; Climate change; Institutions; Legislation; Monitoring; Water; International commitments; Waste; Air; Energy; Industry; Public participation; Education; Human health; Information; Permitting and licencing; Agriculture; Financing; Soil; Chemicals, Circular economy; Compliance; Green Economy; Transport; and Land. Between 38% and 48% of respondents identified another 3 themes as being important for an EPR: Hazard risk; Forestry; and Human settlements (table 4).

EPR chapters

48. The majority of respondents (86%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. The majority of respondents (between 55% and 94%) identified 12 chapters as mandatory for an EPR: Legal, policy and institutional framework; Environmental monitoring and information; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Climate change; Public participation; Water management; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Waste and chemical management; Air protection; Education for sustainable development; and Greening the economy and financing environmental protection. Between 33% and 50% of respondents identified another

3 mandatory chapters: Soil conservation; Hazard risk management; and Human health protection (table 4).

49. In addition, the majority of respondents (between 52% and 76%) identified 18 chapters as important for an EPR: Legal, policy and institutional framework; Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management; Water management; Air protection; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Climate change, Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Public participation; Education for sustainable development; Soil conservation; Agriculture and the environment; Energy and the environment; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Industry and the environment; Land management and the environment; and Human health protection. Between 33% and 48% of respondents agreed that another 5 chapters are also important for an EPR: Hazard risk management; Transport and the environment; Forestry and the environment; Human settlements and the environment; and Greening selected sectors (table 4).

50. While there is no majority agreement, 48% of respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. 43% of respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review. Also, 43% of respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. A majority of respondents (52%) agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review.

EPR assessment, conclusions and recommendations

51. A majority of respondents (52%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed.

52. A majority of respondents (62%) agree that that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation.

53. While there is no majority agreement, 38% of respondents agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter.

54. A majority of respondents (52%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice.

55. While there is no majority agreement, 48% of respondents agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. A majority of respondents (52%) agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. A majority of respondents (62%) agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country.

56. A majority of respondents (81%) agree that 3–5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP.

57. A majority of respondents (52%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. Nonetheless, 43% of respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities.

III. Summary results of survey organized by four groups of respondents

58. This section includes a summary of the views of the respondents to the questionnaire organized by four groups of respondents: all respondents; Governmental respondents; governmental respondents from EPR beneficiary countries; and respondents that are CEP observers or regular authors of EPR chapters. Annex 1 contains the same information organized i by looking at the questions related to EPR themes, chapters and recommendations. Annex 2 contains the detailed results of the responses to the questionnaire.

I. Group 1: All 65 respondents

EPR Themes

59. 58 of 65 respondents (89%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 4 (6%) respondents had no opinion on the matter and 3 (5%) respondents did not agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR.

60. Between 34 (59%) and 48 (83%) of 58 respondents identified 14 themes that should be mandatory (table 1). Between 25 (43%) and 29 (50%) respondents agree that another 8 themes should also be mandatory.

61. In addition, between 34 (52%) and 54 (83%) of 65 respondents identified 25 themes as important for an EPR (table 1). Between 24 (37%) and 32 (49%) respondents agree that another 4 themes are also important for an EPR.

EPR chapters

62. 55 of 65 respondents (85%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 6 (9%) respondents had no opinion on the matter, and 4 (6%) respondents did not agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR.

63. Between 30 (54%) and 49 (89%) of 55 respondents identified 13 chapters that should be mandatory (table 1). Between 20 (36%) and 21 (38%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters should also be mandatory.

64. In addition, between 35 (54%) and 55 (85%) of 65 respondents identified 20 chapters as important for an EPR (table 1). Between 29 (45%) and 31 (48%) respondents agree that another 3 chapters are also important for an EPR.

65. 28 of 65 (43%) respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, followed by 27 (41%) respondents who agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 21 (32%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes, and 12 (18%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters.

66. 28 of 65 (43%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit, while 21 (32%) respondents agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR. 16 (25%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter.

67. 8 of 21 (38%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters, followed by 6 (29%) respondents who agree that an EPR should comprise 15 chapters. 4 (19%) respondents agree that an EPR should comprise 10 chapters, 1 (5%) respondent chose 8 to 10 chapters, 1 (5%) respondent chose not more than 4 chapters, and 1 (5%) respondent chose 18 chapters for an EPR.

68. 34 of 65 (52%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 24 (37%) respondents agree that the

country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 4 (6%) respondents agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters, 2 (3%) respondents agree that the country under review should select the chapters, and 1 (1%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

EPR recommendations

69. 44 of 65 respondents (68%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 12 (18%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter. 8 (12%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page, and 1 (1%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

70. 36 of 65 respondents (55%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 15 (23%) respondents agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

71. 27 of 65 respondents (41%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 17 (26%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 10 (15%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited, and 4 (6%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

72. 30 of 65 respondents (46%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. 23 (35%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 9 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 9 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR. 7 (11%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

73. 24 of 65 respondents (37%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 24 (37%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 32 (49%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 16 (25%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 41 (63%) respondents agree that 3–5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP. 6 (9%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

74. 37 of 65 respondents (57%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 26 (40%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 2 (3%) respondents do not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

Table 1. Mandatory and important themes and chapters for an EPR

<i>No.</i>	<i>Mandatory themes [number of respondents]</i>	<i>Mandatory chapters [number of respondents]</i>	<i>Important themes [number of respondents]</i>	<i>Important chapters [number of respondents]</i>
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Between 30 and 58</i>	<i>Between 28 and 55</i>	<i>Between 33 and 65</i>	<i>Between 33 and 65</i>
1.	Legislation [48]	Environmental monitoring and information [49]	Climate change [54]	Water management [55]
2.	Policies [47]	Legal, policy and institutional framework [47]	Water [53]	Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management [52]
3.	Climate change; Monitoring; Water [45]	Climate change; Water management [42]	Biodiversity; Waste [52]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas [51]
4.	Institutions [43]	Waste and chemical management [41]	Air, Legislation; Policies [50]	Legal, policy and institutional framework [50]
5.	Air; Biodiversity; International commitments [41]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [40]	Monitoring [49]	Air protection [48]
6.	Waste [39]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas [39]	Energy; Financing [45]	Climate change [47]
7.	Public participation [38]	Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [38]	International commitments [44]	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [45]
8.	Financing [36]	Air protection [37]	Institutions [43]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [44]
9.	Green Economy; Soil [34]	Public participation; Soil conservation [34]	Green Economy, Public participation, Soil [42]	Implementation of international agreements and commitments [43]
10.		Education for sustainable development [30]	Chemicals, Industry [41]	Soil conservation [42]
11.			Agriculture, Forestry [39]	Agriculture and the environment [40]
12.			Circular economy, Permitting and licensing [38]	Education for sustainable development; Energy and the environment; Industry and the environment [39]
13.			Human health [37]	Human health protection; Public participation [38]
14.			Transport [36]	Transport and the environment [36]
15.			Education; Information [34]	Forestry and the environment; Land management and the environment [35]
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Up to 29</i>	<i>Up to 27</i>	<i>Up to 32</i>	<i>Up to 32</i>
16.	Education [29]	Hazard risk management [21]	Compliance; Hazard risk [32]	Hazard risk management [31]

17.	Compliance; Information [28]	Human health protection [20]	Land [31]	Human settlements and the environment [30]
18.	Chemicals; Permitting and licensing [27]		Human settlements [24]	Greening selected sectors [29]
19.	Hazard risk; Human health [26]			
20.	Circular economy [25]			

Note: * Tr. stands for “threshold”.

II. Group 2: 44 governmental respondents

EPR themes

75. 38 of 44 respondents (86%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 3 (7%) respondents did not agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR, and 3 (7%) respondents had no opinion on the matter.

76. Between 22 (58%) and 30 (79%) of 38 respondents identified 14 themes that should be mandatory. Between 14 (37%) and 18 (47%) respondents agree that another 8 themes should also be mandatory (table 2).

77. In addition, between 23 (52%) and 37 (84%) of 44 respondents identified 23 themes as important for an EPR. Between 16 (36%) and 22 (50%) respondents agree that another 6 themes are also important for an EPR (table 2).

EPR chapters

78. 37 of 44 respondents (84%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 5 (11%) respondents had no opinion on the matter, and 2 (4%) respondents did not agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR.

79. Between 20 (54%) and 34 (92%) of 37 respondents identified 13 chapters as mandatory. 14 (38%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters should be also mandatory (table 2).

80. In addition, between 23 (52%) and 39 (89%) of 44 respondents identified 20 chapters as important for an EPR. Between 21 (48%) and 22 (50%) respondents agree that another 3 chapters are also important for an EPR (table 2).

81. 19 of 44 (43%) respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, followed by 18 (41%) respondents who agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 13 (29%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes, 8 (18%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters, and 1 (2%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

82. 20 of 44 (45%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit, while 13 (29%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter. 11 (25%) agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR respondents.

83. 6 of 11 (54%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters, followed by 1 (9%) respondent who chose 8 to 10 chapters, 1 (9%) respondent who chose 15 chapters and 1 (9%) respondent who chose 18 chapters.

84. 23 of 44 (52%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 17 (39%) respondents agree that the country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 2

(4%) respondents agree that the country under review should select the chapters, 1 (2%) respondent agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters and 1 (2%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

EPR recommendations

85. 33 of 44 respondents (75%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 9 (20%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter. 2 (4%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page.

86. 23 of 44 respondents (52%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 9 (20%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

87. 19 of 44 respondents (43%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 11 (25%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 3 (7%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited, and 3 (7%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

88. 19 of 44 respondents (43%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. 18 (41%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 8 (18%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR. 6 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 3 (7%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

89. 14 of 44 respondents (32%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 13 (29%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 19 (43%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 8 (18%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 24 (54%) respondents agree that 3-5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP. 6 (14%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

90. 26 of 44 respondents (59%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 17 (39%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 1 (2%) respondent does not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

Table 2. Mandatory and important themes and chapters for an EPR

No.	Mandatory themes [number of respondents]	Mandatory chapters [number of respondents]	Important themes [number of respondents]	Important chapters [number of respondents]
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Between 20 and 38</i>	<i>Between 19 and 37</i>	<i>Between 23 and 44</i>	<i>Between 23 and 44</i>
1.	Legislation [30]	Environmental monitoring and information [34]	Climate change [37]	Water management [39]
2.	Water [29]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Legal, policy and institutional framework [30]	Waste; Water [36]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management [36]
3.	Climate change [28]	Waste and chemical management; Water management [29]	Air; Biodiversity [35]	Legal, policy and institutional framework [34]
4.	Air; Monitoring; Policies [27]	Climate change [28]	Legislation [33]	Air protection [33]
5.	Biodiversity; Waste [26]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas [27]	Financing; Monitoring; Policies [32]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Climate change [32]
6.	Institutions [24]	Air protection; Implementation of international agreements and commitments [26]	Energy; Forestry; Green Economy [30]	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [30]
7.	Financing [23]	Soil conservation [25]	Chemicals; Soil [29]	Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Soil conservation [29]
8.	Green economy; International commitments; Public participation; Soil [22]	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [23]	International commitments [28]	Agriculture and the environment [28]
9.		Public participation [21]	Public participation [27]	Energy and the environment; Forestry and the environment; Human health protection; Industry and the environment [27]
10.		Education for sustainable development [20]	Agriculture; Industry; Institutions; Circular economy [26]	Education for sustainable development; Transport and the environment [26]
11.			Permitting and licensing; Transport [24]	Public participation [24]
12.			Human health [23]	Land management and the environment [23]
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Up to 19</i>	<i>Up to 18</i>	<i>Up to 22</i>	<i>Up to 22</i>
13.	Chemicals [18]	Hazard risk management; Human health protection [14]	Hazard risk [22]	Greening selected sectors; Human settlements and the environment [22]
14.	Education [17]		Compliance; Education; Information; Land [20]	Hazard risk management [21]

15.	Hazard risk, Human Health [16]		Human settlements [16]	
16.	Circular economy; Compliance [15]			
17.	Information; Permitting and licencing [14]			

III. Group 3: 26 governmental respondents from beneficiary countries

EPR themes

91. 24 of 26 respondents (92%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 1 (4%) respondent did not agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR, and 1 (4%) respondent had no opinion on the matter.

92. Between 14 (58%) and 21 (87%) of 24 respondents identified 15 themes that should be mandatory. Between 10 (41%) and 12 (50%) respondents agree that another 7 themes should also be mandatory (table 3).

93. In addition, between 14 (54%) and 22 (85%) of 26 respondents identified 21 themes as important for an EPR. Between 10 (38%) and 13 (50%) respondents agree that another 8 themes are also important for an EPR (table 3).

EPR chapters

94. 24 of 26 respondents (93%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 2 (8%) respondents had no opinion on the matter.

95. Between 15 (62%) and 24 (100%) of 24 respondents identified 13 chapters that should be mandatory. 10 (42%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters should be also mandatory (table 3).

96. In addition, between 14 (54%) and 24 (92%) of 26 respondents identified 21 chapters as important for an EPR. Between 12 (46%) and 13 (50%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters are also important for an EPR (table 3).

97. 16 of 26 (61%) respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, followed by 11 (42%) respondents who agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 7 (27%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes, and 2 (8%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters.

98. 15 of 26 (58%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. 5 (19%) respondents agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR and 6 (23%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter.

99. 3 of 5 (60%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters, followed by 1 (20%) respondent who agree that an EPR should comprise 15 chapters and 1 (20%) respondent who chose 18 chapters for an EPR.

100. 12 of 26 (46%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 11 (42%) respondents agree that the country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 2 (8%) respondents agree that the country under review should select the chapters, and 1 (4%) respondent agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters.

EPR recommendations

101. 21 of 26 respondents (81%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 4 (15%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter, and 1 (4%) respondent agrees that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page.

102. 14 of 26 respondents (54%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 6 (23%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

103. 16 of 26 respondents (61%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 3 (11%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 1 (4%) respondent agrees that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited.

104. 11 of 26 respondents (42%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. Also, 11 (42%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 6 (23%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR. 3 (11%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 1 (4%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

105. 6 of 26 respondents (23%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 7 (27%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 13 (50%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 5 (19%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 11 (42%) respondents agree that 3-5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP. 4 (15%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

106. 14 of 26 respondents (54%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 11 (42%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 1 (4%) respondent does not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

Table 3. Mandatory and important themes and chapters for an EPR

No.	Mandatory themes [number of respondents]	Mandatory chapters [number of respondents]	Important themes [number of respondents]	Important chapters [number of respondents]
Tr.*	Between 13 and 24	Between 13 and 24	Between 14 and 26	Between 14 and 26
1.	Policies; Water [21]	Environmental monitoring and information [24]	Air; Climate change; Water [22]	Water management [24]

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2.	Climate change; Legislation [20]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [22]	Biodiversity; Legislation; Waste [21]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Environmental monitoring and information; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Waste and chemical management [22]
3.	Air; Monitoring; Waste [19]	Climate change; Waste and chemical management; Water management [21]	Financing; Monitoring [20]	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [21]
4.	Biodiversity; Institutions [18]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Legal, policy and institutional framework [19]	Energy; Forestry; International commitments; Policies; Soil [19]	Air protection; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Soil conservation [19]
5.	International commitments; Soil [17]	Air protection; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Soil conservation [18]	Chemicals; Industry; Transport [18]	Climate change; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Industry and the environment; Transport and the environment [18]
6.	Financing; Public participation; Green economy [16]	Public participation [16]	Agriculture; Institutions; Public participation [17]	Agriculture and the environment; Forestry and the environment [17]
7.	Chemicals [14]	Education for sustainable development [15]	Green Economy [16]	Public participation [16]
8.			Land [14]	Energy and the environment; Human health protection; Land management and the environment [15]
9.				Education for sustainable development; Greening selected sectors [14]
Tr.*	<i>Up to 12</i>	<i>Up to 12</i>	<i>Up to 13</i>	<i>Up to 13</i>
10.	Education; Permitting and licencing; Hazard risk [12]	Hazard risk management; Human health protection [10]	Hazard risk [13]	Human settlements and the environment [13]
11.	Compliance; Circular economy [11]		Circular economy; Education; Human health; Permitting and licencing [12]	Hazard risk management [12]
12.	Human Health; Information [10]		Information [11]	
13.			Compliance; Human settlements [10]	

IV. Group 4: 21 respondents that are CEP observers and regular authors of chapters

EPR themes

107. 20 of 21 respondents (95%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 1 (5%) respondent had no opinion on the matter.

108. Between 12 (60%) and 20 (100%) of 20 respondents identified 18 themes that should be mandatory. Between 9 (45%) and 10 (50%) respondents agree that another 4 themes should also be mandatory (table 4).

109. In addition, between 11 (52%) and 18 (86%) of 21 respondents identified 26 themes as important for an EPR. Between 8 (38%) and 10 (48%) respondents agree that another 3 themes are also important for an EPR (table 4).

EPR chapters

110. 18 of 21 respondents (86%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 2 (9%) respondents did not agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR, and 1 (5%) respondent had no opinion on the matter.

111. Between 10 (55%) and 17 (94%) of 18 respondents identified 12 chapters that should be mandatory. Between 6 (33%) and 9 (50%) respondents agree that another 3 chapters should also be mandatory (table 4).

112. In addition, between 11 (52%) and 16 (76%) of 21 respondents identified 18 chapters as important for an EPR. Between 7 (33%) and 10 (48%) respondents agree that another 5 chapters are also important for an EPR (table 4).

113. 9 of 21 respondents (43%) agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, and 9 (43%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 8 (38%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes. 4 (19%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters.

114. 10 of 21 (48%) respondents agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR, while 8 (38%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. 3 (14%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter.

115. 5 of 10 (50%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 15 chapters, followed by 2 (20%) respondents who agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters and 2 (20%) respondents who agree that an EPR should comprise 10 chapters. 1 (10%) respondent chose not more than 4 chapters for an EPR.

116. 11 of 21 (52%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 7 (33%) respondents agree that the country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 3 (14%) respondents agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters.

EPR recommendations

117. 11 of 21 respondents (52%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 6 (29%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page. 3 (14%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter, and 1 (5%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

118. 13 of 21 respondents (62%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 4 (19%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

119. 8 of 21 respondents (38%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 7

(33%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 6 (29%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited, and 1 (5%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

120. 11 of 21 respondents (52%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. 5 (24%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 4 (19%) respondents have no opinion on the matter. 3 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 1 (5%) respondent agrees that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR.

121. 10 of 21 respondents (48%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 11 (52%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 13 (62%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 8 (38%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 17 (81%) respondents agree that 3-5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP.

122. 11 of 21 respondents (52%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 9 (43%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 1 (5%) respondent does not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

Table 4. Mandatory and important themes and chapters for an EPR

No.	Mandatory themes [number of respondents]	Mandatory chapters [number of respondents]	Important themes [number of respondents]	Important chapters [number of respondents]
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Between 11 and 20</i>	<i>Between 10 and 18</i>	<i>Between 11 and 21</i>	<i>Between 11 and 21</i>
1.	Policies [20]	Legal, policy and institutional framework [17]	Policies [18]	Legal, policy and institutional framework; Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management; Water management [16]
2.	Institutions; International commitments [19]	Environmental monitoring and information; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [15]	Biodiversity; Climate change; Institutions; Legislation, Monitoring, Water [17]	Air protection; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Climate change; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [15]
3.	Legislation; Monitoring [18]	Climate change [14]	International commitments; Waste [16]	Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Public participation [14]
4.	Climate change [17]	Public participation; Water management [13]	Air; Energy; Industry; Public participation [15]	Education for sustainable development; Soil conservation [13]

5.	Public participation; Water [16]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Waste and chemical management [12]	Education; Human health; Information; Permitting and licensing [14]	Agriculture and the environment; Energy and the environment; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Industry and the environment; Land management and the environment [12]
6.	Biodiversity [15]	Air protection [11]	Agriculture; Financing; Soil [13]	Human health protection [11]
7.	Air; Information [14]	Education for sustainable development; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [10]	Chemicals; Circular economy; Compliance; Green Economy; Transport [12]	
8.	Compliance; Financing; Permitting and licencing; Waste [13]		Land [11]	
9.	Education; Green economy; Soil [12]			
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Up to 10</i>	<i>Up to 9</i>	<i>Up to 10</i>	<i>Up to 10</i>
10.	Circular economy; Hazard risk, Human health [10]	Soil conservation [9]	Hazard risk [10]	Hazard risk management; Transport and the environment [10]
11.	Chemicals [9]	Hazard risk management [7]	Forestry [9]	Forestry and the environment; Human settlements and the environment [8]
12.		Human health protection [6]	Human settlements [8]	Greening selected sectors [7]

Annex 1: Summary results of survey organized following the structure of the survey

A. EPR themes

A.1: all 65 respondents

1. 58 of 65 respondents (89%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 4 (6%) respondents had no opinion on the matter and 3 (5%) respondents did not agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR.

2. Between 34 (59%) and 48 (83%) of 58 respondents identified 14 themes that should be mandatory. Between 25 (43%) and 29 (50%) respondents agree that another 8 themes should also be mandatory (table 1, annex 1).

3. In addition, between 34 (52%) and 54 (83%) of 65 respondents identified 25 themes as important for an EPR. Between 24 (37%) and 32 (49%) respondents agree that another 4 themes are also important for an EPR (table 2, annex 1).

A.2: 44 governmental respondents

4. 38 of 44 respondents (86%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 3 (7%) respondents did not agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR, and 3 (7%) respondents had no opinion on the matter.

5. Between 22 (58%) and 30 (79%) of 38 respondents identified 14 themes that should be mandatory. Between 14 (37%) and 18 (47%) respondents agree that another 8 themes should also be mandatory (table 1, annex 1). 6. In addition, between 23 (52%) and 37 (84%) of 44 respondents identified 23 themes as important for an EPR. Between 16 (36%) and 22 (50%) respondents agree that another 6 themes are also important for an EPR (table 2, annex 1).

A.3: 26 governmental respondents from beneficiary countries

7. 24 of 26 respondents (92%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 1 (4%) respondent did not agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR, and 1 (4%) respondent had no opinion on the matter.

8. Between 14 (58%) and 21 (87%) of 24 respondents identified 15 themes that should be mandatory. Between 10 (41%) and 12 (50%) respondents agree that another 7 themes should also be mandatory (table 1, annex 1).

9. In addition, between 14 (54%) and 22 (85%) of 26 respondents identified 21 themes as important for an EPR. Between 10 (38%) and 13 (50%) respondents agree that another 8 themes are also important for an EPR (table 2, annex 1).

A.4: 21 respondents that are CEP observers and regular authors of chapters

10. 20 of 21 respondents (95%) agree that some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 1 (5%) respondent had no opinion on the matter.

11. Between 12 (60%) and 20 (100%) of 20 respondents identified 18 themes that should be mandatory. Between 9 (45%) and 10 (50%) respondents agree that another 4 themes should also be mandatory (table 1, annex 1).

12. In addition, between 11 (52%) and 18 (86%) of 21 respondents identified 26 themes as important for an EPR. Between 8 (38%) and 10 (48%) respondents agree that another 3 themes are also important for an EPR (table 2, annex 1).

Table 1. Priority themes to be mandatory in an EPR

No.	All respondents, 58 of 65 [number]	All governments, 38 of 44 [number of respondents]	Beneficiary governments, 24 of 26 [number of respondents]	CEP observers and authors, 20 of 21 [number of respondents]
Tr.*	Between 30 and 58	Between 20 and 38	Between 13 and 24	Between 11 and 20
1.	Legislation [48]	Legislation [30]	Policies; Water [21]	Policies [20]
2.	Policies [47]	Water [29]	Climate change; Legislation [20]	Institutions; International commitments [19]
3.	Climate change, Monitoring, Water [45]	Climate change [28]	Air; Monitoring; Waste [19]	Legislation; Monitoring [18]
4.	Institutions [43]	Air; Monitoring; Policies [27]	Biodiversity; Institutions [18]	Climate change [17]
5.	Air, Biodiversity, International commitments [41]	Biodiversity; Waste [26]	International commitments; Soil [17]	Public participation; Water [16]
6.	Waste [39]	Institutions [24]	Financing; Public participation; Green economy [16]	Biodiversity [15]
7.	Public participation [38]	Financing [23]	Chemicals [14]	Air; Information [14]
8.	Financing [36]	Green economy; International commitments; Public participation; Soil [22]		Compliance; Financing; Permitting and licencing; Waste [13]
9.	Green Economy, Soil [34]			Education; Green economy; Soil [12]
Tr.*	Up to 29	Up to 19	Up to 12	Up to 10
10.	Education [29]	Chemicals [18]	Education; Permitting and licencing; Hazard risk [12]	Hazard risk management; Transport and the environment [10]
11.	Compliance, Information [28]	Education [17]	Compliance; Circular economy [11]	Forestry and the environment; Human settlements and the environment [8]
12.	Chemicals, Permitting and licencing [27]	Hazard risk, Human Health [16]	Human Health; Information [10]	Greening selected sectors [7]
13.	Hazard risk, Human health [26]	Circular economy; Compliance [15]		
14.	Circular economy [25]	Information; Permitting and licencing [14]		

Note: * Tr. stands for “threshold”.

Table 2. Important themes for an EPR

No.	All respondents, 65 [number]	All governments, 44 [number of respondents]	Beneficiary governments, 26 [number of respondents]	CEP observers and authors, 21 [number of respondents]
Tr.*	Between 33 and 65	Between 23 and 44	Between 14 and 26	Between 11 and 21
1.	Climate change [54]	Climate change [37]	Air; Climate change; Water [22]	Policies [18]
2.	Water [53]	Waste; Water [36]	Biodiversity; Legislation; Waste [21]	Biodiversity; Climate change; Institutions; Legislation, Monitoring, Water [17]
3.	Biodiversity, Waste [52]	Air; Biodiversity [35]	Financing; Monitoring [20]	International commitments; Waste [16]
4.	Air, Legislation, Policies [50]	Legislation [33]	Energy; Forestry; International commitments; Policies; Soil [19]	Air; Energy; Industry; Public participation [15]
5.	Monitoring [49]	Financing; Monitoring; Policies [32]	Chemicals; Industry; Transport [18]	Education; Human health; Information; Permitting and licensing [14]
6.	Energy, Financing [45]	Energy; Forestry; Green Economy [30]	Agriculture; Institutions; Public participation [17]	Agriculture; Financing; Soil [13]
7.	International commitments [44]	Chemicals; Soil [29]	Green Economy [16]	Chemicals; Circular economy; Compliance; Green Economy; Transport [12]
8.	Institutions [43]	International commitments [28]	Land [14]	Land [11]
9.	Green Economy, Public participation, Soil [42]	Public participation [27]		
10.	Chemicals, Industry [41]	Agriculture; Industry; Institutions; Circular economy [26]		
11.	Agriculture, Forestry [39]	Permitting and licensing; Transport [24]		
12.	Circular economy, Permitting and licensing [38]	Human health [23]		
13.	Human health [37]			
14.	Transport [36]			
15.	Education, Information [34]			
Tr.*	Up to 32	Up to 22	Up to 13	Up to 10
16.	Compliance, Hazard risk [32]	Hazard risk [22]	Hazard risk [13]	Hazard risk [10]
17.	Land [31]	Compliance; Education; Information; Land [20]	Circular economy; Education; Human health; Permitting and licensing [12]	Forestry [9]
18.	Human settlements [24]	Human settlements [16]	Information [11]	Human settlements [8]
19.			Compliance; Human settlements [10]	

B. EPR chapters

B.1: all 65 respondents

13. 55 of 65 respondents (85%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 6 (9%) respondents had no opinion on the matter, and 4 (6%) respondents did not agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR.

14. Between 30 (54%) and 49 (89%) of 55 respondents identified 13 chapters that should be mandatory. Between 20 (36%) and 21 (38%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters should also be mandatory (table 3, annex 1).

15. In addition, between 35 (54%) and 55 (85%) of 65 respondents identified 20 chapters as important for an EPR. Between 29 (45%) and 31 (48%) respondents agree that another 3 chapters are also important for an EPR (table 4, annex 1).

16. 28 of 65 (43%) respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, followed by 27 (41%) respondents who agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 21 (32%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes, and 12 (18%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters.

17. 28 of 65 (43%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit, while 21 (32%) respondents agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR. 16 (25%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter.

18. 8 of 21 (38%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters, followed by 6 (29%) respondents who agree that an EPR should comprise 15 chapters. 4 (19%) respondents agree that an EPR should comprise 10 chapters, 1 (5%) respondent chose 8 to 10 chapters, 1 (5%) respondent chose not more than 4 chapters, and 1 (5%) respondent chose 18 chapters for an EPR.

19. 34 of 65 (52%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 24 (37%) respondents agree that the country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 4 (6%) respondents agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters, 2 (3%) respondents agree that the country under review should select the chapters, and 1 (1%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

B.2: 44 governmental respondents

20. 37 of 44 respondents (84%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 5 (11%) respondents had no opinion on the matter, and 2 (4%) respondents did not agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR.

21. Between 20 (54%) and 34 (92%) of 37 respondents identified 13 chapters as mandatory. 14 (38%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters should be also mandatory (table 3, annex 1).

22. In addition, between 23 (52%) and 39 (89%) of 44 respondents identified 20 chapters as important for an EPR. Between 21 (48%) and 22 (50%) respondents agree that another 3 chapters are also important for an EPR (table 4, annex 1).

23. 19 of 44 (43%) respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, followed by 18 (41%) respondents who agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 13 (29%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes, 8 (18%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a

limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters, and 1 (2%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

24. 20 of 44 (45%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit, while 13 (29%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter. 11 (25%) agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR respondents.

25. 6 of 11 (54%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters, followed by 1 (9%) respondent who chose 8 to 10 chapters, 1 (9%) respondent who chose 15 chapters, and 1 (9%) respondent who chose 18 chapters. .

26. 23 of 44 (52%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 17 (39%) respondents agree that the country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 2 (4%) respondents agree that the country under review should select the chapters, 1 (2%) respondents agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters, and 1 (2%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

B.3: 26 governmental respondents from beneficiary countries

27. 24 of 26 respondents (93%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 2 (8%) respondents had no opinion on the matter, and 1 (4%) respondent did not agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR.

28. Between 15 (62%) and 24 (100%) of 24 respondents identified 13 chapters that should be mandatory. 10 (43%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters should be also mandatory (table 3, annex 1).

29. In addition, between 14 (54%) and 24 (92%) of 26 respondents identified 21 chapters as important for an EPR. Between 12 (46%) and 13 (50%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters are also important for an EPR (table 4, annex 1).

30. 16 of 26 (61%) respondents agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, followed by 11 (42%) respondents who agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 7 (27%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes, and 2 (8%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters.

31. 15 of 26 (58%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. 5 (19%) respondents agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR and another 6 (23%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter.

32. 3 of 5 (60%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters, followed by 1 (20%) respondent who agree that an EPR should comprise 15 chapters and 1 (20%) respondent who chose 18 chapters for an EPR.

33. 12 of 26 (46%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 11 (42%) respondents agree that the country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 2 (8%) respondents agree that the country under review should select the chapters, and 1 (4%) respondent agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters.

B.4: 21 respondents that are CEP observers and regular authors of chapters

34. 18 of 21 respondents (86%) agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 2 (9%) respondents did not agree that some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR, and 1 (5%) respondent had no opinion on the matter.

35. Between 10 (55%) and 17 (94%) of 18 respondents identified 12 chapters that should be mandatory. 7 (37%) respondents agree that another 2 chapters should also be mandatory (table 3, annex 1).

36. In addition, between 11 (52%) and 16 (76%) of 21 respondents identified 18 chapters as important for an EPR. Between 7 (33%) and 10 (48%) respondents agree that another 5 chapters are also important for an EPR (table 4, annex 1).

37. 9 of 21 respondents (43%) agree that an EPR should include the chapters that are requested by the country under review, and 9 (43%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of typical EPR chapters, each focussed on one or several themes. 8 (38%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of chapters, with some themes integrated across relevant chapters. 4 (19%) respondents agree that an EPR should have a limited number of a combination of typical and integrated EPR chapters.

38. 10 of 21 (48%) respondents agree that there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR, while 8 (38%) respondents agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have no numeric limit. 3 (14%) respondents don't have an opinion on the matter.

39. 5 of 10 (50%) respondents, who agree that the number of chapters in an EPR should have a numeric limit, agree that an EPR should comprise 15 chapters, followed by 2 (20%) respondents who agree that an EPR should comprise 12 chapters and 2 (20%) respondents who agree that an EPR should comprise 10 chapters. 1 (10%) respondent chose not more than 4 chapters for an EPR.

40. 11 of 21 (52%) respondents agree that EPR chapters should be selected by the EPR secretariat in consultation with the country under review. 7 (33%) respondents agree that the country under review in consultation with the EPR secretariat should select the EPR chapters. 3 (14%) respondents agree that the EPR secretariat should select the chapters.

Table 3. Priority chapters to be mandatory in an EPR

No.	All respondents, 55 of 65 [number]	All governments, 37 of 44 [number of respondents]	Beneficiary governments, 24 of 26 [number of respondents]	CEP observers and authors, 18 of 21 [number of respondents]
Tr.*	Between 28 and 55	Between 19 and 37	Between 13 and 24	Between 10 and 18
1.	Environmental monitoring and information [49]	Environmental monitoring and information [34]	Environmental monitoring and information [24]	Legal, policy and institutional framework [17]
2.	Legal, policy and institutional framework [47]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Legal, policy and institutional framework [30]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [22]	Environmental monitoring and information; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [15]
3.	Climate change; Water management [42]	Waste and chemical management; Water management [29]	Climate change; Waste and chemical management; Water management [21]	Climate change [14]
4.	Waste and chemical management [41]	Climate change [28]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Legal, policy and institutional framework [19]	Public participation; Water management [13]

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5.	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [40]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas [27]	Air protection; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms; Soil conservation [18]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Waste and chemical management [12]
6.	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas [39]	Air protection; Implementation of international agreements and commitments [26]	Public participation [16]	Air protection [11]
7.	Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [38]	Soil conservation [25]	Education for sustainable development [15]	Education for sustainable development; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [10]
8.	Air protection [37]	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [23]		
9.	Public participation; Soil conservation [34]	Public participation [21]		
10.	Education for sustainable development [30]	Education for sustainable development [20]		
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Up to 27</i>	<i>Up to 18</i>	<i>Up to 12</i>	<i>Up to 9</i>
11.	Hazard risk management [21]	Hazard risk management; Human health protection [14]	Hazard risk management; Human health protection [10]	Soil conservation [9]
12.	Human health protection [20]			Hazard risk management [7]
13.				Human health protection [6]

Table 4. Important chapters for an EPR

No.	All respondents, 65 [number]	All governments, 44 [number of respondents]	Beneficiary governments, 26 [number of respondents]	CEP observers and authors, 21 [number of respondents]
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Between 33 and 65</i>	<i>Between 23 and 44</i>	<i>Between 14 and 26</i>	<i>Between 11 and 21</i>
1.	Water management [55]	Water management [39]	Water management [24]	Legal, policy and institutional framework; Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management; Water management [16]
2.	Environmental monitoring and information, Waste and chemical management [52]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Environmental monitoring and information; Waste and chemical management [36]	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Environmental monitoring and information; Legal, policy and institutional framework; Waste and chemical management [22]	Air protection; Biodiversity conservation and protected areas; Climate change; Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [15]
3.	Biodiversity conservation and protected areas [51]	Legal, policy and institutional framework [34]	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [21]	Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Public participation [14]

4.	Legal, policy and institutional framework [50]	Air protection [33]	Air protection; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Soil conservation [19]	Education for sustainable development; Soil conservation [13]
5.	Air protection [48]	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Climate change [32]	Climate change; Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Industry and the environment; Transport and the environment [18]	Agriculture and the environment; Energy and the environment; Greening the economy and financing environmental protection; Industry and the environment; Land management and the environment [12]
6.	Climate change [47]	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [30]	Agriculture and the environment; Forestry and the environment [17]	Human health protection [11]
7.	Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms [45]	Implementation of international agreements and commitments; Soil conservation [29]	Public participation [16]	
8.	Greening the economy and financing environmental protection [44]	Agriculture and the environment [28]	Energy and the environment; Human health protection; Land management and the environment [15]	
9.	Implementation of international agreements and commitments [43]	Energy and the environment; Forestry and the environment; Human health protection; Industry and the environment [27]	Education for sustainable development; Greening selected sectors [14]	
10.	Soil conservation [42]	Education for sustainable development; Transport and the environment [26]		
11.	Agriculture and the environment [40]	Public participation [24]		
12.	Education for sustainable development, Energy and the environment, Industry and the environment [39]	Land management and the environment [23]		
13.	Human health protection, Public participation [38]			
14.	Transport and the environment [36]			
15.	Forestry and the environment, Land management and the environment [35]			
<i>Tr.*</i>	<i>Up to 32</i>	<i>Up to 22</i>	<i>Up to 13</i>	<i>Up to 10</i>
16.	Hazard risk management [31]	Greening selected sectors; Human settlements and the environment [22]	Human settlements and the environment [13]	Hazard risk management; Transport and the environment [10]

17.	Human settlements and the environment [30]	Hazard risk management [21]	Hazard risk management [12]	Forestry and the environment; Human settlements and the environment [8]
18.	Greening selected sectors [29]			Greening selected sectors [7]

C. EPR assessment, conclusion and recommendations section

C.1: all 65 respondents

41. 44 of 65 respondents (68%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 12 (18%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter. 8 (12%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page, and 1 (1%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

42. 36 of 65 respondents (55%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 15 (23%) respondents agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

43. 27 of 65 respondents (41%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 17 (26%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 10 (15%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited, and 4 (6%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

44. 30 of 65 respondents (46%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. 23 (35%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 9 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 9 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR. 7 (11%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

45. 24 of 65 respondents (37%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 24 (37%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 32 (49%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 16 (25%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 41 (63%) respondents agree that 3–5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP. 6 (9%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

46. 37 of 65 respondents (57%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 26 (40%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-

finance their implementation through project-based activities. 2 (3%) respondents do not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

C.2: 44 governmental respondents

47. 33 of 44 respondents (75%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 9 (20%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter. 2 (4%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page.

48. 23 of 44 respondents (52%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 9 (20%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

49. 19 of 44 respondents (43%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 11 (25%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 3 (7%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited, and 3 (7%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

50. 19 of 44 respondents (43%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. 18 (41%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 8 (18%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR. 6 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 3 (7%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

51. 14 of 44 respondents (32%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 13 (29%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 19 (43%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 8 (18%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 24 (54%) respondents agree that 3-5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP. 6 (14%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

52. 26 of 44 respondents (59%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 17 (39%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 1 (2%) respondent does not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

C.3: 26 governmental respondents from beneficiary countries

53. 21 of 26 respondents (81%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 4 (15%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is

necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter, and 1 (4%) respondent agree that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page.

54. 14 of 26 respondents (54%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 6 (23%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

55. 16 of 26 respondents (61%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 3 (11%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 1 (4%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited.

56. 11 of 26 respondents (42%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. Also, 11 (42%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 6 (23%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR. 3 (11%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 1 (4%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

57. 6 of 26 respondents (23%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 7 (27%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 13 (50%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 5 (19%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 11 (42%) respondents agree that 3-5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP. 4 (15%) respondents have no opinion on the matter.

58. 14 of 26 respondents (54%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 11 (42%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 1 (4%) respondent does not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

C.4: 21 respondents that are CEP observers and regular authors of chapters

59. 11 of 21 respondents (52%) agree that the assessment should be composed of brief summaries of key findings in the chapter, including positive developments and challenges to be addressed. 6 (29%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should not exceed one page. 3 (14%) respondents agree that the length of the assessment should be as long as it is necessary to cover all important findings in the chapter, and 1 (5%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

60. 13 of 21 respondents (62%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include a brief justification of the recommendation made and may include some details useful for the country for implementing the recommendation. 4 (19%) agree that the content of the chapeau to the recommendation should include only a brief justification of the recommendation made.

61. 8 of 21 respondents (38%) agree that an EPR chapter can make as many recommendations as necessary for the country to improve its performance on theme(s) addressed in the chapter. 7 (33%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited to up to three recommendations, each with up to three sub-recommendations (a, b, c). 6 (29%) respondents agree that the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited, and 1 (5%) respondent has no opinion on the matter.

62. 11 of 21 respondents (52%) agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter and a short summary table or matrix should be included in an annex to the EPR, as per current practice. 5 (24%) respondents have no opinion on the matter. 4 (19%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in a separate annex to the EPR. 3 (14%) respondents agree that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be assessed in the core text of an EPR chapter. 1 (5%) respondent agrees that the status of recommendations of previous EPR should be shown only in a summary table or matrix included as an annex to the EPR; no assessment should be included in the EPR.

63. 10 of 21 respondents (48%) agree that the country under review is expected to develop a roadmap for implementing EPR recommendations. 11 (52%) respondents agree that given that the EPR recommendations are adopted by the UNECE CEP earlier than the EPR report is published, if feasible, country roadmap should be ready for the national launch of the EPR. 13 (62%) respondents agree that the implementation of the roadmap should be monitored and adjusted as necessary by the reviewed country. 8 (38%) respondents agree that progress on the implementation of the roadmap should be reported at the country level, on an annual basis. 17 (81%) respondents agree that 3-5 years after the EPR publication, the reviewed countries should consider undertaking a mid-term review of progress in implementing EPR recommendations by reporting to the UNECE CEP.

64. 11 of 21 respondents (52%) have no opinion on the question of whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 9 (43%) respondents agree that the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 1 (5%) respondent does not agree that the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable recommendations.

Annex 2: Detailed results of survey to inform preparation of an options paper on conduct of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs

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Introduction

1. The Fourth Cycle of the UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) was adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) in 2020 and endorsed by Ministers in Nicosia in 2022.
2. The document presenting the Fourth Cycle (ECE/NICOSIA.CONF/2022/12) was prepared by the Expert Group on EPRs, including by considering the results of a survey conducted in 2020 collecting views of national coordinators of EPRs in beneficiary countries, CEP Members and observers and regular authors of EPR chapters.
3. In September 2022, the Expert Group on EPRs initiated a discussion aimed at boosting the implementation rate of EPR recommendations, which has an average of 68 per cent. The Expert Group on EPRs' proposals included limiting the number of chapters per review and recommendations per chapter, organizing thematic workshops, promoting bankable recommendations and elaborating roadmaps for implementing recommendations.
4. In October 2022, CEP took note of activities to prepare for the Fourth Cycle and invited the Expert Group on EPRs to prepare additional guidance on the conduct of the Fourth Cycle for the consideration of CEP at its 28th session on 1–3 November 2023.
5. The survey analysed in the present document was intended to collect views from national coordinators of EPRs in beneficiary countries, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and regular authors of chapters. The survey was structured around EPR themes (with one or more themes covered in each chapter), chapters and recommendations. It also allowed the respondent to share other information pertinent for the conduct of the Fourth Cycle. Questions related to SDGs, gender, human rights and vulnerable groups were not included in the survey as they are mandatory to be addressed in EPRs.
6. Sixty-five respondents completed the survey. Eleven of the respondents are national coordinators of EPRs in beneficiary countries (Coordinator in the figures), 28 are CEP Members or observers (CEP in the figures), 4 are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs (EG in the figures) and 22 are chapter authors (Author in the figures) (table 1.a). Of the 65 respondents, 26 are governmental representatives of EPR beneficiary

countries, 18 are governmental representatives of other member States and 21 are experts, including CEP observers and authors⁵ of EPR chapters (table 1.b).

7. The survey results will be used to prepare an options paper to underpin additional guidance on the conduct of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs to be examined by the Expert Group on EPRs and submitted to the CEP.

Table 1.a: Respondents to the survey

Capacity	No.
National coordinator of an EPR	11
CEP Member or observer	28
Member of the Expert Group on EPRs	4
Chapter author	22
Total	65

Table 1.b: Respondents to the survey

Capacity	No.
Beneficiary country	26
Other member country	18
Expert	21
Total	65

I. EPR themes

A. Background

8. The questions regarding EPR themes aimed to collect views on priority themes, noting that multiple themes are often covered in each chapter. In the adopted content of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs, it is stipulated that the decision on the substantive content of Fourth Cycle reviews will continue to be taken in a flexible manner, guided by the specific needs of each reviewed country. Furthermore, Fourth Cycle reviews will cover similar topics to the Third Cycle reviews, addressing environmental governance and financing, the domestic-international interface, media and pollution management, and integration of environment into selected sectors. Moreover, the review of several themes will be strengthened depending on the needs of countries under review, including climate change, green economy and circular economy, environmental human rights, vulnerable groups, and addressing and monitoring progress on the implementation of SDGs.

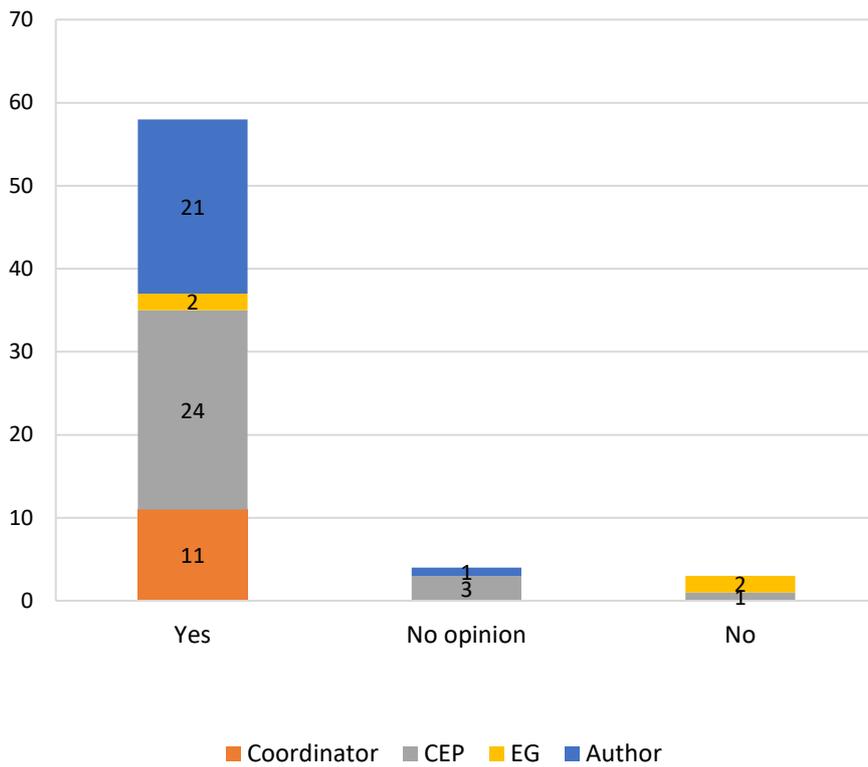
B. Survey results

9. Respondents were asked whether some themes should be mandatory for an EPR. 58 respondents answered in the affirmative, 3 answered in the negative, and 4 expressed no opinion on the matter.

10. As illustrated in Figure 1.a, of the 58 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 11 are national coordinators of EPRs, 24 are CEP Members or observers, 2 are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and 21 are chapter authors. Of the three respondents who answered in the negative, one is a CEP Member or observer and two are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs. Of the four respondents who expressed no opinion, three are CEP Members or observers and one is a chapter author.

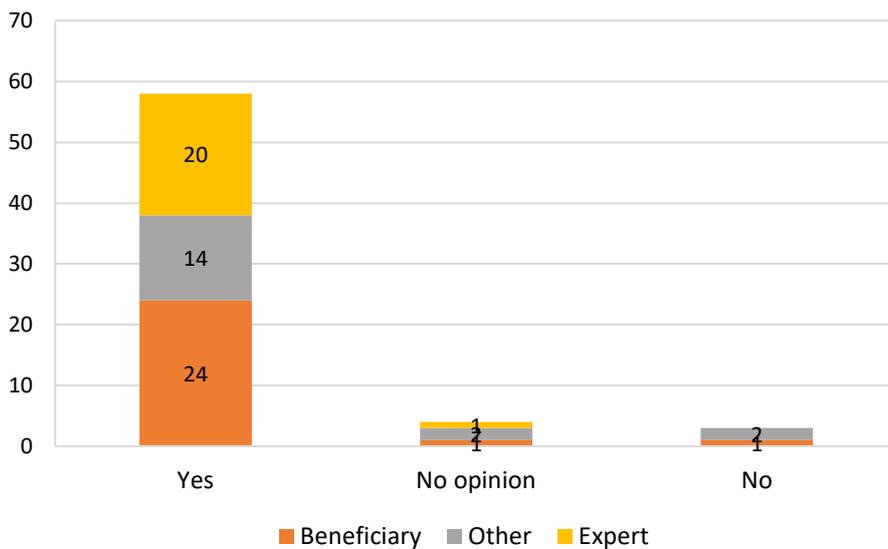
⁵ Five authors (governmental representatives, including one from EPR beneficiary countries), are counted together other member country and beneficiary country, respectively.

Figure 1.a: Should some themes be mandatory for an EPR?



11. Of the 58 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 24 are from beneficiary countries, 14 are from other member States and 20 are experts (figure 1.b). Of the three respondents who answered in the negative, one is from a beneficiary country and two are from other member States. Of the four respondents who expressed no opinion, one is from a beneficiary country, two are from other member States and one is an expert.

Figure 1.b: Should some themes be mandatory for an EPR?



12. The respondents who answered in the affirmative to the previous question were asked to select from a list the themes that should be mandatory for an EPR. Figure 2.a illustrates the list of themes, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each theme. Figure 2.b

shows the list of themes, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each theme.

13. All respondents were asked to select from a list, which was wider than the previous one, the themes that are important for an EPR. Figure 3.a illustrates the list of themes, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each theme. Figure 3.b shows the list of themes, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each theme.

14. Respondents were asked to share other ideas on themes that they might have deemed important for an EPR. Nineteen respondents shared their ideas.

- Some respondents suggested specific issues to include in the analysis of the themes identified in the lists above. One CEP Member or observer proposed to include within financing, considerations on sustainable finance and the use of taxonomy and the “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) principles and social standards, such as the respect of human rights and transparency and reporting on sustainability. Another CEP Member or observer suggested considering Strategic Environmental Assessments and including within education public awareness-raising. Another CEP Member or observer highlighted the importance of climate adaptation, and in particular of nature-based solutions. One national coordinator of an EPR underlined the importance of ocean management. Another national coordinator of an EPR proposed considering non-state measures to monitor compliance with legal requirements. One Member of the Expert Group on EPRs suggested focusing on the water-food-energy nexus, including production efficiency and virtual water. Another Member of the Expert Group on EPRs underlined the importance of illustrating the best available techniques in all themes. One chapter author proposed to consider spatial planning, and that agriculture should include fisheries and fish-farming. Another chapter author underlined the importance of considering whether physical, spatial, land-use and development planning includes environmental policies, and including ecosystem restoration issues within biodiversity. Another chapter author proposed focusing on population’s health within human health. Four other chapter authors respectively suggested to include considerations on (i) land-use management, statistics and inter- and intra-agency cooperation, (ii) ecosystem services, consumption patterns and renewable energies, (iii) the convergence of public policies, and (iv) accreditation.
- Some respondents focused on the relevance of themes. According to one Member of the Expert Group on EPRs, the themes important for an EPR are the ones that are important for the country under review to get an expert assessment of. One chapter author suggested that some themes should be mandatory, and that it would then be up to the beneficiary countries to select the other themes.
- Some respondents shared their considerations concerning how to structure the analysis of themes. One chapter author proposed to reframe the current EPR structure with the main “strands” (environmental governance & financing; domestic-international interface; media and pollution management and integration of environmental concerns in selected sectors) using, to the extent possible, the so-called “chains of causality” (such as the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response Framework (DPSIR)), which would result in a more analytical review of countries’ environmental policy efforts along the different themes, and in the avoidance of potential repetitions of some parts, e.g., in the environmental governance and other thematic chapters, in the health and media and pollution chapters. According to the same respondent, the developments along the nexus approach that are under way should be intensified and piloting for selected themes and countries already in the 4th round should be considered. Another chapter author suggested that, since some of the themes are interrelated, they might be addressed under an overarching one. One national coordinator of an EPR suggested enhancing the EPR’s capacity to be a bridge between national environmental policy and

global programs, to allow the countries reviewed to soften the transition to international standards through the different tools of the EPR recommendations.

Figure 2.a: What themes should be mandatory for an EPR?

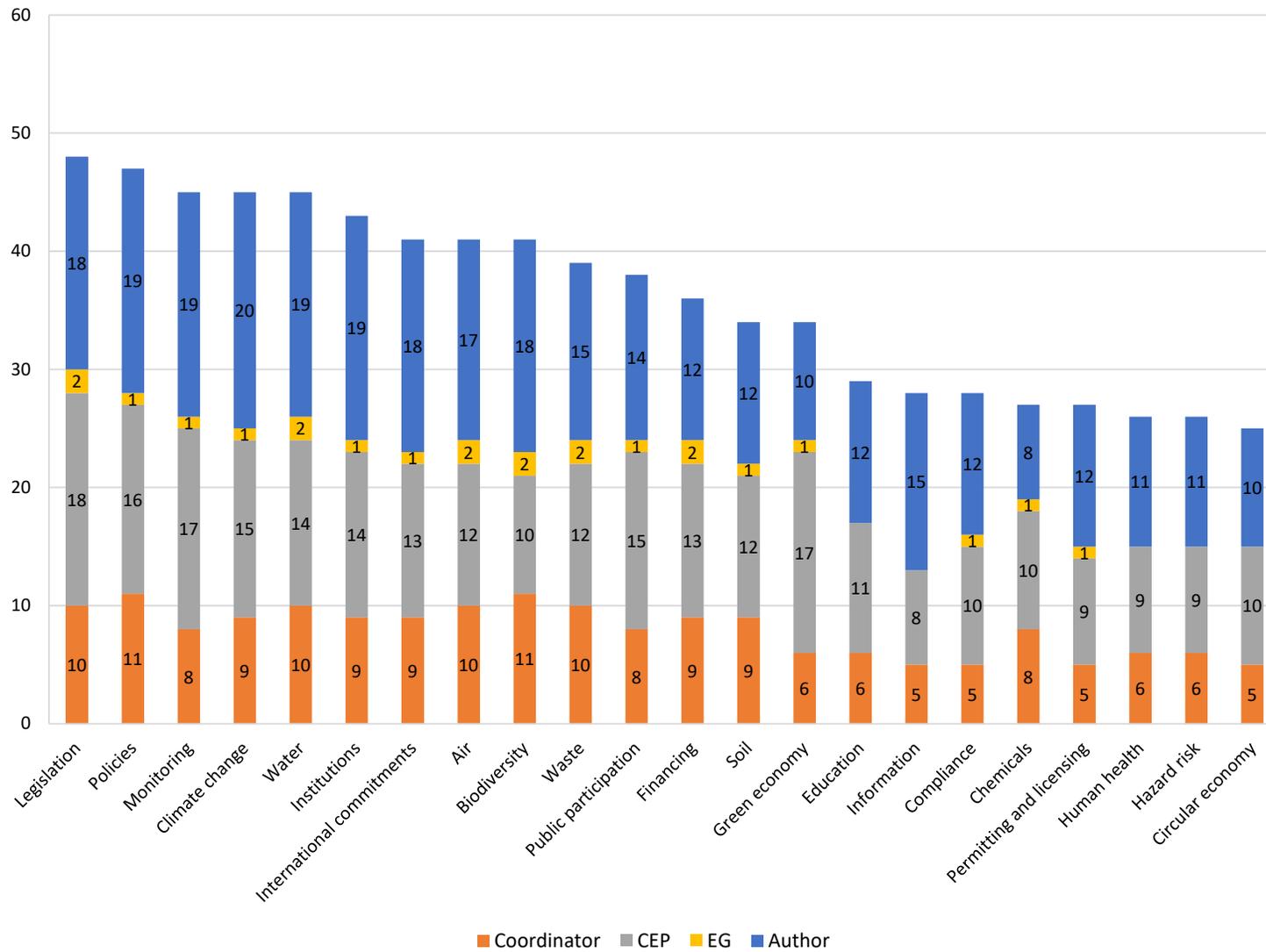


Figure 2.b: What themes should be mandatory for an EPR?

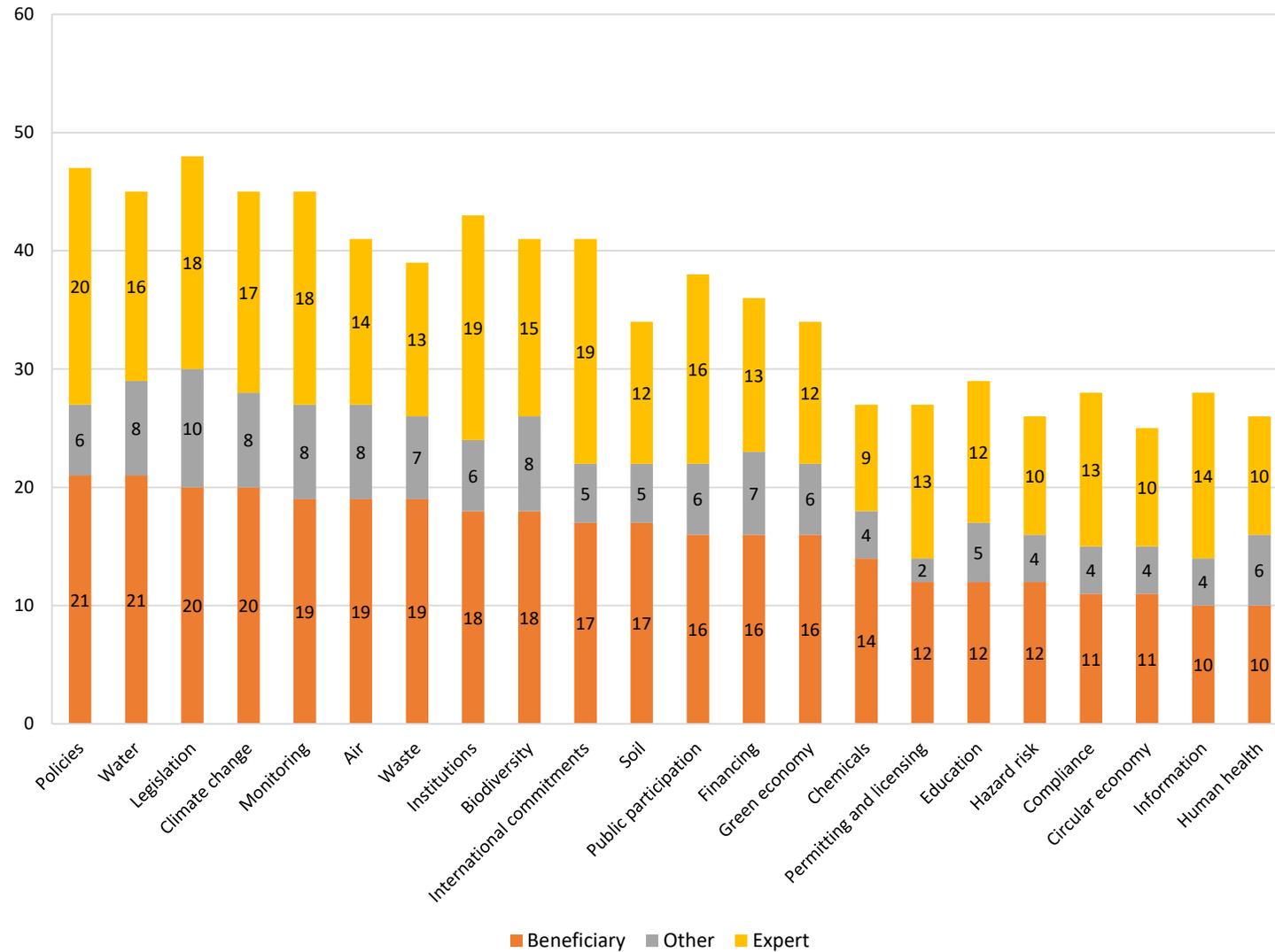


Figure 3.a: What themes are important for an EPR?

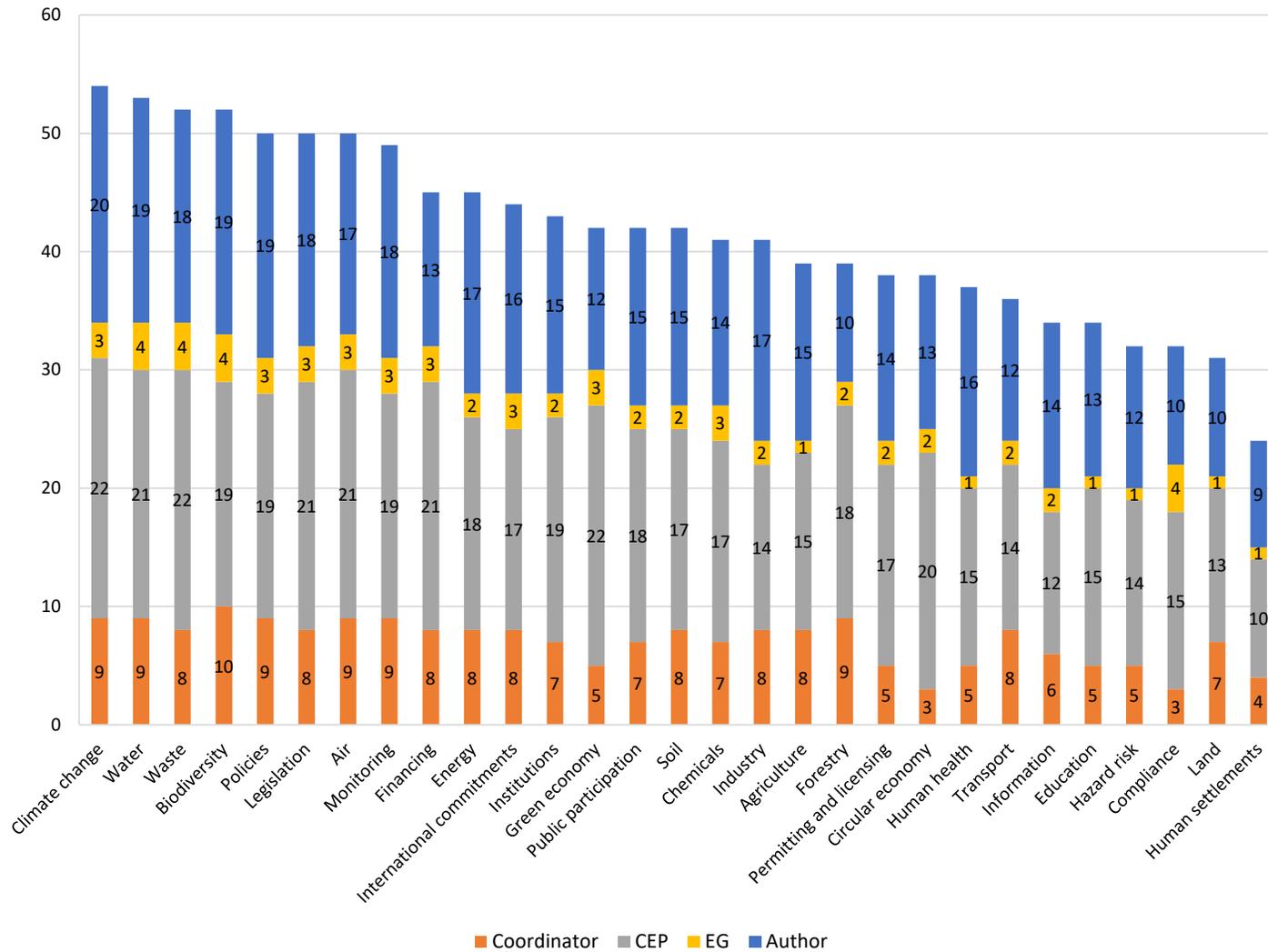
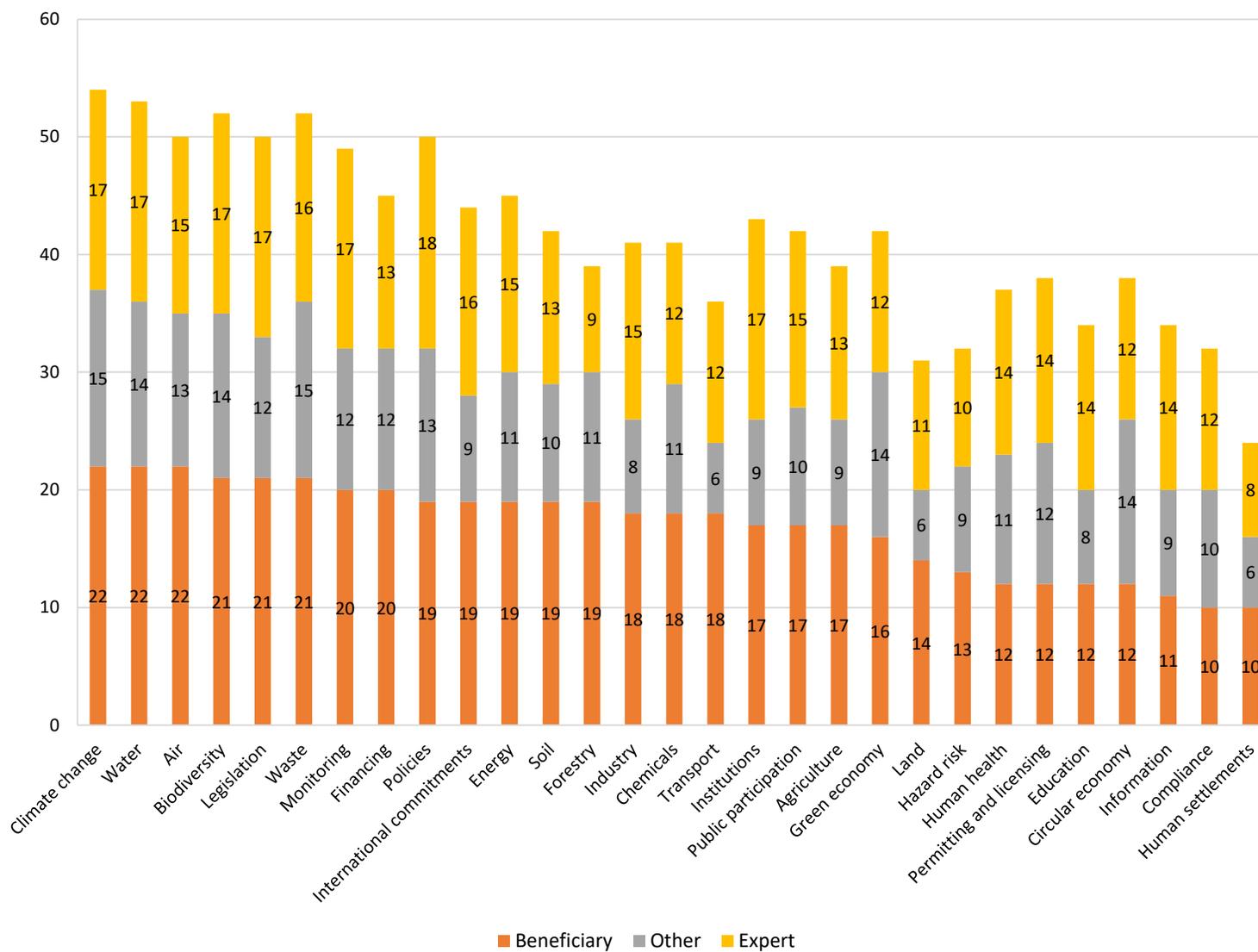


Figure 3.b: What themes are important for an EPR?



II. EPR chapters

A. Background

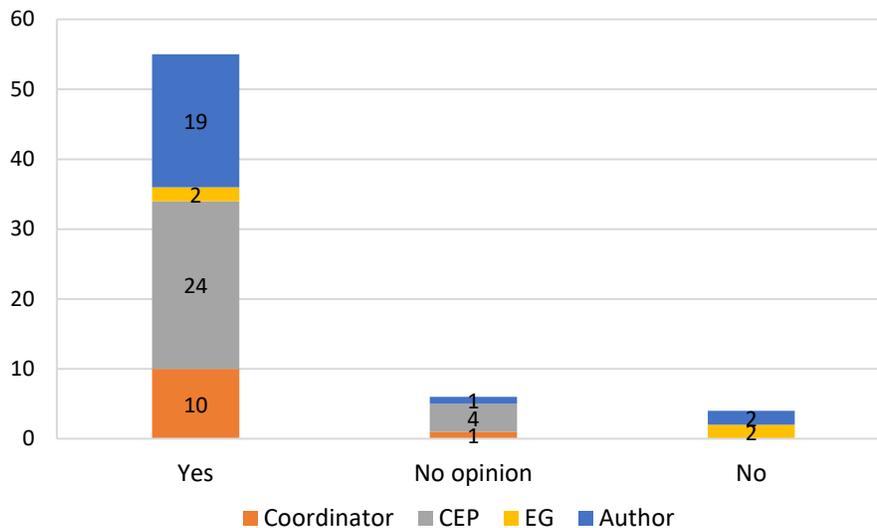
15. The questions regarding EPR chapters aimed to collect views on priority chapters and modalities of their selection for an EPR. The document on the Fourth Cycle of EPRs states that the structure of the Fourth Cycle of EPRs will largely remain the same as for the Third Cycle, with some adjustments, if deemed necessary to rationalize the use of the EPR report. A suggested structure of Fourth Cycle reviews is included in the document with the understanding that it can be adapted to the needs of each country under review. The Fourth Cycle of EPRs also foresees a nexus approach, which is still under development and was therefore not covered by the survey. The Expert Group on EPRs proposes to streamline the EPRs, including by reducing the number of chapters in an EPR.

B. Survey results

16. Respondents were asked whether some chapters should be mandatory for an EPR. 55 respondents answered in the affirmative, 4 answered in the negative, and 6 expressed no opinion on the matter.

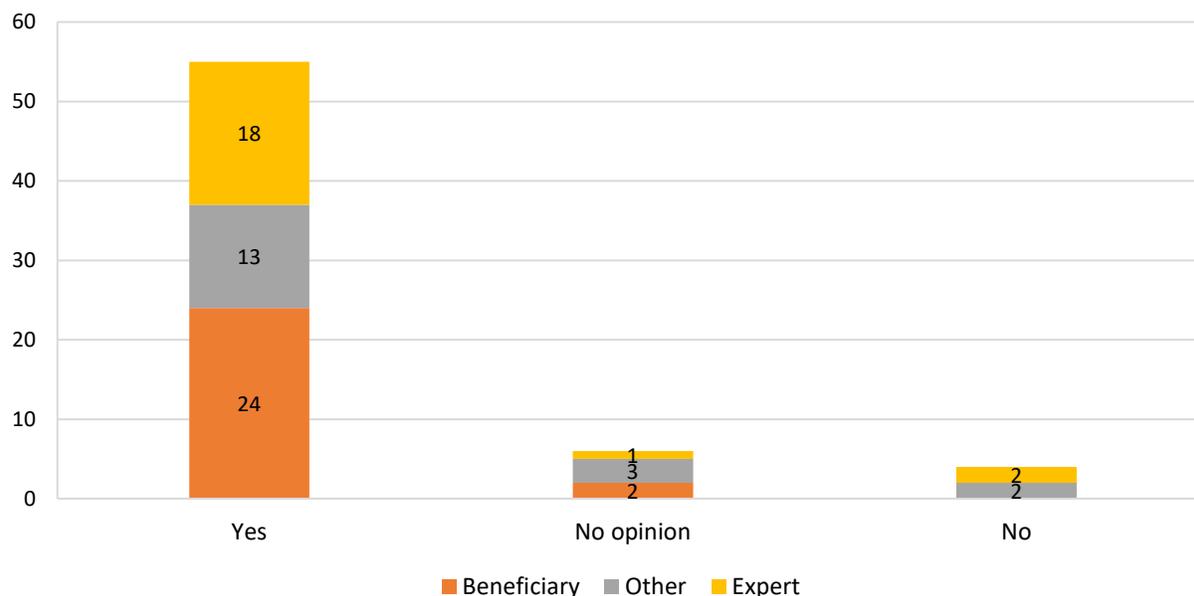
17. As illustrated in Figure 4.a, of the 55 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 10 are national coordinators of EPRs, 24 are CEP Members or observers, 2 are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and 19 are chapter authors. Of the four respondents who answered in the negative, two are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and two are chapter authors. Of the six respondents who expressed no opinion, one is national coordinator of EPRs, four are CEP Members or observers and one is a chapter author.

Figure 4.a: Should some chapters be mandatory for an EPR?



18. As illustrated in Figure 4.b, of the 55 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 24 are from beneficiary countries, 13 are from other member States and 18 are experts. Of the four respondents who answered in the negative two are from other member States and two are experts. Of the six respondents who expressed no opinion, two are from beneficiary countries, three are from other member States and one is expert.

Figure 4.b: Should some chapters be mandatory for an EPR?



19. The respondents who answered in the affirmative to the previous question were asked to select from a list the chapters that should be mandatory for an EPR. Figure 5.a illustrates the list of chapters, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each chapter. Figure 5.b shows the list of chapters, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each chapter.

20. All respondents were asked to select from a list wider than the previous one the chapters that are important for an EPR. Figure 6.a illustrates the list of chapters, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each chapter. Figure 6.b shows the list of chapters, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each chapter.

21. Respondents were asked to share their views on the content of a streamlined and consolidated EPR, while keeping in mind that the number of chapters of a given EPR might be limited by the in-kind and financial resources available for the EPR. Respondents were asked to select one or more options from a list. Figure 7.a illustrates the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each option. Figure 7.b shows the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each option.

Figure 5.a: What chapters should be mandatory for an EPR?

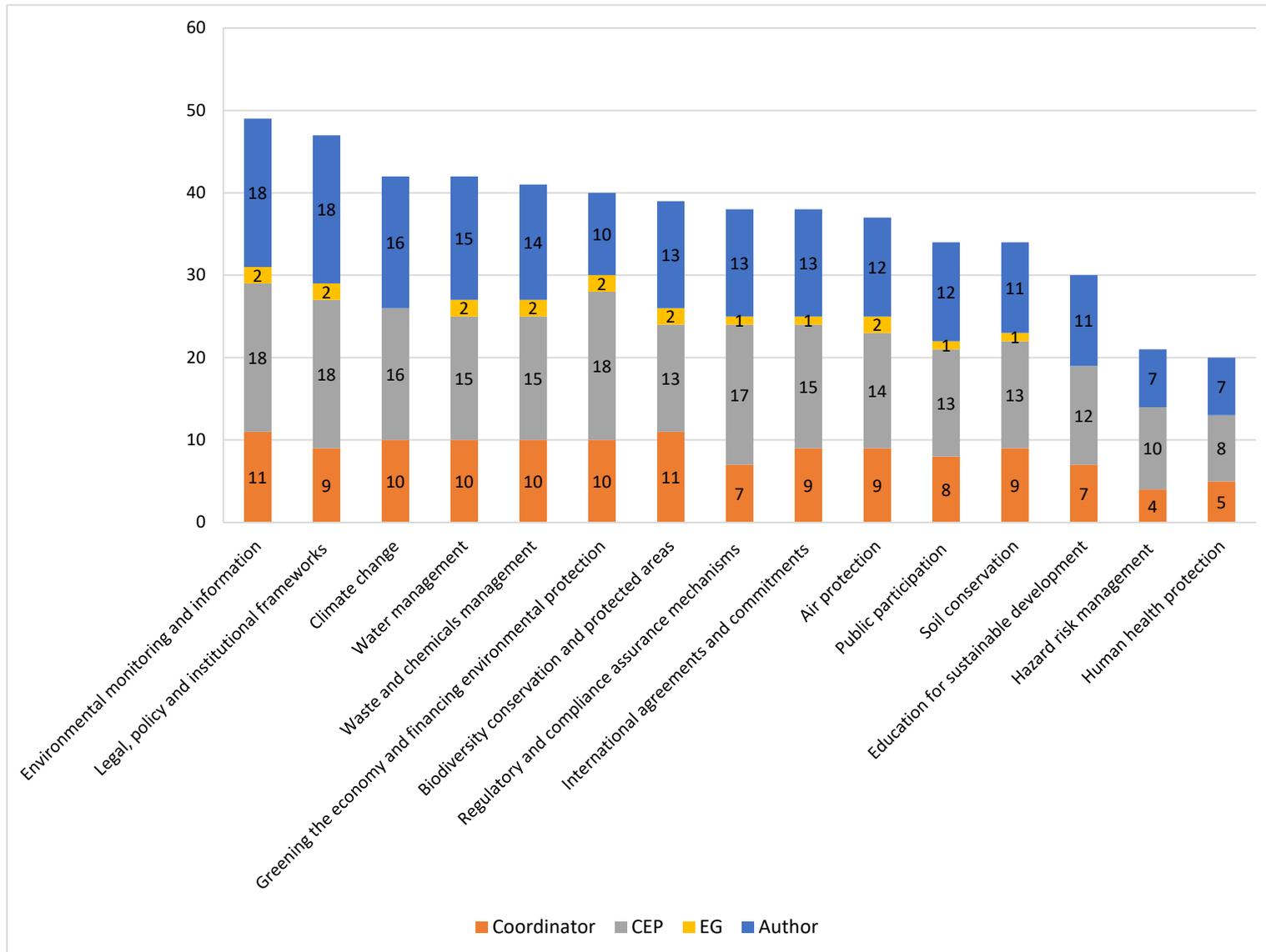


Figure 5.b: What chapters should be mandatory for an EPR?

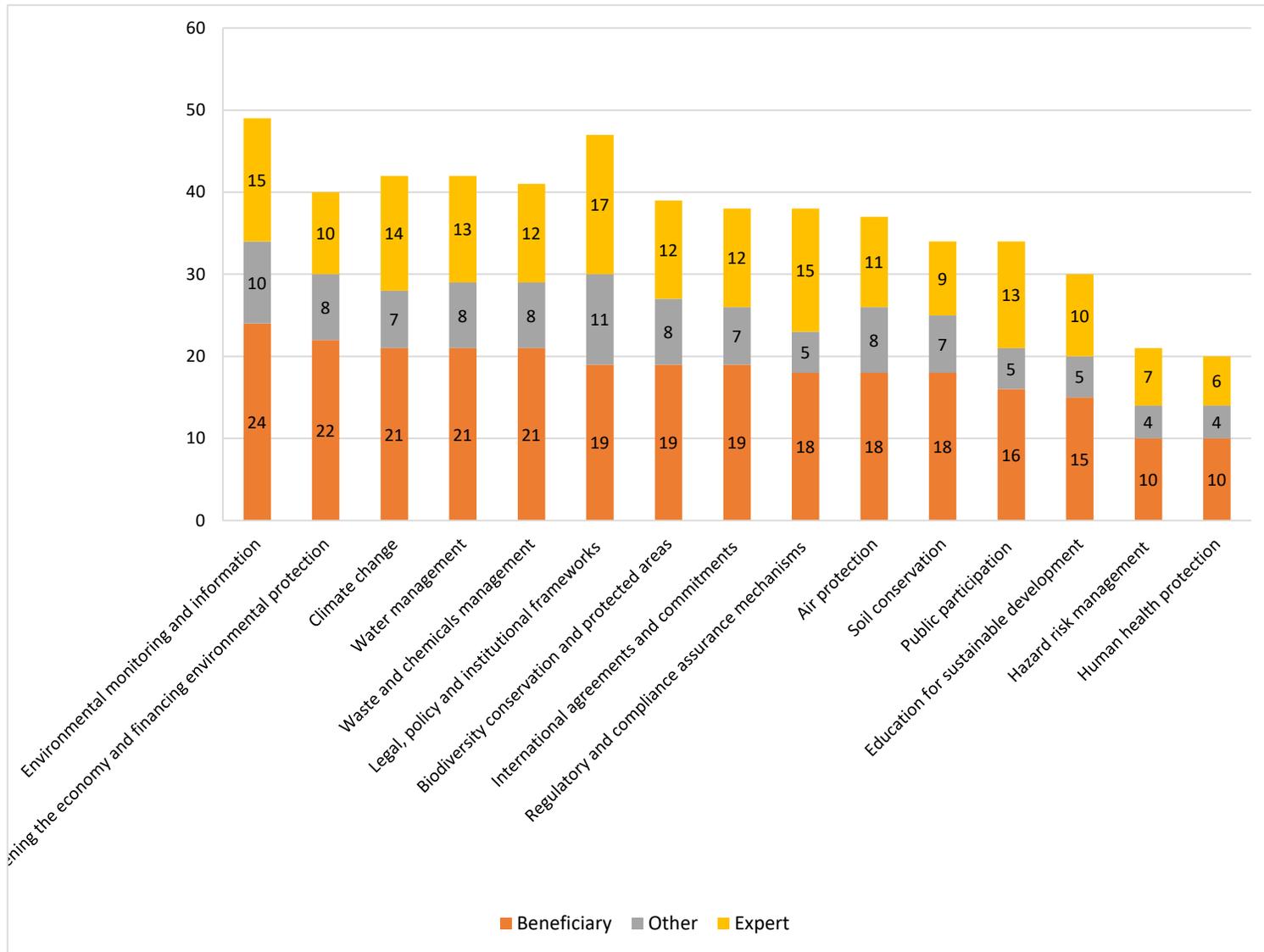


Figure 6.a: What chapters are important for an EPR?

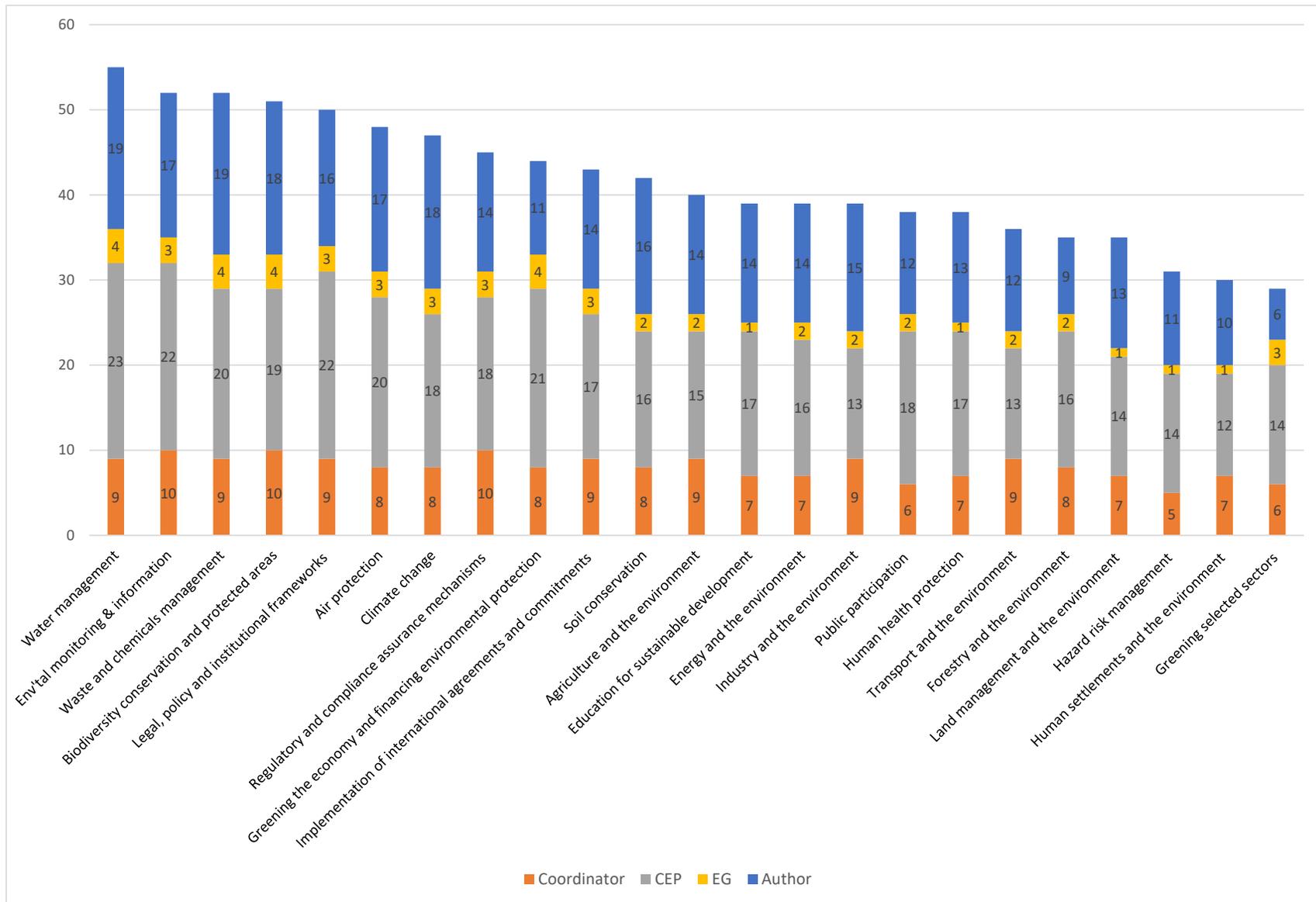


Figure 6.b: What chapters are important for an EPR?

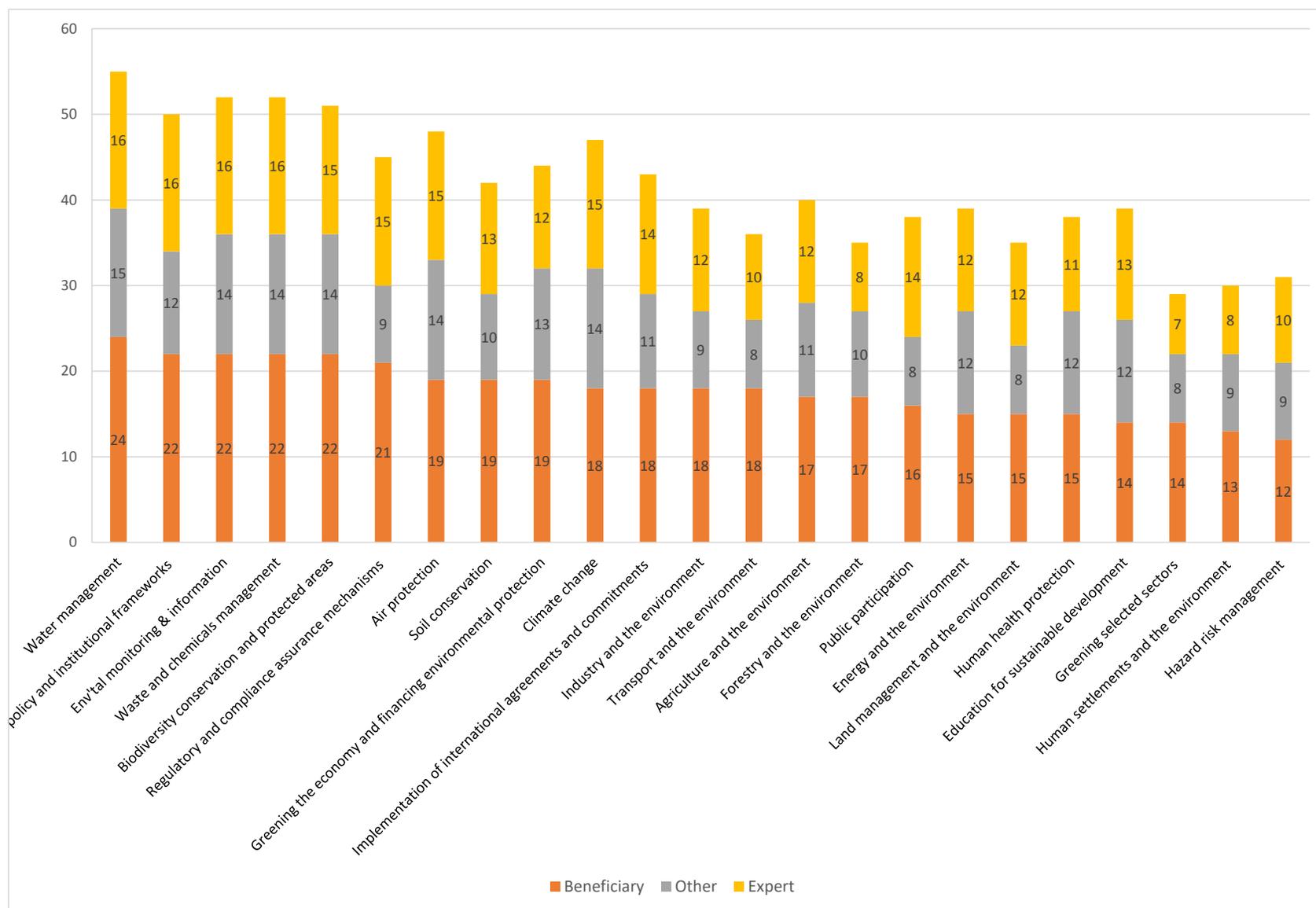


Figure 7.a: Views on the content of a streamlined and consolidated EPR.

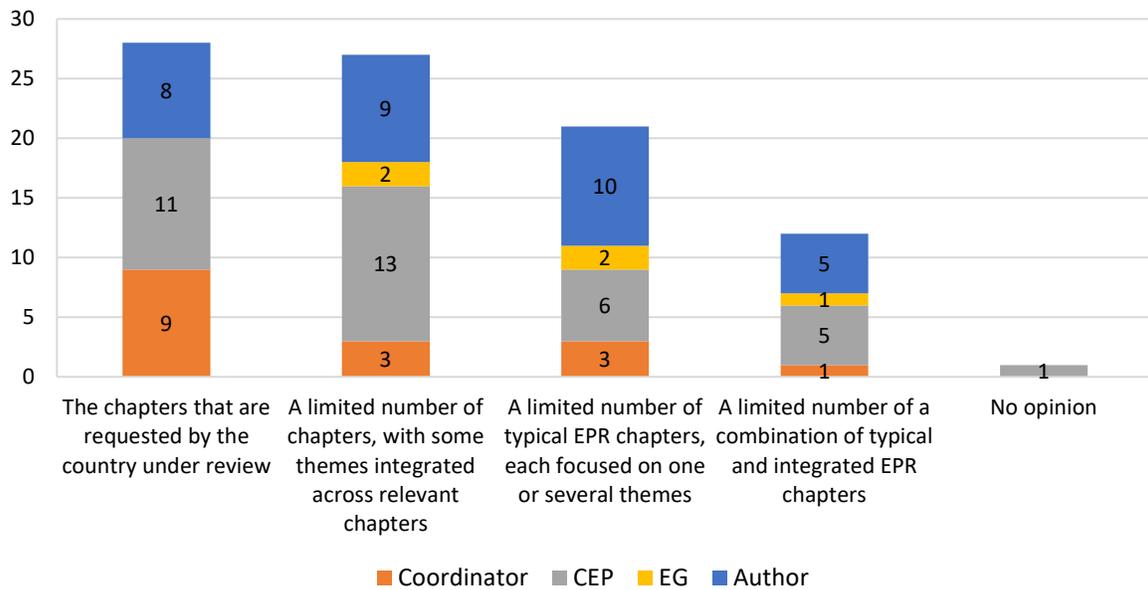
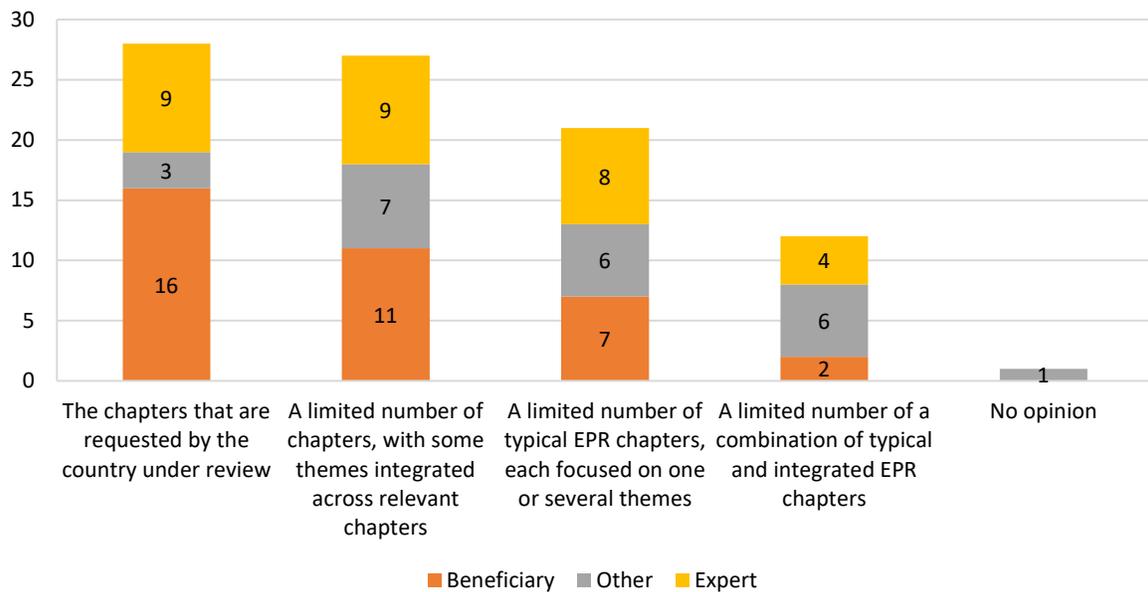


Figure 7.b: Views on the content of a streamlined and consolidated EPR.

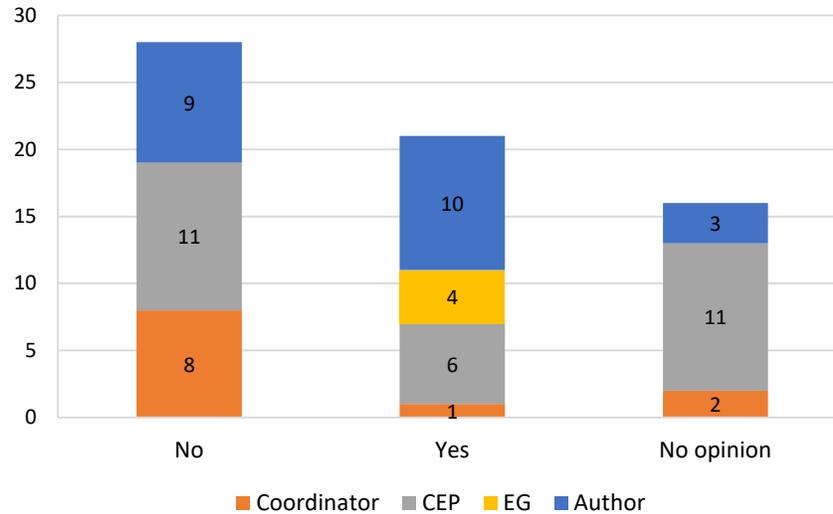


22. Respondents were asked whether there should be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR. 21 respondents answered in the affirmative, 28 respondents answered in the negative, and 16 respondents expressed no opinion on the matter.

23. As illustrated in Figure 8.a, of the 21 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 1 is a national coordinator of an EPR, 6 are CEP Members or observers, 4 are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and 10 are chapter authors. Out of the 28 respondents who answered in the negative, 8 are national coordinators of EPRs, 11

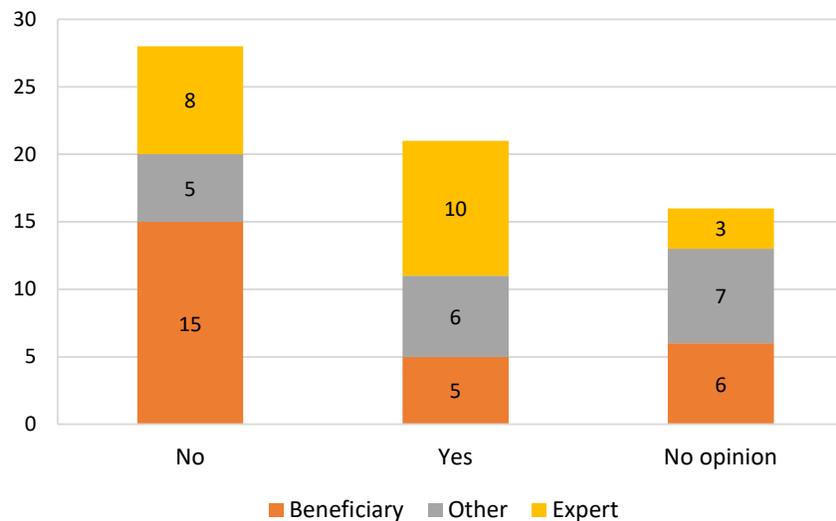
are CEP Members or observers and 9 are chapter authors. Out of the 16 respondents who expressed no opinion on the matter, 2 are national coordinators of EPRs, 11 are CEP Members or observers and 3 are chapter authors.

Figure 8.a: Should there be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR?



24. As illustrated in Figure 8.b, of the 21 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 5 are from beneficiary countries, 6 are from other member States and 10 are experts. Out of the 28 respondents who answered in the negative, 15 are from beneficiary countries, 5 are from other member States and 8 are experts. Out of the 16 respondents who expressed no opinion on the matter, 6 are from beneficiary countries, 7 are from other member States and 3 are experts.

Figure 8.b: Should there be a numeric limit on the number of chapters in an EPR?



25. The respondents who answered in the affirmative to the previous question were asked to indicate how many chapters an EPR should comprise. Respondents were asked to select one option from a list. Figure 9.a illustrates the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each option. Figure 9.b shows the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each option.

Figure 9.a: How many chapters should an EPR comprise?

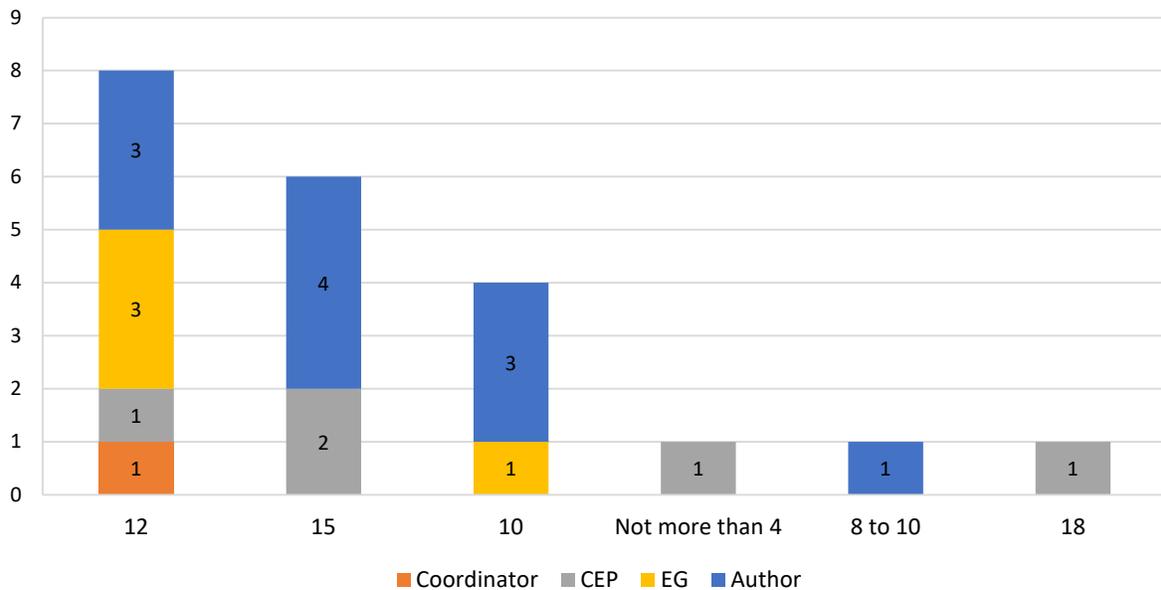
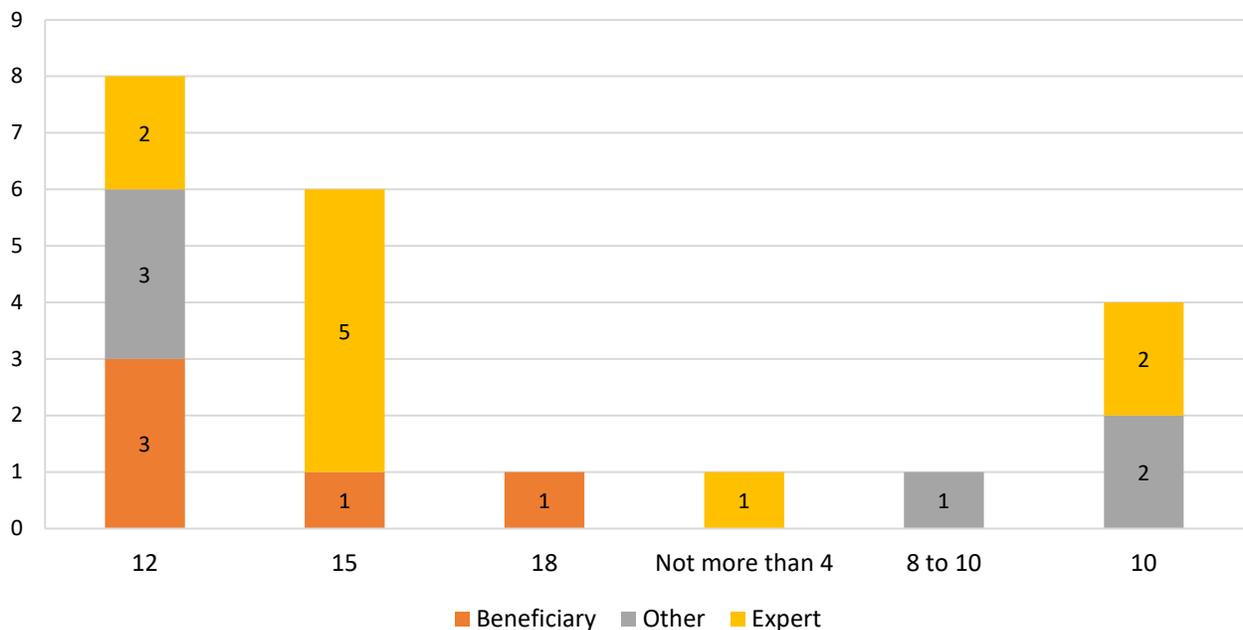


Figure 9.b: How many chapters should an EPR comprise?



26. All respondents were asked to share their views on how chapters for an EPR should be selected. Respondents were asked to select one option from a list. Figure 10.a illustrates the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each option. Figure 10.b shows the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each option.

Figure 10.a: How should chapters for an EPR be selected?

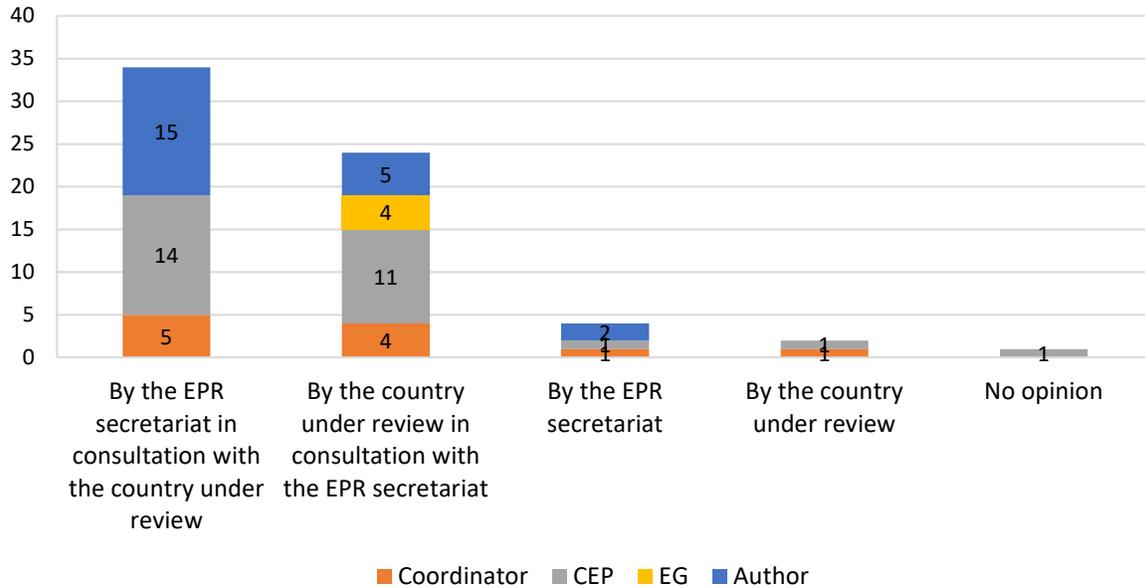
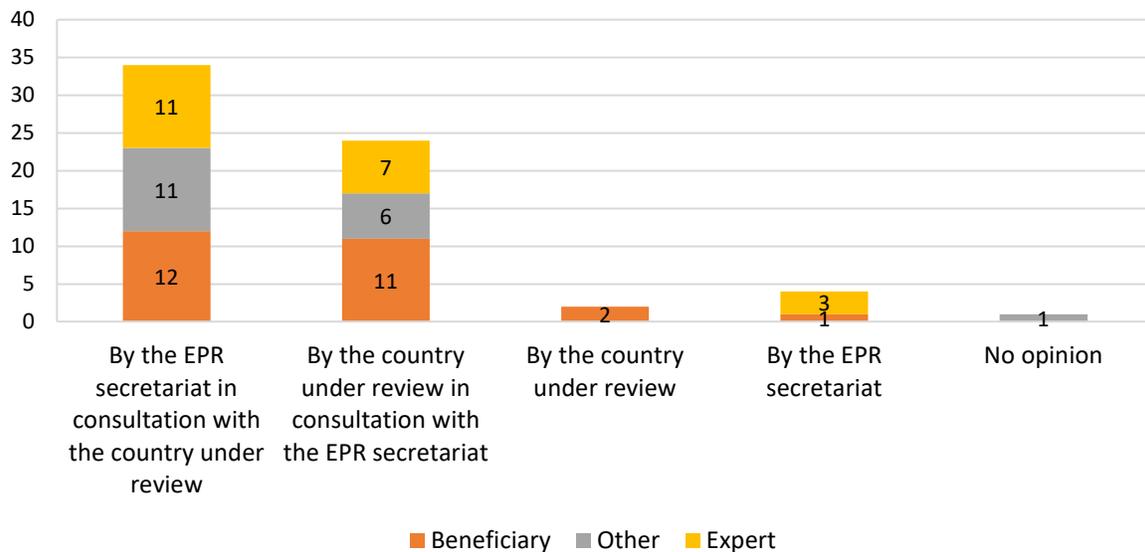


Figure 10.b: How should chapters for an EPR be selected?



27. Respondents were asked to share other ideas on chapters they might have deemed important for an EPR. Fourteen respondents shared their ideas.

- Some respondents focused on the selection of chapters. One national coordinator of an EPR suggested that chapters should be selected to highlight a country's environmental policy and its limitations. Another national coordinator of an EPR wrote that the chapters should be selected with the consensus of the parties. One chapter author highlighted the importance of agreeing with the country reviewed on the aims of the EPR and the most appropriate chapters. Another chapter author suggested that the selection of chapters should be made using information and assessments of the situation, progress and needs of the country reviewed. Another chapter author proposed thinking in advance about some sets of chapters that could be appropriate and proposed to the country reviewed. Another chapter author expressed the view that, in principle, the country reviewed makes the first choice of what the scope of the EPR should be. However, since some topics are interrelated and may even overlap, it would not be a completely rigid choice. In addition, it would be essential that the EPR Secretariat helped the country concerned with the choice, clarify interrelationships and dependencies between the various topics and chapters, and highlight the benefits of the outcomes of an EPR for the country reviewed, in order to guide the scope of the EPR, which could eventually become wider.
- Some respondents suggested considerations to include or rethink in chapters. One CEP Member or observer proposed including concrete examples of how to possibly implement some measures. One national coordinator of an EPR highlighted the importance of recording the recommendations from the previous EPR documents that were implemented and to audit those that were not implemented, with an explanation as to why they were not implemented. Another national coordinator of an EPR expressed the view that the use of some SDG Indicators, too artificial to provide valuable information and measure the country's performance (progress, or the lack thereof), should be re-considered, especially Indicators that cannot easily be interpreted, or directly linked to the country's performance. Example: Indicator 15.4.2 (Mountain Green Cover Index), which data aggregation method does not allow to differentiate between e.g., close canopy high growing stock temperate broadleaf mountain forest and poor mountain grassland or cropland in arid areas. Moreover, Indicator 15.4.2 automatically discriminates countries with high (thus barren) mountains harbouring remains of glaciers (natural features not resulting from the environmental performance of a country) versus countries having low or medium-high mountains, but with some vegetation cover (regardless of whether rainforest or poor cropland).
- One chapter author proposed transparency and consumption patterns as possible additional chapters.
- One chapter author suggested that sector chapters such as transport, agriculture, energy, forestry and the domestic-international interface could be taken up in the media and pollution management chapters.

III. EPR assessment, conclusions and recommendations section

A. Background

28. The survey aimed to collect views on the section "Assessment, conclusion and recommendations" at the end of an EPR chapter and on enhancing the implementation of EPR recommendations. The document on the Fourth Cycle of EPRs contains provisions related to the implementation of EPR recommendations, including enhancing ownership and the implementation rate by the reviewed countries, organizing national and regional workshops and other events, engaging United Nations Country Teams and helping reviewed countries to promote bankable recommendations. In addition, the Nicosia Ministerial Declaration encourages countries to develop

roadmaps for implementing EPR recommendations. The Expert Group on EPRs proposes to reduce the number of EPR recommendations to boost their implementation rate during a period of about 5-7 years after the release of EPR publication.

B. Survey results

29. Respondents were asked to share their views on the concluding assessment at the end of an EPR chapter. Respondents were asked to select one option from a list. Figure 11.a illustrates the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each option. Figure 11.b shows the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each option.

30. Respondents were asked to share their views on conclusions (chapeau to the recommendation) and recommendations of an EPR chapter. Respondents were asked to select one or more options from a list. Figure 12.a illustrates the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each option. Figure 12.b shows the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each option.

31. The respondents who selected the option that “the number of recommendations per chapter should be limited” were asked to indicate the maximum number to include. Two respondents indicated a maximum of three recommendations; three indicated a maximum of five recommendations; one indicated a maximum of five to six recommendations; two indicated a maximum of six recommendations; one answered that it is difficult to indicate a maximum number, and rather proposed to consider identifying priority/core recommendations; one did not express an opinion on the matter.

Figure 11.a: Views on the concluding assessment at the end of an EPR chapter.

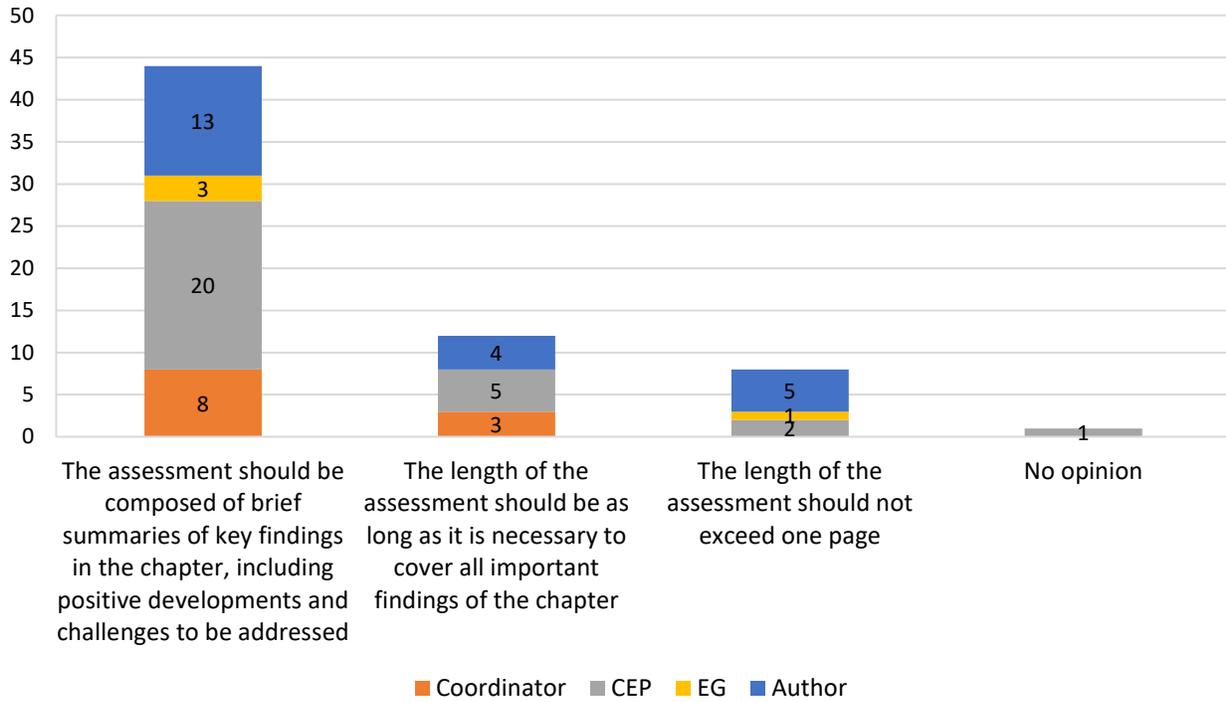


Figure 11.b: Views on the concluding assessment at the end of an EPR chapter.

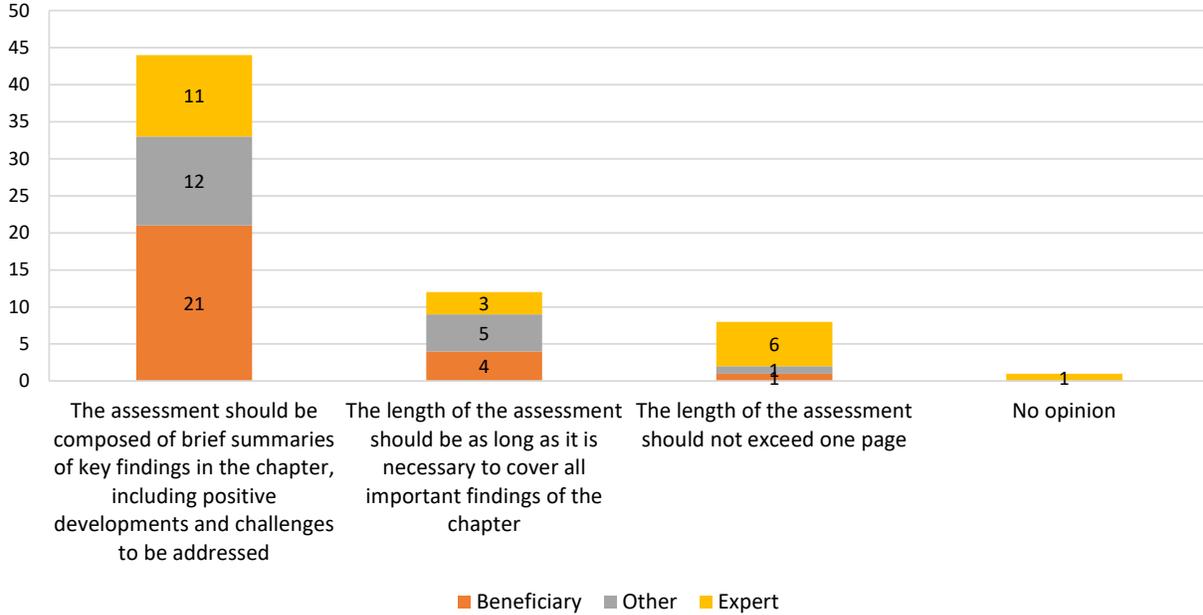


Figure 12.a: Views on conclusions and recommendations of an EPR chapter.

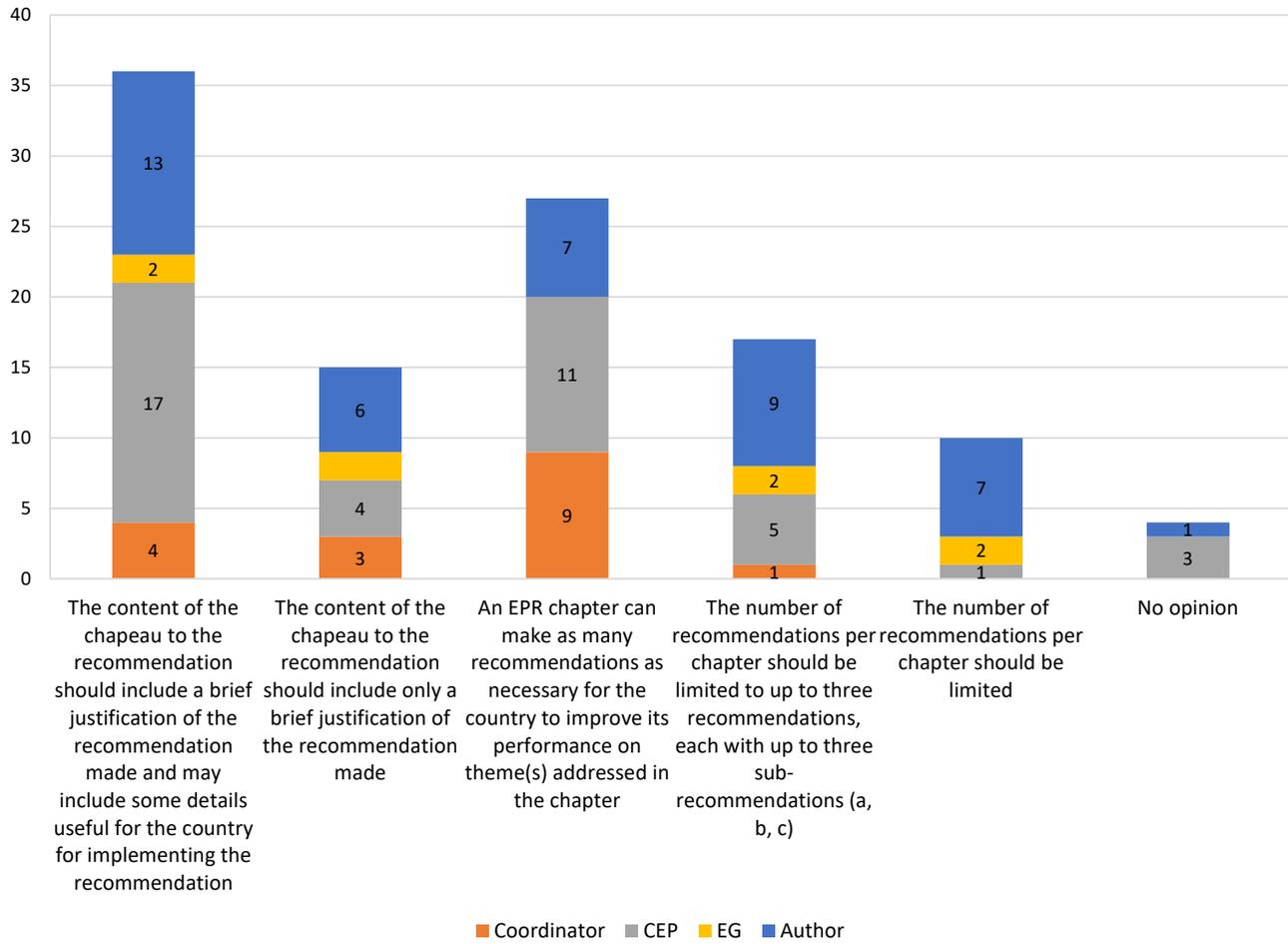
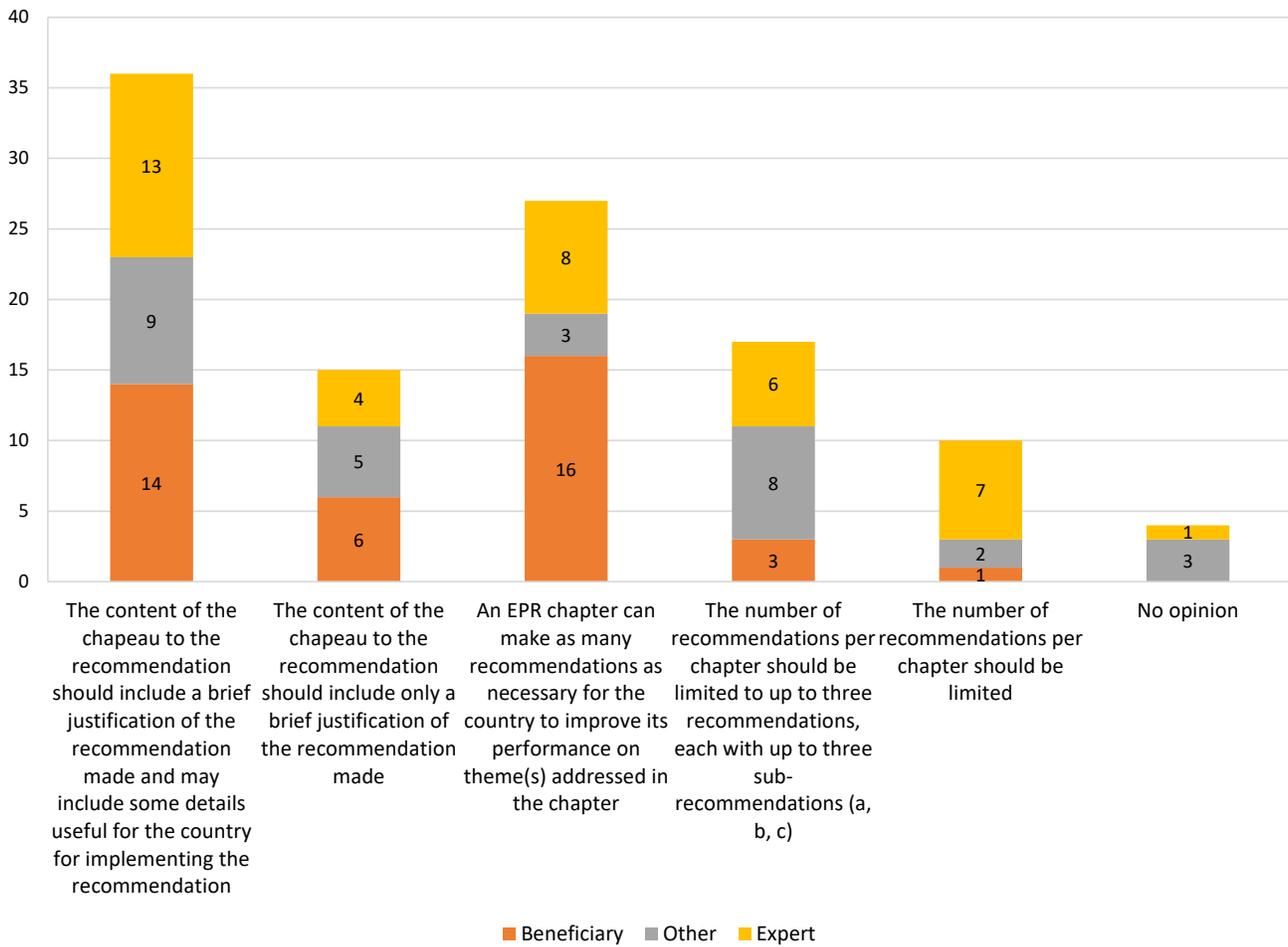


Figure 12.b: Views on conclusions and recommendations of an EPR chapter.



32. Respondents were asked to share their views on assessing the status of implementation of recommendations of the previous EPR of the country under review. Respondents were asked to select one or more options from a list. Figure 13.a illustrates the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each option. Figure 13.b shows the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each option.

Figure 13.a: Views on assessing the status of implementation of recommendations of the previous EPR of the country under review.

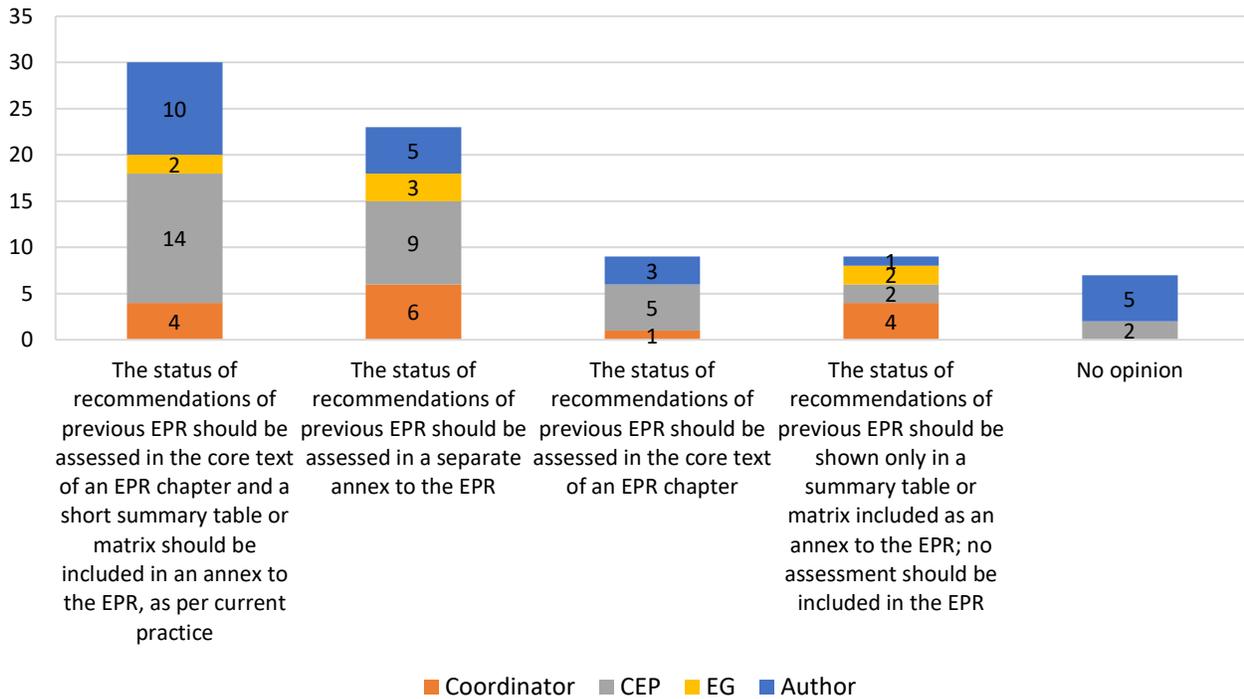
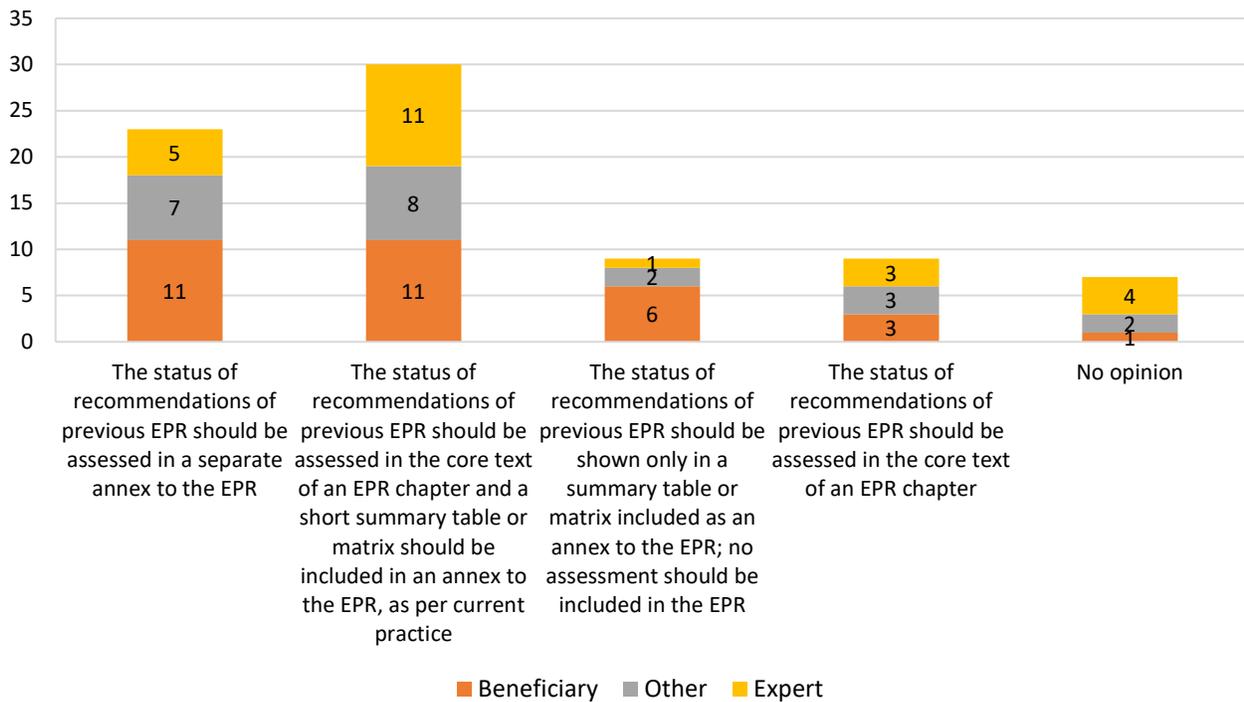


Figure 13.b: Views on assessing the status of implementation of recommendations of the previous EPR of the country under review.



33. Respondents were asked to share their views on country roadmaps for implementing EPR recommendations as a mechanism for timely, coordinated and coherent action to implement EPR recommendations. Respondents were asked to select one or more options from a list. Figure 14.a illustrates the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of national coordinators of EPRs, CEP Members and observers, Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and chapter authors who selected each option. Figure 14.b shows the list of options, the total number of respondents that selected them and the number of beneficiary countries, other member States and experts who selected each option.

34. Respondents were asked whether the reviewed country should identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities. 26 respondents answered in the affirmative, 2 respondents answered in the negative, and 37 respondents expressed no opinion on the matter.

35. As illustrated in Figure 15.a, of the 26 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 7 are national coordinators of EPRs, 8 are CEP Members or observers, 2 are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and 9 are chapter authors. The two respondents who answered in the negative are CEP Members or observers. Of the 37 respondents who expressed no opinion, 4 are national coordinators of EPRs, 18 are CEP Members or observers, 2 are Members of the Expert Group on EPRs and 13 are chapter authors.

36. Figure 15.b shows that, of the 26 respondents who answered in the affirmative, 11 are from beneficiary countries, 6 are from other member States and 9 are experts. Of the two respondents who answered in the negative, one is from a beneficiary country and one is expert. Of the 37 respondents who expressed no opinion, 14 are from beneficiary countries, 12 are from other member States and 11 are experts.

Figure 14.a: Views on country roadmaps for implementing EPR recommendations as a mechanism for timely, coordinated and coherent action to implement EPR recommendations.

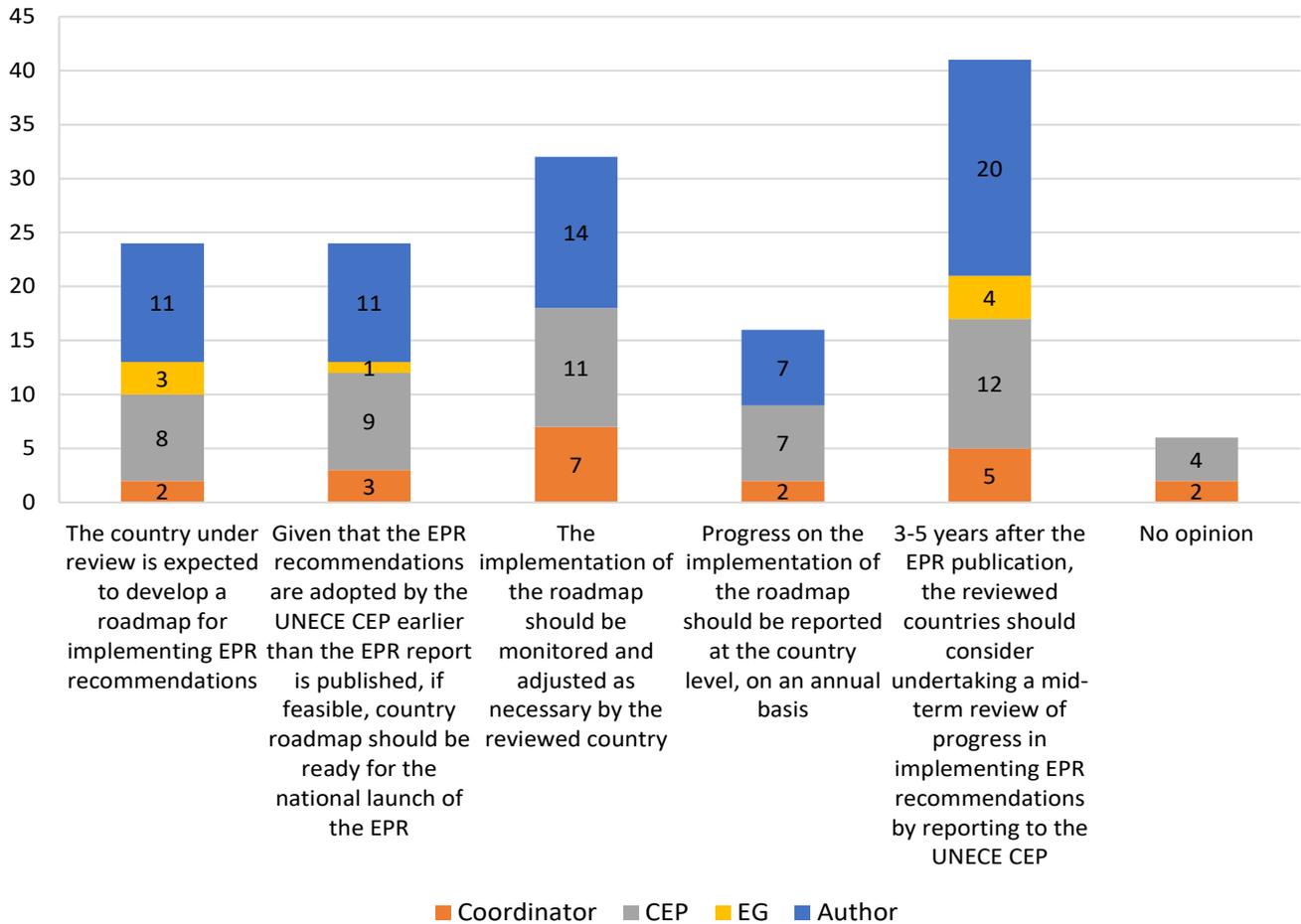


Figure 14.b: Views on country roadmaps for implementing EPR recommendations as a mechanism for timely, coordinated and coherent action to implement EPR recommendations.

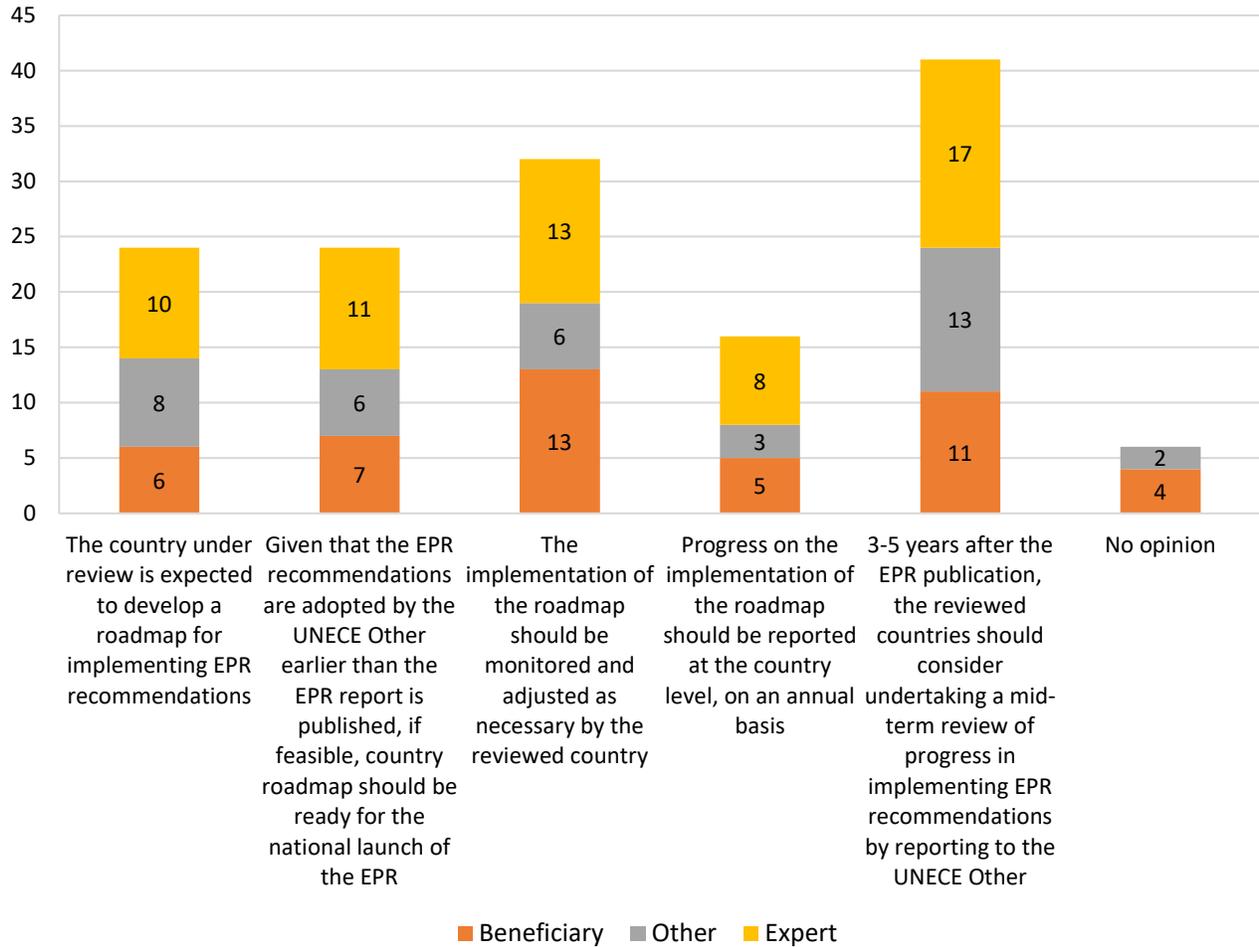


Figure 15.a: Should the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities?

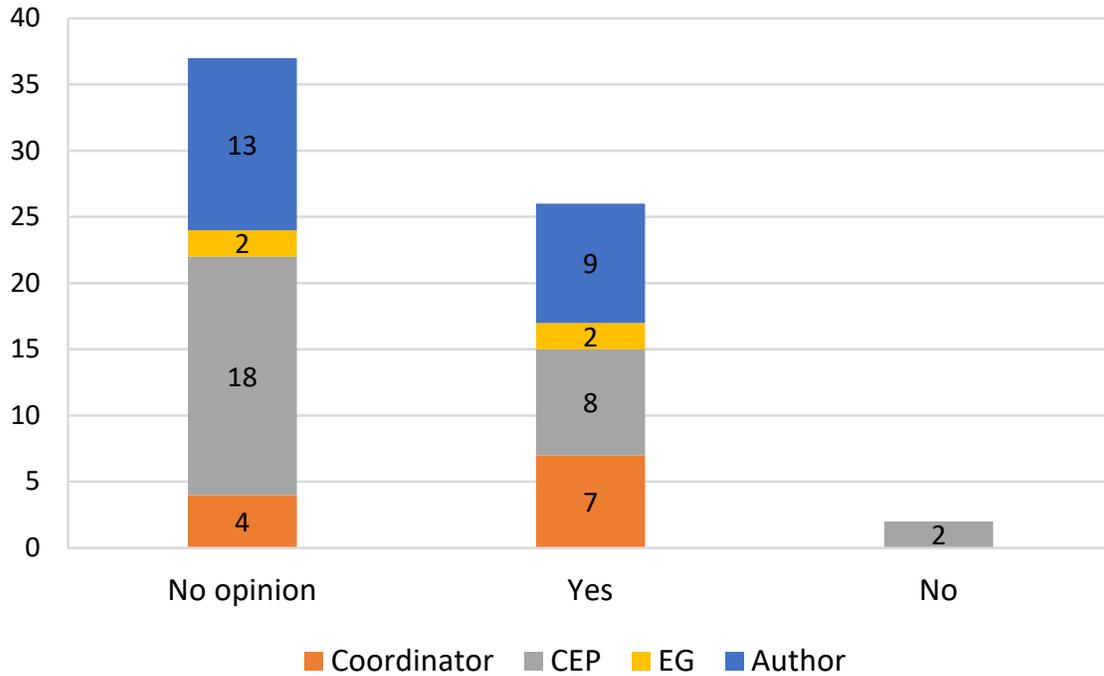
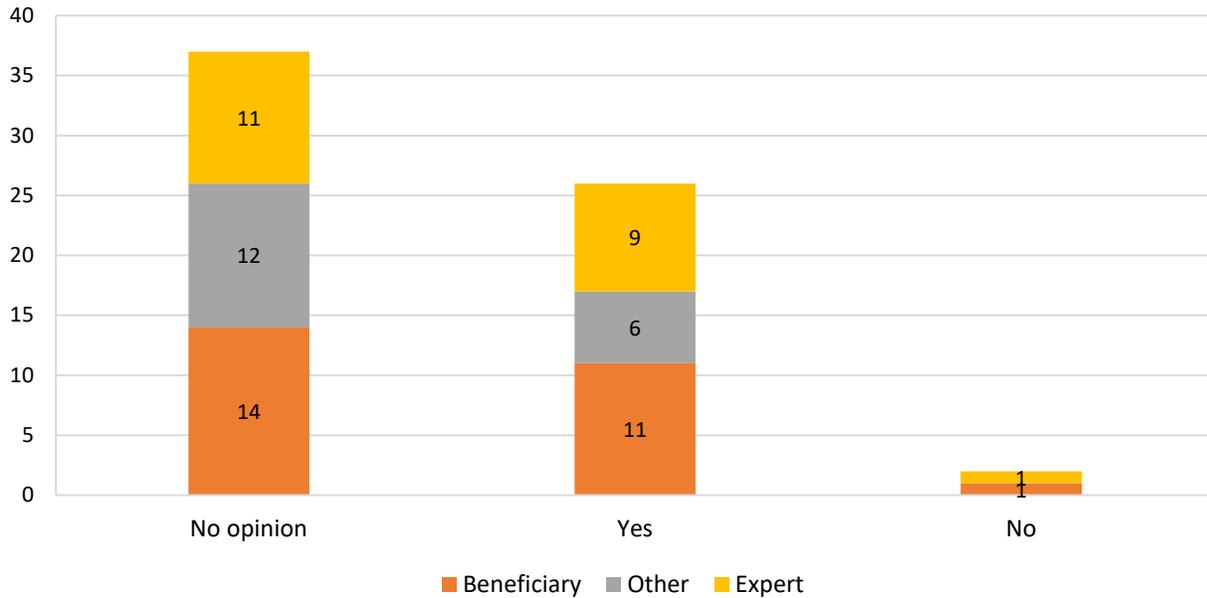


Figure 15.b: Should the reviewed country identify bankable or fundable EPR recommendations with a view to co-finance their implementation through project-based activities?



37. The respondents who answered in the affirmative to the previous question were asked to share their ideas on how to make such recommendations attractive for donors. Nineteen respondents shared their ideas.

- One national coordinator of an EPR, one Member of the Expert Group on EPRs and one chapter author suggested linking recommendations to bankable projects for their implementation. One national coordinator of an EPR, one Member of the Expert Group on EPRs and two chapter authors suggested drafting recommendations in accordance with the priorities of relevant donors. One national coordinator of an EPR suggested preparing relevant projects in cooperation with faculties and other relevant institutions, forming working groups depending on the theme to which the activity identified in the recommendation refers. One CEP Member or observer proposed reaching agreements with major donors, IFIs, etc. that a certain portion of the funds earmarked for the country under review should be allocated to finance the implementation of the EPR recommendations.
- Some respondents highlighted the role of the country reviewed. One CEP Member or observer expressed the view that the countries reviewed should know which priorities the donors have in their country and how the recommendations should look like. Two chapter authors suggested that the countries reviewed should highlight or submit for review to donors certain recommendations, in an effort to mobilize resources for their implementation. Another chapter author expressed the view that the UN should be impartial and not play a role in referring a country to a specific donor. According to the respondent, the text should show, as a result of the review, that some topics are crucial to achieving specific goals and also that research shows that finances are insufficiently adequate or allocated differently. If the recommendation is drafted in such a way that the chapeau and other text show that external funding is needed, that should be enough for the country to base an initial project proposal on it. The recommendation could also be worded to make it clear that specific external expertise is needed to implement the recommendation. In other words, the wording of the recommendation could give the country a direction towards some kind of support. In the chapter author's opinion, it should be limited to that.
- Some respondents focused on the content of the recommendations. One CEP Member or observer and one Member of the Expert Group on EPRs suggested that recommendations should focus on concrete problems and indicate local financial possibilities and economic instruments. One CEP Member or observer and one chapter author proposed highlighting the positive social, economic and environmental impacts of the implementation of recommendations. One chapter author suggested that the recommendations should emphasize the strengthening of institutions and regulatory bodies, and, whenever applicable, mention links to innovation, capacity building and/or possible establishment of partnerships, such as private public partnerships.
- One national coordinator of an EPR suggested attracting experts with backgrounds in financial institutions.

38. The respondents who answered in the affirmative to the question *sub* para. 28 were asked to share their ideas on how to organize the promotion of such recommendations to the donor community. Twenty respondents shared their ideas.

- Various responses were similar or identical to the ones given to the previous question and will not be repeated.
- One national coordinator of an EPR, three CEP Members or observers, one Member of the Expert Group on EPRs and two chapter authors suggested organizing and involving donors in events, such as

meetings, also in the country reviewed, workshops, seminars and information sessions, where recommendations, concepts, outlines and project proposals can be presented and discussed.

- One chapter author suggested that, at the international level, various fora and policy processes should be used to present and promote project proposals to donors. The same respondent suggested maintaining some capacity (within the EPR Programme) to assist countries in promoting recommendations to donors as a part of EPR follow-up.
- One chapter author suggested that the UNECE should enter into agreements with international donors to make the EPR recommendations a reference for their own programming.
- One CEP Member or observer and one chapter author suggested regularly sending EPRs to donors, international financial institutions and global environmental funds.
- One national coordinator of an EPR suggested that a summary of recommendations should be made available to the structures of each country in charge of cooperation in order to make them available to donors.
- One national coordinator of an EPR suggested prioritizing EPR reviews in the ECE member States on the matter of environmental challenges in the region. One chapter author suggested prioritizing recommendations.

39. The respondents who answered in the affirmative to the question *sub* para. 28 were asked to further share their ideas on how to involve international financial institutions in the process of implementation of recommendations. Fifteen respondents shared their ideas.

- Various responses were similar or identical to the ones given to the previous two questions and will not be repeated.
- One chapter author highlighted the importance of presenting projects that can make a significant contribution to solving a problem, professionalizing organizations, etc., since a project has even more added value when other countries can learn from it.
- One national coordinator of an EPR highlighted the importance of identifying priority areas as well as priority activities that should be undertaken within certain deadlines that also need to be determined, checking the availability of funds from relevant existing donors, and identifying what can be financed through grant funds, for which environmental activity it is necessary to take a loan, etc.
- One national coordinator of an EPR proposed suggesting to international financial institutions to be observers during the preparation period.
- One chapter author suggested making use of institution building instruments, such as TAIEX – Technical Assistance and Information Exchange or Twinning, a policy-driven instrument supporting institutional cooperation between public administrations in EU Member States and partner countries.
- One national coordinator of an EPR and one chapter author suggested that, within the framework of the partnerships with international financial institutions, the country reviewed should, as far as possible, aim for actions to implement the recommendations of its EPR.

IV. Additional feedback on other matters related to EPRs

A. Survey results

40. Respondents were asked to share any additional feedback on other matters related to EPRs that they might have considered important. Sixteen respondents shared additional feedback.

- Some respondents focused on the implementation of recommendations. One CEP Member or observer expressed the view that EPRs should be done to ensure compliance and implementation of all environmental agreements, legislation and policies, and it should never be seen as a “tick the box” exercise. One Member of the Expert Group on EPRs expressed the view that priority themes/chapters in the review should be chosen by the country. In that way, there would be less chapters and recommendations, but enhanced support for their implementation. One chapter author expressed the view that the analysis, conclusions and recommendations should be fact-based and relevant for the country reviewed. Another chapter author suggested that UNECE should link and enter into specific agreements with regional organizations of which countries under review are members for the following up of recommendations. Example: Mediterranean countries benefit from an integrated monitoring system (IMAP) for the Mediterranean “good environmental status” set up under the Barcelona Convention system.
- Some respondents focused on the content and approach to preparing an EPR. One CEP Member or observer suggested that the chapters could be improved by adding some more “dynamic” content, such as boxes showing how to implement some specific points aiming at advancing countries’ performances with regard to the corresponding sector. Another CEP Member or observer suggested adopting a more streamlined approach when preparing the report (e.g., environmental topics *versus* sector), coupled with a more integrated approach. One national coordinator of an EPR suggested that EPRs should be accompanied by a summary that recalls the salient points of the environmental policy evaluation and the proposed recommendations for improvement.
- Two Members of the Expert Group on EPRs focused on the preparation of experts and junior staff, in particular through thematic trainings, and meetings or workshops to sensitize them to cross-cutting issues.
- One chapter author expressed the view that field visits to companies and institutions that (have to) implement environmental legislation can give a good impression of the compliance and enforcement practices in the reviewed country and should be promoted.
- One chapter author expressed the view that providing country responses to questionnaires by EPR experts, preferably prior to the country review mission, should be mandatory, since informing institutions indicated by EPR experts on the planned country review mission in advance is an indispensable prerequisite for the success of such mission.