



GMOs / LMOs guiding materials and practical examples

Results of a survey to Parties, interested Member States and different stakeholders

Fourth Joint Aarhus Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity Roundtable on Public Awareness, Education, Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice regarding Living Modified Organisms/ Genetically Modified Organisms

- 11-12 December 2023, Geneva, Switzerland -

Existing guiding materials

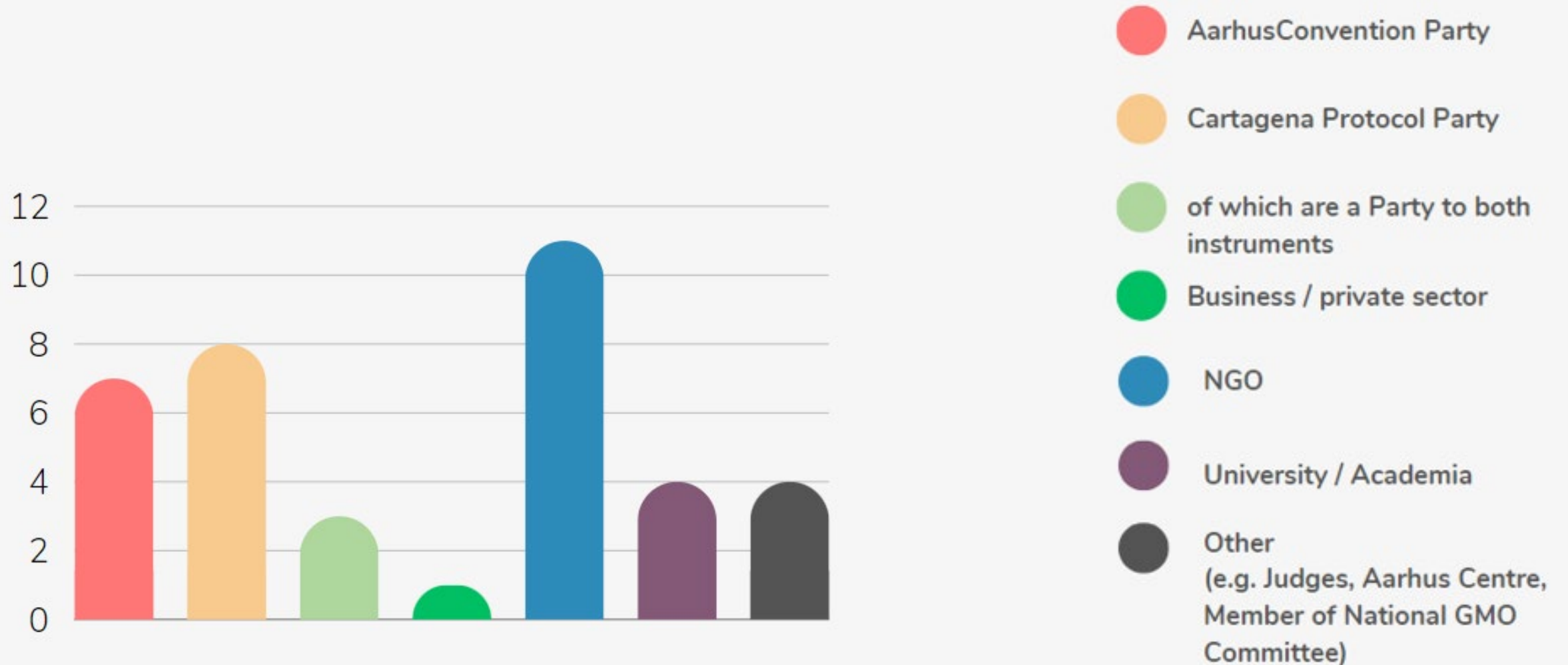
- **Lucca Guidelines**
on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice with Respect to Genetically Modified Organisms Implementation
- **Pocket Guide**
Promoting Effective Access to Information and Public Participation regarding LMOs/GMOs
- **Checklist of Key Measures**
for the Ratification and Implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the Context of LMOs/GMOs
- **Maastricht Recommendations**
on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters

Objectives of survey

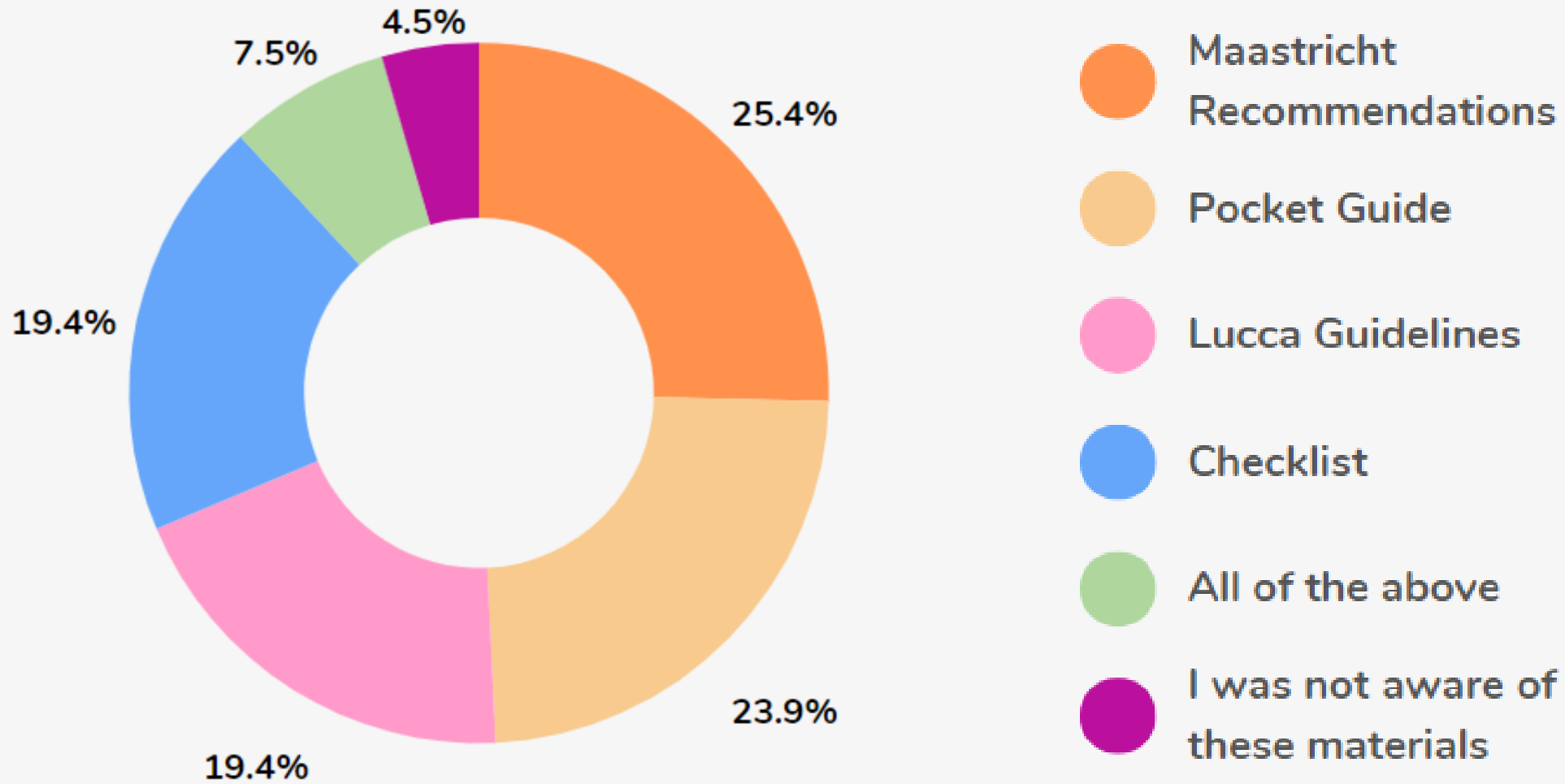
- **Better understand** how Parties to both treaties, interested Member States and different stakeholders have been **using these materials**.
- **Raise awareness of these materials** among Parties to both treaties, interested Member States and different stakeholders.
- **Collect case studies/practical examples** of how Public Awareness, Education, Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice regarding LMOs/GMOs was promoted by Parties to both treaties, interested Member States and different stakeholders

- 12 questions
- Distributed over mailing lists of both instruments and posted on meeting website
- Open for 43 days (from 23 Oct to 4 Dec 2023)
- 35 responses received

Affiliation of survey respondents



Use of existing guidance materials



Use of existing guidance materials



Translation of material into national and local languages



Albanian

Khmer

Arabic

Mongolian

Romanian

Nepali

Indigenous languages

Examples of use of the guiding materials



Organized a seminar for lawyers from government agencies, private sector and NGOs
on Maastricht Recommendations

In a training course by Ministry for members of the Control Lab related to GMOs in collaboration with a university

Examples of use of the guiding materials



When implementing provisions of Aarhus Convention and Cartagena Protocol at national level

Cited content of documents when drafting amendments to national legislations on GMOs

Helped to develop guidelines for the review of my country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Examples of use of the guiding materials



For NGOs and Stakeholders of National Committee of Biosafety.

Used for education

Consulted how to publish, disseminate and make available to media/journalists our studies and project results

In work with IPLCs

In my blog

For NGOs and municipalities

Shared with colleagues and read out of curiosity

Reasons why material was not used



Not aware of them

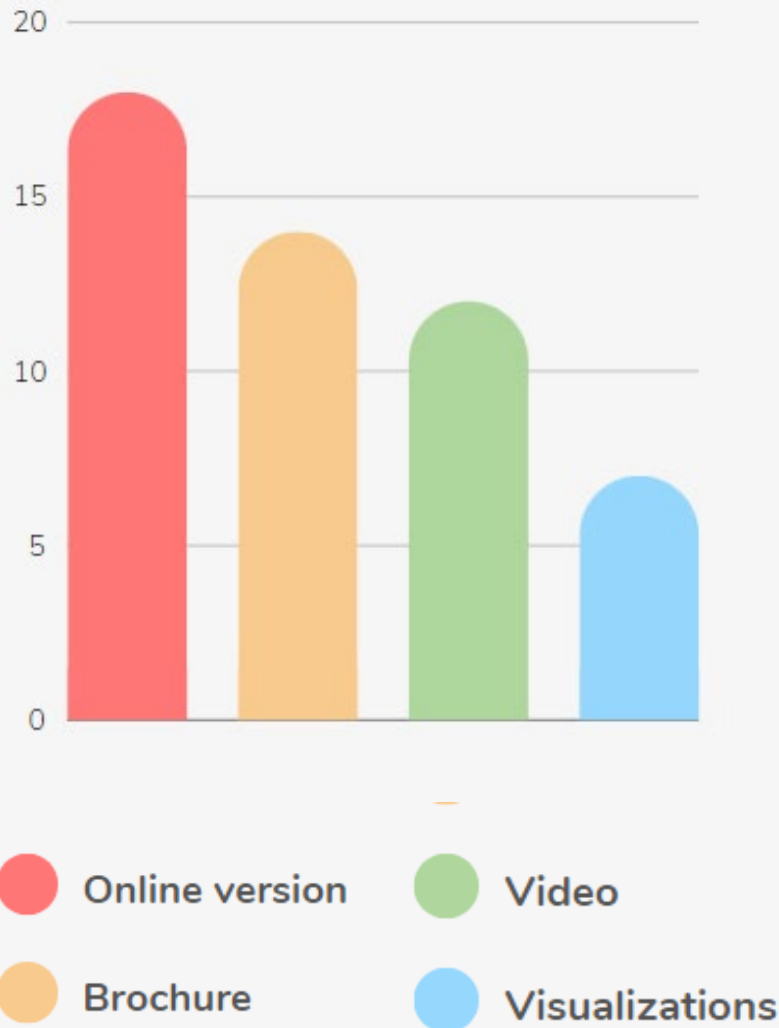
New to the topic

GMO exceeds my competence

Still studying the material

We produce our own material

Other possible formats or types of guiding materials?



Examples mentioned

- Lucca Guidelines as brochure
- Online version for more voluminous material
- Toolkits with visuals

Target group specific material

- Written format with details for NGOs, institutions, academia
- Visual material with quick and general messages for public
- Material in national languages

Online decision tree

- Guiding through steps of information and participation processes

- **Outreach to specific target groups**, e.g. farmers, teachers (in the field and in classroom), journalists/media
- **Different materials and tools developed/used**
 - Simplified texts with pictures, illustrations
 - Brochure on Cartagena Protocol
 - Online guidelines in English and national language
 - Briefing material
 - Toolkits
 - Websites, web-applications
- **Trainings and events conducted**
e.g. workshops, exhibitions, conferences – online and in-person, press conferences
- **On special occasions**
e.g. International Day of Biodiversity

Lessons learnt

- Narratives should **be focused, simple and concrete** but not oversimplified
- Provide **objective and balanced information**
- Provide public with **accurate and relevant information** about GMOs and
- **Be available for explanations and feedback** as topic is complex and difficult to convey
- Public administration with **limited resources** to promote the topics more actively
- Online platforms are used but **face-to-face interaction**, in particular youth is important
- **Hands-on experience** produces the best results