



Requirements and impacts of an environmental information/classification system for pharmaceuticals

Results from the Pharmas Project (WP 6)

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Context

- The presented results are based on WP 6 of the Pharmas-Project
- <http://www.pharmas-eu.org/>
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Aim and content of the survey

Survey on experts' opinion on acceptance and possible impacts of an environmental classification system for pharmaceuticals

■ Topics:

- Risk perception
- Assumed effectiveness compared to other measures
- Expected use among different stakeholders
- Projected possible reductions of pharmaceutical residues in the water
- Framework conditions considered necessary
- Expected contribution to problem awareness
- Expected impacts on the pharmaceutical industry
- Opinion on whether a classification system should be introduced in the EU



Method

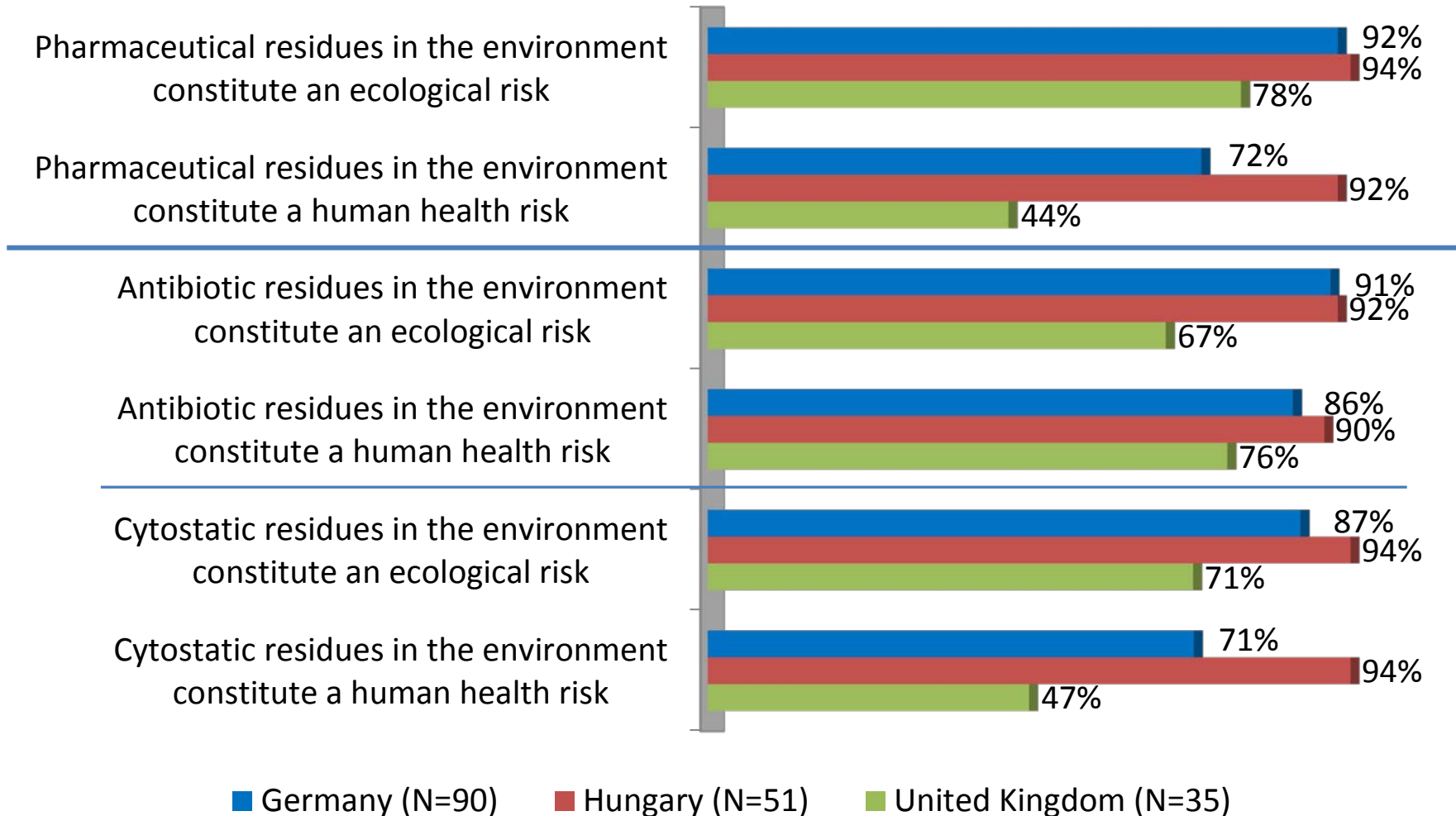
Delphi-Survey with two rounds

Participants	Germany	Hungary	United Kingdom	Total
1 st round	90	51	45	186
2 nd round	62	35	18	115

- Respondents from relevant stakeholder groups:
 - doctors, pharmacists and patient organisations
 - water management
 - authorities
 - pharmaceutical industry
 - environmental NGOs
 - health insurance
 - science

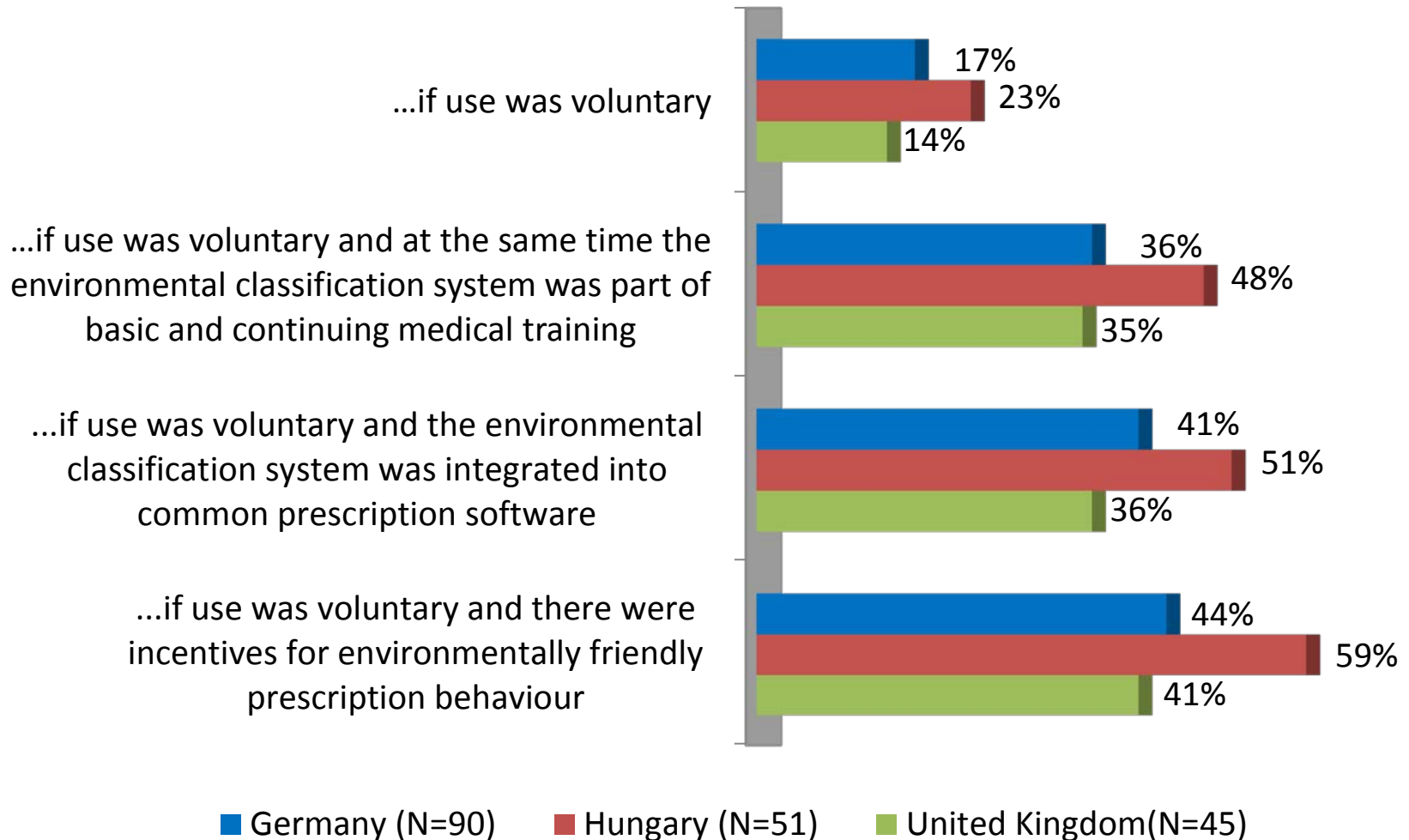
To what extent do you agree with these statements on pharmaceutical residues in the environment? 1st round

(tend to agree + totally agree)



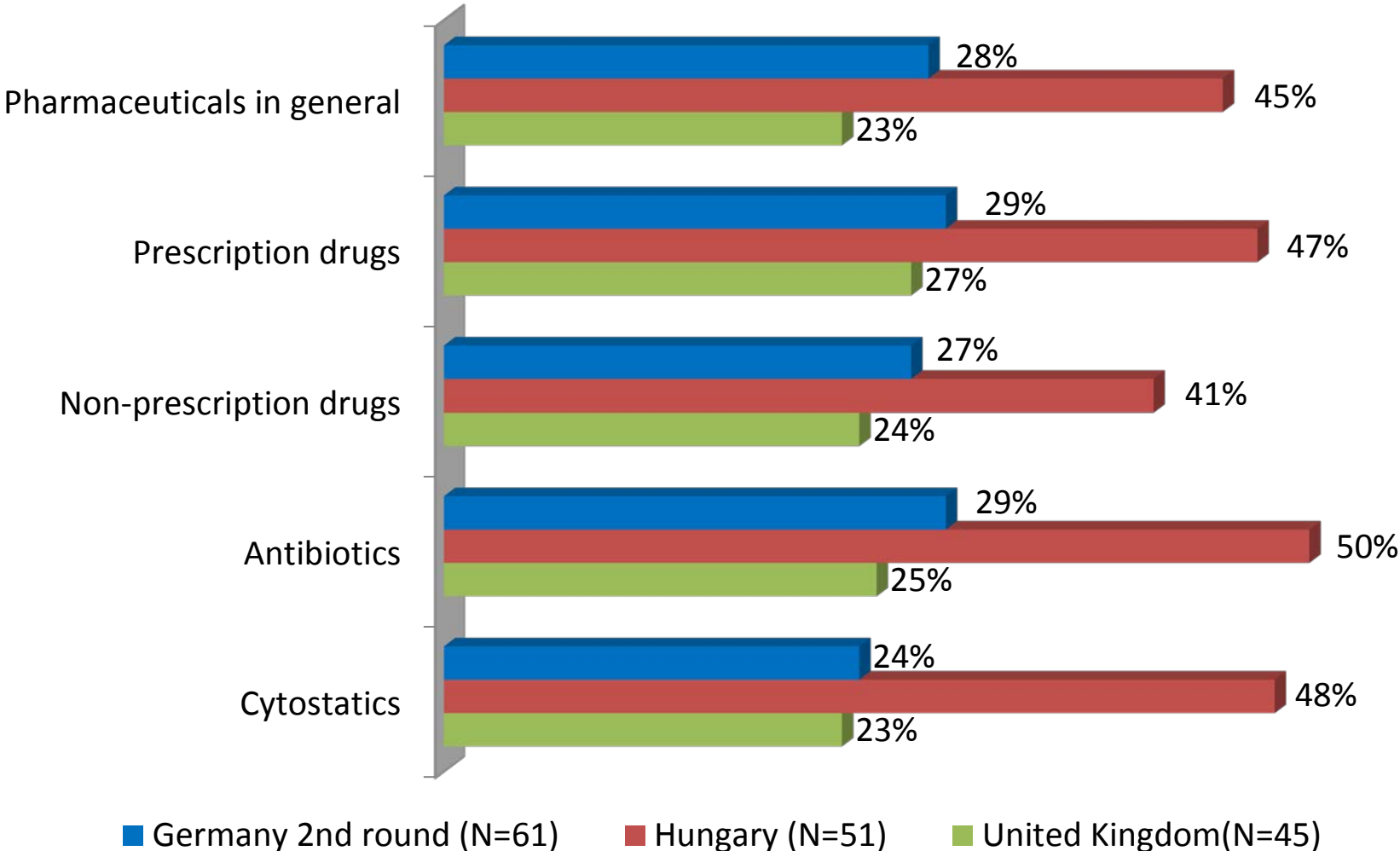
How many doctors would use such an environmental classification system for pharmaceuticals...

(average estimation)





By what percentage do you think pharmaceutical residues in the water could be reduced if the most environmentally friendly pharmaceutical was prescribed/chosen each time? (average estimation)



Please choose from the following list those three of the eight measures suggested, which in your opinion contribute most effectively to reducing pharmaceutical residues in the environment. 1st round

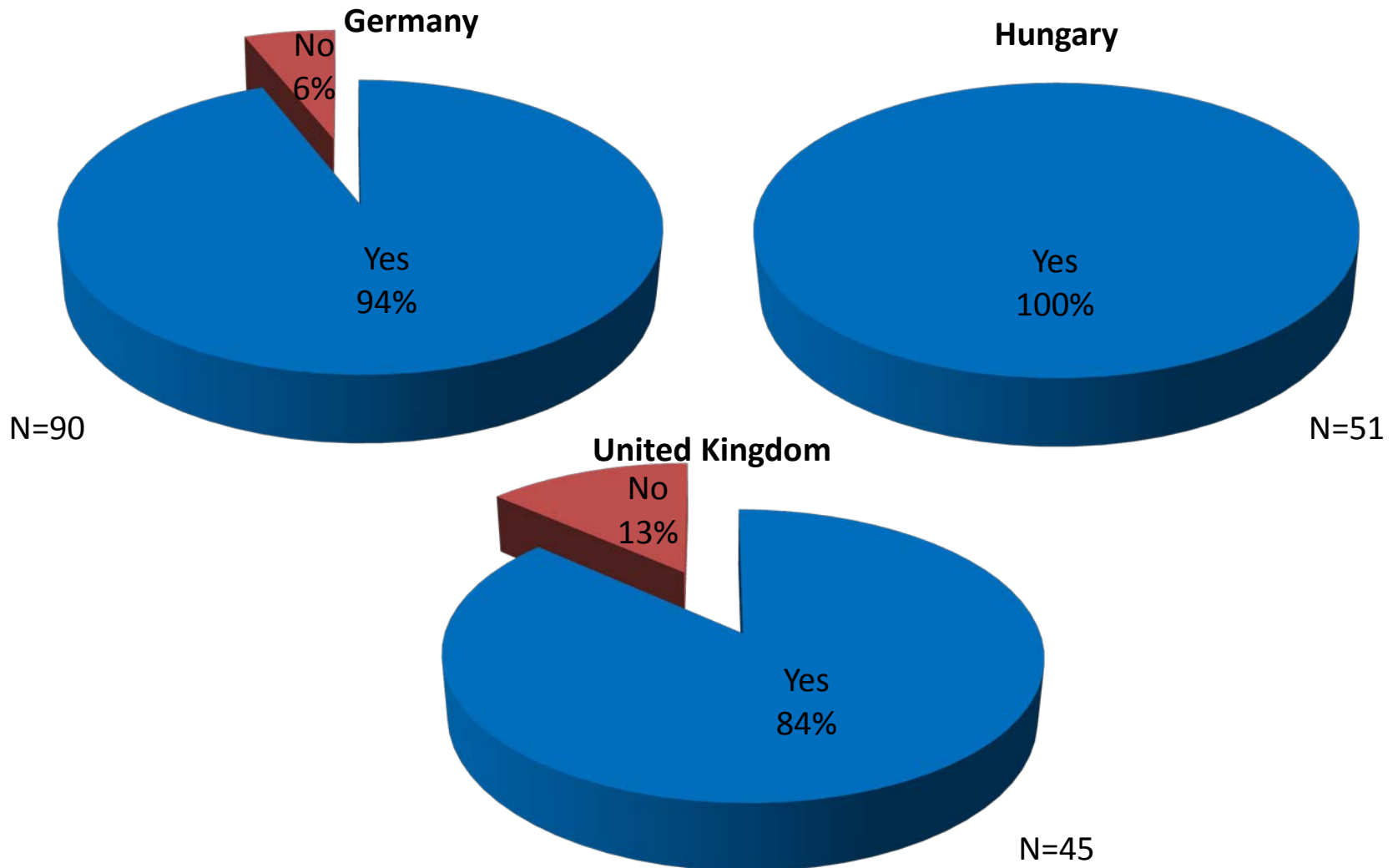


Germany (N=90)		Hungary (N=51)		United Kingdom (N=45)	
Water treatment	52%	Public awareness	65%	Disposal of unused pharmaceuticals	64%
Disposal of unused pharmaceuticals	52%	Development of environmentally friendly pharmaceuticals	55%	Public awareness	49%
Public awareness	51%	Disposal of unused pharmaceuticals	49%	Development of environmentally friendly pharmaceuticals	49%
An environmental classification system for pharmaceuticals	37%	Non-medical treatment and prevention	41%	Water treatment	47%
Development of environmentally friendly pharmaceuticals	37%	Water treatment	37%	An environmental classification system for pharmaceuticals	29%
Non-medical treatment and prevention	33%	An environmental classification system for pharmaceuticals	29%	Education and training for doctors and pharmacists	27%
Education and training for doctors and pharmacists	27%	Education and training for doctors and pharmacists	14%	Non-medical treatment and prevention	27%
An ecolabel for environmentally friendly pharmaceuticals	11%	An ecolabel for environmentally friendly pharmaceuticals	10%	An ecolabel for environmentally friendly pharmaceuticals	9%

In your opinion, should such an environmental classification system for pharmaceuticals be introduced in the EU?



1st round





Conclusion

- The majority of experts agrees that pharmaceuticals in the environment are a ecological problem
- Respondents expect a high acceptance of the system if it is integrated into a good framework of training, software and incentives
- If there would be a change of prescription behavior they expect significant reduction of pharmaceuticals in the environment
 - Minimum: 23%
- If the expert have to make a Choice – Environmental Classification System for pharmaceuticals would not be top priority – other approaches are considered more important
- Nevertheless there is broad agreement to the introduction of the classification system