Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Twenty first meeting
Geneva, 4–6 April 2017
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda
Substantive issues: access to information

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

At its fourth meeting (Geneva, 8–10 December 2015), the Aarhus Convention Task Force on Access to Information requested the secretariat to circulate a questionnaire to carry out a survey to monitor progress in the implementation of the recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information adopted through decision II/3 (hereinafter – recommendations) (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.4) by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at its second session. The secretariat was also requested to report on the results of the survey at the fifth meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 10-11 October 2016). The summary report and accompanying document are based on the responses received to the questionnaire[2] that had been circulated to the national focal points on 15 February 2016 with a deadline of submission by 1 May 2016.

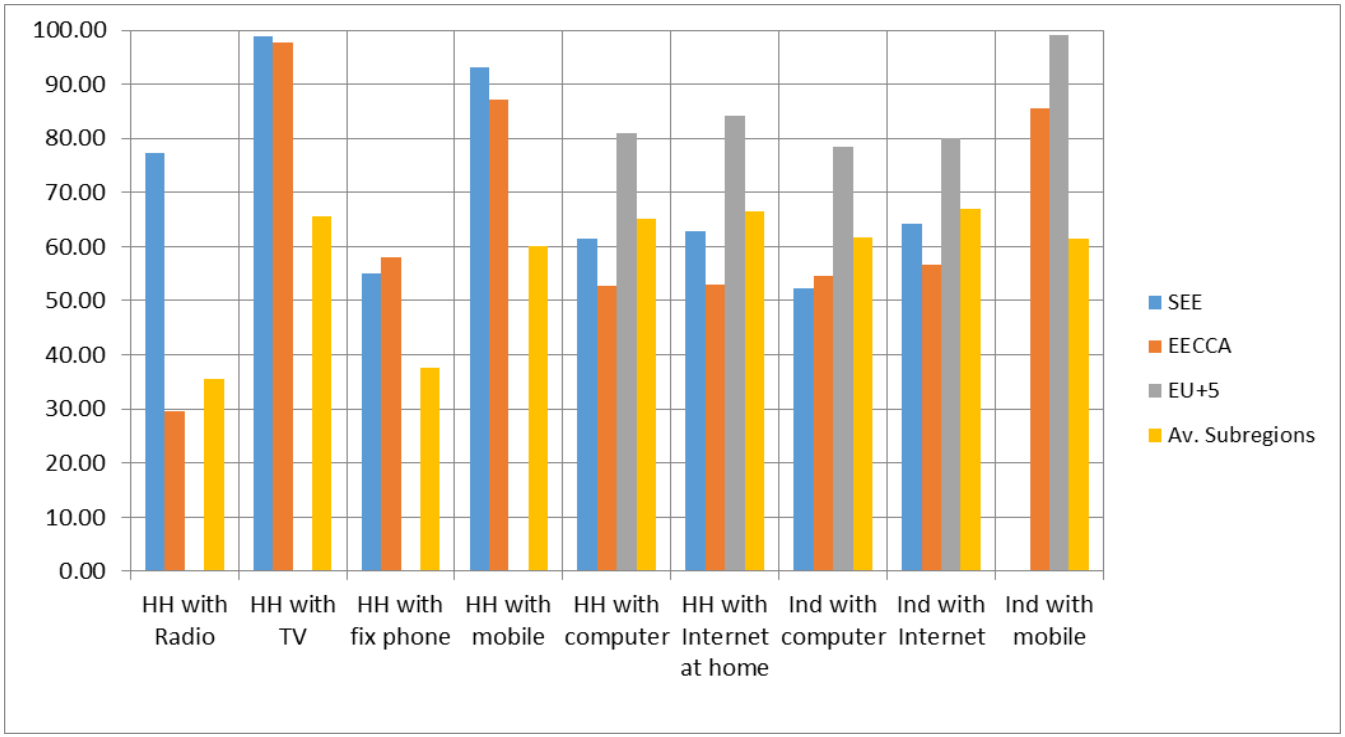
The summary report (annex to document ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/4) and this accompanying document (AC/WGP-21/Inf.2), prepared at the request of the Task Force, are intended to inform the Parties of the needs, challenges and possible solutions in relation to the implementation of above mentioned recommendations.

The document aims to facilitate the discussion by the Working Group of the Parties under item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/1).

[1] This document was not formally edited.
[2] Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/tfai5.html#/.

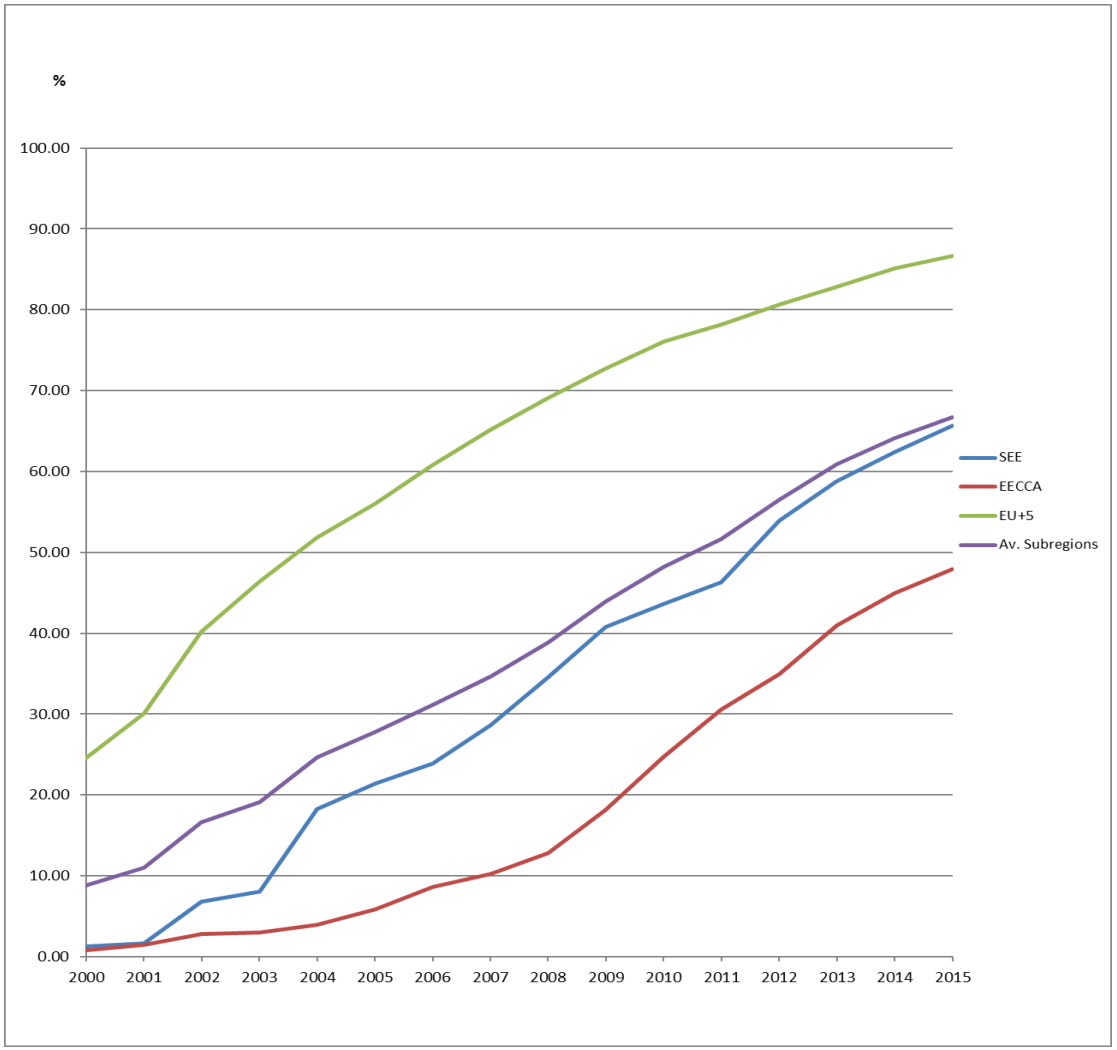
I. Access to information and communication technologies[3]

Graph 1.1 Percentage of households with (HH) and individuals (Ind) using certain devices

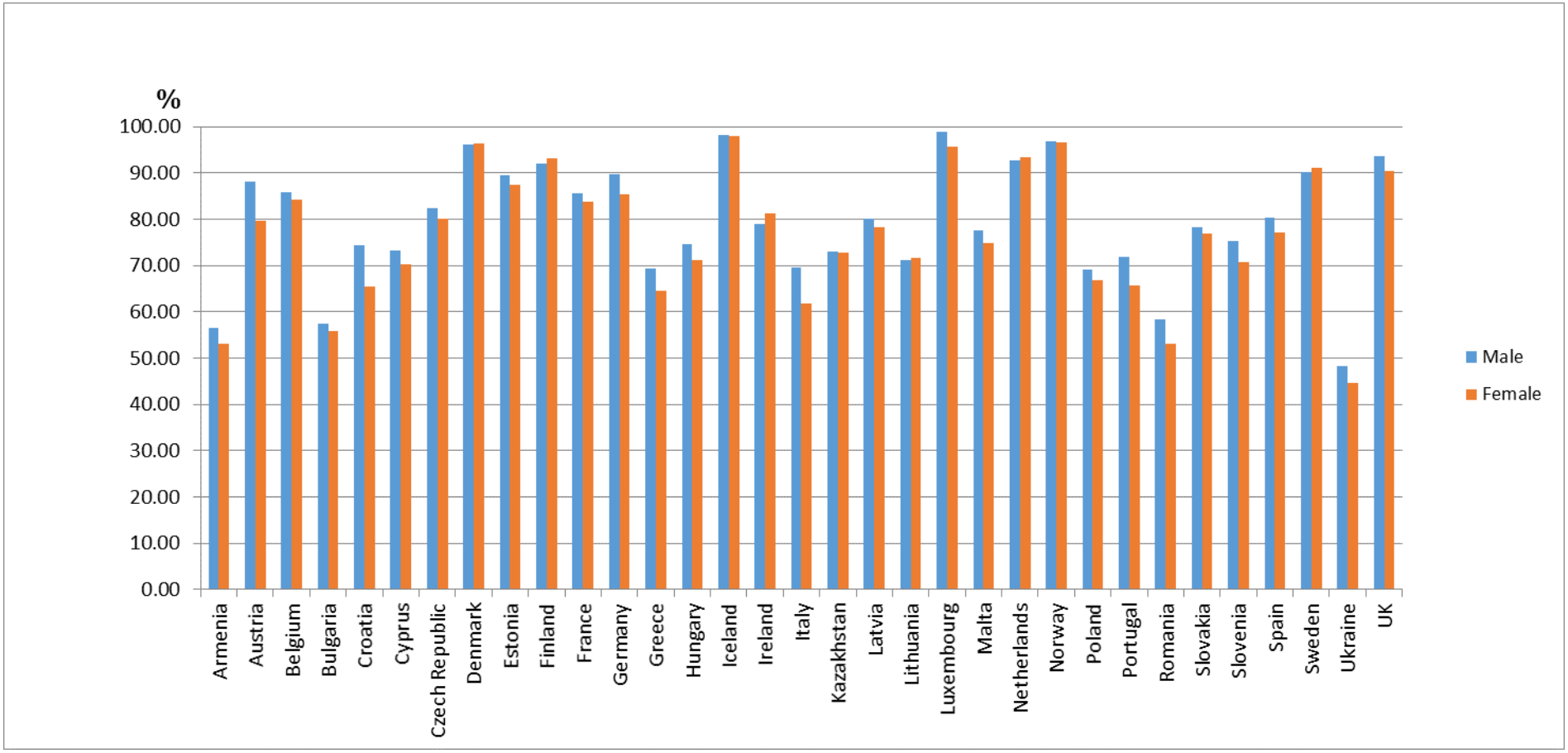


[3] This section is prepared on the basis of the data provided by the International Telecommunication Union available from: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx

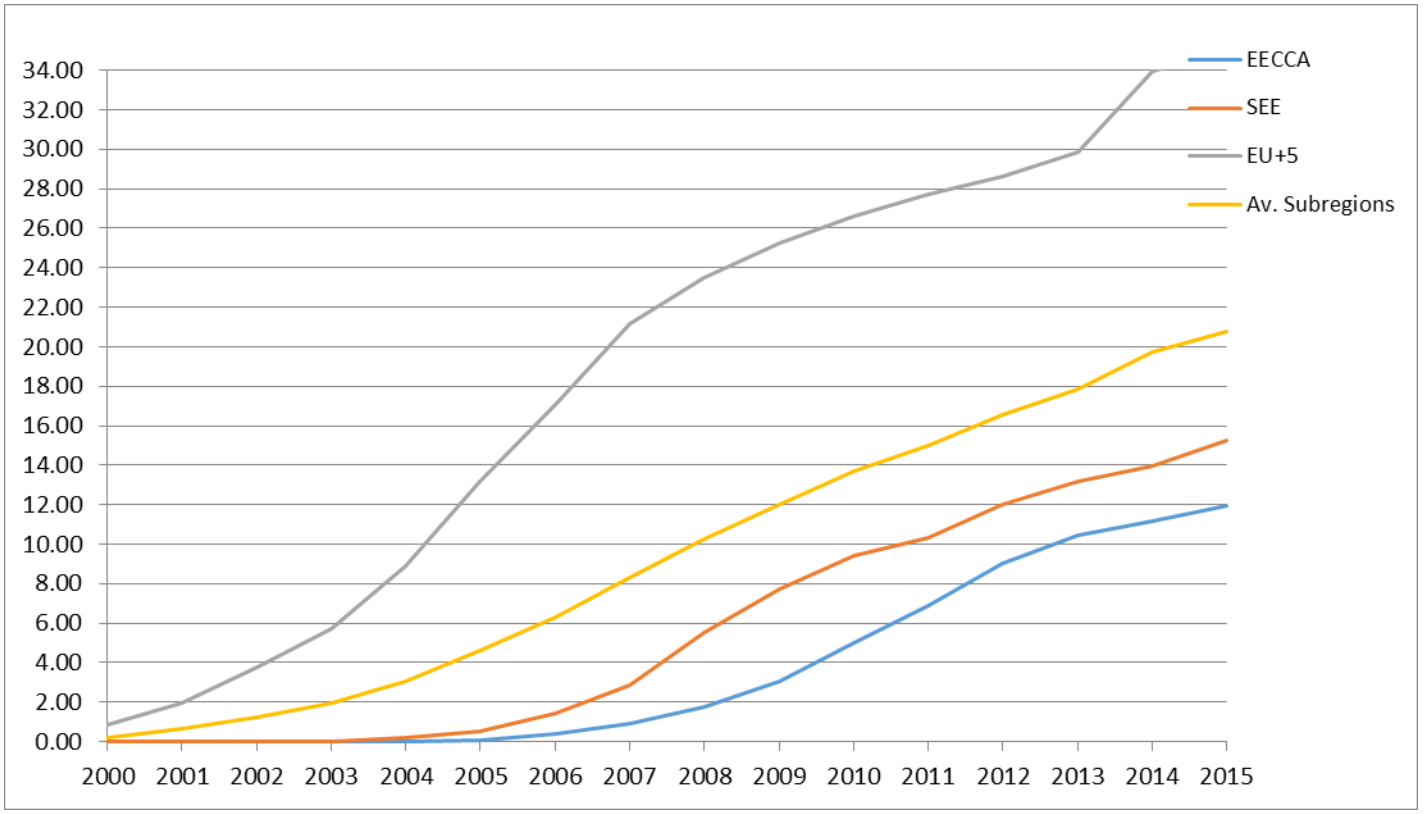
Graph 1.2. Average percentage of individuals using the Internet per subregion for 2000-2015



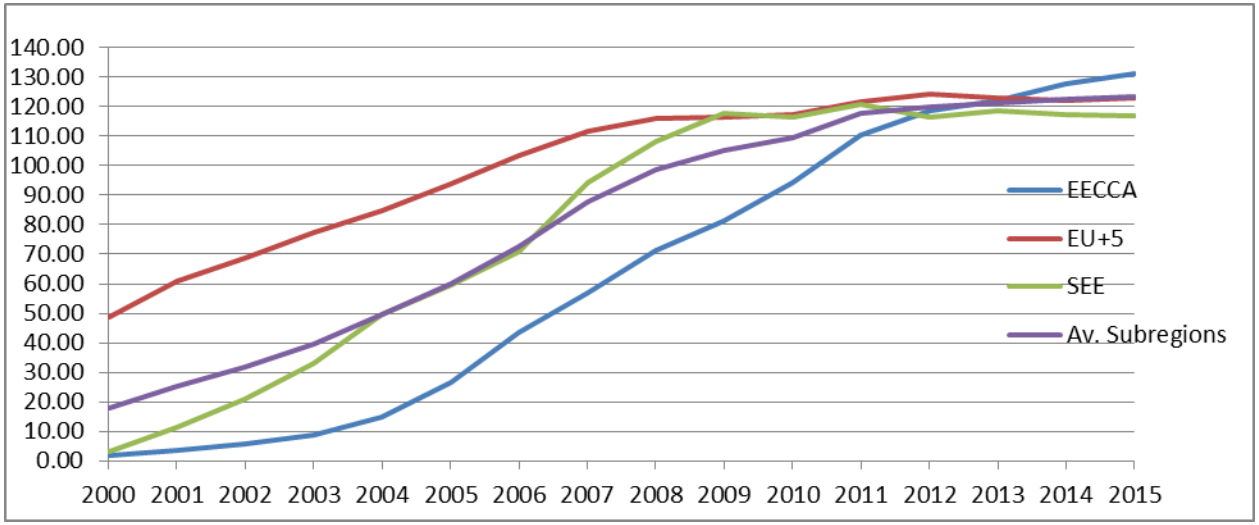
Graph 1.3. Average percentage of individuals by gender using the Internet by country



Graph 1.4. Average number of fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants per subregion for 2000-2015



Graph 1.5. Number of mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants per subregion for 2000-2015



II. Availability of priority categories of environmental information through internet

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

Title (and question no.)	Generally available			Partly available			Not available			Legally required			Plans for improvement		
	EECCA[4]	EU+ CH[5]	SEE[6]	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE
State of the environment reports (N° 1)	5 (8/9)[7]	14 (11/11)	4 (3/3)	2 (1/9)	1/ (0/11)	0 (0/3)	0 (0/9)	0 (0/11)	0 (0/3)	3 (8/9)	13 (8/11)	4 (2/3)	3 (5/9)	5 (4/11)	1 (0/3)
Legislation, regulations, rules (N° 2)	7 (8/9)	15 (11/11)	4 (3/3)	0 (1/9)	1 (0/11)	0 (0/3)	0 (0/9)	0 (0/11)	0 (0/3)	4 (8/9)	15 (11/11)	3 (3/3)	5 (5/9)	5 (6/11)	1 (0/3)
Policies, plans and programmes (N°3)	3 (6/9)	12 (10/11)	4 (3/3)	4 (3/9)	4 (1/11)	0 (0/3)	0 (0/9)	0 (0/11)	0 (0/3)	4 (8/9)	13 (8/11)	3 (3/3)	4 (5/9)	5 (3/11)	1 (1/3)
Environmental impact assessments (EIA) (N° 4)	4 (6/9)	10 (5/11)	4 (2/3)	1 (3/9)	4 (3/11)	0 (1/3)	2 (0/9)	0 (1/11)	0 (0/3)	4 (5/9)	12 (6/11)	3 (2/3)	2 (6/9)	5 (4/11)	1 (1/3)
Public notices about all decision-making procedure subject to article 6 (N°6)	3 (5/9)	10 (7/11)	2 (1/3)	3 (4/9)	4 (3/11)	0 (1/3)	0 (1/9)	0 (0/11)	1 (1/3)	4 (7/9)	9 (8/11)	2 (1/3)	3 (3/9)	3 (4/11)	1 (2/3)
Strategic Environmental assessments(SEA) n°5	2 (3/9)	8 (7/11)	2 (0/3)	0 (3/9)	4 (3/11)	1 (2/3)	4 (2/9)	0 (1/11)	0 (0/3)	1 (3/9)	7 (7/11)	3 (2/3)	3 (4/9)	2 (5/11)	1 (2/3)
Public notice about the SEA procedures (N° 7)	0 (4/9)	12 (7/11)	3 (1/3)	1 (1/9)	3 (1/11)	0 (0/3)	4 (4/9)	0 (1/11)	1 (2/3)	0 (4/9)	10 (7/11)	3 (1/3)	1 (4/9)	1 (3/11)	1 (2/3)

[4] Seven completed questionnaires were received from the subregion of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

[5] Seventeen completed questionnaires were from the European Union (European Commission), fifteen EU Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden), as well as from Switzerland.

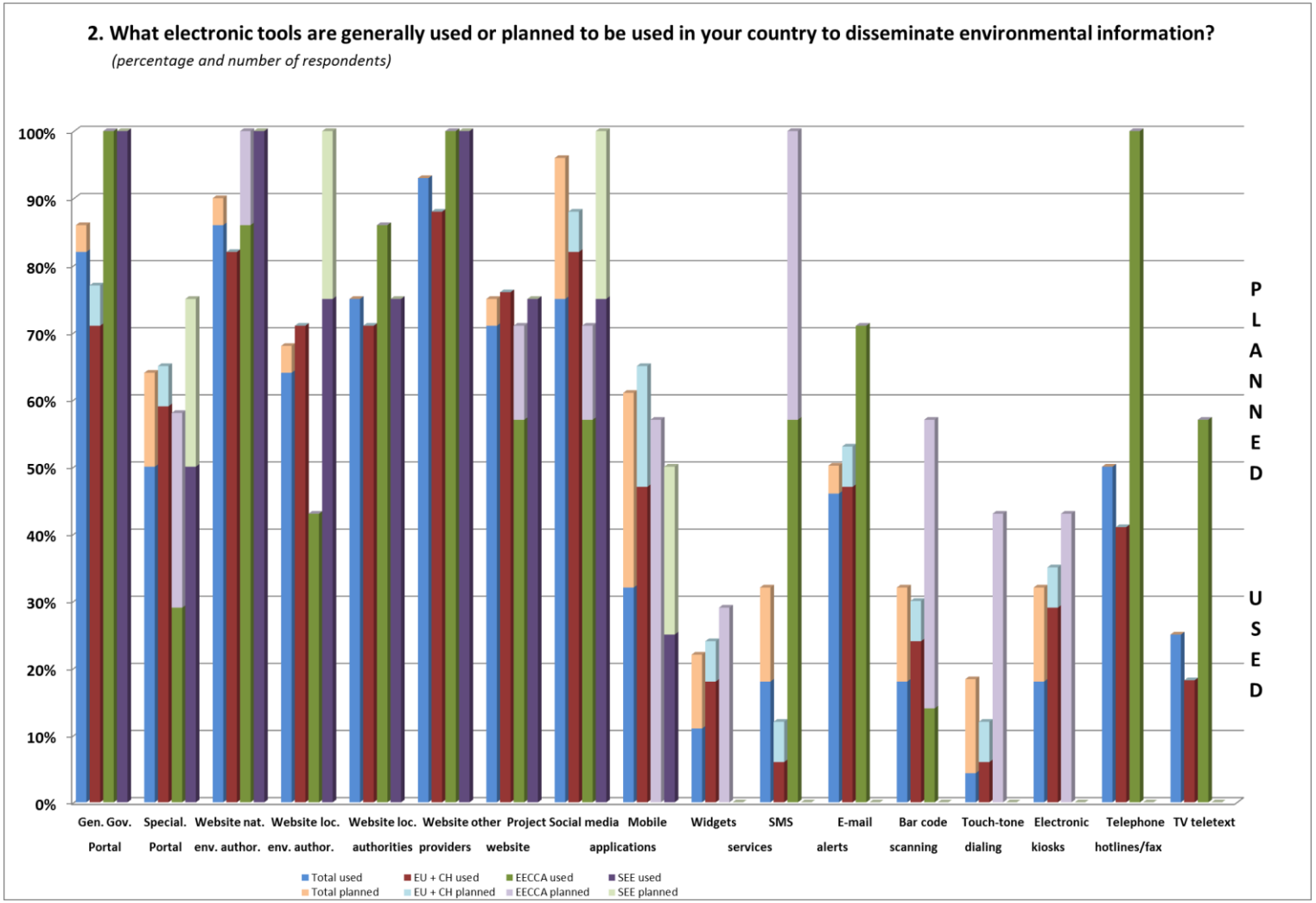
[6] Four completed questionnaires from the subregion of South-Eastern Europe (SEE): Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

[7] Figures in brackets indicate data from the summary report on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties on electronic information tools (AC/TF.AI-2/Inf.2/Add.1) available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/tfai2.html#/.

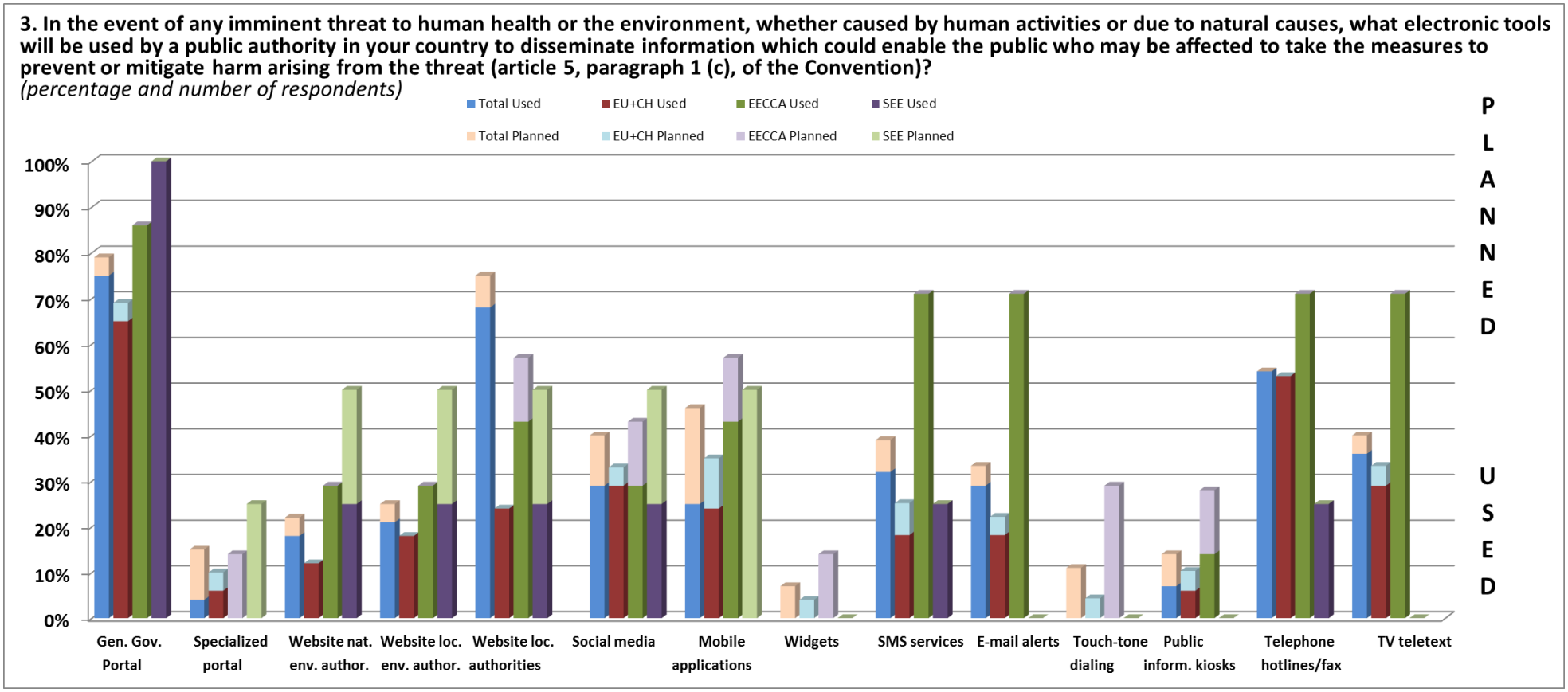
Title (and question no.)	Generally available			Partly available			Not available			Legally required			Plans for improvement		
	EECCA[4]	EU+ CH[5]	SEE[6]	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE	EECCA	EU+ CH	SEE
Location of EIA and SEA documentation (N° 9)	1 (2/9)	6 (4/11)	1 (0/3)	1 (2/9)	2 (1/11)	0 (0/3)	3 (3/9)	1 (2/11)	2 (1/3)	2 (2/9)	7 (4/11)	0 (0/3)	2 (1/9)	1 (1/11)	1 (3/3)
Pollutant release and transfer register data (N° 10)	1 (2/9)	15 (10/11)	2 (2/3)	4 (5/9)	1 (0/11)	1 (0/3)	0 (1/9)	0 (0/11)	0 (1/3)	1 (4/9)	16 (8/11)	2 (2/3)	3 (5/9)	7 (4/11)	3 (2/3)
Mechanisms related to access to justice (N° 11)	1 (4/9)	13 (8/11)	3 (3/3)	3 (2/9)	2 (2/11)	0 (0/3)	1 (0/9)	0 (1/11)	0 (0/3)	1 (3/9)	7 (5/11)	1 (1/3)	4 (2/9)	6 (2/11)	1 (0/3)
Decisions of courts, and whenever possible of other review bodies (N° 12)	2 (3/9)	10 (4/11)	2 (1/3)	1 (3/9)	4 (7/11)	0 (2/3)	3 (1/9)	0 (0/11)	0 (0/3)	0 (3/9)	7 (4/11)	1 (1/3)	1 (3/9)	5 (3/11)	1 (1/3)
Environmental monitoring data (N° 18)	1 (2/9)	10 (8/11)	2 (1/3)	5 (6/9)	3 (2/11)	0 (2/3)	0 (0/9)	0 (0/11)	0 (0/3)	3 (7/9)	9 (7/11)	2 (2/3)	4 (5/9)	6 (6/11)	2 (0/3)
Product information (N° 19)	1 (3/9)	6 (3/11)	0 (0/3)	4 (3/9)	5 (6/11)	0 (0/3)	2 (2/9)	1 (0/11)	1 (2/3)	1 (4/9)	3 (7/11)	0 (1/3)	1 (5/9)	3 (5/11)	0 (1/3)
Environmental management (N° 20)	2 (5/9)	7 (6/11)	1 (0/3)	5 (1/9)	3 (3/11)	0 (0/3)	0 (1/9)	0 (1/11)	1 (2/3)	2 (2/9)	4 (4/11)	0 (1/3)	1 (2/9)	4 (3/11)	0 (1/3)
Metadata on data collection (N° 21)	3 (4/9)	4 (6/11)	2 (1/3)	3 (2/9)	4 (2/11)	0 (0/3)	1 (1/9)	1 (2/11)	1 (1/3)	4 (3/9)	2 (4/11)	2 (1/3)	1 (4/9)	4 (4/11)	1 (2/3)
Catalogues of data sources (N° 22)	2 (2/9)	2 (5/11)	2 (1/3)	3 (2/9)	4 (3/11)	0 (0/3)	0 (3/9)	2 (2/11)	1 (1/3)	3 (3/9)	4 (4/11)	1 (2/3)	1 (5/9)	4 (2/11)	1 (2/3)

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

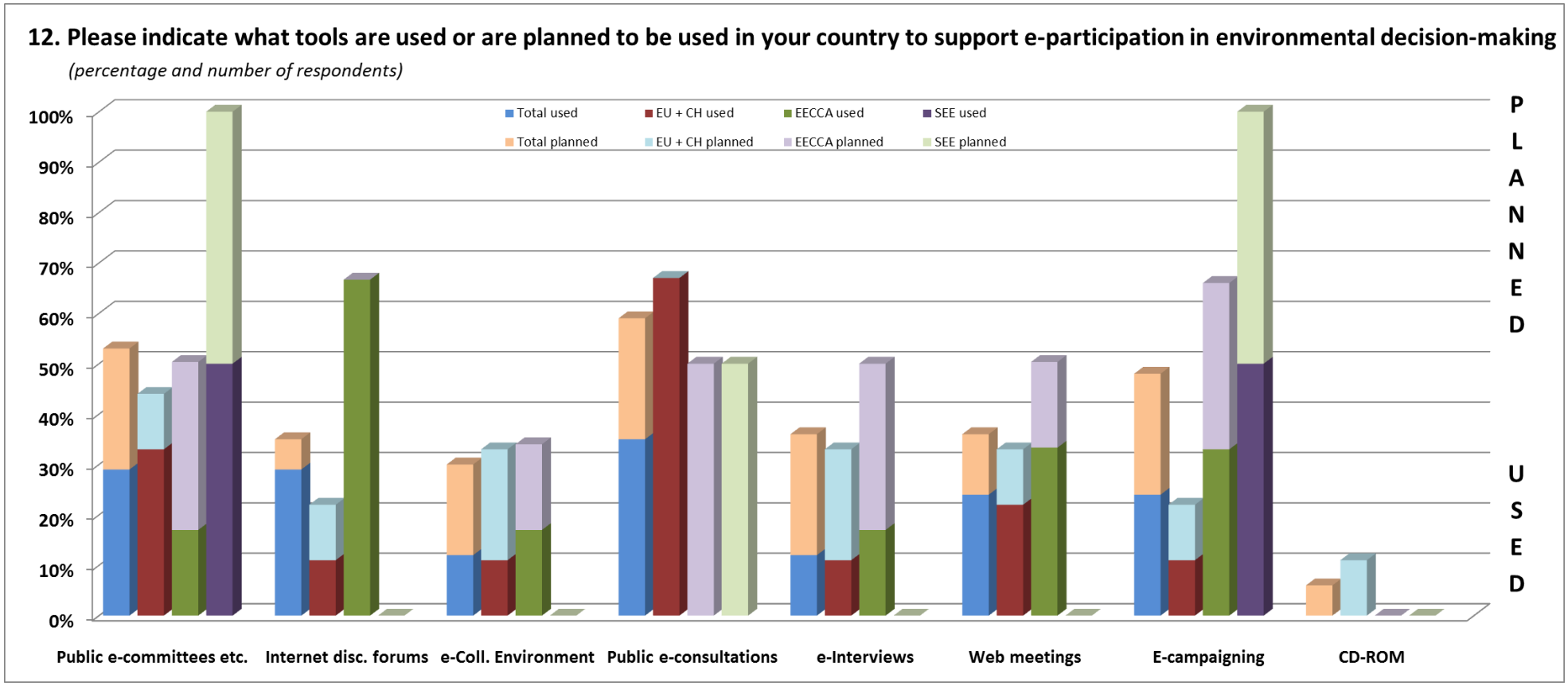
Graph 3.1



Graph 3.2

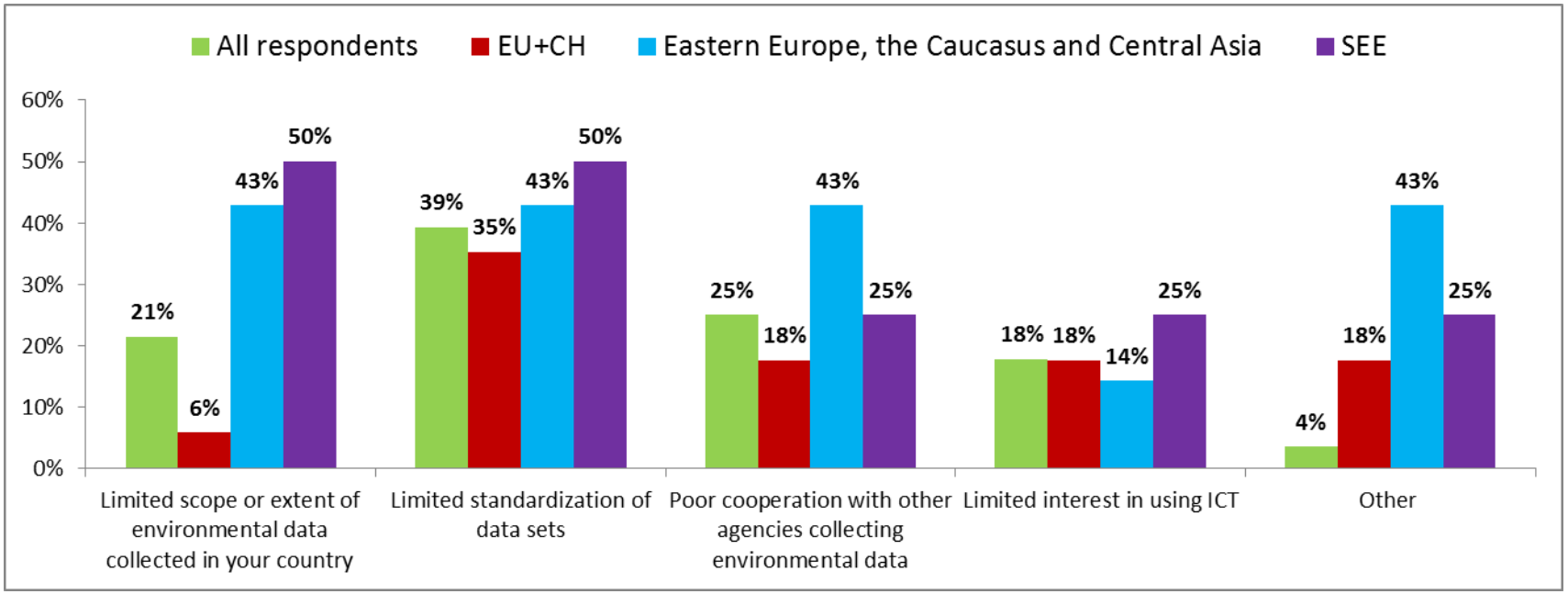

3. In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, what electronic tools will be used by a public authority in your country to disseminate information which could enable the public who may be affected to take the measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat (article 5, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention)?
(percentage and number of respondents)
Total Used
EU+CH Used
EECCA Used
SEE Used
Total Planned
EU+CH Planned
EECCA Planned
SEE Planned
PLANNED
USED
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Gen. Gov. Portal
Specialized portal
Website nat. env. author.
Website loc. env. author.
Website loc. authorities
Social media
Mobile applications
Widgets
SMS services
E-mail alerts
Touch-tone dialing
Public inform. kiosks
Telephone hotlines/fax
TV teletext

Graph 3.3

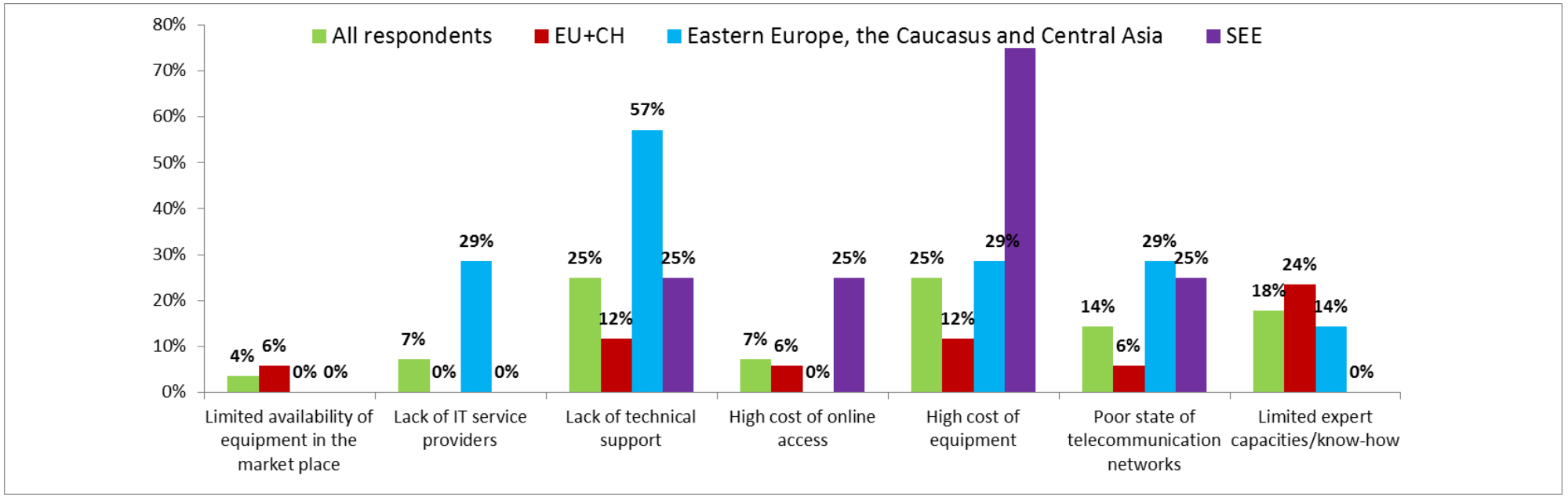

12. Please indicate what tools are used or are planned to be used in your country to support e-participation in environmental decision-making
(percentage and number of respondents)
Total used
EU + CH used
EECCA used
SEE used
Total planned
EU + CH planned
EECCA planned
SEE planned
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
PLANNED
USED
Public e-committees etc.
Internet disc. forums
e-Coll. Environment
Public e-consultations
e-Interviews
Web meetings
E-campaigning
CD-ROM

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

Graph 4.1 Institutional challenges



Graph 4.2 Economic challenges



Graph 4.3 Legal challenges