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# Overcoming Obstacles to Integrating Evidence in Policy-Making

Informal Joint Workshop of the Regulatory Policy Committee and AMSDE on the Role of Impact Assessment in Policy Making

# EVIA Case Studies

22 case studies in EC (8), Poland (2), UK (5), Denmark (3) and Netherlands (4)

- 4 out of 22 consider economic, social and environmental aspects substantially (all EC)
- In all cases economic impacts have been considered at least formally, social impacts in 13 cases, environmental impacts in 11 cases
- Substantial consideration: economic impacts 17, social 7, environmental 8
- Stakeholder involvement: economic 21, Social: 13, Environmental: 10
- Overall: Assessment of economic impacts and consultation of respective stakeholder is a well established practice, not the case for social and environmental aspects

## Determinants of SD consideration

- Policy Domain: Consideration of more than one impact areas more often in non-economic departments
- Limited Stakeholder involvement
- Conflictual relation to other departments
- Technical Constraints: Limited time / resources, difficulties in combining qualitative and quantitative data, lack of skills

## Methods and Tools

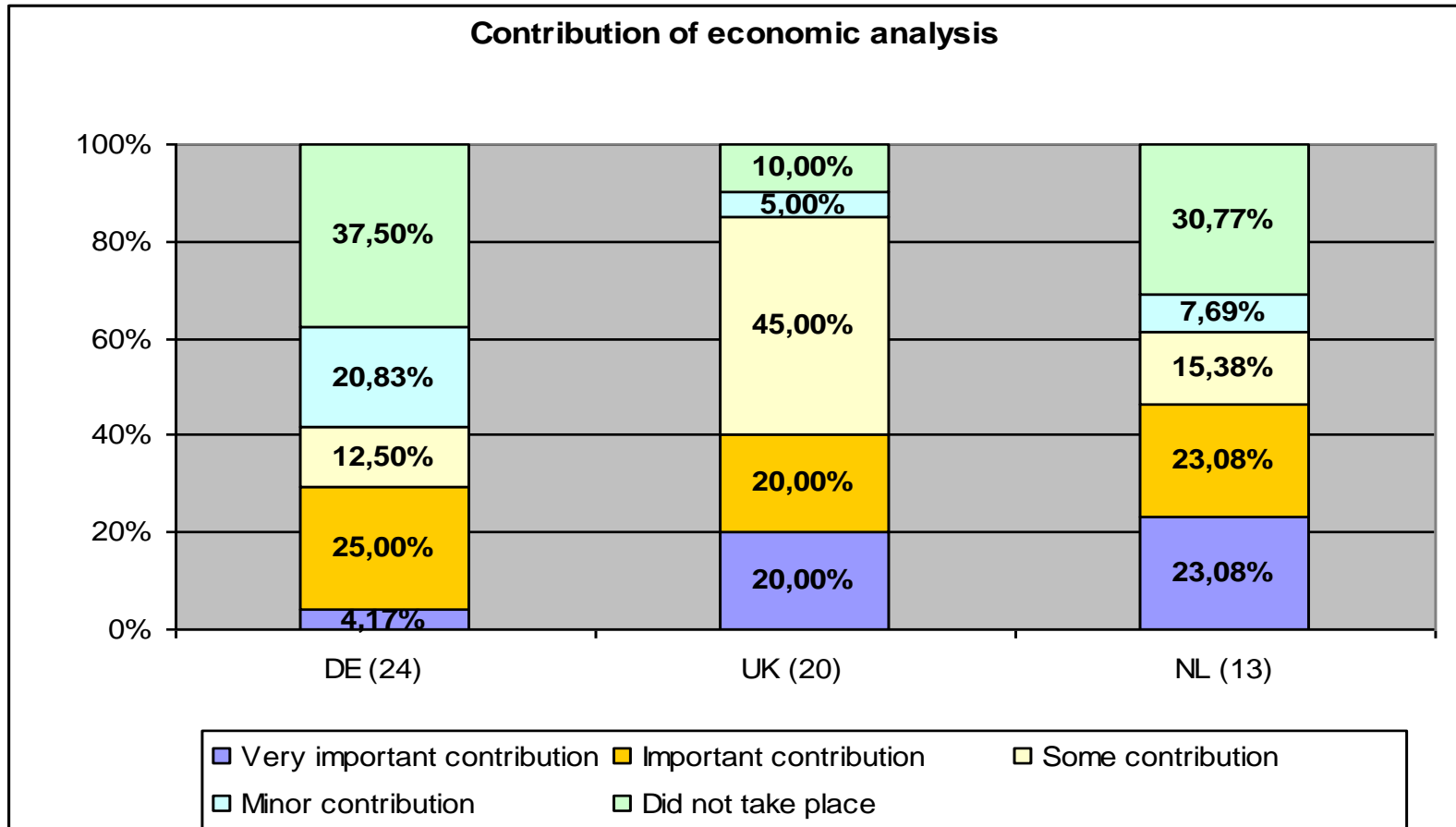
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- Quantification and monetisation favoured in several jurisdictions
- Few countries mention other methods, including qualitative approaches
- Use of tools to quantify/monetise falls short to meet the expectations – only two types of methodologies are consistently used: simple CBA and SCM
- Concerns of overemphasis of monetary impacts confirmed in case studies
- Reservation of government officials about quantification and monetisation

Officers: GER (28), UK (21), NL (11)

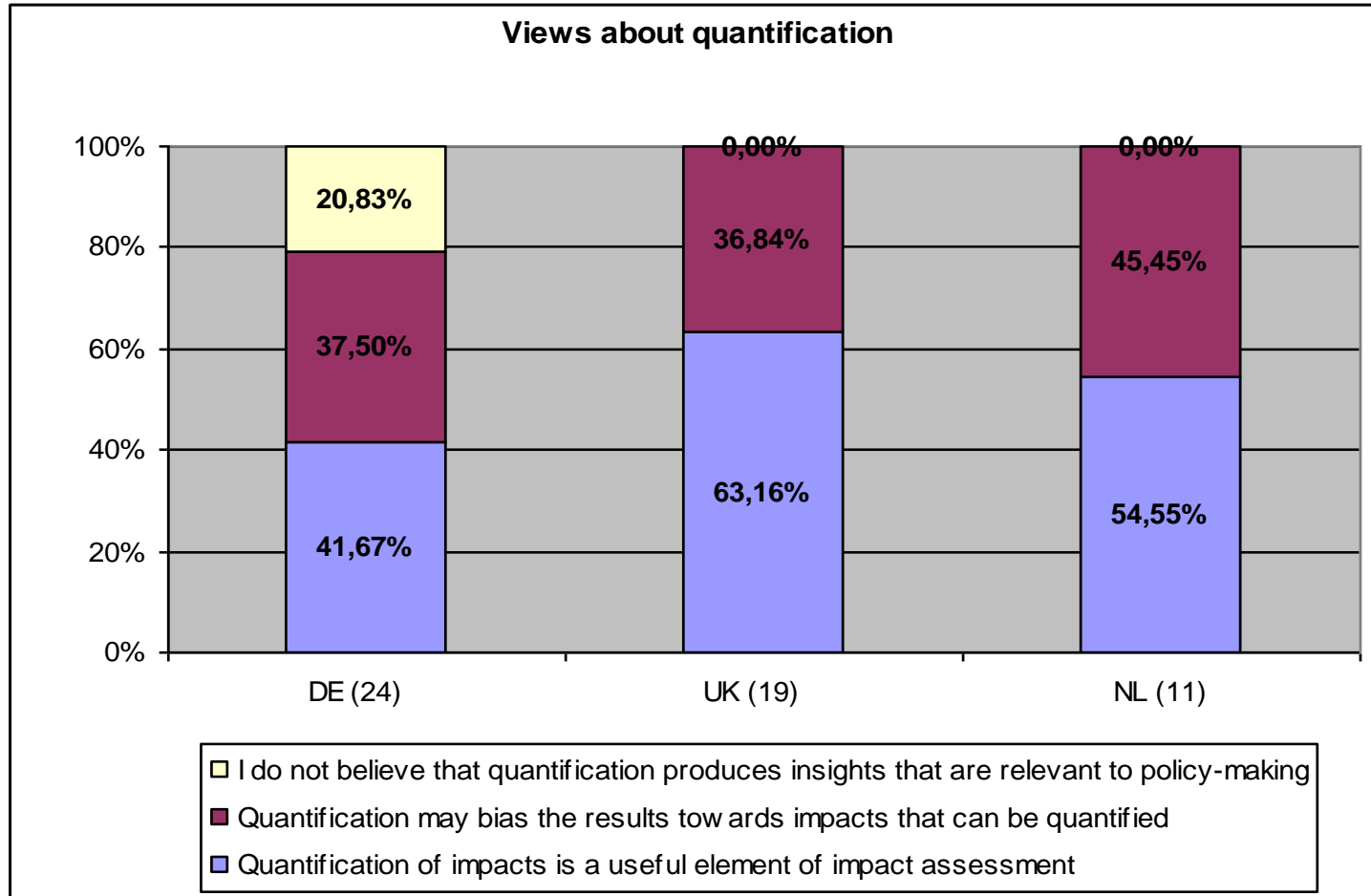
National IA Procedures:

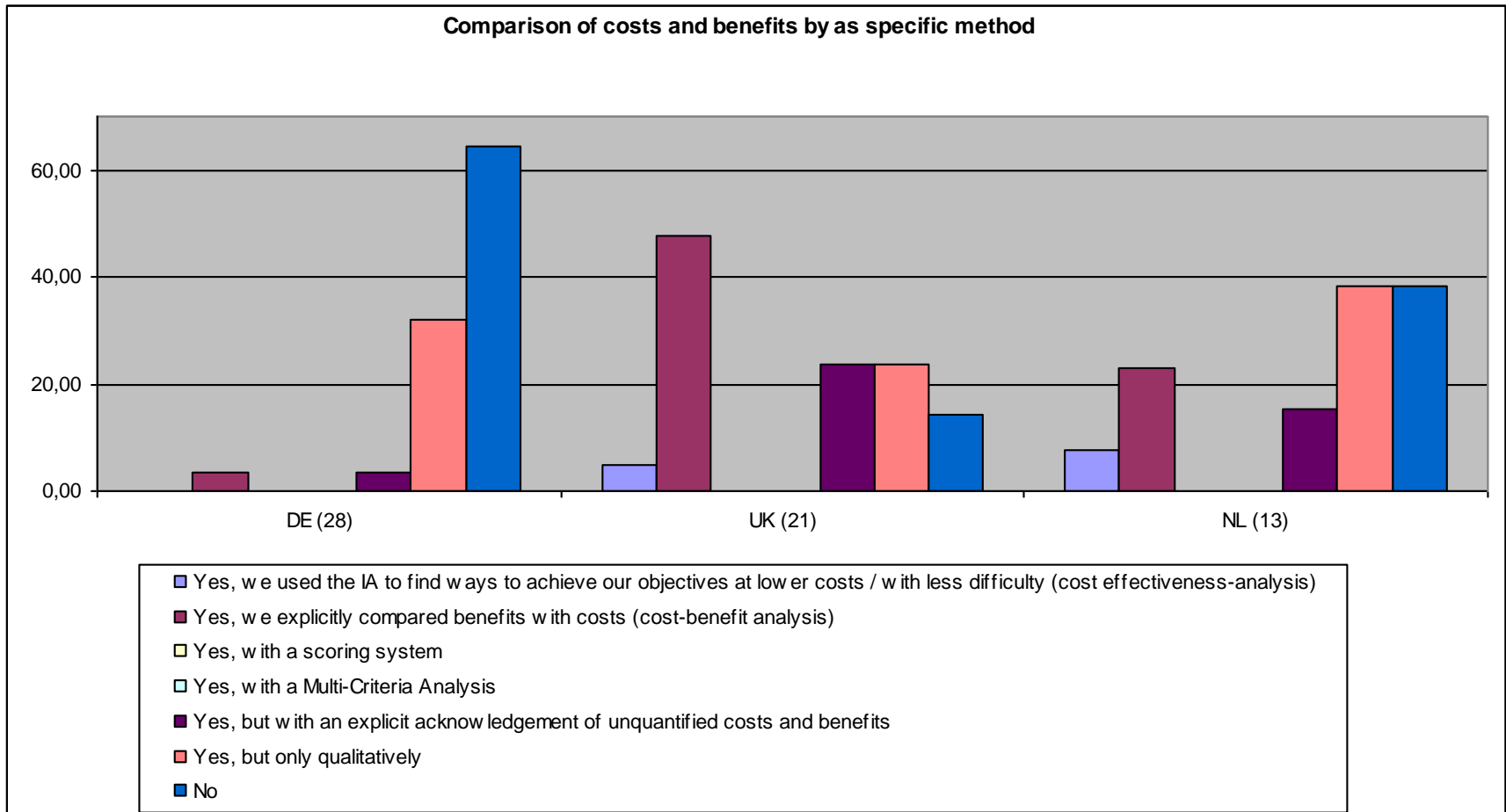
- UK: Regulatory Impact Assessment
- NL: 3 separate tests overseen (business, enforcability, environment)
- D: informal analysis versus formalised GFA





# Sceptical on Quantification

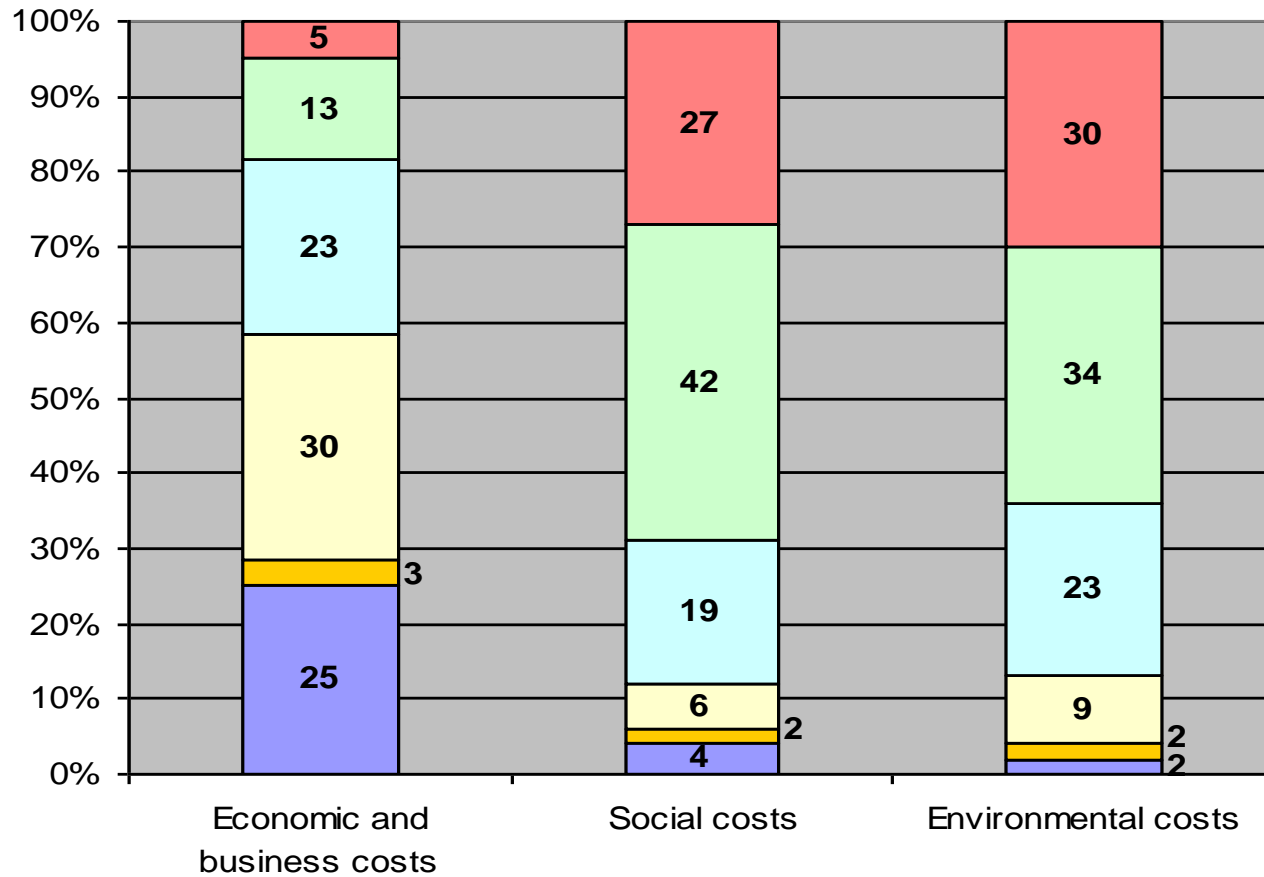








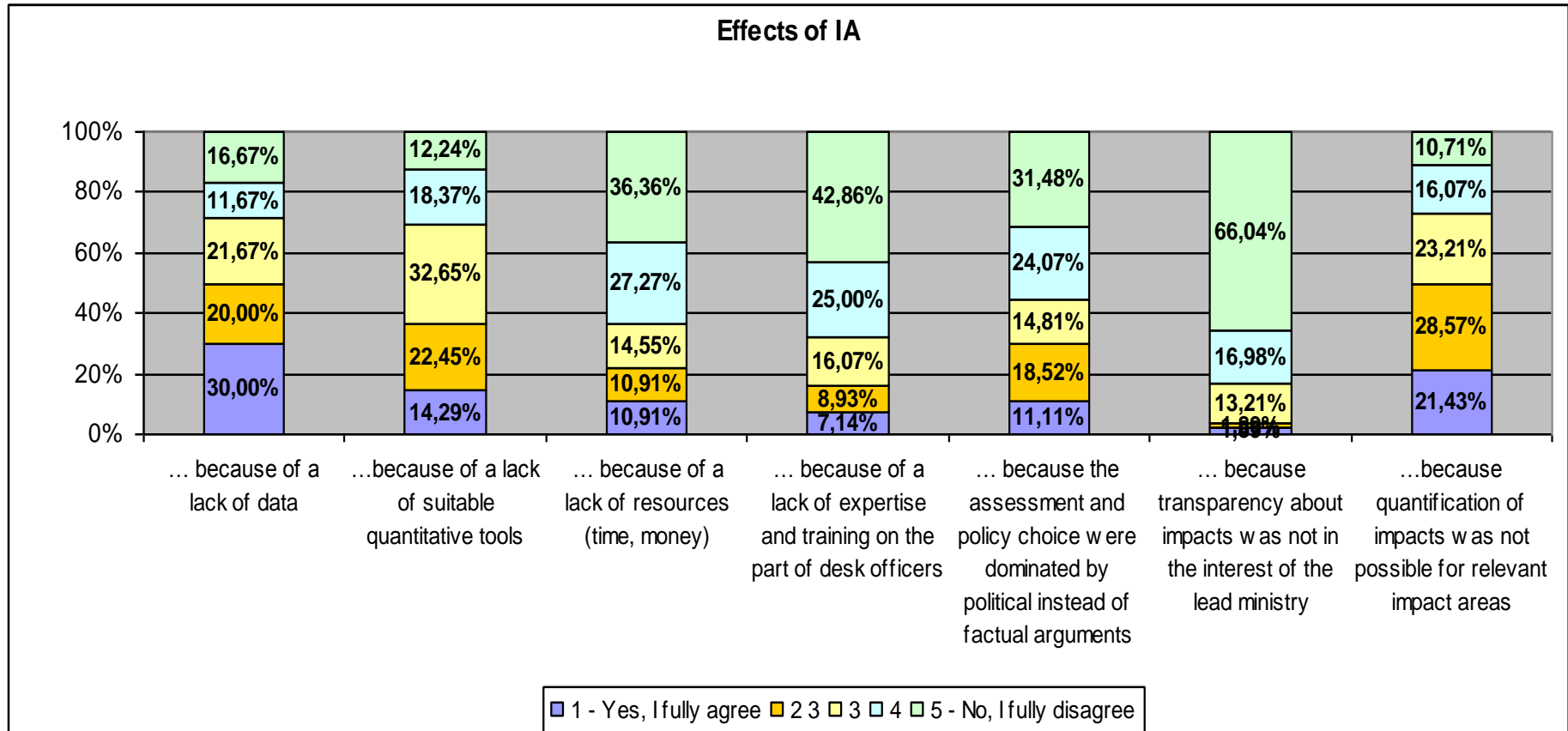
### Costs of the proposal regarding different aspects



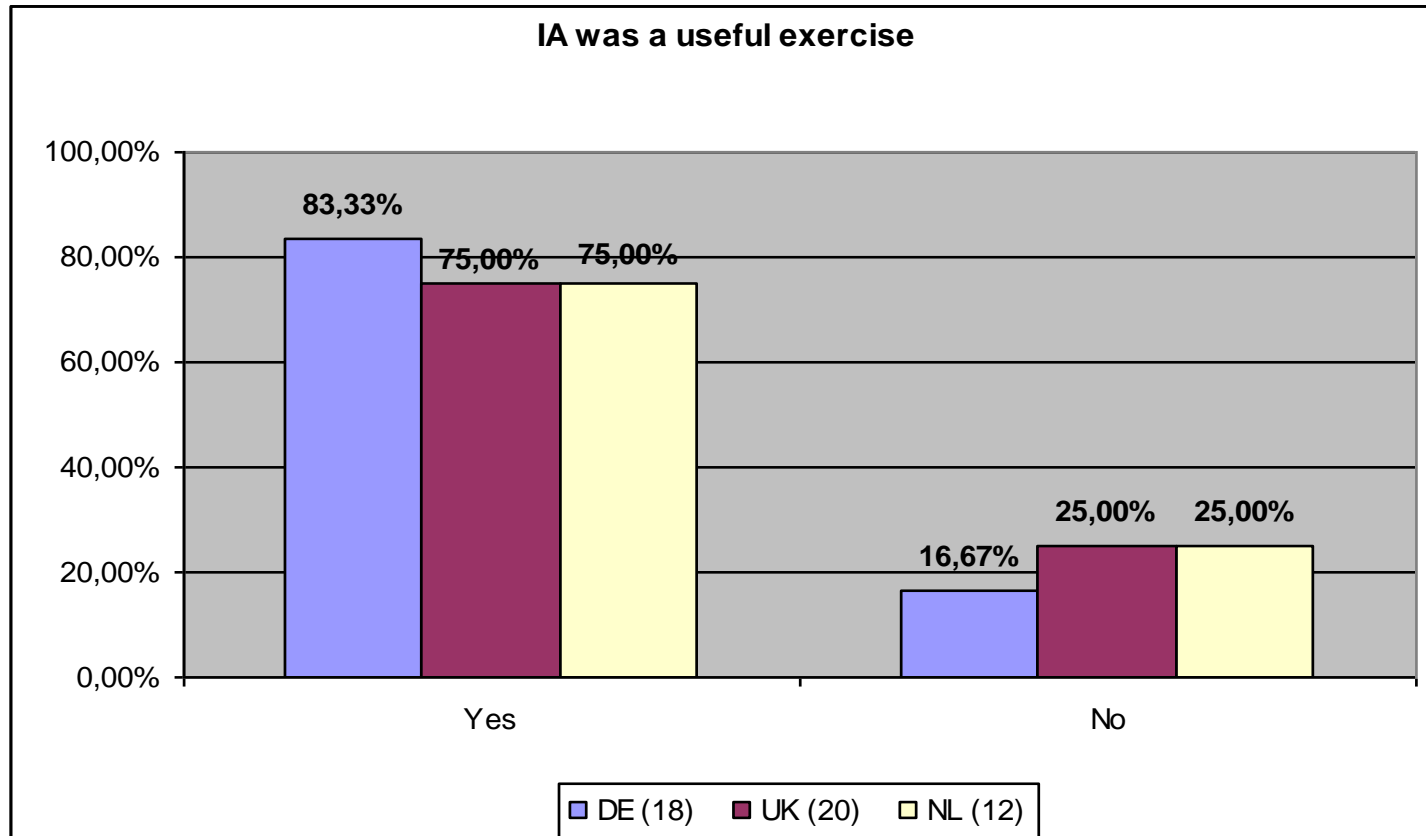
- Monetisation
- Full quantification w without monetisation
- Partial quantification
- Qualitative Assessment
- No impacts expected
- Not evaluated



# Reasons for the lack of quantification: non quantifiable, lack of data, lack of resources, lack of tools, dominant political arguments

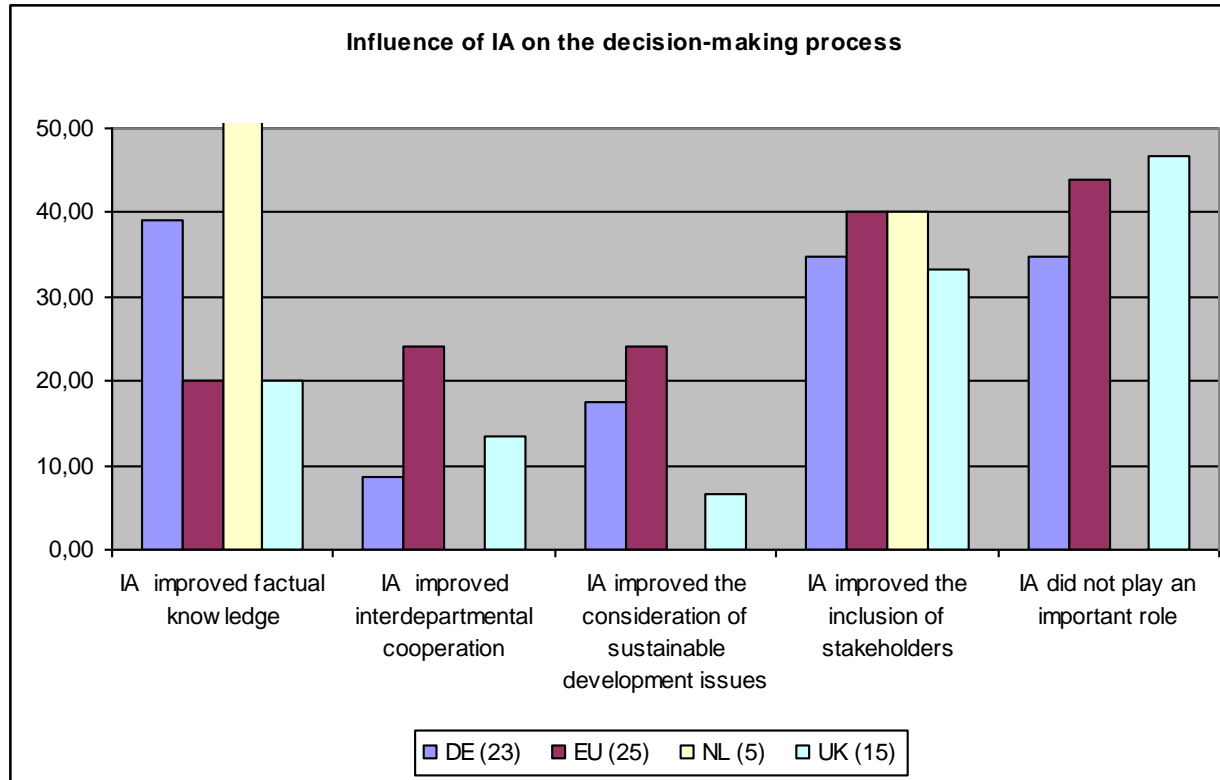


# General positive assessment of usefulness of IA (Germany: including „informal“ analysis)

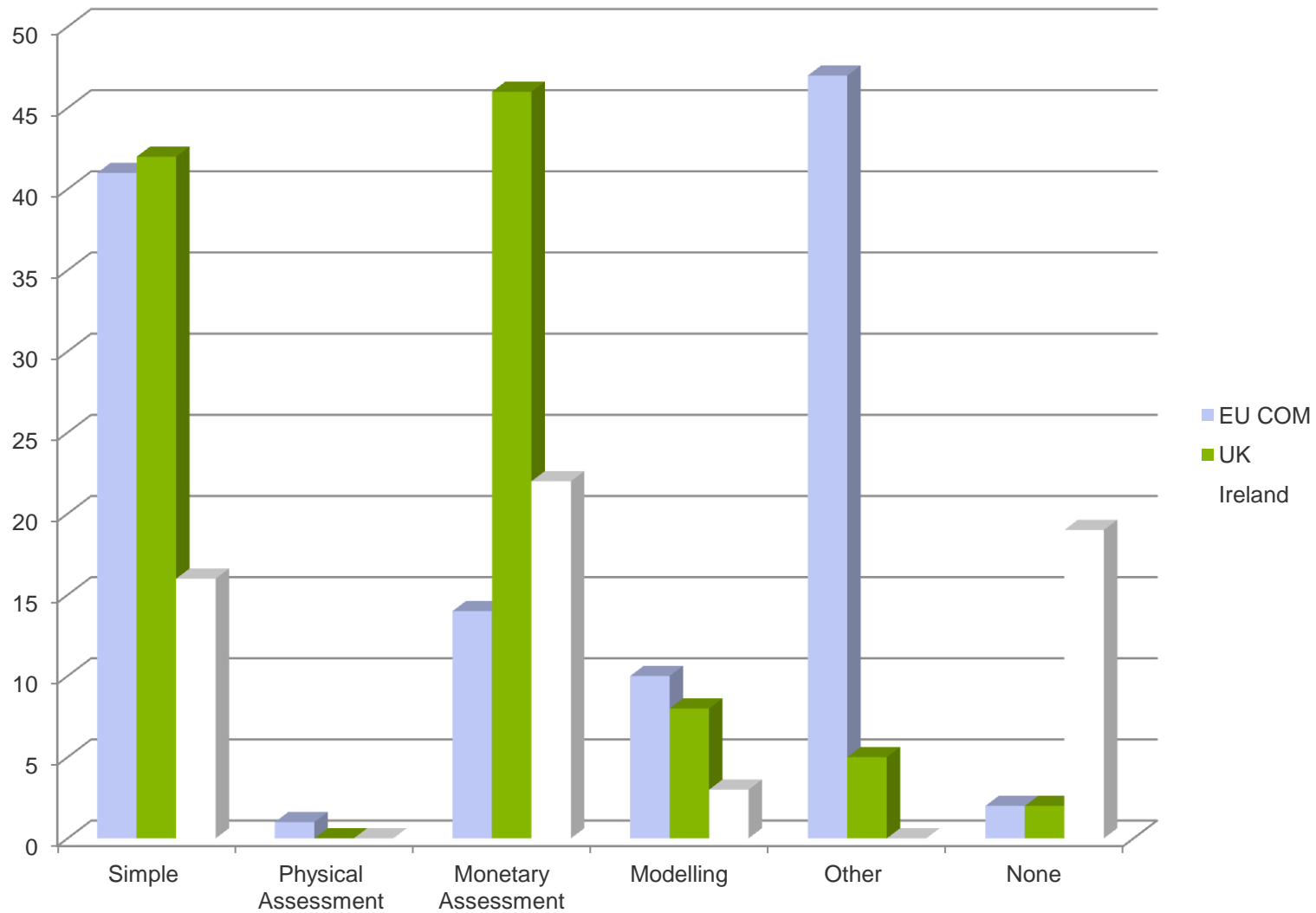




# Outcomes of IA (officers perception)



# Analysis of IA Reports: EU COM, Ireland, UK



Source: Turnpenny et al. 2011

## Challenges of IA

- Missing or irrelevant Tools
- Lack of Data
- Risks of early Participation
- Lack of resources: time, staff, budget
- Competing interests and political pre-determination
- Norms, values and priorities: no universal truth

# Opportunities to improve the Practice

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## Supply side:

- (1) Methods and Data
- (2) Training and Support

## Demand Side:

- (1) Adaptation to the institutional context and integration in the policy process
- (2) Inter-departmental co-operation
- (3) Co-ordination across policy levels
- (4) Participation
- (5) Quality Assurance