

Practice on castration of piglets in Europe



Results of Work package 2 in the EU project PIGCAS (2007-2008)



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Objectives WP2

- To improve knowledge on the extent of the practice of castration and how it is performed in Europe
- To gather and evaluate information about
 - extent of practice
 - conditions under which castration is performed
 - variations between countries
 - variation between production types

Collecting the data

- National contacts (24)
- Regional co-ordinators (5)
- Stakeholder organisations
 - Farmers/breeders
 - Veterinarians
 - Meat industry
 - Pig health services
- Common questionnaire



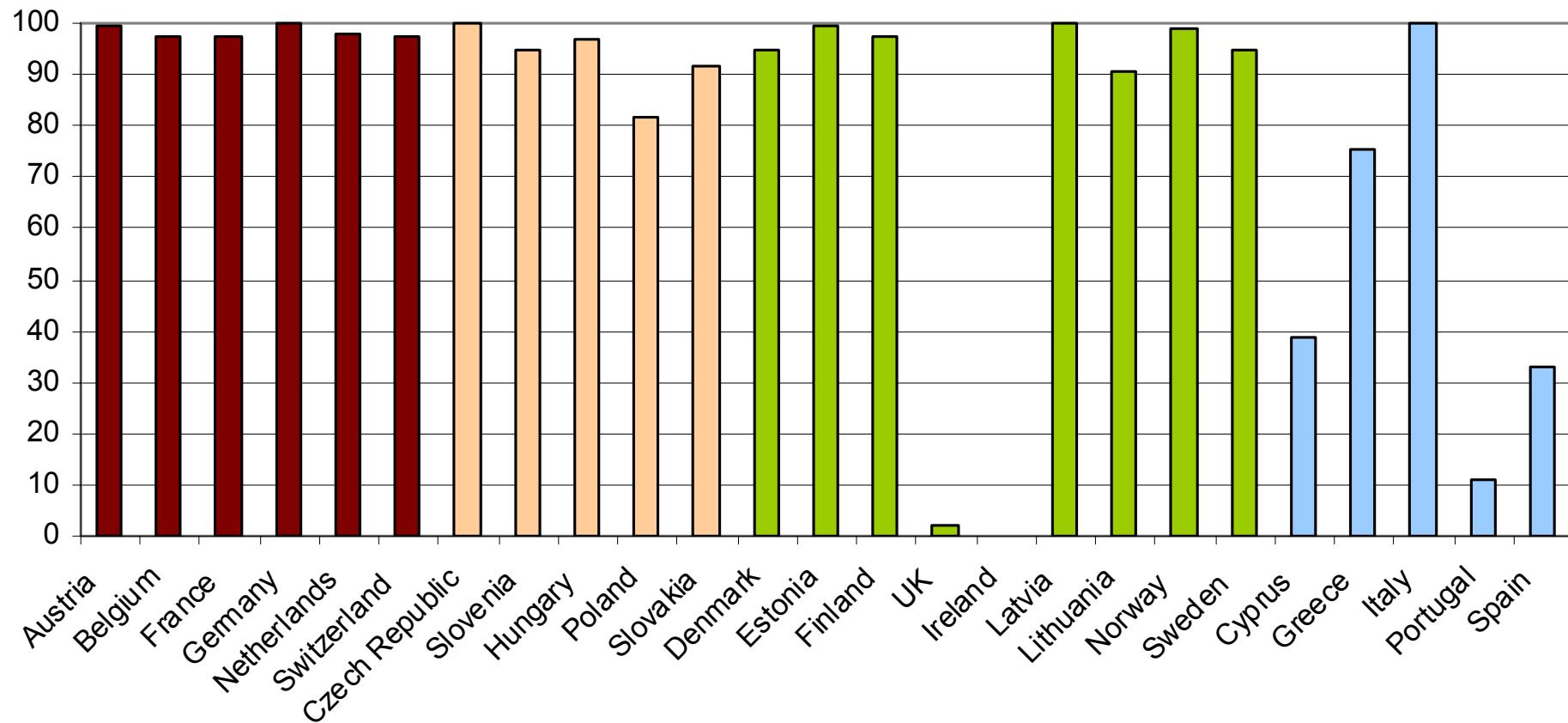
Presentation of the data

- Average within each country
- Distribution of answers within each country
- Different production systems treated separately
- Comparision of stakeholder groups – not possible

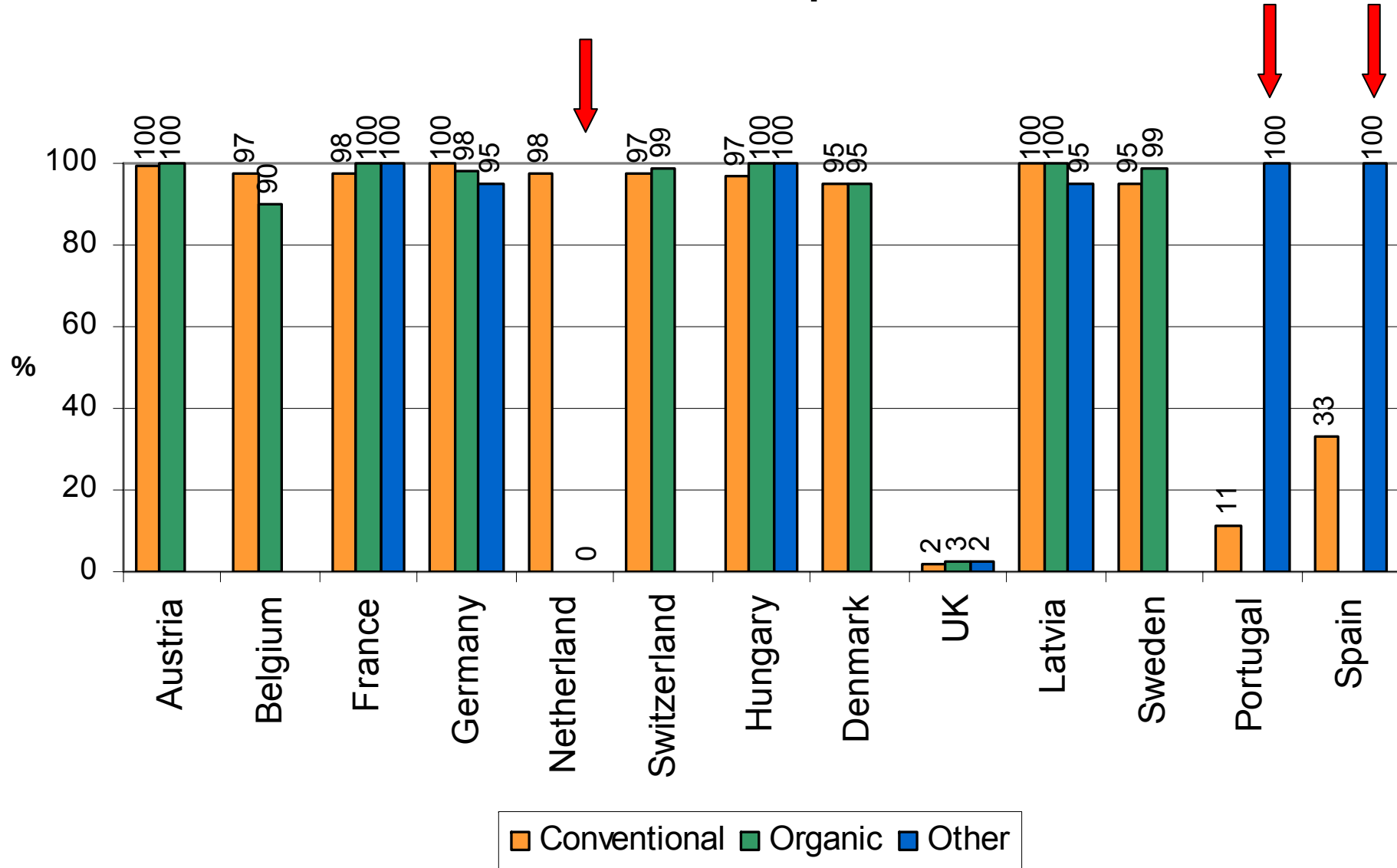
➤ **Interpretation of the results must be done with care**

Percentage of male pigs castrated – conventional production

Percentage castrated per country

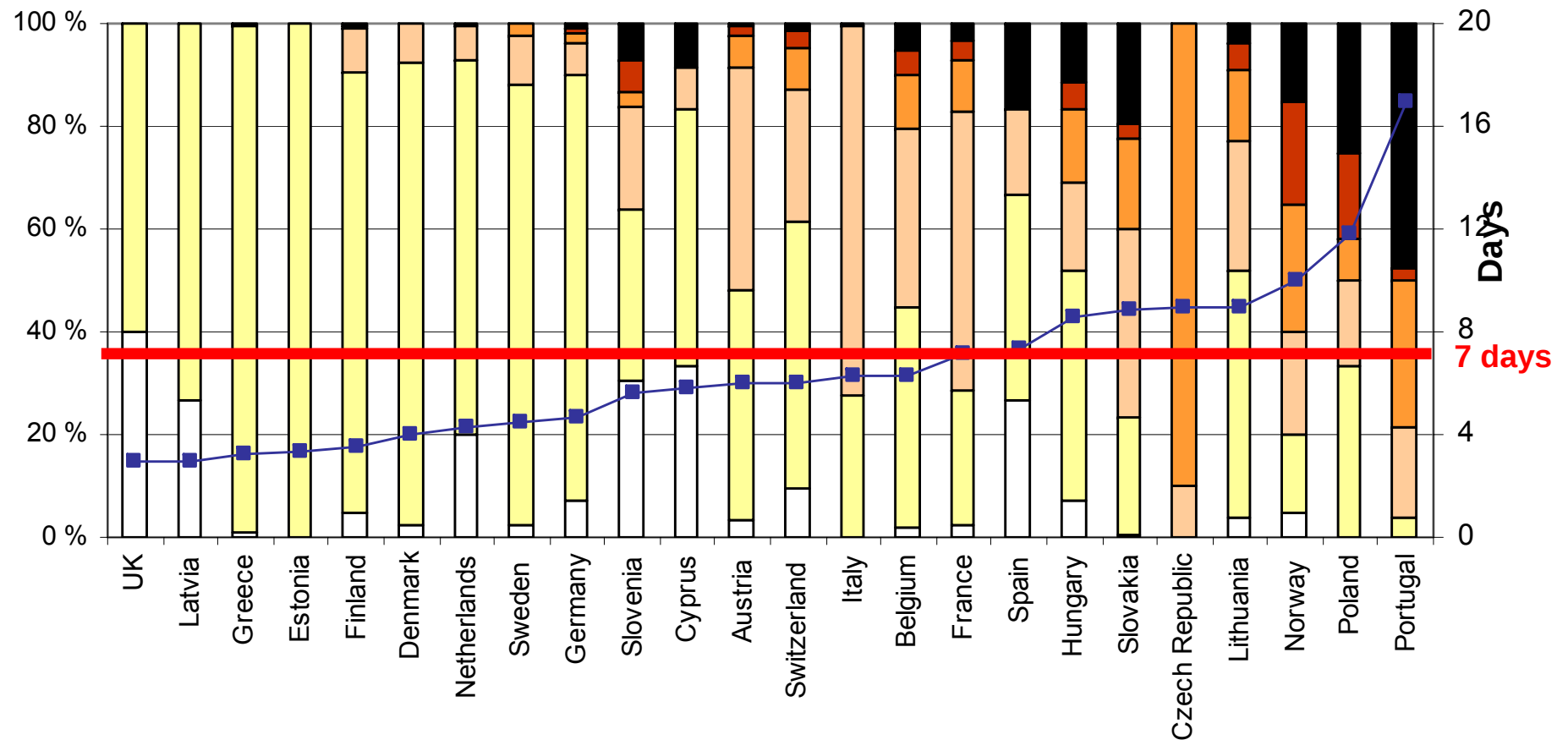


Percentage of male pigs castrated non-conventional production



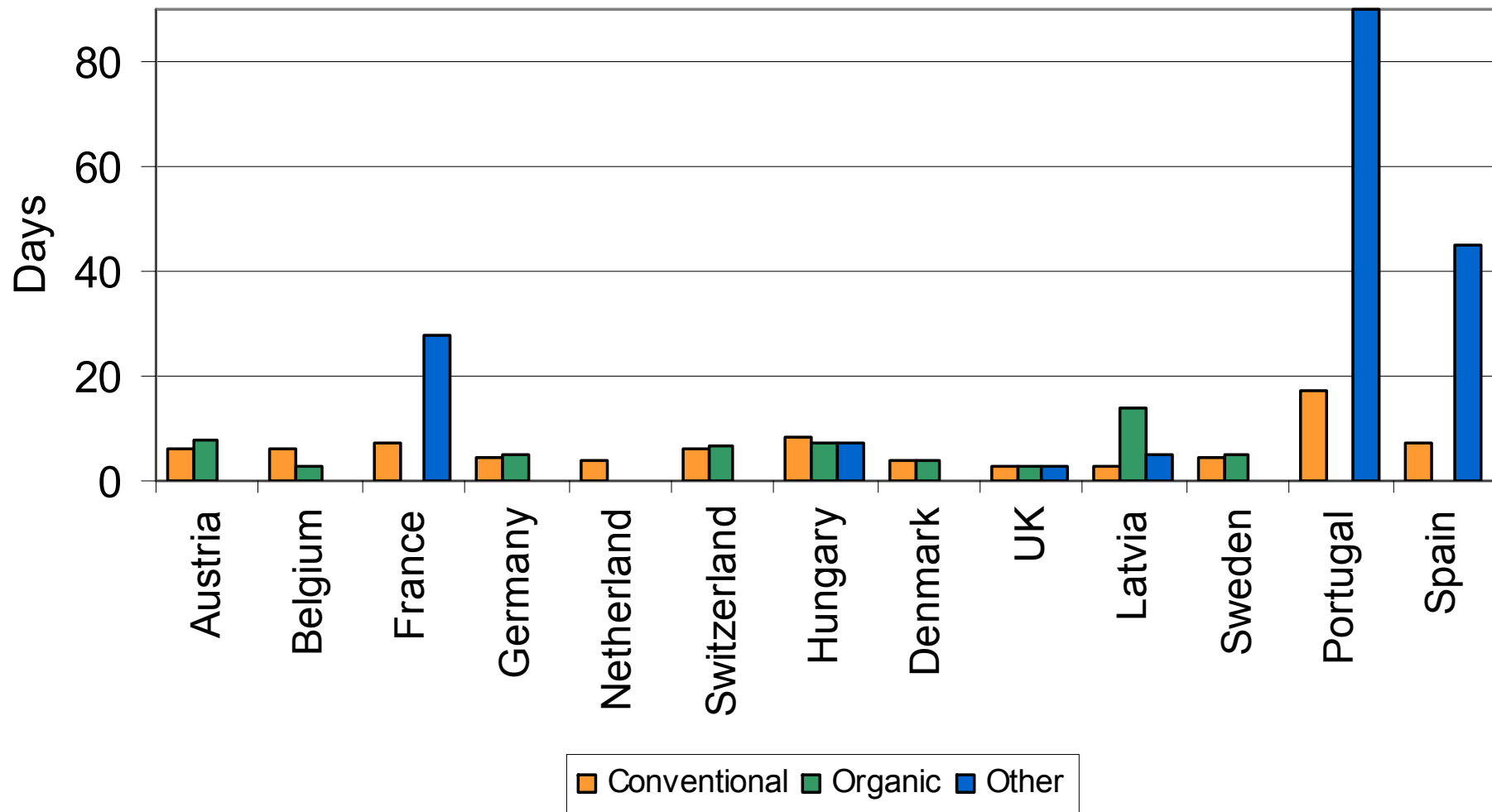
Age at castration

– conventional production

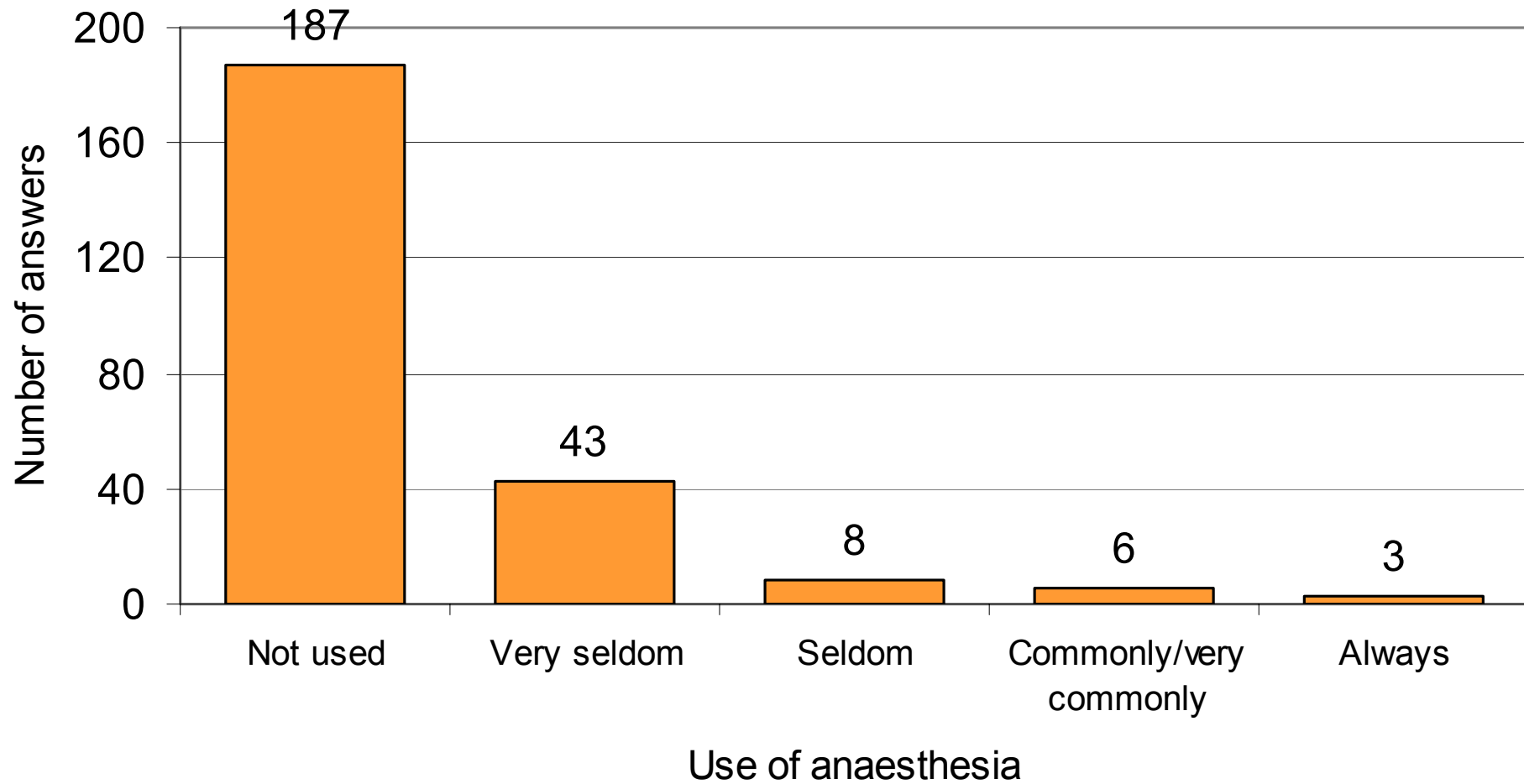


<2 days
 3-5 days
 6-8 days
 9-11 days
 12-14 days
 >14 days
 Mean_age

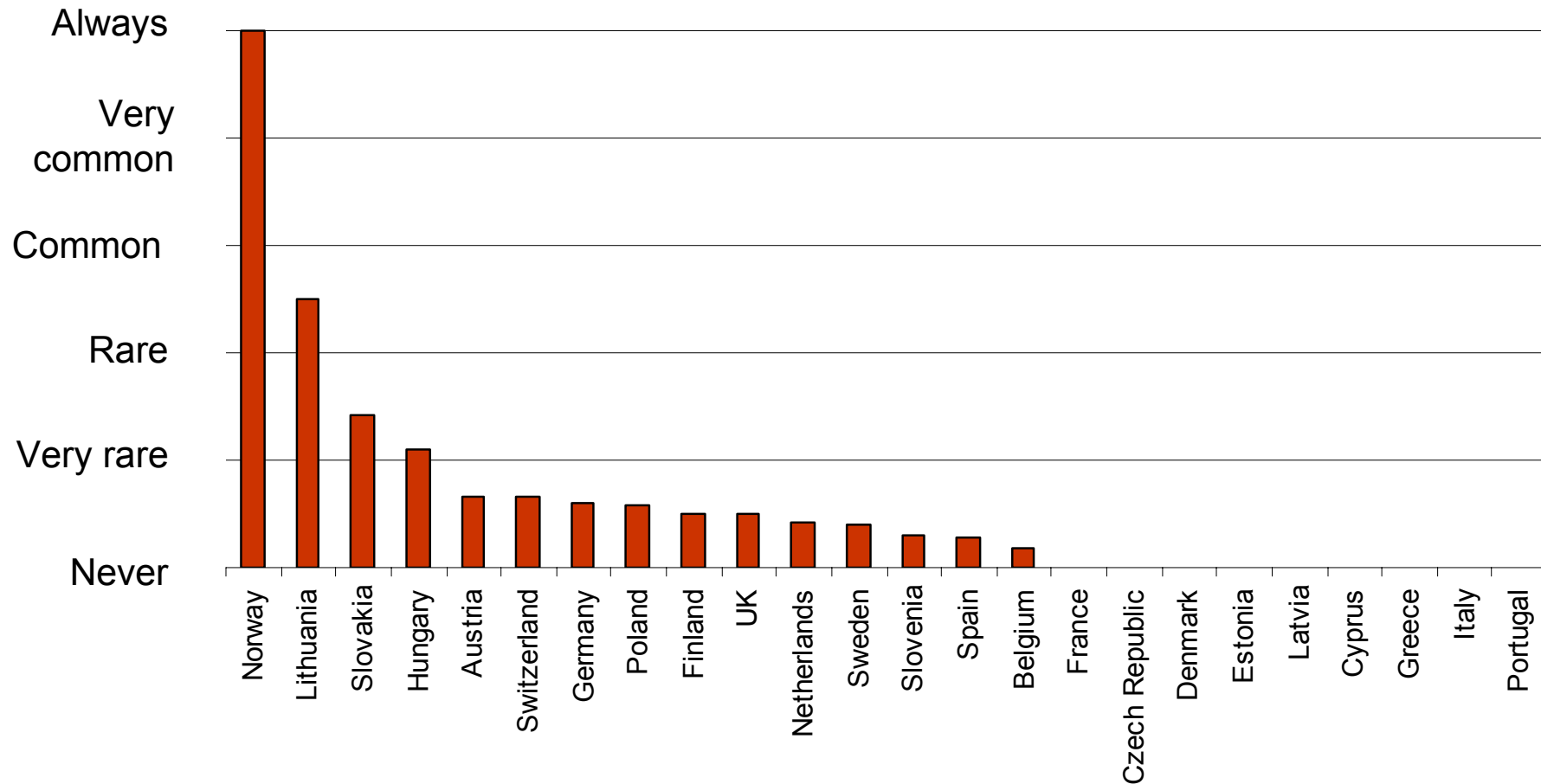
Age at castration non-conventional production



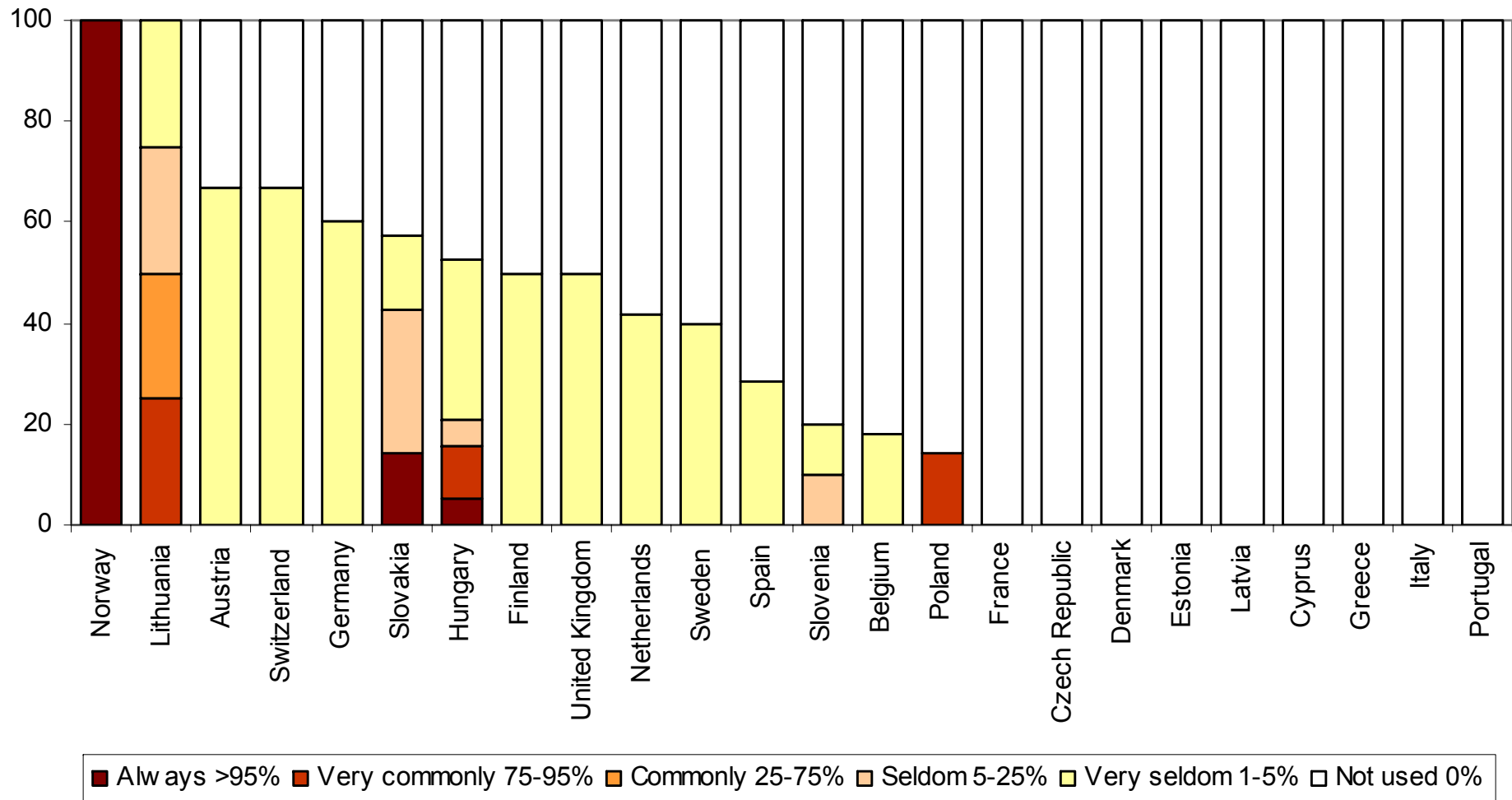
Use of anaesthesia – overall



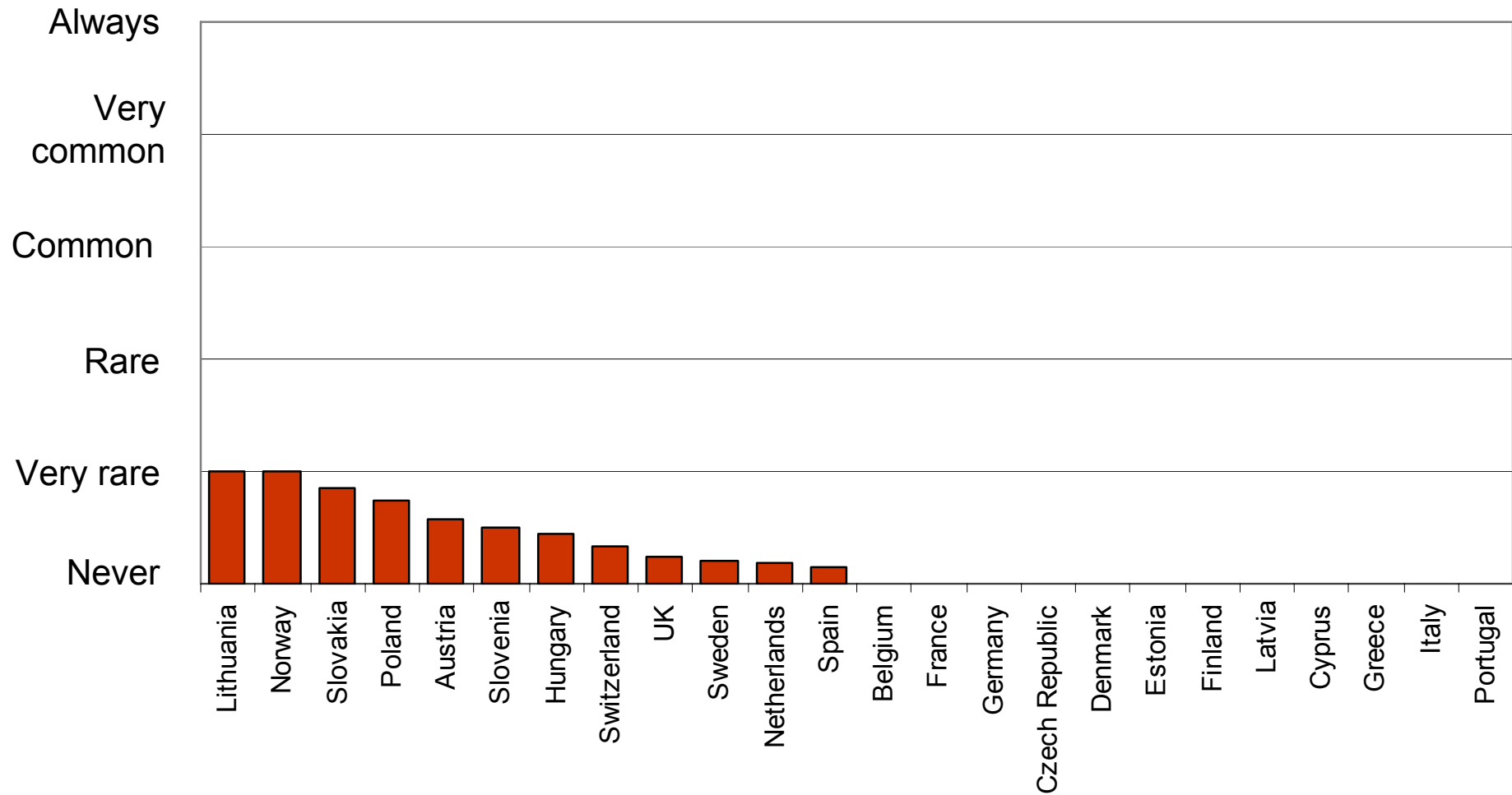
Anaesthesia - average



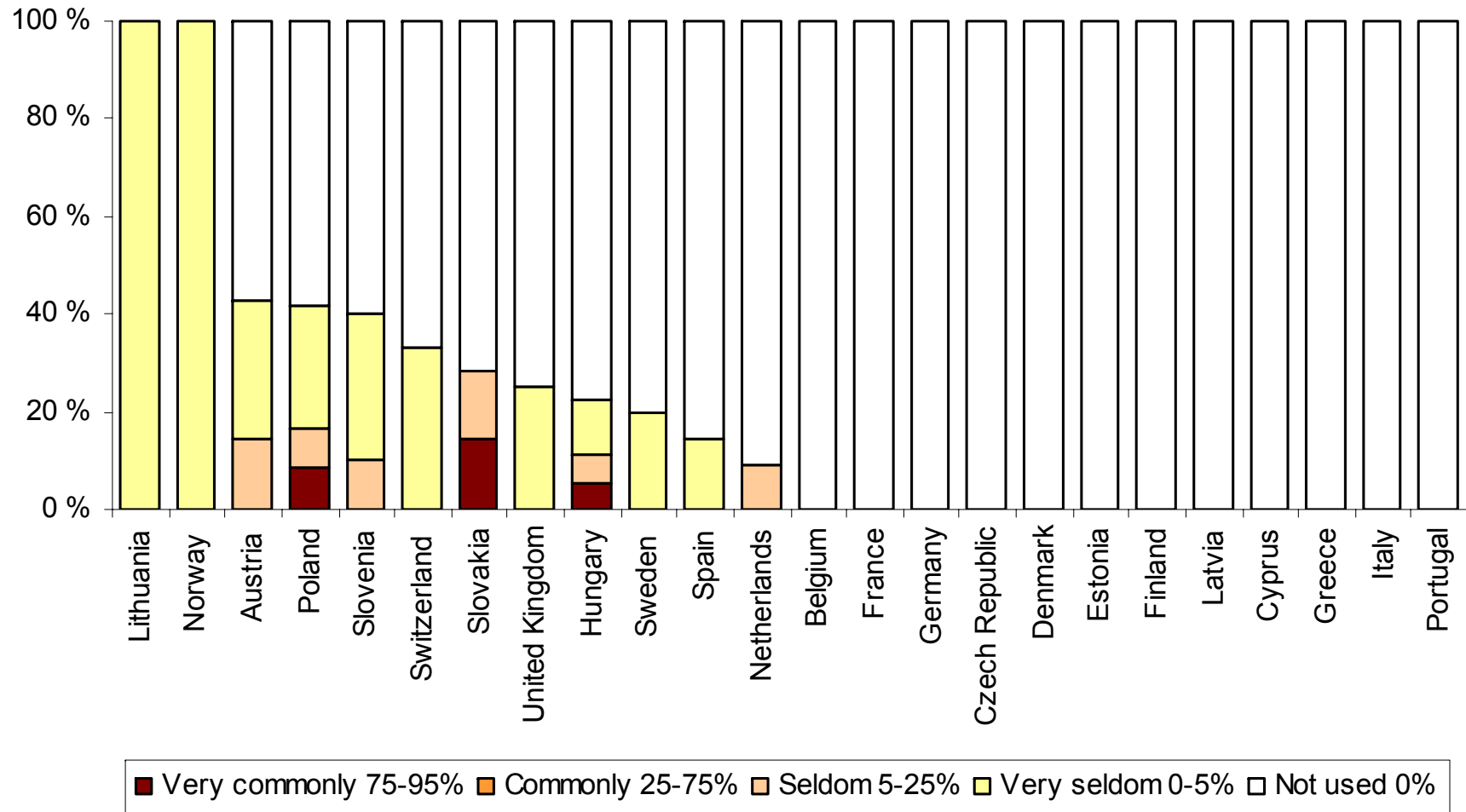
Anaesthesia - distribution



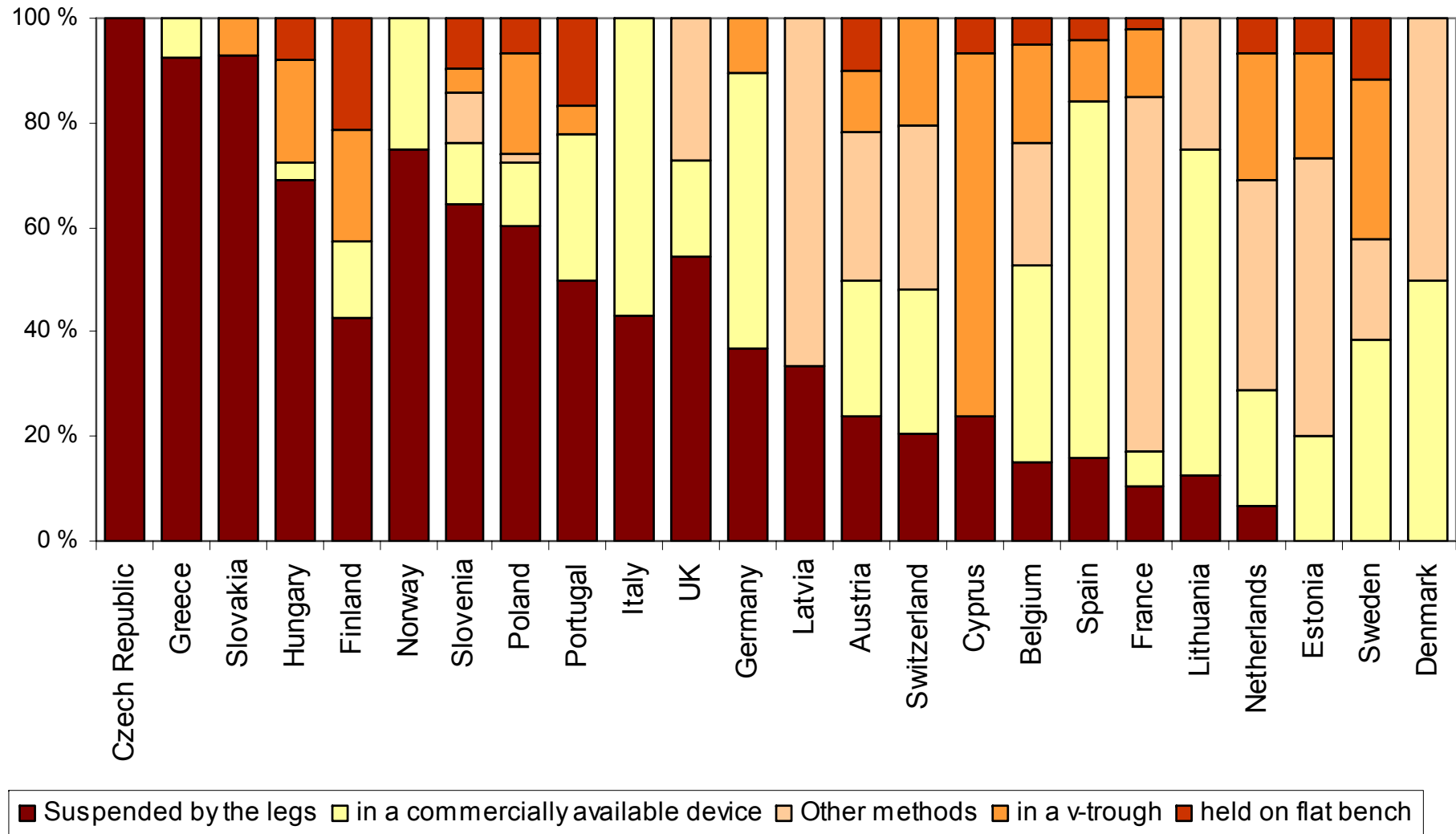
Analgesia - average



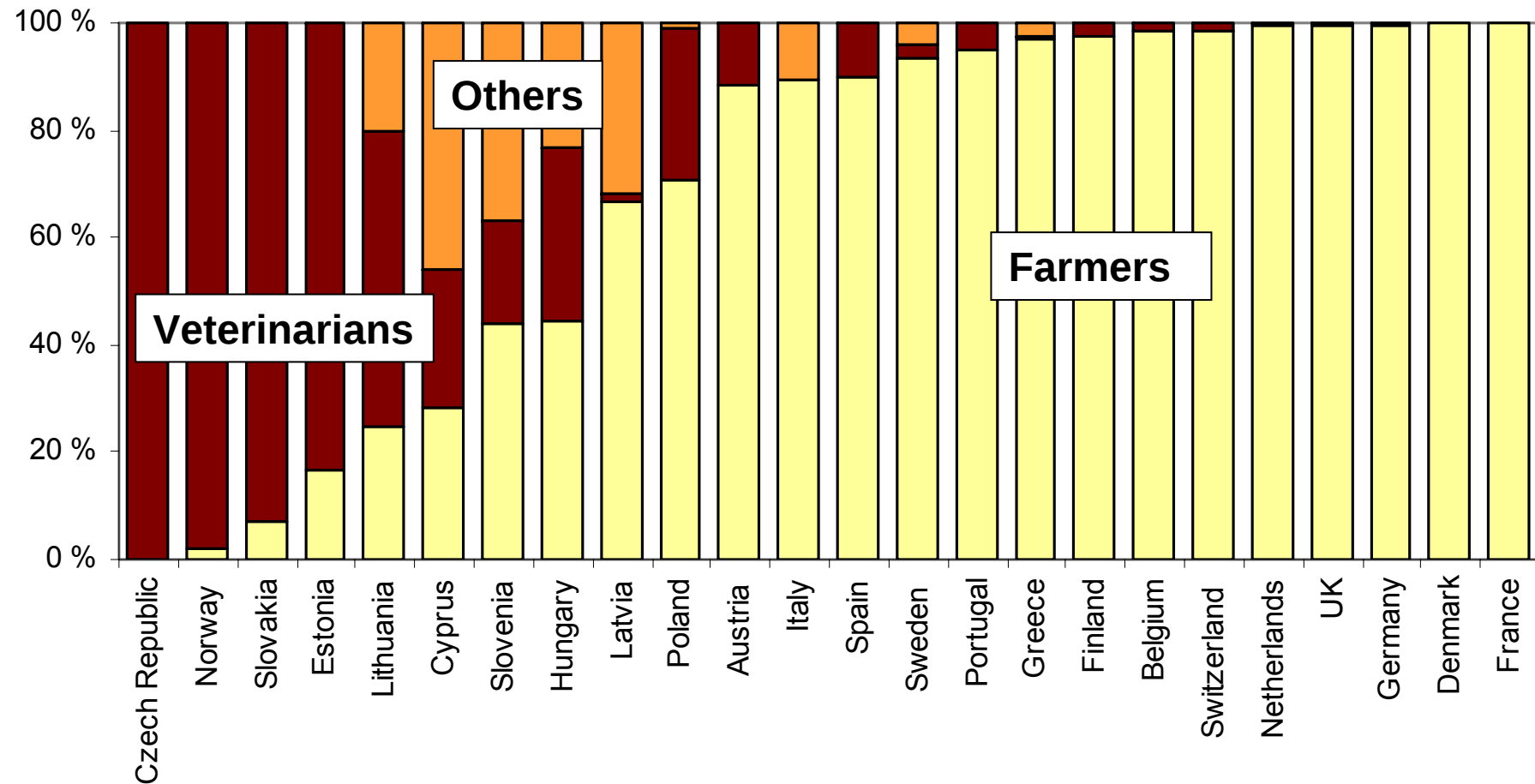
Analgesia - distribution



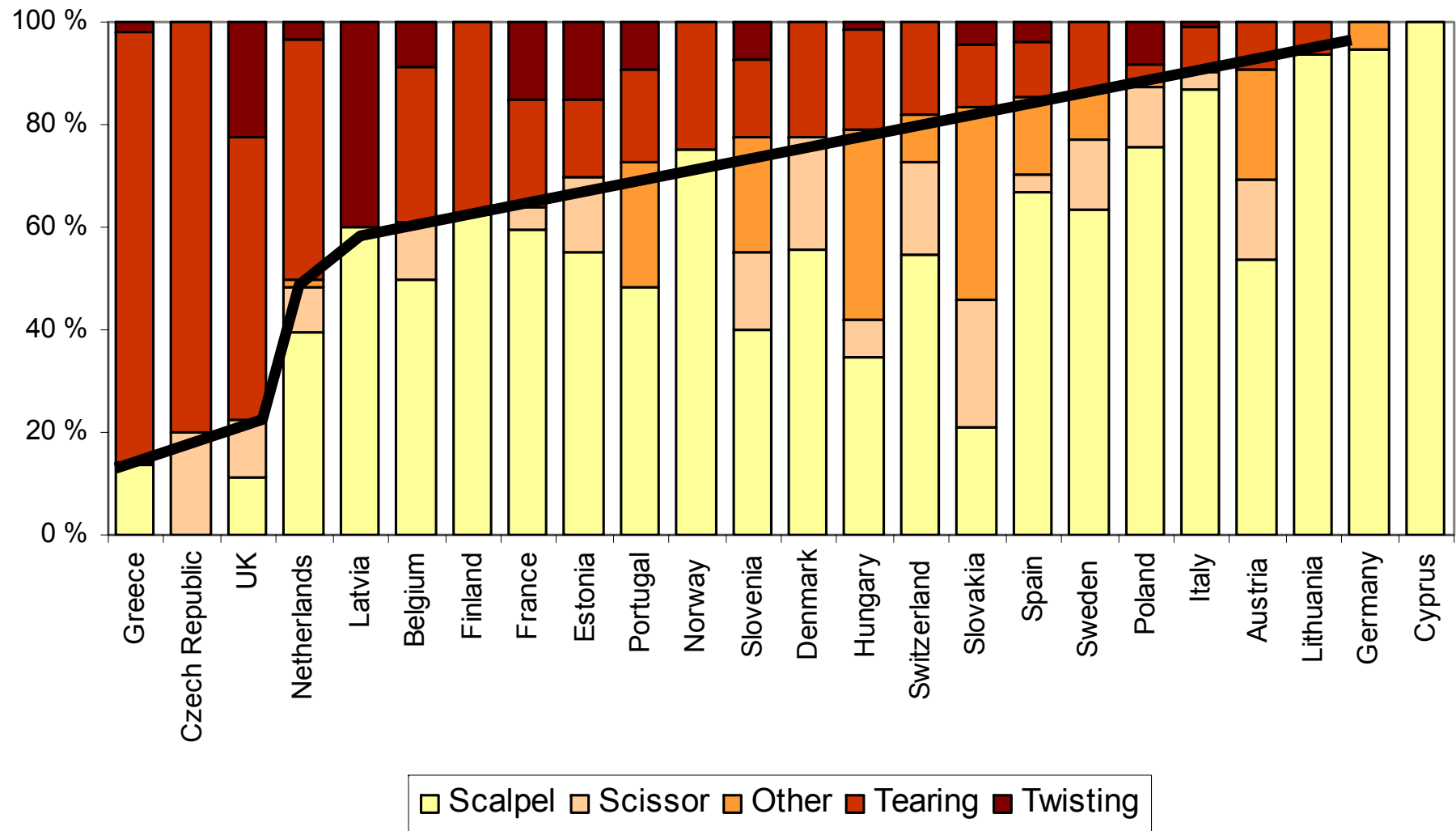
How common are these different types of restraining of piglets during surgery?

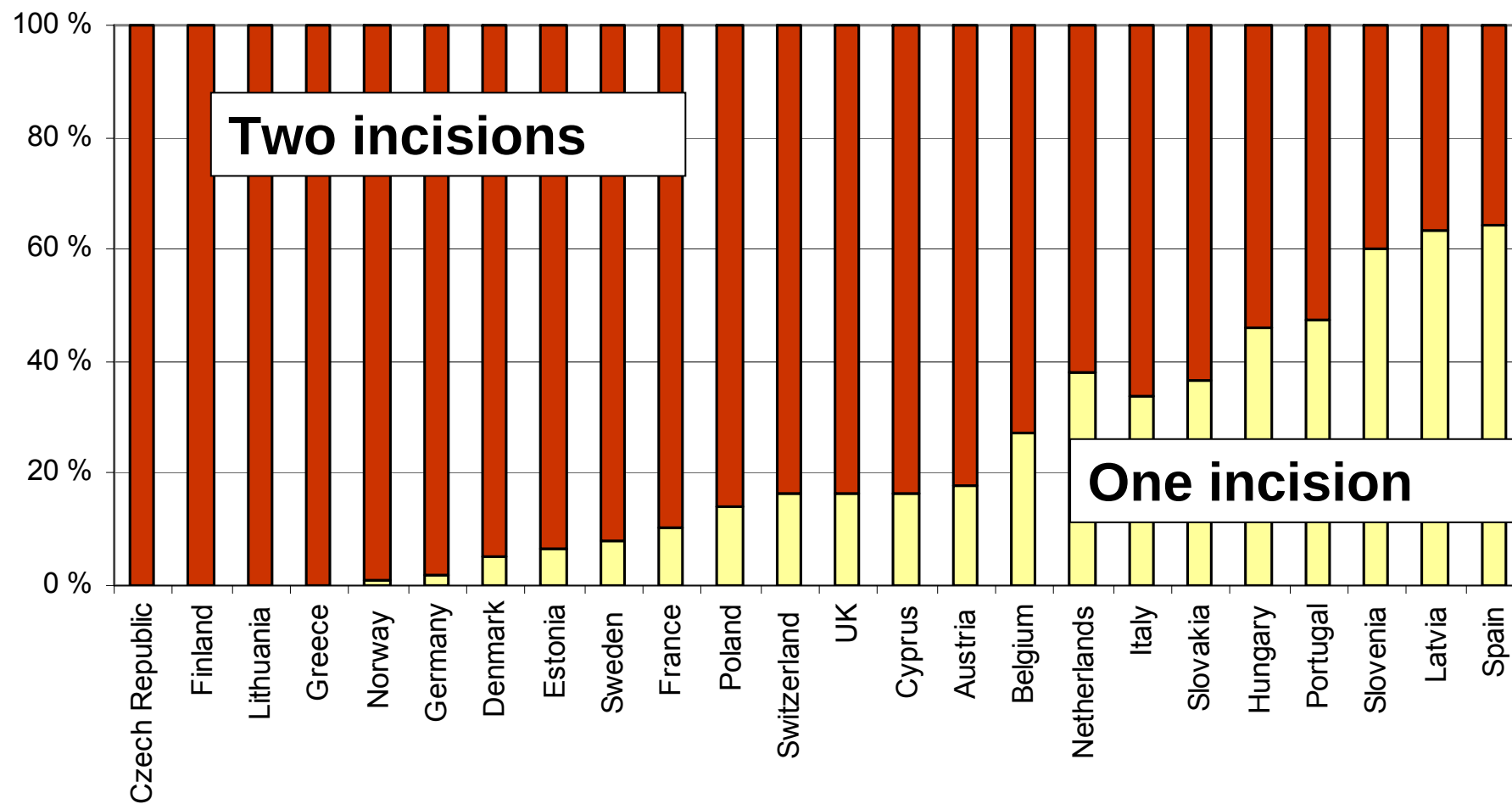


Who performs the castration?

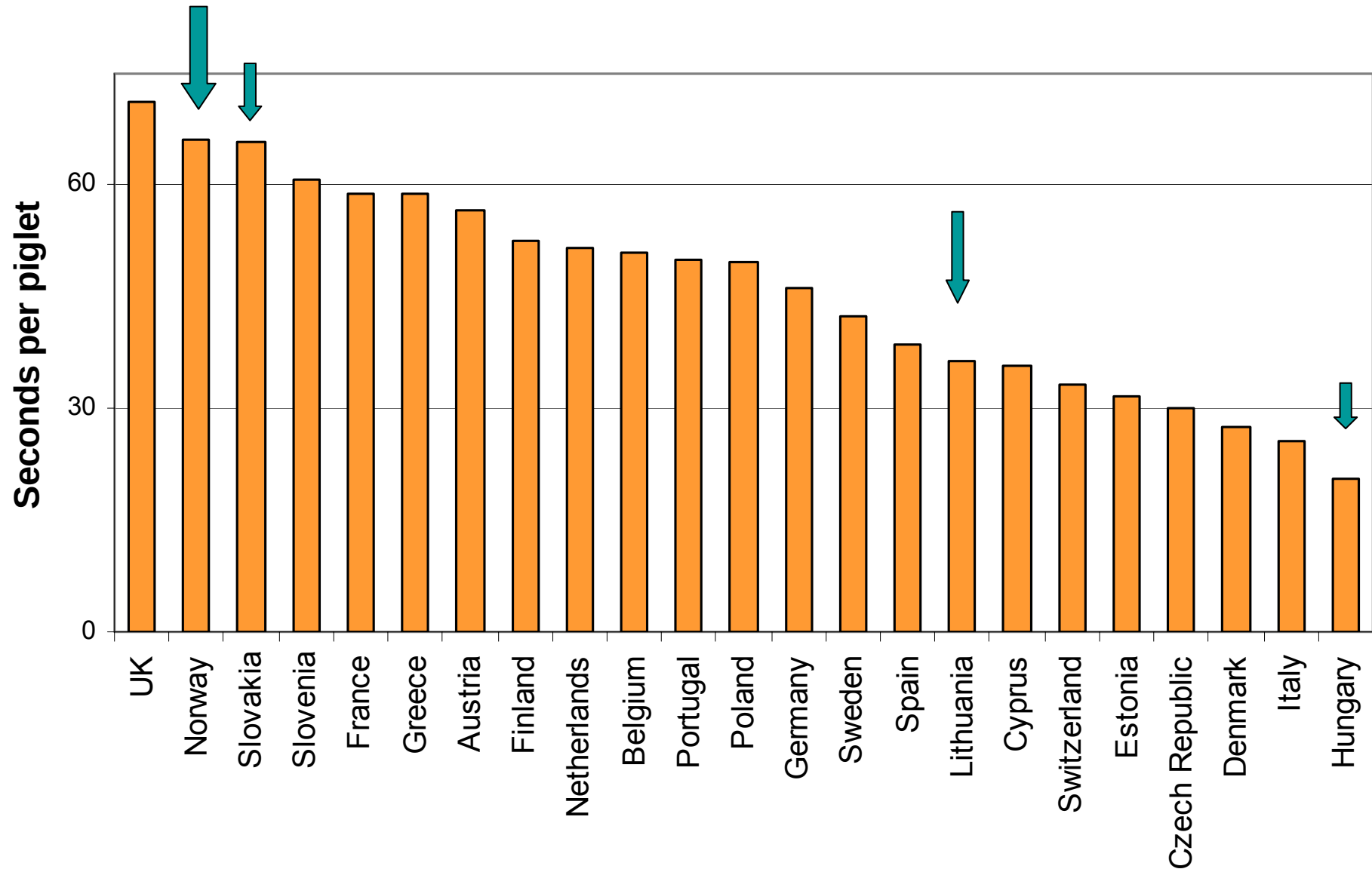


Procedures used to cut the spermatic cord

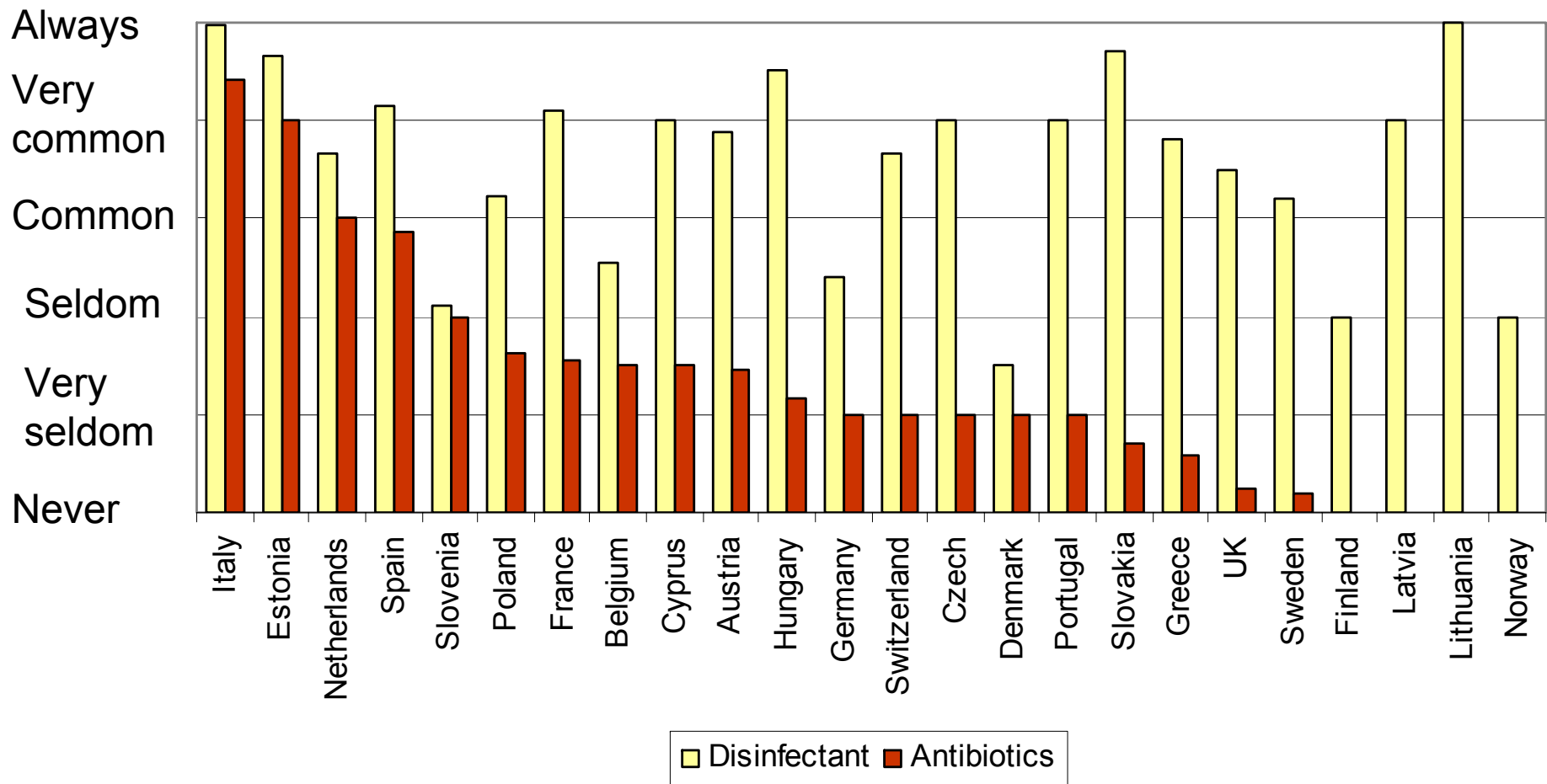




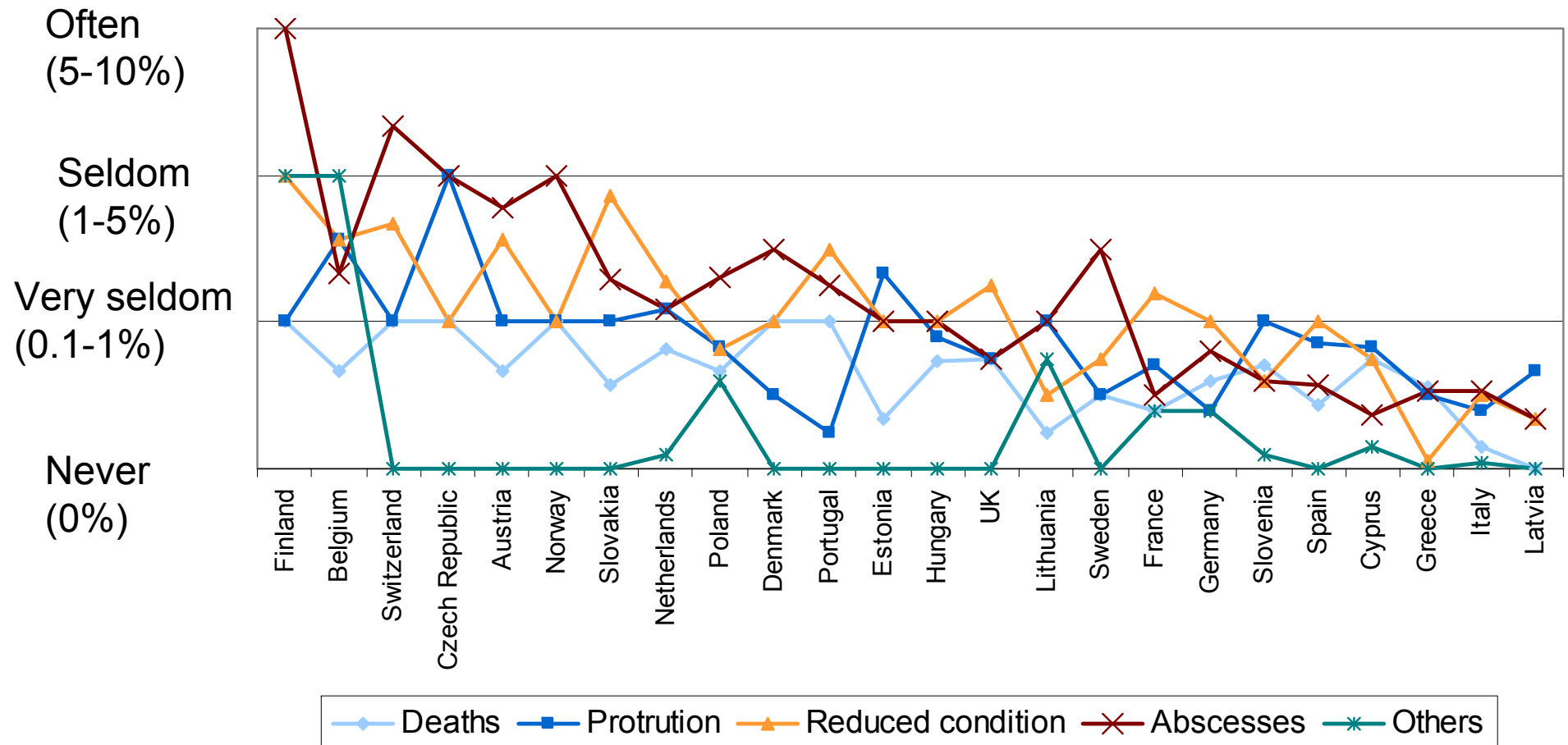
Time consume - castration



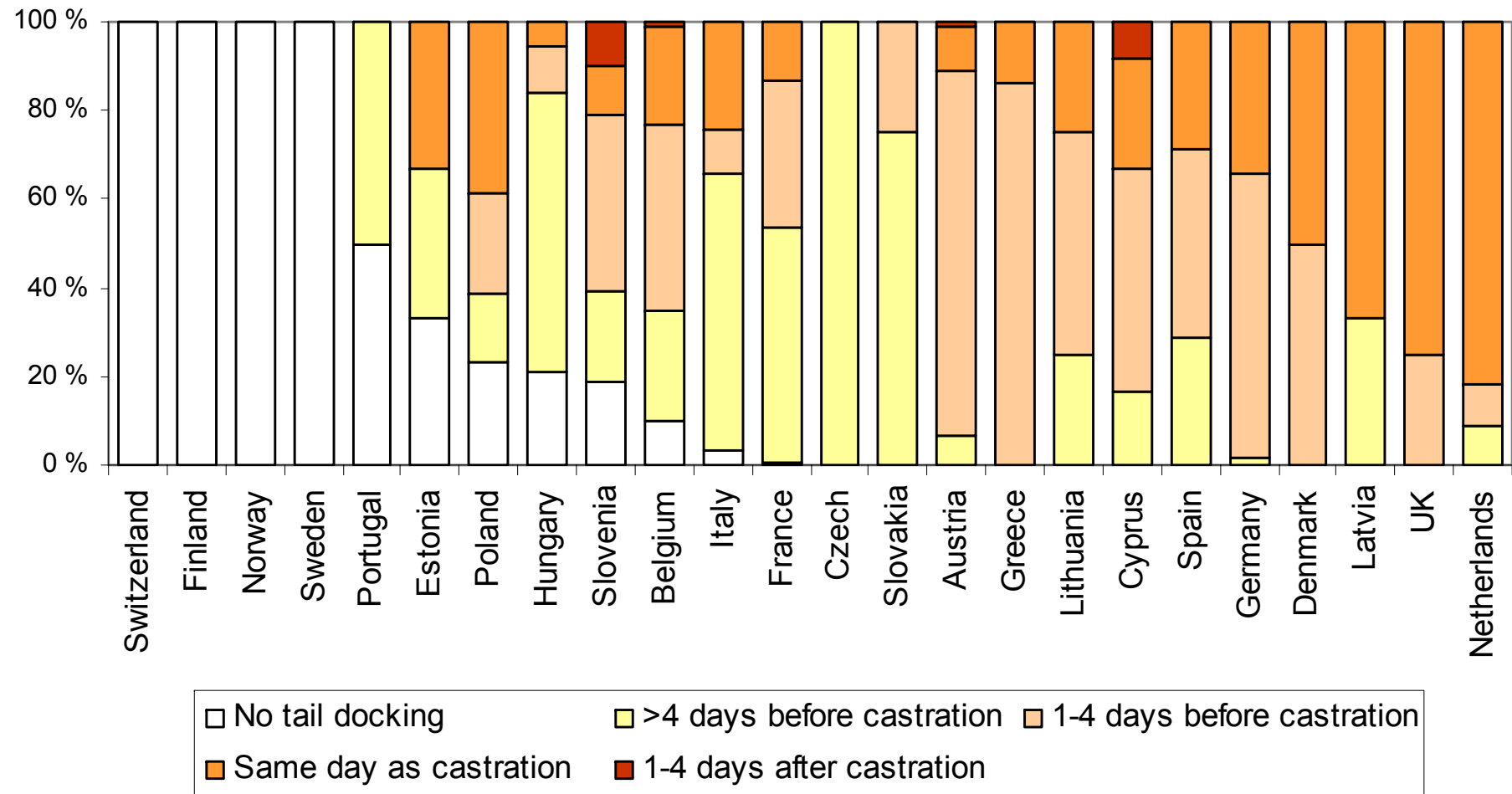
Use of disinfectants and antibiotics



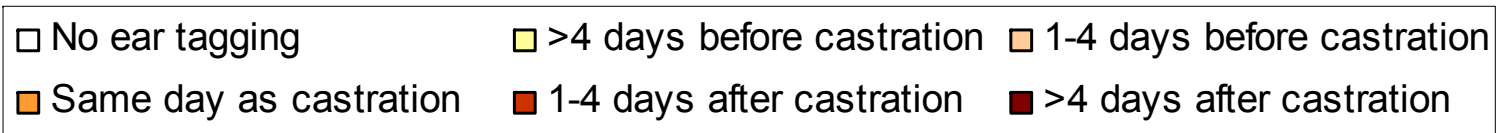
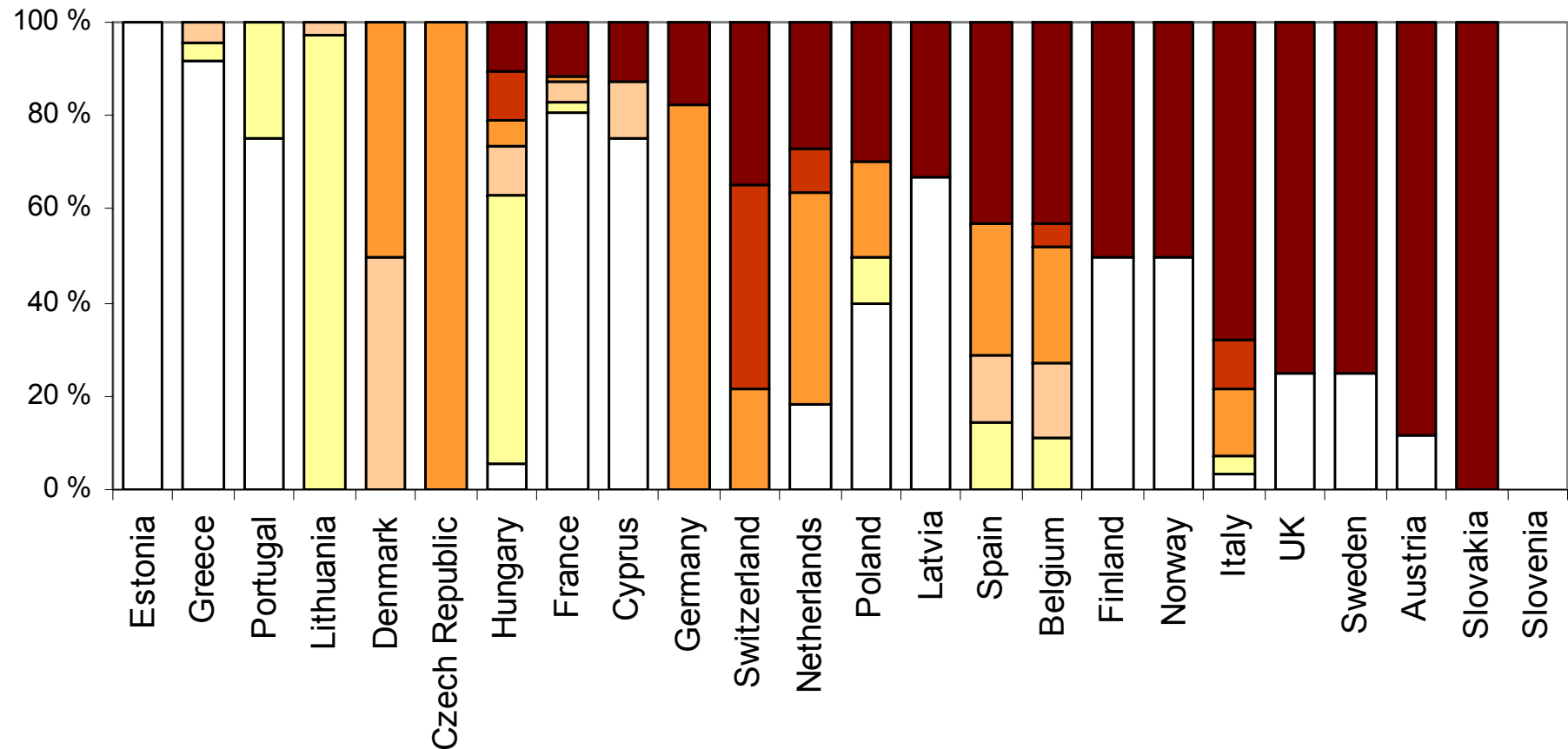
Complications



Tail docking



Ear tagging



Conclusions

- Castration is very common in most countries
- Some countries find it possible not to castrate
- Use of anaesthesia and analgesia is rare
- Age at castration and procedures for castration differ widely both within and between countries
- Adverse consequences are rare
- Practices are similar in conventional and organic systems, but differ markedly for some extensive systems

Thanks to



- The regional co-ordinators and national contacts that have gathered all the data

Region	Regional co-ordinators	Countries (National contact persons)
Centre-West	Armelle PRUNIER Frank TUYTTENS	Austria (Christine LEEB) Belgium (Monique VAN OECKEL) France (Armelle PRUNIER) Germany (Eberhard VON BORELL) Luxembourg (Eberhard VON BORELL) Netherlands (Hans SPOOLDER) Switzerland (Giuseppe BEE)
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South	Maria FONT I FURNOLS	Cyprus (Alkis KOUMAS) Greece (George MAGLARAS) Italy (Maria Teresa PACCHIOLI) Portugal (Olga MOREIRA) Spain (Antonio VELARDE)

- The PIGCAS core group
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