

# EURING SCHEMES

## PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF SCHEME DETAILS

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### INTRODUCTION

The “EURING questionnaire” was prepared by Boris Nikolov (BGS) and is regularly provided to all EURING member schemes (43) and USA to reply ahead of each EURING General Assembly. It collects data on schemes’ organization and ways of working.

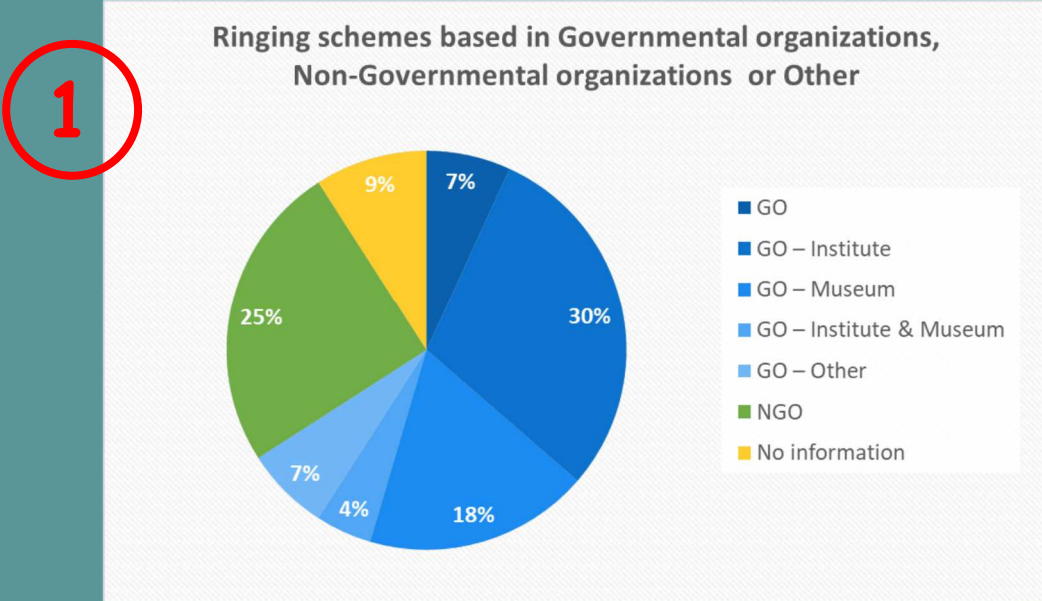
This poster contains the first analysis of the data collected from 44 schemes by 2017. At that time the questionnaire contained 19 questions. Four schemes had not provided any of the necessary information (Appendix 1) and 24 (54.5%) had not provided information on a number of questions (Appendix

2). An update from 2019 is under way and it is expected to be even richer in information for the schemes.

These results serve as a preliminary look at the way different schemes are organized and handle matters such as ringing licenses, courses, equipment and collected data.

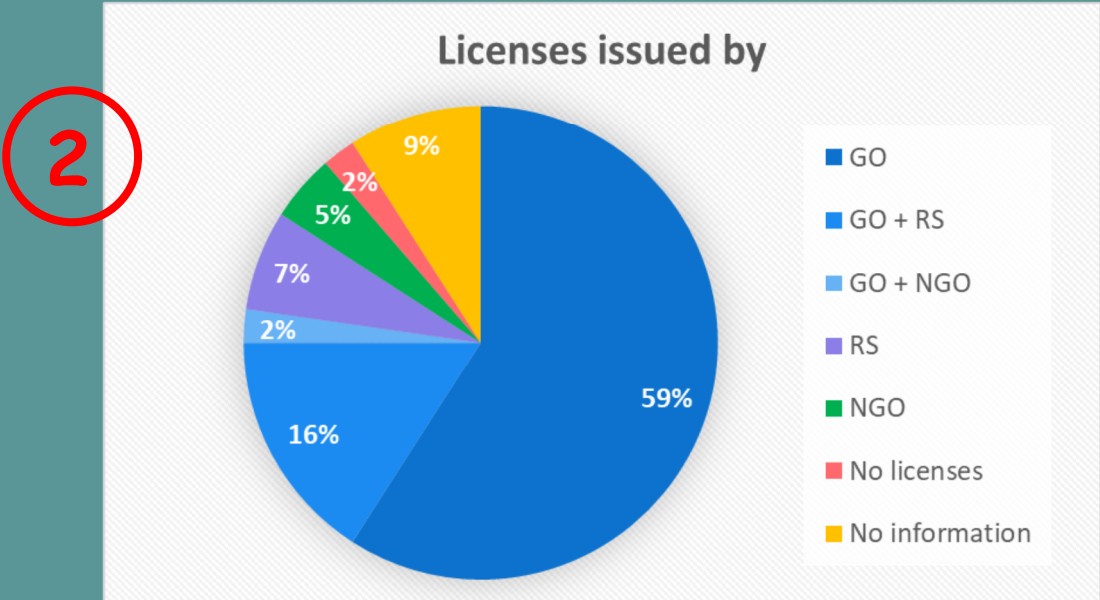
### RESULTS

#### Ringing Scheme

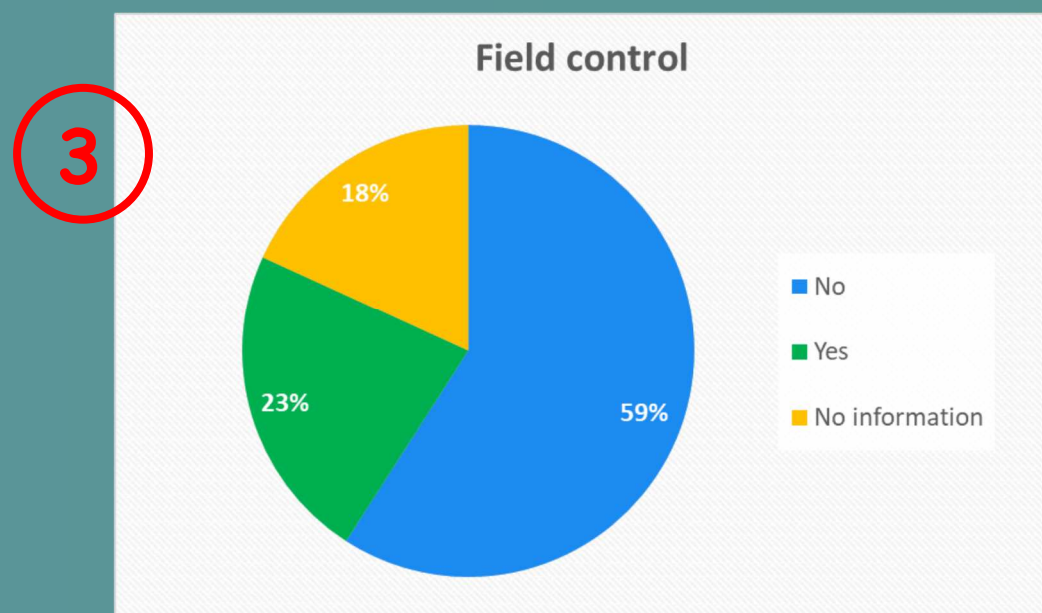


According to the collected data, 63% out of the 44 schemes are based in Governmental organizations (museum, institute or other), 25% are based in Non-Governmental organizations and 9% of the schemes have not provided an answer.

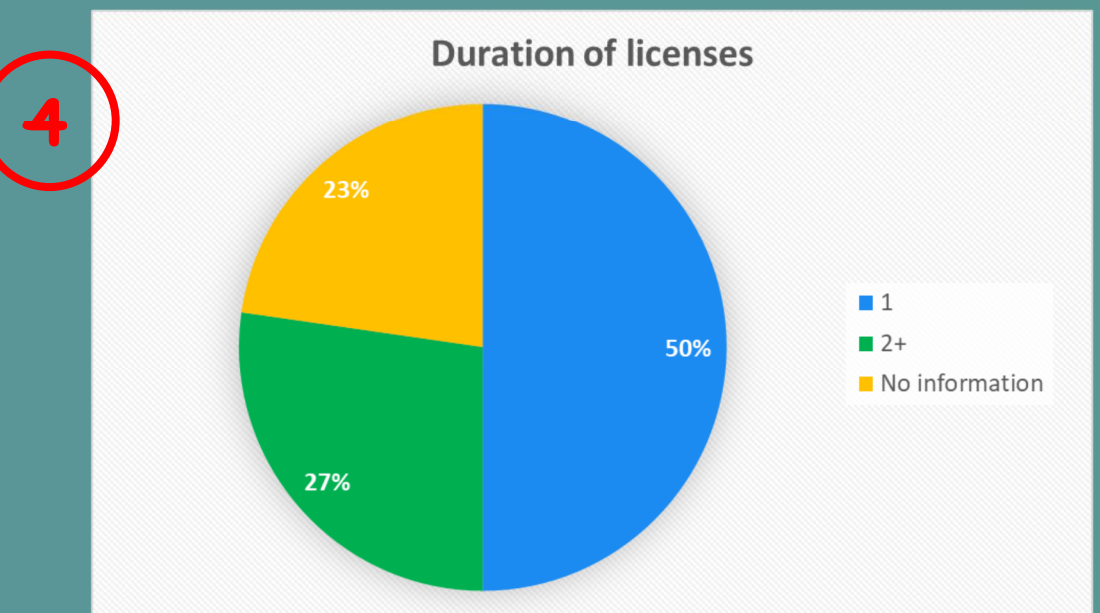
#### Ringing licenses



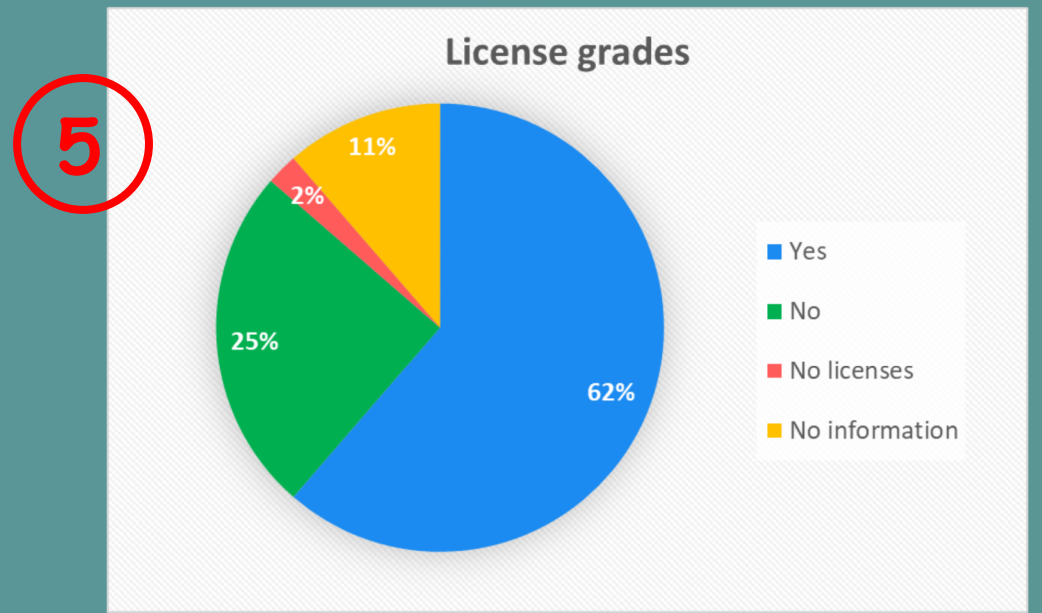
For the most part (77%) ringing licenses are issued by or in agreement with, Governmental organizations. In only 12% of the cases licenses are issued by the Ringing scheme or Non-Governmental organizations.



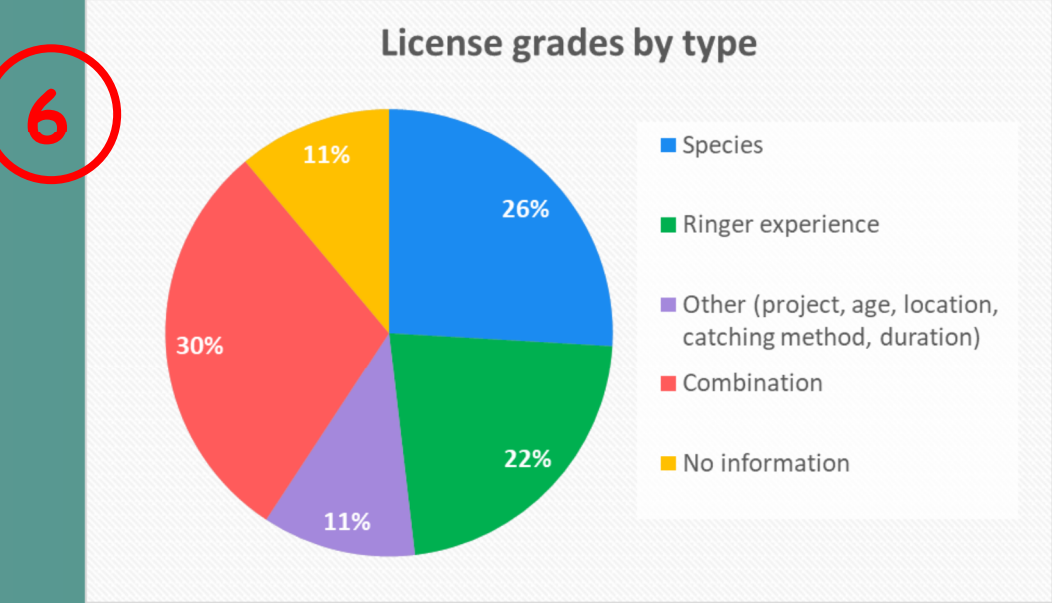
More than half of the schemes (59%) do not perform any kind of field control of bird ringing activities and a significant number of schemes (18%) has not supplied information. The schemes that confirmed conducting them mostly do it through ringing group leaders, local officials and regional or environmental inspectorates.



**Duration:** As seen from the chart, exactly half of the schemes issue and renew ringing licenses yearly. 27% of the schemes have varying durations- ranging from two years to being held for an unlimited time. Again, a significant percentage of schemes (27%) has not contributed to this query field and so the final analysis might yield different results.



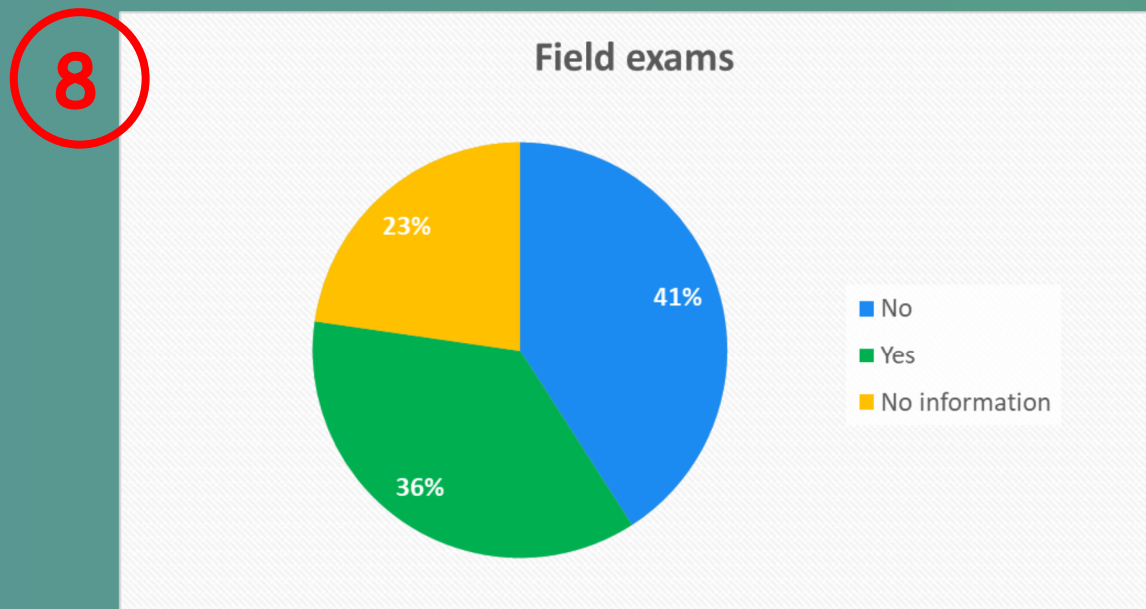
**License grades:** In the case of 62% of schemes, ringing licenses are split into several different grades. 25% have a general license and no grading, while only 2% do not have licenses at all.



Depending on the scheme, license grades are divided into different categories. These can be defined solely by designated species (26% of the cases), ringer experience (22%), projects the ringers are working on, catching methods, location and duration of ringing and age of the birds. It is important to mention though, that 30% have license grades that combine two or more of these options.

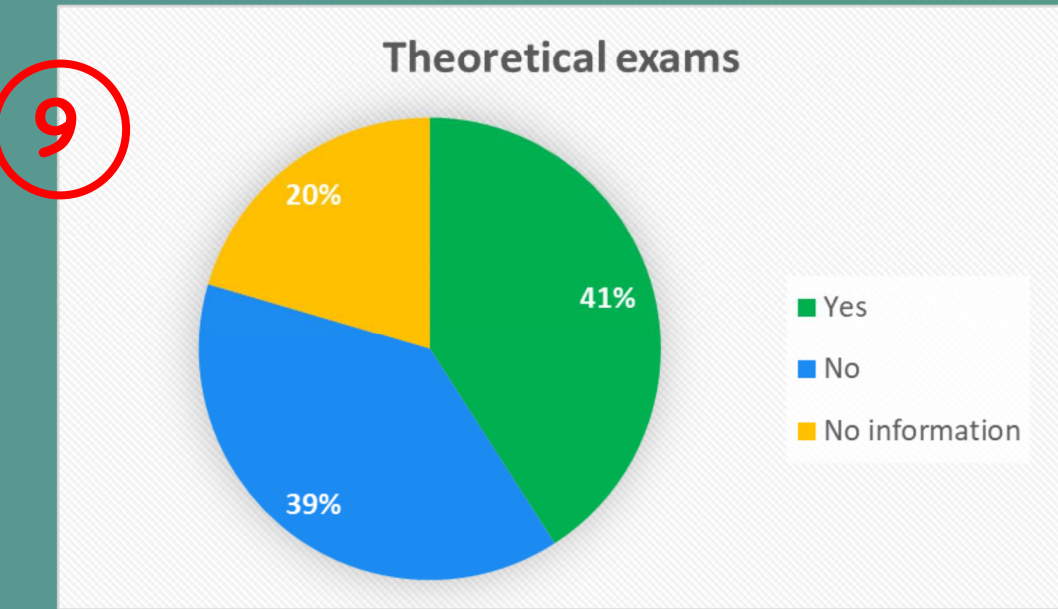
When looking at all license grades, we have noted a significant part (48%) are species based. Some are general and allow ringing of all bird species, while some are restricted to single species, groups of birds (i.e. raptors, waders, vulnerable species etc.)

7 **Practical training:** All of the schemes that have supplied an answer (86%) require a certain degree of practical training before issuing a ringing license. These usually consist of field assistance at a ringing station or camp under supervision of at least one, but preferably more, licensed ringer/s.

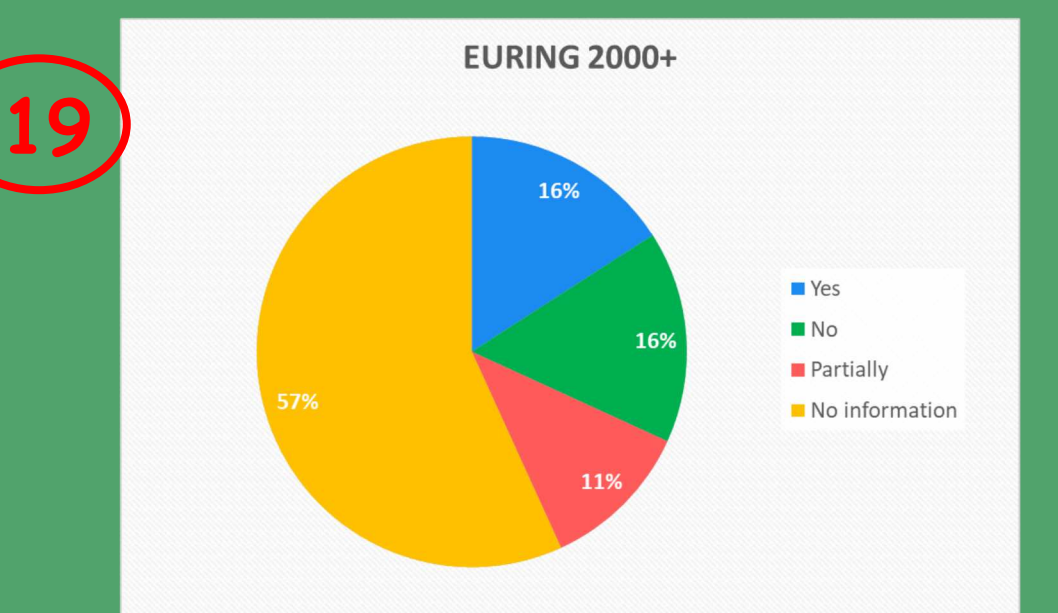


When considering field exams, the schemes seem quite equally divided. While many do not have them (41%), a slightly smaller number of schemes (36%) conducts them on a regular basis. Since 23% have not supplied the necessary information, this field may yield different results in future analysis.

In schemes that do implement field exams, they usually require the candidate to successfully identify many bird species and demonstrate knowledge of different catching methods and safe bird manipulation.

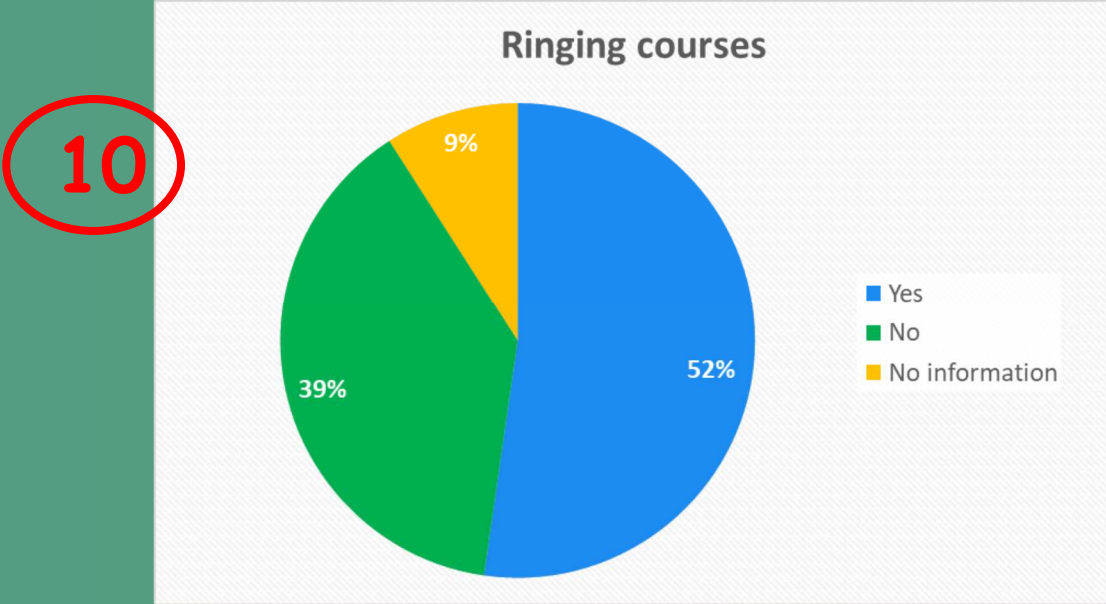


As in the previous case, the schemes appear to be quite equally divided on the matter of theoretical exams. Only a slightly higher percentage of schemes conducts this kind of examination before issuing a ringing license. As mentioned for the previous field, it would be interesting to see if one side will be more prominent once the last 20% of the schemes send in their answers.

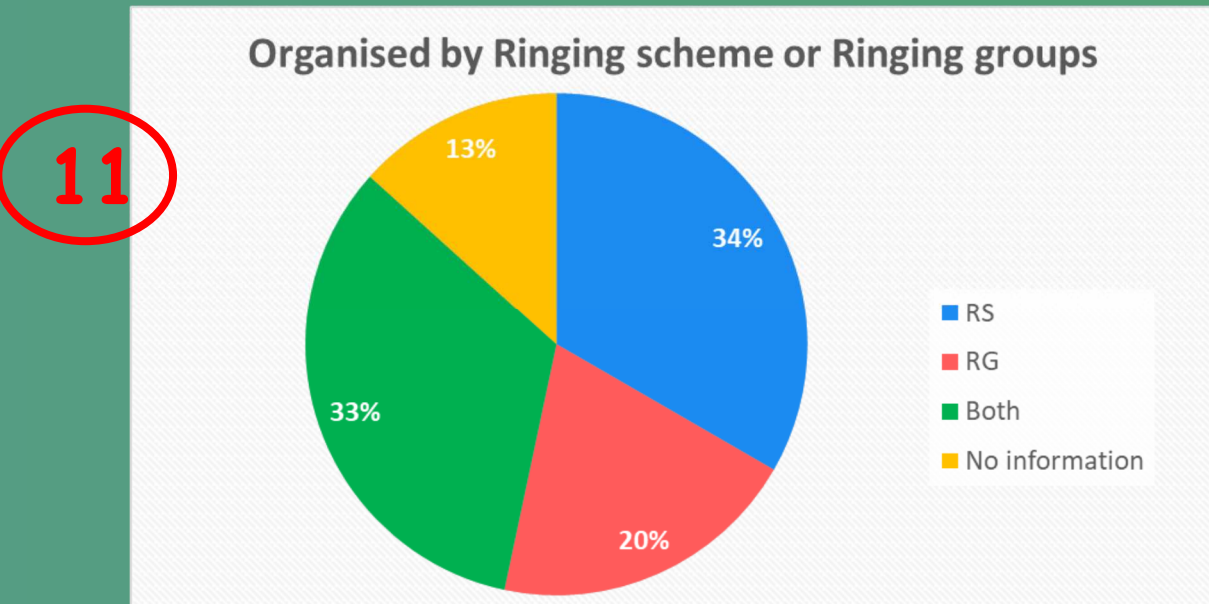


Collected information for use of EURING 2000+ code is inconclusive due to a very low number of responses. 57% of schemes have still to answer this query.

#### Ringing Courses

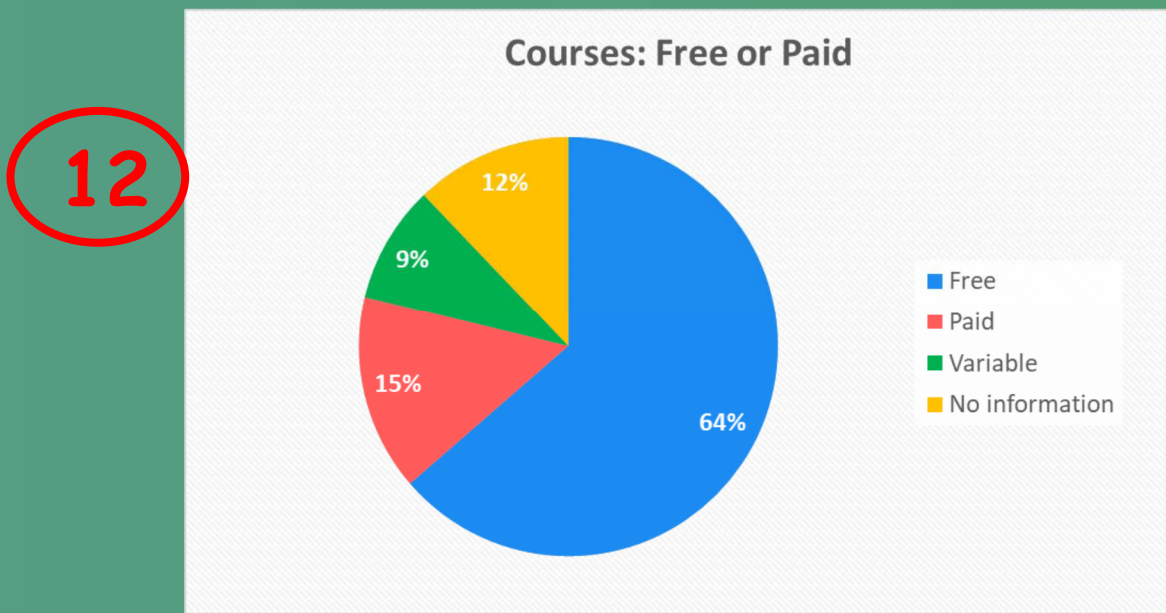


According to collected data, over 50% of schemes do not organize any kind of ringing courses for their candidates or experienced ringers.



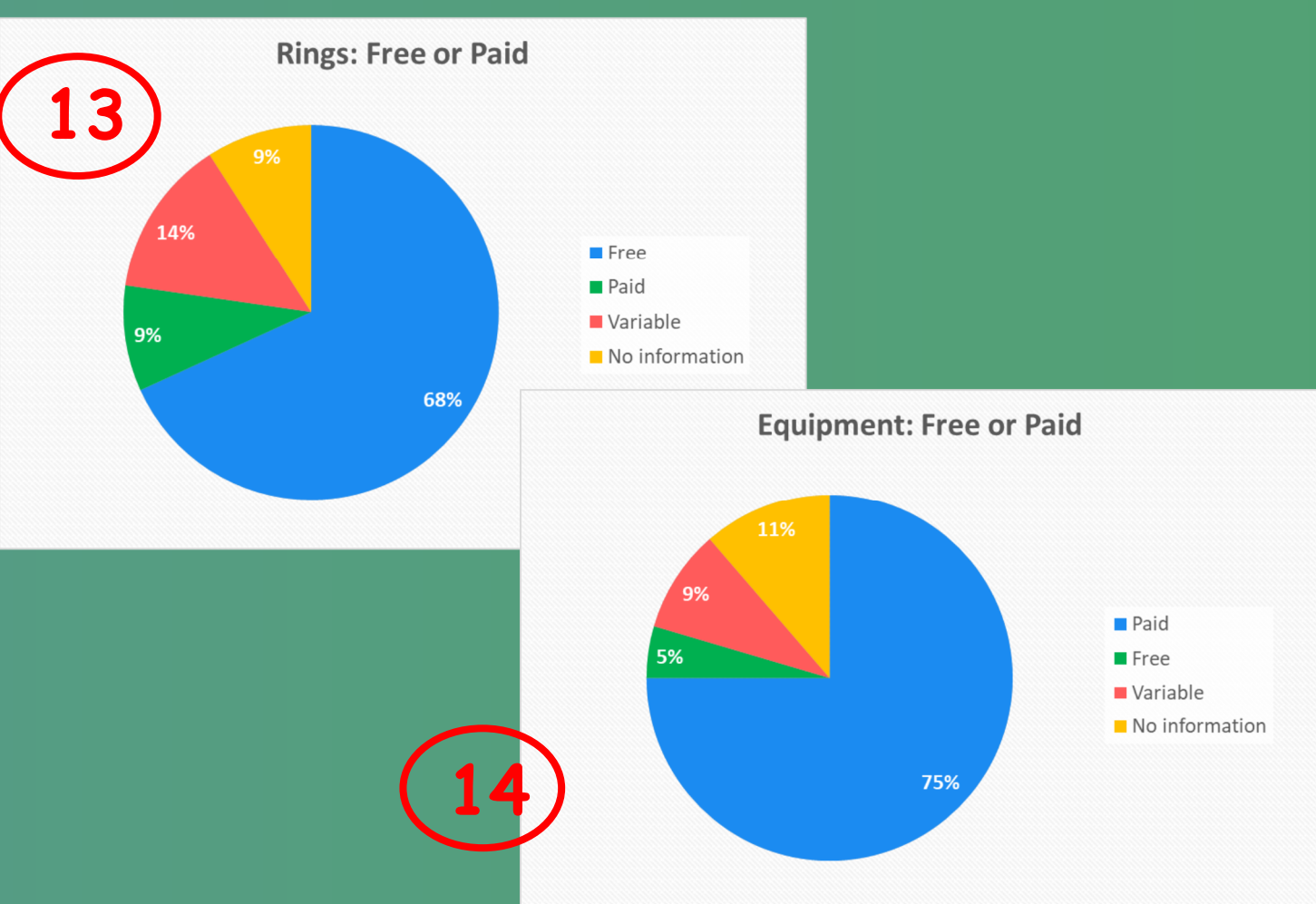
In places where they are organized their length and subject matter varies. They are in almost equal parts organized by the scheme itself or ringing groups, while a slightly smaller part (20%) is organized in cooperation between both.

It is important to note that several schemes initially answered they do not conduct courses but then answered questions concerning their organization and fees. Due to this we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the results and will have to revise this at a later stage.



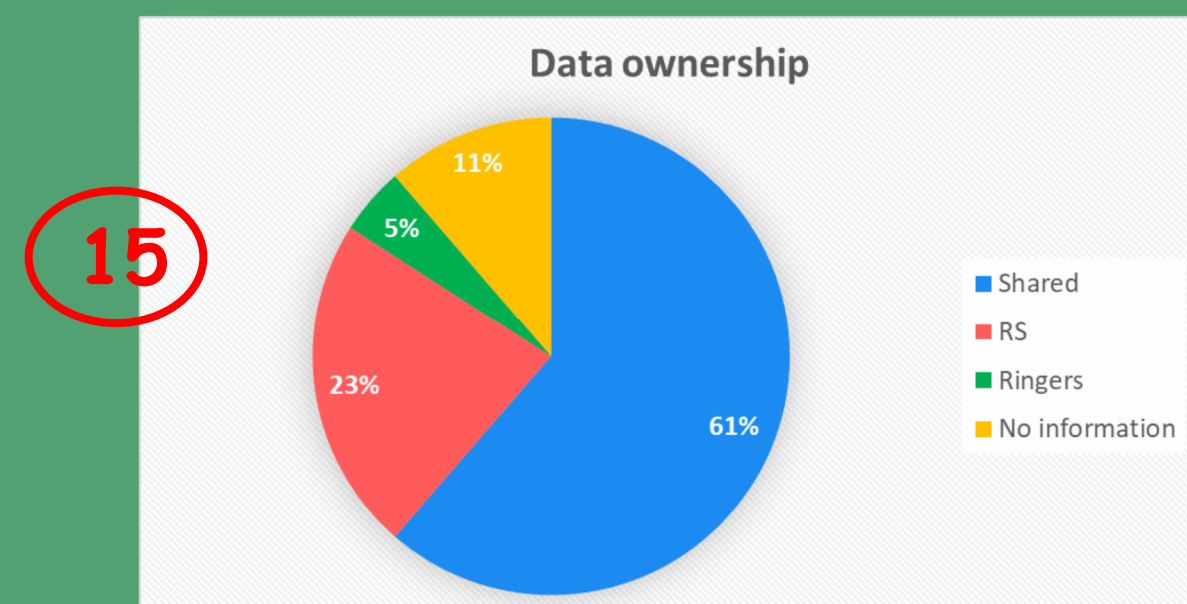
**Courses free/paid:** For the most part ringing courses are free to attend (64%), however, ringers must pay for their travel and accommodation. Courses are fully paid in 15% of schemes and can vary in 9% of them. The later cases are organized by ringing groups and the fee, or lack of one, is decided for each course during its planning. Some are also free for ornithology students but there is a fee for all other attendants.

#### Rings and Equipment

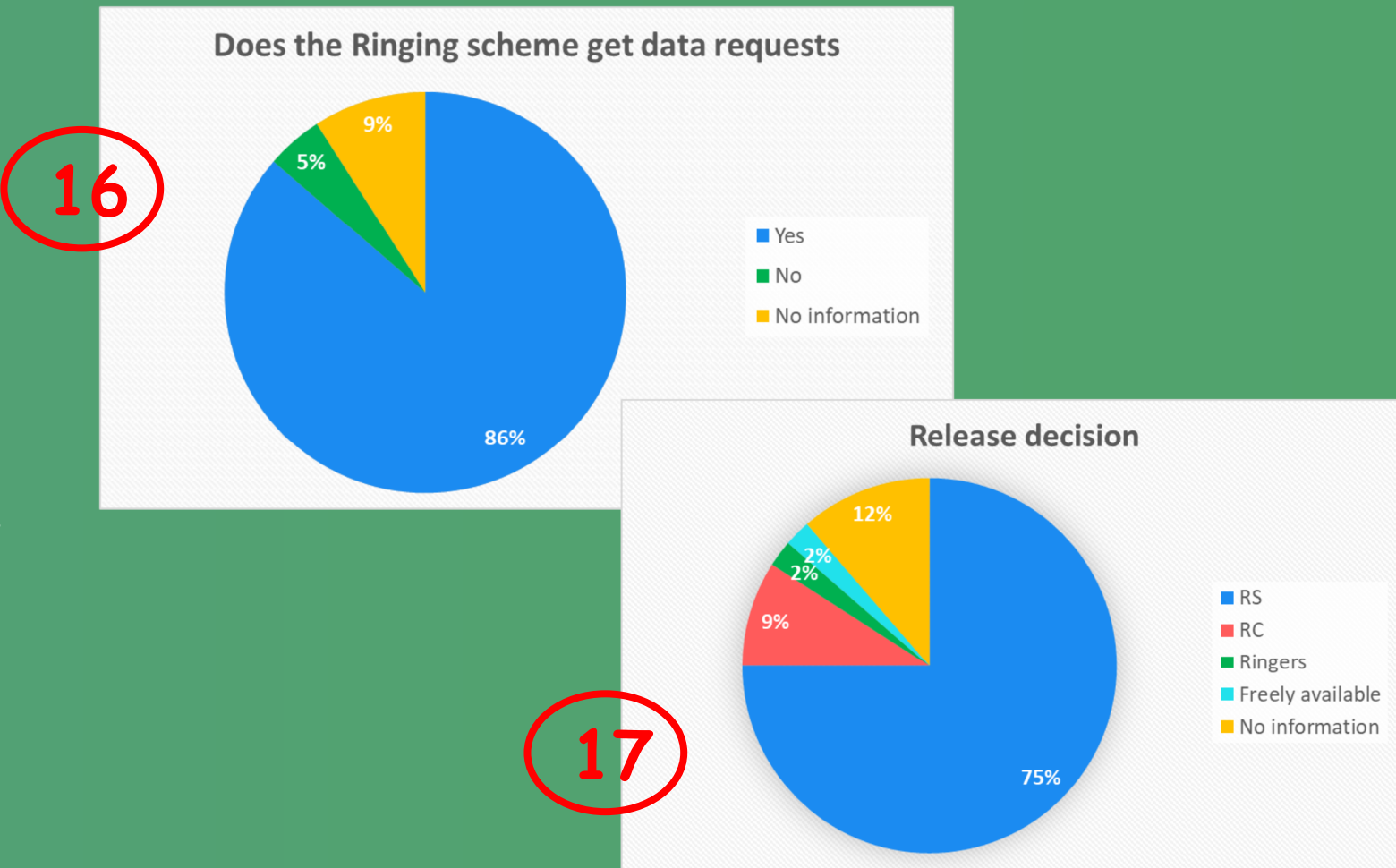


**Rings/equipment free/paid:** In this segment of the query it is easily concluded that rings are, for the most part, given for free (68%), while the equipment is largely paid by the ringers themselves (75%). There are also schemes where ringers usually pay for their rings and equipment but may get them free of charge, depending on funding within projects they are a part of (9-14%).

#### Ringing Data

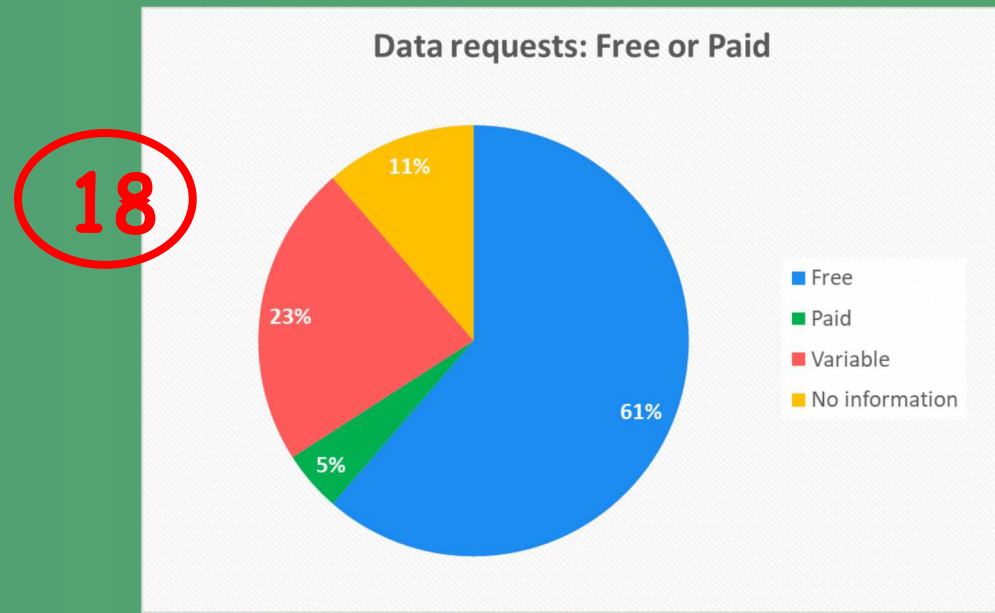


**Data ownership** is mostly shared (61%) either between the scheme and the ringers who collected it or the scheme and the government. 23% of schemes exclusively own all collected data, while only 5% leave the ownership to the ringers.



Majority of schemes (86%) get data requests (whether domestic or international) and the decision to release them depends, in 75% of the cases, on the scheme itself.

In this case, they might consult with the ringers whom they share the data with, however, the decision will ultimately depend on the scheme. Others (9%) leave the decision to a Ringing Committee, while only 2% leave the decision to the ringers. Only USA does not have a body that decides on the data release- all information is given out freely to anyone who requests it.



**Data free/paid:** Data request are, for the most part, given freely once the decision to release them has been made (61%). 23% of the schemes charge only in certain situations, usually if the data is requested for commercial use. Only 5% of schemes charge for all data release.

### CONCLUSION

- Schemes have similar solutions in majority of the cases.
- Due to some questions being misunderstood, we have left out the results that have been too inconclusive. Those, and a few others, might have to be reformulated to gain clearer answers and results.
- Hopefully more schemes will help with their input as it might be interesting to see how much, if at all, the results will vary from the ones from 2017.

#### Appendices

**Appendix 1.** List of schemes that didn't sent any data: Belarus, Greece, Romania, Russia.

**Appendix 2.** List of schemes that sent partially filled questionnaire: Albania, Austria, Channel Is., Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Germany-Hi, Germany-R, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, N. Macedonia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA