



EURO MoMiH

Varying implementation and guidelines for screening for infectious disease among newly arrived migrants in EU/EEA countries

Background



Migration flows and screening

- Screening for infectious diseases
 - A tool to improve individual and public health
 - A potential tool for monitoring and surveillance
 - Can be useful among migrants arriving to EU/EEA-countries
- Limited information on screening practices in EU/EEA-countries
 - Implementation of screening programmes
 - Guidelines for screening
 - Target populations, targeted diseases, practices

Objectives

- To assess the implementation of screening programmes
- To assess the expert opinions on screening
- To investigate the association between proportion of asylum-seekers in the population and the implementation of screening programmes



Methods



Definitions

- Screening:
 - Systematic medical examination
 - Involving testing
 - Used to search and identify cases of a specific infectious disease in a population

- Newly arriving migrant:
 - Other than traveller or tourist
 - Having arrived to a country other than usual residence
 - Arrival during the last year

Survey

- Sent electronically 3 March 2014
- 28 nominated country experts selected according to participation the meeting on screening in EU/EEA/EFTA
- Questionnaire
 - Asking the current implementation of screening among migrants
 - Asking their opinions on screening



Analysis

- Frequency analysis
- Data on populations from EUROSTAT
- Proportion of asylum-seekers in the population
 - Low ($<16/100,000$)
 - Medium ($16-92/100,000$)
 - High ($>92/100,000$)
- The association between the groups and the implementation of screening
 - Chi-squared test

Results

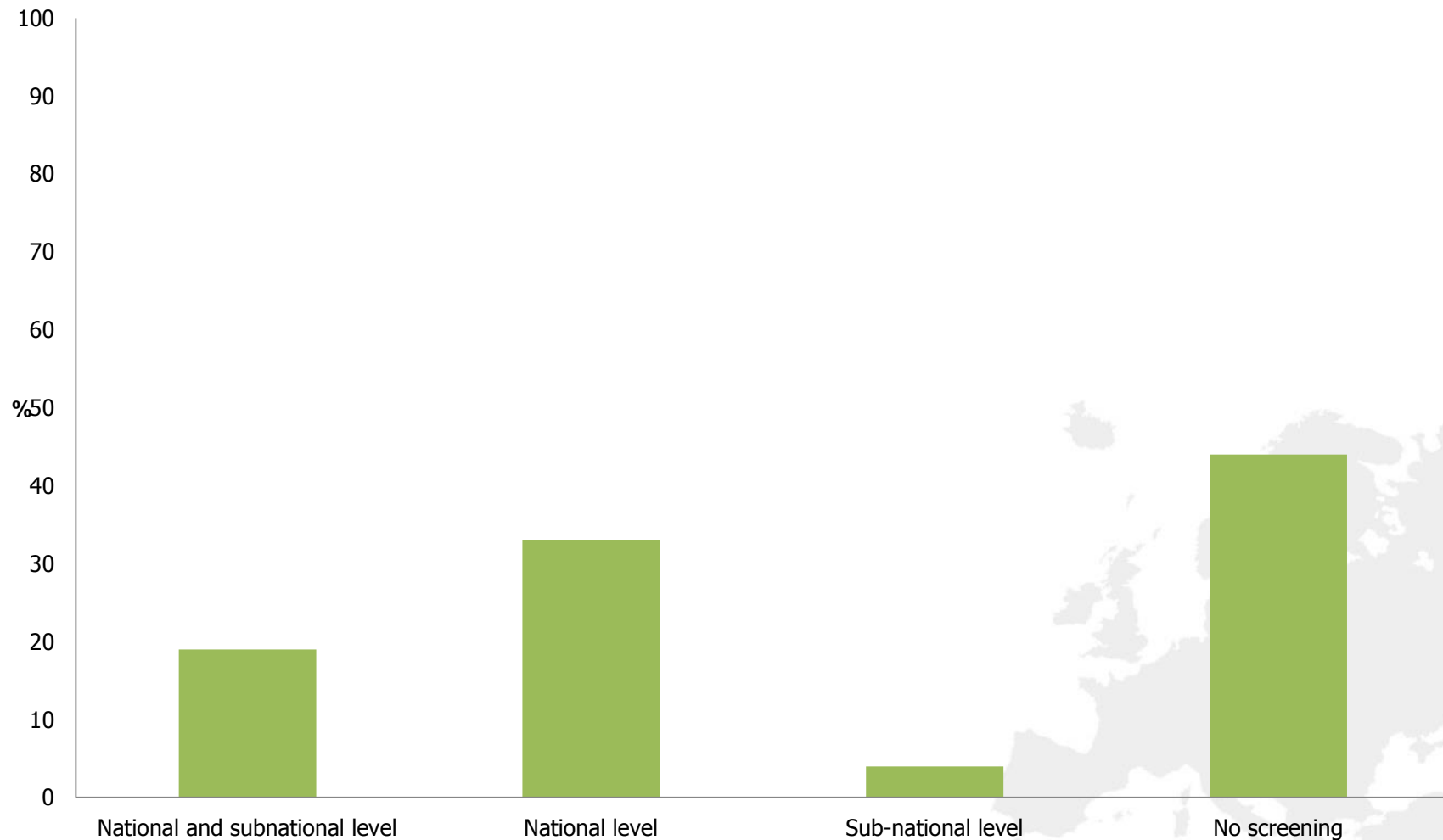


Implementation and guidelines

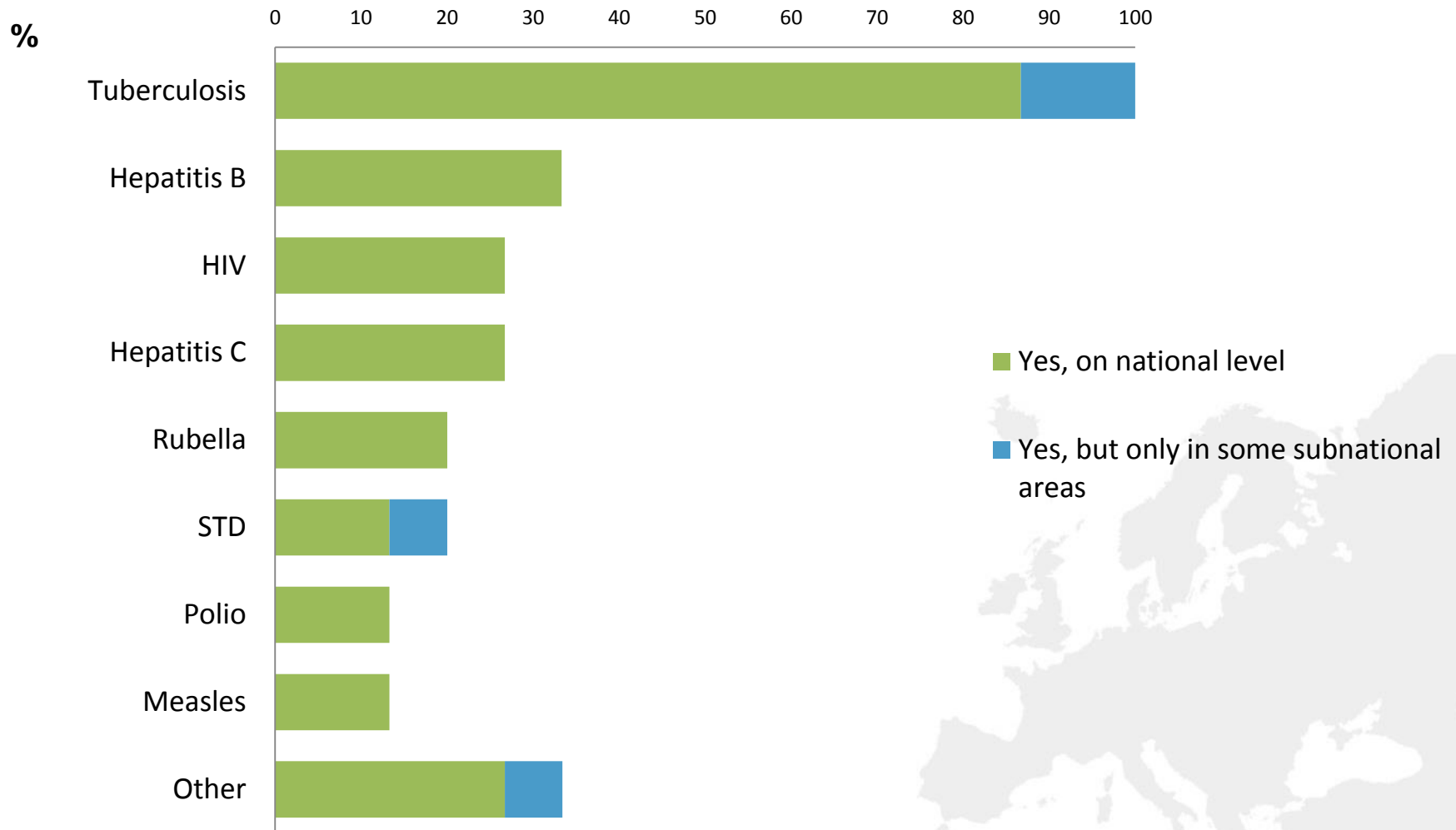
- Twenty-seven of 28 country experts responded
- Response rate: 96%
- 16 (59%) had implemented screening programmes
- 15 (56%) had national guidelines



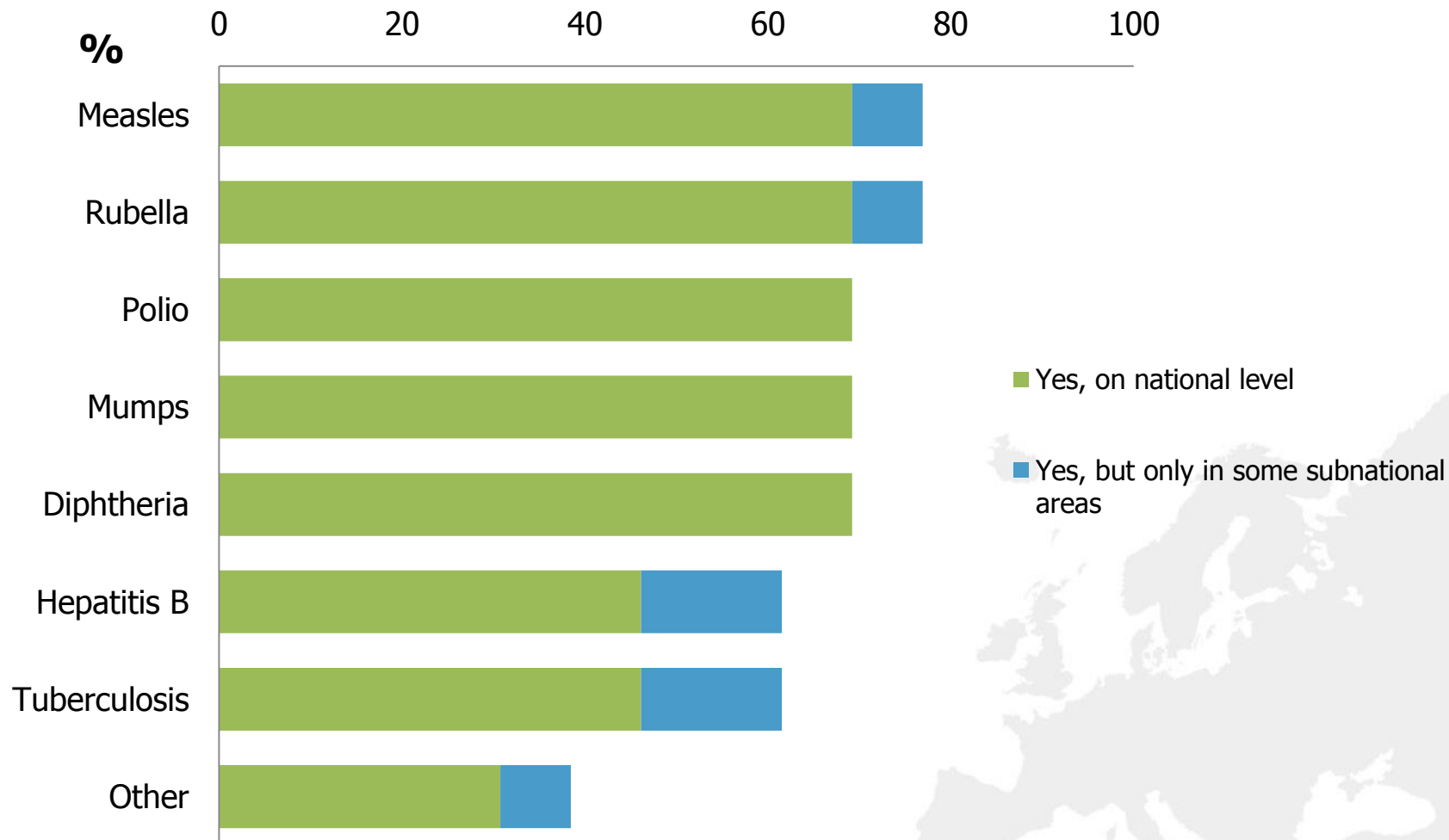
Routine screening for infectious diseases on national or subnational level (n=27)



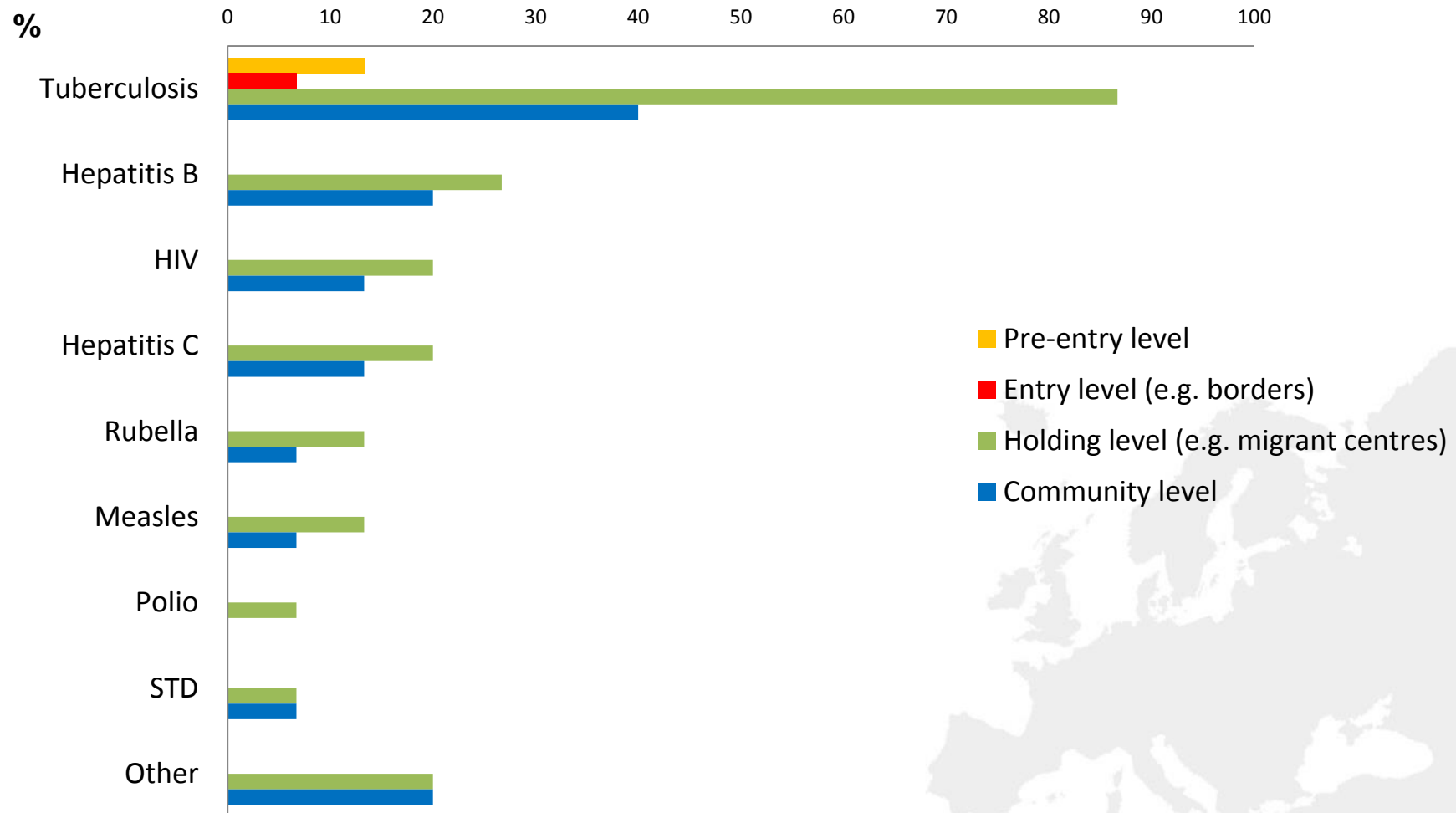
Infectious diseases screened for on national or subnational level (n=15)



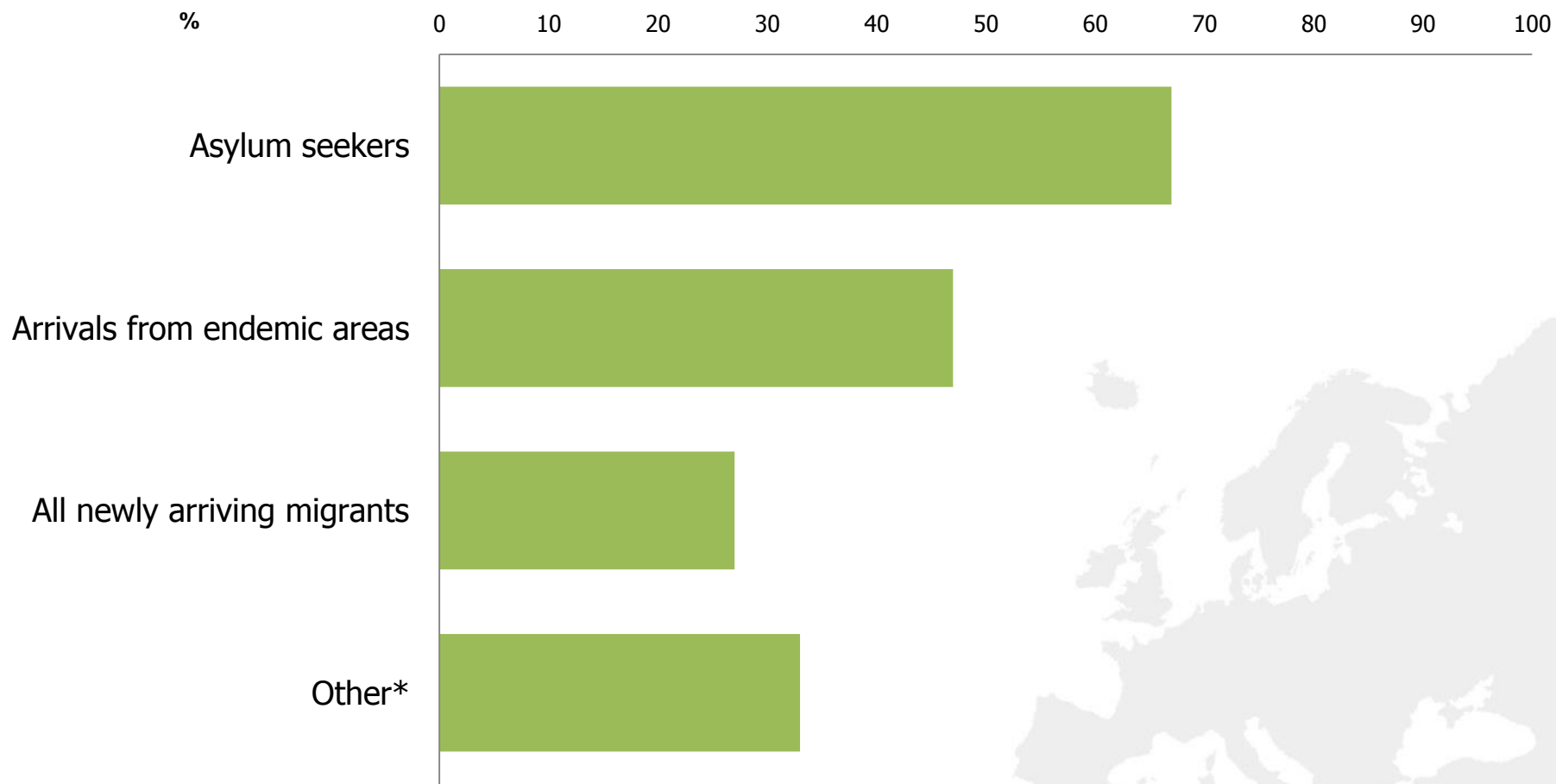
Vaccination status checked on national or subnational level (n=27)



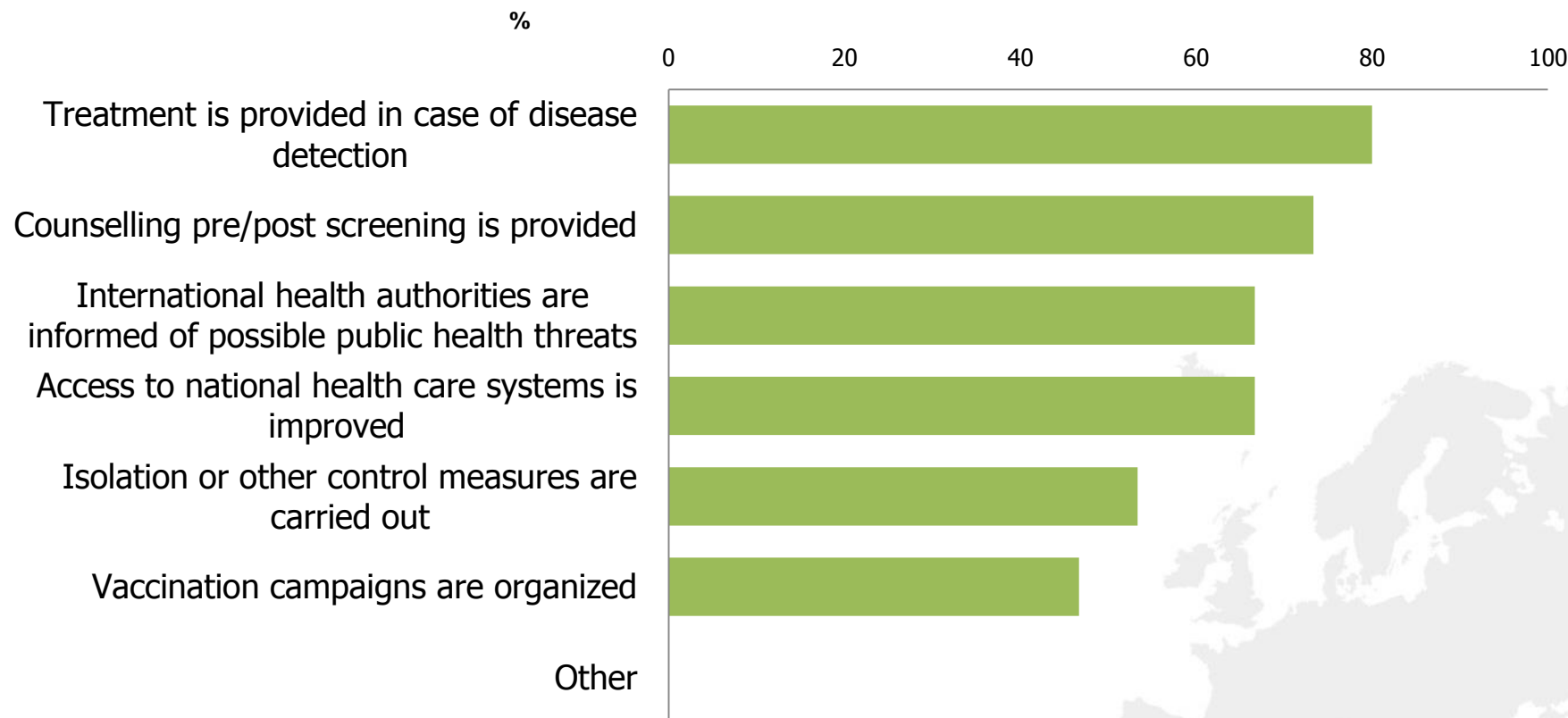
Level of screening for infectious diseases among migrants(n=15)



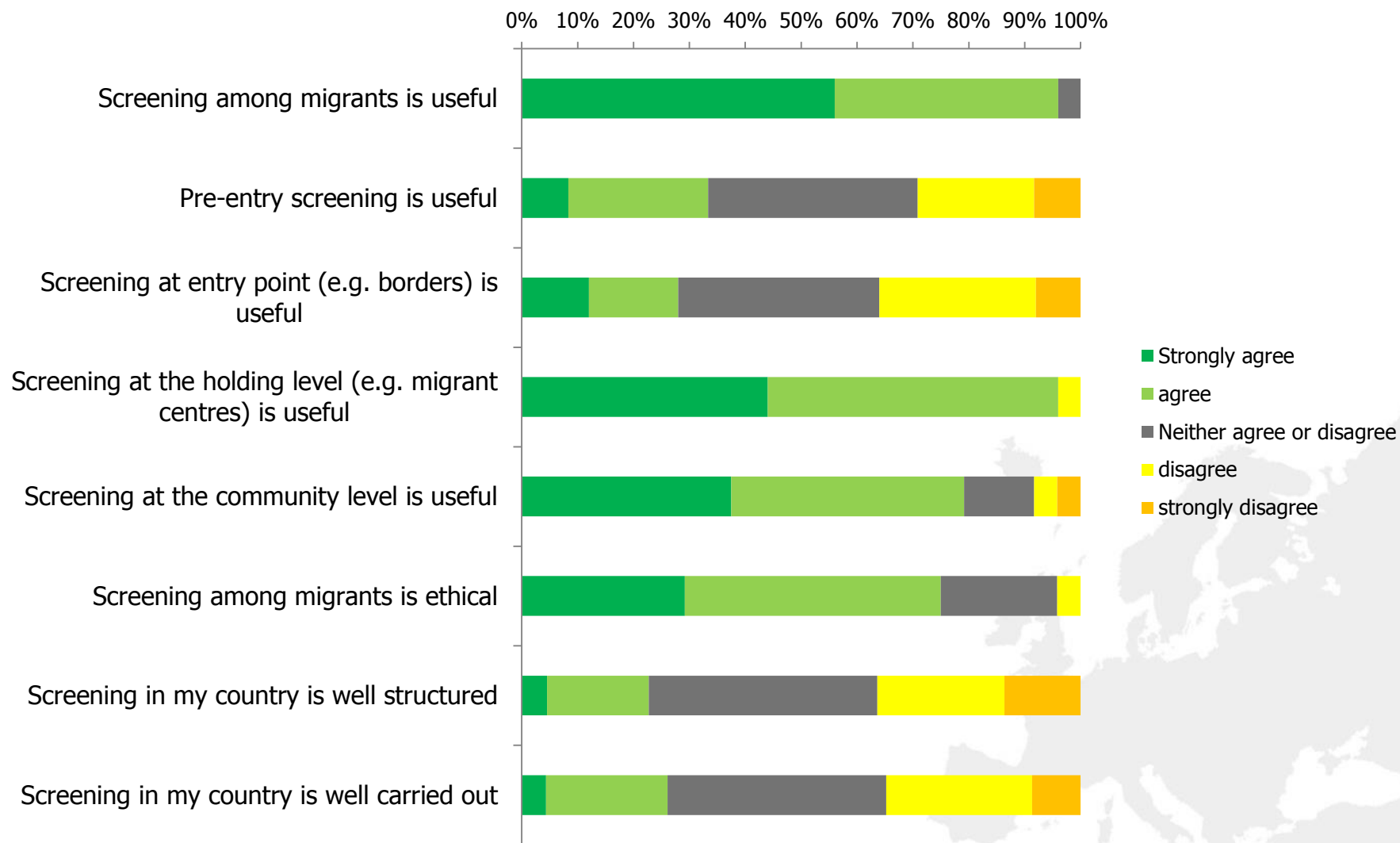
Target groups for screening (n=15)



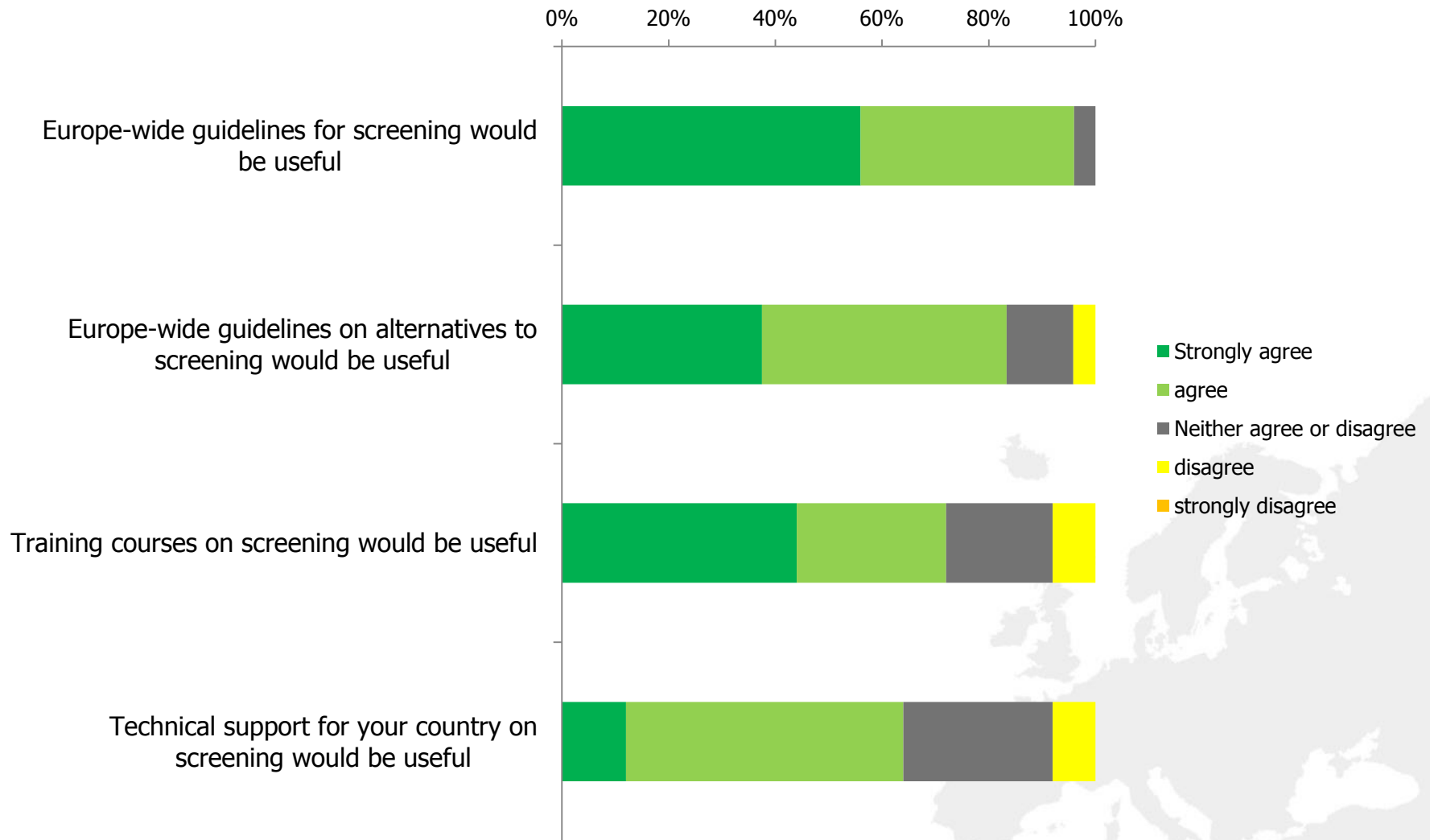
Actions based on screening data (n=15)



Expert opinions on screening (n=25)



Expert opinions on potential EU contributions (n=25)



Results: Association between the proportion of asylum-seekers in the population and implemented screening programmes

	Low proportion	Medium proportion	High proportion	p-value
Countries with implemented screening programmes	22 % (2/9)	67 % (6/9)	89 % (8/9)	0.014
Countries with guidelines for screening	11 % (1/9)	78 % (7/9)	78 % (7/9)	0.005

Conclusions



Conclusions

- Country experts consider screening useful
- Variation in implementation of screening
 - Variation in the existence of relevant guidelines
- The variation can partially be explained by the national migration patterns



Recommendations

- Establishing EU-level guidelines for screening
- Guidelines should take into account
 - Numbers of arriving migrants
 - Other characteristics of arriving migrants



Thank you for your attention!

