



# Screening for infectious disease among newly arrived migrants in the Mediterranean Basin and Black Sea

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Workshop on "Screening practices for infectious diseases among newly arrived migrants" and "Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD): strategies and coverage" 28-29 May 2015, ISS – Rome (Italy)

# Background: Migration flows and screening for infectious diseases

- Limited information on screening practices in Mediterranean and Black sea countries:
  - Implementation of screening programmes
  - Guidelines for screening
  - Target populations, target diseases, practices

# Background: MedPremier Project

## **The Italian EuroMed Project: MedPremier**

Financed by the Italian Ministry of Health- DG Communication and International relations –

Aimed at enhancing ***Monitoring of Migrant Health and Infectious Diseases***

Activity: Survey on “***Screening practices for infectious diseases among newly arrived migrants***”

## **Survey's Objective**

To review current screening practices for infectious diseases (ID) in migrants in the non-EU countries of Mediterranean and Black Sea regions as per different ID, locations and migrant sub-groups.

# Methods: Network involvement

20 countries of the Network were informed about the survey through contacts with Episouth focal points and four new countries from the Black Sea Region were also involved:

Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Republic of Macedonia/FYROM, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Montenegro, Palestine, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine

## Methods: the survey

- development of the on-line questionnaire
- questionnaire with 16 items:
  - Asking the current implementation of screening among migrants
  - Asking referents' opinions on screening
- pre-testing with Tunisia and Jordan
- sent electronically to the participants on 10 November 2014

# 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 traveler or tourist
  - arrived to a country other than his/her usual residence
  - Arrival during the last year

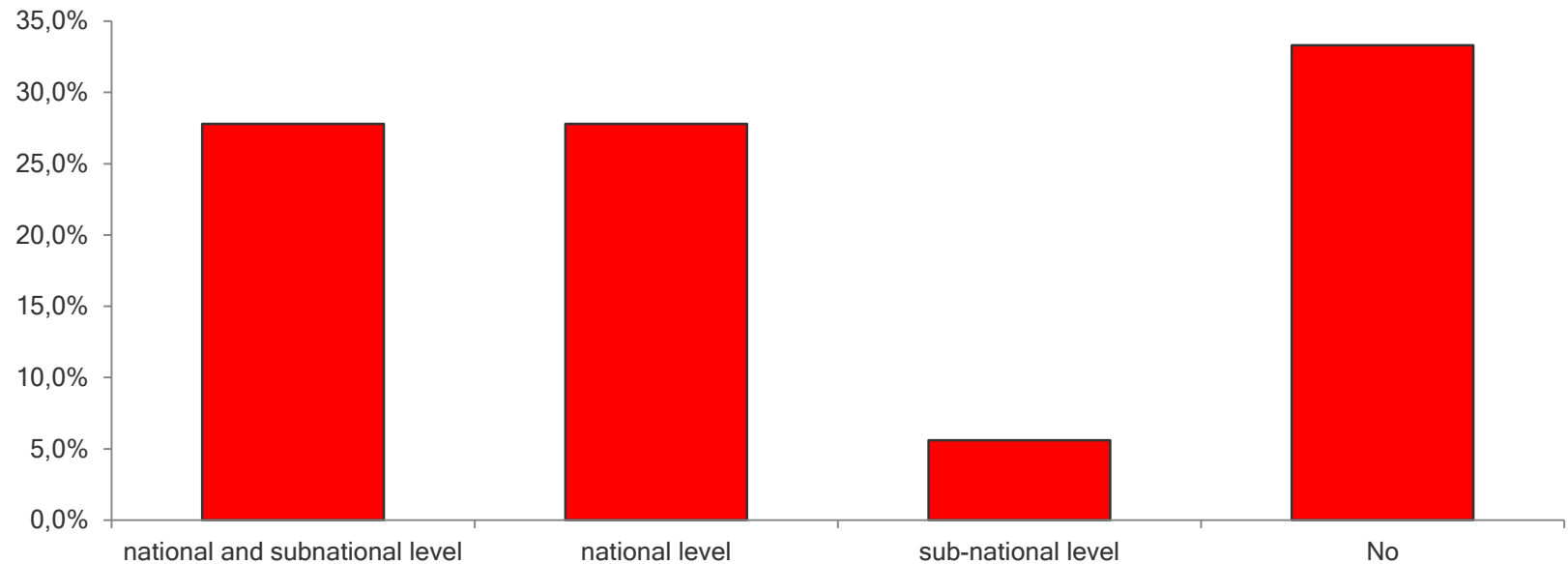
# Results



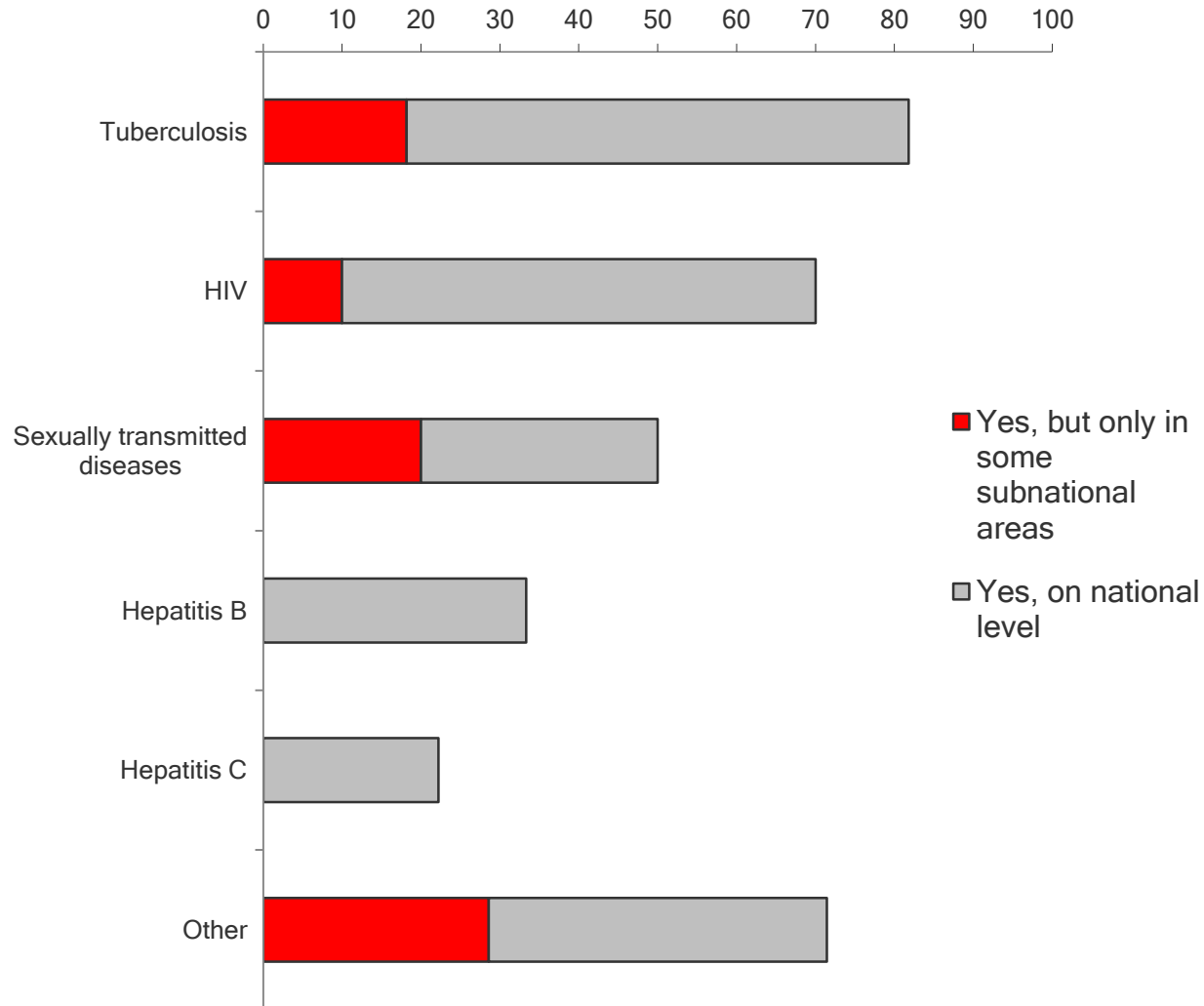
# Implementation and guidelines

- Eighteen of 20 countries responded (response rate: 90%)
- 11/18 (61.1%) had implemented screening programmes
- 6/16 (37.5%) had national guidelines

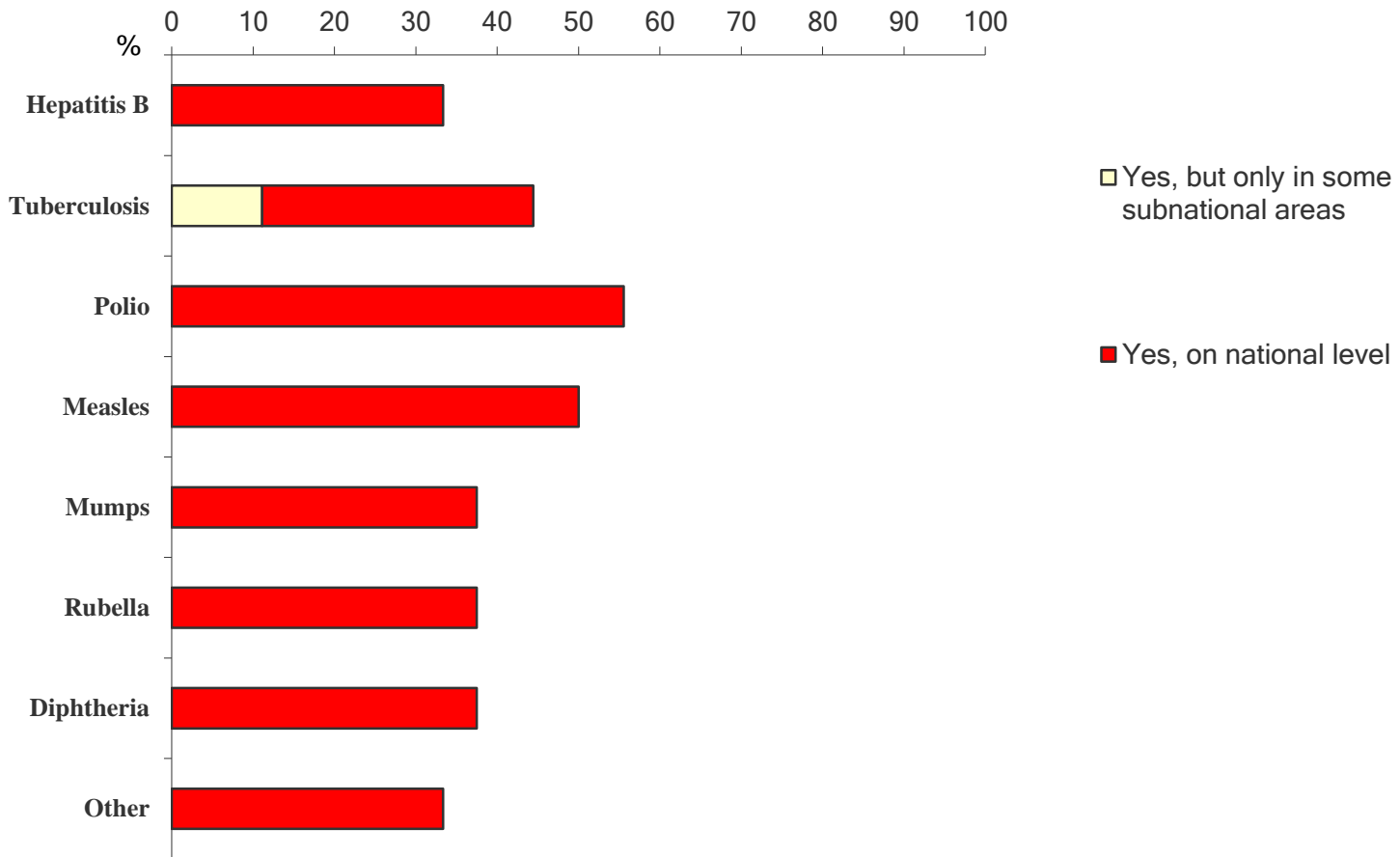
# Routine screening for infectious diseases at national or subnational level (n=18)



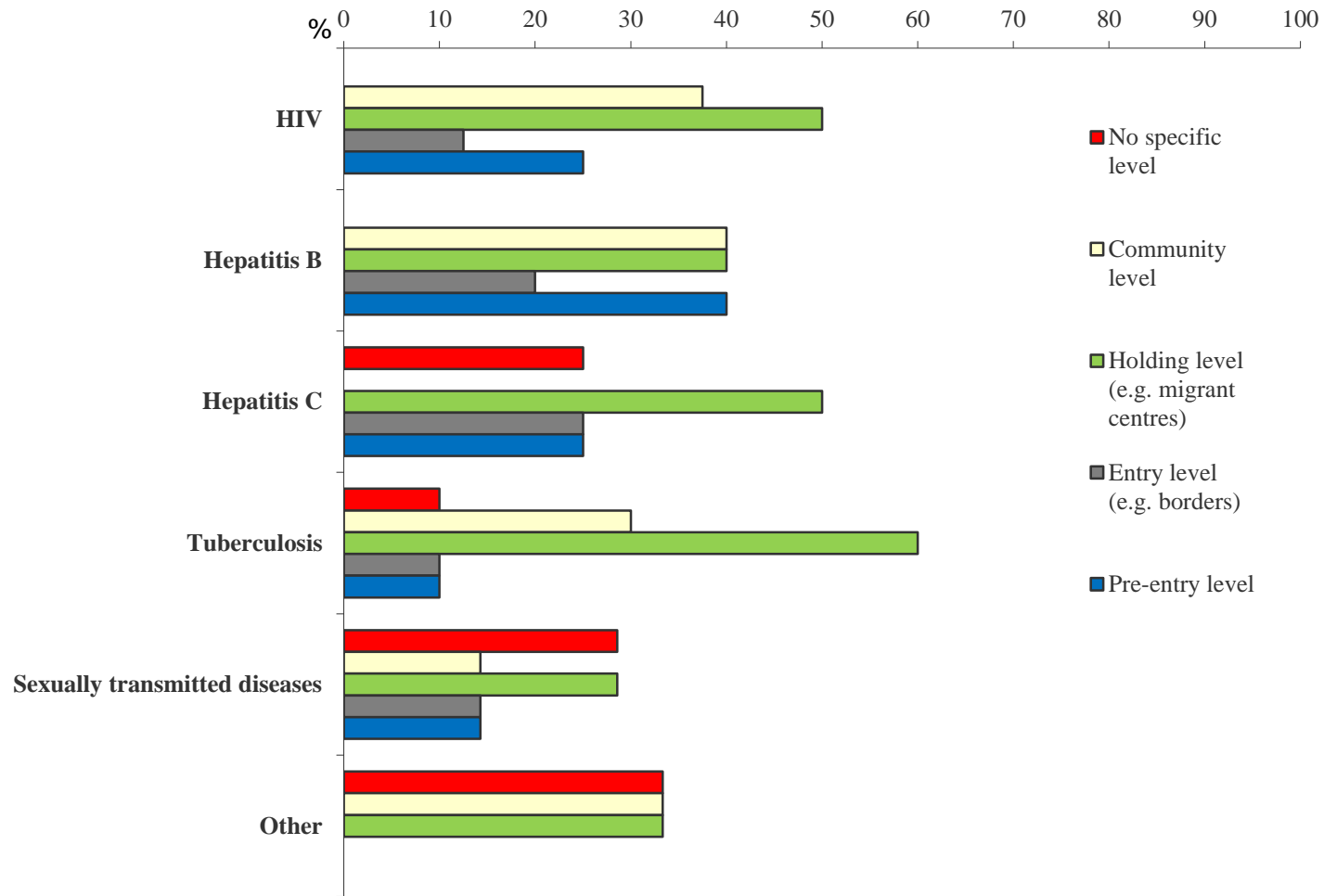
# Infectious diseases screened for at national or subnational level (n=11)



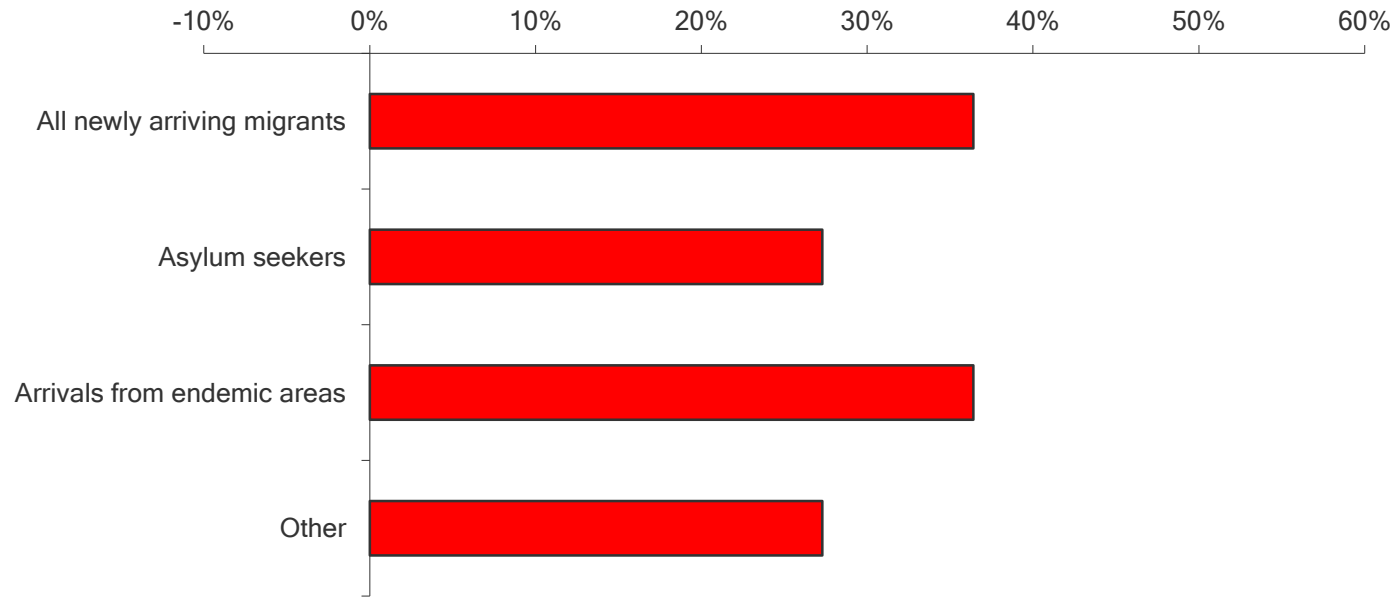
# Vaccination status checked at national or subnational level (n=10)



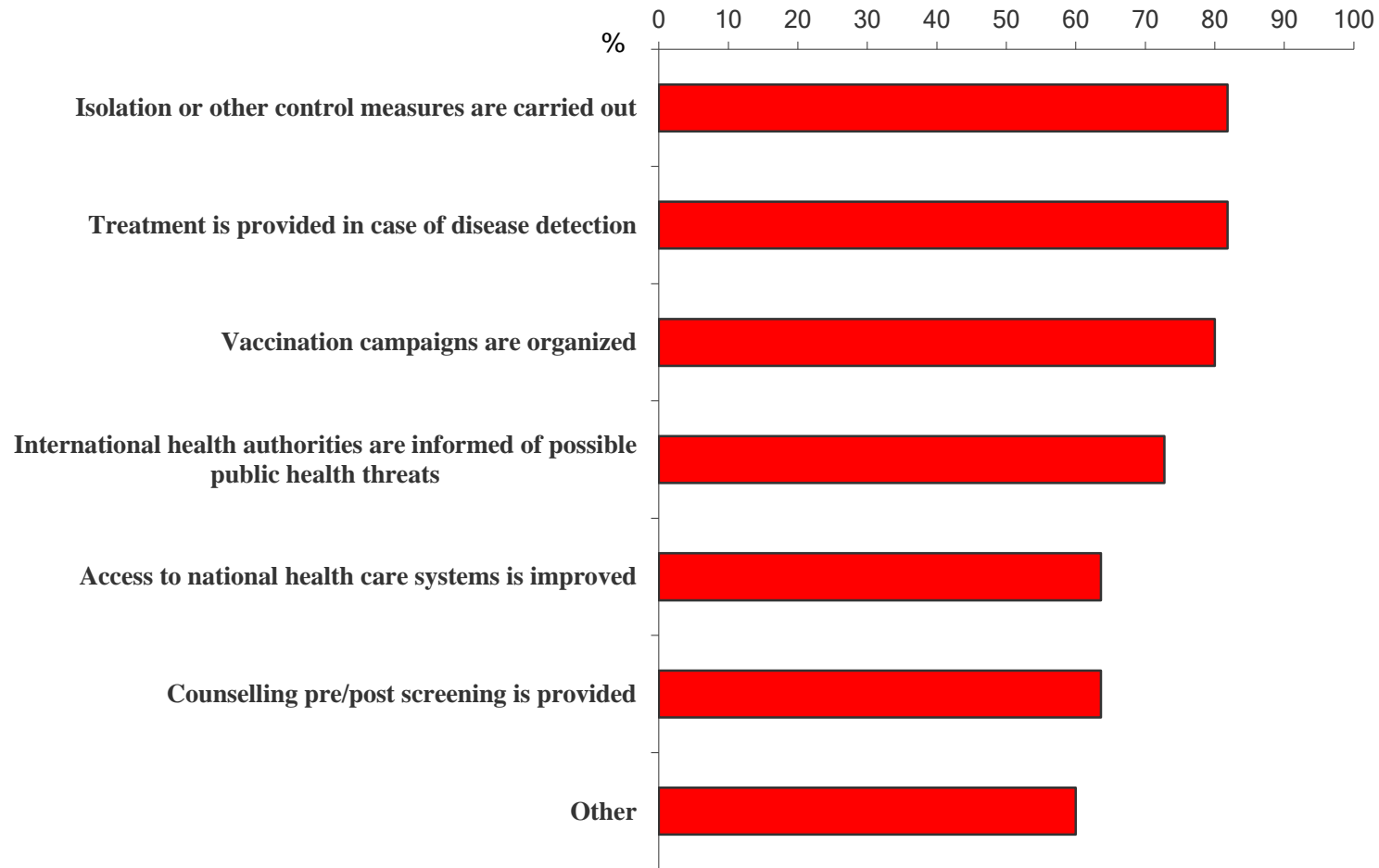
# Level of screening for infectious diseases among migrants(n=10)



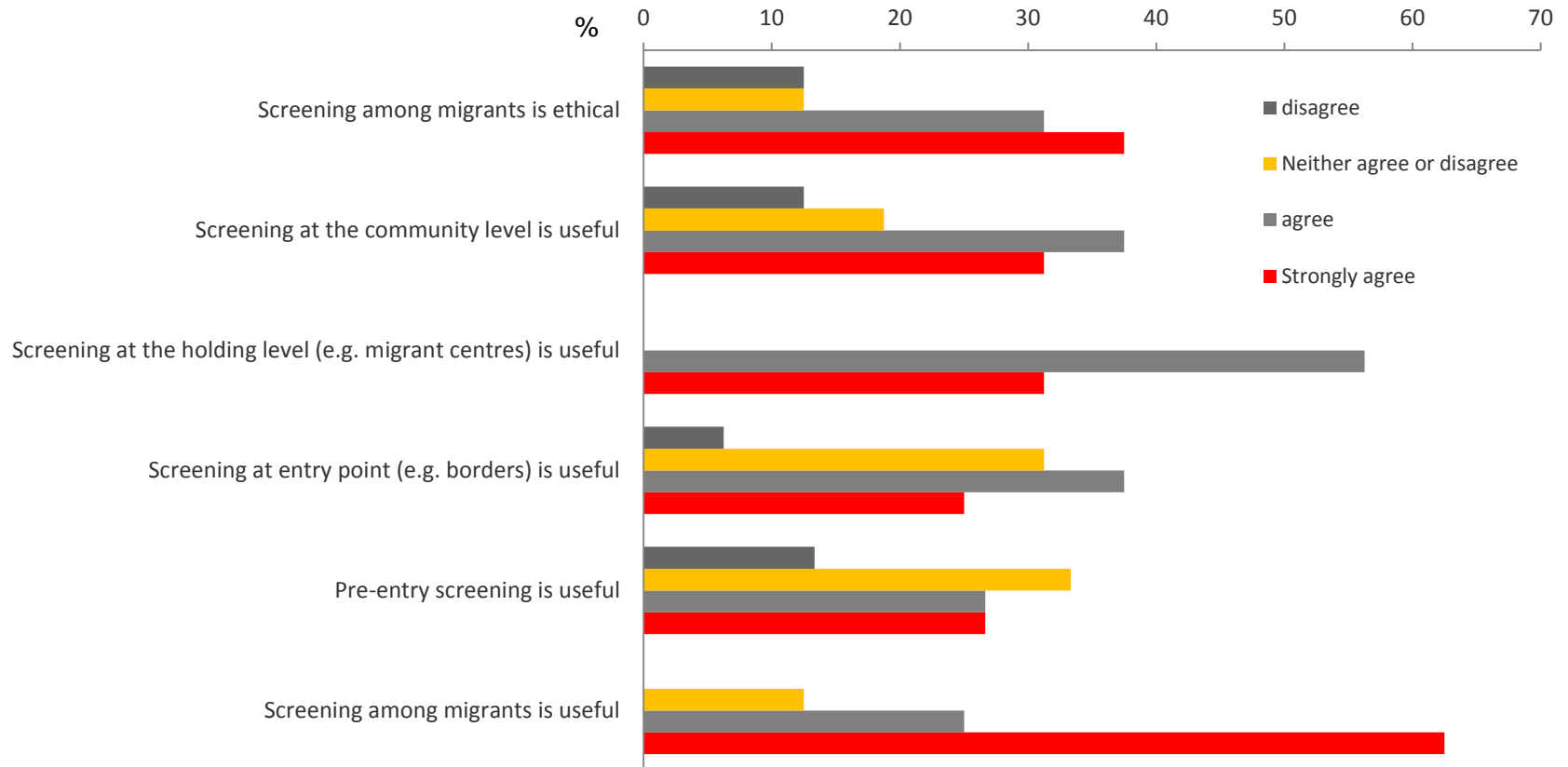
# Target groups for screening (n=11)



# Reported actions based on screening data (n=11)



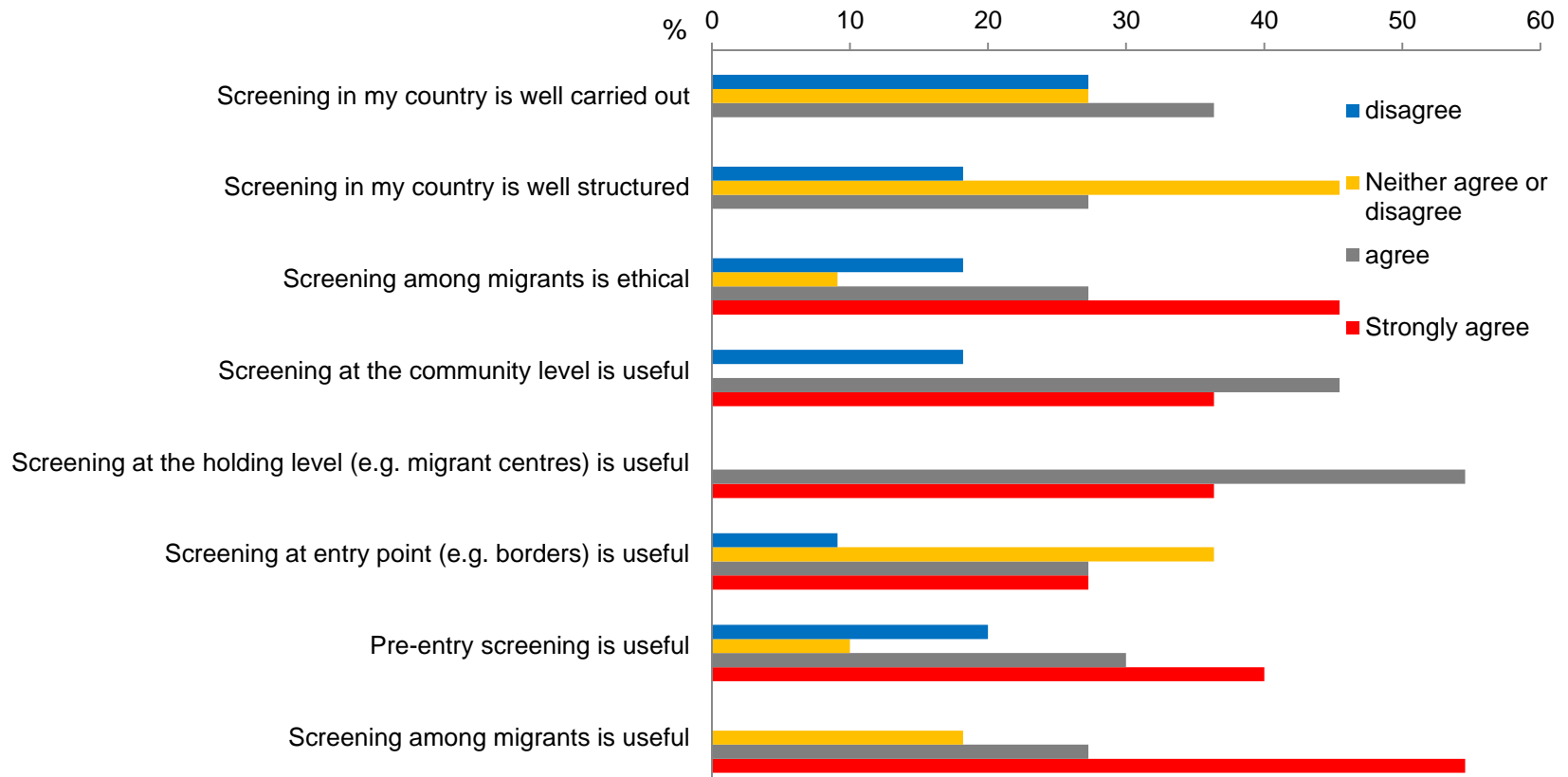
# Expert opinions on screening (n=16)





# Expert opinions on screening

(only countries where screening is implemented n=11)



# Conclusions

- Variation in implementation of screening
- Guidelines not always available in countries implementing screening
- Country experts consider screening useful with very similar perceptions
- Needs for improving implementation and organisation of screening practices

**Thank you for your attention!**

# Comparison between EU vs non-EU

## EU

- N. 28
- Response rate: 96%
- Guidelines for screening: 56%
- Screening: 59%
- Screening for:
  - TB (100%)
  - Hepatitis B (33%)
  - Hepatitis C (27%)
  - HIV (27%)
  - STD (25%)
- Compulsory screening: 60%
- 96% of experts consider screening useful

## Non-EU

- N. 20
- Response rate: 90%
- Guidelines for screening: 37%
- Screening: 61%
- Screening for:
  - TB (81,8%)
  - Hepatitis B (33%)
  - Hepatitis C (22%)
  - HIV (70%)
  - STD (50%)
- Compulsory screening: 100%
- 87% of experts consider screening useful