

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

RESULTS



Access to Information Programme



National Public Opinion Poll
September-October 2008



Aiming at better efficiency in achieving its mission to facilitate the exercise of the right of access to information, Access to Information Programme Foundation assigned to Market LINKS, a Research and Consulting Agency, to perform a public opinion poll among adult Bulgarian population, as well as among Bulgarian journalists from electronic and printed media. The public opinion poll had the following aims.

- To study the level of awareness about the right of access to public information – among Bulgarian citizens and journalists.
- To outline public attitude towards the guarantee and respect of the right of access to public information.
- To outline practices and problems with obtaining access to public information.



Two types of public opinion polls:

1. Opinion poll among journalists

Professional awareness of access to information right

Professional assessment and self-assessment on practices and problems related to the access to public information

2. Opinion poll among adult citizens

Citizens awareness of access to information right

Public opinion assessment on practices and problems related to the access to public information



TYPE OF OPINION POLL:	Quantitative
METHOD OF REGISTRATION:	Direct personal interview
POLLED SAMPLE:	Population, 18+
SIZE OF THE SAMPLE:	1210
REPRESENTATION:	National
TIME FRAME:	September 2008



TYPE OF OPINION POLL:	Quantitative
METHOD OF REGISTRATION:	Direct personal interview, online interview
RESPONDENTS:	Journalists, chief editors, program managers and managers of national and regional media
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS:	156
TIME FRAME:	September 2008

Parameters of the polled sample– national representative opinion poll



Gender	Female	51,90%
	Male	48,10%
Age	18-34	29,80%
	35-59	42,50%
	60+	27,70%
Place of living	Sofia	14,20%
	Big city	12,70%
	Other city	41,50%
	Village	31,60%
Ethnicity	Bulgarian	86,90%
	Roma	5,30%
	Turkish	6,90%
	Other	0,90%

Parameters of the polled sample – journalists



Type of media	Printed Media	40,4%
	Radio	20,5%
	Internet Media	17,3%
	Cable TV	14,1%
	Air TV	7,7%
Place of operation	Sofia	19,90%
	Big city	59,00%
	Another city	14,10%
	No answer	7,00%
Position held in the media	Editor	28,2%
	Reporter	26,9%
	Chief Editor, Deputy Chief Editor	26,8%
	Director, Program Director	9,6%
	Correspondent	4,5%
	Owner, Manager	2,6%
	Producer	1,9%
	Host of a show	0,6%
	Commentator	0,6%
	Other	1,2%

RESULTS

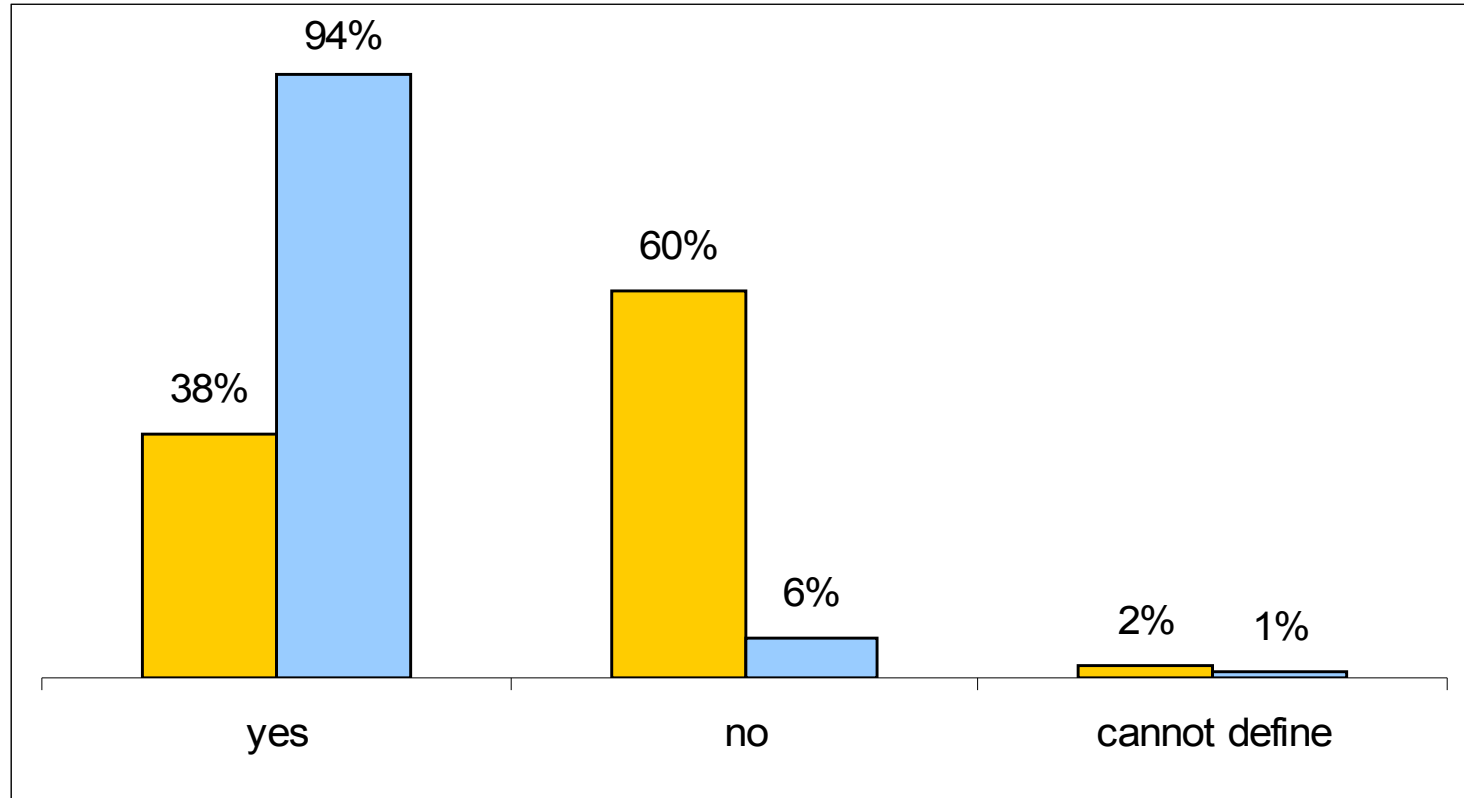
Right of Access to Public Information in Bulgaria



Q. Are you aware of your right of access to public information?

Citizens

Journalists



Base: all respondents(1210), 18+

Base: All journalists (156)

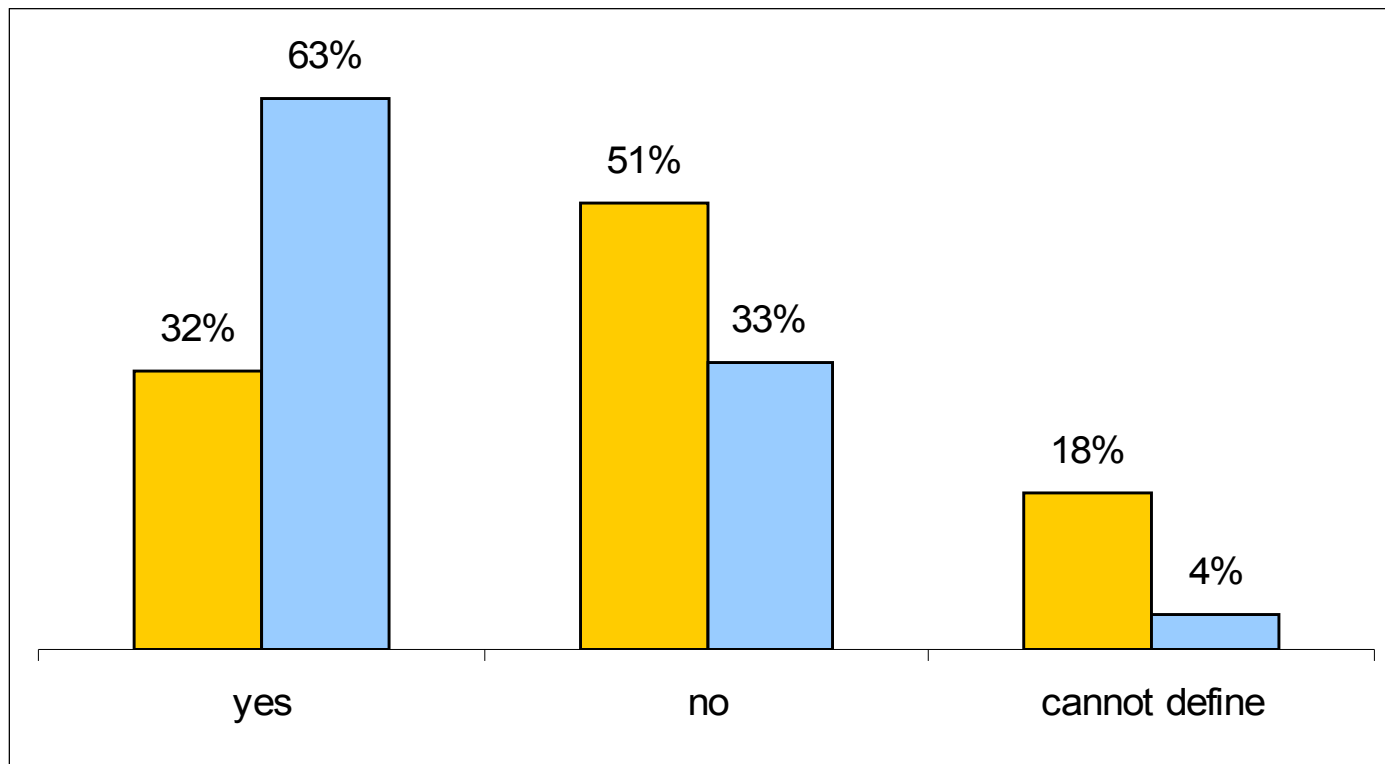
Right of access to public information guaranteed by Bulgarian legislation



Q. Does Bulgarian legislation guarantee citizens' right of access to public information?

Citizens

Journalists



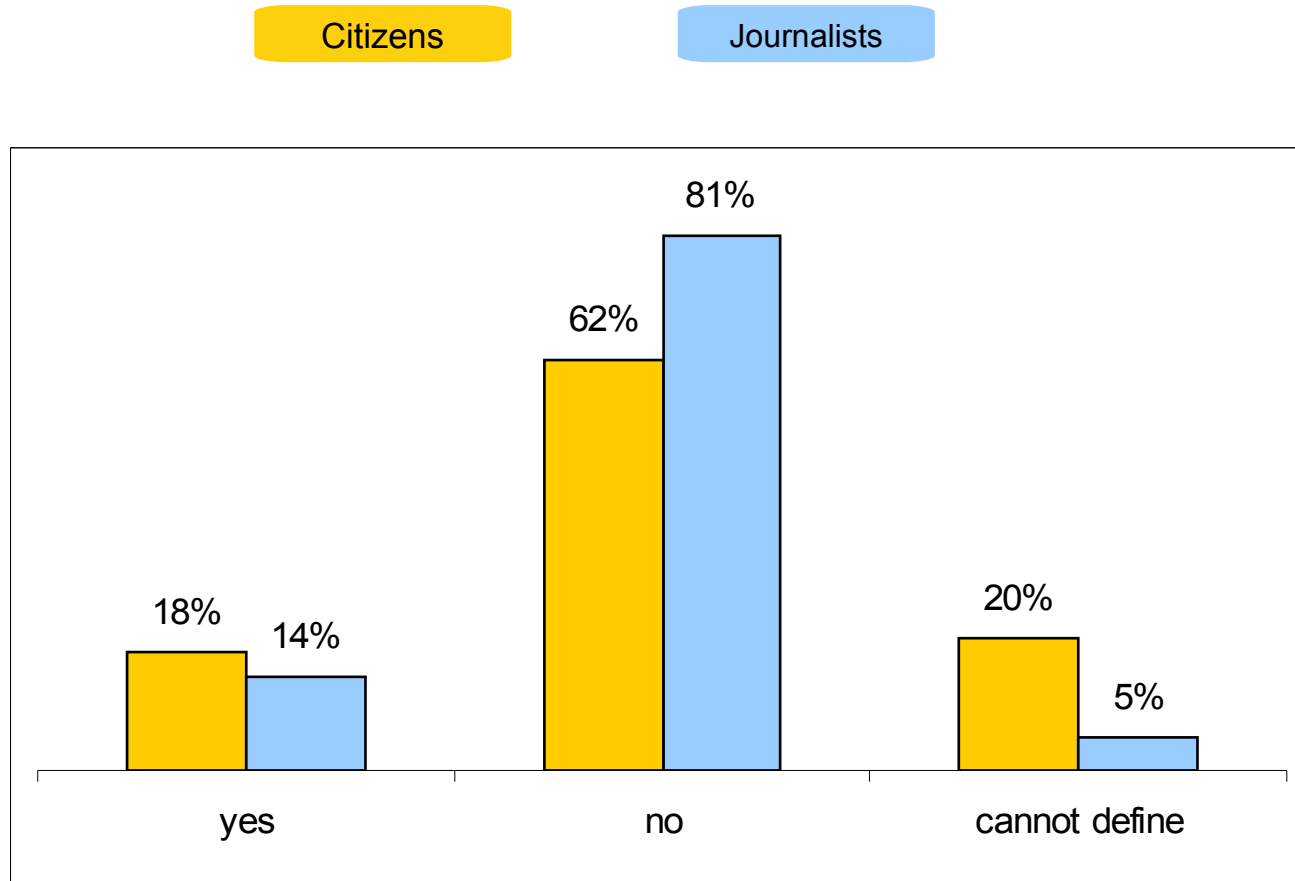
Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Base: all journalists (156)

Respect to the right of access to public information in Bulgaria



Q. Is the right of access public information respected in Bulgaria?



Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Base: all journalists (156)

Guarantee and respect to the right of access to public information by the institutions



Q. What is the extent of importance to which the following bodies shall guarantee and respect the right of access to public information in the country?

State Administration - Executive Bodies

Local bodies of self government - mayors and municipal councils

Bodies of judicial power

Media

Natural and legal persons financed from the state budget

Citizens

Journalists

Citizens

Journalists

Citizens

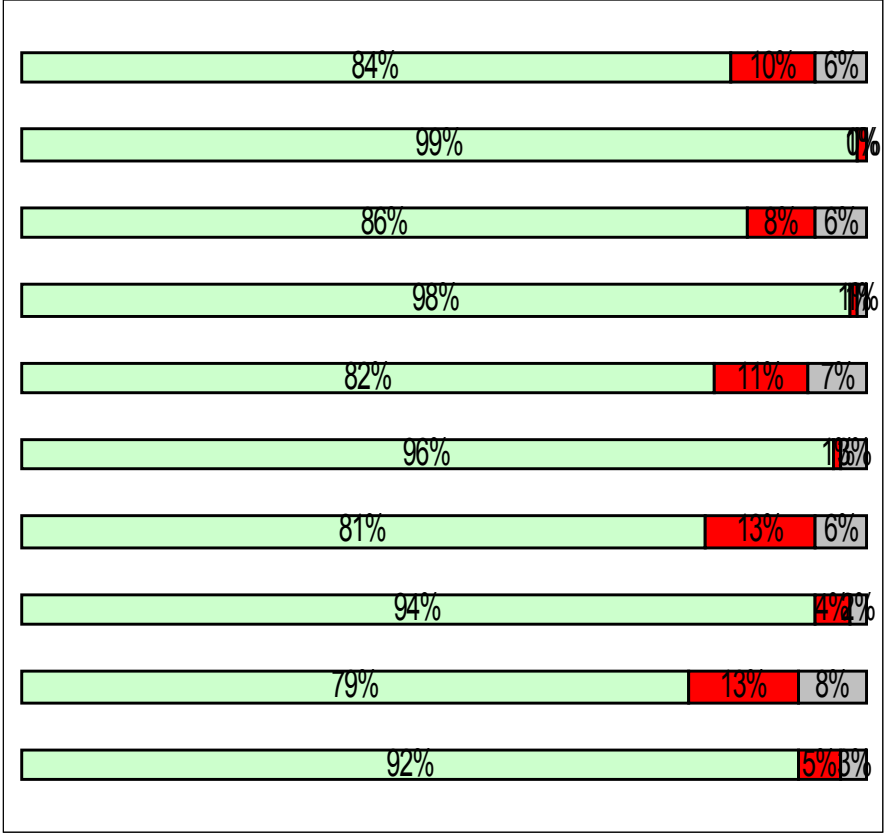
Journalists

Citizens

Journalists

Citizens

Journalists



■ important
■ not important
■ cannot define

Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Base: all journalists (156)

Access to Information Programme and Access to Public Information Act - awareness



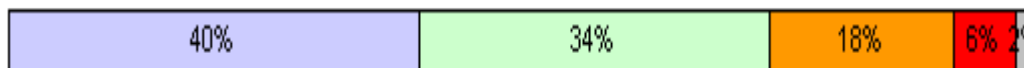
Q. Are you aware of the existence of:

Access to Information Programme

Citizens



Journalists

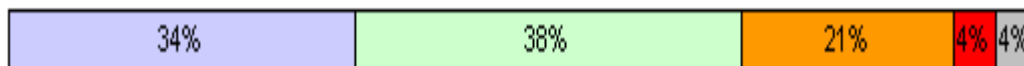


Access to Public Information Act

Citizens



Journalists



I have contacted/used

I am well aware but don't have direct impressions

I am aware of the existence but am not familiar with

I am not aware at all

No answer

Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Base: all journalists (156)

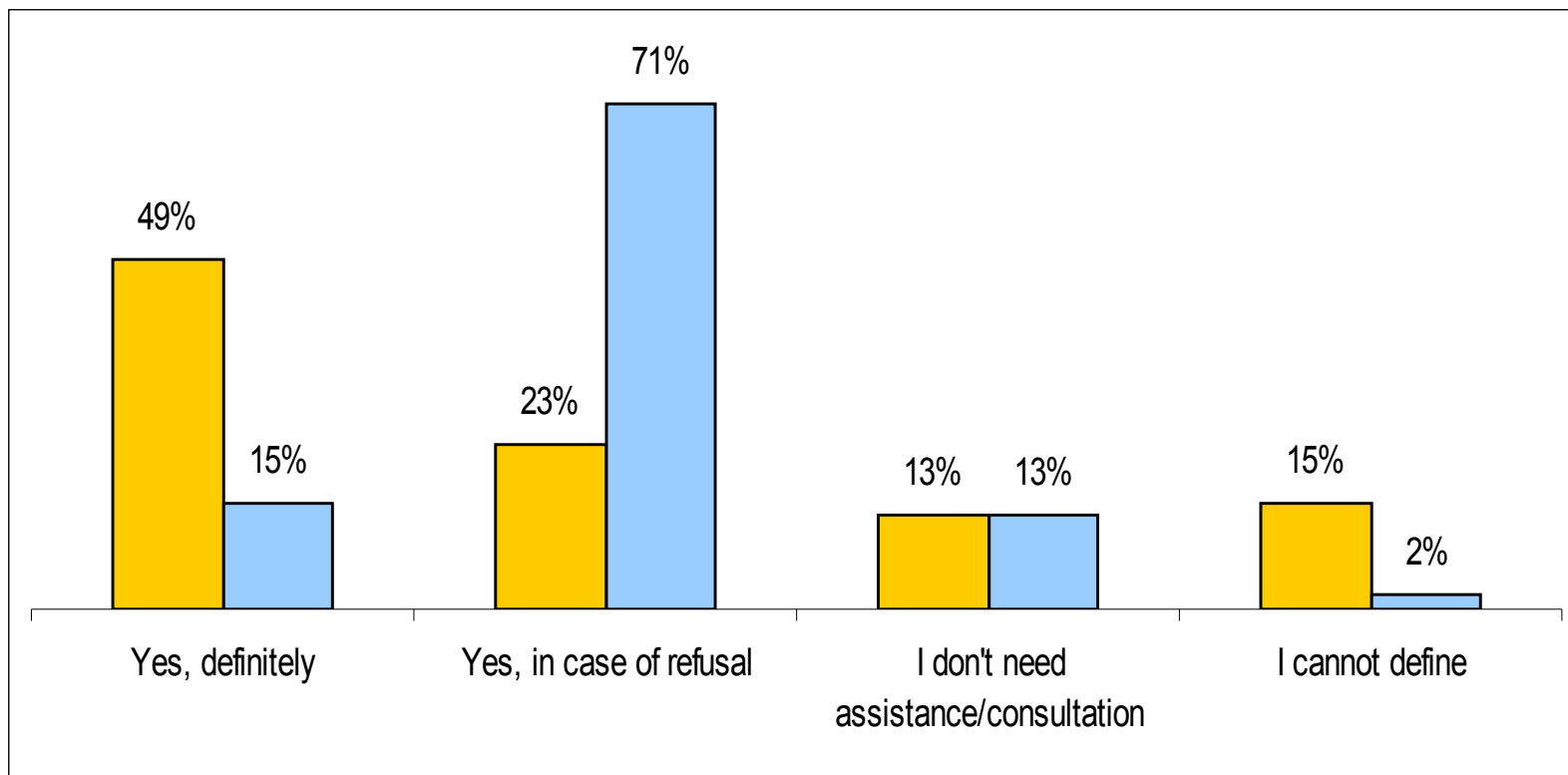
Assistance in obtaining access to public information



Q. Do you need assistance/consultation in cases when you want to obtain access to public information?

Citizens

Journalists



Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

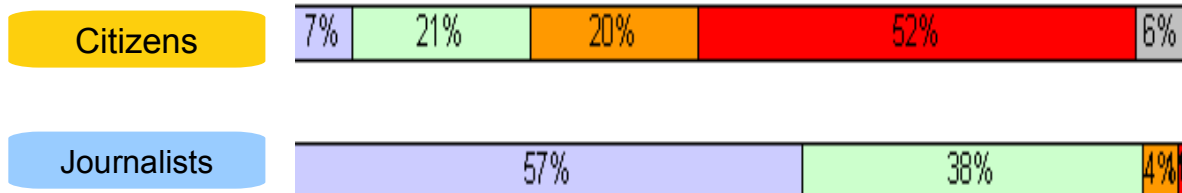
Base: all journalists (156)

Procedure of obtaining access to public information

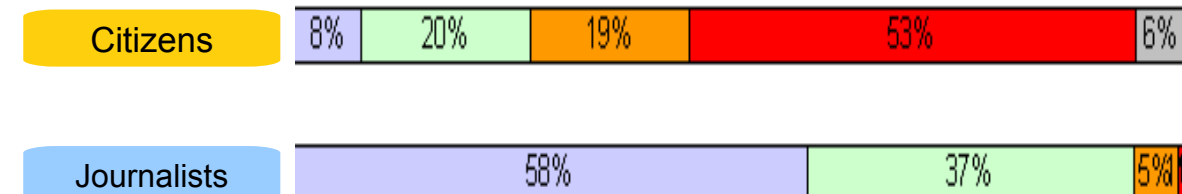


Q. Do you know:

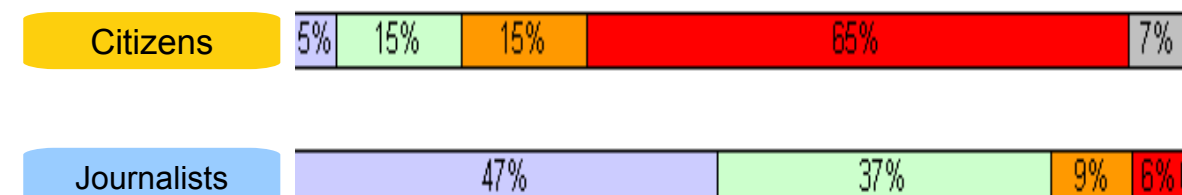
What to do to obtain information from central and municipal administration?



Whom to address in order to obtain public information?



Which institution to address in case of refusal of public information?



Yes, I know well

Yes, I know in general terms

Yes, I know vaguely

No, I don't know at all

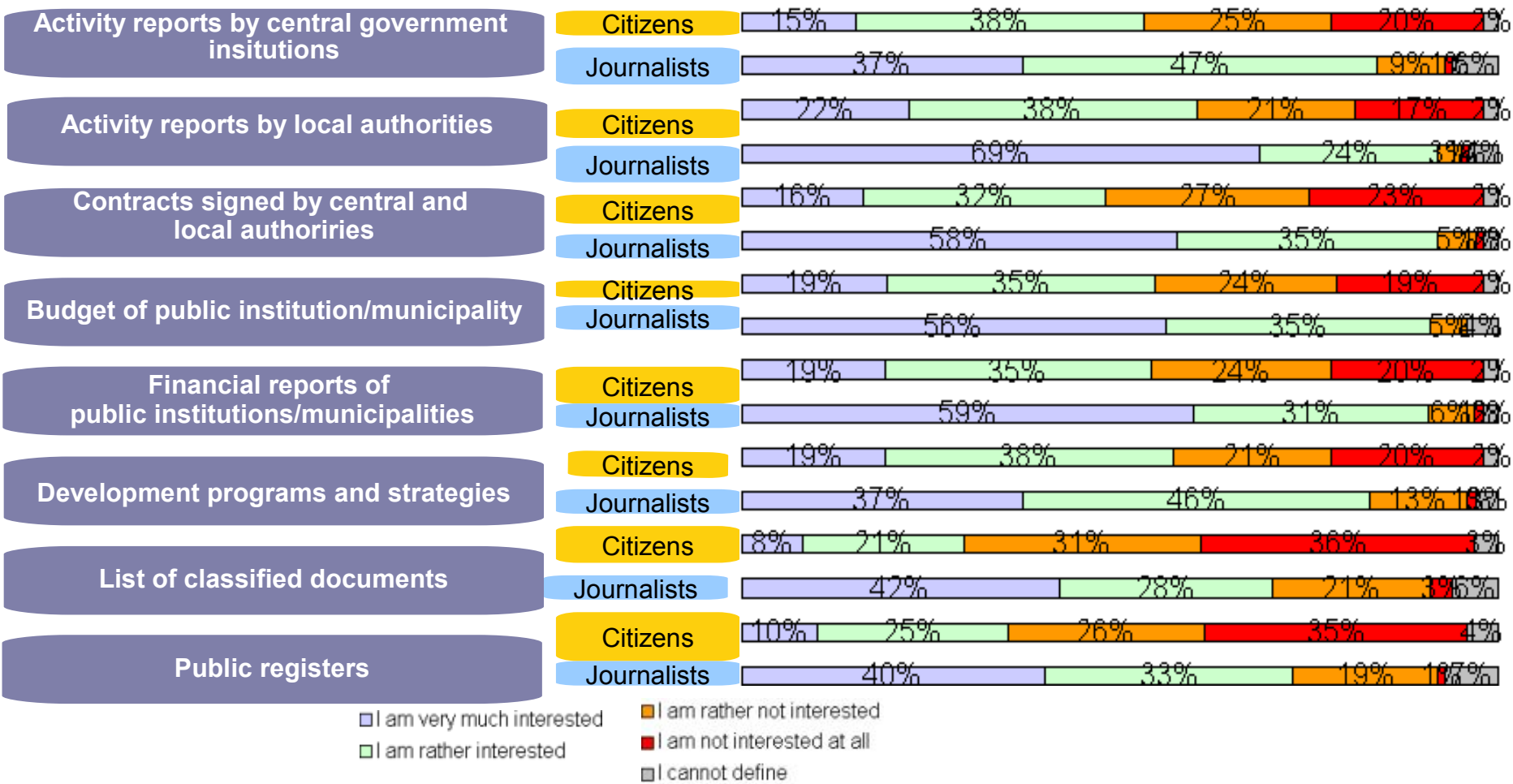
I cannot define

Interest towards public information



Q. To what extent does the following public information is interesting to you as a citizen? Citizens

Q: To what extent the following public information is interesting for you? Journalists



■ I am very much interested ■ I am rather not interested
■ I am rather interested ■ I am not interested at all
■ I cannot define

Base: all correspondents (1210), 18+

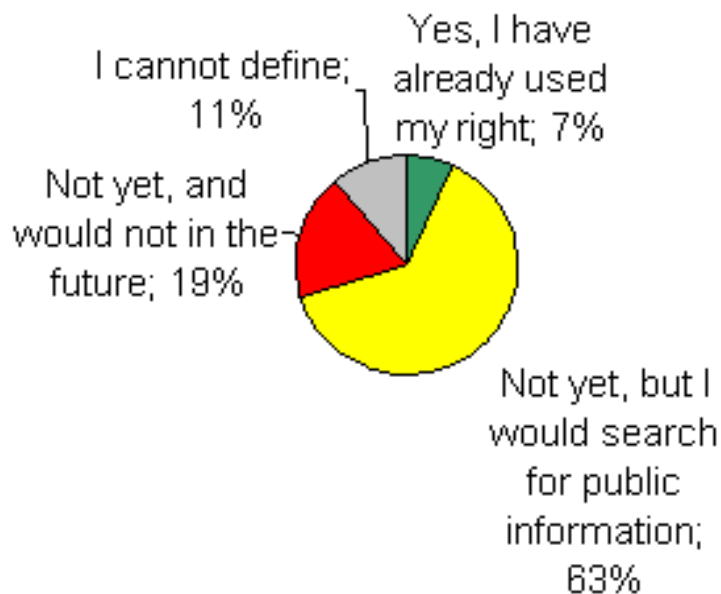
Base: all journalists (156)

Intention to use the right of access to public information



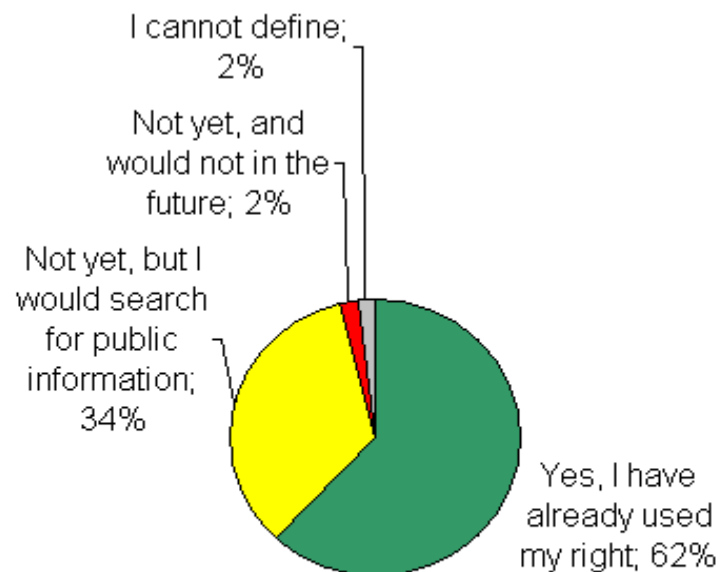
Q: Have you used the right of access to public information and would you use it if you have not?

Citizens



Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Journalists



Base: all journalists (156)

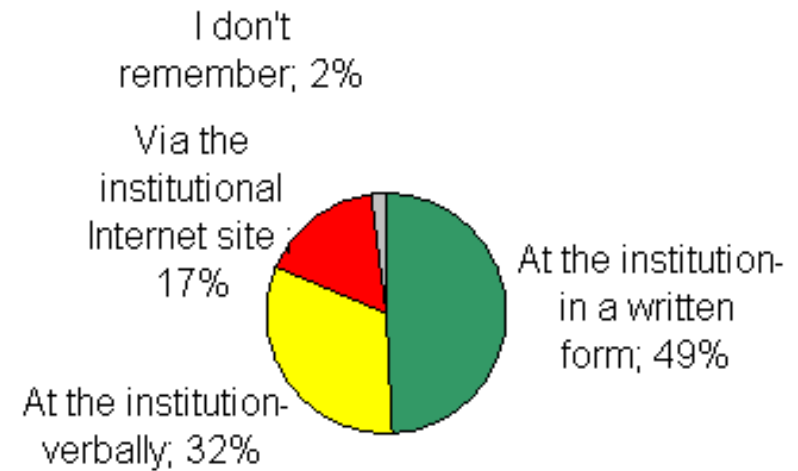
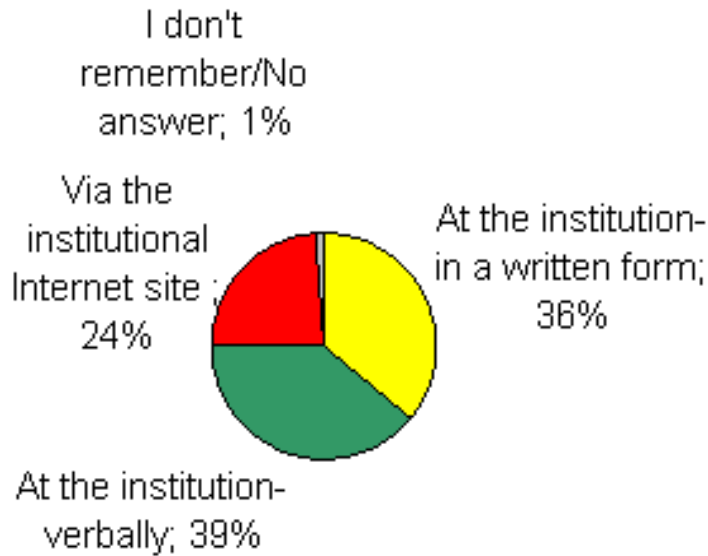
Ways of requesting access to public information



Q: How did you request access to public information?

Citizens

Journalists



Base: all respondents who have used the right of access to information (86)

Base: all journalists who have used the right of access to information

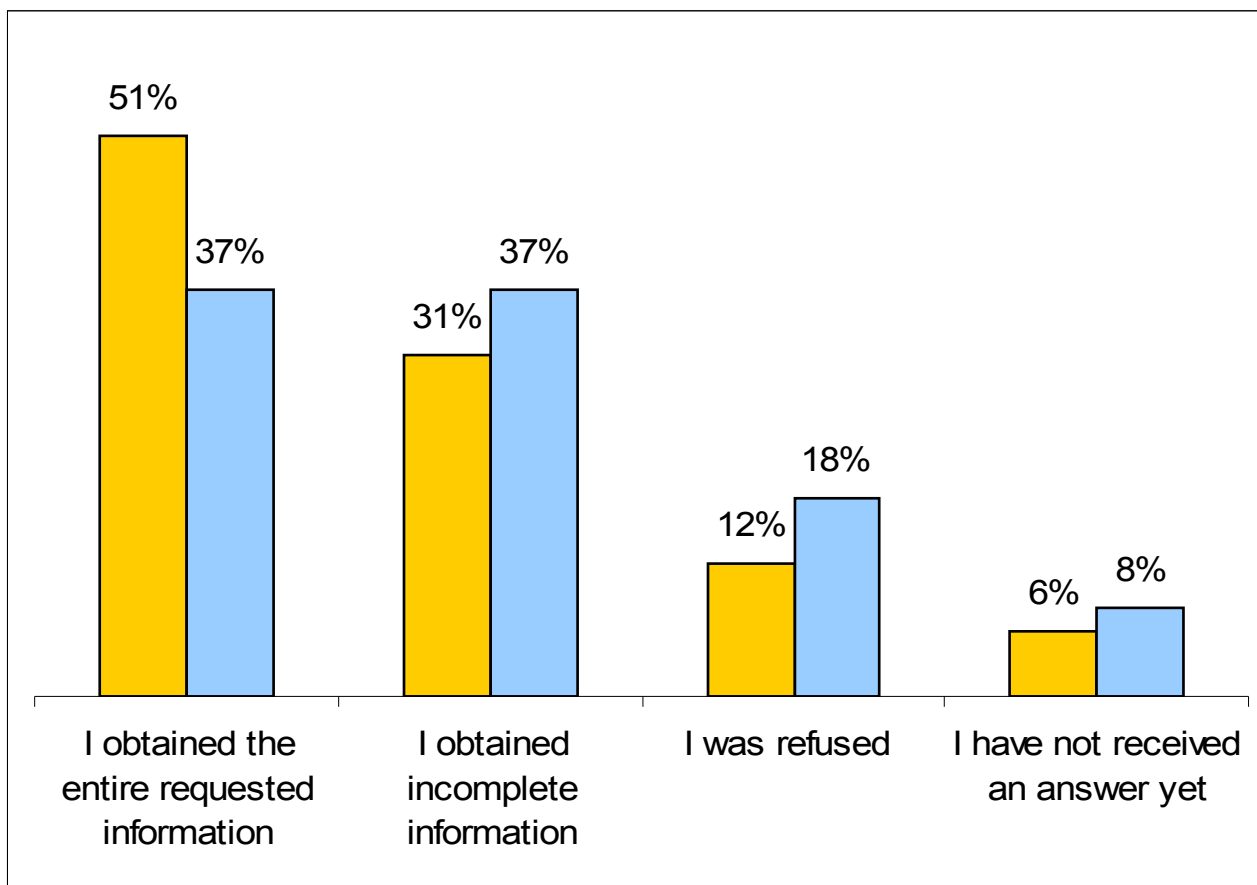
Results from attempts to obtain access to information



Q. What was the result from your attempt to obtain access to public information?

Citizens

Journalists



Base: all respondents who have used the right of access to information (86)

Base: all journalists who have used the right of access to information (97)

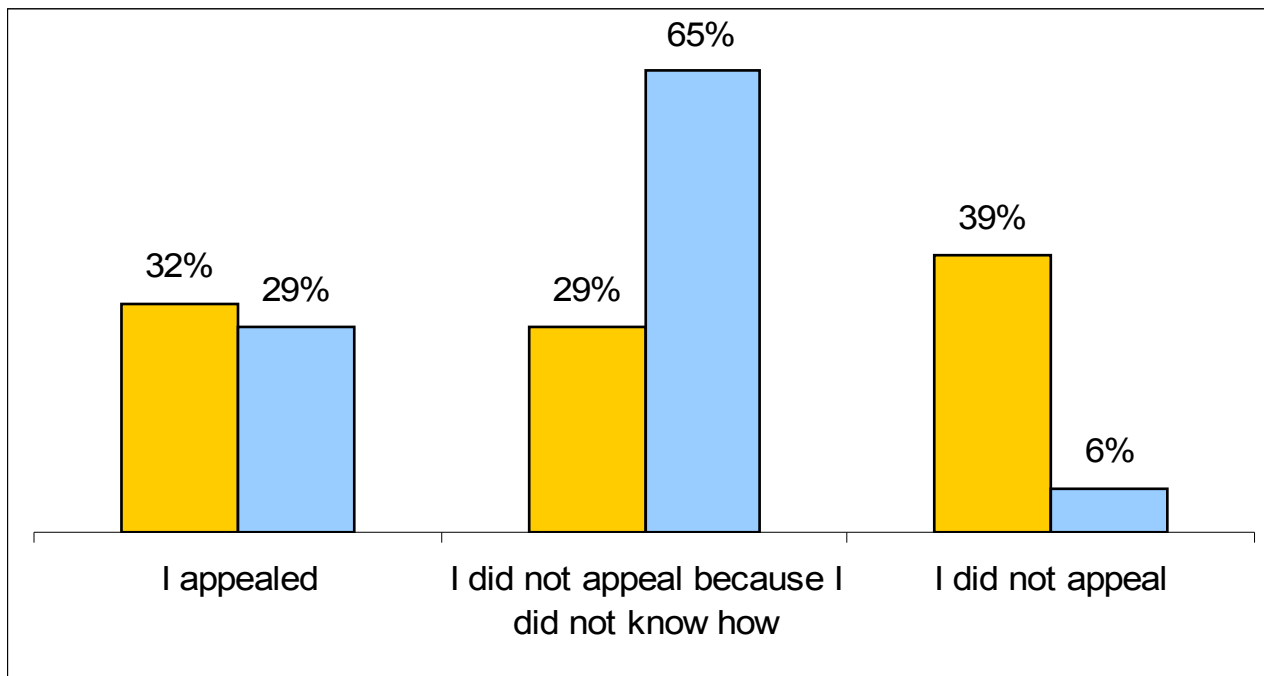
Reaction after a refusal of access to public information



Q. Have you appealed the refusal of access to information?

Citizens

Journalists



Base: all respondents who have been refused access to public information (10)

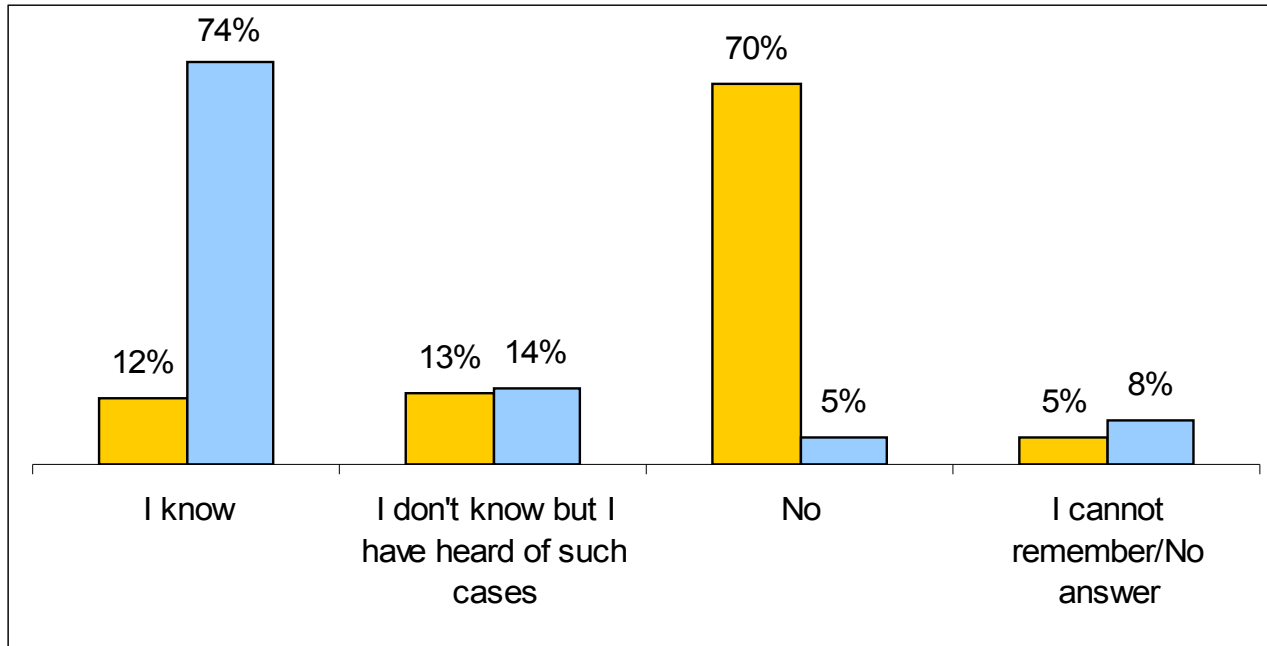
Base: all journalists who have been refused access to public information (17)



Q. Do you know a person or organization who have sought public information?

Citizens

Journalists



Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Base: all journalists (156)

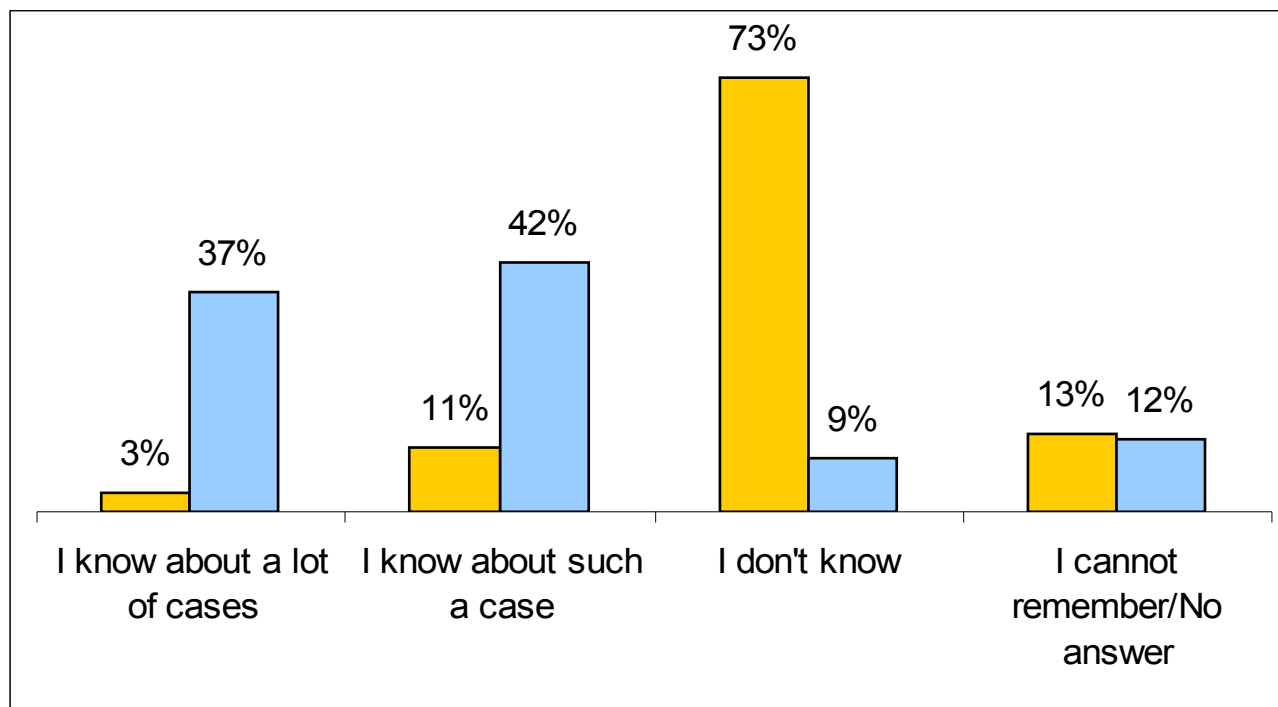
Cases of refusal of access to public information



Q. Are you aware of any cases in which access to public information has been refused?

Citizens

Journalists

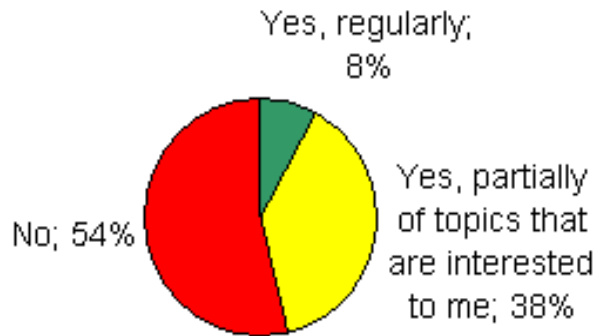


Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Base: all journalists (156)



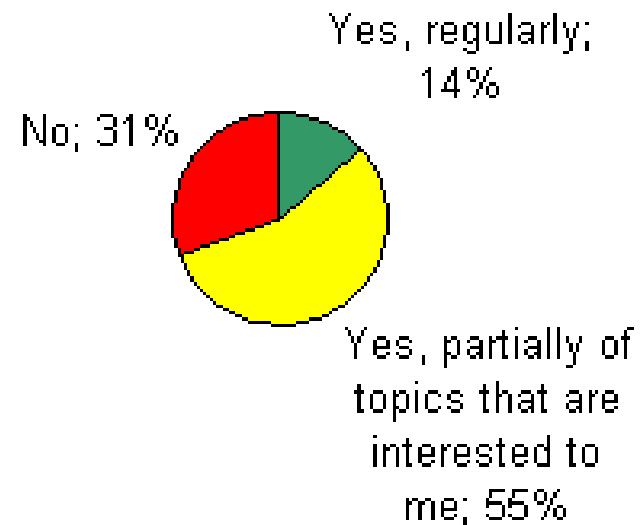
Q: Do you follow or not publications/programs in media related to the problems with the provision of access to information?



Citizens

Base: all respondents (1210), 18+

Q: Do you personally publish/broadcast on the problems related to the provision of access to information?



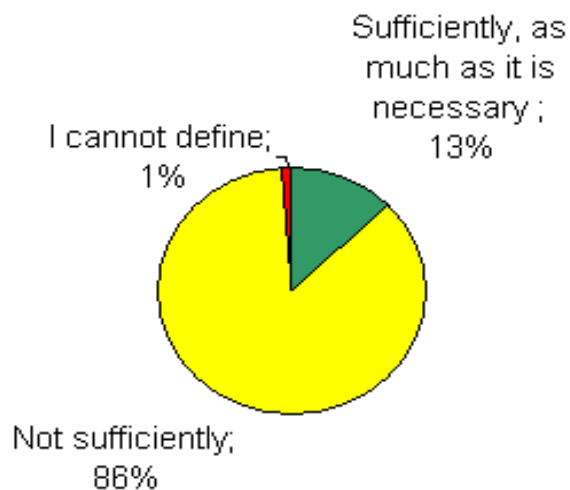
Journalists

Base: all journalists (156)



Journalists

Q: In your opinion to what extent the topic of access to public information is covered by Bulgarian media?



Q: In your opinion to what extent the topic of access to public information is covered by your media?



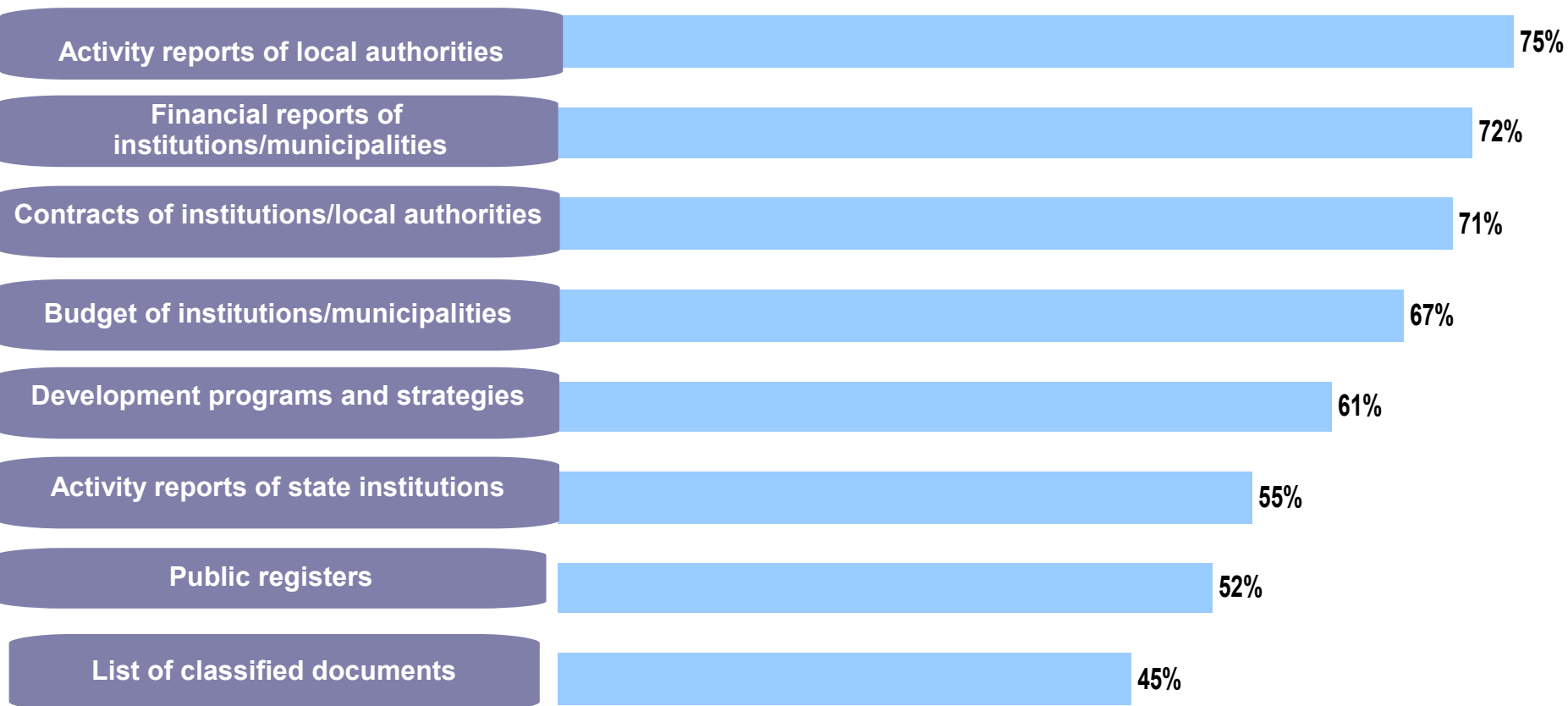
Base: all journalists (156)

Media coverage of the problems with access to information provision



Q. Are the following topics interesting for you as a journalist?

Journalists



Base: all journalists (156)