

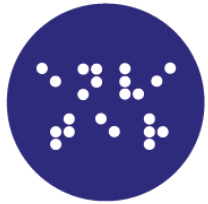


Lack of O&M instructors in Europe

- searching for solutions

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ENVITER

European Network for Vision Impairment
Training Education & Research

Who are we?

- European network, 29 members from 17 countries
- A network for service providers working in the field of lifelong learning with and on behalf of people with visual impairment.
- A European forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience of the members of this network.
- Enviter promotes and influences good practices in the field of services for VI people
- Enviter conducts and supports research, training and dissemination of evidence-based learning directed towards improving access to lifelong learning and other services

Why did Enviter start the O&M group?

- Representatives from different countries asked for help (also from outside Enviter)
- Asked for O&M curricula, possibilities for education and instructors
- Many countries or regions are missing instructors
- There is a gap between VI peoples' needs and qualified O&M service providers
- Long waiting lists to learn O&M for several reasons
- So Enviter organised a working group, and sent out a questionnaire to it's members

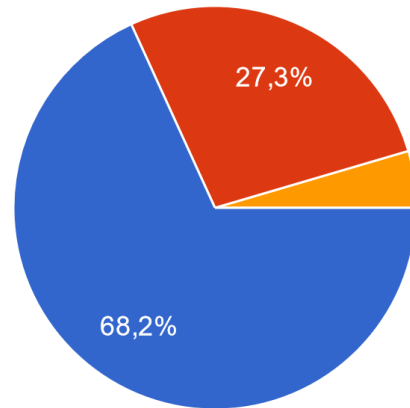
Represented countries

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Croatia
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Italy
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia

The questionnaire

1. Is there a lack of O&M instructors in your country?

22 answers



- Yes
- No
- I don't know / I'm not sure

If yes, please specify why or in which field

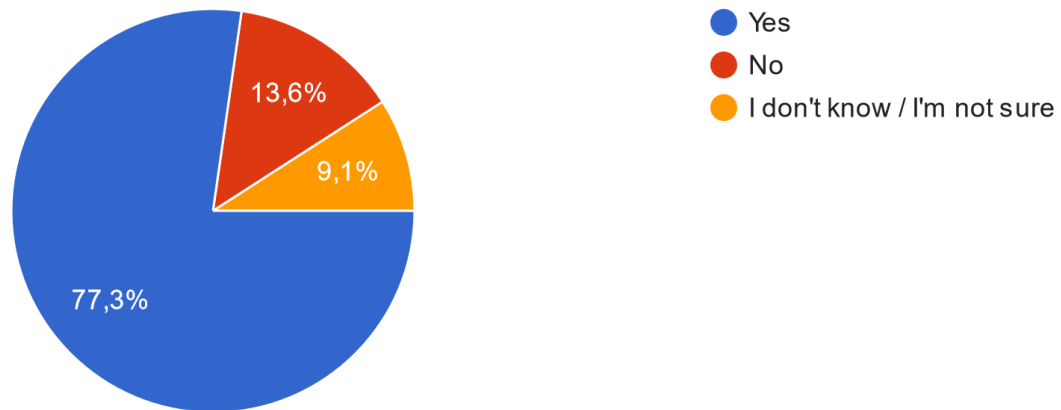
(e.g., in certain age categories, in certain parts of the country, in private sector, etc.)

- "Lack of certification and recognition (is not even considered a profession), reduced time of instruction included in the training of VI teachers, difficult access to bibliography, little collaborative work."
- "If one of our Instructors quits, there is no one to replace them. The same issue is in all age categories."
- "No training available"
- "We don't have any academic program or professional training."
- "Apart from big cities, throughout the whole country"
- "Lack of instructors specializing in O&M for children"
- "In all sectors."
- "In private sector as well as in institutions."
- No new (young) instructors to replace the „old“ ones
- The existing course is too expensive (for the student or the employer to pay)

O&M Education

2. About the O&M instructors, is there special education for or including O&M in your country?

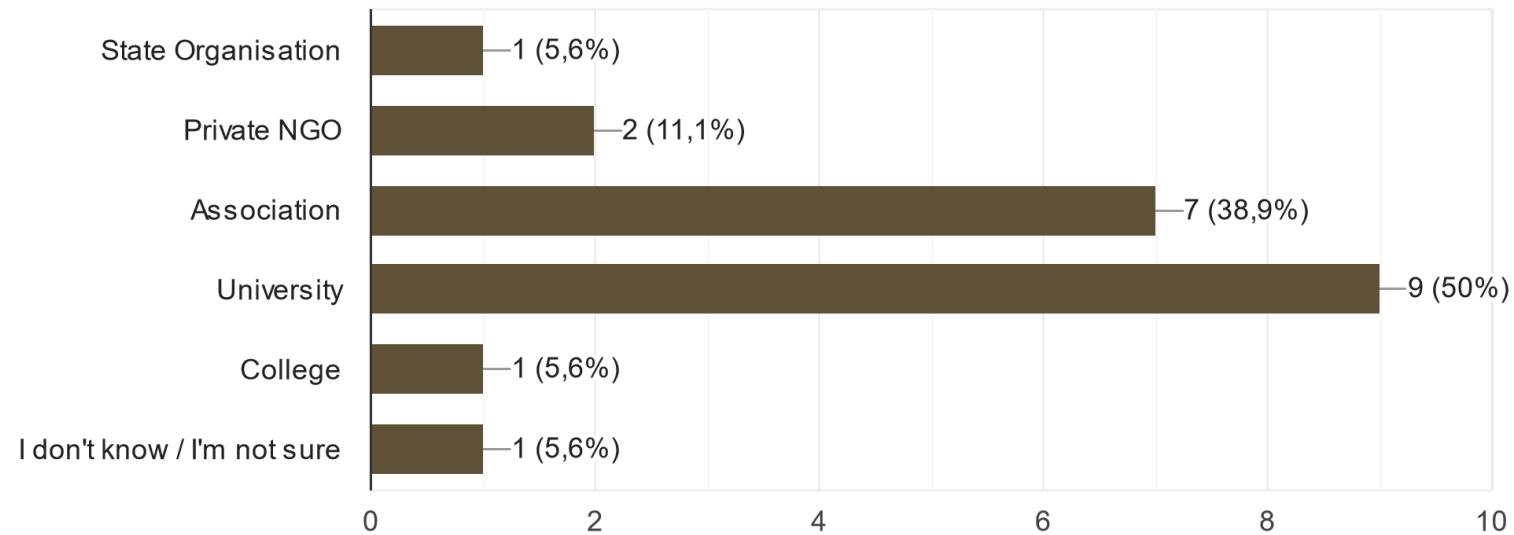
22 answers



If, yes, where, how long and at what level?

2.1.1 Where

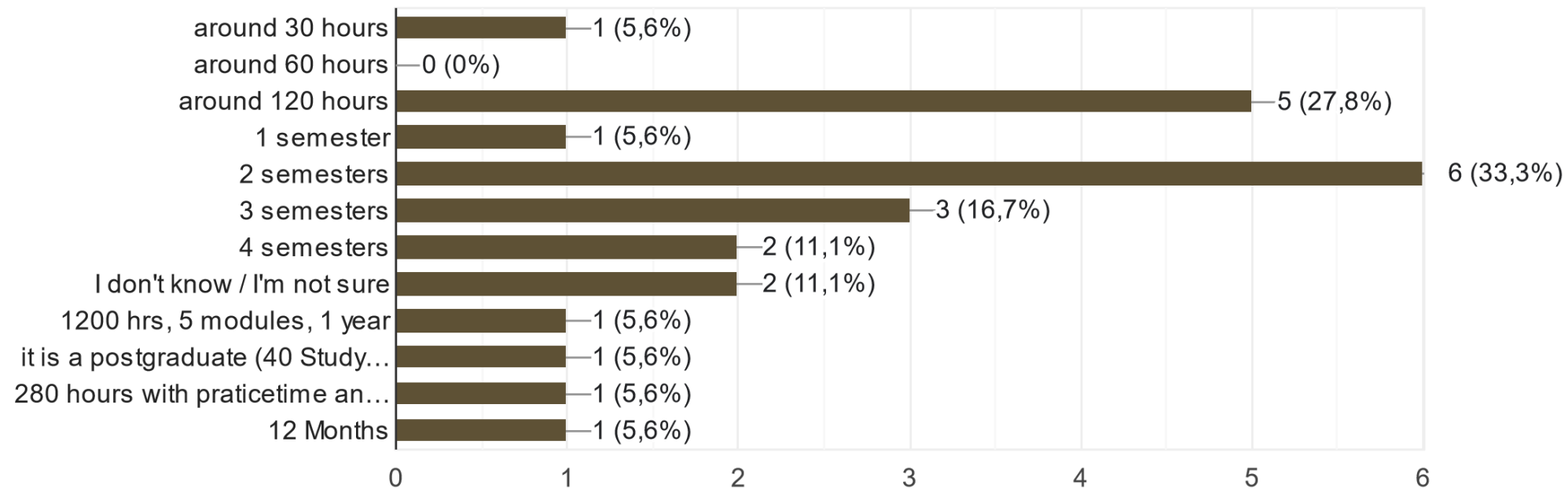
18 answers



If, yes, where, how long and what level?

2.1.2 Duration

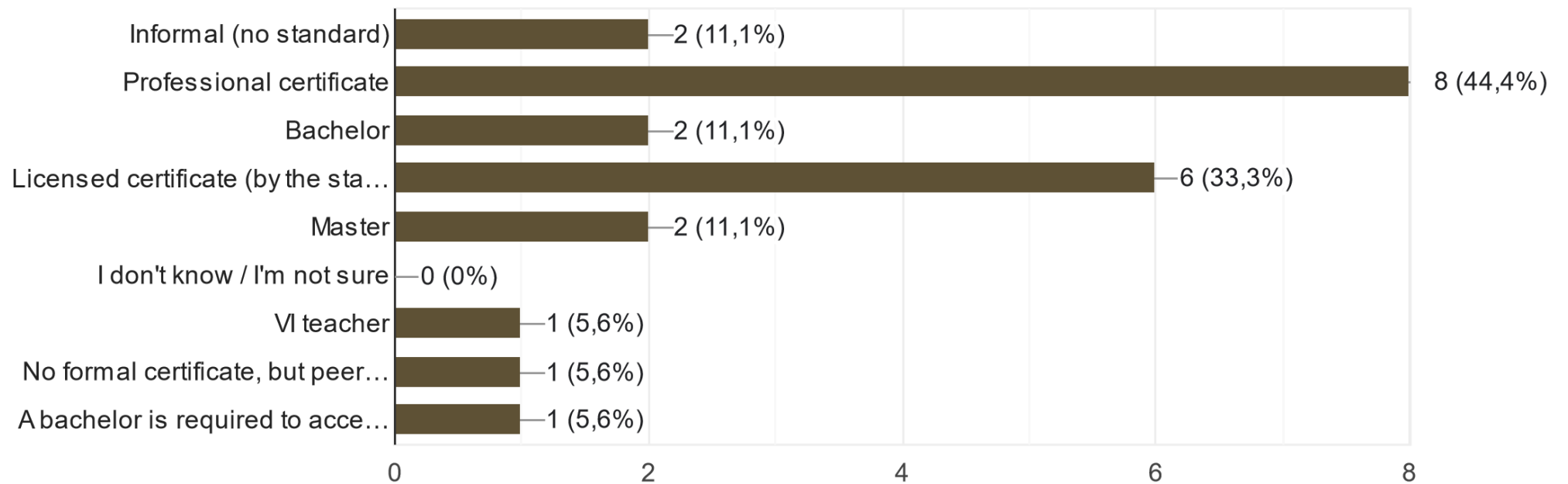
18 answers



If, yes, where, how long and what level?

2.1.3 Level

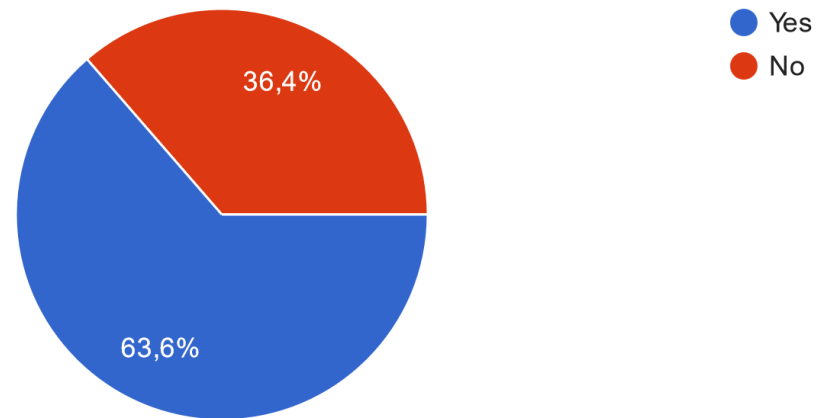
18 answers



Demand for an O&M course

3. Would you and/or your organisation be interested in an O&M course, if it's working language is English?

22 answers



Yes, to a possible course

- Austria

- Belgium

- Bulgaria

- Cyprus

- Germany

- Hungary

- Iceland

- Italy

- Poland

- Portugal

- Romania

- Serbia

Pros and cons

- Better service providing (access to O&M education) for VI people
- Big professional O&M community around Europe = More experience and knowledge can be shared
- Exchanges of employees across countries
- Online (or blended) course, good for not having travelling costs
- More O&M trainers (qualified) in Europe
- (Hopefully) accepted standards across Europe
- Working language: English
- Acceptation of the certificate in each country?
- Some countries may lose their trainers to other countries
- Digital learning could be difficult for exchange
- Practical units must take part in presence, so travelling therefore is necessary

Solutions or fire fighting?

Informal courses

- basic knowledge yes, certificate no

Searching for universities who can organise a course (under ECTS) in a foreign language

Like a travelling circus... Certified O&M instructors travel around the world and stop for 1-2 months to teach smaller groups (umbrella organisation needed)

Or anything else?



Thank you for
your attention
and thoughts
