

RESULTS OF PILOT TEST OF PLATFORM IN ALBANIA

Based on the answer to the first question related to the occupation of the interested persons. As, it is shown by the pie chart, most of the persons who answered the questions to the questionnaires were included into the “Other” category, though the staff members of Albanian Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development (ACEPSD) and those of Agricultural University of Tirana did a lot of work to involve alumni students, fisheries inspectorate representatives and interested persons (also working in these sectors) to aquaculture and fisheries. About 15% of them preferred to not give information about the occupation and just answered that they were resident in a locality, while 8% of the answers correspond to the naturalist.

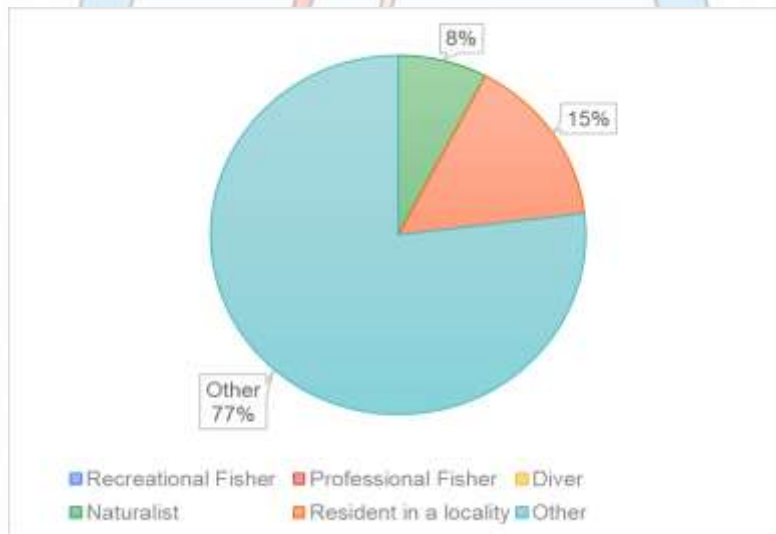


Figure 1. Graphical presentation as pie chart of the occupation/profession of the persons, who compiled the questionnaire.

In total, to the questionnaire answered 13 persons, while most of them were 40 years old, as it is shown in the pie chart graphic of Figure 2.

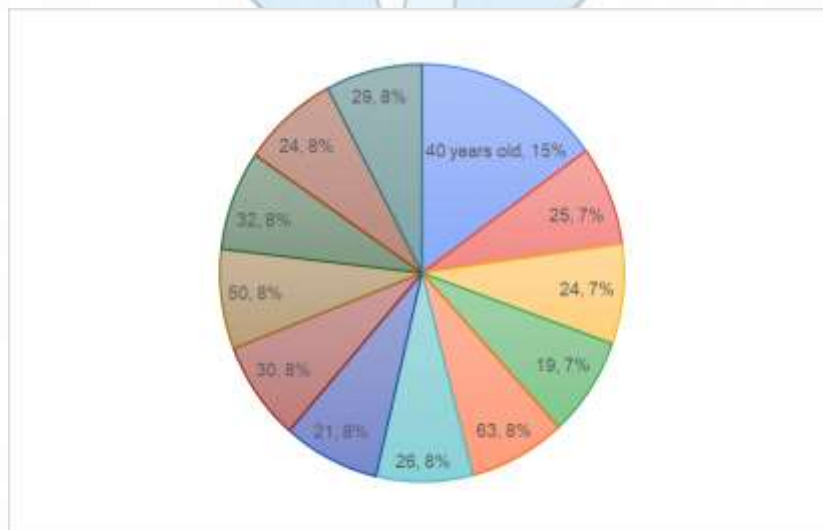


Figure 2. Graphical presentation as pie chart of the age of the persons, who compiled the questionnaire.

In Figure 3 are shown the answers to question 3, where it is interesting to note, that though in the Albanian questionnaire were included 15 confirmed non-native species (NNS), just 5 of them were included in the answers (European perch, pumpkinseed fish, Canadian pondweed, gibel carp and Atlantic blue crab). As it is shown in Figure 3, most of the observations correspond to Atlantic blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*).

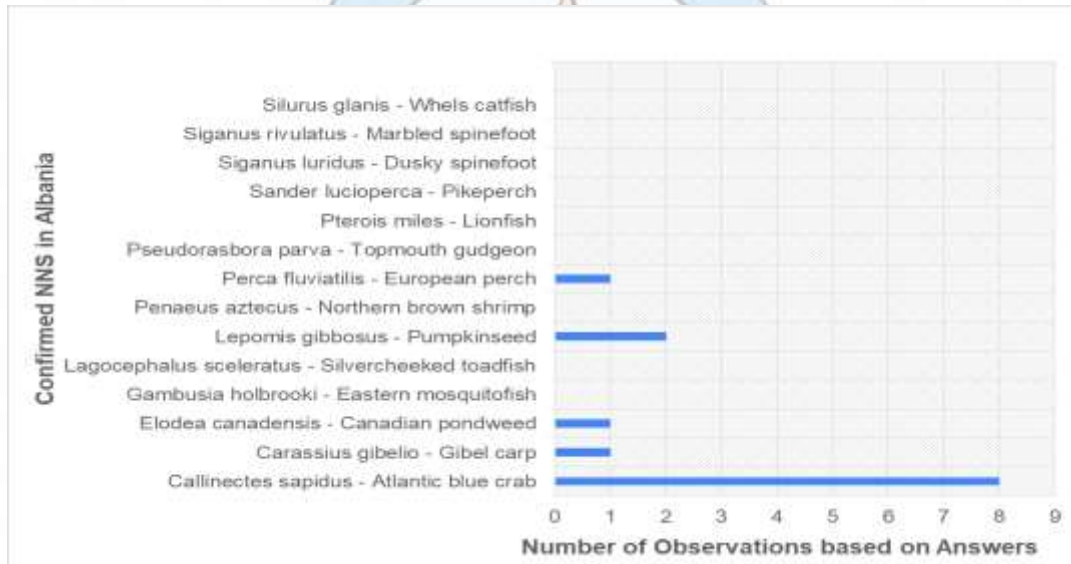


Figure 3. Graphical presentation of the number of observations provided by the answers to the questionnaire for each of the confirmed NNS in Albania

To the question “Is the first time you observe the specific species in your region?”, 62% of the persons answered No, while 38% of them answered Yes (Figure 4).

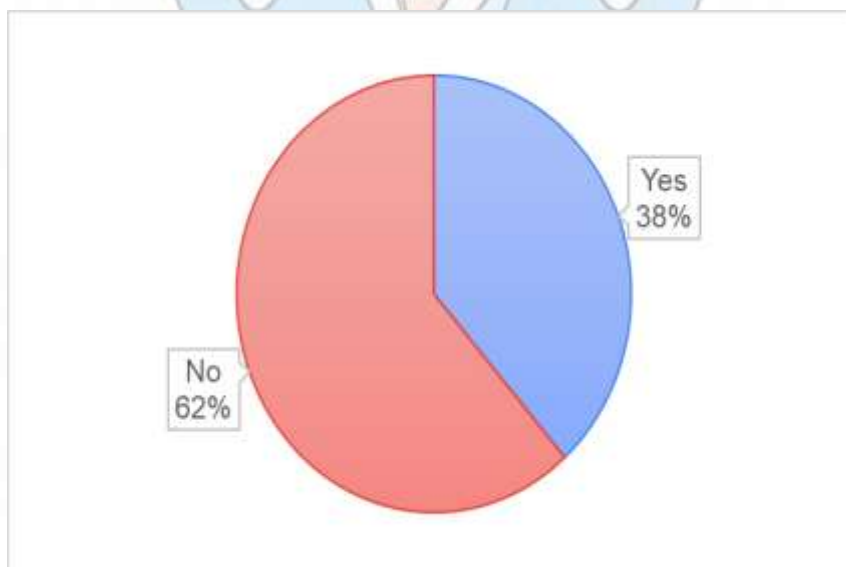


Figure 4. Graphical presentation as pie chart of the answers to the question “Is the first time you observe the specific species in your region?”.

In Figure 5 are shown the results corresponding to the question about the ecosystem where NNS has been observed by the person who compiled the questionnaire during the pilot testing. As it is shown by the graphic most of the observations were registered for marine species.

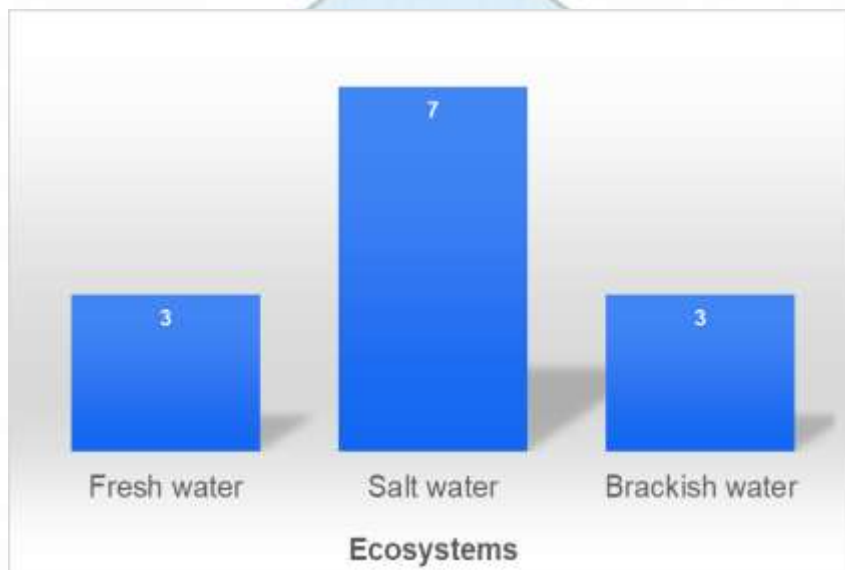


Figure 5. Graphical presentation of the results coming out by answering to the question “Is the individual observed in fresh water, marine or brackish water ecosystems?”.

Furthermore, in Figure 6 are shown the relative results to the question “Have you observed more than one? If yes, please note the number of individuals you have observed”. Most of the people answered that they have observed more than 10 individuals for the identified species.

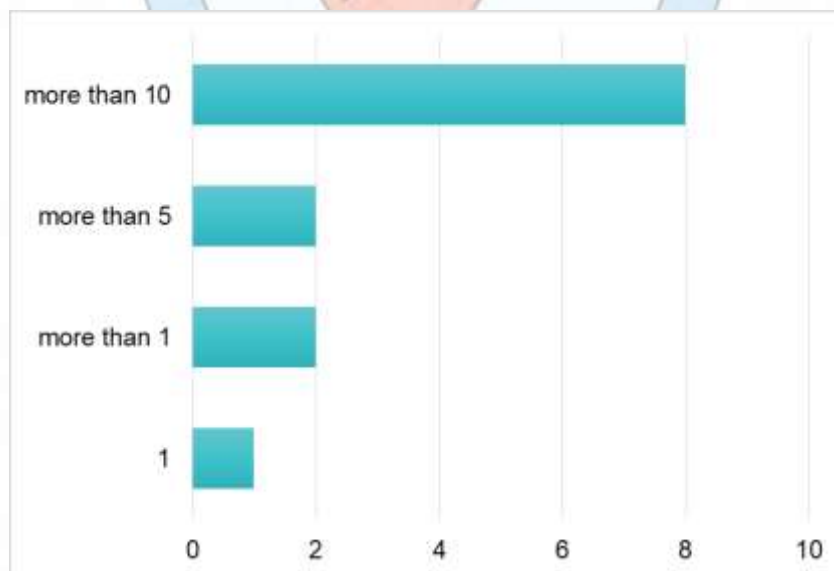


Figure 6. Graphical presentation of the results coming out by answering to the question “Have you observed more than one? If yes, please note the number of the individuals you have observed”.

In Figure 7, are also shown the results from the answers to the question about choosing the country where the NNS individuals have been observed. Most of the observations came out from the Albania, though there were answers showing that some of the species have been observed in Croatia and North Macedonia.

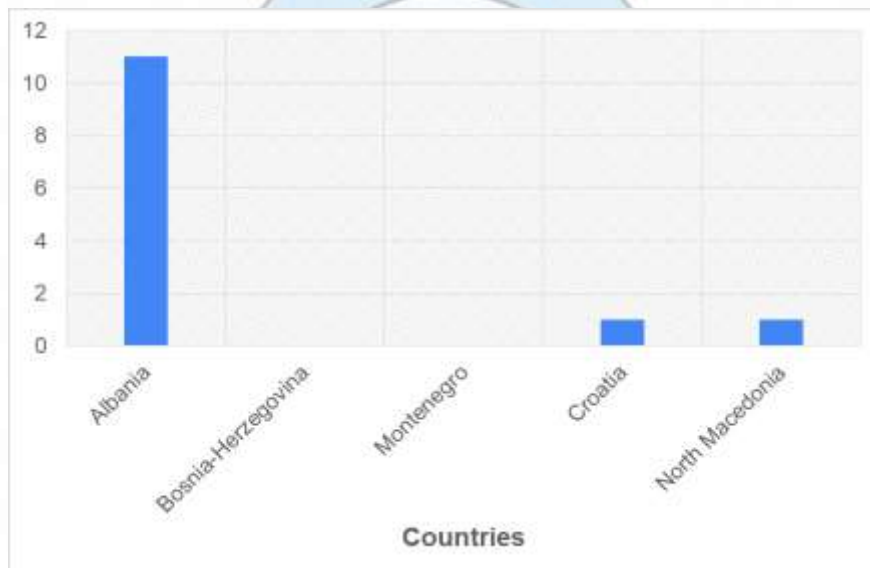


Figure 7. Graphical presentation of the results coming out by answering to the question “Please choose the country you have observed the species”.

In addition, one of the questions was about “mentioning the region and if possible the coordinates where have observed the individual / individuals of the species...”. As it is shown by the graphic in Figure 8, most of the people never answered to this question, though surprisingly their answers not only included different regions of Albania, but also an island from Greece.

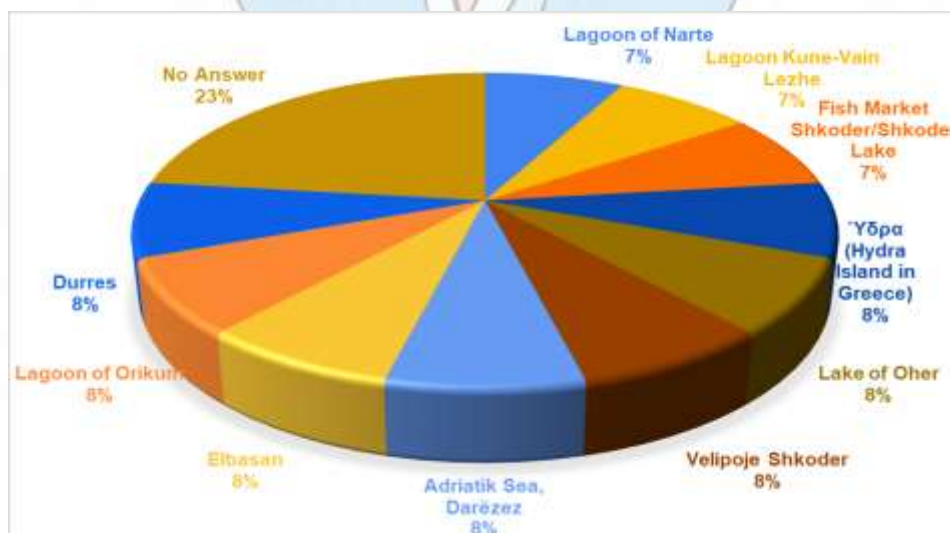


Figure 8. Graphical presentation of the results coming out by answering to the question about “mentioning the region and if possible the coordinates where have observed the individual / individuals of the species...”.

Furthermore, the results of Figure 8 were further elaborated regarding Atlantic blue crab, which included most of the answers to the question. As it is shown in Figure 9, even in this case most of the persons never answered the question, while the presence of the Atlantic blue crab (based on the answers) was identified in all the Albanian region and one Greek island.

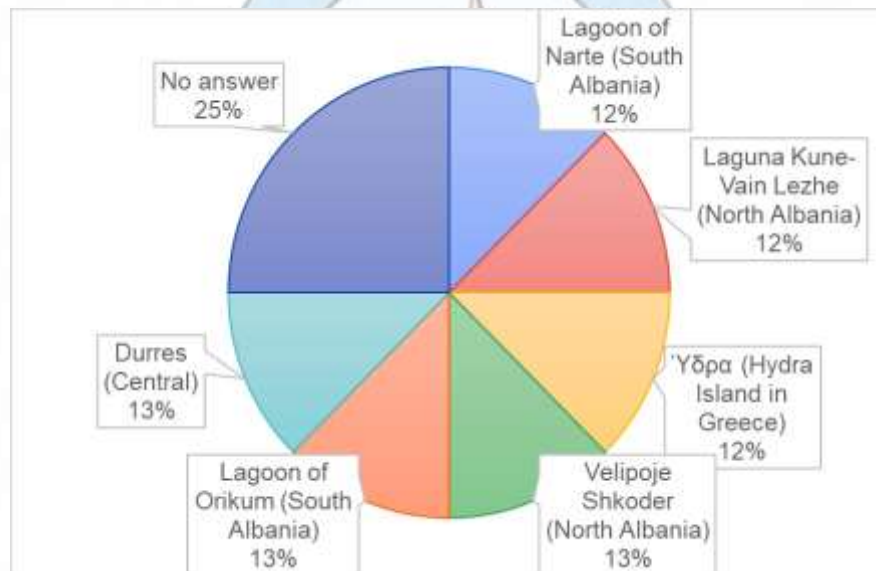


Figure 9. Graphical presentation of the results about the Atlantic blue crab, coming out by answering to the question about “mentioning the region and if possible the coordinates where have observed the individual / individuals of the species...”.

In addition, in Figure 10 are shown the results relative to the answers to the question about “mentioning the date when the species have been observed”. It is interesting to note that none of the NNS have been observed 1 year ago, while just 1 of the persons answered that the NNS has been observed by him/her more than 5 years ago.



Figure 10. Graphical presentation of the results coming out by answering to the question about “mentioning the date when the species have been observed”.

The results of Figure 10 were also further elaborated for the most representative species by the answers, the Atlantic blue crab.

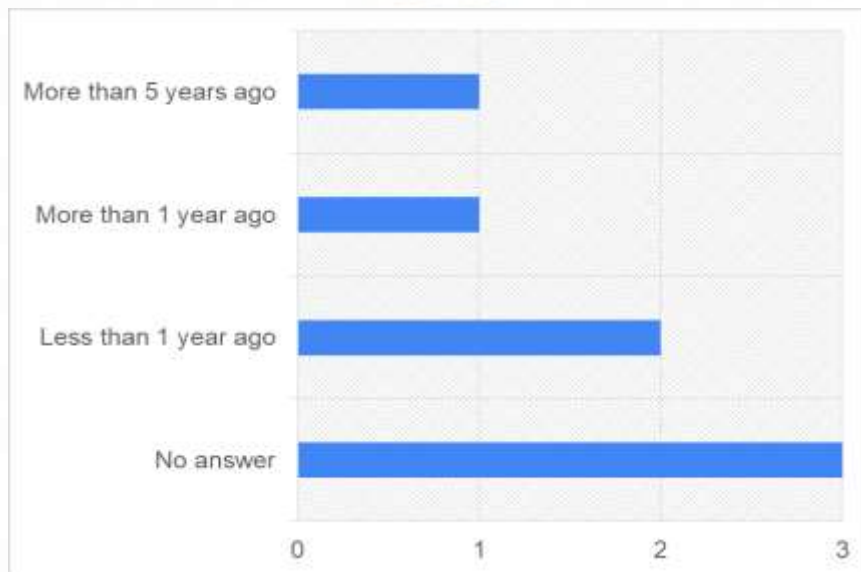


Figure 11. Graphical presentation of the results about the Atlantic blue crab, coming out by answering to the question about “mentioning the date when the species have been observed”.

In Figure 12 are shown the results coming out by answering to the question “mention the length of the individual, if applicable - If there are more than 1 individual, please fill in the mean length, if possible”. Only in the case of Atlantic blue crab the mean length was provided, because the number of answers were 3.

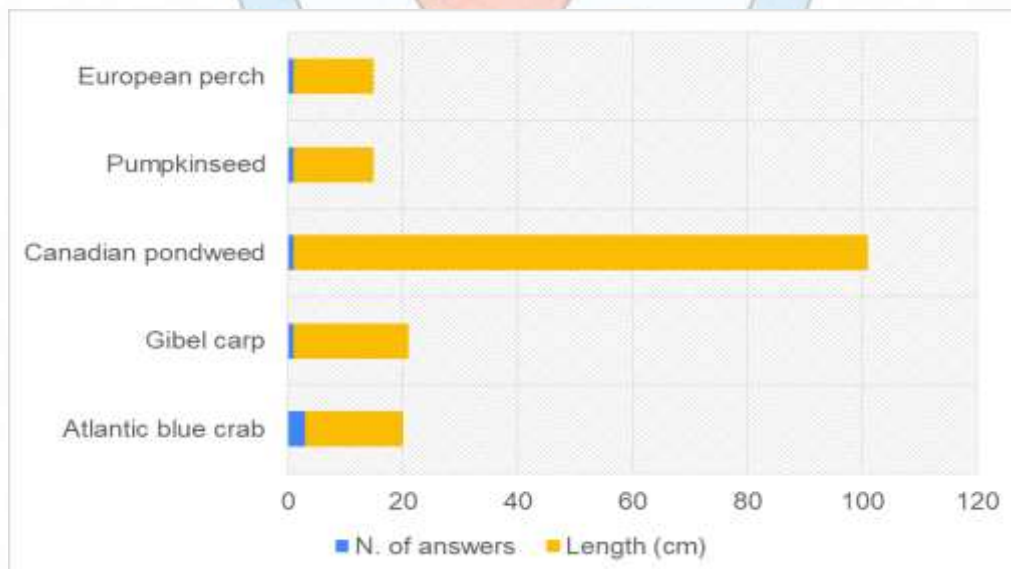


Figure 12. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “mentioning the length of the individual, if applicable - If there are more than 1 individual, please fill in the mean length, if possible”.

In Figure 13 and Figure 14 are shown the results about the weight and the depth of the NNS that have been observed by the persons who compiled the questionnaire.

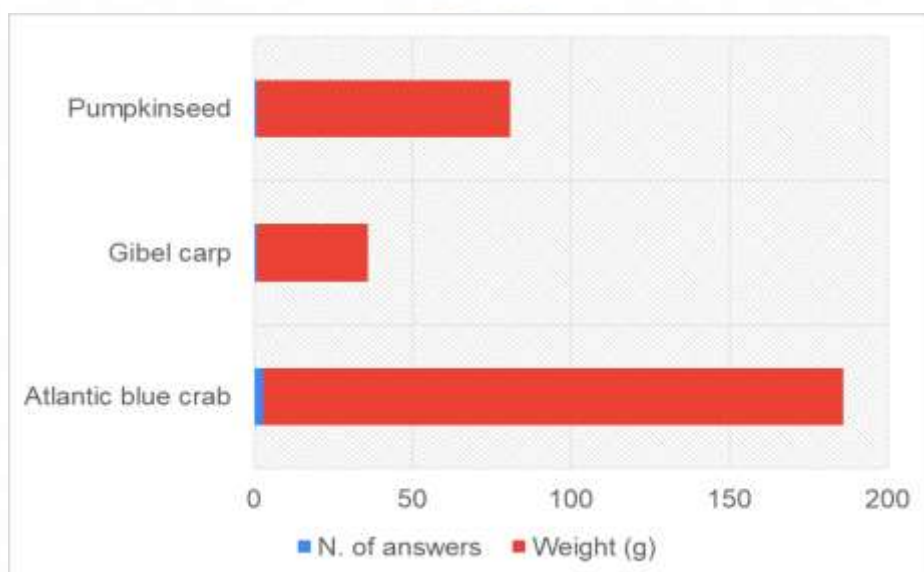


Figure 13. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “mentioning the weight of the individual, if applicable - If there are more than 1 individual, please fill in the mean weight, if possible”.

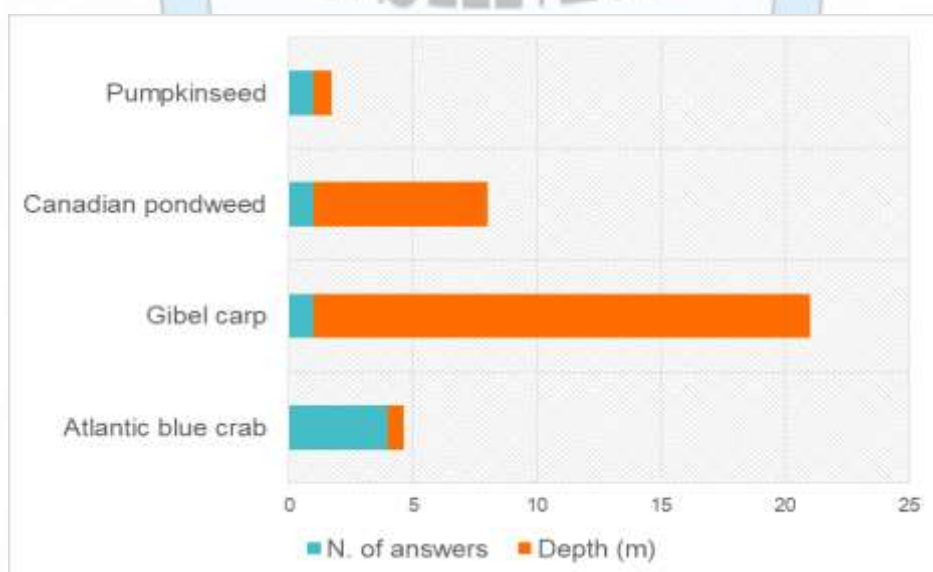


Figure 14. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “mentioning the depth you have observed the individual if applicable - If there are more than 1 individual in different depths please fill in the mean depth”.

Furthermore, in Figure 15 are reported the results to the question “mention the type of substrate of the region where the NNS individual has been found”. As it is shown, the Atlantic blue crab individuals have been observed in several types of substrates (muddy, coastal and rocky), though most of the individuals have been observed in coastal areas.

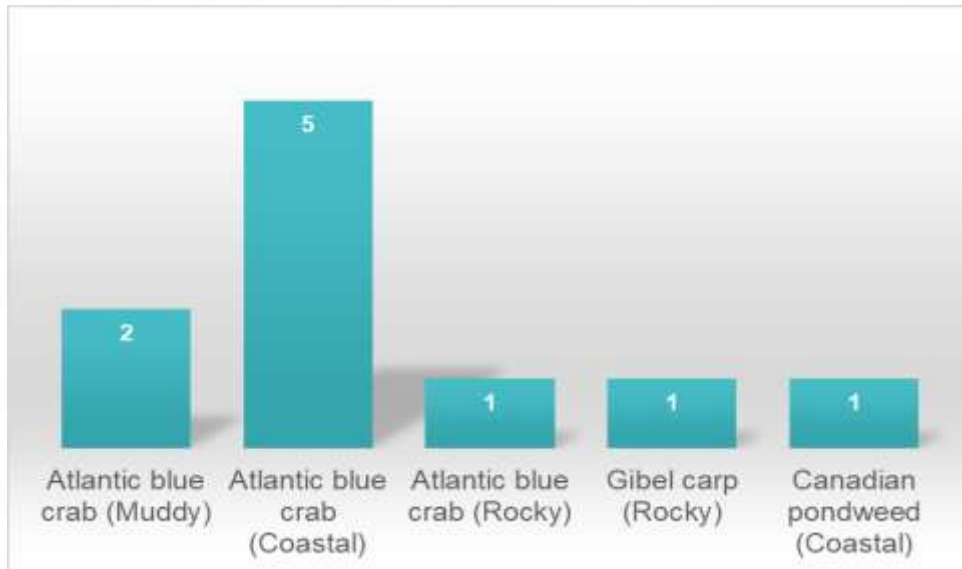


Figure 15. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “mentioning the type of substrate of the region where the NNS individual has been found”.

Just 15% of the persons answered that they have kept a sample or the individual of the species, while the remaining persons answered negatively (Figure 16).

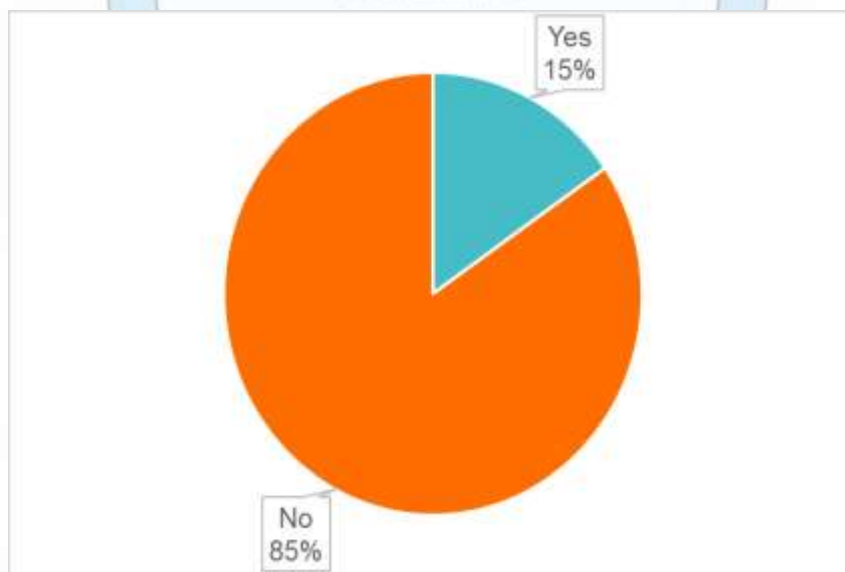


Figure 16. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “mentioning if you have kept a sample or the individual of the species”.

In addition, most of the people showed their will to send the specimen to the local partner of the project (Figure 17).

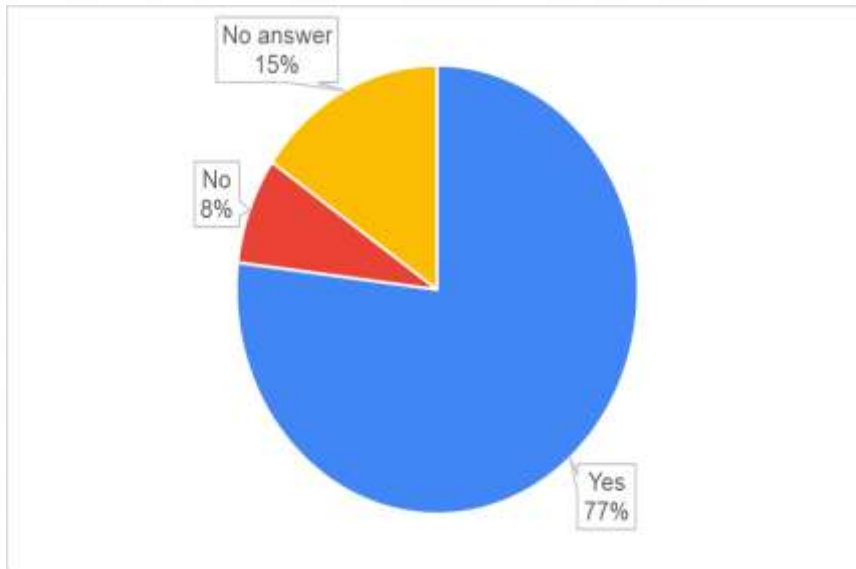


Figure 17. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “If yes, are you willing to send the specimen to the local partner of the project?”

Furthermore, there were some questions about possible improvements to the questionnaire (Figure 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22). As it is shown in Figure 18, most of the answers showed that the persons stayed neutral to the relative question.

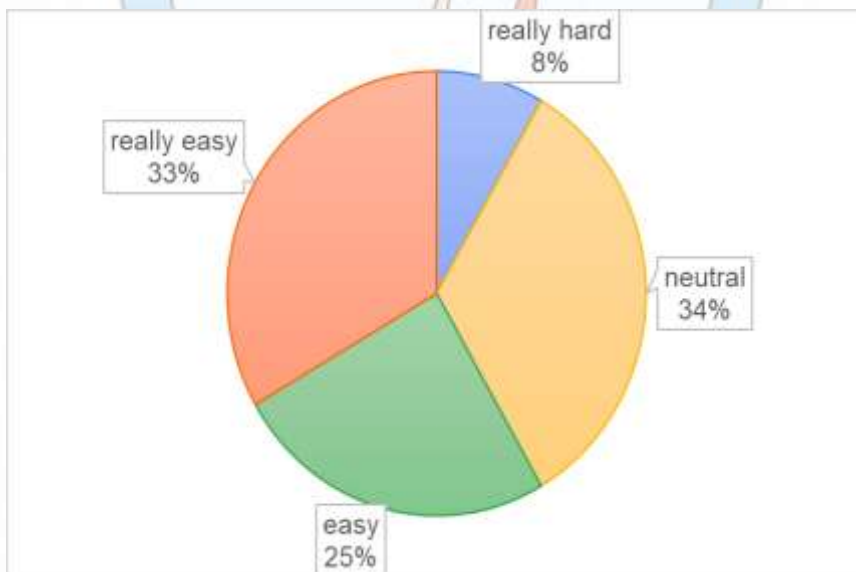


Figure 18. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “How easily was for you to fill the form? (1 indicates really hard, 5 indicate really easy)”.

According to the answers of most people answering the questionnaire (Figure 19), it was really easy to identify the observed specimen compared to the provided photographs, while most of them answered that they were very likely to continue reporting specimens they will find in the near future (Figure 20).

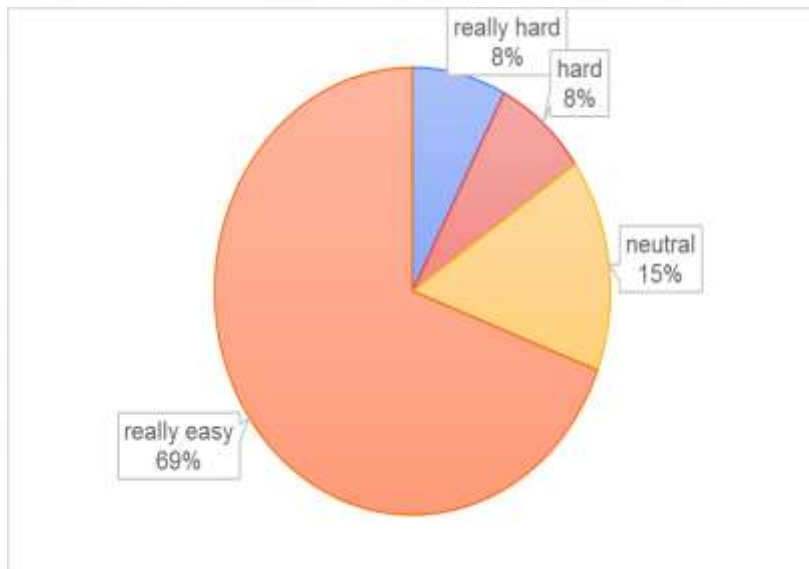


Figure 19. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “Was it easy to identify your specimen comparing it with the photographs provided? (1 indicates really hard, 5 indicates really easy)”.

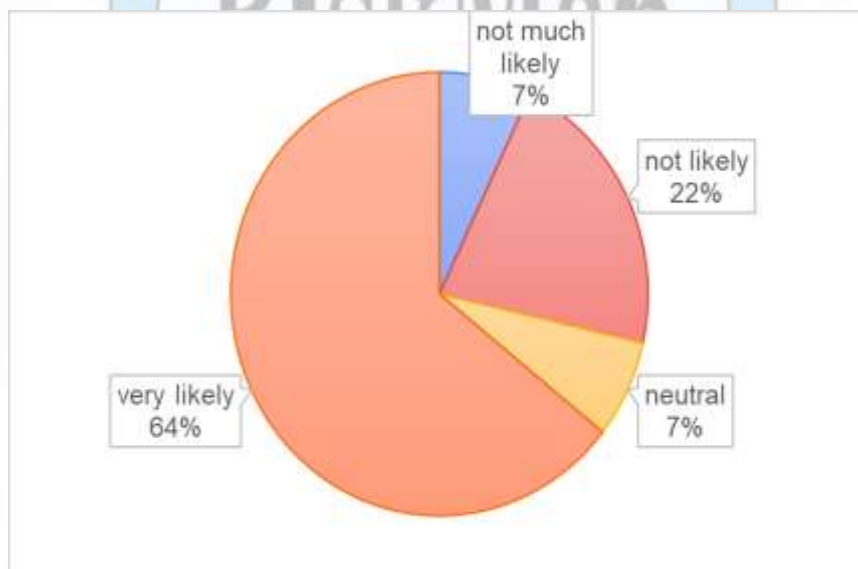


Figure 20. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “How likely is to continue reporting specimens you find with the use of the form? (1 indicates not likely, 5 indicates very likely)”.

In addition, (Figure 21), most of the people answered that they are very likely to share the form with friends or co-workers. Regarding any suggestion to be provided for improvements to be reported in this online platform (Figure 22), most of the persons never provided an answer, while there were suggestions like “an easier expression by the sentences” and “cannot identify any characteristics”. Surprisingly, a comment in Greek language was also identified, which suggests a positive involvement of citizens from different countries and this lets positively expect to a wider participation of citizen to the release of the questionnaire in the different languages

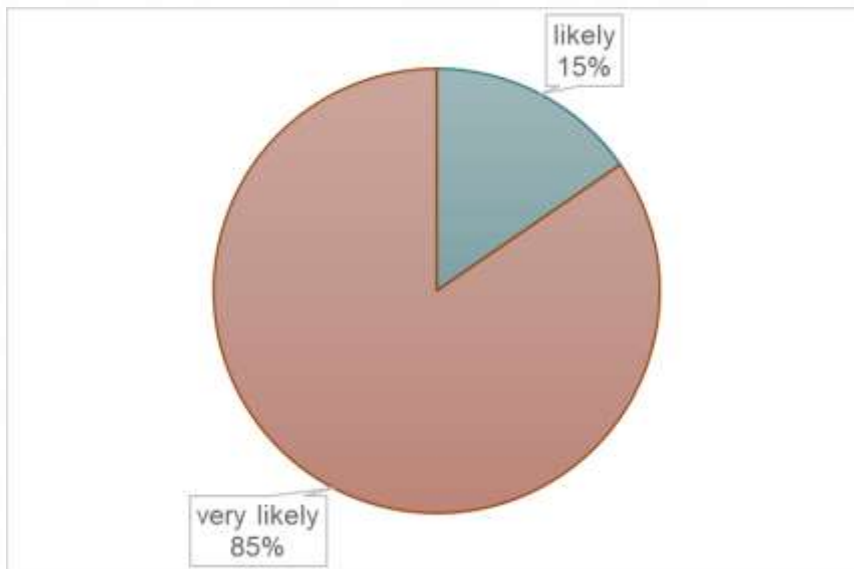


Figure 21. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “How likely is to share the form with your friends or co-workers? (1 indicates not likely, 5 indicates very likely)”.

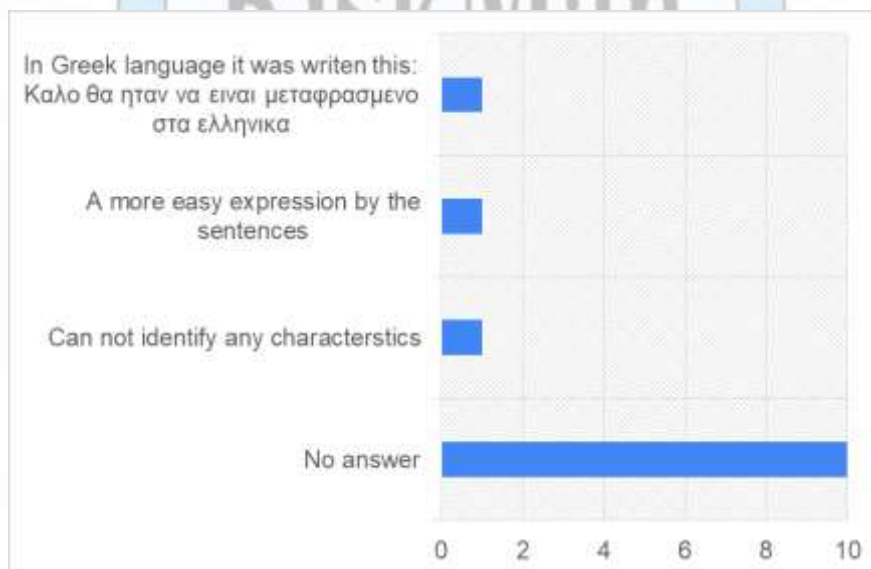


Figure 22. Graphical presentation of the results regarding the question about “Please provides us with any suggestions about improving the form...”.