

# Evaluation of the Croatian Access to Environmental Information Act

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# AtEI in Croatia

## Legislation:

- ▶ Constitution (56/90...85/10)
- ▶ Law on the Right to Access to Information (25/13, 85/15)
- ▶ Environmental Protection Act (80/13, 153/13, 78/15, 12/18)
- ▶ Regulation on information and participation of the public and public concerned in environmental matters (64/08)

## Environmental institutions:

- MEPE
- CAEN
- Information Commissioner
- Counties, Cities...

- 
- ▶ Project “Improving Access to Environmental Information in Croatia”
  - ▶ This project is funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union. It is supervised by the German Environment Agency (UBA)

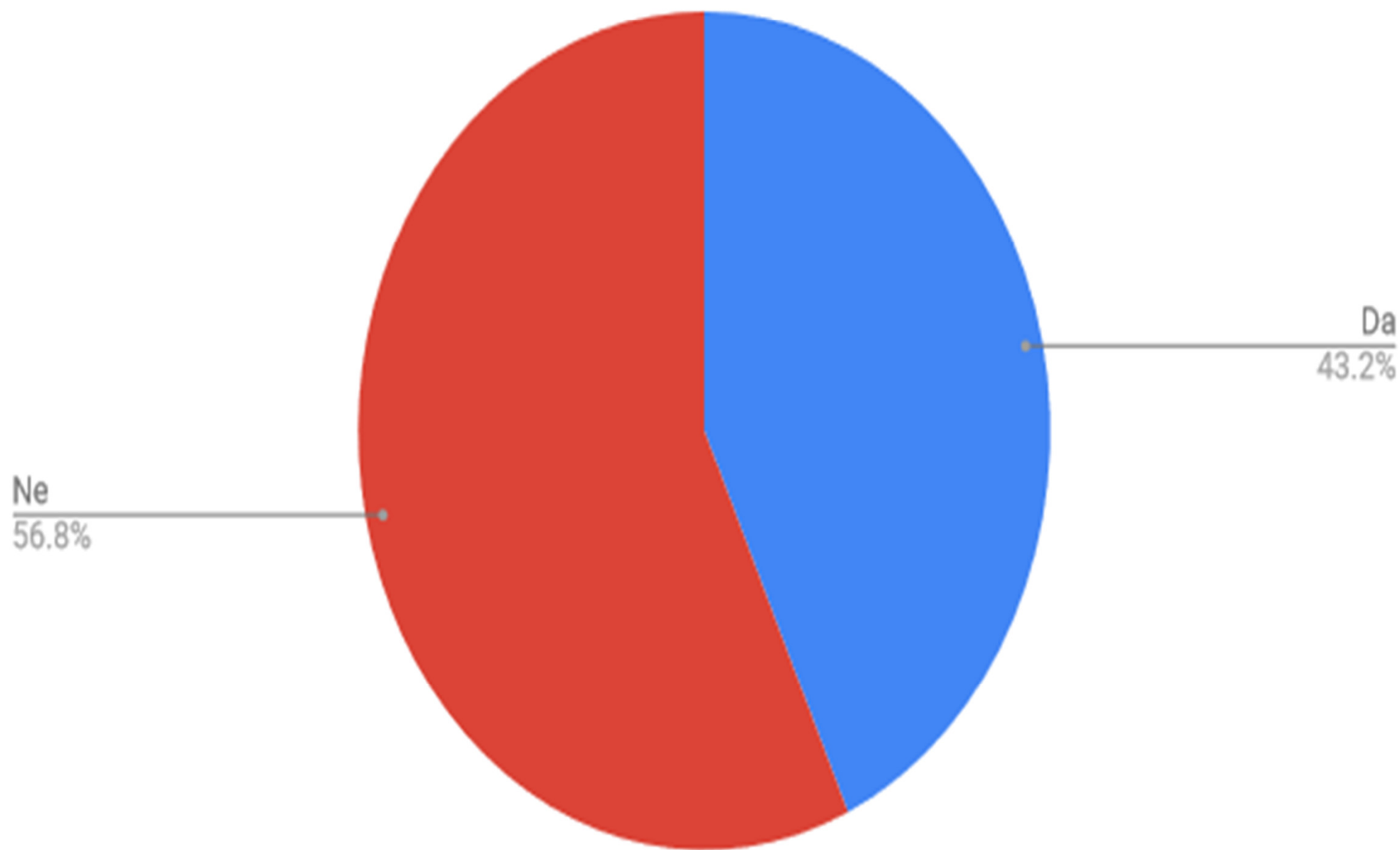
# Project partners

- ▶ Independent Institute for Environmental Issues -UfU – Germany
- ▶ Zelena akcija/Friends of the Earth Croatia - Croatia

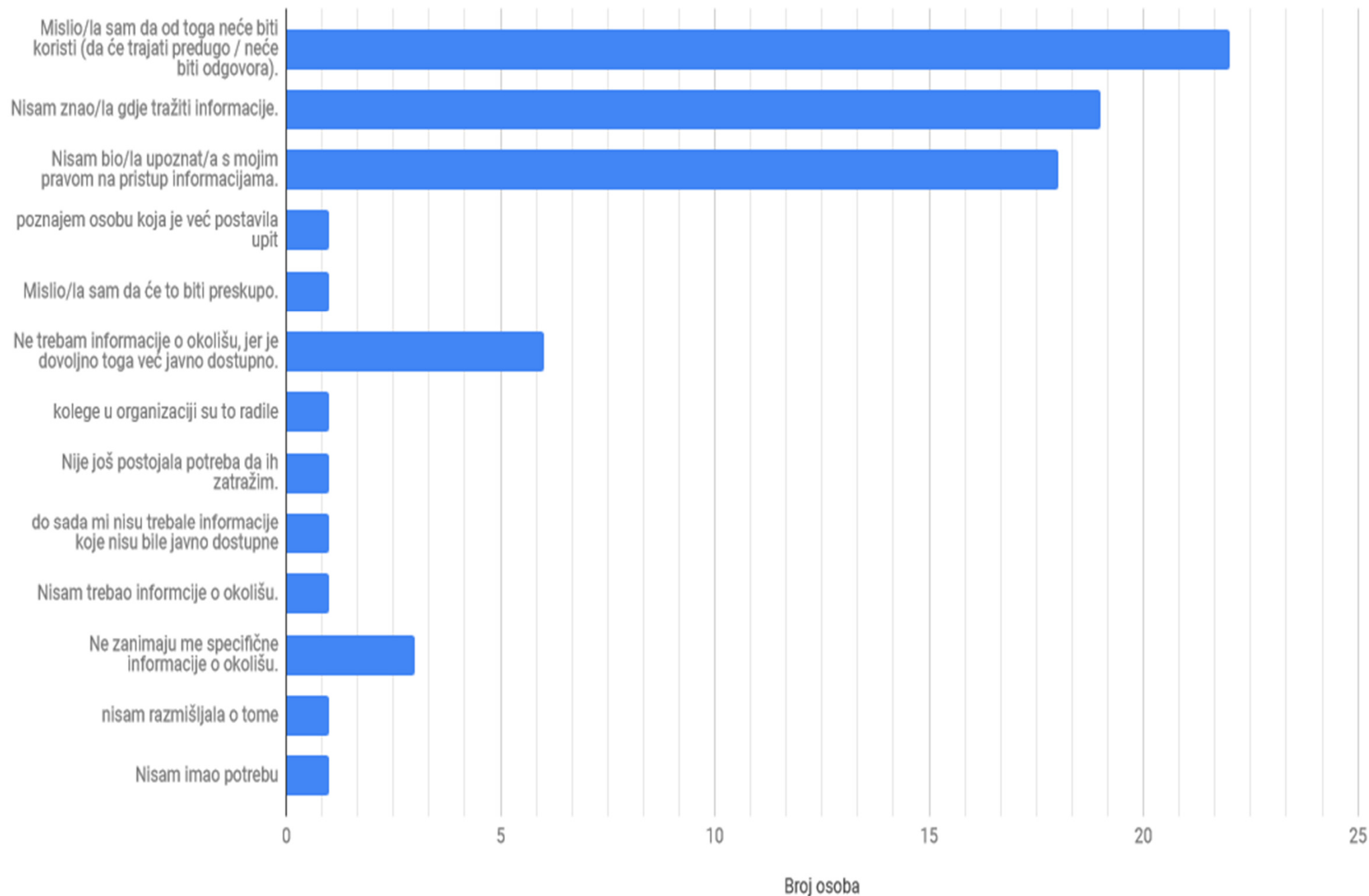
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- ▶ Reserach on AtEI in Croatia – experience from users and providers
  - ▶ Roundtable sessions on Atl in 3 regions (Krapina, Zagreb, Karlovac)
  - ▶ Civil Society Roadmap for Improving Access to Environmental Information in Croatia

# Conclusions of the Research - users

Jeste li ikada podnijeli zahtjev za pristup informacijama o okolišu?

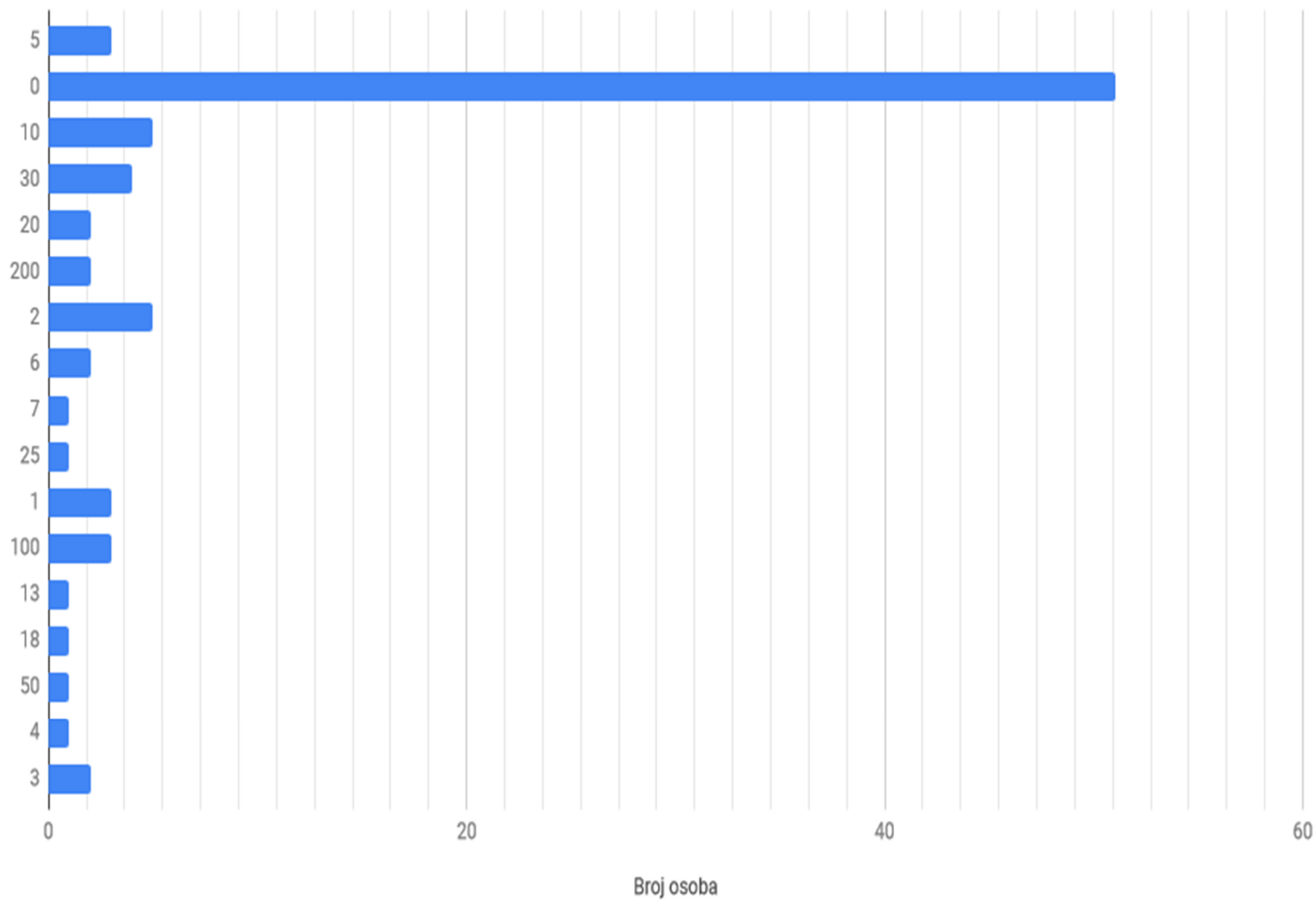


## Zašto niste zatražili informacije o okolišu?





Koliko ste zahtjeva podnijeli (otprilike)?

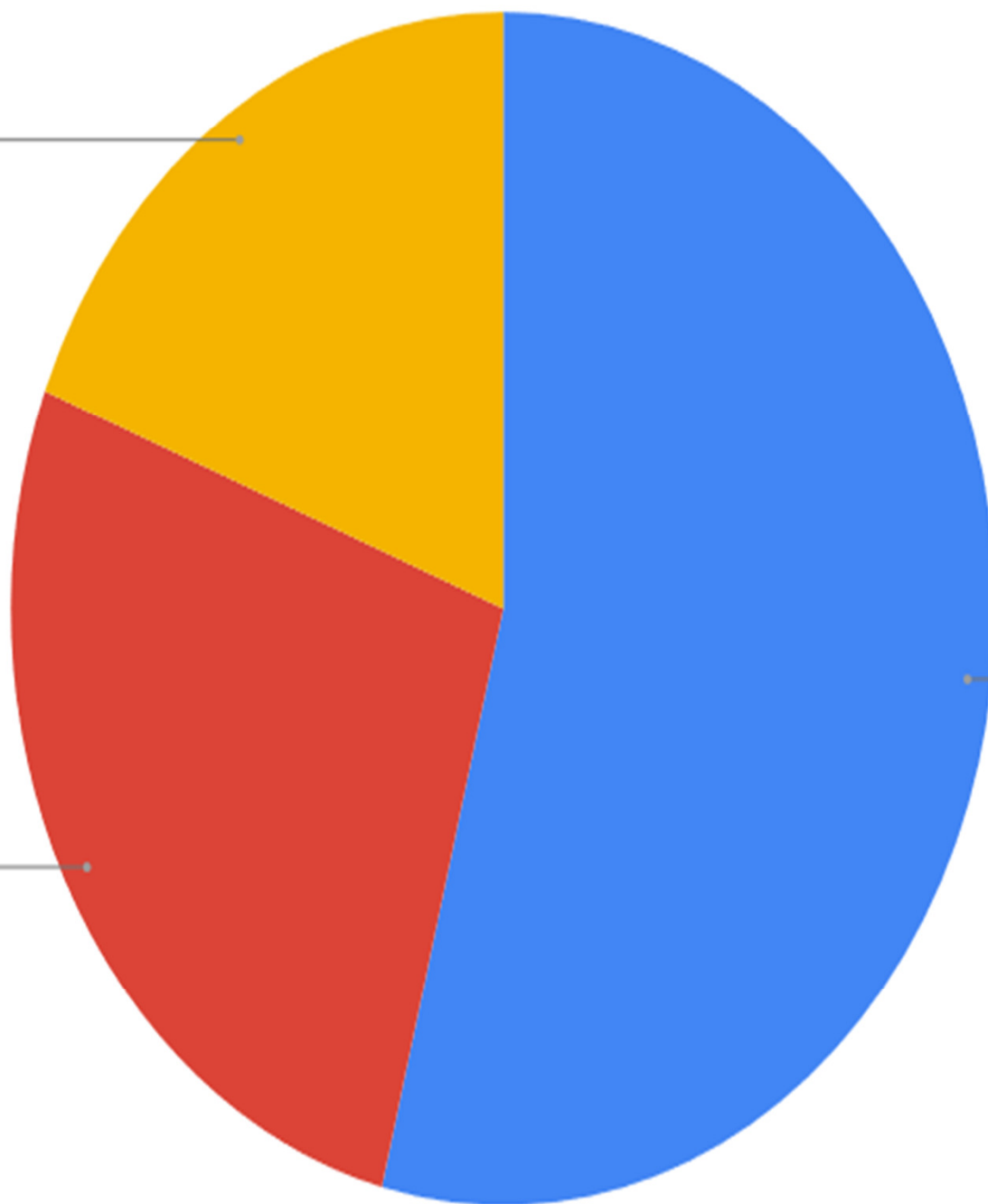


## Na koji ste način zatražili informacije?

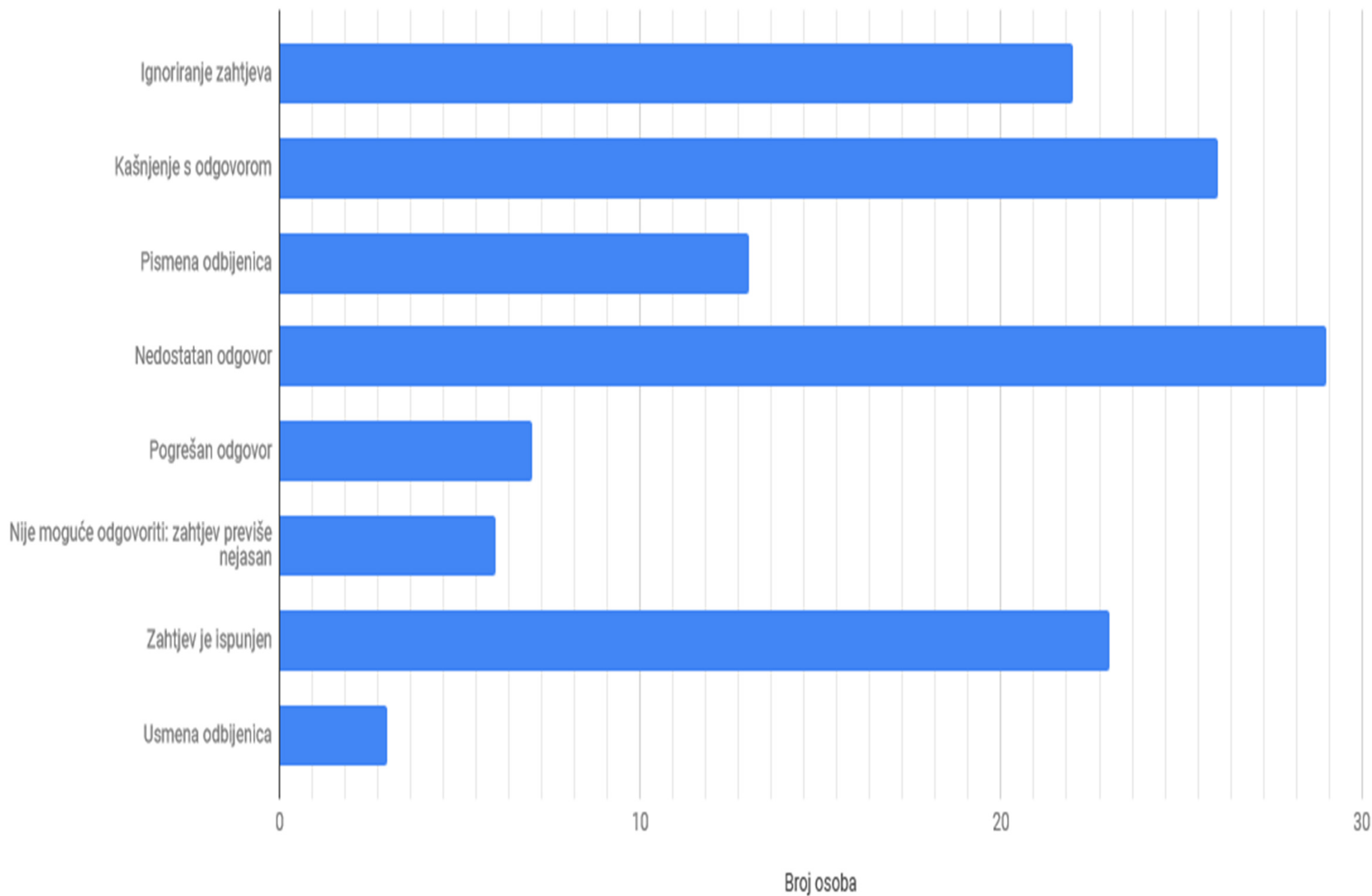
Usmeno  
19.0%

U pisanom obliku: poštom  
27.0%

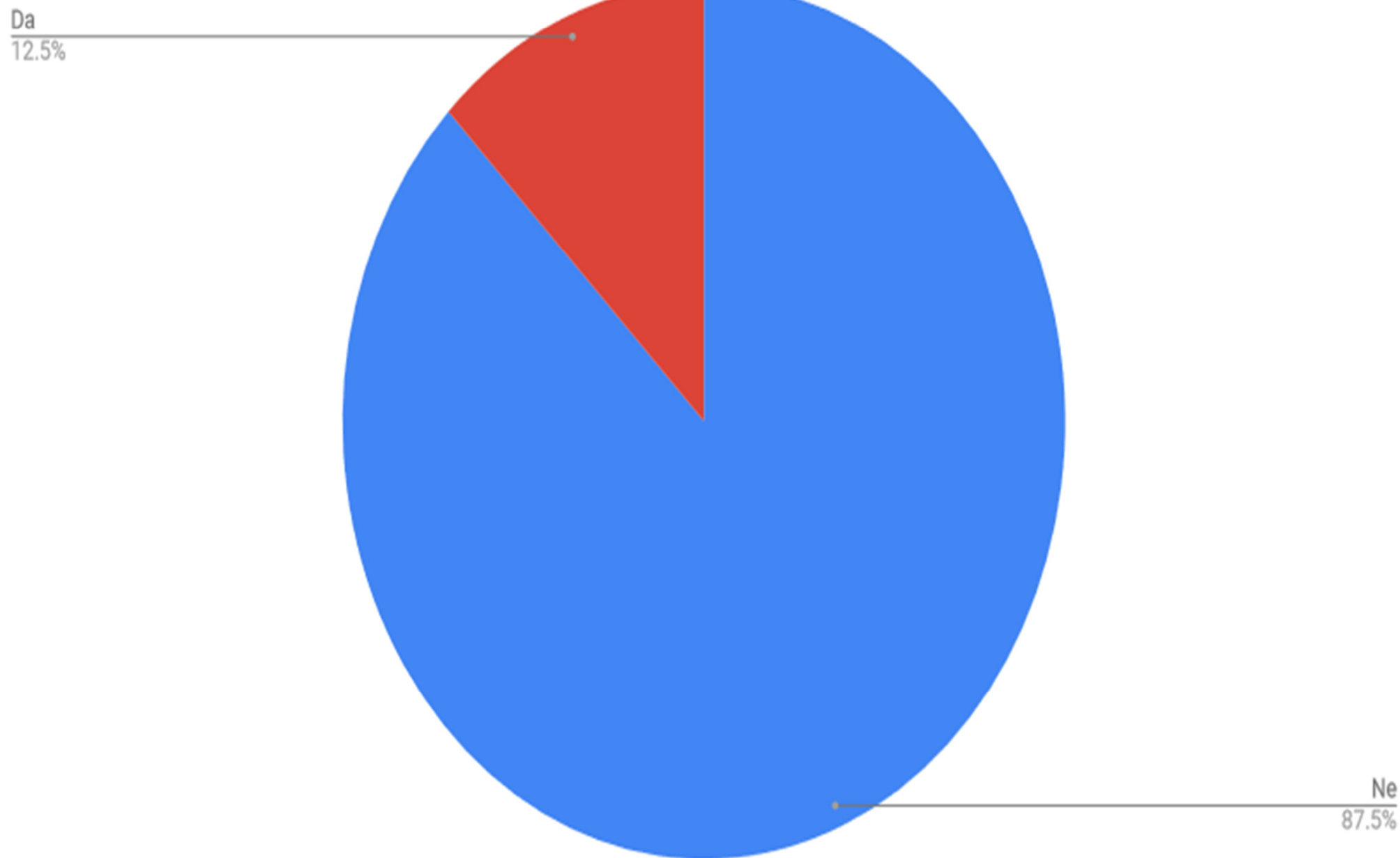
U pisanom obliku: elektronički  
54.0%



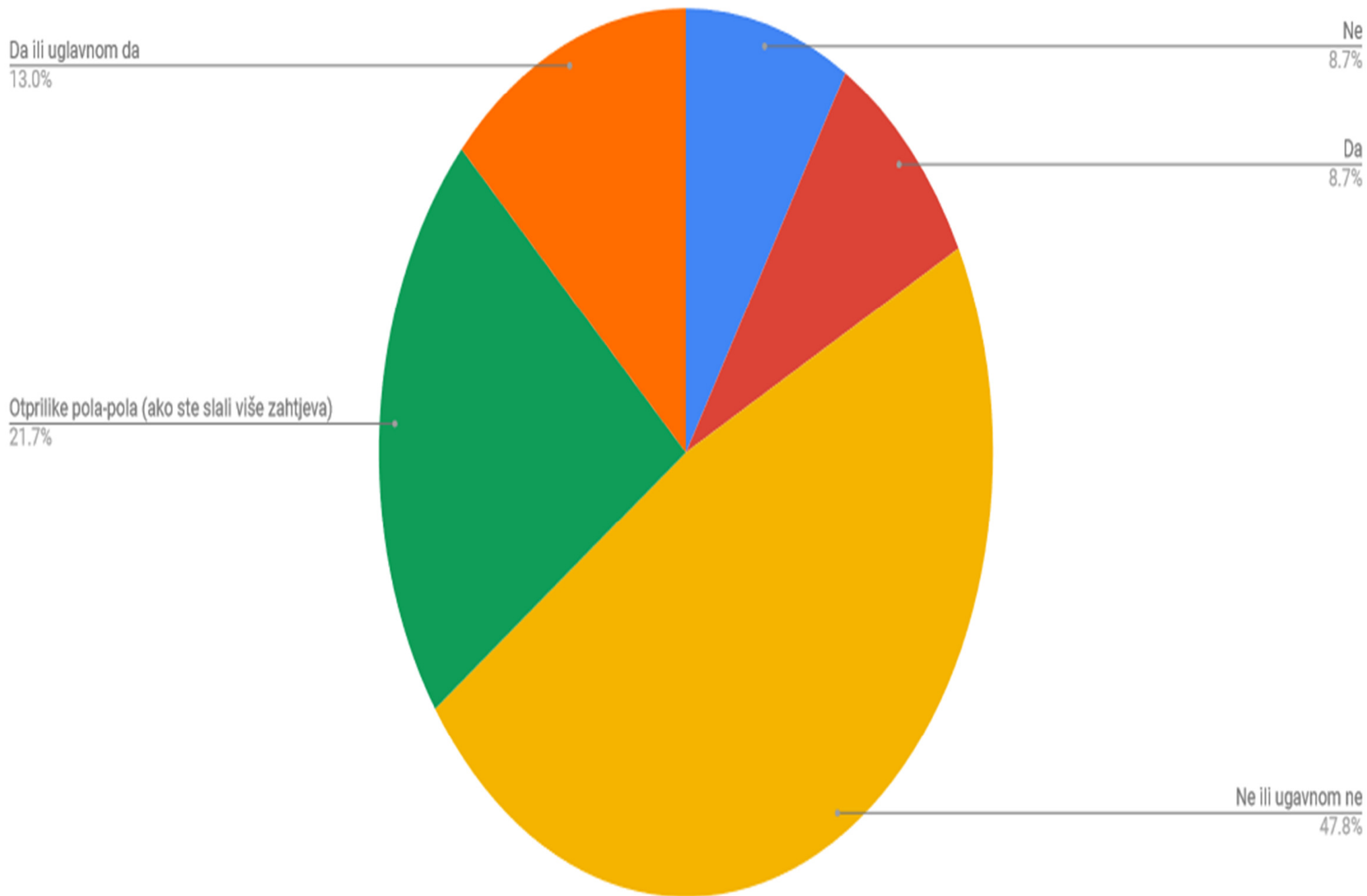
## Kakve su bile reakcije na zahtjeve?



Ako je zahtjev bio "previše neodređen", je li vam uprava pomogla u artikuliranju vašeg konkretnog zahtjeva?



## Poziva li se odbijenica na test javnog interesa i/ili načelo razmjernosti ?



## Ako je "zahtjev ispunjen", jeste li morali platiti za informacije?

Da ili uglavnom da

2.8%

Otprilike pola-pola (ako ste slali više zahtj...

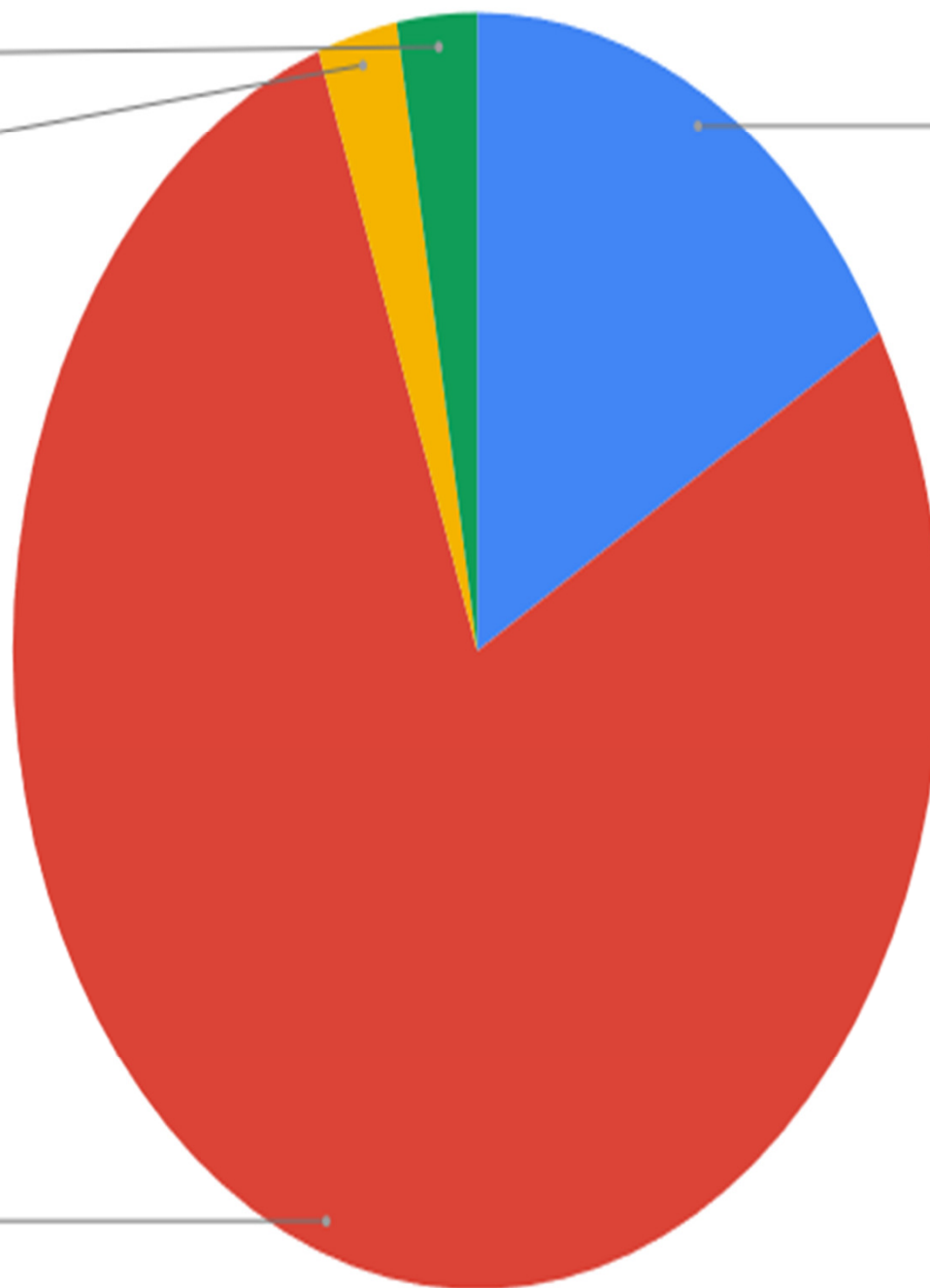
2.8%

Ne

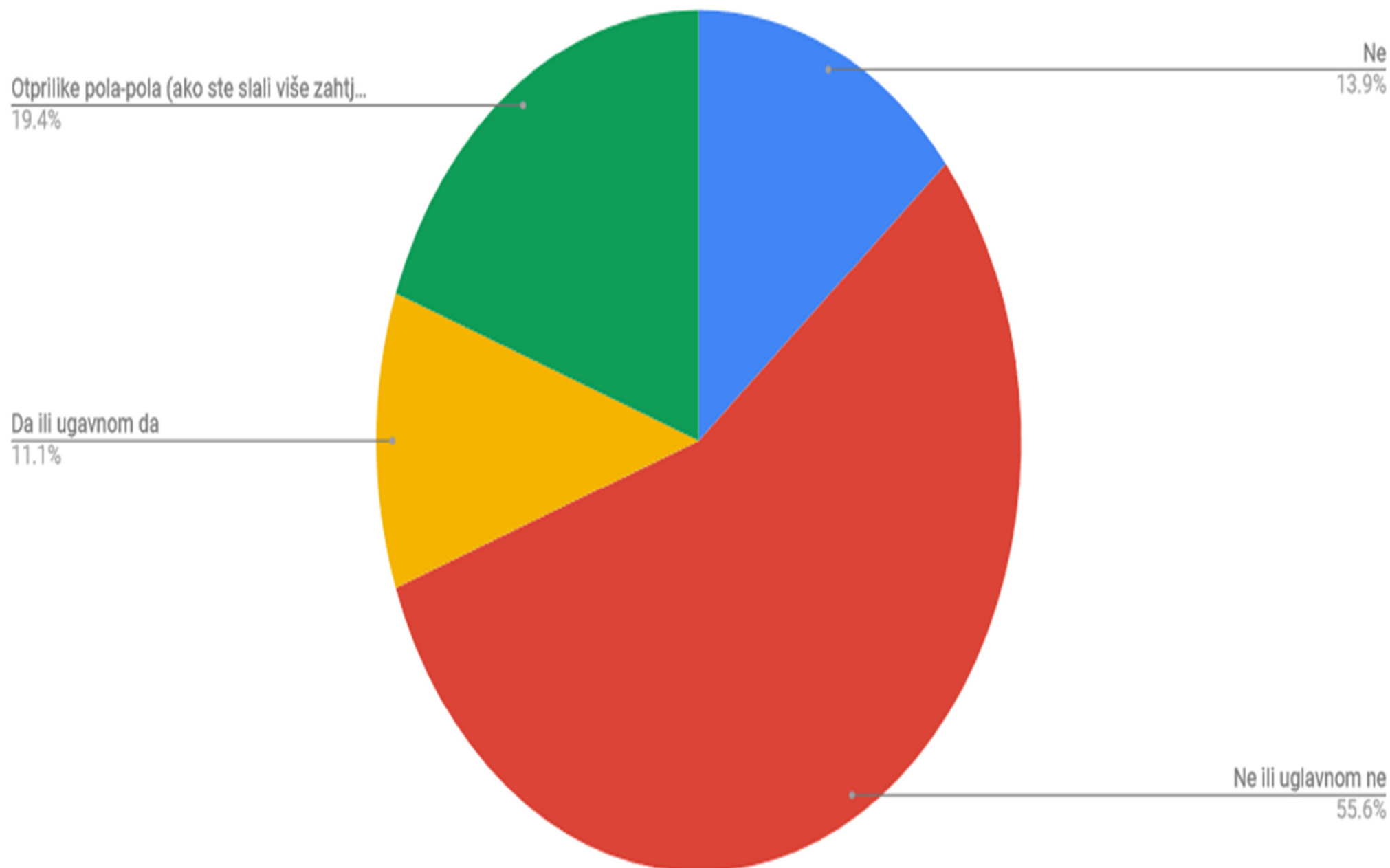
16.7%

Ne ili uglavnom ne

77.8%



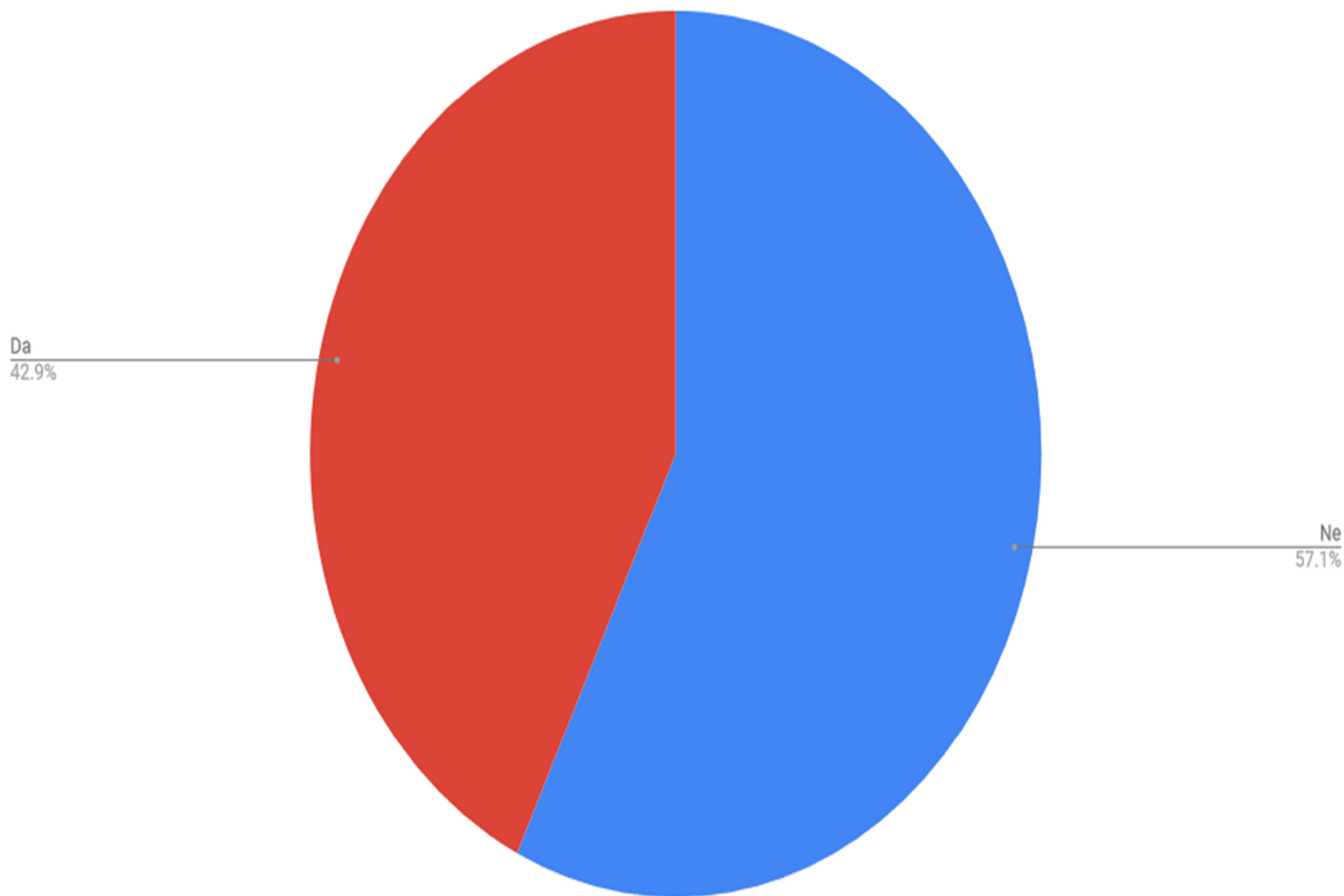
Je li u odgovoru koji ste zaprimili navedeno vaše pravo da se na odluku žalite Povjereniku za informiranje, čl. 158. st. 6. Zakona o zaštiti okoliša?



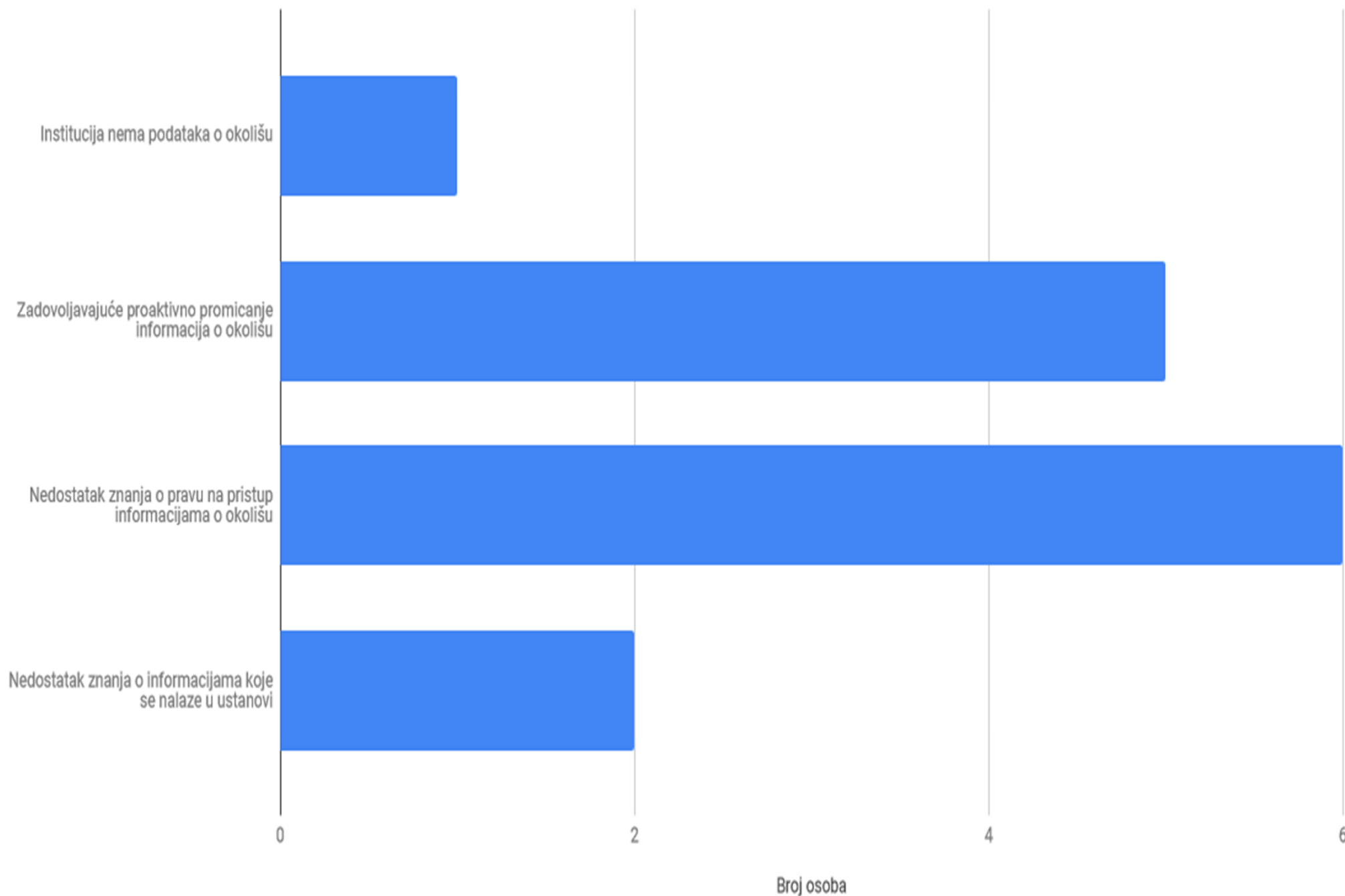
# Conclusions of the results - institutions (providers)



Je li bilo ikakvih zahtjeva za pristup informacijama o okolišu koji su se odnosili na Vašu ustanovu?



## Što mislite da su razlozi zbog kojih nije bilo zahtjeva?

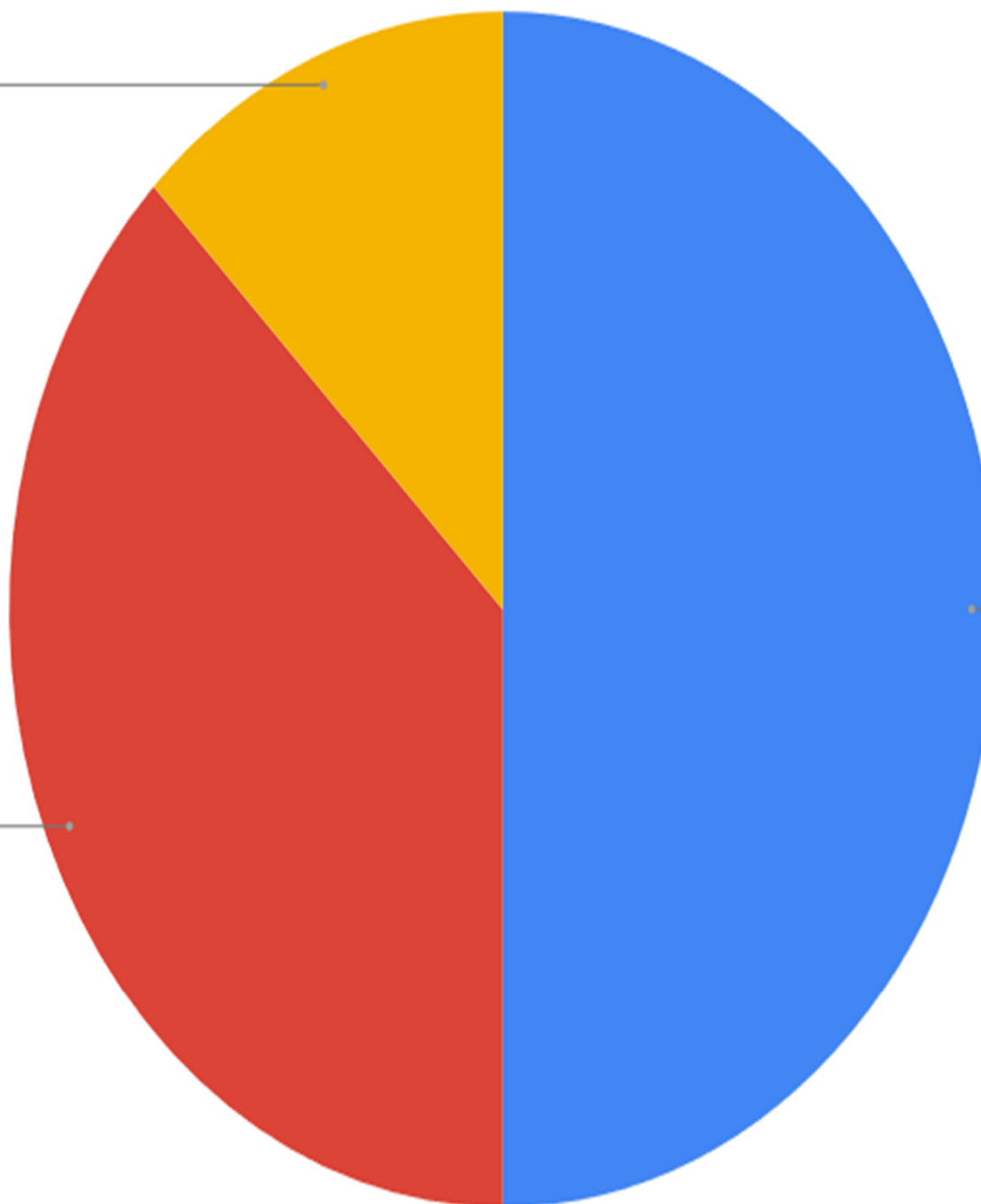


## Na koji način su zahtjevi upućeni?

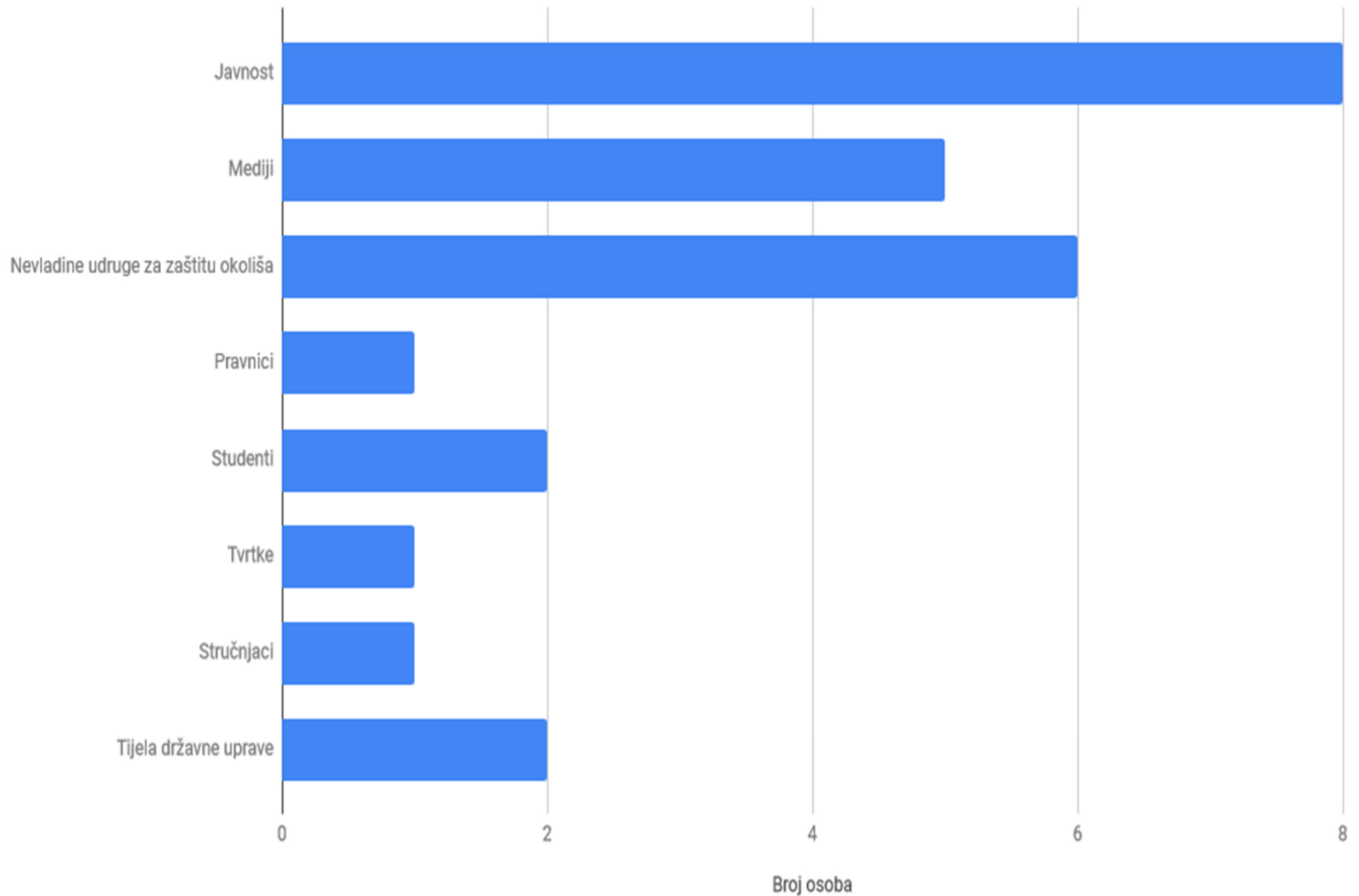
Usmeno  
12.5%

U pisanom obliku: poštom  
37.5%

U pisanom obliku: elektronički  
50.0%



## Tko je zatražio informacije?



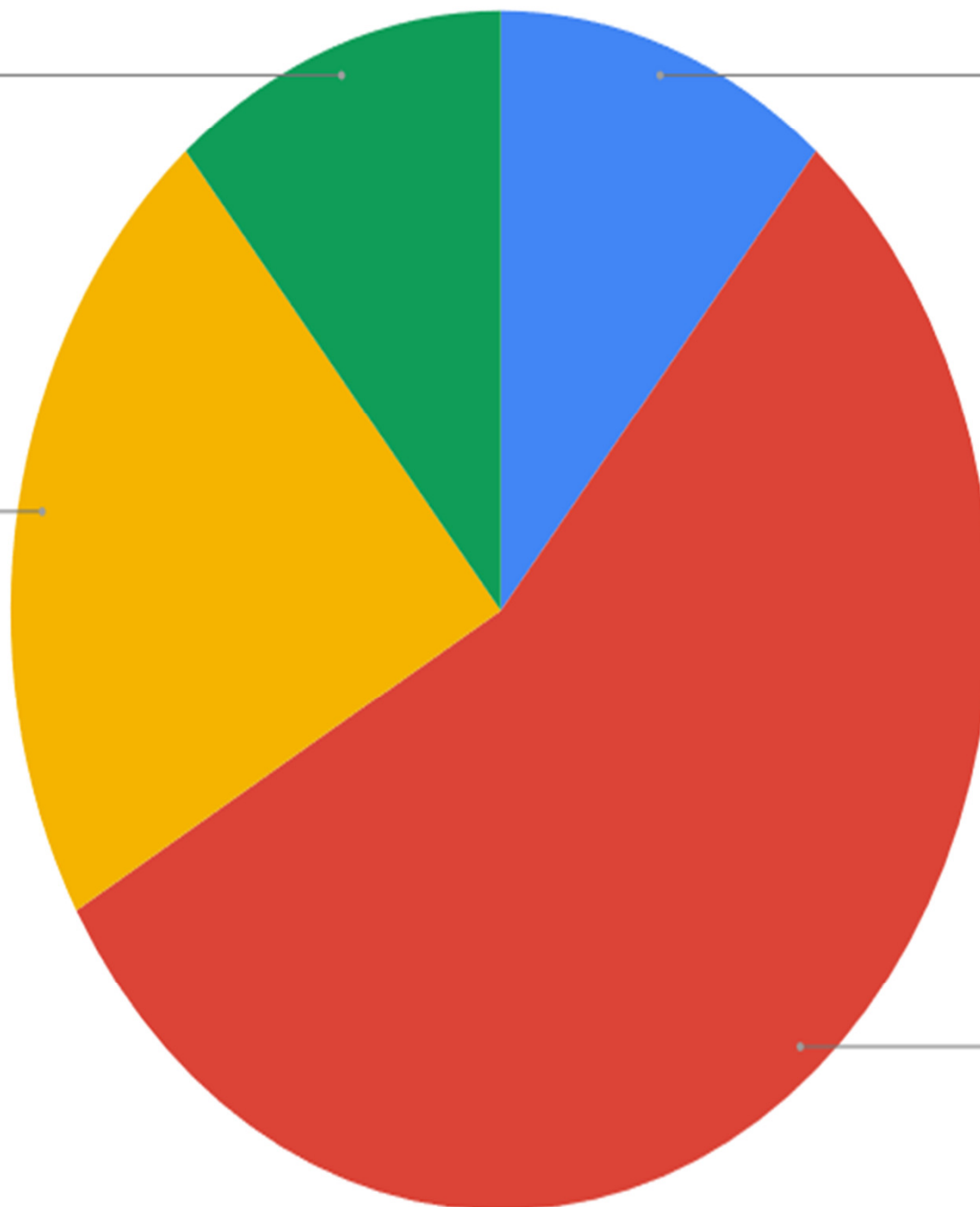
## Koliko je zahtjeva odbijeno?

Gotovo niti jedan  
11.1%

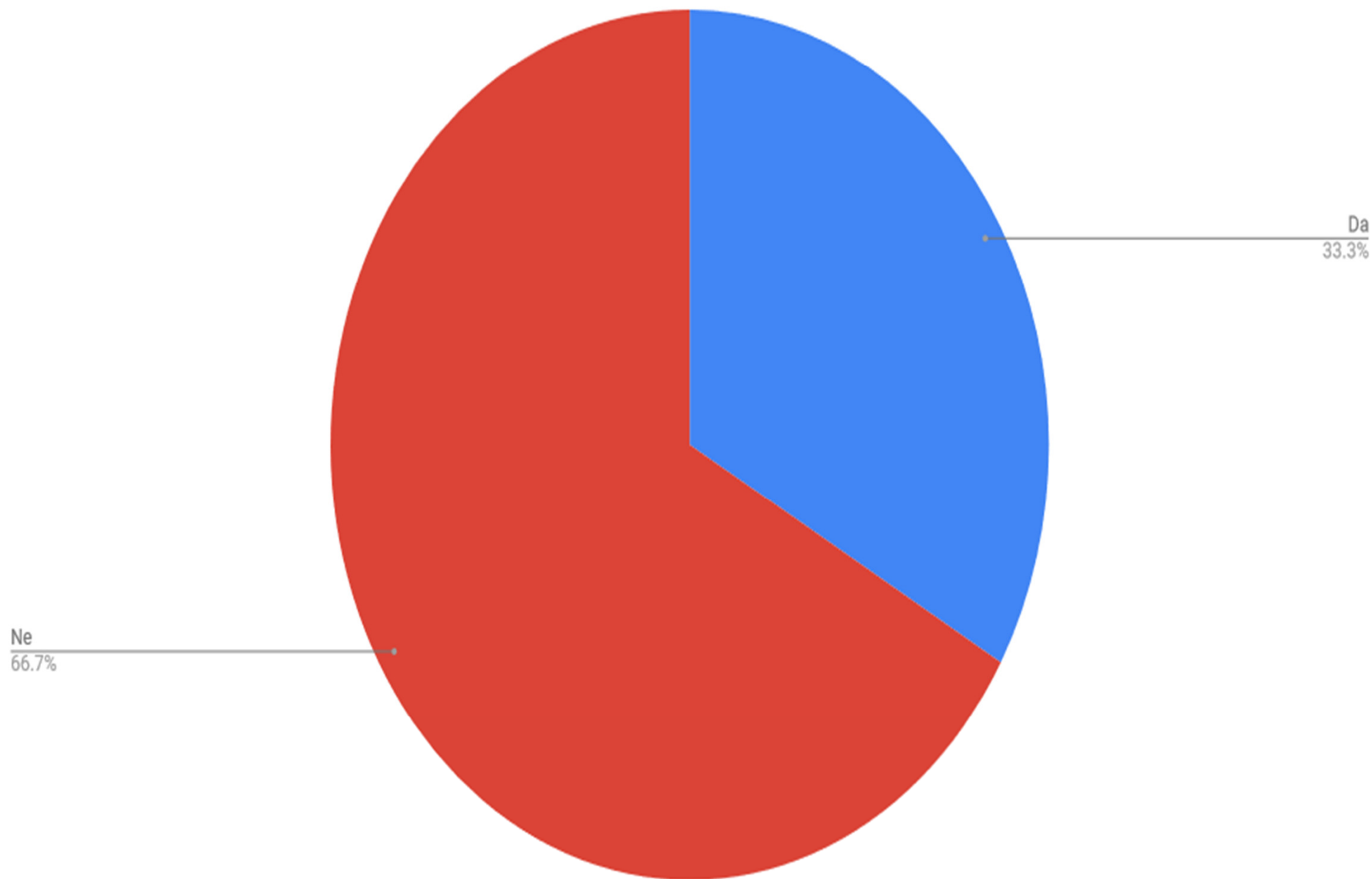
Ne znam  
22.2%

Svi  
11.1%

Niti jedan  
55.6%

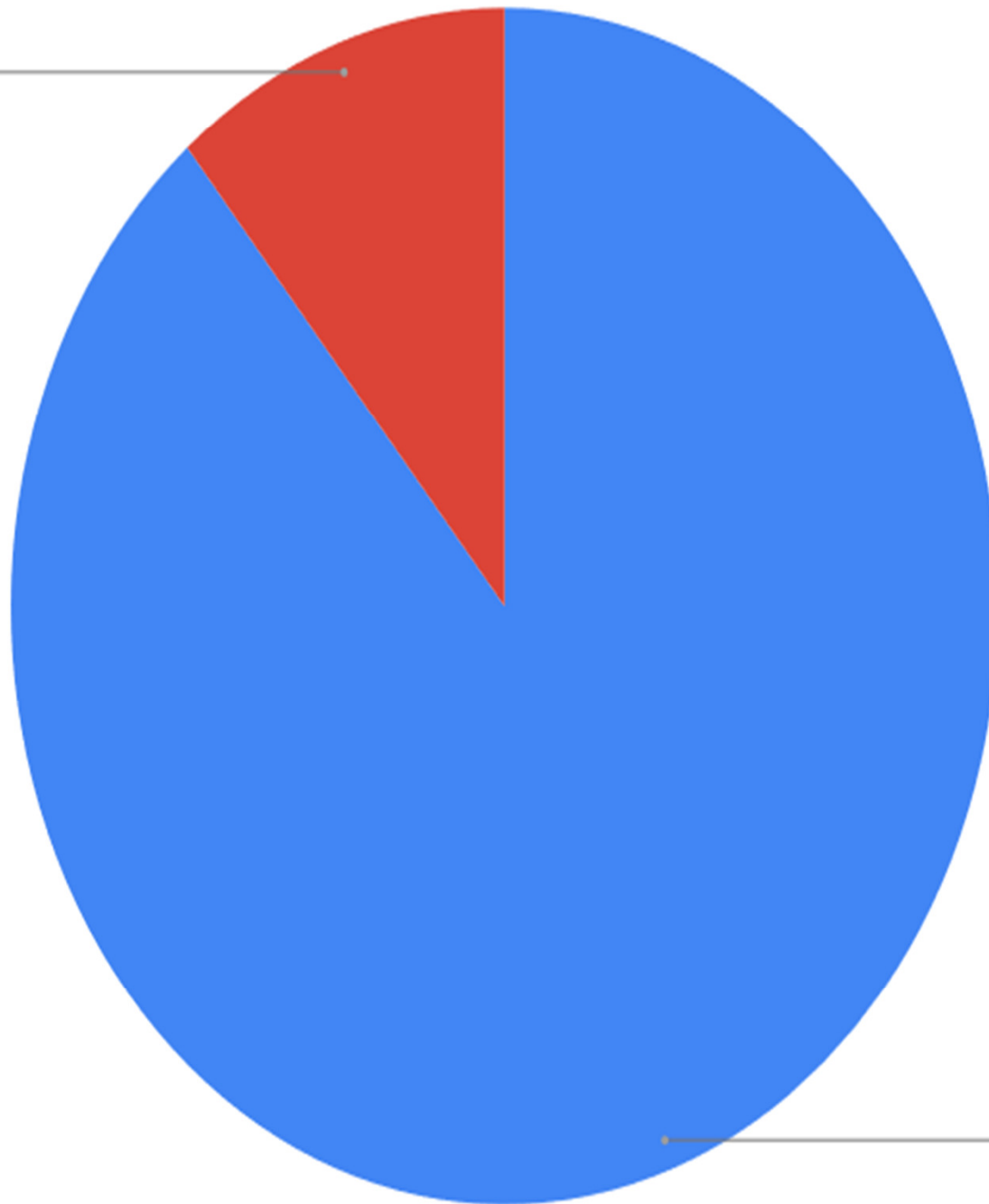


Jesu li Vaše odluke uključivale napomenu o pravu da se na odluku može uložiti žalba Povjereniku za informiranje (članak 158. stavak 6. Zakona o zaštiti okoliša)?



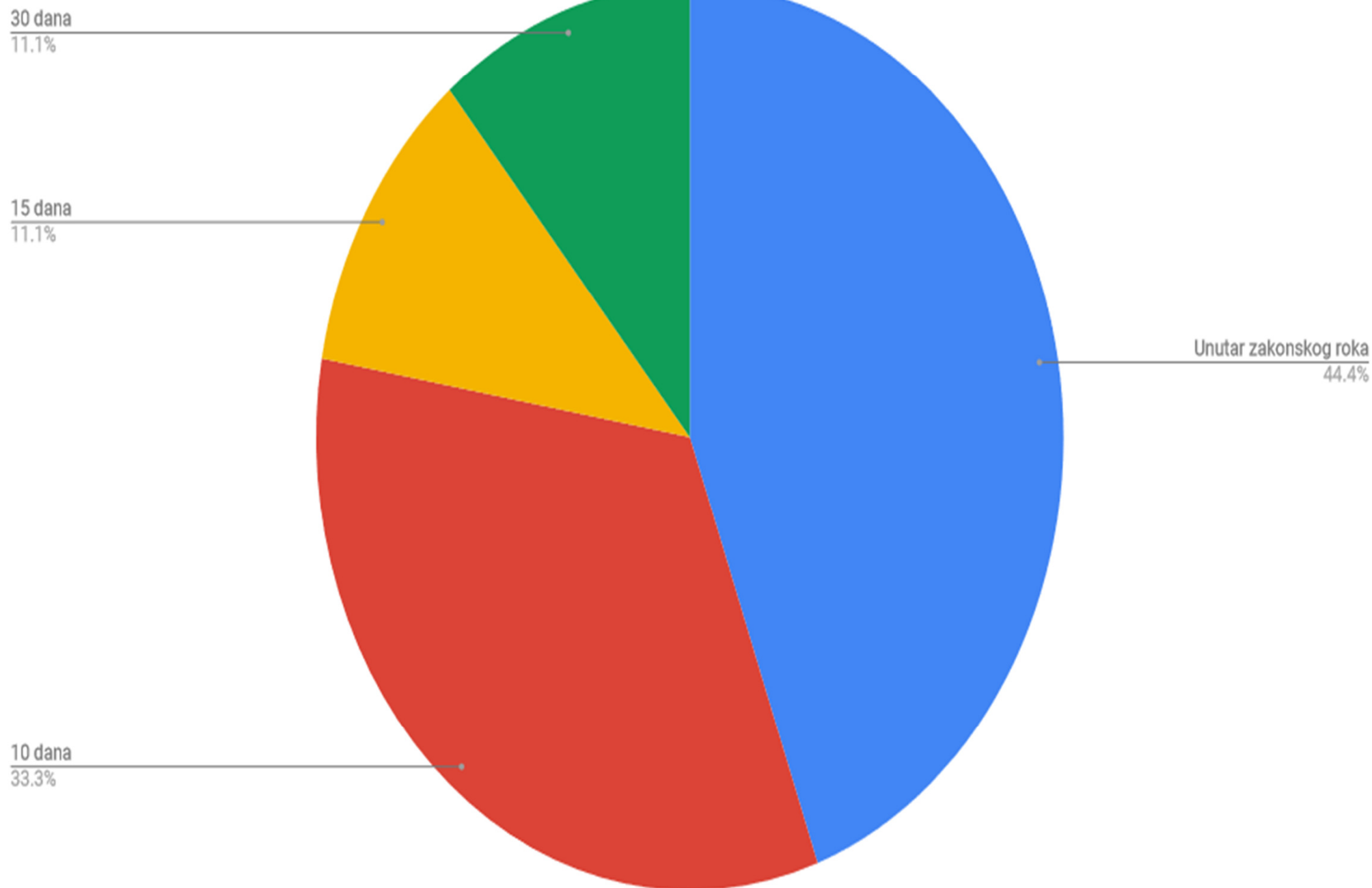
## Jesu li korisnici morali platiti informacije o okolišu? Koliko?

Ne, ali nekad ranije da  
11.1%



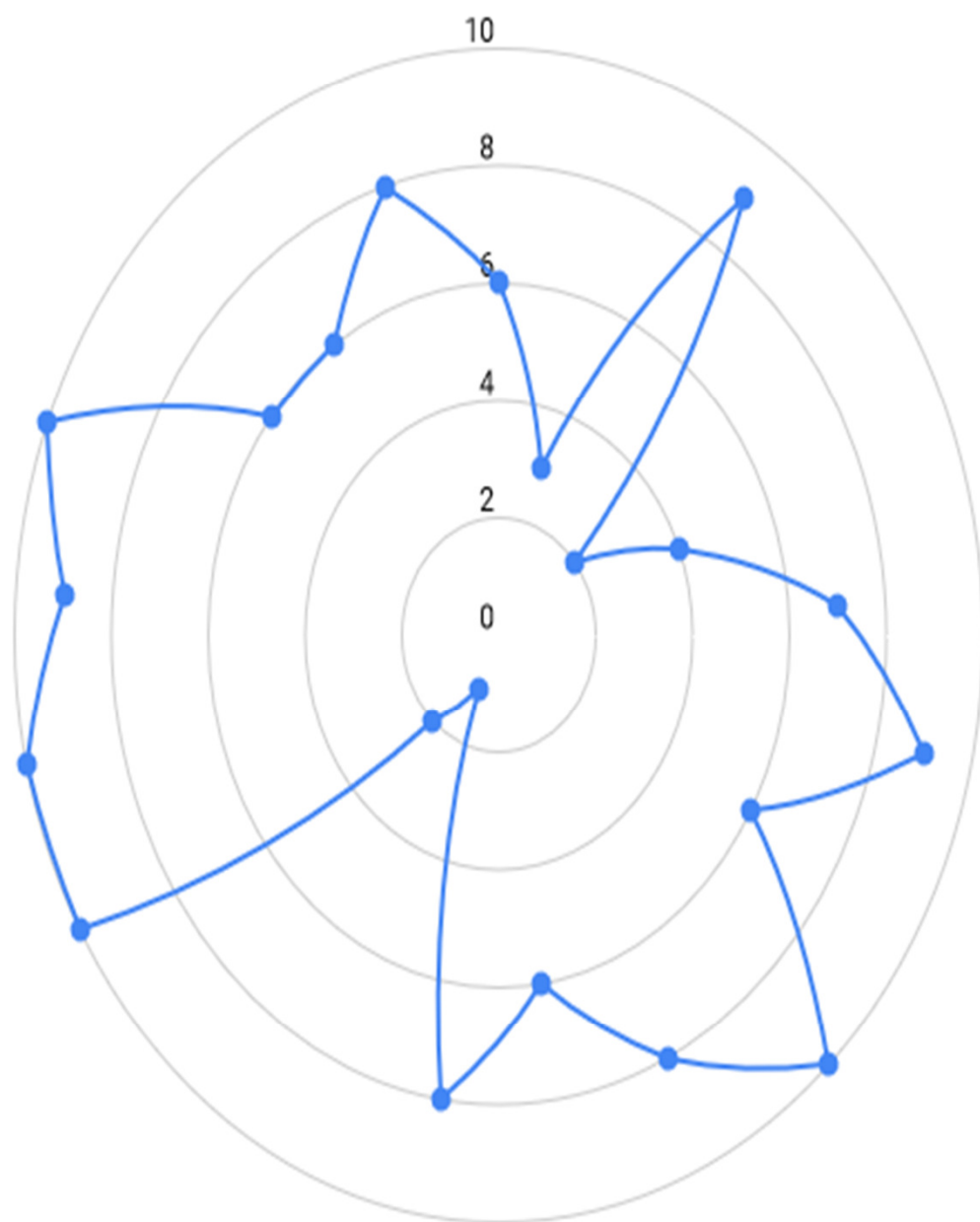
Ne  
88.9%

U kojim su vremenskim okvirima dostavljeni odgovori na zahtjeve?





Na ljestvici od 1 (nimalo) do 10 (vrlo): Koliko su zahtjevi za pristup informacijama o okolišu važni u radu Vaše ustanove?



## MAIN CONCLUSIONS - users

- ▶ 56.6% of “users” has never filed the ZPPI in the environment - "it makes no sense", “insufficient knowledge”...
- ▶ the most frequently asked information - about concrete plans, decisions, processes ...
- ▶ 54% in electronic format
- ▶ Counties, cities, Ministries, Agency...
- ▶ inadequate answers, no instructions are given for RfI, no public interest test is conducted, no information about Information Commissionaire

## MAIN CONCLUSIONS - environmental institutions

- ▶ 80.7% of citizens use publicly available information - they are not enough, hard to find
- ▶
- ▶ 57.1% environmental institutions did not receive RfI
- ▶
- ▶ Who submits RfI - citizens, CSOs, the media
- ▶
- ▶ there are no internal guidelines
- ▶
- ▶ 81.1% actively promote environmental info
- ▶
- ▶ Access info is in most cases free!

# Suggestions for improvements

- ▶ Better promotion of access to environmental information
- ▶ Guidelines for Use of Right to Access to Information
- ▶ Sanctions for institutions
- ▶ Better organization of work / clearer competencies
- ▶ Education; proactive approach
- ▶ It is necessary to improve and expand current system
- ▶ central database / web pages

# Zelena akcija/Friends of the Earth Croatia

## Thank you for your attention!

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