



# Lost in Translation: the availability of translated materials and interpreters for patients diagnosed with chronic viral hepatitis in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Italy and Spain

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# Rationale

- Large undiagnosed burden of chronic viral hepatitis in the EU among migrants from endemic countries
- Endemic countries are mostly in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe/Former USSR – ‘culturally and linguistically diverse’
- Secondary prevention of liver cirrhosis and cancer (HCC)
- Success depends on screening among risk groups and on referral into care
- Language barriers (patient or service-related) are important
- Opportunities to share good practices across the EU, i.e. written materials and screening strategies

# Research Aims

1. Are language support services available for chronic viral hepatitis patients?
  - Interpreters
  - Translated materials
2. Are language barriers an explanation of:
  - Low uptake of viral hepatitis screening among migrants?
  - Why (migrant) patients do not reach secondary care?

# Methods

Semi-qualitative online survey

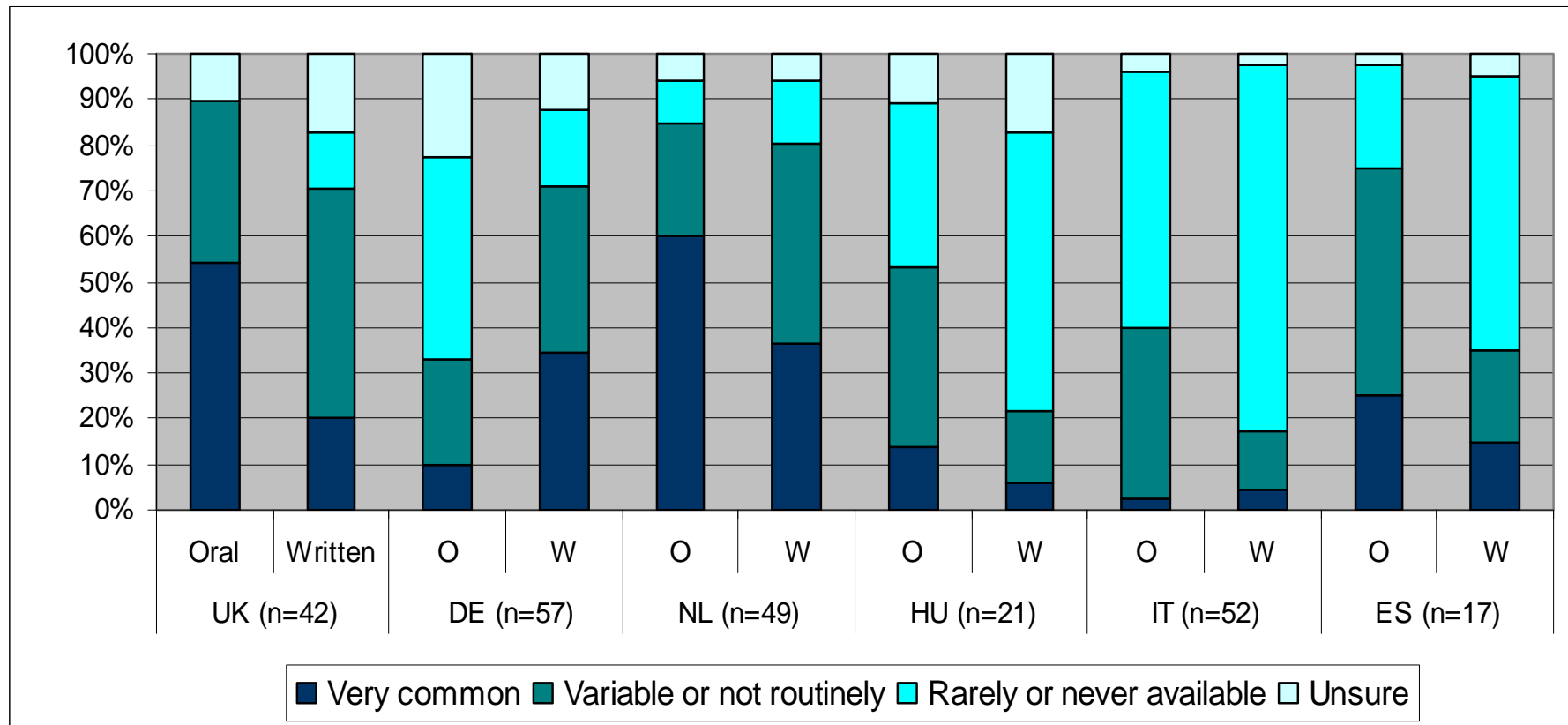
Among 286 experts in:

1. Public Health
2. General Practice/Family Medicine
3. Antenatal Care
4. Health Care for Asylum Seekers/Refugees
5. Sexual Health Services
6. Specialist Secondary Care

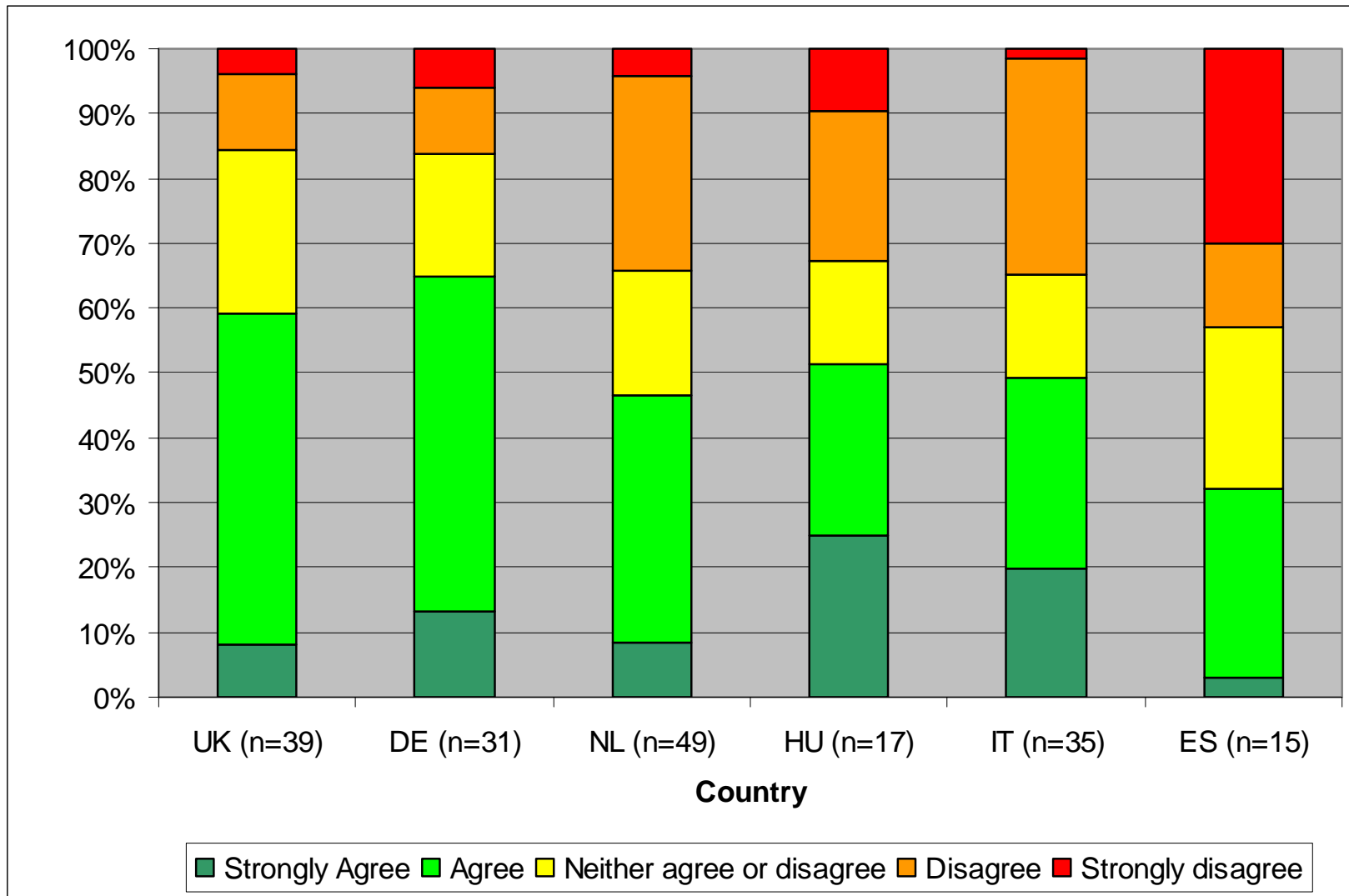
Identified via clinical associations, professional networks and scientific literature

Measured availability of language support services and perception of language barriers as explanations

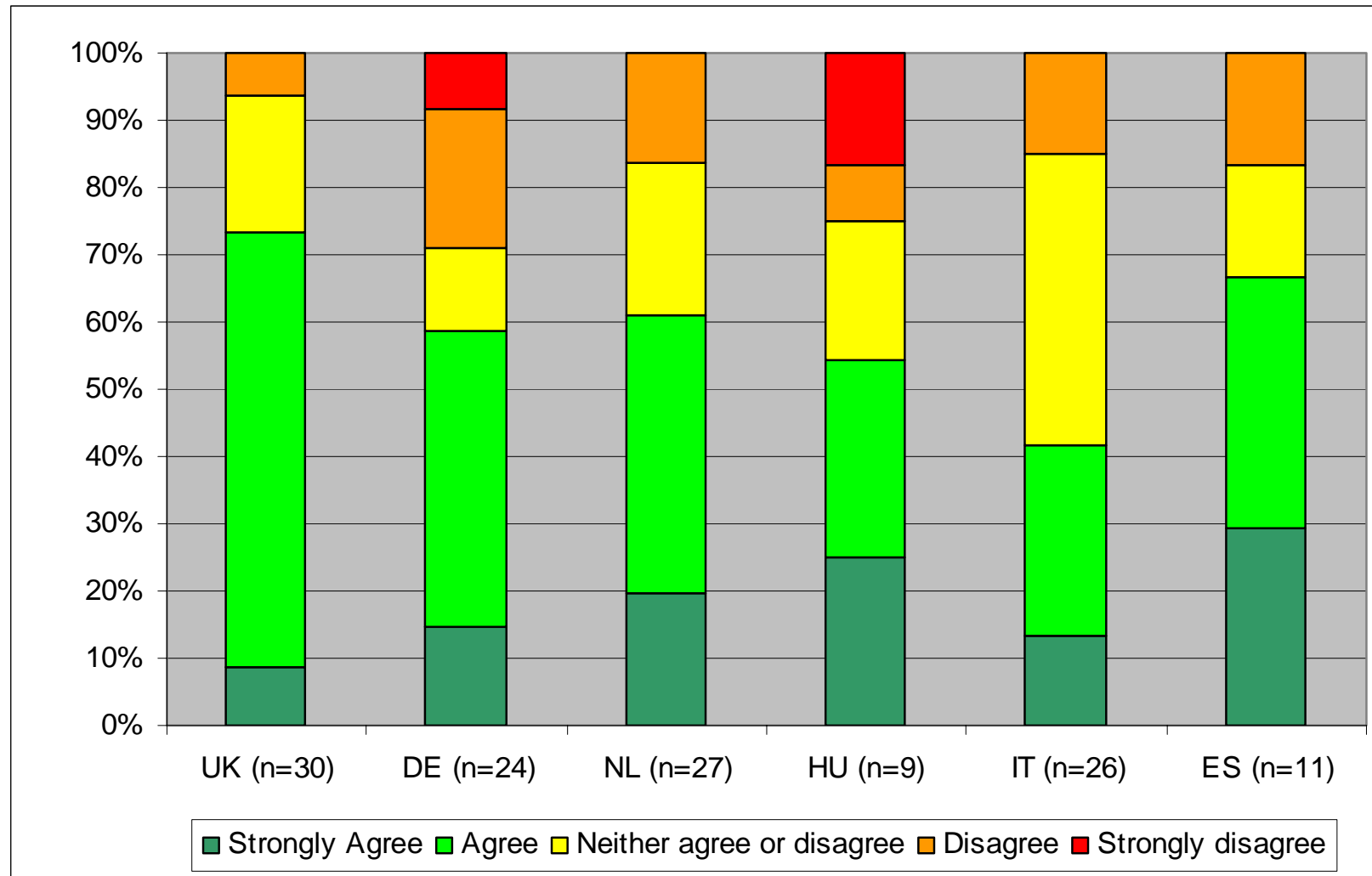
# Availability of interpreters for chronic viral hepatitis patients in six EU countries



# Language barriers explain a low uptake of screening for viral hepatitis among migrants



# Language barriers explain why migrant patients do not reach secondary care for treatment



# Summary of key findings

- Interpreters are:
  - Quite common in the UK, the Netherlands and Spain
  - Variable or rarely in Germany, Hungary and Italy
- Translated materials are less common than interpreters except in Germany
- Most professionals agree that language barriers explain a low uptake of screening among migrant populations
- Except in Hungary where 53% disagree despite just 14% reporting interpreters to be very common
- An 'unmet need' among clinicians and migrants from endemic countries?



## Discussion

- Both information and patients get 'lost' in Translation
- Country differences – expectations that migrants assimilate?
- Literacy levels and written translated materials
- Low rates of uptake and low rates of screening
- HEPscreen toolkit – translated patient information



## Thank you for your attention



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Co-funded by  
the Health Programme  
of the European Union