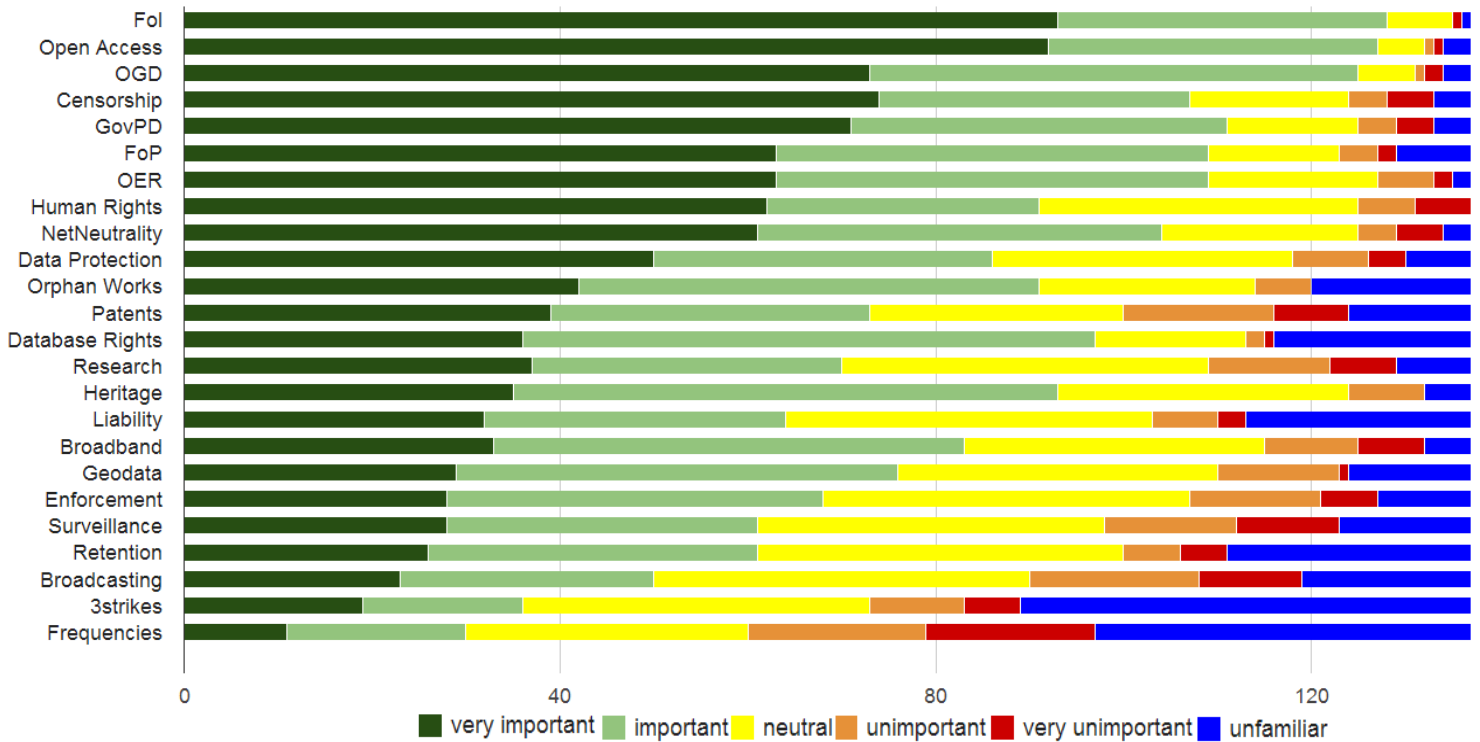# Policy Issues Survey 2013

Summary of Results

Abstract
A survey about the importance of various policy issues was set up at the Wikimania 2013 in Hong Kong. It was targeted at Wikimedians, but unrestricted participation was permitted. While the original purpose was to create a pre-election questionnaire for political groups ahead of the European Parliament elections 2014, another hope is to be able to recognise the issues are given the highest priority by our community.
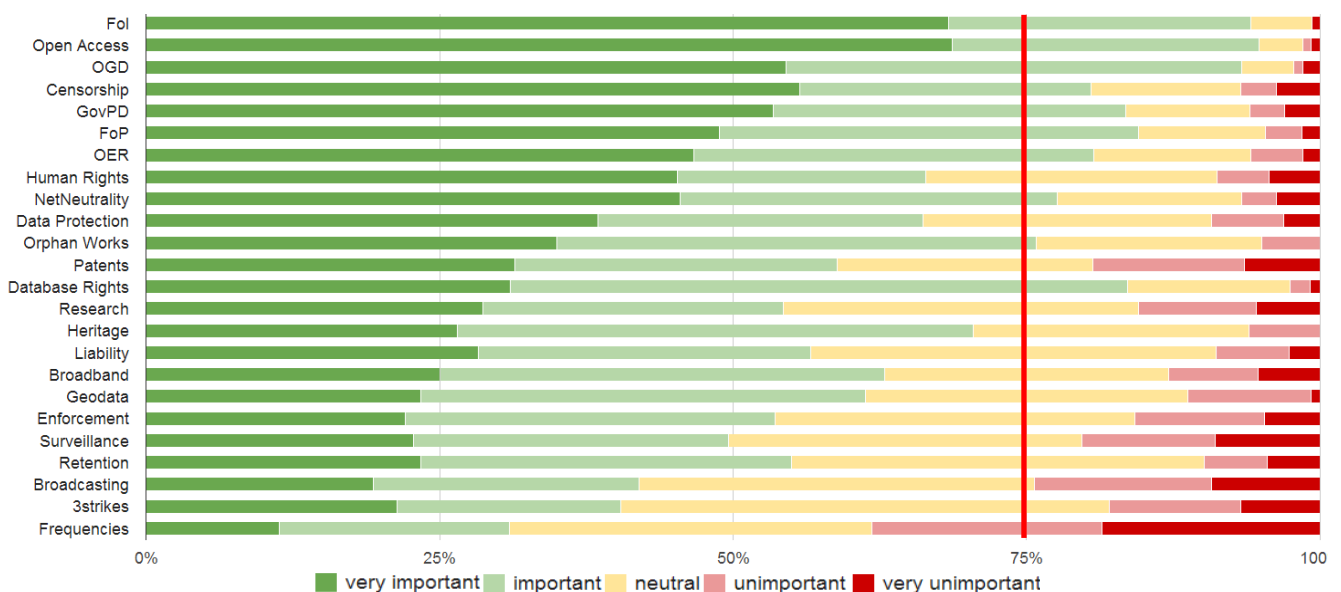
Raw Overview

We have had 137 individuals filling out the questionnaire. For a series of issue topics they where given the option to prioritise them on a 5 point scale („very important" to „very unimportant"), while „unfamiliar with the topic" was an additional option.

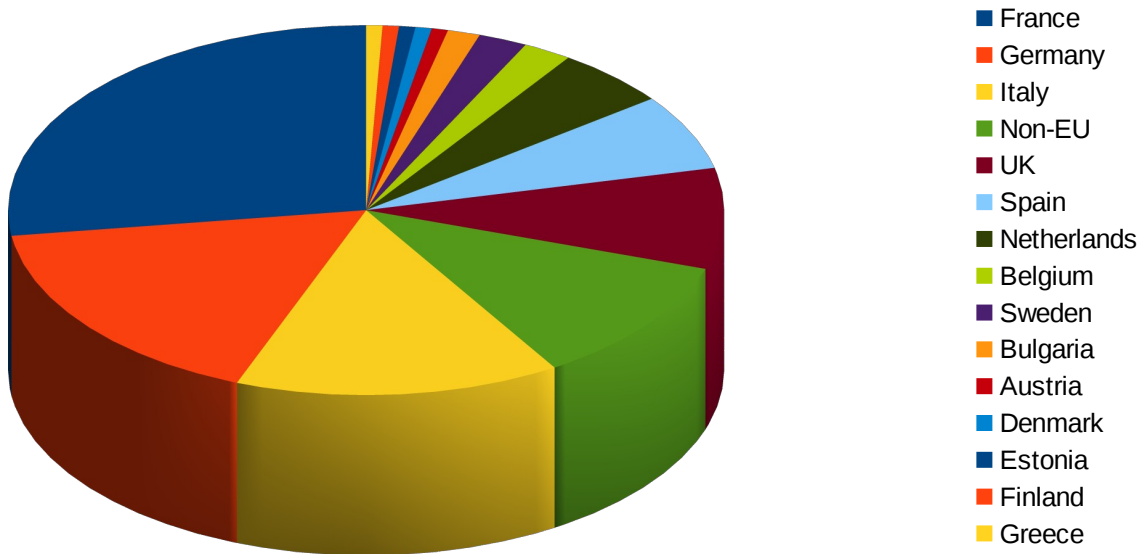## Results of All Questions

Legend: very important, important, neutral, unimportant, very unimportant, unfamiliar

Results All Questions w/o „Unfamiliar" (red line at 75%)

Legend: very important, important, neutral, unimportant, very unimportant

Geographic Distribution of Respondents

Legend:
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Non-EU
- UK
- Spain
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Sweden
- Bulgaria
- Austria
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
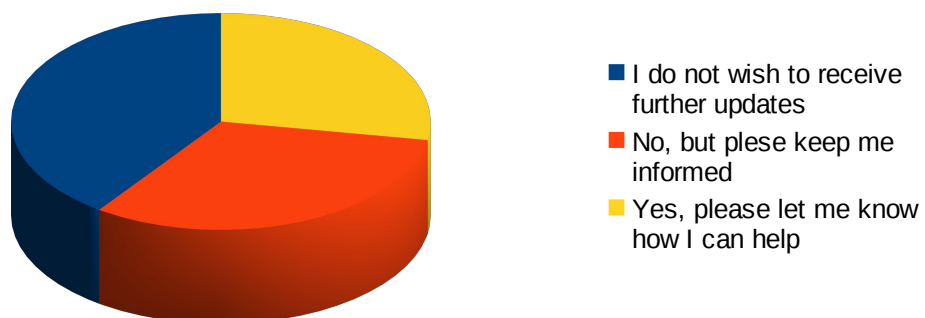- Greece

We managed to attract respondents from across 14 EU countries to participate in the poll. The three biggest responder countries in Europe were France (27%), Germany (17%) and Italy (15%), followed by 15 survey takers from non-EU countries (roughly 11%). The next three were the UK (9%), Spain (7%) and the Netherlands (5%). The remaining small countries counted together 13 participants, weighing them at 10% of the total.

Future Participation of Respondents

Legend:
- I do not wish to receive further updates
- No, but plese keep me informed
- Yes, please let me know how I can help

Poll takers were given an option to sign up for helping us in the future. While the largest group didn't want to be contacted again (40%), the remaining 60% wanted to hear back from us. Out of them 38 people from at least 11 different countries showed interest in future volunteering. That accounts for 27% of the field.

Issue Topics

Top 5 „Very Important"

Freedom of Information	68%
Open Access	67%
Censorship	54%
Open Government Data	53%
Government Works	51%

Top 5 „Important" and „Very Important"

Freedom of Information	93%
Open Access	93%
Open Government Data	91%
Government Works	81%
Freedom of Panorama	80%

Top 5 „Important" and „Very Important" w/o „Unfamiliar"

Open Access	95%
Freedom of Information	94%
Open Government Data	93%
Freedom of Panorama	85%
Database Rights	84%

Note: Database Rights are a special case causing problems within the EU copyright framework, as they require additional licensing. This was the category scoring highest in the „important" column, at 53% and thus overtaking Freedom of Panorama by one percentage point in the last Top 5 list.

Bottom 5 - Least Important Topics (shown % of importance)

Frequencies	22%
3 Strikes Laws	26%
Broadcasting	37%
Surveillance	44%
Data Retention	45%

List of Issues With Above 80% Overall Importance

1. Freedom of Information (93)
2. Open Access (93)
3. Open Government Data (91)
4. Government Works (81)
5. Freedom of Panorama (80)
6. Open Educational Resources (80)

List of Issues With Above % Importance w/o „Unfamiliar"

80+	75+	70+
Open Access Freedom of Information Open Government Data Freedom of Panorama Database Rights Government Works Censorship OER	Network Neutrality Orphan Works	Cultural Heritage

NB: The topic with the highest percentage „unfamiliar" among these is Database Rights (15%).

Final Remarks

Open Access and Freedom of Information occupy the first two places across the board, no matter the configuration. Censorship only scores high in the „very important" column (54%), while its overall importance looses out to other topics and drops to 78%. Contrary, Database Rights scores much higher in the „important" than in the „very important" category. It seems to be a clear second-tier topic among the first group, crucial (as it makes the 80% cut w/o the „unfamiliar") but not a top priority.

It is further important to keep in mind, that depending on the definition of the different issues, there might be considerable overlaps and more often than not one topic legally and logically cascades into the next one, especially in the case of copyright. Out of the topics that can be considered a community priority (80+ percent), only Freedom of Information and Censorship are not directly related to intellectual property.

Considering the big impact it would have on Wikimedia projects, it comes as somewhat of a surprise that Orphan Works misses the top category in each configuration. It scores 66 percent (importance) in the overall count and goes up to 76% when removing the „unfamiliar" column. As many as 12% of survey takers claim they are not acquainted with the issue.

List of Abbreviations

FoI – Freedom of Information
OGD – Open Government Data
GovPD – Government Created Works in the Public Domain
FoP – Freedom of Panorama (from German: Panoramafreiheit)
OER – Open Educational Resources
Non-EU – Countries that are not Member States of the European Union
w/o - without