

# International trends for sustainability in FM: Evaluation of policy and FM competence in Norway and UK

CIB Facilities Management Conference, 23 May 2014

Ingemund Skålnes

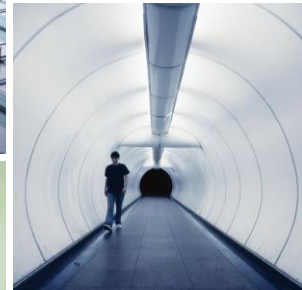
*Centre for Real Estate and Facilities Management  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

Antje Junghans

*Centre for Real Estate and Facilities Management  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

Abbas Elmualim

*British Institute for Facilities Management  
University of Reading*



# Agenda

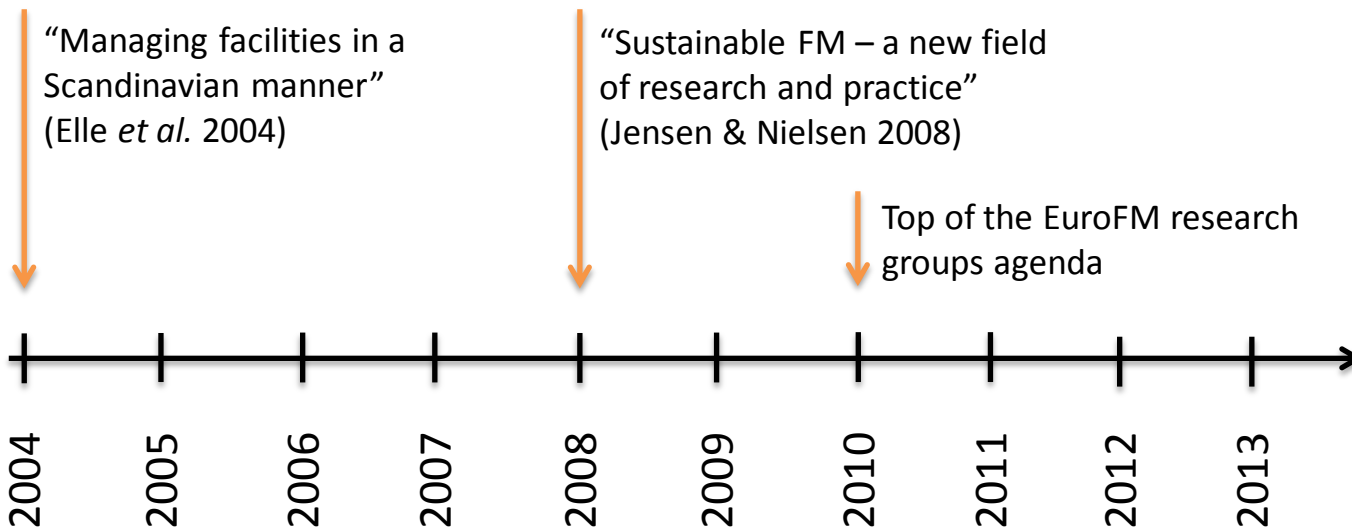
- Introduction
- Background
- Approach
- Results
- Conclusion

# Introduction

- In several European countries, sustainability has emerged and is developing as a core business strategy and an obligation for public and private organisations
- Purpose: *“to contribute to the development of an internationally applicable sustainable FM strategy in research, education and practice”*
- This is done by evaluating policy and FM competence in Norway and UK.

# Background

- SFM has become a topic of research in the Nordic countries
- In 2010, sustainability was at the top of the EuroFM research groups agenda.
- Literature research using Google Scholar (November 2013):
  - Keyword phrase: sustainable facilities management
  - Result: 83 matches for the period 2007-2013.
  - Small but increasing number of publications.



# Approach

## *Theoretical framework*

Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
 University of Reading  
 British Institute for Facilities Management  
 Norwegian Facilities Management Network

Sustainability in FM is the particular object of research steering the development of an international strategy for SFM

FM experts in research and education, as well as professional facilities managers involved in the development and execution of survey



Literature research  
 Structured Survey

Scientific publications describe theories and concepts that can organise the advancement of specialist knowledge effectively

Standards and state of the art literature review in professional FM publications

# Approach

## *Methodology*

- The annual BIFM survey of sustainability in FM
  - Objective: “examine and track trends in environmental responsibilities, energy management, waste management, carbon footprint management, water management, response to legislation, sustainable use of resources among Facilities Managers” Singh & Elmualim (2012)
  - Online questionnaire survey among FM professionals, both members of the British Institutes of Facilities Management (BIFM) and others.
    - Target group: 1200
    - Respondents: 203
  - Annual survey since 2007
- The Norwegian sustainability in the FM survey
  - Online questionnaire survey among FM professionals that are member of the Norwegian FM Network (NfN).
    - Target group: 45
    - Respondents: 31
  - First survey in 2013

# Approach

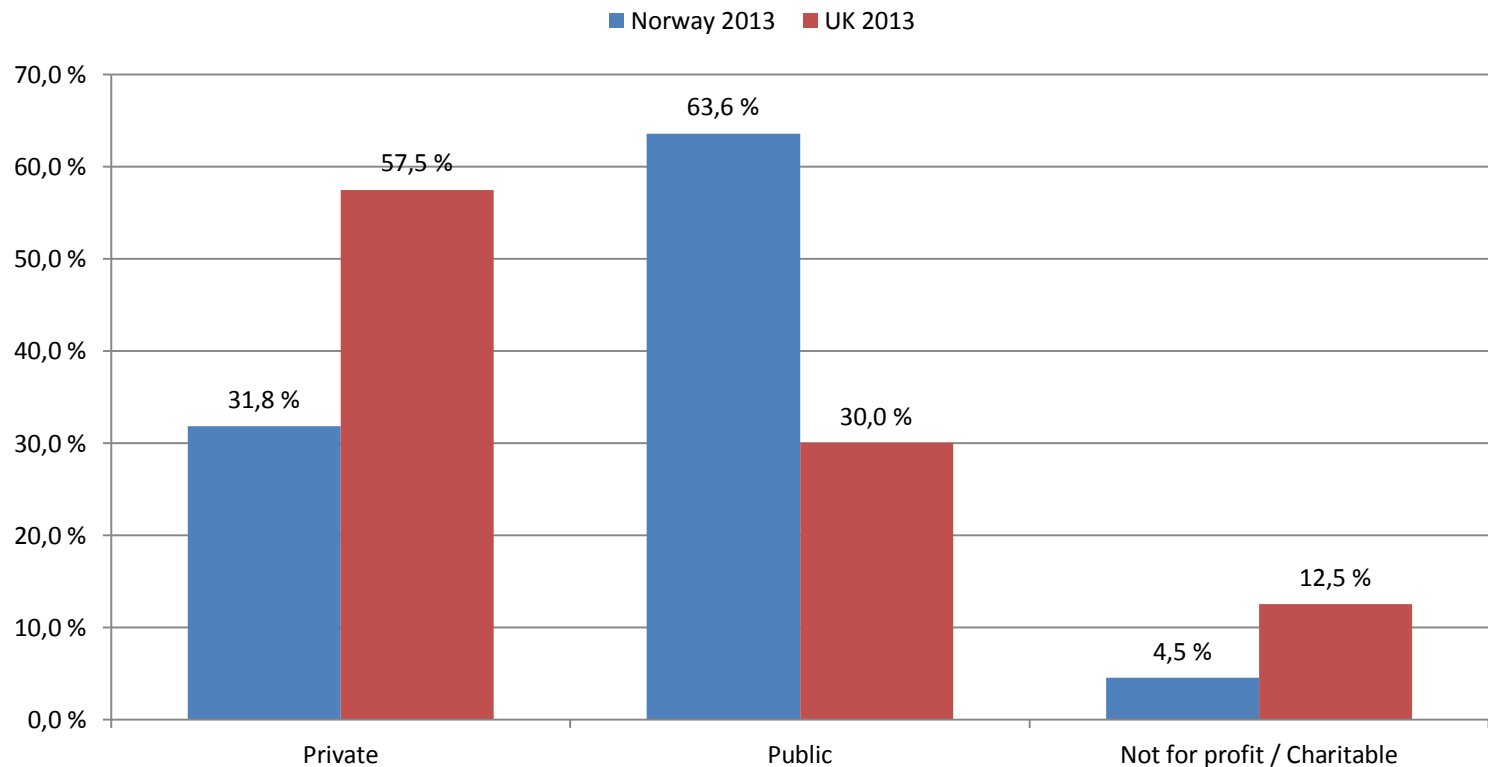
## *Methodology*

- Developing the Norwegian survey
  - Clarifying the technical language (State of the art theory: literature research, standards, FM experts)
  - Choosing relevant questions (According to object of research)
  - Translating the questions into Norwegian language and context
  - Testing the survey (FM professionals)
- The Norwegian sustainability in the FM survey
  - Demography of the Norwegian respondents
  - SFM questions translated from the UK survey
  - Norwegian opinions on statements based on the UK survey

# Results

## *Demography of the respondents*

- Which of the following economic sectors best describes the ownership of your organisation

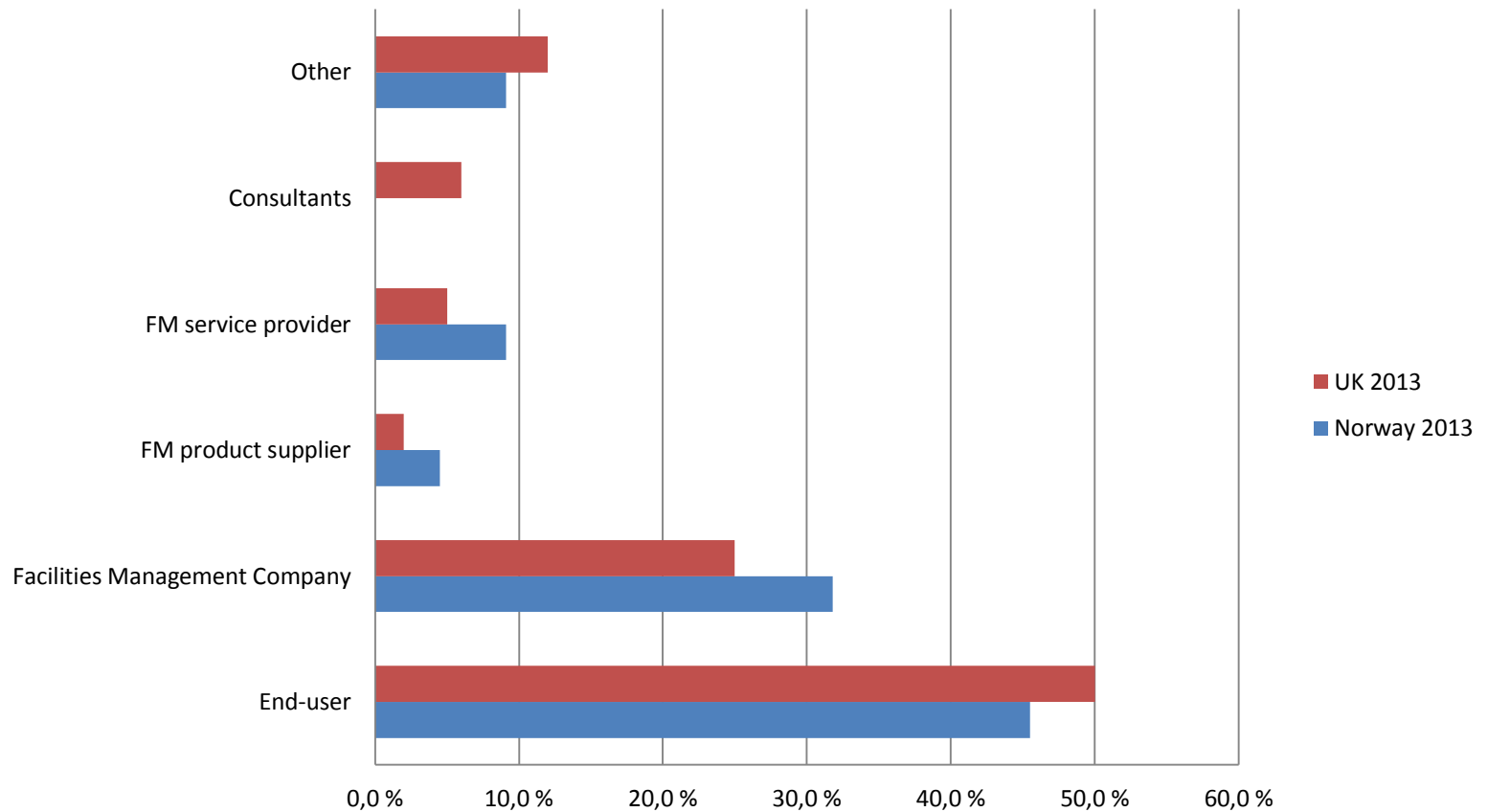




# Results

## *Demography of the respondents*

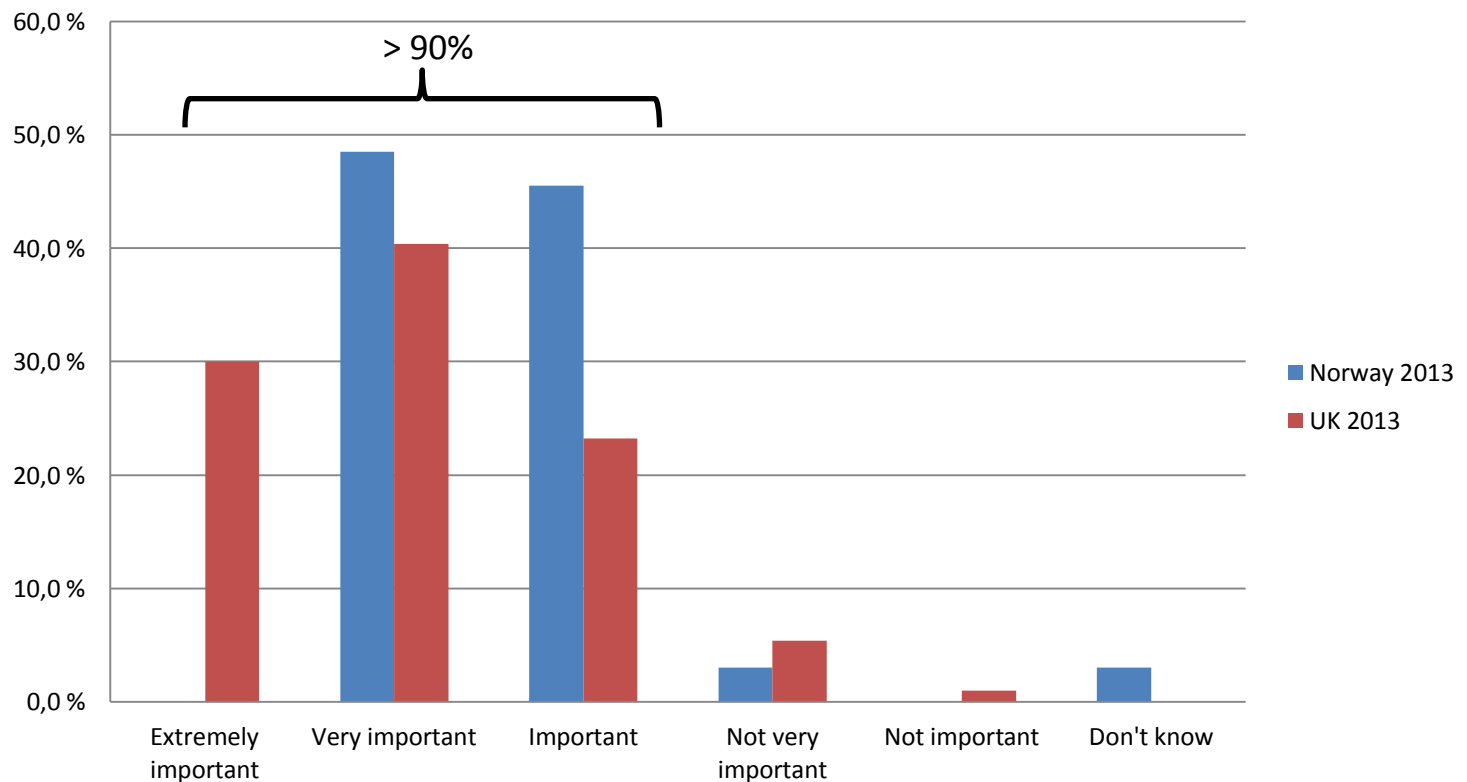
- Which of the following best describes your organisation?



# Results

## *Sustainability policy and management of reporting*

- How important is sustainability for your organisation?



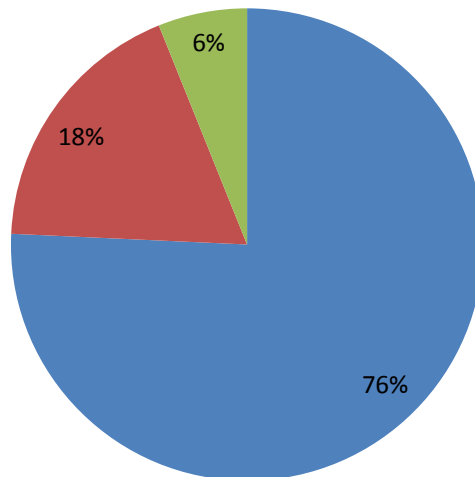
# Results

## *Sustainability policy and management of reporting*

- Organisations with an Environmental/Sustainability/Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy

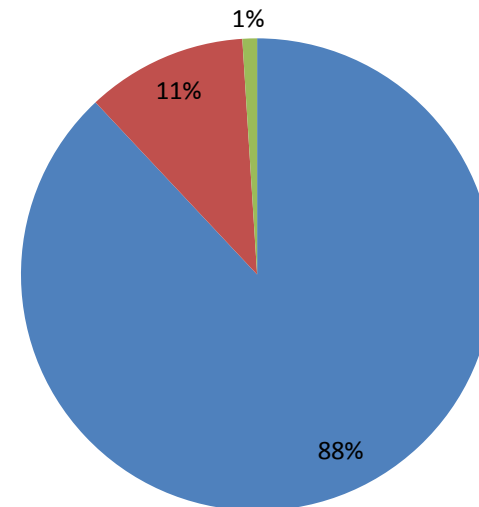
Norway 2013

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know



UK 2013

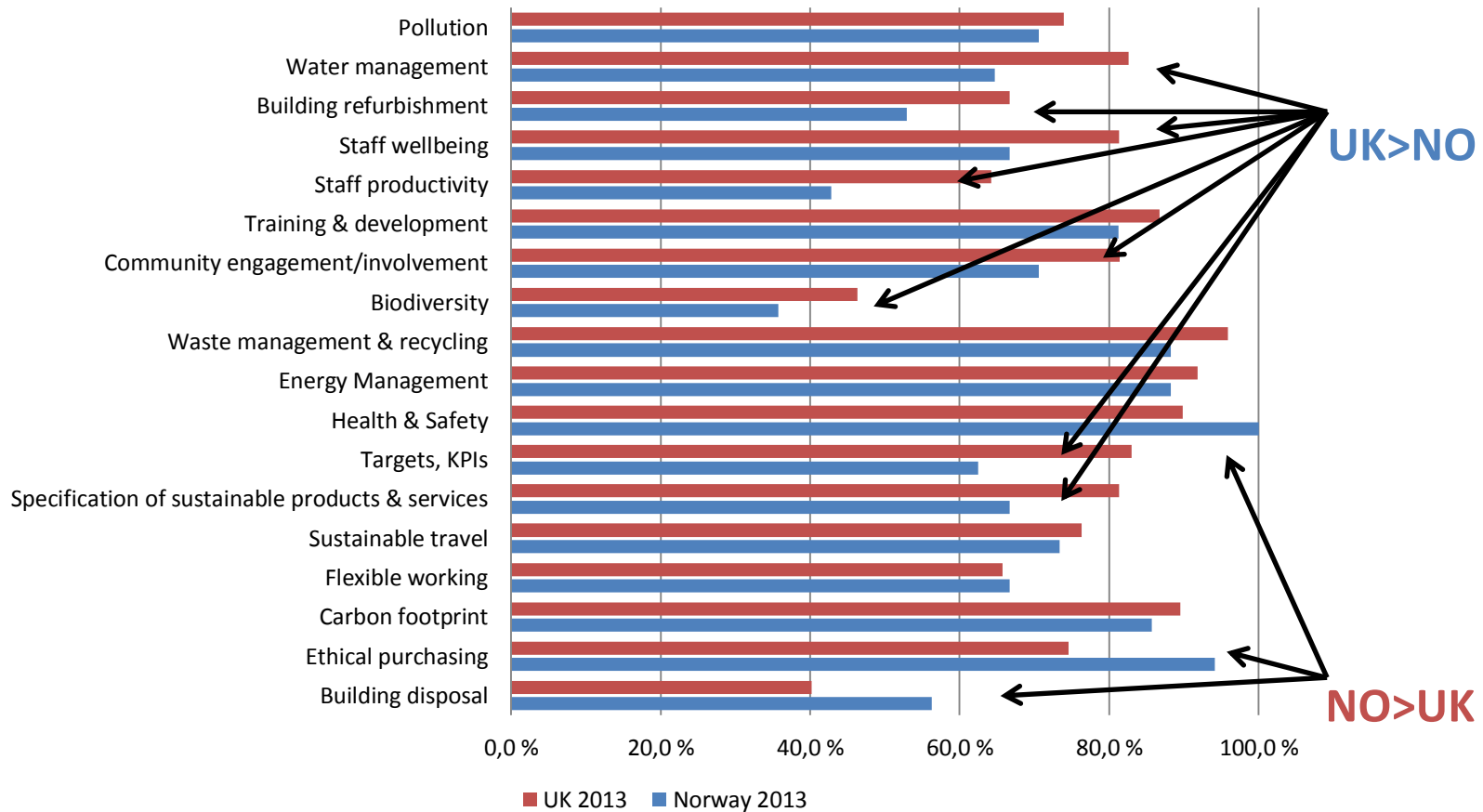
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know



# Results

## *Sustainability policy and management of reporting*

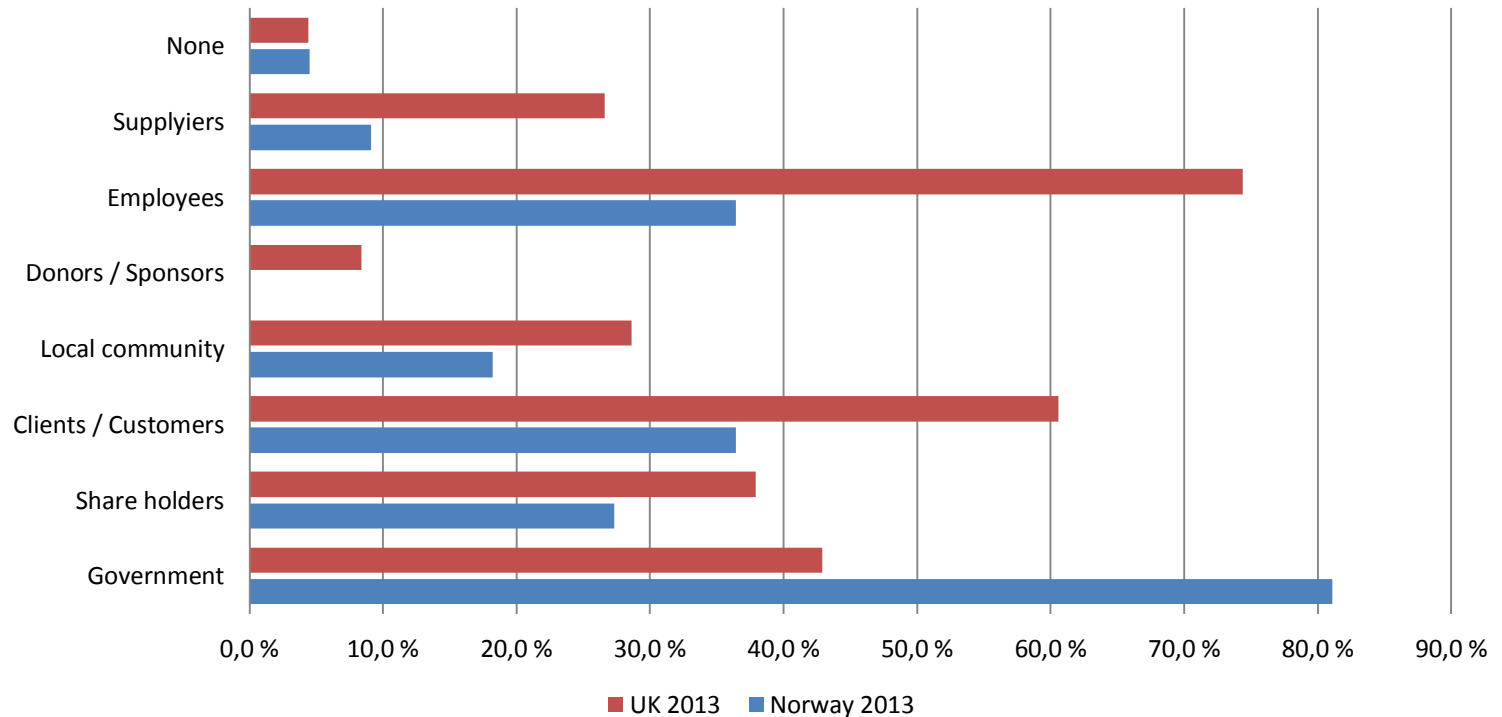
- Aspects of sustainability covered by the policy:



# Results

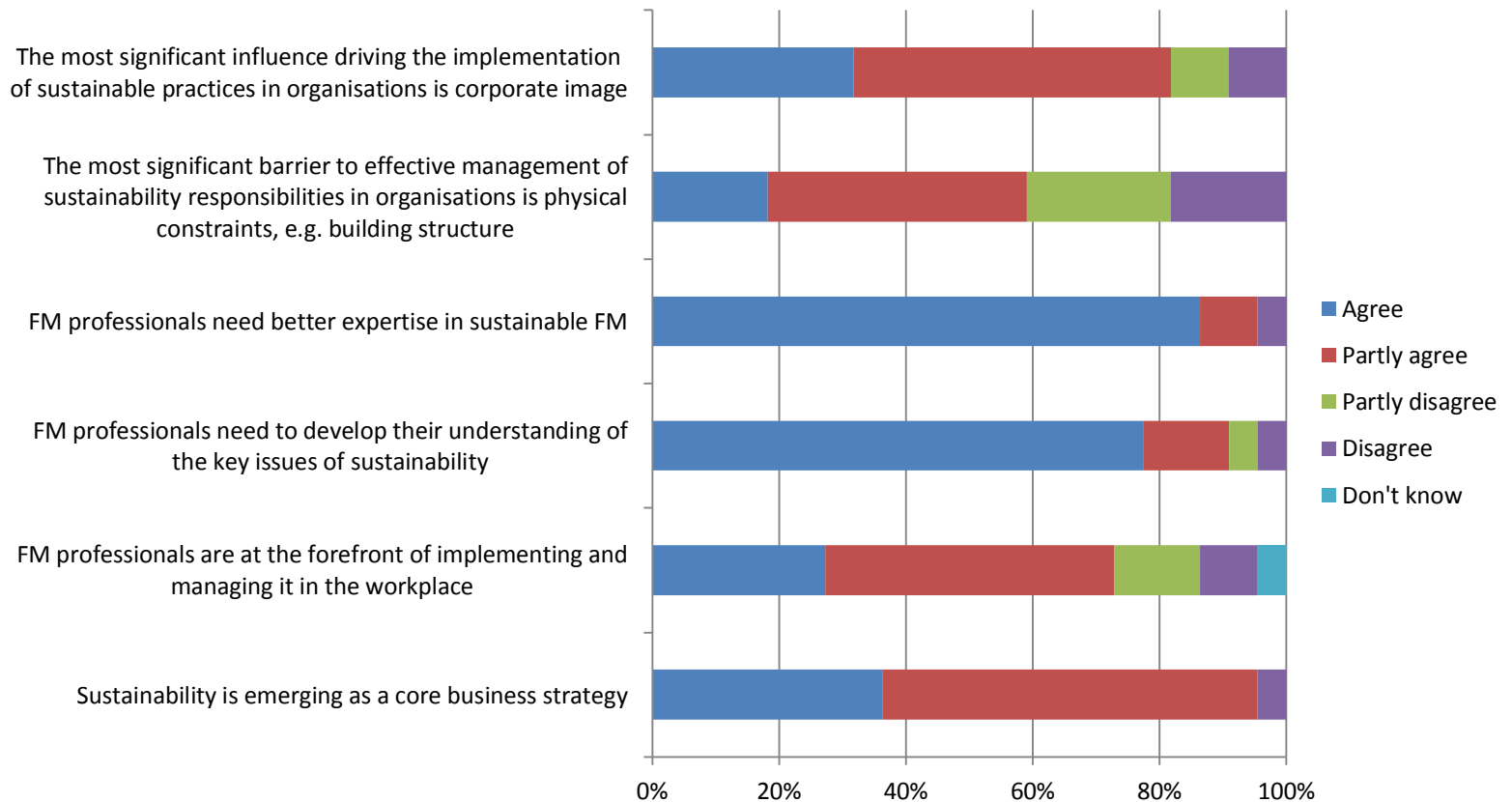
## *Sustainability policy and management of reporting*

- Stakeholder groups the organisations report their environmental/sustainability/CSR activities to



# Results

## *Norwegian opinions on the British SFM perspective*



References for statements:

Elmualim, A. (2013) Sustainability in FM: Trends in Policy and FM competence consequences, p 11  
 Singh, A., Elmualim, A. (2012) *Annual BIFM Sustainability in FM Survey 2012 – final report*, p 38

# Conclusion

- There was a growing number of scientific publications in the timeframe 2007-2013.
- FM professionals in both UK and Norway think sustainability is important for their organisations.
- In comparing the results between UK and Norway, the survey showed slightly higher coverage of sustainability aspects in the British organisations.
- SFM is evolving as a discipline and becoming increasingly attractive to academics and professionals.

Thank you for listening

# Questions?

Ingemund Skålnes | Antje Junghans | Abbas Elmualim