



National Institute of  
Occupational Health

# Evaluation of the Accreditation of the Occupational Health Services in Norway

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# Norway

- Population 5 mill
- Work force 2.5 mill.
- Obligatory OHS for 1.25 mill
- OHS covers 1.3 mill.
  - 279 OHS
  - 2000 employees





# Introduction

- New OHS legislation from 2010
  - Accreditation of OHS
  - Expansion of obligatory OHS
    - Before 2010 – 600.000 employees
    - After 2010 – 1.250.000 employees



# Accreditation of OHS

- In order to be accredited the OHS has must have
  - at least 3 full time OHS professionals
  - a quality assurance system
    - plan for improving professional skills
  - and be able to document skills in
    - occupational medicine
    - occupational hygiene
    - ergonomics
    - psychosocial work environment
    - systematic health, environment and safety work
- The accreditation
  - is performed every 5 years by the Labour Inspection Authority
  - is free of charge to the OHS.



# Accreditation of OHS

- Labour Inspection Authority
  - 5 full time professionals
  - Electronic applications from OHS units
- Assessment
  - "Full accreditation" for 5 years
  - "Plan for accreditation"
  - "Accreditation denied"
- Inspection during the 5 year period



# Study objective

- To evaluate the introduction of an accreditation system for OHS in Norway



# Method

- A web based questionnaire was sent to all the Norwegian occupational health services (OHS) with questions about the experiences with their own accreditation process.
- We received responses from 241 out of 321 OHS (75%).

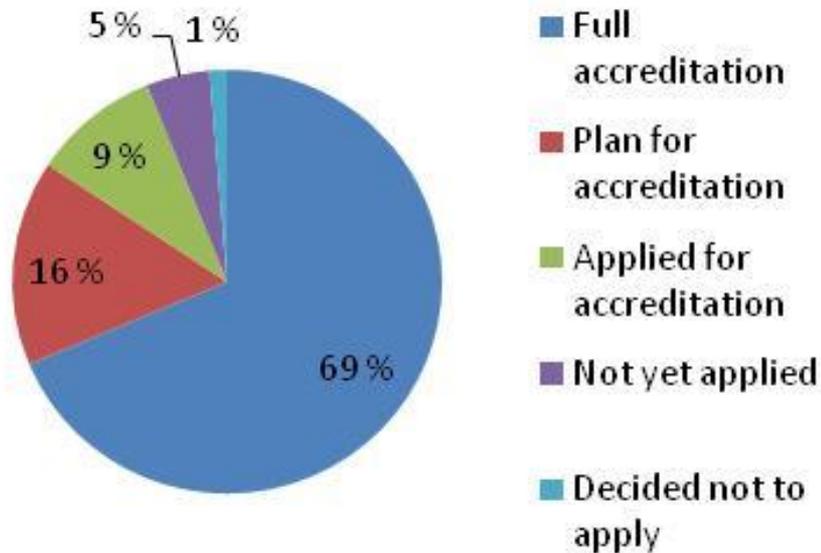


# Types of OHS

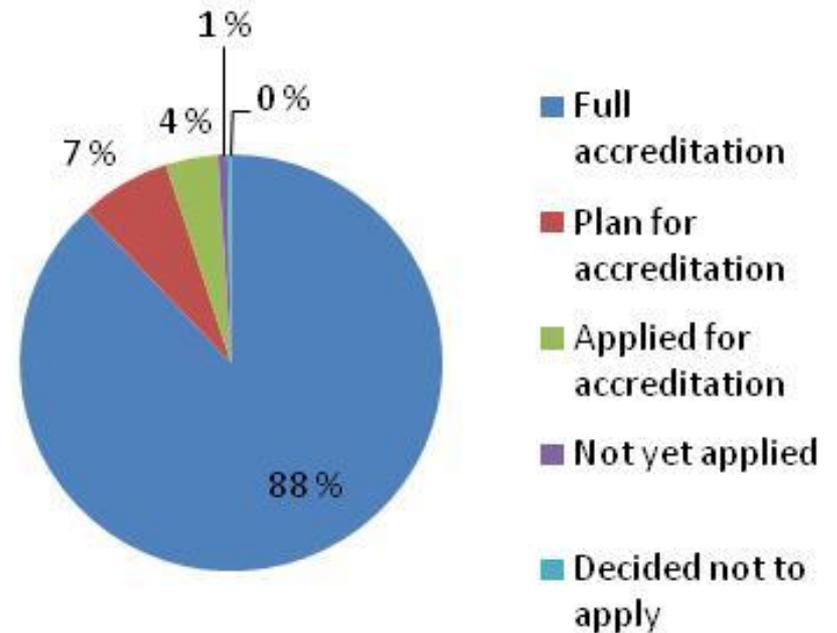
- 90 Internal OHS
- 78 External, non profit
- 73 External, profit oriented

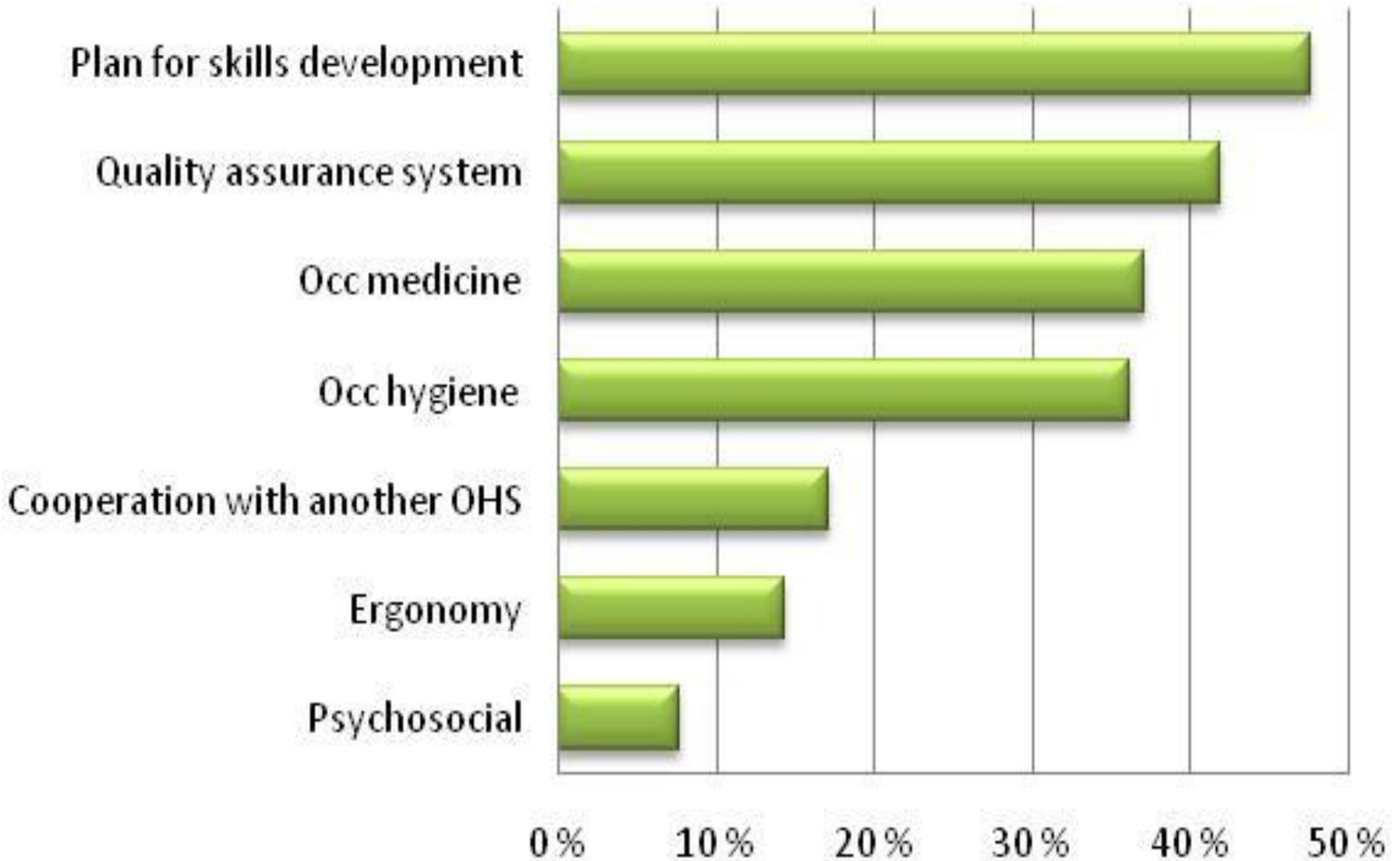


## Number



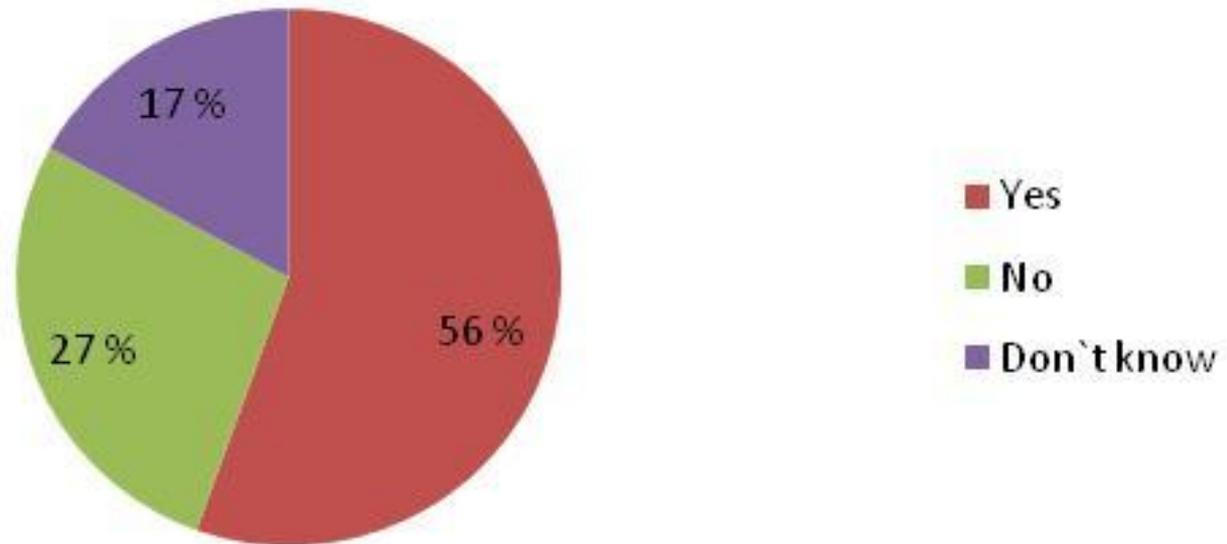
## Market





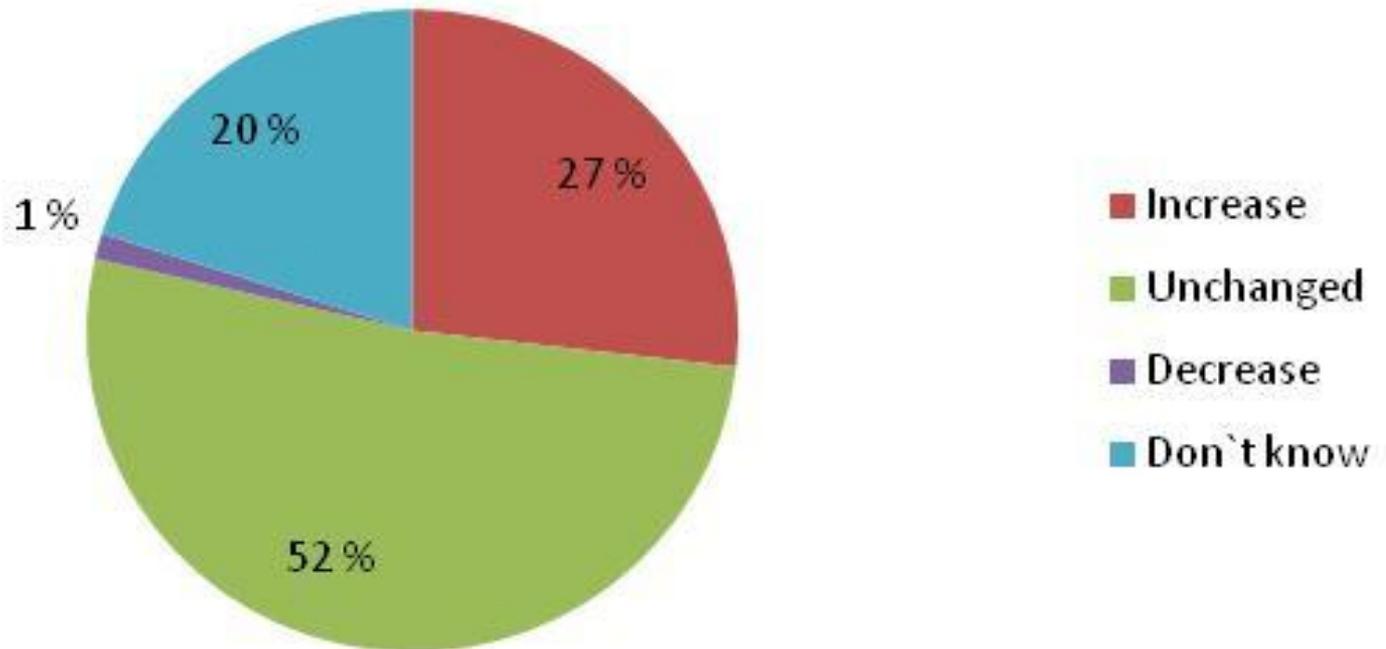


## Did the accreditation improve the quality of your OHS?





Will the price of your OHS increase?





# Conclusion

- More than half of the OHS had to make various adjustments in order to become accredited.
  - Quality system of OHS
  - Plan for improving professional skills
  - Occupational medicine
  - Occupational hygiene
- Impact of the accreditation of OHS
  - Probably a better quality of the OHS
  - Same price or somewhat higher
  - Easier for the customers of OHS
- Most of the Norwegian market is now covered by accredited OHS

