AI Survey
for Member Associations

Results

November 2023

Working Conditions Working Group

Respondents

CEATL has 36 member associations.
31 members responded (89%), as listed:

A*dS	Switzerland	LLVS	Lithuania
ACE	Spain	MATA	Macedonia
AELC	Catalonia	MEGY	Hungary
AITI	Italy	NFFO	Norway
APT	Portugal	NO	Norway
ARTLIT	Romania	OP	Czech Republic
ATLF	France	ÖSF	Sweden
Auteursbond	Netherlands	RSÍ	Iceland
BTU	Bulgaria	SKTL	Finland
DHKP	Croatia	STL	Poland
DOF	Denmark	STRADE SLC	Italy
DSKP	Slovenia	TA	United Kingdom
EIZIE	Euskadi	THOT	Iceland
IGÜ	Austria	UKPS	Serbia
ITIA	Ireland	VdÜ	Germany
KAOS	Finland		
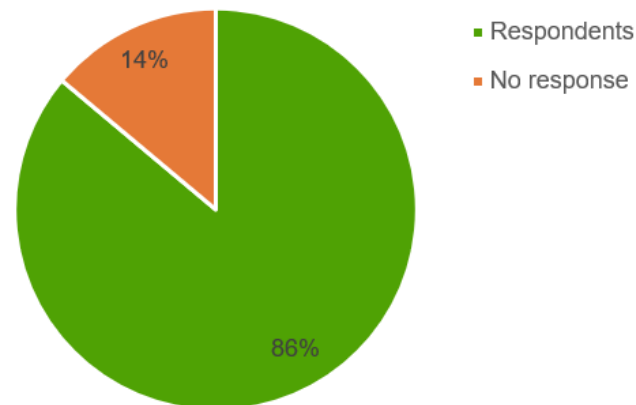
- Respondents
- No response

14%

86%

CEATL
European Council of Literary Translators' Associations

Legend:
- Yes
- Yes (countries with more than one association)
- No
- No (countries with more than one association)

Has your association made a public statement regarding AI in literary translation?

7 associations (in 7 countries) have issued a statement .

5 of them have also co-signed manifestos, statements or petitions.

- Yes — 23%
- No — 77%

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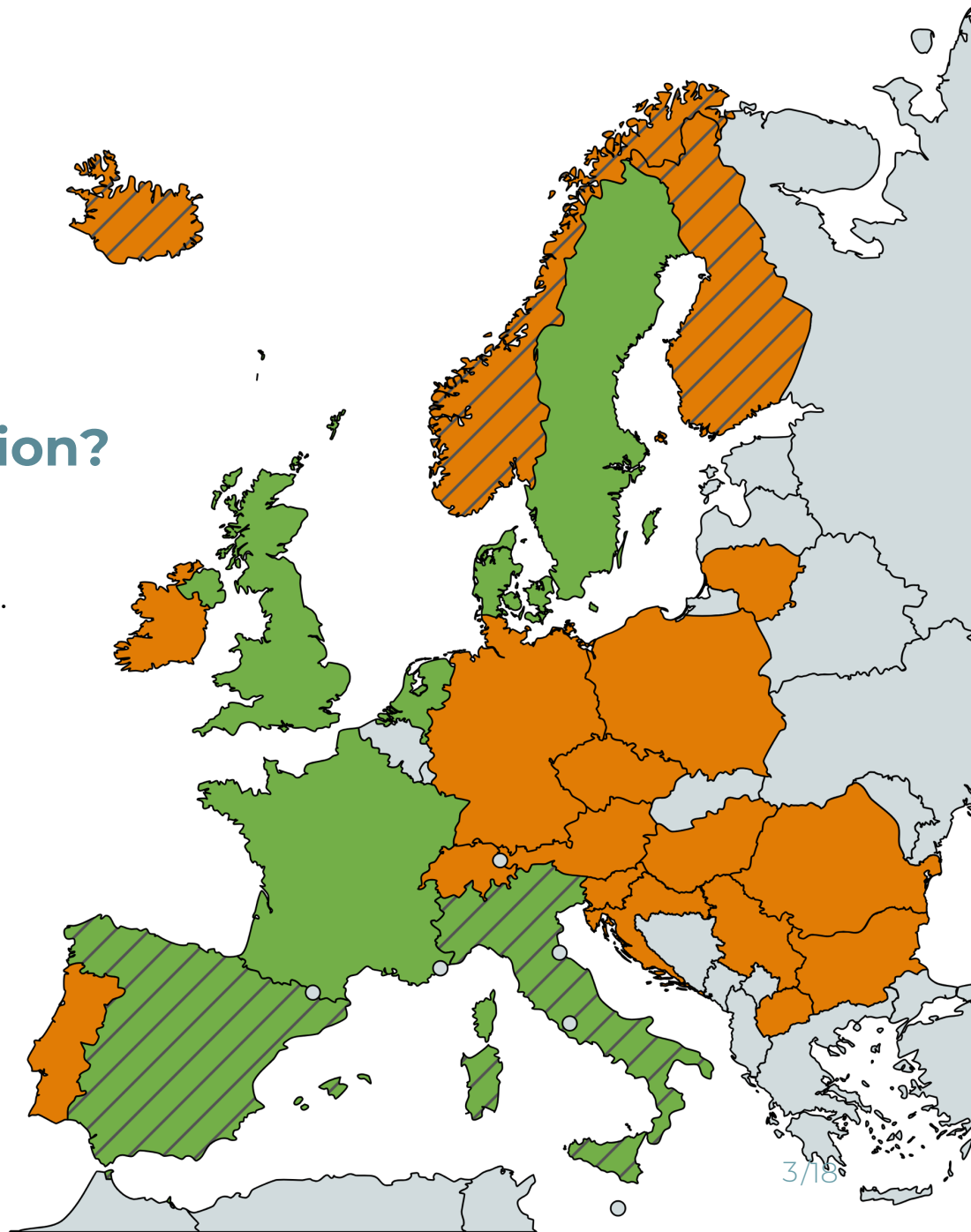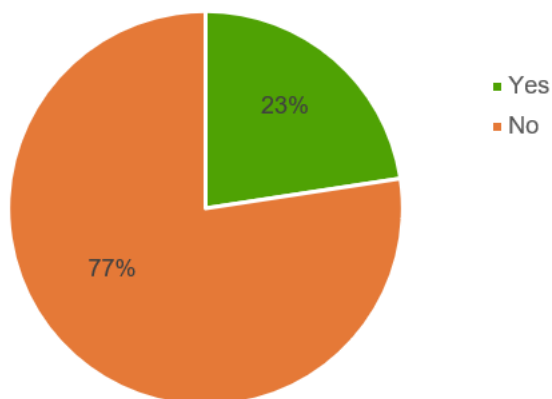
Has your association made a public statement regarding AI in literary translation?

The main points in the statements are:

- Recommendations about how to use AI: Read terms and conditions of the program used; limit the use just for inspiration, formulations and ideas; keep track of all instances (in case the publisher want to ensure the originality and authorship of the text); do not feed copyrighted material into AI tools; do not rely on the data given as a secure source of information

- Dangers of AI

- Translation as an act of art and of human communication stands in opposition to AI-generated text

- Respecting the copyright of authors (writers, translators, photographers, etc.)

- Call for transparency over data sources (input), transparency over output (translated text), consent of authors for their texts to be used by AI, authorship and practical steps

- Warning that translators might be undermining their own business by agreeing to post-edit AI translations in terms of not having contracts and being paid poorly
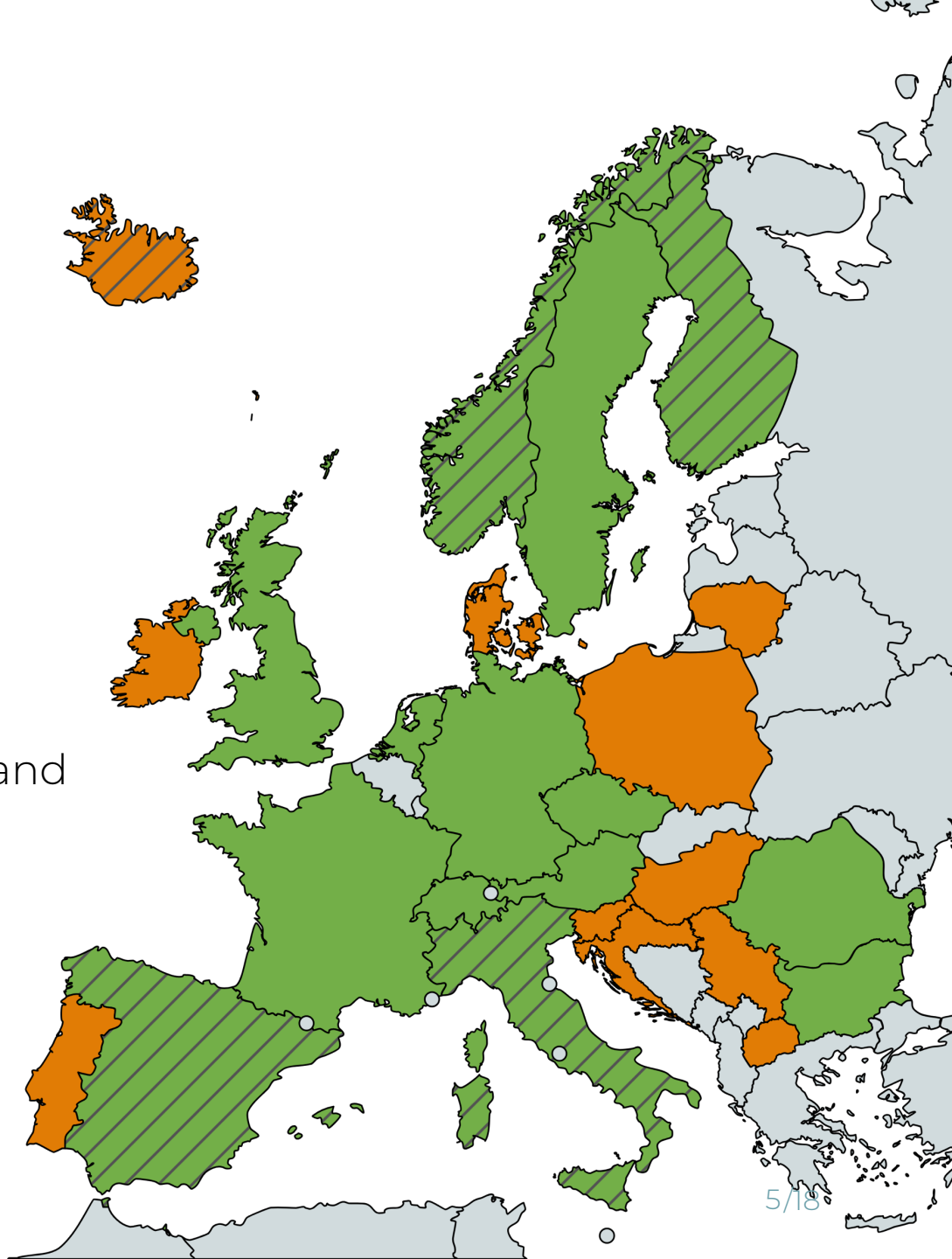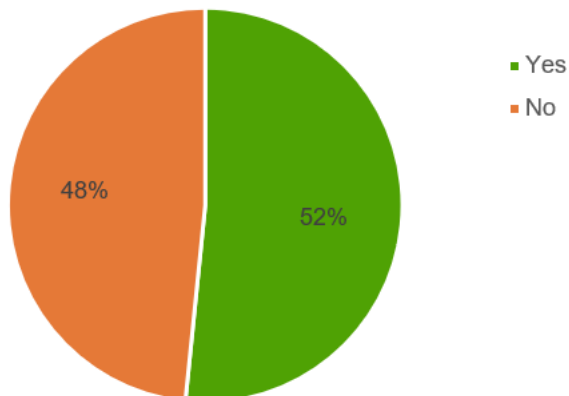
Has your association signed or co-signed any manifestos, statements or petitions on the use of AI in literary translation?

17 associations (in 14 countries) have co-signed manifestos/statements/petitions.

The main parties they have co-signed with are other authors' or translators' associations, arts' associations and bodies within the EU.

Legend:
- Yes
- Yes (countries with more than one association)
- No
- No (countries with more than one association)

Pie chart:
- Yes — 52%
- No — 48%

Created with mapchart.net

Has your association signed or co-signed any manifestos, statements or petitions on the use of AI in literary translation?

Co-signed statements, manifestos or petitions are mainly calling for:

- Transparency on the use of copyrighted material and the use of AI at any point in the publishing/production process

- Authorisation and remuneration

- Necessary legislative action and necessary steps by booksellers and publishers towards protecting their works in the context of Text and Data Mining (TDM)

- AI not to become a conceivable alternative for human creation; authors to defend the importance of human skills in literary writing and translation

- Publishers to refuse to resort to AI for literary translation, but if they do, they should state it openly

- No public funding of AI-generated products

- Copyrights remaining with translators irrespective of AI usage

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Translators' Associations

Yes
Yes (countries with more than one association)
No
No (countries with more than one association)

Has your association conducted any research on the use of AI in literary translation?

6 associations conducted some research or survey. Others did perform informal investigations or mentioned research made by or with the help of their members, and not performed by the respective association. These were not taken into account when processing the results for this question.

- Yes
- No

19%

81%

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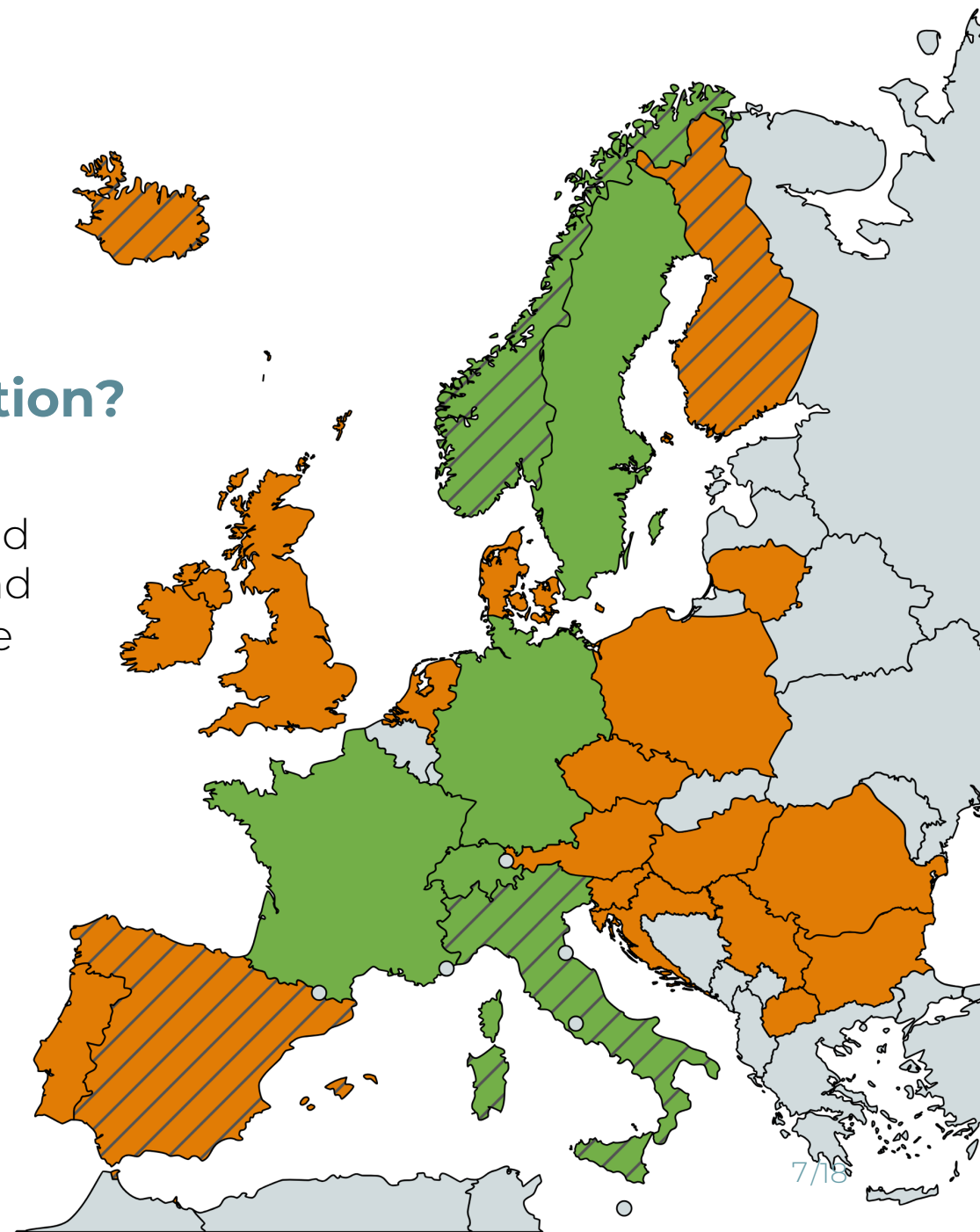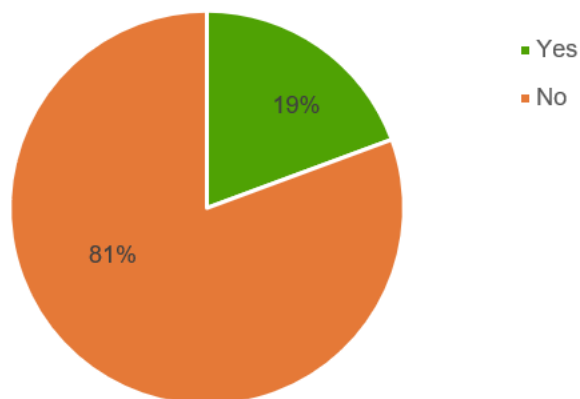
Has your association conducted any research on the use of AI in literary translation?
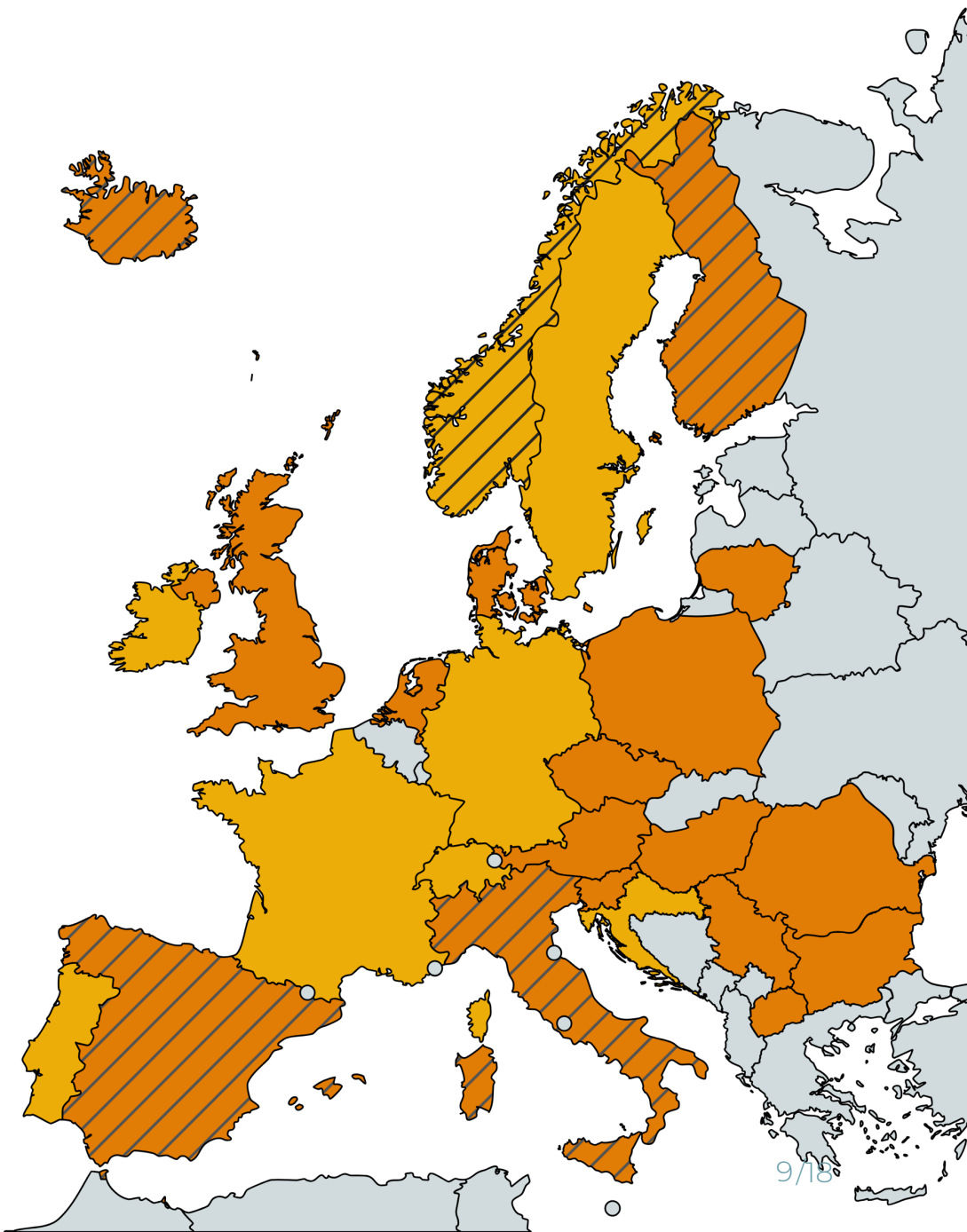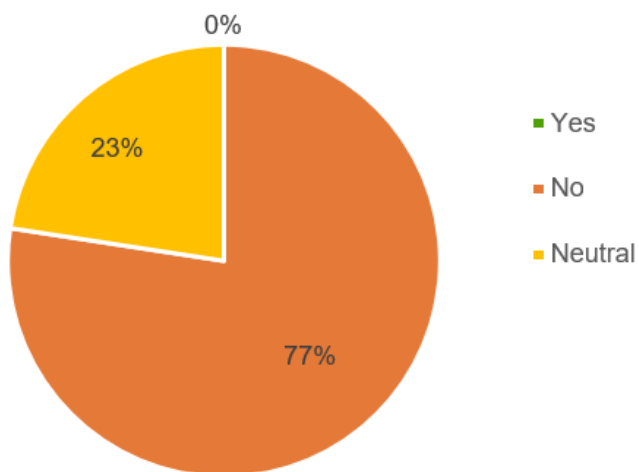
- **A*dS**: Conducted a survey and a study on AI. Results yet to come.

- **ÖFS**: Conducted research about the use of AI by publishers – one publishing house overtly uses and publishes AI-translated and post-edited literary works, and one company offers AI-translated and post-edited ready-to-publish literary works as a subcontractor.

- **AITI**: Just launched a survey for interpreting and translation professionals working with Italian, with a section on new technologies and MT and post-editing.

- **VdÜ**: Conducted research into the use of AI translation tools in literary translation. The results underscore the importance of machine translation skills for translators and suggest that their remunerations should increase due to the added complexity brought by machine translation technology.

- **ATLF**: Conducted a survey on post-editing. Findings: absence of transparency, poor remuneration and no time-saving.

- **NO**: Conducted a survey among their members on AI, focusing on use and attitudes.

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Legend:
- No
- No (countries with more than one association)
- Neutral
- Neutral (countries with more than one association)

Does your association recommend using AI/Machine Translation for literary translation to its members?

No association recommends the use of AI, 7 associations are neutral about recommending or forbidding the usage.

Pie chart:
- 0% (Yes)
- 23% Neutral
- 77% No

- Yes
- No
- Neutral

Created with mapchart.net

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Translators' Associations

Legend:
- Yes
- Yes (countries with more than one association)
- No
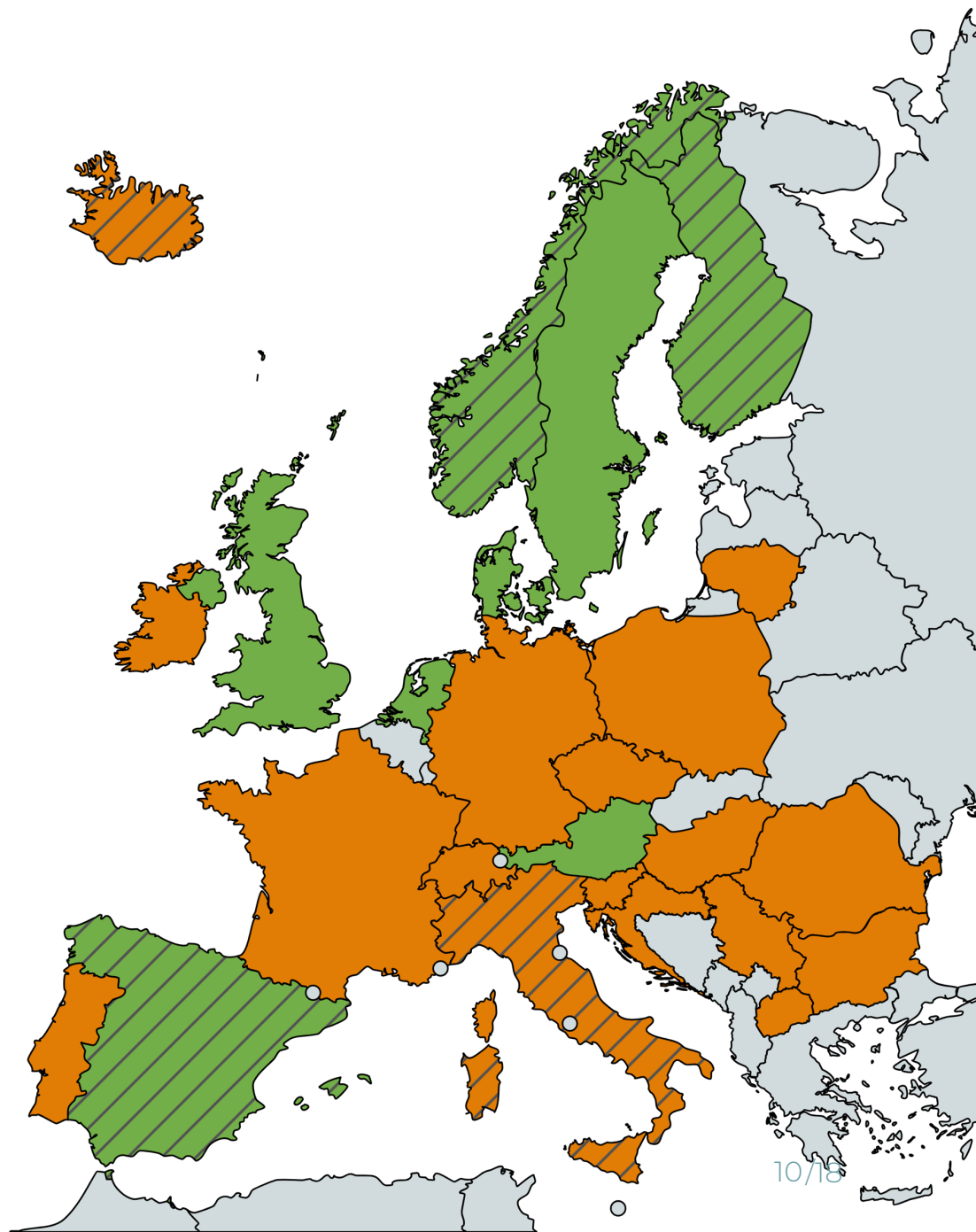- No (countries with more than one association)

Does your association give its members any specific guidance on the use of AI for literary translation?

A quarter of the associations offer guidance on the use of AI.

Some associations have combined guidance with their statements.

Pie chart:
- 26% Yes
- 74% No

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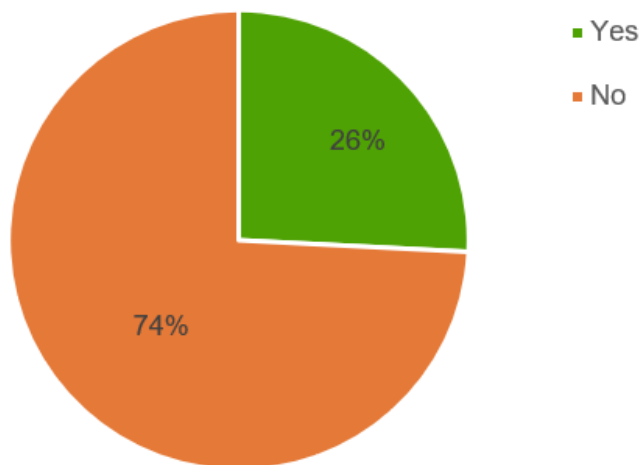
Does your association give your members any specific guidance on the usage of AI for literary translation? (1/2)

The main points in the guidance materials are:

- Translators should read the terms and conditions of the tools they use, since the use of the product can be limited. They are recommended to keep track of all prompts in order to ensure the originality and personal authorship of the texts, because the publishers might collect them.

- Translators should not insert their own texts when using AI tools since they could be used by others.

- Translators should not rely on data given by AI tools as a secure source of information.

- Translators should avoid prompting full texts or paragraphs from an AI-tool, since translators can't claim copyright for material written by a machine.

- Translators must not break other authors' copyright.

**Does your association give your members
any specific guidance on the use of AI for literary translation? (2/2)**
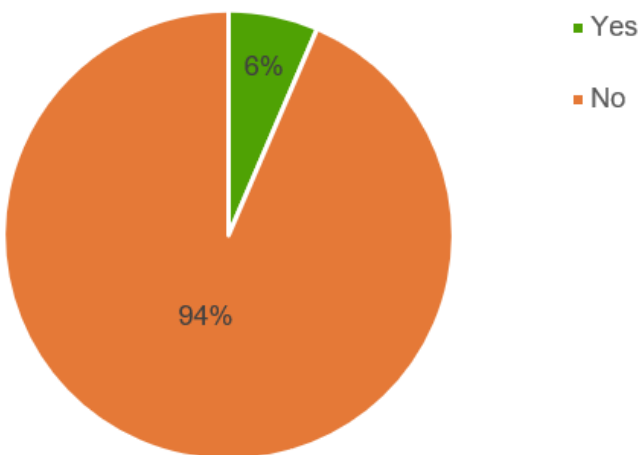
- Translators should read their contracts carefully with regards to the use of AI.
  A contract clause is recommended stating that the text should not be accessible
  for machine-learning or training of AI. Furthermore, no use of the text by AI
  should be allowed without the consent of the translators, whether it is for the
  purpose of translation, narration, design of the cover or other artwork.

- Translators should avoid post-editing. If they do, it should at least be paid the
  same as a human translation.

- Translators should exercise caution when using AI tools, although they may also
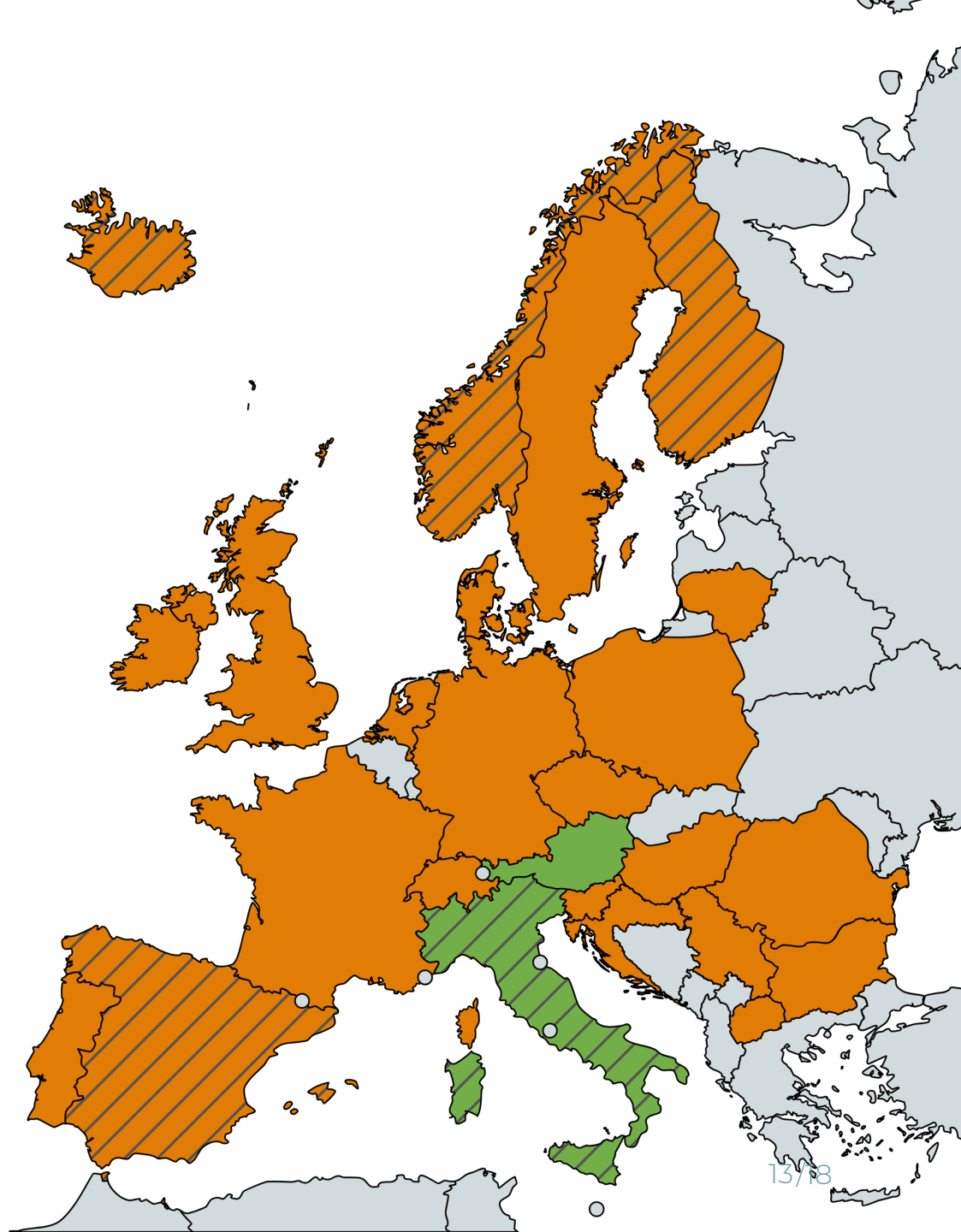 be useful for inspiration, phrasing, ideas and so on.

Does your organization offer special training for working with AI as a tool for literary translation?

Only two associations offer training for use of AI as a tool for literary translation.

Legend:
- Yes
- Yes (hatched)
- No
- No (countries with more than one association)

Pie chart: Yes 6%, No 94%

Created with mapchart.net

Does your organization offer special training for working with AI as a tool for literary translation?

AITI has offered a webinar to their members
(*Post-editing Strategies for Neural Machine Translation*)

It aimed to explain how large language models work and are trained, how machine translation has evolved over the decades; which type of errors, difficulties and bias can be found in this type of generated text; what the differences between postediting and traditional translation revision are; factors to take into consideration in judging whether it is worthwhile – in terms of time, cognitive effort, technicalities – to use this type of tool; current and foreseeable trends in services requested from translators.

![CEATL — European Council of Literary Translators' Associations]

Has your association done any negotiation with publishers about the AI situation?

Six associations have done some negotiation with publishers concerning the AI situation.

Four others are planning to do so or are in the process of discussing the matter with publishers.

Legend:
- Yes
- Yes (countries with more than one association)
- No
- No (countries with more than one association)

Pie chart:
- Yes 19%
- No 81%

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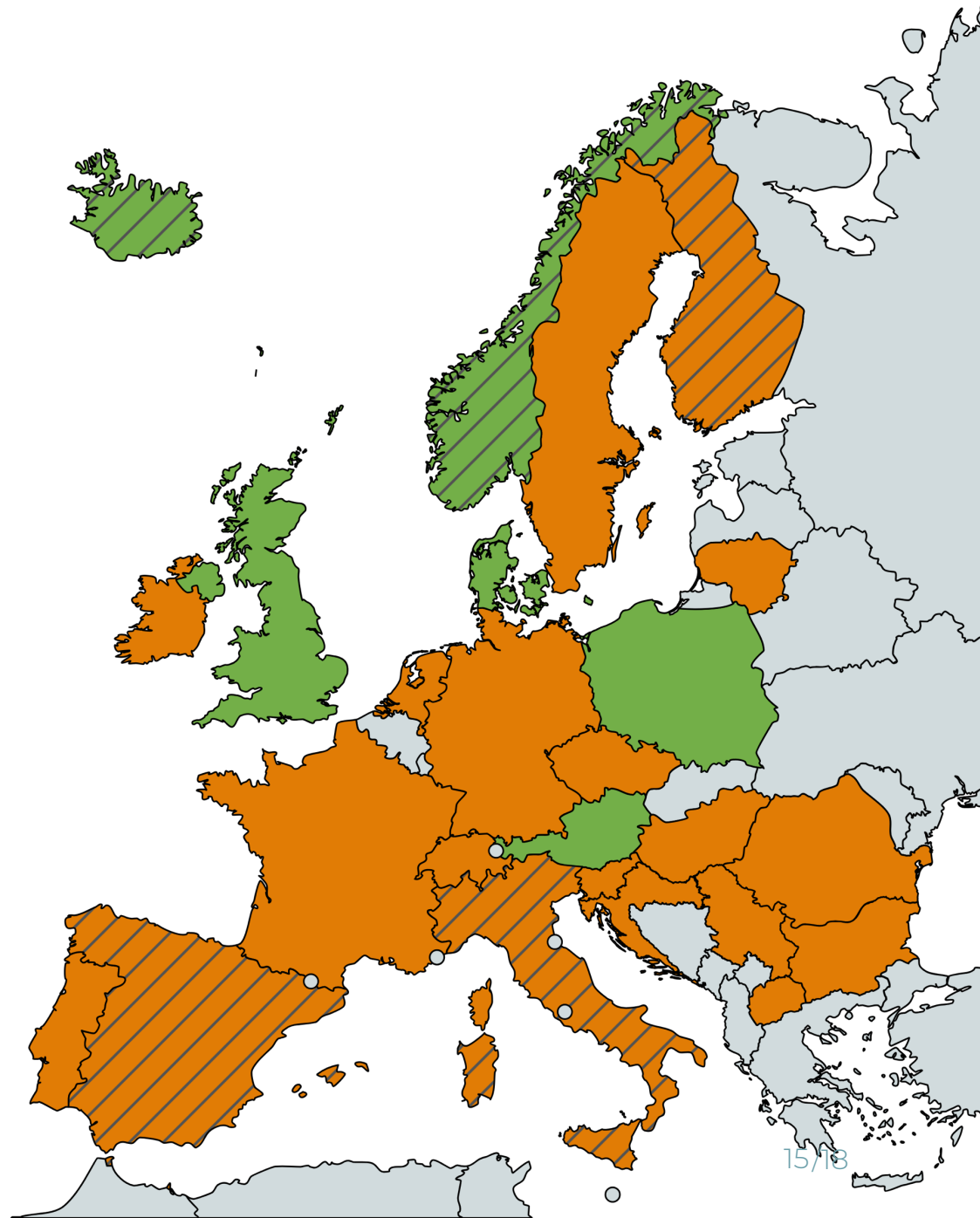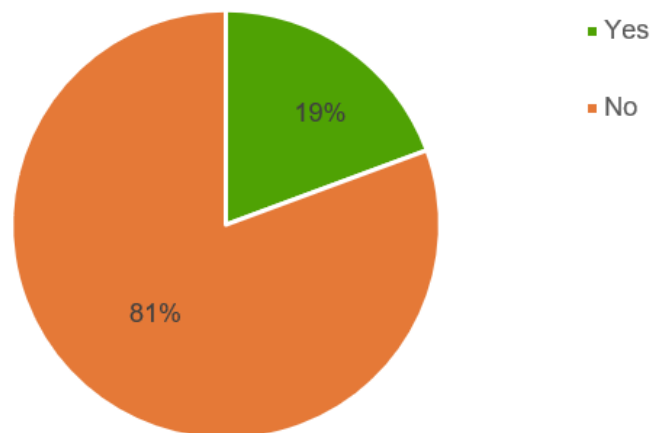
Has your association done any negotiation with publishers about the AI situation?

- Some associations are asking to update their good practice agreements and model contract and to include an AI clause or are monitoring the response individual publishers give translators who ask to add the AI clause they recommend.

- Others asked to cosign a statement in which authors and publishers promise not to let AI be part of literary translation (publishers were not interested) or hope to join forces with publishers' associations in asking the government for regulations/laws concerning AI and literary work.

- Others would like to find ways to encourage AI companies to license copyrighted material, for publishers to state their views on the use of AI by translators and to potentially make changes to contracts.

- In general, publishers seem to be rather reluctant to take the full steps but are not ruling out the matter either.

Concrete plans to be realized in the near future

- Many associations plan to publish statements and manifestos, conduct research and surveys, create guidelines, and organize training courses, workshops, webinars and panels

- Others plan to establish task forces for AI, implement new contract terms, AI regulations and so on

- There are plans to use the media (TV, radio, websites, press) to inform the public about the impact of AI on the industry and raise awareness among politicians

![CEATL — European Council of Literary Translators' Associations]

Further aims

There is a lot going on in the AI field and most CEATL member associations are addressing the issue in some way.

The CEATL Working Conditions Working Group is eager to collect all new information from the associations and try to summarize and publish further developments at regular intervals.

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