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Rolls Royce vs VW Beetle? A comparative study of EA quality control in the Netherlands and Denmark

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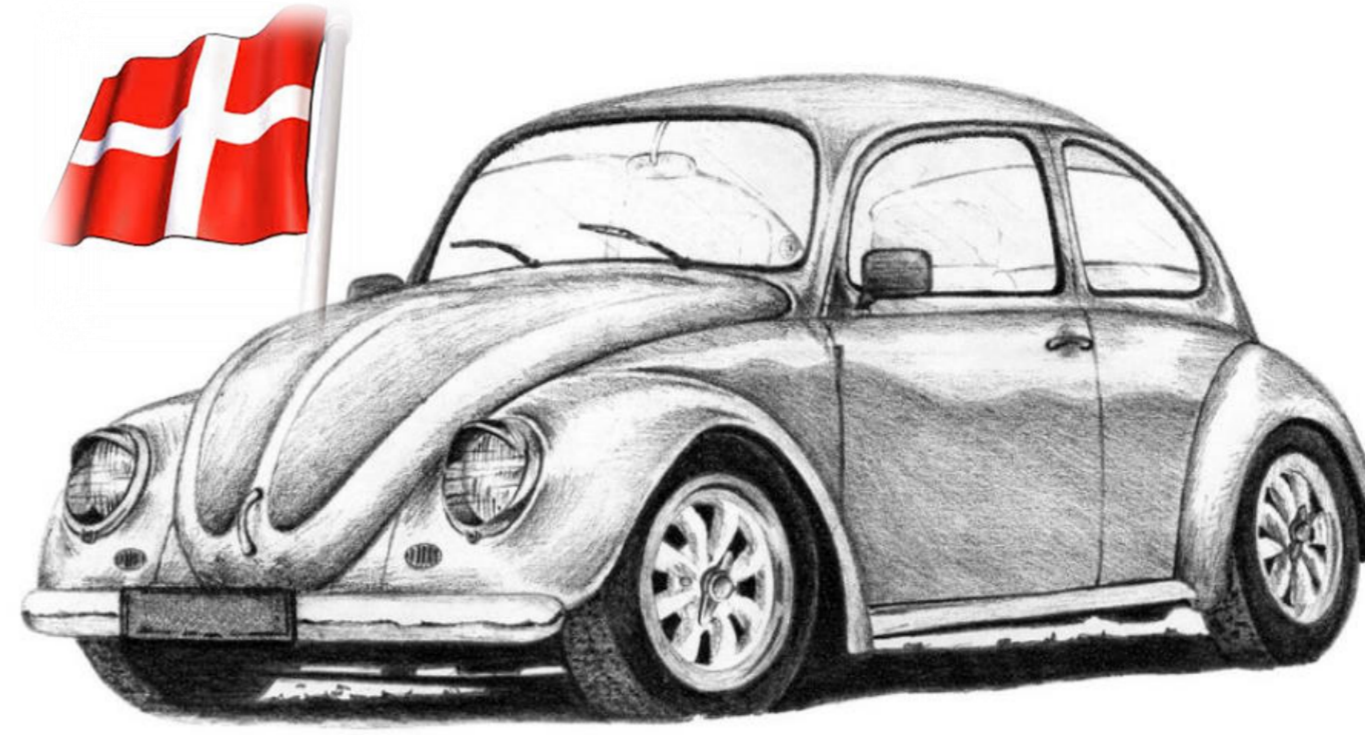
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Rolls Royce vs VW Beetle?

A comparative study of EA quality control in the Netherlands and Denmark

Rolls-Royce Phantom
 "The elite's car",
 a "technical wonder",
 high costs
 4.0 / 8.0 km/l



VW Beetle
 "The people's car"
 low cost
 17.0 km/l

Background and problem:

The European Commission has recently (2014) adopted a new EIA Directive that emphasises quality and control.

EA literature portray the Dutch system as the Rolls-Royce of EA systems with its scientific commission reviewing quality. In contrast, the Danish quality control system is widely build upon a trust in public engagement in the quality review.

This research investigate the effects of the different quality control systems; is the expert Rolls Royce or the people's car appropriate for quality control?

Methodology

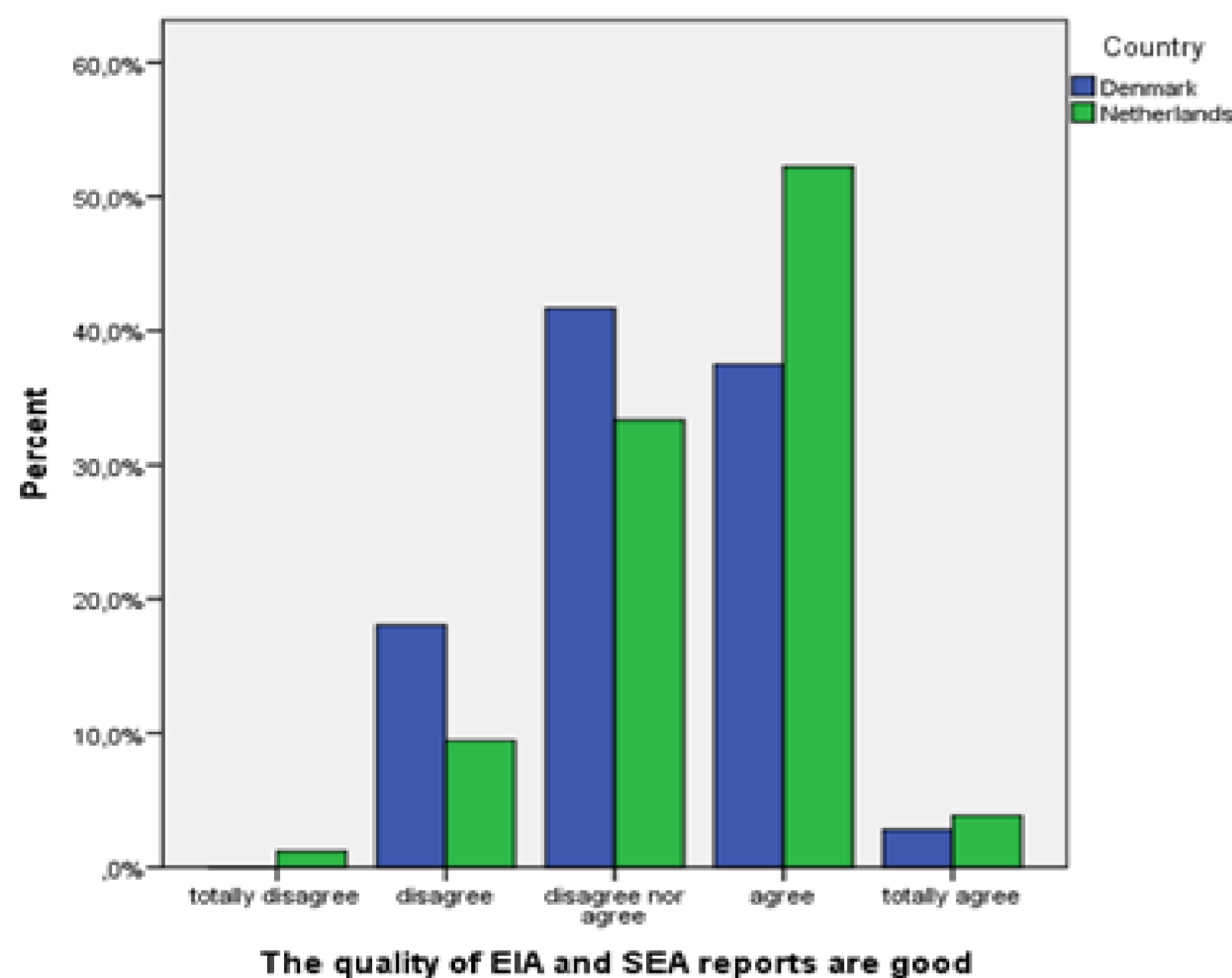
Repeating a survey conducted in the Netherlands and UK, we asked Danish EA practitioners about their experiences.

The survey is based on approximately 1/3 of the practitioners in NL (400) and DK (100)

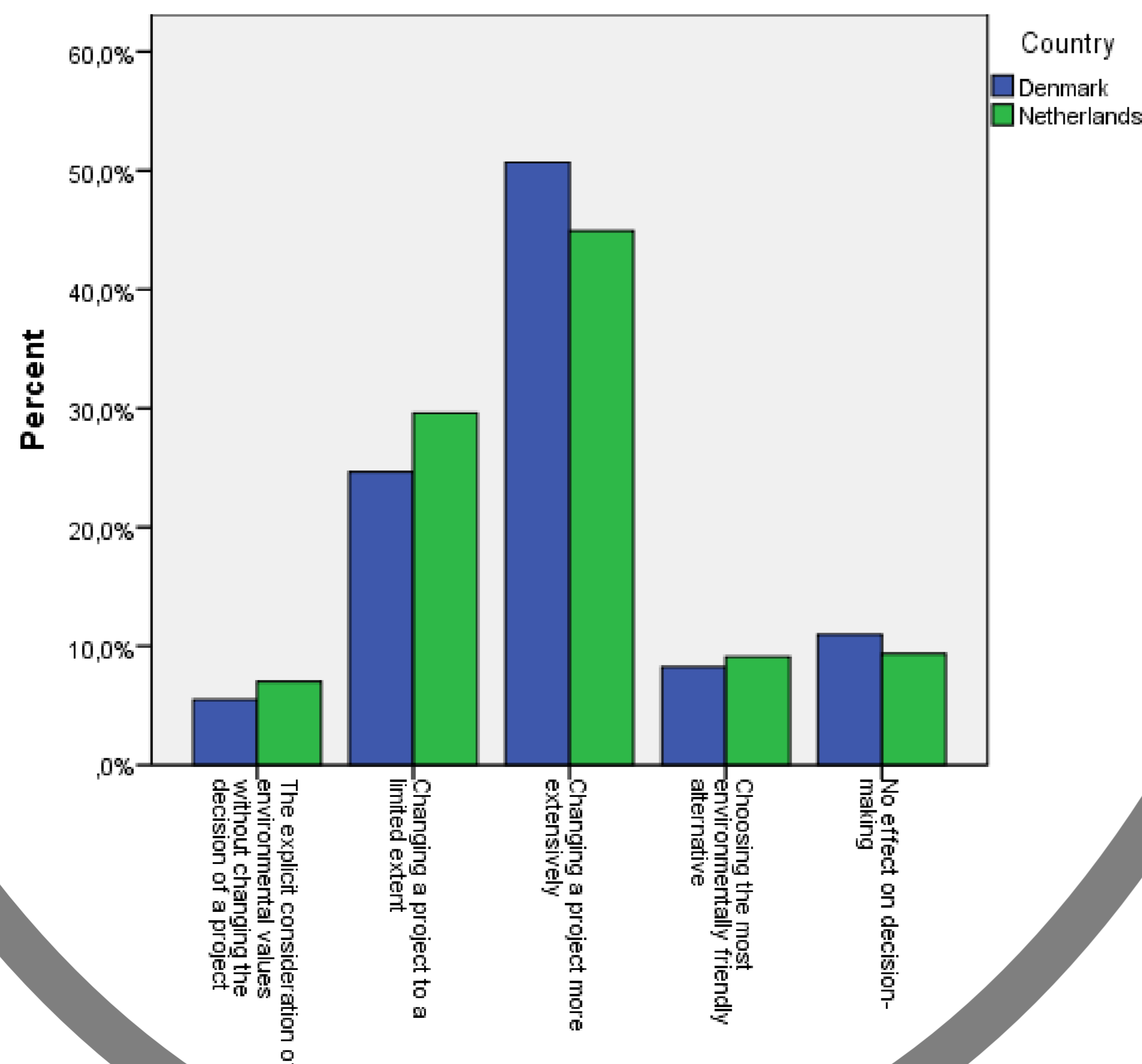
The survey data were analysed by statistical test and supplemented with expert interviews.

Findings

Quality of EA reports is better in NL...



... but effectiveness is similar!



Implications

With reservations for other influential factors and the limitations of investigating perceptions, the study suggests:

Implication A: Is the value of technically sound reports enough justification for keeping a costly system if effectiveness is not noticeably affected?

Implication B: Elements of the public (Beetle) quality control system may be more appropriate, since it places greater responsibility on an engaged polity.

We would like to hear you view on this!

- Ivar Lyhne & Matthew Cashmore, Aalborg University
- Hens Runhaar & Frank Laerhoven, Utrecht University

