

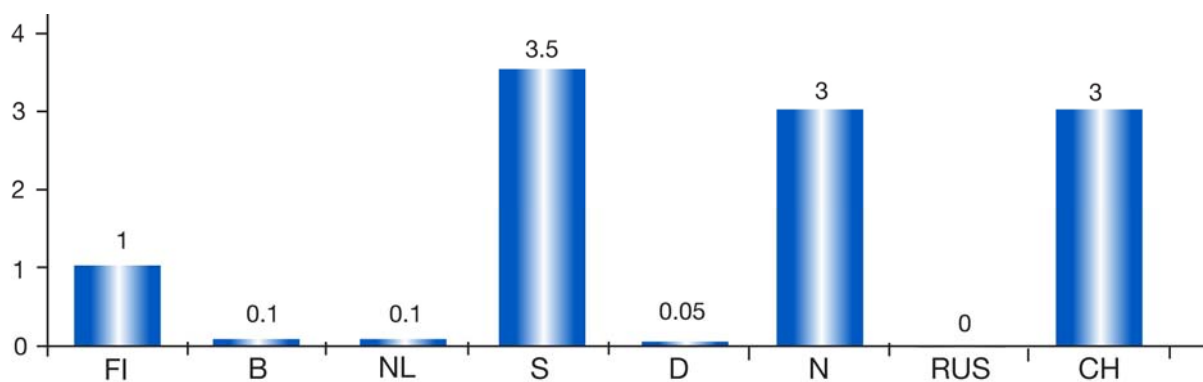


Market Penetration of Hybrid Cars in the Taxi Industry in Selected European Countries

(in % of hybrid taxis in the total taxi fleet)

Summary of an IRU 2009 survey¹

Market Penetration of Hybrid Cars in the Taxi Industry in Selected European Countries (in %)



Hybrid cars are still not very popular in the European taxi industry. However, in some countries such as Sweden, Switzerland and Norway, they are already visibly present on the market.

The explanations for the still relatively limited penetration of hybrid vehicles on the taxi market are mainly related to the lack of governmental incentives for their introduction by operators and to the technology of these vehicles, which has not yet reached that of conventional vehicles in terms of performance.

Main recommendations from the taxi industry:

- Authorities: to provide state aid and incentives to operators.
- Manufacturers:
 - to provide a larger choice of hybrid vehicles;
 - to improve the reliability of hybrid cars (and of batteries!) and their mileage;
 - to reduce the costs of both cars and their maintenance, and provide better guarantee conditions;
 - to provide better leasing conditions for this type of vehicle (from manufacturers and their distributors).
- Fuel distributors: to improve the distribution of alternative fuels.

¹ The survey covered the following countries: Finland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Germany, Norway and Russia.