The impact of electrification and digitalisation on Nordic dealer aftersales strategies

What has happened, and what will the future hold?

Christophe Guillaneuf and Thomas Chieux ICDP 2025 Nordic study, part 3











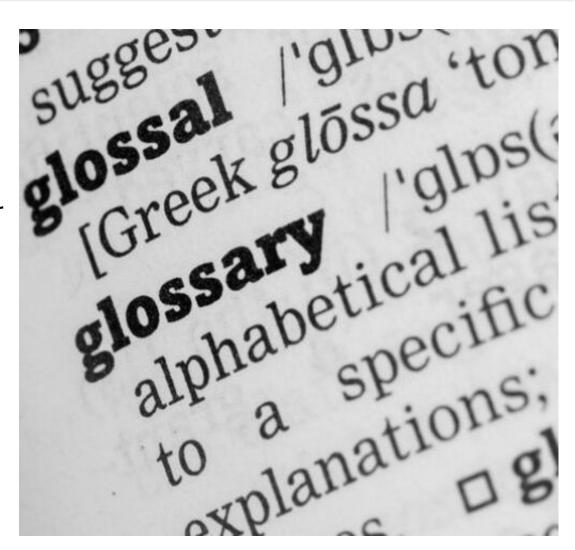
This year's ICDP Nordic study is broken up into three outputs, looking at network consolidation, Chinese new entrants, and the impact of electrification on the aftermarket



Source: ICDP

Glossary of terms

- BEV: Battery Electric Vehicle
- BRC: Battery Repair Centre
- HV Battery: High Voltage Battery
- IAM: Independent Aftermarket
- ICE: Internal Combustion Engine
- OEM: Original Equipment Manufacturer i.e. Car Manufacturer
- OtA: Over-the-Air
- PC: Passenger Car
- SoH: State of Health
- WMS: Workshop Management System



With the support of the four dealer associations, we conducted a survey amongst a sample of OEM-franchised dealers across the Nordic markets, focusing on three aftermarket-related topics



Source: ICDP

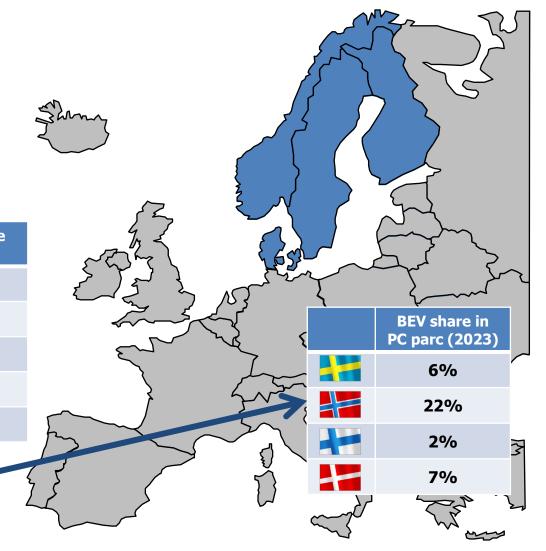
The survey was conducted online during the first quarter of 2025. In total 262 dealers accessed the questionnaire, providing 180 completed sets of questions

- Online survey among OEM franchised dealers and dealer groups
- 4 markets covered
 - Denmark
 - Finland
 - Norway
 - Sweden
- Sample size

	Total number of dealers accessing the survey	Total number of completed questionnaires	Average workshop size (# of technicians)
	96	65	11
	85	59	14
	47	33	19
+	34	23	18
Total	262	180	

 Across a number of the questions, we will contrast Norway (as the most established BEV market) with the other 3 Nordic markets

Source: ICDP and European Alternative Fuels Observatory

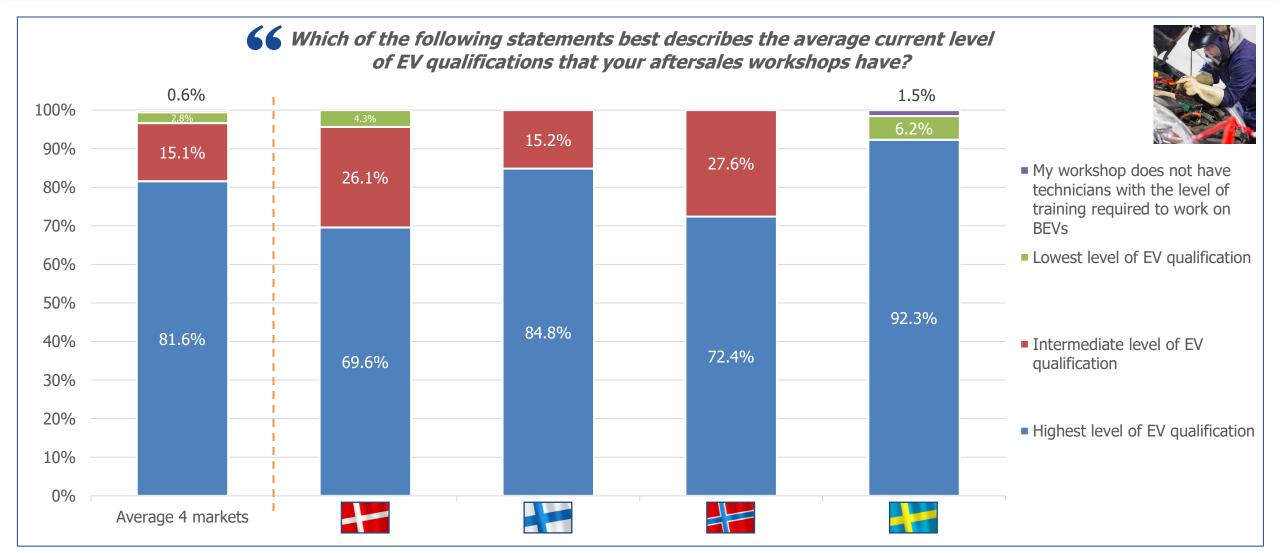


BEVs and aftersales activity – the impact of BEV technology and customer attitudes and expectations on dealer workshop organisation and the provision of additional services





Most technicians at Nordic dealers have the highest level of EV qualification, although this is not necessarily aligned with the current share of BEVs in the local car parcs ...

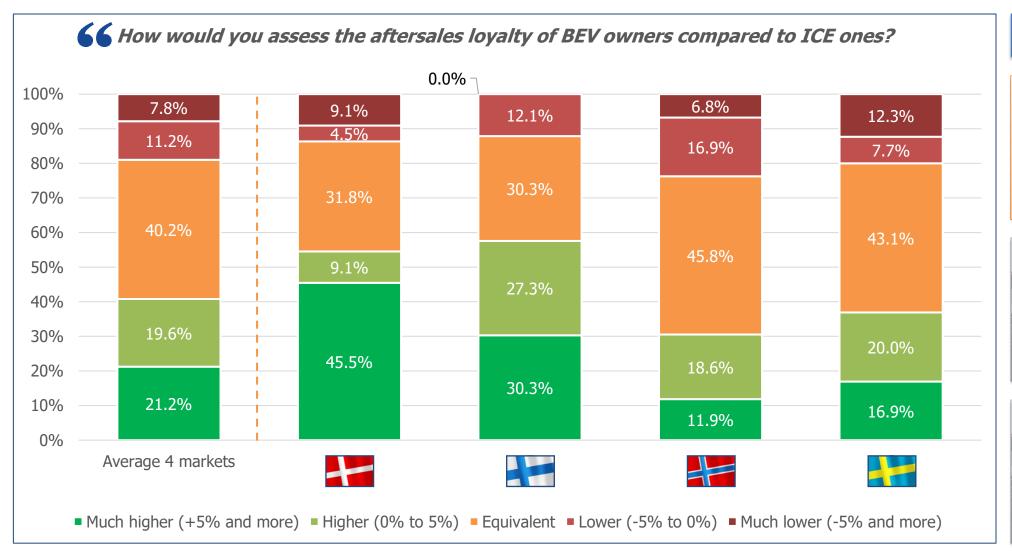


Electric car customers – attitudes towards aftersales





Overall, 41% of the dealers considered that the loyalty of BEV customers for <u>service jobs</u> is much higher or higher than that of ICE customers



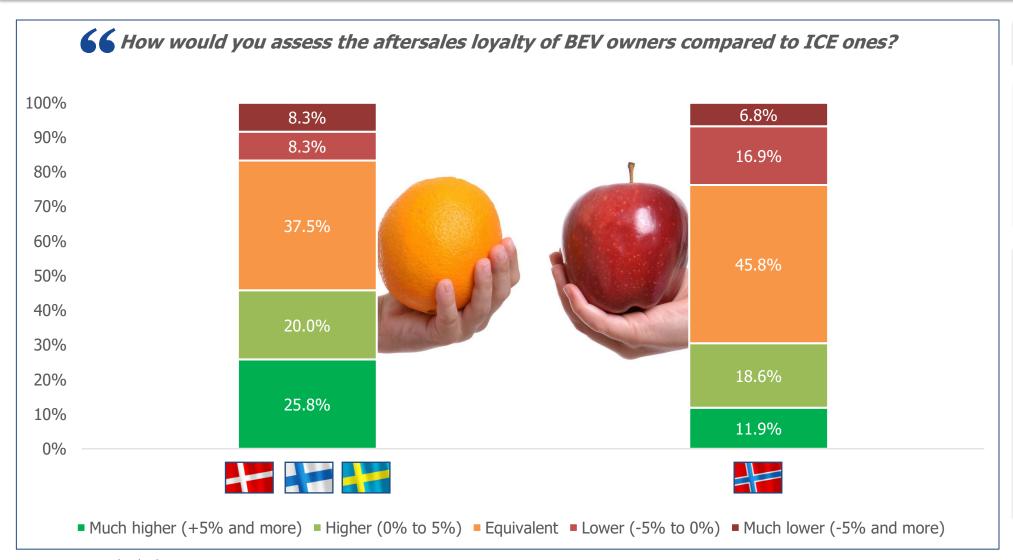
Loyalty







BEV customer loyalty to dealers for **service**: Norway compared with the other Nordic markets

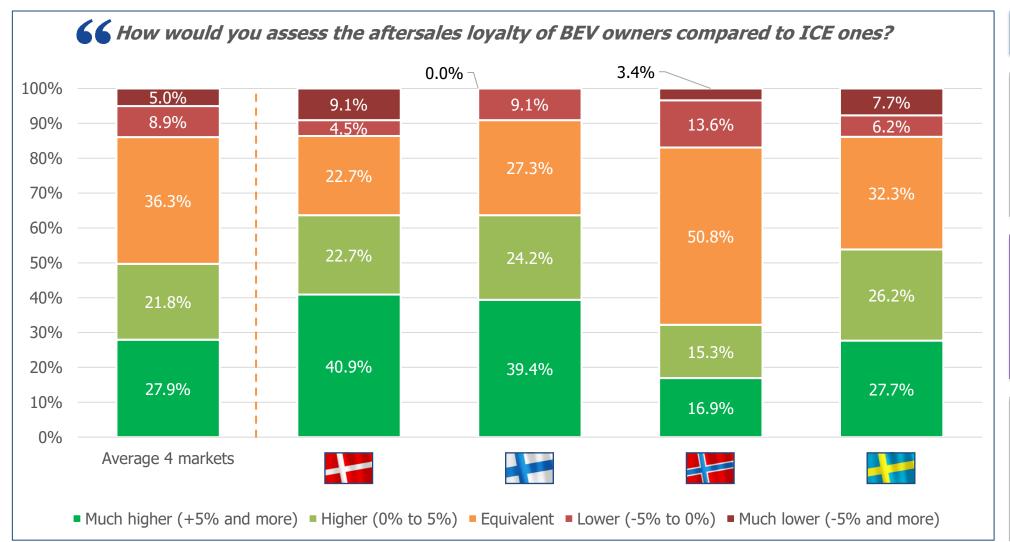


Loyalty



Comparing Norway with the other 3 markets tends to show that, **for service**, the higher starting loyalty of 'early adopter' BEV customers towards dealers tends to decline as BEVs spread to the mainstream market

When it comes to <u>mechanical repairs</u>, the share of dealers who considered that BEV customers are more loyal than ICE customers is – logically – higher, at around 50%



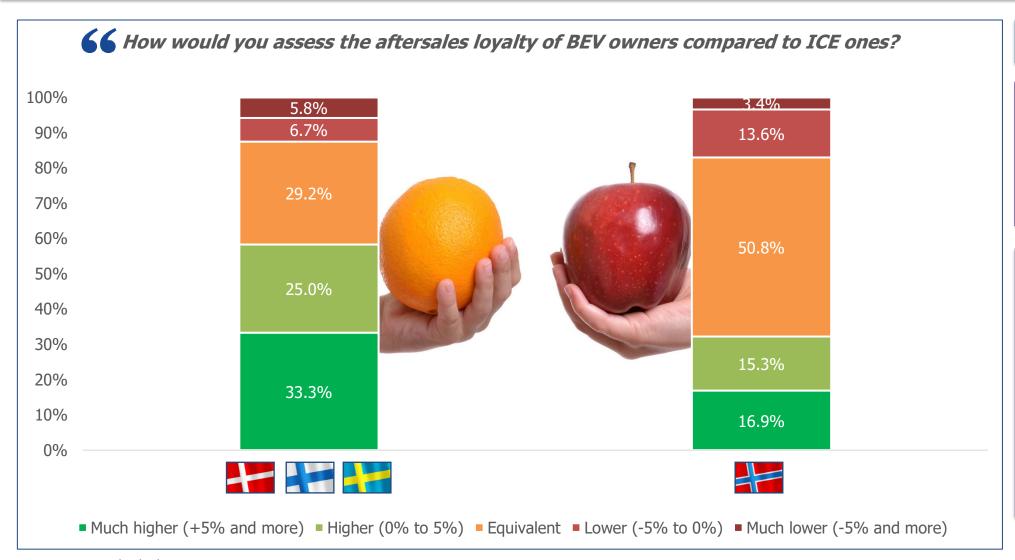
Loyalty







BEV customer loyalty to dealers for <u>mechanical repairs</u>: Norway compared with the other Nordic markets

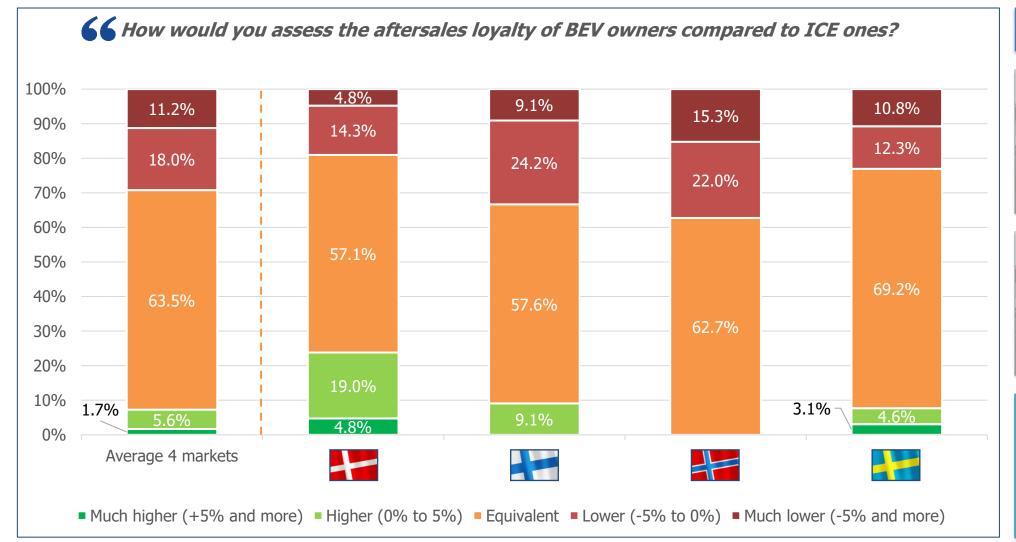


Loyalty



The same conclusion
for mechanical
repairs as for
servicing: the higher
starting loyalty of 'early
adopter' BEV customers
towards dealers tends
to decline as the BEV
share in the car parc
increases

For <u>tyre replacement operations</u>, 64% of Nordic dealers felt that BEV customers are as loyal as ICE customers, or even less loyal for 29% of them



Loyalty

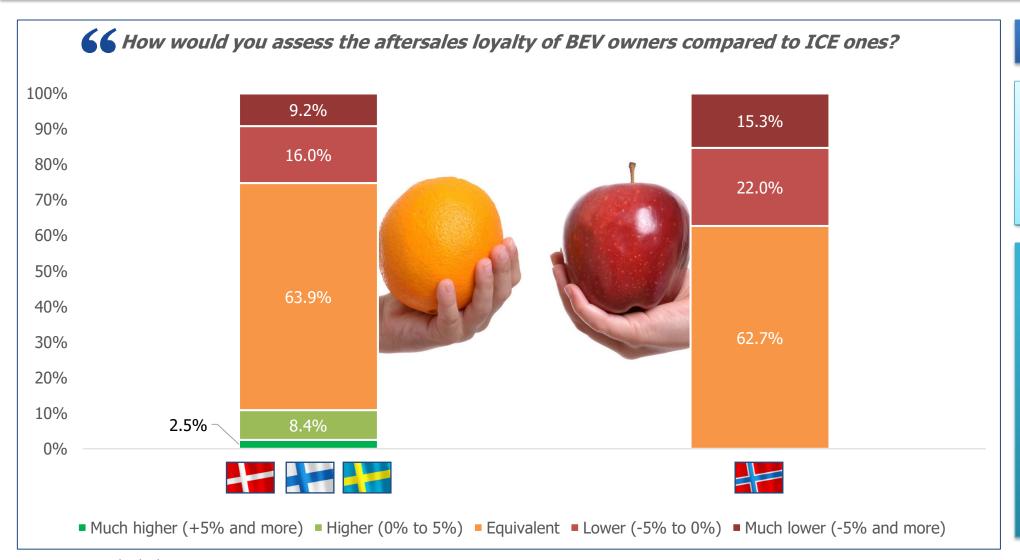








BEV customer loyalty to dealers for <u>tyre replacement operations</u>: Norway compared with the other Nordic markets

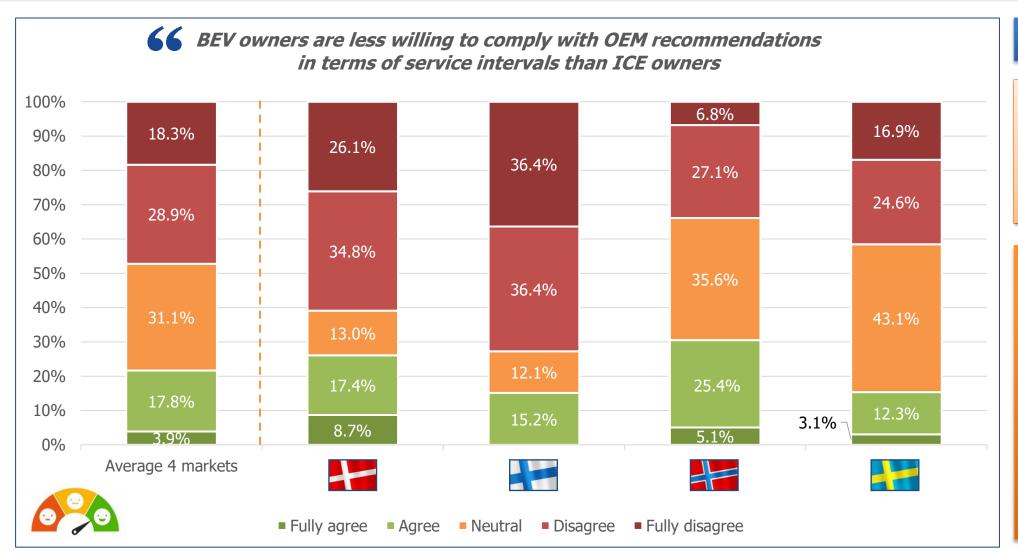


Loyalty



For tyres, the comparison between Norway and the 3 other markets shows a fairly balanced outcome. This might mean that loyalty of BEV owners towards dealers remains stable (and low?) as BEVs spread to the mainstream market

A clear majority of Danish and Finnish dealers didn't feel that BEV customers are less inclined to comply with OEM service recommendations. However, Norwegian and Swedish dealer views are more nuanced

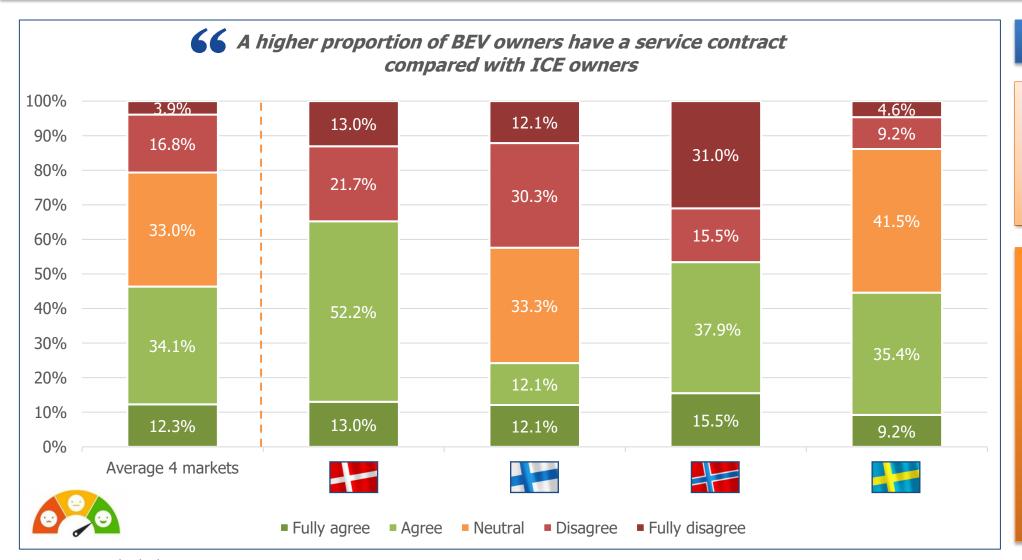


Service recommendations



Comparing Norwegian dealers' perceptions with those of the other markets tends to show that, as BEV customers grow more used to their car, a proportion of them stop fully complying with their OEM's service interval recommendations

Dealers in all markets apart from Finland felt that their BEV customers are more likely to have taken out a service contract than ICE customers

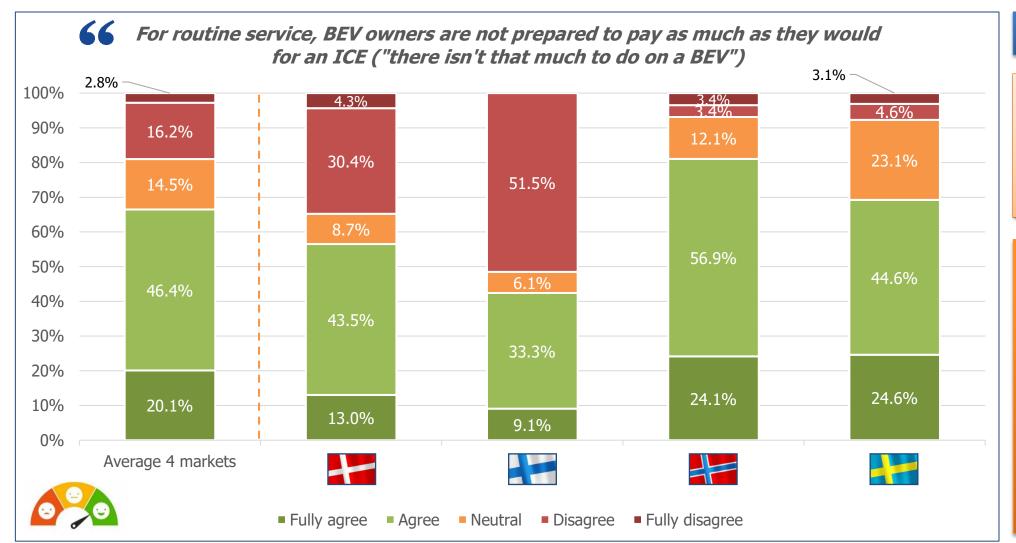


Service contract



Overall, dealers
perceived that BEV
owners are more likely
to have a service
contract versus ICE
customers. However,
this view varied widely
across markets, and in
Norway, dealers'
opinions were much
more balanced

Two-thirds of the dealers felt that BEV customers would NOT be prepared to pay as much for routine servicing as they would for an ICE car

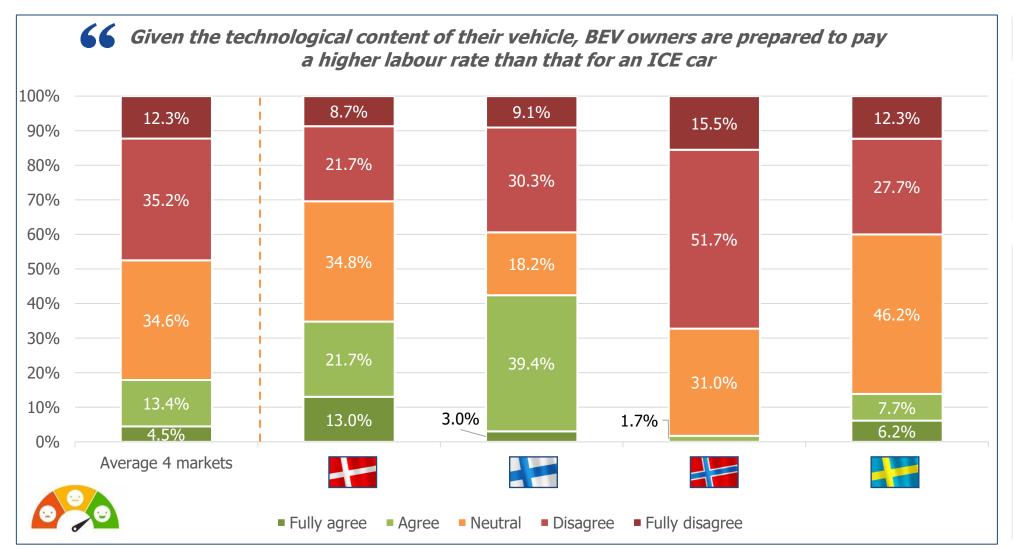


Preparedness to pay



Dealers felt that BEV customers will increasingly expect lower service costs than for ICEs, to match the lighter needs of their BEV. The responses from Norwegian dealers suggest that this trend is strengthening as the BEV parc grows

48% of the dealer respondents felt that BEV customers would not be prepared to pay a higher aftersales labour rate than for an ICE car, despite the higher technological content of their BEV

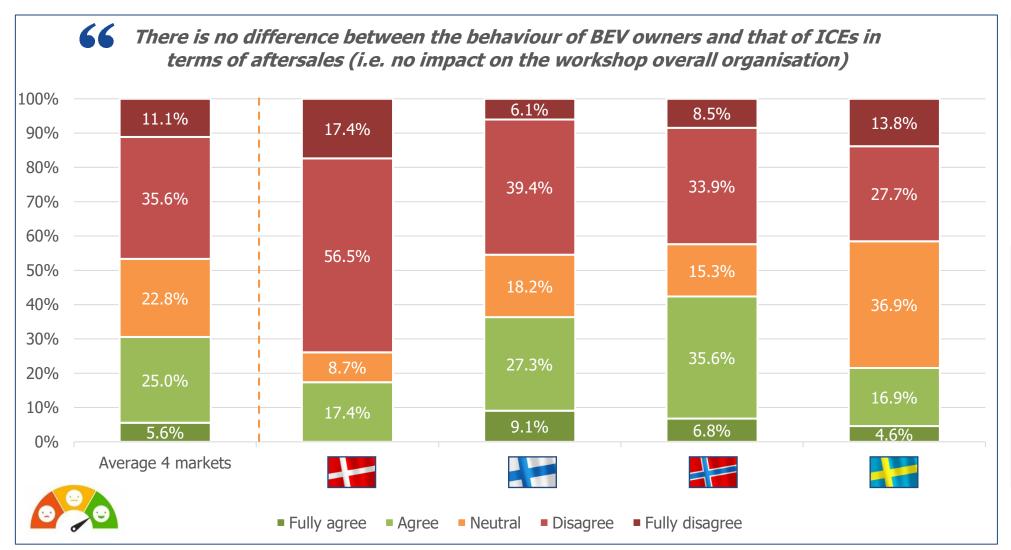


Preparedness to pay



More widely, as BEV customers get more used to their car's technology, they do not see why they should pay a BEV-specific labour rate. Again, this trend is confirmed by the responses from Norway, the most established BEV market

Around 47% of dealers felt that the overall expectations of BEV customers were the same as those of ICE customers, although responses ranged from 74% in Denmark down to 42% in Sweden

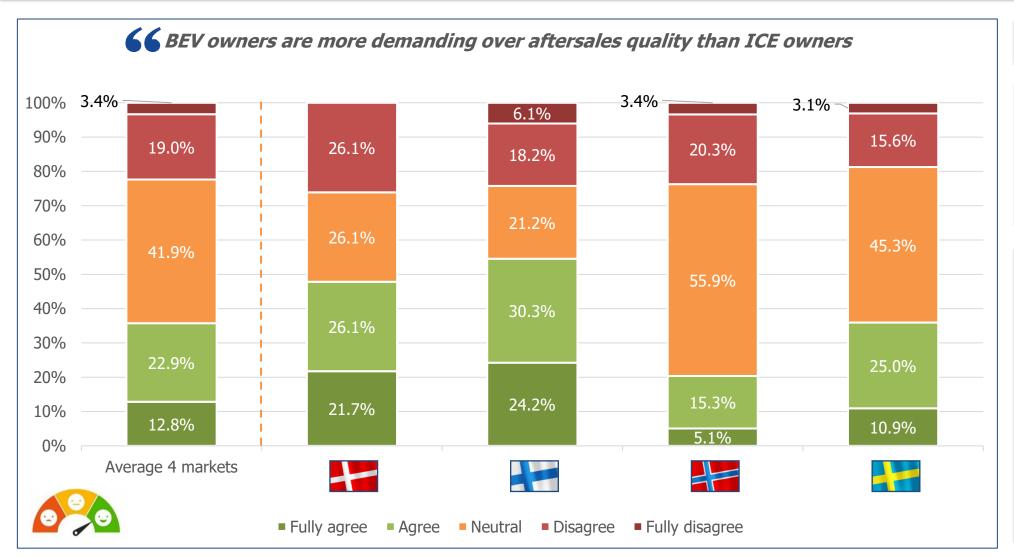


Overall aftersales behaviour



Overall, the dealers felt that they might need to make changes in their workshop organisation to handle more BEVs. However, the views of Norwegian dealers were more mixed on this point

When it comes to service quality, Danish and Finnish dealers felt that BEV customers are more demanding than ICE ones, but their Norwegian and Swedish counterparts had a more neutral view

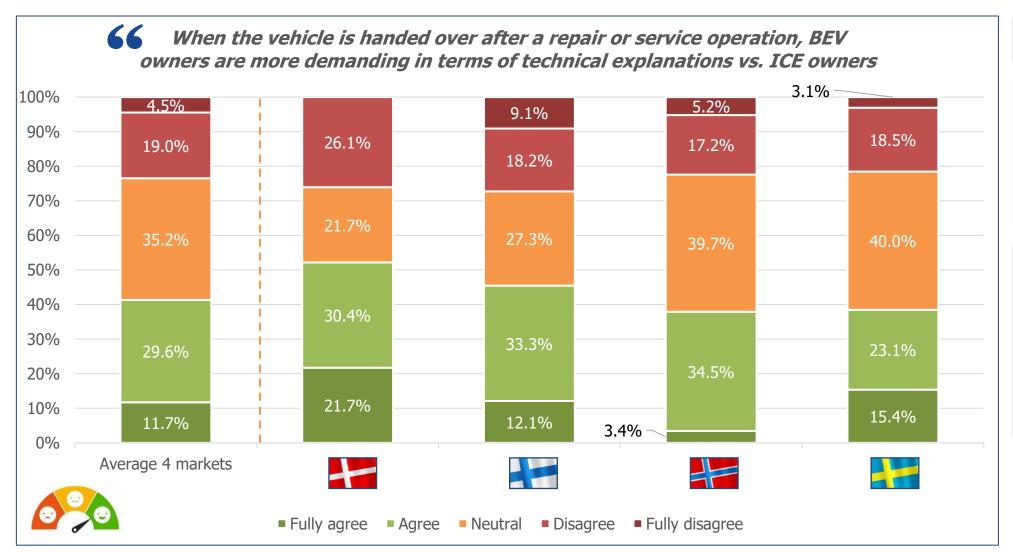


Quality of work



The same comment applies to service quality expectations. Danish, Finnish, and Swedish dealers felt that BEV customers were more demanding than ICE customers, but the Norwegian dealers did not necessarily agree ...

However, the dealers (especially in Denmark) did generally agree that BEV customers are more demanding than ICE customers when it comes to wanting aftersales work to be explained to them fully

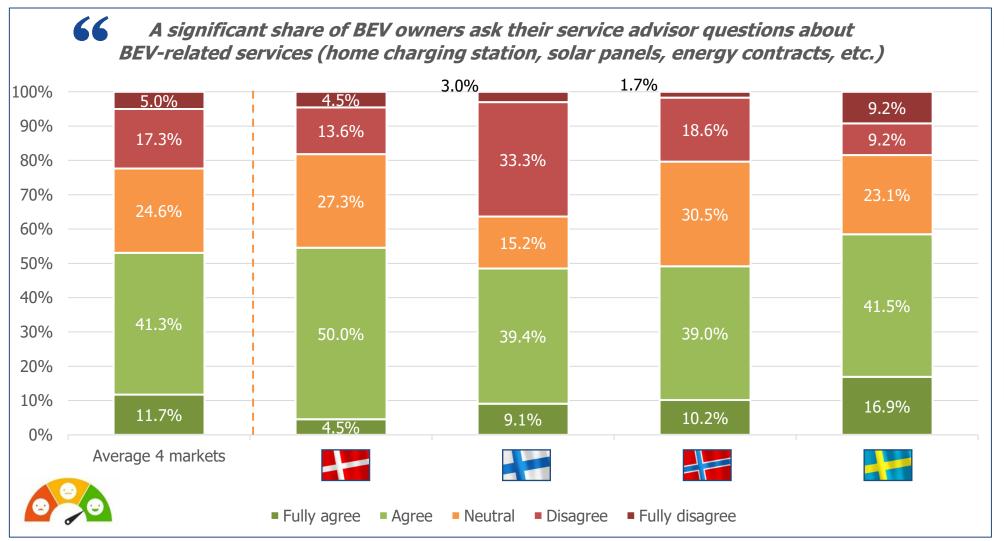


Technical information



Overall, aftersales advisors need to be ready to answer technical questions when they hand BEVs back to customers after service or repair work

However, the dealers (apart from in Finland) did generally agree that BEV customers tend to turn to their aftersales advisor when they have questions about BEV-related services

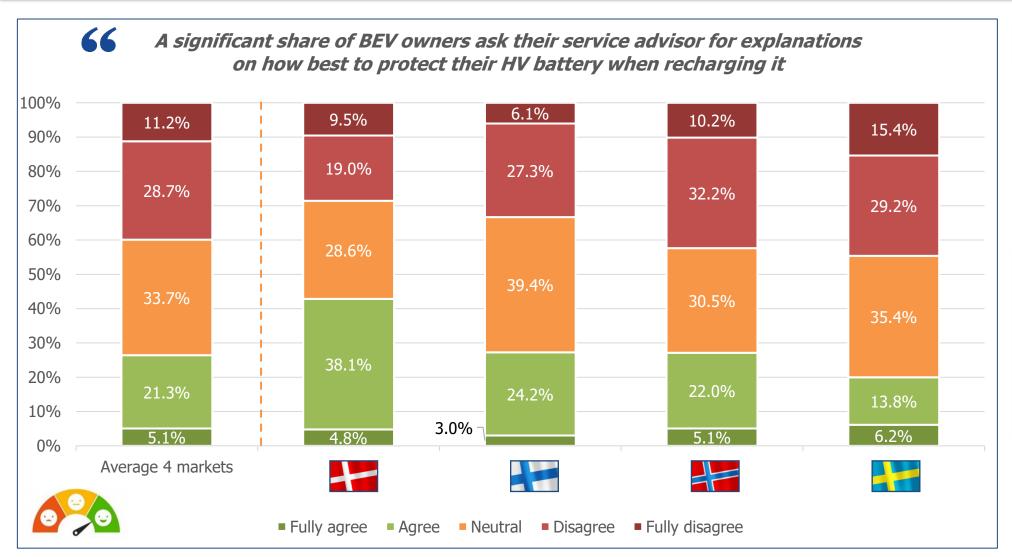


BEV-related services



Aftersales advisors also need to be ready to provide practical information on a wide range of BEV-related services

40% of dealers felt that BEV customers tend not to ask questions when they are at the workshop around how best to protect the car's HV battery during recharging

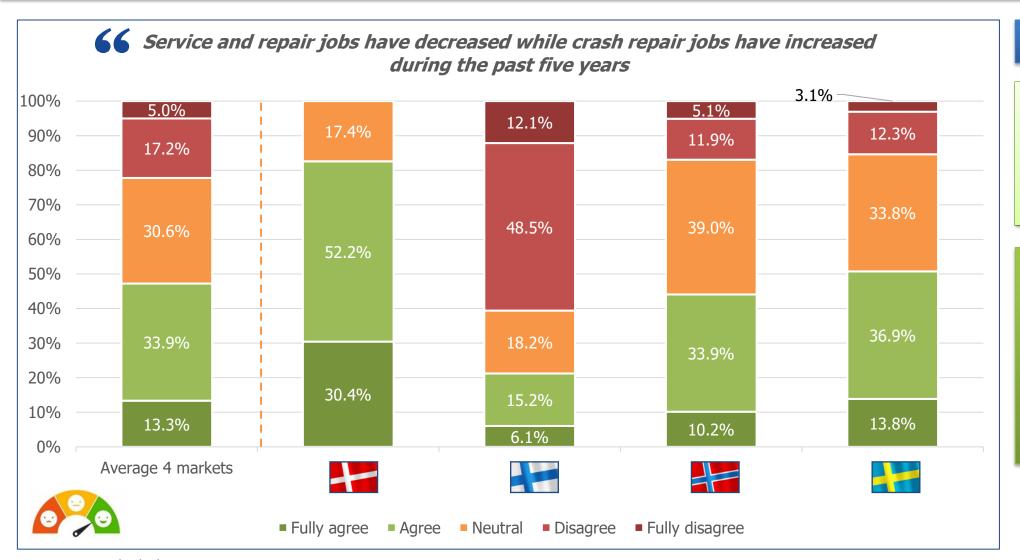


HV battery charging



But, on the whole, as customers get more used to BEV technology, fewer of them will need to ask for advice related to the battery recharging process

Dealer views on the overall workshop impact of BEVs varied. While 83% of Danish dealers felt that service and repair jobs had fallen and crash repair work grown, only 21% of Finnish dealers agreed



Crash repairs



For those dealers operating crash repair facilities, the number of jobs generated by BEVs does appear to be offsetting the fall in the number of mechanical service and repair jobs

In summary, if we consider the Norwegian dealers' current perceptions as an illustration of what could happen in the near future in the other Nordic markets, some conclusions are already emerging ...

- BEV customers' overall aftersales behaviour is getting closer to that of ICE customers
 - Although they are slightly more likely to have a service contract ...
 - ... Their higher starting loyalty towards dealers tends to decline at least for service and repair
- As they become more accustomed to their car, customers grow more able to weigh up the pros and cons
 of BEV technology
 - They feel that the price they pay for service should be consistent with the lighter service needs of BEVs
 - Some of them do not even fully comply with the OEM service recommendations
 - And they do not see why they should pay a BEV-specific labour rate, no matter what the type of job
- In terms of BEV-related services offered by dealers
 - Customers tend not to need any further advice over battery charging
 - But aftersales advisors need to be ready to answer technical and practical questions when they hand over vehicles
- Overall, the handling of BEVs may lead both to changes in workshop organisation, and to a need to provide a higher quality of service. However, Norwegian dealers' views remain mixed on those points
- For those dealers handling crash repairs, the number of operations generated by BEVs continues to offset the fall in the number of service and repair jobs

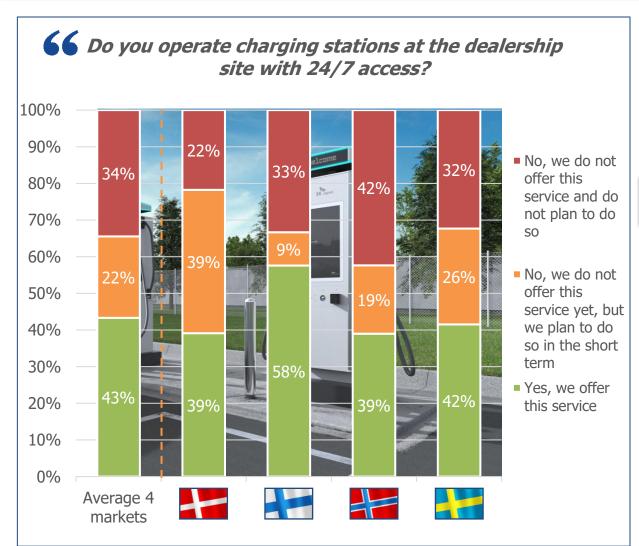
Source: ICDP

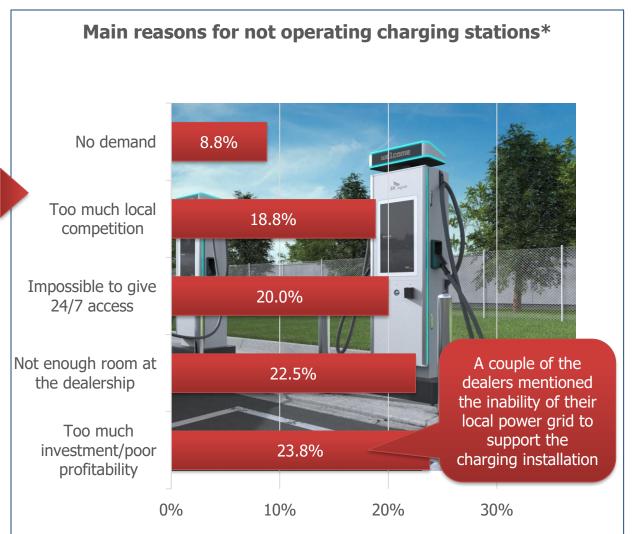
BEVs and additional services – charging stations and battery repair centres





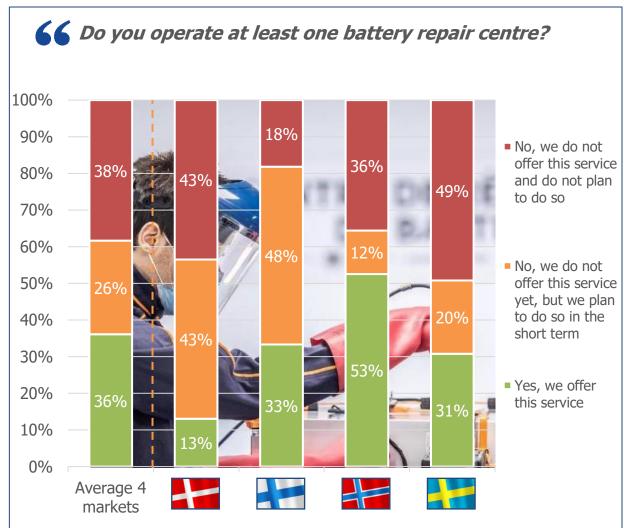
43% of the respondent dealers operate 24/7 charging stations, with Norwegian dealers the least equipped. The main reasons for not offering this service were the lack of return and the lack of space ...

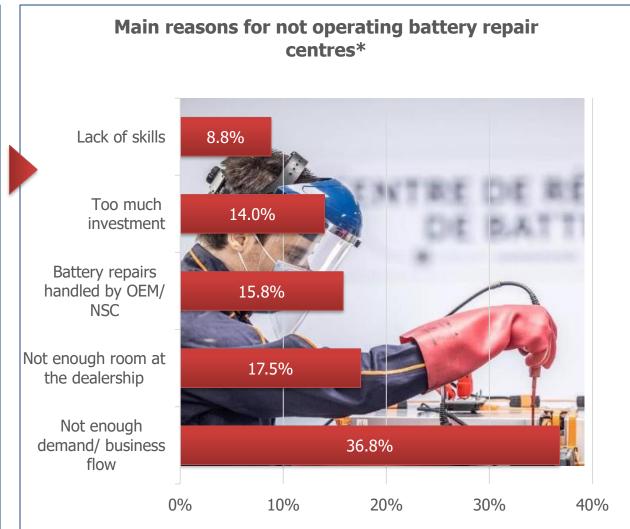




Source: ICDP Nordic dealer survey 2025; n = 180. * Average for 4 markets of dealers answering 'No, we do not offer this service and do not plan to do so'

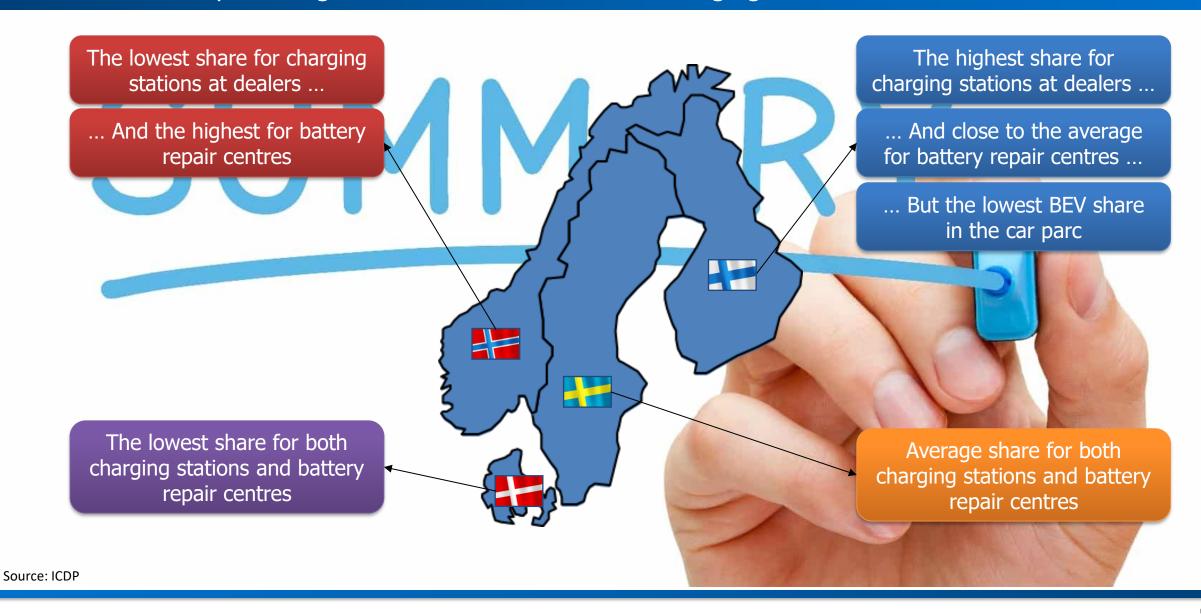
The survey revealed a mixed picture of battery repair centres. 53% of Norwegian dealers operate one, but only 13% of Danish dealers have taken this step so far. The main obstacle remains a lack of demand





Source: ICDP Nordic dealer survey 2025; n = 180. * Average for 4 markets of dealers answering 'No, we do not offer this service and do not plan to do so'

Looking at the direction many Norwegian dealers have taken, it appears that a battery repair centre could be a more promising investment than a 24/7 EV charging station

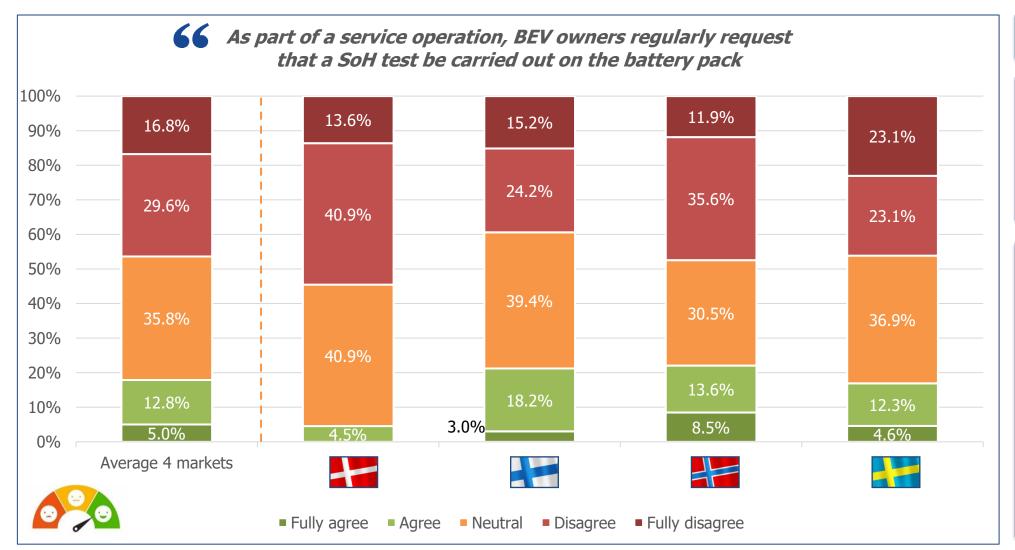


BEVs and additional services – the provision of battery State of Health testing





So far, only 18% of Nordic dealers felt that BEV customers are asking for SoH testing as part of their regular service. This share varies from 5% in Denmark to 22% in Norway

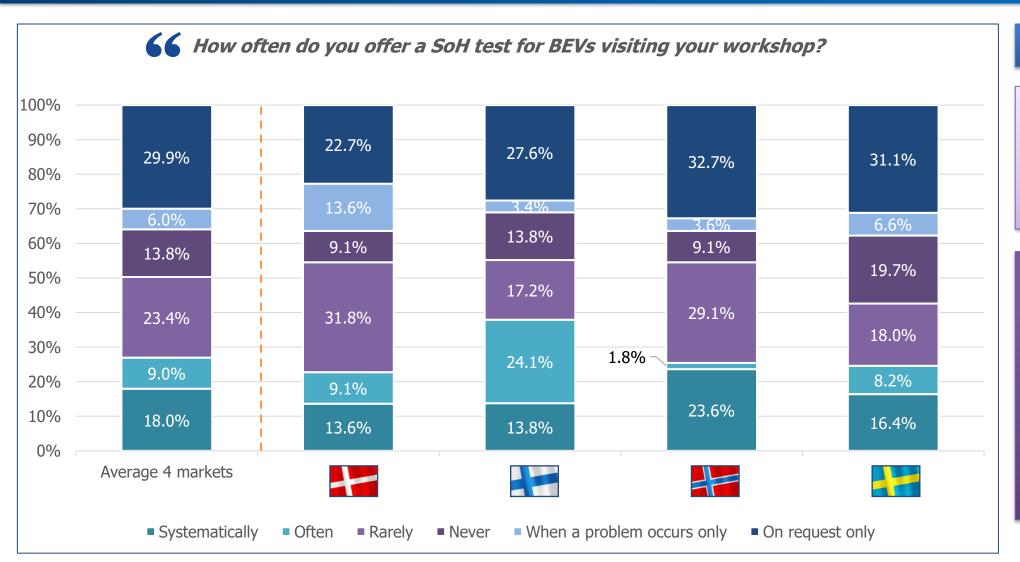


SoH testing



Norwegian BEV customers are felt to be the most likely to request a SoH test, although not yet in large numbers. This may be due to battery degradation being lower in practice than many customers (and the sector) initially feared

Only 27% of dealers 'systematically' or 'often' provide a SoH test at a BEV workshop visit, versus 37% 'rarely' or 'never'. 30% only offer it on request. Finnish dealers are the most inclined to offer a test



SoH testing

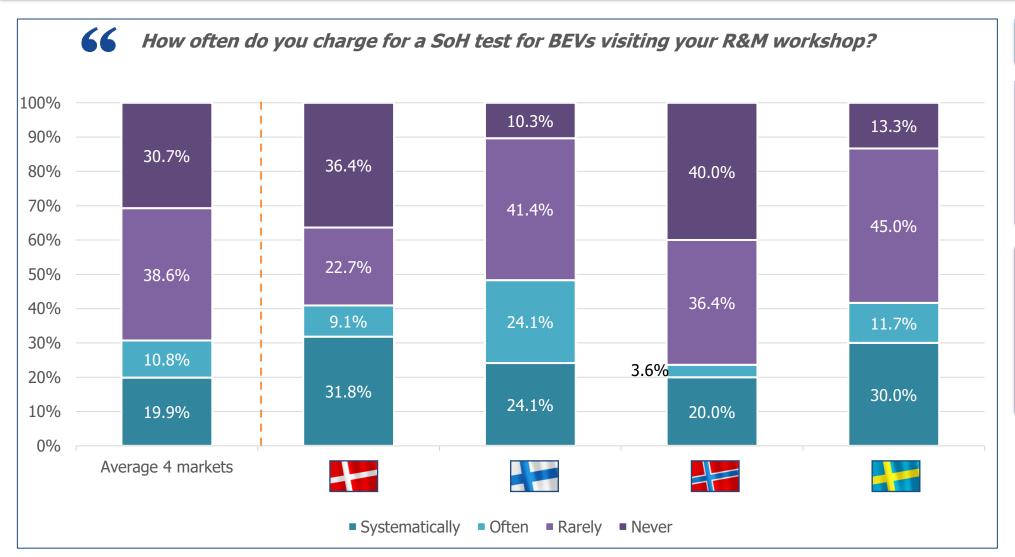


Norwegian dealers are by far the most likely to offer SoH testing 'systematically' to customers, and their low score for 'often' suggests that offering a test is increasingly embedded as an aftersales process

Source: ICDP Nordic dealer survey 2025; n = 167

32

Most Nordic dealers do not usually charge the customer for providing a SoH test at the workshop. In Norway, only 20% of dealers are systematically invoicing for this service

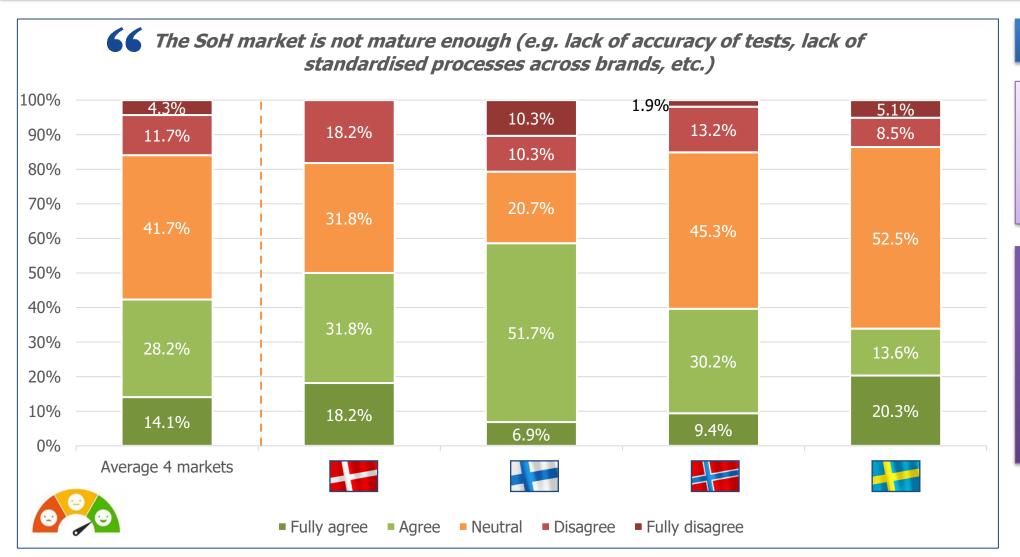


SoH testing



Overall, dealers, including Norwegian dealers, are reluctant to make their BEV customers pay for a SoH test

42% of the respondent dealers felt that the SoH market is 'not yet mature'; 15% disagreed, and 42% had a neutral view. This lack of consensus explains a certain 'wait and see' approach to SoH testing

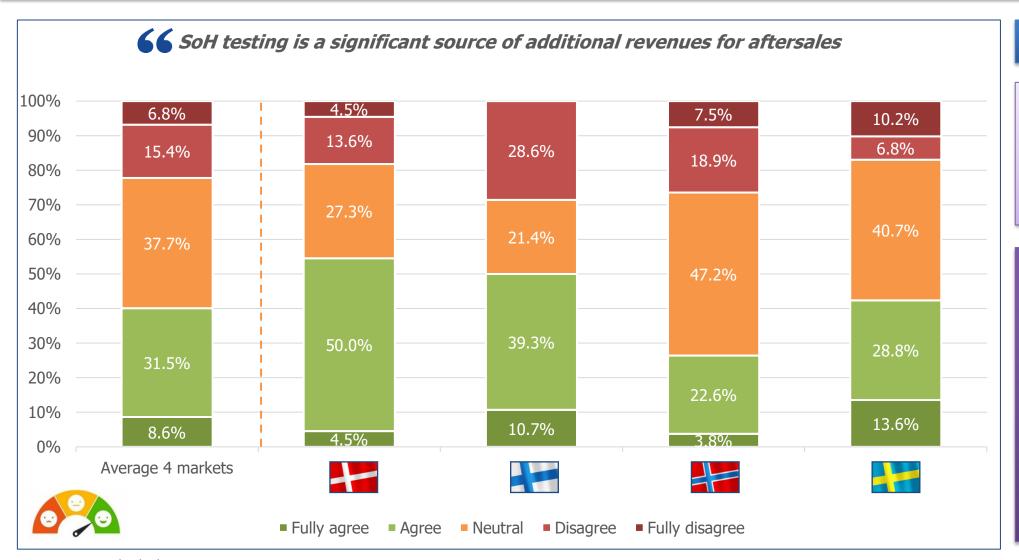


SoH testing



The dealers tended to feel that the SoH testing market is not yet mature.
Interestingly, this was still the view in the larger Norwegian BEV market

This view can also be explained by the fact that, currently, 'only' 40% of Nordic dealers see SoH testing as a significant source of profit – ranging from 55% in Denmark down to 26% in Norway

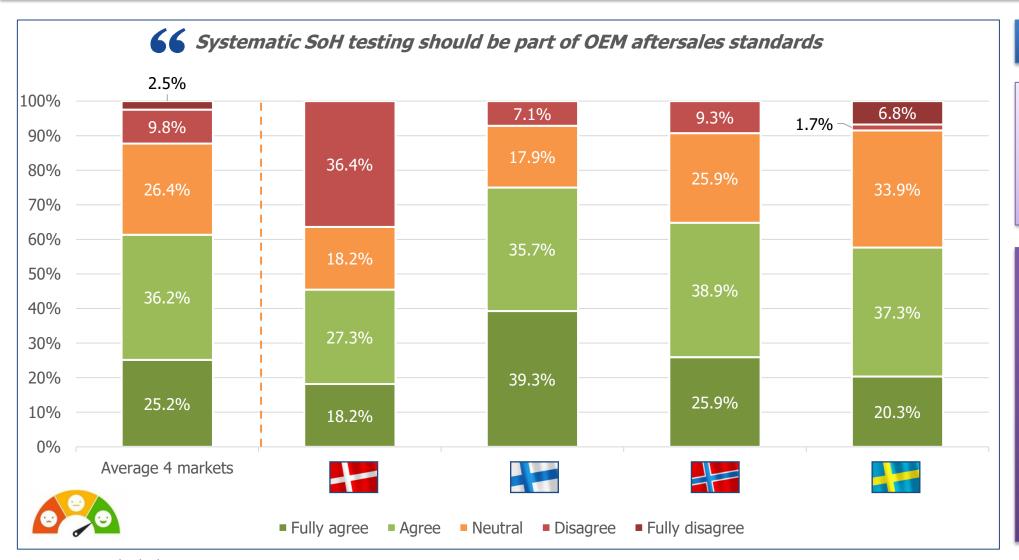


SoH testing



While most Nordic dealers seem to be betting on SoH testing becoming a source of additional aftersales income, their enthusiasm may be dampened by the more pessimistic views of their Norwegian counterparts ...

With the exception of Denmark, a majority of dealers felt that the systematic provision of SoH testing should be the responsibility of the car manufacturers

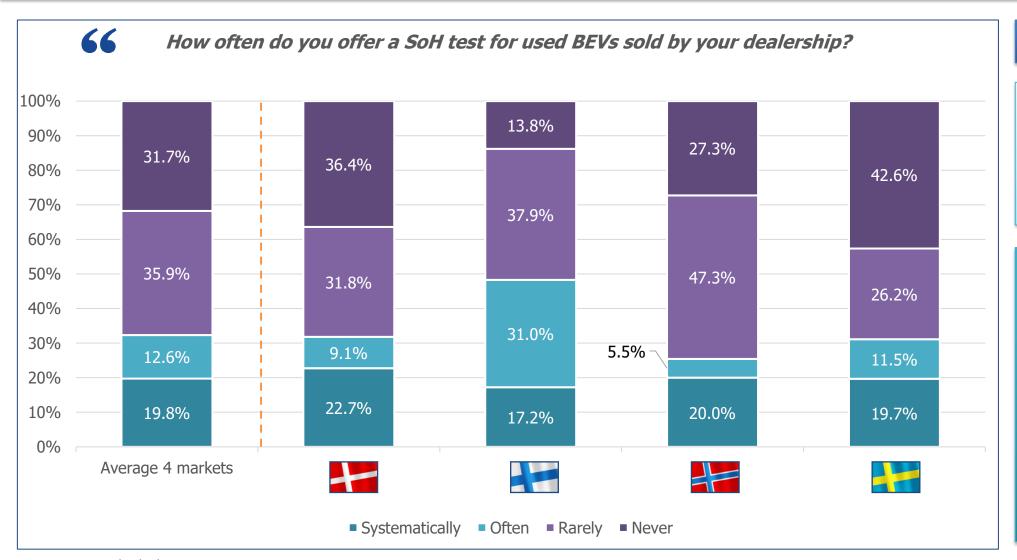


SoH testing



Dealers appear to be more inclined to carry out SoH tests if this process is included in OEM aftersales standards. Are they therefore expecting that the additional SoH testing revenue will come from the OEMs paying them a bonus?

As with aftersales jobs, Nordic dealers do not usually offer a SoH test when a used BEV is sold. Only around 20% of the respondent dealers do so systematically, although Finland scores above average



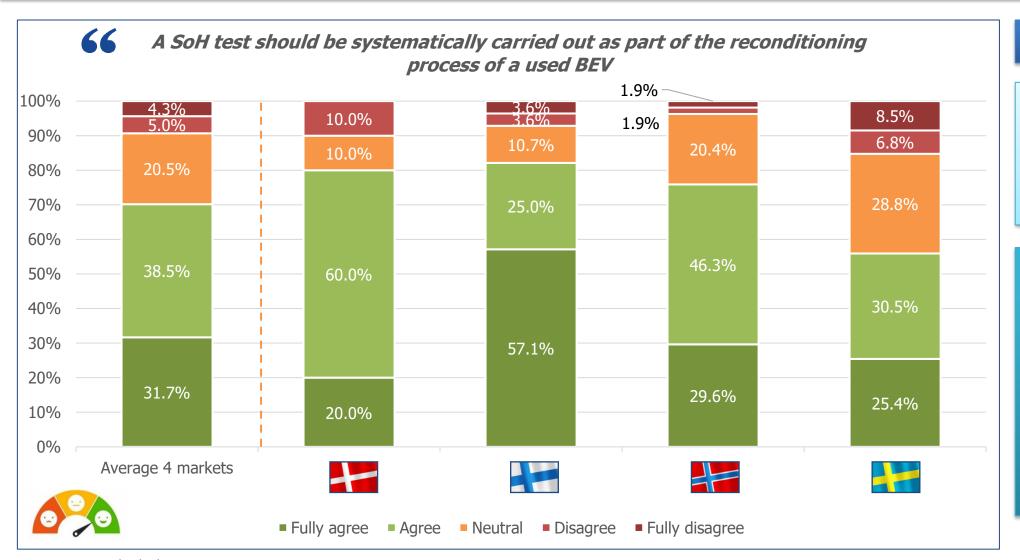
SoH testing

Used BEVs



The share of Norwegian dealers offering SoH testing on used BEVs either 'systematically' or 'often' is the lowest of the sample. Is this a foretaste of what will happen in the other Nordic markets as dealers' used BEV sales grow?

In Denmark, Finland and Norway, more than 3/4th of the dealers felt that a SoH test should be carried out prior to the resale of a used BEV. This proportion was down to 56% in Sweden



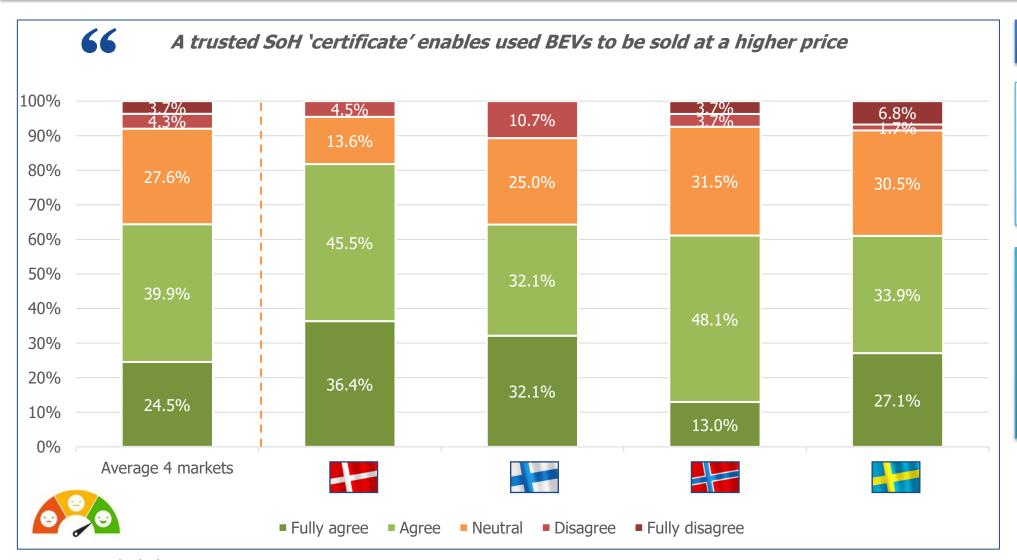
SoH testing

Used BEVs



However, and in contrast to the message on the previous slide, most dealers agreed that SoH testing should be carried out systematically as part of used BEV refurbishment ... even though many are not yet doing it ...

The dealers had a stronger positive feeling about the impact of a SoH 'certificate' on used BEV prices. More than 60% (and up to 80% in Denmark) viewed a good test result as a positive pricing 'lever'



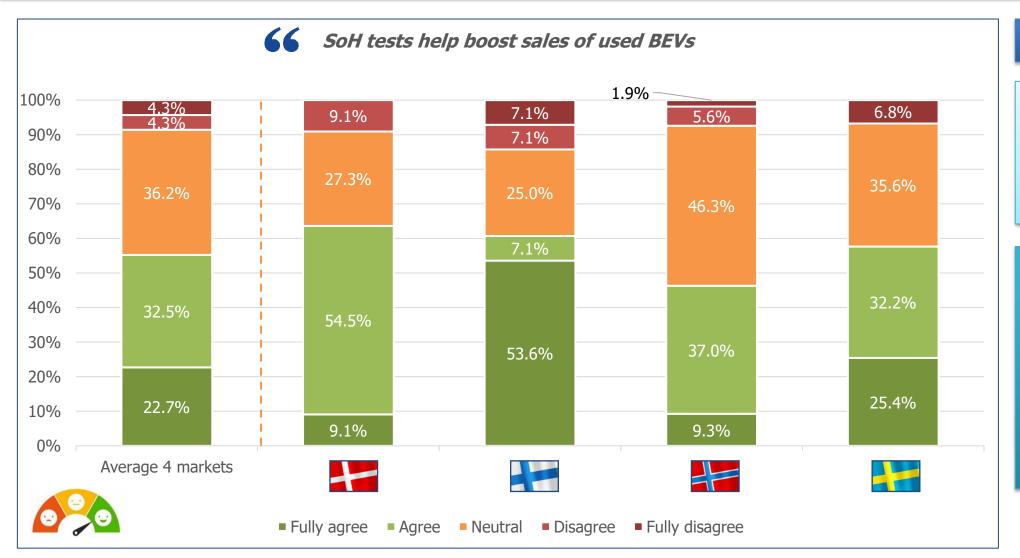
SoH testing

Used BEVs



Clearly, the SoH test and resulting 'certificate' is seen by most dealers as a good 'lever' to help them sell a used BEV at a higher price

55% of the Nordic dealers felt that the provision of SoH testing is already boosting the sales of used BEVs. However, 'only' 46% of Norwegian dealers agreed, and the same proportion were 'neutral'



SoH testing

Used BEVs



The dealers were also reasonably convinced that SoH testing is helping to drive actual used BEV sales, although arguably to a lesser extent than it is supporting used BEV pricing

High voltage battery State of Health testing: is it an untapped business opportunity?

- Only 1 dealer in 5 believes that BEV customers are asking for SoH testing at their regular service
- As a result, 3 out of 4 dealers are not seeking to impose SoH testing as a basic service operation
 - Moreover, when they do carry out a test, the dealers rarely charge for it
- More than 40% of dealers do not tap this opportunity, complaining that this market segment is not mature enough (i.e. lack of accuracy of tests, lack of standardised processes across brands)
 - Only 4 dealers out of 10 see it as a potential additional source of revenue
- In fact, many dealers are waiting for their OEMs to take the lead, to promote the benefits of SoH testing to customers, and to incorporate testing into their aftersales standards
 - And if testing is part of the aftersales standards, dealers are hoping that it will be 'bonused' ...
- Finally, it is interesting that Norwegian dealers do not value SoH as highly as might be expected
 - Are they finding that the batteries are simply more reliable and slower to degrade than the whole sector assumed, and so SoH testing is less needed?
- Points of view differ when it comes to SoH testing for used BEVs
 - More than half of the dealers felt that SoH can help them to sell more used BEVs, and at a higher price
- However, when it comes to implementing the process, dealers are much more reluctant
 - Are they also waiting for OEMs to 'get the ball rolling' (e.g. by including SoH within approved used car schemes)?

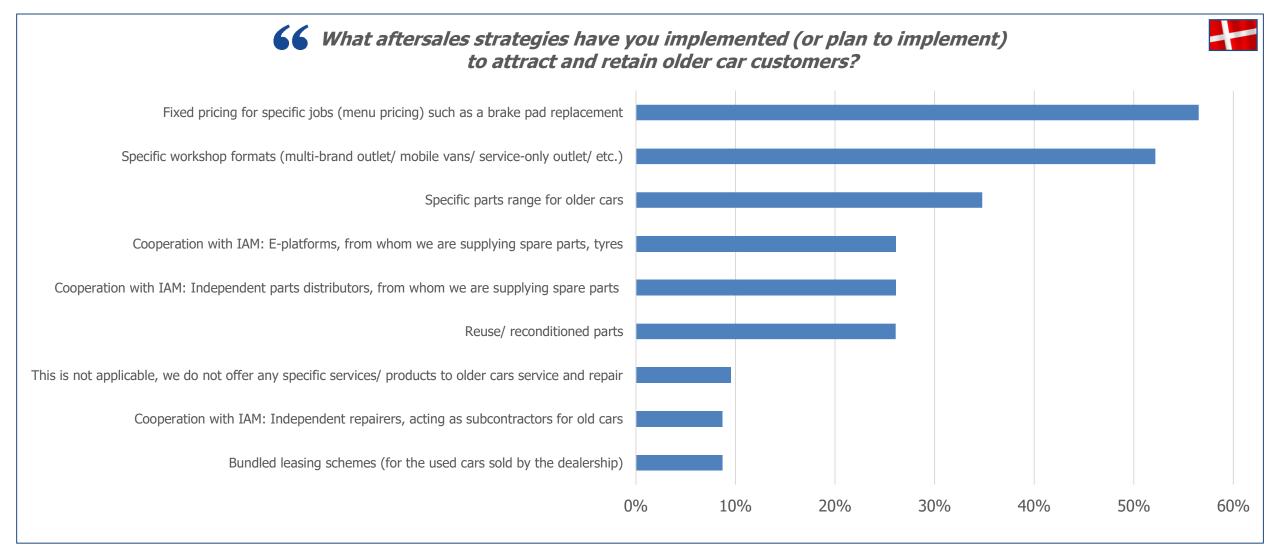
Source: ICDP

Focus on older cars – strategies implemented by dealers to attract and retain customers owning 'older' cars

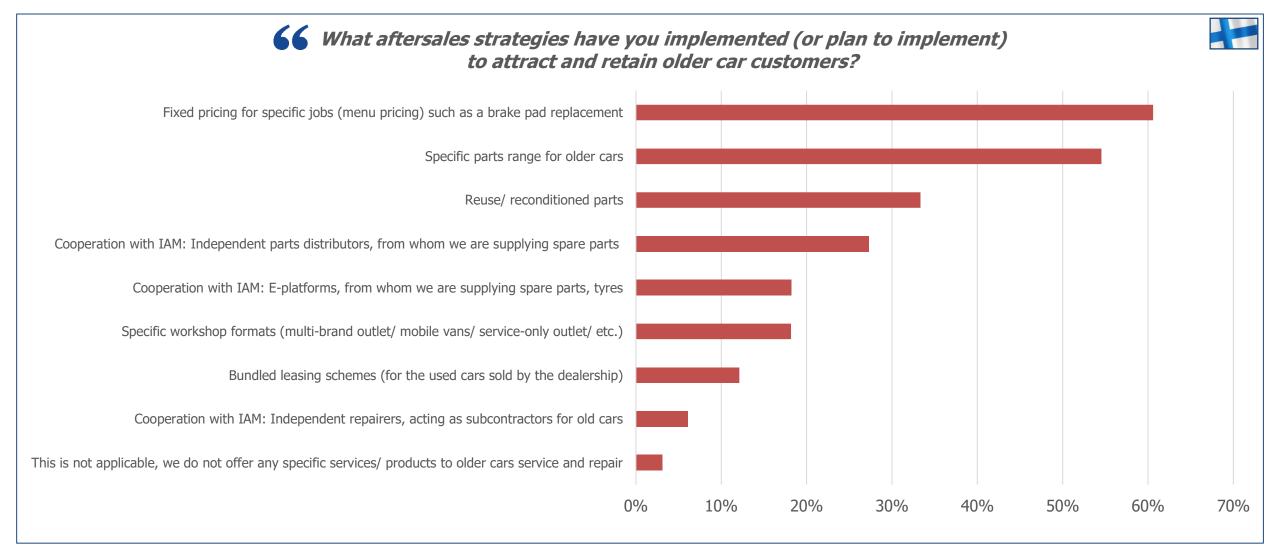




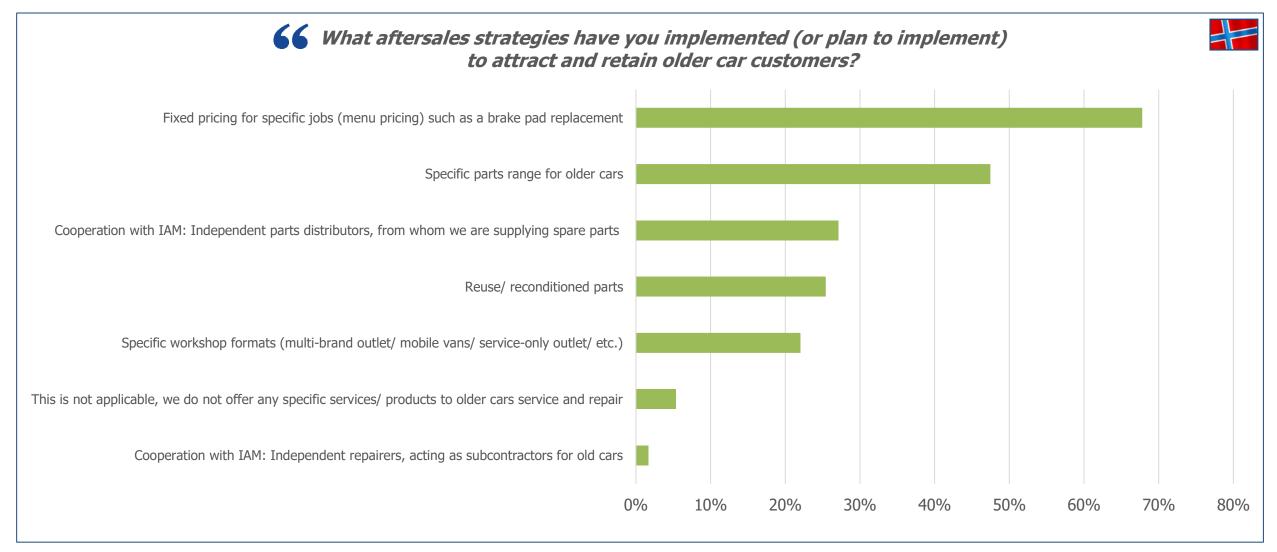
In Denmark, the 3 main 'levers' used by dealers to attract and retain old car owners are: menu pricing for defined jobs, specific workshop formats, and dedicated parts ranges for older cars



To a certain extent, Finnish dealers are following the same strategies as their Danish counterparts, but reused and reconditioned parts for older cars are implemented more widely

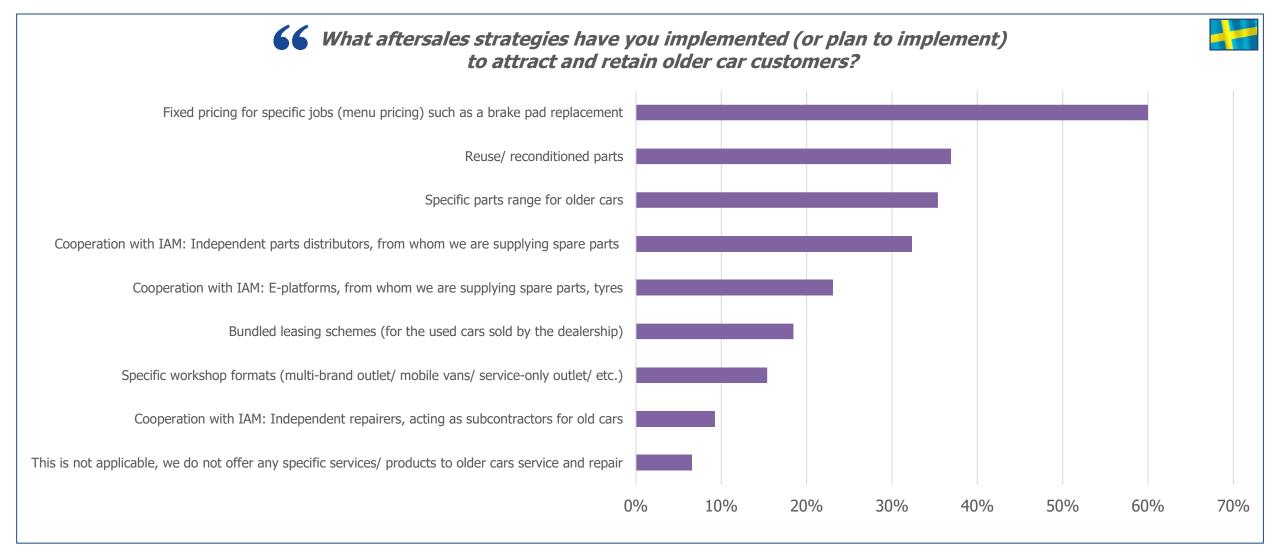


In Norway, the 2 main strategies for covering the older car parc are similar to those used in Denmark and Finland, but Norwegian dealers are also cooperating with independent spare parts distributors

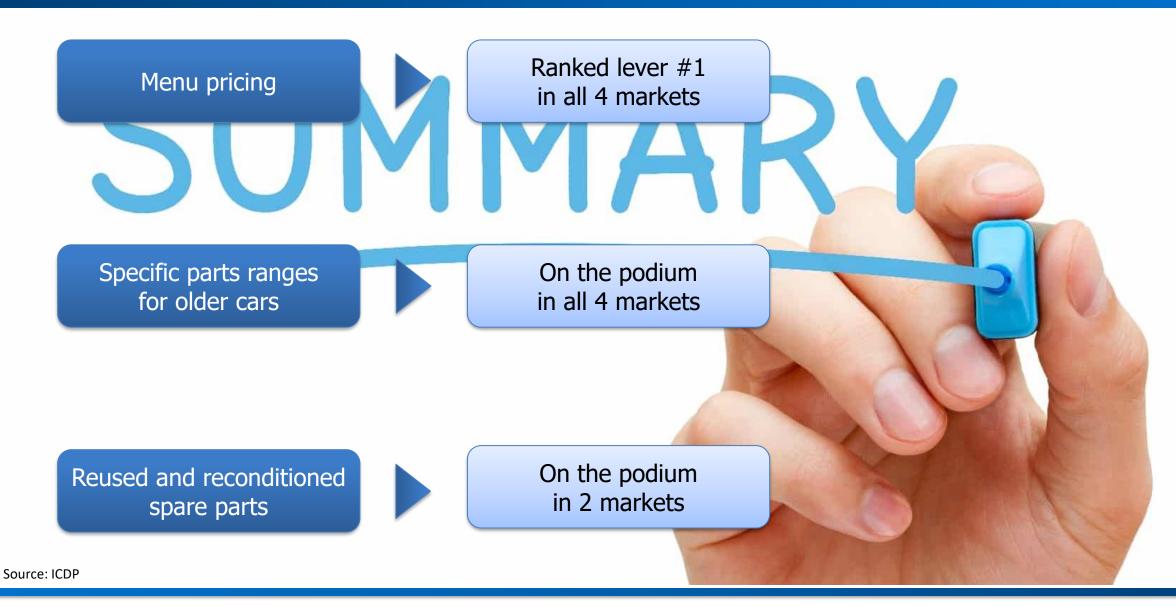


Source: ICDP Nordic dealer survey 2025; n = 59. NB: The levers 'bundled leasing schemes' and 'cooperation with IAM e-platforms' were not covered in the Norwegian survey

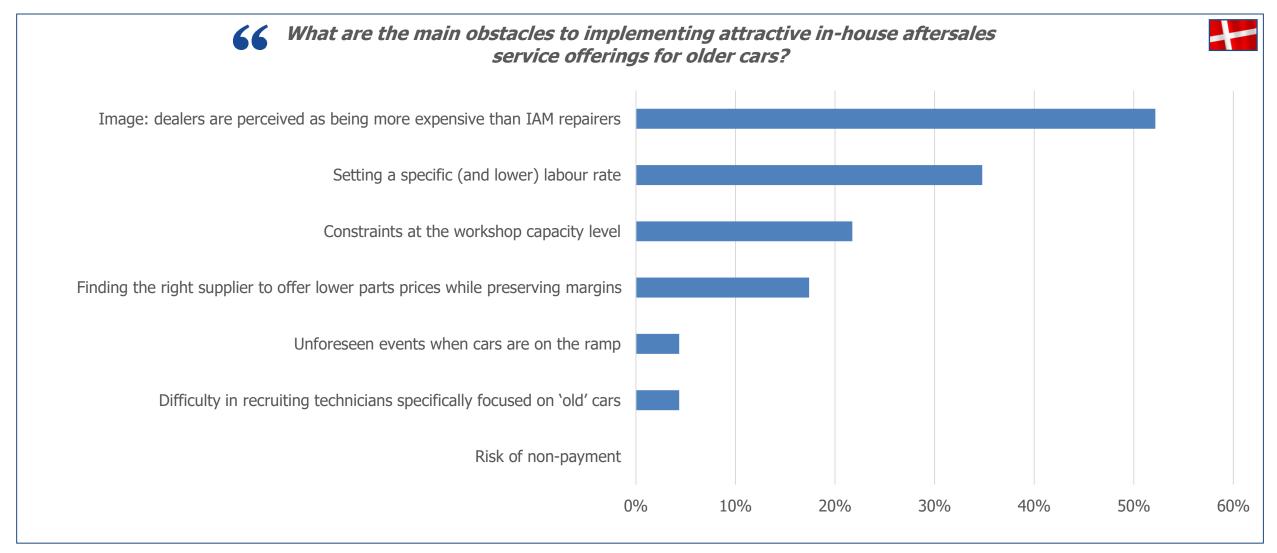
Finally, Swedish dealers also use fixed menu pricing and specific parts ranges to cover older cars. Local rules for re-used parts (Vagnskadegaranti) also encourage dealers to use this 'lever'



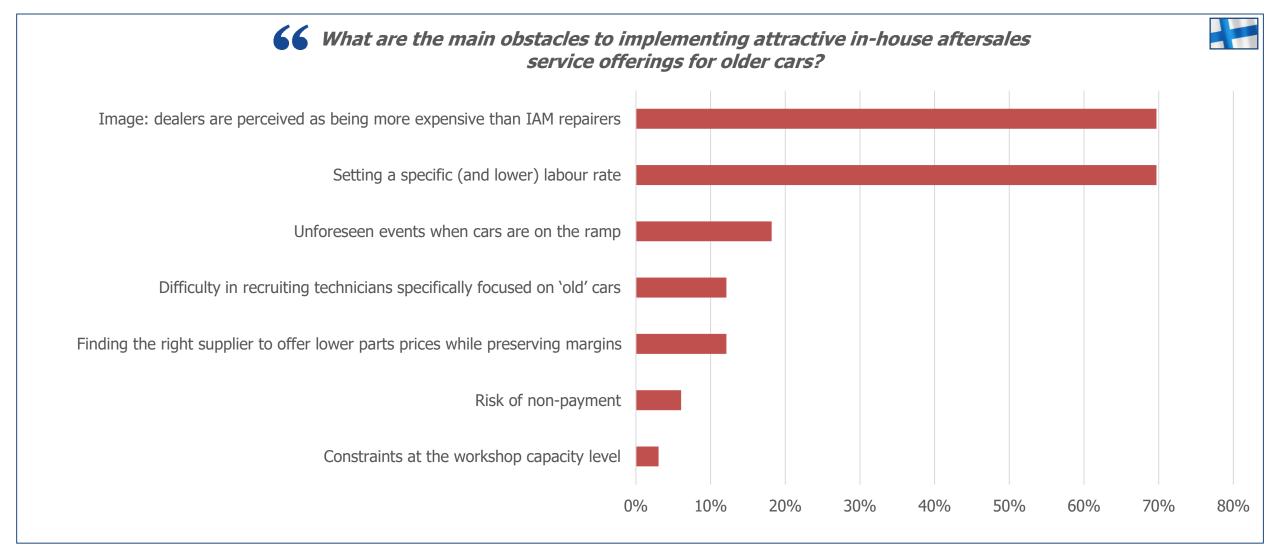
In the minds of dealers, the recipe for attracting the older car parc consists of mixing three main ingredients ...



For Danish dealers, the biggest obstacles to having attractive service offers for older car customers are their image as a dealer, and difficulty in lowering lower labour rates. Workshop capacity came 3rd



The same main barriers were mentioned by Finnish dealers, whilst 'unforeseen events when cars are on the ramp' (probably due to their age or condition) was also a (more limited) source of concern



In Norway, the main difficulties to overcome in attracting people who drive older cars to dealer workshops are similar to the ones expressed in Denmark

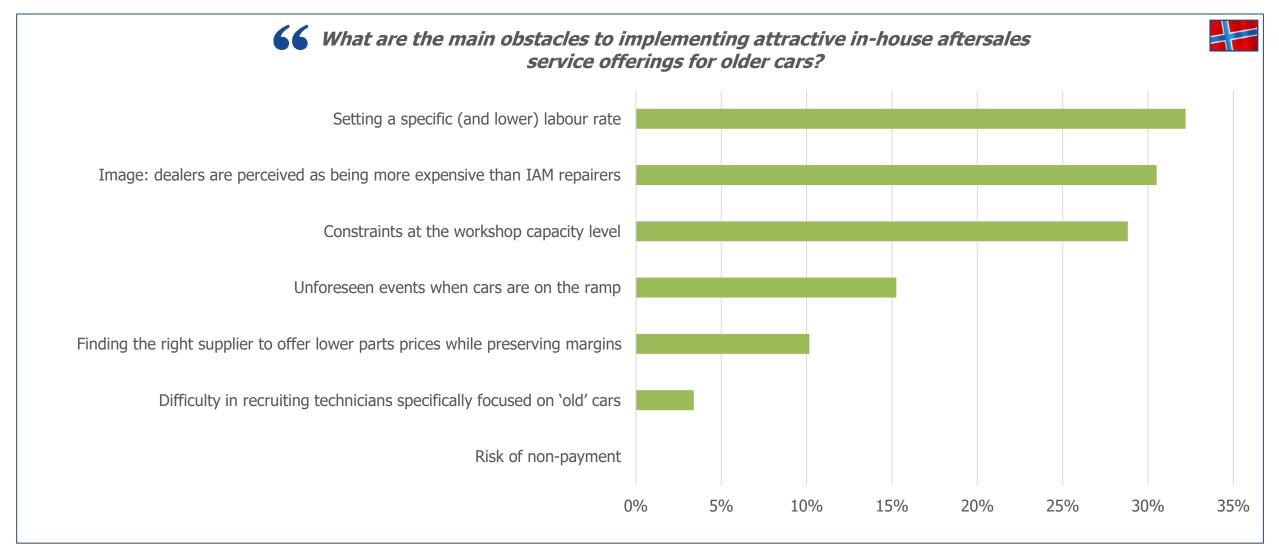
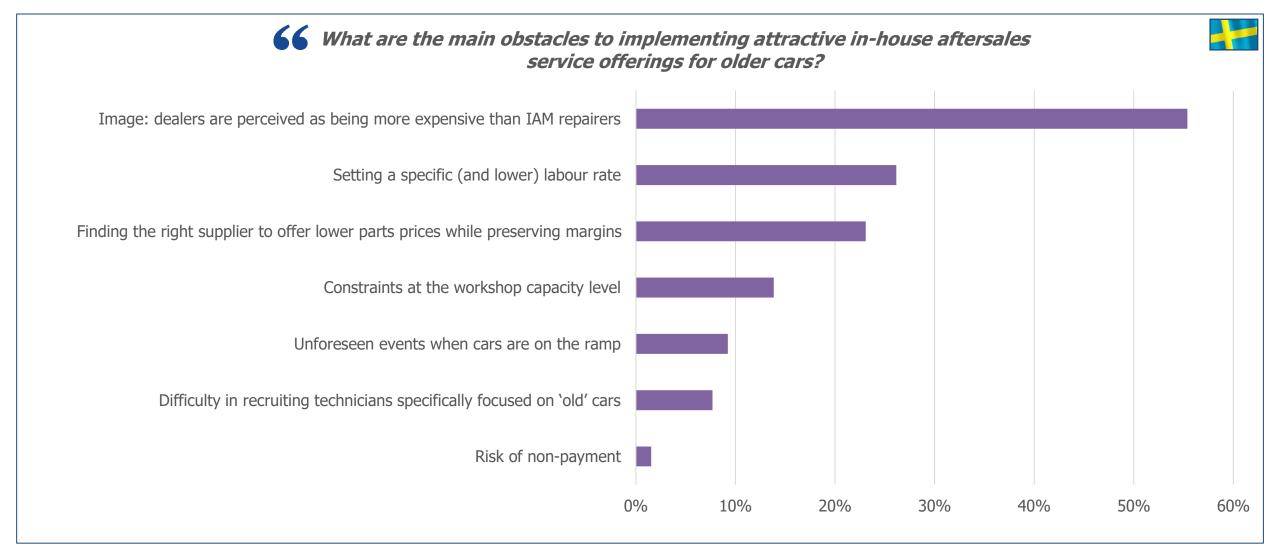


Image problems and the difficulty in adapting labour rates for older cars were also mentioned by Swedish dealers, along with the challenge of finding the right source of affordable spare parts



In the minds of dealers, the recipe for attracting the older car parc consists of mixing three main ingredients ... but two major problems need to be solved before the dish can be served ...

Menu pricing SUMMARY Dealer's image Specific parts ranges Both obstacles are ranked for older cars #1 or #2 in all 4 markets Specific (and lower) labour rate Reused and reconditioned spare parts Source: ICDP

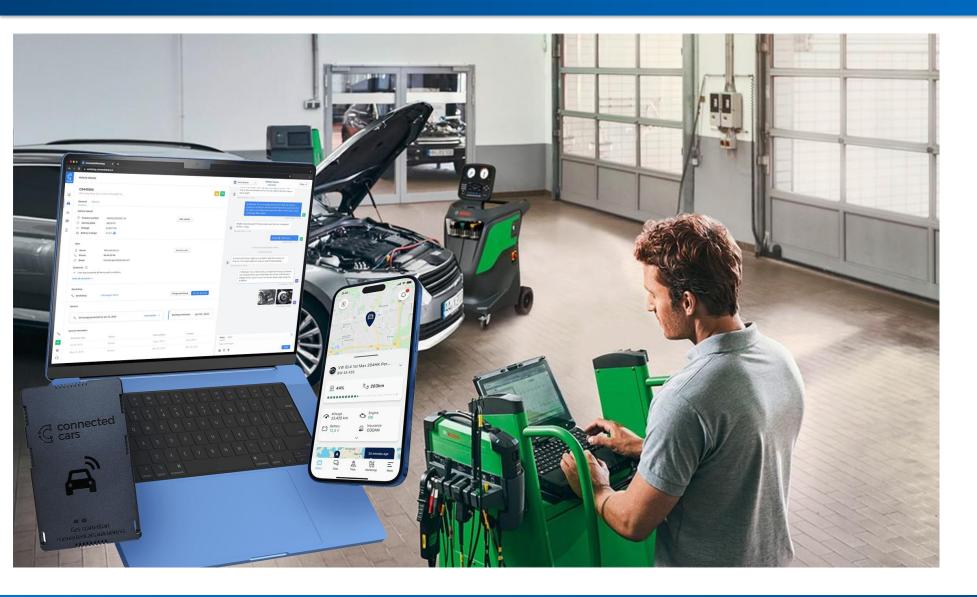
Car connectivity and digitalisation – the current and future impact of connected vehicles on dealers' aftersales activities, plus current use of OtA (Over the Air) technology





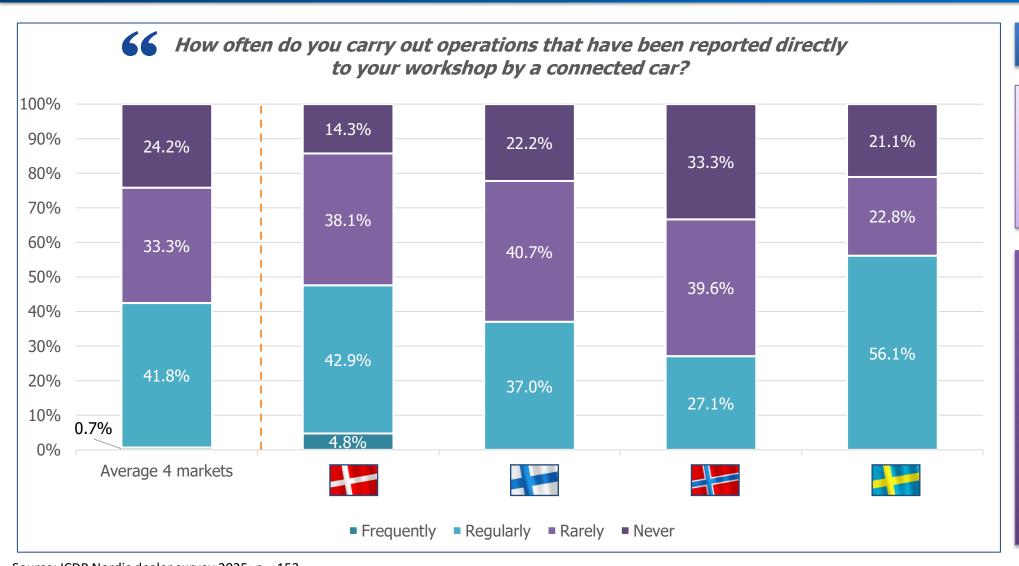


Car connectivity – the current and future impact of connected vehicles on dealers' aftersales activities





Despite the high number of connected cars on the roads, on average 58% of Nordic dealers stated that they 'rarely' or 'never' carry out service jobs 'directly reported' through connectivity in the car



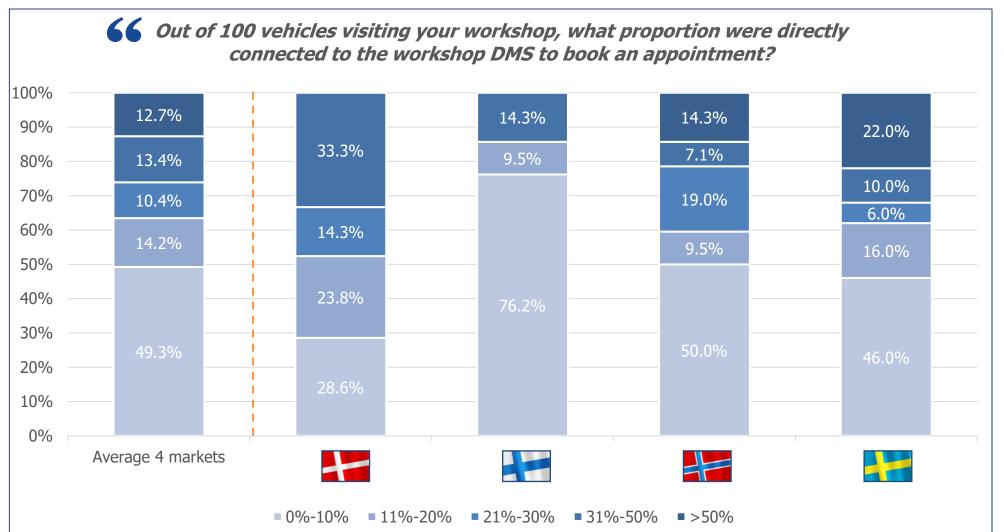
Connected cars

Workshop



The highest share of dealers **never** dealing with operations reported by connected cars is in Norway. This is rather counterintuitive given the share of BEVs in the market, most of which, as recent cars, will be connected

The majority of dealers reported that the share of jobs being 'booked directly' by connected cars does not exceed 20%. 86% of Finnish dealers thought this was the case, versus 53% of Danish dealers



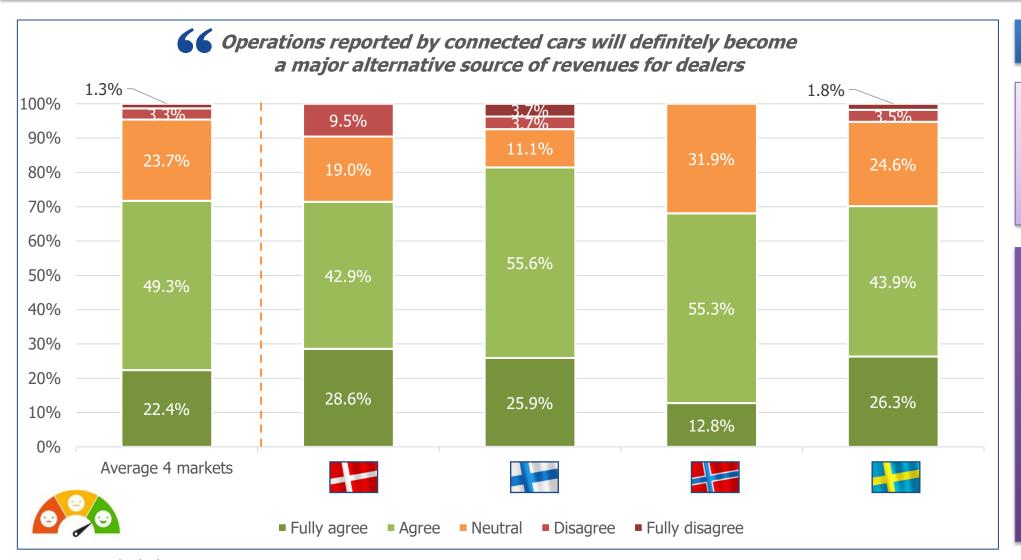
Connected cars

Workshop

The share of cars being directly connected to the WMS is low (<20%). The Danish and Finnish data echo the age structure of their respective passenger car parcs

	0-5 years old	6+ years old
+	28.8%	71.2%
-	18.5%	81.5%

Despite the varying work flows currently being directed to workshops by connected cars, dealers generally expect these operations to represent a major source of revenue in the future ...



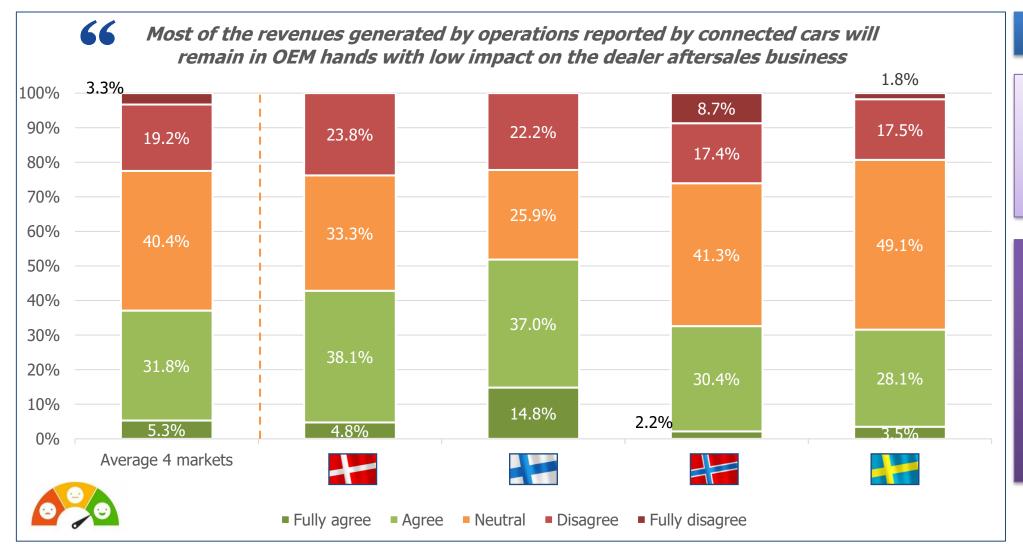
Connected cars

Workshop



There is an even split between the 4 markets, although Norwegian dealers seem a little less convinced than their counterparts in other markets that connected cars will become a major alternative source of aftersales revenues

... However, a good proportion of the dealers fear that at least part of the revenues generated by connected cars will end up in the hands of the OEMs



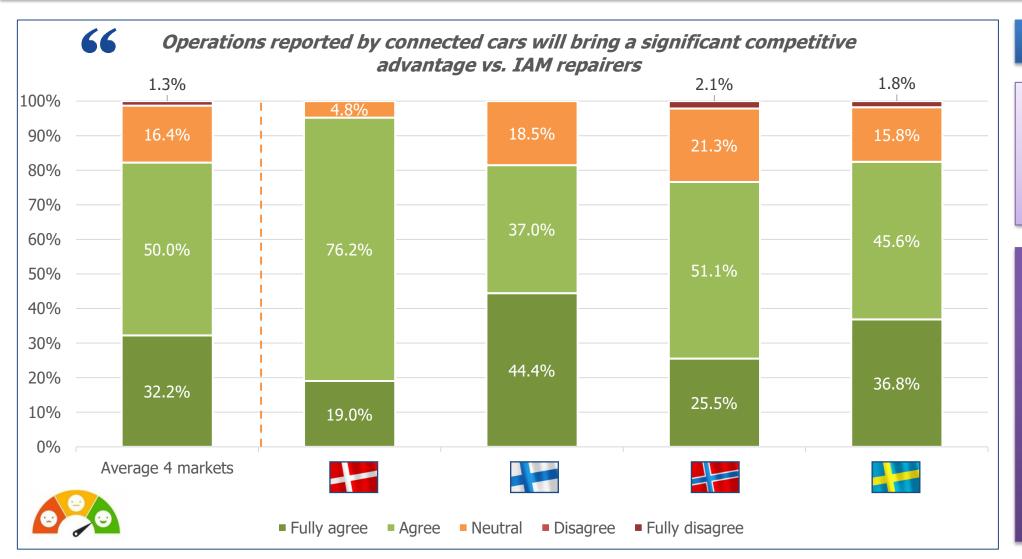
Connected cars

Workshop



More than 50% of Finnish dealers fear that the majority of connected cargenerated revenues will be captured by the OEMs. This share is around 32% in Sweden and Norway

More than 82% of Nordic dealers believe connected cars will be a positive factor in winning business from the independent aftermarket sector



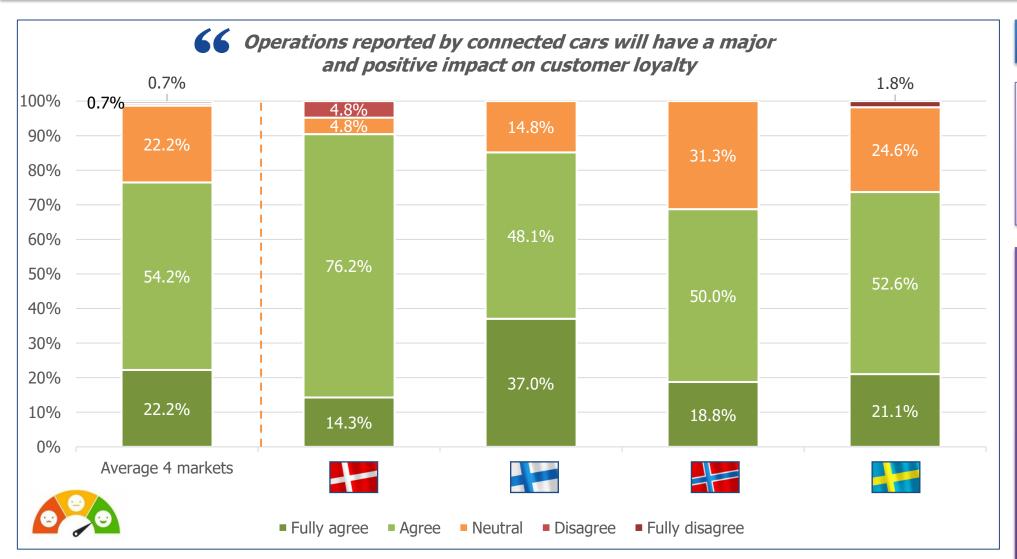
Connected cars

Workshop



The split between markets is again evenly balanced, although Danish dealers seem much more convinced than their counterparts in the other markets of the ability of connected cars to steer business to dealers rather than to the IAM

There is also consensus among dealers of all the Nordic markets that connected cars will eventually have a positive impact on customer loyalty



Connected cars

Workshop



Danish dealers say that they are already benefiting more than others from the ability of connected cars to book appointments directly. Perhaps this is why they are also the most confident in the ability of connected cars to strengthen customer loyalty

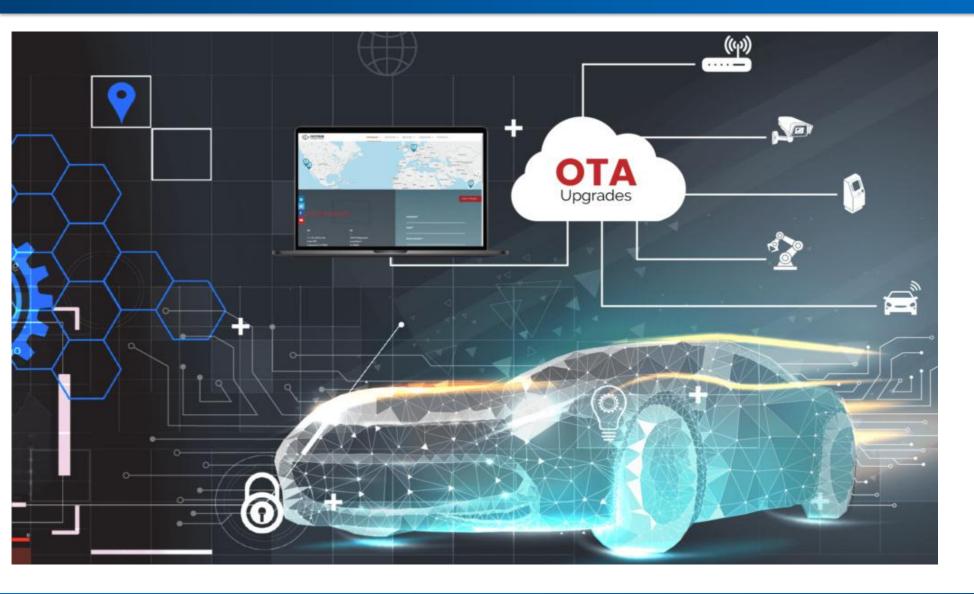
Connected cars will be a major source of business for dealers in the future ... although OEMs could get their hands on at least some of the revenues they generate

- The number of service jobs reported to dealer workshops by connected cars is still low
 - Less than 20% of appointments are currently generated by connected cars
- But dealers see connected cars becoming a major source of workshop business in the future
 - Although a large share suspect that most revenues generated will be kept by OEMs
- Nevertheless, connected cars should help dealers to increase both customer loyalty and their competitiveness



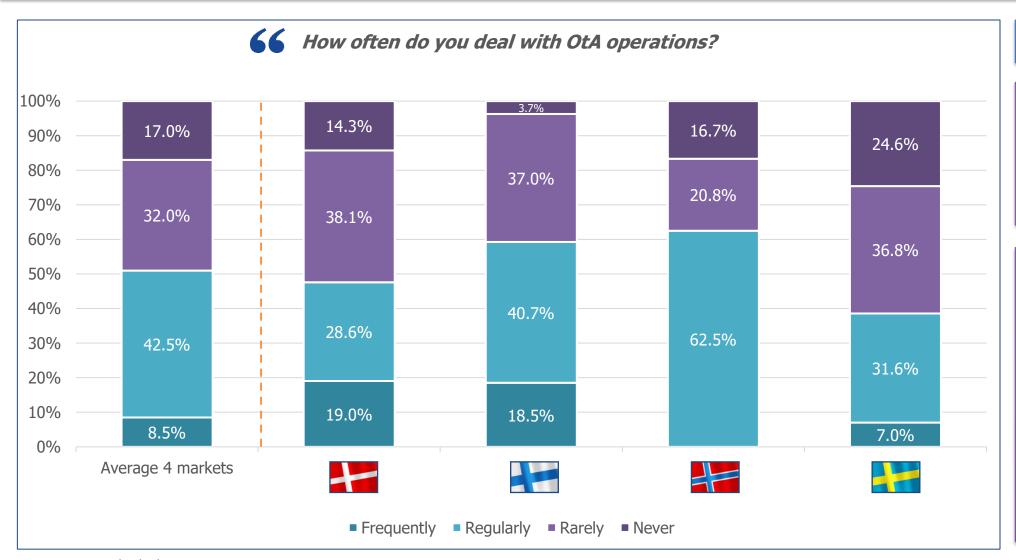
Source: ICDP

Digitalisation – current use of Over-the-Air technology





More than half of Nordic dealers say that they are carrying out OtA jobs 'frequently' or 'regularly'

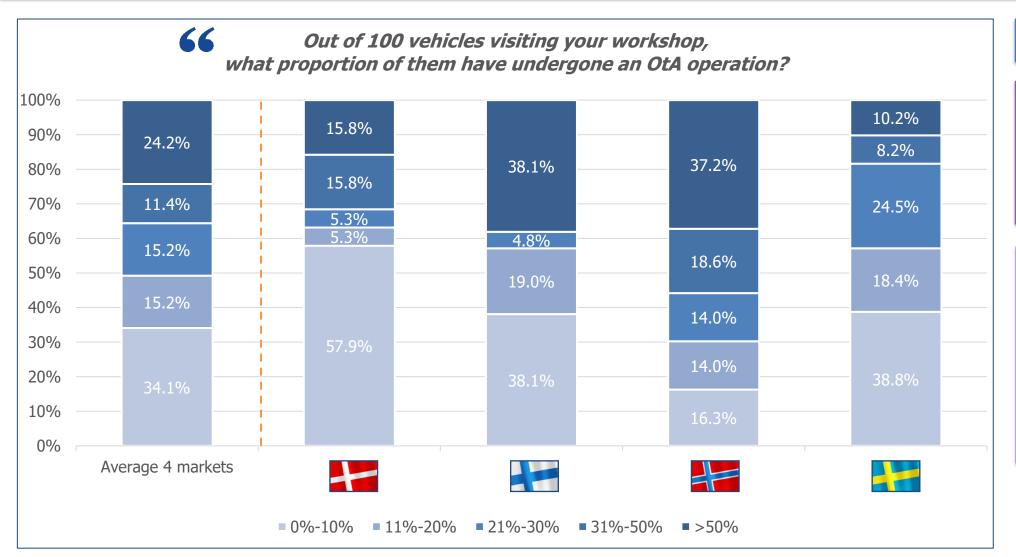


Over the Air



The combined share of dealers who deal 'regularly' and 'frequently' with OtA is 63% in Norway. Could this be linked to the higher share of BEVs (requiring more software updates for their powertrain) in the Norwegian car parc?

For nearly a quarter of the dealers (and up to 37-38% in Finland and Norway), more than 50% of the cars entering their workshop have undergone an OtA operation



Over the Air



N.B. comparing this data set with that for connected cars raises doubts over whether dealers fully understood this question, so the results should be treated with caution

What are the key lessons to be learned from the dealer survey?





The BEV aftersales ecosystem will tend to 'normalise' as the BEV car parc grows. However, some specific impacts will still require dealer workshops to adapt

The BEV customers' greater loyalty to dealers will fade over time, and will get closer to that of ICE customers

Dealers should expect a decline in BEV customer loyalty to their workshops

Customers will grow more aware of their BEV's lower service requirements And they should expect service plans for BEVs to be used less frequently

The use of a BEV-specific labour rate should be ruled out

To meet customers' needs, changes in aftersales advisors' roles are required

Advice and practical information on BEV-related services are valued

This could require specific training to enhance aftersales advisor profiles

Although the SoH test market is not yet fully mature ...

Dealers should not wait for OEMs before they launch SoH initiatives The SoH emphasis should be put on the used BEV market for the time being

Given the investment required, not all HV battery-related services can be offered

BRCs appear to be a higher priority than 24/7 charging stations

BRCs need volume to be profitable -> are there B2B options to investigate?

Source: ICDP

On more 'traditional' aftersales topics, there are also major challenges that dealers will need to meet



Source: ICDP

In a challenging aftersales environment, the support provided by dealer associations to their members will continue to be key



Central Boulevard,
Blythe Valley Business Park,
Solihull B90 8AG, UK
E-mail: projectoffice@icdp.net

Limited company registered in the UK, no. 6262484

The Squaire West 12,
Am Flughafen,
60549 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
E-mail: icdpgermany@icdp.net

GmbH registered in Frankfurt am Main

Web: www.icdp.net

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