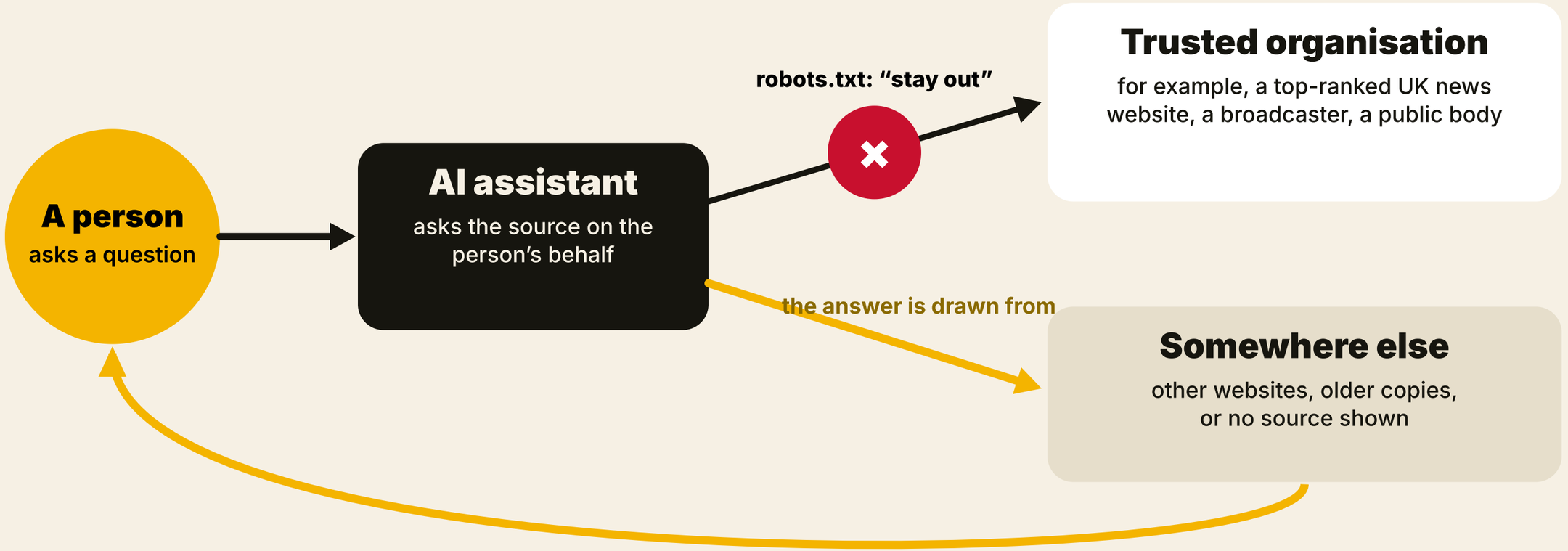
The Answer Gap: people trust these organisations, and their AI answers can arrive without them

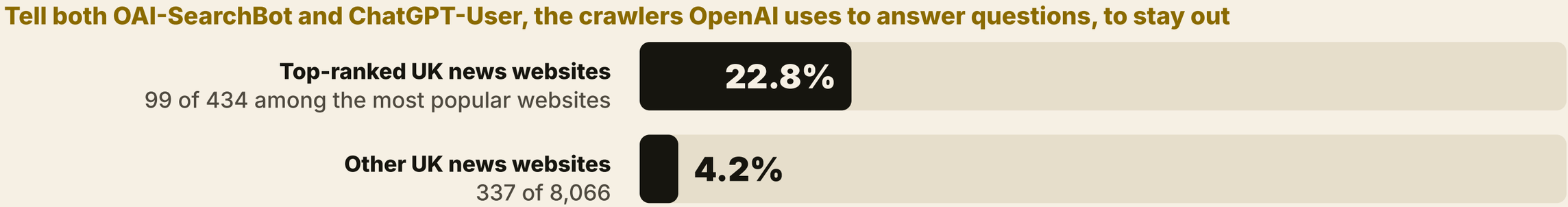
Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights: everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information



A person asking for today's news may get an answer without the newsroom that reported it

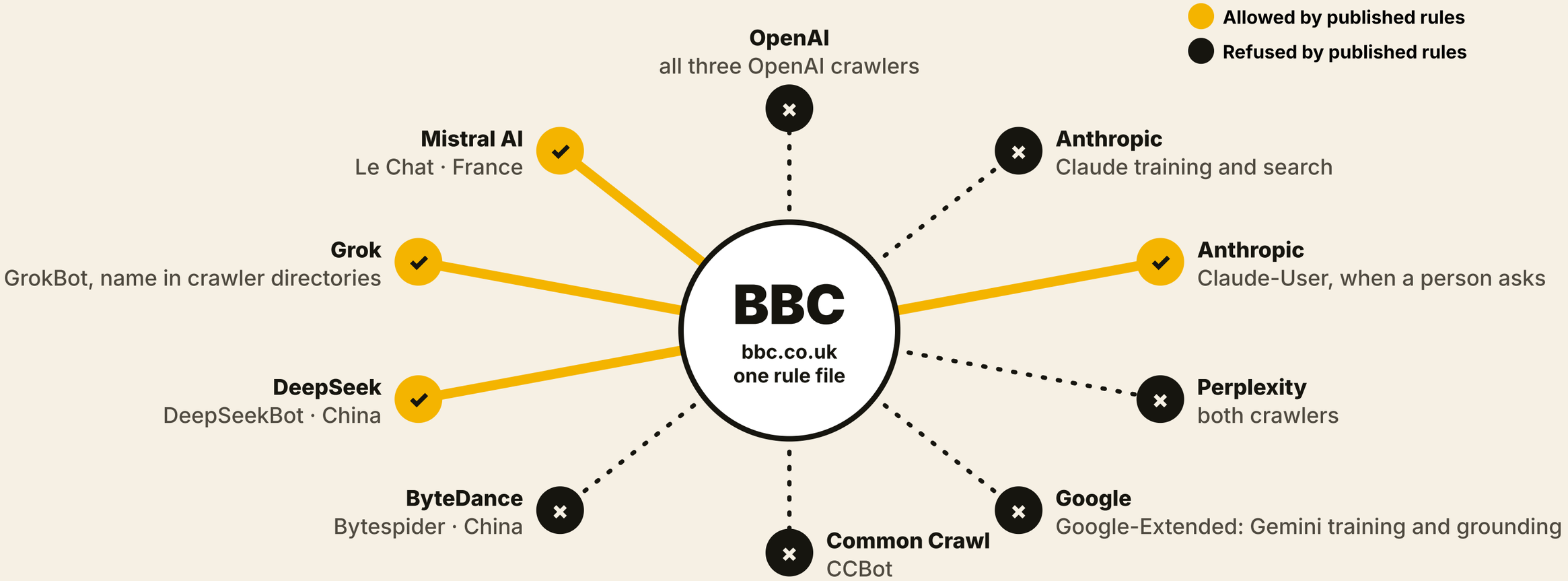
22.8% of the 434 top-ranked UK news websites tell both of the crawlers OpenAI uses to answer questions to stay out. The BBC tells all three of OpenAI's crawlers to stay out.

People trust these news websites: the UK’s top-ranked news websites are more than five times as likely to tell OpenAI’s answering crawlers to stay out



Top-ranked: in the Tranco list of the million most popular websites. Both groups: robots.txt file read, or confirmed absent.

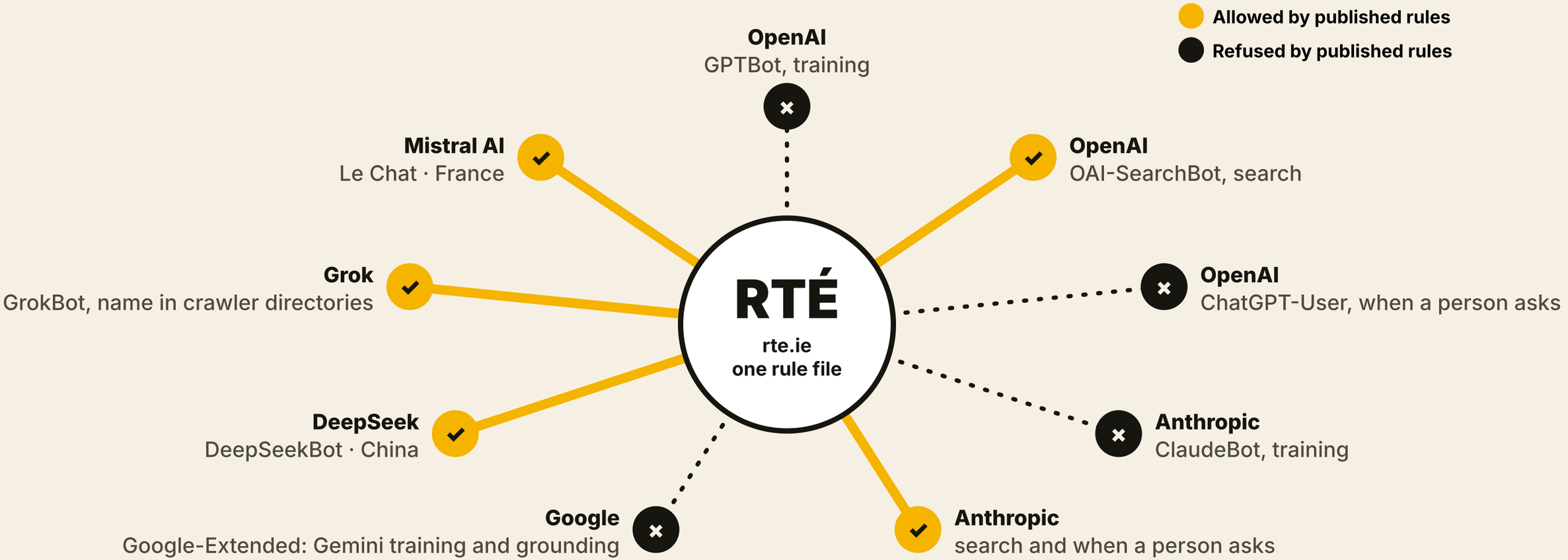
The BBC’s published rules: OpenAI told to stay out, DeepSeek let in



One file gives one company two answers: Anthropic’s training and search crawlers are refused; Claude-User, which fetches a page when a person asks Claude, is allowed.

THE ANSWER GAP · IRELAND

RTÉ’s published rules: one OpenAI crawler allowed, two refused



Raidió Teilifís Éireann, the national public service broadcaster of Ireland: its published rules refuse ChatGPT-User, the crawler that fetches a page when a person asks ChatGPT.

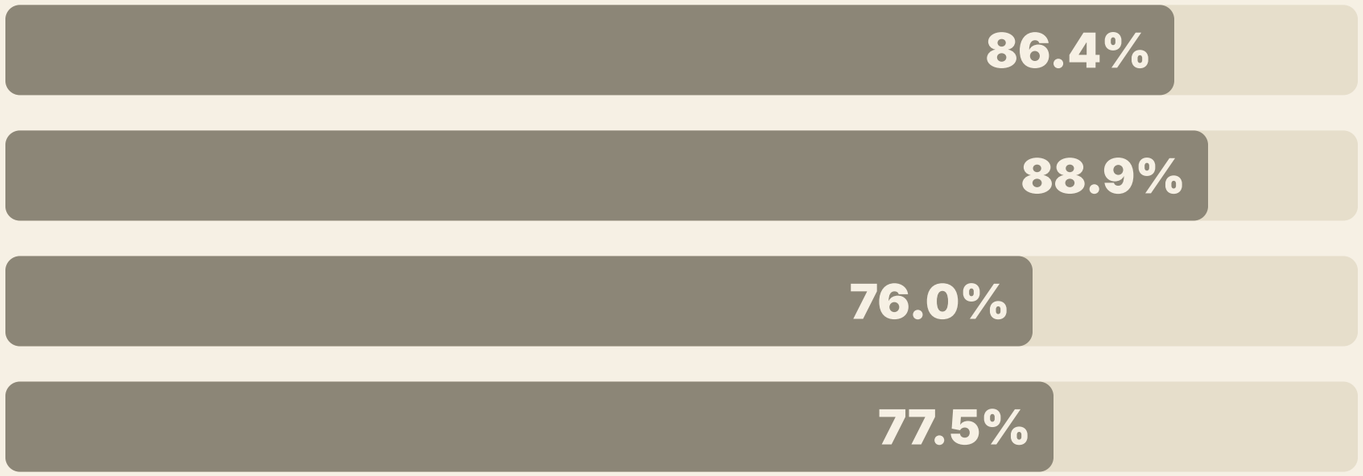
THE ANSWER GAP · UNITED KINGDOM

754 of 765 UK government websites allow all six AI crawlers that answer questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity

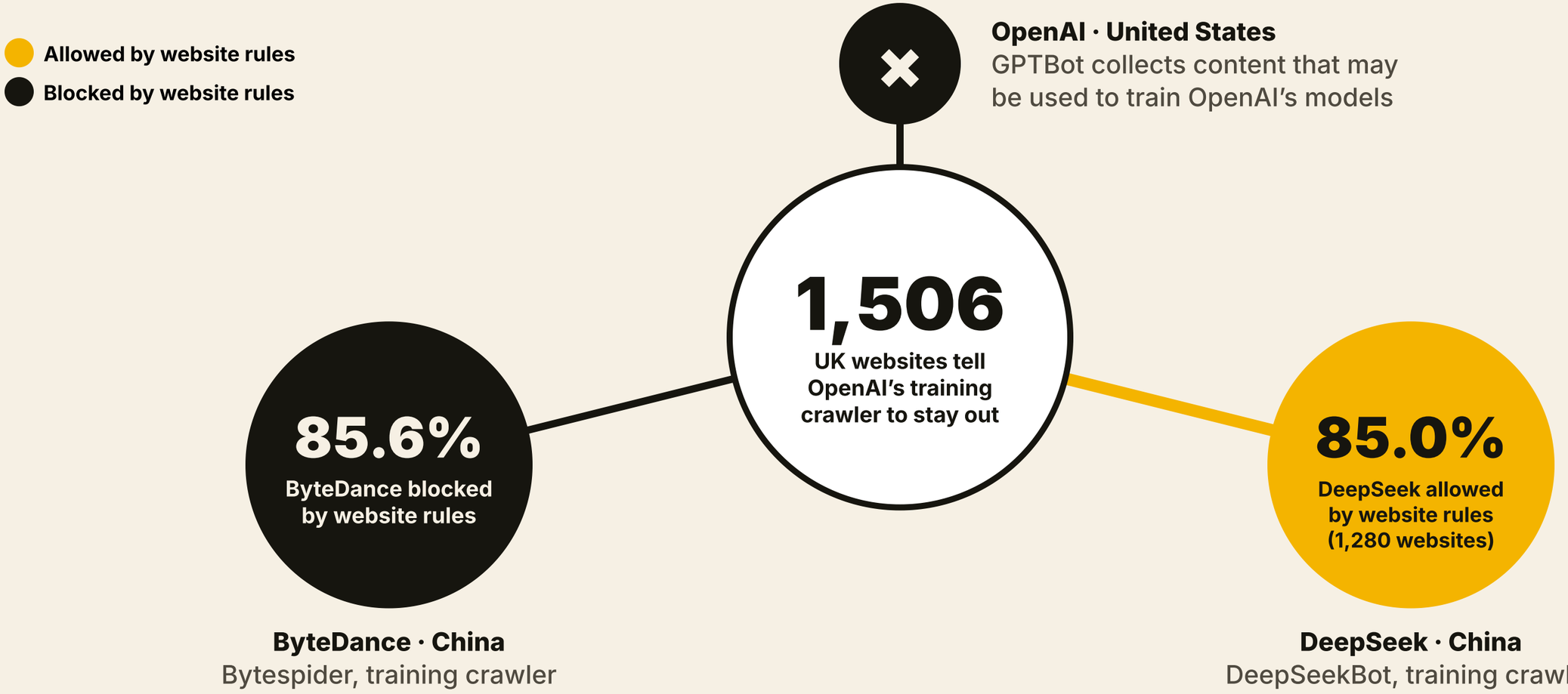


No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

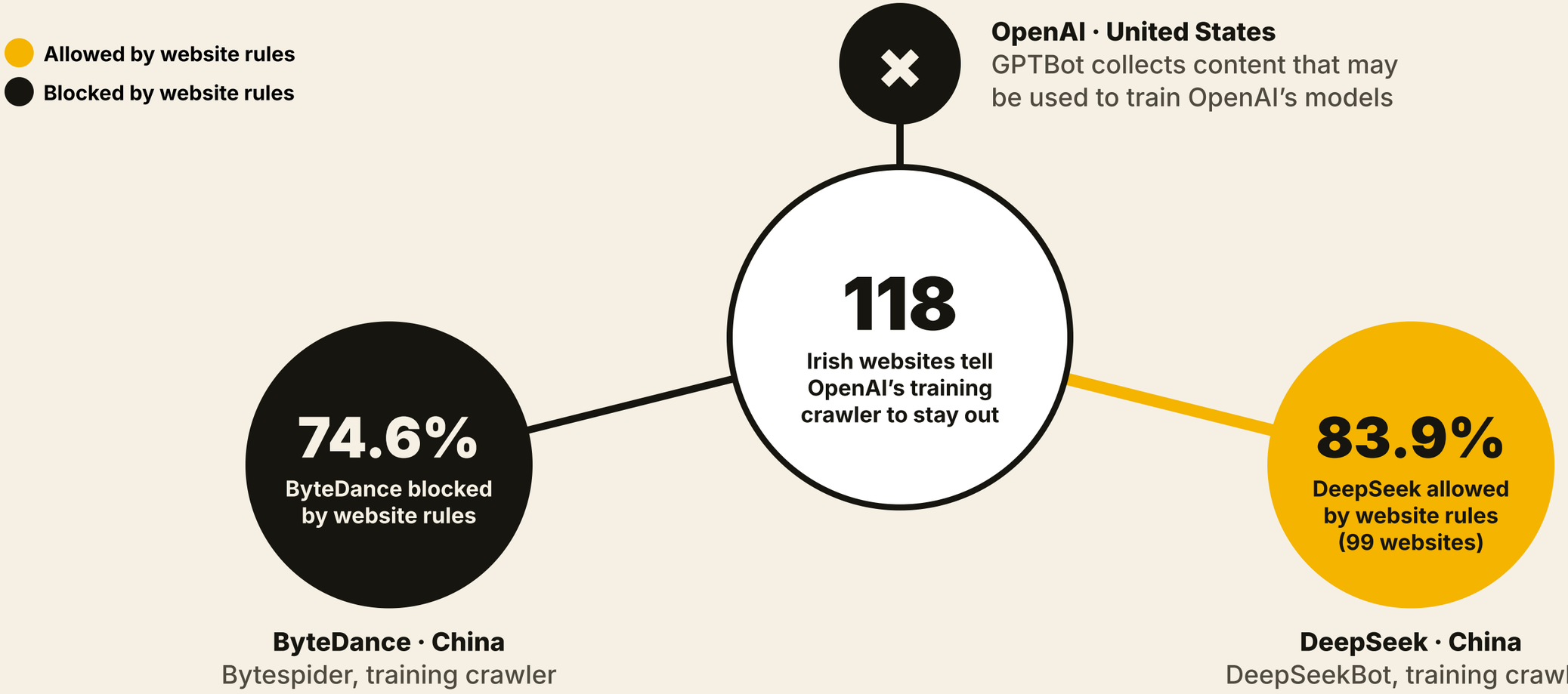
Two Chinese AI companies, two different instructions from the same UK websites



Both at once: 1,064 of the 1,506 (70.7%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. None of the 1,280 that allow DeepSeek names DeepSeekBot: their general rules let it in. Of 10,546 UK websites with a clear result.

THE ANSWER GAP · IRELAND

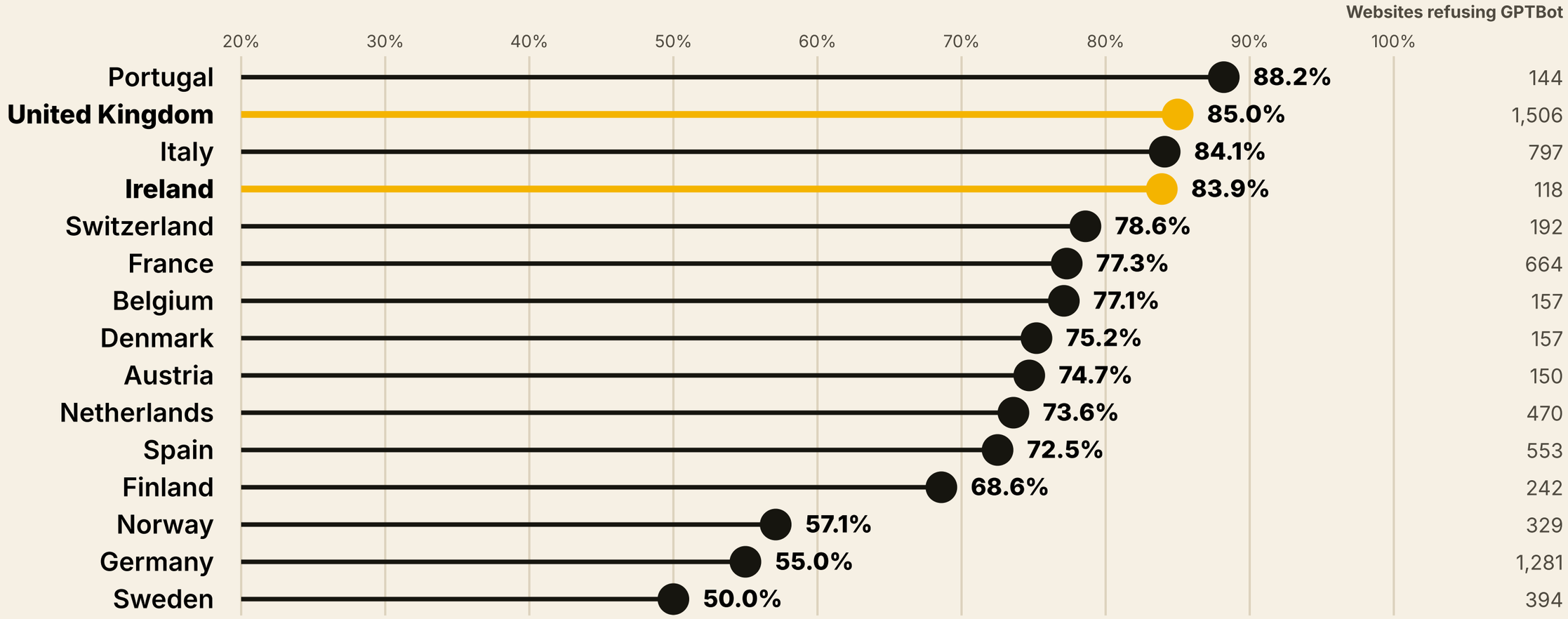
Ireland: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 69 of the 118 (58.5%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 969 Irish websites with a clear result, 80.0% name no AI crawler the Index recognises.

THE ANSWER GAP · EUROPE

Selected countries of Western, Northern and Southern Europe: websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler and let DeepSeek’s in

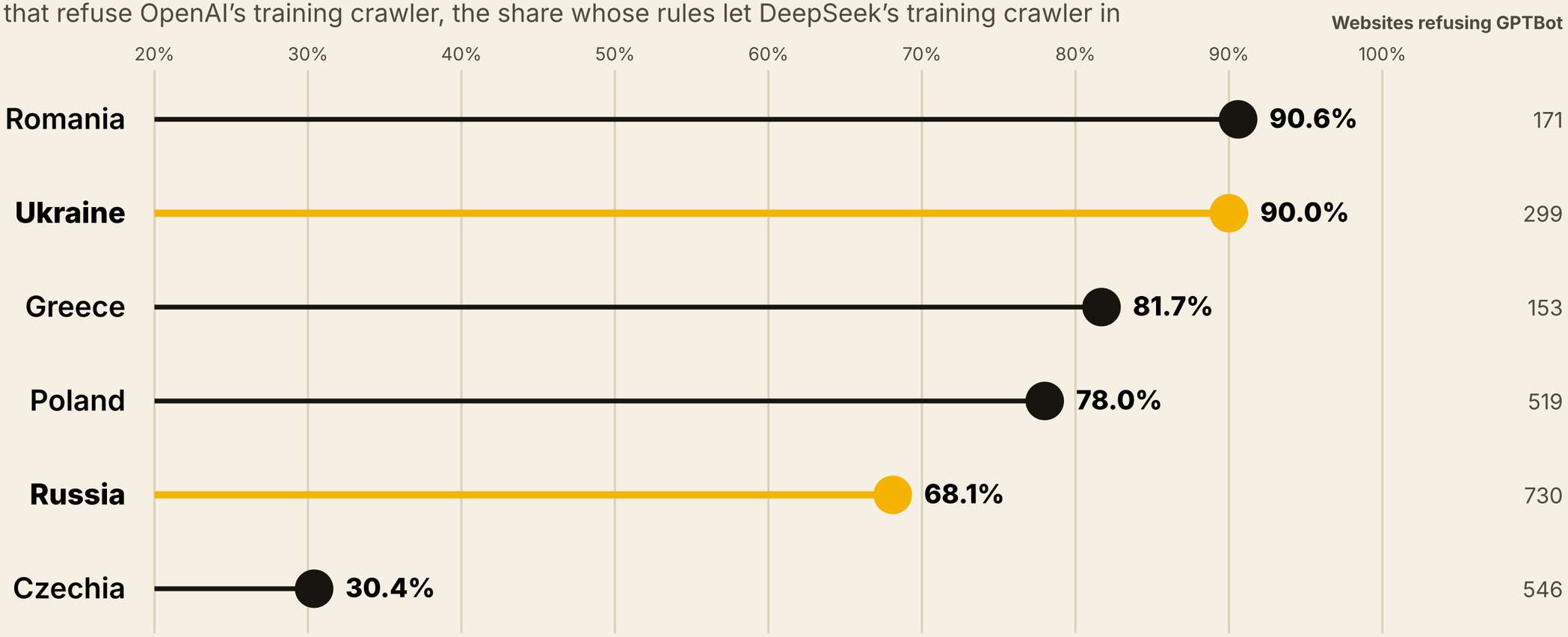


Gold: the United Kingdom and Ireland. Selected countries with at least 100 websites that refuse GPTBot.

THE ANSWER GAP · EUROPE

Selected countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, with Ukraine and Russia

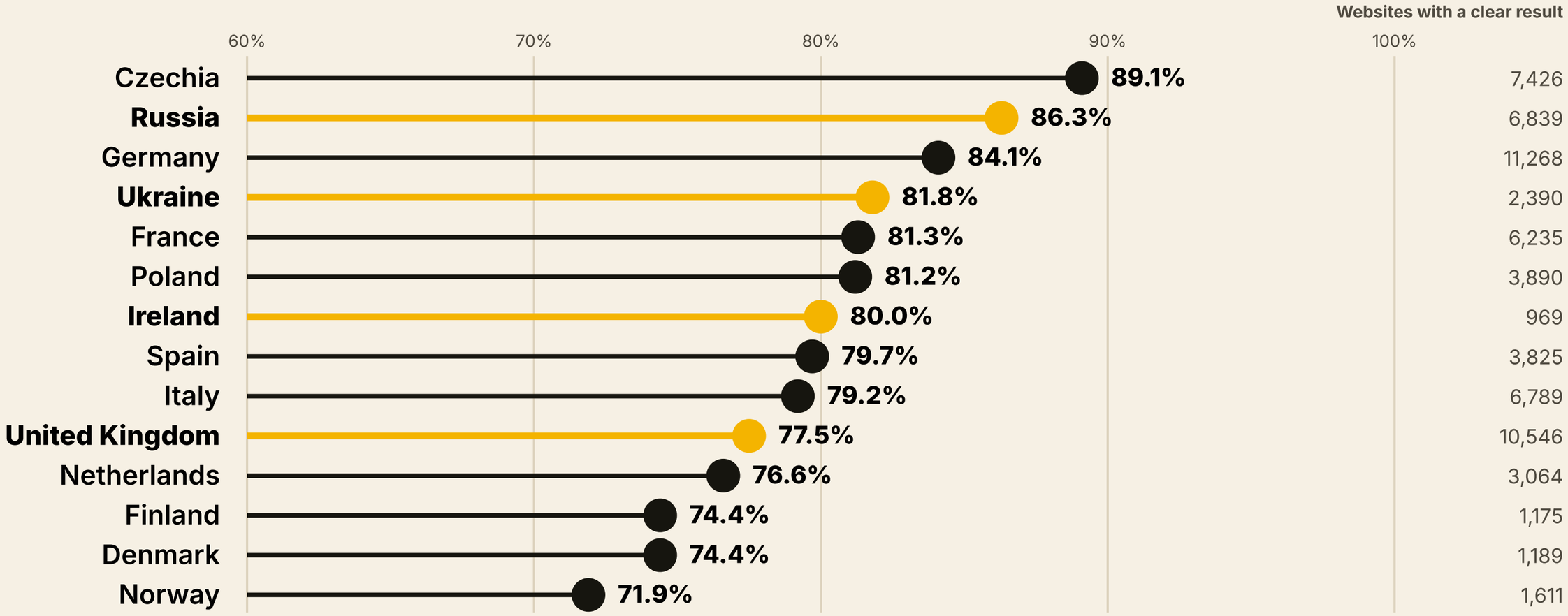
Among websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler, the share whose rules let DeepSeek’s training crawler in



In Russia, 136 of the 730 are Ministry of Foreign Affairs websites (mid.ru); in Czechia, 61 of the 546 are regional sites of one newspaper group (Deník). Selected countries with at least 100 websites that refuse GPTBot.

THE ANSWER GAP · EUROPE

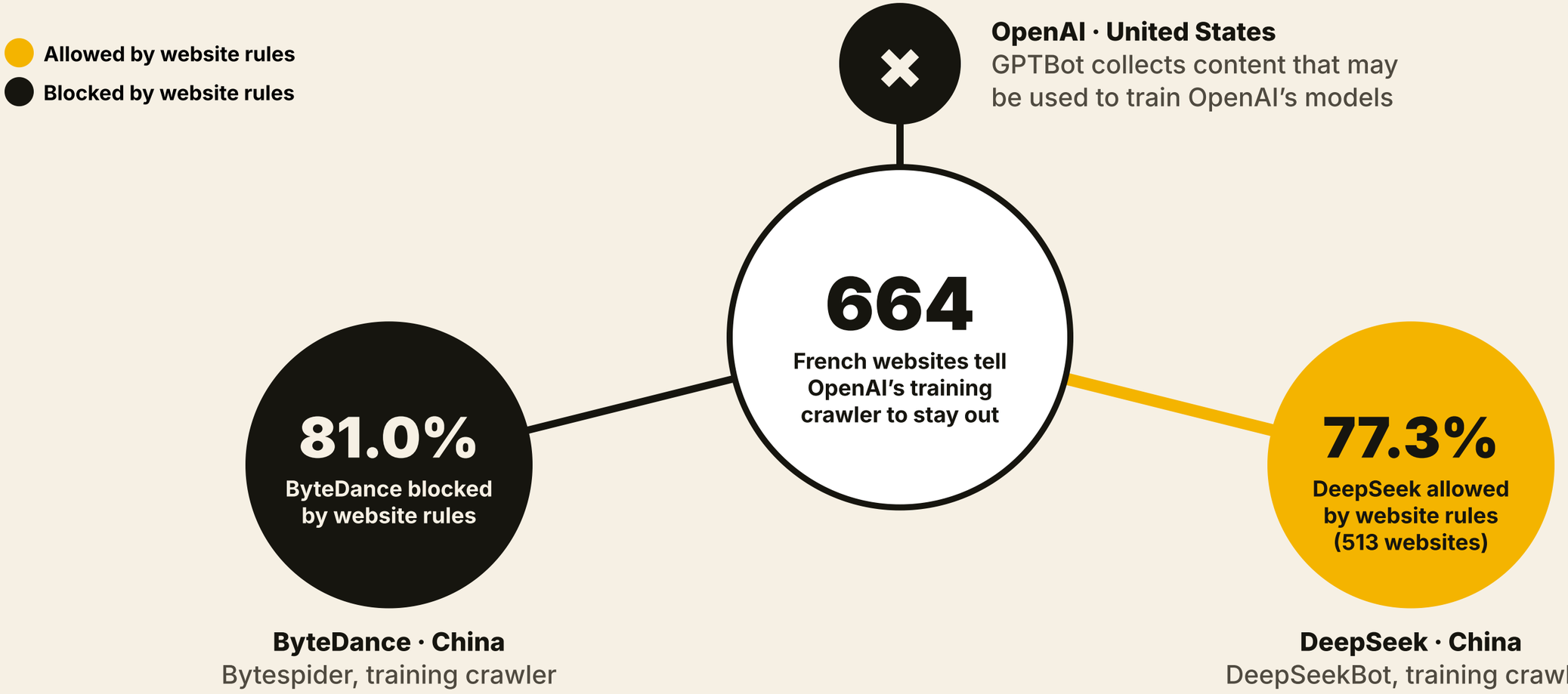
14 selected European countries: most websites have no rule written for AI



Share of websites with a clear result that have no robots.txt file or one that names no AI crawler the Index recognises.

THE ANSWER GAP · FRANCE

France: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 389 of the 664 (58.6%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 6,235 websites with a clear result.

France: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity



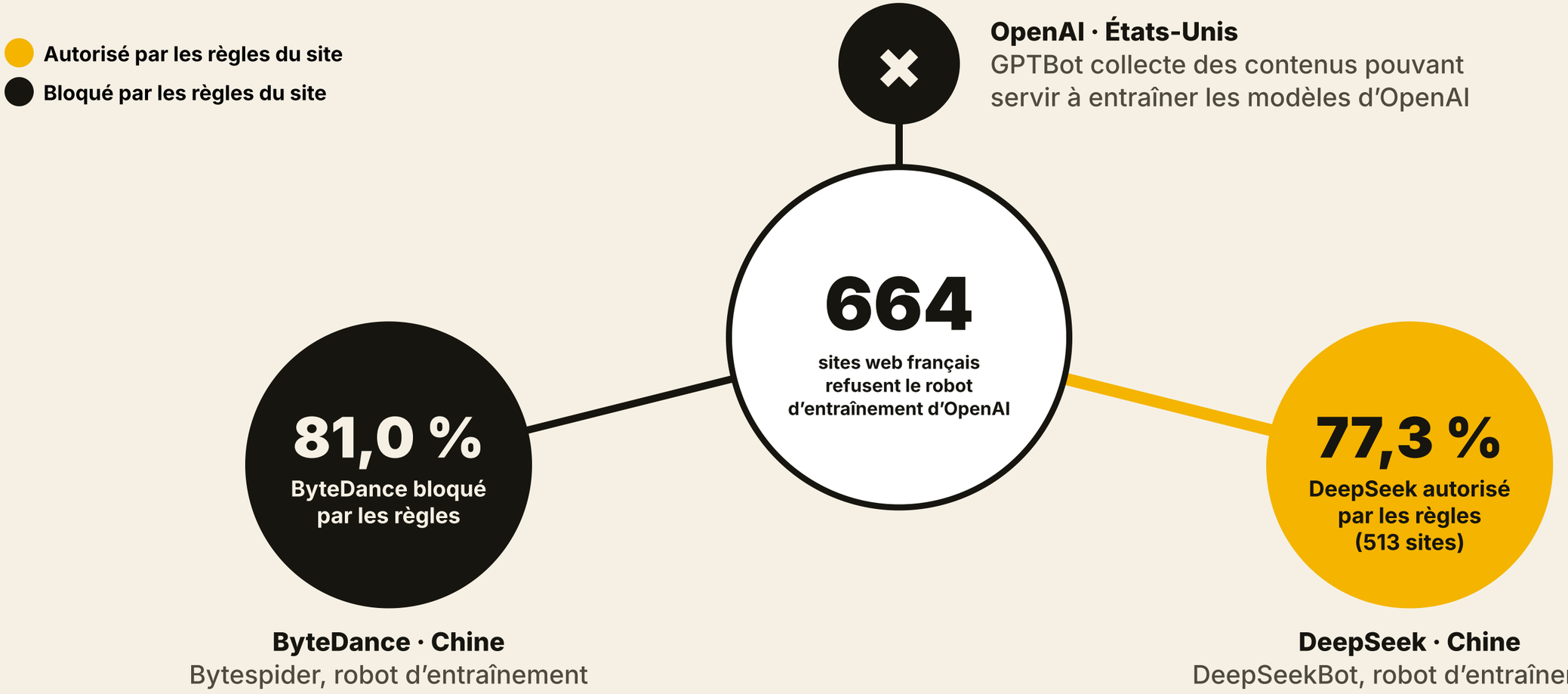
No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · FRANCE

France : la plupart des sites web qui refusent le robot d’entraînement d’OpenAI laissent entrer celui de DeepSeek



Les deux à la fois : 389 des 664 sites (58,6 %) bloquent ByteDance et autorisent DeepSeek. Sur 6 235 sites avec un résultat clair.

France : la plupart des sites restent ouverts aux robots d’IA qui répondent aux questions

Ouverts aux six robots qui répondent aux questions pour OpenAI, Anthropic et Perplexity



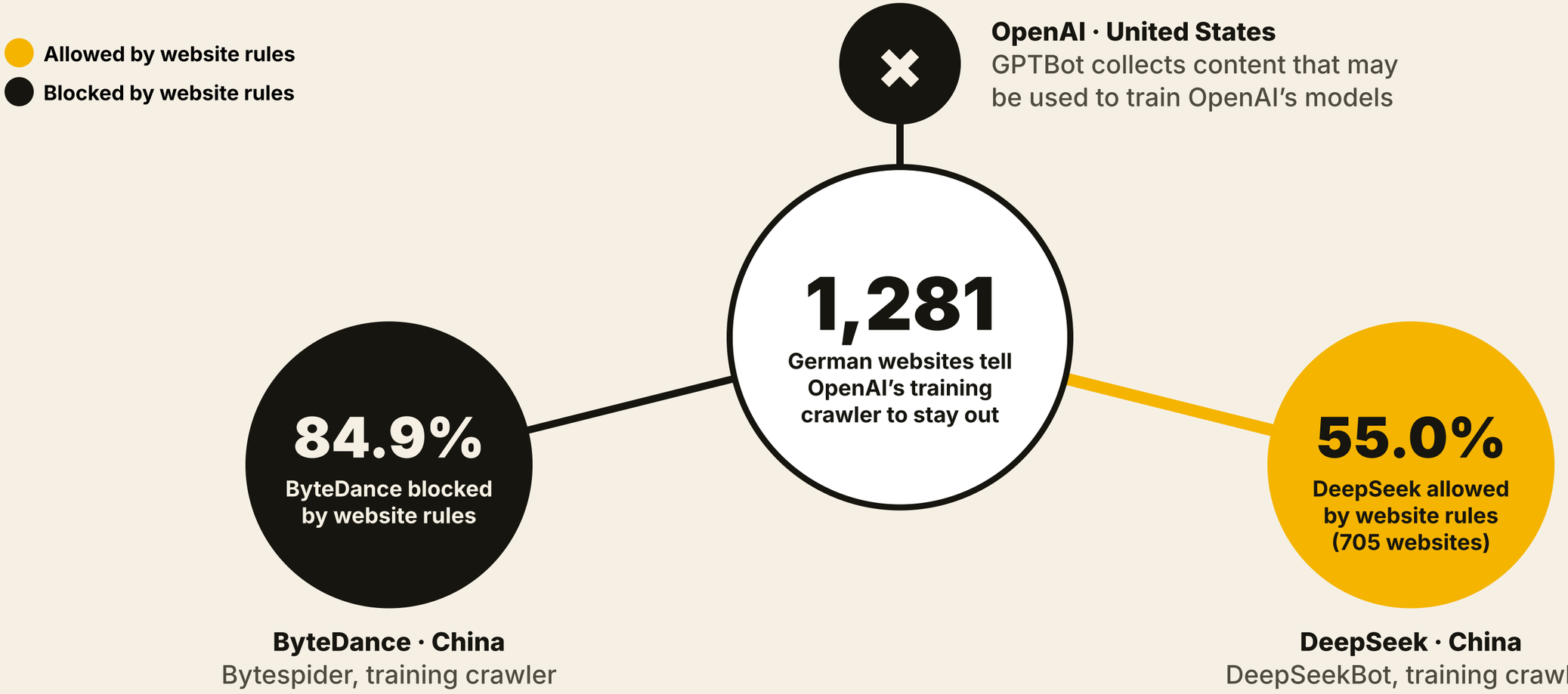
Aucune règle écrite pour l’IA : pas de fichier robots.txt, ou aucun robot d’IA reconnu par l’Index n’est nommé



L’absence de règle écrite pour l’IA ne ferme pas un site à l’IA : les règles générales s’appliquent.

THE ANSWER GAP · GERMANY

Germany: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 512 of the 1,281 (40.0%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 11,268 websites with a clear result.

Germany: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity



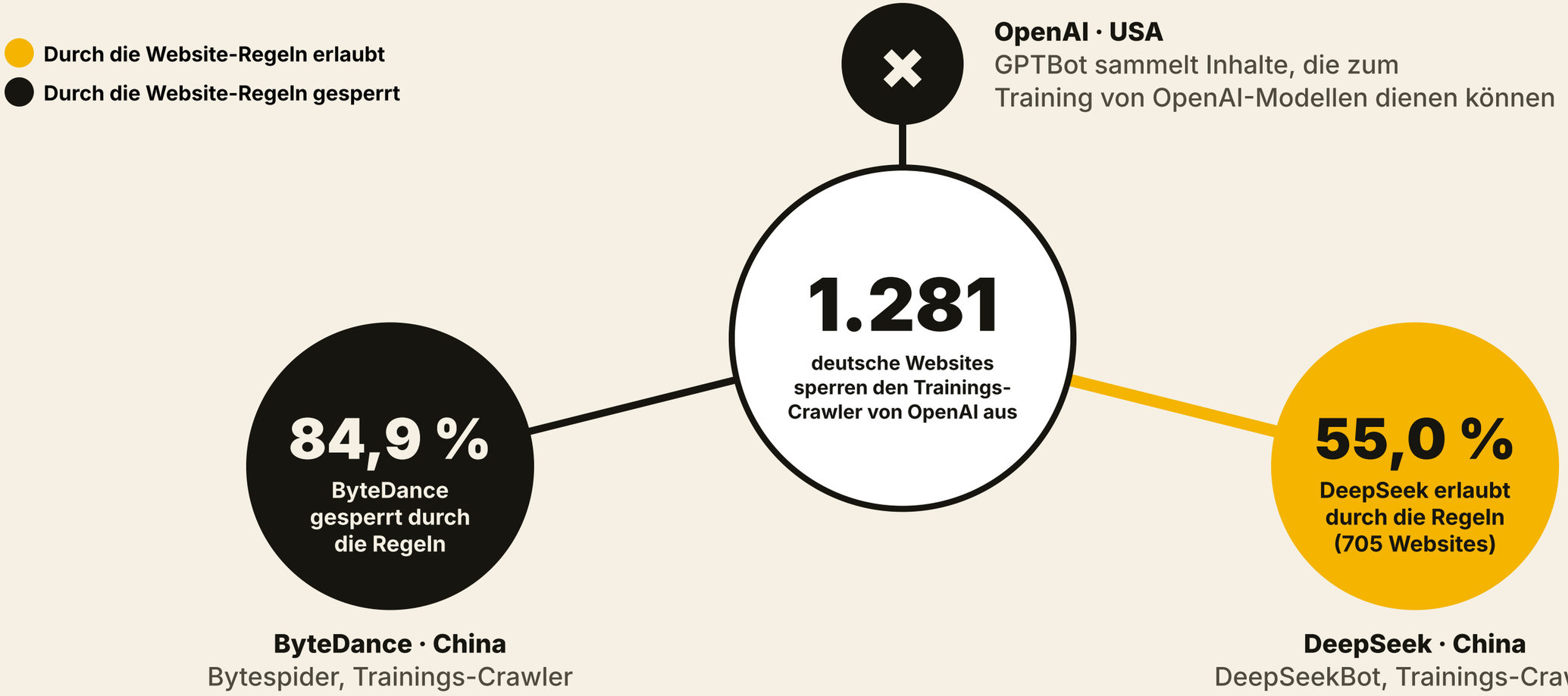
No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · DEUTSCHLAND

Deutschland: Die meisten Websites, die den Trainings-Crawler von OpenAI aussperren, lassen den von DeepSeek herein



Beides zugleich: 512 der 1.281 Websites (40,0 %) sperren ByteDance und erlauben DeepSeek. Von 11.268 Websites mit eindeutigem Ergebnis.

Deutschland: Die meisten Websites bleiben für KI-Crawler offen, die Fragen beantworten

Offen für alle sechs Crawler, die für OpenAI, Anthropic und Perplexity Fragen beantworten



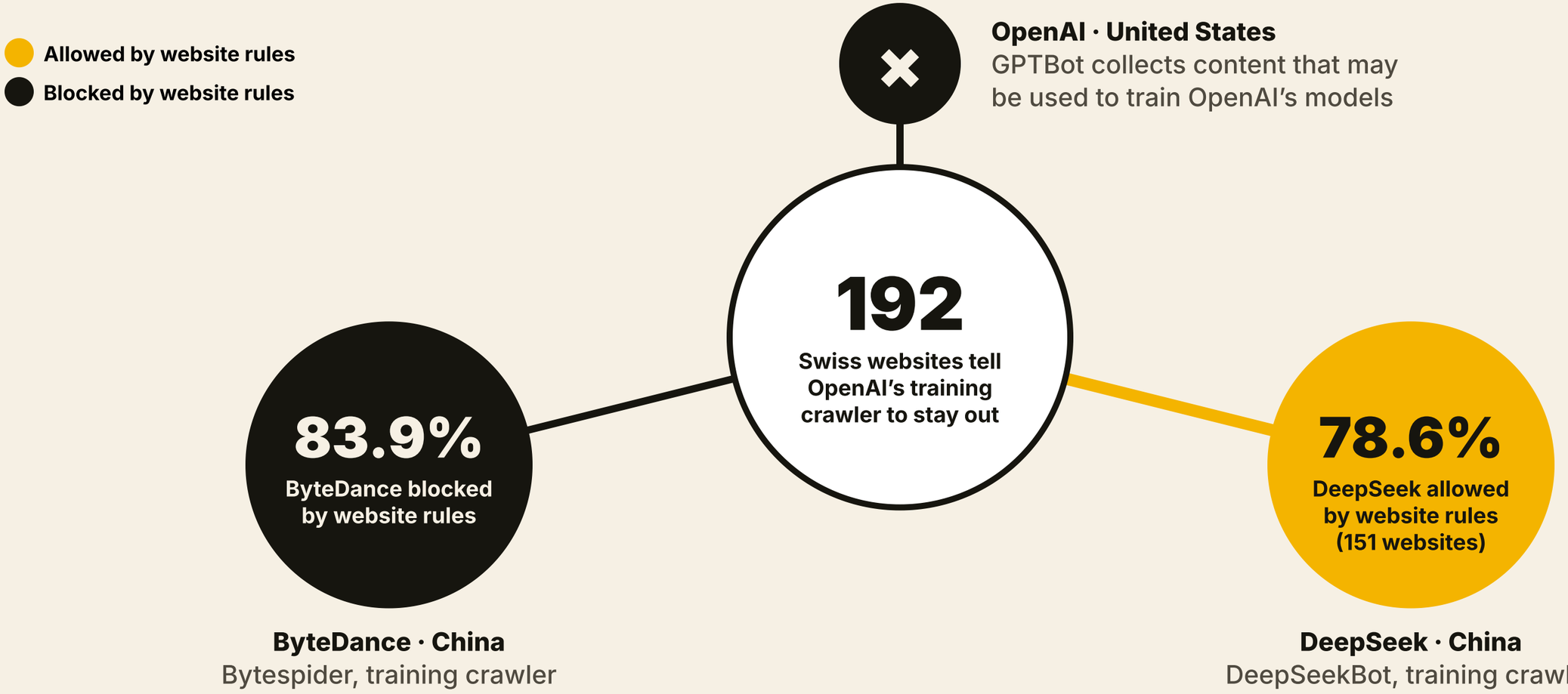
Keine Regel für KI: keine robots.txt-Datei oder keine, die einen vom Index erkannten KI-Crawler nennt



Keine Regel für KI heißt nicht, dass eine Website für KI geschlossen ist: Es gelten die allgemeinen Regeln.

THE ANSWER GAP · SWITZERLAND

Switzerland: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 120 of the 192 (62.5%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 1,673 websites with a clear result.

THE ANSWER GAP · SWITZERLAND

Switzerland: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity



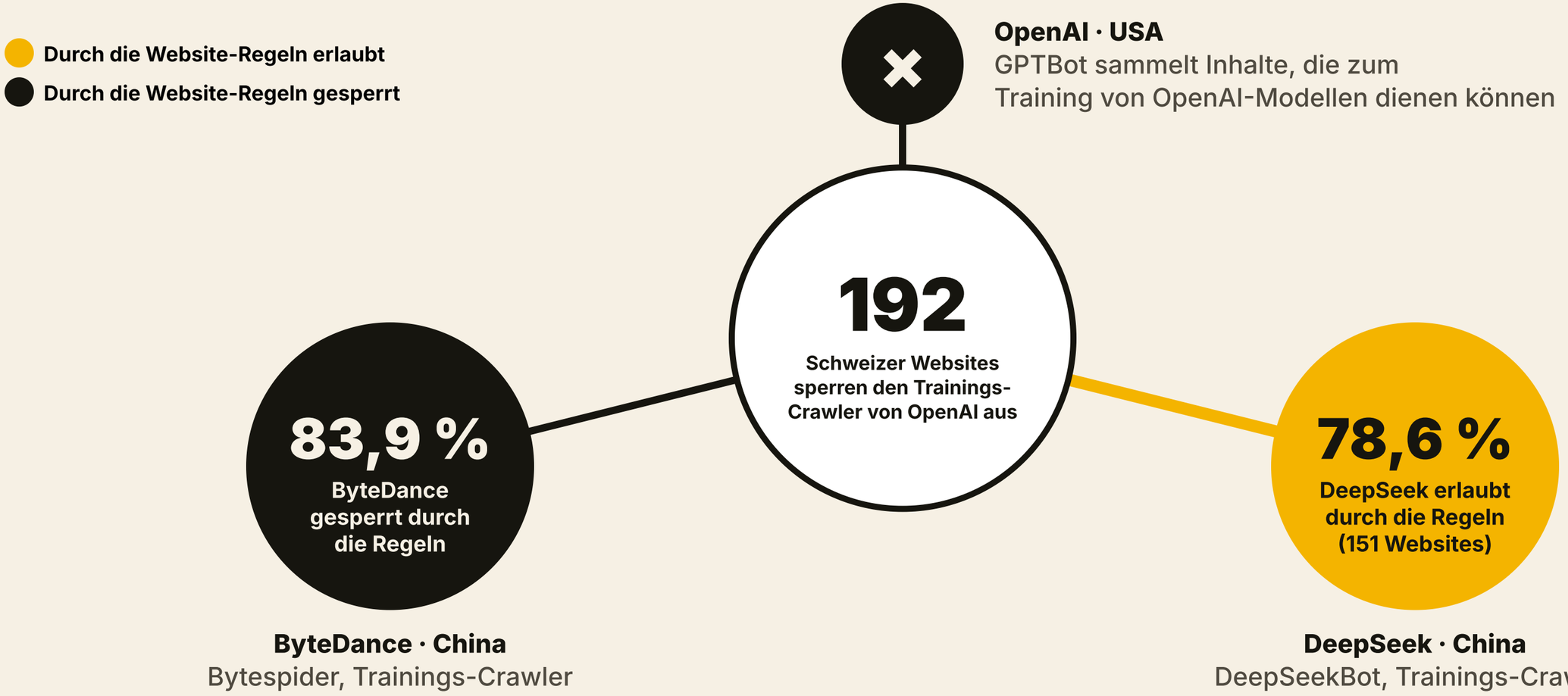
No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · SCHWEIZ

Schweiz: Die meisten Websites, die den Trainings-Crawler von OpenAI aussperren, lassen den von DeepSeek herein



Beides zugleich: 120 der 192 Websites (62,5 %) sperren ByteDance und erlauben DeepSeek. Von 1673 Websites mit eindeutigem Ergebnis.

THE ANSWER GAP · SCHWEIZ

Schweiz: Die meisten Websites bleiben für KI-Crawler offen, die Fragen beantworten

Offen für alle sechs Crawler, die für OpenAI, Anthropic und Perplexity Fragen beantworten



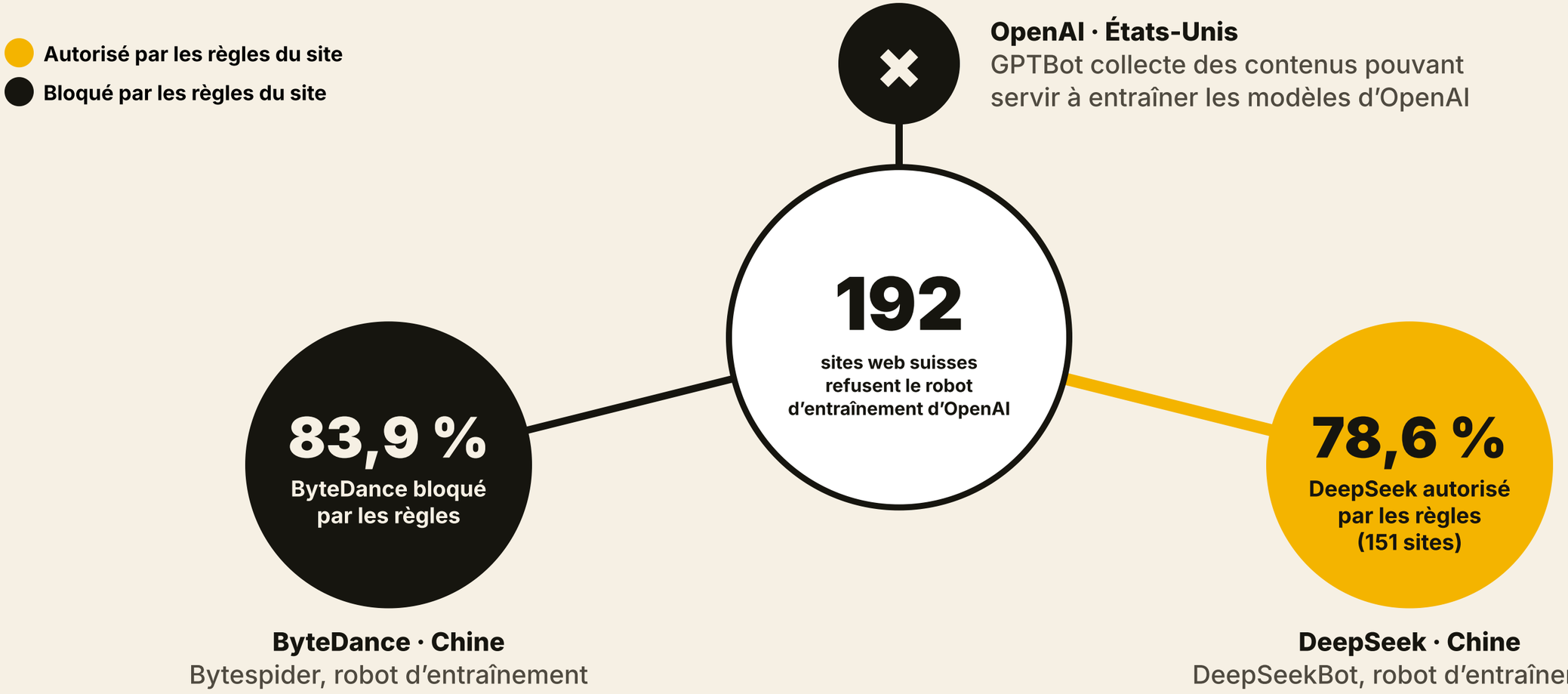
Keine Regel für KI: keine robots.txt-Datei oder keine, die einen vom Index erkannten KI-Crawler nennt



Keine Regel für KI heißt nicht, dass eine Website für KI geschlossen ist: Es gelten die allgemeinen Regeln.

THE ANSWER GAP · SUISSE

Suisse : la plupart des sites web qui refusent le robot d’entraînement d’OpenAI laissent entrer celui de DeepSeek



Les deux à la fois : 120 des 192 sites (62,5 %) bloquent ByteDance et autorisent DeepSeek. Sur 1673 sites avec un résultat clair.

Suisse : la plupart des sites restent ouverts aux robots d’IA qui répondent aux questions

Ouverts aux six robots qui répondent aux questions pour OpenAI, Anthropic et Perplexity



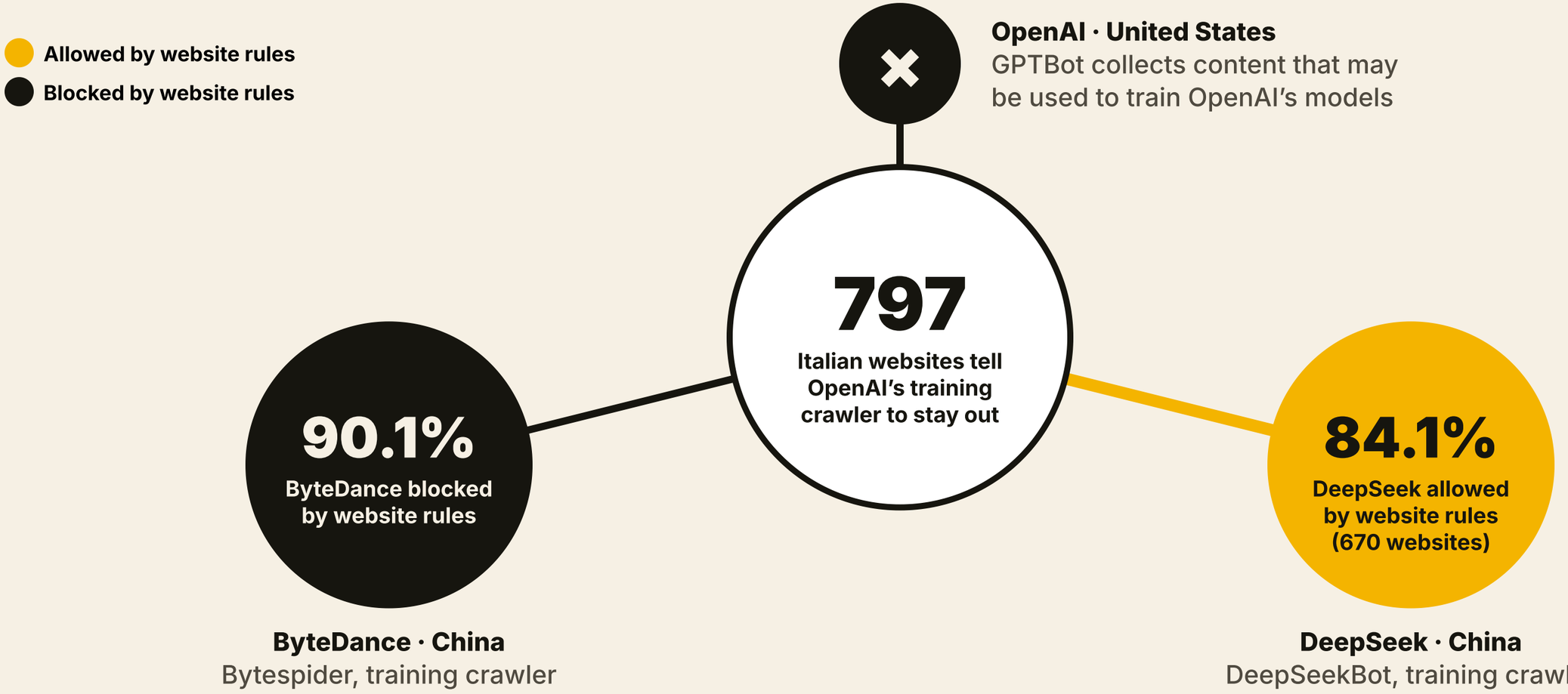
Aucune règle écrite pour l’IA : pas de fichier robots.txt, ou aucun robot d’IA reconnu par l’Index n’est nommé



L’absence de règle écrite pour l’IA ne ferme pas un site à l’IA : les règles générales s’appliquent.

THE ANSWER GAP · ITALY

Italy: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 592 of the 797 (74.3%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 6,789 websites with a clear result.

Italy: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity



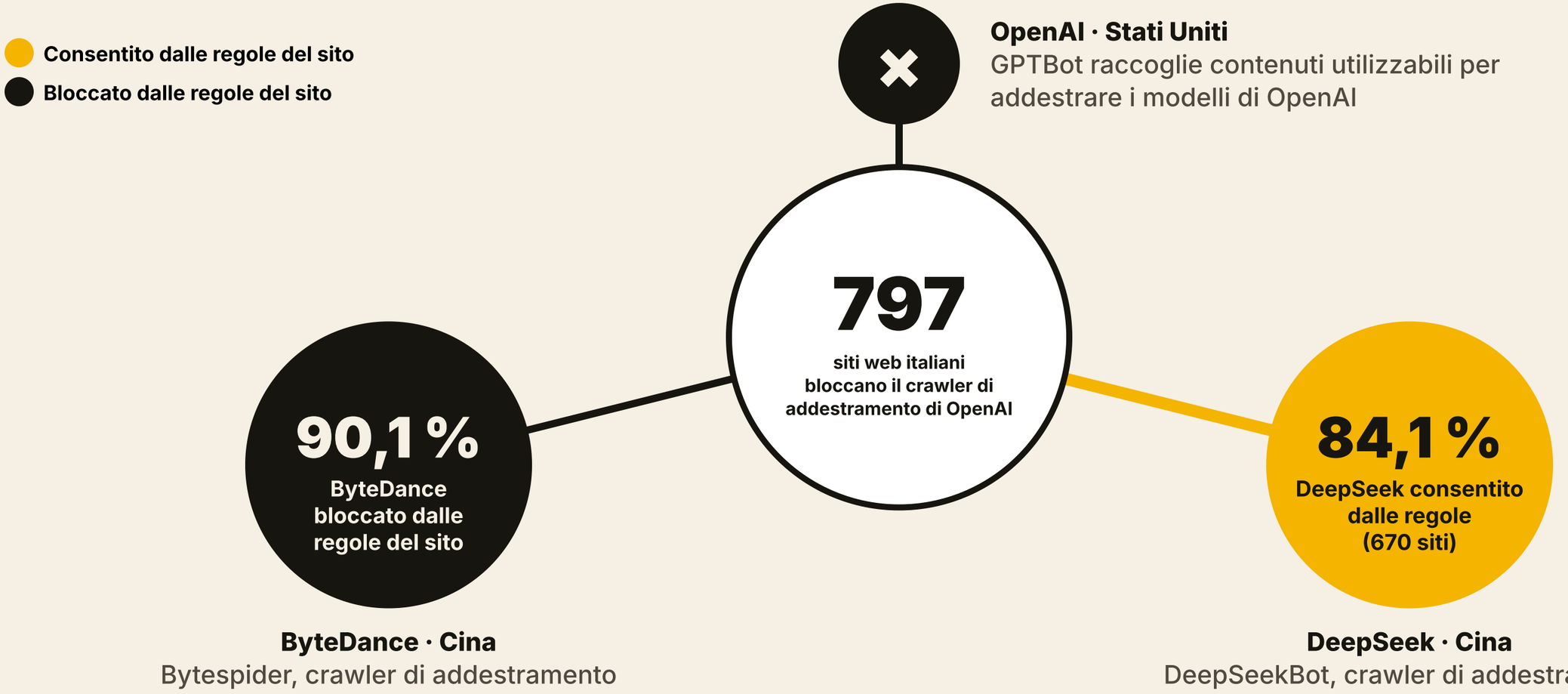
No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · ITALIA

Italia: la maggior parte dei siti web che bloccano il crawler di addestramento di OpenAI lascia entrare quello di DeepSeek



Entrambe le cose: 592 dei 797 siti (74,3 %) bloccano ByteDance e consentono DeepSeek. Su 6.789 siti con un risultato chiaro.

THE ANSWER GAP · ITALIA

Italia: la maggior parte dei siti resta aperta ai crawler di IA che rispondono alle domande

Aperti ai sei crawler che rispondono alle domande per OpenAI, Anthropic e Perplexity



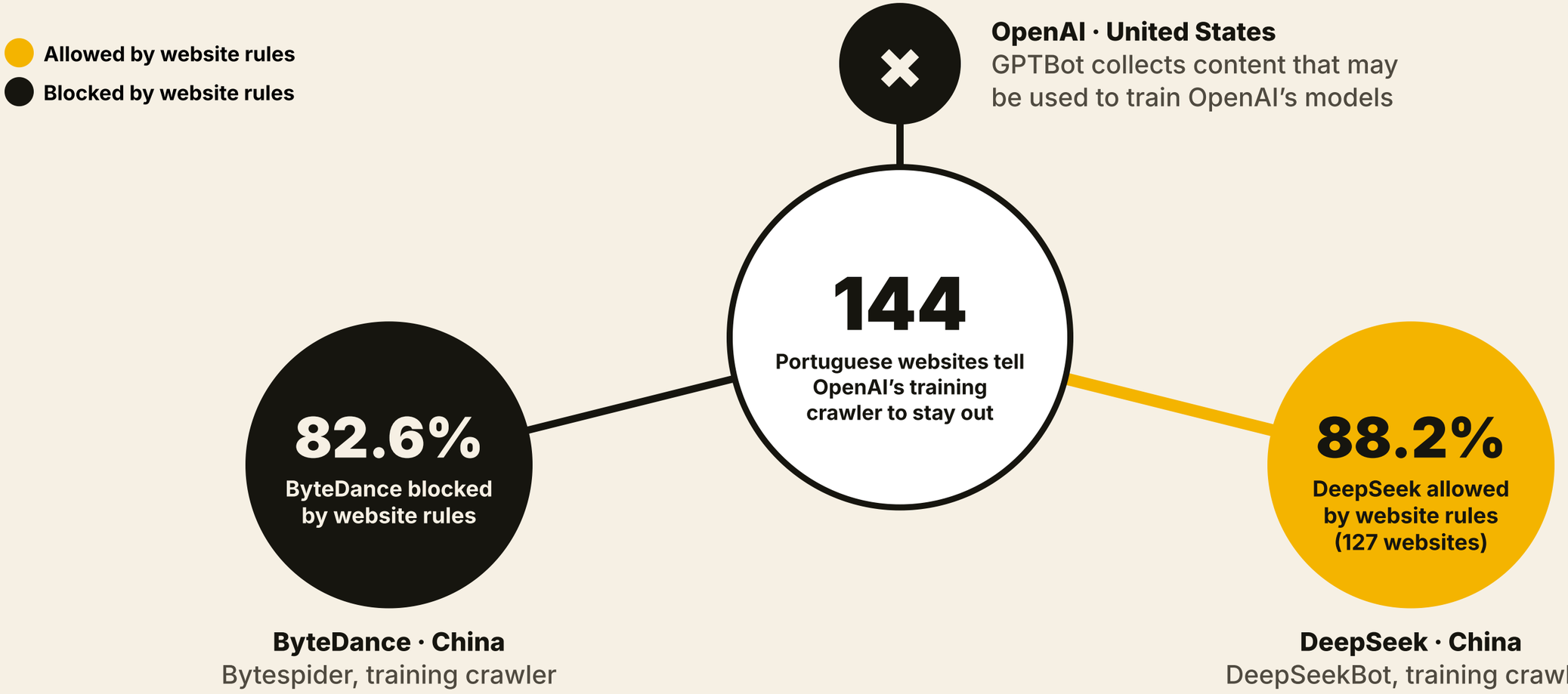
Nessuna regola scritta per l'IA: nessun file robots.txt, o nessuno che nomini un crawler di IA riconosciuto dall'Indice



L'assenza di una regola per l'IA non chiude un sito all'IA: si applicano le regole generali.

THE ANSWER GAP · PORTUGAL

Portugal: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 103 of the 144 (71.5%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 1,086 websites with a clear result.

Portugal: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity



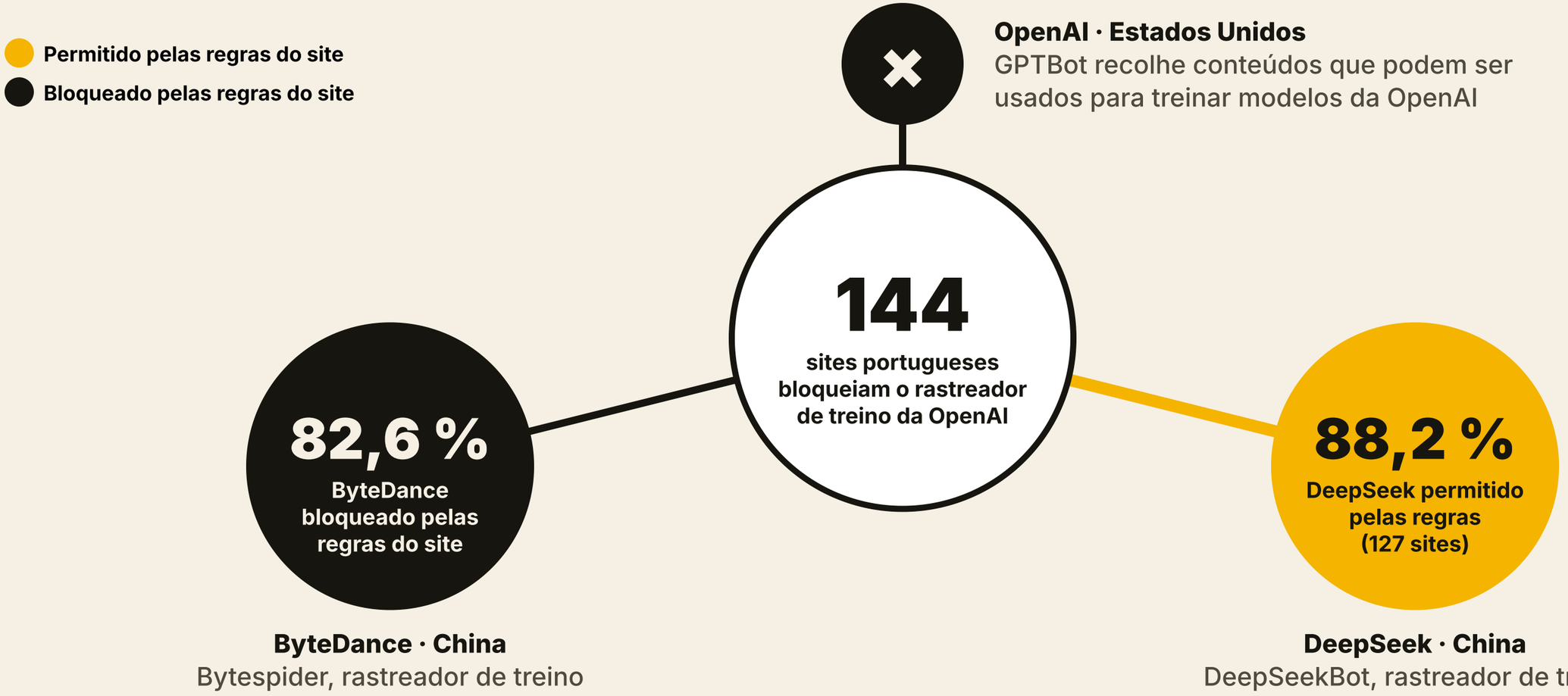
No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · PORTUGAL

Portugal: a maioria dos sites que bloqueiam o rastreador de treino da OpenAI deixa entrar o da DeepSeek



As duas coisas: 103 dos 144 sites (71,5 %) bloqueiam a ByteDance e permitem a DeepSeek. De 1086 sites com resultado claro.

THE ANSWER GAP · PORTUGAL

Portugal: a maioria dos sites continua aberta aos rastreadores de IA que respondem a perguntas

Abertos aos seis rastreadores que respondem a perguntas para a OpenAI, a Anthropic e a Perplexity



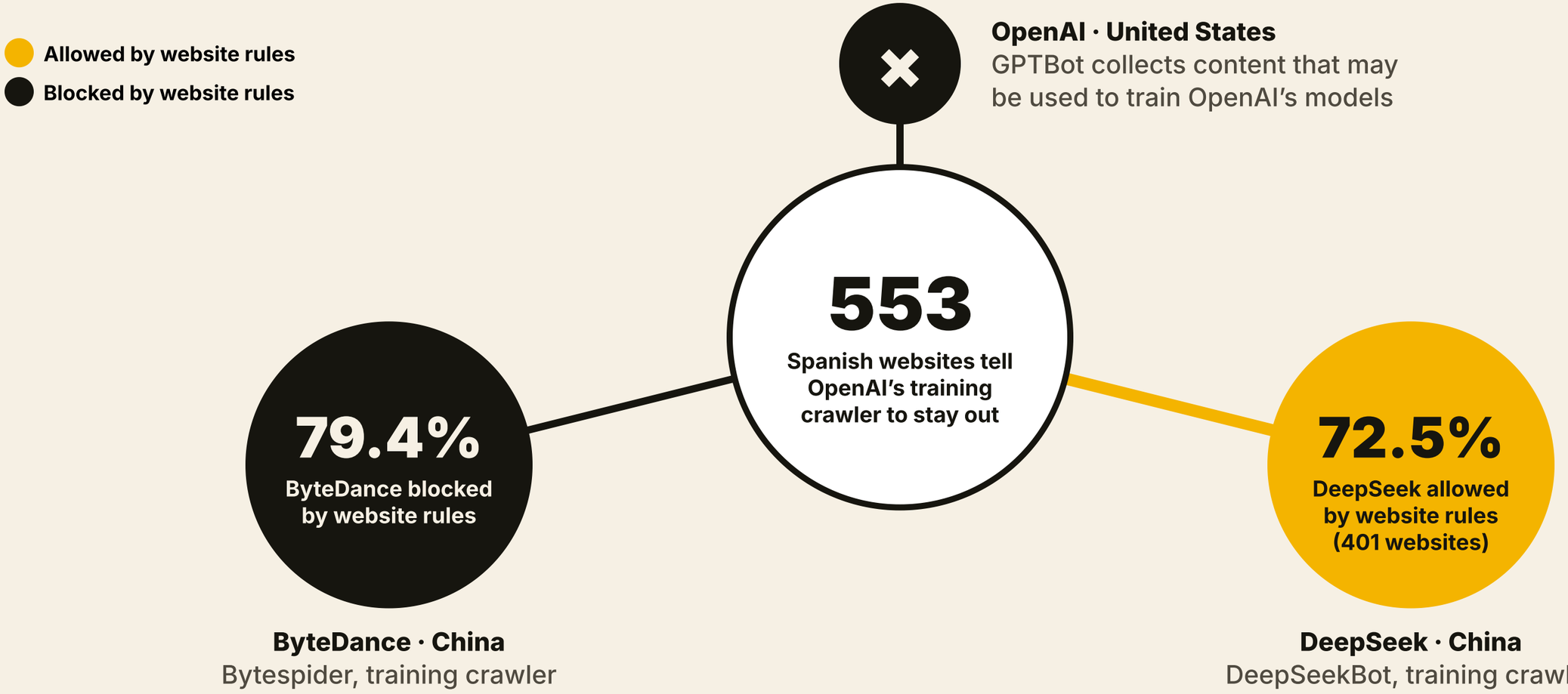
Nenhuma regra escrita para a IA: sem ficheiro robots.txt, ou nenhum que nomeie um rastreador de IA reconhecido pelo Índice



Não ter uma regra para a IA não fecha um site à IA: aplicam-se as regras gerais.

THE ANSWER GAP · SPAIN

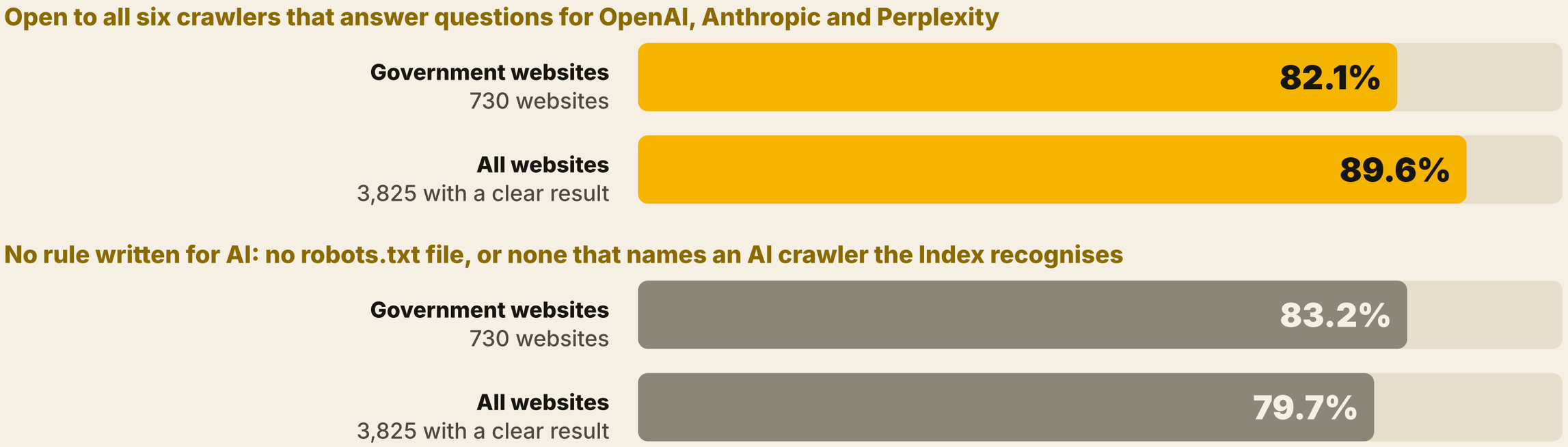
Spain: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 288 of the 553 (52.1%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 3,825 websites with a clear result.

THE ANSWER GAP · SPAIN

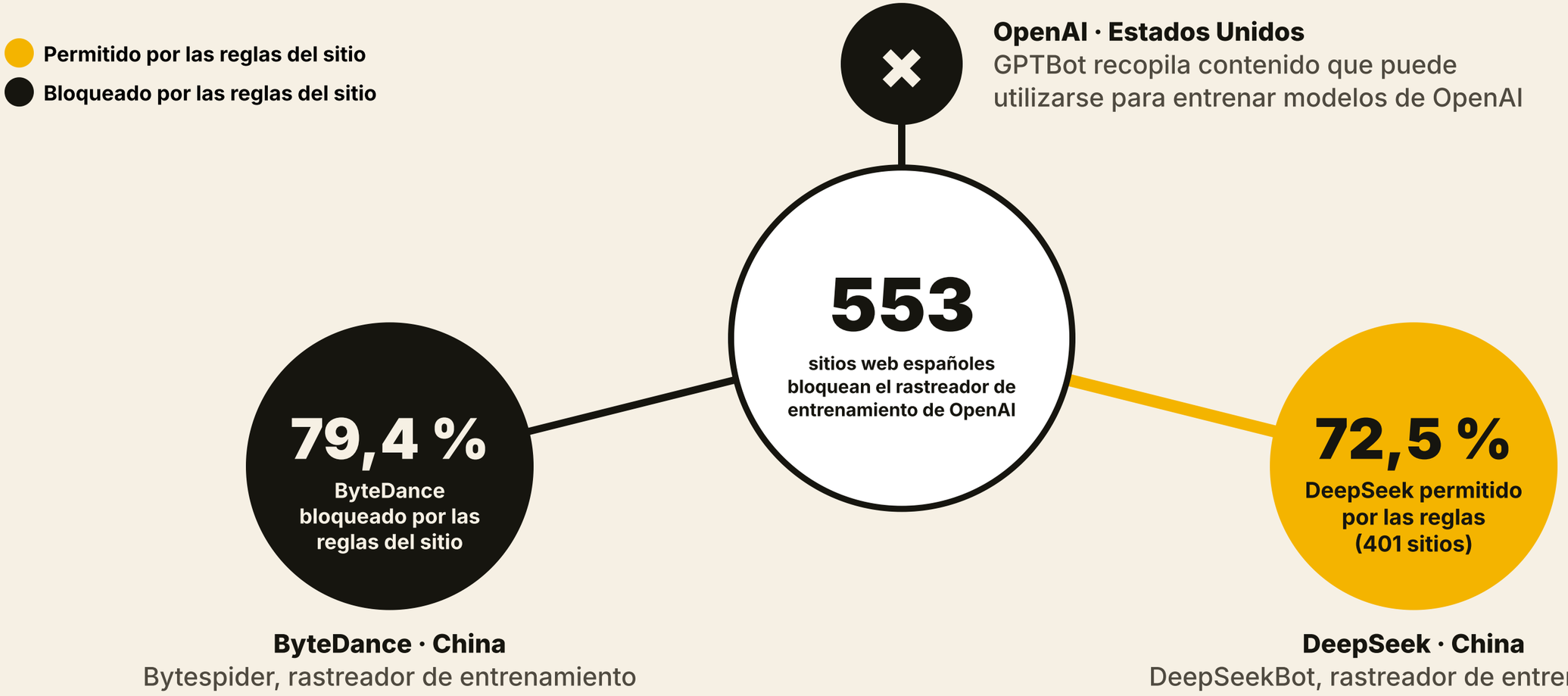
Spain: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · ESPAÑA

España: la mayoría de los sitios web que bloquean el rastreador de entrenamiento de OpenAI permiten el de DeepSeek



Ambas cosas: 288 de los 553 sitios (52,1 %) bloquean a ByteDance y permiten a DeepSeek. De 3825 sitios web con resultado claro.

THE ANSWER GAP · ESPAÑA

España: la mayoría de los sitios web siguen abiertos a los rastreadores de IA que responden preguntas

Abiertos a los seis rastreadores que responden preguntas para OpenAI, Anthropic y Perplexity



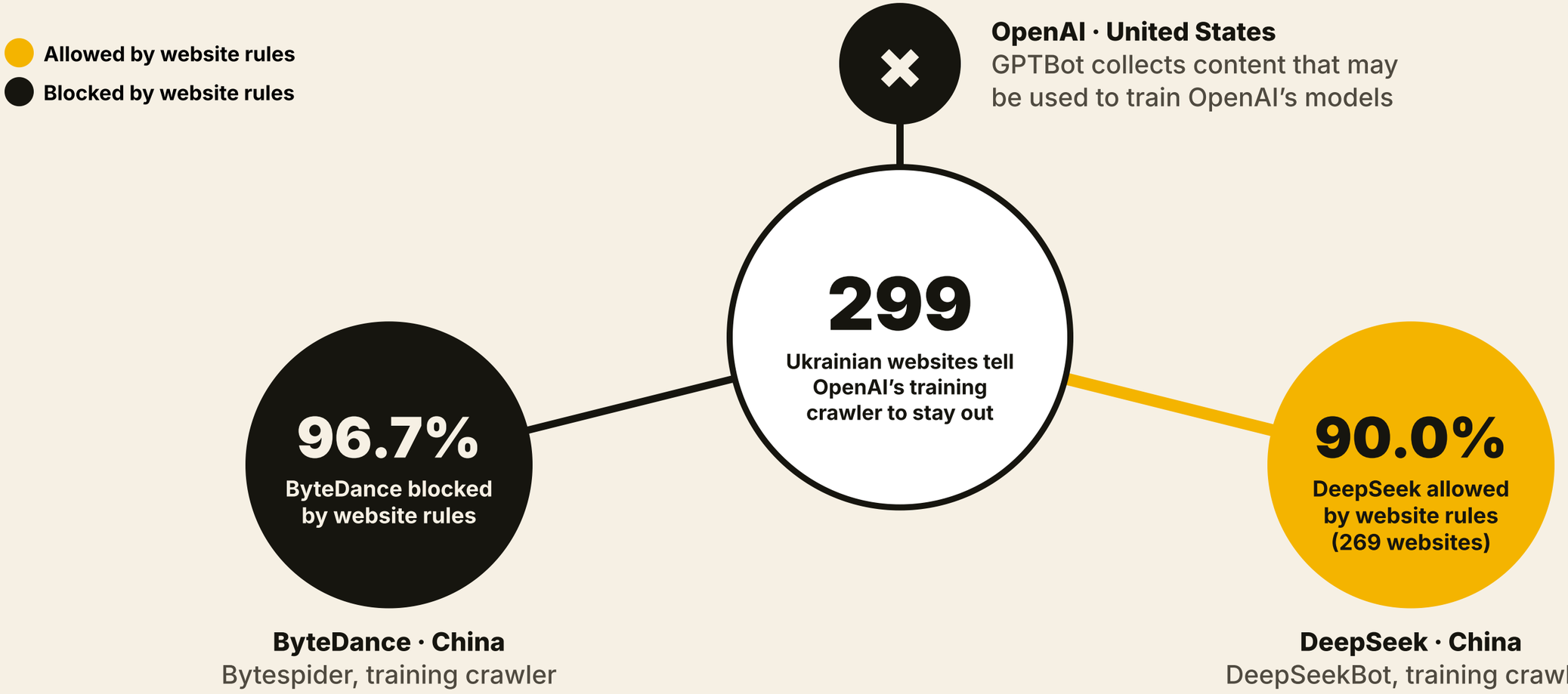
Ninguna regla escrita para la IA: sin archivo robots.txt, o ninguno que nombre un rastreador de IA reconocido por el índice



No tener una regla para la IA no cierra un sitio web a la IA: se aplican las reglas generales.

THE ANSWER GAP · UKRAINE

Ukraine: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 259 of the 299 (86.6%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 2,390 websites with a clear result. News and media websites that refuse GPTBot: 93.1% allow DeepSeek (217 of 233).

Ukraine: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity



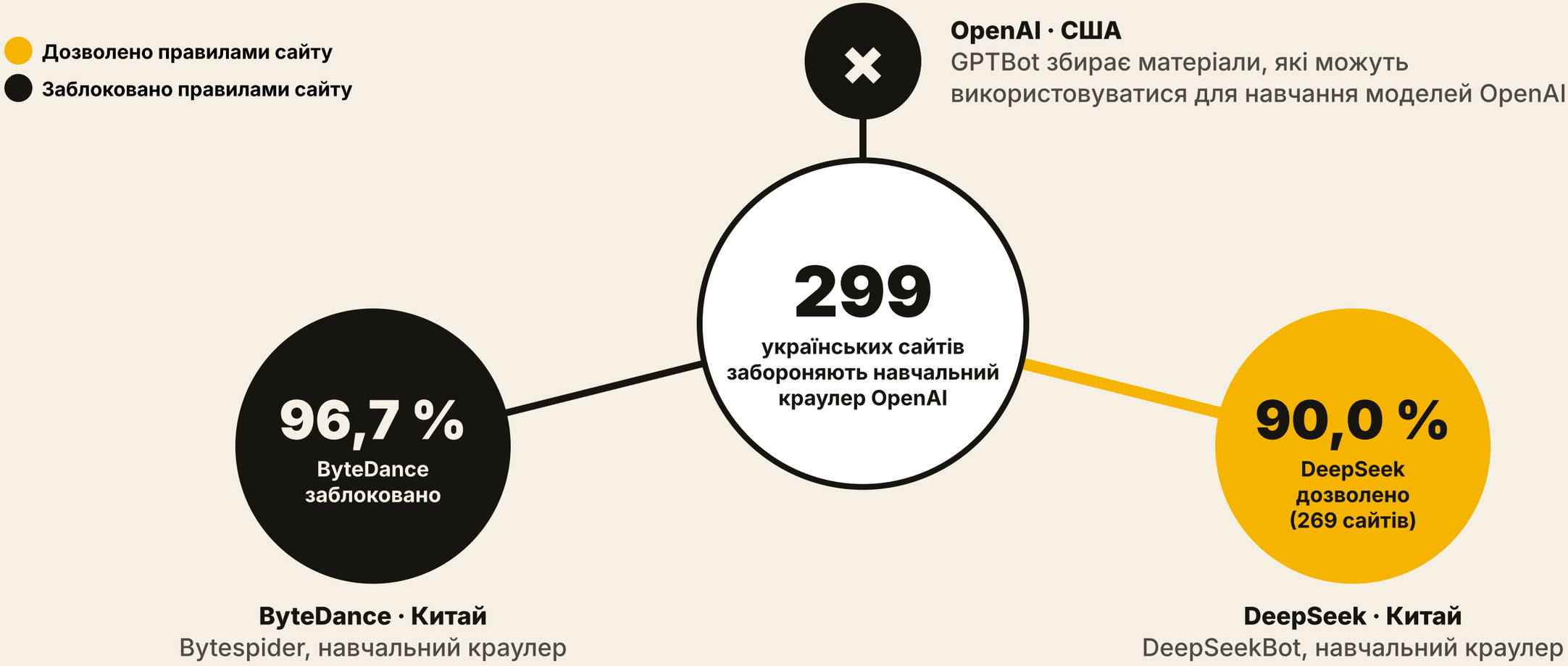
No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · УКРАЇНА

Україна: більшість сайтів, які забороняють навчальний краулер OpenAI, впускають краулер DeepSeek



Обидва водночас: 259 з 299 сайтів (86,6 %) блокують ByteDance і дозволяють DeepSeek. З 2 390 сайтів із чітким результатом. Новинні та медійні сайти, які забороняють GPTBot: 93,1 % дозволяють DeepSeek (217 з 233).

Україна: більшість сайтів залишаються відкритими для краулерів ШІ, які відповідають на запитання

Відкриті для шести краулерів, які відповідають на запитання для OpenAI, Anthropic і Perplexity



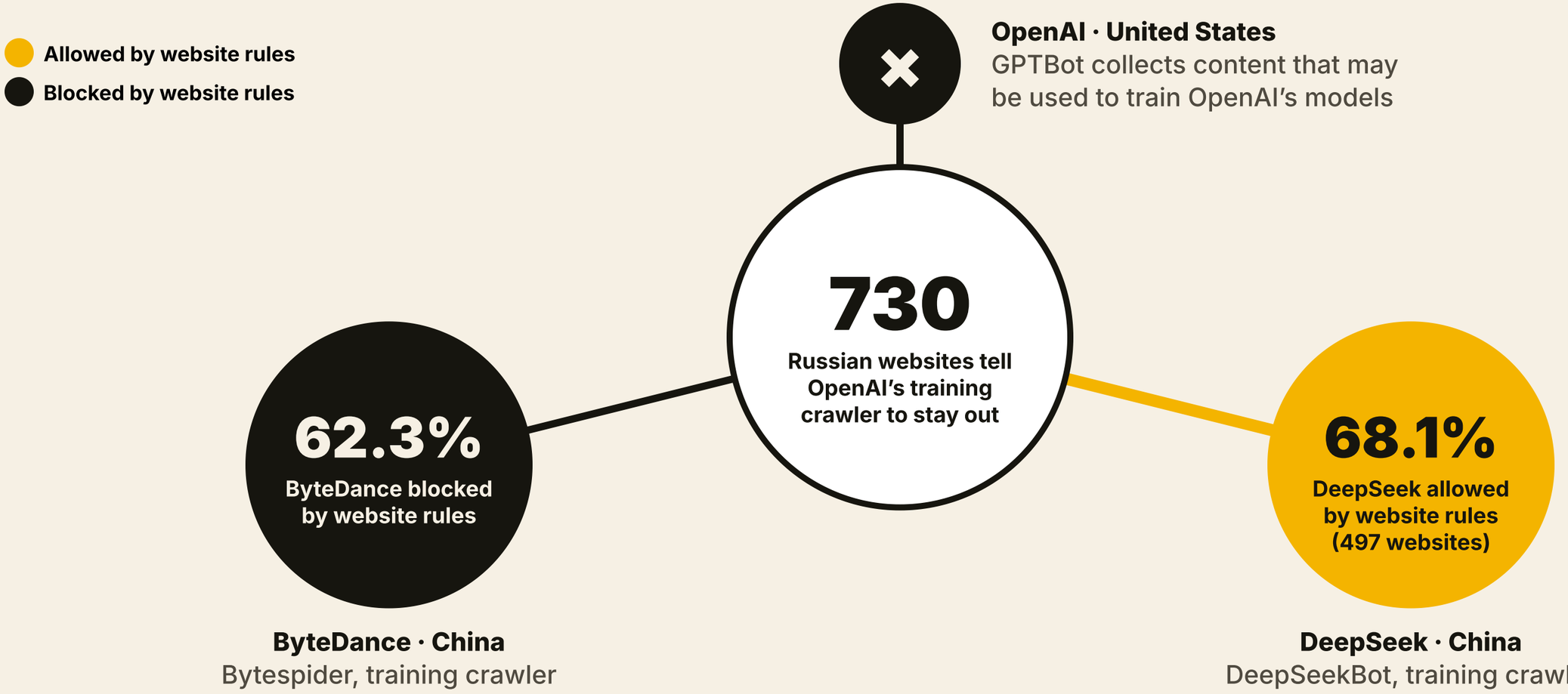
Жодного правила для ШІ: немає файлу robots.txt або в ньому не названо жодного краулера ШІ, який розпізнає Індекс



Відсутність правила для ШІ не закриває сайт для ШІ: діють загальні правила.

THE ANSWER GAP · RUSSIA

Russia: most websites that refuse OpenAI’s training crawler let DeepSeek’s in



Both at once: 222 of the 730 (30.4%) block ByteDance and allow DeepSeek. Of 6,839 websites with a clear result. Government: 136 of the 147 government websites that refuse GPTBot belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (mid.ru).

Russia: most websites stay open to the AI crawlers that answer people’s questions

Open to all six crawlers that answer questions for OpenAI, Anthropic and Perplexity



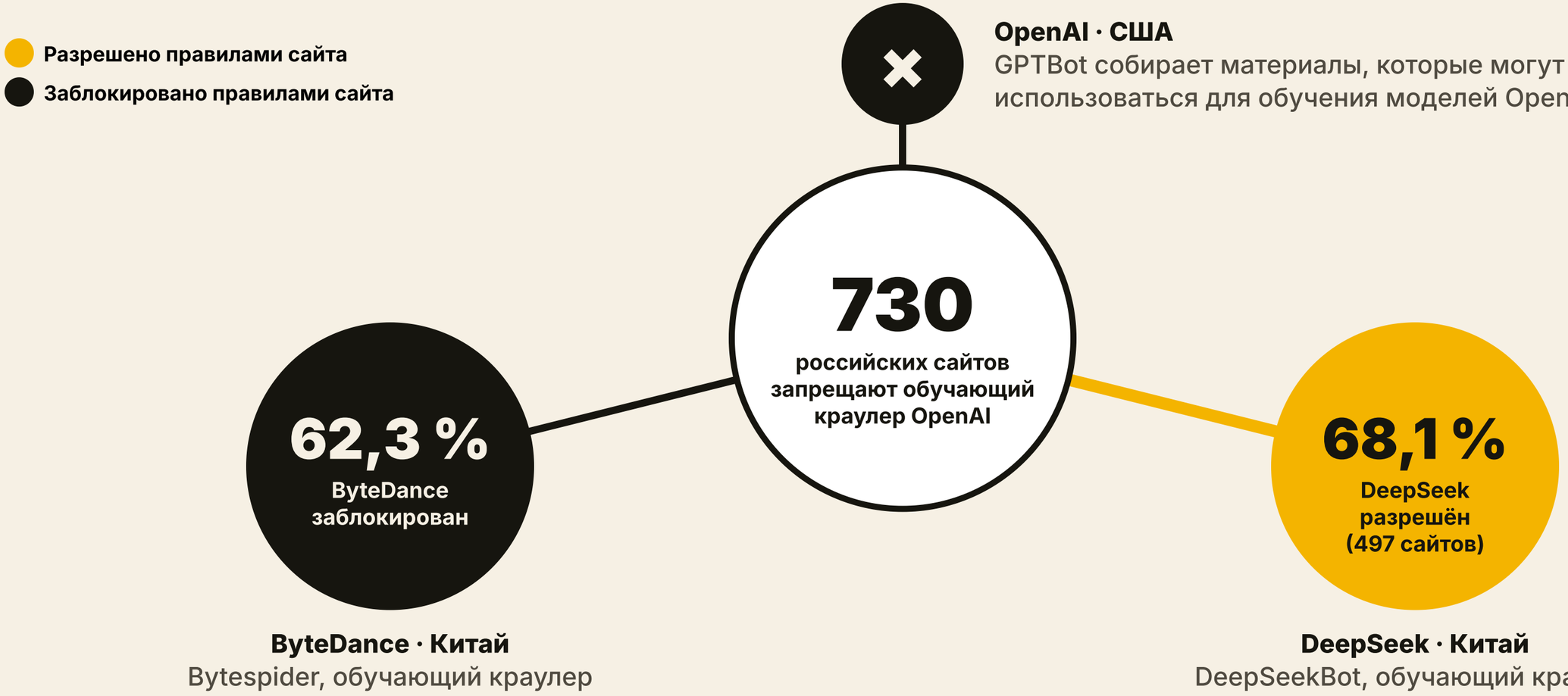
No rule written for AI: no robots.txt file, or none that names an AI crawler the Index recognises



Having no rule written for AI does not close a website to AI: general rules apply.

THE ANSWER GAP · РОССИЯ

Россия: большинство сайтов, которые запрещают обучающий краулер OpenAI, пускают краулер DeepSeek



И то и другое: 222 из 730 сайтов (30,4 %) блокируют ByteDance и разрешают DeepSeek. Из 6 839 сайтов с чётким результатом. Государственные сайты: 136 из 147, запрещающих GPTBot, принадлежат МИД России (mid.ru).

Россия: большинство сайтов остаются открытыми для краулеров ИИ, которые отвечают на вопросы

Открыты для шести краулеров, отвечающих на вопросы для OpenAI, Anthropic и Perplexity



Нет правил для ИИ: нет файла robots.txt или в нём не назван ни один краулер ИИ, распознаваемый Индексом



Отсутствие правил для ИИ не закрывает сайт для ИИ: действуют общие правила.

The Answer Gap: figures in these infographics

UK news websites that tell both OAI-SearchBot and ChatGPT-User, the crawlers OpenAI uses to answer questions, to stay out: 99 of 434 top-ranked UK news websites (22.8%), against 337 of 8,066 other UK news websites (4.2%). UK government websites open to all six answering crawlers: 754 of 765 (98.6%).

Country	Of websites that refuse GPTBot: how many allow DeepSeekBot	Of websites with a clear result: how many have no rule written for AI
United Kingdom	1,280 of 1,506 (85.0%)	8,168 of 10,546 (77.5%)
Ireland	99 of 118 (83.9%)	775 of 969 (80.0%)
France	513 of 664 (77.3%)	5,066 of 6,235 (81.3%)
Germany	705 of 1,281 (55.0%)	9,472 of 11,268 (84.1%)
Switzerland	151 of 192 (78.6%)	1,388 of 1,673 (83.0%)
Italy	670 of 797 (84.1%)	5,377 of 6,789 (79.2%)
Portugal	127 of 144 (88.2%)	869 of 1,086 (80.0%)
Spain	401 of 553 (72.5%)	3,048 of 3,825 (79.7%)
Ukraine	269 of 299 (90.0%)	1,955 of 2,390 (81.8%)
Russia	497 of 730 (68.1%)	5,901 of 6,839 (86.3%)

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