



Research Funding for Economics in Europe

Report of the *European Economic Association Standing Committee on Research* and the *Academic Careers Observatory of the Max Weber Programme*, European University Institute.

Ramon Marimon (EEA-SCR, EUI, UPF and Barcelona GSE),
Mike Mariathan, Igor Guardiancich and Eva Rossi (EUI)

The presentation is complemented with the results of the larger:

SURVEY ON RESEARCH FUNDING FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES IN EUROPE:

MAX WEBER PROGRAMME - ACADEMIC CAREERS OBSERVATORY

&

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH



Part I

The sample and the experience



EEA and MWP-ACO Survey on Economics

The union of two samples:

1. RePEc European economists: top 12.5% *union* top 25% of every European country;
2. EEA members.

Total number of economists invited: 5416

Total number of valid responses: 2384

Web support: LimeService

Period: June 21st to July 15th, 2010



ESA and MWP-ACO Survey on Sociology

The union of two samples:

1. Top 10 Journals - ISI Web of Knowledge;
2. ESA members.

Total number of sociologists invited: 2180

Total number of valid responses: 766

Web support: LimeService

Period: October 25th to November 17th, 2010



ECPR and MWP-ACO Survey on Political Science

The union of two samples:

1. Top 10 Journals - ISI Web of Knowledge;
2. ECPR mailing list.

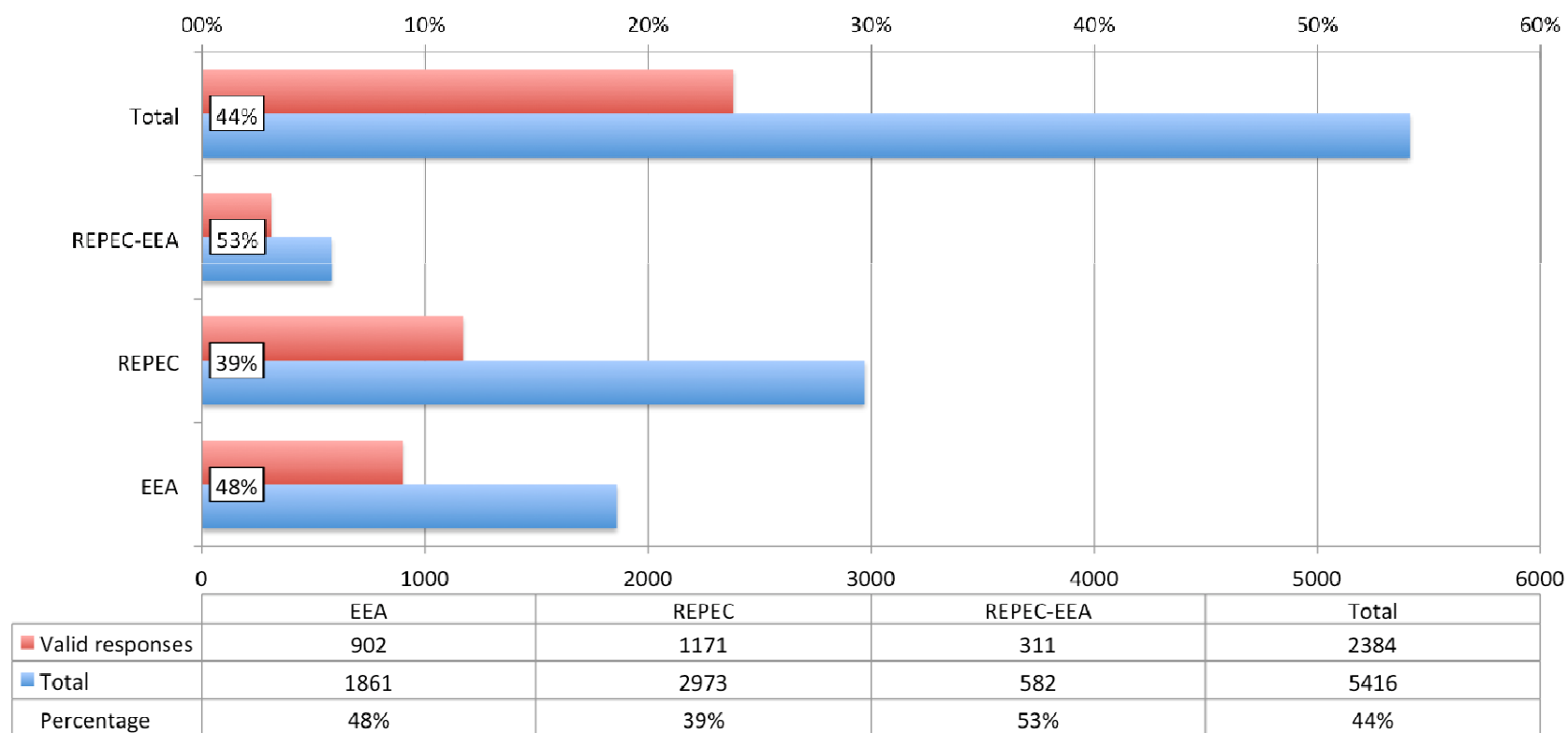
Total number of political scientists invited: 12348

Total number of valid responses: 652

Web support: LimeService

Period: November 30th, 2010 to February 7th, 2011

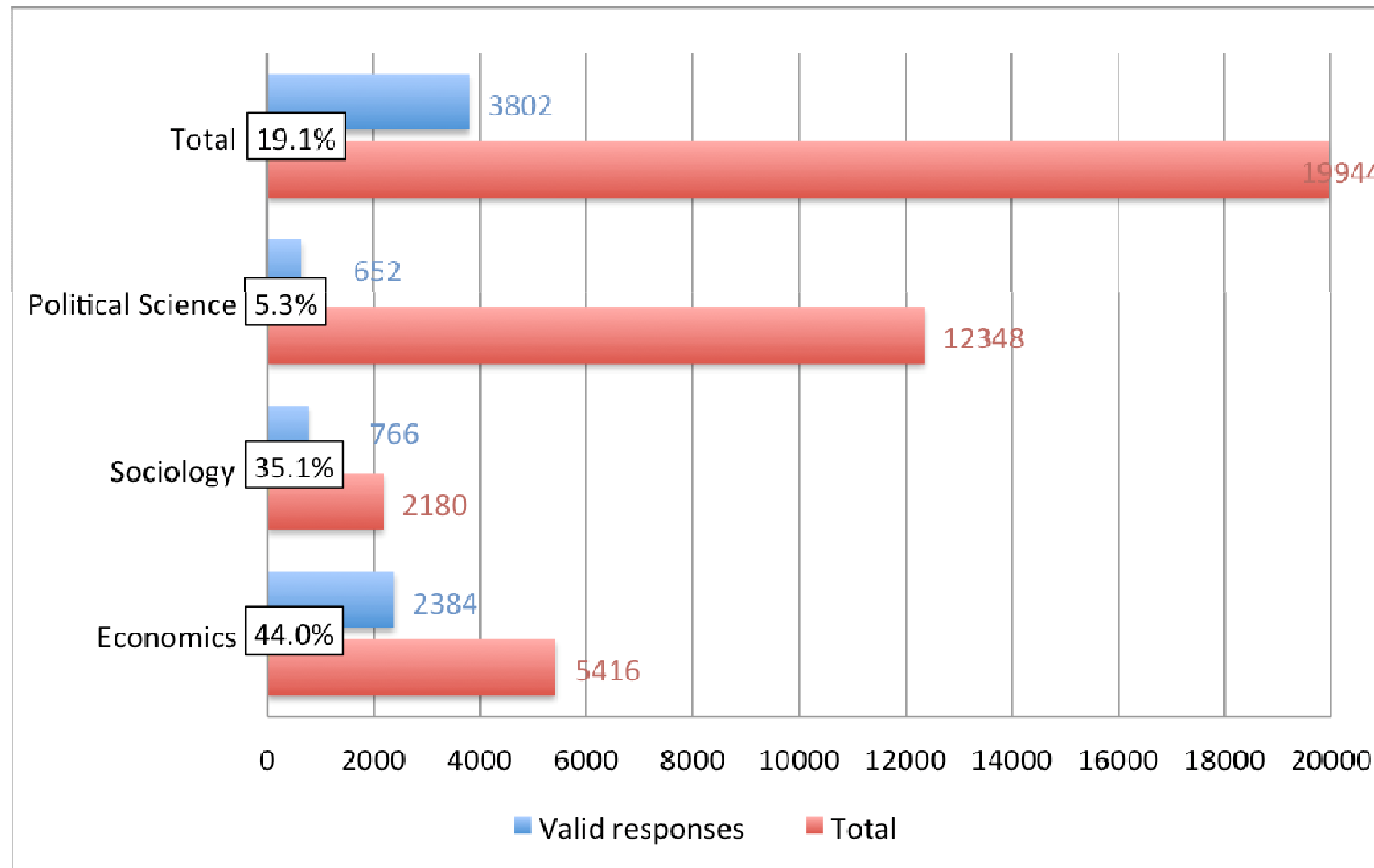
Response rates (economics)



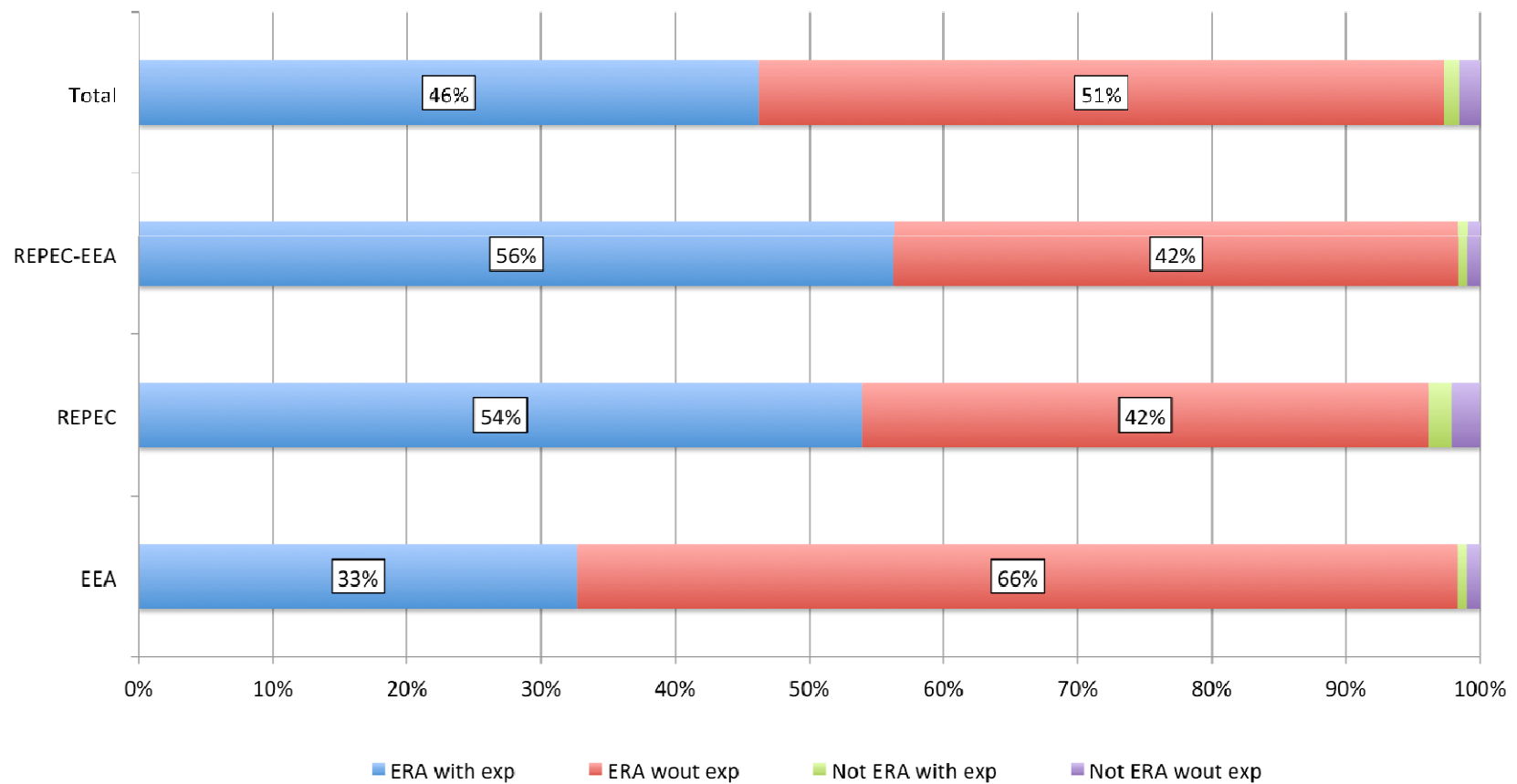
Valid responses

Total

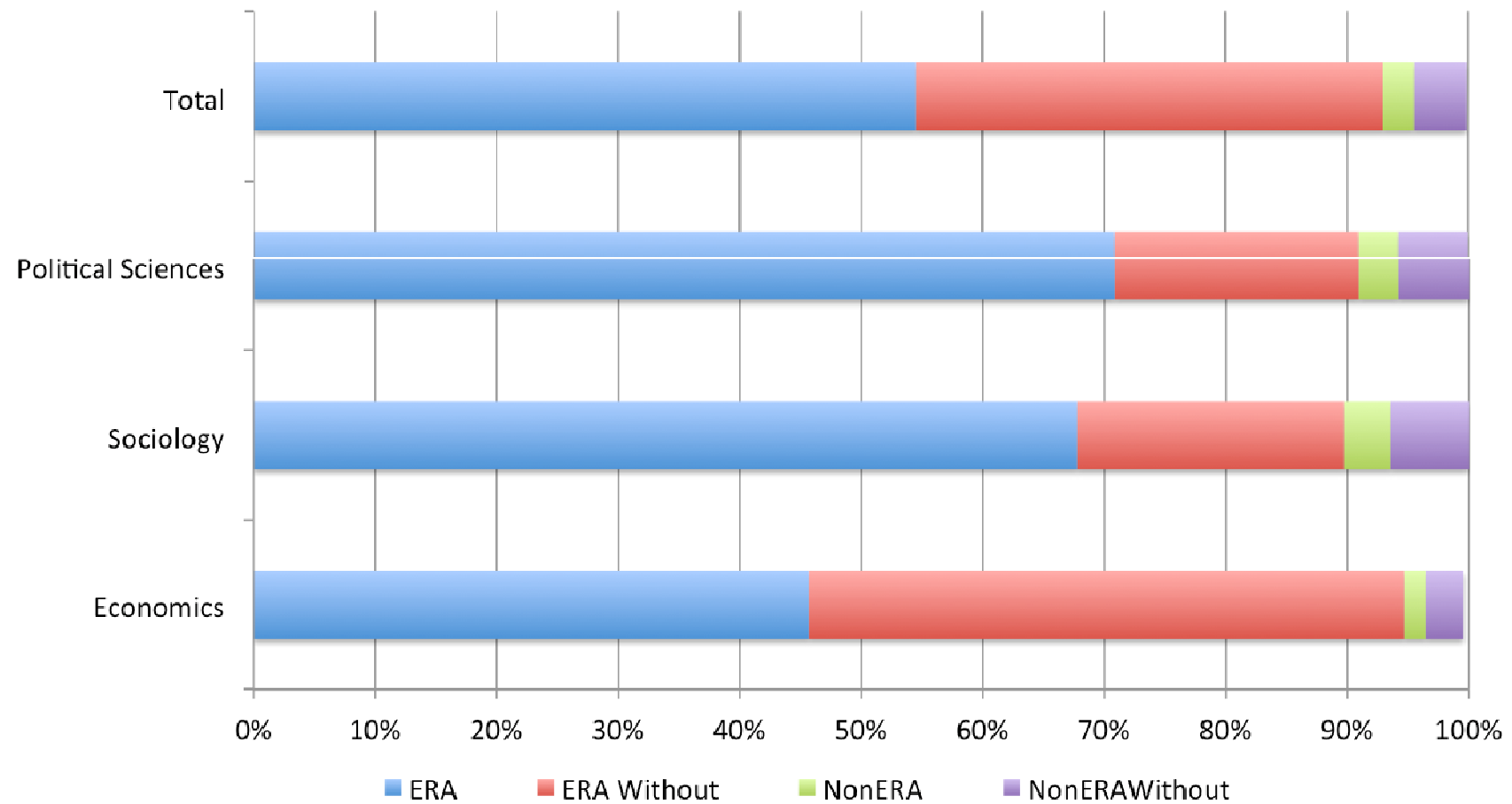
Response rates (all disciplines)



Experience (economics)



Experience (all disciplines)



The grouping of countries

CEE	Central and Eastern European		Anglo-Saxon		Continental
BG	Bulgaria	UK	United Kingdom	BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic			DE	Germany
EE	Estonia		Other Anglo-Saxon	FR	France
HR	Croatia	CH	Switzerland	IT	Italy
HU	Hungary	IR	Ireland	SP	Spain
LT	Lithuania	IL	Israel		
LV	Latvia	NL	Netherlands	Other Continental	
PL	Poland		Scandinavian	AT	Austria
RO	Romania			CY	Cyprus
RU	Russia	DK	Denmark	GR	Greece
SI	Slovenia	FI	Finland	LX	Luxembourg
SK	Slovakia	IC	Iceland	PT	Portugal
SRB	Serbia	NO	Norway	TK	Turkey
		SW	Sweden		



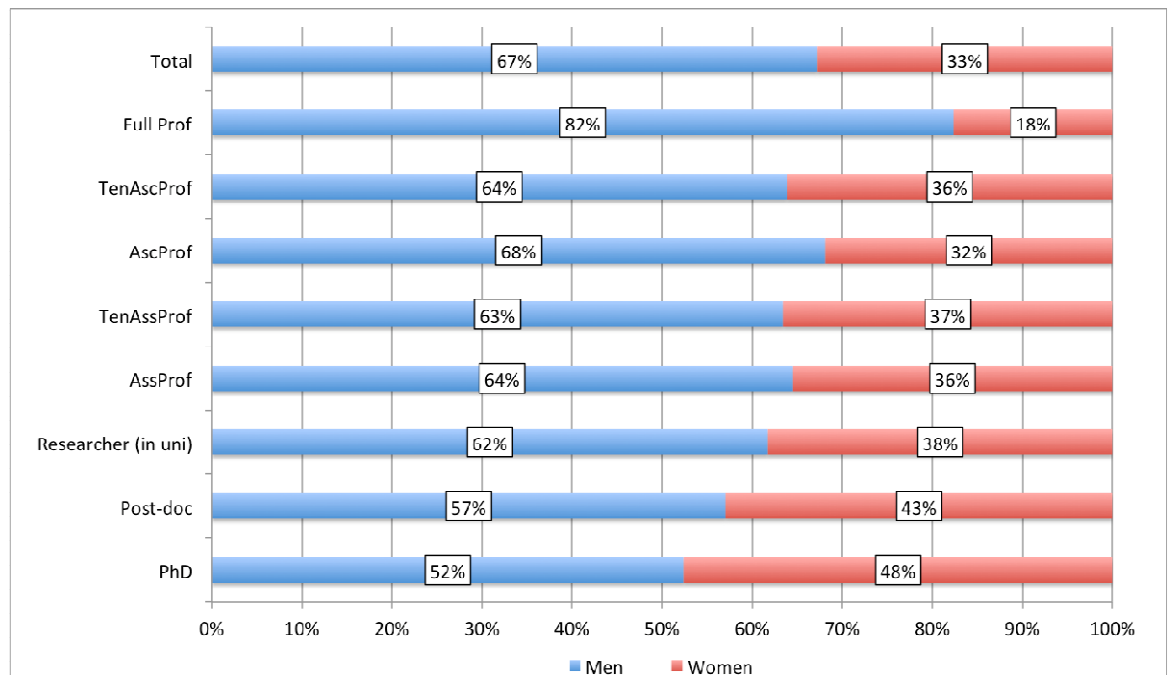
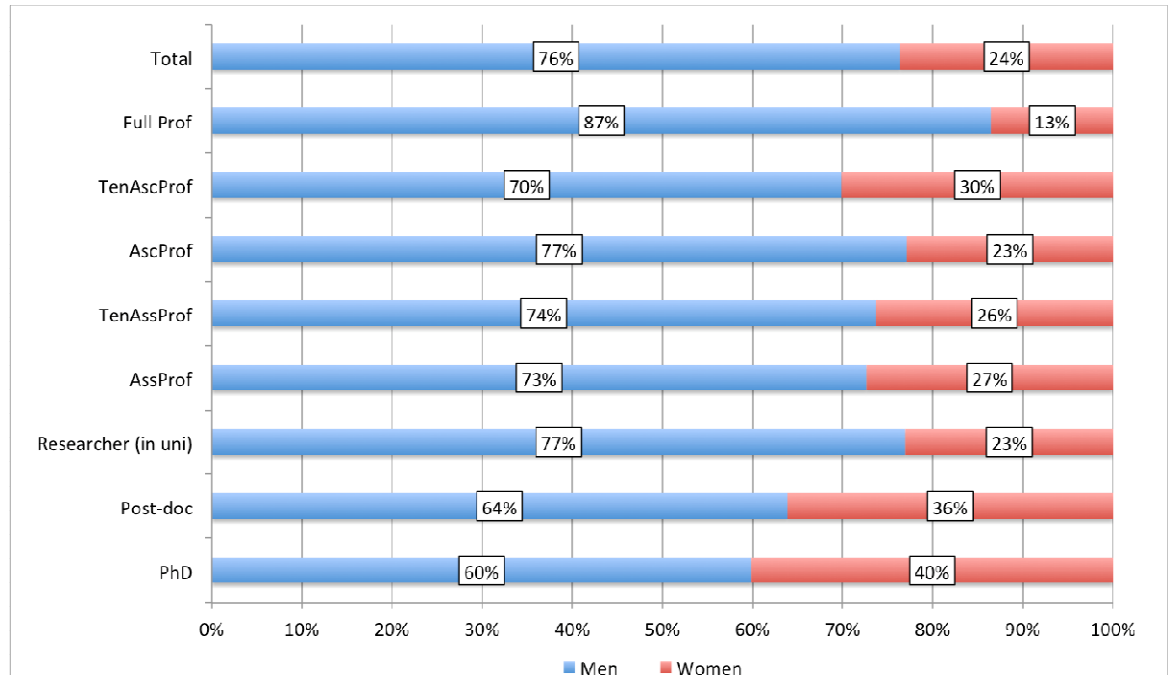
Part II

The sociology of the profession

Economics

The professional profile by gender

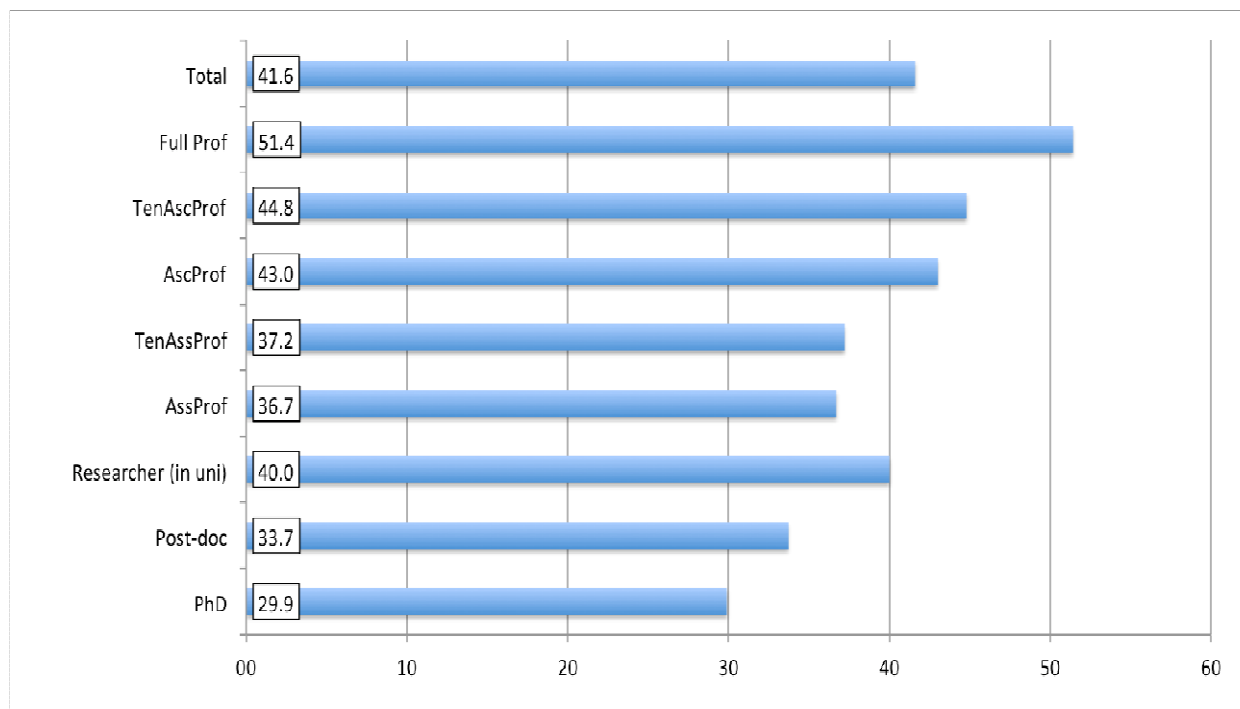
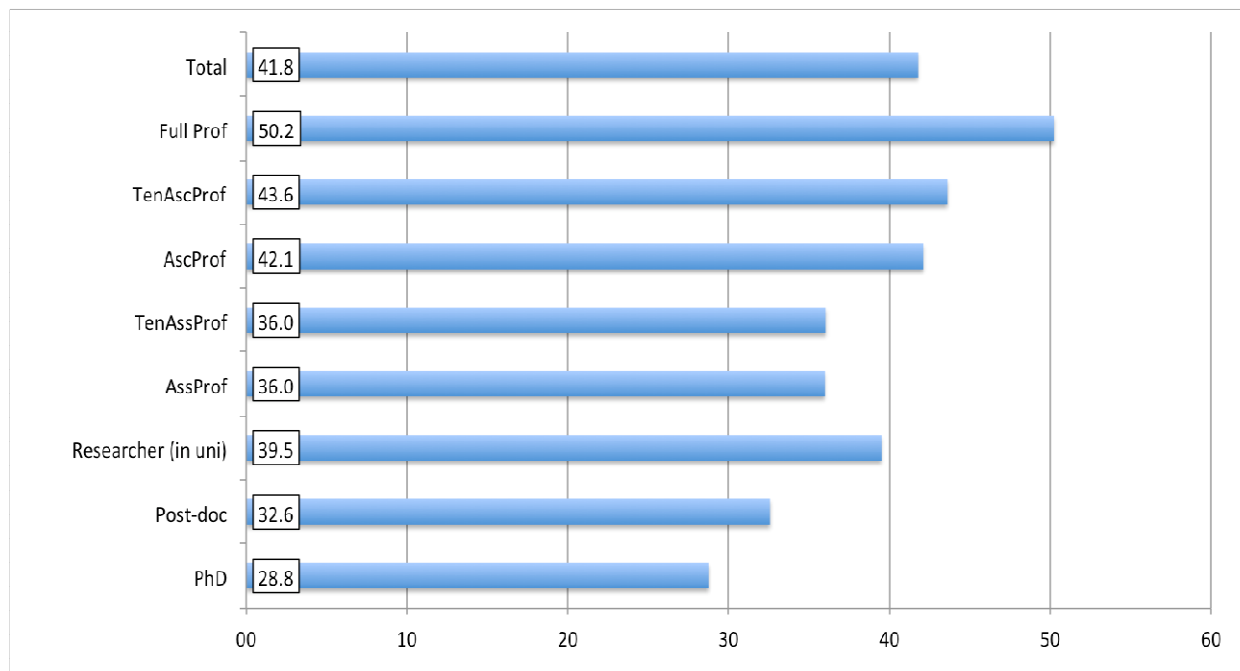
All disciplines



Economics

The professional profile by age

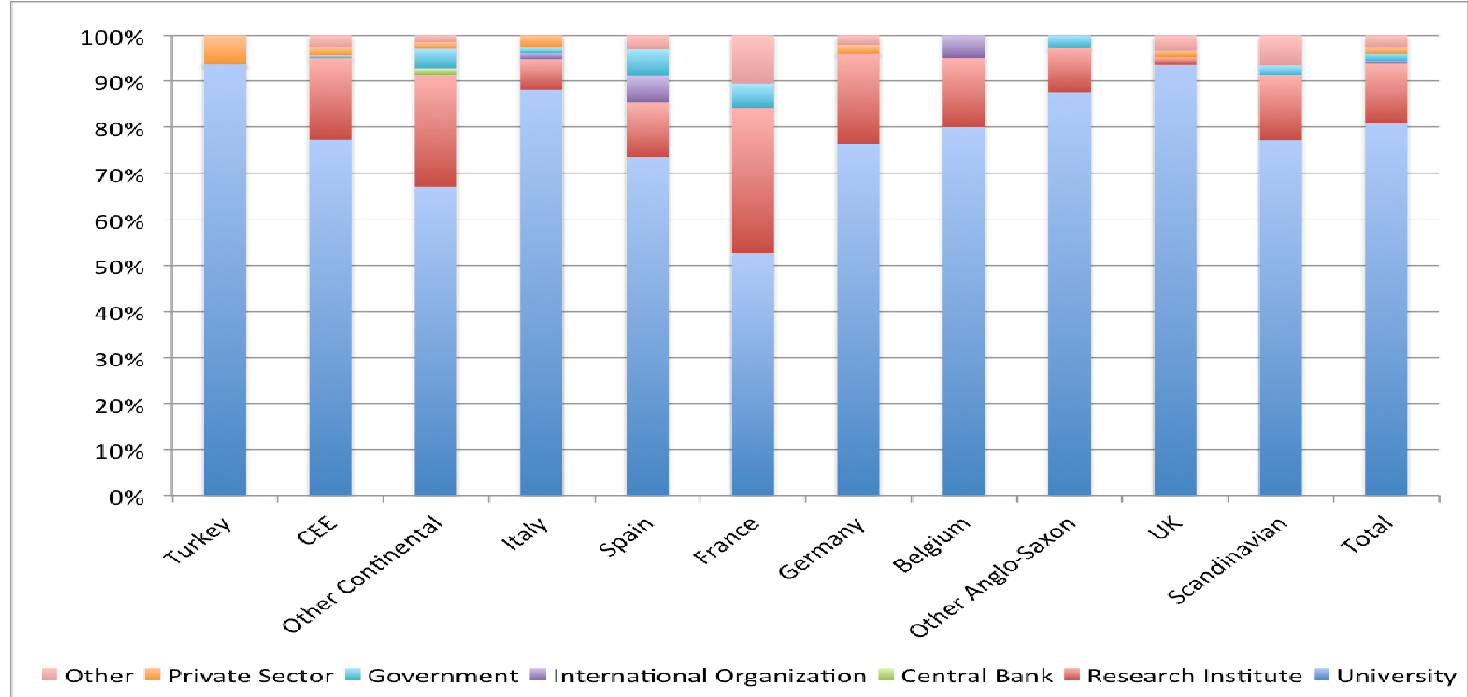
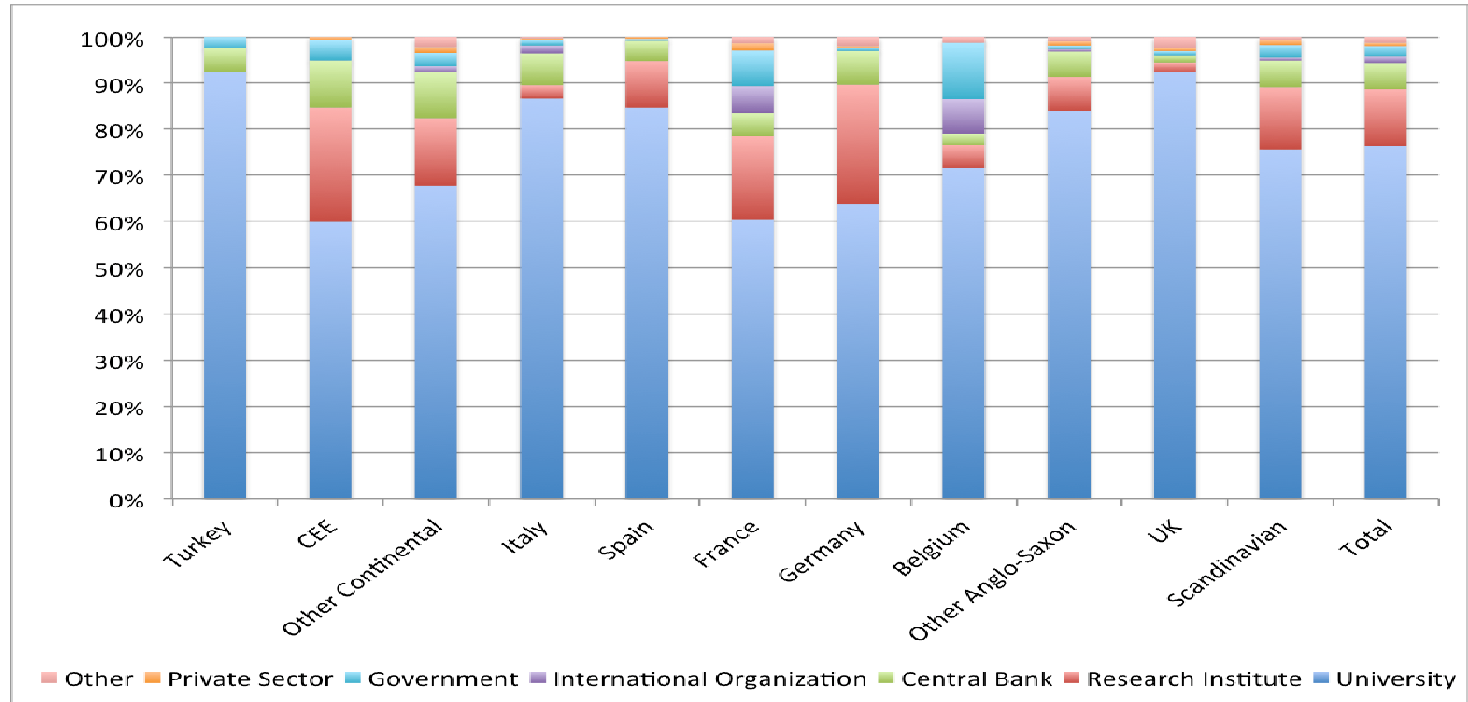
All disciplines



The job environment

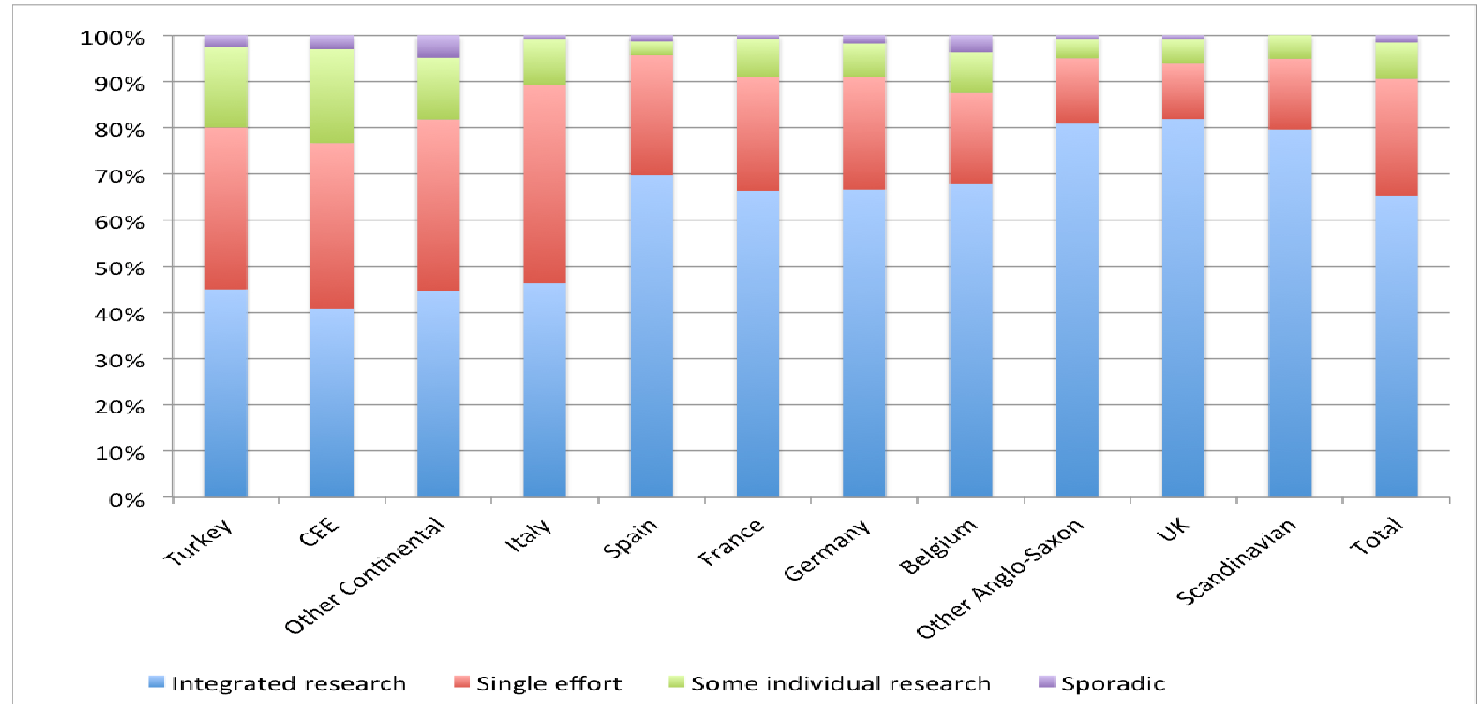
Economics

All disciplines

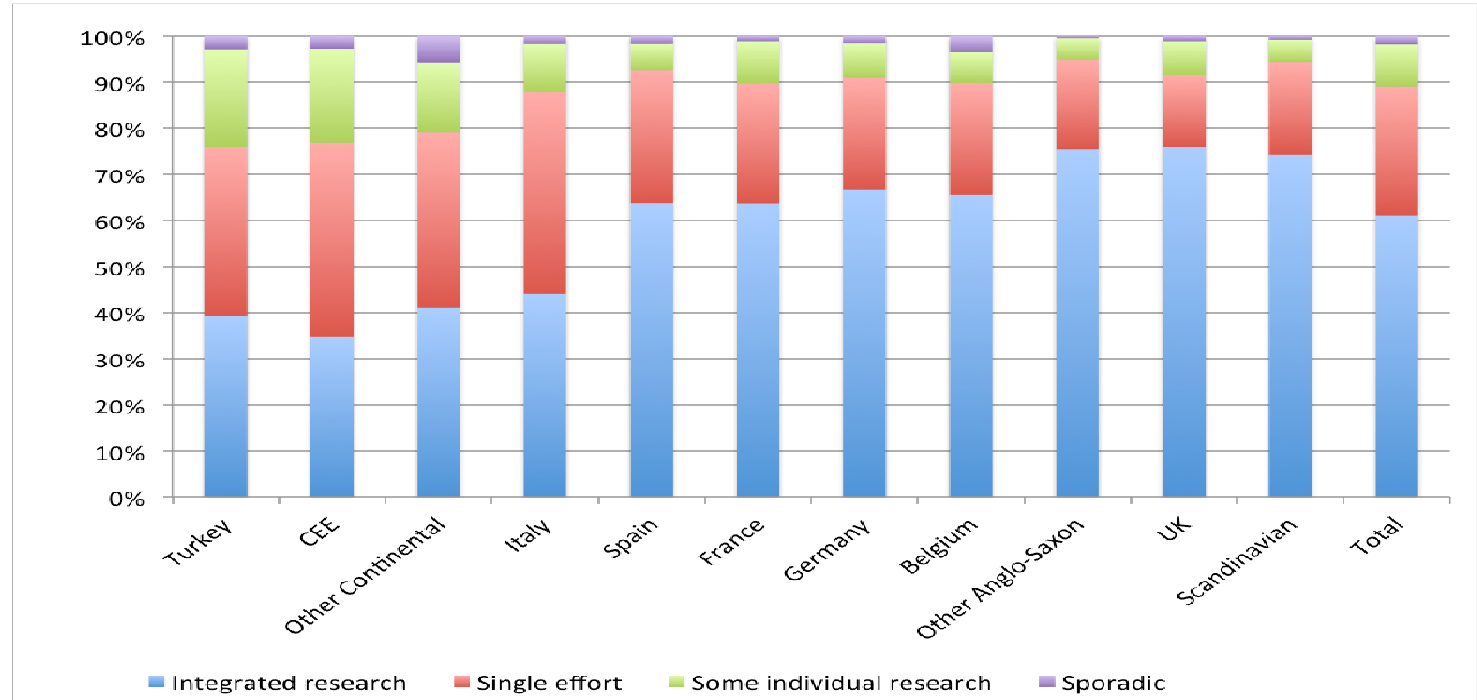


The research environment

Economics

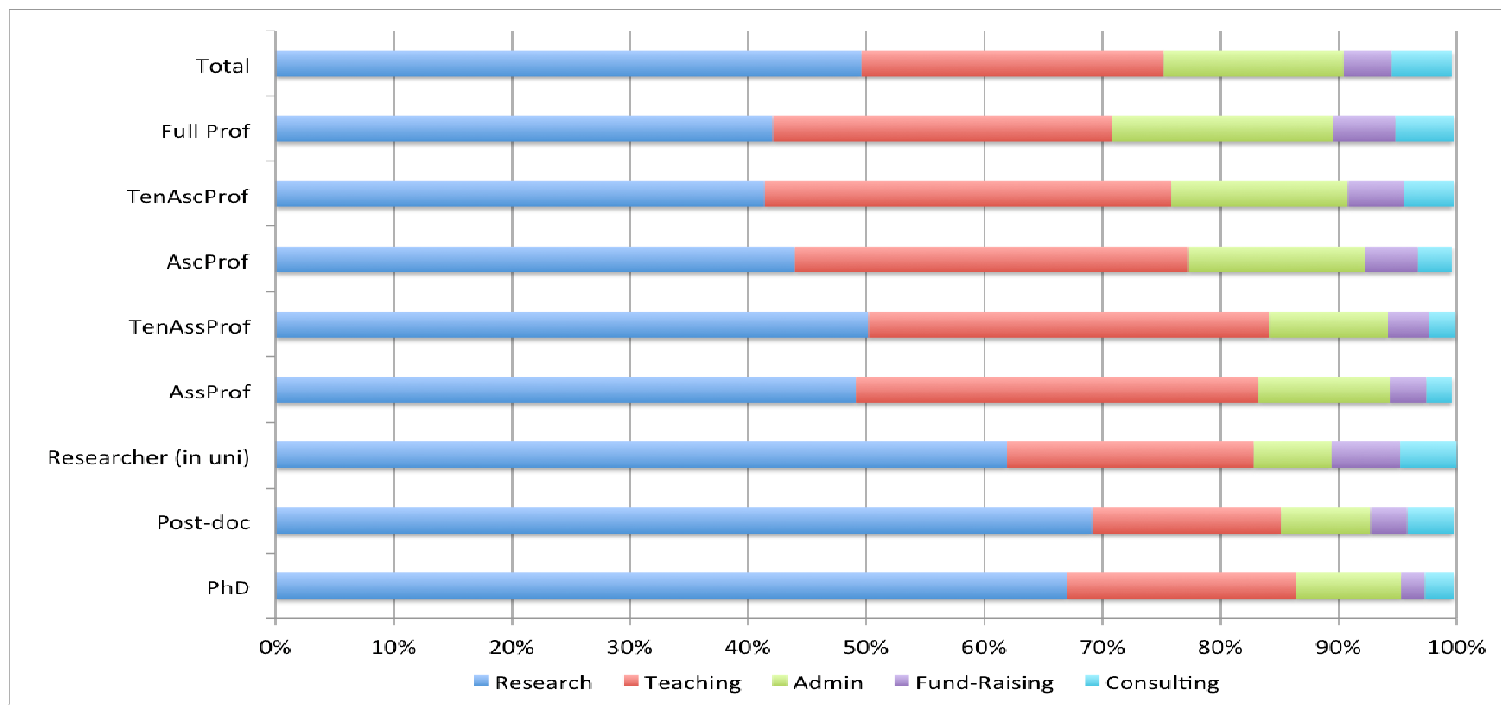


All disciplines

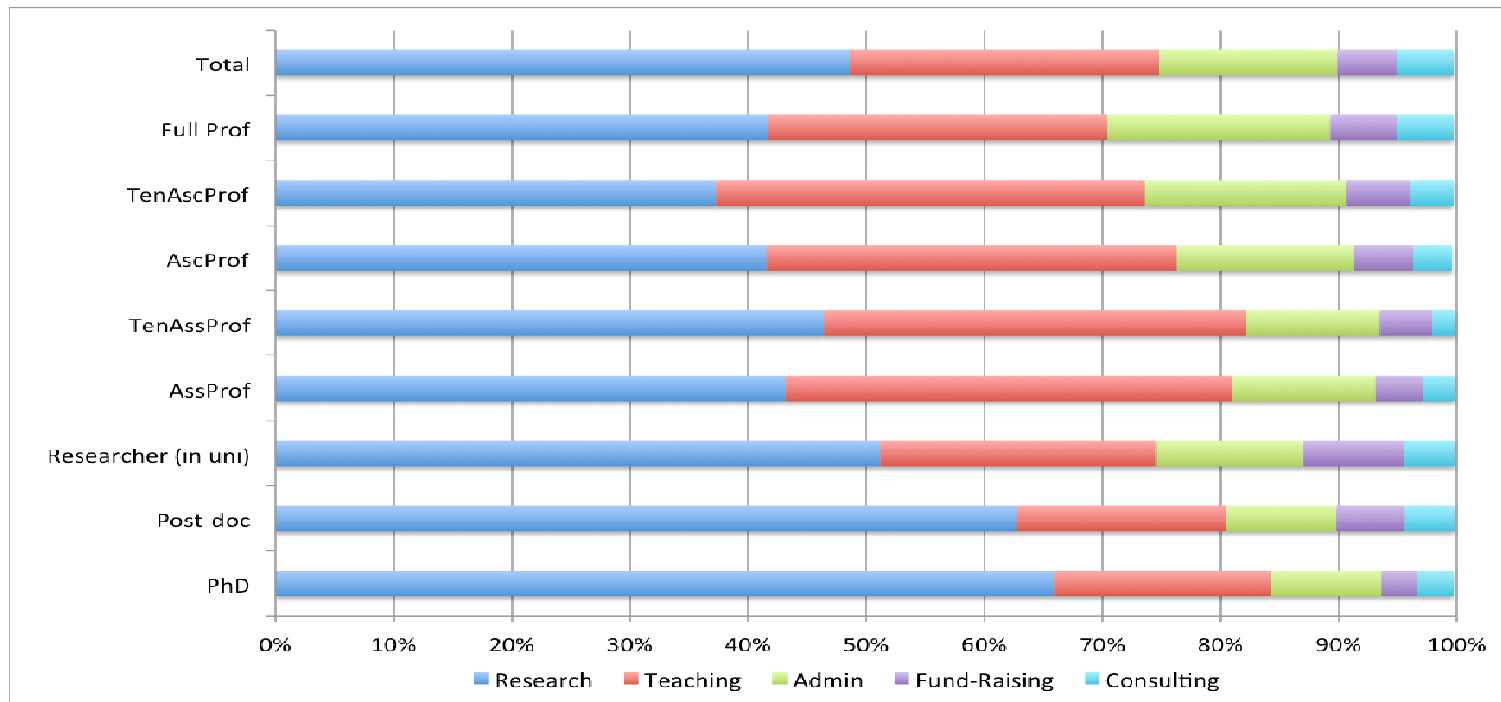


Working time by position

Economics

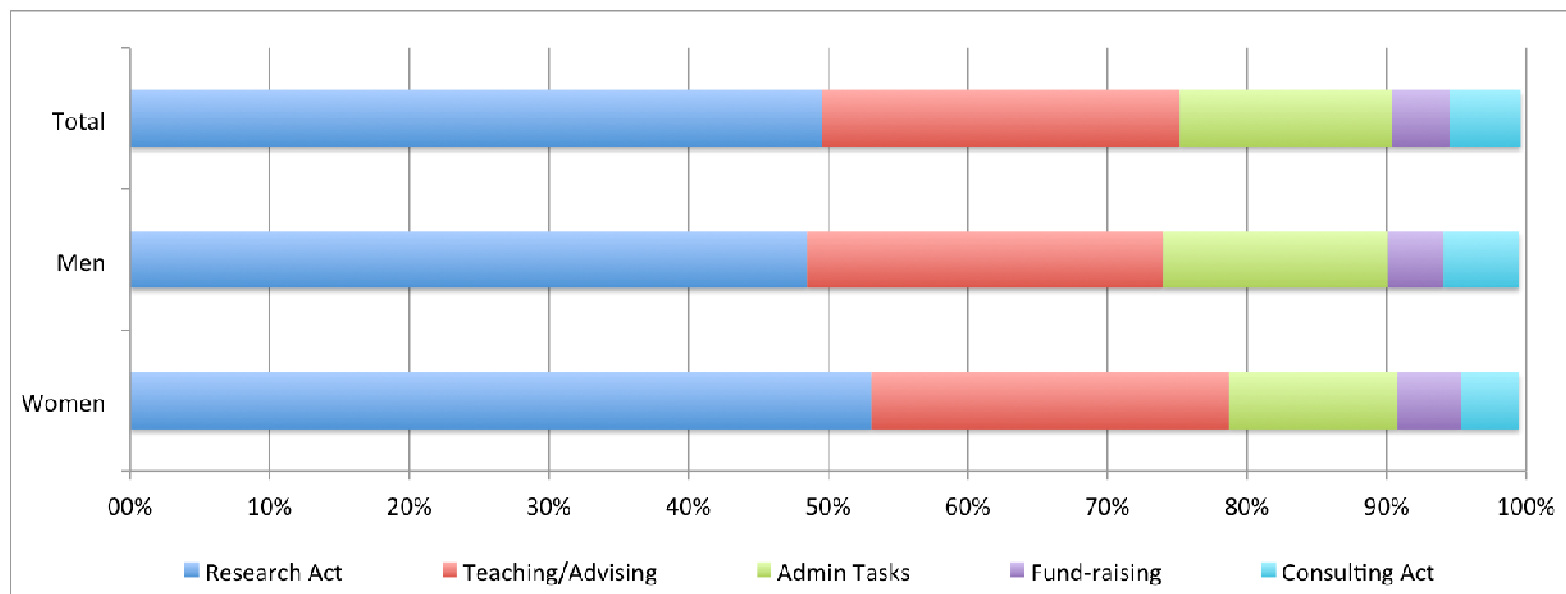


All disciplines

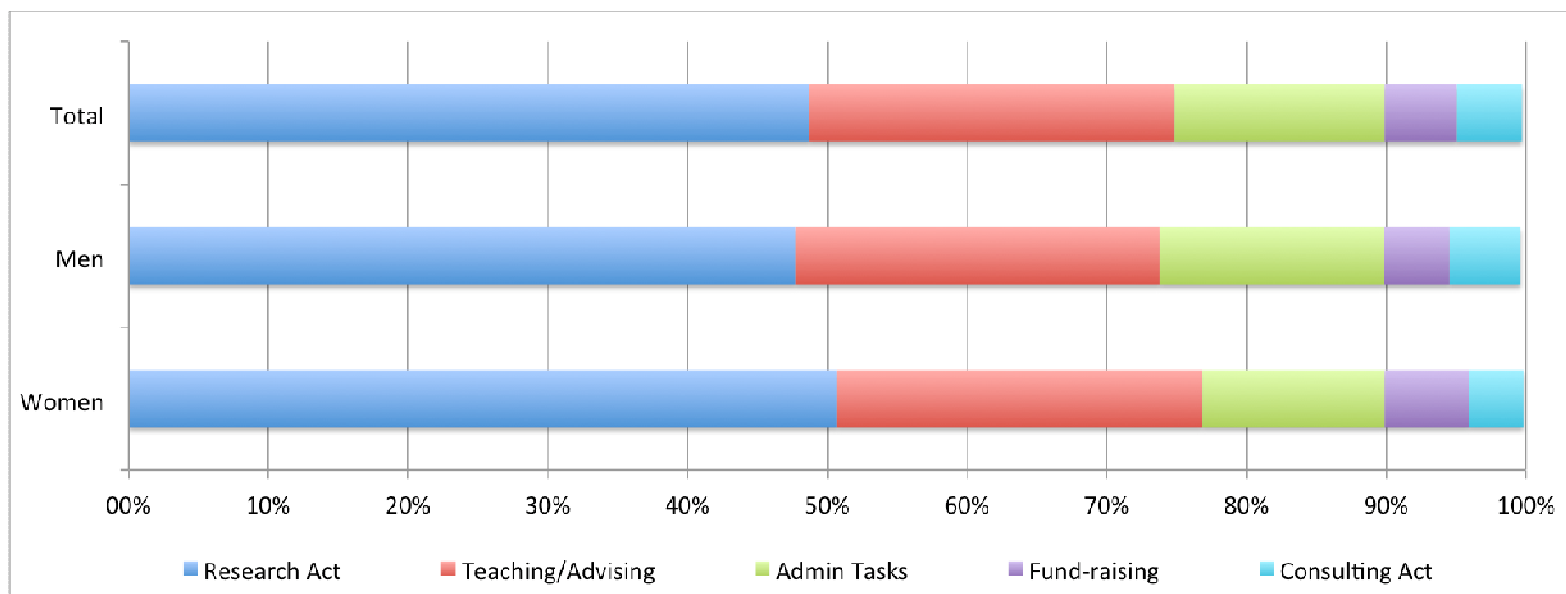


Working time by gender

Economics

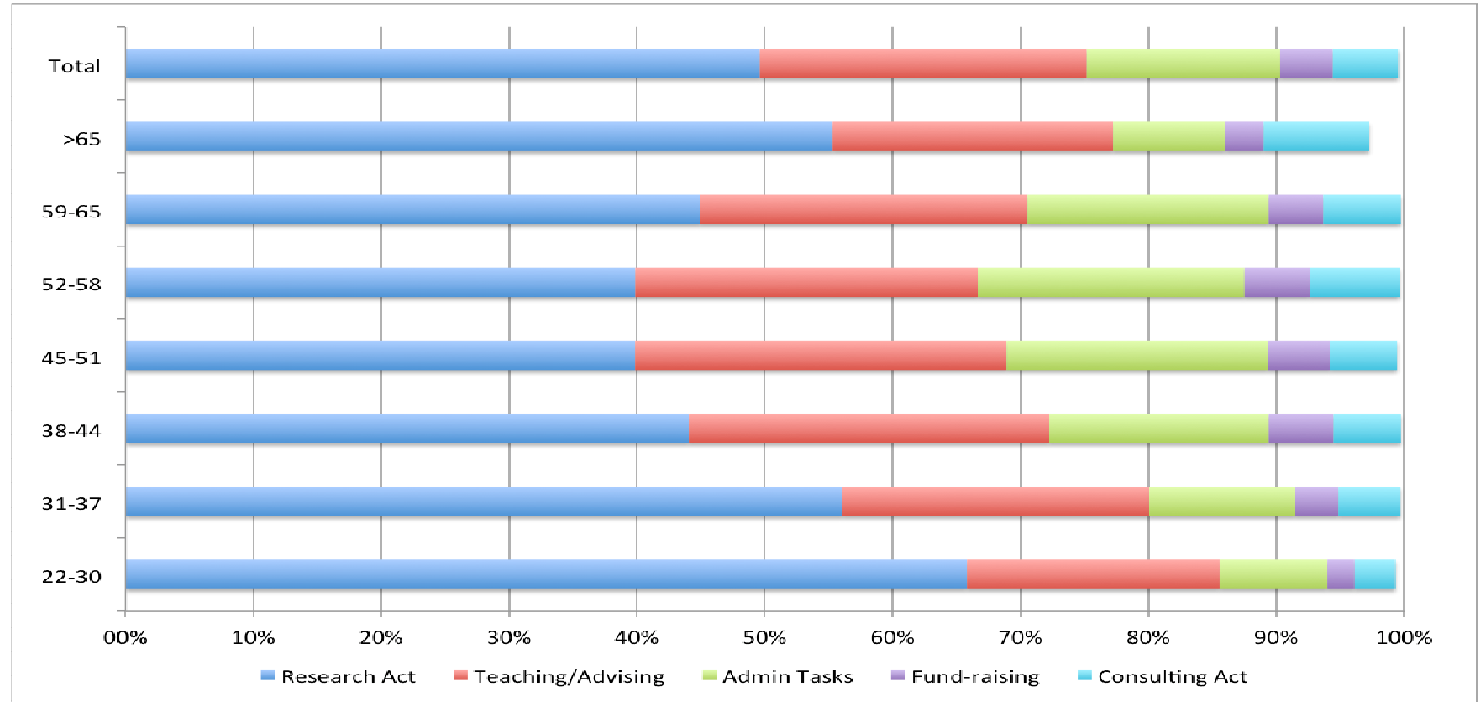


All disciplines

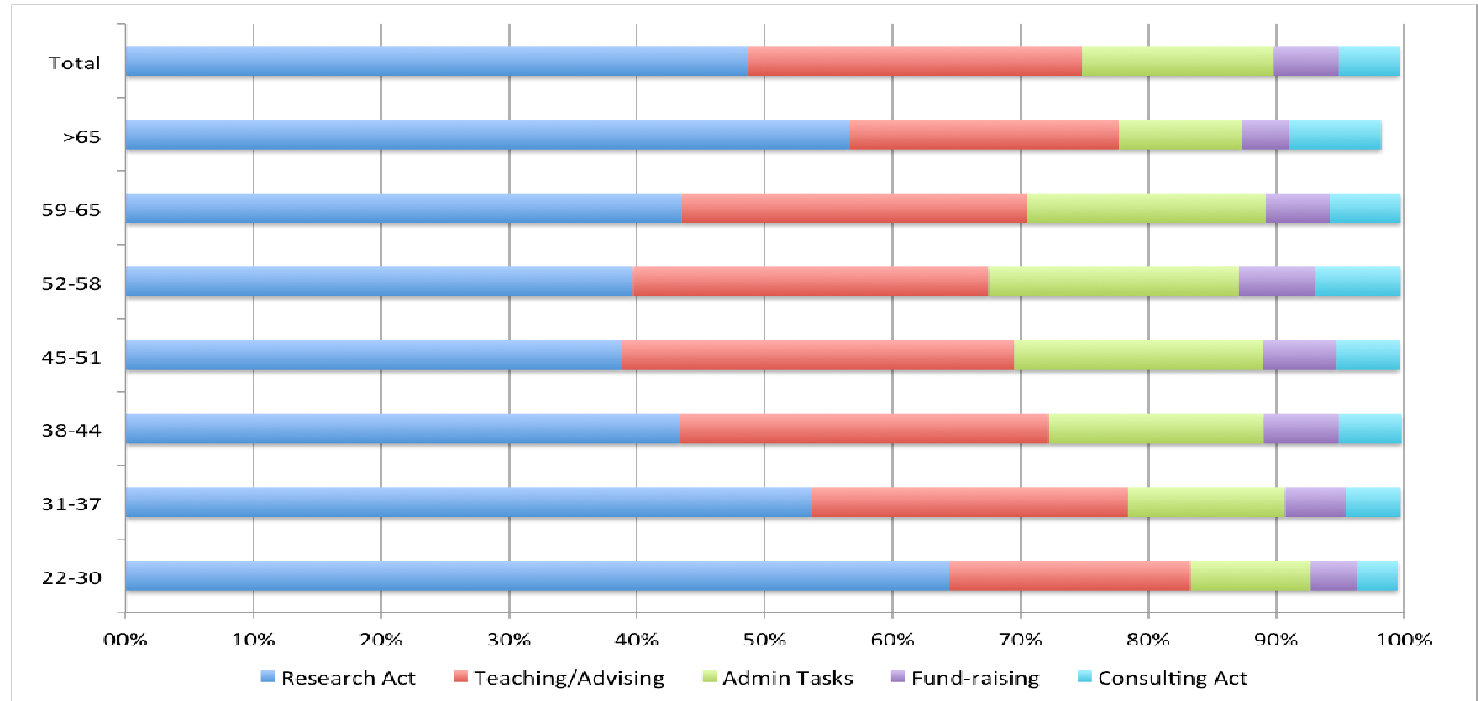


Working time by age

Economics



All disciplines





The survey provides a sociological picture of researchers in economics, sociology and political science in Europe:

- the persistency of the gender scissors problem (esp. in eco);
- the ageing throughout the academic career (esp. in sociology);
- the preponderance of university positions;
- the national heterogeneity in terms of internationalization.

The **allocation of time** shows how research is a dominant activity, without gender gap, but with decaying intensity throughout the profession, except at the end.

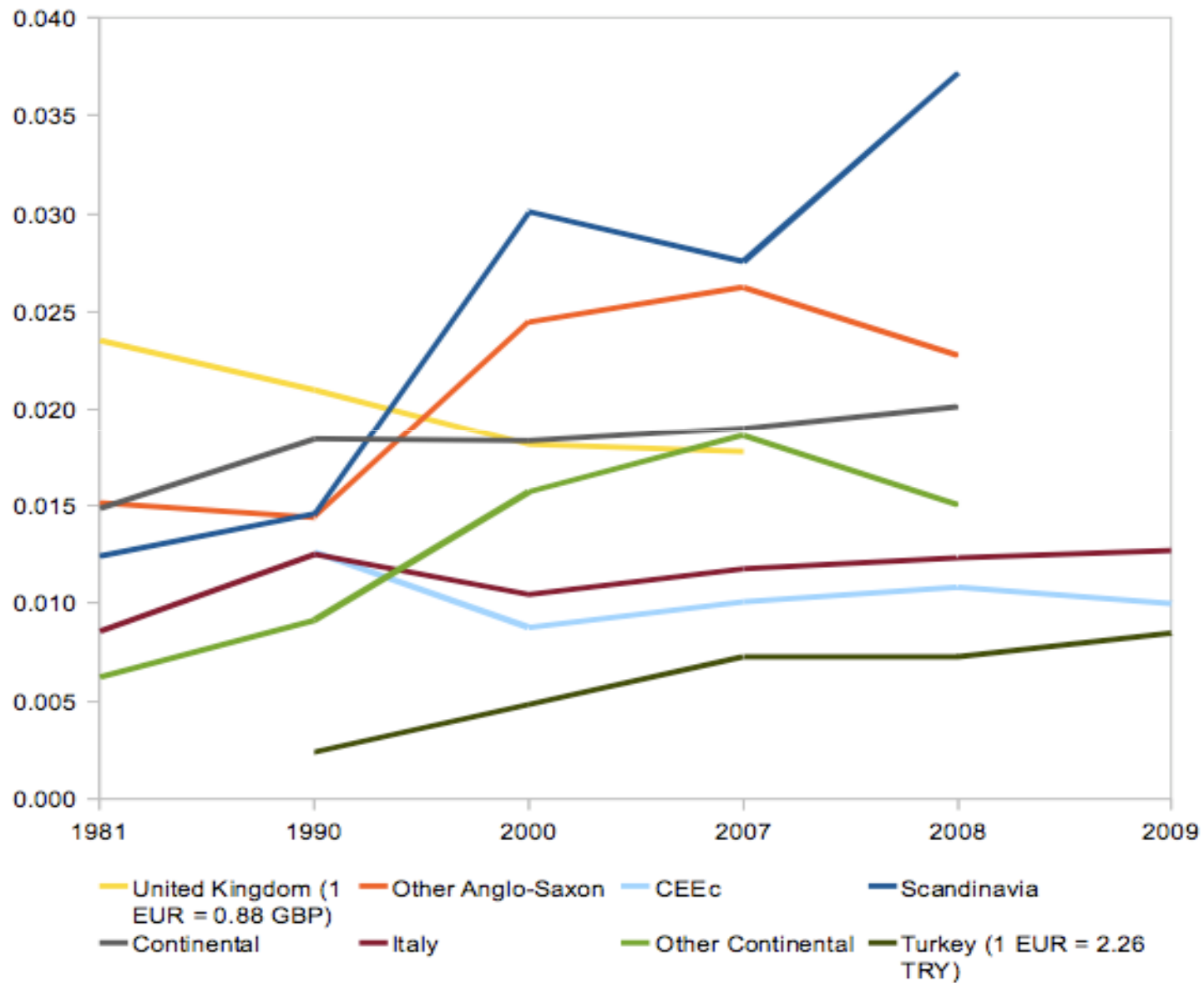
Finally, researchers in economics are highly mobile; however, **mobility rapidly decays after the post-doc stage**, particularly outside Anglo-Saxon countries.



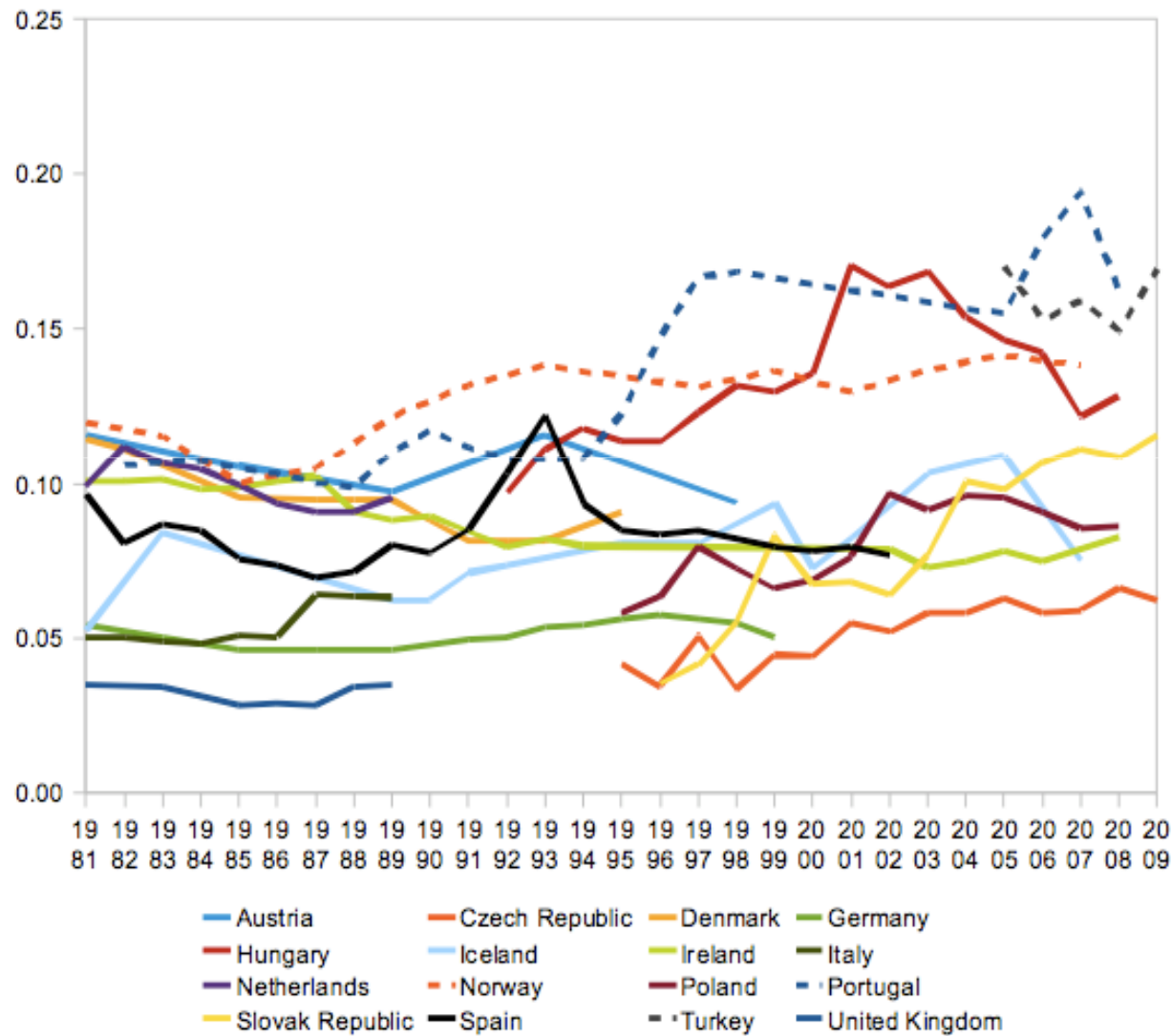
Part III

Research funding: facts and figures

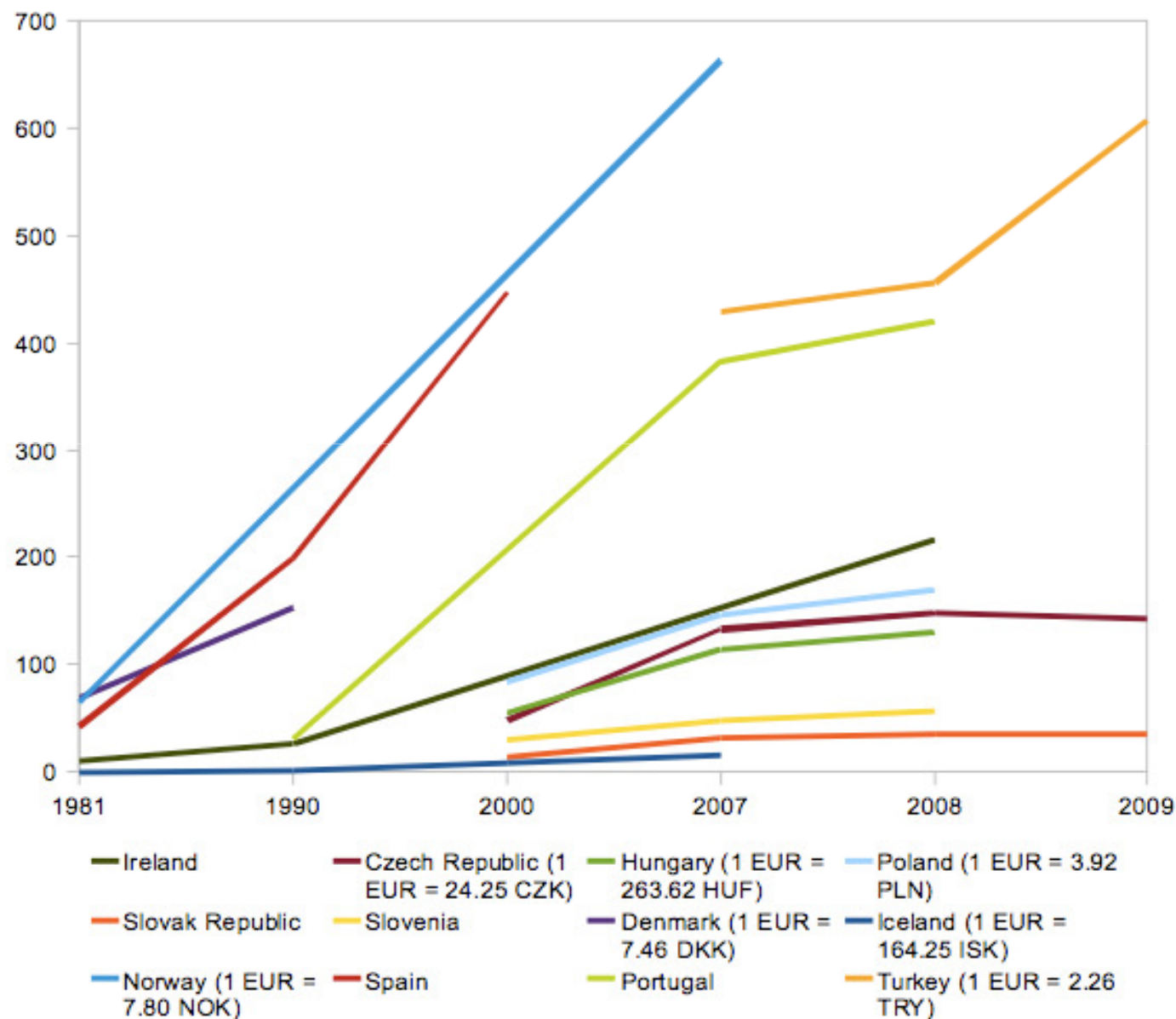
R&D expenditure (as % of GDP)



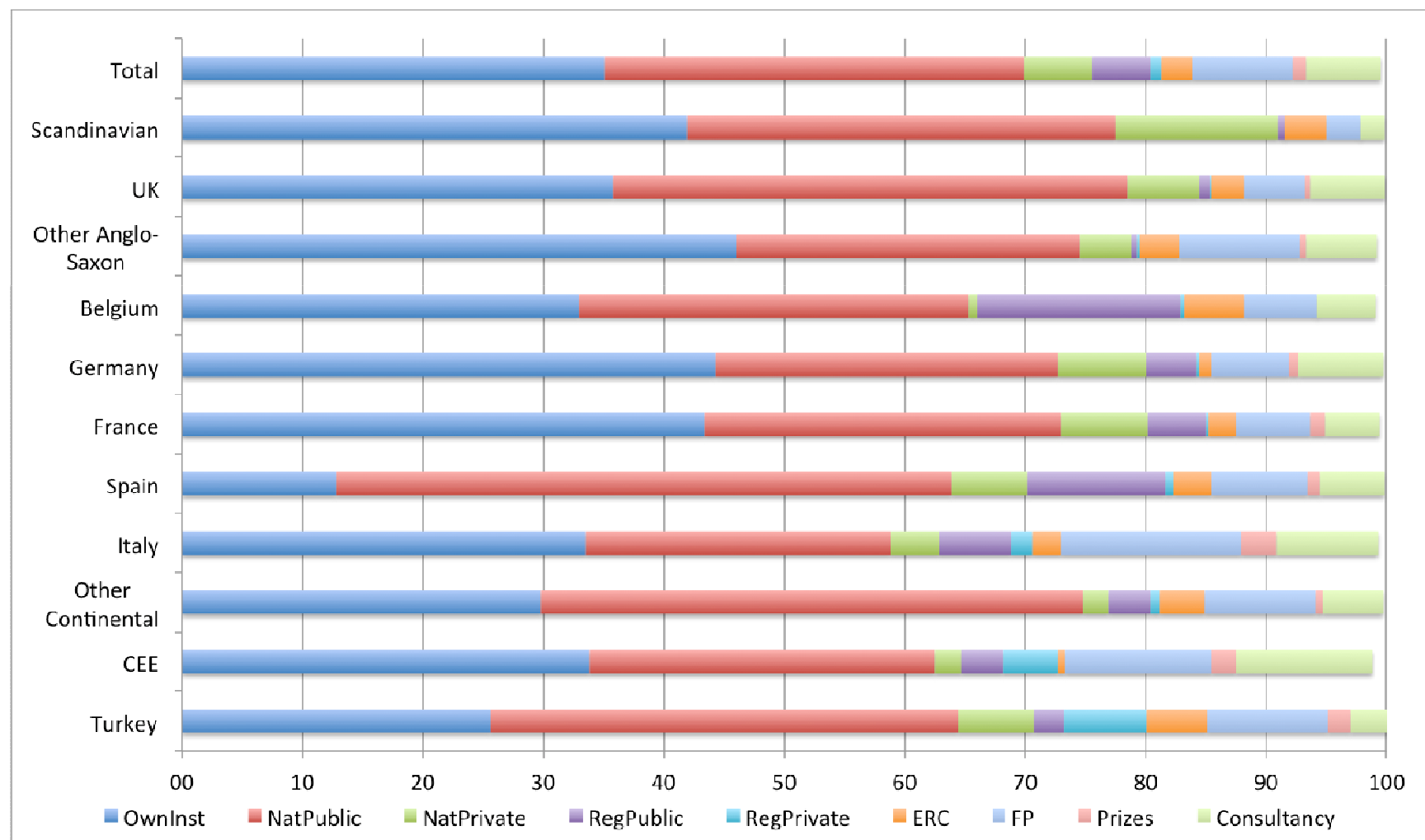
Gross domestic expenditure (intramural) on SSH (as % of Total R&D)



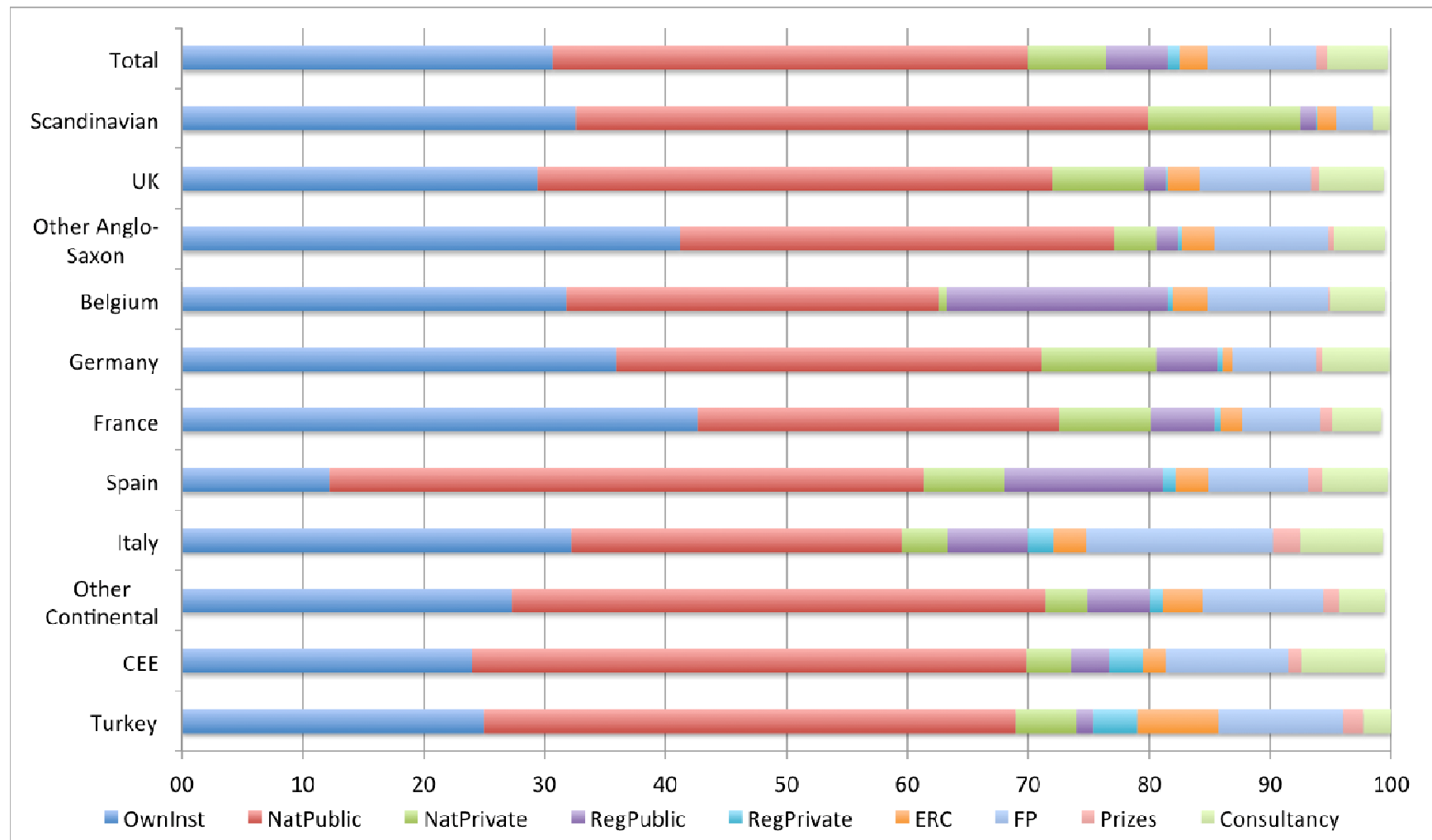
Total R&D Expenditure for SSH (in Million EUR)



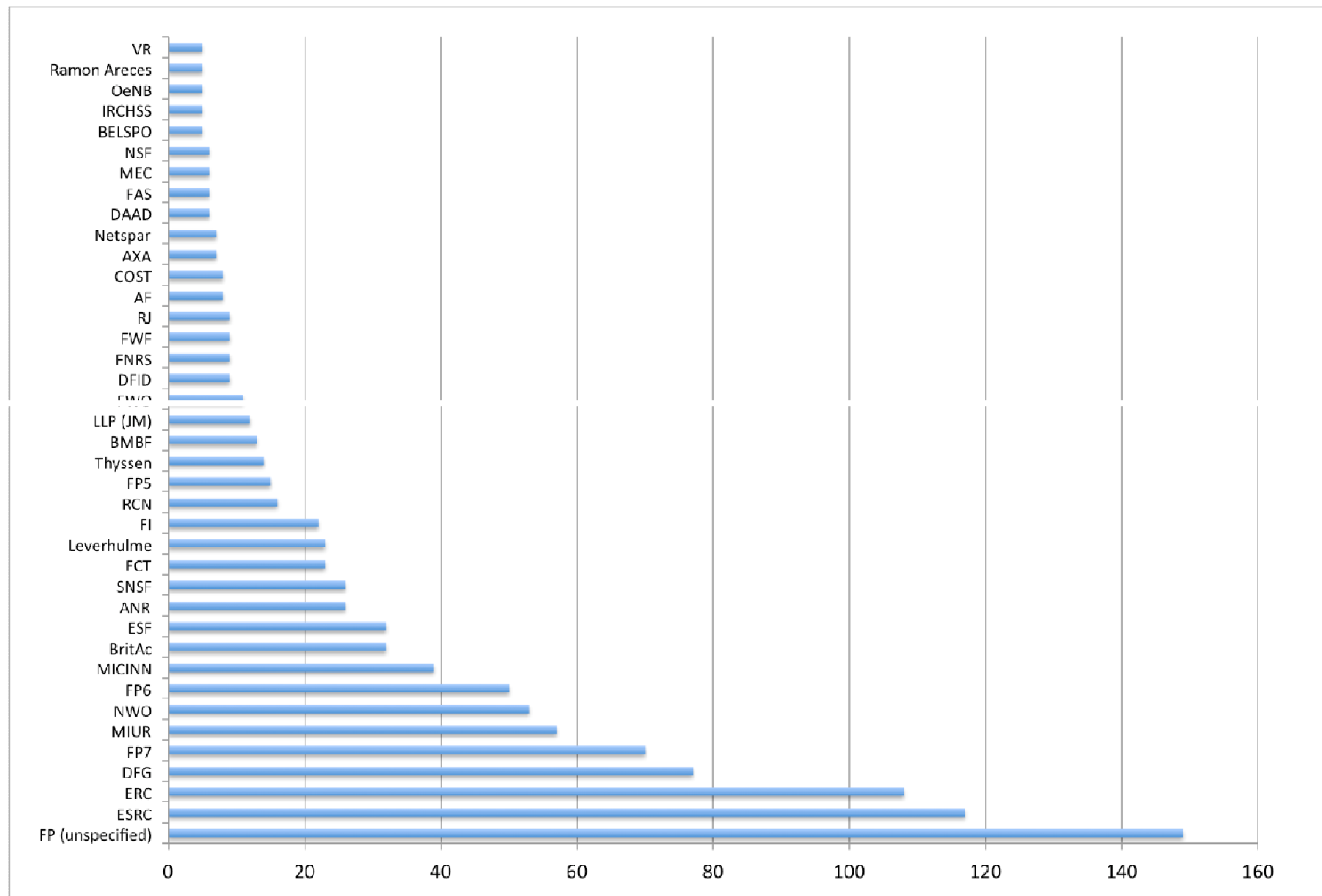
Sources of budget funding (economics)



Sources of budget funding (all disciplines)



Funding agencies (frequencies for all disciplines)





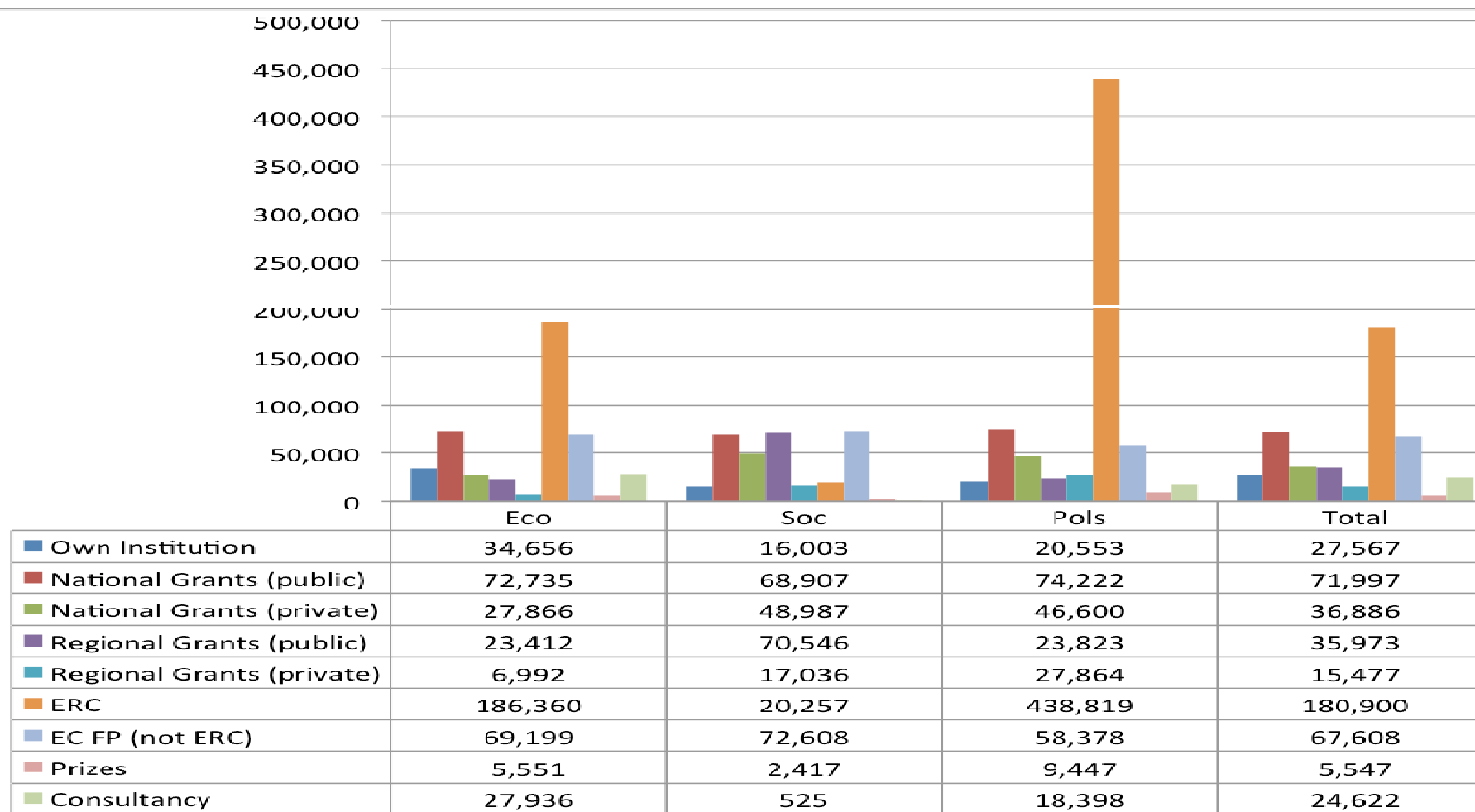
The main funding source is national, although the balance between National Public and Own Institutional funding is fairly heterogeneous across countries. The sum of both sources is close to 60% in Belgium, Italy and Spain, climbing to 80% in Scandinavian countries.

In Scandinavia and in Germany there is a wealth of National Private funding institutions, which provide between 10% and 12% of all financing.

Some countries – possibly as a response to the low transparency and availability of national grants – rely more than others on research funding at the European level. On average, EU funds (ERC and FP combined) represent 11% of the whole budget. In Italy and Turkey the share is higher: 18% and 17%, respectively.

Countries where local authorities have greater autonomy have developed extensive Regional Public research funding. In Belgium, regional funds cover more than 18% of total research financing; in Spain 13%.

Amounts of funding by discipline



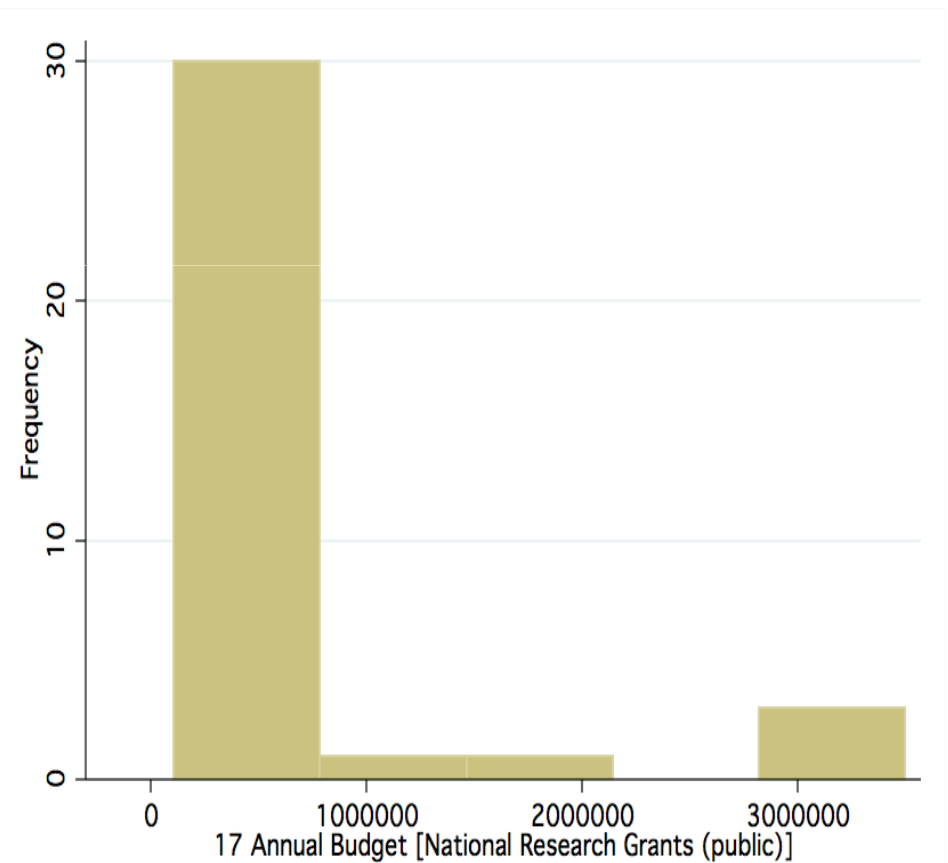
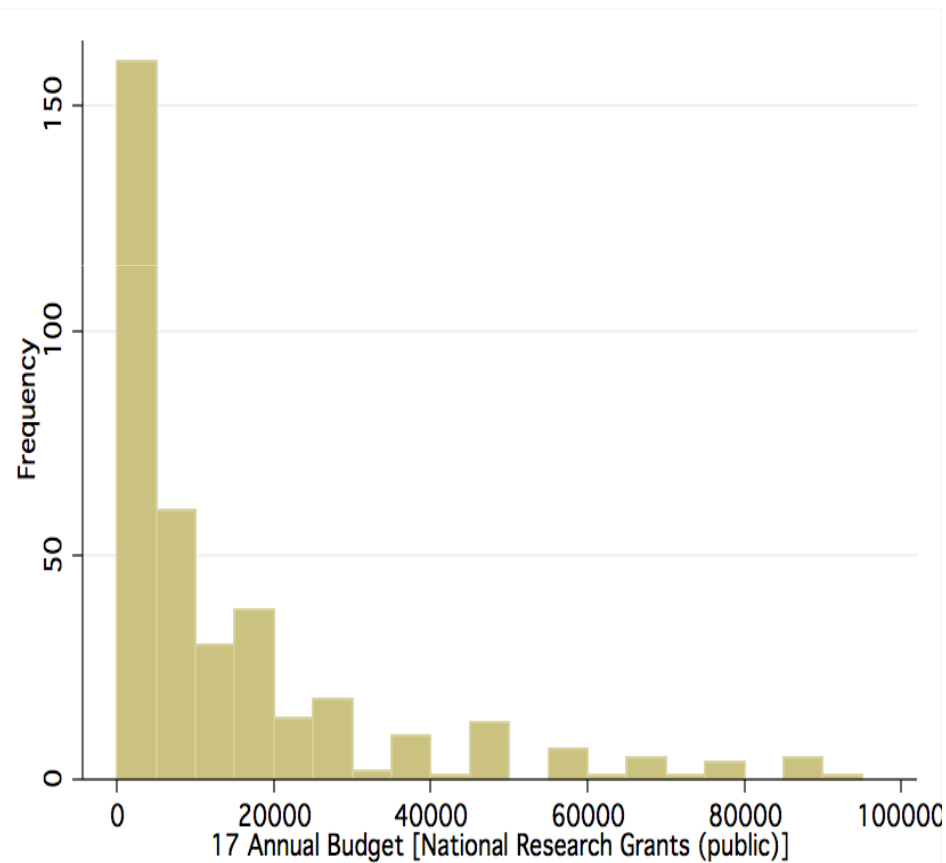
The differences in funding by country of residence

		Annual Budget UPDATED MINIMUM 100 euro													
		Sociology		Political Sciences		Economy			Sociology		Political Sciences		Economy		
		National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution			National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution
CEE	Mean	€ 19 020	€ 6 387	€ 44 106	€ 3 063	€ 30 392	€ 7 450	Other Continental	Mean	€ 115 435	€ 8 876	€ 46 321	€ 38 720	€ 86 179	€ 76 496
	Median	€ 7 250	€ 2 000	€ 20 000	€ 3 000	€ 8 750	€ 4 000		Median	€ 19 447	€ 1 000	€ 16 500	€ 7 500	€ 10 000	€ 6 100
	Standard Deviation	€ 31 014	€ 14 595	€ 76 489	€ 1 568	€ 100 481	€ 7 764		Standard Deviation	€ 432 091	€ 24 138	€ 63 657	€ 67 059	€ 422 425	€ 319 342
FR	Mean	€ 49 500	€ 41 125	€ 36 000	€ 3 200	€ 21 956	€ 76 601	Scandinavian	Mean	€ 102 199	€ 36 681	€ 81 365	€ 24 946	€ 59 731	€ 23 706
	Median	€ 49 500	€ 17 000	€ 10 000	€ 4 000	€ 10 000	€ 3 000		Median	€ 50 000	€ 25 000	€ 50 000	€ 12 000	€ 35 000	€ 6 000
	Standard Deviation	€ 57 276	€ 60 694	€ 42 632	€ 2 307	€ 30 393	€ 446 738		Standard Deviation	€ 166 565	€ 63 328	€ 99 130	€ 44 547	€ 69 569	€ 32 022
GE	Mean	€ 53 471	€ 9 222	€ 194 639	€ 35 845	€ 35 676	€ 23 697	SP	Mean	€ 19 136	€ 7 000	€ 25 807	€ 5 000	€ 14 776	€ 49 130
	Median	€ 35 000	€ 6 000	€ 41 000	€ 11 250	€ 20 000	€ 15 000		Median	€ 20 000	€ 5 000	€ 16 500	€ 2 500	€ 6 000	€ 3 000
	Standard Deviation	€ 84 945	€ 11 643	€ 428 445	€ 58 033	€ 41 388	€ 28 677		Standard Deviation	€ 11 454	€ 6 377	€ 26 548	€ 6 151	€ 22 989	€ 260 524
IT	Mean	€ 17 135	€ 3 550	€ 15 518	€ 10 385	€ 8 954	€ 6 880	TK	Mean	€ 15 000	€ 2 250	€ 150 000	€ 1 500	€ 7 000	€ 10 333
	Median	€ 22 382	€ 2 250	€ 7 000	€ 2 500	€ 5 000	€ 3 000		Median	€ 15 000	€ 2 250	€ 150 000	€ 1 500	€ 7 000	€ 8 000
	Standard Deviation	€ 22 382	€ 2 888	€ 21 386	€ 35 265	€ 14 358	€ 12 914		Standard Deviation		€ 2 475			€ 1 414	€ 8 737
Other Anglo-Saxon	Mean	€ 56 208	€ 57 704	€ 87 000	€ 13 225	€ 247 952	€ 108 021	UK	Mean	€ 127 681	€ 15 873	€ 41 827	€ 23 990	€ 168 437	€ 9 303
	Median	€ 30 000	€ 40 000	€ 30 000	€ 5 000	€ 50 000	€ 5 500		Median	€ 40 000	€ 3 750	€ 34 167	€ 2 000	€ 24 000	€ 3 500
	Standard Deviation	€ 79 298	€ 82 634	€ 168 468	€ 21 109	€ 861 913	€ 314 974		Standard Deviation	€ 175 767	€ 28 627	€ 32 631	€ 95 499	€ 538 705	€ 20 270

Distribution of grant size in economics - National Research Grants (public)

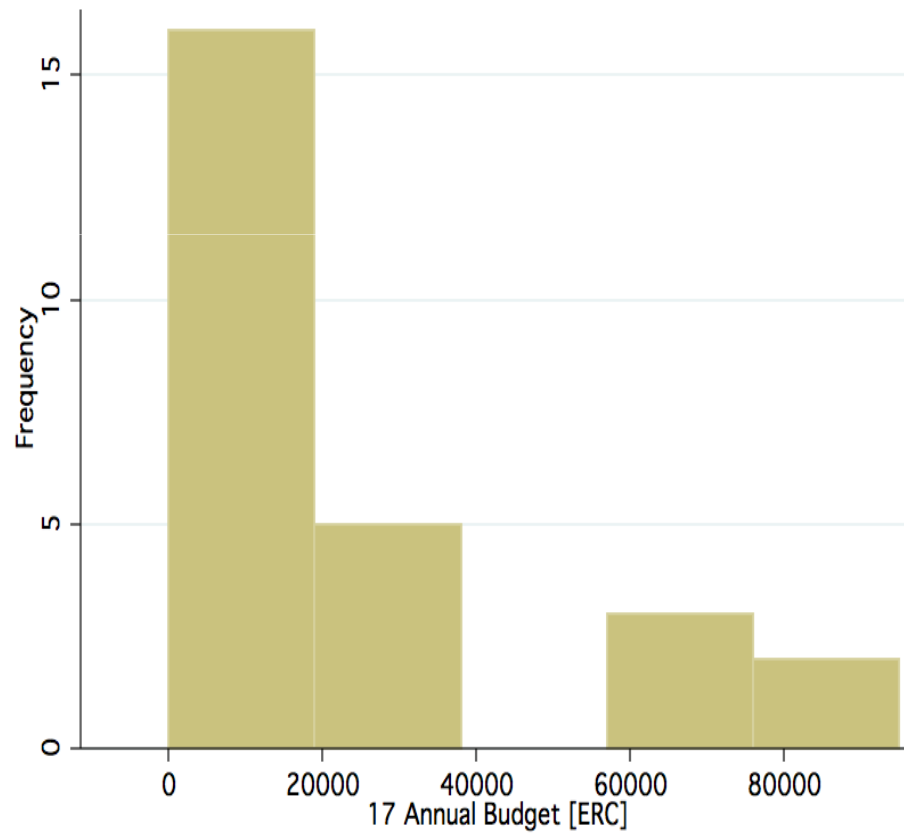
Less than 100,000

More than 100,000

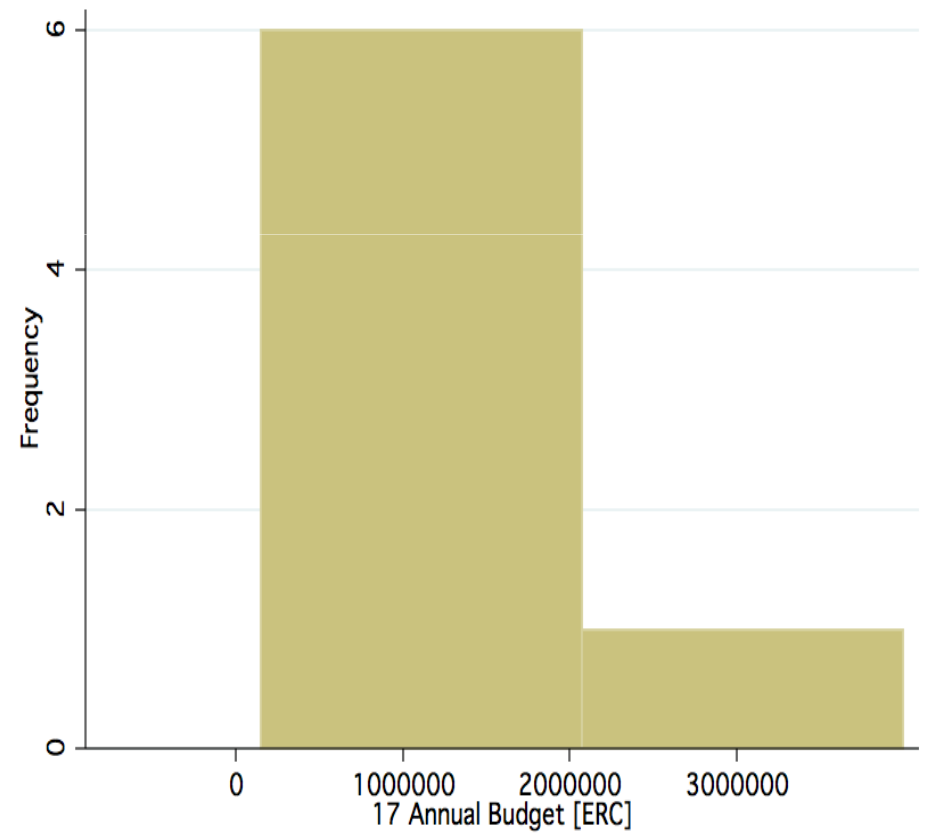


Distribution of grant size in economics - ERC

Less than 100,000

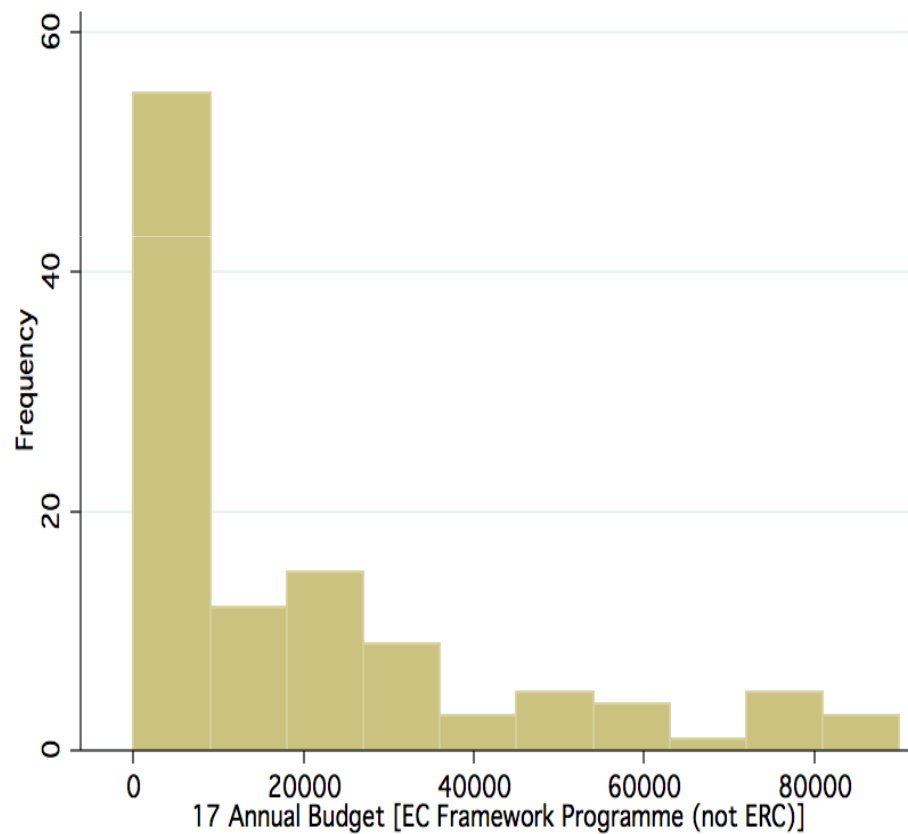


More than 100,000

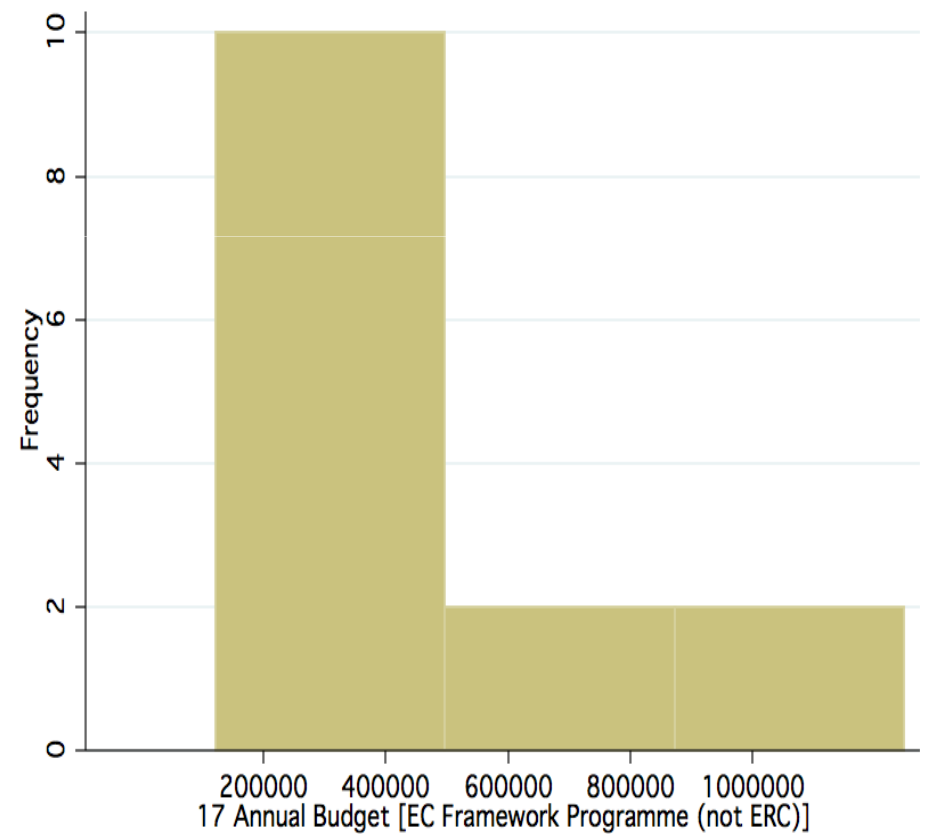


Distribution of grant size in economics - EC Framework Programme

Less than 100,000



More than 100,000





The highest levels of average annual funding come from the ERC; National Public grants and the EC Framework Programme come next. Over 60% of ERC funds reported go to political science, while funds from National Public institutions and from the Framework Programme show no relevant differences among the three disciplines.

Out of all the professions, Full Professors in the fields of political science and economics receive the most funding from National Public research grants, the ERC, and the Framework Programme. Full Professors from the UK, Germany, Belgium and Other Anglo-Saxon countries are the most successful at getting National Public funding.

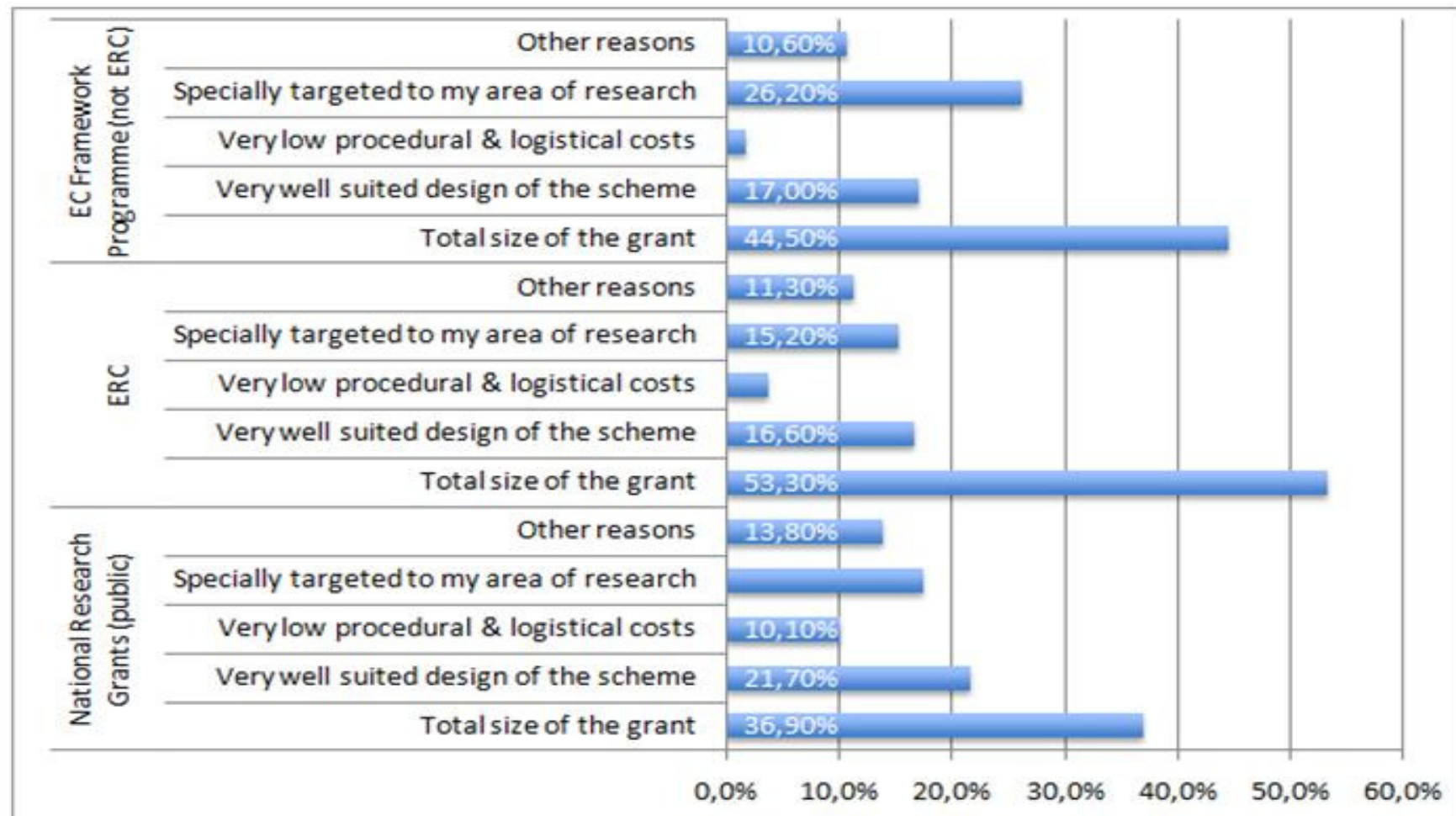
Researchers (not in university) in economics, from Other Anglo-Saxon countries, receive the most from National Research grants. In political sciences, Associate Professors (tenured) from the UK and Other Anglo-Saxon, and Assistant Professors (tenured) from the CEE, receive the most from the ERC. Post-Docs in sociology, from Other Anglo Saxon and Spain, receive the most from the Framework Programme.



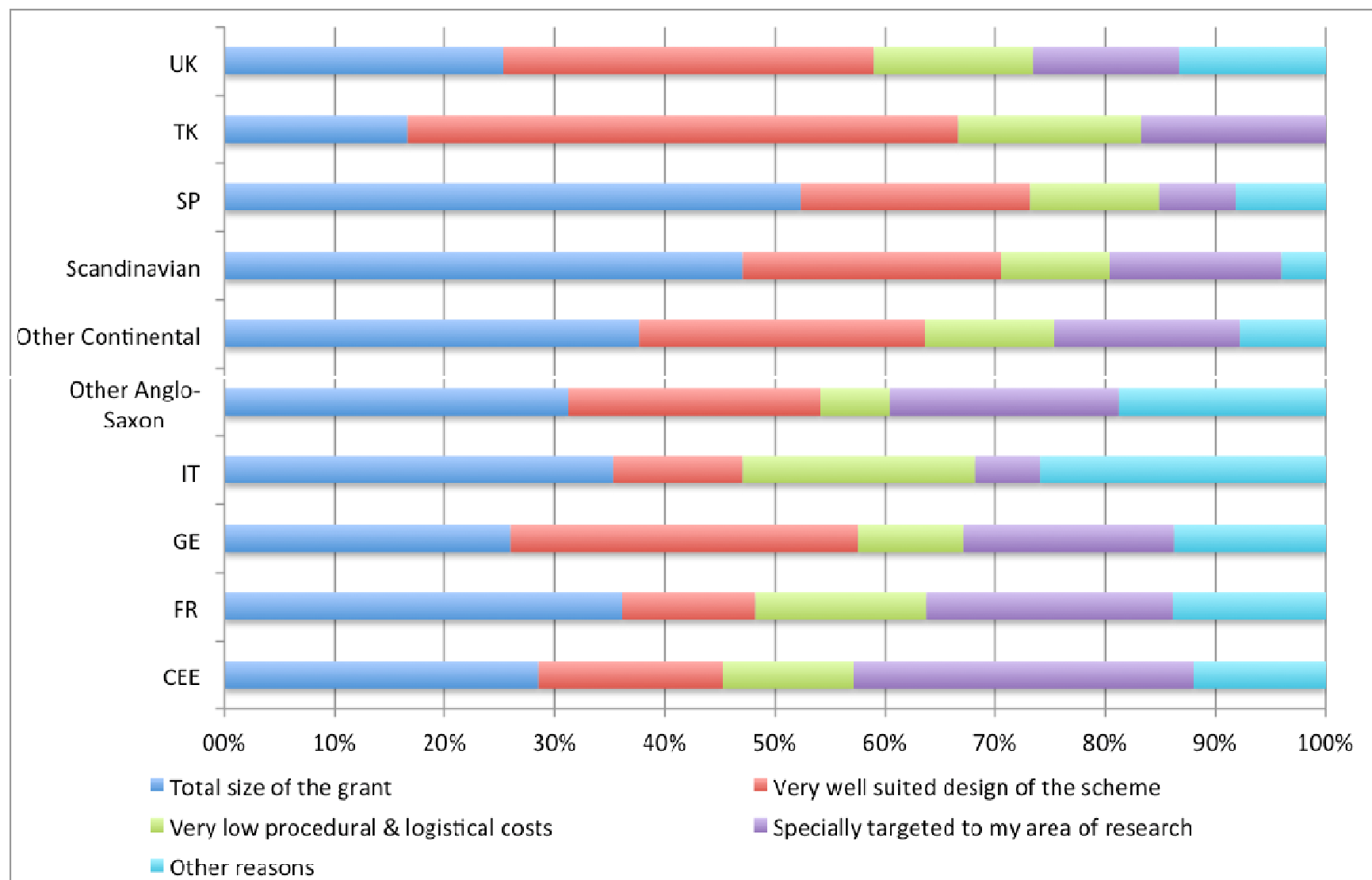
Part IV

Perceptions on research funding

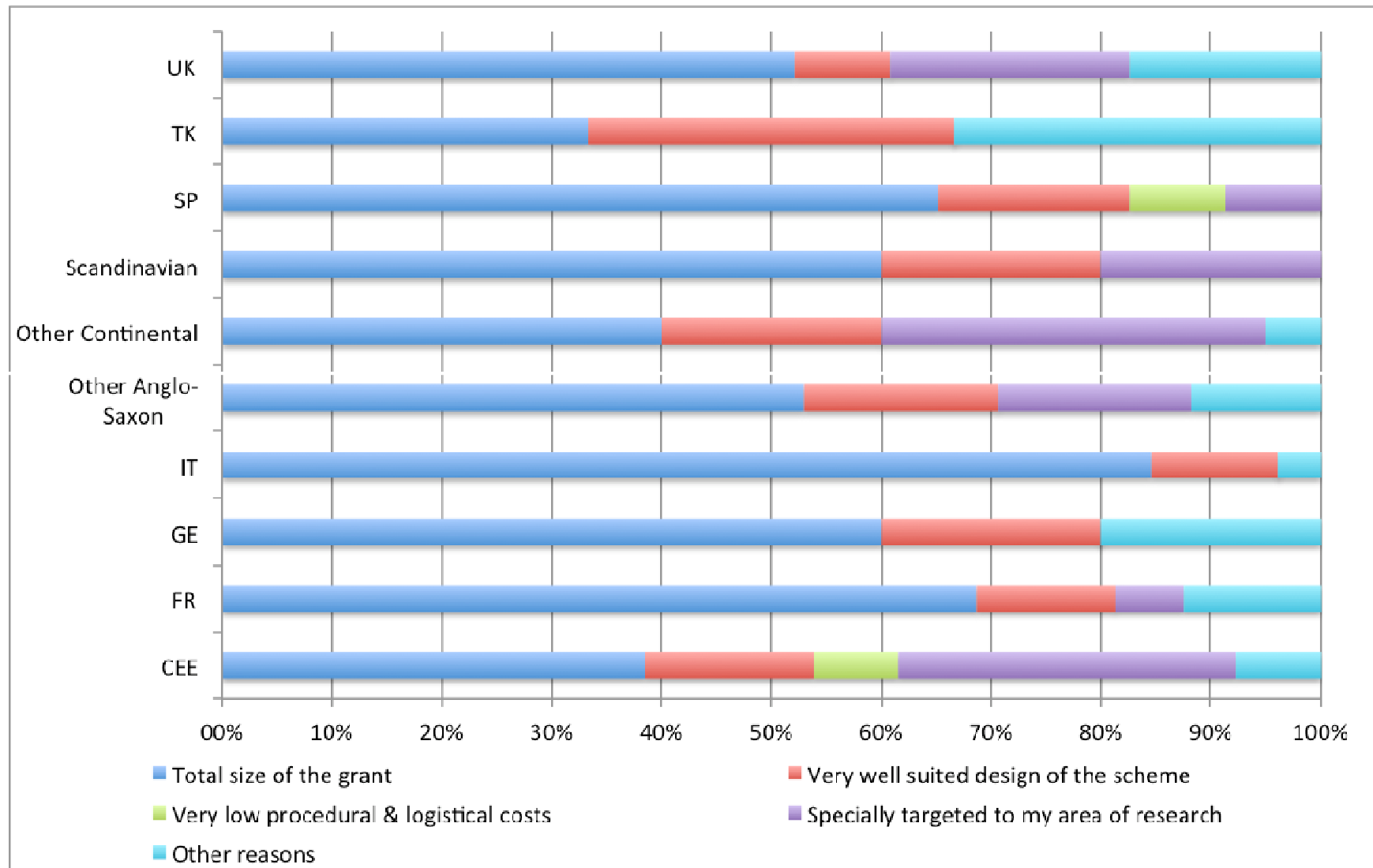
Reasons to apply for funding (all disciplines)



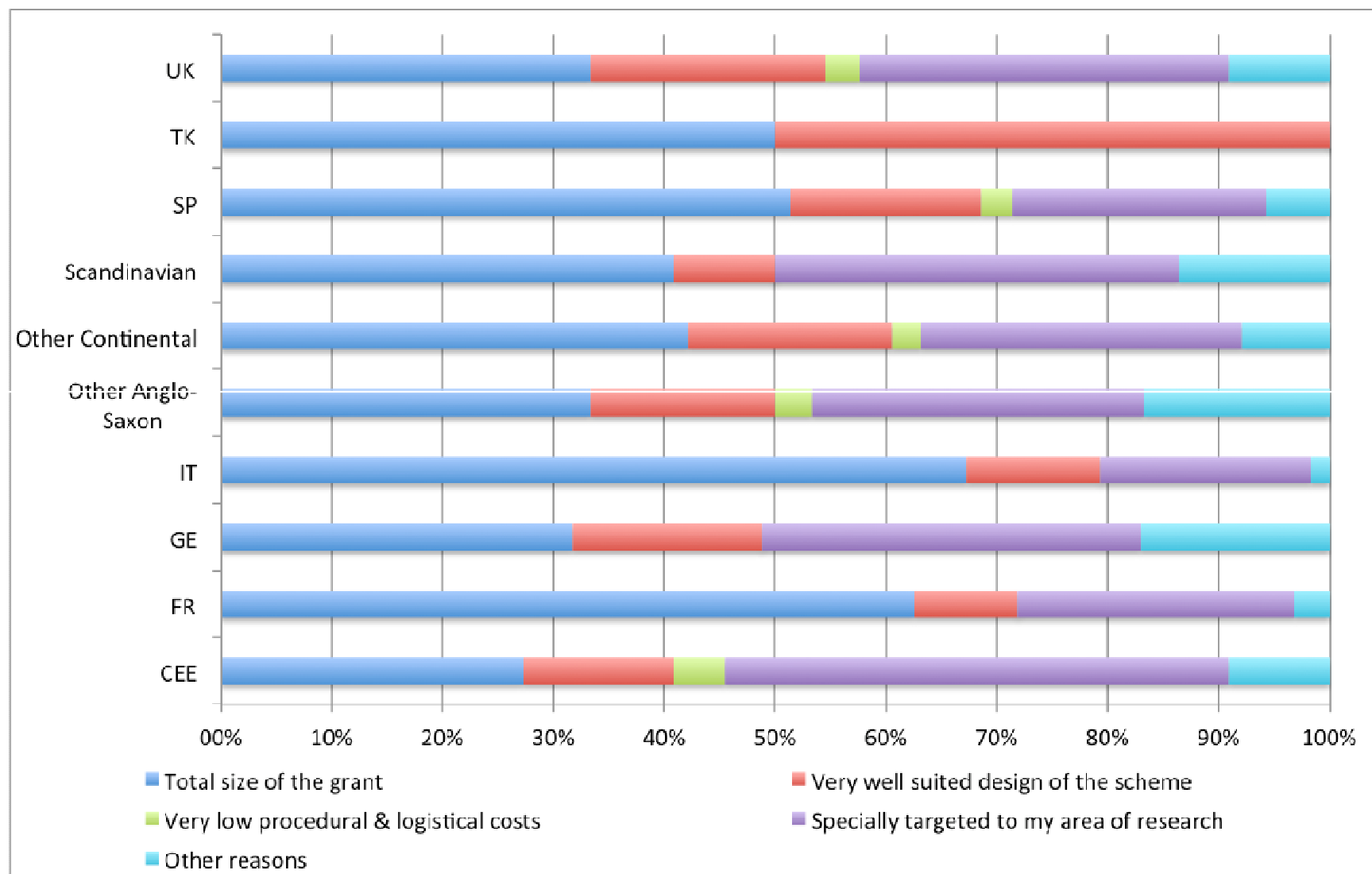
Reasons to apply for National Research Grants (public)



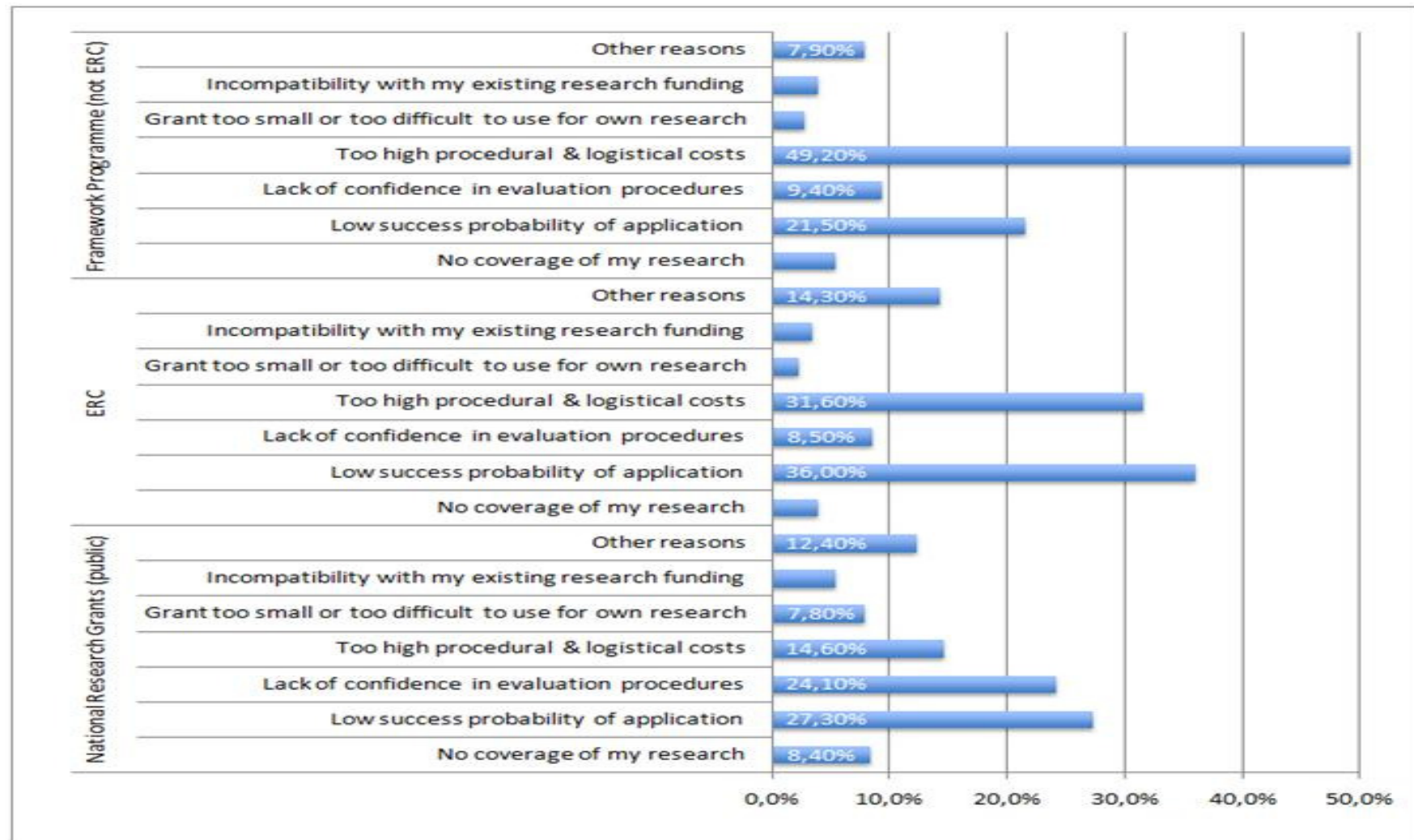
Reasons to apply to the ERC



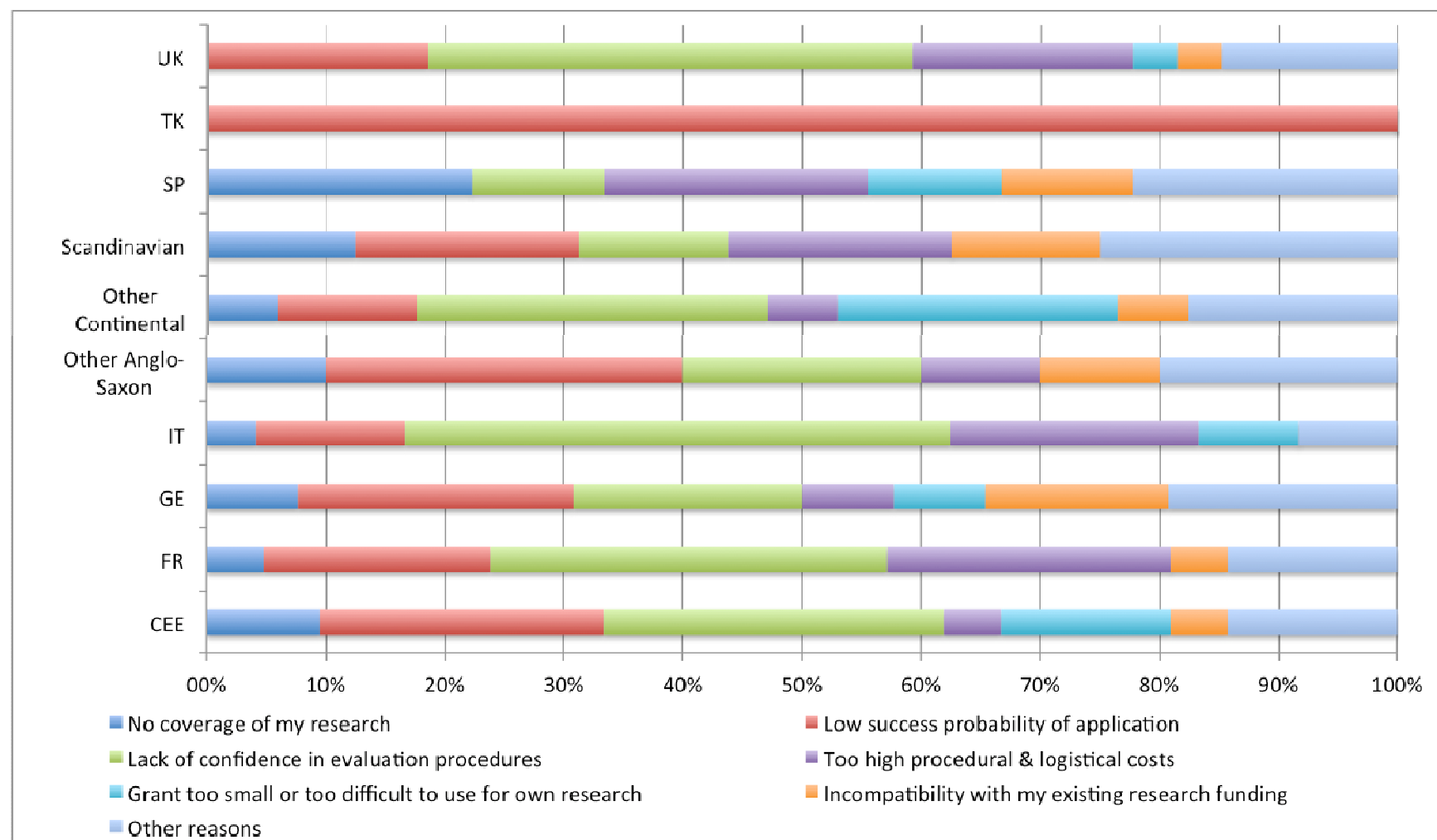
Reasons to apply to the EC Framework Programme (not ERC)



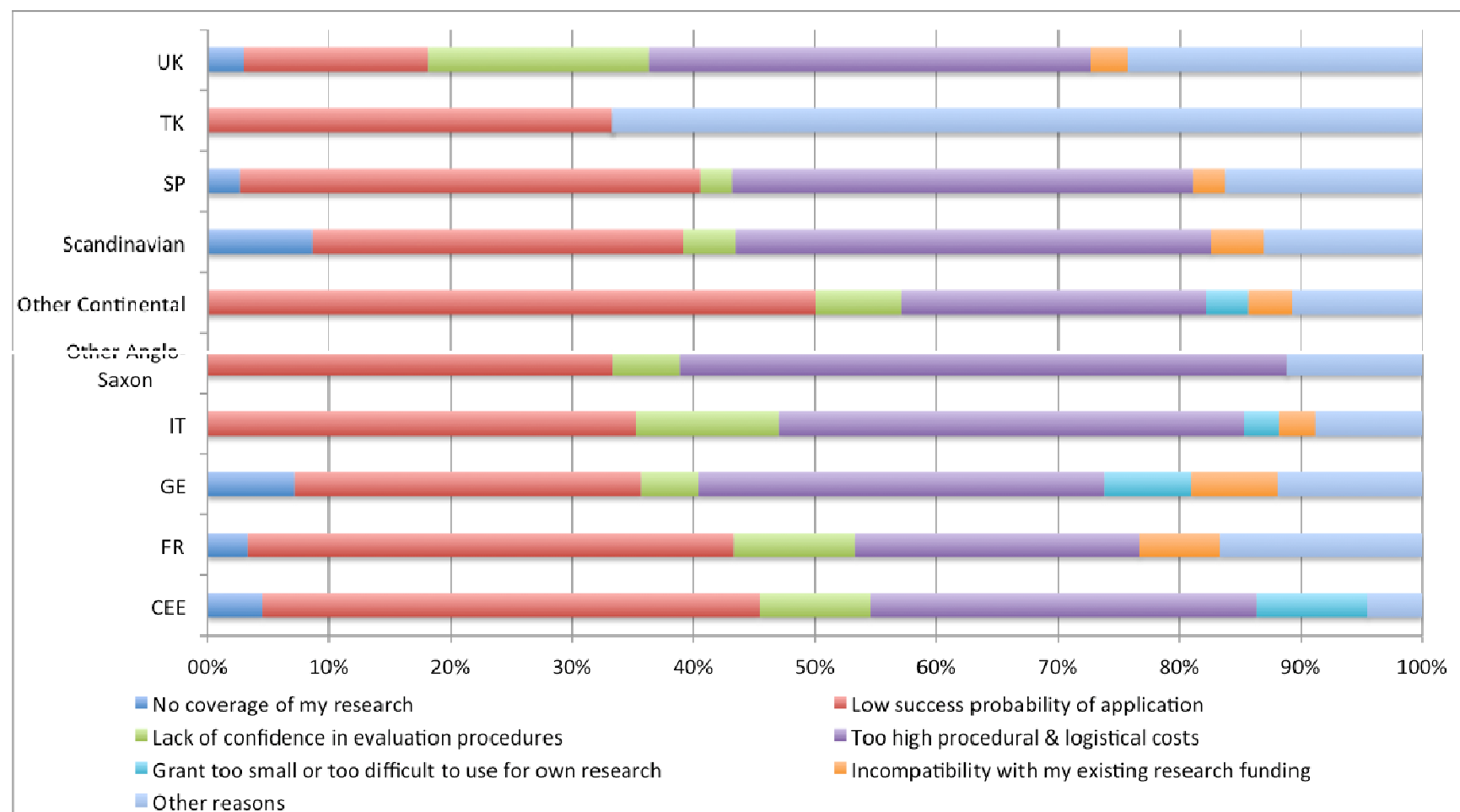
Reasons NOT to apply for funding (all disciplines)



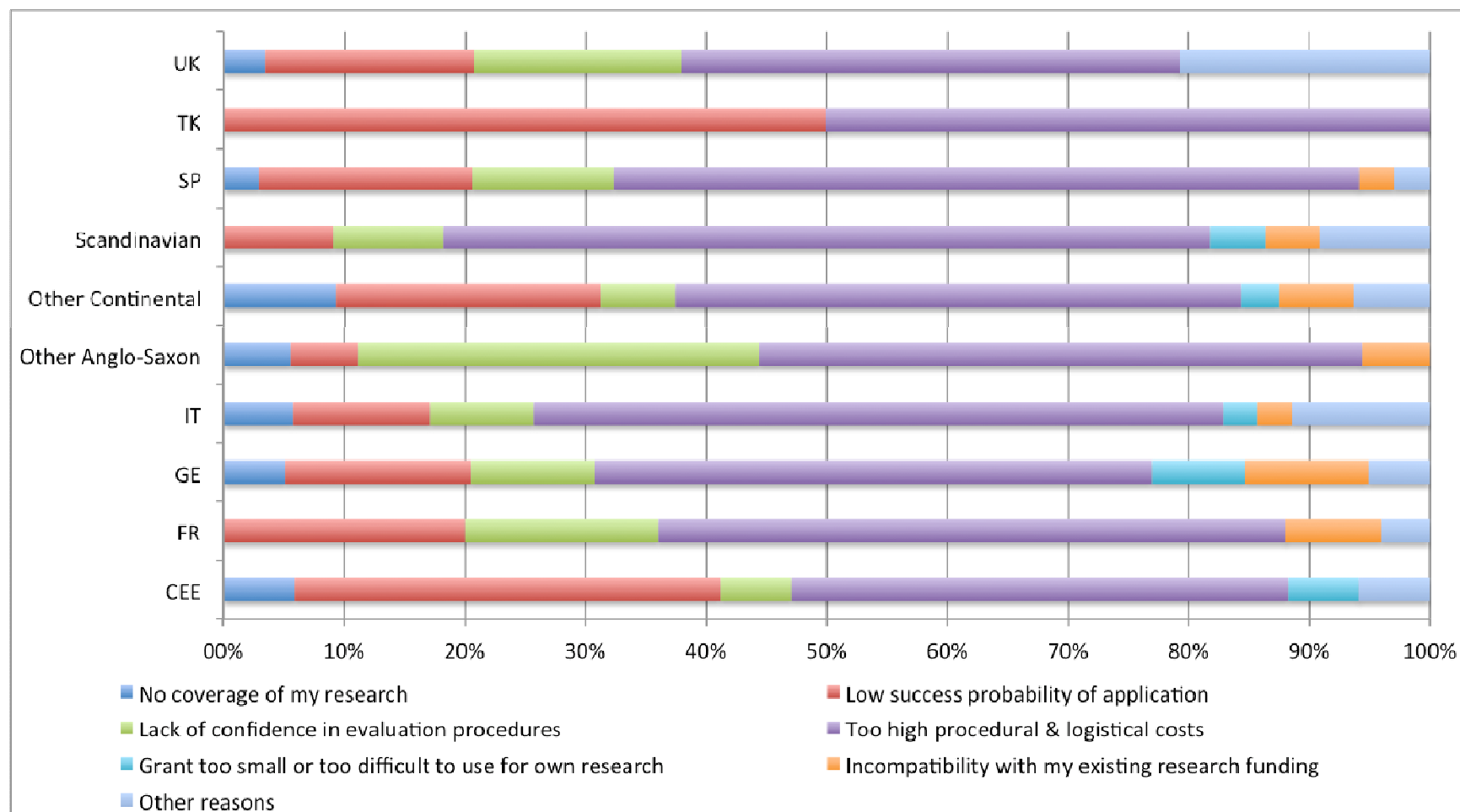
Reasons NOT to apply to National Research Grants (public)



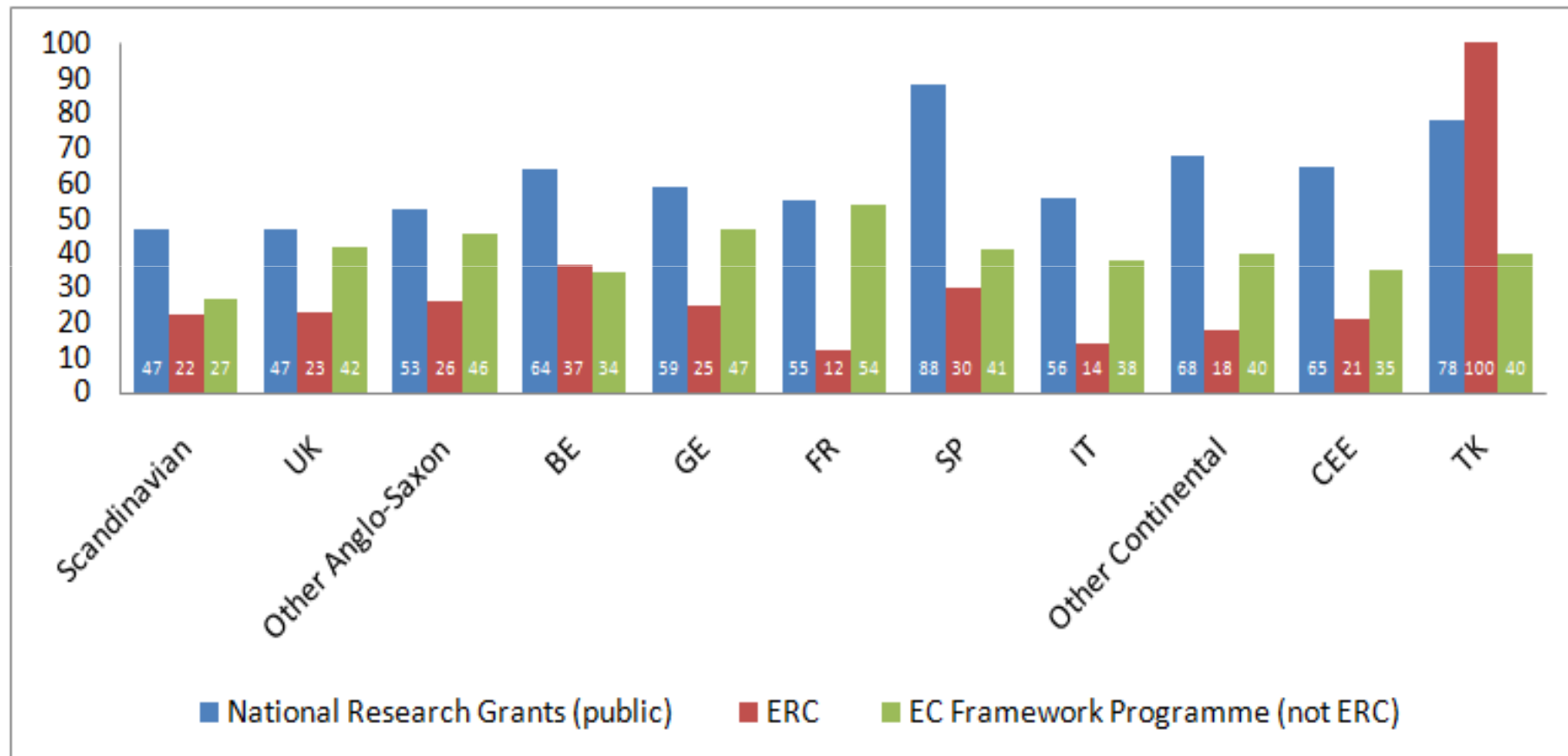
Reasons NOT to apply to the ERC



Reasons NOT to apply to the EC Framework Programme (not ERC)

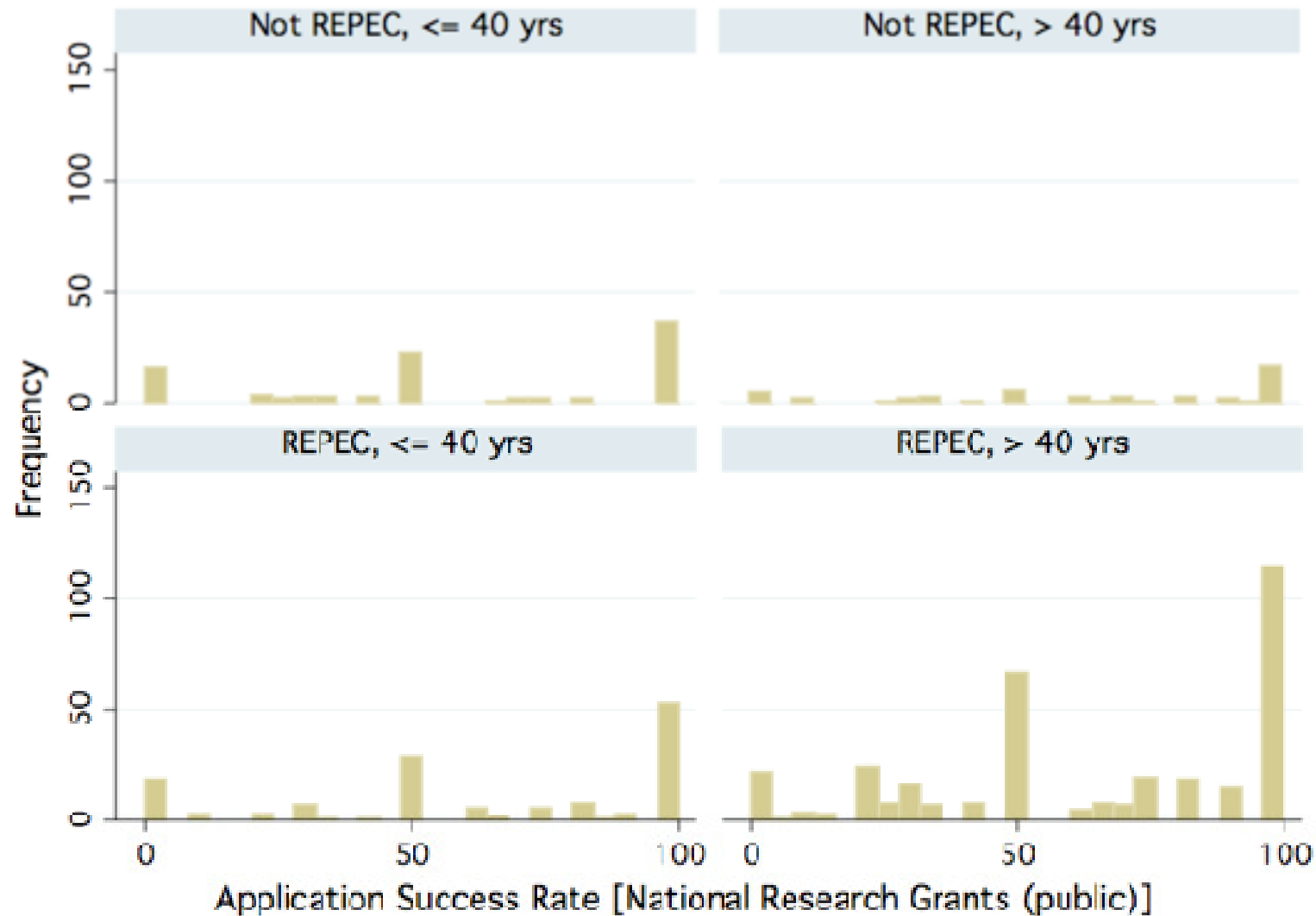


Application success rates by country of residence

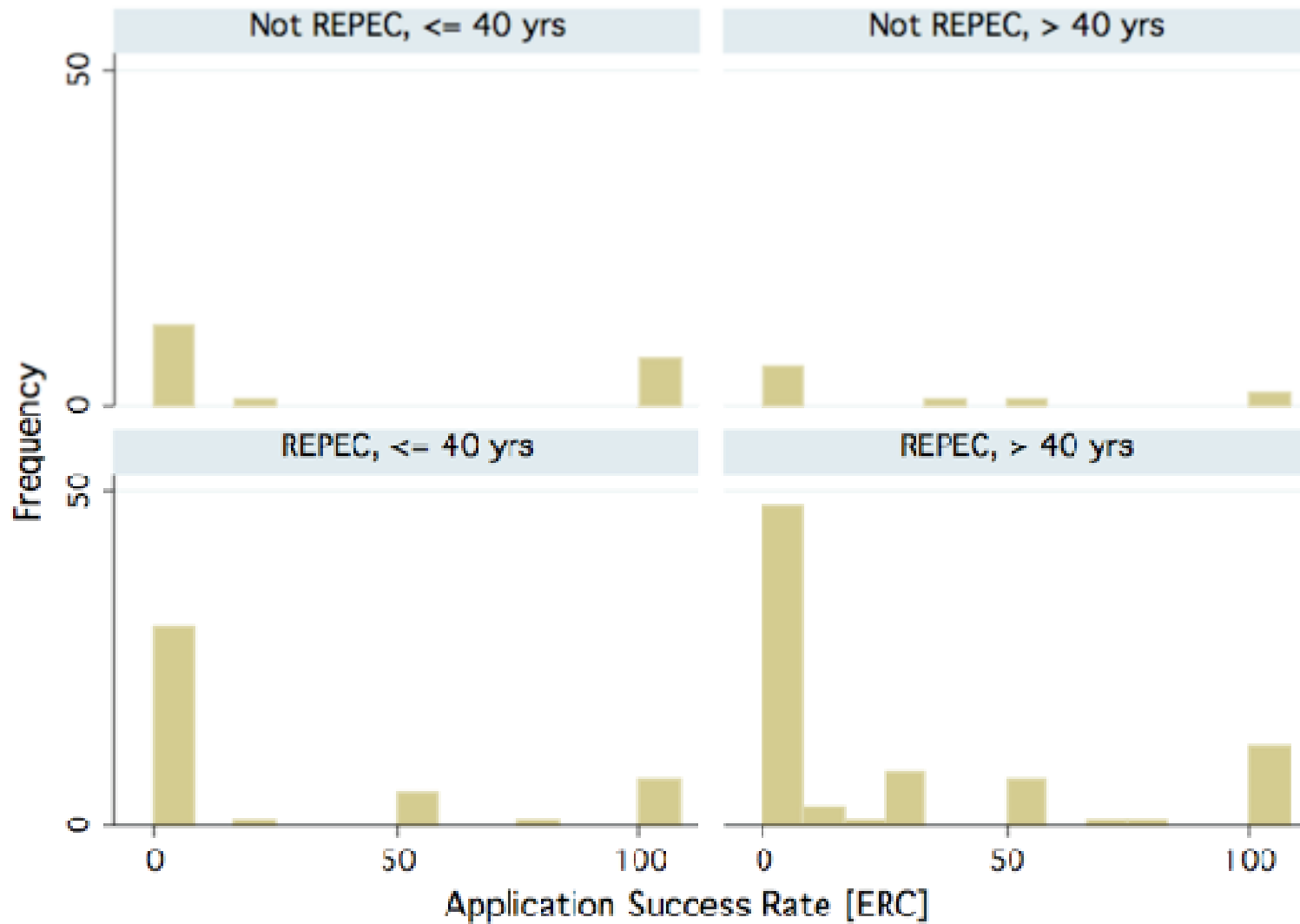


Application success rates by seniority and affiliation

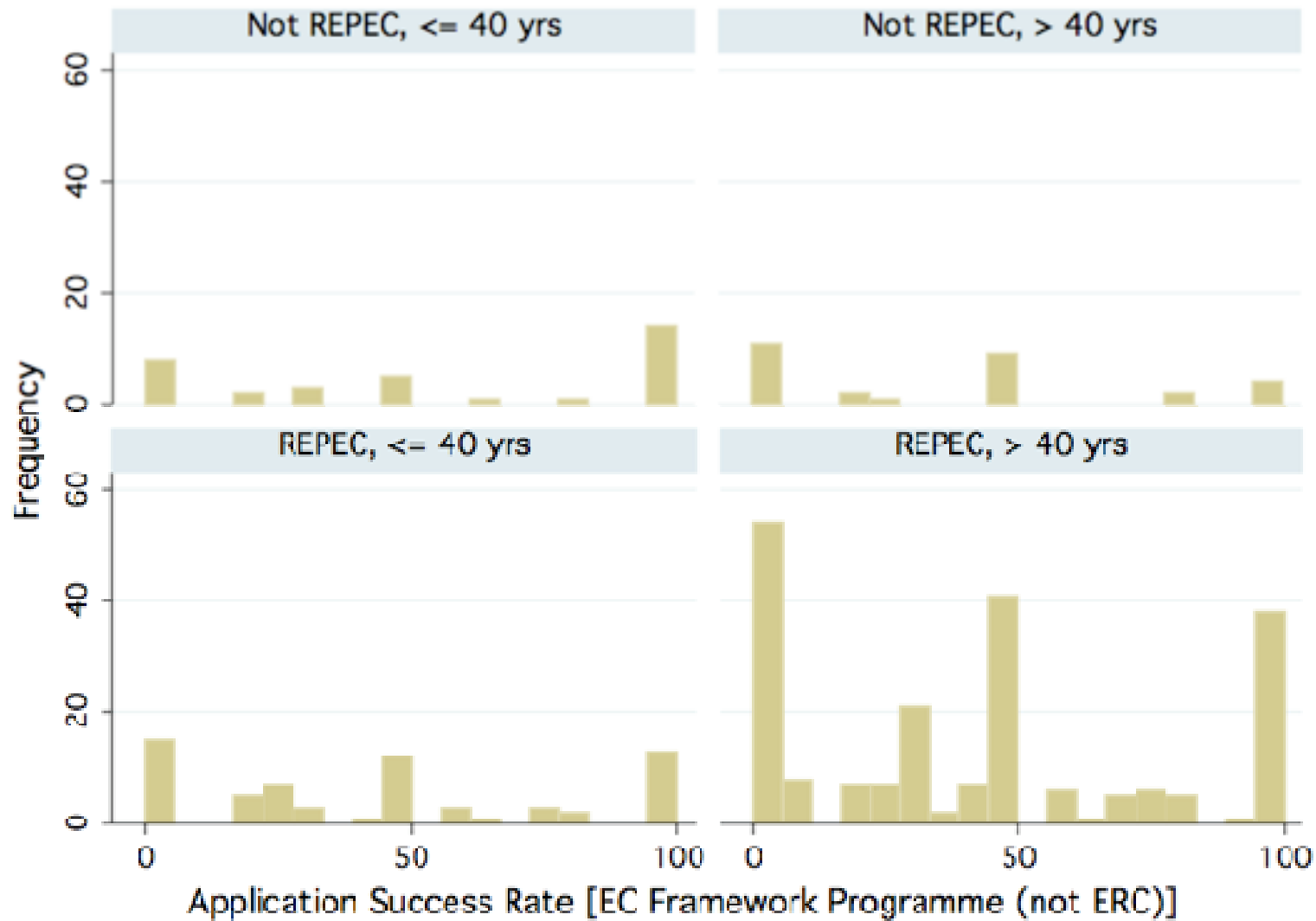
National Research Grants (public)



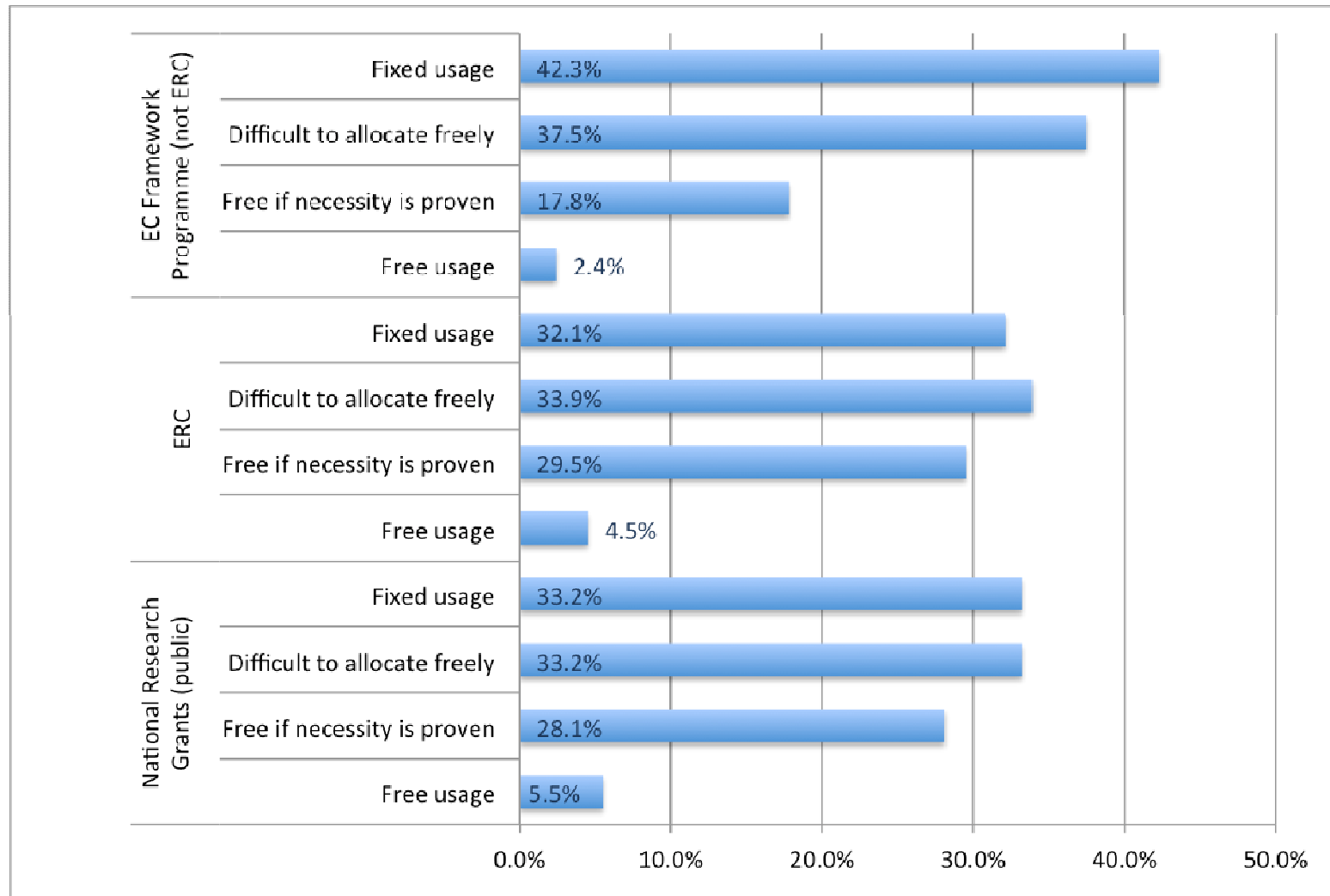
Application success rates by seniority and affiliation ERC



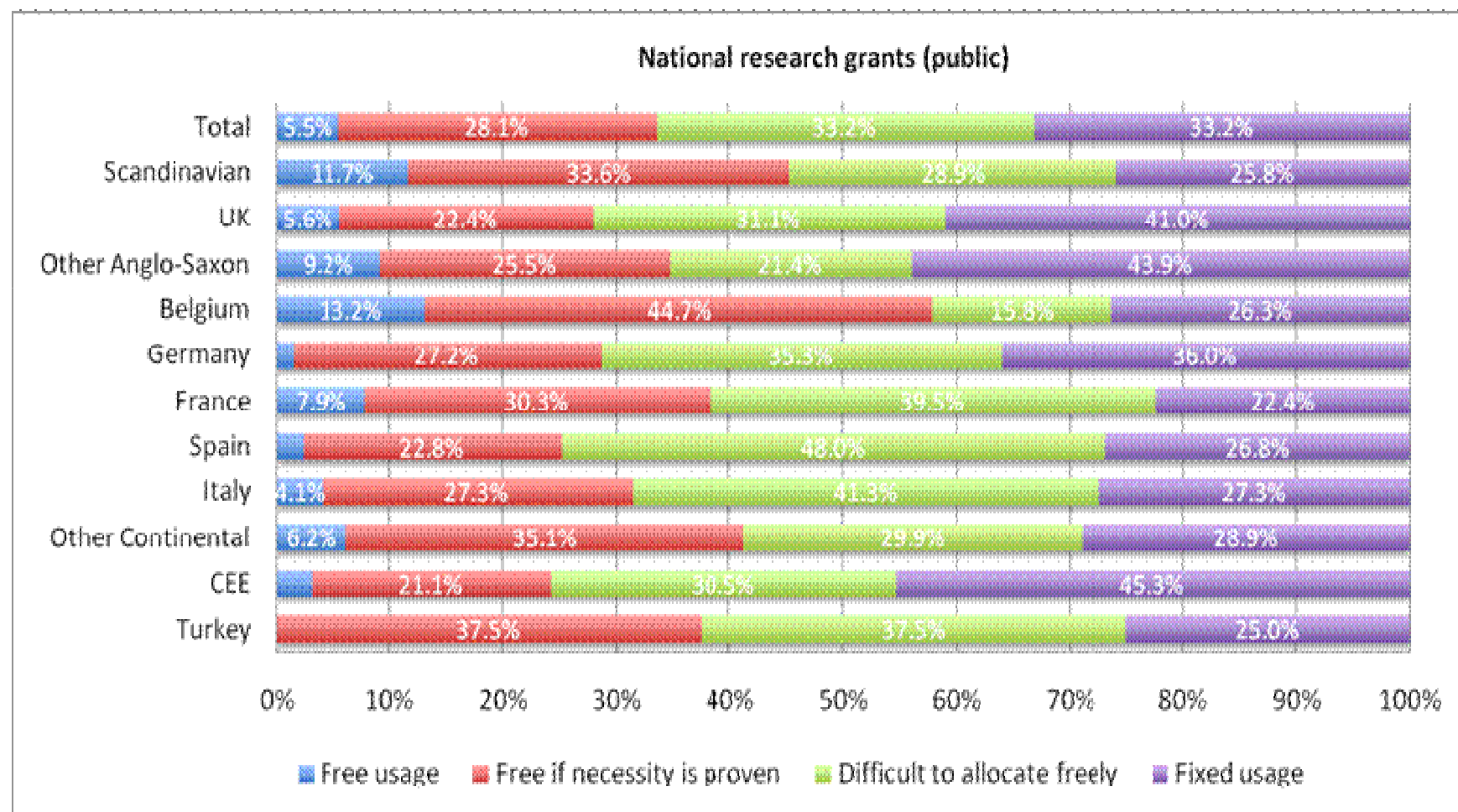
Application success rates by seniority and affiliation EC Framework Programme (not ERC)



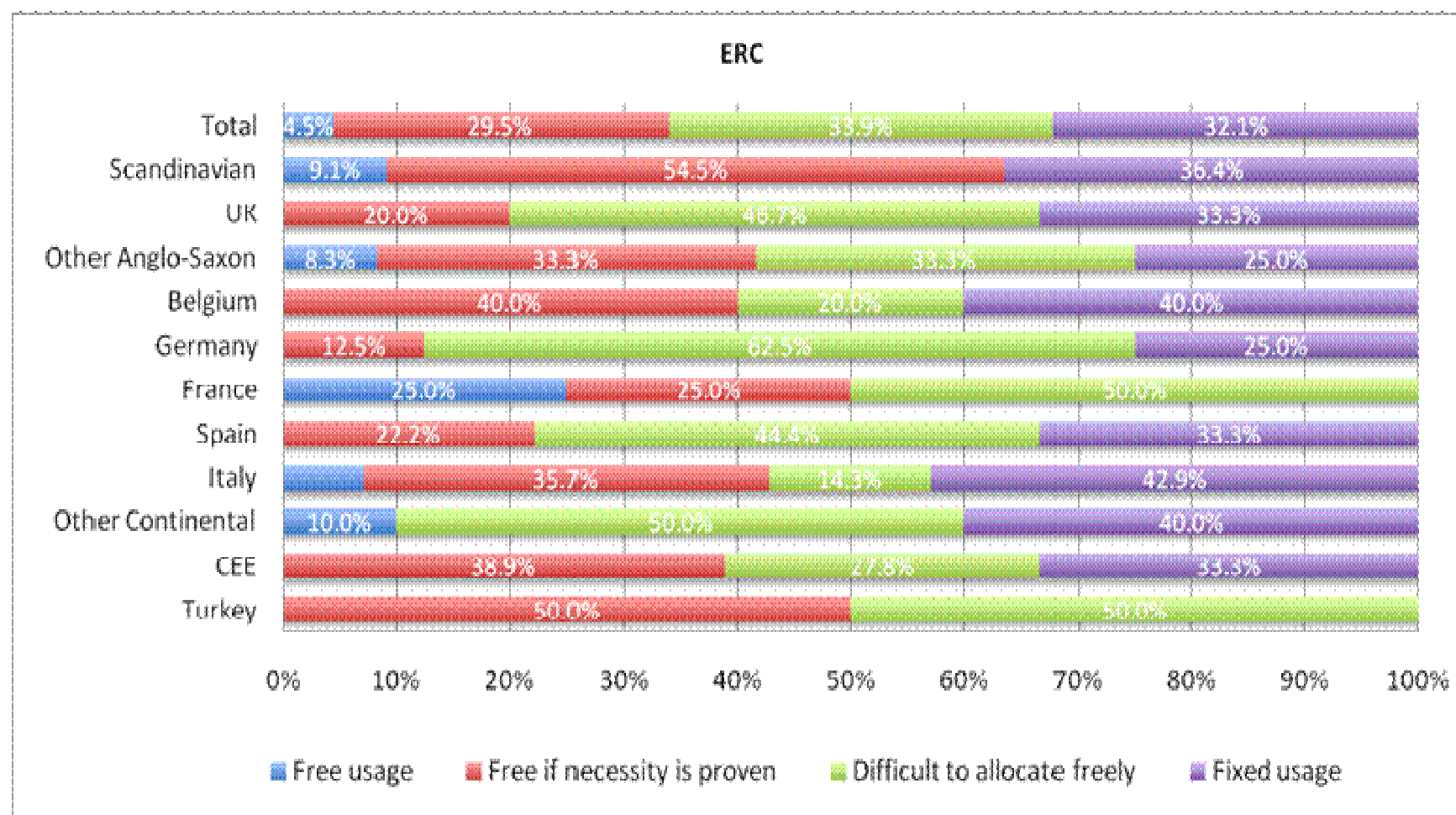
The allocation of research funding (all disciplines)



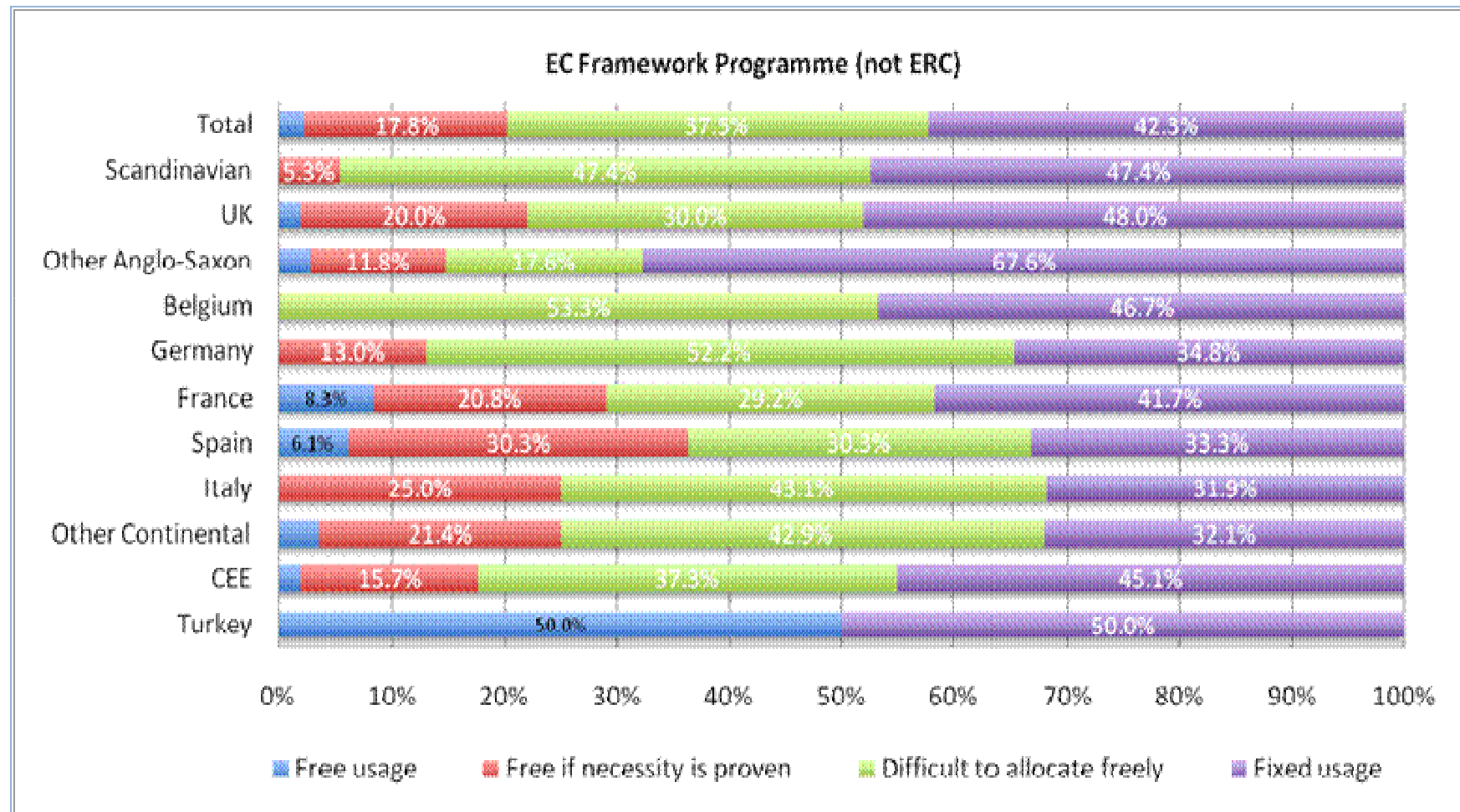
Allocation of National Research Grants (public)



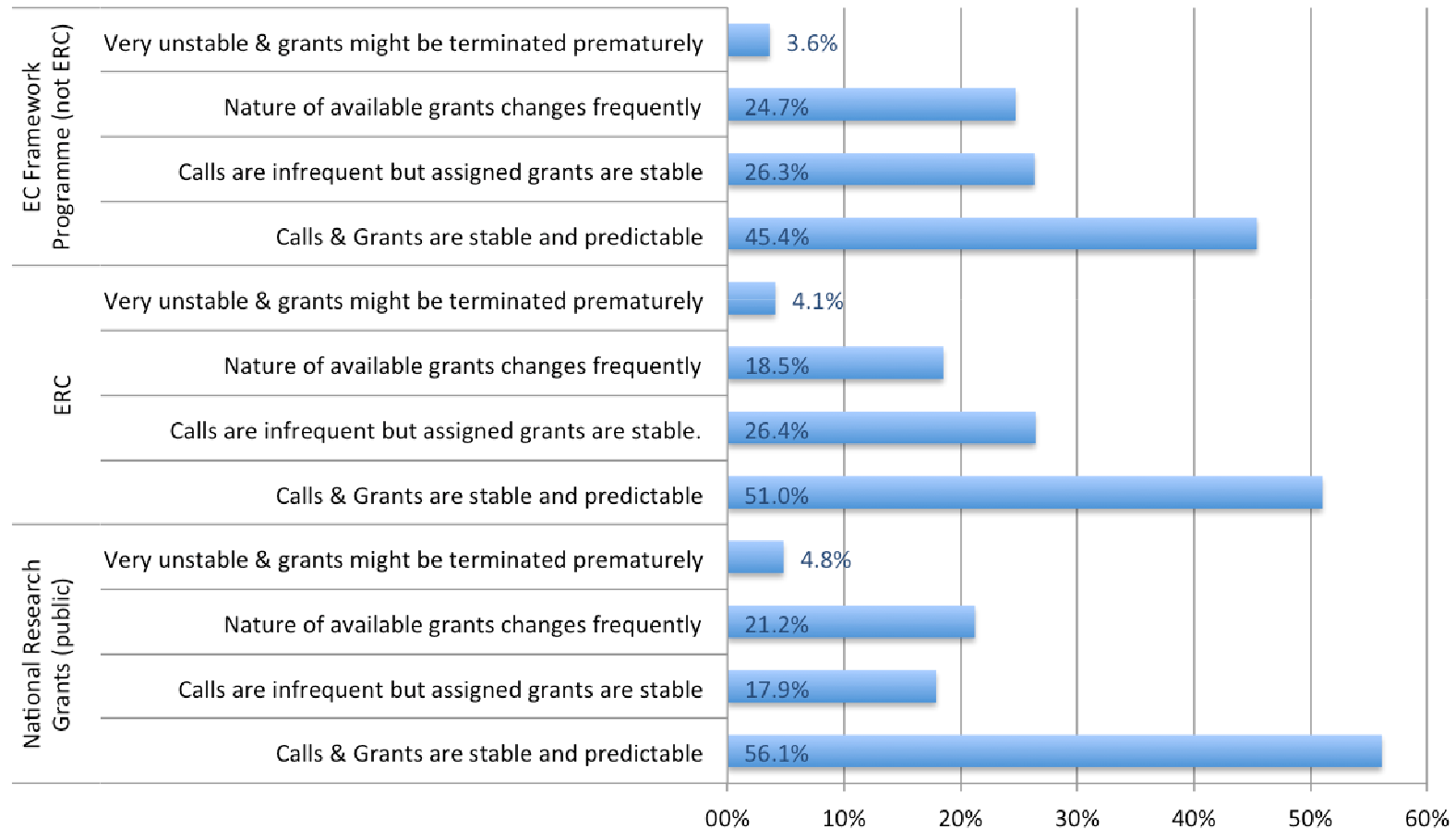
Allocation of ERC grants



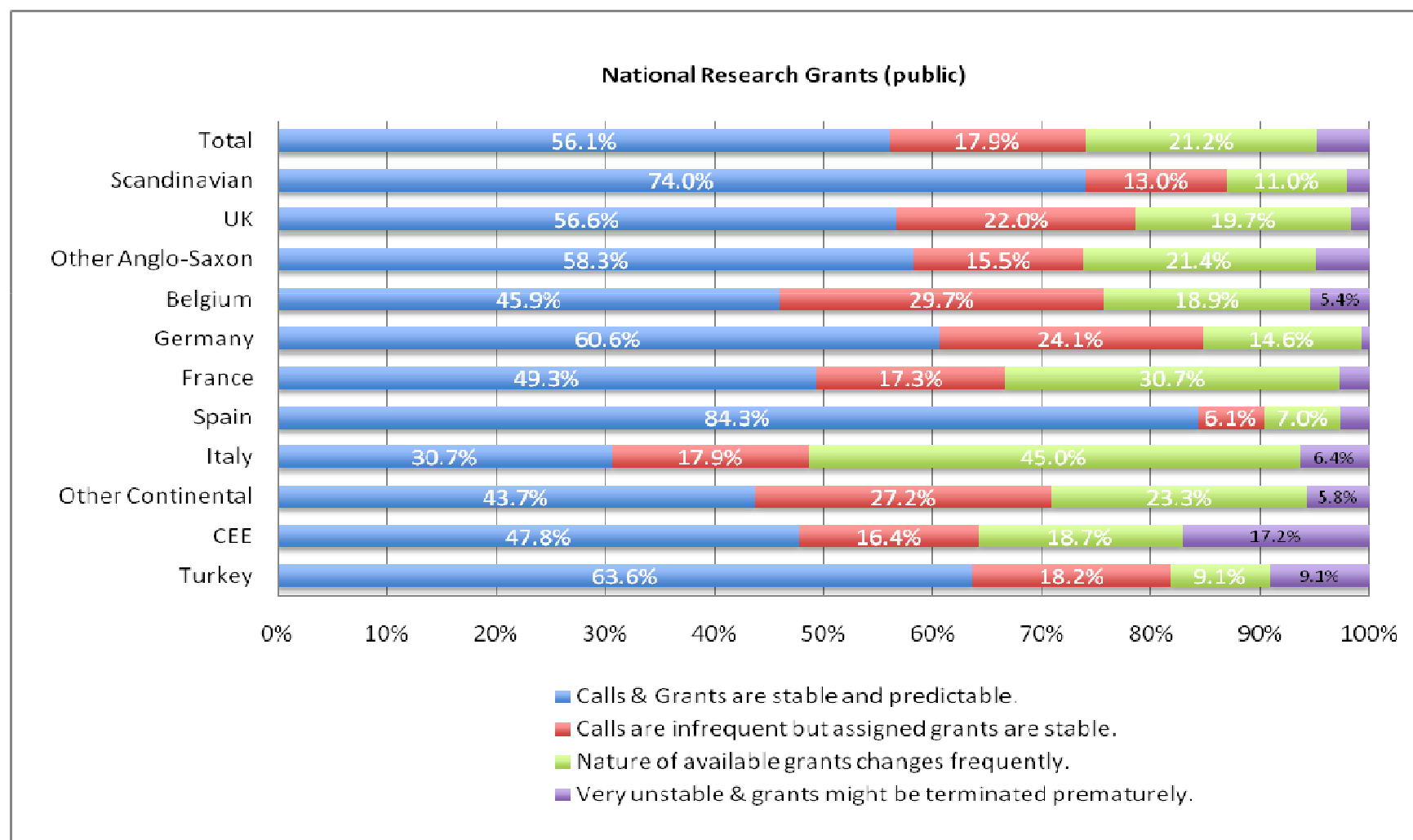
Allocation of EC Framework Programme (not ERC) grants



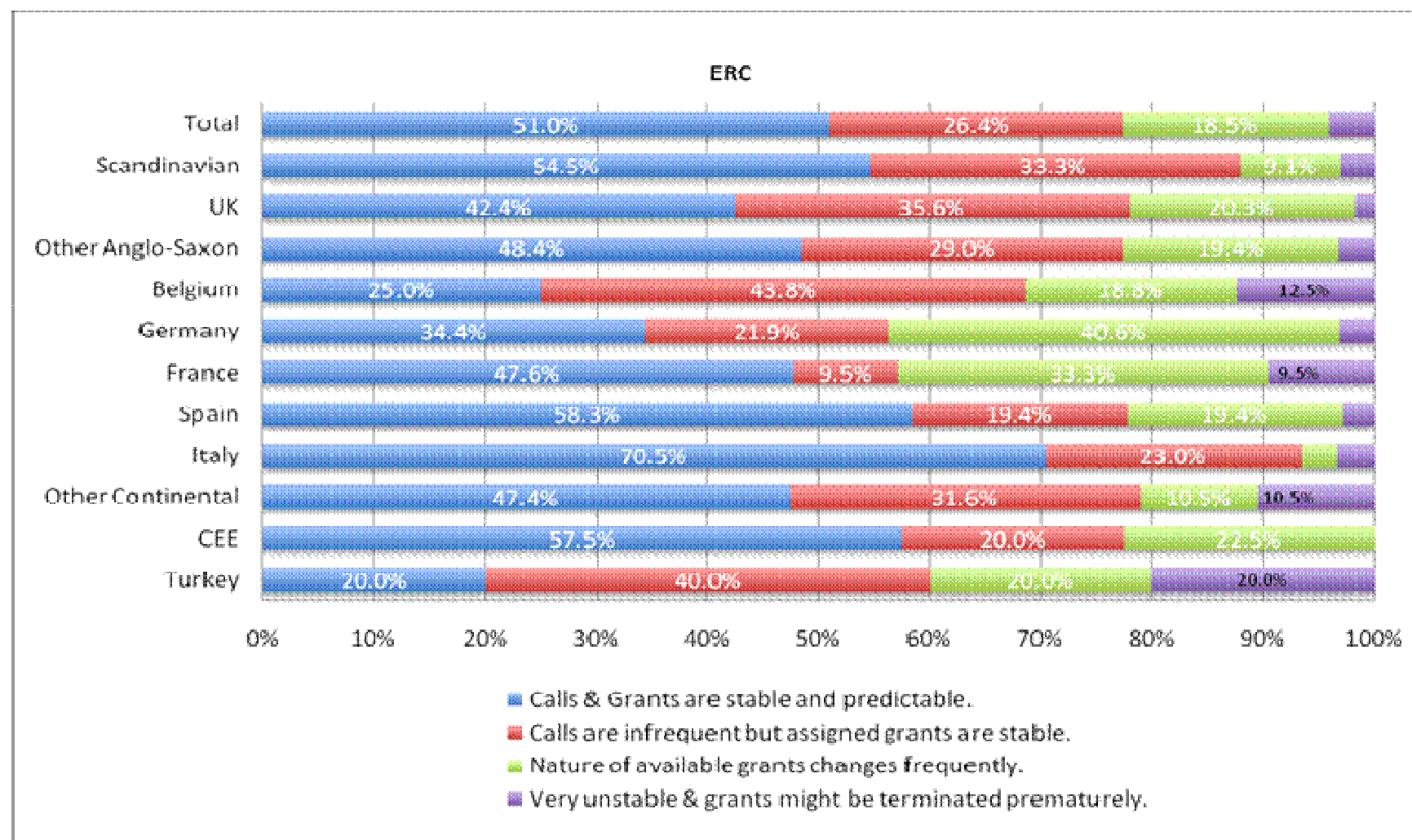
The stability of research funding (all disciplines)



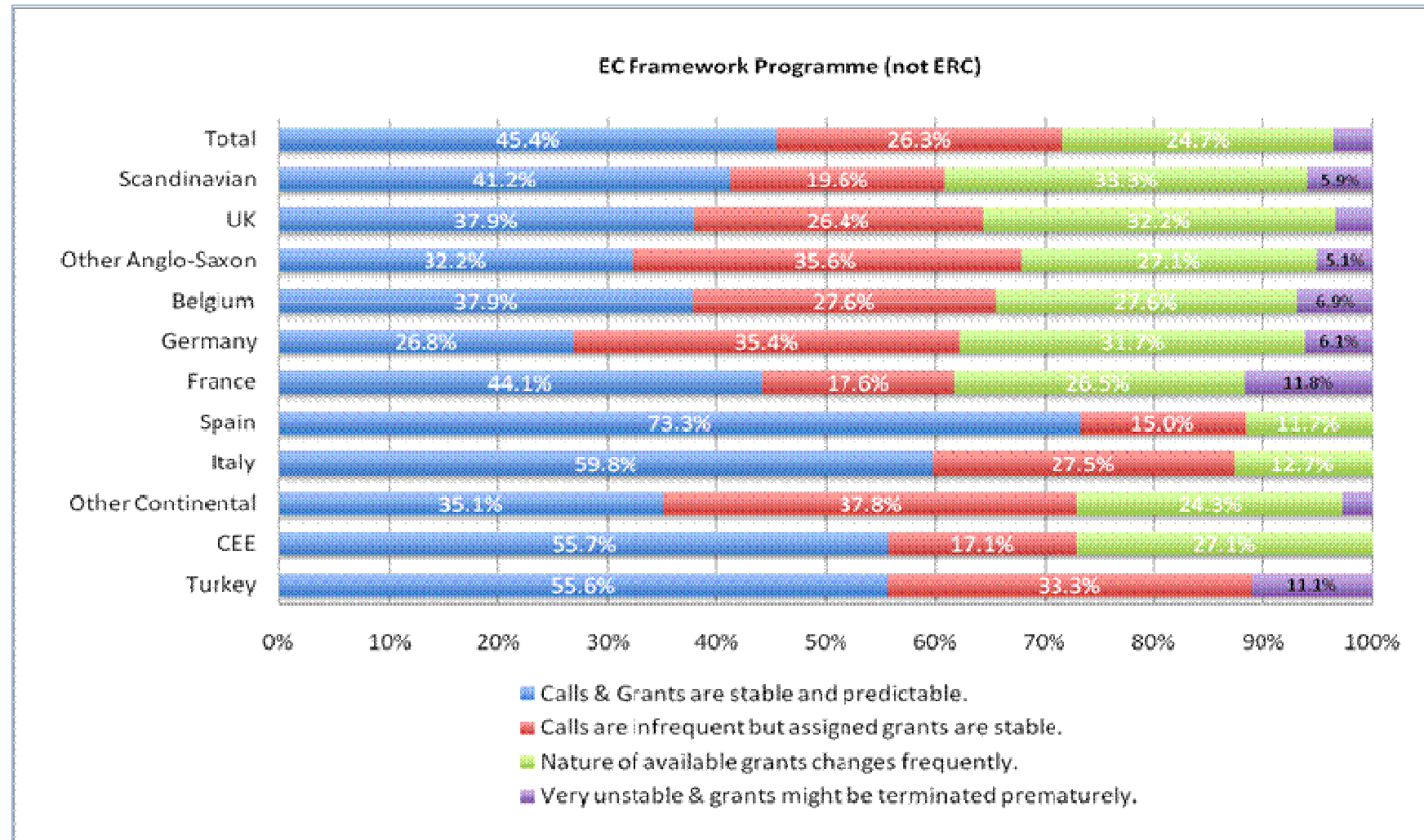
Stability of National Research Grants (public)



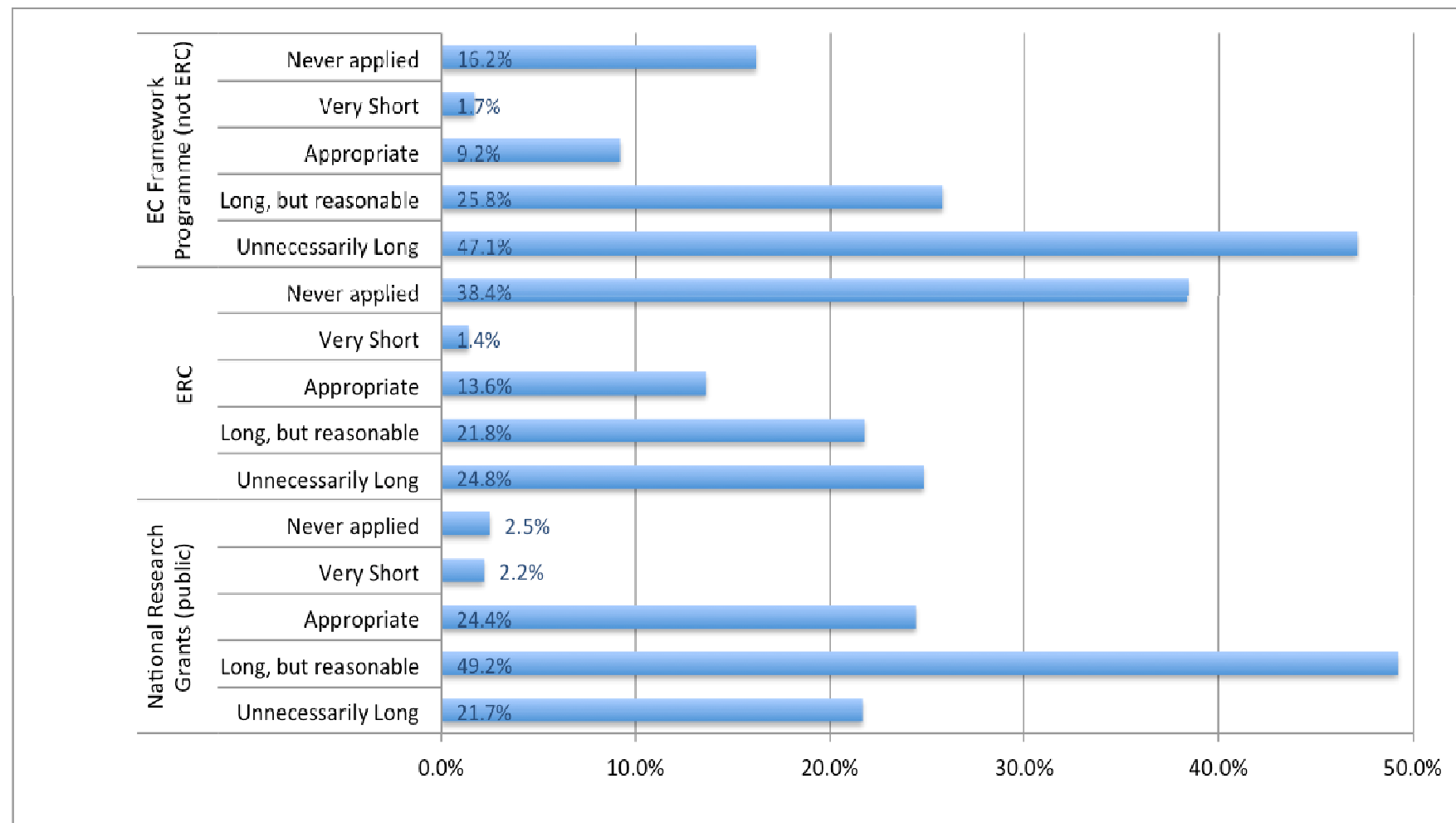
Stability of ERC grants



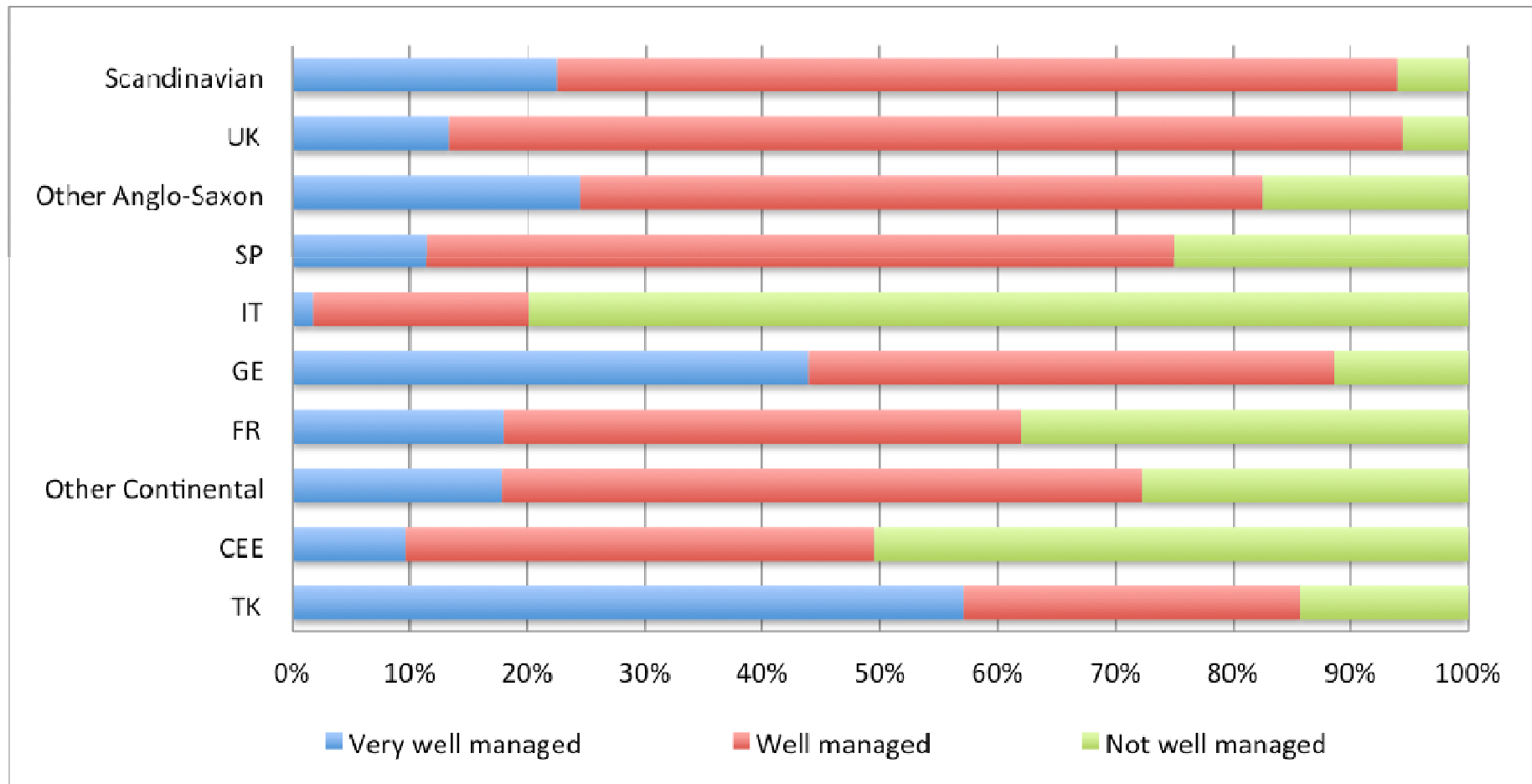
Stability of EC Framework Programme (not ERC) grants



The time spent on applications to research funding (all disciplines)



Perceived management of national funding agencies





The majority of respondents from all three grant sources report the **grant application process to be unnecessarily long** or long but reasonable.

In terms of factors influencing the decision to apply for a grant, **the total size of the grant is the primary consideration.**

The primary reasons for NOT applying for a grant are

- low success probability** (FP; especially ERC, the lowest!)
- the lack of confidence in the evaluation procedure** (National Public research grants in most countries)
- too high procedural and logistic costs** (ERC and the FP in gen.)



With respect to the flexibility of usage of the available funds, the respondents deem that the Framework Programme (not ERC) has the least flexible structure, whereas grants from the ERC and from national institutions score more or less equally.

The stability and predictability of calls and grants is fairly good and consistent across the three financing sources. Only with respect to the Framework Programme, less than 50% of respondents consider them as stable and predictable.

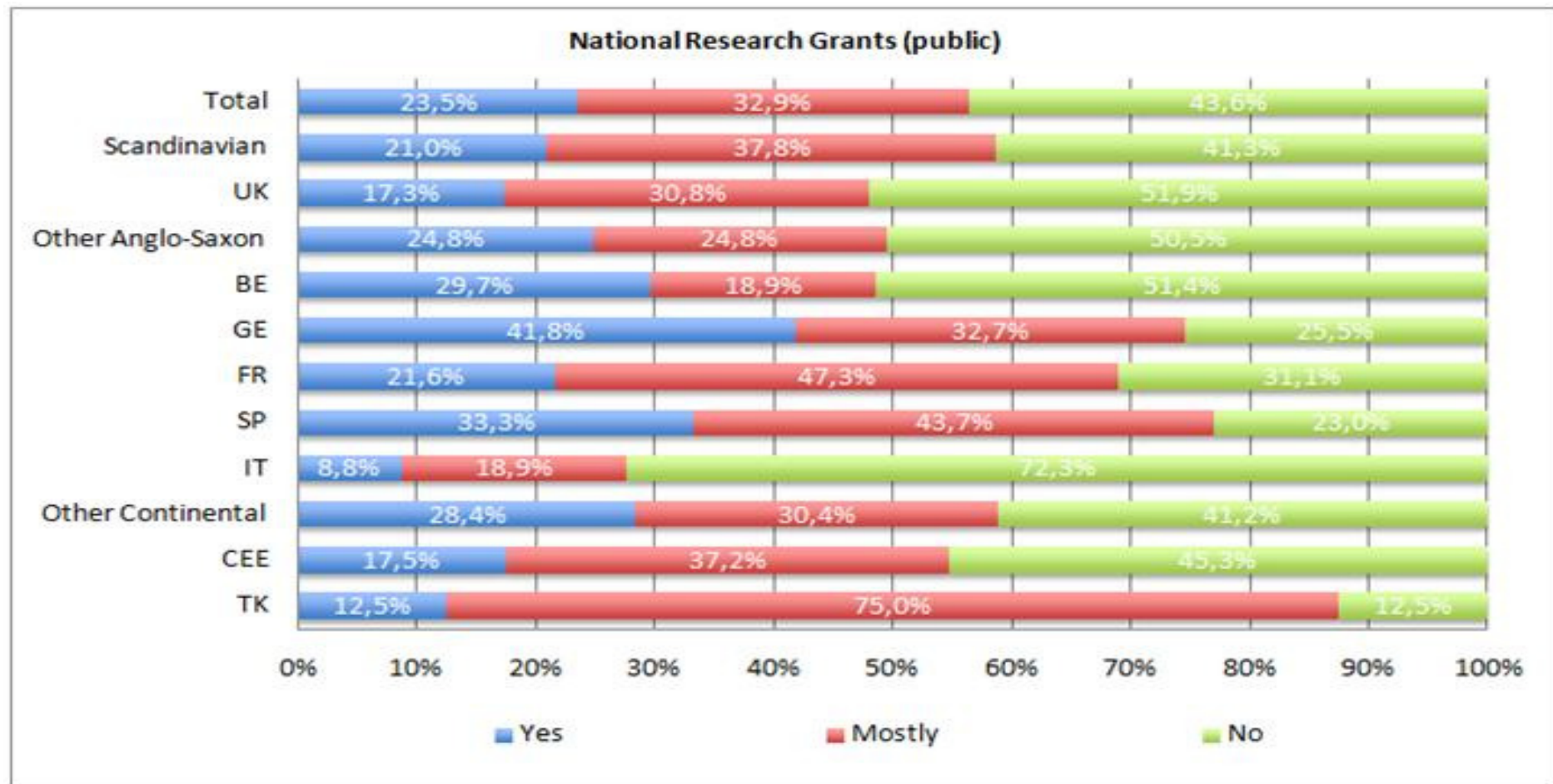
Finally, the time spent on applications is unacceptably long for FP (not ERC). Roughly twice as many people say so for FP (not ERC) than for either the ERC or National Research Grants.



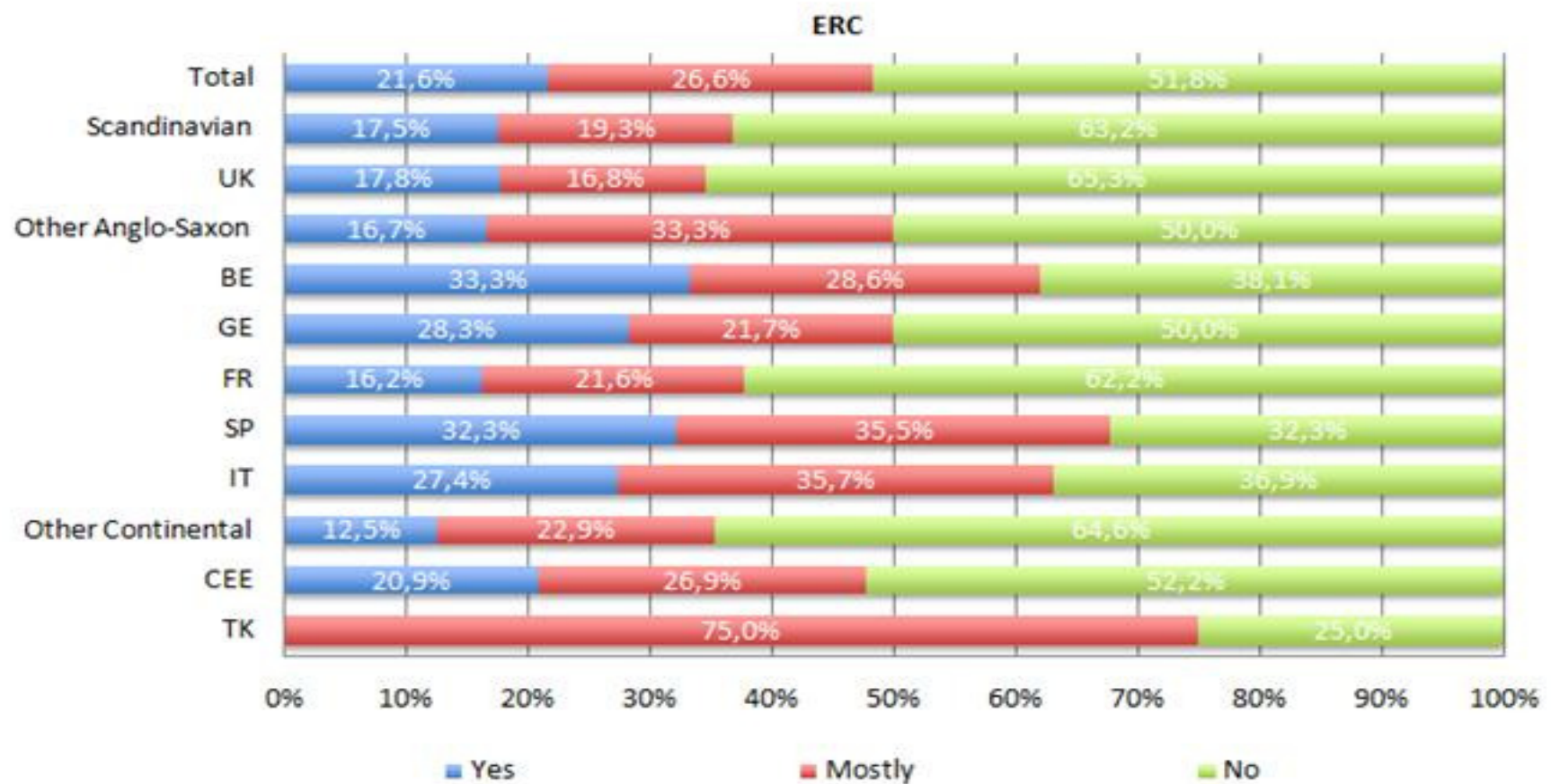
Part V

Satisfaction with research funding

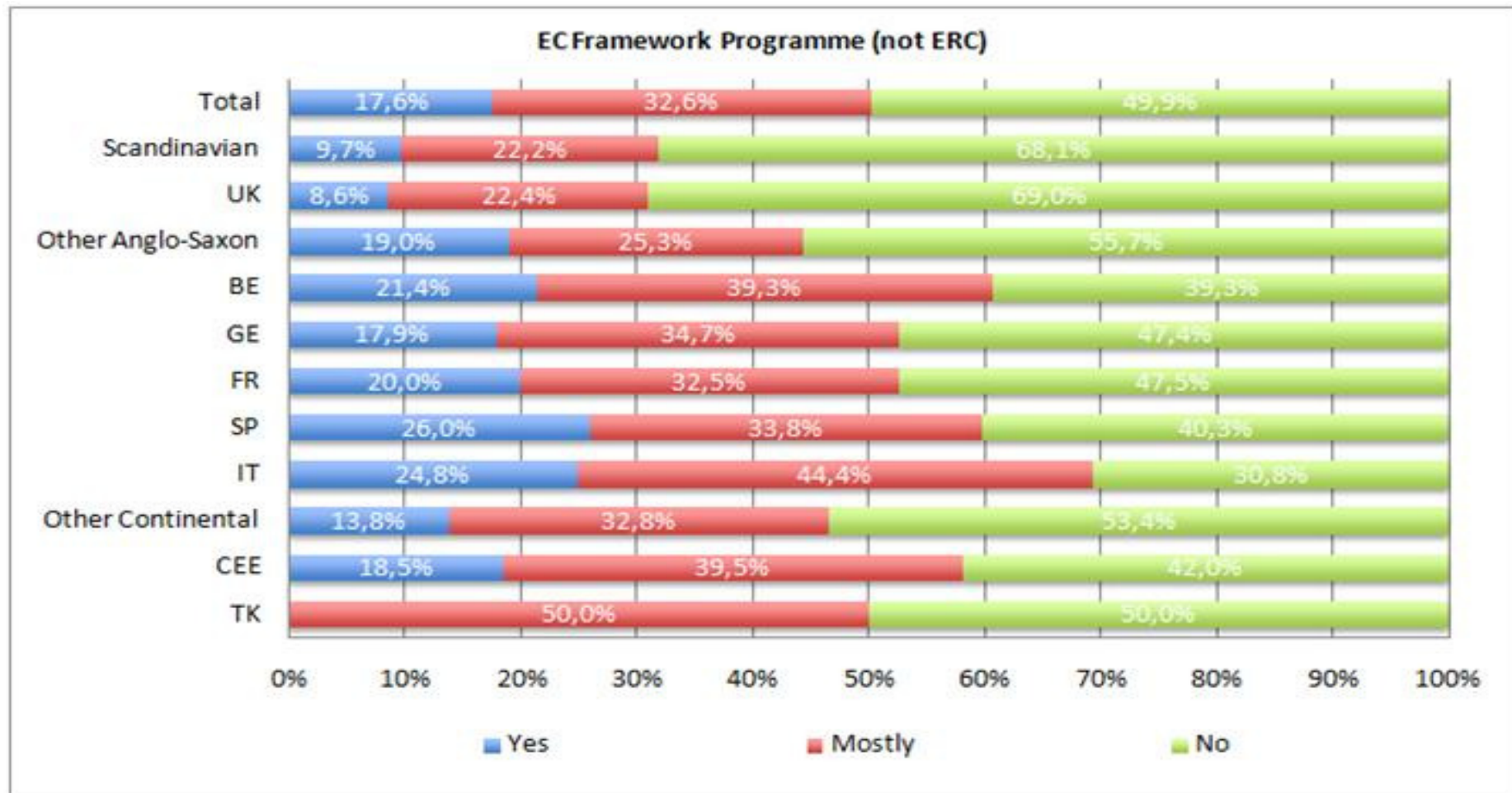
Satisfaction with National Research Grants



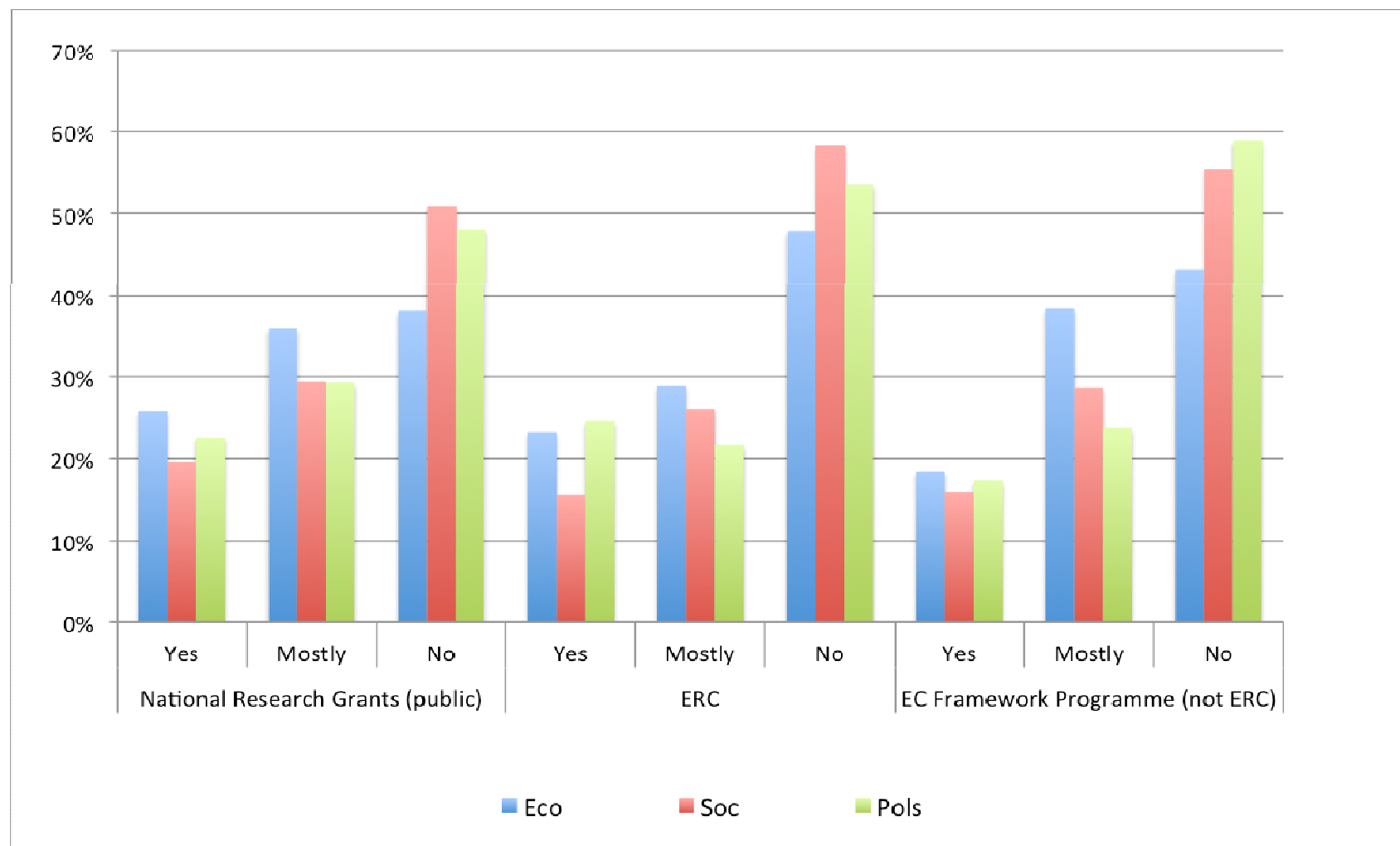
Satisfaction with the ERC



Satisfaction with the EC Framework Programme (not ERC)



Satisfaction by discipline



Satisfaction with National Research Grants

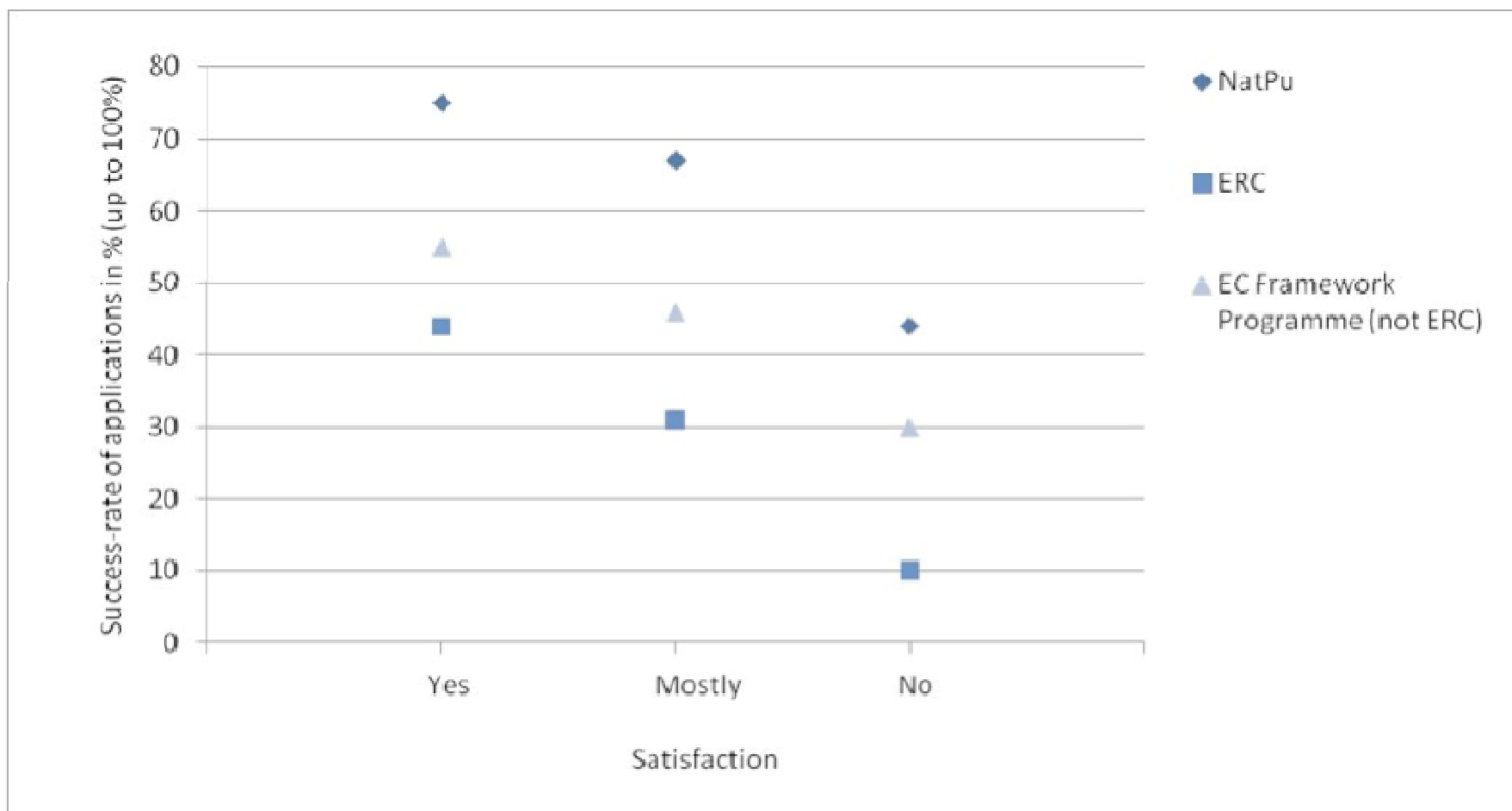
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	SatisfactionNatPub	SatisfactionNatPub	SatisfactionNatPub	SatisfactionNatPub
age	-0.00149 (0.00514)	-0.0473 (0.0315)	-0.00158 (0.00515)	-0.0552 (0.0335)
female	0.0554 (0.0921)	0.0579 (0.0921)	0.0502 (0.0938)	0.0491 (0.0939)
Normposition	-0.0178 (0.0212)	-0.00325 (0.0229)	0.0403 (0.108)	0.101 (0.115)
BudgetFlexNatPub	0.0641 (0.0518)	0.0601 (0.0518)	0.0665 (0.0521)	0.0637 (0.0519)
→ ApplTimeNatPub	0.193** (0.0582)	0.193*** (0.0578)	0.191** (0.0587)	0.191** (0.0582)
→ StabilityNatPub	0.260*** (0.0427)	0.260*** (0.0424)	0.261*** (0.0427)	0.261*** (0.0424)
NeedsNatPub	0.0990 (0.0590)	0.0954 (0.0586)	0.0981 (0.0591)	0.0933 (0.0587)
→ SuitableNatPub	0.329*** (0.0430)	0.325*** (0.0425)	0.330*** (0.0433)	0.327*** (0.0429)
PanelNatPub	0.0541* (0.0244)	0.0567* (0.0246)	0.0543* (0.0245)	0.0575* (0.0247)
age2		0.000463 (0.000317)		0.000540 (0.000335)
Normposition2			-0.00559 (0.0103)	-0.00981 (0.0107)
_cons	-0.293 (0.246)	0.701 (0.711)	-0.408 (0.299)	0.667 (0.712)
N	325	325	325	325
R-sq	0.351	0.355	0.351	0.356
AIC	718.0	718.0	719.7	719.2

Revealed
preference:
Determinants of
applications to
National
Research Grants



	(1) ApplicNatPub	(2) ApplicNatPub	(3) ApplicNatPub	(4) ApplicNatPub
age	0.00952 (0.00564)	0.116** (0.0392)	0.00929 (0.00571)	0.103* (0.0423)
female	-0.0328 (0.105)	-0.0350 (0.104)	-0.0520 (0.106)	-0.0554 (0.106)
Normposition	0.0445 (0.0276)	0.0121 (0.0313)	0.292** (0.109)	0.191 (0.125)
BudgetFlexNatPub	0.0301 (0.0610)	0.0392 (0.0589)	0.0368 (0.0599)	0.0428 (0.0584)
ApplTimeNatPub	0.0511 (0.0662)	0.0513 (0.0651)	0.0403 (0.0651)	0.0436 (0.0546)
StabilityNatPub	0.163** (0.0609)	0.162** (0.0590)	0.165** (0.0606)	0.164** (0.0589)
NeedsNatPub	0.0900 (0.0670)	0.0983 (0.0663)	0.0845 (0.0662)	0.0934 (0.0659)
SuitableNatPub	-0.118* (0.0458)	-0.109* (0.0454)	-0.109* (0.0459)	-0.104* (0.0456)
PanelNatPub	-0.0223 (0.0275)	-0.0281 (0.0270)	-0.0221 (0.0269)	-0.0273 (0.0267)
age2		-0.00108** (0.000380)		-0.000946* (0.000411)
Normposition2			-0.0239* (0.0104)	-0.0169 (0.0112)
_cons	0.975** (0.295)	-1.347 (0.900)	0.498 (0.347)	-1.394 (0.910)
N	345	345	345	345
R-sq	0.078	0.101	0.090	0.106
AIC	849.8	843.3	847.3	843.2

Satisfaction with granting schemes by application success





The majority of countries are dissatisfied with the ERC and the Framework Programme. With respect to both, Scandinavian and UK scholars have a more negative opinion than researchers from other countries, such as Italy, Spain or Belgium. Regarding the ERC, low success rates seems a major explanation.

Germany shows full satisfaction with National Public research grants, followed by Spain and all the other countries except for Italy, where the majority of respondents are dissatisfied.

Hence, satisfaction with European funding seems to be somewhat inversely related to the researchers' satisfaction with national research agencies.



Looking at satisfaction by discipline, **economists are relatively more satisfied with all funding sources** than either sociologists or political scientists.

The regression results (economists) confirm that satisfaction with National Research Grants is mainly explained by:

- **Stability of calls**
- Application time
- Suitable schemes for economists

Only the former is significant to explain the number of applications.

Satisfaction conditional on success is lowest for the Framework Programme (not ERC). In particular, there is dissatisfaction even among respondents with high success rates.



Part VI

Evaluation and recommendations



The 10 most desirable, but often missing, elements in European research funding in Economics

1. Flexibility
2. Competent and transparent evaluation
3. Simplification of application and procedures
4. Adequate funding
5. Stability and regularity of calls and funding
6. Teaching buyouts and salary complements
7. Open topics
8. Accent on excellence
9. Grants for all stages of the career, especially for young researchers
10. Support for innovative ideas

The most desirable, often missing, elements in European research funding

		Economics	Sociology	Political Sciences
1	Flexibility	1	1	1
2	Competent and transparent evaluation	2	4	3
3	Simplification of application and procedures	3	3	4
4	Adequate funding	4	2	2
5	Stability and regularity of calls and funding	5	8	9
6	Teaching buyouts and salary complements	6	7	5
7	Open topics	7	9	8
8	Accent on excellence	8	10	10
9	Grants for all stages of the career, specially for young researchers	9	6	6
10	Support to innovative ideas	10	5	7



Flexibility is key

Economists, sociologists and political scientists agree on the four most desirable properties in research funding:

- **Flexibility** of management, fund allocation, research strategy and hiring people
- **Adequate funding**
- **Competent and transparent evaluation**
- **Simplification of application and procedures**

At the very top of the 10 most desirable, but often missing, elements in European Research Funding they also agree:

“Trust the researcher: flexibility!”



Part VII

Conclusions

Research Funding in Europe

Anglo-Saxon and Continental countries have the largest and fastest growing research budgets. Other countries cannot match total R&D expenditure, but they perform well when spending is analyzed relative to GDP (Scandinavian countries) or when only the SSH share is considered (PT, TK, NO, SP).

The Economics Profession

The majority of respondents are from DE, IT, UK and SP. One fourth of them is female, and they are on average 40 years old. The survey shows the existence of both an ageing and a 'gender scissor' problem.

Research intensity declines with seniority, women allocate more time to research than men and universities are the main employers.

Finally with regard to internationalization and openness, Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian countries are the most open, while the CEE and Mediterranean regions rank last.

Research Funding in Economics

Sources are fairly heterogeneous across countries. National public funding is the primary source, particularly in the UK and in Continental countries. Together with funding from the home institution it accounts for less than 60% of the budget only in Italy. Funding flows across countries are relevant, although not large, and indicate relative openness (AT, NL) or weaknesses (IT).

There appears to be a positive correlation between the perception of management quality, and of trust in evaluation procedures. Countries with national agencies that are not well managed (IT, FR, CEE) also exhibit greater mistrust in the evaluation process. Scholars are not entirely satisfied with either the FP, or the ERC.

Low success rates, cumbersome procedures and high logistical costs are major obstacles to applying. The allocation of funds is more flexible with National grants than with FP or ERC grants. There is some evidence of an inverse relation between satisfaction at national and European levels.

Flexibility, adequate funding, transparent evaluation and simplification of application procedures are most desired elements.

Openness, Internationalization and Mobility

Anglo-Saxon, but also smaller Continental countries (AT, BE) attract the largest portions of foreign funds. In terms of researcher mobility, the UK leads, followed by Scandinavian and Continental countries. CEE and TK are relatively closed.

Scandinavia, SP and DE, are relatively open for younger Researchers but exhibit only a small fraction of foreign Full Professors. This pattern is inverted in CEE and CH. The highest proportion of foreign researchers among the respondents are Post-docs.

Final remarks

Despite the advances by many funding agencies, **there is still ample room to improve efficiency**, i.e. flexibility, competent evaluation etc. **Information sharing**.

Mistrust of evaluation procedures is specially relevant for National and Regional funding: evaluation can be better organized at the international level, even for national funding (ERC?)

There is **consensus in favour of a 'competitive bottom-up approach'** to research funding among the respondents.

Countries with schemes that **'properly assess and trust the researcher'** are also the ones with a more internationally integrated research environment, e.g. the UK.

Finally, regarding the FP and ERC, perceptions differ by country, but **lack of flexibility of the FP (not ERC) is a major concern**.

Final final remark

In these times of financial restraint, enhancing the efficiency of research funding is essential for the European Research Area.

Our survey provides many insights on how efficiency can be improved.

We hope those responsible will take note...

Thanks