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MAX WEBER PROGRAMME FOR POST-DOCTORAL STUDIES

MAX WEBER PROGRAMME
ACADEMIC CAREERS OBSERVATORY

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

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Executive Summary

From mid-2010 through early 2011, the [Academic Careers Observatory \(ACO\)](#) of the [Max Weber Programme \(MWP\)](#) carried out three separate surveys of economists, sociologists and political scientists, the majority of whom held university positions. These individuals were invited to answer an on-line questionnaire regarding research funding in the social sciences in Europe. Each distinct survey was respectively carried out in partnership with the [European Economic Association \(EEA\)](#), the [European Sociological Association \(ESA\)](#), and the [European Consortium for Political Research \(ECPR\)](#).

This survey is divided into two parts. Part I analyses the sociology of each profession, gathering personal information and assessing the respondent's current working position. Part II focuses on the research funding experience of the respondents, revealing both the specifics of the respondent's research funding, as well as their subjective perceptions of the funding application and fruition processes.

Both parts of the survey show remarkable consistency in the responses of economists, sociologists and political scientists; differences are small and confined to specific areas. Much more relevant is the variation across European Research Area (ERA) countries, which share distinct academic traditions, irrespective of the discipline of the respondent.

The first part of the survey confirms a number of facts about the academic profession. Persisting ageing and the gender divide are relatively big problems in academia, the former affects sociology the most, the latter, economics. There is considerable national variation in terms of research internationalization: while Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon countries are the most open, Mediterranean countries as well as Central and Eastern Europe are not well integrated into the international environment.

The second part unveils largely unexplored perceptions of research funding opportunities within the ERA. Both national and supranational financing sources display several problems. Despite the heterogeneity on how different national research funding agencies are managed, there is widespread distrust in the evaluation process. Professional evaluators being a scarce resource, national institutions should internationalize their evaluation procedures. The recent experience of national agencies creating synergies through the European Research Council's evaluation procedures is worth pursuing.

As for European-level funding agencies, scholars are not entirely satisfied with either the Framework Programme (FP), or, more surprisingly, the European Research Council (ERC). Apart from low success rates, cumbersome procedures and high logistical costs are perceived as major obstacles to submitting an application. Satisfaction levels are very heterogeneous. There might be an inverse relation between satisfaction at national and European levels, hence, the ERC and FP should take this into account. Major efforts are needed to simplify application and reporting procedures. Given the low success rates, the evaluation of applications should be of the highest standard and transparency.

Finally, economists, sociologists, and political scientists agree on the most desirable features of research funding: flexibility, adequate funding, competent and transparent evaluation and the simplification of the application process. However, flexibility and accountability generate a trade-off: agencies should, hence, develop reliable record keeping of researchers to improve the allocation of research financing.

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Introduction

The Survey on Research Funding for the Social Sciences in Europe is the first of its kind, targeted at European researchers from three social science disciplines – economics, sociology and political sciences.

The scholars were asked to fill in a semi-structured questionnaire, consisting of both open-ended and closed questions. Such a design was chosen in order to allow the respondents a degree of freedom to explain their thoughts. At the same time, the use of a standardized questionnaire allowed the comparison and analysis of responses from a considerable number of individuals belonging to different fields of study that are usually difficult to compare. A pre-testing of the questionnaire was carried out before sending the survey to the three samples.

Even though the response rate was not exceptional, 19.1 per cent over the whole sample, this is artificially brought down by political scientists (see Note 1 for an explanation). The selection bias of the 3,802 respondents has not been eliminated: a large share of these actively apply for research funding. Hence, the survey's results have to be taken with a pinch of salt. Notwithstanding, we are convinced that the sample's size and the consistency of answers provide a clear, if preliminary, picture of the users' perception of research funding opportunities across the European Research Area.

The Report is structured in four sections. The first section provides the details of the sample and of the selection criteria (the Appendix contains methodological and other details). The second analyses the sociology of the profession in economics, sociology and political sciences, providing both overall results, and findings broken down by discipline. The third section traces the largely unexplored perceptions of research funding opportunities within the European Research Council. It both seeks to answer the question, 'who gets what and how much?', as well as delving deeper into the subjective perception and recommendations of the funds' users. The fourth section concludes.

The sample

As already noted above, this report is based on the responses of economists, sociologists and political scientists, who were invited to participate in three distinct surveys – one for each profession. Hence, the sample is the combination of three different sub-samples. Figure 1, below, shows the sample details: number of invitations, valid responses and response rates.

The MWP-ACO, together with the European Economic Association, carried out the survey among economists, who were invited to answer the on-line questionnaire between 21 June and 15 July 2010. The sample of economists is the combination of two sub-samples:

- i) RePEc (Repository of Papers in Economics) European economists: top 12.5 per cent and the top 25 per cent of every European country – 3,802 researchers;
- ii) members of the European Economic Association – 2,443 researchers.

Hence, the overlap between the two sub-samples is 582 researchers, who are both members of the EEA and are ranked in RePEc according to the criteria above. We received 2,384 valid responses from among the 5,416 people invited.

The MWP-ACO, together with the European Sociological Association, carried out the survey among sociologists, who were invited to answer the on-line questionnaire between 21 June and 15 July 2010. The sample of sociologists is the combination of two sub-samples:

- i) authors in the Top 10 journals in sociology, according to the ISI Web of Knowledge (see Appendix 1.1 for details) – 656 researchers;
- ii) members of the European Sociological Association – 1,543 researchers.

Hence, the overlap between the two sub-samples is 19 researchers, who are both members of the ESA and have published in the Top 10 journals in sociology. We received 766 valid responses from among the 2,180 people invited.

The MWP-ACO, together with the European Consortium for Political Research, carried out the survey among political scientists, who were invited to answer the on-line questionnaire between 30 November 2010, and 7 February 2011. The sample of political scientists is the combination of two sub-samples:

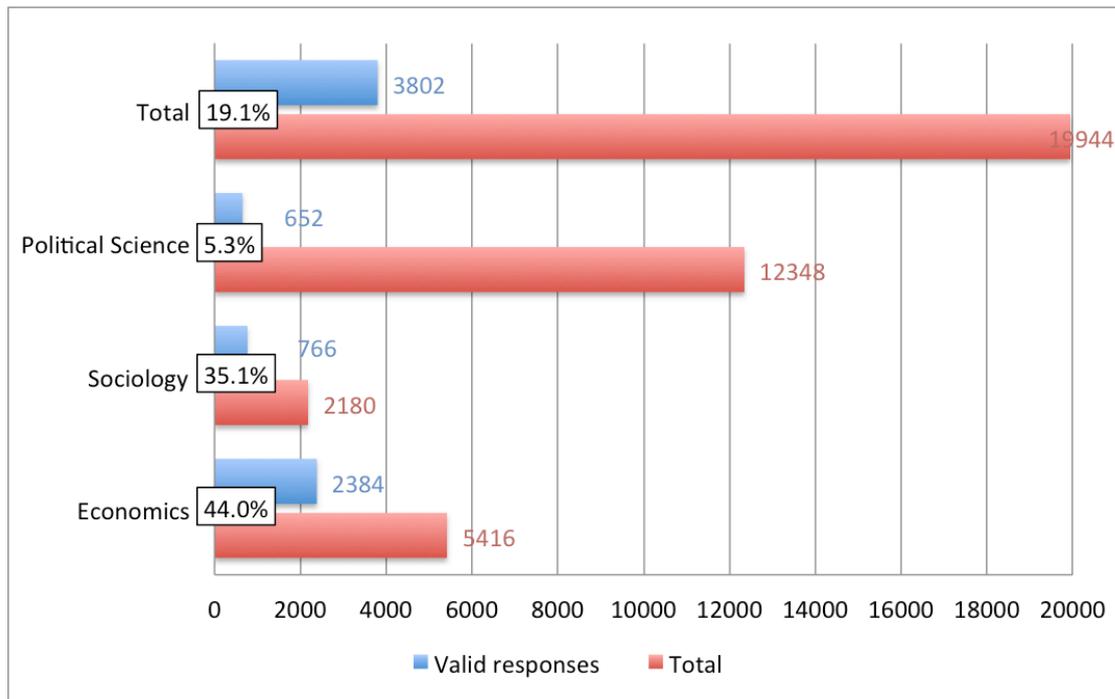
- i) authors in the Top 10 journals in the political sciences, according to the ISI Web of Knowledge (see Appendix 1.1 for details) – 630 researchers;
- ii) members of the European Consortium for Political Research – 11,929 researchers.¹

¹ The ECPR mailing list was used. This, however, contains many dead or unused accounts. Normally, between 2,000 and 3,000 recipients access the emails. Hence, the low 5.3 per cent response rate for political scientists is misleading.

Hence, the overlap between the two sub-samples is 211 researchers, who are both members of the ECPR and have published in the Top 10 journals in the political sciences. We received 652 valid responses from among 12,348 people invited.

Overall, we received 3,802 valid responses from among the 19,944 invitations sent.

Figure 1 Sample and response rates



The sociology of the profession

Part I of the three surveys the MWP-ACO submitted to economists, sociologists and political scientists, dealt with the sociology of their profession. This part consisted of 12 questions and was accessible to all respondents, whether they stated in the preliminary question that they had experience in filing applications for research funding in the European Research Area, or not.

The first batch of questions was strictly related to personal information, such as the respondent's age, gender, nationality, country of residence, position, when the PhD defence took place (if at all) and whether they were members of the relative organization, in association with which the survey had been carried out (EEA, ESA or ECPR).

The second batch of questions was instead aimed at assessing the characteristics of the respondent's current working position. In particular, we asked respondents to specify the type of employer (university, Central Bank etc.), to characterize the working environment in terms of research orientation, to provide a breakdown of the working time spent on various activities (teaching, researching etc.) and to describe the type of work activity that the respondent was mostly involved in (empirical, theoretical, and so on).

This unique survey provides us with a thorough sociological picture of economists, sociologists and political scientists in Europe, highlighting some of the most pressing problems to be addressed. In particular, four main findings emerge from the responses:

- i) the persistence of the 'gender scissors problem', especially in economics;
- ii) aging throughout the academic career, relatively more acute in sociology;
- iii) the preponderance of university positions, in political science in particular;
- iv) marked national heterogeneity in terms of internationalization.

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

Experience with funding

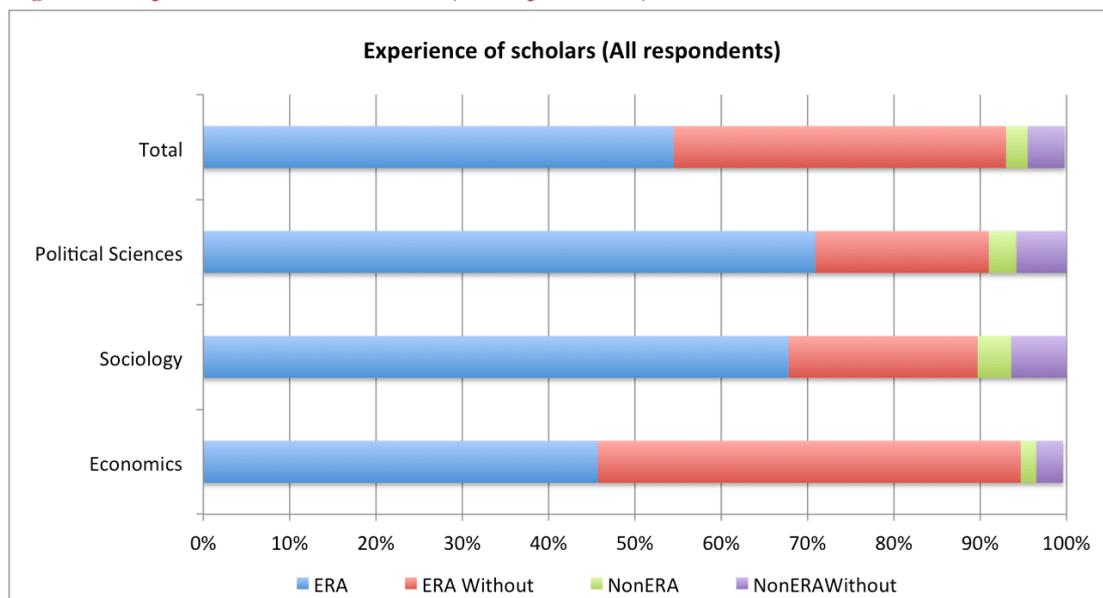
Figure 2 illustrates to what extent respondents have experience with funding applications with respect to the discipline of specialization.

Roughly 57 per cent of all respondents (54.5 per cent from ERA countries and 2.5 per cent from abroad) declared they have experience in applying for research funding in the European Research Area. Understandably, the proportion of those residing in ERA countries with some experience in funding is higher than of those residing outside the ERA.

As for the three subsamples, 74.1 per cent of political scientists, 71.7 per cent of sociologists and 47.5 per cent of economists have at least once applied for Research funding in Europe.²

² The lower score for economists may be attributable to the initial question on experience. With respect to political scientists and sociologists we included a more precise definition of 'research funding', which

Figure 2 Experience of researchers (all respondents)



Nationality and residence

Germany and **Italy** were the countries having most **nationals** among the respondents: 577 and 563 respectively. The **UK** joined **Germany** and **Italy** in reporting over 450 **residents** each. The UK and Switzerland stand out as having significantly more residents than nationals. Slightly more than 25 per cent of all researchers in the survey are **internationally mobile**: they reside in a country of which they are not nationals.

The 3,802 respondents were nationals of 70 countries and residents in 53 countries spread around the five continents. However, as can be noted from Table 1, the 24 countries that recorded more than 30 respondents each (both with respect to nationality and to residence) coincide.

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom register all more than a hundred nationals and residents, as opposed to smaller states (United States and Russia are the exceptions). Switzerland has more than a hundred residents among the respondents.

For a different number of reasons, some countries have more residents than nationals participating in the survey: Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. In the United Kingdom and Switzerland the number of residents almost doubles the number of nationals, reflecting the international openness of their academic environments. The opposite happens in countries such as Austria, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania and Turkey, where the ratio of nationals to residents ranges between 84 per cent in Italy to as low as 58 per cent in Greece.

Table 1 Respondents by nationality and country of residence

AT	BE	CH	CZ	DE	DK	FI	FR	GR	HU	IL	IR
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encouraged more people to declare that they applied for funding, but not necessarily that they also obtained it.

Nationality	85	122	68	33	577	62	83	255	86	39	34	36
Residence	70	137	118	31	557	72	78	280	50	37	30	49
o/w % of nationals	71.4	63.5	43.2	77.4	75.4	62.5	87.2	68.9	98.0	83.8	93.3	51.0
o/w % of foreigners	28.6	36.5	56.8	22.6	24.6	37.5	12.8	31.1	2.0	16.2	6.7	49.0

	IT	NL	NO	PL	PT	RO	RU	SP	SW	TK	UK	US
Nationality	563	145	68	74	130	86	81	268	125	91	296	87
Residence	471	187	70	51	111	65	49	297	139	71	525	83
o/w % of nationals	90.7	59.9	84.3	100	92.8	100	98.0	76.4	77.0	95.8	51.2	45.8
o/w % of foreigners	9.3	40.1	15.7	0.0	7.2	0.0	2.0	23.6	23.0	4.2	48.8	54.2

Slightly more than 25 per cent of all researchers in the sample are internationally mobile, i.e. they reside in a country of which they are not nationals (the two rows under Residence show, respectively, the percentage of nationals and foreigners residing in a particular country). Even though international openness and competitiveness are fundamental characteristics of favoured destination countries, scholars also move across Member States due to cultural, geographical or linguistic affinities. For example, of the 157 Germans residing outside of Germany, the largest share (35) moved to Switzerland, followed by the UK (29) and the Netherlands (19).

The grouping of countries

In order to group the researchers of different, mainly smaller countries into meaningful geographical units, we rely (and test against survey evidence) on past ACO research on the demand side of the academic job market in the European Research Area.

Marimon, Lietaert and Grigolo (2009) find strong evidence supporting the existence of at least four academic career models within Europe: the Anglo-Saxon, the Continental, the Scandinavian and a transition model in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

Of the four models, the Anglo-Saxon offers relatively transparent recruitment procedures and is open to non-national scholars. This model attracts foreign scholars and produces an internationally recognized scientific output and contrasts the Continental model which is still dominant in the ERA, and, partially, the relatively dynamic Scandinavian one. Bearing in mind that there are exceptions to this general rule (Germany and Spain have recently undergone a gradual opening of their academic markets), the limited openness to international and dynamic competition does not foster

a meritocratic system where individuals are assessed on their performance. Finally, the transition model has gradually embraced more dynamism and competitiveness in order to stop the brain drain to the West. Even though best practice seems to be spreading within the ERA, the predominant situation seems more of a dual ERA market where ‘openness and competitiveness’ only affect limited institutions and countries.

The surveys in the three social science disciplines provide evidence that the international openness and integration of research are tightly connected to the attitudes of researchers in a particular country towards funding opportunities. Hence, the ACO proposes the following groupings of countries to aggregate the results of the three surveys according to the different academic traditions, see Table 2, as we expect that the availability, flexibility and accessibility to research funding should be highest in Anglo-Saxon countries, followed at a distance by Scandinavian, Continental and transition ones.

Table 2 The grouping of countries by academic tradition

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

Profession of respondents

The vast majority (85 per cent) of those surveyed hold an academic position, with **PhD** students and **full professors** representing the highest shares. Economists had the most varied careers, with 5.7 per cent working for Central Banks. **78 per cent of respondents work in universities**, with Research Institutes coming in second with nearly 12 per cent. The UK and the Other Anglo-Saxons show a higher share of university workers, and Research Institutes are more popular in France and the Continentals.

As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of respondents hold an academic position, in sociology and in the political sciences almost 90 per cent. The two categories that represent the highest shares of respondents are PhD students (605) and full professors (1,100). Among economists, more than one third of the whole sample is represented by full professors.

The category Other mainly contains those respondents who do not hold an academic position. Among these, researchers outside academia, especially in economics, are the most numerous group.

Table 3 Profession of respondents by discipline

Profession	Economics		Sociology		Political Science		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
PhD	309	13.0%	148	19.3%	148	22.7%	605	15.9%
Post-doc	155	6.5%	56	7.3%	66	10.1%	277	7.3%
Researcher (in university)	30	1.3%	97	12.7%	34	5.2%	161	4.2%
Assistant Professor	190	8.0%	60	7.8%	65	10.0%	315	8.3%
- Tenured	152	6.4%	36	4.7%	50	7.7%	238	6.3%
Associate Professor	236	9.9%	77	10.1%	51	7.8%	364	9.6%
- Tenured	113	4.7%	53	6.9%	36	5.5%	202	5.3%
Full Professor	815	34.2%	150	19.6%	135	20.7%	1100	28.9%
Other	384	16,1%	89	11,6%	67	10,3%	540	14,2%
Total	2384	100.0%	766	100.0%	652	100.0%	3802	100.0%

As for the type of employer, 78.4 per cent of all respondents work in universities, ranging between 76.2 per cent in economics and 83.1 per cent in the political sciences. Economists probably have the most varied careers after their graduation, and often work for Central Banks (5.7 per cent of the total). A similar share of economists and sociologists, respectively 12.3 and 12.5 per cent, work in private research institutes (see Table 4 for details).

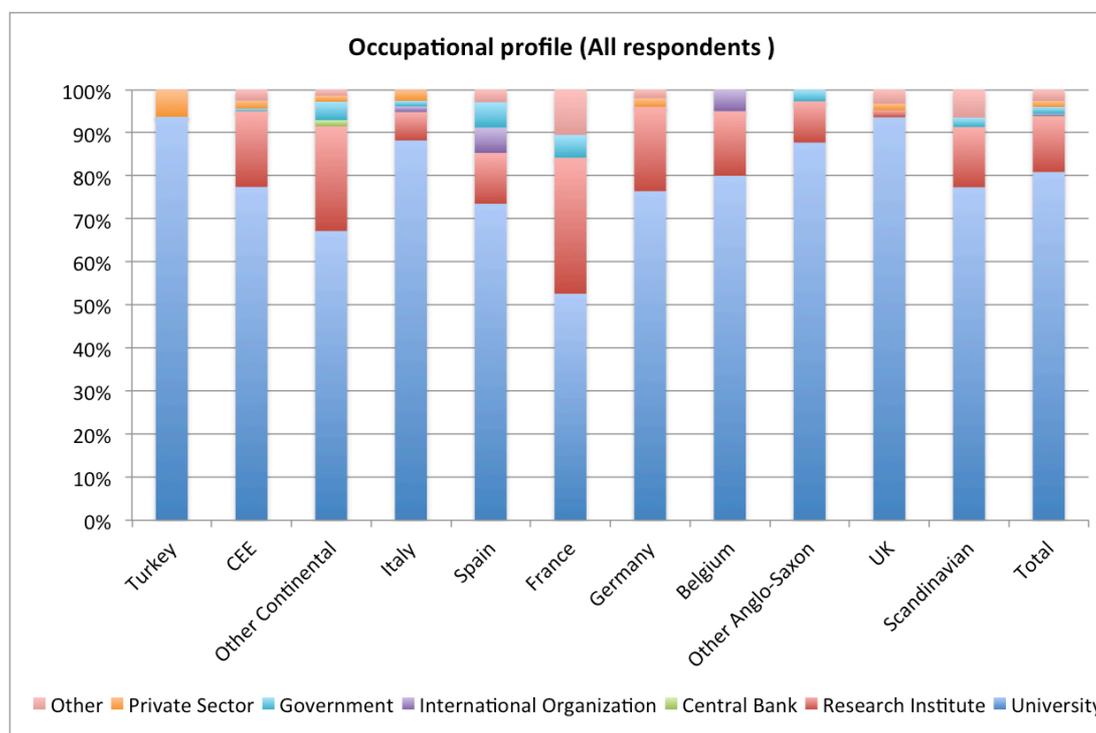
Table 4 Employer type by discipline

Profession	Economics		Sociology		Political Science		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
University	1816	76.2%	621	81.1%	542	83.1%	2979	78.4%
Research Institute	293	12.3%	96	12.5%	63	9.7%	452	11.9%
Government	59	2.5%	13	1.7%	18	2.8%	90	2.4%
Central Bank	136	5.7%	1	0.1%	1	0.2%	138	3.6%
Other	28	1.2%	21	2.7%	15	2.3%	64	1.7%
International Org (incl EU)	35	1.5%	4	0.5%	6	0.9%	45	1.2%
Private sector	17	0.7%	10	1.3%	7	1.1%	34	0.9%
Total	2384	100.0%	766	100.0%	652	100.0%	3802	100.0%

Finally, Figure 3 shows that there is some heterogeneity between countries. Whereas the countries falling under the Anglo-Saxon academic tradition have higher shares of researchers working in universities (this holds also for Turkey, but be the result of a smaller sample), research institutes are much more popular in Continental Europe, especially in France.³

³ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 49.

Figure 3 Research environment by time of graduation, all respondents



Gender and age profile

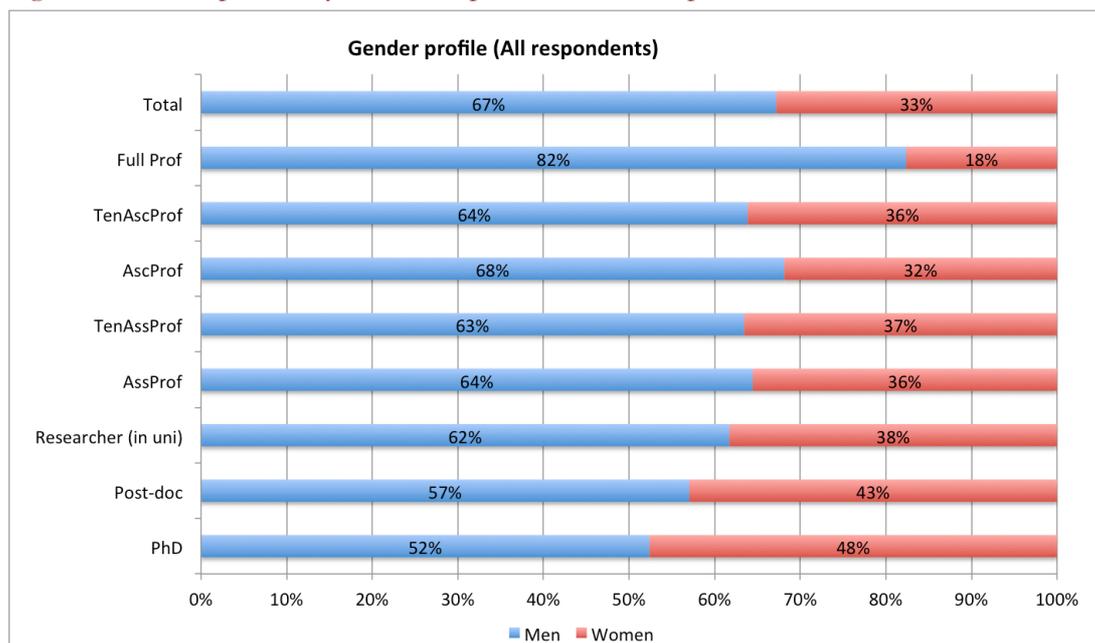
The survey shows a **gender imbalance**, or ‘gender scissors problem’: **67 per cent of respondents are men, 33 per cent women**. PhD students displayed the greatest equality with 48 per cent women, and full professors the least with only 18 per cent women. **The average age of all respondents is 41.6**, ranging from 29.9 for PhD Students to 51.4 for full professors.

Not unexpectedly, the academic profession still displays the ‘gender scissors problem’. As shown in Figure 4, there is a great imbalance between the number of female and male scholars. In total, only one third of all respondents was female, recording higher shares for PhD students and steadily declining over the academic career. The largest drop happens at the level of full professor (perhaps a sign of ambivalent sexism), where only 18 per cent of the category are women.

The results are, however, slightly biased due to the greater sub-sample of economist respondents, where the ‘gender scissors problem’ is most acute. Economics has a much smaller share of female researchers than the other two disciplines: 24 per cent of the total vis-à-vis 38 per cent in political sciences and a very high 57 per cent in sociology. Notwithstanding, the number of female full professors is far below the average in all three disciplines: 21 per cent in the political sciences, 37 per cent in sociology and just 13 per cent in economics.⁴

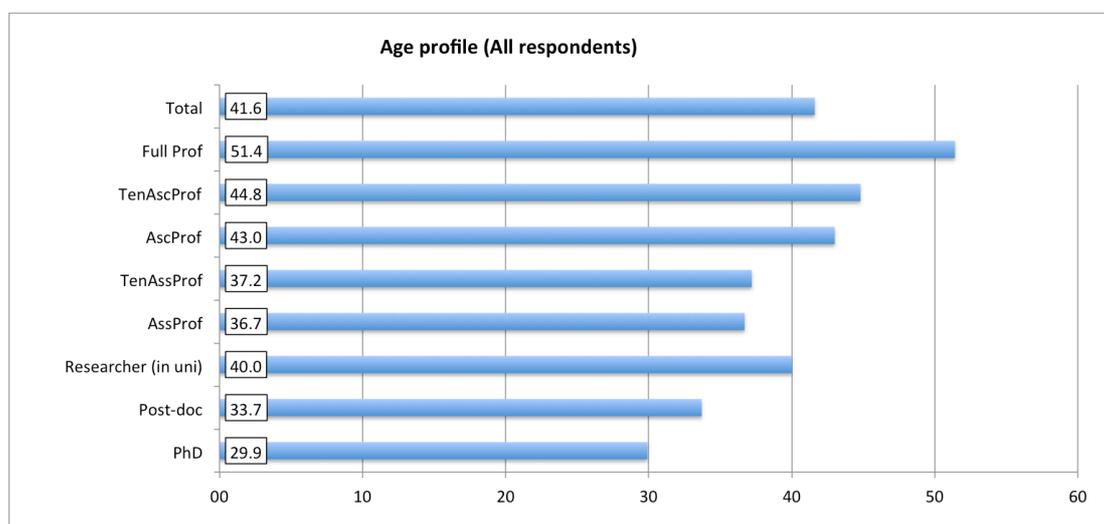
⁴ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 50

Figure 4 Gender profile by academic profession, all respondents



As for the age profile of the respondents, there is a problem of ageing throughout the academic career, as shown in Figure 4. The average age of the whole sample is 41.6, ranging from 29.9 for PhD students up to 51.4 for full professors.⁵

Figure 5 Age profile by academic profession, all respondents



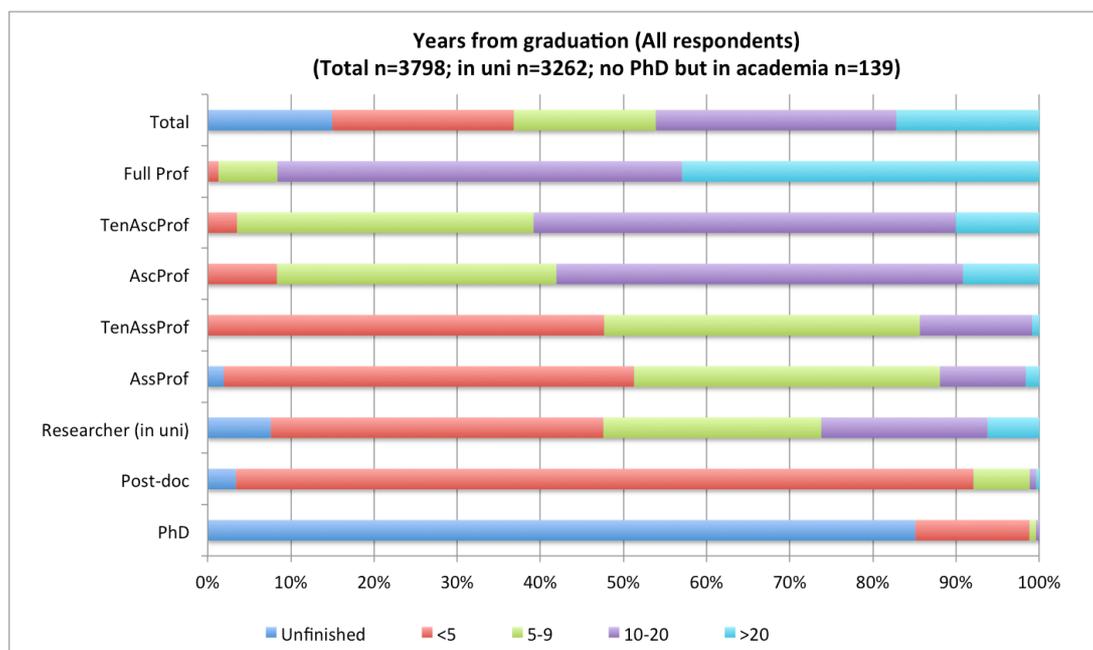
The ageing of the body of researchers, as shown in Figure 48 in Appendix 2.1, seems to be most acute in sociology and least acute in economics, with political science somewhere in between. In fact, while a PhD student in economics is 28.8 years old on average, a doctoral candidate in sociology is 32.0. A similar discrepancy can be noticed at all stages of an academic career, eventually growing larger in absolute terms. Such a trend culminates with the position of full professor, where an economist is 50.2 on average and a sociologist as much as 55.8.

⁵ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 51

Positions and graduation

As Figure 5 neatly shows, there are few surprises with respect to the graduation year of the respondents. The vast majority of PhD students have not yet defended their theses and the majority of post-docs did so less than five years ago. At the other end of the career, full professors, in more than 90 per cent of cases, defended their PhDs at least 10 years ago.⁶

Figure 6 Years from graduation by professional profile, all respondents



Even though the possibility of a doctoral thesis being dispensed with is of course becoming increasingly rare, out of the 3,262 respondents who have an academic position, 139 have not completed or are not required to complete a PhD.

Research environment

60 per cent of all respondents reported being well connected to the international research community. Researchers from **the UK and the other Anglo-Saxons had the highest levels of international integration**, and those from Turkey and the CEEs had the lowest. France and the Continentals fell in between. Full professors were better connected than the other professions, and assistant professors were the least.

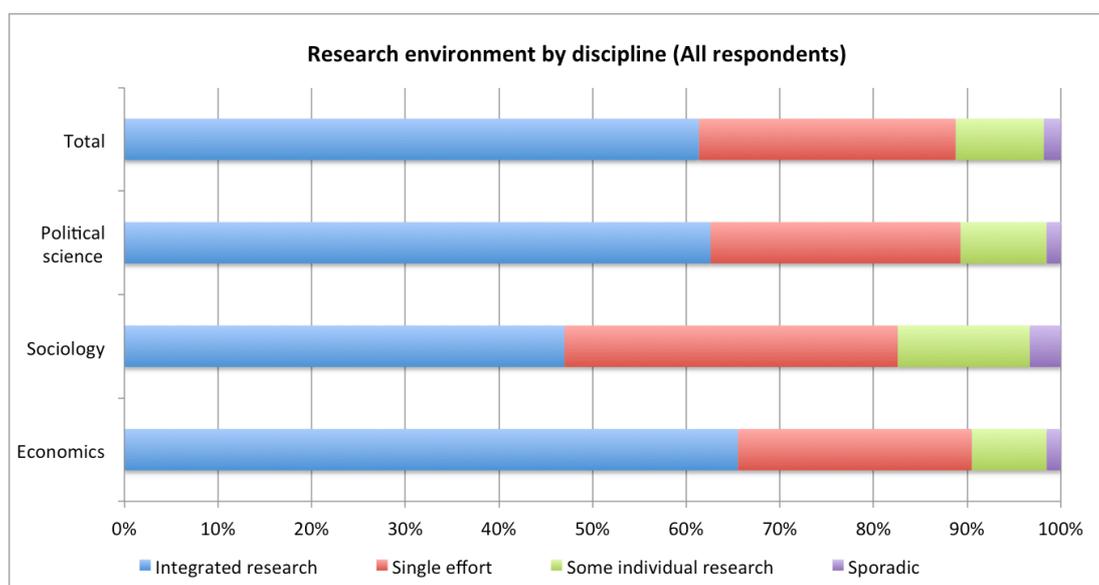
In order to assess the openness and internationalization of the research carried out by the three surveys' respondents, we asked them to describe their working environment and gave four different reply options: i) research oriented and well integrated into the international research community; ii) research and integration depending on an individual researcher's effort; iii) some individual research but not very well integrated; iv) at most sporadic research.

⁶ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 52

Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10 show how research openness varies with respect to a respondent's discipline, country of residence, position and years from graduation.

With respect to the professional profile, more than 60 per cent of all respondents describe their research environment as fairly well integrated. However, there are significant differences by discipline. In economics, almost two thirds of all respondents claim that research is connected to international channels. This cannot be said for sociology, where this percentage falls almost to 45 per cent. In general, sociologists are also the most dissatisfied, as sporadic and non-integrated research has been reported by more than 17 per cent of all respondents.

Figure 7 Research environment by discipline, all respondents



With respect to the country of residence, Figure 8 shows extreme heterogeneity among the four academic models in the European Research Area.⁷ The United Kingdom, other Anglo-Saxon countries, as well as the five Scandinavians have similar, and consistently better integrated research. Continental countries, such as Germany, Spain and France, follow at a distance. In this academic tradition, Italy scores lowest, confirming the not very internationalized character of its universities. Finally, Turkey and the transition countries score lowest – a clear indicator that there is still some way to go until their academic environments can be comparable with the West.

⁷ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 53

Figure 8 Research environment by country of residence, all respondents

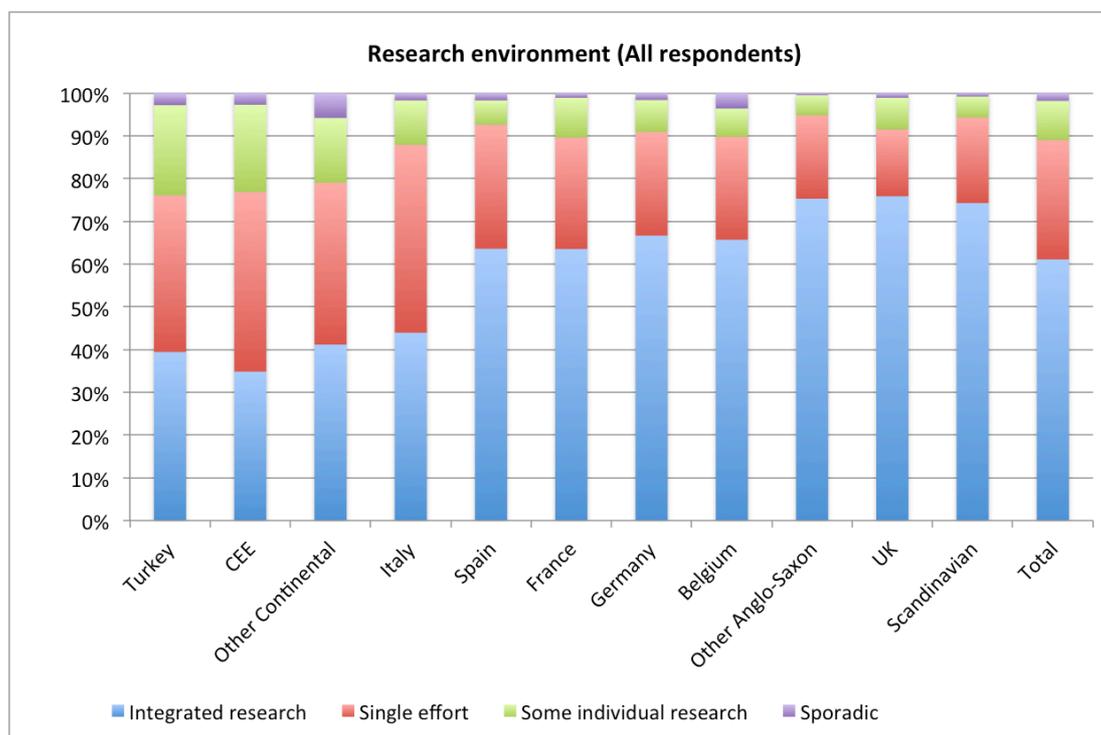
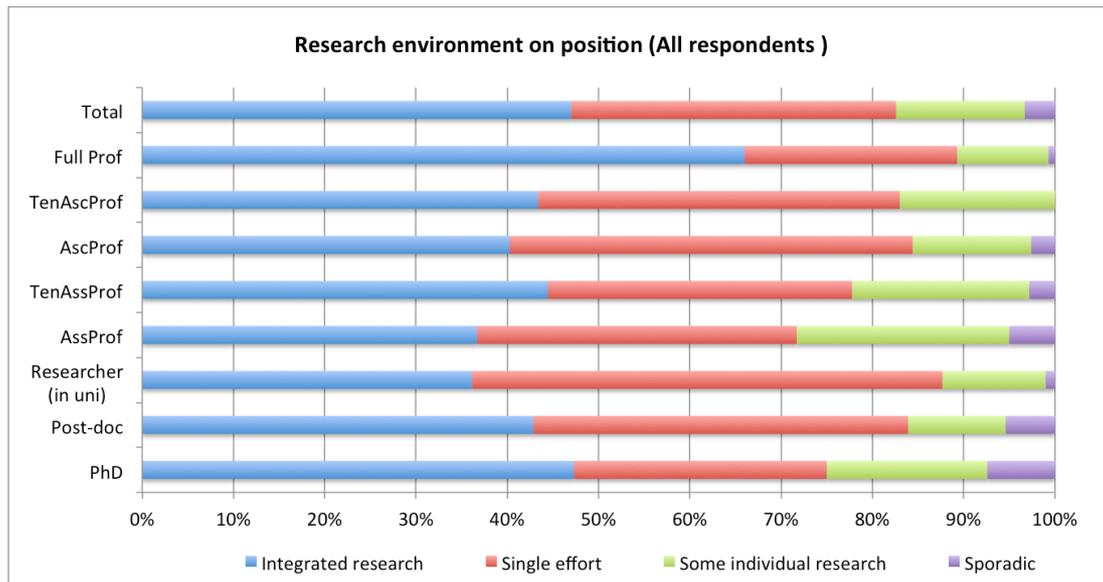


Figure 9 illustrates that there are also significant differences in the research environment with respect to the academic position held by the respondents.⁸ Full professors and post-docs occupy the highest two places, possibly because by virtue of their positions they have access to better research facilities. Full professors assess their research as being well integrated in the international environment consistently across the three disciplines. As for post-docs, this is true only for economics and political science. Assistant professors in all disciplines report the highest percentage of not well-integrated research (either depending on individual effort) or just sporadic research.

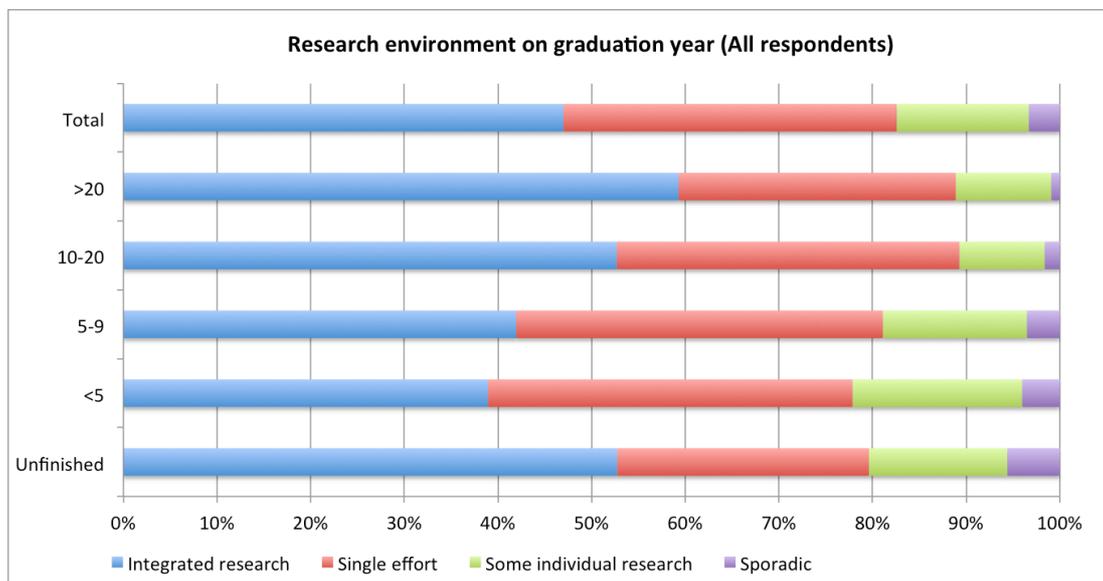
⁸ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 54

Figure 9 Research environment by professional profile, all respondents



Finally, Figure 10 indicates that the satisfaction with the internationalization of the research environment increases with the years from graduation.⁹

Figure 10 Research environment by time of graduation, all respondents



⁹ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 55

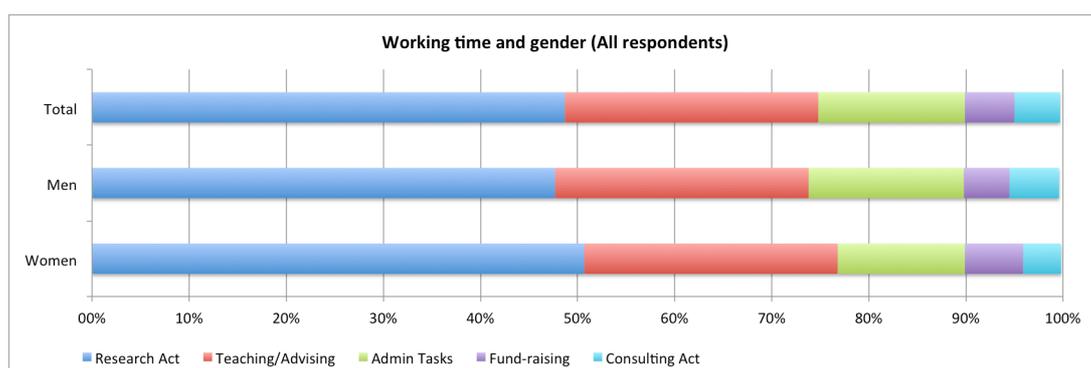
Working time

On average, slightly less than 50 per cent of the working time of all respondents was dedicated to research. Another 25 per cent was spent teaching. **PhD students** and **researchers** were the professions with the most time spent researching, whereas those at the **professorial level** had a higher proportion of teaching and administrative work. In terms of age, **older respondents** (age >65) joined the **younger groups** (age 22-37) in spending the most time researching, while those in mid-to-late career (age 38-58) spent the most time with teaching and administrative work.

In order to identify the activities performed by researchers in the three disciplines, the survey asked respondents to provide a breakdown of their working time by type of activity, including research, teaching and supervision, administrative tasks, fund-raising and time spent in consulting activities.

Figure 11 shows that research is the dominant activity, and that women allocate slightly more time to it than do men.¹⁰ On average, somewhat less than 50 per cent of the working time is devoted to research.

Figure 11 Working time by gender, all respondents



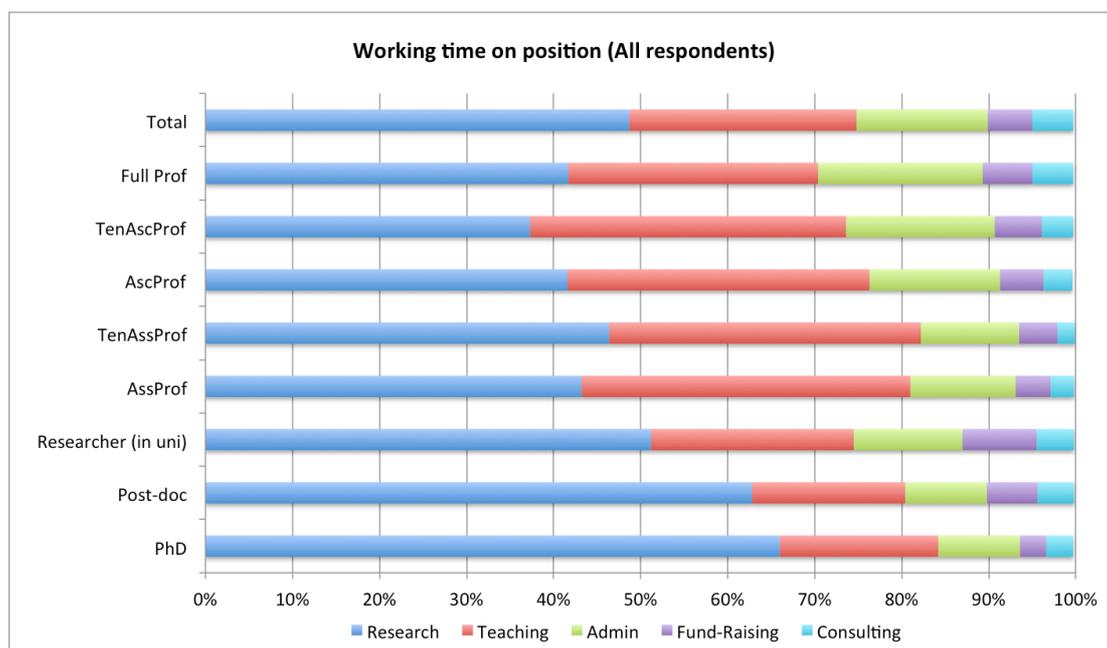
There is a clear trend as one's career advances, cutting across all disciplines: the intensity of research decreases throughout the profession and with age, to recover at the end of the career.

As Figure 12 neatly shows, career advancement in academia roughly coincides with less time spent on research activities.¹¹ Those holding pure research positions spend between 66 per cent (PhD students) and 54 per cent (university researchers) of their time researching and less than 20 per cent teaching. The picture changes at professorial level. Professors spend one third of their time teaching and some 40 per cent researching. Administrative tasks represent less than a tenth of the total working time only for PhD students and post-docs, climbing to almost one fifth for full professors. Roughly 5 per cent of working time is devoted to fund-raising at almost any professional level.

¹⁰ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 56

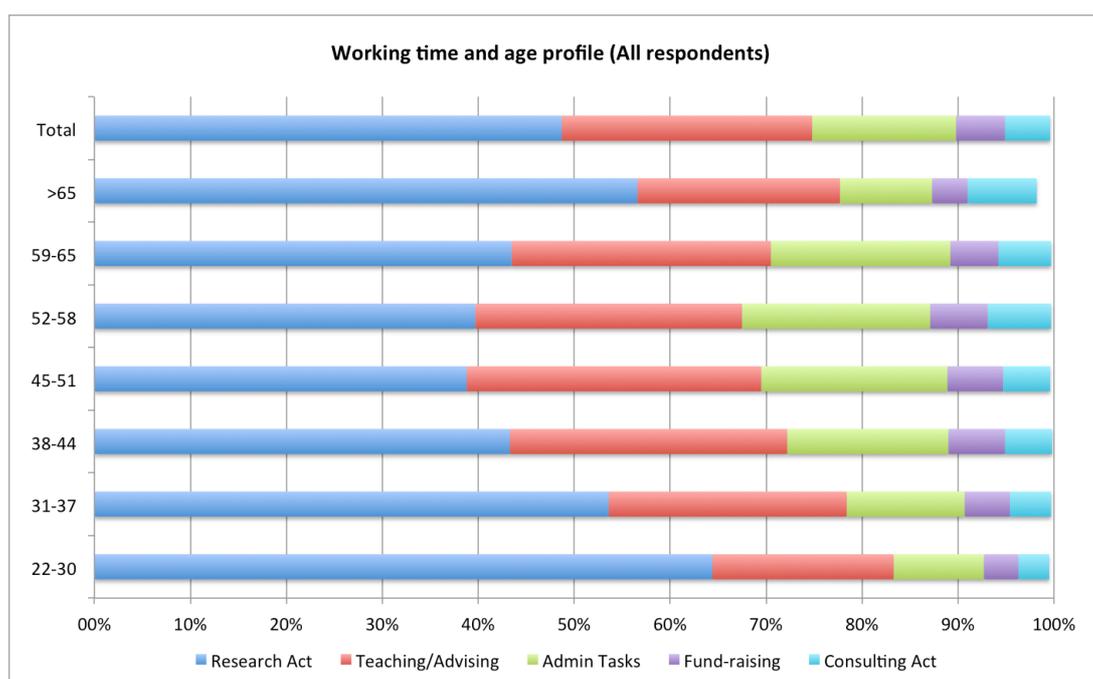
¹¹ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 57

Figure 12 Working time by professional profile, all respondents



A similar picture is discernible with respect to the age structure, as shown in Figure 13.¹² In mid- to late-career (age 38-58), the time devoted to teaching approaches 30 per cent and, most importantly, administrative work takes up to one fifth of the working time. This radically changes after 65, at the end of the career, when more time becomes available to resume research activities; and administrative tasks represent less than 10 per cent of total working time.

Figure 13 Working time by age profile, all respondents



¹² For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 58

Sources of funding

The two largest sources of funding reported in any country come from an individual's **own institution** (circa 30 per cent of total) and from **national public foundations** (circa 40 per cent of total), and representing between 60-80 per cent of the total funding for each individual country. The Scandinavian countries, followed by Germany, showed the highest levels of national **private institutional financing** (roughly 12 per cent and 10 per cent respectively). **EU funds** make up a larger portion of the funding for researchers in Italy (18 per cent) and Turkey (17 per cent), and the same can be said for **regional funds** in Belgium (18 per cent) and Spain (13 per cent).

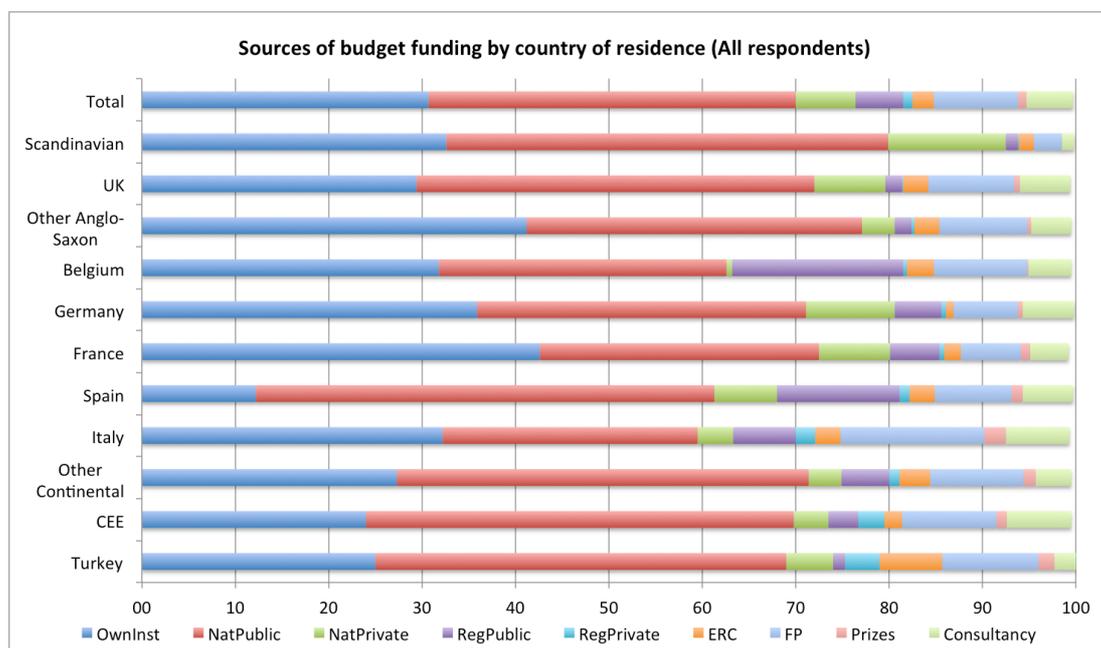
As Figure 14 neatly shows, the two major sources of funding in any ERA country are research funds provided by an individual's own institution (university, research institution) as well as by national public foundations (national research councils, ministries for innovation, for science and technology and similar).¹³ In fact, own institutions provide roughly 30 per cent of all available funds, while national grants represent another 40 per cent of all funding.

There is, however, some national heterogeneity. The two sources combined represent 60 per cent of the total research budget in Italy and Spain, climbing up to 80 per cent in Scandinavian countries. In the latter, there is also a wealth of national private institutions, which provide more than 12 per cent of all sources of financing, followed by Germany (slightly less than 10 per cent).

Researchers in some countries – possibly as a response to the low quality, transparency and availability of national and institutional grants – rely more than others on the research funding opportunities offered at the European level. On average, EU funds (European Research Council and Framework Programme combined) represent slightly more than 11 per cent of the whole budget. In Italy and Turkey the share is higher: 18 and 17 per cent, respectively.

¹³ For a breakdown by discipline, see Appendix 2.1, Figure 59

Figure 14 Sources of budget funding



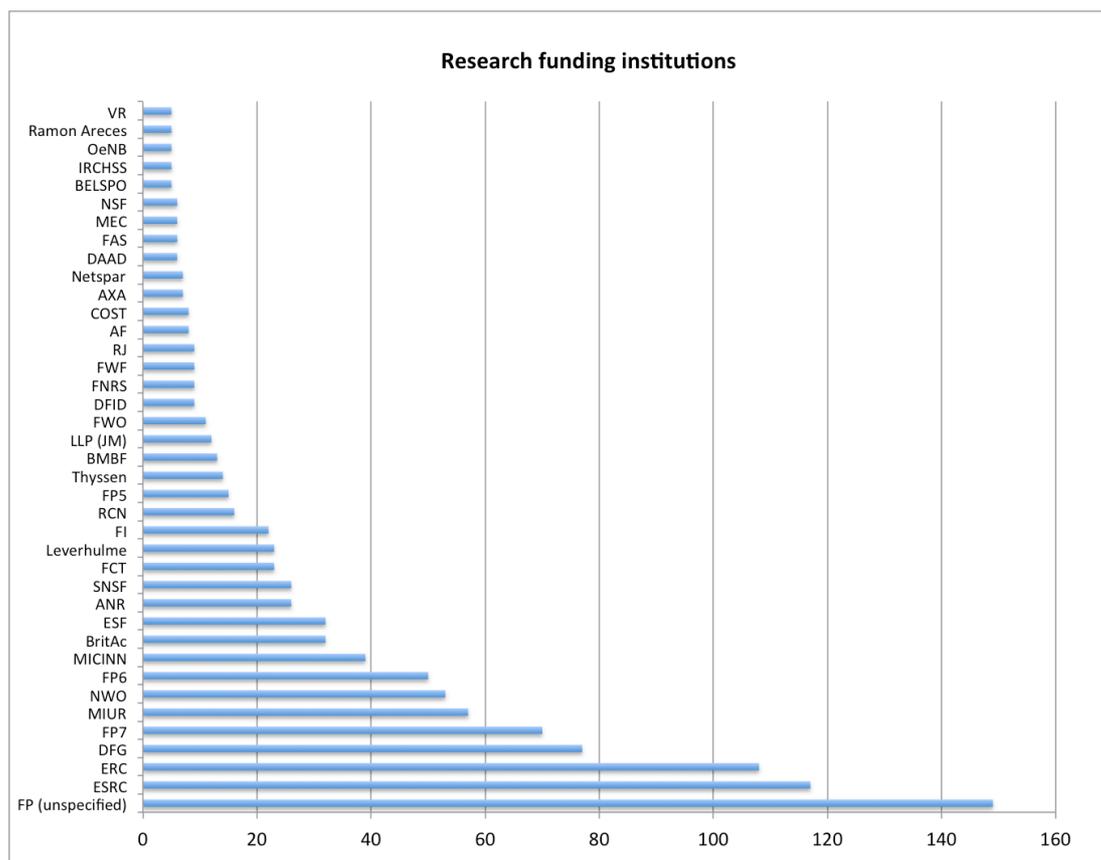
Some countries developed extensive regional public research funding. In Belgium, regional funds cover more than 18 per cent of total research financing; in Spain 13 per cent.

National and regional funding

The survey asked the respondents to name the three research funding agencies the candidate most recently applied to. Figure 15 shows the most popular national and international private or public institutions with a cut-off number of applications at 5.¹⁴

Figure 15 Most popular national public and private funding agencies

¹⁴ Often the respondents named a generic 'National public institution'. These have been excluded from the count. For a complete list and for the explanations of the acronyms, see Appendix 1.2, Table 14.



Not unexpectedly, European-based programmes are the most popular. In total, the respondents applied 284 times to the various Framework Programmes (FP 5, 6 and 7) and 108 times to the European Research Council (ERC). Unfortunately the respondents did not differentiate among sub-programmes of the two agencies, e.g. between ERC's Starting and Advanced Grants.

Among national research funding agencies, larger countries account for the greater share of applications. The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), based in Britain, received 117 applications and the German Research Foundation (DFG), 77. Italy, the Netherlands and Spain come next. The Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research (MIUR) received 57 applications, evenly split between PRIN and FIRB programmes. The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) proves to be very popular as well, totalling 53 applications, followed by the Spanish Ministry for Science and Innovation (MICINN), which manages highly successful programmes, such as Juan de la Cierva and Ramón y Cajal. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the French National Research Agency (ANR) follow closely.

As for regional financing, Table 5 shows that 177 respondents clearly indicated the region where they applied for funding. 9 of these applied to interregional funds (Nordic, Caucasian etc). The table confirms that regional funds are mainly available in a few selected countries. Spain has the lion's share (38 per cent of all respondents, applying to Andalusia, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Madrid and others), followed by Italy (evenly spread between Lombardy, Piedmont, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Sardinia, Tuscany), Belgium (Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels), France (Île-de-France, Aquitaine) and Germany (mainly in Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia). These countries devolve

relative fiscal (and political) autonomy to their constituent regions; hence, more widespread regional funding opportunities are a natural development.

Table 5 Applications to regional funds

	AT	BE	DE	FR	GR	IT	NL	
Applicants	5	18	15	16	1	33	1	
Percentage	2.8%	10.2%	8.5%	9.0%	0.6%	18.6%	0.6%	

	PL	PT	RO	SP	SW	UK	Intreg	Total
Applicants	1	1	2	67	1	7	9	177
Percentage	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	37.9%	0.6%	4.0%	5.2%	100.0%

Research funding

Part II of the three surveys focuses on the research funding experience of the respondents. This part consisted of 25 questions divided into two sections.

The first section comprises questions regarding the specifics of the respondent's research funding. Questions include: the country in which the respondent applied, the numerical and percentage breakdown of the various funding sources of the research budget (own institution's funding, public and private national as well as research grants, various European level grants, prizes and consultancy), and the duration, flexibility and names of the grants applied for.

The second section contains questions asking for the subjective perception of the respondent regarding various aspects of funds and the funding application process, such as the subjective length of the application, the stability of the grants, the dependence of funding on the evaluation process, and the suitability of available grants for specific research objectives.

This second part of the survey provides valuable insight into the prevalence and effectiveness of various national and European public and private funds in the fields of political science, economics and sociology. Some of the main findings include:

- i) the predominance of public funds from national and European sources in providing research financing across all disciplines;
- ii) a marked national heterogeneity concerning the availability of and satisfaction with national funding sources;
- iii) the comparative difficulty in allocating grants from the various Framework Programmes;
- iv) the unnecessarily long public and European-level research grant application procedures, particularly those for the Framework Programmes.

Research grants size distribution per year (all sources)

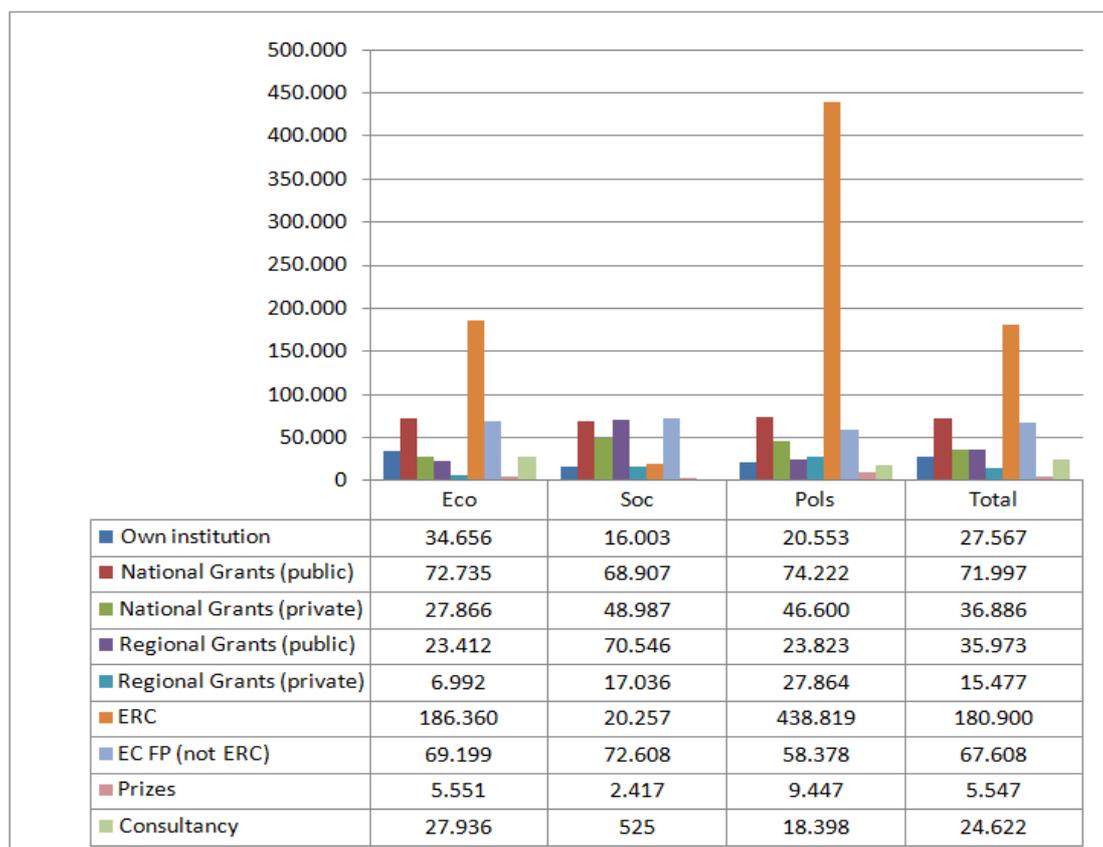
The highest levels of average annual funding come from the **ERC, National Research Grants (public)**, and **EC Framework Programme (not ERC)**. Over 60 per cent of ERC funds reported go to political science, while funds from National Research Grants (public) and EC Framework Programme (not ERC) show no relevant differences among the three disciplines.

Concerning the reported funding size distribution per year, the source of major income in terms of research grants obtained does not differ in political science and economics. In fact, in these two samples the National Research Grants (public), the ERC, and the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) represent the sources from which respondents get the highest average amount of grants per year.

Instead, in sociology, the amounts earned through Regional Research Grants are an average 70,560 Euros per year. At the same time, these respondents obtain only 20,000

Euros from the ERC. In regard to the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) and the National Research Grants (public), there is no significant variation among the three disciplines. (Figure 16).

Figure 16 Amounts of funding by discipline



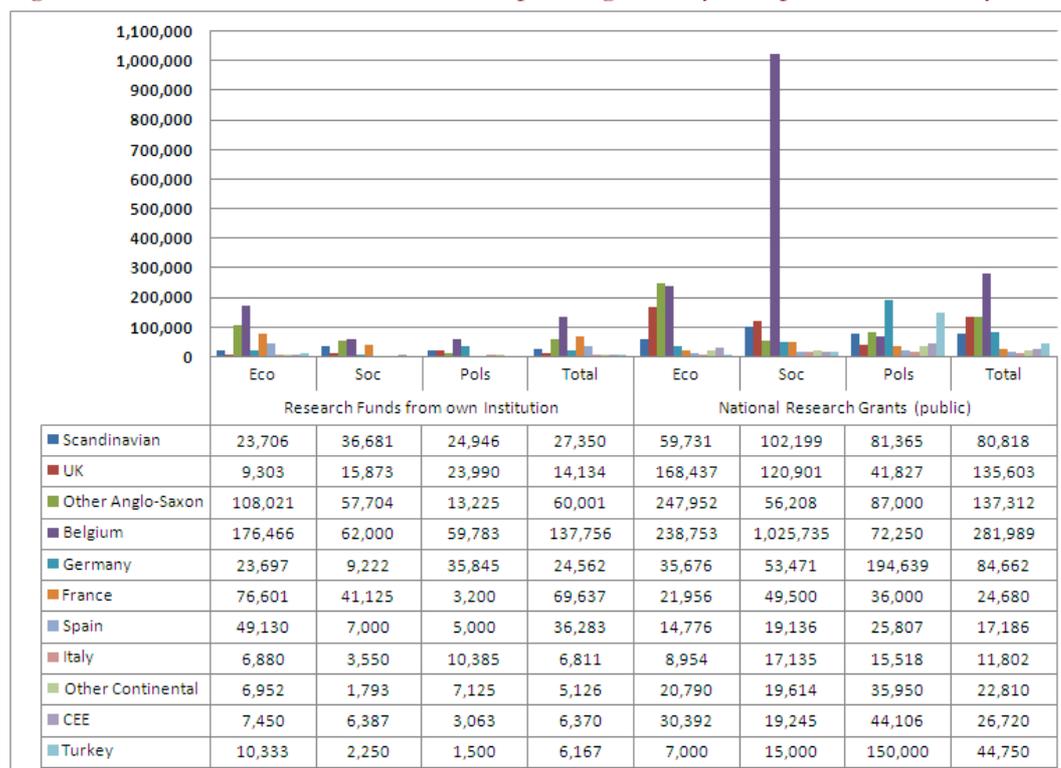
National Research Grants (public) and Research Funds from Own Institution

The countries from which respondents receive the most **National Research Grants (public)** are **Belgium**, the **UK** and **Other Anglo-Saxon Countries**. The least funding comes from Italy. The countries whose respondents reported the most **research funds from own institutions** are **Belgium** and **France**. The least come from Italy and Other Continental.

Looking at the three samples as a whole and at the average grant amounts per country, in the Research Funds from Own Institutions and in the National Research Grants (public), Belgium declares the highest amount from these two grant sources (Figure 17). As for National Research Grants (public), the lowest amounts are earned in Italy, and for Research Funds from Own Institutions, in Other Continental countries, averaging 11,802 Euros and 5,126 Euros per year, respectively.

The yearly average income from National Research Grants (private) in Belgium is greatly influenced by the sociology sample, as shown in Figure 17. Nonetheless, this country reports a relatively high average income per year in all samples, also when looking at the Research Funds from Own Institutions.

Figure 17 Own institution's and national public grants by discipline and country

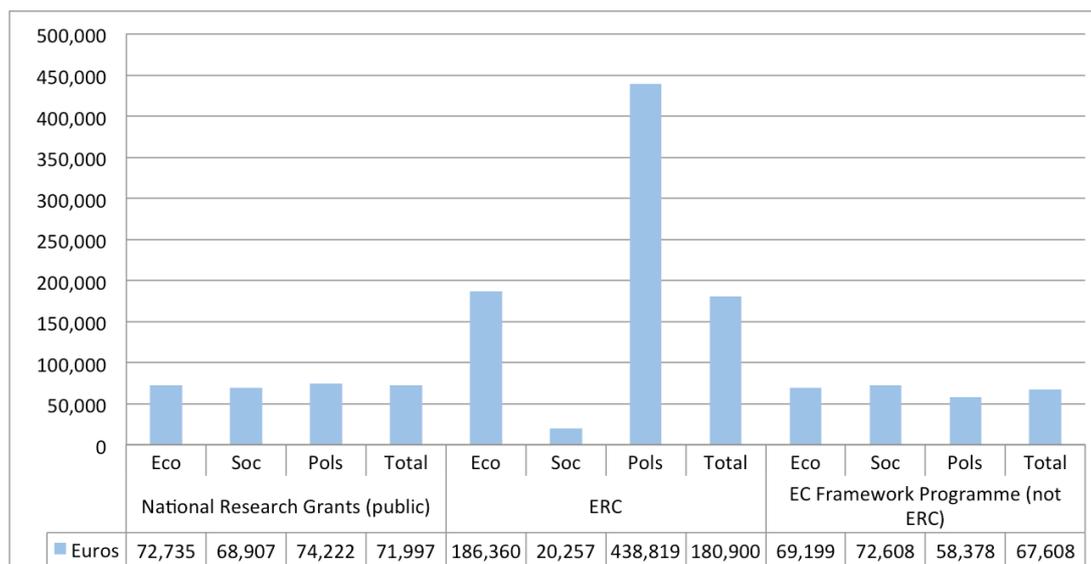


National Research Grants, ERC and EC Framework Programme (not ERC)

Countries with the highest levels of average income from **ERC** are **CEE, Scandinavian countries** and the **UK**. For the **EC Framework Programmes (not ERC)**, the highest levels of average income go to **Anglo-Saxon countries, Turkey, the UK, and Belgium**. The countries with the lowest average amount of research grants per year are Italy, Spain and Other Continental. However, analysing the three samples separately, Spain is not fully included in the group of countries with the lowest declared grants. The countries with an average income lower than 100,000 Euros are in fact: Italy, France, and Other Continental.

In the National Research Grants (public) and in the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) we do not find relevant differences in the general average income of economists, sociologists and political scientists. On the other hand, as mentioned above, for the ERC, sociology shows an average total amount of only 20,257 Euros (Figures 16 and 18). However, looking at the samples as a whole, National Research Grants (public), ERC and the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) remain the sources from which respondents obtain the highest average amount per year, and for this reason the further analysis will focus on these three sources.

Figure 18 Grant sources by discipline



Ranking the countries according to the average income earned, a few countries (groups of countries) never make it to the top five positions: **Italy, Spain, and Other Continental**. These countries obtain the lowest average amount of research grants per year. Conversely, the **UK, Anglo-Saxon countries and Belgium** are always present among the top five, for all the three grant sources mentioned above (Table 6).

Table 6 Grant sources by country

	National Research Grants (public)		ERC		EC Framework Programme (not ERC)	
1	Belgium	281,989	CEE	726,100	Other Anglo-Saxon	200,353
2	Other Anglo-Saxon	137,312	Scandinavian	173,333	Turkey	195,000
3	UK	135,603	UK	131,172	UK	99,027
4	Germany	84,662	Belgium	110,000	Belgium	92,000
5	Scandinavian	80,818	Other Anglo-Saxon	82,000	France	80,278
6	Turkey	44,750	Spain	61,230	Italy	59,965
7	CEE	26,720	France	53,533	Spain	54,174
8	France	24,680	Italy	33,230	Scandinavian	34,923
9	Other Continental	22,810	Other Continental	11,667	Germany	32,882
10	Spain	17,186	Germany	9,240	Other Continental	29,500
11	Italy	11,802	Turkey	6,000	CEE	24,568

Breaking down the analysis by discipline shows that Spain does not always score low. In fact, the countries with an average income lower than 100,000 Euros are consistently **Italy, France, and Other Continental**; see Table 7.

Table 7 Grant sources by country and disciplines

	National Research Grants (public)			ERC			EC Framework Programme (not ERC)		
	Eco	Soc	Pols	Eco	Soc	Pols	Eco	Soc	Pols
Scandinavian	59,731	102,199	81,365	173,333	.	.	36,500	43,833	28,000

UK	168,437	120,901	41,827	213,750	8,333	150,275	131,257	81,567	69,620
Other Anglo-Saxon	247,952	56,208	87,000	47,500	32,500	250,000	253,250	247,500	78,000
Spain	14,776	19,136	25,807	41,538	.	140,000	36,941	300,000	63,600
Italy	8,954	17,135	15,518	34,757	8,500	72,000	62,996	31,128	96,667
Germany	35,676	53,471	194,639	11,400	10,000	2,000	30,380	28,333	39,422
France	21,956	49,500	36,000	53,533	.	.	80,278	.	.
Other Continent.	20,790	19,614	35,950	11,667	.	.	30,125	34,375	5,000
Belgium	238,753	1,025,735	72,250	110,000	.	.	36,250	285,000	51,250
CEE	30,392	19,245	44,106	4,000,000	2,650	346,000	23,227	29,773	6,000
Turkey	7,000	15,000	150,000	6,000	6,000	.	.	.	195,000
Total	72,735	68,907	74,222	186,360	20,257	438,819	69,199	72,608	58,378

Furthermore, in sociology and political sciences, France seems to have no research grants coming from either the ERC or the EC Framework Programme (not ERC); Other Continental countries, Scandinavian countries and Belgium from ERC only. Spanish sociologists and Turkish political scientists do not report receiving any research grants from the ERC; Turkish sociologists and economists do not report any funding from the EC Framework Programme (not ERC).

Profession, countries and grants

Out of all the professions, **full professors** in the fields of **political science** and **economics** receive the most funding from the National Research Grants (public), ERC, and EC Framework Programme (not ERC).

Full professors from the UK, Germany, Belgium and Other Anglo-Saxon countries are the most successful at getting National Research Grants (public). Full professors in CEE, Scandinavia, Spain and the UK received the most from ERC, and full professors from the UK, Italy and Other Anglo-Saxon countries get most funding from EC Framework Programme (not ERC).

In the fields of the **political sciences**, **associate professors (tenured)** from the UK and Other Anglo-Saxon, and **assistant professors (tenured)** from CEE, receive the most from the ERC. **Researchers (not in university)** in the field of **economics**, from Other Anglo-Saxon countries, receive the most from National Research Grants (public). **Post-docs** in the field of **sociology**, from Other Anglo-Saxon and Spain, receive the most from the EC Framework Programme (not ERC).

Considering the two variables '*profession*' and '*average amount of grants*', full professors – in economics and in the political sciences – were the most successful in obtaining funding from the National Research Grants (public), the ERC and the EC Framework Programme (not ERC).

Researchers (outside academia) in economics seem to be successful at obtaining National Research Grants (public), as are associate professors (tenured) in sociology. Moreover, the latter receive a consistent level of grants from the EC Framework Programme (not ERC). Tenured Assistant and Associate Professors in political science are more successful with the ERC.

Table 8 Grant sources by profession profile

Profession	National Grants (public)	ERC	EC Framework Programme (not ERC)
Full Professor	109,358	406,990	101,832
Associate Professor (tenured)	57,282	133,000	55,543
Associate Professor	34,672	61,833	44,593
Assistant Professor (tenured)	30,088	69,164	28,625
Assistant Professor	14,752	21,033	6,962
Researcher (in university)	69,070	5,517	27,200
Researcher (not in university)	106,193	.	47,441
Post-doc	33,757	40,000	89,447
PhD	23,449	17,200	32,143

The professions for which we have a consistent number of cases but for which we also notice the lowest income declared are PhD students in economics and political sciences, as well as assistant professors in all three disciplines; see Tables 8 and 9.

Table 9 Grant sources by profession profile and discipline

	Economics			Sociology			Political science		
	National Grants (public)	ERC	EC FP	National Grants (public)	ERC	EC FP (not ERC)	National Grants (public)	ERC	EC FP
FP	102,410	372,280	110,142	87,400	5,200	77,046	168,264	1,270,000	93,429
AscPT	24,707	82,000	23,273	112,087	12,000	104,786	19,722	207,333	57,600
AscP	22,154	76,500	44,412	62,676	32,500	48,750	32,899	.	41,886
APT	17,576	32,537	22,800	50,680	4,000	15,000	35,255	346,000	50,000
AP	6,372	5,060	5,650	9,192	54,000	12,000	30,969	2,000	10,000
Res	38,000	.	30,500	93,226	8,000	13,000	31,460	550	48,750
ResNo	176,519	.	59,350	33,611	.	44,167	62,692	.	20,125
PostD	20,600	75,000	30,050	49,966	5,000	139,290	25,720	.	7,000
PhD	6,793	17,200	20,067	35,716	.	67,400	24,400	.	15,000

Concerning the National Research Grants (Public), in the UK, Belgium, Germany, Scandinavian and Other Anglo-Saxon Countries respondents receive an average amount of grants per year of more than 100,000 Euros. For the profession of full professor the data shown in Tables 8 and 9, for this source of grants, have been influenced mostly by respondents residing in the UK, Other Anglo-Saxon countries, Germany, and Belgium, as shown in Figure 19. Other respondents receiving the most from this source of grants are assistant professors and associate professors (tenured) in Belgium; associate professors in Scandinavian countries; researchers in Scandinavian countries, the UK and Germany; and researchers (not attached to a university) in Other Anglo-Saxon countries.

Figure 19 National Research Grants (public) – **more than** an average amount of 100,000 Euro per year – by country and profession profile

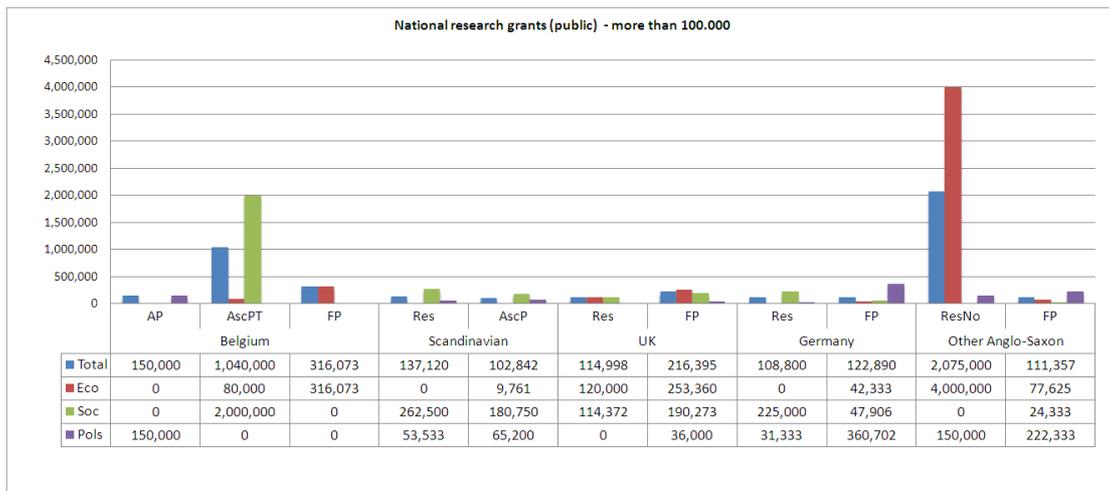
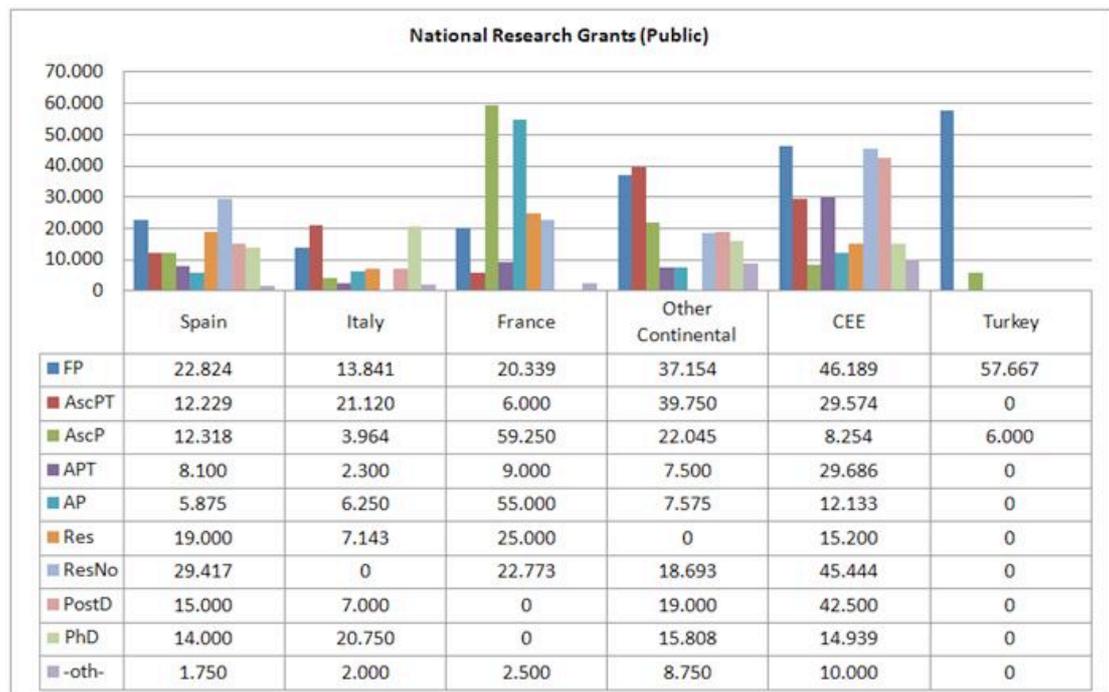


Figure 20 shows instead the results for those professions earning less than 100,000 Euros from National Research Grants (Public). Italy is here particularly poorly endowed. Due to few responses, Turkey scores artificially low.

Figure 20 National Research Grants (public) – **below** an average amount of 100,000 Euros per year – by countries and profession profile



For the ERC, the UK, Belgium, Spain, CEE, Other Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian countries have the highest levels of average income per year from this source of grants, with a prevalence of full professors in Scandinavian countries, the UK, Spain and CEE; of assistant professors (tenured) in Scandinavian countries and CEE; of associate professors (tenured) in the UK and Other Anglo-Saxon; and of associate professors in Belgium (Figure 21).

Figure 21 ERC grants – **more than** an average amount of 100,000 Euros per year – by country and profession profile

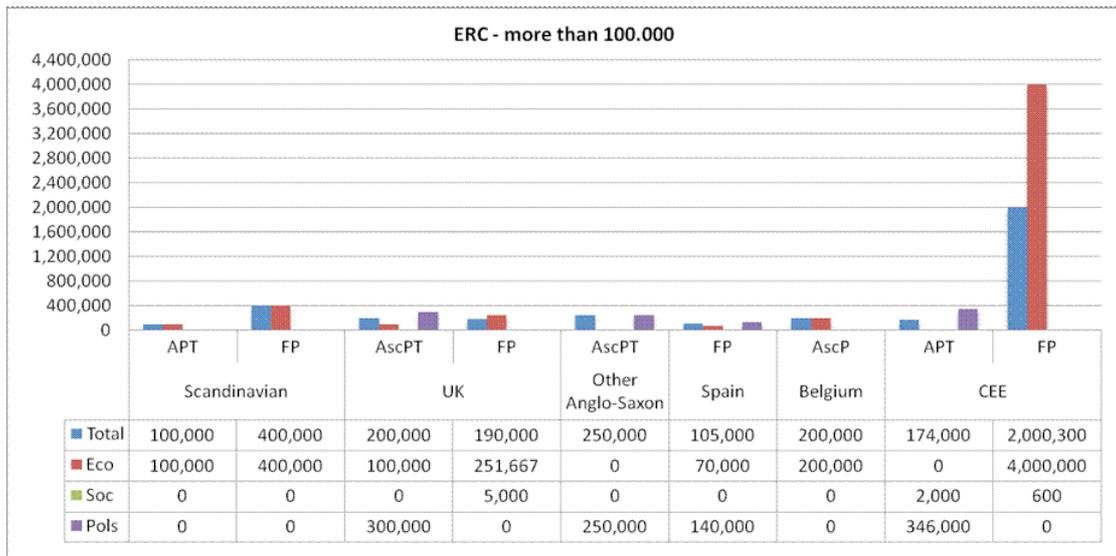
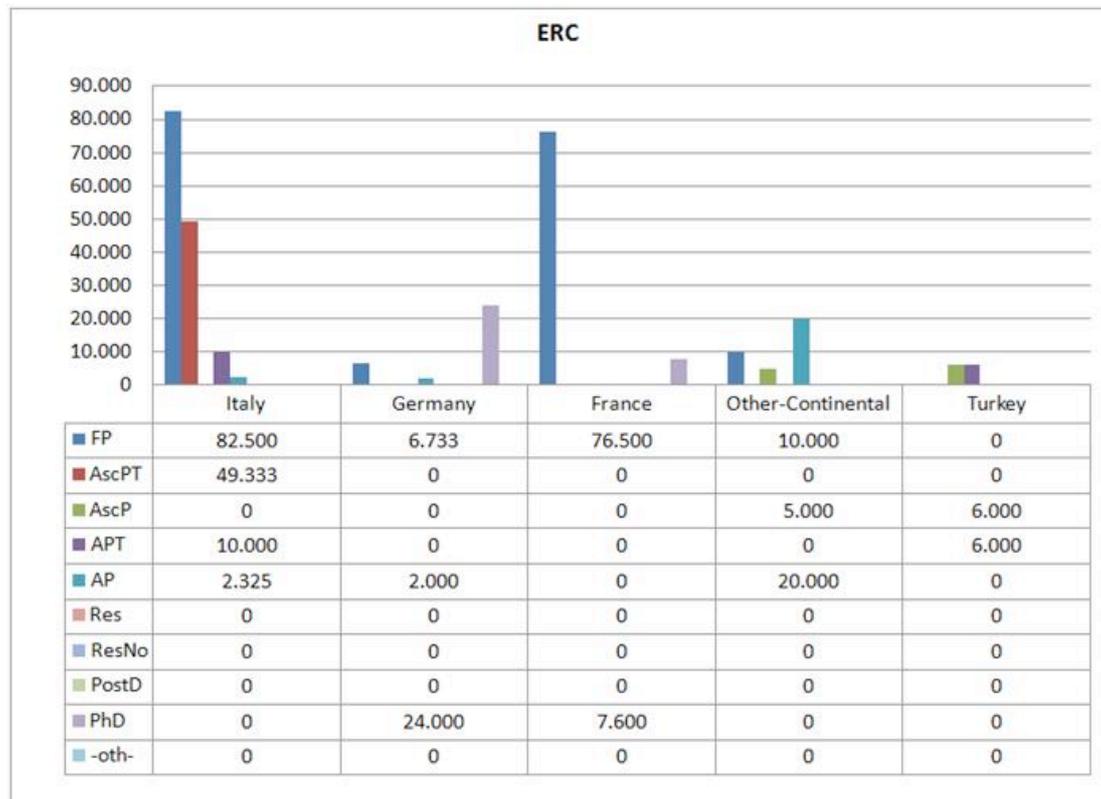


Figure 22 shows instead the results for those professions earning less than 100,000 Euros from the ERC. It appears clearly that being a researcher (both in academia and outside) or a post-doc reduces the chances of getting substantial ERC grants basically to zero.

Figure 22 ERC grants – **below** an average amount of 100,000 Euros per year – by countries and profession profile



For the EC Framework Programme (not ERC), excluding Germany, Other Continental and Scandinavian countries, all the other countries reach an average amount of more than 100,000 Euro per year. In particular, full professors in the UK, Other Anglo-Saxon countries and Italy; associate professors in the Other Anglo-Saxon; associate professors

(tenured) in Belgium and Turkey; researchers (not attached to a university) in France; PhD(s) in CEE and post-docs in Other Anglo-Saxon and Spain (Figure 23).

Figure 23 EC Framework Programme (not ERC) – **more than** an average amount of 100,000 Euros per year – by country and profession profile

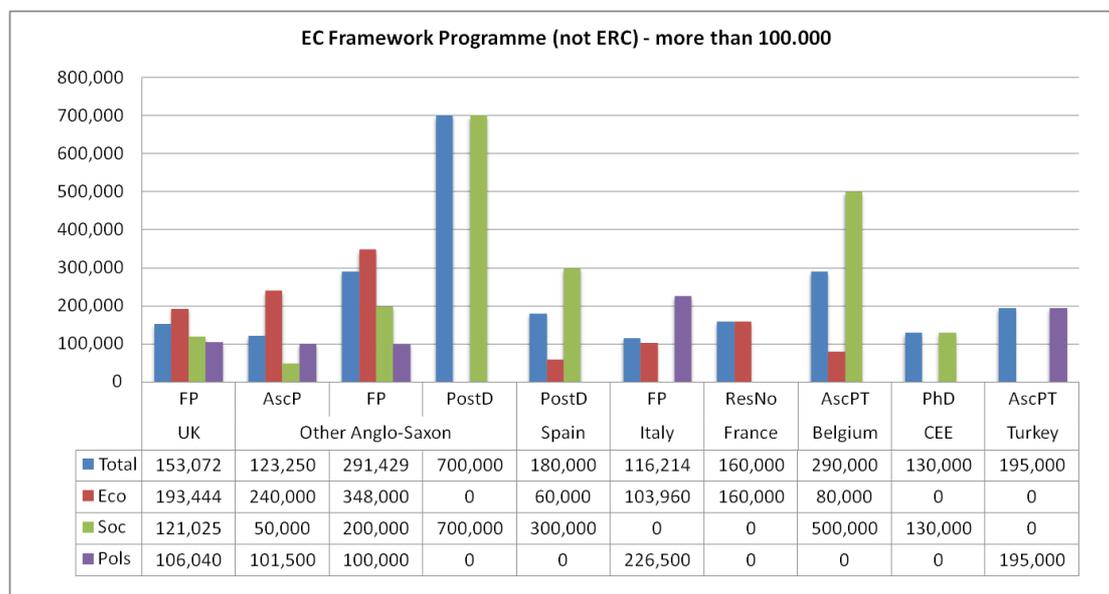
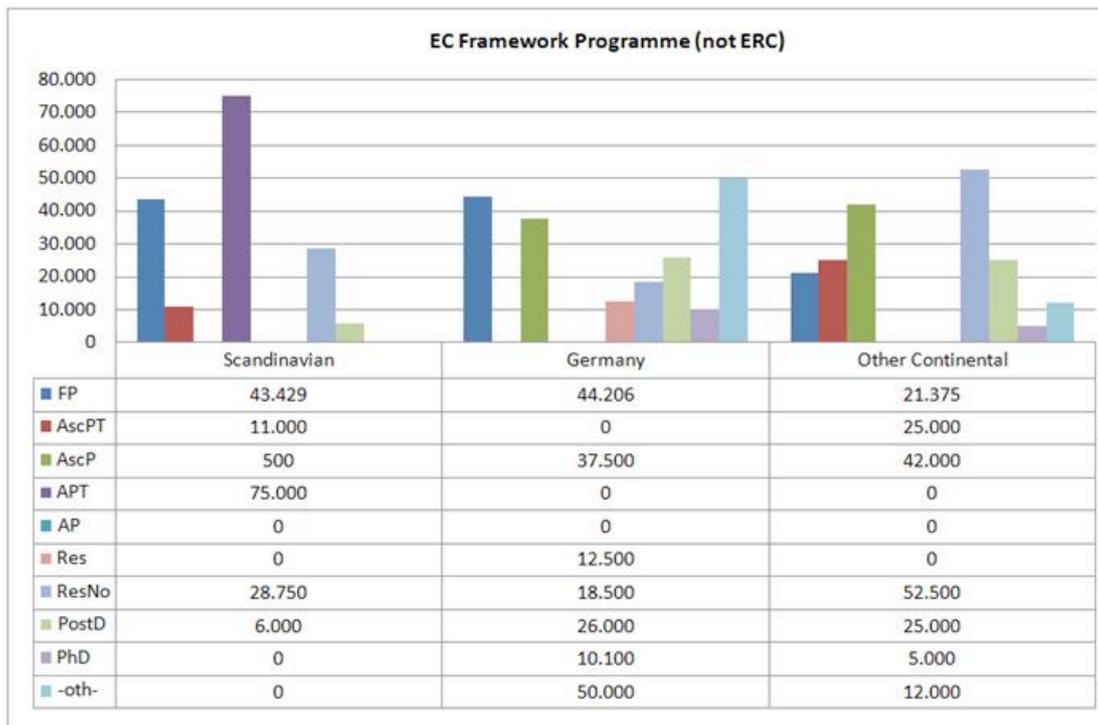


Figure 24 shows instead the results for those professions earning less than 100,000 Euros from the EC Framework Programme (not ERC). The most disadvantaged professions are only partially consistent with the previous ERC figures: researchers (outside academia) and post-docs do relatively well. Researchers in university score poorly, as do non-tenured assistant professors.

Figure 24 EC Framework Programme (not ERC) – **below** an average amount of 100.000 Euros per year – by countries and profession profile

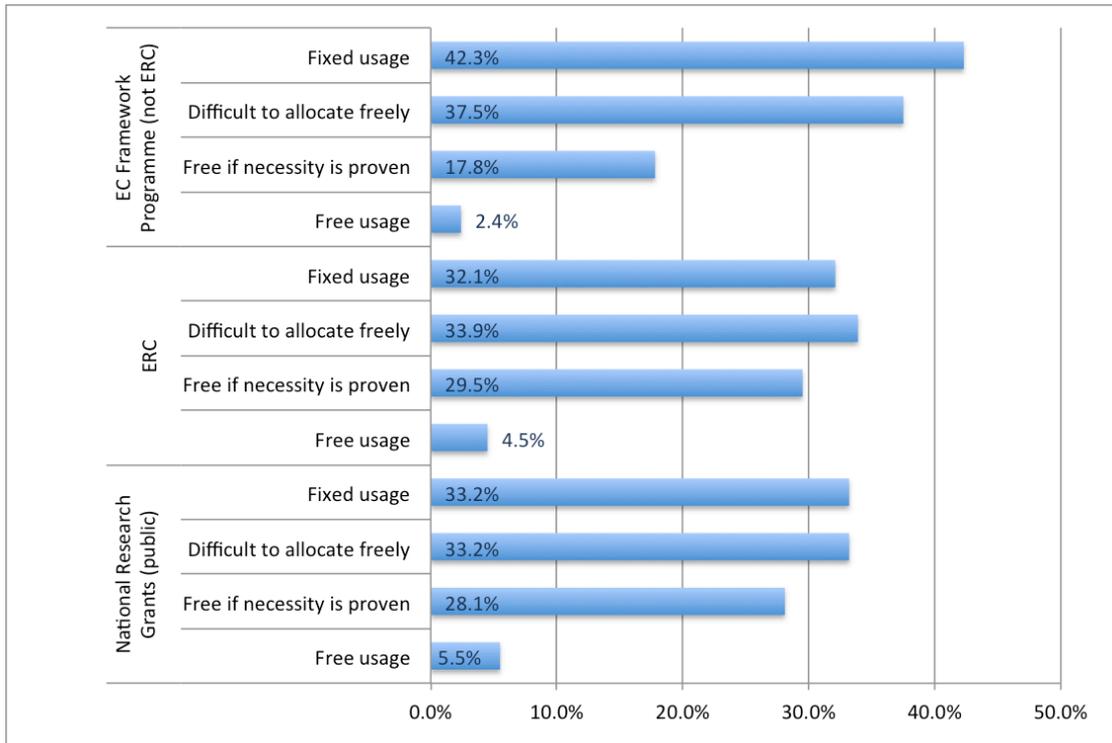


The allocation of research funds

Overall, grants from the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) are considered the most difficult to allocate or have a fixed usage. Specifically, respondents from Belgium, Scandinavia, Germany and Other Anglo-Saxon countries reported the most difficulty. Respondents from CEE, Spain, the UK and Germany reported the most difficulty with the National Research Grants (public), and the UK, Spain, Germany and Other Continental countries have the most difficulty with the ERC.

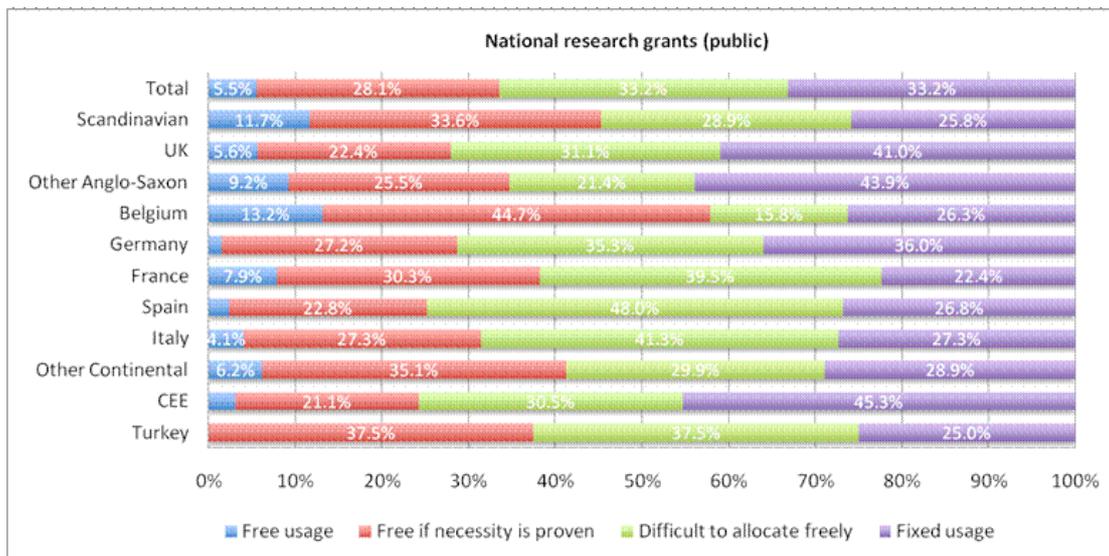
The grants from the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) are considered the most difficult to allocate by the 37.5 per cent of the respondents and with a fixed usage by the 42.3 per cent, as shown in Figure 25.

Figure 25 Grant sources by funding flexibility



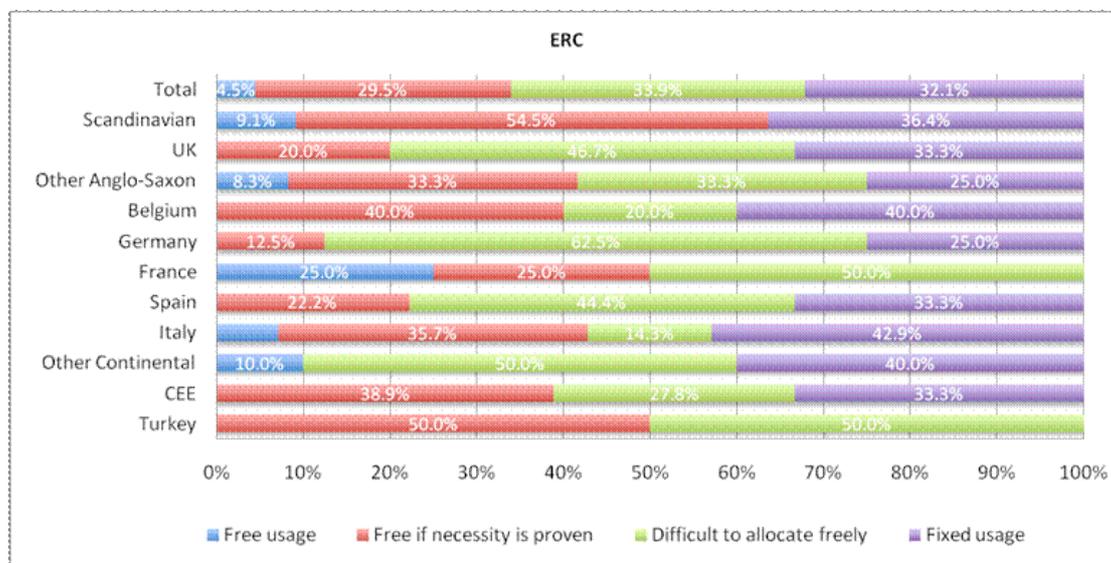
A small percentage of respondents consider a free usage of the National Research Grants (public) possible, as illustrated in Figure 26. Germany and Spain are the countries in which the modality 'free usage' has the lowest percentage, with 1.5 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively. More than 50 per cent of respondents state that it is difficult to allocate these funds freely and the necessity of a fixed usage. The countries in which the free usage seems to be more consistent are Scandinavian, Other Anglo-Saxon, France and Belgium.

Figure 26 Flexibility in National Research Grants (public) allocation by country of residence



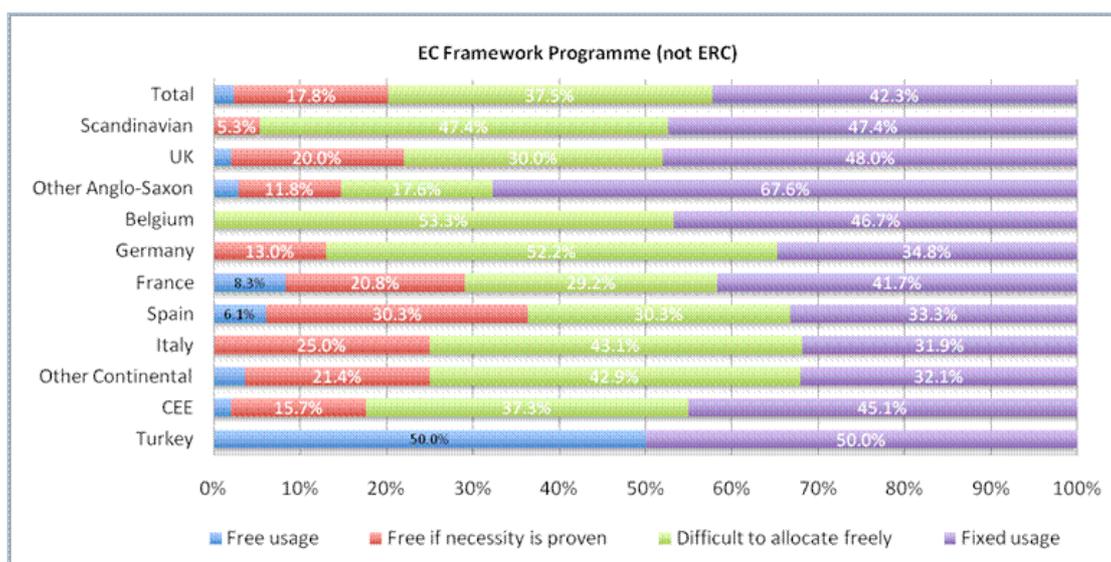
In the UK, Spain, Germany, and Other Continental more than 70 per cent of respondents find the ERC grants characterised by their fixed usage and by the difficulty of free allocation (Figure 27).

Figure 27 Flexibility in ERC funds allocation by country of residence



In the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) the fixed usage and the difficulty to allocate the grants freely increase in all countries, but especially in the UK, Germany, Belgium, and Other Continental. An exception is represented by Turkey, where 50 per cent of respondents state the possibility of a free usage of these grants (Figure 28).

Figure 28 Flexibility in EC Framework Programme (not ERC) funds allocation by country of residence



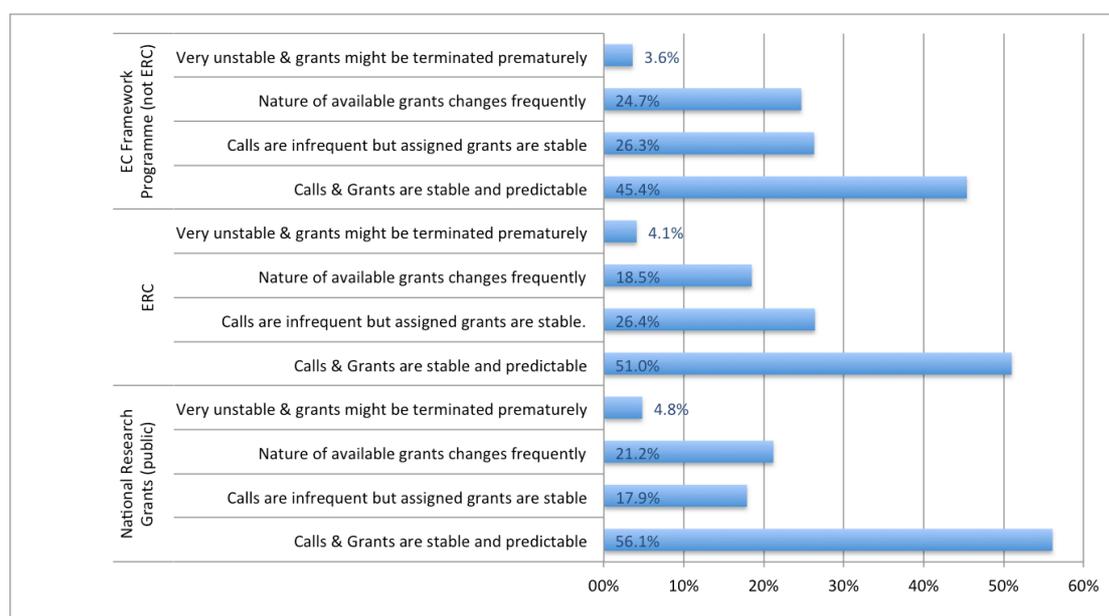
Grants application process and influencing factors

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 of application, and the lack of confidence in the evaluation procedure for the National Research Grants (public); and low success probability of application, and the too high procedural and logistic costs for the ERC and the EC Framework Programme (not ERC).

The ERC is the source of grants with the lowest application success rate. With the ERC the majority of the countries are unsatisfied with the exception of Other Anglo-Saxon, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Turkey. Germany shows full satisfaction in the National Research Grants (public), followed by Spain and all the other countries except for Italy, where the majority of respondents are unsatisfied. In the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) Scandinavian and the UK are more negative than the other countries, although satisfaction for this scheme seems higher for residents in countries with low satisfaction for their agencies (e.g. Italy).

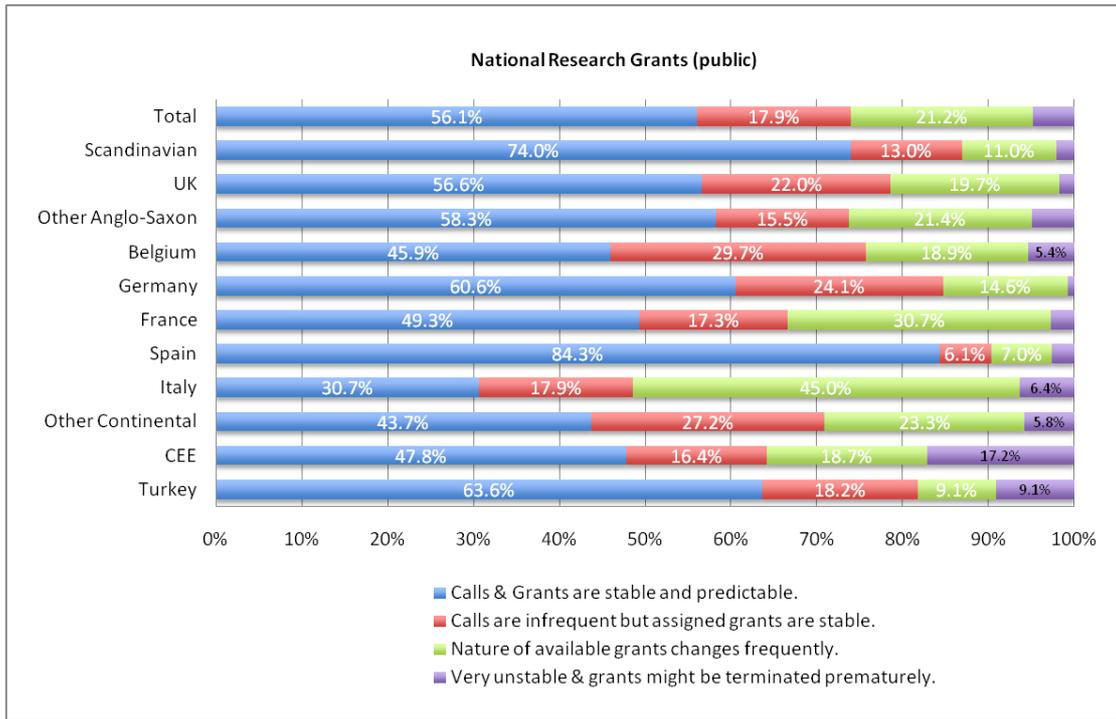
The majority of respondents considers the calls and the grants from the three sources stable and predictable (Figure 29). However, the National Research Grants (public) are perceived as the most stable (56.1 per cent), followed by the ERC (51 per cent) and the EC Framework programme (not ERC) (45.4 per cent).

Figure 29 Grant sources by research funding stability



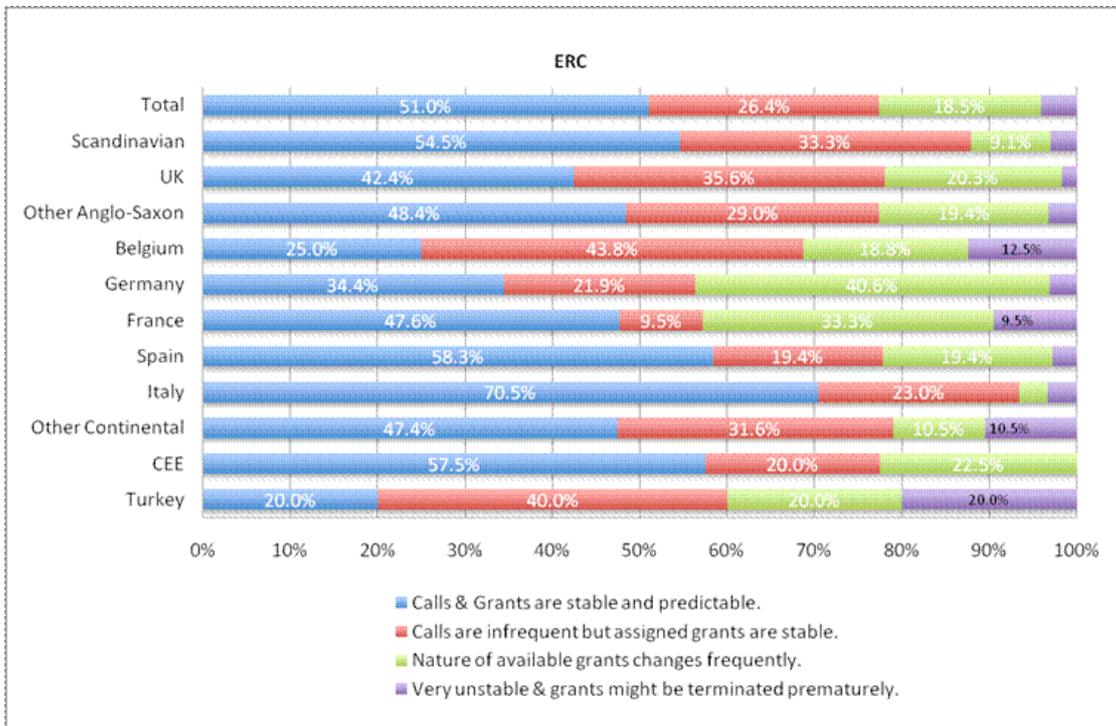
In Figure 30, Italy shows a different perception for the National Research Grants (public) with 45 per cent of respondents stating that the nature of available grants changes frequently. At the other extreme, there is Spain, whose researchers are very satisfied with what is publicly on offer in their country.

Figure 30 Stability in National Research Grants (public) by country



As for the ERC, Figure 31 shows that only slightly more than half of Germany and French respondents deem it as reasonably stable and predictable.

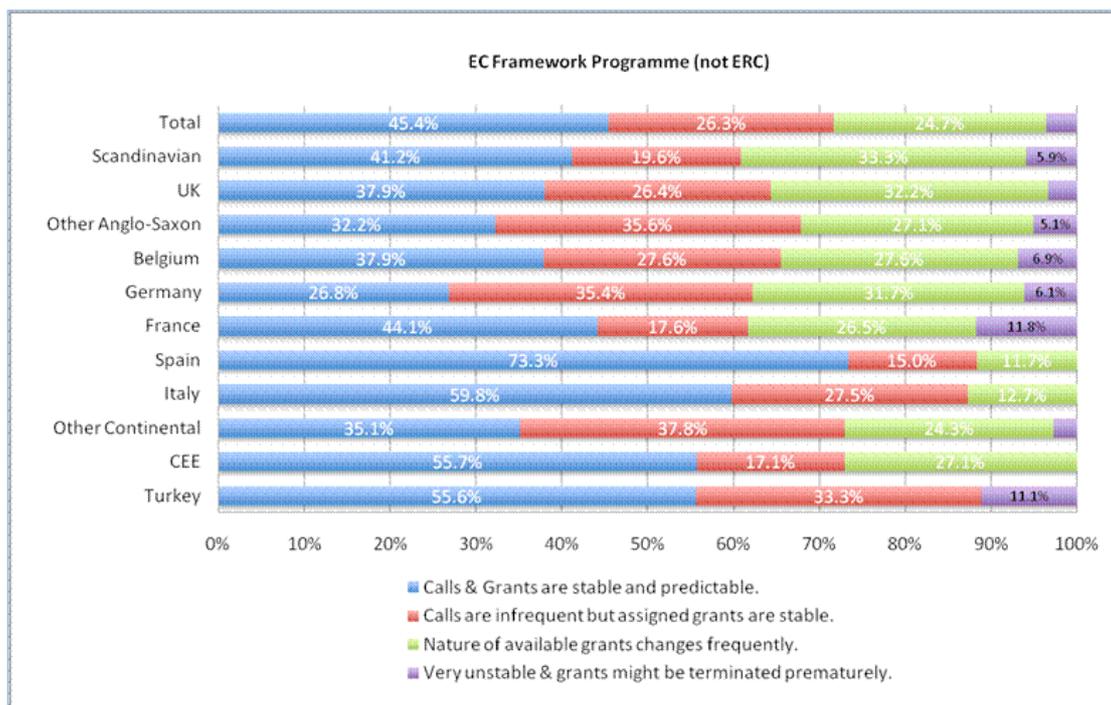
Figure 31 Stability in ERC grants by country of residence



Finally, Figure 32 shows the perceptions on the stability of EC Framework Programmes (not ERC). Whereas in Spain and Italy, these sources of funding are perceived as very stable and predictable, this is not the case for Scandinavian, Anglo-Saxon and most other

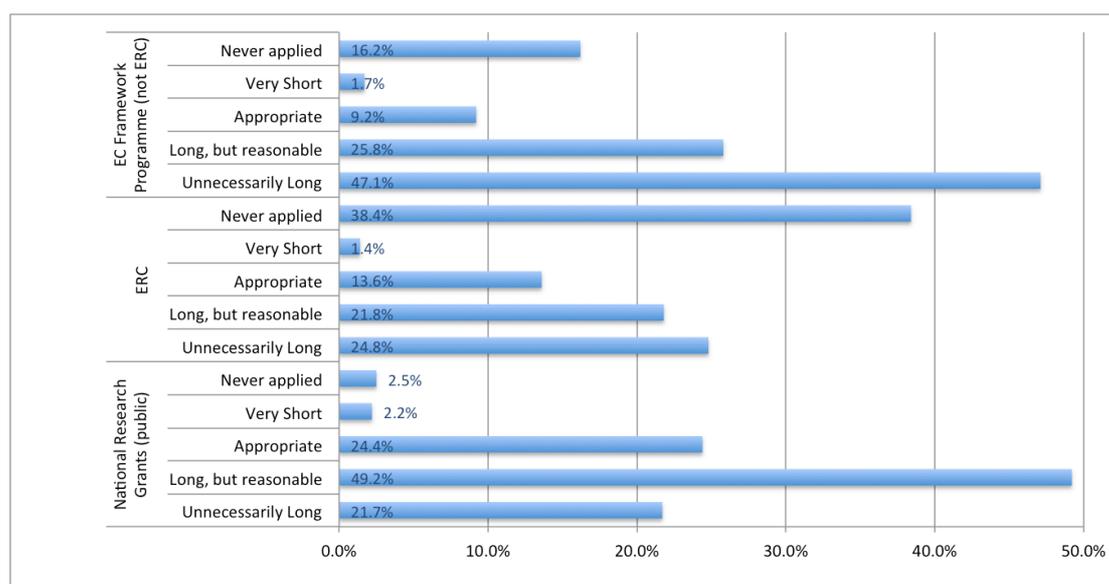
Continental countries, which express some criticism of the Framework Programme's predictability.

Figure 32 Stability in EC Framework Programme (not ERC) grants by country of residence



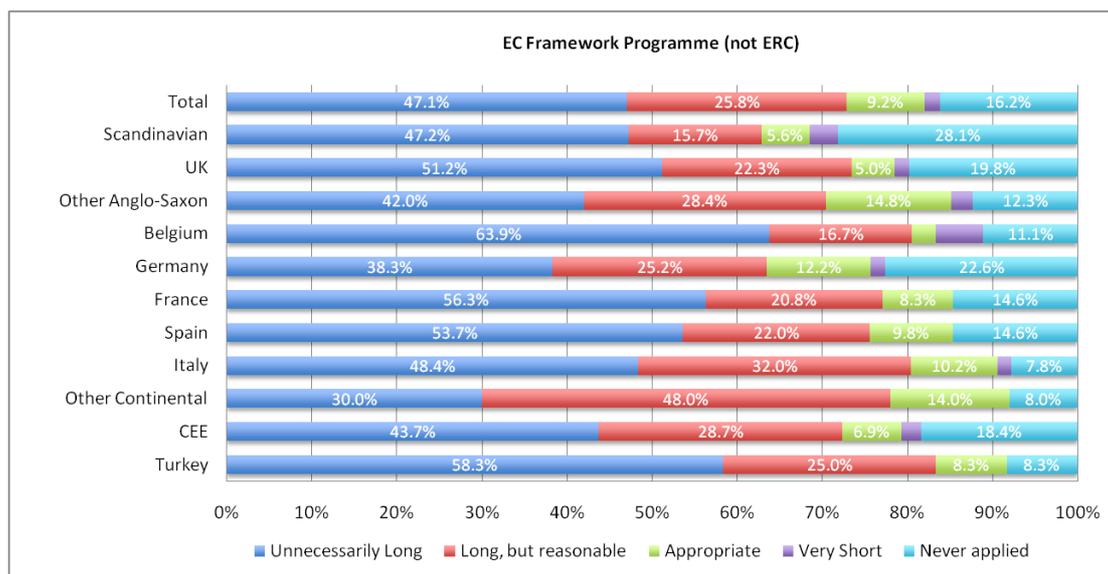
Concerning the average time spent on grant applications, in the National Research Grants (public) 24.4 per cent of respondents consider the time spent on application appropriate (Figures 33).

Figure 33 Grant sources by average time spent on application



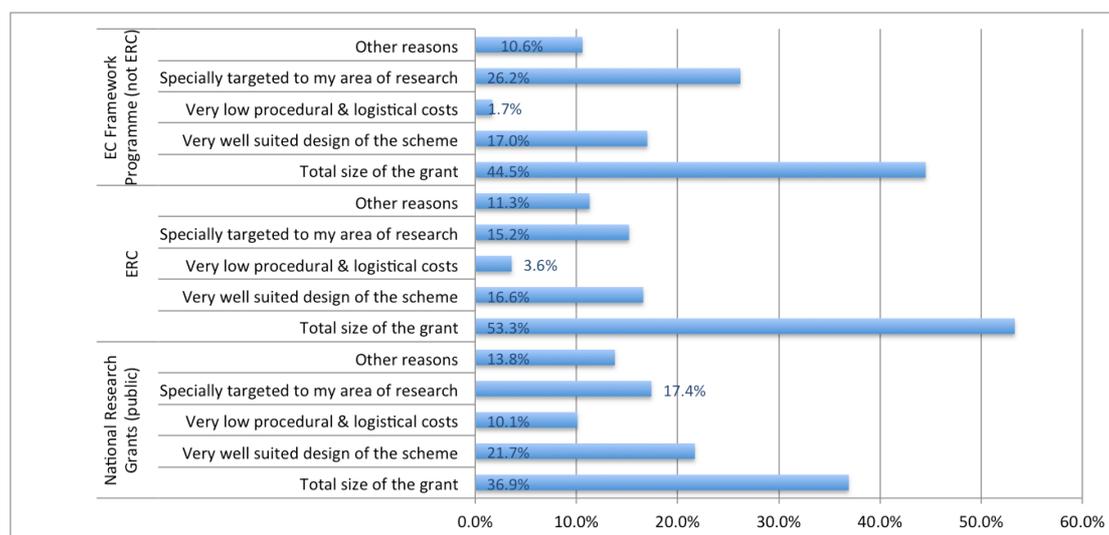
The answer ‘*unnecessarily long*’ collects more than 20 percentage points in all the three grant sources, with a peak of 47.1 per cent in the EC Framework Programme (not ERC), where Belgium is the most critical (Figure 34).

Figure 34 Average time spent in applying for EC Framework Programme (not ERC) grants by country of residence



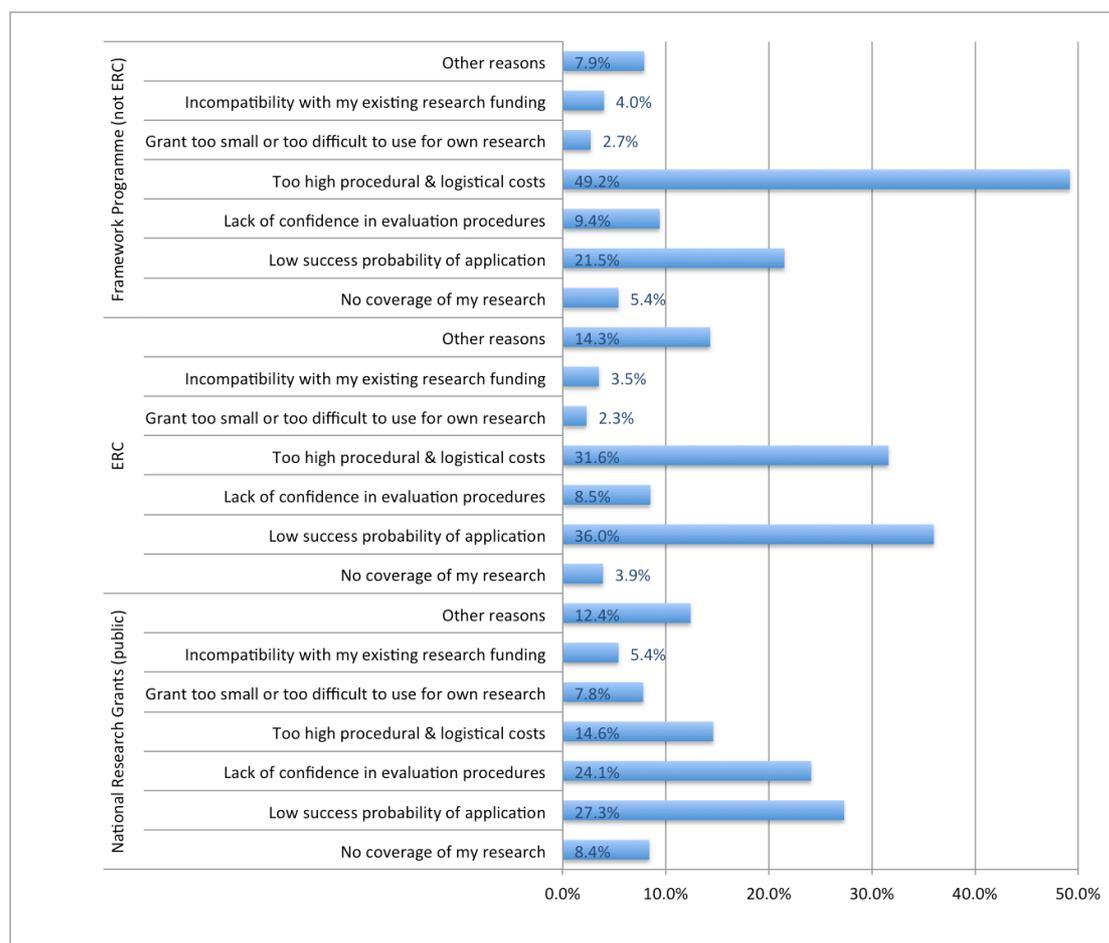
The total size of grants seems to be the predominant factor driving the interested party in applying to one source of grants rather than another, as shown in Figure 35.

Figure 35 Grant sources by main reason for application



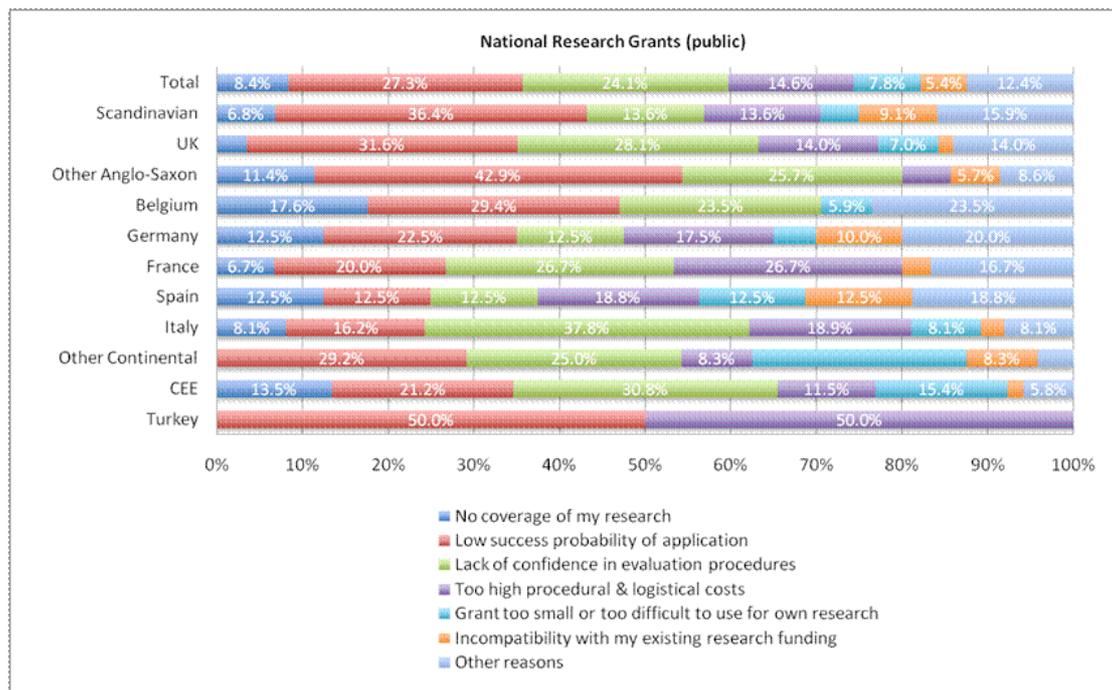
This figure changes when looking at the factor influencing the decision NOT to apply to a specific grant source. The low success probability of application (27.3 per cent), and the lack of confidence in the evaluation procedure (24 per cent) are motivations NOT to apply for the National Research Grants (public). In the ERC and the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) we find the primary motivations are low success probability of application and the too high procedural and logistic costs; see Figure 36.

Figure 36 Grant sources by reasons NOT to apply



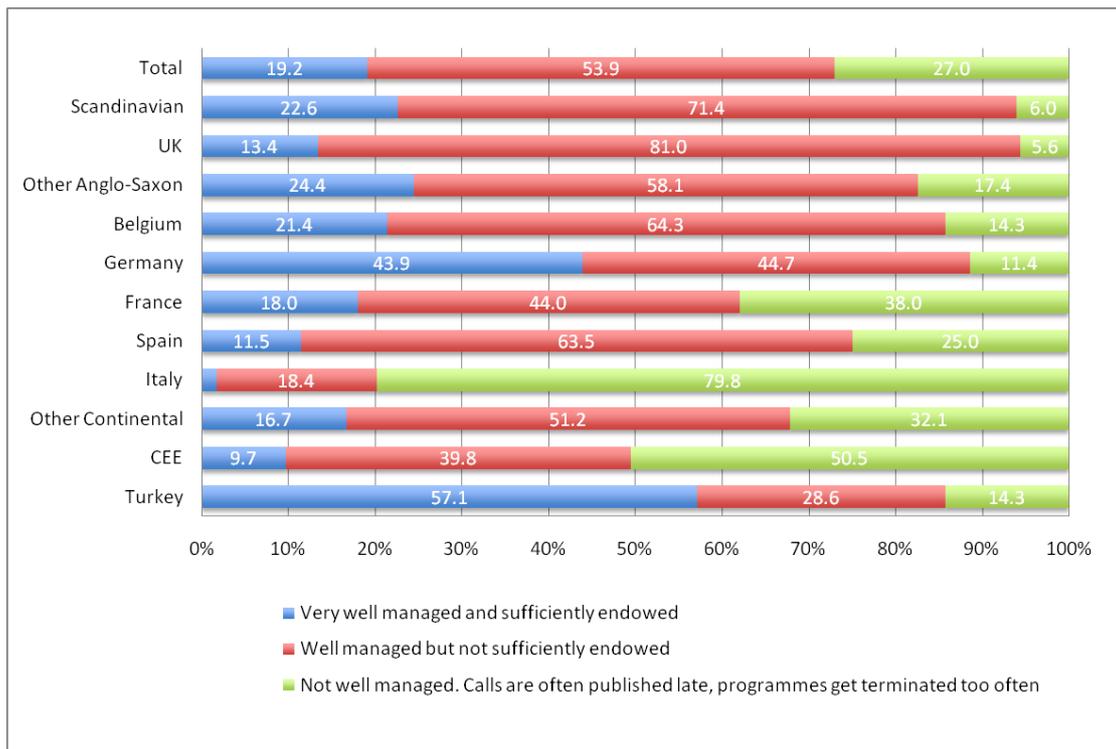
The lack of confidence stated by the respondents for the National Research Grants (public) deserves an in-depth analysis. Looking at the countries in which this lack of confidence is consistent, Italy is in the first position (37.8 per cent), followed by CEE (30.8 per cent) and all the other countries with percentages that never fall below 10, except in the case of Turkey; see Figure 37.

Figure 37 Reasons NOT to apply for National Research Grants (public) by country



As far as the perception of management of the national agencies is analysed, in Italy 1.8 per cent of respondents consider the national agencies well managed, while 79.8 per cent choose the modality 'Not well managed. Calls are often published late, programmes get terminated too often.' On the other hand, 18.4 per cent consider these agencies well managed but not sufficiently endowed. Only Germany and Turkey show a high level of satisfaction related to these entities with 43.9 per cent and 57.1 per cent respectively, followed by Scandinavian countries (22.6 per cent) where, however, 6 per cent of respondents have a negative view of the management of national agencies. In the UK, 81 per cent perceive the national agencies as well managed but not sufficiently endowed, while 13.4 per cent state that they are completely satisfied, while only 5.6 per cent have a negative view; see Figure 38.

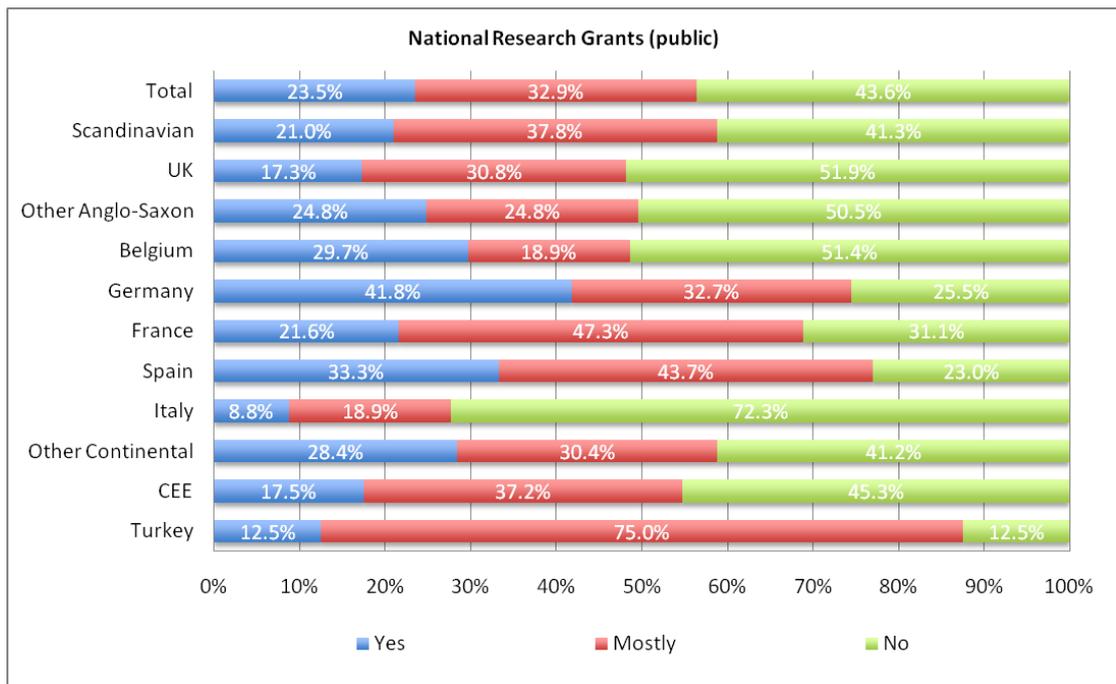
Figure 38 National funding organization management by country



This attitude is confirmed when asking about the satisfaction with granting schemes; see Figures 39, 40 and 41.

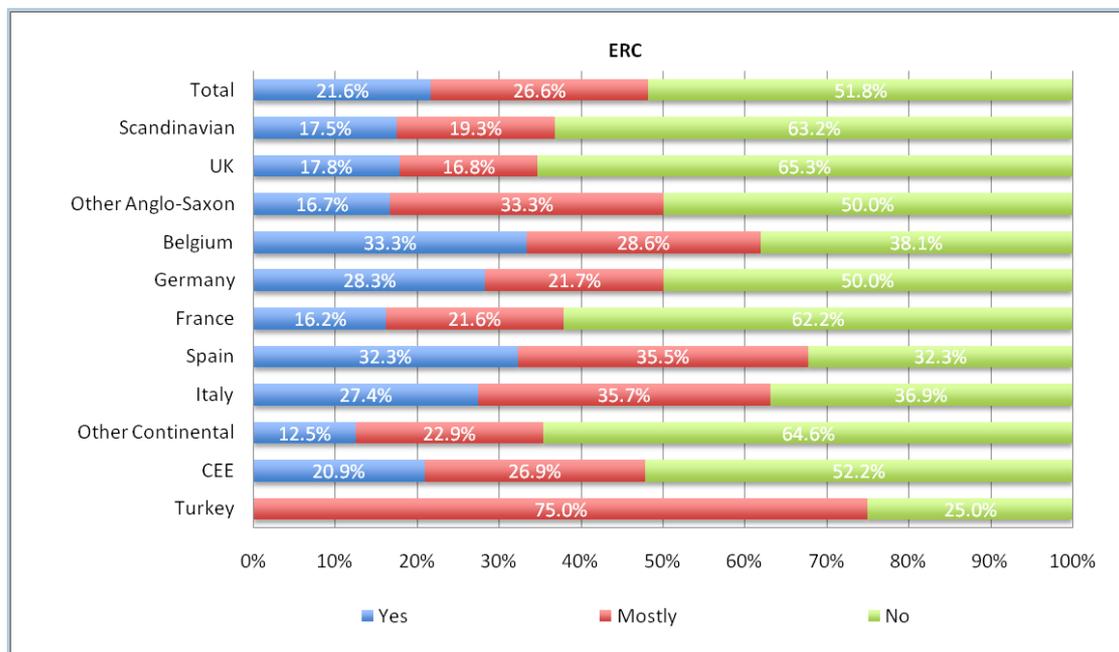
Germany shows full satisfaction with 41.8 per cent for the National Research Grants (public), followed by Spain (33.3 per cent) and all the other countries except for Italy, where 72.3 per cent of respondents chose the modality 'Not satisfied.' It should be stressed that in the UK (51.9 per cent) and Other Anglo-Saxon (50.5 per cent) the respondents are divided into two opposite sides.

Figure 39 Satisfaction with National Research Grants (public) by country



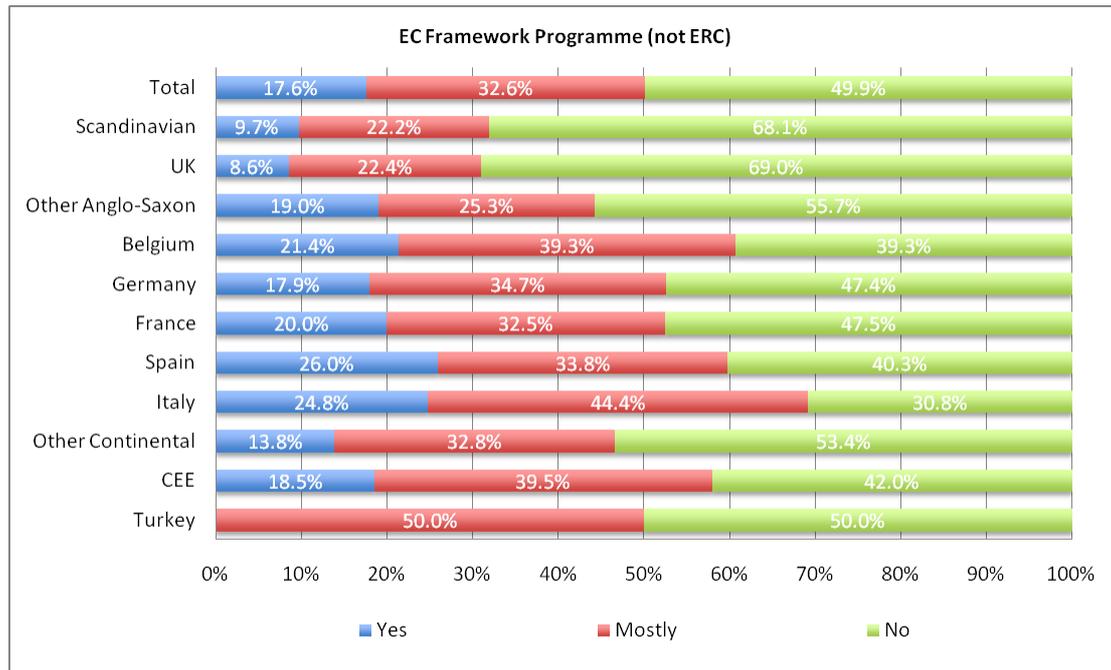
With the ERC the majority of the countries analysed in the survey are dissatisfied with the exception of Other Anglo-Saxon, which shows a marked ambivalence with 50 per cent satisfied, and Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Turkey, where the satisfaction with the ERC is even more prevalent.

Figure 40 Satisfaction with ERC grants by country



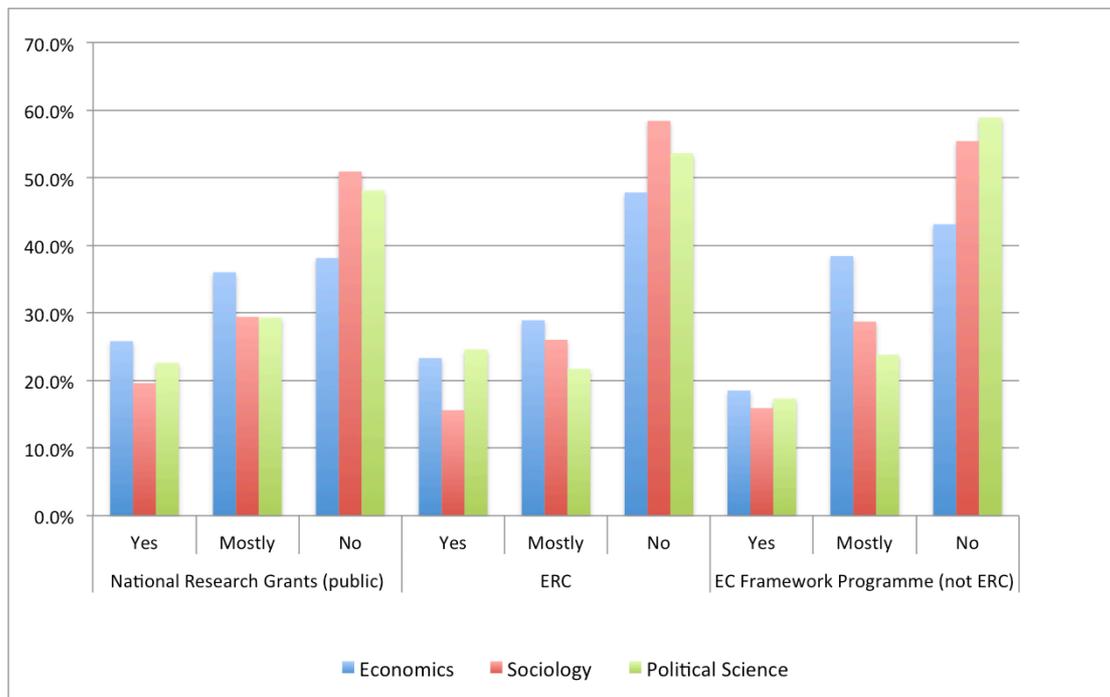
With the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) Scandinavian countries and the UK are more negative than the other countries, although satisfaction in this scheme seems higher for residents in countries with low satisfaction for their agencies (e.g. in Italy).

Figure 41 Satisfaction with EC Framework Programme (not ERC) by country



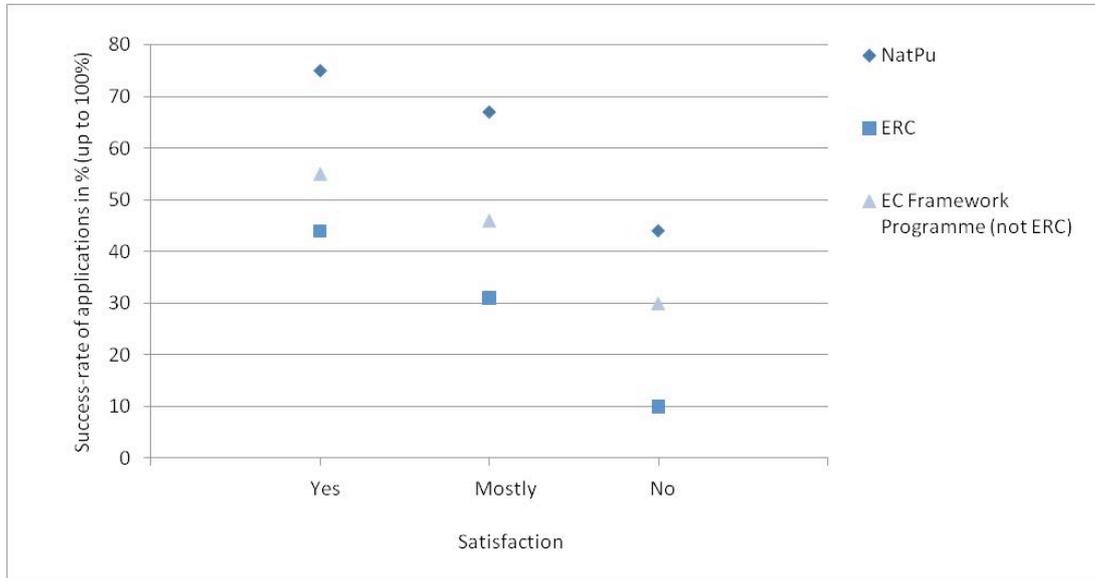
Taking the three schemes together and showing satisfaction by discipline (Figure 42), it can be noted that economists are relatively more satisfied than both sociologists and political scientists. The only exception to this rule is political scientists, who are relatively happier with the ERC.

Figure 42 Satisfaction with funding by discipline



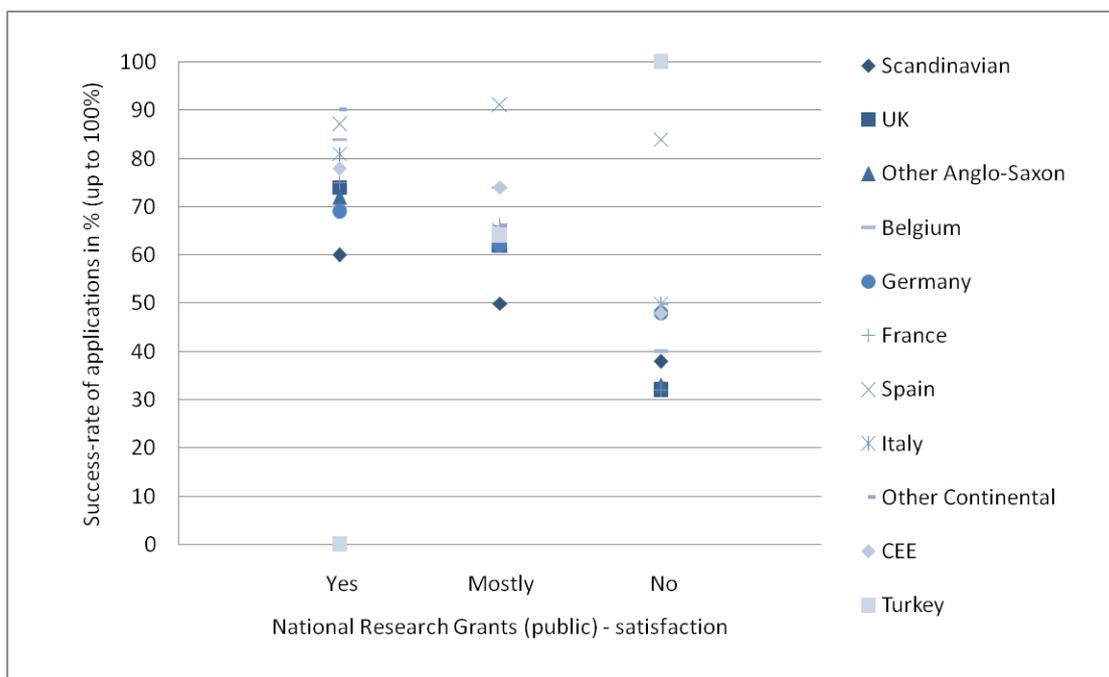
Looking at the satisfaction with granting schemes conditional on the success of applications, the satisfaction in the ERC is substantially higher among successful candidates (see Figure 43).

Figure 43 Satisfaction with granting schemes by application success



Broken down by country, National Research Grants (public) data, however, shows that dissatisfaction was also higher among relatively successful applicants (e.g. in the UK or Spain, see Figure 44).

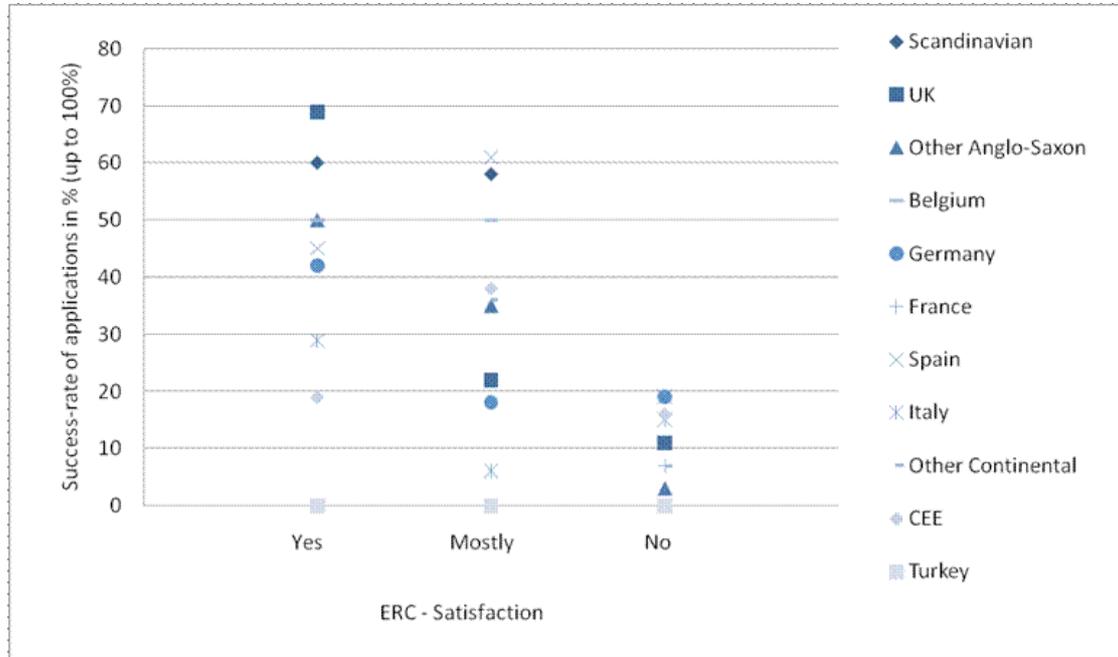
Figure 44 Satisfaction with National Research Grants (public) by application success



The satisfaction with the ERC conditional on the success of applications shows great heterogeneity across countries. In general, however, Figure 45 demonstrates that those

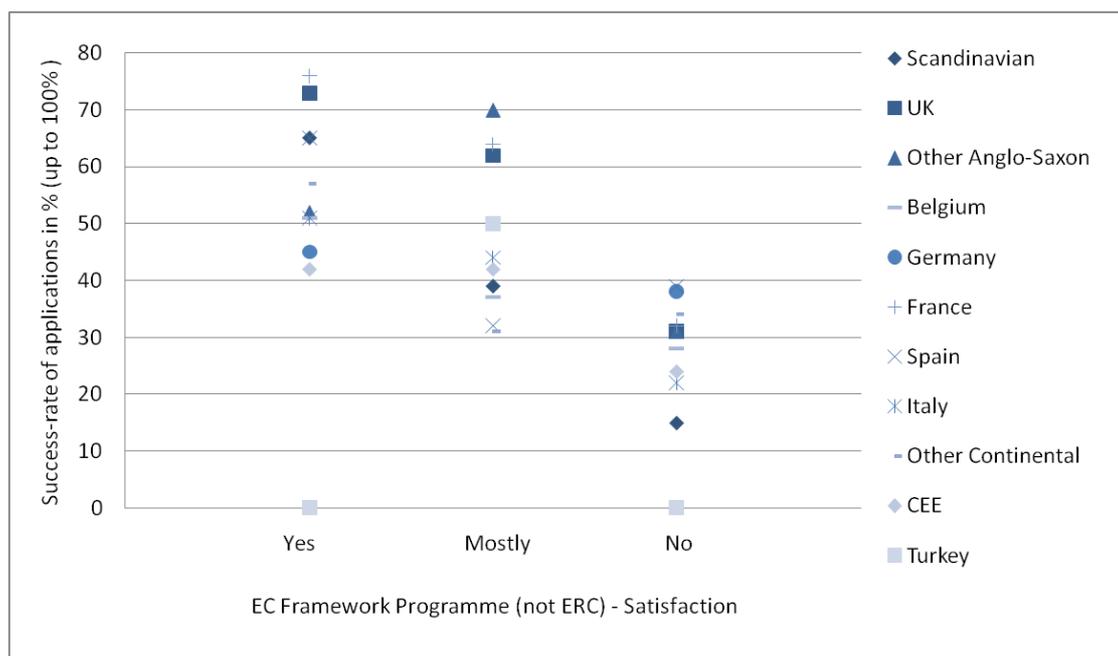
dissatisfied with the scheme certainly have lower success rates than in the other programmes studied.

Figure 45 Satisfaction with ERC grants by application success



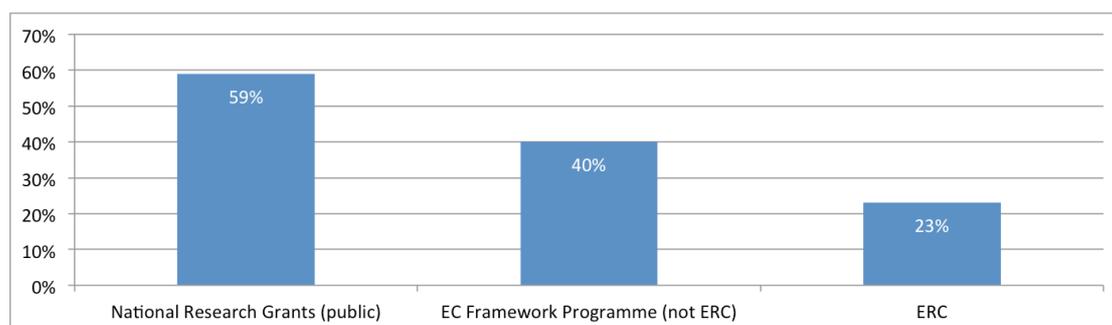
Finally, Figure 46, on the satisfaction with the EC Framework Programme (not ERC): this lies somewhere in between National Research Grants (public), where dissatisfaction can be high even for successful candidates, and the ERC, where the situation is the opposite.

Figure 46 Satisfaction with EC Framework Programme (not ERC) grants by application success



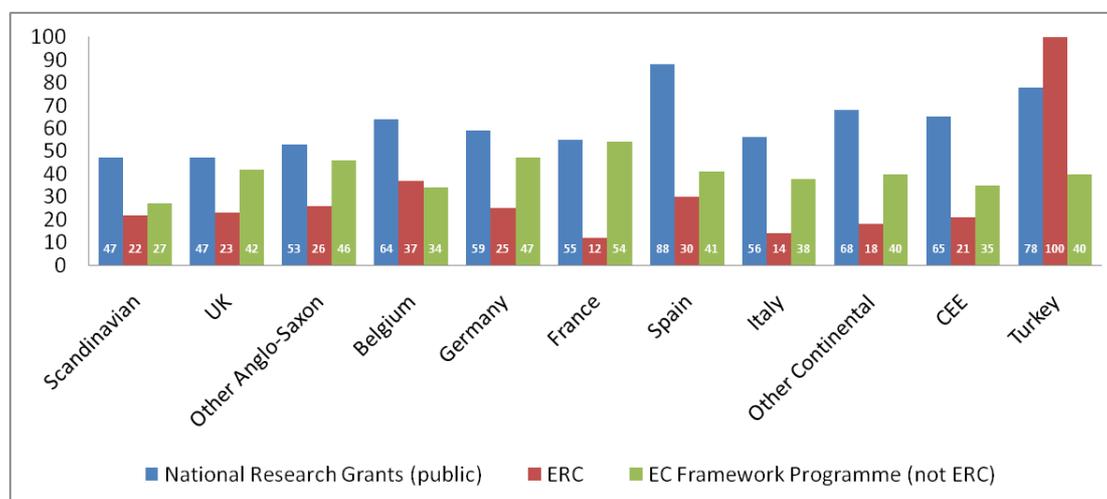
Applying to the ERC has by far the lowest success rate, compared to both the National Research Grants (public) and the EC Framework Programme (not ERC). As shown in Figure 47, among those who applied, 23 per cent were successful in obtaining a grant from the ERC, which is a relatively high figure if compared to overall ERC figures.

Figure 47 Grant sources by application success rate (average percentage – up to 100%)



Excluding Turkey where very few respondents replied to this question, the most successful country in applying for National Research Grants (public) seems to be Spain with an average success rate of 88 per cent (116 respondents). For the ERC – that is the source of grants from which respondents reach the lowest application success rate – Belgium (37 per cent) is the most successful. In the EC Framework Programme (not ERC) Other Continental countries show a success rate of 68 per cent; see Figure 47.

Figure 48 Application success (average percentage – up to 100%) rate by country



Evaluation

The scholars from all three disciplines were asked to rank the 10 most desirable and often missing elements in European research funding, as shown in Table 10.

Table 10 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 of innovative ideas	10	5	7

Clearly, what is striking about the results is that they are extremely consistent for economics, sociology and the political sciences. The four elements that scholars from all three disciplines consider as the most desirable for research funding at any level are:

- flexibility of the research funding arrangement;
- competent and transparent evaluation of the funding application;
- simplification of the application process and less bureaucratized selection and evaluation procedures;
- adequate levels of funding.

At the very top of the ten most desirable, often missing, elements in European Research Funding they also agree: ‘Trust the researcher: flexibility!’

The respondents were also asked to write additional comments on the state of research funding in the European Research Area. Many concerned the four desired elements above.

With respect to overall funding flexibility, the complaints refer to at least four distinct dimensions. First, the management of the funds should be delegated to the researcher. Second, the allocation of the funds should be less bound by predetermined rules and budgetary objectives. Third, and very much stressed, the choice of the research strategy has to be often mainstream, it requires excessively large research networks and interdisciplinary teams. Innovative ideas, basic research and smaller teams are frequently disadvantaged. Evaluation of relevance should be results-oriented and, hence, carried out *ex post*. Finally, the possibility to hire additional collaborators, such as research assistants or external experts, seems to be very limited.

An important area against which complaints are channelled is the relative obscurity of selection procedures. Many scholars question the independence of the selection committees, decry the excessive politicization in the choice of research topics and note that there are local and national preferences limiting the scope of research. Preferences awarded to trendy or fashionable research topics as opposed to basic research are often seen as negative selection practice. National research funding is often perceived to be influenced by local academic politics, which creates barriers to entry for heterodox projects.

Excessive red tape and costs associated with the selection procedure, especially at the EU level and in a number of Member States, seem also a major concern for the respondents.

For example, a full professor in economics candidly states that: ‘The reporting and audit requirements for EU grants have taken on such proportions that I am no longer interested in this source of funding.’ With respect to the application process for research grants offered by the Framework Programme, a senior economist suggests it ‘should be totally dismantled and rebuilt’. Excessively large projects that require extremely lengthy application procedures as well as the very demanding reporting requirements discourage rather than spur application for EU funds.

Interestingly, most comments dealing with the adequacy of funding do not concern the lack of endowments, apart from in specific national contexts, where cuts have been particularly deep (e.g. in Italy) and where competitive research funding is by and large unavailable (e.g. in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe). On the contrary, most scholars lament the lack of smaller, personalized grants, which do not require enormous (and hence fictitious) consortia or inordinately large research teams.

The cuts ahead

Given the severe repercussions of the 2007-2009 global financial crisis on general government budgets, we expected that the cuts introduced by a vast majority of Member States would have affected research funding as well. Hence, we asked the survey respondents to assess whether they expect funding cuts in national or regional research in economics, sociology and the political sciences.

The general outlook is fairly pessimistic. Out of 1,259 total respondents to this question, the vast majority (897, that is 69.3 per cent) responded that there will be cuts and that these will in all likelihood affect their own funding possibilities. 142 respondents, i.e. 11.0 per cent, were slightly more optimistic and answered that despite likely cuts, their own funding opportunities will not be affected. Only 9.4 per cent of all respondents (122) expressed the belief that there will be no cuts at all.

Table 2 shows a breakdown of respondents by discipline: 659 in economics, 345 in sociology and 291 in the political sciences. Political science recorded at the same time the largest share of researchers believing that the cuts ahead will affect their own funding opportunities (72.9 per cent) as well as the largest share of those who do not foresee any incoming austerity (11.3 per cent). Even though economists are more optimistic (24.0 per cent affirm that their funding possibilities will not be thwarted), more than two thirds of them fear that the budget squeeze will negatively affect them.

Table 11 Evaluation of the budget cuts to research funding by discipline

	Economics	Sociology	Political Science
Yes, and it is likely to affect my funding possibilities	66.8%	71.0%	72.9%
Yes, but it is unlikely to affect my funding possibilities	13.8%	7.8%	8.2%
No	10.2%	8.1%	11.3%
Don't know	9.3%	13.0%	7.6%

Conclusions

Between 2010 and 2011, the Academic Careers Observatory, in collaboration with the European Economic Association, the European Sociological Association, and the European Consortium for Political Research carried out the Survey on Research Funding for the Social Sciences in Europe, targeted at European researchers from economics, sociology and the political sciences.

The semi-structured questionnaire produced a valuable database, providing a clear, if preliminary, picture of both the sociology of the academic profession in Europe and the users' perception of research funding opportunities across the European Research Area. Being aware that selection bias has not been eliminated, results have to be taken *cum grano salis*, however, the sample is relatively large and the consistency of answers noteworthy.

In general, there is evident consistency of the responses by economists, sociologists and political scientists. Variation across the European Research Area is instead substantial, a clear consequence of the different academic traditions that each country developed.

The first part of the survey highlighted some of the problems and salient characteristics of the different academic professions, such as ageing, especially in sociology, and the gender scissors problem, present mostly in economics. Research internationalization varies significantly across the ERA. Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon countries have internationalized and open faculties. The Mediterranean countries and Eastern Europe compare badly even with the less open Continental countries.

The second part revealed the users' view of regional, national and supranational financing schemes across the European Research Area. These seem to be riddled with several problems. In spite of the different management and administration practices of national research funding agencies, researchers hardly distrust the evaluation process, which is perceived as opaque, politically biased and targeting only specific (interdisciplinary, modish, excessively big) projects. Hence, a rethinking of national selection strategies should enter the agenda. A reasonable solution may be the internationalization of evaluation procedures. The strategy pursued by a number of national agencies, creating synergies through the European Research Council's evaluation procedures, seems to be going in the right direction.

As for supranational, European-level funding agencies, the satisfaction of scholars ranks low for both the Framework Programme and, surprisingly, for the European Research Council. The success rates for applying, especially to the ERC are extremely low, hence, the evaluators should put extreme care in selecting scholars solely based on merit. A problem highlighted for both the ERC and the FP are extremely cumbersome procedures and high logistical costs, which discourage even submitting an application. Perceived satisfaction varies a lot with the country of residence. There might be an inverse relation between satisfaction at national and European levels. As a consequence, European-level institutions should take this into account. Moreover, application and reporting procedures should be simplified, while retaining a rigorous structure.

Finally, scholars agree on the most desirable, and often missing elements of research funding, such as adequate funding, competent and transparent evaluation and the simplification of the application process. Flexibility, and its various aspects (the

possibility to hire staff, freely use funds etc.), ranks first for everybody: economists, political scientists and sociologists. However, flexibility and accountability are the obverse sides of the same medal. Agencies should develop reliable record keeping of researchers' performance to promote a sensible allocation of funds and prevent the misuse of money.

Appendix 1.1

Selection criteria for researchers in Sociology and in the Political Sciences.

Due to the unavailability of a centralized database containing the rankings of individual researchers in the social sciences, apart from in economics, the ACO used the most uniform possible selection criteria to derive a list of the most successful social science researchers in the fields of sociology and the political sciences.

The selection of names and locations was created as follows:

- i) we used as a database the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) Social Sciences Edition 2008 (the most recent), provided through the ISI Web of Knowledge managed by Thompson Reuters;
- ii) given the vast number of subject categories available to browse the journals inserted into the JCR, we had to limit ourselves to well-specified subfields:
 - a. Sociology;
 - b. Political Science.
- iii) for each of the subfields we selected the top 10 journals sorted by the latest 5-Year Impact Factor (see Table 12 and 13, below, for a complete list);
- iv) for each of the journals we selected all (and exclusively) the articles published between the first issue of 2005 and the latest available issue of 2010 (date of access 8 April 2010);
- v) from the list of articles we selected all the authors whose current affiliation is at an higher education or research institution within the European Research Area;
- vi) the lists have been complemented by the missing data, i.e. e-mail addresses.

Table 12 10 top journals for Political Science

Abbreviated Journal Title	ISSN	{2008} Total Cites	Impact Factor	5-Year Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	{2008} Articles	Cited Half-Life	Eigen-factor Score	Article Influence Score
AM POLIT SCI REV	0003-0554	6205	1.725	4.197	0.6	35	>10.0	0.02	3.776
AM J POLIT SCI	0092-5853	4416	2.397	3.363	0.322	59	>10.0	0.01972	3.079
POLIT ANAL	1047-1987	644	4.78	3.283	0.263	19	5	0.00709	2.831
EUR J POLIT RES	0304-4130	1760	2.514	2.734	0.239	71	6.6	0.01037	1.637
PUBLIC OPIN QUART	0033-362X	2565	1.972	2.606	0.262	42	>10.0	0.00482	1.36
ANNU REV POLIT SCI	1094-2939	572	1.846	2.414	0.36	25	6.7	0.00408	1.858
EUR UNION POLIT	1465-1165	419	2.064	2.378	0.435	23	4.5	0.00303	1.231
POLIT GEOGR	0962-6298	1032	2.295	2.375	0.25	40	6.7	0.00453	1.064
J CONFLICT RESOLUT	0022-0027	1718	1.769	2.093	0.658	38	>10.0	0.00683	1.597
POLIT PSYCHOL	0162-895X	864	1.478	2.073	0.139	36	7.1	0.00494	1.245

Table 13 10 top journals for Sociology

Abbreviated Journal Title	ISSN	{2008} Total Cites	Impact Factor	5-Year Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	{2008} Articles	Cited Half-Life	Eigen-factor Score	Article Influence Score
AM SOCIOLOG REV	0003-1224	9349	3.762	5.285	0.364	44	>10.0	0.01732	3.906
AM J SOCIOLOG	0002-9602	8629	2.808	5.046	0.444	45	>10.0	0.01481	3.819
ANNU REV SOCIOLOG	0360-0572	3665	2.273	4.954	0.364	22	>10.0	0.00806	3.368
SOC NETWORKS	0378-8733	1276	2.068	2.929	0.276	29	>10.0	0.00318	1.269
SOCIOLOG HEALTH ILL	0141-9889	1757	1.845	2.899	0.485	66	8	0.00502	0.998
J MARRIAGE FAM	0022-2445	6096	1.639	2.848	0.133	98	>10.0	0.01262	1.375

SOCIOL METHOD RES	0049-1241	1162	1.368	2.776	0.7	20	>10.0	0.00381	2.021
SOCIOL METHODOL	0081-1750	1226	2.087	2.691	0	15	>10.0	0.00257	2.107
SOC PROBL	0037-7791	1832	2.059	2.677	0.154	26	>10.0	0.00509	1.727
SOCIOL EDUC	0038-0407	1414	1.594	2.265	0.188	16	>10.0	0.00269	1.46

Appendix 1.2

List of agencies providing research funding, to which the respondents have recently applied.

Table 14 Research funding agencies

Code	Country	Name
ACRP	Austria	Austrian Climate Research Programme
AF	Finland	Academy of Finland
AHRC	UK	Arts and Humanities Research Council
Alliance Prog.	USA	Columbia University Alliance Program
ANR	France	Agence Nationale de la Recherche
ARRS	Slovenia	Slovenian Research Agency
AXA	France	AXA Research Fund
BELSPO	Belgium	Belgian Federal Science Policy Office
BMBF	Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research
BMW	Germany	BMW Foundation
BritAc	UK	British Academy
CNRS	France	French National Center for Scientific Research
COST	EU	COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology
DAAD	Germany	German Academic Exchange Service
DFG	Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation)
DFID	UK	UK Department for International Development
DFID (IGC)	UK	UK Department for International Development (International Growth Centre)
DG	Denmark	Danish National Research Foundation
DSF	Germany	Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung
ECPR	EU	European Consortium for Political Research
EIB	EU	European Investment Bank
EPSRC	UK	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
ERC	EU	European Research Council
ESF	EU	European Science Foundation
ESRC	UK	Economic and Social Research Council
ETF	Estonia	Estonian Science Foundation
EU (Asia Link)	EU	EU Asia-Link Programme
EU (unspecified)	EU	EU Funding (unspecified)
EUREKA	EU	EUREKA
FAS	Sweden	Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research
FCT	Portugal	Portuguese Ministry of Science and Technology
FECYT	Spain	Spanish National Science Foundation
FI	Denmark	Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation
FI (DFF/FSE)	Denmark	Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation: Council for Independent Research / Social Sciences
FI (DSF)	Denmark	Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation: Council for Strategic Research
FLE	Italy	Fondazione Luigi Einaudi
FNRS	Belgium	Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (Wallonia/Brussels)
FP (unspecified)	EU	Framework Programme (unspecified)
FP6	EU	6th Framework Programme

FP7	EU	7th Framework Programme
FWF	Austria	Austrian Science Fund
FWO	Belgium	Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (Flanders)
GACR	Czech Republic	Czech Science Foundation
GDN		Global Development Network
HFSP		Human Frontier Science Programme
HM	Estonia	Estonian Ministry of Education and Research
Hypo Tirol	Austria	Hypo Tirol Bank
IFAD		International Fund for Agricultural Development
InstGrant		Institutional Grant
IRCHSS	Ireland	Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences
KNAW	Netherlands	Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
Leibniz	Germany	The Leibniz Association
Leverhulme	UK	The Leverhulme Trust
LLP (JM)	EU	EU Lifelong Learning Programme (Jean Monnet programme)
MEC	Spain	Spanish Ministry of Education
MICINN	Spain	Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, including Ramón y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva etc.
MIUR	Italy	Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca
MIUR (FIRB)	Italy	Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, Fondo per gli Investimenti della Ricerca di Base
MIUR (PRIN)	Italy	Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, Progetti di ricerca di interesse nazionale
NatGrant		National Grant
Netspar	Netherlands	Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement
NORFACE		NORFACE
NSF	USA	US National Science Foundation
NWO	Netherlands	The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
OeNB	Austria	Austrian National Bank
Ramon Areces	Spain	Fundacion Ramón Areces
RCN	Norway	Research Council of Norway
RCUK	UK	Research Councils UK
RegGrant		Regional Grant
RegGrant (Andalucia)	Spain	Andalucia Regional Government
RegGrant (Basque)	Spain	Basque Regional Government
RegGrant (BW)	Germany	Baden-Württemberg State Government
RegGrant (C&L)	Spain	Castilla y Leon Regional Government
RegGrant (Calabria)	Italy	Calabria Regional Government
RegGrant (Catalan)	Spain	Catalan Regional Government Grant
RegGrant (EM)	Italy	Emilia-Romagna Regional Government
RegGrant (FCB)	Belgium	French-speaking Community of Belgium
RegGrant (Hesse)	Germany	Hesse State Government
RegGrant (Madrid)	Spain	Community of Madrid
RegGrant (Murcia)	Spain	Murcia Regional Government Grant
RegGrant (NW)	Germany	Northrhein-Westphalia State Government
RegGrant (Sardinia)	Italy	Sardinia Regional Government
RegGrant (Valencia)	Spain	Valencia Regional Government Grant

RegGrant (Venice)	Italy	Venetian Regional Government Grant
RJ	Sweden	Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond)
SNIS	Switzerland	Swiss Network for International Studies
SNSF	Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation
SNSF (NCCR)	Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation: National Centers of Competence in Research
SSHRC	Canada	Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Thyssen	Germany	Fritz Thyssen Foundation
TUBITAK	Turkey	Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
USIP	USA	United States Institute for Peace
Volkswagen	Germany	Volkswagen Foundation
VR	Sweden	Swedish Research Council
VRWB	Belgium	Flemish Science Policy Council
WWTF	Austria	Vienna Science and Technology Fund
YJF	Finland	Yrjö Jahansson Foundation

Appendix 2.1

Selected graphs separated by discipline.