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ACADEMIC CAREERS OBSERVATORY
MAX WEBER PROGRAMME FOR POST-DOCTORAL STUDIES

Survey on Research Funding for the Social Sciences in Europe

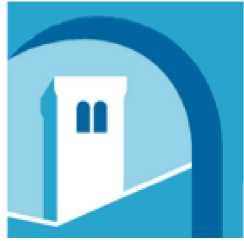
**Max Weber Programme
Academic Careers Observatory
&
European Economic Association
European Sociological Association
European Consortium for Political Research**

Ramon Marimon

European University Institute & UPF-BarcelonaGSE

Igor Guardiancich, Mike Mariathan and Eva Rossi

European University Institute



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Part I

The sample and the experience



EEA and MWP-ACO Survey on Economics

The union of two samples:

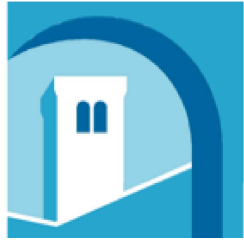
1. RePEc European economists: top 12.5% *union* top 25% of every European country;
2. EEA members.

Total number of economists invited: 5416

Total number of valid responses: 2385

Web support: LimeService

Period: June 21st to July 15th, 2010



ESA and MWP-ACO Survey on Sociology

The union of two samples:

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

Total number of sociologists invited: 2180

Total number of valid responses: 766

Web support: LimeService

Period: October 25th to November 17th, 2010

ECPR and MWP-ACO Survey on Political Science

The union of two samples:

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

Total number of political scientists invited: 12348

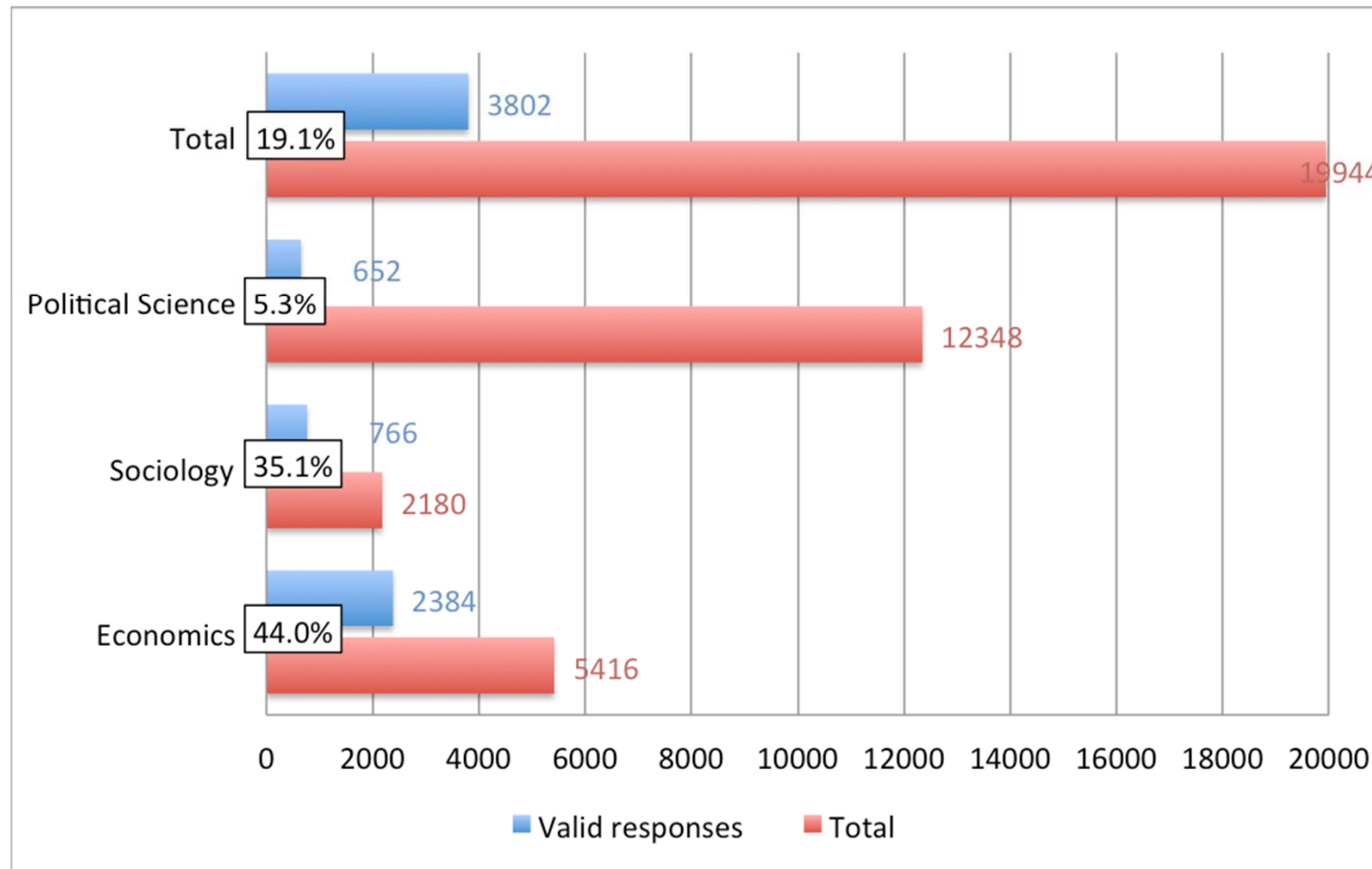
Total number of valid responses: 652

Web support: LimeService

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

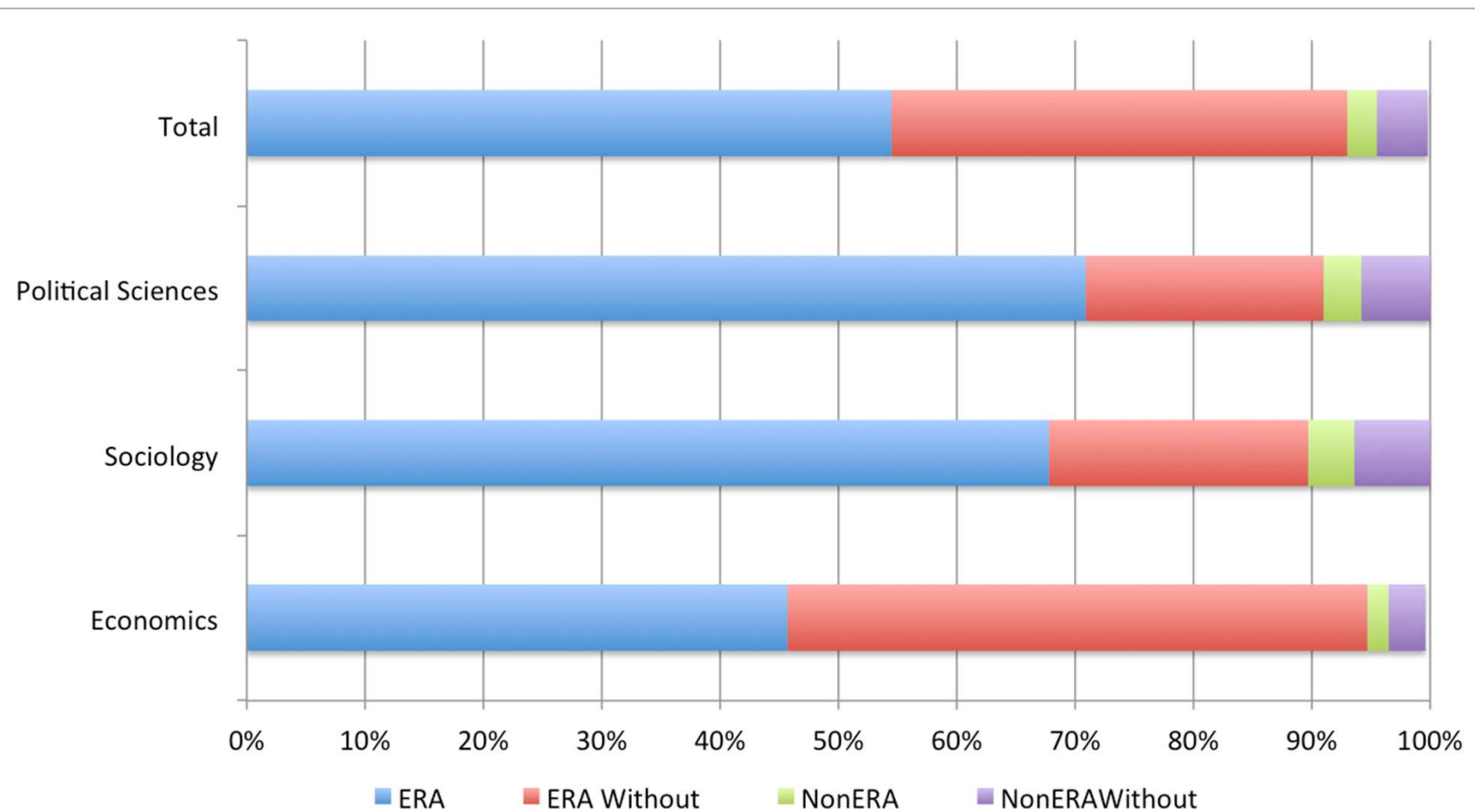


Response rates (all disciplines)





Experience (all disciplines)



The grouping of countries

CEE	Central and Eastern European		Anglo-Saxon		Continental
BG	Bulgaria	UK	United Kingdom	BE	Belgium
CZ	Czech Republic			DE	Germany
EE	Estonia		Other Anglo-Saxon	FR	France
HR	Croatia	CH	Switzerland	IT	Italy
HU	Hungary	IR	Ireland	SP	Spain
LT	Lithuania	IL	Israel		
LV	Latvia	NL	Netherlands	Other Continental	
PL	Poland			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	TK	Turkey
		SW	Sweden		



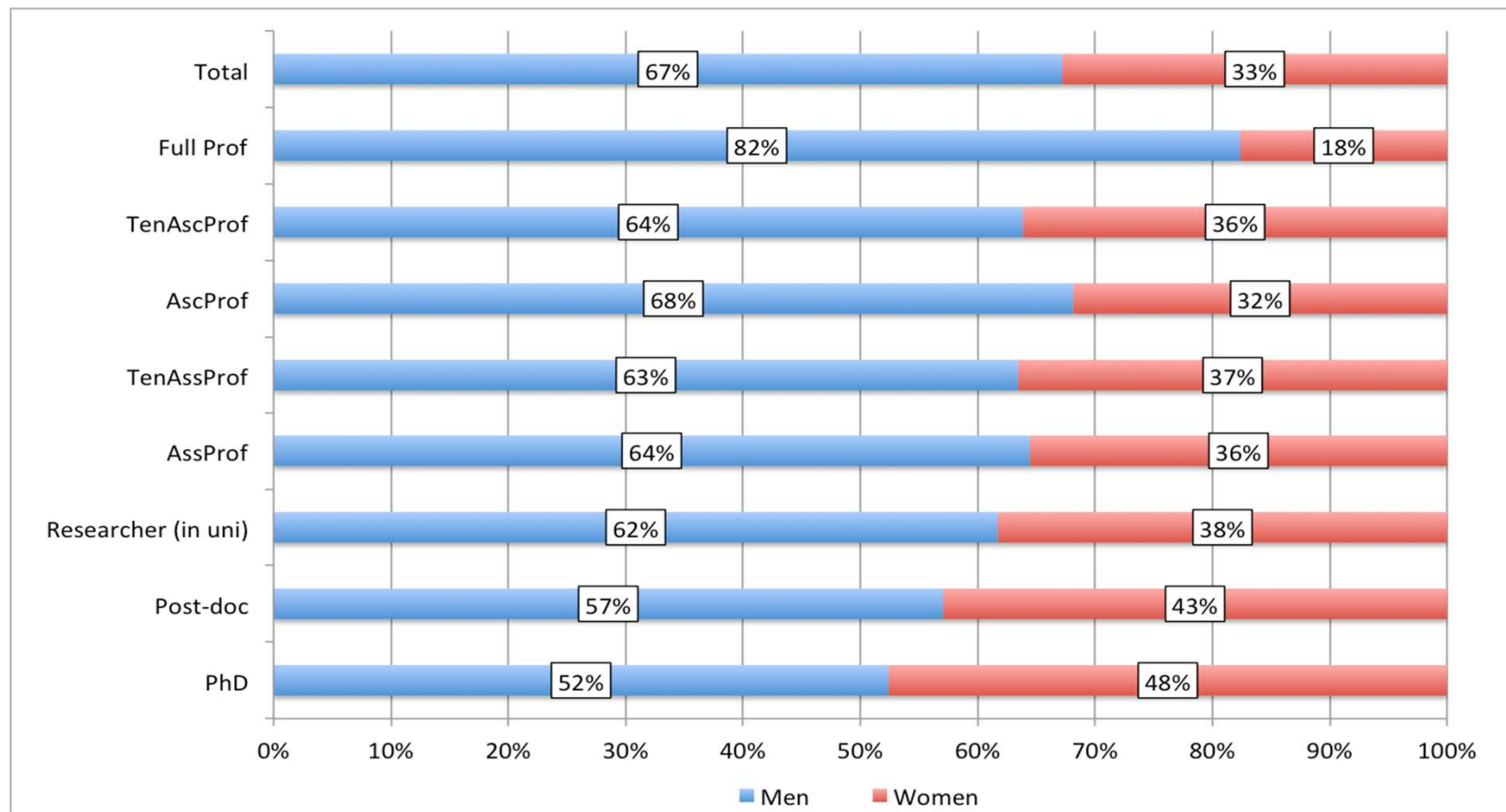
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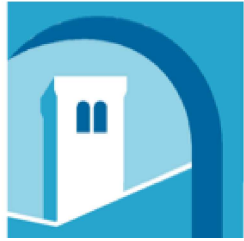
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Part II

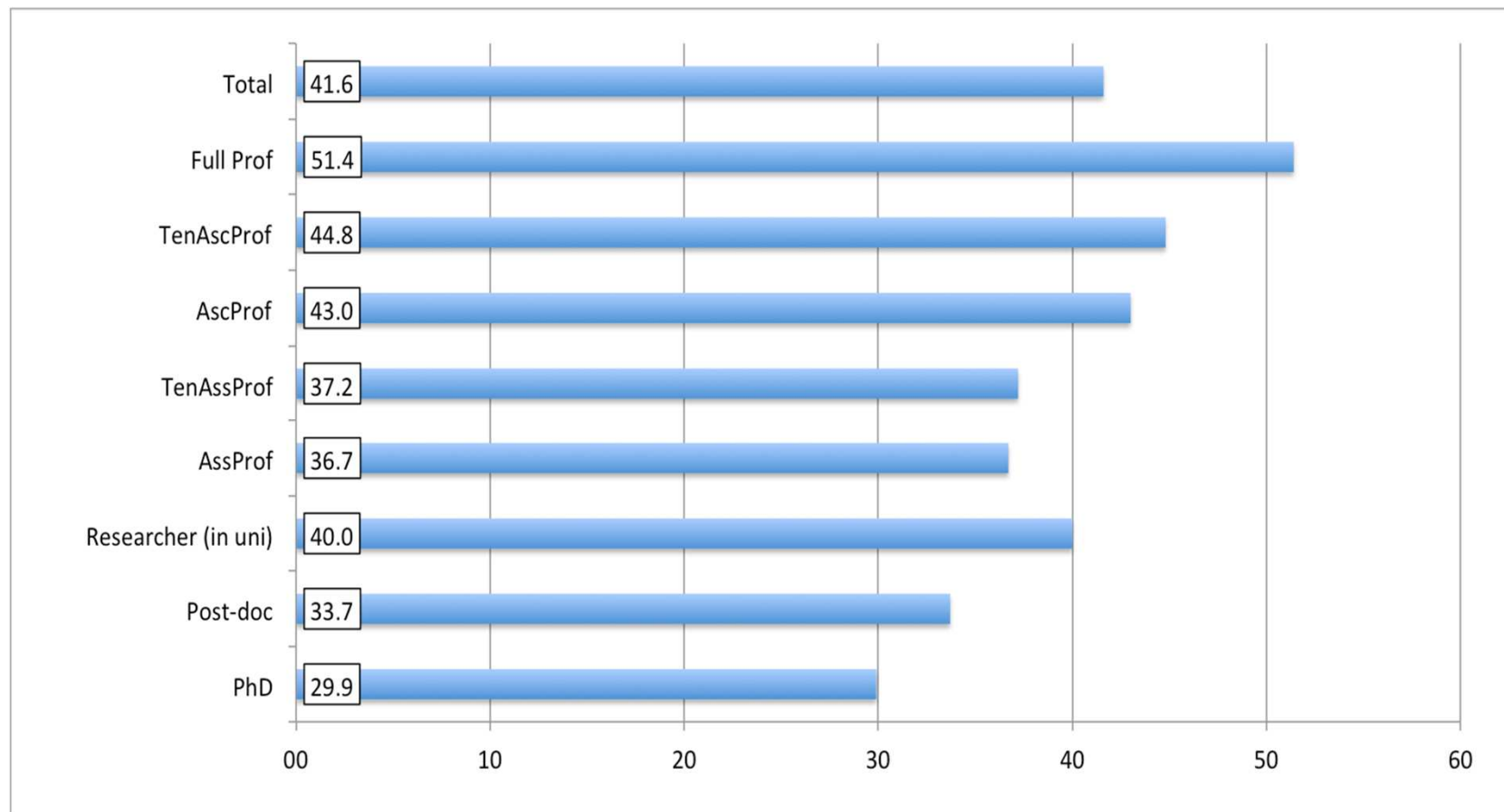
The sociology of the profession

The professional profile by gender (all disciplines)



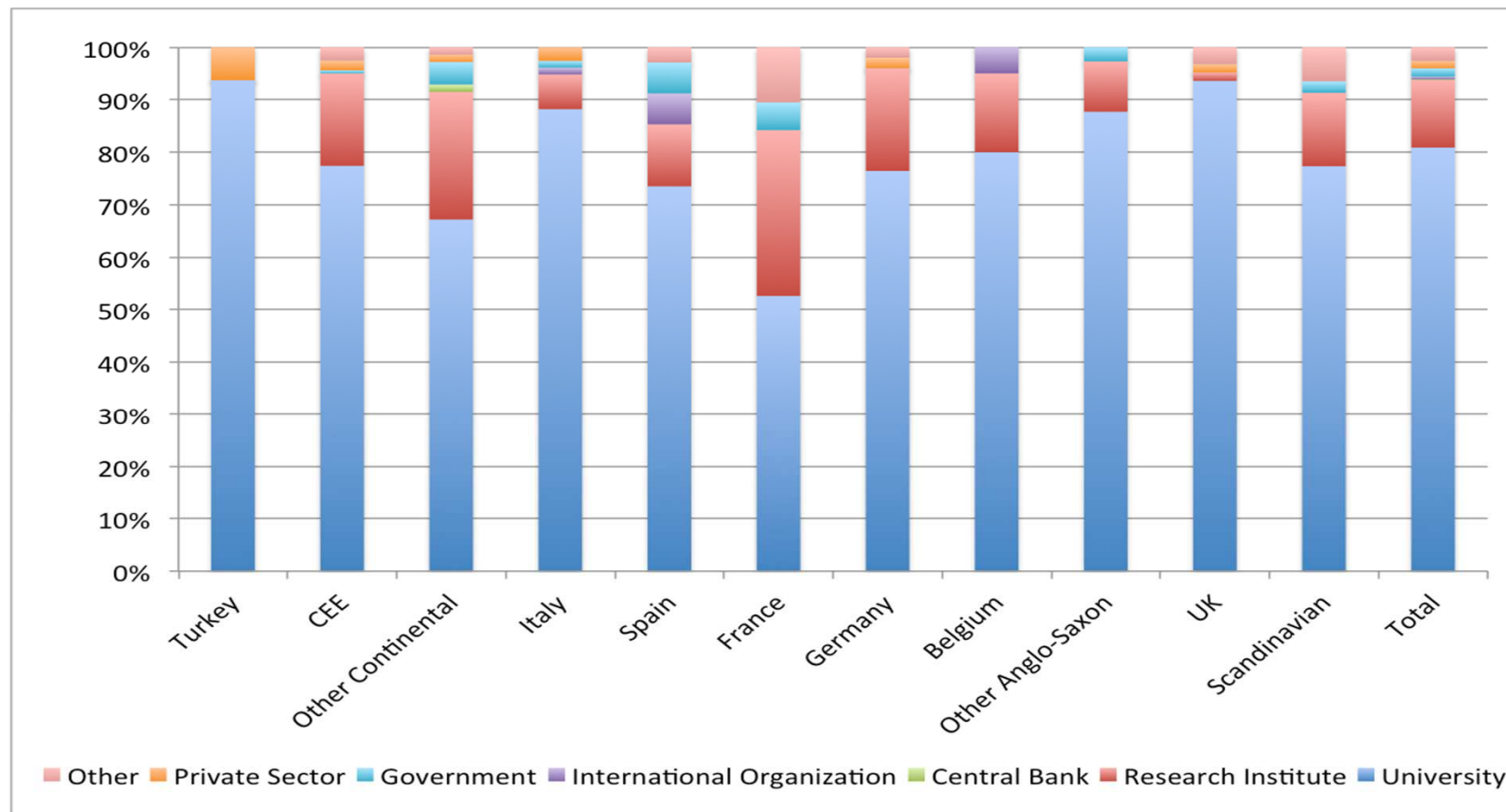


The professional profile by age (all disciplines)



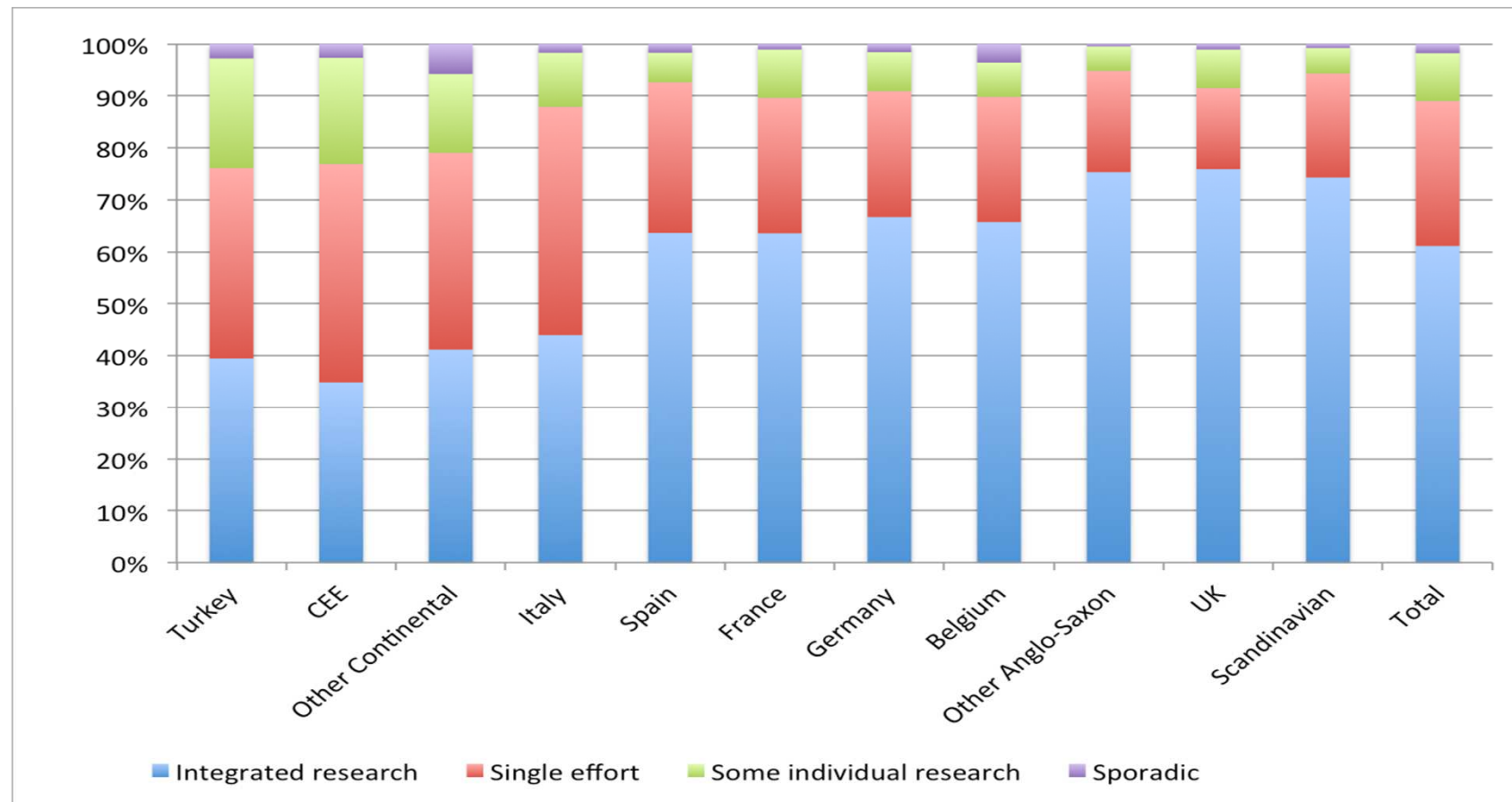


The job environment (all disciplines)

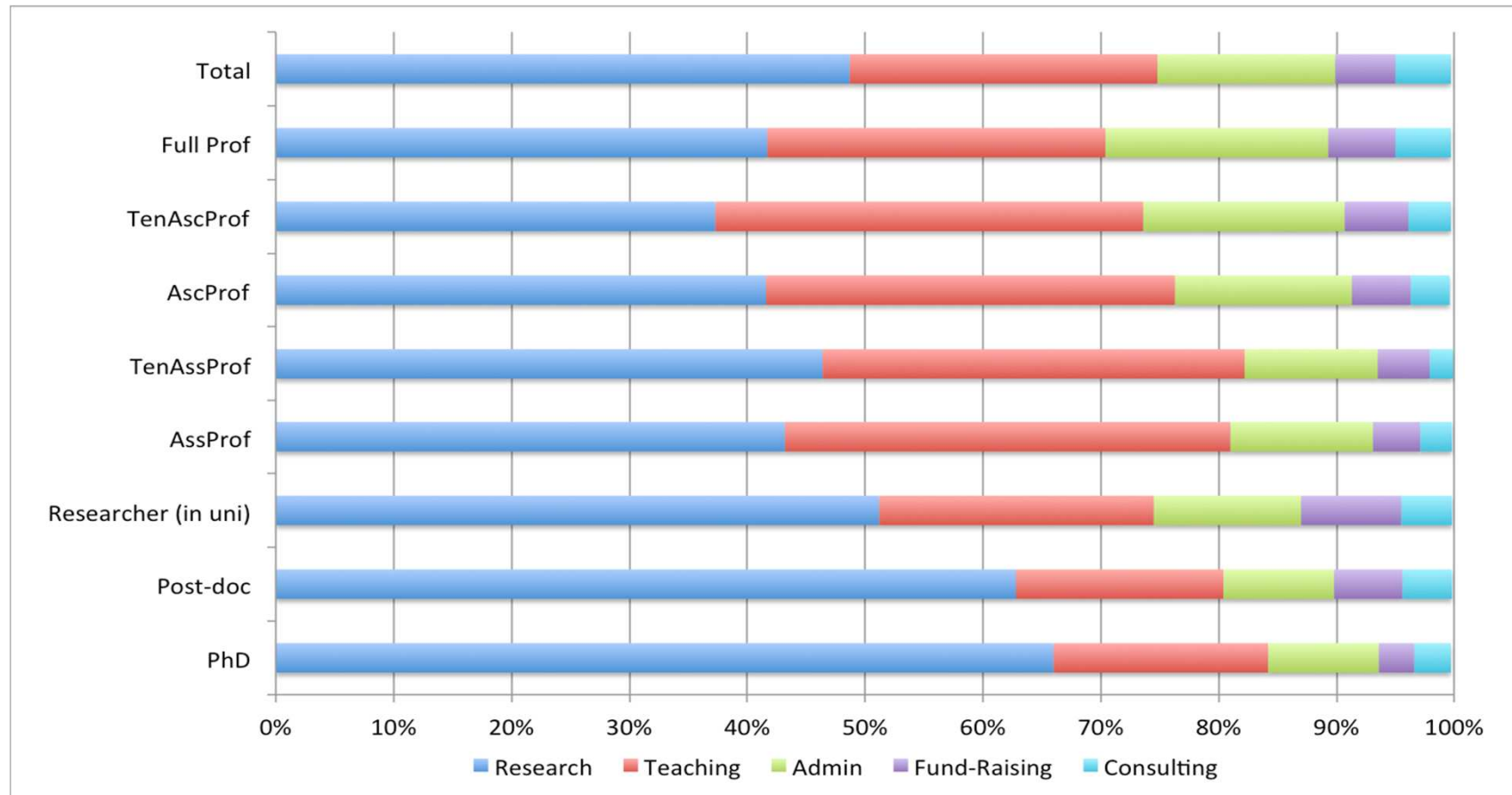




The research environment (all disciplines)

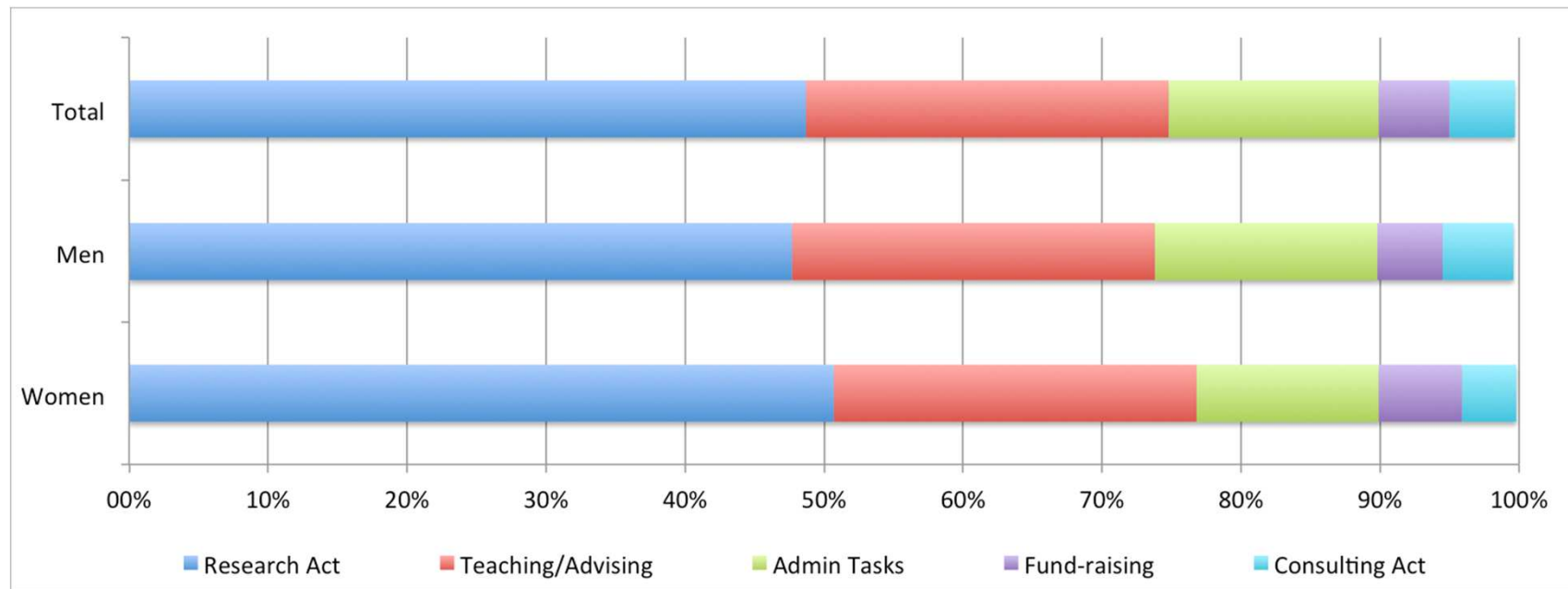


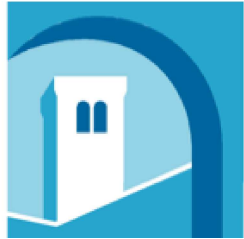
Working time by position (all disciplines)



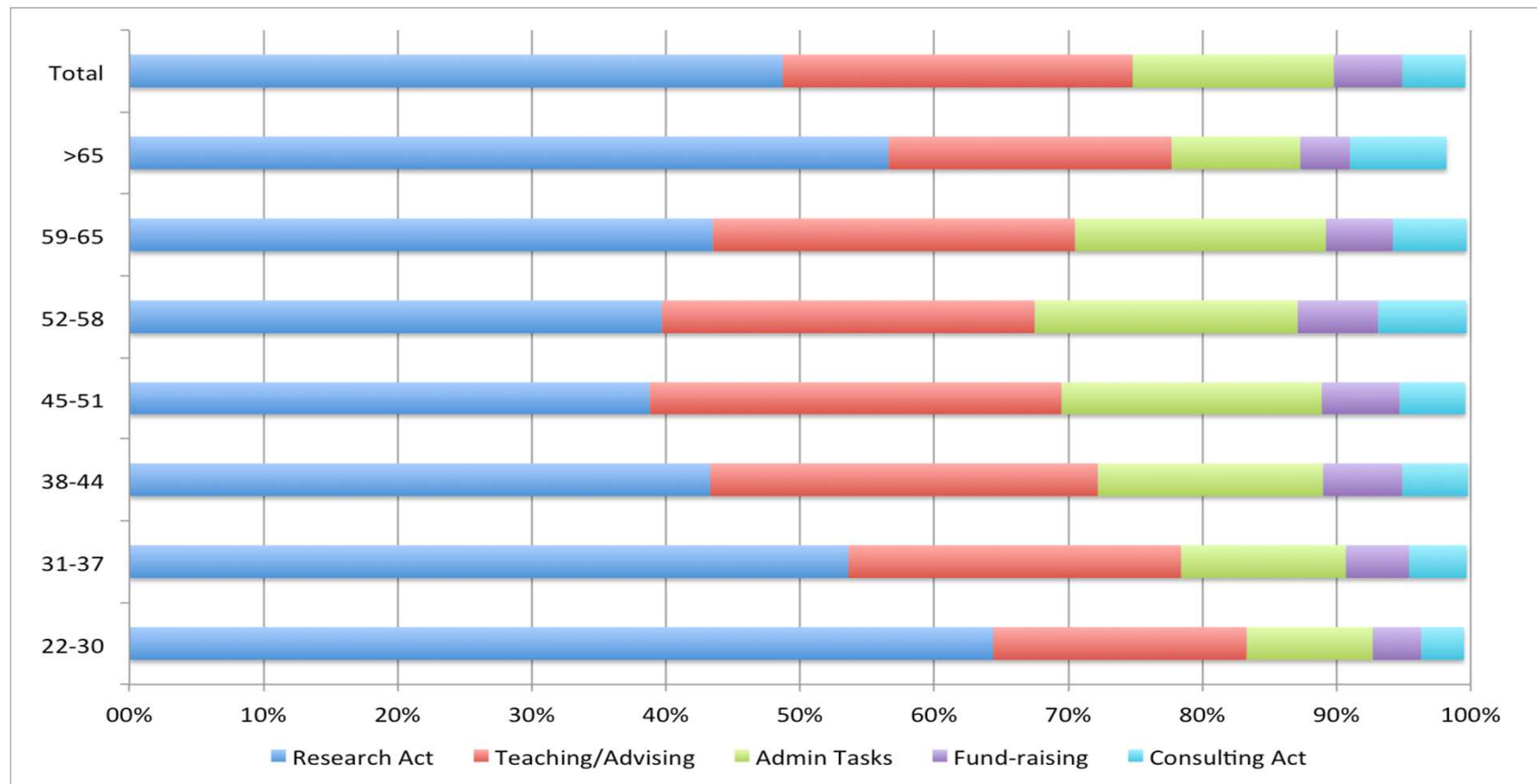


Working time by gender (all disciplines)





Working time by age (all disciplines)

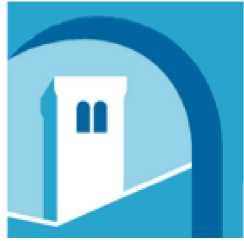


The survey provides a sociological picture of researchers in economics, sociology and political science in Europe:

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

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

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

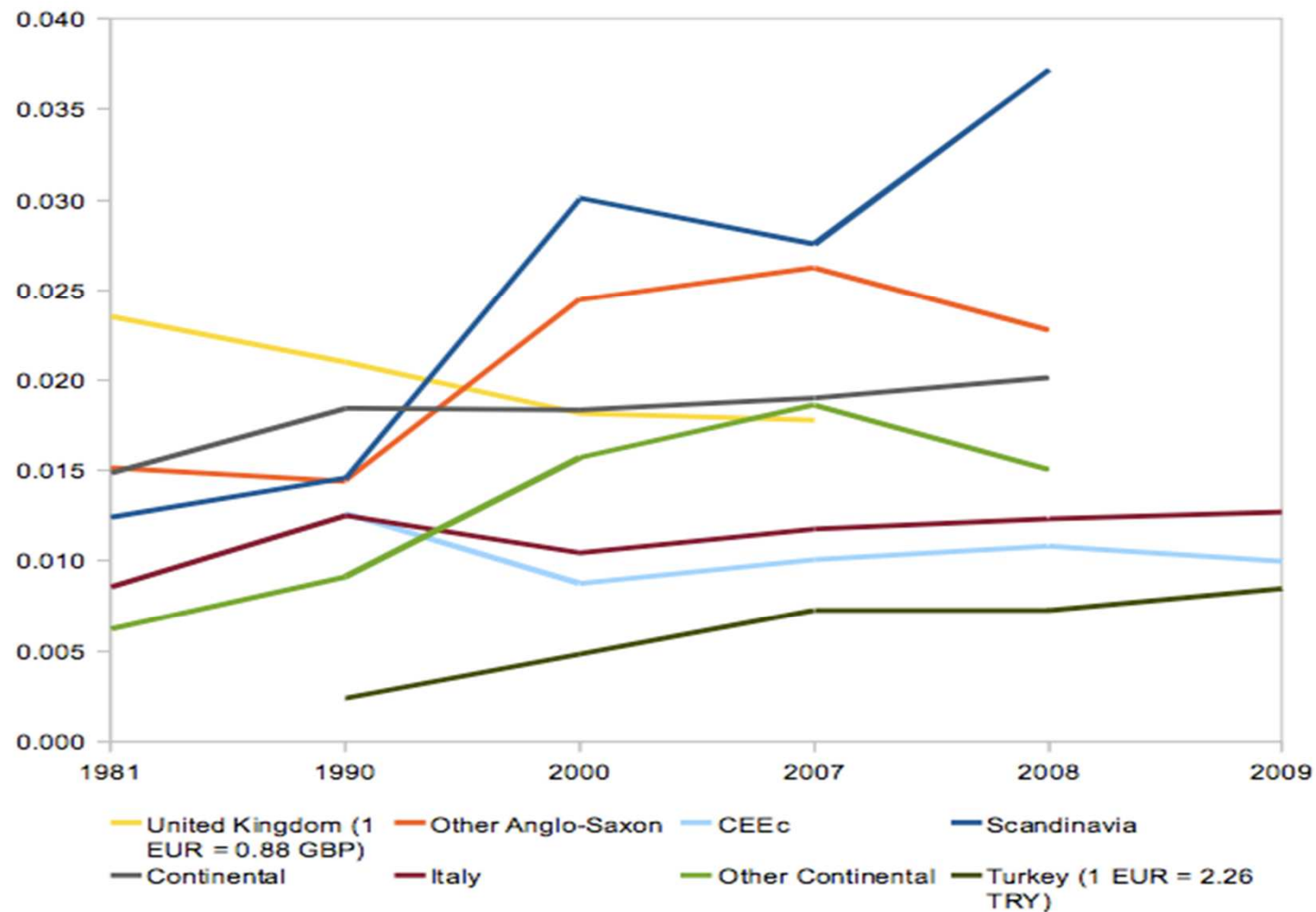


Part III

Research funding: facts and figures

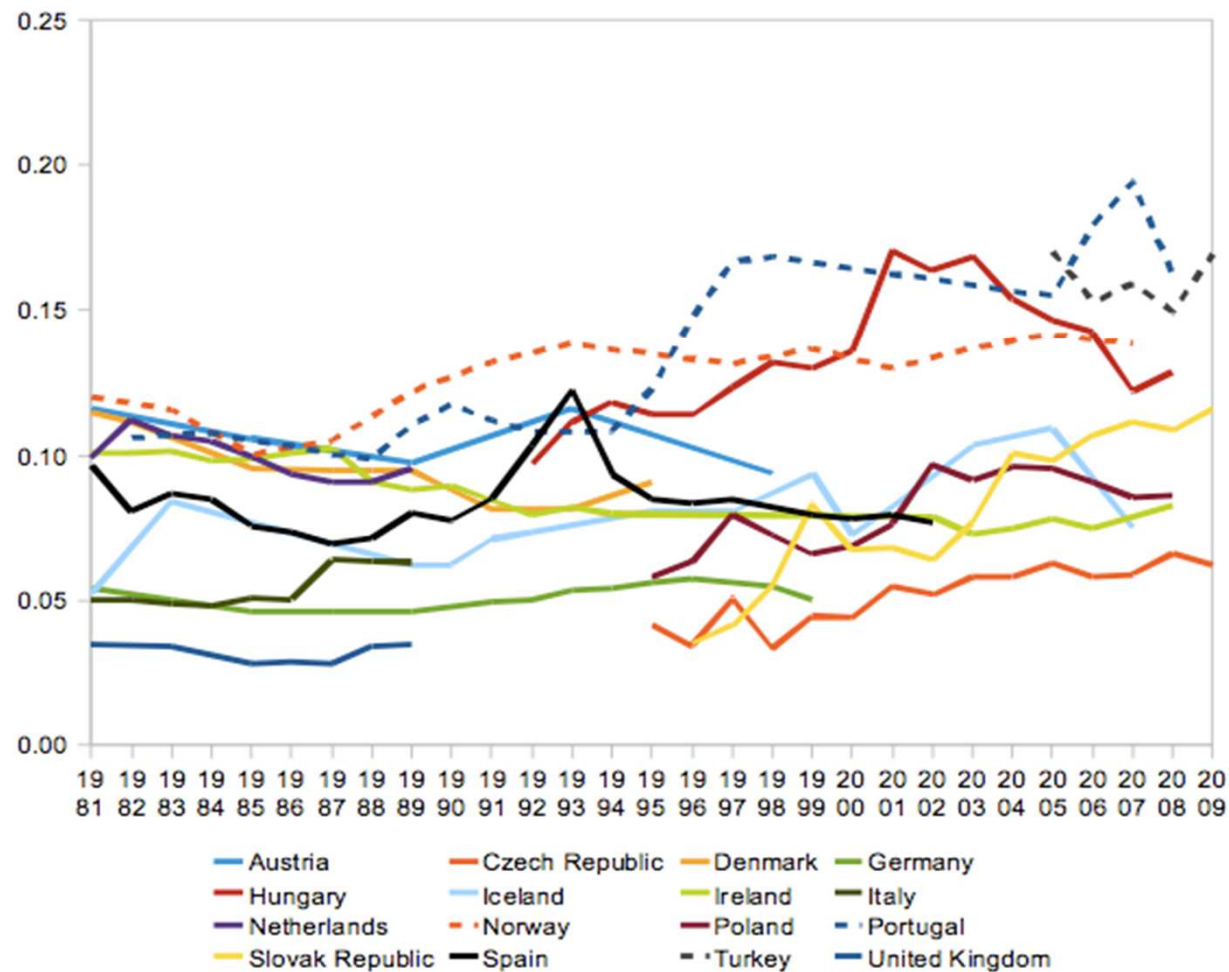


R&D expenditure (as % of GDP)



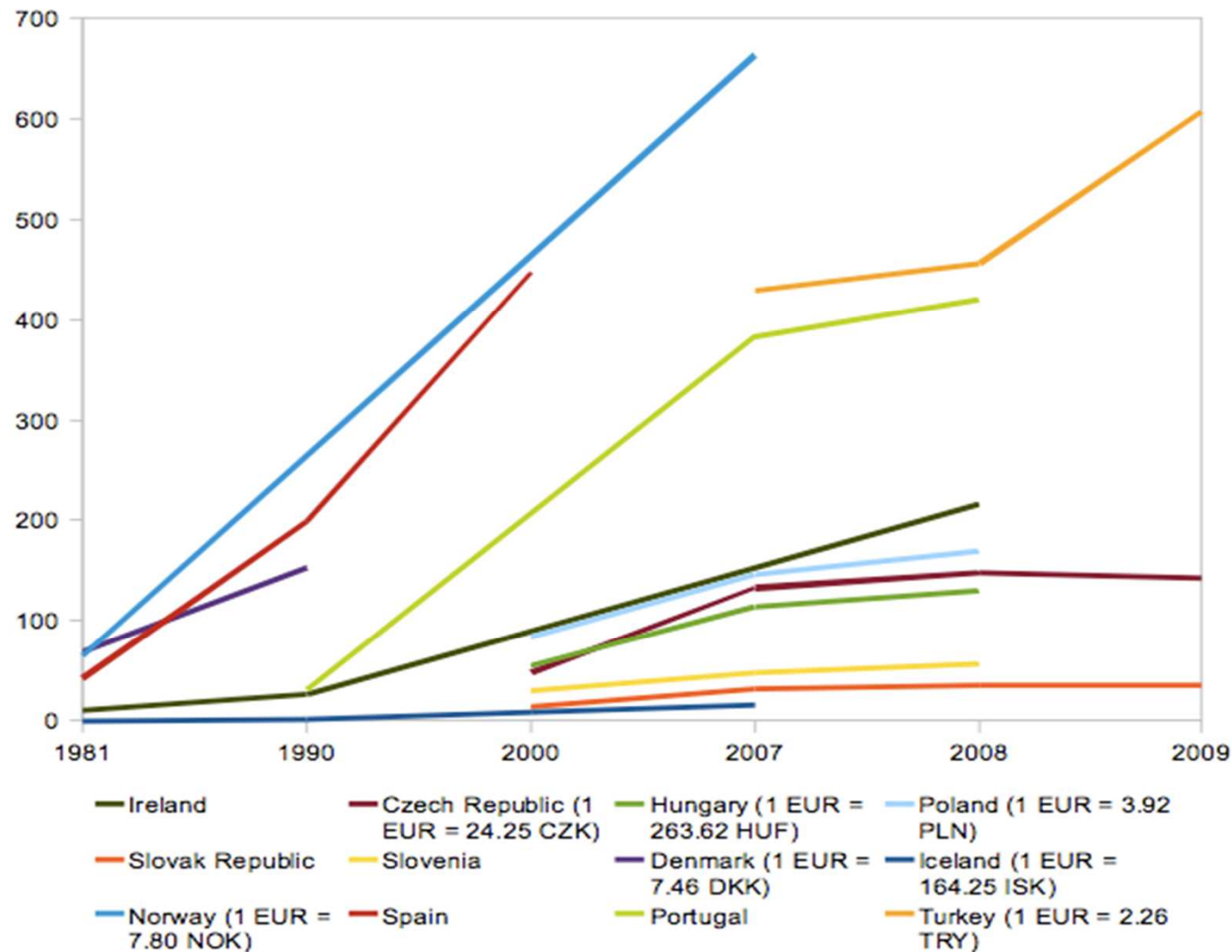


Gross domestic expenditure (intramural) on SSH (as % of Total R&D)



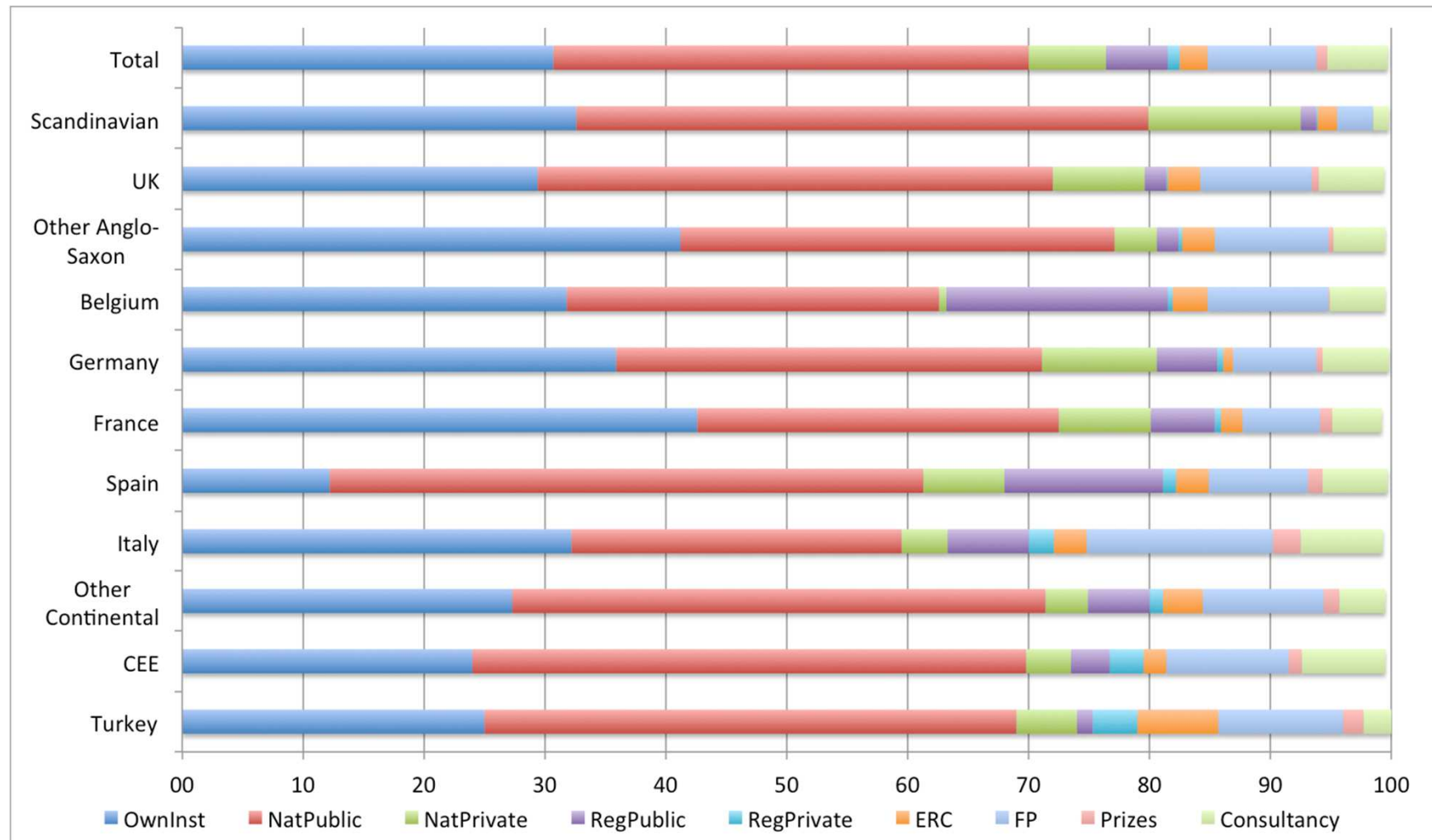


Total R&D Expenditure for SSH (in Million EUR)



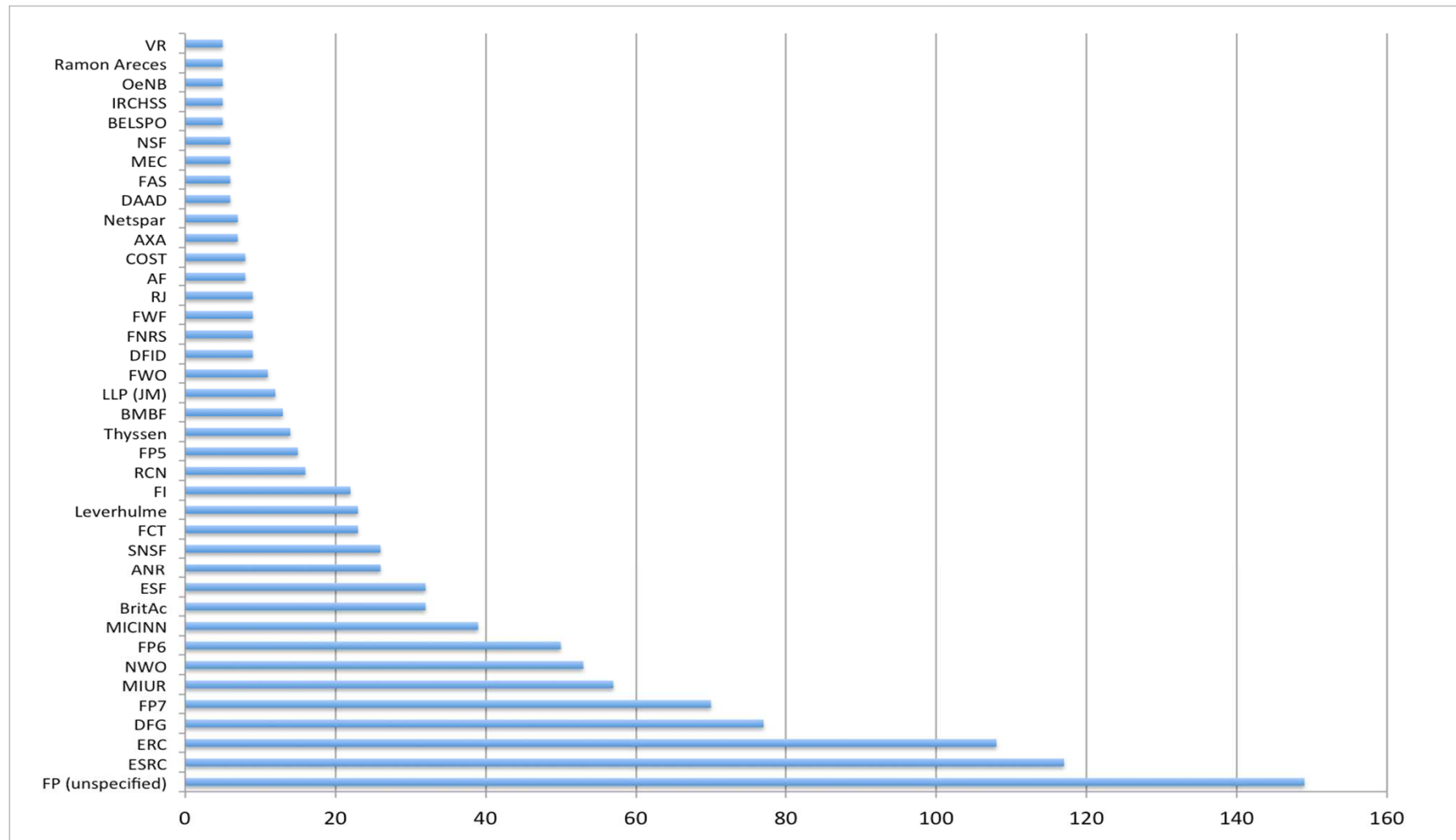


Sources of budget funding (all disciplines)





Funding agencies (frequencies for all disciplines)



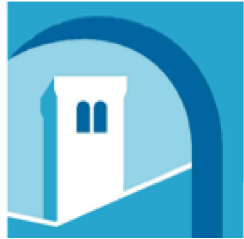


The main funding source is national, although the balance between National Public and Own Institutional funding is fairly heterogeneous across countries. The sum of both sources is close to 60% in Belgium, Italy and Spain, climbing up to 80% in Scandinavian countries.

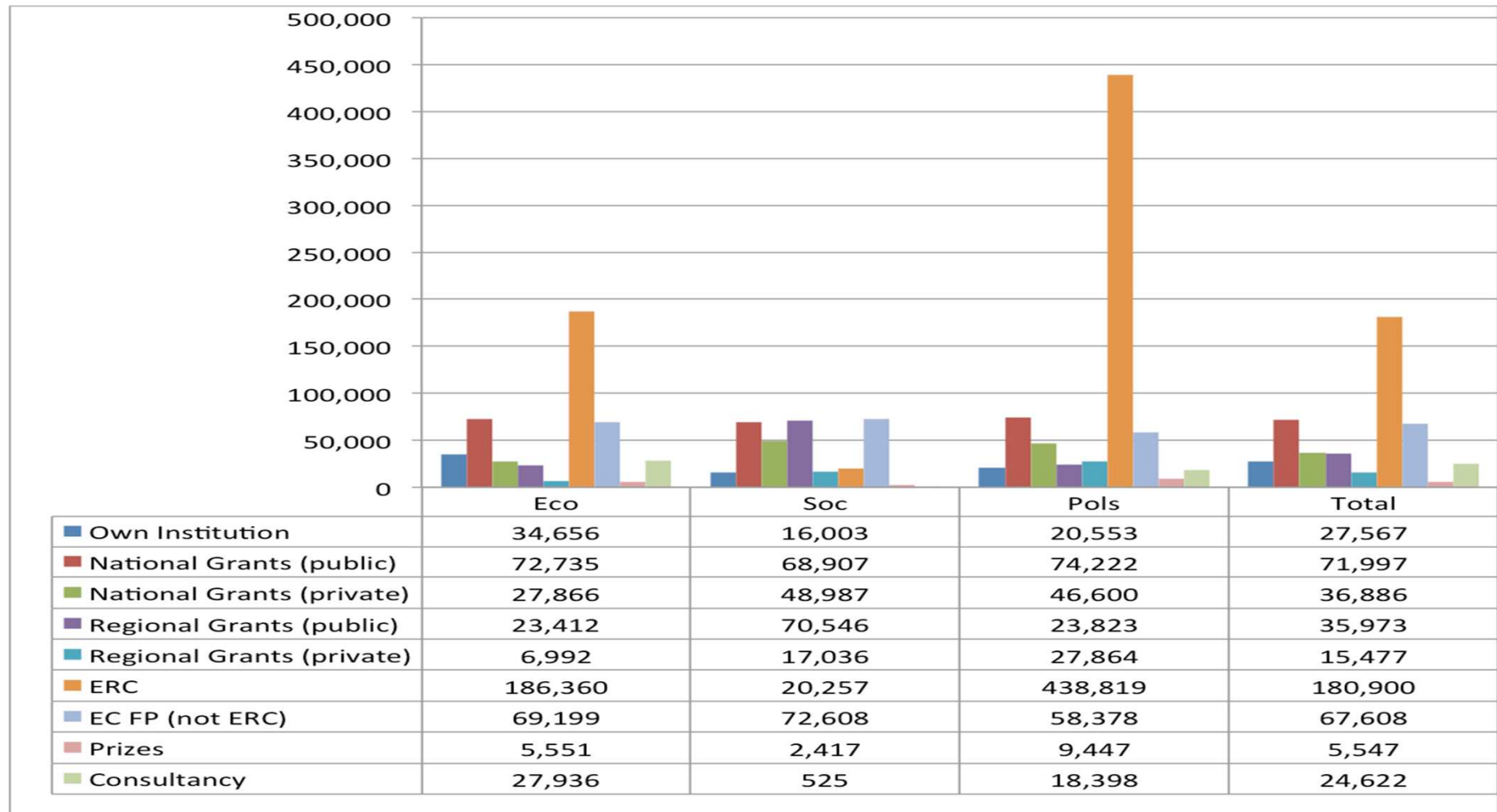
In Scandinavia and in Germany there is a wealth of National Private funding institutions, which provide more between 10% and 12% of all financing.

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

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



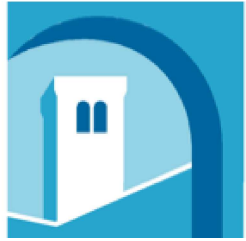
Amounts of funding by discipline





The differences on funding by country of residence

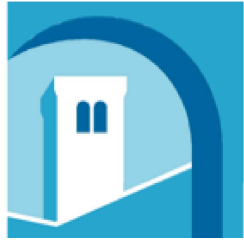
		Annual Budget UPDATED MINIMUM 100 euro													
		Sociology		Political Sciences		Economy				Sociology		Political Sciences		Economy	
		National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution			National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution	National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



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

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

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

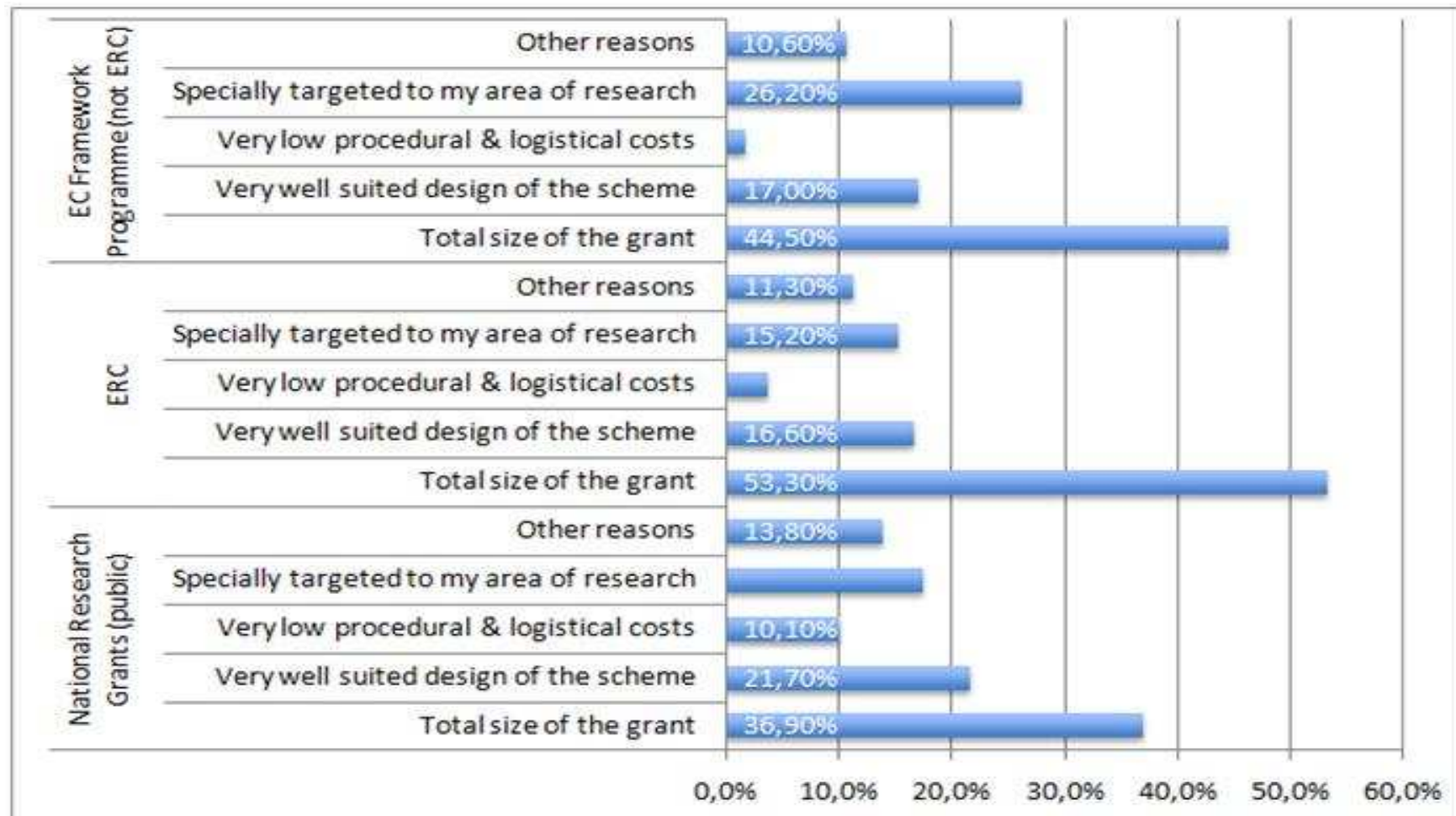


Part IV

Perceptions on research funding

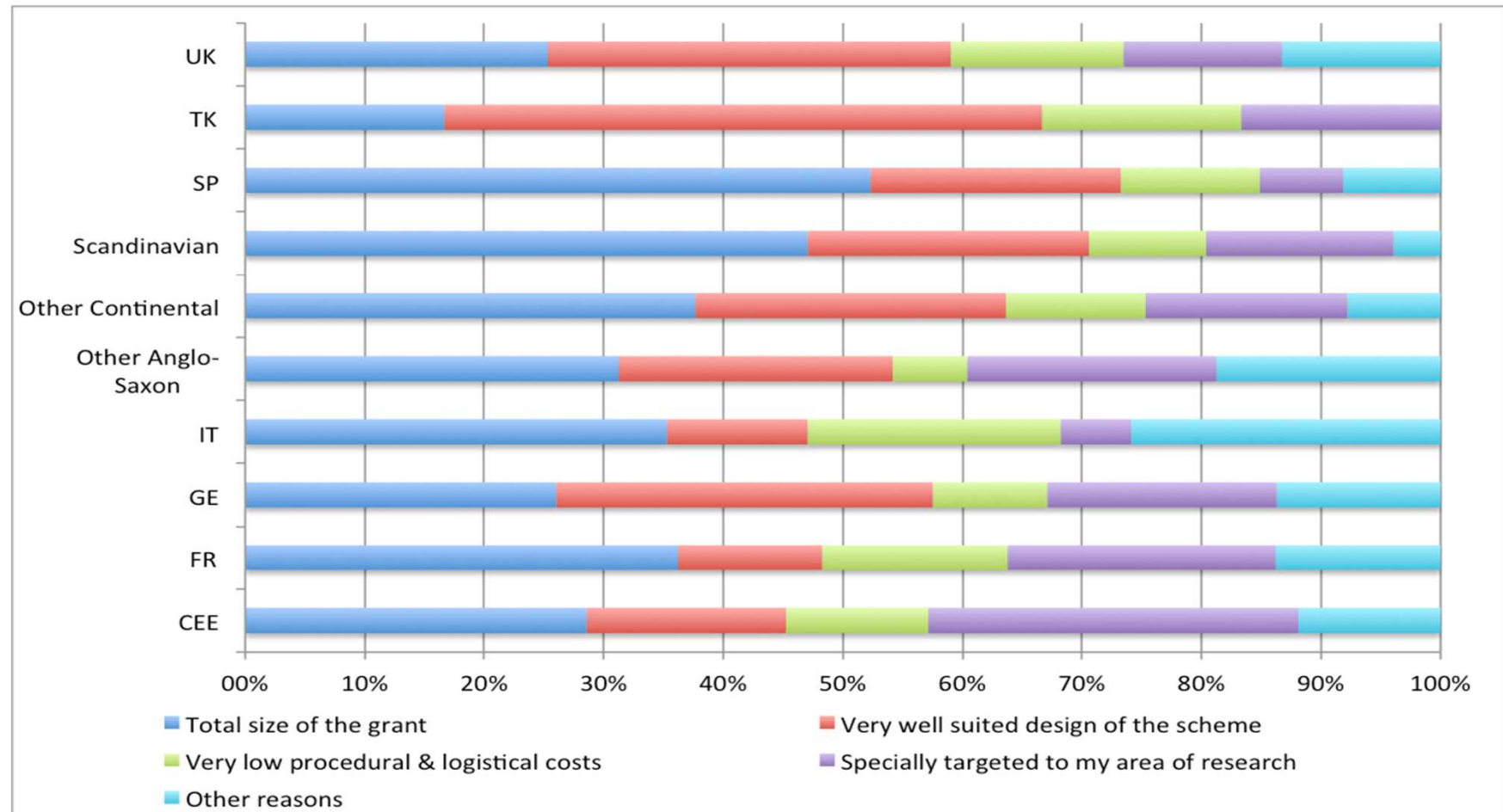


Reasons to apply for funding (all disciplines)



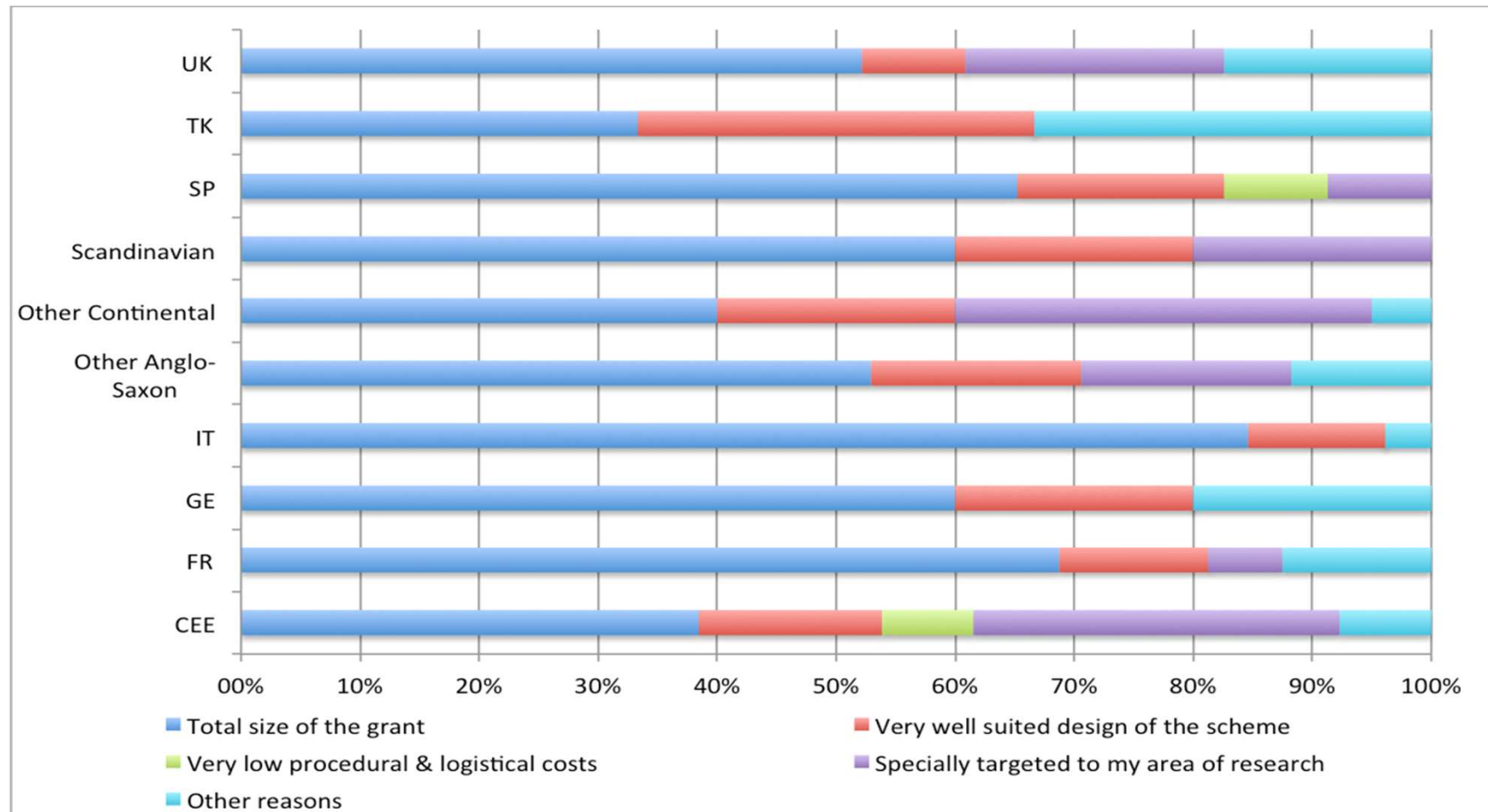


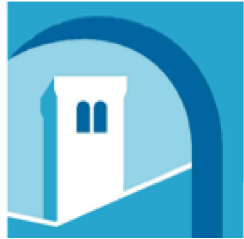
Reasons to apply to National Research Grants (public)



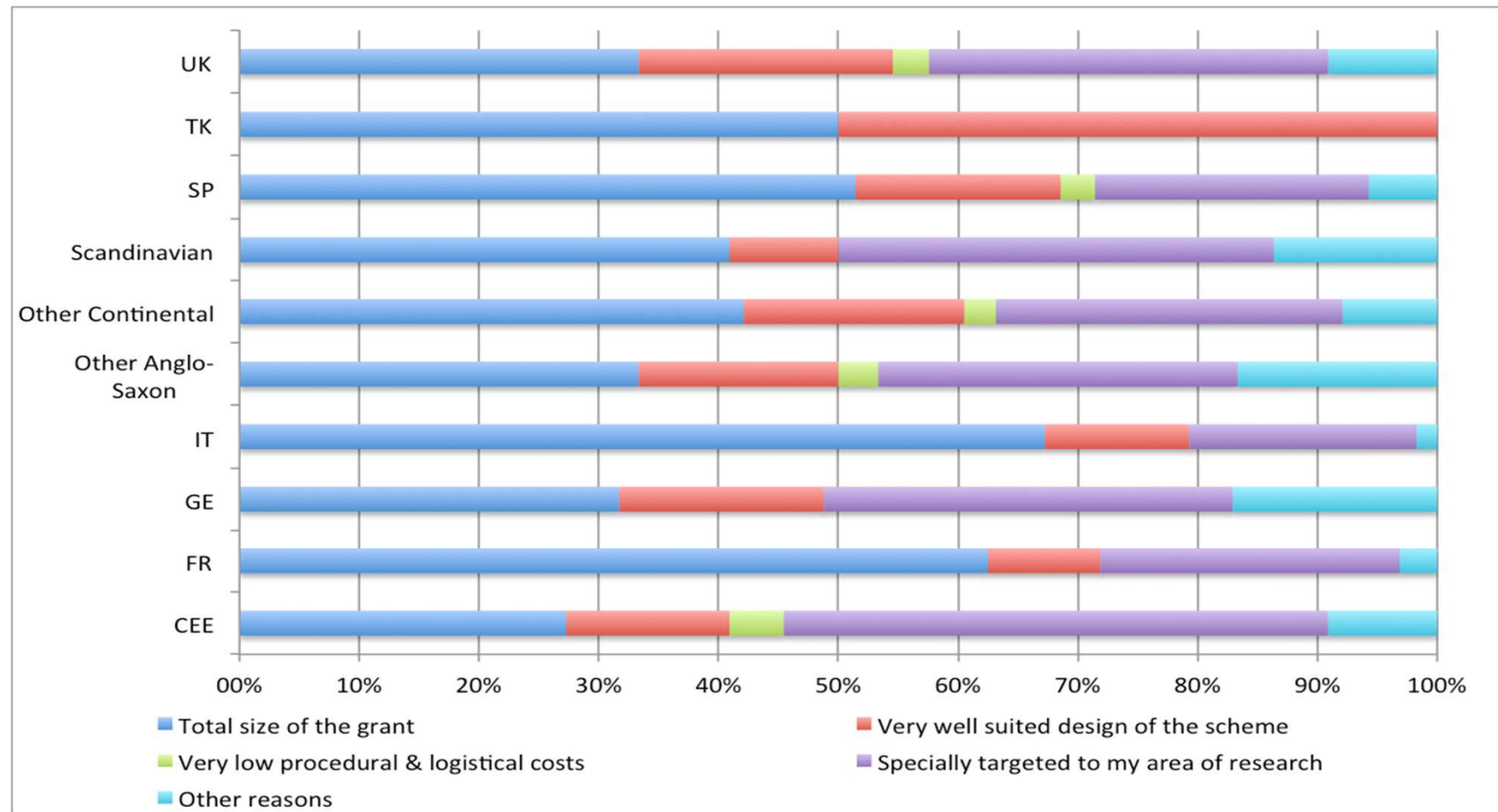


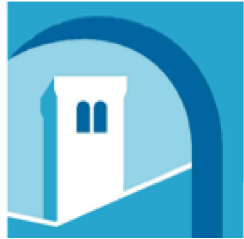
Reasons to apply to the ERC



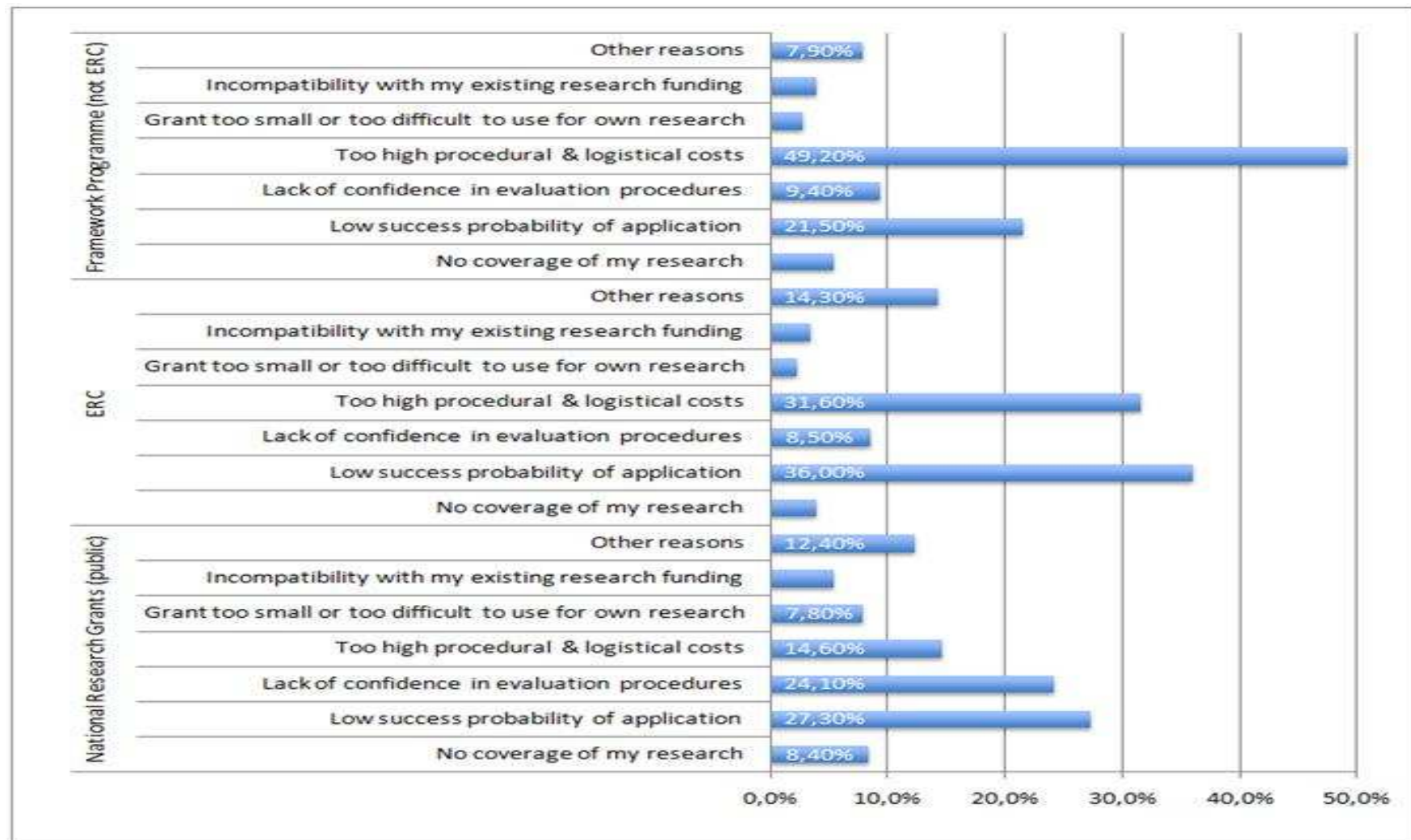


Reasons to apply to the EC Framework Programme (not ERC)



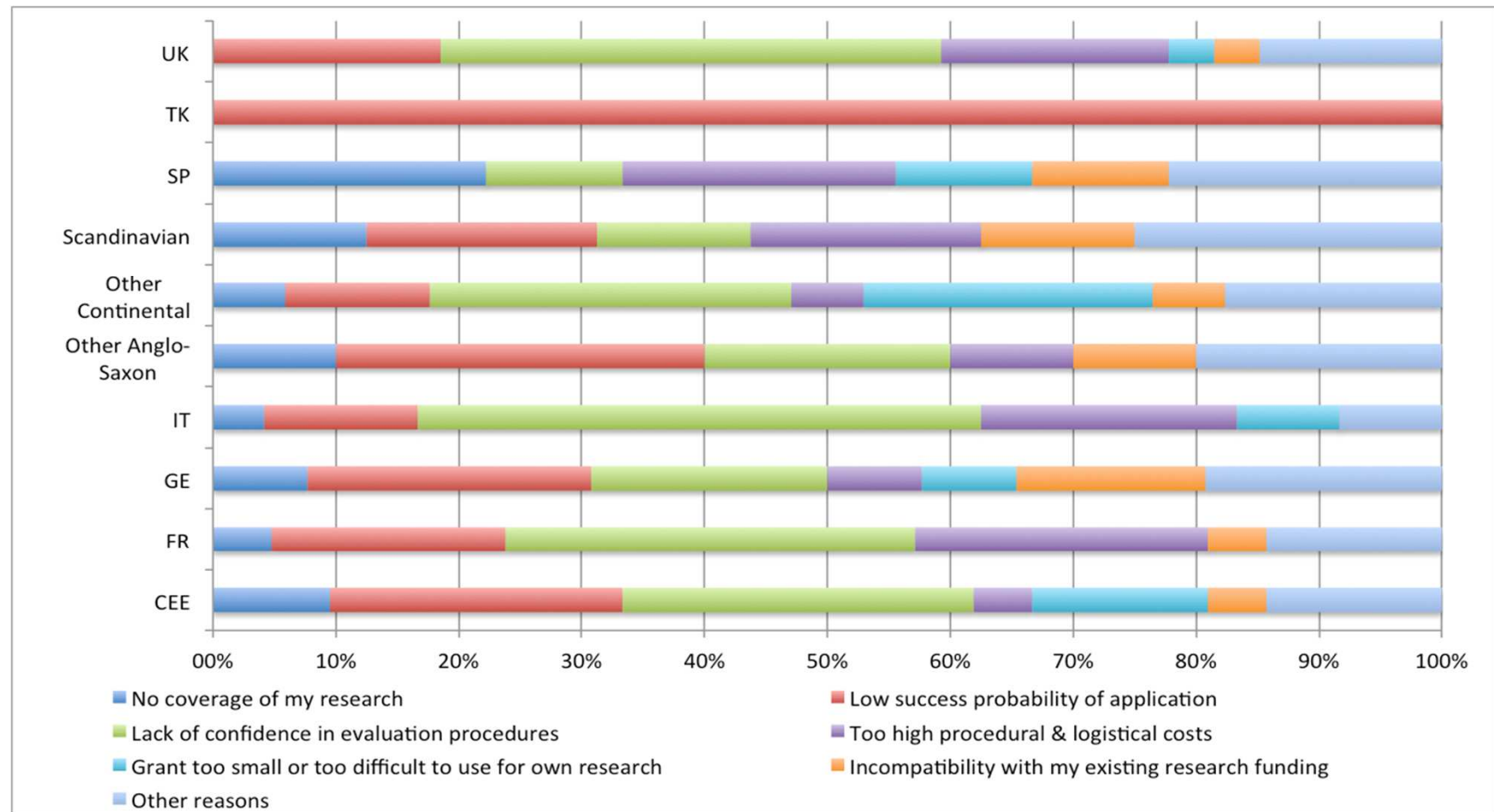


Reasons NOT to apply for funding (all disciplines)



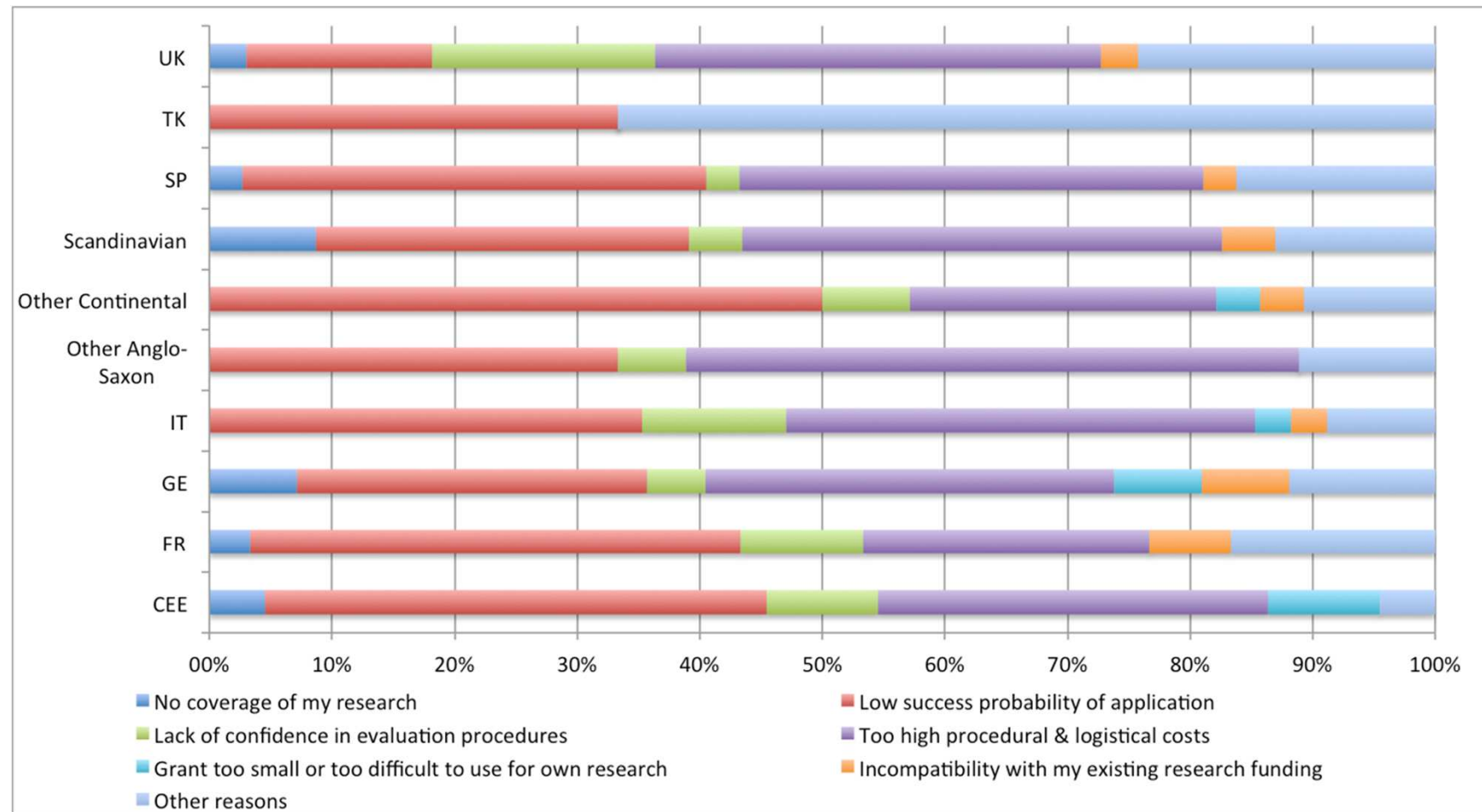


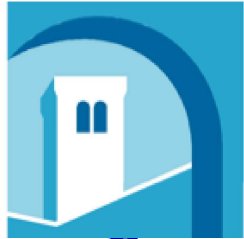
Reasons NOT to apply to National Research Grants (public)



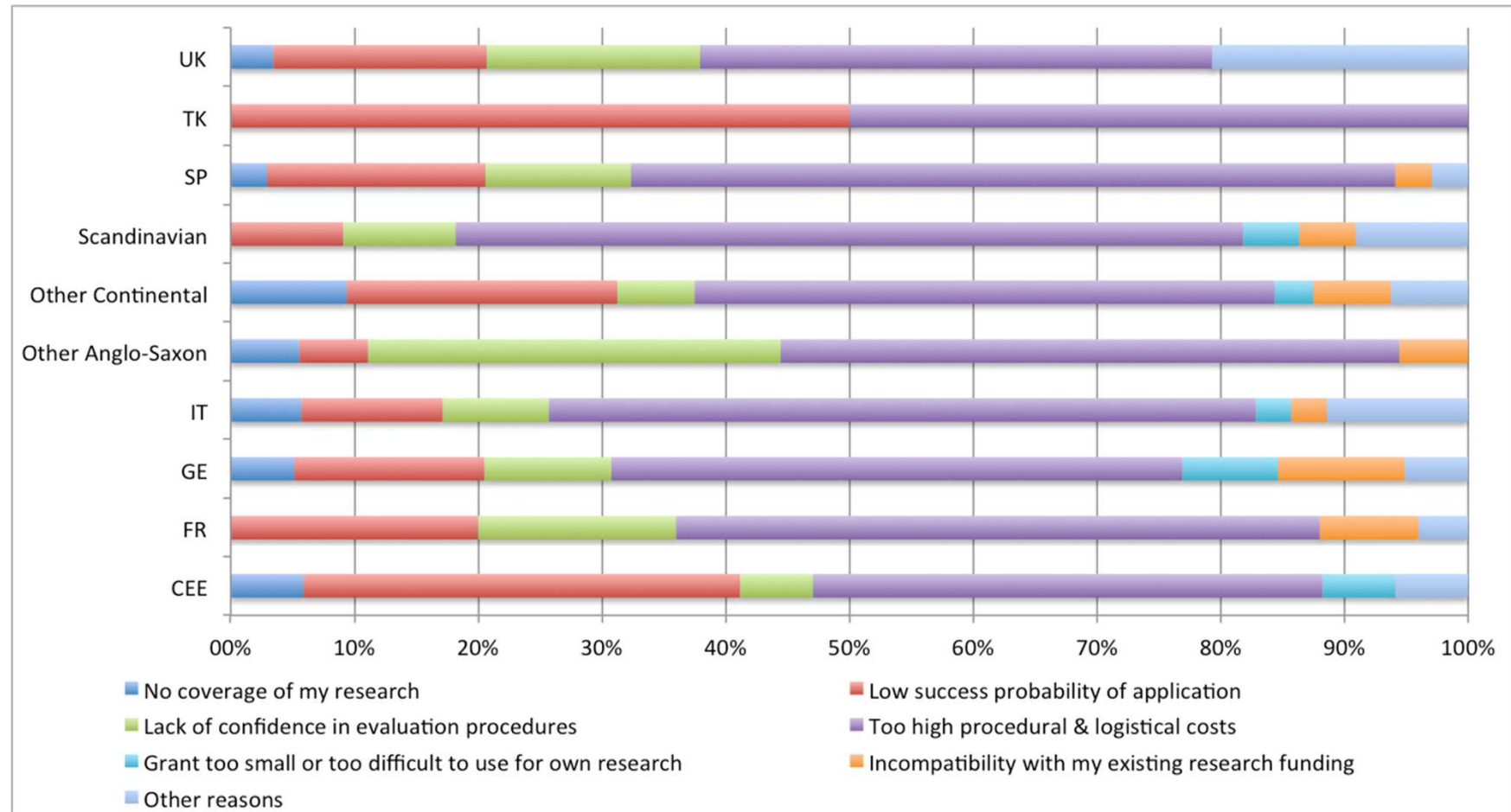


Reasons NOT to apply to the ERC



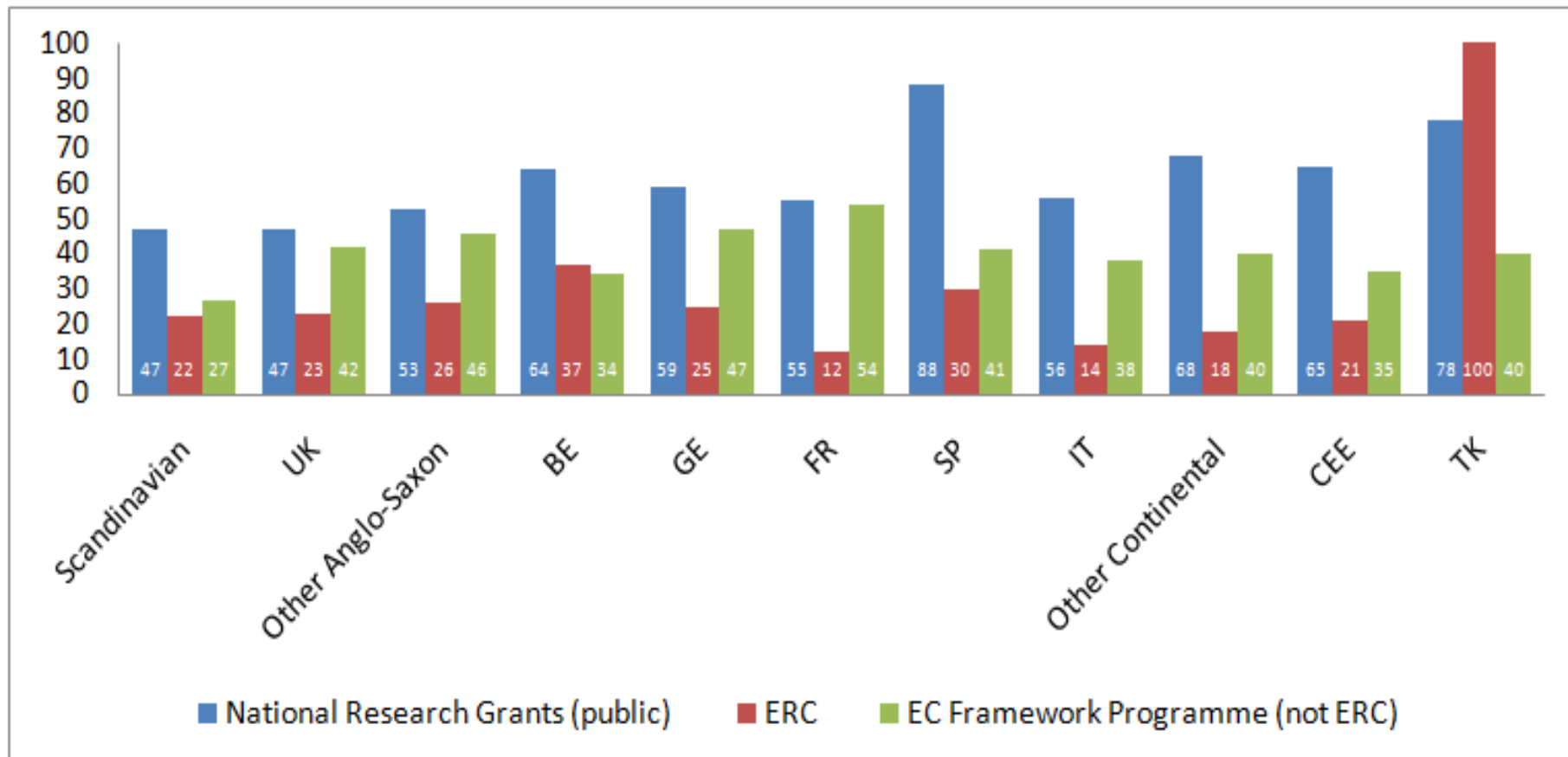


Reasons NOT to apply to the EC Framework Programme (not ERC)



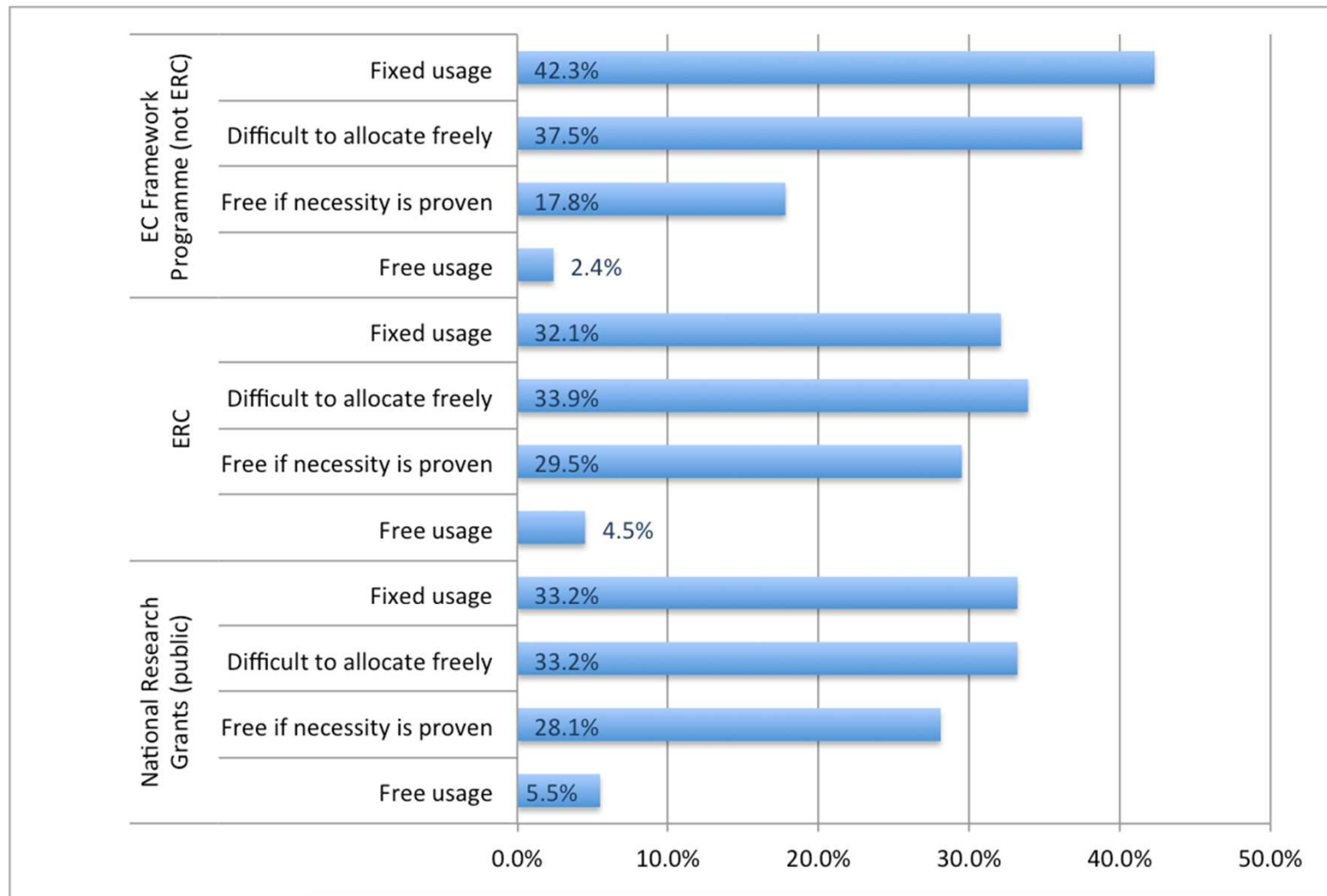


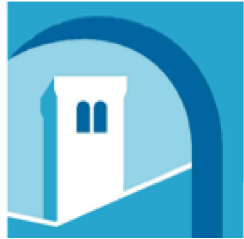
Application success rates by country of residence



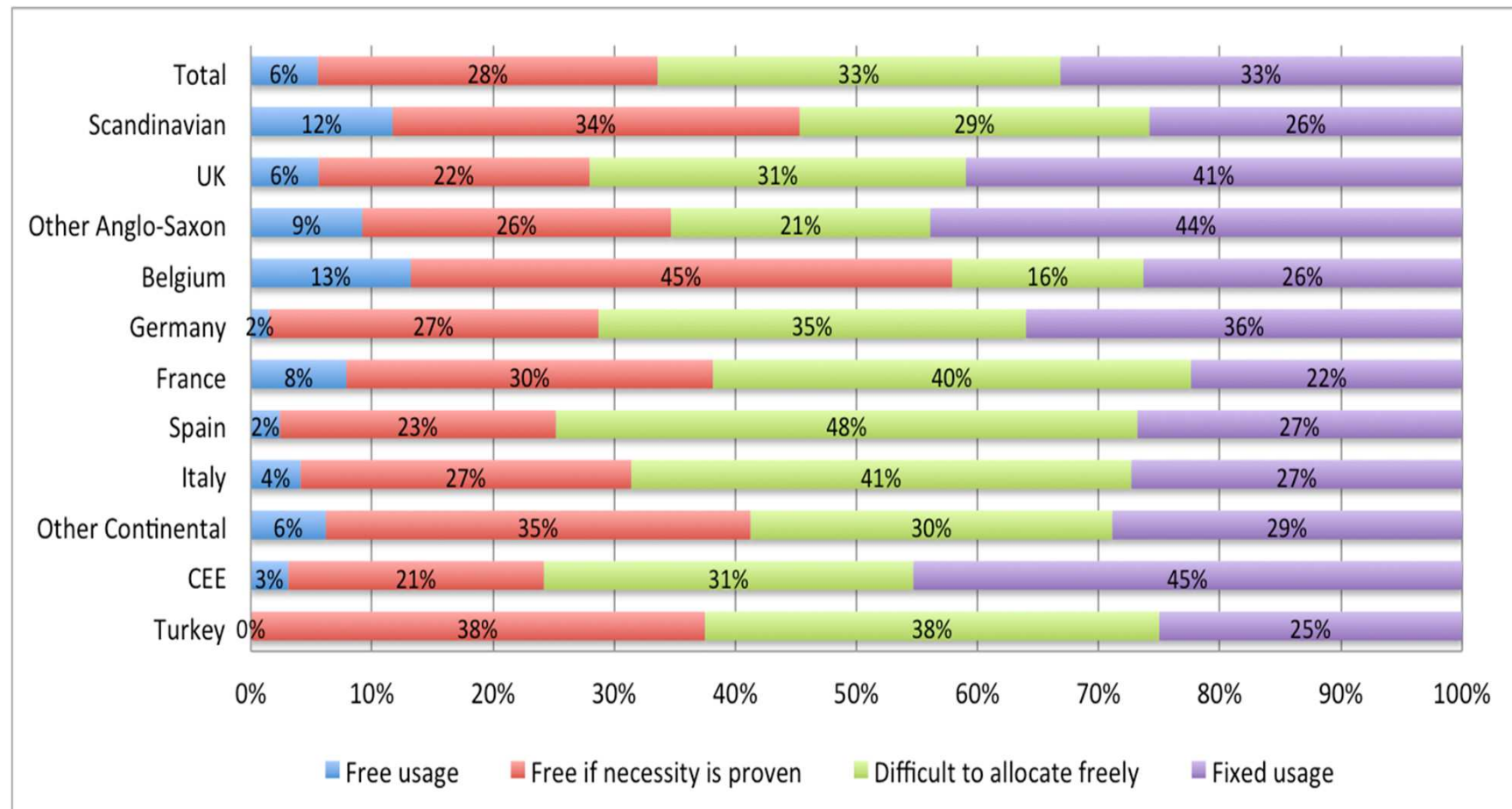


The allocation of research funding (all disciplines)



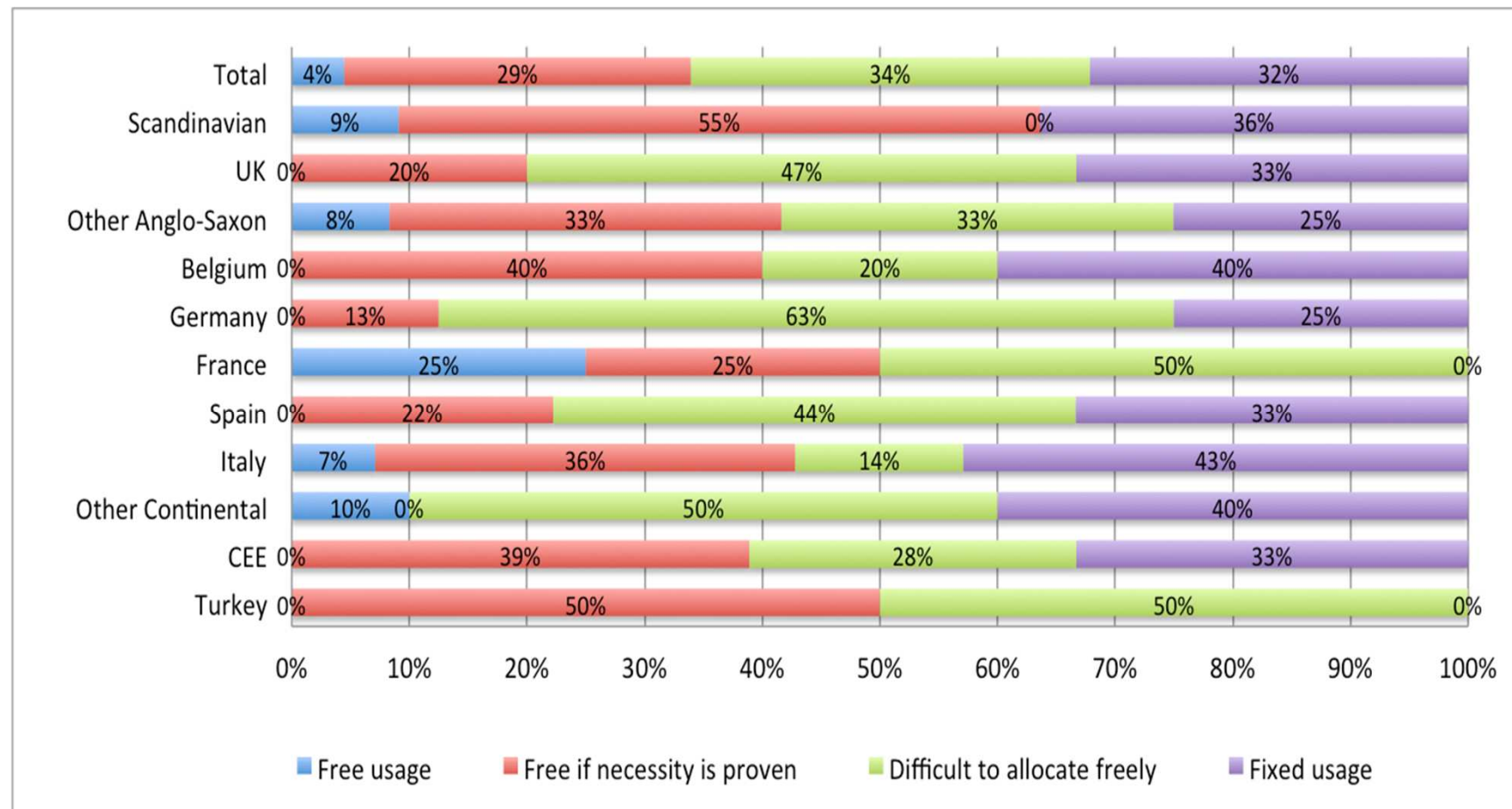


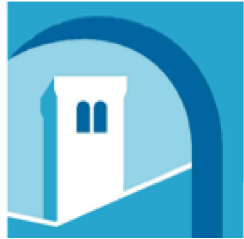
Allocation of National Research Grants (public)



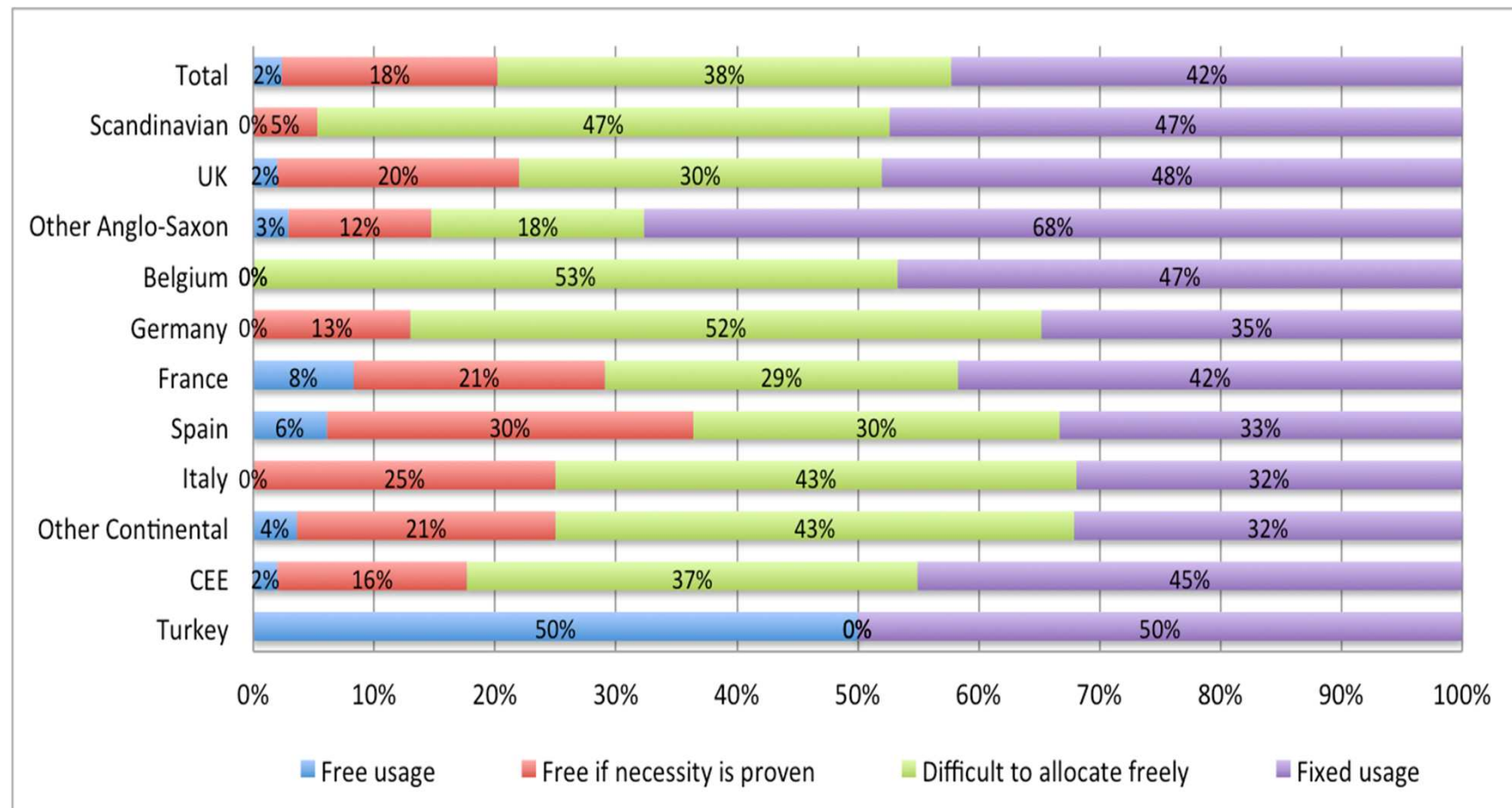


Allocation of ERC grants



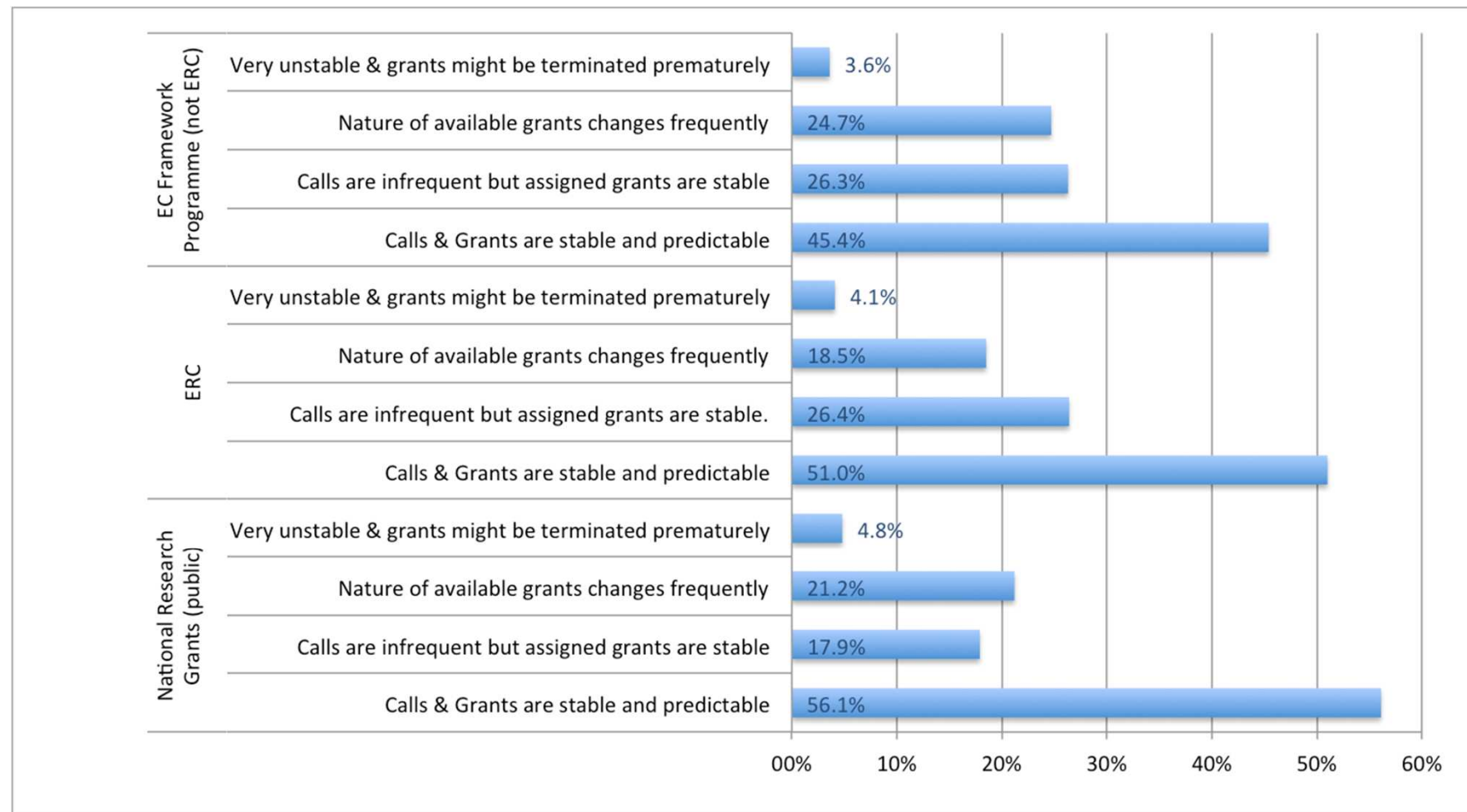


Allocation of EC Framework Programme (not ERC) grants



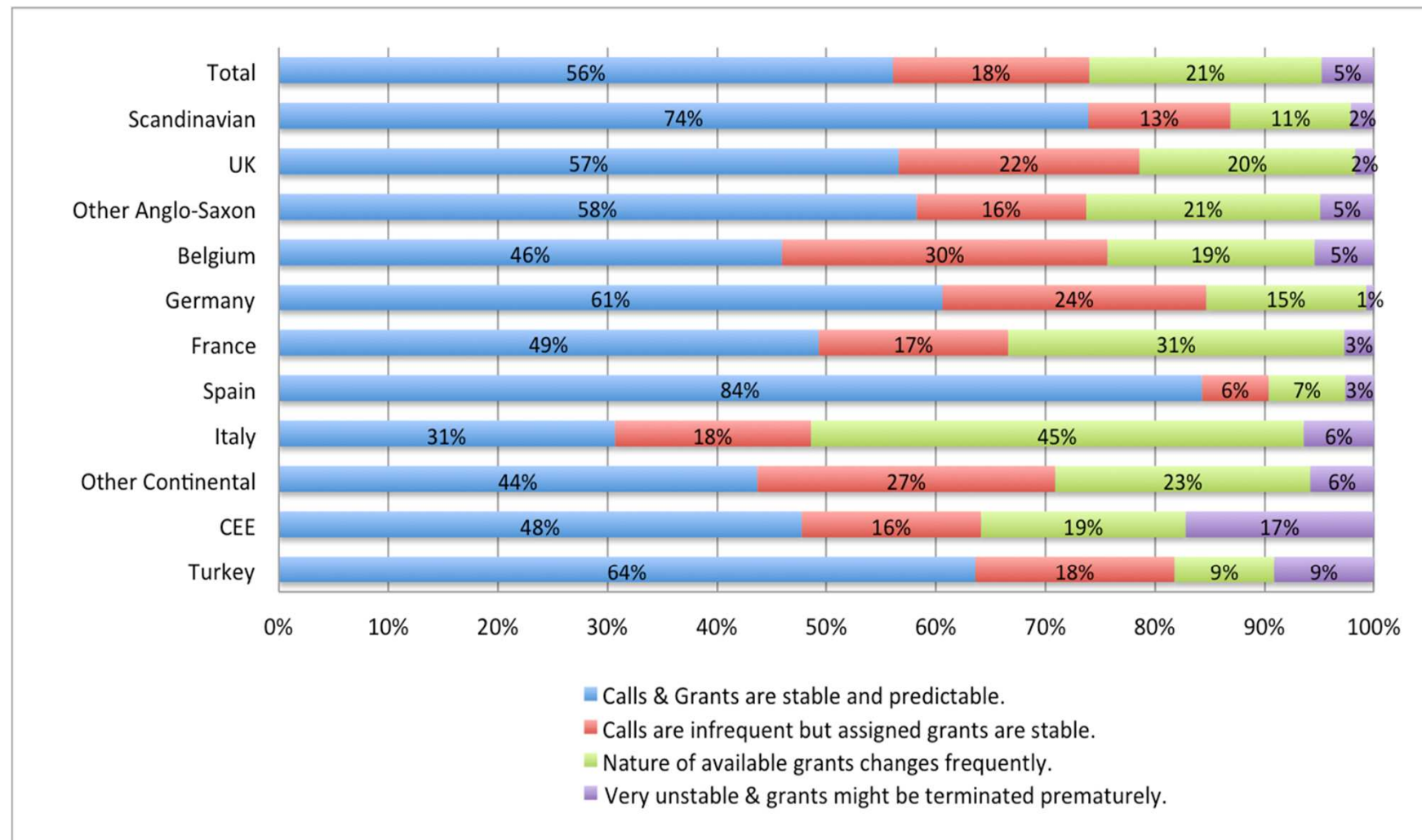


The stability of research funding (all disciplines)



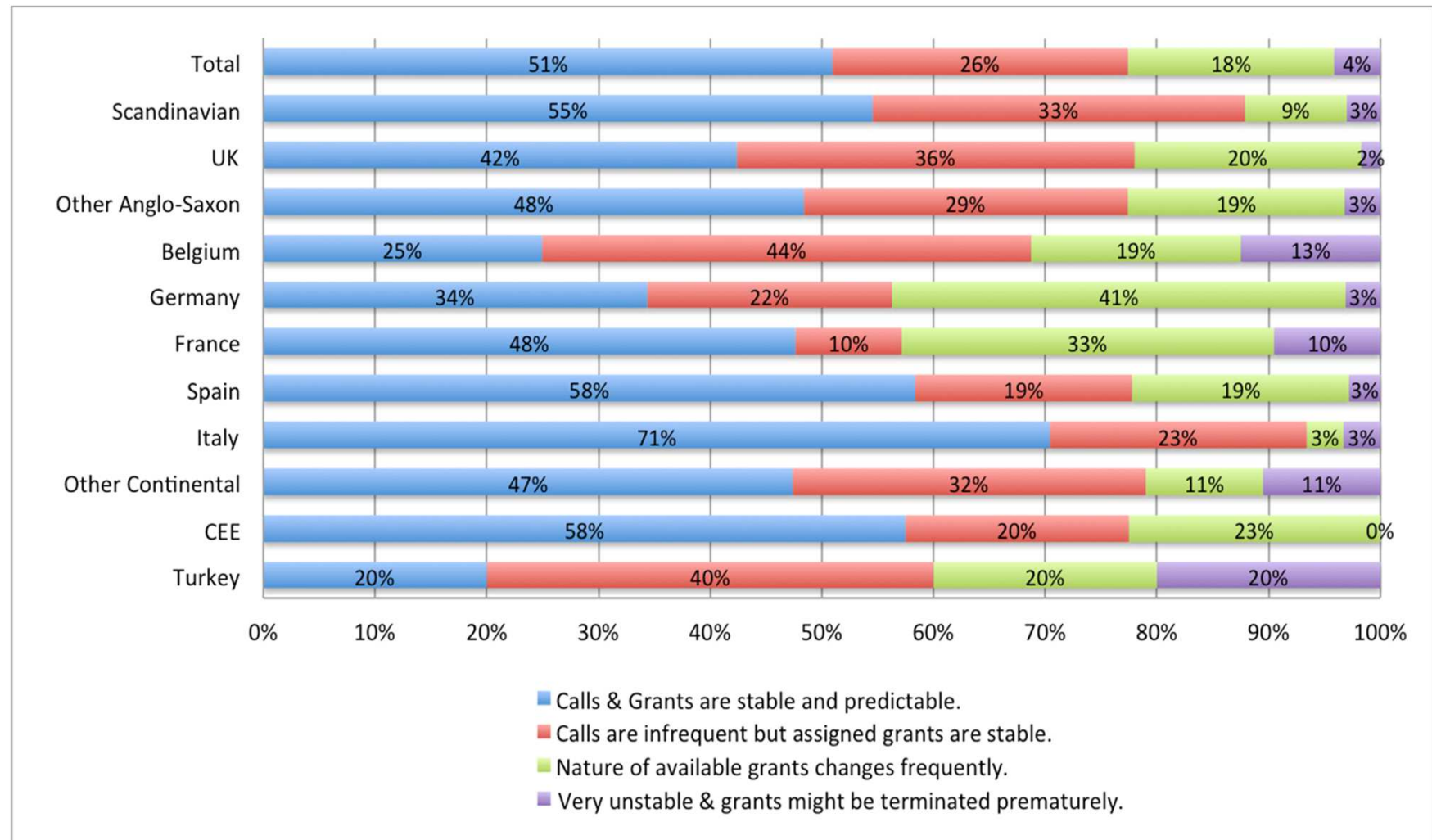


Stability of National Research Grants (public)



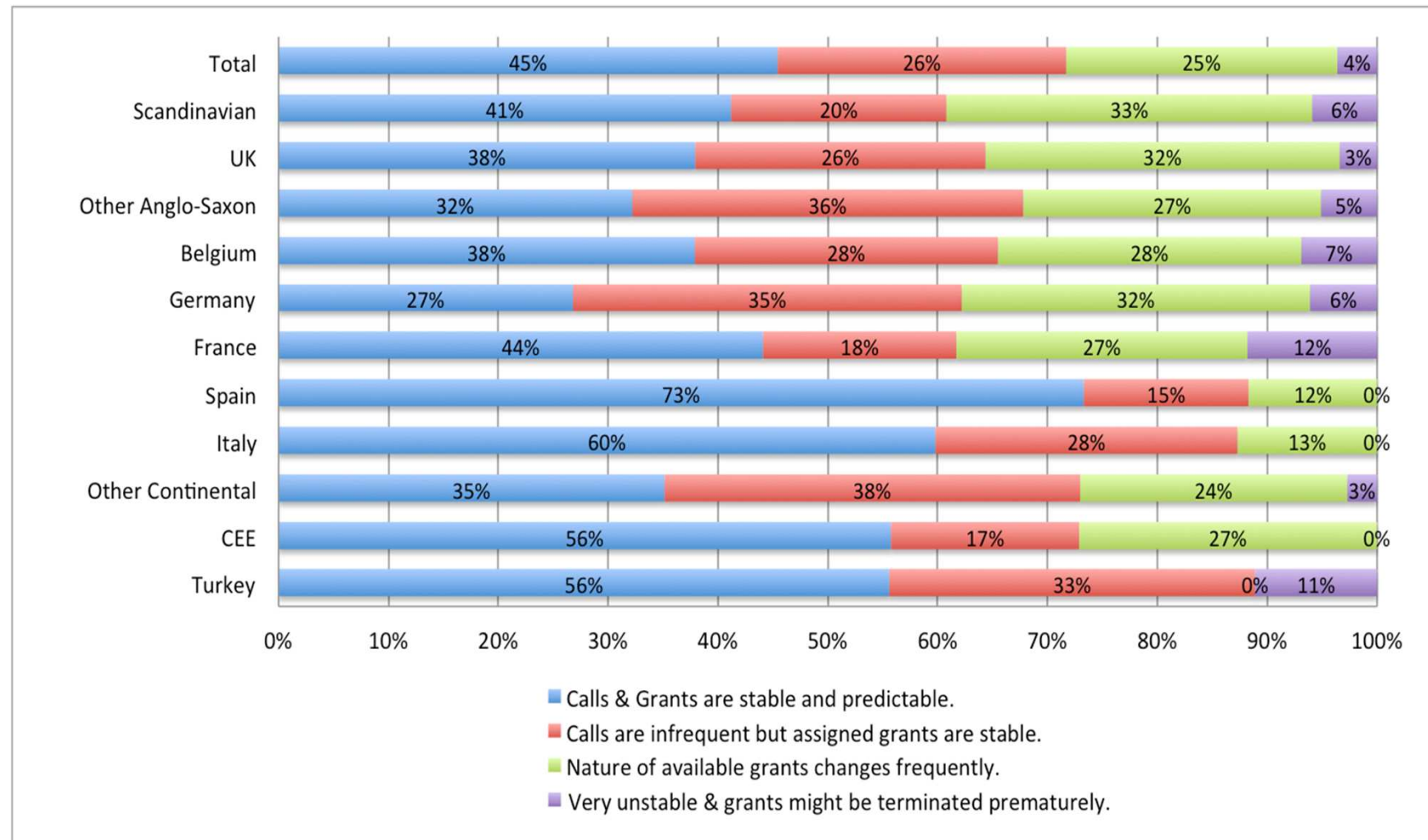


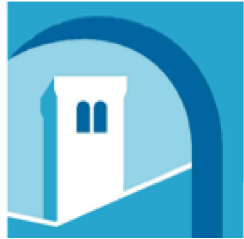
Stability of ERC grants



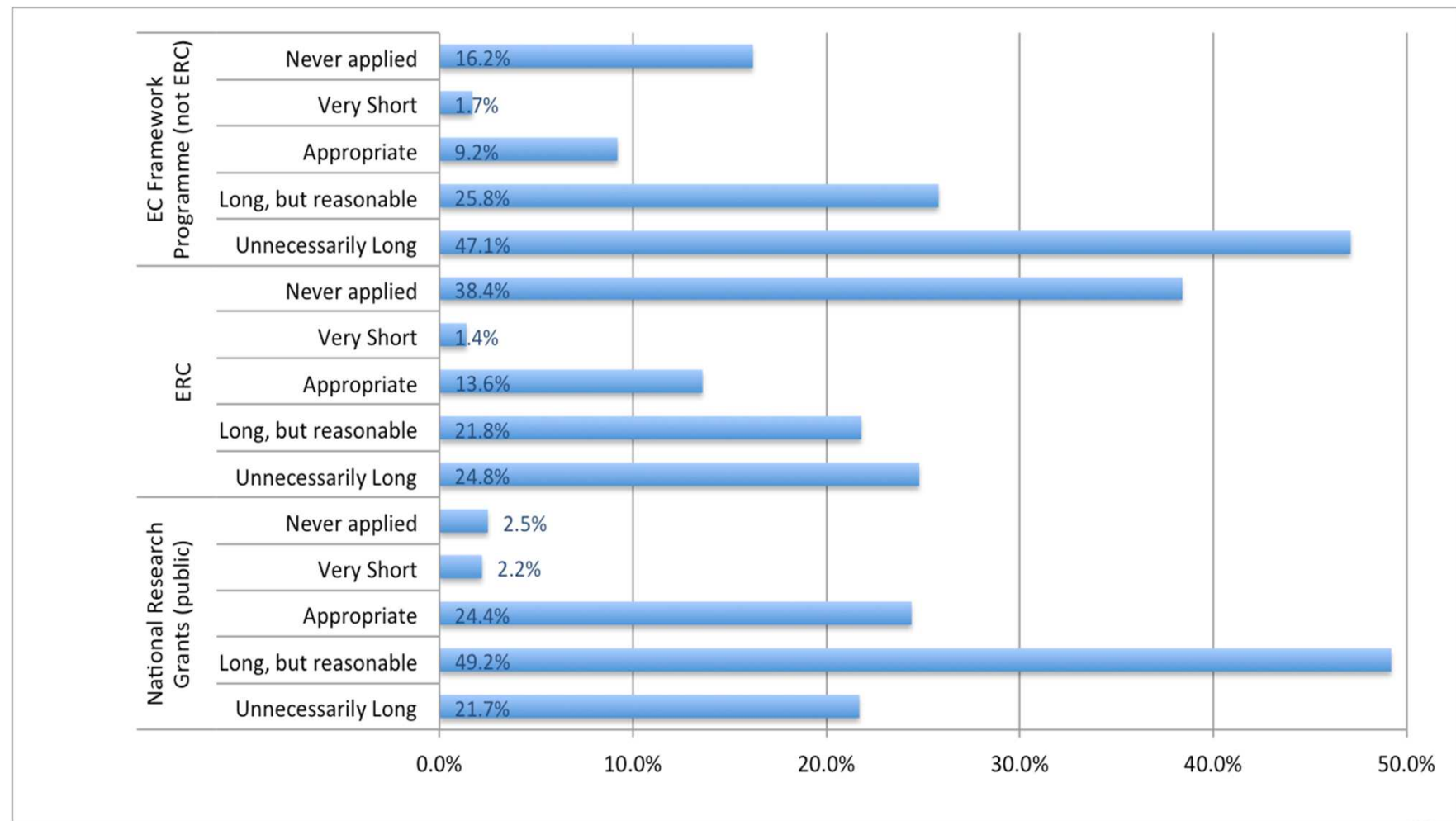


Stability of EC Framework Programme (not ERC) grants



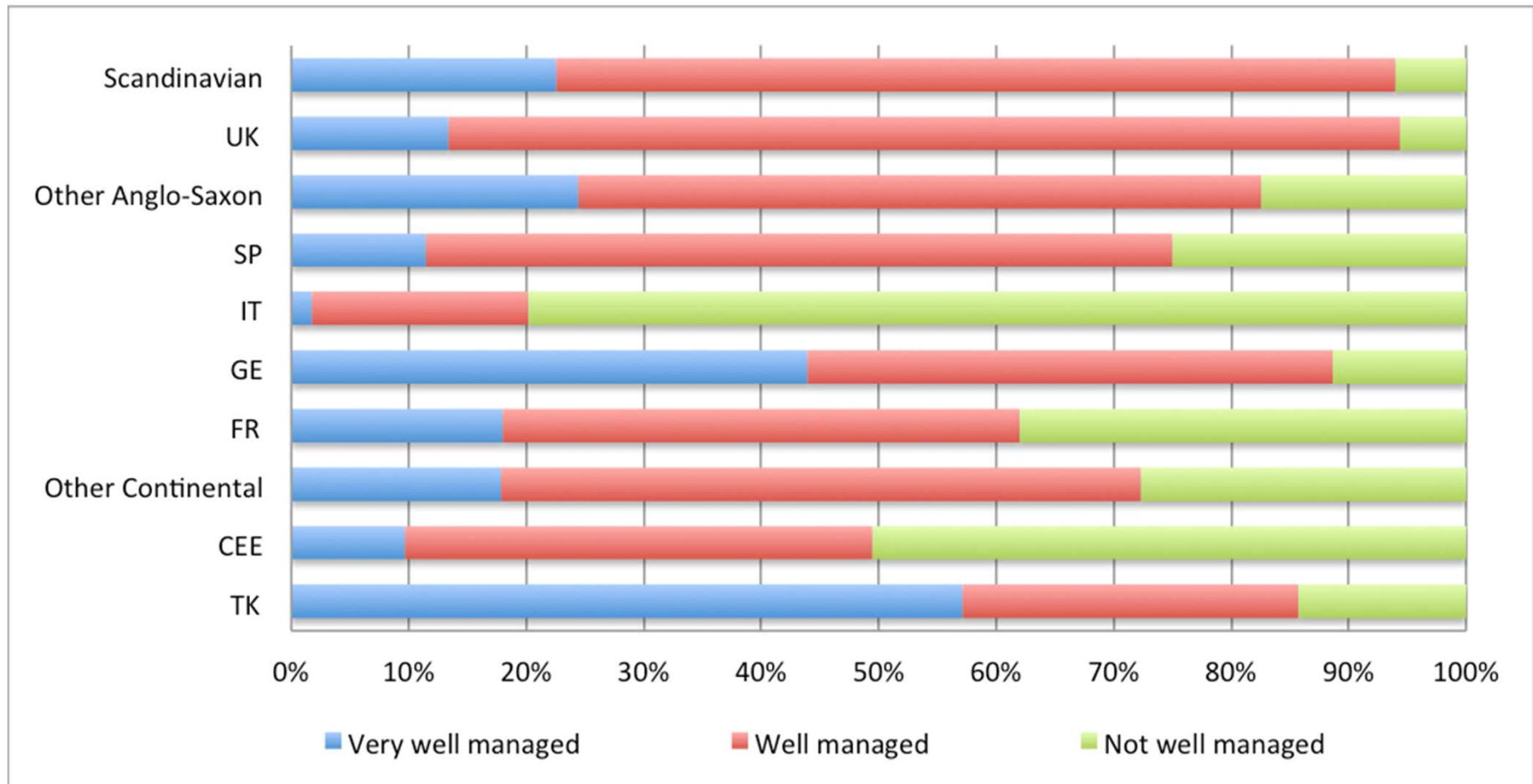


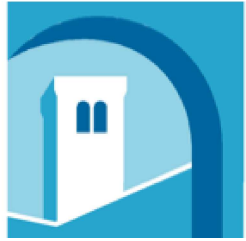
The time spent on applications to research funding (all disciplines)





Perceived management of national funding agencies





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

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

The primary reasons for NOT applying for a grant are **low success probability of application**, and:

- the lack of confidence in the evaluation procedure for the National Public research grants;
- low success probability of application, and the too high procedural and logistic costs for the ERC and the FP.

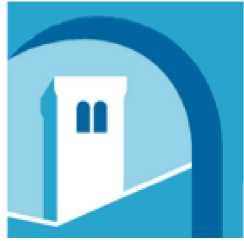
The ERC is the source of grants with the lowest success rate!



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

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

Finally, the **time spent on applications**, this is unacceptably long for a large share of people applying to the Framework Programme. This share is roughly twice as large as for the applicants to either the ERC or National Research Grants (public).

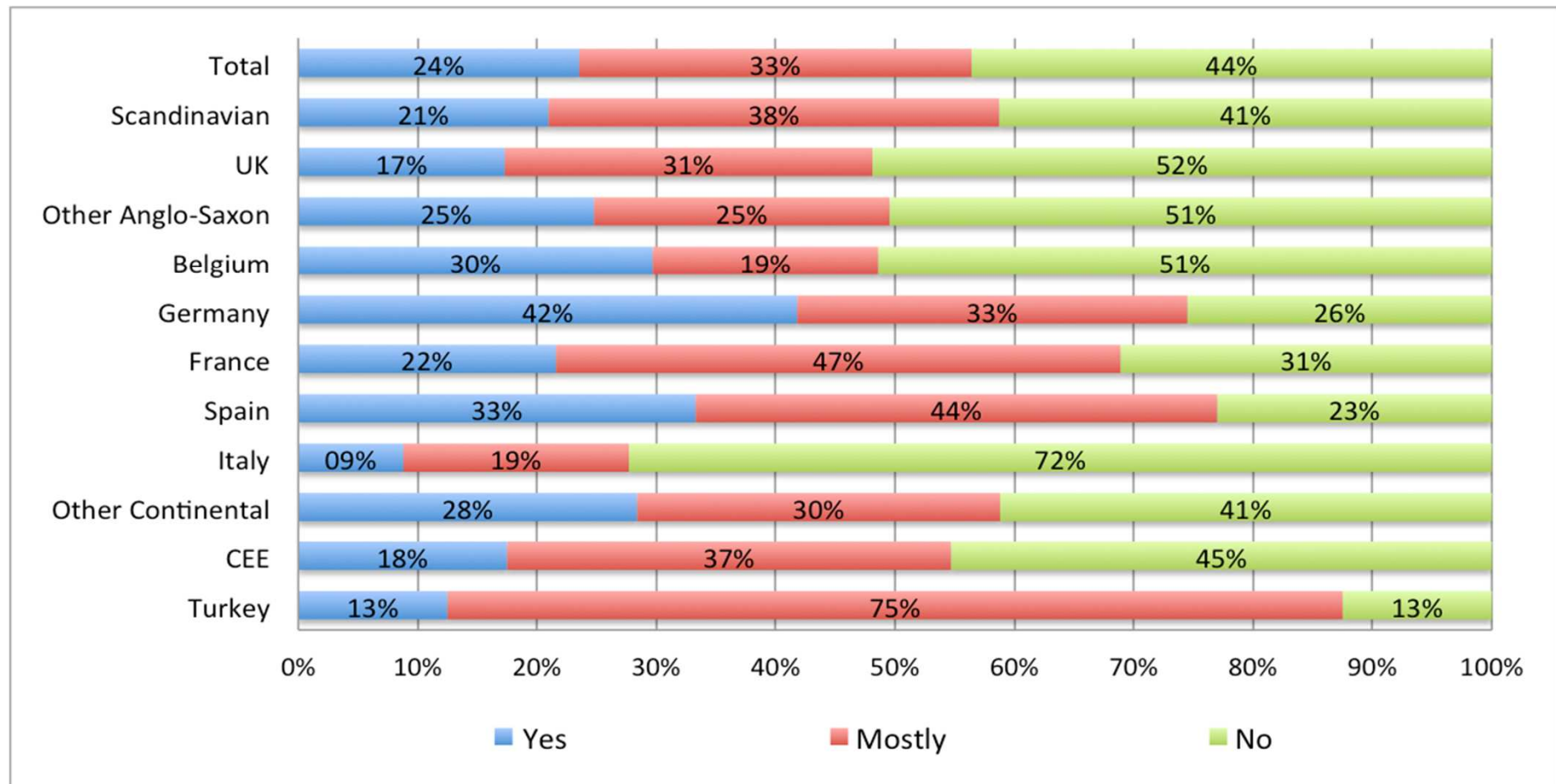


Part V

Satisfaction with research funding

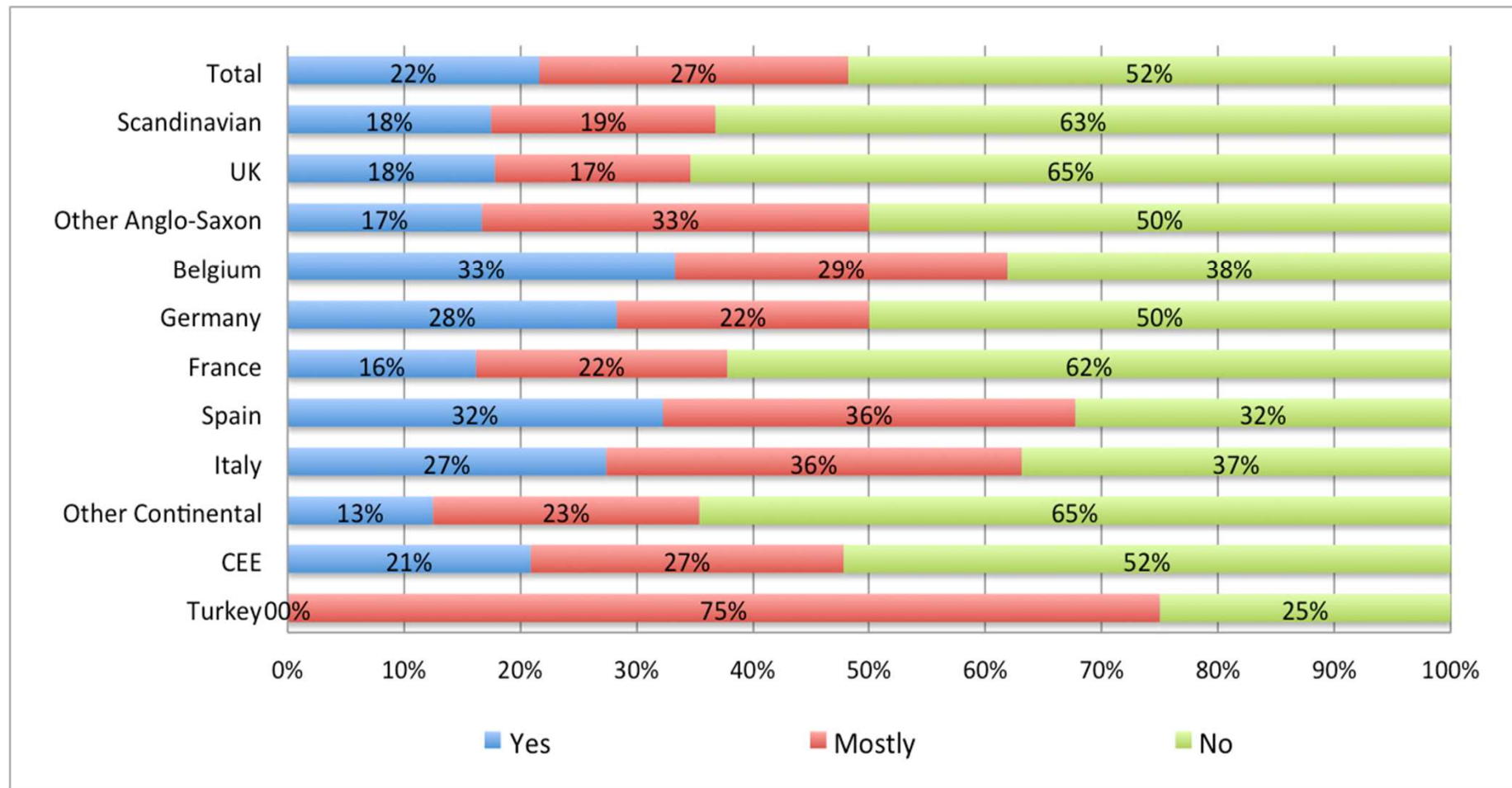


Satisfaction with National Research Grants



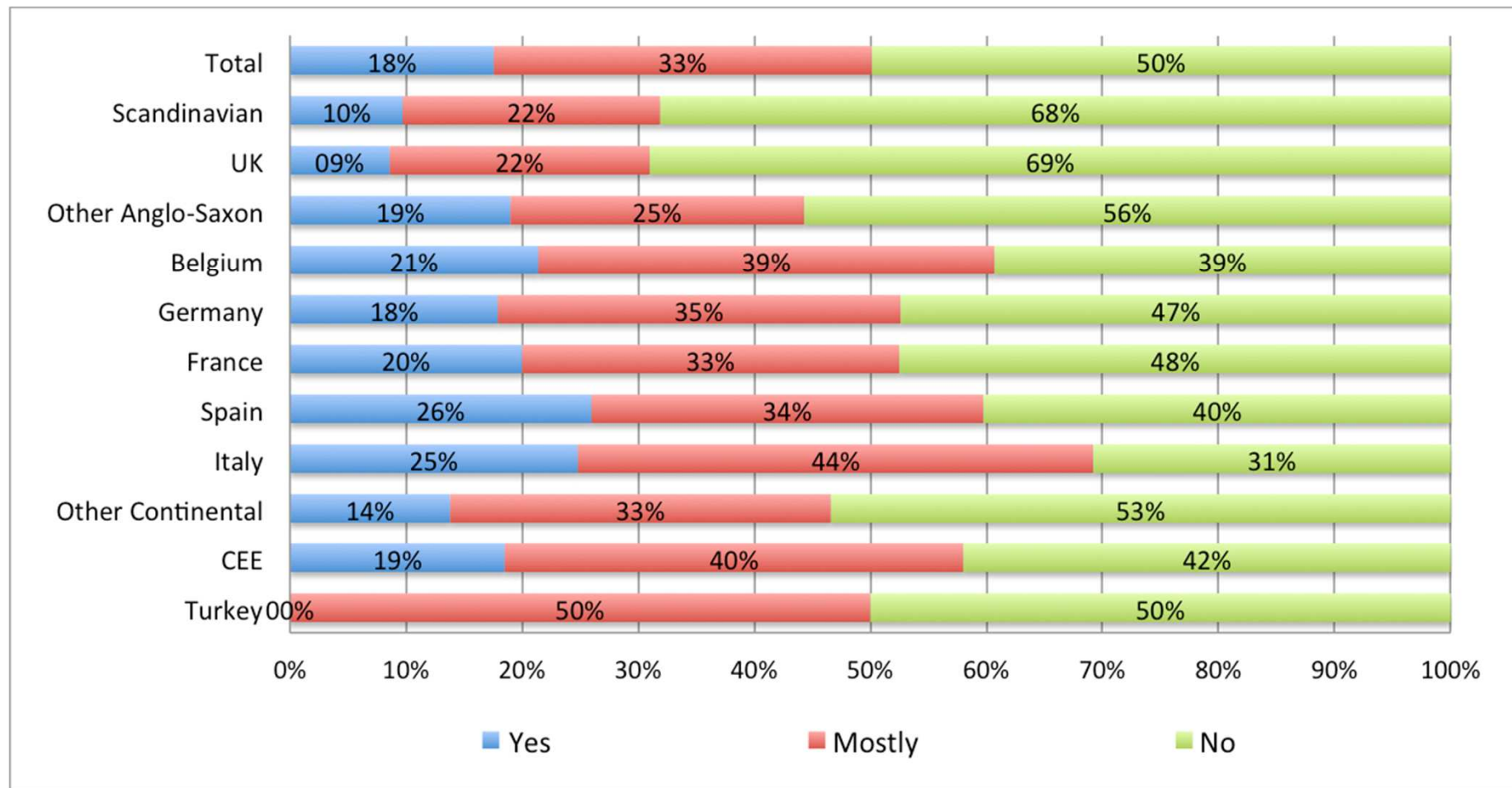


Satisfaction with the ERC





Satisfaction with the EC Framework Programme (not ERC)

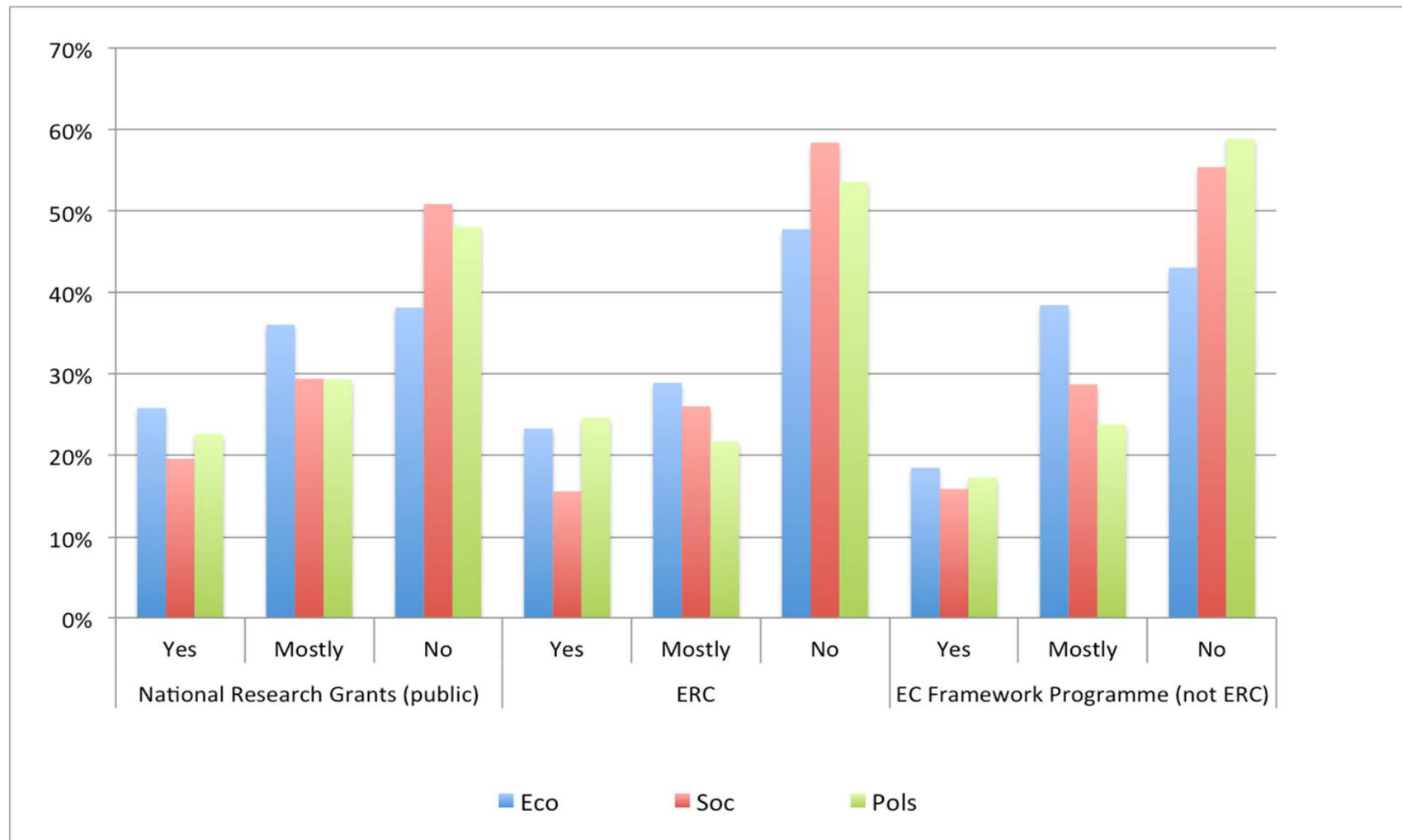




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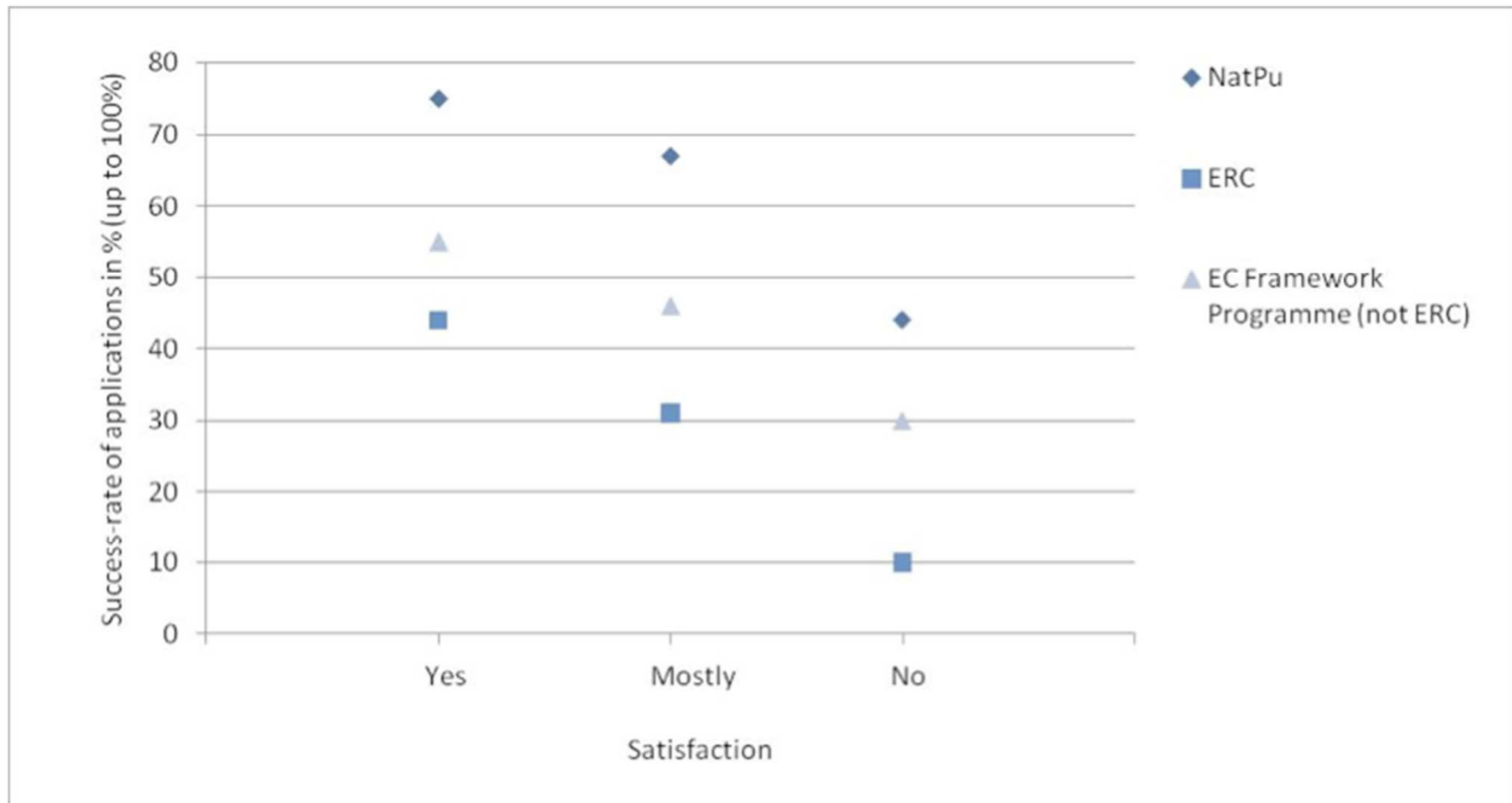
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Satisfaction by discipline





Satisfaction with granting schemes by application success





The majority of countries is dissatisfied with the ERC and the Framework Programme. With respect to both, Scandinavian and UK scholars have a more negative opinion than researchers from other countries, such as Italy, Spain or Belgium.

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

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

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

Satisfaction conditional on success is flattest for the Framework Programme.

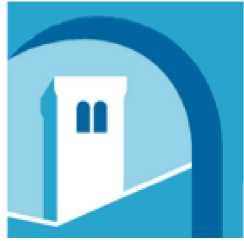


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Part VI

Individual agencies

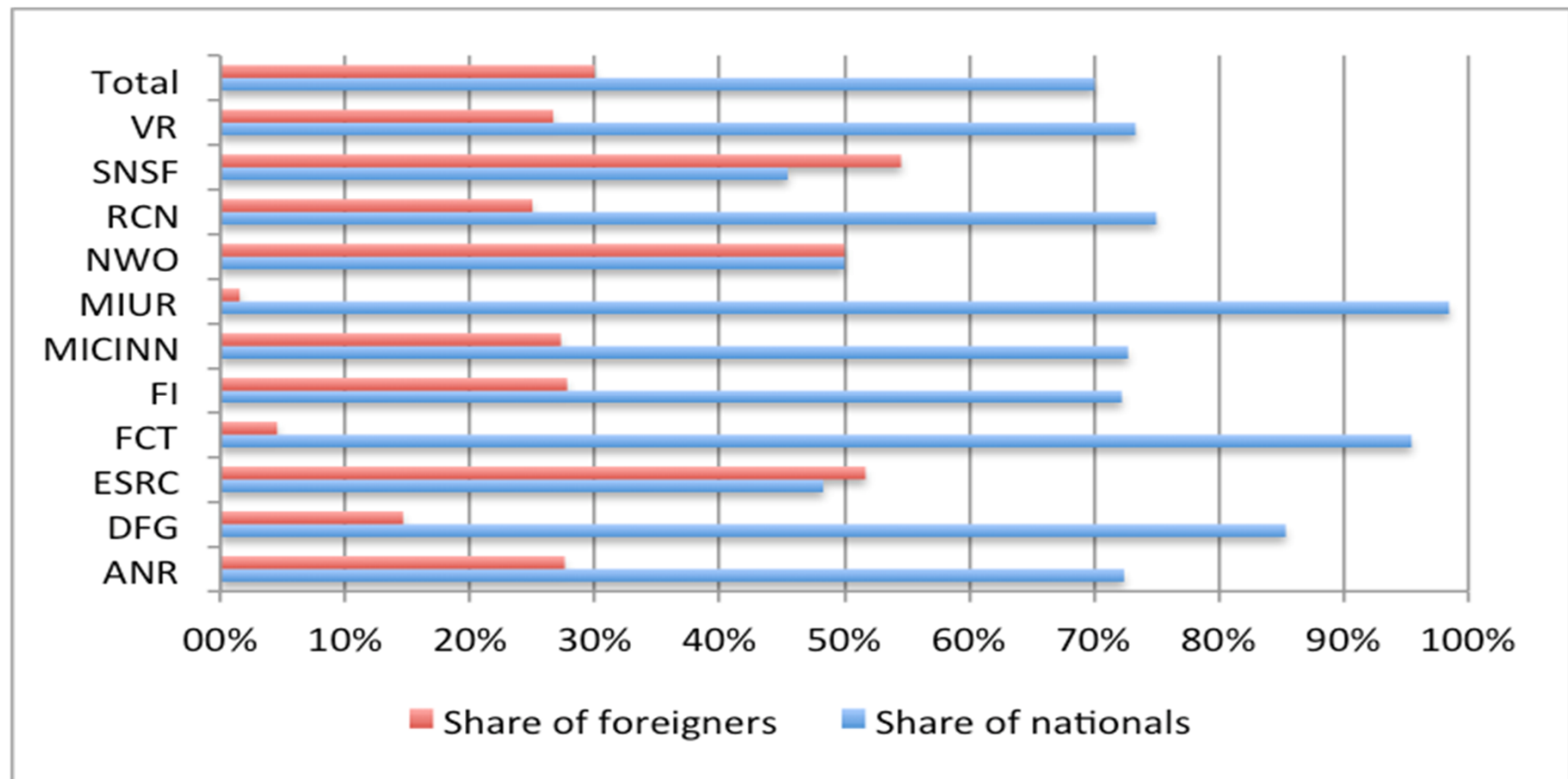


The agencies

ANR	France	National Research Agency
DFG	Germany	German Research Foundation
ESRC	UK	Economic and Social Research Council
FI	Denmark	Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation
FCT	Portugal	Portuguese Ministry of Science and Technology
MICINN	Spain	Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation
MIUR	Italy	Italian Ministry for Education, Universities and Research
NWO	Netherlands	The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
RCN	Norway	Research Council of Norway
SNSF	Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation
VR	Sweden	Swedish Research Council

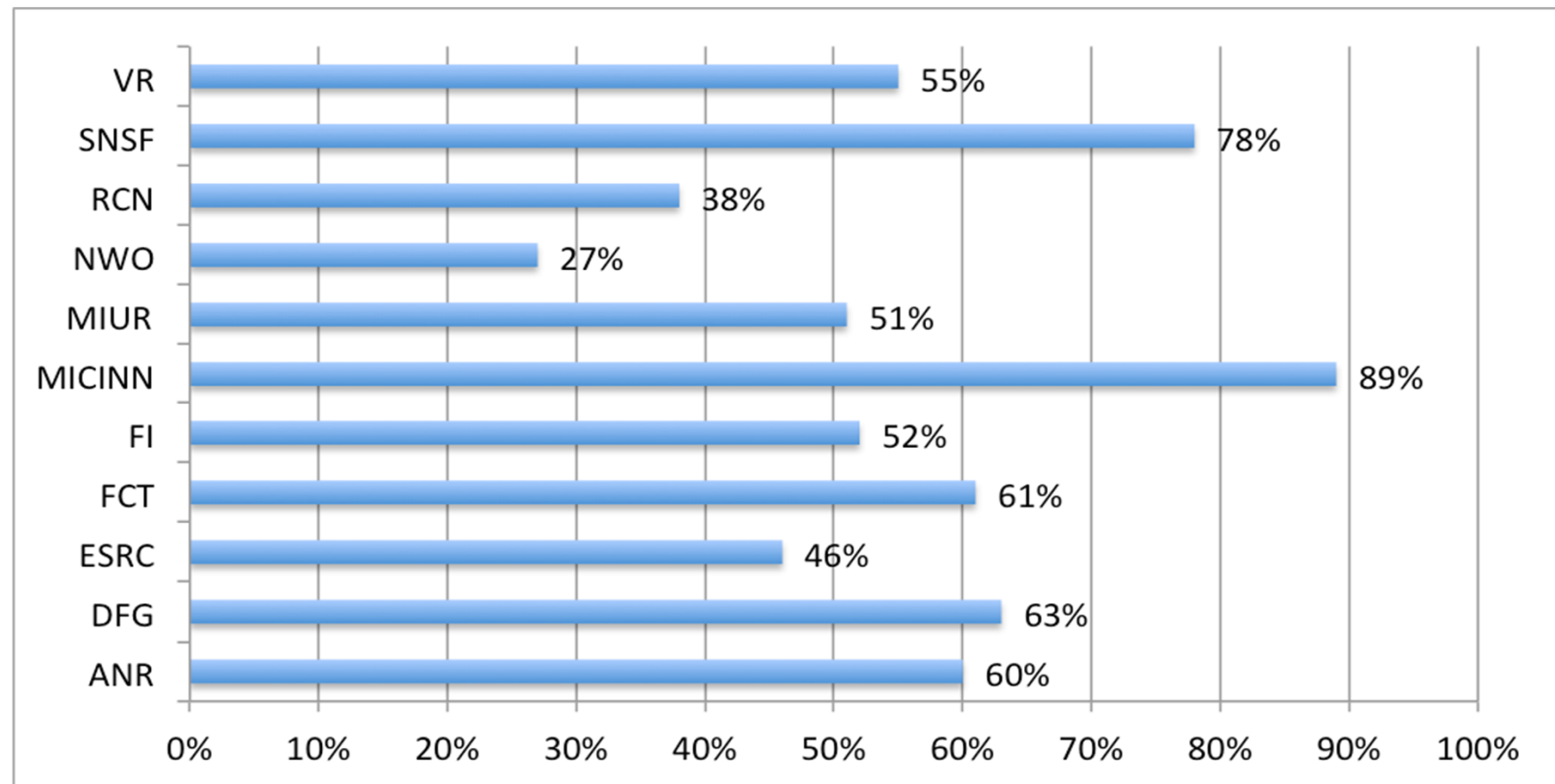


Applications to National Research Grants by nationality



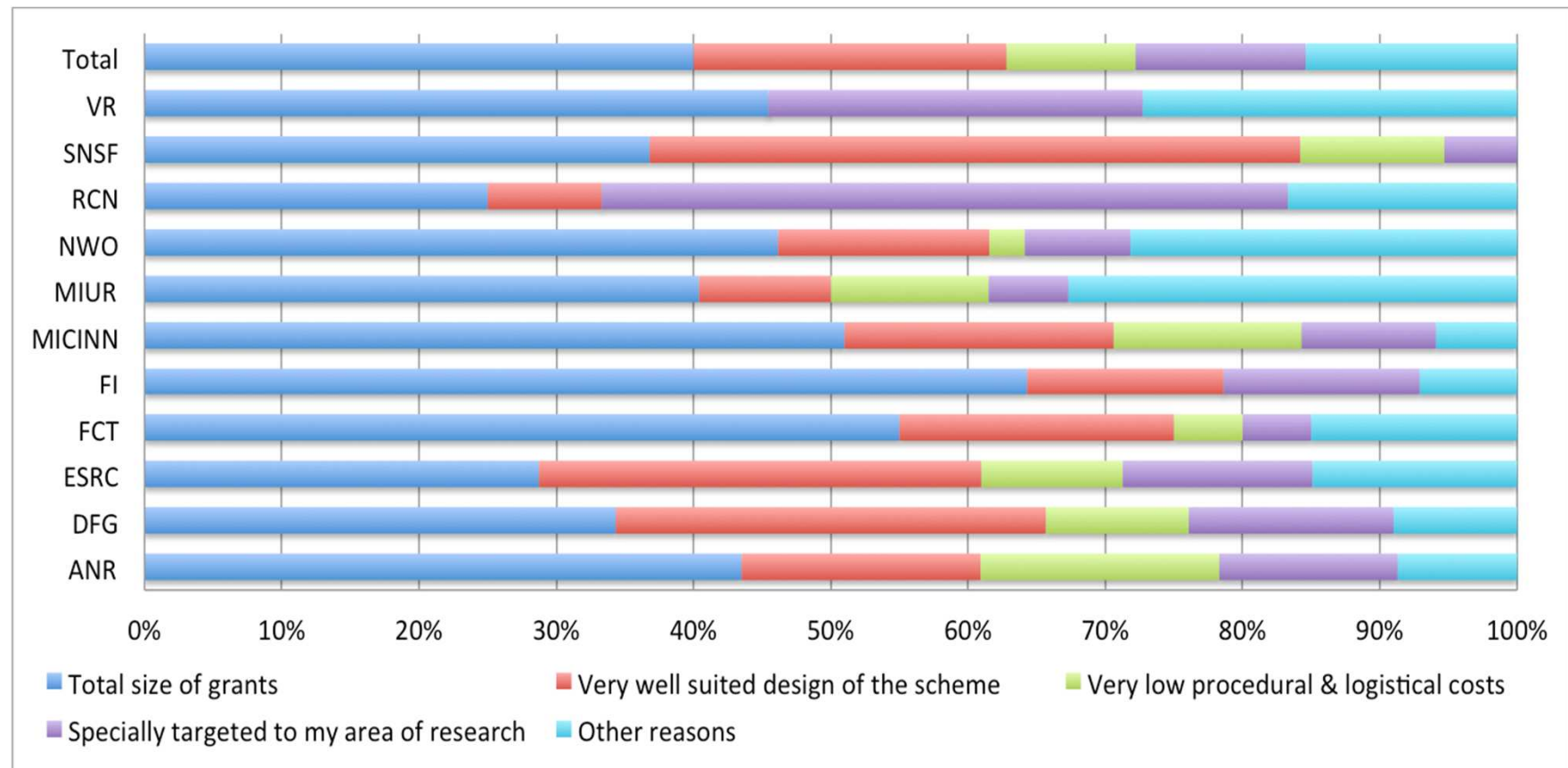


Success rates



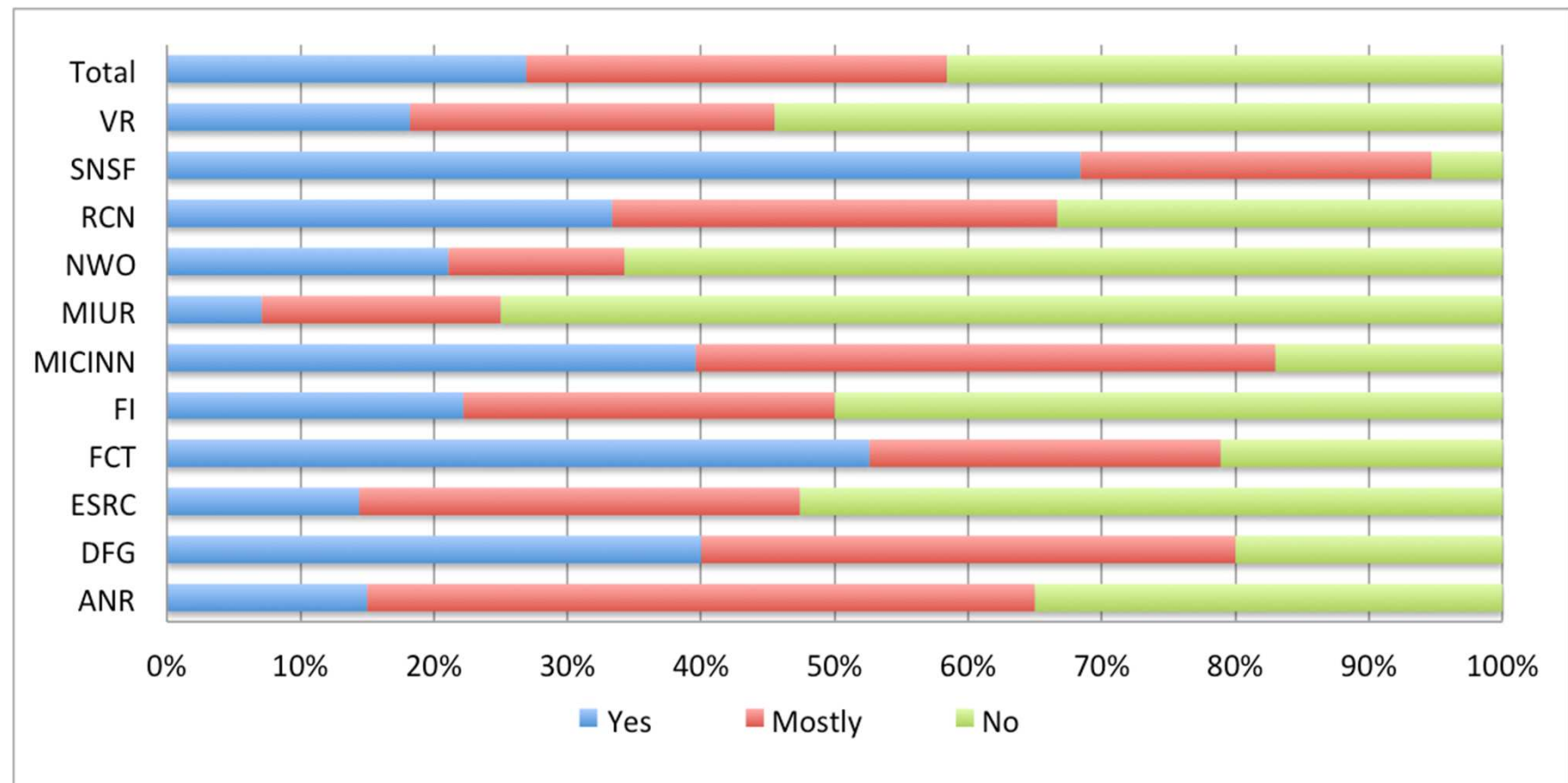


Reasons to apply



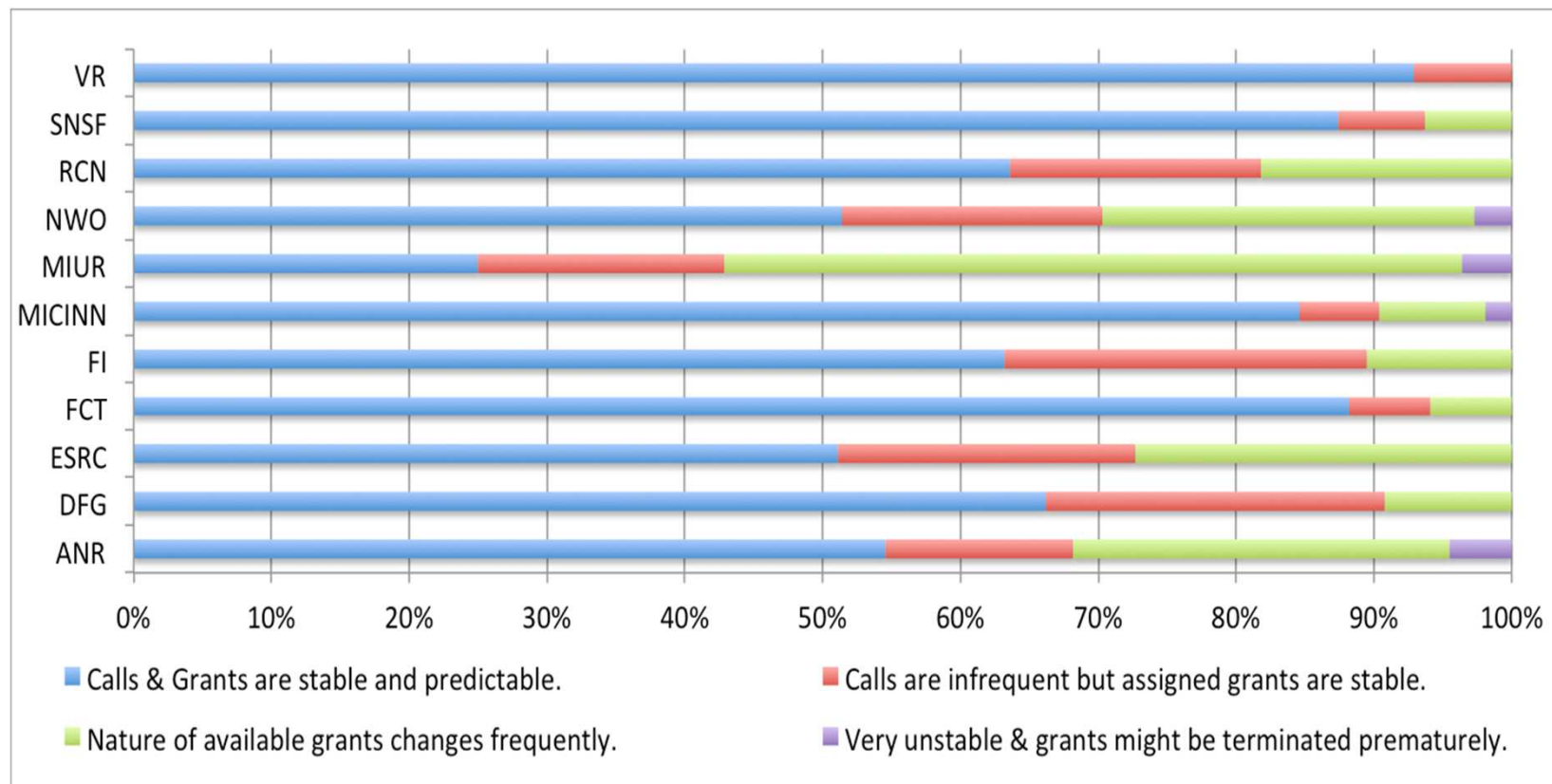


Overall satisfaction with National Public schemes





Perceived stability





DFG

The relatively closed nature of the German academic system is testified by the low number of foreign applicants (circa 15%). Notwithstanding, those who apply hold a positive opinion of the German funding agency. Overall satisfaction is the third highest in the sample. The stability of the grants on offer and relative calls is also highly ranked.

ESRC

The absolute number of reported applications is highest (118). The agency is open to foreigners: their share is over 50% and second only to the Swiss SNSF. The overall satisfaction with British grants is surprisingly low (less than 50%). This probably has to do with the low success rate; and the success rate of those dissatisfied is consistently lower. Finally, some 70% of respondents find ESRC grants very or fairly stable, which is in the lower half of the ranking.

MICINN

MICINN grants have become very popular: more than one fourth of all applicants were non-Spanish. Researchers apply to MICINN for the generosity of its grants, the success rate of the respondents is very high (90%). Hence, more than four fifths of respondents are fairly satisfied with the Ministry. Finally, the schemes offered by this Spanish institution are perceived as very stable: MICINN ranks fourth, after Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal.

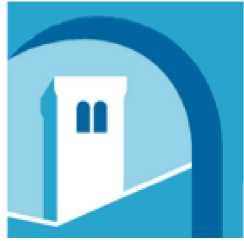


MIUR

MIUR lacks openness: a minimal fraction of all applicants is not Italian. The overall judgement is very negative: **less than 25% of respondents is satisfied**. Worse even, the success rate of those who are satisfied is only slightly higher than that of those who are not. **The schemes run by MIUR are considered – by far – the least stable and predictable:** almost 60% of respondents perceive the nature of Italian grants to be changing (too) frequently and a tiny minority deem them outright unstable.

SNSF

The **SNSF has the highest approval rate among all the schemes** in the sample; over 90% of respondents are very or mostly satisfied with its schemes. The **internalization of the Swiss academic environment is high**, the majority of respondents who applied to the SNSF are not Swiss, the highest share in this sample. The overwhelming reason to apply to the Foundation is **that its grants are very well designed**. Finally, **the stability of the schemes on offer in Switzerland is perceived as very high**: it is second only to the Swedish Research Council.



Part VII

Evaluation and recommendations

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

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



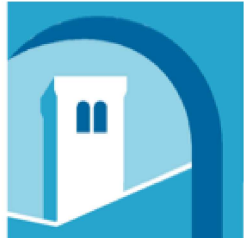
Flexibility is key

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

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

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

“Trust the researcher: flexibility!”



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Part VIII

Conclusions



Research Funding in Europe

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

The Academic Profession

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

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

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



Research Funding in the SSH

Sources are heterogeneous across countries. **National public funding is the primary source**, particularly in the UK and in Continental countries. Together with funding from the home institution it accounts for **60% in Belgium, Italy and Spain**, climbing to **80% in Nordic countries**.

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

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

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



Openness, Internationalization and Mobility

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

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



Final remarks

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

There is **consensus in favour of a 'competitive bottom-up approach'** to research funding among the respondents. Countries with schemes that **'properly assess and trust the researcher'** are also the ones with a more internationally integrated research environment, e.g. the UK.

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

...and serious concerns

The financial crisis will generate **substantial general cuts in research funding (not only in the SSH) in the future**, not reflected in this survey.

The FP has refocused its priorities on innovation, which means that **specific cuts in the SSH are foreseeable as well**.