

Survey on Research Funding in the Social Sciences in Europe: Preliminary Results

Economics - EEA & MWP-ACO

Sociology - ESA & MWP-ACO

Ramon Marimon, European University Institute
& UPF-BarcelonaGSE

Igor Guardiancich, Mike Mariathan and Eva
Rossi, European University Institute

5th MWP-ACO Conference

Florence, November 24th 2010

The initiative

Academic Careers Observatory,
Max Weber Programme (EUI)

&

European Economic Association

European Sociological Association

The sample

EEA and MWP-ACO Survey on Economics

The union of two samples (May 2009):

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 (May 2009):

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

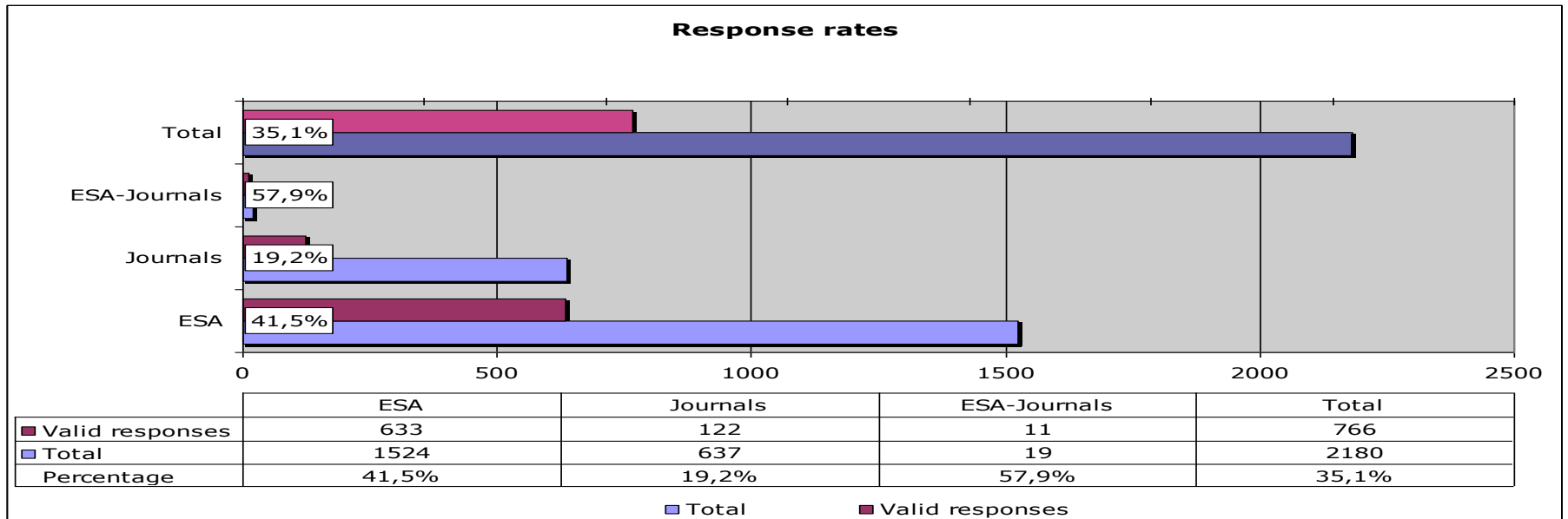
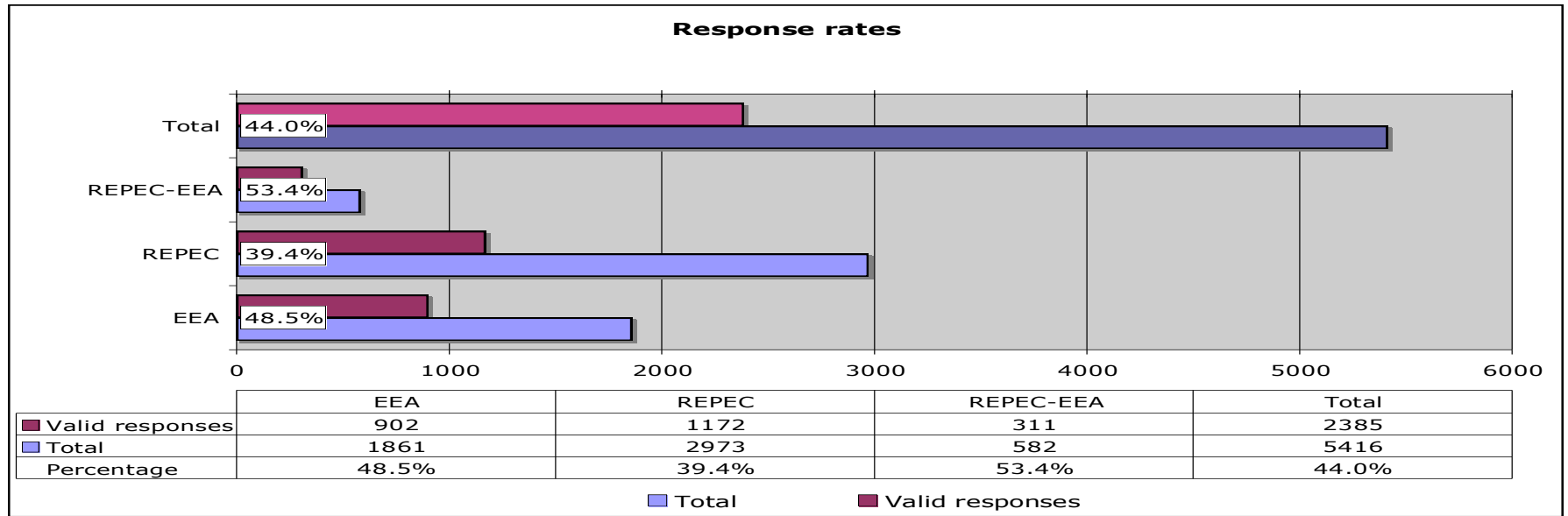
Total number of sociology invited: 2180

Total number of valid responses: 766

Web support: LimeService

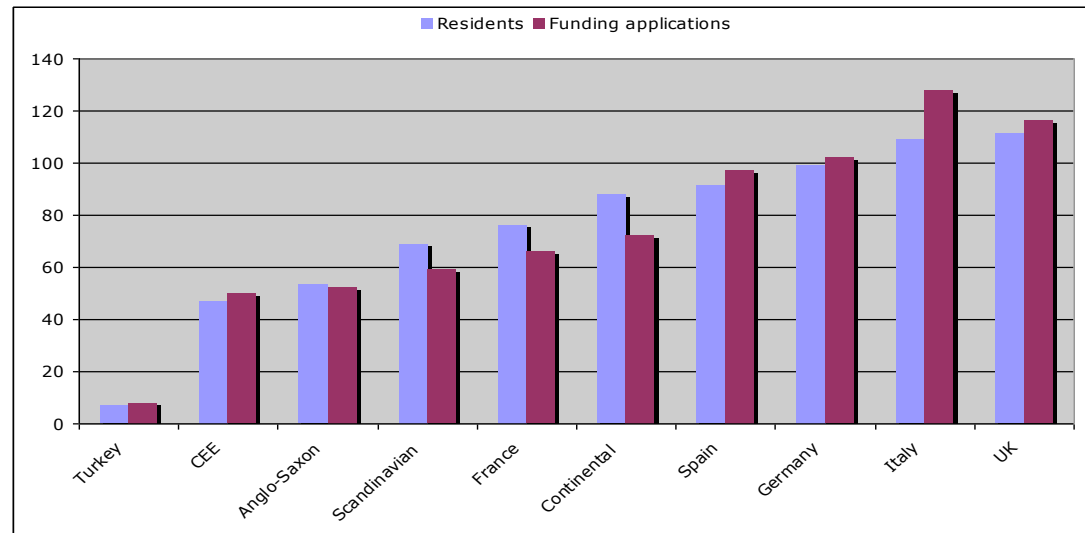
Period: October 25th to November 17th, 2010

The response rates



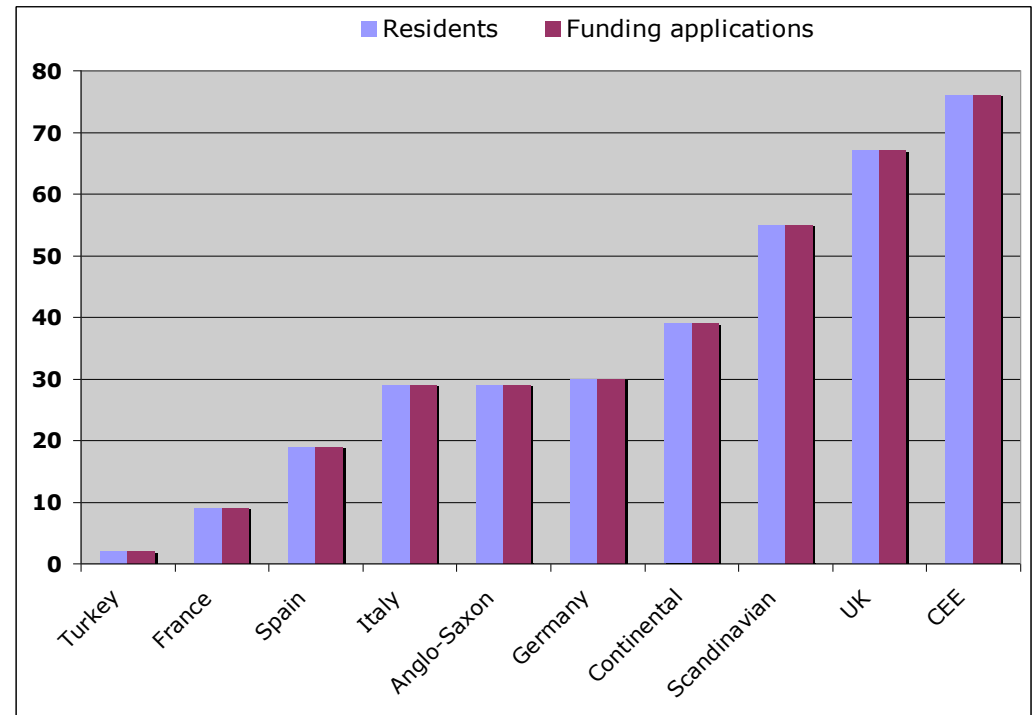
	Residents		Funding applications	
UK	111	14.8%	116	15.5%
Italy	109	14.5%	128	17.1%
Germany	99	13.2%	102	13.6%
Spain	91	12.1%	97	12.9%
Continental	88	11.7%	72	9.6%
France	76	10.1%	66	8.8%
Scandinavian	69	9.2%	59	7.9%
Anglo-Saxon	53	7.1%	52	6.9%
CEE	47	6.3%	50	6.7%
Turkey	7	0.9%	8	1.1%
Total	750	100.0%	750	100.0%

The respondents (economics)



The respondents (sociology)

	Residents		Funding applications	
CEE	76	21.4%	76	21.4%
UK	67	18.9%	67	18.9%
Scandinavian	55	15.5%	55	15.5%
Continental	39	11.0%	39	11.0%
Germany	30	8.5%	30	8.5%
Anglo-Saxon	29	8.2%	29	8.2%
Italy	29	8.2%	29	8.2%
Spain	19	5.4%	19	5.4%
France	9	2.5%	9	2.5%
Turkey	2	0.6%	2	0.6%
Total	355	100.0%	355	100.0%



The grouping of countries

CEE	Central & Eastern European
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
EE	Estonia
HR	Croatia
HU	Hungary
LT	Lithuania
LV	Latvia
PL	Poland
RO	Romania
RU	Russia
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
UKR	Ukraine

Anglo-Saxon	
UK	United Kingdom

Other Anglo-Saxon	
CH	Switzerland
IE	Ireland
IL	Israel
NL/NT	Netherlands

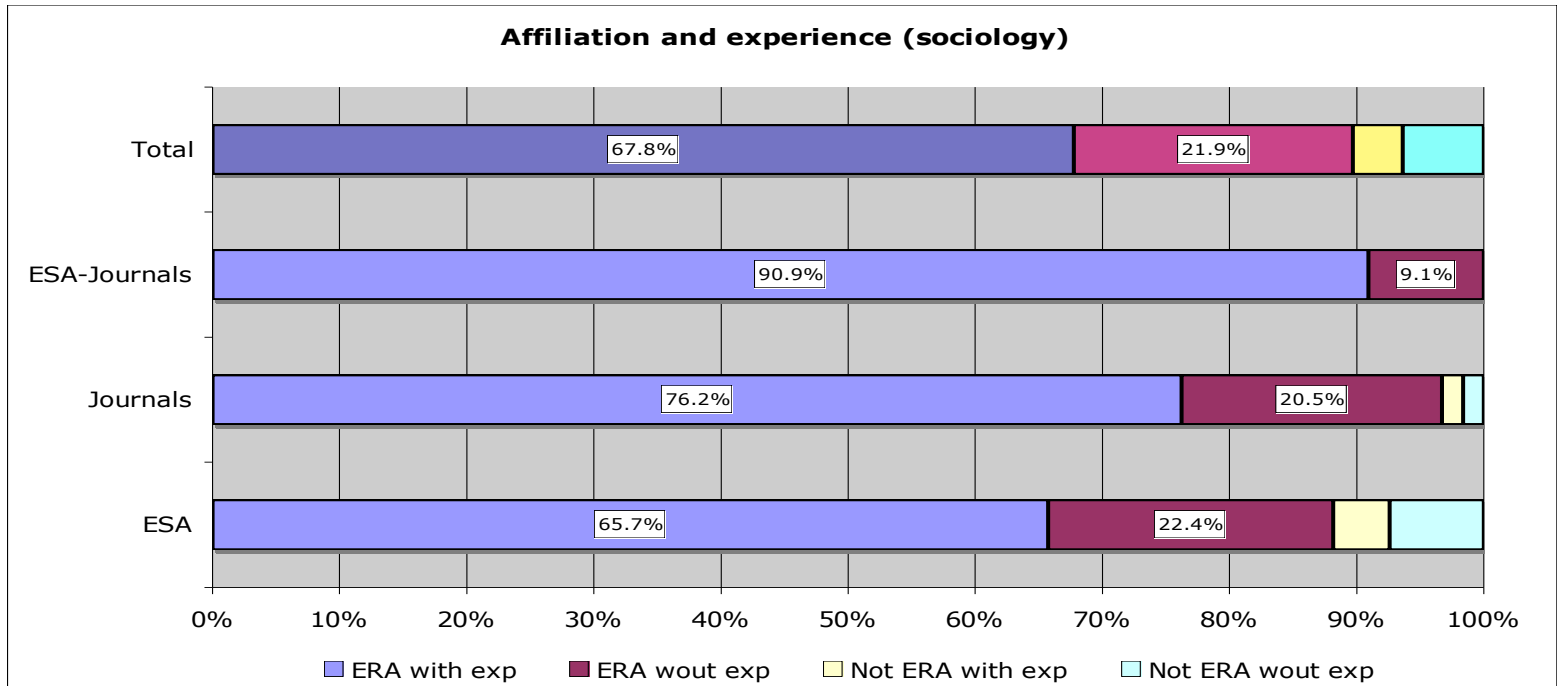
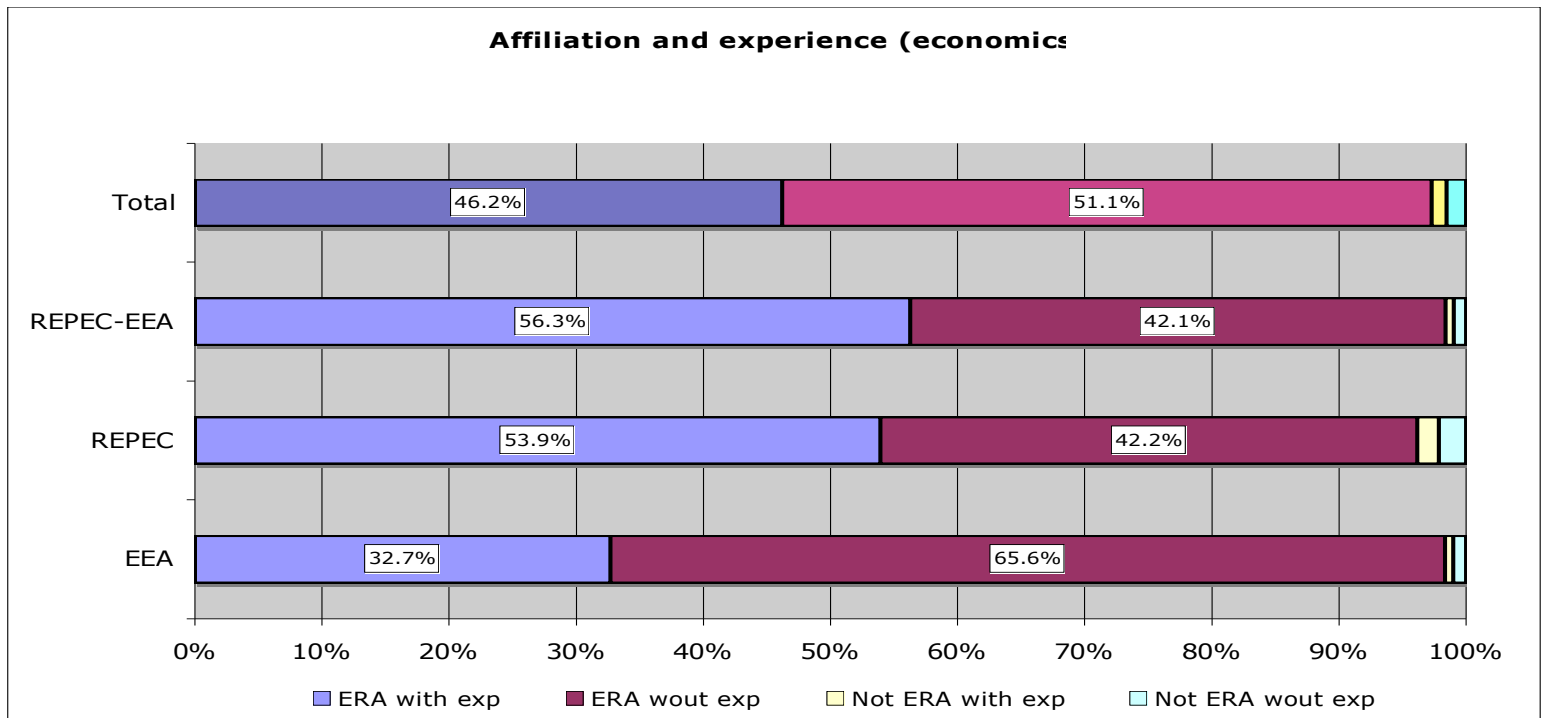
Scandinavian	
DK	Denmark
FI	Finland
IC	Iceland
NO	Norway
SW	Sweden

Continental	
FR	France
GE	Germany
IT	Italy
SP	Spain

Other Continental	
AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
CY	Cyprus
GR	Greece
LX	Luxembourg
PT	Portugal

TK	Turkey
----	--------

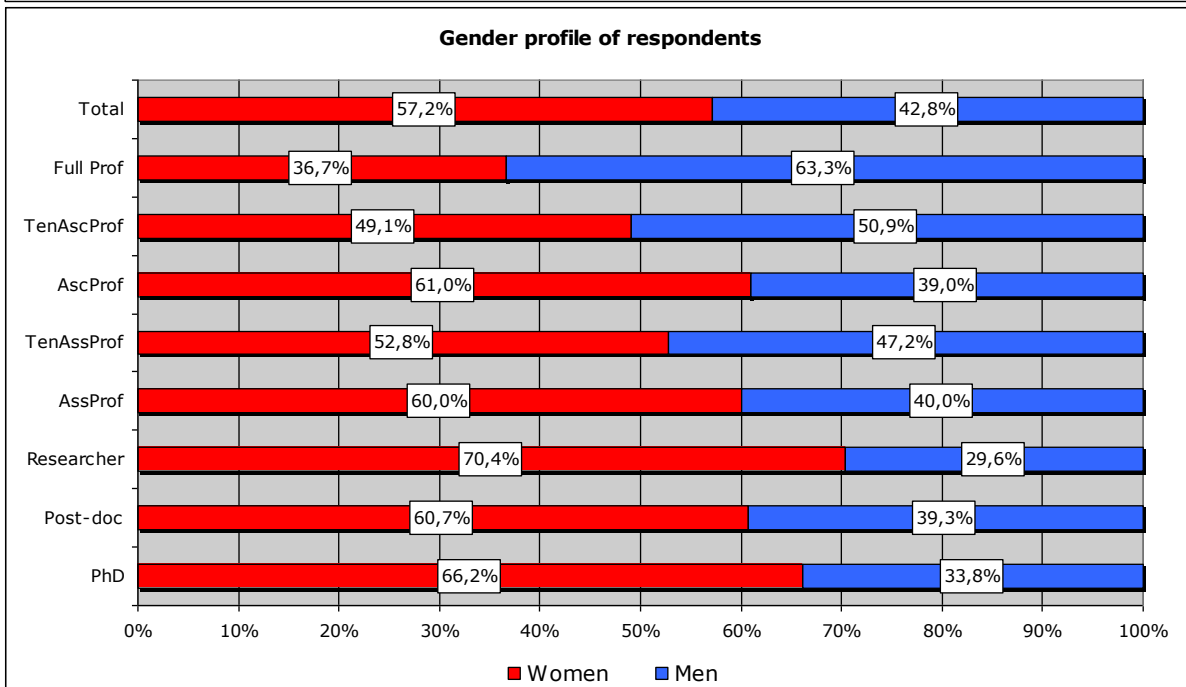
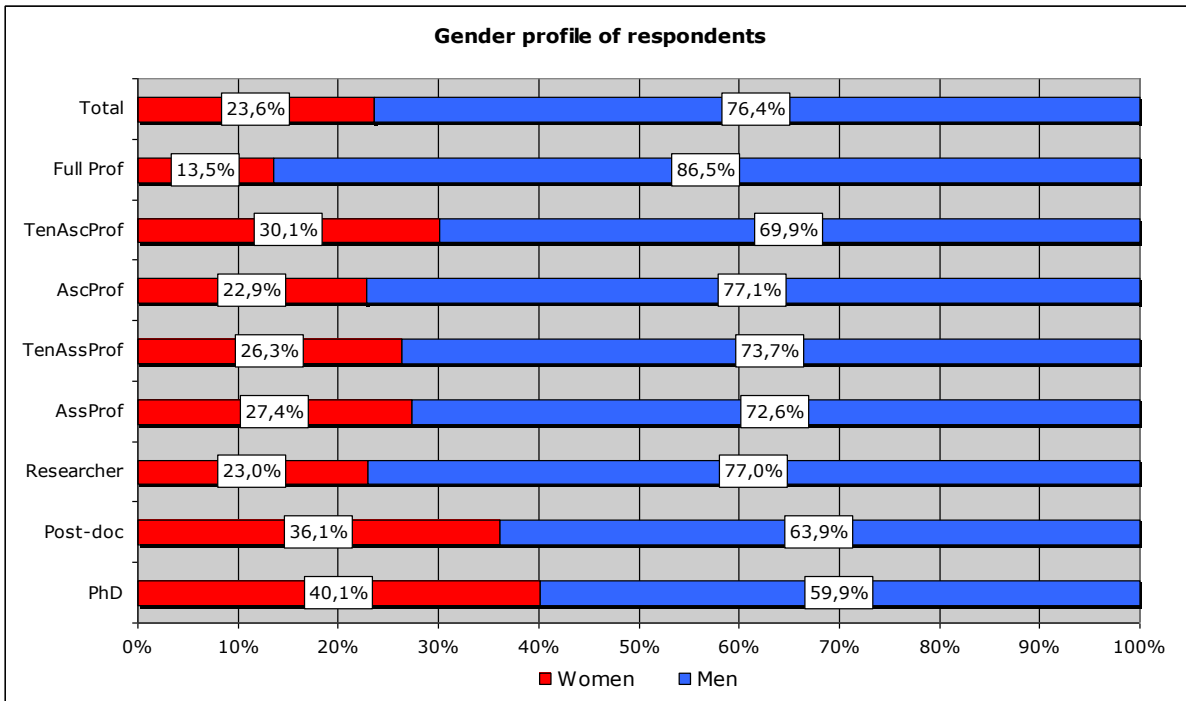
The experience



Economics

The professional profile by gender

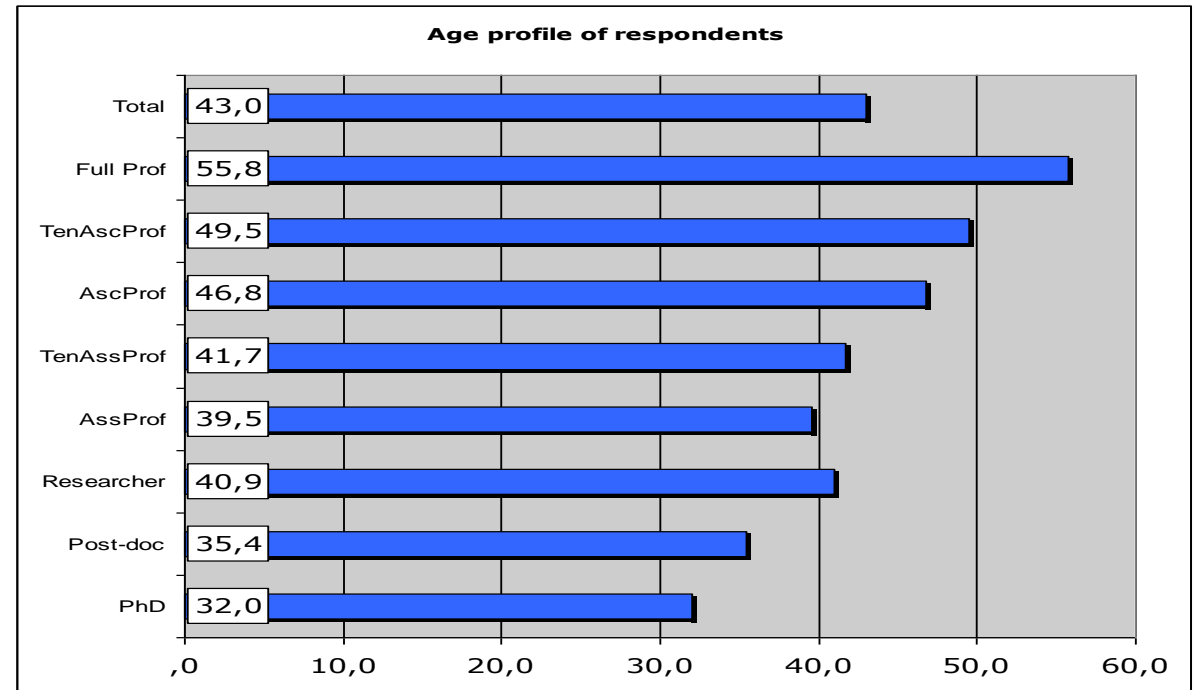
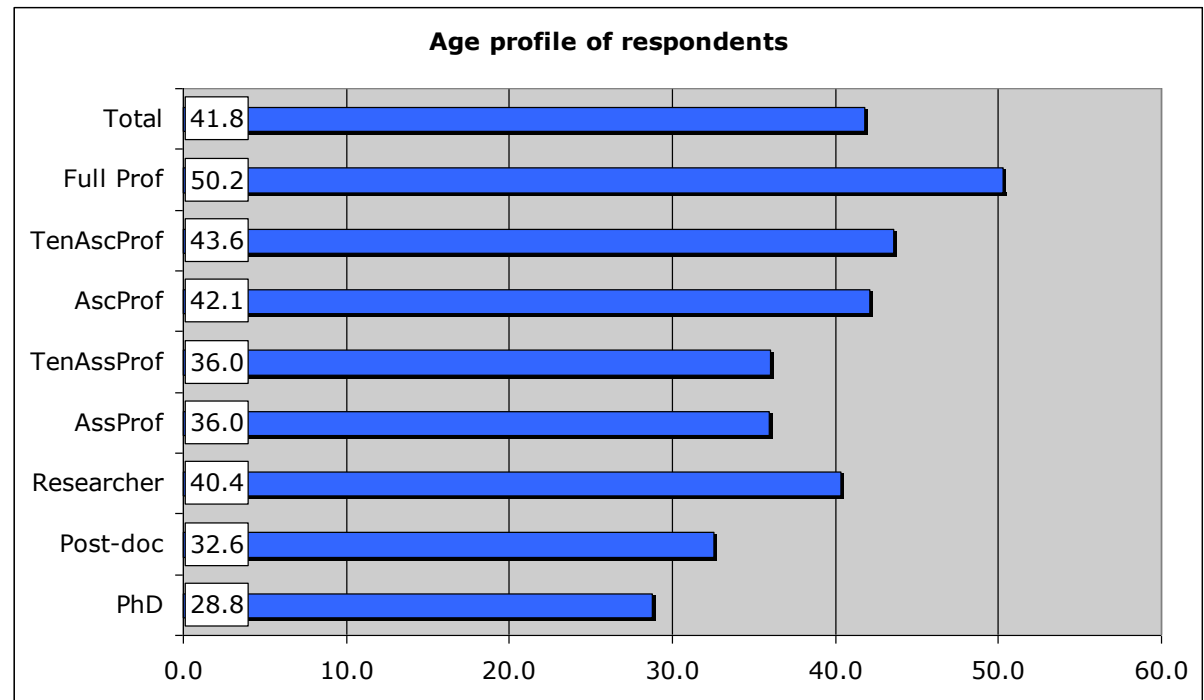
Sociology



Economics

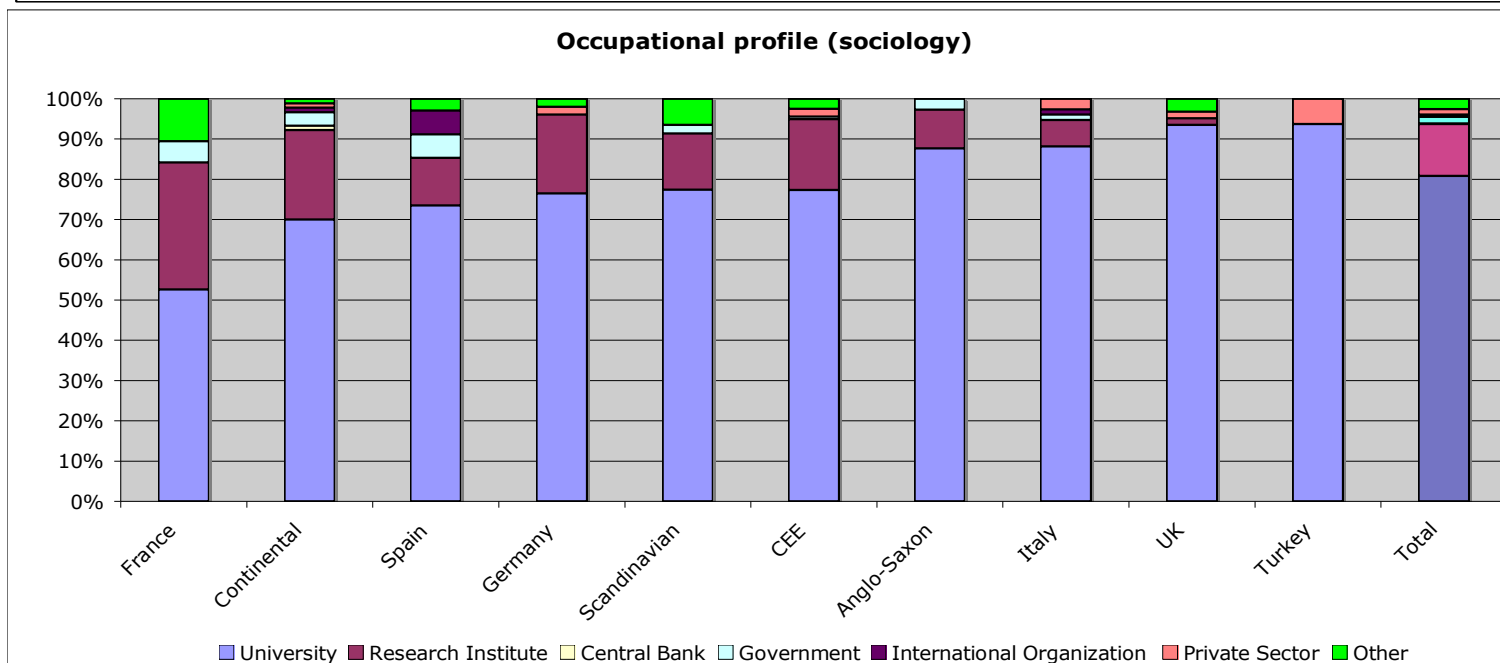
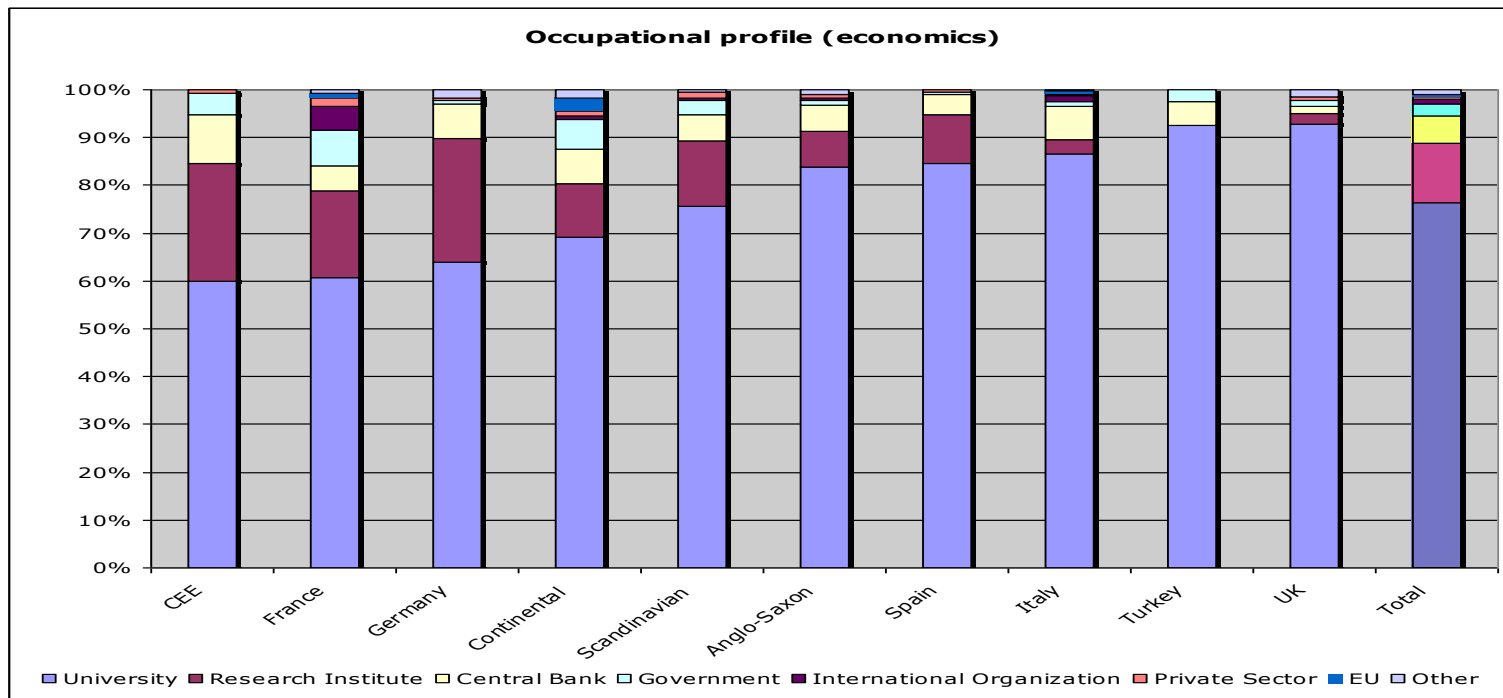
The professional profile by age

Sociology

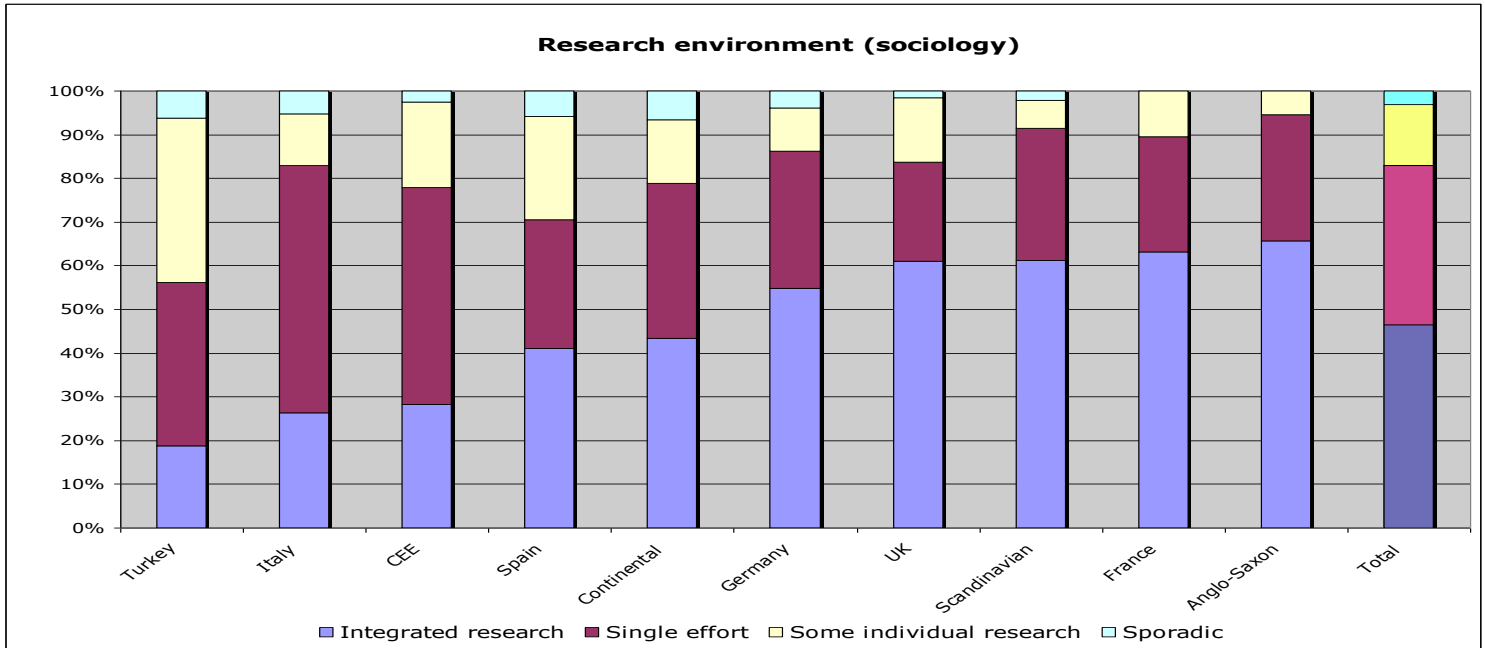
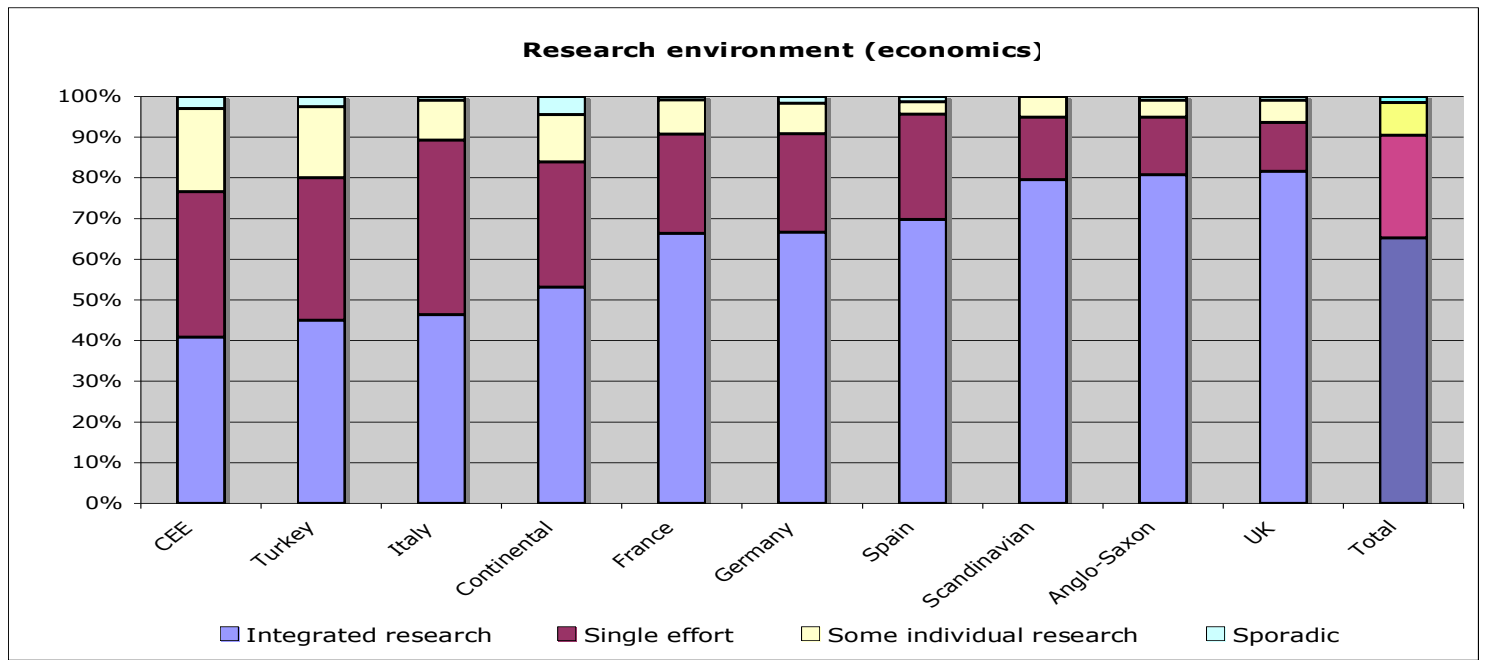


The sociology of the respondents

The job environment

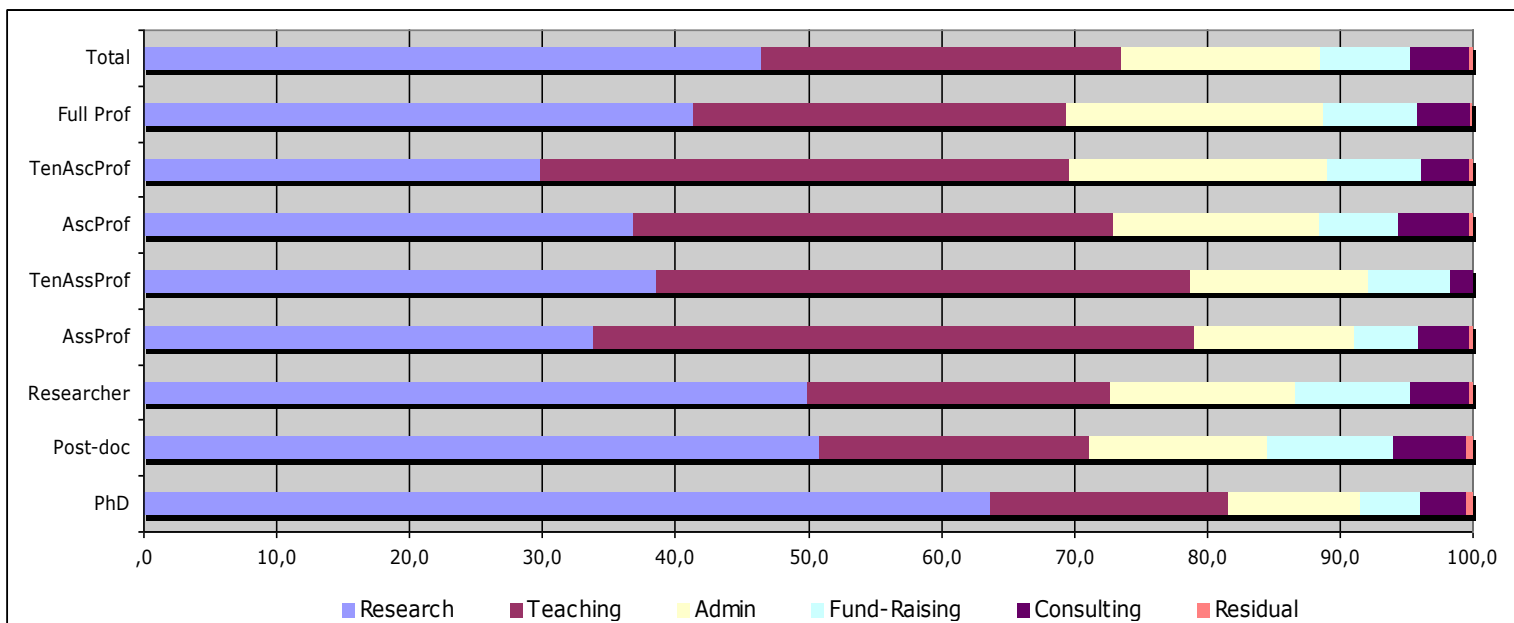
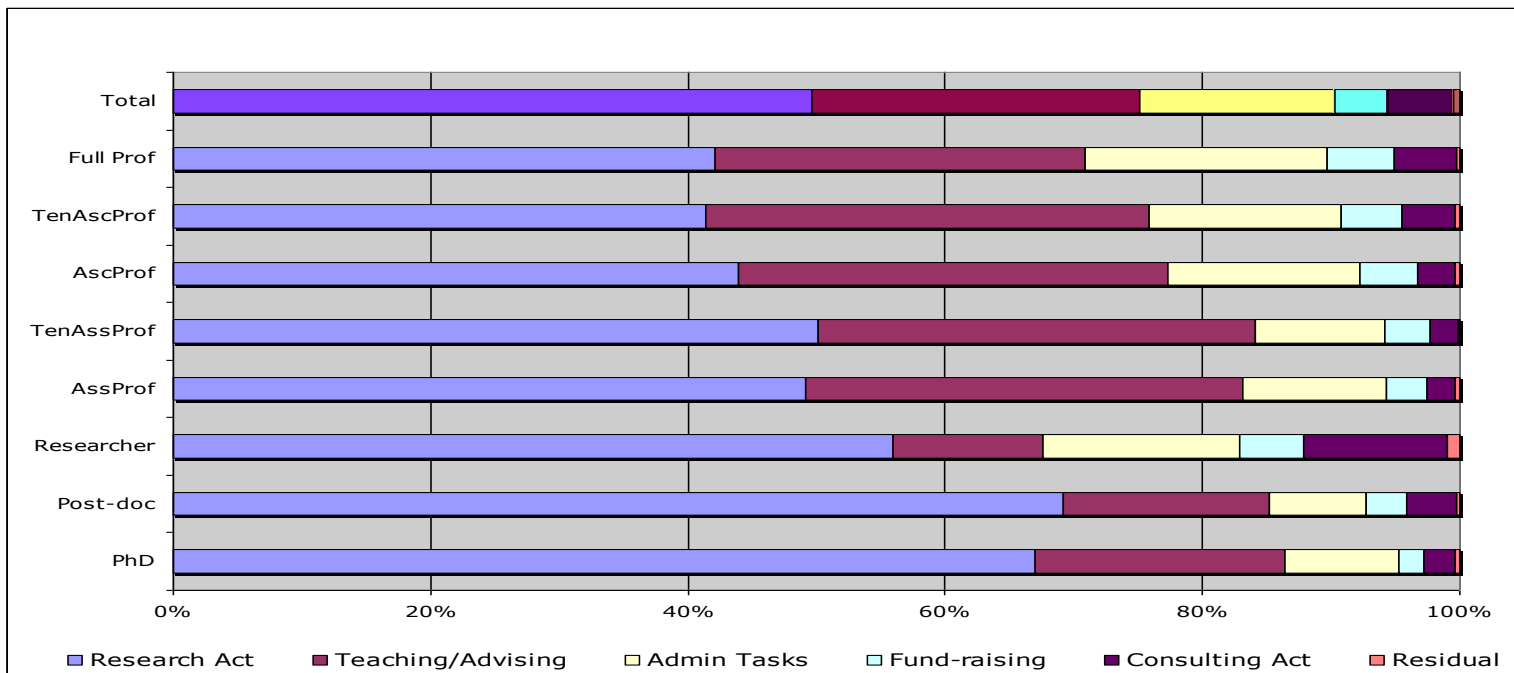


The research environment



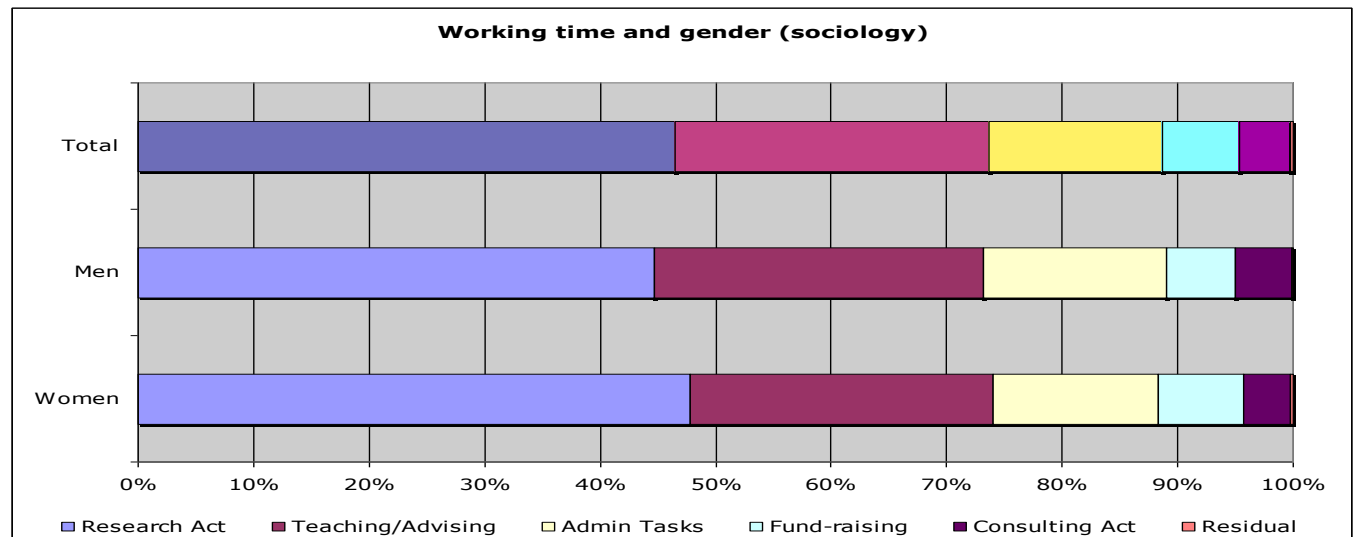
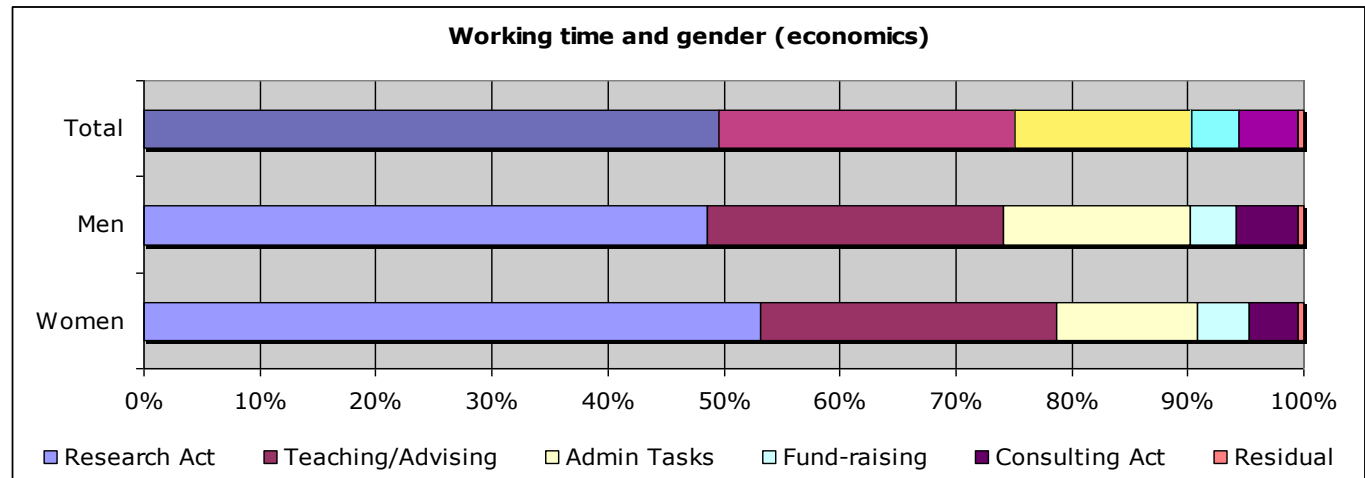
Economics

The working time

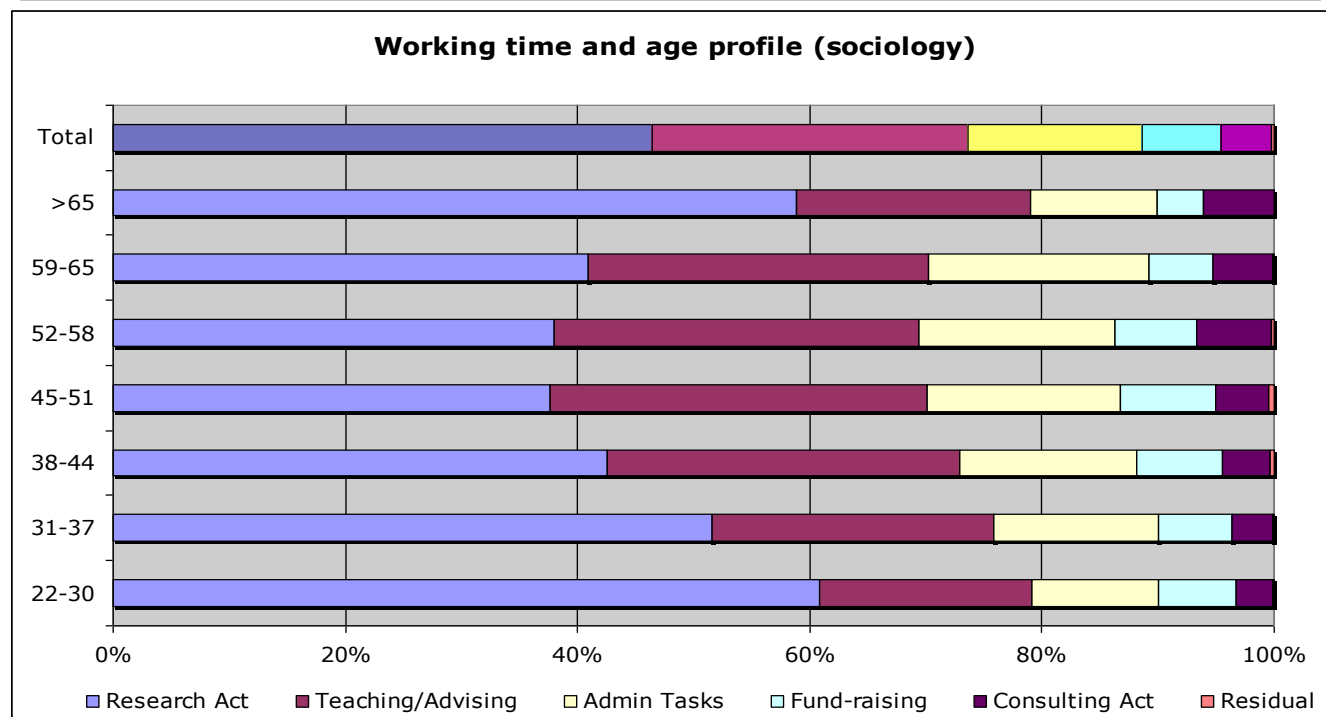
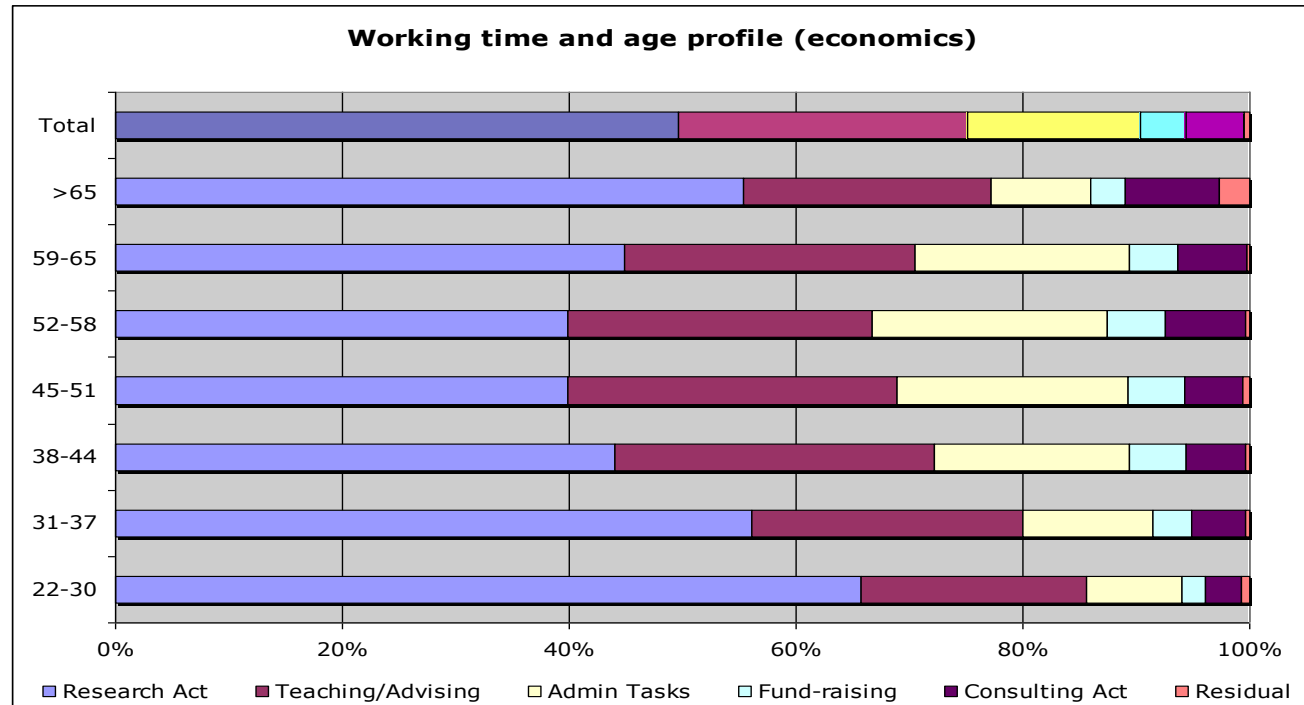


Sociology

The working time by gender

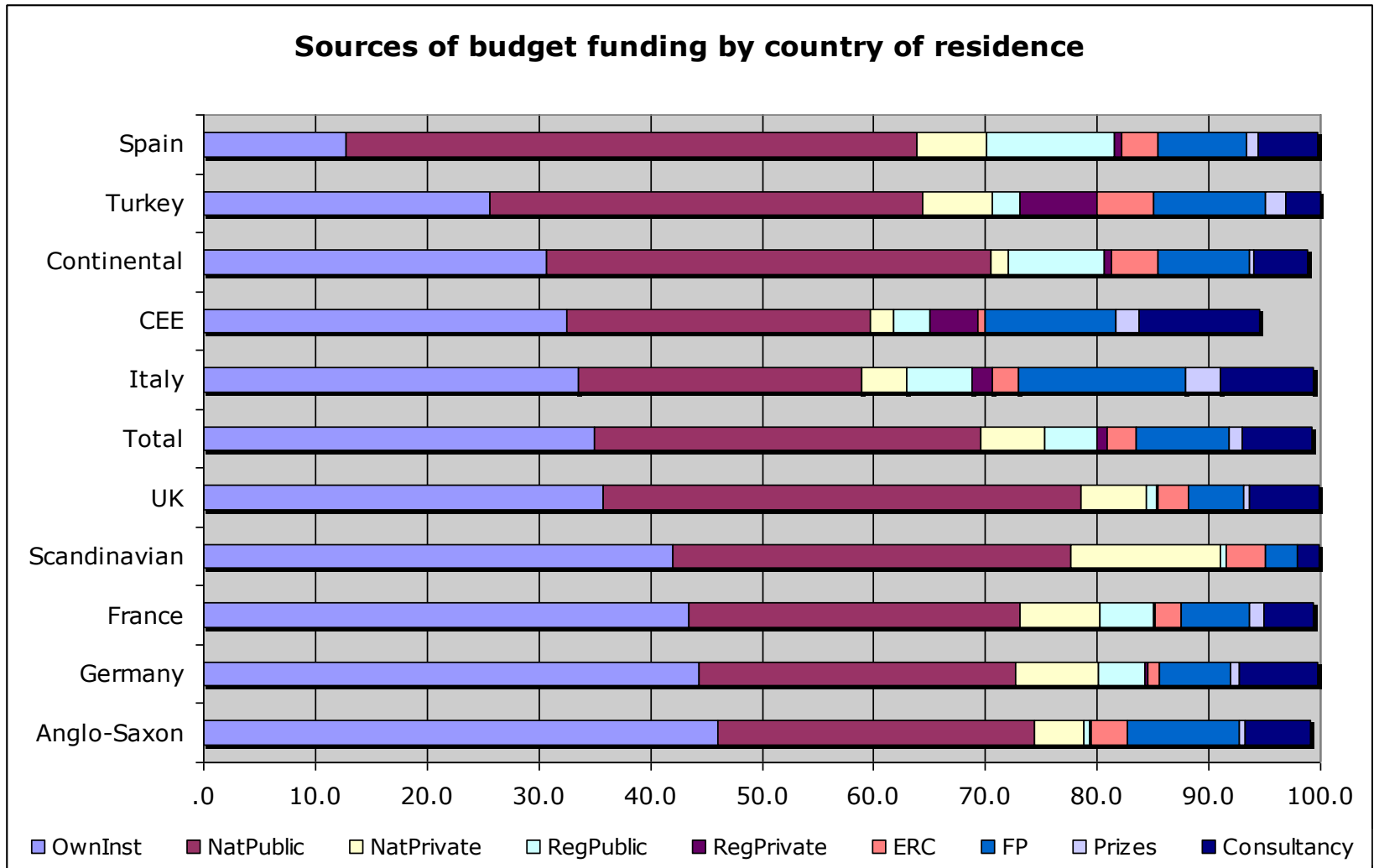


The working time by age

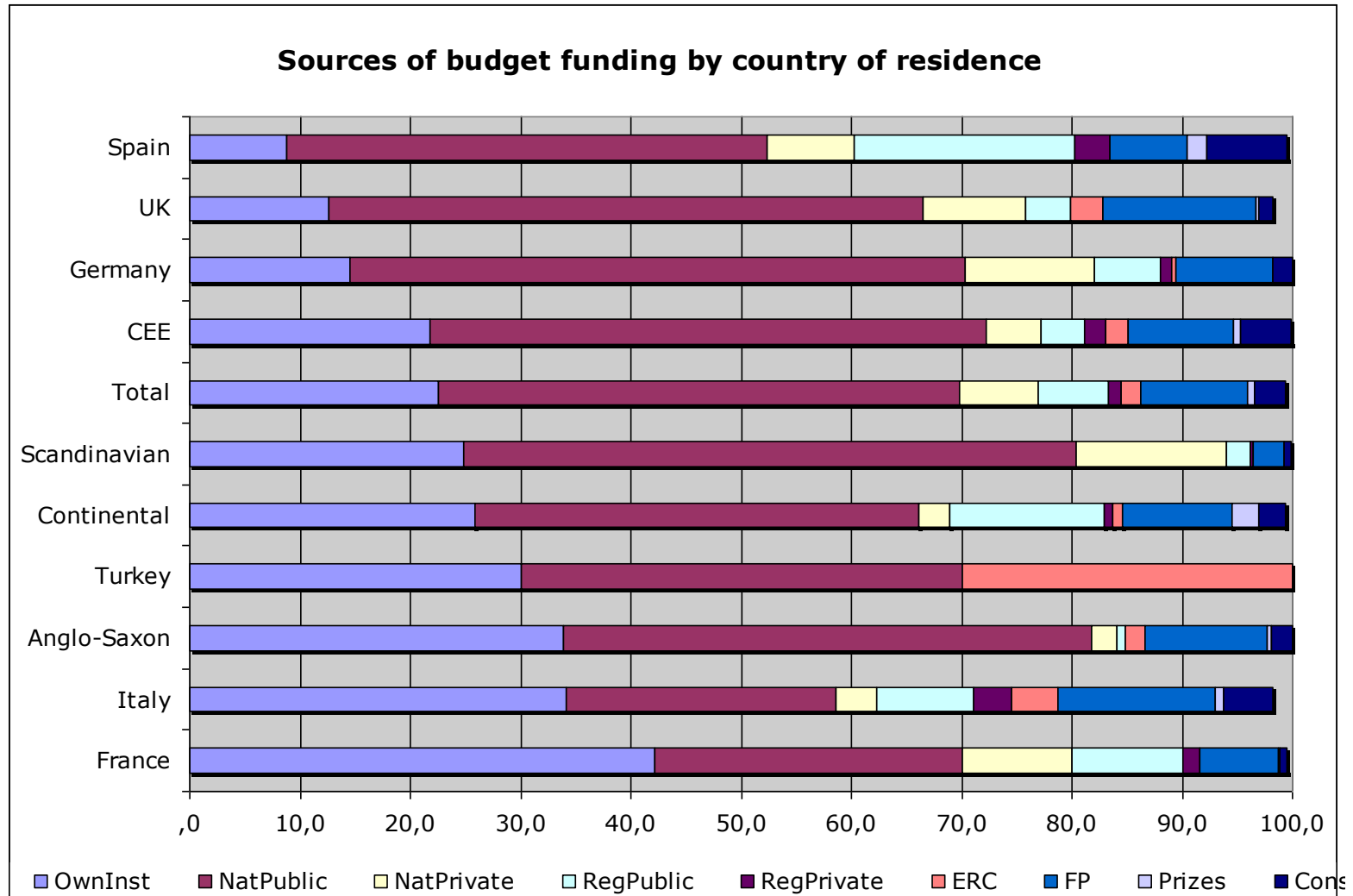


The research funding

The funding sources (economics)

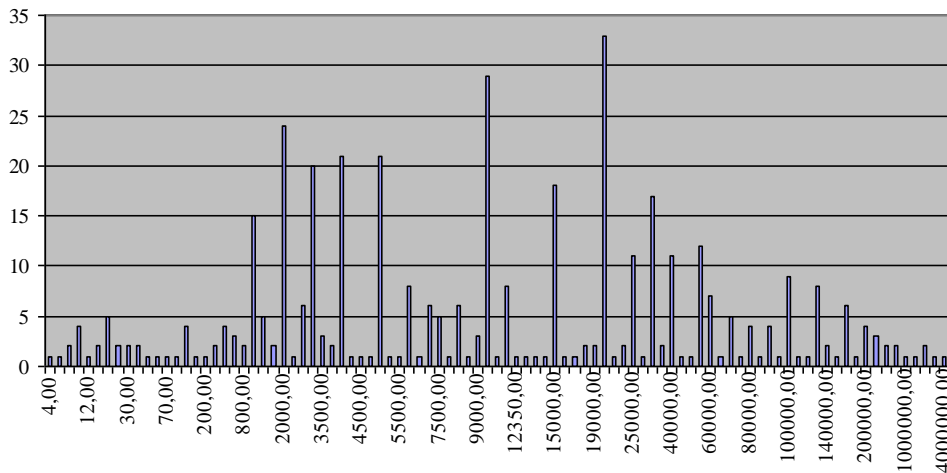


The funding sources (sociology)

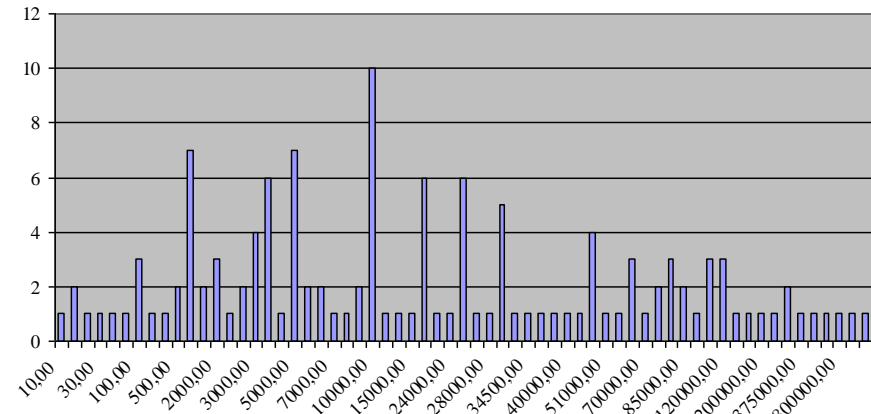


The reported funding size distributions (economics)

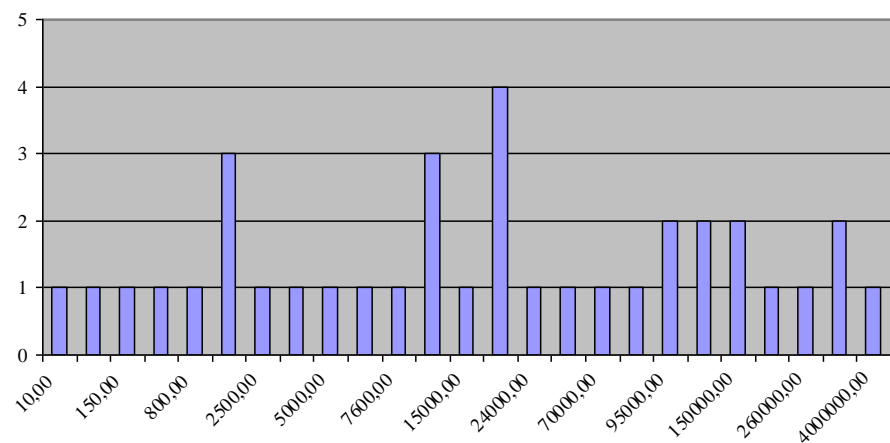
Annual Budget: National Public



Annual Budget FP (not ERC)

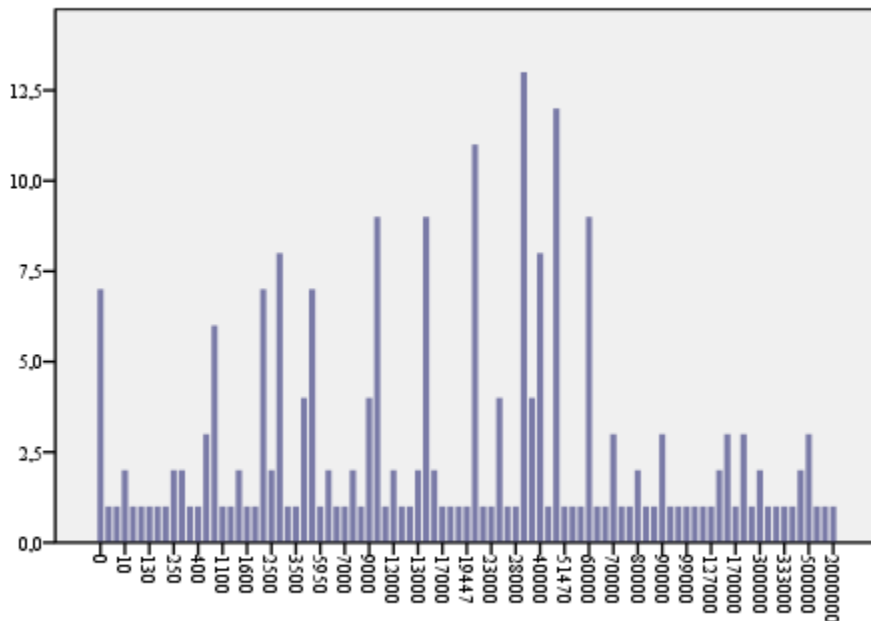


Annual Budget ERC

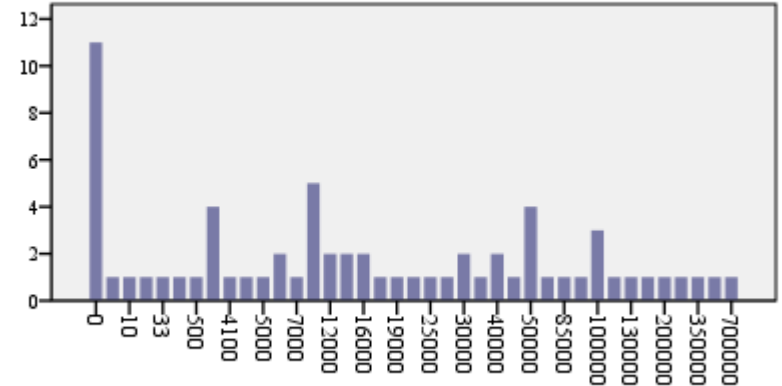


The reported funding size distributions (sociology)

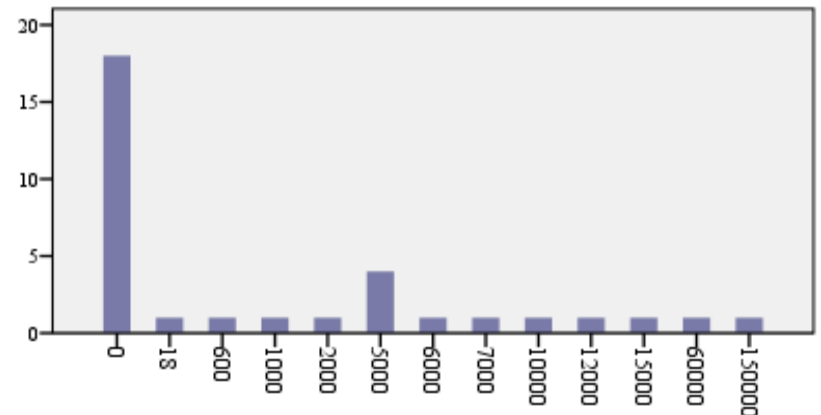
Annual Budget: National Public



Annual Budget: FramW (not ERC)



Annual Budget: ERC

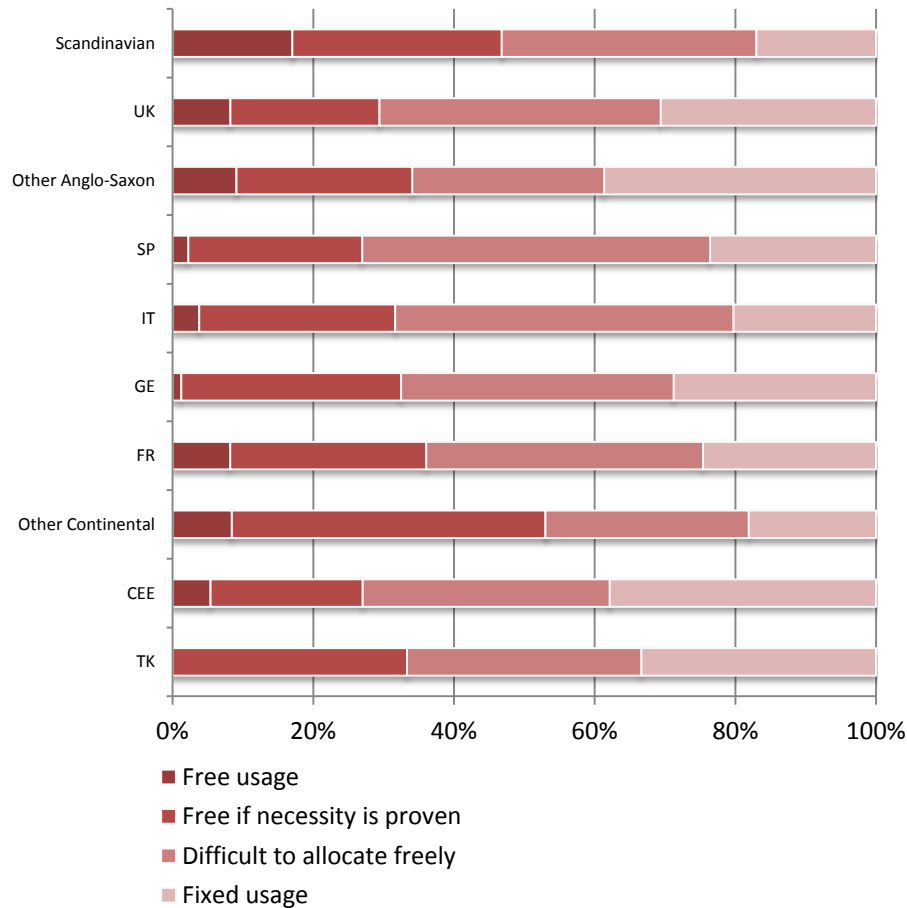


The differences on funding by country of residence

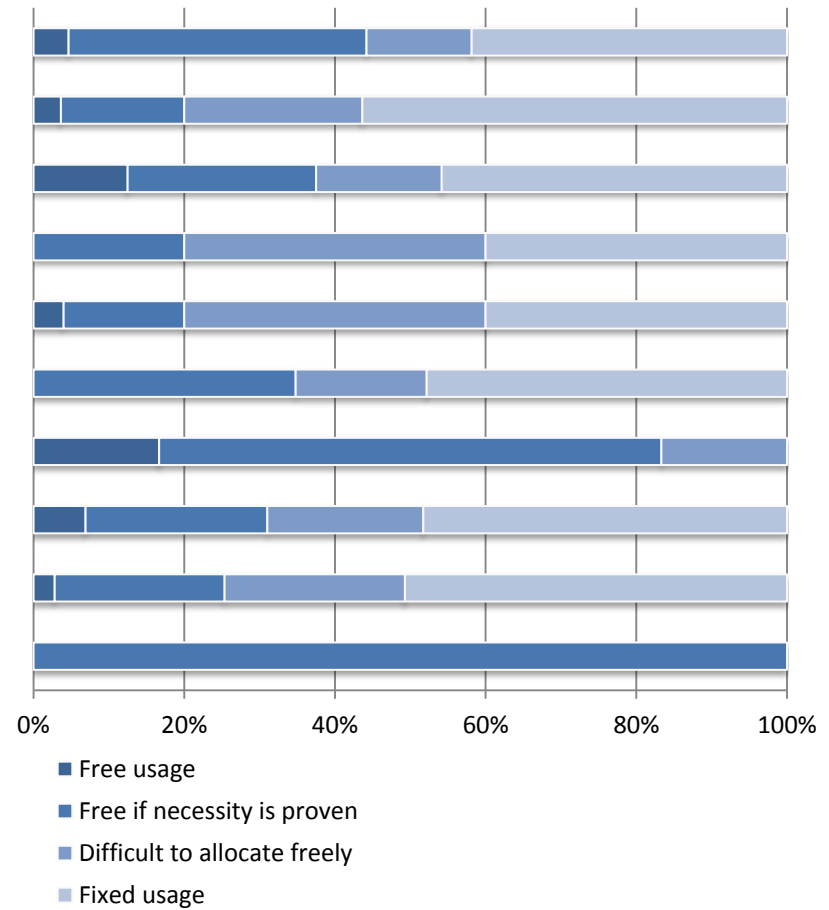
		Annual Budget									
		Sociology		Economics				Sociology		Economics	
		National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution			National Public	Own Institution	National Public	Own Institution
CEE	Mean	18288	5352	32793	6386	Other Continental	Mean	105398	7545	24574	67804
	Median	6225	1000	7500	3750		Median	18000	1000	10000	5000
	Standard Deviation	30624	13535	97670	7642		Standard Deviation	413322	22388	32256	301205
FR	Mean	49500	32901	20732	73342	Scandi navian	Mean	98793	32824	49415	21001
	Median	49500	4000	10000	3000		Median	50000	15000	26250	5000
	Standard Deviation	57276	55687	31120	437198		Standard Deviation	164729	60814	68073	31035
GE	Mean	51041	8302	35899	22247	SP	Mean	17542	5444	15186	38603
	Median	32500	5000	16500	15000		Median	17500	4000	5500	1800
	Standard Deviation	83678	11372	47624	28352		Standard Deviation	12239	6327	32570	231063
IT	Mean	13875	3278	10166	6423	TK	Mean	15000	2250	4700	10333
	Median	4000	2000	4500	3000		Median	15000	2250	6000	8000
	Standard Deviation	21171	2932	17851	12589		Standard Deviation	.	2475	4107	8737
Other Anglo-Saxon	Mean	52696	53584	235560	96025	UK	Mean	127681	12934	171522	9158
	Median	27500	22000	20000	4000		Median	40000	2200	30000	3250
	Standard Deviation	77887	80876	684153	298257		Standard Deviation	175767	26484	572916	20142

The allocation of research funds: National public

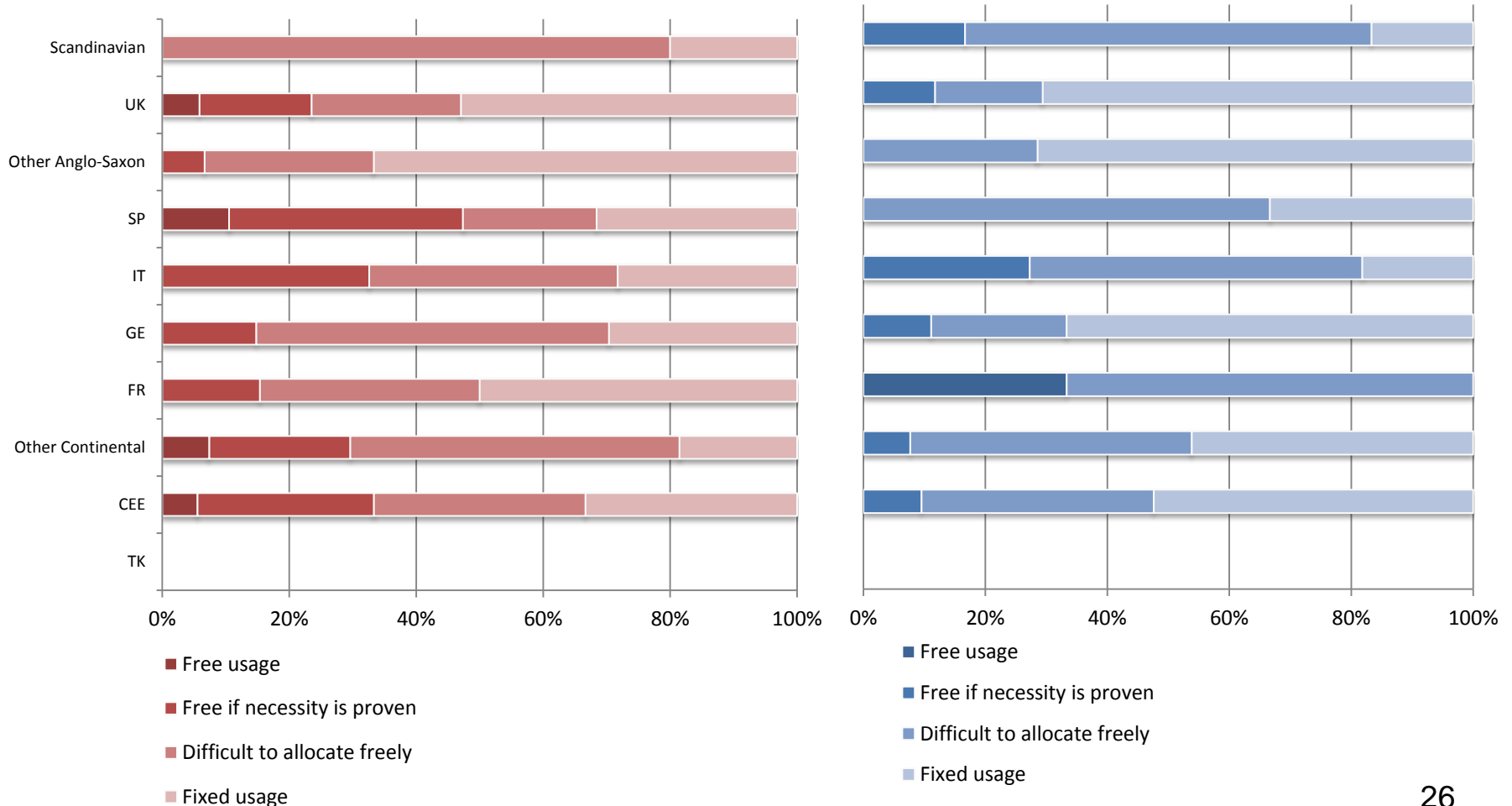
Economics



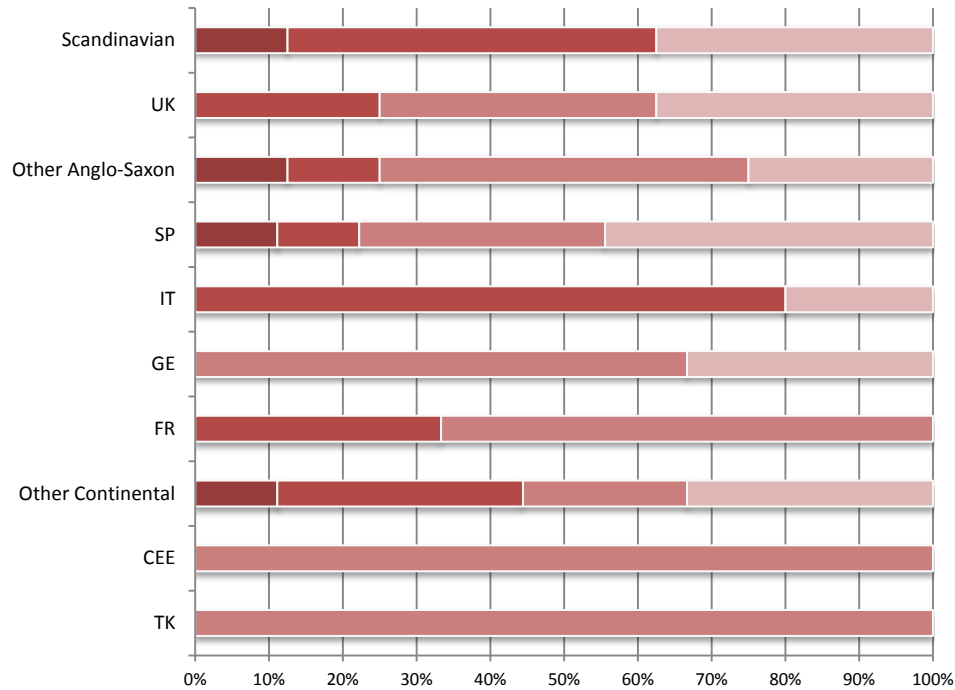
Sociology



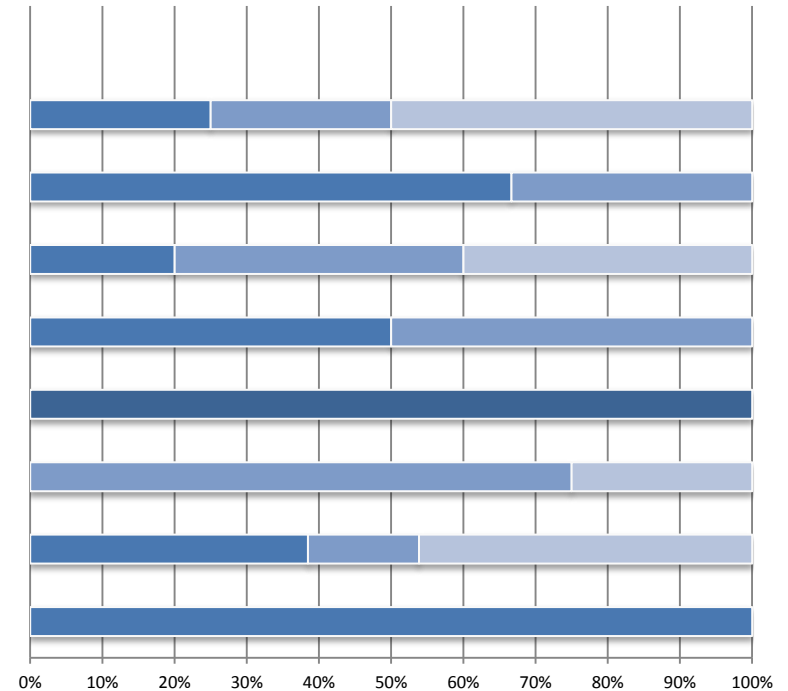
The allocation of research funds: Framework Programme (not ERC)



The allocation of research funds: ERC

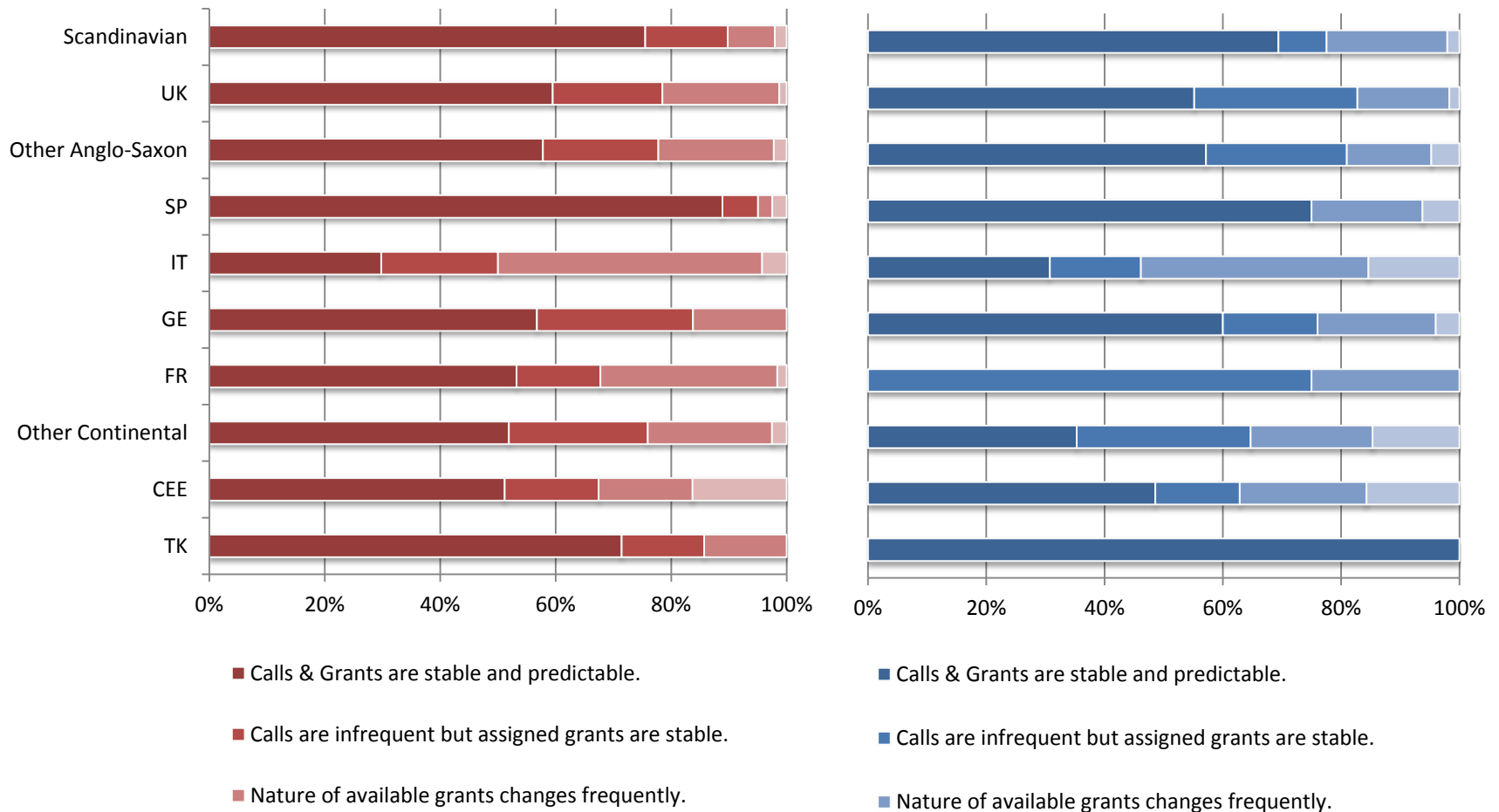


- Free usage
- Free if necessity is proven
- Difficult to allocate freely
- Fixed usage

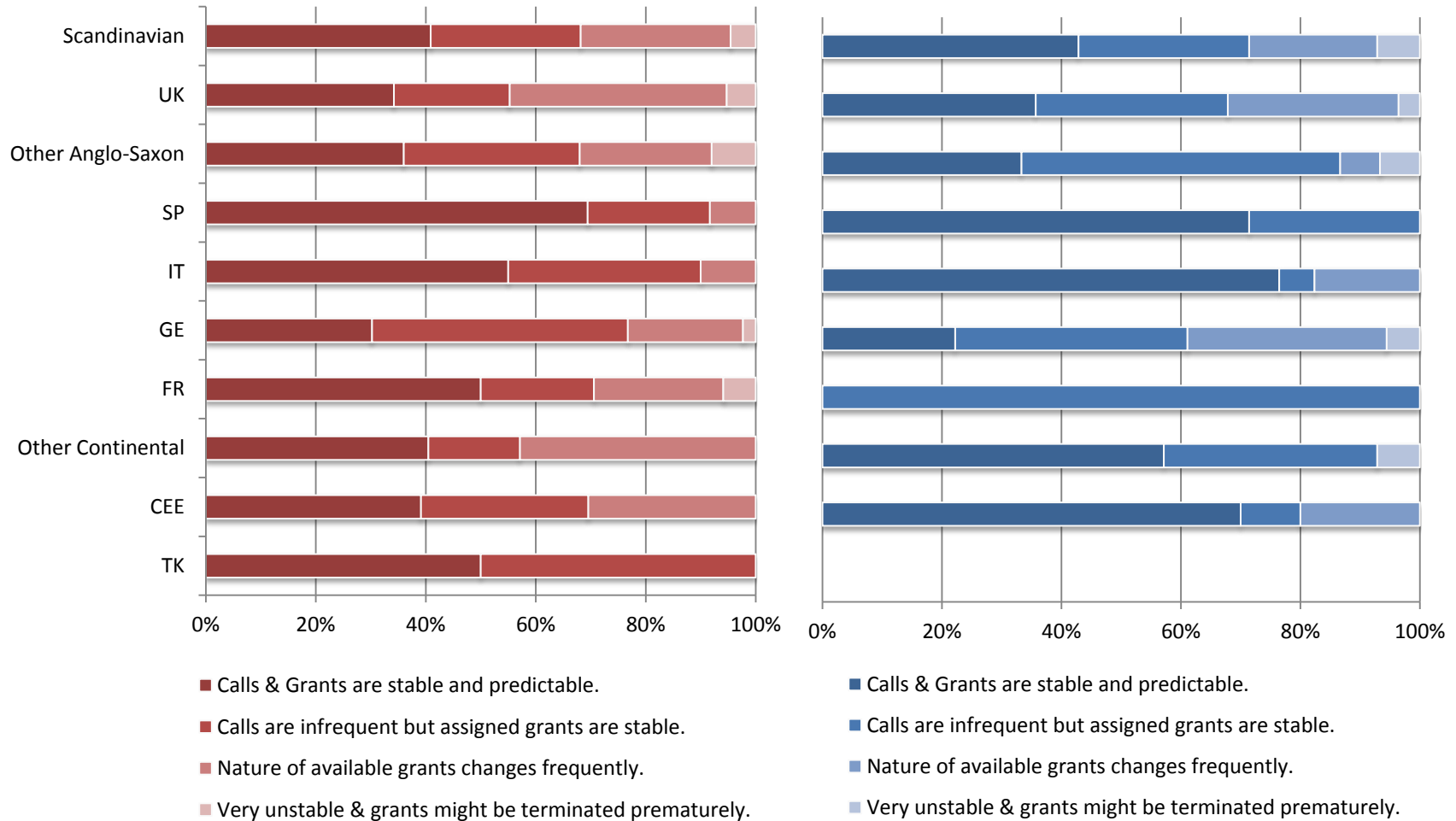


- Free usage
- Free if necessity is proven
- Difficult to allocate freely
- Fixed usage

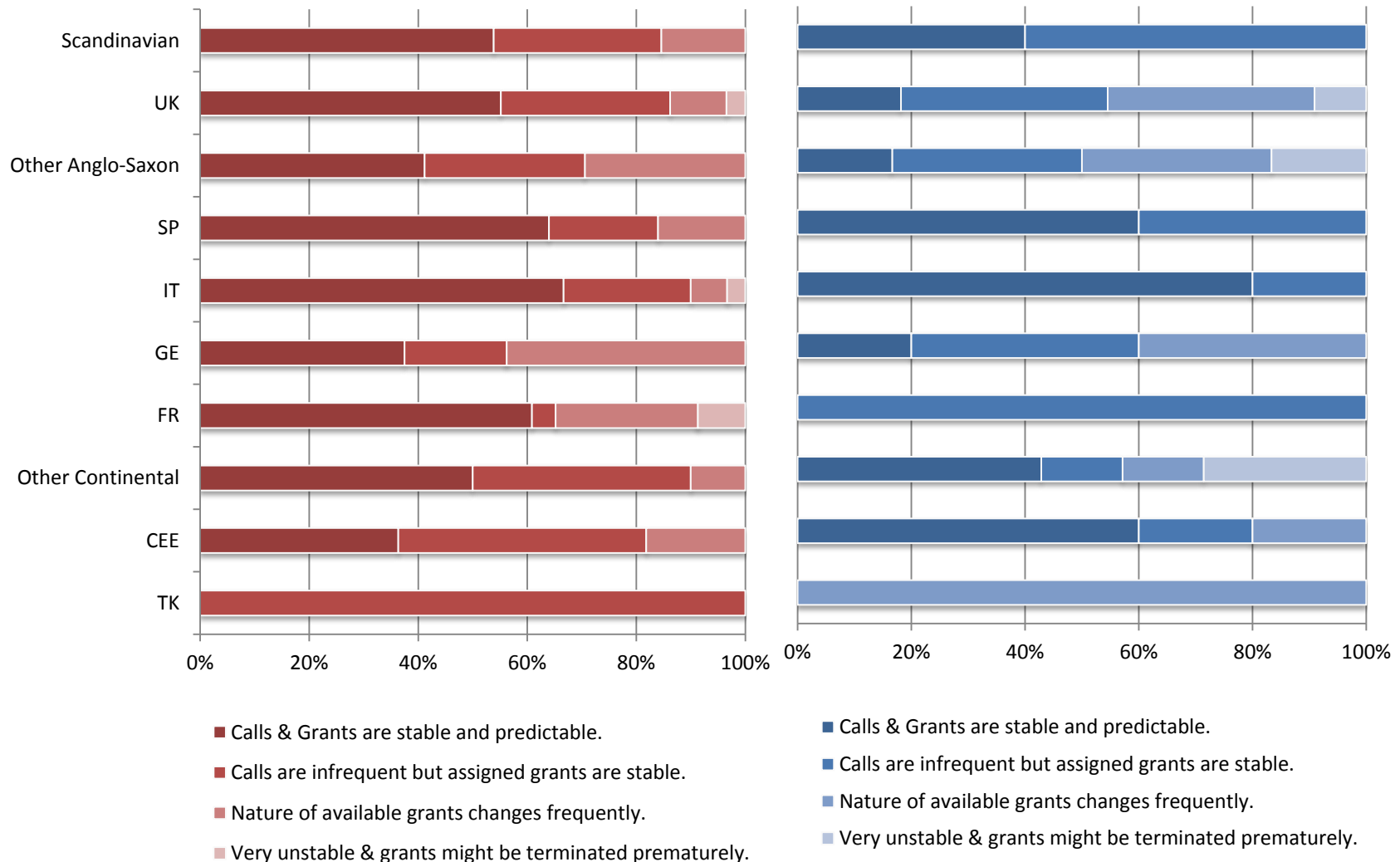
The perceptions of stability: National public



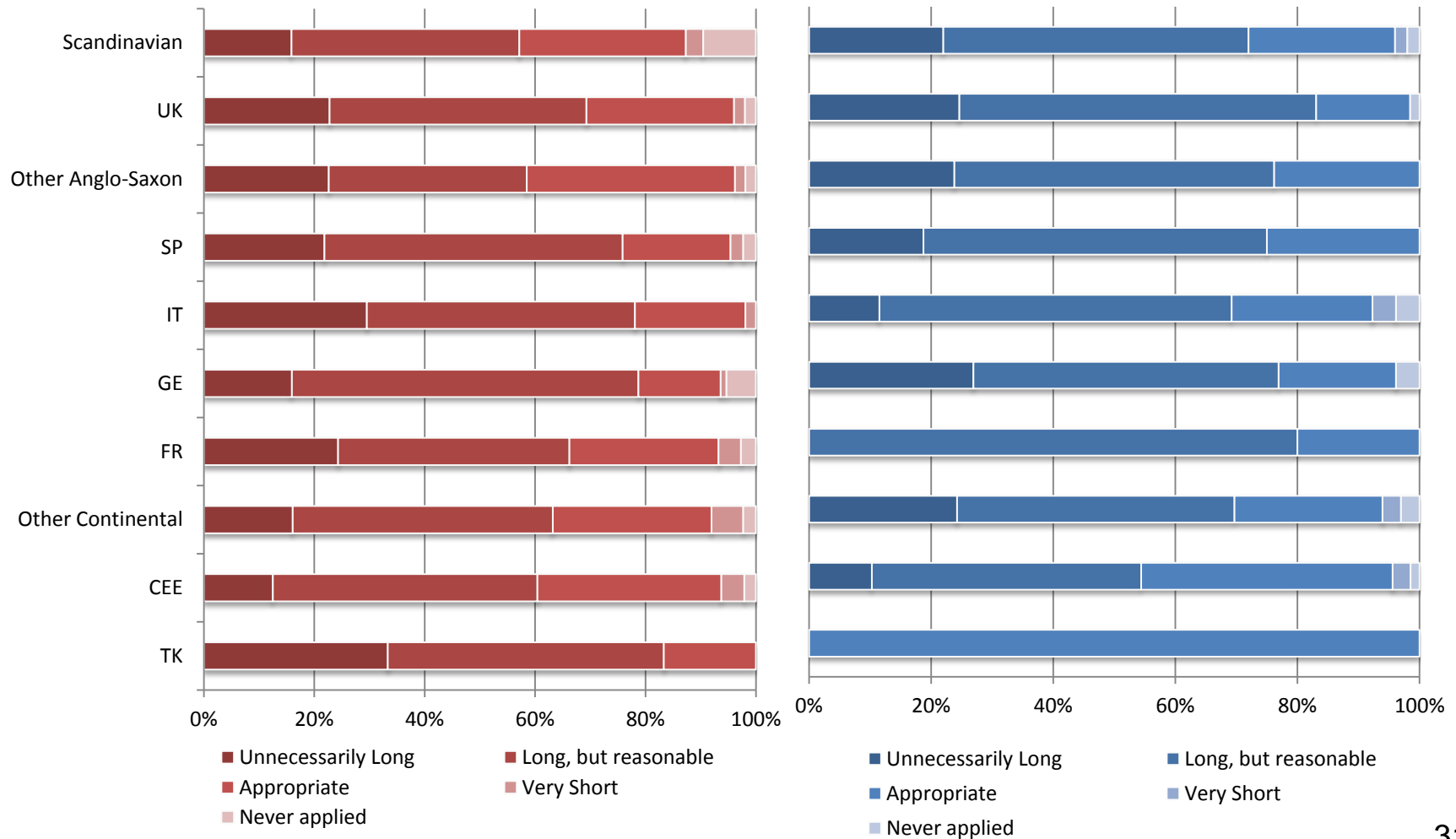
The perceptions of stability: FP (not ERC)



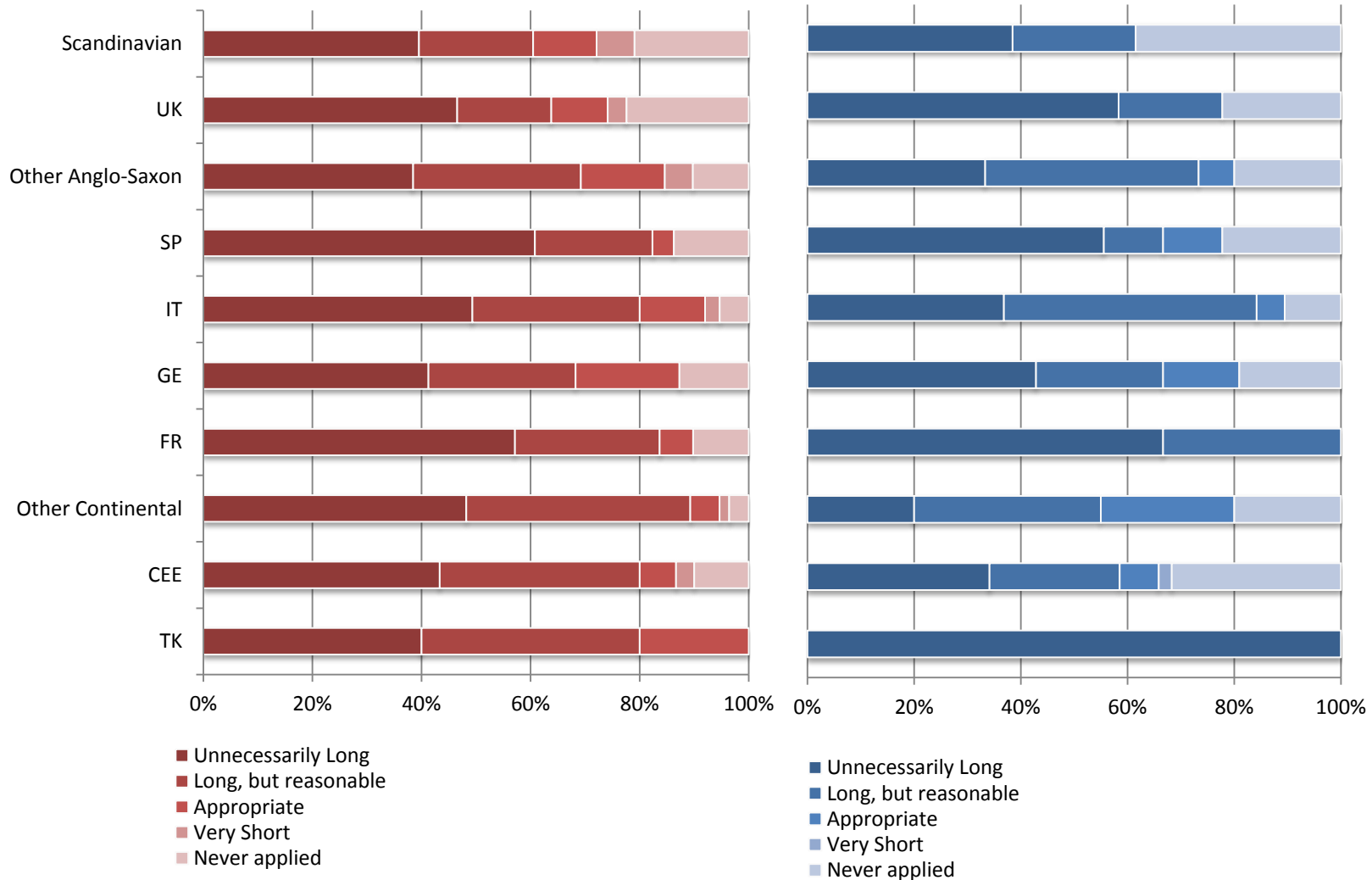
The perceptions of stability: ERC



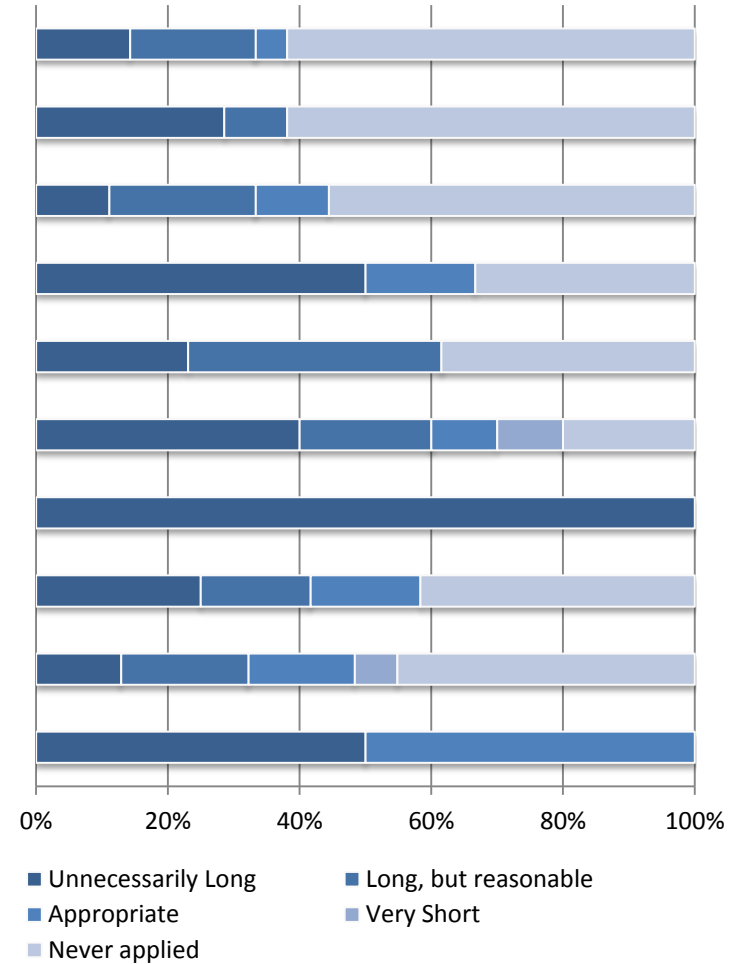
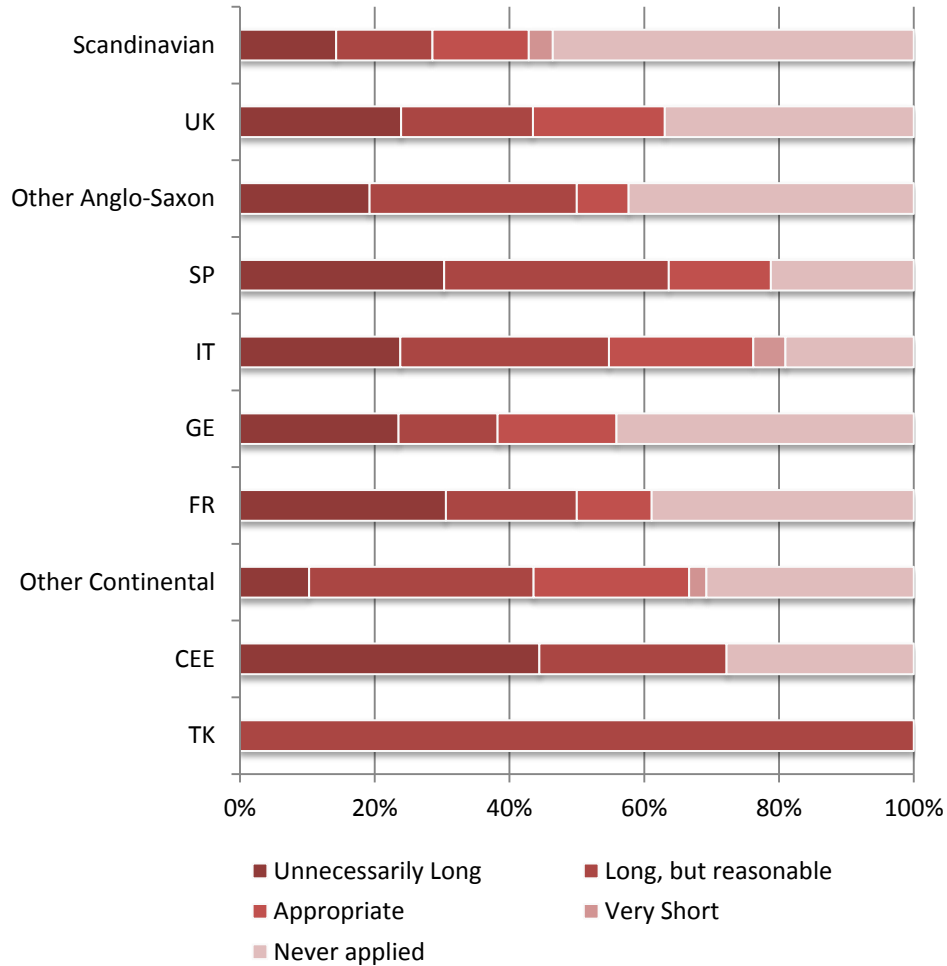
The application time: National public



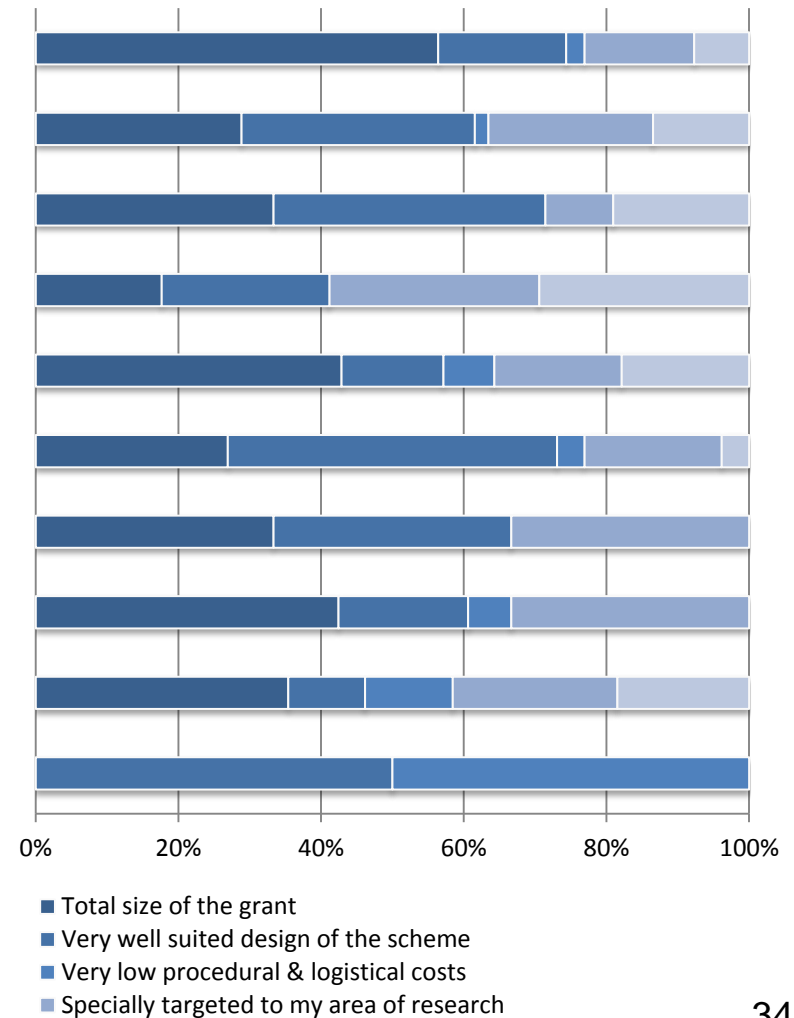
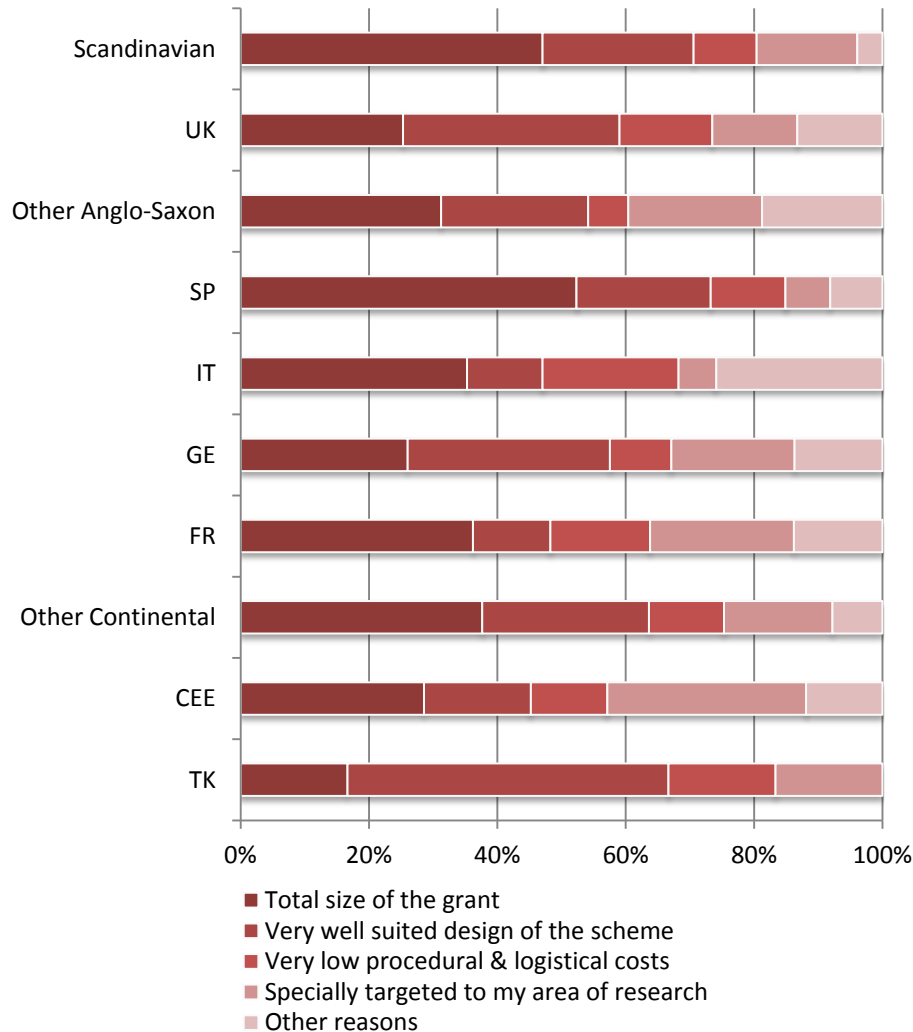
The application time: FP (not ERC)



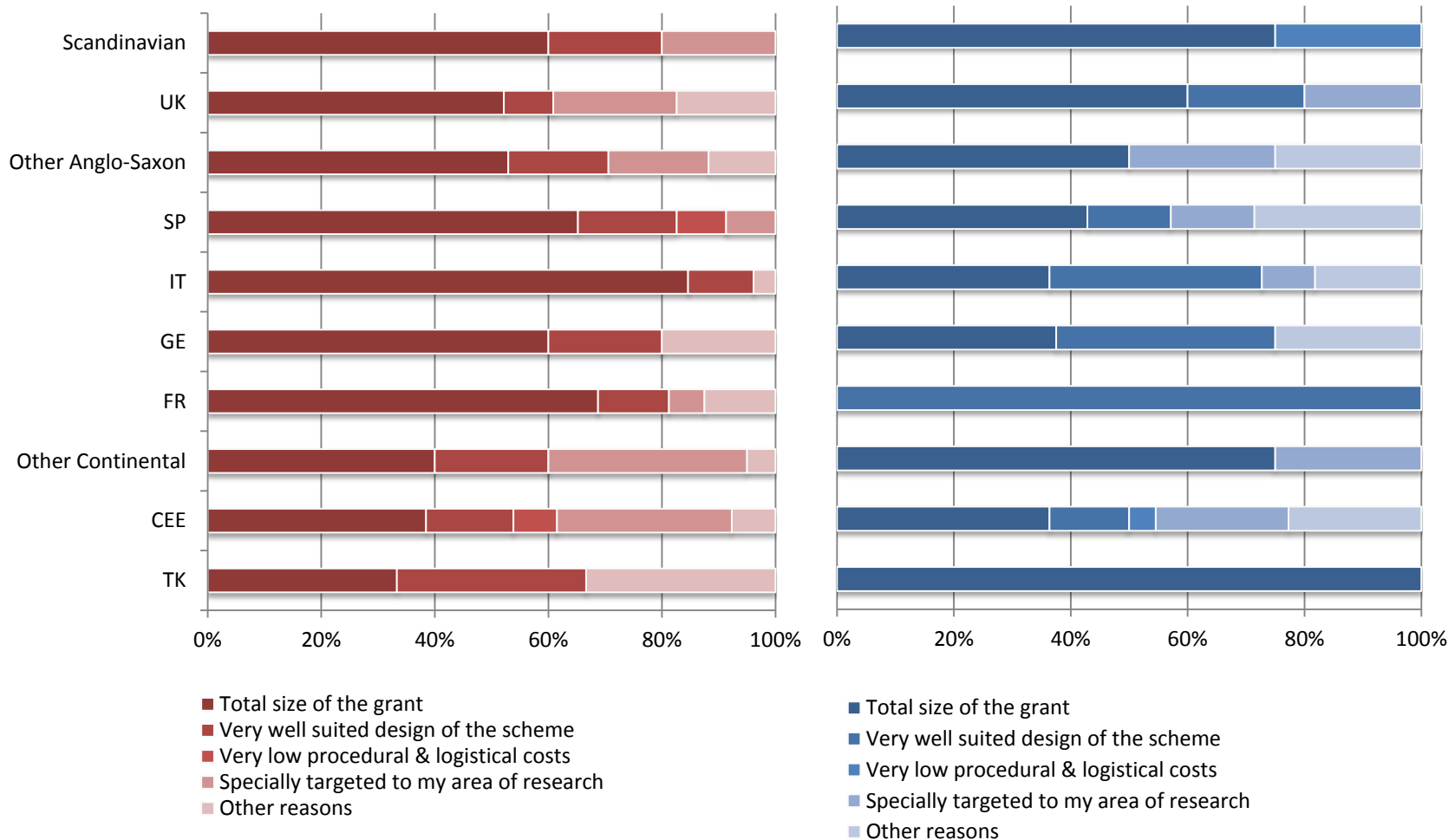
The application time: ERC



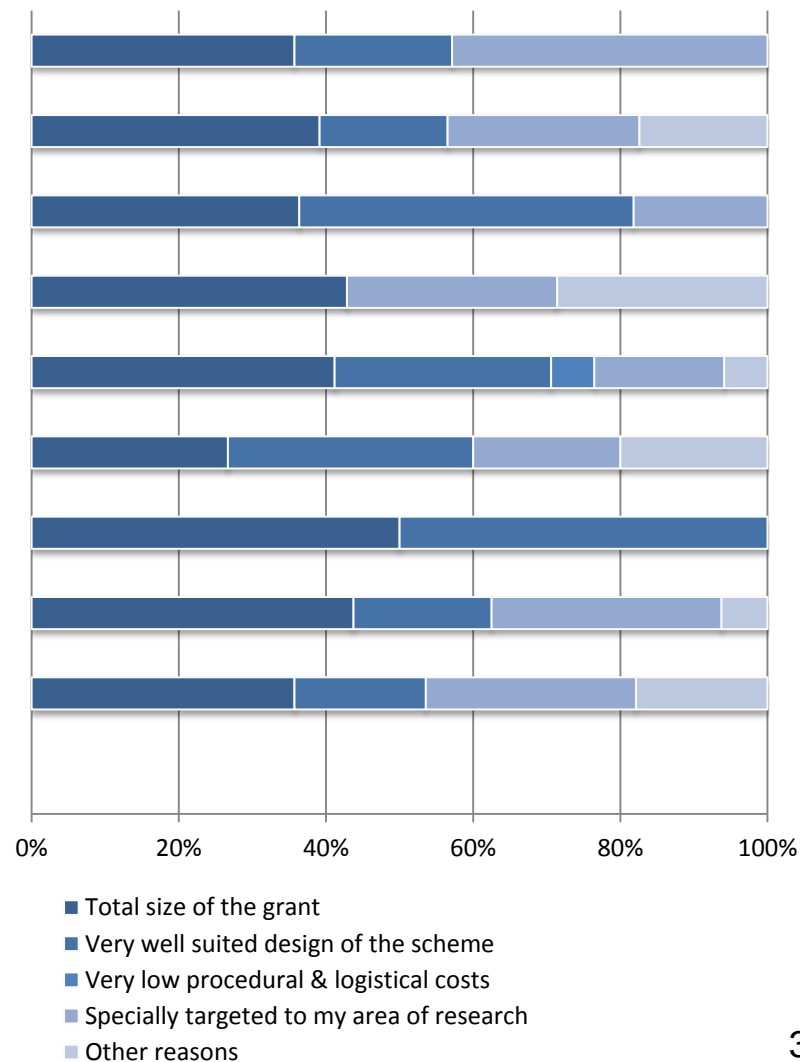
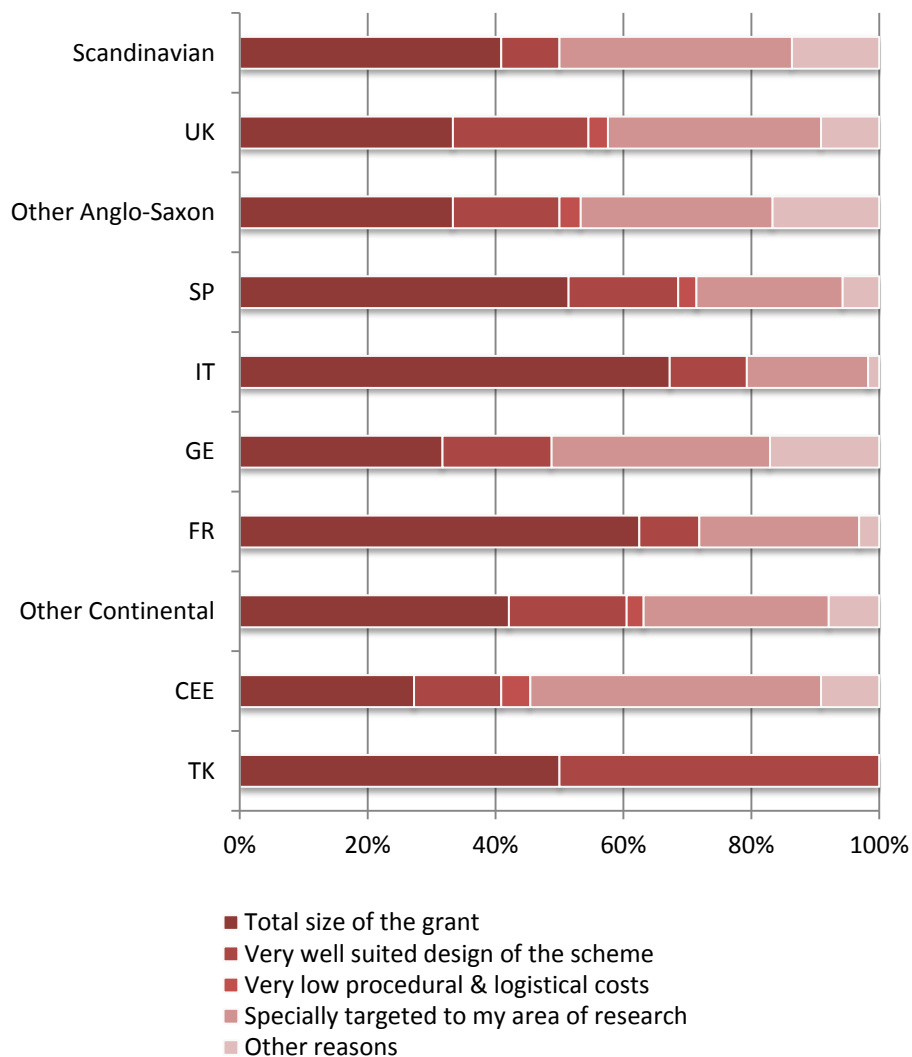
The reasons to apply: National public



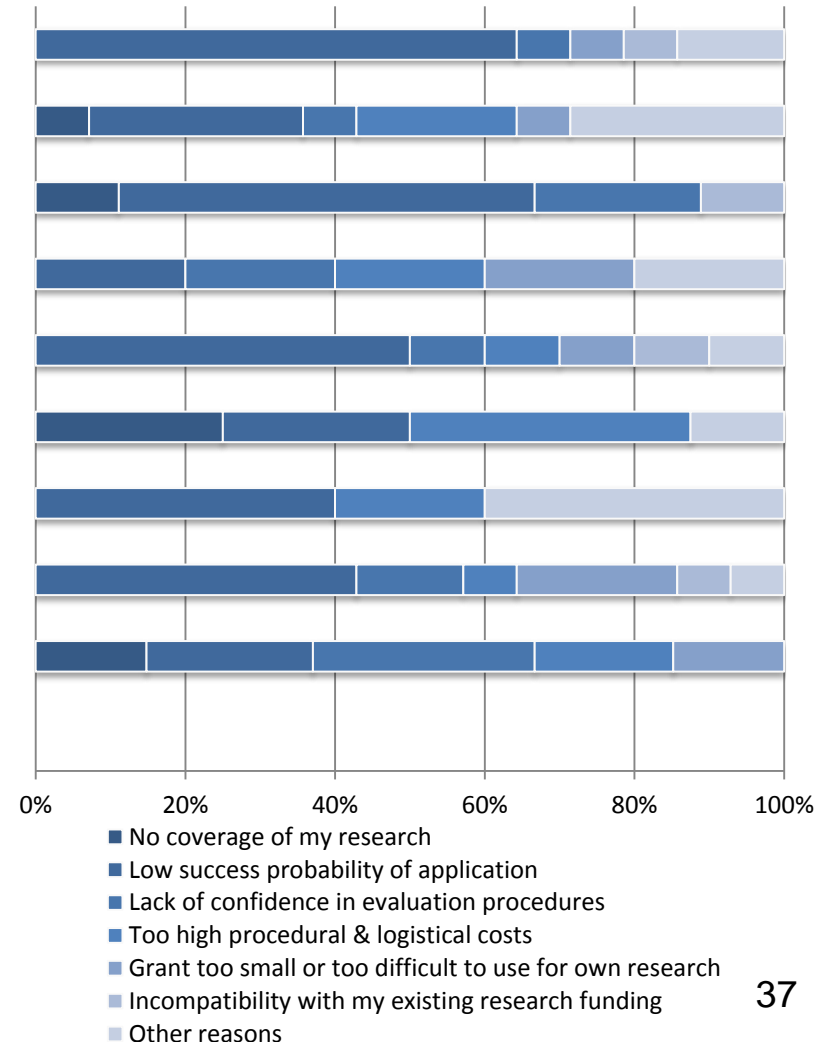
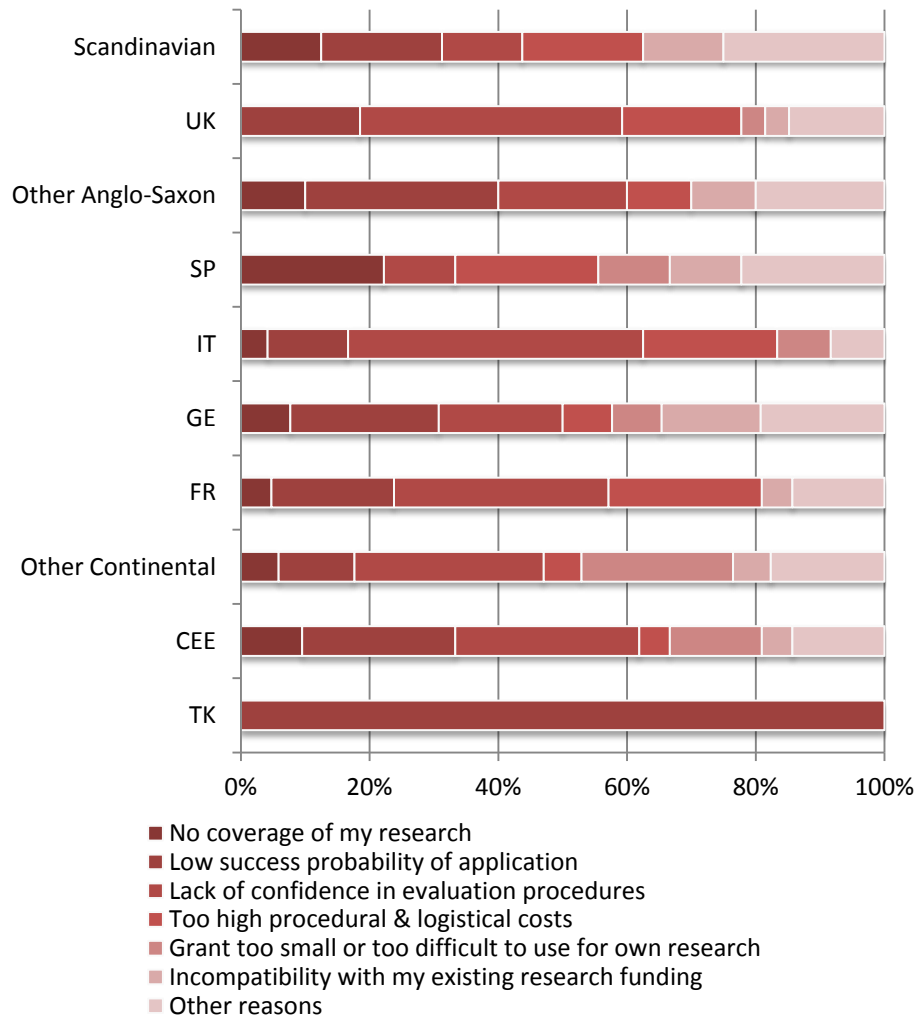
The reasons to apply: ERC



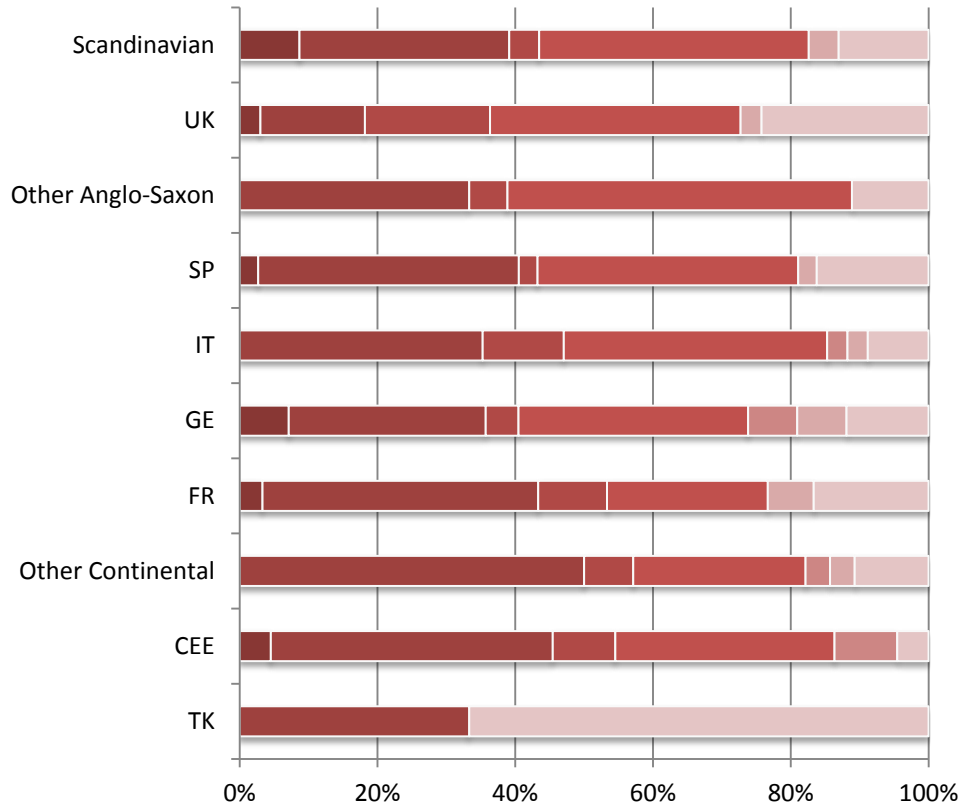
The reasons to apply: Framework Programme (not ERC)



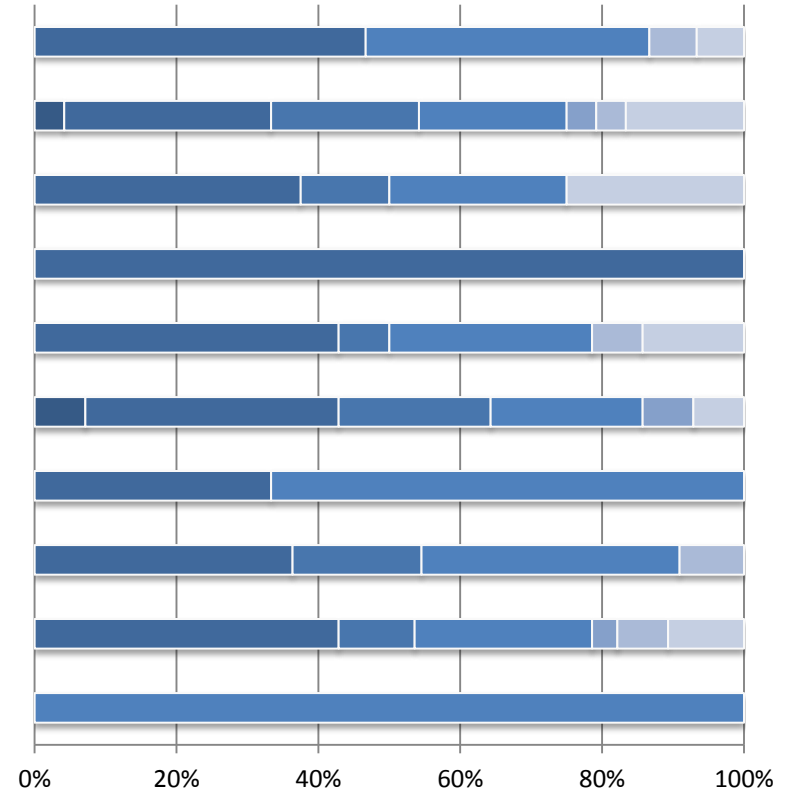
The reasons NOT to apply: National public



The reasons NOT to apply: ERC

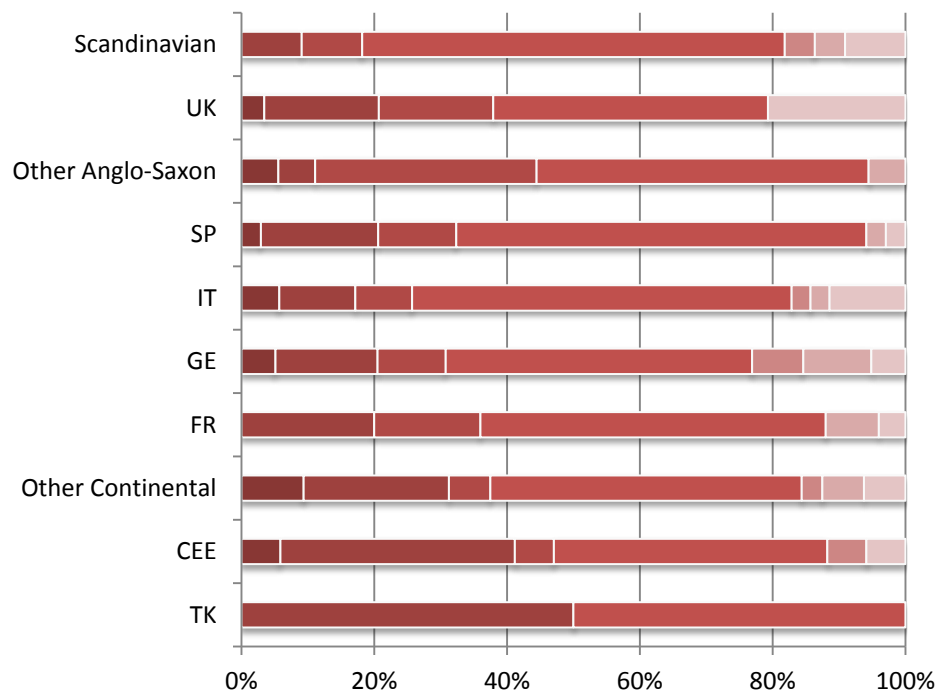


- No coverage of my research
- Low success probability of application
- Lack of confidence in evaluation procedures
- Too high procedural & logistical costs
- Grant too small or too difficult to use for own research
- Incompatibility with my existing research funding
- Other reasons

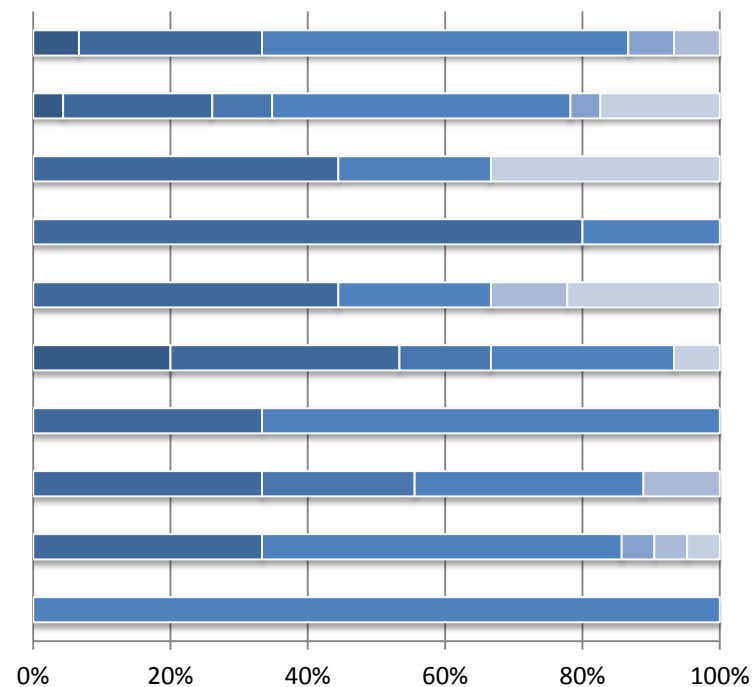


- No coverage of my research
- Low success probability of application
- Lack of confidence in evaluation procedures
- Too high procedural & logistical costs
- Grant too small or too difficult to use for own research
- Incompatibility with my existing research funding
- Other reasons

The reasons NOT to apply: Framework Programme (not ERC)

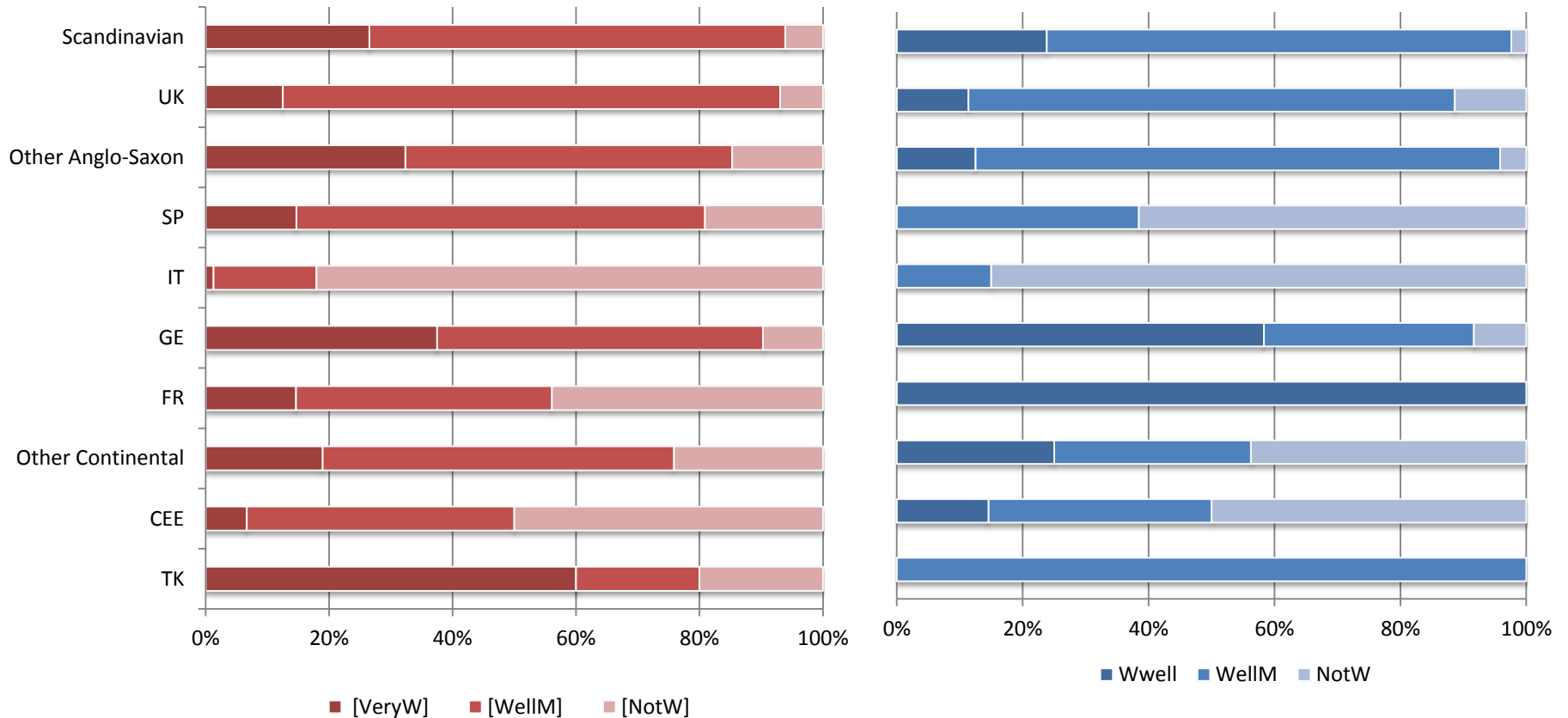


- No coverage of my research
- Low success probability of application
- Lack of confidence in evaluation procedures
- Too high procedural & logistical costs
- Grant too small or too difficult to use for own research
- Incompatibility with my existing research funding

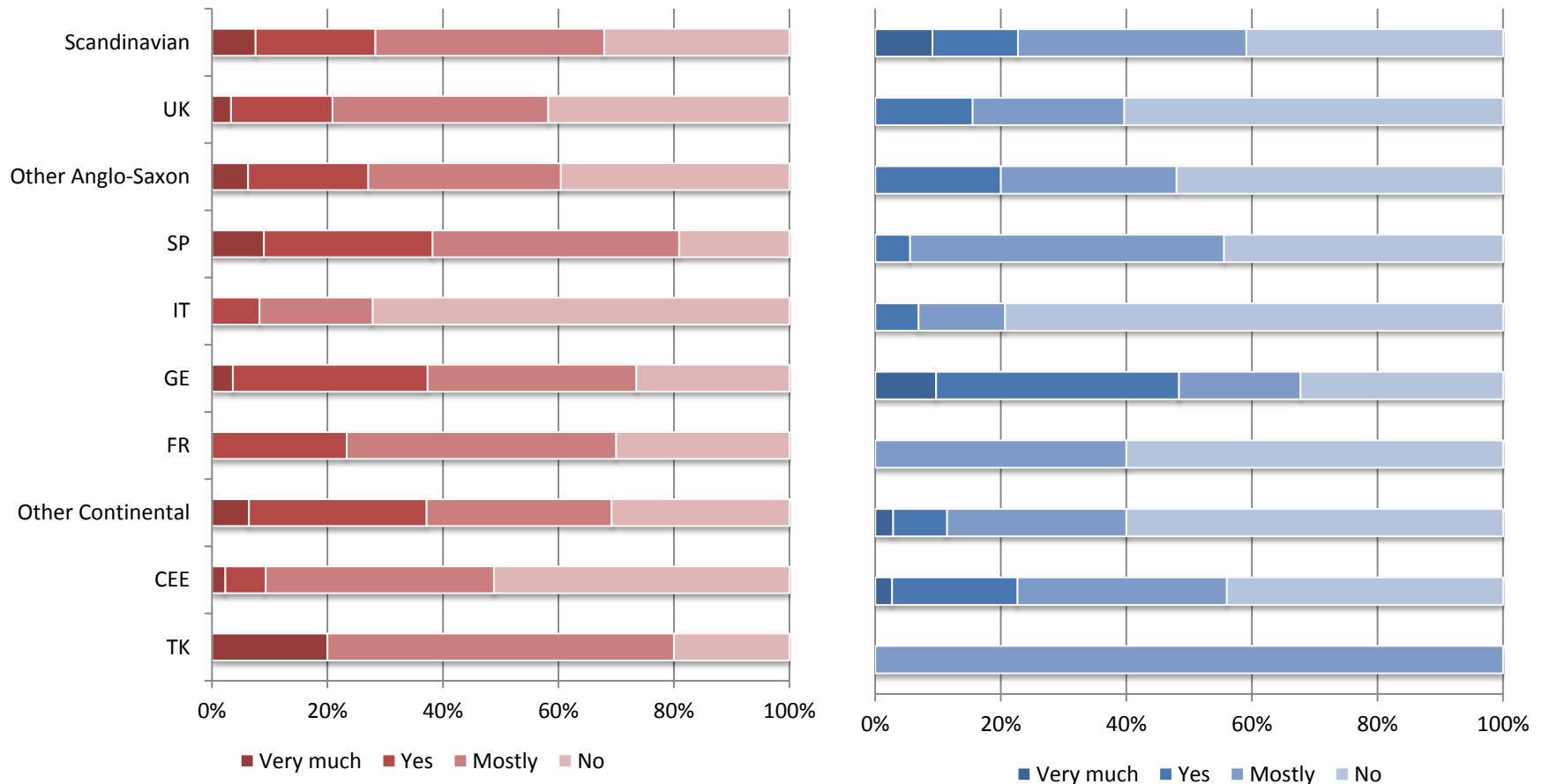


- No coverage of my research
- Low success probability of application
- Lack of confidence in evaluation procedures
- Too high procedural & logistical costs
- Grant too small or too difficult to use for own research
- Incompatibility with my existing research funding

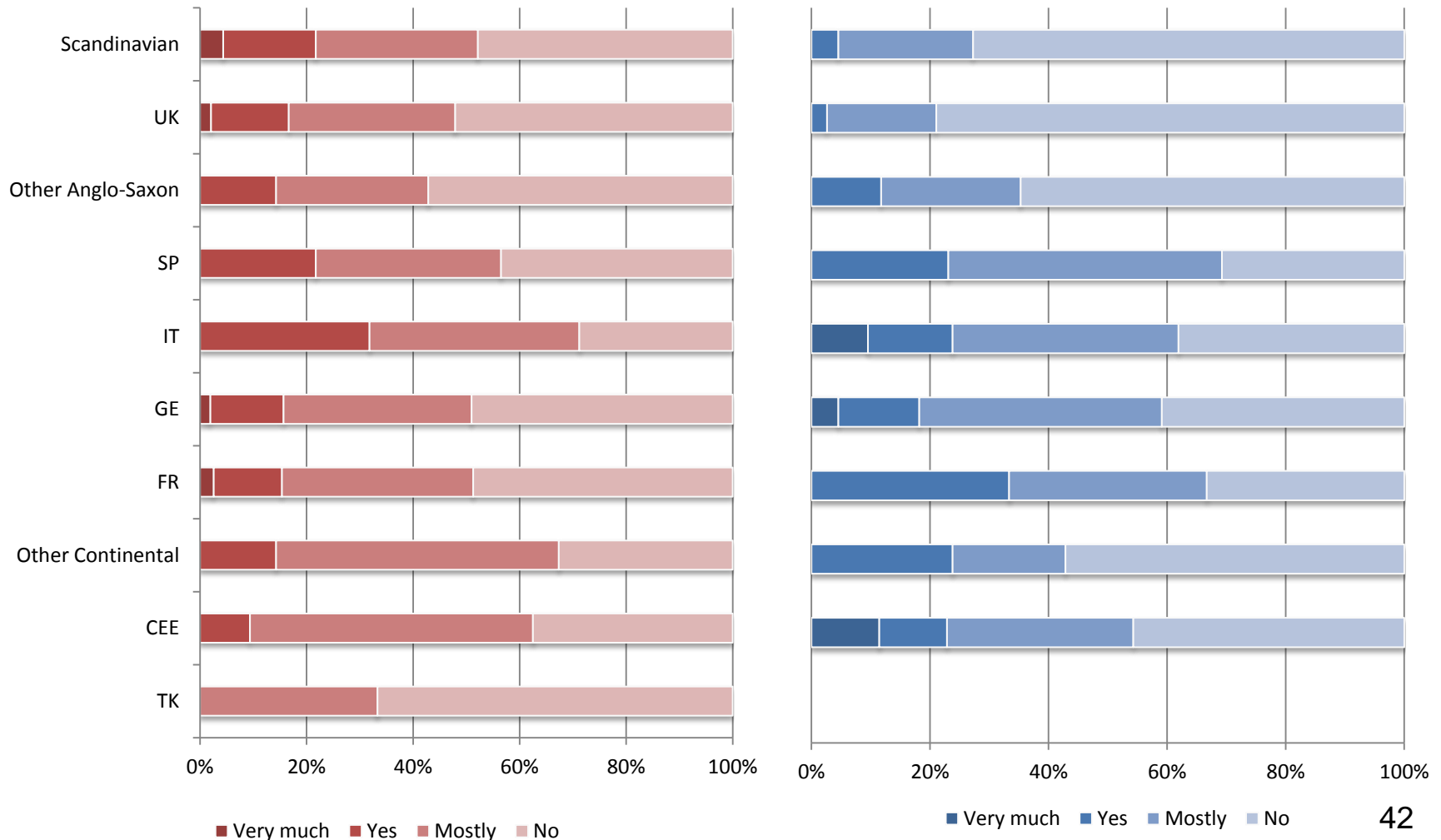
The perceived management of national agencies



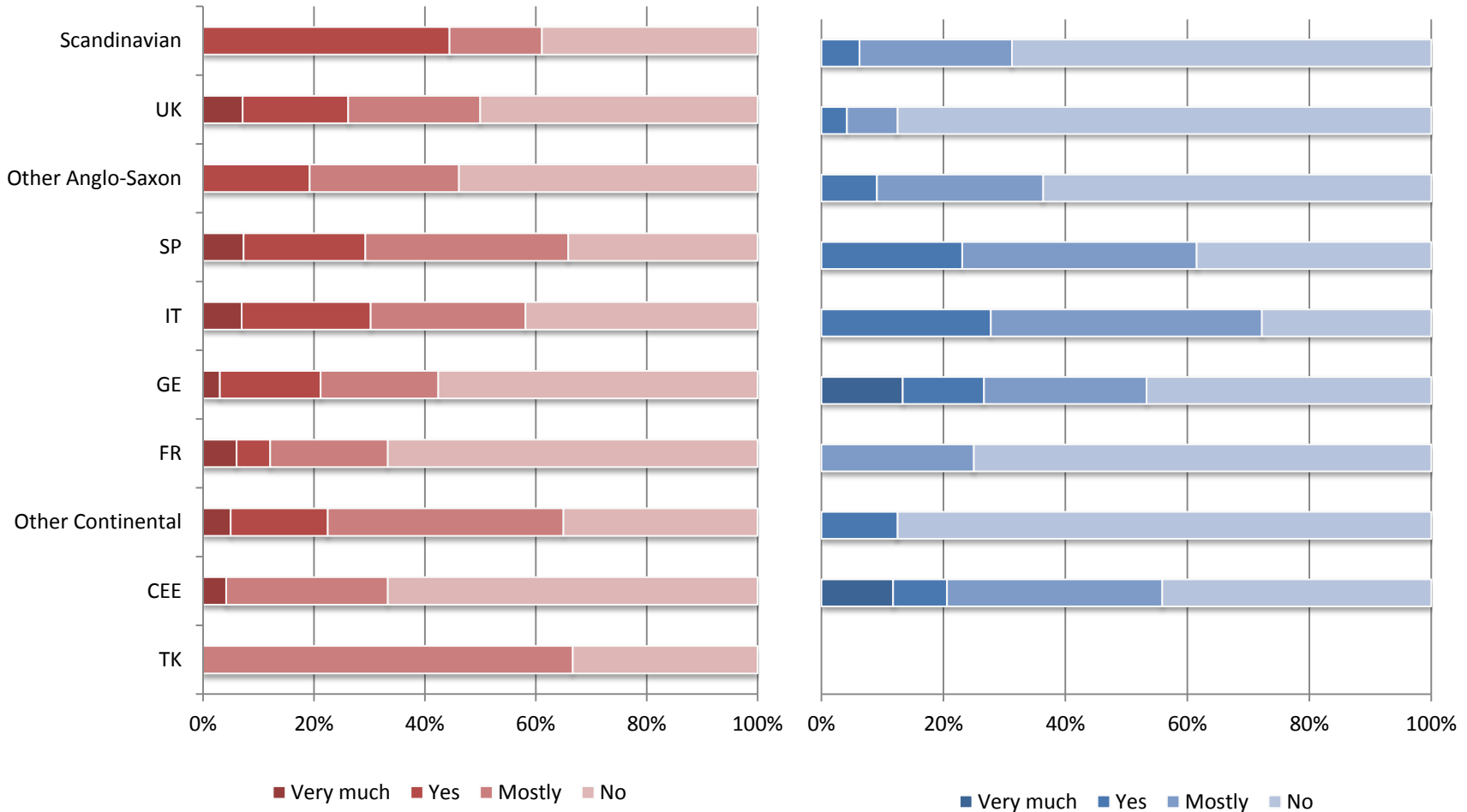
The satisfaction with granting schemes: National public



The satisfaction with granting schemes: Framework Programme (not ERC)



The satisfaction with granting schemes: European Research Council



The satisfaction with granting schemes conditional on application success

		Satisfaction					
		Yes		Mostly		No	
		Mean	Row N %	Mean	Row N %	Mean	Row N %
Application success-rate in % (up to 100%)		[NatPu]					
	[NatPu]	79	25.8%	70	36.0%	47	38.1%
		[FramW (not ERC)]					
	[FramW (not ERC)]	62	18.5%	47	38.4%	30	43.1%
		[ERC]					
	[ERC]	55	23.3%	27	28.9%	9	47.8%
		[NatPu]					
	[NatPu]	72	19.6%	62	29.4%	44	50.9%
		[FramW (not ERC)]					
	[FramW (not ERC)]	40	15.9%	42	28.7%	32	55.4%
		[ERC]					
	[ERC]	17	15.6%	39	26.0%	16	58.4%

The satisfaction with granting schemes conditional on grant satisfaction

			Satisfaction					
			Yes		Mostly		No	
			Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
available grants suitable?			[NatPu]					
	[NatPu]	Yes	133	84.7%	121	56.0%	50	22.3%
		No, grants are often insufficient.	20	12.7%	89	41.2%	163	72.8%
		No, the funds are often redundant, given the specific needs	4	2.5%	6	2.8%	11	4.9%
			[FramW (not ERC)]					
	[FramW (not ERC)]	Yes	51	81.0%	85	68.5%	25	25.0%
		No, grants are often insufficient.	11	17.5%	34	27.4%	63	63.0%
		No, the funds are often redundant, given the specific needs	1	1.6%	5	4.0%	12	12.0%
			[ERC]					
	[ERC]	Yes	44	89.8%	31	64.6%	17	36.2%
		No, grants are often insufficient.	5	10.2%	14	29.2%	27	57.4%
		No, the funds are often redundant, given the specific needs	0	0.0%	3	6.3%	3	6.4%
			[NatPu]					
	[NatPu]	Yes	45	73.8%	35	38.5%	27	19.0%
		No, grants are often insufficient.	14	23.0%	52	57.1%	97	68.3%
		No, the funds are often redundant, given the specific needs	2	3.3%	4	4.4%	18	12.7%
			[FramW (not ERC)]					
	[FramW (not ERC)]	Yes	16	66.7%	28	68.3%	14	27.5%
		No, grants are often insufficient.	7	29.2%	11	26.8%	31	60.8%
		No, the funds are often redundant, given the specific needs	1	4.2%	2	4.9%	6	11.8%
			[ERC]					
	[ERC]	Yes	9	75.0%	12	57.1%	6	22.2%
		No, grants are often insufficient.	2	16.7%	9	42.9%	15	55.6%
		No, the funds are often redundant, given the specific needs	1	8.3%	0	0.0%	6	22.2%

The 10 most desirable, often missing, elements in European Research Funding in Economics

1. Flexibility (156 out of 702 comments)
2. Competent and transparent evaluation (85)
3. Simplification of application and procedures (73)
4. Adequate funding (64)
5. Stability and regularity of calls and funding (45)
6. Teaching buyouts and salary complements (44 = 27+17)
7. Open topics (44)
8. Accent on excellence (41)
9. Grants for all stages of the career, specially for young researchers (20)
10. Support to innovative ideas (18)

The 10 most desirable, often missing, elements in European Research Funding in Sociology

1. Flexibility (368 out of 1563 comments)
2. Adequate funding (248)
3. Simplification of application and procedures (163)
4. Competent and transparent evaluation (159)
5. Support to innovative ideas (138)
6. Grants for all stages of the career, specially for young researchers (130)
7. Teaching buyouts and salary complements ($102 = 54 + 52$)
8. Stability and regularity of calls and funding (101)
9. Open topics (94)
10. Accent on excellence (56)

The 10 most desirable, often missing, elements in Research Funding (Economics vs. Sociology)

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

The cuts ahead

Do you expect budget cuts in national, or regional, research funding in economics (659 resp.) and in sociology (345 resp.)?

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

The provisional conclusions

- A unique survey, nothing similar in other sciences in Europe, or in economics or sociology in other regions.
- Many things we knew or suspected, but needed to be documented.
- And some surprises...
- An informational source for: social scientists applying for funds, funding agencies allocating funds, research on research careers and research funding.
- A valuable instrument for the EEA and the ESA

The provisional conclusions

- Survey error does not disappear, even when social scientists are the respondents, but the sample is large.
- Provisional and **preliminary**: we have just started digging into this rich data set (e.g. regional data not studied yet).
- **Consistent replies** from economists and sociologists, with few significant differences across disciplines.
- In fact, **national (regional) differences** are more significant than differences across disciplines.

The provisional conclusions

- A sociological picture of researchers in economics and sociology in Europe
 - the persistency of ‘the gender scissors problem’ (more in eco.),
 - the aging throughout the academic career (more in socio.)
 - the preponderance of university positions (more in socio.)
 - 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.

The provisional conclusions

- 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 less than 60% only in Italy, Turkey and CEE.
- Funding flows across countries are nil in sociology but relevant –although not large– in economics, showing openness of some national systems (Austria, Netherlands), and also a need to substitute domestic weaknesses (Italy).
- Reported research budgets also show heterogeneity across countries, but also among beneficiaries
 - with fat lower tails and some outliers in the upper tails, and
 - sociologists getting more funding than economists (gathering data?)

The provisional conclusions

- The allocation of funds is perceived as being more flexible with National and institutional grants, than with Framework Programme (not ERC) grants.
- Reasons to apply and not to apply to different granting institutions are consistent, and consistent with the elements that are perceived to be more desirable (Sufficient funding, low administrative costs, chances of success and, to a lesser extent, grants targeted to the research area)
- Lack of confidence in the evaluation process is an important reason not to apply to National Public grants and, to a lesser extent, FP (not ERC).

The provisional conclusions

- Procedural costs are a main deterrent to apply to FP (not ERC), but also to ERC!
- Regarding the stability of calls ERC is perceived as the most stable, followed by many public national schemes.
- In terms of 'application time' FP (not ERC) is perceived as being more unnecessarily long than ERC or other national granting schemes.

The provisional conclusions

- Heterogeneity on how different national agencies are managed (with UK, Scandinavia, GE and TK at the top and Italy at the bottom)
- Similar heterogeneity among countries in the global assessment of satisfaction, although there are relevant differences with the management ranking (UK, Spain, etc.)
- The FP(not ERC) ranks among the less satisfactory schemes, although satisfaction is higher for residents in countries with low satisfaction for their agencies (e.g. Italy).
- ERC is also low in the satisfaction ranking (with some strong supporters and sociologists less enthusiastic).
- ERC satisfaction is substantially higher among successful candidates.

The provisional conclusions

- Even among successful candidates, and those who have applied repeatedly, there is a fair amount of dissatisfaction with some national schemes and FP(nonERC).
- Efficiency issues become even more pressing in times of financial restraint...
- Economists and sociologists agree in which are the four most desirable properties in research funding:
 - Flexibility
 - Adequate funding
 - Competent and transparent evaluation
 - Simplification of application and procedures

The provisional conclusions

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

“Trust the researcher: flexibility!”

A lesson for funding agencies

How do you achieve trust?

A question for researchers

The thanks to all 3151 respondents!