

RCC study on Researcher Mobility in the Western Balkans: towards an Action Plan

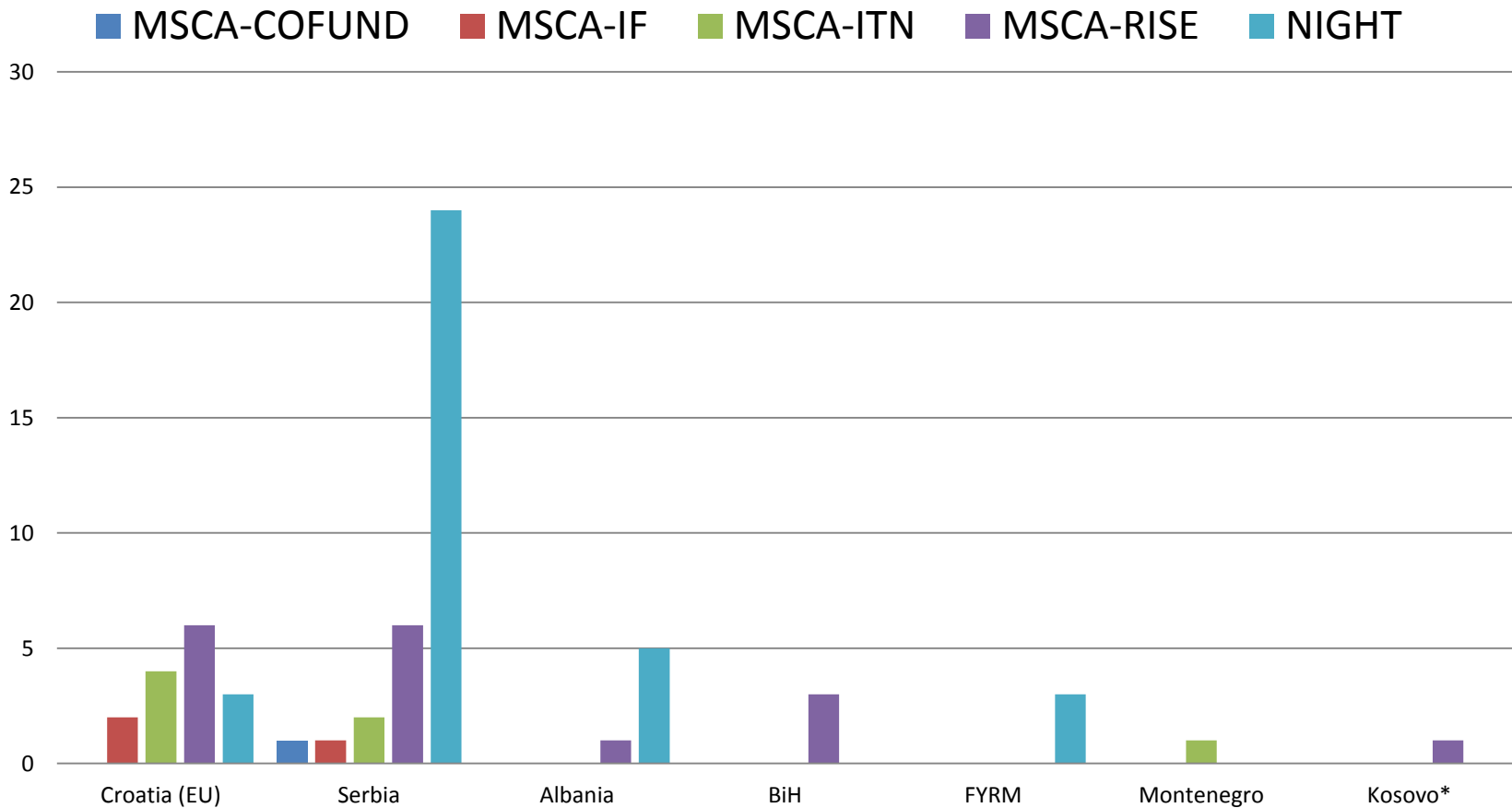
Dr. Lisa Cowey

Independent EU expert for R&D&I

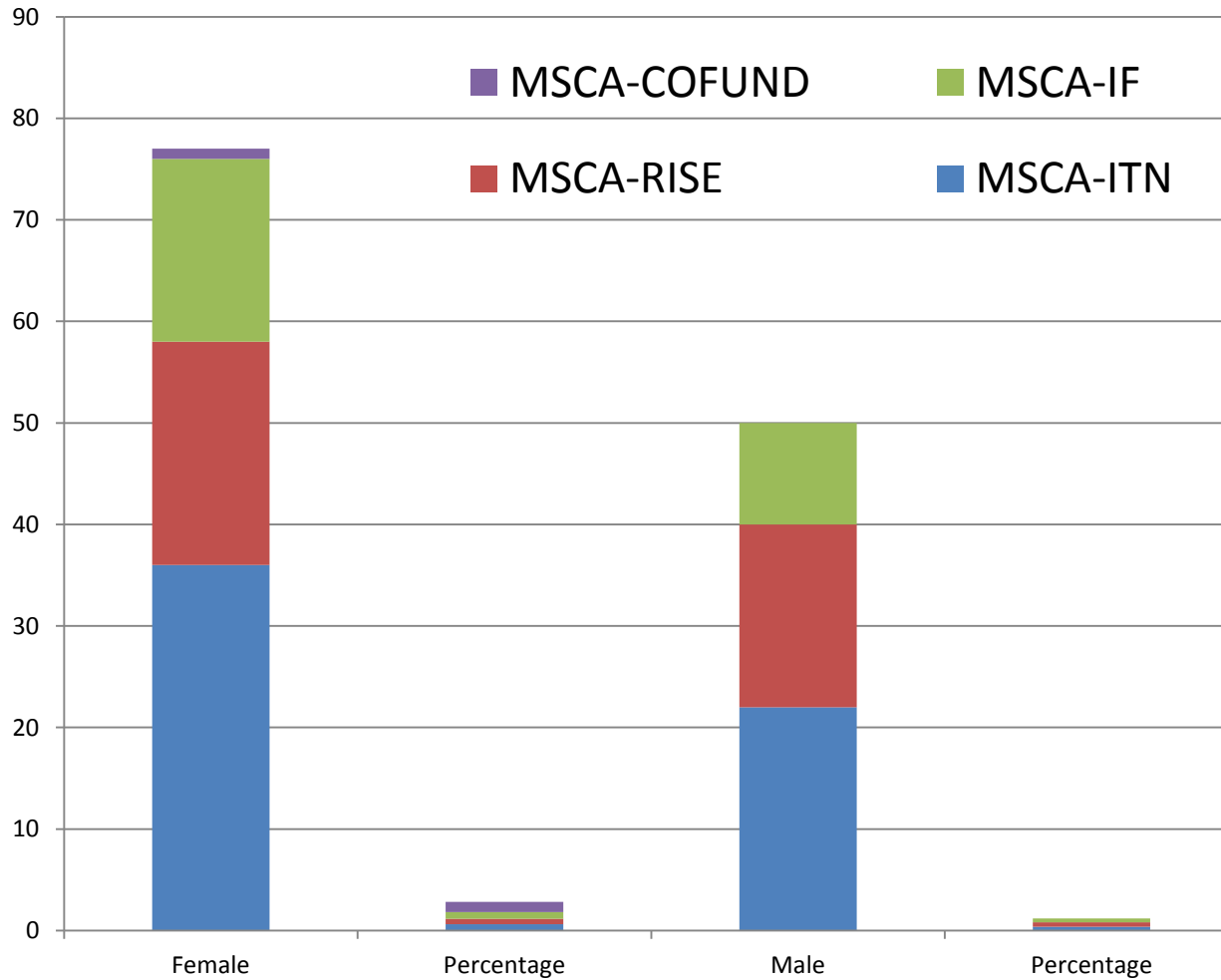
Methodology

- MSC Action statistics (source European Commission)
- CEEPUS data for the last 10 years (Source CEEPUS)
- RCC survey instruments for
 - Researchers (based on the **FP7 E*CARE** project questionnaire)
 - policy makers (predominantly Ministries or their Agencies with responsibility for Science)

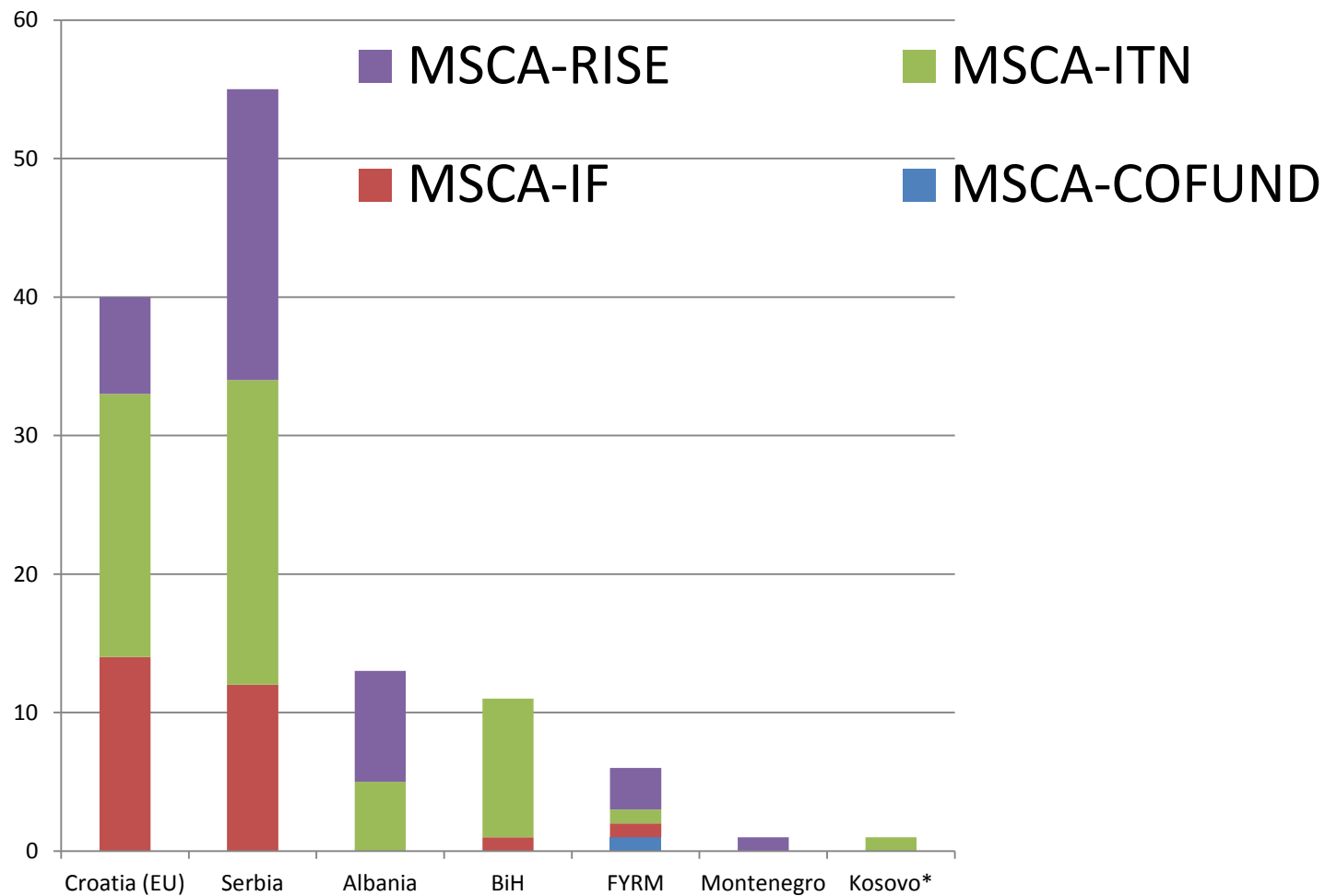
Results: Participation in MSCA



Gender

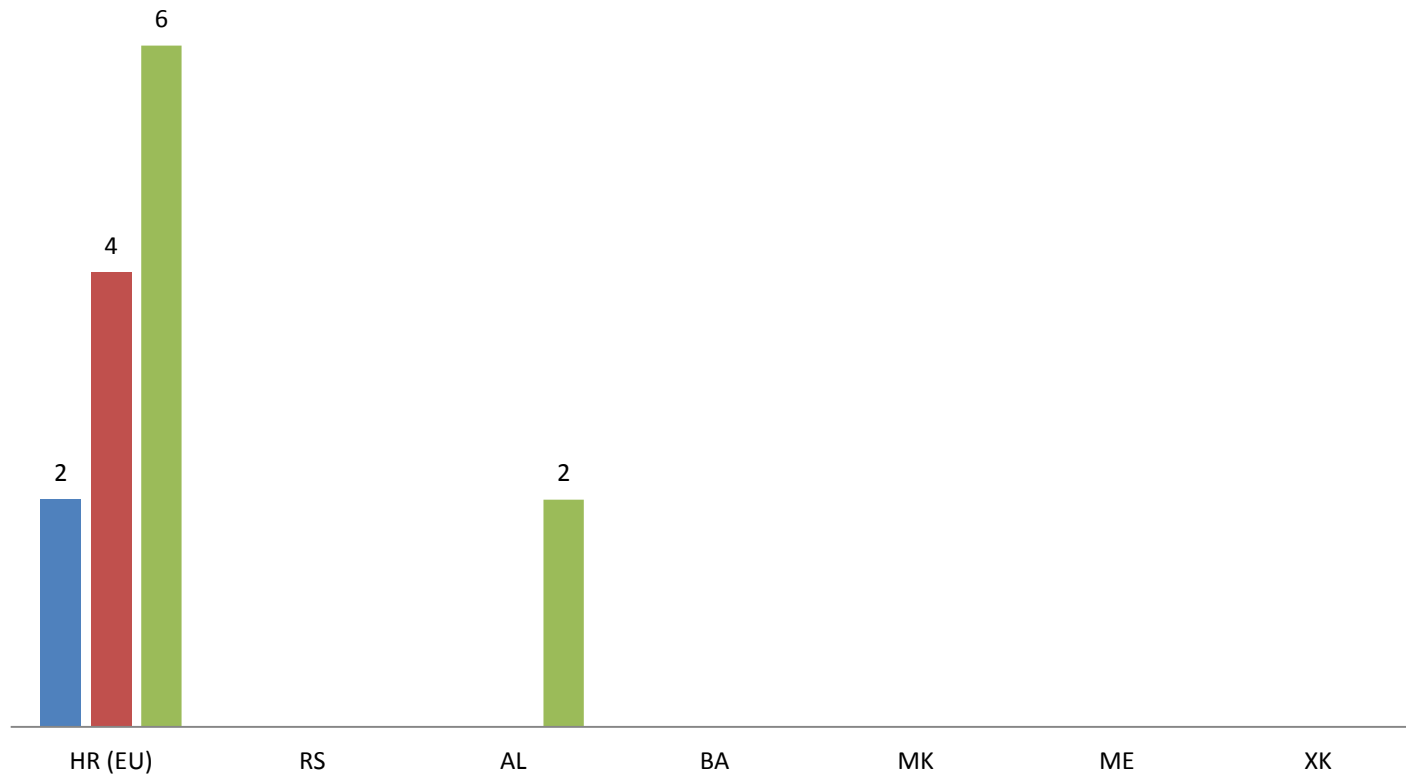


'WB Fellows in MSCA'



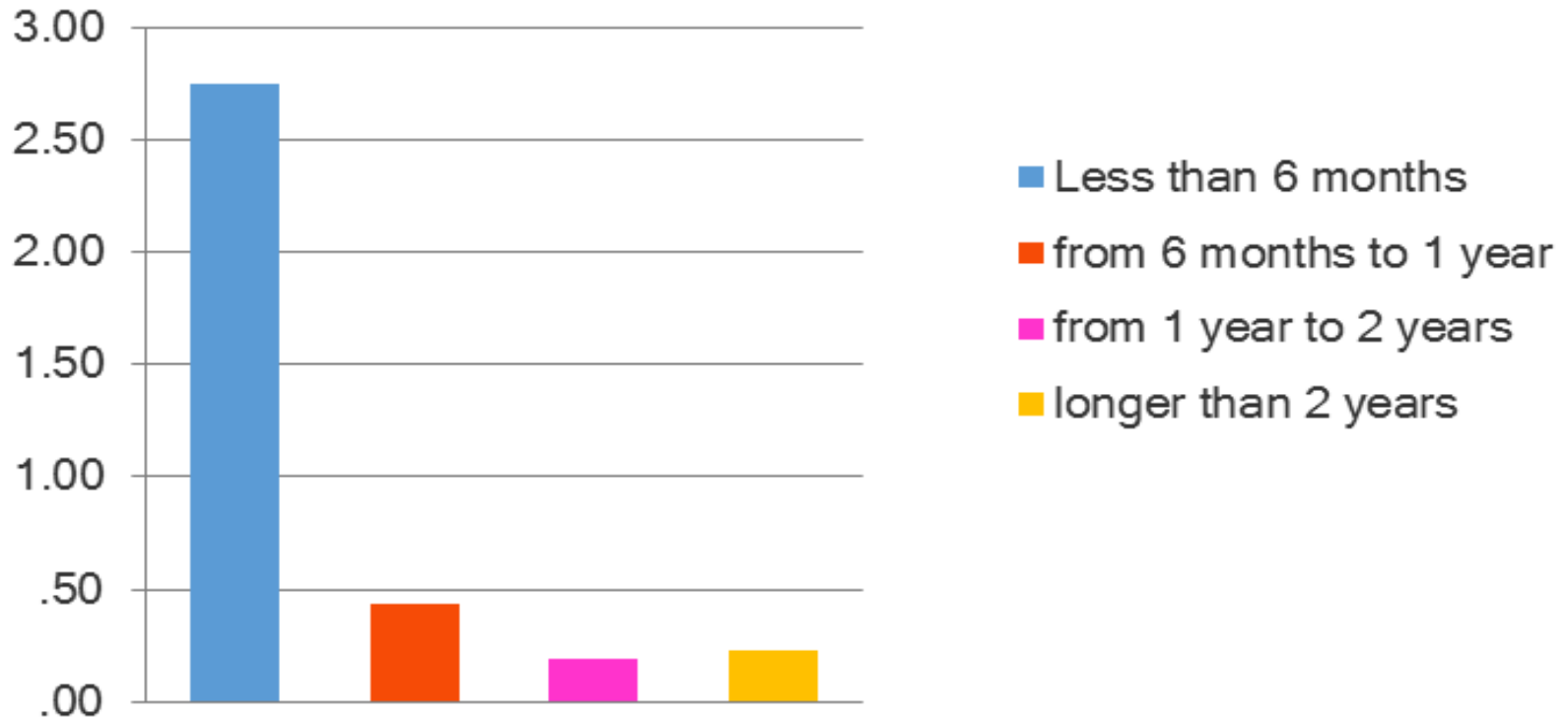
Non-WB fellows to WB

■ MSCA-IF ■ MSCA-ITN ■ MSCA-RISE

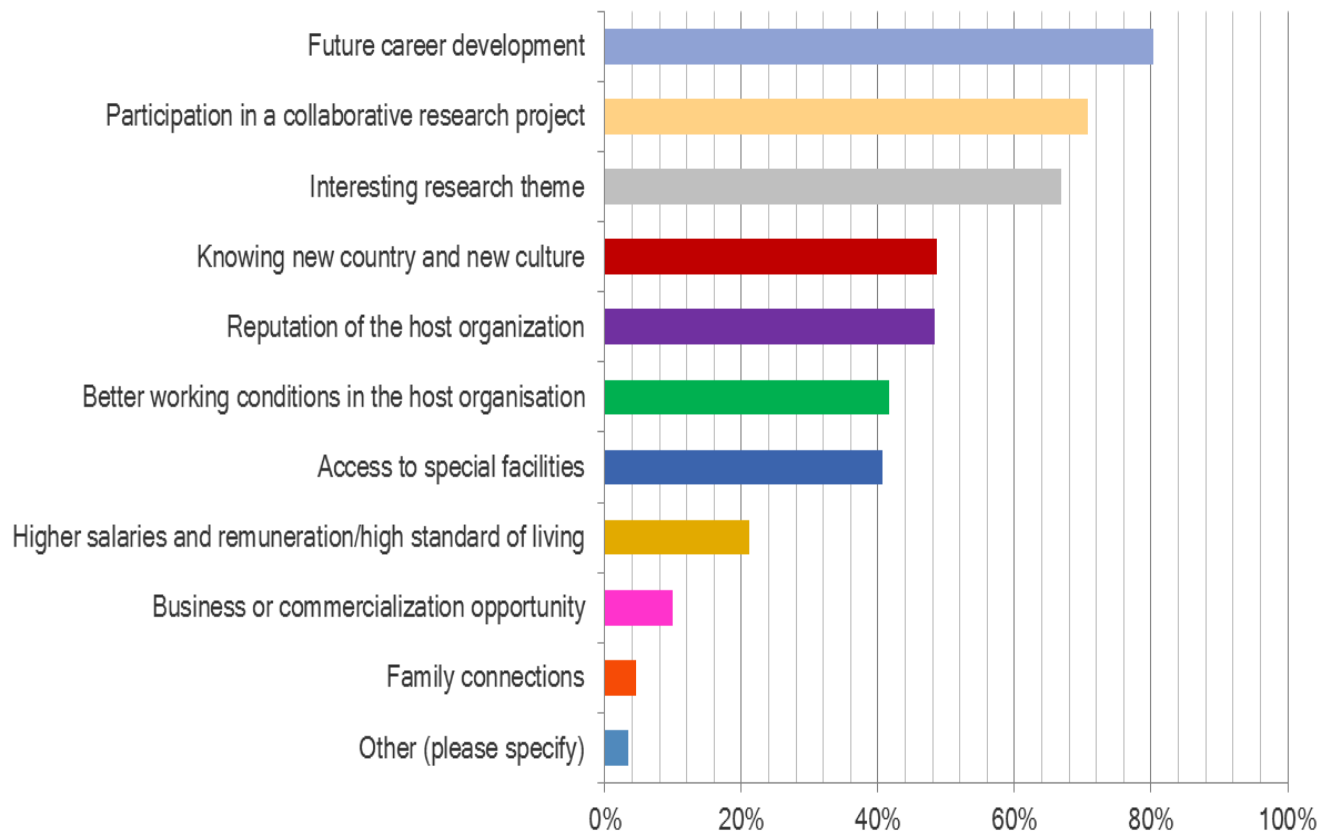


Survey respondents

Average number of stays abroad



Motivators for mobility

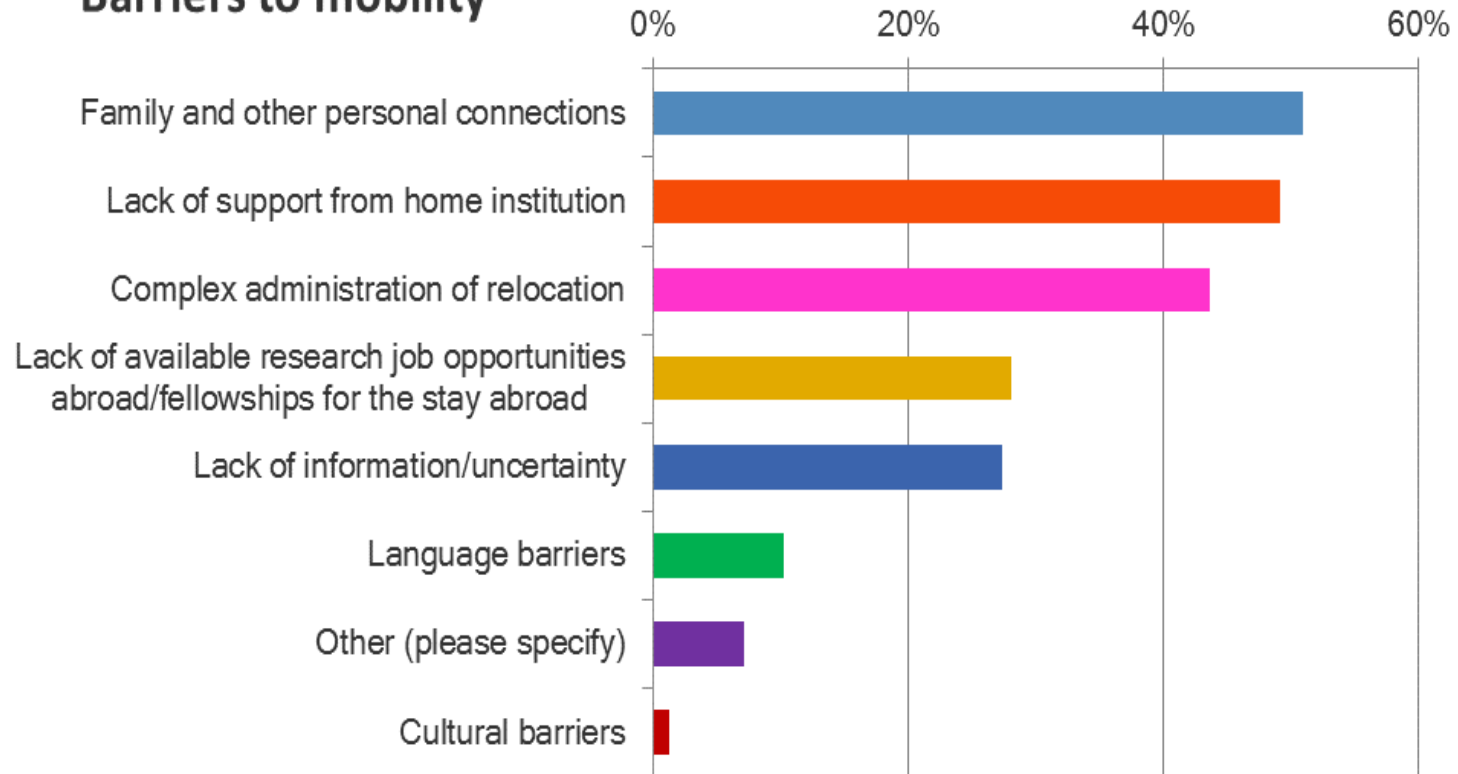


Additional motivators

- getting in contact with cutting edge research,
- diversification of knowledge,
- missing infrastructure and funding in home organization,
- teaching students in another setting,
- job obligation,
- field work (data collection for comparative social research),
- the reputation of a specific professor/supervisor,
- acquisition of new knowledge and skills,
- unemployment in home country,
- **Desire to build networks**
- translating knowledge from a specific field to potential applications area and
- the potential for future joint research projects.

Inhibitors

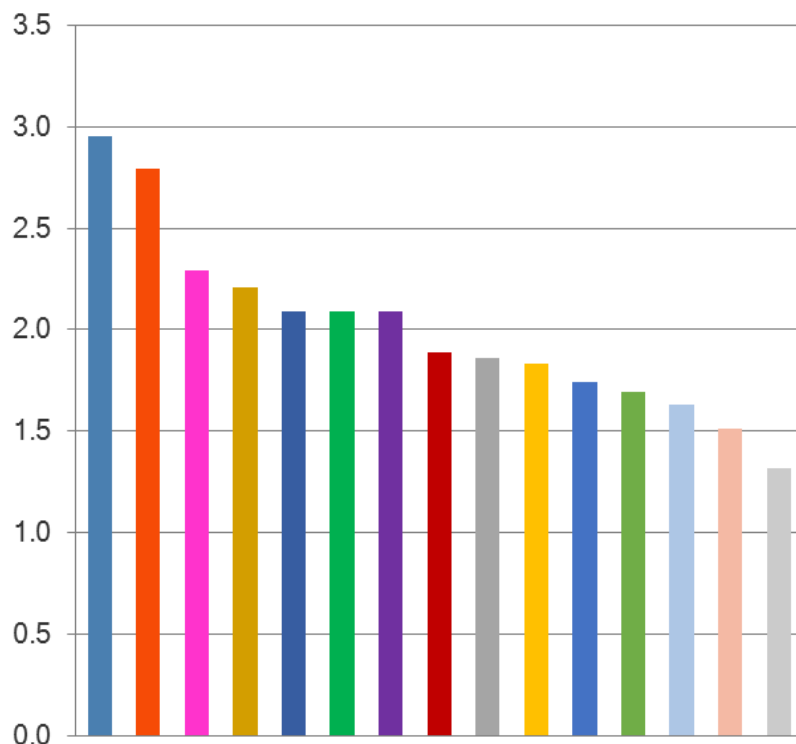
Barriers to mobility



Other: 30% “nothing discourages me from going abroad”
‘financial and legislative barriers in their home country
‘time’ – covering 2 jobs simultaneously for short mobilities

Problems for mobile researchers

What are the problems for you as a mobile researcher?

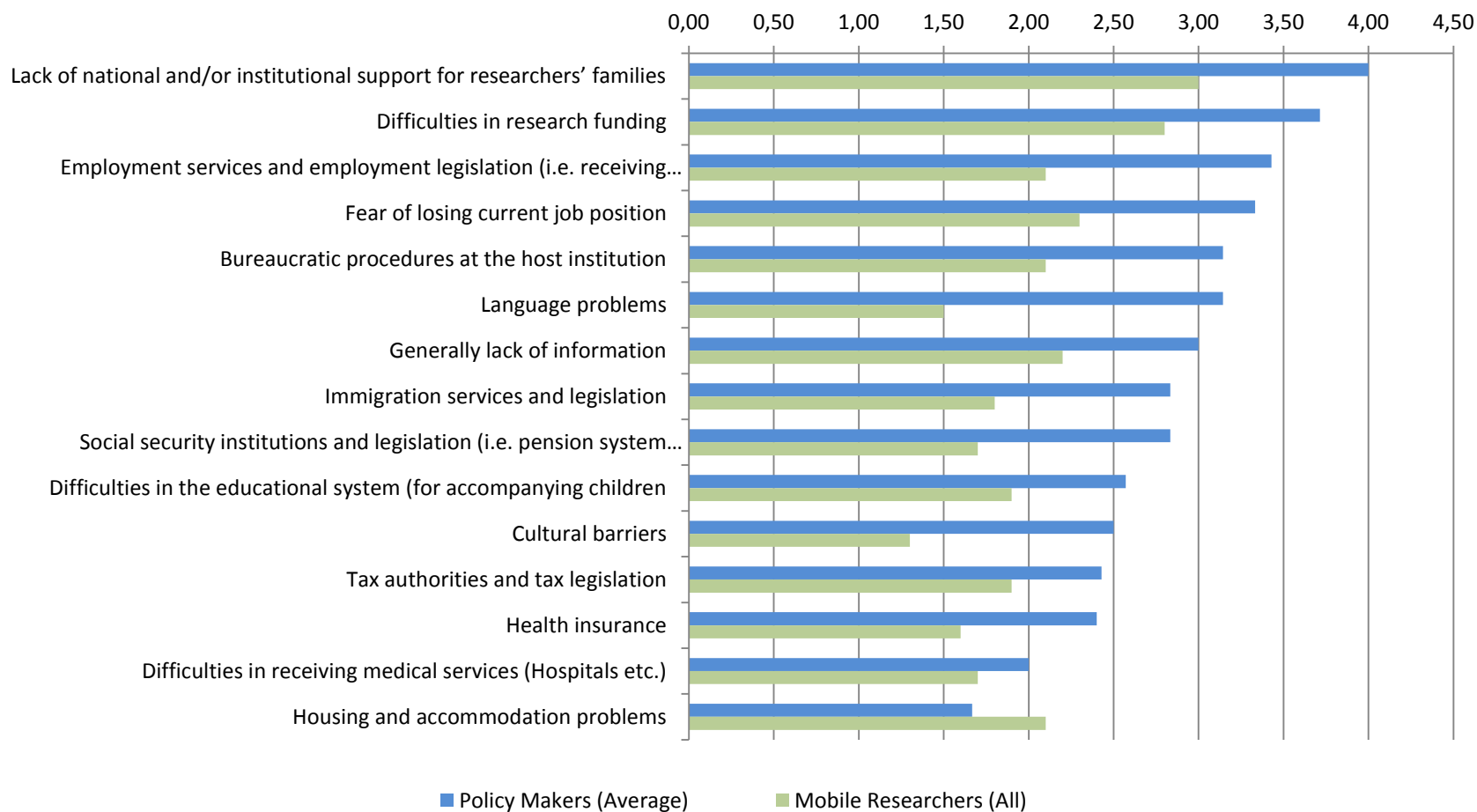


- Lack of national/institutional support for researchers' families
- Difficulties in research funding
- Fear of losing current job position
- Generally lack of information
- Employment services and employment legislation
- Bureaucratic procedures at the host institution
- Housing and accommodation problems
- Difficulties in the educational system for your children
- Tax authorities and tax legislation
- Immigration services and legislation
- Difficulties in receiving medical services
- Social security institutions and legislation.
- Health insurance
- Language problems



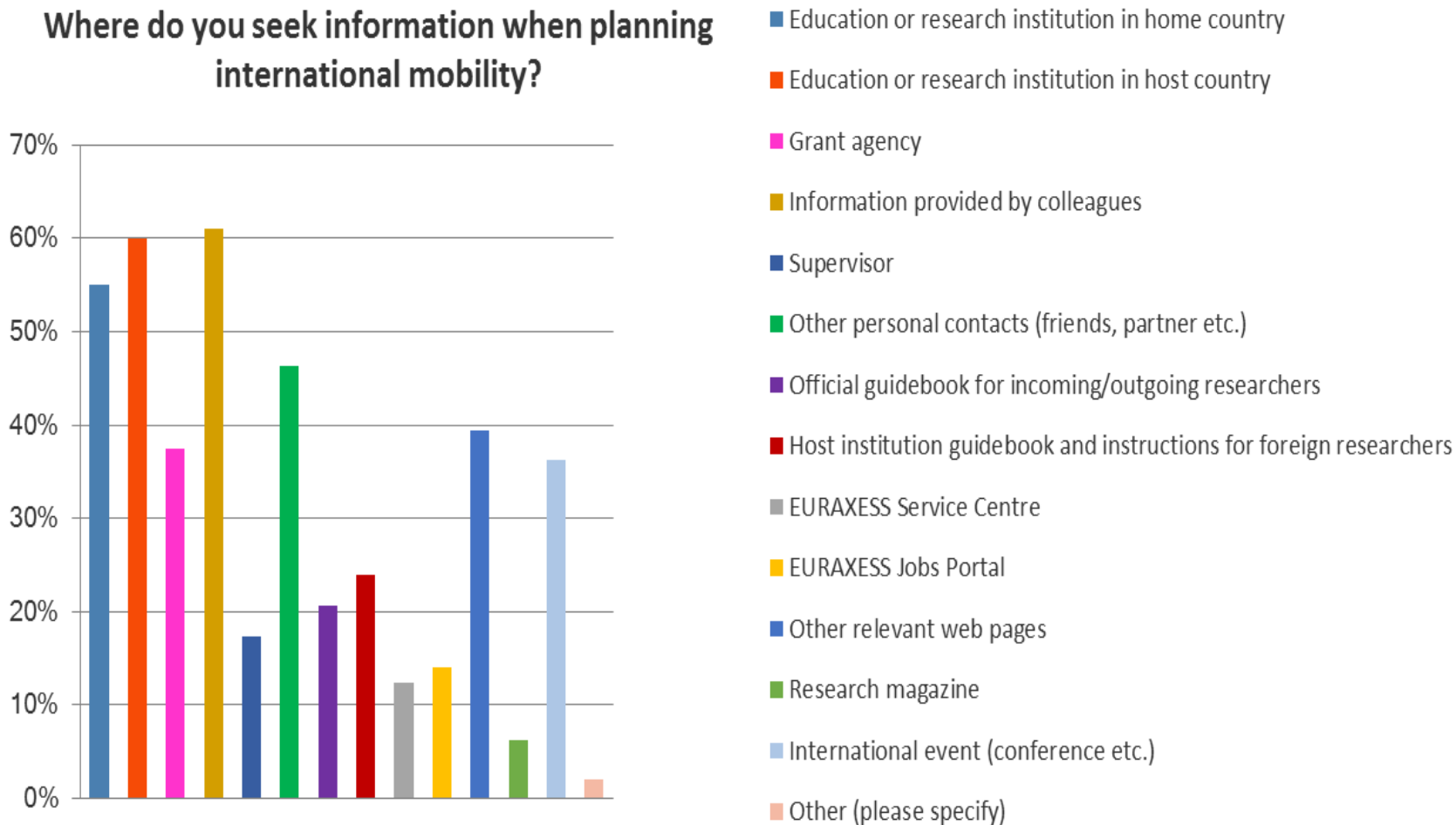
Comparison of perceptions: Policy makers vs researchers

Relative seriousness of problems/ barriers encountered by researchers



Information sources to support international mobility

Where do you seek information when planning international mobility?



EURAXESS Service Centers and network



Of the 521 respondents who responded, only **6%** had benefited from the services of a EURAXESS **services centre**.

20% had made use of the EURAXESS **jobs portal** or a national researcher's mobility portal.

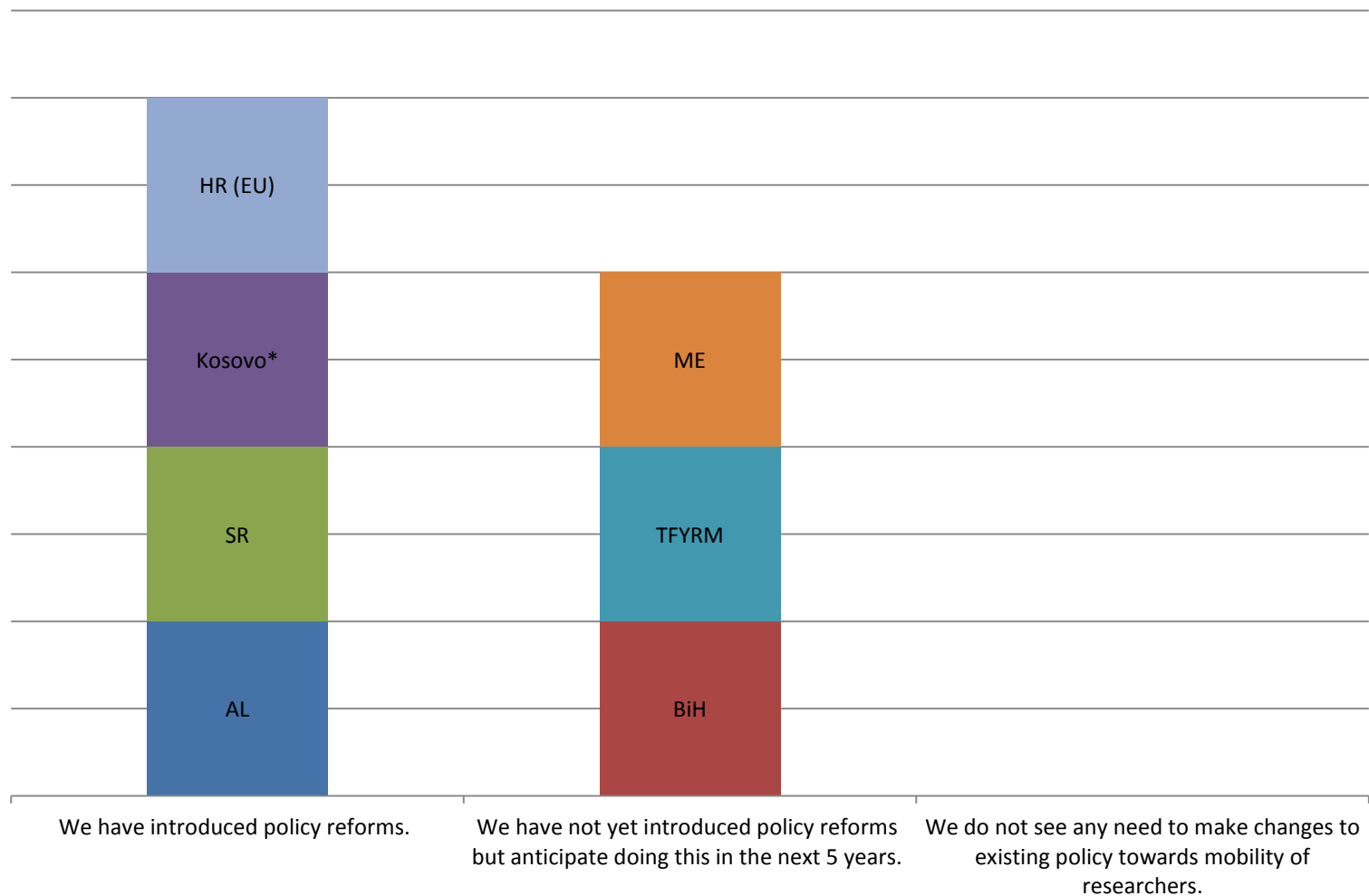
Concerns expressed over how genuine the job offers really were:

- 'I get the impression that some institutions are not using it genuinely to offer truly available positions.'
- 'there are jobs that are not actually on the market',
- 'often jobs are advertised there merely because they have to be advertised there, but the preference is given to local candidates'.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Status of policy reforms re mobility(2016)



Action Plan on Mobility of Researchers (Trieste Summit)

- Identify legal barriers for open merit-based, competitive, international recruitment system and remove the identified legal barriers by 2020;
- Identify institutional barriers to mobility of researchers, including working conditions, recruitment systems and promotion criteria, and remove identified barriers by 2020;
- Develop mechanisms and measures to support increased mobility of researchers from WB to EU within the existing mobility schemes, for instance a WB Window within the MSC Actions, by 2019
- Develop comprehensive promotion strategies ,incentives and a pilot scheme to support incoming mobility of post -docresearchers to the Western Balkans with an aim to build research excellent networks in the region by end of 2019;
- Map existing research infrastructure in the region to ensure transparent and available information to researchers interested to cooperation with and in the WB by 2019,
- Strengthen the capacity of EURAXESS offices in the region, and the implementation of Charter and Code principles and Seal of Excellence (throughout).

Contact point for written/ verbal feedback/comment

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