

Brussels, 14 December 2007

The European Research Council awards its first grants

The ERC is a major innovation within the European research system, and is established under the European Union's seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). With a budget of 7.5 bn Euros over 7 years, its mission is to promote investigator-driven research in Europe in all fields, at the frontier of knowledge and with excellence as the sole criterion for funding. The ERC consists of an autonomous Scientific Council of 22 distinguished scientists, supported by a "Dedicated Implementation Structure" which will become an Executive Agency (see European Commission press release 14/12/2007 (IP/07/1930)).

The ERC Scientific Council has worked intensively over two years to develop a forward-looking strategy and two specific grant programmes consistent with its mission. It has established a high-quality peer review panel system for evaluating Starting Grants proposals, based on experts from throughout the world. A parallel system for evaluating Advanced Grant proposals by leading established investigators will be launched in early 2008. It is planned that dedicated calls for Starting Grants and Advanced Grant panels will be issued annually.

ERC Starting Grants

Requirements:

- Excellent, ground-breaking research idea
- 2-9 years after completion of PhD
- Proven potential to establish an independent research career
- Research team to be established or consolidated
- Host institution based in an EU Member State, Associated Country, or international European Interest Organisation

Details:

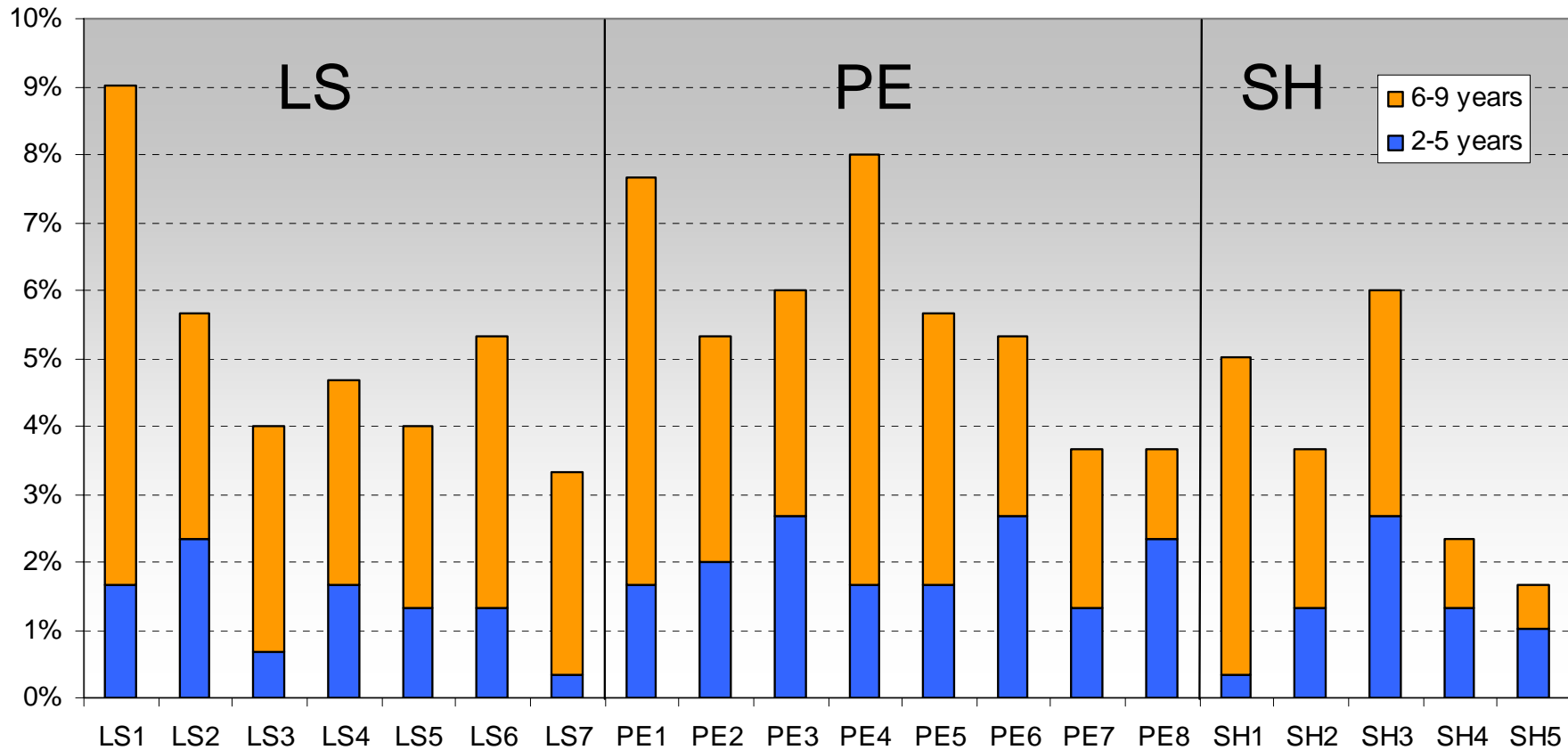
Funding and time:	up to € 2 000 000 per grant up to 5 years
Application:	online, 2-stage submission process
Evaluation criterion:	scientific excellence

Indicative statistics

Statistics based on the 300 top ranking ERC Starting Grants

Distribution by panel and experience after PhD

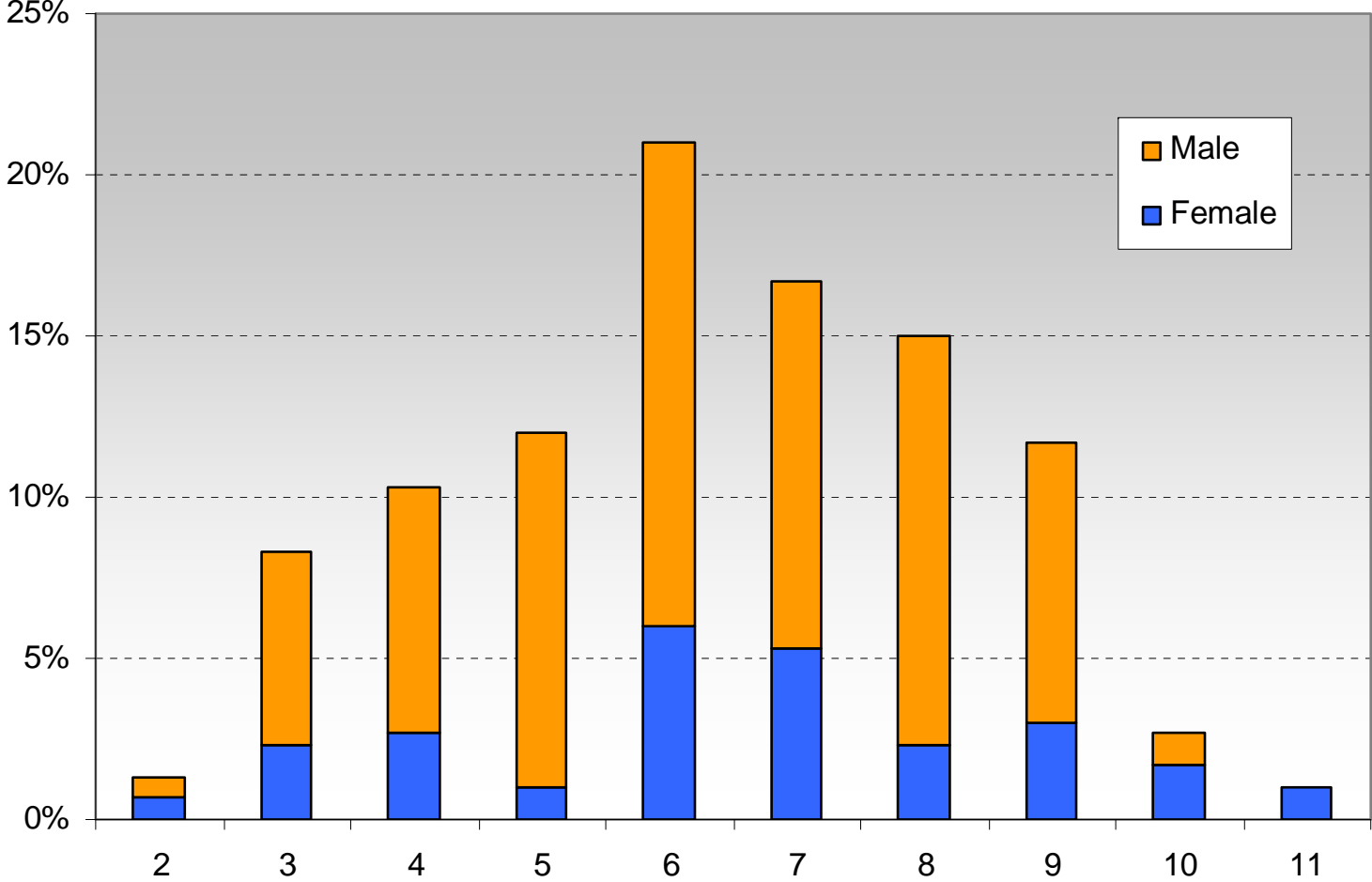
Percentage of PIs by panel and years after PhD



For scientific areas of panels: see p. 12.

Experience after PhD

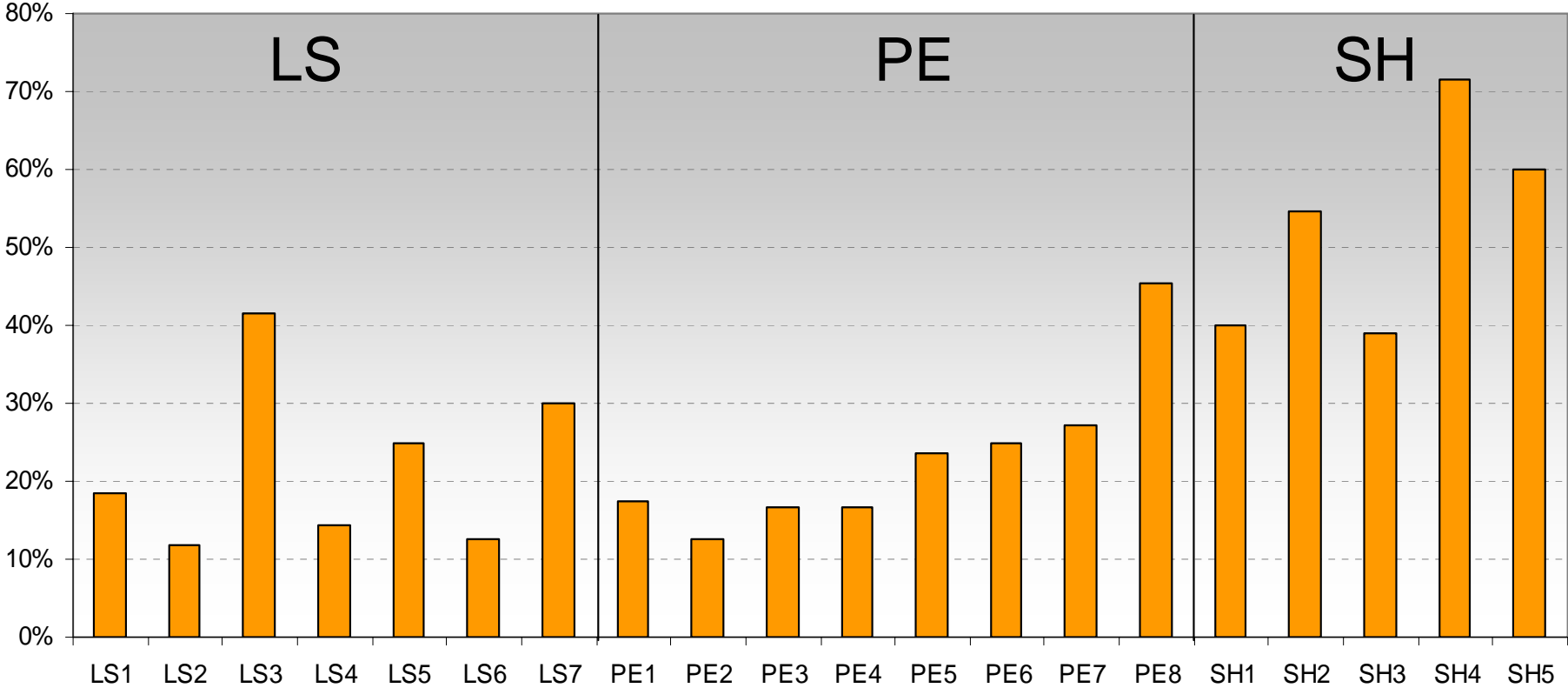
Percentage of PIs by years after PhD and gender



Gender of the PIs

Percentage of female PIs by panel

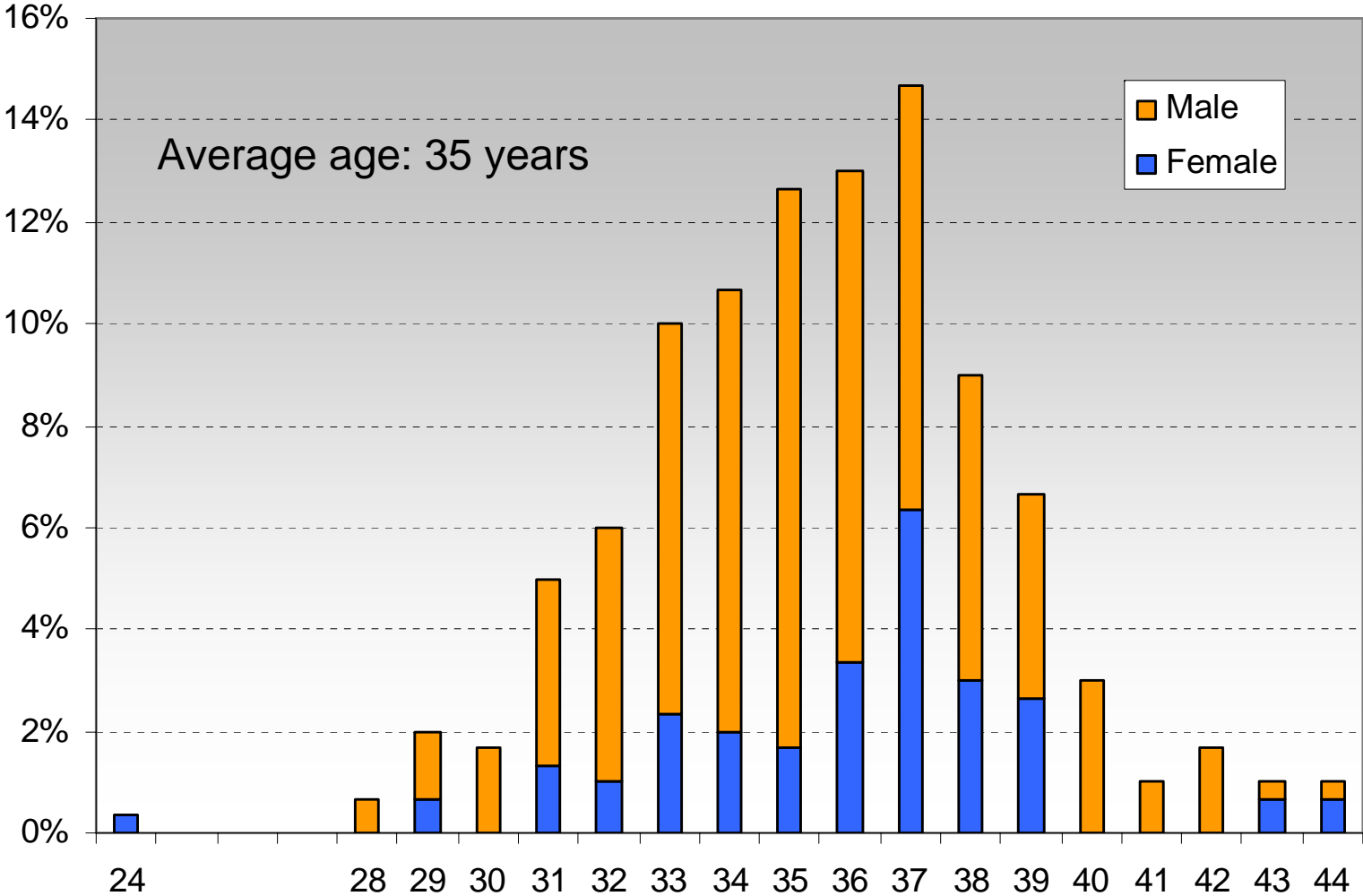
Overall: 26% women



For scientific areas of panels: see p. 12

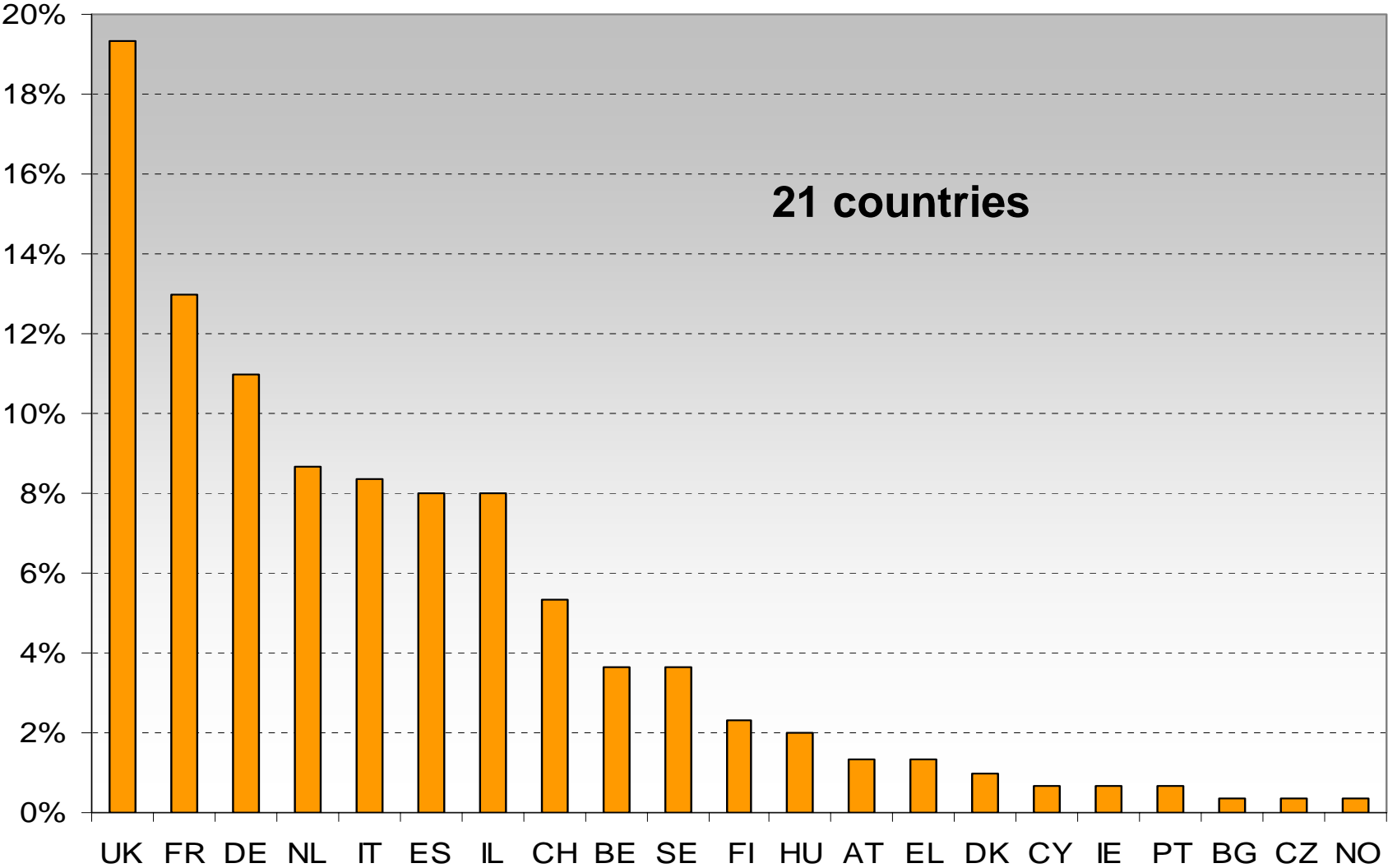
Age of the PIs

Percentage of PIs by age and gender



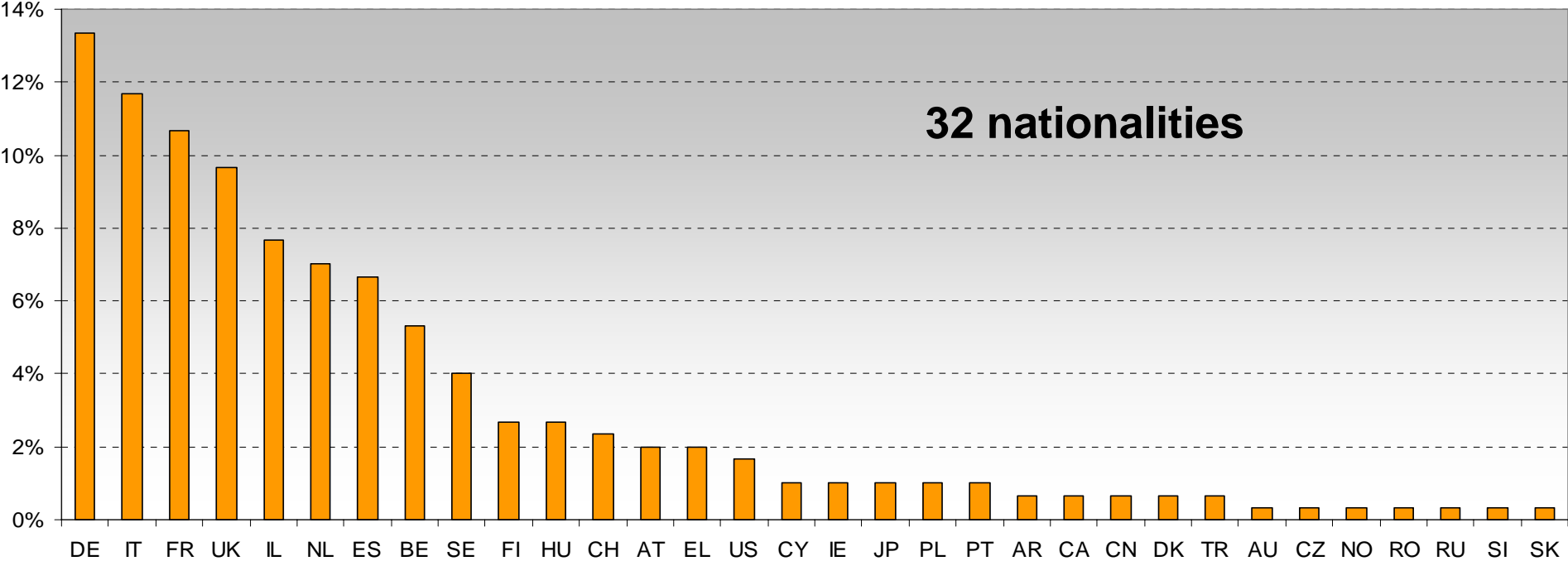
Country of host institution

Percentage of grants by country of host institution



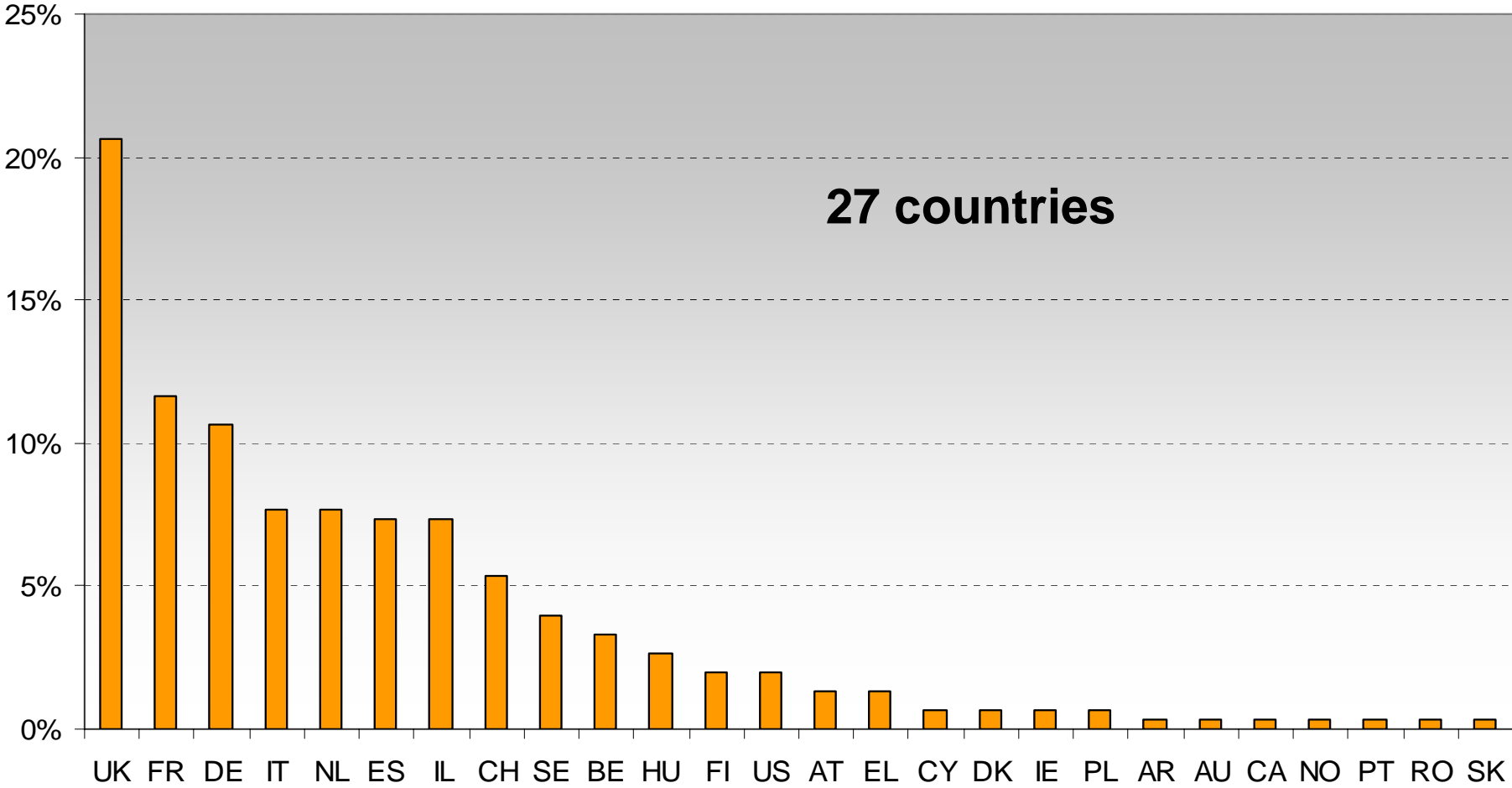
Nationality of the PIs

Percentage of PIs by nationality



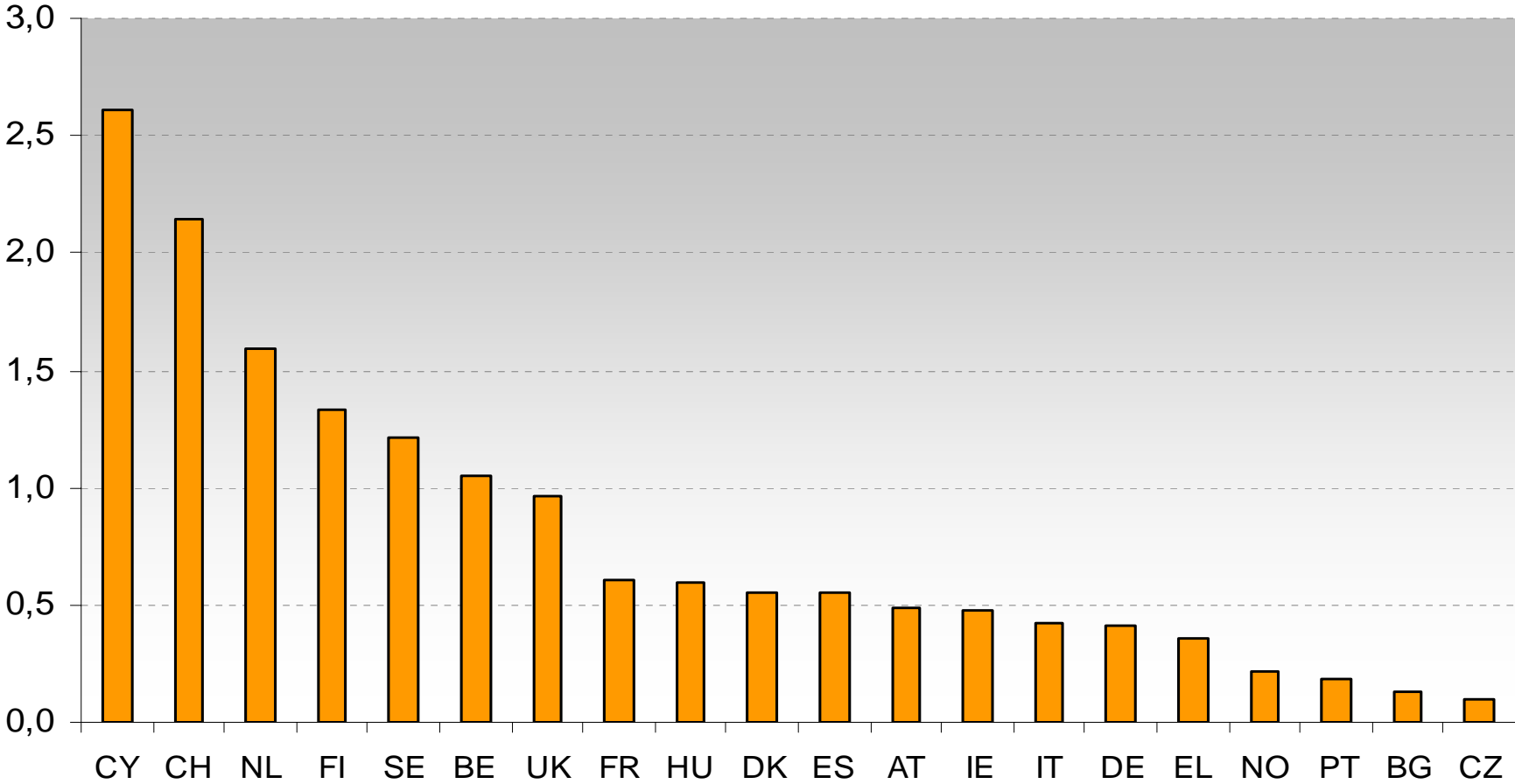
Country of residence of the PIs

Percentage of PIs by current country of residence



Grants in relation to population

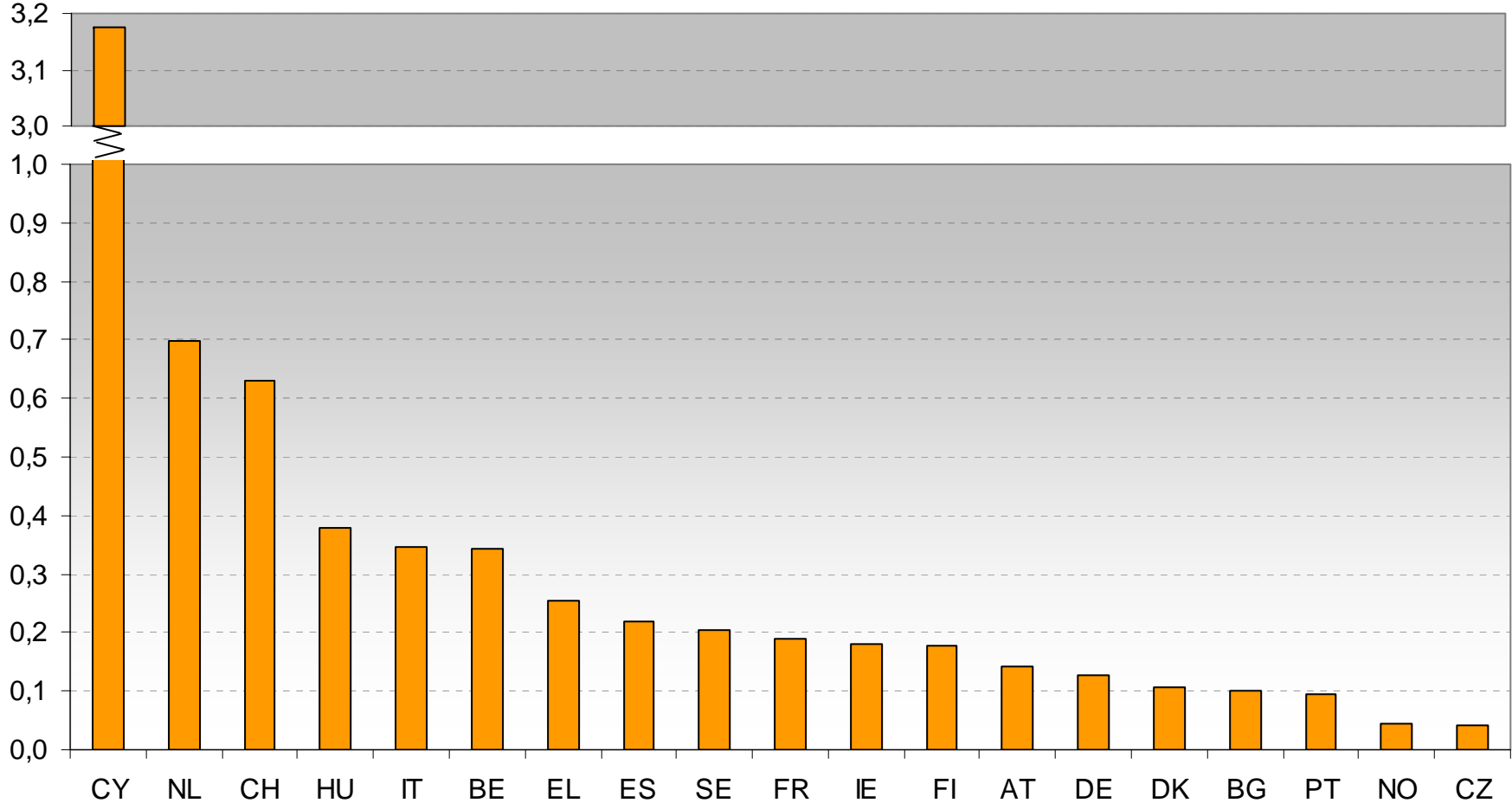
Grants by country of host institution per million inhabitants



Source: Eurostat 2007, Reference year: 2006 or latest year available. **Missing data: IL**

Grants in relation to researcher population

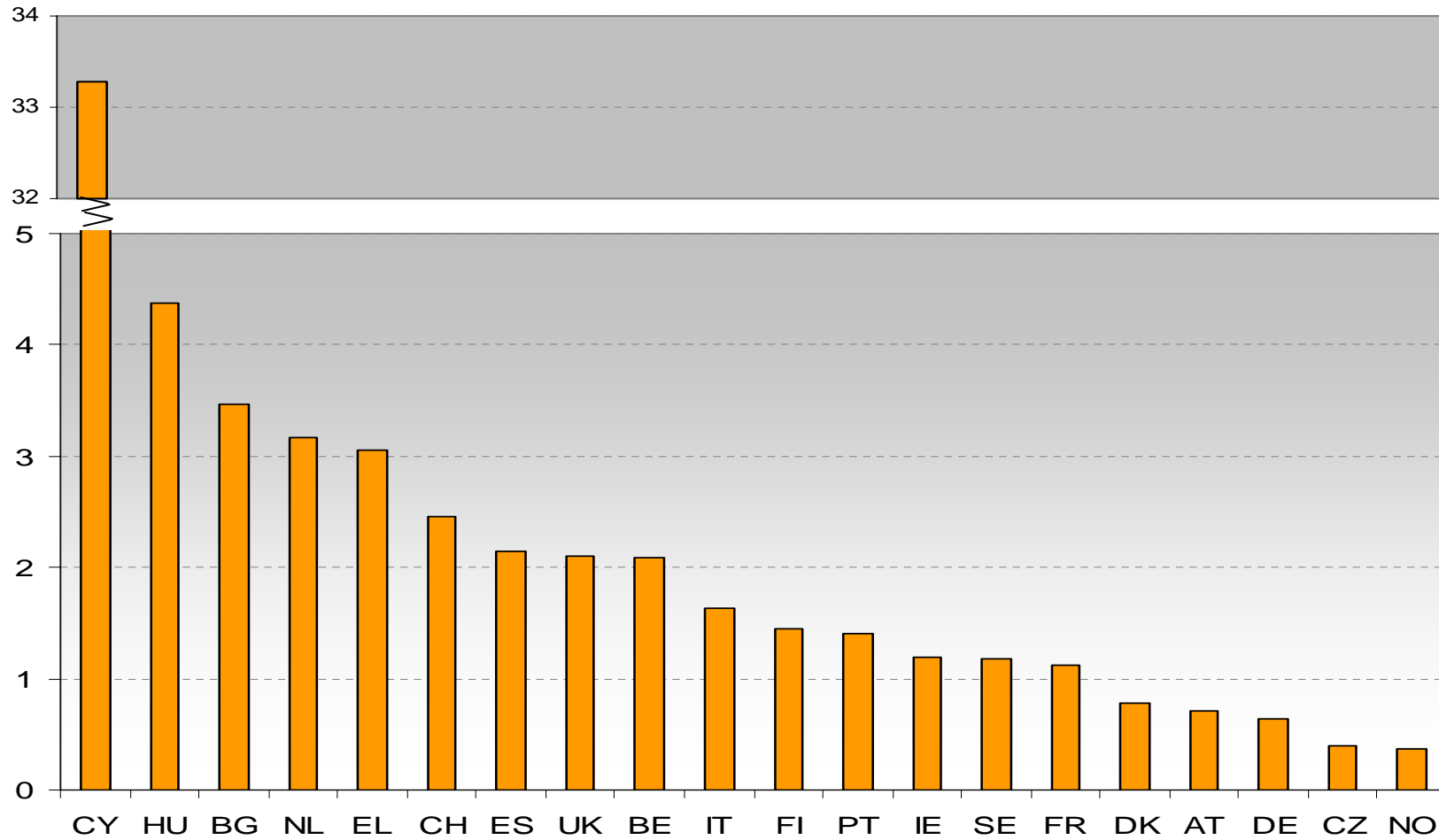
Grants by country of host institution per thousand researchers



Source: Eurostat 2007, Reference year: 2005 or latest year available. **Missing data: IL, UK**

Grants in relation to R&D expenditure

Grants by country of host institution per Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D in PPS* (x1000)



Source: Eurostat 2007, Reference year: 2005 or latest year available. **Missing data: IL, TR**

* PPS = Purchasing Power Standard (an artificial currency reflecting different national price levels (EU27 = 100))

Starting Grant panel structure

1. Physical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Universe and Earth Sciences (8 panels)

- Panel PE1 - Mathematical foundations
- Panel PE2 - Fundamental constituents of matter
- Panel PE3 - Condensed matter in physics and chemistry
- Panel PE4 - Material and chemical sciences
- Panel PE5 - Information and communication
- Panel PE6 - Engineering sciences
- Panel PE7 - Universe science
- Panel PE8 - Earth system science

2. Biological and Life Sciences (7 panels)

- Panel LS1 - Molecular, cellular and developmental biology
- Panel LS2 - Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology
- Panel LS3 - Organismic physiology, including infection and immunity
- Panel LS4 - Neurosciences
- Panel LS5 - Evolutionary, population and environmental biology
- Panel LS6 - Medical and health science research
- Panel LS7 - Applied life sciences, biotechnology and bioengineering

3. Social and Human Sciences (5 panels)

- Panel SH1 - Individuals and organisations
- Panel SH2 - Institutions, behaviour, values and beliefs
- Panel SH3 - The human mind and its complexity
- Panel SH4 - Cultures and cultural diversity
- Panel SH5 - The study of the past and of cultural artefacts

Country codes

EU Member States

AT Austria
BE Belgium
BG Bulgaria
CY Cyprus
CZ Czech Republic
DE Germany
DK Denmark
EE Estonia
EL Greece
ES Spain
FI Finland
FR France
HU Hungary
IE Ireland
IT Italy
LT Lithuania
LU Luxembourg
LV Latvia
MT Malta
NL Netherlands
PL Poland
PT Portugal
RO Romania
SE Sweden
SI Slovenia
SK Slovakia
UK United Kingdom

FP7 Associated Countries

CH Switzerland
HR Croatia
IL Israel
IS Iceland
MK FYR of Macedonia
NO Norway
RS Serbia
TR Turkey

Other countries

AR Argentina
AU Australia
CA Canada
CN China
JP Japan
RU Russian Federation
US United States