

## EUA-CDE ANNUAL MEETING

# The diverse landscape of doctoral education

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Head of EUA Council for Doctoral Education

**Friday, August 24, 2018**

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## Introducing EUA-CDE

- **Constitutes** a member service of the European University Association
- **Brings together** a community of academic leaders and professionals from 243 universities in 35 countries
- **Works on** doctoral education policies and good practices of common interest to our members
- **Organises** regular conferences, workshops, focus groups, webinars and thematic peer groups, addressing fundamental and emerging topics of doctoral education
- **Participates** in policy dialogues on the European and global levels
- **Serves** as the “one-stop-shop” for doctoral education in Europe

## Background of reforms of doctoral education in Europe

- Salzburg Principles 2005 – Salzburg II 2010 – Salzburg III 2016
- Increased importance for the European Research Area
  - Innovation Union 2010
  - Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training 2011
- National legislation
- Much of this is connected to the discourse regarding the knowledge society as a driver for growth

## **Excellent research as a base for doctoral education in Europe**

- The core component of doctoral training is the advancement of knowledge through original research.
- Doctoral candidates must be allowed independence and flexibility
- Doctoral candidates need to be prepared for careers inside and outside of academia
- Institutions are responsible for their doctoral candidates

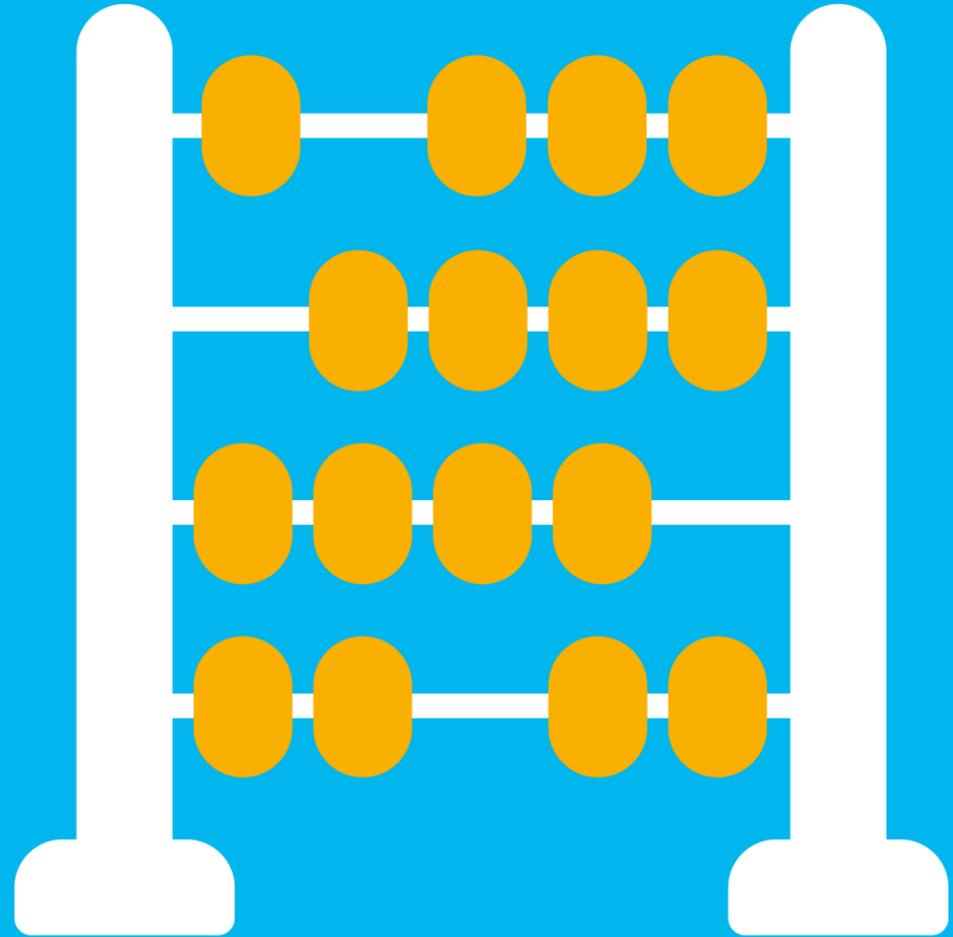
A «meeting  
place» ...



## Between:

- **Research and higher education**
- **Doctoral Candidates** (different backgrounds: Social, cultural, national)
- **Within the institution** (Doctoral education as shared responsibility)
- **Institutions** (Inter-institutional collaboration. Joint doctoral programmes)
- **Within/Between Disciplines** (disciplinary/multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary doctoral programmes/schools)
- **Sectors** (private, public)
- ...

# Lets start with some Numbers

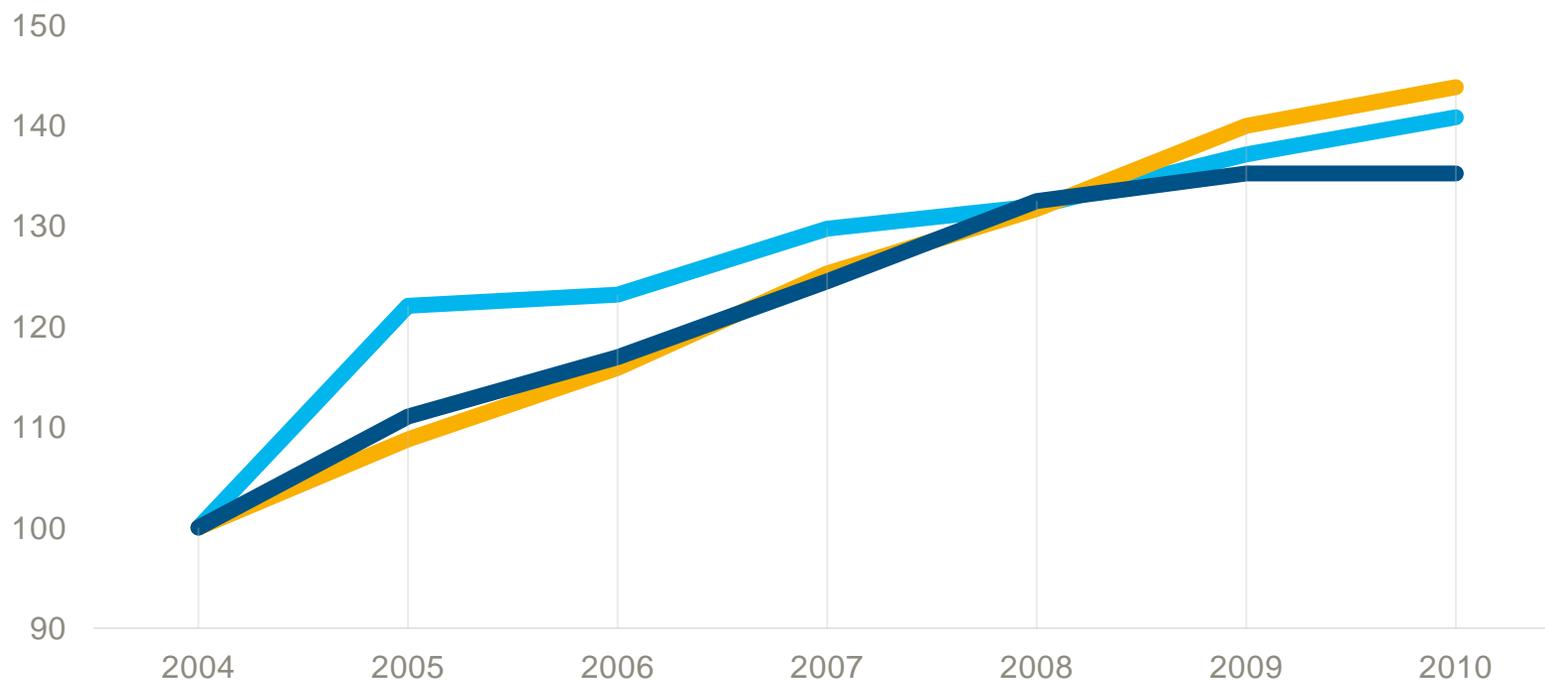


## Growth of doctoral candidates worldwide

- European Union (27 countries)
- United States
- Latin America

Source: EUA data

Growth in doctorates awarded in the EU, USA and Latin America  
2004=100

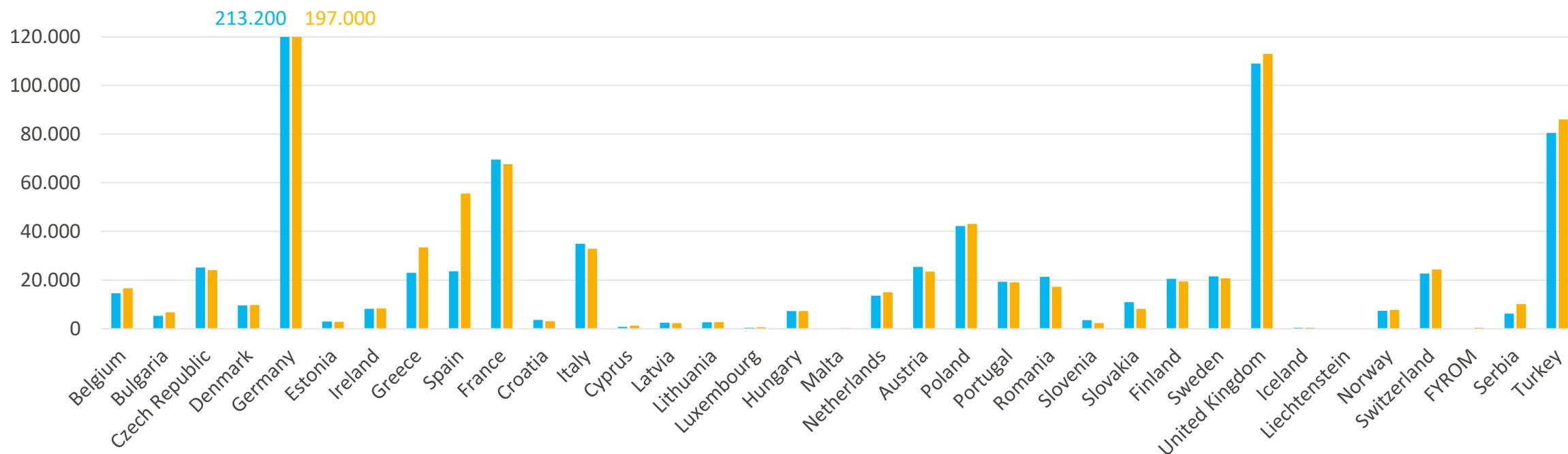


# Growing Number of doctoral candidates in Europe

2013: 853.360 | 2016: 884.353

■ 2013  
■ 2016

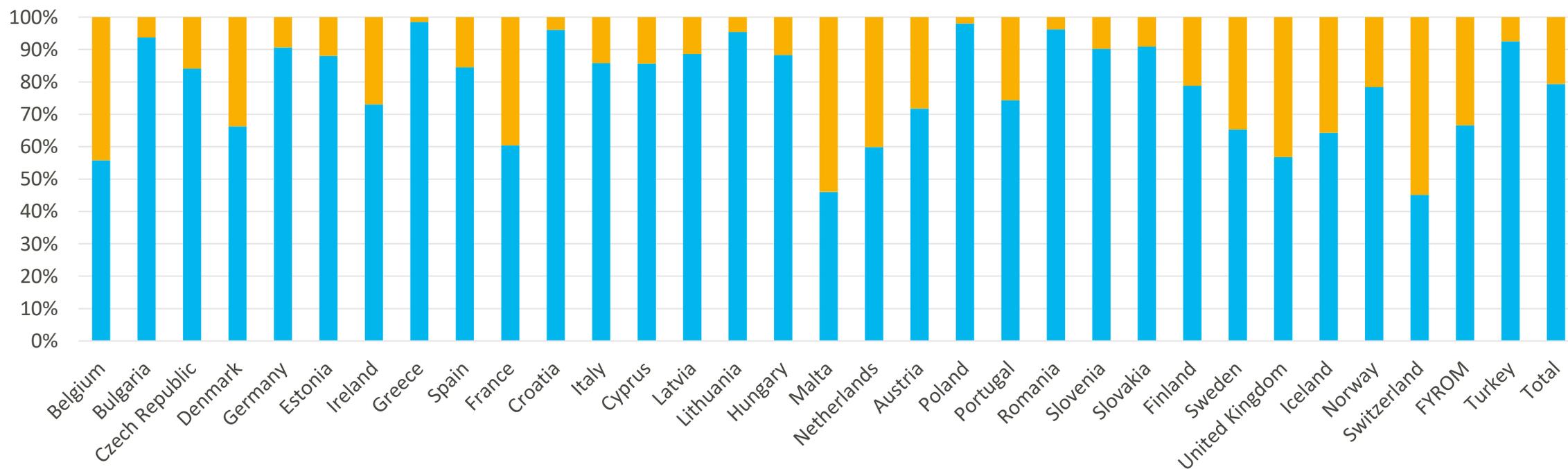
Source: Eurostat



## International mobility of doctoral candidates

Source: Eurostat

■ Non-mobile doctoral candidates (2016) ■ Mobile doctoral candidates (2016)

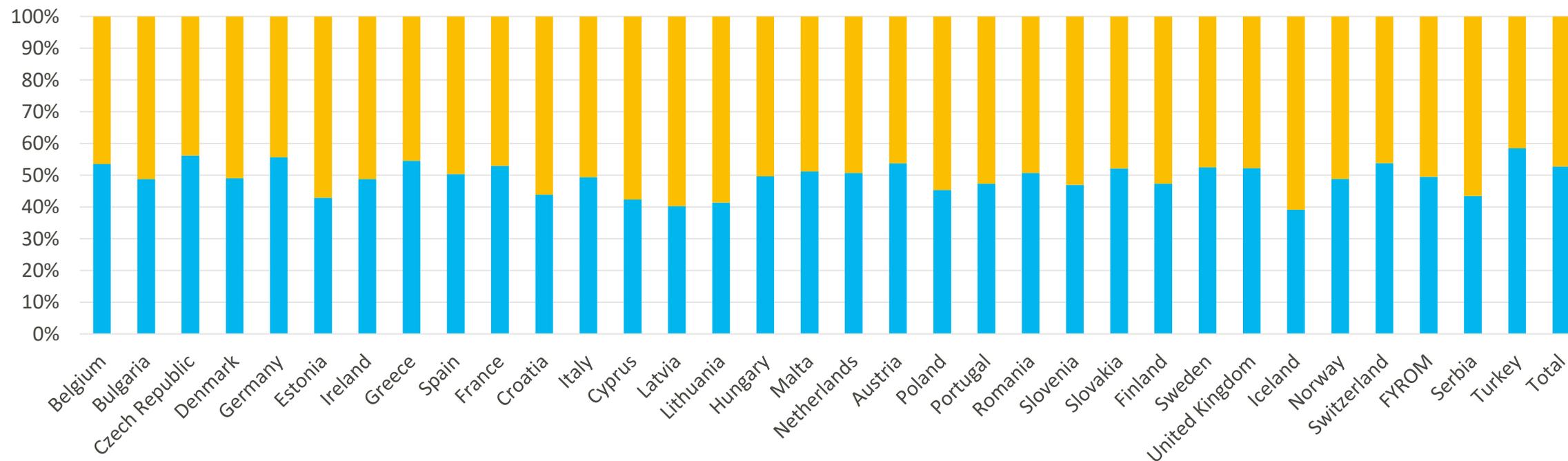


## Gender distribution of doctoral candidates in Europe (2016)

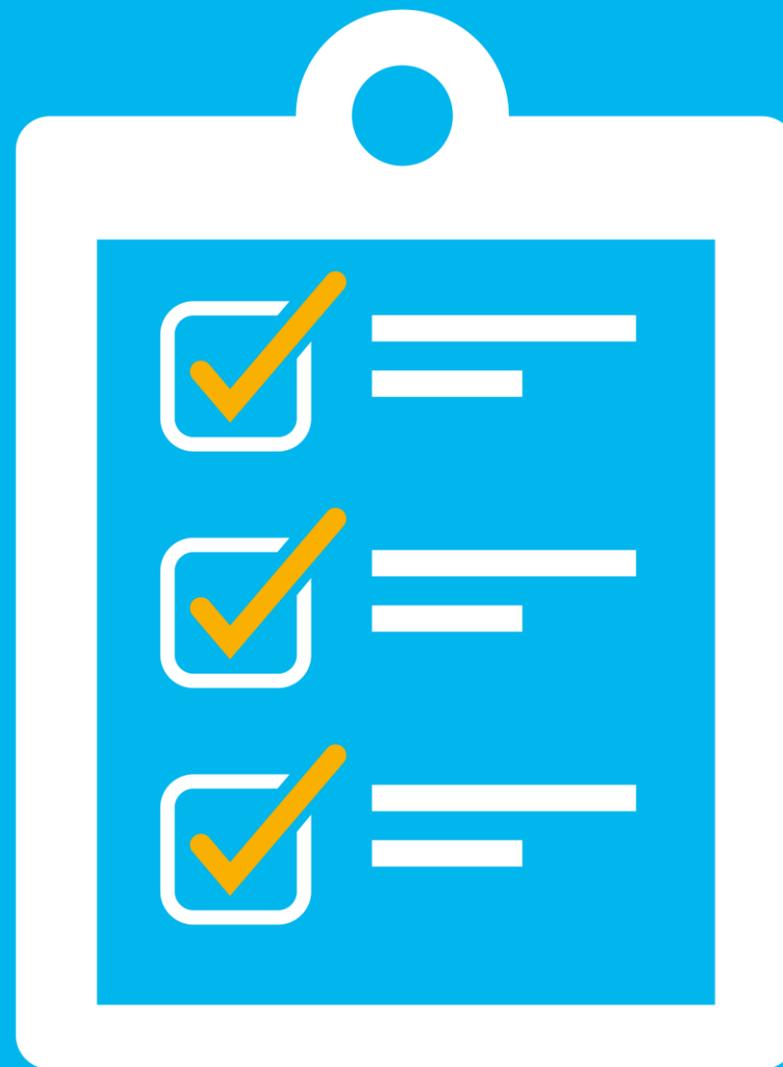
Source: Eurostat

(48% female doctoral candidates)

■ Male doctoral candidates (2016) ■ Female doctoral candidates (2016)



# Survey on doctoral education in Europe

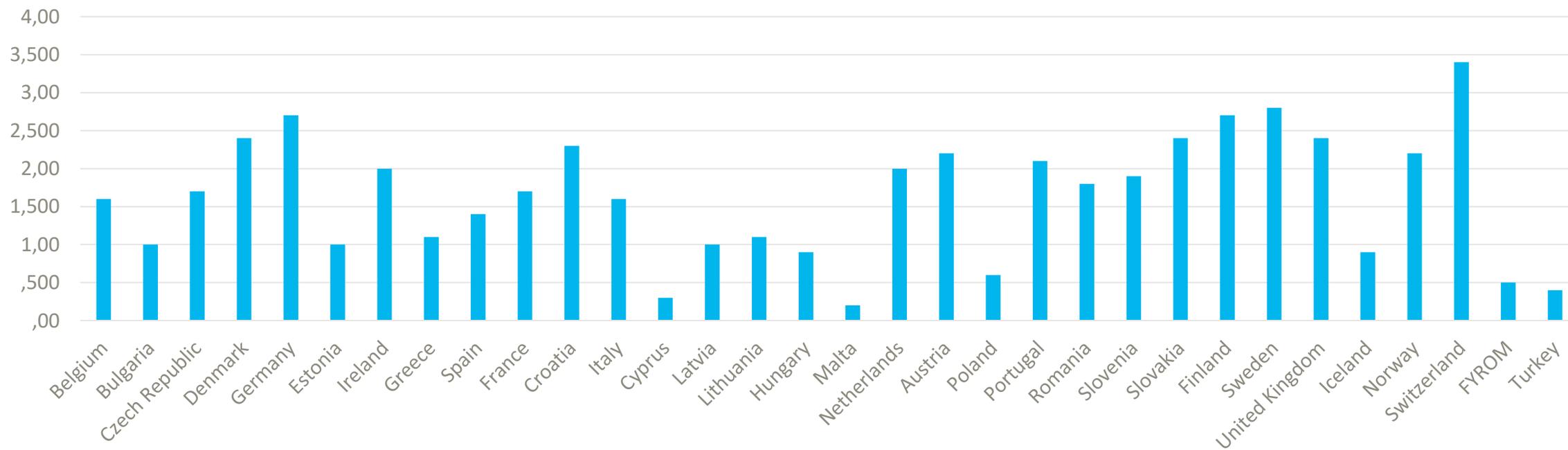


## Survey on doctoral education in Europe

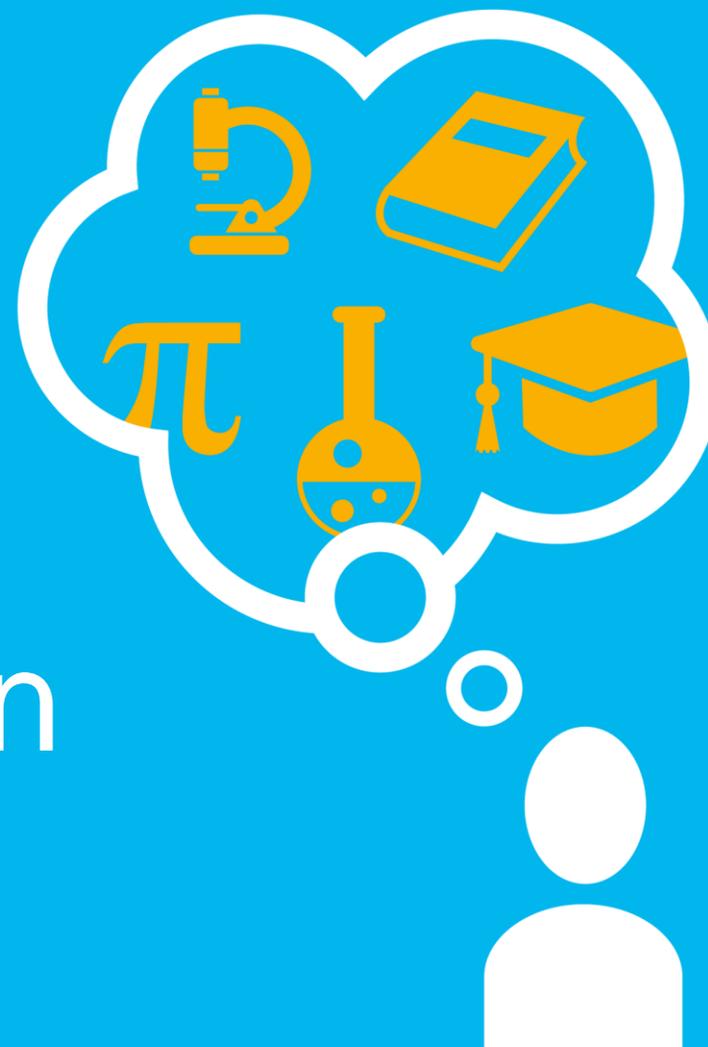
### Background

- Together with researchers from the Ghent University (Prof. Jeroen Huisman)
- November 2017 – February 2018
- For all European Universities addressing institutional leadership
- 292 valid responses
- 1 response per institution
- Covers 40% of all doctoral candidates in Europe (according to ETER data)
- Final report in beginning of 2019

## Graduates (ISCED 6) per 1 000 of the population aged 25-34



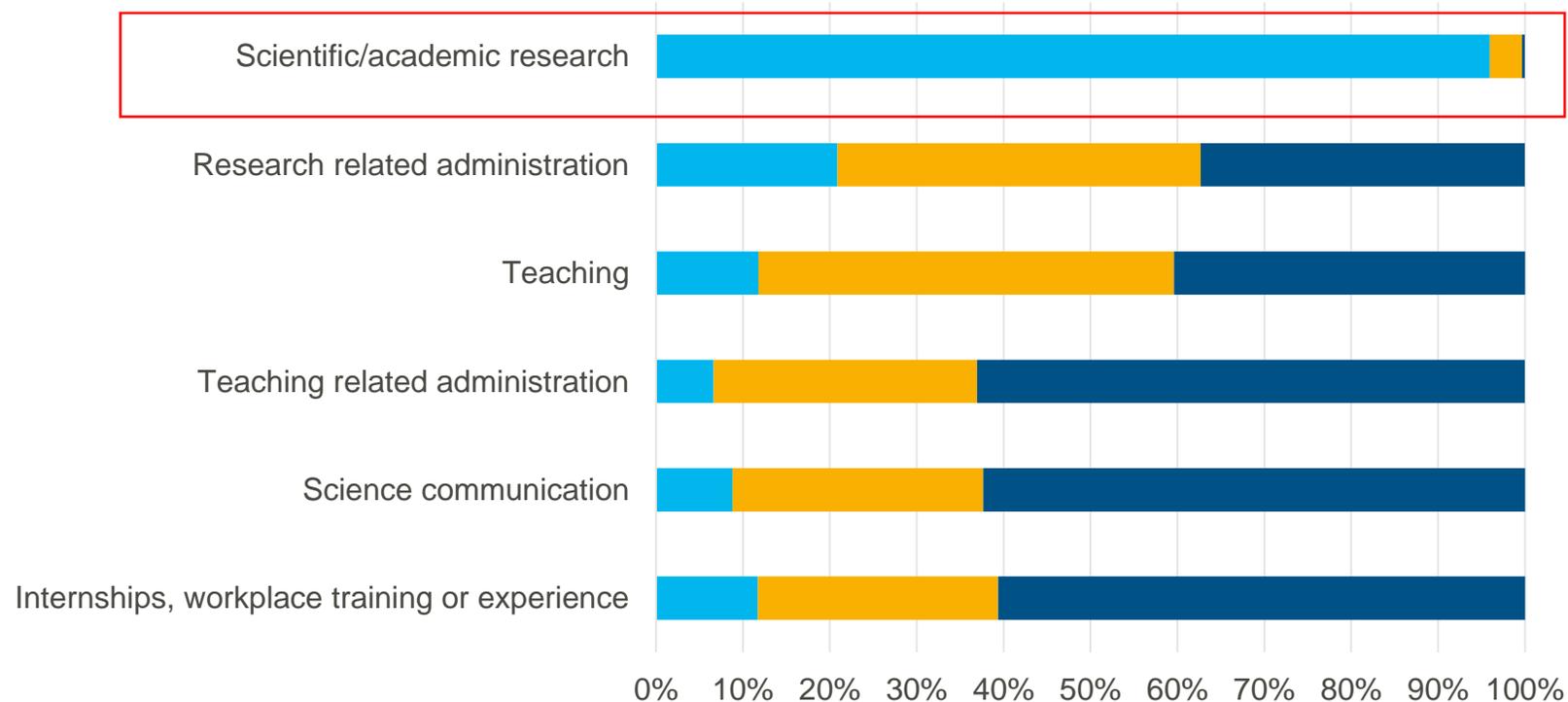
# Common goal: Research Excellence in Doctoral Education



## Doctoral candidates are early career researchers...

To what extent does an average doctoral candidate in your institution spend her/his time on the following activities?

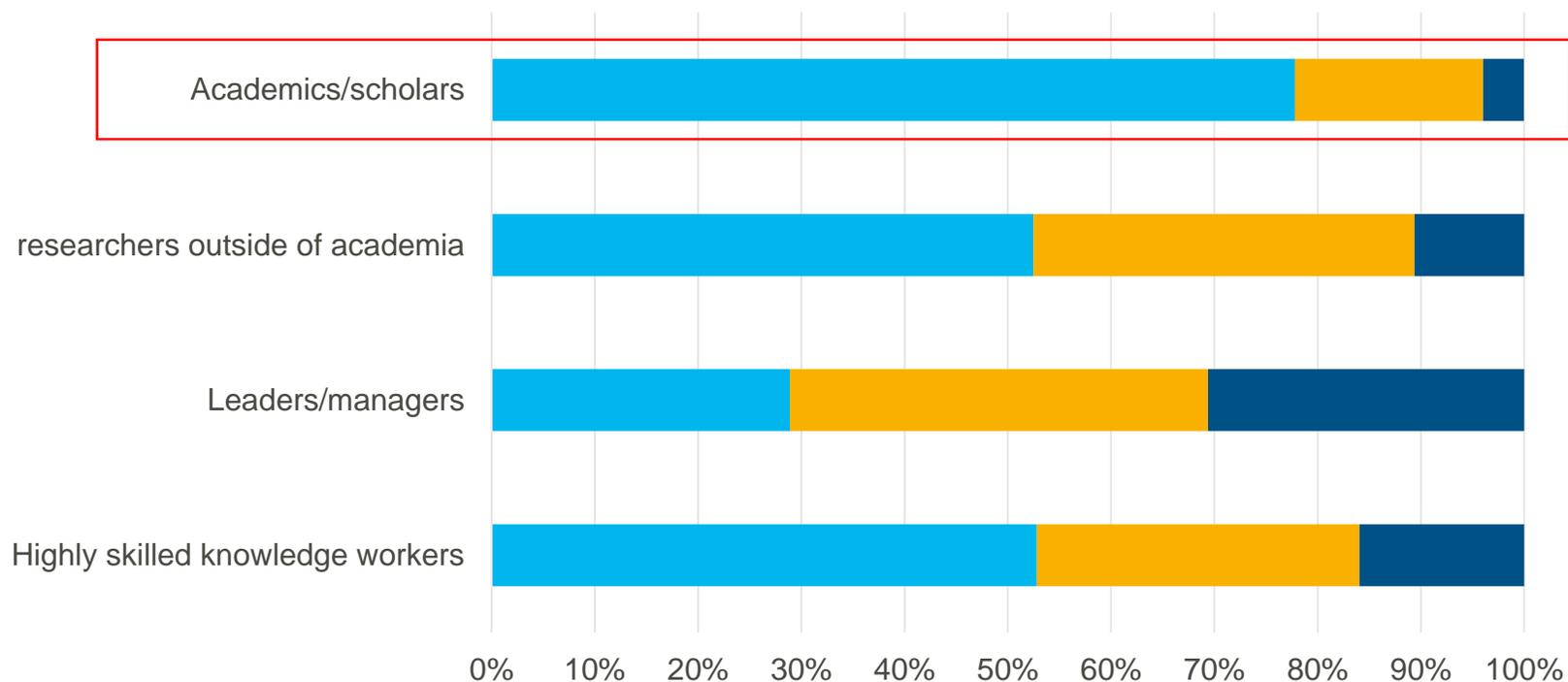
- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent



and (mainly) seen as future academic and scholars,

To what extent is doctoral education in your institution conceived as preparing the future generation of...

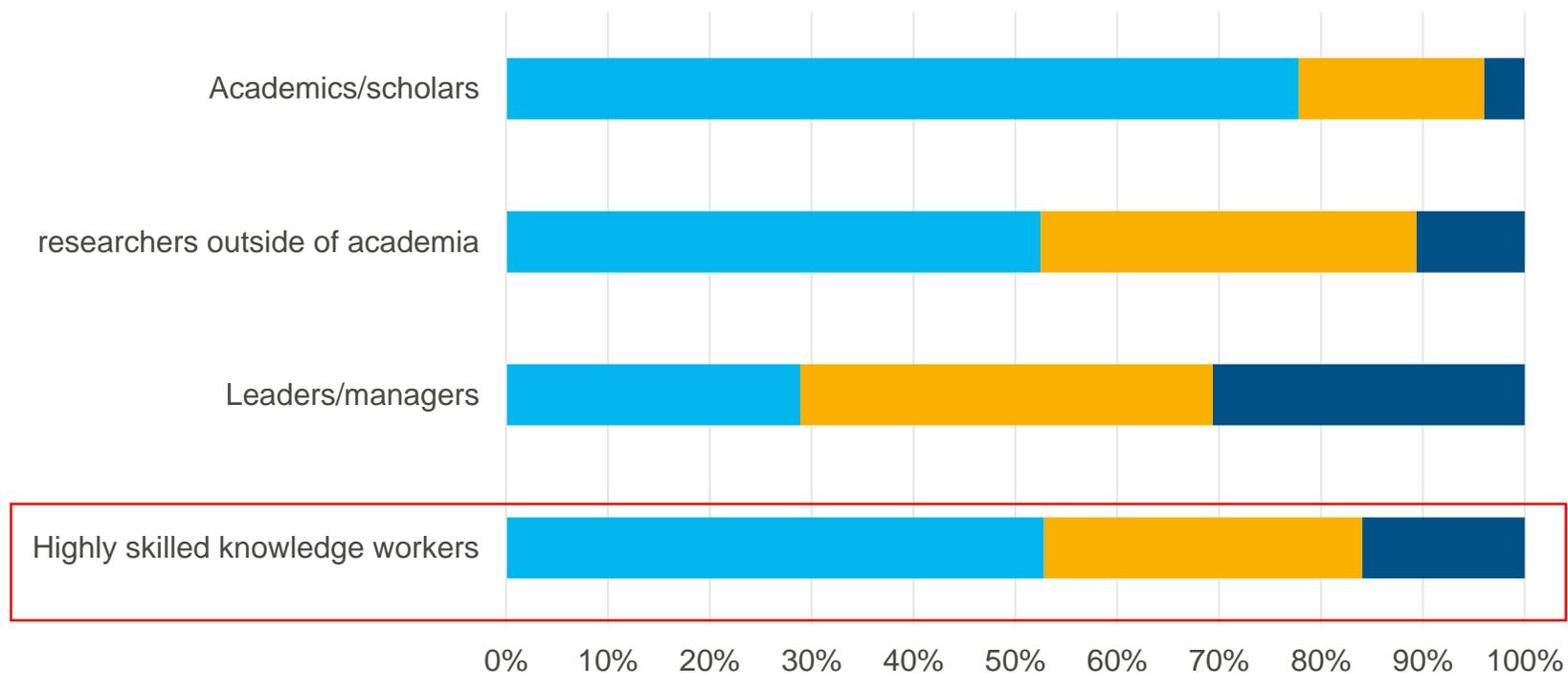
- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent



but also increasingly seen as the research professionals of tomorrow.

To what extent is doctoral education in your institution conceived as preparing the future generation of...

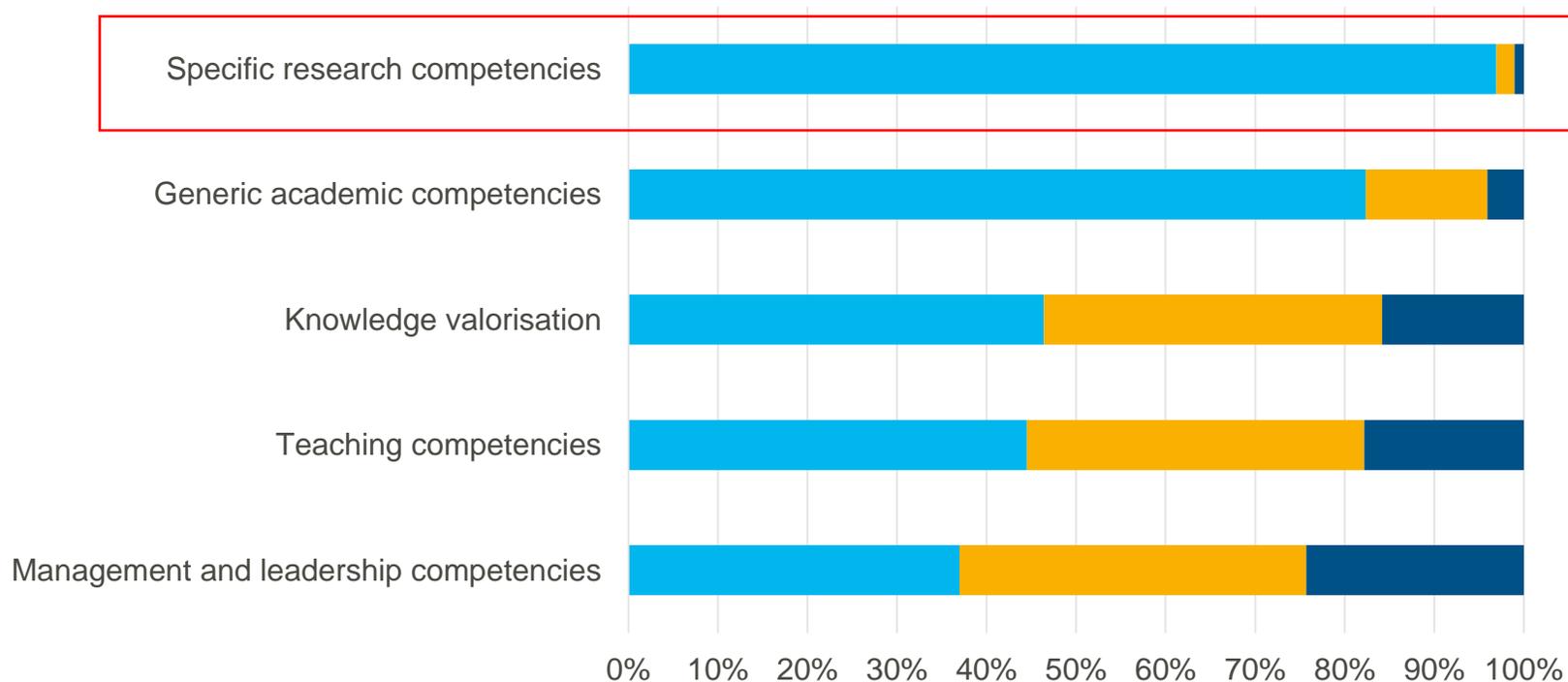
- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent



## They focus on research competencies

- (Extremely) important
- Somewhat important
- (Somewhat) unimportant

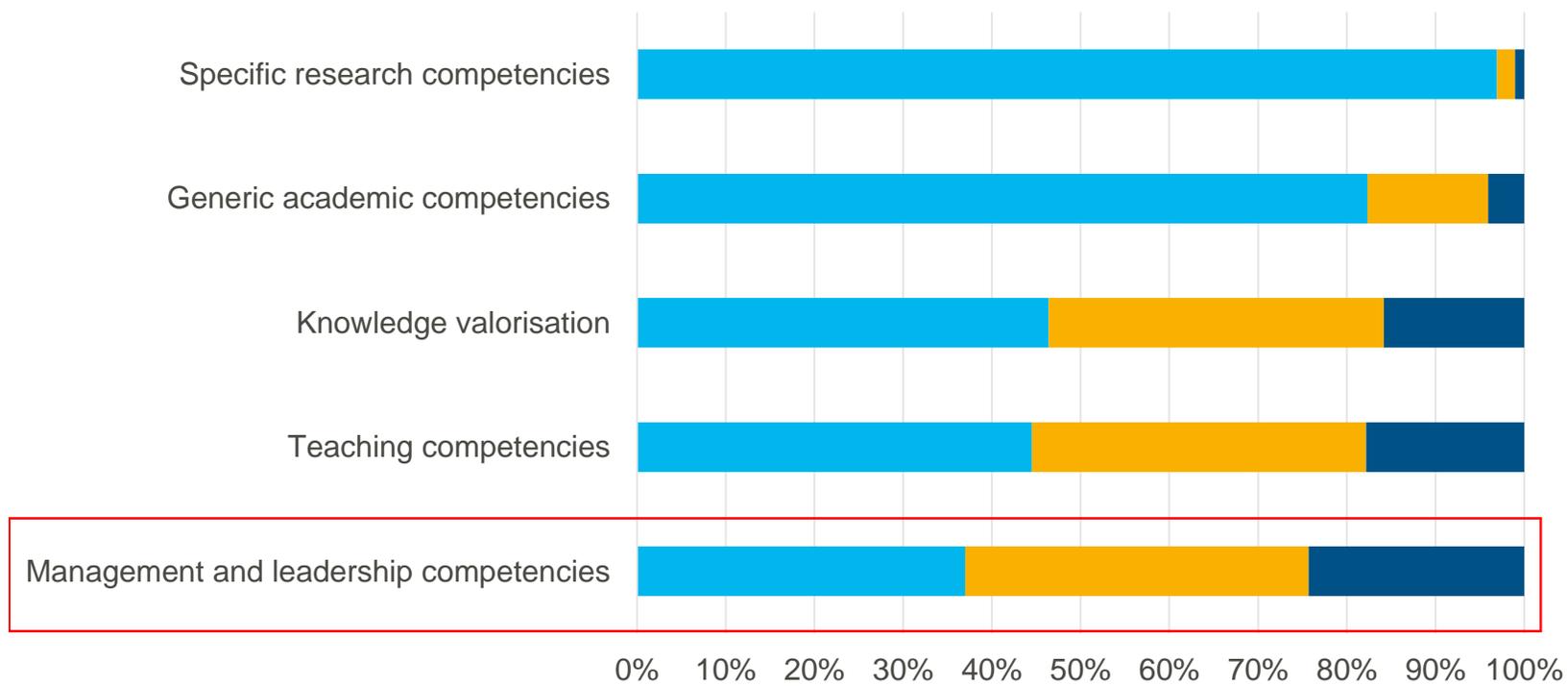
In your institution, how important are the following elements of doctoral training?



## but also acquire transversal competencies

In your institution, how important are the following elements of doctoral training?

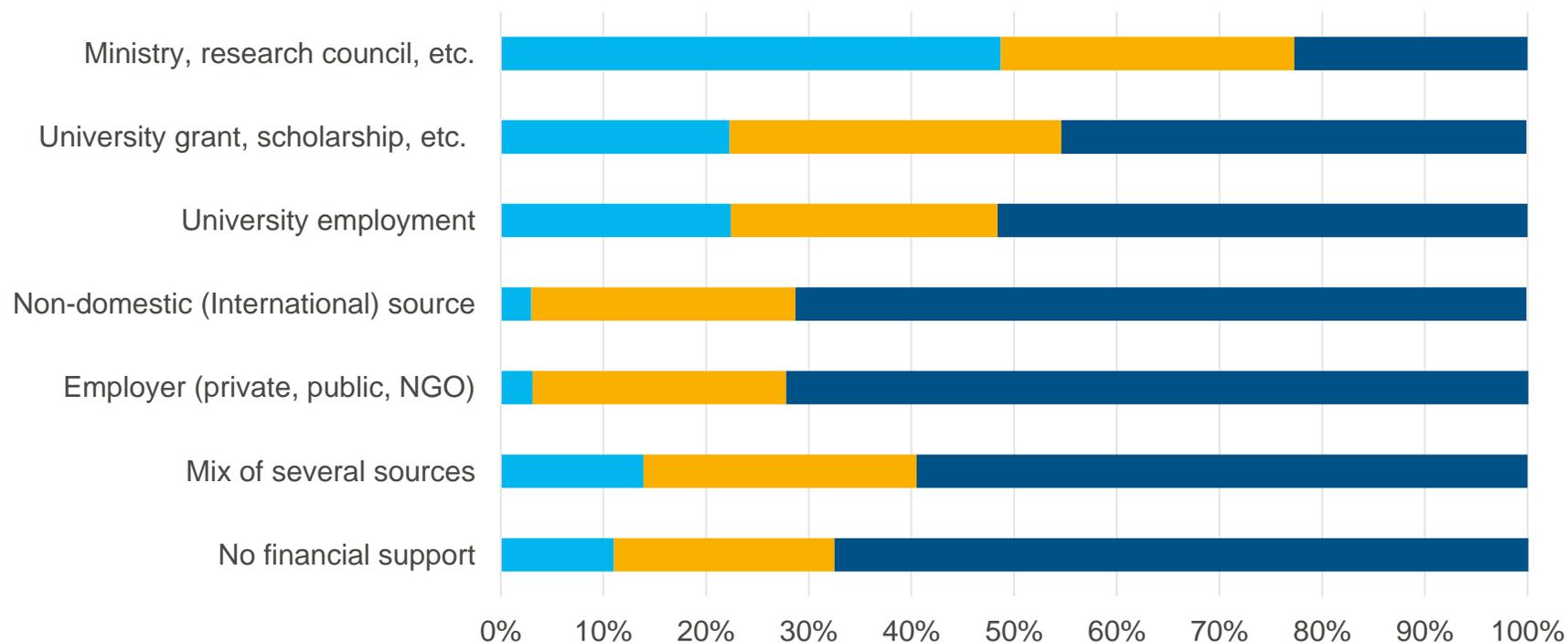
- (Extremely) important
- Somewhat important
- (Somewhat) unimportant



## Funding for doctoral education comes from a variety of resources

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

To what extent are doctoral candidates at your institution financially supported by the following sources?



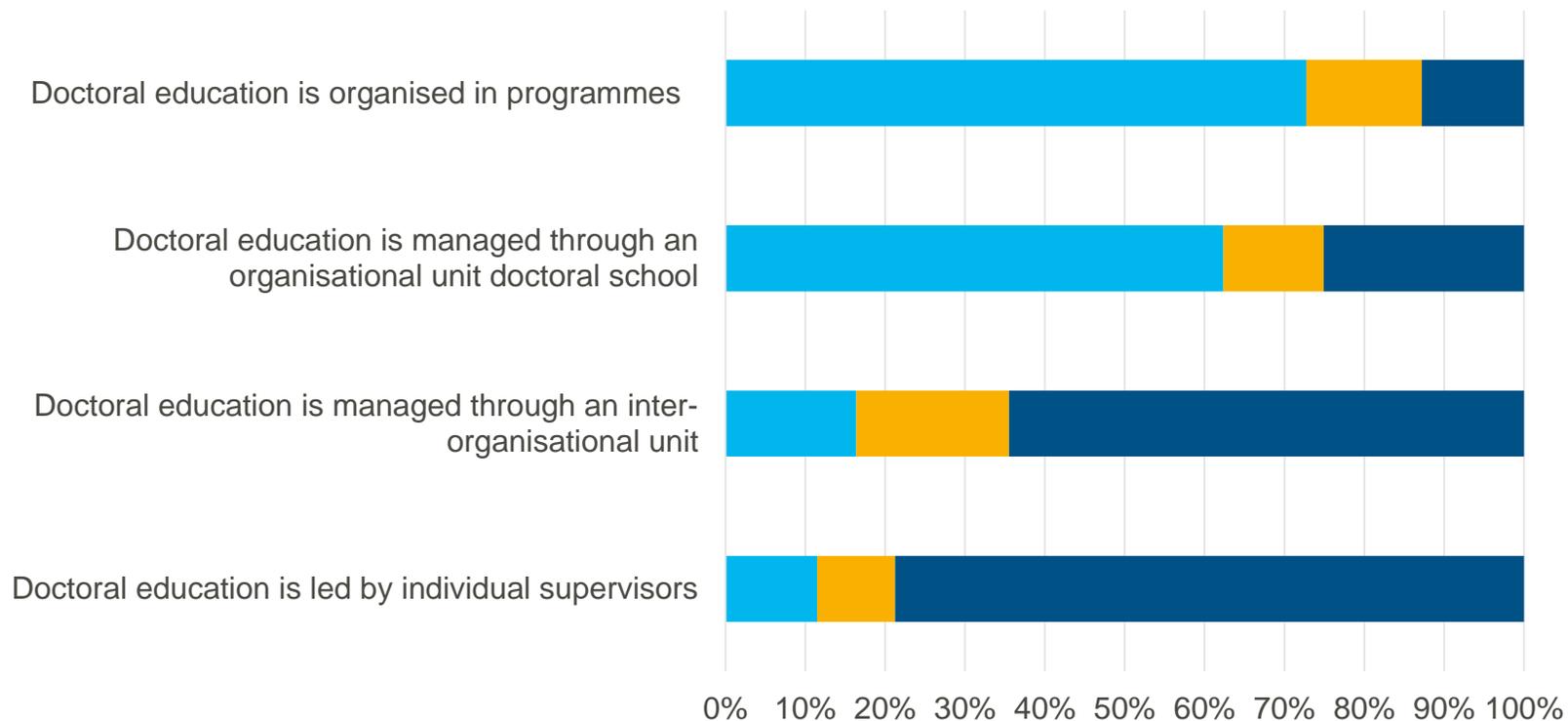
# Diversity in the organisation of doctoral education



## Institutions establish diverse, often parallel structures for doctoral education ...

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

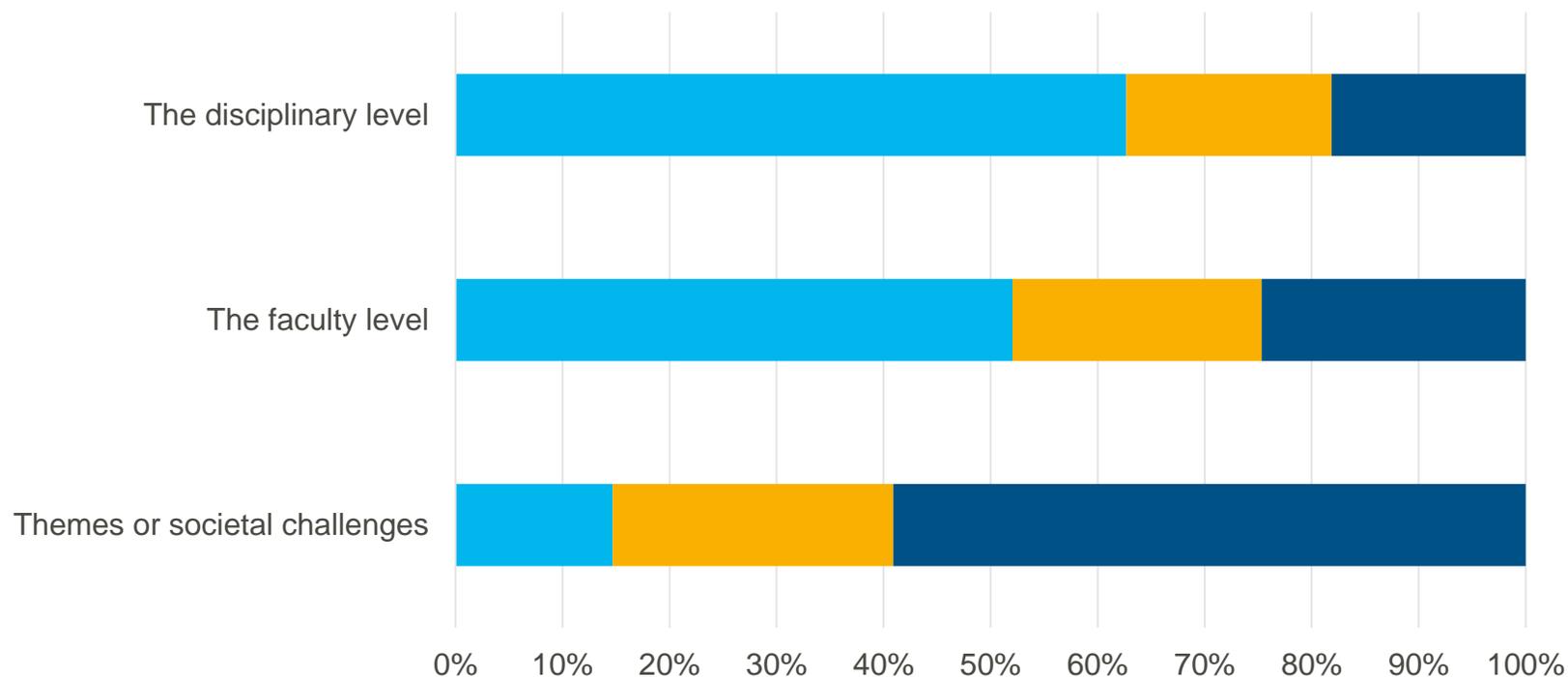
To what extent is doctoral education in your institution organised as...?



## ... based on the different levels of University governance (university, faculty, discipline)

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

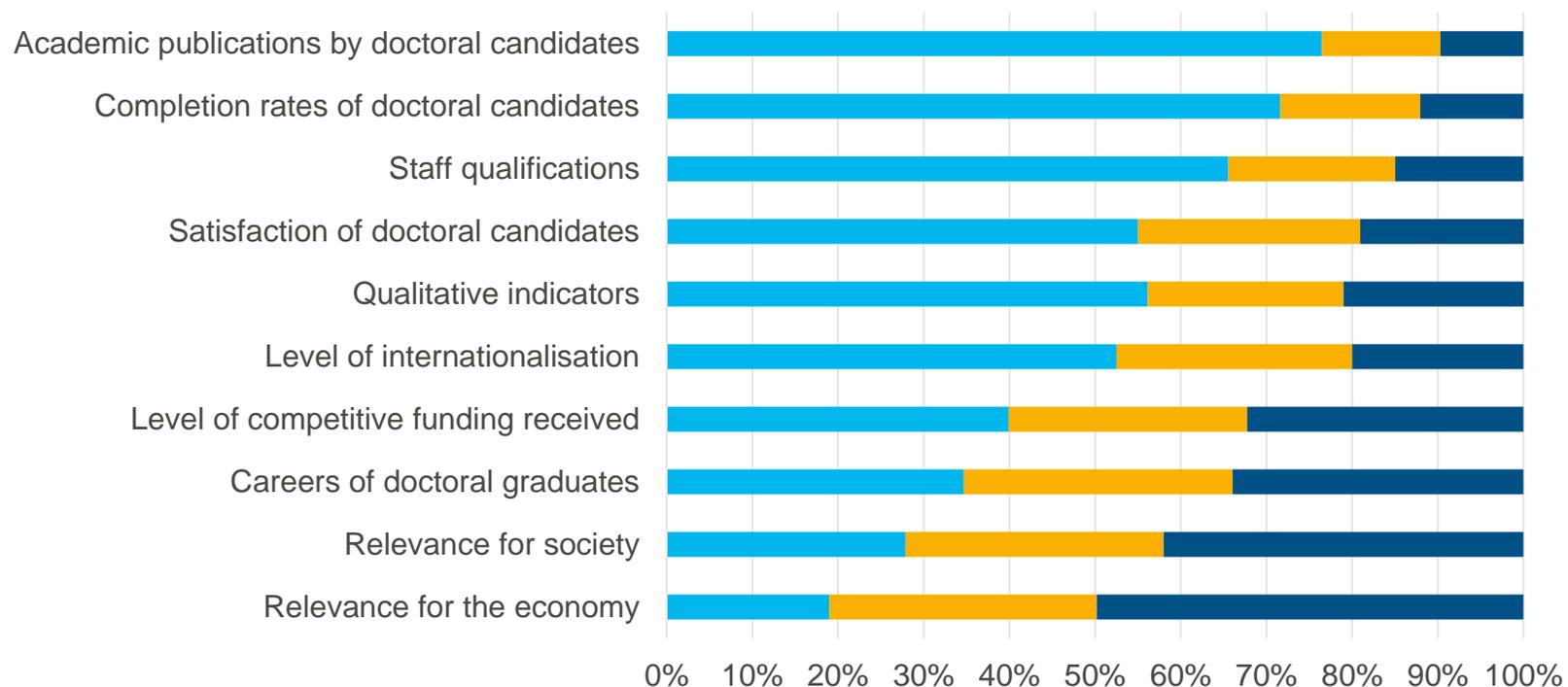
To what extent is doctoral education in your institution organised at or around ...?



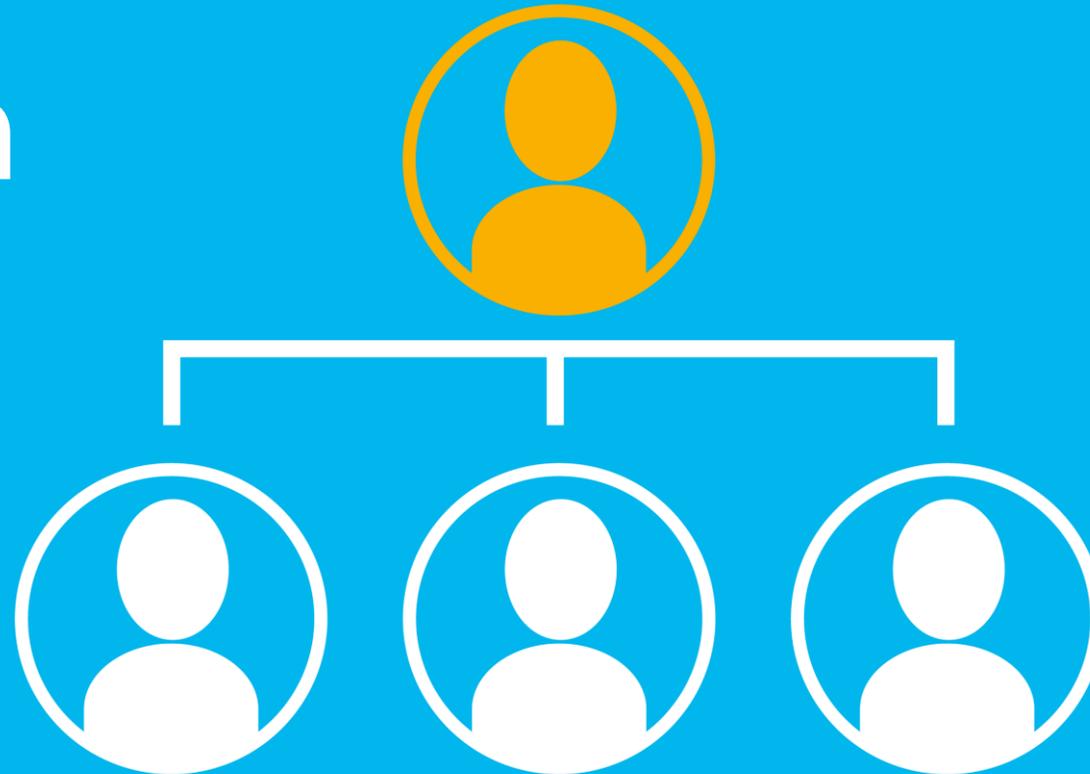
## Variety of criteria to institutionally evaluate doctoral education

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

In your institution, to what extent are the following aspects/criteria used to assess/evaluate doctoral education?



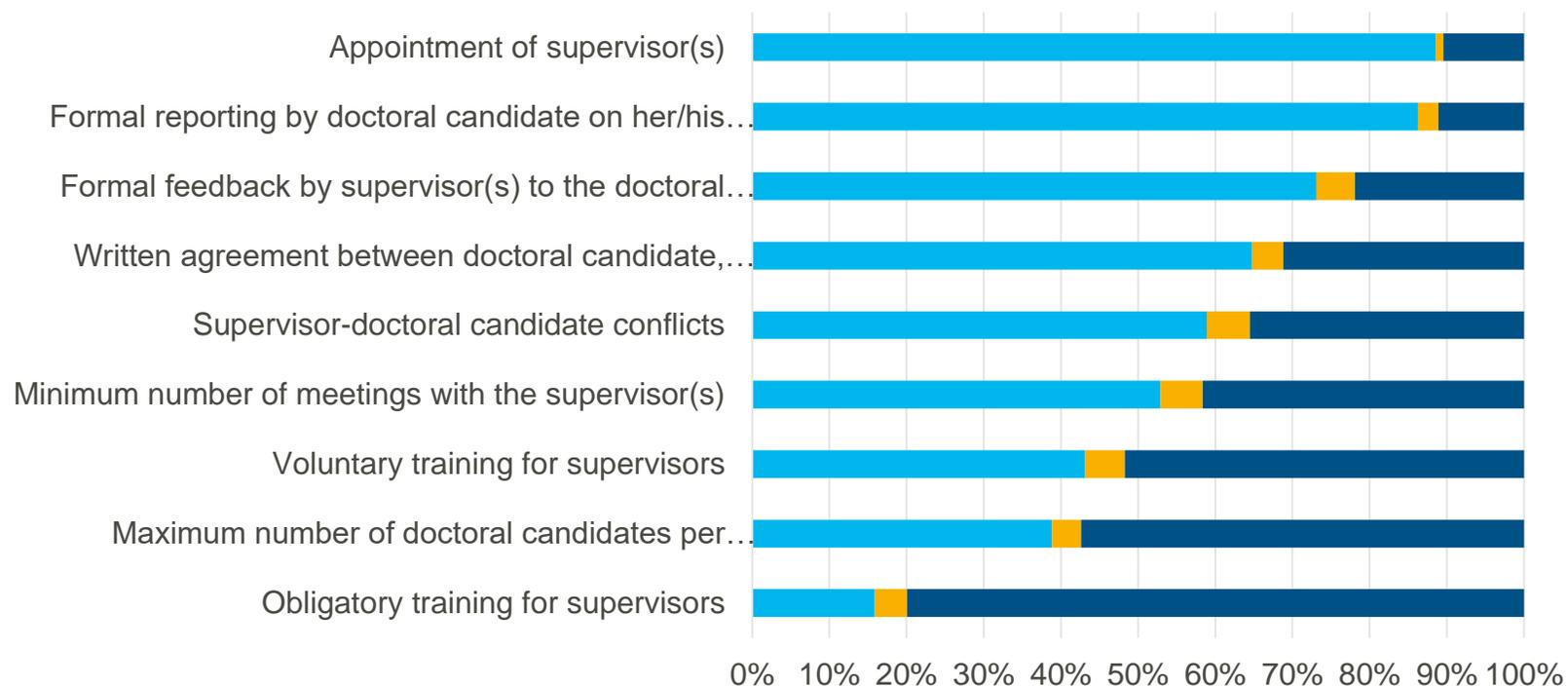
# Supervision



## Key aspects of the supervisor-supervisee relation are regulated

- In most/all doctoral programmes
- In about half of doctoral programmes
- Never/in some doctoral programmes

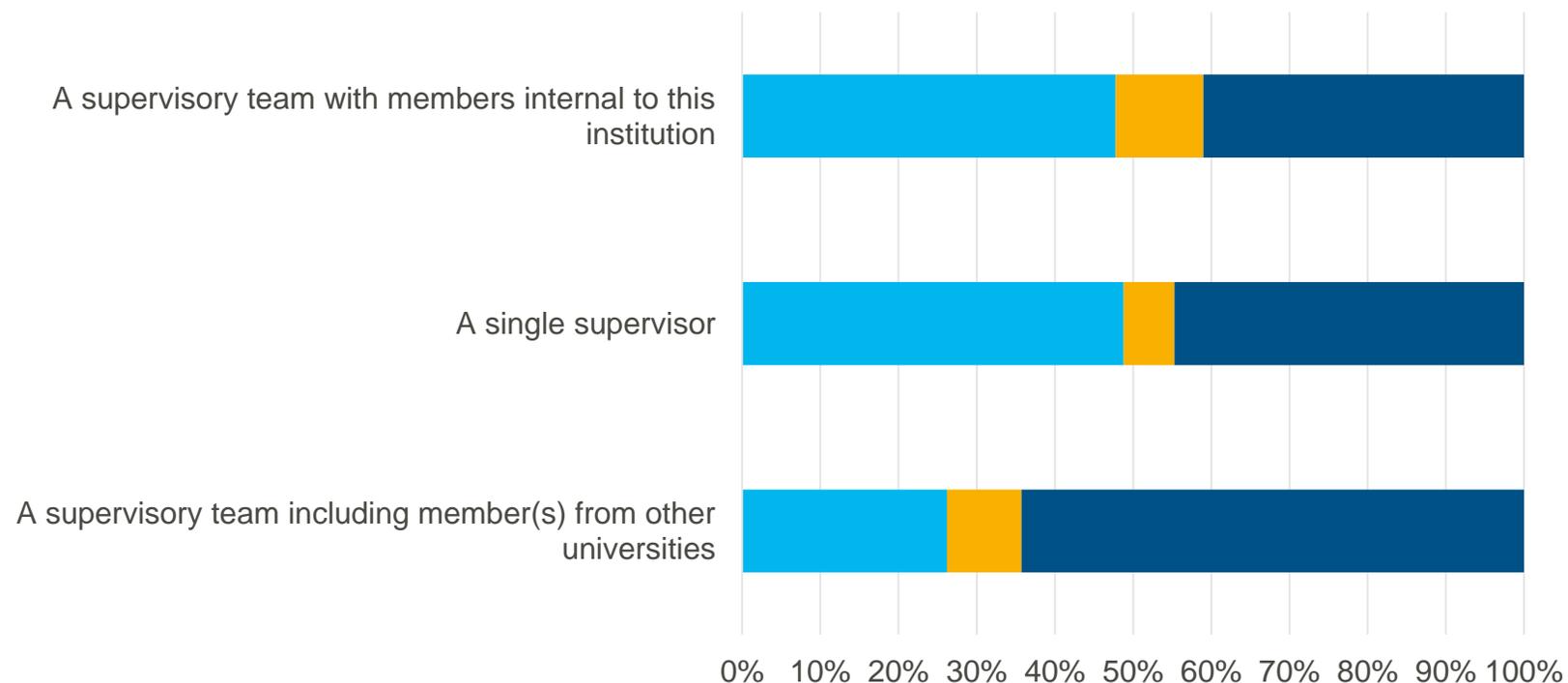
In your institution, are there rules or guidelines regarding the following aspects of doctoral supervision?



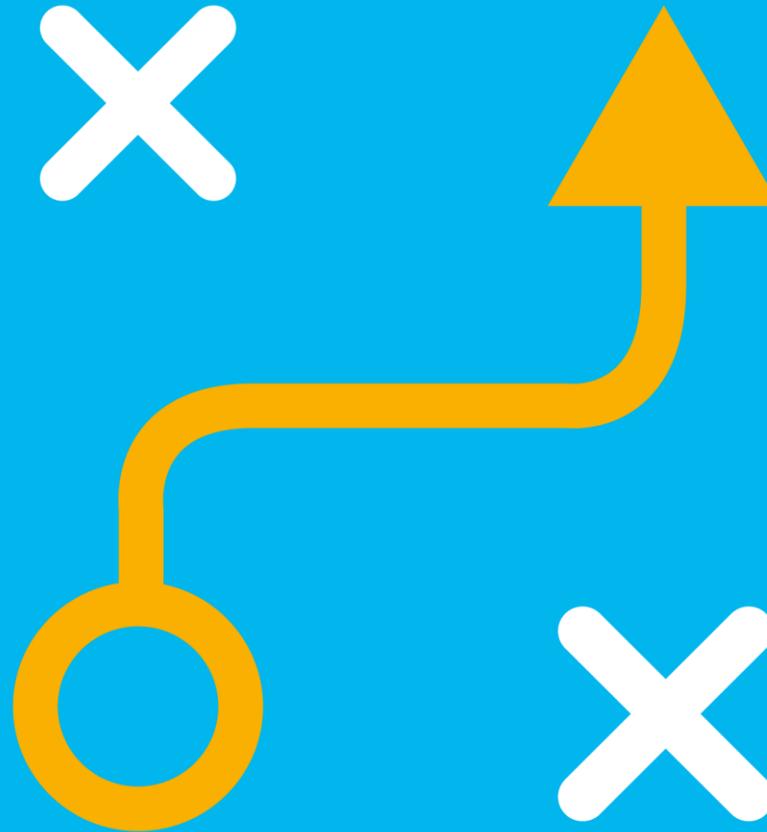
## The practice of the supervision is highly diverse even within a single institution

- In most/all doctoral programmes
- In about half of doctoral programmes
- Never/in some doctoral programmes

To what extent are doctoral candidates in your institution supervised by ...?



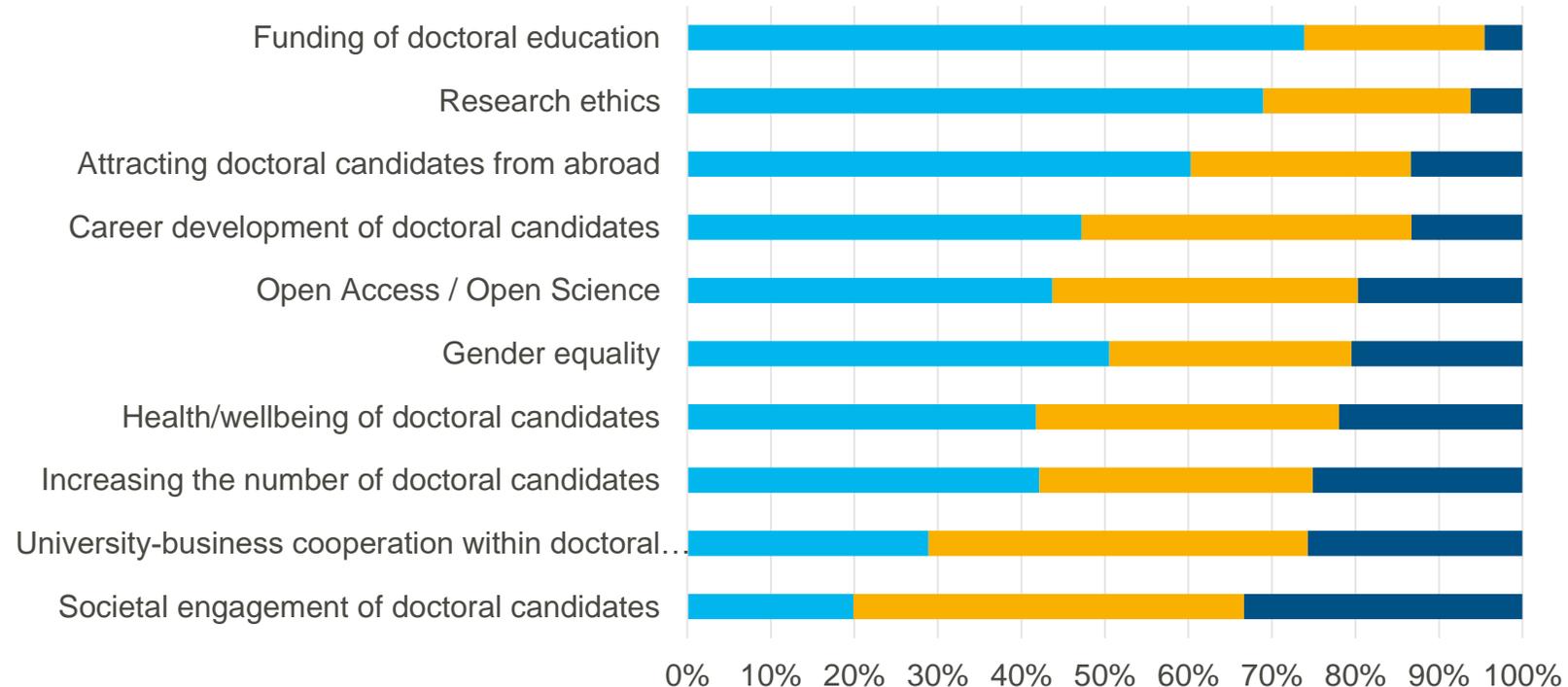
# Strategy



## There are multiple strategic priorities within a single institution...

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

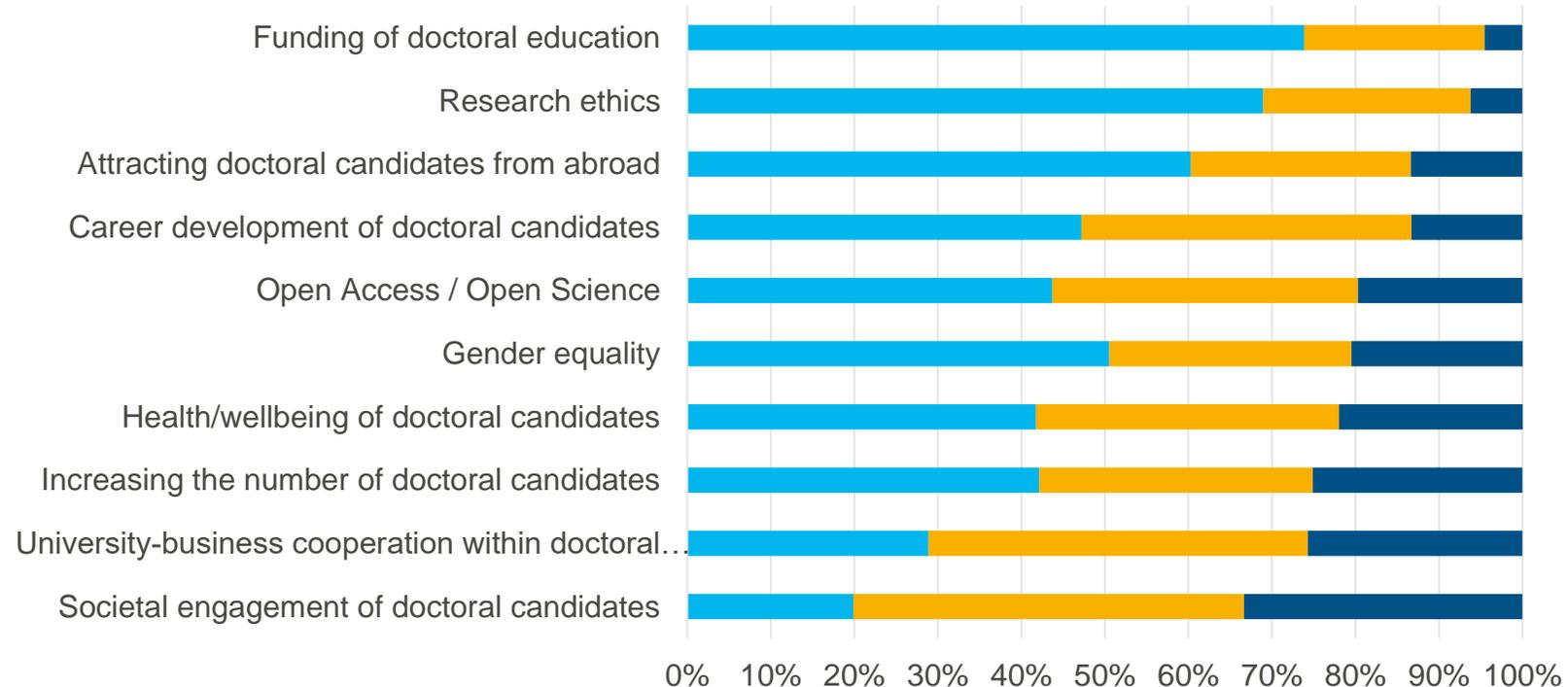
To what extent are the following issues currently considered a strategic priority in doctoral education within your institution



## ... addressing the structural questions of doctoral education as much as broader policy issues

- To a great extent/always
- To some extent
- Not at all/to a small extent

To what extent are the following issues currently considered a strategic priority in doctoral education within your institution



## Conclusions

- The production of knowledge through original research is at the centre of doctoral education.
- Doctoral education serves to prepare doctoral candidates for a variety of careers.
- An overwhelming majority of institutions (about 90%) have established structures for doctoral education.
- Doctoral schools and programmes coexist simultaneously with other support structures.
- Doctoral education is an endeavour for all of the institutions – rooted in the different levels of governance.

## Conclusions

- Supervisors remain primus inter pares, increasingly working in tandem with colleagues from in- and outside the institution.
- In most institutions, formal reporting and feedback between the doctoral candidate and supervisor(s) is required. Doctoral education is evaluated based on the multiple – and potentially conflicting – criteria which reflect diverse demands from external stakeholders.
- Key strategic policy priorities of doctoral education are similar to the key issues of European research policy today, while also addressing the specificities of early stage researchers.

# Thank you for your attention

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