

# **EUROGRADUATE: Towards a European Graduate Survey**

**Christoph Meng**

- Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market, Maastricht University

# Agenda

- Background: Why a new initiative?
- EUROGRADUATE Approach and main challenges
- Survey topics and REFLEX results

# Background

- Feasibility study: EUROGRADUATE
- Demand for a European graduate study among stakeholders at national and European level
  - the transition of graduates to the labour market,
  - quality of the job match,
  - career prospects,
  - skills, competencies, and values of graduates,
  - mobility behaviour,
  - detailed information on the higher education received by graduates.

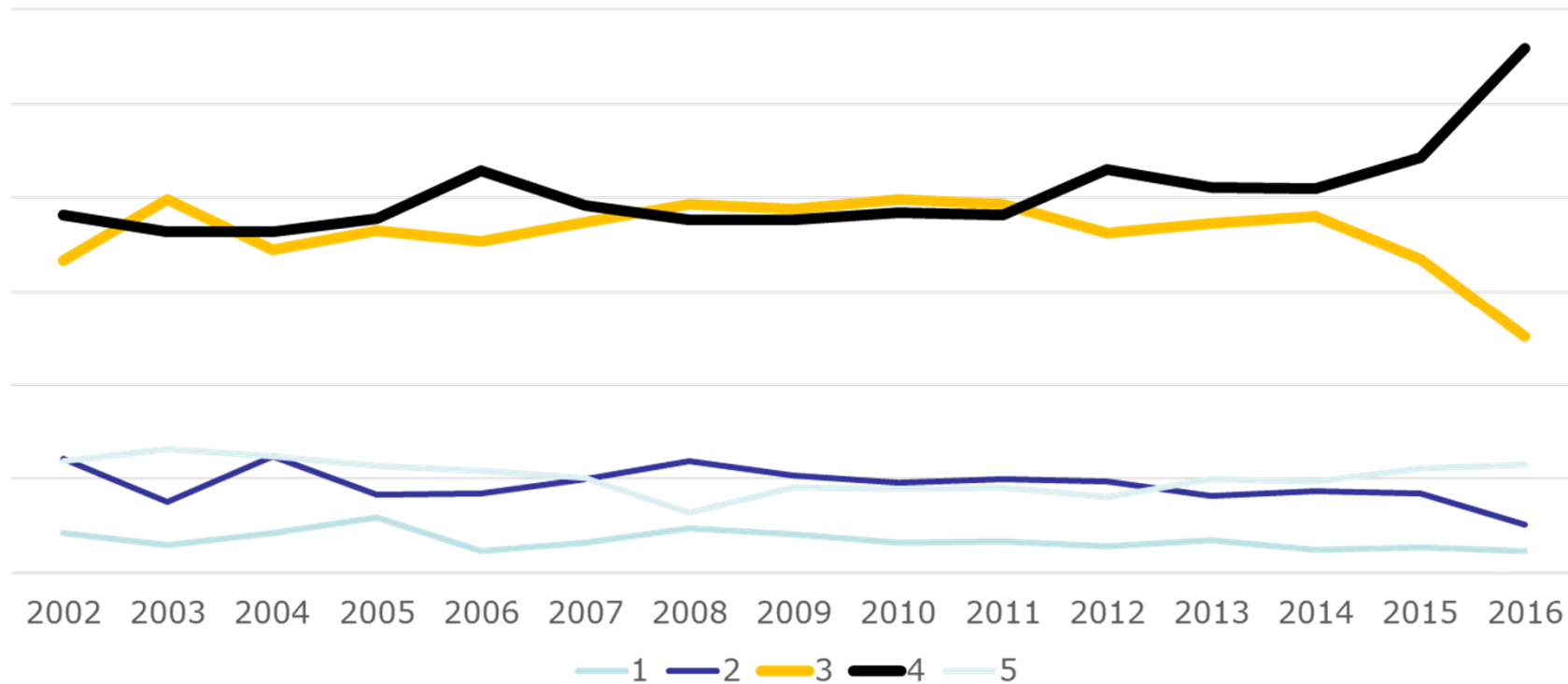
# Why not existing data

- EU-LFS
  - Small numbers of respondents severely limits to analyse higher education graduates
  - Does it provide all the information you need?
- Linking National Graduate Surveys
  - Only cross-sectional studies / no panel studies
  - Different approaches:
    - Timing (1/2 year, 1 year, 3 year etc.)
    - Population (Bachelor, Masters)
    - Concepts used
    - Operationalization of concepts

# Why not existing data

- Dutch secondary VET graduate survey
- Preparation for further education
- 5-point Likert scale
- Until 2015: Very dissatisfied / 2 / 3 / 4 / Very satisfied
- 2016: Very dissatisfied / dissatisfied / neutral / satisfied / very satisfied

# Why not existing data



# EUROGRADUATE Approach

# Research Design

- *Focus on EU countries and open to further European countries*
- *Graduates with Bachelors' and Masters' degrees*
- *Panel surveys 1, 5, and 9 years after graduation*
- *Study repetitions every four years*
- *Start with cohorts 1 and 5 years after graduation*
  
- *Size of the sample: Country \* Type of degree \* Field of study*
- *A centralised online survey with country- and institution specific extensions*
- *A decentralised recruitment of graduates*



# Consortium

- **Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (Maastricht)**
- **German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (Hanover)**
- **Institute for Advanced Studies (Vienna)**
- **DESAN Research Solutions (Amsterdam)**
- **cApStAn (Brussels / Philadelphia)**
- **GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Mannheim / Cologne)**

# Target

- Prepare the ground for decision on
  - European graduate survey 1 year after graduation
  - European graduate survey 5 year after graduation
- Provide first results on base of
  - Graduate survey 1 year after graduation
  - Graduate survey 5 year after graduation

# Planning

- Selection of countries
  - February 2018
- Development of Master questionnaire
  - March – May 2018
- Sampling strategy: Master
  - March – April 2018
- Country Strategy: Sampling and contacting graduates
  - May – July 2018
- Translation and verification of questionnaire
  - June-July 2018
- Start fieldwork
  - September 2018

# Main instruments

- Pilot in **selected** group of countries
  - Test availability of contact information
  - Test sampling procedures
  - Test fieldwork **Sept. 2018 - Nov. 2018**
  - Collect data
- Develop strategy for **all** Erasmus+ countries
  - Explore availability of contact information
  - Enquire options for sampling procedures
  - Coordination with national surveys

## Pilot countries

- Norway
- Lithuania
- Germany
- Austria
- (Hungary) → Malta
- Czech Republic
- Croatia
- Greece

# The graduate in Eurograduate

- The pilot survey, taking place in autumn 2018 will cover graduates one and five years after graduation
- That means the target group are all graduates of the academic years **2012/13** and **2016/17**

# Definition of Graduate

- ISCED 6 (Bachelor): ✓
- ISCED 7 (Master): ✓
- ISCED 5 (Short courses):
  - ✓ if regarded as higher education
  - ✓ if provide by institute that also offers ISCED 6
  - ✓ if they play a significant role in HE

## Definition of Graduate

- *All* graduates means graduates of:
  - all nationalities who graduated in the respective country,
  - regardless of their current place of residence (in or outside of the country),
  - regardless of their location of prior education (school or first degree) and
  - regardless of their previous enrolment status (e.g. full-time, part-time, correspondence).



# Definition of Graduate

- All graduates also includes graduates of
  - all ages and
  - graduates from (international) joint-degree programmes

# Main challenges

- *Contact details*
  - 1 year after graduation
  - 5 year after graduation
- *Country-specific approach*
  - Central database (e.g. Norway) versus decentral databases (e.g. Germany)
  - Availability of e-mails, postal addresses, phone numbers
- *Translation of questionnaire*
  - English Master questionnaire
  - Translated by national teams in national language
  - Translations are verified by Experts (linguistic and contents)

# Survey Topics

- Labour market relevance
- Skills
- (International) mobility
- Democratic values
- Further study
- Explanatory factors

# Labour market relevance

- Labour market entrance
  - Job search behaviour
  - Job search duration
- Labour force status at time of survey
  - ILO definition

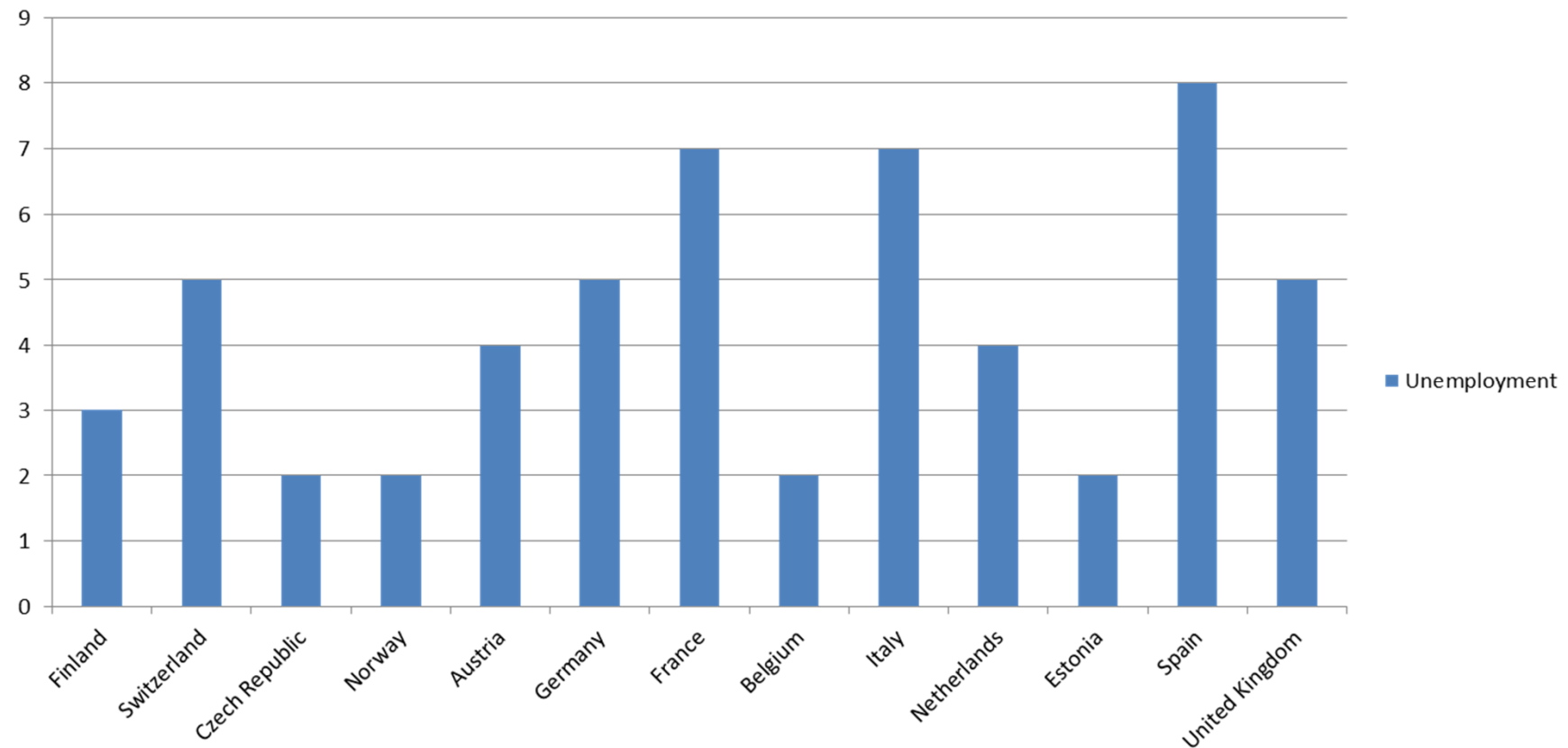
# Labour market relevance

- T+1: At time of survey
- T+5: In Fall 2014 and at time of survey
- Fall 2014: Retro perspective questions
- T+5 is not a real panel approach but similar approach as REFLEX

## REFLEX: a brief description

- 2005/2006 survey of +- 100.000 graduates 5 years after leaving HE
- Financed by EU 6th Framework Program
- 10 research teams from 9 countries: Austria, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK
- 4 affiliated teams: Switzerland, Portugal, Czech Republic and Japan
- Extension in 2008 to new/candidate EU member states: HEGESCO Project (Slovenia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Turkey)

## 5 years after graduation



# Labour market relevance

- Job characteristics
  - Occupation
  - Economic sector
  - Type of contract
  - Salary
  - Match between study and work
  - Job satisfaction



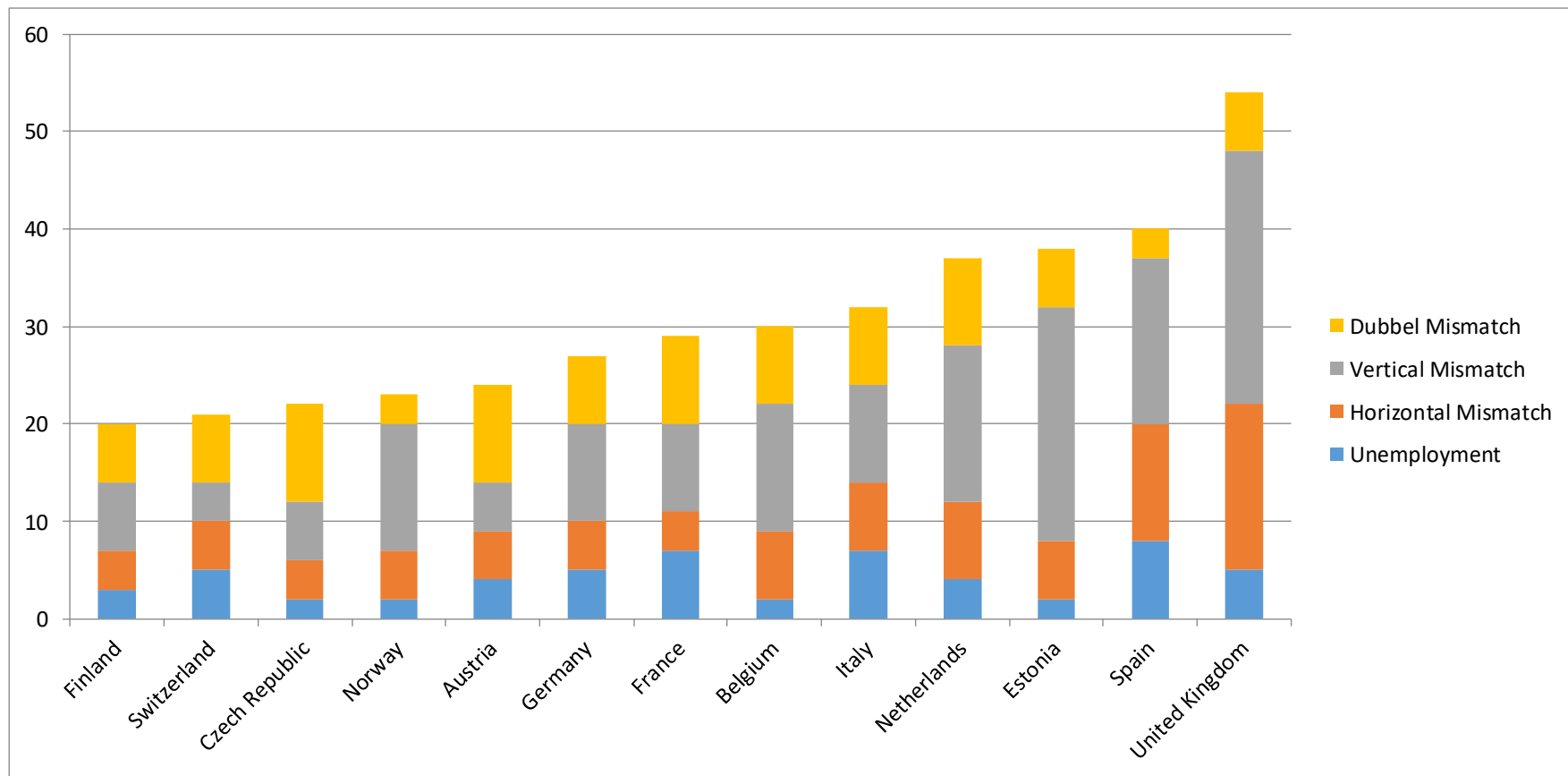
# Education – Job Match

- ...finding a job is a first step ....
- ...finding a job that matches the study is a second step

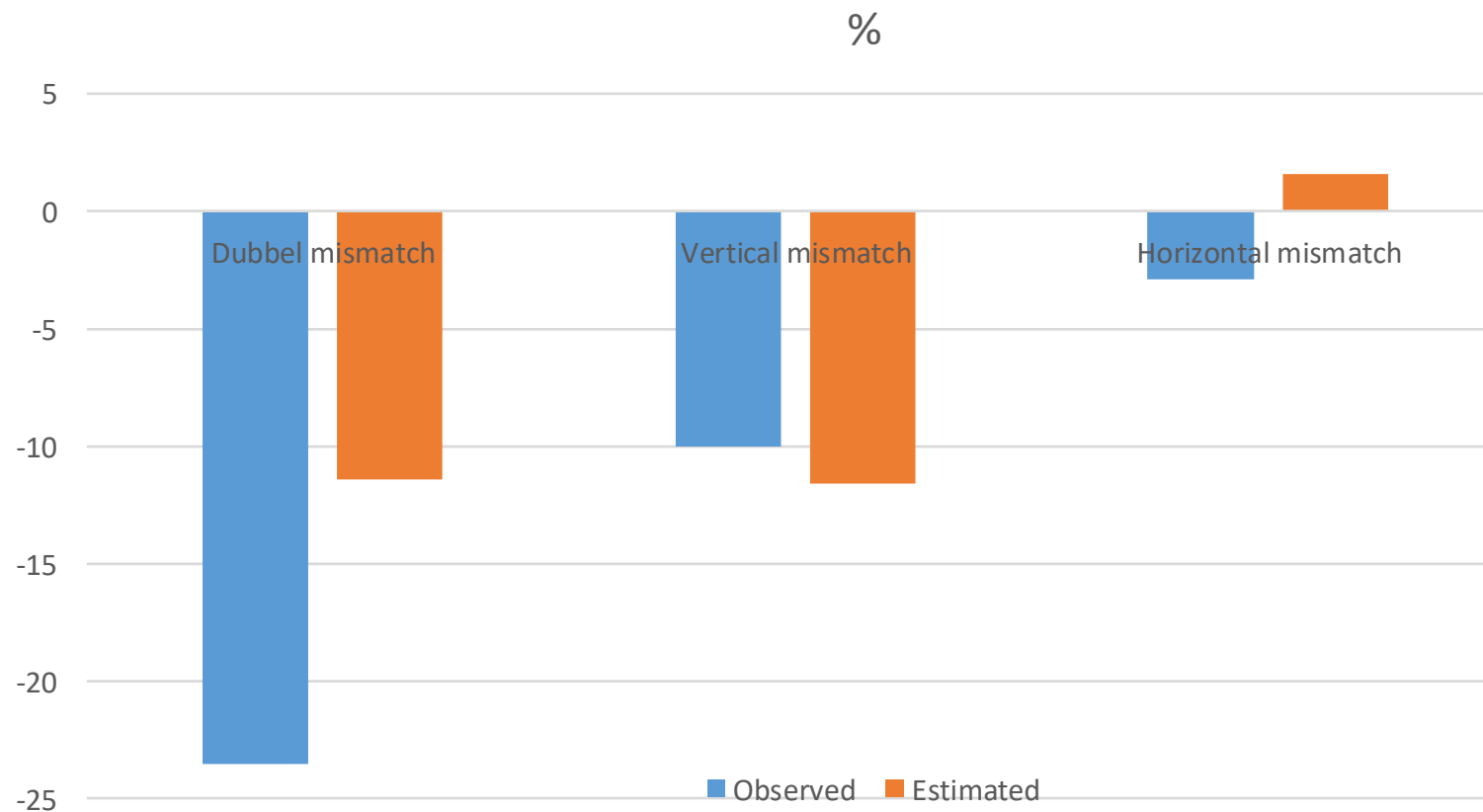
# Education – Job Match

- Unemployment
- Horizontal Mismatch
- Vertical Mismatch
- Dubbel Mismatch

## 5 years after graduation (Reflex study 2005: Master graduates)



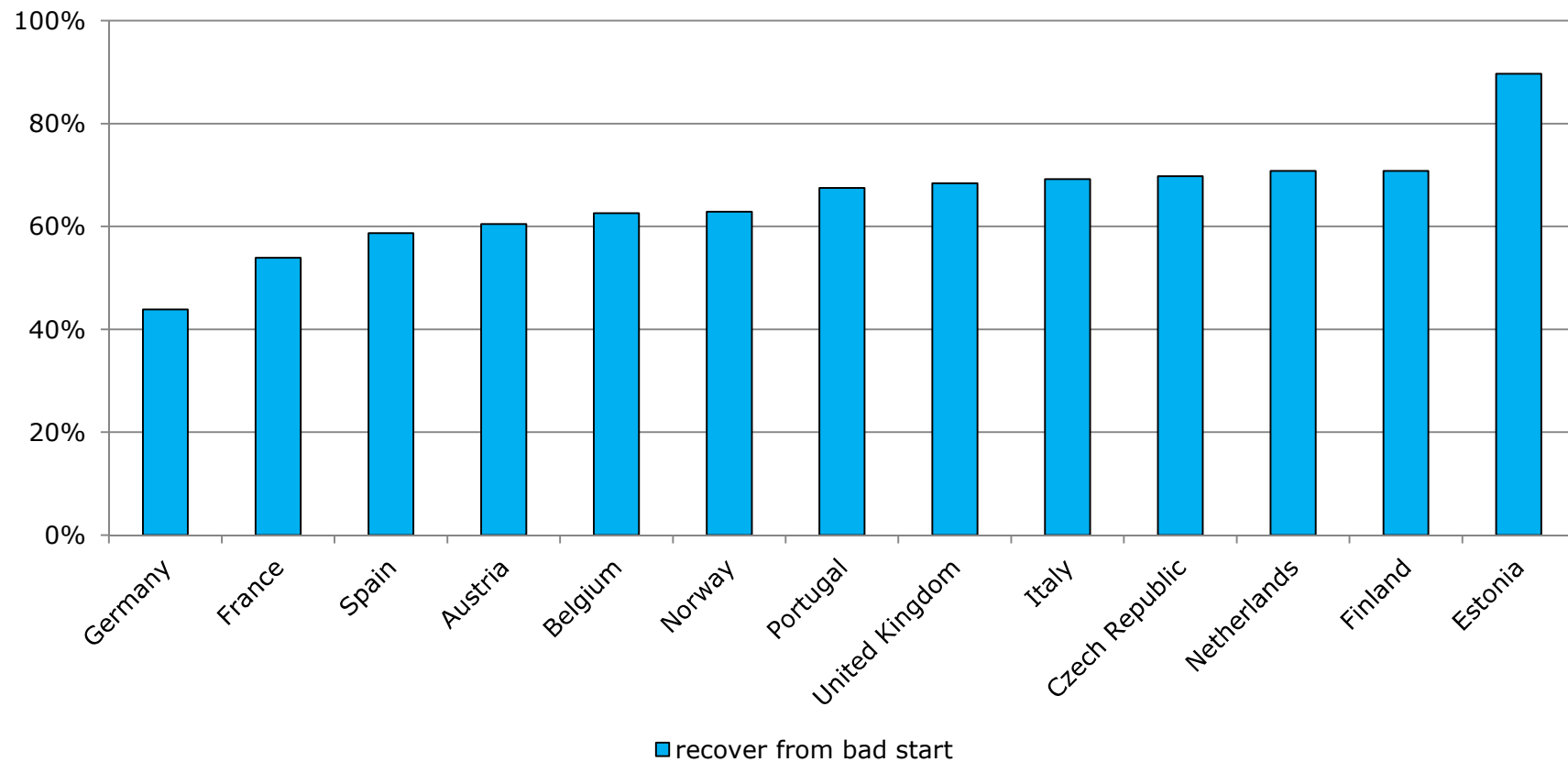
# Wage impact of mismatch



## Recover from bad start?

Recovery from a bad start: a job requiring one's own level 5 years after graduation, given a "bad start"

# Recovery from bad start



# Skills

- New skills agenda of EU / CEDEFOP Skills survey
- Self-reported
- Required level in work
- Own level
- Match between required and own level

# Skills

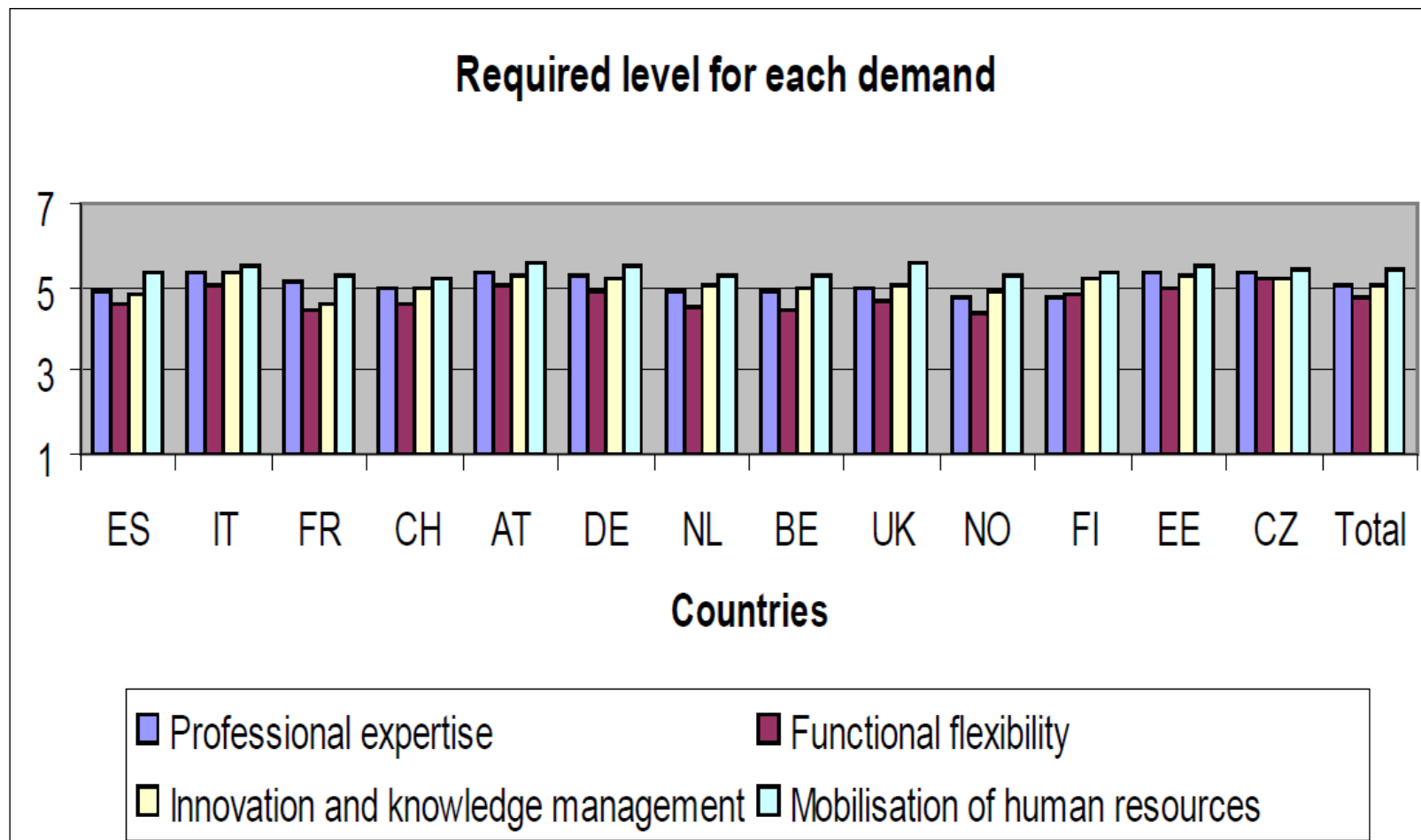
- a. Own field-specific skills
- b. Communication skills (incl. presenting and teaching)
- c. Team-working skills
- d. Foreign language skills
- e. Learning skills
- f. Planning and organisation skills
- g. Customer handling skills (incl. counselling)
- h. Problem solving skills
- i. Advanced ICT skills (e.g. programming, syntax in statistical software)



# Skills: Reflex

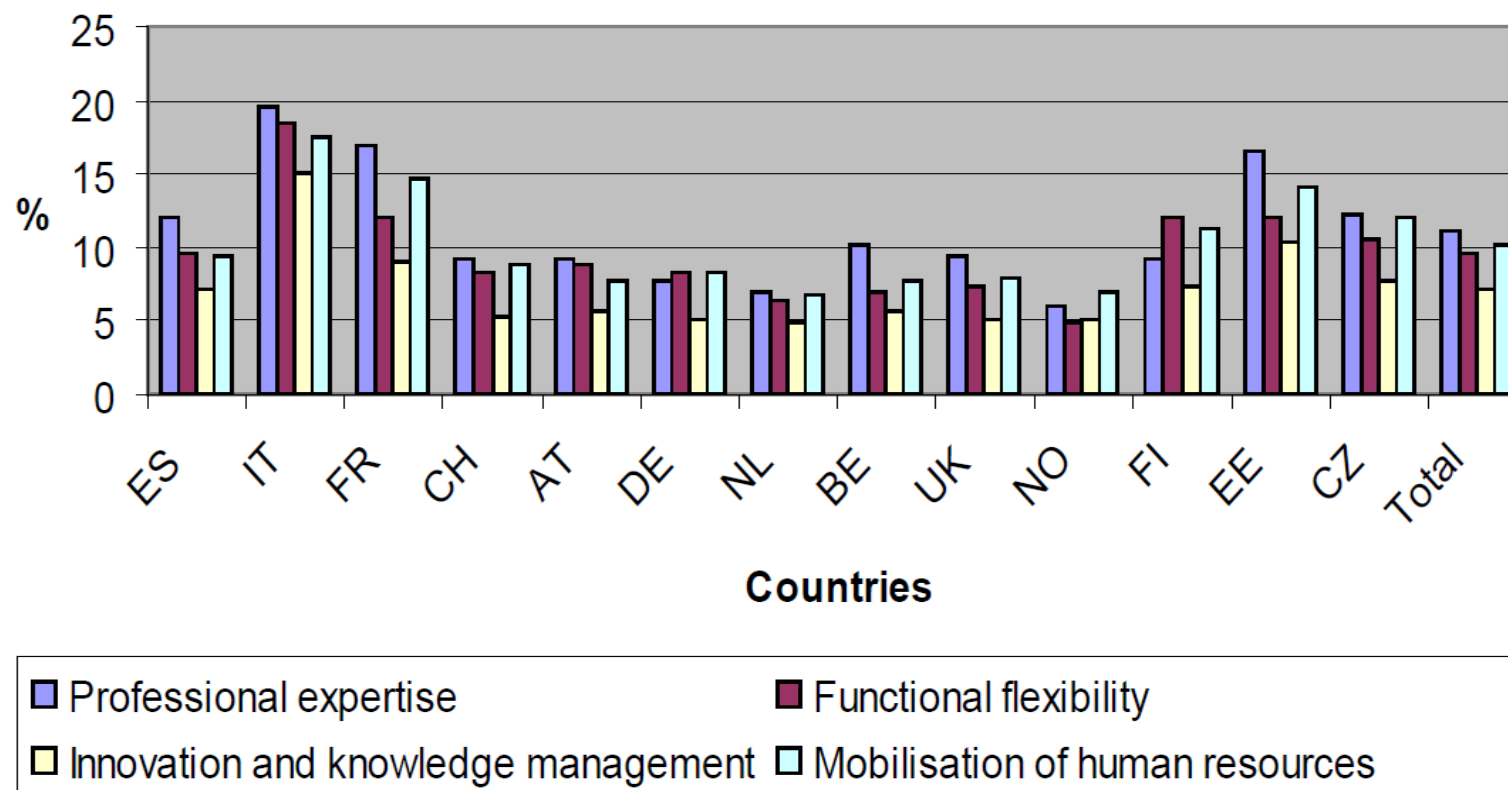
- Professional Expertise
- Functional Flexibility
- Innovation and Knowledge Management
- Mobilization of Human Resources

## Skills requirements



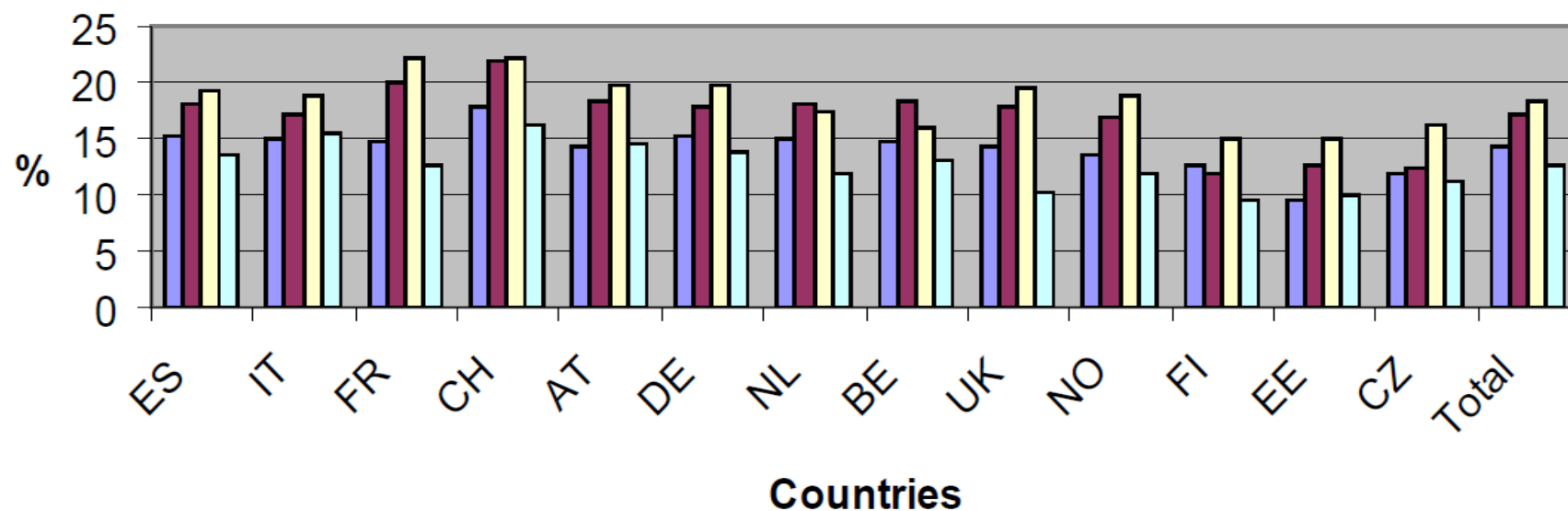
## Skills shortages

### Shortages for each demand



## Skills surpluses

### Surpluses for each demand



■ Professional expertise
 ■ Functional flexibility  
■ Innovation and knowledge management
 ■ Mobilisation of human resources

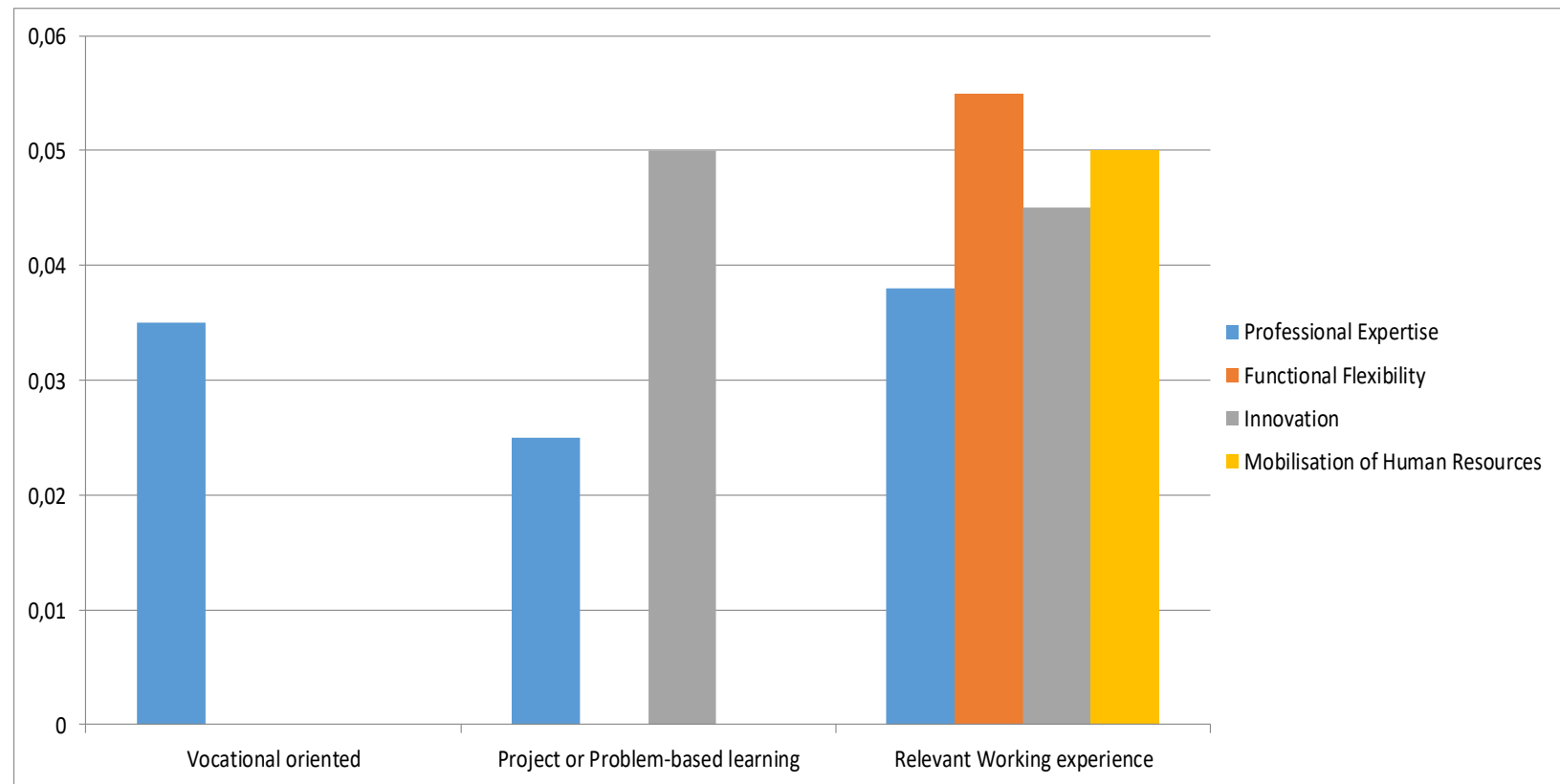
# Skills

- Knowing that your graduates have a shortage/surplus is important but not enough
- How can you solve problem?

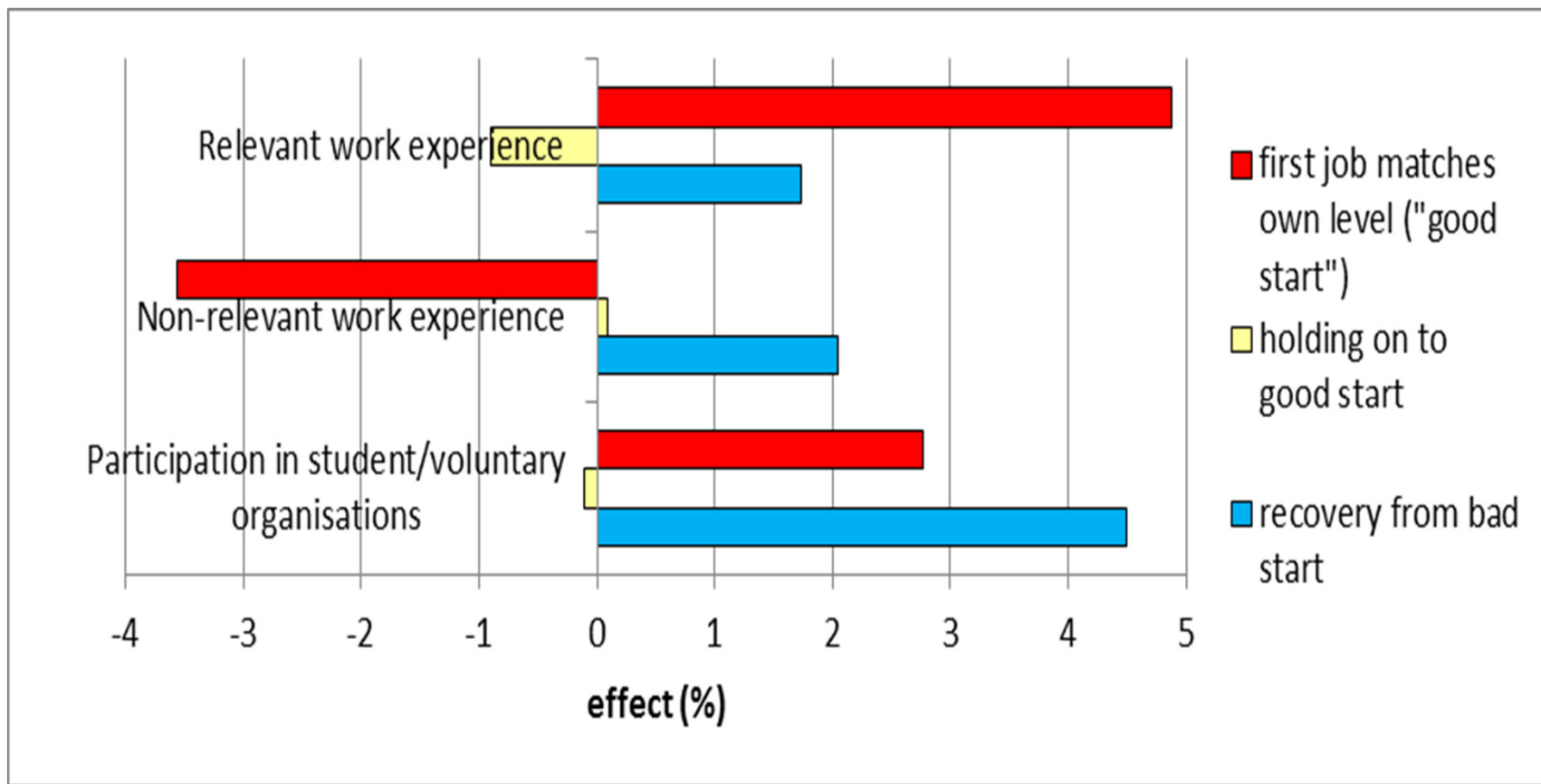
# Explanatory Factors

- Personal characteristics
  - Age, gender, ethnical background, partner, children, parents
- (Higher) education history
- (Extracurricular) experiences
  - Internships, work experience, experiences abroad, starting own business, voluntary work
- Learning environment

# How to learn competencies



# Extra-curricular experience





## **(International) mobility**

- Place of living:
  - At age before entering HE
  - During HE
  - 1 Year after HE
  - 5 Years after HE
- Causes of mobility

# Democratic Values

- Democratic Values
- Attitudes toward Europe
- Active Citizenship
  
- Instruments from EVS, ESS

## Further study

- Transition from BA – MA
- Transition from MA – PhD
- Success in further study
- Causes for further study

## More Information

- [www.eurograduate.eu](http://www.eurograduate.eu)