

THE STATE & FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY FINANCES IN EUROPE

Enora Bennetot Pruvot

Deputy Director for Governance, Funding & Public Policy Development

EUA Funding Forum 2024

3 October 2024

Polling universities across Europe



**168 institutions from
34 countries**



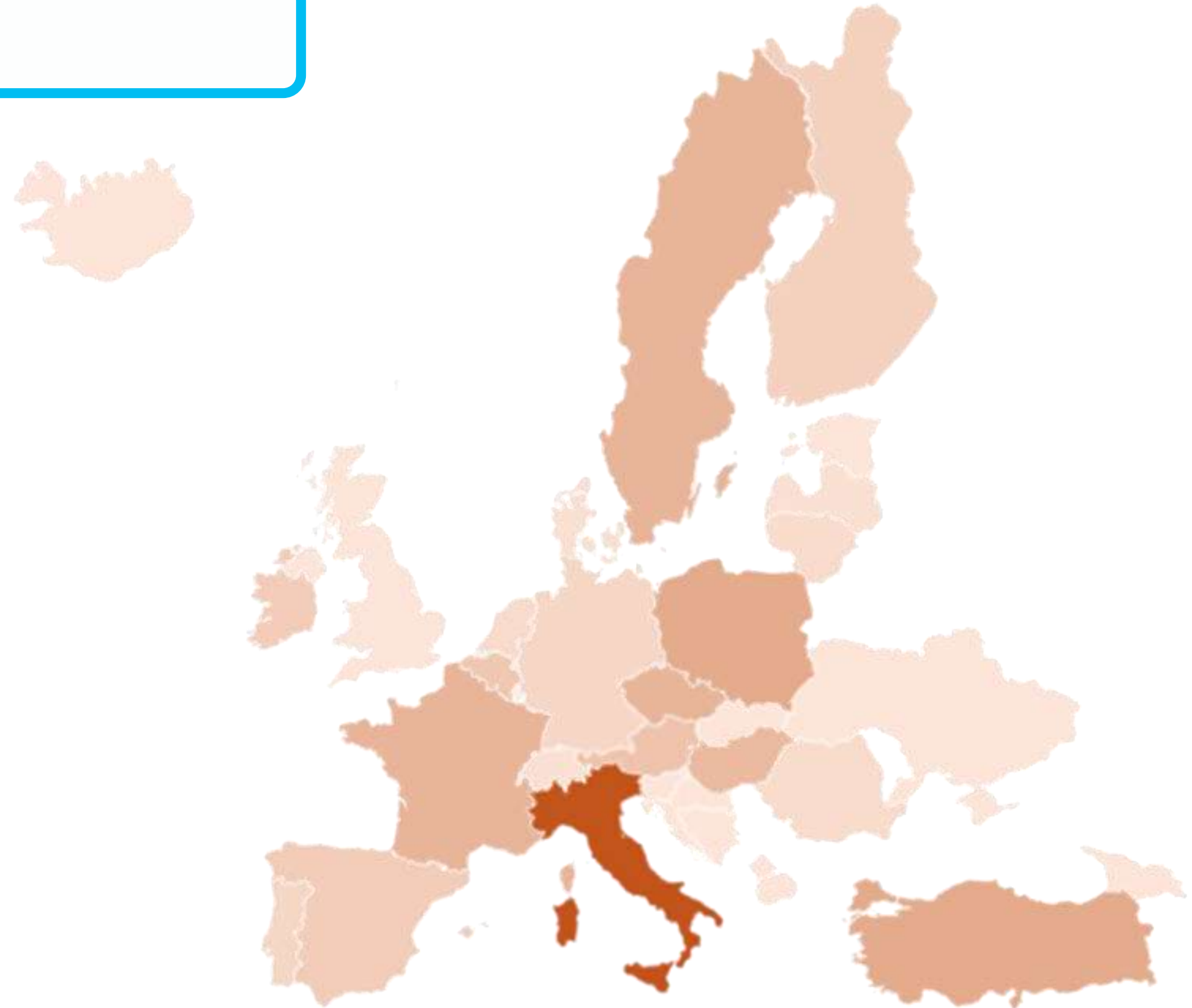
Top respondents



Legal status



Profiles



Polling universities across Europe



**168 institutions from
34 countries**



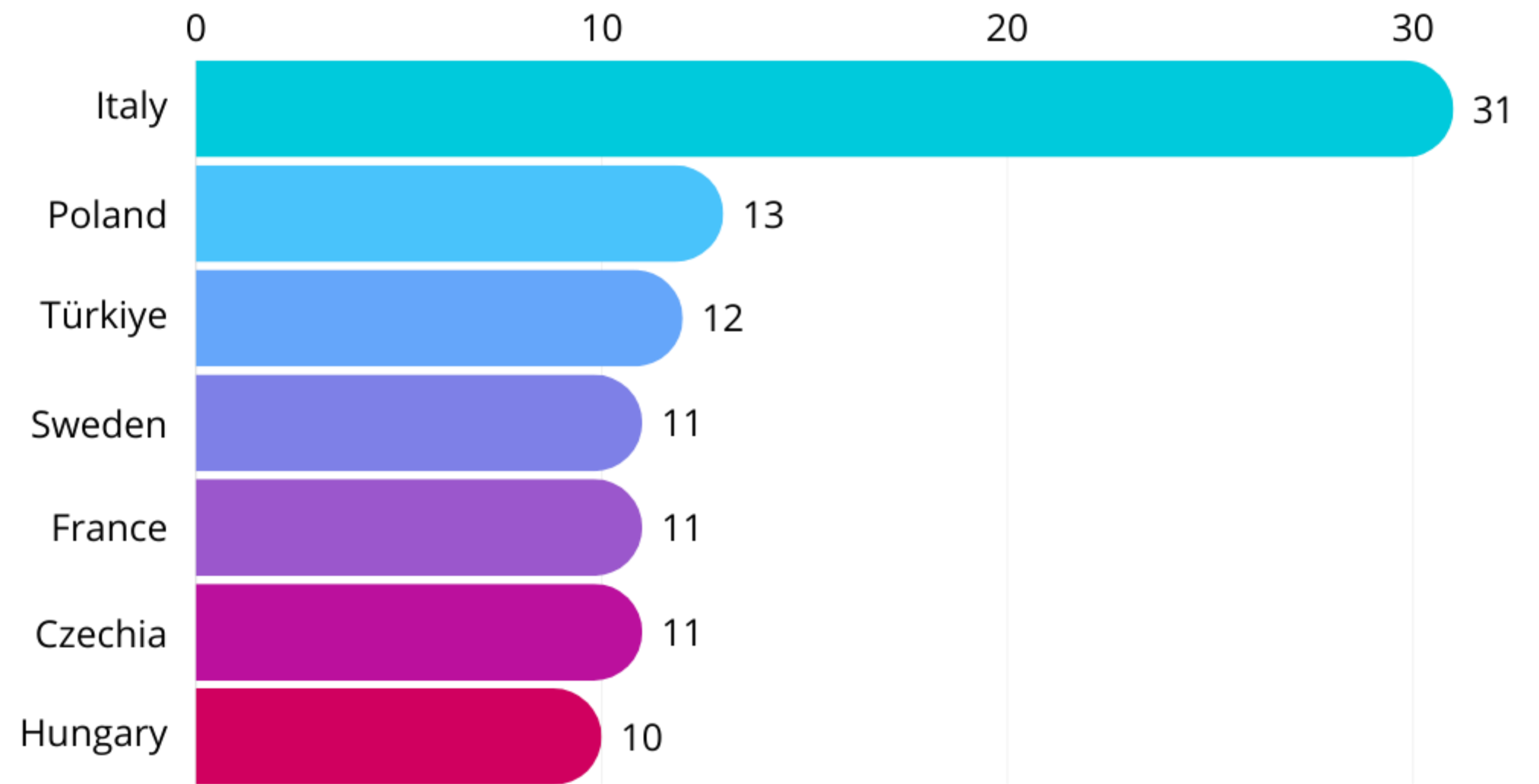
Top respondents



Legal status



Profiles



Polling universities across Europe



**168 institutions from
34 countries**



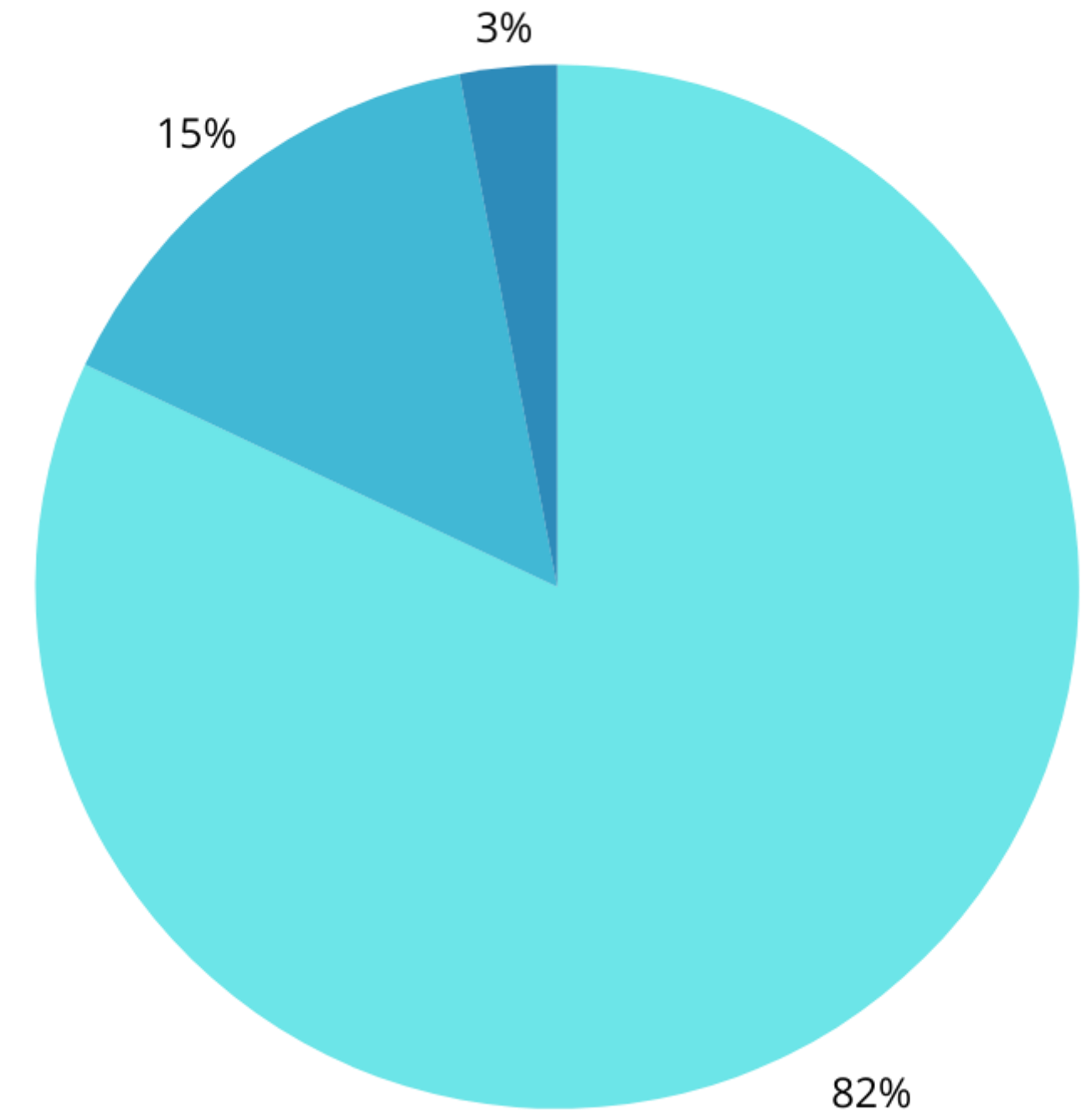
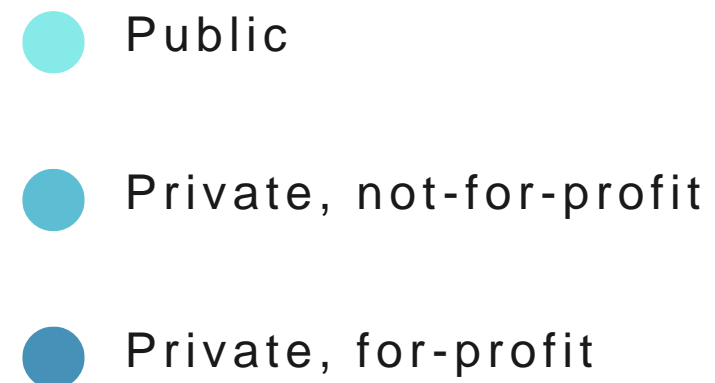
Top respondents



Legal status



Profiles



Polling universities across Europe



168 institutions from 34 countries



Top respondents

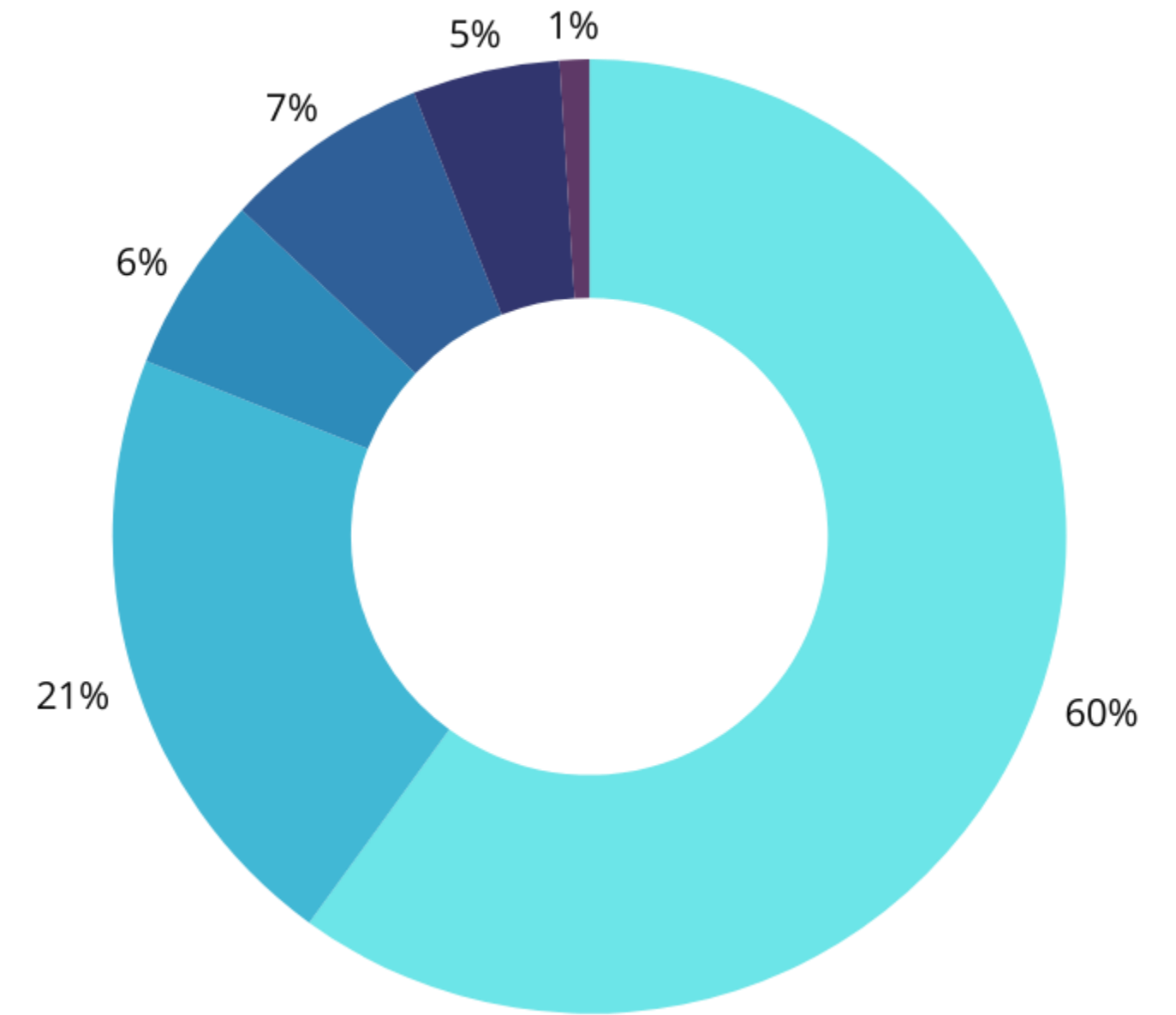


Legal status



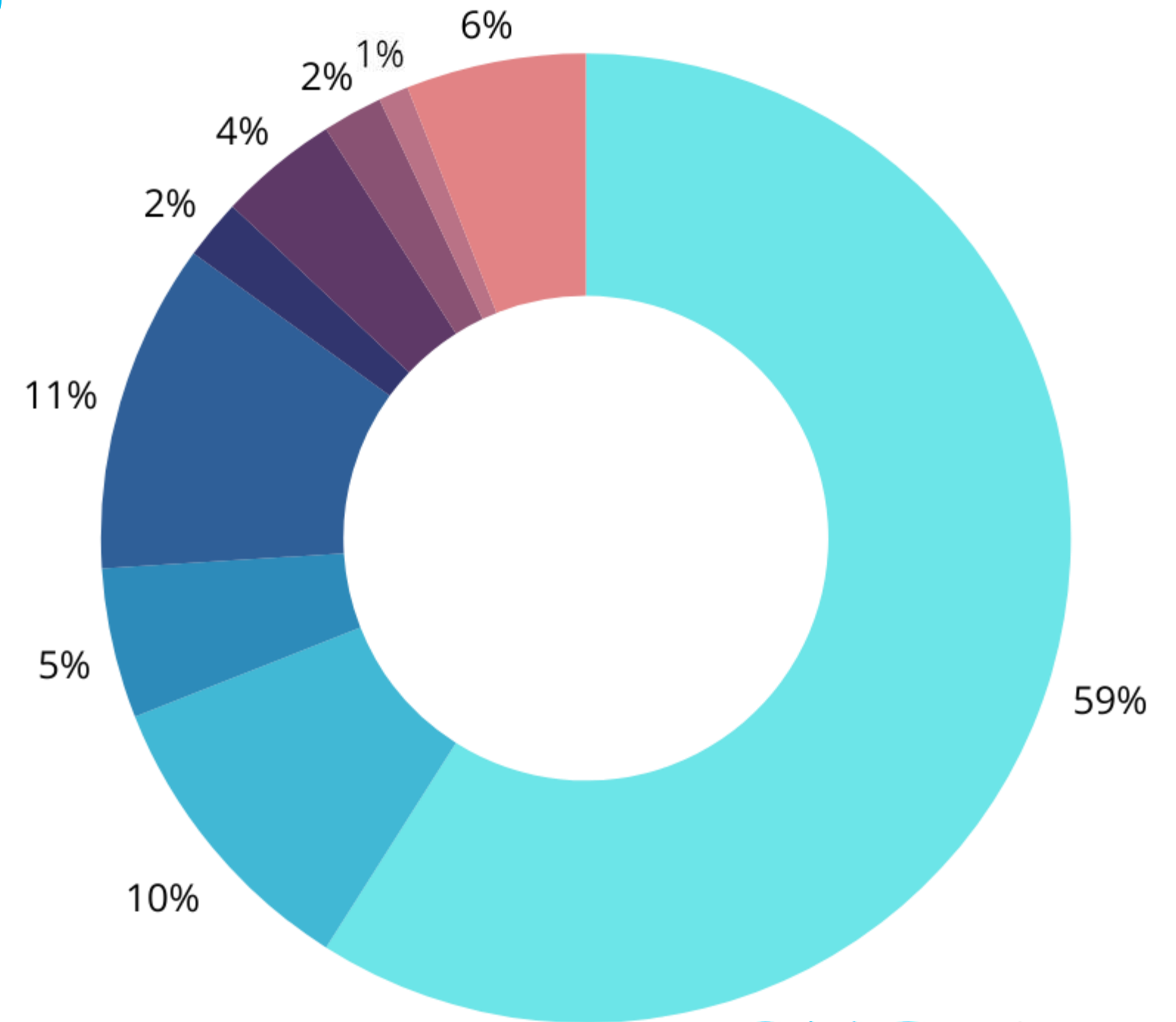
Profiles

- Comprehensive university
- Specialised university
- University of applied sciences / university college
- Technical university
- Music and arts school
- Open university



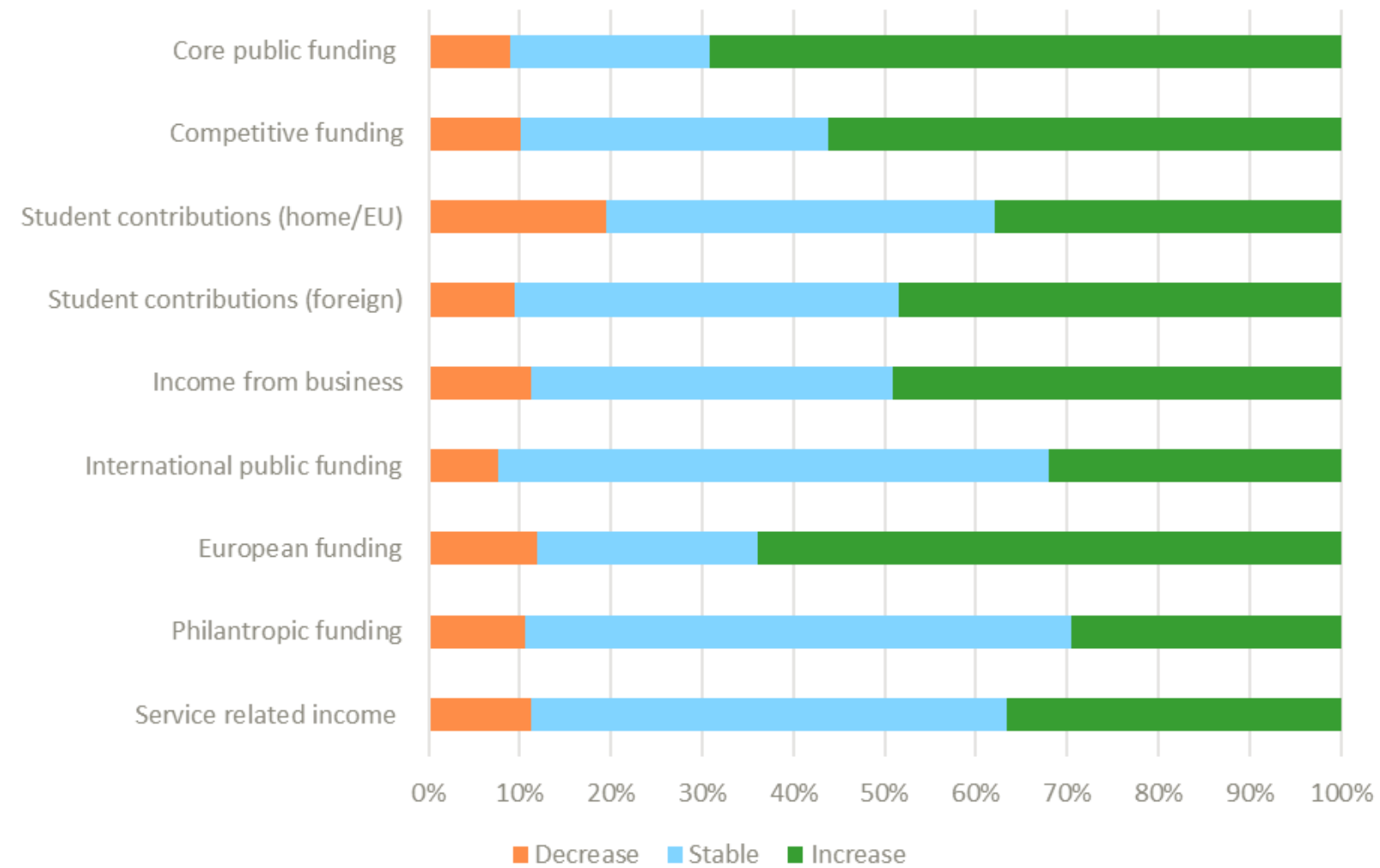
Universities in Europe: a public investment

- Core public funding (national/regional)
- Competitive public funding (national/regional)
- International public funding (incl. EU funding programmes)
- Student contributions (home students)
- Student contributions (foreign students)
- Contracts with businesses (research and education related)
- Service-related income
- Philanthropic funding
- Other



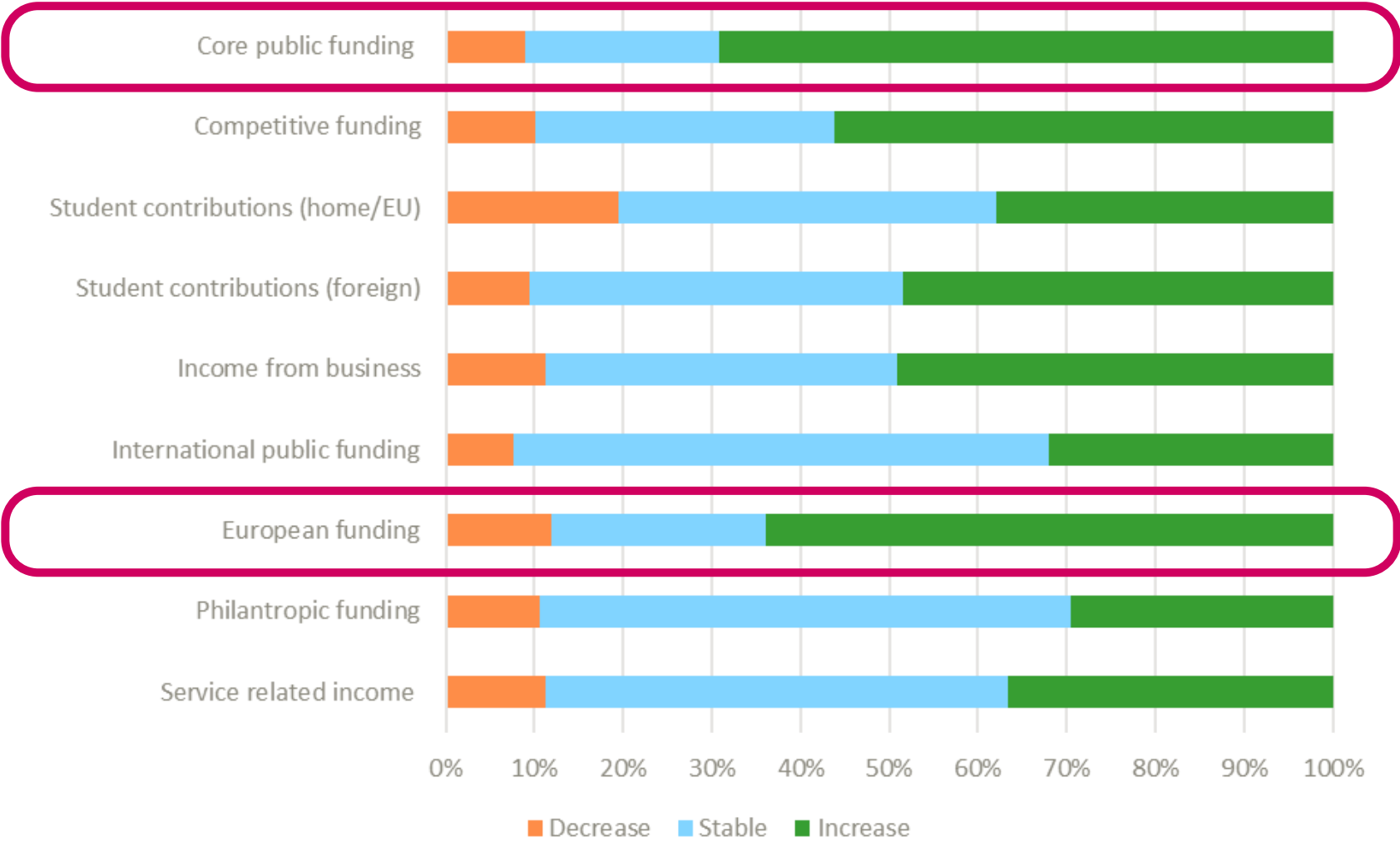
A pattern of growth, to be continued?

How it started (last 5 years) Income evolution



A pattern of growth, to be continued?

How it started
(last 5 years)
Income evolution



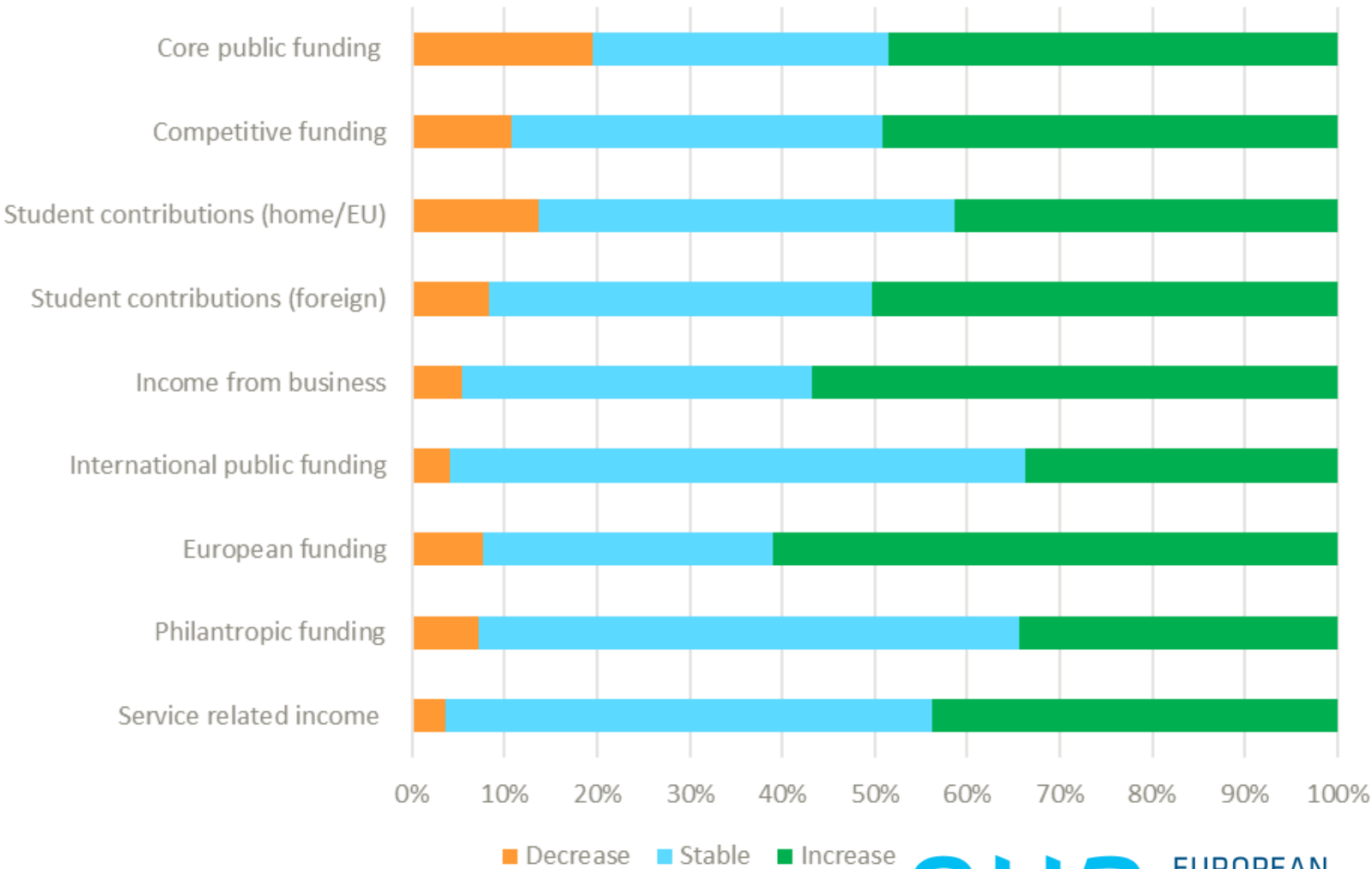
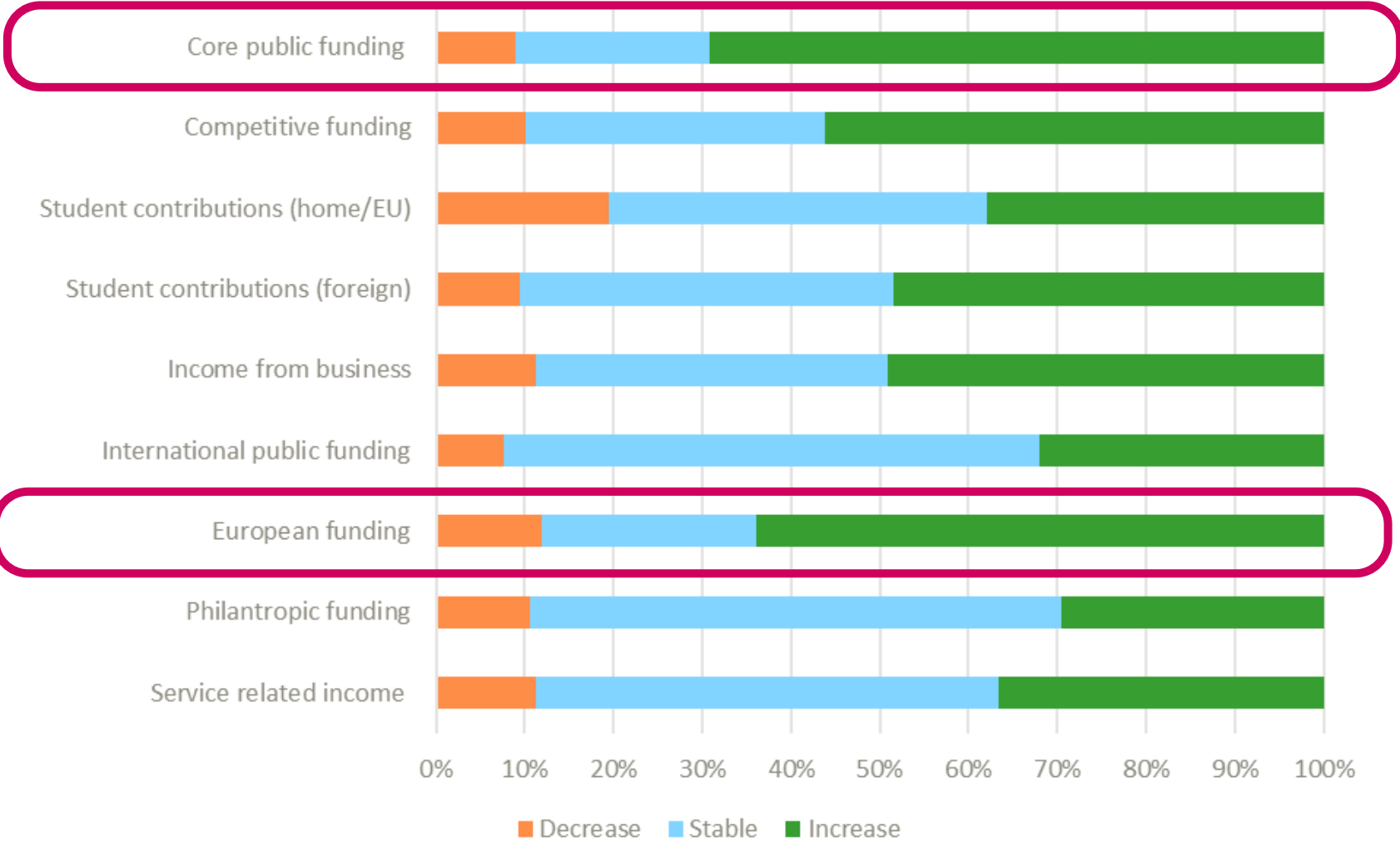
THE STATE AND FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY FINANCES IN EUROPE

A pattern of growth, to be continued?

How it started
(last 5 years)
Income evolution



How it's going
(next 5 years)
Income expectations



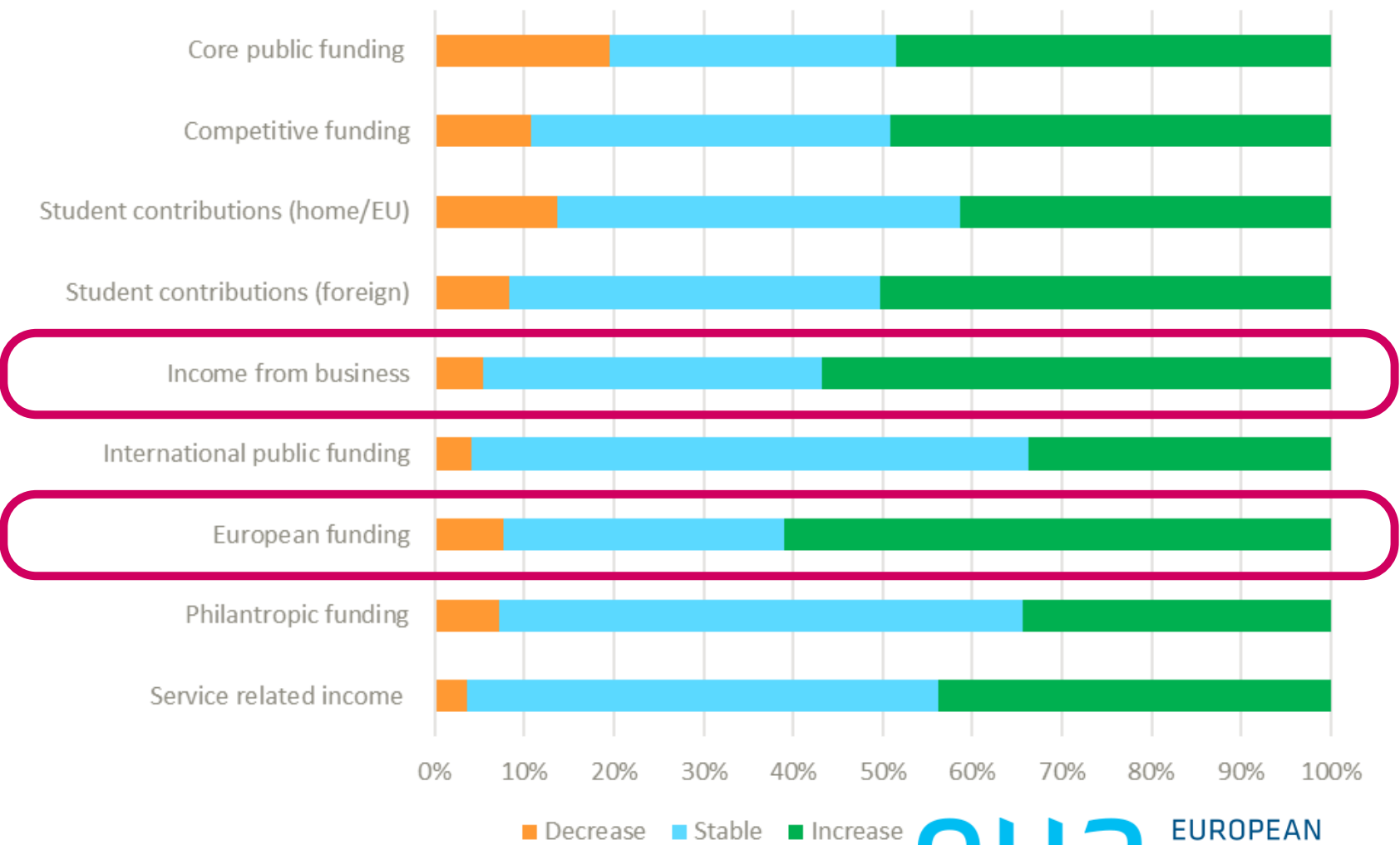
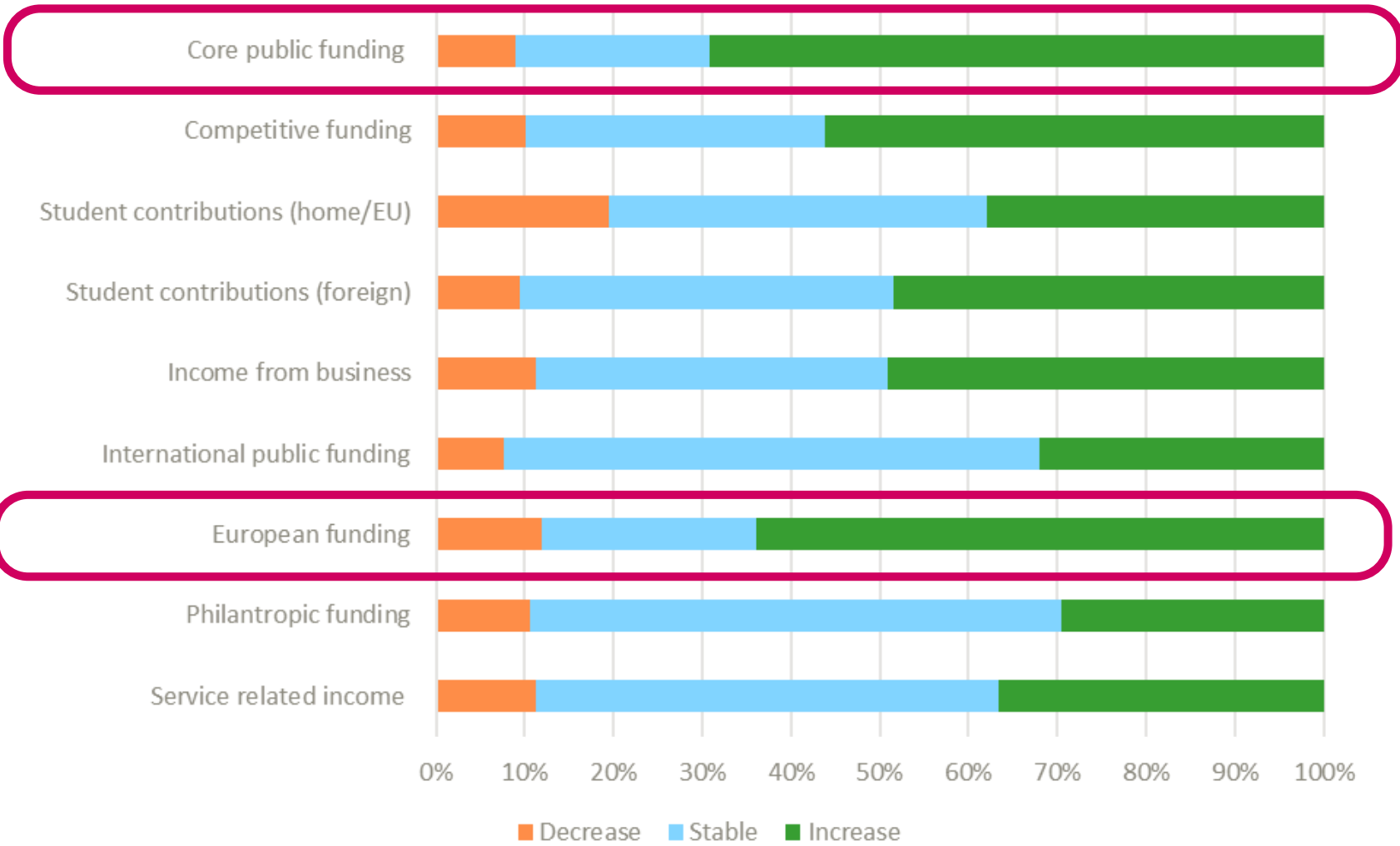
THE STATE AND FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY FINANCES IN EUROPE

A pattern of growth, to be continued?

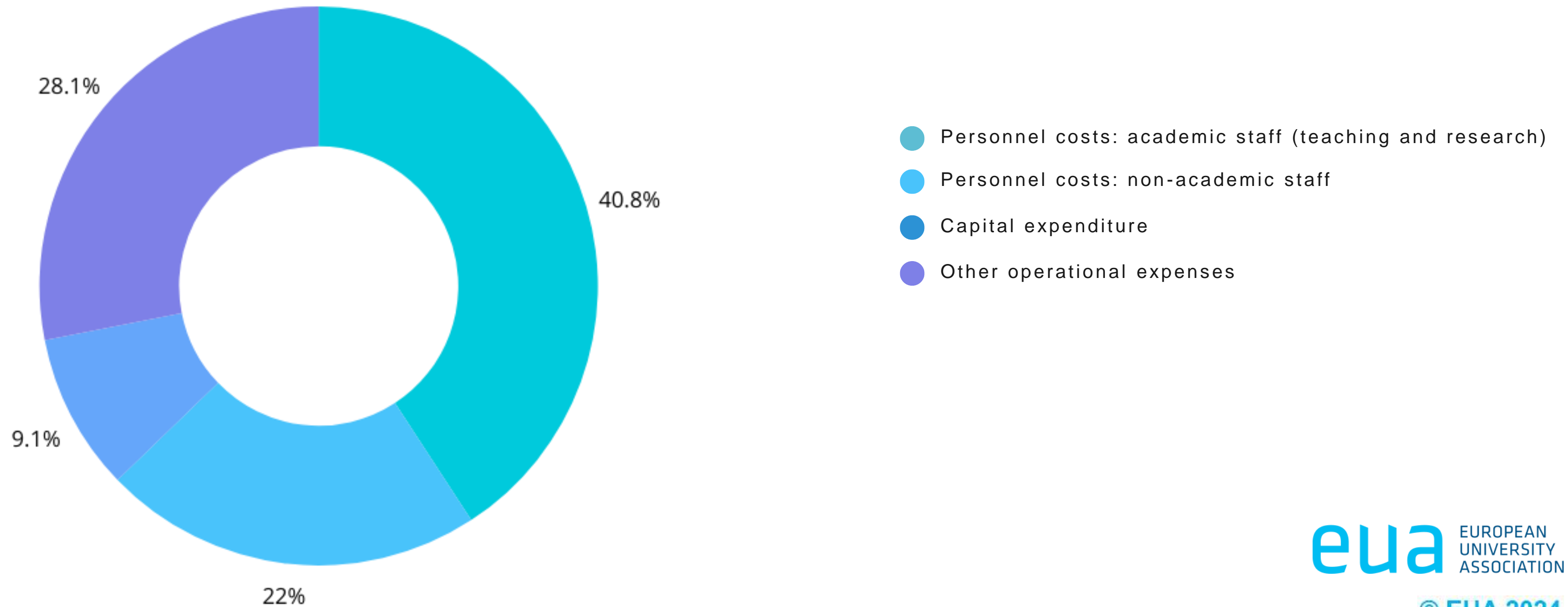
How it started
(last 5 years)
Income evolution



How it's going
(next 5 years)
Income expectations



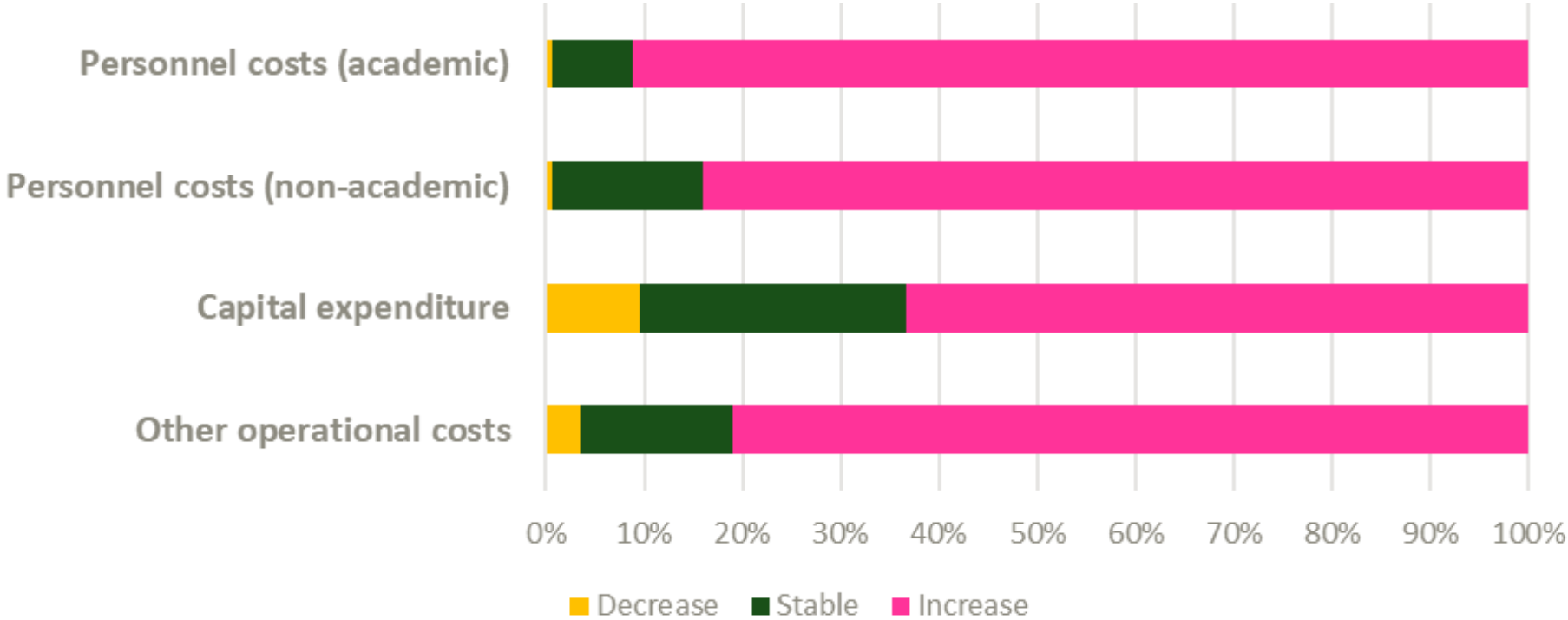
Investing in people: expenditure breakdowns



Steady cost pressure

How it started (last 5 years)

Expenditure evolution (simplified)



THE STATE AND FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY FINANCES IN EUROPE

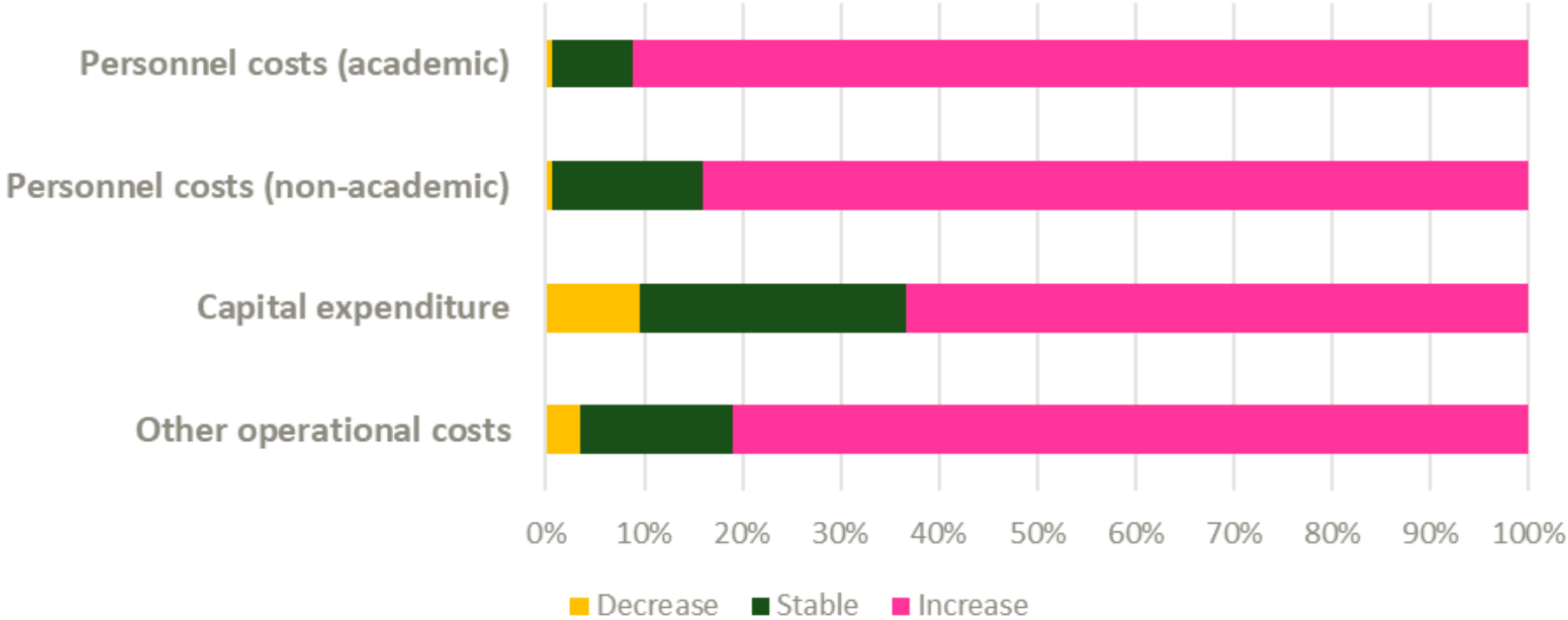
Steady cost pressure

How it started
(last 5 years)

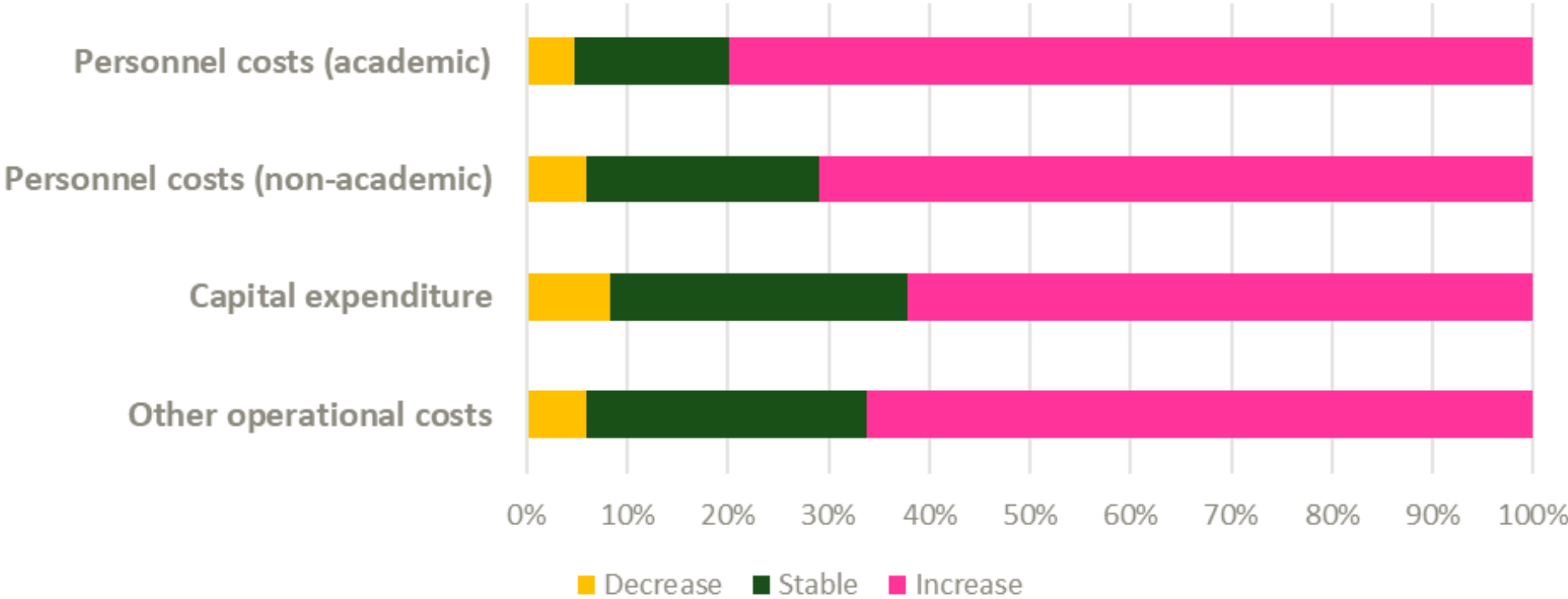


How it's going
(next 5 years)

Expenditure evolution (simplified)



Expenditure expectation (simplified)



THE STATE AND FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY FINANCES IN EUROPE

EU funding: Great Expectations

Not peanuts

On average 5%... But may exceed 20%



New kid on the block

Alliances as anchor for EU funding strategies



All eyes on EU

EU funding is the source most often expected to grow



Something of an art

The never-ending complexity of pulling income sources together



The prestige

Most universities prioritising ERC grants



Don't forget to chip in

Significant self-funding involved... when possible



Ripple effect

Multi-layered impact on university funding



What you see & what you count

Varying degrees of awareness of full costs

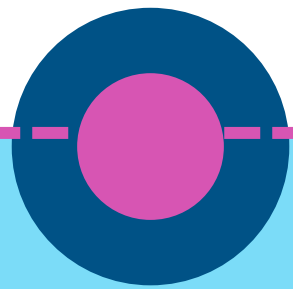


(lab) rat race

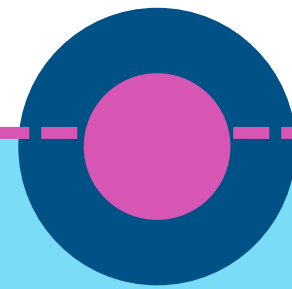
Fatigue of the competitive cycle



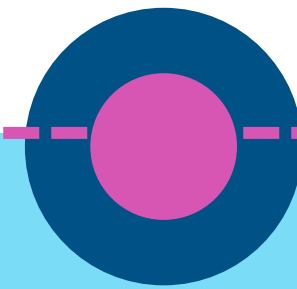
The four horsemen



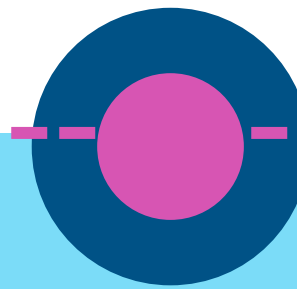
Inflation



Pandemic



**Geopolitical
tensions**

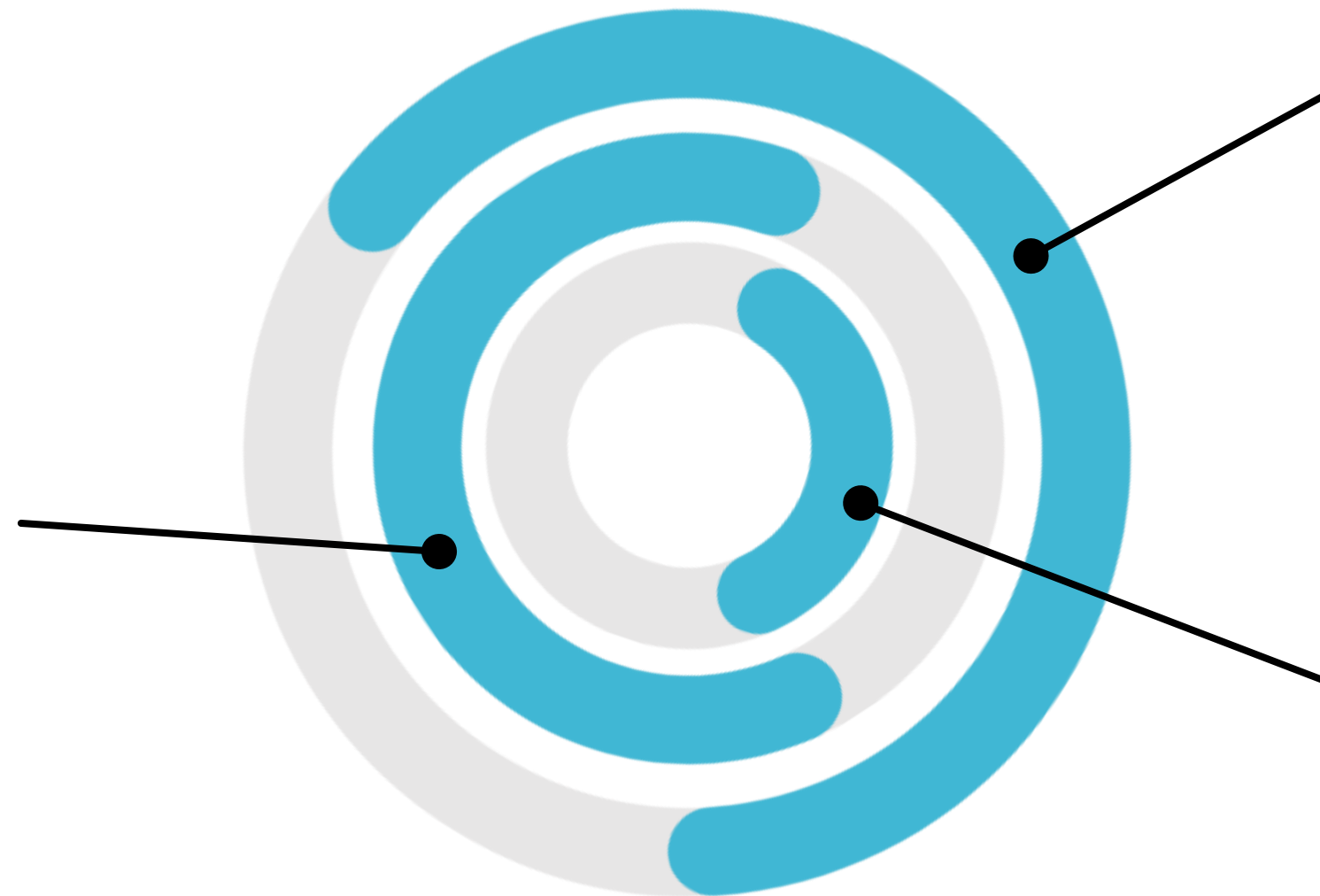


Demographics

Investing in the future: the twin transition

Investments

- Infrastructure & equipment
- Software & solutions
- Coordination structures
- Training
- Regulatory requirements



Benefits

- Reputational gains
- Increased enrolment & hiring
- More diverse student body
- Increased opportunities for collaboration
- Extra funding opportunities
- Economies of scale & efficiency gains
- Enhanced research capacity

Public support?

- Different lag times to reap benefits
- Does not fit in classical funding models

Thank you for your attention

Follow us on:

