

Health Services Research in Europe: **Health care systems**

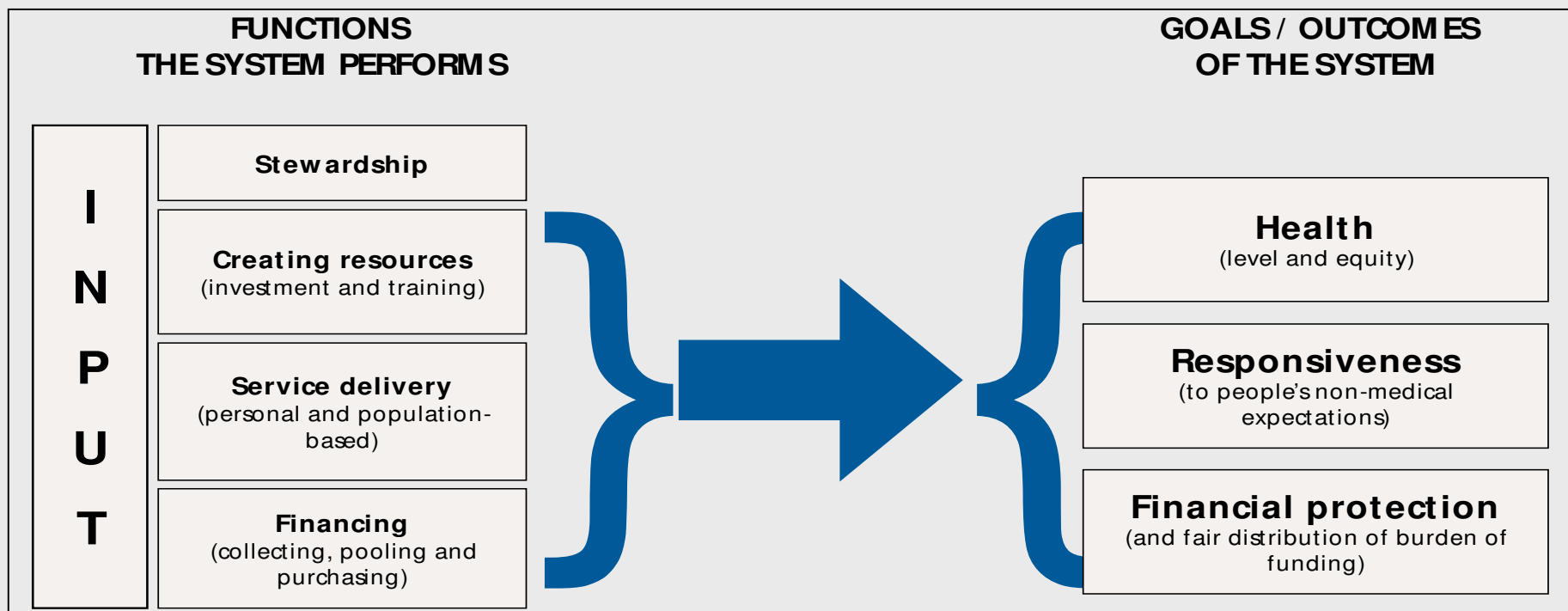
Reinhard Busse and
Marcial Velasco Garrido



Definition of “Health systems“ (I)

***people, institutions and resources,**
arranged together in accordance with
established **policies**,
to improve the health of the population they
serve, while responding to people’s legitimate
expectations and protecting them against the
cost of ill-health
through a variety of activities whose **primary
intent is to improve health.***

European Observatory for Health Systems and Policies (2007).
Glossary. <http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Glossary/Toppage>.



Definition of “Health systems“ (II)

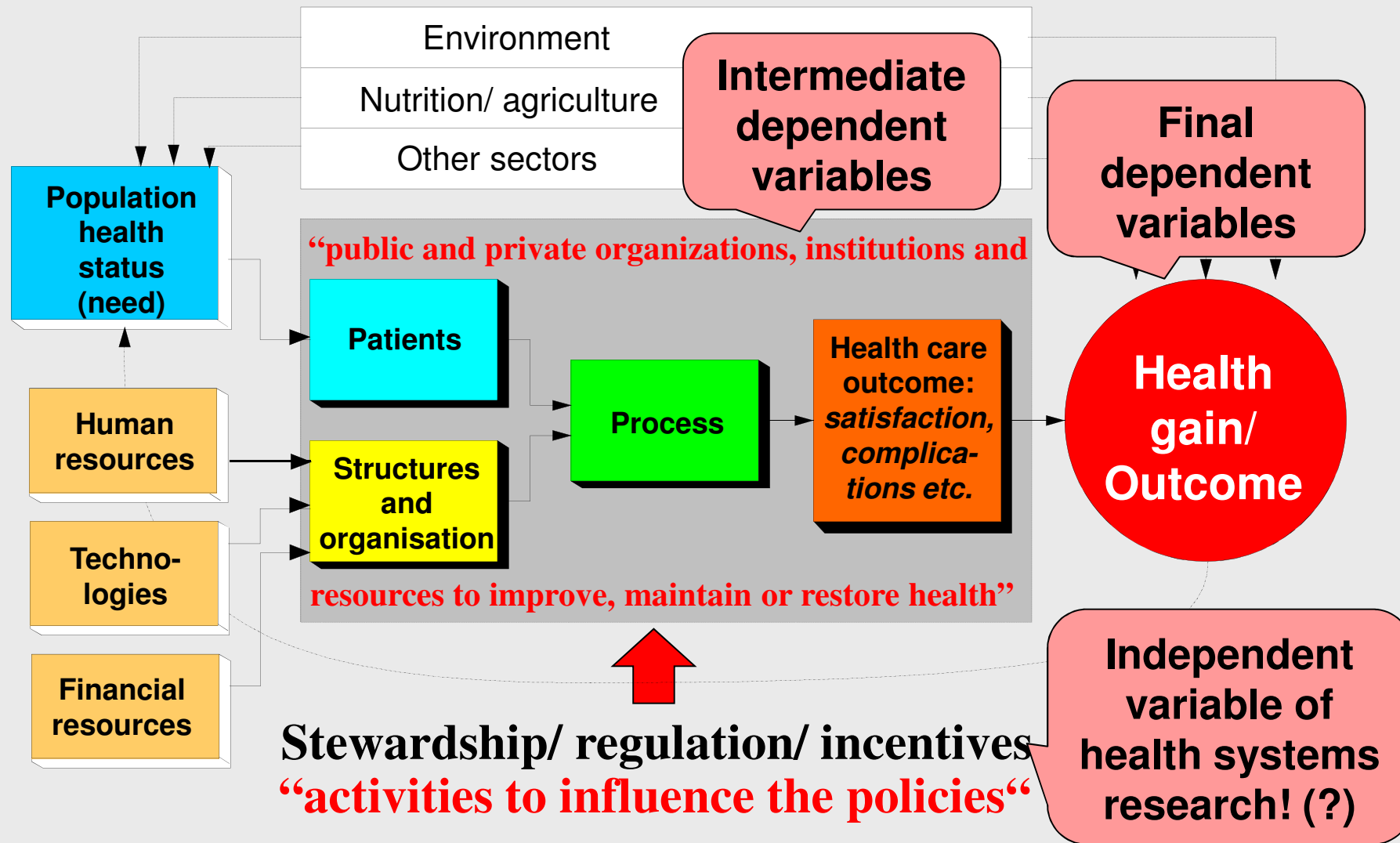
... ensemble of all **public and private organizations, institutions and resources** mandated **to improve, maintain or restore health**.

... encompass both personal and population services, as well as **activities to influence the policies and actions of other sectors to address the** social, environmental and economic **determinants of health**.

WHO European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems (2008). Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth. Resolution EUR/RC58/R4.



“actions of other sectors to address the determinants of health”



Needs-based, equitable access?

Personnel sufficient and well qualified?
Institutions of high standards?
Technologies effective?

Patients satisfied, services safe and of high quality?

Environment
Nutrition/ agriculture
Other sectors

Population health status (need)

Patients

Process

Health care outcome: satisfaction, complications etc.

Health gain/ Outcome

Resource creation adequate?

Human resources

Technologies

Financial resources

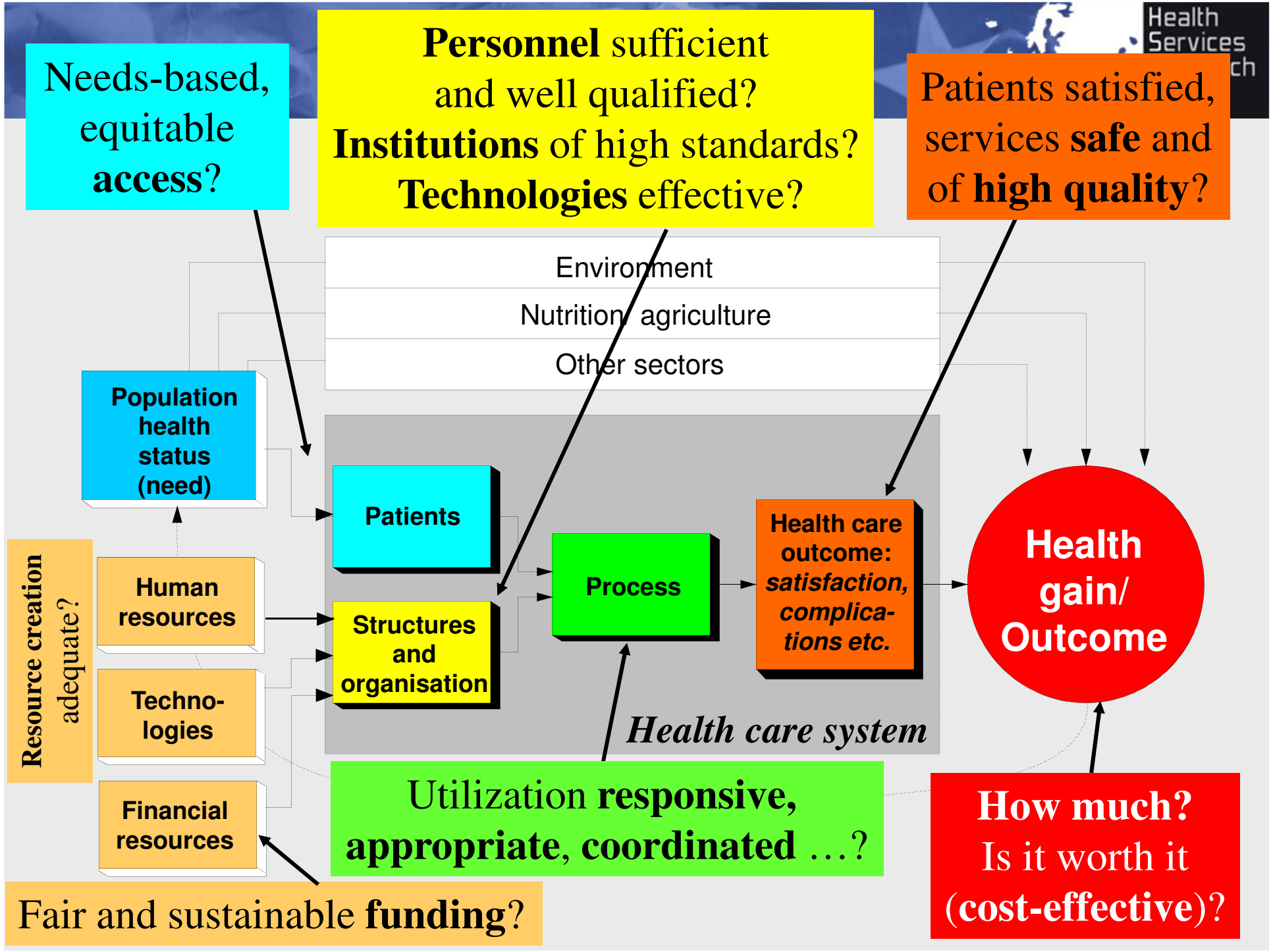
Structures and organisation

Utilization responsive, appropriate, coordinated ...?

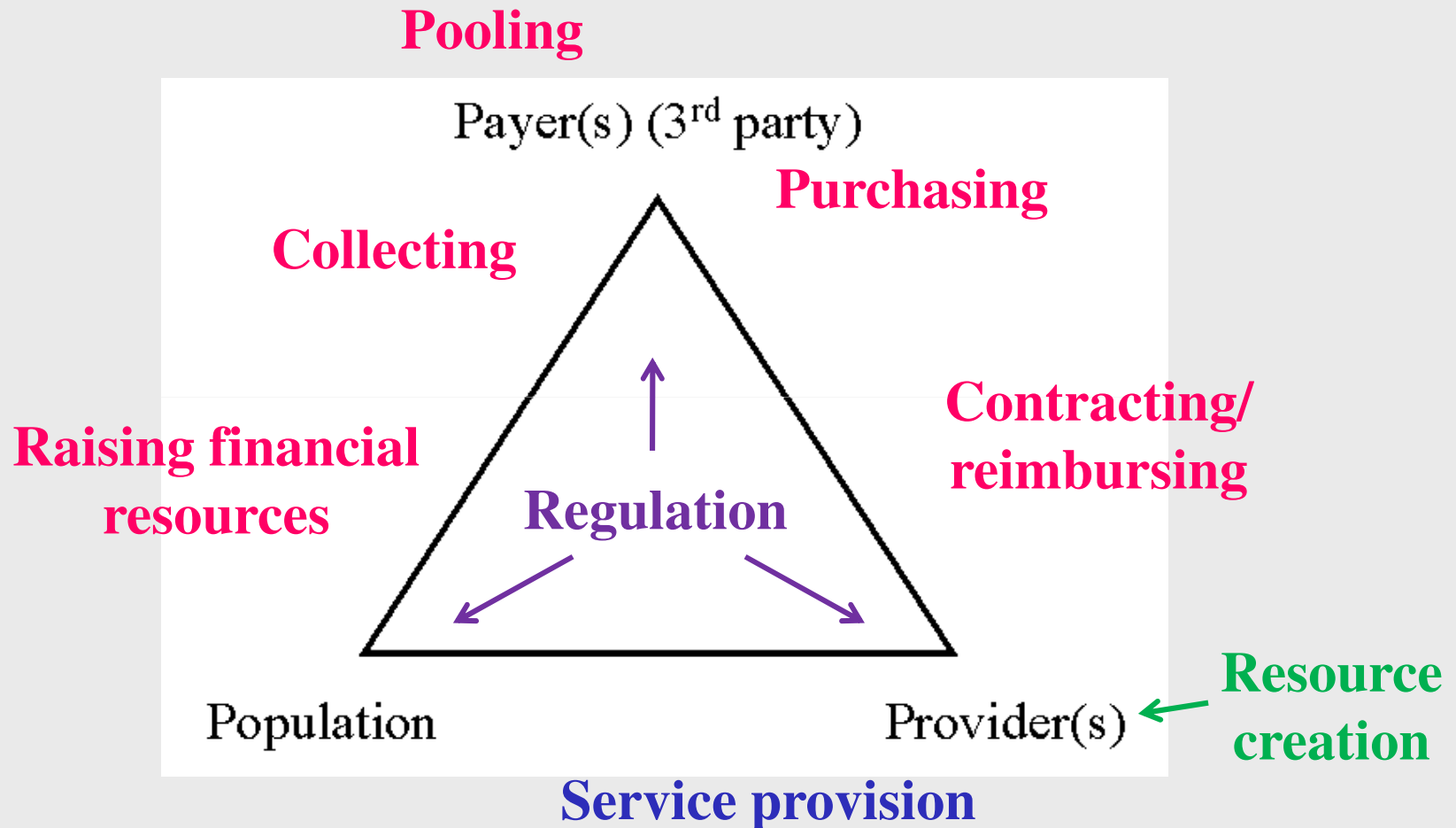
Health care system

Fair and sustainable funding?

How much? Is it worth it (cost-effective)?



Triangular Model for Health Systems Research (focussing on the “independent” variables)



*Health Systems in Transition: Template for analysis.
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.*

Topics for Health Systems Research (I)

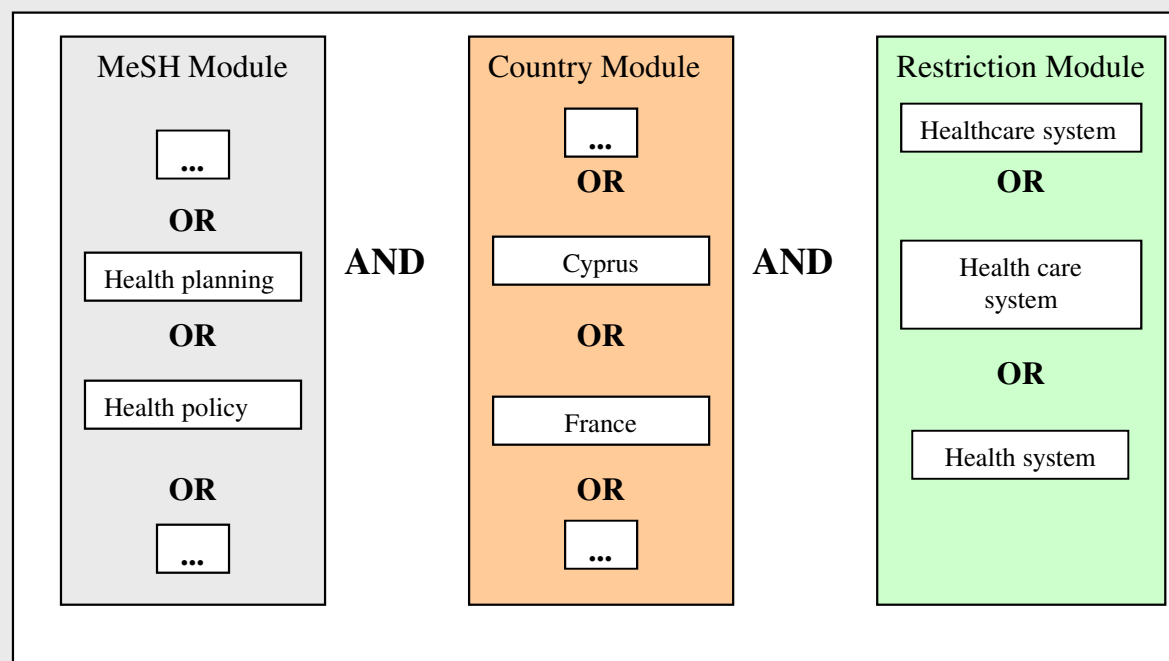
Area	Topics
Service delivery/ provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability, supply Accessibility access Acceptability Coverage, benefit basket/ package, entitlements Waiting time, waiting lists Utilization Responsiveness, Satisfaction
Financing/ expenditure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing Funding Payment of providers Reimbursement Purchasing Allocation Equity/Fairness

Topics for Health Systems Research (II)

<p>Resource creation</p>	<p>Professional education Research and Development Innovation management Knowledge generation and management Public health intelligence</p>
<p>Stewardship</p>	<p>Planning, Health Plans Health Policy, Policy Making, Health Care Reform Centralization/Decentralization/Devolution Privatisation/Recommunalisation Commissioning Licensing Accreditation Contracting</p>

Search Strategy

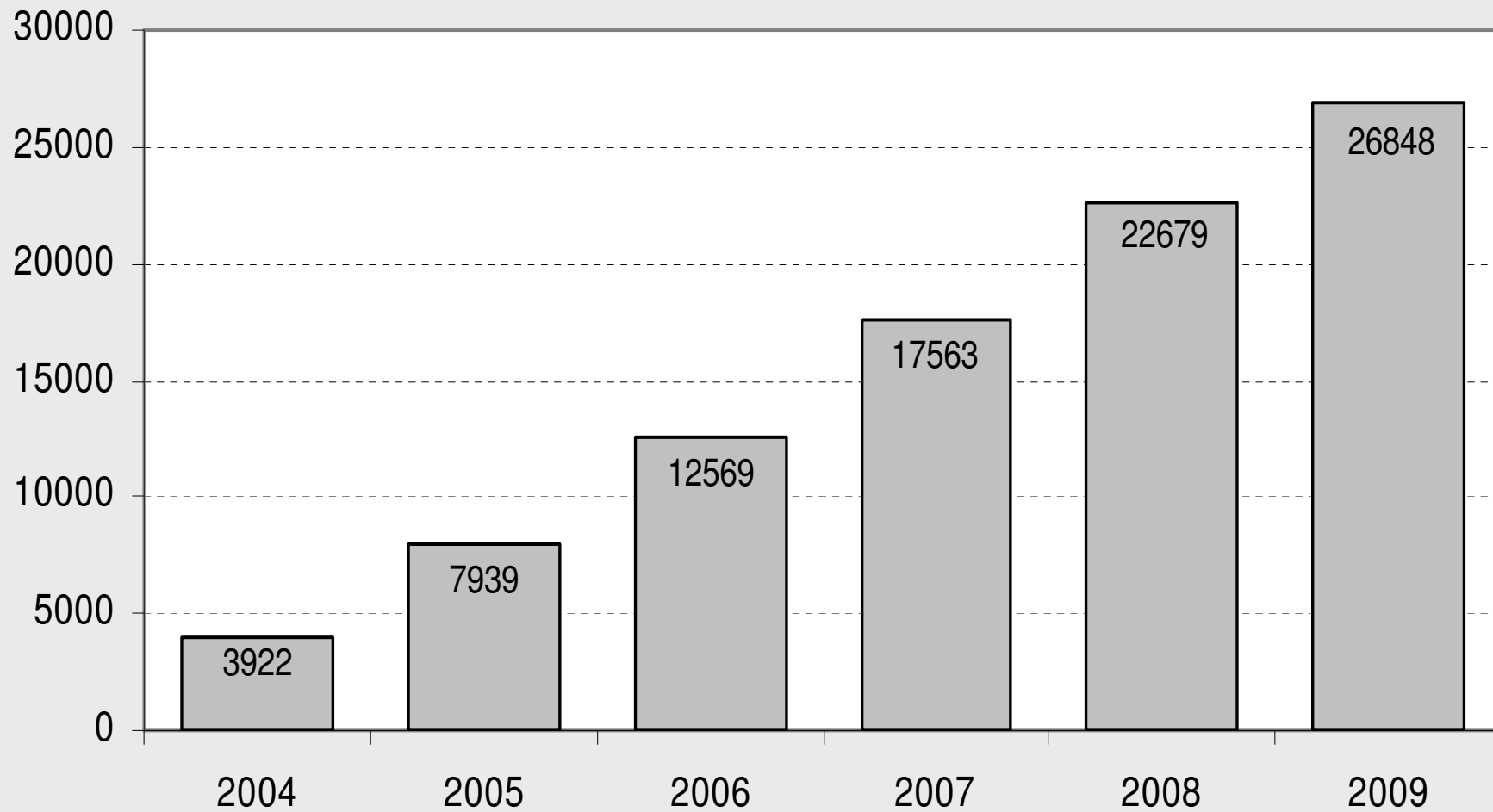
- Databases PubMed, EMBASE
- 2004-2010
- Items with Abstract, Humans
- MeSH Terms



Bibliometric Analysis

- Reference Manager®, Excel®
- Year
- Country
- Language
- Keyword

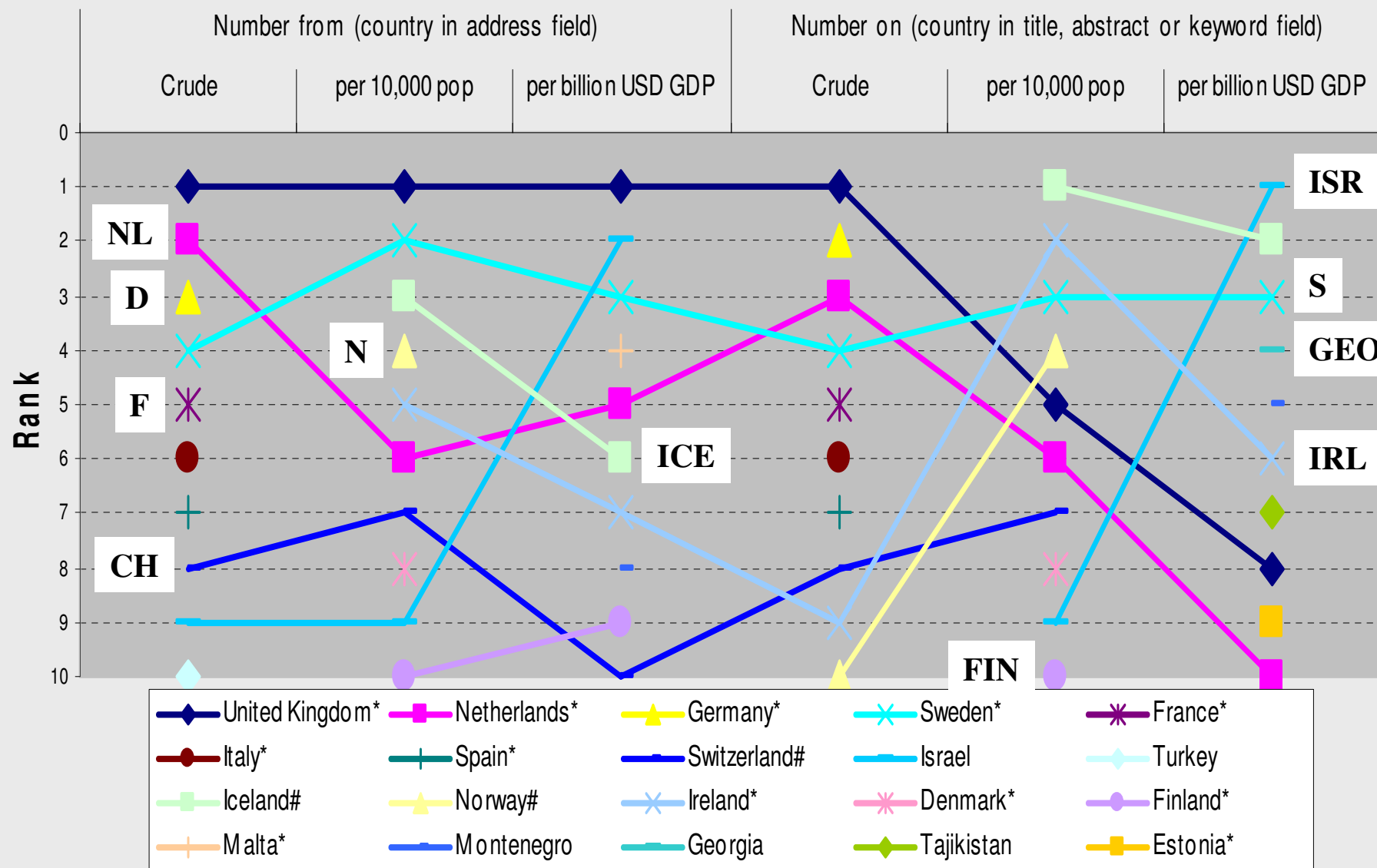
Cumulative number of publications



Publications per year; change (2004-2009)

Year	No. of Publications	% of Database	Absolute difference to previous year	% difference to previous year
2004	3922	14.6%	-	-
2005	4017	14.9%	95	2.4%
2006	4630	17.2%	613	15.3%
2007	4994	18.5%	364	7.9%
2008	5116	19.0%	122	2.4%
2009	4169	15.5%	-947	-18.5%

Ranks (top-10)



% publications from country on that country

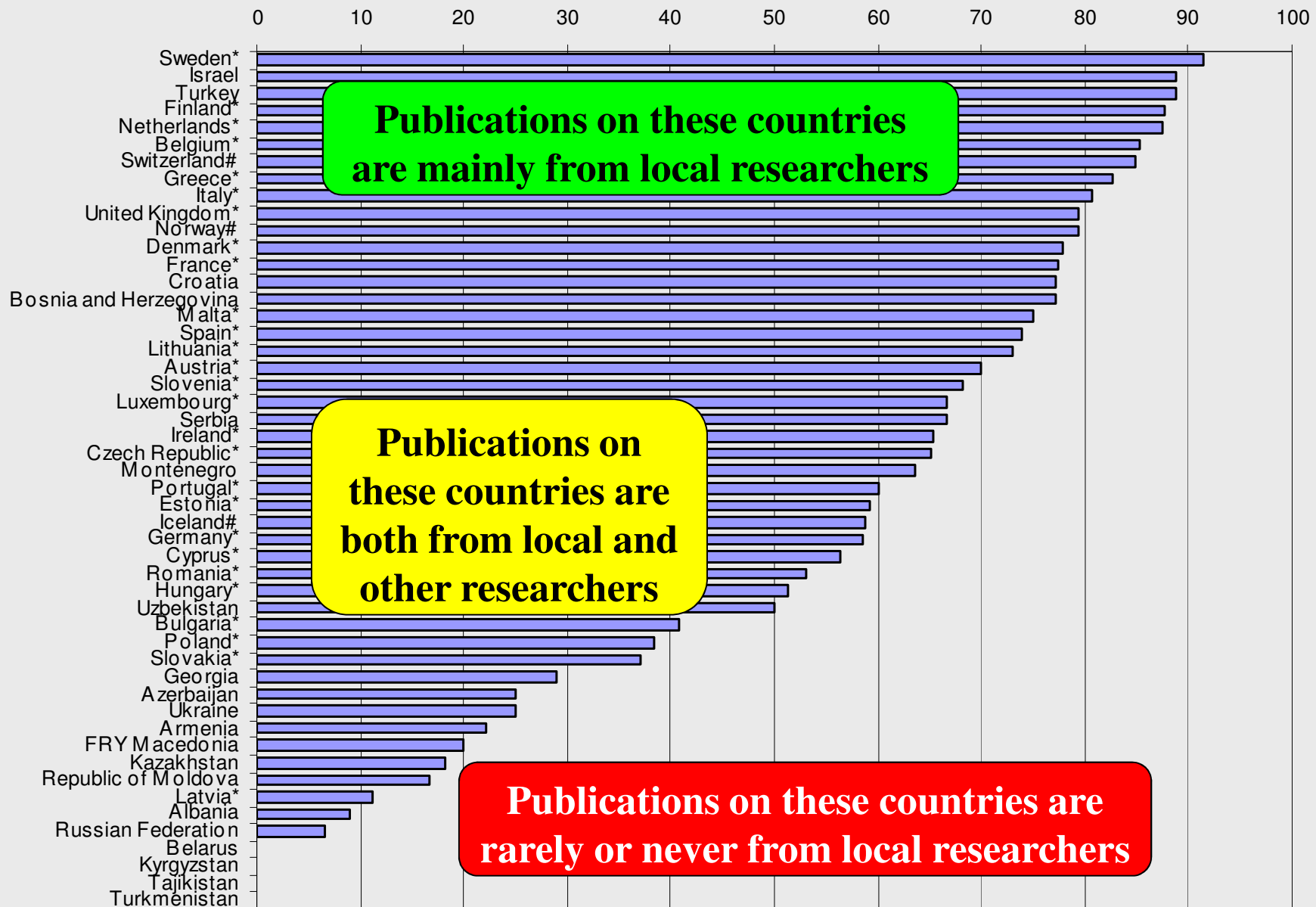


Researchers from these countries publish only on their own country (often only few publications) → no capacity or interest to study other countries

Researchers from these countries publish mainly on their own country

Researchers from UK: the only ones with many publications on other countries

% publications on a country from that country

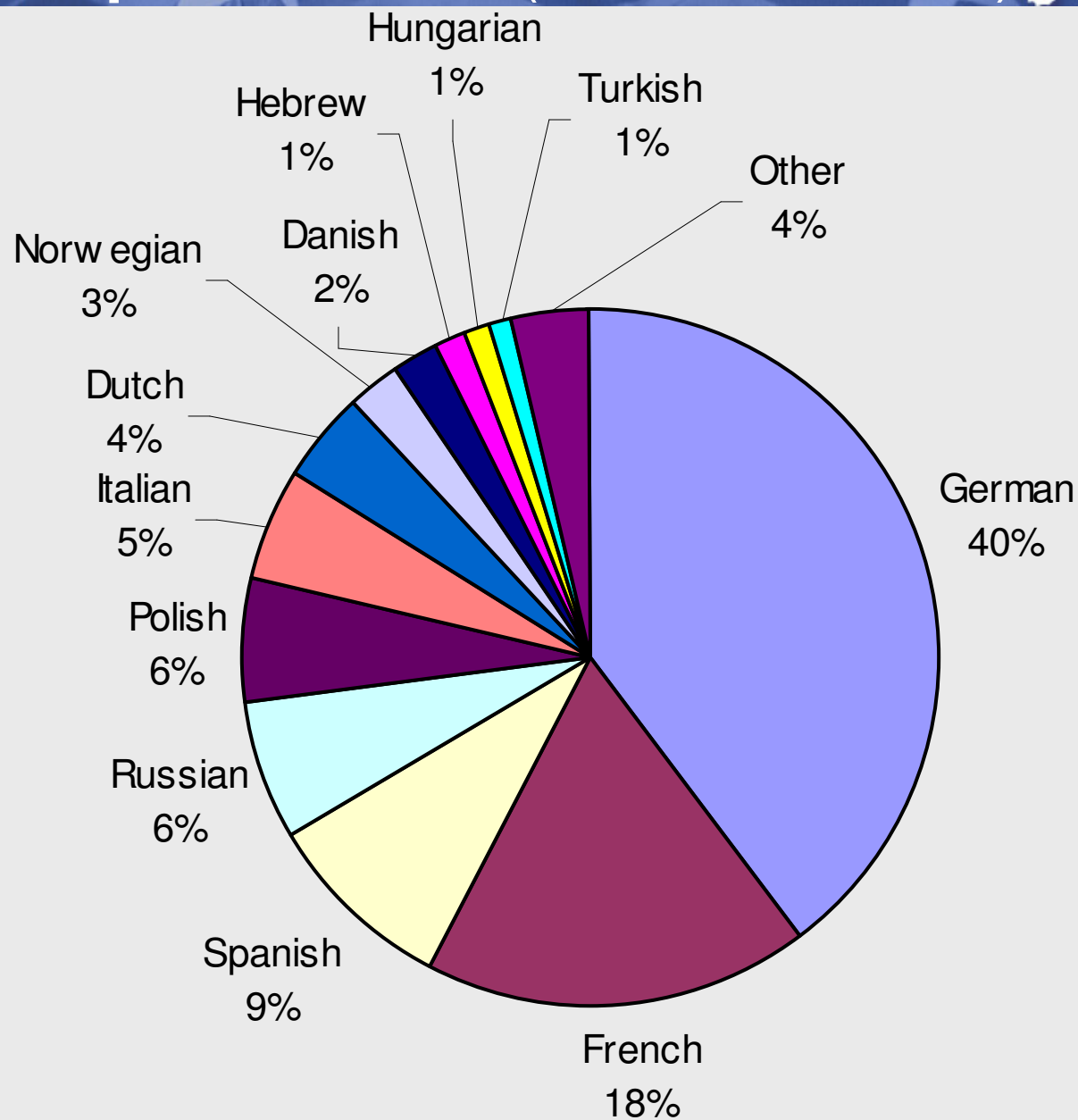


Publications on these countries are mainly from local researchers

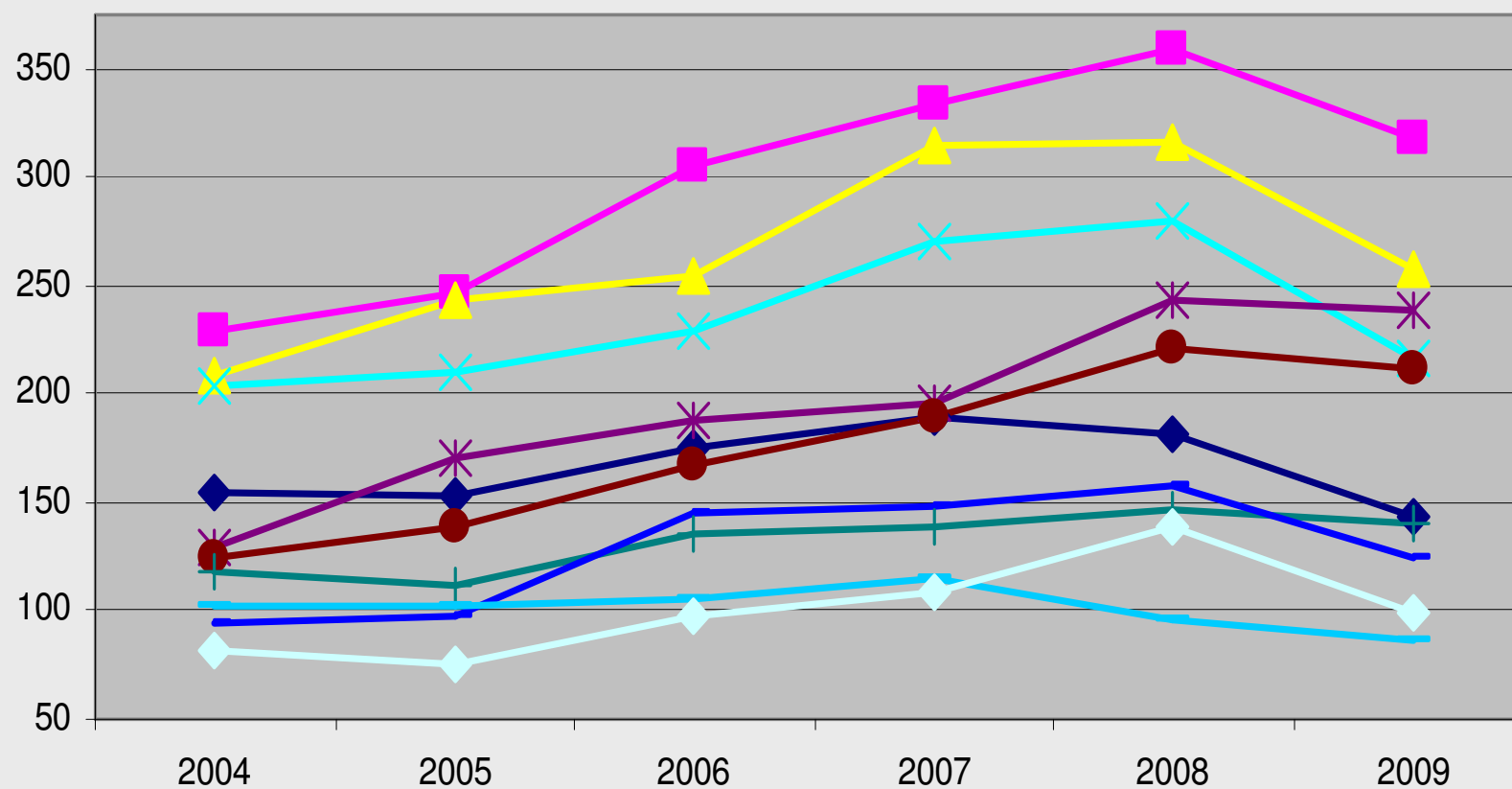
Publications on these countries are both from local and other researchers

Publications on these countries are rarely or never from local researchers

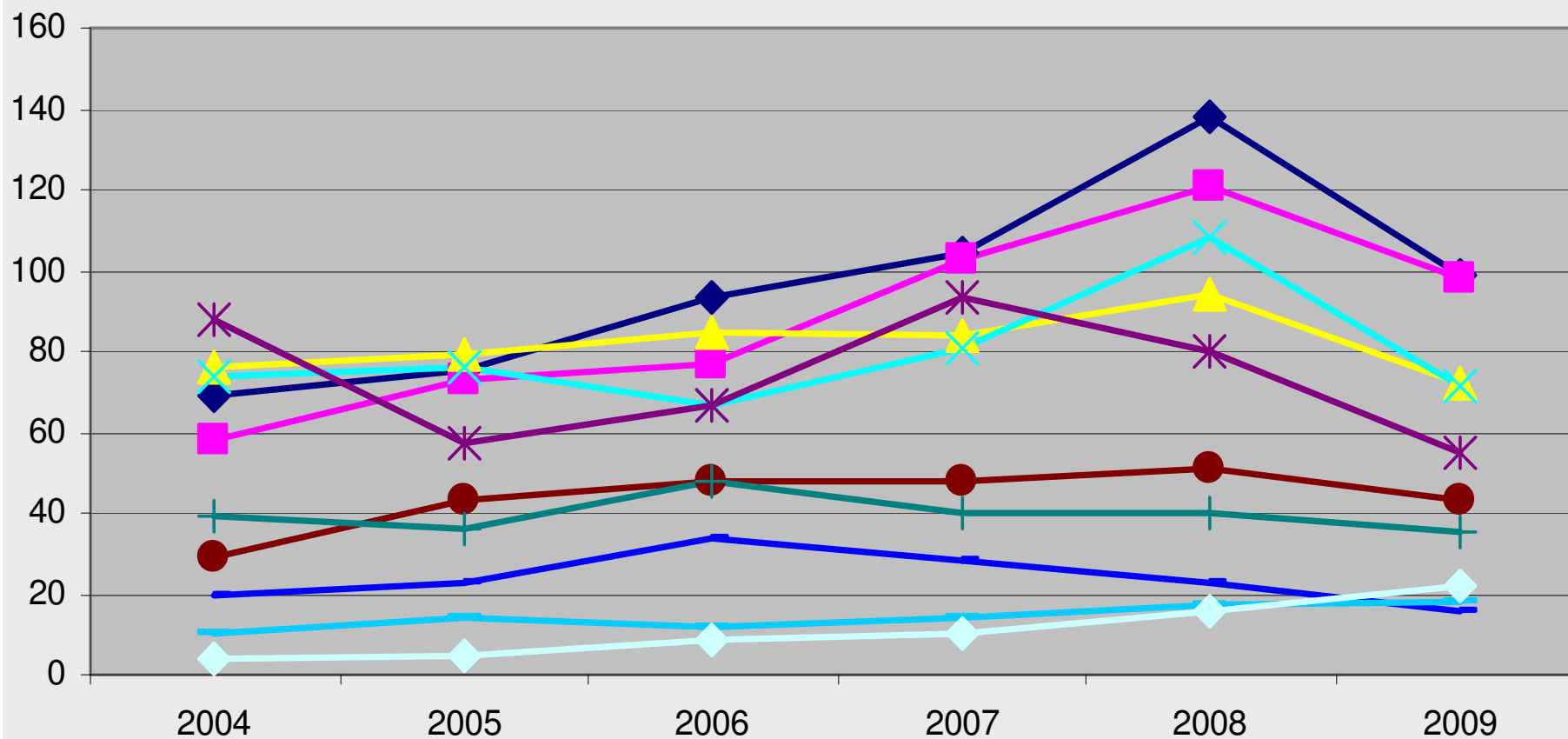
Language distribution non-English publications (n=3341 or 13%)



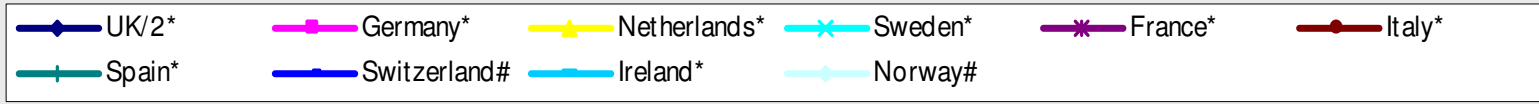
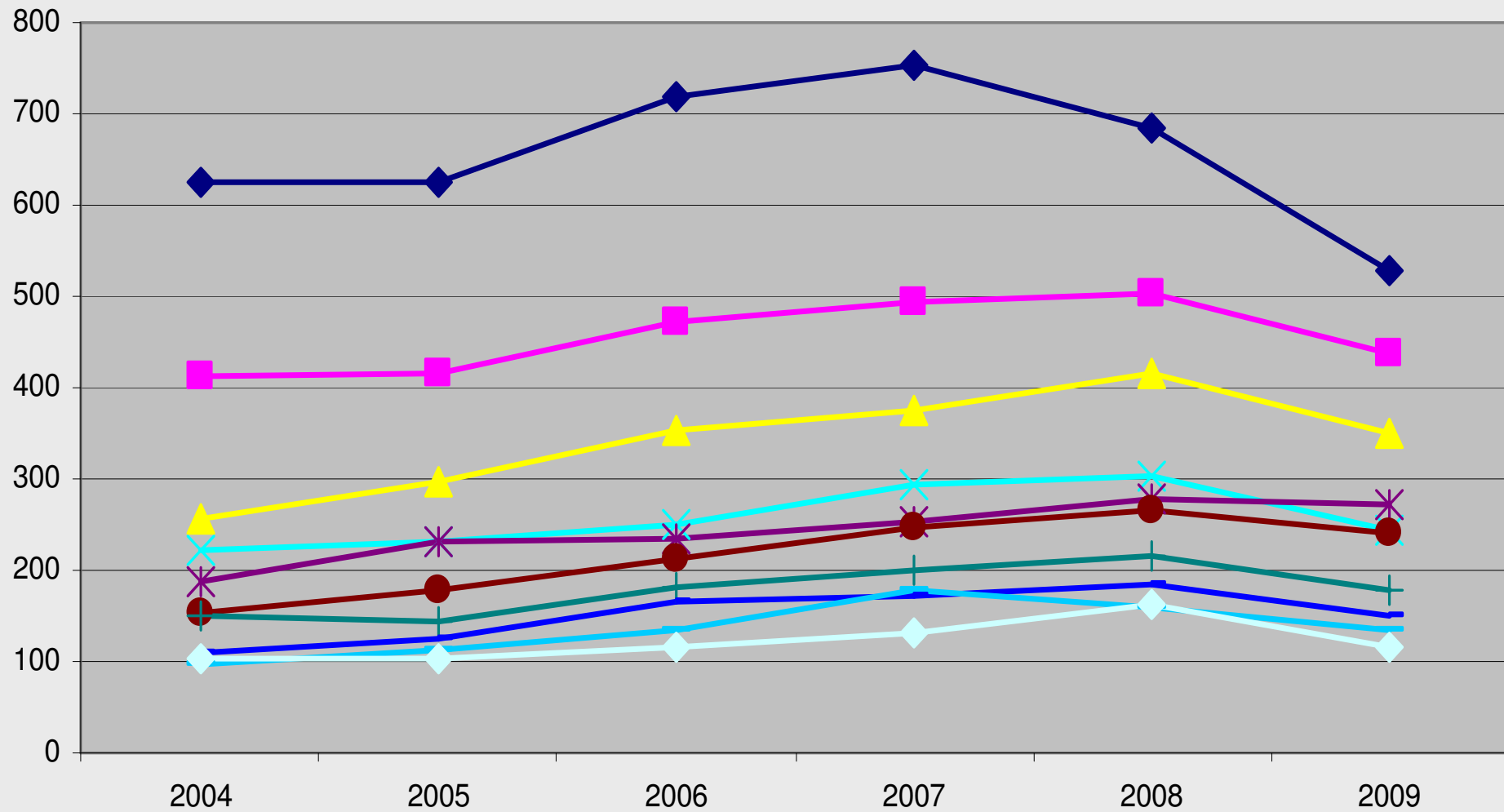
References by country (Address Field) 2004-2009 (top-10)



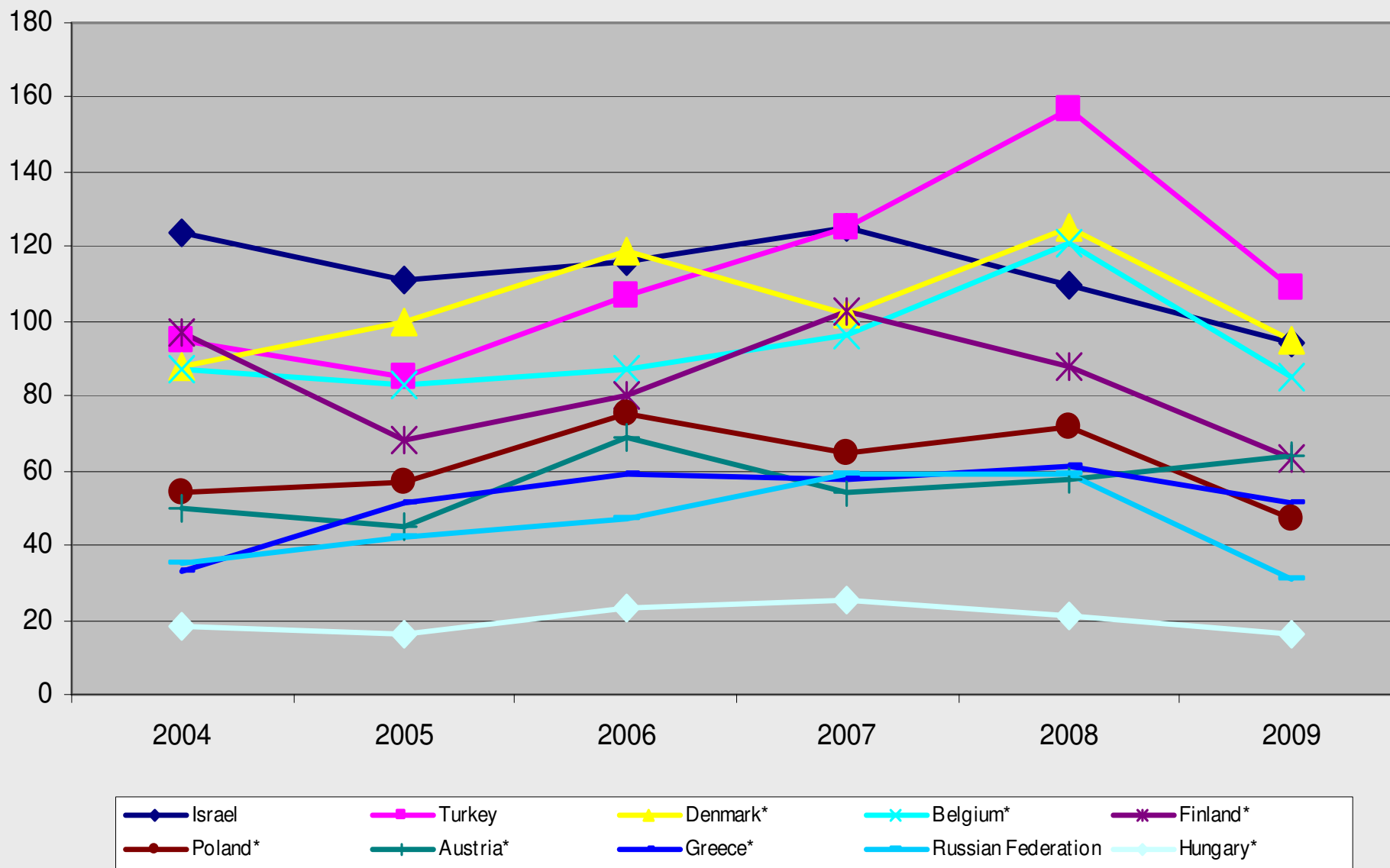
References by country (Address Field) 2004-2009 (11th - 20th)



References on a country (TiAbKw) 2004-2009 (top-10)



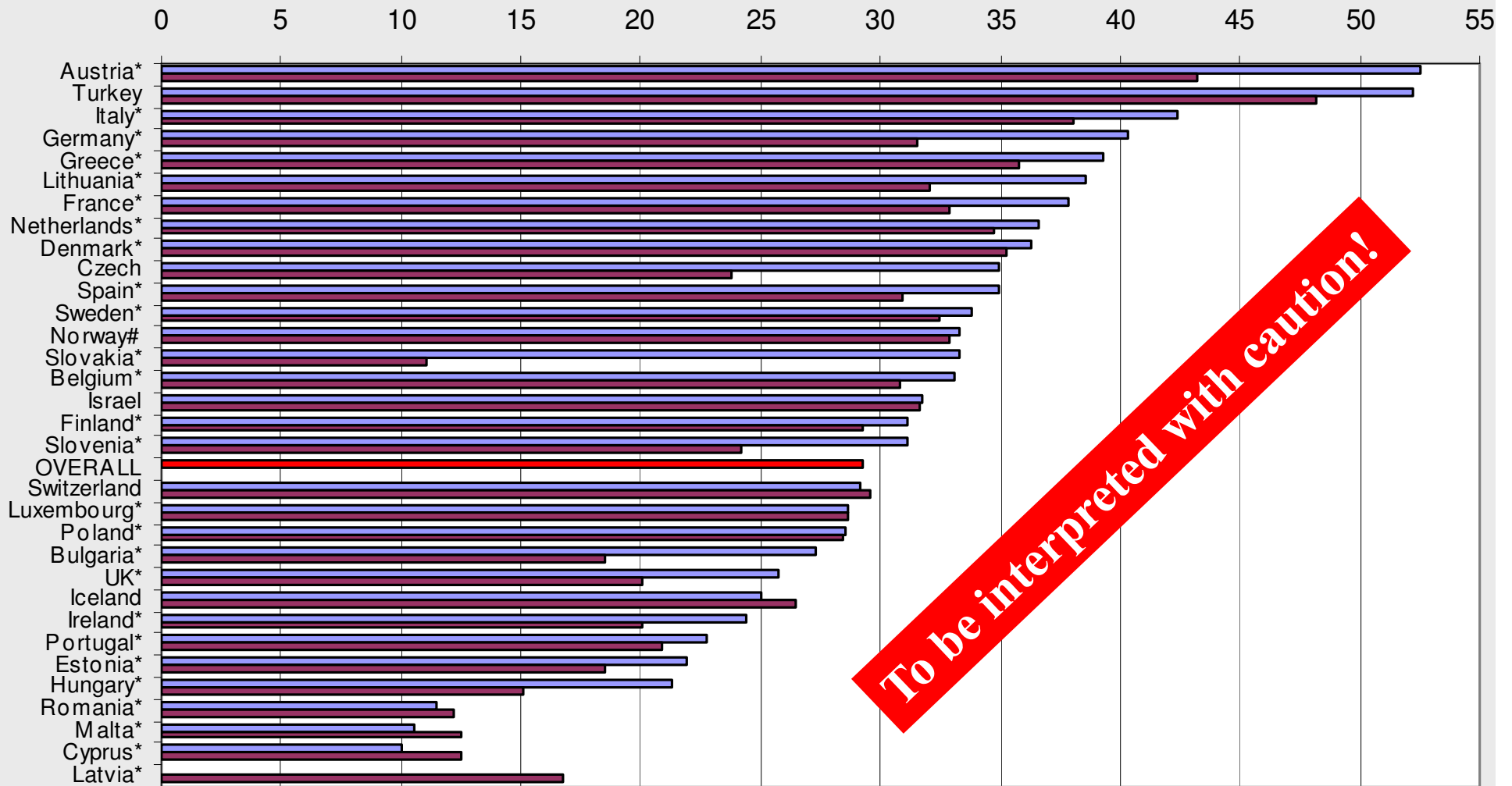
References on a country (TiAbKw) 2004-2009 (11th - 20th)



Thematic Clusters

Thematic Cluster	Keyword field only		Expanded to title and abstract	
	N (rank)	% of references in database	N (rank)	% of references in database
Satisfaction	7410 (1)	27.5%	7908 (1)	29.3%
Service Delivery	6002 (2)	22.3%	6045 (2)	22.4%
Utilization	2988 (3)	11.1%	3000 (8)	11.1%
Manpower	2945 (4)	10.9%	4459 (4)	16.5%
Policy/Reform	2790 (5)	10.4%	3795 (6)	14.1%
Professional Education	2741 (6)	10.2%	2852 (10)	10.6%
Access	2689 (7)	10.0%	4293 (5)	15.9%
Acceptance	2406 (8)	8.9%	3142 (7)	11.7%
Finance/Expenditure	2220 (9)	8.2%	2924 (9)	10.9%
Planning	1200 (10)	4.5%	1970 (11)	7.3%
Administration/Management	934 (11)	3.5%	4714 (3)	17.5%
Privatization	436 (12)	1.6%	500 (13)	1.8%
Waiting lists	431 (13)	1.6%	689 (12)	2.6%
Licensing/Accreditation	234 (14)	0.9%	261 (14)	1.0%

Satisfaction



To be interpreted with caution!

■ % publications from country (Address field) ■ % on (Abstract, titles, keyw ords field)

3.5% random sample of abstracts (n = 1000) for in-depth-analysis

**80% really HSR,
but less than 25%
on health systems
(macro level): n=232**

Keyword	n	% of sample
Patient(s)	105	45.3
Organization & Administration	80	34.5
Hospital(s)	71	30.6
Health service(s)	52	22.4
Health Services accessibility	47	20.3
Policy	46	19.8
Utilization	46	19.8
Education	39	16.8
Health policy	36	15.5
Cost	33	14.2
Delivery of health care	30	12.9
Public Health	29	12.5
State Medicine	29	12.5
Training	28	12.1
Health services needs and demand	27	11.6
Organization	27	11.6
Work	27	11.6
Primary Health Care	25	10.8
Government	24	10.3
Nursing	24	10.3

Thematic clusters in sample

Thematic Cluster	Keyword field only		Expanded to title and abstract	
	N (rank)	% of references in sample	N (rank)	% of references in sample
Policy/Reform	72 (1)	31.0%	73 (1)	31.5%
Service Delivery	69 (2)	29.7%	69 (2)	29.7%
Administration/Management	53 (3)	22.8%	55 (4)	23.7%
Access	50 (4)	21.6%	67 (3)	28.9%
Finance/Expenditure	46 (5)	19.8%	49 (5)	21.1%
Utilization	46 (6)	19.8%	46 (6)	19.8%
Manpower	39 (7)	16.8%	42 (7)	18.1%
Professional Education	25 (8)	10.8%	27 (8)	11.6%
Satisfaction	23 (9)	9.9%	25 (9)	10.8%
Acceptance	20 (10)	8.6%	25 (10)	10.8%
Planning	18 (11)	7.8%	18 (11)	7.8%
Privatization	11 (12)	4.7%	14 (12)	6.0%
Waiting Lists	10 (13)	4.3%	10 (13)	4.3%
Licensing/Accreditation	3 (14)	1.3%	3 (14)	1.3%

Attribute	Value	Percentage of abstracts (n=232)
Scope	International	18.1 %
	National/Regional	81.9%
Type of Abstract	Descriptive	25.4%
	Analytical	74.6%
Methodological approach	Quantitative	50.1%
	Qualitative	10.8%
	Literature review	9.5%
	Document analysis	22.0%
	More than one	6.9%
Dependent variable	Health outcomes	3.9%
	Utilization/Costs	14.2%
	Satisfaction	4.7%
	Quality of care	2.2%
	Combination of the above	9.1%
	Other or none	65.9%

- Literature search -> sizeable amount of work but *low specificity* to identify “health systems research” (rather than HSR in general) and probably *low sensitivity* (books, grey literature)
 - Common understanding of definitions, scope and necessary/ “best” methods? Further work ...
 - However, certain areas – especially regarding impact of regulation (e.g. privatization, accreditation/ licensing) – seem under-researched
- identification of 3 topics to take discussion forward ...

Topics for “carousel” discussions (1) and selected corresponding contributions

- **Methods to evaluate health care reforms**
 - Methodol. approach for measuring health system ... (16)
 - Factorial validation of a balanced-scorecard ... (17)
 - Development and application of an instrument ... (19)
 - Overcoming the challenge of policy evaluation ... (20)
 - Evaluating impact of the 2007 structural reform ... (22)
 - Systematic reviews in all areas of health services ... (29)
 - Health care reform – a well considered and ... (31)
 - Public health services – evaluation ... in Bulgaria (33)
 - The impact of healthcare reforms ... in Ireland (35)
- Markets and competition/ Role of private sector
- Workforce planning and professional mobility

Topics for “carousel” discussions (2) and selected corresponding contributions

- Methods to evaluate health care reforms
- **Markets and competition/ Role of private sector**
 - Markets, medicine, management: Hospital ... (13)
 - Competitive behaviour in health care and provider ... (14)
 - Is competition and integration incompatible ... (27)
 - For-profit hospitals, a comparative and longitudinal ... (30)
 - Privatization of health care in Poland – aims, ... (32)
 - Public-private partnerships in the Portuguese ... (36)
- Workforce planning and professional mobility

Topics for “carousel” discussions (3) and selected corresponding contributions

- Methods to evaluate health care reforms
- Markets and competition/ Role of private sector
- **Workforce planning and professional mobility**
 - Challenges of securing GP workforce in ... Finland (12)
 - From staff-mix to skill-mix and beyond: a ... (15)
 - Migration of health care personnel: Poland (18)
 - Health workforce in Europe – managing mobility ... (21)
 - Health manpower planning in EU countries ... (165)