Tecnologia com as Ciências Sociais:
E-Planning para MIT-Portugal
Colóquio Internacional

Social Sciences and e-Planning: the 'social' before and after the 'e'

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Key-points on Social Sciences and e-Planning

1) Planning processes rely often on oversimplified sociological assumptions, taking the 'Social' as an homogeneous "Mass" and ignoring cultural contexts, as well as groups social diversity, background, lifestyles and values

2)The success of a planning process ("e" or not), should rely on a sociological approach of participation and participants in every step of the process: conception, development and execution

3) The urgency and complexity of sustainability processess requires, not only a strong e-planning investment, but also a deep understanding of the social actors and contexts with which it interacts.

4) Communication Sociology implied in any e-planning project requires a strong strategic / research program oriented to different segments of social reality.

e-Planning as a Social Sciences' Project

ICS is a Laboratory with the capacity to produce sociological knowledge crucial for the different steps of e-planning projects:

- identification of relevant actors,

- policy´s assessments,

- "translation" of information through different stakeholders (social groups);

- and to create "bridges" between the techno-scientific and the lay knowledge.

Research at ICS

ICS-UL relevant research for the e-planning agenda considering three main dimensions for Sustainability: Social, Environment and Institucional (information, communication and public participation):

- Studies on the Portuguese population, segmented along social and geographical variables (sex, age, educationa, profession, residence, habitat and others socio-cultural criteria): surveys of social practices and behaviors, with international comparison;
- Studies of Institutions, launching institutional surveys: schools, families, local authorities and others;
- Studies on key groups for planning like local authorities and professional groups (architects for instance);

Research at ICS

- Studies on minorities and Lisbon's suburban areas;
- Analysis and 'Translation' of statistical longterm data on environmental and planning subjects;
- News monitorization on environment urban, energy and territorial issues
- Case studies and community based research (wastedisposal and public space, mobility and individual transports…).

Some examples of ICS research

Social atitudes and values (since 1997)

- European Social Survey (ESS – 24 countries)
- European Social Values (ESV) (next 2008 it will introduce environmental questions)
- International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) (next 2010 special survey totalmente devoted to environmental issues, energy and sustainable development) – applied in 43 countries.

Some examples of ICS research

- Observa national surveys (Observatory for the Environment, Society and Public Opinion):
- “The Portuguese and the Environment” (applied since 1997)
- “ The Portuguese and the new risks” (survey conducted in 2004)
- Survey on climate change (applied 2004).

Some examples of ICS research

- Regular surveys on electoral behaviour – The Changing Contexts of Political Behaviour: electoral choices and Political Attitudes in Contemporary Portugal

- Cultural consumptions in Portugal (Observatory of Cultural Practices)

- Youth and life styles (Observatory of Youth)

Some examples of ICS research

INSTITUTIONAL SURVEYS:

- Educational projects concerning environmental and sustainable development education – developed by the initiative of groups of schools or other institutions external to the education community (local authorities, private companies, NGO's, others).
- Surveys on Internet usage among teachers and students (Observatory of Schools)
- Surveys on local authorities leaders on their municipalities sustainable e-governance practices – information (including internet), public participation – planning and local decision making processes (Local Agenda 21).

Some examples of ICS research

CASE-STUDIES:

- Public Space usage and hygiene practices in different municipalities form the Lisbon's Metropolitan Area
- Automobile – using and not using the individual transport
- City, Citizen and Citizenship – Lisbon as a case study
- Energy and social behavior – an analysis conducted for the elaboration of the National Plan for Energy Use Efficiency
- Studies on ethnic minorities on the Lisbon's Metropolitan Area

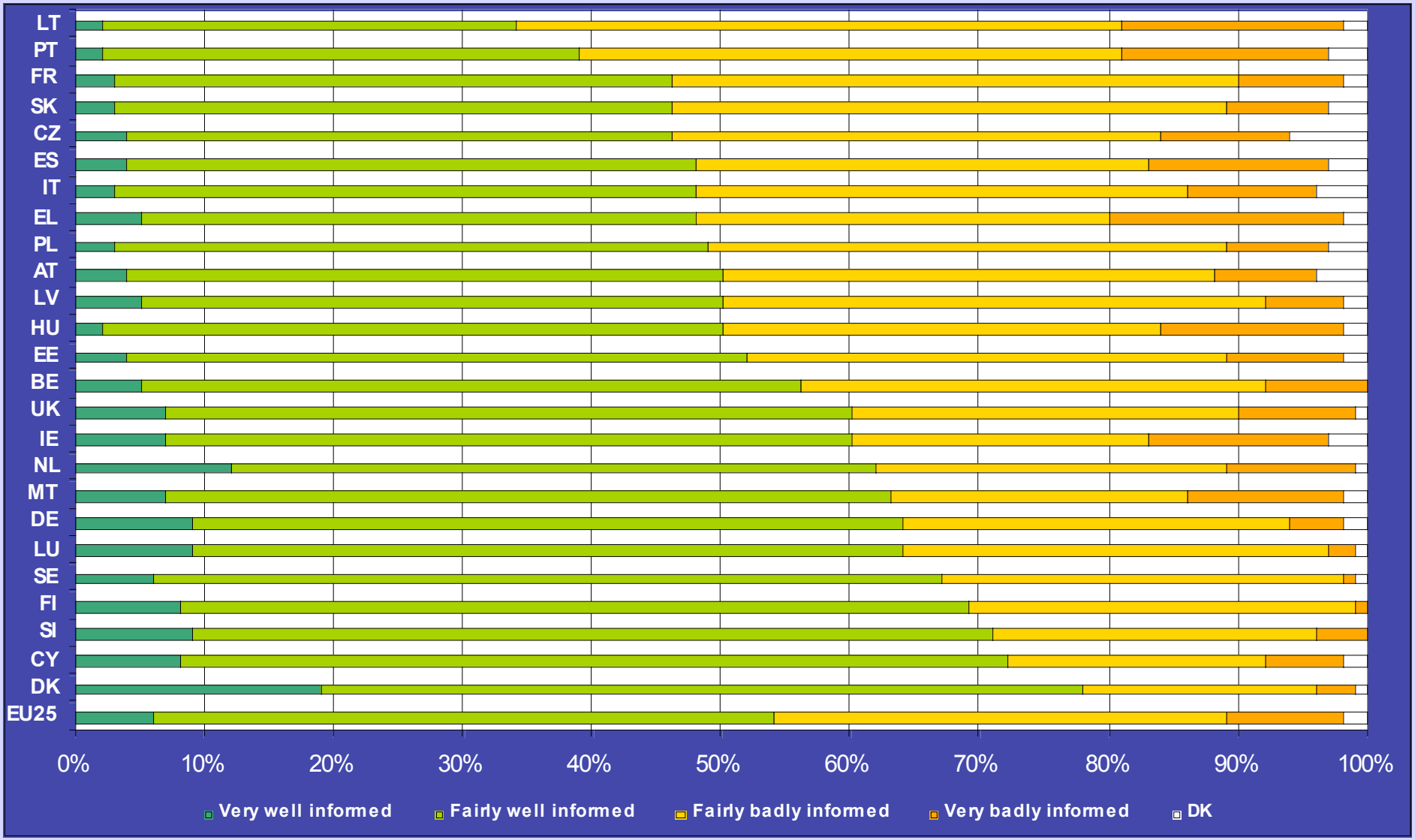
Some Relevant Findings for the e-Planning Agenda

- High degree of illiteracy on environmental, energy and planning issues (also on diverse scientific matters)
- Participation gap of Portuguese society, namely in comparison with other European countries
- Low levels of social capital, high deficits of social networking (associations and civic participation);
- Lack of trust in institutions as well as dissatisfaction with democracy;

Some Relevant Findings for the e-Planning Agenda

- Education: scarcity of projects focused on citizenship issues; no projects on planning or urban issues;
- Municipalities: technical and conceptual problems on information sharing and communication issues related to public participation (only 10% of municipalities allow on-line consultation of ongoing processes).
- Proliferation of planning legislative tools derived from the EU with no practical consequences and with lack of participation (ex: directive on strategic evaluation of plans and programs).

How informed do you feel about environmental issues?



Source: Eurobarometer 217, 2003

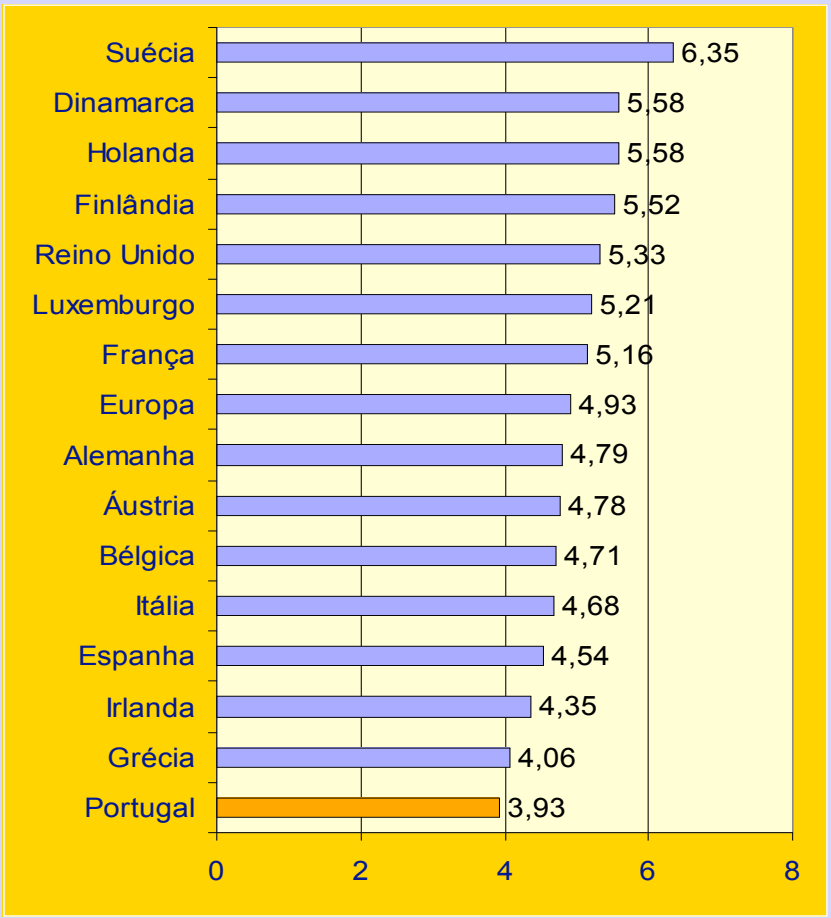
According to you, what should be the public authorities' priority to help people to reduce their consumption of energy?

	Portugal (%)	UE25 (%)
Provide more information on efficient use of energy	62	49
Develop tax incentives to promote efficient use of energy	22	40
Adopt higher efficiency standards for energy consuming equipment	36	30
Control more strictly the application of existing energy efficiency standards	13	20
DK	14	10
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	2

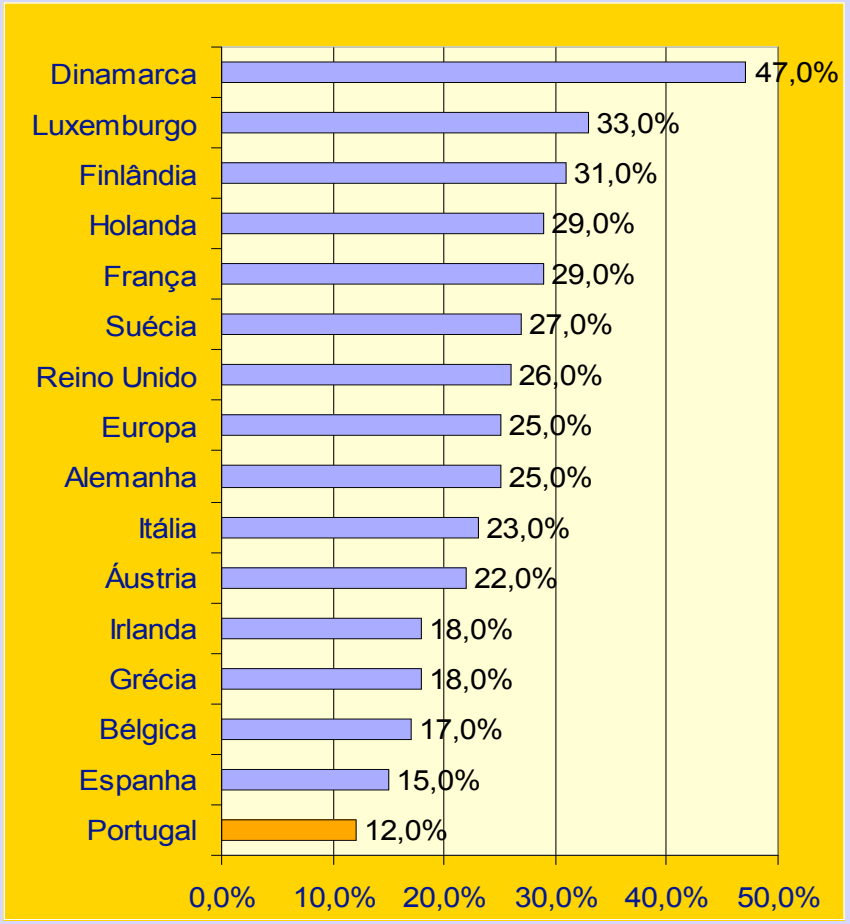
Source: Eurobarometer 258 - Energy issues, 2006

Manifest Interest and Knowledge of Europeans on Biotech Issues

Number of correct answers (Max. 9)

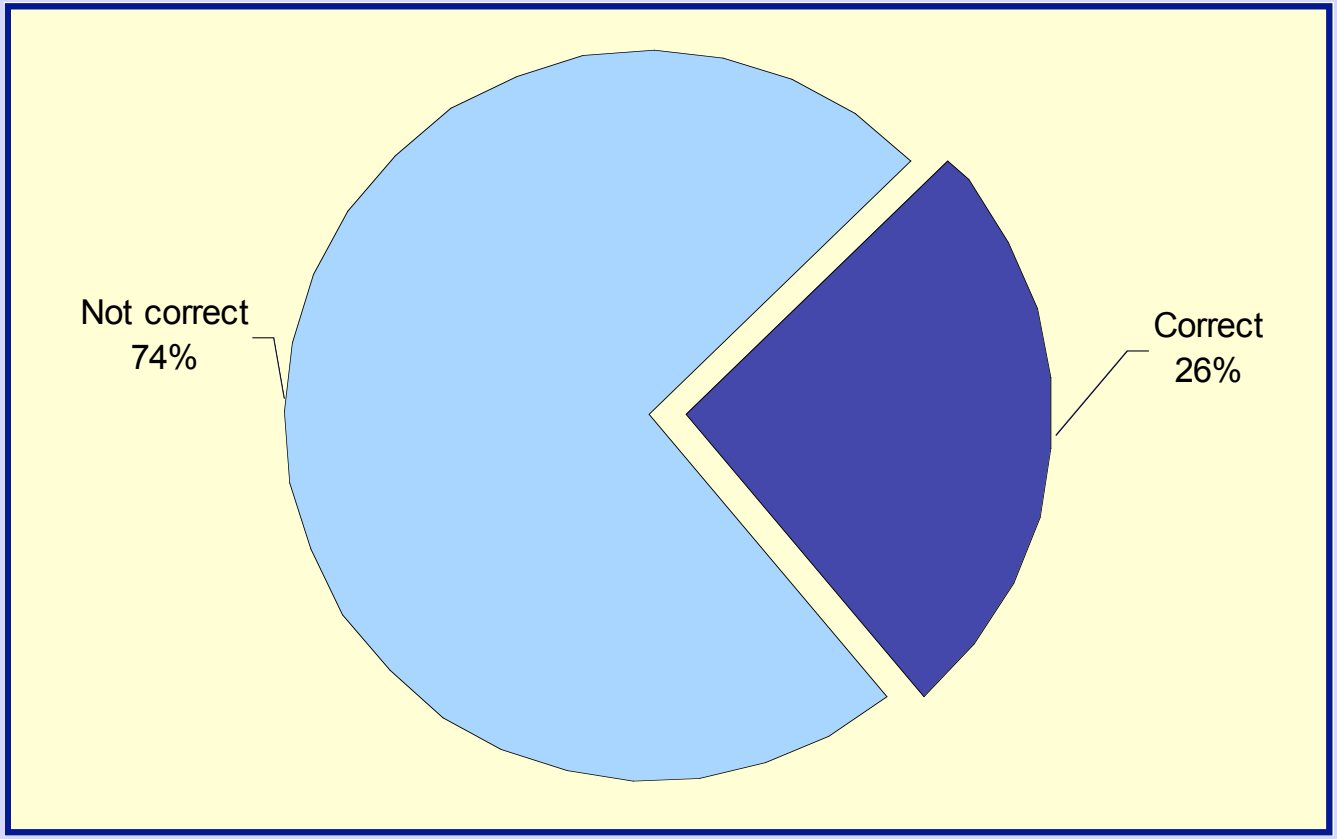


Manifest Interest on the issue (%)



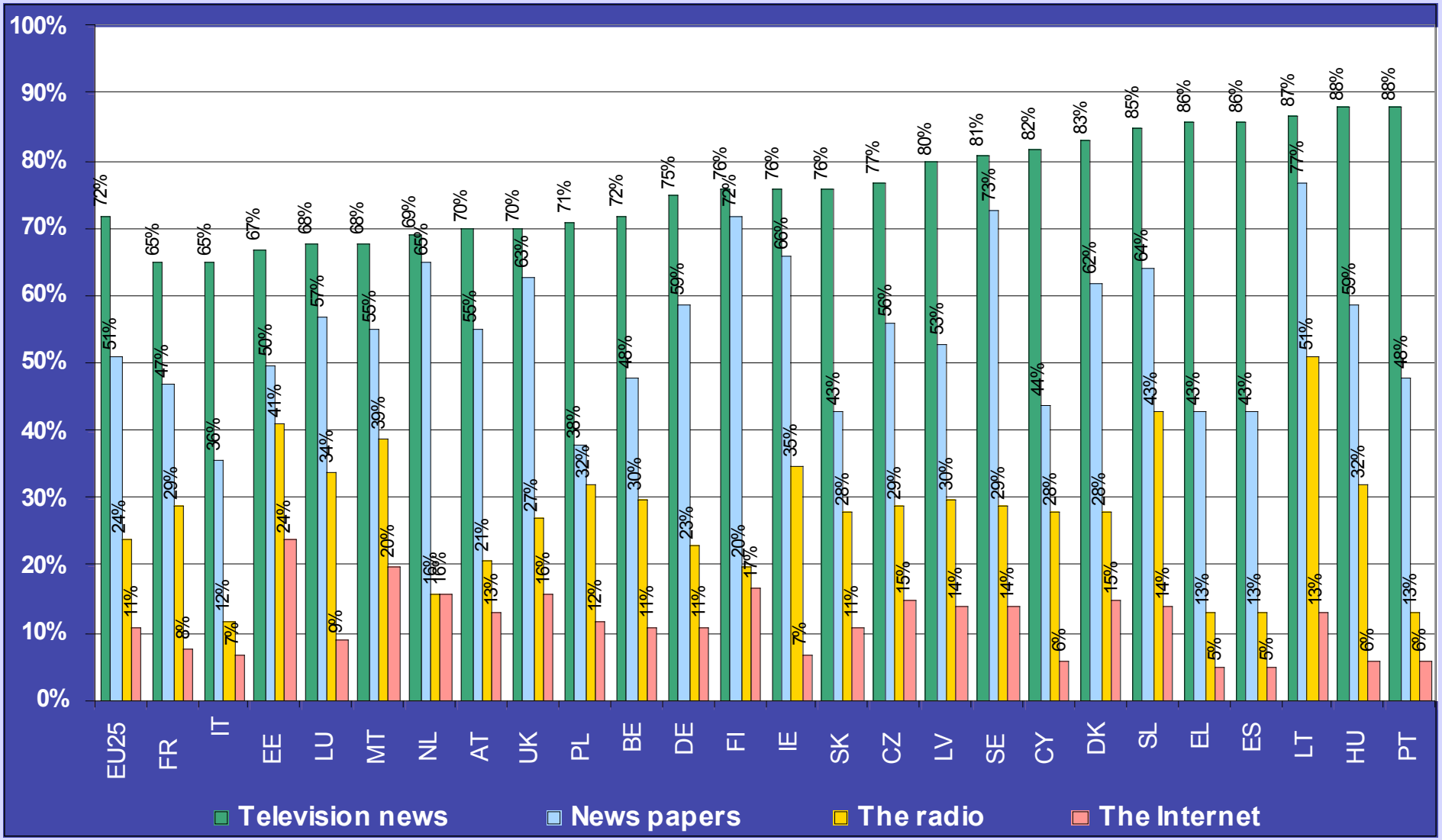
Source: Eurobarometer 58.0, 2003

PDM (Municipal Urban Plans) Definition



Source: OBSERVA – I Inquérito Nacional sobre Ambiente (Ed. 2000)

Main sources of information about environment in EU25



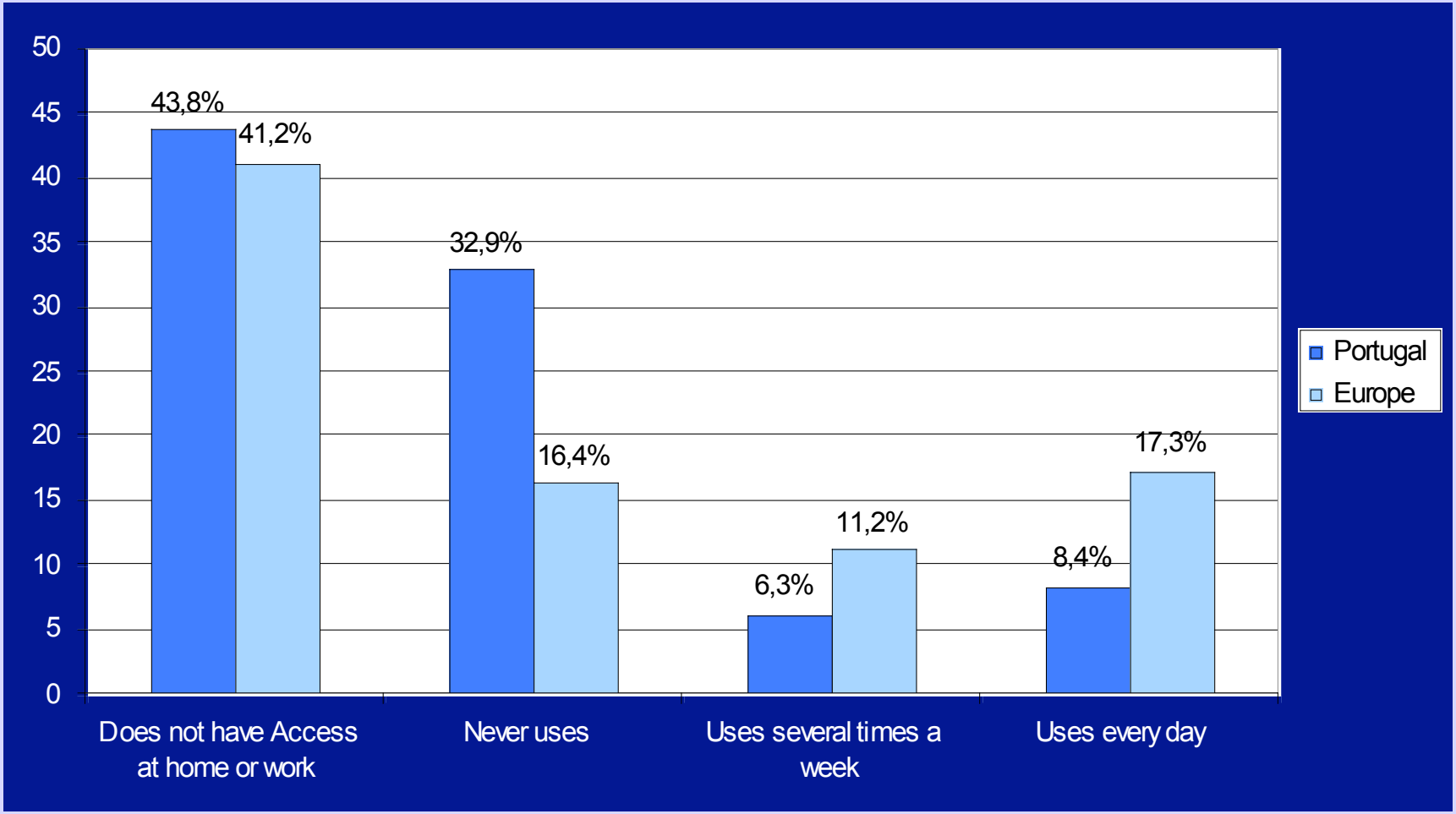
Source: Eurobarometer 224, 2005

Sources of information on scientific developments

	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	Greece	Spain	France	Irland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Austria	Portugal	Finland	Sweden	U. Kingdom	EU 15
Television	64%	61%	68%	62%	53%	65%	61%	49%	42%	59%	65%	59%	59%	66%	60%	60%
Press	37%	39%	44%	30%	26%	35%	39%	28%	30%	49%	41%	23%	50%	46%	42%	37%
Radio	30%	23%	26%	33%	34%	34%	40%	16%	24%	36%	41%	28%	21%	25%	26%	27%
School/University	25%	28%	14%	29%	25%	17%	21%	34%	19%	27%	14%	19%	27%	23%	23%	22%
Scientific Journals	21%	17%	15%	13%	17%	21%	14%	33%	14%	21%	16%	8%	22%	21%	19%	20%
Internet	18%	16%	14%	10%	14%	10%	20%	24%	14%	23%	16%	14%	18%	14%	23%	17%

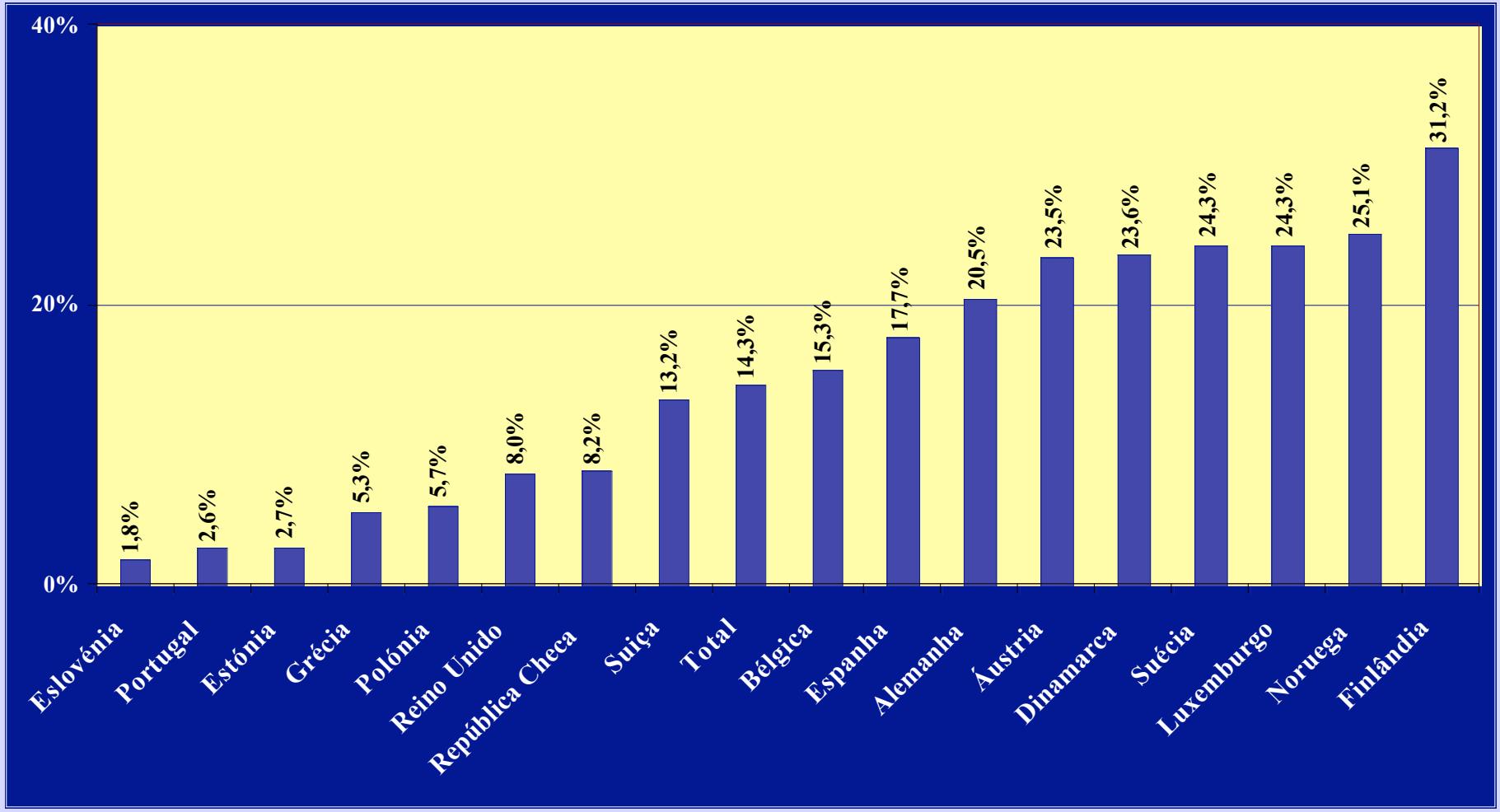
Source: Eurobarometer 55.2, 2001

Intensity of Internet / e-mail / www for personal usage



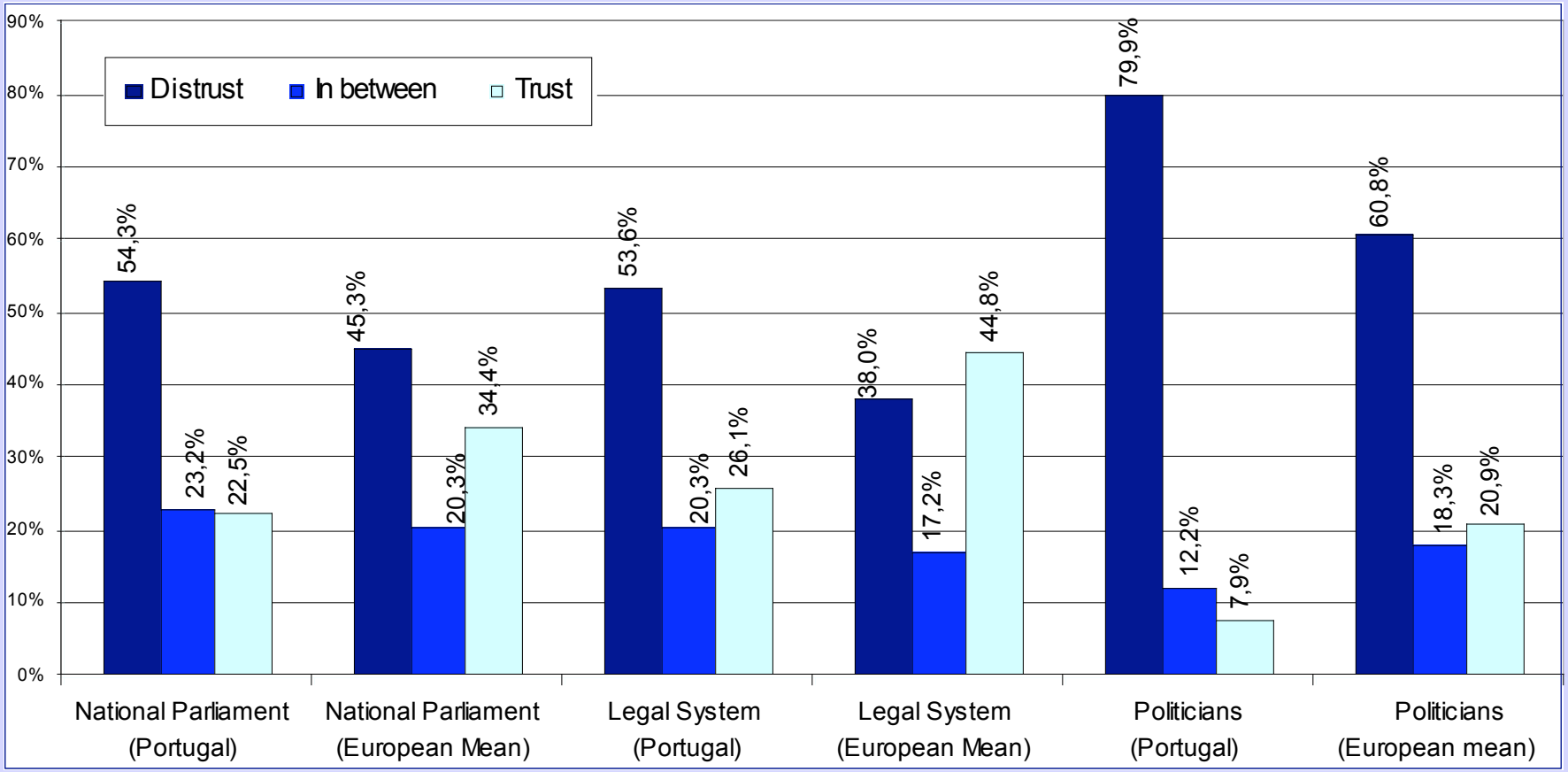
Source: European Social Survey 2007

Volunteer work on a NGO over the last 12 months



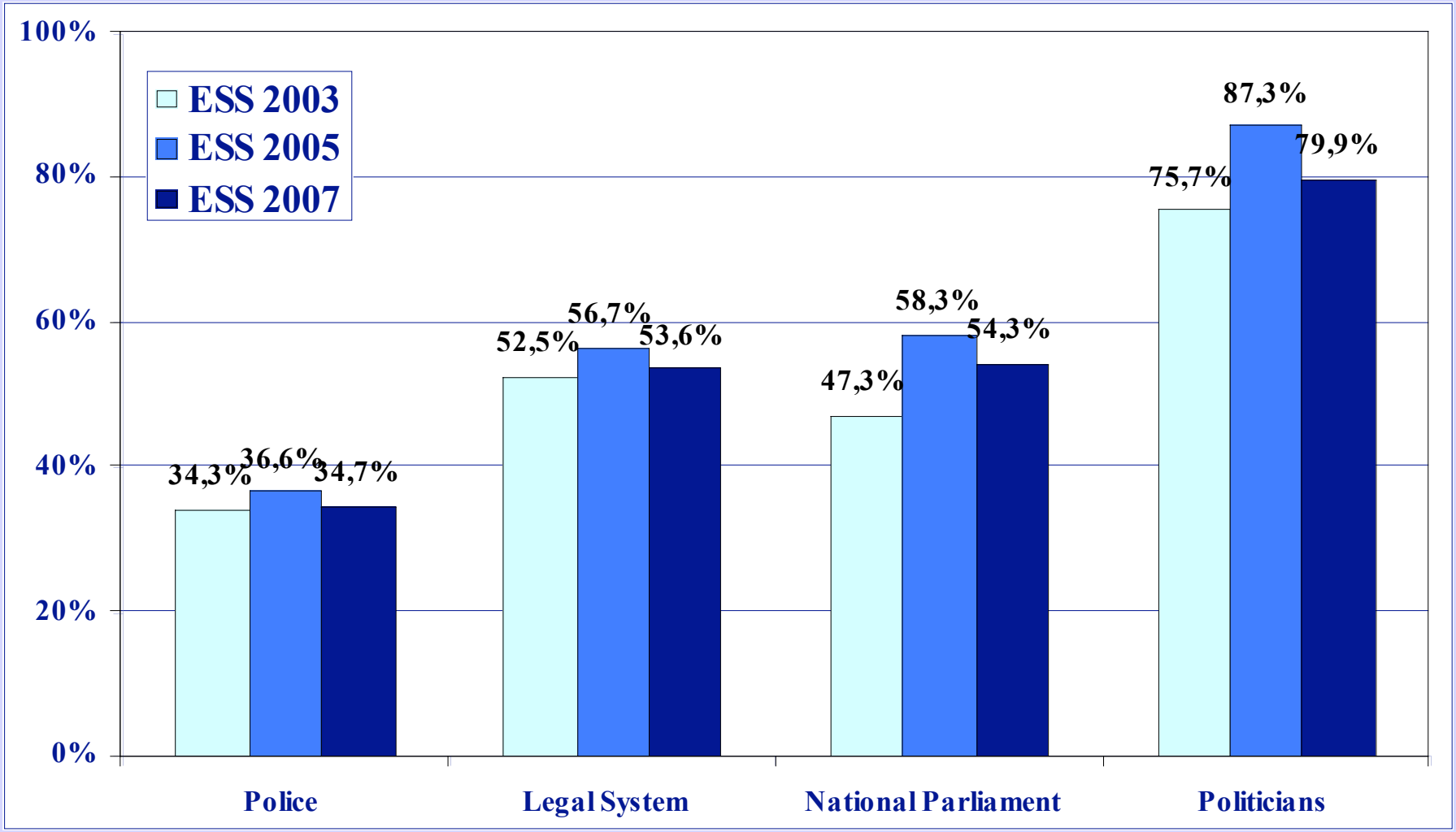
Source: European Social Survey II (2005)

Trust in National Parliament, Legal System and "politicians", in Portugal and in Europe



Source: European Social Survey III, 2007

Distrust evolution in Portugal (2001 - 2007)



Source: European Social Survey I (2002/2003), II (2005) and III (2007)

Interpersonal Trust

Can we trust most of the people?

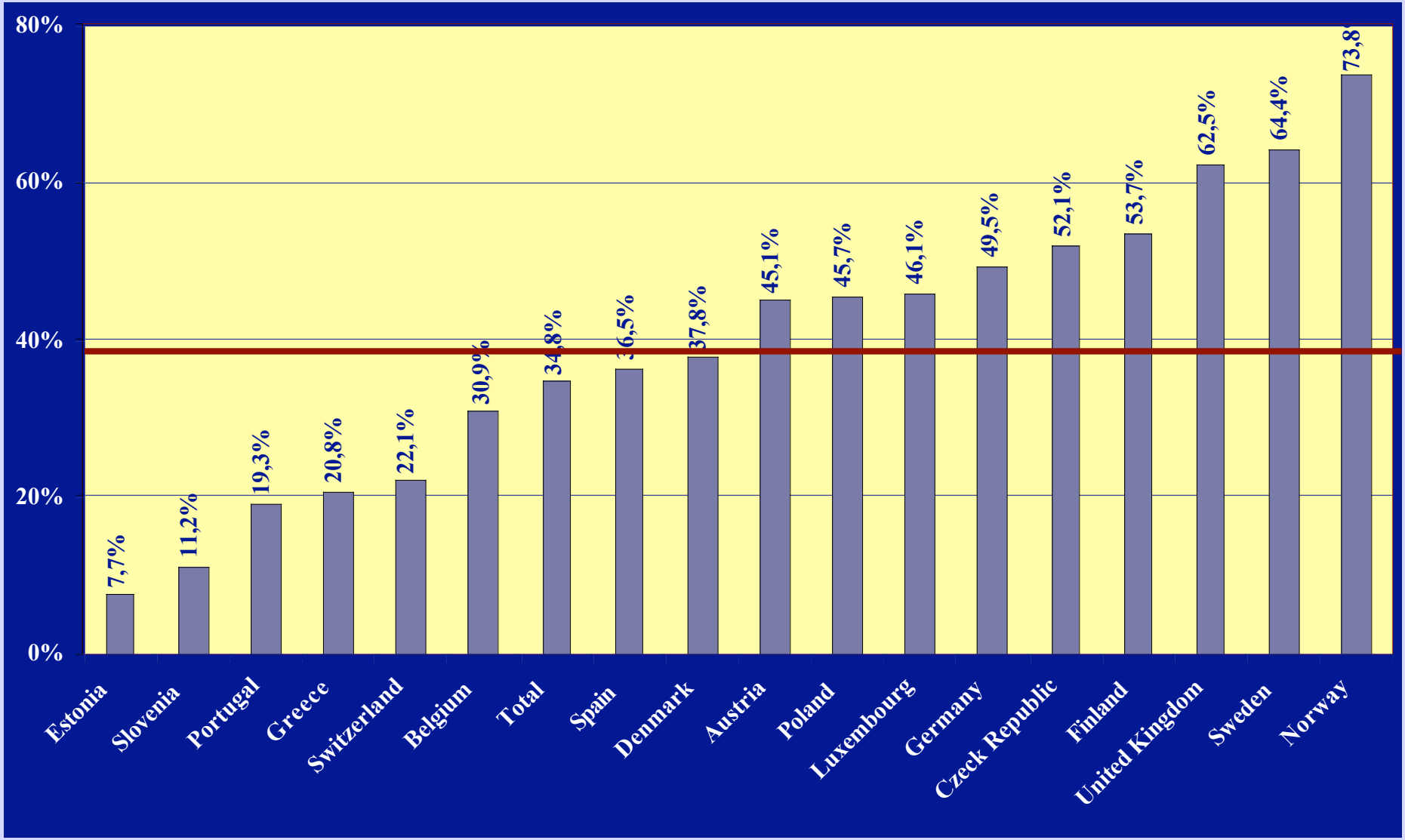
Portugal 13,8%

U.E. 26,2%

(25 countries)

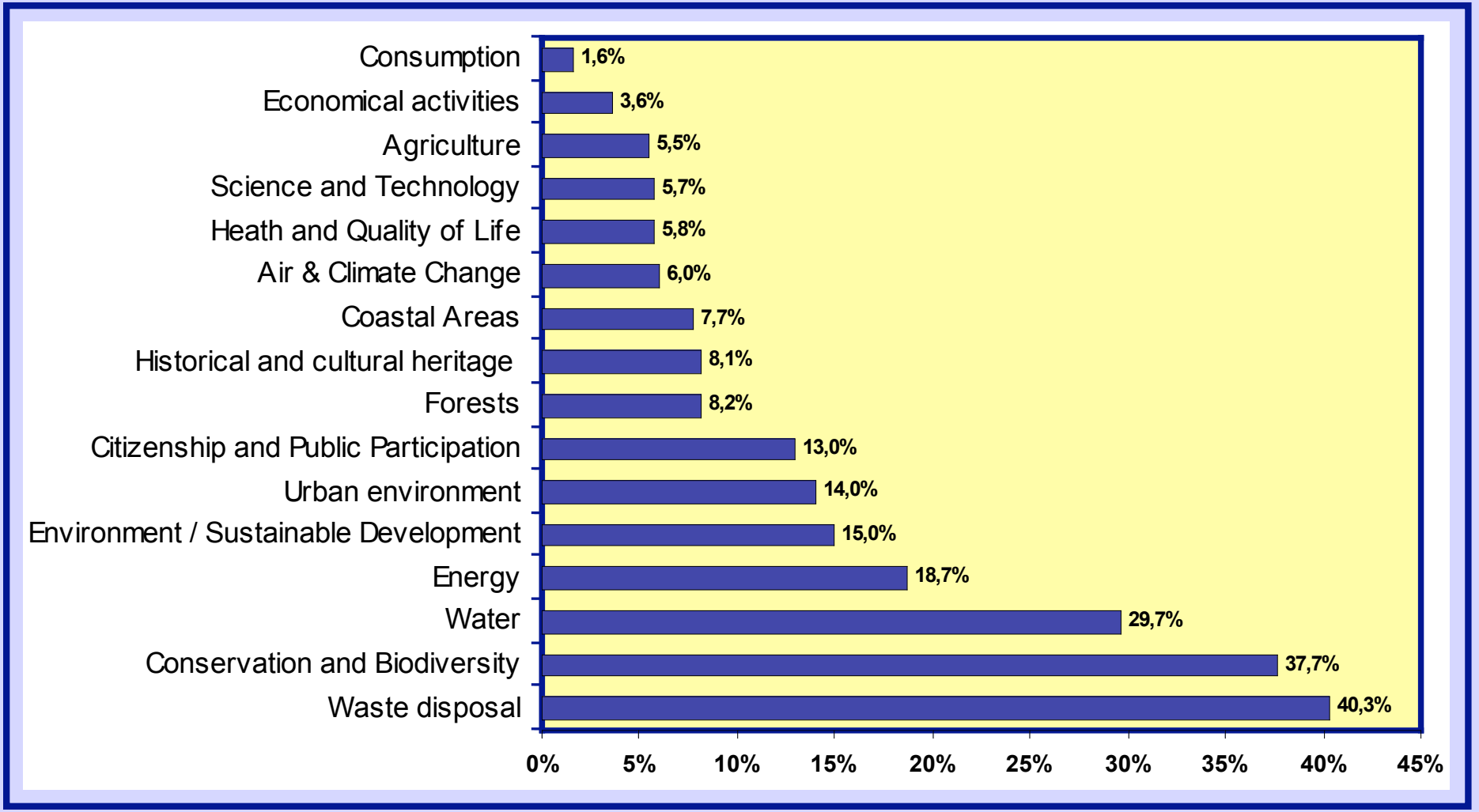
Source: European Social Survey (2007)

Satisfaction with democracy



Source: European Social Survey II (2005)

Thematic areas developed on school projects



Source: Observa, 2006

KEY-OUTCOMES
Social Sciences contribution to an e-planning agenda

1 – Understand the motives and processes that trigger participation in planning issues.

2 – Identify key variables that contribute to potential conflict or social boycott of environmental and planning programs like co-incineration, High Speed Trains, communication infra-structures (lack of information; mistrust; etc.)

3 - Analyze the lack and dysfunctions of communication in policy and planning decision making, and its potential for social polarization

KEY-OUTCOMES
Social Sciences contribution to an e-planning agenda

4 - Recognize social segments and identify significant communication variables that contribute to promote the use of ICT's in public participation processes

5 - Identify and understand the role of mediators (informal or institutional) between technological tools (ICT's) and citizens (socially differentiated) - (NGO's, Local Authorities, Schools, Neighbourhood Communities, etc.).

6- Improve (or create?) a planning and territorial culture at all levels (the "leaders" and the "led")