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# Academic mobility and Swedish scholarships: A study on alumni of the Swedish Institute's Visby Programme

**Presentation at the national EMN Conference Sweden 2019**  
*Attracting and Welcoming International Students*

# Background and Aim of the Study

- The Swedish Institute (founded in 1945 as an association, since 1998 an official national authority) is a central organisation for supporting internationalisation of higher education in Sweden.
- Besides information on studies in Sweden the Swedish Institute administrates government scholarship programmes, whereof the Visby programme is one of the largest and most important
- No systematic research conducted on these kinds of programmes in Sweden
- *The aim was to study the programme and its alumni to explore the scholarship holders' characteristics, their migration patterns, contacts with Sweden and experiences and perceptions of the programme.*
- The study was financed by The Migration Studies Delegation (Delmi) and the Swedish Institute

# The Visby Programme

- Initiated in 1997 and part of the Baltic Sea Billion 1
- A combination of economic, security and international aid related aims and objectives for the programme (*Prop. 1995/96:222, 5.2*)
- Thus different logics and part of different political fields:
  - Internationalisation of higher education and academic migration
  - Public diplomacy (security)
  - Foreign aid
  - Trade and business
- Shift from trade and business towards security related issues

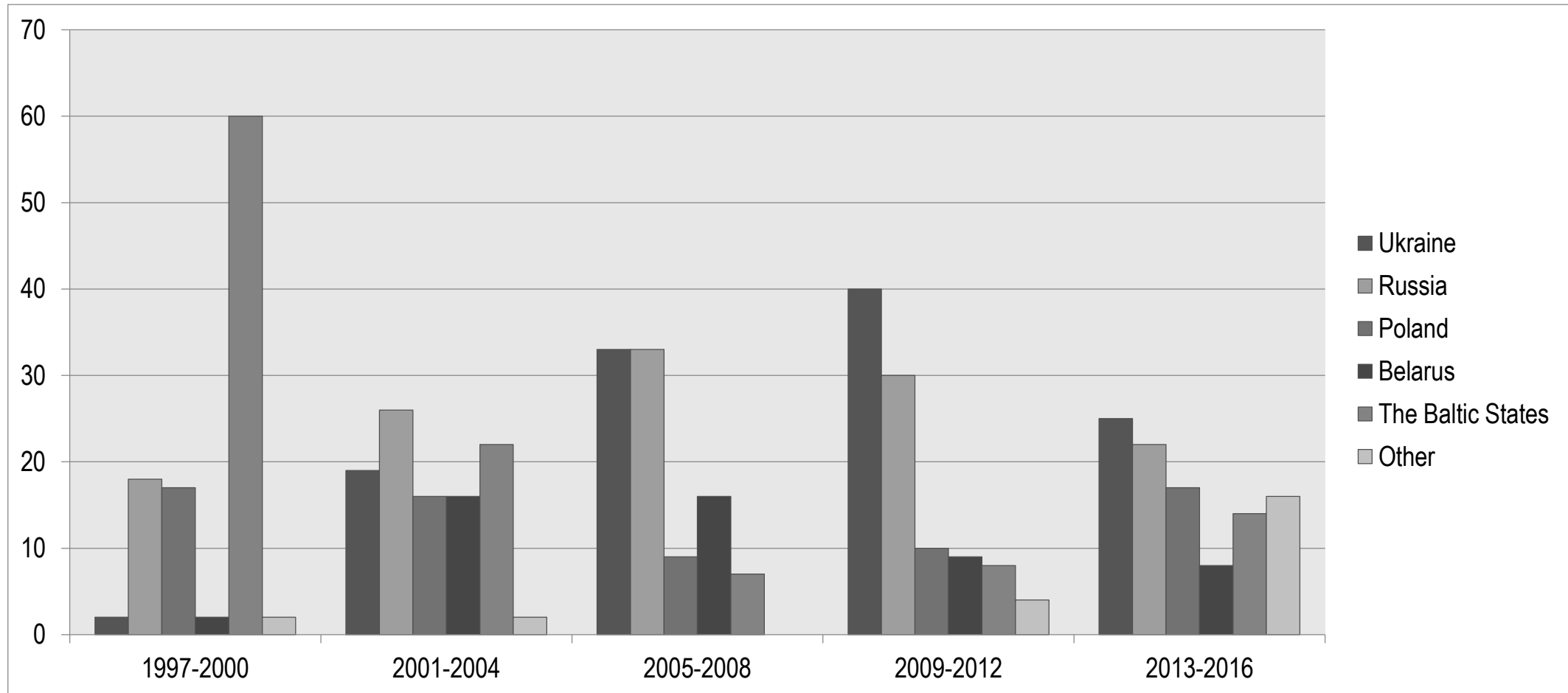
# Theoretical Model

- Demand (global)
- Intermediate organisation (financier, gate keeper, information)
- Supply (West dominated)
  
- Assets:
- Educational, linguistic, cultural and economic capital

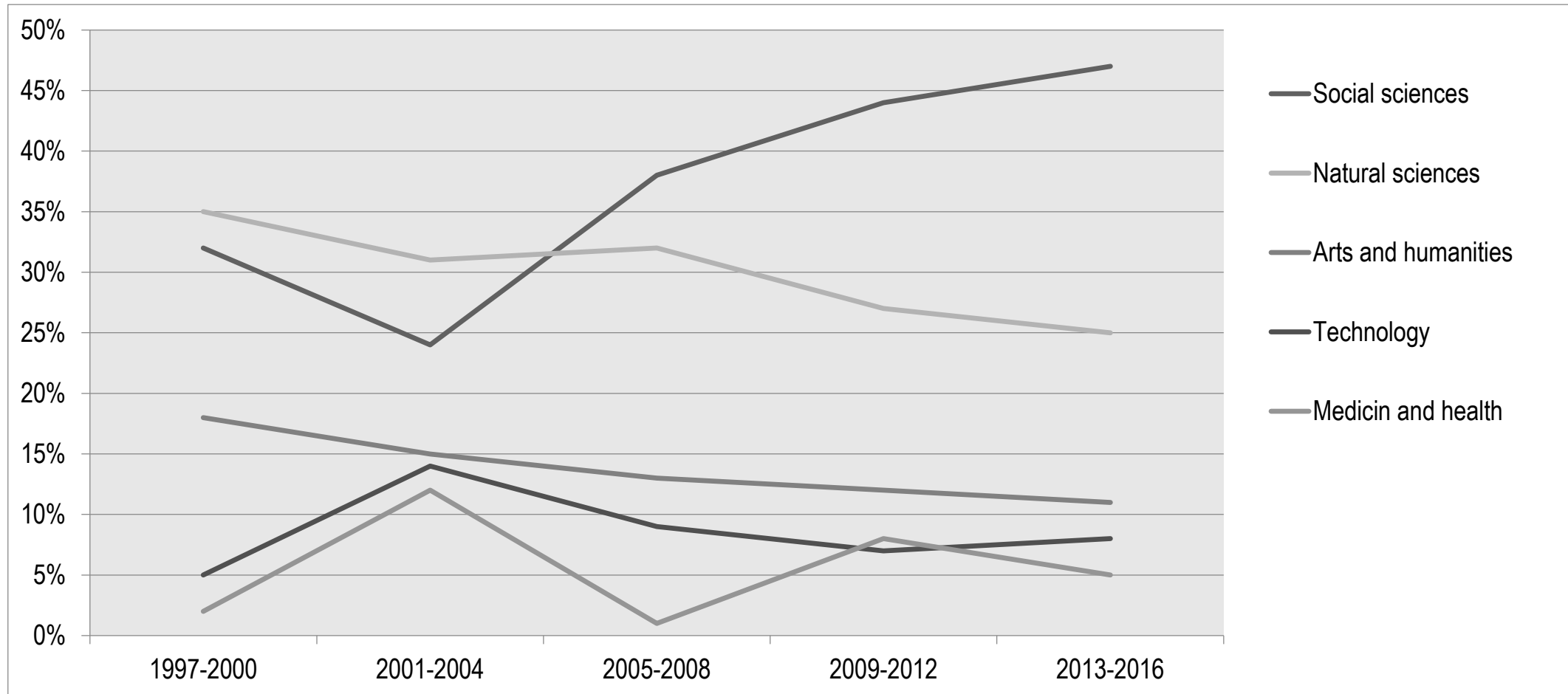
# Method and Data

- Policy documents, commissions, reports,
- Survey
  - Responded by 482 persons (alumni of the Visby programme)
  - 31 % response rate
  - Limitations: Over positive, positive bias, less accurate for earlier cohorts
- Descriptive statistics
- Open questions

# National Origin

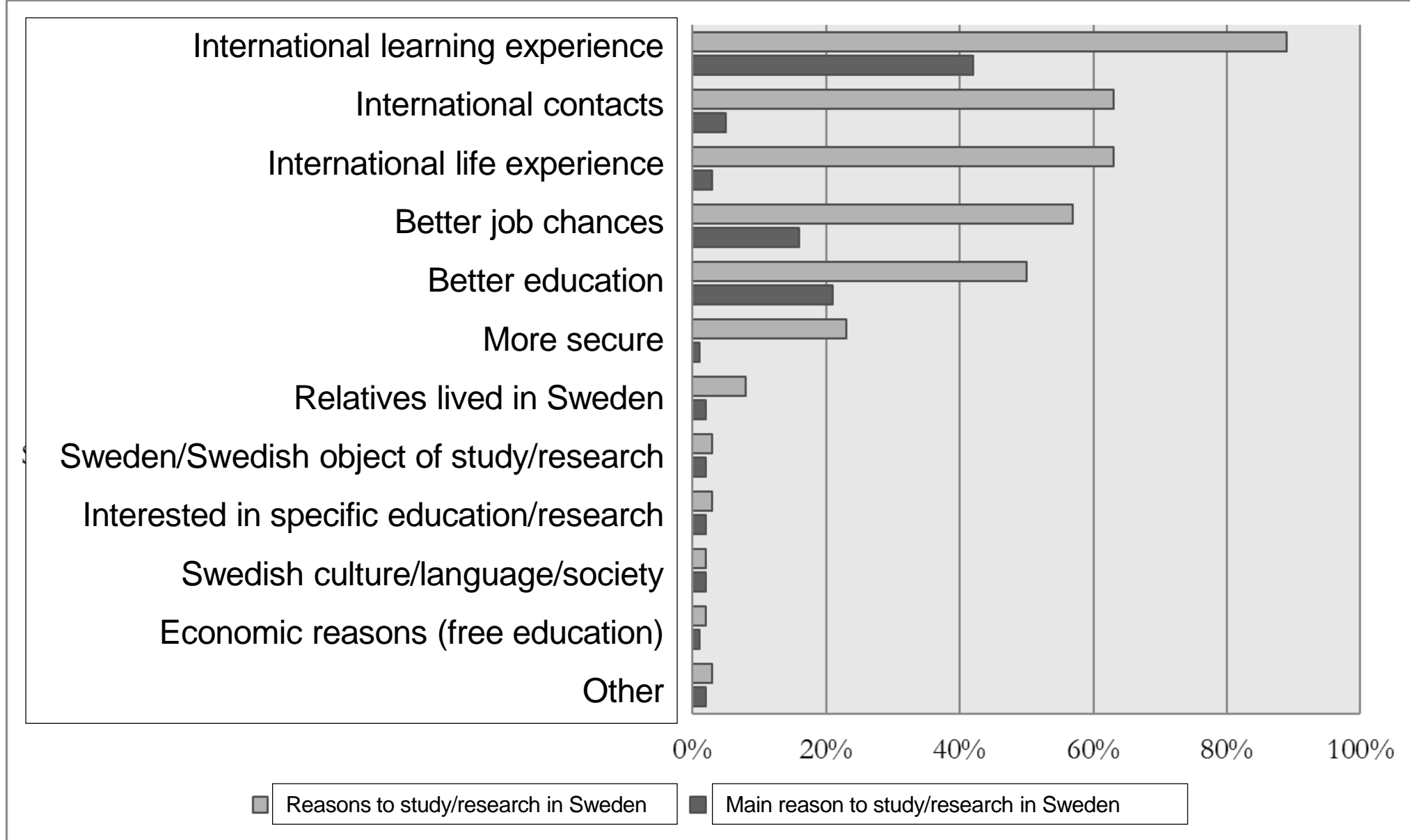


# Field of Study





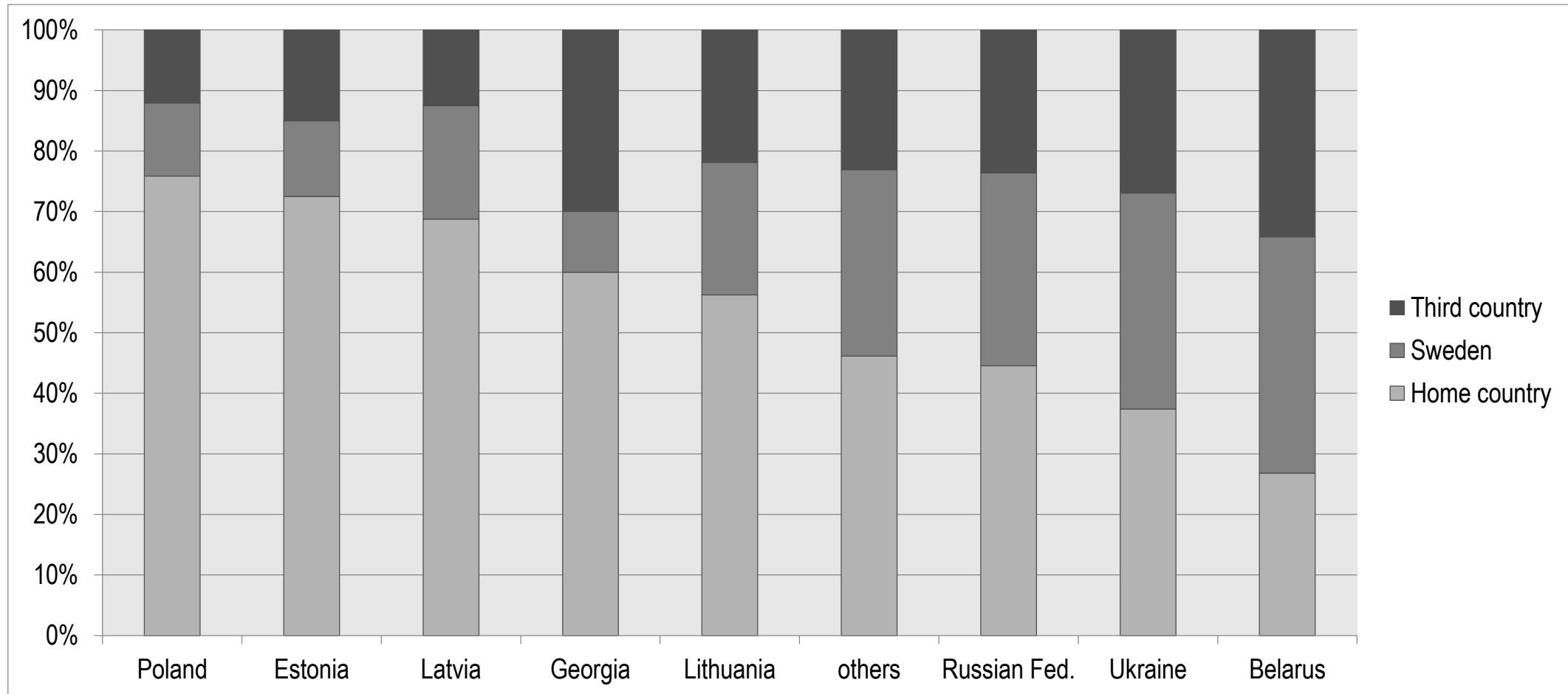
# Reasons to study or research in Sweden



# Three Trajectories

- 50 per cent returned to home country
  - 27 per cent are in Sweden
  - 23 per cent have continued to third country
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- A process of circular migration
  - Swedish educational capital seem to function as a bridge or entrance to an international labour market

# Three Trajectories per Country



# Three Trajectories: Countries

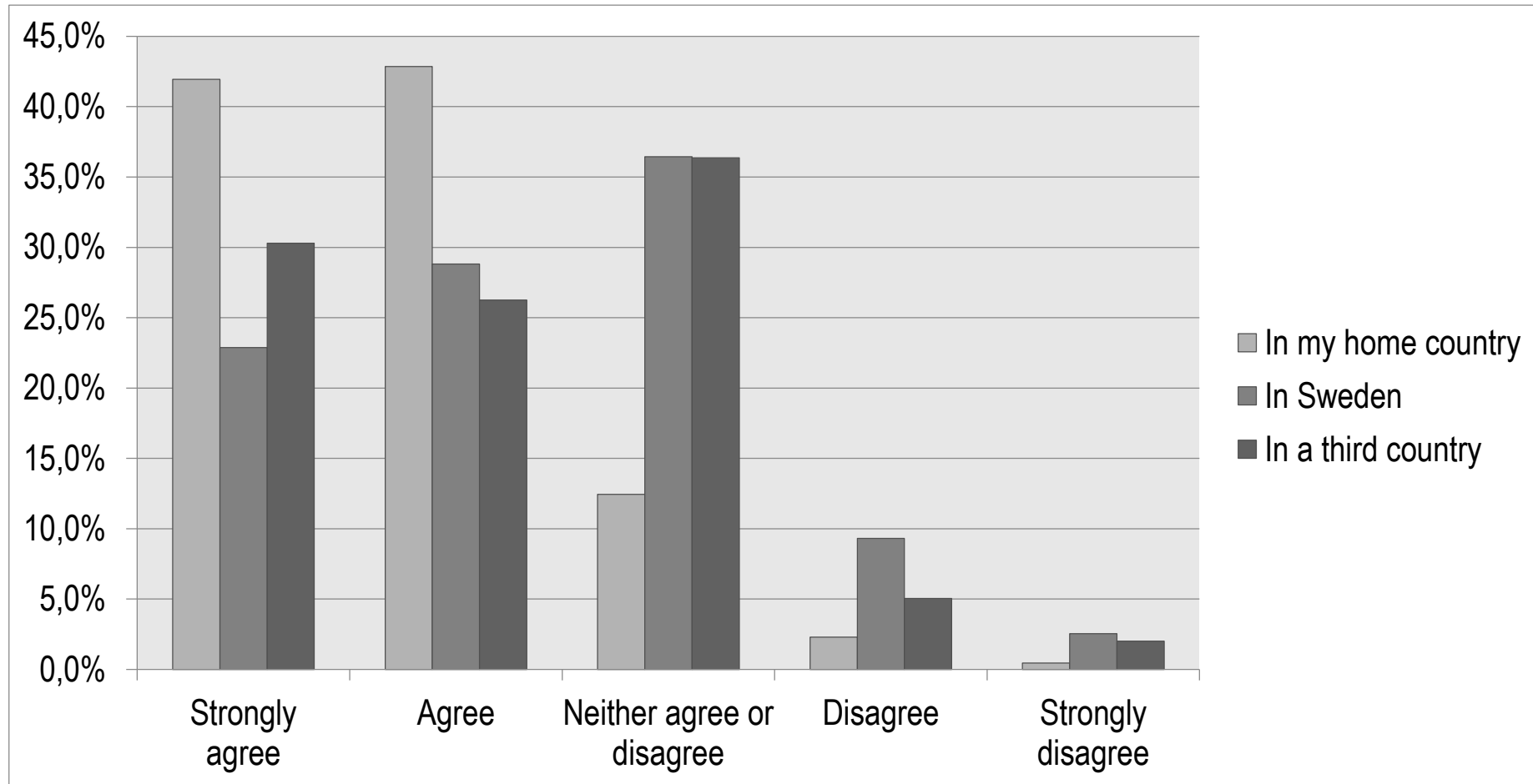
## Country Presently Living in, other than Sweden and Country of Origin

Country	(n)
USA	12
Germany	11
Denmark	8
UK	7
Switzerland	6
France	5
Czech Republic	4
Italy	4
Norway	4
Belgium	3

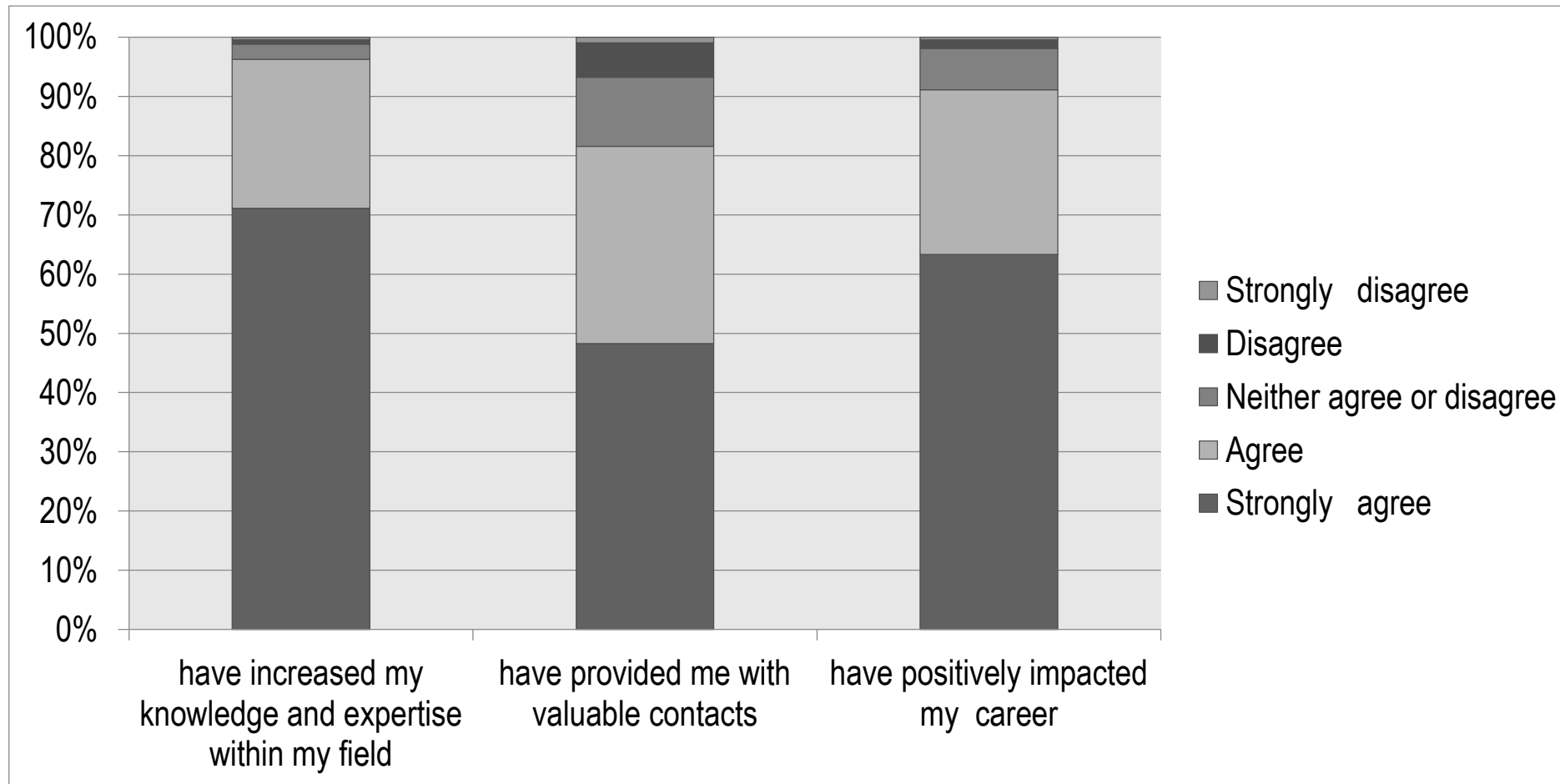
## Country to have lived in other than Sweden and Current Country

Country	(n)
Home country	65
USA	13
Netherlands	10
Belgium	9
Germany	9
UK	8
Denmark	7
France	6
Austria	5
Finland	5
Norway	5
Russia	5

# Scholarship period has given me tools to enhance development in my country of origin



# Perceived value of the scholarship period



# Summing up

- The Visby programme in the intersection of internationalisation of higher education, public diplomacy, foreign aid (and business)
- The Swedish institute functions as intermediary, between the supply and the demand
- Less of a market logic, more of political logic
- More focus on social sciences, less on natural sciences
- Three trajectories, very different interpretations
- Overall satisfaction with the programme