

The Norwegian «Professor 2 scheme»: intersectoral, interdisciplinary and international combined part-time positions and perspectives on future Marie Curie Actions

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Pre-requisites for globally competitive research-based innovation

- **Advanced research and knowledge-based innovation** are keys to develop sustainable and globally competitive high-tech industry in high-cost Europe.
- Early access to front-line research results requires **international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral research collaboration** within a European Research Area (ERA) open to the world
- **Knowledge transfer** may be facilitated by
 - virtual or physical **researcher mobility**,
 - and
 - structural initiatives including **combined/part-time researcher positions** “bridging the gap” between countries, disciplines and sectors – like the **Norwegian “Professor 2 scheme”**

Professor 2 – flexible part-time combined intersectoral researcher positions

In Norway, any governmental employee including researchers and university professors are allowed

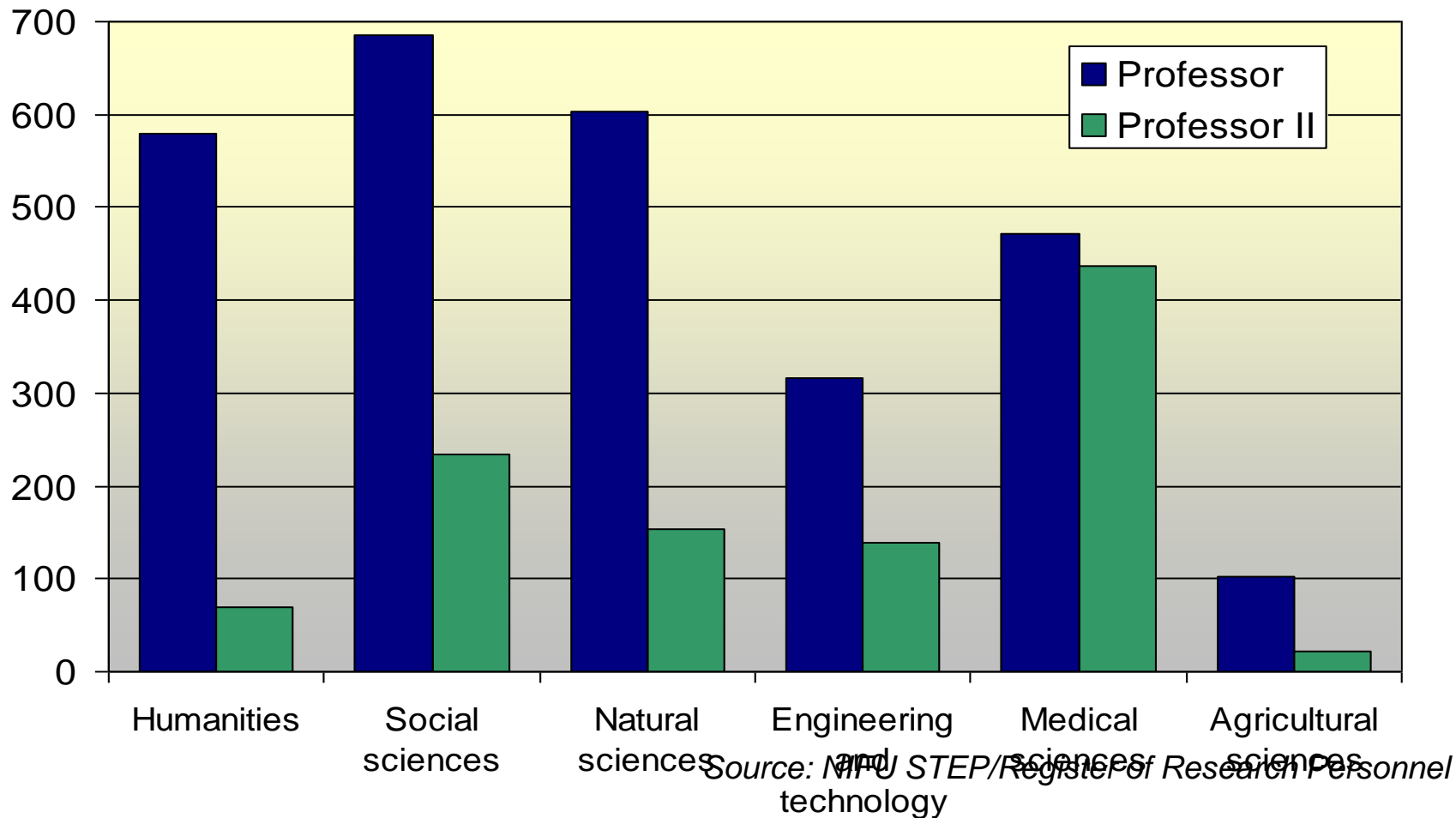
+ 20% part-time position elsewhere

- Employees in industry, hospitals etc. may have **+20% “professor 2” position at a university** as add-on to their main position – financed by either party

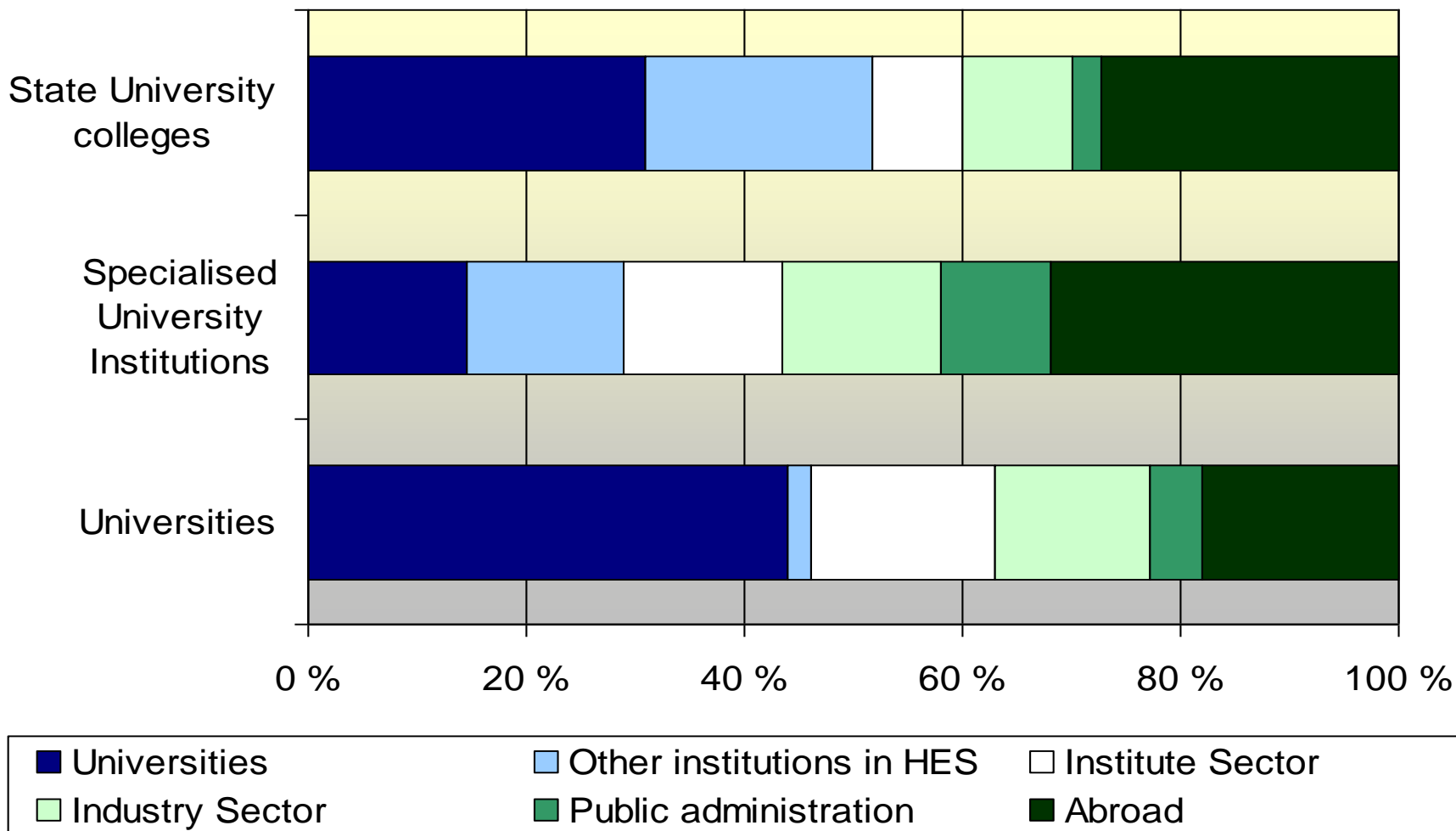
Flexible part-time and combined positions on “time bank” terms allow flexible mobility and **direct knowledge transfer** within and between disciplines, countries, institutions and industry **without change of job** – attractive even for established researchers and double-career researchers who don’t want to move from main position or family for a longer period

- **Co-location of university, hospital, biotech centres, R&D institutes and industry e.g. in science parks** makes it easier to combine such positions
- **CoEs typically have flexible part-time “time-bank” agreements with foreign frontline researchers**

Numbers of Professor 1 and professor 2 by field of science and technology 2005



Professor 2 by type of institution, by sector and internationally 2005 (%)



Source: NIFU STEP/Register of Research Personnel

Potential gain (example)

- **SINTEF is a globally competitive** Norwegian governmental technical research institute
- **SINTEFs governmental basic funding is 6-7%**, compared to the 30-35% governmental basic funding of e.g. TNO (NL) and Fraunhofer (DE)
- **How come that SINTEF then can be competitive?**
 - most likely (partly) due **4-500 combined professorships with the Norwegian Technical University (NTNU)** that compensates for lack of own basic research by direct knowledge transfer
- The scheme has been around for half a century – presumably inspired by a **corresponding Harvard – MIT US model**
- Since 2005 I have proposed **the «Professor 2 scheme» for the EU** most lately at
 - **the European Presidency Conference in Budapest June 2011, and**
 - the Commission's Workshop **«Marie Curie Actions in Horizon 2020 14 July 2011**

Plans for Marie Curie Actions in Horizon 2020

The proposed revisions of the Marie Curie Actions in Horizon 2020 presented in the **Summary Report from the MCA Workshop 14 July 2011**, include

- **Co-funding extended to the regional, national and international programmes indicated**
(RCN fund institutional projects and has thus so far been excluded from co-funding)
- **Enhanced recruitment of women researchers**, including women research leaders
- **Combined and part-time positions** in academia and industry, like the Norwegian «Professor 2» scheme, that allows **direct knowledge transfer across institutions and countries, interdisciplinary and intersectoral**

I do hope the proposal will survive the forthcoming processes....

- **Marie Curie Professor 2 grants** might trigger corresponding positions in research institutions and industry – e.g. as **follow-up of Industrial PhDs**
- Would the ESF MO Forum EARCD signal its support?