
NETWATCH

The European information platform on transnational R&D programme collaboration

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Overview

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2. What is NETWATCH?
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1. The ERA-NET scheme

- ❑ The ERA-NET scheme was one of the major instruments created by the European Commission under FP6 and continued in FP7.
- ❑ It encourages programme owners and managers to come together in 'variable geometry' configurations to learn from each other and launch coordinated joint activities (e.g. joint calls for research projects).
- ❑ 4 Steps:
 - Step 1. Systematic exchange of information and good practices on existing programmes.
 - Step 2. Identification and analysis of common strategic issues.
 - Step 3. Development of joint activities between national programmes.
 - Step 4. Funding of joint transnational research activities. The objective was to set up and implement joint calls and joint programmes.

2. What is NETWATCH?

- ❑ NETWATCH is a European Commission information platform on transnational R&D programme collaboration, focused on the ERA-NET scheme.
- ❑ NETWATCH is an activity of the KfG Unit at the JRC-IPTS conducted in close collaboration with DG RTD Directorate B.

2.1 Objectives of NETWATCH

- a) **Information:** to create a system for the collection of accurate and validated information on national R&D programmes and their transnational collaboration.
- b) **Analysis:** to build an intelligence service on the evolution and impact of ERA-NETs that is able to provide timely and relevant analyses to policy stakeholders.
- c) **Mutual Learning:** to foster mutual learning through the provision of web based collaboration tools and the presentation of information, analyses and examples of best practice.

a) NETWATCH information (January 2011)

- ❑ Information on ERA-NETs (65)
- ❑ Information on countries (currently 63 countries involved)
- ❑ Information on affiliated national R&D programmes (approximately 610)
- ❑ Information on affiliated organisations (~ 915)
- ❑ Information on Joint Calls (~ 92), especially via the Call Calendar)

b) NETWATCH analysis

- **Types of analysis:**
 - Mapping: descriptive analysis based on factual information;
 - Monitoring: systematic analysis of the development of ERA-NETs;
 - Assessment: evaluation of the effects and benefits of R&D collaboration;

- **Dimensions of analysis:**
 - Thematic dimension: areas covered by the ERA-NETs;
 - Geographic dimension: number and frequency of ERA-NETs by country and regions;
 - Participant dimension: different actors participating in ERA-NETs;

b) Mutual learning

- ❑ Web-based tools enabling contact and further cooperation.
- ❑ Exchange of documents.
- ❑ Discussion platform for themes and technical questions.
- ❑ Presentation of basic information and analytical results.
- ❑ Presentation of good practice examples and guidelines.
- ❑ Repository of material relevant to transnational R&D programme collaboration.

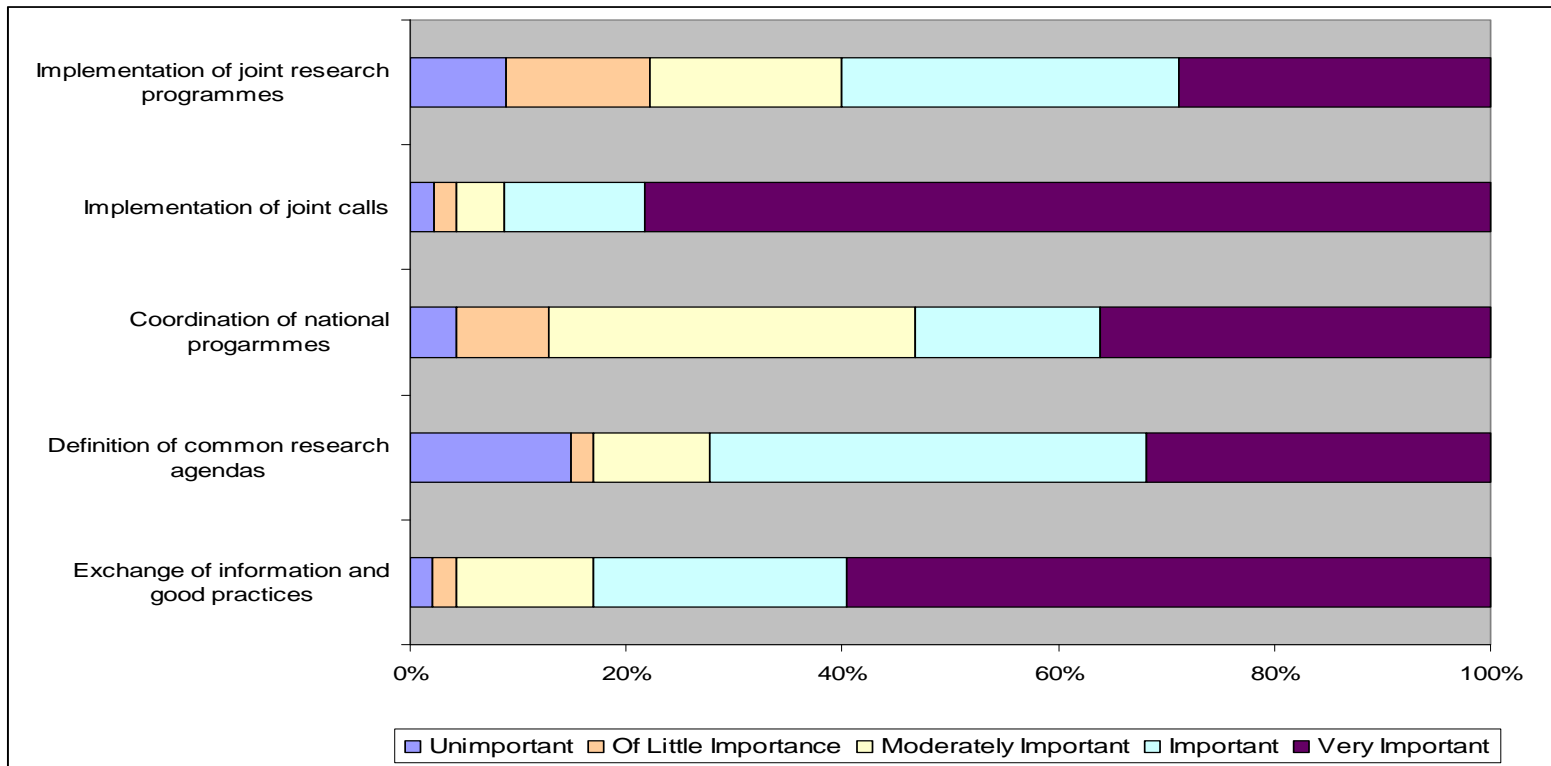
2.1 Stakeholders addressed

	National Programme Managers	National Programme Owners	Other Strategic Stakeholders (national & EC level)	Research community
Mapping	● ● ●	● ●	● ●	● ● ●
Monitoring	● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	●
Assessment	● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	●

3. Mapping ERA-NETs activity

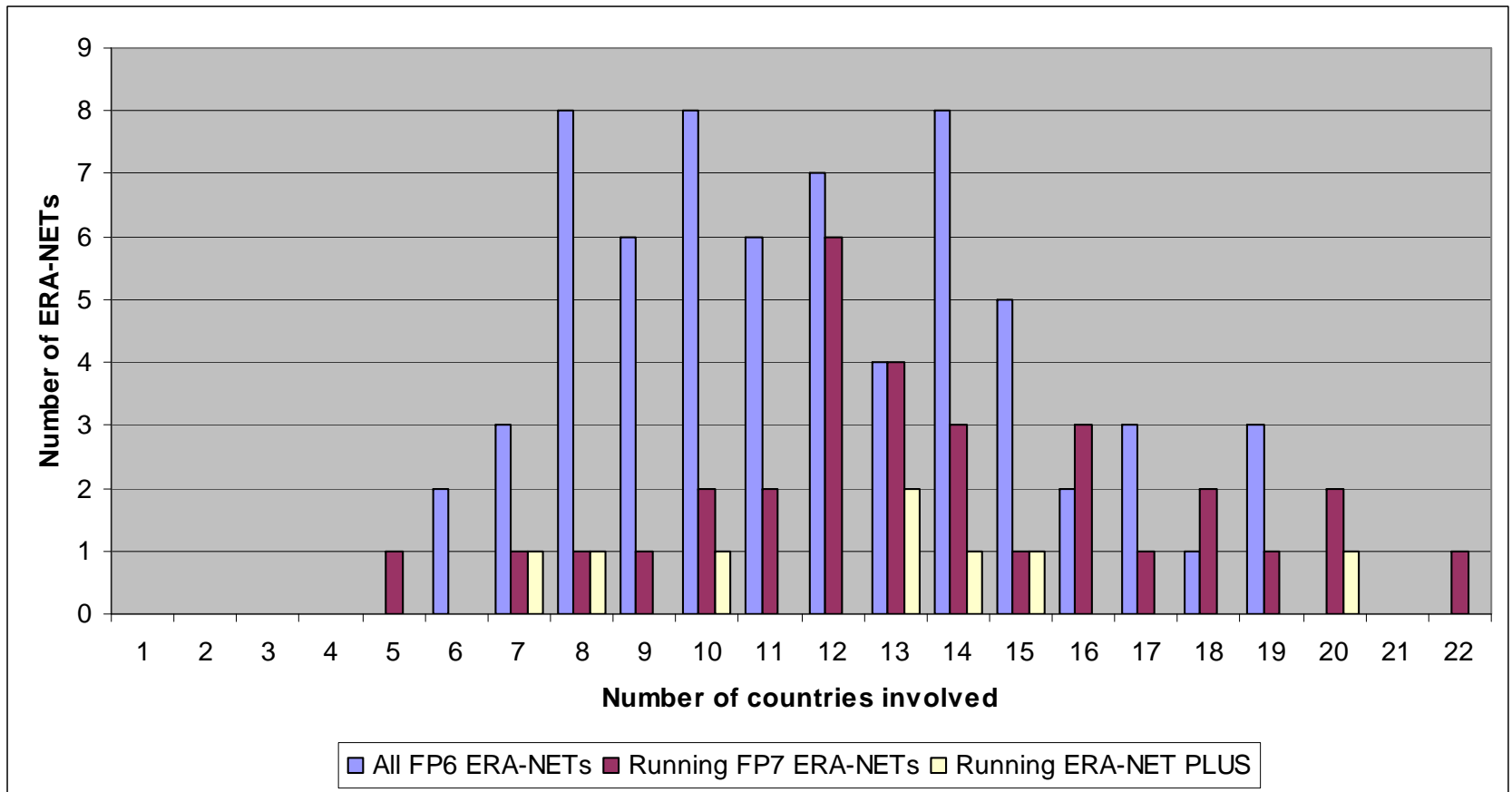
- ❑ First data collection exercise: from October 2009 to January 2010.
- ❑ Scope: all ERA-NETs scheduled to be operational at least until the end of 2010 (47):
 - 32 ERA-NETs under 7th Framework Programme
 - 8 ERA-NET PLUS initiatives under the 7th Framework Programme
 - 7 ERA-NETs under 6th Framework Programme
- ❑ Online questionnaire to Coordinators of ERA-NETs covering:
 - Main characteristics of ERA-NETs (description of the network, organisations and countries involved, type of research supported, etc.)
 - Joint Calls and other joint activities
- ❑ Similar data collection process to be carried out twice a year.

Strategic objectives of the networks

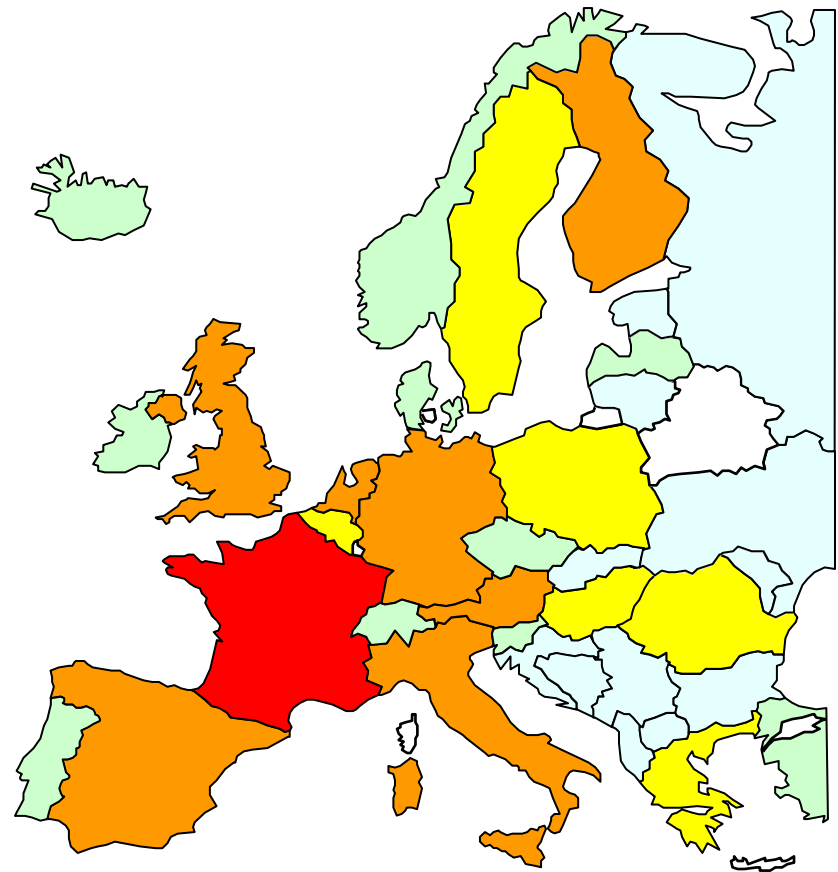
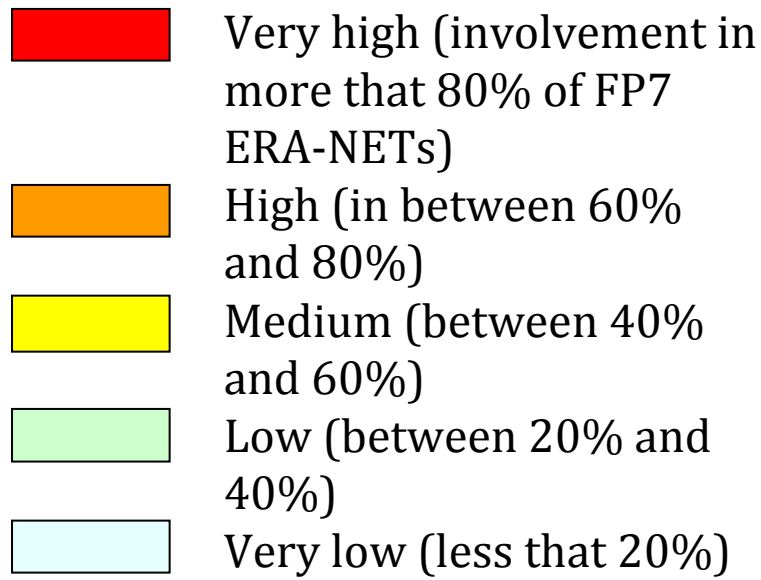


Implementation of joint calls and exchange of information and good practices seem to be the most important strategic objectives of the networks. However, note that a 30% saw ERA-NETs a a step towards Joint Programming.

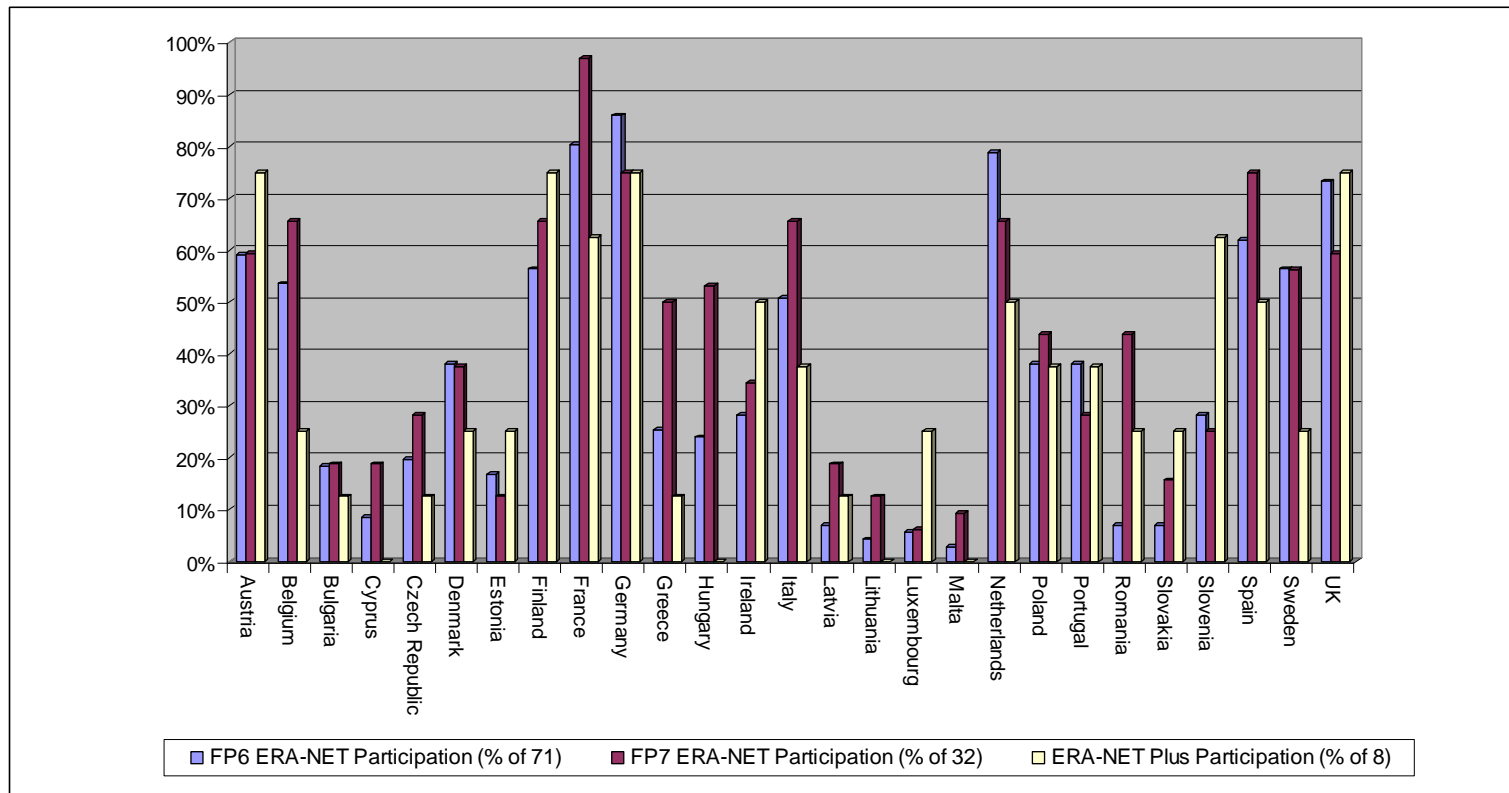
Size of the ERA-NETs



Country participation in FP7 ERA-NETs and ERA-NET Plus initiatives

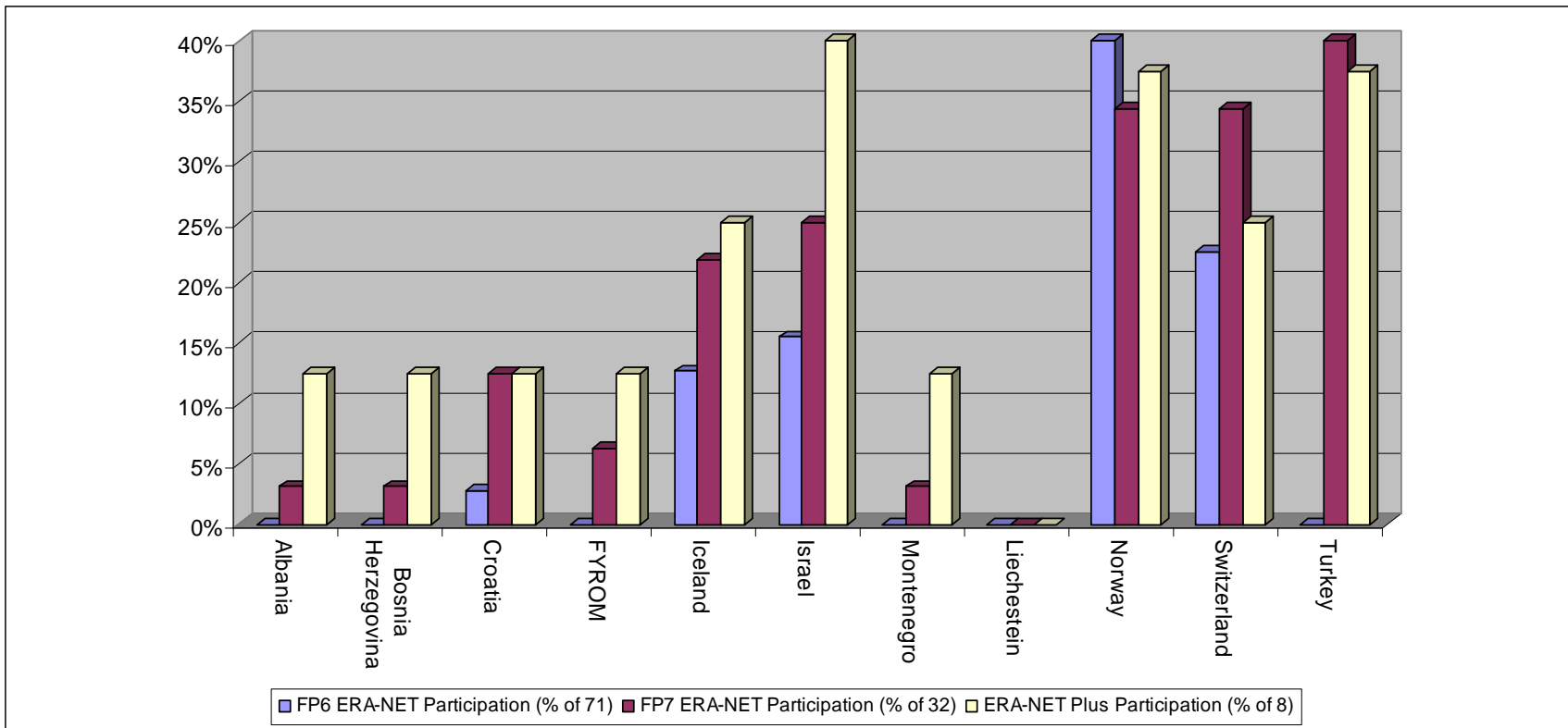


Geographic dimension: Member States



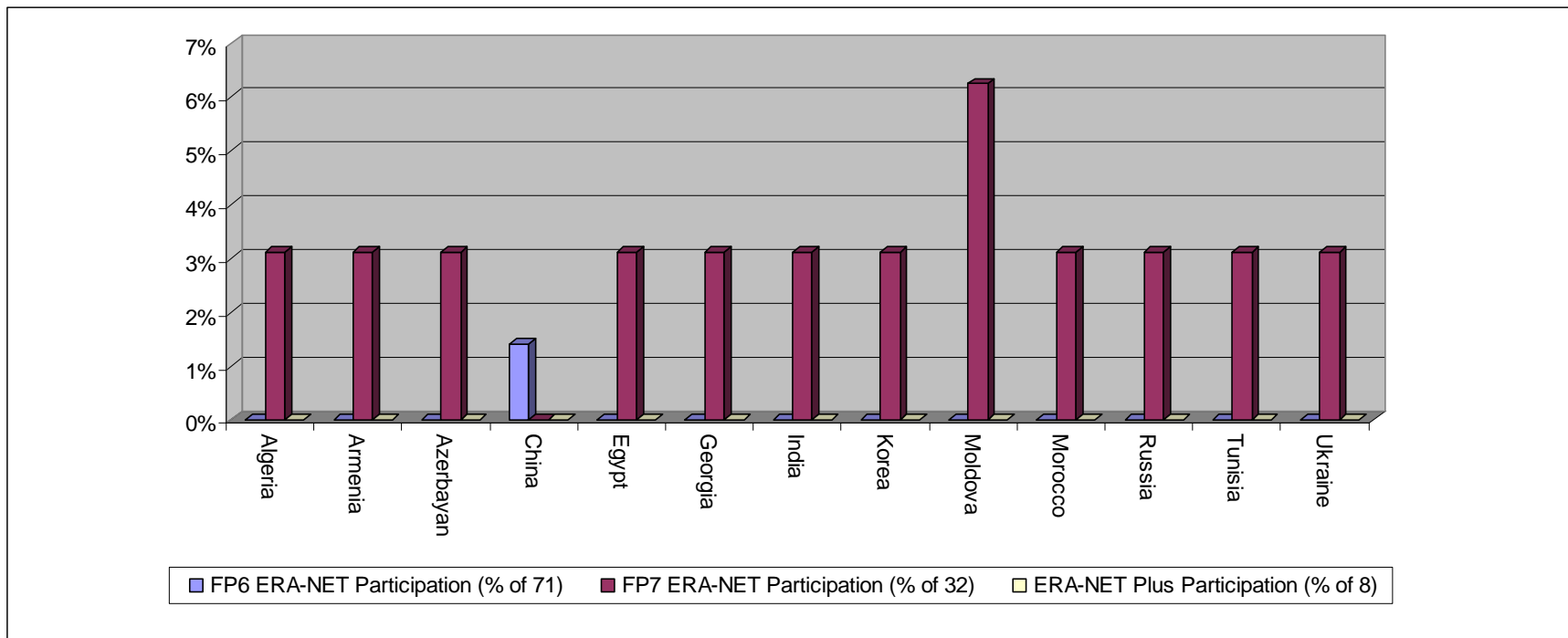
In general, MS participation in ERA-NETs is very high, though it is possible to identify cluster of countries with different behaviour.

Geographic dimension: Associated countries



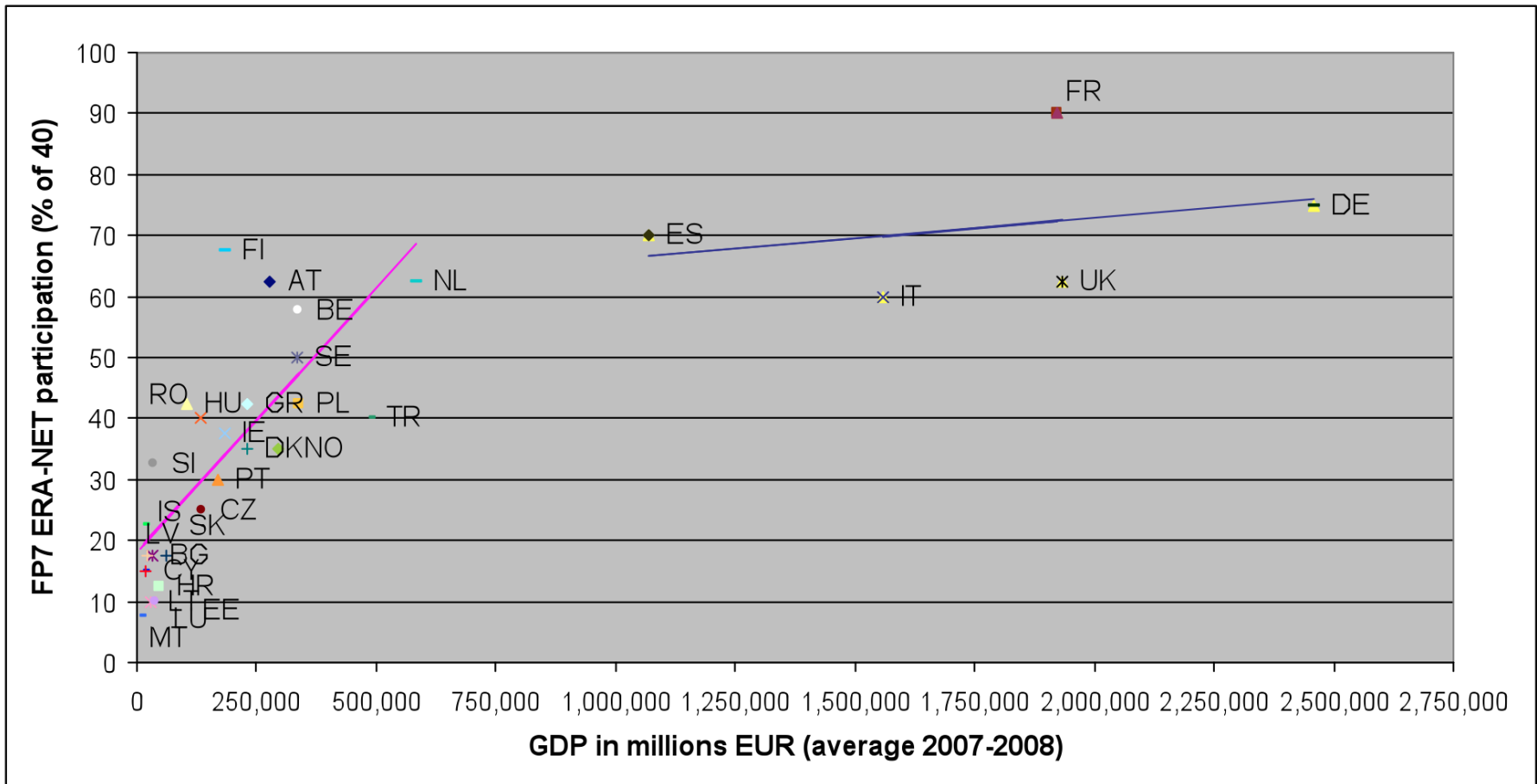
All the Associated Countries (except Liechtenstein) involved in the FP participate in the ERA-NET and ERA-NET PLUS schemes

Geographic dimension: Third countries

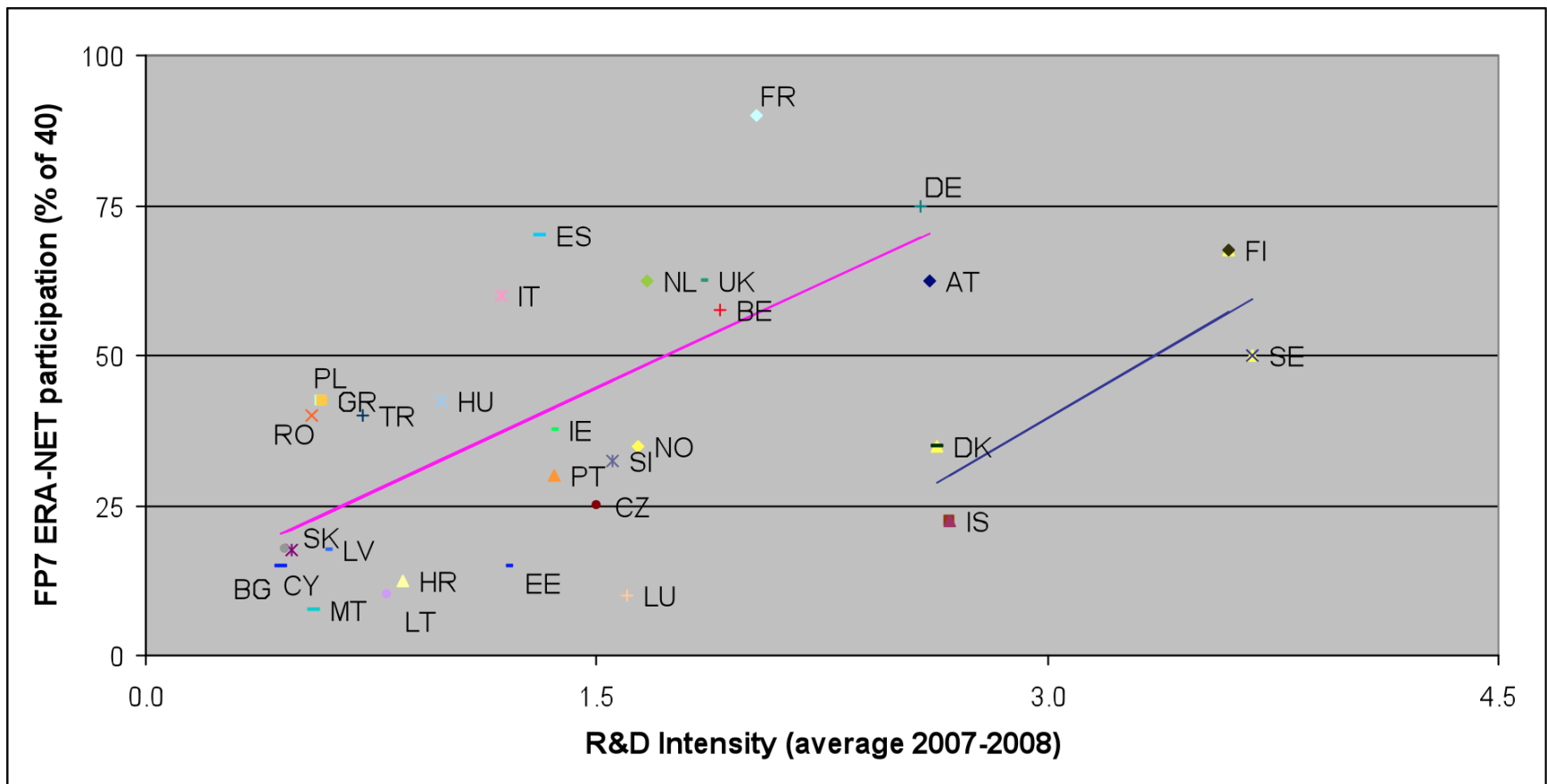


A significant number of Third Countries participate in the current networks, although participation is limited

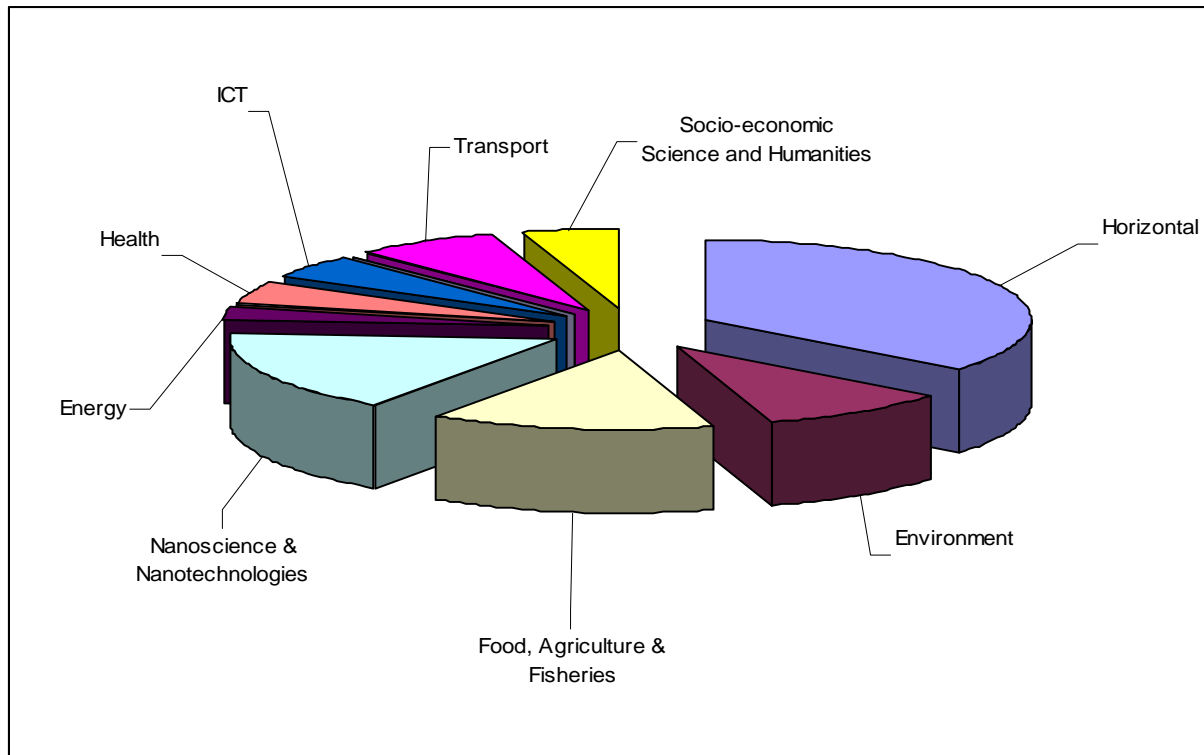
Country involvement in FP7 ERA-NETs and GDP



Country involvement in FP7 ERA-NETs and R&D intensity

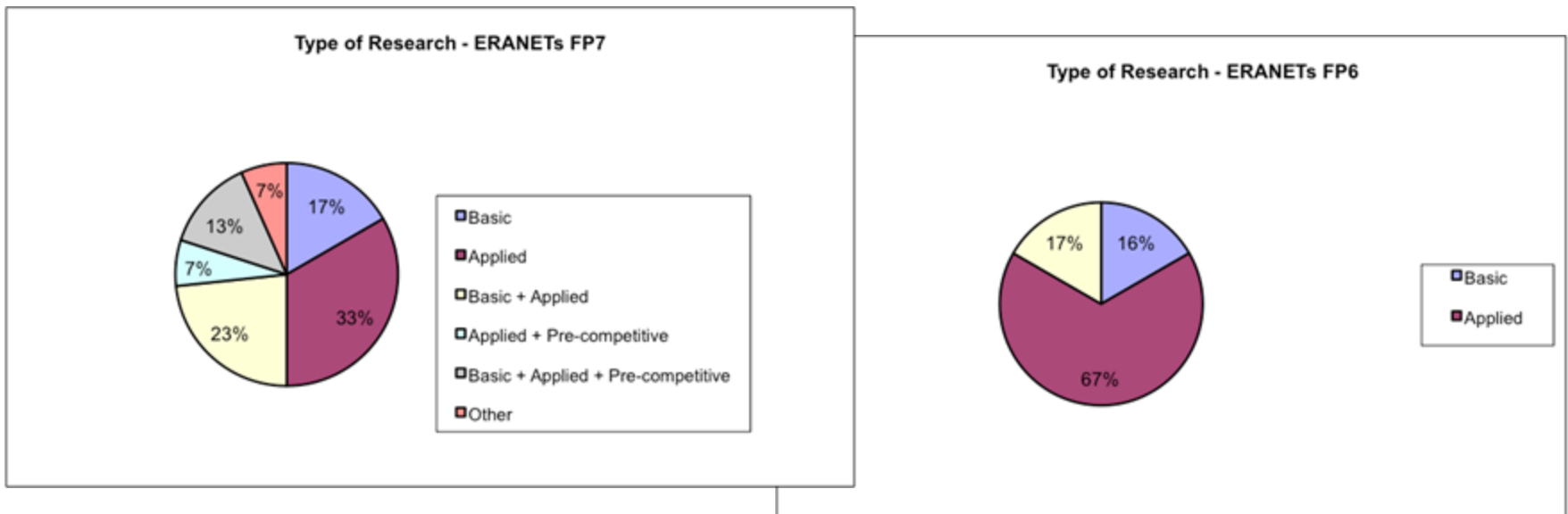


Main fields



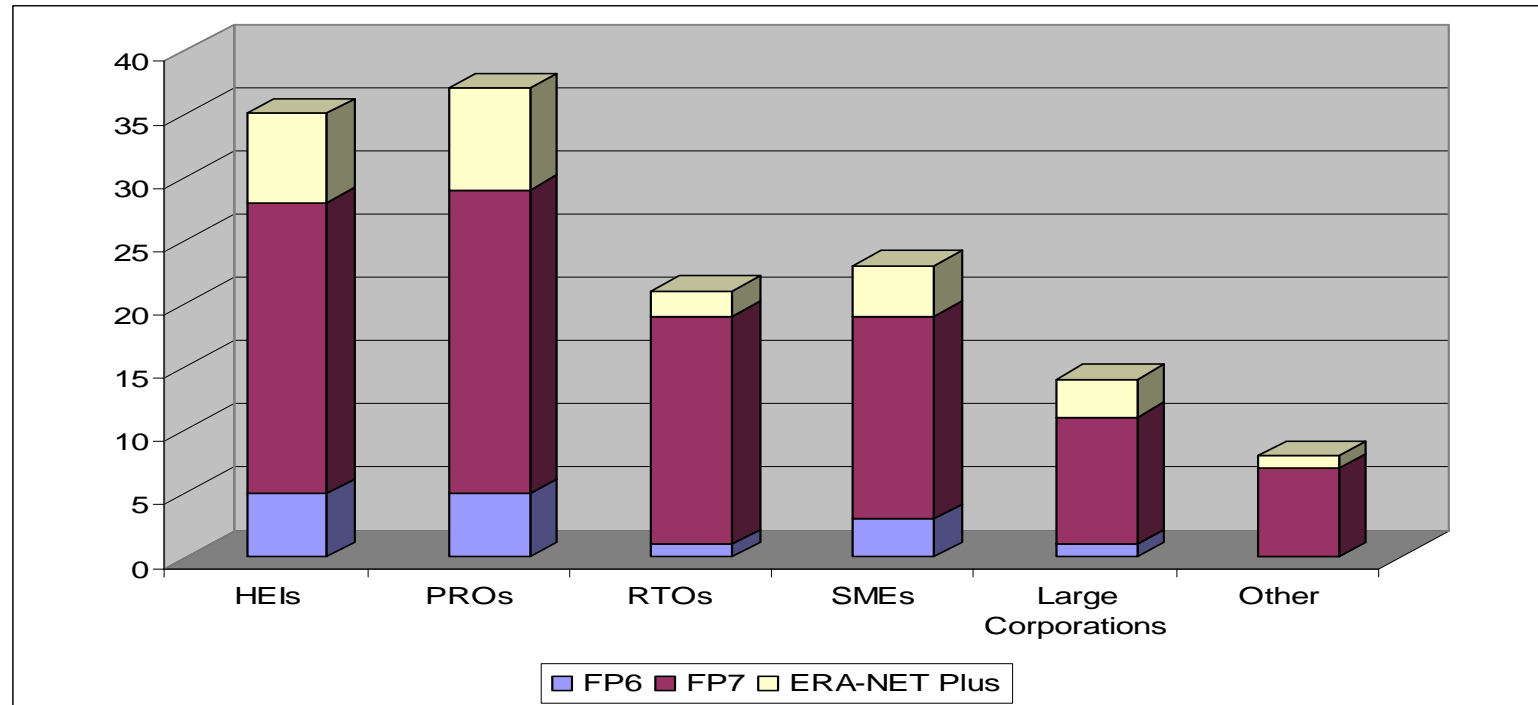
ERA-NETs have been launched in all areas, but horizontal networks constitute around 33%

Type of research



All types of research (basic, applied and pre-competitive) are organised through ERA-NETs, but applied research is a clear priority.

Target groups



The main target groups of the research programmes and joint calls of the ERA-NETs are universities and research centres.

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For further information see:

<http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu>