

Funding the Economic Research that Europe Needs

Economics Research in Europe – the Funding Landscape



- European economics researchers & research institutions
- The landscape of funding
- The experience of economists

European Economics Departments in Top 25% (RePEc)

Country	Number	Percentage of Top 25%
UK	28	11
Germany	14	5.5
Italy	12	4.7
France	8	3
Spain	7	2.7
NL	6	2.4
Sweden	4	1.6
Austria	3	1.2
Denmark	3	1.2
Belgium	2	.8
Ireland	2	.8
Portugal	2	.8
Cyprus	1	.4
Hungary	1	.4
Lux	1	.4
Norway	3	1.2
Switzerland	5	2
Total	102	40

Organising to Deliver

Institution	Author Share %	Institution	Author Share %
London_School of Economics (LSE)	67.6	Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) Bonn	15.5
Toulouse School of Economics (TSE)	86.6	Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)	11.2
Barcelona GSE	78.0	CESifo <u>Munich</u>	11.9
Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management	75.4	Tinbergen Institute	29.5
DIW Berlin	67	ECB	89

Country	Germany
Funder	Volkswagen Foundation
Type	Private
Web Address	https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/en.html
Contact	Dr. Johanna Brumberg Tel +49 (0)511 8381-297 brumberg@volkswagenstiftung.de
Contact Details	VolkswagenStiftung , Kastanienallee 35, 30519 Hannover, Germany
Mission	<p>In accordance with its statutes, the Volkswagen Foundation supports the humanities and social sciences as well as science and technology in higher education and research by providing targeted impulses through its funding. The Foundation develops its own funding initiatives with a focus on pioneering future-oriented fields of research. The Foundation's initiatives provide the framework for its funding activities as well as topics for the events organized by the Foundation. The number of funding initiatives is deliberately restricted as part of a strategy to ensure the funds are put to the best effect. A main objective is to make sure the themes addressed by each initiative become firmly anchored in the scientific community by the time the respective initiative has run its course.</p>

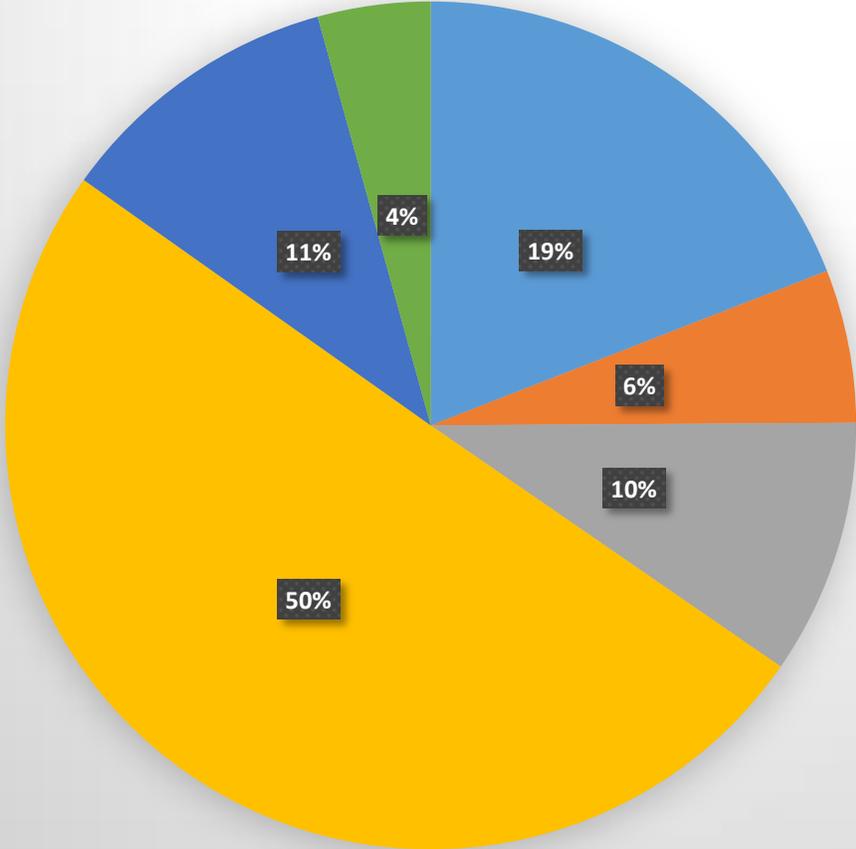
<p>Overview</p>	<p>The Volkswagen Foundation is an independent foundation incorporated under private law with registered office in Hanover. Its overall funding volume of around 150 million euros per year makes it Germany's largest private research funding foundation, and indeed one of the country's largest foundations altogether. The Foundation provides funds only to academic institutions. Since it was founded more than 50 years ago, the Volkswagen Foundation has allocated more than 4.2 billion euros in support of over 30,000 projects. It is thereby one of the largest common benefit foundations under private law in all of Germany.</p> <p>In accordance with its statutes, the Volkswagen Foundation supports the humanities and social sciences as well as science and technology in higher education and research by providing targeted impulses through its funding. The Foundation develops its own funding initiatives with a focus on pioneering future-oriented fields of research. The Foundation's initiatives provide the framework for its funding activities as well as topics for the events organized by the Foundation. The number of funding initiatives is deliberately restricted as part of a strategy to ensure the funds are put to the best effect. A main objective is to make sure the themes addressed by each initiative become firmly anchored in the scientific community by the time the respective initiative has run its course.</p> <p>The Volkswagen Foundation perceives a special mission in providing support for junior researchers and fostering cooperation between researchers across the borders of disciplines, cultures, and national states. Another strong emphasis is placed on facilitating structural improvements to education and research in Germany. Frequently, the Foundation's objectives are pursued in collaboration with other foundations and public funding organizations.</p>
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Governance	<p>The founding capital for the Volkswagen Foundation was provided by the German Federal Government and the Federal State of Lower Saxony with proceeds generated from the privatization of what is now the Volkswagen AG automobile company. The Volkswagen Foundation is neither a corporate foundation nor affiliated to the company; its decision-making bodies are autonomous and independent.</p> <p>The funds allocated by the Foundation are, on the one hand, generated from its capital and assets of currently about 2.9 billion euros (mainly benefitting the "General Funding" category). On the other hand, the funds stem from the dividends earned from the circa 30 million Volkswagen AG shares held by Lower Saxony with the Foundation as beneficiary (part of "Niedersächsisches Vorab"). The Foundation's Board of Trustees and the Secretary General decide how the funding is allocated; funding within the context of "Niedersächsisches Vorab" is provided in close cooperation with the government of Lower Saxony.</p> <p>See 20 principles of Good Practice https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/fileadmin/downloads/20_principles.pdf</p>
Budget	<p>In 2014, the Hanover based Volkswagen Foundation allocated exactly 191,2 million euros to support outstanding scholars and scientists as well as research and education projects. The amount can be broken down into three categories: "General Funding" (50,2 million euros), the Foundation's own projects and events (4,0 million euros), and "Niedersächsisches Vorab" (137,0 million euros).</p> <p>The 341 awards involving allocations of more than EUR 50,2 million euros to external grantees within the area of General Funding were in the following disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Humanities and the Social Sciences: EUR 22,8 million (173 awards); • The Sciences/Mathematics: EUR 16,0 million (90 awards); • Life Sciences/Medicine: EUR 9,3 million (53 awards); • Engineering Sciences: EUR 0.9 million (11 awards); • Combinations of disciplines: EUR 1,2 million (14 awards).

Open Calls	<p><i>Opus Magnum</i> This funding initiative addresses outstanding researchers in the humanities and the social sciences. Disburdened from their usual academic obligations by a teaching substitute candidates shall have the opportunity to write an extensive scholarly treatise.</p> <p><i>The 'Freigeist' scheme</i> Open to all disciplines and topics. The main focus is on junior researchers (up to 5 years of postdoctoral experience) working at the borders of neighbouring fields or disciplines. The 'Freigeist' initiative offers freedom for creative thinking, whilst at the same time providing security for at least 5 years and in the long run the opportunity to establish a career within a scientific research organization or university in Germany. The initiative even incorporates the possibility to apply for additional components during the funding period (e.g. funding of staff positions, travel expenses etc.).</p> <p><i>Lichtenberg Professor</i> The Foundation offers outstanding researchers funding for periods of between five and eight years. Working independently, they are enabled to pursue and establish new and interdisciplinary lines of research at a university of their choice at an especially early stage of their career. The funding offer is open to outstanding (young) researchers from all disciplines. As a rule, they should have gathered some experience working abroad and have been awarded their doctorate within the past four to seven years. Similar to the Anglo-Saxon model of tenure track option and subject to positive evaluation, the hosting university agrees to appoint the Lichtenberg Professor to a permanent professorship at a later date.</p>
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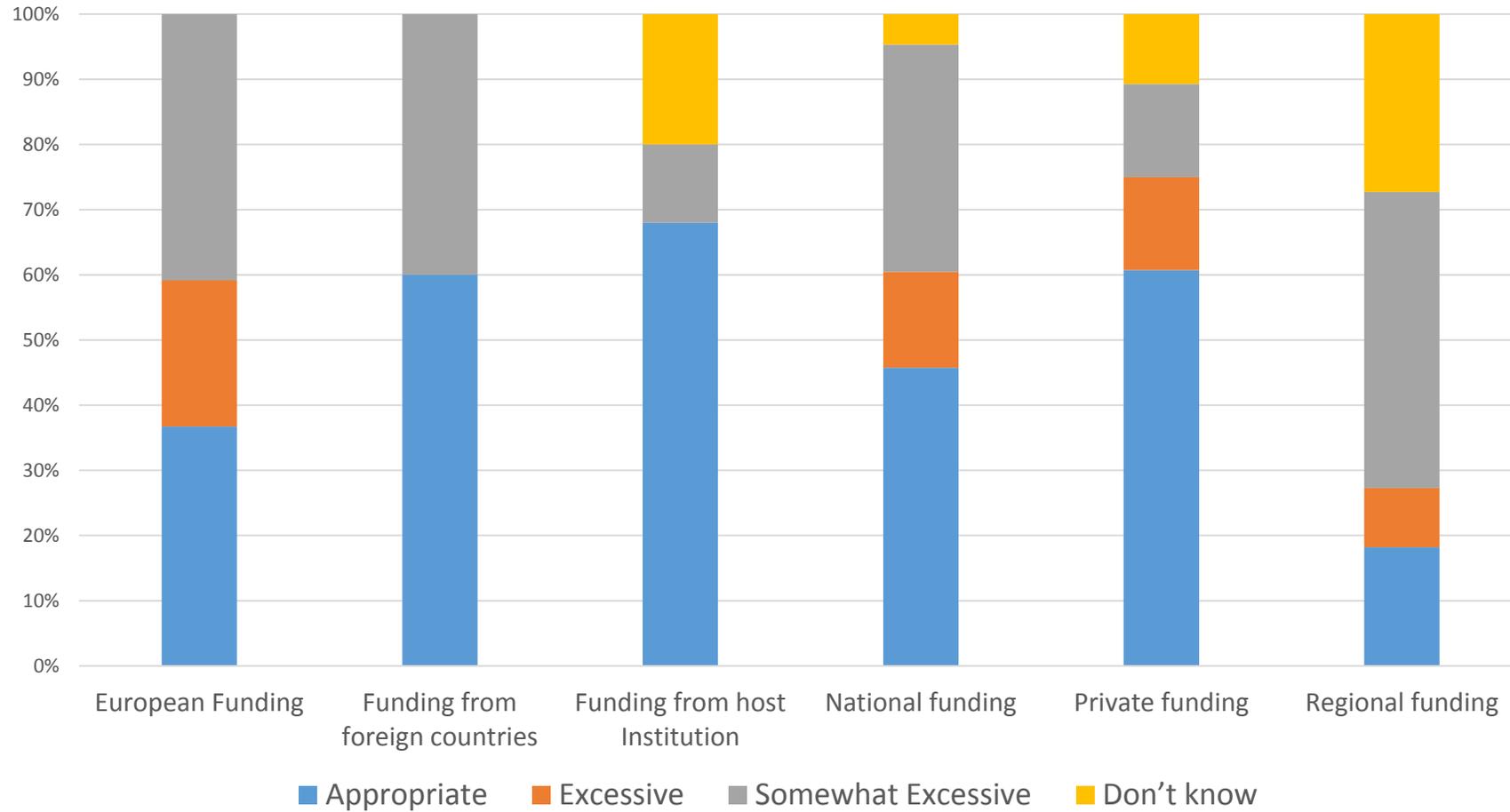
Priority Themes	<p>Europe and Global Challenges</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>The funding initiative addresses the future challenges facing Europe in respect of climate change, migration, demographic change, and economic uncertainties. The aim is to inspire scholarly interest in such challenges beyond mere cooperation at the European level, and to promote collective supranational action on a global scale.</p> <p>Scope of Funding</p> <p>The funding initiative targets mainly scholars in the humanities and the social sciences, but by no means excludes the possible involvement of other disciplines. Funding can be provided to support the constitution of interdisciplinary groups of international researchers comprising scholars from both European as well as non-European countries. It is a condition that, beside European scholars, the project involves researchers from at least one further region of the world.</p> <p>Details of requirements and the application procedure can be found under Information for Applicants (pdf). Applications must be filed electronically via the electronic application system.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>The funding initiative "Europe and Global Challenges" was started in 2009 with the aim of prompting research focussing on the changes impacting society at the beginning of the 21st century and to build bridges between academia and practice. It is a joint funding initiative of the Volkswagen Foundation, Wellcome Trust (United Kingdom), and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Sweden).</p>
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Sources of Funding for Economics Researchers

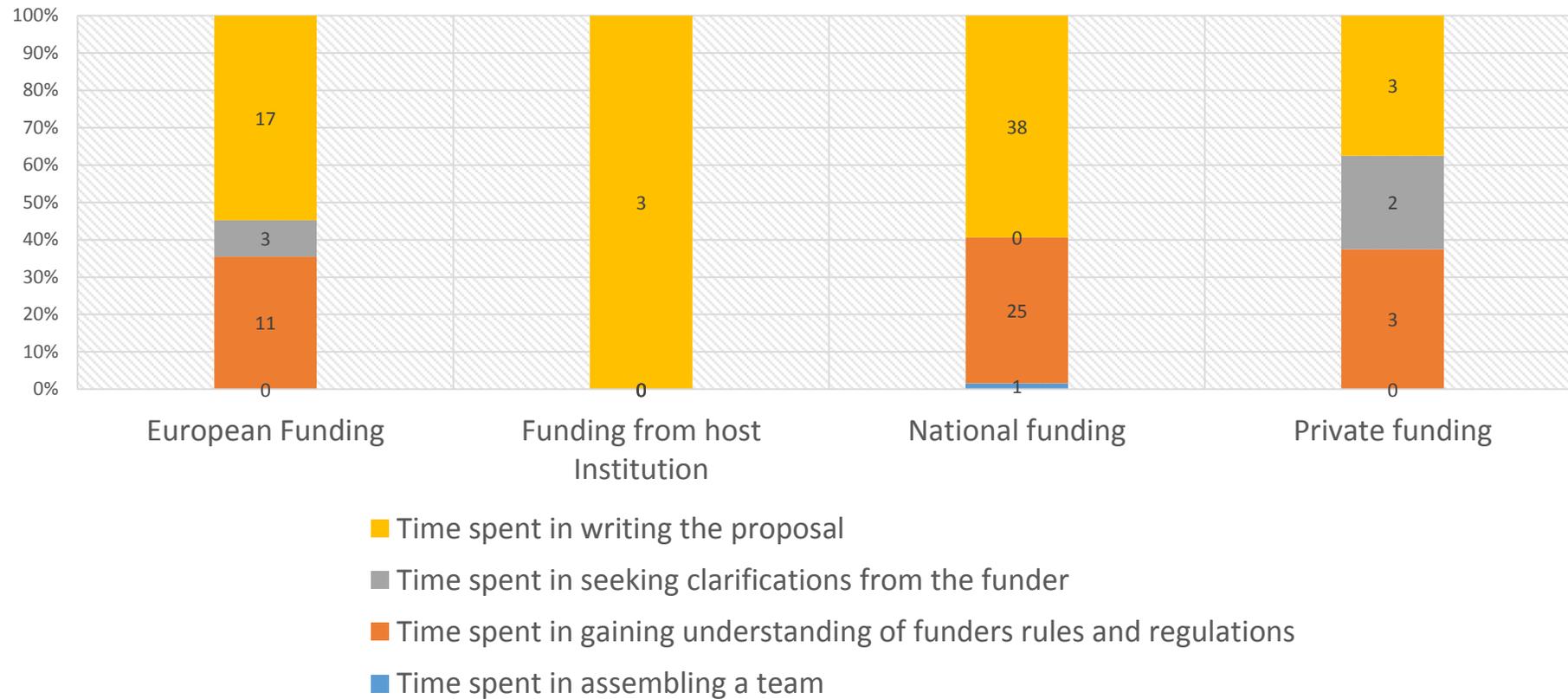


- European Funding
- Funding from foreign countries
- Funding from host Institution
- National funding
- Private funding
- Regional funding

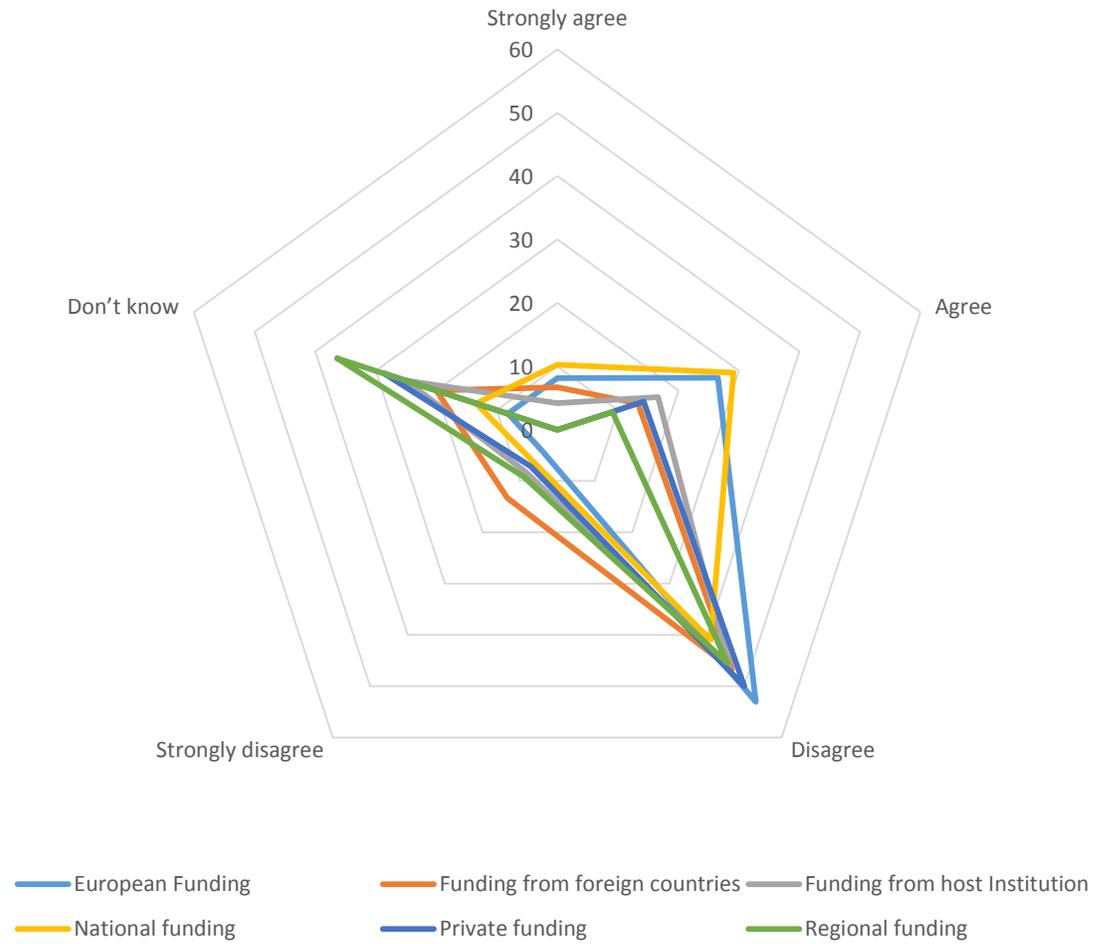
What was the effort involved in Proposal Submission?



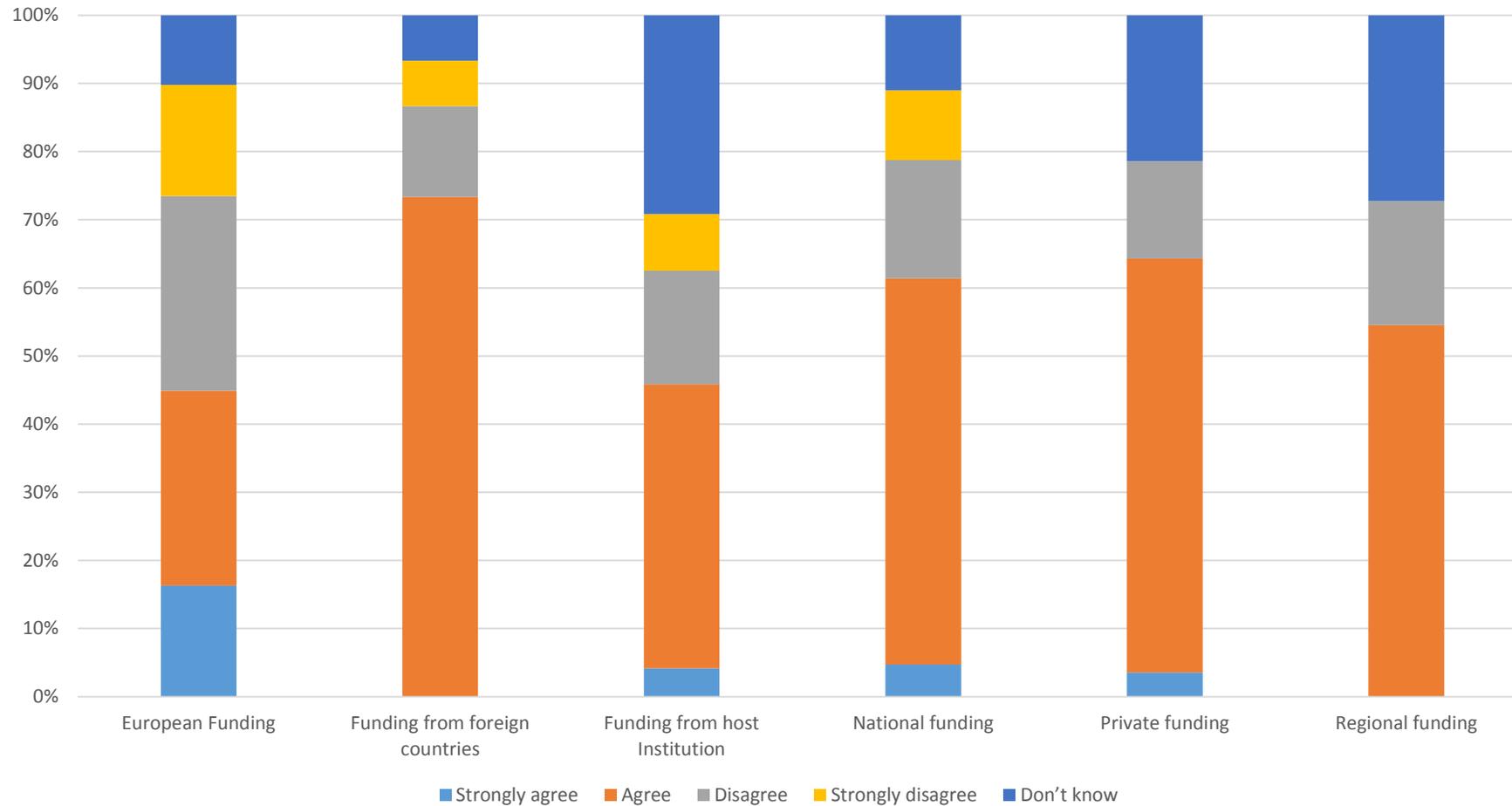
Where you judge the effort required to have been excessive or somewhat excessive, which one of the following factors was the most important in contributing to this burden?



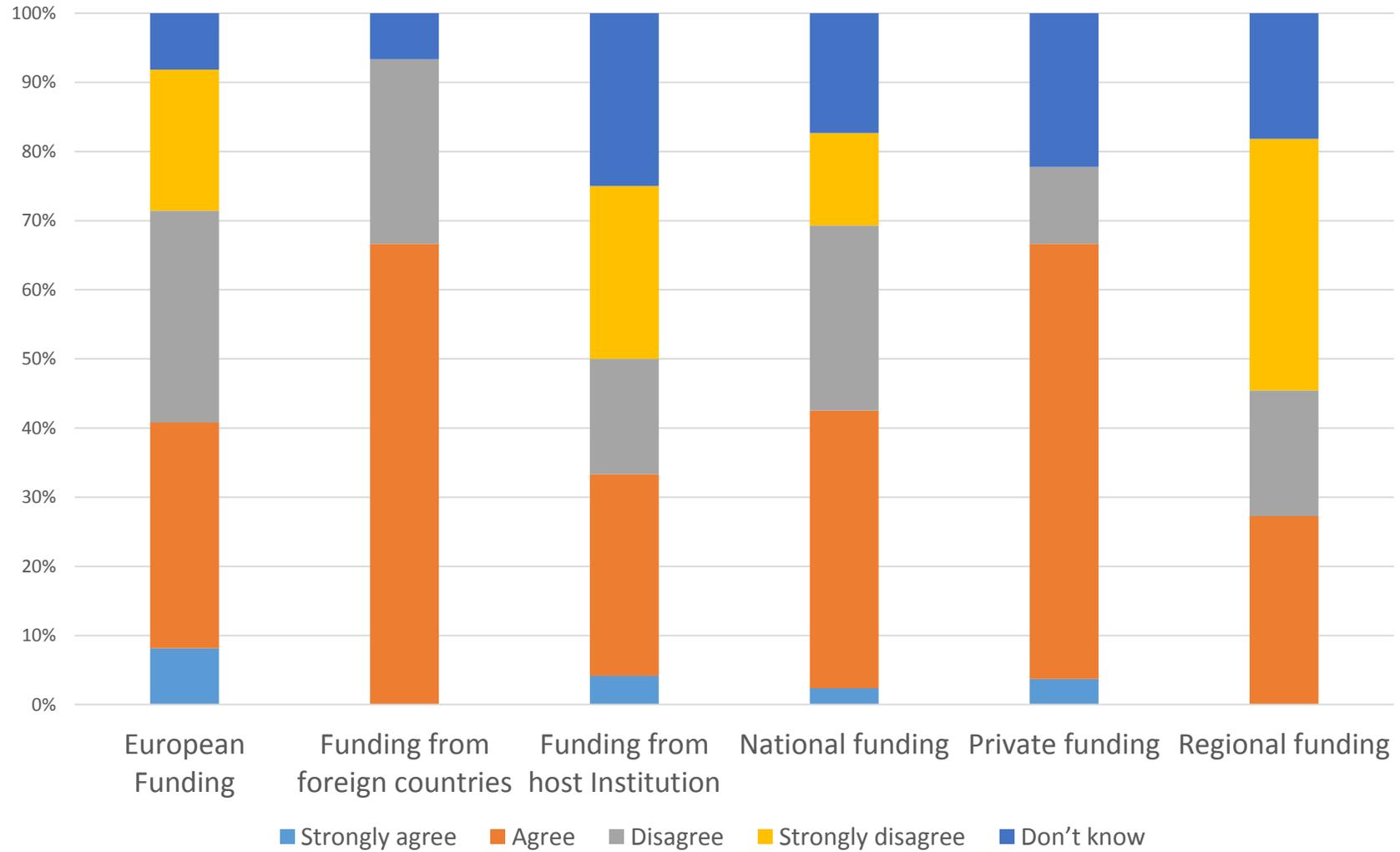
The time taken to evaluate proposals was excessive



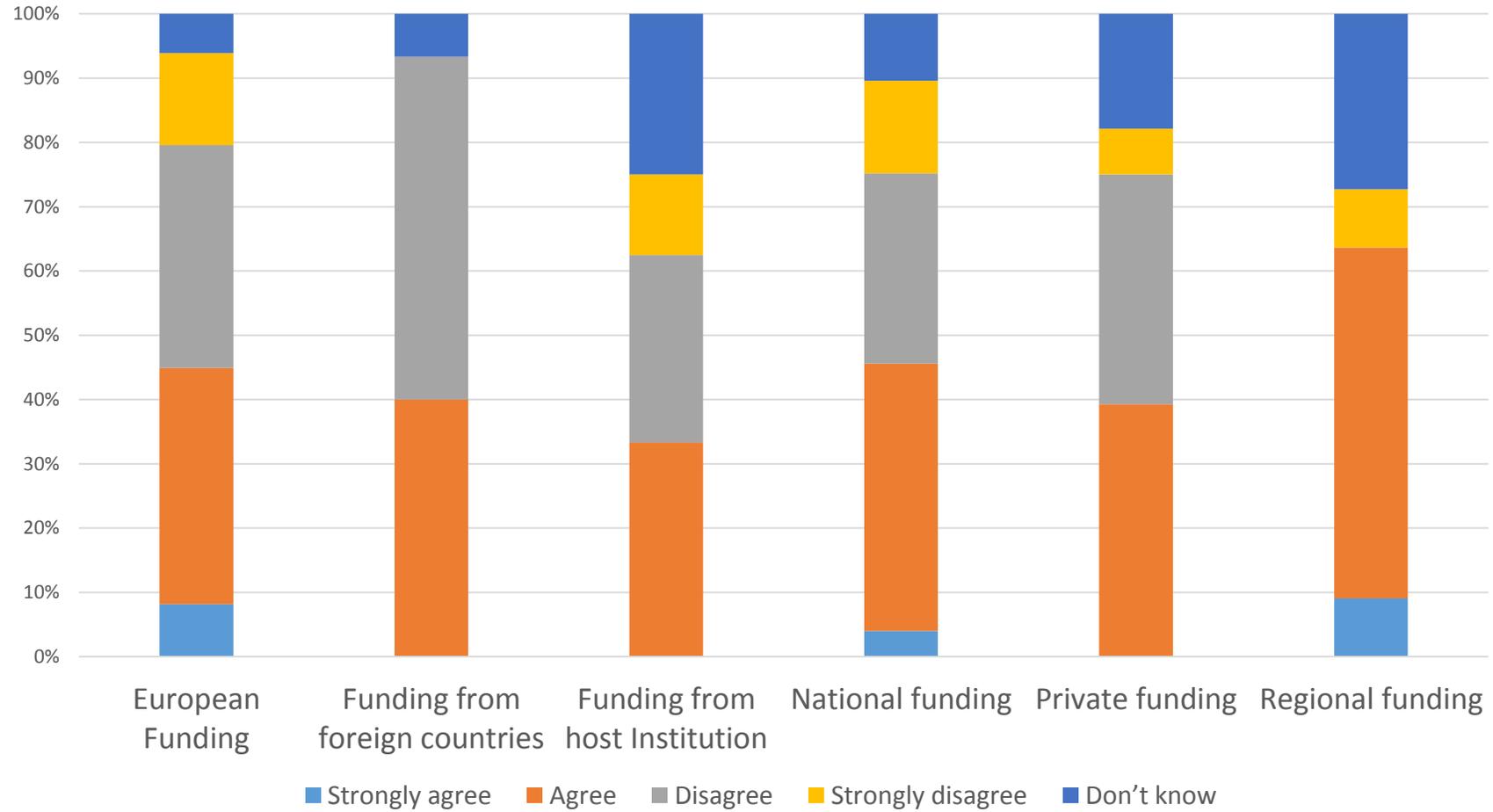
I am confident in applying to this funder as I believe that the evaluation process results in the best proposals in my field getting funded



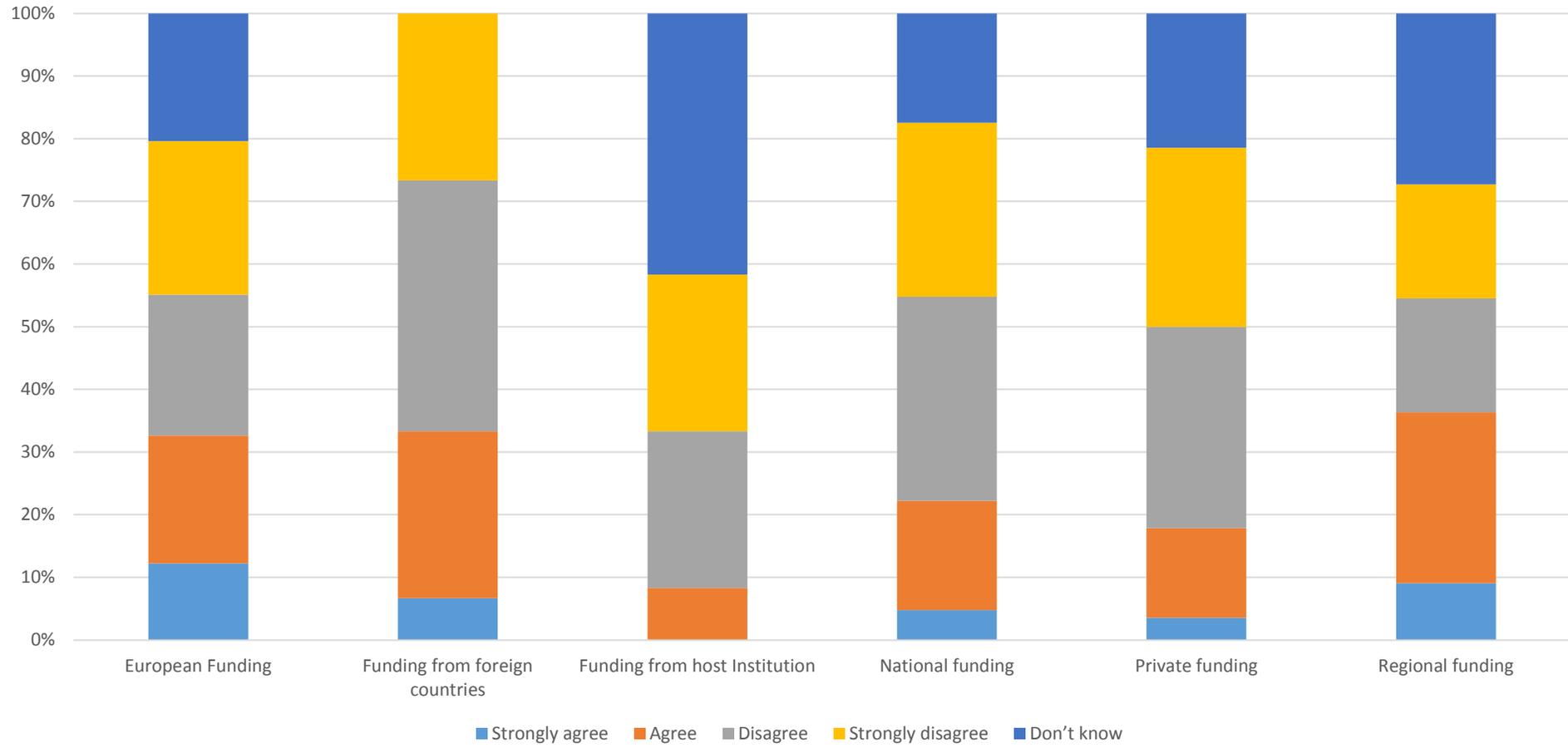
Feedback was constructive



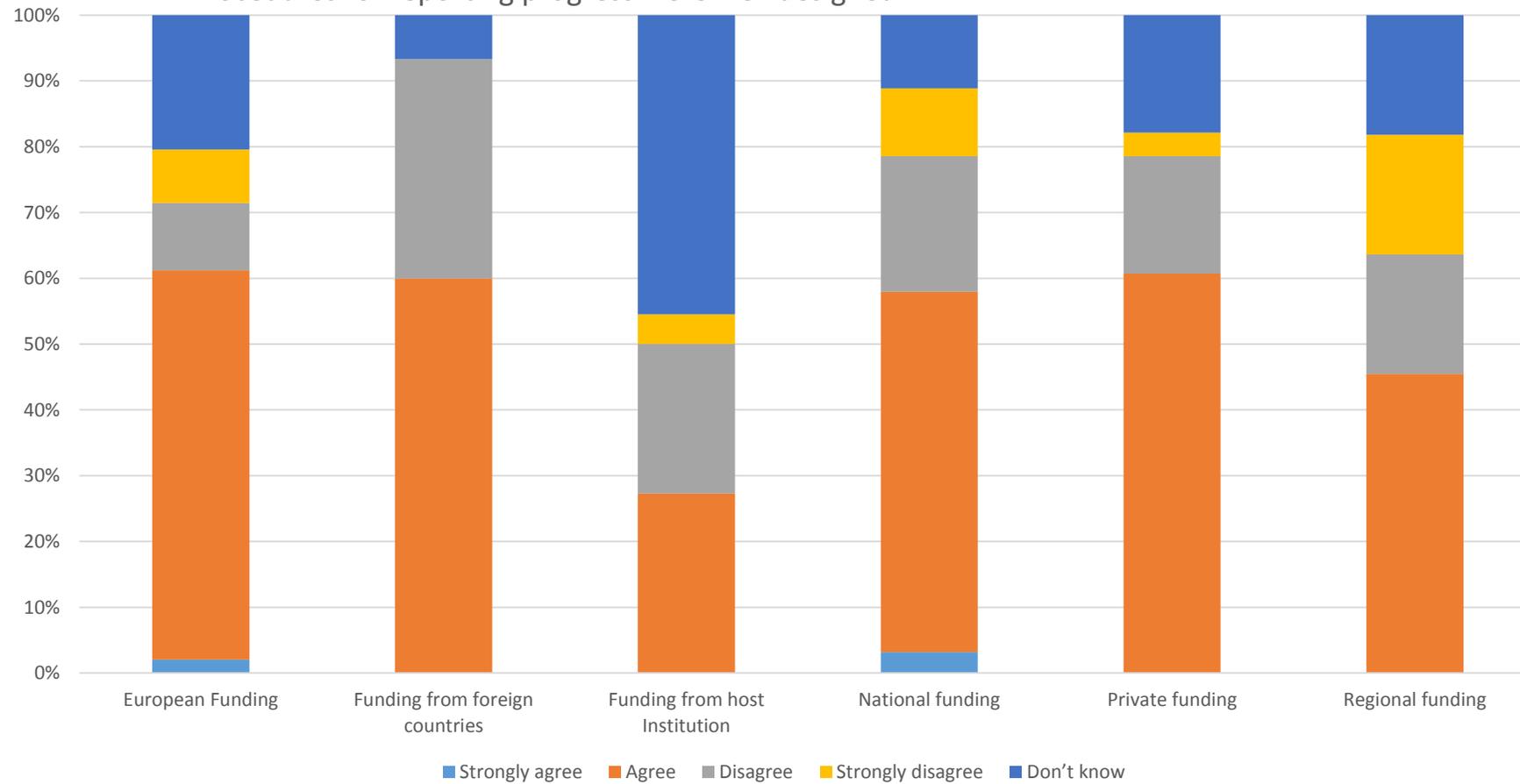
Assessment was transparent



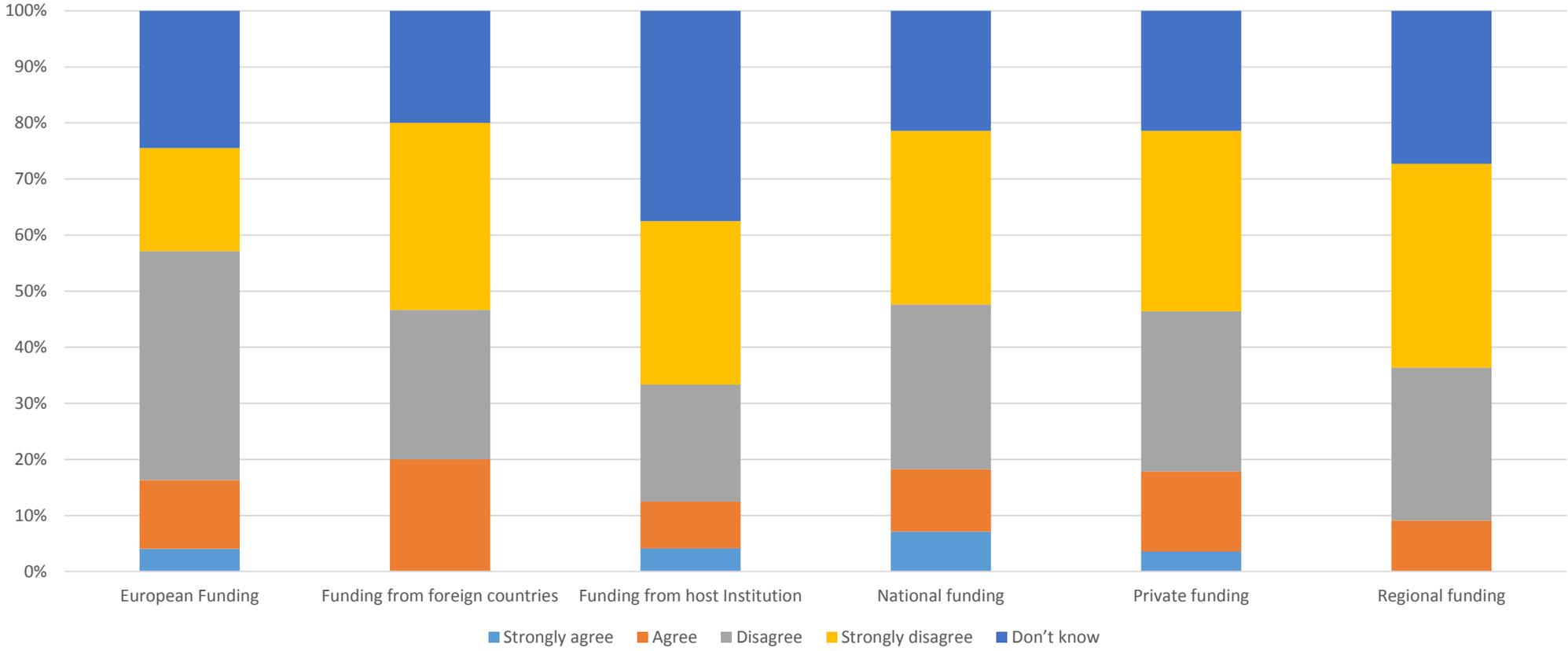
Delays in agreeing the terms and conditions of my grant caused difficulties in carrying out my research



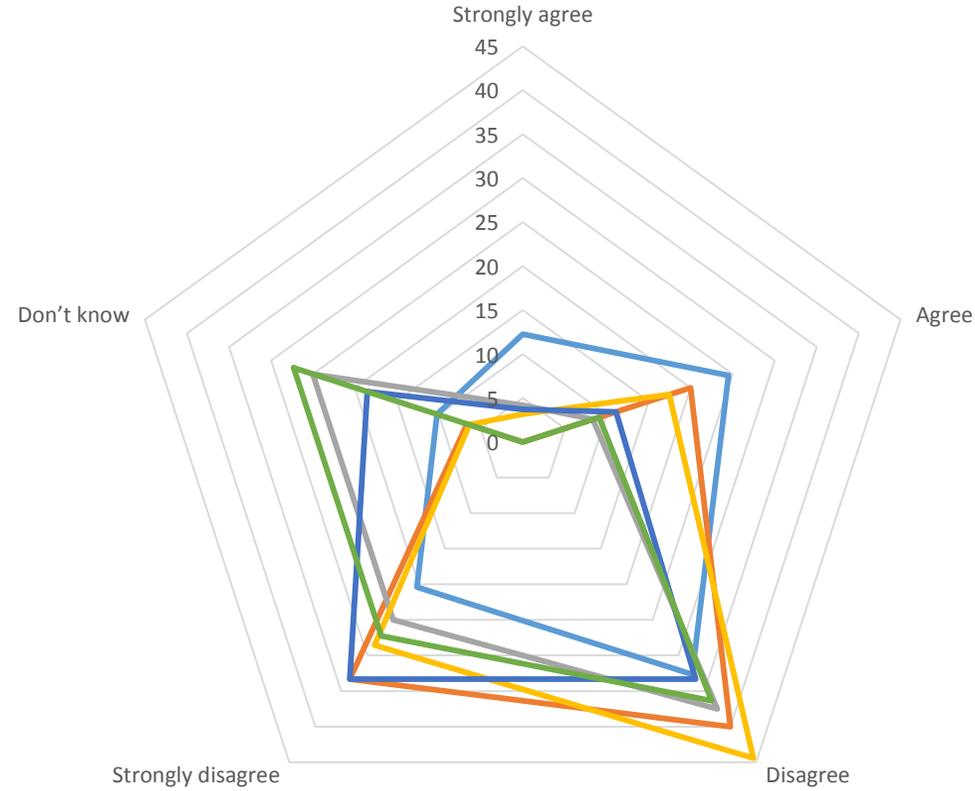
Procedures for reporting progress were well designed



Delays in disbursement of funds caused me difficulty in carrying out my research



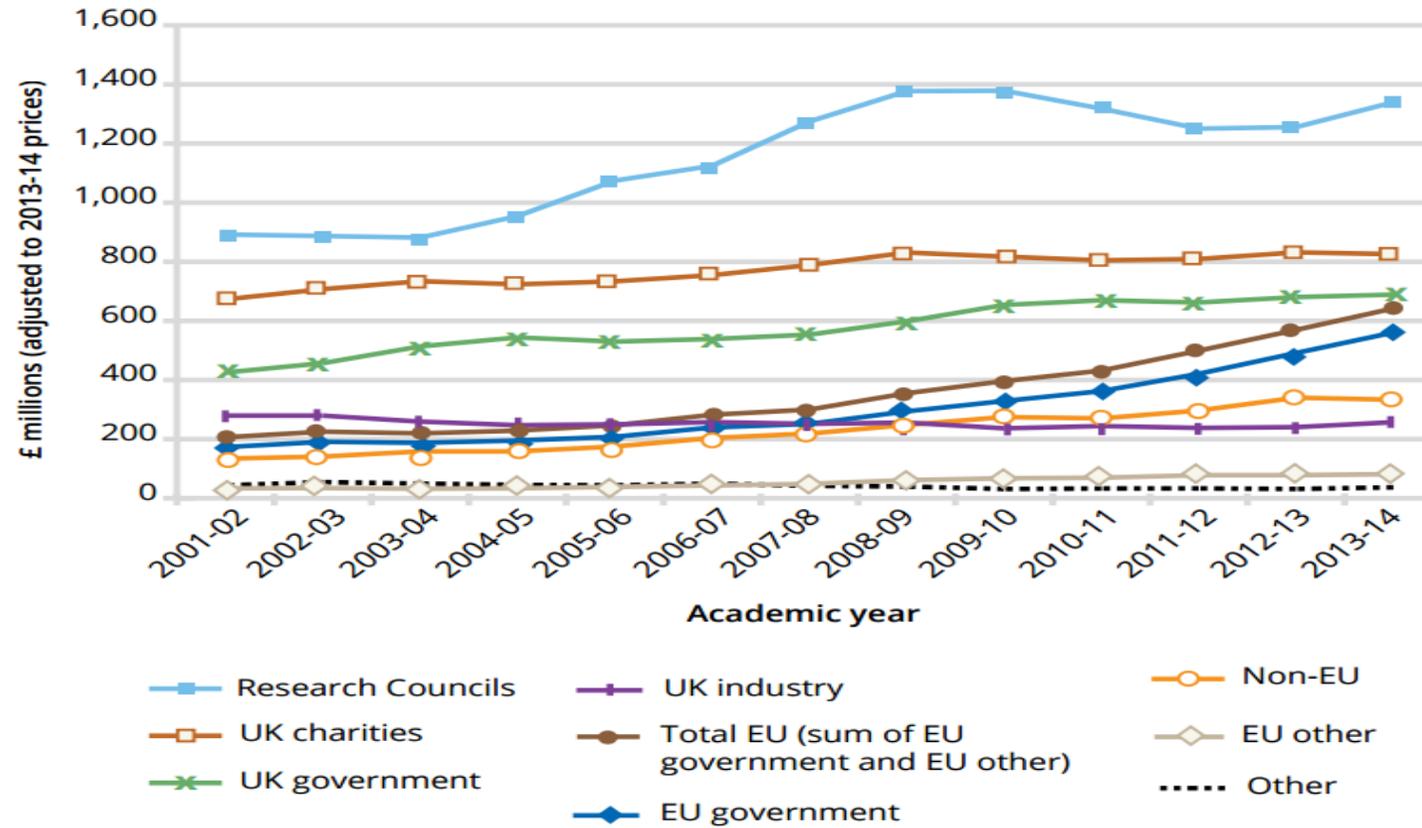
The administrative burden of submission is likely to discourage me from applying to this funder again



— European Funding
— National funding

— Funding from foreign countries
— Private funding
— Funding from host Institution
— Regional funding

Figure 18 Research grants and contracts income by source in £millions, 2013-14 prices



Source: HESA Finance Record.