

Conditions for spin-offs at Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences

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OVERVIEW



SITUATION

Science based spin-offs are becoming increasingly important for economic and social progress in Switzerland.

In-depth knowledge is still lacking about promotion and fostering spin-off creation and about motivating specific target groups as for example female academics.



SPOF-SURVEY

Empirically based knowledge on spin-off formation of academics at Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS).

Financed by Swiss National Science Foundation (2017-2020)



RESULTS

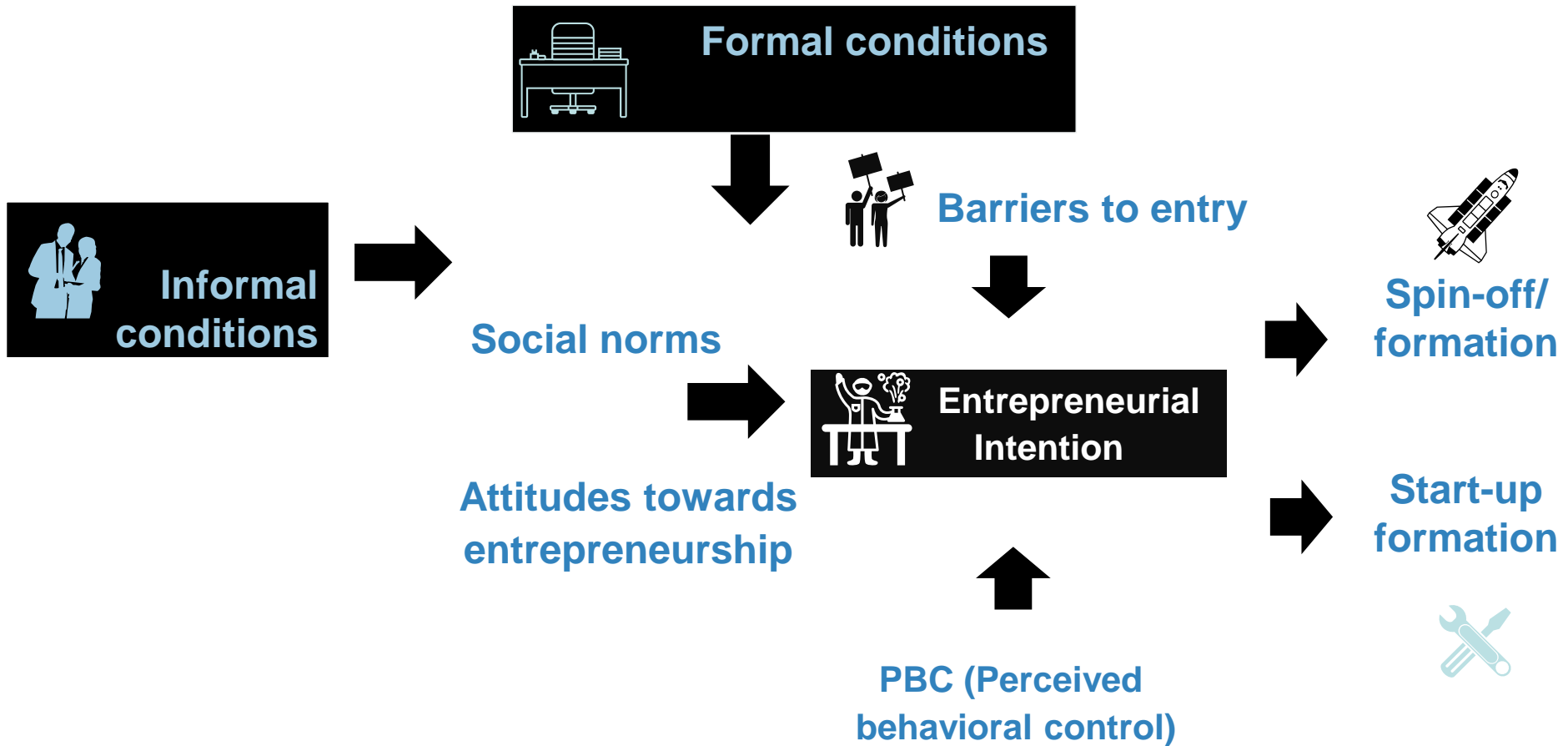
The project provides recommendations for political action in research & development and on the promotion of innovation and knowledge transfer at universities.



WORKSHOP

Framework conditions for spin-offs at UAS and universities measures for their improvement?

Entrepreneurial Universities (Kirby et al. 2011, Aijzen, 1991)



SPOF-Survey (January - March 2019)



Formal framework conditions

- Support for start-ups at the universities & Entrepreneurship Education (in 2018)
- Reward systems & material incentives (in 2018)
- Forms of funding of Research & development (in 2018)



Informal framework conditions

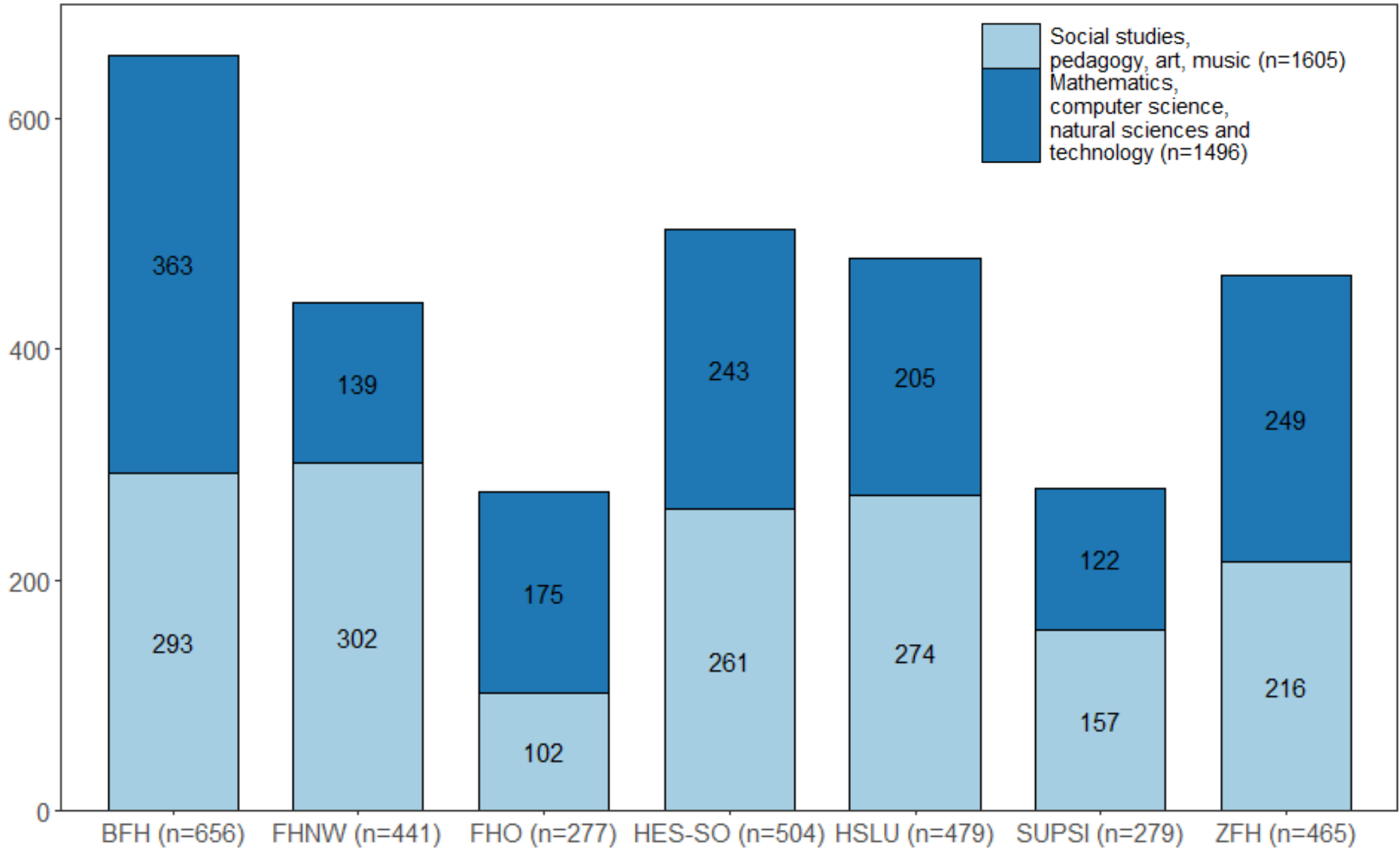
- Entrepreneurial mission of universities
- Entrepreneurial attitudes, skills and orientation of staff members
- Informal conditions at the workplace (support of colleagues, heads of institutes, etc.)



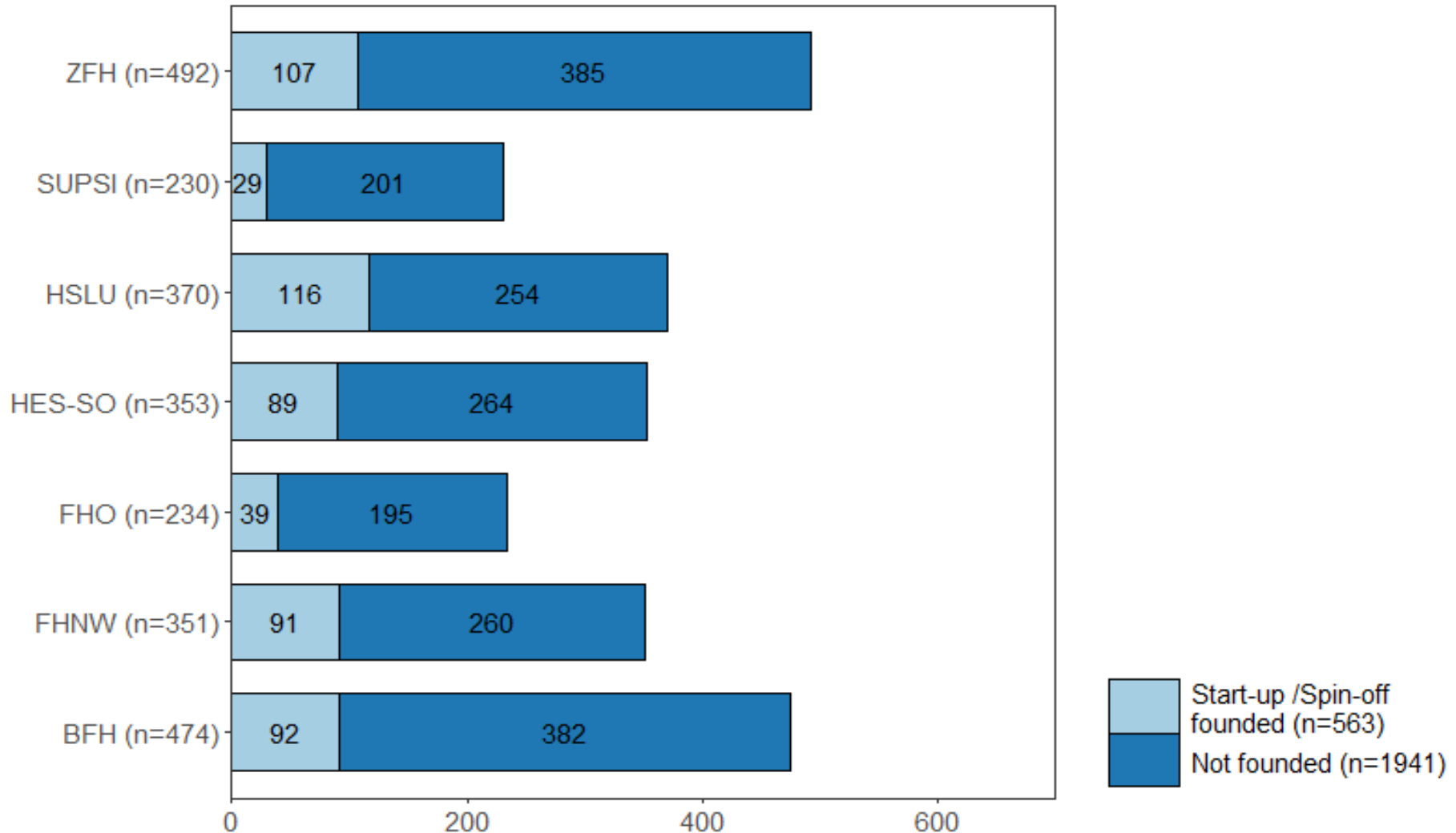
Spin-off characteristics

- Demographics of founders
- company's founding fields
- turnover, number of employees, type of incorporation, etc.

RESULTS Survey sample, seven public UAS, 2019 (n=3101)

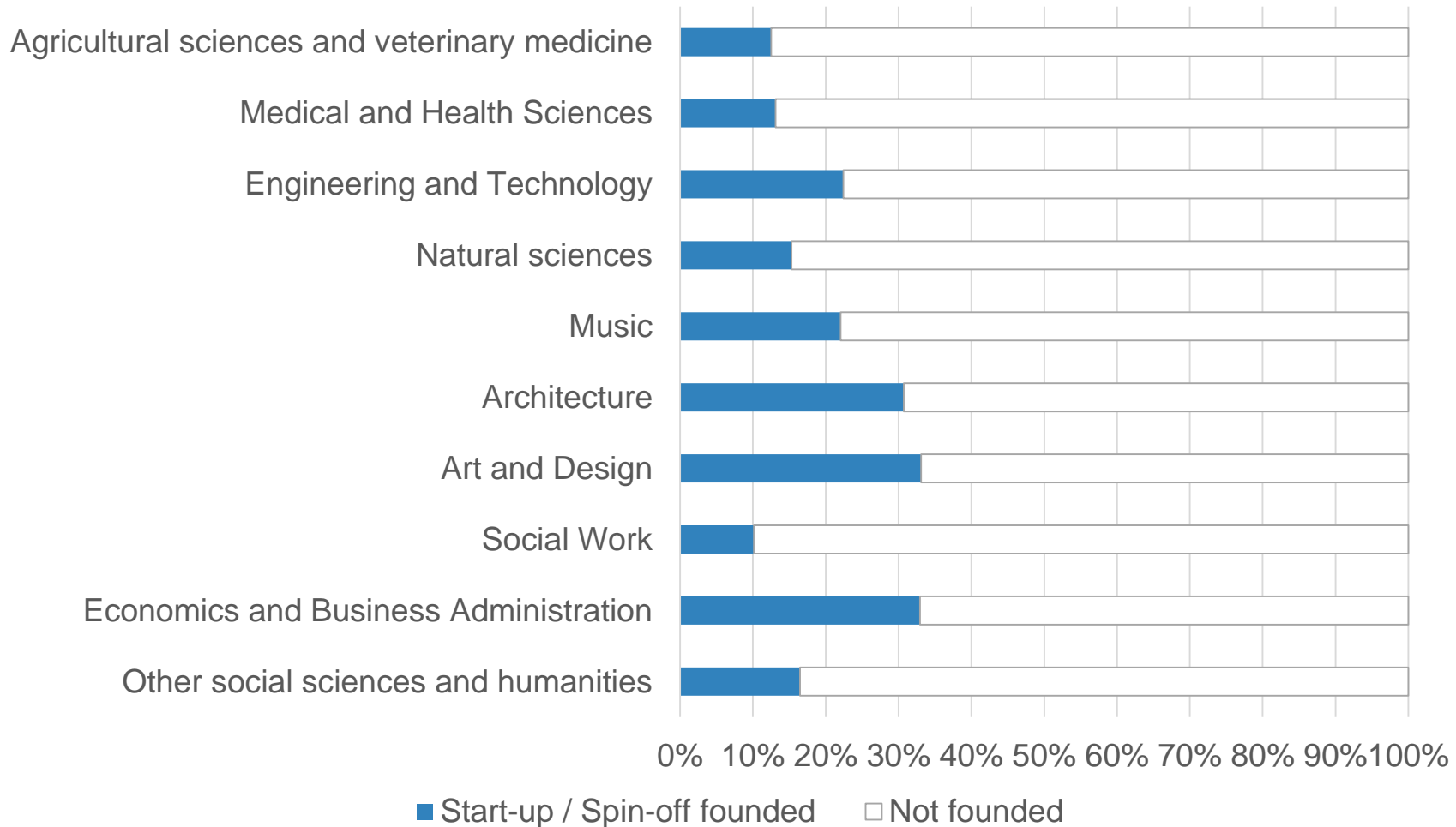


Surprisingly many researchers at UAS founded a company since 1995 (n=2 504)

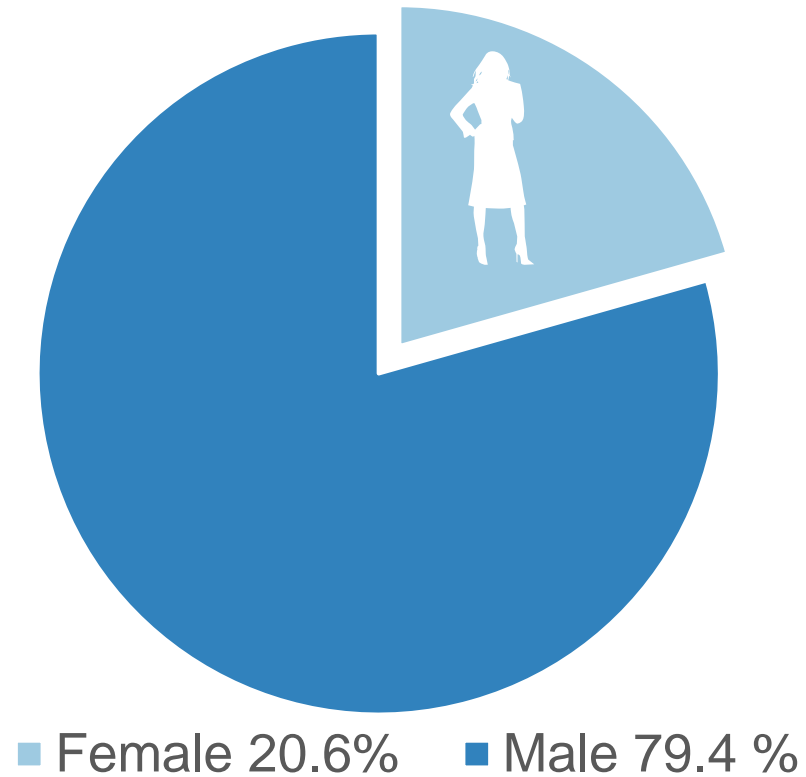


... founders belong to many different departments.

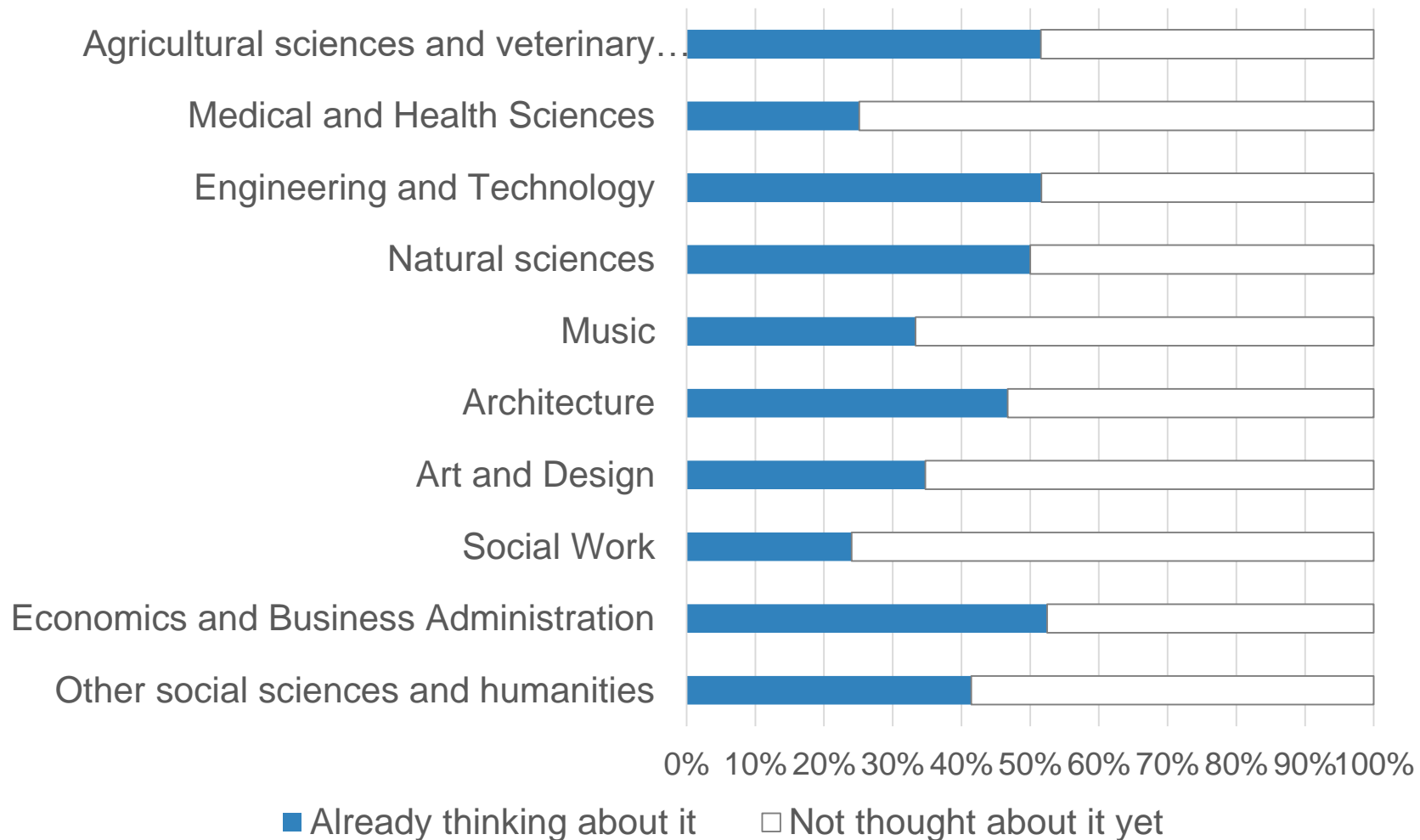
Start-up/ spin-off formation by departments in percentages (n=570)



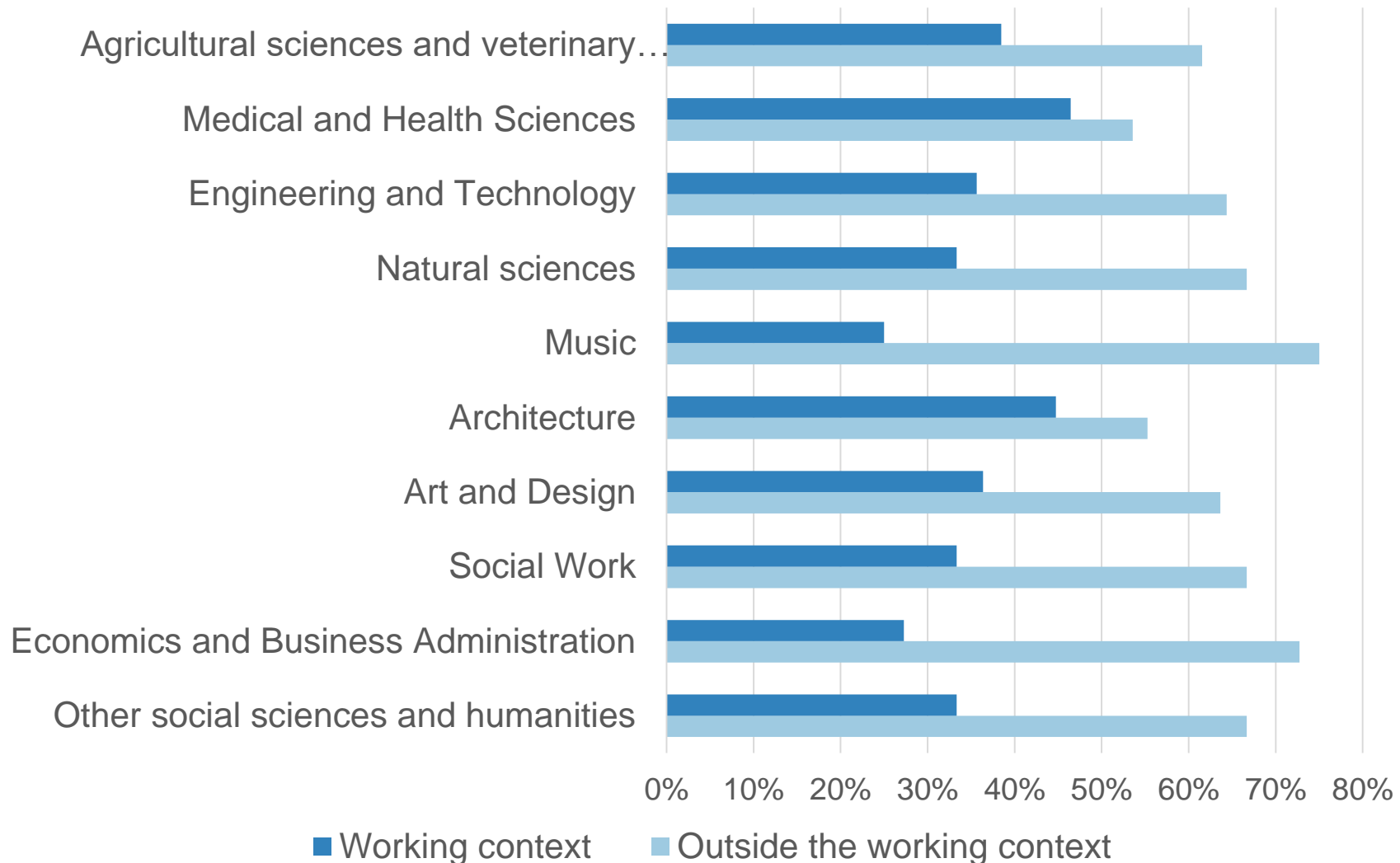
Men are strongly overrepresented as founders (n=563)



The willingness of scientific staff members to found a company is considerably high (n=1567; founders of companies excluded)

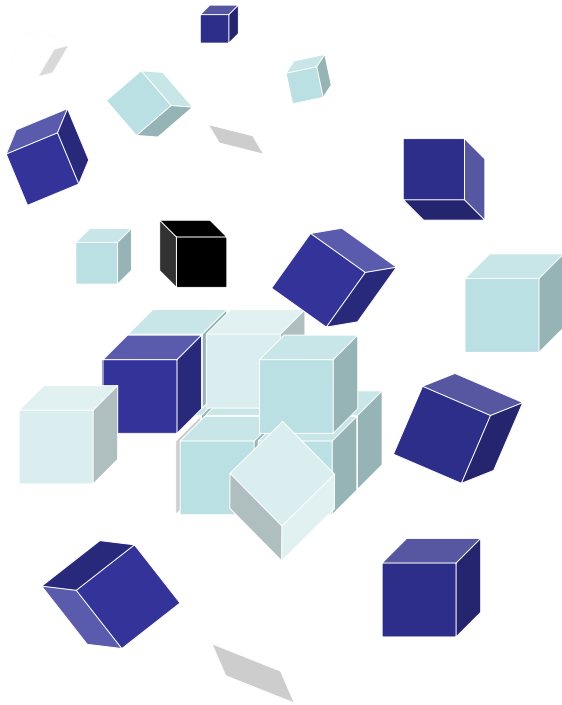


Many researchers pursue their start-up projects outside the university context... (n=462)



Some conclusions

- Many staff members have already founded a company or are planning to do so or are at least considering founding a spin-off or a start-up company.
- Basically, there is not only a high level of founding interest in Science and Technology but also in the field of social entrepreneurship and cultural entrepreneurship.



However

- Only few spin-offs are generated at UAS.
- Only few founders at UAS link their start-up projects with the university context or research institutes.
- Universities seem more active in founding new businesses, although they may be more remote from business and practice (see SWITT-Report 2017).