Quality assurance of climate services – wider scope, more diversity
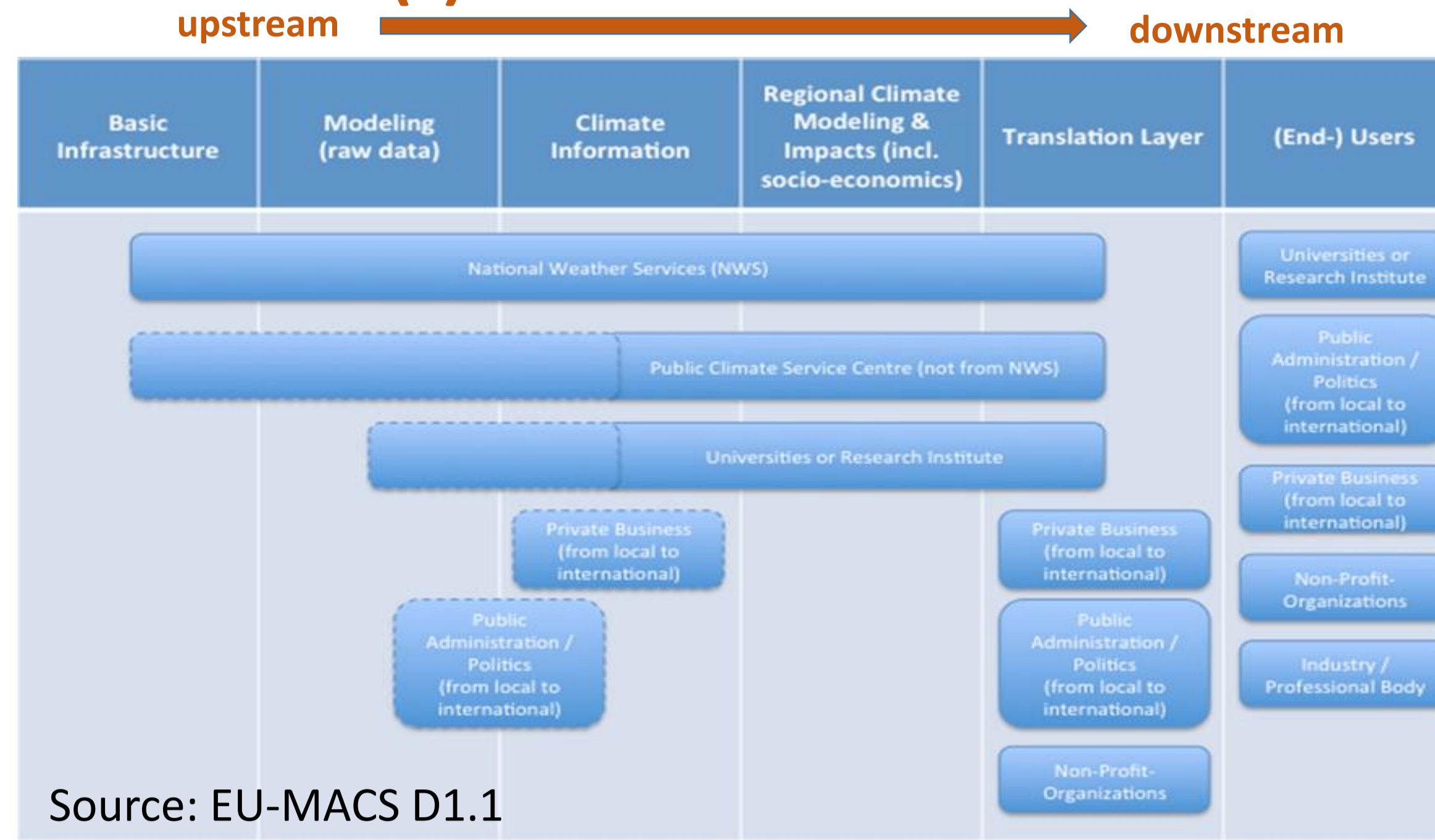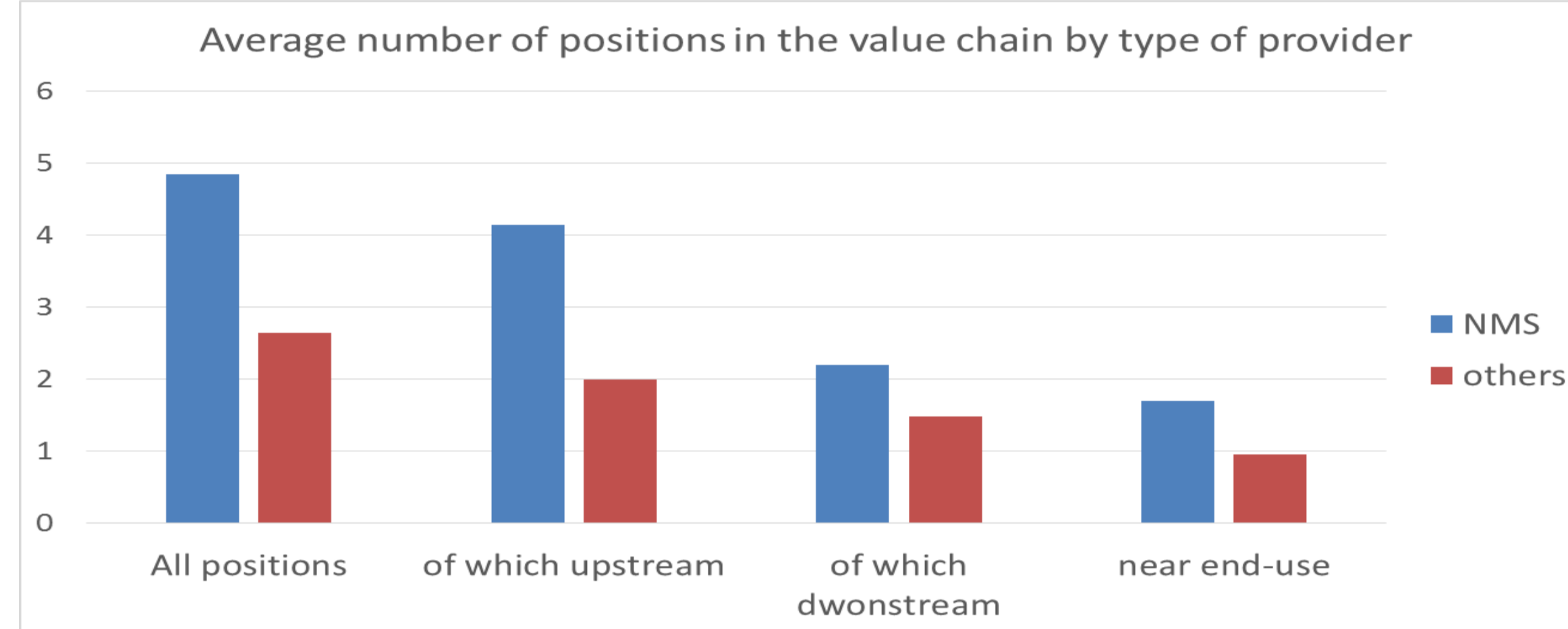
Study context

The European Roadmap for Climate Services aims to unleash the benefit potential of the market for climate services (CS). In support of this aim, two H2020 studies were initiated, MARCO and **EU-MACS**, that should (1) define the CS market characteristics and give foresight into market growth, and (2) analyse CS market barriers and enabling conditions and suggest remedies. Assignment no. 2 is covered by **EU-MACS**.

The emerging market for CS is subject to knowledge gaps of both users and suppliers, lack of visibility and transparency, overemphasis of supply side possibilities versus user needs, regulatory inhibitions, lack of alternative business models and of integration with users' overall risk management. A factor in these shortcomings is the quality assurance (QA) practice. **Eventual usability of CS for different user types should be better captured in QA.**

value chain(s)

upstream → downstream

Source: EU-MACS D1.1

Average number of positions in the value chain by type of provider

Upstream positions refer to the initial steps in the **value chain** related to generation of data through observation and modelling as well as to initial post-processing. CS based on this kind of information is mainly used by researchers and experts in sectors with advanced numerical skills (energy, universities). **QA is contents oriented**.

Downstream positions entail additional reprocessing steps, such as visualization, transformation into non-climate effects, and embedding in consultancy, so as to make climate information easy to interpret and combinable with non-climate data. **QA needs both contents & process elements**.

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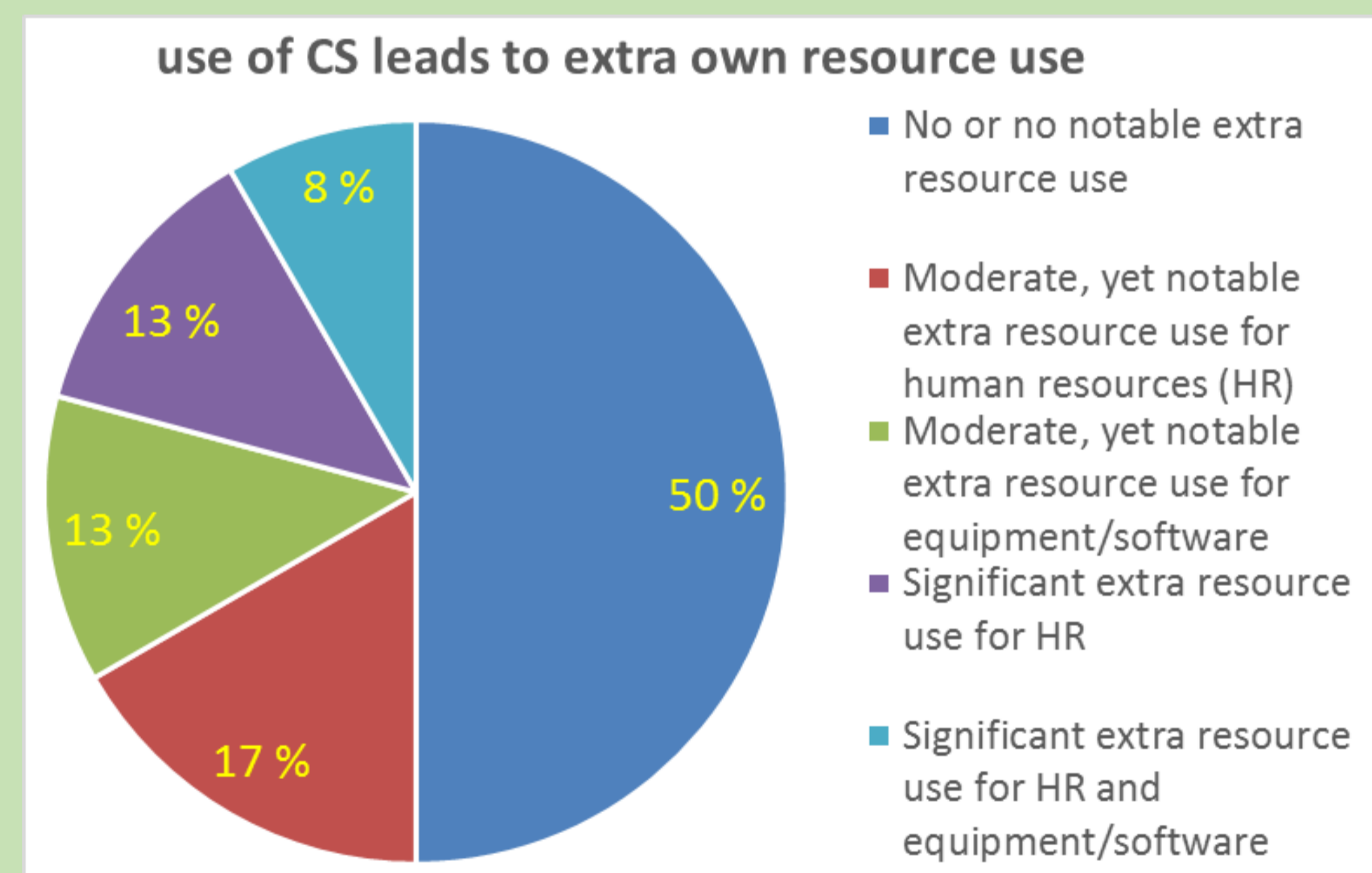web-site: http://eu-macs.eu/#

Preliminary survey results (80 providers; 50 users)
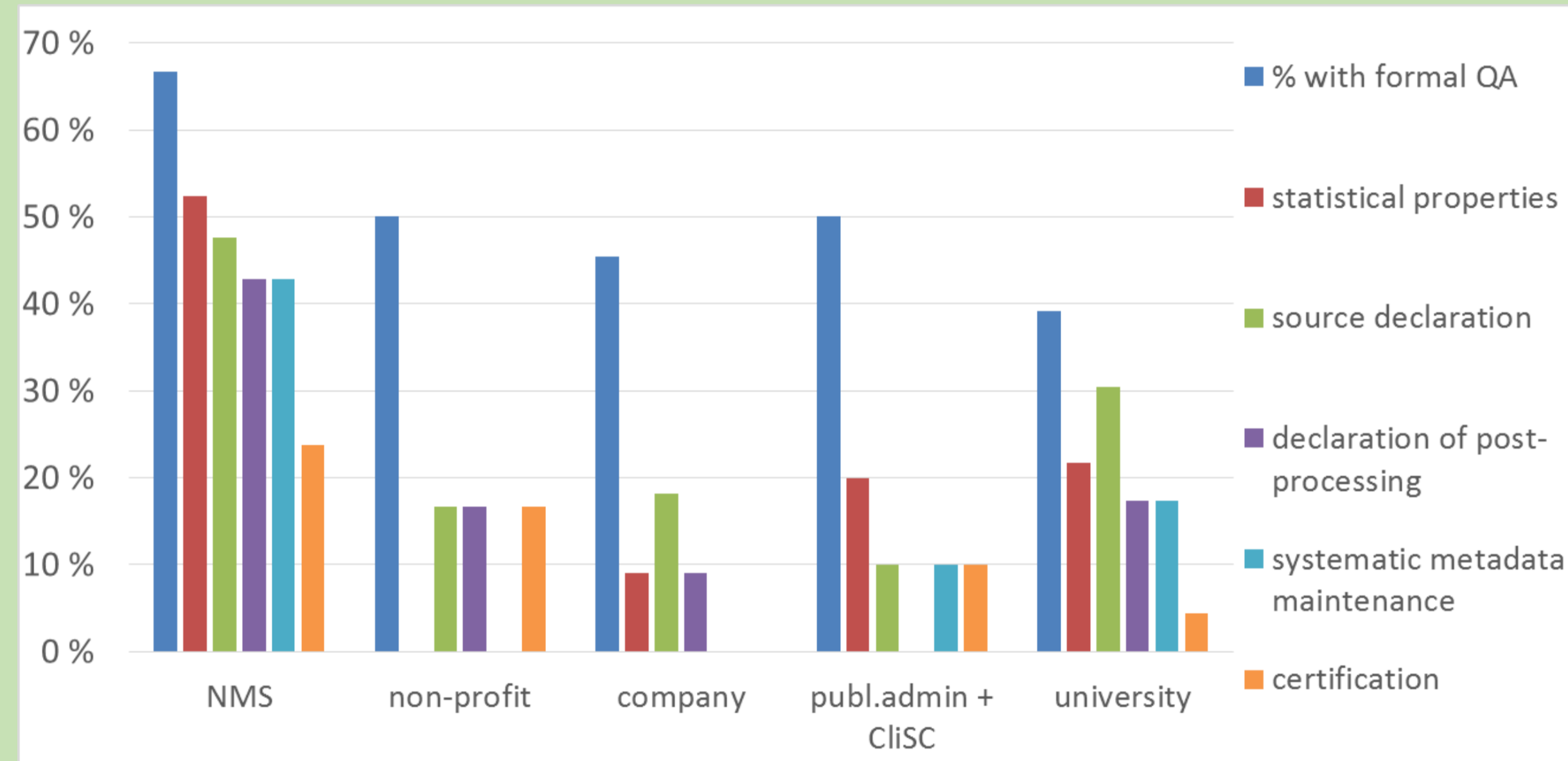
The prevalence of quality assurance in general and of particular QA aspects in different types of CS providers

significance of quality criterion for users
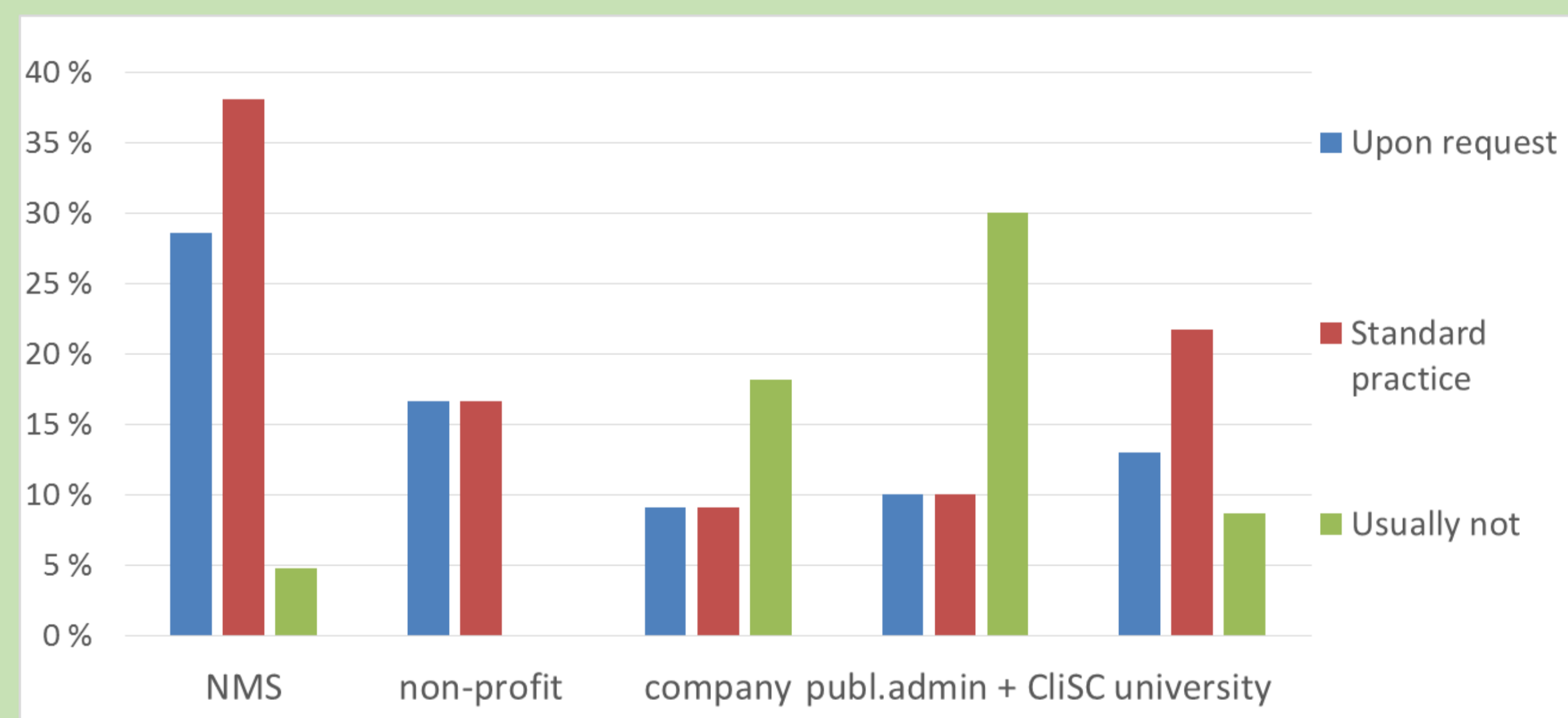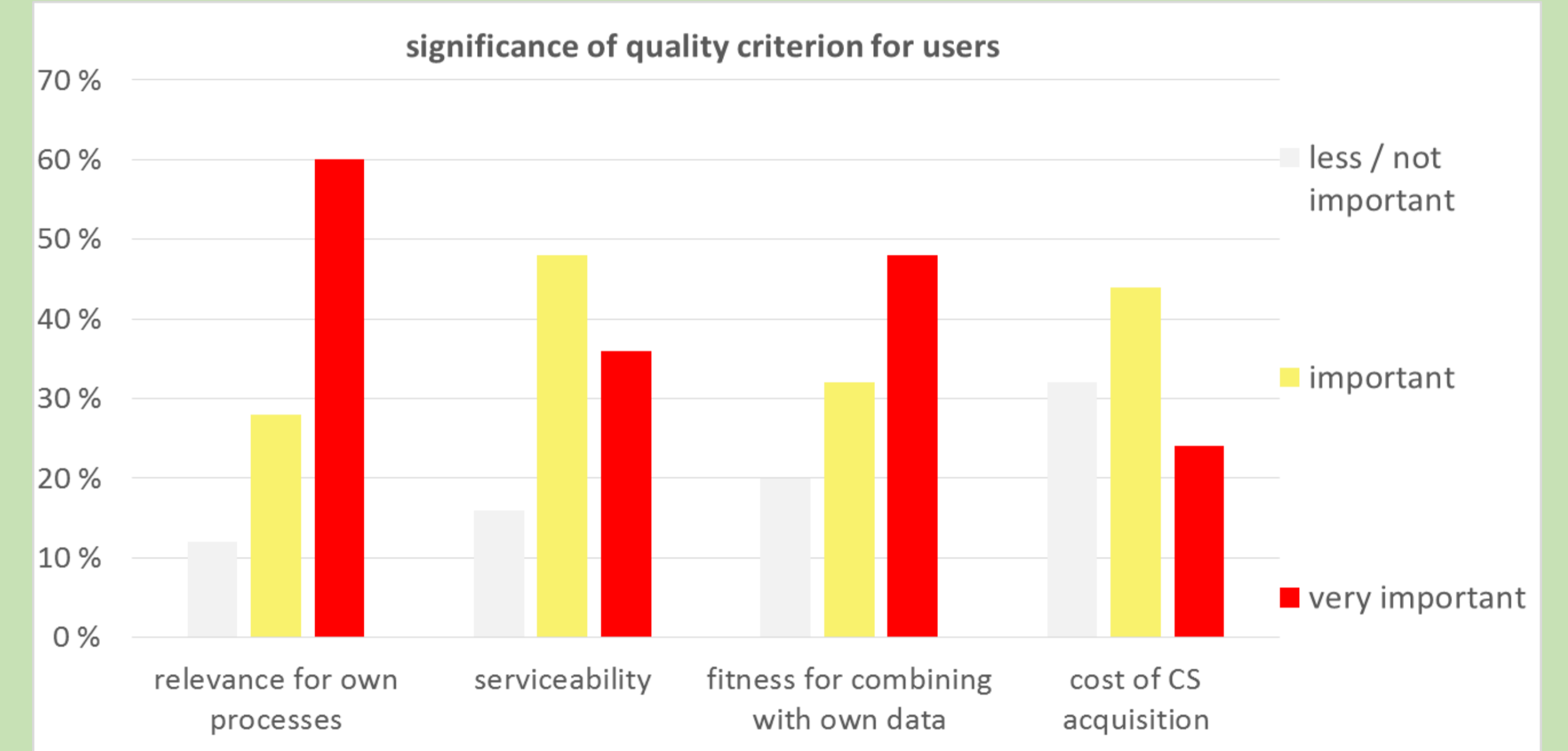
Shares of services providers providing meta-information to users

use of CS leads to extra own resource use

CS provider's practices regarding evaluating fitness for purpose of the user

Willingness to acquire CS jointly

EU-MACS Consortium

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