



WG 4 Report

The Advisory Role of Political Scientists in Europe

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1. Introduction

This report focuses on the policy advisory roles of European political scientists, the central theme in the activities of WG 4. The report is structured as follows. First, we briefly introduce the Working Group 4 (WG 4) research agenda, and proceed with a short note on the design and properties of the survey. Second, we present the themes of WG 4. This includes the conceptual framework developed by WG 4 to analyse the different possible types of advisory activity of political scientists in Europe, as well as the main results of the survey part in which the advisory roles are addressed. The report ends with conclusions and recommendations.

1.1. The Working Group 4 Agenda

Working Group 4 of the PROSEPS COST Action studies the advisory role of political scientists in European countries. Its work thus far proceeded through the following stages:

Stage 1: Theoretical and methodological reflection

- Activities: At the Malta meeting in Winter 2017, WG 4 defined the concepts of policy advice and policy advisory systems, building on different bodies of literature such as knowledge utilisation, science and technology studies and public policy analysis.
- Deliverables: Typology of advisory roles of political scientists. This typology thus was informed by the relevant theoretical literature and was developed for analysing the empirical patterns of advisory activities of political scientists working at universities across European countries.

Stage 2: Contribution to the large-N PROSEPS Survey

- Activities: At a joint WG 3 - WG 4 meeting in Leuven in September 2017, WG 4 discussed, proposed and prioritised items and questions to be included in the large-N survey among political scientists employed at universities across Europe. These questions were validated by the core group of the PROSEPS COST action in the Brussels Winter 2018 meeting.
- Deliverables: Survey questions on the content of advice, frequency of advice, recipients of advice at different levels of government, the formality or informality of advice, channels and modes of advice, as well as on normative views on engagements of political scientist and intrinsic and extrinsic incentives for policy advice, such as a personal world view and career perspective.

Stage 3: Country level analysis of policy advisory systems and the role of political scientists

- Activities: At the meetings in Lisbon (March 2018), Sarajevo (September 2018) and Sheffield (March 2019), WG 4 discussed comparative differences between policy advisory systems, policy advisory roles of political scientists, and trends and developments. During these meetings, also the results of a WG 4 survey on spread and depth of the research impact agenda across all PROSEPS participating countries were discussed. The data for this part of the project were collected and analysed via a Short Term Scientific Mission by Dr. Justyna Bandola-Gill in the course of 2018. The results were presented and discussed in a focus group at the Lisbon 2018 meeting and at the Sarajevo 2018 meeting.
- Deliverables: Identification of comparative differences in policy advisory systems across European countries (statist versus pluralist or neocorporatist; consensualism versus adversarialism; degree of party competition) as well as of trends such as politicisation, outsourcing and externalisation, societalisation, marketization of advice. Also country chapter instructions were formulated in order to harmonise the comparative volume with country studies and provide a systematic approach to the themes addressed in the volume. The set of countries included in the systematic comparison reflects the members participating in WG 4, with attention to a good geographical spread (north-south-east-west in Europe).

Stage 4: Analysis of survey material survey at the aggregate level and at the country level

- Activities: At the Sheffield March 2019 Meeting, WG 4 members discussed the preliminary results of the Beta-version of the survey, as introduced by Jose Real Dato. After the conclusion of the survey in June, the WG 4 members analysed the results of the survey at the country level, for completing their country chapter drafts, on the basis of instructions of the WG 3 survey experts, a within WG 4 methodological team consisting of Athanassios Gouglas, Jens Jongblut, Andrea Pritoni and with the expert advice of José Real Dato and Ellen Fobé. The leaders of WG 4 together with Athanassios Gouglas analysed the survey results at the aggregate level, assisted by José Real Dato.
- Deliverables: (1) Draft country chapters to be discussed at the The Hague Meeting in September 2019. (2) WG 4 Report of the survey results presented at the plenary meeting in The Hague in September 2019.

Stage 5: Dissemination of WG 4 research findings

- The participants of WG 4 will produce an edited volume with country chapters on the advisory role of political scientists at universities across Europe (see table 1).
- WG 4 will also prepare an article on the advisory role of political scientists using the survey data at the aggregate level, to be presented at the IPSA meeting in July 2019, and to be next submitted to a top ranking journal.
- Three members of WG 4 (Ivar Bleiklie, Marleen Brans and Svein Michelsen) will contribute in autumn 2019 a chapter on the policy advisory role of political scientists to an edited volume on political science in Europe, celebrating 50 years to the European Consortium for Political Research (*European Political Science at 50*. ECPR press).
- Three members of WG 4 (Justina Bandola-Gill, Matthew Flinders, and Marleen Brans) submitted an article on the Comparative Research Impact Agenda.

Table 1: List of contributors (WG 4 members) to the comparative country volume

Provisionary title	The Advisory Roles of Political Scientists across Europe	
Chapter length	8000 words	
Chapter authors	Introduction	Marleen Brans and Arco Timmermans
	Albania	Nevila Sokola
	Belgium	Marleen Brans, David Aubin, Ellen Fobé
	Bulgaria	Angel Stefanov
	Denmark	Morten Kallestrup
	France	Pierre Louis Daniel Squevin
	Germany	Sonja Blum and Jens Jongblut
	Hungary	Gabor Molnar
	Italy	Andrea Pritoni and Maria Tullia Galanti
	Malta	George Zammit
	Norway	Ivar Bleiklie and Svein Michelsen
	The Netherlands	Arco Timmermans and Valérie Pattyn
	Spain	José Real Dato
	Sweden	Per Ola Oberg
	Turkey	Caner Bakir and Tolga Bolukbasi
	United Kingdom	Matthew Flinders, Justyna Bandola-Gill, and Alexandra Anderson

1.2. A Note on the PROSEPS Survey

For a detailed methodological overview of the survey, see the introduction to the working group reports.

Population: over 11,000 political scientists in 37 countries in Europe plus Israel and Turkey. Political scientists were identified in a directory, using legal criteria (e.g. national accreditation schemes; ministerial regulations) or, in absence of such criteria, (I) institutional affiliation *or* a PhD in Political Science *and* (II) research record *or* teaching activities.

After launching the survey and calls to participate, more than 2500 full questionnaire responses were collected. After cleaning the dataset was reduced to 2354 from 37 European countries plus Israel and Turkey. The response rate varied per country, with an average of 20,7 %.

2. Themes

2.1. Policy Advisory Systems and the Role of Political Scientists

Policy advisory systems are here defined as systems ‘of interlocking actors, with a unique configuration in each sector and jurisdiction, who provide information, knowledge and recommendations for action to policy makers’¹. Advice in such systems is seen as flowing from multiple sources, at times in intense competition with each other, with decision makers sitting in the middle of a complex horizontal web of advisory actors. Research on policy advice has focused attention on both the policy advisory system (PAS) as a unit of analysis per se, as well as on the activities of various actors, including academics working at universities.

The policy advisory system in any country reflects the broader and deeper political-administrative-social system in that country. Neither are static, but as they have evolved and continue to develop, they share basic features. A policy advisory system can, as the overall domestic system, be more (neo-)corporatist or pluralistic, show features of consensus democracy or adversarial democracy, and display moderate or intense partisan competition.

¹ Craft, J. and Howlett, M. (2012), “Policy formulation, governance shifts and policy influence: location and content in policy advisory systems”, in *Journal of Public Policy*, vol22, part 2, August 2012, p. 80. See also Hustedt, T. and Veit, S. (2017) “Policy advisory systems: change dynamics and sources of variation” *Policy Sciences* (2017) 50:41–46.

In presenting the policy advisory system, it is further useful to consider the extent to which advising is externalised, politicised, or democratised. And it also may show popular acceptance or tendencies towards rejection of expertise and a process of marketisation and internationalisation of advice.

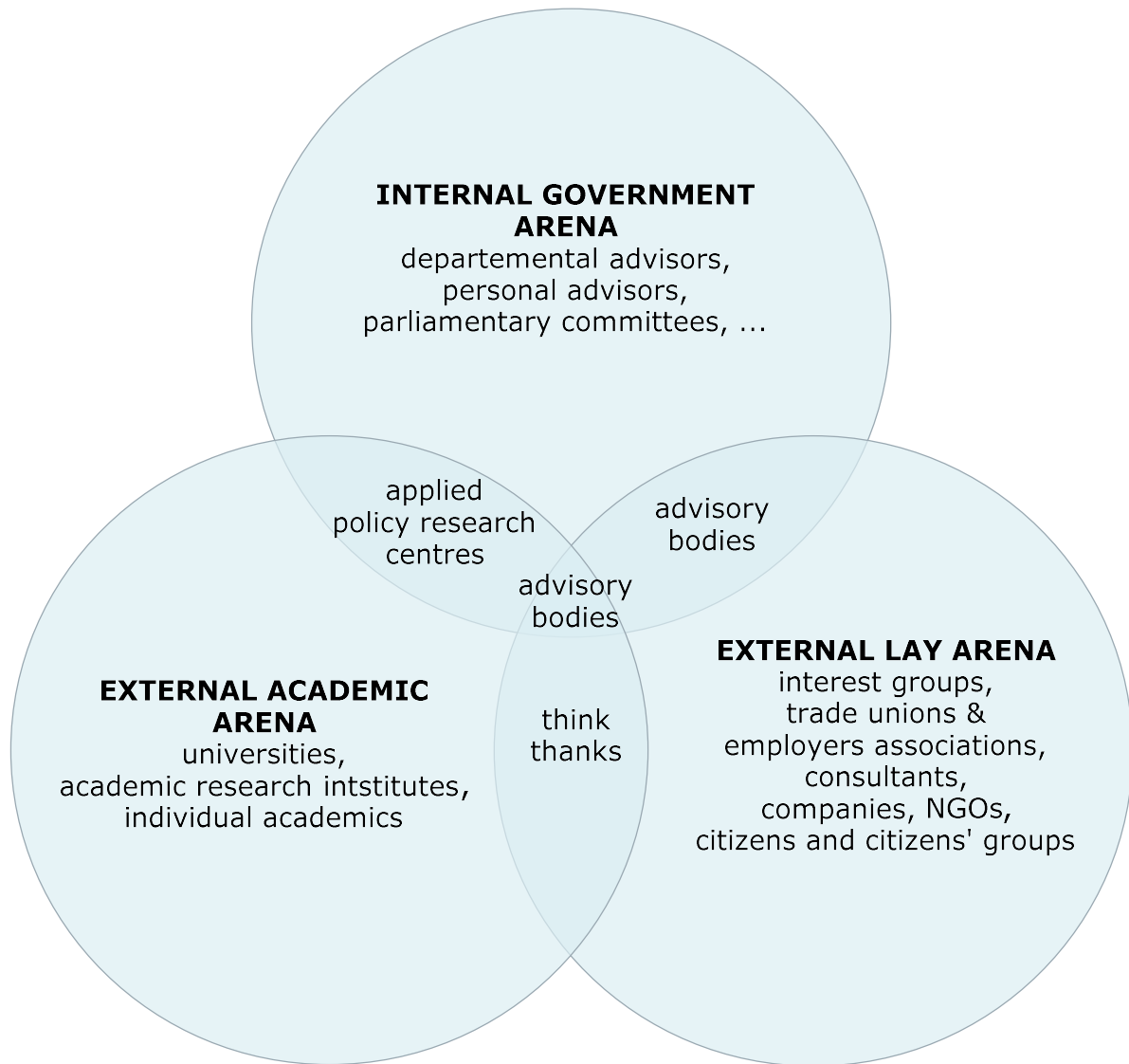
A locational model helps to characterise and analyse the policy advisory system of a country. In such a model, it can be indicated how access from advisory actors to political-administrative and public spheres is institutionalized, to what degree interactions are institutionally channelled. Are there structural interfaces linking political science research to governmental policymaking? How close to government are political scientists located? ² Figure 1 presents a locational PAS model (Blum and Brans 2017). ‘Locational’ refers to the more or less structural positions and linkages of advising actors in the different spheres of the political-administrative-social system. This model thus enables analysts to compare and show similarities and differences between the policy advisory systems of countries. As such, it also provides analytical leverage for presenting the positions of political scientists in the national advisory system, and consider for example the specific population density of political scientists within it, compared to other kinds of actors (and disciplines) in advisory roles. It can help showing how in some countries political scientists remain at a distance from other actors and hence engage with both government and the third community in limited ways, while in other countries the government and third community are more generally open and accessible to input from political scientists working in academia. In some cases we find that political scientists mainly populate the academic arena only and only occasionally venture in other arenas, content mostly within the confines of the academic community. In other cases, political scientists may populate more numerous other arenas, or be active in the intersections, such as in think tanks or in policy advisory bodies or applied research institutes. In still other cases, political scientists may stay away from civil society actors and confine their engagements mostly with government actors.

While the locational model helps in presenting the system at large and the position (and movement over time) of political scientists in it, the advisory roles themselves can vary. The concept of policy advising is multidimensional. For this reason, WG 4 also developed a

² Halligan J. (1995) Policy Advice and the Public Sector. In *Governance in a Changing Environment*, Guy Peters B. and Savoie D. T. (Eds), 138–172. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press. See also the works in the International Library for Policy Analysis (<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/series/POL-ILPA.html>).

typology of advisory roles, applied to the population of political scientists identified in PROSEPS.

*Figure 1: Locational PAS model (Blum and Brans 2017)*³



We distinguished four roles that political scientists can take, orientations and activities they can display in the policy advisory system of a country: (1) the pure academic, (2) the expert, (3) the opinion maker and (4) the public intellectual. Table 2 presents these roles and their properties.

³ Blum, S. & Brans, M. (2017): Academic policy analysis and research utilization for policymaking. In M. Brans, I. Geva-May & M. Howlett (Eds.): *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Policy Analysis*. London: Routledge: 341-359.

Table 2: Typology of advisory roles

<i>Advisory Role</i>	<i>Type of Knowledge</i>	<i>Frequency of Advice</i>	<i>Formality of advice</i>	<i>Principal Recipient of Advice</i>	<i>Channels of Advice Dissemination</i>
Pure academic	<i>Episteme</i> , mostly fundamental science	Never	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Expert	Scientific or Applied (what works) <i>Episteme</i> , <i>Techne</i>	Variable	Formal	Policy makers in the administration, think tanks, committees	Policy memos, strategy papers, scientific reports
Opinion maker	Opinionated normative science or <i>phronesis</i>	Very frequently	Informal	Politicians and Policy Makers, the General Public, Journalists	All media channels, non-scientific conferences and events, roundtables
Public intellectual	<i>Episteme</i> , <i>Techne</i> and <i>Phronesis</i>	Very frequently	Formal informal	Everyone	All channels

The types are envisaged on the basis of five main characteristics, drawn from the knowledge utilisation literature and also from the policy advisory systems literature: (a) the type of knowledge used; (b) frequency of advice and level of engagement; (c) formal or informal nature of advising; (d) the principal recipient of the advice; and (e) the channels used for delivering and disseminating the advice⁴. The pure academic is mostly dealing with fundamental science and does not engage with advice giving activities. For this reason, the

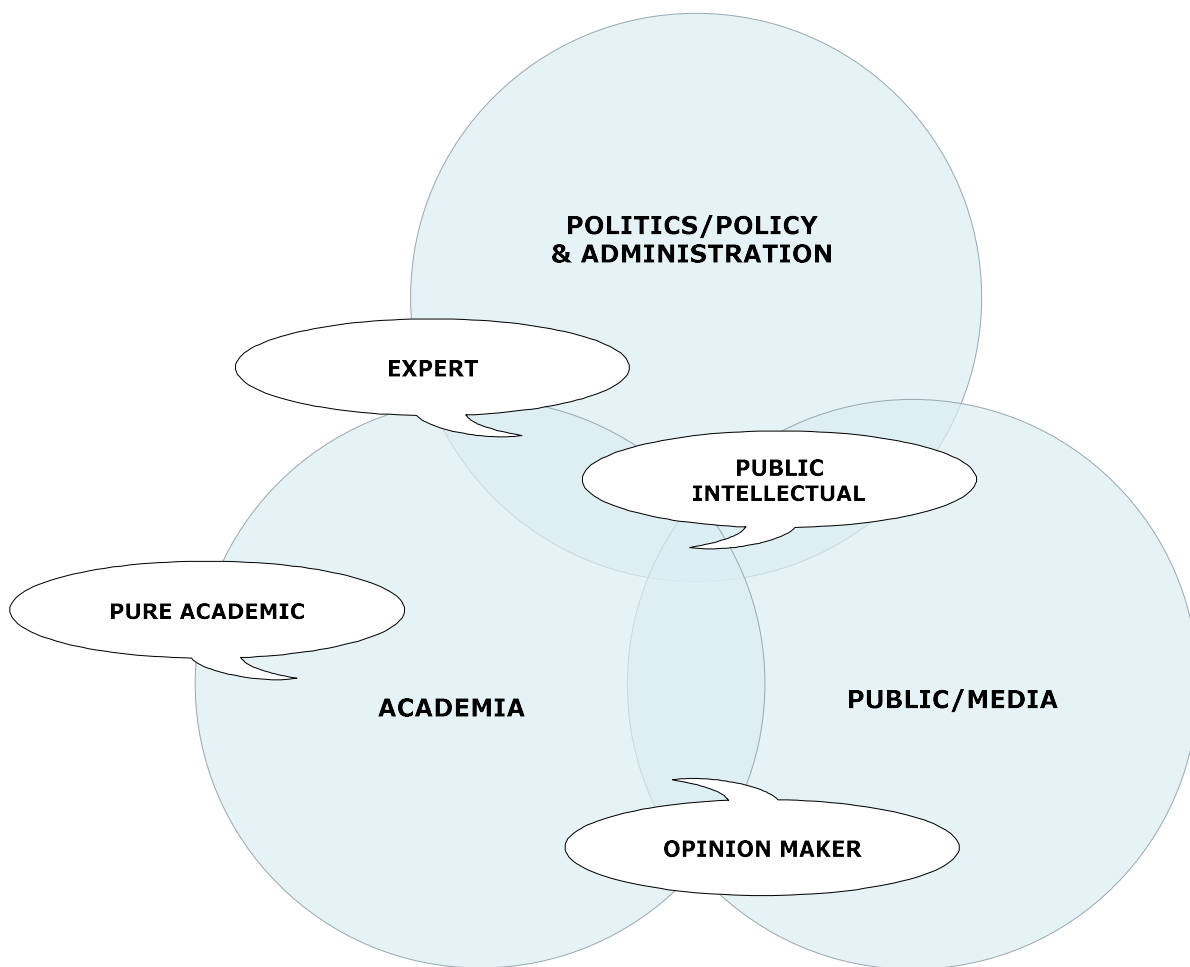
⁴ In the survey results presented by this report, the types are operationalised as a + b, while c, d, and e are used for triangulation and deepening. They will be further operationalised in a two step analysis at the country level.

other characteristics of advice giving activities are not applicable to this type. The expert offers advice on a variable basis, formally and usually upon request (solicited). The advice is offered to policy makers in the administration, committees, think tanks and it is usually empirical research based, but can also be based on applied research. The channels of dissemination are primarily direct or indirect publication activities such as research papers, memos, reports and strategy papers. The opinion maker engages in advice giving activities very frequently, a real opinion maker does this at least weekly. The advice offered by the opinion maker is mostly informal. It can be asked for, but many times it is offered on the own initiative of the political scientist in this role type. Except for policymakers in the administration, recipients of advice are also politicians (executive, legislature), journalists and the wider audience. The opinion maker uses direct convocation activities to disseminate advice, talking directly to advice recipients either in person, by phone or email. The opinion maker does not write extensive publication material, but mostly focuses on opinion editorial and newspapers columns, tv and radio interviews, and can also be highly active in social media and the internet. Thus, the opinion maker crossed the division line between advising and seeking media exposure. Finally, there is the public intellectual. This is a type, likely to be more rare in occurrence, who is a hybrid between the expert and the opinion maker. The public intellectual has the broadest repertoire of advisory and advocacy activities, exercised in combination.

Using the typology of advisory roles of political scientists requires from the analyst a neutral stance with regard to any of the roles. There is no normative point of departure in the PROSEPS project that one of the types is preferred, or most serviceable, and another would bring political scientists in areas of hazard or mix of interest. Thus, more advisory activities are not a norm set against fewer or no such activities. The analysis focuses on the different roles and role perceptions of political scientists as they appear in the survey results. They reflect viewpoints and behaviours as reported by the respondents in the survey. Also a 'pure academic' has a role, while not in a direct entrepreneurial or serviceable way, but by more generally providing validated knowledge to the system as a whole rather than to any specific user or client. In Sweden for example, this autonomous, independent position is an important norm in the national academic institutional sphere. Also the often-made distinction between applied and fundamental knowledge does not separate utilised from non-utilised knowledge. Fundamental knowledge may be used, even if indirectly. Conversely, applied knowledge may

remain unutilised, even when targeted to a specific user, and even if that targeted user requested the advice in the first place. Figure 2 places the four ideal types according to the sphere (the institutional domain) in which they typically occur. Clearly, the public intellectual is the type mostly working across the boundaries of the spheres. The pure academic is the type least crossing boundaries – the academic sphere is the home basis and ‘comfort zone’ of this type of political scientist.

Figure 2: Role types in the policy advisory system: political scientists as boundary workers



The extent to which the four ideal role types occur, is of course the central point of attention in the empirical analysis. The institutionalised – and in some countries challenged – policy advisory system may facilitate one type more than another. There are diverse factors that may induce or impede that political scientists assume active roles that bring them into the sphere outside academia, while working from within it. The model presented in table 1 and figure 2 contains variables that combine logically, but countries may vary – and the survey at large

may show a difference – in the empirical pattern in the real world. This is considered in the next section of this report.

2.2. Survey analysis. Policy advisory roles of political scientists in Europe

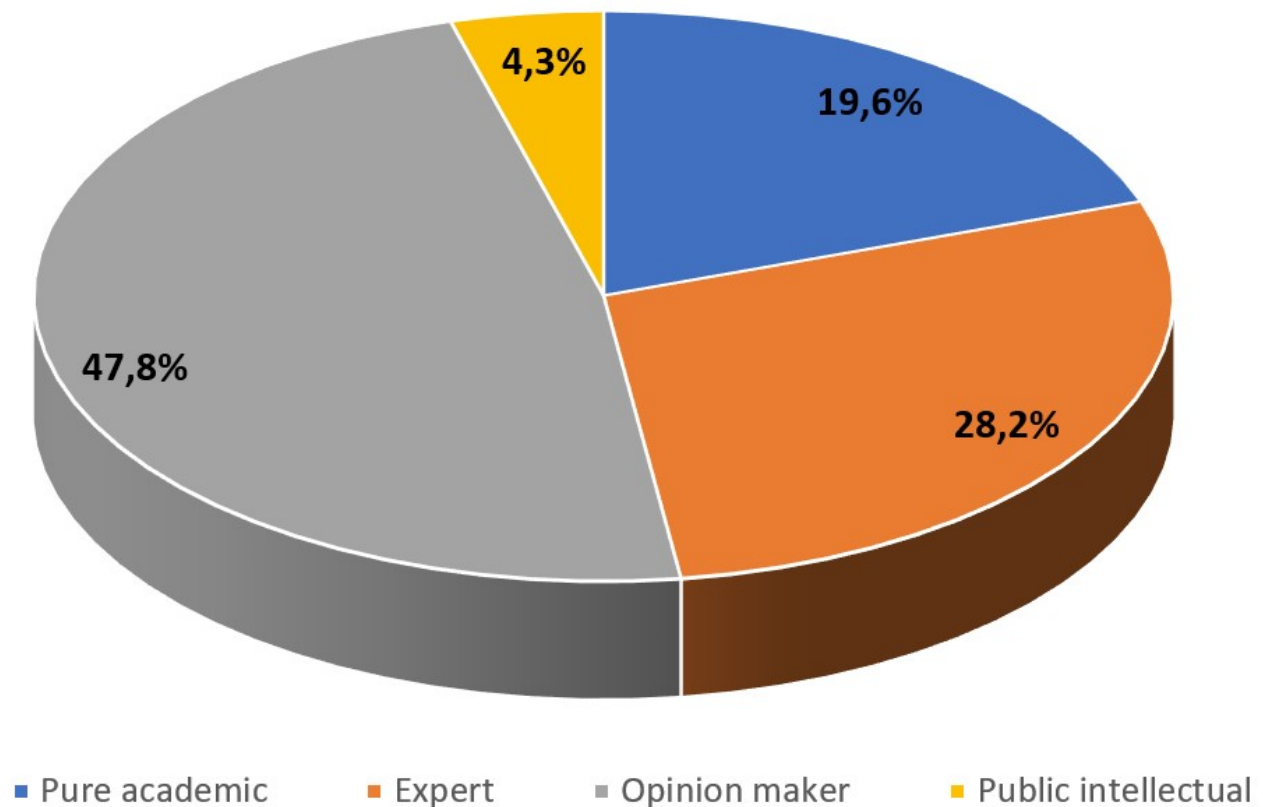
In this section of the WG4 2019 Report we deal with a specific aspect of the PROSEPS survey dataset, which is at the core of the working group: the question of the advisory roles of political scientists in Europe. We proceed in two ways. First political scientists are categorized according to four types, depending on the policy advisory role they perform. We present this data by country, age and gender. Second, we look deeper into specific aspects of the policy advice giving activities of European political scientists by presenting the survey answers to a series of survey questions that highlight additional advisory role activities.

2.2.1. Policy advisory types of political scientists in Europe

General picture

The picture that emerges from the survey data is that the majority of European political scientists can be categorized as opinion makers when it comes to the main policy advisory role they perform (figure 3). Almost one out of two political scientists (47.8%) in our sample fall under this category. The second biggest category is that of experts. Slightly more than a quarter of political scientists (28.2%) were categorized as experts according to the PROSEPS survey data. Pure academics with no policy advisory activities make up almost one fifth of the sample (19.6%), while as expected the ‘all around’ public intellectual type is a small minority making up 4,3% of the sample. A first interesting observation that emerges from these results is that political scientists in Europe are rather extrovert, live outside the ‘ivory tower’, engaging in policy advisory activities by 80%. A second observation of interest is that the majority of policy advice offered by political scientists in Europe falls in the normative, value judgement and advocacy type of category. Are we observing a phenomenon of politicisation, or even mediatization of scientific policy advice? It is hard to say at this stage, but the point merits further exploration.

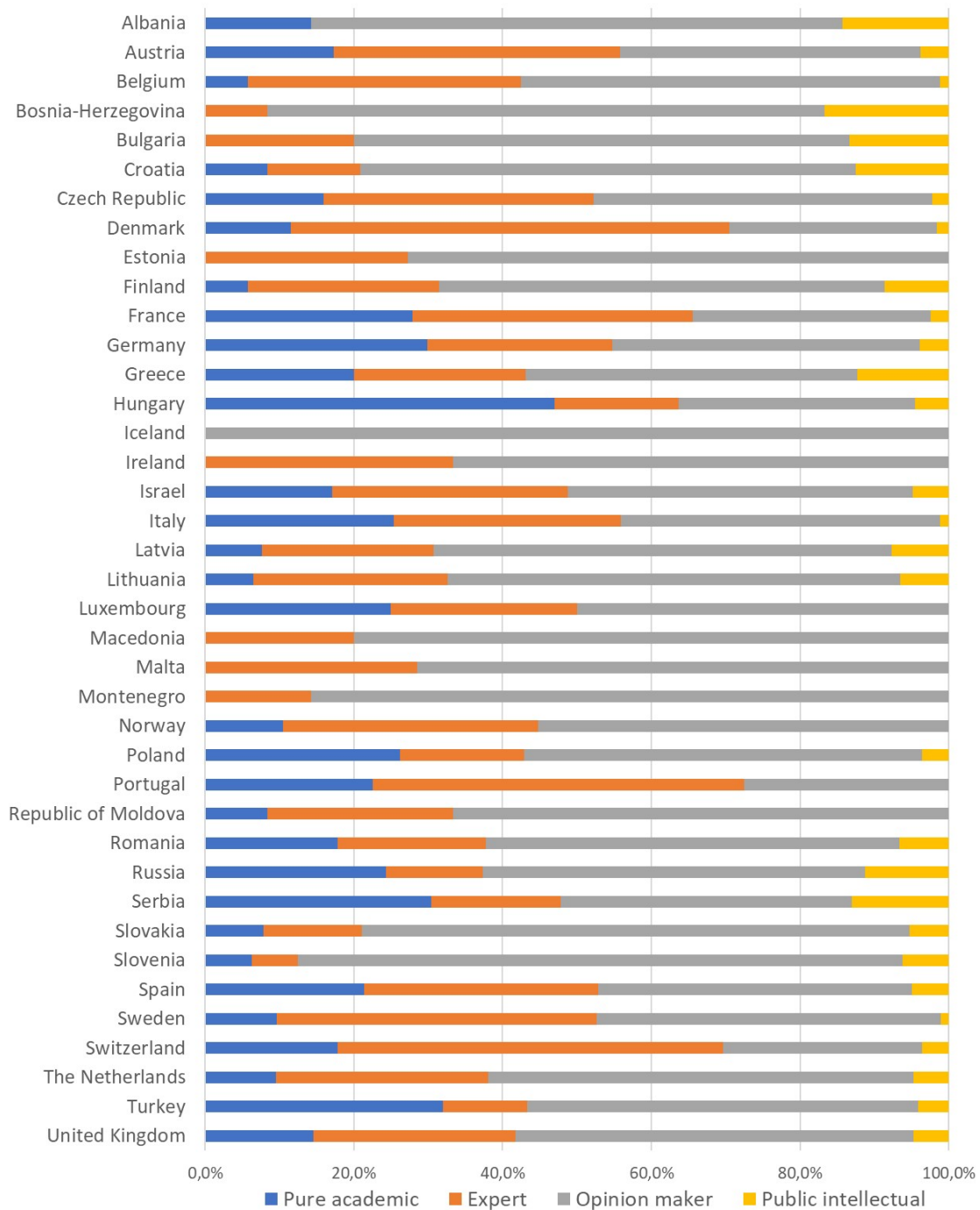
Figure 3: Policy advisory types of European political scientists (%) N=2,354



Policy advisory types by country

This general picture shows some country level differentiations. In Turkey, Serbia, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Germany and Albania pure academics are the second biggest category. In Luxembourg pure academics and experts share second place with 25% each. In some countries pure academics appear not to exist at all. These are the cases in Montenegro, Malta, North Macedonia, Ireland, Iceland, Estonia, Bulgaria and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Others do not seem to have any public intellectuals. Such is the case in Moldova, Portugal, Norway, Montenegro, Malta, Macedonia, Luxembourg, Latvia, Ireland, Iceland, Estonia and Albania. It is difficult to discern any patterns and explanations at this stage, apart from that the public intellectual type is, rather expectedly, a rare policy advisory type.

Figure 4: Policy advisory roles of political scientists by country (N=2,354).



Policy advisory types by age

The average age of the pure academic is around 44, while that of the expert almost three years older at around 46 (table 3). Opinion makers are on average 47+. The public intellectual (or renaissance scholar as we alternatively labelled this type) is slightly above 47. One interpretation for these differences is some type of professional life cycle effect. Different ages

seem to be associated with different types of policy advice giving activities. When young and closer to the early career stage, political scientists will tend to fall more into the pure academic category. Their main concern is academic work and advancement on the academic professional ladder. Professional accomplishments and the consolidation of their expertise can facilitate their jumping into more expert roles, while a bit later in their career they might feel the need to publicly advocate solutions, or assume multiple roles. This is of course an interpretation and a hypothesis, which needs to be further explored.

Table 3: Mean age per policy advisory type (N= 2,315)

Pure academic	Expert	Opinion maker	Public intellectual	Total average
44.05	45.90	47.16	47.31	46.20

When we cluster the data according to young scholars born after 1980 and older ones born after 1980 a similar picture emerges (table 4). The young scholar cohort falls predominantly within the pure academic type category. They are over-represented in this category by about 11% above their total average sample representation. Their representation to the expert category is balanced, while young scholars are under-represented in the opinion maker and public intellectual categories.

Table 4: Policy advisory types by young - old scholar

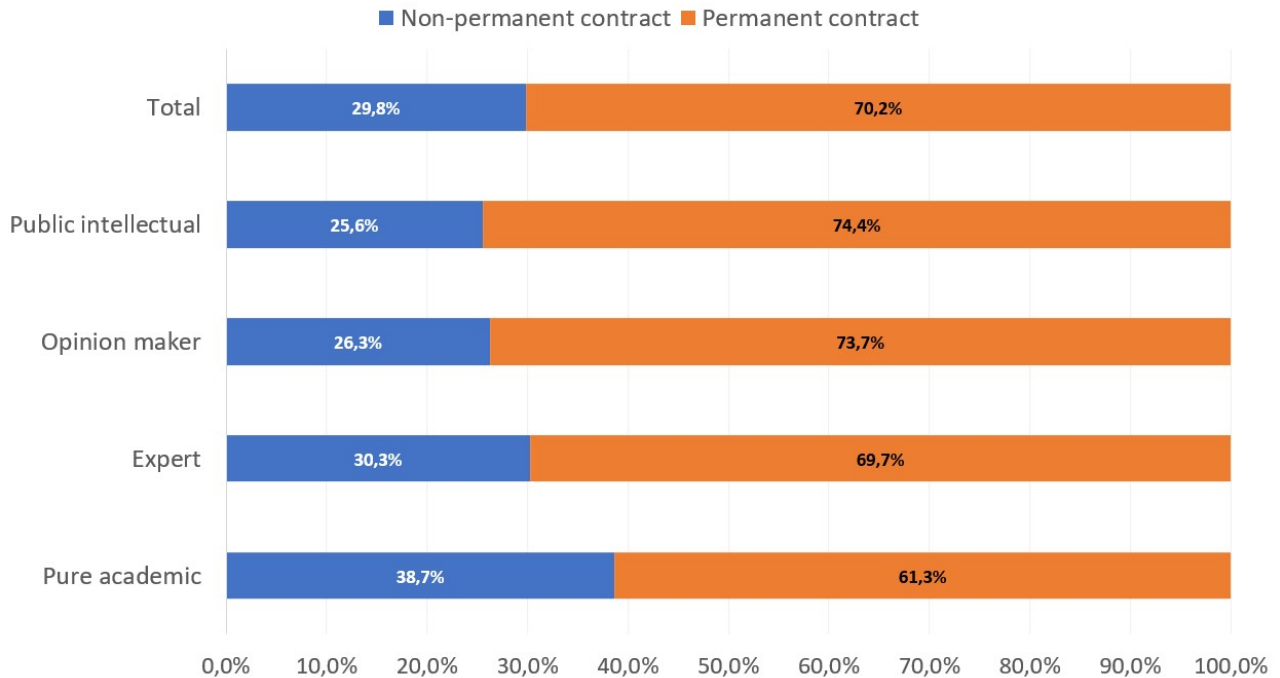
	Born until 1980	Born after 1980
Pure academic	65.6%	34.4%
Expert	76.8%	23.2%
Opinion maker	80.0%	20.0%
Public intellectual	80.4%	19.6%
TOTAL	76.3%	23.7%

Policy advisory role by permanency of job contract

Holders of a non-permanent contract are over-represented in the pure academic category by 8.9% in comparison to their total representation in the PROSEPS sample (figure 5). Non-tenured scholars are arguably more focused into advancing their careers and providing expert

advice with the remits of their academic positions, rather than indulging into the perils of advocacy and normative thinking.

Figure 5: Policy advisory types by contract



Policy advisory types by gender

Women are generally under-represented in the sample. Only about 33% of all respondents are women in comparison to about 65% who are men (table 5). This gender imbalance in the sample of respondents is also evident when we categorize policy advisory types by gender. However, there are a few interesting observations. Women are represented by 4.9% above the total sample average in the pure academic type and another 3.8% above the expert type. By contrast, they are represented below the total sample average by about 3% in the opinion maker category and a surprising 10.5% in the public intellectual category. Evidently, according to the PROSEPS survey data women political scientists either abstain more from giving policy advice than men, or they prefer to give expert advice. By contrast, men political scientists appear to be more policy advice active especially when it comes to policy advocacy roles.

Table 5: Policy advisory types by gender N=2329

	Female	Male	Prefer not to say
Pure academic	38.2%	59.4%	2.4%
Expert	37.1%	60.5%	2.4%
Opinion maker	30.0%	68.2%	1.8%
Public intellectual	22.8%	76.2%	1.0%
Total	33.3%	64.6%	2.1%

2.2.2 Specific aspects of policy advice by political scientists in Europe

Frequency and type of advice (Q8)

The majority of European political scientists have engaged in advisory activities during the last three years (figure 6). Interestingly enough, the less frequent advisory activity is to make forecasts and carry out polls. The finding is paradoxical as we know that contemporary political actors massively recur to opinion polls in order to detect public opinion. One explanation could be that only a small minority of political scientists perform such roles. The data presented above (table 4, figure 5) suggests that partly this minority comprises young and early career researchers with non-permanent contracts. Probably forecasting and polling is also addressed by other survey professionals or non-academic political scientists working for professional polling organizations. A second observation of interest is that 43% of our respondents appear quite reluctant to provide value-judgments and normative arguments, probably because many of them considered this activity in contrast with their role of “scientists” inspired by the “myth” of objectivity. However, one out of three political scientists do offer normative and value-judgement type of advice on a rather frequent basis (32%) and 46% on a less frequent basis. Moreover, political scientists are often called to intervene on policy issues.

Not surprisingly, young scholars and non-tenured scholars are much less involved in advisory activities compared to their older and tenured colleagues (table 6 and figure 5). However, young political scientists and early-career scholars are (slightly) above the sample average with respect to forecasts and carrying out polls. Perhaps this can be explained by the fact that younger scholars are, on average, more skilled on quantitative methods and survey techniques. This may bring them to be ready to offer their work to political actors, media and

private enterprises, for a kind of activity which is not particularly appreciated by more experienced scholars.

Figure 6: How often, on average, during the last three years, have you engaged in any of the following advisory activities with policy actors (policymakers, ministry officials, interest groups, political parties, etc)?

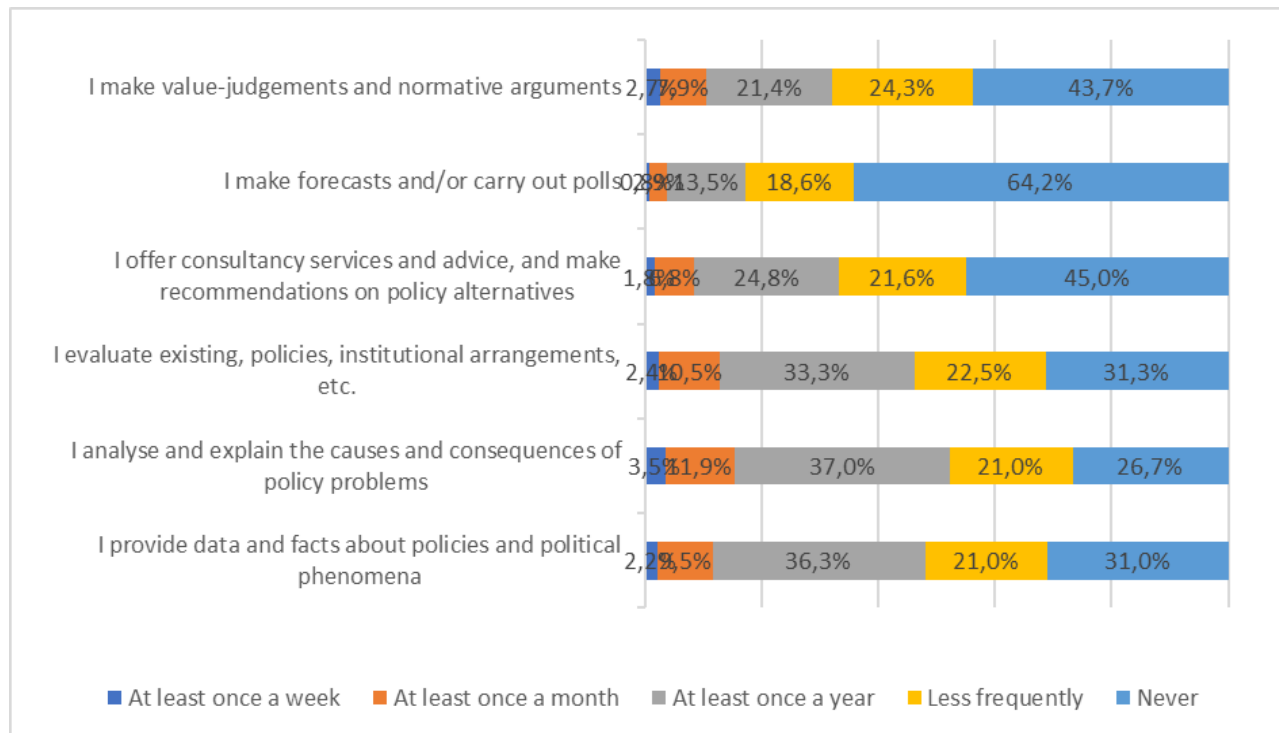


Table 6: Frequency and type of policy advice by age, contract type and gender

	Young scholars (born after 1980)	Non- permanent contract	Female	Total
I provide data and facts about policies and political phenomena	40,2%	41,6%	46,0%	48,0%
I analyse and explain the causes and consequences of policy problems	43,6%	43,3%	49,6%	52,3%
I evaluate existing, policies, institutional arrangements, etc.	39,9%	40,3%	44,8%	46,1%
I offer consultancy services and advice, and make recommendations on policy alternatives	27,6%	28,0%	29,9%	33,3%
I make forecasts and/or carry out polls	19,2%	17,7%	15,0%	17,2%
I make value-judgements and normative arguments	26,1%	28,4%	26,4%	32,0%
Total	23,70%	29,80%	33,30%	

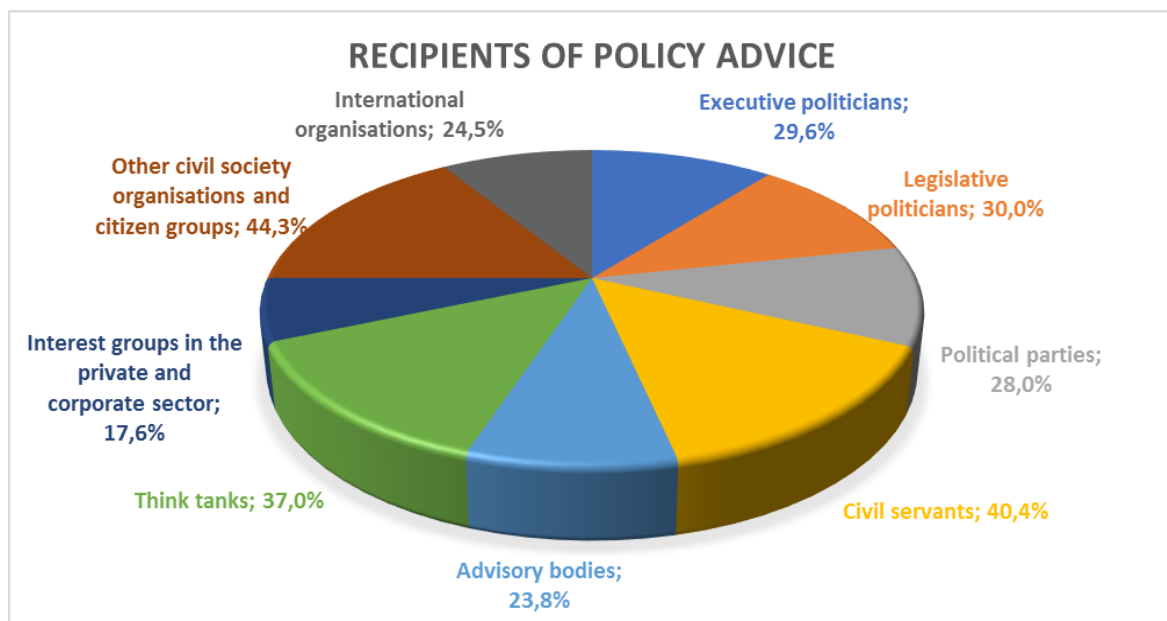
Female scholars are below the average with respect to forecasts/polls and normative arguments, as well as the provision of consultancy services and making policy

recommendations. The advice women political scientists seem to be engaged in, which is above sample average frequency, is technical, ranging from evaluations to causal analyses and provision of facts about policies and political phenomena.

Recipients of policy advice (Q9)

Consulting and advisory activities by political scientists are addressed to a huge variety of actors: the relative majority of our respondents affirms to have provided advice to civil society organizations (44.3%), civil servants (40.4%) and think tanks (37%). Additionally, about a third of them also advise executive (29.61%) or legislative politicians (29.6%), as well as political parties (28%). A quarter of political scientists claimed that they offer policy advice to international organizations (24.5%). Only 17.6% of our sample of political scientists declare that their consultancy was addressed to interest groups.

Figure 7: With which actors did you engage in knowledge exchange, advisory or consulting activities during the last three years?

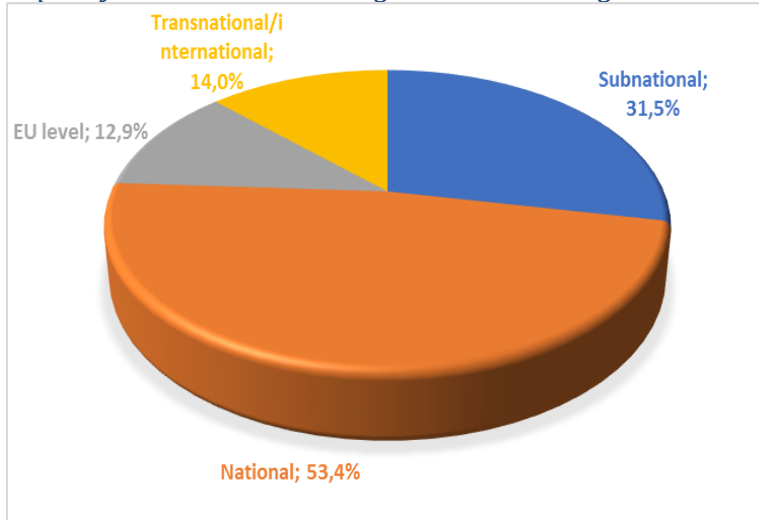


Levels of policy advice (Q10)

Not surprisingly, the policy advice of European political scientists is directed mainly to actors at the national (53.4%) and sub-national levels (31.5%). Much less policy advice is directed at international (14%) and EU actors (12.9%). However, given the physical distance of such actors from the working environment of international and EU institutions, as well as the higher barriers to access, these percentages should not be seen as small. On the contrary, as

we will see below (policy advice by policy sector), one out of five political scientists offers advice the content of which is about international affairs and the European Union (EU).

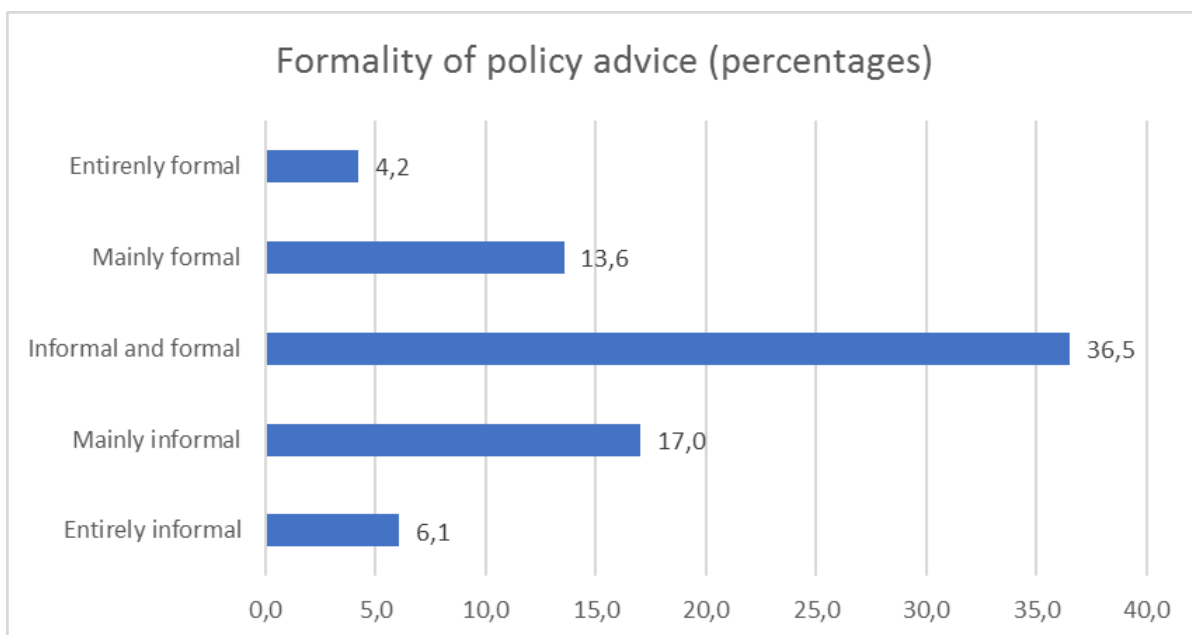
Figure 8: At which level of governance did you engage most frequently in policy advice or consulting activities during the last three years?



Formality of policy advice (Q11)

Figure 6 below shows that European political scientists carry out their policy advice giving activities through both informal and formal channels, although informal contacts seem to be slightly more recurrent than formal ones.

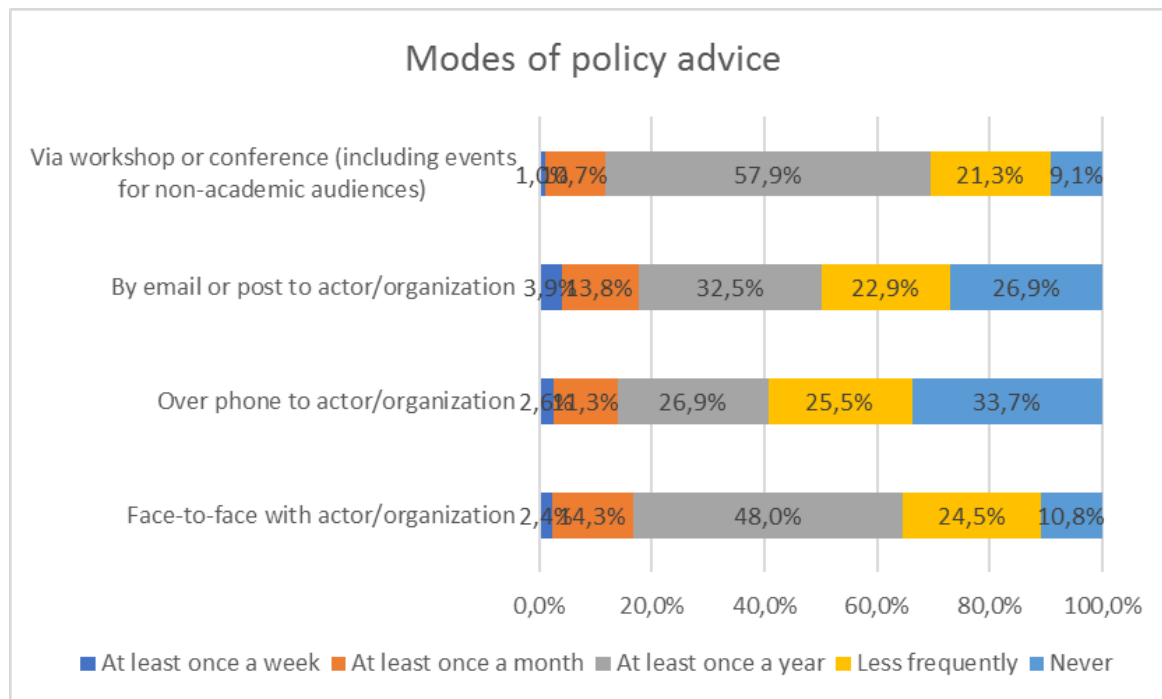
Figure 9: Please rate your engagement in direct knowledge exchange, advisory or consulting activities, during the last three years, on a scale from entirely informal (e.g. personal talks) to entirely formal (e.g. appointment in advisory committees, expert councils, etc.)



Channels and modes of policy advice dissemination (Q13-Q12)

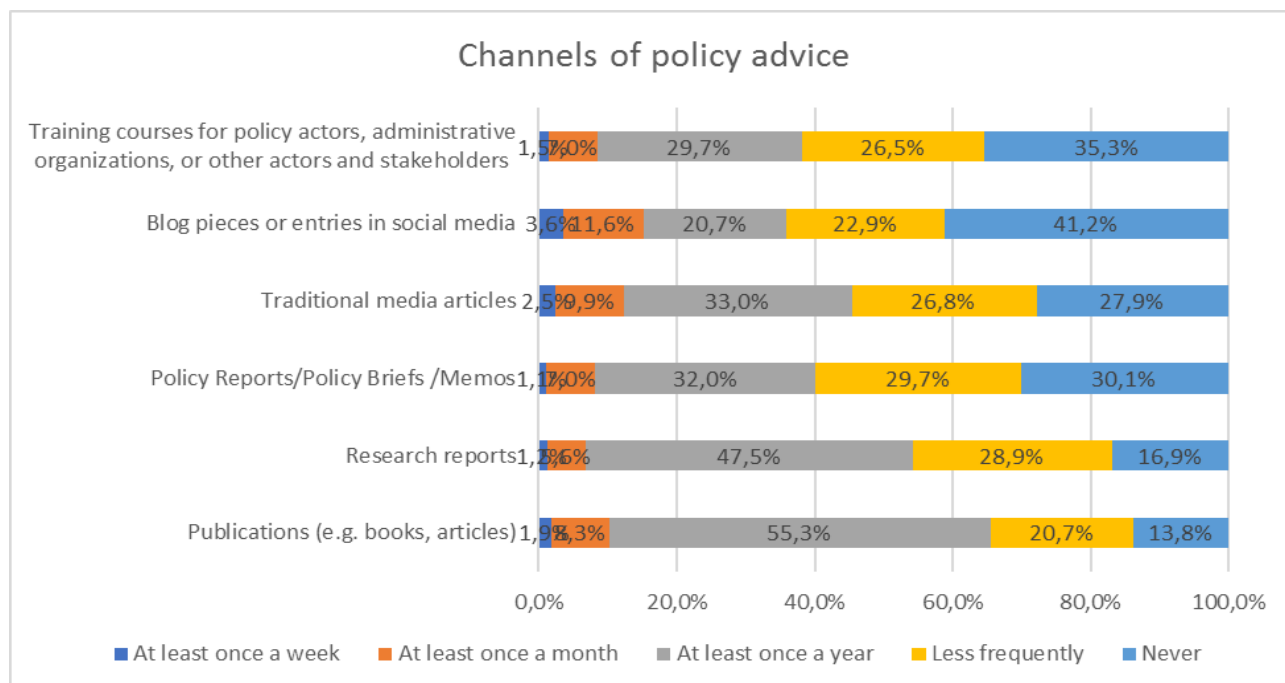
It follows rather logically from the above that political scientists appear to prefer a direct contact with political actors in order to provide their policy advice: face-to-face or (mainly) via workshop/conferences (including events for non-academic audiences), while emails or phone calls are less frequently used for such advice giving purposes.

Figure 10: Over the past three years, how frequently have you used any of the modes below to provide policy advice and/or consulting services?



Yet, the preferred channel to provide policy advice remains the academic one: publications but also research reports, which the majority of political scientists do at least once a year and is well suited to their academic roles. The next most preferred channel of policy advice dissemination appears to be traditional media articles with about a third of respondents claiming they write a column frequently. Rather expectedly, due to its more time consuming nature, training courses for policy actors, administrative organizations, or other actors and stakeholders, as well as policy reports/briefs and memos appear to be slightly less frequent. The use of blogs, or social media in general is even less developed. However, we need to keep in mind that when it comes to social media the frequency that matters is weekly and monthly use. There we see that a small community of one out of ten political scientists use the social media to offer policy advice.

Figure 11: Over the past three years, how frequently have you used any of the channels below to provide policy advice and/or consulting services?



Policy advice by policy sector (Q15)

The substantive policy area wherein the advice of European political scientists is more common is government, public administration organization and electoral reforms, followed by international affairs and EU issues (see figure 12 below). 17.4% of the respondents in our sample provided consultancy on civil and political rights and gender policies, while 14% were involved in issues concerning immigration and ethnic minorities. This concentration of advice around six policy sectors represents the core issues of expert interest for political scientists.

Areas of expertise of political scientists (Q16)

About 60% of the respondents claimed that “political science” is their area of expertise, more than the double compared to the second most quoted category, namely public policy (28.5%) and public administration (21%) (figure 13).

Figure 12: With which substantive policy areas is your advice concerned?

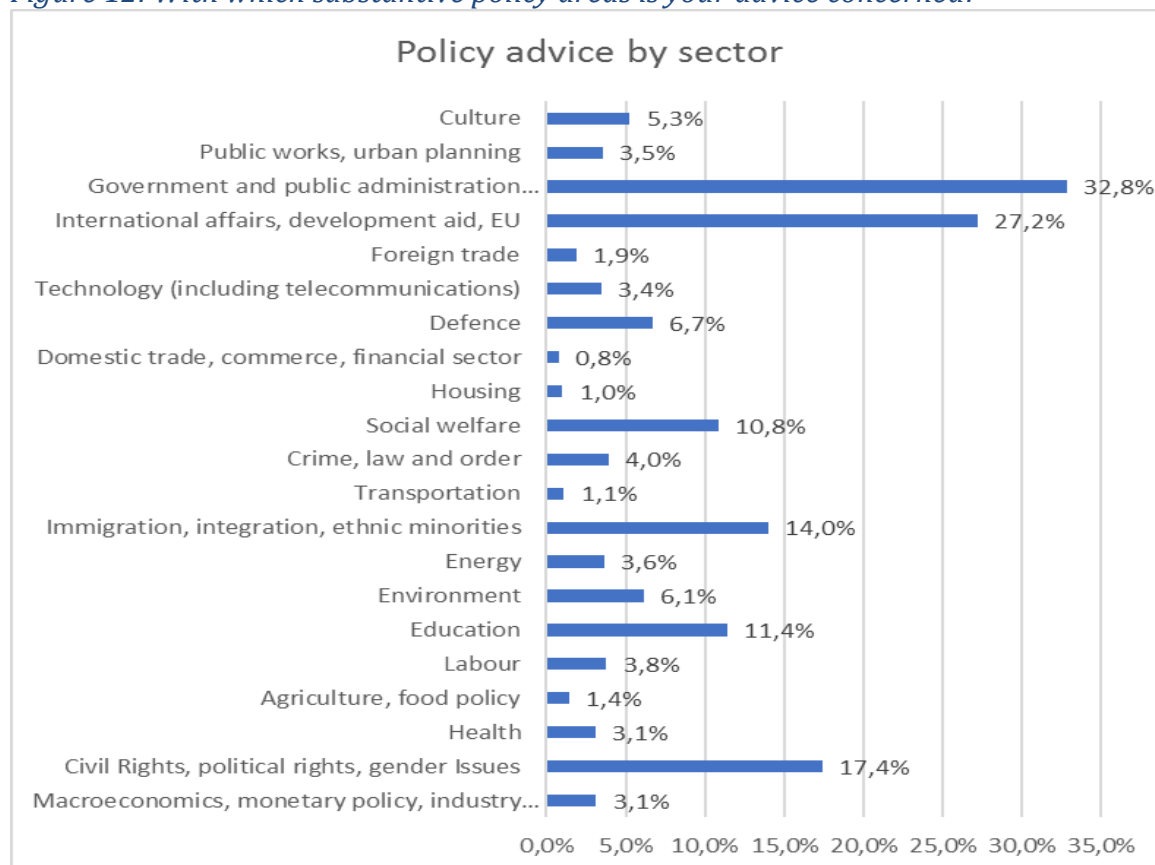
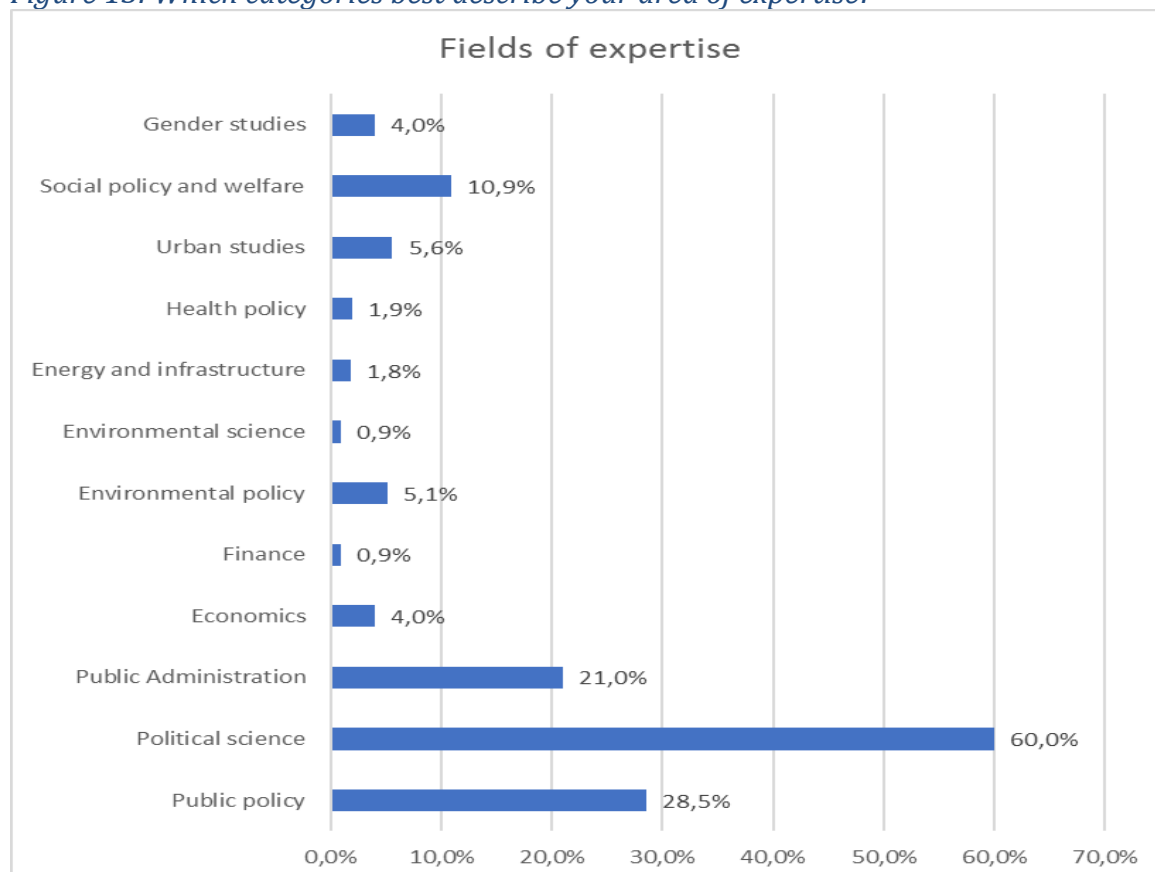


Figure 13: Which categories best describe your area of expertise?



Desirability of policy advice giving by political scientists (Q14)

Finally, the PROSEPS survey also investigated normative perceptions of political scientists on policy advice giving. The first such normative question concerned the desirability of policy advice activities by political scientists. About 71% of respondents are convinced to have a professional obligation to engage in public debate and they feel also that they should become more involved in policy making. Yet, there is a 64.5% claiming that political scientists should provide evidence-based knowledge and expertise outside academia, but they should not be directly involved in policy-making. However, only about 20% agree that political scientists should refrain from direct engagement with policy actors.

Figure 14: Please, indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

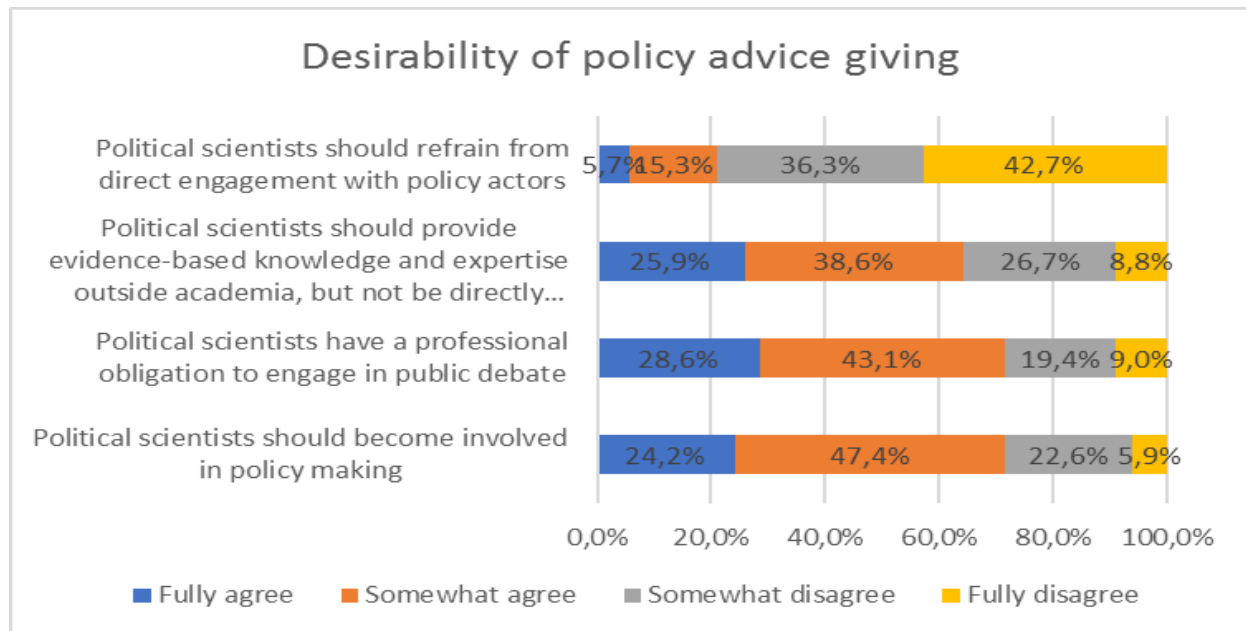


Table 7. Please, indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements (fully or somewhat agree):

	Young scholars	Non-permanent Contract	Female	ECPR institutions > 6	Total
Political scientists should become involved in policy making	24,6%	31,2%	32,6%	56,9%	71,5%
Political scientists have a professional obligation to engage in public debate	22,9%	29,2%	33,5%	58,0%	71,6%
Political scientists should provide evidence-based knowledge and expertise outside academia, but not be directly involved in policy-making	24,5%	29,1%	35,0%	63,4%	64,5%
Political scientists should refrain from direct engagement with policy actors	21,2%	32,0%	33,0%	59,1%	21,0%
Total (respondents)	23,7%	29,8%	33,3%	62,5%	2354

Motivation of political scientists for getting involved in policy advice giving (Q17)

As far as motivations for engaging in advisory activities are concerned, more than 90% of the respondents claimed that they would like to make a contribution to society (figure 15). Still, more than 70% of the sample engage in advisory or consulting activities for staying active minded or as a professional duty. Instead, about 45% of the respondents think that the advisory activity is a way to expand career options outside academia, while only 35% claim that it may help to advance their academic career.

Figure 15: How important are the following reasons for your engagement in advisory or consulting activities?

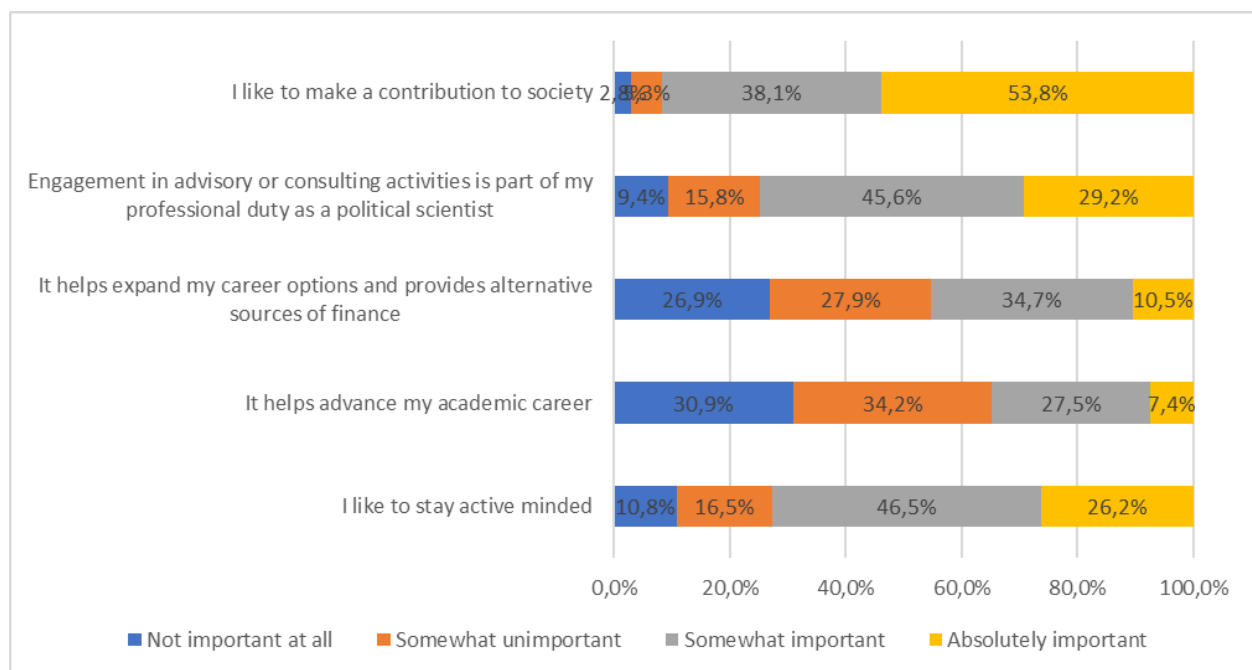


Table 8 *How important are the following reasons for your engagement in advisory or consulting activities? (Somewhat or absolutely important)*

	Young scholars	Non-permanent contract	Female	> 6 ECPR institutions	Total
I like to stay active minded	21,1%	27,5%	33,0%	58,6%	72,7%
It helps advance my academic career	24,8%	28,0%	36,0%	52,7%	34,9%
It helps expand my career options and provides alternative sources of finance	24,1%	32,0%	32,0%	56,8%	45,2%
Engagement in advisory or consulting activities is part of my professional duty as a political scientist	20,5%	26,3%	33,8%	60,3%	74,8%
I like to make a contribution to society	20,8%	26,8%	32,8%	61,9%	91,9%
Total (respondents)	23,70%	29,80%	33,30%	62,50%	(2354)

3. Conclusions and recommendations

A first observation that emerges from these results is that political scientists in Europe are quite extrovert in their attitudes and activities. They live their professional life outside the ‘ivory tower’, engaging in policy advisory activities by some 80 percent. Yet, the public intellectual, the most fully engaged political scientist, is a rare type in the academic political science community in Europe.

Second, there are some marked age and gender effects across European countries in the extent of advisory roles. As to a professional life cycle effect, different ages are associated with different policy advice giving activities. Younger and non-tenured fall more into the pure academic category, concerned as they are with academic work and advancement in the academic professional ladder. They seem more focused on advancing their academic careers, rather than on indulging into the perils of advocacy. Women political scientists in turn seems to abstain more from giving policy advice than men, or prefer to give expert advice than engage in policy advocacy roles. They engage relative more in evaluations, causal analyses and fact giving about policies and political phenomena, rather than in consultancy, forecasts and normative judgements.

Third, looking at the modes and recipients of dissemination of advice, the preferred channel of providing advice remains the academic one, that is publications and research reports. The use of social media for providing advice begs further development. The top three recipients of policy advice by political scientists are civil society organisations, civil servants and think tanks, followed by politicians and political parties.

This report has presented the first descriptive results of the PROSEPS survey, which now await further analyses at the country level as well as explorations of similarities and differences between countries to thoroughly understand the advisory activities of political scientists across different policy advisory systems and academic environments.