

# Effects of rising tuition fees on non traditional students

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Expansion of Higher Education. New students, more problems?

VII International Workshop at the University of Konstanz

March 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2014

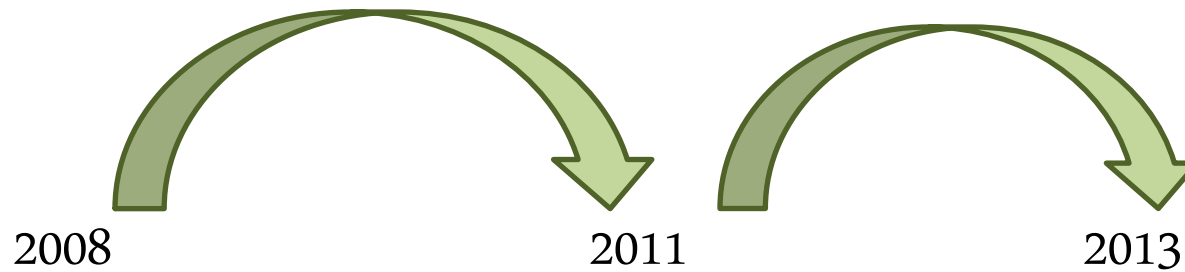
## Non traditional Students

- Widening participation literature: increase of non traditional students in terms of:
  - Age (mature)
  - Sex (feminisation)
  - Social class (access of WC students)
  - Access tracks (Vocational Training; finished degrees, older than 25 years old...)
  - Combination of studies and work

## Context

Bologna Process implementation

Rising tuition fees



Economic crisis

# Bologna Process Implementation

- Structural Changes:
  - Short degrees (3-diplomatures)      - 4 year Bachelors
  - Long degrees (4-llicenciatures)
- ECTS: pedagogical changes (Continuous assessment, group work...)



Increase of students physical presence at university

Increase of students and academic staff contact

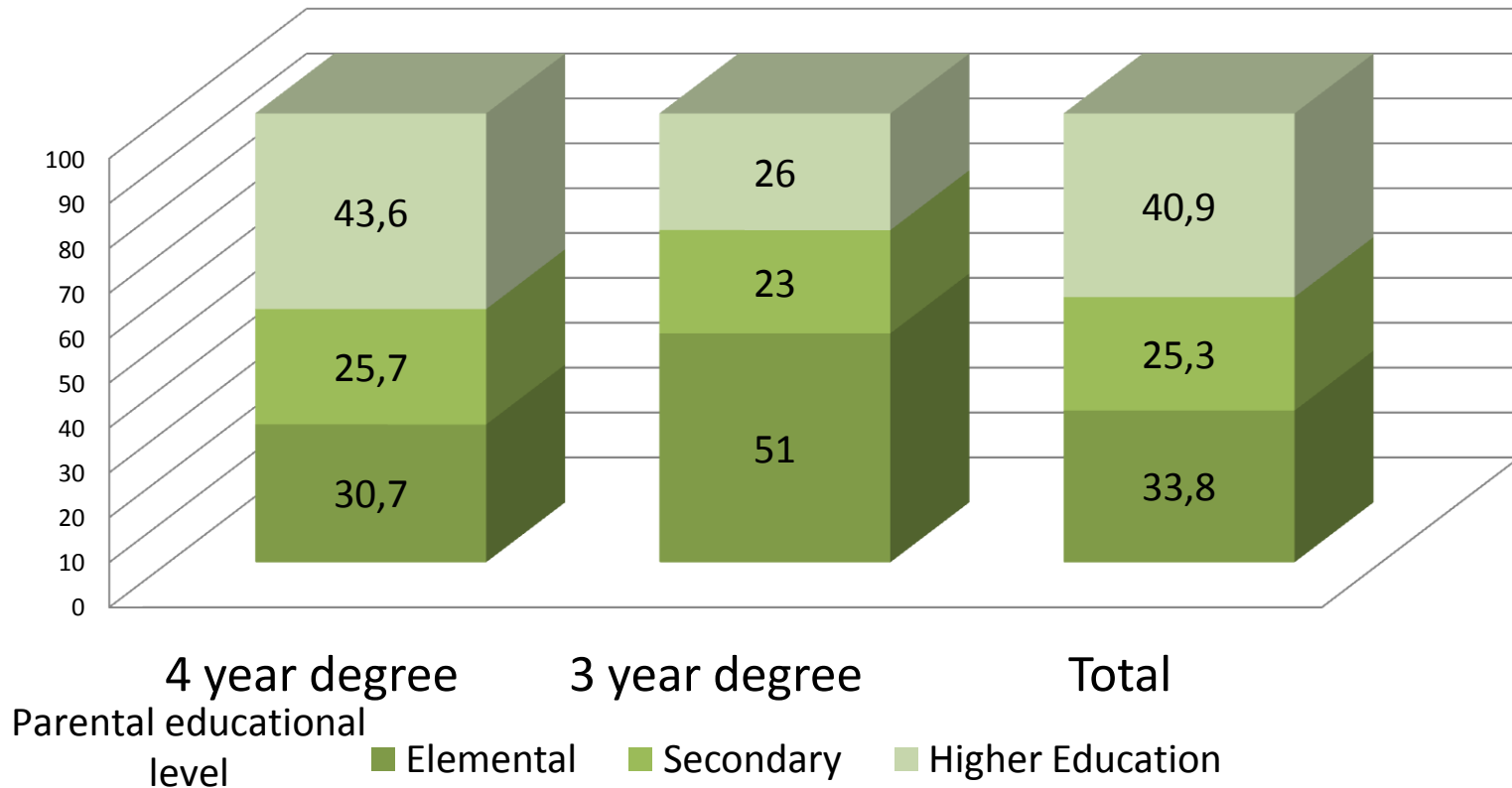
Students engagement (traditional)

# Data

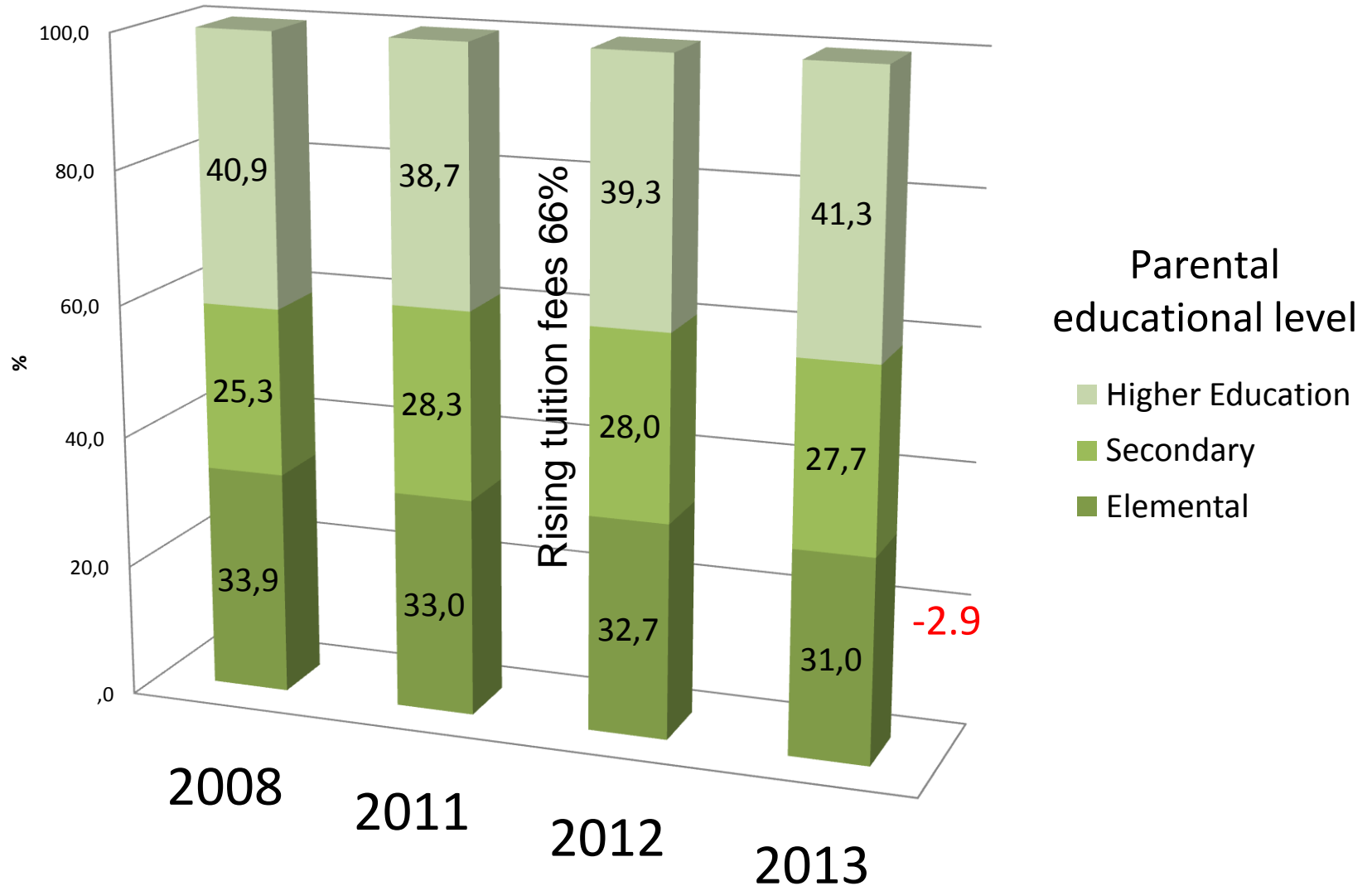
- Registry data of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Statistical Office OGID)
- Academic years
  - 2008-2009. Pre- Bologna
  - 2011-2012. Post-Bologna, Pre-Rising tuition Fees
  - 2012-2013. Post-Bologna, Post-Rising tuition Fees
  - 2013-2014. Current academic year

### Social composition of first year students. 2008-2009

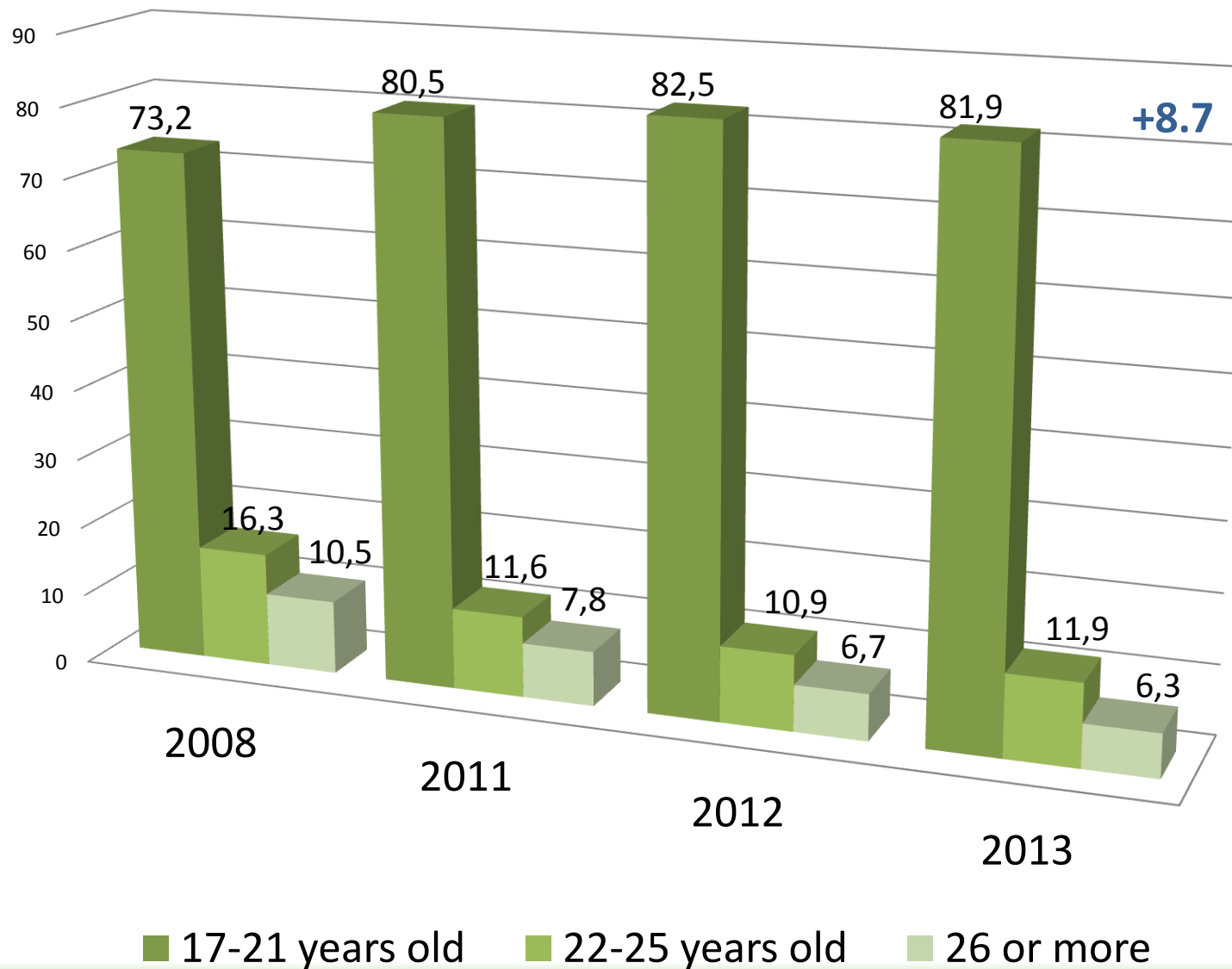
Increase of risk



## Evolution on social composition of first year students

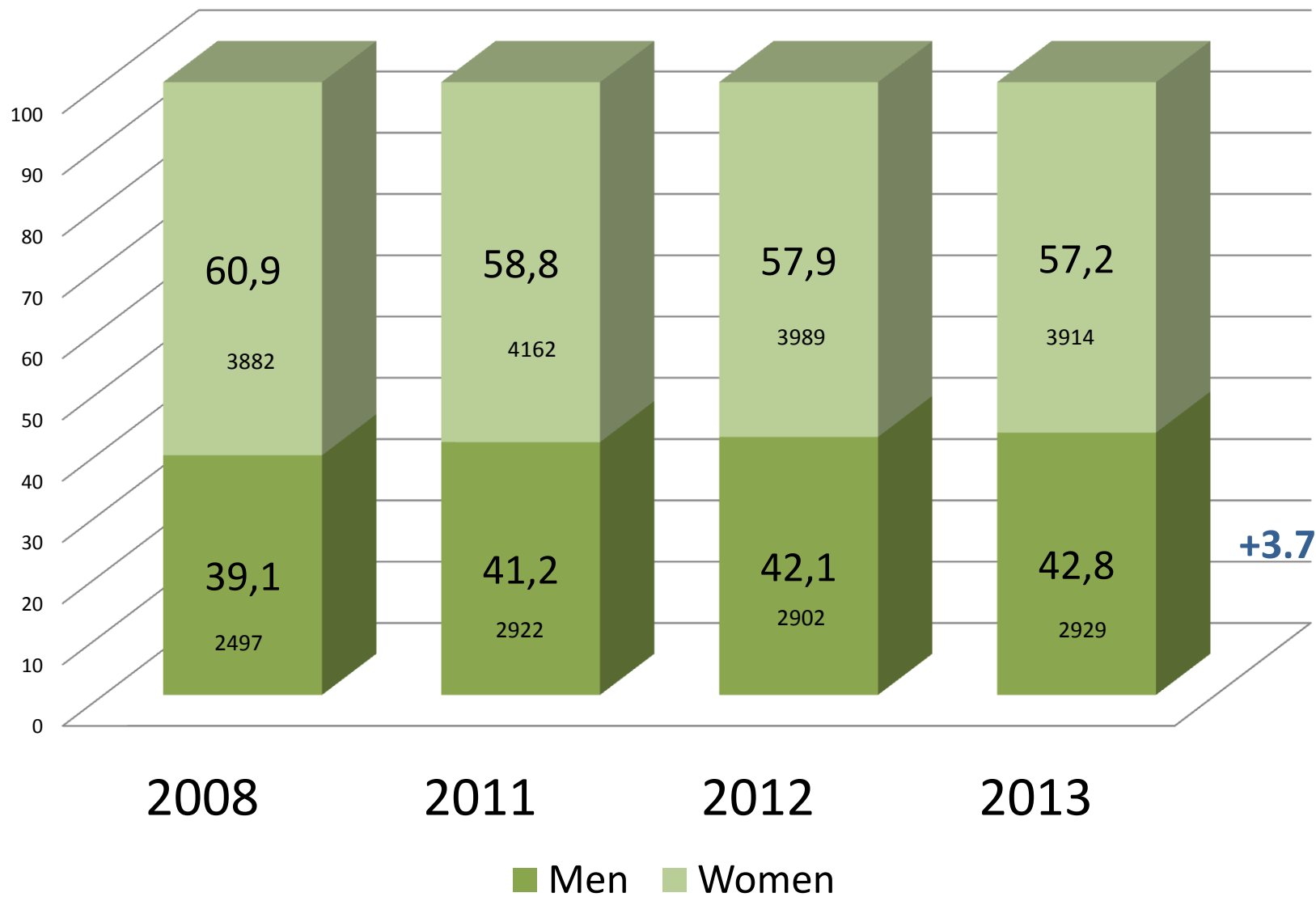


## Evolution on age composition of first year students

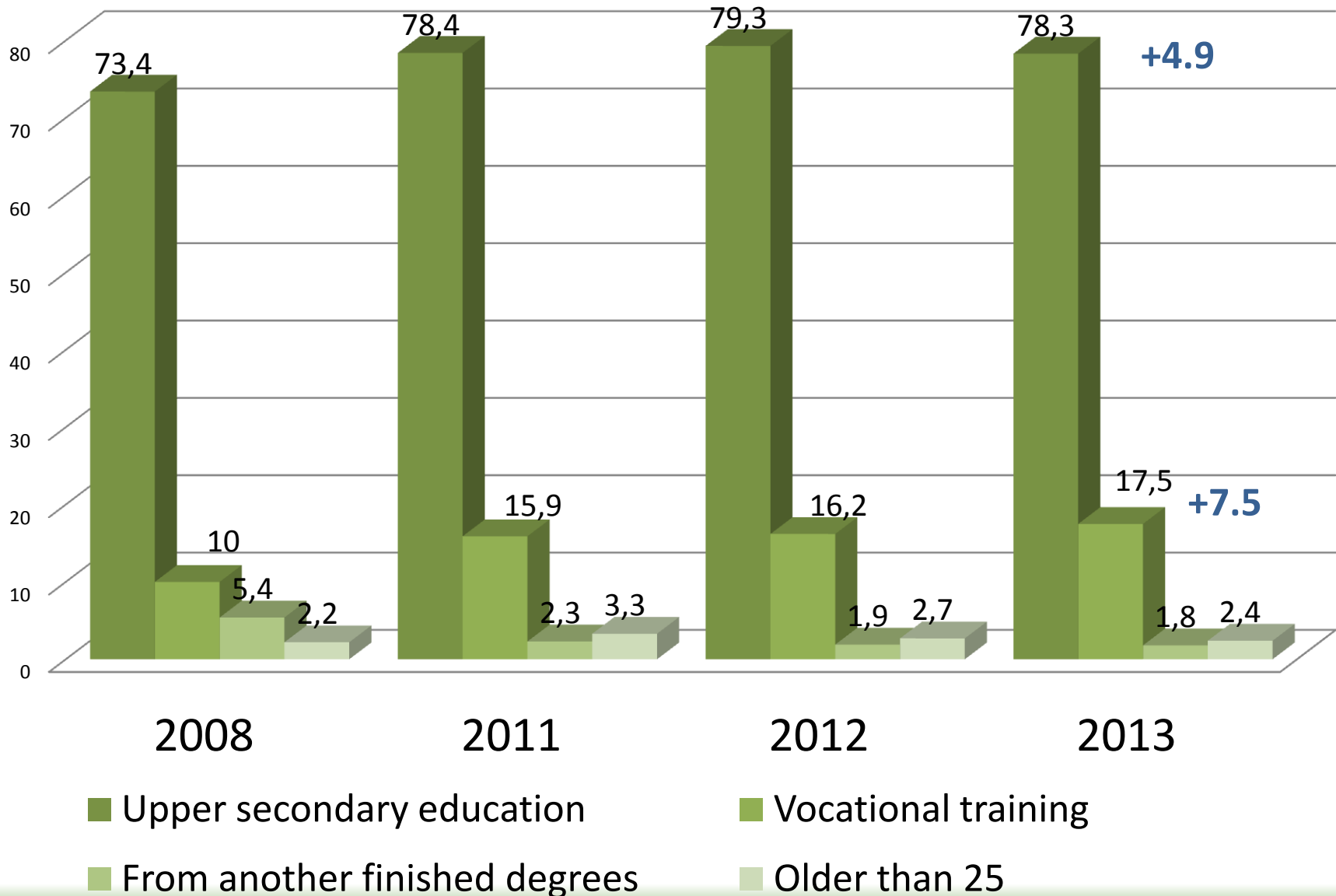




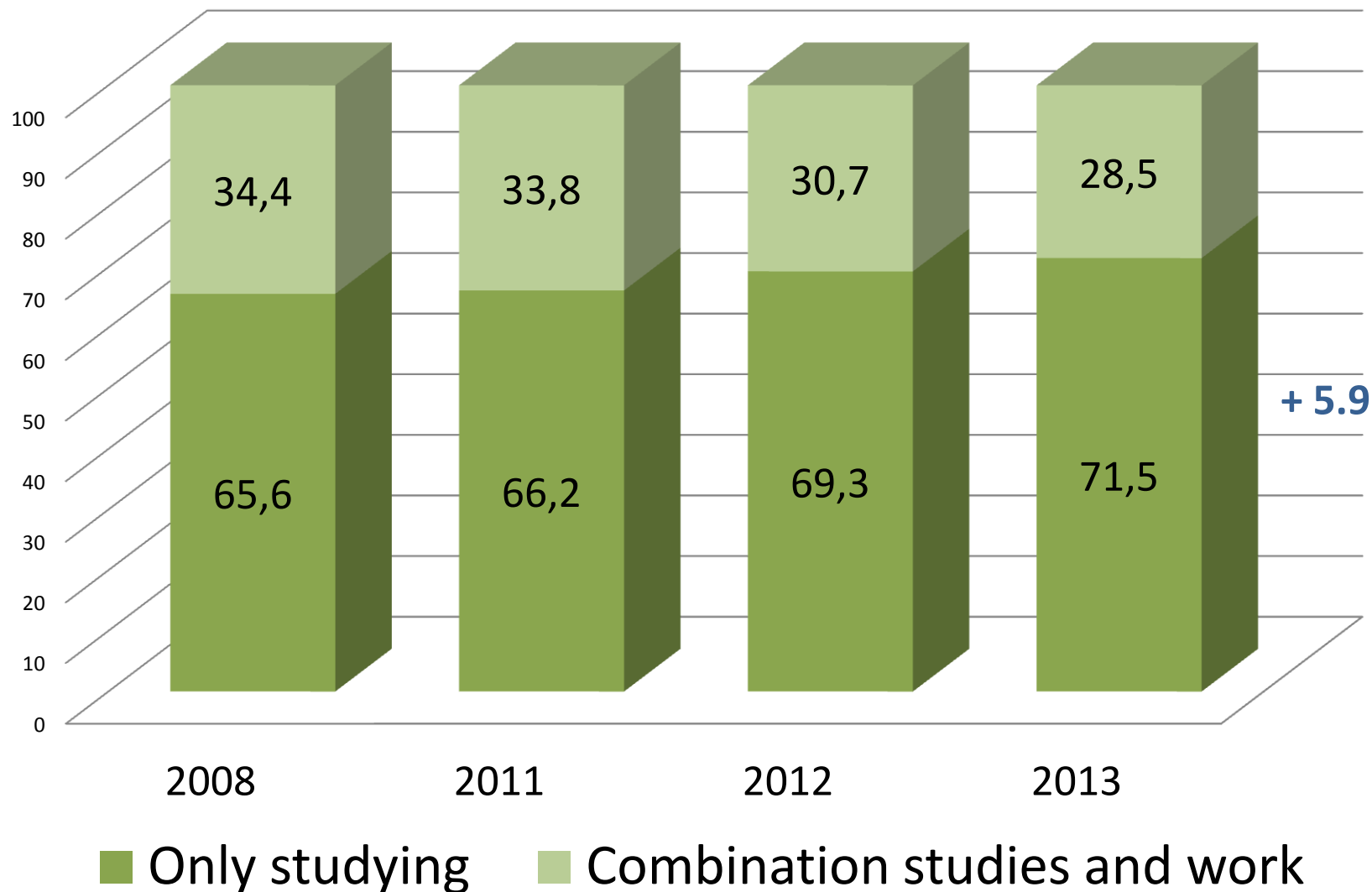
## Evolution on sex composition of first year students



# Evolution on access track



## Evolution on work situation of fist year students



## Strategic decisions

- Typology of degrees
  - Cost (different regarding application of studies –labs, specific material...)
  - Global achievement rate (proxi easy or difficult degree).

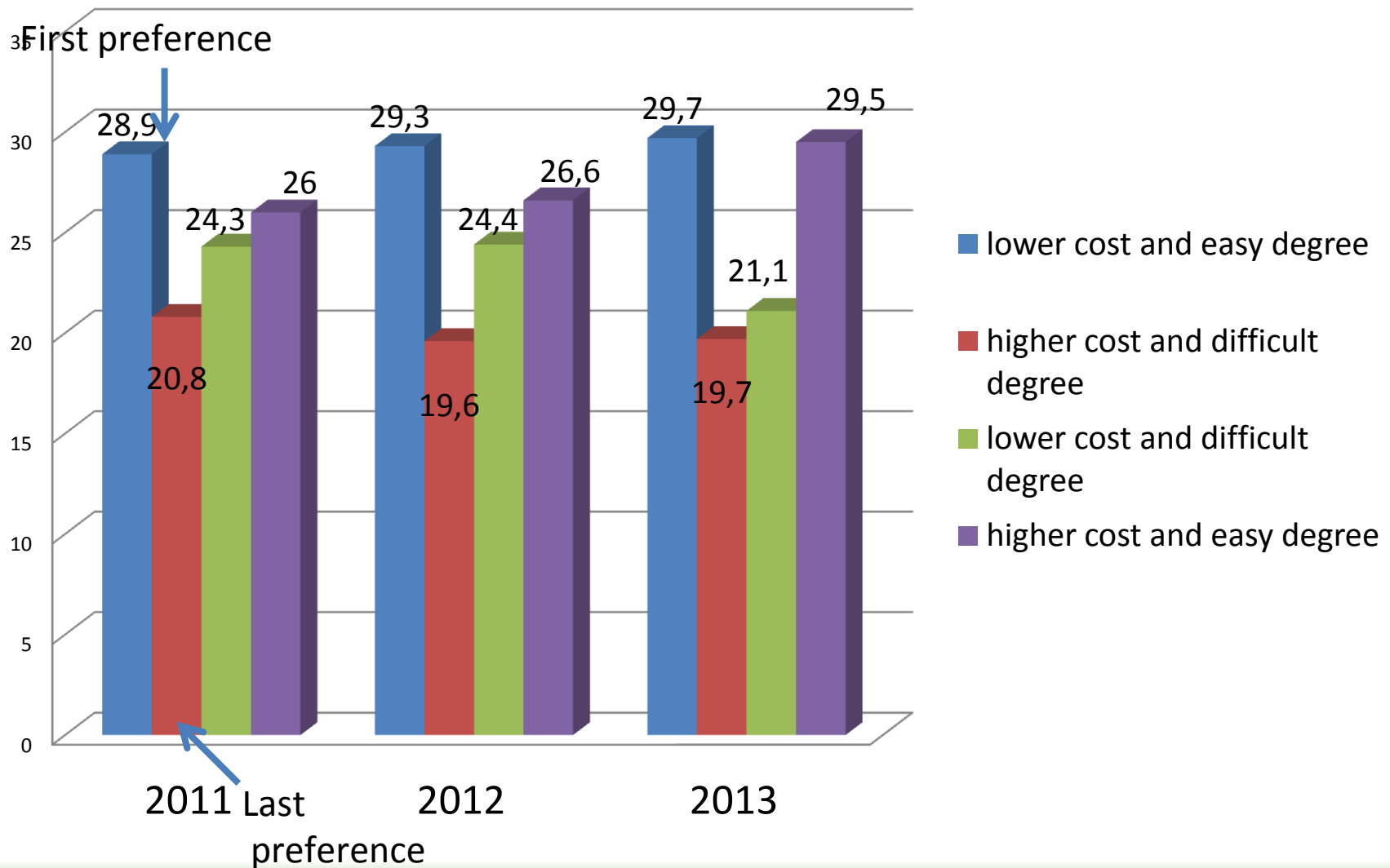
Less

risky

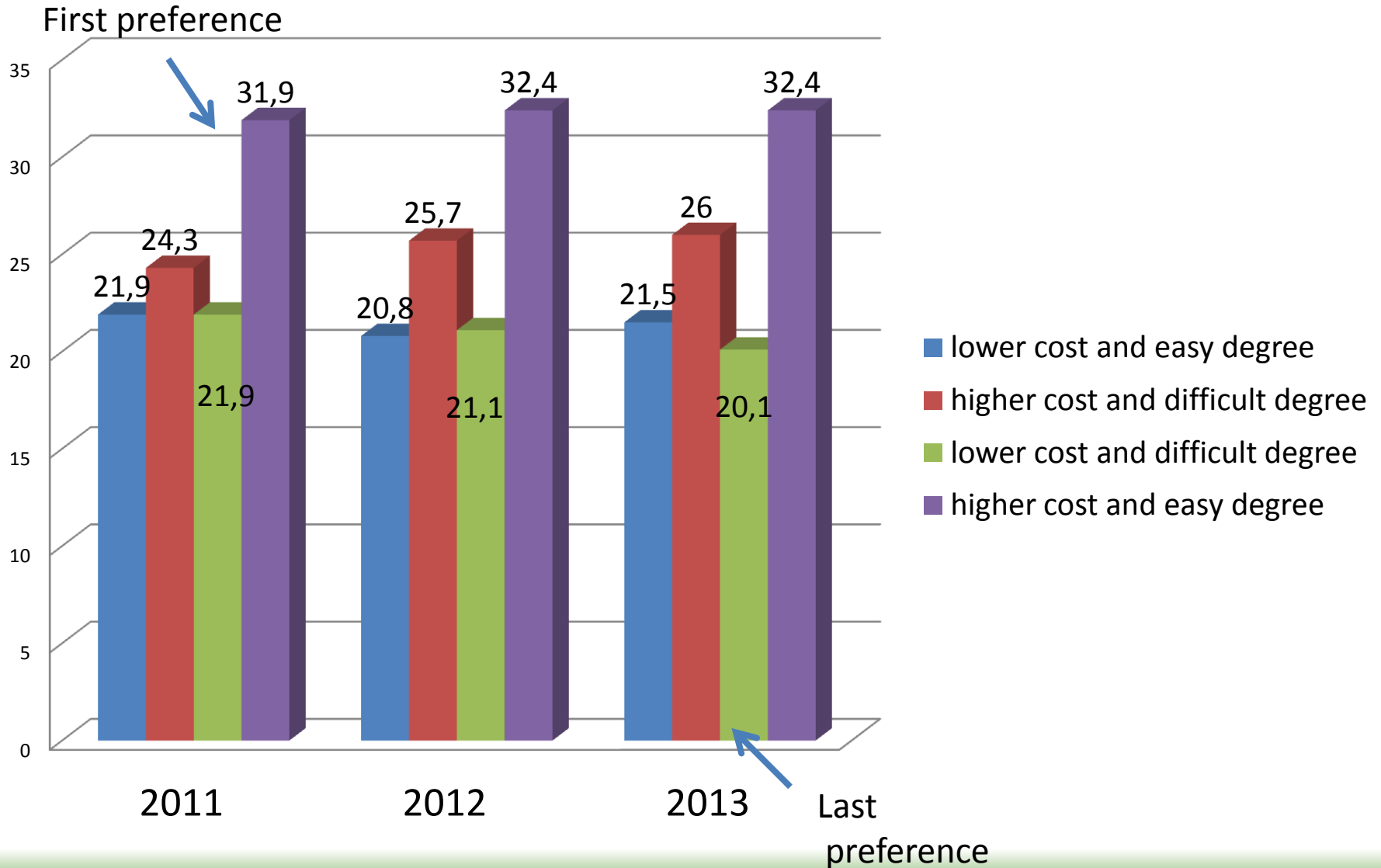
Lower cost and easy degree	Higher cost and easy degree
Lower cost and difficult degree	Higher cost and difficult degree

More  
risky

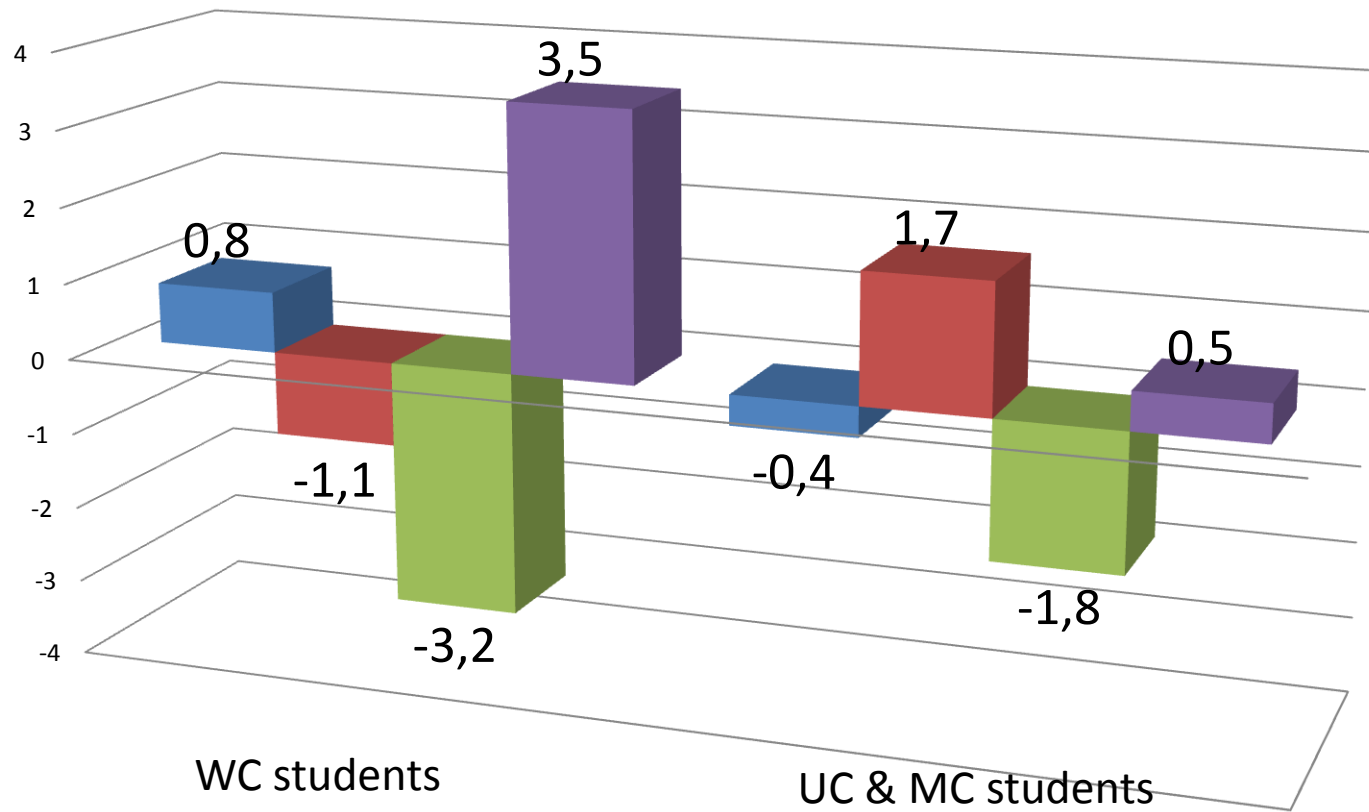
## Evolution of WC degree choices



## Evolution of UC & MC degree choices



## Variation 2011-2013 of degree choices



- lower cost and easy degree
- higher cost and difficult degree
- lower cost and difficult degree
- higher cost and easy degree

## Institutional changes

Pedagogic  
aspects  
(ECTS)

Structural  
aspects (from  
three year to  
four year  
degrees)

Economic  
crisis

Cuts in  
budgets

Rising fees

Reduction of:

Pedagogic  
aspects

Deep learning

Integration

Impacts on life

conditions

(reduction of  
non traditional  
students)



# Policy recommendations

- To promote activities to increase social and academic student participation at university
- To guarantee that all teaching activity rise to minimum threshold of quality (teacher training, resources, clear goals, coordination...)
- To develop policies and teaching activities taking into account
  - Different student profile (non traditional)
  - Social composition of degrees
- Evaluate impacts of increasing costs (directs –fees- and indirect –risk-)
- To increase and consolidate compensative grants

Thank you for you attention!

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