

PRESENCE IN AND PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF NON-NATIONAL CLIENTS IN BELGIAN AND PORTUGUESE SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

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WHY?

- Larger **vulnerability** among migrants and ethnic minorities (MEM) (Missine et al., 2012; Horyniak, 2016)
 - **Limited access to / accessibility of** health services (Dauvrin et al., 2012; Fountain et al., 2004; Blomme et al., 2017)
 - **Little to no ethnicity registration or monitoring in the EU** (Farkas 2017, De Kock et al., 2017)
 - **Limited formal registry data** on healthcare utilization in the EU (Rechel et al., 2012)
 - **Little knowledge about presence** in substance use treatment (SUT)
- Need to **substantiate targeted treatment** and prevention (Rechel et al., 2012; Lemmens et al., 2017)
- **Are non-nationals represented in SUT equally compared to their presence in general society?**
- **What are the profile characteristics of non-national (EU and non-EU) clients in SUT services?**
- **Which hypotheses can be developed for further TDI analysis in disaggregated datasets?**

METHOD (1/3)

- ❑ **Descriptive comparison of presence of EU and non-EU nationals in SUT services versus presence in the general population in Belgium and Portugal**
- ❑ **Descriptive comparison between profile characteristic indicators among nationals and non-nationals in Belgium and Portugal**

- **Education & Employment**
- **Main substance**
- **Age**
- **Referral**
- **Gender**

METHOD (2/3)

Aggregated datasets 2012-2014

- PT: *Sistema de Informação Multidisciplinar* (SIM)
- BE: Treatment Demand Indicator (TDI)

Coverage

“A drug treatment centre/programme is any facility that provides drug treatment [...] to people with drug problems.” (TDI protocol 3.0)

- **BE: all governmental SUT services (2012: n=86; 2013: n=122; 2014: n=120)**
 - **90% of TDI registering services covered nationality**
 - **54'418 treatment episodes, 32'715 identifiable clients**
- **PT: all governmental SUT services (180-185 services)**
 - **5'894 Identifiable clients**

METHOD (3/3)

Clear **limitations** of this method:

- **Treatment episodes** and not unique clients data in BE
- Aggregated datasets (privacy & time limitation)
- Ad hoc analysis versus **monitoring** (changes over time)
- **Ethnicity versus nationality**
 - 11 % non-Belgian nationality versus 20% migration background
 - 2,5% of the Portuguese population have a EU or non-EU foreign nationality

→ **Need to triangulate TDI / SIM data (EMCDDA, 2017)**

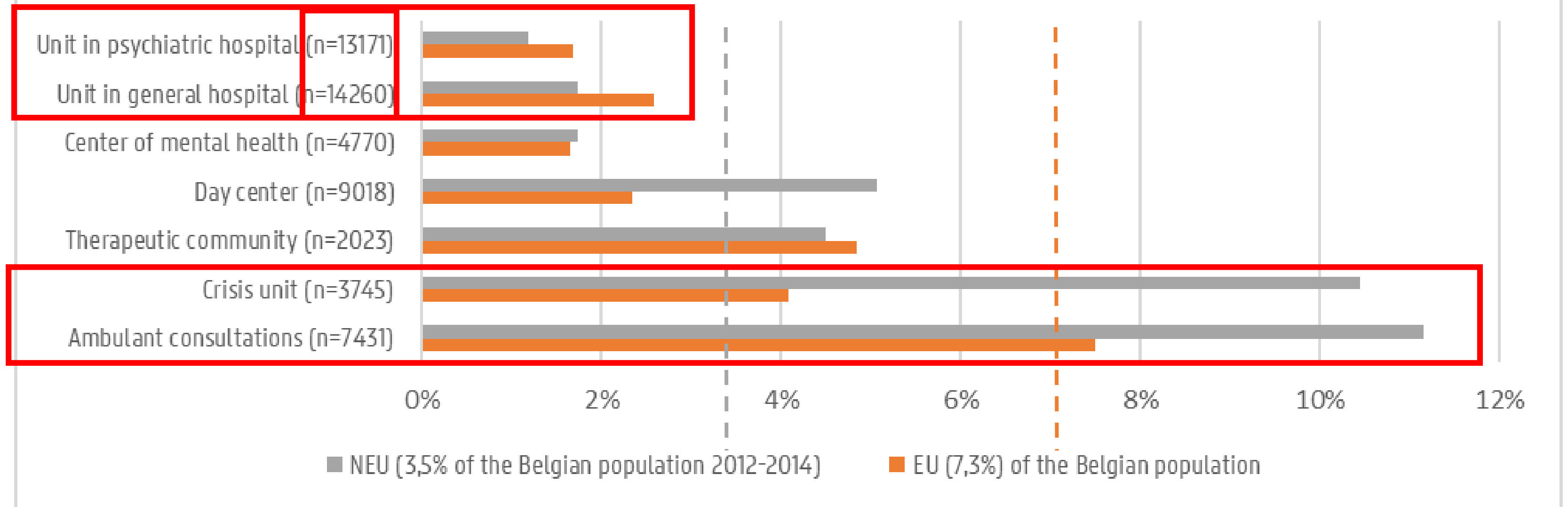
- Literature & qualitative research
- national focal point annual reports & population statistics

→ **No conclusive results!**

→ **Sensitize for future research**

PRESENCE PER NATIONALITY TYPE IN BELGIAN SUT SERVICES

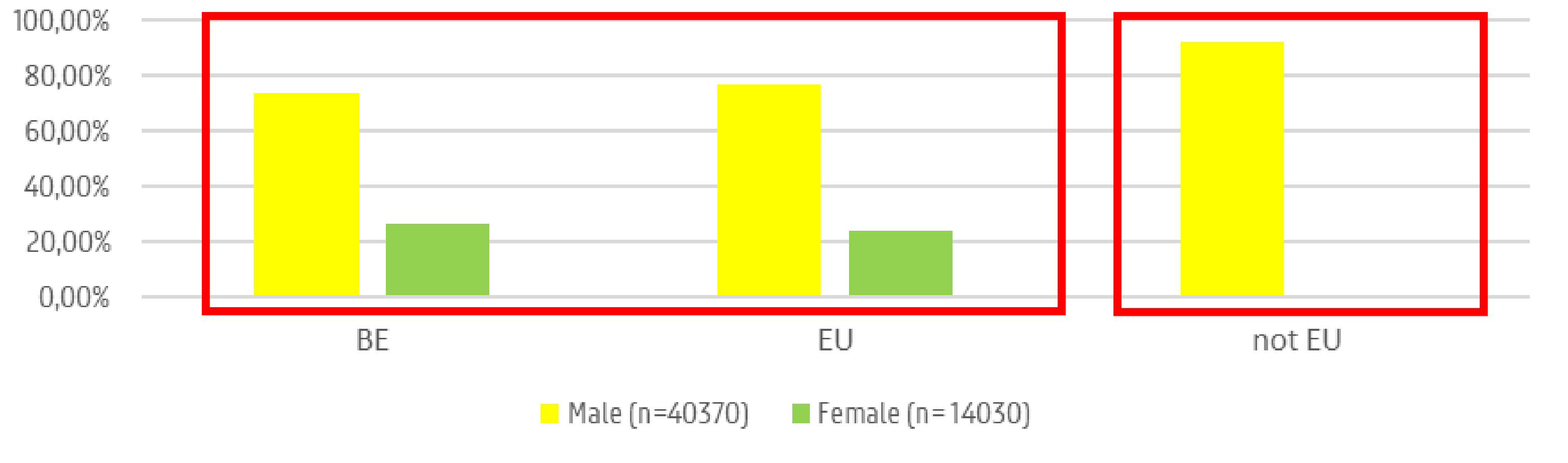
Presence of EU and non-EU nationalities compared to presence in general population 2012-2014



- EU nationals seem underrepresented in most SUT services
- EU nationals seem **overrepresented in ambulant services**
- **Non-EU nationals seem overrepresented in crisis units and ambulant consultations, day centres and therapeutic communities**
- EU and non-EU nationals seem **underrepresented in the most regularly used service: general hospitals**

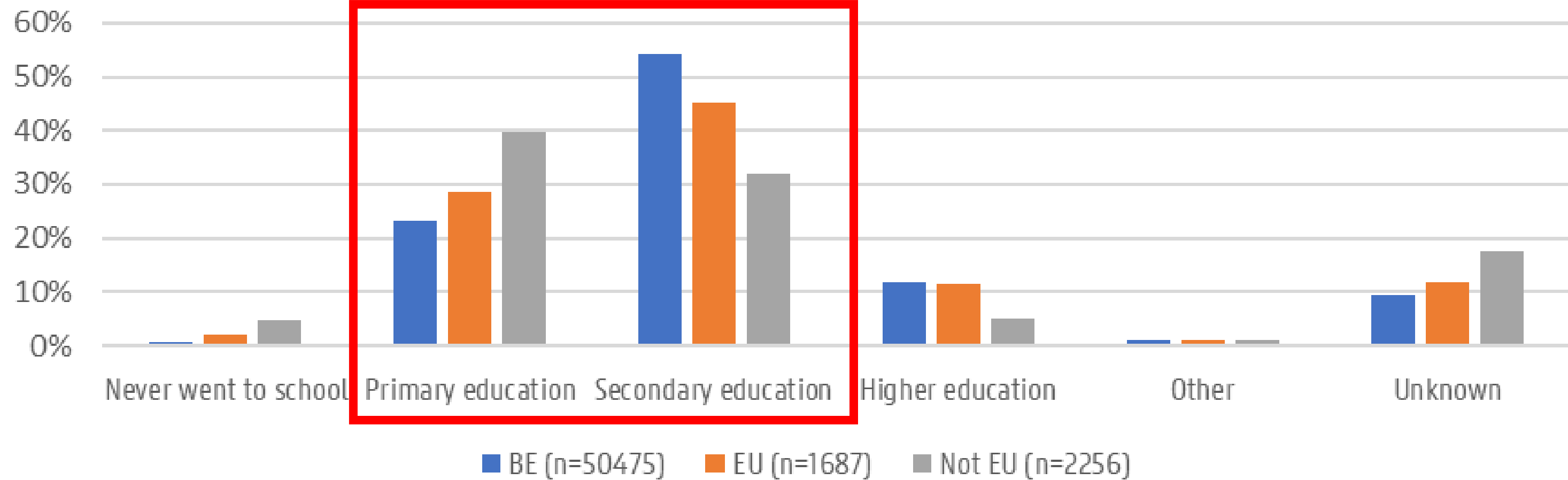
PROFILES PER NATIONALITY TYPE IN BELGIAN SUT

Gender per nationality type at intake in Belgian SUT 2012-2014



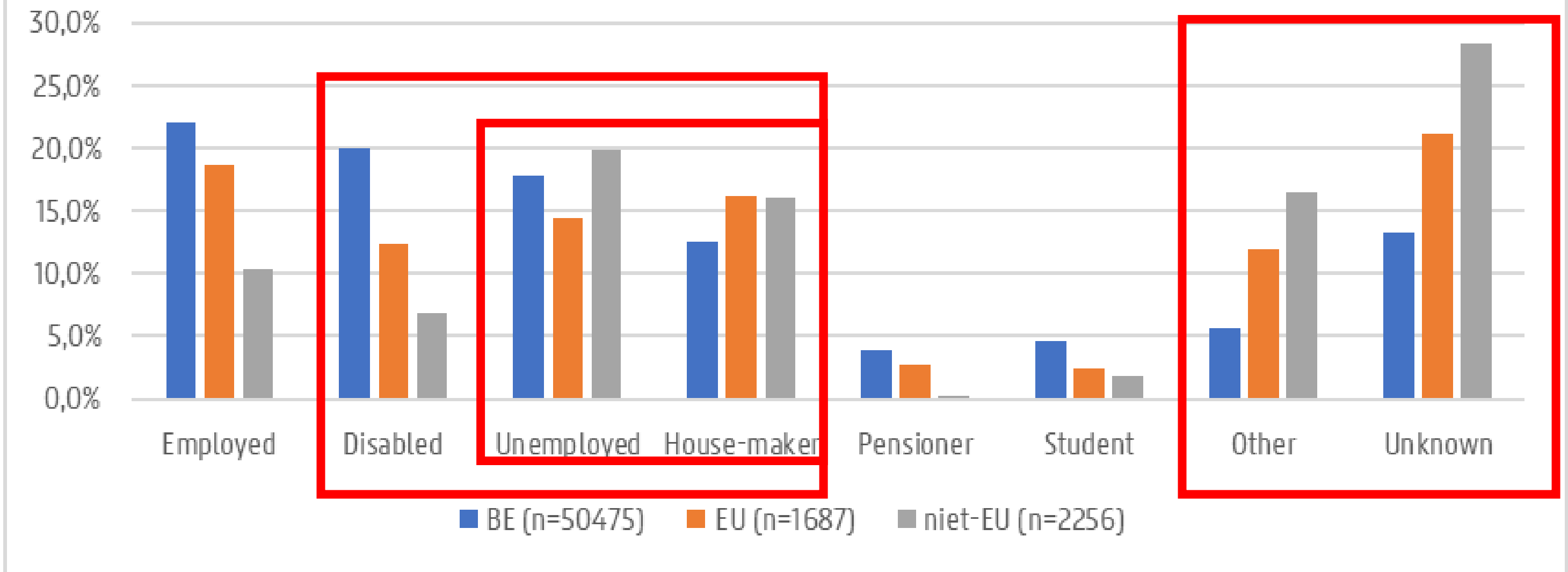
- The gender gap between Belgian and EU clients equals the estimated European average: $\frac{1}{4}$ (Montanari et al., 2011)
- **Underrepresentation of non-EU females** (0,044%) as compared to their male counterparts
 - In 2017 **50% of the EU & non-EU migrant stock was female** (Données issues du Registre national, traitement des données : UCL/DEMO, calculs : Myria 02-10-2018)

Educational level at intake per nationality in Belgian SUT 2012-2014



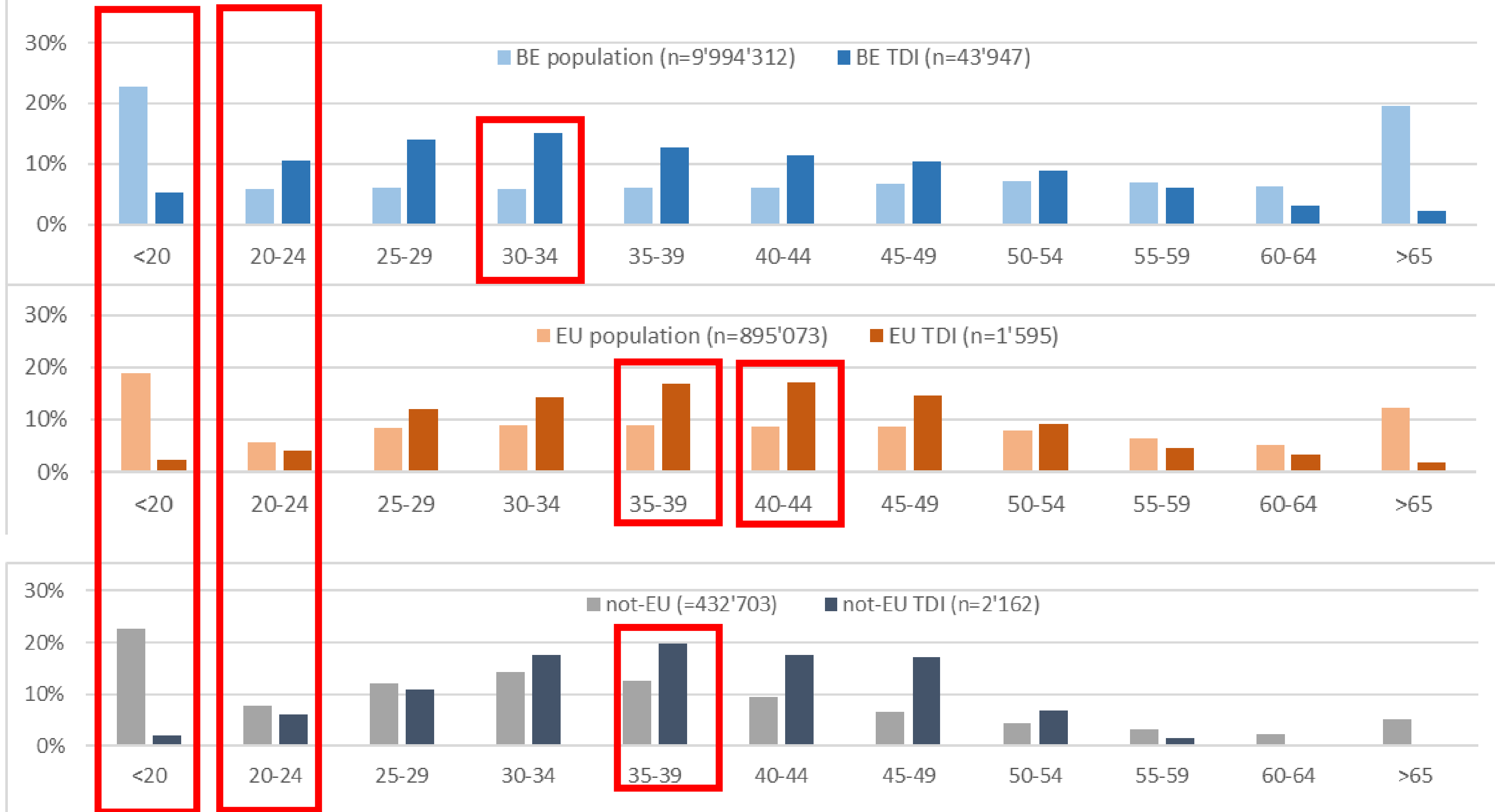
- **Lower educational levels among non-Belgian clients** (*need for testing in non aggregated datasets*)
- Low education levels among all clients (National report, 2014)
- *Increase of educational level in 2012-2013-2014 among all client groups*

Employment per nationality at intake in Belgium SUT 2012-2014

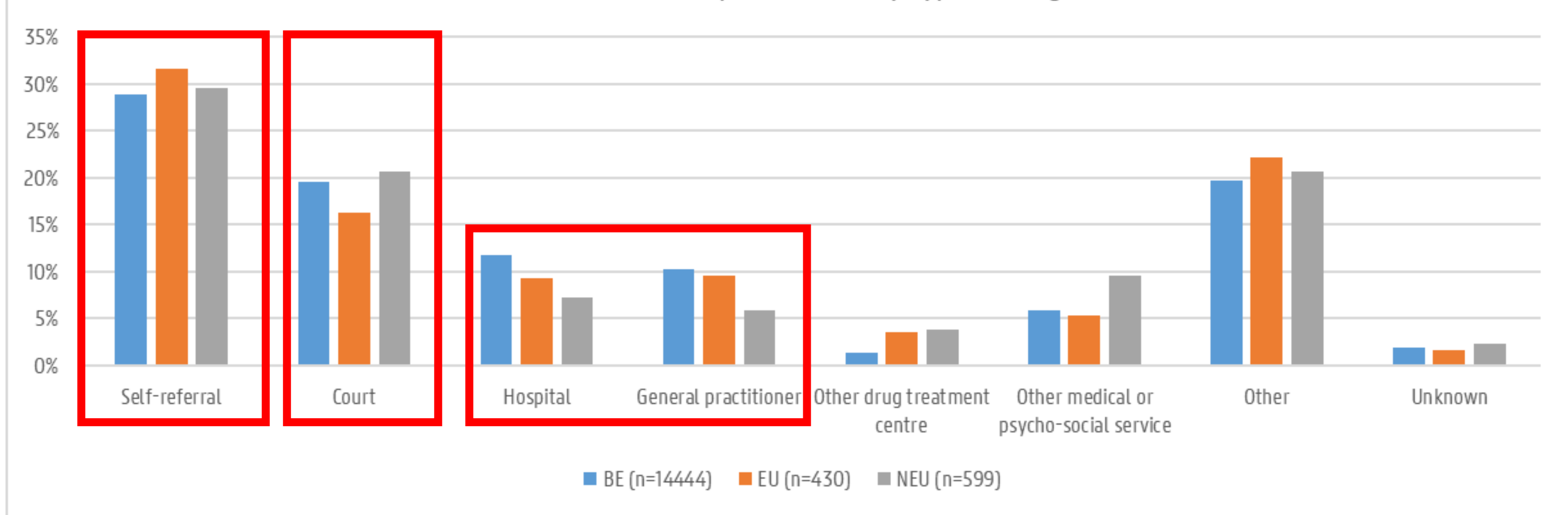


- High unemployment rates across all client groups
 - 8.4% in the general population and 19.8% among SUT clients (National report, 2014)
- **Higher unemployment rates among non-European clients** (*need for testing in non aggregated datasets*)
- **Large amount of missing data**, mostly among non-Belgians

Age distribution population (2014) vs. TDI registered population (2012-2014)

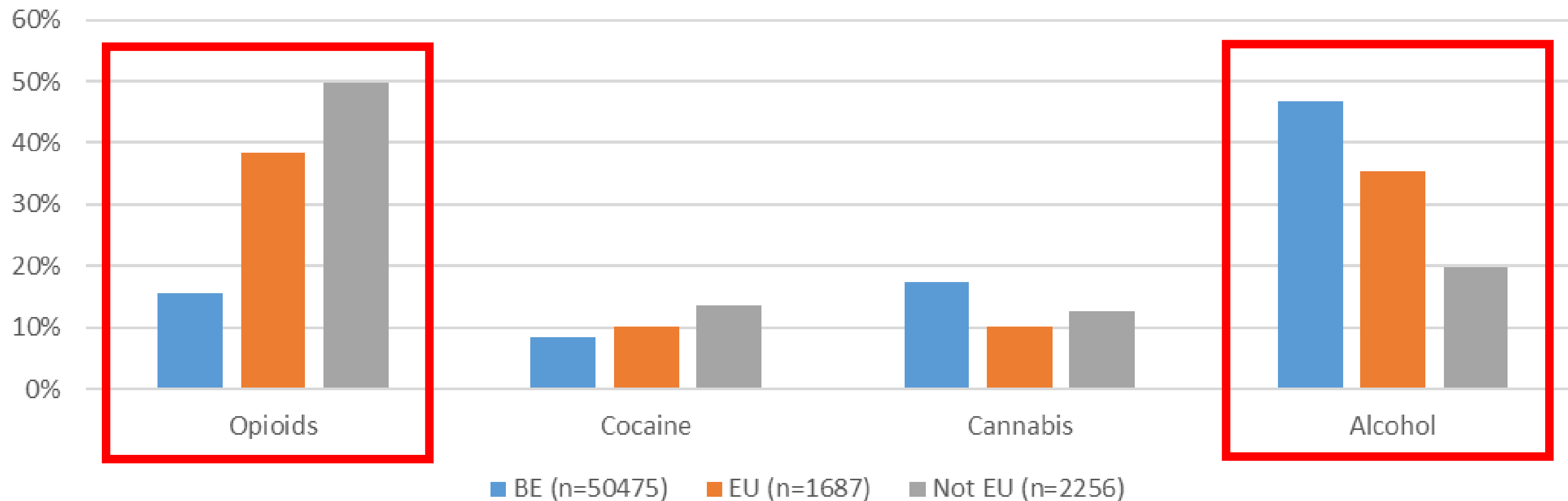


Referral source for first treatment per nationality type in Belgian SUT 2012-2014



- **Self referral** is the most common source to treatment across populations (EMCDDA, 2017)
- Literature suggests (Derluyn et al., 2008) that non-nationals will rather present to **GP's and hospitals**, nevertheless they seem to be less referred to SUT by these actors (*need for testing in non aggregated datasets*)
- Possible higher referral of non-EU nationals by **court**
- *Similar picture for later treatment episodes*

Main substance among all problematic substance per nationality type at intake in Belgian SUT 2012-2014



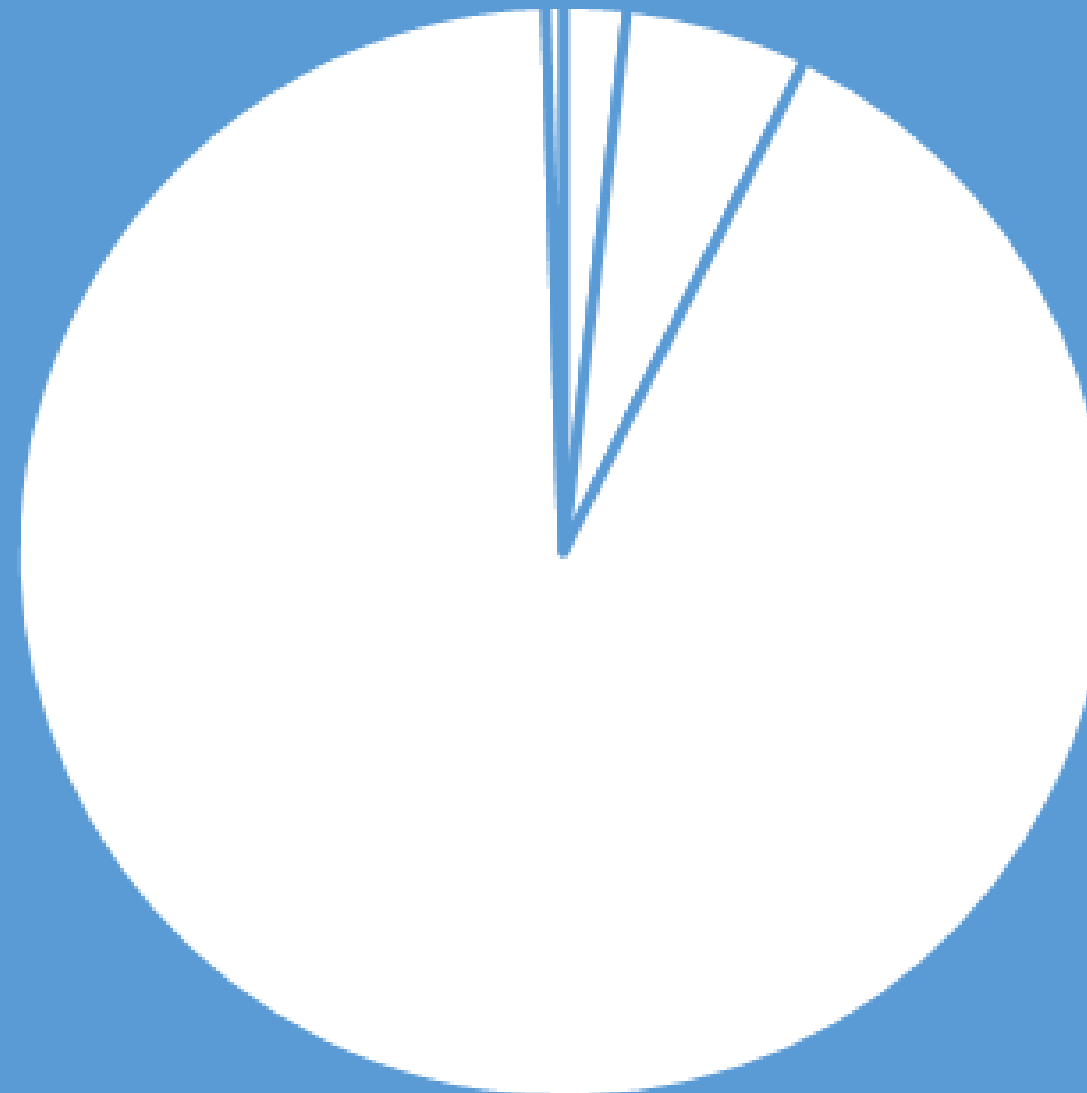
- **Similar 'top 3'** to other European countries (EMCDDA, 2017), besides alcohol
- **Higher levels of opioid** as main substance among non-nationals
- **Lower levels of alcohol** as main substance among non-nationals

PRESENCE PER NATIONALITY TYPE IN PORTUGUESE SUT

NATIONALITY TYPES IN PORTUGUESE SUT 2012-2014

EU (n=118)
1,9%

1,5% in the
General
population



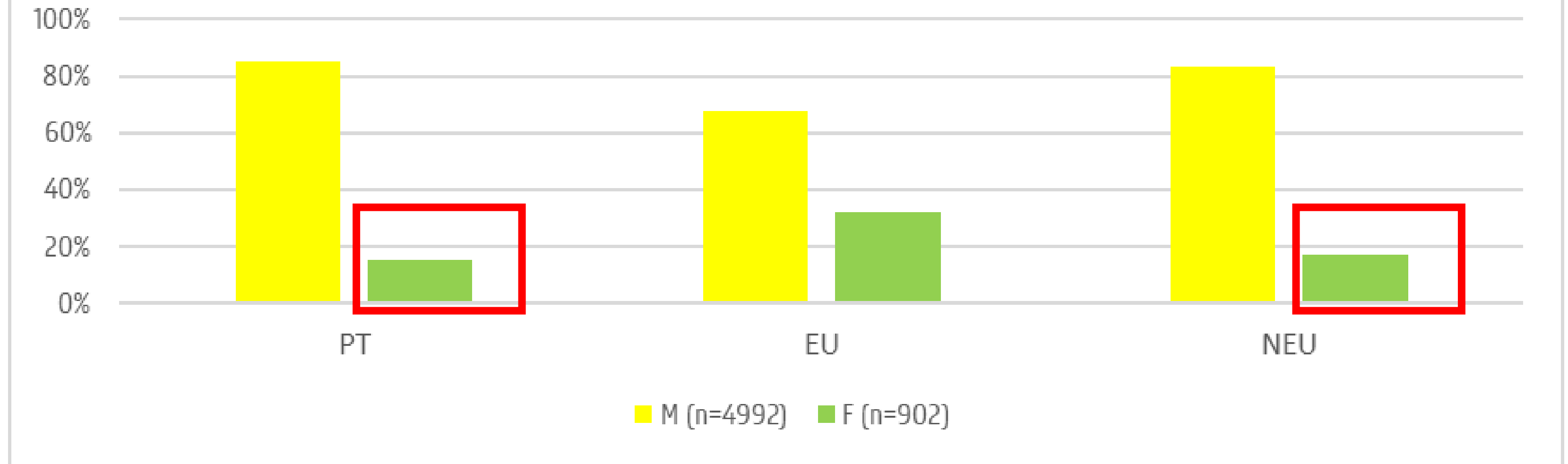
NEU (n=318)
5,4%

1,0% in the
General
population

Unknown 0,5%

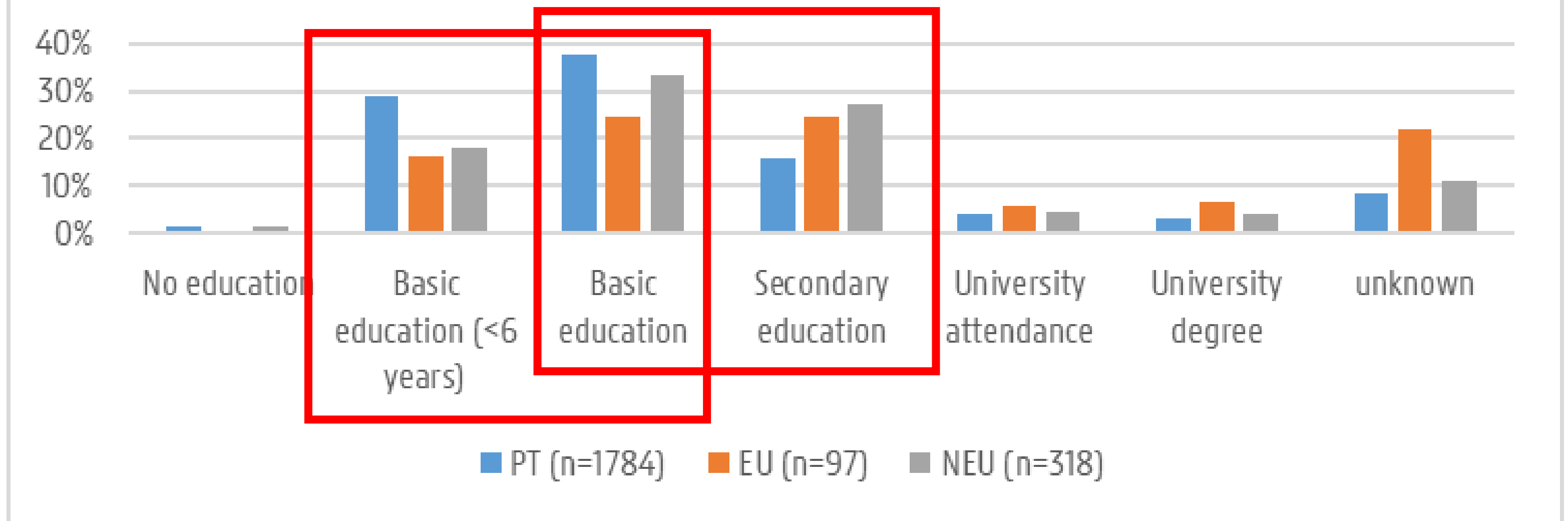
PROFILES PER NATIONALITY TYPE IN PORTUGUESE SUT

Gender per type of nationality at intake in Portuguese SUT 2012-2014



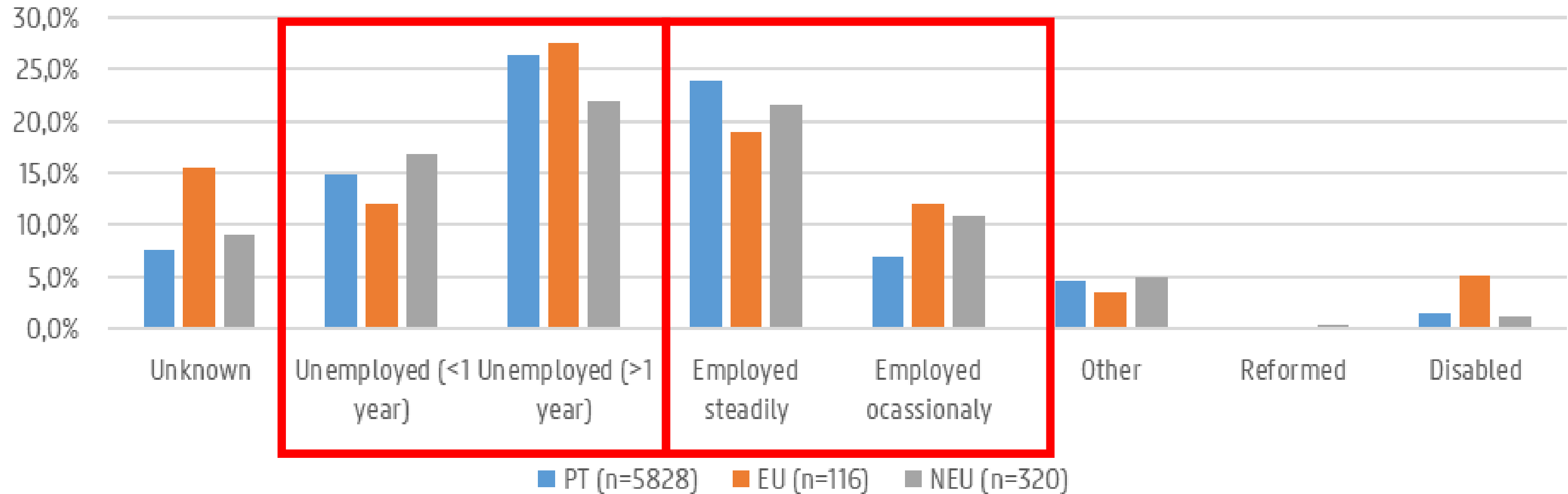
- **Gender gap among Portuguese and non-EU clients** seems slightly higher than the European average (1/4, Montannari et al., 2011)
- *In 2015 53% of Portuguese migrant stock was female (UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015)*

Education per nationality type at intake in Portuguese SUT 2012-2014



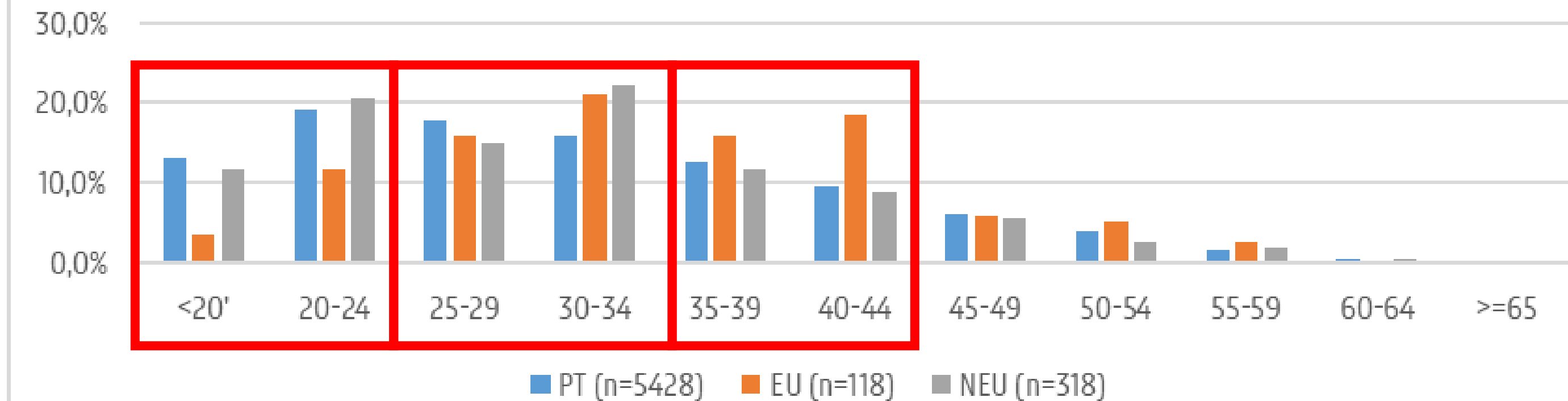
- Generally low educational levels: 13-58% did not complete basic education (National report, 2014)
- **Educational levels among non-national clients is high** (*need for testing in non aggregated datasets*)

Employment per nationality type at intake in Portuguese SUT 2012-2014



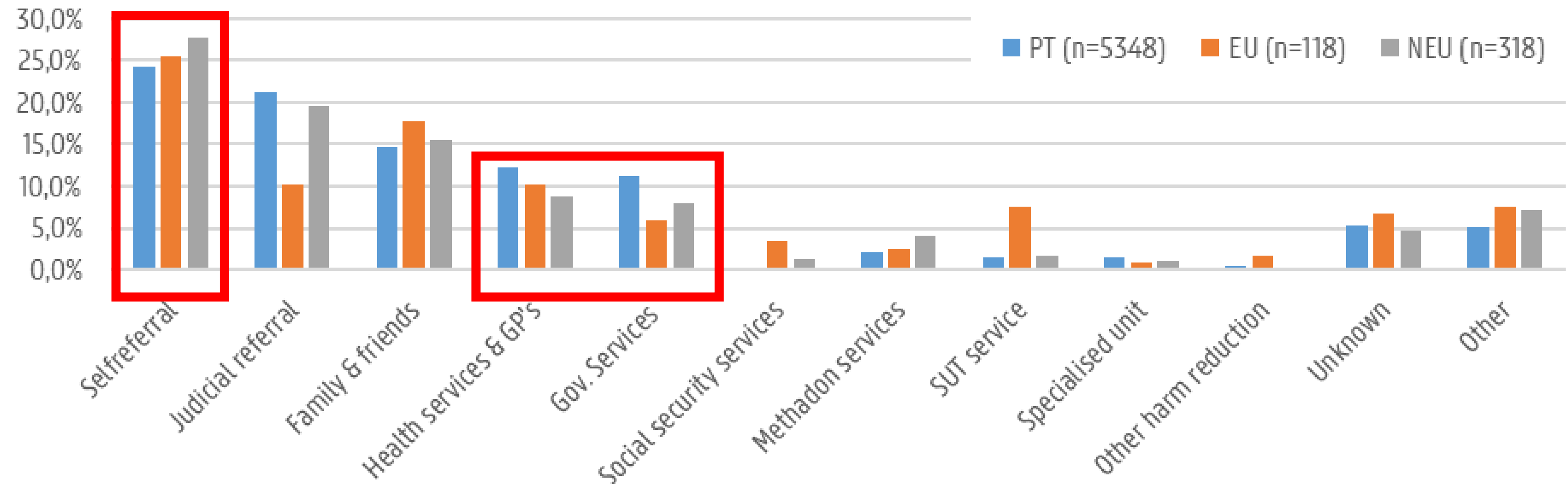
- Unemployment rates are similarly high among all clients
- **Non-nationals are less often employed steadily and more often employed occasionally**

Age per nationality type at first intake in Portuguese SUT 2012-2014



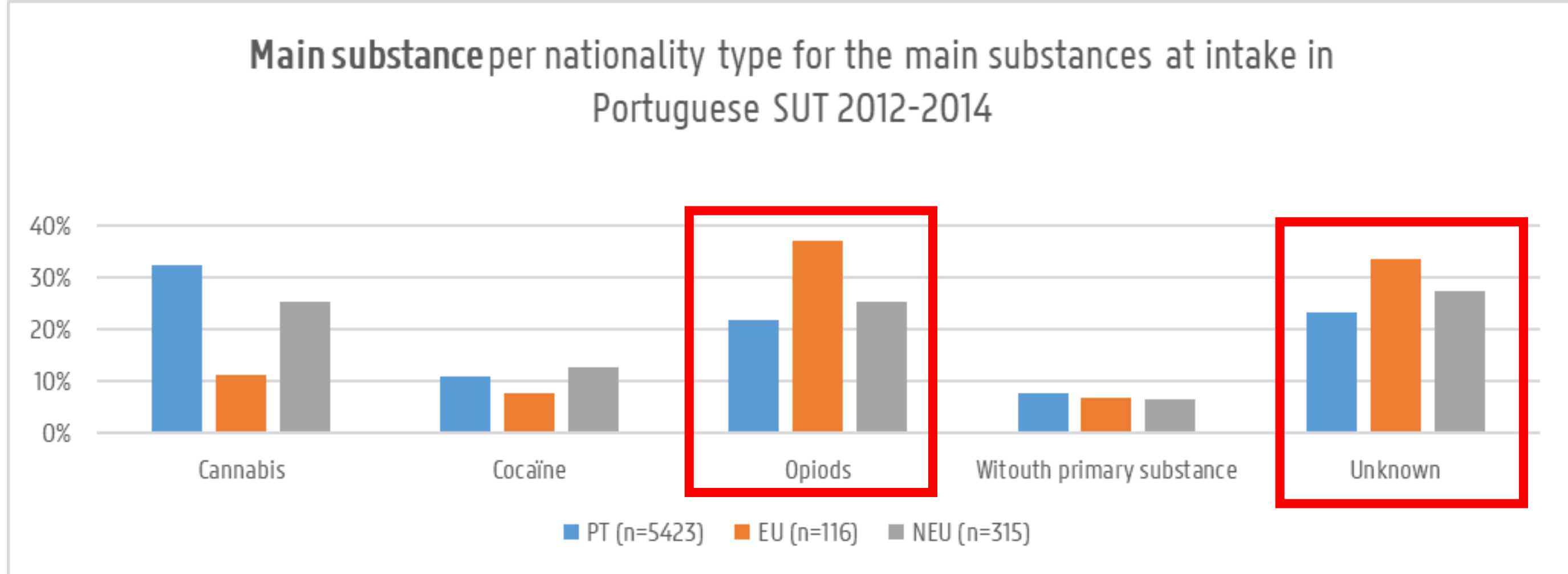
- **High entry in all age categories** among Portuguese clients between <20 and 44 years old
- **Earlier peek** in treatment age when compared to Belgian treatment age, **but not for EU**
- National report 2014: *clients enter at ages 35-44 years (22% to 52%) and 25-34 (18% to 44%)*
 - **A large proportion of this extended age range seems to be explained by non-nationals**

Referral per nationality type to Portuguese SUT 2012-2014



- High **self referral** among all clients, as demonstrated in literature (EMCDDA, 2017)
- Non-EU clients are **less referred by GP's and health services & governmental programmes**

Governmental services: Linha & STOP programmes, dissuasion commission & child protection



- **Similar 'top 3'** to other European countries (EMCDDA, 2017)
- Poly drug use (without primary substance) among all clients
- **More opioid** as a primary substance among non-nationals
- **High number of missing data, especially among non-nationals**

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS (1/2)

- **High amount of heroin compared to other substances among non-nationals**
 - Need for in-depth cross-national European analysis of opioid users
 - Knowledge transfer from low to high threshold treatment
- **Gender gap non-EU clients in BE and to a lesser extent PT**
 - targeted initiatives for specific non-national females
- **Other referral sources compared to nationals:**
 - Identify new referral sources and pitfalls in classic referents (mostly GP's and hospitals)
- **Apparent lower social integration (education, employment) among non-EU nationals**
 - BUT High educational levels of non-Portuguese clients compared to Portuguese clients
 - Need to better understand educational, occupational and employment needs among general non-national populations as well as among non-national problem users

NEED FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND BETTER REGISTRATION

- Need for **testing in non-aggregated datasets** in BE & PT
- Need for better **non-essentialising ethnicity registration and monitoring** (Farkas, 2017) also among GP's and low threshold medical centres in Belgium
- Many **'unknowns' among non-nationals**: better registration and new categories
- **Qualitative understanding** of these results and their consequences in treatment

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	EU	NEU		
	in SUT	in BE population	In SUT	in BE population
2012	3,42%	7,00%	4,0%	3,60%
2013	3,02%	7,30%	4,6%	3,50%
2014	2,98%	7,50%	3,9%	3,50%

Source: TDI & Myria

*Mental health centres did not register
in 2012*