



Higher Education in English at National University: for Whom and for What?.

Aune Valk (University of Tartu), 29.03.2019



TWO aims in ONE institution

Mission and Vision of the university for 2020

- Mission: The University of Tartu as a national university of Estonia bears the responsibility for solving problems faced by the society by ensuring the **continuity of Estonian intellectuals and language and culture** and by contributing to the development of education, research and technology and other creative activities throughout the world.
- Vision: The University of Tartu is a rapidly developing international research university, the **centre of academic spirit in Estonia** as a national university, and a leader in social development.

WHY to provide studies in English?

QUALITY and OPENNESS:

- International students and staff help to create international learning environment.
- Sharing unique top-level knowledge with the world, incl aid to developing countries.
- Cooperation with partner universities: joint programmes.

LABOUR MARKET: graduates are needed at Estonian labour market (3-60% of graduates work in Estonia).

NECESSITY:

- Lack of interest of Estonian students.
- Lack of high-level Estonian teachers.
- For earning additional income.

Aims and state of art in internationalisation TARTU ÜLIKOOL

	State aims for (2018)	UT strategic plan 2020 (2017/18)	State of art in different faculties
International students	10% (11%)	12+% (11%)	NatTech ca 20%, others 8-9%
Curricula in English (I and II level)		25% (20%)	Hum – 11, Soc – 22, Med – 10, NatTech - 26

Students in Estonian-medium curricula from 2008 => 2017

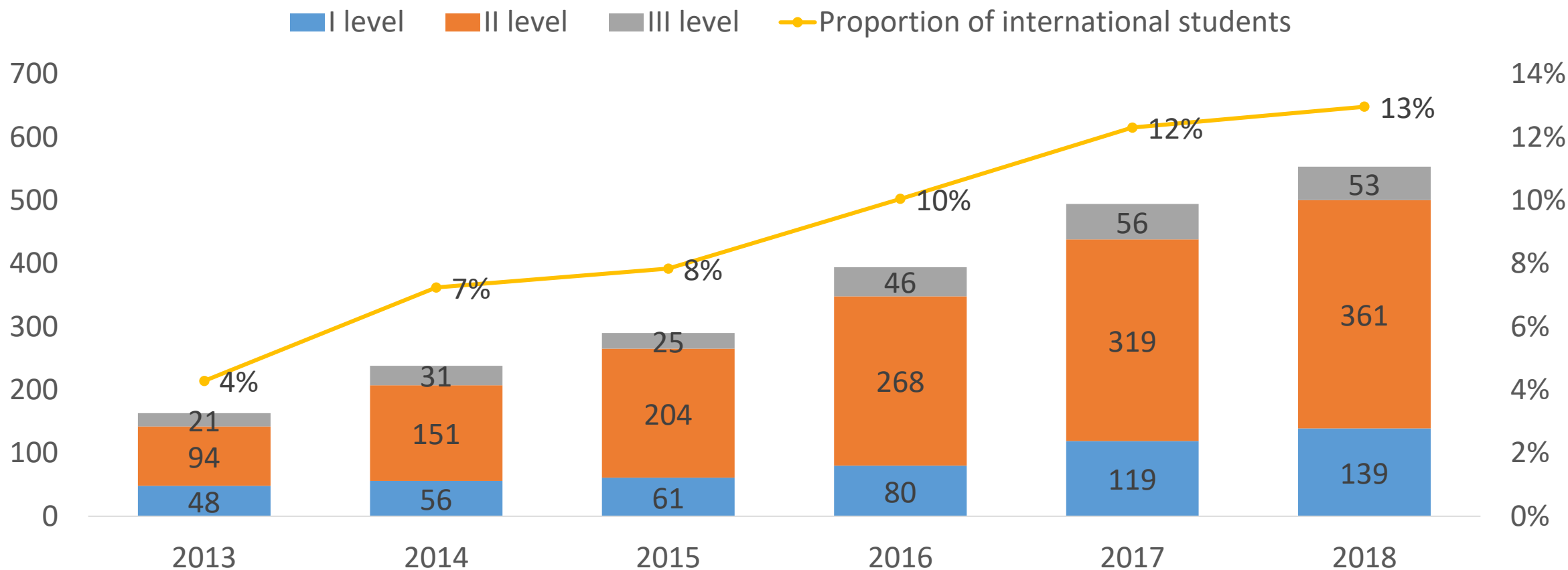
I level: 85% => 89% (Russian replaced by English)

II level: 97% => 76% (English came in addition)

Proportion of international students in admission

2018: altogether 13%, Master's 27%, PhD 31%

Number and proportion of foreign international in admission

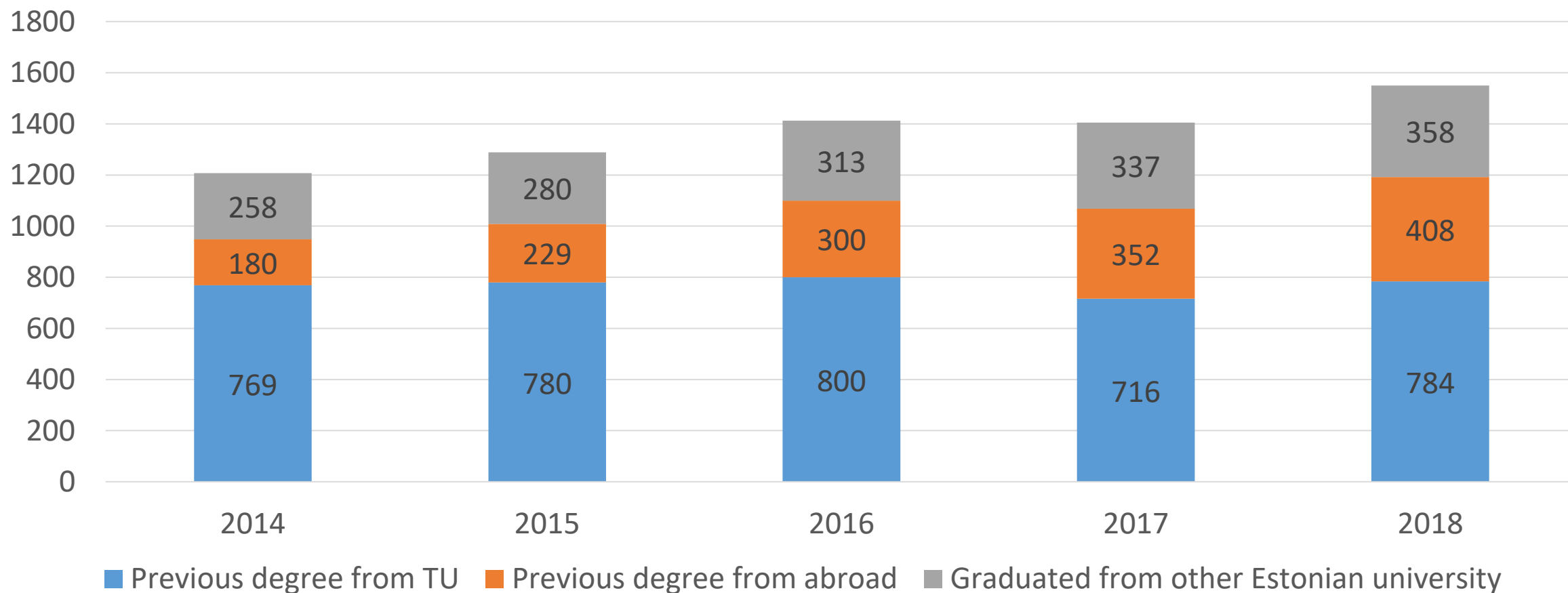


International students do not replace Estonian students



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Admission to Master's studies

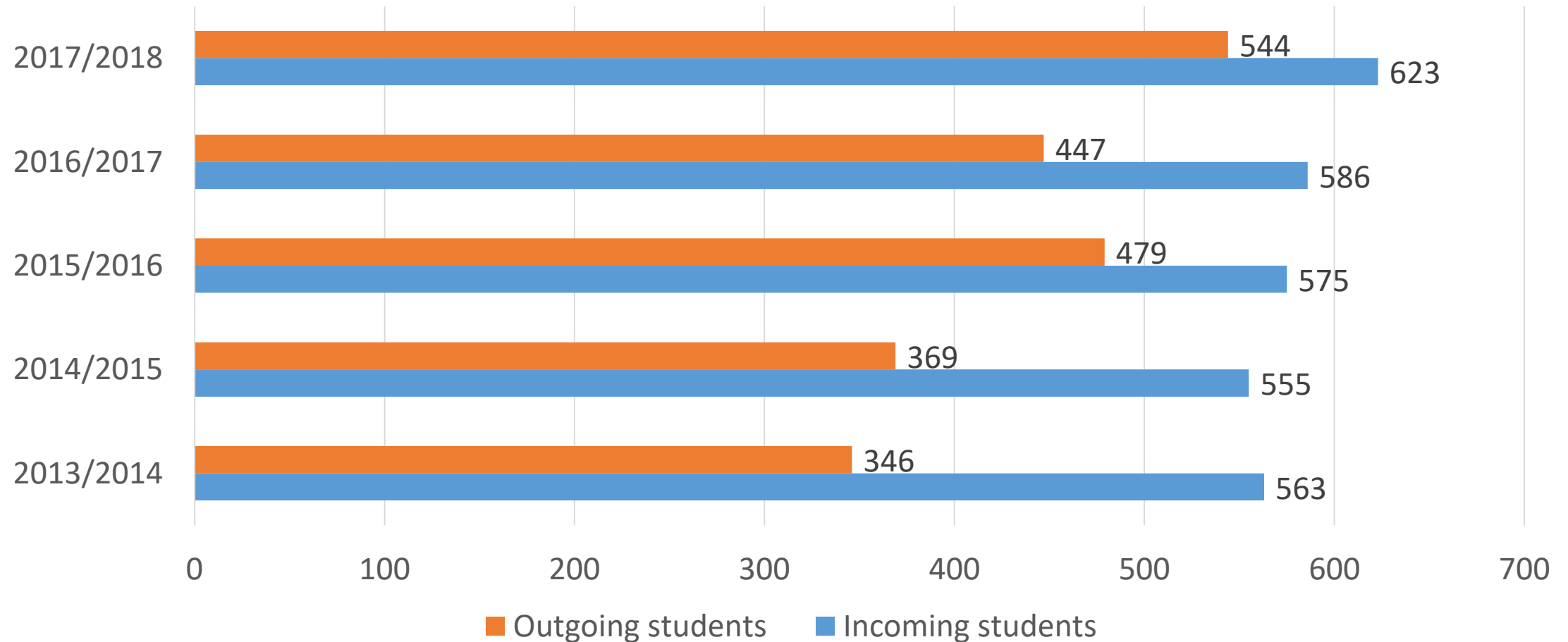


Studies in English as an additional opportunity for Estonian students

CURRICULUM	Estonian students	International students		Altogether	Proportion of Estonian students
		EU	Non EU		
Arvutitehnika ja robootika	33	1	23	57	58%
Euroopa keeled ja kultuurid	26	1	18	45	58%
Informaatika	55	2	60	117	47%
Kindlustus- ja finantsmatemaatika	11	1	12	24	46%
Infotehnoloogiaõigus	9	4	10	23	39%
Tarkvaratehnika	59		92	151	39%
Rahvusvahelised suhted ja regiooni uuringud	19	16	37	72	26%
Ettevõtetmajandus	18	13	48	79	23%
Haridustehnoloogia	3	1	10	14	21%
Loodusteadused ja tehnoloogia	22	12	69	103	21%
Filosoofia	4	2	14	20	20%
Heaolu- ja spaateenuste disain ja juhtimine	5	4	17	26	19%
Läänemere regiooni uuringud	3	3	10	16	19%
Innovatsiooni ja tehnoloogia juhtimine	8	3	43	54	15%
Demokraatia ja valitsemine	5	7	27	39	13%
Euroopa Liidu - Venemaa uuringud	4	13	26	43	9%
Matemaatiline majandusteadus	3	1	43	47	6%
Rakenduslik mõõteteadus	1		15	16	6%
Rahvusvaheline õigus ja inimõigused	2	4	29	35	6%
Folkloristika ja pärandirakendused	1	6	15	22	5%
Arstiteadus	4	116	9	129	3%
Analüütiline keemia	1	3	37	41	2%
Semiootika		7	28	35	0%
Linnastunud ühiskonna geoinformaatika		2	18	20	0%
Kesk- ja Ida-Euroopa, Venemaa ja Euraasia uuringud		21	23	44	0%
Kokku	296	243	733	1272	23%

Mobility of students at Tartu University

10% of graduates have spent part of their studies in abroad, compared to ca 2% 10 years ago



WHY mobility and international learning environment for Estonian (students)?



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Some results from PIAAC study

- Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, data 2011-2012
- 7632 respondents: incl 74% (5612) in Estonian, 26% (1949) in Russian. Salary data for 3898
- In addition to international PIAAC data (mother tongue and home language(s)):
 - National extension of BQ: Russian respondents reported Estonian language skills + everybody was asked information on foreign languages command – max 3 languages
 - (Mother tongue or language used at home)
 - “I am fluent in the language “
 - “I manage well on the level of everyday communication“
 - “I manage with difficulty on the level of simple communication“
 - “I have only basic level command“
 - (No command)
 - Nordic PIAAC data-base with register-data: here income information from tax-office for 5103 people

Who benefits from foreign language skills?



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- **Managers, researchers immigrants**
- Stöhr 2015: fluent English skills return about 0.12 log points wage premium among general population, 0.26 among immigrants.
- Language skills in combination with intercultural skills, managerial skills, marketing skills.

Do we need graduates with foreign language skills?

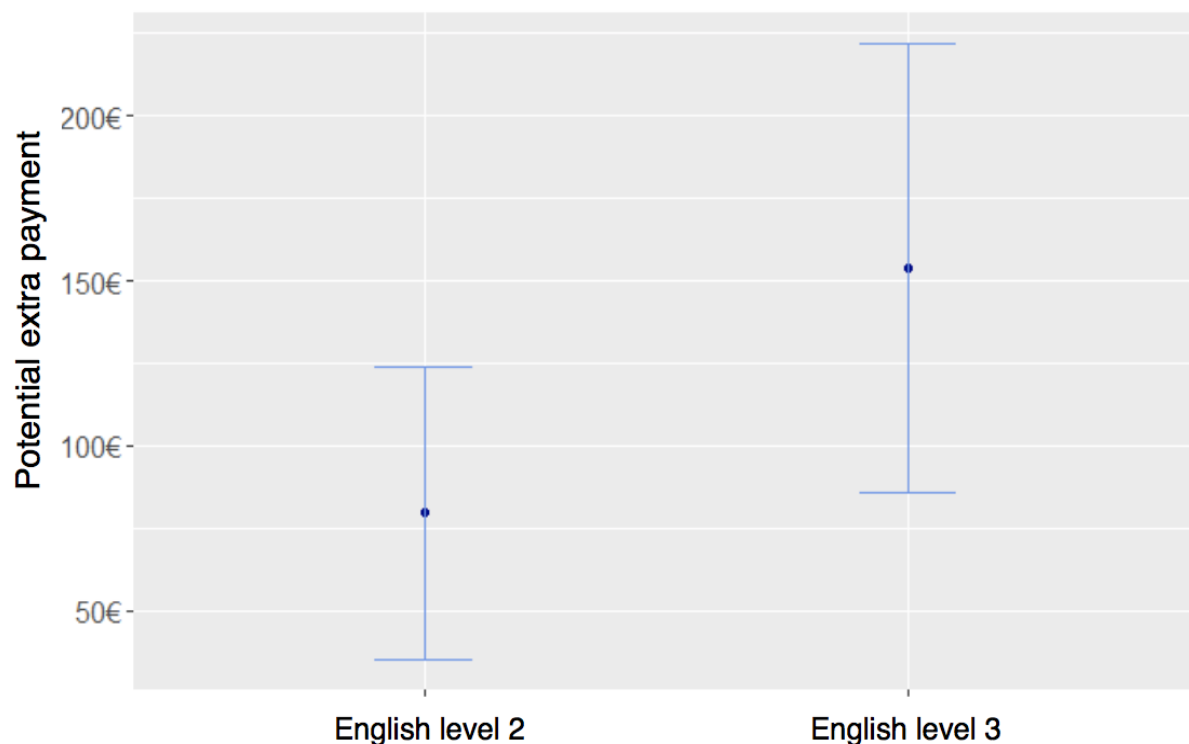
Potential monthly wage premium by different levels of proficiency in Finnish and English (PIAAC data)



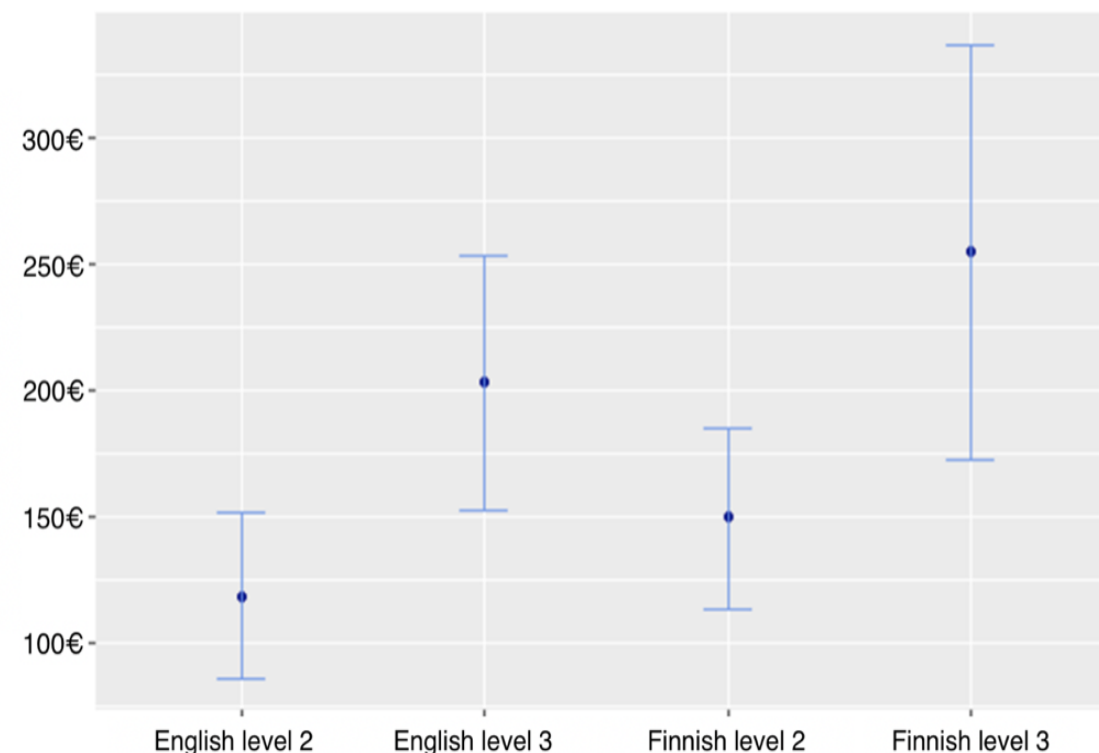
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(after accounting for all labour market relevant variables: age, gender, education, field of activity, occupation, place of residence, home language)

Estonian labour market:
PIAAC + tax office data for salary

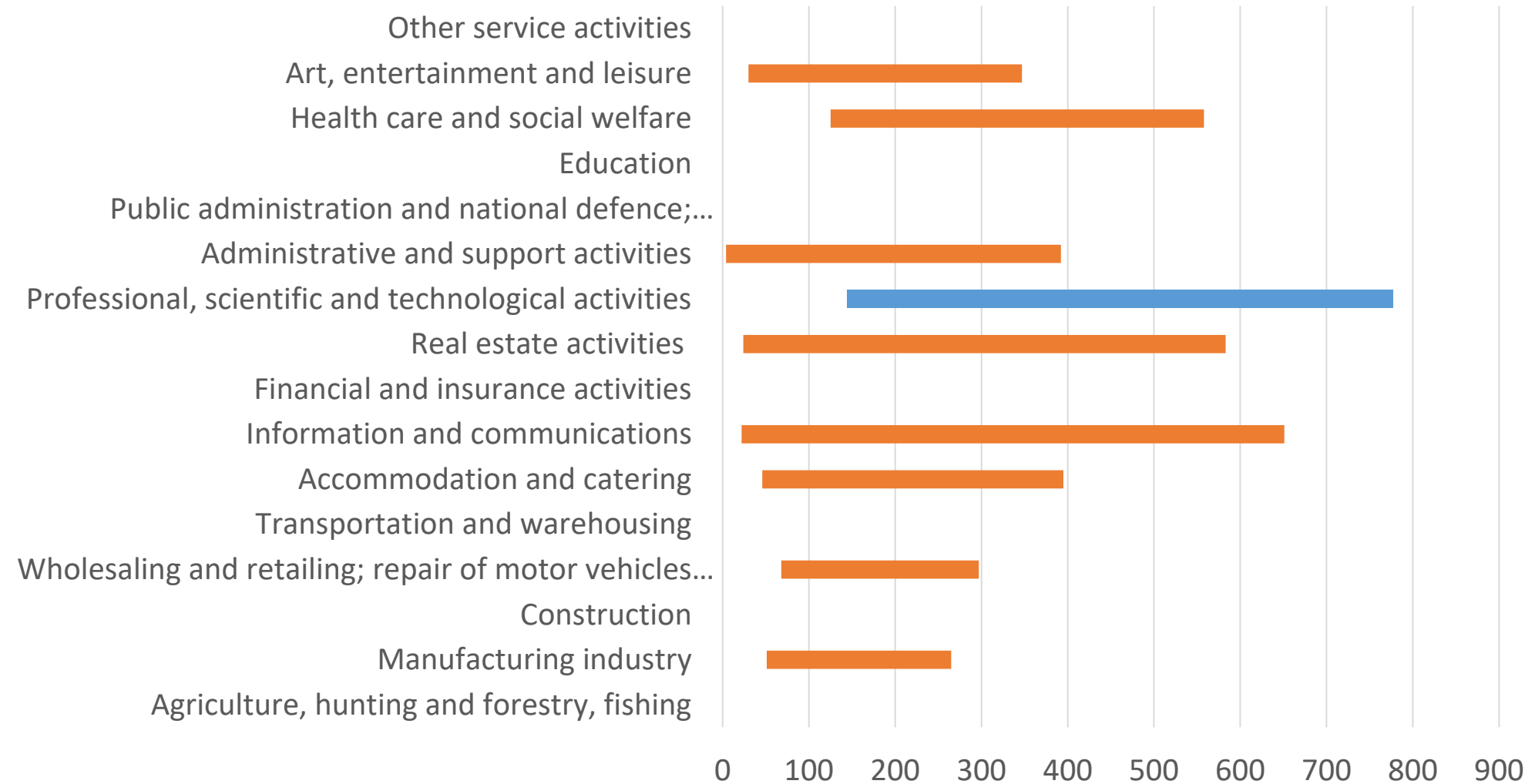


International (Estonian +Finnish mainly)
labour market: PIAAC data



Monthly wage premium for English command (yes –no) in Estonian labour market across fields of activities (95% confidence interval), accounting for all relevant variables

Monthly wage premium (in EUR) for English in Estonian labour market

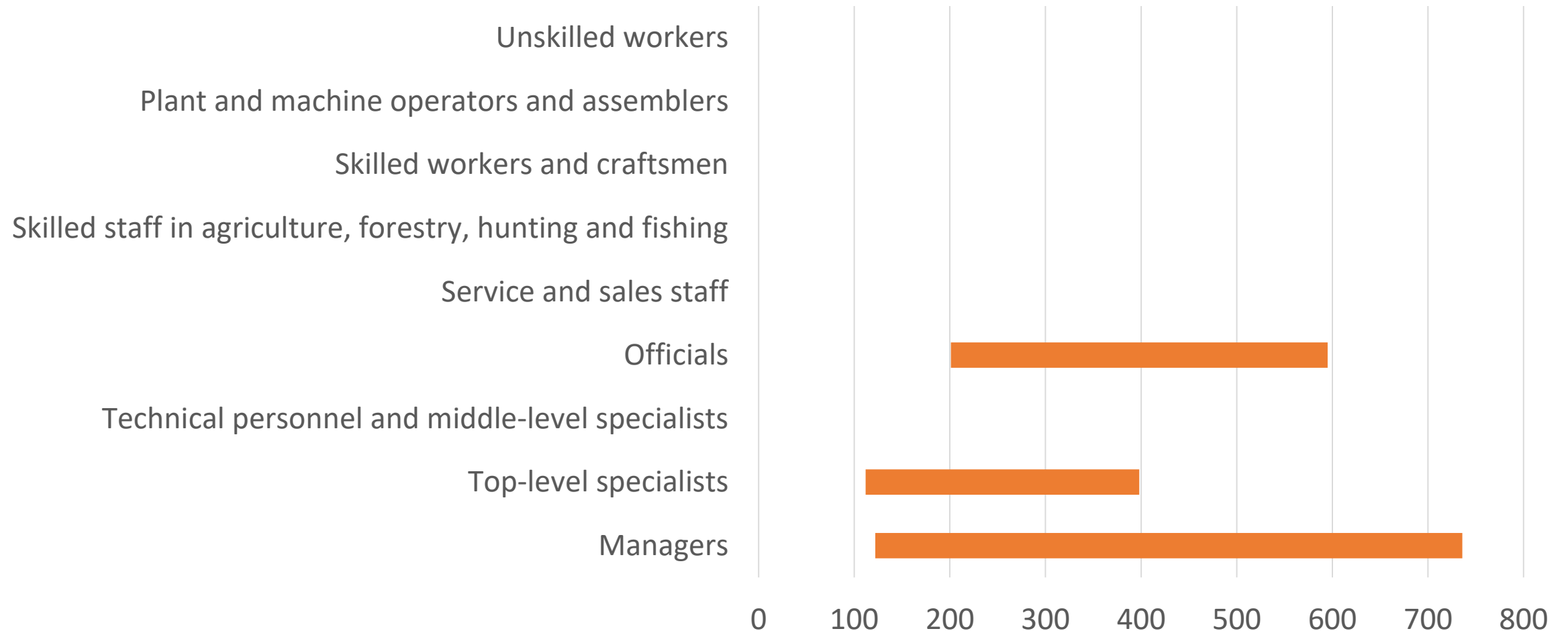


Monthly wage premium for English command (yes –no) in Estonian labour market across occupations (95% confidence interval), after accounting for all relevant variables



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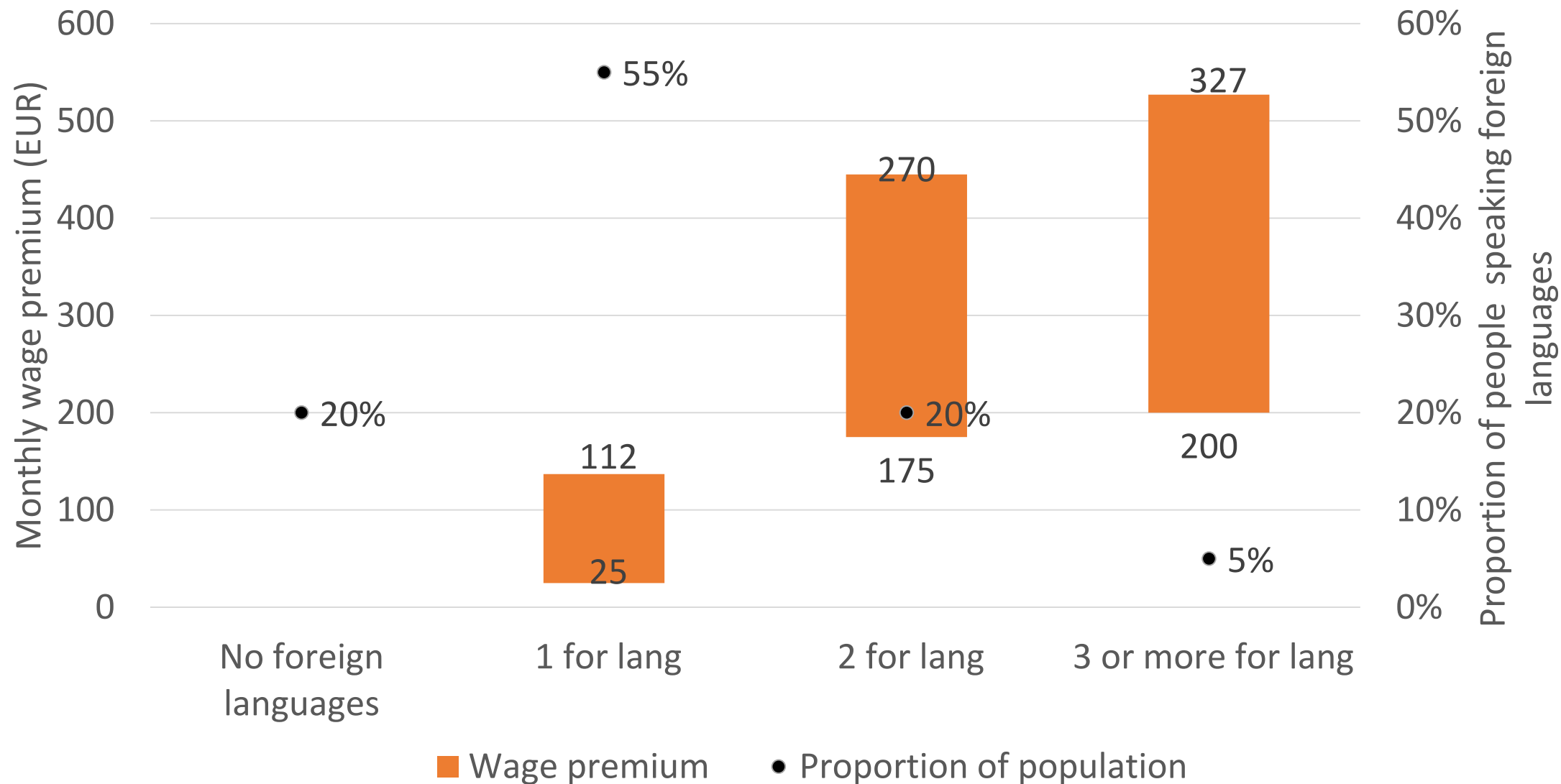
Monthly wage premium (in EUR) for English in Estonian labour market



Multilingualism and benefit of it (95% conf intervals for regression coefficients)



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Some comments

- **English** skills matter most (up to 800 eur per month) and mainly for high-level occupations and in the field of professional, scientific and technological activities
- **Finnish** skills matter when internationally earned salary is taken into account
- **Russian** skills has little effect only for service and sales staff (21-109 eur per month)
- **Other languages** have positive effect in the field of education only
- **Russian-speakers gain more** from mid-level Finnish and high-level English skills compared to native Estonians

In sum

- Different curricula and study options for different aims and target groups
- Clear benefits of internationalisation for Estonian students and Estonian labour market
- Are we strong enough to „contribute to the development of education, research and technology and other creative activities throughout the world“
- Who payes?