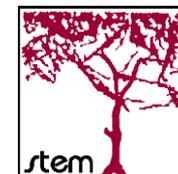


Knowledge of Foreign Languages in the Czech Republic

Presentation of the results of a sociological survey

Prepared by STEM for CzechInvest, Prague, 30 June 2014



Survey Specification

- This presentation details the results of a representative survey carried out by means of face-to-face interviews in three waves during the period from 20 May to 11 June 2014.
- A total of 2,641 respondents aged 18-59 years participated in the survey.
- The survey was conducted by experienced interviewers from STEM throughout the Czech Republic.
- Quota sampling method with criteria of sex, age, education, size of locality and region was used.

Source: STEM, 2014

Knowledge of foreign languages

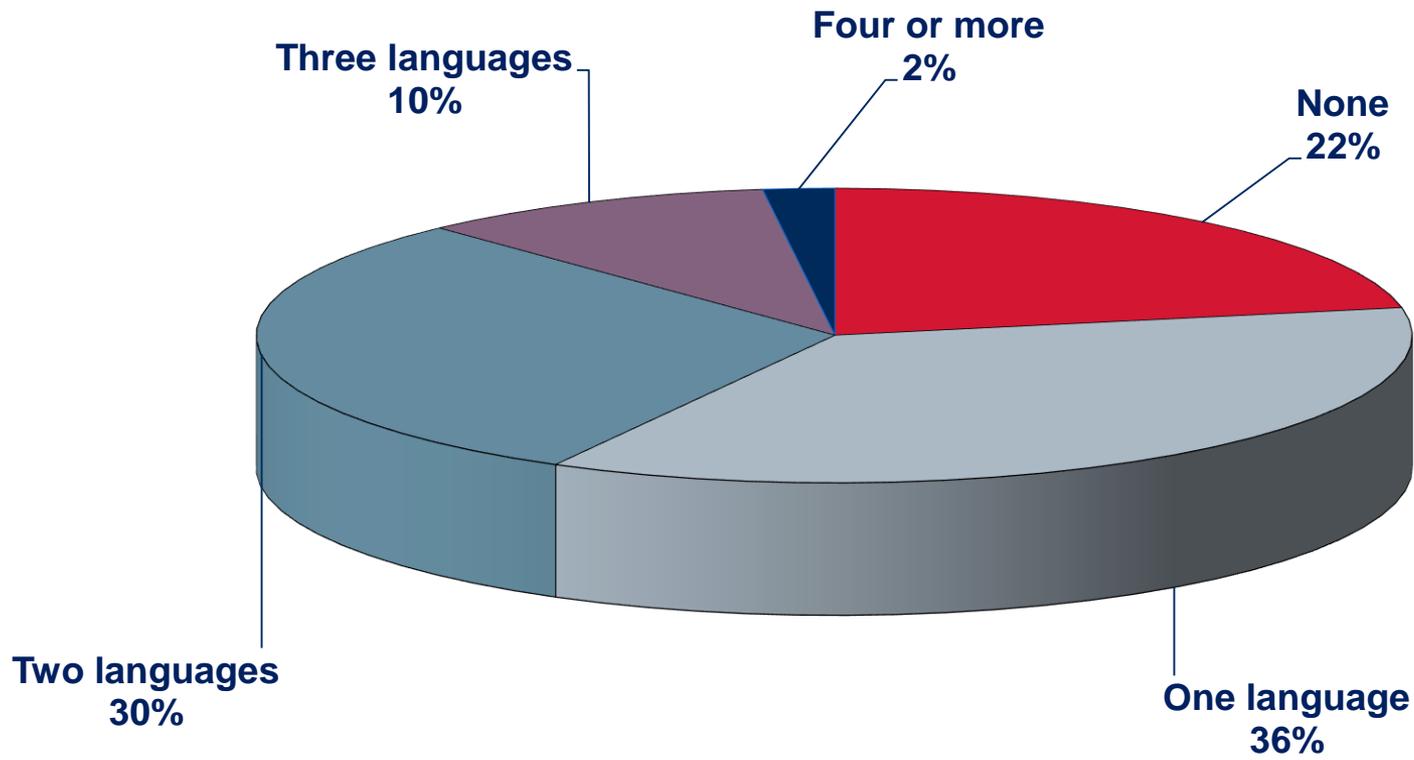
Question version no. 1

- **Basic information on knowledge of foreign languages among the population in the 18-59 age group was measured by means of TWO questions.**
- **First the respondents had to state the number of foreign languages in which they are able to read and understand a simple text. This question gave the respondents space to name languages that came to mind as well as for self-evaluation of their knowledge.**
- **The results show that one-fifth of the population is not able to speak any foreign language. More than one-third speak one foreign language. Almost one-third speak two foreign languages. Knowledge of three or more languages was reported by 12%.**

Source: STEM, 2014

Spontaneous response: 78% speak at least one foreign language

“How many foreign languages do you know to such an extent that you are able to read and understand a simple text in such language(s)?”



Source: STEM, 2014

Knowledge of foreign languages

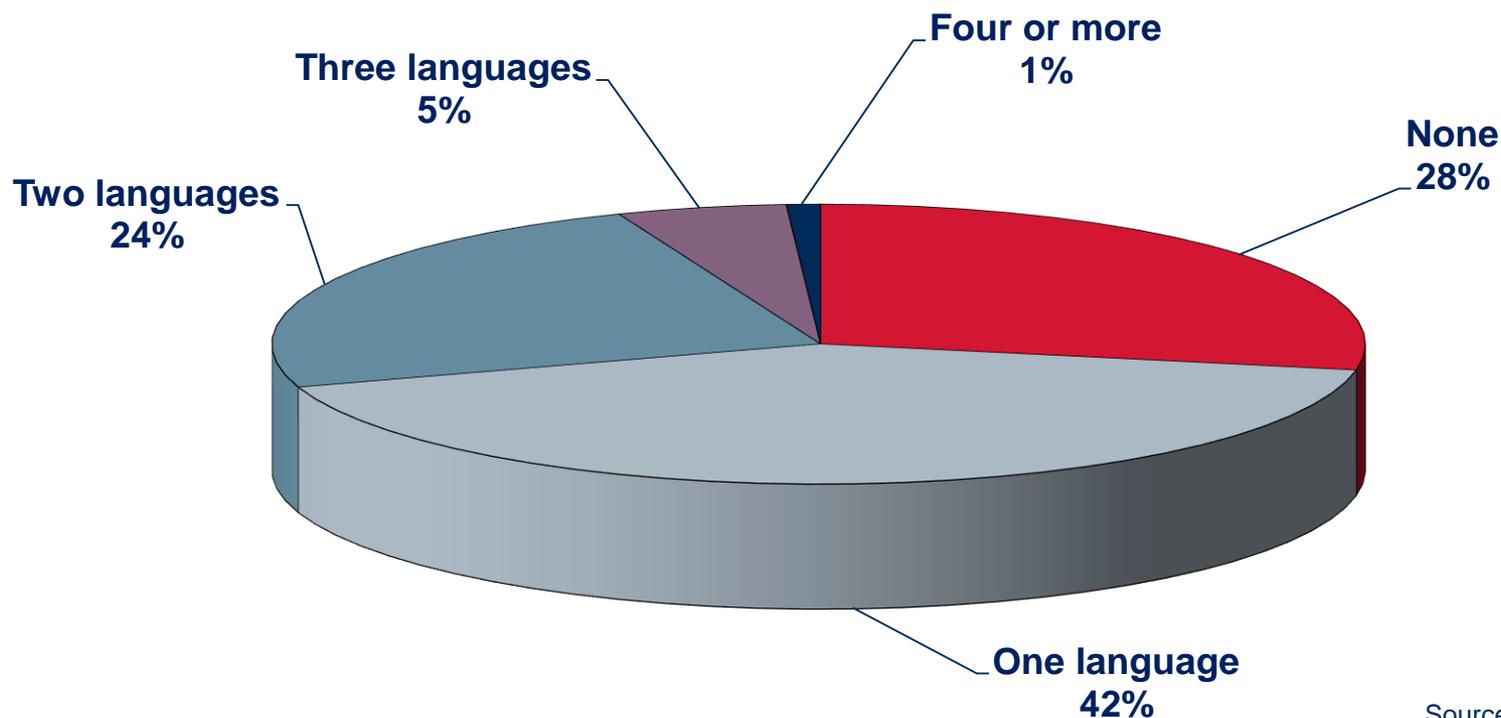
Question version No. 2

- In the second version of the question, respondents had to think over their knowledge of foreign languages again, this time not counting the Slovak language.
- This version showed an increase of the proportion of people who do not know any foreign languages (28%). More than two-fifths then stated that they speak one foreign language. Two languages were named by one-fourth of the population. Only six percent named three or more languages.
- Bearing in mind the main goal of the survey, we will base our analysis on this second version of the question (i.e. excluding knowledge of Slovak the language).

Source: STEM, 2014

Not counting Slovak, 72% of respondents are able to speak at least one foreign language.

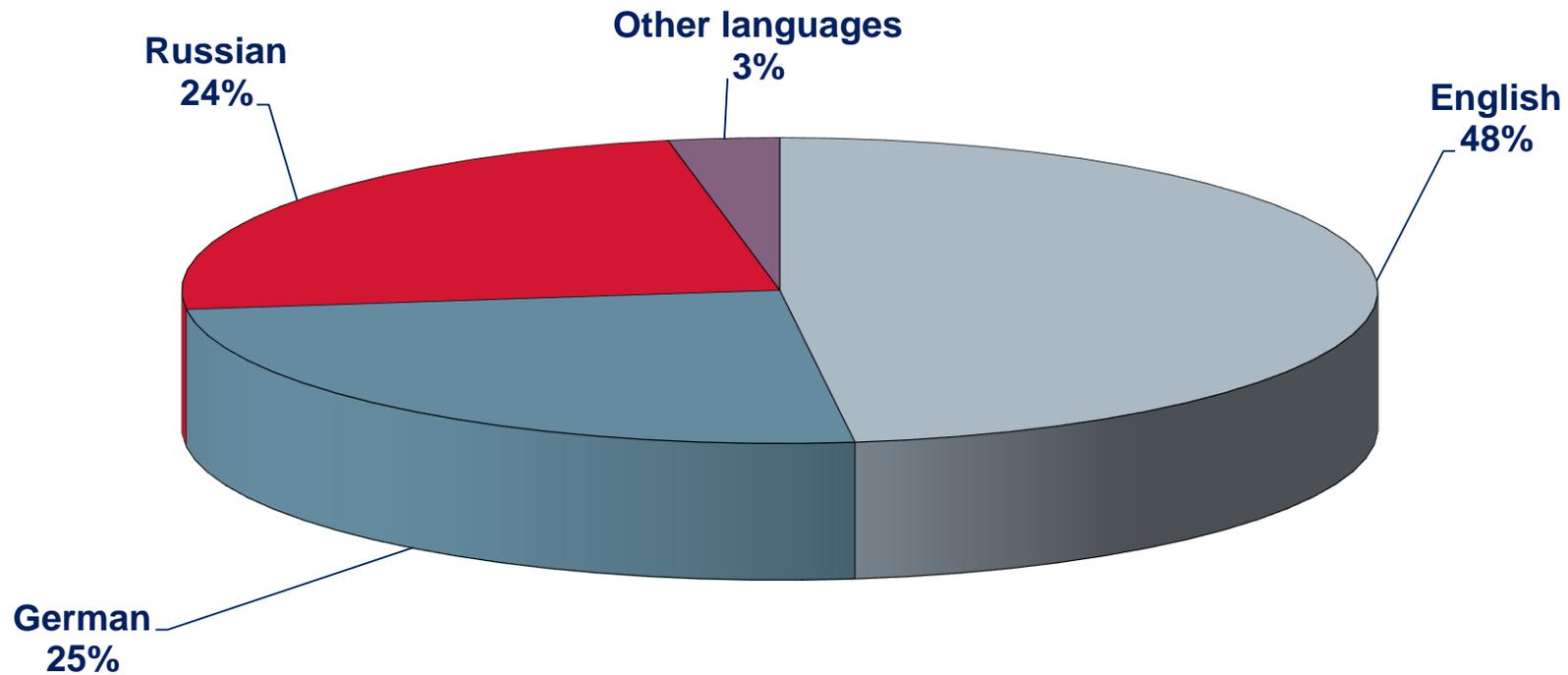
“How many foreign languages, not including Slovak, do you know to such an extent that you are able to read and understand a simple text in such language(s)?”



Source: STEM, 2014

People who know one foreign language mainly speak English.

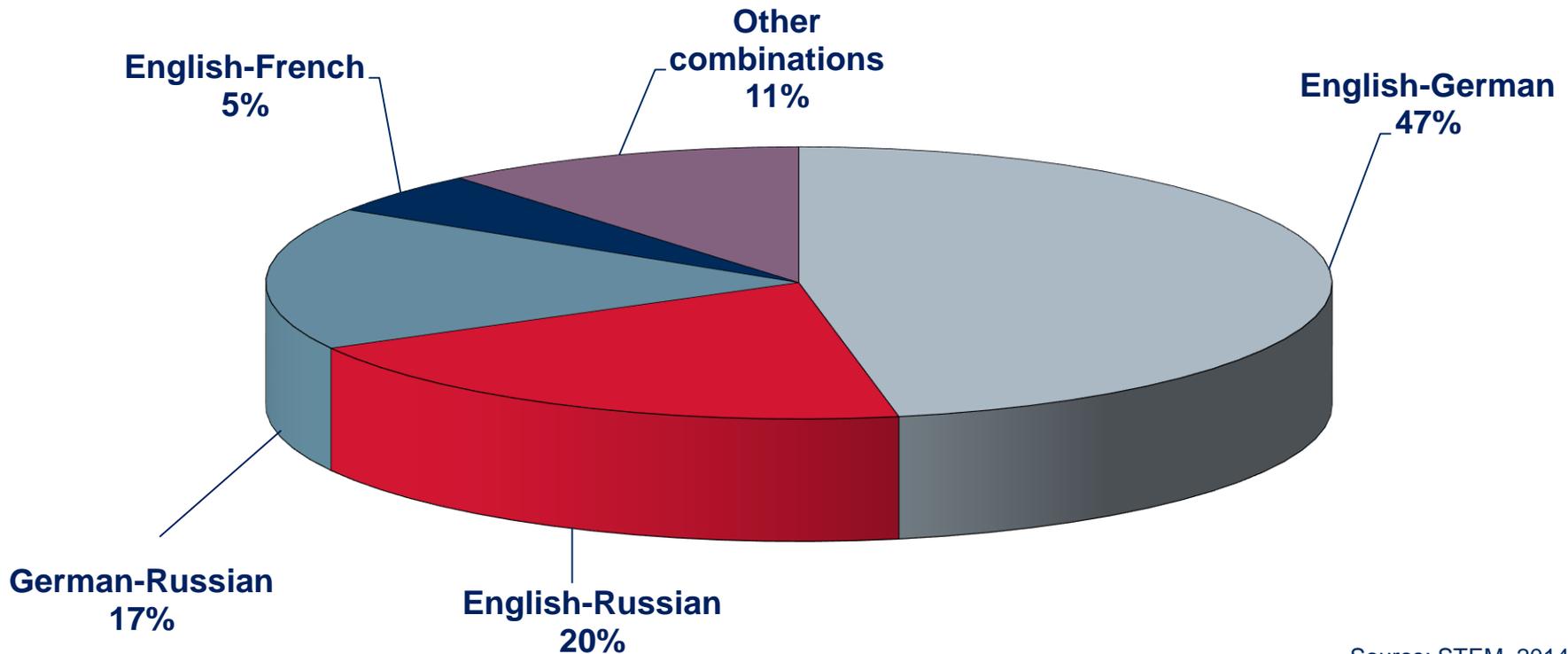
Languages spoken people who know only one foreign language
(Slovak excluded)



Source: STEM, 2014

The most frequent combination is English-German.

Combinations of languages among people who report knowledge of two foreign languages (Slovak excluded)

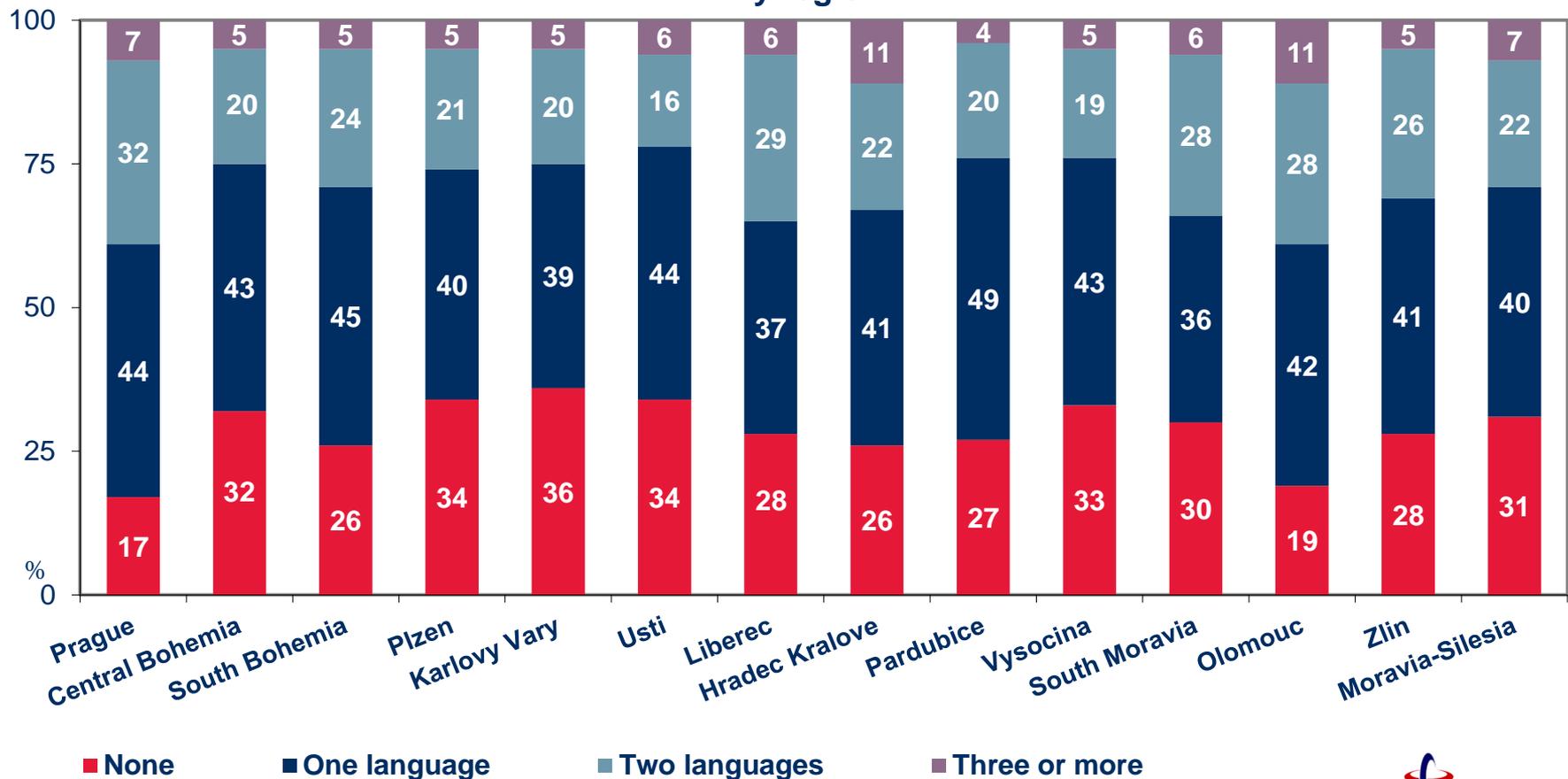


Source: STEM, 2014

Relatively good knowledge among residents of Prague and the Olomouc region.

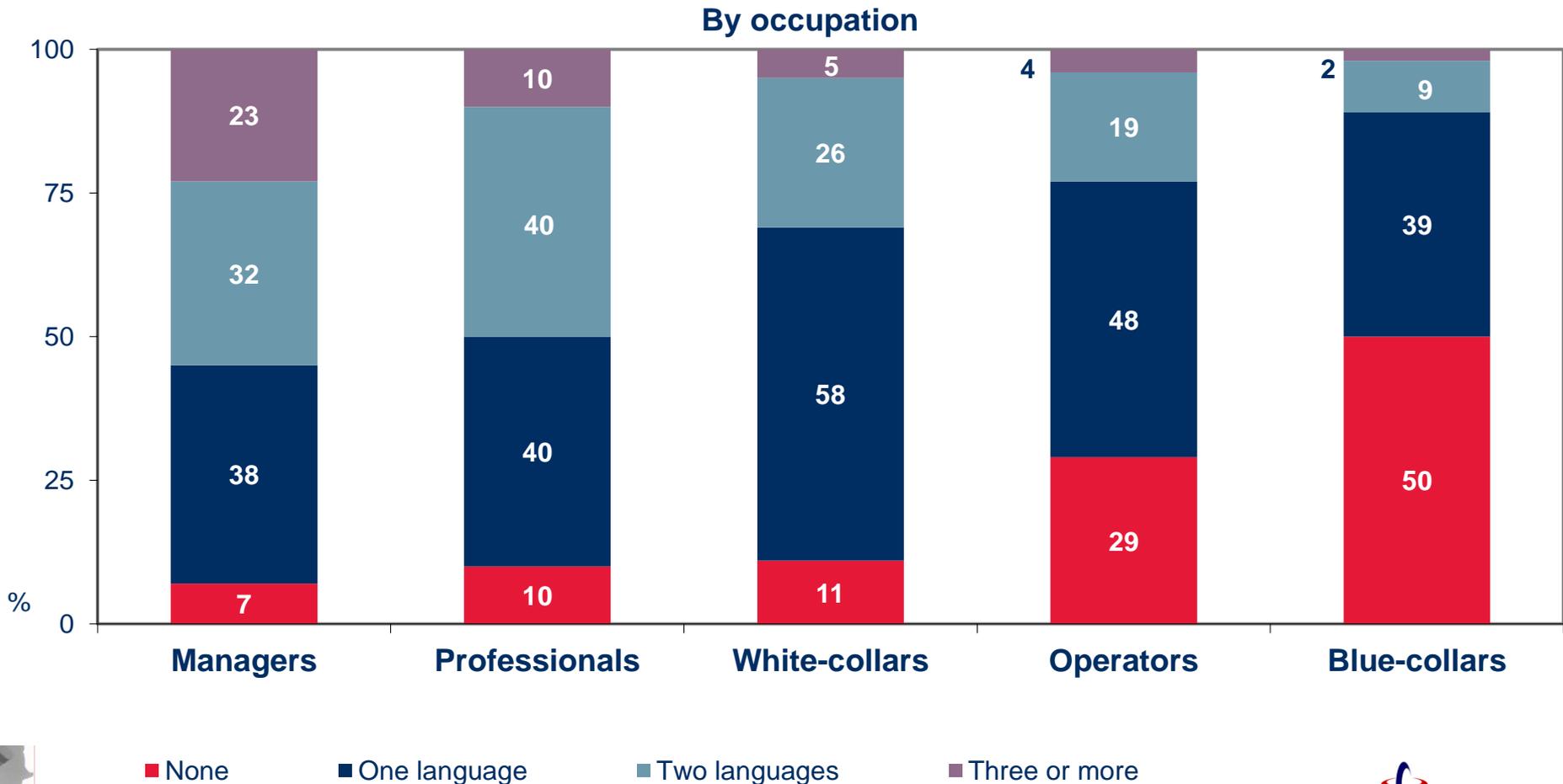
“How many foreign languages, not including Slovak, do you know to such an extent that you are able to read and understand a simple text such language(s)?”

By region



Ninety-three percent of managers report knowledge of at least one foreign language.

“How many foreign languages, not including Slovak, do you know to such an extent that you are able to read and understand a simple text such language(s)?”



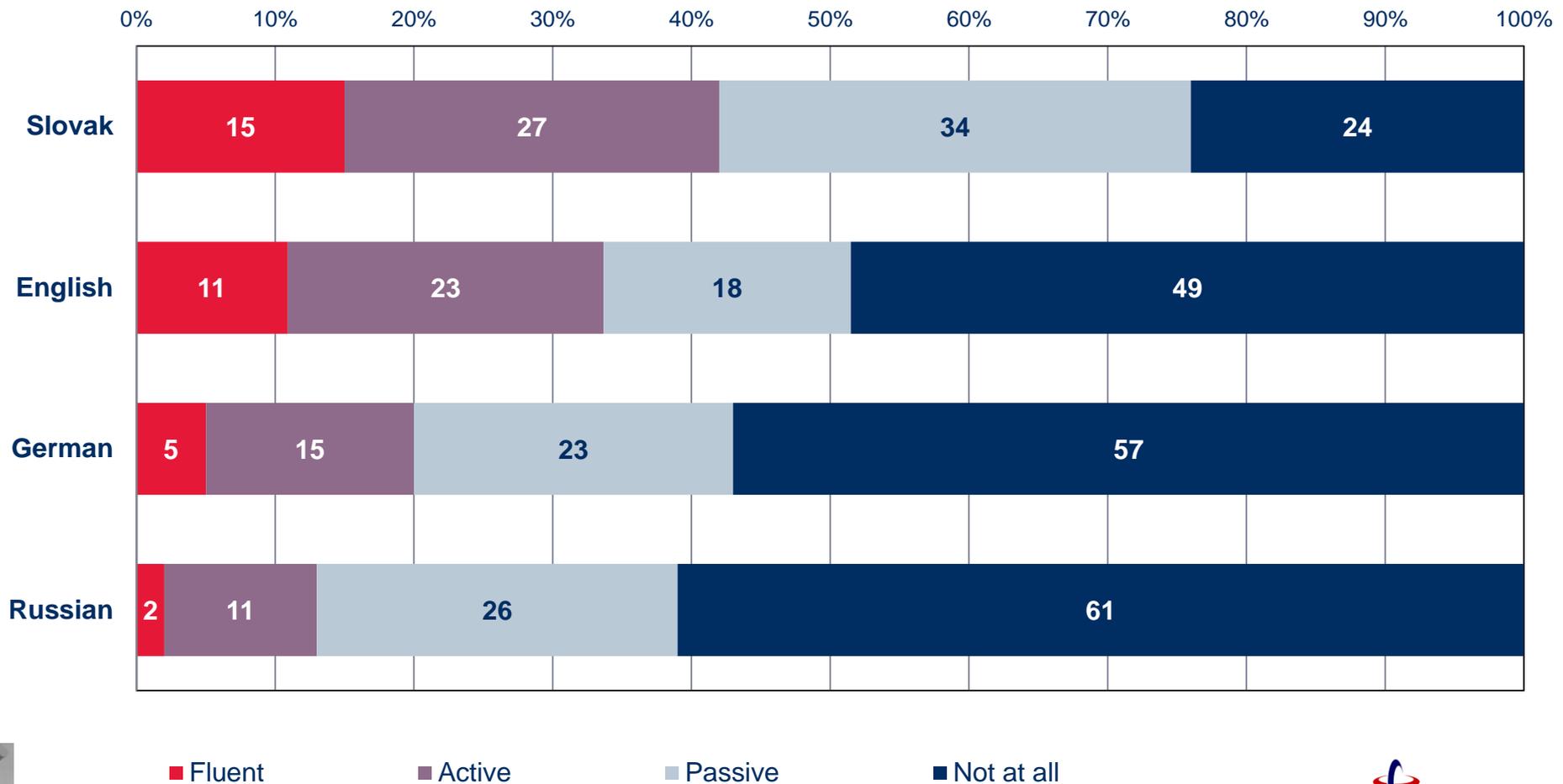
Battery of fourteen European languages

- The survey investigated knowledge of foreign languages using various means.
- Besides the above-mentioned options and the levels of language examinations to follow later, the survey asked a battery of 14 questions mapping the knowledge of selected European languages.
- The respondents had to choose one value from the range “ *fluent – active – passive – not at all*”.
- There was also an option to state knowledge of another language not in the list.
- The Slovak language was included in this battery.

Source: STEM, 2014

Extent of knowledge of the most common foreign languages

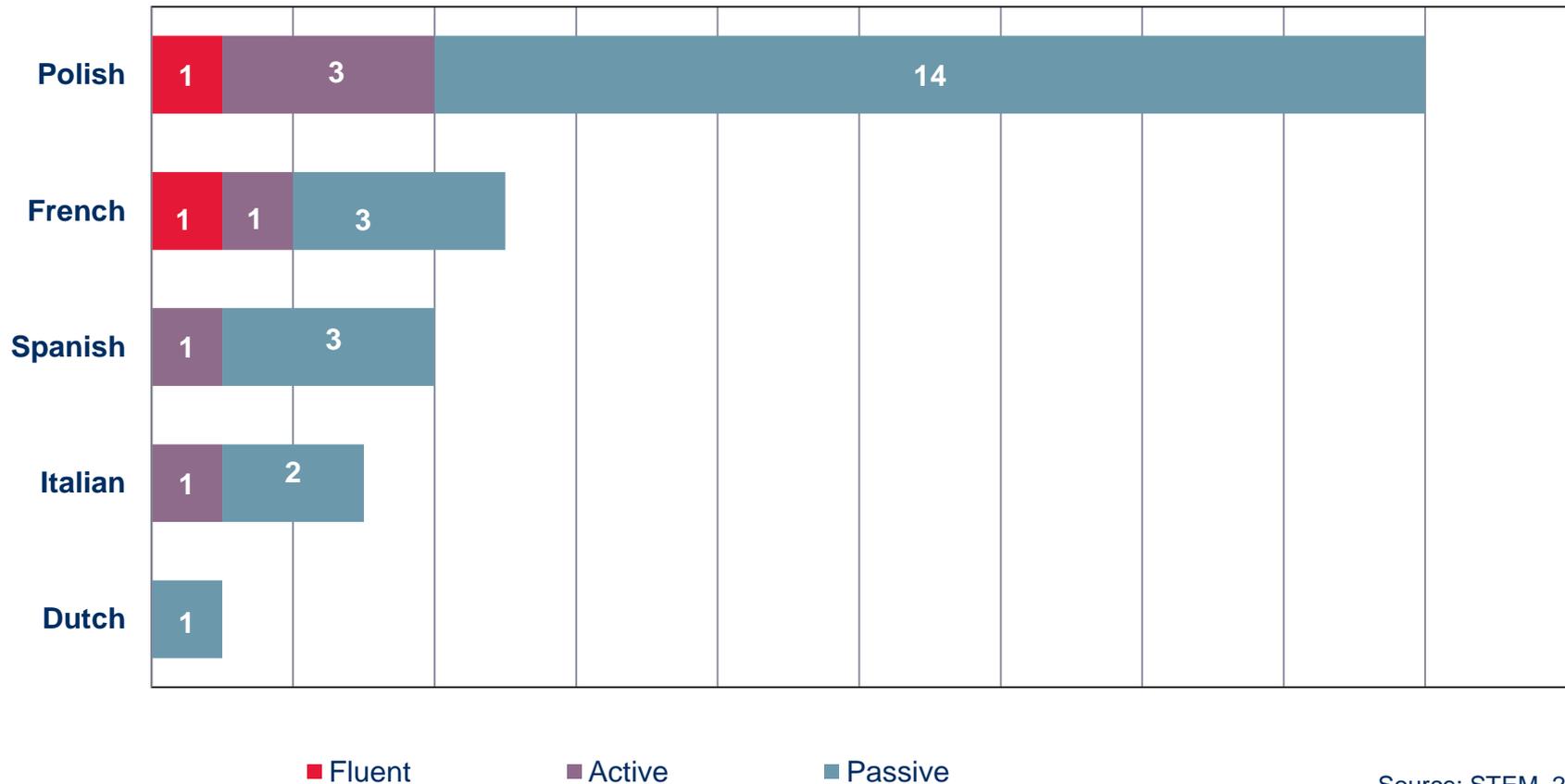
“To what extent do you speak the following foreign languages?”



Source: STEM, 2014

Extent of knowledge of less common foreign languages (in %)

“To what extent do you speak the following foreign languages?”



Source: STEM, 2014

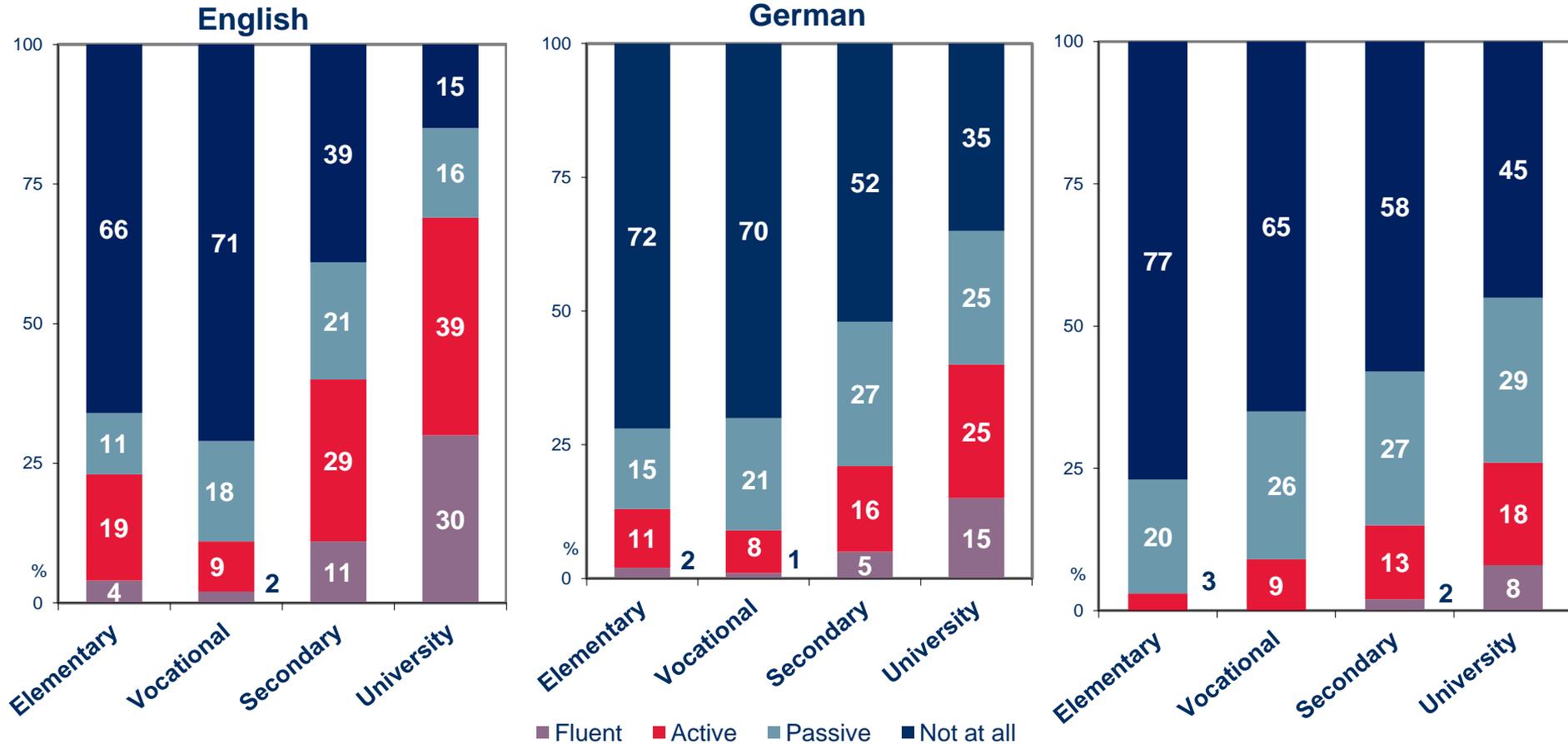
Other foreign languages

- Fewer than 1% of respondents had knowledge of the following languages:
 - Dutch (0.6%)
 - Portuguese (0.4%)
 - Danish (0.2%)
 - Swedish (0.2%)
 - Norwegian (0.2%)
 - Finnish (0.3%)
- Among “other languages” we found:
 - Romani
 - Latin - Hungarian
 - Japanese
 - Arabic
 - Croatian
 - Greek

Source: STEM, 2014

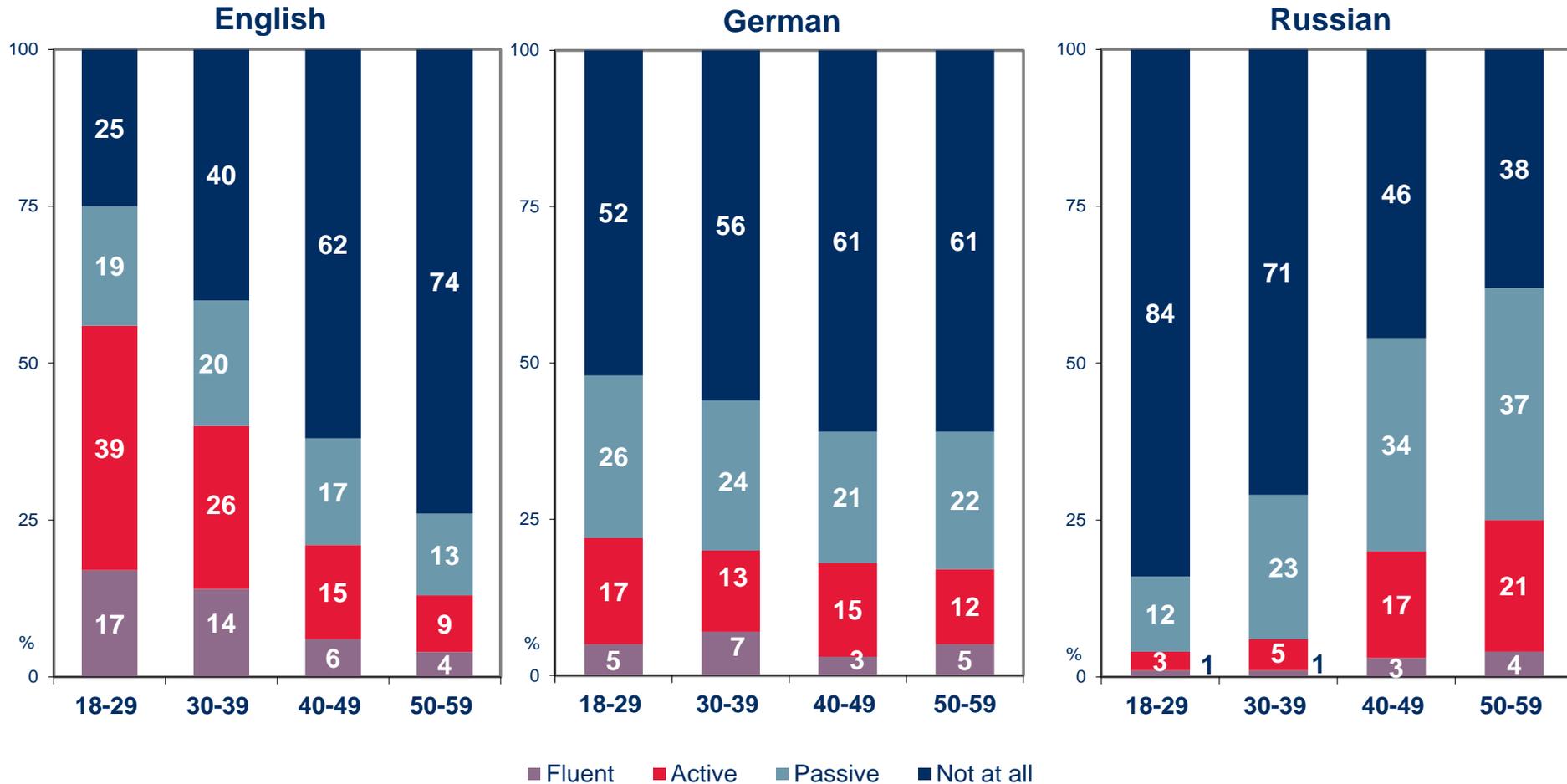
Extent of knowledge by level of educational attainment

“To what extent do you speak the following foreign languages?”



Extent of knowledge by age group

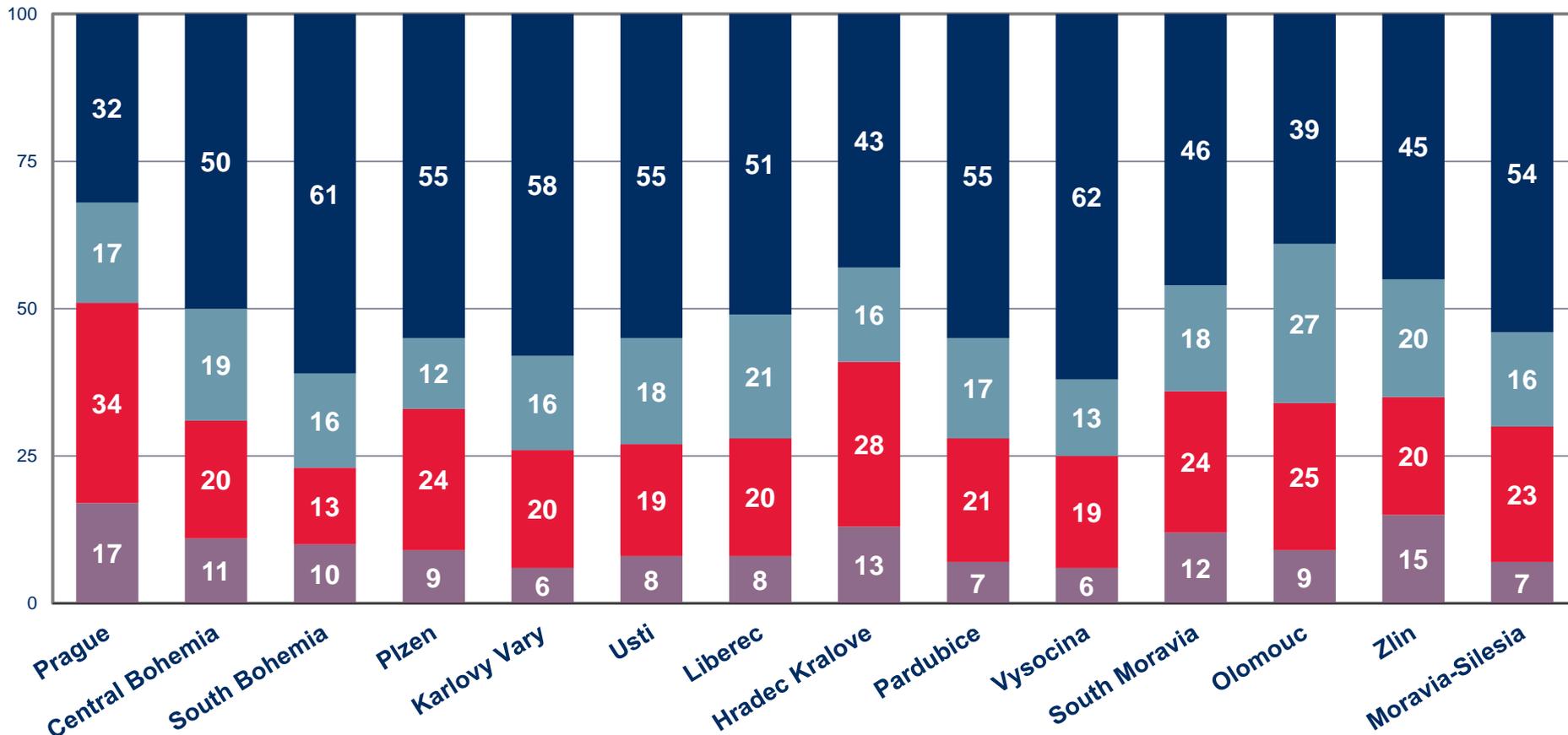
“To what extent do you speak the following foreign languages?”



ENGLISH is most commonly stated in Prague and the Olomouc region.

“To what extent do you speak English?” (%)

Knowledge of English by region

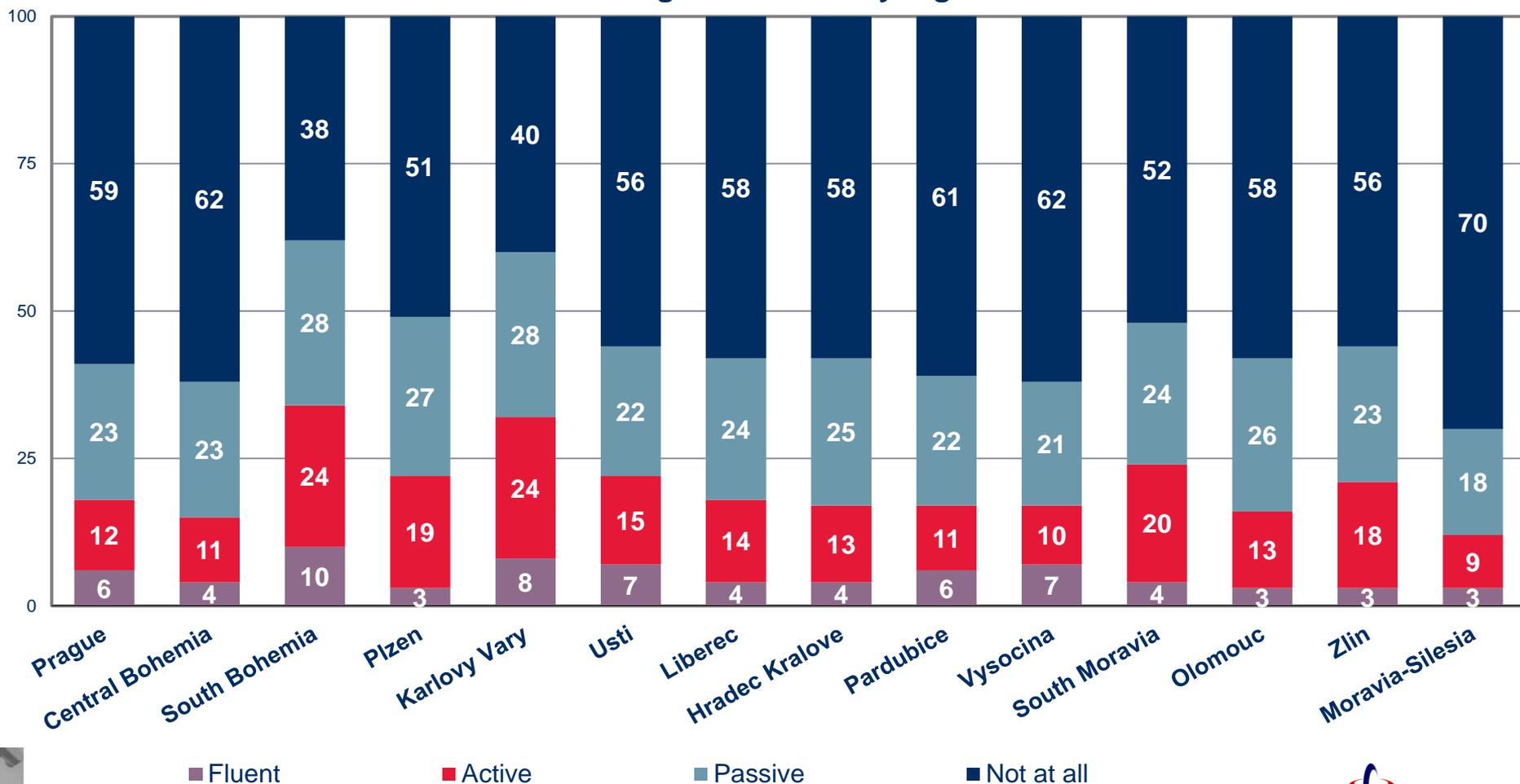


Fluent
 Active
 Passive
 Not at all

GERMAN is most commonly stated in the South Bohemia and Karlovy Vary regions

“To what extent do you speak German?” (%)

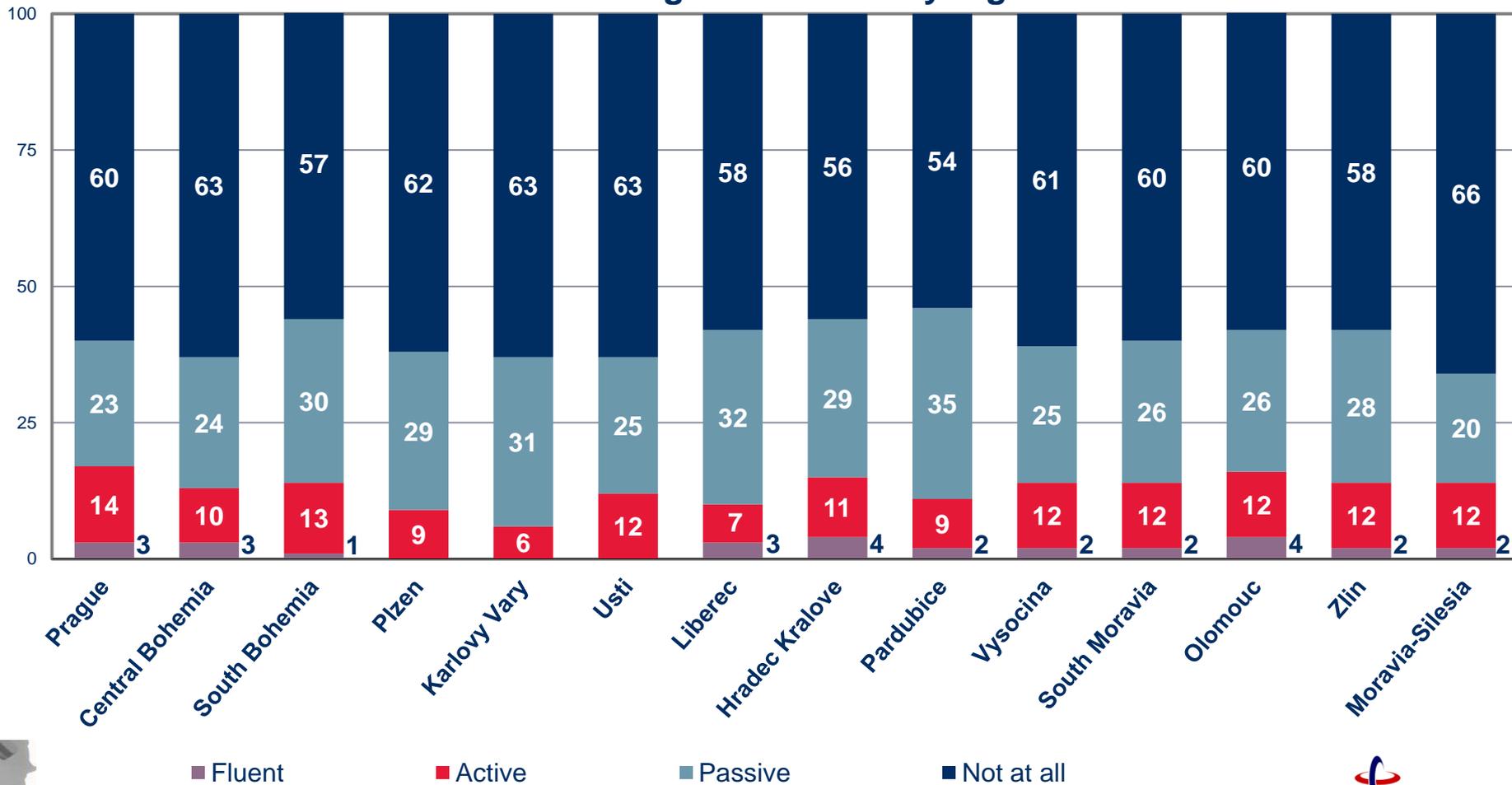
Knowledge of German by region



RUSSIAN is most commonly stated in the Pardubice region.

“To what extent do you speak Russian?” (%)

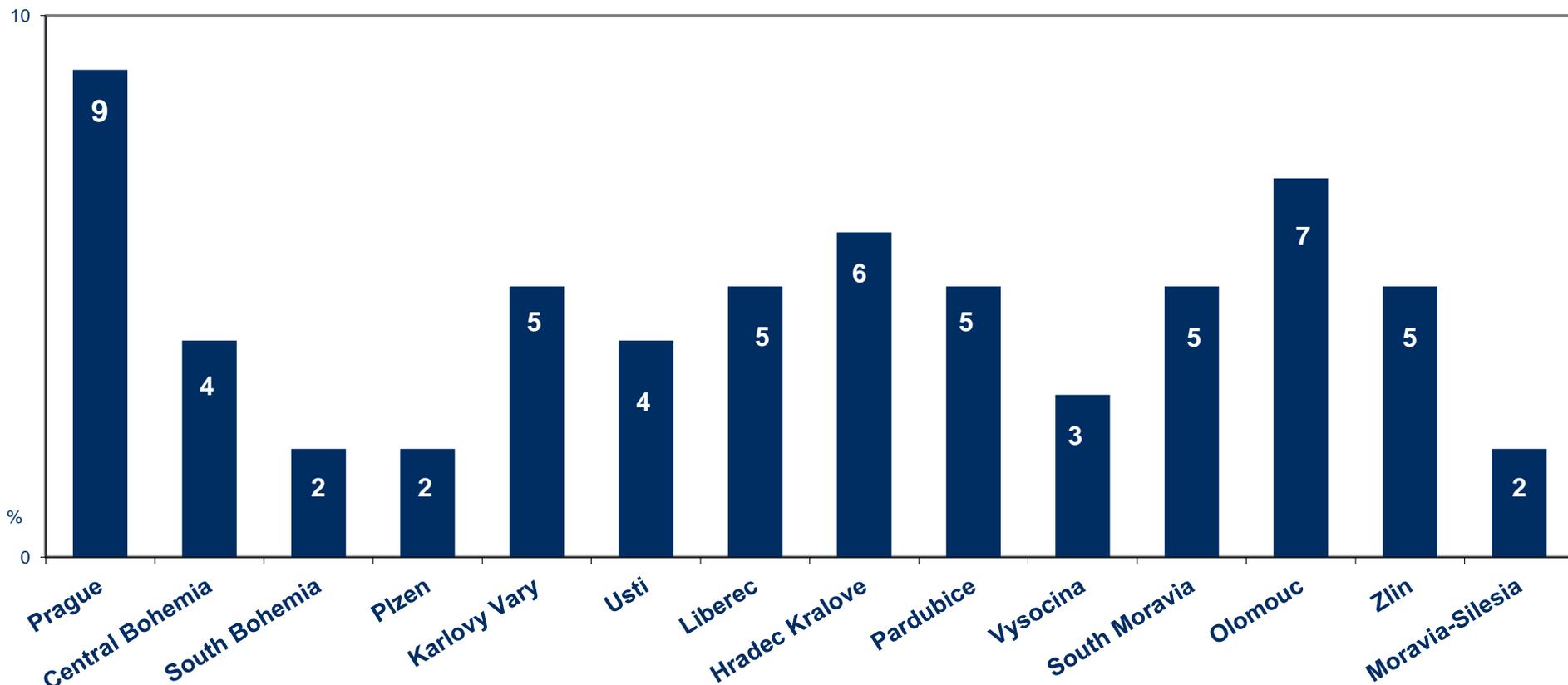
Knowledge of Russian by region



FRENCH is stated most commonly in Prague and the Olomouc region.

“To what extent do you speak French?”
 (“fluent” + “active” + “passive”, in percent)

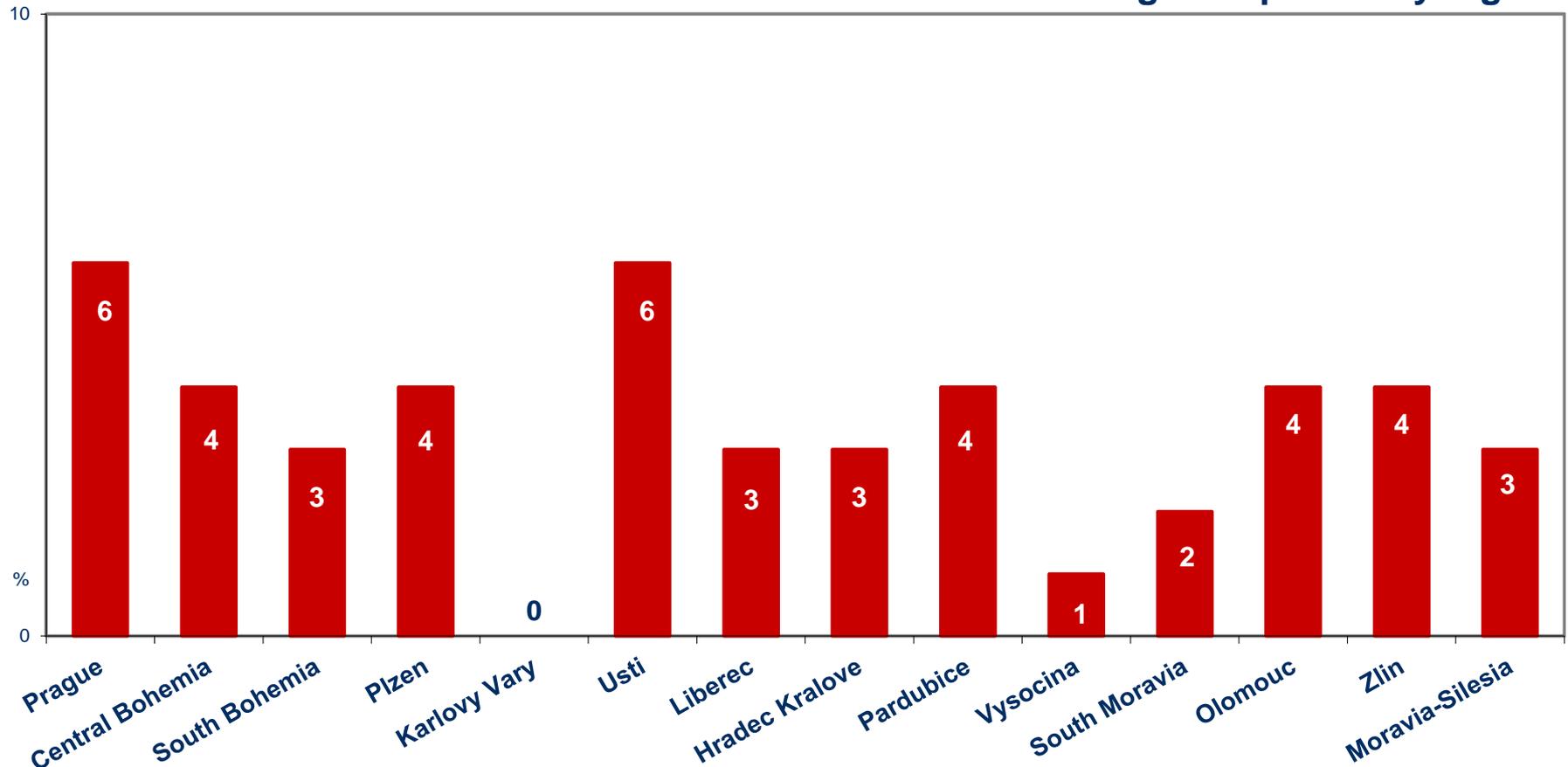
Knowledge of French by region



SPANISH is stated most commonly in Prague and Usti region.

“To what extent do you speak Spanish?”
 (“fluent” + “active” + “passive”, in percent)

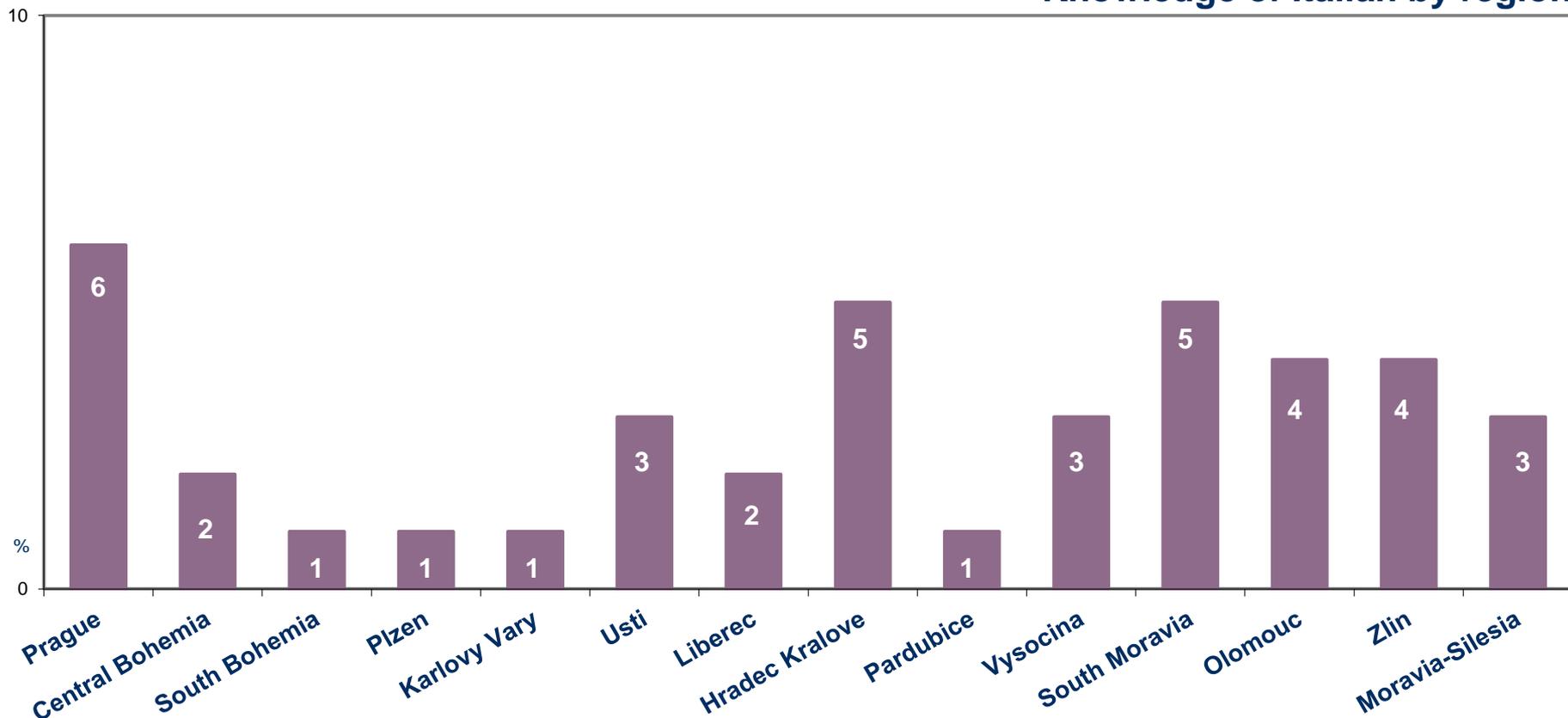
Knowledge of Spanish by region



ITALIAN a bit more common in Prague and the Hradec Králové and Southern Moravia regions.

“To what extent do you speak Italian?”
 (“fluent” + “active” + “passive”, in percent)

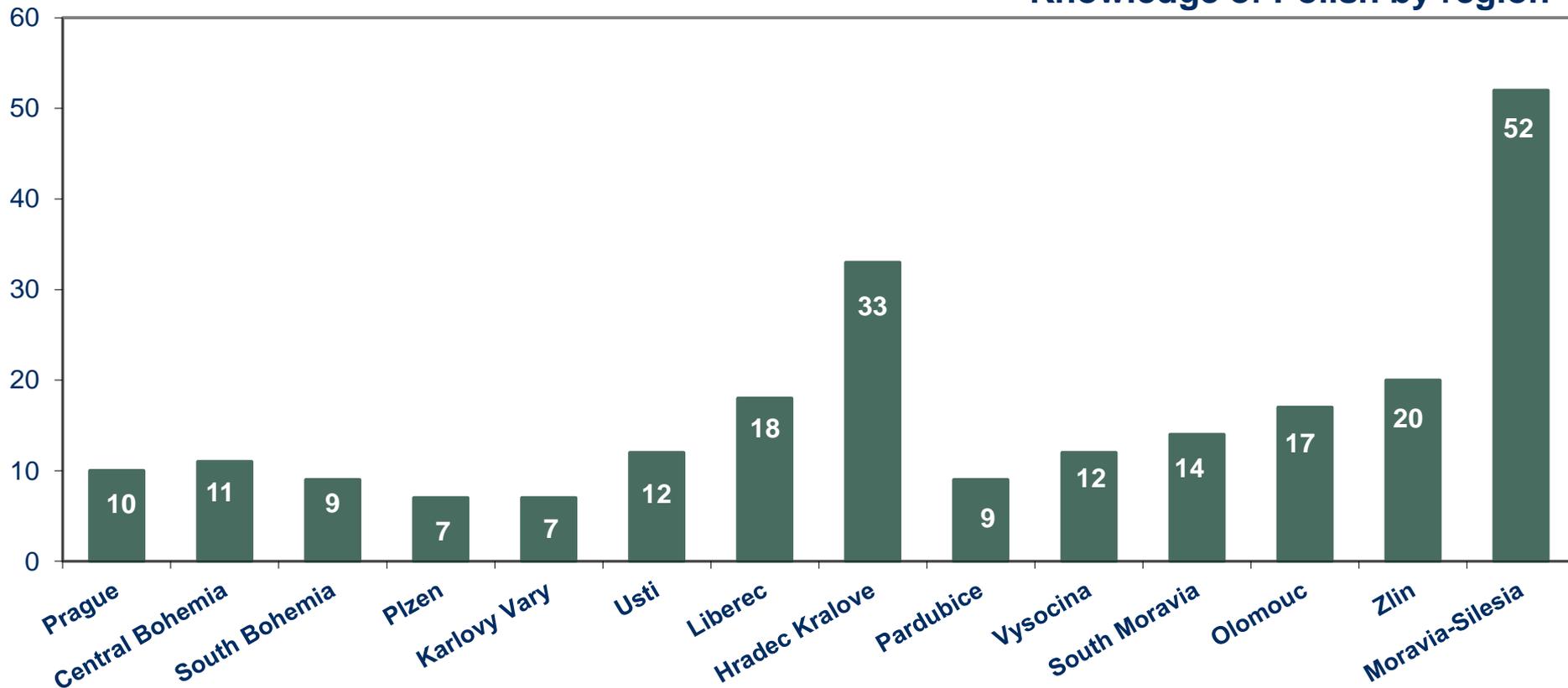
Knowledge of Italian by region



POLISH is stated by half of the population in Moravia-Silesia and one-third in East Bohemia.

“To what extent do you speak Polish?”
 (“fluent” + “active” + “passive”, in percent)

Knowledge of Polish by region



Language examinations

- As previously stated, English is the most commonly spoken foreign language among the Czech population in the 18-59 demographic (when Slovak is not included). Accordingly, exams in English show the highest numbers.
- As for English exams, 22% of respondents had passed the final secondary-school exam in English, 11% passed the university exam in English, 4% passed the state-examination and 4 % acquired a certificate in English.
- The final secondary-school examination in German or Russian was passed by about one-tenth of the population studied. The university exam in German was passed by 5%. The percentage of those who passed more advanced examinations in German or Russian is very low.

Source: STEM, 2014

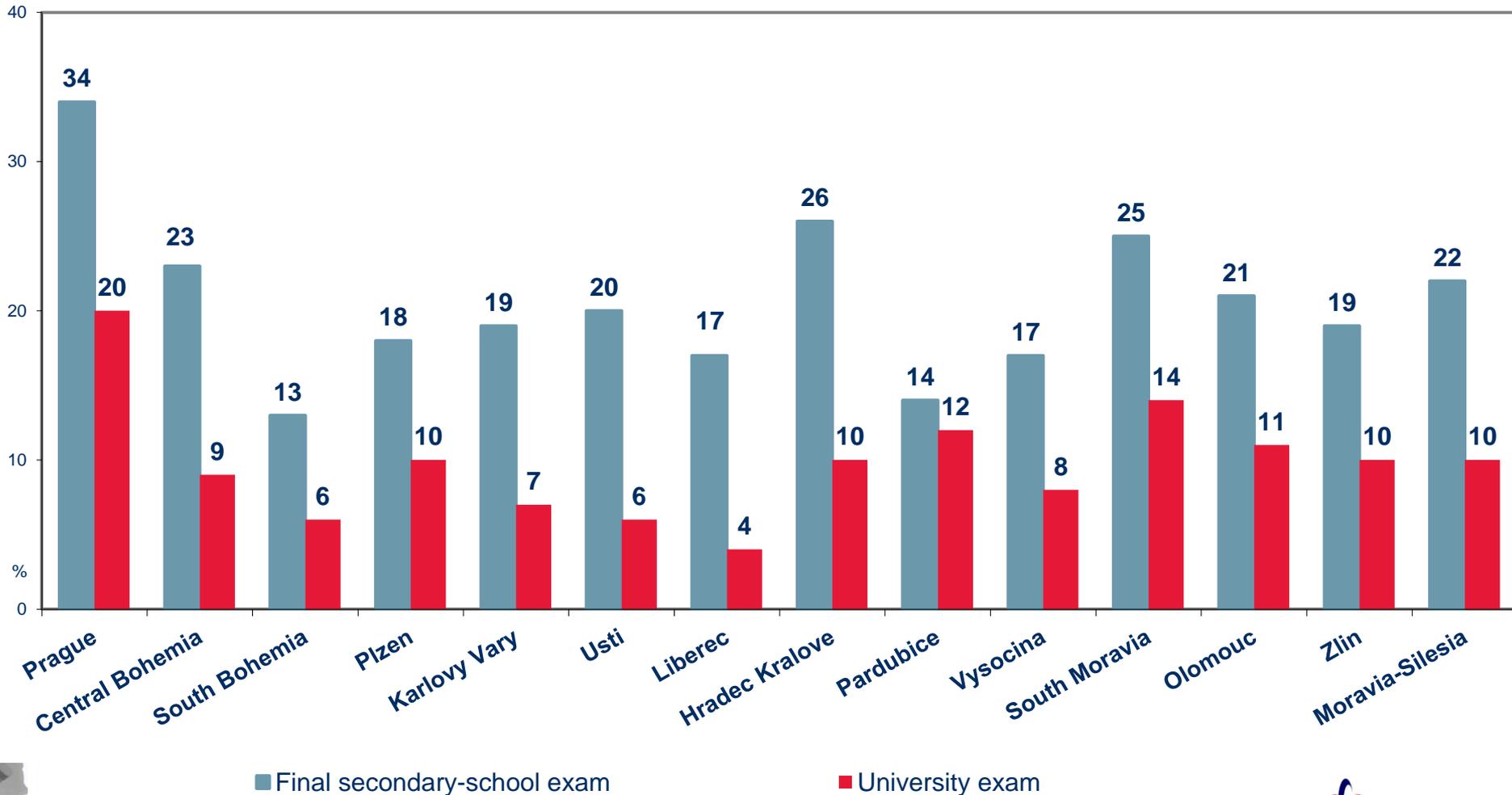
Differences in the percentages of people who have passed foreign language examinations, by region

- Due to the low percentage of people who know English, German or Russian and passed exams in these languages at secondary school or university, we should take the following breakdown by region only as illustrative for general orientation.
- The highest percentage of people who have passed the university exam in English can be found in Prague. It is also relatively high in the regions of Southern Moravia and Hradec Králové.
- The final secondary-school exam in German is most common in South Bohemia.
- Prague and the Olomouc region show the highest proportion of the final secondary-school exam in Russian.

Source: STEM, 2014

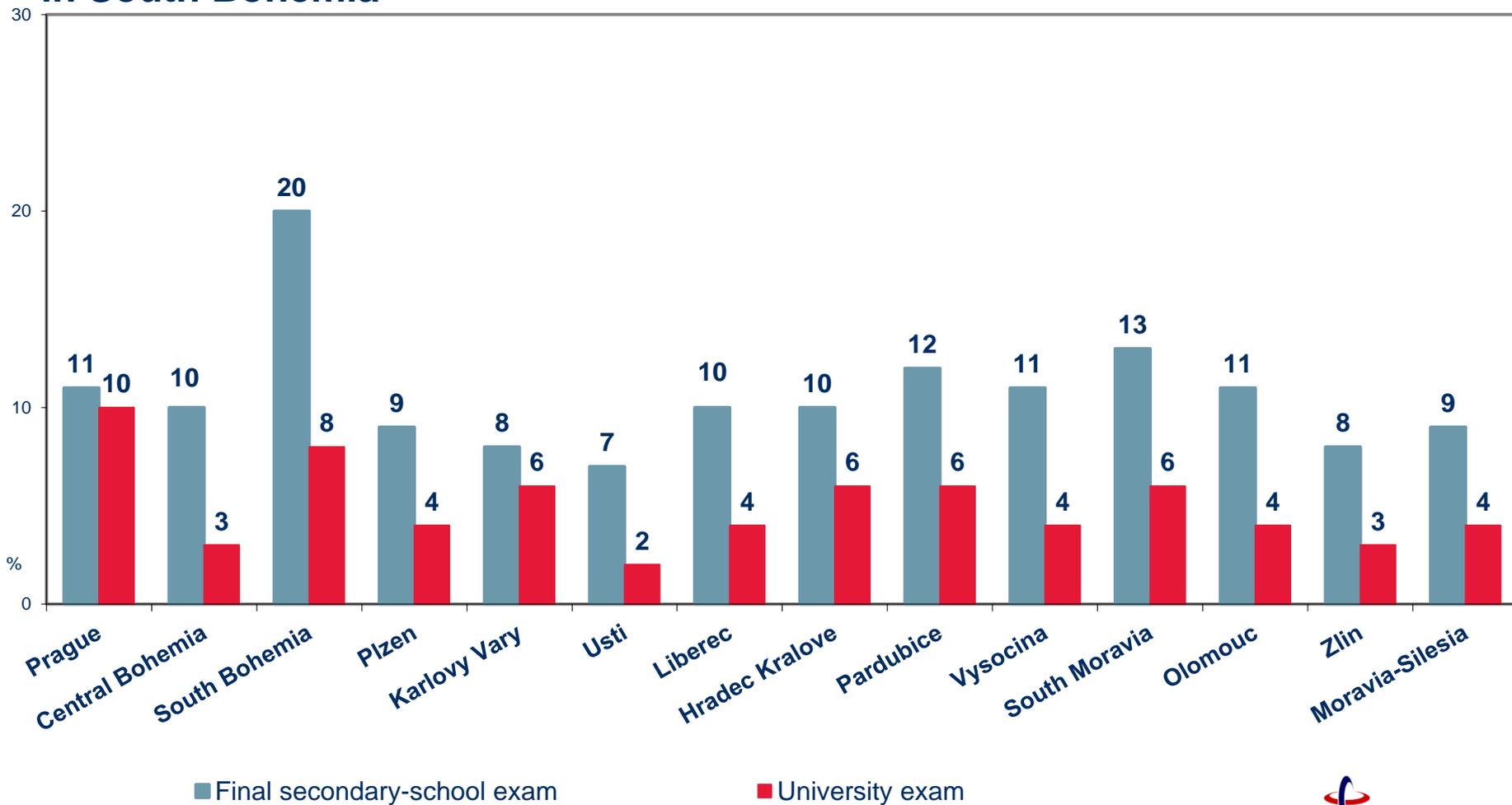
ENGLISH - the final secondary-school or university exam, by region, in %

The final secondary-school exam in English is most common in Prague



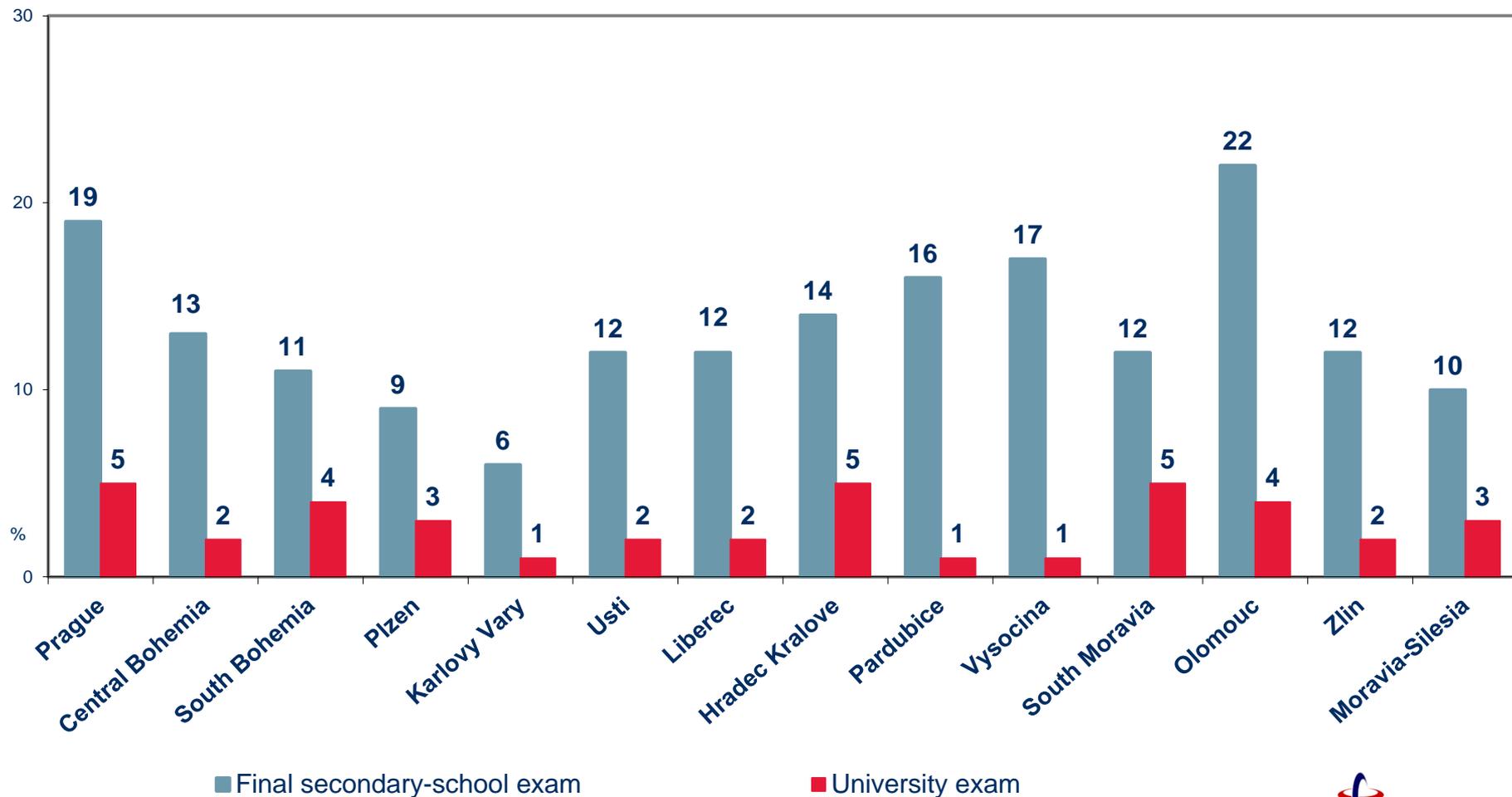
GERMAN - the final secondary-school or university exam, by region, in %

The final secondary-school exam in German is most common in South Bohemia



RUSSIAN - final secondary-school or university exam, by region, in %

Olomouc region and Prague have the highest percentage of people who passed the exam in Russian.



**Comparison of the survey results
with existing empirical evidence
with surveys from 2002 and 2008,
public surveys.**

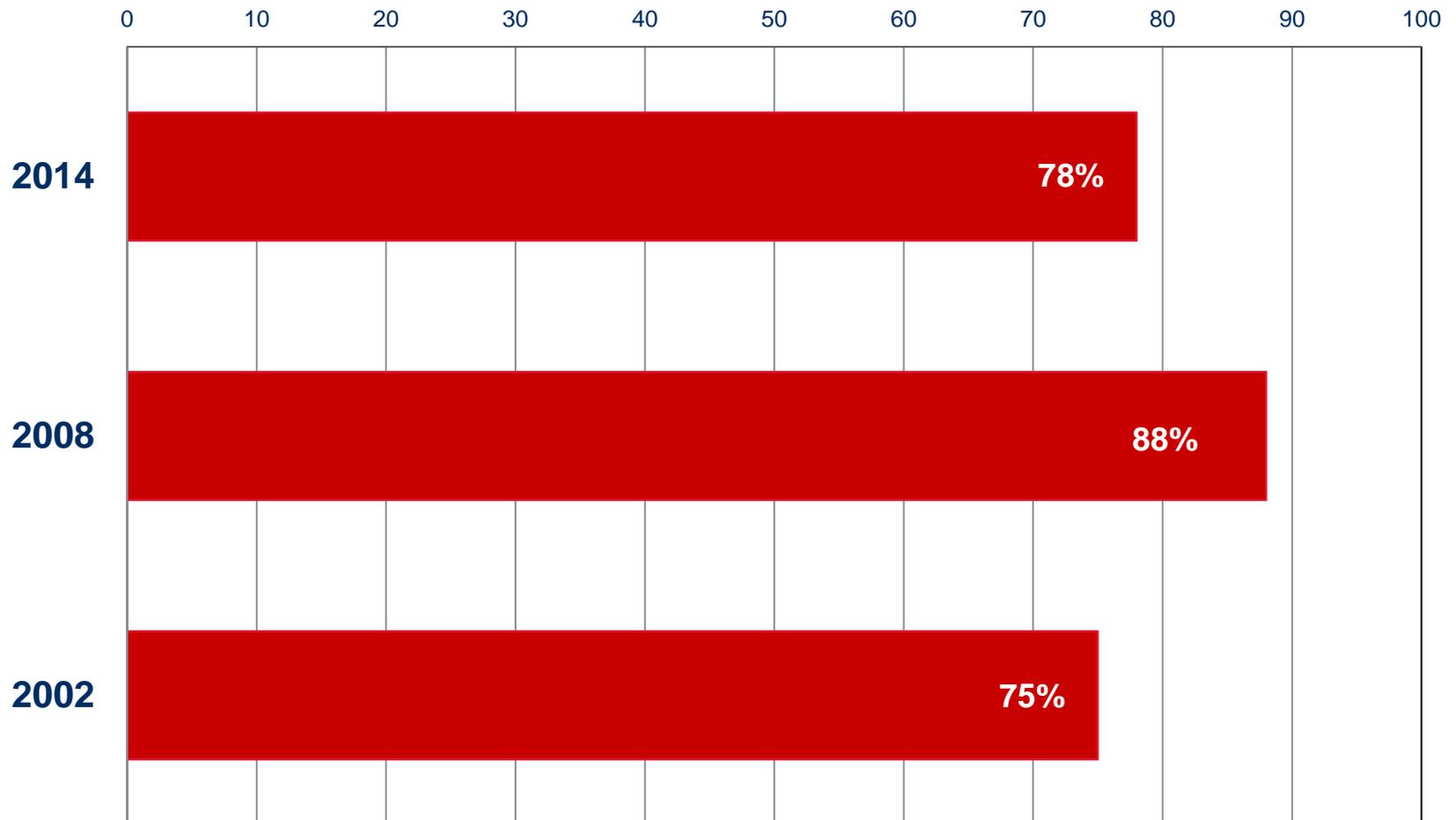


Comparison of surveys from 2002, 2008 and 2014

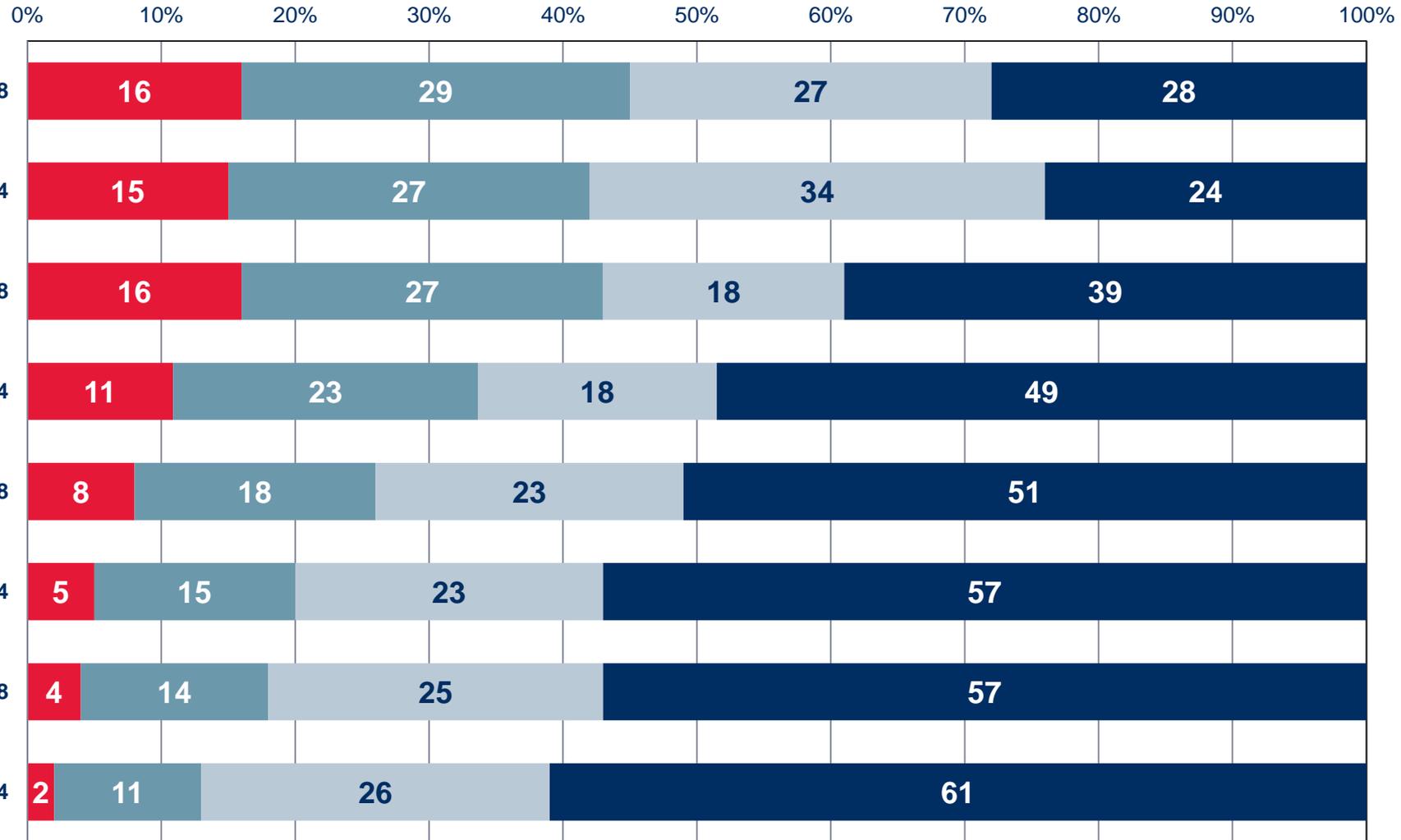
- **CZECHINVEST commissioned three surveys on the knowledge of foreign languages among the population in the 18-59 age group.**
- **In 2002 the survey was carried out by UNIVERSITAS. In 2008 it was carried out by AUGUR Consulting.**
- **By comparing the findings of these three surveys, we observe STAGNATION in the level of foreign-language knowledge in the Czech Republic.**

Source: STEM, 2014

Knowledge of at least one foreign language (including Slovak, %)



Extent of knowledge of foreign languages



■ Fluent
 ■ Active
 ■ Passive
 ■ Not at all

Source: STEM, 2014

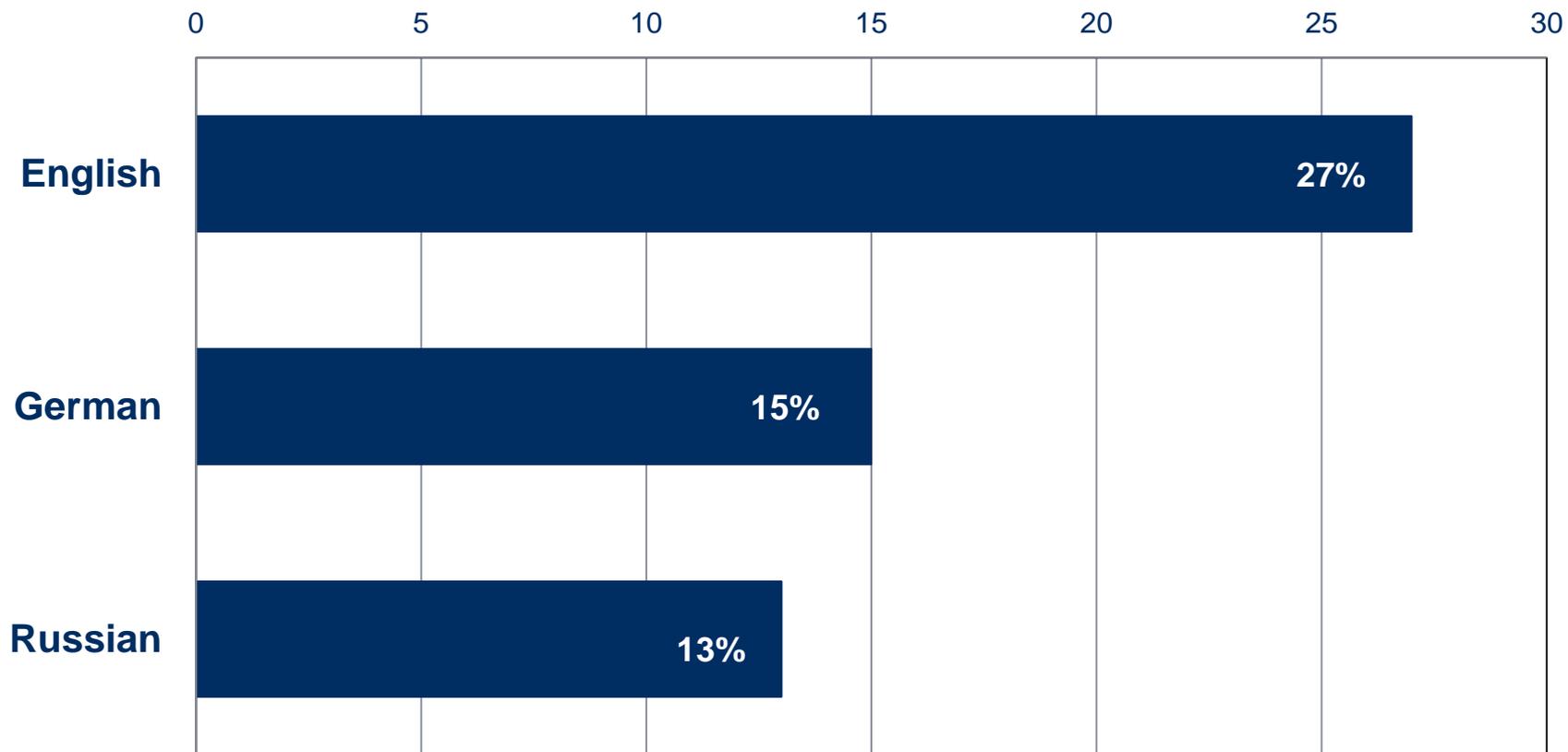
Eurobarometer 77.1

- Conducted by the Public Opinion Analysis section of the European Commission, Eurobarometer – a survey on foreign-language knowledge among the nations of the European Union – was most recently published in 2012.
- This survey indicated that among the Czech population, 49% percent of Czech people over the age of 15 know at least one foreign language.
- This percentage is 12 percentage points lower than the finding of the 2005 Eurobarometer.

Source: STEM, 2014

Eurobarometer 77.1 findings on the Czech Republic (2012)

Percentage of people who speak the following languages:



**Forecast
of further development
in foreign-language knowledge**



Development will remain stagnant for several years

- **Surveys carried out recently all point to the fact that the knowledge of foreign languages is not improving. On the contrary, it seems that the Czech Republic has become mired in a state of prolonged stagnation in this respect.**
- **Only a slow rate of improvement should be expected due to demographic change. Due to our finding that only 15% of the population aged 18-59 plan to study a foreign language, an increase in knowledge of foreign languages will depend mainly on young age cohorts that are still in school.**

Source: STEM, 2014