

# **An empirical study of the European Commission interest group density and diversity across policy domains**

David Coen  
& Alexander Katsaitis,  
School of Public Policy  
University College London

American University March 2014.

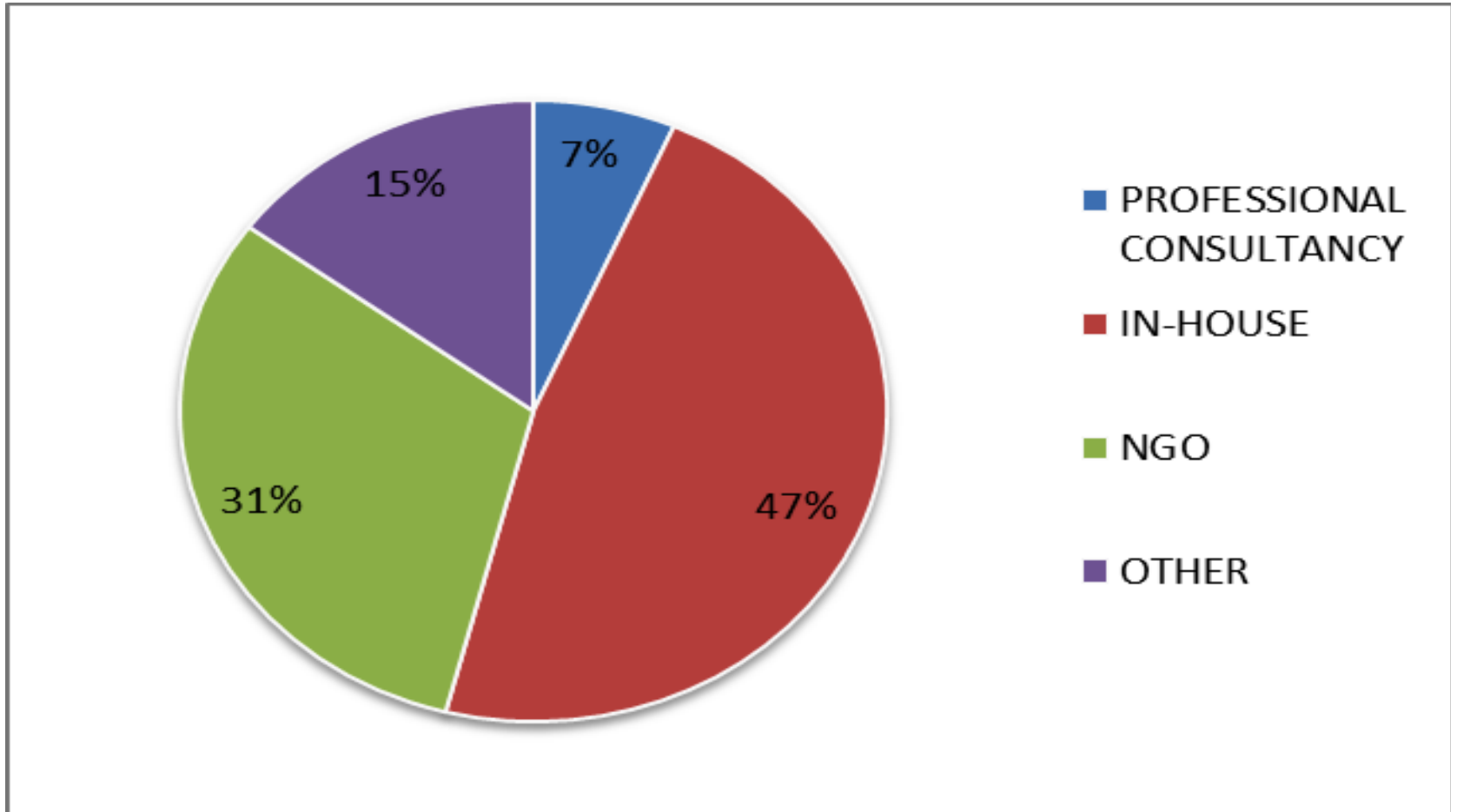
# Density and Diversity across Policy domains.

- Explosion of research over the past 20 years system density. –**Elite Pluralism.**
  - Informational approaches particularly useful
  - Different institutions demand different types information provided by different interests groups (Bouwen 2002)
  - Looked at the Supply of lobbying /variance in actors Coen 1997/2007
- But also see density and diversity variation at EU sub-system.
  - Greater demand of information greater supply of interests (Coen 2007/13).
  - To remain legitimate the Commission must balance
    - Output legitimacy: quality of policy (technical information)
    - Input legitimacy: consensus over policy (political information)

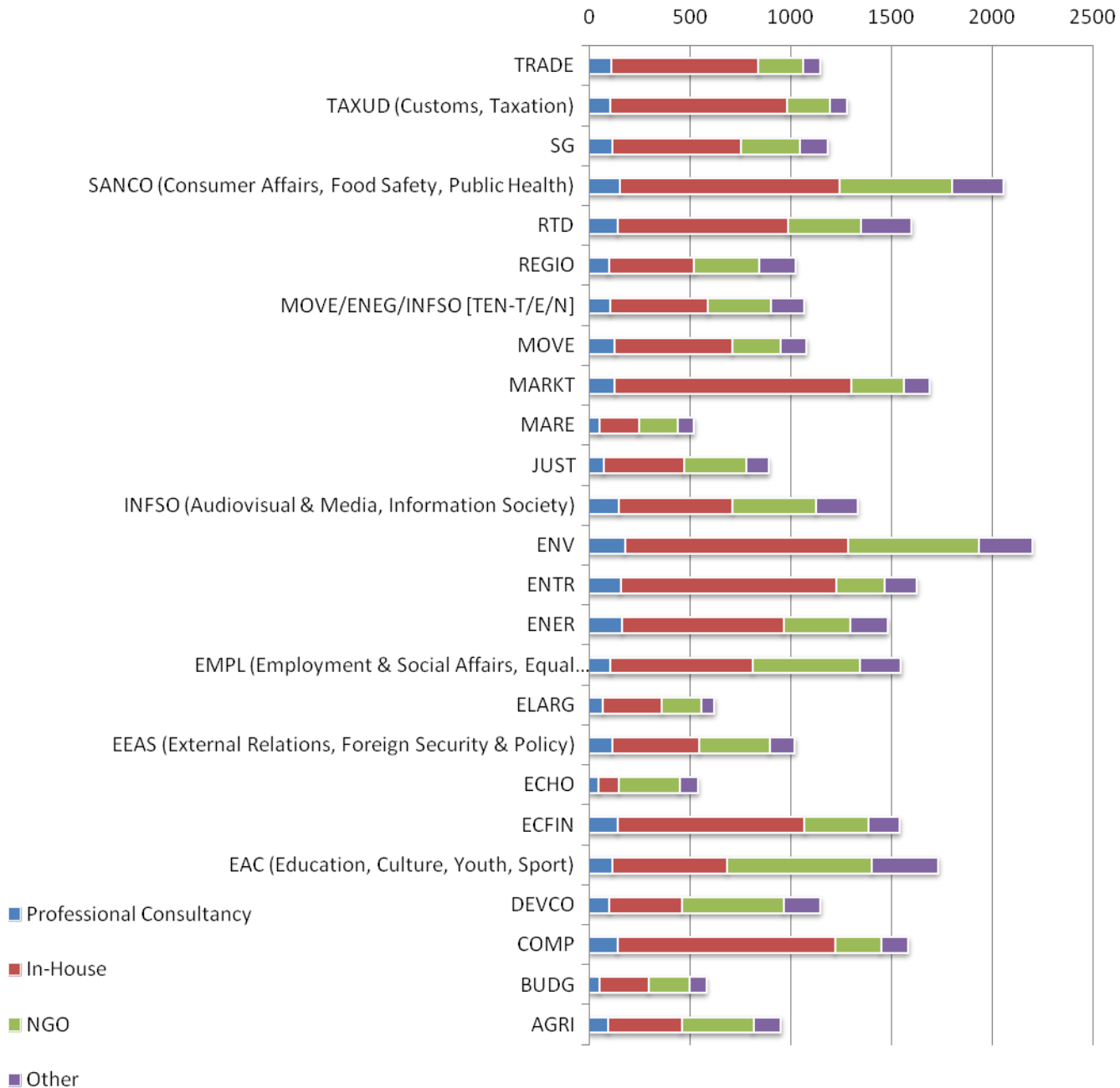
Fn. Characteristics of different policy domains [*Age, Staff Size, Distributive/Regulatory, MS involvement*] dictate the type of legitimacy and therefore the interest group clusters.

# Figure 1.

## % of Interest Groups per Type.



# No. of Groups per Type per Domain



# Conclusions/ Further Research

- Empirical evidence of diversity of the interest group population across policy domains and variables that affect it.
- Chameleon pluralism & the flexibility it offers defines much better interest representation model for the EU sub-system level.
- To what extent do results & theory apply across:
  - institutions at the EU level?
  - across levels?