

CEATL

Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires
www.ceatl.eu

Comparative income of literary translators in Europe

(c) Holger Fock, Martin de Haan, Alena Lhotová, CEATL, Brussels 2007/2008

1. General observations

1.0 Preliminaries

Basis for the survey

Up until 2007, we had never envisaged conducting a Europe-wide survey of literary translators' income, although several of our member associations have been carrying out national surveys for years.

At European level, however, it was always thought that the contractual conditions in the various countries did not lend themselves to comparison because the differences were too great.

A literary translator's income is mainly derived from three sources:

- The basic fee, variously calculated by page, number of keystrokes (with or without spaces) or number of words
- Royalties, including a share of the proceeds from use of the work in all published forms (primary rights) as well as a share of the rights sales (additional and subsidiary rights) and of the monies collected by collecting societies, particularly public lending right (PLR)
- Grants and subsidies.

In addition to the significant differences in the basic fee, there are marked differences in the other two sources of income:

- On the one hand, there are countries where public lending right generates practically nothing and where grants and subsidies are non-existent
- On the other hand, there are countries (particularly the Nordic countries and the Netherlands) where public lending right or grants account for a significant proportion of income and can double the basic fee.

In addition, the large discrepancies between the different social security and tax systems have a considerable impact on literary translators' income.

In order to compare both the total and the average (gross and net) income of translators in the different countries, it is necessary to take all these factors into account and not just the basic fee and royalties.

National and regional characteristics:

1. Belgium

All data for Belgium apply only to translators working into French. Given the small number of publishers in Belgium, translators work mainly for French publishing houses, subject to the same conditions as their French colleagues.

Flemish literary translators have only recently formed their own association and the data for the Netherlands more or less apply.

2. Spain

In theory the data for Spain should be valid for all translators in the country translating into Castilian Spanish, the data for Catalonia for all translators working into Catalan, and the data for the Basque Country for all translators working into Basque.

In reality however, the situation is more complex because the two Catalan associations and the Basque association also include members translating into Castilian Spanish.

Because the Catalan associations and the literary translators' association in Spain are not able to confer, we have to accept that there are different sets of data for Spain.

3. Ireland

Like their Belgian colleagues, who work mainly for French publishers, Irish translators nearly always work for publishers in the United Kingdom.

4. Switzerland

The Swiss data are valid only for contracts with Swiss publishers focused on the Swiss market, but very few translators work solely within that sphere.

Swiss translators working for Italian, French and German publishing houses or for Swiss publishers focused mainly on the Italian, French or German markets are subject to the conditions in those countries.

Timeframe

The data and figures in this survey generally relate to 2005 and 2006, unless otherwise indicated.

Signs and abbreviations:

The following signs and abbreviations are used in the tables:

x = yes

-- = no

x- = the two options co-exist

~~ = no data available

1.1-1.3 General data 1

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 1

General data 1	Translators of literature (fiction) exclusively	Translators of all works protected by copyright	Number of active literary translators	Association members (lit. trans. only)	Number of (new) books published per year	Percentage of translations	Number of new works of literature per year	Percentage of translations in literature
Austria*	--	X	approx. 280	250	approx. 8,500	approx. 5%	approx. 2,050	25%
Basque Ctry**	--	X	60	290***	2,016	31.20%	710	39%
Belgium (Fr.)	--	X	~~	~~	~~	~~	~~	~~
Catalonia**	--	X	approx. 1000	512	24,000	approx. 20%	~~	~~
Croatia	x	--	approx. 400	approx. 200	6,000	approx. 50%	600	approx. 60%
Czech Rep.	x	--	800-1,000	450-500	approx. 18,000	33%	approx. 4,000	approx. 80%
Denmark	--	X	~~	190	6,000	60%	2,000	60%
Finland	--	X	500-600	400	4,070	approx. 50%	1,899	66%
France	--	X	~~	950	approx. 40,000	14.40%	8,284	41.40%
Germany	--	X	1,500-2,000	1,270	94,000	7.20%	approx. 11,300	21.50%
Greece	x	--	~~	75	9,803	44%	1,907	47%
Ireland	-x	x-	50-60	approx. 40	~~	~~	~~	~~
Italy**	--	X	~~	100	59,000	22%	~~	~~
Lithuania	x	--	approx. 200	100	4,548	33%	1,545	51%
Netherlands	x	--	500-600	350	approx. 12,250	36%	2,395	67%
Norway*	x	--	approx. 350	290	3,424	40%	1,171	57%
Portugal	-x	x-	~~	~~	~~	~~	~~	~~
Slovakia	--	X	500	350	9,638	13%	731	approx. 70%
Slovenia**	x	--	approx. 280	210	4,340	25%	928	42%
Spain	--	X	approx. 800-900	500	approx. 60,000	35%	approx. 22,000	35%
Sweden**	--	X	approx. 650	550	2,886	45%	644	52%
Switzerland**	x	--	approx. 50	approx. 30	11,870	9%	approx. 1070	approx. 30%
UK	--	X	~~	465	125,000	3%	~~	~~

* figures from 2005 or earlier

** belong to the writers'/authors' association

*** figure for all translators including technical translators, etc.

1.1. What is a "literary translator"?

Two distinct definitions are used:

In 13 countries/regions "literary translators" are defined as **translators of any work published in book form and protected by copyright**, including translators of non-fiction, essays, scientific books, text books, travel guides, children's books, indeed any work of literature in the broad sense:

Austria, Basque Country, Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

In 8 countries/regions only **translators of literature in the narrow sense of the word (fiction, poetry, plays, etc.)** are considered as "literary translators". To avoid confusion with literary translators in the broader sense, from now on we will use the generic term 'fiction'.

Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland

In 2 countries the two opinions co-exist:

Ireland, Portugal

1.2. Number of active literary translators

"Professional literary translators" versus "active literary translators":

The notion of "professional literary translator" applies to all **literary translators who work full time on literary translation** and who earn their living mainly from literary translation and occasionally from translation-related literary activities (lectures and talks, readings, book publishing, literary criticism, etc.).

The notion of "active literary translator" applies to all **literary translators who publish at least one literary translation every two to three years**, but who earn their living mainly from professional activities other than literary translation (technical translation, teaching or other).

The following chart shows the number of translators who are members of our associations and the approximate or estimated number of active literary translators in the countries represented by our associations with (in brackets) the total population in millions (* denotes Spain not including Catalonia and the Basque Country).

The majority of our associations include both categories of literary translators, but with major differences:

In 10 countries/regions a high proportion of literary translators (at least half) are "professional":

Catalonia, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden

In 5 countries less than half of the "active" literary translators are classed as "professional":

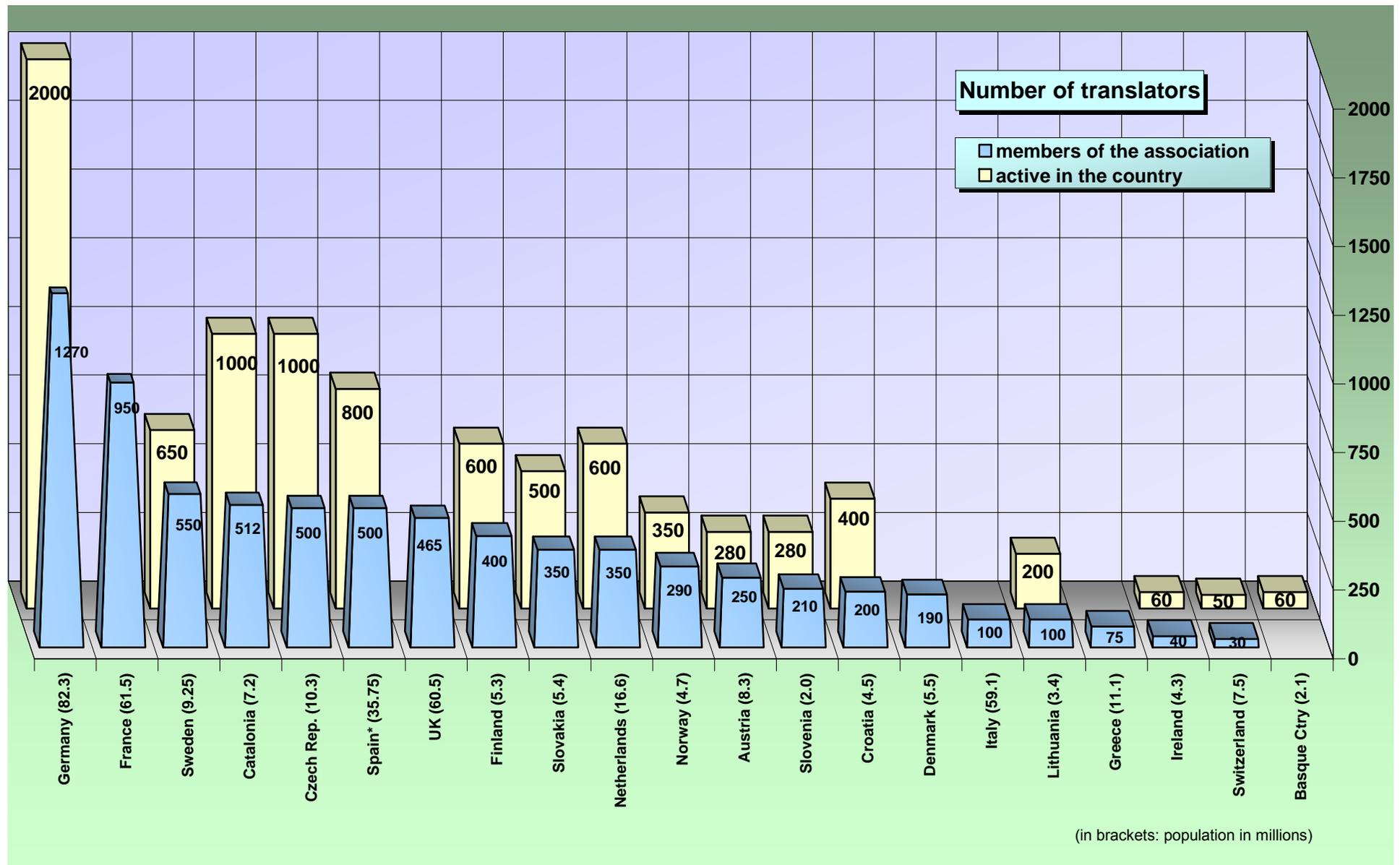
Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia

In 8 countries/regions "professional" literary translators are rare (less than 10% of all active translators), if they exist at all:

Basque Country, Belgium (Fr.), Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Kingdom

1.2.1 Number of active literary translators

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 1



1.3. Comparison between the number of books published per year and the number of translations published per year

There is a huge disparity between the countries with regard to the percentage of translations published per year.

In general, it appears that the proportion of translations is greater

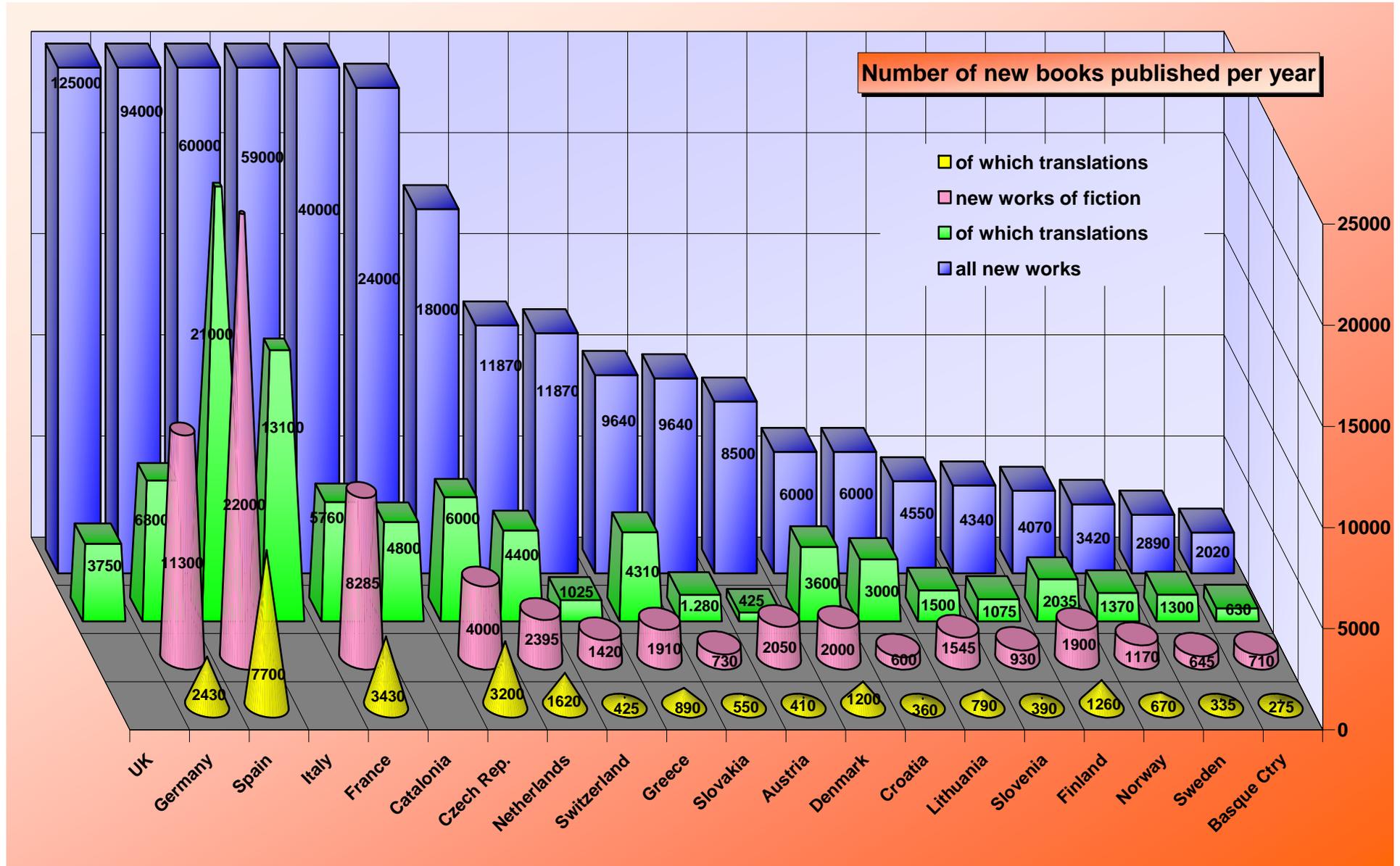
- in the smaller countries/languages
- in fiction.

Note however that the proportion of translations is

- **exceptionally low** in the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany and Switzerland
- **exceptionally high in fiction** in Slovakia and the Czech Republic

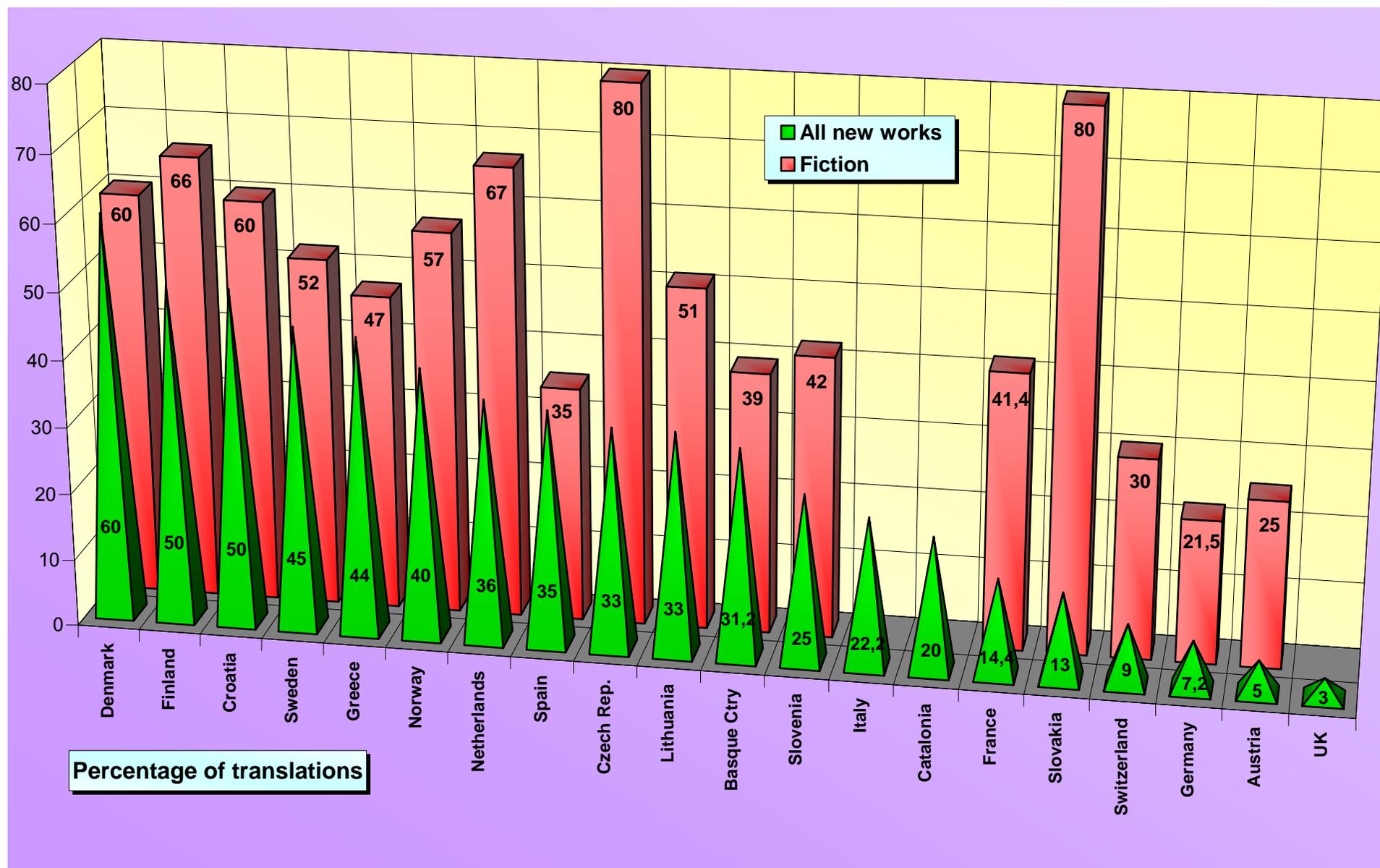
1.3.1 Number of new works published per year

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 2



1.3.2 Percentage of translations

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 3



1.4-1.6 General data 2

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 2

General data II	Fee surveys	Statistics published	Standard contract (in agreement with the publishers)	Model contract (recommended by the association)	Recommendations published	Agreements with the publishers on fees	Agreements with the publishers on royalties
Austria	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Basque Ctry	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Belgium (Fr.)	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Catalonia	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Croatia	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Czech Rep.	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Denmark	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	no
Finland	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
France	yes	yes	yes	no	yes and no*	yes and no*	yes and no*
Germany	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	no
Greece	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Ireland	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
Italy	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no
Lithuania	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Netherlands	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Norway	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
Portugal	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no
Slovakia	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Slovenia	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no
Spain	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Sweden	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	no
Switzerland	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no
UK	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no

* no agreements but unofficial arrangements due to free competition laws

1.4. Fee surveys/publication of results

10 associations conduct surveys among their members:

Austria, Belgium (Fr.), Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia, Spain

6 countries/regions publish the results of their surveys or statistics:

Basque Country, Belgium (Fr.), Finland, France, Italy, Spain

1.5. Standard contract/model contract

11 countries/regions have a standard contract (drawn up in agreement with the publishers):

Basque Country, Catalonia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

8 countries propose a model contract (a suggested contract for their members):

Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

1.6. Agreements/Recommendations concerning fees and royalties (percentage)

In 5 countries there are agreements with the publishers concerning basic fees and royalties (percentages):

Belgium (Fr.), France (no official agreements due to free competition laws)
Spain (only for royalties)
Norway, Sweden (only for basic fees)
Netherlands

In 2 countries translators are in negotiation with the publishers: Germany, Spain

13 of our associations publish recommendations:

Austria, Belgium (Fr.), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia
Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

2. Contract terms

2.1 Contracts signed by...

Translation contracts are normally signed between the translators and the publishers directly, with one exception:

- in Germany since 2003 there has been a specialist literary translators' agency

2.2 Obligation to publish the translation

In 15 countries/regions this obligation is stipulated in the contract:

Austria, Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

In 8 countries/regions this is not the case:

Basque Country, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden

2.1-2.6 Contract terms

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 3

Contract terms	Contract signed directly/by an agency	Obligation to publish	Pub. deadline stipulated	Fixed term contract/no. of years	Minimum print run stipulated	Number of author copies
Austria	with publisher	yes	no	10 years maximum	no	5-10 + 1 of each subsequent edition
Basque Ctry	with the publisher	no	no	no	yes	10
Belgium (Fr.)	with the publisher (usually)	yes	yes	as in France	yes	5-10
Catalonia	with the publisher	yes	yes	15 years maximum	yes/wide bracket	2-5
Croatia	with the publisher	yes	yes	3 years	yes/1000-3000 copies	5
Czech Rep.	with the publisher	yes	yes (normally)	3-20 years	yes	1-5
Denmark	with the publisher	no	no	2 years	no	5-10
Finland	with the publisher	no	no	5 years	no	10
France	with the publisher (usually)	yes	yes	Sometimes for term of licence contract, otherwise dur. of copyright	yes	5-10
Germany	in general with the publisher though a specialist literary translators' agency exists	yes	no	no (unlimited contracts), each contract subject to copyright and limited by the duration of the licence	no	10
Greece	with the publisher	yes	no	on a contract by contract basis	no	5
Ireland	with the publisher	yes	yes	no	no	10
Italy	with the publisher	no	no	20 years	min. of 1000 copies sometimes	1-5
Lithuania	with the publisher	yes	yes	5-7 years (but no fixed rule)	yes	1-5
Netherlands	with the publisher	yes	yes	not specified, but limited to 4 years after the book goes out of print	no	8 + 2 of each subsequent edition
Norway	with the publisher	no	no	normally 5-6 years, but if the publishers retain the rights they pay an additional fee every 6 years	no	15
Portugal	with the publisher	no	no	yes	no	max. 6
Slovakia	with the publisher	yes	yes	3-10 years	no	1-5
Slovenia	with the publisher	yes	yes	3-20 years	yes	3-5
Spain	with the publisher	yes	yes	10-15 years	yes	2-5
Sweden	with the publisher	no	no	8 years	no	15
Switzerland	with the publisher	yes	yes	not specified	no	10
UK	with the publisher	yes	yes	Subject to term of licence contract for the original work	no	6 recommended

2.3 Minimum print run

In 10 countries/regions, a minimum print run is stipulated in the contract:

Basque Country, Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Croatia (1000-3000 copies), Czech Republic, France, Italy (sometimes with a minimum of 1000 copies), Lithuania, Slovenia, Spain

2.4 Publication deadline stipulated in the contract

In 13 countries/regions, the amount of time the publisher has to publish the book is stipulated in the contract:

Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

In 10 countries/regions, no deadline is stipulated in the contract:

Austria, Basque Country, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden

2.5 Contract term

17 countries have a fixed term contract:

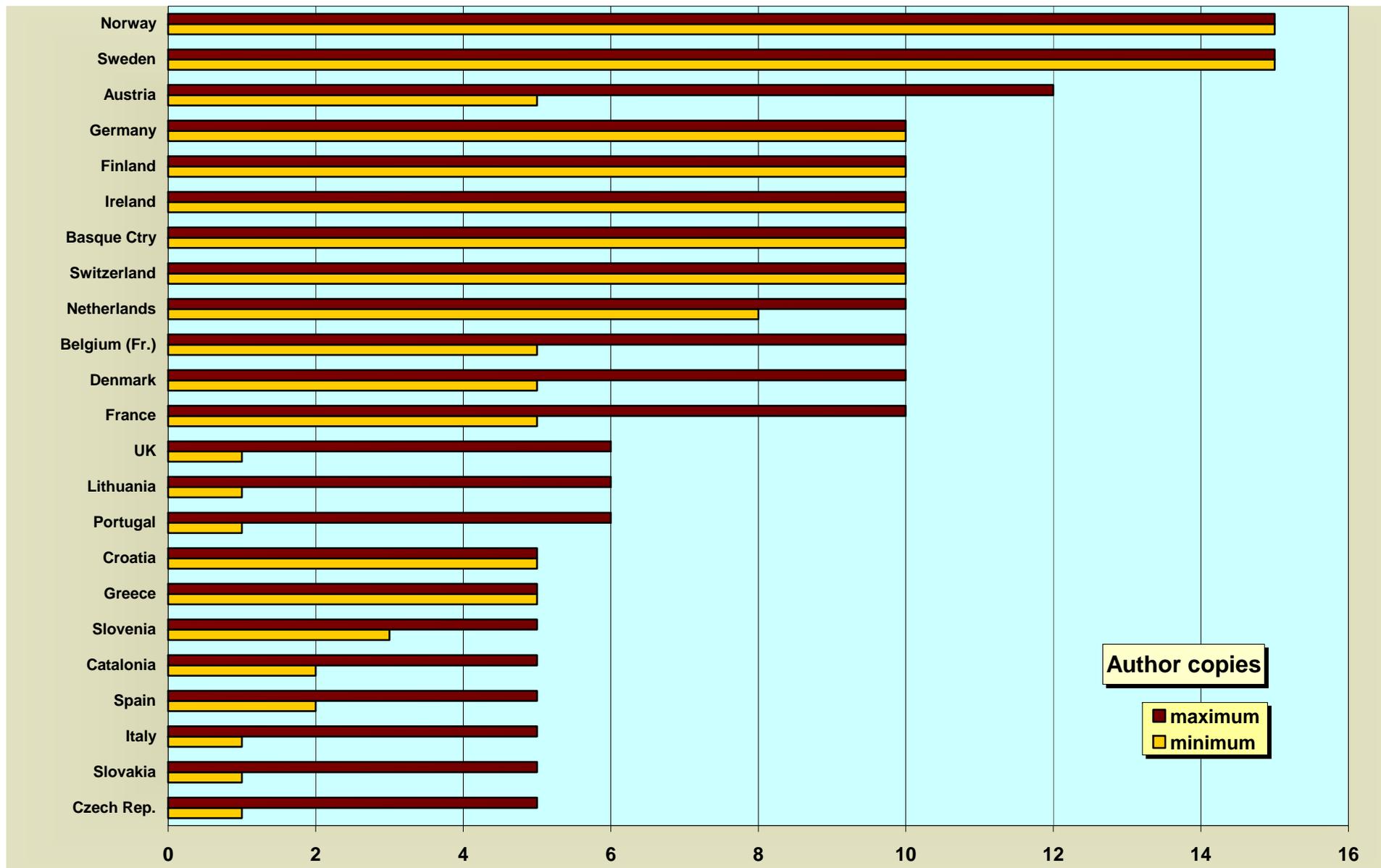
Austria	10 years
Catalonia	15 years
Croatia	3 years
Czech Republic	3-20 years
Denmark	2 years
Finland	5 years
France	for the term of the licence contract
Italy	20 years
Lithuania	5 years
Netherlands	4 years after book goes out of print
Norway	5-6 years
Portugal	to be negotiated
Slovakia	3-10 years
Slovenia	3-20 years
Spain	10-15 years
Sweden	8 years
United Kingdom	for the term of the licence contract

2.6 Number of free copies to which the translator is entitled

In most countries, translators are entitled to 5 or 10 author copies.

2.6.1 Number of free copies

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 4



3. Basic fee

3.1 Actual fees and fees converted to pages of 1,800 keystrokes (including spaces)

There are major differences in the fee calculation basis used in the various countries:

In 5 countries/regions, the fee is calculated on a page basis:

- in Austria, Germany and Switzerland: page of 30 lines x 60 keystrokes maximum
- in Belgium (Fr.) and France: 25 lines x 60 keystrokes.

In 11 countries/regions, the fee is based on the number of keystrokes:

- in the Basque Country, Catalonia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia based on 1,800 keystrokes (including spaces)
- in Italy and Lithuania based on 2,000 keystrokes (including spaces)
- in Sweden based on 1,000 keystrokes (including spaces)

In 5 countries/regions the fee is based on the number of words (in the source language):

- Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom

In 2 countries translators are paid by folio/printer's sheet:

- in Finland based on a folio of 16 pages x 2,000 keystrokes excluding spaces (approx. 1,625 keystrokes including spaces)
- in Denmark based on a folio of 16 pages x 2,000 keystrokes including spaces

To compare the basic fee and calculate the income we have converted all the data to pages of 1,800 keystrokes (and the figures in non-euro currencies to euros).

In each column of the following table, the figures on the **left** denote the **minimum rate**, those in the **middle** the **average rate** and those on the **right** the **maximum rate**.

The minimum and maximum rates shown are not absolutes but the minimum and maximum rates received by a significant number of translators in each country – there are, of course, a few translators in each country who fall below the minimum and others who may at times exceed the maximum.

3.1 Basic fee

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 4

Basic fee in €	page type D (30 lines x 60 chars max.)	page type F (25 lines x 60 chars max.)	1,000 keystrokes (inc. spaces)	1,800 keystrokes (inc. spaces)	per folio/printer's sheet	per word
Austria	14.00 - 18.00 - 22.00			16.80 - 21.60 - 26.40		
Basque Ctry	14.25 - - 14.25			17.12 - - 17.12		
Belgium (Fr.)	21.60 - 26.64 - 30.00	18.00 - 22.00 - 25.00		25.92 - 31.68 - 36.00		
Catalonia	6.42 - 9.28 - 14.28	~~		7.70 - 11.14 - 17.14		
Croatia	4.17 - 5.84 - 10.00			5.00 - 7.00 - 12.00		
Czech Rep.	2.50 - 4.60 - 7.50			3.00 - 5.50 - 9.00		
Denmark	10.80 - 11.25 - 15.10			13.50 - 16.05 - 18.85	240 - 285 - 335**	
Finland	10.60 - 16.00 - 20.25		7.05 - 10.65 - 13.50	12.70 - 19.20 - 24.30	185 - 277 - 350**	
France	18.00 - 25.80 - 30.00	15.00 - 21.50 - 25.00		21.60 - 30.96 - 36.00		
Germany	12.00 - 18.25 - 23.00			14.40 - 21.90 - 27.60		
Greece	5.85 - 8.35 - 25.00			7.00 - 10.00 - 30.00		
Ireland	- 24.00 - 28.80			28.80 - - 34.56		0.10 - 0.12
Italy	4.50 - 9.45 - 18.90		3.00 - 6.30 - 12.60*	5.40 - 11.35 - 22.70		
Lithuania	3.25 - 4.70 - 6.35			3.90 - 5.65 - 7.60		
Netherlands	15.90 - - 18.00			19.10 - - 21.60		0.059***
Norway	25.90 - - 25.90		17.27 - - 17.27	31.08 - - 31.08		0.108
Portugal	7.50 - 8.67 - 15.00			9.00 - 12.00 - 18.00		
Slovakia	2.50 - 6.05 - 9.60			3.00 - 7.25 - 11.50		
Slovenia	6.25 - 9.50 - 14.00			7.50 - 11.40 - 16.80		
Spain	8.75 - 12.50 - 16.00			10.50 - 13.50 - 19.20		0.035-0.045-0.064
Sweden	19.30 - 22.95 - 25.35		12.88 - 15.30 - 16.90	23.18 - 27.54 - 30.42		
Switzerland	20.00 - - 25.00			24.00 - - 30.00		
UK	14.40 24.00 - 28.80			17.28 28.80 - 34.56		0.06 - 0.10 - 0.12

* double these figures for 2,000 keystrokes

** folio: 16 pages/2,000 chars (DK: inc. sp., FIN: excl. sp. ≈ 1,625 chars inc. sp.)

*** €0.06 from 2008, rate index-linked and adjusted annually

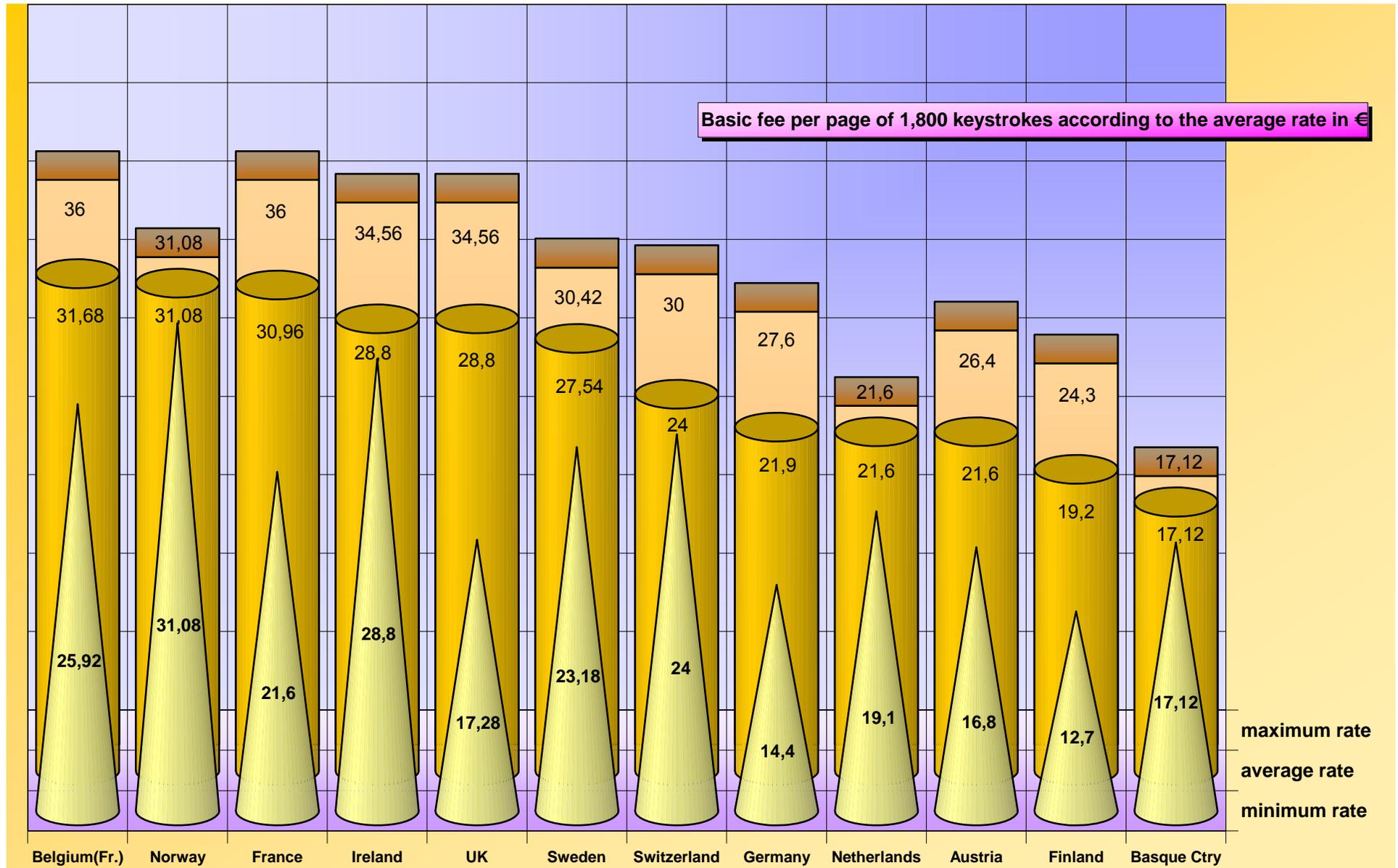
1 page type D ≈ 1,500 keystrokes (inc. spaces) ≈ 240-300 words

1 page type F ≈ 1,250 keystrokes (inc. spaces) ≈ 200-250 words

1 line ≈ 9-10 words ≈ 54-60 keystrokes (inc. spaces)

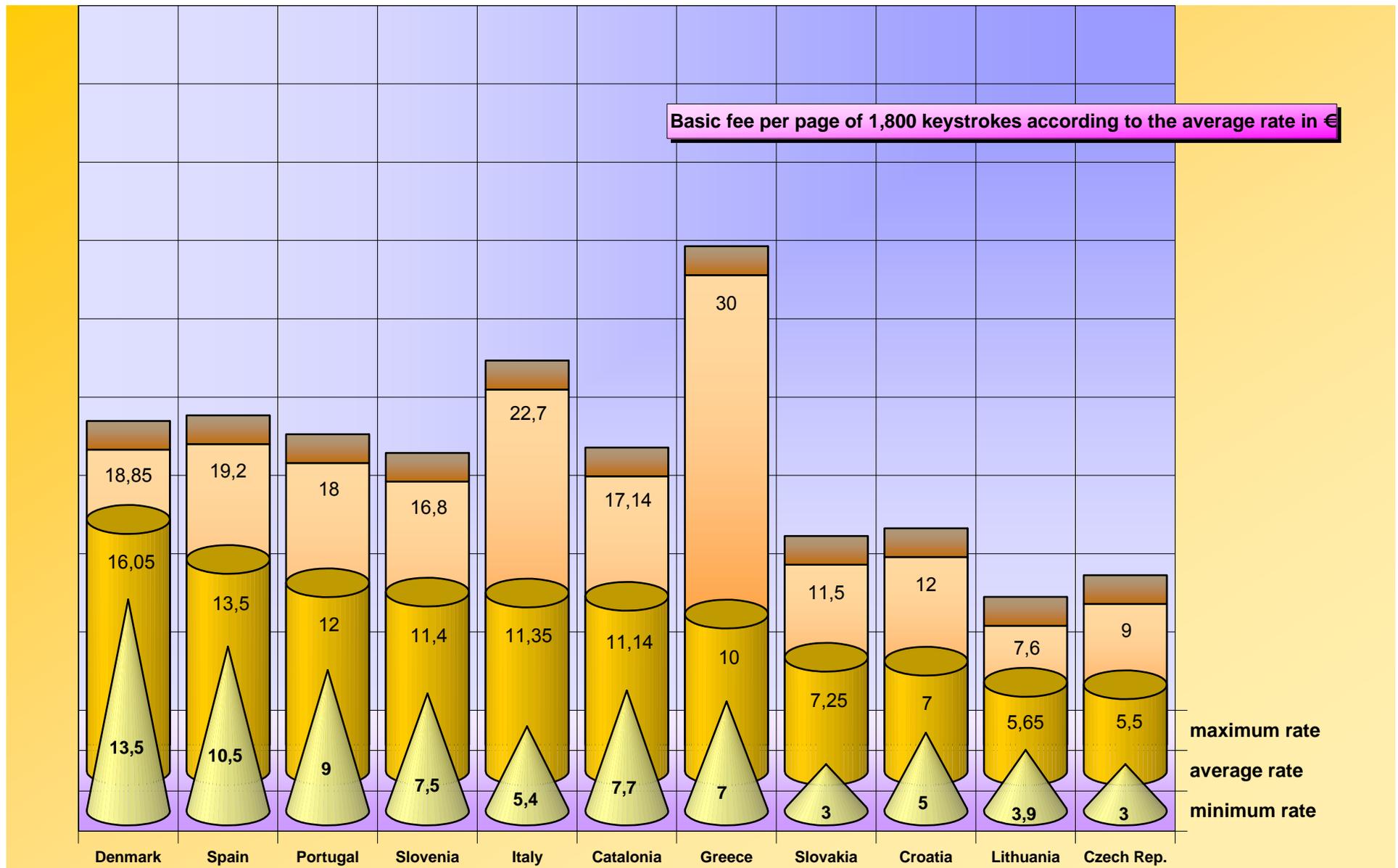
3.1.1 Basic fees according to average rates: countries 1-12

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 5a



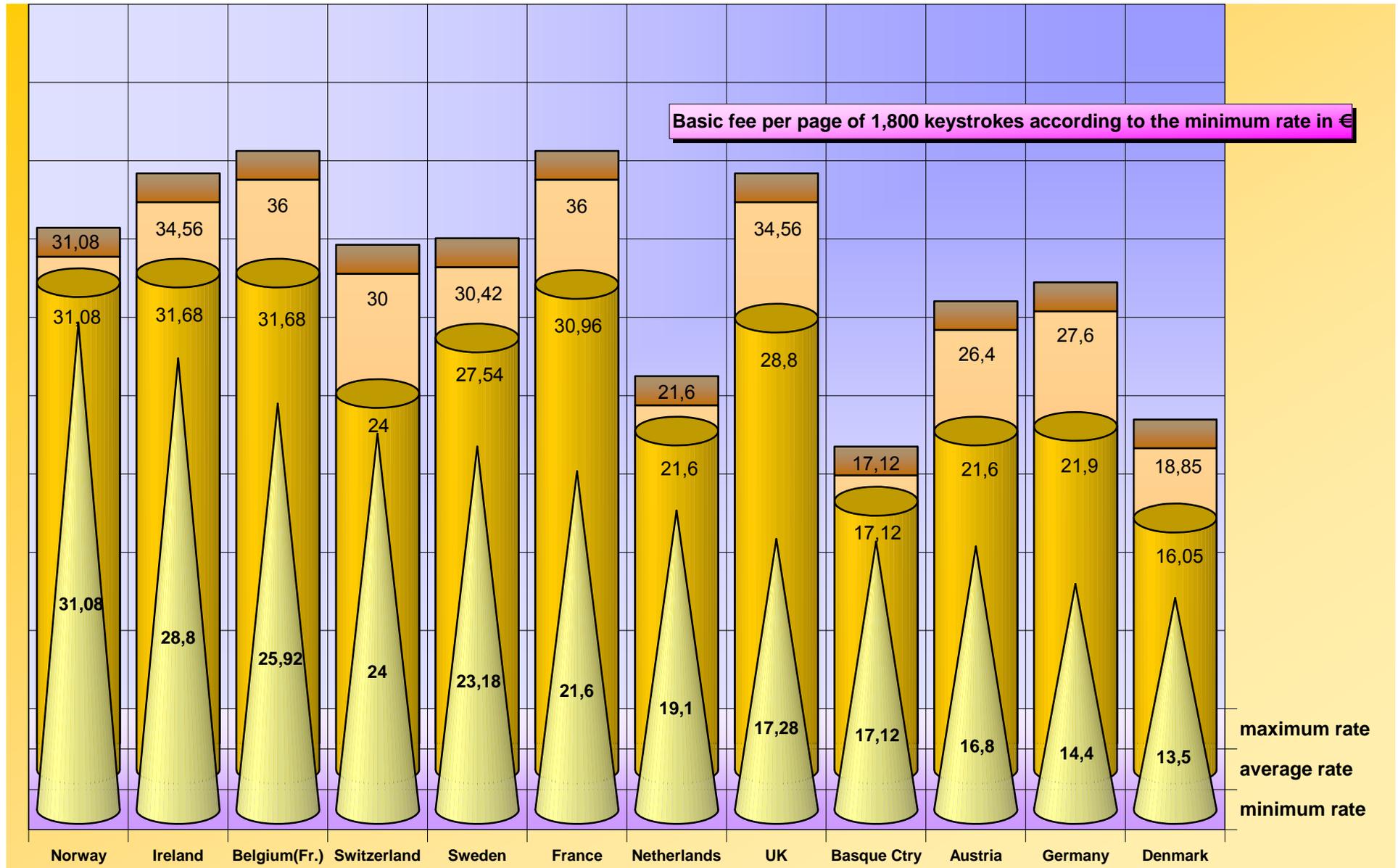
3.1.2 Basic fees according to average rates: countries 13-23

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 5b



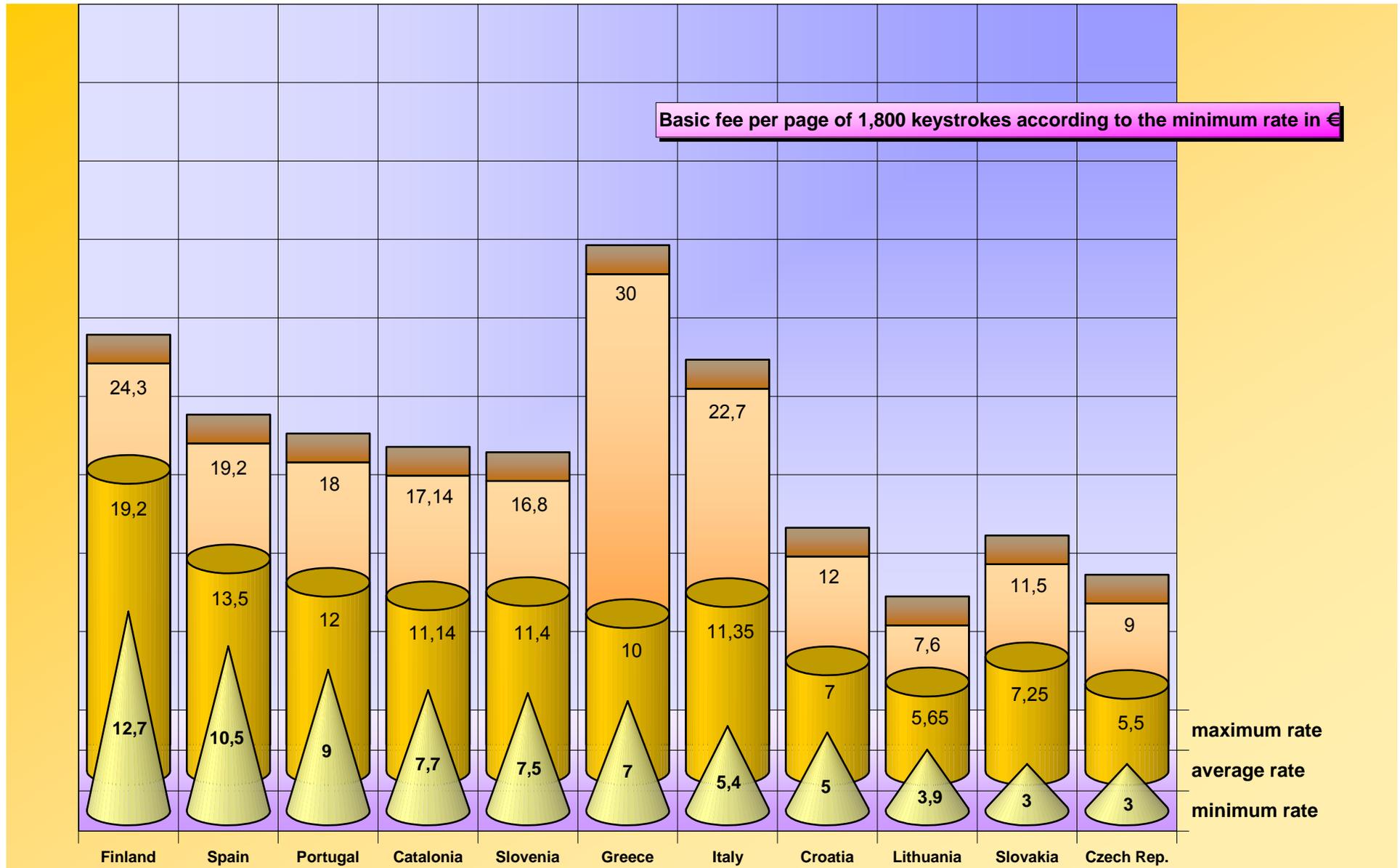
3.1.3 Basic fees according to minimum rates: countries 1-12

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 6a



3.1.2 Basic fees according to minimum rates: countries 13-23

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 6b



3.2-3.4 Minimum rates and terms

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 5

Payment terms	paid as an advance	paid as a fixed fee	minimum recommended by the association	minimum agreed with the publishers	payment on contract signature	payment on delivery of translation	payment when the book is published
Austria	--	x	16.50-21.00/page type D	--	20-50%	remainder	--
Basque Ctry	--	x	17.12/1,800 chars	--	0-50%	remainder	--
Belgium (Fr.)	x	--	--	--	50%	50%	--
Catalonia	x	--	--	--	0-50%	remainder	--
Croatia	--	x	8/1,800 chars	--	30%	70%	--
Czech Rep.	--	x	5.5/1,800 chars	--	--	50%	50%
Denmark	--	x	14.80/1,800 chars	13.50/1,800 chars	--	100%	--
Finland	--	x	--	--	--	100%	--
France	x	--	19.50/page type F**	--	1/3	2/3	--
Germany	--	x	13.30/16.90/19.50* per page type D	--	10-50%	remainder	--
Greece	--	x	--	--	--	100%	--
Ireland	--	x	--	0.10-0.12/word	50%	50%	--
Italy	--	x	--	--	--	100%	--
Lithuania	--	x	7.10/1,800 chars	--	--	--	100%
Netherlands	--	x	--	0.059 per word	25%	75%	--
Norway	--	x	--	0.108/word	1/3	1/3	1/3
Portugal	--	x	18.00/1,800 chars	--	--	100%	--
Slovakia	--	x	--	--	--	50%	50%
Slovenia	--	x	13.75/15.00/16.25 per 1,800 chars	--	20%	20-80%	0-60%
Spain	x	--	35/1,000 words or 10.50/2,000 chars	--	--	100%	--
Sweden	--	x	--	12.88/1,000 chars	--	100%	--
Switzerland	--	x	20/page type D	20/page type D	--	100%	--
UK	x	x	0.12/word	--	50%	50%	--

* latest recommendations 1999/2000

** not recommended directly but published as the minimum actually paid according to the statistics

3.2 Minimum rates

In 13 countries/regions the association recommends a minimum rate

Austria, Basque Country, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, ** Germany, * Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

In 6 countries a minimum rate is agreed with the publishers:

Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland

In 6 countries/regions no recommended or agreed minimum rates exist:

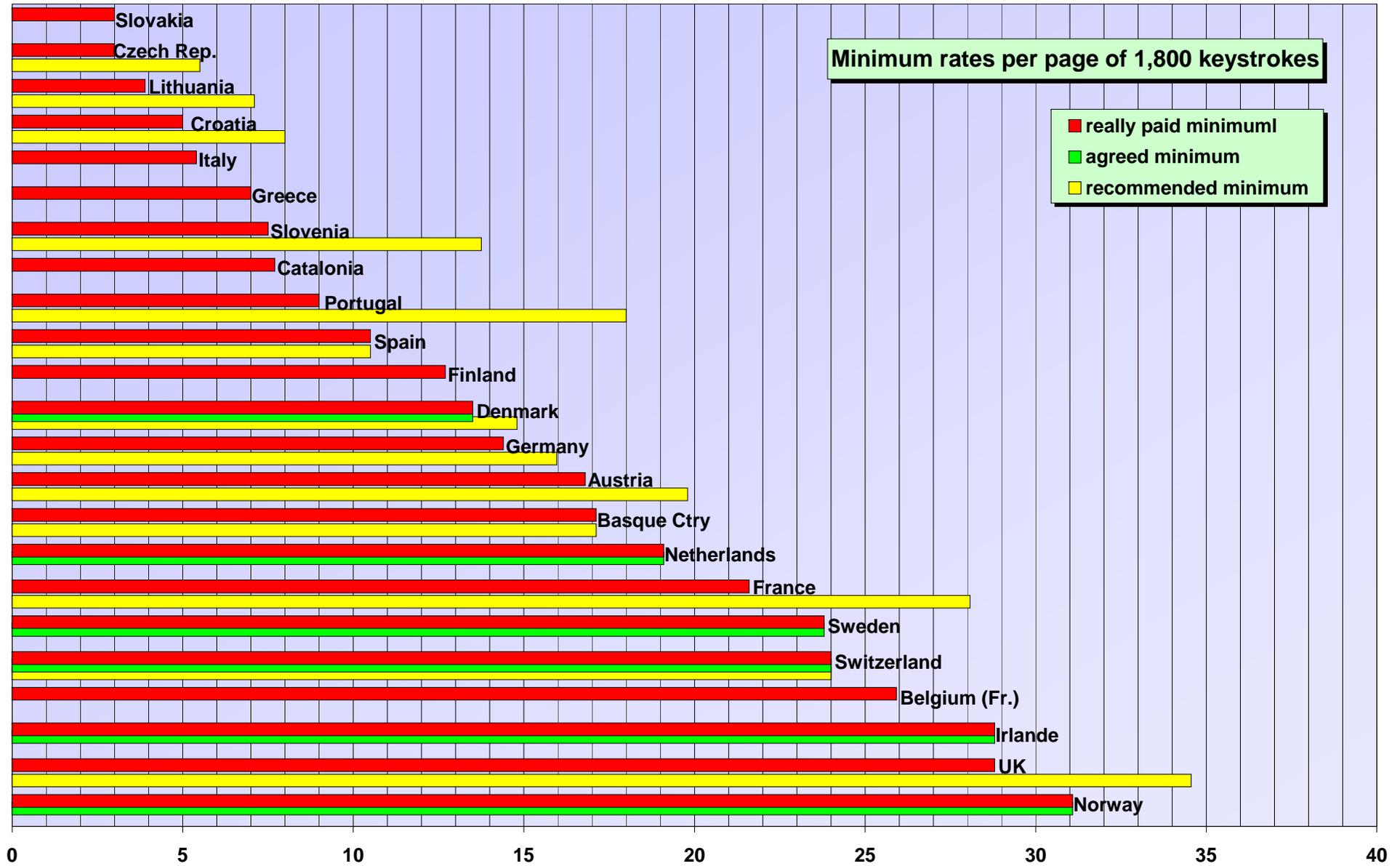
Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Finland, Greece, Italy, Slovakia

* negotiations with the publishers in progress

** no actual recommendations due to free competition laws,
but statistics are published which serves a similar purpose

3.2.1 Minimum rates compared

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 7



3.3 Fixed fee or advance on royalties?

In the majority of countries, the basic fee is paid as a fixed fee:

Austria, Basque Country, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland

In 4 countries/regions the basic fee is paid only as an advance on royalties:

Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, France (also on subsidiary and additional rights), Spain

In the United Kingdom both options are common.

3.4 Payment terms

In the majority of countries, translators are entitled to an initial payment when the contract is signed and the remainder on delivery of the translation to the publisher.

In 8 countries they are paid in full on delivery of the translation:

Denmark, Finland, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland

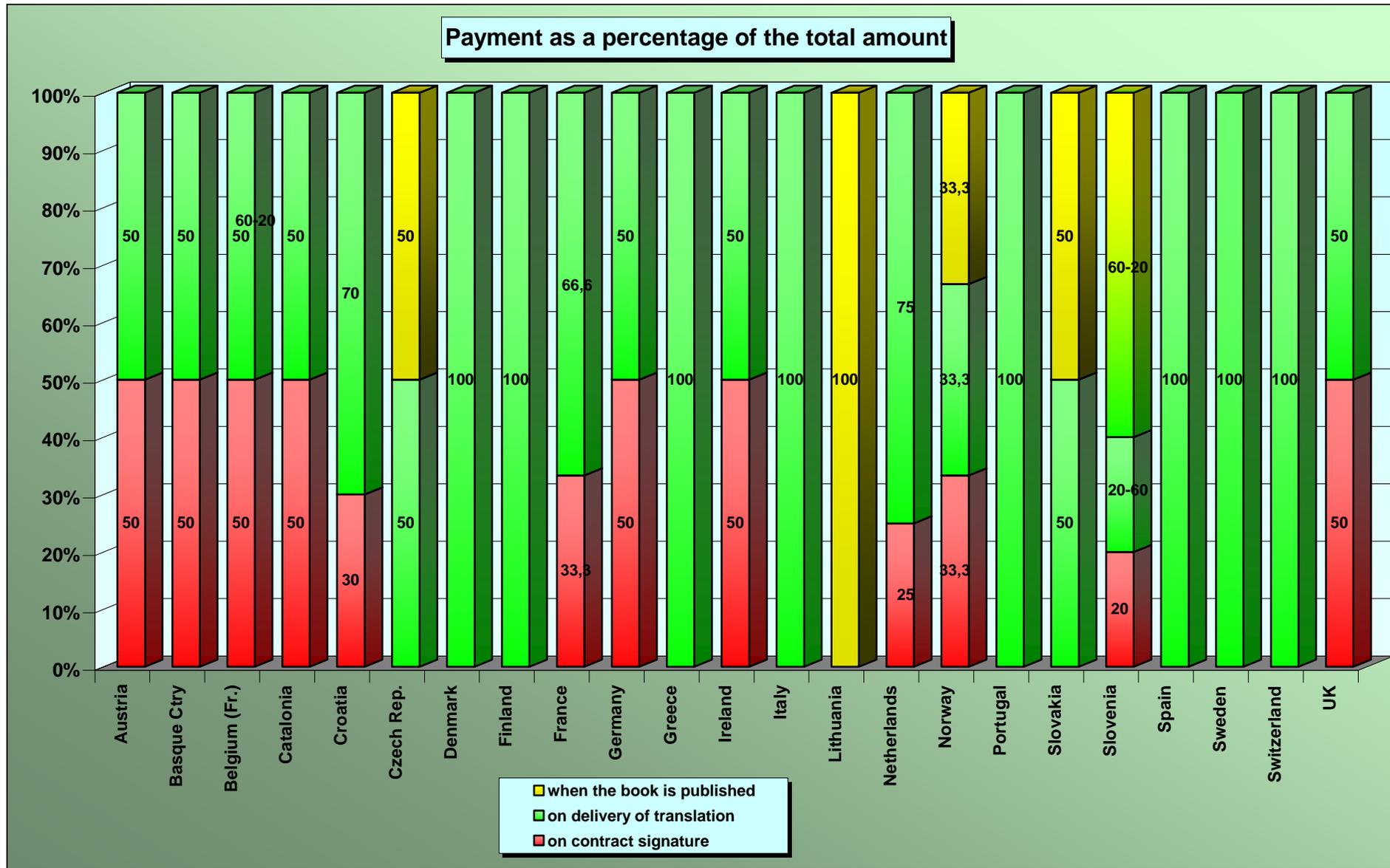
But in 4 countries translators receive the final payment only when the book is published:

Czech Republic, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia

And in Lithuania translators are not paid at all until after the book is published.

3.4.1 Payment terms

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 8



4. Royalties and other percentage shares in primary rights

4.1 Royalties for first and subsequent editions

Generally speaking, royalties generate additional income for translators only in the major countries where publishers sell large numbers of books (10,000 copies and over).

In no country does the amount paid in royalties exceed 5% of literary translators' total annual income.

In 8 countries/regions translators **regularly receive royalties** of between 0.2% and 2%:

Austria, Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, France, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

- In Belgium, France, Spain and the United Kingdom royalty payments generate additional income only after the advance has been paid off.
- In Switzerland royalties are paid only above the threshold of 10,000 copies sold.

In 3 countries translators obtain **royalties** only **occasionally or rarely**:

- In Austria: 1% or 2% paid in royalties above the threshold of 10,000 copies sold
- In Germany: 0.5% or 1% paid in royalties above the thresholds of 10,000, 25,000, 30,000 or 50,000 copies sold
- In Greece, very rarely royalties of 2-4% are paid, in spite of the law entitling translators to a minimum of 1.5%.

In 6 countries/regions **recommendations for royalty payments exist**:

Austria, Catalonia, Germany, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland

In 5 countries **royalties are agreed with the publishers**:

Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Denmark, France, Netherlands

In 2 countries, **by agreement with the publishers, translators do not receive royalties**:

Finland, Sweden

4.1 Royalties and other percentage shares in primary rights

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 6

Percentage shares in primary rights	recommended by the association	in accordance with the publishers (with or without agreement)	in reality for the first edition (hardcover)	in reality for subsequent editions (paperback, club, audio, budget, etc.)
Austria	1% for 5,000+ copies sold	0	1-2% for 10,000+ copies (but rarely)	
Basque Ctry	0	0	0	0
Belgium (Fr.)	between 1% and 3% until the advance is paid off, 1% thereafter			
Catalonia	1-2%	1%	0.25-1% while paying off the advance	0.125-0.5% while paying off advance
Croatia	new contract after the 1st edition (this is an author's right)		0	new contract (not always)
Czech Rep.	0	0	0	0
Denmark	except 1st edition: up to 5,000 copies: 25% of fixed fee, 50% thereafter		0	25-50% of fixed fee according to sales
Finland	0	yes	0	0
France	between 1% and 3% until the advance is paid off, 1% thereafter			
Germany	1% of net price + VAT on 10,000+ copies sold	0	nothing in 80% of cases, otherwise 0.5%-1% from 5-50,000 copies or percentage (10-50%) of the fixed fee	nothing in 80% of cases, otherwise half the royalties for the first edition or a % of the fixed fee (10-50%)
Greece		0	generally 0; rarely 2-4%; 1.5% of the net price by law	
Ireland	0	0	(see United Kingdom)	
Italy	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	1% for 2,500+ copies sold, 2% for 5,000+, including all subsequent editions (except audio (50% of the publisher's percentage) and book club editions (1%))			
Norway	0	yes	0	percentage (10-50%) of basic fee for book club and audio editions
Portugal	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	5% of net price	0	0	0
Spain	1.5-3% for the 1st edition, min. 1% for subsequent editions, 5-7% for translations in the public domain		1% while paying off the advance, (3-5% in the public domain)	1% while paying off the advance
Sweden	0	yes	0	0
Switzerland	2% for 2,500+ copies of the 1st edition, then 6-8% of revenue or 60% of the publisher's percentage	0	from 1% for 10,000+ copies to 2% for 2,000+	rarely happens in reality
UK	0	0	1-2% of publisher's net income	

4.2 Royalties and other percentage shares in secondary rights

In 9 countries translators receive between 0.5% and 25% of the publisher's net receipts or between 2 and 50% of the publisher's share. Translated into percentages of the publisher's share:

Austria	20%-37.5%
Belgium (Fr.)	10%
Catalonia	1%
France	10%
Germany	2%-10% (occasionally)
Netherlands	50%
Spain	50% of the fixed amount from transfer of copyright, 0.4%-1.2% of sales thereafter
Switzerland	10-70% (rarely)
UK	0-50% (varies widely)

In 6 countries, instead of royalties, translators can receive a percentage of the basic fee (10%, 15%, 20%, 25% or 50% for each new edition):

Austria, Denmark, France, Germany (sometimes), Norway, Sweden

In 5 countries there are (a) recommendations and/or (b) agreements with the publishers:

- (a) Austria, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom
- (b) Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Spain

In 4 countries the translator retains the majority if not all of the additional and subsidiary rights:

Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Norway

4.2 Royalties and other percentage shares in additional and subsidiary rights

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 7

Percentage shares in additional rights	recommended by the association	in accordance with the publishers	in reality for reproductions of the work in its entirety	in reality for all other assignments of copyright
Austria	10-15% of the publisher's revenue, info on sales in Germany	0	10-15% of publisher's receipts	
Basque Ctry	0	0	0	0
Belgium (Fr.)	0	10% of the publisher's share		
Catalonia	0	0	0.5% of net receipts	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0
Czech Rep.	in general the translator retains the rights and sells them separately			
Denmark	25-50% of the fixed fee (but the majority of these rights remain with the translator)			
Finland	normally these rights remain with literary translators			
France	0	10% of the publisher's percentage		
Germany	10% of publisher's revenue	0	nothing for 60% of contracts, otherwise 2-10% of the publisher's share or receipts, or 10-20% of the fixed fee	nothing for 60% of contracts, otherwise 2-10% of the publisher's share or receipts
Greece	0	0	0	0
Ireland	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	50% of the publisher's percentage		
Norway	normally these rights remain with literary translators			
Portugal	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	0
Spain	50% of the fixed amount from transfer of copyright, thereafter sometimes 0.2-0.5% of net receipts			0
Sweden	0	15-20% of the fixed fee for paperbacks, book club and budget editions, 25% for audio books		25-35% (collected by collecting societies) redistributed individually
Switzerland	10-60% for the work in its entirety, for the other rights 30-70% of the publisher's percentage	0	Occasionally	rarely
UK	25% of the author's percentage	0	0-50% of the author's percentage; negotiable, varies widely	

5. Public lending right and other collectively managed rights

In the majority of countries/regions there are organisations called collecting societies to handle public lending, reprography and digital private copying rights. In Croatia a collecting society is in the process of being set up but is not yet operational.

5.1 Public lending

In 4 countries/regions literary translators do not yet benefit from public lending:

Belgium (Fr. + Flem.), Croatia, Ireland, Portugal

5.2 Reprography and digital private copying rights

In 4 countries/regions no collecting societies/organisations yet exist to handle reprography and digital private copying rights:

Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Portugal,
and in Italy literary translators have not benefited until now

5.3 Minor broadcasting rights (radio, television, on board trains and planes, Internet, etc.)

9 countries have a collecting society/organisation for minor broadcasting rights:

Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland

5.1-7 Collectively managed rights (1)

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 8a

Public lending and collectively managed rights 1	collecting society/public lending, translators' percentage	collecting society/reprography and digital private copying rights	collecting society/minor rights (radio, TV, trains and planes, Internet, etc.)	average yearly income for a well-established translator (active for at least 10 years)
Austria	35% (proportional payment based on lending statistics)		12.5-18%, 25-35% if the text is in the public domain	approx. €100 for 10 works per year
Basque Ctry	yes, 50%, or 100% for translations in the public domain	CEDRO collecting fund proportional payment	--	acc. to the number of publications, approx.. €300 for 10 works per year
Belgium (Fr.)	--	Reprobel	--	negligible
Catalonia	yes, 50%, or 100% for translations in the public domain	CEDRO collecting fund proportional payment	--	acc. to the number of publications, approx. €300 for 10 works per year
Croatia	a collecting society is being set up but is not yet operational			0
Czech Rep.	DILIA, 50% for translators			approx. 1/2 monthly salary, a total of €200-250 per year
Denmark	proportional payment according to no. of pages translated in the previous year	Copydan	individual rights, payment per minute of broadcast according to contract with Radiokassen	public lending yields an additional 50-100% of the yearly fixed fees + approx. €1,000 via Copydan
Finland	collective fund providing grants and subsidies on individual application, decided by a panel appointed by the translators' association		individual rights, payment according to public radio rates	--
France	SOFIA, 25-50% (half paid into a supplementary pension fund)	fixed amount (proportional) allocated once a year	--	negligible
Germany	VG Wort, proportional payment based on data from 17 representative libraries; 35%			approx. €100 for 10 works per year
Greece	yes	--	--	approx. €300 per year
Ireland	--	--	--	--
Italy	SIAE, from 2008 onwards distributed by a fund in the form of grants and subsidies	nothing until now	--	negligible up until 2007
Lithuania	LATGA, 45% (from 2009)	(all for the publishers)	LATGA, 45% (from 2009)	< €400 per year
Netherlands	LIRA, 49%	49%	Individual	< €500 per year
Norway	"Extended collective licence" - All the rights collected (representing quite considerable amounts, 100% for authors/translators since publishers are considered to have no entitlement) end up in a collective fund which pays out individual grants			a total of €660,000 (in 2005) distributed to approx. 250-300 translators

5.1-7 Collectively managed rights (2)

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 8b

Public lending and collectively managed rights 2	collecting society/public lending, translators' percentage	collecting society/reprography and digital private copying rights	collecting society/minor rights (radio, TV, trains and planes, Internet, etc.)	average yearly income for a well-established translator (active for at least 10 years)
Portugal	--	--	--	--
Slovakia	LITA, paid to authors' and translators' associations up until 2006, since 2007 paid individually, 50% for translators			< €200 per year
Slovenia	PLR managed by the ministry of culture, 50% paid individually, 50% to the grants association	SAZOR (not yet operational)	ZAMP, paid directly and individually	€100-1,000 (according to the number of lendings and other individual receipts)
Spain	yes, 50%, or 100% for translations in the public domain	CEDRO collecting fund proportional payment	--	according to the number of publications, approx.. €300 for 10 works per year
Sweden	"Extended collective licence" - all the rights collected by the Sveriges Författarfond (PLR) and Fotokopieringsfonden end up in a collective fund which pays out individual grants		Collected by a society (ALIS), but paid out individually	approx. €100-300 from ALIS
Switzerland	Pro Litteris, 35% (proportional payment)			approx. €100 for 10 works
UK	ALCS, 30%, proportional payment once a year		--	--

5.4 Specific aspects

In the majority of countries there are different collecting societies for all these rights.

5 countries have a collecting society for public lending and reprography rights:
Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden

6 countries have a collecting society for all these rights:
Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland

5.5 Specific aspect of the Nordic countries

In the Nordic countries, the majority of these rights are not paid directly, either individually or proportionally, but are paid into collective funds which provide grants and subsidies for translators:

"extended collective licence" in Finland, Norway and Sweden

- except minor rights in Finland
- and individual payment of minor rights in Sweden

In Denmark, public lending right is paid proportionally according to the number of pages translated in the previous year.

5.6 Translators' share of these rights

In the majority of countries, the translator's share of these rights is 33% or 35%, in France 25%-50%, and the remainder is shared between the author (35% or 33%) and the publisher (30% or 33%).

In the "extended collective licence" countries, the translator's share is always 50% and the other half goes to the author; the publisher is considered to have no entitlement to these rights.

5.7 Annual income from collectively managed rights

In 7 countries, translators receive no direct income from these rights:

Croatia, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom

In 6 countries/regions, income from these rights is negligible:

Basque Country, Belgium (Fr.), Finland, France, Italy, Slovakia

In 10 countries and 1 region, these rights generate a small income of €200-2,000 (approximately €50-300 for every 10 books translated in the previous ten years)

Austria, Catalonia, Czech Republic (average €200-250), Denmark (reprography rights only, max. €1,000), Germany, Greece (max. €300), Lithuania (max. €400), Netherlands, Slovenia (max. €1,000), Sweden (minor rights only, max. €300), Switzerland

In 3 countries, revenue from these rights (first and foremost public lending right) goes into special funds which provide grants for translators, increasing basic fees by 50-100%:

Denmark, Norway, Sweden

In Denmark, public lending right represents a significant source of income for translators which can as much as double the basic fee.

6. Grants and subsidies

6.1 Regular, annual, occasional and exceptional grants

In 5 countries, translators can rely on regular grants or subsidies:

Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden

In 13 countries, occasional grants and subsidies are awarded by panels:

a) of substantial amounts in:

Austria, Basque Country, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany

b) of negligible amounts in:

Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

6.2 Number and total amount of grants

In the majority of countries, the number and total amount of grants and subsidies awarded to translators are more or less negligible.

7 countries pay out a fairly significant sum in grants:

Austria, Basque Country, Croatia, France, Germany, Lithuania, Slovenia

In 4 countries a substantial sum is paid out in grants:

Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden

6.1-3 Grants and subsidies (1)

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 9a

Grants and subsidies 1	Regular or annual grants on which translators can rely	Occasional or exceptional grants	Total amount paid out in grants	Percentage of publishers' subsidies
Austria	--	working and travel grants from the government and Vienna authorities	approx. €28,000 per year	negotiable (must be 100% if given for translation)
Basque Ctry	--	2 annual grants	€40,000	0
Belgium (Fr.)	--	--	--	0
Catalonia	--	--	--	negotiable, sometimes 100%, sometimes a higher fixed fee per page
Croatia	--	a few working grants for 3, 6 or 12 months	> €10,000 per year	100% (or almost) often translation depends on a subsidy being granted
Czech Rep.	--	2-3 working grants awarded by the Czech Literature Fund; €350-1,050 (the equivalent of 1-3 average monthly salaries)	negligible	0
Denmark	--	few	negligible	50%
Finland	an average of €2,500 per year in literature and €1,500 per year in non-fiction	between 24 and 36 different funds, individual grants for projects, travel, etc.	€800,000-1,000,000 per year	100% (or almost) often translation depends on a subsidy being granted
France	--	Translation credits (€1,000-3,000) granted by the Centre National du Livre (CNL)	€50-100,000 per year (varies from one year to another)	nothing due to credits
Germany	--	approx. 150 grants per year from a fund (DÜF) and from 5 Bundesländer (€1,000-6,000)	approx. €440,000 per year	negotiable, but rarely granted; 10-50% of subsidies
Greece	--	--	--	negotiable
Ireland	--	rarely, grants awarded on an ad hoc basis by the Irish Literary Exchange	negligible	0
Italy	--	--	--	0
Lithuania	--	4-5 grants of 1-12 months per year	€10-12,000 per year	yes (50-100%)

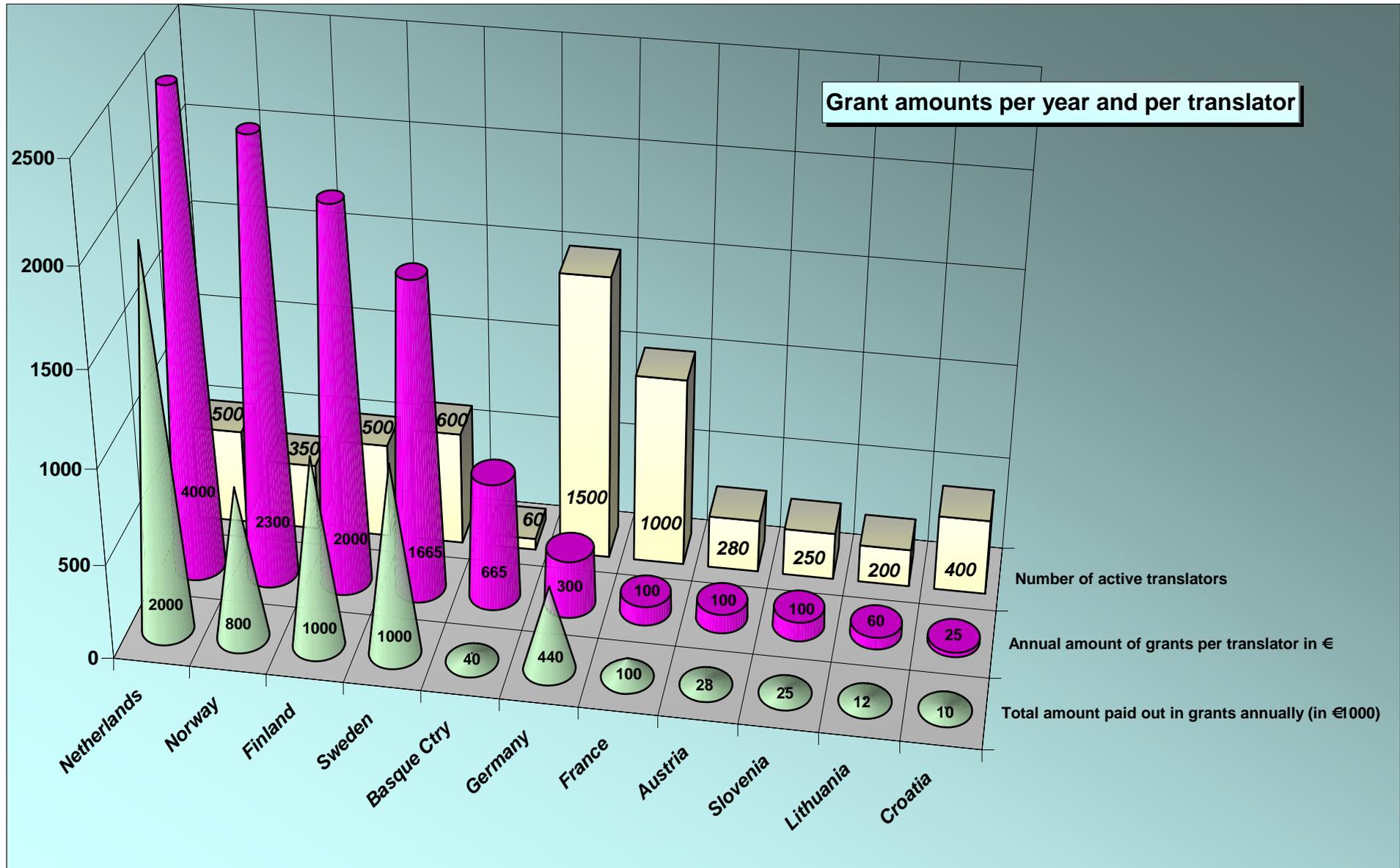
6.1-3 Grants and subsidies (2)

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 9b

Grants and subsidies 2	Regular or annual grants on which translators can rely	Occasional or exceptional grants	Total amount paid out in grants	Percentage of publishers' subsidies
Netherlands	working grants for all literary projects plus (for the past 2 years) 10% of each grant in the form of contributions to a supplementary pension fund	several travel grants by the Dutch Foundation for Literature	approx. €2,000,000 per year (funded by the government and paid out by the Dutch Foundation for Literature)	0
Norway	grants of €1,100 per project or translation up to a maximum of €7,340 per year	5 grants of €1,200 for setting up 16 grants (2 for young translators) of €26,000 per year, max. 5 years; grants for elderly translators of €21,600 per year; equipment grants of €600-6,000 (max. twice)	in total approx. €800,000 per year financed by public lending right, other collectively managed rights and the government (approx. 20%)	25% of the basic fee if 500 copies are purchased by the State for public libraries (for 75 translations per year on average)
Portugal	--	--	0	0
Slovakia	--	working and travel grants from the Slovakian Literary Fund	Negligible	sometimes a proportion, but quite rare
Slovenia	half of the PLR paid out by the translators' association in the form of grants	a few project or working grants awarded by the Ministry of Culture	< €25,000	0
Spain	--	very few (in a few regions)	Negligible	50% (but not always)
Sweden	working grants amounting to approximately 1/3 of income every 5-6 years; grants for young translators of €6,440 per year (max. 2 years); grants for established and recognised translators of €14,490 per year (max. 5 years); retirement grants (for long-established translators) of €21,000 per year	Individual grants awarded by several private foundations	approx. €500,000-1,000,000 per year (financed by public lending right and other collectively managed rights)	0
Switzerland	--	3 working grants (Pro Helvetia) 4 grants to stay at Translation House Looren	Negligible	always something, sometimes 100%
UK	--	4 grants of €1,500 issued by PEN	Negligible	100% of translation subsidies

6.2.1 Amounts of grants per year and per translator

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Graph 9



6.3 Percentage of publishers' subsidies

In 7 countries, translators regularly receive a percentage of their publisher's subsidy:

Catalonia, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

In 6 countries, translators occasionally receive a percentage (after negotiation with the publisher):

Austria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Norway, Slovakia

The translator's share of a publisher's subsidy, being negotiable, can be:

10, 20 or 50%:

Austria, Catalonia, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia, Switzerland

an increase in the fixed rate per page (€1 or 2):

Catalonia, Germany

a minimum of 50%:

Austria, Denmark, Spain, Switzerland

100% of the translation subsidy:

Austria, Catalonia, Finland, Switzerland, United Kingdom

7. Social security, VAT and tax

In principle literary translators in Europe are subject to one of three basic social security systems:

- A) A national or state public healthcare and pension system (minimum pension) financed either by contributions or by taxation
- B) An insurance/benefits system (healthcare, sickness, unemployment and retirement benefits) financed mainly by contributions based on a fixed percentage of income
- C) No social security for literary translators - translators pay for their own cover (privately)

7.1-4 Social security, VAT and tax (1)

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 10a

Social security, VAT and tax 1	Health cover (+ rates)	Pension (+ rates)	VAT / reduced rate	Income tax
Austria	50-100% paid by PLR funds	special fund for self-employed professionals, benefits or contributions up to €85/month	20% / 10%	0% <€10,000; 38.3% <€25,000; 43.6% <€51,000
Basque Ctry	paid for wholly by the translator	paid for wholly by the translator	16% / (exempt)	15%, deducted at source
Belgium (Fr.)	paid for wholly by the translator (private insurance)	paid for wholly by the translator (private insurance)	21% / 6%	24.98% for income >€20,000 p.a.; 31.93% for income of €25-90,000 p.a.
Catalonia	paid for wholly by the translator (minimum health cover and pension: €300/month)		16% / 0% (exempt)	15%, deducted at source
Croatia	with artist status: contributions paid by the Ministry of Culture (minimum cover).	artist status: minimum contributions paid by the Ministry of Culture (minimum pension).	22% / --	15/25/35% according to income
Czech Rep.	health cover: contributions on a sliding scale according to income, average for literary translators 7%; same for social security (unemployment benefit, sickness cover, pension), average for literary translators 8%		19% / 5% not compulsory if profit below €33,000	15% <€3,676; 20% <€7,352; 25% <€11,149 >32%
Denmark	public healthcare system	national system, no contributions, pension €1,000-1,500/month	25% / --	36-60% on a sliding scale according to income
Finland	contributions paid with tax	translators pay their own	22% / (17% / 8%)	29%
France	AGESSA (authors' fund), contributions: 0.85% on total income, plus a supplementary social security contribution (CSG) of 7.5% and a tax to offset the social security budget deficit (CRDS) of 0.5% on 97% of income	pension contributions 6.55% of total income, paid with tax; minimum pension approx. €600/month, maximum after 40 years' contributions €1,238/month; supplementary pension paid by public lending right	19.6% / 5.5% 0% up to a certain ceiling	rates on a sliding scale up to a max. of 48% Gross income <€10,000: 5.5%, then on average: 14%, €30,000+: 30%
Germany	KSK: contributions 14.5% of gross income (sickness cover from 43rd day), 2.2% for medical care 50% paid by the user and 0.4% for dental care	KSK (Künstlersozialkasse): contributions 19.9% of gross income, 50% paid by the user; pension approx. 40% of gross income	19% / 7%	18-43% sliding scale allowance of €7,500 per year
Greece	paid for wholly by the translator (private insurance)	paid for wholly by the translator (private insurance)	19% / (9%)	0% <€9,500; 15% <€13,000; 30% <€23,000 >40%
Ireland	public healthcare system + contributions for sickness cover	state pension, no contributions, pension €10,400 p.a.	21% / (exempt)	exempt

7.1-4 Social security, VAT and tax (2)

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 10b

Social security, VAT and tax 2	Health cover (+ rates)	Retirement benefit (+ rates)	VAT / reduced rate	Income tax
Italy	public healthcare system (sickness cover not included)	national system (social pension), no contributions, minimum pension of €500/month	20% / (exempt)	0% < 7.500 €; 23% < 15.000 €; 27% < 28.000 €; income deducted at source, allowance of 25% as business expenses
Lithuania	contributions deducted with tax	basic national pension, min. contribution €38/month	18% / (9%)	15% for artists (of which 30% for health cover), otherwise 33%
Netherlands	social security contributions (healthcare, sickness cover, pension) 31.15%	AOW, pension €11,500 p.a.; financial aid for private pension (Boutensfonds); supplementary pension (AENA) by contribution (paid by the state) equal to 10% of each grant (for past 2 years)	19% / (exempt)	2.5% < €17,319; 10.25% < €31,122; 42% < €53,064, annual allowance €2,043, several specific allowances, for small businesses €4,310-8,885 according to profit, average €7,000
Norway	public healthcare system + contributions for sickness cover and medicines reimbursed by PLR fund	minimum state pension, but supplementary pension contributions are tax-deductible	25% / (exempt)	28-51% on a sliding scale
Portugal	social security contributions	national pension scheme, very basic	21% / (12% / 5%)	10.5-42% (23.5% on average)
Slovakia	contributions 14% of gross income for health cover and 14% for social security (unemployment benefit, sickness cover, pension)		19% / 5% not compulsory up to a certain ceiling	19%
Slovenia	with artist status: contributions paid by the Ministry of Culture (minimum cover).	artist status: minimum contributions paid by the Ministry of Culture (minimum pension).	20% / (8.5%)	16% < €5,426; 33% < €10,602; 38% < €21,454; 42% < €43,117 > 50%
Spain		paid for wholly by the translator (minimum health cover and pension: €300/month)	16% / 0% (exempt)	15%, deducted at source
Sweden	public healthcare system (sickness cover not included)	minimum pension approx. 20% of gross income (contributions paid in part by PLR); some elderly translators are entitled to an annual market annuity (see 7.2)	25% / 6%	31.5% < €32,343 (gross income), 51.5% thereafter
Switzerland	contributions increase with age, on average €180 between 40 and 45 years (partly subsidised for low incomes)	contributions 19.9% of gross income minimum, increasing according to income	20% / exempt if profit below €45,000	5-25%, varies widely from one area to another (rates are set by commune and canton)
UK	public healthcare system (sickness cover not included)	national system; contributions €624 p.a., pension €7,800 p.a.	17.5% / (exempt)	22% for most people

7.1 Health cover/sickness benefit

In 8 countries there is a public healthcare system which literary translators also benefit from, though in general without sickness cover, which translators have to pay for themselves

Financed by taxation:

Denmark, Ireland (contributions for sickness cover), Italy,
Norway (contributions for sickness cover, medicines reimbursed by PLR),
Sweden, United Kingdom

Contributions paid with tax:

Finland, Lithuania

In 8 countries health cover is part of the social security system:
(in general without sickness cover)

Austria, Czech Republic (contributions on a sliding scale according to income, average 7%, with sickness cover),
France, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Switzerland (fixed contribution dependent on age)

In 2 countries health cover contributions for all artists are paid by the ministry of culture:

Croatia, Slovenia

In 5 countries/regions translators are responsible for their own health cover (privately):

Basque Country, Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Greece, Spain.

7.2 Retirement benefit/pension

In 7 countries there is a national pension scheme, for the most part with widely differing minimum pensions:

Financed by taxation:

- Denmark (national pension of €1,000-1,500 per month)
- Ireland (state pension of €200 per week, €210 for 80+)
- Italy (national pension of €500), Lithuania (basic national pension)
- Norway (minimum pension + tax allowance for supplementary pension contributions)
- Portugal (national pension scheme, very basic)
- Sweden (pension 20% of gross income + annual market annuity for full-time literary translators)
- United Kingdom (contributions €52 per month, pension €650 per month)

In 8 countries retirement benefit is part of the social security system:

(in general the amount of the pension received is dependent on the number of years contributions were paid and the amount paid in contributions)

- Austria (special fund, minimum pension)
- Croatia and Slovenia (with artist status, contributions paid by the ministry of culture)
- Czech Republic (contributions on a sliding scale according to income, average 8% of gross income)
- France (min. pension approx. €600, max. €1,238 per month after 40 years of contributions, supplementary pension paid by half the PLR)
- Germany (max. pension 43% of gross income after 42 years of contributions)
- Netherlands (pension €11,500 p.a.; financial aid for private pension schemes, for the past 2 years: supplementary pension by contribution (paid by the state) equal to 10% of each grant)
- Switzerland (contributions 6% of gross income minimum, increasing according to income)

In 6 countries/regions, translators are responsible for their own pension (privately):

Basque Country, Belgium (Fr.), Catalonia, Finland, Greece, Spain

7.3 VAT

In 6 countries literary translators are liable for VAT at the standard rate (in our members' countries between 16% and 25%):

Croatia (22%), Denmark (25%), Greece (19%), Lithuania (18%), Portugal (21%), Slovenia (20%)

In 8 countries literary translators benefit from a lower rate of VAT:

Austria (10%), Belgium (6%), Czech Republic (5%), Finland (8%), France (5.5% above a certain profit threshold), Germany (7%), Slovakia (5%), Sweden (6%)

In 9 countries/regions literary translators are exempt from VAT:

Basque Country, Catalonia, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland (if profit below €45,000), Italy, United Kingdom (if profit below €45,000 p.a.)

In 3 countries literary translators are only obliged to register for VAT above a certain threshold:

Czech Republic (if profit below €33,000), France, Slovakia

7.4 Income tax:

The tax systems vary widely in Europe. But everywhere literary translators come under the category of self-employed professional or small business (in some countries with the possibility of declaring their income in the form of a salary).

In 9 countries/regions, there is a **standard rate of income tax**; in Spain income tax is deducted at source, the same in Italy with an allowance equal to 25% of income:

Basque Country (15%), Catalonia (15%), Finland (29%), Italy (20%), Lithuania (15%)*, Slovakia (19%), Spain (15%), Switzerland (5%-25% according to commune and canton), United Kingdom (22%)

* in Lithuania, the standard rate is a special rate for artists

In 7 countries there are **3, 4 or 5 different rates according to income**:

Austria (0% / 38.3% / 43.6%), Croatia (15% / 25% / 35%), Czech Republic (15% / 20% / 25% / 32%), Greece (0% / 15% / 30% / 40%), Netherlands (2.5% / 10.25% / 42% / 52%), Slovenia (19% / 33% / 38% / 42% / 50%), Sweden (31.5% / 51.5%)

In 6 countries income is taxed on a **sliding scale**:

Belgium (24.25-33%), Denmark (0-60%), France (6.83-48.09%), Germany (18-43%), Norway (28-51%), Portugal (10.5-42%)

In 2 countries literary translators benefit from an **allowance**:

Germany: €7,500

Netherlands: €4,310-8,885 depending on profit

In 1 country literary translators are **completely exempt from tax**:

Ireland

8. Average income of literary translators in Europe

8.0 Calculation basis

To compare the material situation of literary translators, we have calculated annual income based on translators' average annual output according to the information provided by each country/association.

For calculation purposes, we have rounded the figures up/down to the nearest five, ten, fifty or hundred euros.

8.1 Average annual output

For the countries where there are no professional literary translators* translating full-time, for calculation purposes we have invented a "fictitious" translator based on the average output he/she could achieve as a professional translator.

In general the associations have given rough estimates based on the experience of their translators.

Only the Norwegian association has actual data from a survey carried out in the late 1990s.

According to their information, **the average output of a professional translator amounts to 1,056 pages of 1,800 keystrokes per year.**

For the countries/associations that did not provide data or an indication of average output, we based our calculations on the output of Norwegian translators.

You will notice that output is higher in the countries with low fixed fees with no other source of income and lower in the countries with a secondary income from grants or public lending right.

* see section 1.2, page 6: "professional" and "active" literary translators

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 11

8.1 Average annual output

Average annual output	according to data supplied by the countries*	in pages of 1,800 keystrokes* (inc. spaces)
Austria	1200 pp/type D	approx. 1000
Basque Ctry	800-1400/1,800 chars	800-1400
Belgium (Fr.)	~~	approx. 1056*
Catalonia	1200-1550 pp/2100 chars	1400-1800
Croatia	1200/1,800 chars	approx. 1200
Czech Rep.	approx. 1000/1,800 chars	approx. 1000
Denmark	1000/1,800 chars	approx. 1000
Finland	1.5 million keystrokes	approx. 1025
France	~~	approx. 1056*
Germany	1200 pp/type D	approx. 1000
Greece	~~	approx. 1056*
Ireland	~~	approx. 1056*
Italy	approx. 1200/2,000 chars	approx. 1330
Lithuania	1156/1,800 chars	approx. 1156
Netherlands	200,000-300,000 words	666-1000
Norway	1056/1,800 chars	approx. 1056
Portugal	~~	approx. 1056*
Slovakia	approx. 1200/1,800 chars	approx. 1200
Slovenia	approx. 100 folios	approx. 1330
Spain	1200-1550 pp/2100 chars	1400-1800
Sweden	approx. 1056/1,800 chars	approx. 1056
Switzerland	approx. 1000/1,800 chars	approx. 1000
UK	approx. 400,000 words	1335-1450
* approximate data (see "fictitious" data for the countries where there are no professional translators)		

8.2 Breakdown of literary translators' annual income

A literary translator's annual income is derived from three sources (see page 1):

- Basic fee (calculated according to average annual output)
- Royalties and additional rights
- Grants and subsidies

8.2 Breakdown of annual income

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 12

Annual income	income based on the basic fee			royalties and percentage shares		grants and subsidies
	minimum	average	maximum	direct min./max.	collecting society	
Austria	16800	21600	26400	0/1000	100/400	0/1000
Basque Ctry	13700	18830	23970	0	0	0/4000
Belgium (Fr.)	27370	33450	38015	0/1000	0	0
Catalonia	10780	22280	34280	0/600	0/300	0/600
Croatia	6000	9000	14400	0	0	0/1200
Czech Rep.	3000	5500	9000	0	200/250	0/350
Denmark	13500	16050	18850	1000/1500	7800/19800	0/1200
Finland	13020	19680	24900	0	0	2100/3700
France	22810	32695	38015	0/1000	0	0/1000
Germany	14400	21900	27600	0/2000	100/1000	200/2000
Greece	7420	10560	31680	0	300	0/600
Ireland	38300	38300	45960	0	0	0
Italy	7180	15100	30200	0	0	0
Lithuania	4500	6530	8780	0	0/400	0/600/1500
Netherlands	11800	14750	17700	0/2500	500	11800/14750/17700
Norway	32820	32820	32820	0	0	1700/4700/7100
Portugal	9500	12670	19000	0	0	0
Slovakia	3600	8700	13800	0	0/200	0/600
Slovenia	9970	15160	22340	0	100/1000	0/1200
Spain	14700	20925	34560	0/600	0/300	0/600
Sweden	25130	29080	32120	0	100/300	3220/5230/7240
Switzerland	24000	30000	30000	0/2000	200/1000	0/2000
UK	24000	40,000	48000	0/2000	0	0

8.3 Average annual income

To calculate the total income we added up the income from three main sources (see page 1)

- Basic fee (calculated according to average annual output)
- Royalties and additional rights
- Grants and subsidies

To arrive at the minimum total income, we added up the minimum fee per page multiplied by the average annual output, the minimum annual income from royalties or percentage shares and the minimum annual income from grants and subsidies.

To arrive at the average total income, we added up the average fee per page multiplied by the average annual output, the average annual income from royalties or percentage shares and the average annual income from grants and subsidies.

To arrive at the maximum total income, we added up the maximum fee per page multiplied by the average annual output, the maximum annual income from royalties or percentage shares and the maximum annual income from grants and subsidies.

To calculate the average gross income, we applied a general rate of 25% for allowable business expenses (premises, office cleaning and maintenance, furniture and office equipment, IT and telecoms, software, books, insurance, car, travel, etc.), although we are aware that there are considerable differences in what are considered as business expenses in the various countries (between 20% and 35%).

Average net income is the average gross income after deduction of tax at the rate applicable in each country and social security contributions – either according to actual figures provided by the associations or after deduction of a general 15% for the countries where there is no social security system for literary translators.

8.3 Average annual income

CEATL survey 2007/2008 Table 13

Average annual income	average annual income (turnover)			average gross income p.a.			average net income p.a.		
	minimum	average	maximum	minimum	average	maximum	minimum	average	maximum
Austria	16900	22800	28800	12675	17100	21600	10775	12880	14940
Basque Ctry	13700	20830	27970	10275	15625	20975	**/**6680	**/**10155	**/**13635
Belgium (Fr.)	27370	33950	39015	20525	25465	29260	***12320	***15285	***17560
Catalonia	10780	18425	32350	8085	13820	24265	**/**4855	**/**8290	**/**14565
Croatia	6000	9000	15600	4500	7400	11700	3825	5920	8775
Czech Rep.	3200	5900	9600	2400	4425	7800	1740	3200	5635
Denmark	22300	31400	41350	16725	23550	31010	10700	15070	22080
Finland	15120	19330	28600	11340	14500	21450	***8050	***10295	***15230
France	22810	33695	40015	17105	25270	30010	12480	16940	19095
Germany	14700	24370	32600	11025	18280	24450	8350	12530	15850
Greece	7420	11160	32580	5565	8730	24435	***3710	***5580	***16290
Ireland	38300	38300	45960	28725	28725	34470	*28725	*28725	*34470
Italy	7180	15100	30200	5385	11325	22650	**5385	**8720	**16535
Lithuania	4500	7340	10680	4500	7340	10680	**3370	**5780	**8620
Netherlands	24100	31250	38400	18075	23435	28800	11245	14370	17495
Norway	34520	37520	39920	25890	28140	29940	18640	20260	21560
Portugal	9500	12670	19000	7125	9505	14250	5700	7600	9975
Slovakia	3600	9100	14600	2700	6825	10950	1880	4755	7620
Slovenia	10070	16310	24540	7560	12235	18435	5040	8160	11440
Spain	14700	21825	36060	11025	16370	27045	**/**5220	**/**9495	**/**16230
Sweden	28450	34510	39660	21340	25880	29745	13160	15955	18340
Switzerland	24200	32000	35000	18150	24000	26750	13560	17705	19640
UK	24000	41000	50050	18000	30750	37500	13415	23360	28625

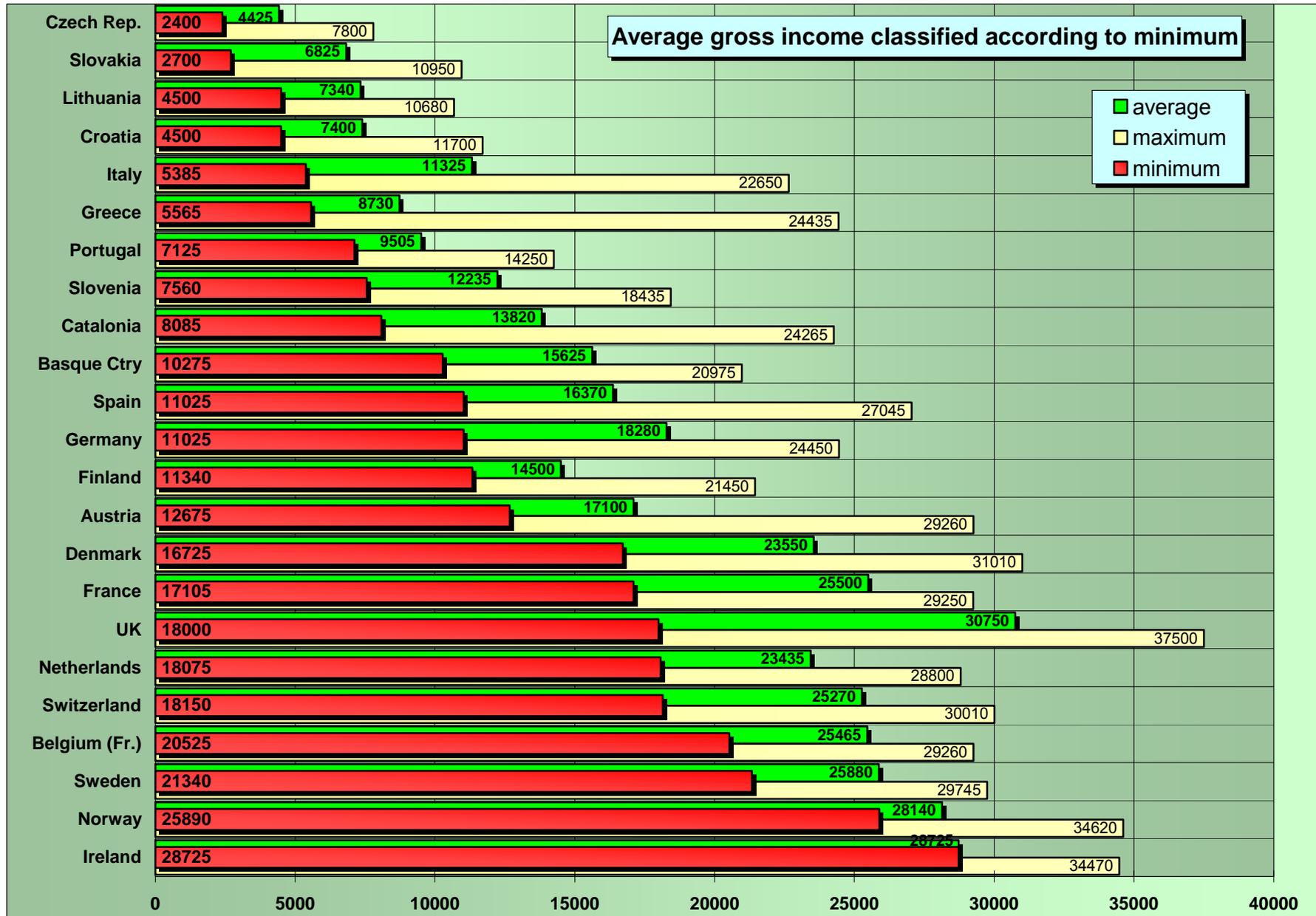
*gross income=net (no tax for artists)

**tax deducted at source acc. to income

***15% deducted from gross income
for private health cover/pension

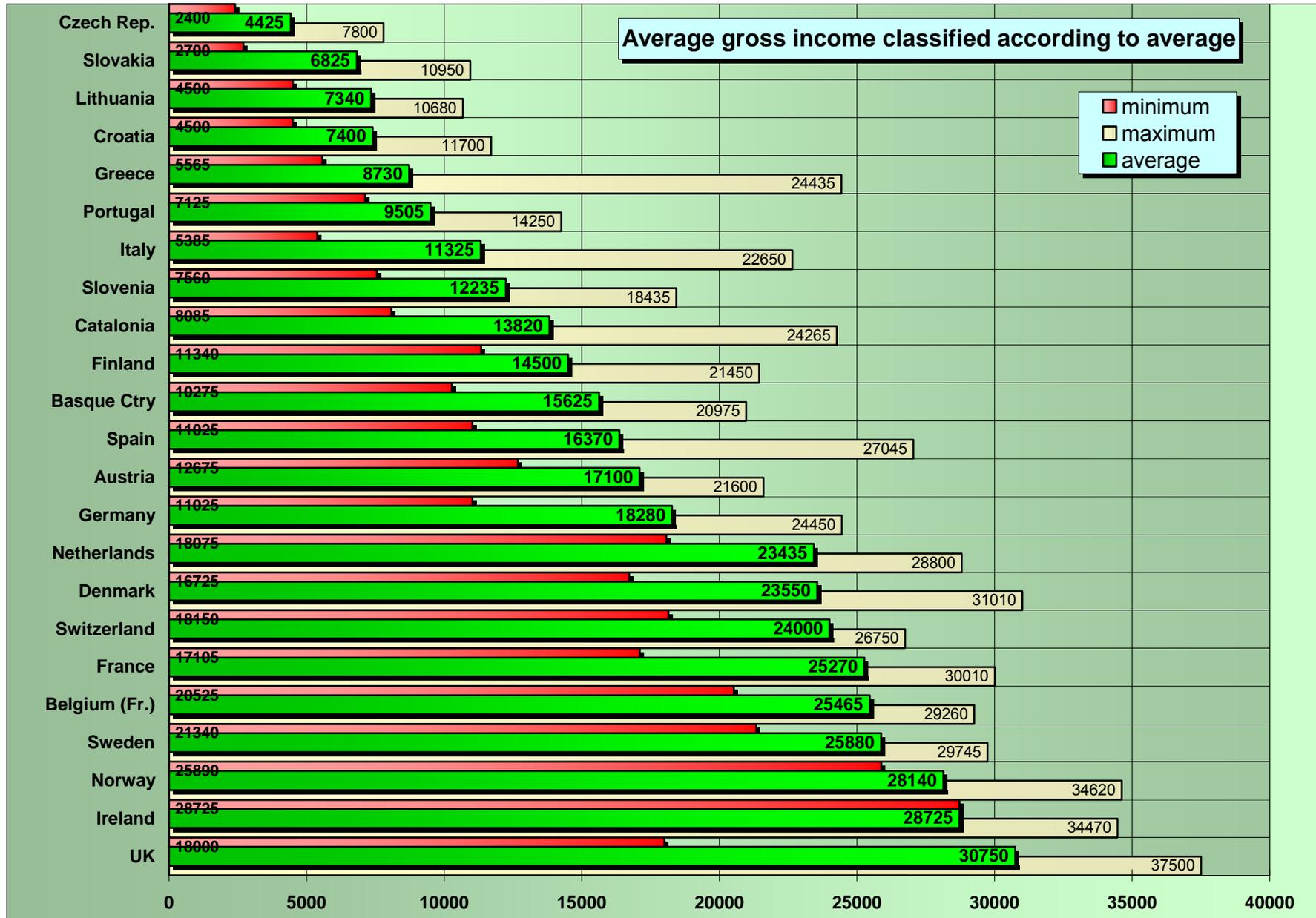
8.3.1 Average gross income classified according to minimum

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 10



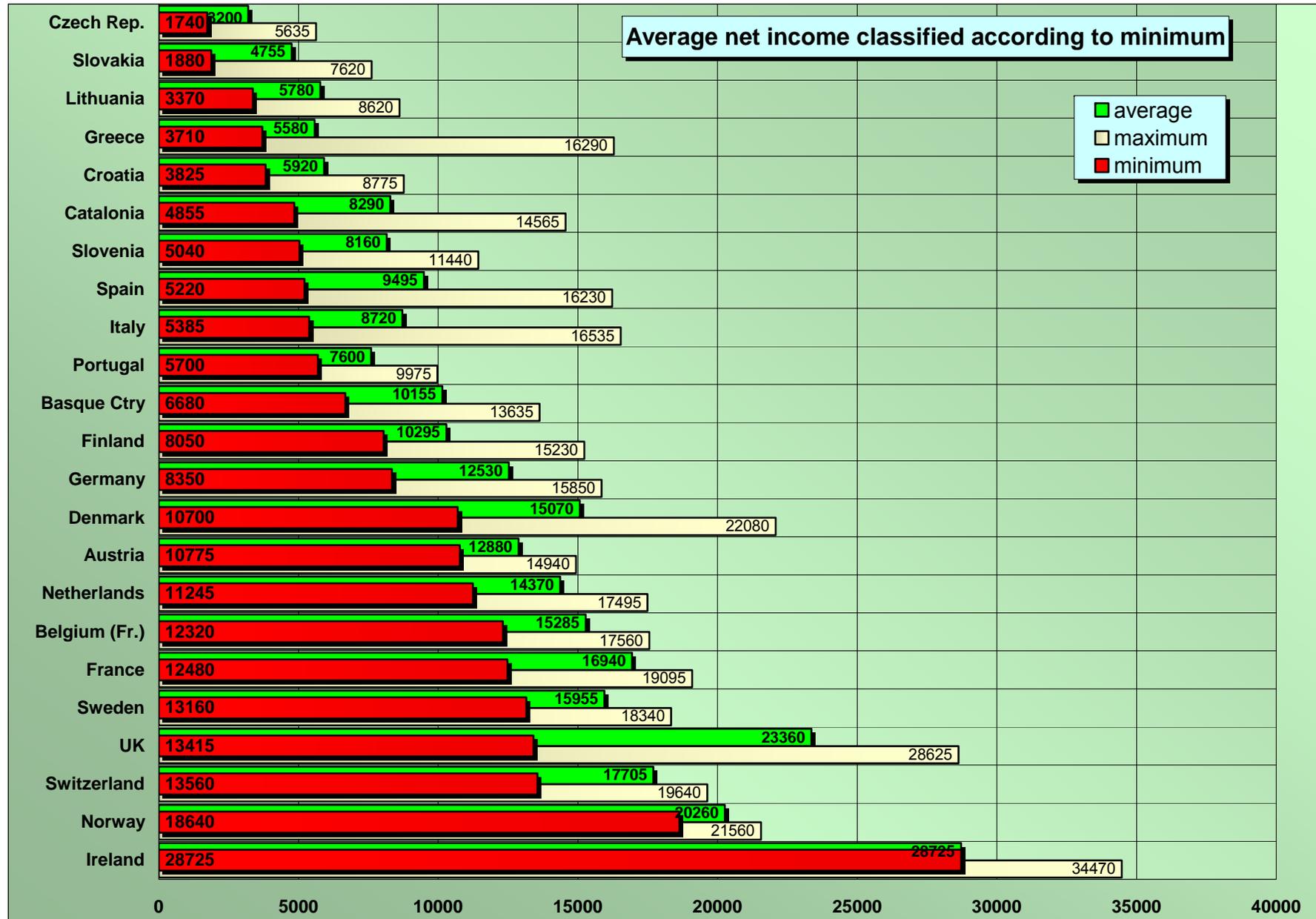
8.3.2 Average gross income classified according to average

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 11



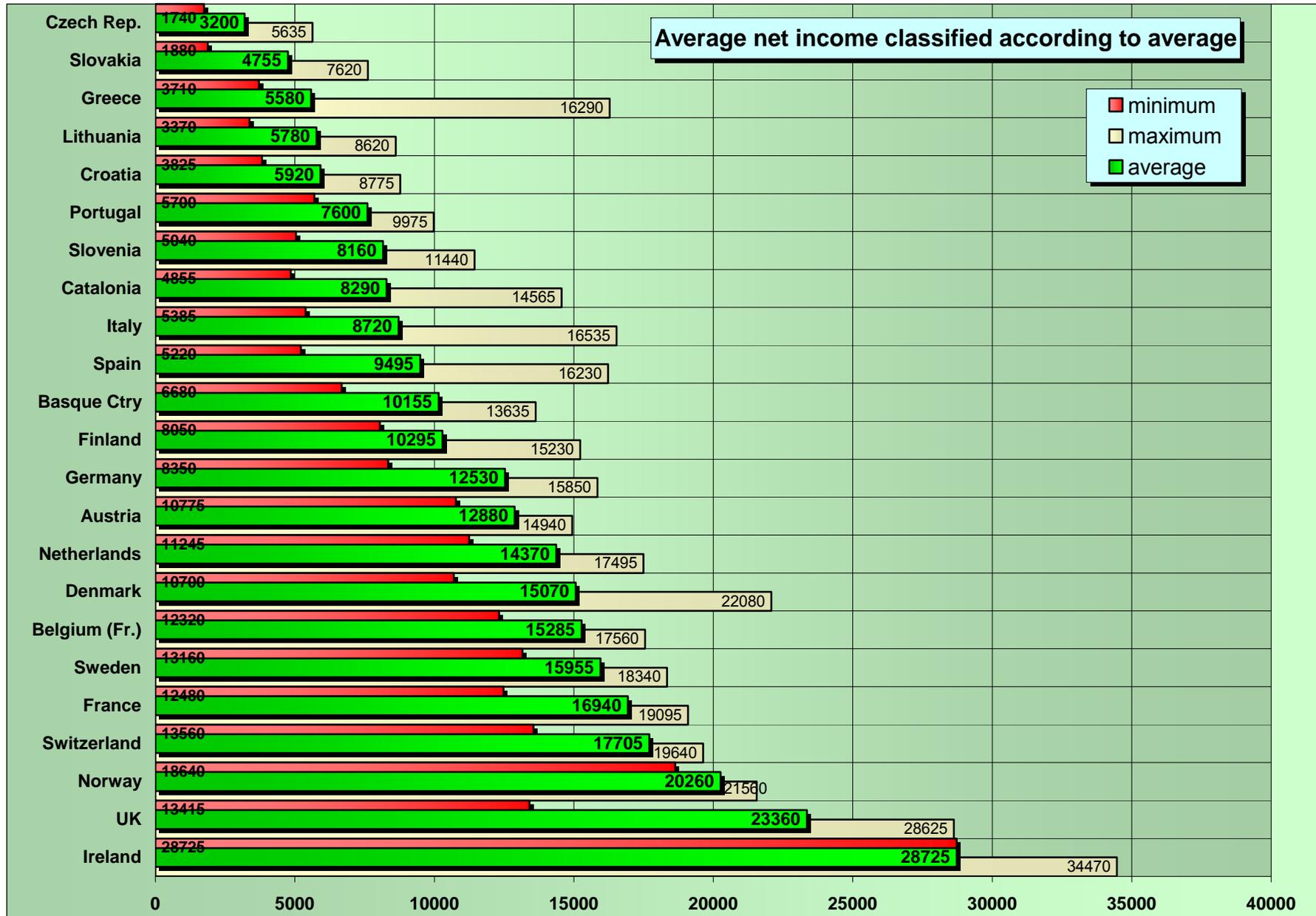
8.3.3 Average net income classified according to minimum

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 12



8.3.4 Average net income classified according to average

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 13



8.4 Comparison of average income

To arrive at a meaningful comparison of the situation of literary translators in the various countries, the standard of living in each country has to be taken into account.

To this end we compared:

1. The average gross income of literary translators with the average gross income in the manufacturing and services sector and
2. The average net income of literary translators with the per capita GDP in terms of **PPS** (**P**urchasing **P**ower **S**tandard).

In the diagrams we have classified the countries according to the overall average (of average gross or net income).

8.4 Comparison of average gross income and PPS

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Table 14

Comparison of gross income and purchasing power	average gross income in the manufacturing and services sectors*	per capita GDP in terms of PPS*	Translators' average gross income in proportion to that in the manufacturing and services sector			Translators' average net income in proportion to per capita PPS		
			minimum	average	maximum	minimum	average	maximum
Austria	36032	28900	35%	47%	60%	37%	45%	52%
Basque Ctry	21150	23100	49%	74%	99%	30%	44%	59%
Belgium (Fr.)	36672	27600	56%	69%	80%	45%	55%	64%
Catalonia	21150	23100	38%	65%	115%	21%	36%	63%
Croatia	9634	10420	47%	77%	121%	38%	57%	84%
Czech Rep.	8284	17100	29%	53%	94%	10%	19%	31%
Denmark	47529	29100	35%	50%	65%	36%	52%	76%
Finland	33290	26200	34%	44%	64%	31%	39%	58%
France	30520	25500	56%	83%	98%	49%	66%	75%
Germany	41694	25700	26%	44%	59%	32%	49%	64%
Greece	19914**	19200	28%	44%	123%	20%	29%	85%
Ireland	40462	32100	71%	71%	85%	90%	90%	107%
Italy	28010**	24100	19%	40%	81%	22%	36%	69%
Lithuania	8972**	12200	50%	82%	119%	28%	47%	71%
Netherlands	38700	28900	47%	61%	74%	39%	50%	61%
Norway	45485	36600	57%	62%	66%	50%	53%	57%
Portugal	14715	16700	48%	65%	97%	34%	46%	60%
Slovakia	7040	12900	38%	97%	156%	15%	37%	59%
Slovenia	17110**	18700	44%	72%	108%	27%	44%	61%
Spain	21150	23100	52%	77%	128%	23%	41%	70%
Sweden	34049	26900	63%	70%	87%	49%	59%	68%
Switzerland	45910	30010	40%	52%	58%	45%	57%	66%
UK	42866	27300	42%	72%	87%	49%	88%	105%

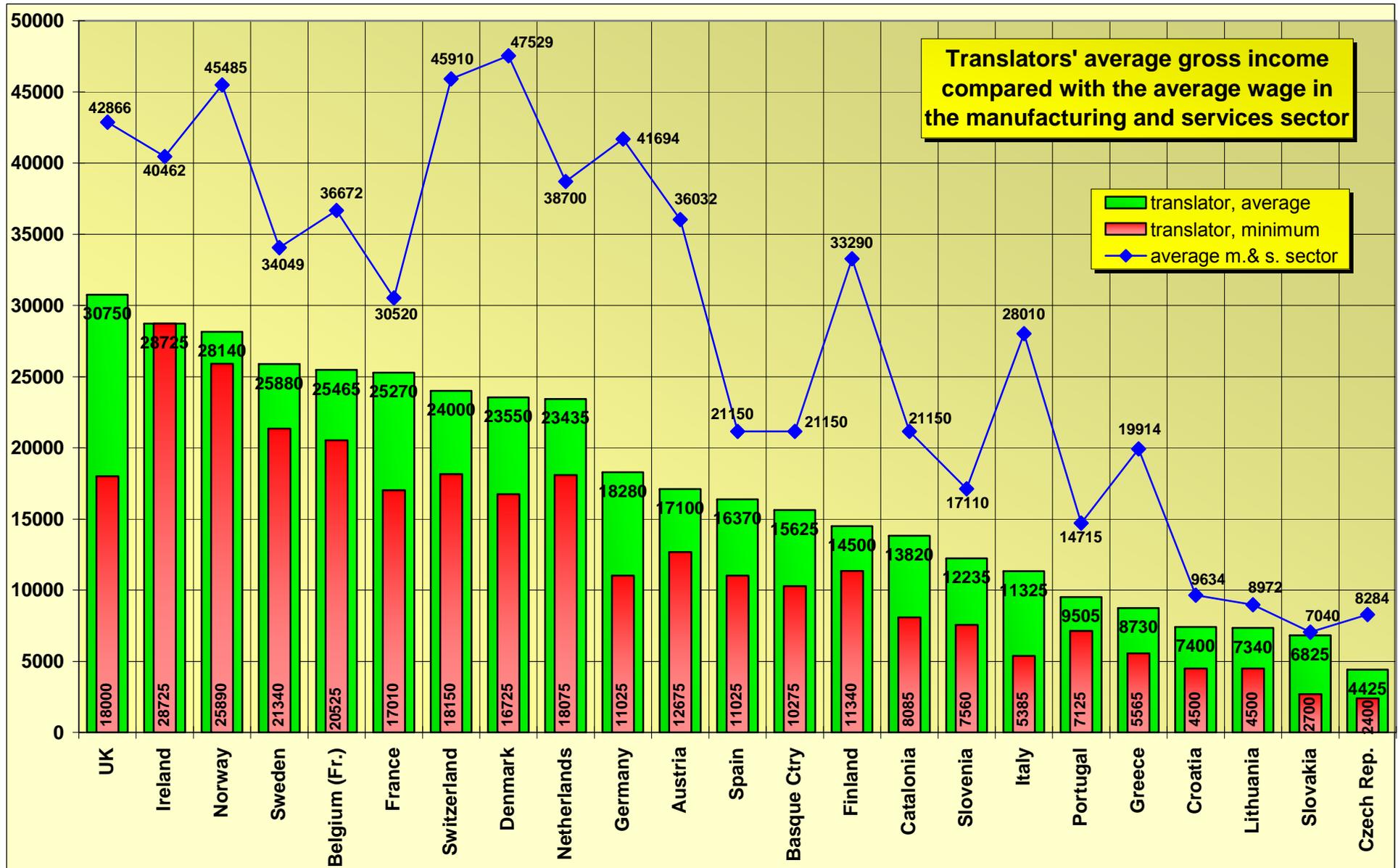
* Source: Eurostat, 2005/06 data

** Eurostat data, average estimated on the basis of OECD data

< *in italics* > figures not very significant due to the lower average income in the manufacturing and services sector in countries that are still lagging far behind the rest of the EU in terms of economic development

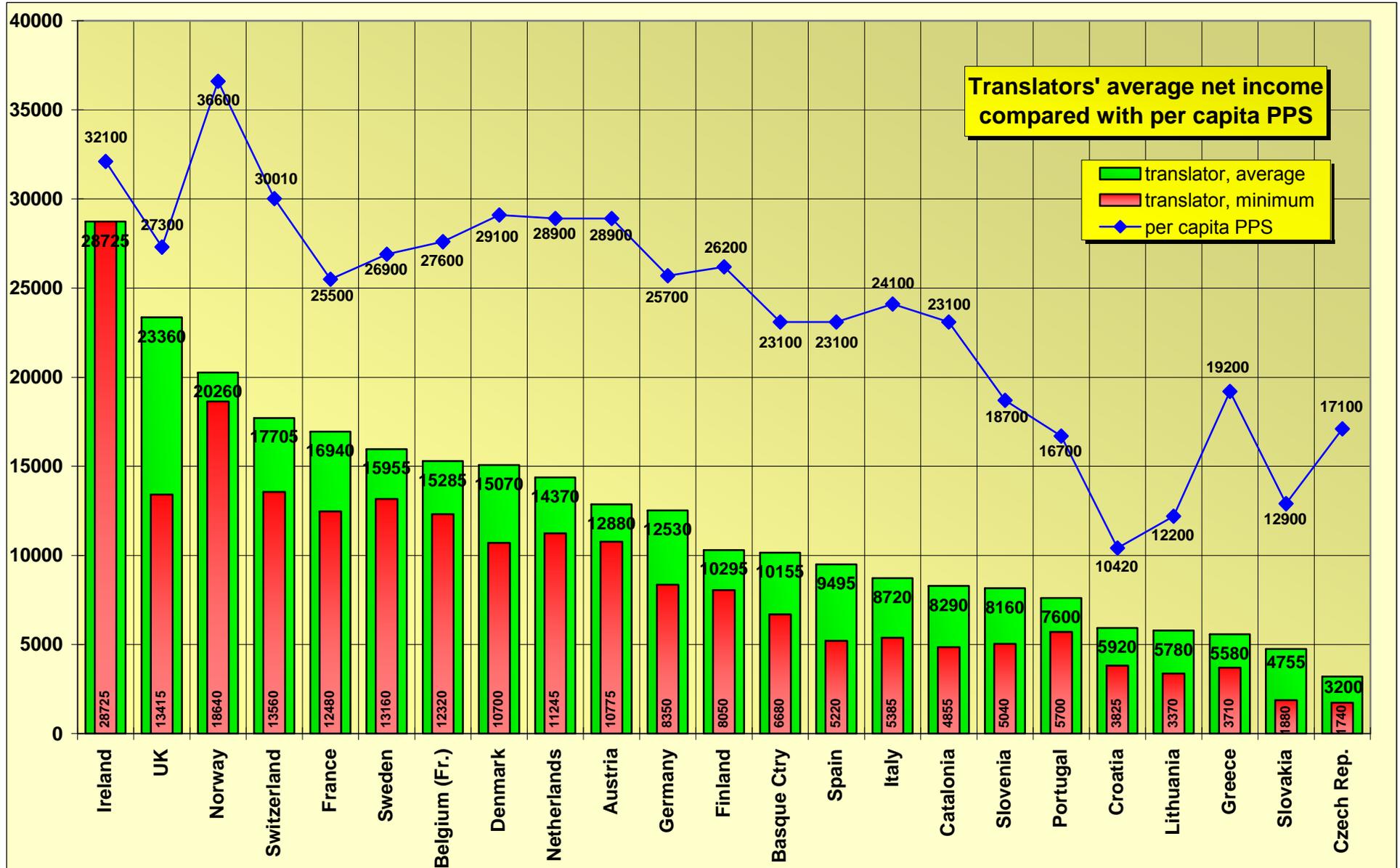
8.4.1 Comparison of average gross income

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 14



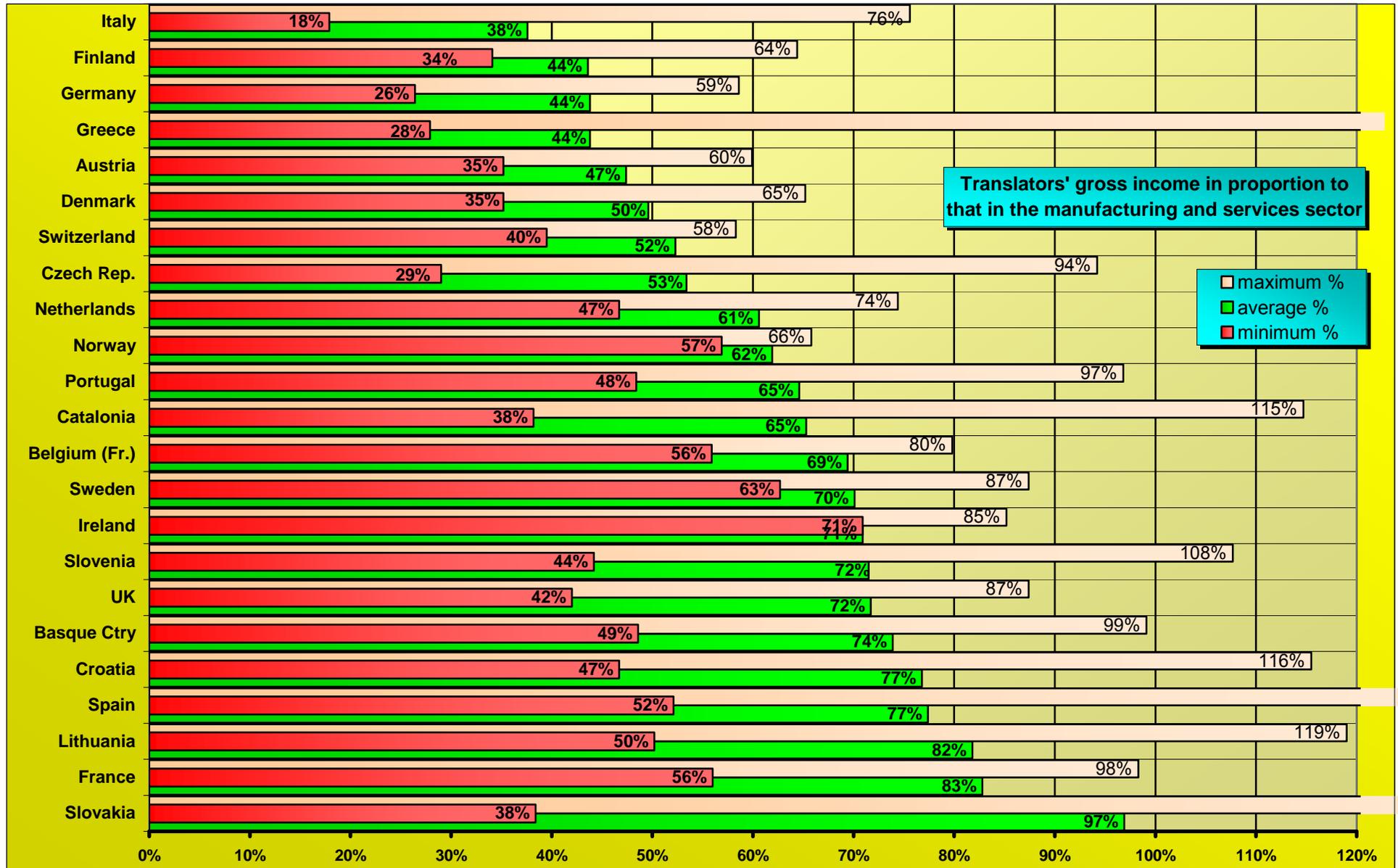
8.4.2 Comparison of average net income

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 15



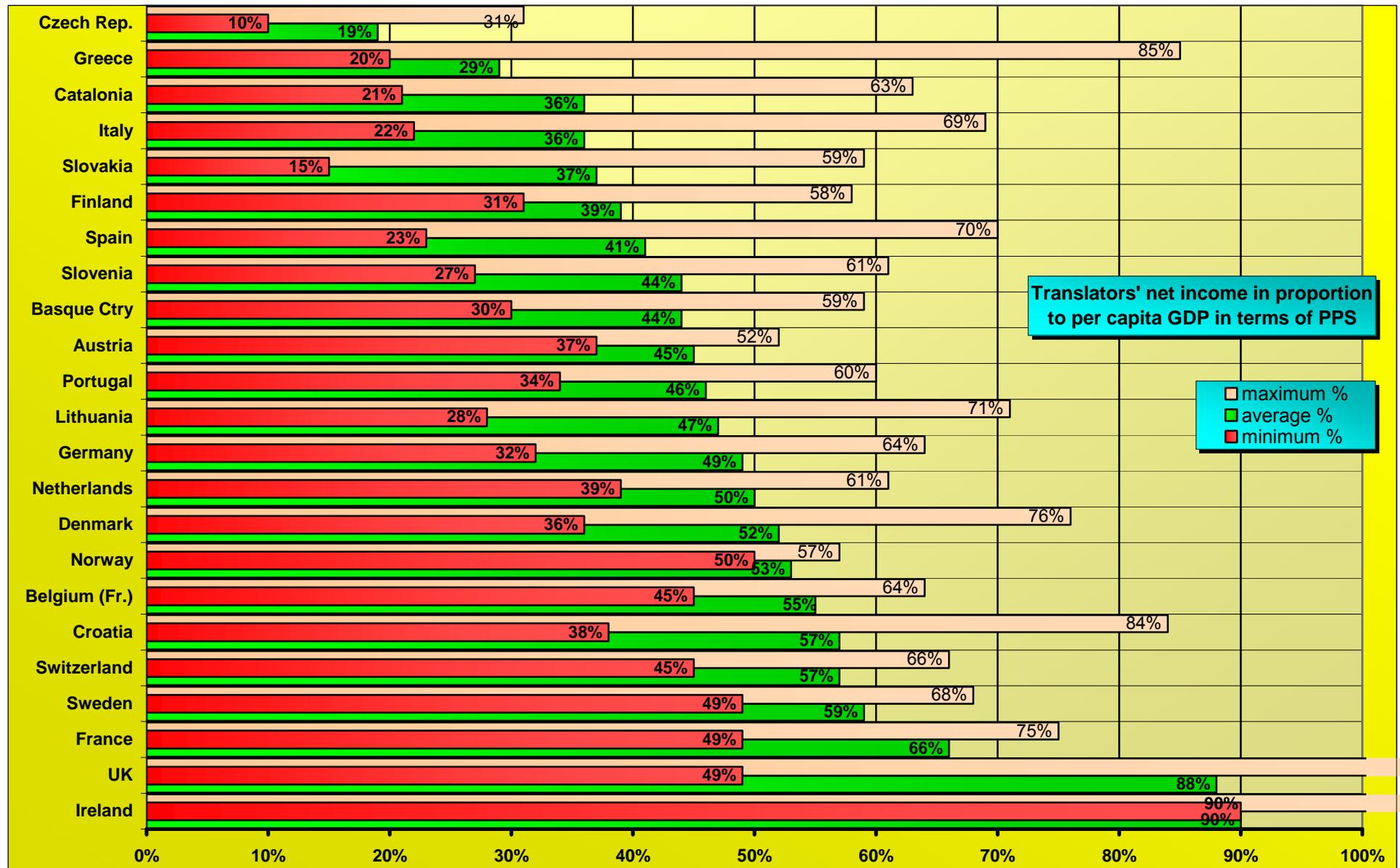
8.4.3 Proportional comparison of gross income

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 16



8.4.4 Proportional comparison of net income

CEATL Survey 2007/2008 Graph 17



9. Conclusion

9.1 Key findings

Proportion of translated works:

It is obvious that translations account for a larger proportion of new works published per year for the "lesser" languages and in the more minor countries, but it is nonetheless striking that the proportions in the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany and Switzerland should be so low (less than 10%).

Even in absolute terms, there are triple the number of translations in Spain, and double in Italy, than in Germany, and in fiction, the French and even the Czechs translate more books per year than the Germans.

The real "European champions" of literary translation are the Czechs and the Slovaks with a proportion of 80% in fiction.

In 10 countries a third or more of all new works published are translations:

Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden

In 9 countries more than half the new works of fiction are translations:

Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden

Relationship between agreements with publishers and fees:

It is a noticeable fact that literary translators' income is generally higher and more stable in the countries where agreements or understandings regarding fees and royalties exist between translators and publishers.

By "more stable", we mean that the differences between minimum and maximum income levels are much smaller, while in the countries where no agreements or understandings with the publishers exist, the differences in income, particularly in fees per page, are greater.

Especially in the countries without well-established copyright laws or in those where copyright is rather weak or still poorly respected (Catalonia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia, Spain), the differences between minimum and maximum income are enormous.

Influence of collectively managed rights and grants

It is very clear that literary translators are more comfortably off in the countries that have a grants system, funded either by the state (ministries of culture) or by collecting societies, or both.

Royalties and percentage shares

Given that their work is commissioned by the publisher, paid as a fixed fee, and at the same time is a work of art, literary translators are entitled to an appropriate share of the revenue generated by its use, on top of the basic fee, normally in the form of royalties.

In the so-called "major" countries, where average print runs are higher, literary translators can earn more through appropriate royalties, especially if the royalties are in addition to the basic fixed fee (as in the Netherlands for example). But if the royalties are used to offset the advance, in which case they only generate additional income in the case of bestsellers, they do not have much impact on translators' average income.

In the so-called "minor" countries, where average print runs are lower, royalties and other percentage shares are not sufficient to increase income.

In the countries with a large paperback market and a growing market for audio books, additional and subsidiary rights can help to considerably increase income.

9.2 Scraping a living

Gross income

Looking at gross income we can see that literary translators earn much less than workers in the manufacturing and services sector. Those working for the lowest rates earn at best two thirds (and in nine countries not even 40%) of what an industrial worker earns; and in six countries, even those working for the maximum rate do not earn more than two thirds of the average gross income in the manufacturing and services sector.

As a percentage of the average gross income in the manufacturing and services sector, literary translators earn:

- **for the lowest incomes: less than 40% in 9 countries, less than 67% in the other countries**
- **for average incomes: less than 50% in 6 countries, less than 67% in 12 countries**
- **for the highest incomes: still less than 67% in 6 countries**

It is only in the countries where wage levels are still fairly low (in Southern Europe in particular) or even very low (in Eastern Europe in particular) that translators' gross income (at the highest rates) can exceed the average gross income of workers in the manufacturing and services sector. As a result, it makes little sense to compare gross income in those countries – which is confirmed by comparing net income (see page 66).

When we look at the scale (statistically the most significant) of literary translators earning an average income, we see that, among the countries with advanced economies, there is/are only:

- 1 country where literary translators earn more than 80% of the average gross income (France, 83%)
- 3 countries where they earn more than 70% (Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom)
- 3 other countries where they earn more than 60% (Belgium (Fr.), Netherlands, Norway)

But it must be pointed out that, in the case of Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom, this notion is meaningless because there are no professional literary translators in these countries, or virtually none.

In Italy, the situation is disastrous. In Greece, Germany, Finland, Austria, Denmark and Switzerland, **the material situation of translators is critical and professional literary translators are virtually on the bread line.**

It is also worth noting that the whole of Spain including its regions shows higher figures only because literary translators manage a much higher output – but, of course, at the expense of the literary quality of the translations.

Net income

When we compare net income with the per capita purchasing power standard (PPS), the precarious situation of literary translators in the majority of European countries is even more striking.

Even if we take the maximum that professional literary translators can earn as the basis for comparison, there are only two countries where net income exceeds PPS - the United Kingdom and Ireland, but in these two cases there are no "professional" literary translators in the sense that we understand it – and in reality, even in the countries where there are "professionals", **the proportion of literary translators who achieve the maximum is less than 10%.**

If we disregard the countries where there are no "professional" literary translators (Greece, Ireland, Slovakia and the United Kingdom), there are 3 countries (Croatia, Denmark and France) where literary translators' net income can occasionally reach three quarters of PPS, and **13 countries where maximum net income does not even reach two thirds of PPS.**

If we take literary translators' average net income as the basis for comparison, we see that:

- **in 2 countries, it does not even reach 30% of PPS (Czech Republic 19%, Greece 29%)**
- **in 4 countries, it is between 30% and 40% of PPS (Catalonia, Finland, Italy, Slovakia)**
- **in 8 countries, it is between 40% and 50% of PPS (Austria, Basque Country, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain)**
- **in 6 countries, it is between 50% and 60% of PPS (Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland)**

and it is only in France that average net income reaches two thirds of PPS (disregarding the countries where there are no "professional" literary translators).

In the case of those literary translators who find themselves at the bottom of the net income scale – which is often the case for translators of difficult or extremely literary books – their purchasing power is:

- **in 9 countries, less than 30% of PPS (Basque Country, Catalonia, Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain)**
- **in 7 countries, between 30% and 40% of PPS (Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal)**
- **in 6 countries, between 40% and 50% of PPS (Belgium, France, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom)**

The situation is worst in the Czech Republic, Greece and Slovakia, but it is worth noting that:

in 20 out of our 23 countries, literary translators' average purchasing power is less than 60% of PPS.

9.3 Outlook

Given the enormous differences between the countries both legally and in terms of publishing rules and customs, it is difficult to draw general conclusions.

Nonetheless, this survey clearly shows that literary translators cannot survive in the conditions imposed on them by "the market". This is a serious social problem on a continent that is meant to be developed, multilingual and multicultural, but it is also and most importantly a very serious artistic and cultural problem. Indeed, what does it say about the quality of literary exchange between our societies if literary translators are forced to dash off their work just to be able to earn a basic living?

The objectives outlined by UNESCO in its 1976 Nairobi Recommendation are far from being realised, that is the least one can say. It's time to act!

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