

Executive Remuneration

Highlights from Mercer 2025
Survey — Portugal

November 27th 2025

A business of Marsh McLennan



Welcome

Executive Remuneration:
Highlights from Mercer 2025
Survey — Portugal

Marta Dias Gonçalves

Rewards Leader Mercer Portugal
marta.dias@mercer.com





01.

Executive Remuneration Survey — Portugal 2025

1.1 Participants Profile

1.2 Main Highlights

Agenda

Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

Highlights from Mercer 2025 Survey — Portugal



Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

Content

The survey on executive compensation will help answer questions raised within the design of compensation packages for top executives, such as:

- **Market Positioning**
- **Fixed Compensation**
- **Variable Compensation (short and long term)**
- **Benefits (Qualitative analysis)**



125

Organizations



Of the 125,
30

are listed
companies



33

Individual jobs under
analysis



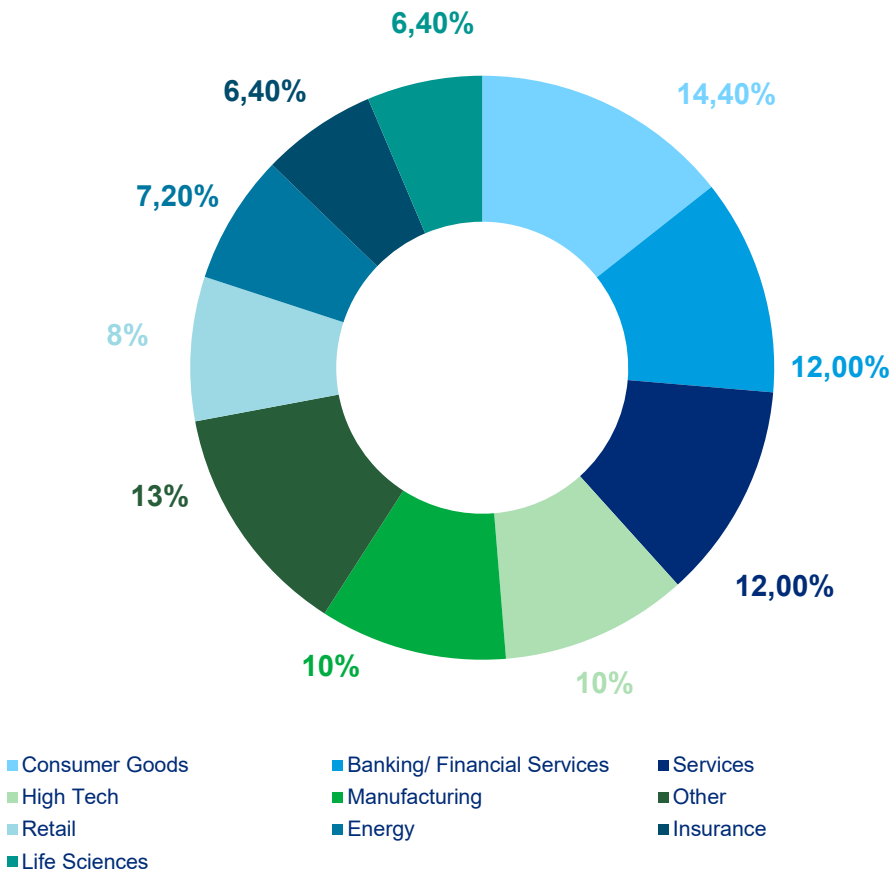
1.1. Participants Profile



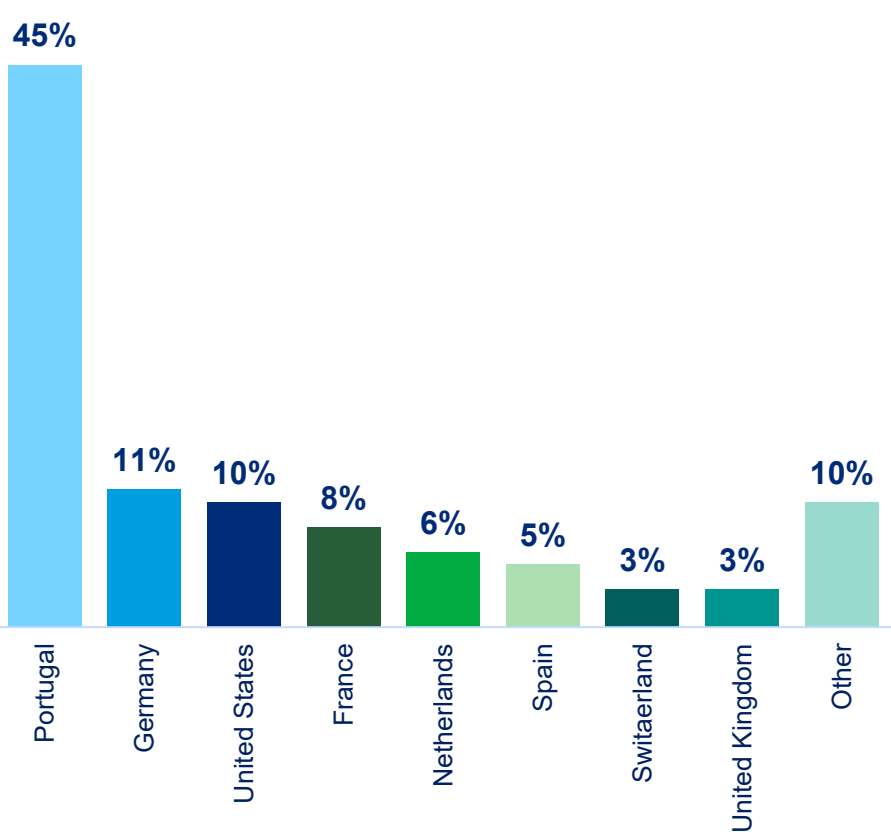
Participants Profiles

Organization's characteristics

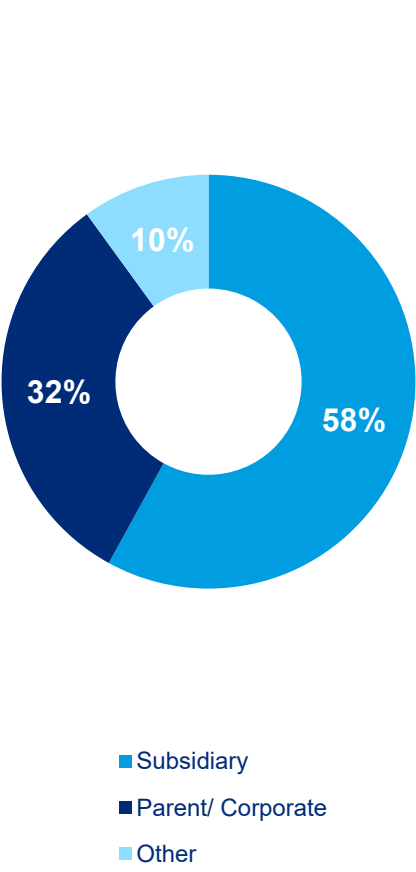
Industry



Parent Organization Location



Organization Type



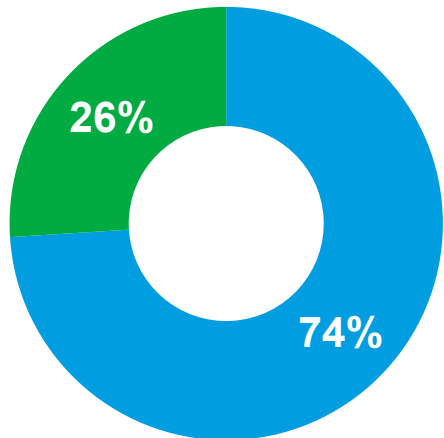
1.2. Main Highlights



Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

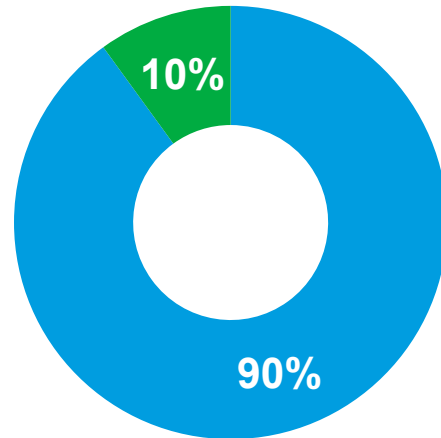
Highlights on Gender Pay Gap

Incumbents Distribution by Gender



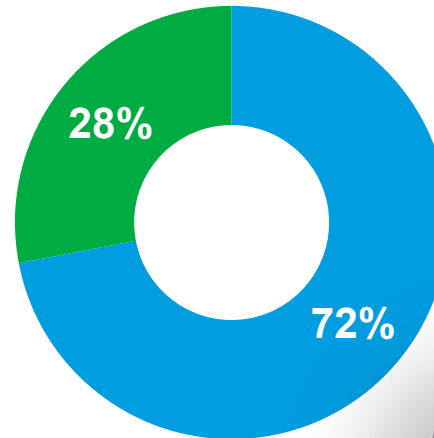
■ M ■ F

Incumbents Distribution by Gender (CEO)



■ M ■ F

Incumbents Distribution by Gender (Other Executive Roles)



■ M ■ F



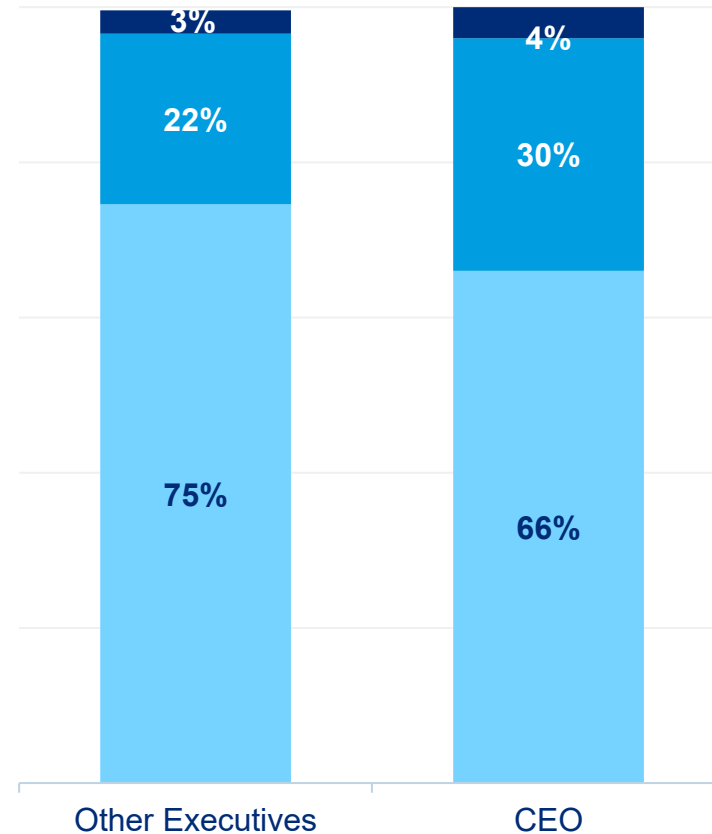
The average **raw Gender Pay Gap** calculated is **~25%**
This tends to be higher for CEO roles than for Other Executive Roles



Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

Paymix Analysis

Paymix (Fixed vs. STI vs. LTI)



- **Fixed remuneration** currently represents **66% of the total remuneration** for most **Executive Directors** and **75%** for the **CEO** role.
- In the **variable component**, the annual **Bonus (STI)** carries the greatest weight, accounting for approximately **22% to 30%** of the total remuneration, compared to **Long-Term Incentives (LTI)** which represent about **3% to 4% of the total remuneration**.

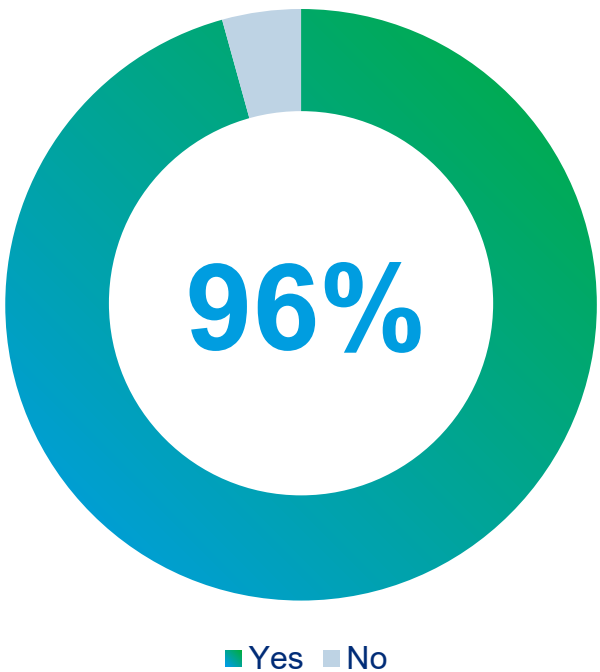
■ Long Term Incentives
■ Short Term Incentives
■ Fixed Compensation



Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

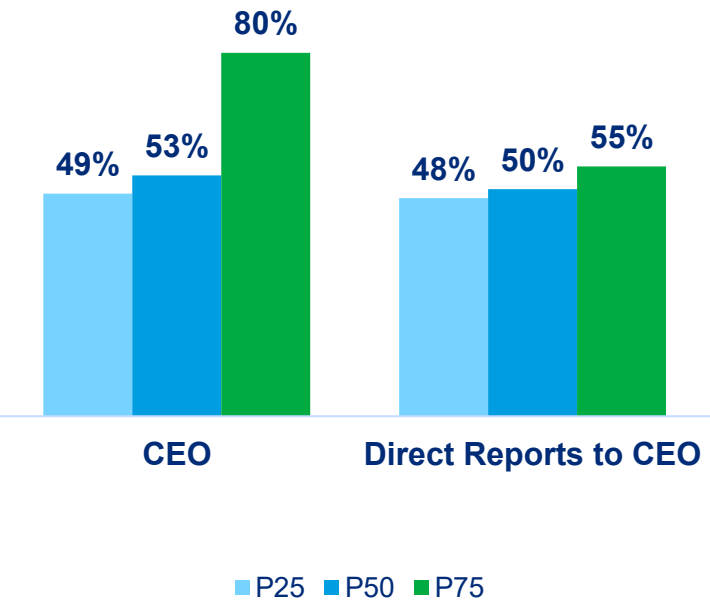
Short Term Incentives (STI)

STI Prevalence

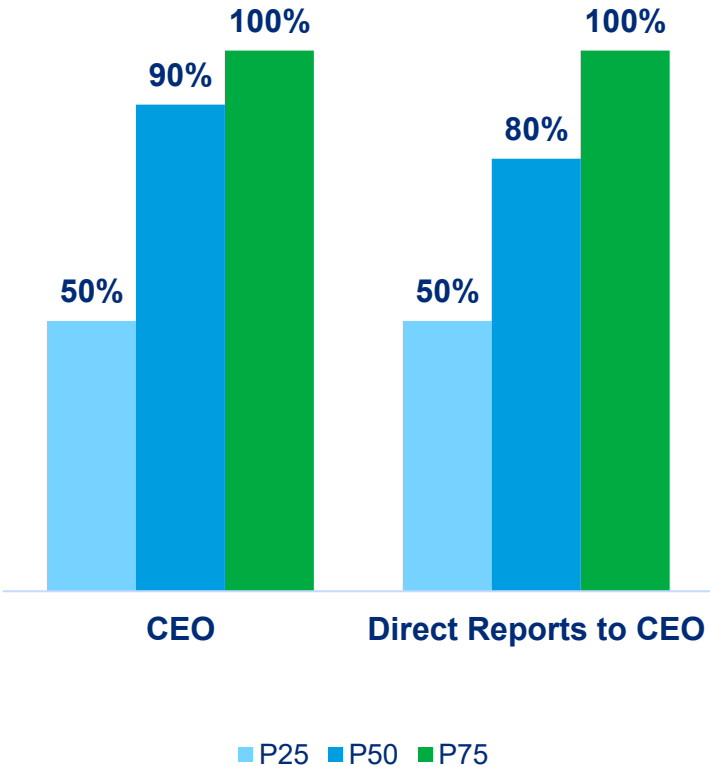


STI Target and Maximum (as % of ABS)

STI (Target)



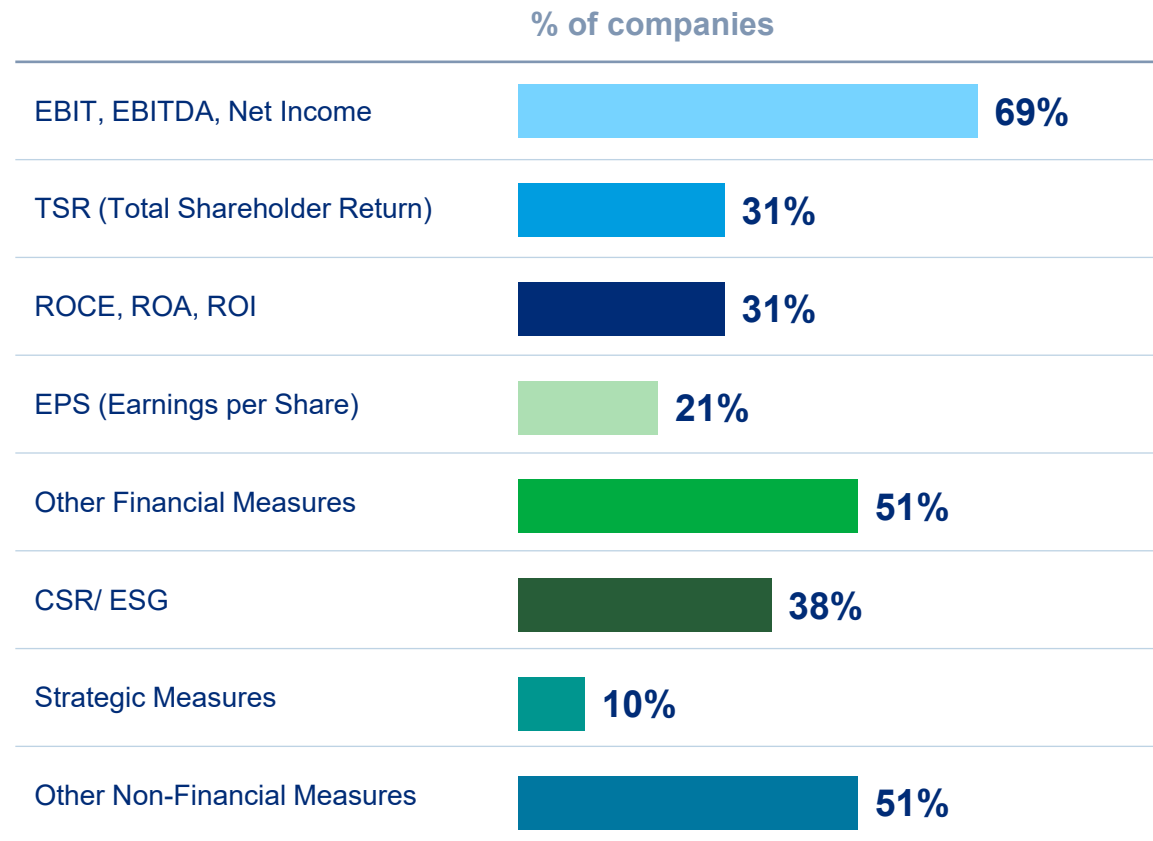
STI (Maximum)



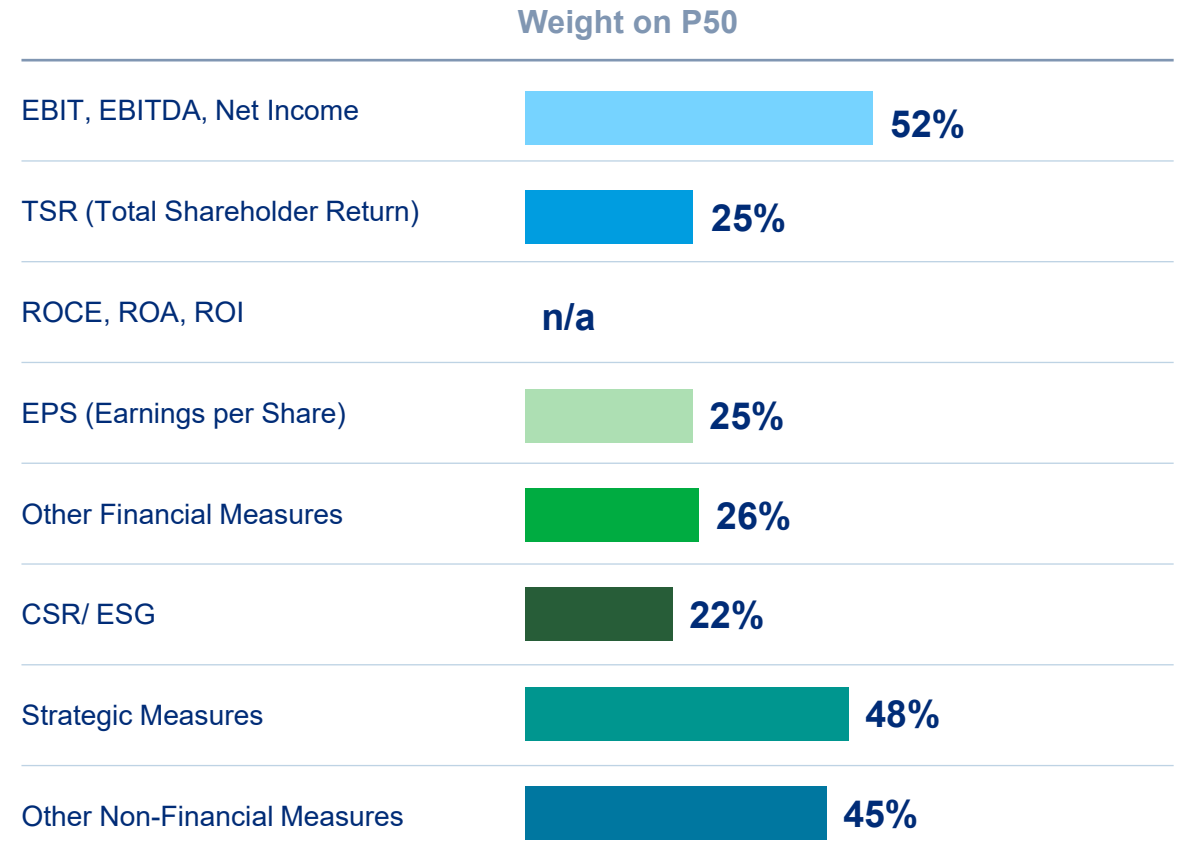
Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

Short Term Incentives KPIs

Performance Measures



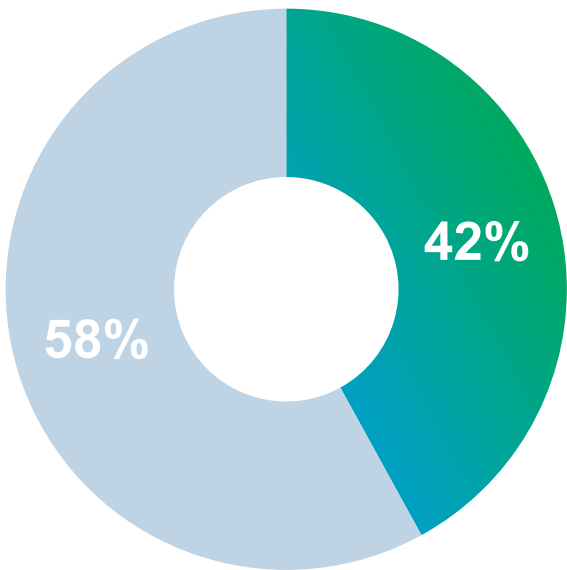
Weight of Performance Measures



Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

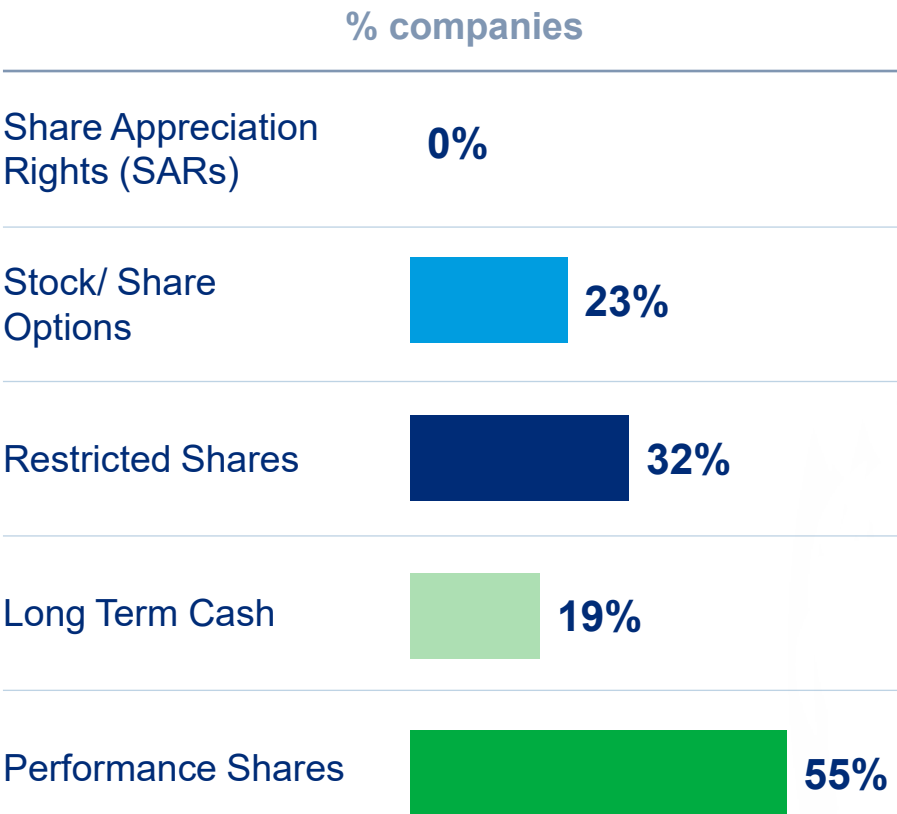
Long Term Incentives (LTI)

LTI Prevalence



■ Yes ■ No

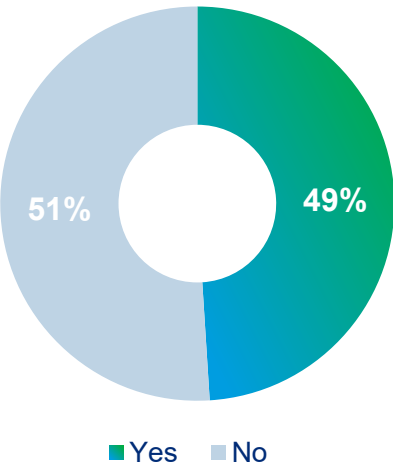
Type of LTI Operated



Executive Remuneration Survey – Portugal 2025

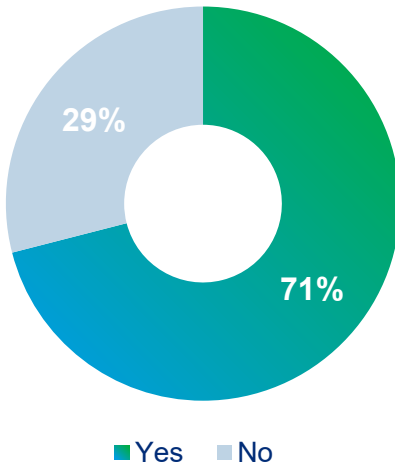
Benefits

Retirement Benefits



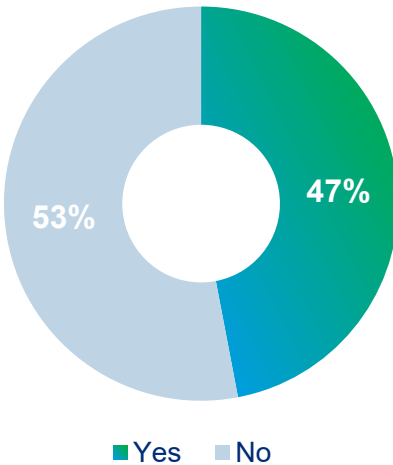
For **91%** of companies have DC Plans

Life Assurance



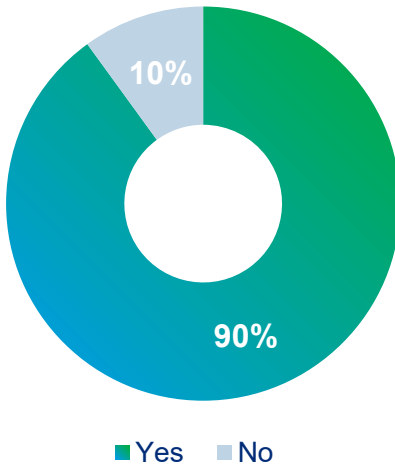
80% of companies considers other coverages in addition to death-in-service

Personal Accident Insurance



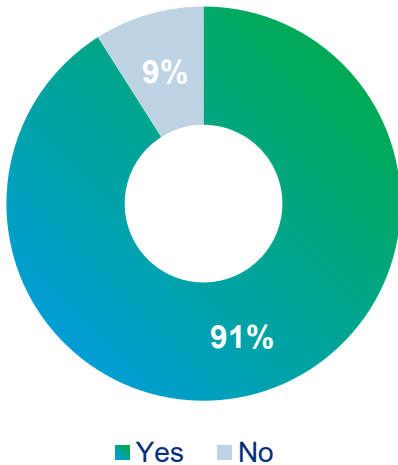
>95% of companies offer complementary coverages to death

Medical Plan



For **90%** of companies includes spouse and children

Company Car



For **29%** of companies includes personal driver (CEO)

Thank you!



Marta Dias Gonçalves

Rewards Leader Mercer Portugal

marta.dias@mercer.com



A regional perspective on Executive Reward

- **Peter Boreham**, *European Executive Rewards Practice Leader*



peter.boreham@mercer.com

European Executive Reward Leader for Mercer

28 years' experience

Has advised many of Europe's leading companies



Convergence of executive pay in European listed companies



Convergence due to public policy

In particular the EU Shareholder Rights Directive

SRD Requirements

- Publication of pay policy with binding vote
- Publication of remuneration report with advisory vote

SRD Impact

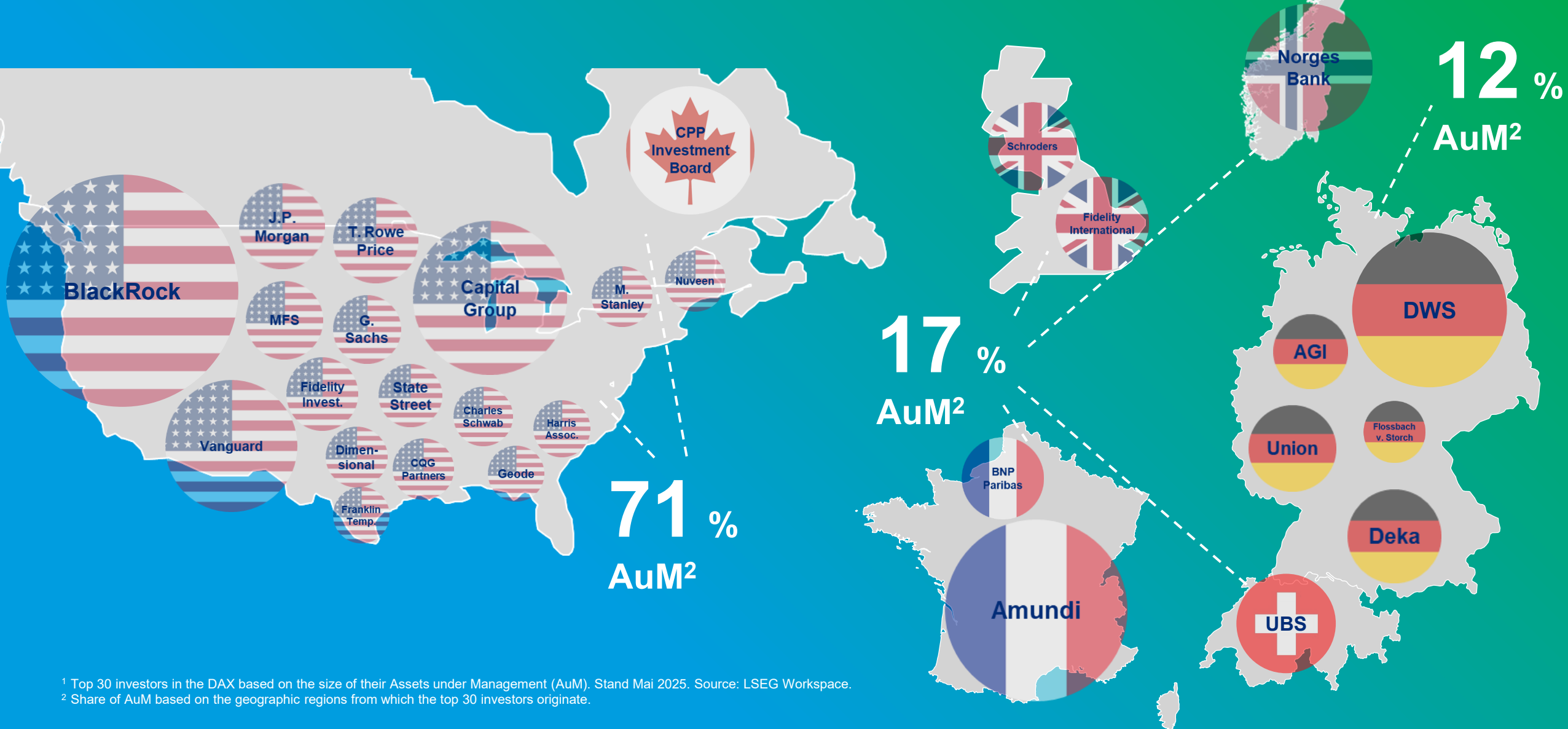
- Better information for investors, executives, employees, journalists, politicians
- Practical and reputational risks to a lost or low vote

Tax and accounting policies have also driven convergence

- Removal of tax-favoured status for share options in most markets
- Requirement to account for share-based pay

Convergence due to global capital

Top 30 investors in the DAX40¹, Glass Lewis and ISS

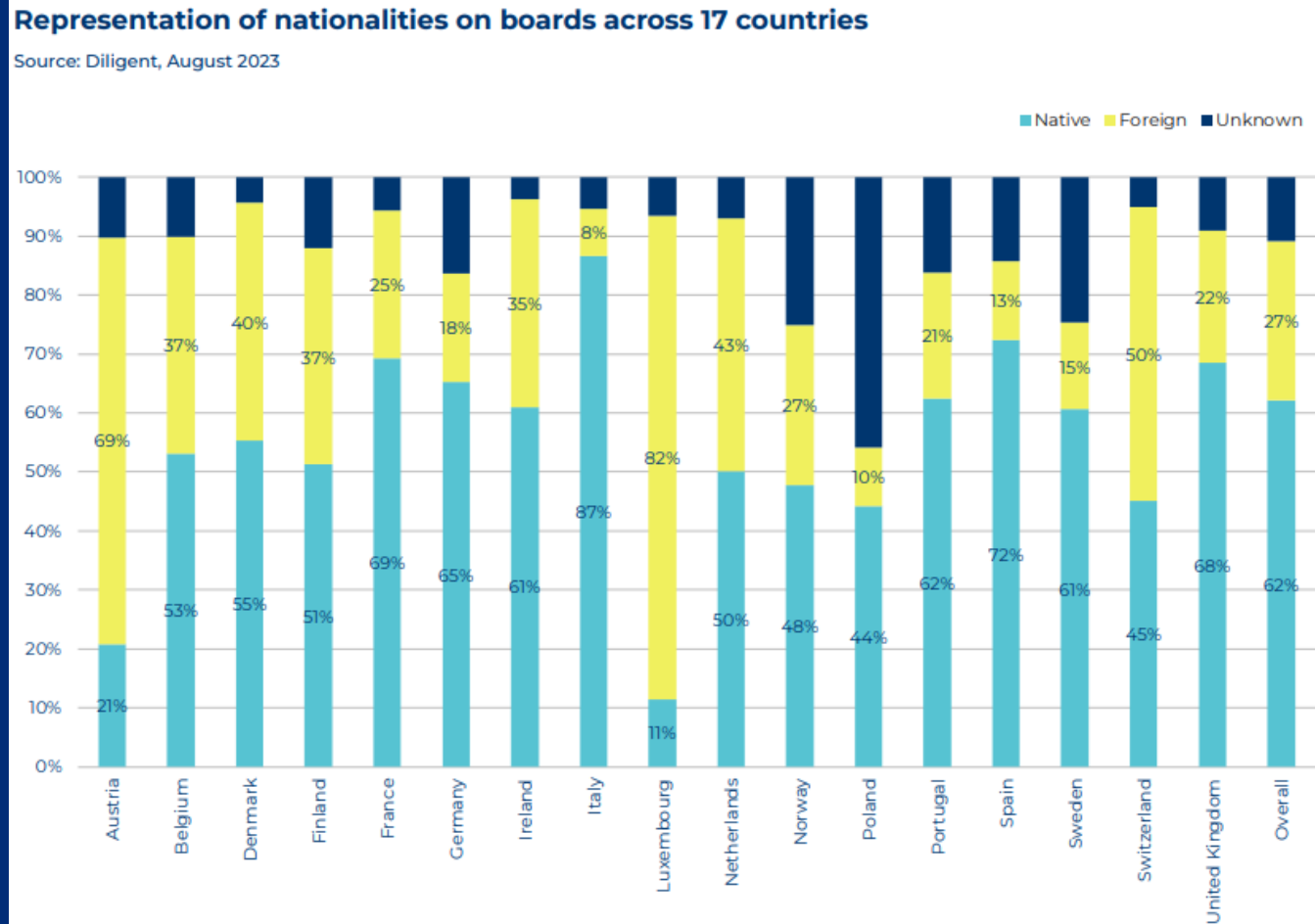


¹ Top 30 investors in the DAX based on the size of their Assets under Management (AuM). Stand Mai 2025. Source: LSEG Workspace.

² Share of AuM based on the geographic regions from which the top 30 investors originate.

Convergence due to globalised Boards

Only 62% on average from home country (also 62% in Portugal)



What has been the impact of convergence?



Bad practices removed

- Excessive termination pay
- Weak Pay for Performance
- High Executive Pay Inflation
- Excessive Pensions



Unintended Consequences

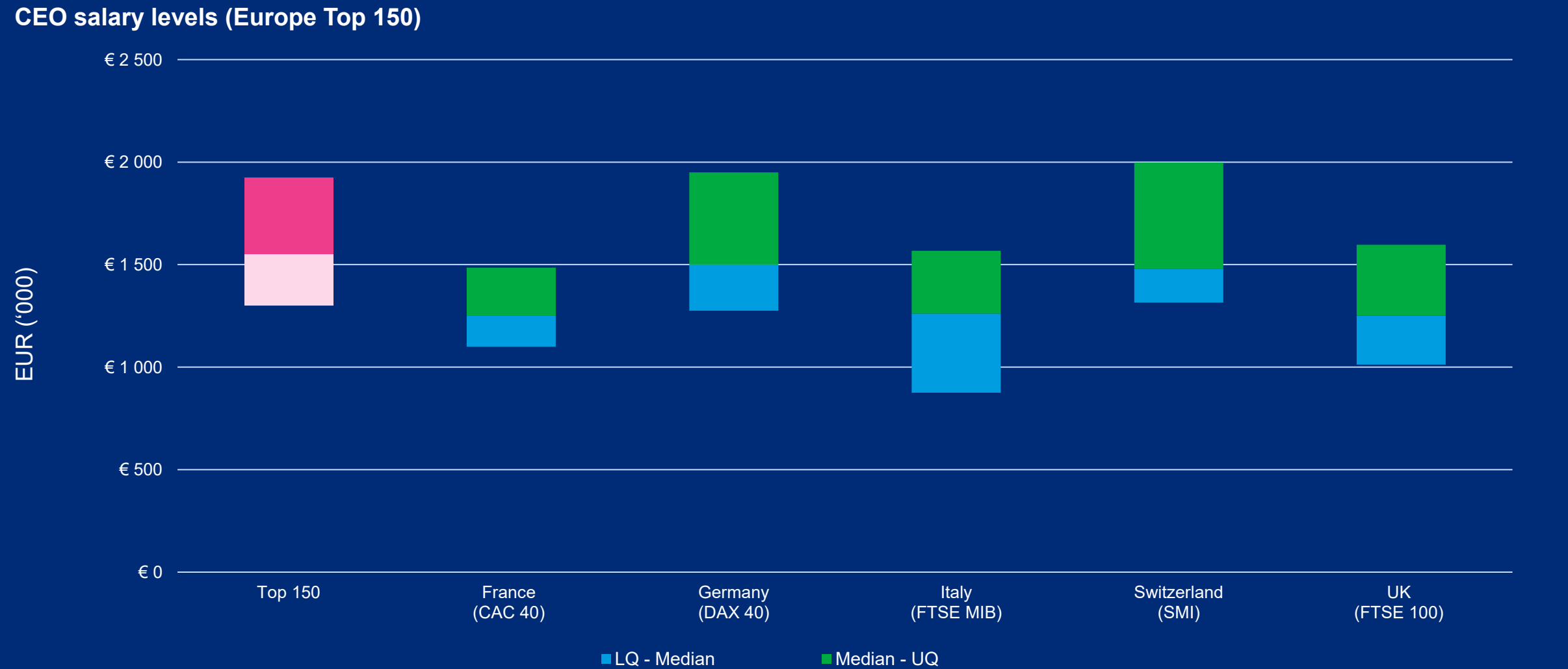
- Increasing influence of proxy advisors, “box ticking” and “robovoting”
- Board risk aversion



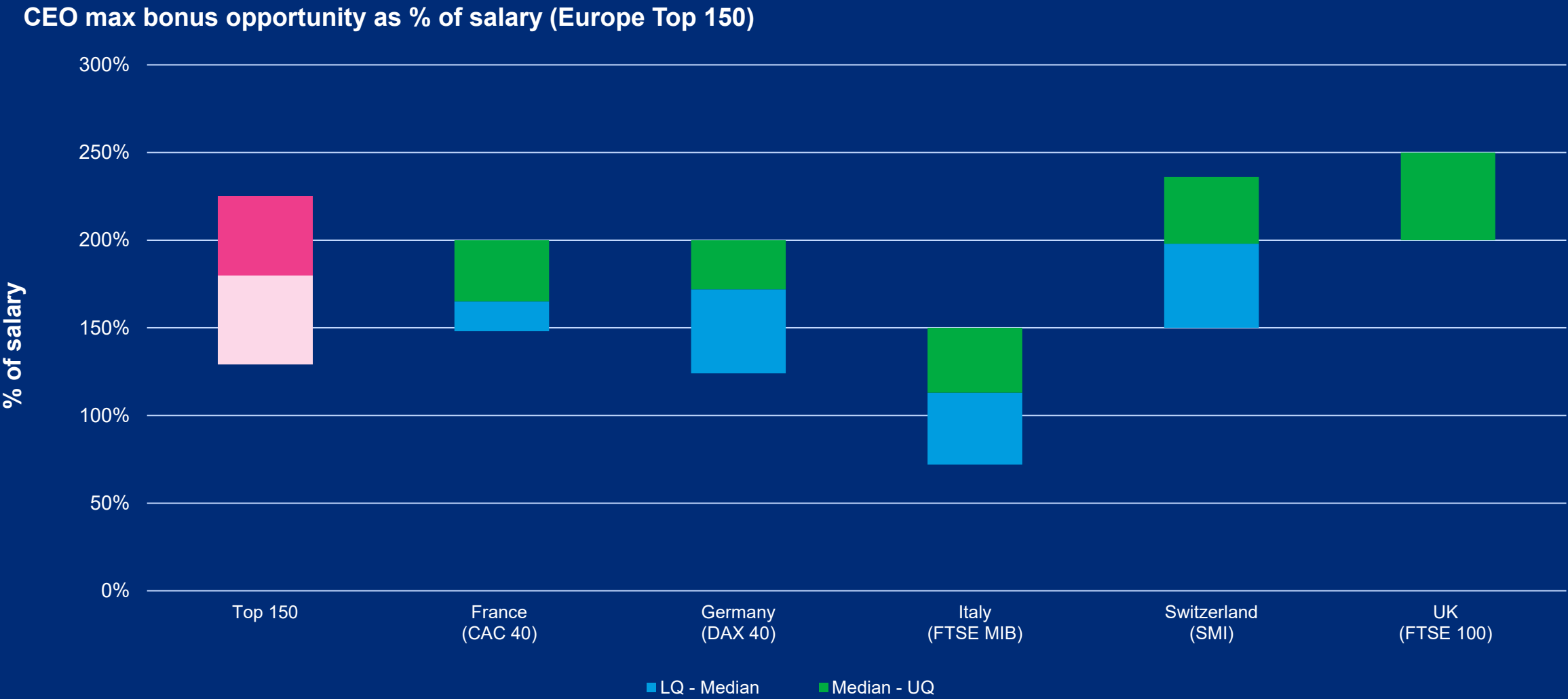
Results

- Conformity of incentive design
- Convergence of pay levels in large companies

CEO salaries in large companies are converged

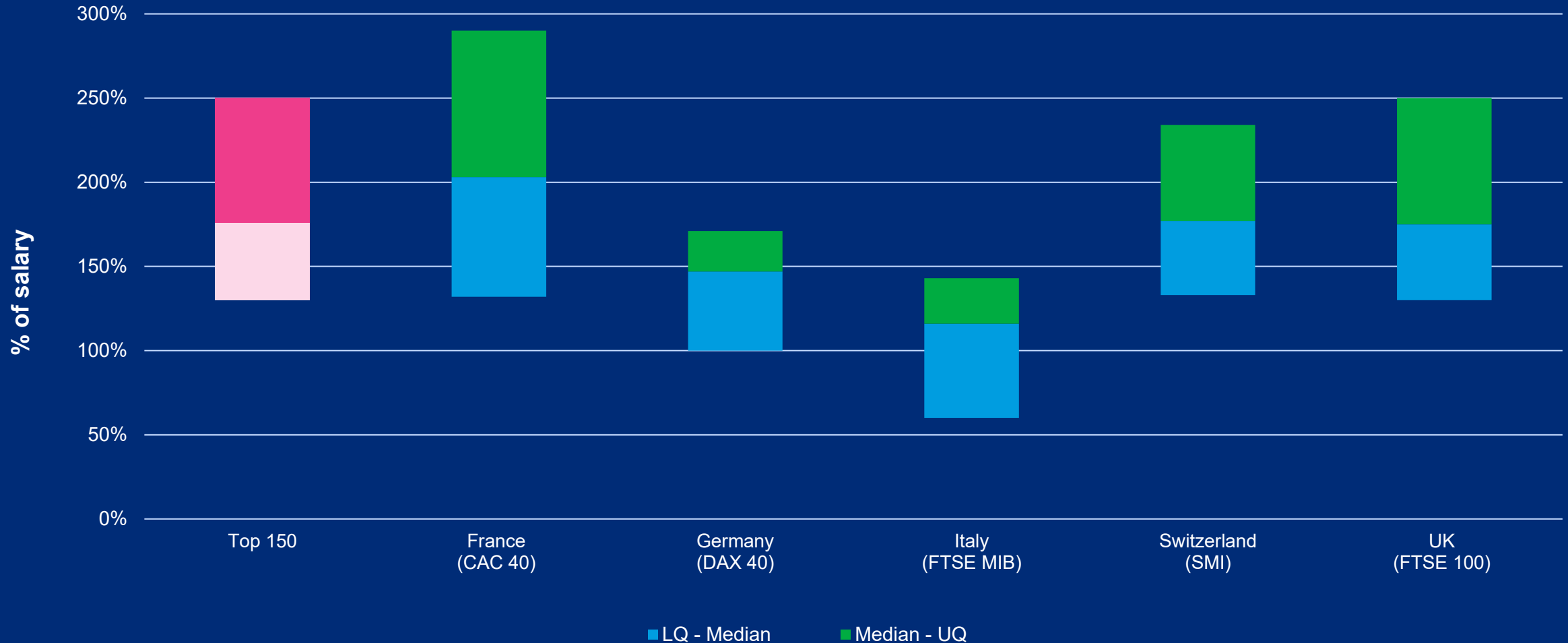


Annual Bonus levels are also similar

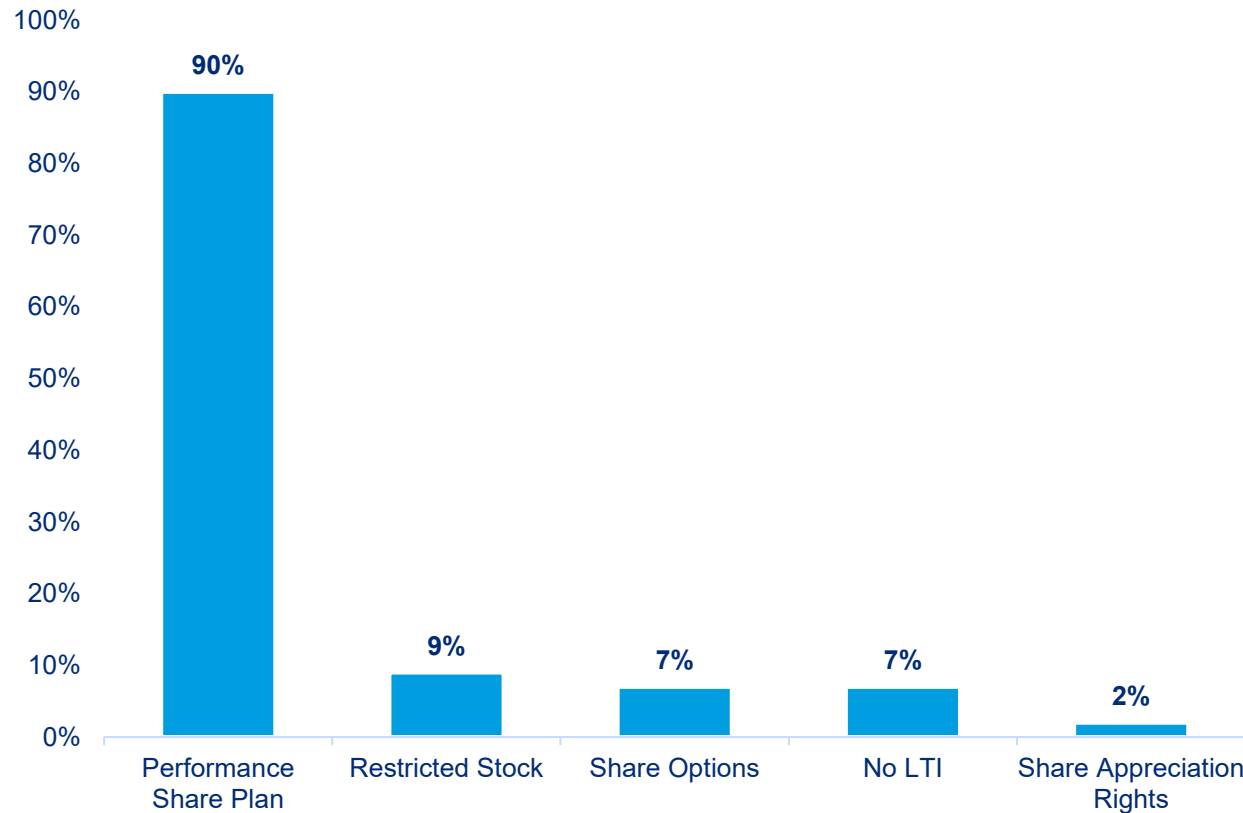


Long-term Incentives vary a little more

CEO target LTI opportunity a % of salary (Europe Top 150)



Large listed company long-term incentive plan types are highly converged (Top 150)



Positives

- ✓ “Standard design” is sensible
- ✓ Easier for investors to assess standard designs
- ✓ Easier to hire internationally

Negatives

- ✗ One-size-fits-all doesn't suit companies with unusual business models
- ✗ Too much influence of box-tickers – “retention plans don't work”

In other contexts, different approaches apply

Partly due to the lack of Principal-Agent Conflicts

Similar structure to large companies

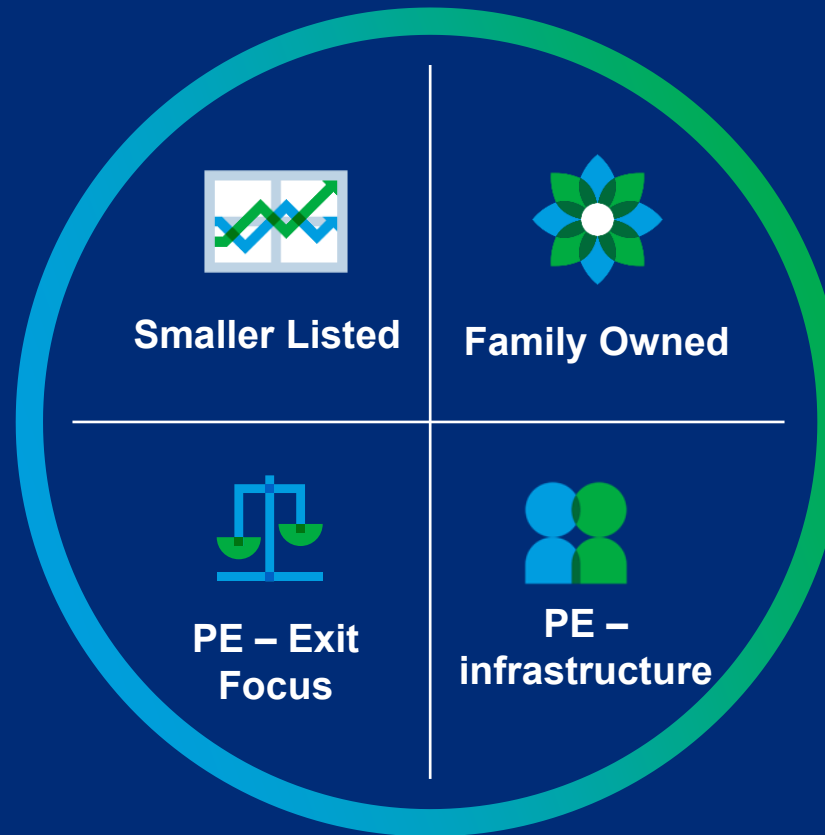
Fewer performance conditions

Small companies may still use share options

Significant payouts for achieving exit above hurdle growth rate

Timing and payout uncertain

Currently, we are seeing fewer profitable exits

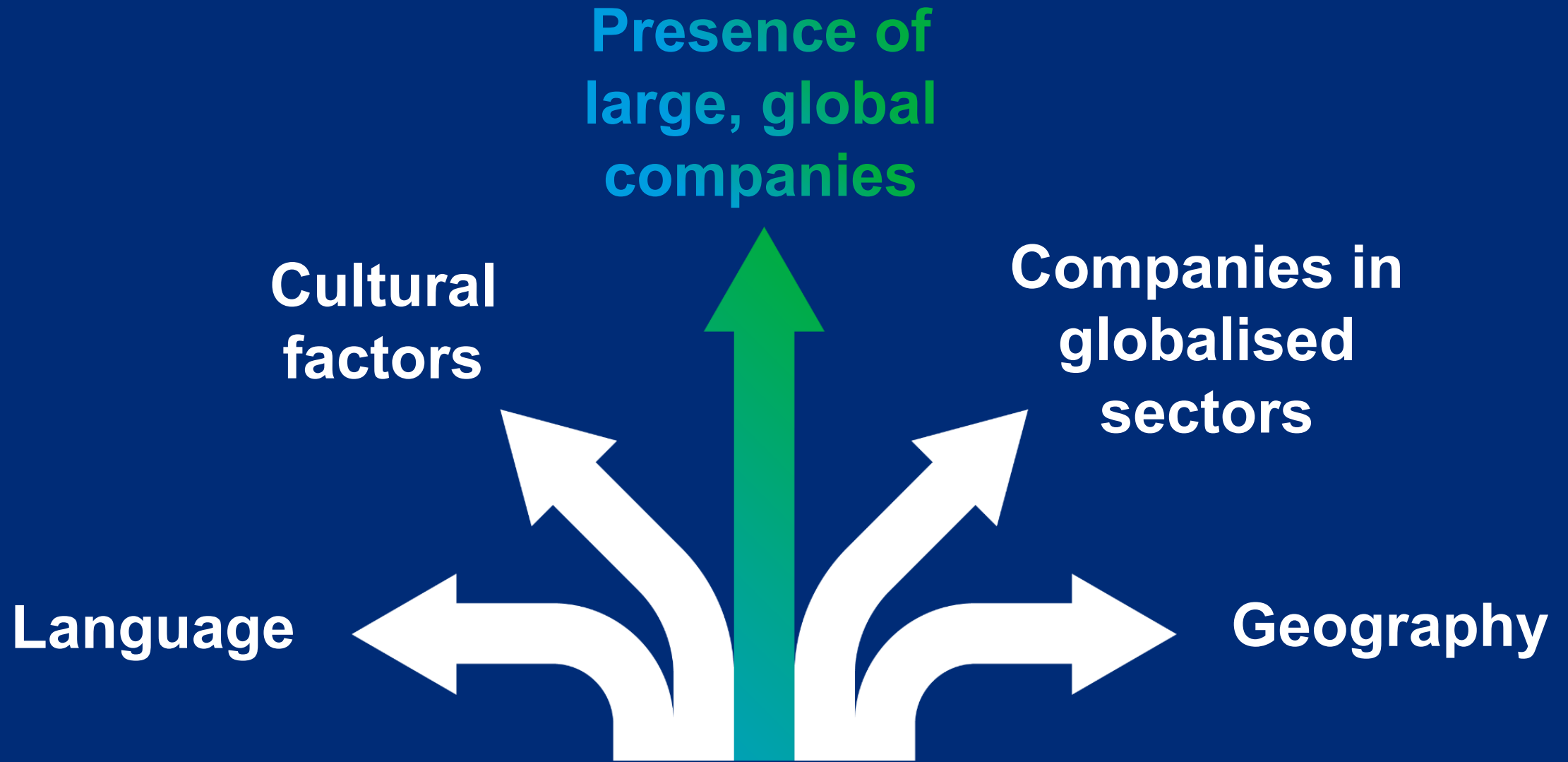


Focus is on alignment to owner interest

Often simple scorecards focused on financial KPIs

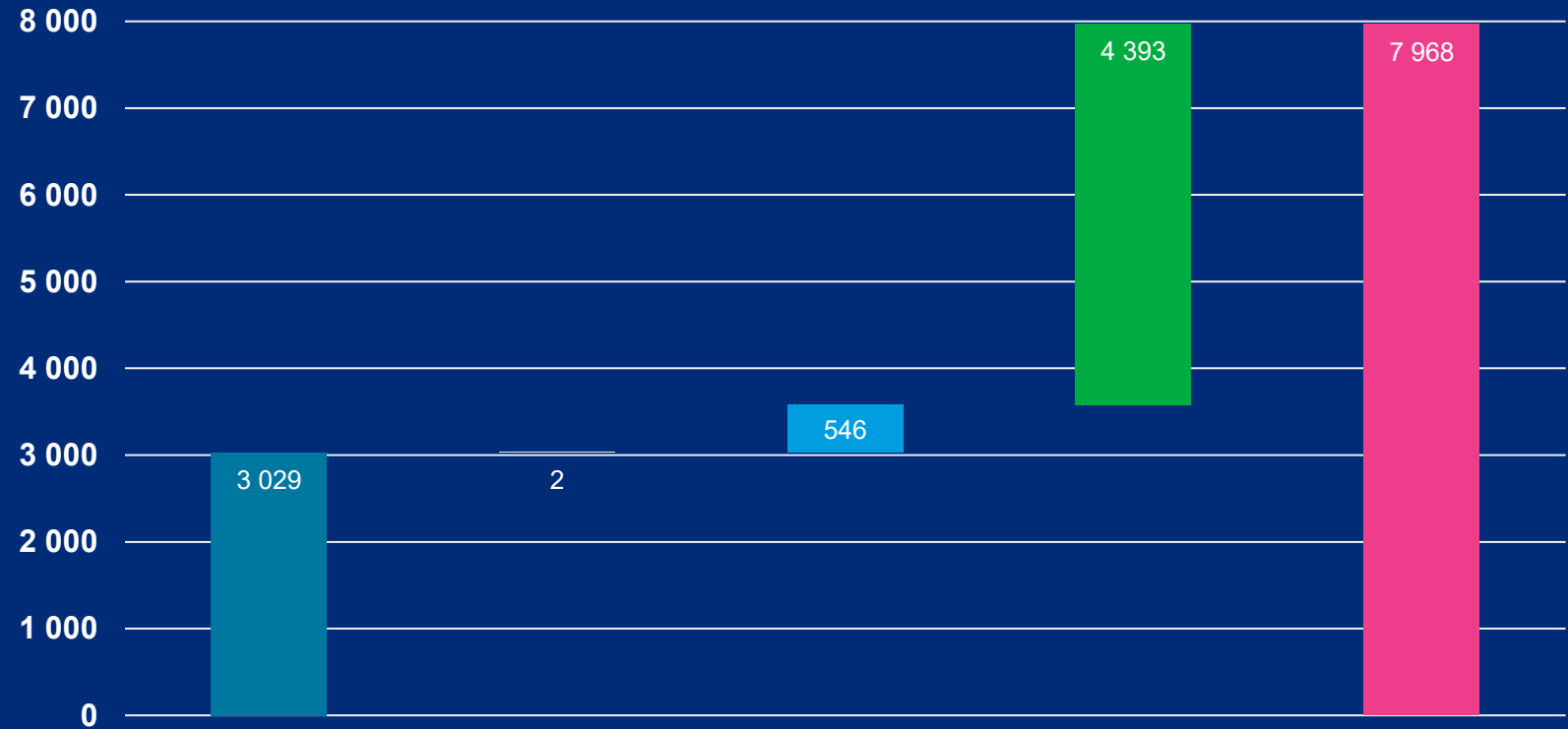
Scorecard based on financial and operational metrics and relevant non-financial (e.g. safety)

The degree of regional pay convergence in smaller countries depends on the context



US CEOs are at a completely different level

(width to scale)



FTSE100

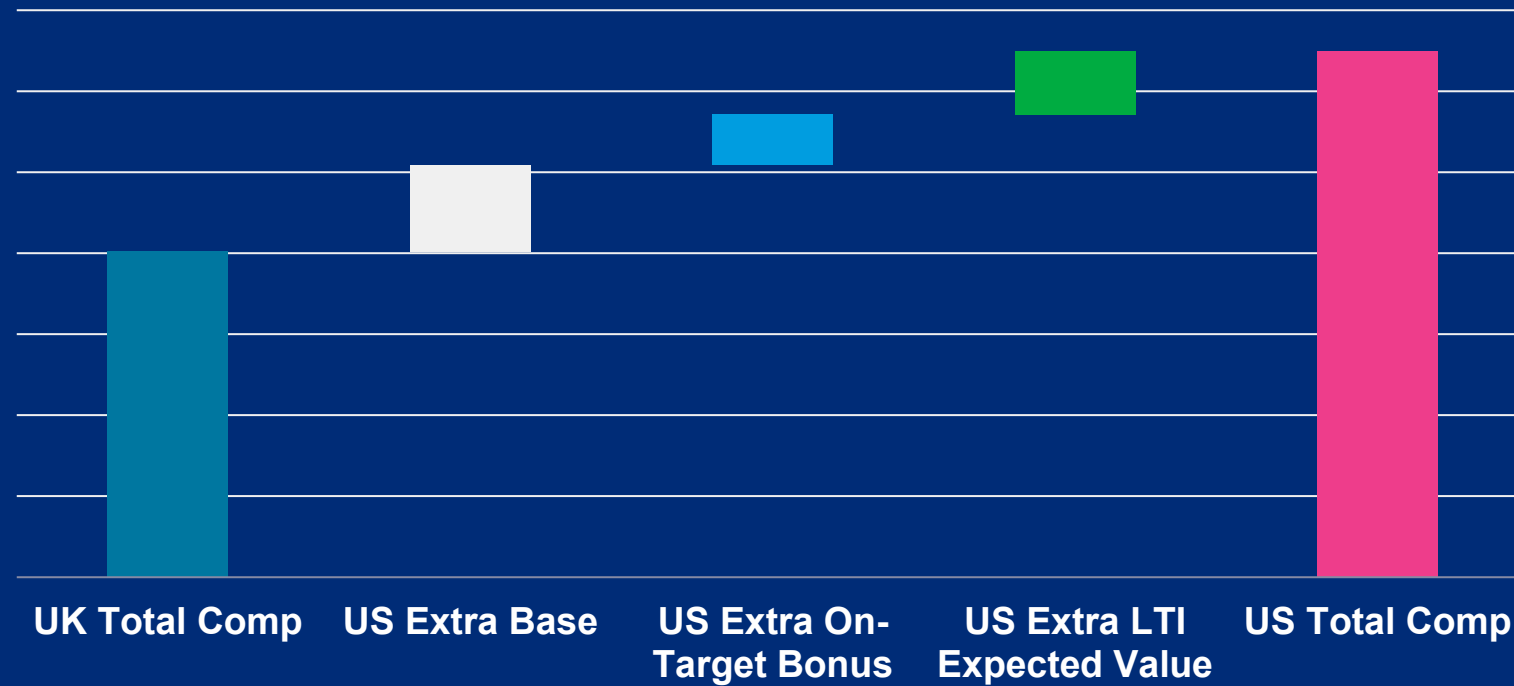
S&P 251-500

Data: Mercer analysis of annual report/proxy statement data (2023)

This is due to long-term Incentives



US total pay is also higher at CEO-2 but the difference is seen in all compensation elements



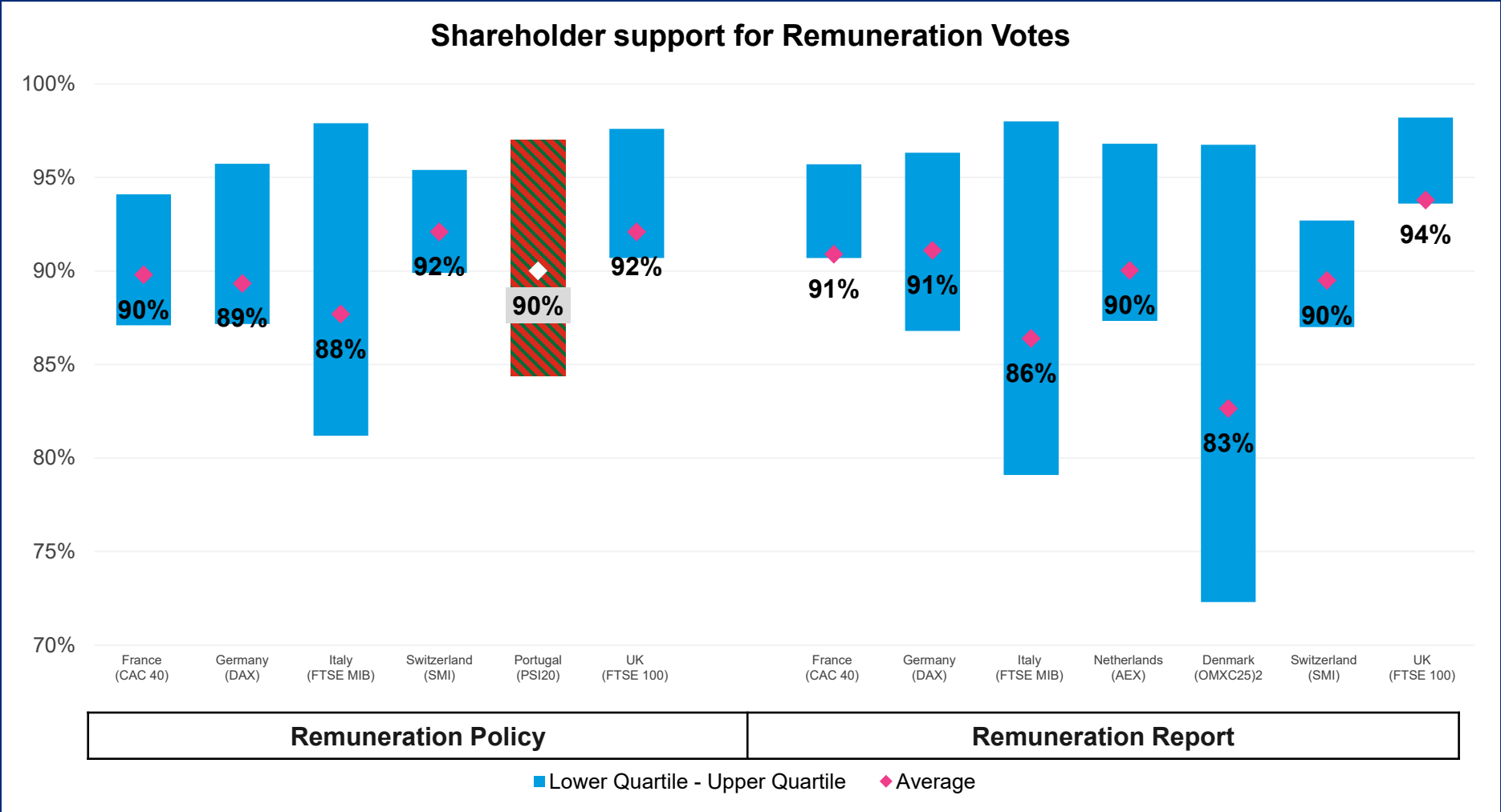
Data: Mercer surveys (2023)

2025 AGM Season



2025 AGM Season across Europe

Mostly benign but with a wider spread of outcomes this year compared to 2024



Lost / Low votes:

- No lost votes in France, Germany or Switzerland. However, Bayer and Carrefour once again had low levels of support.
- **Italy:** Prysmian' received 40.9% support for its remuneration report
- **UK:** Melrose received 34.4% support for its remuneration report.
- **Denmark:** Bavarian Nordic lost its vote.

Common Shareholder concerns

Most common voting issues		Causes of voting issues in 2025
Quantum	Significant salary increases	✓
	Increased incentive opportunities	✓
Pay-for-performance	Excessive discretionary bonuses	✓✓
	Poor pay for performance linked to high incentive outcomes	✓
	LTI pay-outs for below median relative TSR performance	✓
	Discretion applied	✓
Disclosure	Weak disclosure	✓✓
Local market specific	High pension (Germany)	✓
	ESG targets and disclosure (Italy)	✓
	Leaver treatment (UK)	✓

Different attitudes towards climate and broader sustainability initiatives in Europe and North America

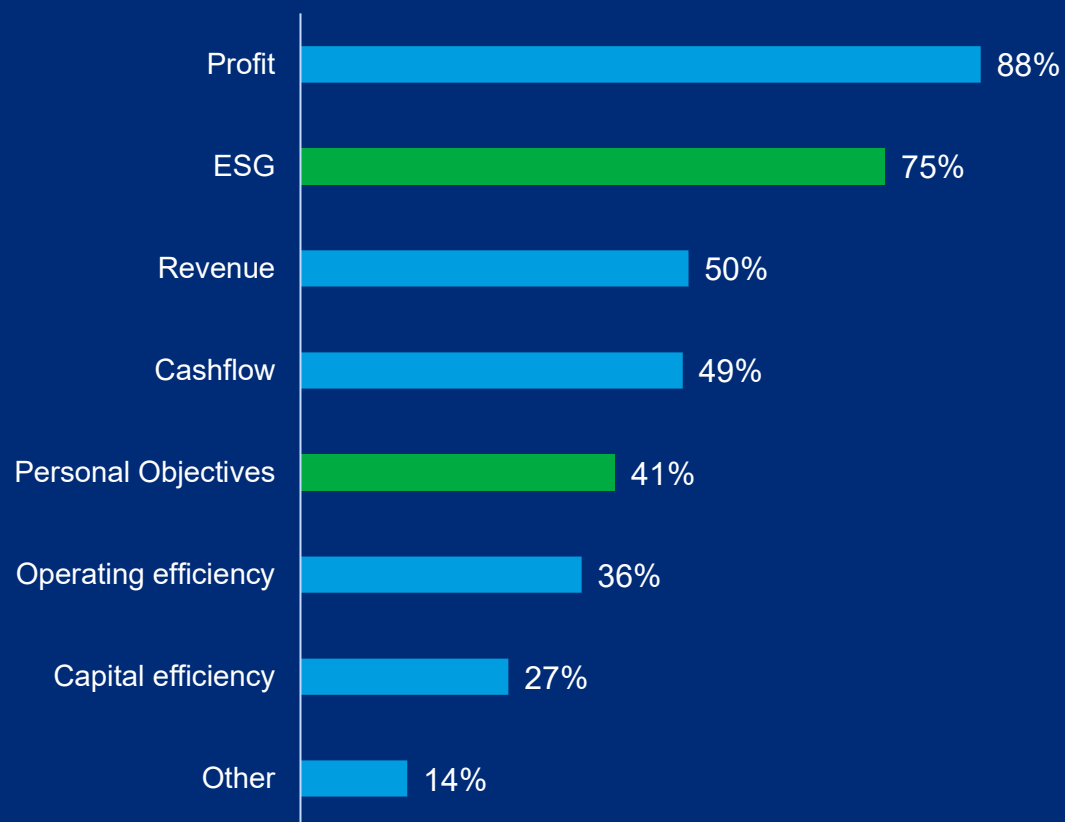


Emergence of ESG across Europe

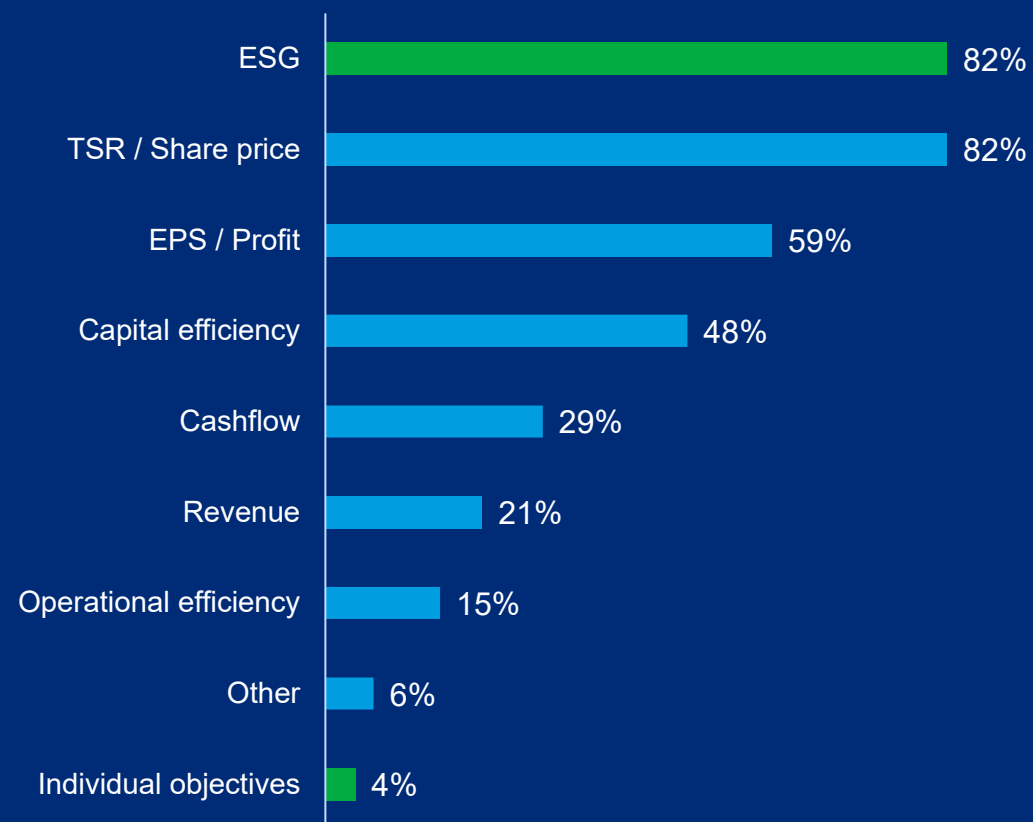
ESG is now the most or second most prevalent metric in variable incentives

Key
Financial Measure
Non-Financial Measure

Annual Bonus: Performance Measures
(prevalence as % of organisations)



LTIP: Performance Measures
(prevalence as % of organisations)



ESG in the US in retreat? (S&P500)



Overall ESG Observations

- Nearly **60%** of S&P 500 companies analyzed have incorporated an ESG metric in their pay program which is a decrease on last years



Metric Types

- DEI and Environmental Stewardship continue to be the two most prevalent categories of ESG metrics in incentive plans, but **DEI had the largest YoY decrease** of any ESG metric (49% - 31%)



Metrics in STI and LTI Plans

- ESG metrics are **usually used only in short-term incentive (STI) plans**; on average, more than 90% of ESG metrics are used only in STI plans



Metric Grouping

- Most companies **group ESG metrics** with other ESG metrics or financial or strategic metrics



Evaluation Methodology

- ESG metrics are measured both quantitatively and qualitatively. There was a **YoY increase in number of companies measuring ESG metrics qualitatively**

Strategies for operating effective incentives in an increasingly volatile geopolitical context



Peak volatility?



**When volatility rises, investors and boards start asking different questions:
Where is capital flowing? What models survive shocks? Who creates value in this environment?**

Design Tools for volatility

1 Adopt Relative Metrics

“How did I perform relative to my competitors?”

Use Case: Relative TSR,

2 Dynamic Targets

“How did I perform relative to market conditions?”

Use Cases: Pegged to commodity prices, Market Share

3 Averaging Periods

“How did I perform over a longer period of time?”

Use Case: Rolling Averages

4 Managed Float Bands

“What is the level of variance I can tolerate?”

Use Case: $\pm 5\%$ of FX Rate

5 Diversify Metrics

“What does performance mean to me?”

Use Case: Share price vs Profits

6 Gatekeeper Mechanism

“What do I need to achieve no matter what to get paid?”

Use Case: \$X of Profit need to be achieved before any payout

The Discretion Test - Where / When to Use it?



Accountability and Consistency

Discretion should not shield executives from consequences of operational mistakes or poor judgement. Consistency is needed between upside and downside volatility



Line of Sight

Adjust only when performance is distorted by factors outside management's control



Materiality

Do not adjust for minor variances; discretion should apply only to material deviations



Time Horizon

Avoid discretion for routine fluctuations, apply only when longer-term performance is at stake



Shareholder Alignment

Apply discretion only when it strengthens alignment with long-term shareholder value

