



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI SIENA**  
1240

**vision**  
CRAFTING THE FUTURE

**EU** EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE

# THE PONTIGNANO VISION SIXTH CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPE OF THE FUTURE TIME TO BE BOLD

## SOME HINTS FROM THE CONCEPT PAPER

**19 – 21 JUNE 2025**



**A POSSIBLE PROBLEM SETTING: WE MAY SIMPLY HAVE ENDED UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BIGGEST TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION OF ALL TIMES (AFTER HAVING BEEN ON THE WINNING SIDE OF THE PREVIOUS GREATEST)**



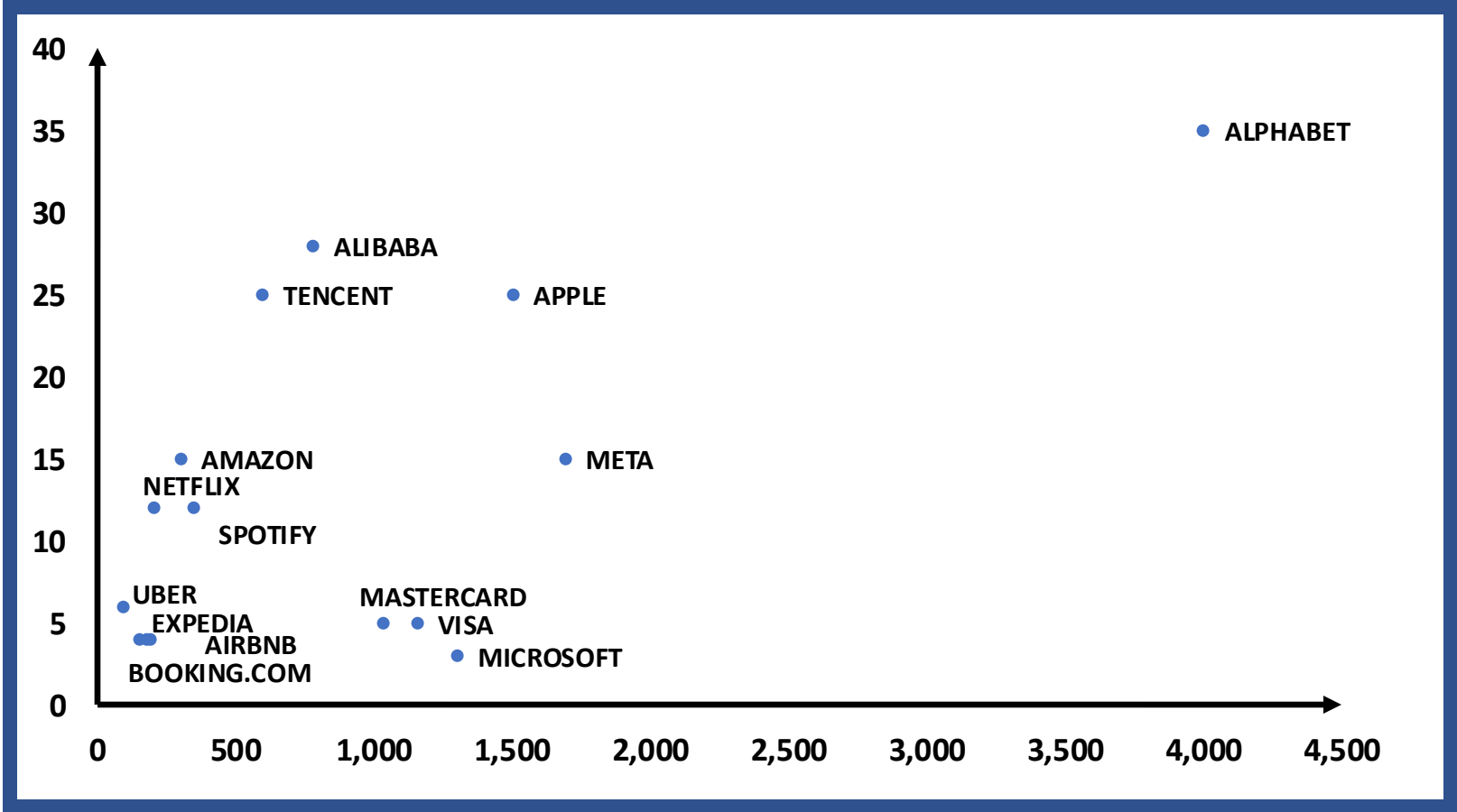
**1455 – GUTENBERG & SCHOFFER**

**1969 – V. CERF & R. KAHN**



AS WITH GUTENBERG, INFORMATION (AND THUS POWER) IS BEING REALLOCATED: EUROPE SEEMS TO BE LOSING BOTH OF THEM..

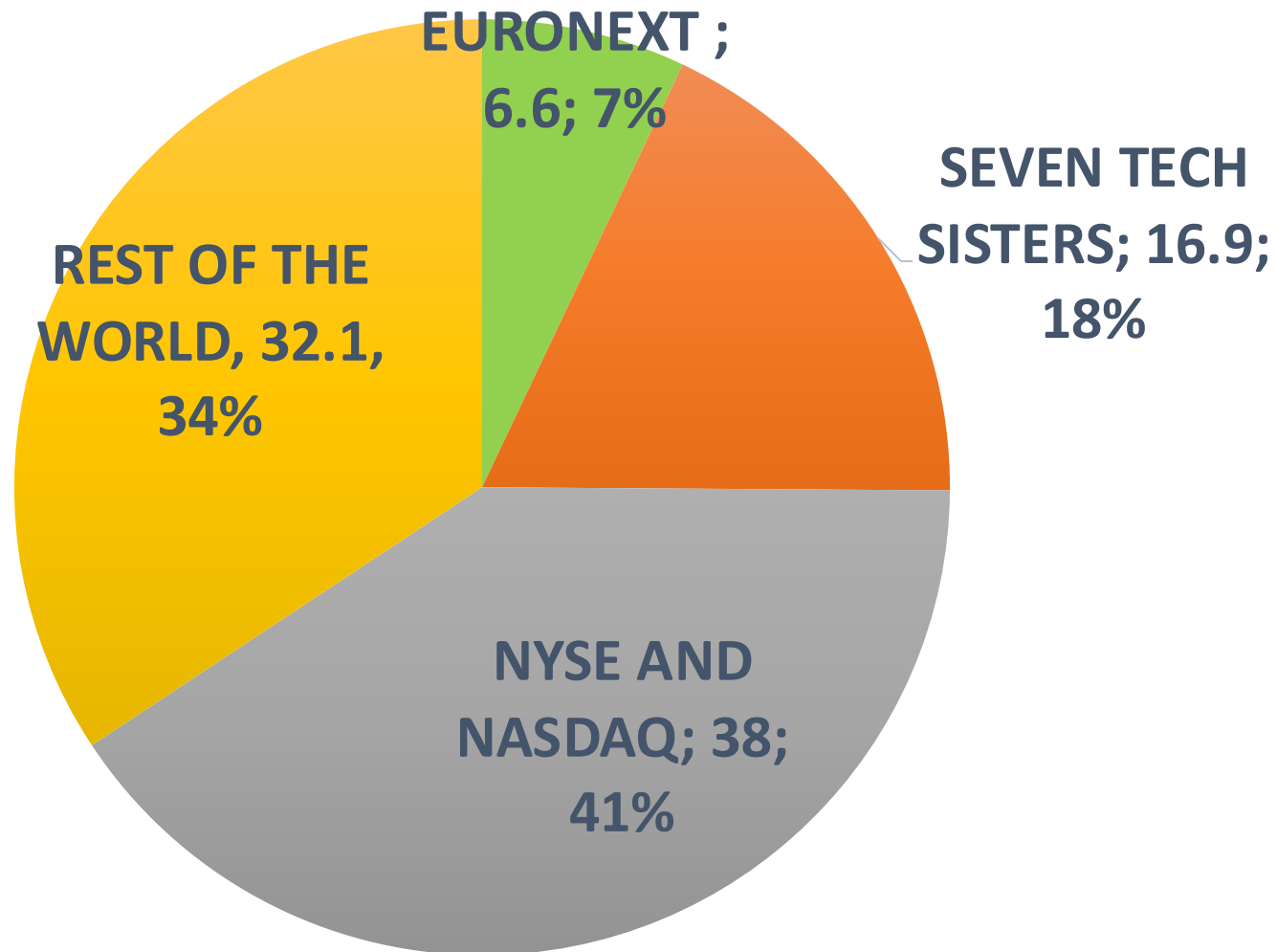
PLATFORMS (INTERNET AND NOT INTERNET NATIVE) PLATFORMS MEASURED BY ACCESS TO DATA ORIZONTAL AXIS: NUMBER OF USERS (IN BILLION); VERTICAL AXIS: INTENSITY/ VALUE OF DATA ACQUIRED (2022)\*



\*The vertical axis considers two elements: the first one is the intensity of the interaction (given by the number of interactions per time unit and the average duration; it is considered for Airbnb minimum; maximum for Alphabet Tencent); the second one is the type of data acquired and processed: it is considered whether the platform requests or not such information: a) contents produced by the user; b) profile information (date of birth, residence, study title, . . .); c) provision of public services (tax, health...); d) choice of products that do not involve financial transactions (e.g. choice of a movie in a Netflix catalogue covered by a subscription); e) choice of products that do not involve financial transactions (e.g. choice of a movie in a Netflix catalogue covered by a subscription). ); e) choice of products involving financial transactions (purchase on an e-commerce platform, e.g.); f) information on a financial transaction without details of the purchase made (which is what is processed by Visa and Mastercard); g) information on searches for products that are not chosen (searches on e-commerce platforms that do not convert or purchase; display of a banner); h) data on intellectual property covered by industrial secrecy or copyright .

# .. AS PER THE FINANCIAL MARKETS' SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY

GLOBAL MARKET CAPITALIZATION BY MAIN CONCENTRATIONS (%; TRILLION USD; 100% = 93 TN)



NOT ONE EU COMPANY  
AMONGST 20 LARGEST (10  
AMONGST TOP 100 ) NOVO  
NORDISK AND SAP LARGEST  
(25 AND 26)

NOT ONE OF THE EU TOP  
100 FOUNDED IN THE LAST  
50 YEARS  
ALL SEVEN TECH SISTERS  
ARE YOUNGER THAN 50

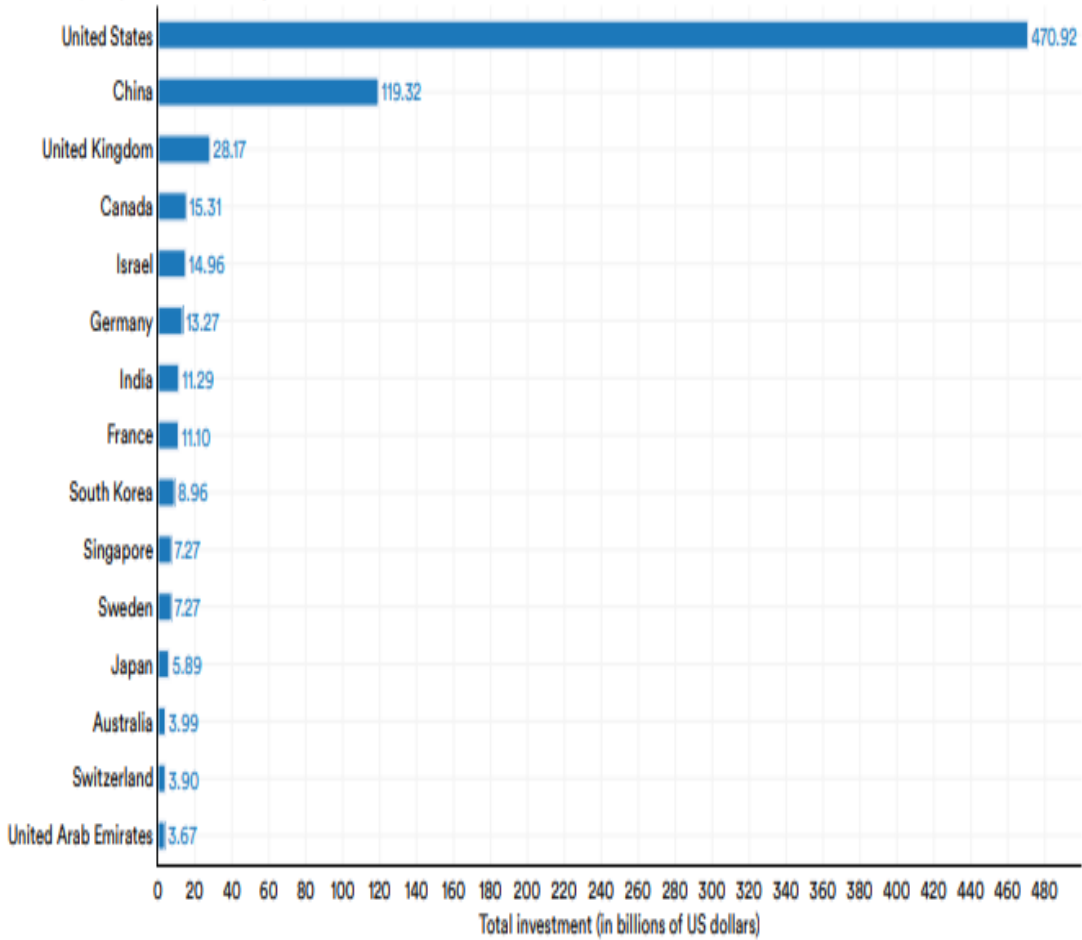
NUMBER OF LISTED  
COMPANIES:  
1.602 EURONEXT  
4.642 USA  
55.214 ROW

SOURCE: VISION ON MARKET CAP

# GAME OVER?

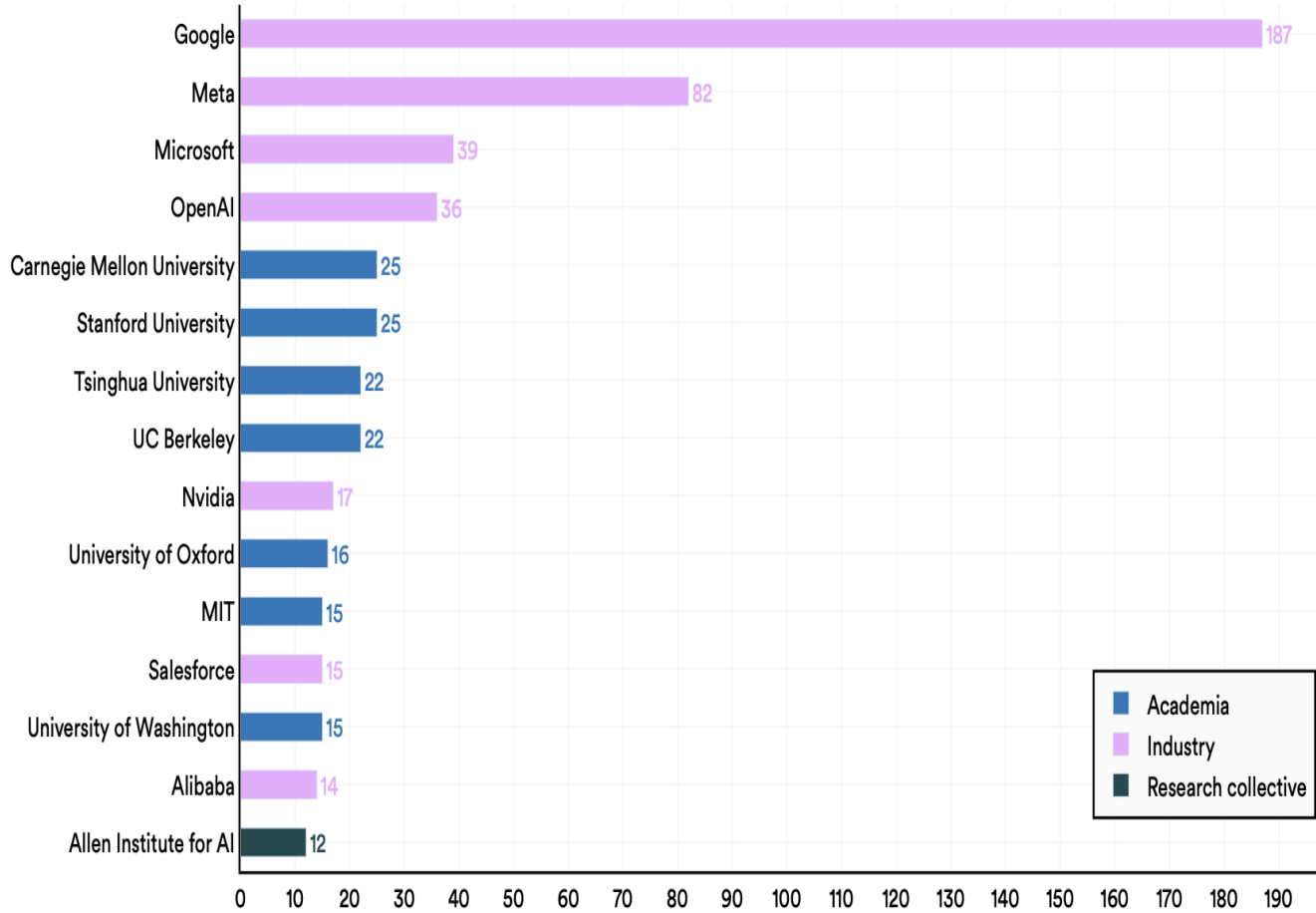
Global private investment in AI by geographic area, 2013-24 (sum)

Source: Quid, 2024 | Chart: 2025 AI Index report



Number of notable AI models by organization, 2014-24 (sum)

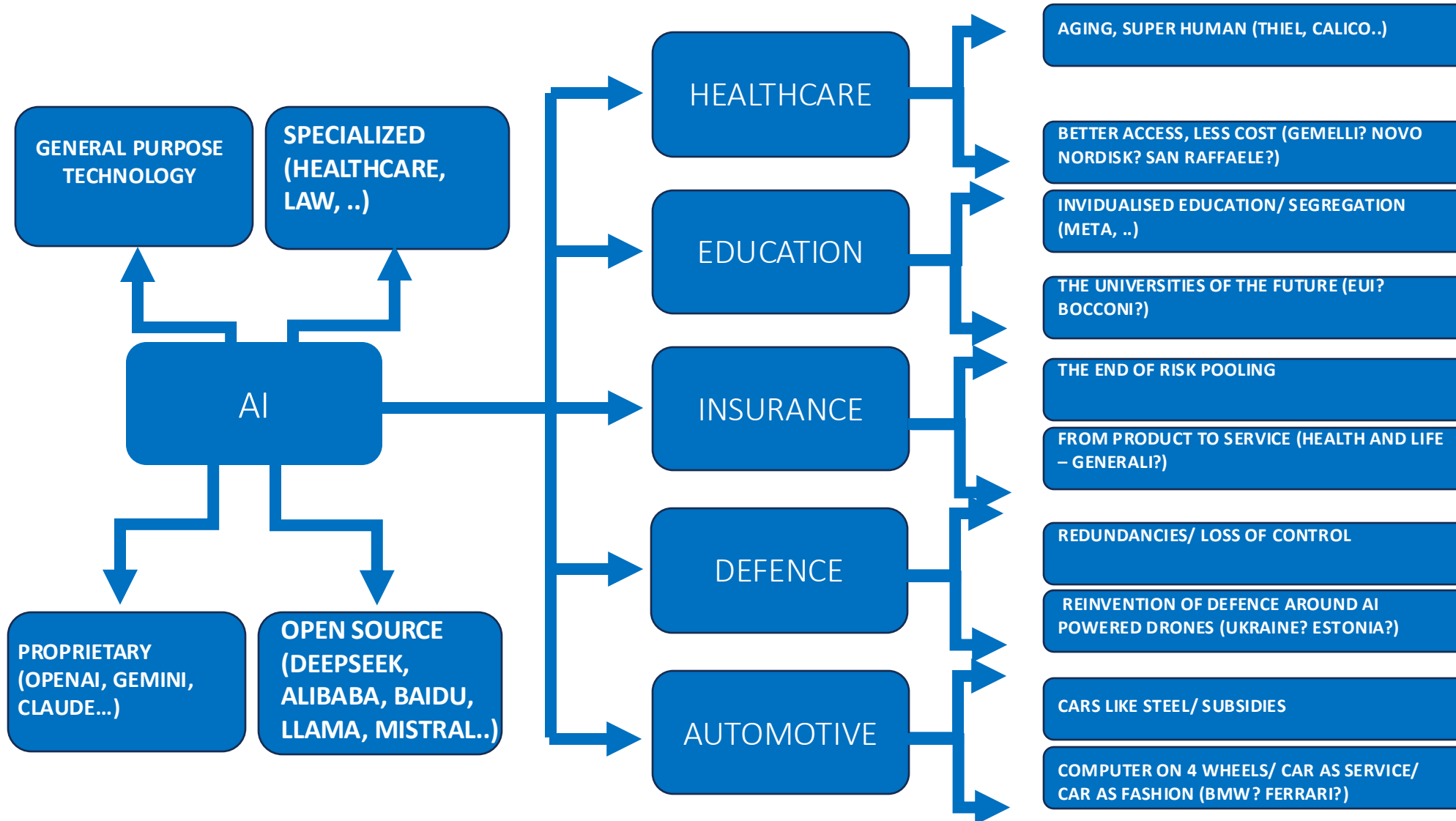
Source: Epoch AI, 2025 | Chart: 2025 AI Index report



SOURCE: STANFORD UNIVERSITY

# **.. NOT JUST. USE IT OR LOSE IT. NEVER MIND WHO IS BETTER AT DEVELOPING AI. WHAT MATTERS IS WHO IS FIRST TO HARNESS IT (THE ECONOMIST, 6/4/25)**

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR EUROPE AND FIVE PLUS ONE INDUSTRIES AT A STRATEGIC CROSSROAD**





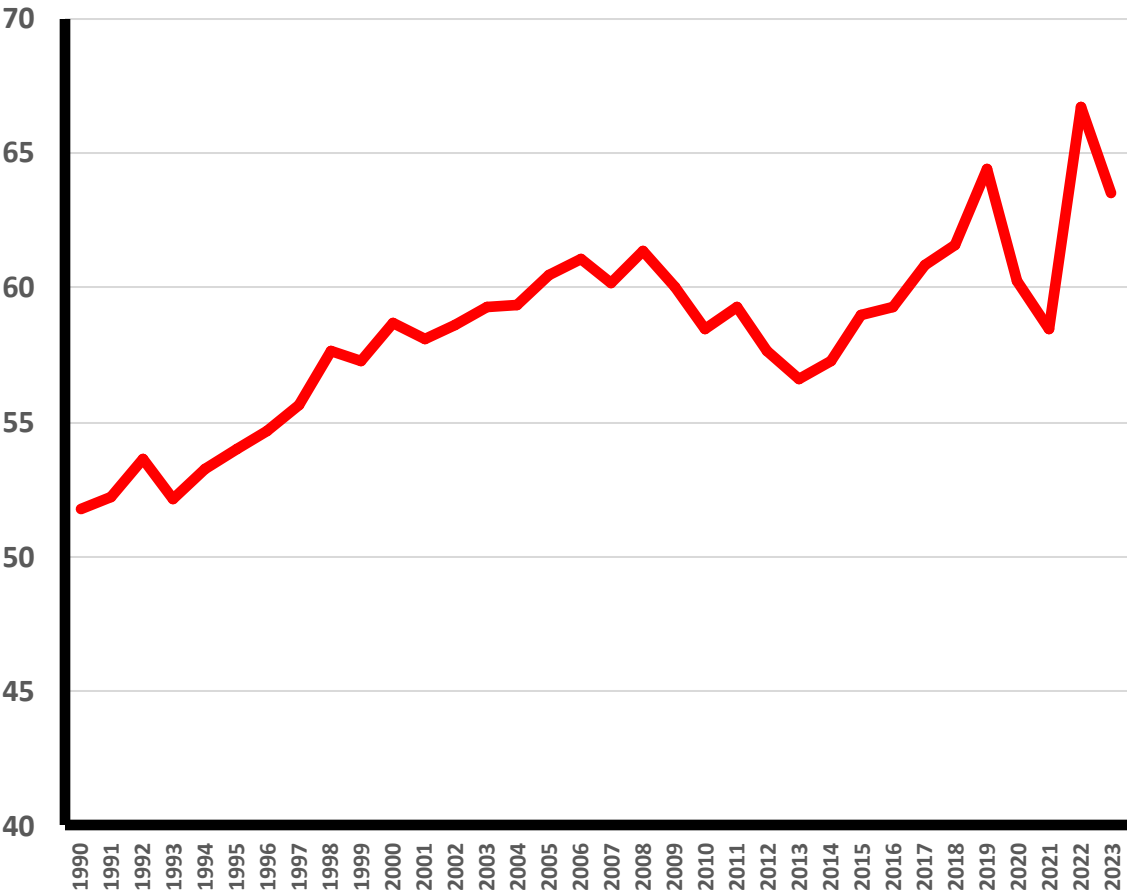
TECHNOLOGIES ARE NOT JUST ABOUT SOME DOSSIER CALLED «DIGITAL MARKETS». THEY TOTALLY CHANGE EVEN THE EQUATION FOR DOSSIERS LIKE DEFENSE AND GREEN DEAL

---

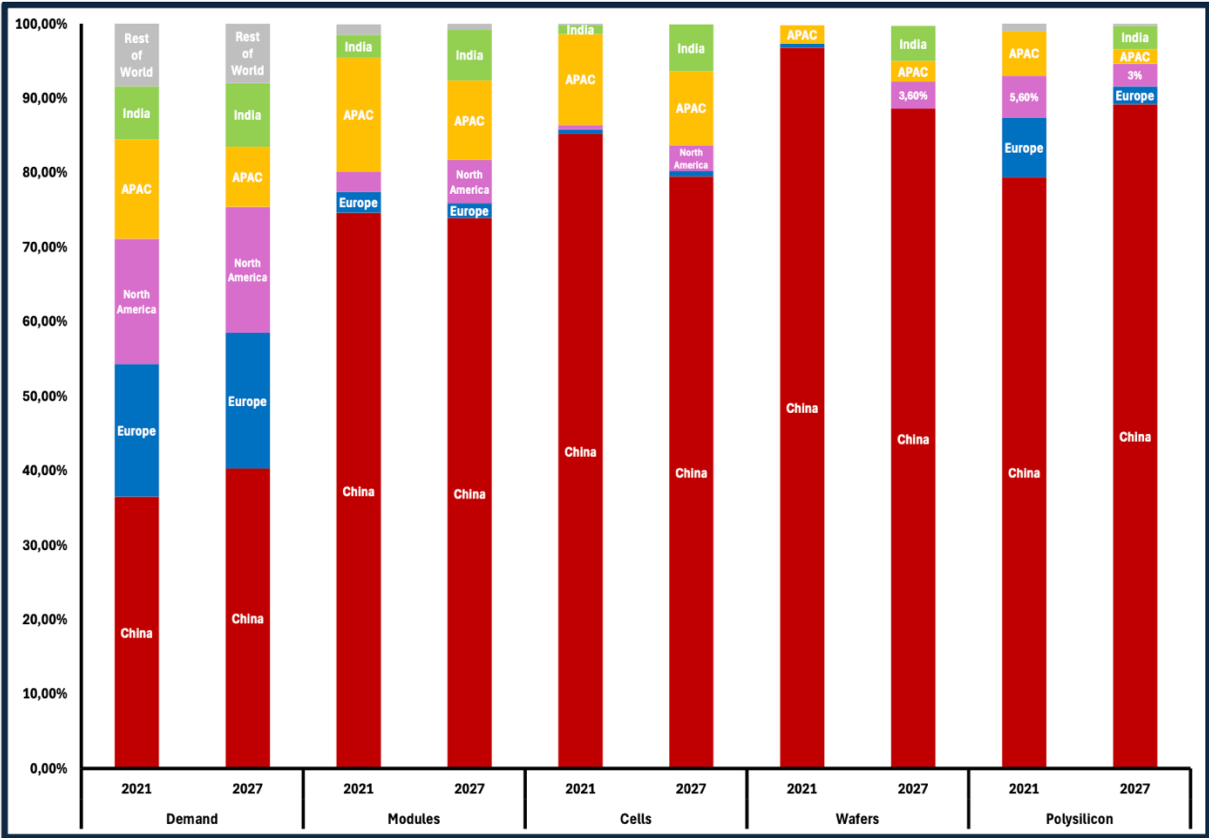


# STRATEGIC AUTONOMY? EUROPEAN OLD AND NEW VULNERABILITIES

NET ENERGY IMPORT ON TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (EU, %; 1990 – 2023)

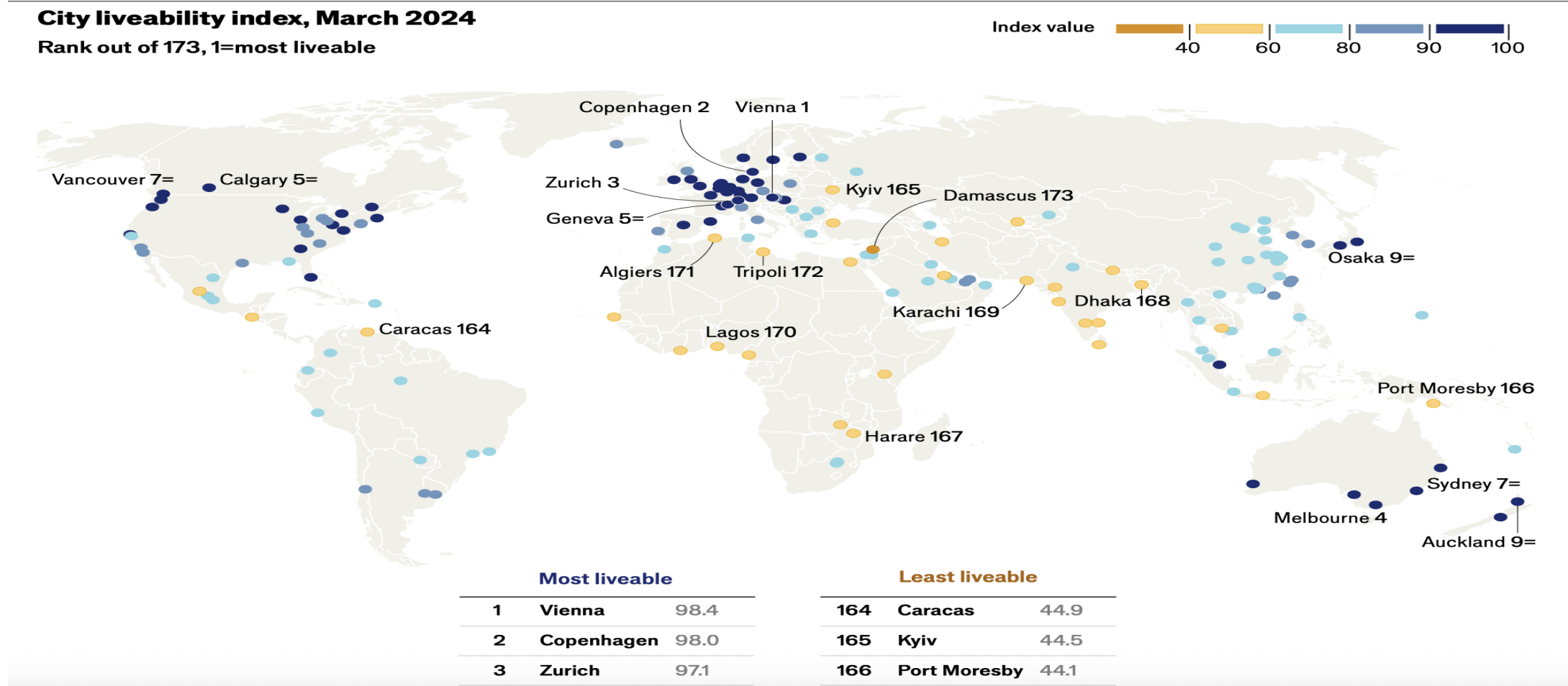


SHARE OF SOLAR ENERGY INVESTMENTS AND KEY TECHNOLOGIES PER MACRO REGIONS (%; 2021 – 2027)



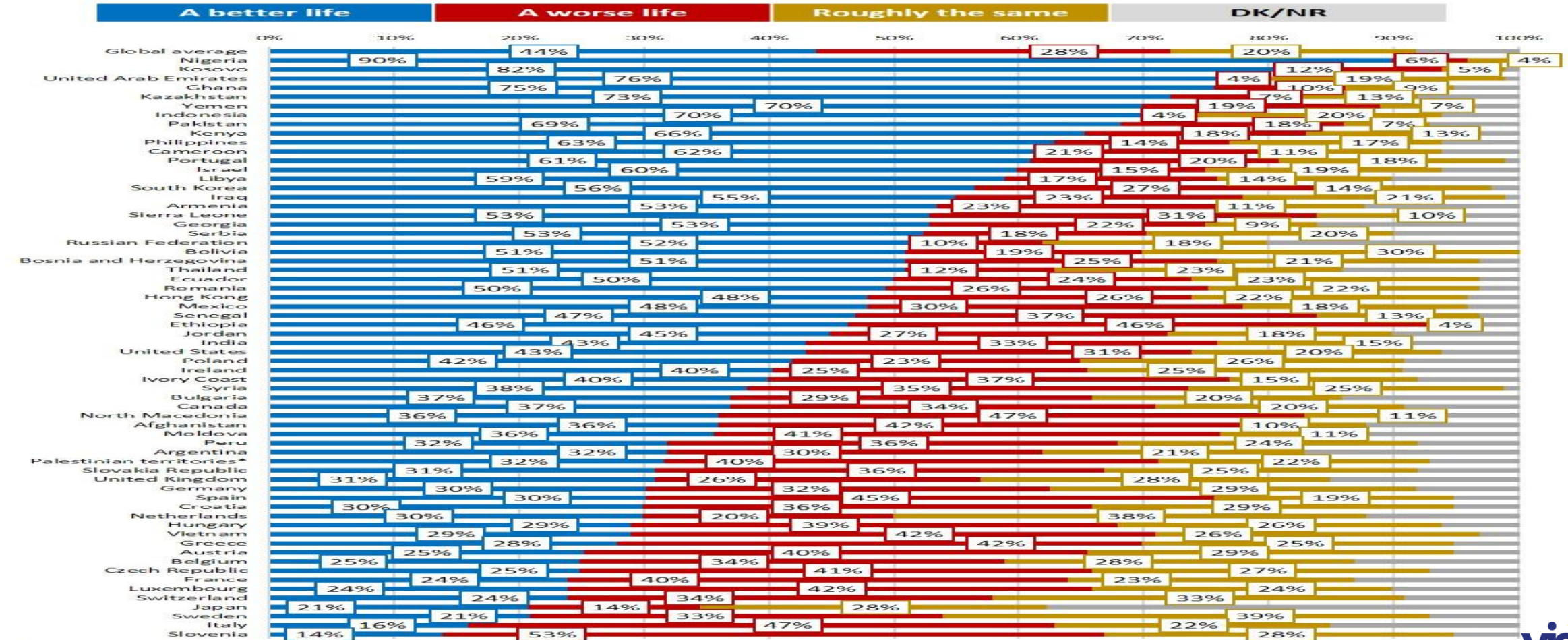


# “THE THING ABOUT EUROPE”: WE DO STILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE..



# .. AND YET IT LOOKS WE HAVE A PROBLEM OF TRUST (AND THUS COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT INTO THE FUTURE)..

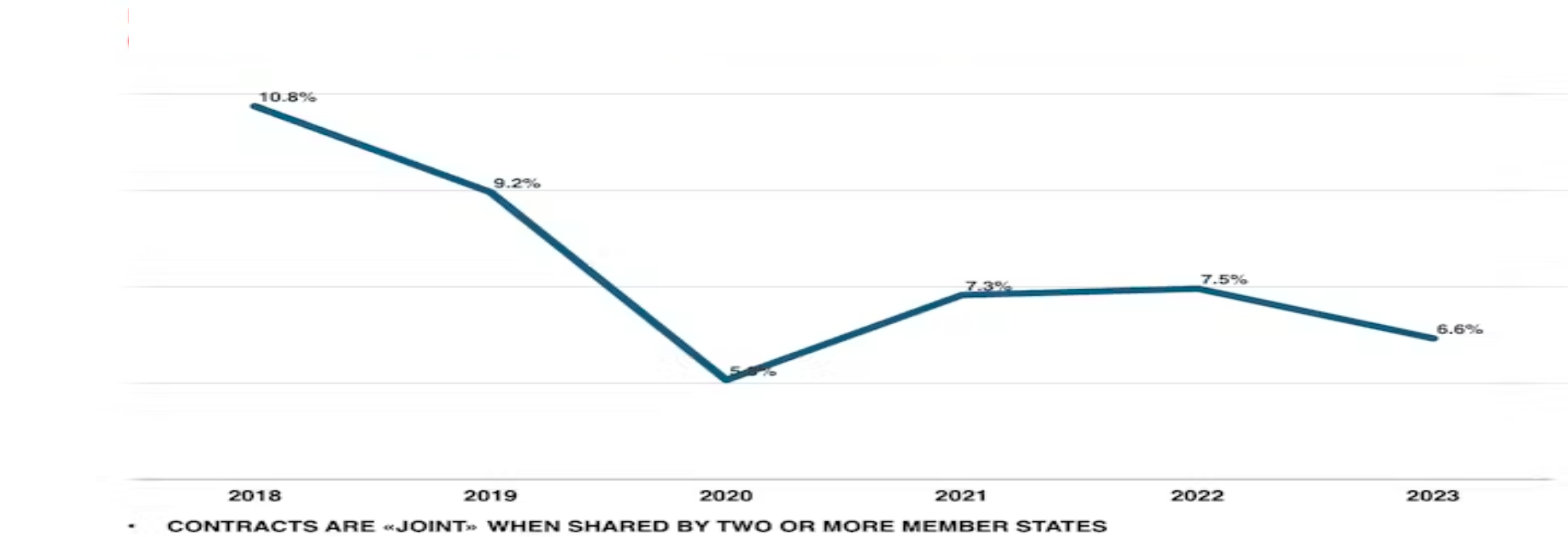
PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS TO THE QUESTION DO YOU THINK YOUR CHILDREN WILL LIVE A BETTER LIFE THAN YOU? (% , 2022)



\* West Bank and Gaza  
Minor deviations due to rounding are possible

**.. WE SEEM TO HAVE A STRUCTURAL PROBLEM IN «WALKING THE TALK» (AND USING COMMON SENSE INTO DECISIONS)..**

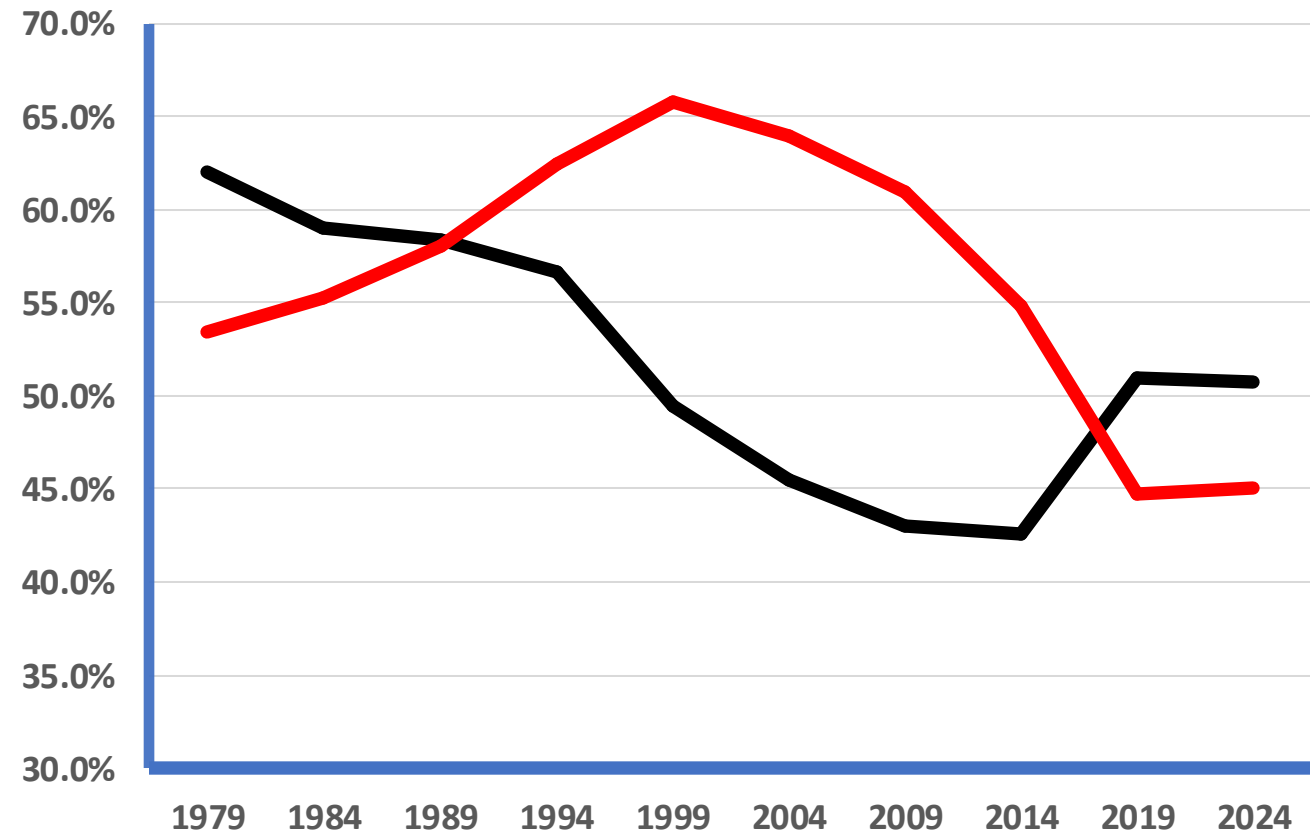
**PERCENTAGE OF EU 27 MEMBER STATES' EXPENDITURE ON RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY VIA JOINT\* CONTRACTS (EU, %, 2018 – 2023)**



**SOURCE: VISION ON EDA DATA**

# .. IN AN INCREASINGLY VOLATILE INTERNAL POLITICAL CONTEXT

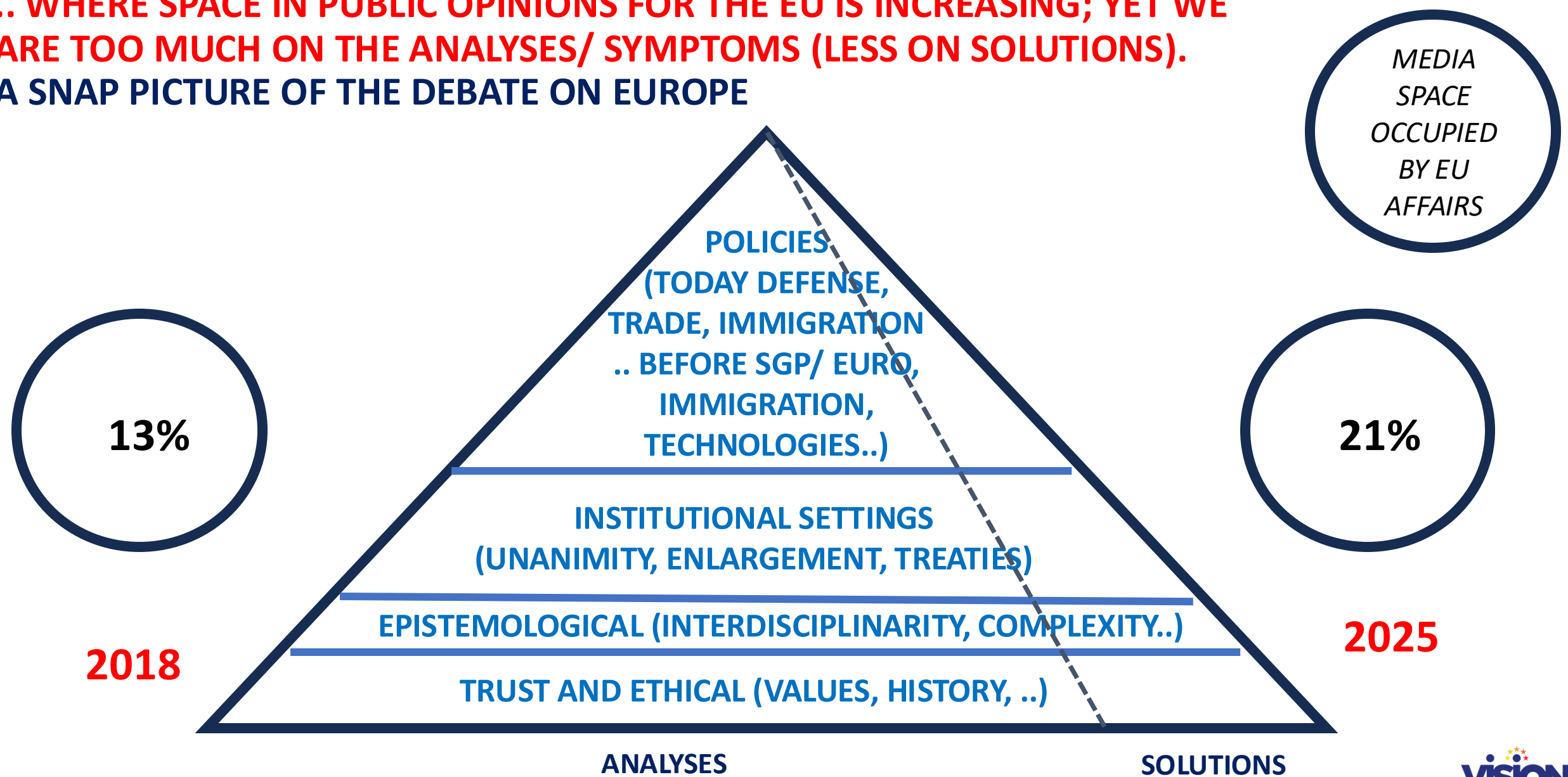
Turn out and share of voters for two largest European Parties (EPP and S&D), 1979 – 2024



SOURCE: VISION ON EP DATA



**.. WHERE SPACE IN PUBLIC OPINIONS FOR THE EU IS INCREASING; YET WE ARE TOO MUCH ON THE ANALYSES/ SYMPTOMS (LESS ON SOLUTIONS).  
A SNAP PICTURE OF THE DEBATE ON EUROPE**



# A POSSIBLE PRAGMATIC VISION ON HOW TO TURN THE NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL CREATURE INTO THE FIRST 21 ST CENTURY INSTITUTION

**FROM THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE/ FOREVER IN LOVE/ FEDERALIST DREAM/ GREATEST POLITICAL SUCCESS STORY OF THE 20 TH CENTURY)...**

**EVER LARGER AND DEEPER; FROM THE TOP (THE DELORS' BET); WITH NO PREDEFINED EXIT CLAUSE (BEFORE ART. 50).**

**THIS MAY RESULT INTO FREE RIDING; NOT ENOUGH QUICK COHERENT DECISIONS/ SUBOPTIMAL INTEGRATIONS; CHEATING; POSSIBLY CITIZENS DISENGAGEMENT)**

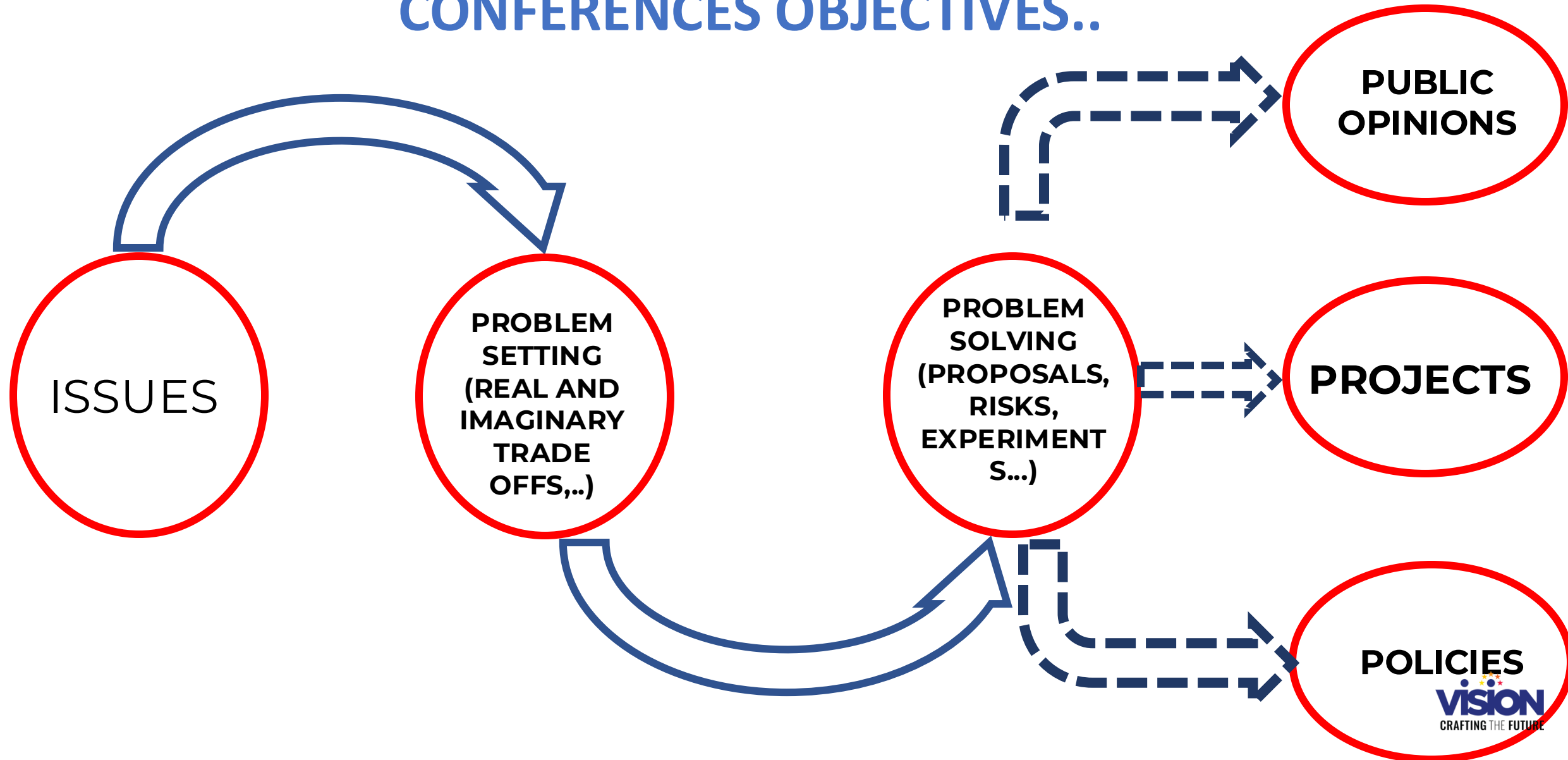


**.. TO A MORE FLEXIBLE/ «PRAGMATIC UNION» OF THE EUROPEAN (?) UNIONS FOR THE 21 ST ONE.**

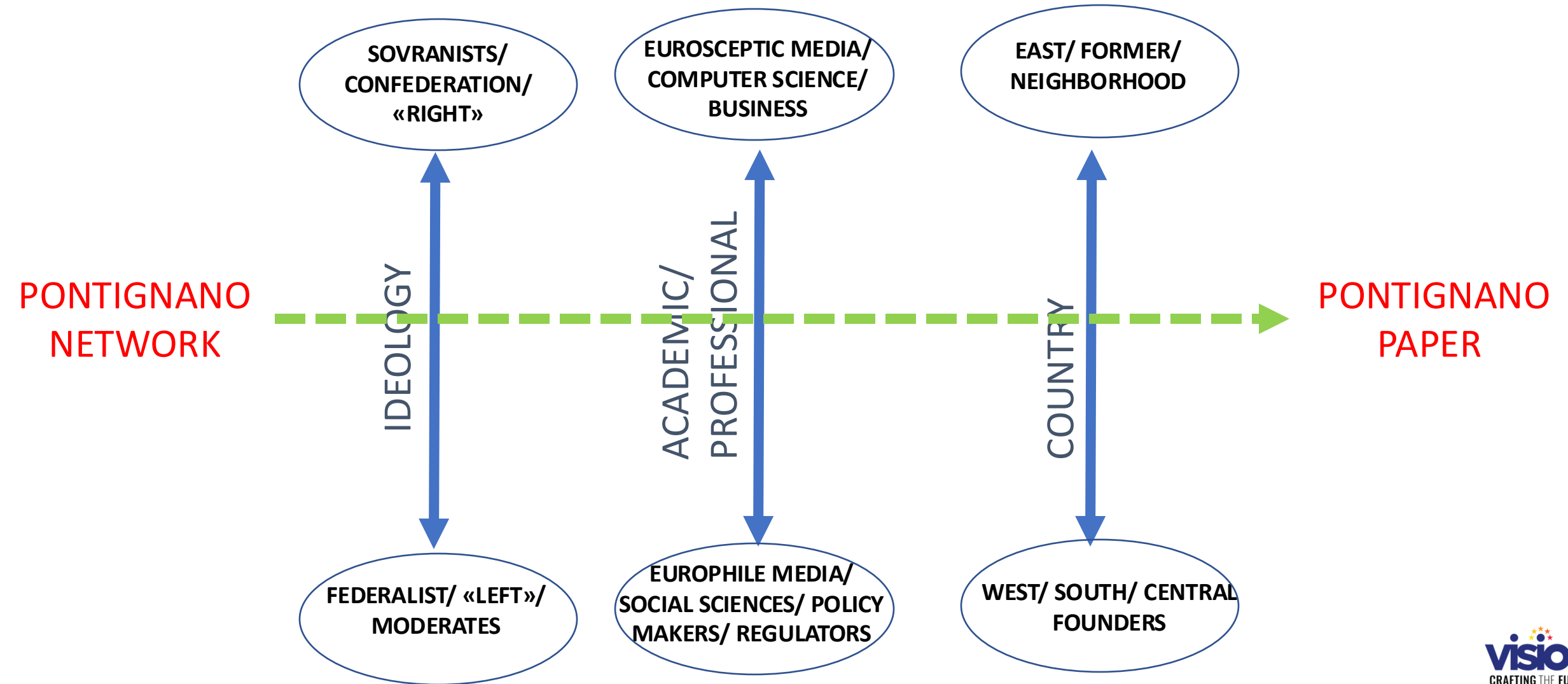
**SUBSET OF COUNTRIES PER POLICY (LIKE SCHENGEN BUT FULL) AND NOT NECESSARILY BY INNER CIRCLES; TRANSPARENT AND SOMEHOW BACKED BY PEOPLE; WITH PRE-DEFINED DIVORCE CLAUSES; INTRA POLICIES SETTLEMENT MECHANISMS**



# THE VISION (SIENA AND ALSO CLIMATE) CONFERENCES OBJECTIVES..

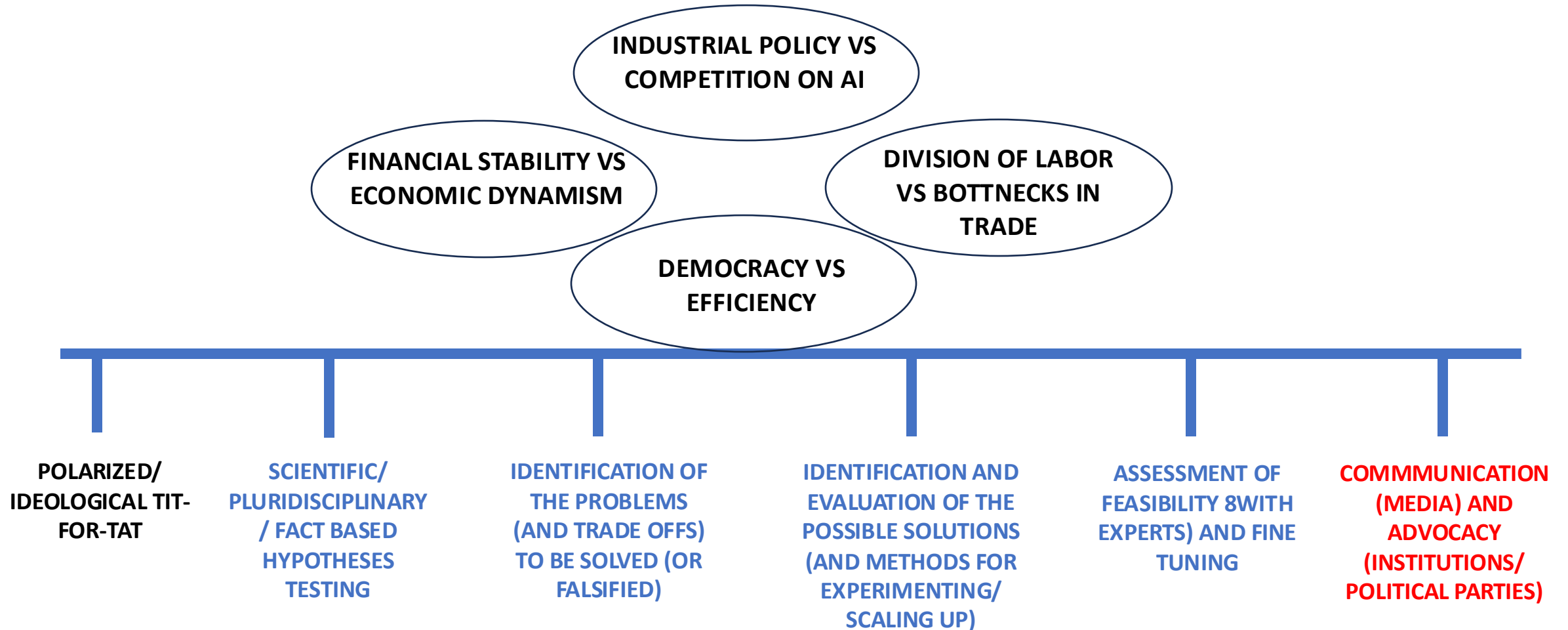


# .. THE APPROACH..





## .. THE PROCESS AND 2025 PSSG





**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI SIENA**  
1240

**vision**  
CRAFTING THE FUTURE

**EU**  
EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE

# **THE PONTIGNANO VISION SIXTH CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPE OF THE FUTURE TIME TO BE BOLD**

## **... AND NOW BACK TO SOLVING THE PROBLEMS**

**19 – 21 JUNE 2025**