

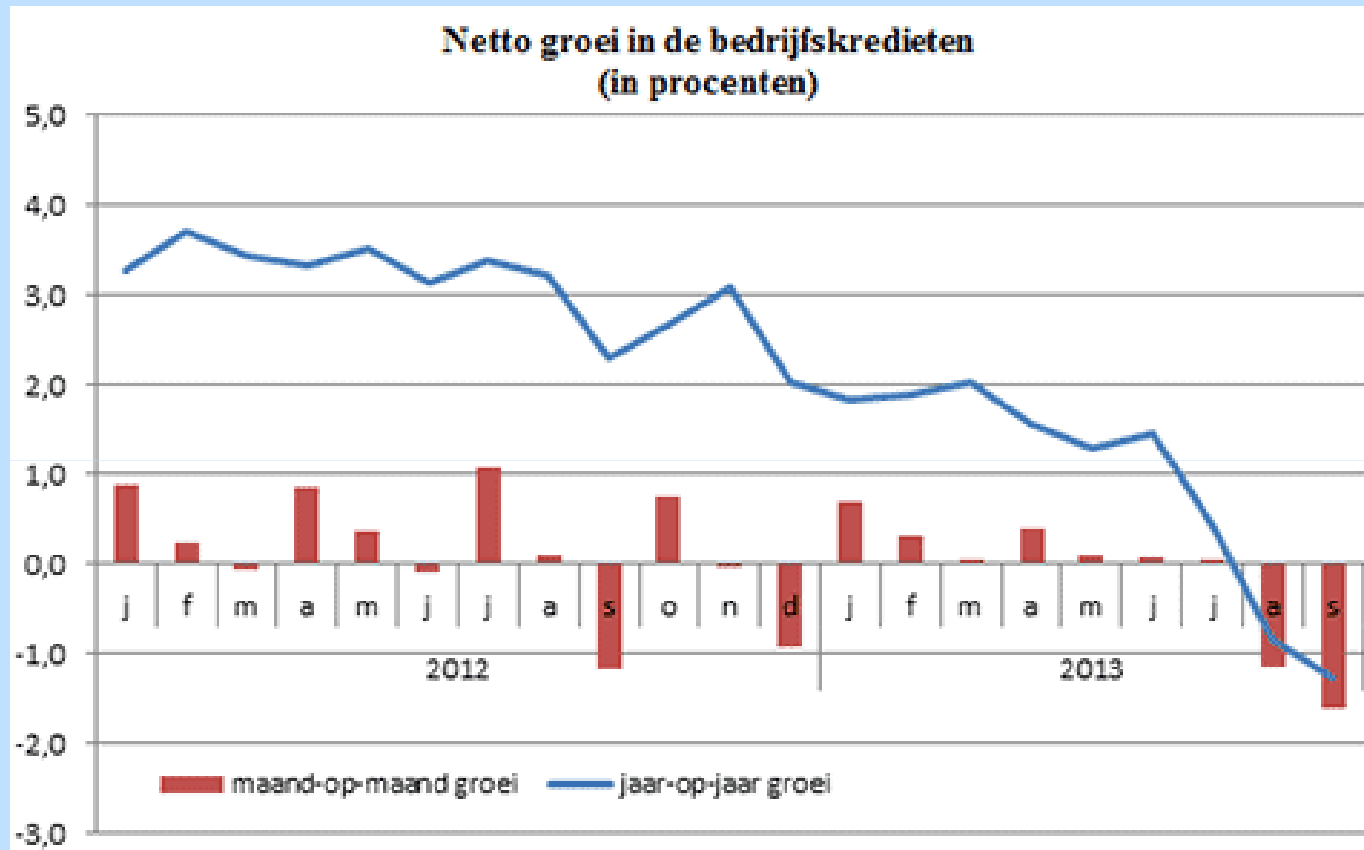
SME Finance: Recent evidence

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- Loans to companies by Dutch banks:
 - September EUR 6 billion decrease w.r.t. August 2013!
On a total of EUR 345 billion (maturity most of the loans < 1 year)

Developments in Europe

- Common trends in all countries:
 - Demand for finance rises
 - Supply of finance decreases
- European committee, December 2011:
 - *“One of the key priorities set out in Europe 2020, the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade, as well as in the Commission's Single Market Act and the Small Business Act 3, is to facilitate access to finance for SMEs. The Annual Growth Survey has underlined the crucial role of a healthy financial system to support growth and set out priorities for action in the short-term perspective. [...] In this context the reform programme for financial services, implemented as a response to the financial crisis, can bring about regulatory benefits to SMEs. In addition, the Commission is proposing to release new targeted funding at EU level to address the key market failures that limit the growth of SMEs.[...]”*

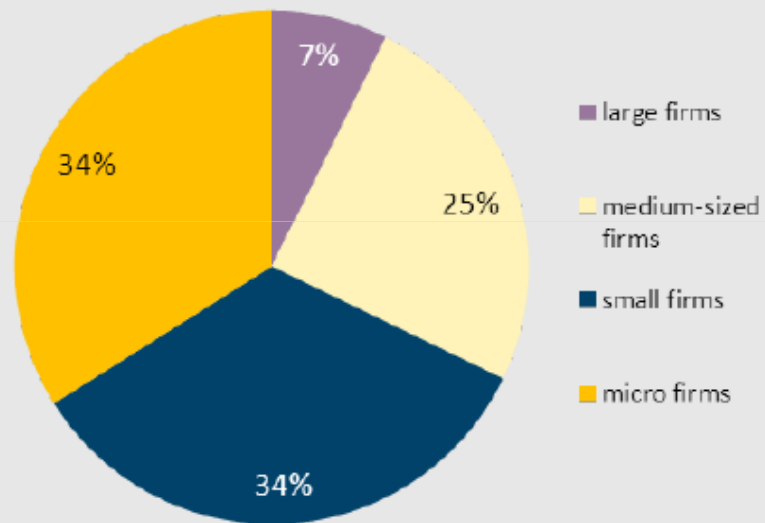
ECB Survey (2012): Sample size and design

- Sample: more than 8,500 firms of different sizes in the EU, of which **5,000** firms in the euro area in 2009
- **10% large firms**; the rest equally divided among micro (<10), small (10-49) and medium (50-249)
- **Representative:**
 - for each of the largest countries (Germany, France, Italy and Spain);
 - for industry, construction, trade and services
 - by firm size categories (4)

ECB Survey (2012)

Chart A.1

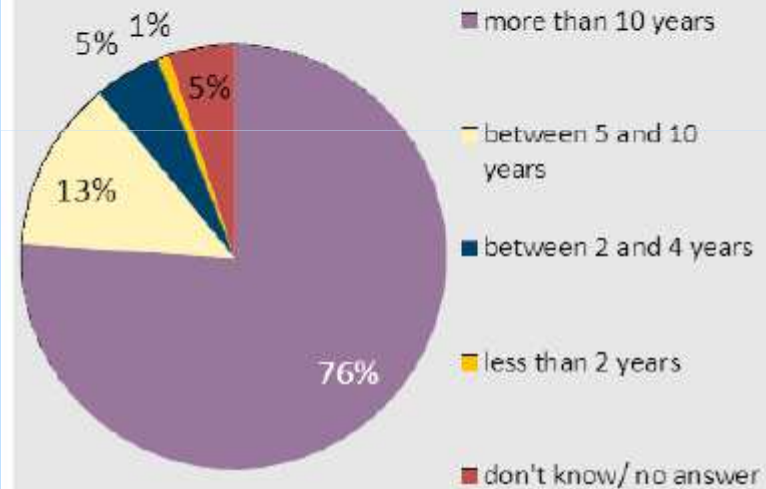
BREAKDOWN OF FIRMS INTO SIZE CLASSES



Sample size: 7,510

Chart A.4

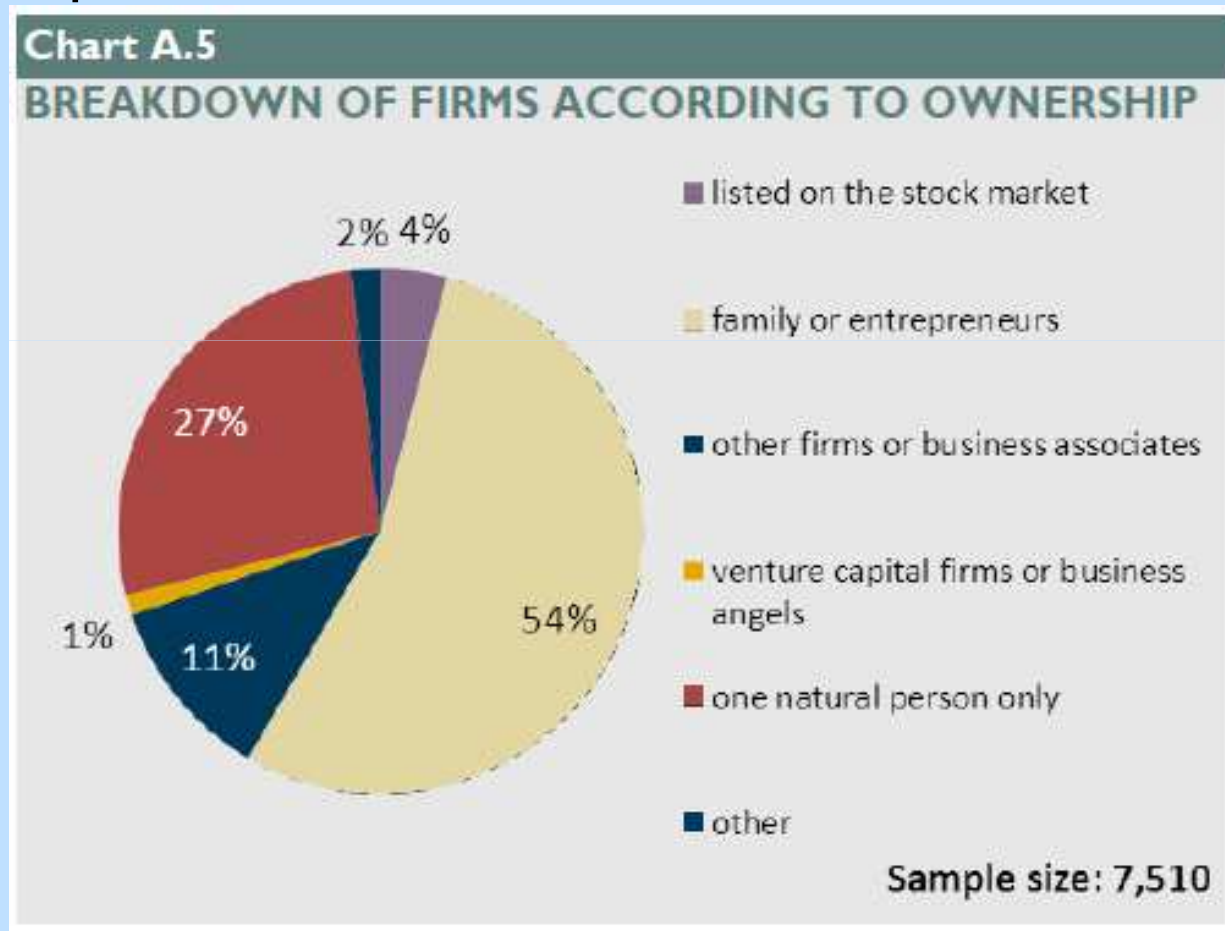
BREAKDOWN OF FIRMS BY FIRM AGE



Sample size: 7,510

ECB Survey (2012)

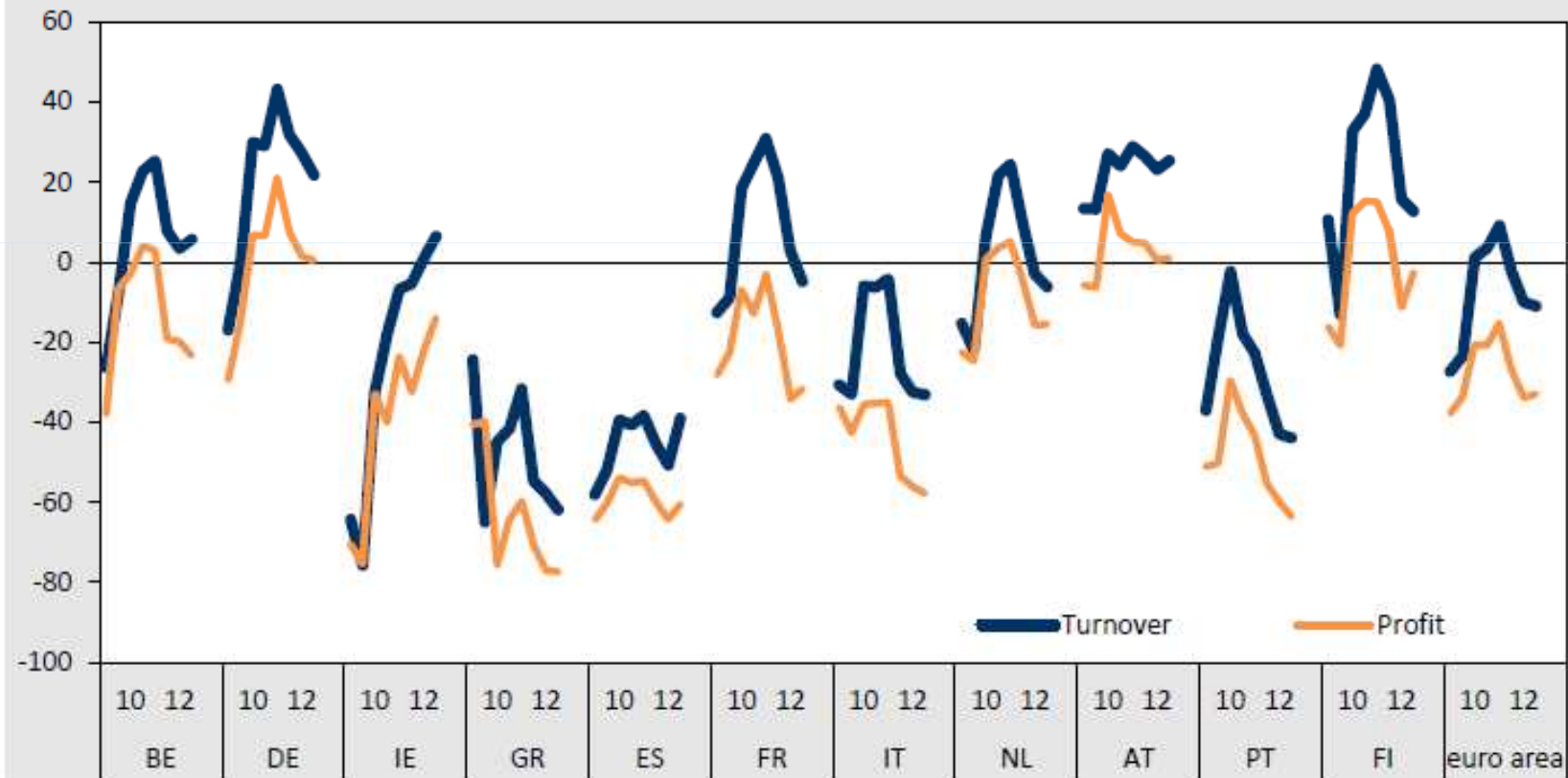
- Ownership structure



Turnover and profit 2010-2012

Chart 2

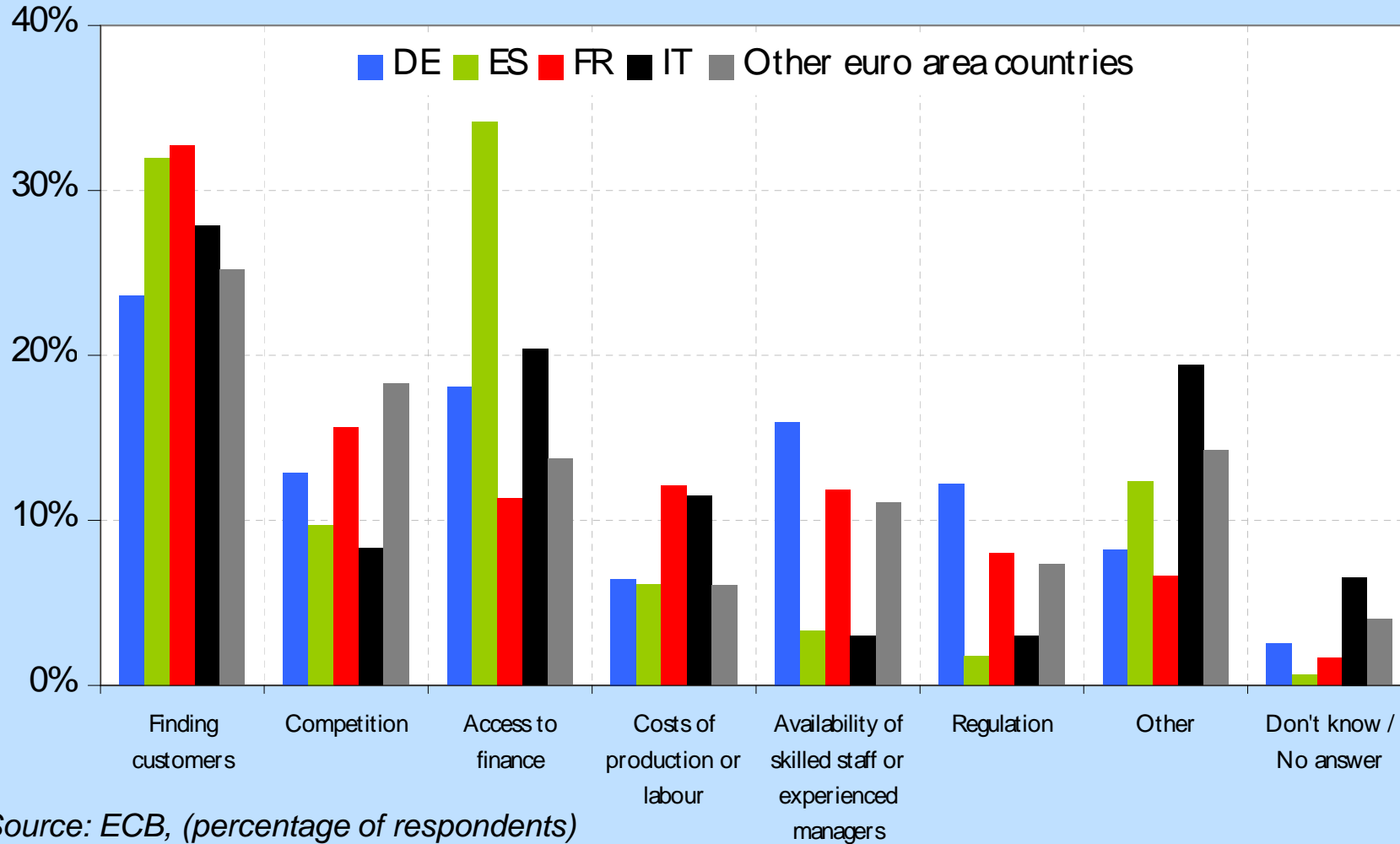
CHANGE IN TURNOVER AND PROFIT OF SMEs ACROSS EURO AREA COUNTRIES
(over the preceding six months; net percentage of respondents)



Base: All SMEs.

SMEs' most pressing problems (2009)

2009H2



Source: ECB, (percentage of respondents)

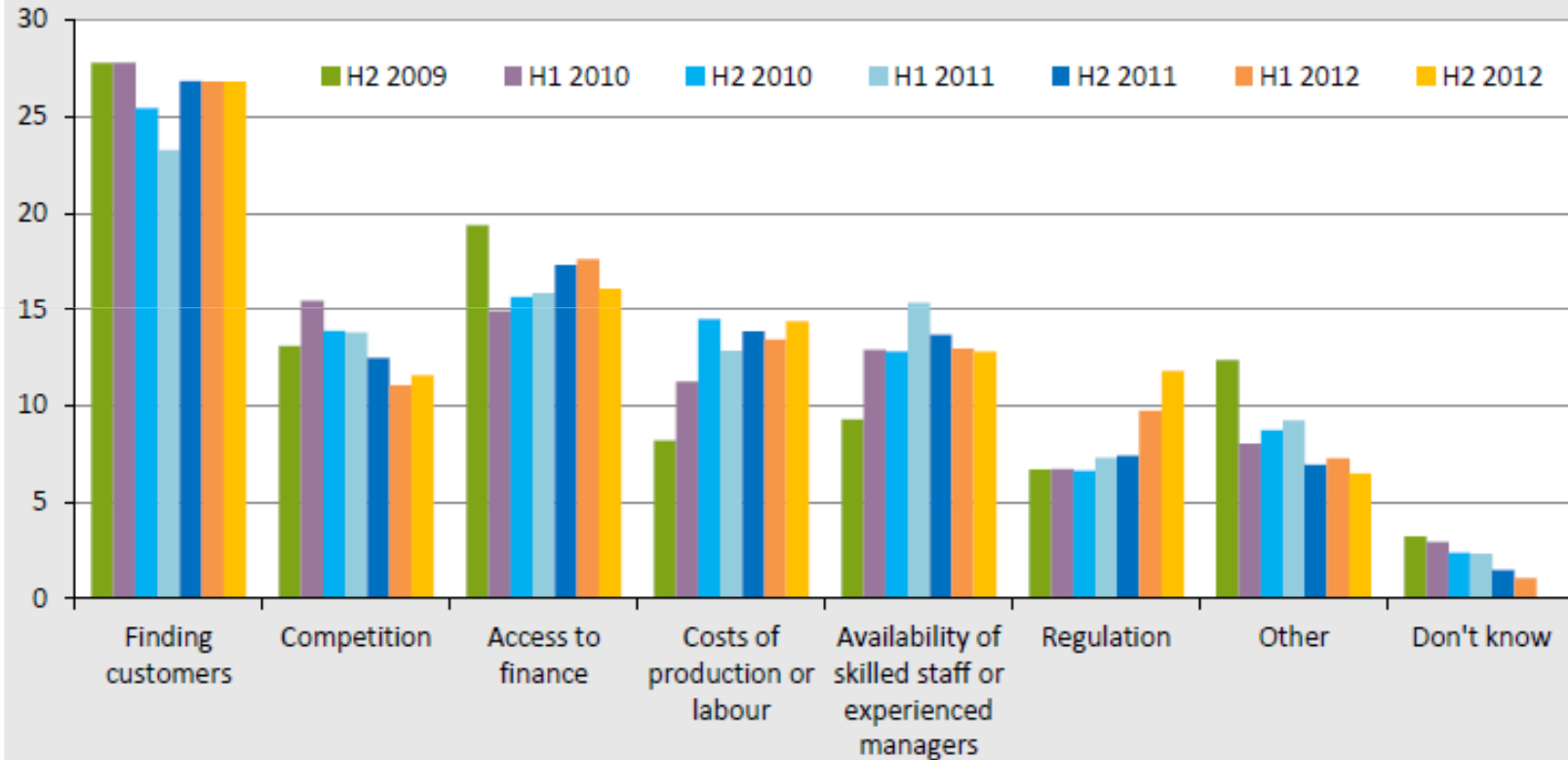
December 2013

Up to 2012...

Chart 2a

THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS FACED BY EURO AREA SMEs

(percentage of respondents)



Base: All SMEs.

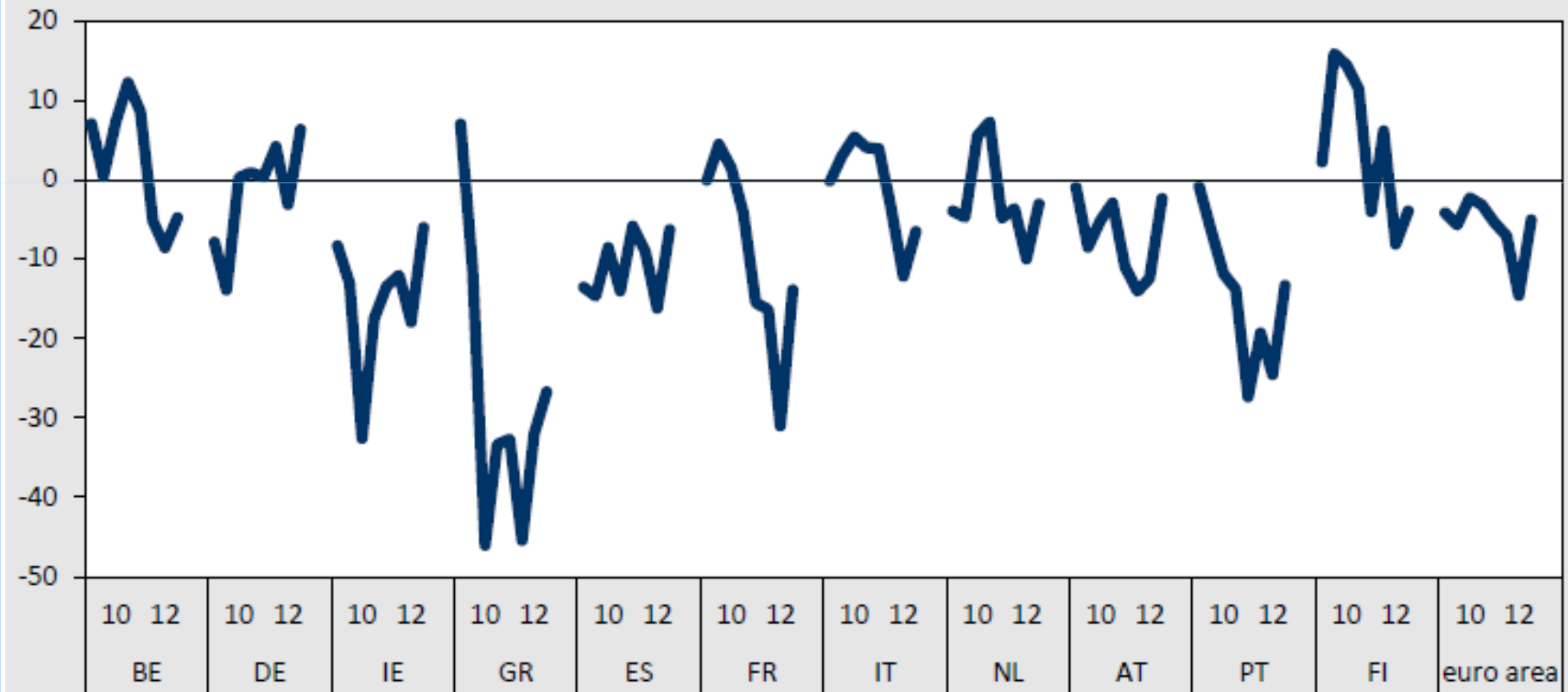
Note: The results for H1 2009 are not comparable and therefore not shown.

And how's the outlook?

Chart 19

SMES' EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF BANK LOANS ACROSS EURO AREA COUNTRIES

(over the preceding six months; net percentages of respondents)



Base: All SMEs that applied for a bank loan.

Conclusions

- 2009 – 2012 Survey results confirm the timid revival of economic activity with clear signs of improvements for large firms but less favourable situation for SMEs (turnover, profitability).
- SMEs indicated a slightly more intense use of external sources of finance (overdrafts, credit lines and bank loans).
- A less severe deterioration in the availability of external financing and a mild increase in financing needs for SMEs → in aggregated terms the gap between needs and availability of bank loans has decreased.
- High heterogeneity across countries (e.g. Germany versus Spain).