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“Informal networks and the role of associations in integrating youth of Capeverdean and Angolan origins in the labour market in Portugal”

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Informal networks and labour market in transnational migratorities contexts

- Project “Cape Verde around the World”
- Project “Moving Angola”

Objective

- To present data on the role of migrants associations in trust and solidarity building, within networks aiming at providing access to the labour market to young people of Capeverdean and Angolan origins.

About data collection

Methodology (1)

- ❑ Qualitative interviews with leaders of migrants associations in Great Lisbon
- ❑ Adaptation of the *Integrated Questionnaire for the measurement of Social Capital (SC-IQ)* (Grootaert et al, 2003) to the migratory Portuguese context
- ❑ Administering surveys in two different communities of African immigrants

About data collection

Methodology (2)

- To whom?
 - 200 Young people (18-30 years) of cape-Verdean origin
 - 200 Young people of Angolan origin living in Portugal (Great Lisbon)

- HOW?
 - Respondents fill out the survey in the presence of the inquirers

- WHERE?
 - Migrants Associations
 - African University Students Associations and Highschools
 - Field Associations in immigrant neighbourhoods
 - Angolan and Capeverdean Embassies in Lisbon

Number of Questionnaires by place of collection: Young people of Angolan origin

Local	Unidades	Percentagem
Amigos	3	1,5
ARACODI	4	2
Casal do Marco	5	2,5
Emb. Angola	112	56
Esc. Sec. Dr. Azevedo Neves	6	3
ISCSP	4	2
ISEL	3	1,5
Lusíada	7	3,5
Lusófona	8	4
Moinho Juventude	1	0,5
Olival Basto	3	1,5
Quinta Mocho	2	1
Seis de Maio	4	2
Técnico	5	2,5
U. A. L.	6	3
Uni. Independente	24	12
Uni. Nova	3	1,5

Number of Questionnaires by place of collection: Young people of cape-Verdean origin

Local de aplicação	Número	Percentagem
Associação Cabo-verdiana do Seixal	4	2,0
Associação Cabo-verdiana de Setúbal	9	4,5
Amigos	8	4,0
Centro Comercial Colombo	13	6,5
Emb. Cabo Verde	64	32,0
Escola Sec. Dr. Azevedo Neves	8	4,0
Casal do Marco	6	3,0
FCSH	14	7,0
Interculturacidade	3	1,5
ISCSP	3	1,5
ISCTE	6	3,0
Moinho da juventude	4	2,0
Moinho - formação	11	5,5
Univ. Independente	1	0,5
Univ. Internacional	13	6,5
Univ. Lusíada	2	1,0
Univ. Lusófona	31	15,5
Total	200	100,00

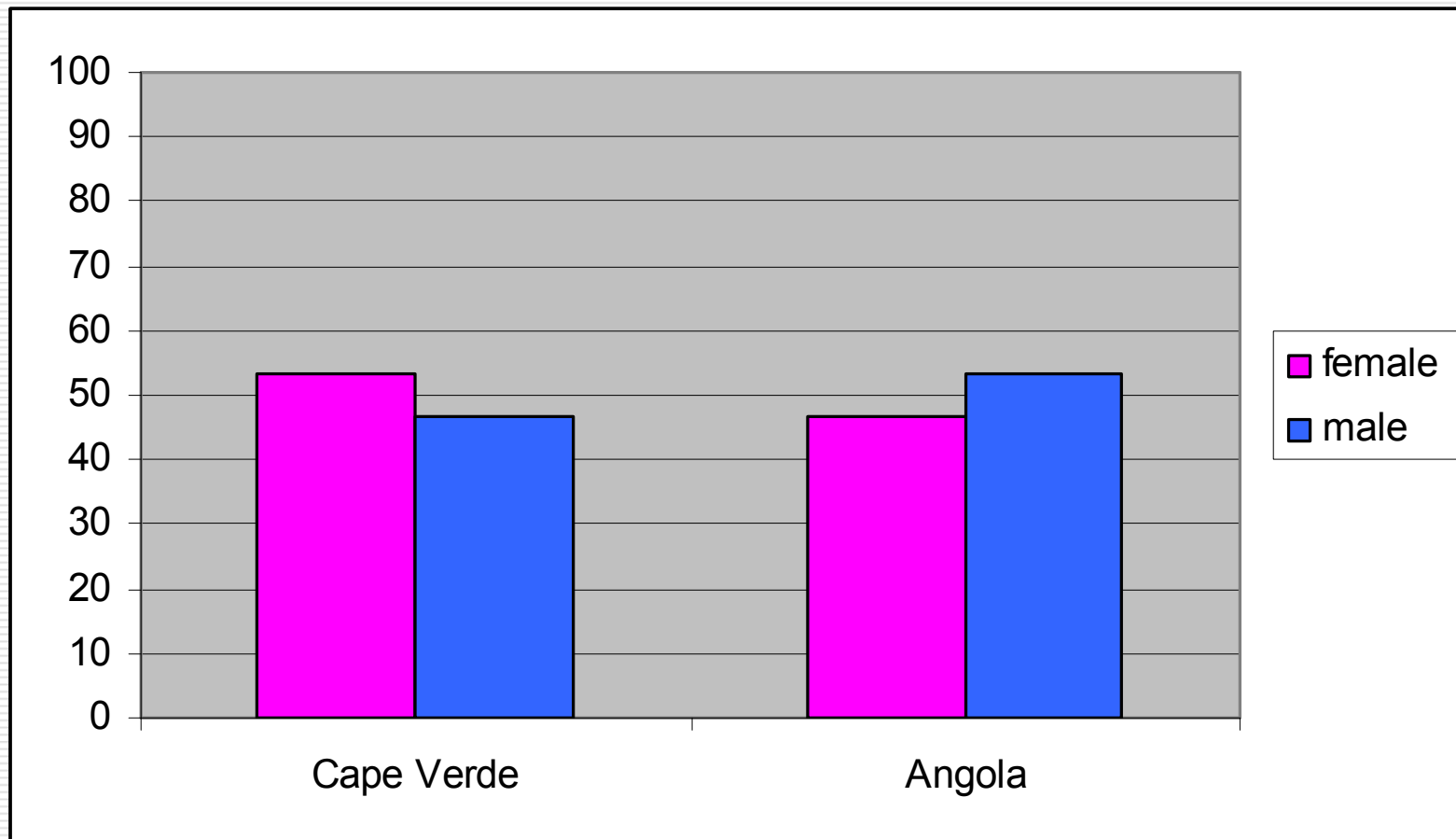
Some opinions of the associations leaders on the accessibility by young people to the labour market of the host country (1)

- ❑ Stress mostly the problems and not the opportunities
- ❑ Unemployment grows worse with the immigration condition
- ❑ The difficulty in accessing the formal labour market does NOT mean the lack of contractual informal power that exists in part time jobs and in the numerous informal activities that compensate the lack of income of immigrant families
- ❑ Difficulty in accessing the labour market escalates because of the presence of discriminatory attitudes based on cultural and physical characteristics that differ from those of the host country's people.
- ❑ Increasing capacity for "irregular" immigrants to find formal work in particular sectors like construction and services endowing these immigrants with great social vulnerability.

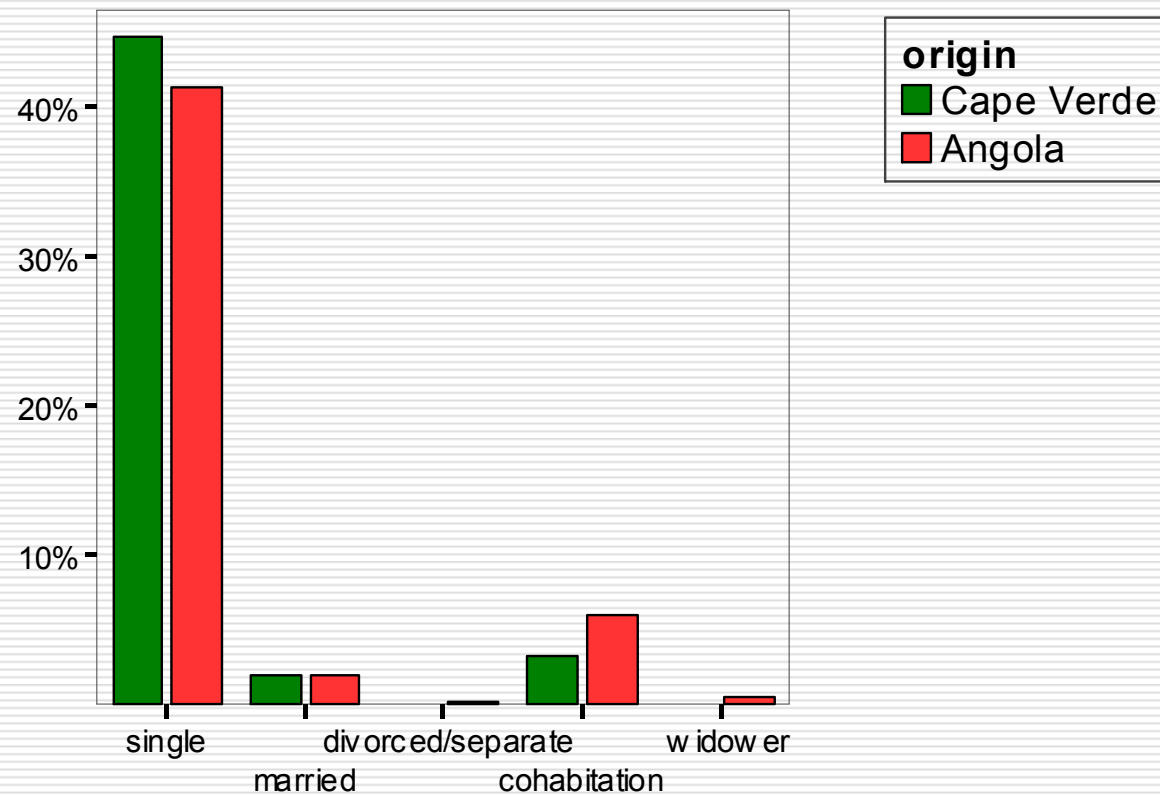
Some opinions of the associations leaders on the accessibility by young people to the labour market of the host country(2)

- ❑ The numerous informal activities like those of pedlars and commercial traders more structured in local street markets include also illegal activities like illegal drug trade.
- ❑ in the absence of better opportunities, legal informal activities are considered also an opportunity for employment inside the communities.
- ❑ All those interviewed stressed gender dynamics in the context of informal activities and the fundamental role of women in recognising and implementing rentable informal activities in migratory contexts. Women are also recognised protagonists in implementing and taking full advantage of informal networks not only economically but also in the socialization and integration of immigrants in Portuguese society.

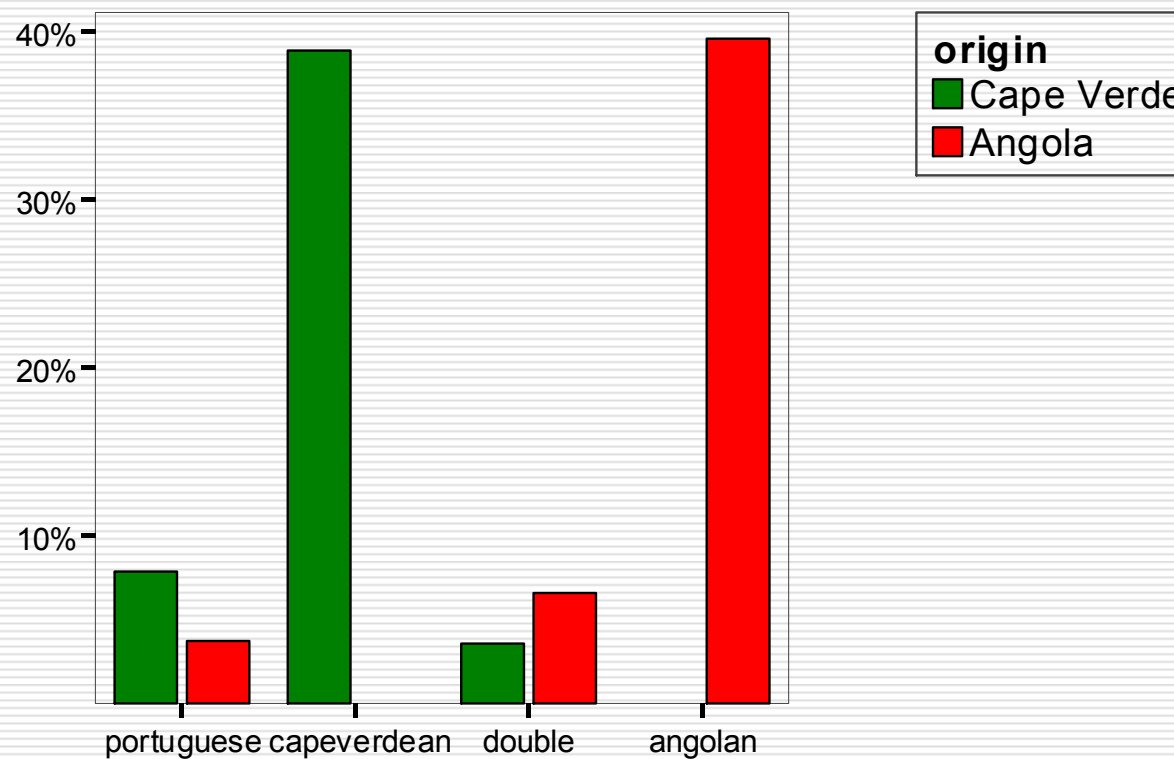
Respondents by Country of origin and gender



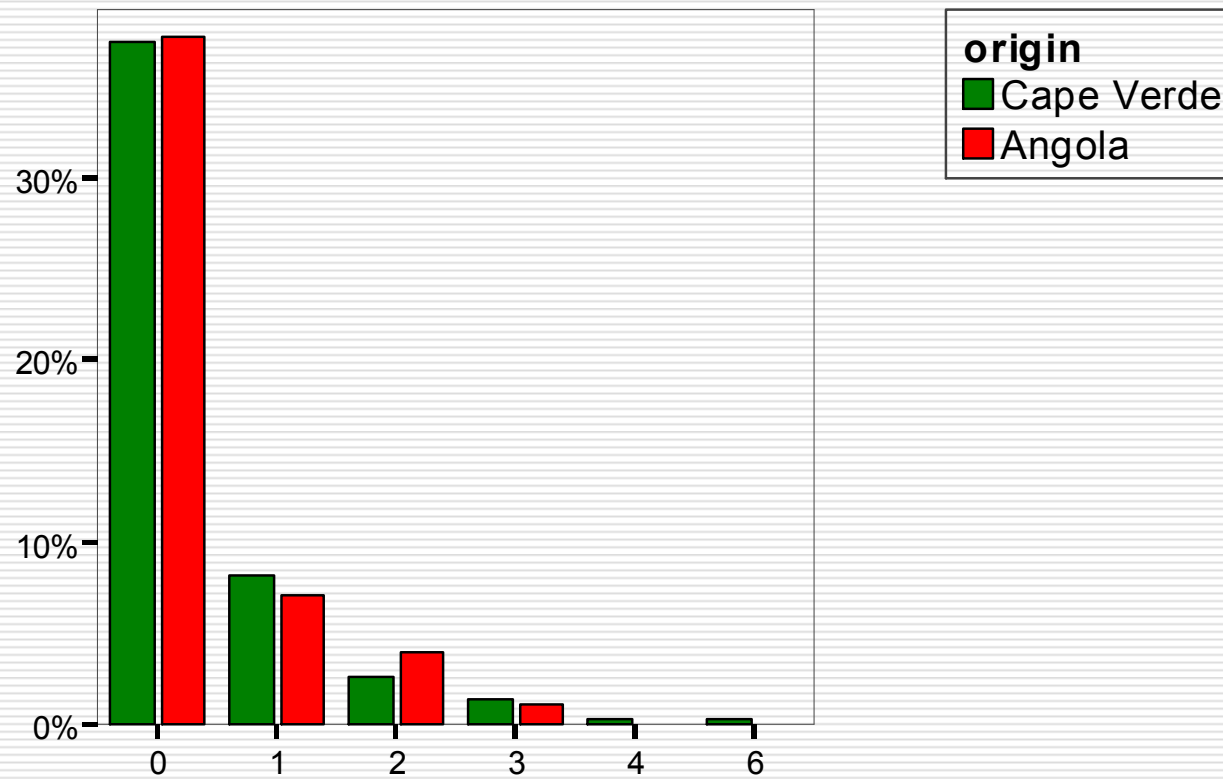
Respondents by Marital Status and country of origin



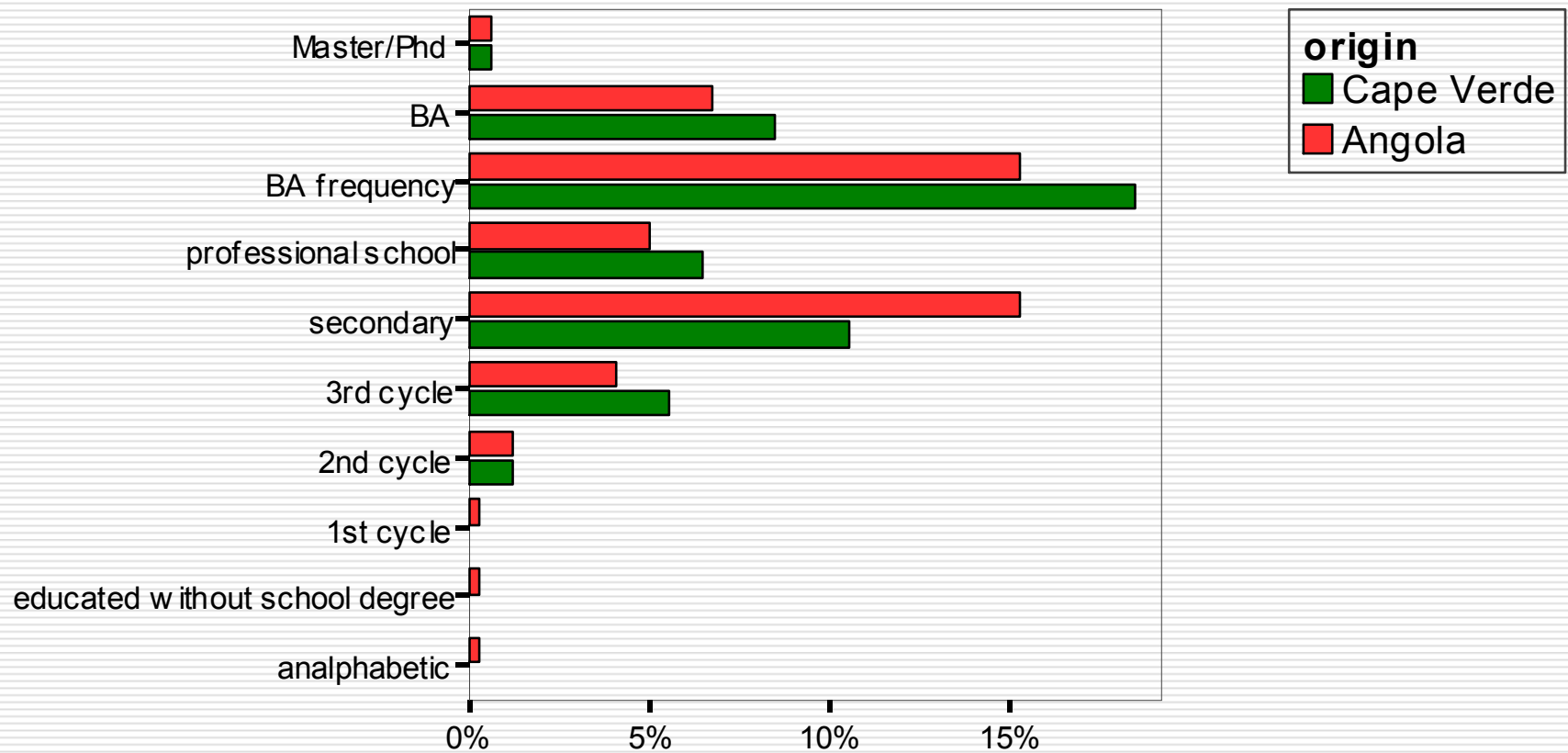
Respondents by Nationality and country of origin



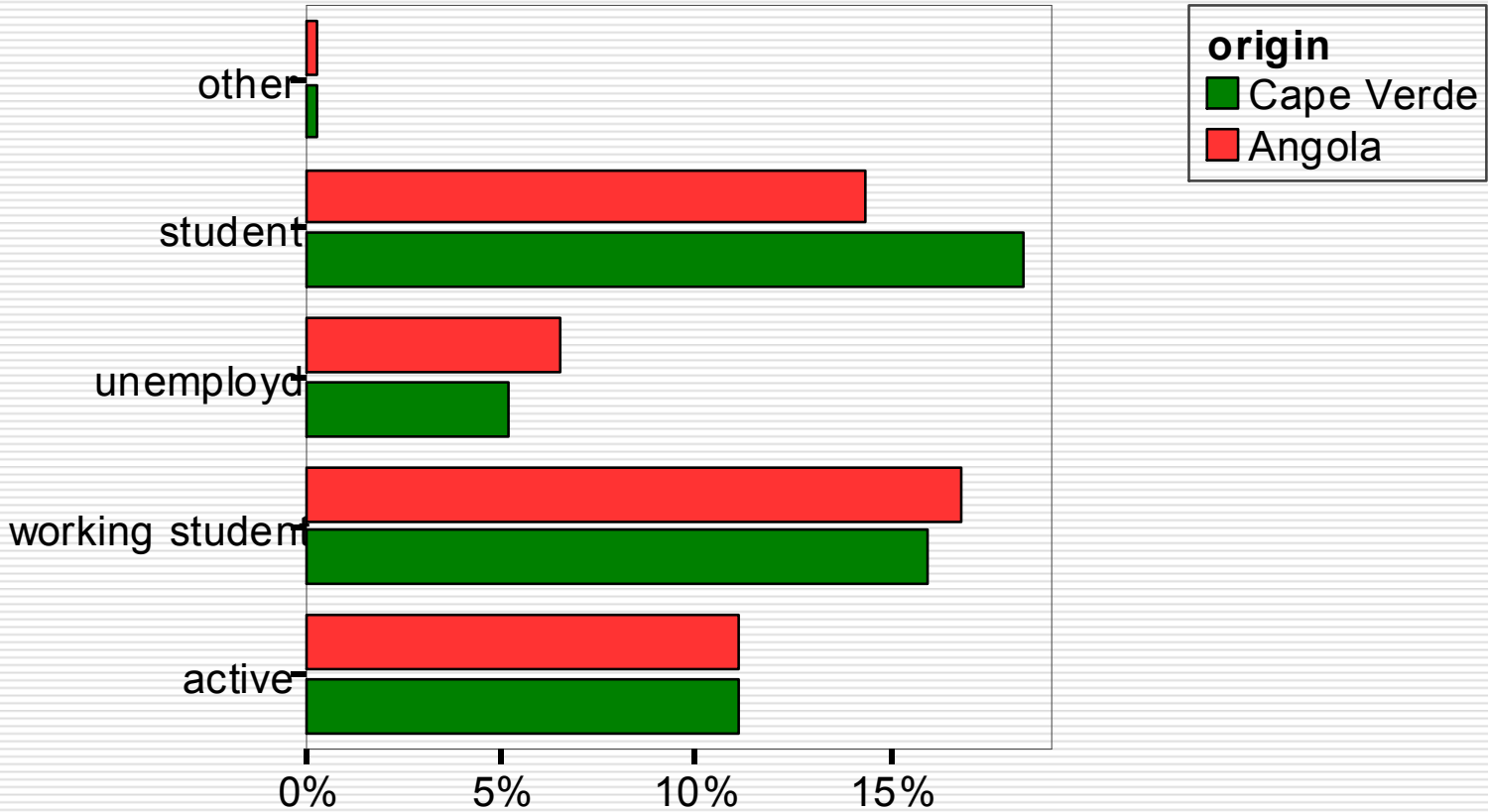
Respondents by Number of children and country of origin



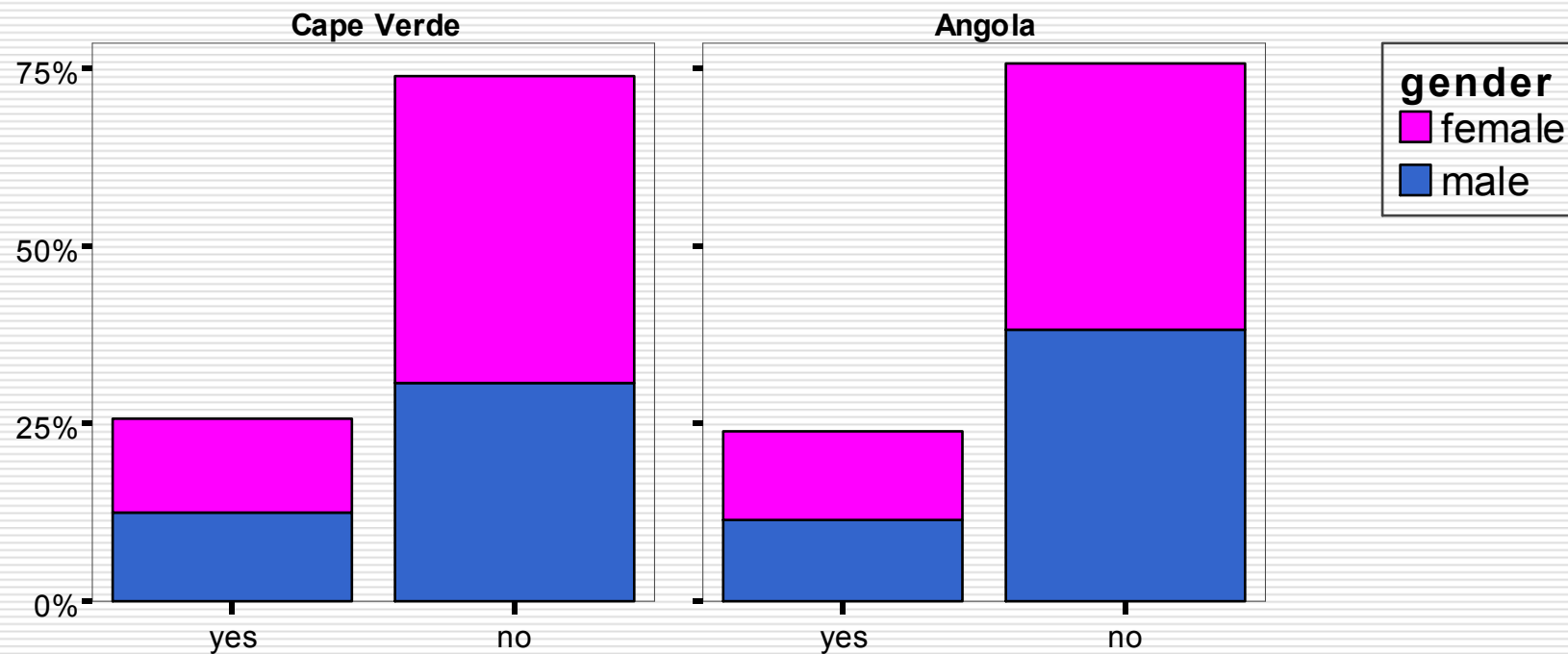
Respondents by level of Education and origin



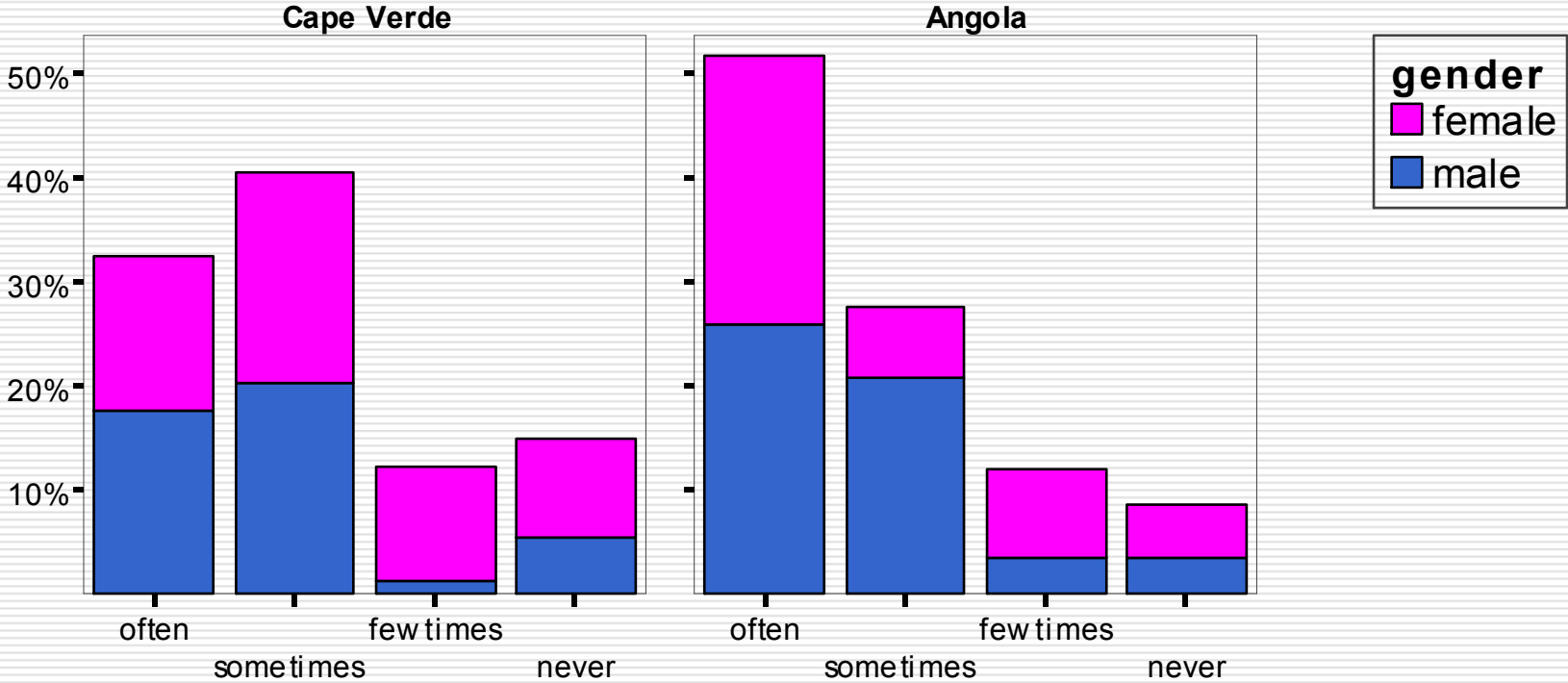
Respondents by Professional status and origin



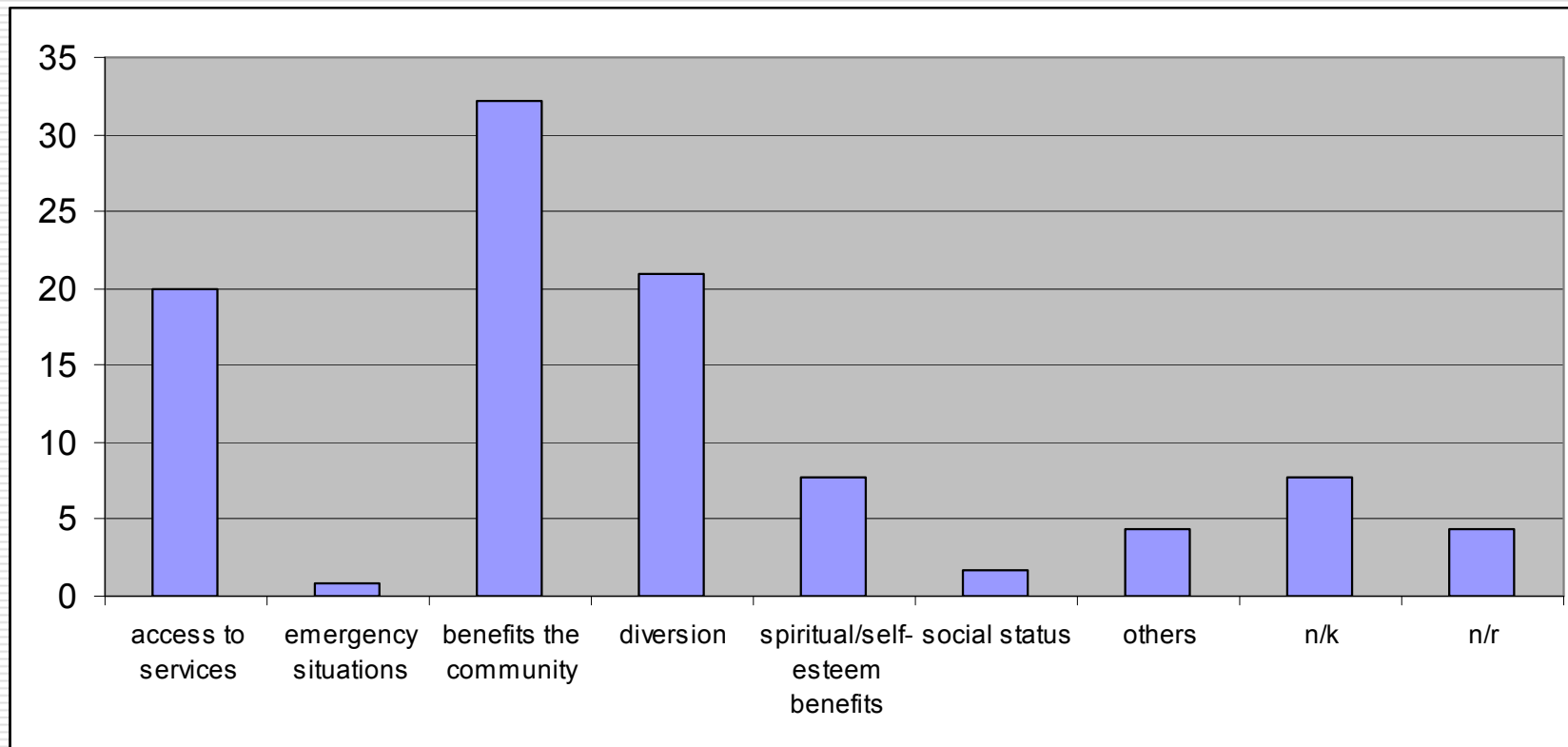
Belonging to associations by country of origin and gender



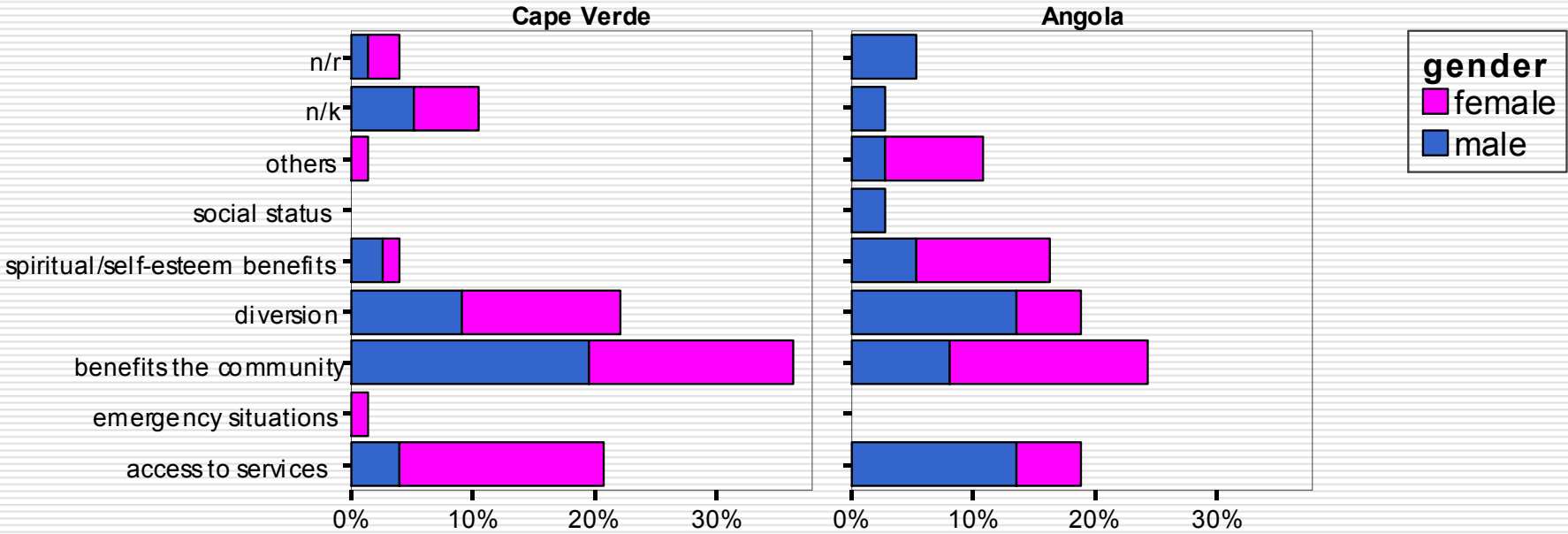
Intensity of participation in associations in the last 12 months, by gender/country of origin



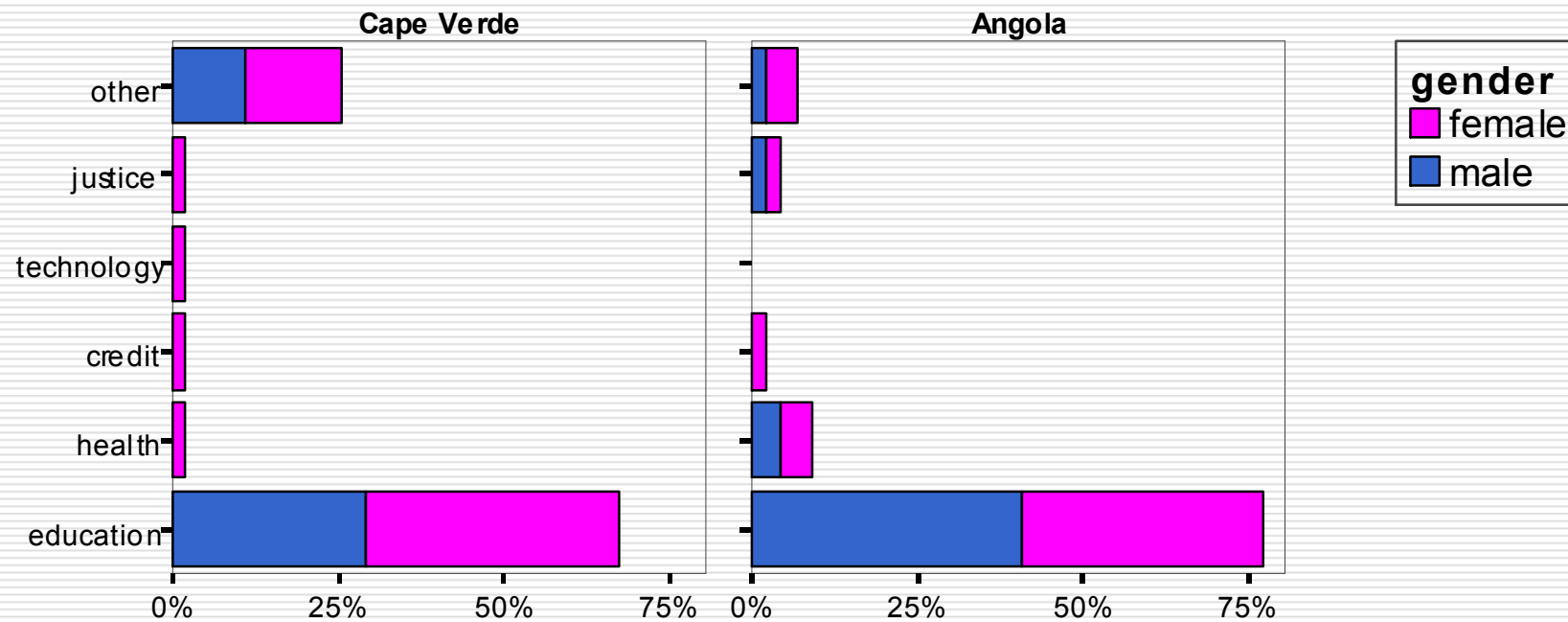
Benefits of belonging to associations



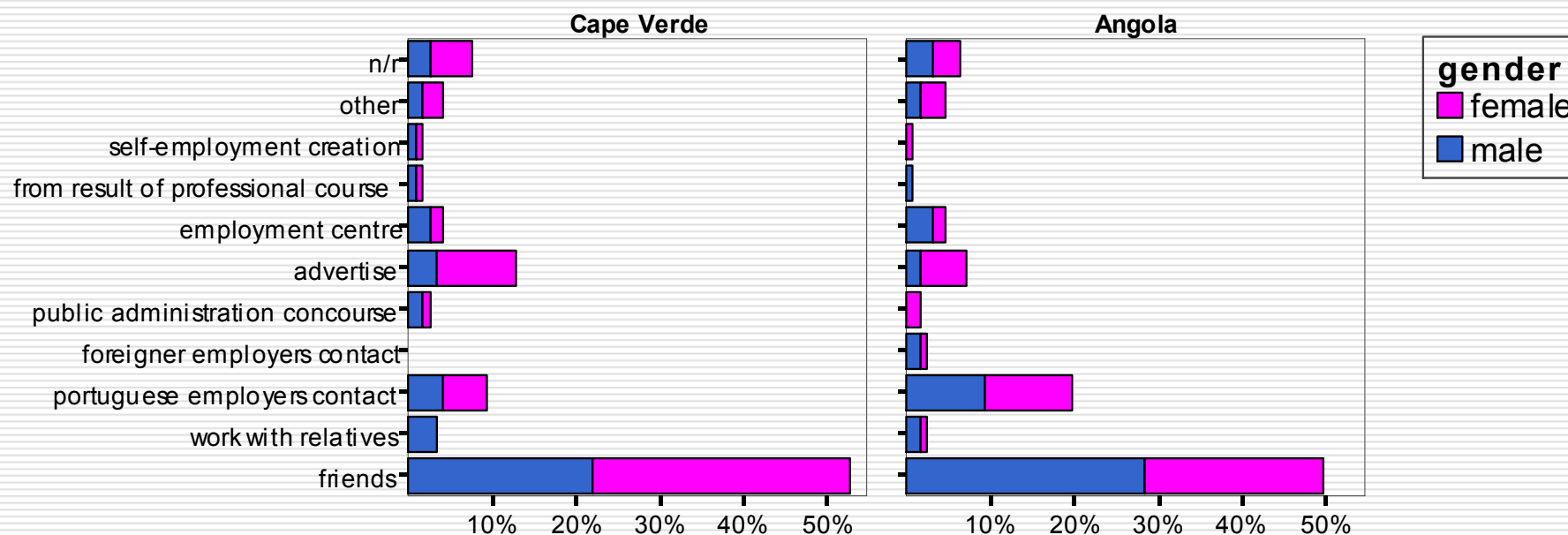
Benefits of belonging to associations by gender and country of origin



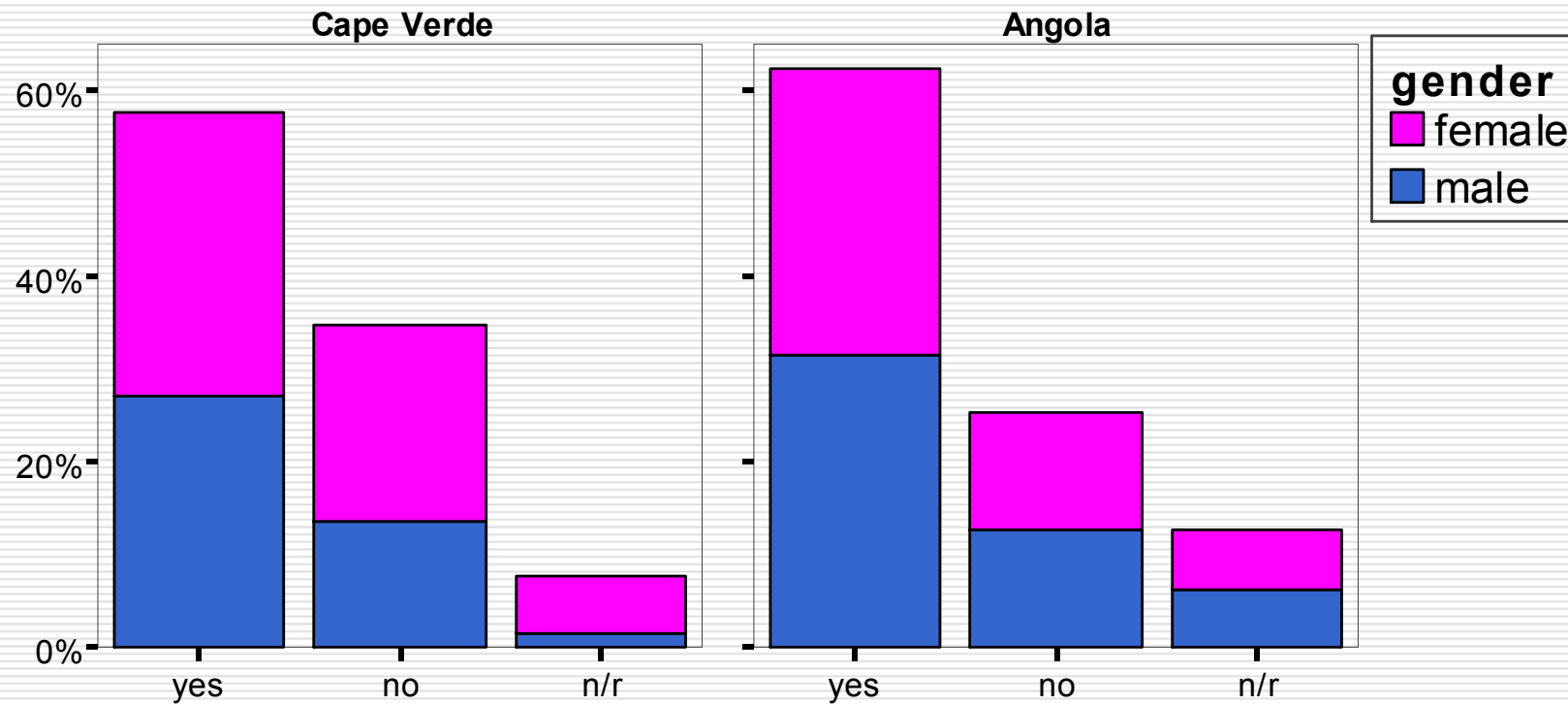
Services accessed through associations by gender and country of origin



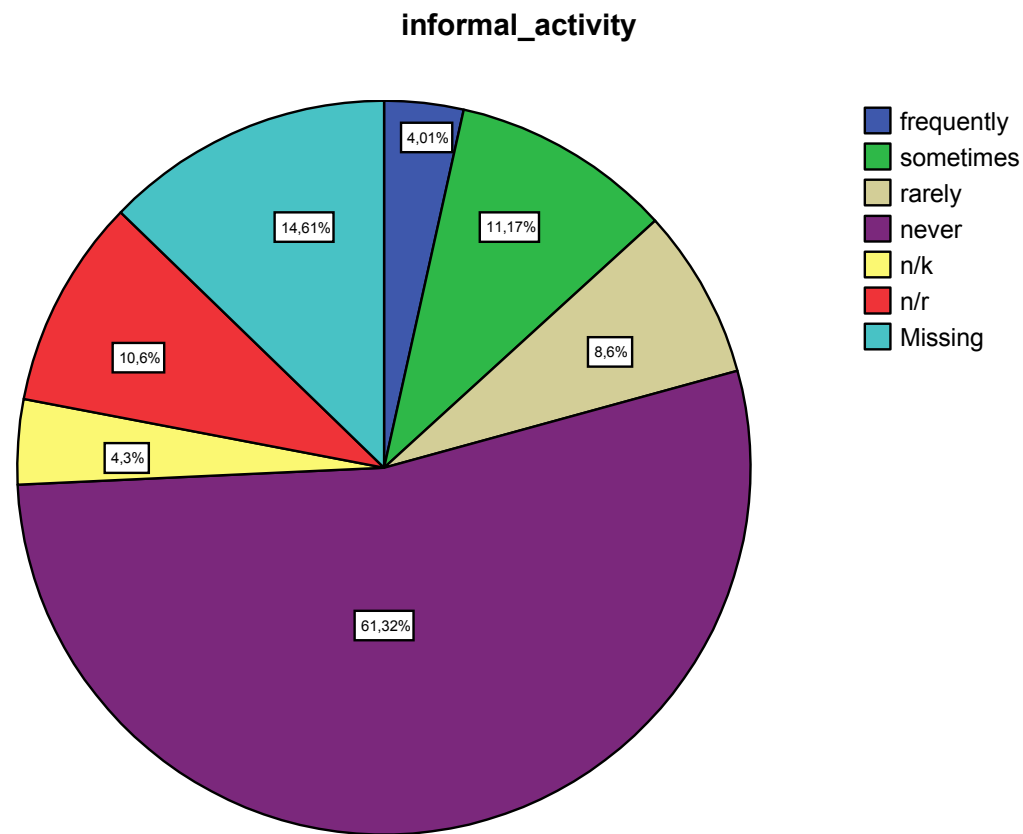
How did you find your work?



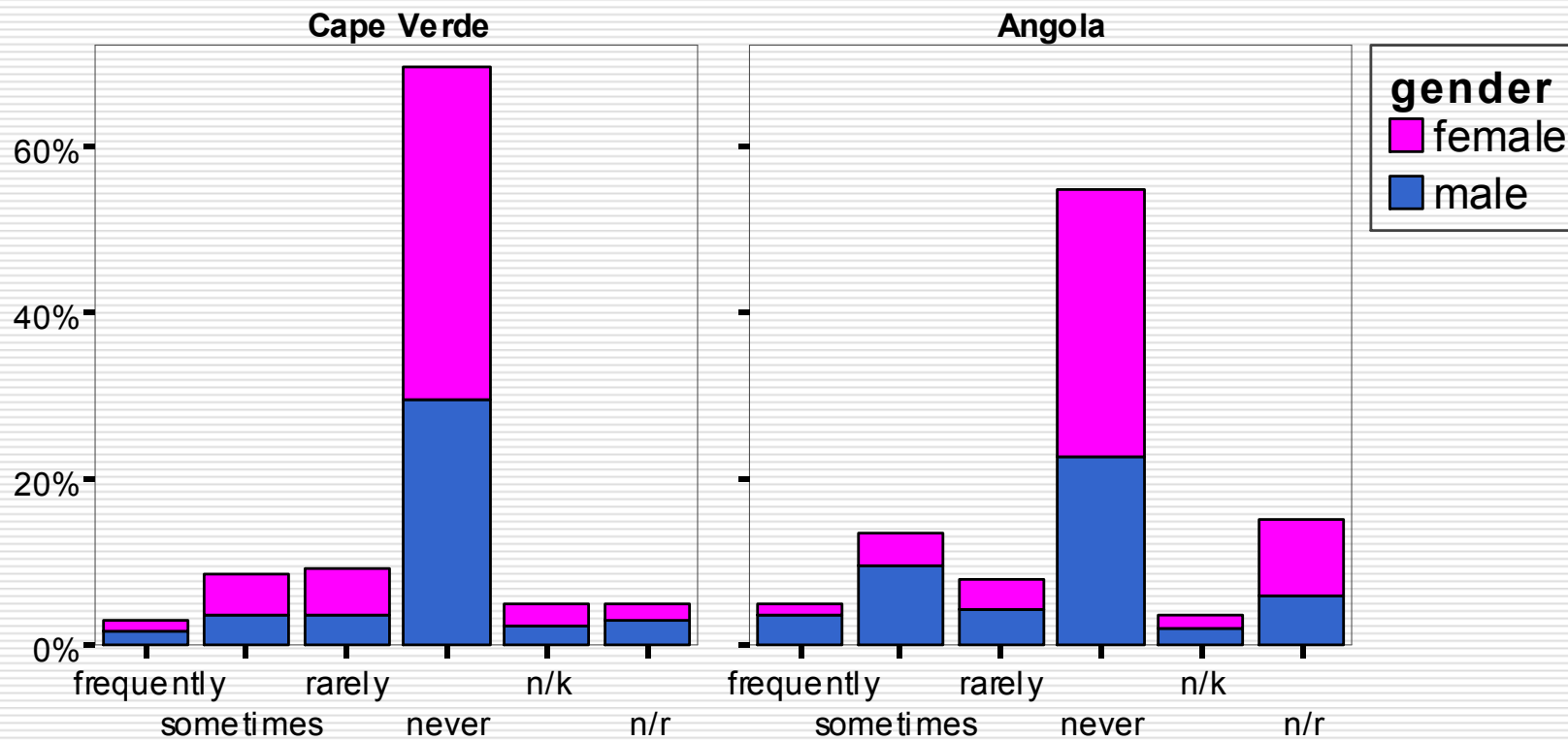
Did somebody help you to find your work?



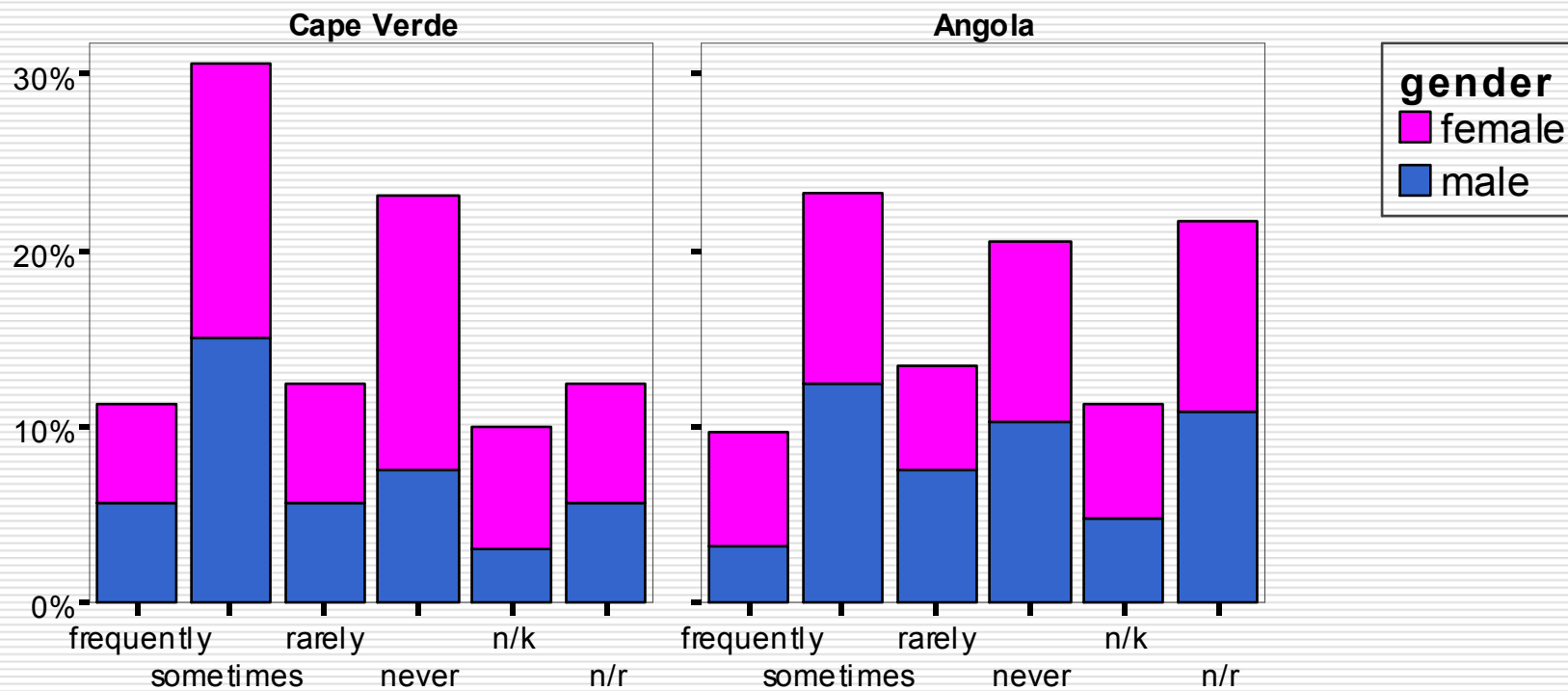
Frequency of informal work by respondents



Frequency of informal work by gender/country of origin



Frequency of occasional work by gender / country of origin



Topics for discussion (1)

- ❑ The role of associations inside immigrant networks related to the access of young people to the market labour **is not relevant**
- ❑ The work of associations in managing migrant unemployment is mostly directed to avoid social problems related to illegal and criminal activities
- ❑ Participation in associations depends largely on the type of immigration and the length of stay in the host country.

Topics for discussion (2)

- The role of Associations seems important:
 - To counselling immigrants on the immigration laws of the host country
 - For political intervention related to citizenship rights
 - To keep immigrant informed about the country of origin
 - In maintaining cultural identity of immigrant in the host country
 - To offer professional and educational courses to members of immigrant communities

Topics for discussion (3)

- 3/4 of respondents seem to explore mostly informal associations (kinship, friendship and religious networks) to access the labour market.
- Mostly, it is women who handle the supporting networks that include families, neighbourhoods, churches and other groups

Conclusion

- ❑ Local groups of informal workers are increasingly coalescing into international networks. Thus informal workers should be seen as global actors, rather than passive victims of 'globalisation' processes.
- ❑ What are the possibilities and constraints facing these international networks?
- ❑ What asymmetries are emerging within these networks?
- ❑ How do international networks of informal workers and associations negotiate internal distributions of power and resources among such groups and the leaderships of some associations?
- ❑ Issues of inclusion/exclusion and representation are of relevance here, as well as the eventual challenges by dissatisfied 'members' or marginalised people.