

Minority Languages Between Eroding Communities and Public Policies: Karelian and Veps in the Republic of Karelia

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Outline of the presentation

- Demographic decline of Karelians and Vepsians
- ELDIA: Language competence in Karelian, Veps and Russian
- ELDIA: Legislative support for languages and respondents' perceptions on the laws

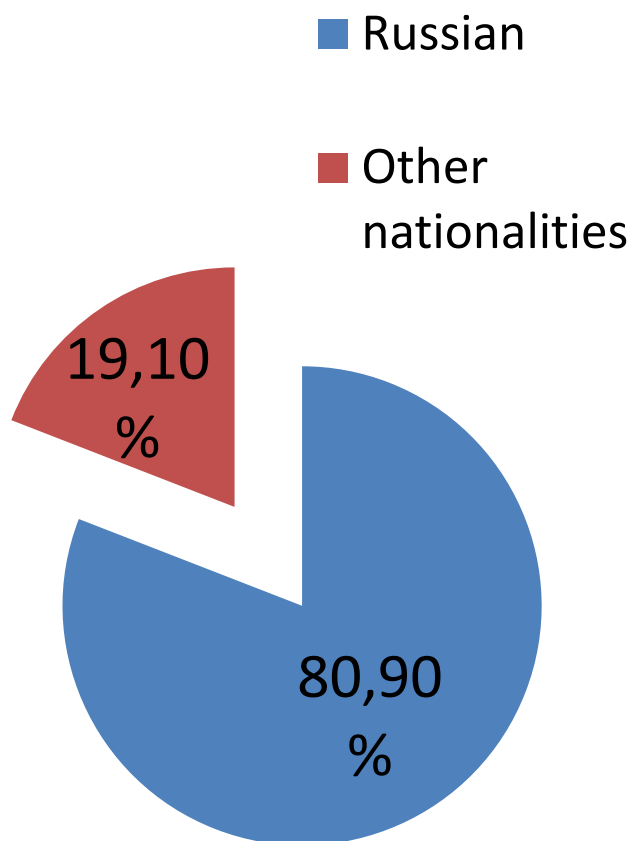
The Karelian Language Area in Russia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Karelian_dialects.png



Ethnic Diversity, The Russian Population Census 2010, <http://www.perepis-2010.ru>

Nationalities



Nationality	Persons	Percentage
All inhabitants	142 856 536	
All who stated their nationality	137 227 107	100%
Russian	111 016 896	80,9%
Karelian	60 815	0,04%
Veps	5 936	0,00%

Ethnic Diversity, Republic of Karelia 2010

Nationality	Persons	Percentage
All inhabitants	643 548	
All who stated their nationality	617 668	100 %
1. Russian	507 654	82,2%
2. Karelian	45 570	7,4%
3. Belorussian	23 345	3,8%
4. Ukrainian	12 677	2,0%
5. Finnish	8 577	1,4%
6. Veps	3423	0,5%

Language Competence

The Russian Population Census 2010

9 Language competence	Results already available
9.1 Do you speak Russian? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• No	Available
9.2 What other languages do you speak?	Available
9.3 Native languages	Not available

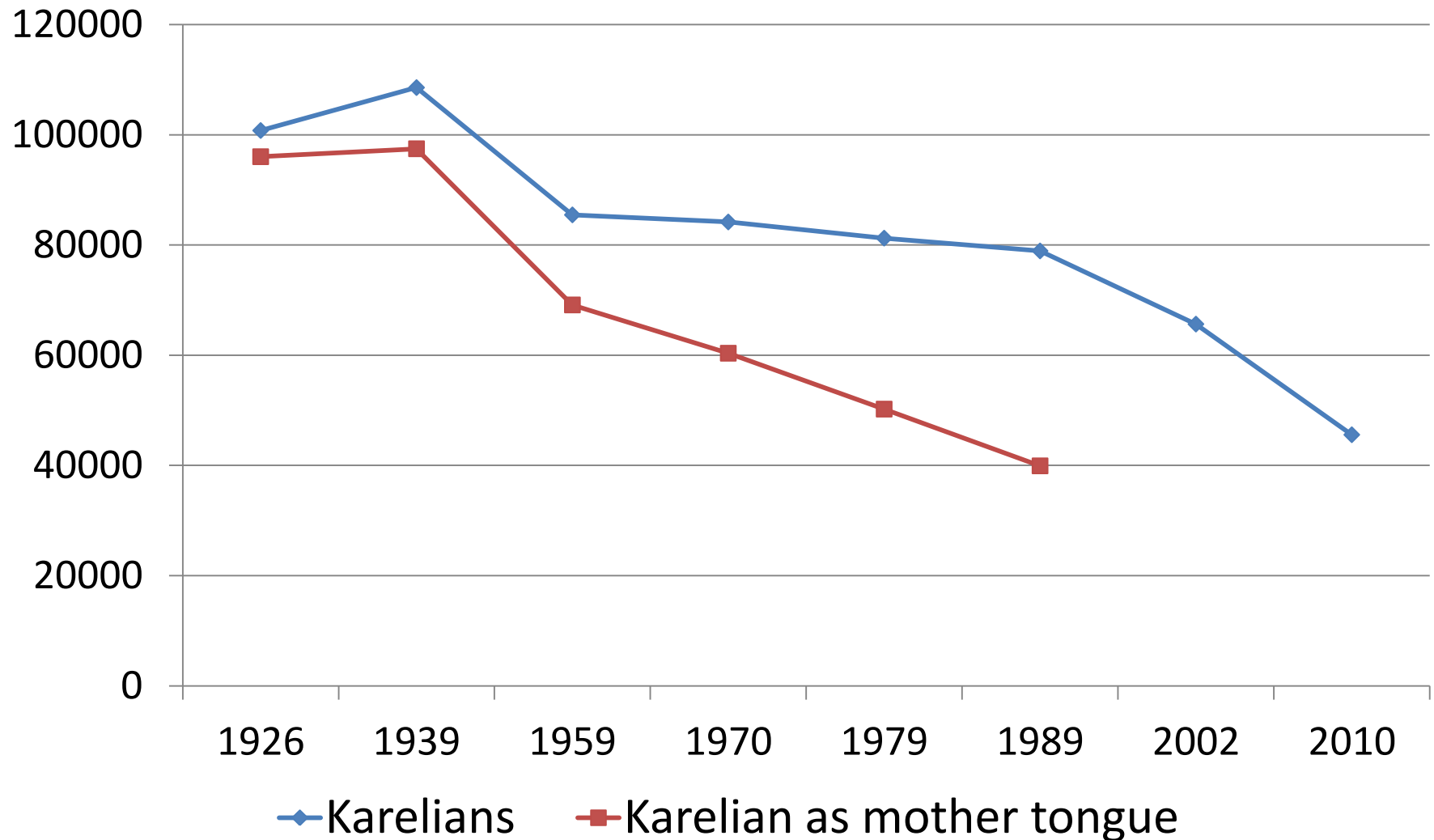
Language Competence

The Russian Population Census 2010

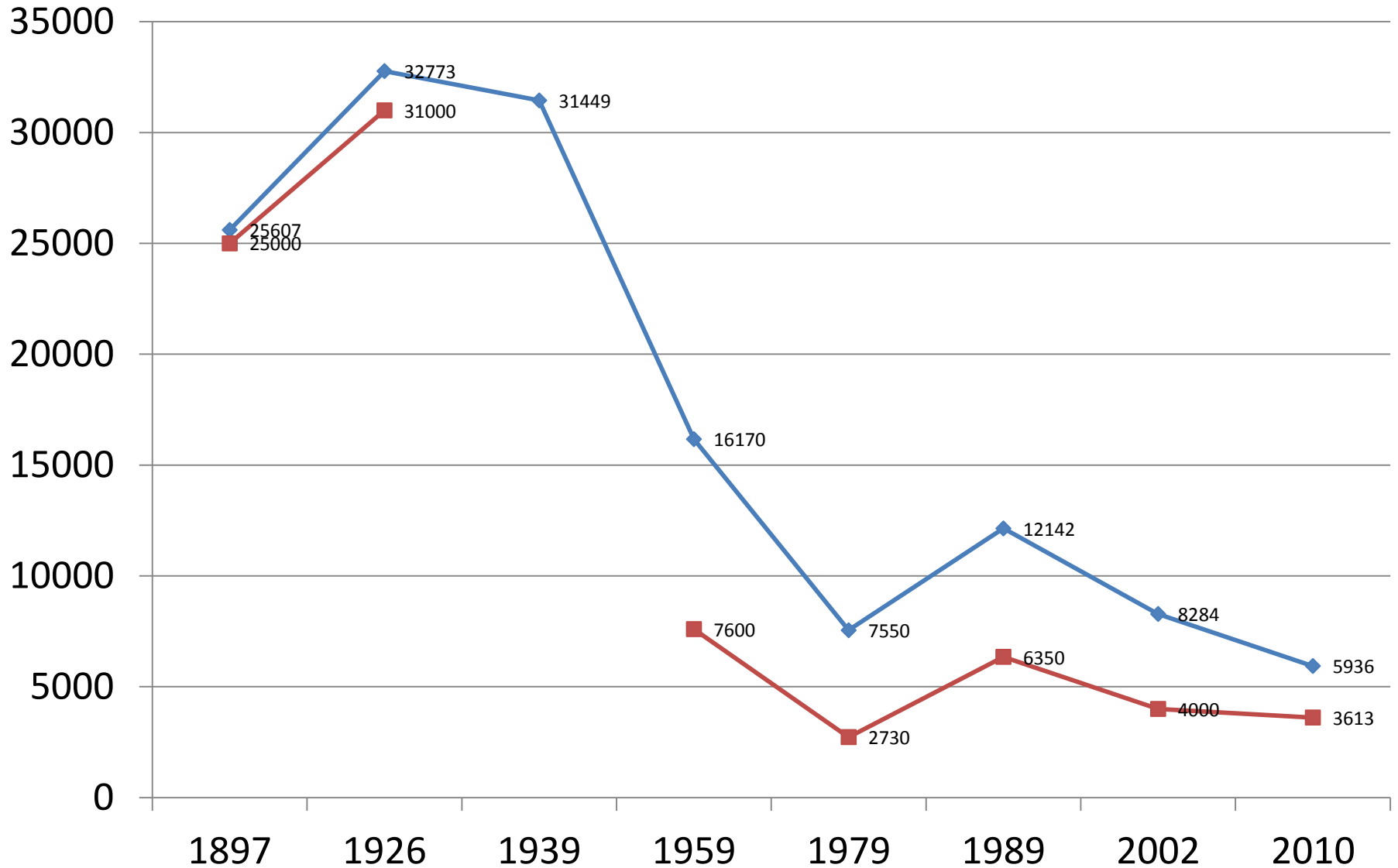
Competence in languages despite the nationality of the respondent

Language	Persons	% of all inhabitants
Russian	137 494 893	99,41
Karelian	25 605	0,02
Veps	3613	0,00

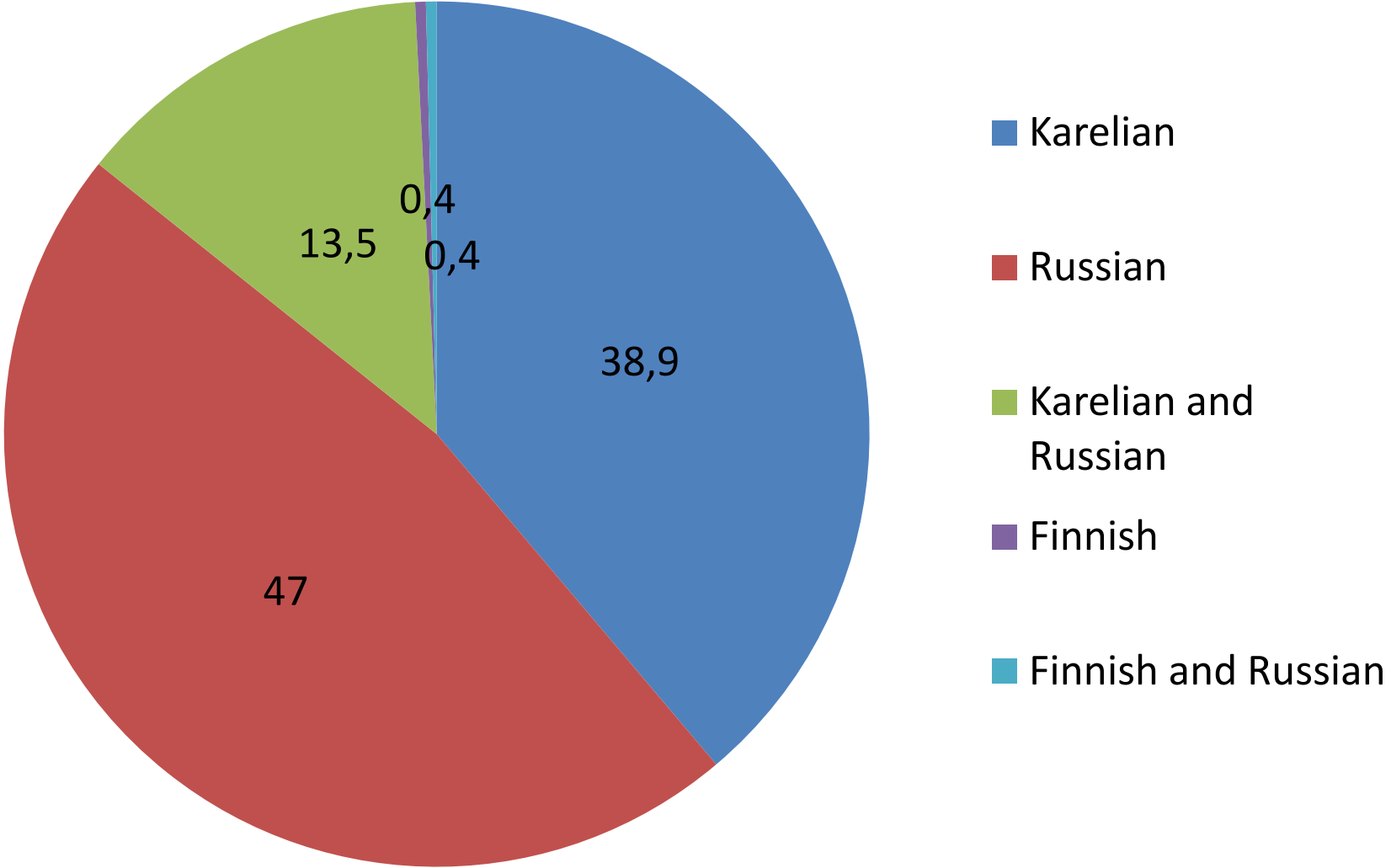
The decline of the Karelian population and the Karelian language use in the Republic of Karelia



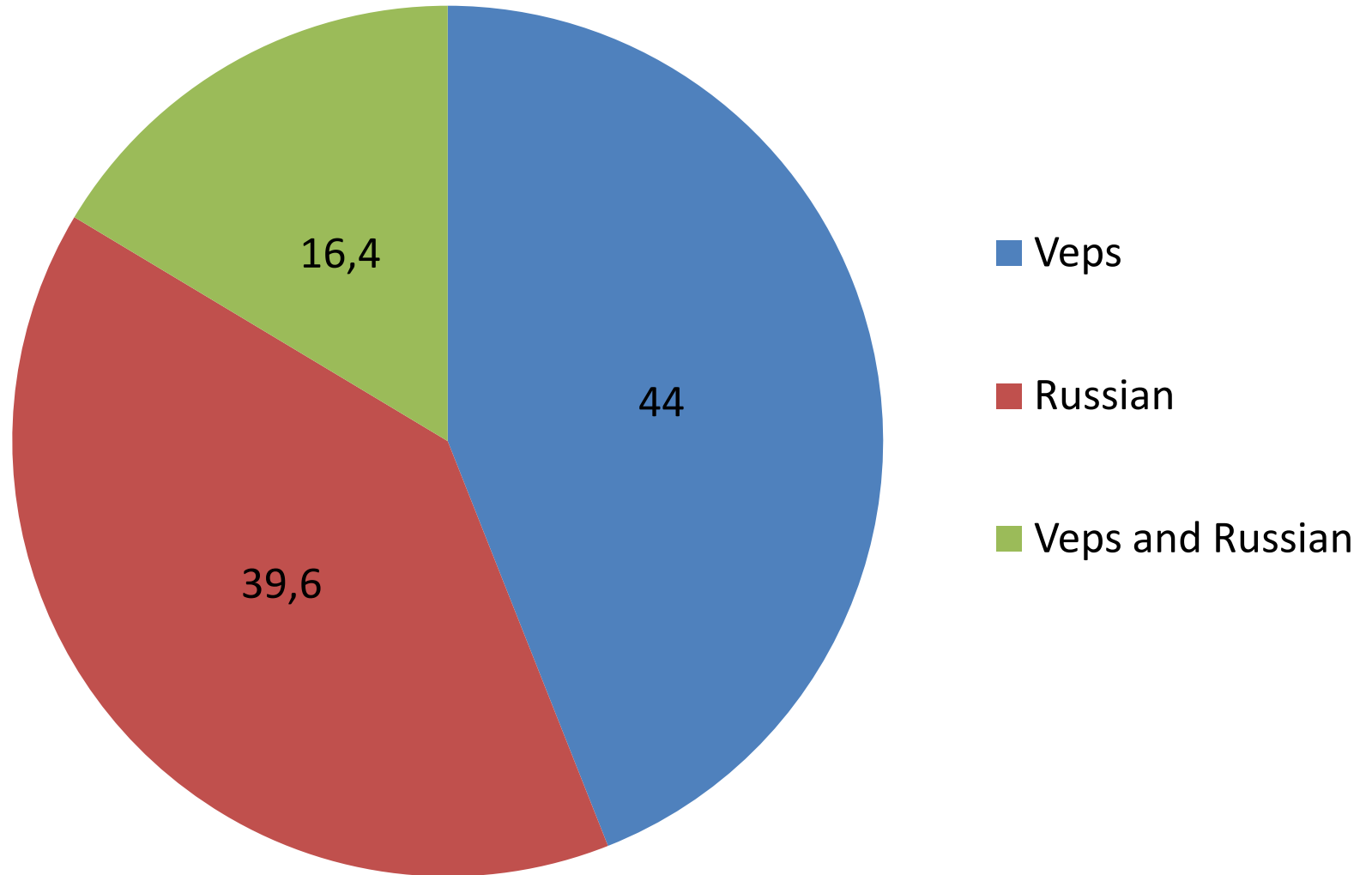
The decline of the Veps population and the Veps language use in Russia



Mother Tongue of the Respondents, The ELDIA Olonets Karelian Case Study, %

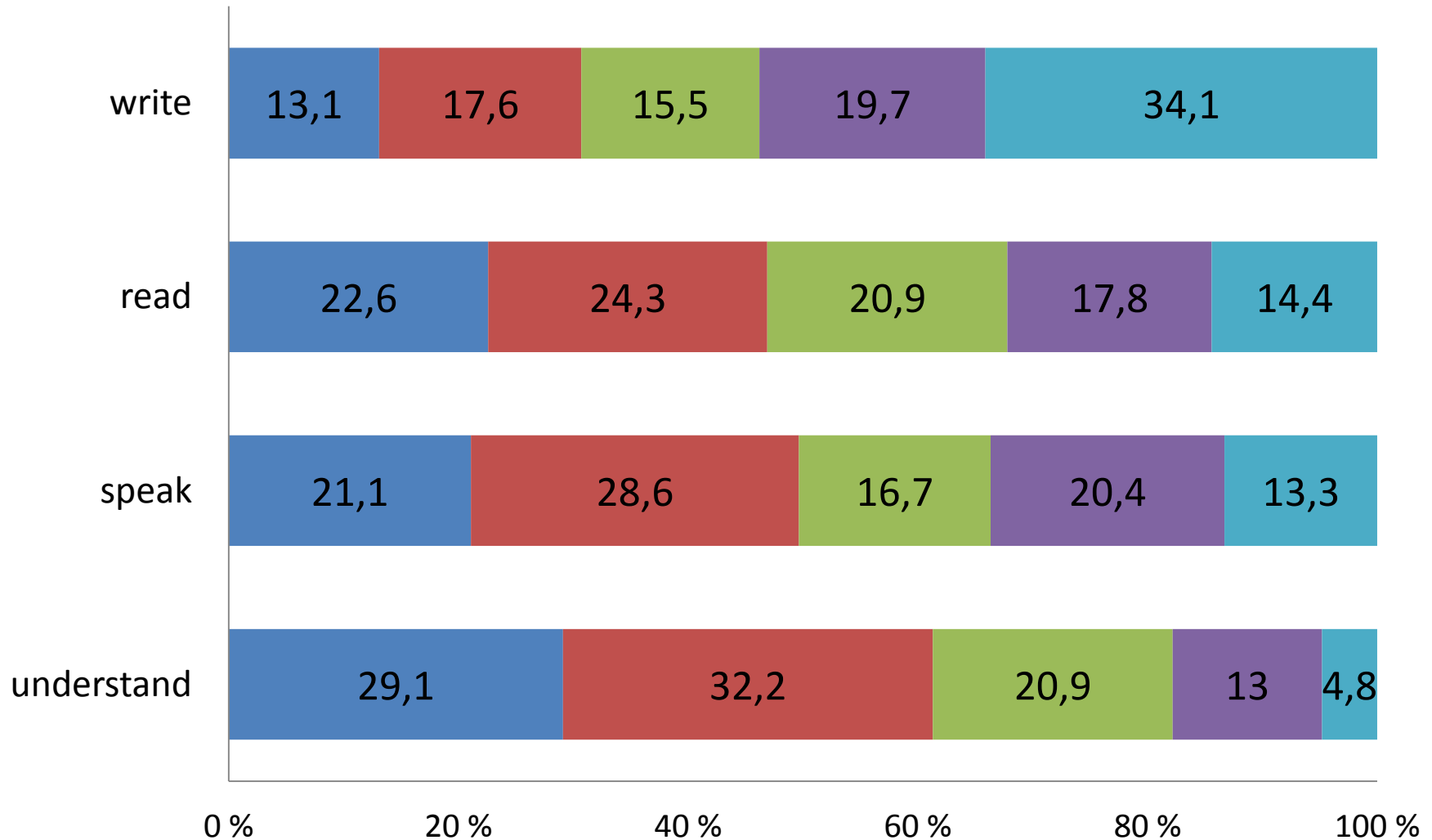


Mother Tongue of the Respondents, The ELDIA Veps Case Study, %

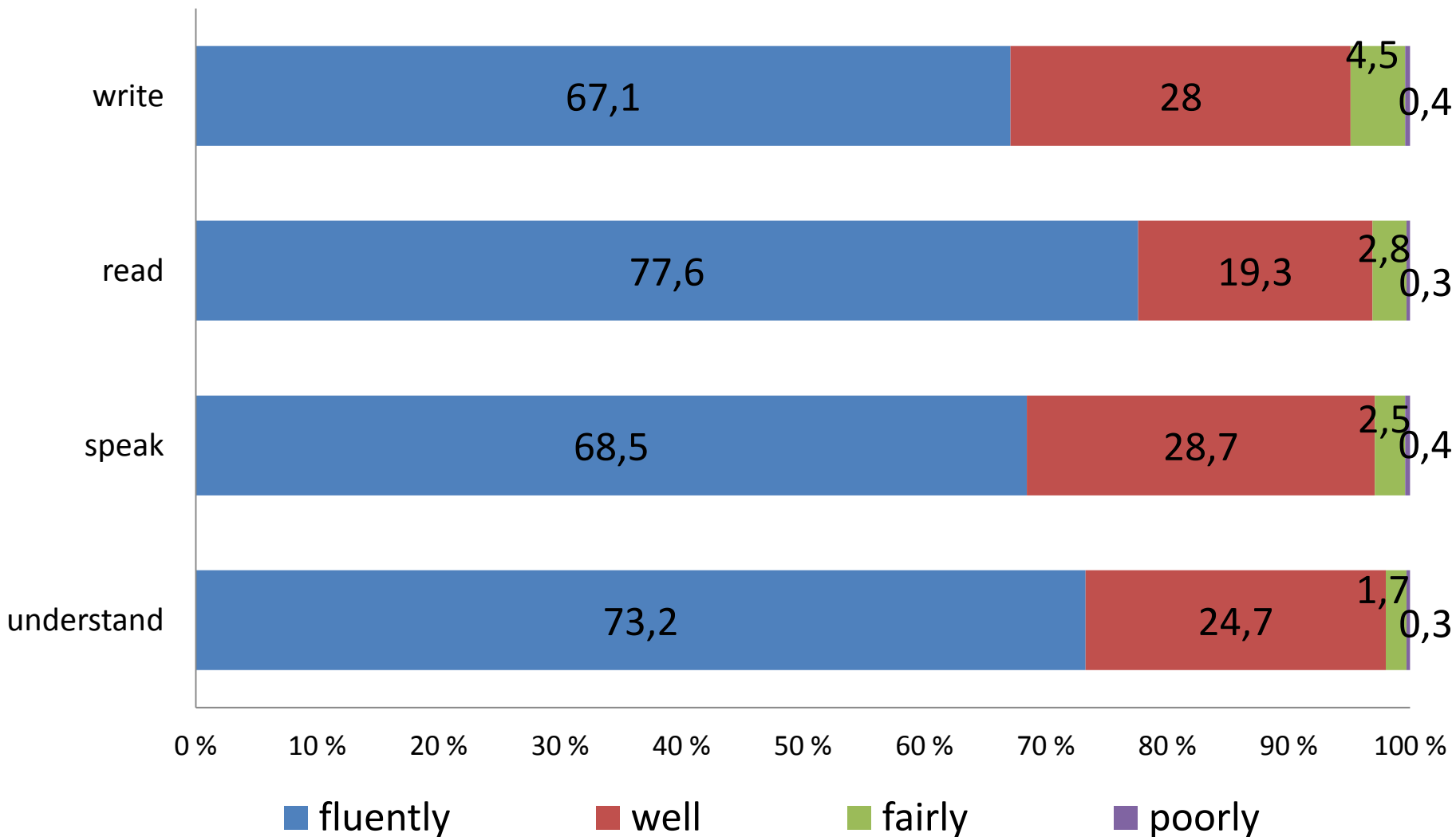


ELDIA: Levels of language skills for Karelian language, %

fluently well fairly poorly not at all

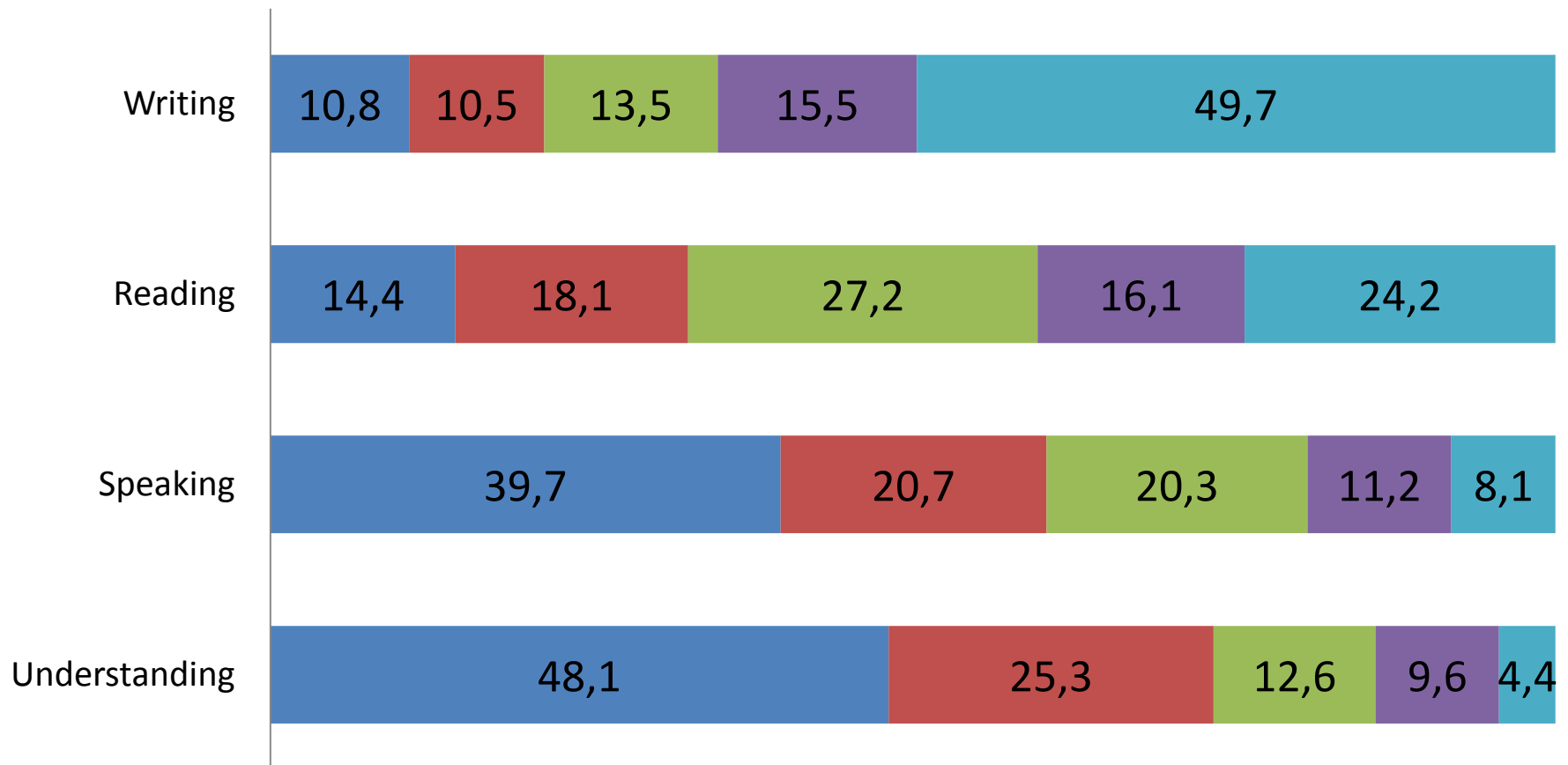


Levels of Language Skills for Russian Language, The ELDIA Olonets Karelian Case Study, %

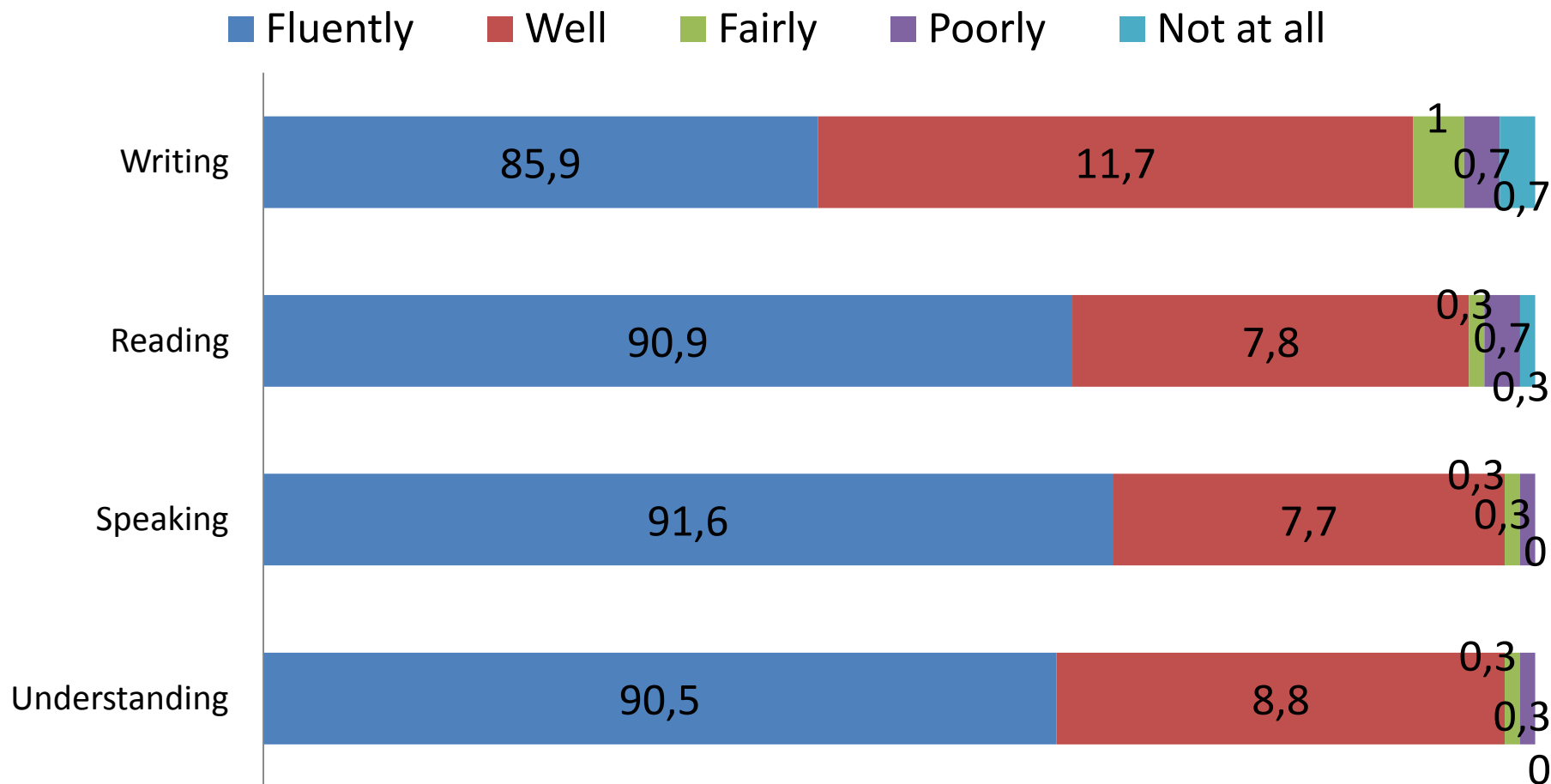


ELDIA: Levels of Language Skills for Veps Language, %

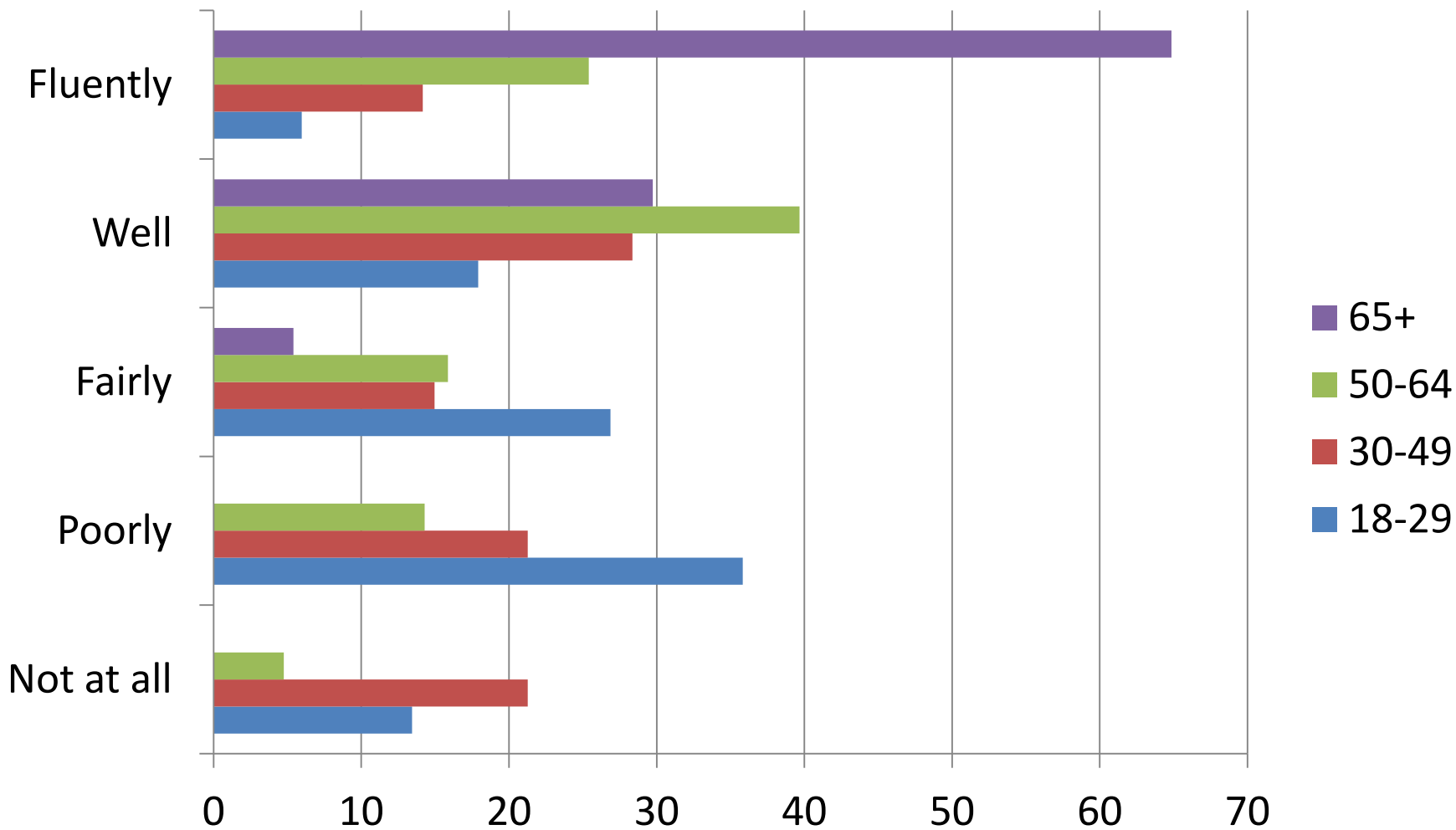
Fluently Well Fairly Poorly Not at all



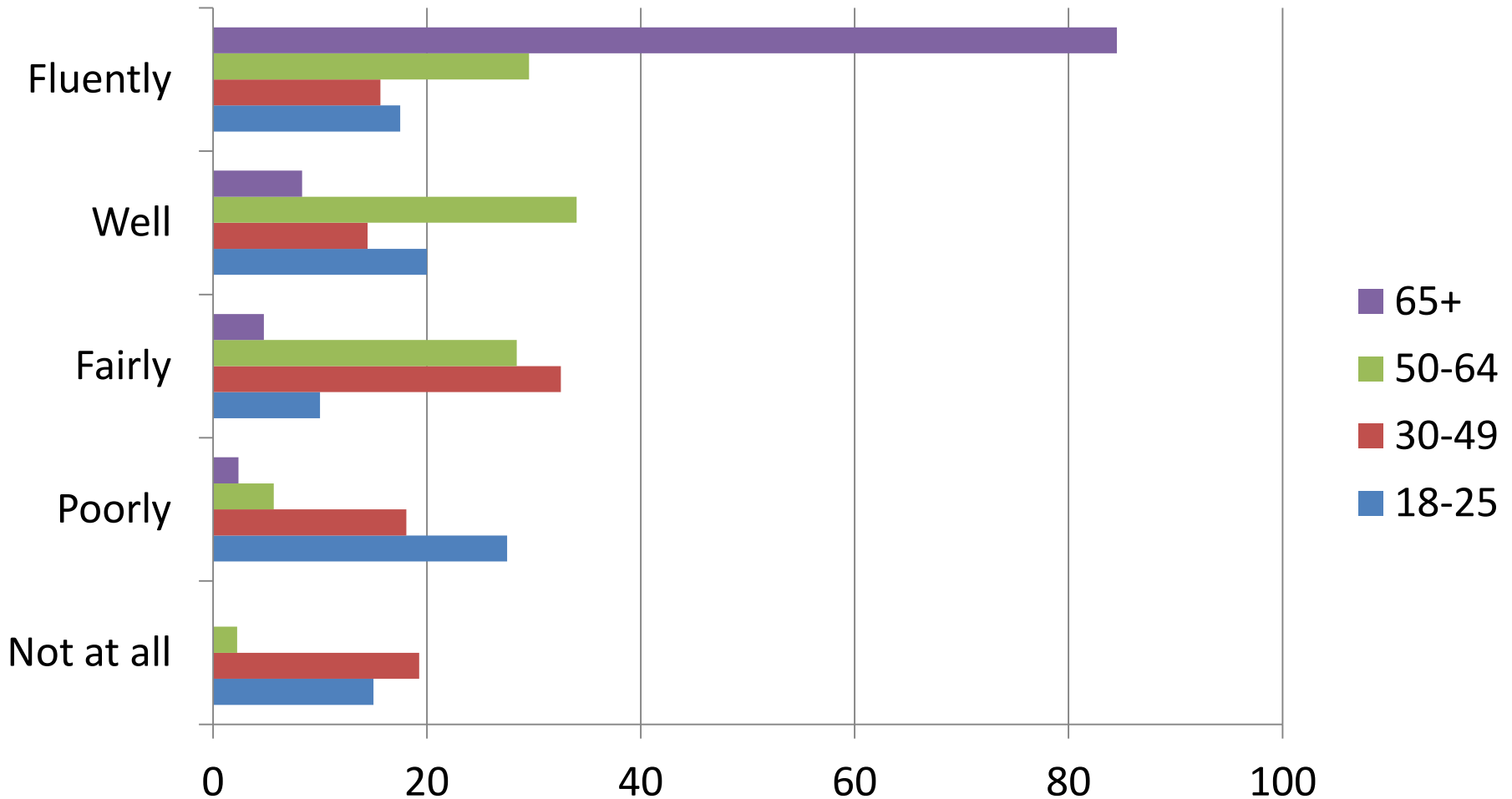
Levels of Language Skills for Russian Language, The ELDIA Veps Case Study, %

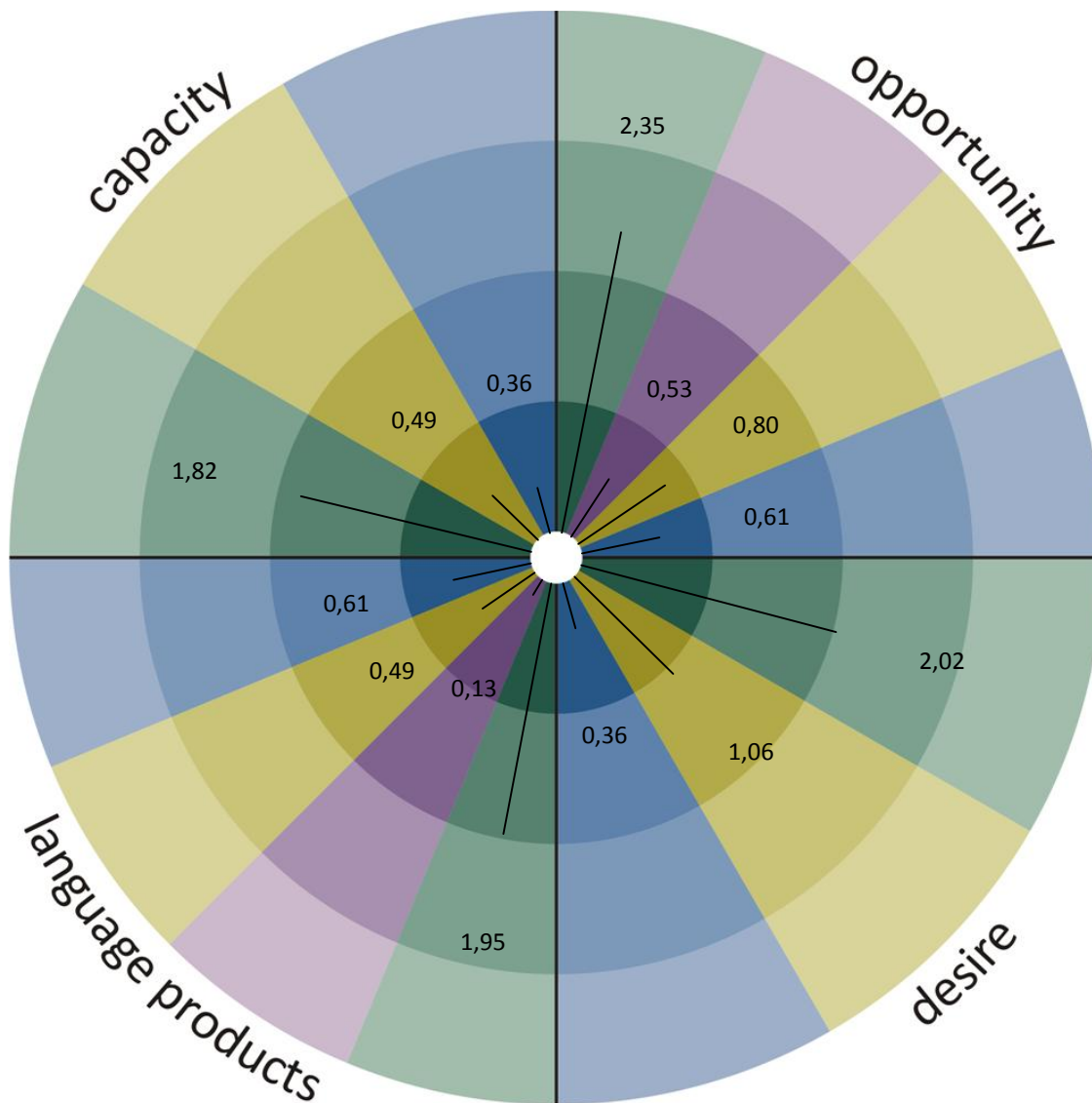


ELDIA: Reported Level of Speaking Karelian According to Age, %

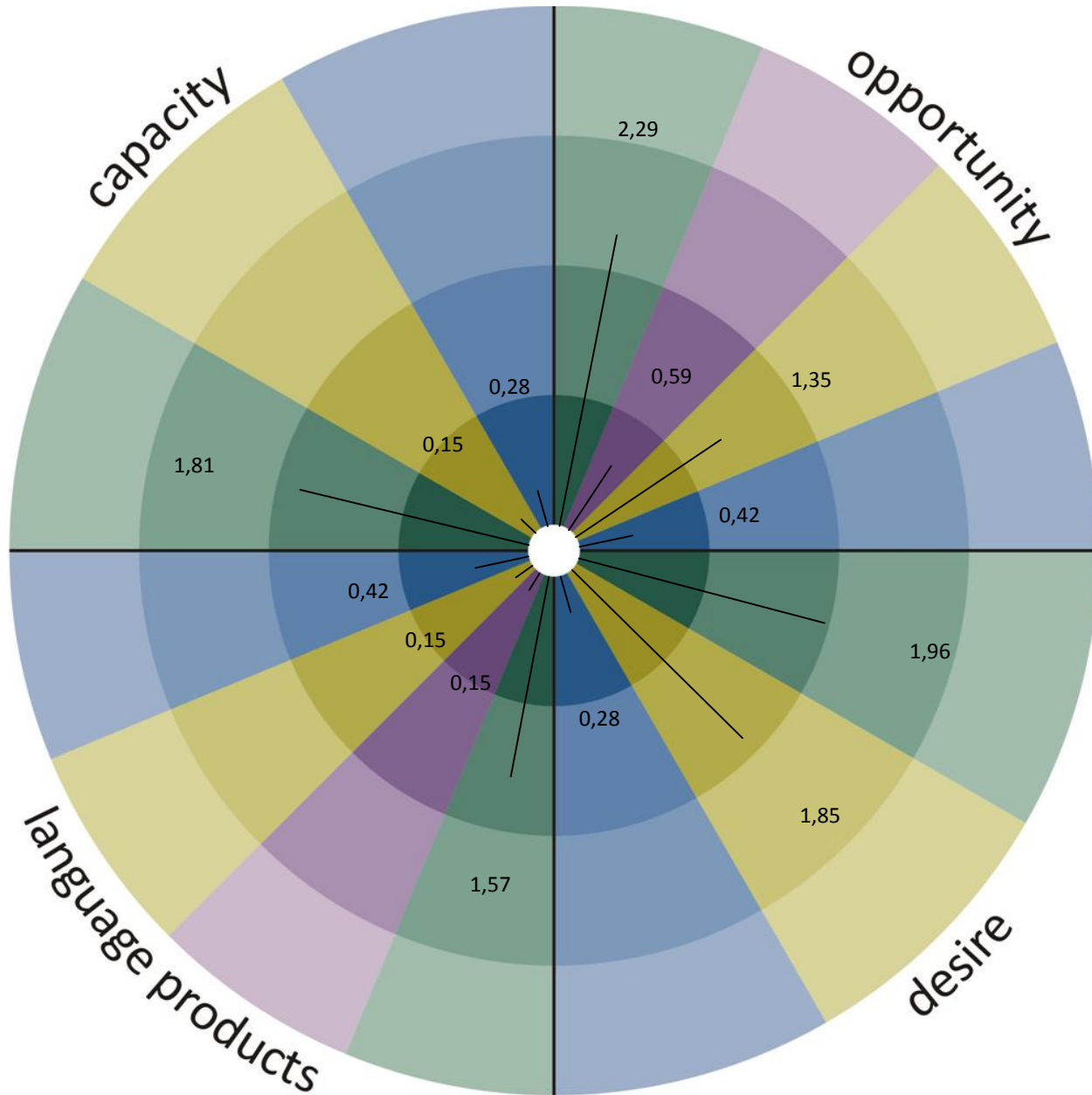


ELDIA: Reported Level of Speaking Veps According to Age, %





EuLaViBar (European Language Vitality Barometer) for Olonets Karelian in Russia



EuLaViBar (European Language Vitality Barometer) for Veps language in Russia

Status of Veps, Karelian and Russian languages on state level

- The constitutional status of languages of Russia: defined in the Constitution of Russian federation (1993)
 - §26: the right to preserve, develop and research the native languages
- The Russian language law (1991, 1998): equality between languages of different peoples of Russia

The Law on the State Language of the Russian Federation (2005)

- §3: defines the spheres where using the State Language, Russian, is obligatory
- §5: defines the rights of citizens to use the State Language in education, public sphere and so forth.
- The special role of Russian language is underlined and the use of Russian literary norms is protected.

In the Republic of Karelia the language rights of Karelian, Finnish and Veps languages are also defined:

- in the Constitution of the Republic of Karelia
- in the laws of education of Russian Federation and the Republic of Karelia
- in the laws on culture of Russian Federation and the Republic of Karelia
- In the Law on the State Support of the Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages

The Law on the State Support of the Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages, §3

1. Strengthening and widening the socio-cultural functions of Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages.
2. Supporting the work of different media in Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages.
3. Arranging teaching of Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages in basic schooling
4. Supporting the work of educational institutions, that either use the languages as the medium of instruction or offer possibilities to study Karelian, Veps or Finnish.
5. Publishing educational, methodological, scientific and fictive literature, literature for children and dictionaries and supporting those institutions publishing the aforementioned.

The Law on the State Support of the Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages, §3

6. Supporting scientific research in Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages
7. Supporting specialists in areas of culture, education, science, mass media using Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages
8. Improving the education systems of specialists in Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages
9. Promoting improvement of international and inter-areal relationships and promoting the maintenance, research, development and use of Karelian, Veps and Finnish languages

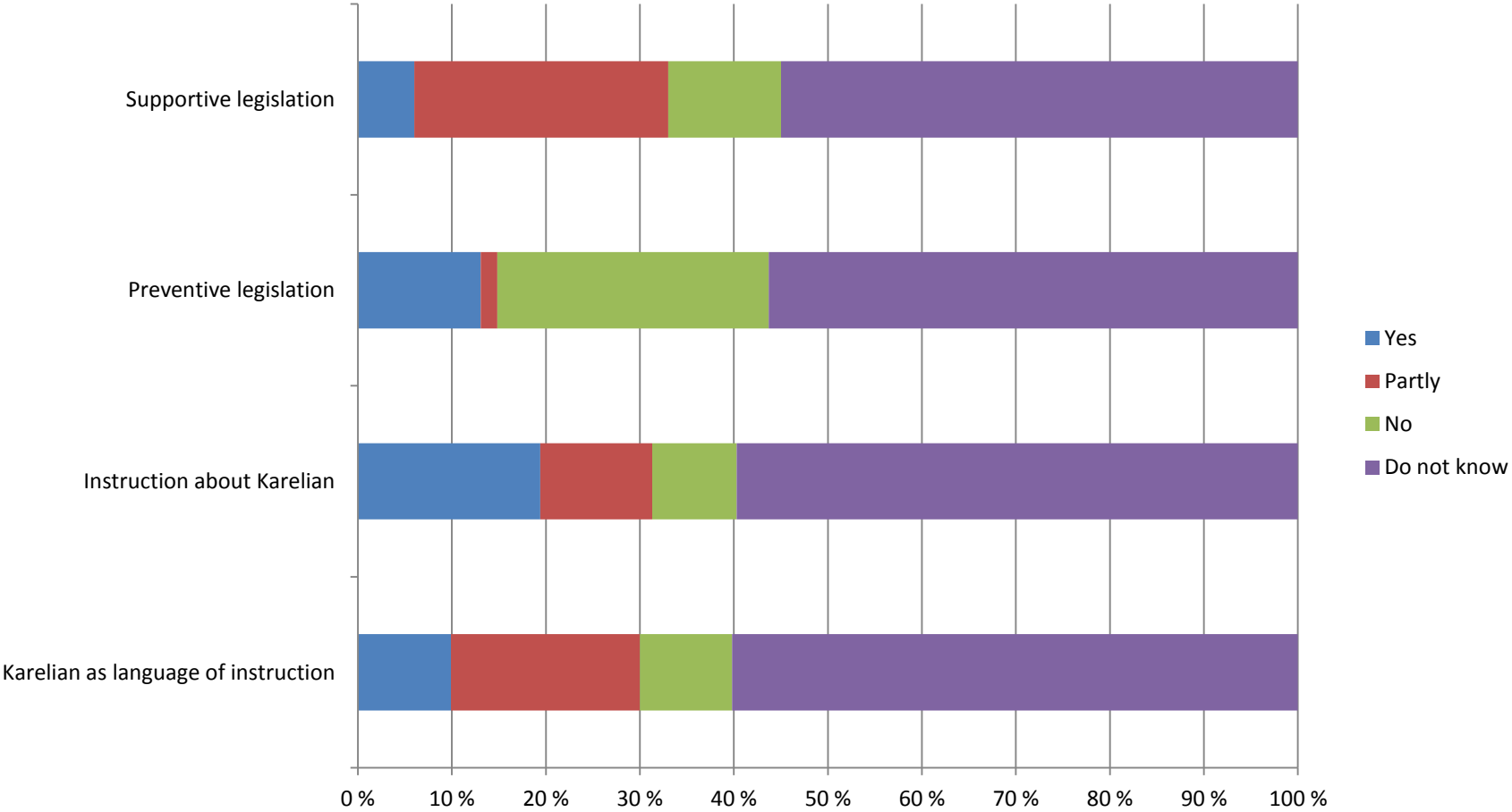
Veps language rights are also regulated by:

- “The Law on the Rights Guaranteed for Indigenous Peoples of Russian Federation” (1999)
- “The Law on General Principles of Organizing Communes among the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the RF” (2000)
- “The Law on the Territories of Traditional Land Use among the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the RF” (2000)
- These laws are meant to protect the cultures, languages, traditional way of life and environment of the native peoples.

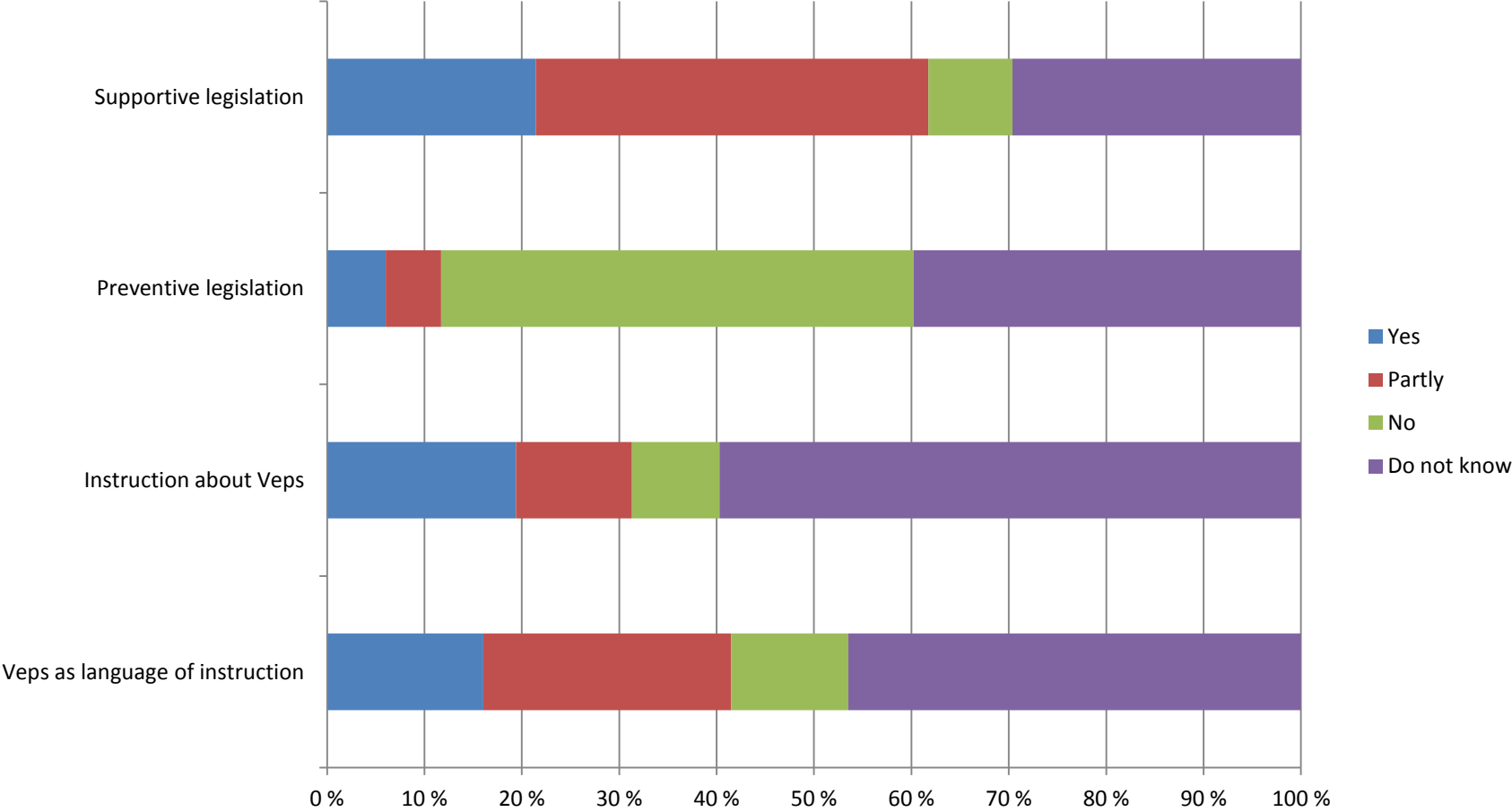
ELDIA-data: different perceptions on legislation

- Karelians: titular people of the RK, but the language does not have official status
- Veps: recognized as indigenous people

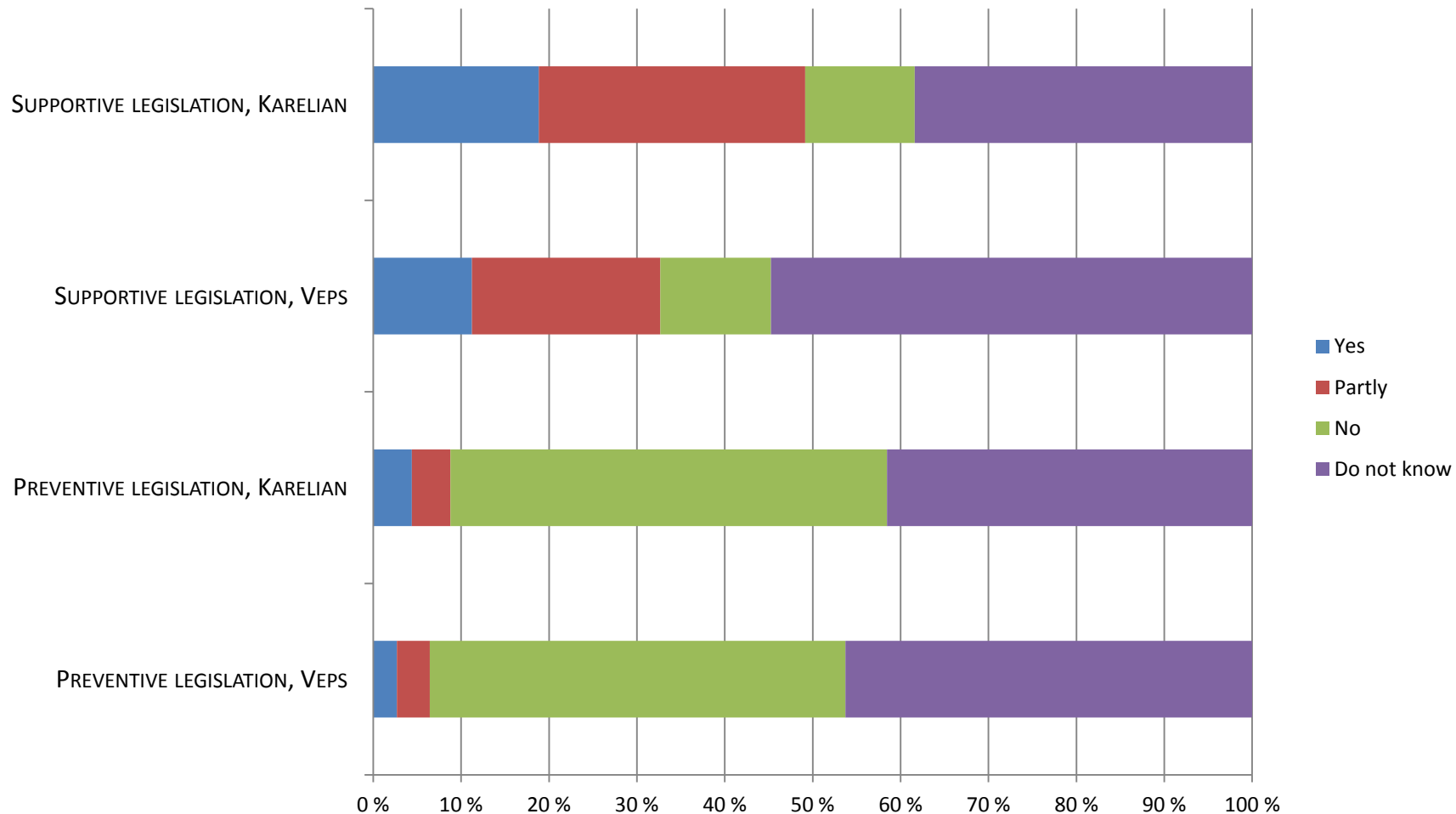
Most Karelians are unaware of their legislative position



The Veps seem to be more aware about their legislative position



How do outsiders (CG) see the situation?



Comments reveal the common perceptions

RU-VEP-II-AG5F:

täl aigal vepsän kel' om vähäluguižen rahvahan kel', muga meile sanutas, mijou om mugoine zakon Venänmal, vähäluguižiden rahvahiden kuti täht, i vepsläižed sinnä müluba, i vepsläižil völ oma mugoine pohjoižman rahvaz tägou mugažo Venämas, i sikš mijau pidäiži miše oliži mugoine eriline kaičend, no sidä ei le ((laughing))

'These days Veps language is a minority language, that is how we are told. We have such a law in Russia, for minority peoples, and Vepsians fit in there. And the Vepsians have a kind of [status of] Northern Peoples here in Russia. So therefore we should have special protection, but it does not exist.'

- 64334073

Konstitutsiëshäi on kirjutettu oigevus omah kieleh. Karjalas on zakon paikallizihe kielihe valdivollises kannatukses, ga jengukannatustu vai pienendetäh.

‘The right to one’s own language is written in the constitution. There is the law on state support for local languages in the Republic of Karelia, but the financial support is diminished still.’

- there are laws that in principle support the use of the languages, but in reality there is very little action taken to improve the status of Veps or Karelian language
- In addition, the comments reveal that the legislative support is often interpreted as if the use of language is allowed in certain fora (media, education), it must be written in the laws also

Thank you! Passibo! Sur' spasib!

