Congreso de
los Diputados

Survey on the use of microblogs - Twitter- in the Spanish Congress

Parliaments on the net IX

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Direct communication between citizens and MPs through microblogging. Approach to the use of Twitter by MPs as a way of information and interaction

01   **Presentation of the survey**

02   **Quantitative figures**

03   **Qualitative figures**

04   **Findings**

It's presented a preliminary advance of results of the ongoing research which aims to know the use that the 40 MPs in the House, who had already signed in Twitter in April 2011, were given to this tool.

The survey deals with several questions as:

• What percentage of MPs have a twitter profile in comparison with the number of MPs using other tools (personal webs, blogs or Facebook)?

• Do MPs have a personal profile on Twitter or is it just a tool administered collectively by the parliamentary group?

• What sort of information is offered by the MPs through their Twitter profile (political, parliamentary activity, personal, …)?

- How often do they update their profile?

- Is this tool used by the MPs to interact with others users or exclusively to publish information?

- Ultimately, it's tried to offer a description of the state of the art whether Twitter contributes to promote direct contact between MPs and citizens through the internet.

The survey is based on descriptive content analysis with quantitative and semi-qualitative results. The survey takes as starting point some previous surveys (Campos, 2009; Dader y Campos, 2006; Ramos-Vielba y Gonzalo, 2000 a,b and 2001).

Only for the analysis of contents, the survey takes into consideration the 50 latest tweets.

It aims to investigate this new tool in order to decide whether it can be considered as a tool for debating between MPs and citizens or only as a tool for information.
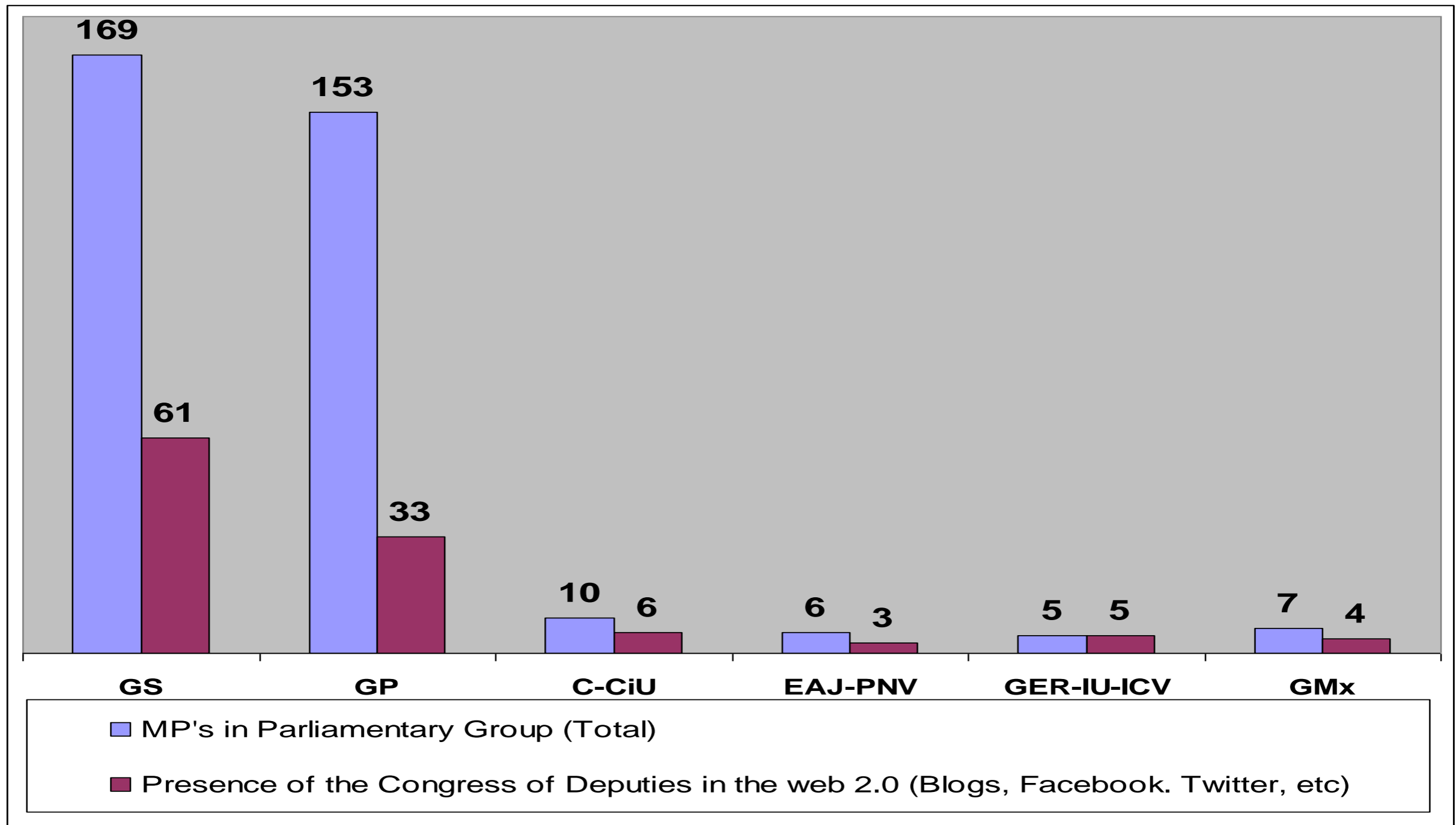
The global survey will be carried out jointly with Ms Eva Campos, professor at the University of Valladolid

Quantitative figures
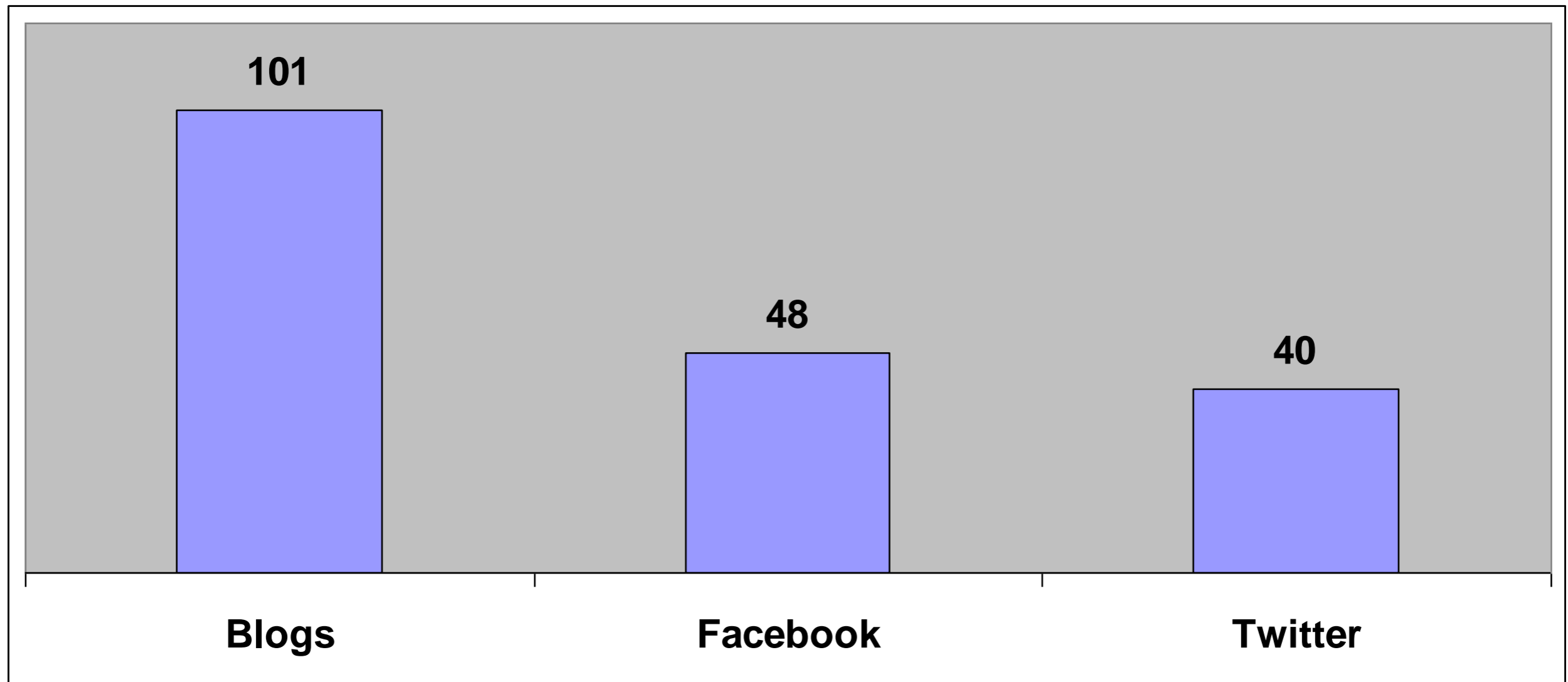Presence of the Congress of Deputies in the web 2.0
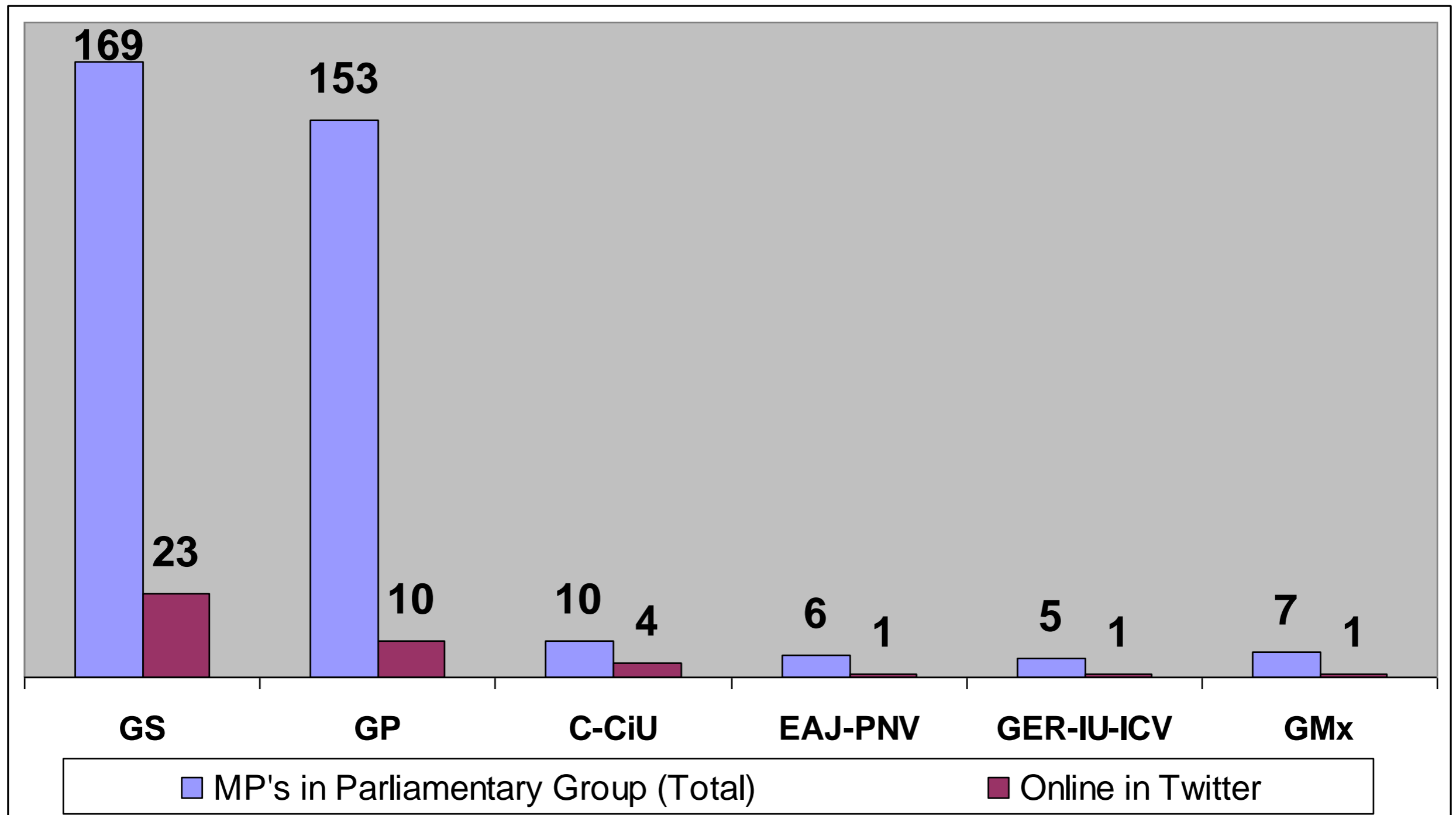
112

238

■ MPs online in social networks

■ The rest ot the out
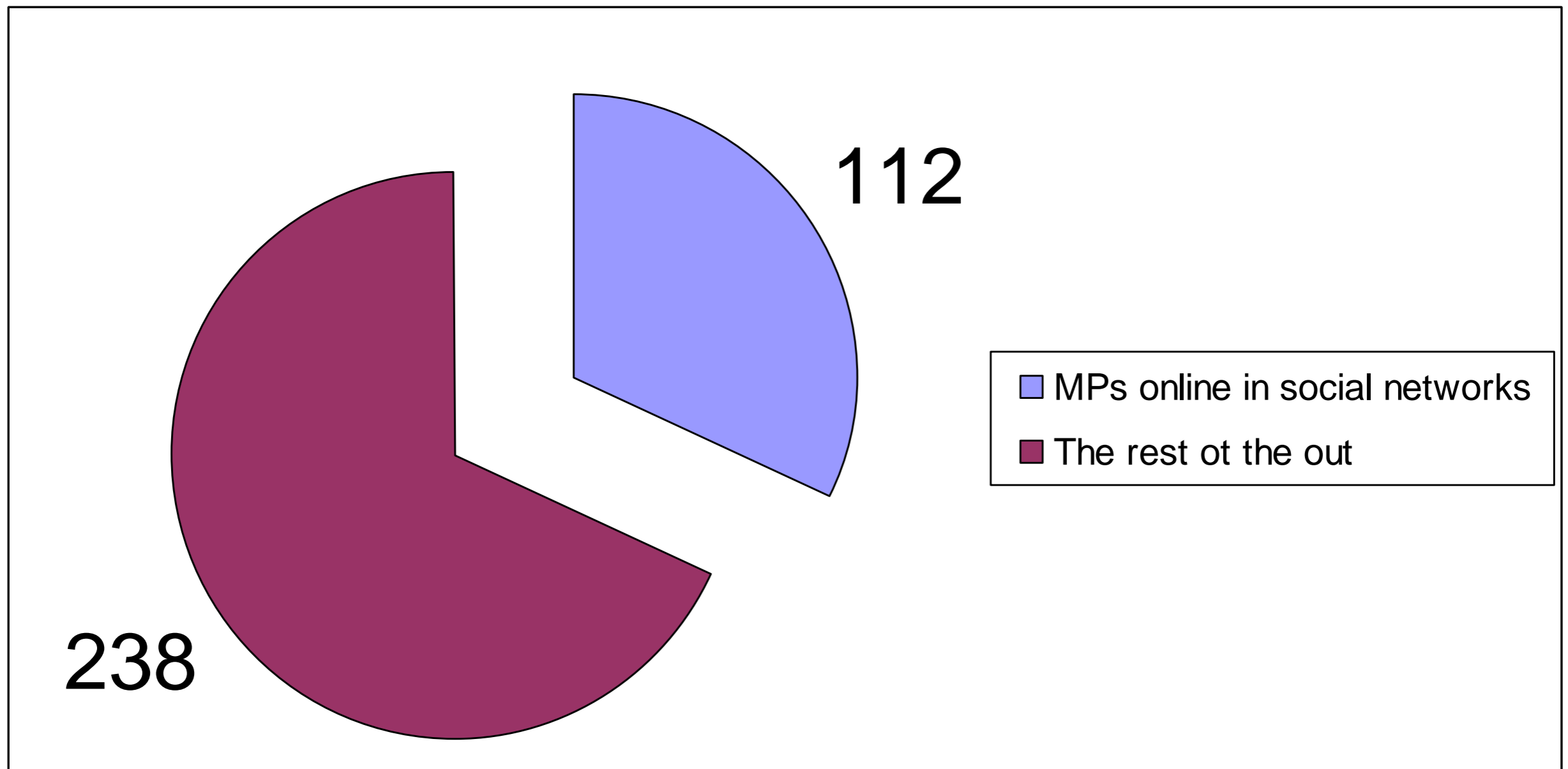
32% online in social networks

Quantitative figures.
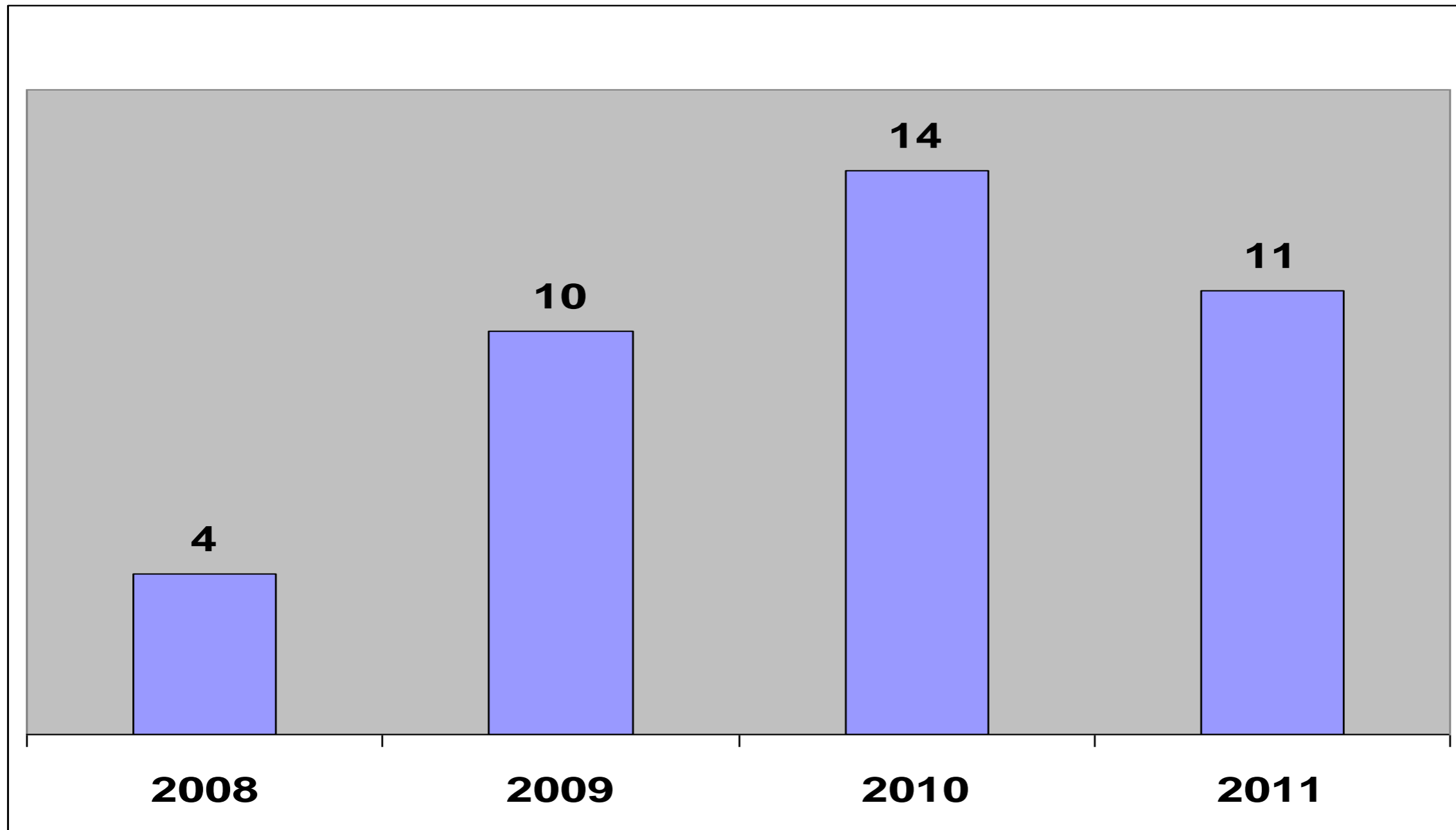Presence of the Congress of Deputies in the web 2.0: distribution of parliamentary groups

Chart data:

Group	MP's in Parliamentary Group (Total)	Presence of the Congress of Deputies in the web 2.0 (Blogs, Facebook. Twitter, etc)
GS	169	61
GP	153	33
C-CiU	10	6
EAJ-PNV	6	3
GER-IU-ICV	5	5
GMx	7	4

Legend:
- MP's in Parliamentary Group (Total)
- Presence of the Congress of Deputies in the web 2.0 (Blogs, Facebook. Twitter, etc)

Quantitative figures.
Presence of the Congress of Deputies in the web 2.0: distribution of the social networks

101

48

40

Blogs

Facebook

Twitter

Quantitative figures.
Presence of the Congress of Deputies in Twitter: global data per parliamentary groups

Congreso de los Diputados

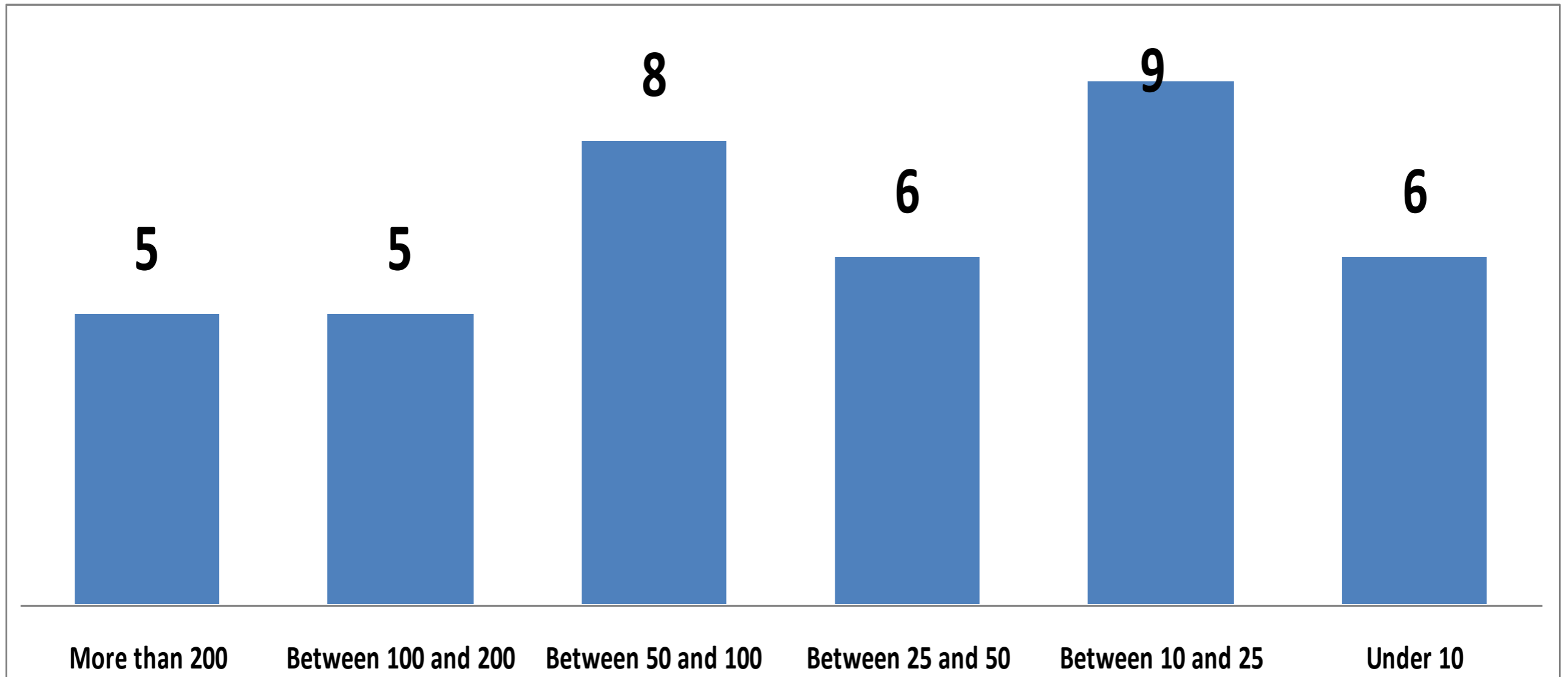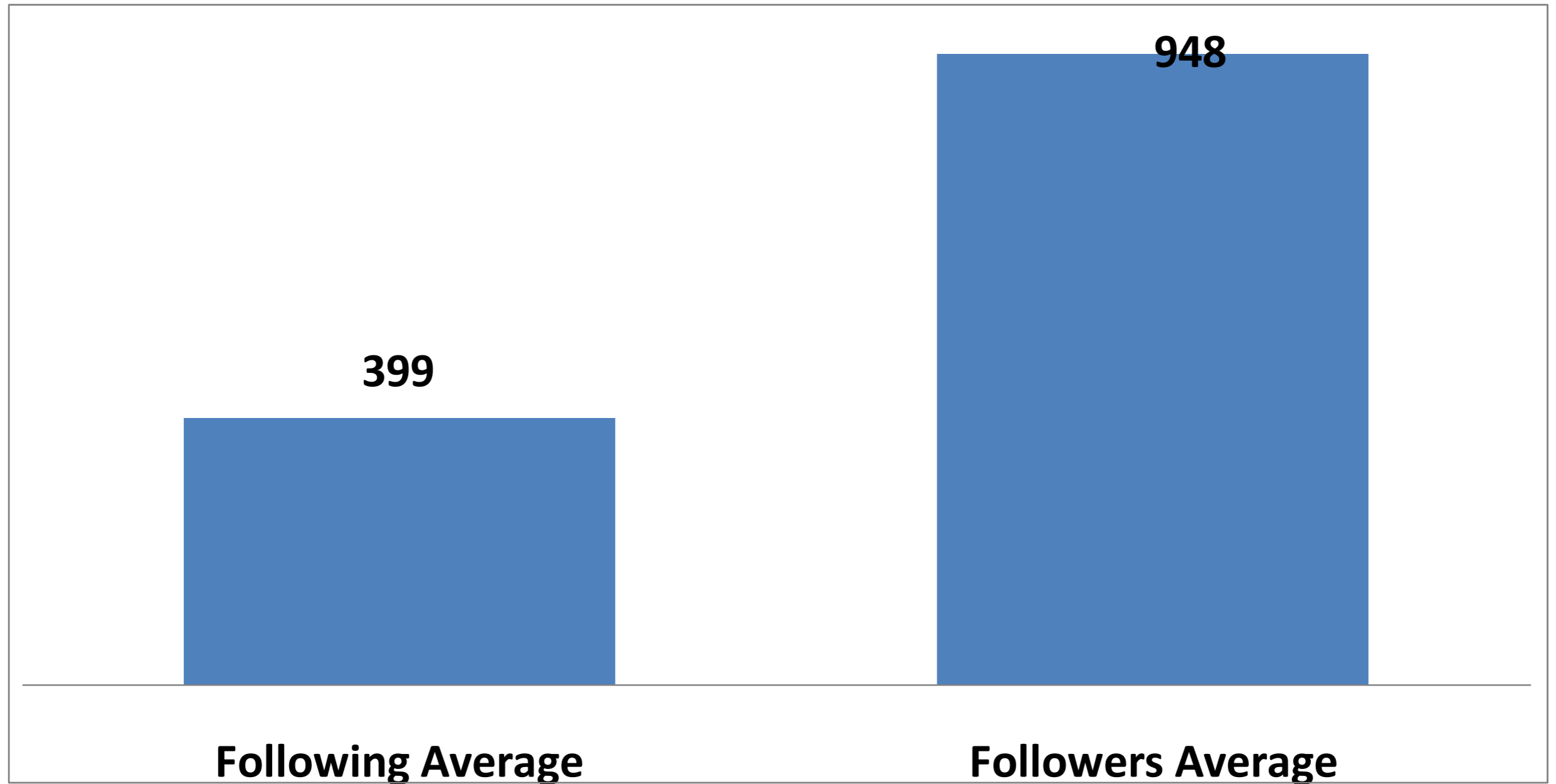|	GS	GP	C-CiU	EAJ-PNV	GER-IU-ICV	GMx
MP's in Parliamentary Group (Total)	169	153	10	6	5	7
Online in Twitter	23	10	4	1	1	1

Quantitative figures.
Temporal data

Year of the first Tweet

Quantitative figures.
Interactivity

30 — % Replies to @ of total Tweets

10 — % Re Tweet (RT's) of total Tweets

16%

24%

60%
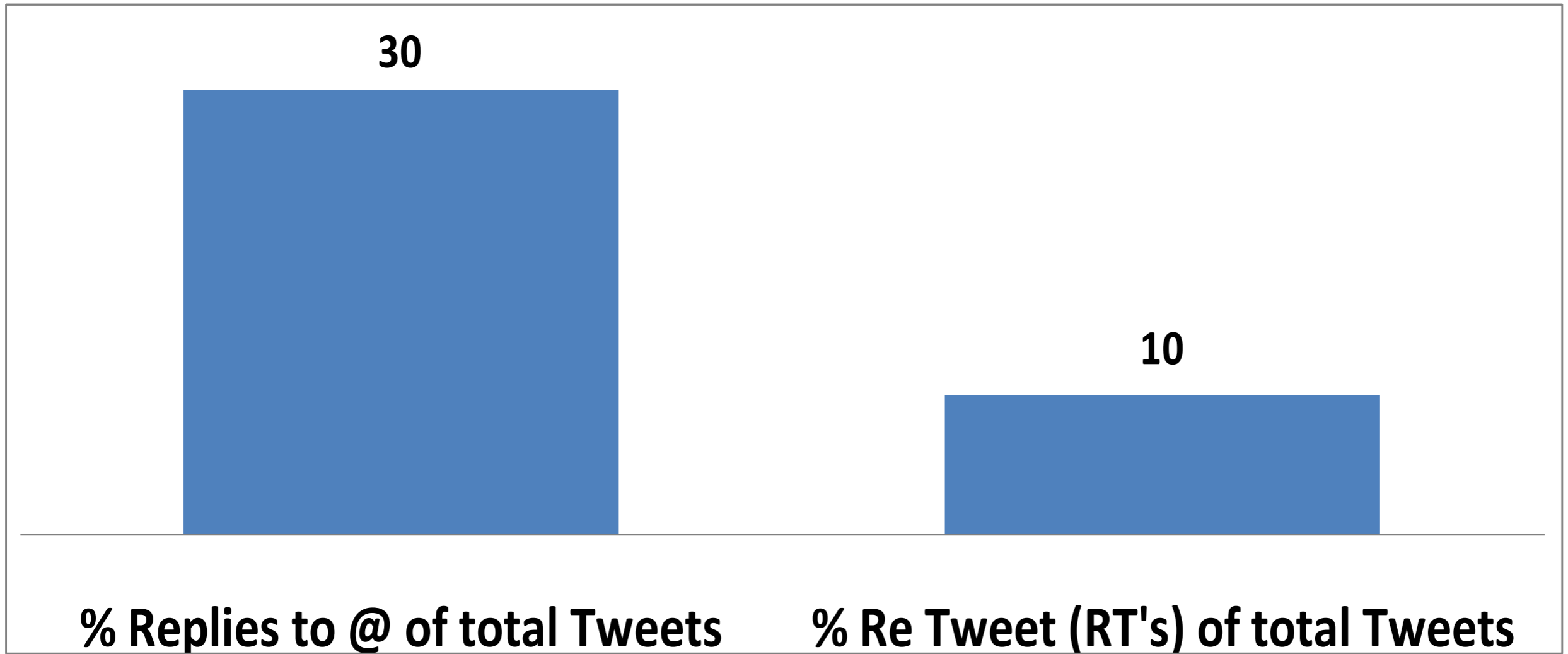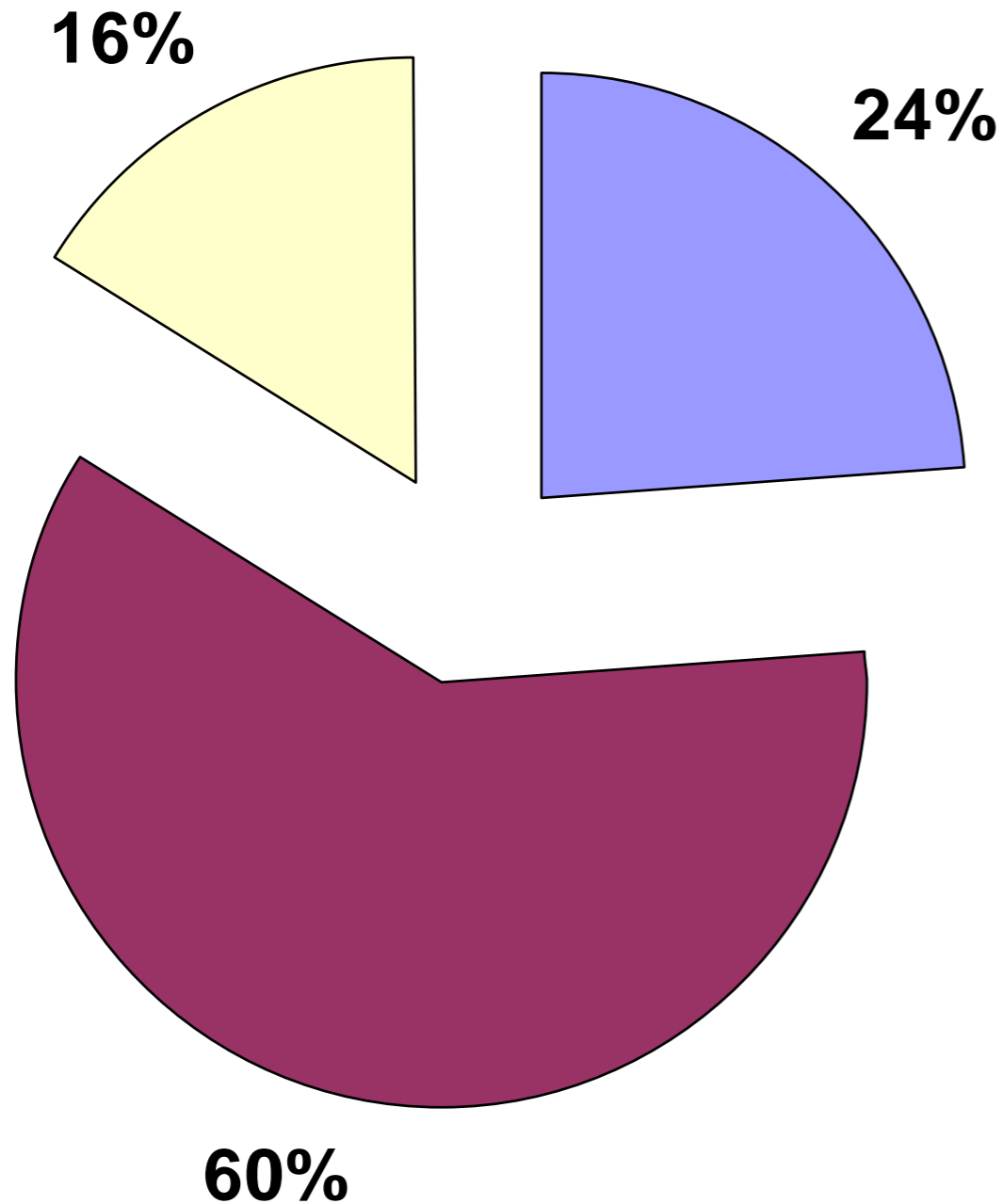
- **Parliamentary Subjets: The are related to their agenda, plenary sittings, Committees, parliamentary groups, etc**

- **Political subjets: The are related to political acts, critics to the opposition, electoral campaigns, positions stances of the party, etc.**

- **Personal subjets: They are related to personal travellings, hobbies, personal anecdotes, etc.**

- **Emission of political messages**

- **Sharing personal agenda**

- **Answering questions to citizens**

- **Personal uses**

- **Uploading pictures**

1. **Parliament 2.0 = Proximity 2.0**

2. **Contents are provided by users**

3. **Web 2.0 widen the spaces for participation and communication. It makes them accessible for every person on the net**

4. **The focus is: attitude of proximity towards the citizenship and a change of philosophy and way of understanding the representation**

5. **Transparency in the parliamentary activity**

6. Active participation in order not to move it a disguised 1.5 parliament.

7. Technologies being harmless

8. Social network is not just a trend

9. Social network is not only for young people (the number of people older than 55 using it is increasing)

10. Start today

- **It is a must to adjust the collective project to the individual age**

- **50% of the offline people can't be an excuse to slow down changes**

- **The public space has change. It requires political adaptations**

- **Changes are hard processes**

The principal findings of the survey show that:

• **MPs mainly use their Twitter account at an individual level**

• **Fundamentally, they use it to publish political information, and in lesser, the information of their parliamentary activities.**

•**As for the interaction with the citizens, comments publicly exchanged with other users, generally related to their political ideology, show an incipient, although still low, level of deliberation and discussion.**

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¡ Thank you very much !

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