

Business models and sustainability of HealthGrid solutions



Communication & Technology Research
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Introduction

- **A study on business models and sustainability of HealthGrid projects, 2007**
- **A satellite study to the *MediGRID* project**
- **Commissioned by Telematikplattform für Medizinische Forschungsnetze (TMF), Berlin, Germany**



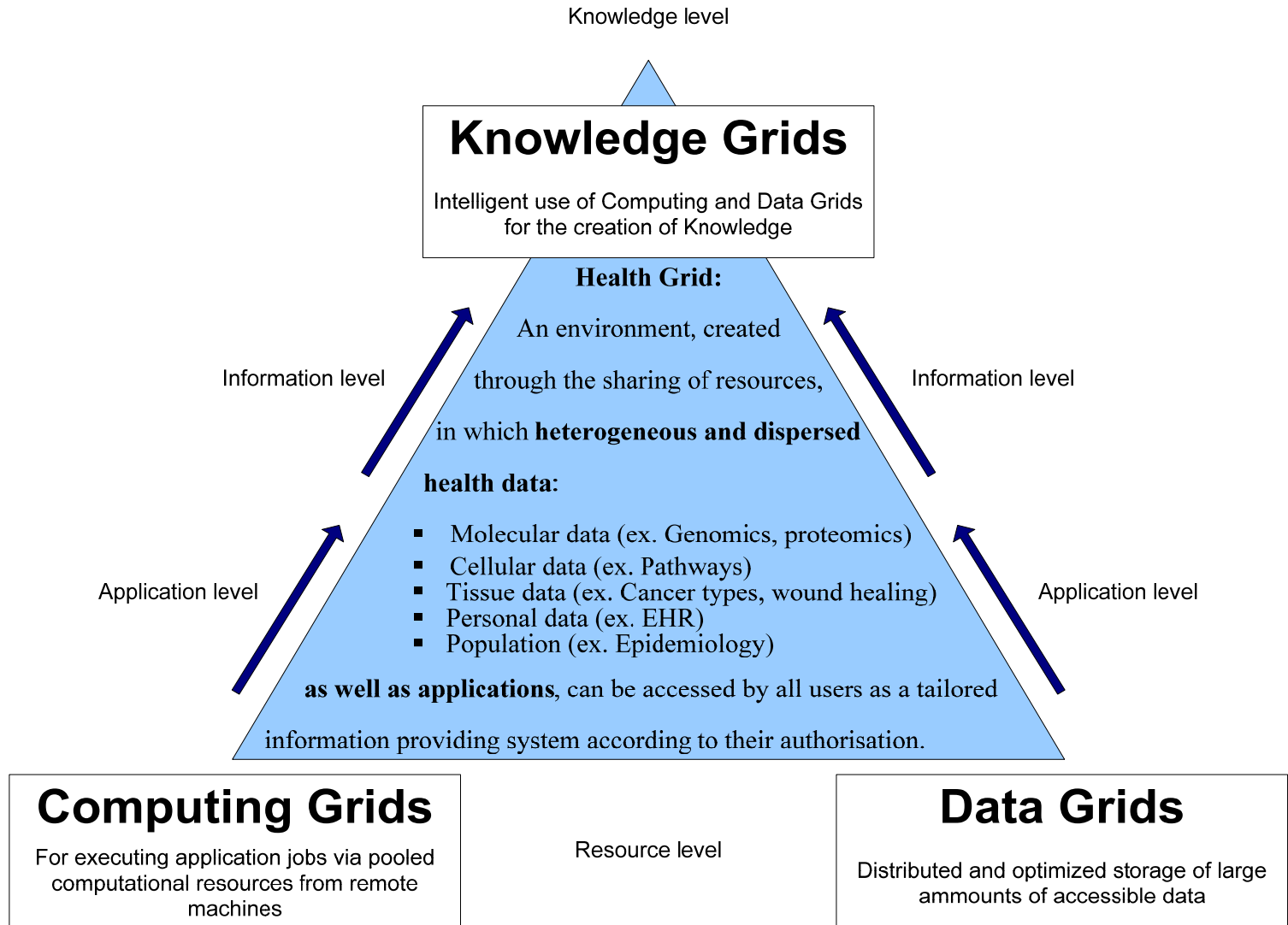
Introduction

- **22 short cases HealthGrids**
 - desk research
 - limited availability of information
- **Two detailed case studies**
 - extensive desk research and interviews
 - economic case
 - business case
- **Developments in HealthGrids**
 - insights from current activities
 - searching for sustainability

The HealthGrid landscape in the EU and beyond

Overview of 22 short case descriptions

The HealthGrid vision

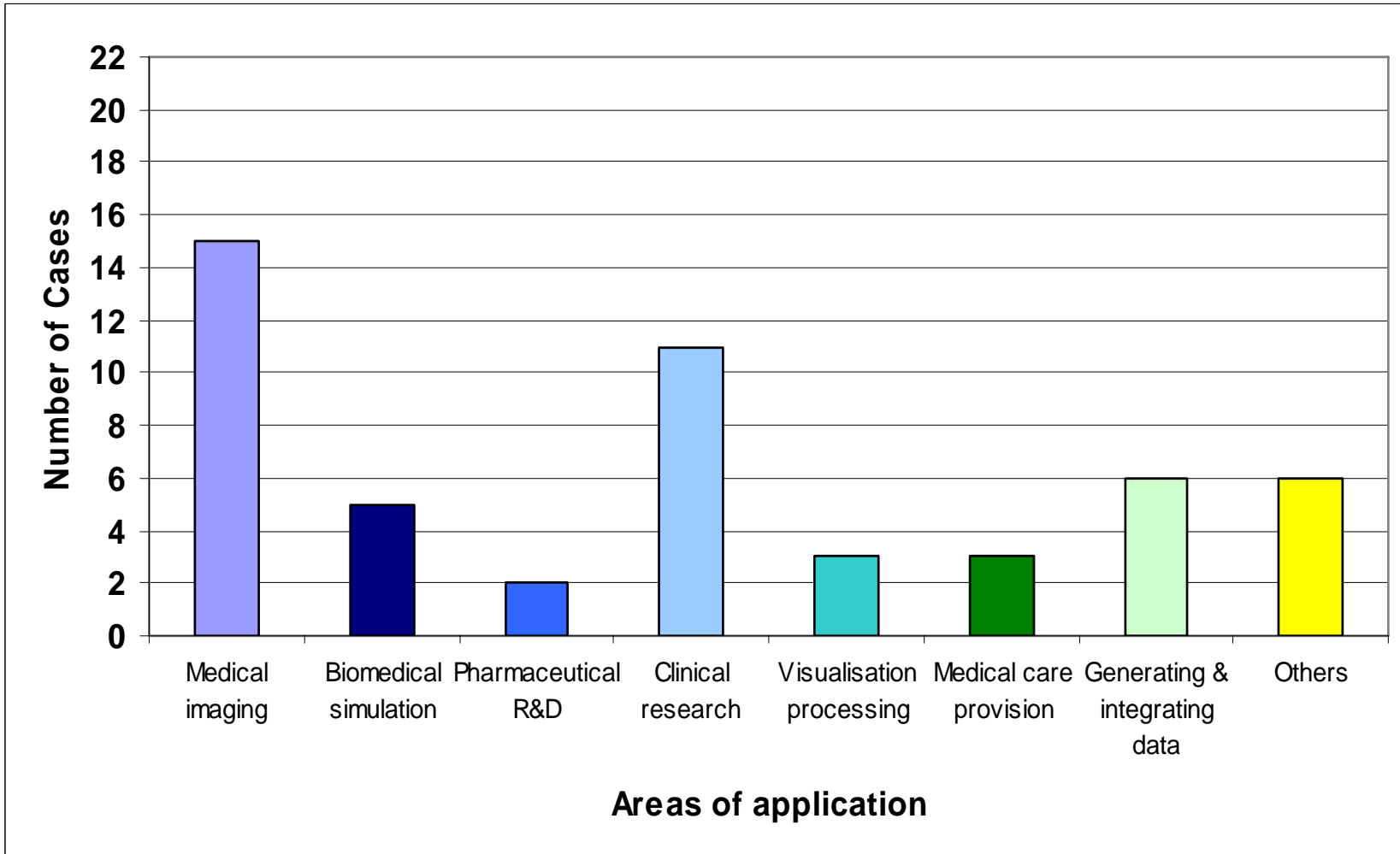


Adapted from: Biomedical informatics – in support of genomic medicine. Presentation by Ilias Iakovidis, Deputy Head of Unit ICT for Health at the Workshop on Biomedical Informatics, Brussels 18 March 2004

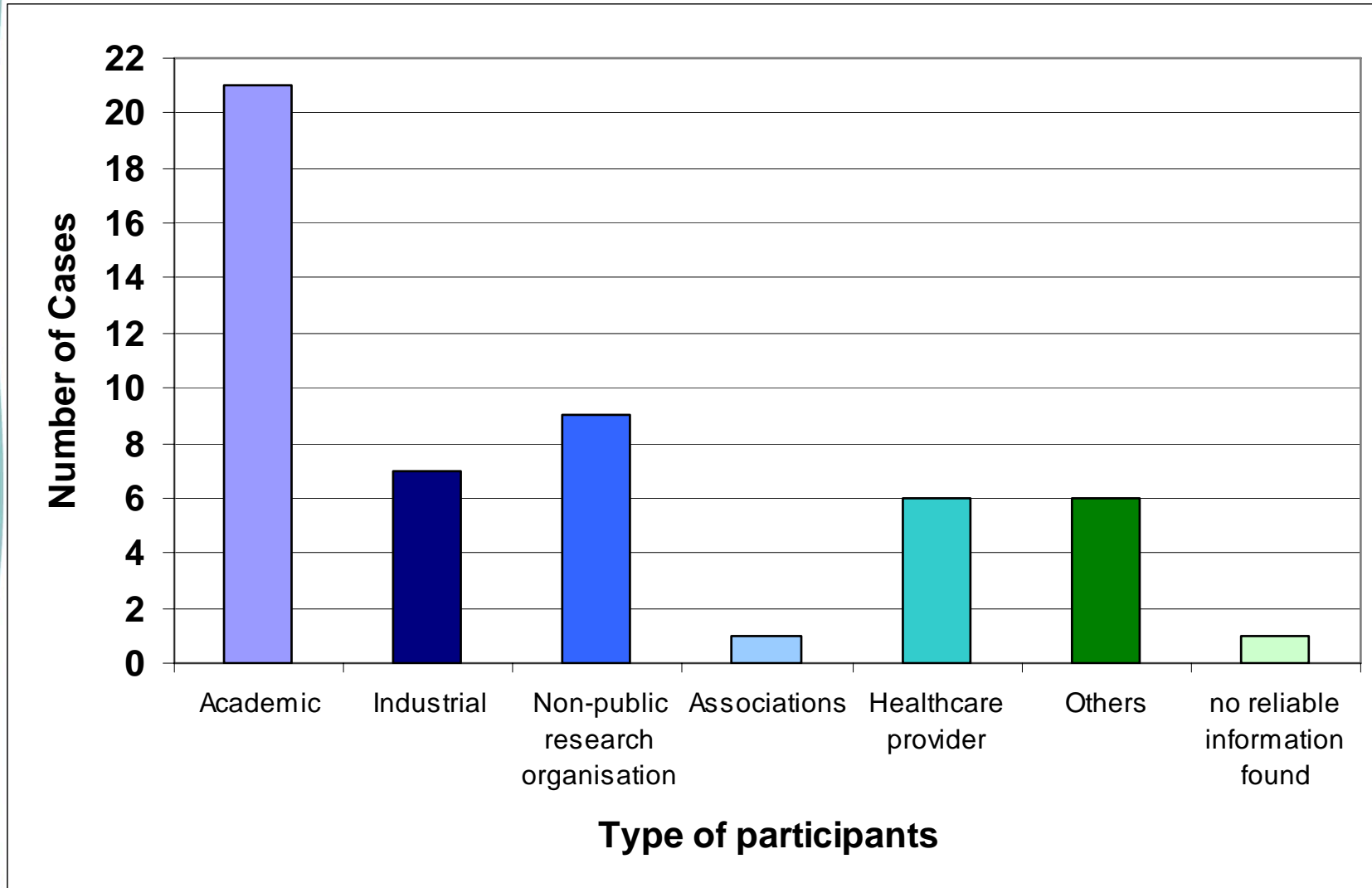
Development status of HealthGrids

- Most applications are using **Grids as a resource** - for computing or as a network for data sharing
- **No Knowledge Grid operational yet**
 - ACGT (Advancing Clinico- Genomic Clinical Trials on Cancer) project aims to build a knowledge grid by 2010
 - MammoGrid is set up to allow for an 'upgrade', but these features not in routine operation
- HealthGrids are **a new phenomenon:**
 - All projects started between 2002 and 2006
 - A standard duration is between 2 and 4 years

Areas of application

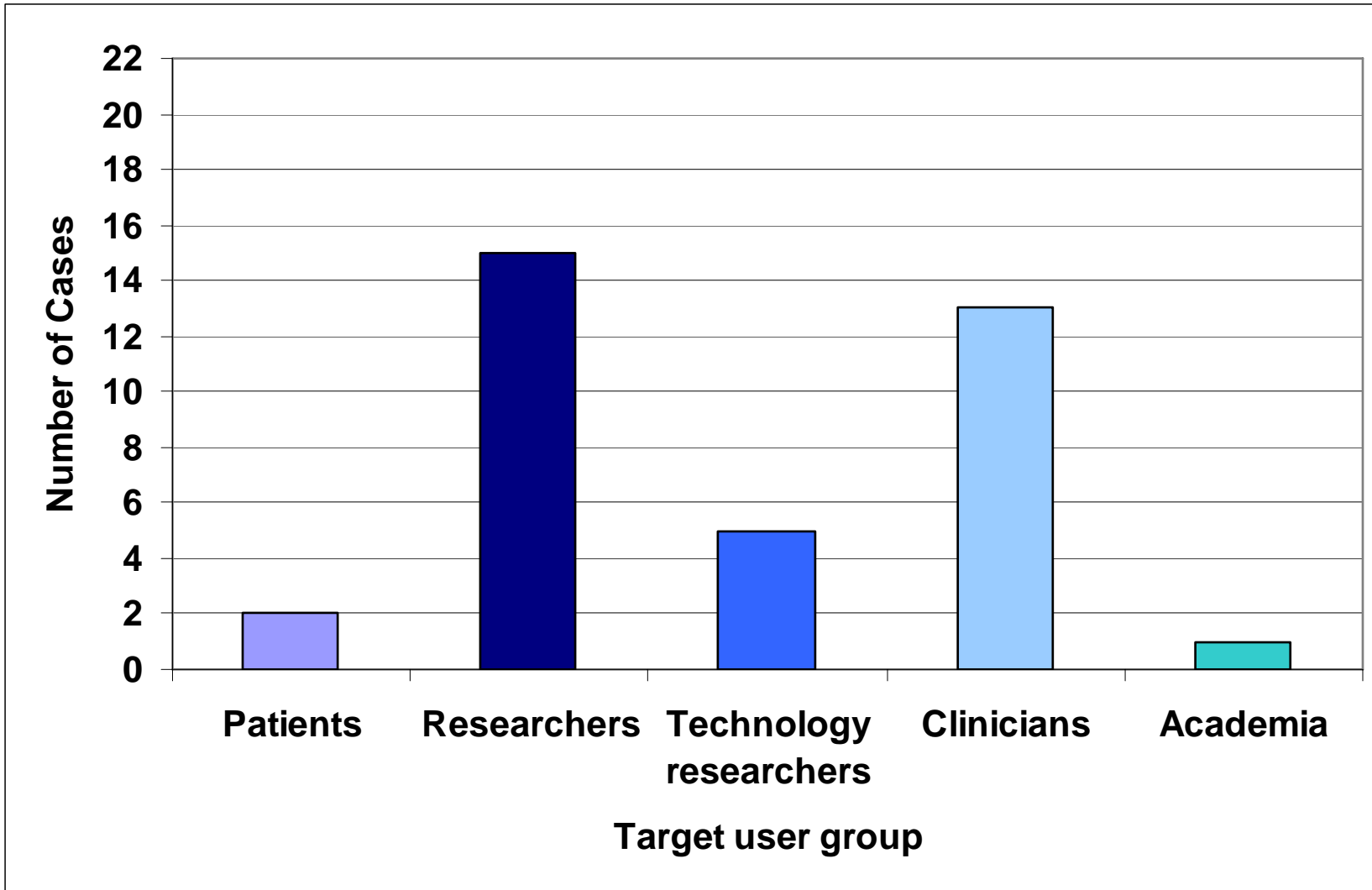


Organisations involved

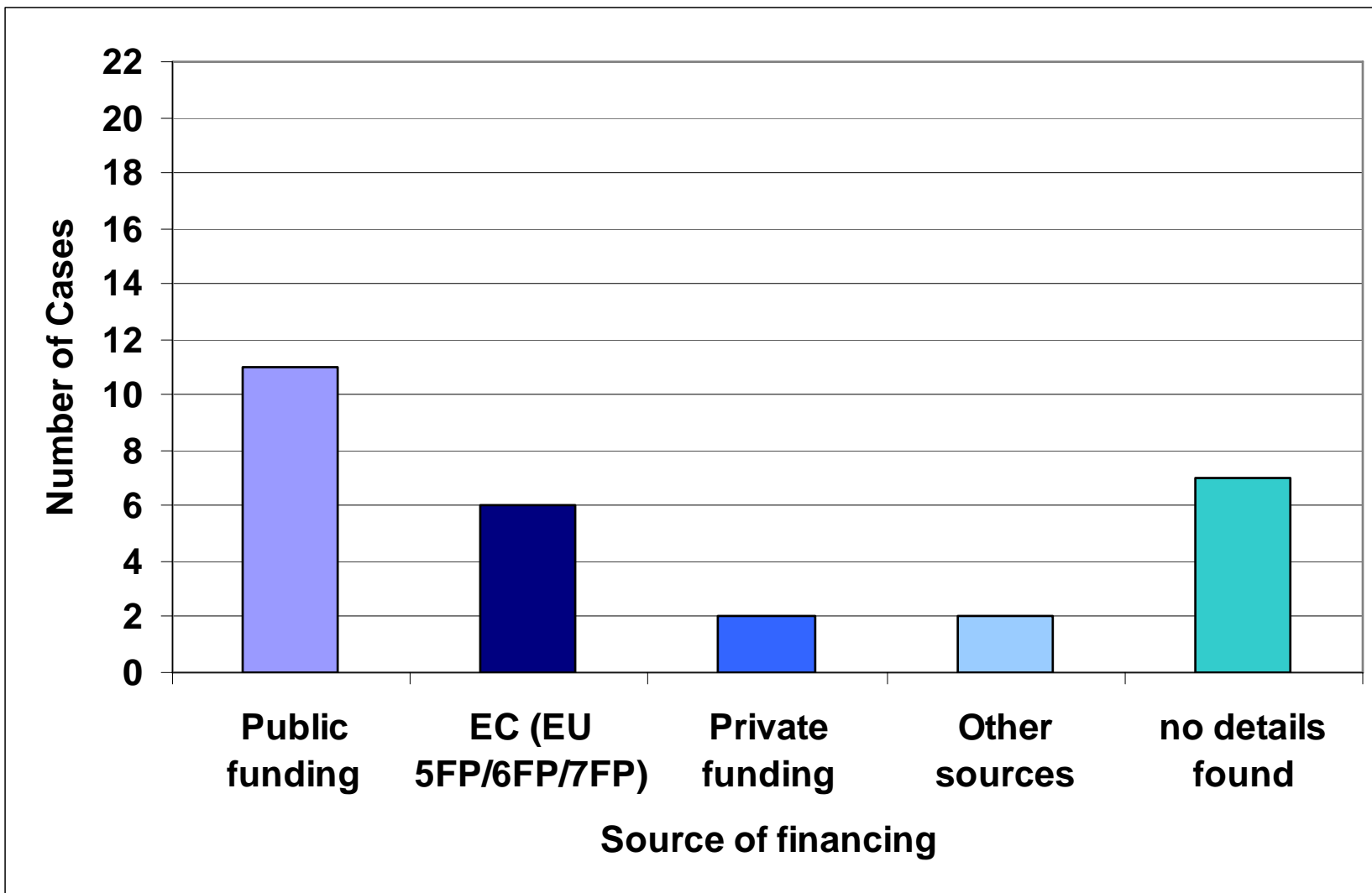


Targeted users

(data to be treated with caution)



Financial arrangements



Conclusions:

Searching for business cases for HealthGrids

Analysis overview I

- **Business cases are not a driving force** of HealthGrids today
 - sustainability is not an explicit issue
- **Project based activities: time limits** on funding, goals & objectives
- **Activities are mainly playgrounds:**
 - development projects
 - illustration activities
 - test beds
 - proof-of-concept initiatives
- **Legal and regulatory uncertainties**
 - regarding the storage and use of data
 - ownership and dissemination of results

Analysis overview II

- **Integrating content** from a large number databases is a must
- **Critical issue: to get the attention and interest of users:**
 - medical researchers
 - treating physicians
- **Scientists and researchers in technology do not have the immediate incentives** to focus on sustainability
- Important **role of networks** (data and people)
- **Big potential gap** between what is economically wise and what is practical
- **Strong case for continuous public funding**

Conclusions

- **A sceptical short term perspective with reasons for more optimism in the longer run**
- **Economic case for HealthGrid is robust**
- **Public involvement will be necessary and should be expected**
- **Research applications “easier” than treatment**
- **Biggest hurdles:**
 - **Usability and acceptability issues**
 - **Discrepancy between social benefits and private incentives**

Thank you for your attention

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