

Lucerne University of  
Applied Sciences and Arts

**HOCHSCHULE  
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Wirtschaft

# **Real Estate Asset and Investment Management for institutional investors in Switzerland**

**Prof. Dr. Michael Trübestein**  
ARES-Conference  
Fort Myers, April 17th 2015



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# Agenda

- 1 Introduction and current trends
- 2 Empirical results for direct real estate investments
- 3 Empirical results for indirect real estate investments
- 4 Summary and outlook

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# Pension funds in Switzerland and current trends

- Strong **decrease** in the number of **pension funds** to currently 2,000 institutions
- Real estate investments of **CHF 120 bn**, therefore „only“ **CHF 10 bn** abroad (of CHF 720 bn)
- **Positive macroeconomic conditions** might lead to higher investments in real estate (eg. negative interest rates of the SNB, low unemployment rate, economic upturn)
- Challenges with **strong currency, regulation of immigration** or a possible **economic downturn**
- Strong **increase** in the **real estate markets** in the last years might lead to a suboptimal allocation of real estate investments
- Challenges might be seen in a lack of **suitable real estate assets**, the future importance/increase of **indirect real estate investments**, targeting **real estate strategies** and **management of the investments**

# Targets of the study and empirical approach



With the support of the  
Association of Pension Funds in  
Switzerland



Folie 5, April 17th, 2015

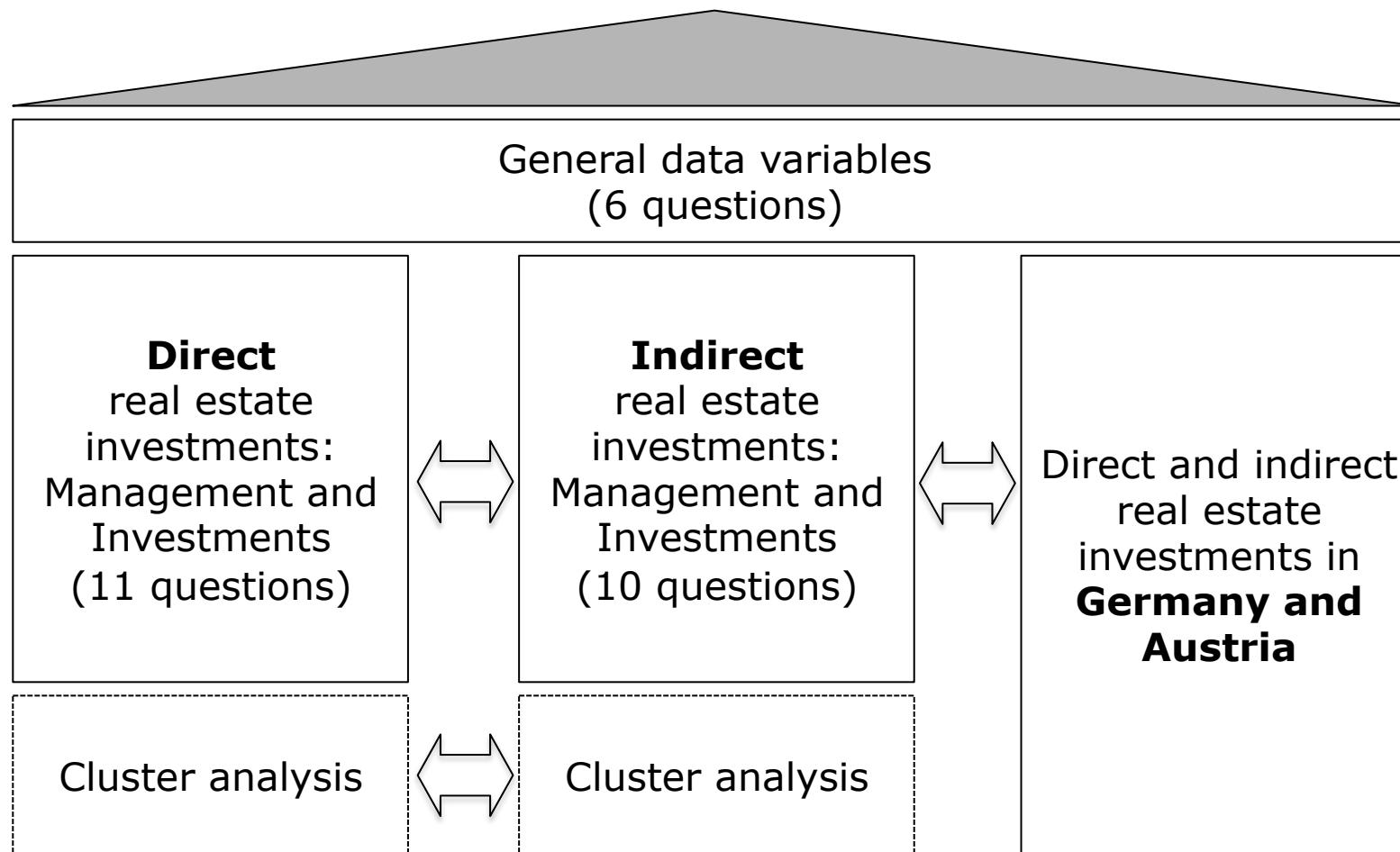
## Targets of the study

- Obtain a **general overview** of real estate investments and real estate asset management of **institutional investors**
- Analysis of **direct** and **indirect** real estate investments and discussion of **investment and management** trends
- **Classification** of investors based on their **behaviour**

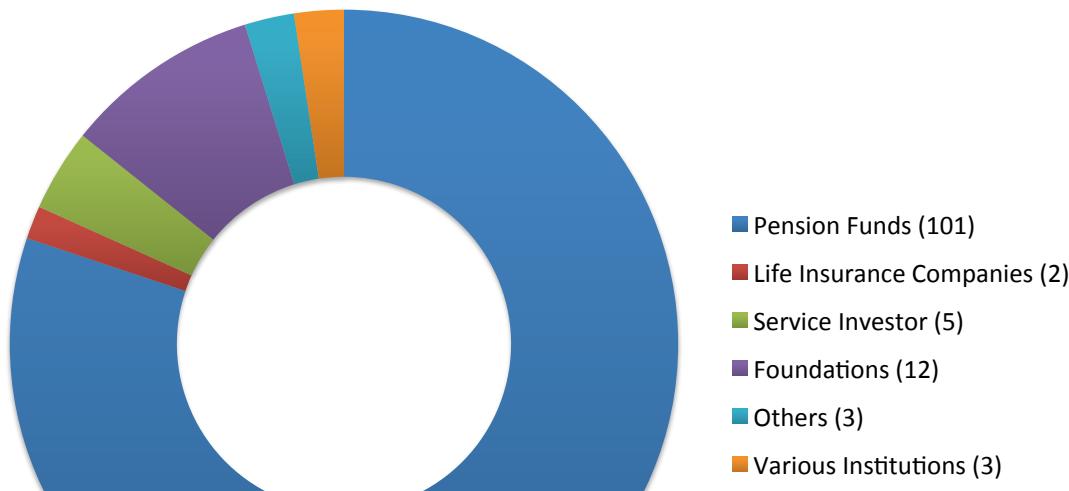
## Empirical framework

- **Empirical study** with questionnaires sent to pension funds, life insurance companies and foundations.
- **Questionnaires** were split up in 3 parts with a total of 27 questions, mostly „*multiple choice*“
- For Switzerland, **126 institutions** answered, representing **CHF 440 bn** of invested assets **and CHF 56 bn** of investments in real estate
- The survey was conducted between **July and September 2014** in **Switzerland** and the Principality of **Liechtenstein** (as well as in **Germany** and **Austria**)

# Structure of the empirical study of Real Estate Asset Management



## Structure of the sample: Dominance of pension funds in the sample



- In the sample, **pension funds** obtain a dominant position with over **80 %** of the analyzed **questionnaires**
- Clustering based on **behavioural aspects**

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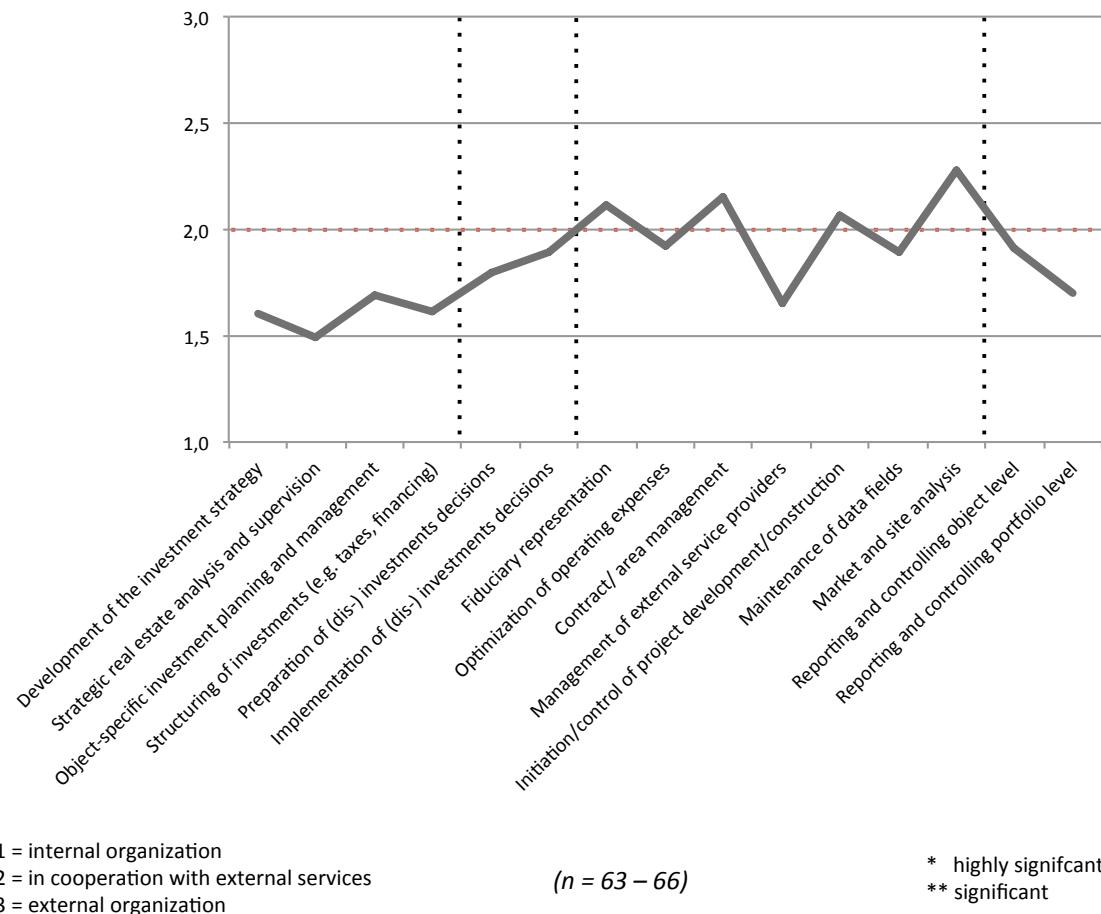
# Strategic and operational tasks of a Real Estate Asset Management for direct investments

strategy	transaction management	management	controlling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of the investment strategy</li><li>• Strategic real estate analysis and supervision</li><li>• Object-specific investment planning and management</li><li>• Structuring of investments (e.g. taxes, financing)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preparation of (dis-) investments decisions</li><li>• Implementation of (dis-) investments decisions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiduciary representation</li><li>• Optimization of operating expenses</li><li>• Contract/area management</li><li>• Management of external service providers</li><li>• Initiation/control of project development/construction</li><li>• Maintenance of data fields</li><li>• Market and site analysis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reporting and controlling object level</li><li>• Reporting and controlling portfolio level</li></ul>



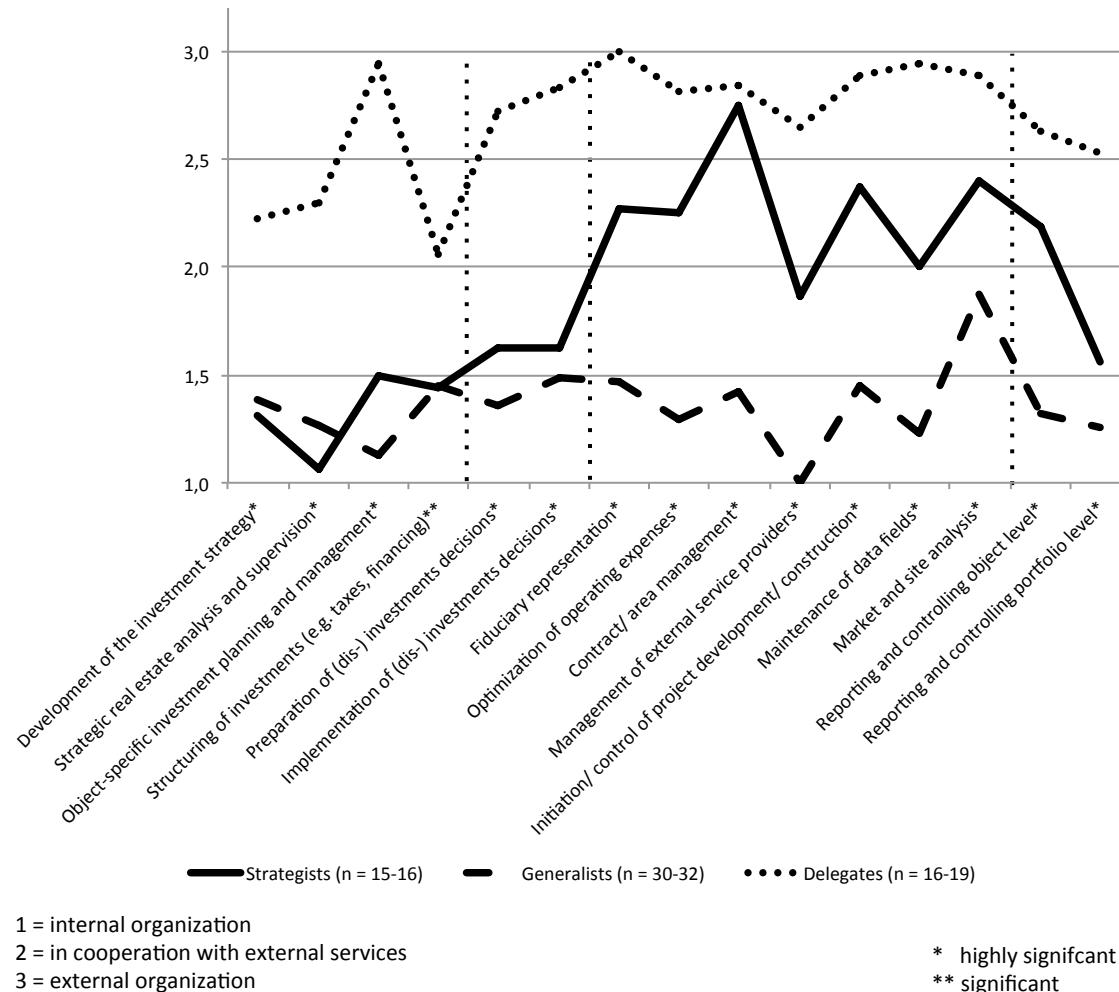
- Analysis of **15 variables** in the area of strategy (4), transaction management(2), management of the assets (7) und reporting/controlling (2)
- Development of different **structures of the organization**

# Current organization of real estate asset management tasks



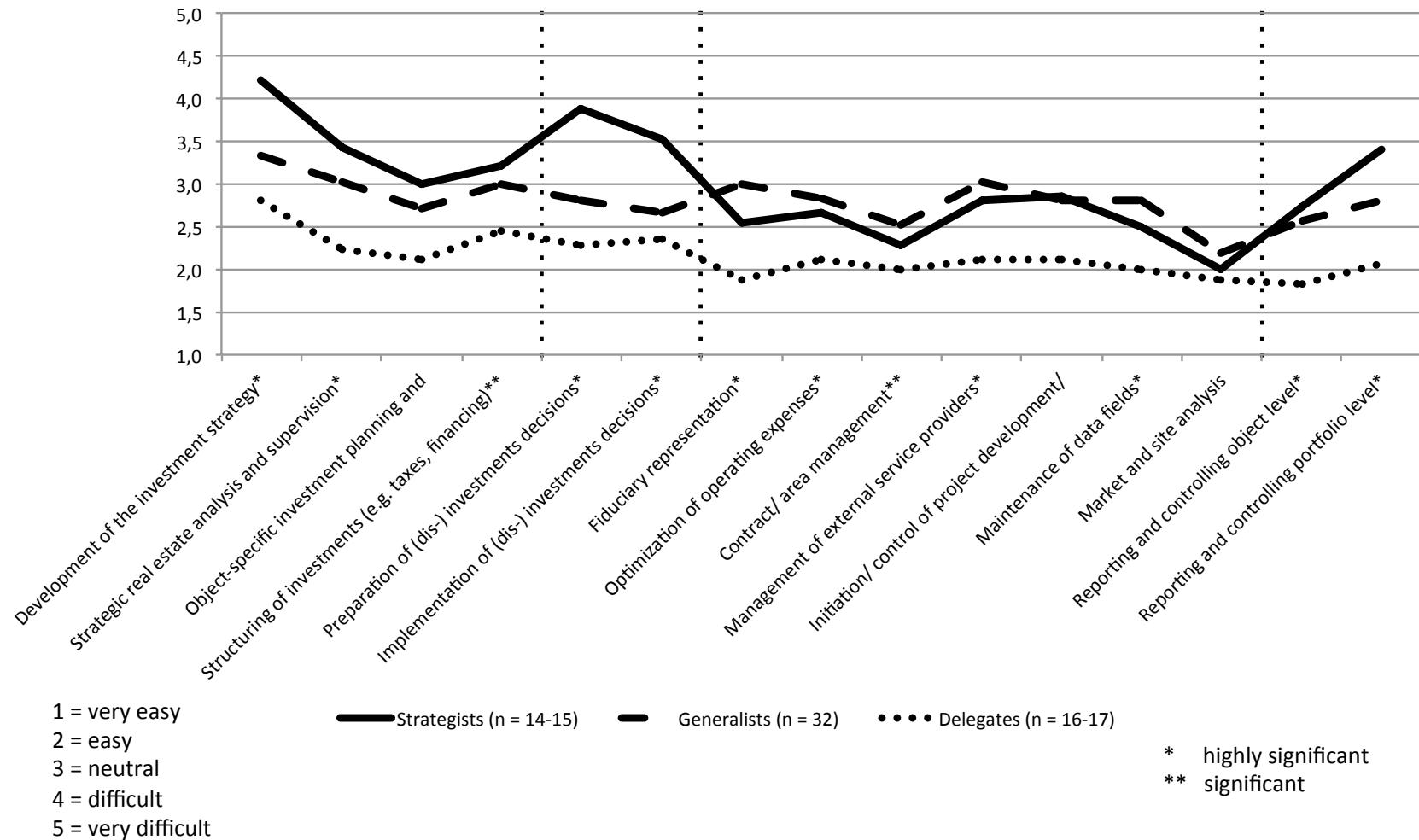
- Tendency towards an **internal** organization, especially for strategic tasks
- Alternating organizational structures for the **management** of real estate

# Current organization of real estate asset management tasks in different clusters

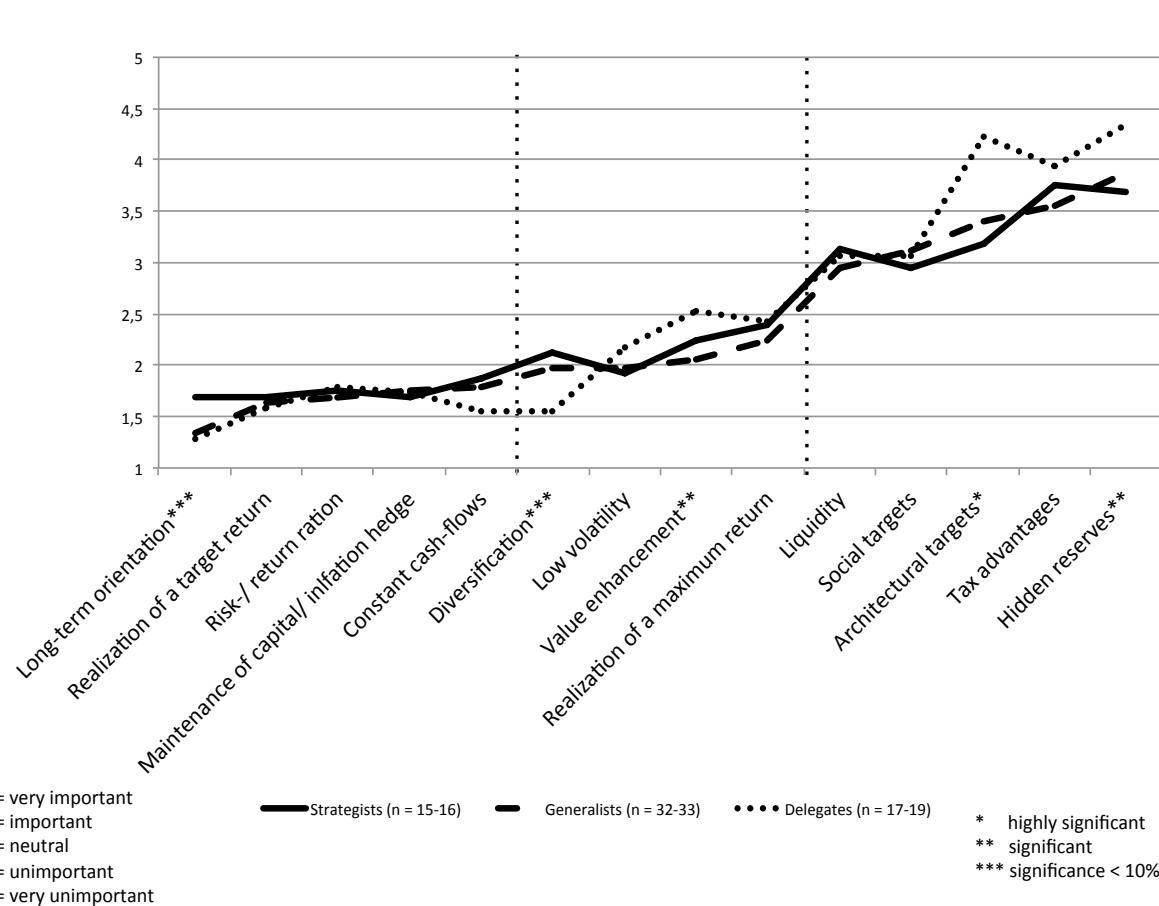


- Clustering **in 3 groups** with the *k-means-method* based on the **actual organization** and the **possibility to externalize** these tasks
- Different attitudes to **internalize** and **externalize** management tasks

# Evaluation of a (possible) externalization of real estate asset management tasks



# Investment criteria for direct real estate investments in the clusters



- **Long term orientation, security aspects and risk-/ return-structures** as important criteria for direct real estate investments
- **Additional targets** are of lower importance

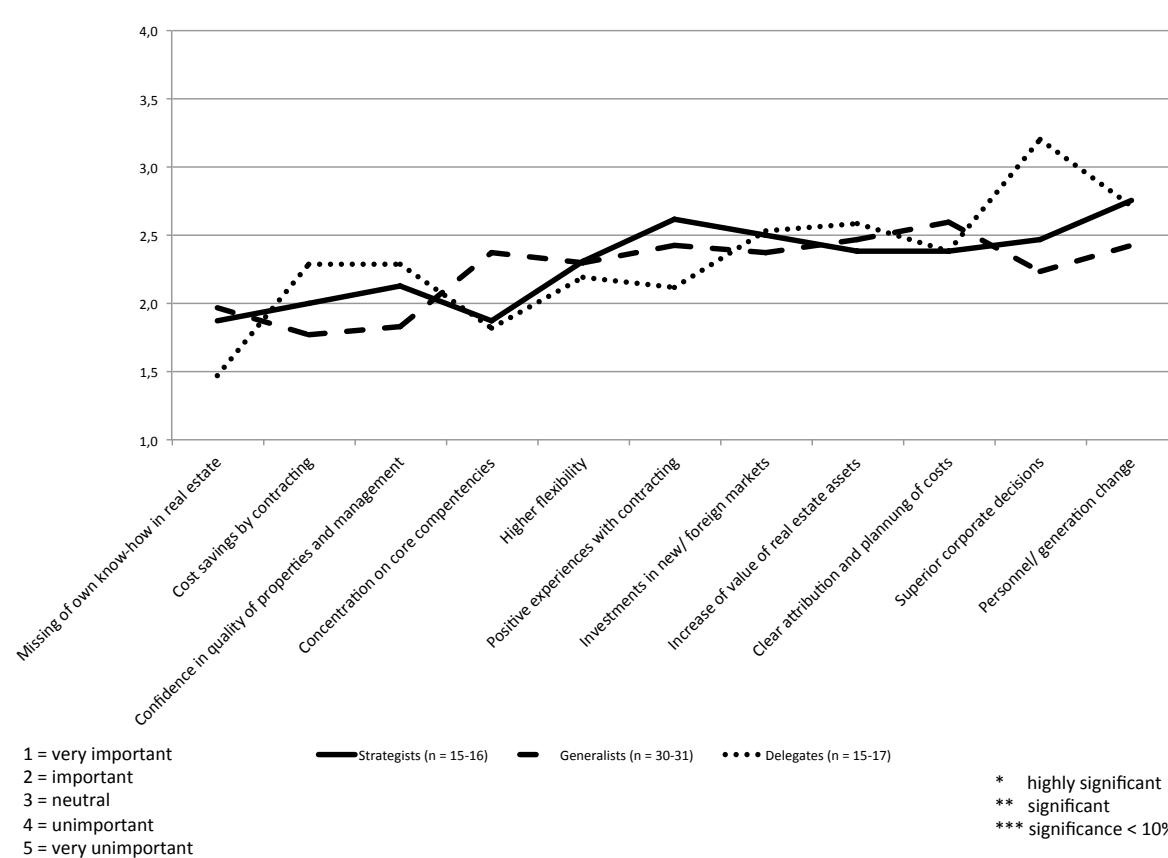
# Returns for direct real estate investments

		Total return CH in 2012	Total return CH in 2013	Change (in %)
Strategists (n = 14)	Average	5.70	4.92	-13.62
	Deviation	3.66	3.05	-16.68
Generalists (n = 27, n = 26)	Average	5.40	5.29	-1.97
	Deviation	2.06	1.30	-37.02
Delegates (n = 17)	Average	6.68	5.46	-18.26
	Deviation	4.56	1.96	-56.92
Total (n = 58, n = 57)	Average	5.85	5.25	-10.18
	Deviation	3.34	2.02	-39.65



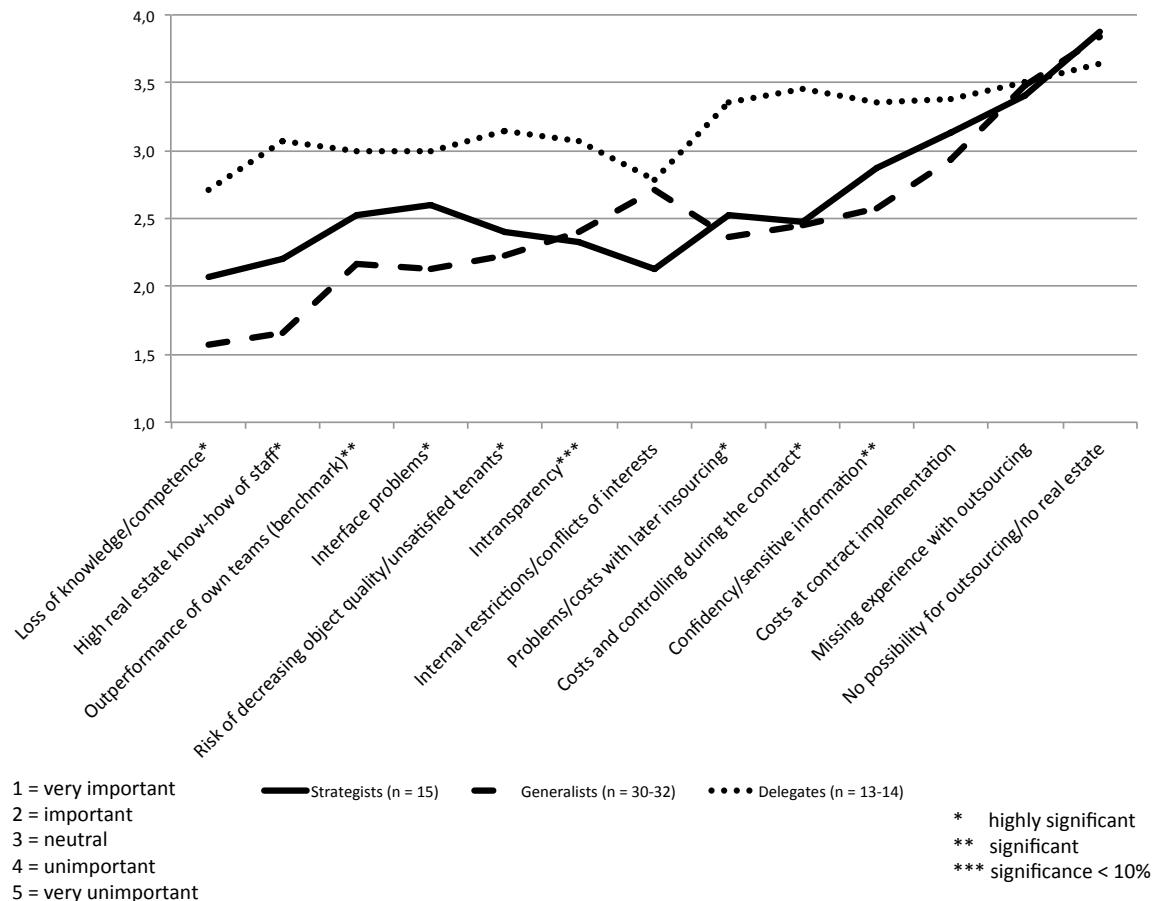
- **Returns** (total returns) decreased during the last year and fluctuate **between 5 and 7 %**
- Decrease of the **standard deviation** implying a homogeneous market with difficulties to find investment opportunities

# Criteria *for* an externalization of real estate asset management tasks



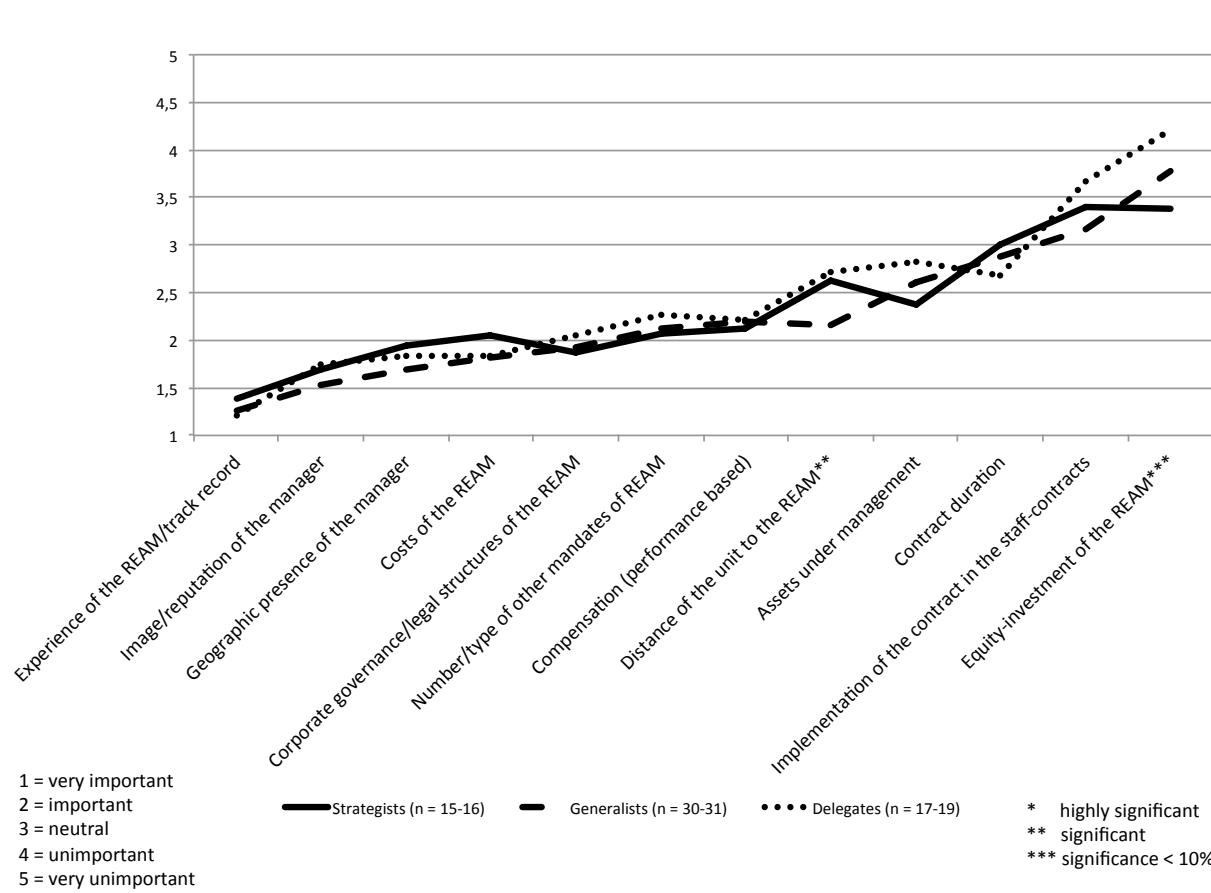
- **No** very important **criteria** could be observed
- **Missing know-how and cost-saving** as important **criteria**
- **Missing staff** is not seen as a **major criteria** implying also no tendency towards **indirect investments**

# Criteria *against* an externalization of real estate asset management tasks



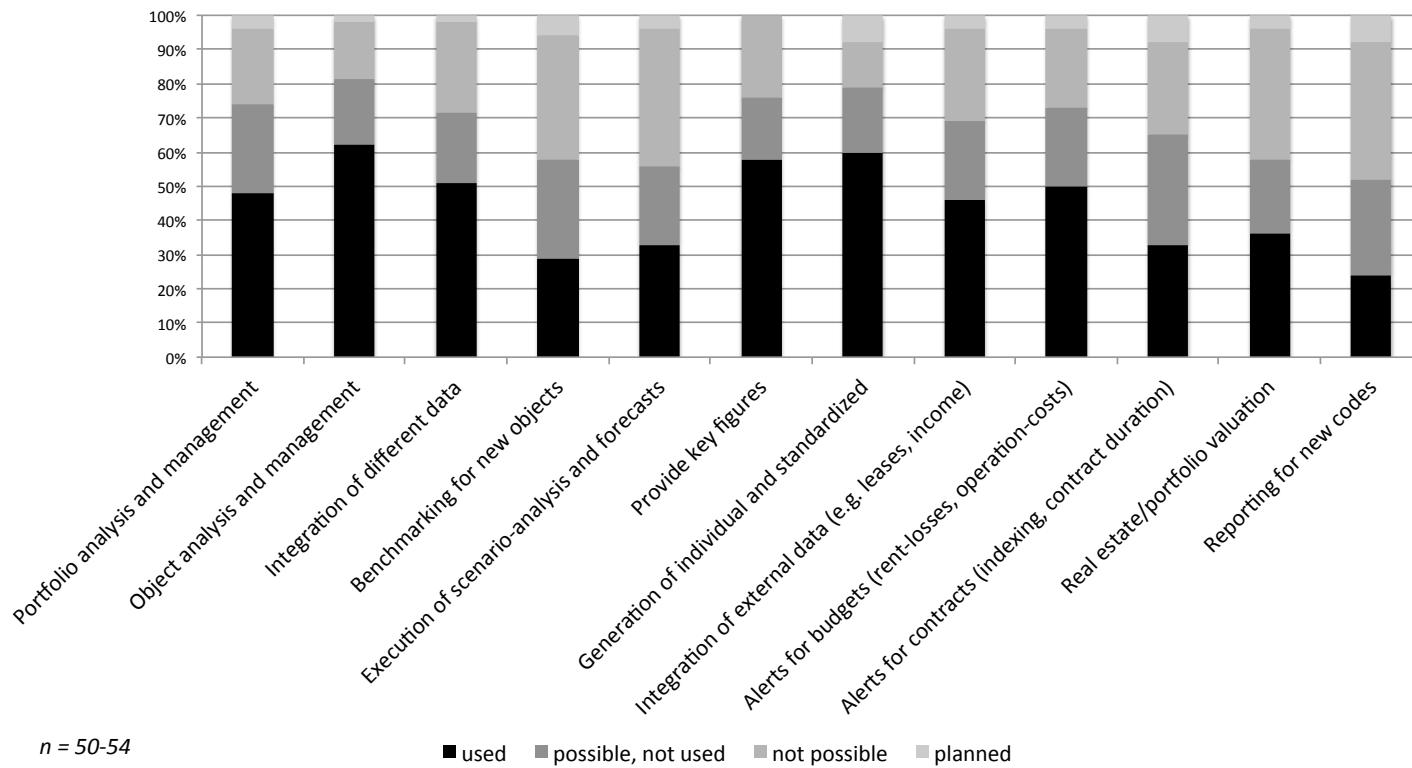
- **Competence and know-how** in the institution as important criteria
- **Risk of decreasing object quality**

# Criteria for the selection of a real estate asset management



- **Experience, image and reputation as well as presence of the managers and costs** as important criteria
- **Contractual aspects** are of minor importance (vs. Principal-Agent-Theory)
- **High level of confidence**
- **Difficulties for new market players**

# Use of real estate asset management-software for selected tasks

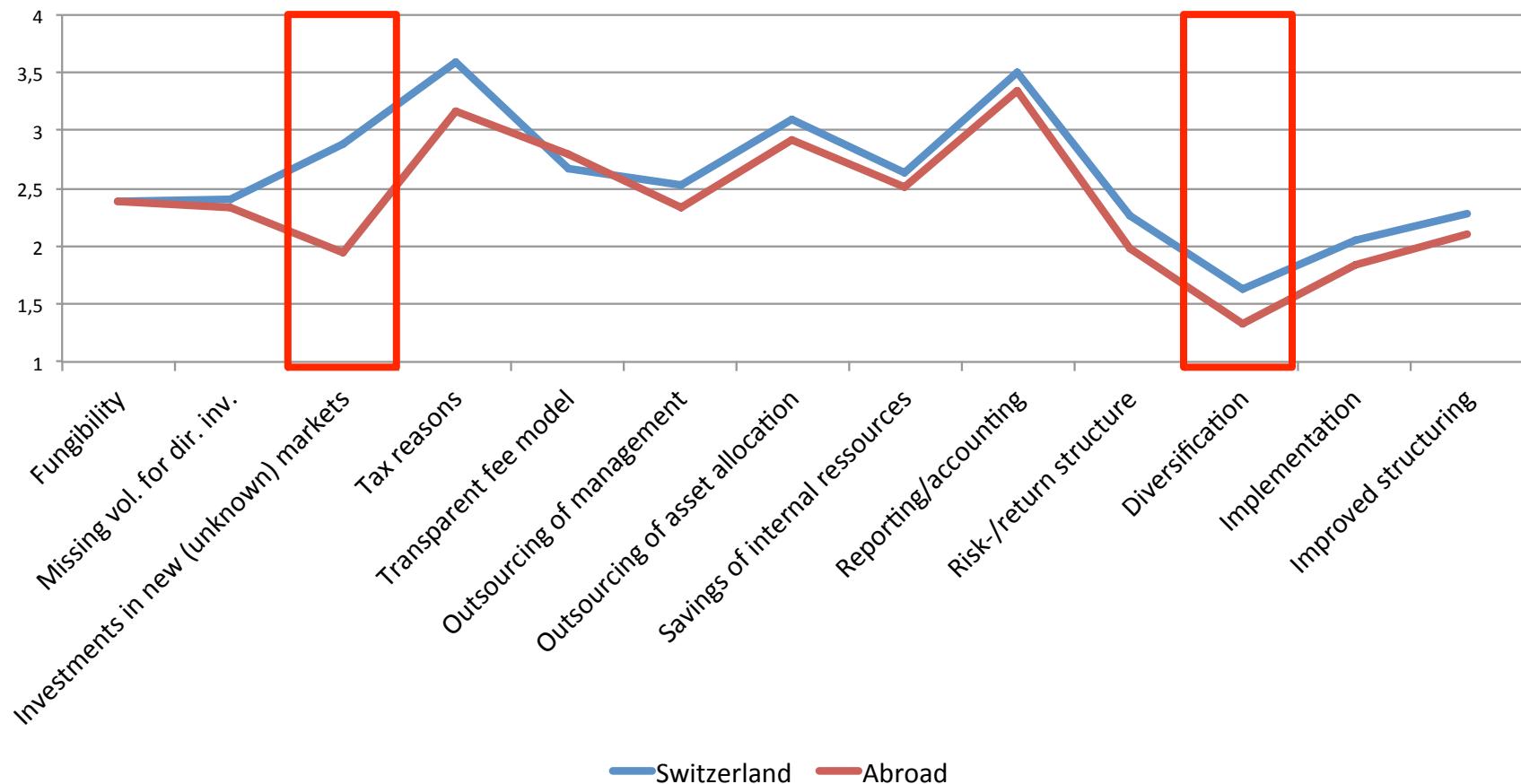


- **Use of software is of minor importance** for the analyzed investors, especially for strategic tasks
- Reasons have to be analyzed – possibly no suitable software products available?

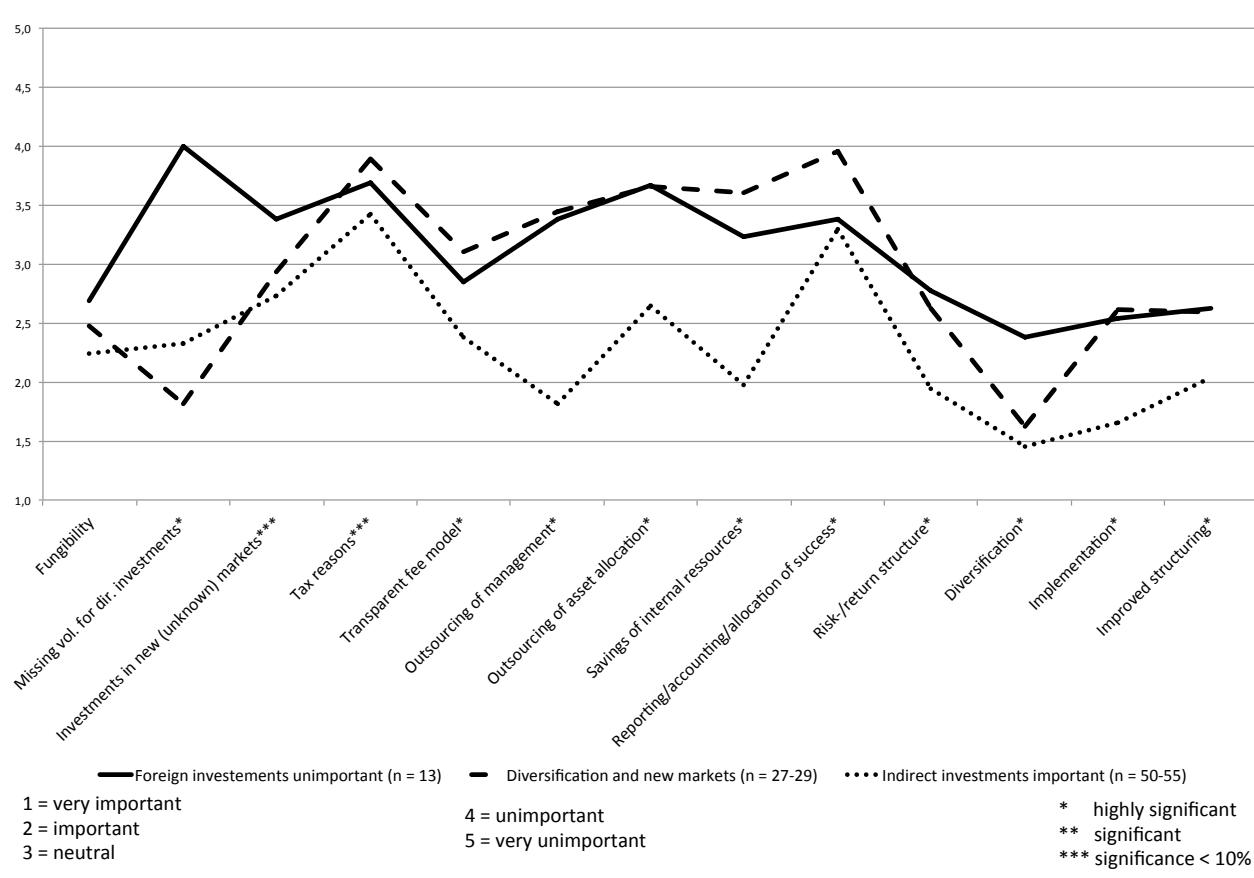
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# Criteria for indirect investments in Switzerland and abroad

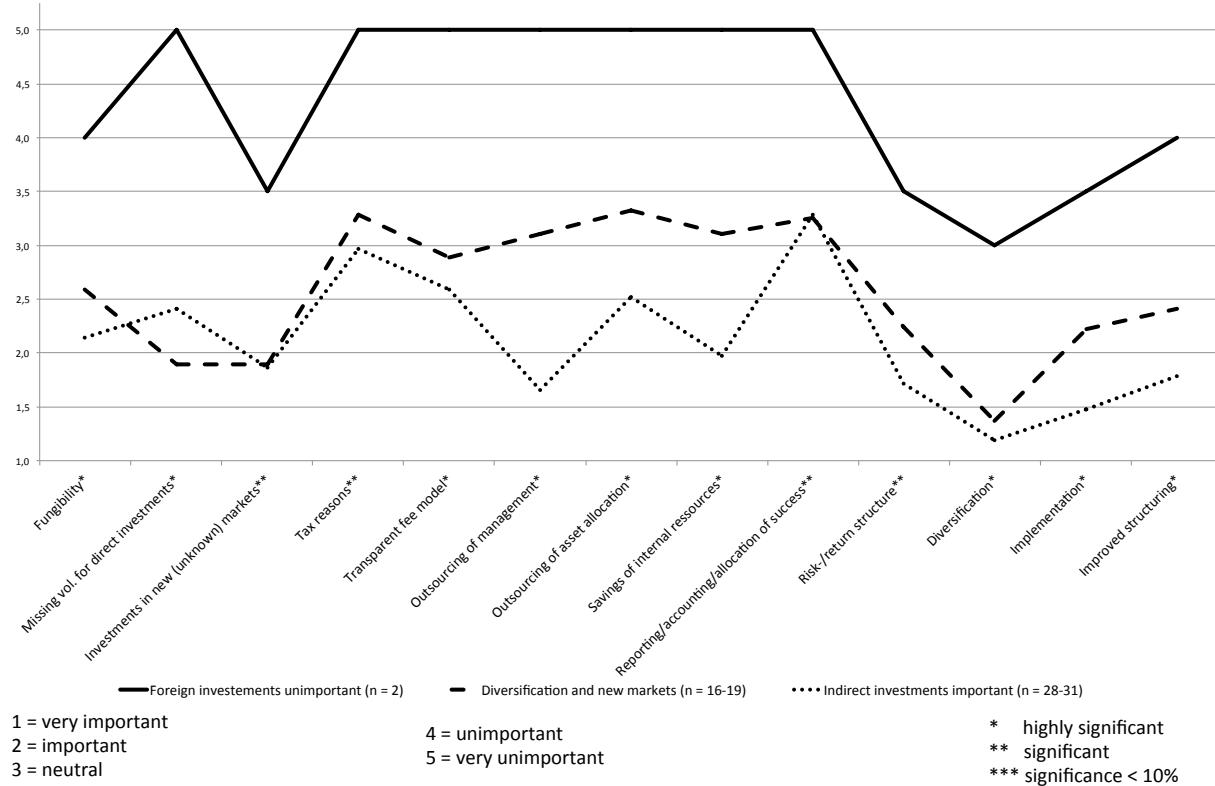


# Criteria for indirect investments in Switzerland: Cluster analysis



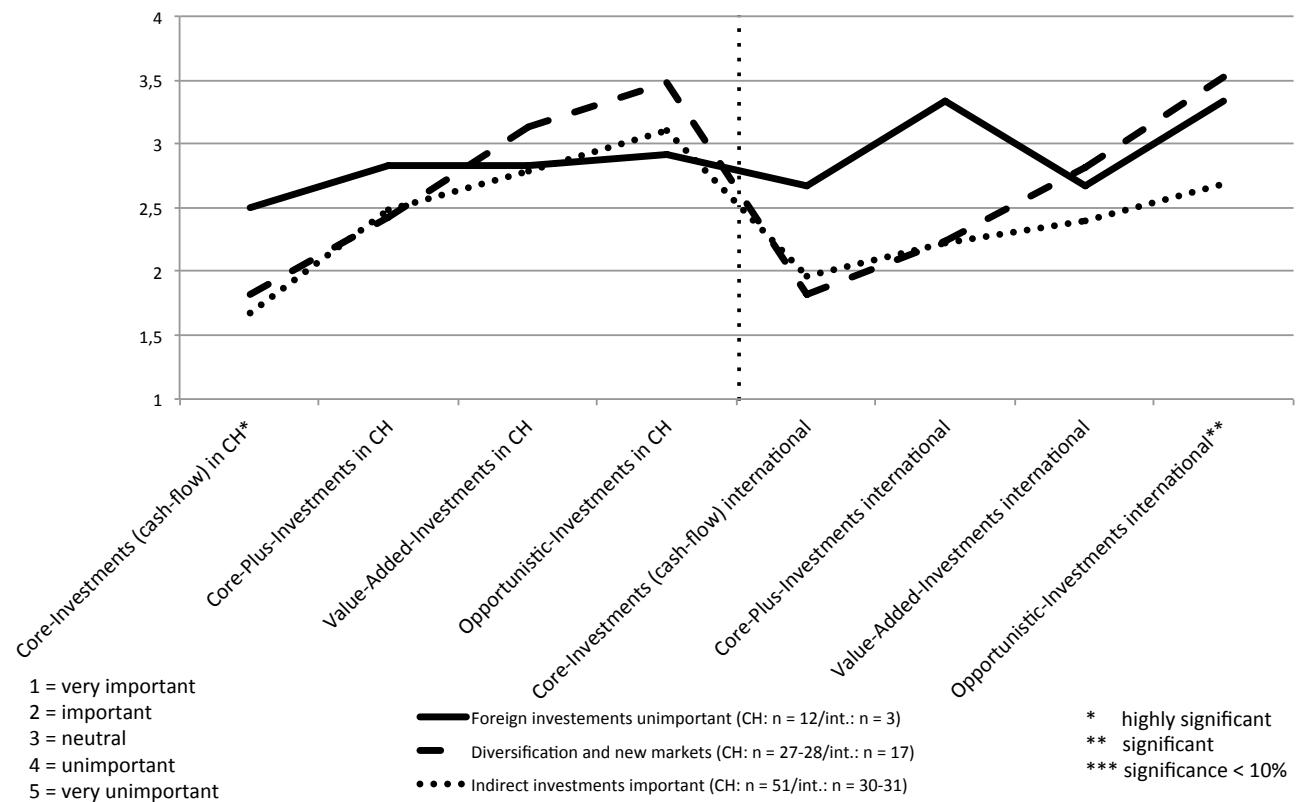
- **Clustering** of the institutions in **3 groups**, based on their reasons for indirect investments in Switzerland and abroad
- Different evaluations implying **different investment preferences**

# Criteria for indirect investments abroad: Cluster analysis



- **Clustering** of the institutions in **3 groups**, based on their reasons for indirect investments in Switzerland and abroad
- Different evaluations implying **different investment preferences**

# Preferred investment styles in Switzerland and abroad



- “normal” behaviour for pension funds
- Higher risks with **lower importance**
- For investments abroad, **higher risks** are accepted

# Investments in indirect real estate vehicles

	CH-Investment foundation (direct real estate)	CH-Investment foundation (fund of funds)	SICAVs	RE stocks/REITs	Fund of Funds	Open-ended funds	Closed-ended funds	Special fund (open-ended)	Opportunity-Fonds/real estate private equity-funds	Infrastructure funds	Others
<b>Switzerland</b>											
Total	64,94	26,45	7,78	15,54	41,82	42,94	3,00	35,97	5,00	7,50	69,00
No. of institutions (n)	76	11	8	31	10	34	1	19	1	2	5
Standard-Deviation	30,73	23,11	11,03	12,00	38,27	29,97	.	28,19	.	3,54	36,47
<b>Abroad</b>											
Total	65,53	42,75	46,55	55,31	57,00	49,58	68,50	49,21	34,43	18,33	31,67
No. of institutions (n)	15	13	4	13	5	10	2	11	7	3	3
Standard-Deviation	31,31	31,89	38,71	40,04	42,37	37,18	44,55	34,65	28,18	2,89	12,58

- 
- For investments in **Switzerland, Swiss Investment Foundations** are clearly of highest importance, followed by **listed vehicles** (stocks and funds)
  - For investments **abroad**, a **wide range** of investment vehicles can be found

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# Situation of Swiss Investment Foundations

KGAST Immo-Index	Nettovermögen	Anteil in %	Handel
Adimora Omega (Wohnimmobilien)	114'970'001	0.4%	geschlossen
ASSETIMMO G (Geschäftsleigenschaften)	700'658'997	2.4%	geschlossen
ASSETIMMO W (Wohnleigenschaften)	1'273'134'033	4.4%	geschlossen
Avadis Immobilien Schweiz Geschäft	662'883'301	2.3%	geschlossen
Avadis Immobilien Schweiz Wohnen	1'952'060'059	6.7%	geschlossen
CSA Real Estate Commercial	755'754'578	2.6%	geschlossen
CSA Real Estate Switzerland	4'657'808'105	16.1%	geschlossen
CSA Real Estate Switzerland Residential	475'404'114	1.6%	geschlossen
Ecoreal Suissecore Plus	519'209'534	1.8%	geschlossen
HIG Immobilien Schweiz	643'364'014	2.2%	geschlossen
Imoka Immobilien Schweiz	435'950'012	1.5%	geschlossen
Patrimonium Wohnimmobilien Schweiz	179'445'297	0.6%	offen
Pensimo Casareal (Wohnimmobilien)	853'179'993	2.9%	geschlossen
Pensimo Proreal (Geschäftsimmobilien)	239'580'002	0.8%	geschlossen
Sarasin Nachhaltig Immobilien Schweiz	302'553'894	1.0%	geschlossen
Swiss Life Geschäftsmobilien Schweiz	828'854'492	2.9%	geschlossen
Swiss Life Immobilien Schweiz	1'000'238'281	3.4%	geschlossen
Swisscanto Immobilien Schweiz	5'328'999'542	18.4%	offen
Tellico Immobilien Schweiz	661'520'325	2.3%	offen
Turidomus Casareal (Wohnimmobilien)	2'619'810'059	9.0%	geschlossen
Turidomus Proreal (Geschäftsimmobilien)	738'950'012	2.5%	geschlossen
UBS Immobilien Schweiz	1'648'686'890	5.7%	geschlossen
UBS Kommerzielle Immobilien Schweiz	426'801'239	1.5%	geschlossen
Zürich Immobilien - Geschäft Schweiz	501'866'791	1.7%	geschlossen
Zürich Immobilien - Traditionell Schweiz	476'829'987	1.6%	geschlossen
Zürich Immobilien - Wohnen Schweiz	1'005'689'209	3.5%	geschlossen
<b>Stand: 02.02.2015</b>	<b>29'004'202'761</b>		

Quelle: Angaben der Stiftungen, KGAST

## Future indirect investments by type and country

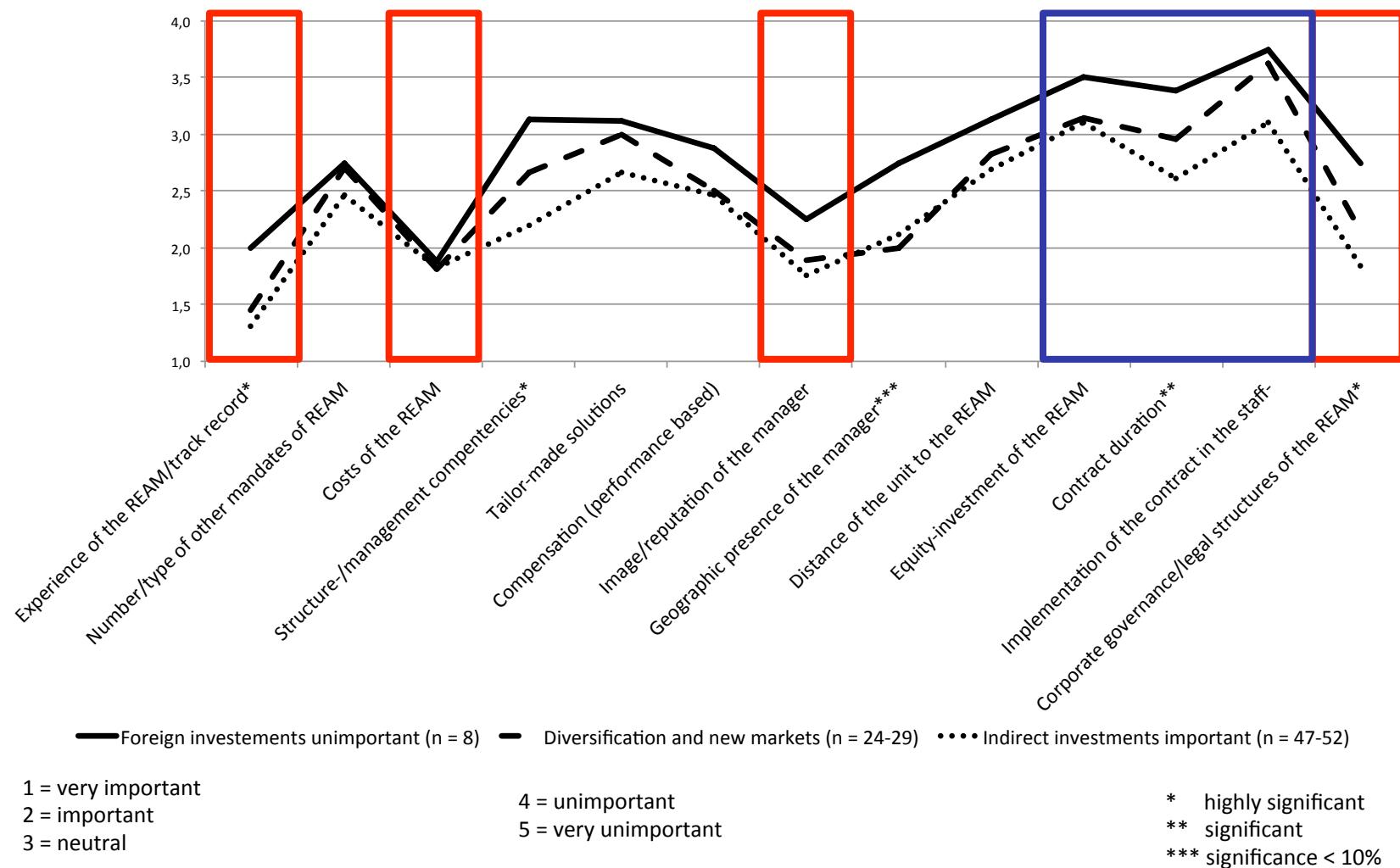


“Real estate investments of **CHF 120 bn**, therefore  
„only“ **CHF 10 bn** abroad (of CHF 720 bn)”

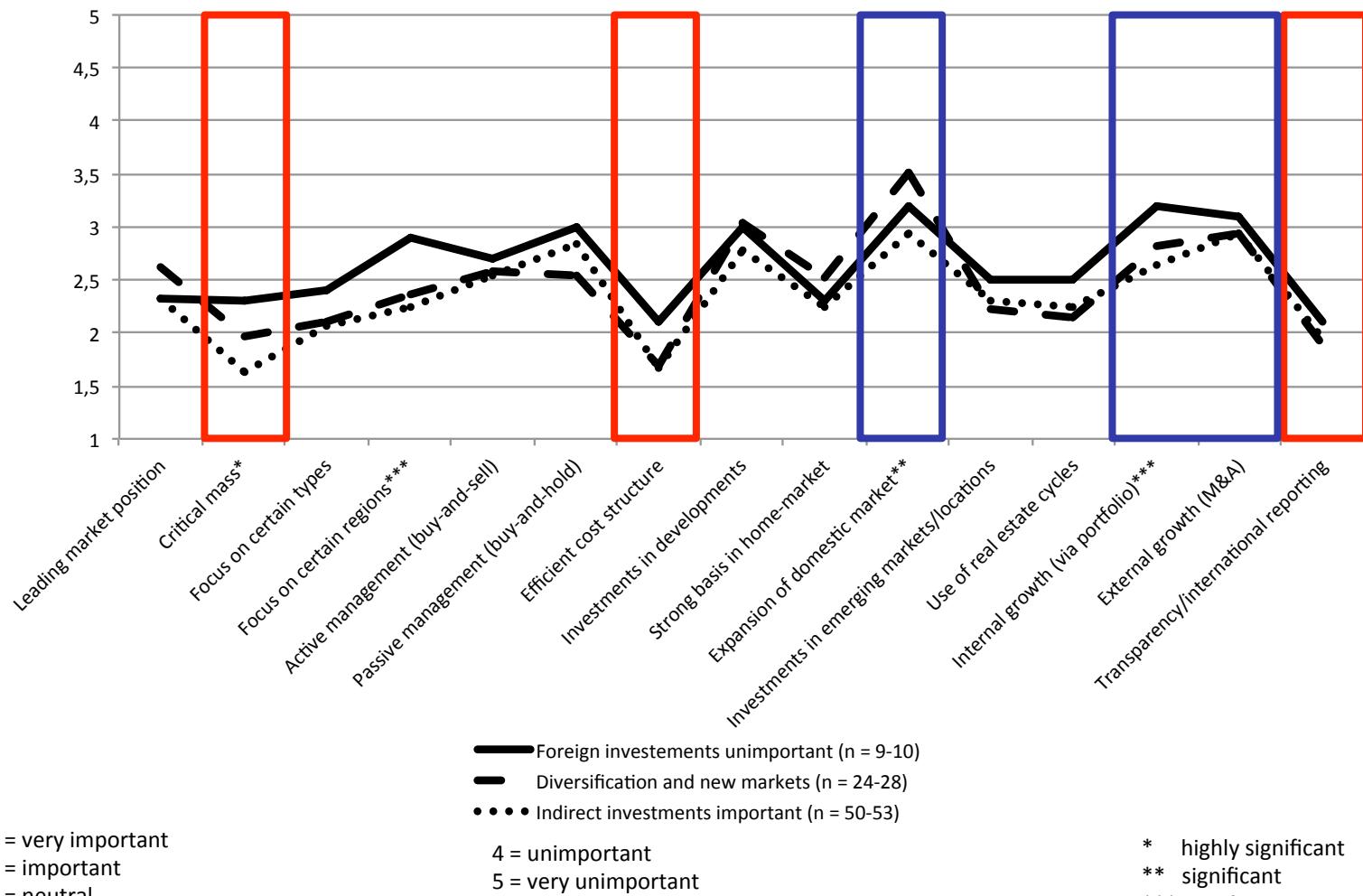
## Future indirect investments by type and country

	Office	Retail	Residential	Industry	Development	Sum
Switzerland	35	18	63	23	18	157
Germany	16	9	12	9	2	48
USA	13	9	11	8	5	46
Asia	12	10	10	9	4	45
Northern Europe	13	11	8	9	3	44
UK	7	5	5	5	3	25
Belgium/ Netherlands/Lux.	7	4	6	5	2	24
France	5	3	5	4	1	18
Others	5	5	3	3	1	17
Austria	4	2	4	2	0	12
Spain	2	2	3	2	0	9
Italy	2	2	3	2	0	9
Eastern Europe	2	1	2	1	1	7
Latin America	1	1	2	2	1	7
Sum	124	82	137	84	41	468

# Criteria for the selection of an asset management for indirect real estate investments



## Characteristics of a “perfect” investment vehicle



1 = very important

2 = important

3 = neutral

4 = unimportant

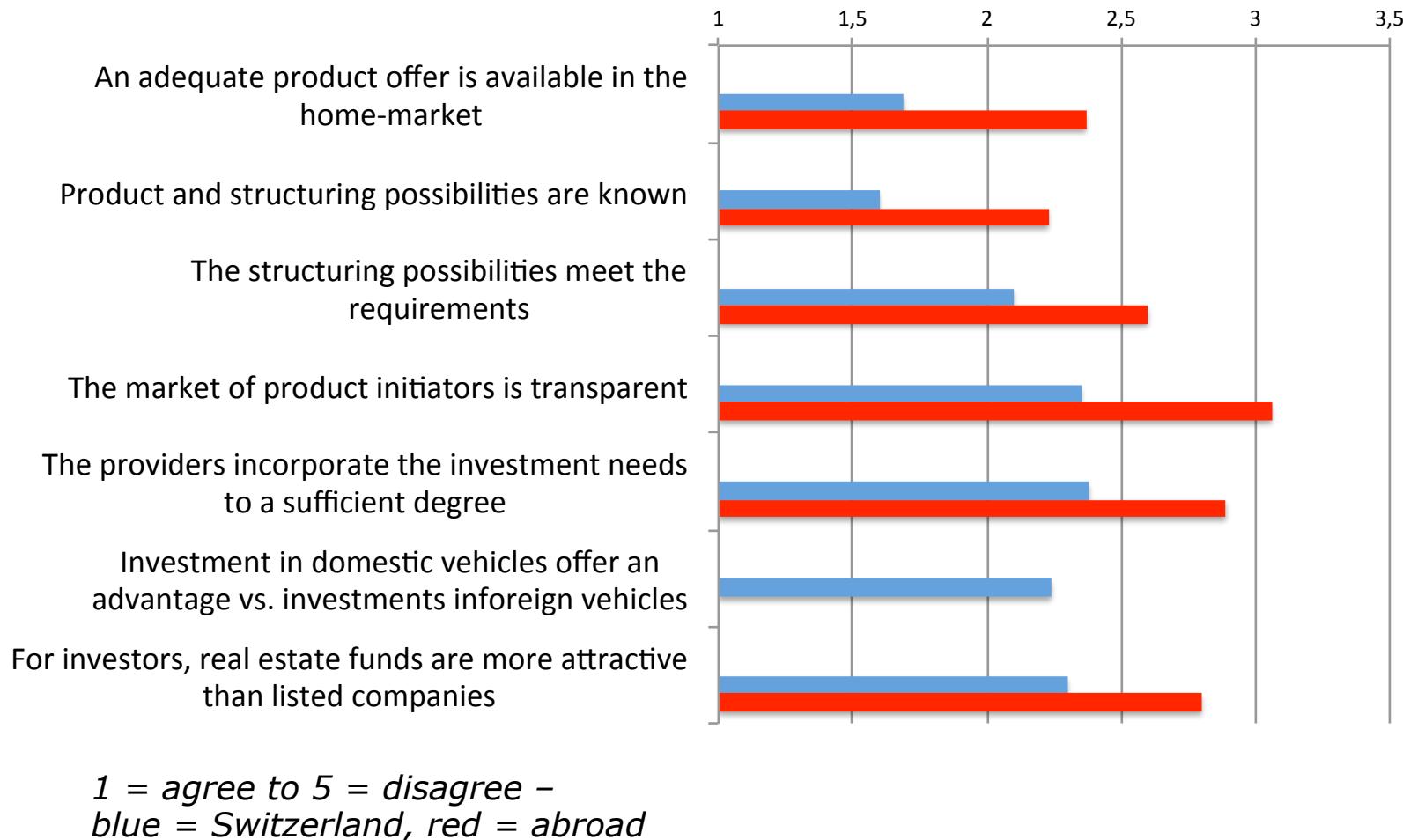
5 = very unimportant

\* highly significant

\*\* significant

\*\*\* significance < 10%

# Evaluation of indirect real estate offers in Switzerland and abroad



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# Summary

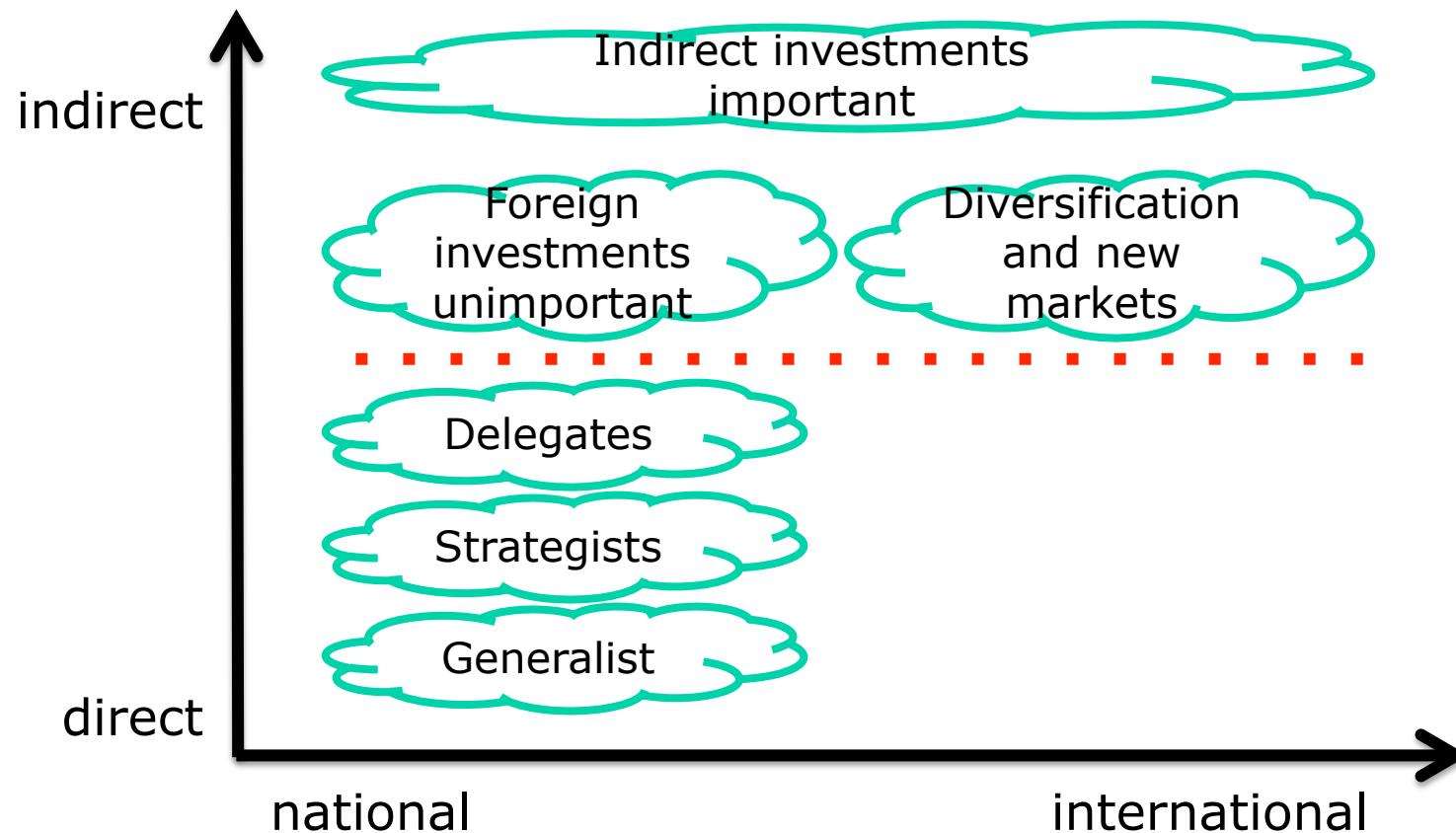
## Direct investments

- **3 clusters** could be derived
- **Organization** of REAM-tasks **differ**
- The use of **software** is on a („relatively“) low level

## Indirect investments

- **3 clusters** could be derived
- **Swiss Investment Foundations** are preferred for investments in Switzerland, followed by listed vehicles
- **Investments abroad** are conducted with a **multitude** of different vehicles
- Swiss institutional investors **want to diversify**, **BUT** prefer to **invest in Switzerland** – in the past and in the future
- The “**perfect**” **vehicle** is a **cost-efficient** and **focused vehicle** – growth-aspects are not required
- The **Swiss market** is valued with a **higher transparency** than other markets offers **many suitable products**

## Summary: Clusters



## ... literature

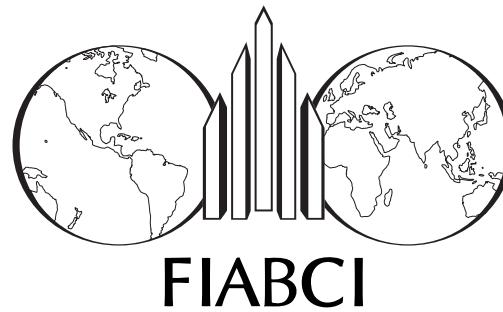


- „*Recommendation*“:

Please send me an email to:

[Michael.Truebestein@hslu.ch](mailto:Michael.Truebestein@hslu.ch)

**Thank you for the support !**



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UBS Anlagestiftungen

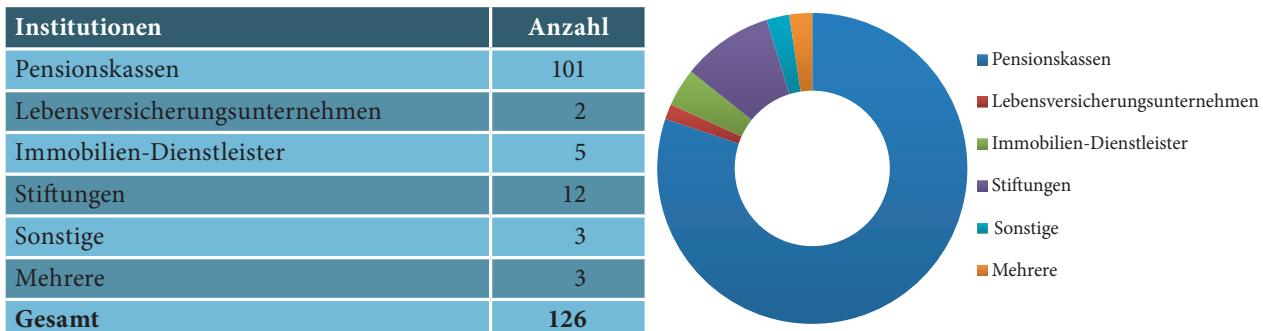


**Thank you  
for your attention!**

**Questions ?**

# Backup

# Structure of the sample: Dominance of pension funds in the sample



	Anzahl	Mittelwert	Minimum	Maximum	Standard-Abweichung
Gesamte Kapitalanlagen im Jahr 2010	117	2.922	0,18	146.292	13.988
Gesamte Kapitalanlagen im Jahr 2013	125	3.525	0,21	133.444	13.617
Wachstum Kapitalanlagen bis 2016 (in %)	69	11	-15	100	19
Immobilienanlagevermögen im Jahr 2010	114	407	0,1	5.100	841
Immobilienanlagevermögen im Jahr 2013	120	473	0,1	6.750	986



- In the sample, **pension funds** obtain a dominant position with over **80 %** of the analysed **questionnaires**
- Clustering based on **investment behaviour targeting**

## Teil A: Immobilienanlagen im Überblick

Anzahl

		indirekt		Gesamt
		nein	ja	
direkt	nein	15	49	64
	ja	20	68	88
Gesamt		35	117	152

Anzahl

		ausland		Gesamt
		nein	ja	
inland	nein	15	2	17
	ja	67	68	135
Gesamt		82	70	152

Wachstum der Immobilienanlagen (2010 – 2016):  
Inland direkt (+25%), Inland indirekt (+42%),  
Ausland indirekt (+39%), aber **verlangsamtes Wachstum**

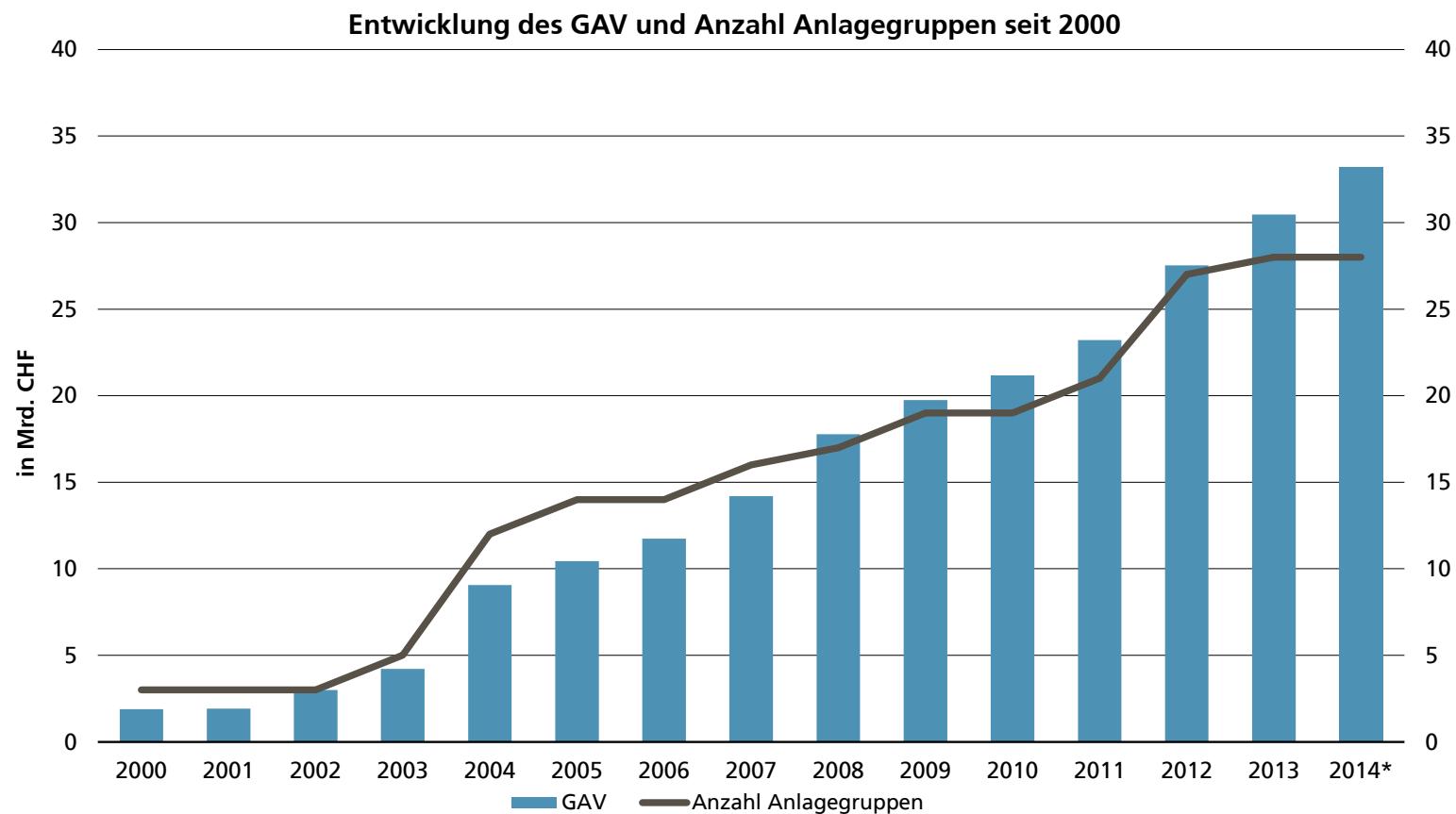
## General information of the clusters

	Total investments (2013)	(Stand.-Dev.)	Investments in real estate (2013)	(Stand.-Dev.)
Strategists (n = 16)	11,559	33,670	698	927
Generalists (n = 33)	4,531	10,921	901	1,584
Delegates (n = 19)	1,455	2,353	304	461
Total (n = 68)	5,325	18,058	686	1,230



- (very) heterogeneous groups
- Different capital and real estate volumes in the clusters

# Development of Swiss Foundations



\* per 28. Februar 2015 zur Verfügung stehenden Halb- bzw. Jahresberichte  
Quelle: KGAST