



Freie Universität Bozen  
Libera Università di Bolzano  
Università Lìedia de Bulsan

# A portrait of Italian Women Rectors in 2040

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Beyond the Glass Ceiling - Istanbul

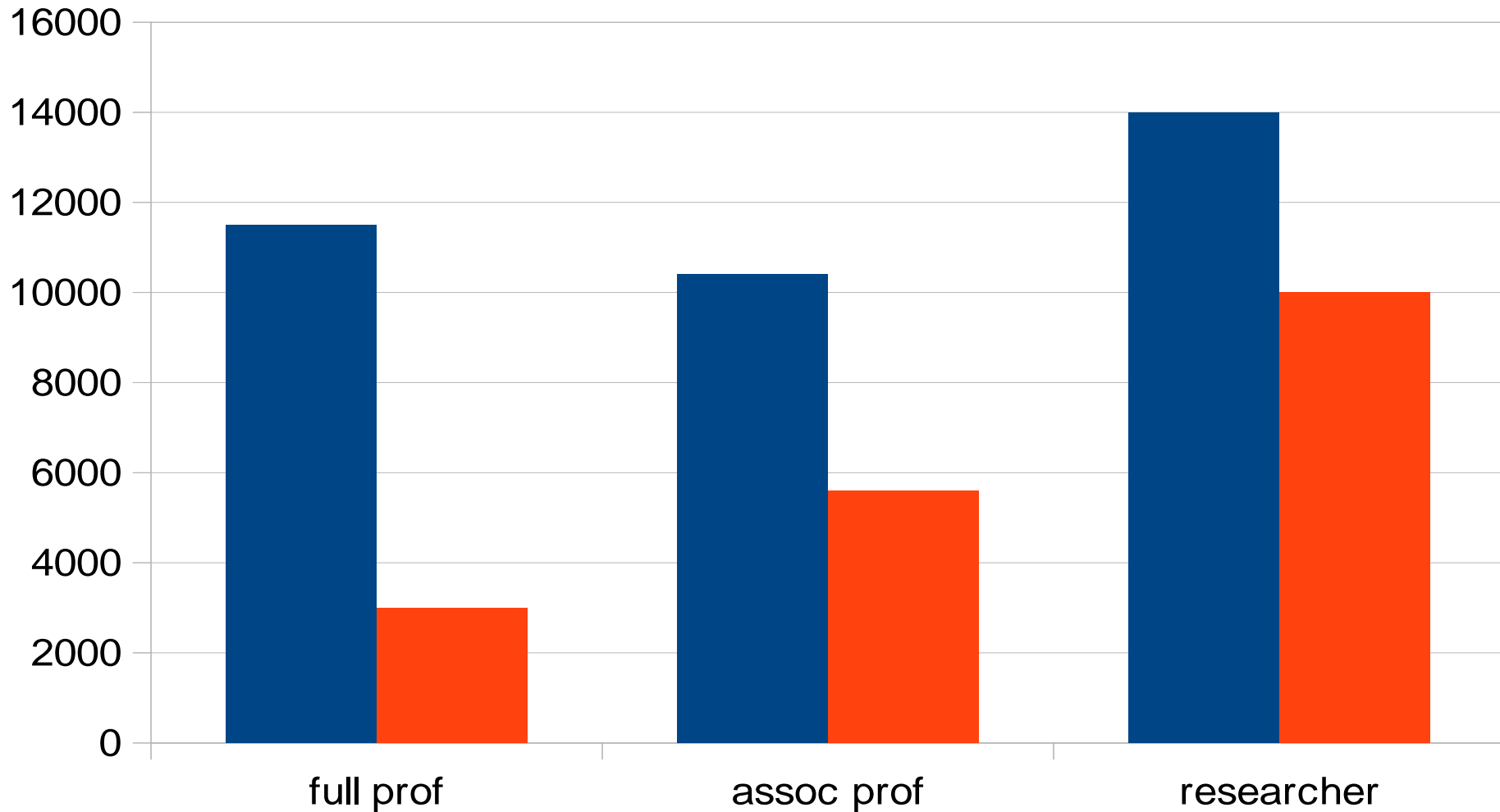


- A Italian academics
- B Italian students: TECO, a soft skills study
- C Gender issues in TECO
- D Top performers in TECO
- E Conclusions



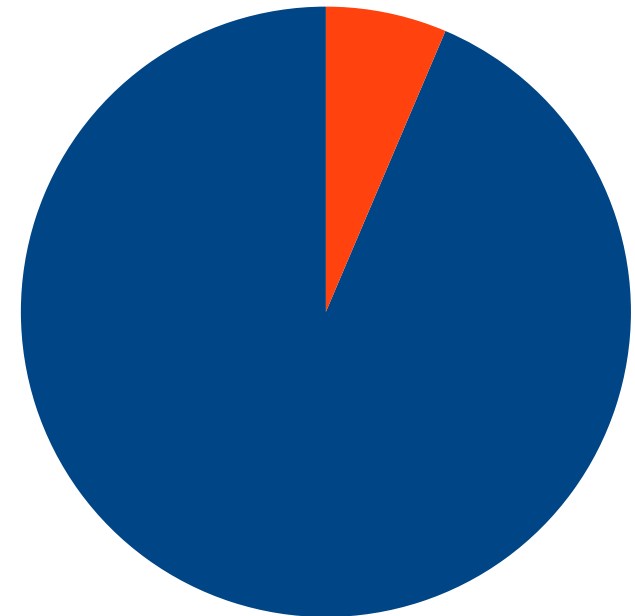
## Gender of Italian Academics (2013)

■ Men  
■ Women



## Gender of Italian Rectors

- The first Italian female Rector was Prof. Tedeschini-Lalli, 1992
- Presently there are 5 female Rectors out of 78 State Universities
- Typically, Rectors are elected by all professors, among full professors



■ Men

■ Women

## Italian Rectors in 2040...

... are today among our students!



Or better, among **today's top students**

Is there *a gender difference* among top students?

How do we *characterize top students*?

# TECO: assessing soft skills of „graduands“

TECO is the first study of soft skills of Italian university

“graduands”, done in Spring 2013



3rd year students, close to completing their Bsc,  
passed all compulsory courses



12 universities, 5800+ students,  
all disciplines

## TECO test:

- Analysis and Problem Solving
- Writing Effectiveness
- Writing Mechanics
- Critical Reading
- Critiquing an Argument
- Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning



NOT TESTED: disciplinary competences

# Running TECO

Based on an international format

- CLA+, produced by the *Council for Aid to Education, USA*

Participation of eligible students on voluntary basis, free of charges

- privacy of results,
- possibility to know own scores and get certificates



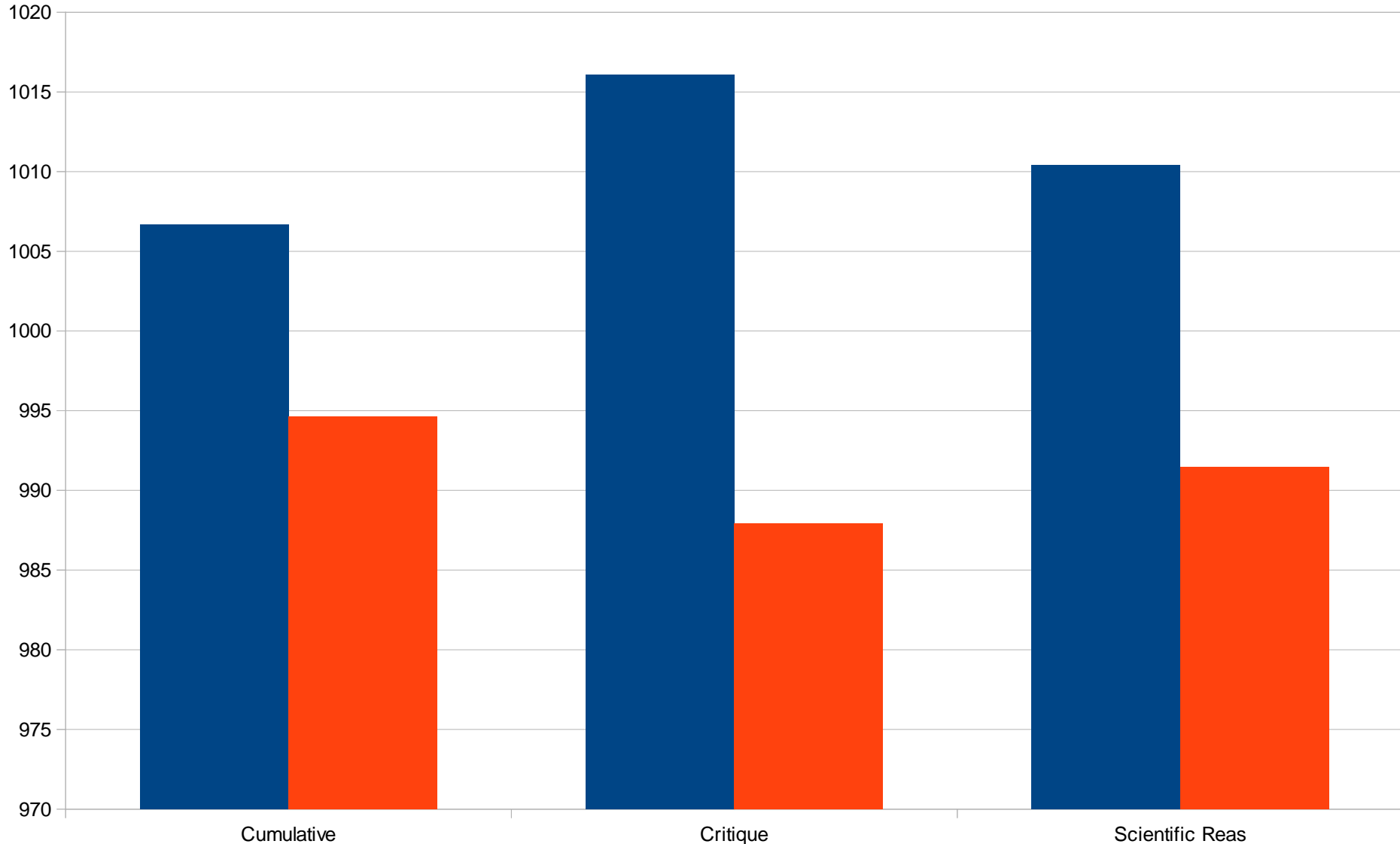
## TECO involved

- The national agency for Assessing Quality of the University system, ANVUR
- The national computing center, CINECA
- Local task-forces at each of the 12 tested universities
- In cooperation with CAE

## Results by Gender

- Female students slightly better in Writing Effectiveness and Mechanics (non statistically significant)
- Male students performed better in all other skills, those that are statistically significant are
  - Critique of Argumentation
  - Scientific and quantitative reasoning
  - Cumulative score

# Results by Gender



## Results by Subject and Gender

- **Females performed better** than males in:  
Agriculture, Philosophy, Geography, Dentists,  
Veterinary
- **Males performed better** than females in: Art,  
Cultural Heritage, Chemistry, Communication,  
Economics and Education
- **Performances almost equivalent** in:  
Architecture, Biology, Law, Engineering,  
Literature, Languages, Mathematics, Medicine,  
Politics, Psychology, Sociology, History and  
Environment

## Results by University and Gender

- **Female students better** than male students in 2 universities out of 12, Padova and Piemonte Orientale (both in Northern Italy)
- **Male students better** than female students elsewhere

# Gender and parents scholarization

Students with at least **one parent holding degree or high school diploma** scored better

- Among them, those with **mother** holding degree or high school diploma scored better than those with father holding degree or high school diploma

## Gender and single parents

Students with **one parent only** scored worse than those with both parents

- Among them those with **mother only** scored better than those with father only

# Top performers

Top performers **scored above the average of the top decile**

- That is: the average score was 1000; top performers got 1271 or more

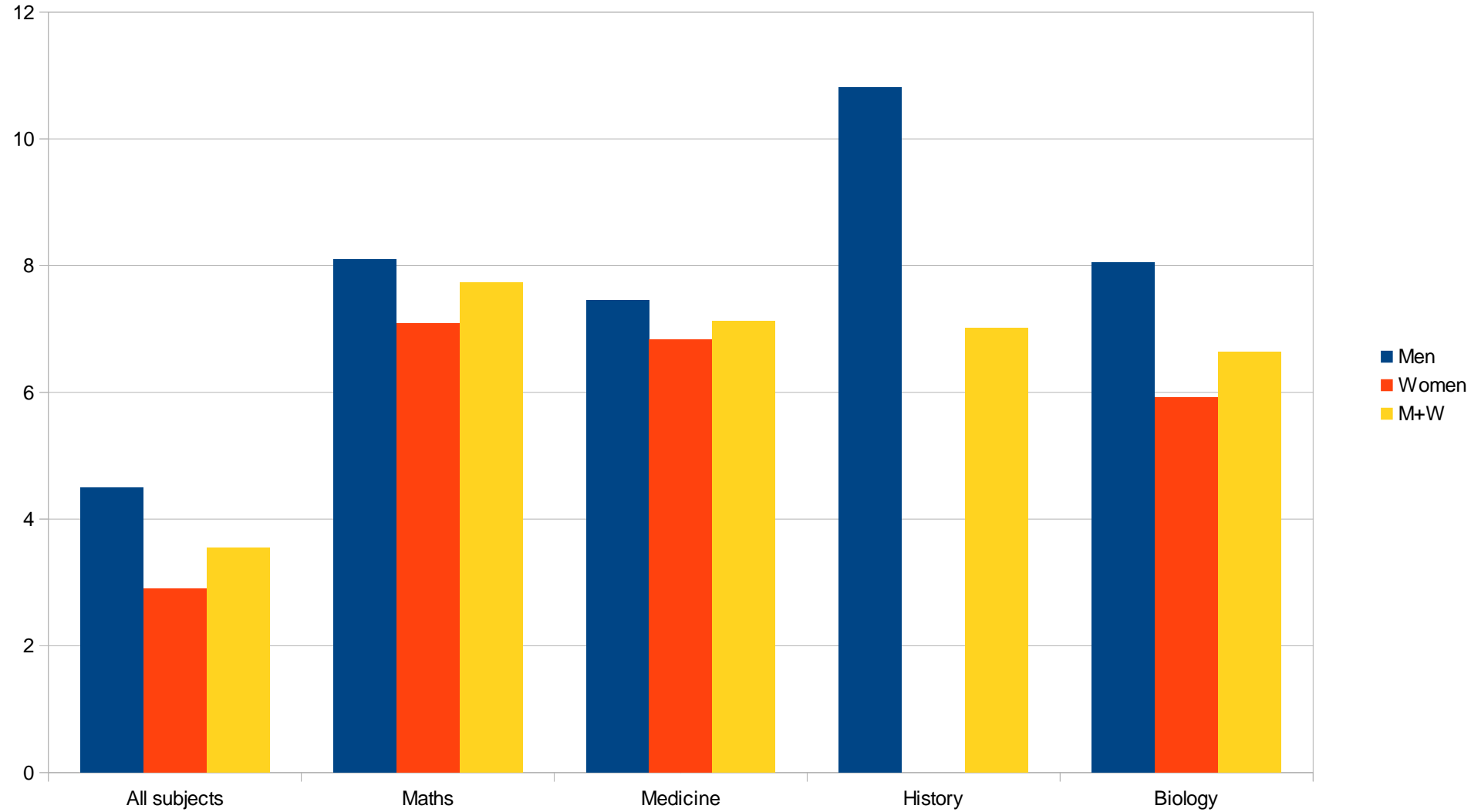
The **subject area** with more top performers was **Mathematics**, where 7.73% of students were top performers

The subject areas with lowest number of top performers were **Art and Geography** (no top performers !!)



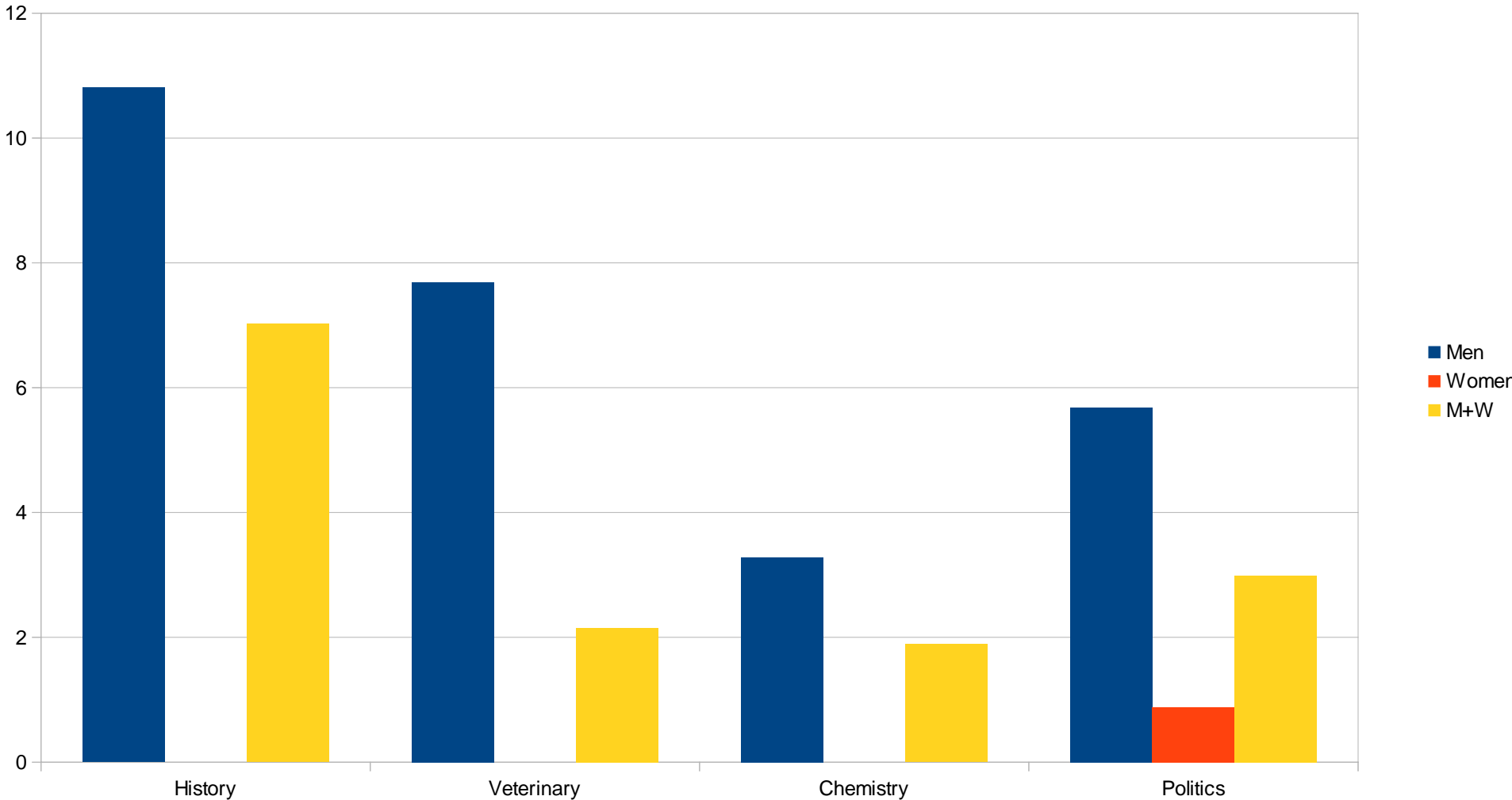
# Top performers by Gender

## subject areas with most top performers



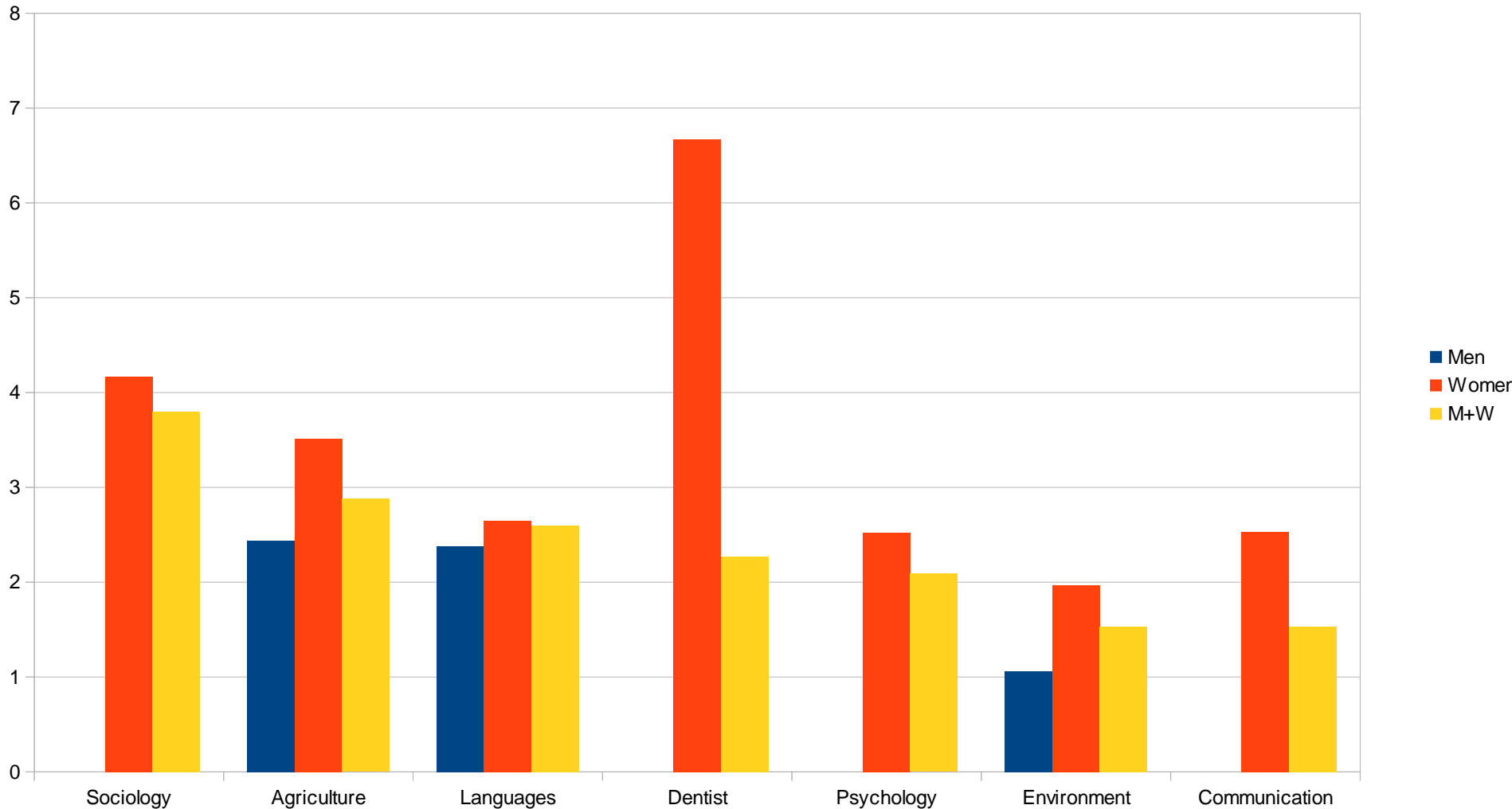
# Top performers by Gender

## subject areas with no or quite few top women



# Top performers by Gender

## subject areas with more top women than men



# Conclusion

**Italian women today in top positions are still a minority**

- Female Rectors: about 6,8%
- Female Board Members: about 15%
- Female Members of Parliament: about 30%

**Top performing university students, from the point of view of soft skills, still are more men than women**

In some disciplines top students are however mostly female students



**how to foster them is up to ourselves !!**

**A special thank to  
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ANVUR**

**Thanks for your attention!**

**Questions?**