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Complex terrorist threats against critical infrastructure Patterns, trends and characteristics

Péter Balogh

Lecturer, PhD student

University of Szeged, Dpt. of Sociology, Univ. of Public Service, Hungary

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Objectives

- **Introduction**
- **Conceptual background**
- **Operational background**
- **Methodology**
- **Results**
- **Conclusion**



Introduction

- Energy sector
 - a specific aspect of critical infrastructure
 - high level of defence preparedness
 - difficulties in attacking and damaging (?)
 - terrorist operations with specific means



Conceptual background

- Political violence and terrorism

The classification of political violence

		Target	
		State	Citizen
Initiator	State	War Cloak and dagger operations Punitive strikes State supported terrorism	Law enforcement Legal oppression Illegal oppression (state terror) Targeted killing
	Citizen	Mutiny Revolt Rebellion Revolution Guerrilla war Coup d'État	Mutiny Civil war Vigilante terrorism Racist pogrom Ethnic cleansing Terrorism



Conceptual background

- Terrorism
 - **(old vs.) new terrorism** (Neumann 2009)
 - (1) more diffuse, ‚de-territorialized‘, transnational networks, spanning continents
 - (2) religiously motivated terrorism
 - (3) more violent, mass-casualty attacks



Conceptual background

- Asymmetric warfare
 - Participants
 - not mainly states (Somkuti 2015: 57), monopoly of violence lost by the states (Kiss 2015: 71)
 - small, overpowered groups applying unusual methods without bureaucratic structure avoiding face-to-face actions (Resperger 2015: 25)
 - Dimensions of asymmetry (Resperger 2015: 27-28)
 - Methods and objectives
 - Power and expenses of threats
 - Time (e.g. training)

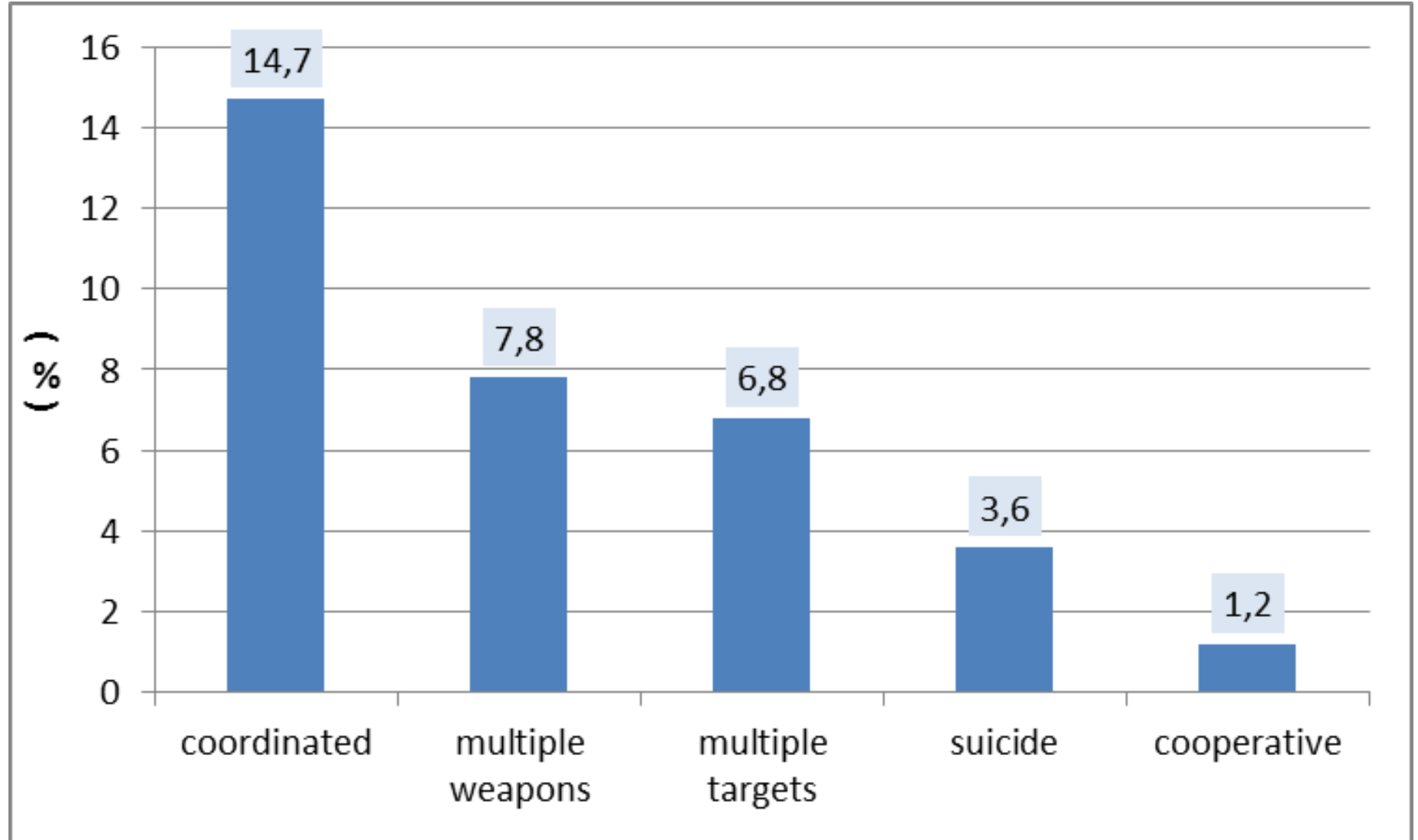


Methodology

- **Data and...**
 - Global Terrorism Database
 - 1970-2020.
 - 10 percent random sample (n=20961)
 - Certain characteristics of attacks
- **...methods**
 - secondary data analysis
 - statistical description and comparisons

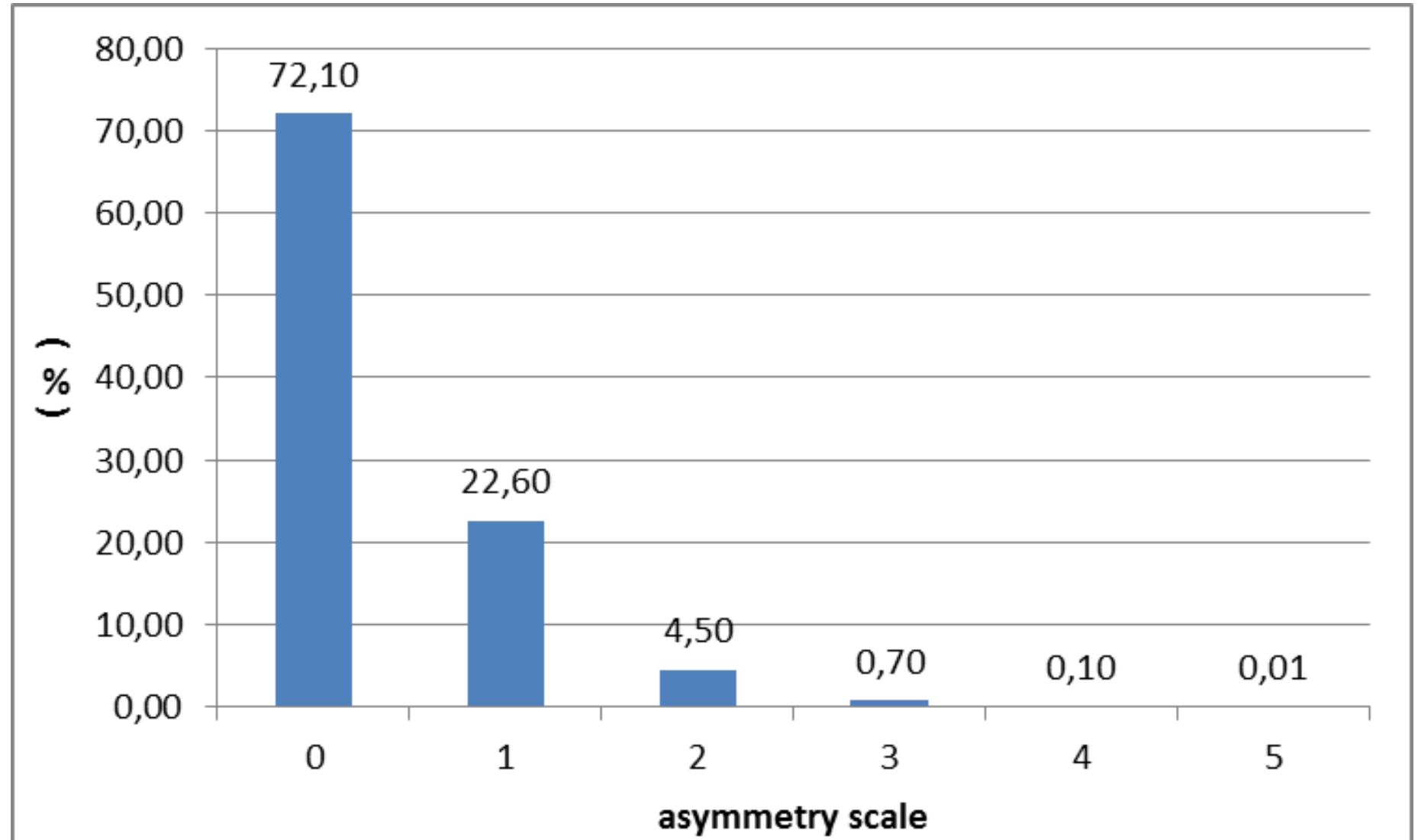


Results



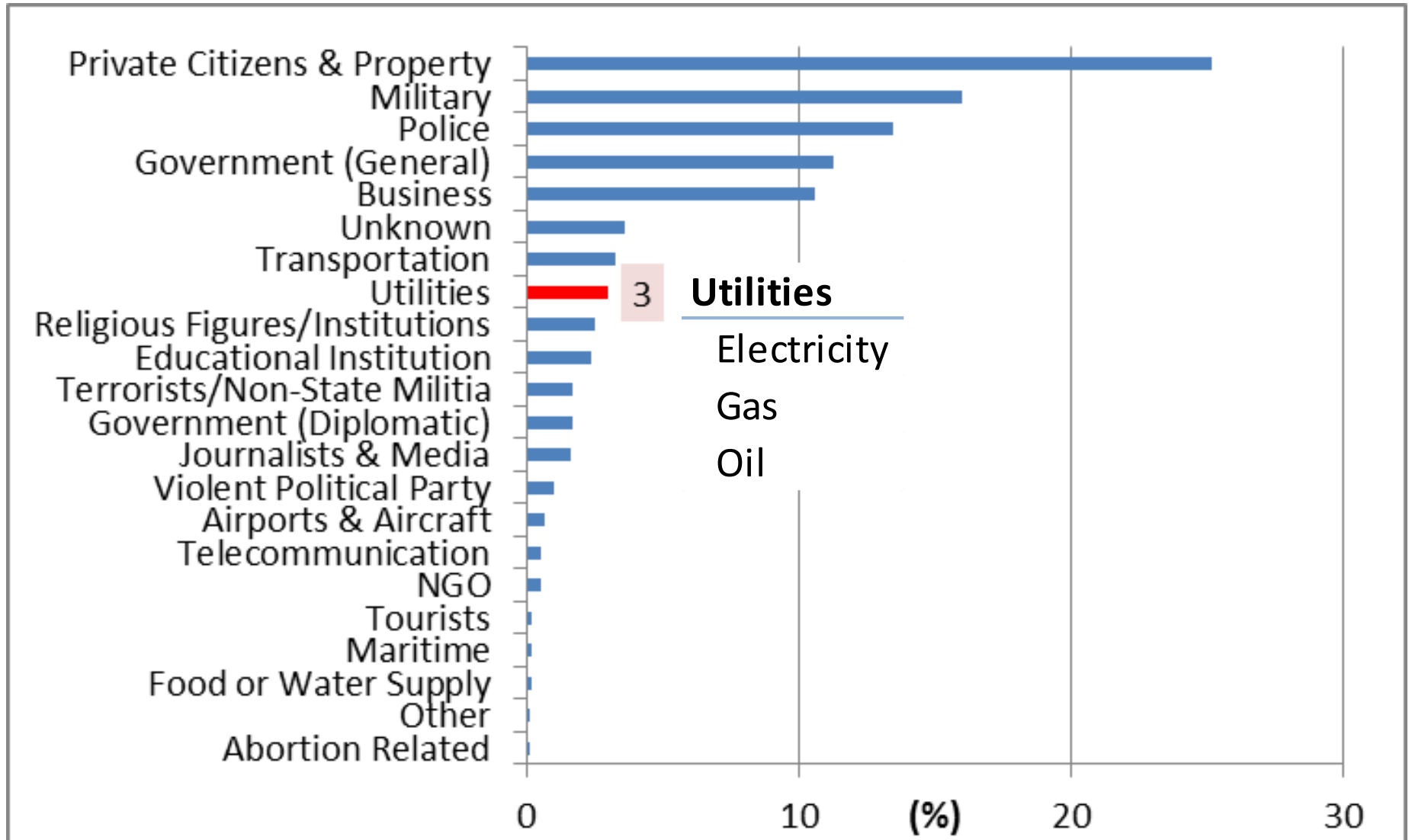


Results



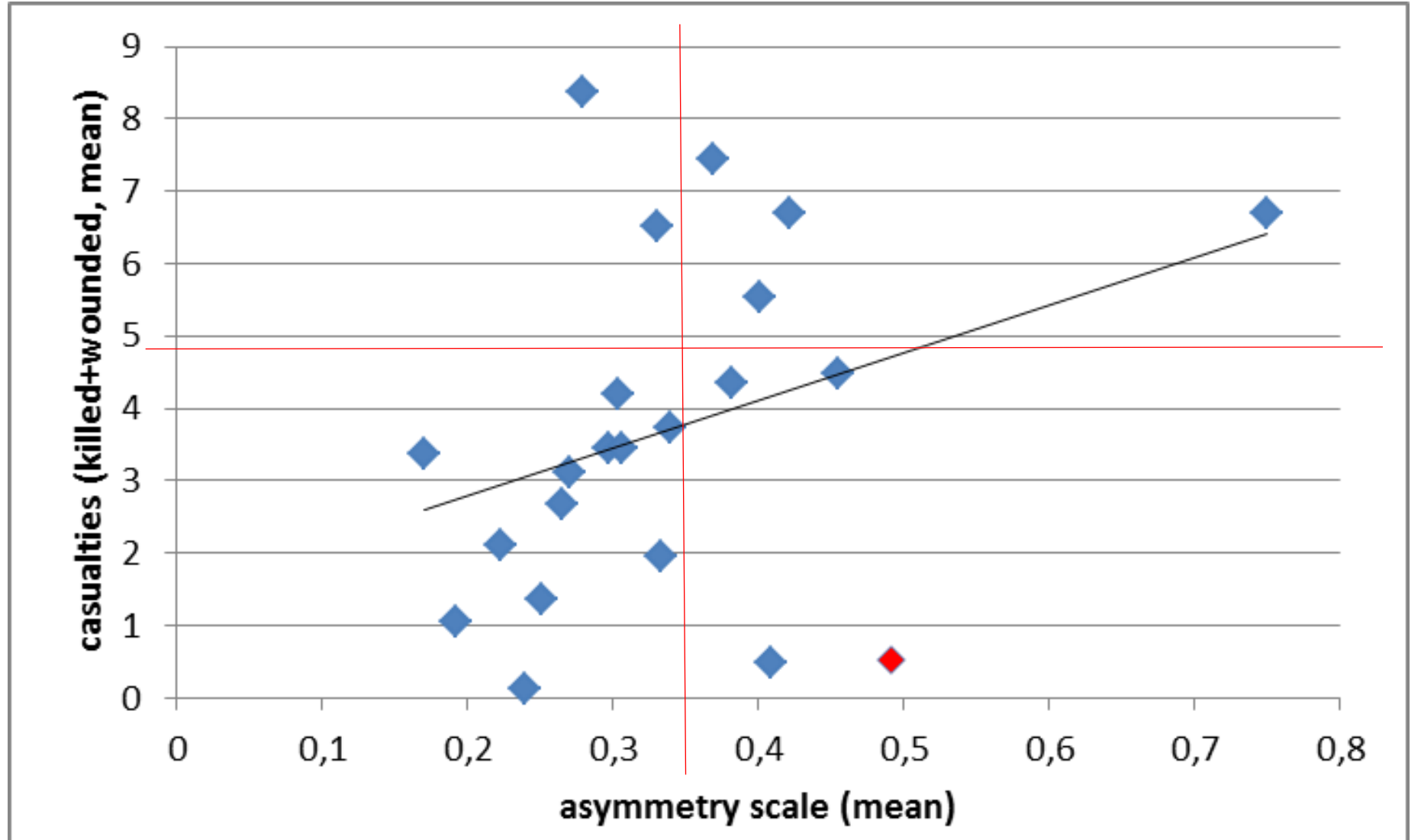


Results



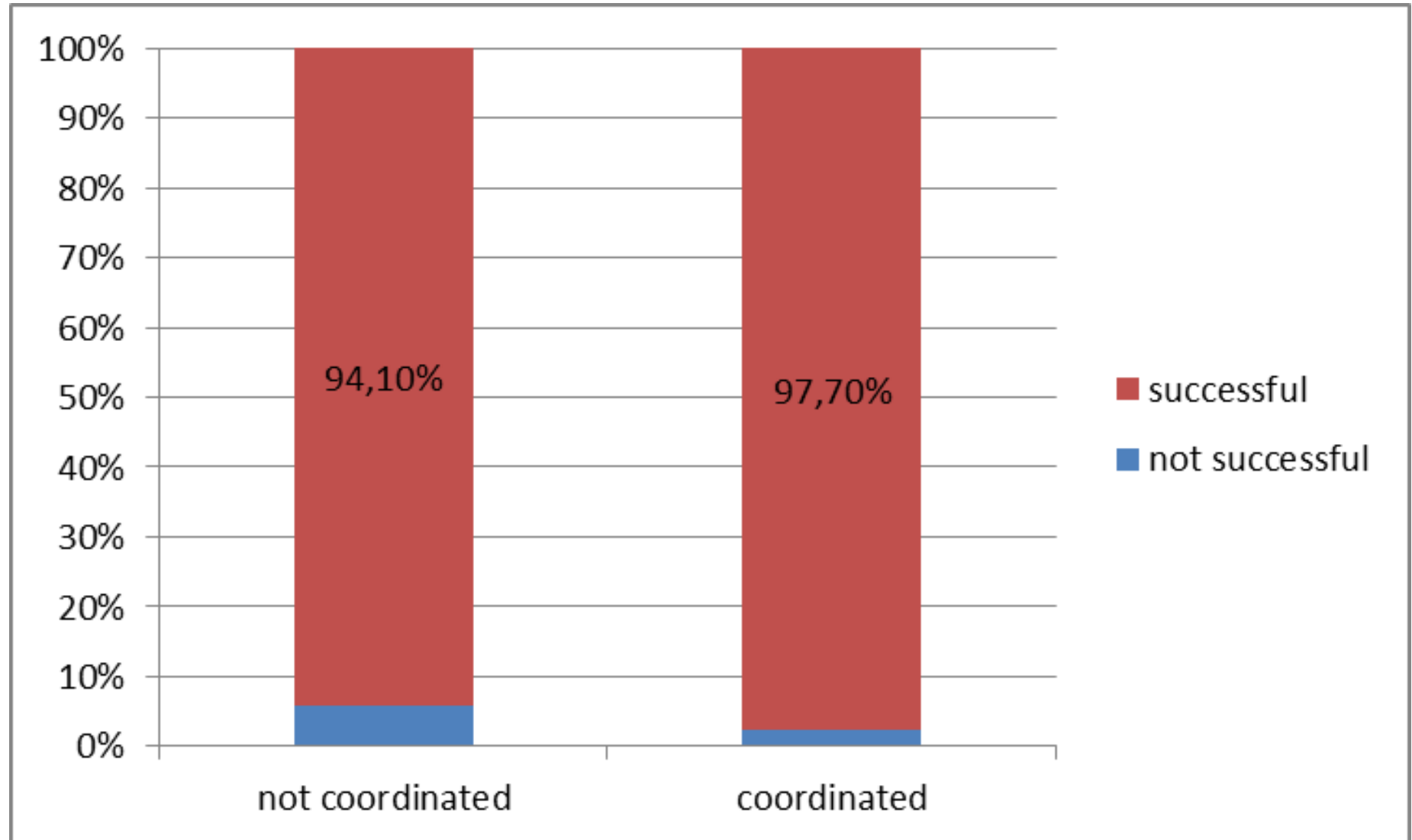


Results



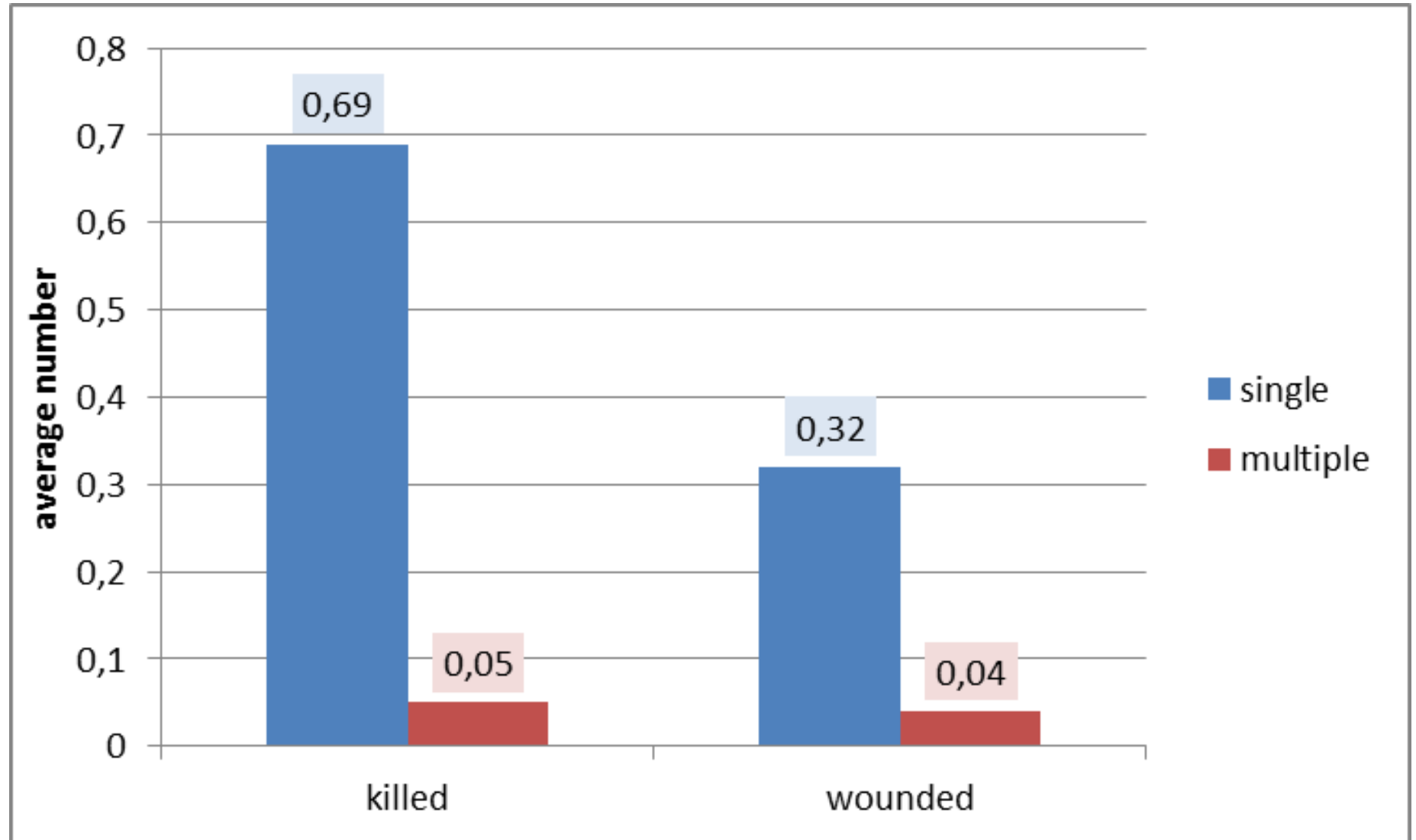


Results





Results





Conclusion

- Characteristics of terrorist attacks against energy sector assets
 - (one of the) high(est) level of asymmetry level in operations
 - dominance of complex attacks...
 - (one of the) low(est) level of casualties
 - ...without significant numbers of human victims
 - importance of coordinated, multiple actions
 - higher success probability, lower human damage

a special feature of refined and sophisticated organization and realization of the operations



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Thank you for the kind
attention!

Péter Balogh, balogh@ocio.u-szeged.hu

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