

Dropout in upper secondary education

Nordisk statistiktræf om uddannelse

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Definitions of dropout

How is dropout defined?

- Enrolment rates
- Comparison between two consecutive years
- True cohort, followed through time
- Graduation rates
- Educational attainment

Students who have completed ISCED 3 vs. students who have completed some education at ISCED 3 but not the level

Completion of the programme of study but have not graduated (e.g. failed final exam)

Enrolment rates

- Enrolment rates show the proportion of an age group that is in education.
- Do not show if the same individuals are attending year by year, but give an indication of the trends and show the proportion of a particular age group attending school.
- Could be called drop-in students.

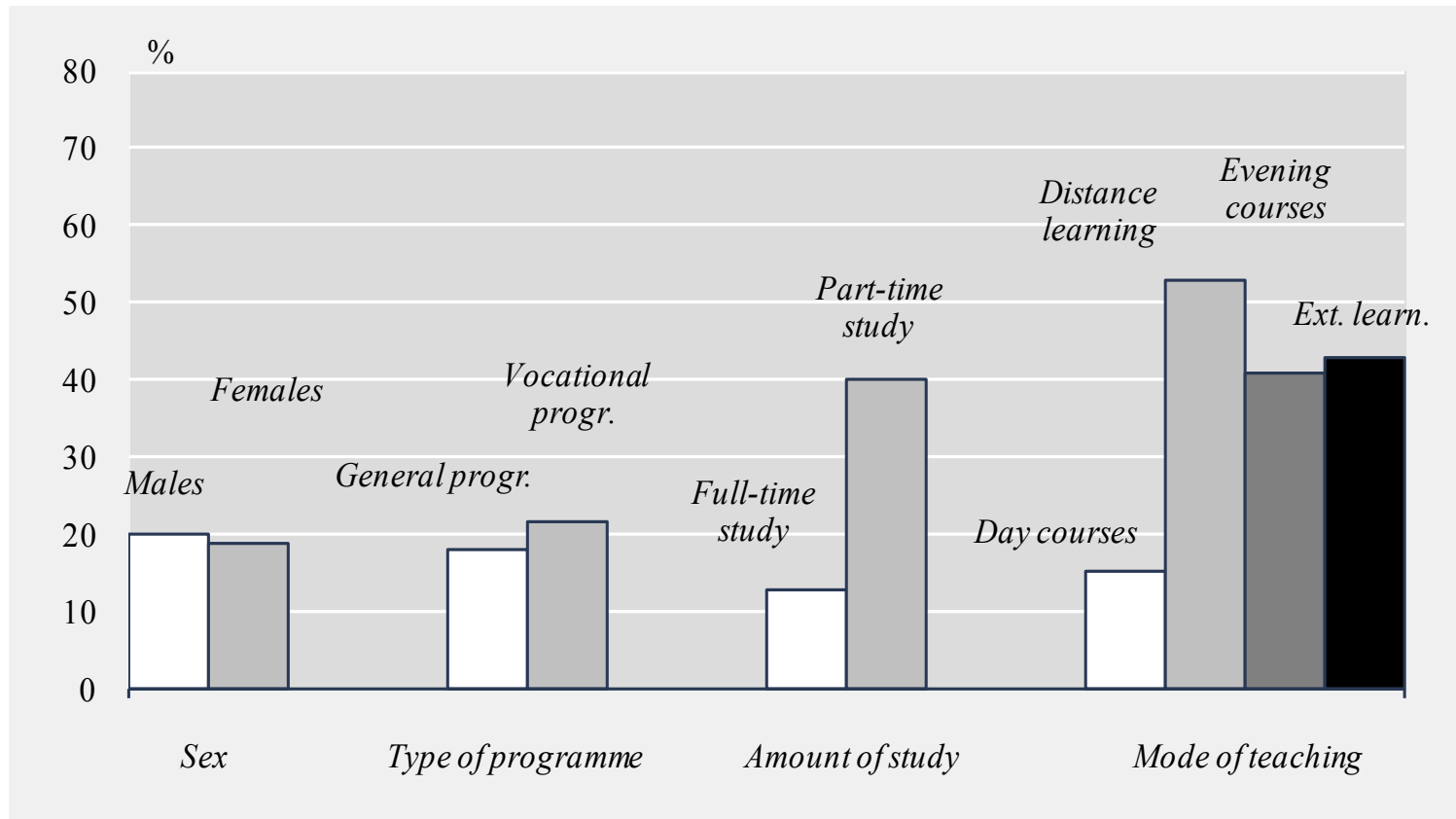
Example of enrolment rates in upper secondary education in Iceland 1999-2009

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
16 years	89	90	90	91	92	93	94	93	93	93	95
17 years	76	78	81	82	83	83	84	85	83	85	90
18 years	68	68	72	73	75	75	73	75	77	75	81
19 years	63	64	66	70	70	70	69	69	70	71	74
20 years	47	49	51	56	56	56	53	52	51	52	61

Comparison between two consecutive years

- Students in year “n” that are not attending school in year “n+1” and have not graduated in the meantime.
- Statistics Iceland and the Ministry of Education and Culture agreed on this definition in 2002.
- Results: 15.0% dropout in day school and 19.3% for all students 2002-3. 16.4% in day school 2004-5.

Comparison 2002-2003



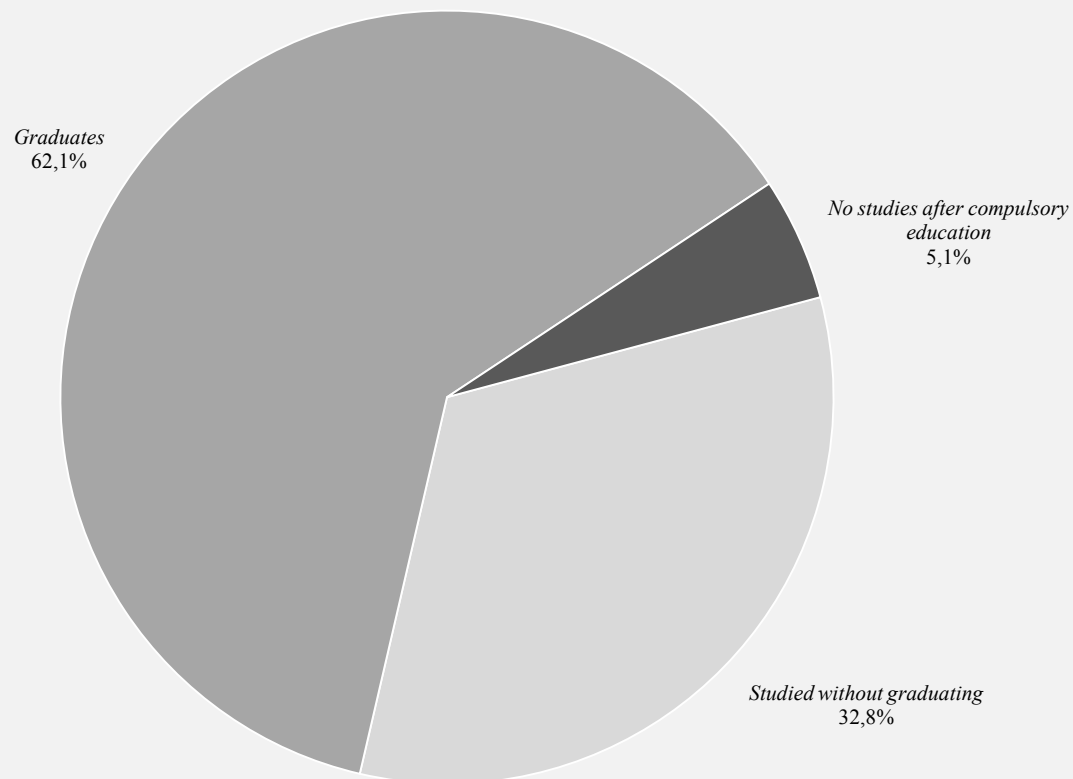
True cohort

- A group or a cohort of students is followed for a number of years.
- The graduations are checked after a specific number of years, such as 5 or 10 years.
- Those who have not graduated within this time are considered as dropouts.
- Some of the so-called dropouts may still be in school.

True cohort results in Iceland

- Icelandic surveys on the 1969 and 1975 cohorts. 57.2% of the 1975 cohort had completed some upper secondary education at the age of 24.
- Statistics Iceland followed the 1982 cohort. 62.1% had completed some education at ISCED 3 and 58.3% had completed the ISCED 3 level at the age of 24.
- Similar study on hearing impaired young people in 2010 found 69.2% had completed some education at ISCED 3 and 64.6% had completed the level.
- OECD/Norwegian data used a 5 year timeframe. Icelandic data showed 49% of the 1982 cohort had completed ISCED 3.

1982 cohort – status at age of 24



Graduation data

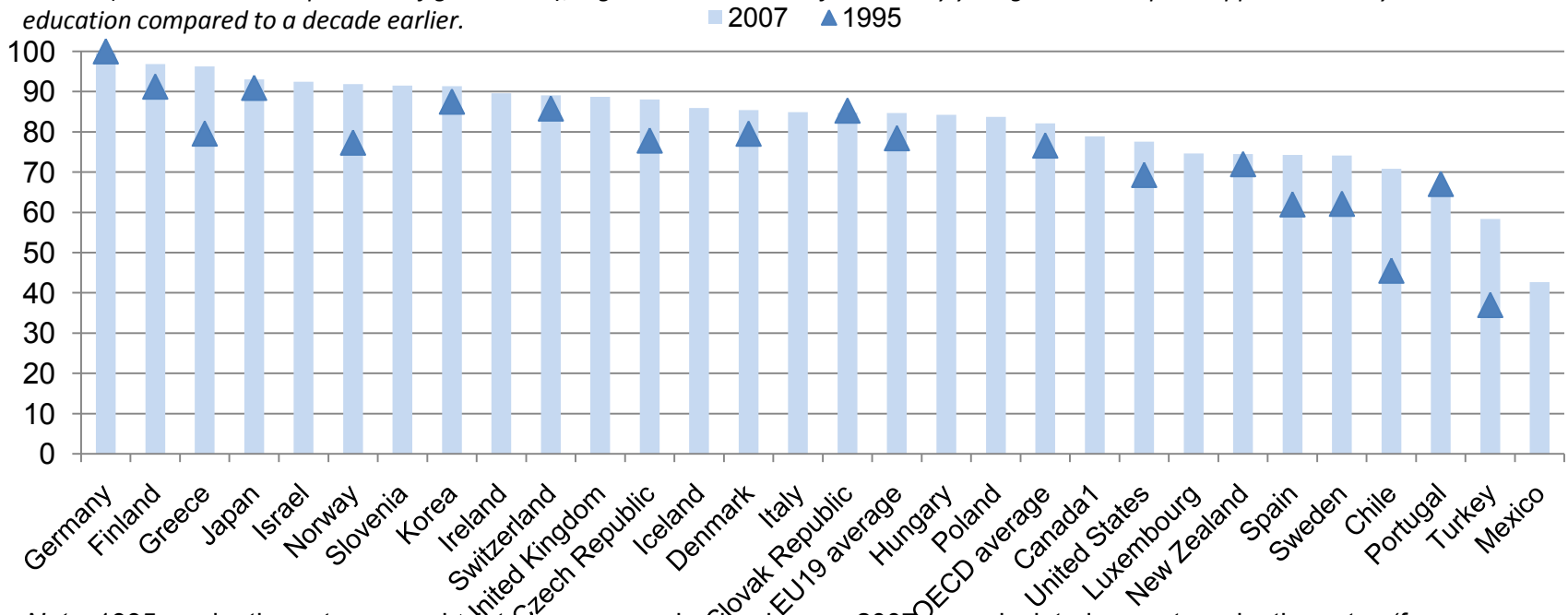
The proportion of a reference population that has graduated from ISCED 3.

- Gross graduation rate, computed with regard to a specific reference age.
- Net graduation rate, sum of age specific rates.
- First time graduates at ISCED 3, no double counting. 89% for Iceland for 2008 (net rate).
- Completion rates. Proportion of new entrants who successfully graduate “n” years later. Some countries use true cohorts.

Upper secondary graduation rates in OECD countries

Chart A2.1. Upper secondary graduation rates (1995, 2007)

The chart shows the estimated percentage of an age cohort that will complete upper secondary education for the first time in 1995 and in 2007 (based on current patterns of graduation); it gives an indication of how many young adults complete upper secondary education compared to a decade earlier.



Note: 1995 graduation rates are calculated on a gross basis whereas 2007 are calculated as net graduation rates (for countries with available data).

1. Year of reference 2006.

Countries are ranked in descending order of the upper secondary graduation rates in 2007.

Source: OECD. Table A2.2. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/edu/eag2009).

Educational attainment

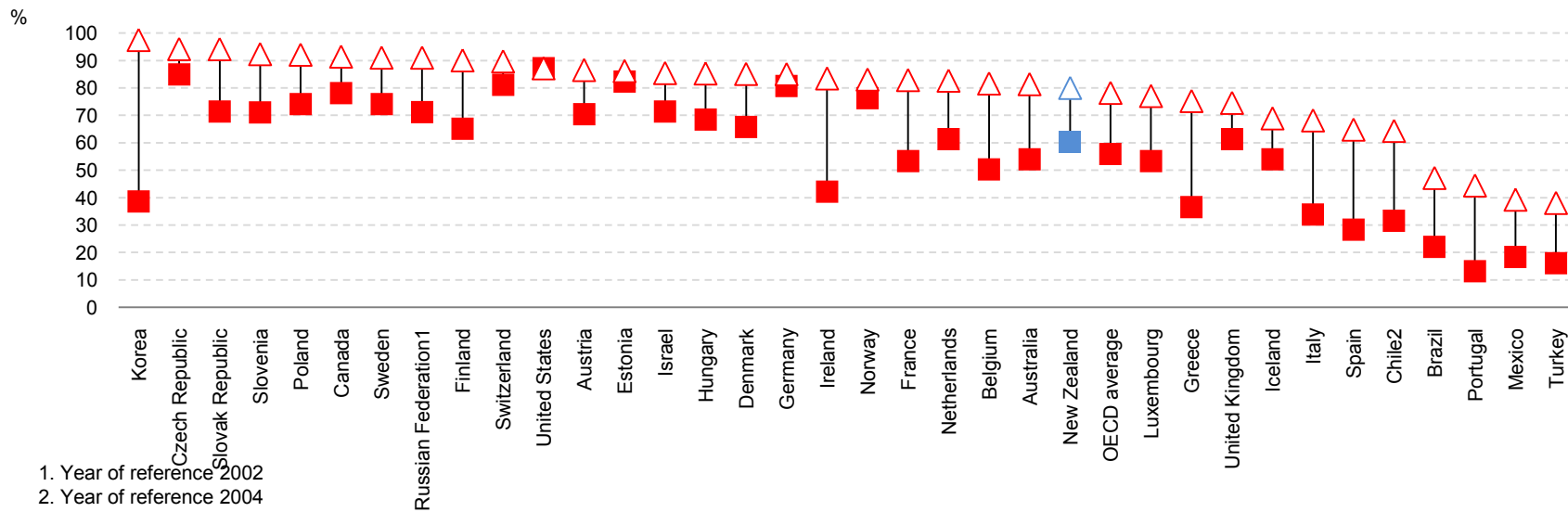
Shows the share of the population who has completed a level of education. From the LFS.

- 64% of 25-64 years old in Iceland had completed at least upper secondary education in 2008.
- 69% of 25-34 years old had at least completed ISCED 3.

ISCED 3 educational attainment

Chart A1.2. Population that has attained at least upper secondary education (2007)
Percentage, by age group

■ 55-64 year-old ▲ 25-34 year-old



1. Year of reference 2002

2. Year of reference 2004

Countries are ranked in descending order of the percentage of the 25-to-34 year-olds who have attained at least upper secondary education.

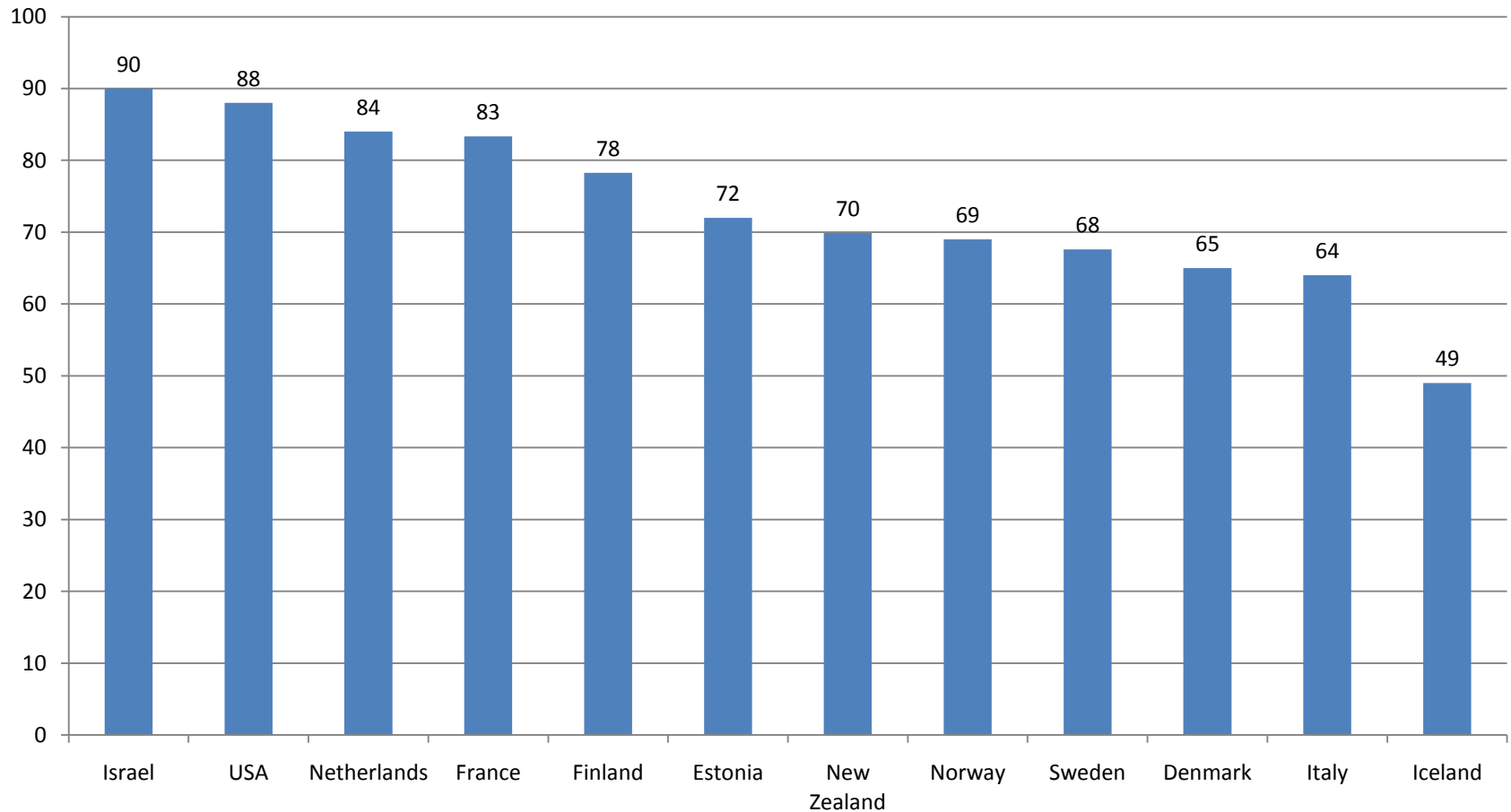
Source: OECD. Table A1.2a. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/edu/eag2009).

Statlink

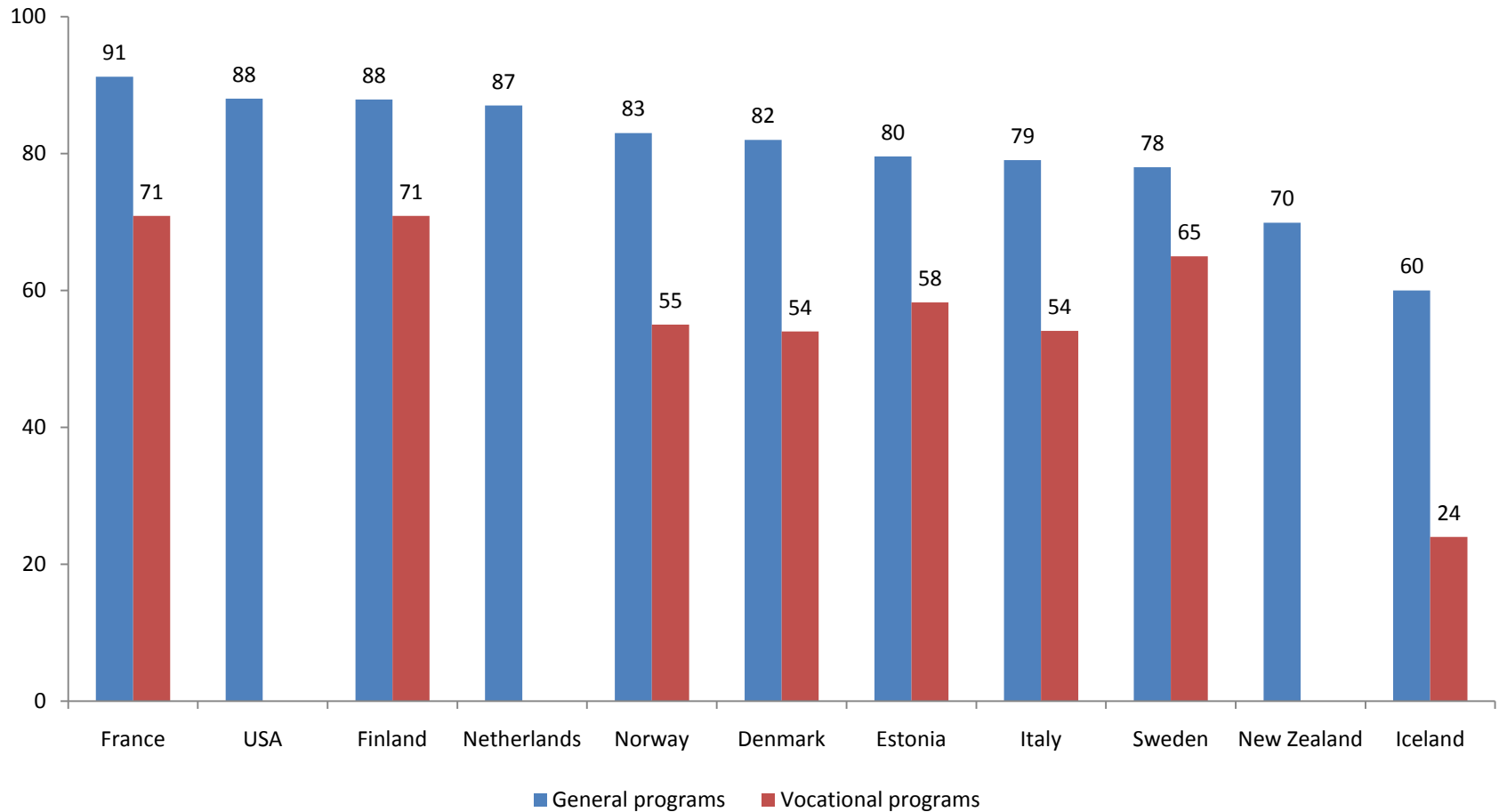
OECD work

- Norway's initiative, 11 countries responded with data in the first round.
- Lack of internationally comparable data on dropout at the upper secondary level.
- Data in the survey not fully comparable, but work is underway to define the variables wanted.
- Birth vs. entry cohort, entry to ISCED 2 or 3, duration after theoretical end of ISCED 3.

Completion rates in upper secondary education Norwegian survey - OECD



More dropout in vocational education



New Nordic report on dropout in upper secondary education

Frafall i utdanning for 16–20 åringer i Norden

- Dropout, throughput and achievement of competence in the Nordic countries.
- 60-80% complete – mass completion has not yet been realized.
- Different definitions between the Nordic countries. Need for comparable research.
- The social background of pupils and progress in compulsory school has significance.

What is the dropout rate?

How do we answer when the politicians and the Ministry of Education asks us about the dropout rate in upper secondary education?

- 15.1% (all students 2002-3)
- 16.4% (day school students 2004-5)
- 37.9% (those who had not completed anything at the age of 24)
- 41.7% (those who had not completed ISCED 3 at the age of 24)
- 51.0% (had not completed ISCED 3 after 5 years of study)
- 10.7% (graduation rate in 2008 89.3%)
- 31.0% (25-34 year olds who have not completed ISCED in educational attainment data)