



INVESTING IN YOUTH

SOCIAL & EMPLOYMENT POLICIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Brussels, 23 May 2014



Background

- Mandate by Social Policy Ministers at their meeting in May 2011
- Conclusions of the G20 Ministers of Employment meeting held in Moscow in July 2013
- **Objectives** : prepare the ground for tailor-made country reviews on the situation and policies for the *most disadvantaged youth*





Outline

- The challenge ahead
- Portrait of disadvantaged youth
- What is being done / can be done for them?
- Next steps: country reviews





The challenge ahead

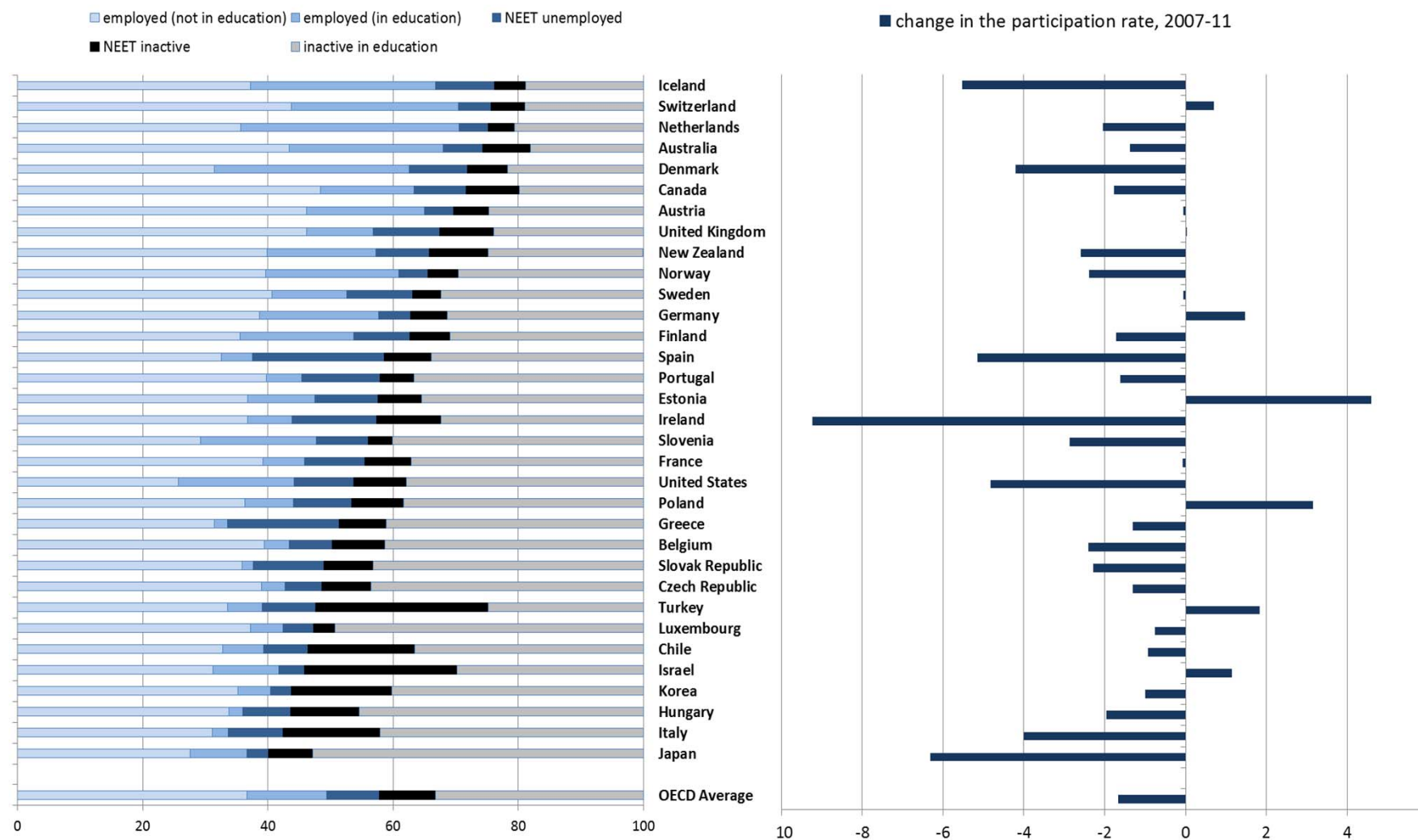
2007-2011

- **Employed youth** (16-29) : – 4.6 million in the OECD
- **NEETs**: + 2 million (+5% compared with 2007), reaching 35 million in the OECD or 18% of the youth population





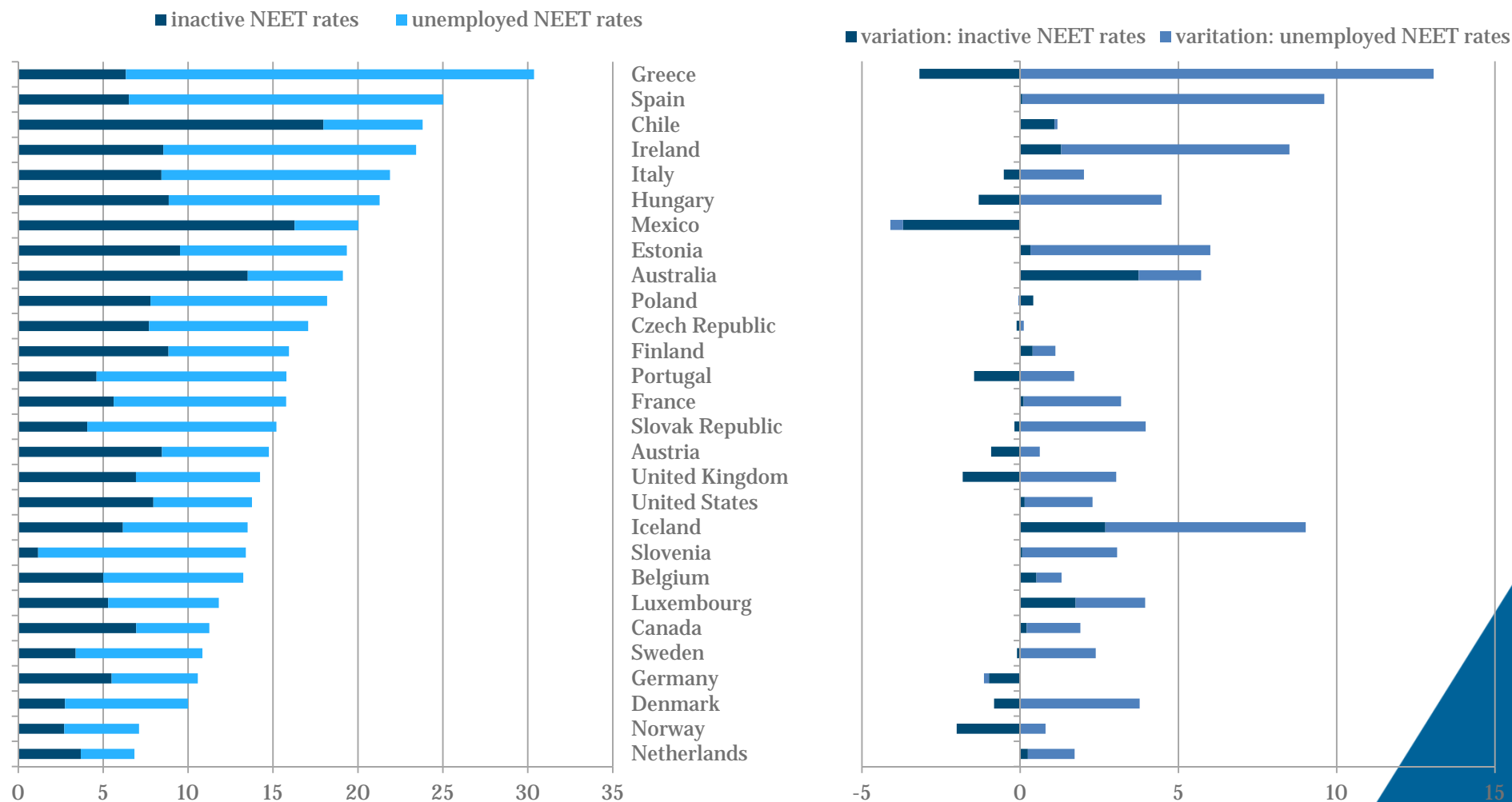
Inactivity has increased in most countries from 2007 to 2011





Similarly, NEET rates have increased in nearly all countries from 2007 to 2011

... and over half of all NEETs are not looking for a job





The challenge ahead

2007-2011

- **Employed youth** (16-29) : – 4.6 million in the OECD
- **NEETs**: + 2 million (+5% compared with 2007), reaching 35 million in the OECD or 18% of the youth population
- **Youth poverty** (below 60% of median income): 18% of the youth population





Portrait of a NEET





Portrait of a NEET

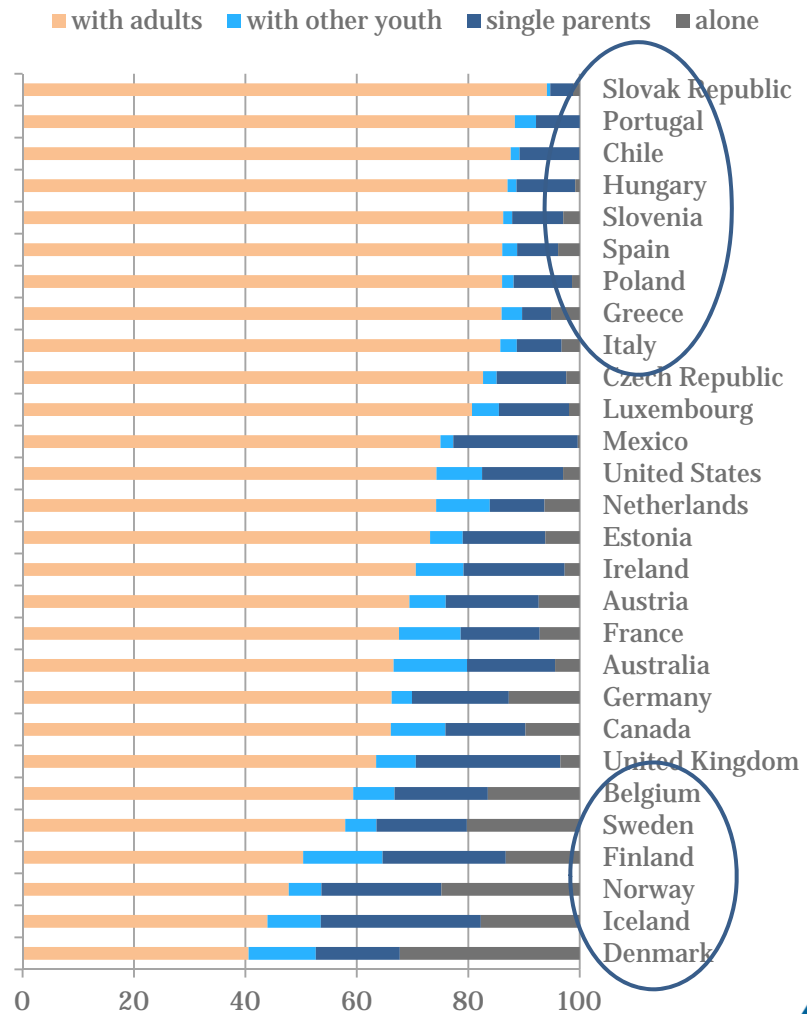
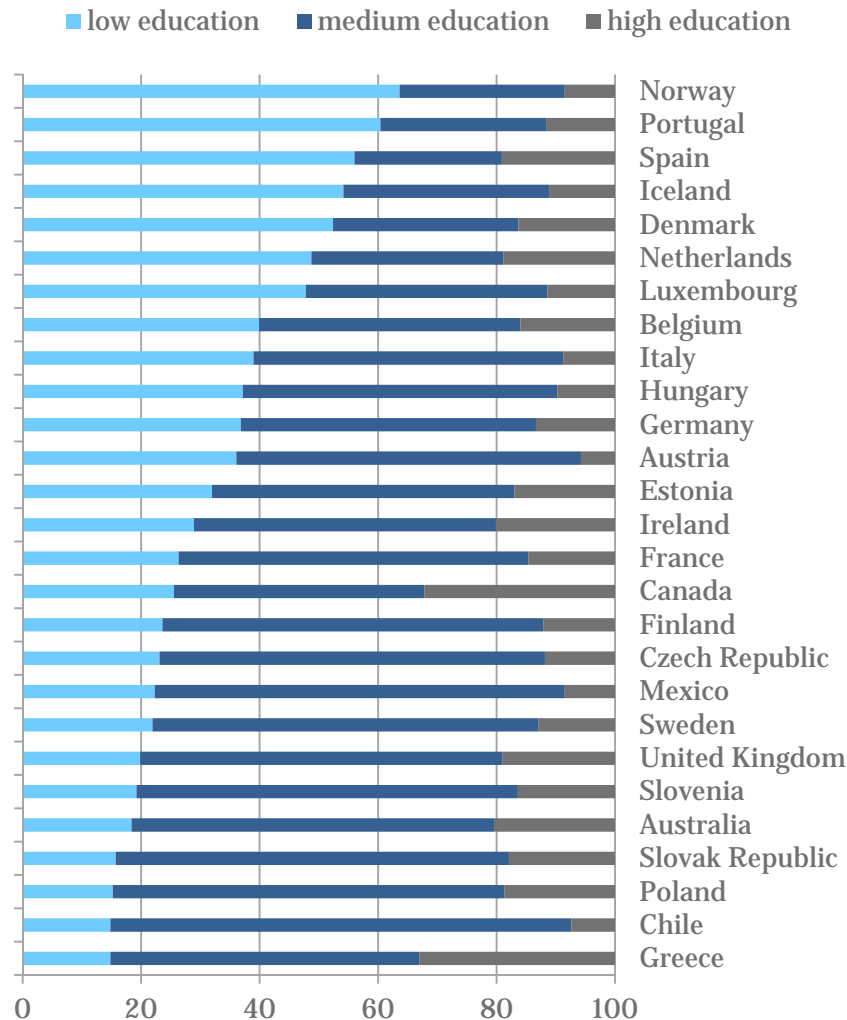
Background

- **85%** have no tertiary education, 50% have not gone beyond lower-secondary education





85% of NEETs do not have tertiary education, and about 1/3 left home





Portrait of a NEET

Background

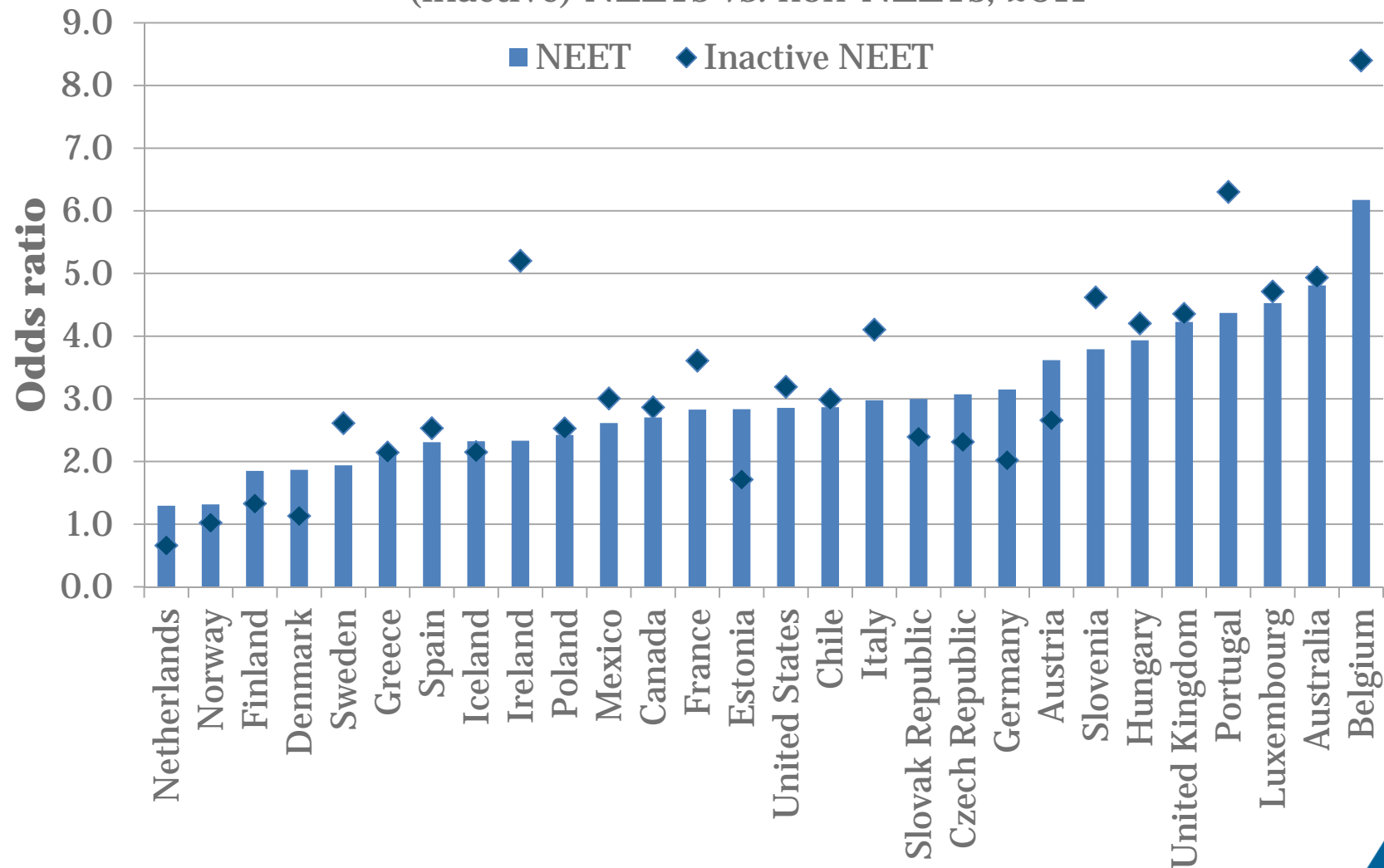
- **85%** have no tertiary education, 50% have not gone beyond lower-secondary education
- **60%** do not even look for a job (inactive)
- **3 times** as likely to be poor compared with youth employed or in education





NEETs are 3 times as likely to be poor than youth still in education or working

Ratio of the probability of being poor
(inactive) NEETs vs. non-NEETs, 2011





Portrait of a NEET

Background

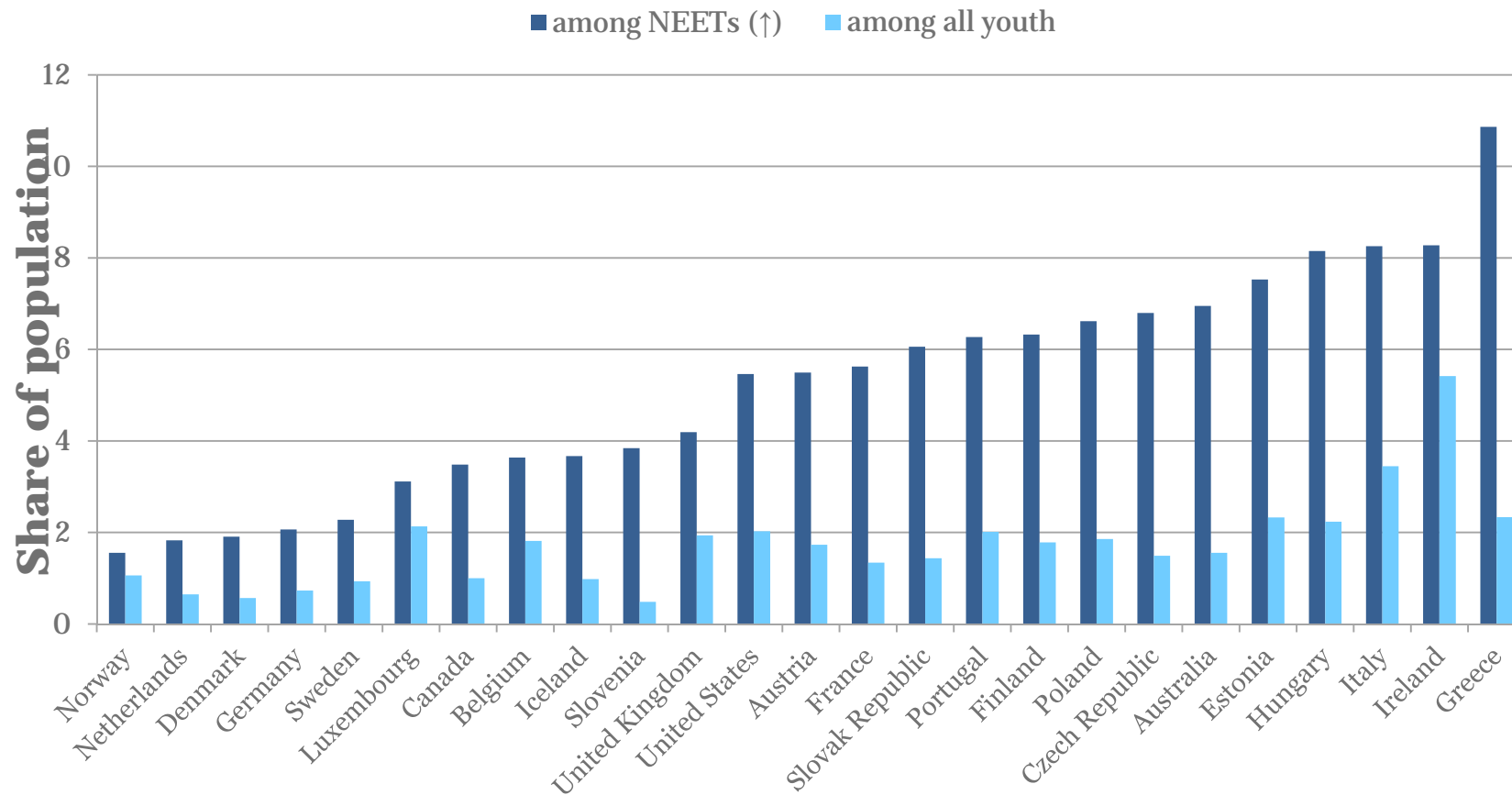
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- **3 times** as likely to have health problems





NEETs are 3 times as likely to be sick than youth overall

Share of individuals with poor health status in % among NEETs and all youth, 2011





Portrait of a NEET

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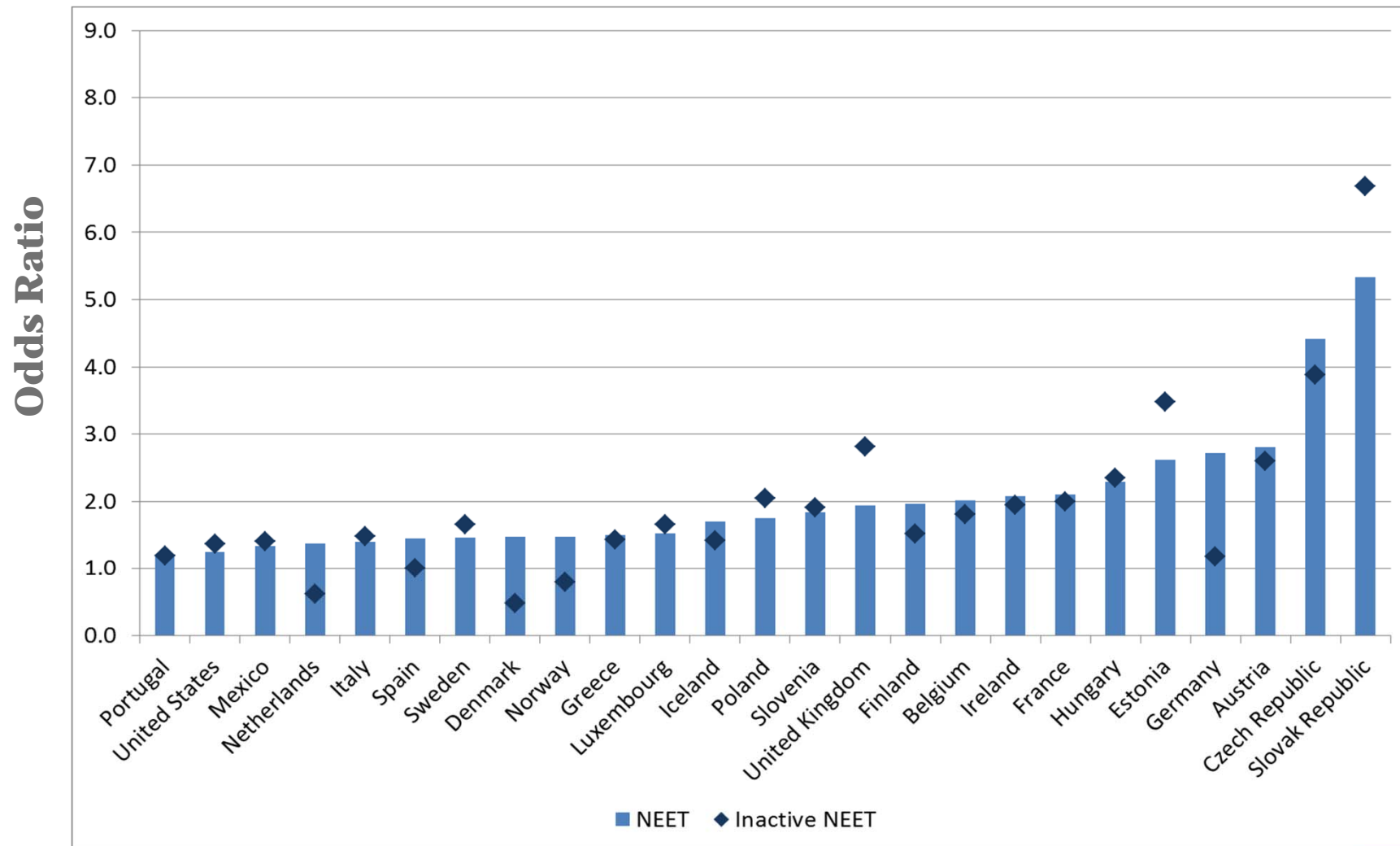
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- **3 times** as likely to have health problems
- **2 times** as likely to be lone parent
- **2 times** as likely to have parents with low education





NEETs are twice as likely to have parents with low education than other youth

Ratio of the probability of having parents with low education
(inactive) NEETs vs. non-NEETs, 2011





Portrait of a NEET

Background

- **85%** have no tertiary education, 50% have not gone beyond lower-secondary education
- **60%** do not even look for a job (inactive)
- **3 times** as likely to be poor compared with youth employed or in education
- **3 times** as likely to have health problems
- **2 times** as likely to be lone parent
- **2 times** as likely to have parents with low education
- NEET status is **not temporary**





Portrait of a NEET

What they do (selected countries)

Compared with those employed, **inactive NEETs** spend

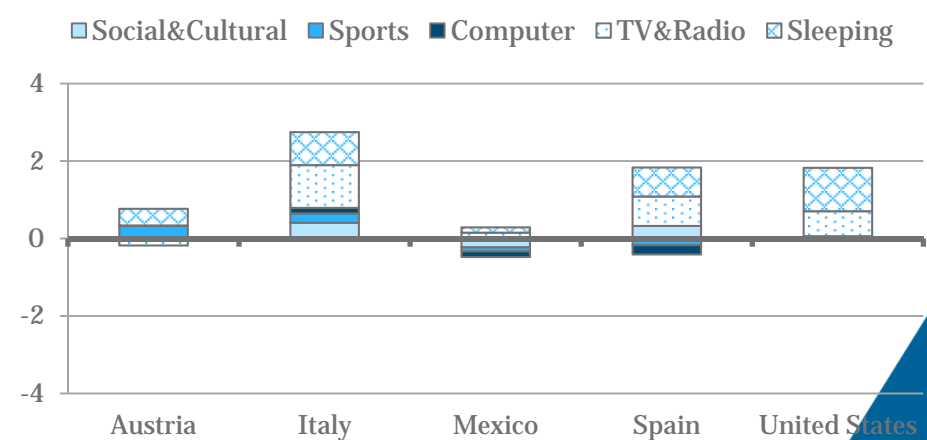
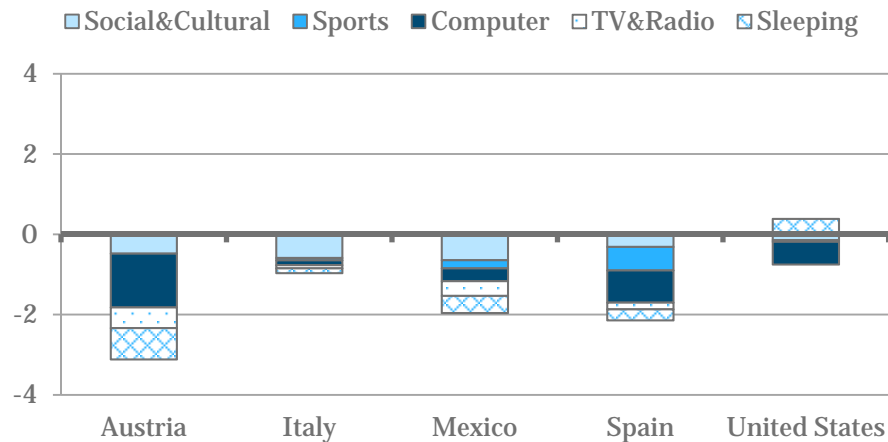
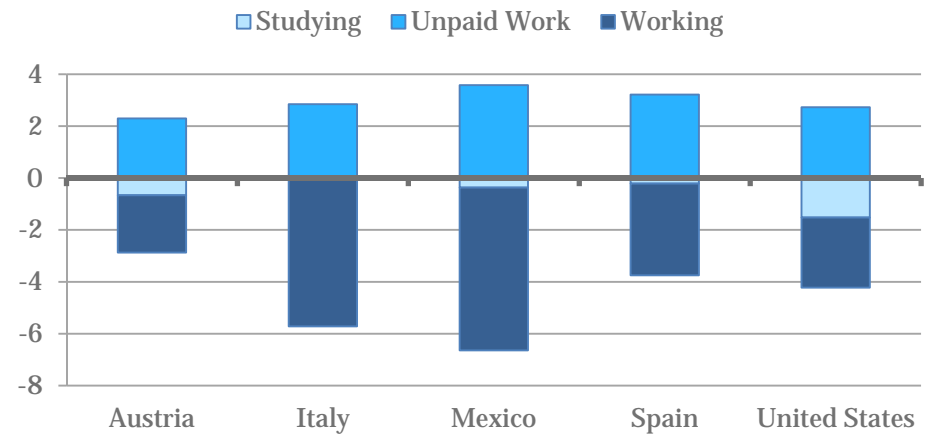
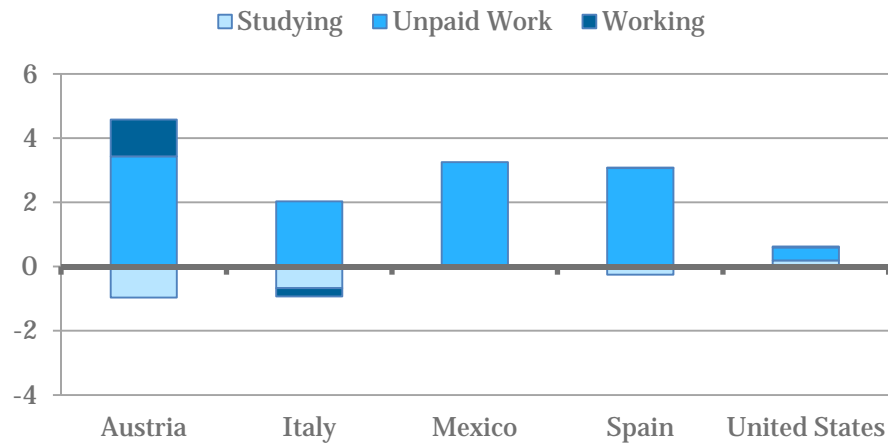
- 3 more hours on housework
- 1 more hour on TV
- no more time on reading, sports, or cultural and social activities than employed youth
- less *active* leisure time than unemployed youth





NEETs do not spend more time on sports, social or cultural activities

Time of inactive NEETs – time of *unemployed* Time of inactive NEETs – time of *employed*





Portrait of a NEET

What they do (selected countries)

Compared with those employed, inactive NEETs spend

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What they think

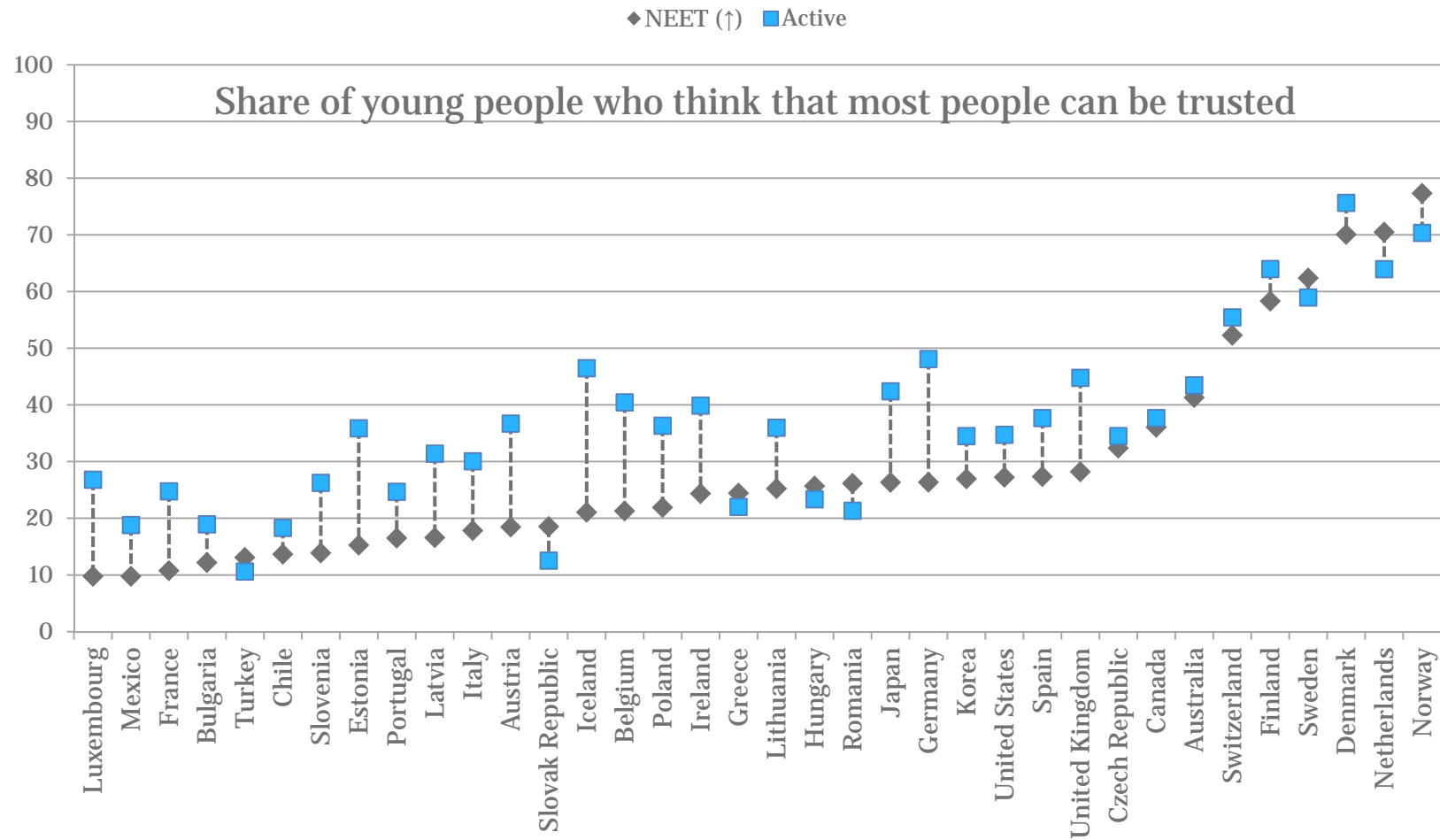
Compared with those employed or in education, NEETs are

- **30%** less likely to trust other people





NEETs have less trust in others





Portrait of a NEET

What they do (selected countries)

Compared with those employed, **inactive NEETs** spend

- 3 more hours on housework
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What they think

Compared with those employed or in education, **NEETs** are

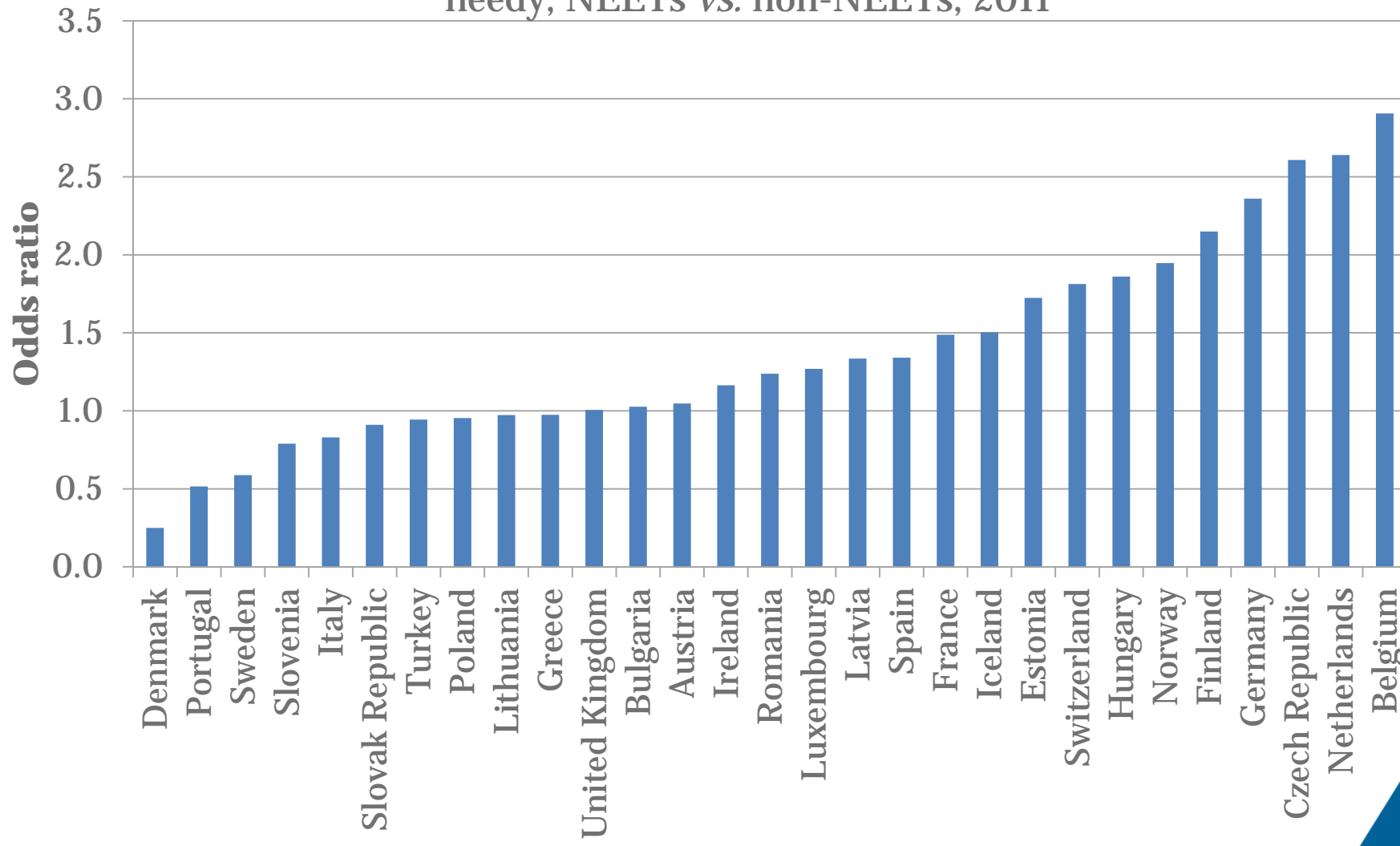
- **30%** less likely to trust other people
- **twice** as likely to show no interest at all in politics
- **less** likely to value work (depending on country)
- **1.5 times** more likely to think neediness is due to injustice





NEETs are 1.5 times more likely to attribute neediness to the injustice of society

Ratio of the share of youth who mention "injustice" as a reason for why people are needy, NEETs vs. non-NEETs, 2011





Shocked by what we found?





What is being done?





Existing **safety nets** seem to leave aside a significant share of the most needy youth

Income support :

- **Availability:** means-tested benefits are the main type of income support for youth

but:

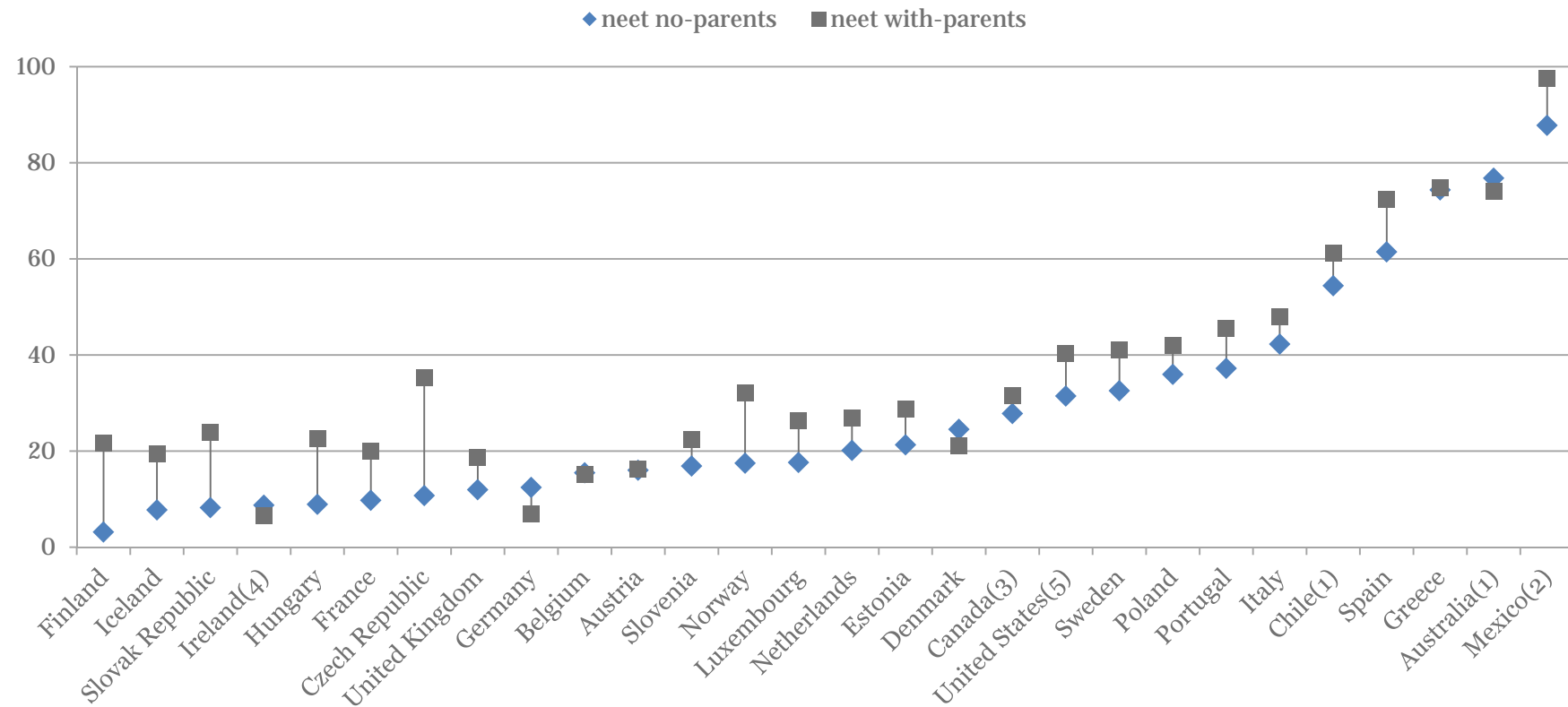
- **Coverage:** a large fraction of NEETs living alone do not receive these benefits





About 30% of NEETs living without their parents do not receive social transfers at all

Percentage of NEETs who do not receive any social transfers
Averages over the period 2007 - 2011





Existing safety nets seem to leave aside a significant share of the most needy youth

Income support :

- **Availability:** means-tested benefits are the main type of income support for youth
- **Coverage:** but a large fraction of NEETs living alone do not receive these benefits

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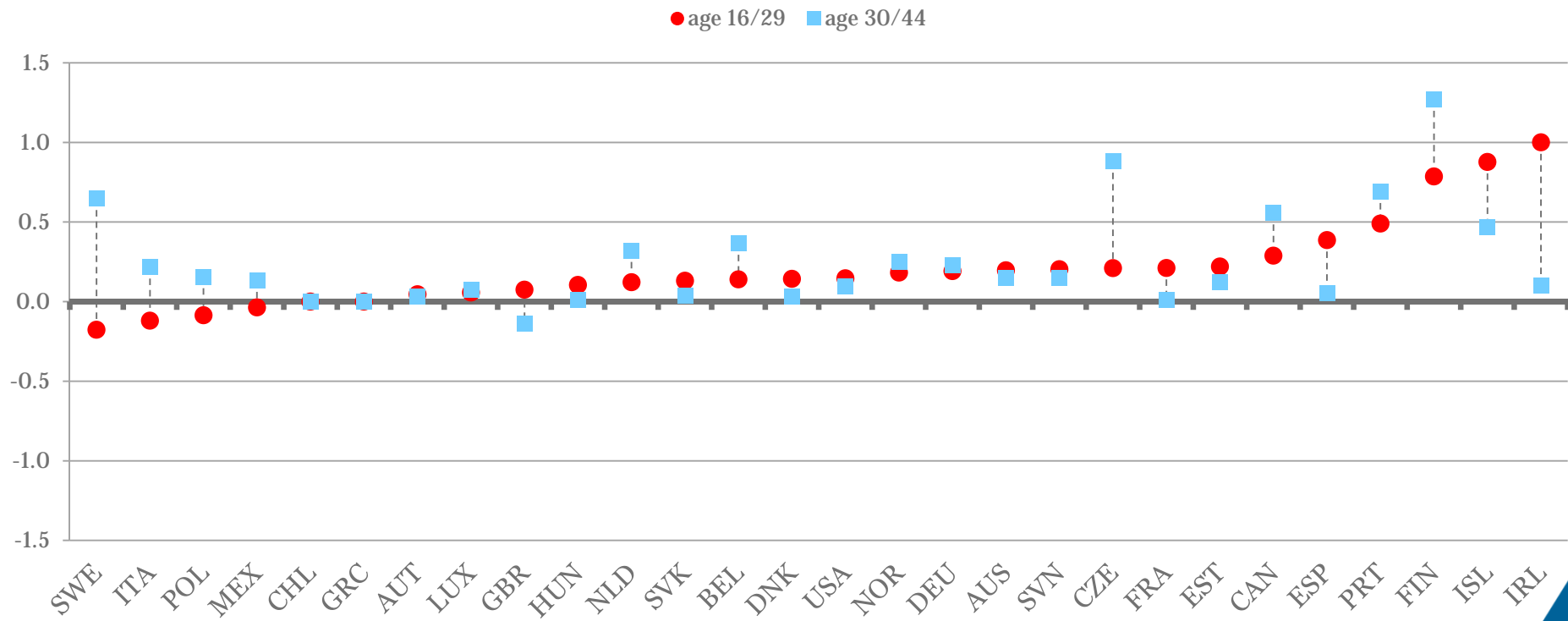
- **Adequacy:** social assistance is less responsive to economic conditions than UB





Social assistance is little responsive to economic conditions

Responsiveness of SA in points of benefit receipt rate to 1 extra point of non-employment, period 2007-2011.





Well-targeted and designed **in-kind programmes** can make a difference...

- **Objectives:** Improving personality traits (self-esteem, conscientiousness, emotional stability or openness) as much as knowledge. Impact on :
 - educational attainment,
 - labour market performance
 - health outcomes (mental health, substance abuse, risky sexual behaviours)
 - crime
- **Timing:** Personality is as malleable as cognition, but earlier interventions are more efficient





Well-targeted and designed **in-kind programmes** can make a difference...

- **Successful interventions:** targeted at disadvantaged youth
 - innovative school programmes
 - After-school support
 - health prevention programmes
 - mentoring
 - Special apprenticeship schemes
 - Second-chance programmes





... but the devil is in the details of
implementation

Challenges

- Human resource intensive and costly programmes
- Quality of case workers
- Ability to reach out to those in need
- Delivery: one-stop centres, link with schools
- Involving families in programmes to improve the motivation and participation of youth
- Governance of employment and youth services and their coordination
- lack of well-designed tools to measure the effectiveness of new programmes





Next step: country reviews





Country reviews: state of affairs

Aims:

- 1. Identify and describe at-risk youth** (which will vary across countries) and the **barriers** they face
- 2. Map existing social policies** for these youth: who is served? where are there gaps?
- 3. Evaluate policy effectiveness:** what are **good practices**? where are there **margins for improvement**?

Reviews are funded through voluntary contributions

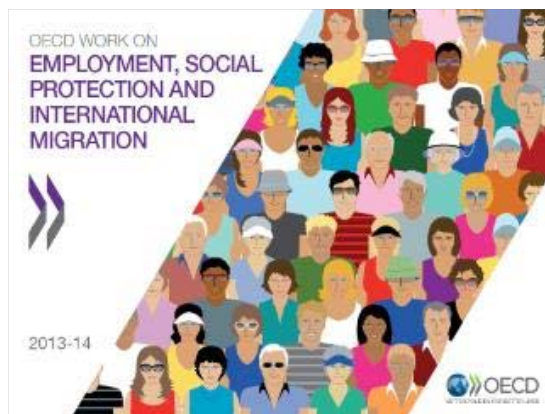




Thank you!

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OECD Employment Outlook, via www.oecd.org/employment/outlook

OECD Society at a Glance, via: www.oecd.org/social/societyataglace.htm

OECD Pensions at a Glance, via: www.oecd.org/pensions/pensionsataglace.htm

OECD Employment database, via www.oecd.org/employment/database

