EDUCATION & SKILLS

Developments in higher education systems in Finland's peer countries

Korkeakoulutuksen ja tutkimuksen 2040 visioseminaari

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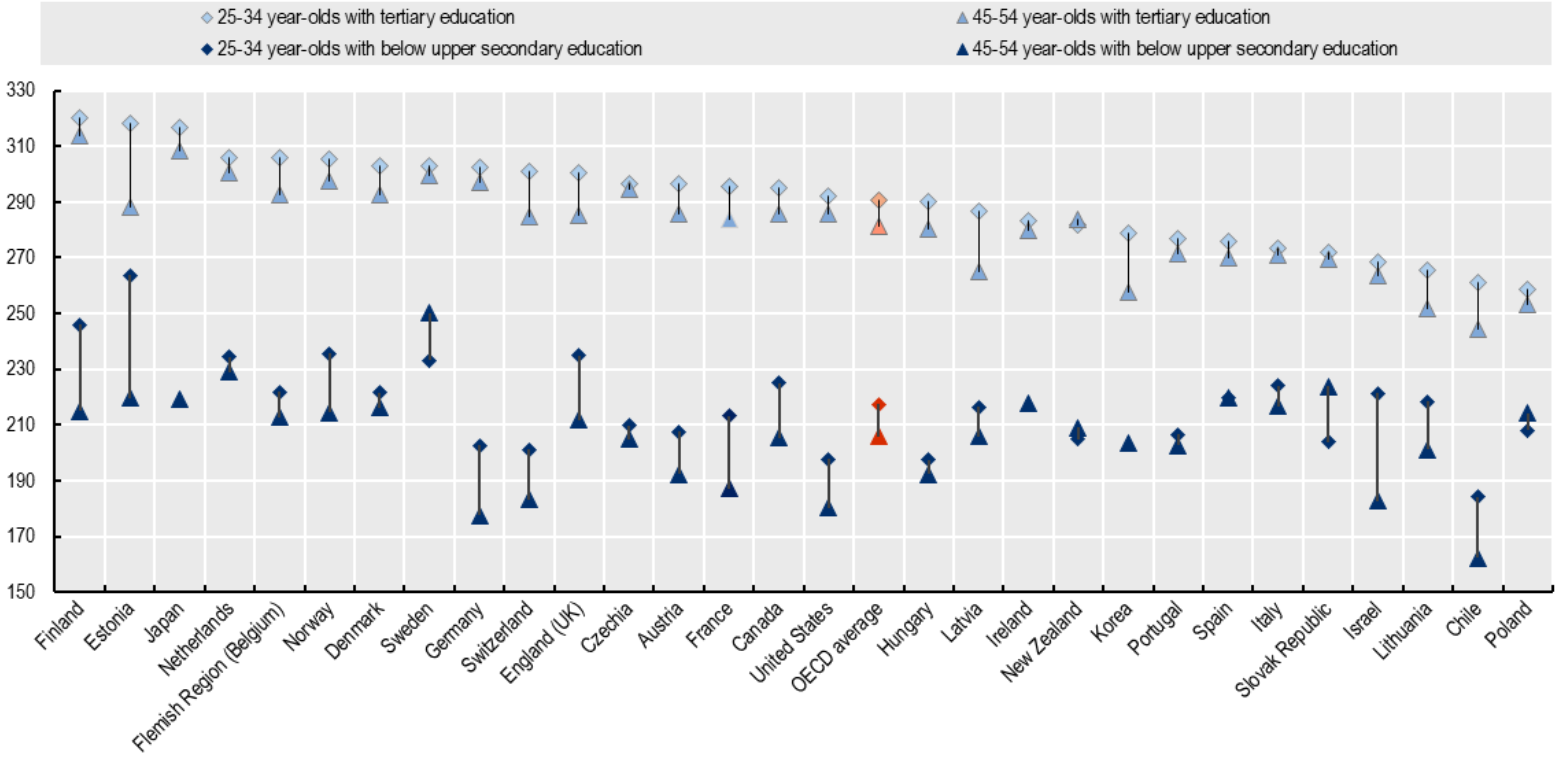
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Some good news to start

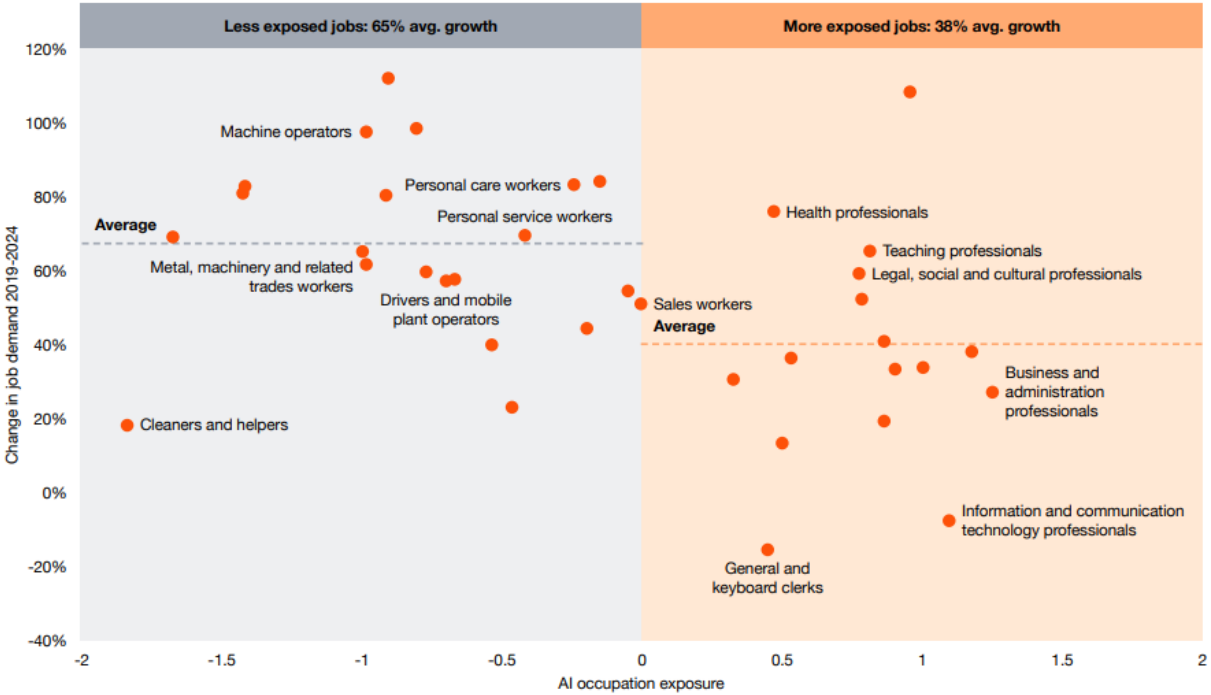
Finnish education and society continue to deliver strong skills

Adults' mean literacy proficiency, by educational attainment and age group (2023) - Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC); in score points



1 The development of AI is influencing demand for skills
How can tertiary systems prepare students for an AI-enabled world?

Job numbers in AI-exposed occupations are growing, though more slowly than in less exposed occupations



Change in demand by AI exposure for all jobs, 2019-2024, globally. Some countries excluded because data unavailable for full time period analysed (Hong Kong, Malaysia, Norway, South Africa, UAE, Brazil, Mexico.). We analysed 37 ISCO occupational categories that include 415 occupations. Source: PwC analysis, Felten et al, Lightcast data.

- **Uncertainty** regarding AI effects on labour demand
- Tendency to replace **tasks not entire occupations** – but risks for graduate jobs
- **Knowledge** will remain important (to verify AI output/drive new knowledge)
- Importance of **skills where humans add** most value

PWC (2025) The Fearless Future: 2025 Global AI Jobs Barometer

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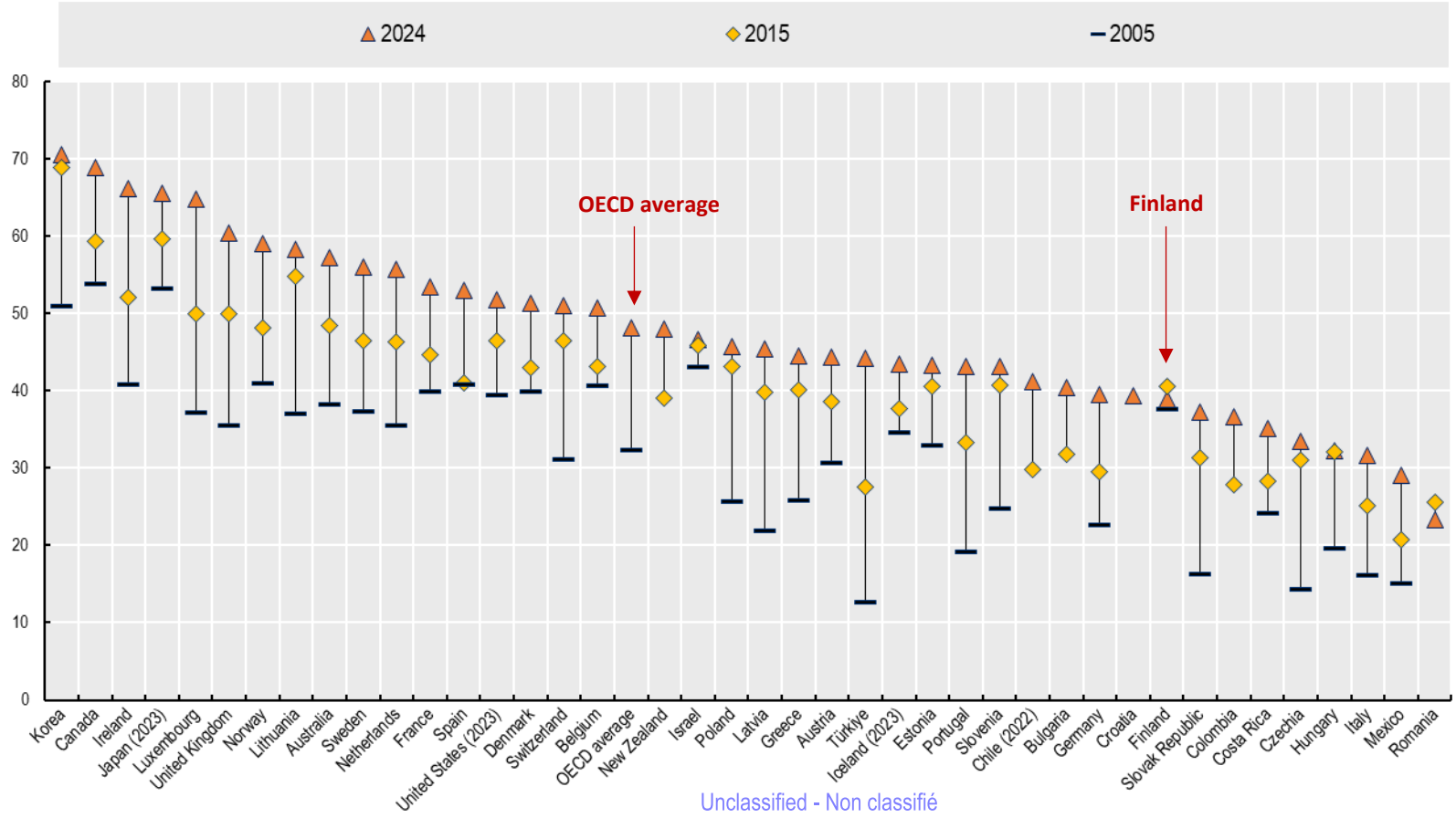
2 Finland's tertiary attainment has stagnated for the last 20 years

What level of tertiary attainment is desirable? (socially and economically)



Proportion of population aged 25-34 with a tertiary qualification (ISCED 5-8)

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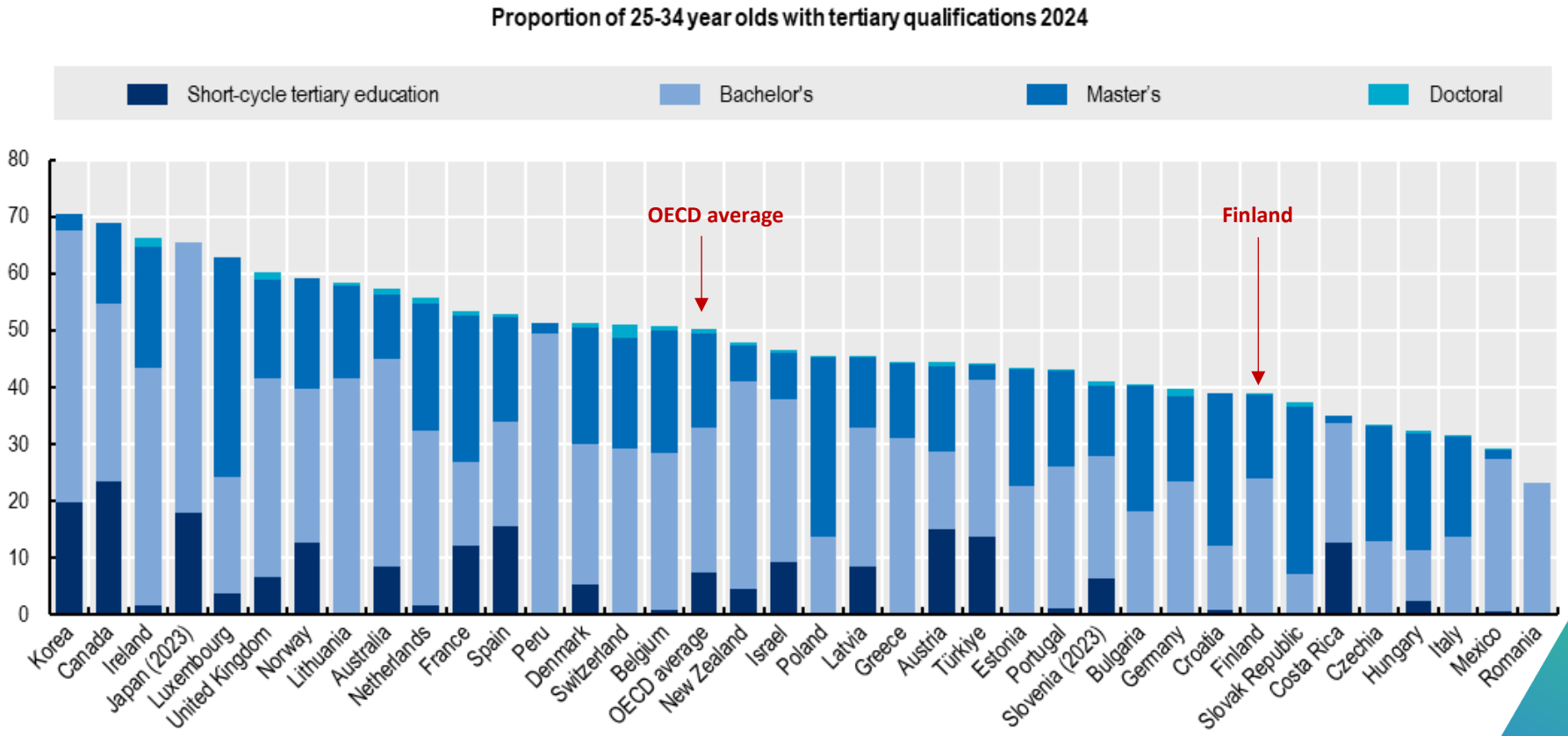
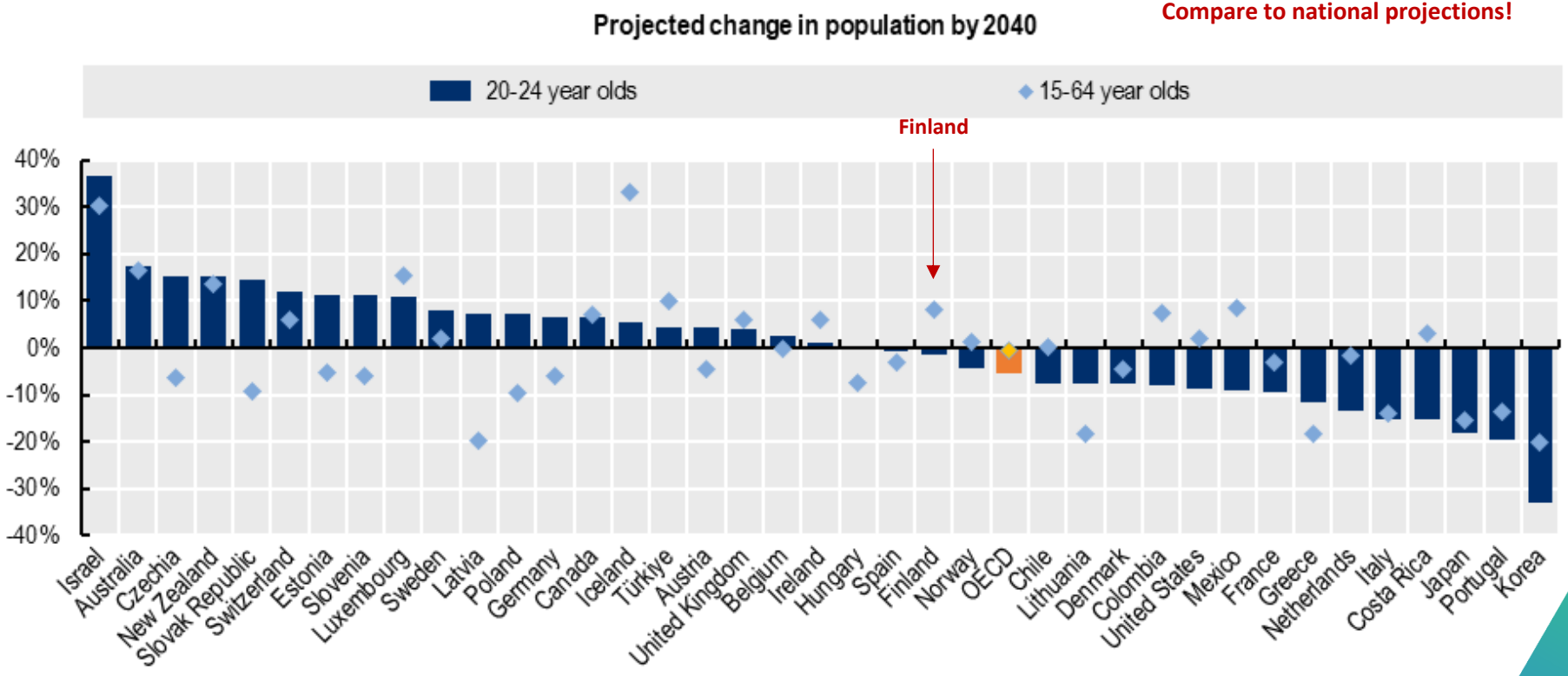
3 The types and mix of qualifications vary across countries
What mix of tertiary education can meet societal and skills needs?



4

The youth cohort is shrinking in some countries and growing in others

How can tertiary systems be reshaped to account for demographics?

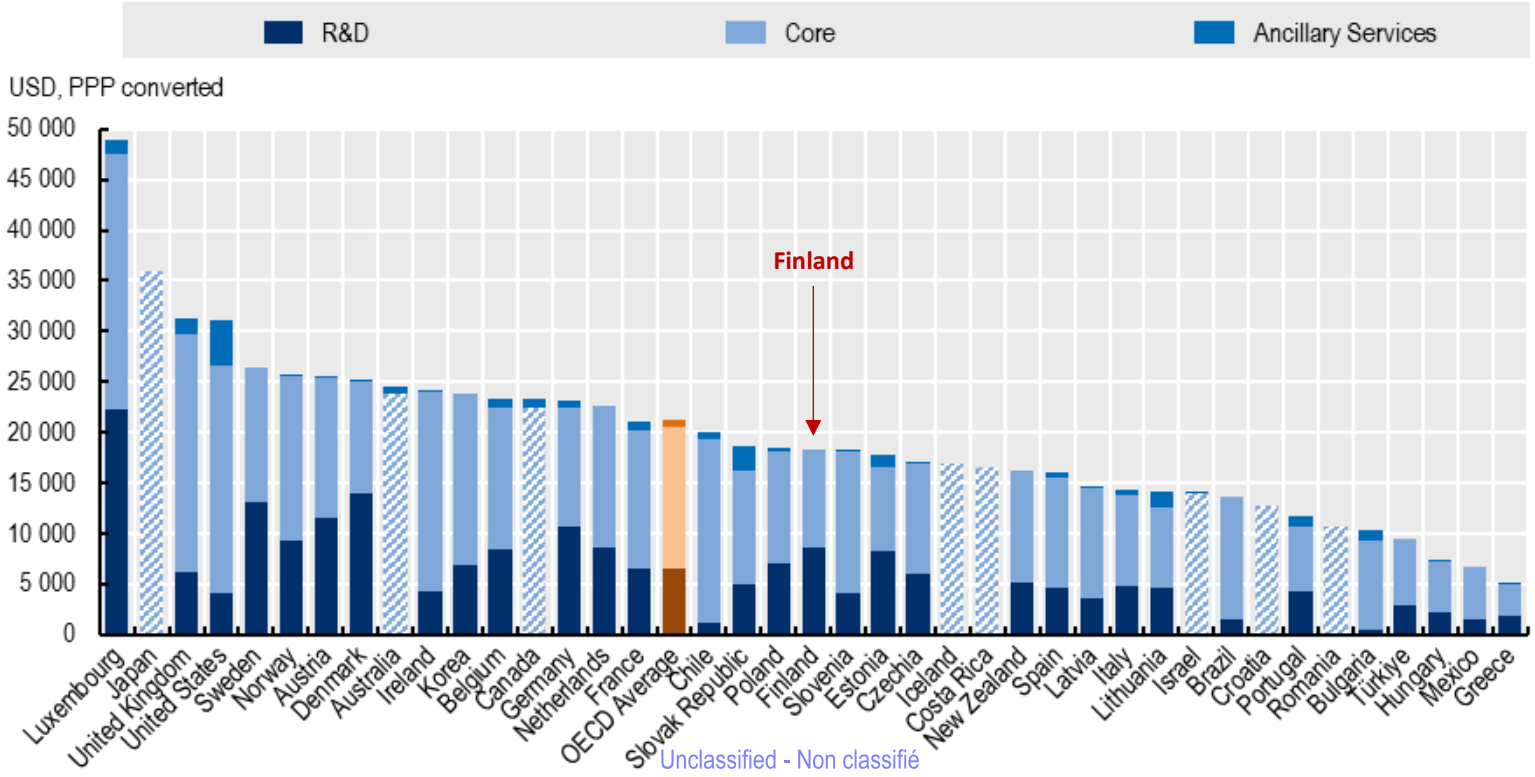


5a

Finland's expenditure per FTE student is below the OECD average

How can tertiary systems be financed sustainably?

Expenditure on public and government-dependent tertiary education institutions per full-time-equivalent (FTE) student by type of activity, 2022



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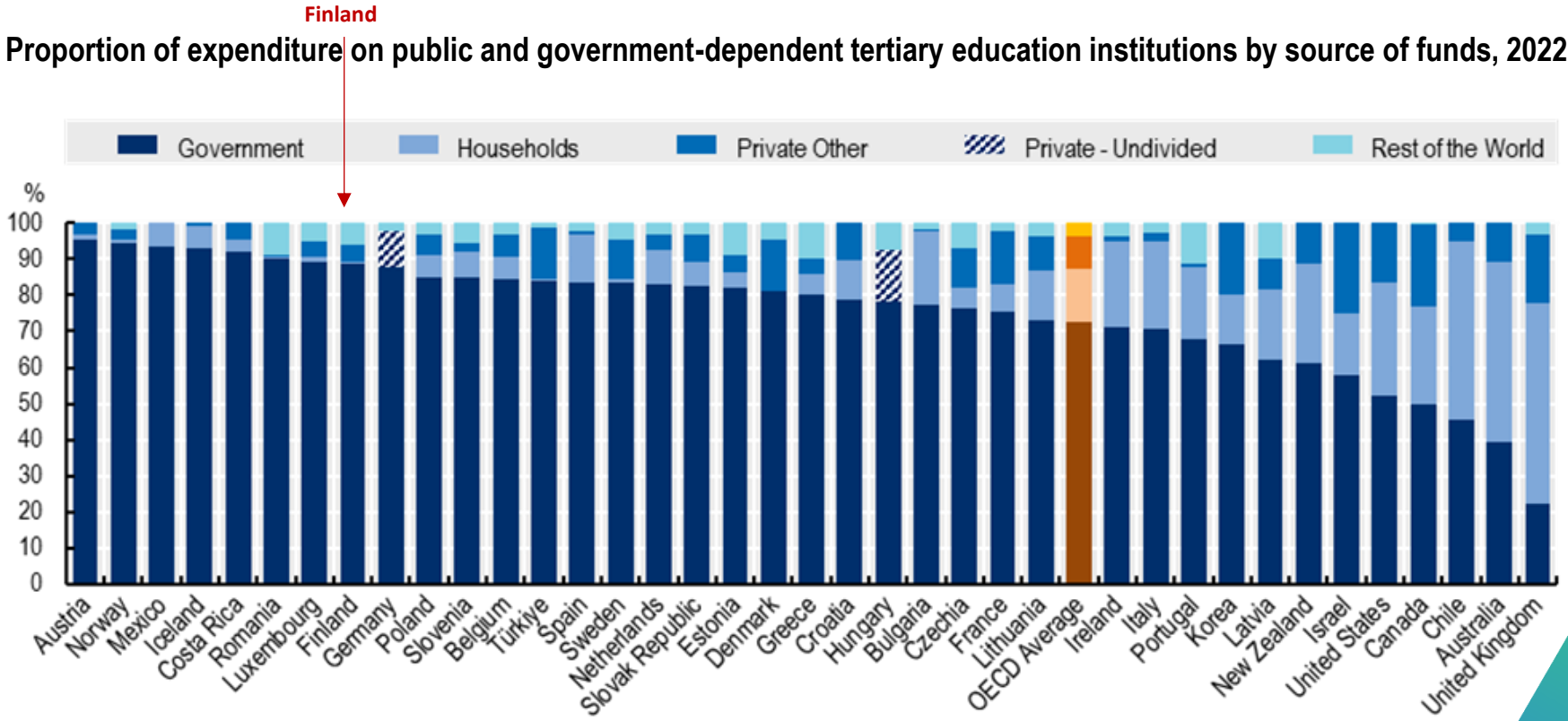
5b

Most expenditure on higher education in Finland comes from public sources

How can tertiary systems be financed sustainably?

Proportion of expenditure on public and government-dependent tertiary education institutions by source of funds, 2022

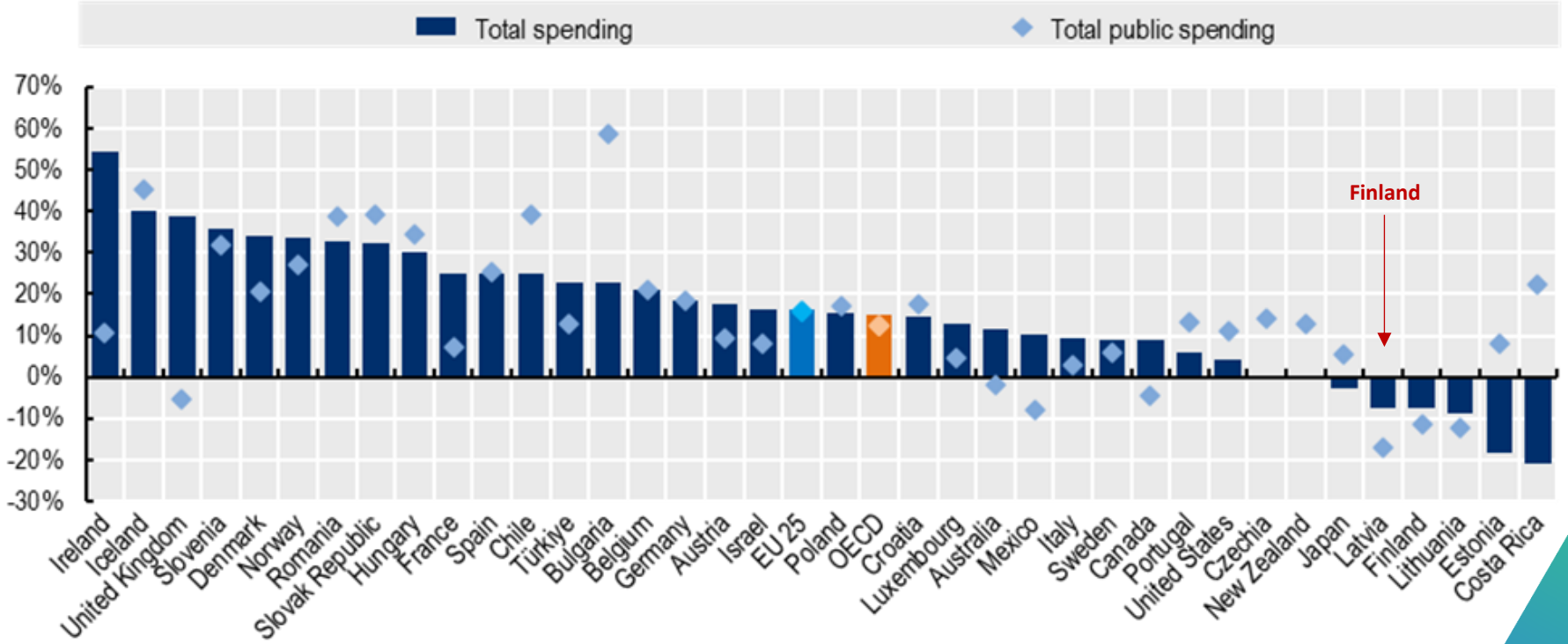


5c

The total cost of higher education is increasing in real terms in most countries

How can tertiary systems be financed sustainably?

Percentage change in total and public spending on (all) tertiary education institutions in constant prices (2020), 2013-22



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Thanks

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