European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

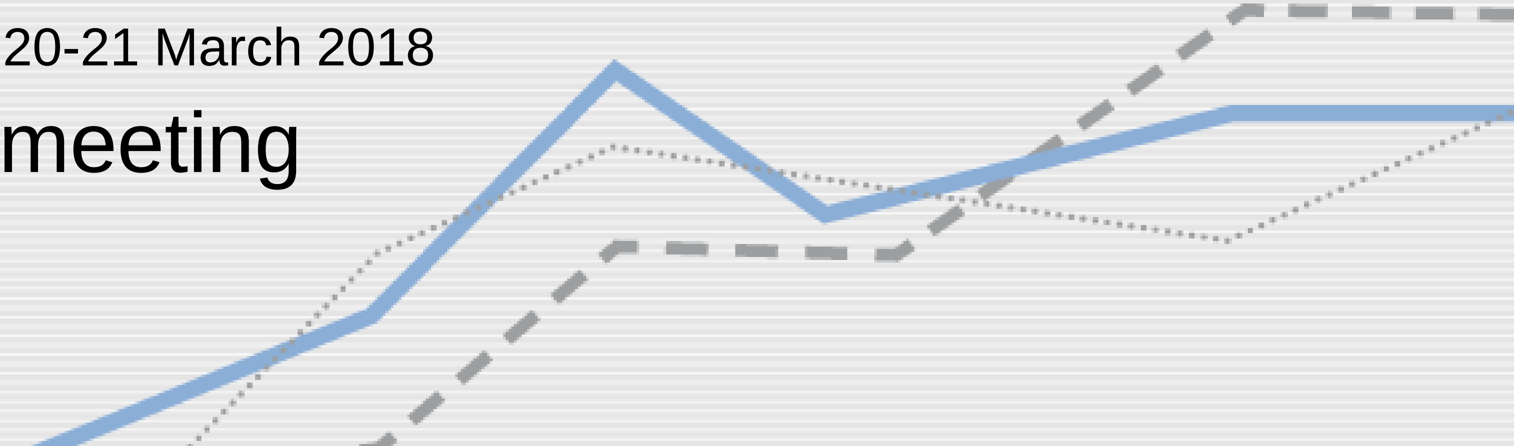
EMCDDA

Perspectives for information on alcohol use in the EU

Julian Vicente

Luxembourg 20-21 March 2018

CNAPA meeting



Topics in this presentation

- ESPAD project (now with EMCDDA) in students

  Alcohol (– Tobacco – illegal drugs – medicines – gambling)

- Possibility of alcohol use information in adults (EMCDDA)

ESPAD project

European School survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs

ESPAD data collections

- **26** countries in **1995**
- **30** countries in **1999**
- **35** countries in **2003**
- **35** countries in **2007** (plus 5 in 2008)
- **39** countries in **2011**
- **35** countries in **2015**

2019 in preparation: Regional Seminars April-May

- **46** European countries have participated

ESPAD 2015

- **35** European countries
- **96 043** students (15-16 years old)
- In the 6 waves of data collection (1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015) about **600 000** students have participated

Why school surveys?

- Cost effective
- Relatively easy to conduct
- Reach a large number of students in one setting
- Relatively easy to standardise
- Sampling relatively easy
- High response rate among students
- High validity, i.e. more honest answers than in other surveys

Strategy: standardization

- Target age group
- Random sampling of classes
- Master questionnaire
- Survey leader protocol
- Data collection procedure
- Time of data collection
- Common database
- The ESPAD Handbook

Value of the project

ESPAD - one of the biggest collaborative projects worldwide on substance use among adolescents.

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Medicines
- Now also gaming and gambling (on and off line)

Cons

- Recommended sample not big (some countries much bigger samples)
- The common survey is every 4 years (though some do more frequently) – though enough to identify core trends

New organizational developments

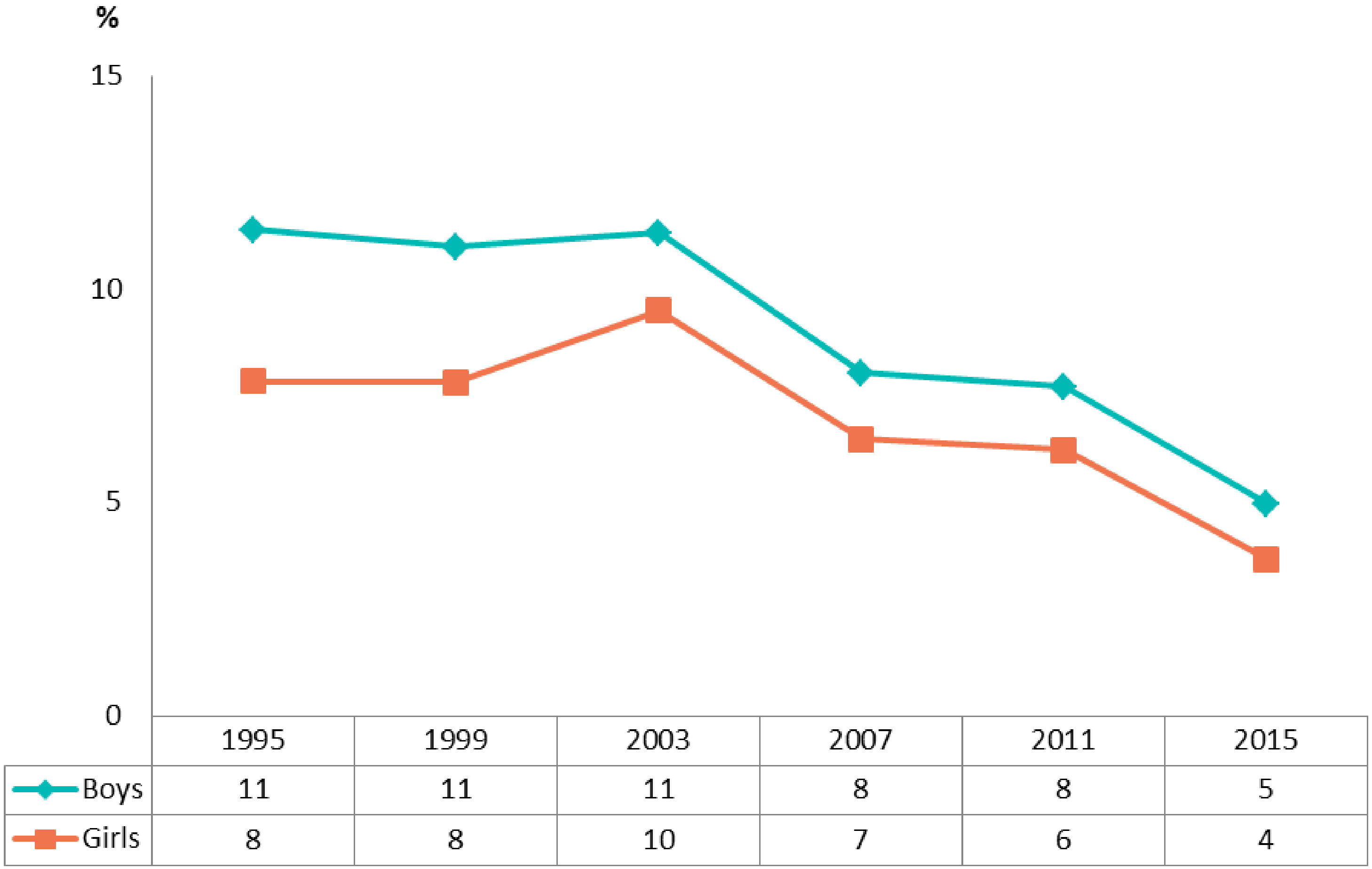
- 1995-2014 international coordination based in CAN (Sweden) with funding from Swedish Government
- Transition phase with increasing support of EMCDDA - 2015 data collection and report in 2016
- In 2017 ESPAD constitution revised to include EMCDDA as key international partner (Steering C and joint coordination).
- In 2018, European Commission – DG Home- additional contribution to EMCDDA for polydrug use and ESPAD
- Intensive work on-going for 2019 data collection (questionnaire, regional seminars…)

For context

Few indicators on tobacco and cannabis

Daily cigarette use at the age of 13 or younger, by gender

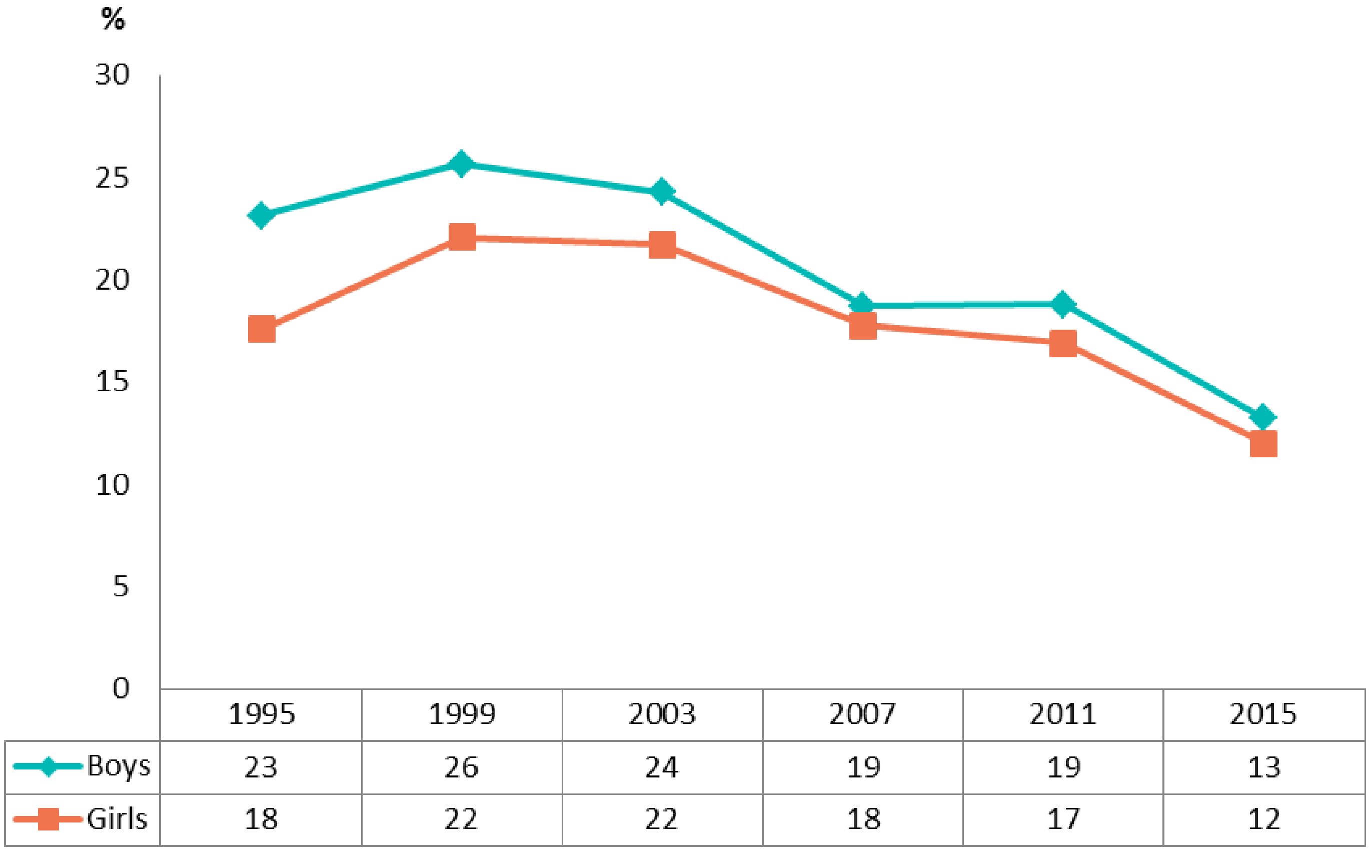
25-country trend 1995-2015 (percentage)



	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
Boys	11	11	11	8	8	5
Girls	8	8	10	7	6	4

Daily cigarette use in the last 30 days, by gender

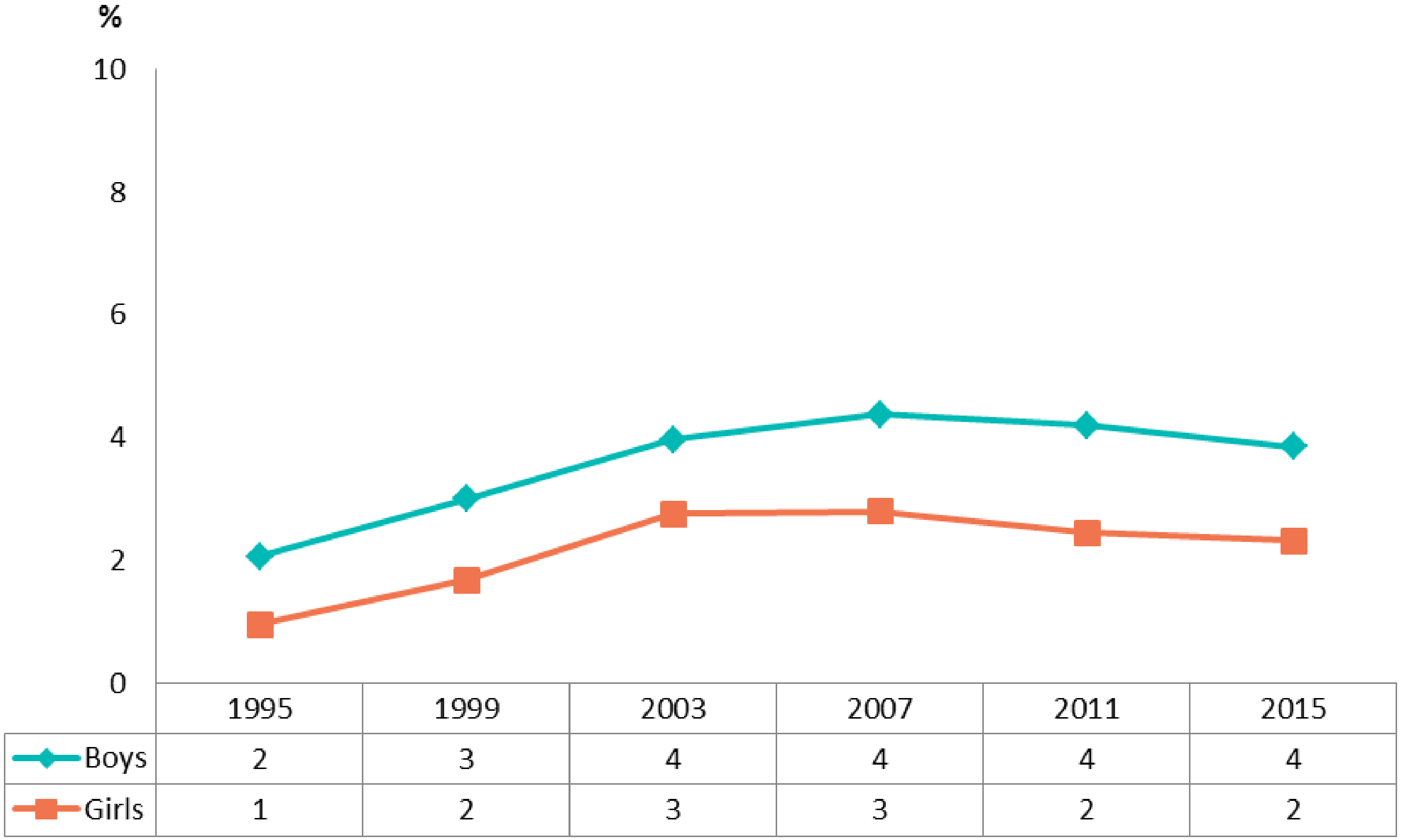
25-country trend 1995-2015 (percentage)



	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
◆ Boys	23	26	24	19	19	13
■ Girls	18	22	22	18	17	12

Cannabis use at the age of 13 or younger, by gender

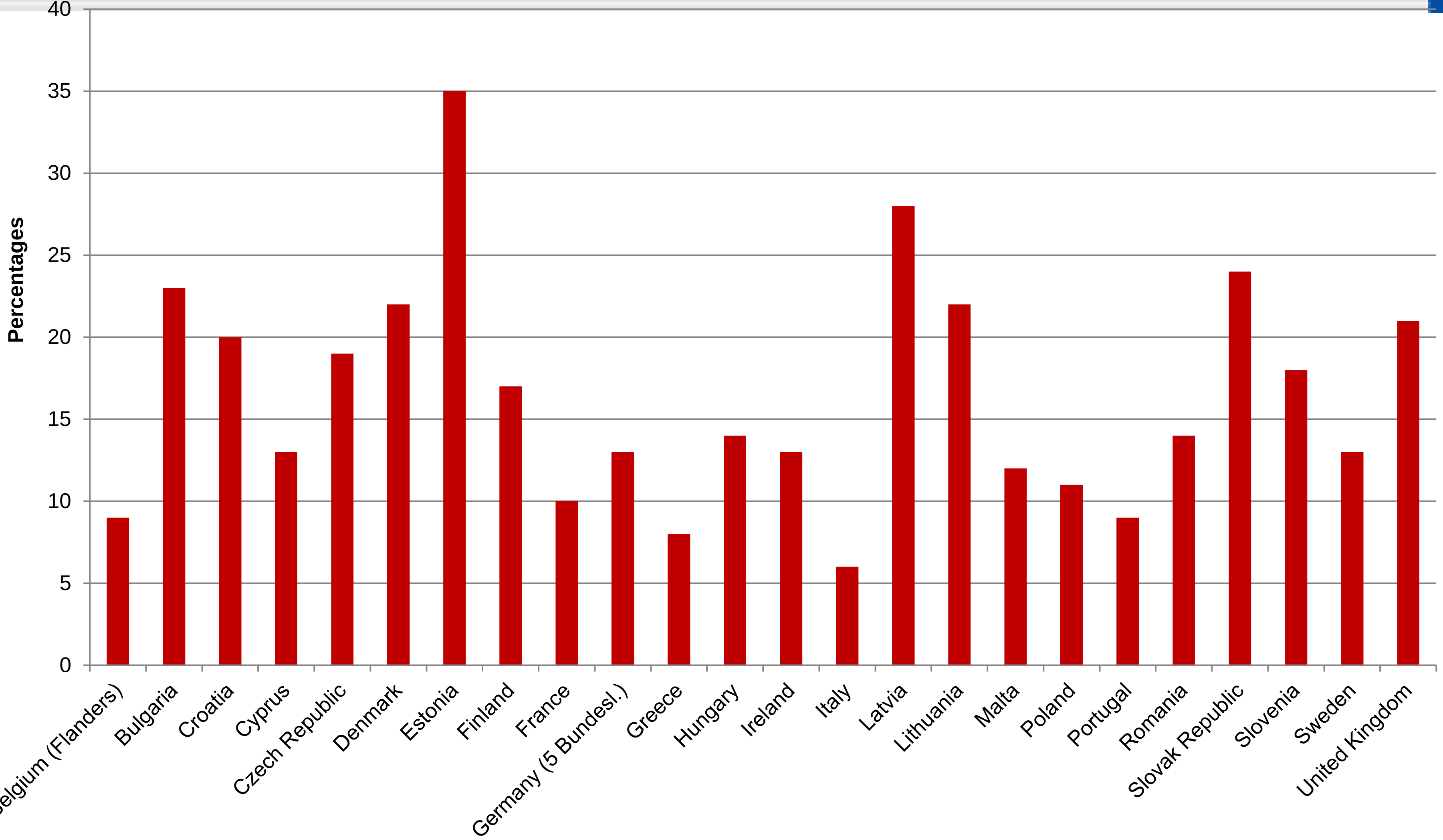
25-country trend 1995-2015 (percentage)



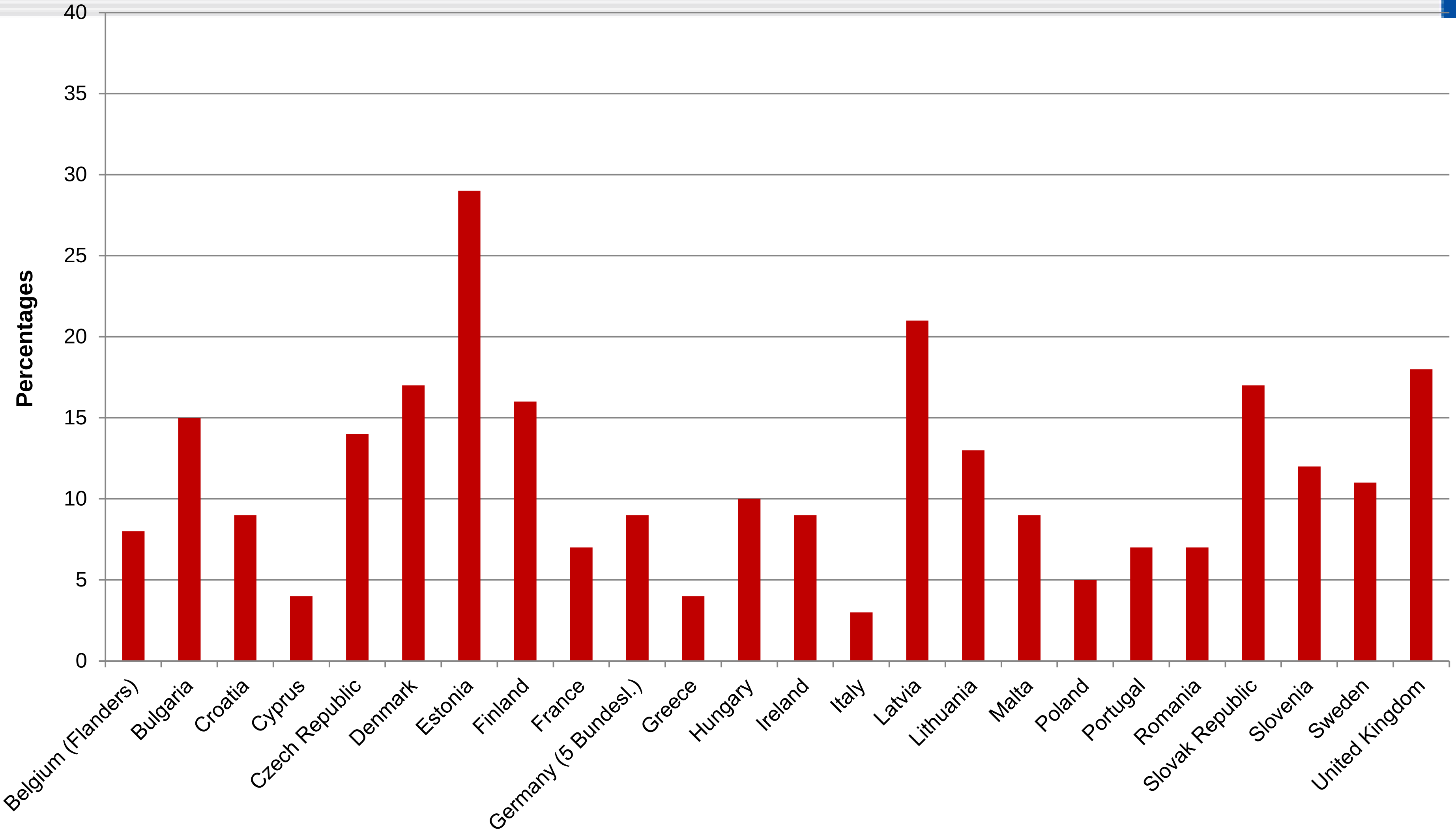
	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
◆ Boys	2	3	4	4	4	4
■ Girls	1	2	3	3	2	2

Some indicators on alcohol

Proportion of **male** students having been drunk at the age of 13 or younger (2011).

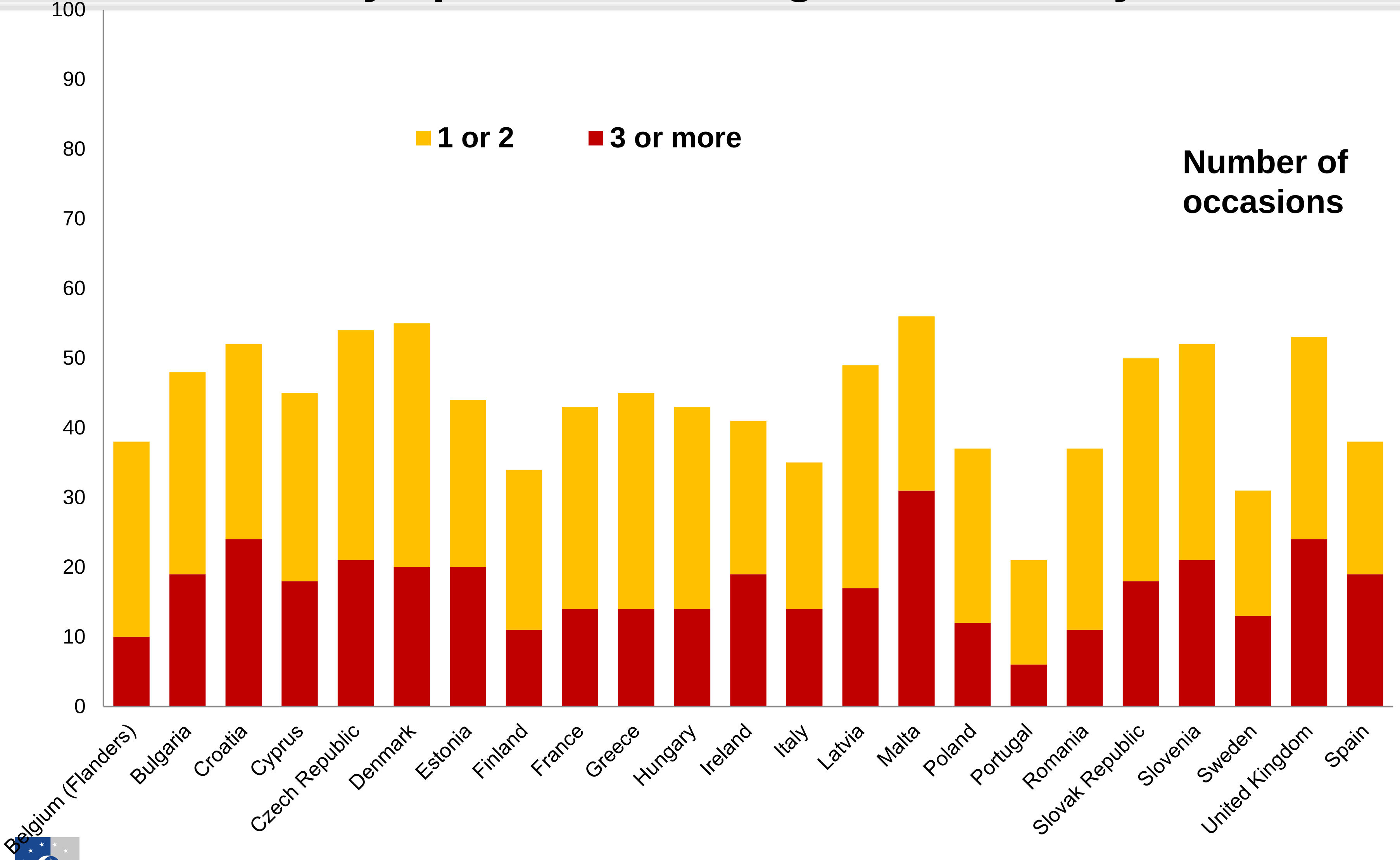


Proportion of female students having been drunk at the age of 13 or younger (2011).

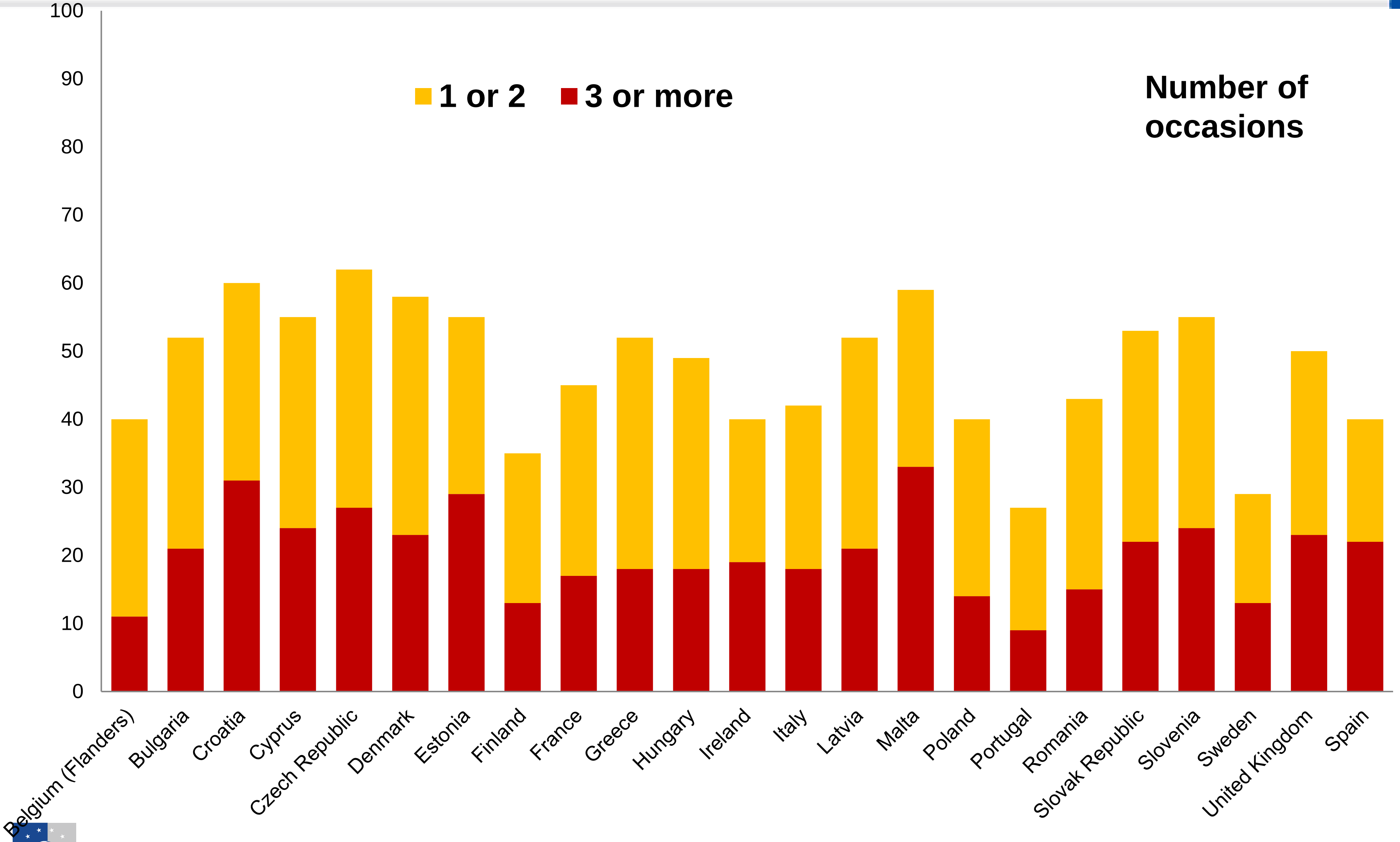


All students frequency of having had five or more drinks on one occasion during the last 30 days (2011).

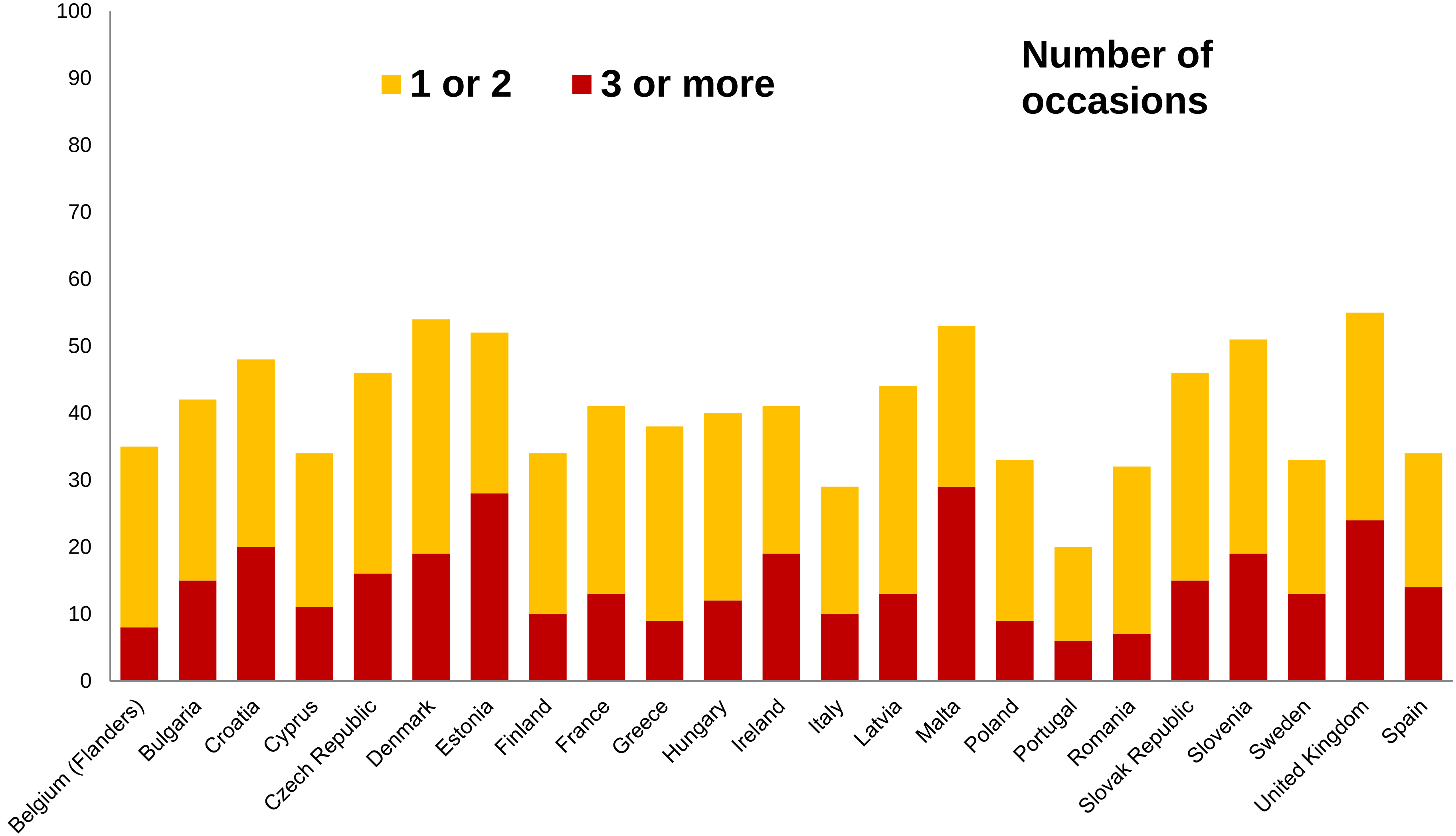
- Heavy episodic drinking in last 30 days-



Frequency of having had five or more drinks on one occasion during the last 30 days. Boys (2011).

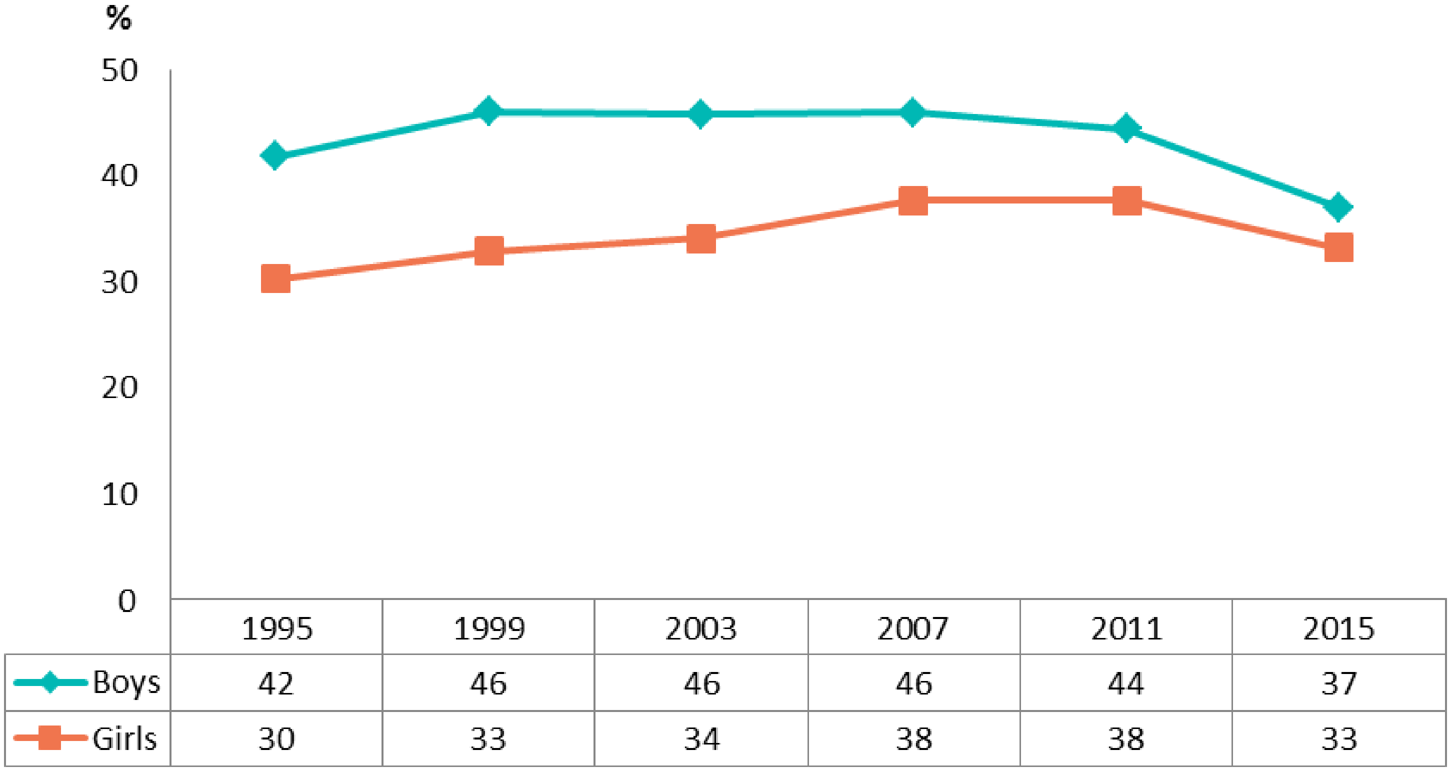


Frequency of having had five or more drinks on one occasion during the last 30 days. Girls (2011).



Heavy episodic drinking during the last 30 days, by gender

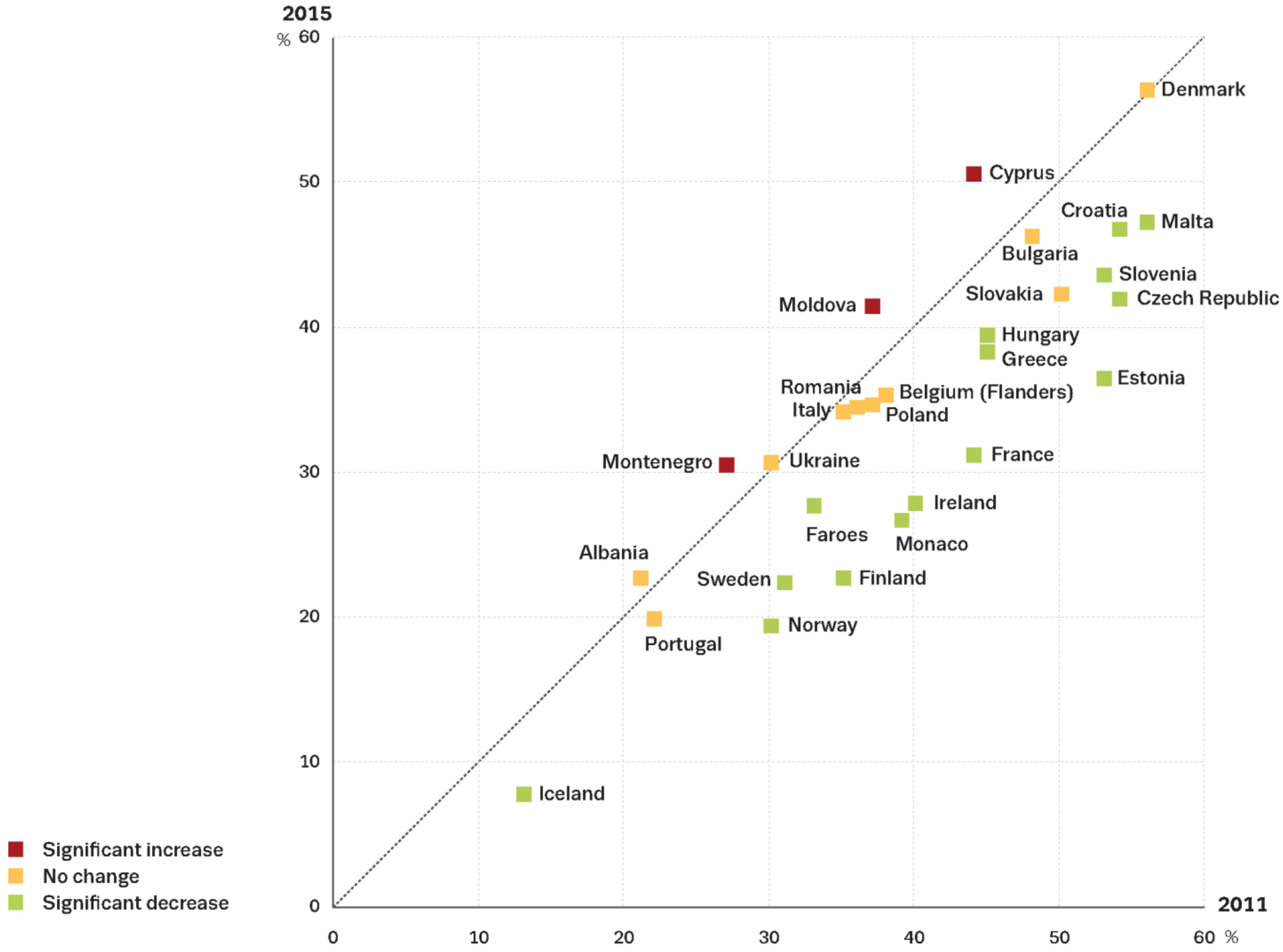
Five or more drinks on one occasion. 25-country trend 1995-2015 (percentage)



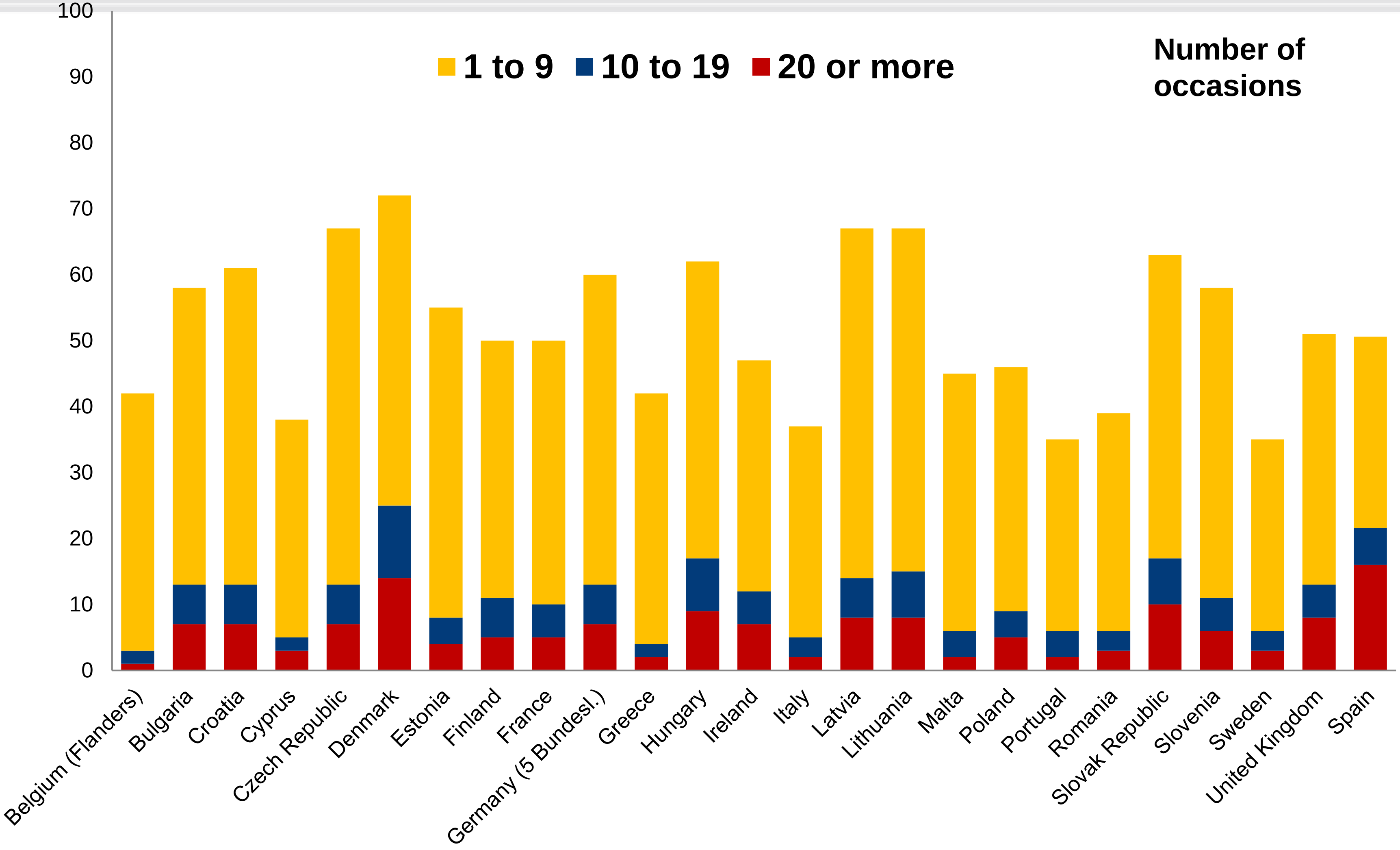
	1995	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015
◆ Boys	42	46	46	46	44	37
■ Girls	30	33	34	38	38	33

Changes between 2011 and 2015 in the proportion reporting having had five or more drinks on one occasion during the past 30 days

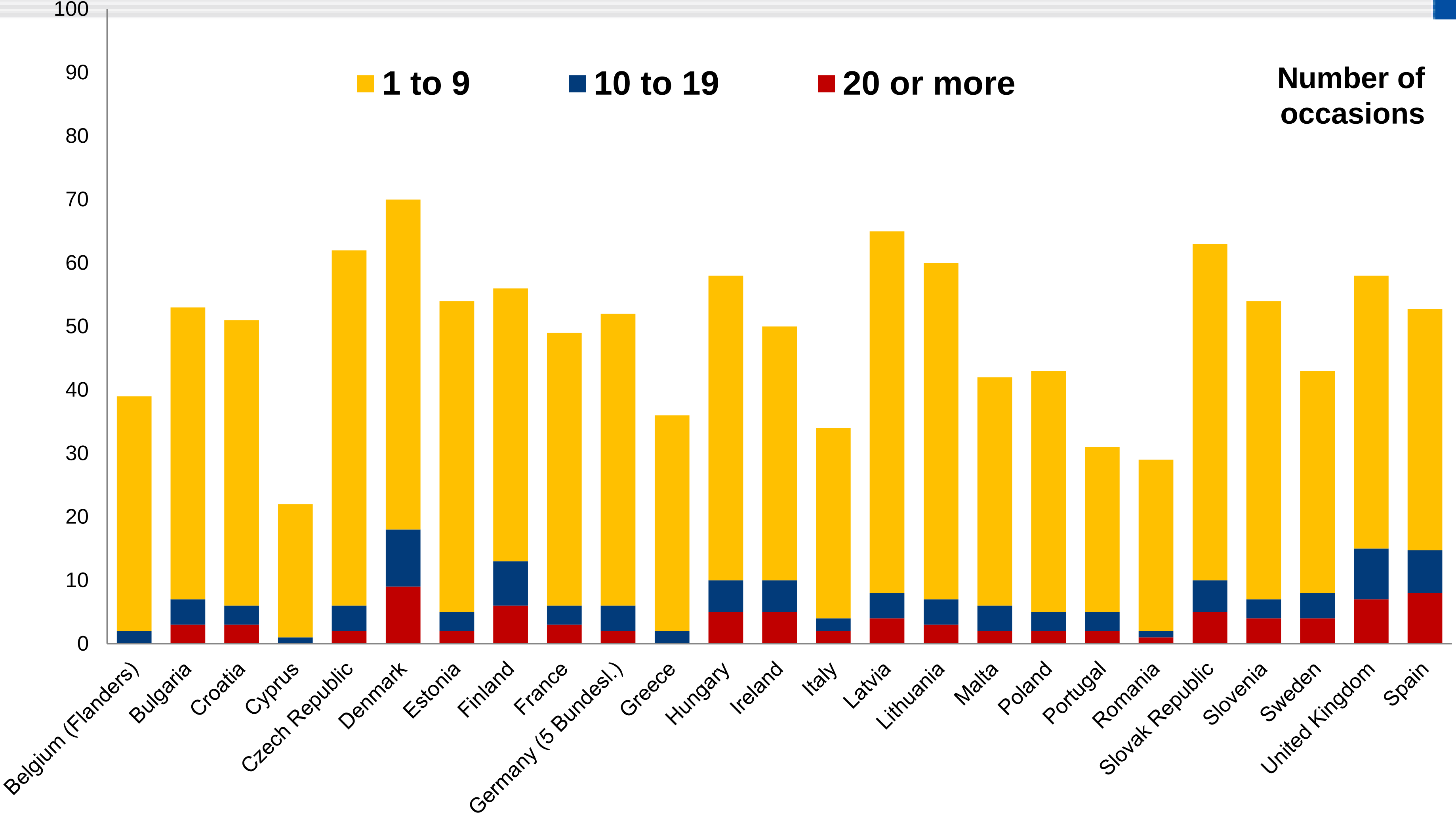
(percentage)



Frequency of lifetime drunkenness. Boys (2011).



Frequency of lifetime drunkenness.
Girls (2011).



www.espad.com

Possible additional options in adults

Reitox: a unique data collection system

Reitox combines

National Drug Observatories in 28 EU Member States

Norway and Turkey

“Key Epidemiological” Indicators

- Prevalence and patters of drug use* in the general population (GPS)

- Prevalence and patters of High Risk Drug Use (HRDU)

- Treatment Demand due to drug problems (TDI)

- Drug-related Deaths (DRD)

- Drug-related Infectious Diseases (DRID)

(*) in fact in most cases “substance use”

(in many countries convergence in policies and institutions on legal and illegal substances – use same survey… and other indicators -)

Timeline: implementation of National Population Surveys on drugs/substance use

- 1995

Denmark
Germany
Greece*
Spain
France
Finland
Sweden
UK

1996-2000

Estonia
Netherlands
Slovakia
Norway

2001-2005

Belgium
Czech
Italy
Ireland
Latvia
Lithuania
Hungary
Austria*
Poland
Portugal

2006-2010

Bulgaria
Cyprus
Romania

2011-2014

Croatia
Slovenia
Turkey

Luxembourg only still missing

“European Model Questionnaire” (EMQ)

Set of **items** on modular form to:

- Create a specific questionnaire
- Inclusion in an existing questionnaires

Modules on:

- socio-demographics
- illicit drugs prevalence and patterns of use
- **alcohol use, tobacco, medicines** - (polydrug use)
- risk perception and policy opinions

Ongoing

To adapt the “RARHA” questionnaire for the EMQ

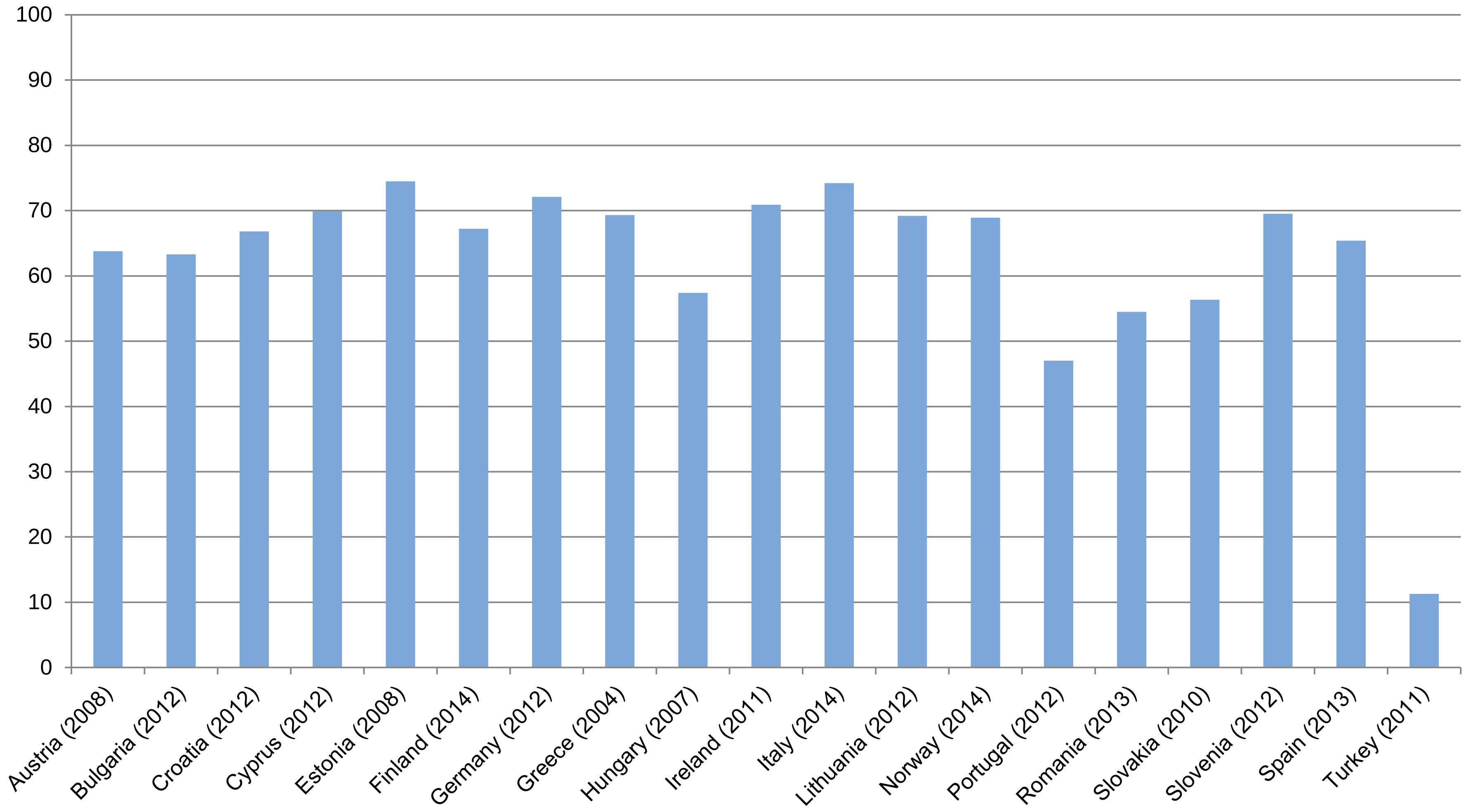
By identification of a core set of items, mainly based on

- prevalence questions (frequency, heavy episodic drinking, drunkenness, dependence -yes but instrument not clear-),
- individual harms

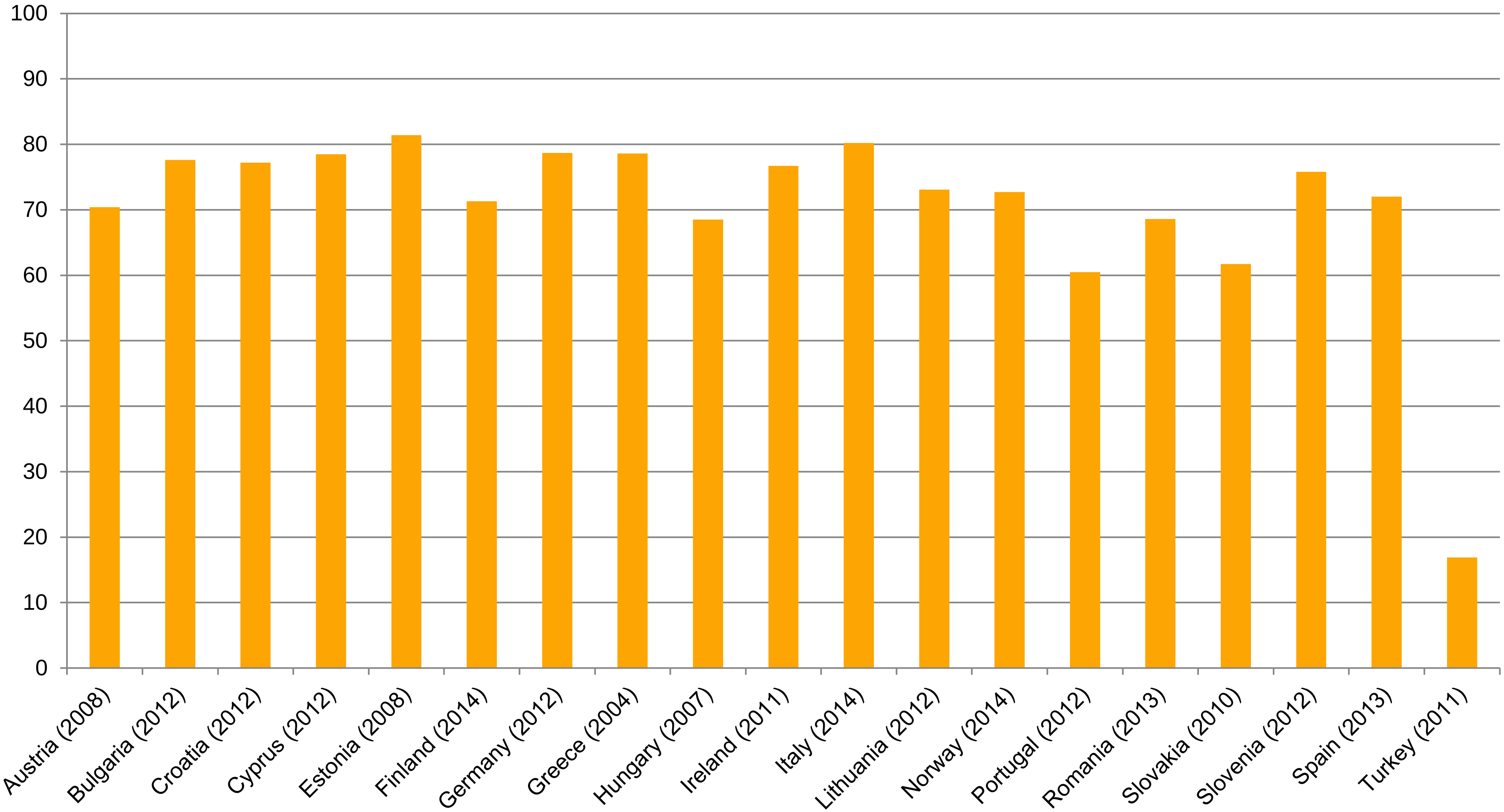
No QF or BSQF

This is for EMQ – countries are free to include all items they wish) → in that case RARHA items recommended

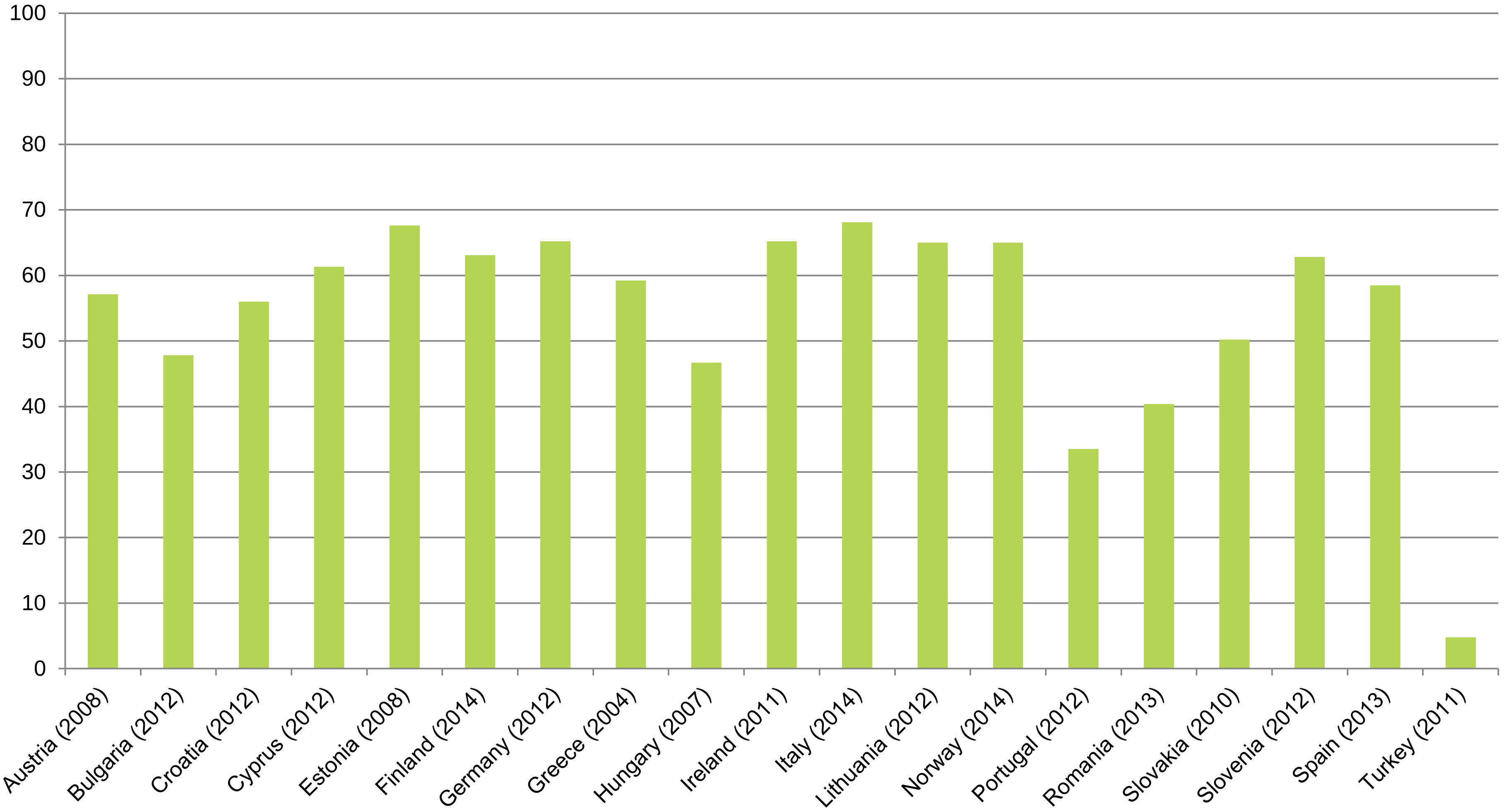
Last month prevalence of alcohol use – young adults (15-34) ALL



Last month prevalence of alcohol use – young adults (15-34) males (%)



Last month prevalence of alcohol use – young adults (15-34) females (%)



Young Adults 15-34 years old

Ad-hoc polydrug use analysis (2010)

Focus on young adults who were - during last 12 months

Frequent/heavy alcohol users:

drinking 6 glasses of more of an alcoholic drink during the same occasion daily, almost daily or every week during the past 12 months

Cannabis users

Last 12 month prevalence of cannabis, cocaine and frequent/heavy alcohol (single substance) use

Country and survey date		Freq/heavy alcohol	Cannabis	Cocaine	Base sample
Ireland*	(2006/7)	30.3	10.4	2.9	1989
Denmark	(2008)	18.6	13.3	3.4	1744
UK**	(2007/8)	9.9	15.4	5	10,021
Germany	(2006)	9.2	12	1.5	3306
Spain	(2007/8)	7.5	19.6	5.1	9443
Cyprus	(2006)	5.9	3.6	0.9	1753
France	(2005)	5.3	16.7	1.2	10,855
Portugal	(2007)	2	6.7	1.2	4765
Italy	(2007)	1.8	20.9	3.1	4243

16-30 unweighted **

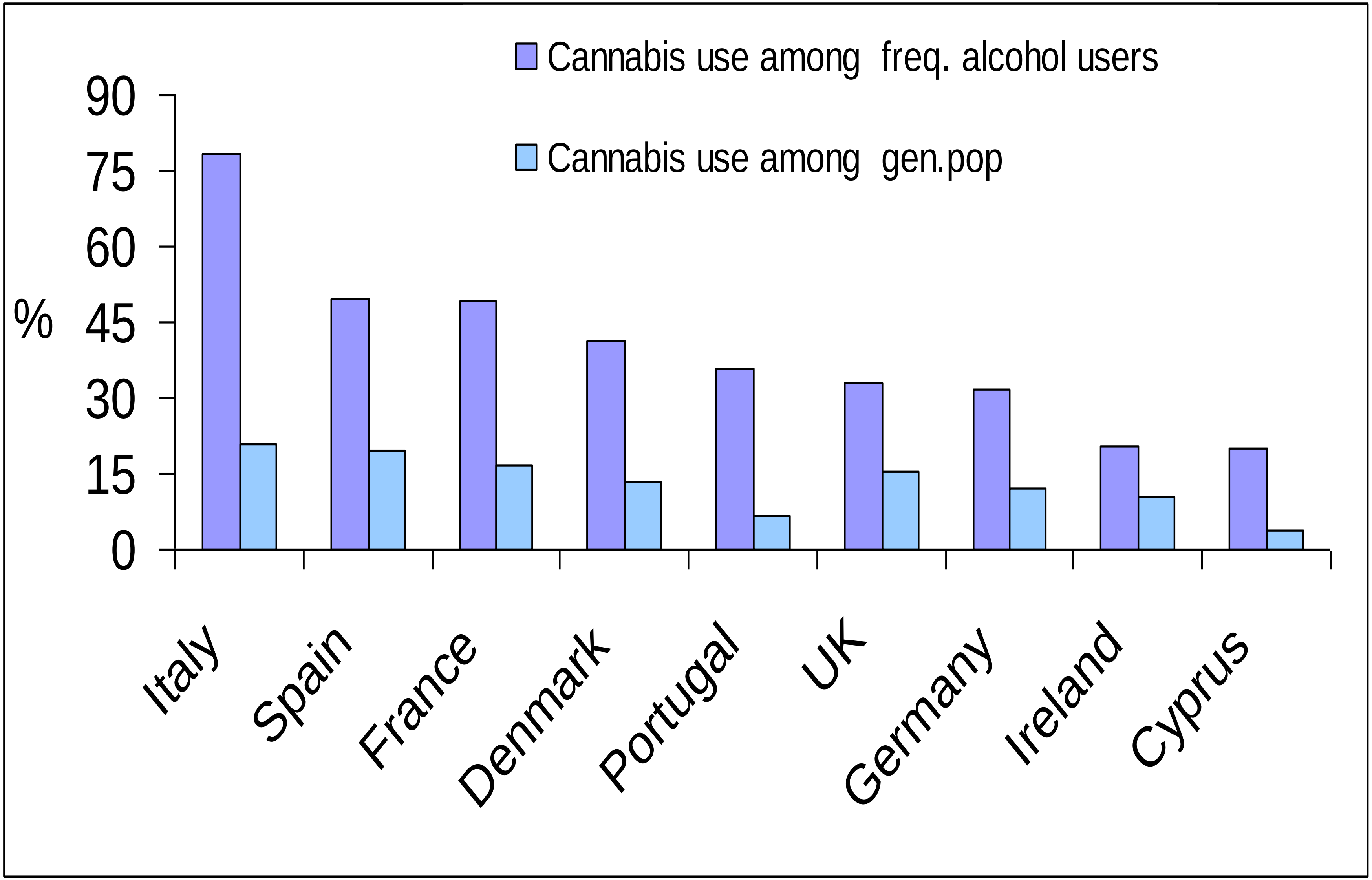
Frequent/heavy alcohol : drinking 6 glasses of more of an alcoholic drink in the same occasion daily, almost daily or every week

Frequent/heavy alcohol users - young adults

Last 12 months prevalences

Frequent/heavy alcohol users, in general, are 2 to 6 times more likely to use cannabis than those in the general population

Freq/heavy alcohol users:use of cannabis (last 12 months) compared to general population



Perspectives

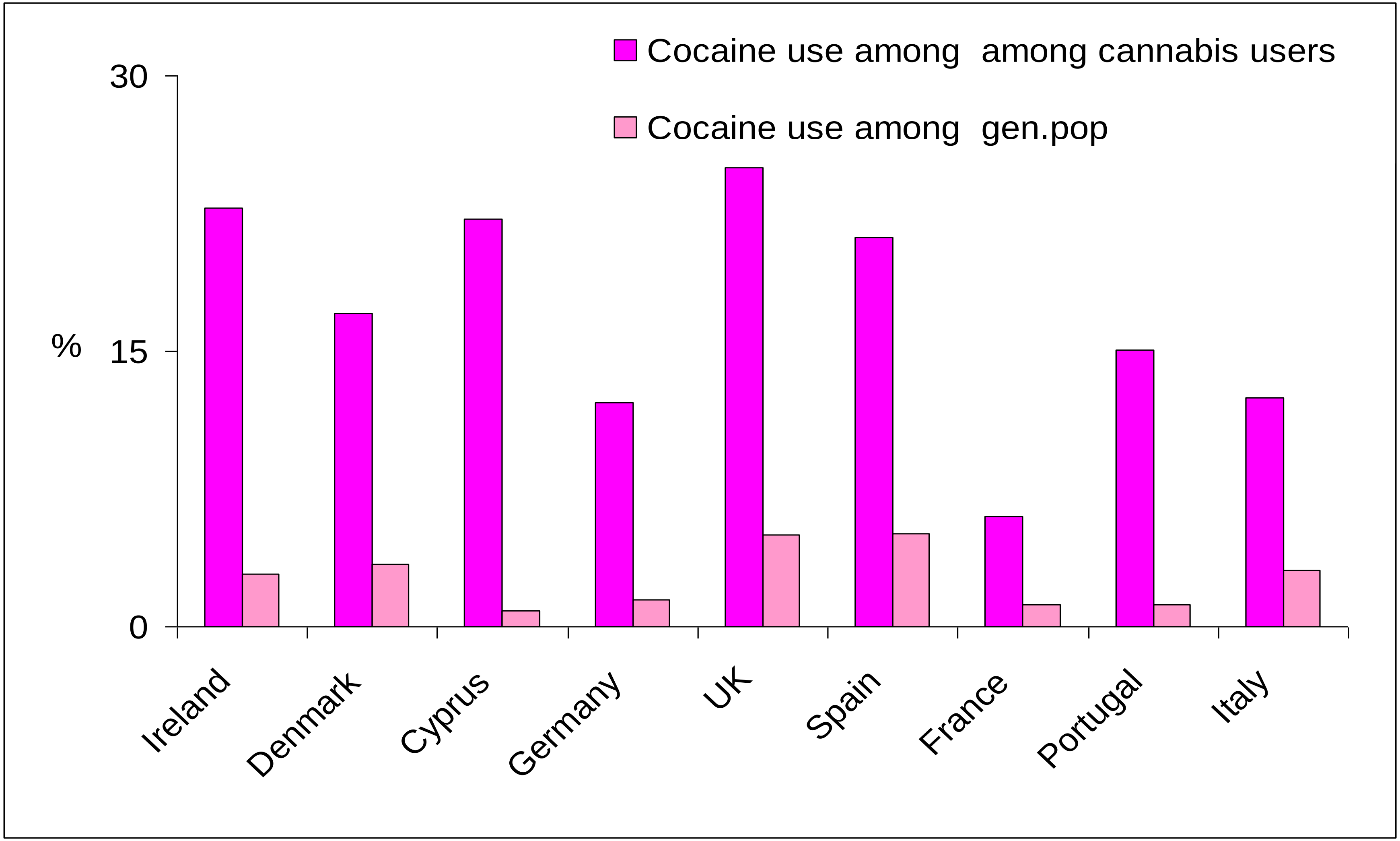
- Adoption of a new module on alcohol use based in RARHA questionnaire (limited number of items)

- More proactive role of EMCDDA in implementation of this module in national surveys

- More proactive role in collation of the information at EU level (sole limited resources?)

Cannabis users: use of cocaine

(last 12 months) compared to the general population



Thank you for your attention!

julian.vicente@emcdda.europa.eu

emcdda.europa.eu

twitter.com/emcdda

facebook.com/emcdda

youtube.com/emcddatube

flickr.com/photos/emcdda