

# The social dimension and access: Where next ?

## The Bologna Process in the final lap

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# Agenda

- **Social dimension within the Bologna process**
- **Working group on social dimension**
  - **Recommendations**
  - **National „homework“**

# Social Dimension within Bologna

**Prag 2001**

- ◆ **Students should participate in and influence the organisation and content of education**
  
- ◆ **Ministers also reaffirmed the need, recalled by students, to take account of the social dimension**

# Social Dimension within Bologna II

## Berlin 2003

- ◆ Importance of the social dimension, improving social characteristics of the EHEA, social cohesion, reducing social and gender inequalities
  - ◆ Student participation
- ◆ Appropriate studying and living conditions
  - ◆ Need for more comparable data

# Social Dimension within Bologna III

**Bergen 2005**

- ◆ **Social dimension is a constituent part of the EHEA and a necessary condition for the attractiveness and competitiveness of the EHEA.**
  - ◆ **Equally accessible to all**
  - ◆ **Appropriate conditions**
- ◆ **Measures taken by governments to help students (...) in financial and economic aspects (...) with a view to widen access.**
- ◆ **BFUG should present comparable data on mobility and the social and economic situation of students**

# **WG social dimension & mobility**

## **Terms of reference**

- ◆ **Define the concept of social dimension**
- ◆ **Present comparable data on the social and economic situation of students**
- ◆ **Present comparable data on the mobility of staff and students**
- ◆ **Prepare proposals as a basis for future stocktaking**

# **WG social dimension & mobility II**

## **WG-Members**

**Schweden, Austria, France, Ireland,  
Luxemburg, UK**

**later: Bosnia, Croatia, Russia**

**Organisations: EUA, ESIB, EI**

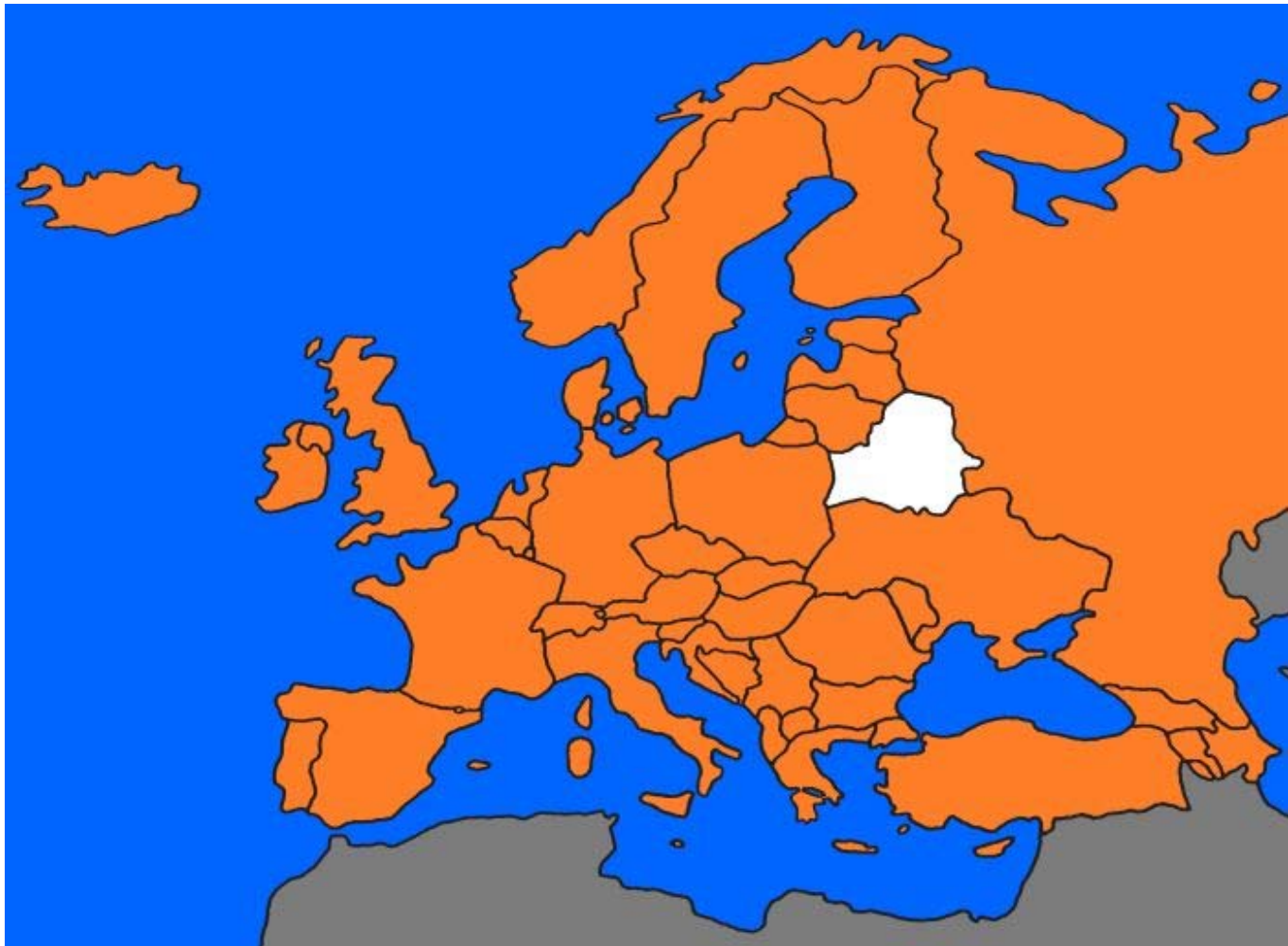
## **Subgroup on data**

**Austria, France, Switzerland, UK, Luxembourg**

**Data-Provider: Eurostat, Eurostudent, Eurydice, LIS**

**Organisations: EUA, ESIB**

# Bologna Member states





# Definition of social dimension

**WG: No common definition and detailed actions**

**Because: Systems and challenges are too different**

**Instead:**

- ◆ Overall objective
- ◆ Social dimension is the process leading to the objective
  - ◆ measures according to national priorities and circumstances

## Overall objective

**We strive for the societal goal that the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education should reflect the diversity of our population.**

**We therefore pledge to take action to widen participation at all levels on the basis of equal opportunity.**

# How to reach the goal ?

## **Basis**

- ◆ equal opportunities, non-discrimination

## **Precondition**

- ◆ Nationally defined underrepresented groups

## **Realisation**

- ◆ Development of a national strategy  
incl. action plans and measures

## **Monitoring, Evaluation**

- ◆ Involvement of student representatives

# Possible actions and tools

## Topics

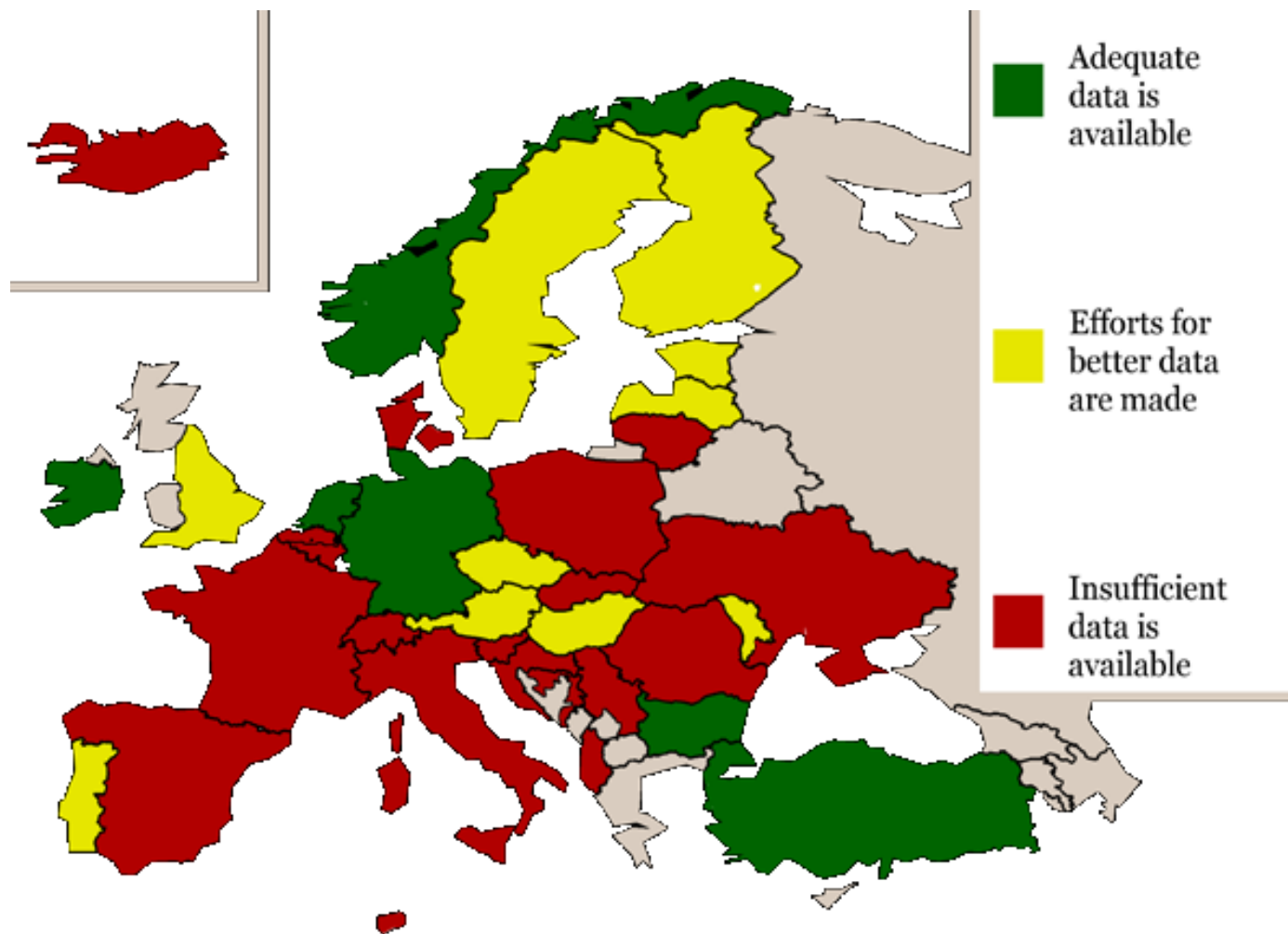
- ◆ equal opportunities
- ◆ Widening access and participation
- ◆ Provision of academic services
  - ◆ Provision of social services
  - ◆ Student participation
- ◆ Finances in order to start and complete studies

**List of possible actions and a suggested approach for national strategies in the report**

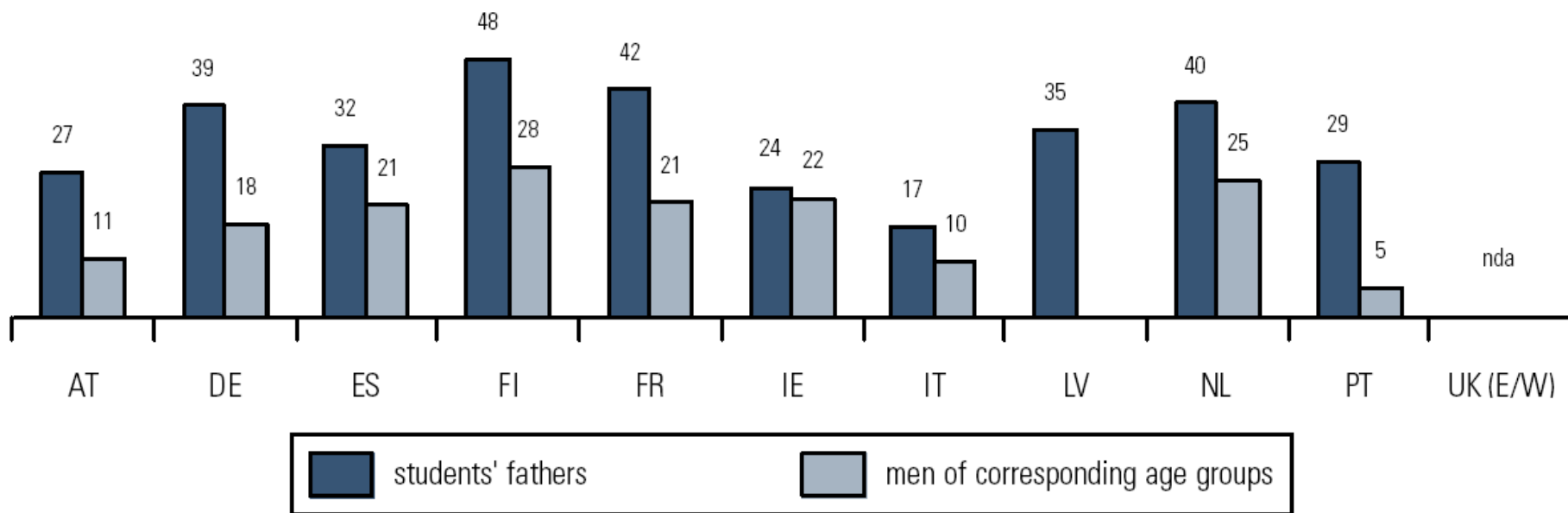
## Comparative data

- ◆ **Hardly any comparative data available, esp. not for all 45 member states esp. not for all subgroups (age, gender, socio-economic background, region)**
  - ◆ **Available: system descriptions**
- ◆ **Only the students can tell **how** the systems work and what their **results** are**
  - ➔ **Surveys are key data**

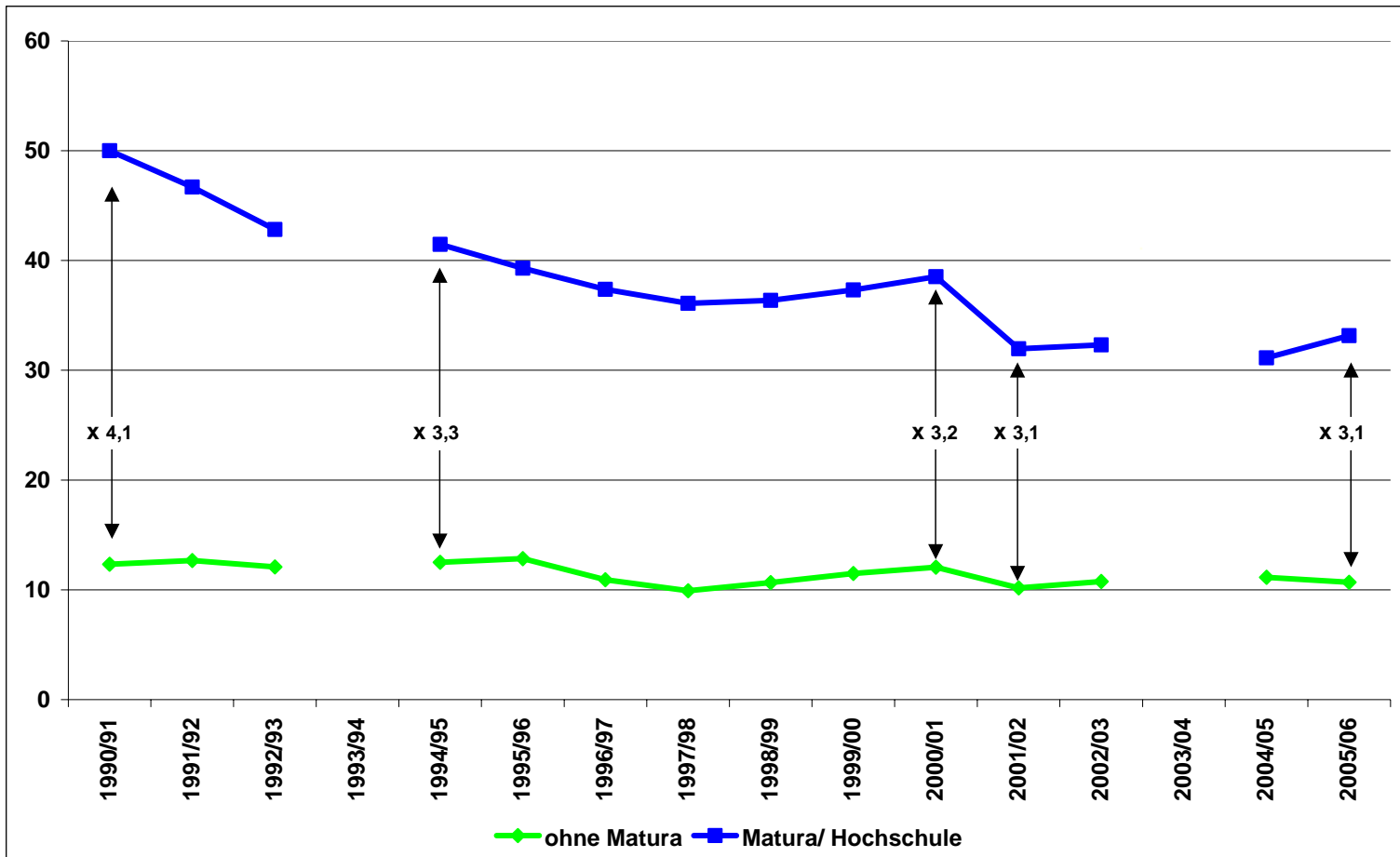
# Availability of data



Students' fathers compared to all men of corresponding age groups\* with higher education, in %

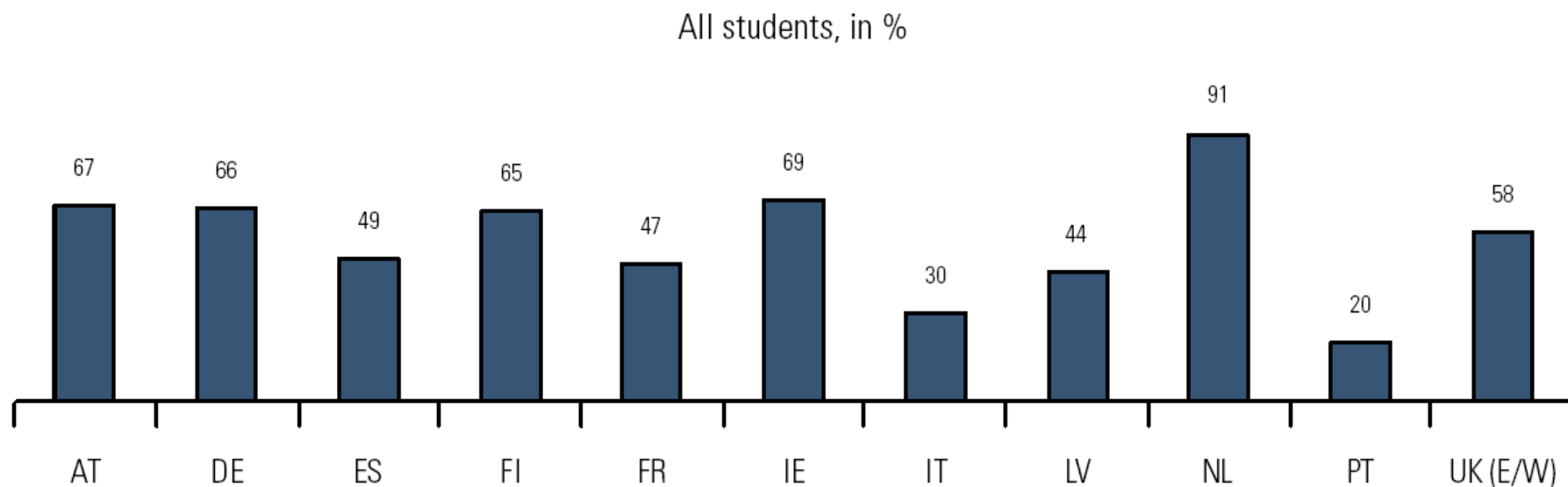


# AT: recruiting quota

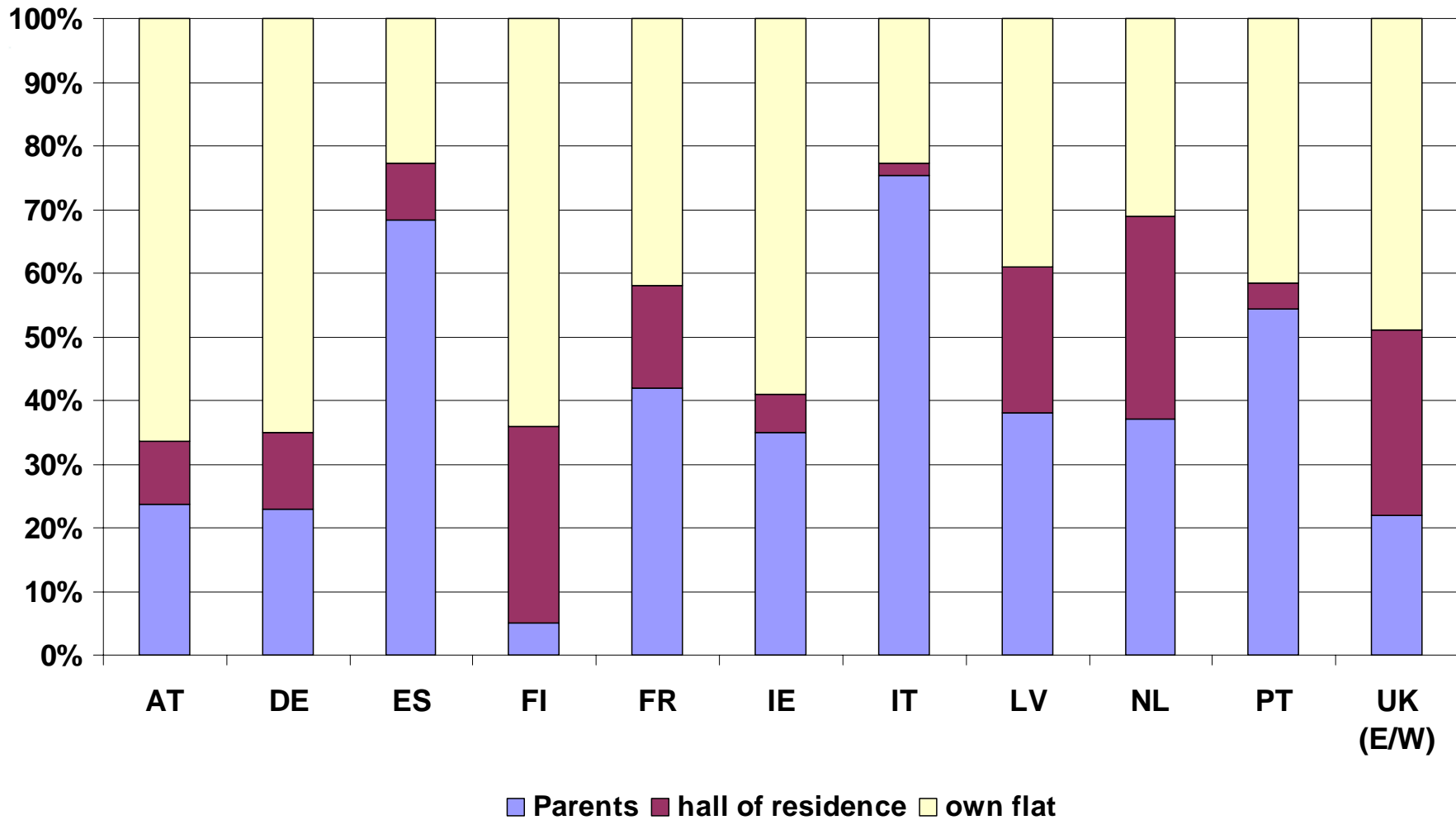




**Fig. 34: Student employment rate during term**



### Student type of residence



# Mobility

## Tasks of the WG:

- ◆ Present comparative data
- ◆ Proposal for future stocktaking

**All available data refer to the nationality of the students. That is inadequate.**

**Lack of a suitable definition of mobility.**

## **Mobility II**

### **Proposal of a definition:**

**A study period in a country other than that of prior permanent residence or prior education (completed or ongoing) for a period of study or a full degree.**

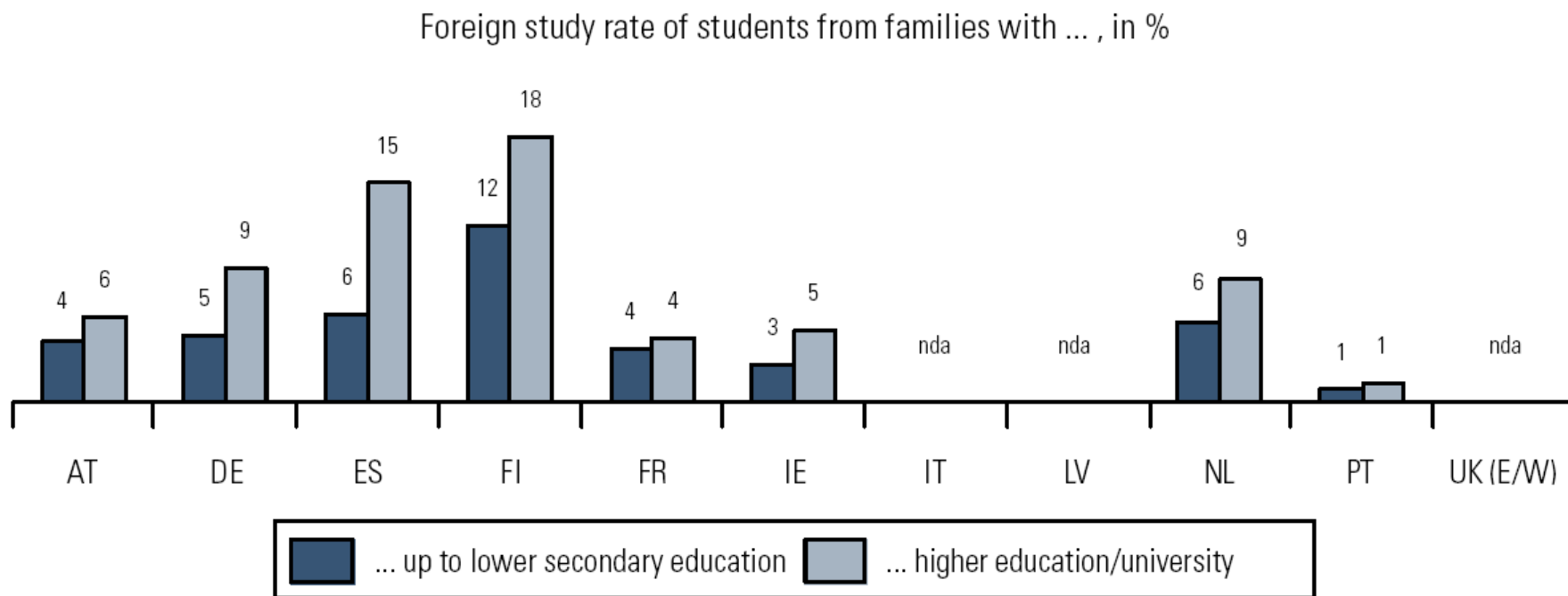
### **Core barriers:**

- ◆ **Immigration (visa, work permit)**
  - ◆ **Recognition**
  - ◆ **Funding**

# Social dimension of mobility

- ◆ **Hardly any information available**
- ◆ **Studies in several countries show clear impact of the social background on mobility**
- ◆ **Funding is usually mentioned as a main barrier for mobility**

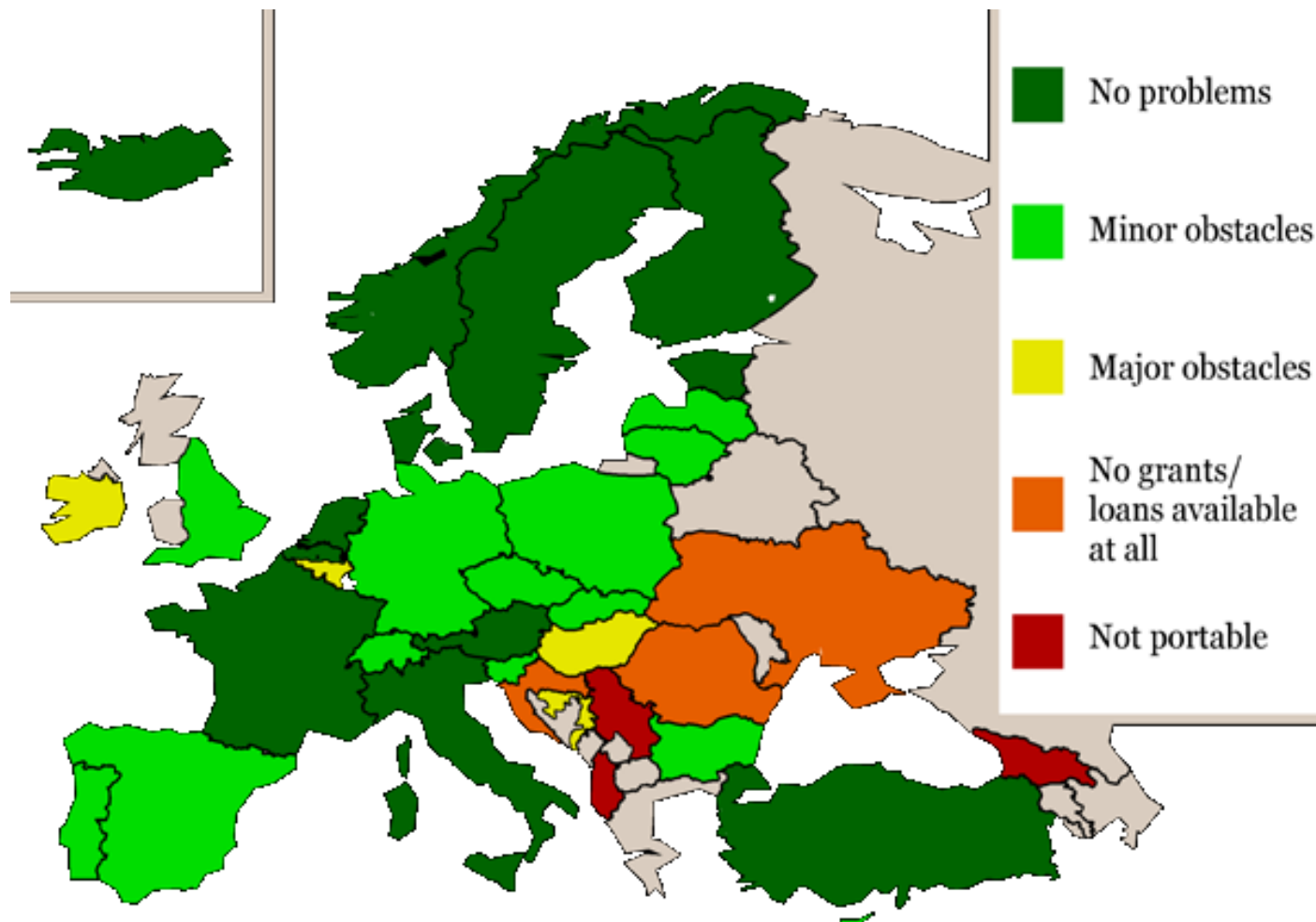
**Fig. 48: Study-related period abroad by parental education**



## Proposed actions

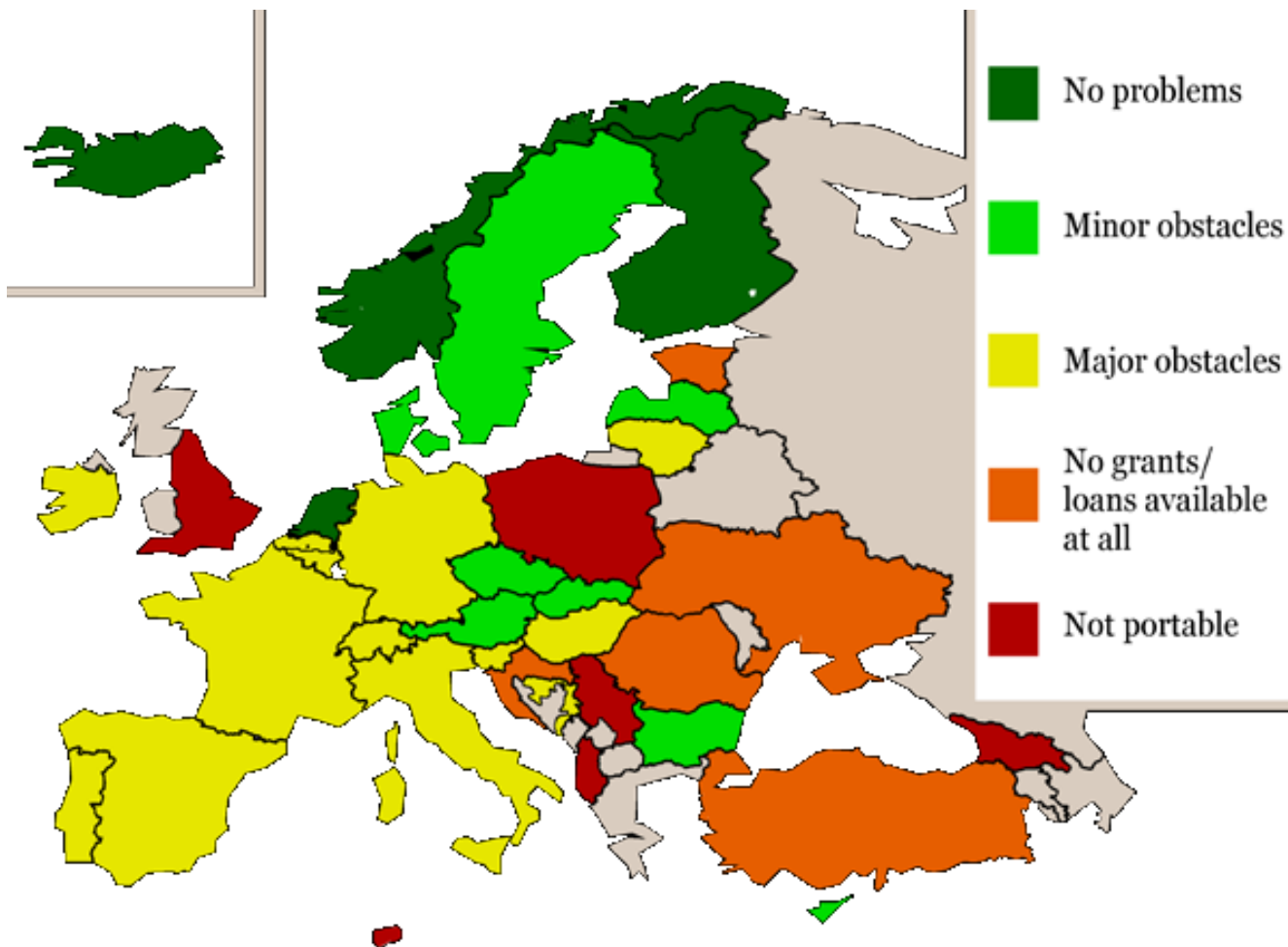
- ◆ **National Reports by 2009 about abolishment of barriers, promotion of mobility, future monitoring system**
  - ◆ **Focus on core challenges: visa, work permit, recognition, incentives for students and institutions**
    - ◆ **Decrease of social impact on mobility**
      - ◆ **Expansion of joint degrees**

# Portability of grants up to 1 year





# Portability of grants for whole study



## London 2007

**Communiquée contains main issues of the WG**

- ◆ **Rationale**
- ◆ **Overall objective**
- ◆ **Core issues**
- ◆ **„homework“ till 2009**
- ◆ **„We will invite all stakeholders to participate in, and support this work, at the national level.“**

## **National „homework“ till 2009**

- ◆ **Definition of underrepresented groups**
  - ◆ **Development of a national strategy**
    - ◆ **Development of an action plan (e.g. like Ireland)**
  - ◆ **Development of a monitoring system**
    - ◆ **Survey the students**
    - ◆ **Reduction of barriers for mobility (incoming and outgoing)**
- ◆ **Everything with participation of stakeholders**

## Final remark

- ◆ **Reduction of social inequalities can not be achieved within the HE-sector alone**
- ◆ **Measures at school level are more important**
  - ◆ **But central is pre-schooling**

**Thank you very much for  
your attention !**

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# Report of the WG on social dimension and mobility

**On the Website of the UK Bologna Secretariat:**

**<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/bologna/uploads/documents/Socialdimensionandmobilityreport.pdf>**