



An agenda for modernising Europe's higher education

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Overview

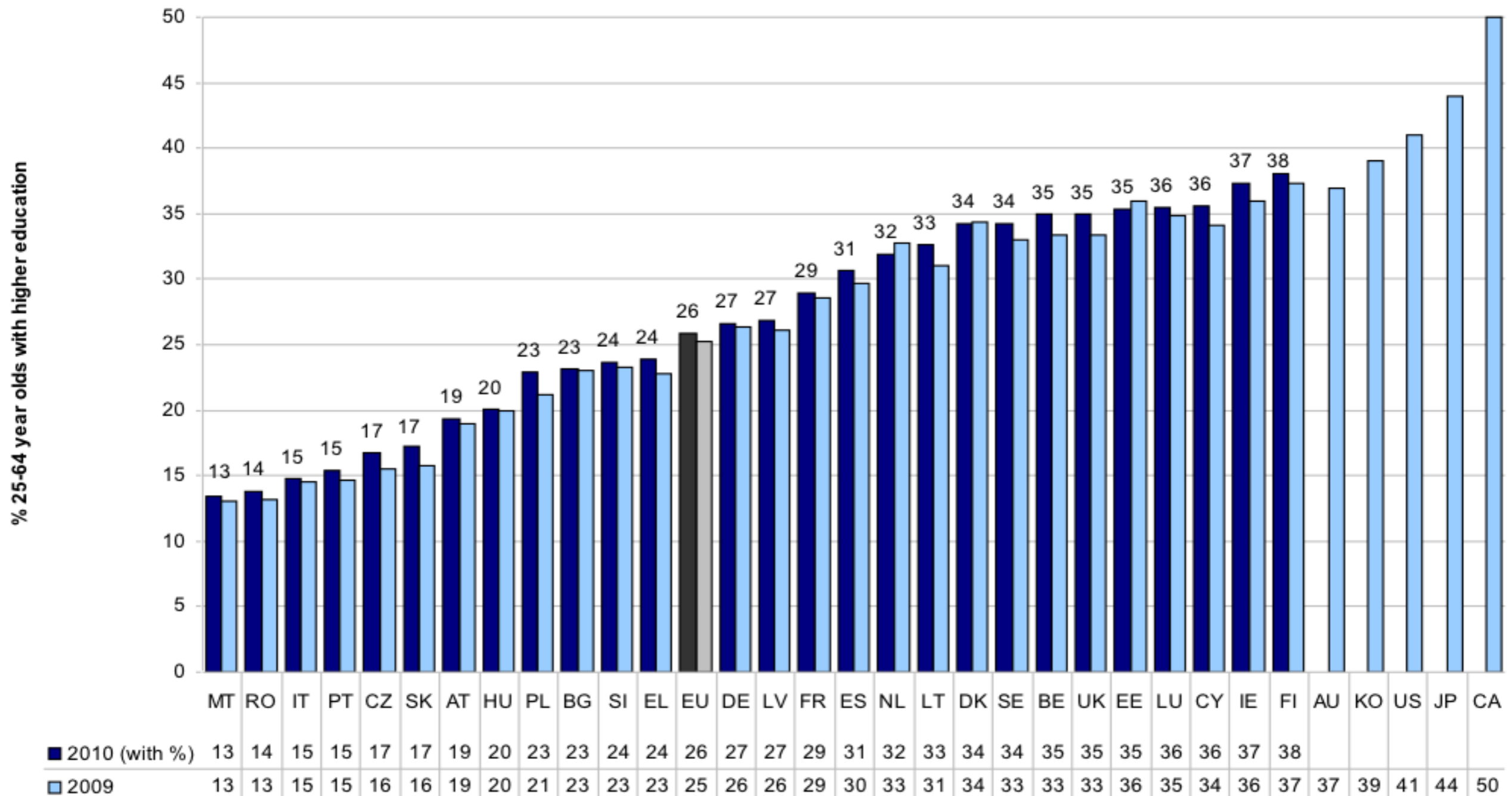
- 1. Why a new EU agenda for higher education?*
- 2. The new modernisation agenda: five key priorities for action*

1. Higher education in Europe 2020

For "Smart, sustainable and inclusive" growth, Europe needs:

- *(More) **well-educated graduates** with the right types of knowledge and skills*
- *To draw more effectively on the **innovation potential** of higher education institutions and their staff*

1.1 Europe needs more graduates...



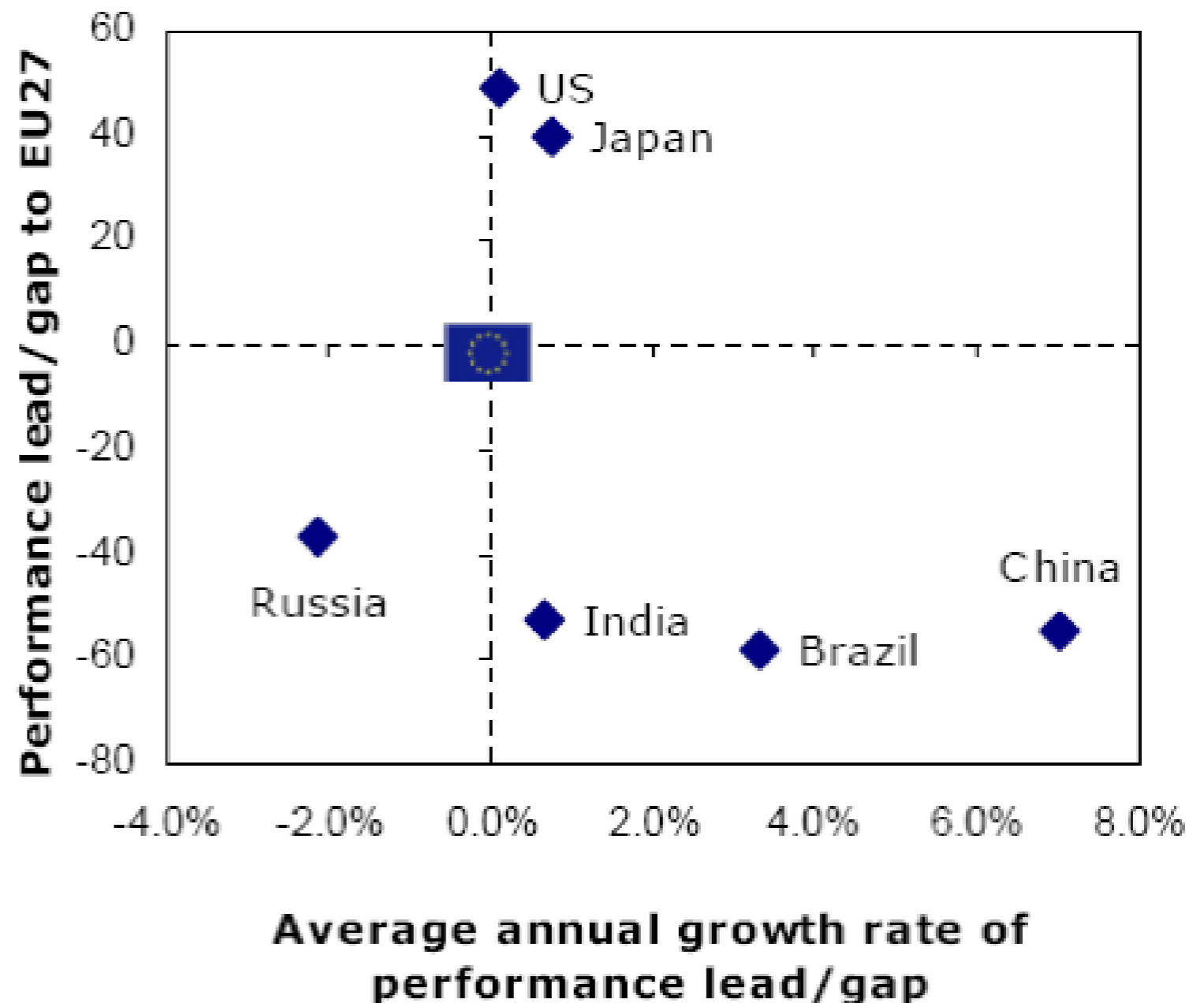


1.2 Europe needs relevant higher education

- *Higher education should **help students prepare** for life and work*
- ***Relevant** knowledge, skills and experience – including transversal skills*
- *Not just choice of discipline: **programme design, teaching, access to experience...***

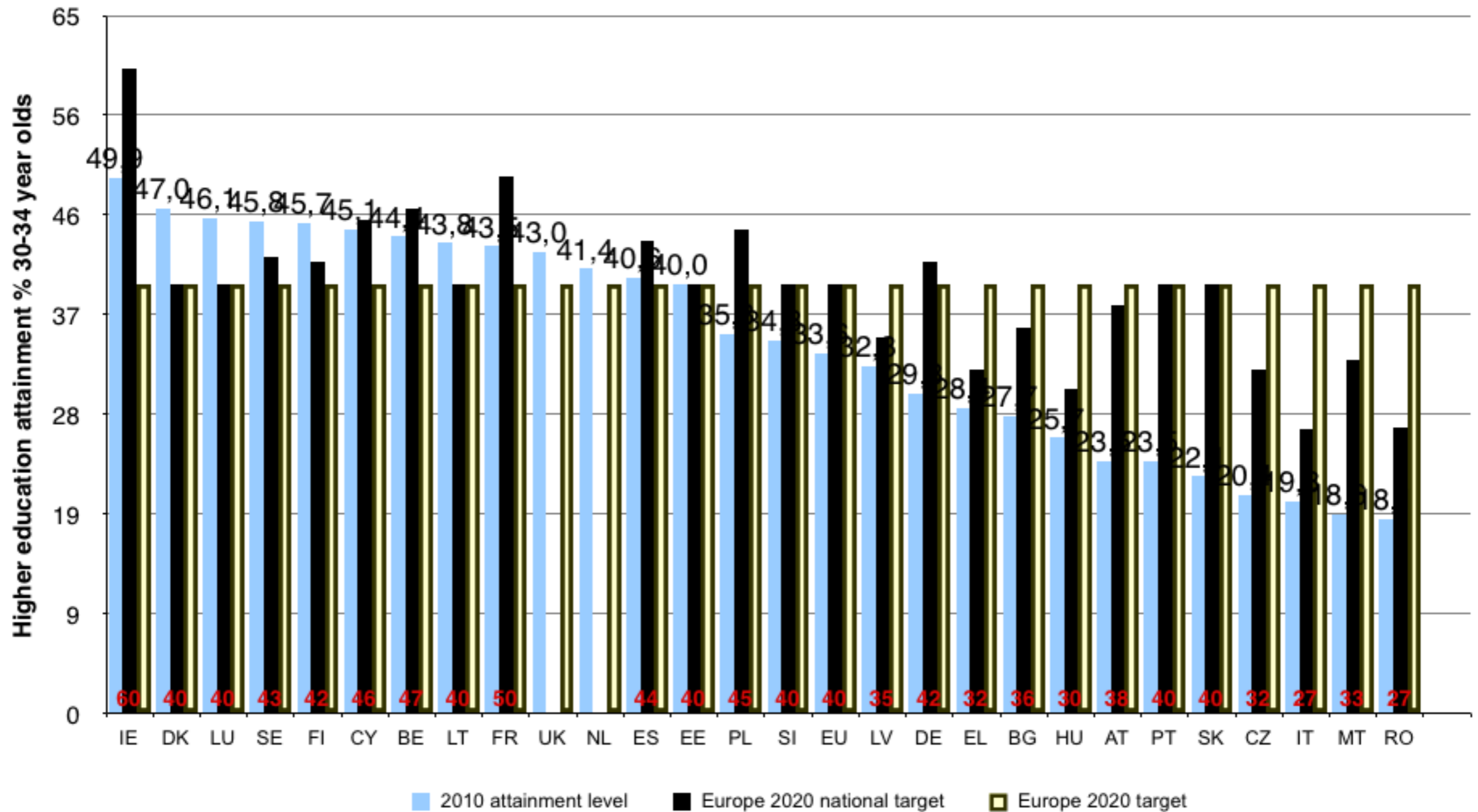
1.3 Closing the innovation gap

- EU lags behind US + Japan
- China, Brazil, India, “catching up”



Source: Innovation Union Scoreboard (2010)

2. Europe 2020 response: 40% target



2. A renewed agenda for modernisation

Supporting Growth and Jobs: *an Agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems*

COM(2011) 567 final

September 2011



2.1 A renewed modernisation agenda

A. Increase attainment levels

- *Progression routes and recognition of prior learning and experience*
- *Outreach to under-represented groups, guidance and targeted financial support*
- *Reduce drop-out*

Example EU Actions:

- **Implementing EQF**

 **Social dimension of EHEA**

- **Analysis of drop-out**

2.1 A renewed modernisation agenda

B. Improving quality and relevance

- *Graduate employability*
- *Tailoring learning modes to a diverse student body*
- *Exploiting potential of ICTs*
- *Motivating and rewarding excellent teachers*
- *Programmes informed by and adapted to labour market needs*

Example EU Actions:

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- Research into graduate employability**
 - Excellence in teaching initiatives**



2.1 A renewed modernisation agenda

C. Mobility & international co-operation for quality

- *Learning mobility windows and moving between programmes*
- *Efficient recognition of studies abroad*
- *Improving access and employment conditions for non-EU students and researchers*

Example EU Actions:

**Erasmus Masters loan guarantee
- Strengthening ECTS**

2.1 A renewed modernisation agenda

D. Strengthening the “knowledge triangle”

- *Stimulating entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills and learning environments*
- *Encouraging partnership and co-operation with business*
- *Involvement of HE institutions in regional development plans*

Example EU Actions:

 **Knowledge Alliances**
- European Industrial PhD

2.1 A renewed modernisation agenda

E. Creating the right governance and funding conditions

- *Sufficient, efficient and well-targeted funding*
- *Empowering institutions to play to their strengths*
- *Effective governance and funding systems are a **pre-requisite** for success in the preceding areas*

Example EU Actions:

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- U-multirank – more transparency
 - Analysis of impact of funding models

3 HE governance: balances to be struck

- *(Institutional) specialisation + diversity (in systems) is good for quality, but a balance between:*
 - **Specialisation and maintaining broad educational offer**
 - **Institutional autonomy and taking system-wide perspective**
 - **Strategic leadership and freedom to innovate and create**

 **No one-size-fits all**

3.1 Conditions for strategic leadership

- *Strategic leadership requires a governance framework allowing institutions:*
 - **Organisational structures that allow effective strategic decision-making**
 - **Freedom to manage and deploy institutional budgets and raise income**
 - **Freedom to decide over staff issues – including pay and conditions**
 - **Freedom to control activities – focus and content of programmes, research focus, innovation activities...**



3.3 Next steps at EU level

- *Improving transparency – U-multirank project = tool to help understand HE landscape and specialisation decisions*
- *Strengthened cooperation:*
 - **Between public authorities (Peer-learning)**
 - **Between institutions (eg Strategic partnerships)**
- *Continue building the evidence base at EU level*



Thank you!

Questions?

