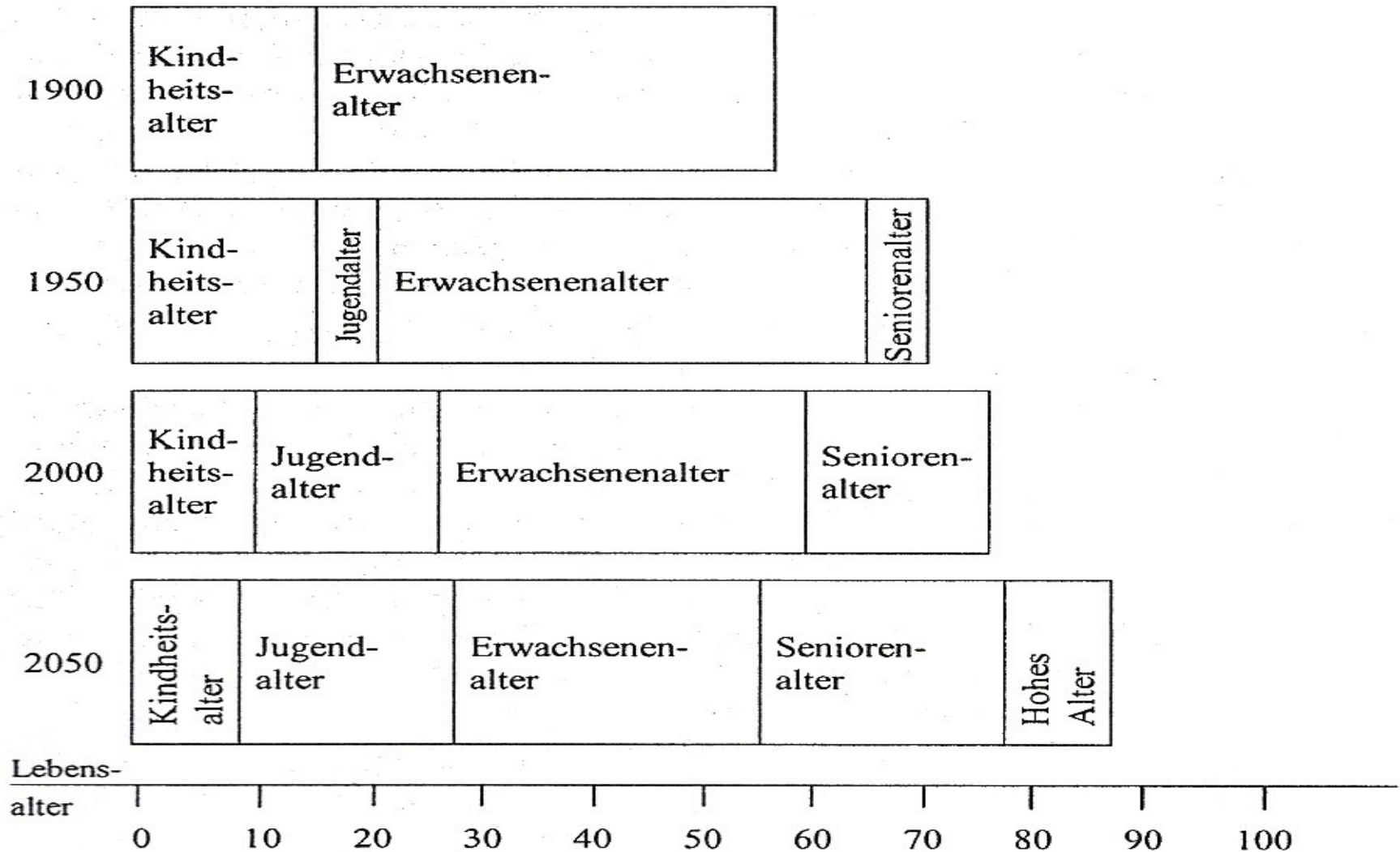


**Youth in Germany –
and some comparisons
with the Czech Republic
and Southern Europe**

Univerzita Karlova, Praha
April 29th 2016

-
- 1. Youth – a life phase in modern society**
 - 2. Youth – an institution of supervision in modern society**
 - 3. Social change of German youth I – III**
 - 4. Youth (sub)cultures**
 - 5. Changes in education and transition to employment**
 - 6. Unemployment including some comparisons with the Czech Republic**
 - 7. Juvenile delinquency in Germany**
 - 8. Youth work in Germany**

Youth – a new life phase in modern society

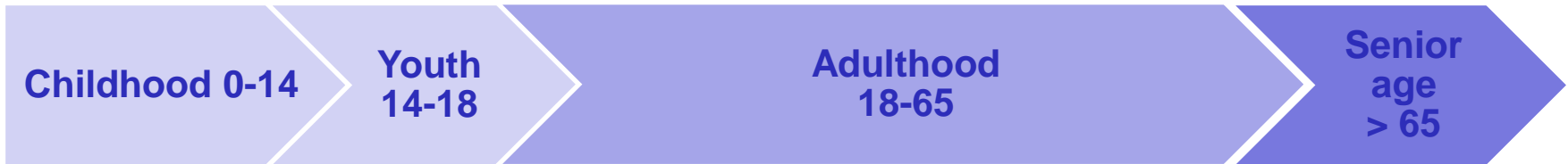


Youth – a social institution of extended education and intensive supervision



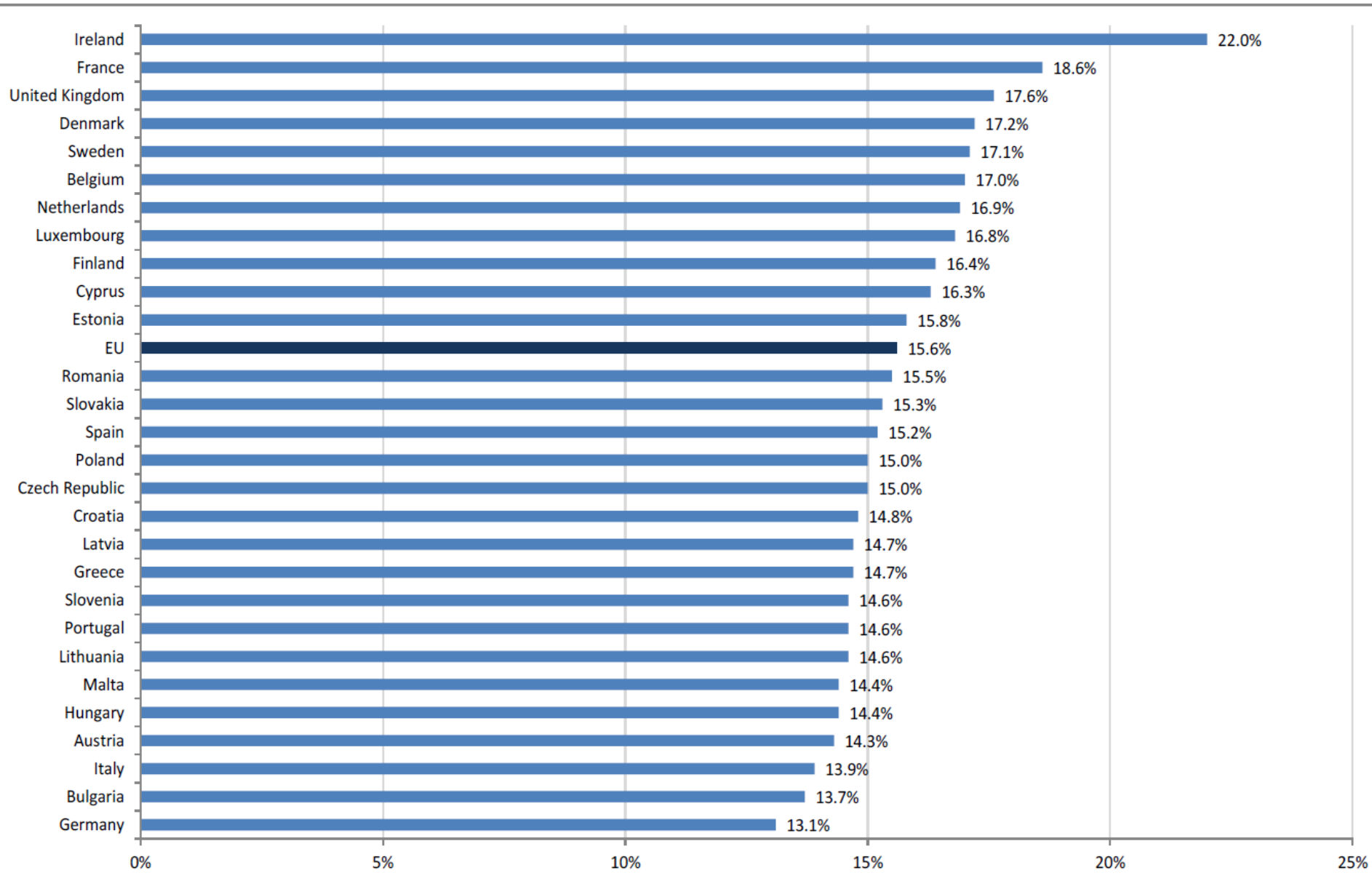
- In the beginning of industrial capitalist societies 1870-1900 „discovery of youth“ in contrast to the previous term „youngling“ from 1700-1870
 - = young men in large cities, proletarian, socially conspicuous, endangered by moral neglect and therefore ...
 - In need of supervision and can be formed through education
 - → Beginning of youth care
 - Caring for the integration of youth into society →
 - Youth is perceived as deficient...
 - → in need of education and social supervision
 - Youth always has been connected with „social problems“
-

Youth in recent times – forward shift and extension: post-adolescence 18-25 +



-
- Decline in number of children per woman: average 4 in 1900 → 1.4 in 2015
 - → young people are dependent on peer relations outside of families
 - Growing importance of informal peer-groups
 - Youth associations are losing importance
 - Need for youth work: providing opportunities and space for peer-experiences which are not supervised

Share of children aged less than 15 in the EU Member States, 2014 (in % of total population)



-
- Protected phase in childhood and youth is vanishing: youths are confronted earlier than before with the „seriousness of life“ through:
 - More divorced mothers, more patchwork-families, increased change in reference groups
 - More employed mothers→
 - More outside care for children→
 - „Islandisation“ of childhood and youth and increased mobility
 - More commercial leisure and consumer offers:
 - Use of digital media in every day life: computer games, Internet, Facebook („death of childhood“?)
 - Increase in lack of movement and in motor skills, increase in overweight youth
 - Need to be able to „go wild“, to run around
 - At the same time public spaces and playgrounds are fewer
 - → youth appears as „annoying“ and trouble-makers
-

- Youth is not a social group = a collective actor or a homogenous collective
- Youth is a social construct by society, e.g. „face-book-generation“ 2016
- Youth reacts to this and stages itself as (sub)culture:
- In the 1980s generation of „Null-Bock“ = „Whatever“. „Can´t be bothered“
→ Punks
- In the 2010s: pluralisation of various life styles, subcultures, scenes, milieus
- There is no „youth“ – youths live in extremely varied circumstances in life:
- along with social class, community, ethnic background
- An unemployed young Turkish male in Berlin has nothing to do with the daughter of a rich family living near Munich studying Business Administration

Szenen im Überblick





17TH SHELL YOUTH STUDY



YOUTH 2015

Professors
Mathias Albert
Klaus Hurrelmann
and Gudrun Quenzel
and TNS Infratest Social Research

"Pragmatic and not ideological" is how the **Shell Youth Study 2002** characterised young people, who were seeking a place in society in highly individual ways, and were optimistic that they could achieve this. A remarkable feature was the shift in values from "post-materialist" approaches, associated with self-realisation and enjoyment of life, to a synthesis of these approaches with more traditional notions, including wellbeing, hard work, order and security, for example.

YOUTH 2015 – A PRAGMATIC GENERATION RARING TO GO

A pragmatic attitude to school and occupation, family and friends is a key feature of the young generation in Germany. The young people adapt to circumstances and want to seize opportunities. They look for security and positive social relations. This includes a willingness to engage with the concerns of others in their personal entourage or to work for the common good.

Expectations towards future occupation

Based on young people aged 12 to 25



What does a job need to offer you in order for you to be satisfied?

A safe job



Opportunities to bring in own ideas



Opportunities to do something meaningful



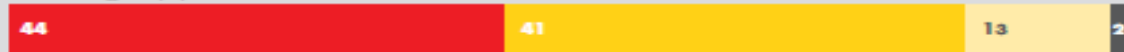
Enough free time besides the job



Opportunities to do something useful for society



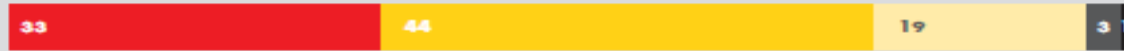
Feeling appreciated



Good promotion opportunities



A high income



A lot of contact to other people



Opportunity to care for others



Feeling like a performer

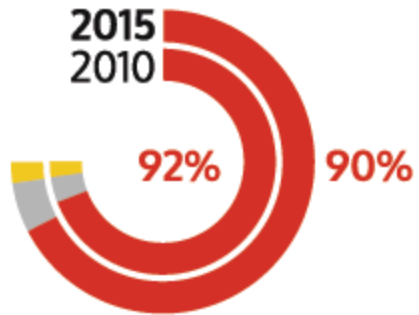


Information in %

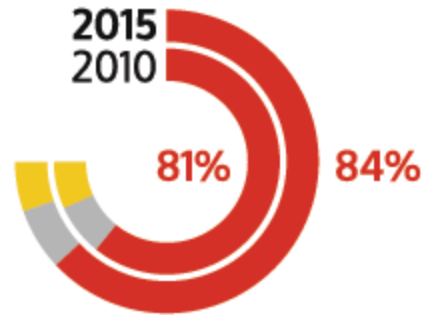
Wertorientierung 2010 und 2015 im Vergleich

wichtig teils-teils unwichtig Fehlende an 100: k.A.

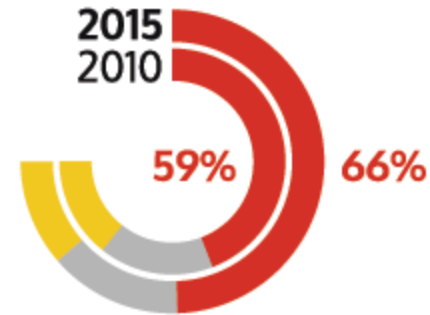
Gutes Familienleben führen



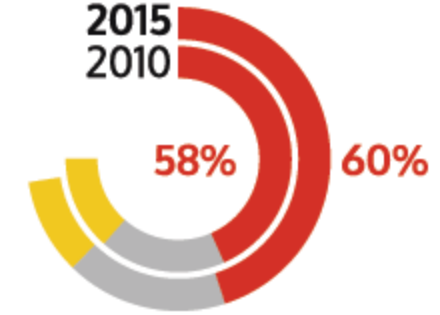
Gesetz und Ordnung respektieren



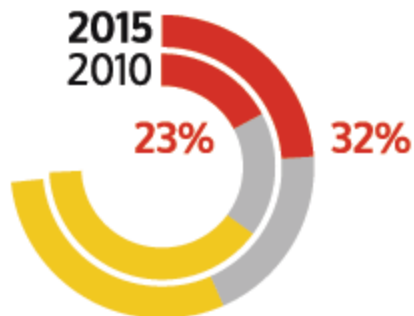
Sich unter allen Umständen umweltbewusst verhalten



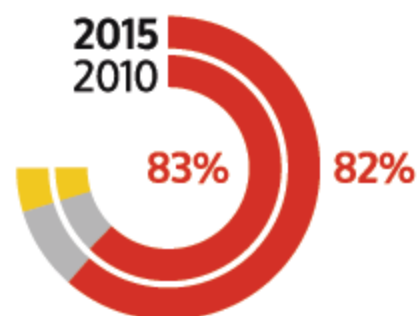
Sozial Benachteiligten und Randgruppen helfen



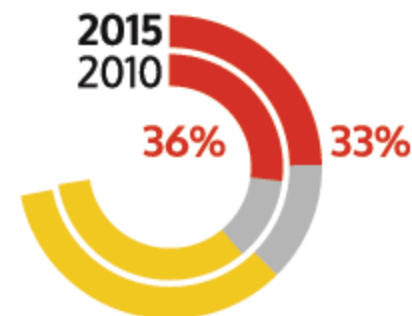
Sich politisch engagieren



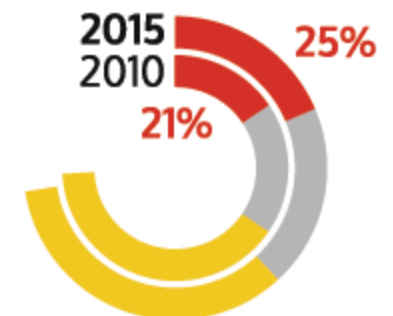
Fleißig und ehrgeizig sein



An Gott glauben

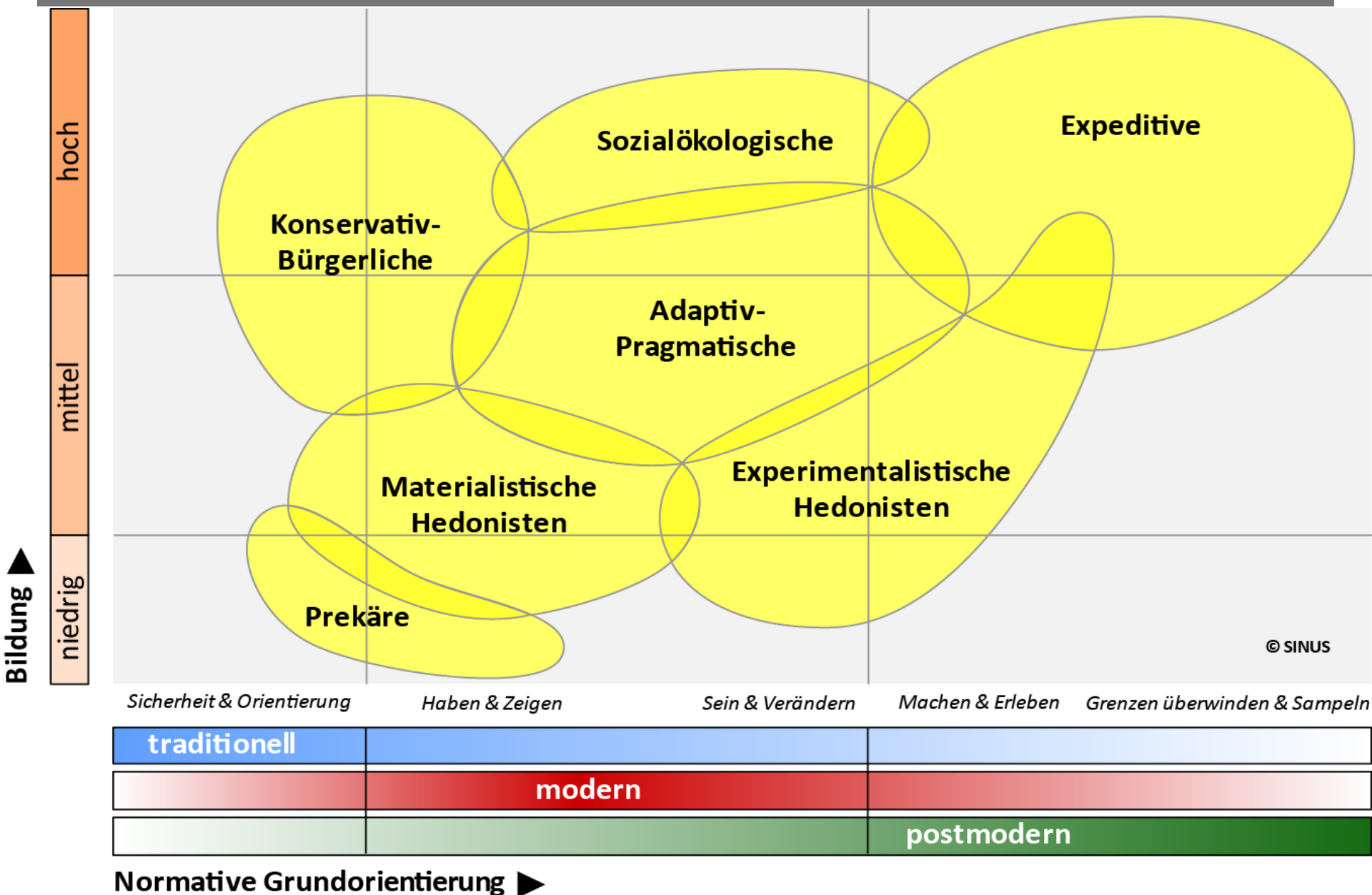


Am Althergebrachten festhalten

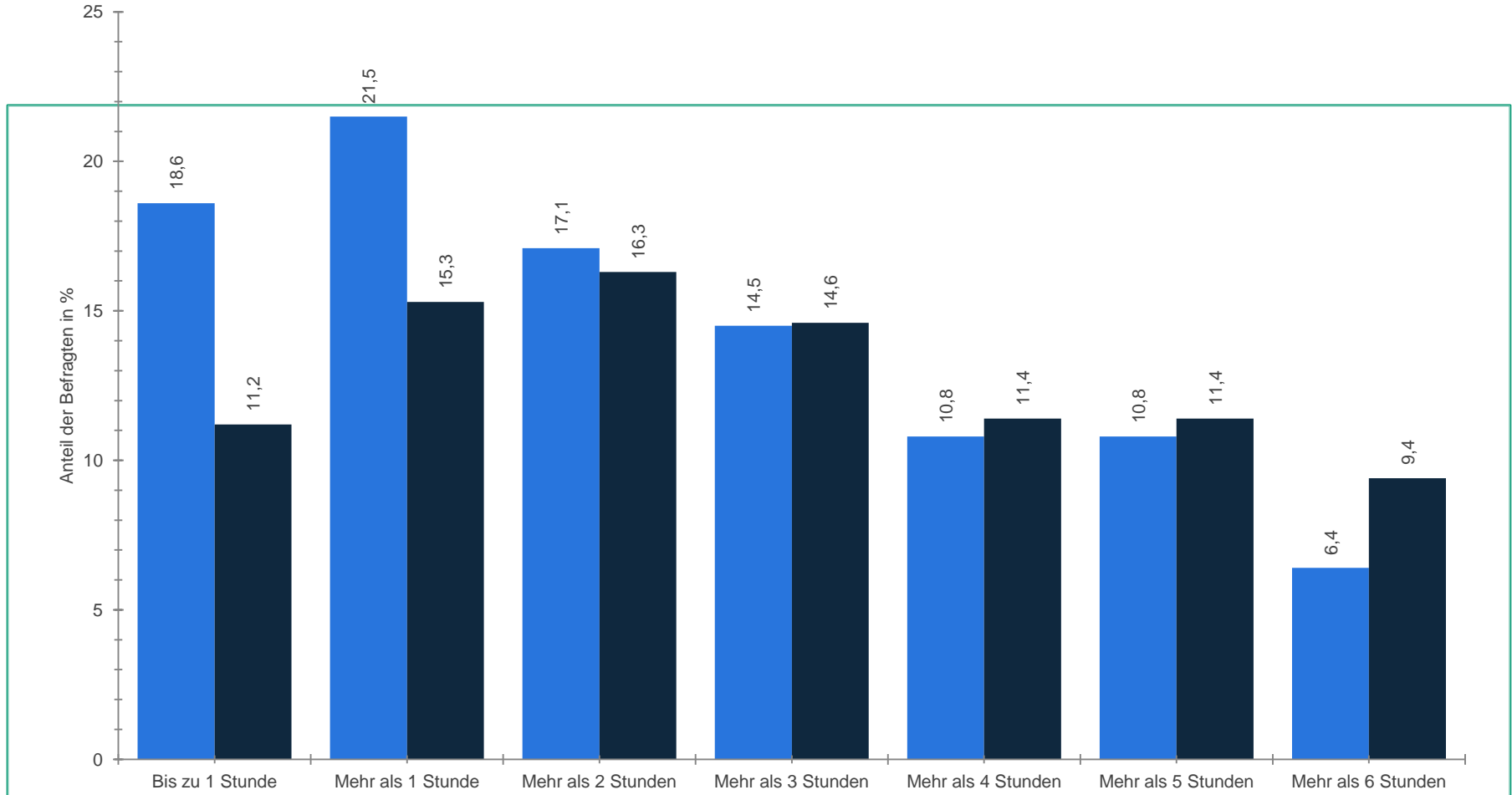


GREATER FEAR OF XENOPHOBIA THAN OF IMMIGRATION

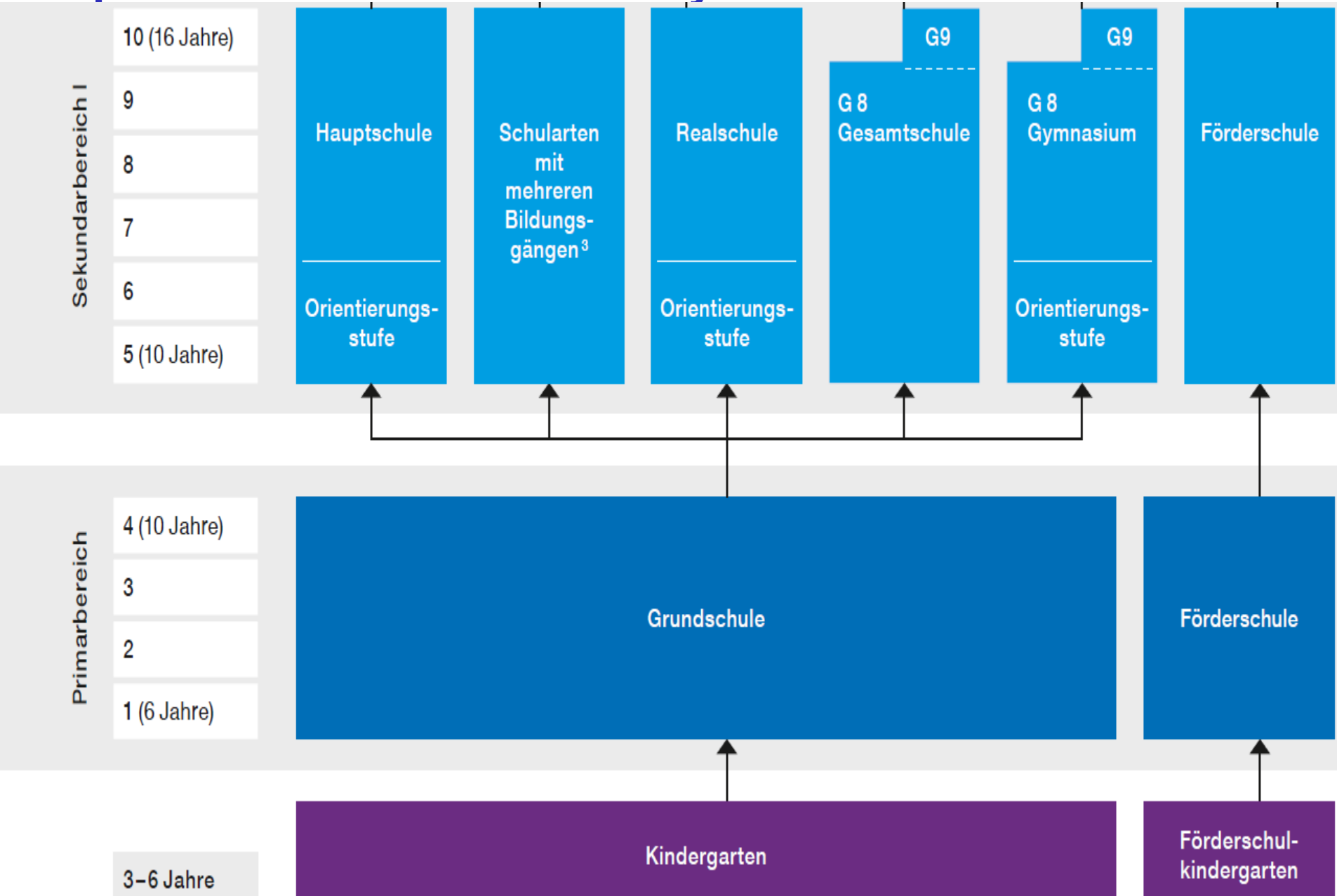
- Only 29 per cent of young people fear immigration, though 48 per cent are afraid of xenophobia (2010: 40 per cent).
- On the other hand, young people have become more open to inward migration. In 2002, 48 per cent of young people and in 2006, as many as 58 per cent, called for curbs on immigration into Germany. In 2015 only 37 per cent of young people still backed this idea.
- Nevertheless, major differences can be identified between east and west. While 35 per cent of young people from Germany's western regions are in favour of the idea of reducing immigration into Germany, in the eastern regions (including Berlin) the figure stands at 49 per cent.



Daily use in hours of new media in Germany in 2012 by youth: light: girls vs. dark: boys



After Primary School at the age of 10 → Hauptschule or Realschule or Gymnasium

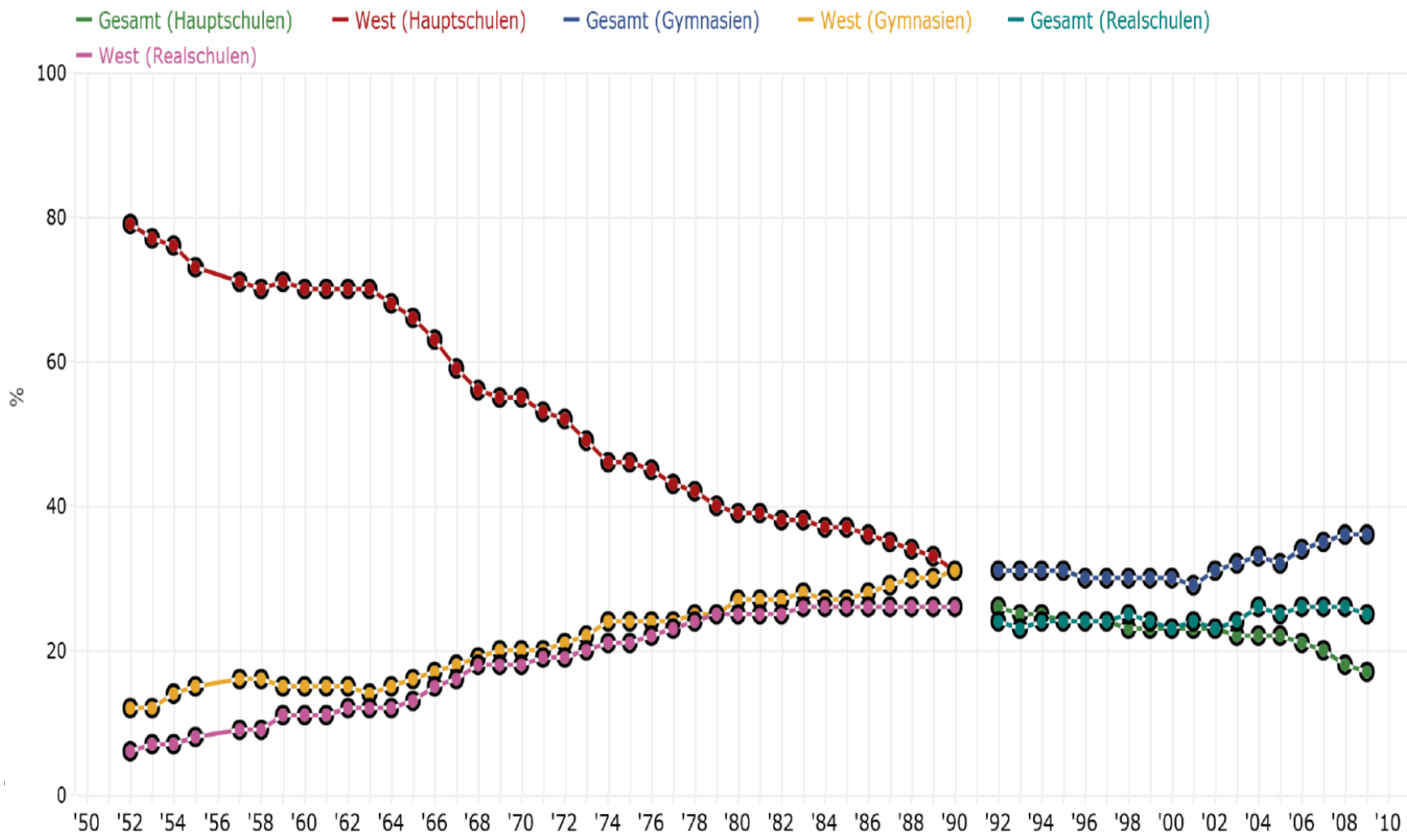


Social change III:

Expansion of education 1950-2000

more 13-year olds → Gymnasien = high school,
fewer → Hauptschule = lower secondary school

1950-2011: Schulbesuch der 13-Jährigen nach Schularten



SOURCE | GESIS - SOCIAL INDICATORS MONITOR (SIMON), GERMAN SYSTEM OF SOCIAL INDICATORS; DOWNLOAD AT 22/04/2013 | 21 45

bringing forward and compressing the educational phase in one's life cycle

- Pre-school education assumes the responsibility of initial school education
- School enrollment takes place earlier (6.7 years → 6.0 → 5 years)
- Secondary school (Gymnasium) takes only 8 years (no longer 9)
- Transition to studying should be immediate (no gap year)
- The primary degree only takes 6-7 semesters („Diplom“: 8-12)
- Life-long learning after graduation is defined as a private responsibility
- This corresponds with shortening and compressing institutional education

Since 2000: Forward shift and compression of formal education

Birth cohort 1953			School enrollment 6.7 years			Graduation age: 27.75
4.5 years parental education at home	1.5 Kindergarten		4 years primary school	G9: 9 years secondary education	1.3 Civil Service	6.25 years Diplom (university)

Co-hort 2003			School enrollment: 6.0 years		Graduation age: 21.5
2 years parental education	Crèche	3 years Kindergarten	4 years primary school	G8: 8 years secondary education	3.25 years Bachelor

Social change in youth III: Transition to work life

- The equation: achievements in school = success in job life has become questionable through
 - Educational inflation: value of a higher educational degree has become less
 - Devaluation of the lower educational degrees sharpens competition
 - Hauptschule as a „school for leftovers“
 - Companies need fewer junior apprentices based on rationalisation and globalisation
 - Financial and economic crises
 - A larger percentage of young adults remain economically superfluous = Marx: „relative over population“
 - This principle appears differently in Germany and Southern Europe
 - In Germany many youths find a final job only after waiting loops in the „transition system“, temporary agency work, fixed-term jobs, low wage jobs
 - 10% early school leavers, 20% drop out of their apprenticeship
-

Percentage of early leavers from education and training 2013

Spain	24
EU 28	12
Germany	10
Czech Republic	5

Percentage of 15-24 unemployed 2013



Germany	8
Czech Republic	19
Italy	40
Spain	56
Greece	58

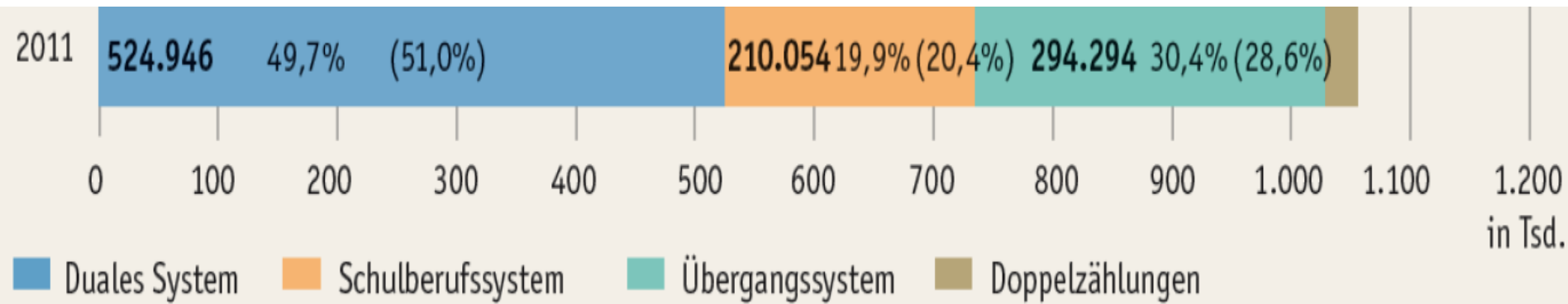
Percentage of 15-24-old not in employment and not in any education 2013



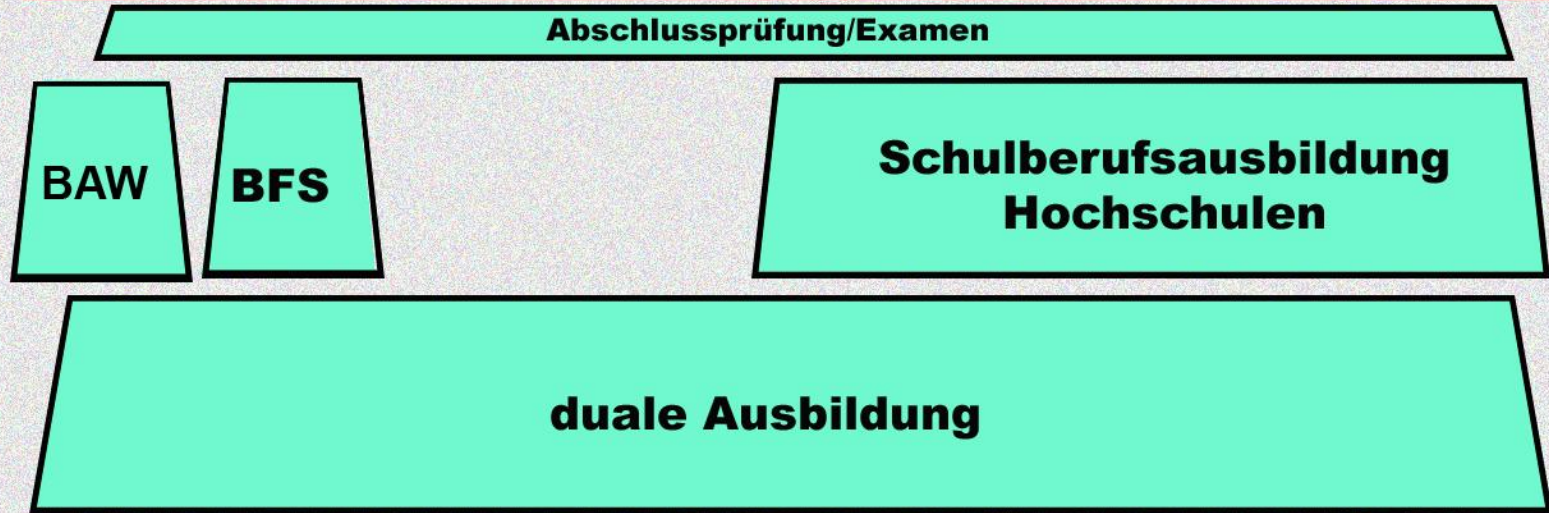
Czech Republic	9
Germany	6
Italy	22
Spain	19
Greece	20

Where do the German 15-24-old youths land if they are not in education and get no job?

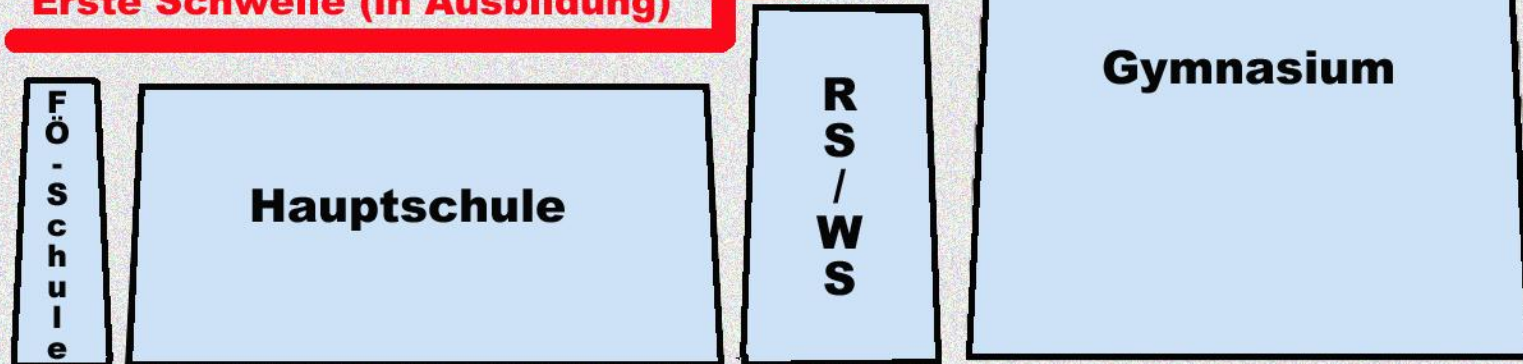
- Low wage sector → not included in unemployment statistics
- Transition system → not included in unemployment statistics



Zweite Schwelle (in Erwerbsarbeit)



Erste Schwelle (in Ausbildung)

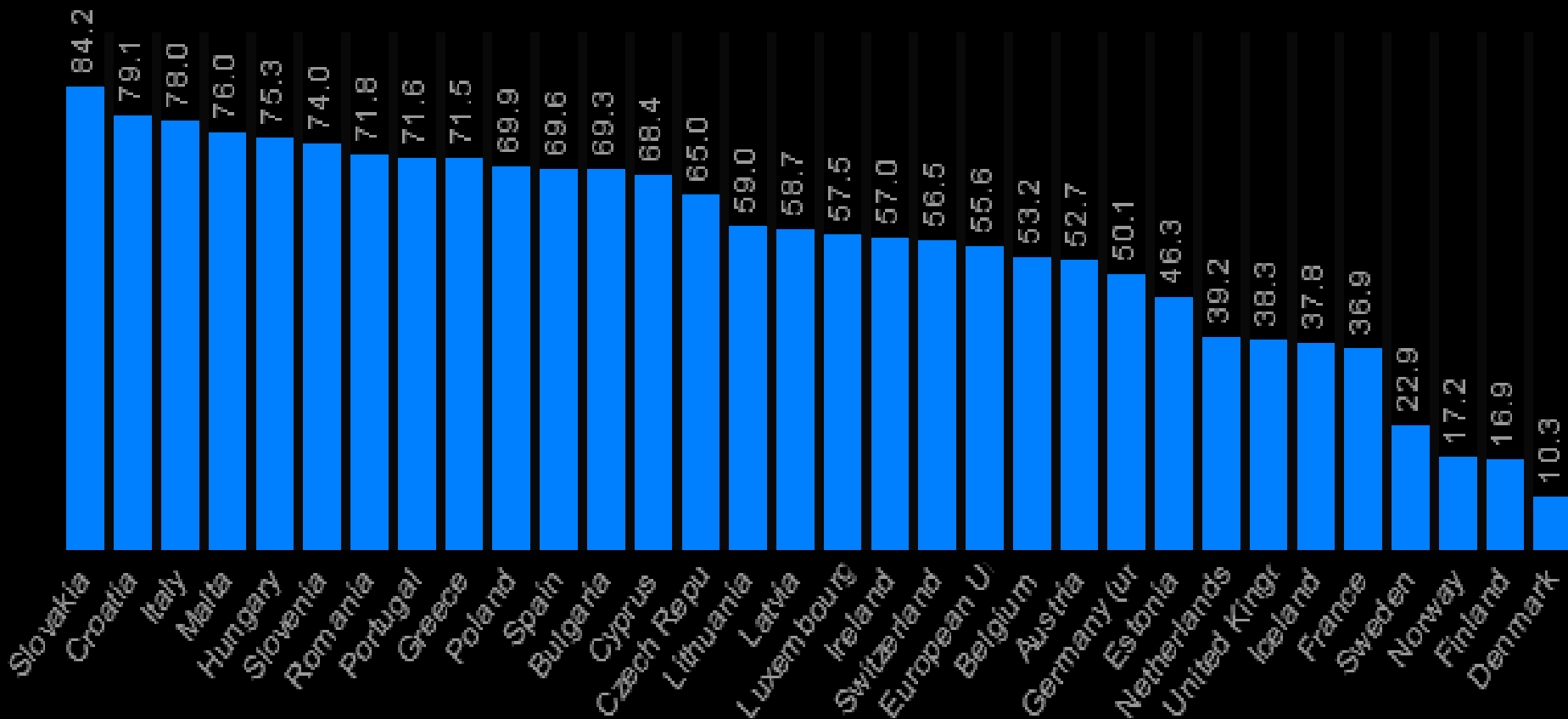


Percentage of 15-29 olds unemployed 2013: regional inequalities

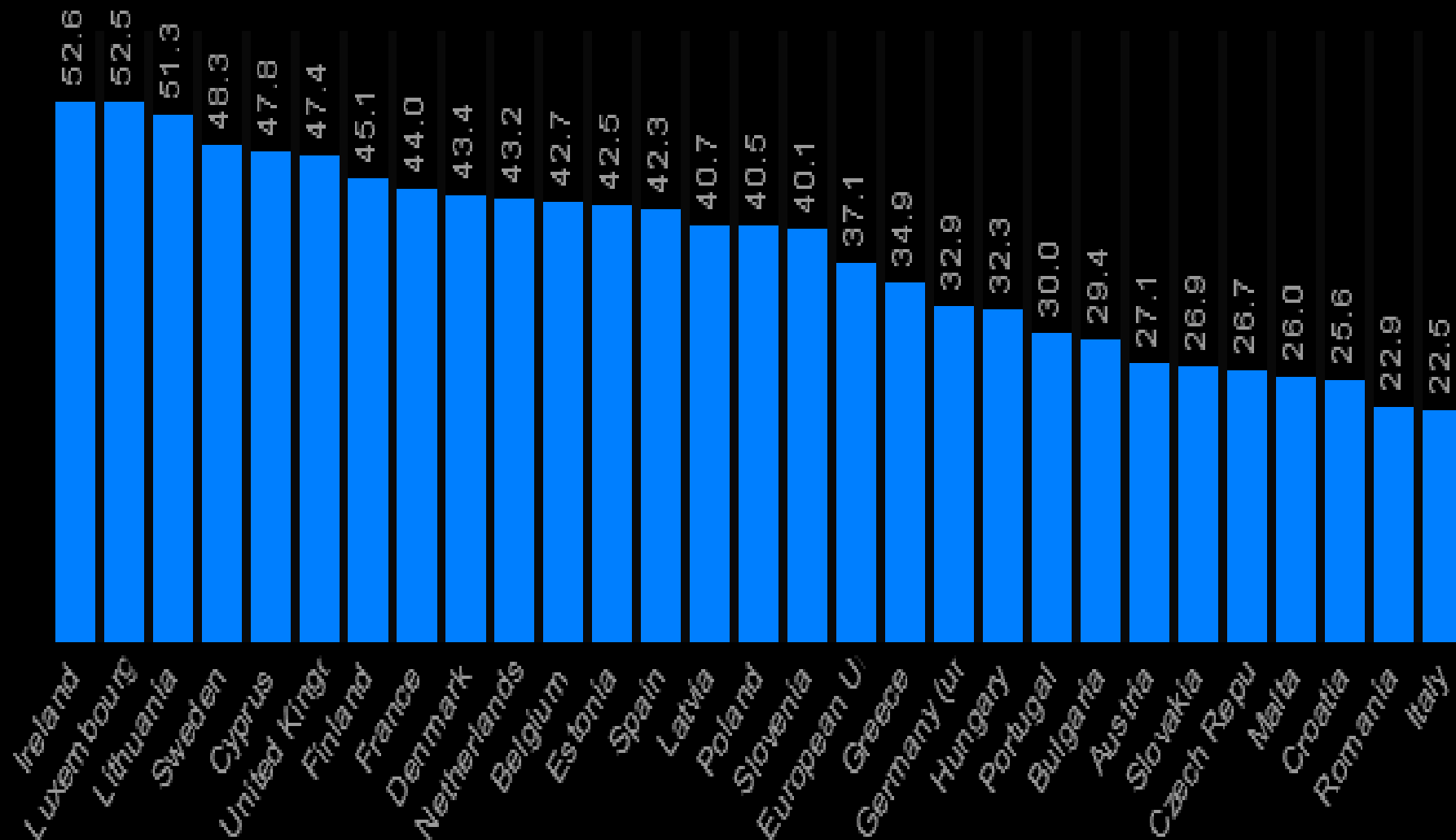


EU (28 countries)	28
Region of Nürnberg (Mittelfranken)	4
Berlin	12
Madrid	33
Andalucía	53
Dytike Madedonia/Greece	62

In Southern Europe a higher percentage of 20-29 old live with their parents (2013)



Percentage of 30-39 old with tertiary educational attainment



Youth in public and scientific discourse: endangered and dangerous



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7IBn9QH2F4>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FC9B_5ffXco&oref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DFC9B_5ffXco&has_verified=1

- Youth, youth violence, binge drinking...all these terms ...
- Endangered and dangerous are not objective descriptions but
- Social definitions, ascriptions and constructs of media, politics and supervising agencies →
- „Youth“ is a social and cultural concept of modern society
- defines this age „group“ as a „social problem“ and an object for supervision,
- On the one hand, the „future of the nation“,
- On the other hand, deficit of integration, endangering „order“
- Similar to „migrants“ and „refugees“: politicians demand integration

Crime and Assault 1987 – 2014

Percentage of German suspects among 100 Germans of the resp. age groups

	Children	Youth		Adults
	8 - 13	14 – 18	18 – 21	> 21
Total crime				
1987	.	3.5	4.2	1.8
2014	1.4	5.0	6.2	2.0
Assault				
1987	.	0.4	0.6	0.3
2013	.	1.2	1.6	0.5

Why is juvenile delinquency rising more than the adult crime rate?



- Opportunities for a job career in the standard employment relationship for today's youth is limited
- relative de-valuation of educational degrees
- Due to constrained transition to the job life post-adolescence-phase for many until early 30 →
- Status inconsistency: gap between sexual and physical maturity, legal capacity on the one hand
- and delayed economic and personal independence affects predominantly poor youths
- conflict with regards to the expectation they face to act like an adult and their resources
- Youths adapt less easily, they don't yet have the „thick skin“ (Pfeiffer 1999) = they are more sensitive to the constraints of their subjective expectations for success and happiness
- Deviant behaviour is immanent to the life phase of youth



-
- Offers to meet the needs of youths for experiences and sense of community with peers
 - Organise alternative methods of solving conflicts:
 - Victim-offender-mediation etc.
 - Organize processes of social learning to reflect the image of the male and masculinity which is one reason for violence
 - Support youths when they leave their cliques which are ready to use violence
 - Anti-violence-training on the „hot seat “, where offenders are confronted with the perspective of the victim and the image of a „Macho“

- School children and youths are able to come together and engage
- independently, supported by or accompanied by volunteers and/or professional staff,
- individually or with peers,
- for the purpose of leisure, education or relaxation,
- Once off, sporadically, periodically or continuously

LandesJugendRing

Sportjugend

Bund der
Katholischen Jugend

PfadfinderInnenverbände

Naturschutzverbände

Arbeitsgemeinschaften
und andere Verbände

Kreis- und / oder
Stadtjugendringe

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der
Evangelischen Jugend

Gewerkschaftsjugend

Landjugendverband

Humanitäre
Jugendverbände

Regionale Verbände und
Träger der Jugendarbeit

Beratende Mitglieder
Assoziierte Organisationen

- Youth work: general promotion of youths
- Youth social work: offers to young people by social work aid in order to compensate social disadvantages or to help overcome individual constraints.

Action fields of youth social work:

- Vocational aid for youths,
- Streetwork
- Outreach youth social work (e.g. support for addicts),
- Migration/Integration
- Gender specific youth work,
- School social work

- Participants: 3.3 millions of youths (2008)
- 89,157 financed offers of the open youth work
- Many of these measures are organised by youth associations
- 16,700 institutions (2010)
- 45,100 professionals
- More than 50% are employed in youth centres or similar centres
- 15% work in youth hostels or similar
- 8% in cultural institutions or as street workers



<http://www.kjr-nuernberg.de/>

Thank you for your attention!