

Education in Adulthood and the Labour Market
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**Adult Learning in Comparative Perspective –
The Adult Education Survey (AES)
as a new database
for international indicators and research**

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AES objectives

- A comprehensive picture of adult education and training
- for all European countries (EU+)
- based on comparable data

AES measurement concept

- Based on population surveys (age 25-64)
- recording the occurrence of well-defined learning activities in a reference period of 12 months
- describing individual learning activities by a standard list of characteristics (e.g. duration, field, etc.)

AES pilot 2007: 29 countries

Results released for 24 countries,

National sample sizes (net): 2.200 – 27.000

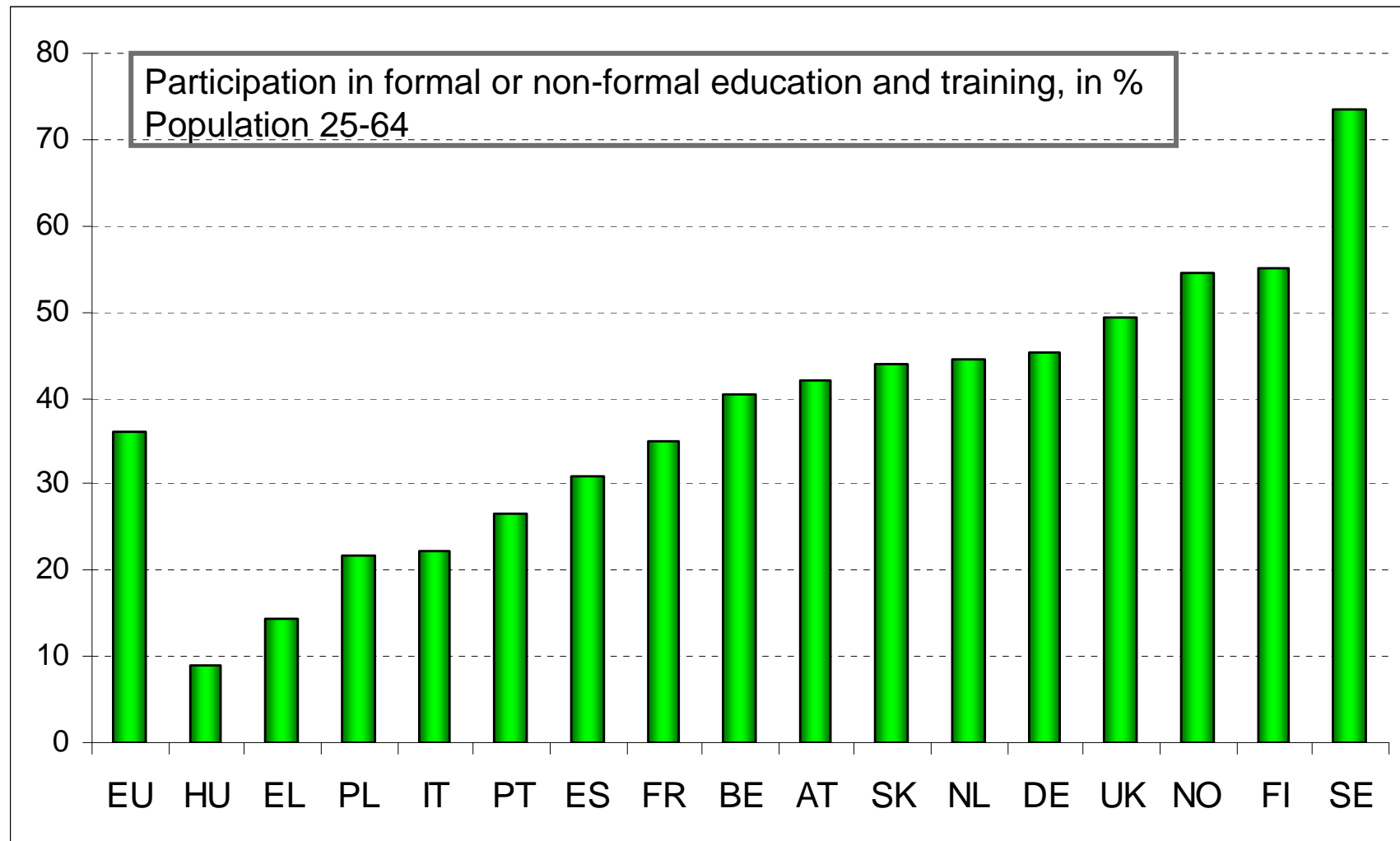
Total sample: 183.000

Structuring the field of adult learning

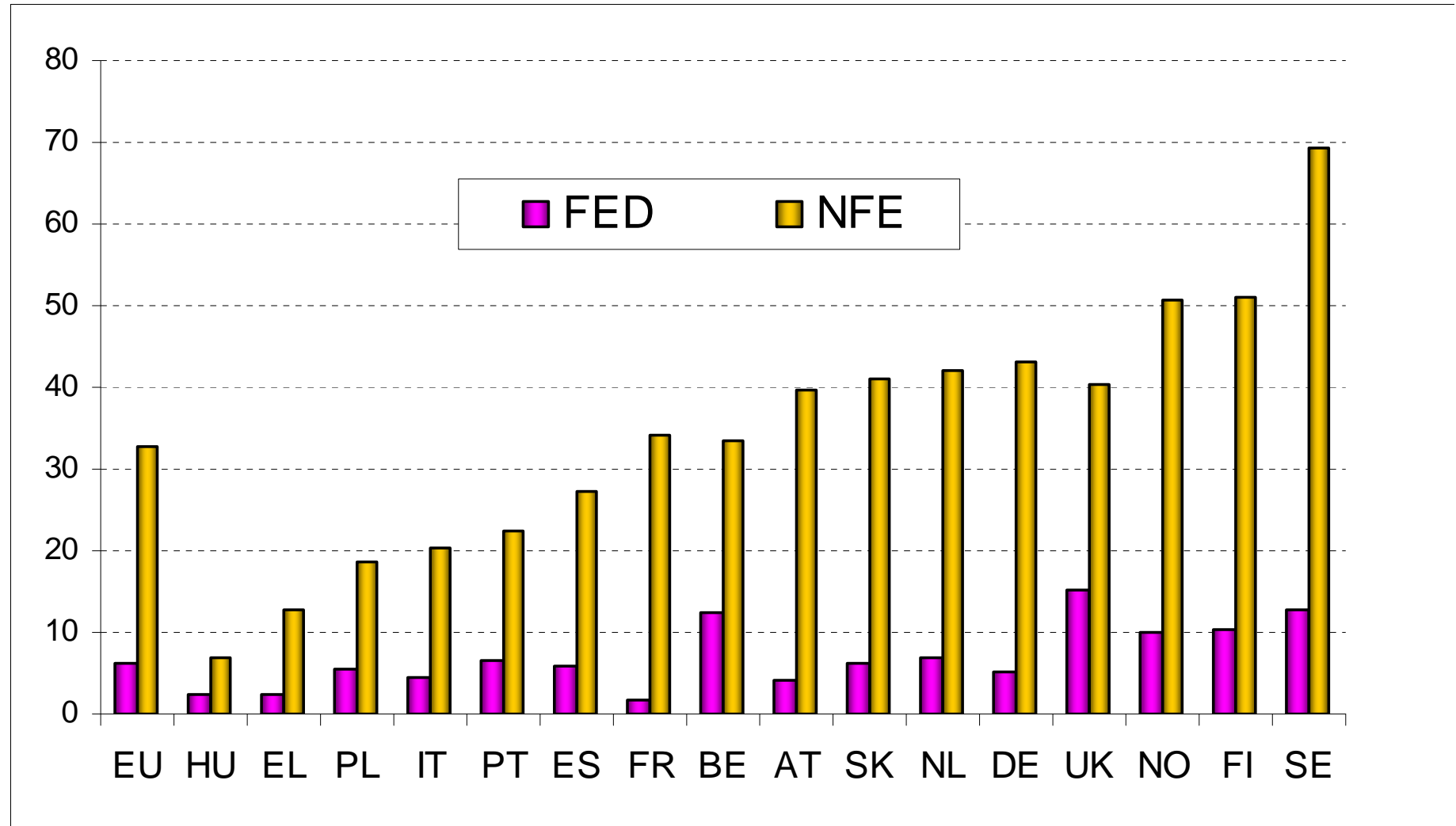
- „Classification of Learning Activities“ (CLA - Manual, Eurostat 2006)
 - Formal education (FED)
 - Non-formal education (NFE)
 - Informal learning (INF)

- Core indicator for international comparative analysis:
Participation in formal or non-formal education and training
(„overall participation rate“)

The overall participation rate in adult learning



Participation rate in forms of adult learning

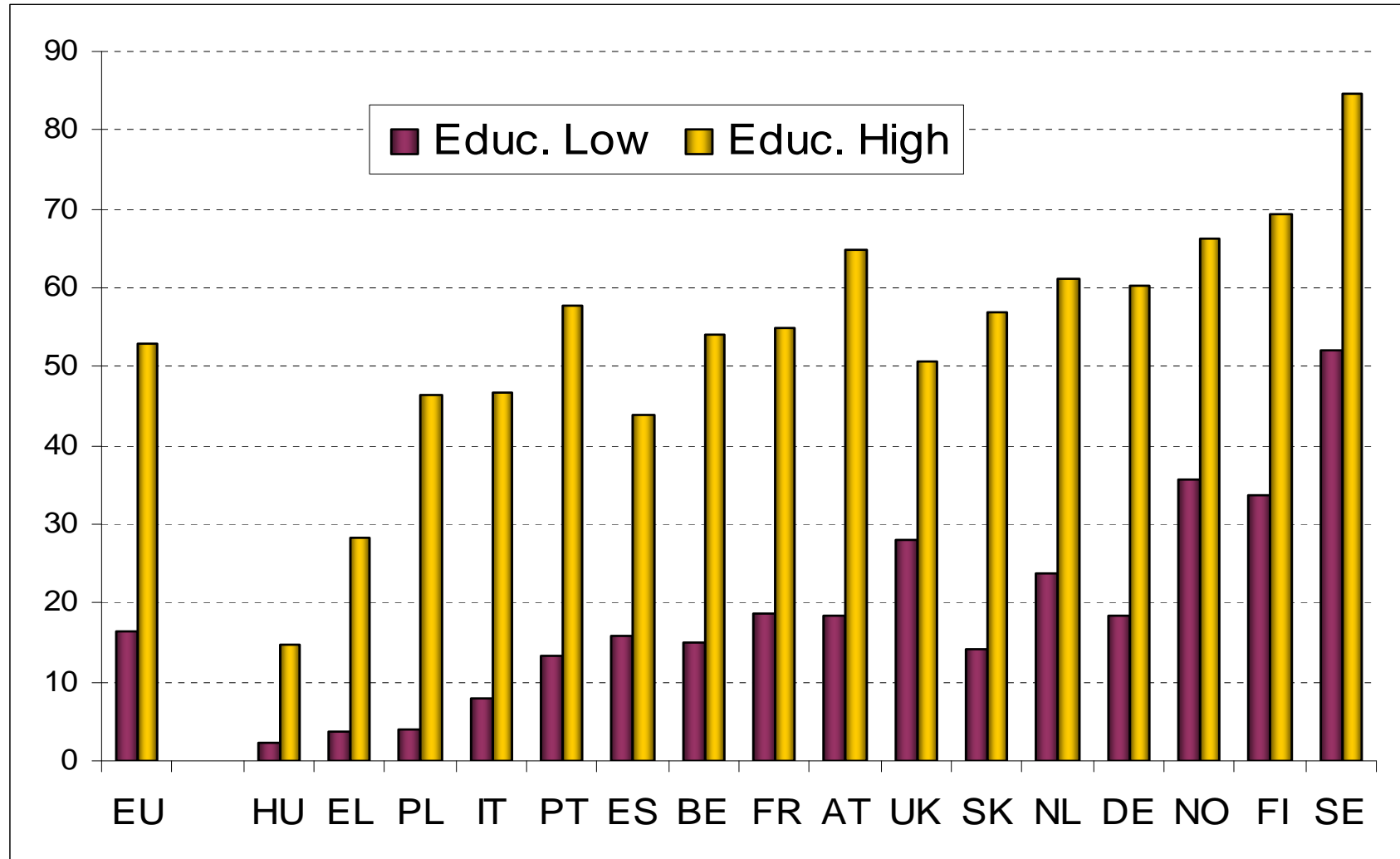


Do we understand differences across countries?

Apart from background knowlege, the key to understanding is
disaggregation

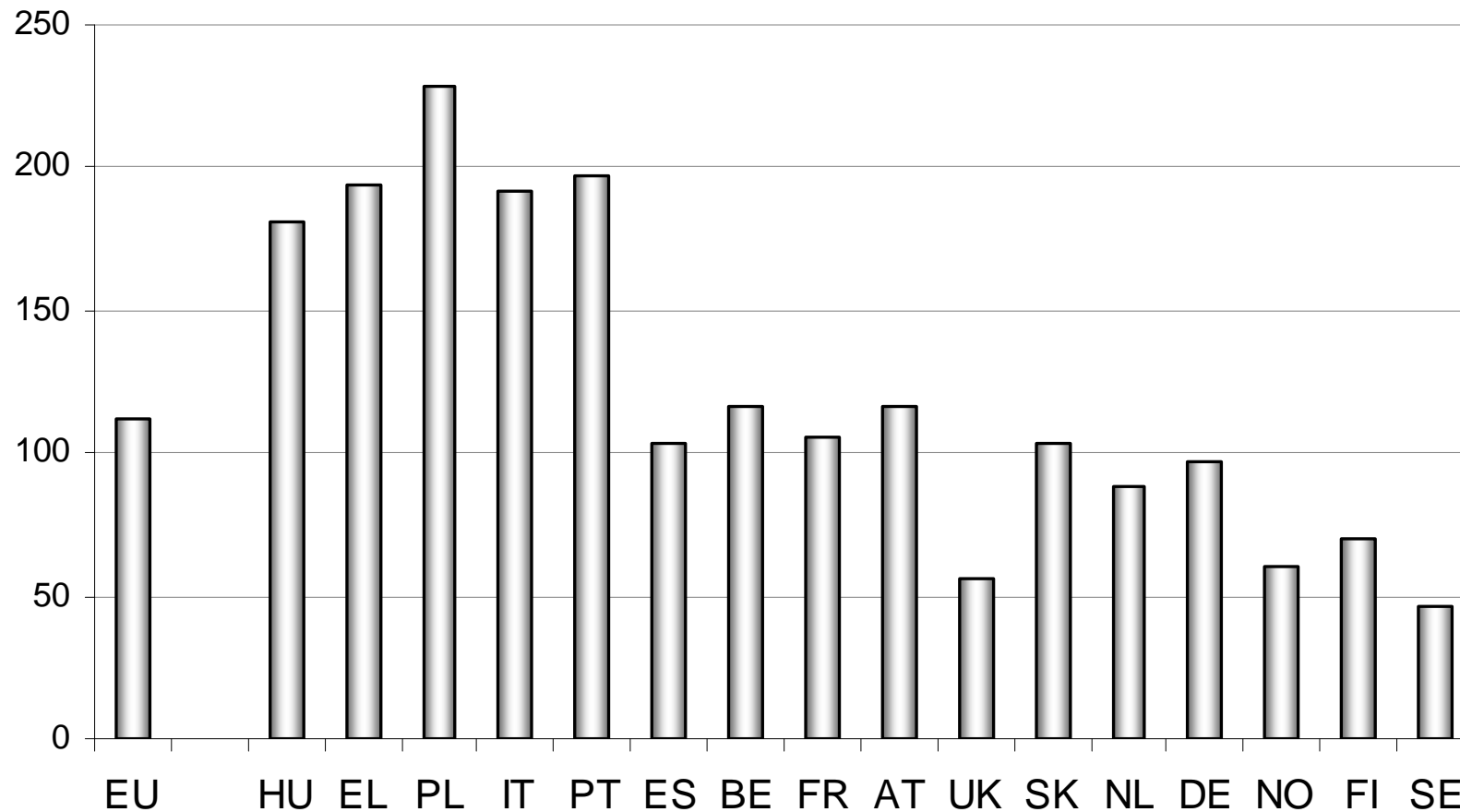
- (1) Social disaggregation: by groups of the population
- (2) Structural disaggregation: by types (or sectors) of adult learning

Participation in NFE by level of education

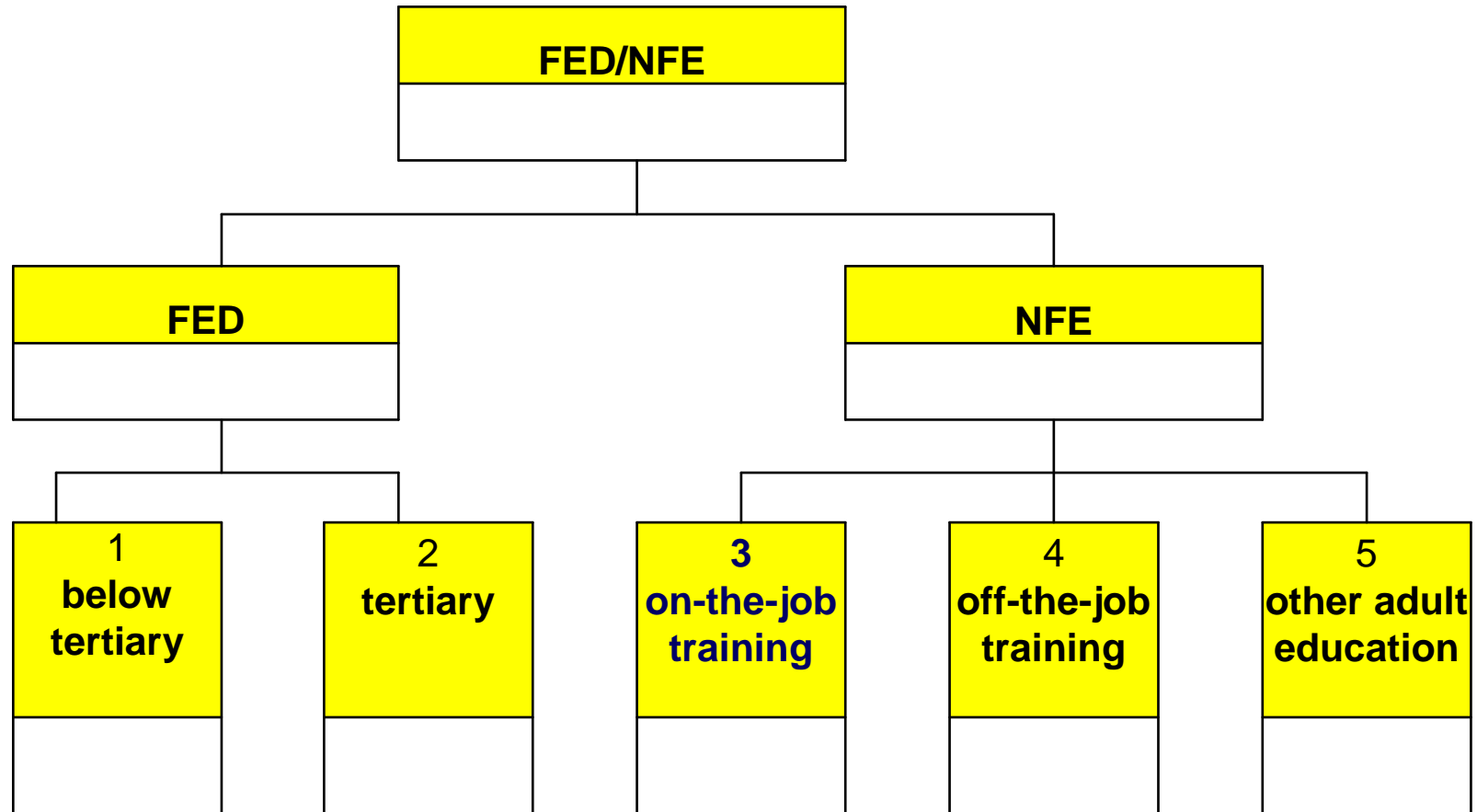


Inequality of acces to non-formal education

Index (range high-low education ./ mean)



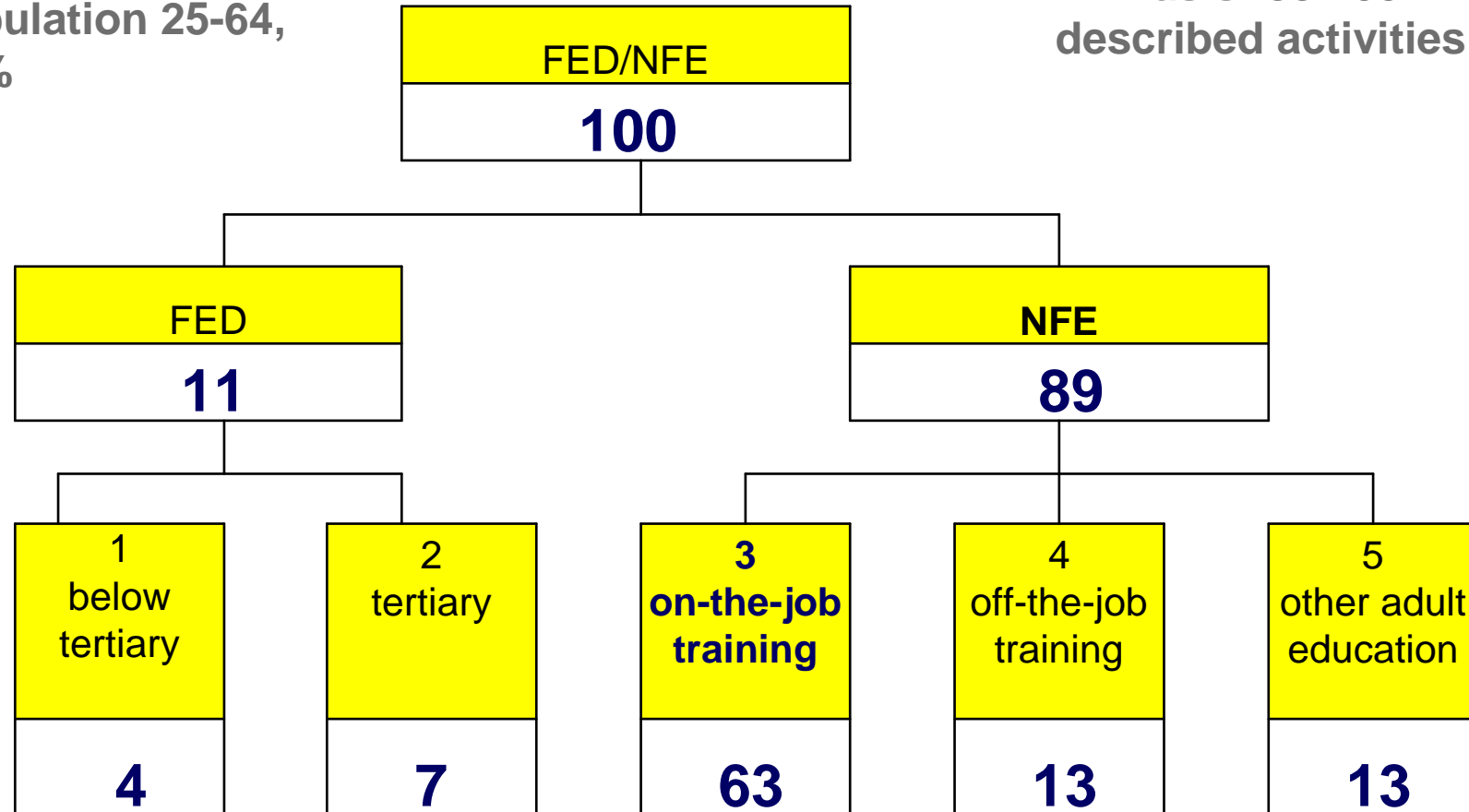
Types of adult learning



Distribution of learning activities by type

24 countries,
population 25-64,
in %

Basis: 88.400
described activities



Further analysis of types of learning activities

By characteristics of the activity

- duration
- field
- provider
- individual costs
- reasons for participating
- subjective benefit

By characteristics of the participant

- age
- sex
- education
- occupation (ISCO)

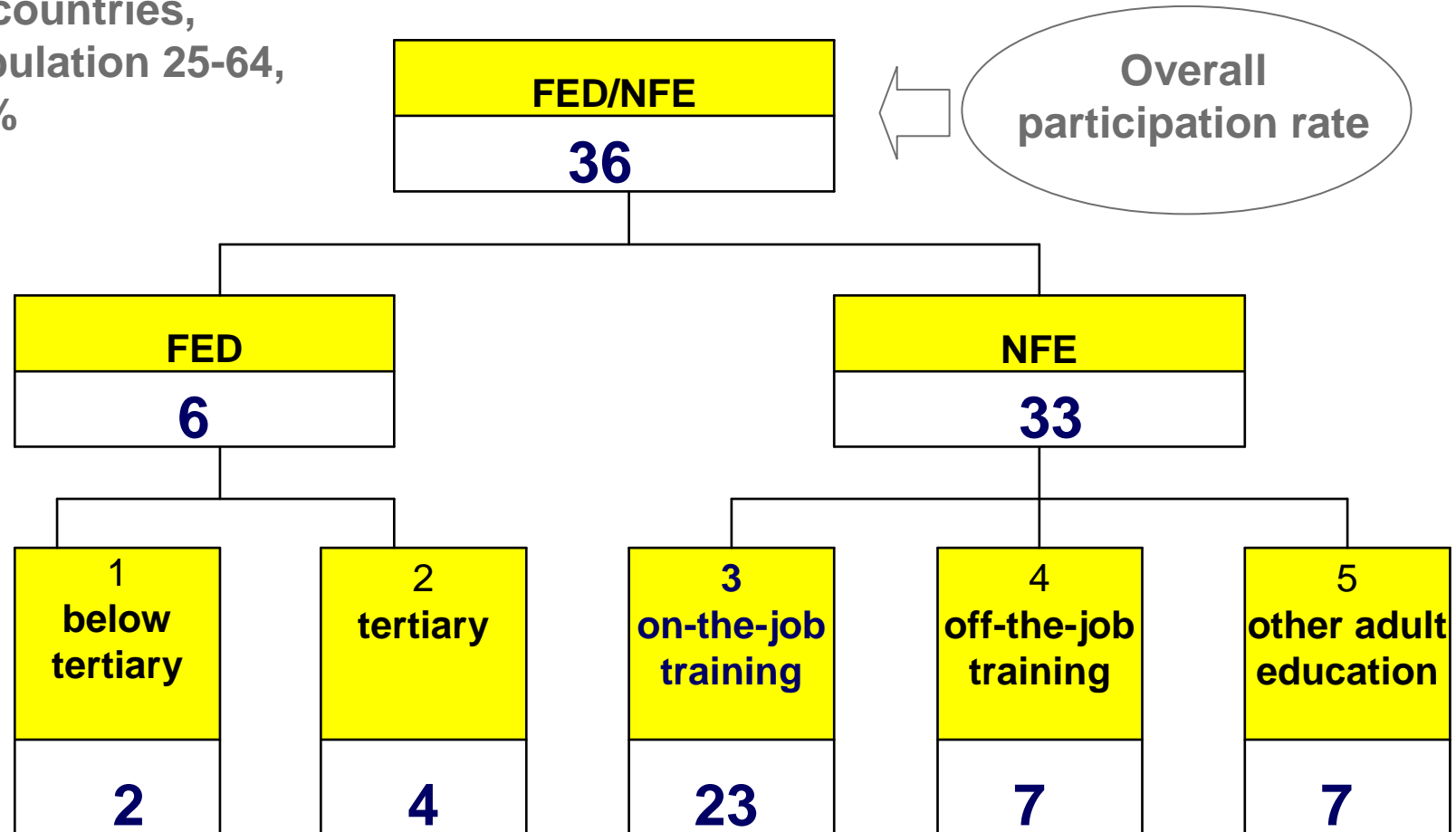
For type 3:

By characteristics of the employer

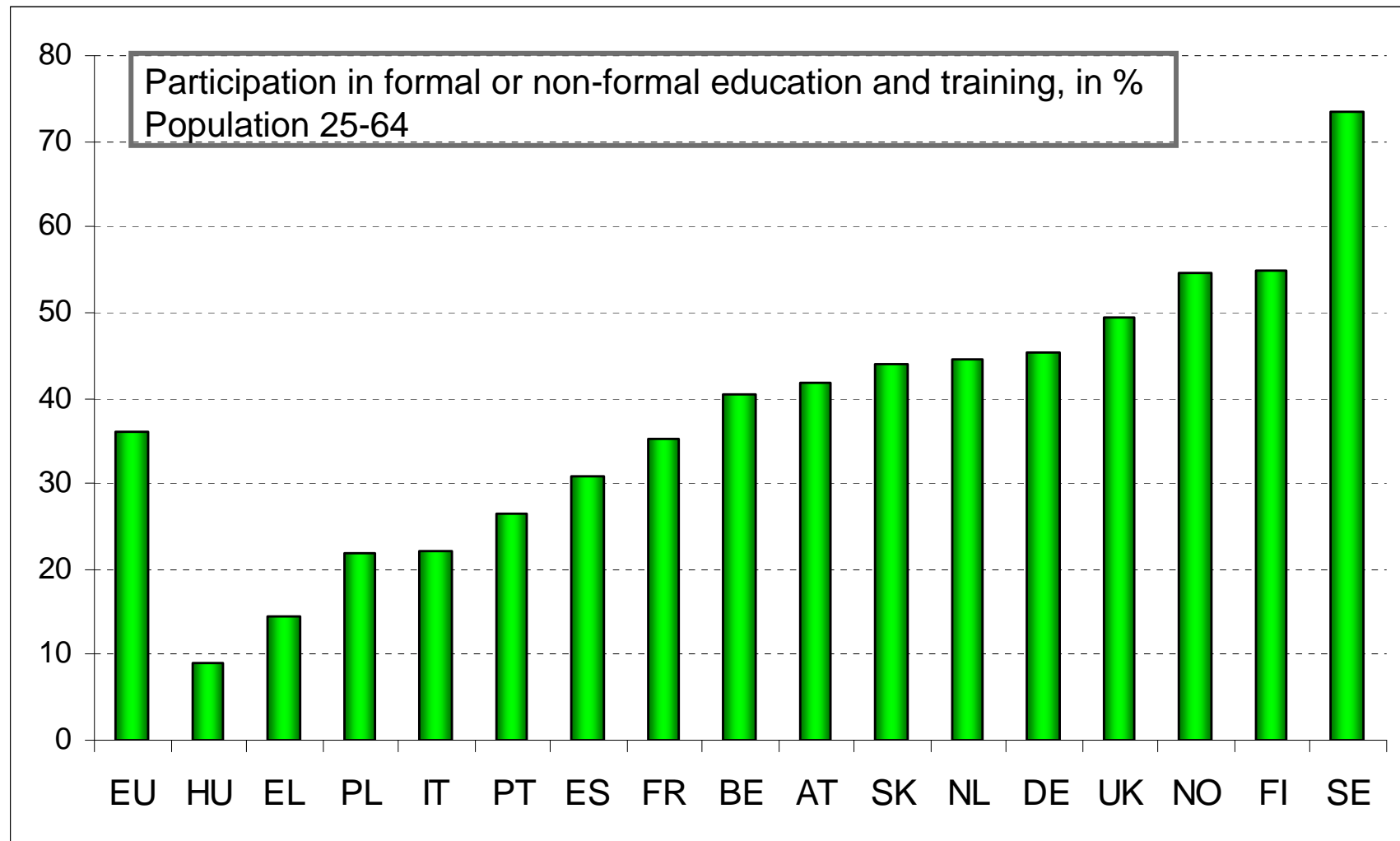
- size of local unit
- industry (NACE)

Participation in types of adult learning

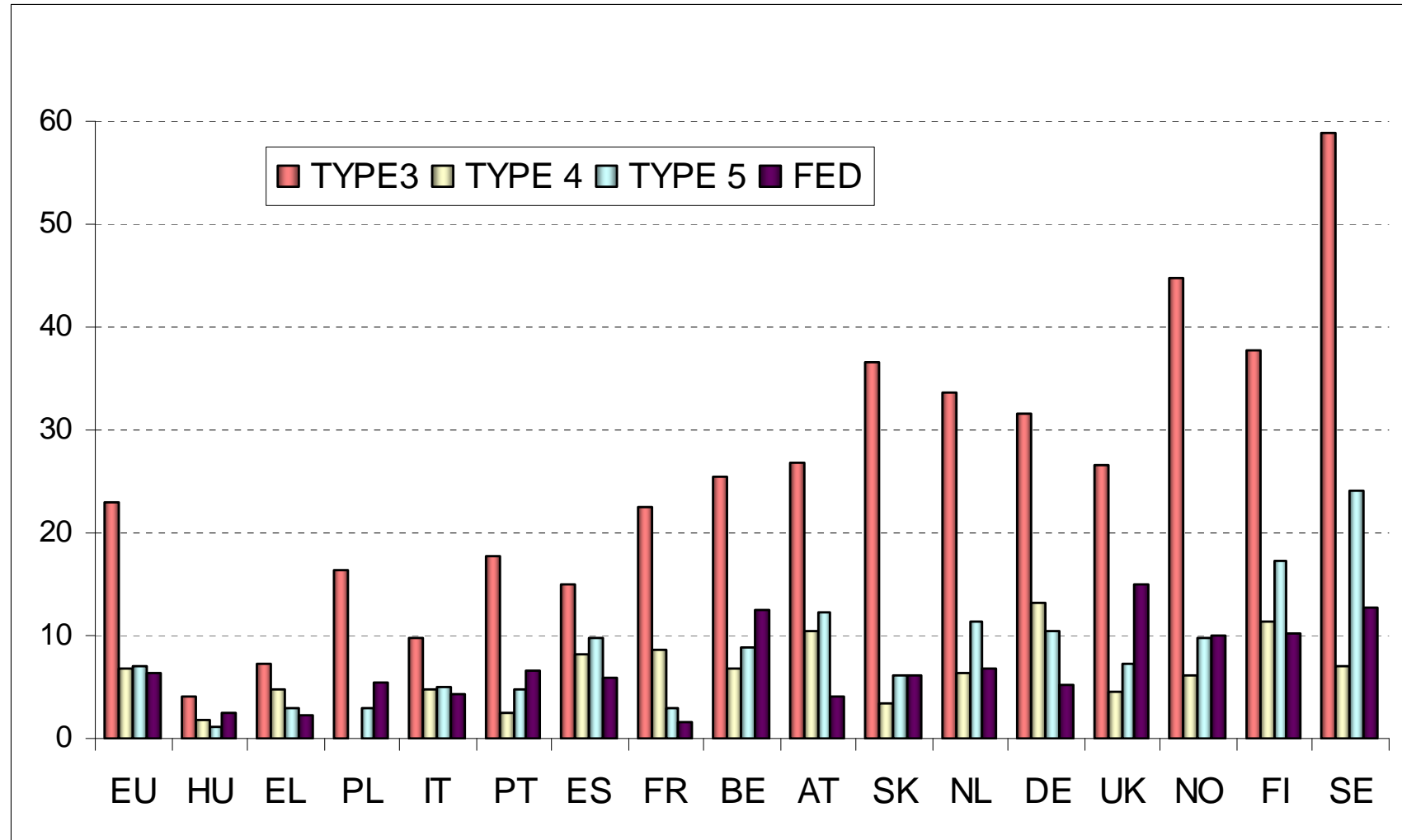
24 countries,
population 25-64,
in %



The overall participation rate in adult learning



Participation rates by type of adult learning



Do we understand differences across countries?

AES data tell us two things:

- (1) The most salient factor for the overall level of participation in adult learning is the development of on-the-job training, that is, a learning-oriented work environment.**
- (2) Low overall levels of participation in adult learning go along with a high degree of inequality regarding access to learning opportunities. Social inclusion of the lower educated is a key to higher levels of participation.**

Thank you for your attention!



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