



WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIFE ?

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Ms. Amira Tlili, Policy analyst and project coordinator,
OECD

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Let's know each other!



*When were the last elections in
your countries ?*



Were you in age to vote ?



Did you vote ?



In general youth voting rates are low.

- *Do you know participation rates of young people to the elections in your countries ?*



35 member states in the OECD





What is the gap in percentage points in the voter turnout among youth aged 18- 24 compared to the participation of the age group 25-50?

A: 17%

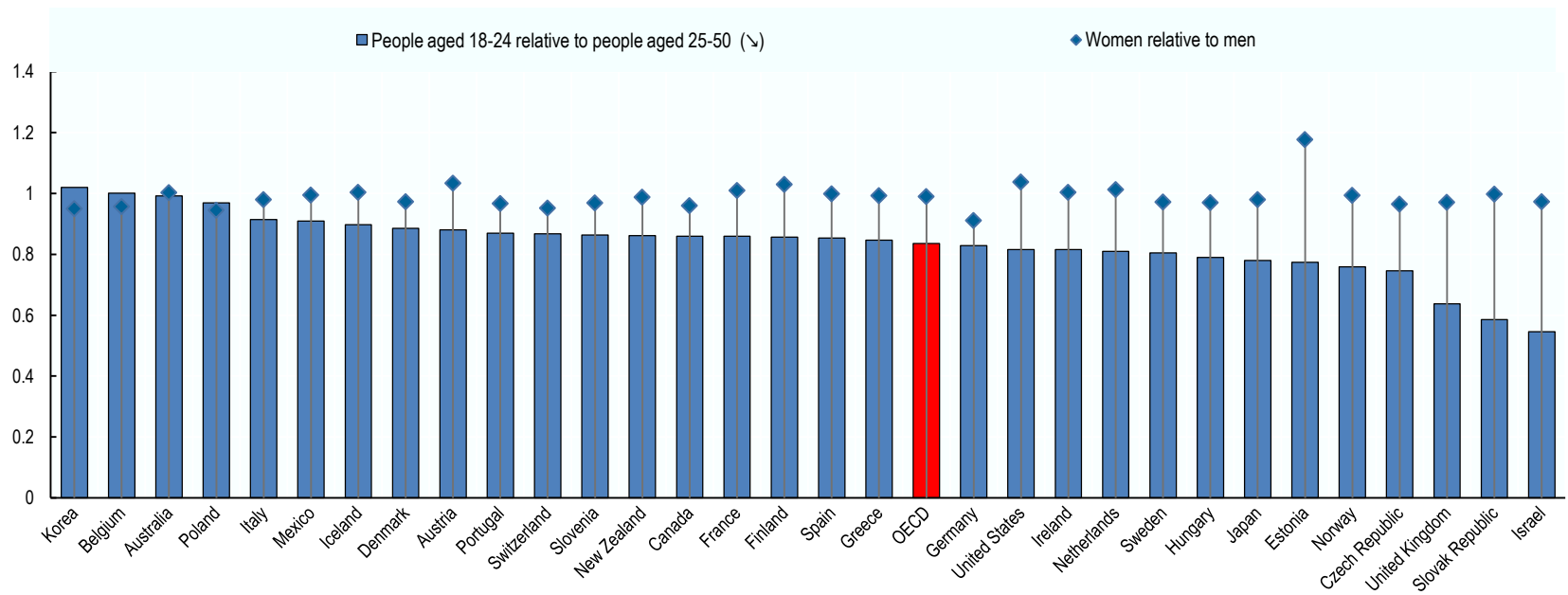
B: 7%

C: 0.7%



Answer: 17%

Figure 3. Voter turnout ratios for different population groups (2012/13)



Source: Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (CSES 2011-2016) and 2012 European Social Survey for other countries.



OECD Quiz // Q2

In how many OECD countries do young people, aged 15-29, express less trust in government than the generation 50+? [*among 30 countries, 2016*]

A: 12

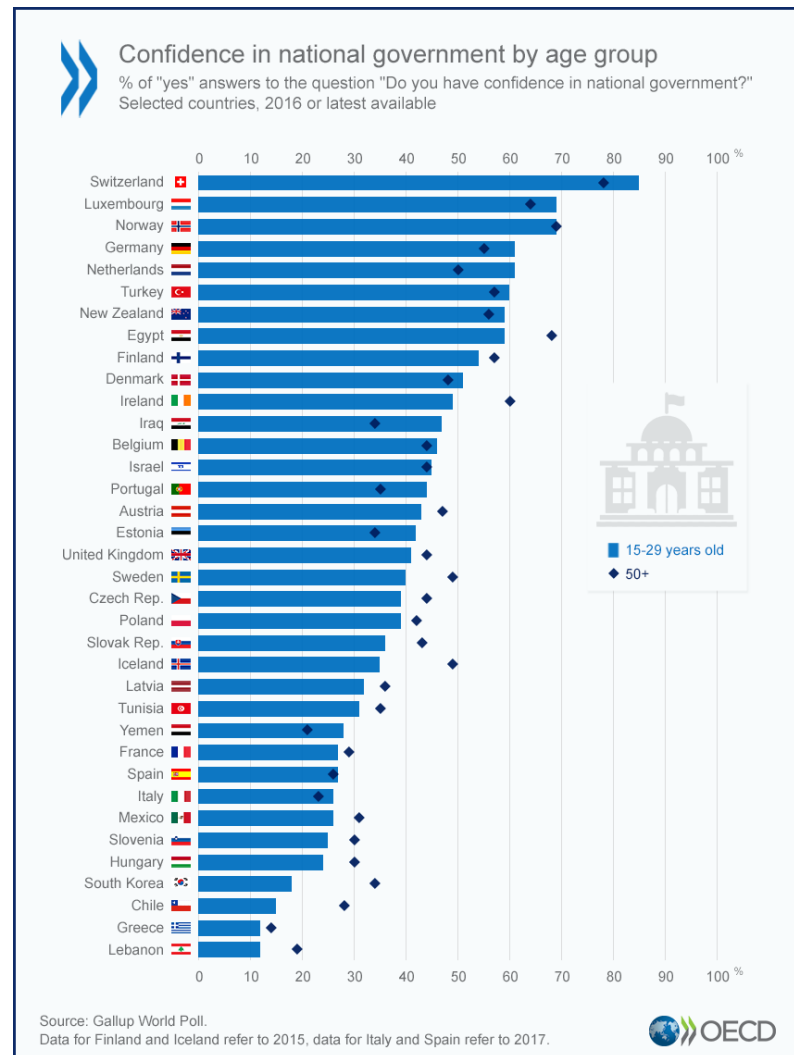
B: 24

C: 17



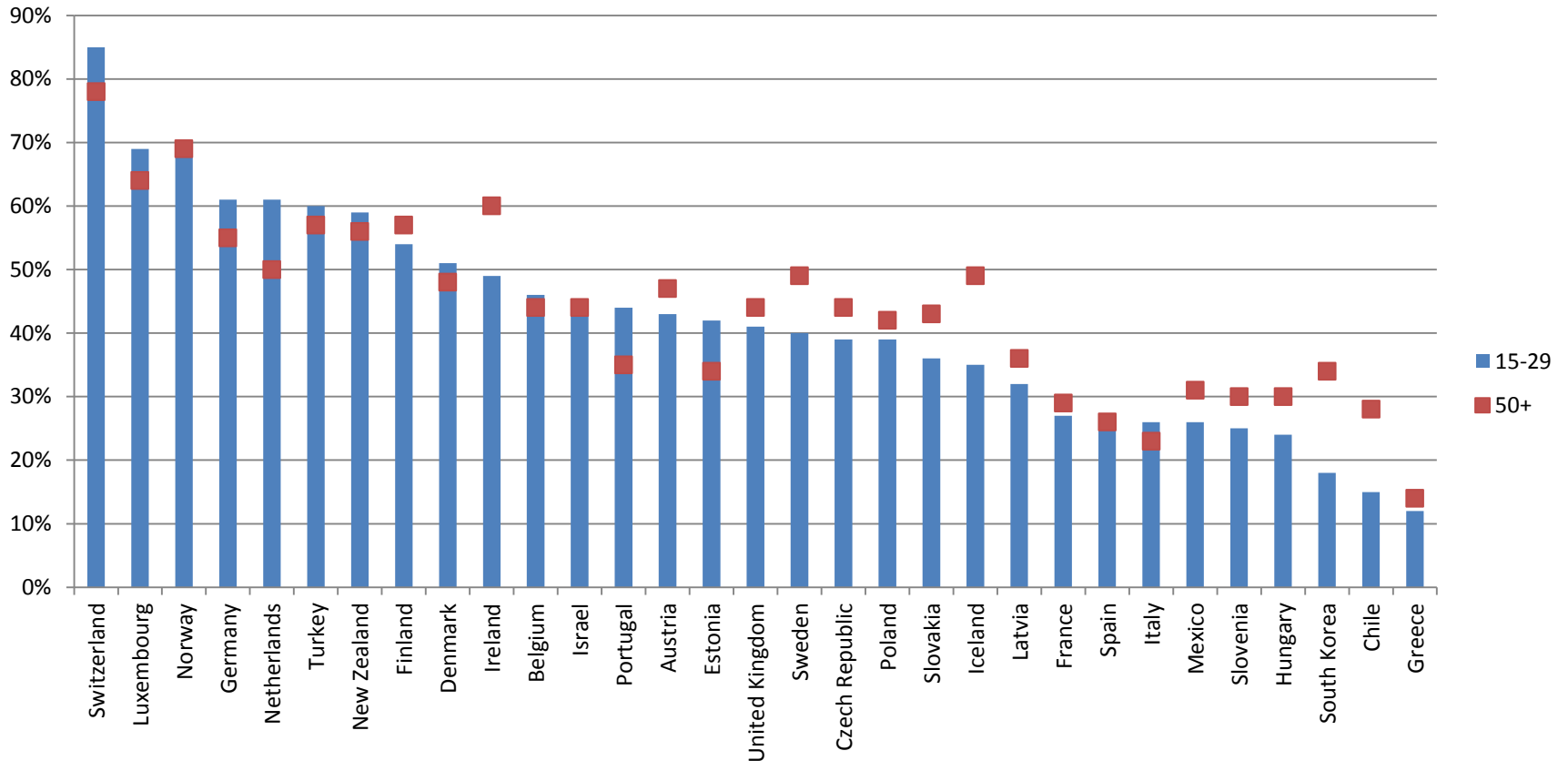
Answer: In 17 of 30 OECD countries

Figure 2. Young people's trust in government, 2016





Young people's trust in government across OECD countries, 2016



Note: % of "yes" answers to the question "Do you have confidence in national government?" Results for OECD countries by age group, 2016 or latest available (Finland and Iceland: 2015; Italy and Spain: 2017). *Source:* Gallup World Poll



OECD Quiz // Q3

What percentage of the annual public budget among OECD countries is allocated to youth-related expenditures on average?

A: 8%

B: 24%

C: We don't know



Answer:

We don't know!



What is the share of members of cabinet below 40 years (February 2018)?

A: 12%

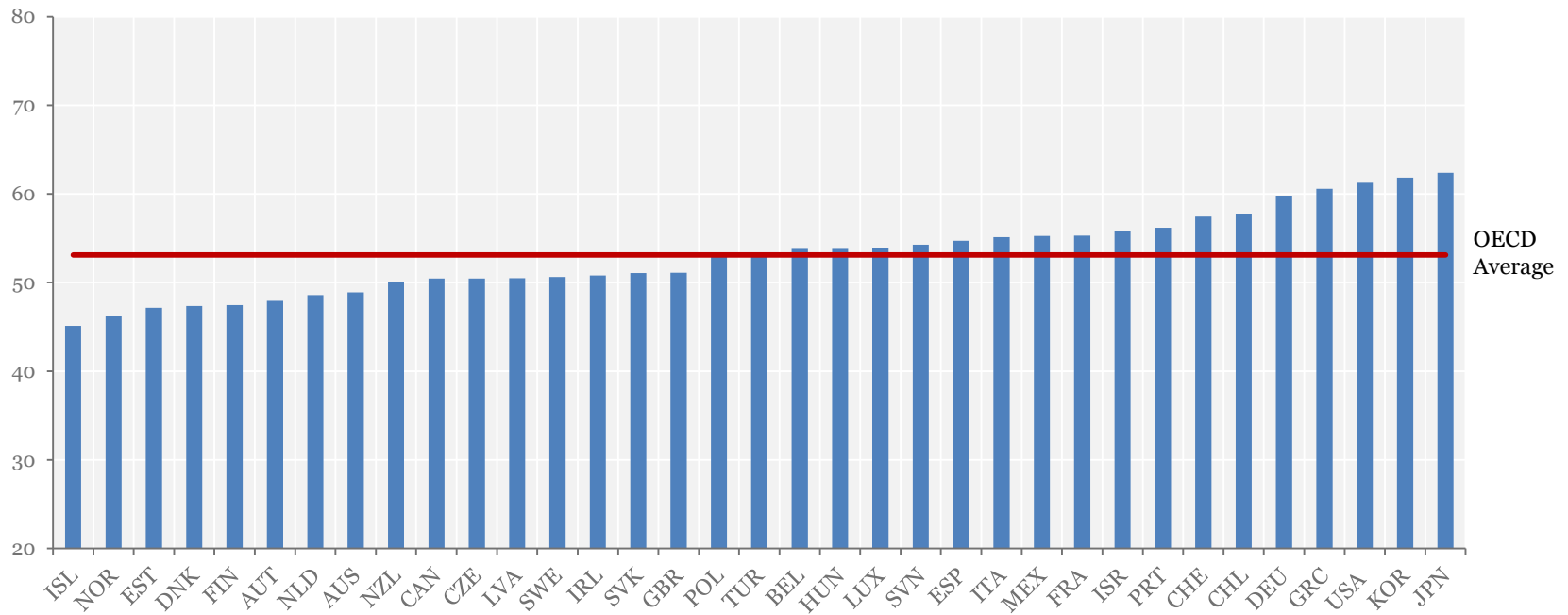
B: 8%

C: 15%



Answer: 8%

Figure 5. Average age of cabinet members across OECD countries



Note: Data for one cabinet member in Canada and three members of cabinet in Mexico could not be found. Representatives were selected based on the Members of Cabinet listed on the official government websites.

Source: OECD's calculation based on available information on government websites.



What is the share of young people (18-34) employed in the central government (2015)?

A: 18%

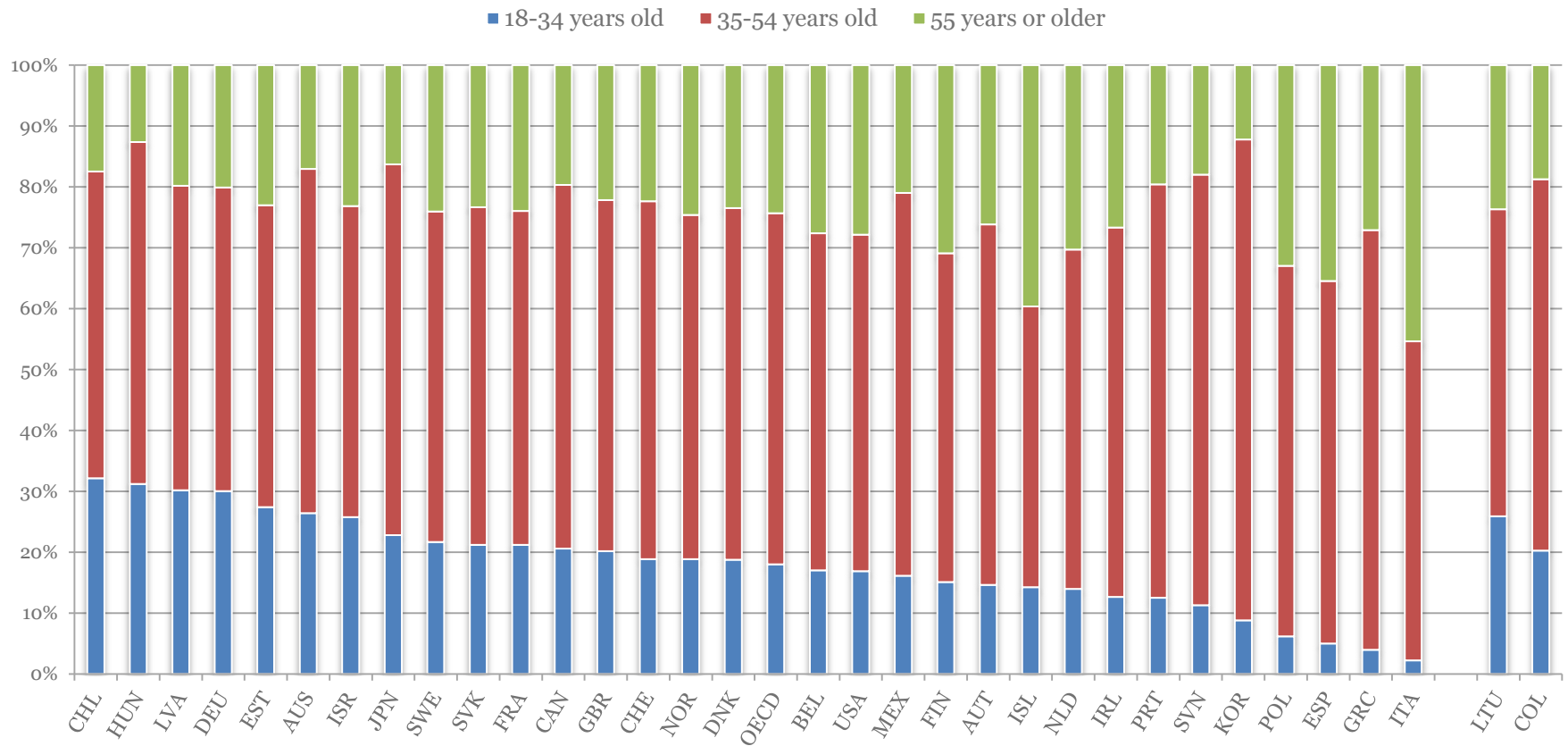
B: 25%

C: 9%



Answer: 18%

Figure 6. Share of people employed in the Central Government by age group, 2015



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments. Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.



Youth representation in State institutions - Numbers...

- The average age of cabinet members varies between 45 years and 62.4 years.
- 4 of the 5 youngest cabinets across the OECD countries are located in Nordic countries.
- As of February 2018, only 51 of the current cabinet members were under 40 (8%)
only 20 were 35 years or younger (3%).



What is the share of young people (18-34) in parliaments (2016)?

A: 18%

B: 25%

C: 9%



Answer:

In 2016, the average of parliamentarians below 40 years in OECD countries' single or lower houses stood at 20.5%

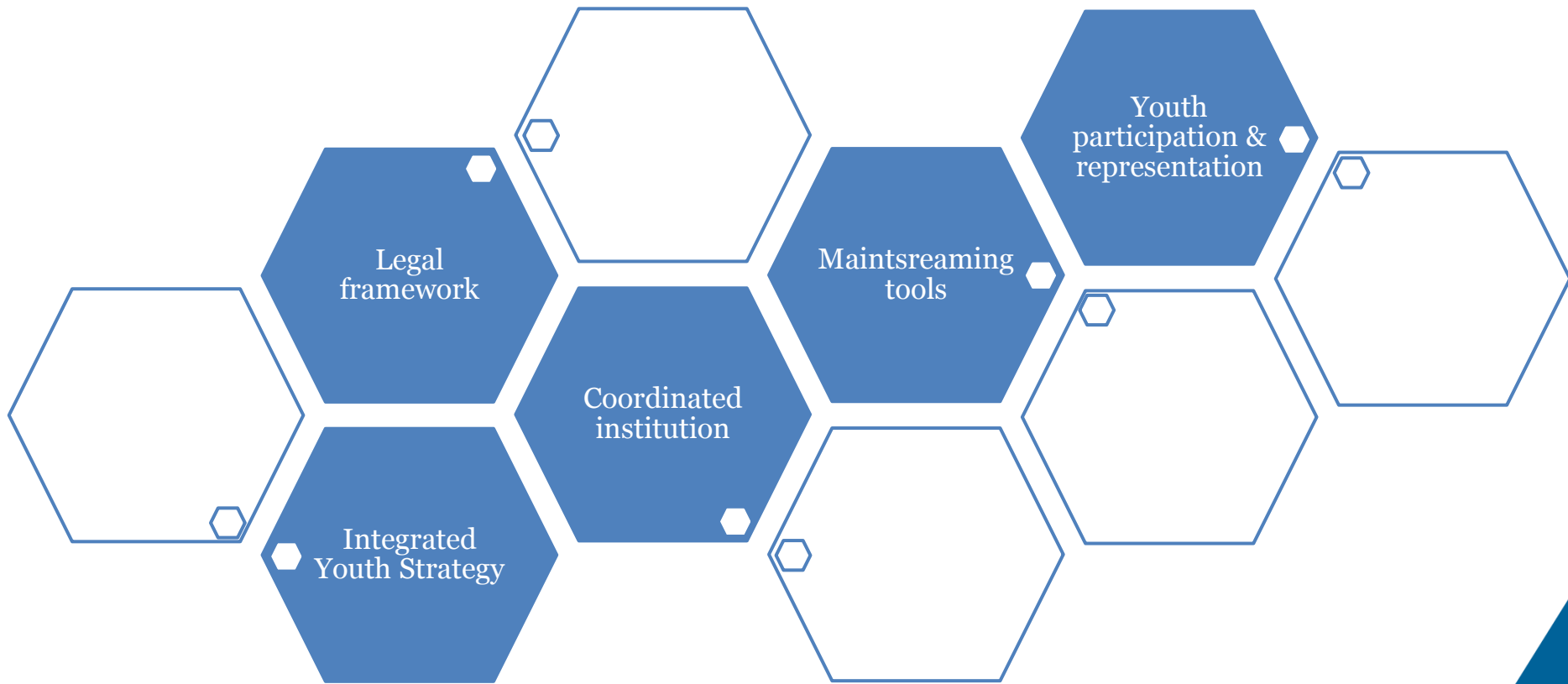


In your opinion:

- *What are the causes of low youth engagement and participation in public life ?*
- *What can governments do to improve this ?*



Start with concrete actions:





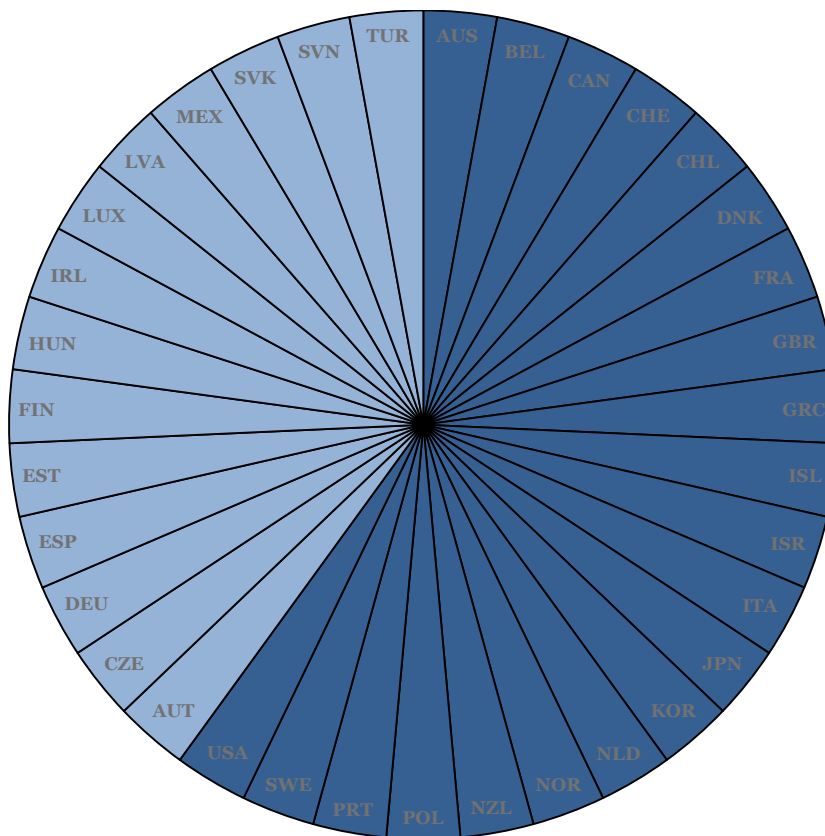
1/ Integrated National Youth Strategies

- ✓ 77% of OECD countries have a multi-year youth strategy at the national level.
- ✓ 40% of OECD countries have implemented a national youth policy (March 2018)



Two-fifths of OECD countries currently have national youth strategies, 2018

OECD countries that currently have national youth



OECD countries that do not currently have national youth

Note: Data refers to the presence of national youth policies recorded as of March 2018. The national youth policy of Turkey does not foresee an expiry date but it mentions that the document will be reviewed and updated in periods of four years.

Source: OECD calculations based on Youth Policy (database), Council of Europe (database), European Commission EACEA National Policies Platform (database), official websites of national administrations.



National Youth Strategies

- ✓ inclusive
- ✓ participatory
- ✓ gender-responsive
- ✓ comprehensive
- ✓ knowledge-based
- ✓ evidence-informed
- ✓ fully resourced
- ✓ and accountable



Example: National youth strategies in Ireland

- In **Ireland**, the Department of Youth Affairs in charge of drafting the National Youth Strategy 2015-20 included young people in the consultation process.
 - Online surveys, to reach out to a maximum number of stakeholders and make a variety of voices heard.
 - The priorities set in the strategy emerged directly from the consultations.



2/ Public Institutions: leadership and coordination

- Youth policy is by nature cross-cutting → the main challenges of implementing youth policies is to allocate clear responsibilities across various stakeholders
- At least **half of OECD countries** have a dedicated co-ordination mechanism for youth matters in place such as:
 - inter-ministerial bodies,
 - youth focal points,
 - ad hoc forms of co-ordination.



- In **Canada**, the Prime Minister is also the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Youth.
 - young people's concerns at the top of government's priorities.
- In **Slovenia**, the co-ordination of youth policies is facilitated by 17 youth co-ordinators. The youth co-ordinators are based in line ministries and act as accelerators of information and focal points for the country's youth office.



What can governments do to improve youth participation in public life ?

Beyond well coordinated and well lead strategies, young people need services that responds to their specific needs.

To understand what young people need, governments should adopt a ‘youth lense’:

- ✓ youth councils
- ✓ budgets
- ✓ checks
- ✓ Innovative participation means



3/ Youth Mainstreaming (Adopting a Youth lense)

- Youth mainstreaming requires policy makers to take into account the **specific needs** of young people into decision-making processes.

Tools used to make this happen include:

- “**youth checks**”, currently applied by 5 OECD countries to assess the expected impact of laws on young people,
- **youth-sensitive budgeting** practices, which may include efforts to provide youth-friendly budget information, information on public investments on young people and opportunities for participatory budgeting targeting youth in particular.



Youth Checks

→ Youth checks are used to assess the anticipated impact of new regulations on young men and women

(Not widely used yet, so it is difficult to draw conclusions)

- In **Flanders (Belgium)**, a child and youth impact report must accompany all legislative proposals with a direct impact on the interests of persons under the age of 25 .
- In **Austria**, any ministry proposing legislation needs to answer the question “**What is the impact of the proposed legislation on young people?**”
 - if the new legislation is expected to affect a group of at least 10,000 young people (0-30 years). The Federal Ministry on Women, Families and Youth oversees implementation. The Austrian Youth Council and other youth stakeholders can submit comments on draft regulation in written form.



Youth-sensitive budgeting

- Ensure that the needs and interests of young people are addressed in government expenditure.

- While there is no evidence of youth-sensitive budgeting practices in the national budget cycle in any OECD country until now, member countries' experiences with conducting “Child-sensitive budgeting” and “Gender-sensitive budgeting” can be a valuable source of inspiration and lessons from these practices can help identify success factors:
 - political will, capacity and skills issues, availability of age-disaggregated data, civil society engagement, scope).

- For example, in the **UK**, the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2007-2015 stipulates that all sectors and ministries must allocate at least 25% of their total annual budget in support of youth development.



Information on public investments on young people

- ➔ Information on public investments on young people, is also key.
- For example in **Mexico**, the National Congress of Mexico approved a law in 2013 introducing “child spending markers” requiring all ministries to report child-centred expenditure to the Ministry of Finance.
 - This resulted in total **public investment in children increase by 4%** between 2014 and 2015 !



Youth-friendly budget information

- **Australia** designed the website “Your budget 2017-18” to present the federal budget with opportunities to navigate easily across policy fields and programmes (e.g. education, skills and training, health, housing, etc.).
- **Slovenia** presented the national budget for 2017 in form of infographics including information on public expenditures in the fields of education, science and sport.
- In **Hong Kong**, a comic book introduces youth to the world of public budgets and finance in a playful and practical way.
 - (“provide a \$1,000 allowance to students receiving student financial assistance. This will cost \$570 million”).



Youth Participatory Budgeting

- ➔ Participatory budgeting is a method to seek the views of citizens and incorporate these in the allocation of public resources.

- **In 2013, Boston became the first American city to create a youth-led participatory budgeting process.**
 - 4th year,
 - over 2,000 Boston youth aged 12-25 to
 - determine how to spend 1 million dollars of the city's capital budget.
 - Young people from across the city were asked to suggest ideas for projects to improve parks, streets, schools...
 - Youth volunteers, called Change Agents, reviewed the ideas and turned them into proposals based on pre-set criteria (e.g. should benefit the public, cost at least 25,000 USD, and have a lifespan of at least five years).
 - Proposals with the highest votes received from the young participants were implemented.



Youth Participatory Budgeting

- **Portugal** developed the first government initiative of this sort at national level.
- Young people aged 14 to 30 were able to present proposals and vote on the finalists in the first year of implementation (2017).
 - Via special webpage or at “face-to-face meetings” taking place all across Portugal.
 - Young people allocated 300,000 Euros across a variety of areas: inclusive sport, social innovation, education for the sciences and environmental sustainability. Each project could receive maximum amount of 75,000 Euros.



5/ Youth participation & representation

- Enabling environment (civil rights, access to info, freedom of speech..)
- Youth literacy (civic & citizenship education)
- Participation in the policy cycle
- Youth-specific commitments in national open government action plans
- Open data
- Volunteering
- National youth councils



Youth councils

- **27 OECD countries have active National youth councils.**
- Main responsibilities :
 - consultations with governmental bodies,
 - advocacy and lobby work
 - capacity building



Youth councils – OECD examples

- In **Canada**, the **Youth Council of the Prime Minister** is a group of young Canadians who provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on issues important to them and to all Canadians.
 - supports dialogue between young people and the central authorities.
 - Members of the Youth Council meet online and in person several times a year to discuss issues of interest to them, their community and their country.
 - In Quebec, when a major project is presented to the Council of Ministers, minutes are presented to the Council on the impact of these youth projects. These “minutes” are the subject of an analysis by the Executive Council and the Youth Secretariat can comment on the minutes when a subject is considered important and timely.



Youth councils – OECD examples

- **In France, the Youth Policy Advisory Council (Conseil d’Orientation des Politiques de la Jeunesse, COJ),** created in 2016, acts as administrative advisory committee to the Prime Minister’s Office.
 - responsible for creating coherent and transversal public policies concerning young people
 - may be consulted on legislative proposals of relevance to young people
 - can examine any question of general interest in the field of youth policy
 - can present proposals to the government in order to improve the situation of young people.
 - An annual report of its activities is published and sent to the government.



Youth service centres

- Offer very wide scope of services:
 - free-of-charge after-school events such as cultural, leisure and sports activities
 - support for vulnerable young people (homeless youth, prevention of drug, access to justice and health counselling, etc.)
- At least 21 OECD countries have created Youth Information Centres – online and/or offline – to better inform young people about the available services = One-stop shop



Youth service centres – OECD examples

- In **Sweden**, Youth Guidance Centres provide services for young people between 12 and 25 years focusing on promoting sexual health, strengthening identity, personality development as well as prevention and early detection of mental health issues. The centres, in all municipalities, collaborate with adolescent psychiatry, health care, schools and other municipal actors.
 - The website Youmo.se, available in different languages, provides information about health, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- In **France**, Youth Information (Info-jeunes) is a network of 1,300 structures designated offering a free, anonymous and quality space where young people can find information on education, vocational training, jobs, employment, housing, law, health, recreation, culture and international mobility.
 - The information provided is updated, verified adapted to the needs of young audiences.



Reaching out to youth

- Reaching out to young people through communication channels that truly speak to youth is key.
- Social media platforms can be used to inform young people but also to gather their opinion and feedback on policies, programmes and activities.
- In **Germany**, the online portal “**Ich mache Politik**” (I do politics) invites young people to participate in decision-making at federal level. The project is run by the German Federal Youth Council.
 - Between 2014 and 2017, young people (12-17) were invited to share their views on the formulation of the Demography Strategy of the government.
 - Through the e-participation tool (ePartool), youth could bring in their ideas.
 - In a second step, they were invited to vote upon the most important ideas.
 - In the end, the platform allows young people to see how their contributions were dealt with and whether their input was taken into account.

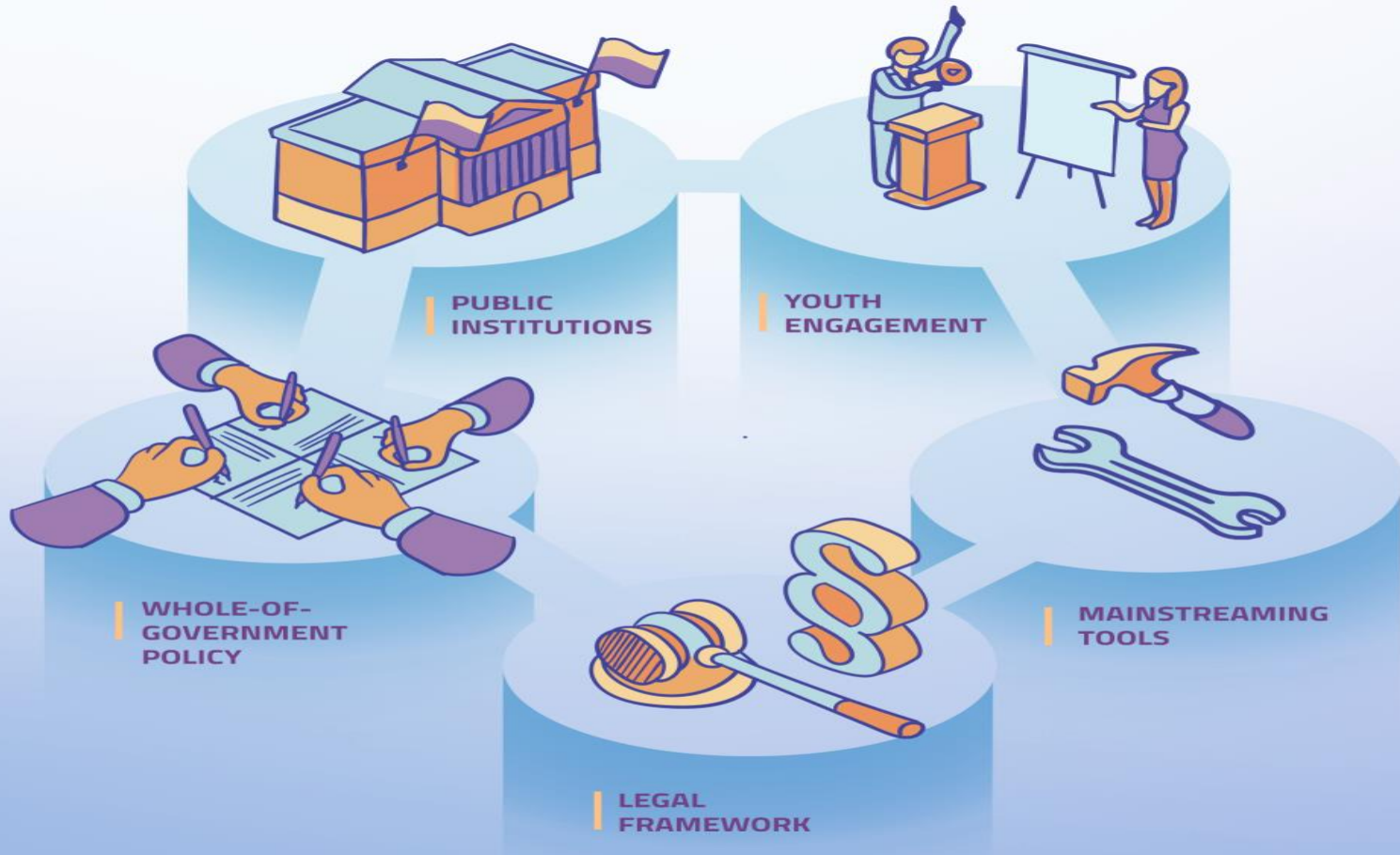


6/ Legal frameworks

- There is no existing binding international framework on youth...
- But legal frameworks are important to address the gaps in youth representation, and participation.
- For example, the Tunisian municipal electoral law requires to have 1 young amongst the 4 first members on each list.



Bridging the “governance gap” for youth engagement and empowerment





Questions?



CONTACT

TLILI Amira, Policy Analyst and Project Manager, GOV

amira.tlili@oecd.org

Stephanie Attil, Junior Policy Analyst, GOV

stephanie.attil@oecd.org

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