



**90<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
of SIEC-ISBE/ International Society for  
Business Education**

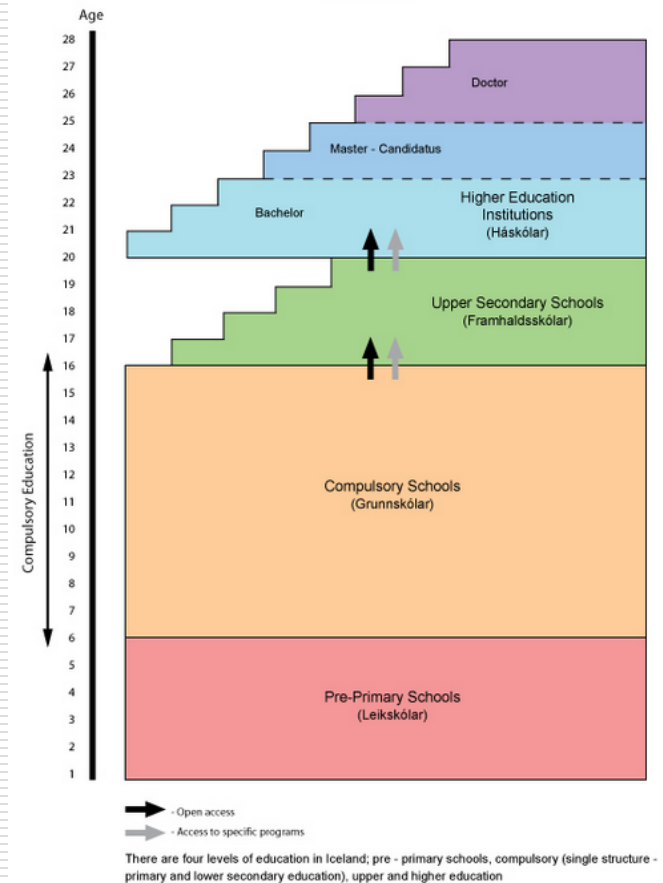
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# The Icelandic Educational System – Brief Introduction

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# The School System

- Pre-School for children up to 6 years of age – paid by parents.
- Compulsory for children 6-16 years of age
- Upper secondary schools for 16+ (3+ years).
- University for 19+ years of age.



# Student population

www.hagstofa.is - menntun

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## Pupils/students by education level

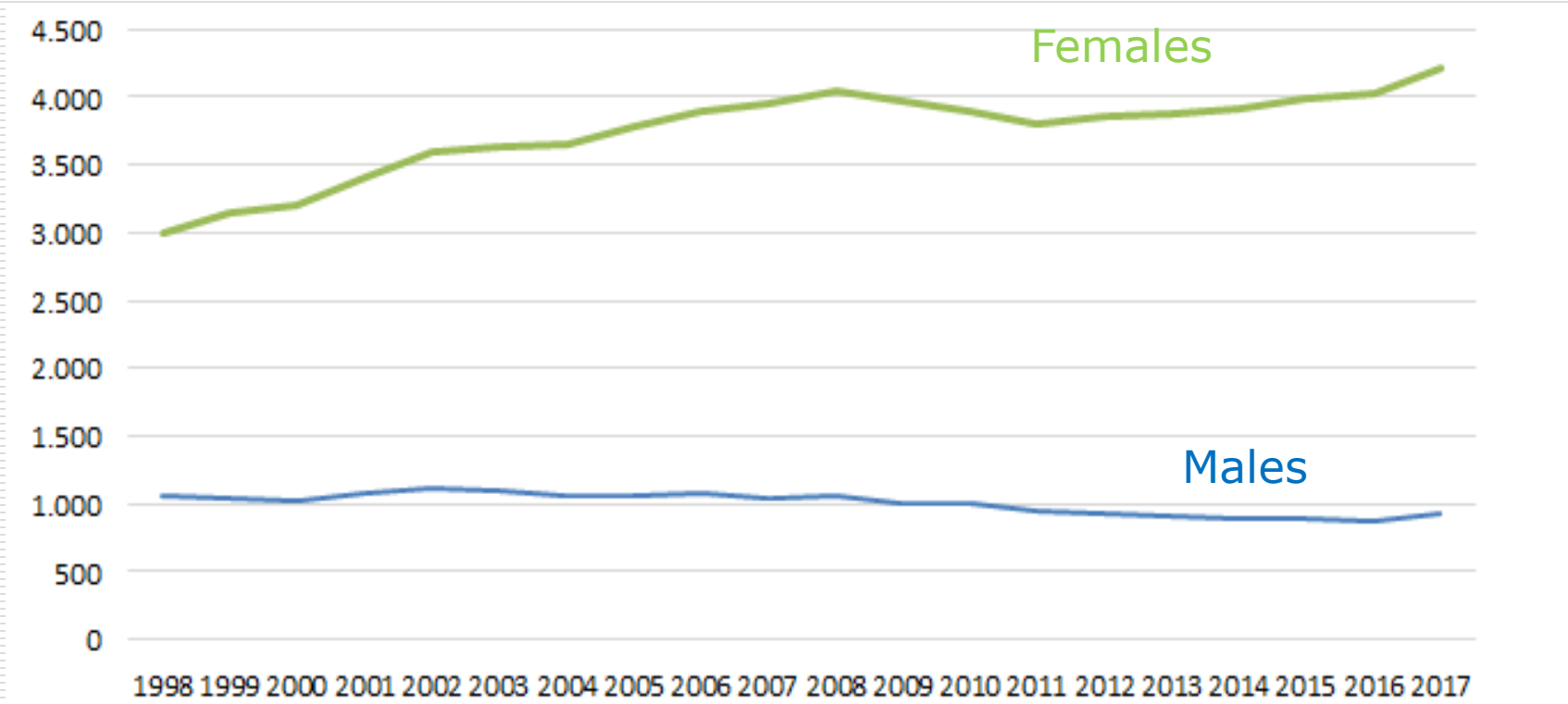
Number of pupils	2005	2010	2016
Pre-primary level	16,864	18,961	19,090
Compulsory school	44,336	42,539	44,527
Upper secondary level	23,345	25,168	22,564
Post-secondary non-tertiary education	784	990	844
First stage of tertiary education	15,686	18,368	17,642
Second stage of tertiary education	156	478	469

# Compulsory Schools / Elementary Schools

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- ❑ The school year about 10 months, from late August to mid June.
- ❑ 170 elementary schools in Iceland.
- ❑ Core subjects are: math, Icelandic, English, Danish, social and religious studies, natural science, arts and craft, ICT and physical education.
- ❑ Most schools public – few schools private.
- ❑ Different school forms.

# Teachers by Gender in Elementary schools - Development 1998-2017



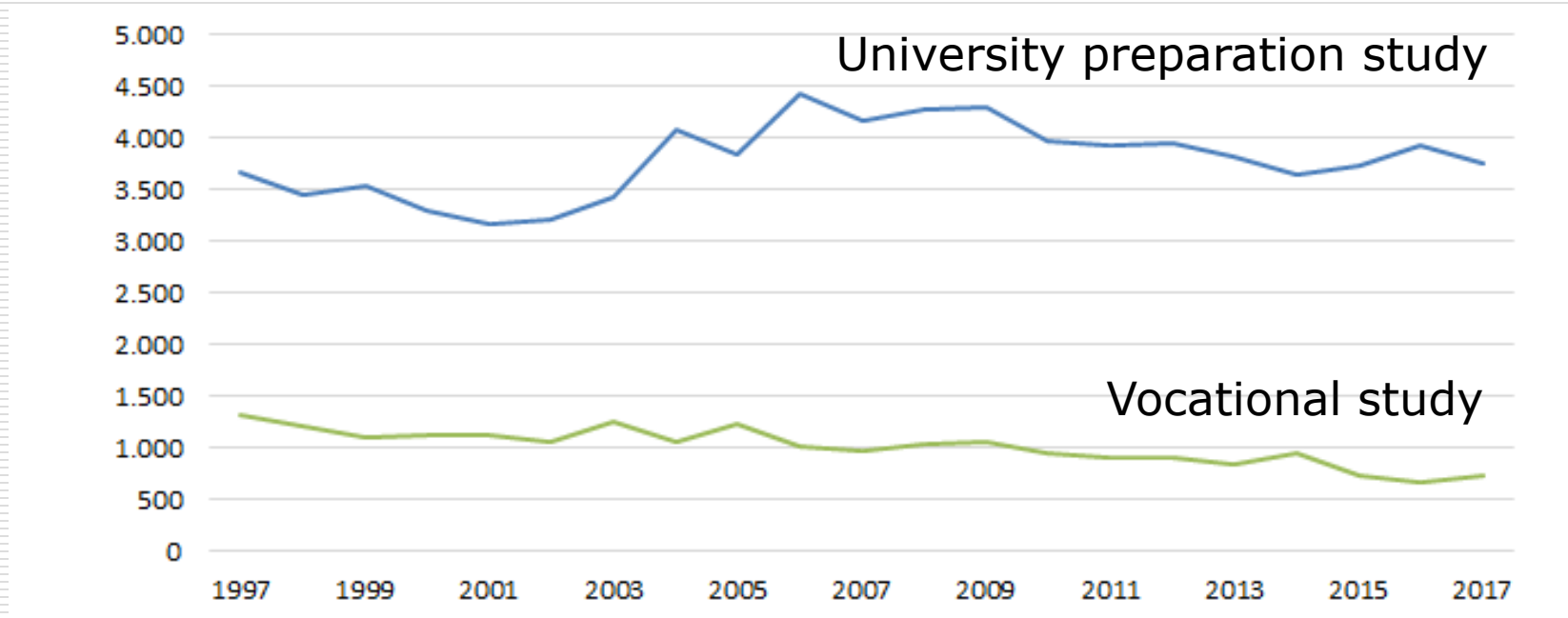
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# Upper secondary Schools in Iceland

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- ❑ Just over 30 upper secondary schools in Iceland – public and private.
- ❑ Students pay registration fees and pay for the books themselves – tuition fees at private schools.
- ❑ Preparation for university studies – natural science and social science the most popular subjects.
- ❑ Vocational studies for specific work – electrician and assistant nursing the most popular subjects.
- ❑ The school year about 9,5 months, from late August until end of May.

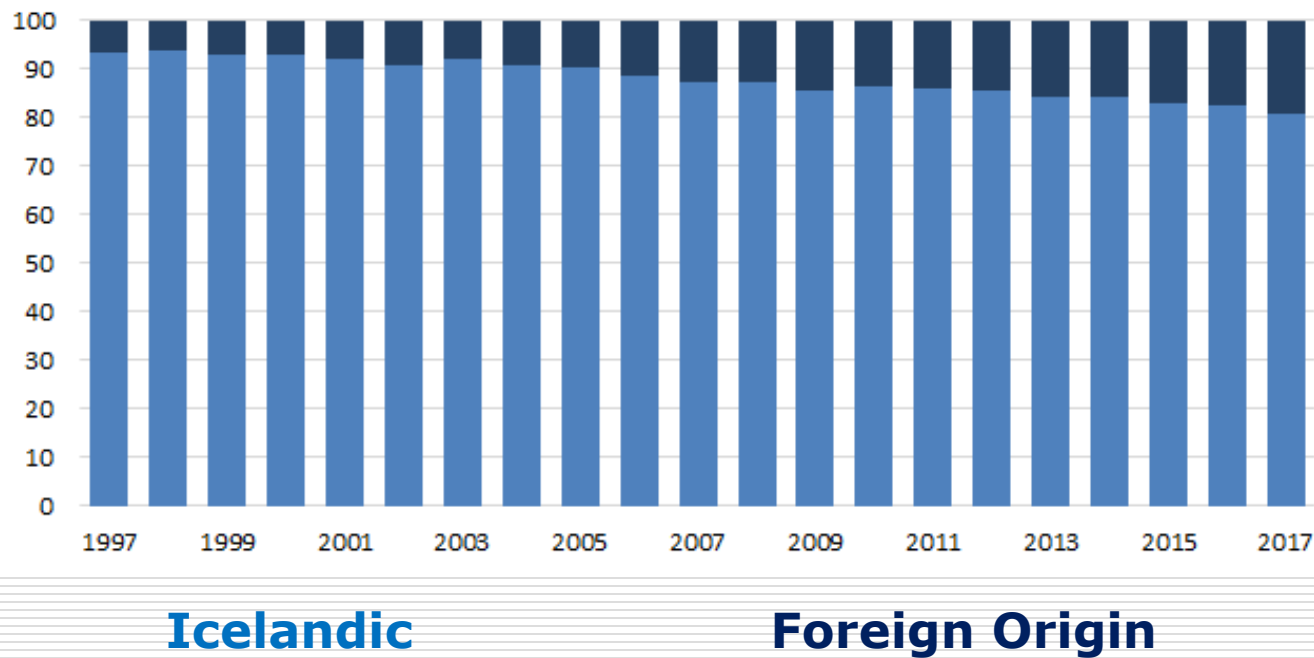
# 1st year Students in Upper Secondary Education 1997-2017



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# 1st year Students in Upper Secondary Education 1997-2017

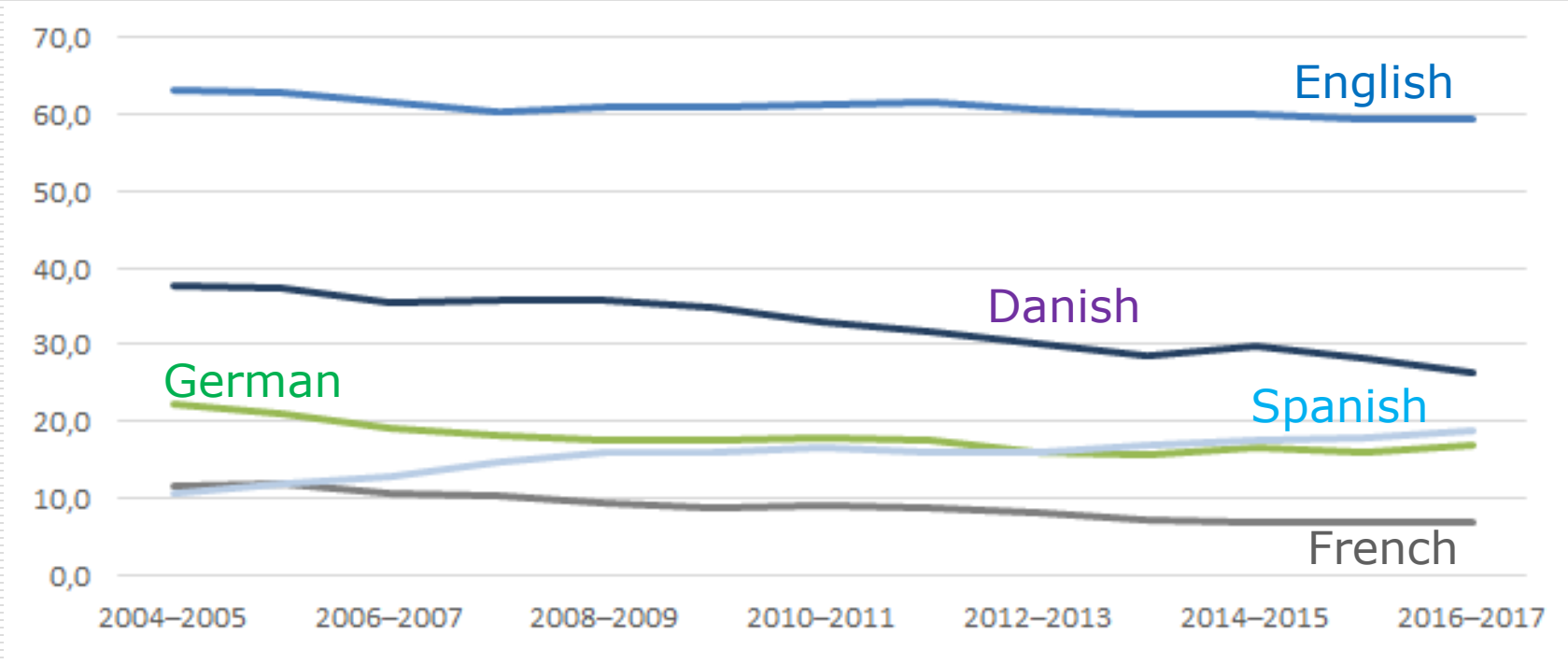
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# The most popular languages in Upper Secondary Schools 2004-2017



% of students who learn different languages.

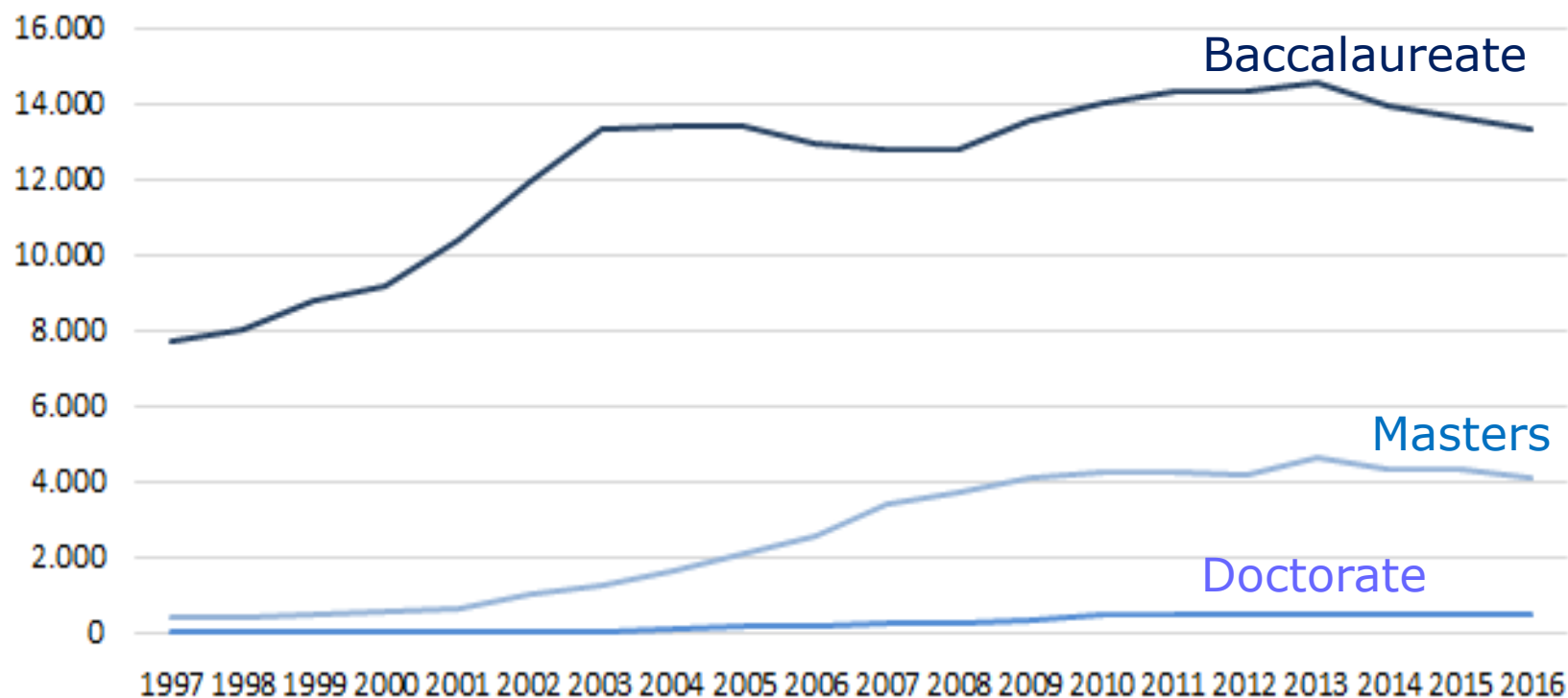
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# Universities in Iceland

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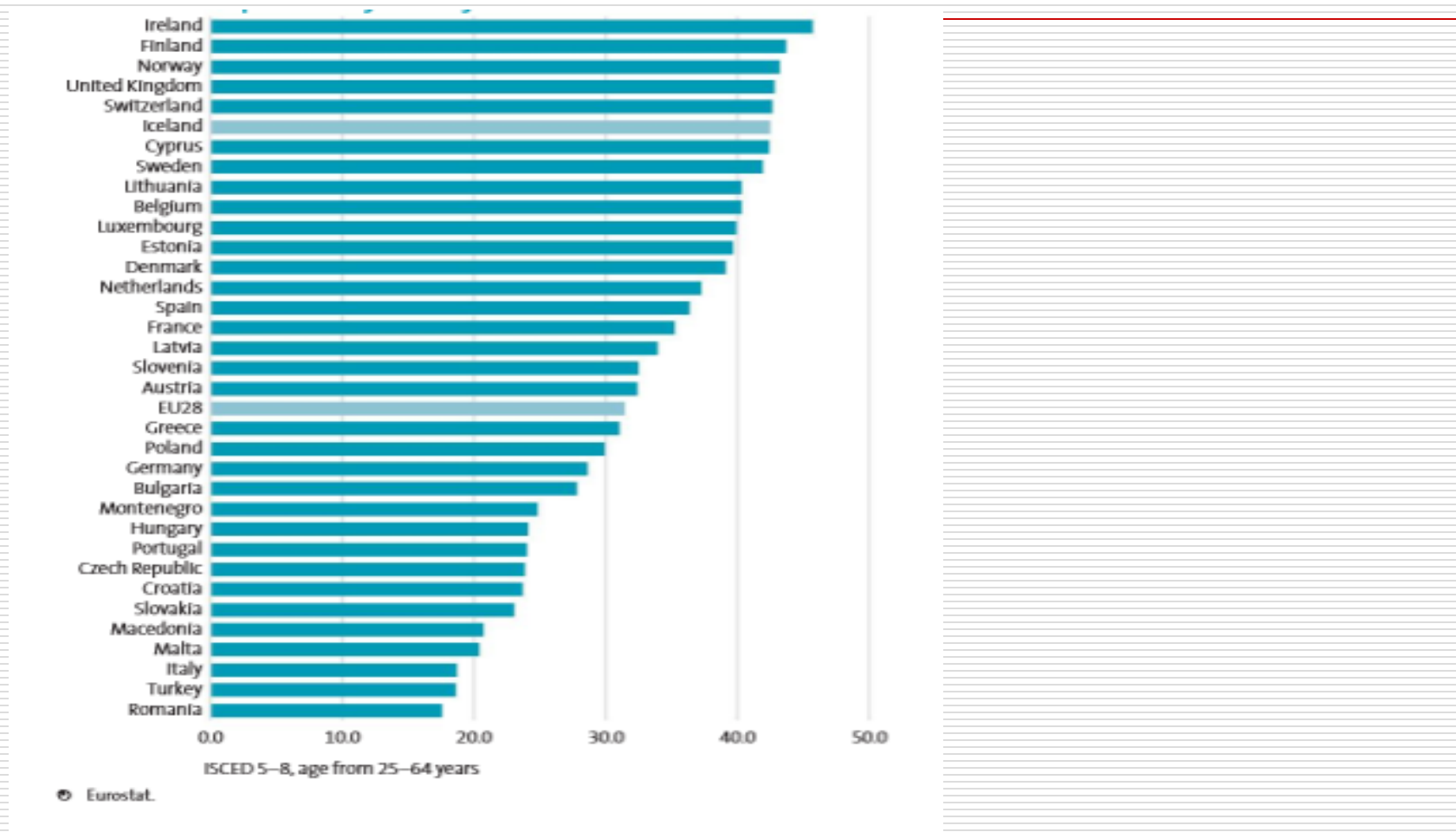
- ❑ Seven universities – many for such a small country?
- ❑ Upper secondary school diploma required to enter an university.
- ❑ Entrance examination into specific subjects at different univ., nursing, law, medicine,
- ❑ Public and private universities – difference in tuition / registration fees.
- ❑ Females 63% vs. males 37%
- ❑ Business the most popular subject followed by computer science.

# Univ. Students 1997-2016



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# Population by tertiary educational level 2017



# Challenges in Icelandic Education

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- ❑ Aging teacher's population.
- ❑ Sex ratio in the teaching profession.
- ❑ Male vs. female students in higher education.
- ❑ Three years vs. four years education at the upper secondary school level – results.
- ❑ High dropout rates at the upper secondary school level.
- ❑ Graduation rates and length of student's studytime.
- ❑ Student work too much along with school.
- ❑ Icelandic as a second language for foreign born children.
- ❑ Keeping up with students concerning the 4th revolution.

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Thank you

