



EVIDENCE AND EXPERTS IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD

Tracey Burns

London
13 June 2018



What

The post-truth world where reality becomes fungible

- Virality seems privileged over quality in the distribution of information
- Truth and fact are losing currency

Scarcity of attention and abundance of information

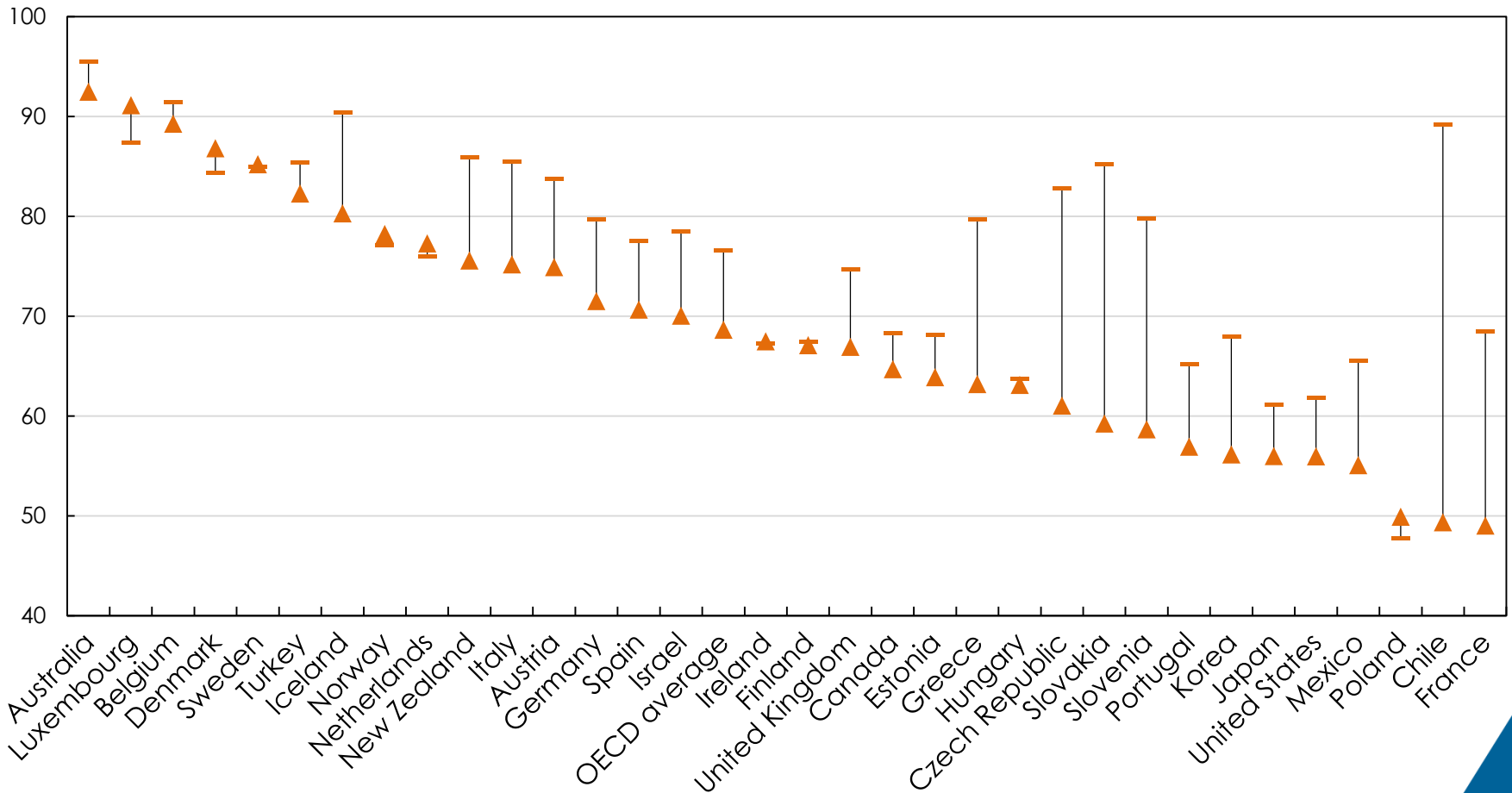
- Algorithms sort us into groups of like-minded individuals create echo chambers that amplify our views, leave us uninformed of opposing arguments, and polarise our societies



Voter turnout

— 1990s

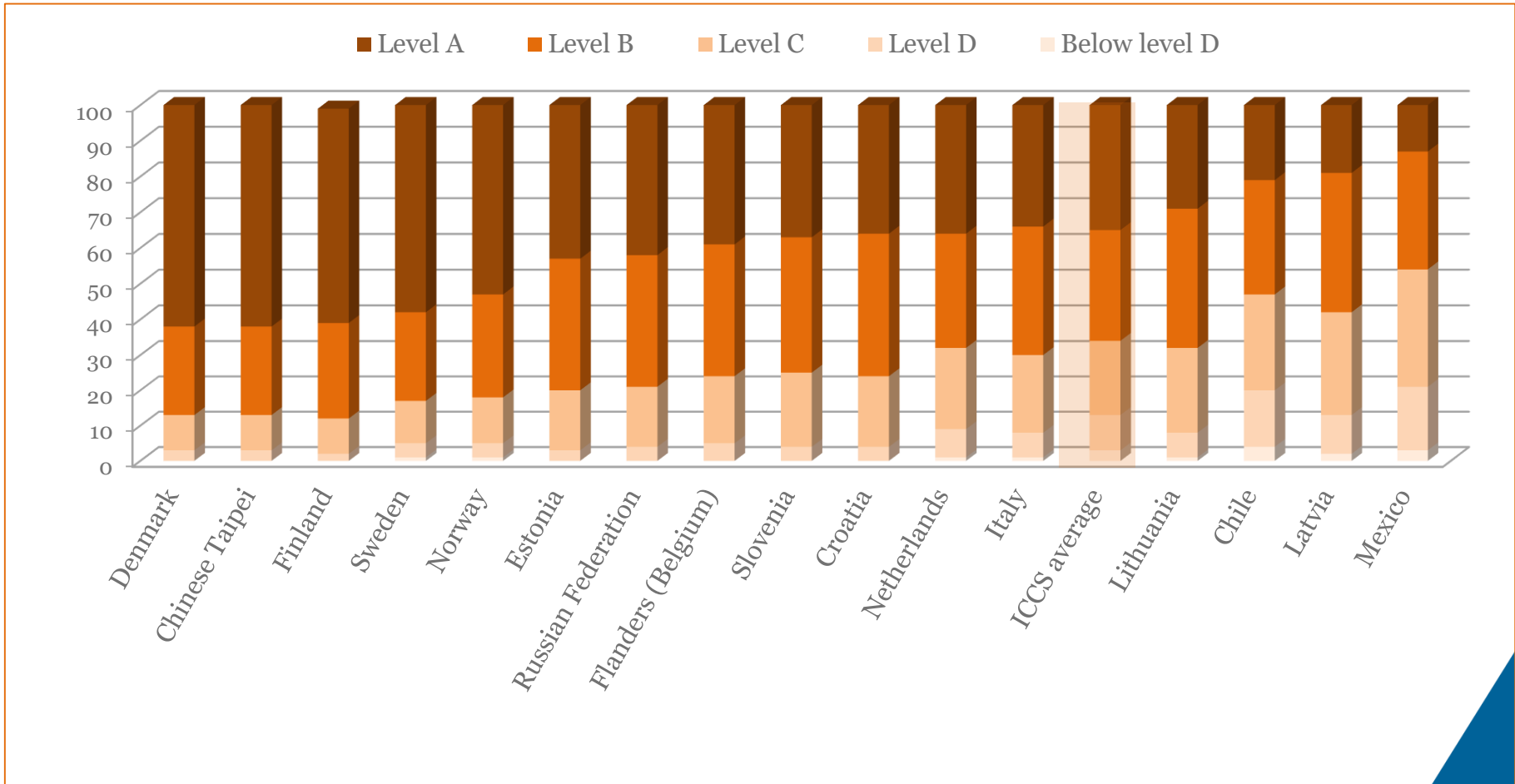
▲ 2010s





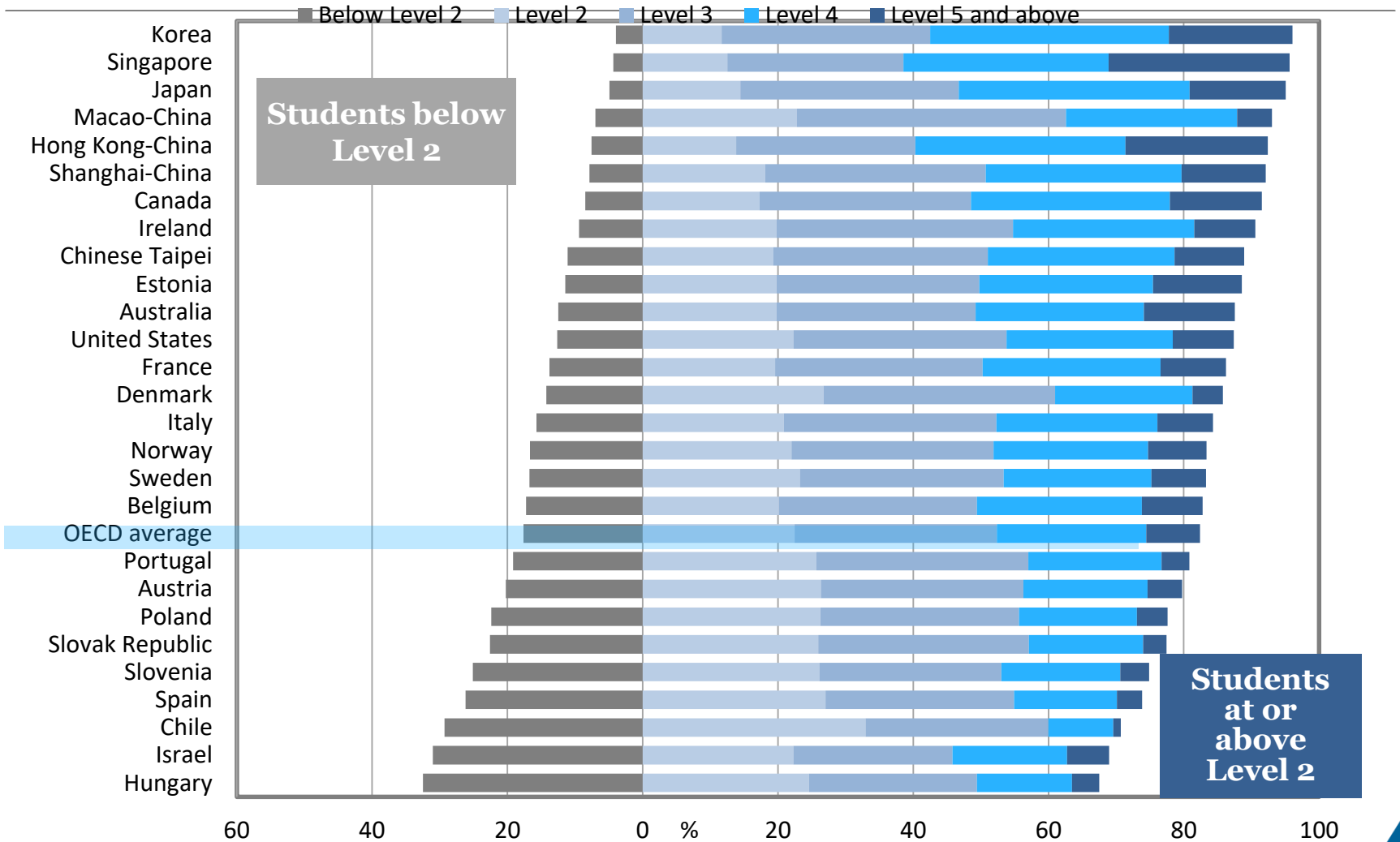
Civic knowledge proficiency

International Civics and Citizenship Study, 2016





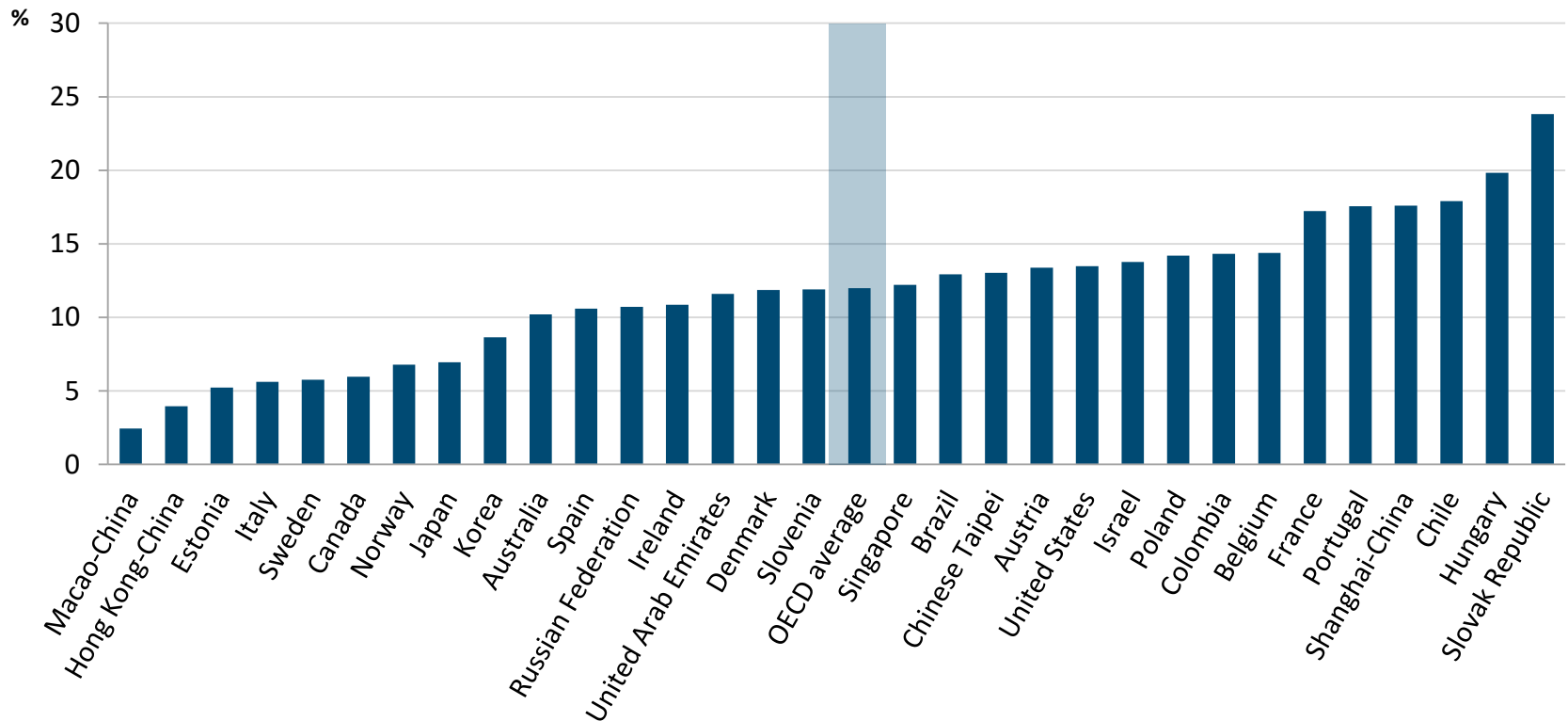
Digital reading skills





ESCS and digital skills

Variation in digital reading performance explained by socio-economic status, 2012

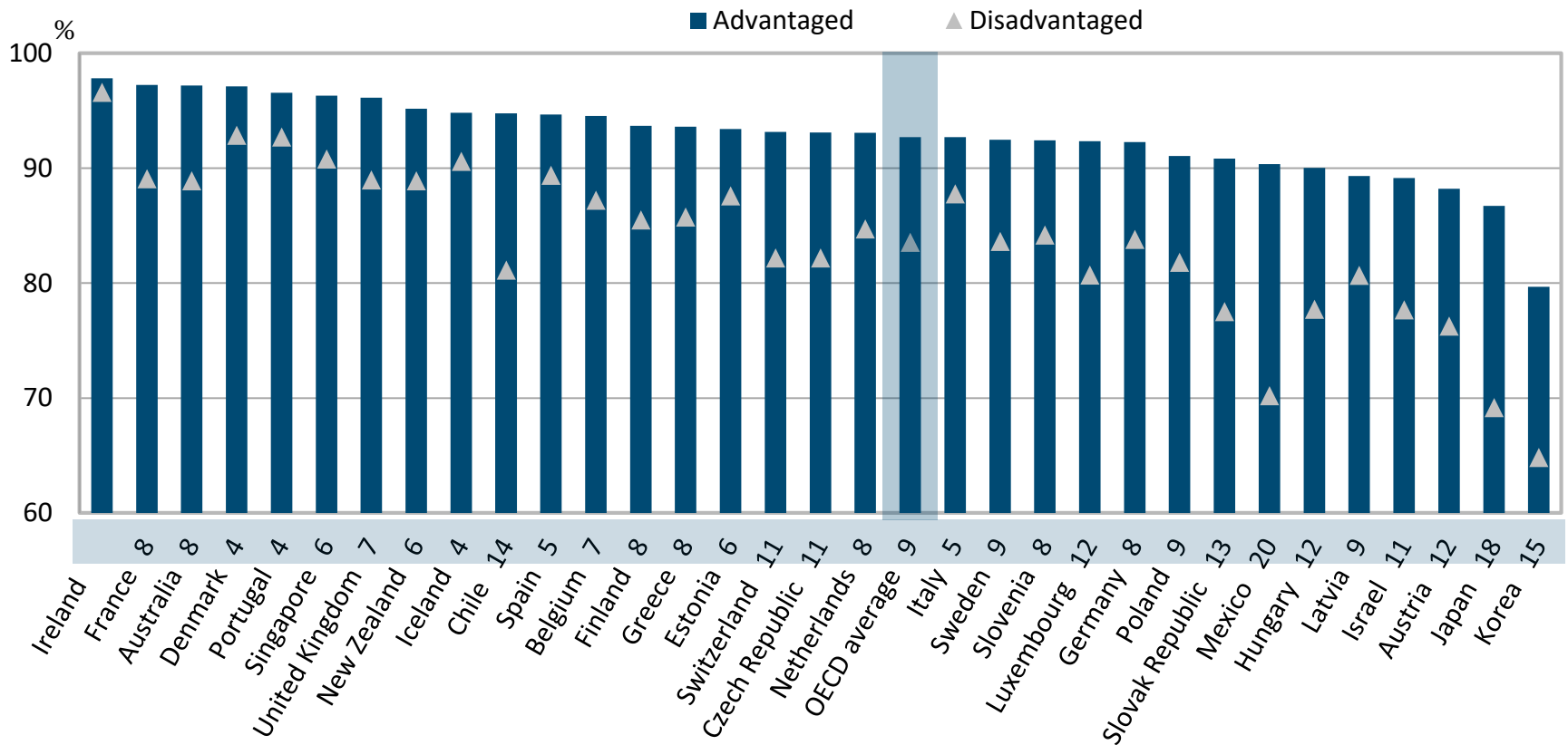


Source: OECD (2015), *Students, Computers and Learning*, OECD Publishing, Paris.



ESCS and attitudes & motivation towards ICTs

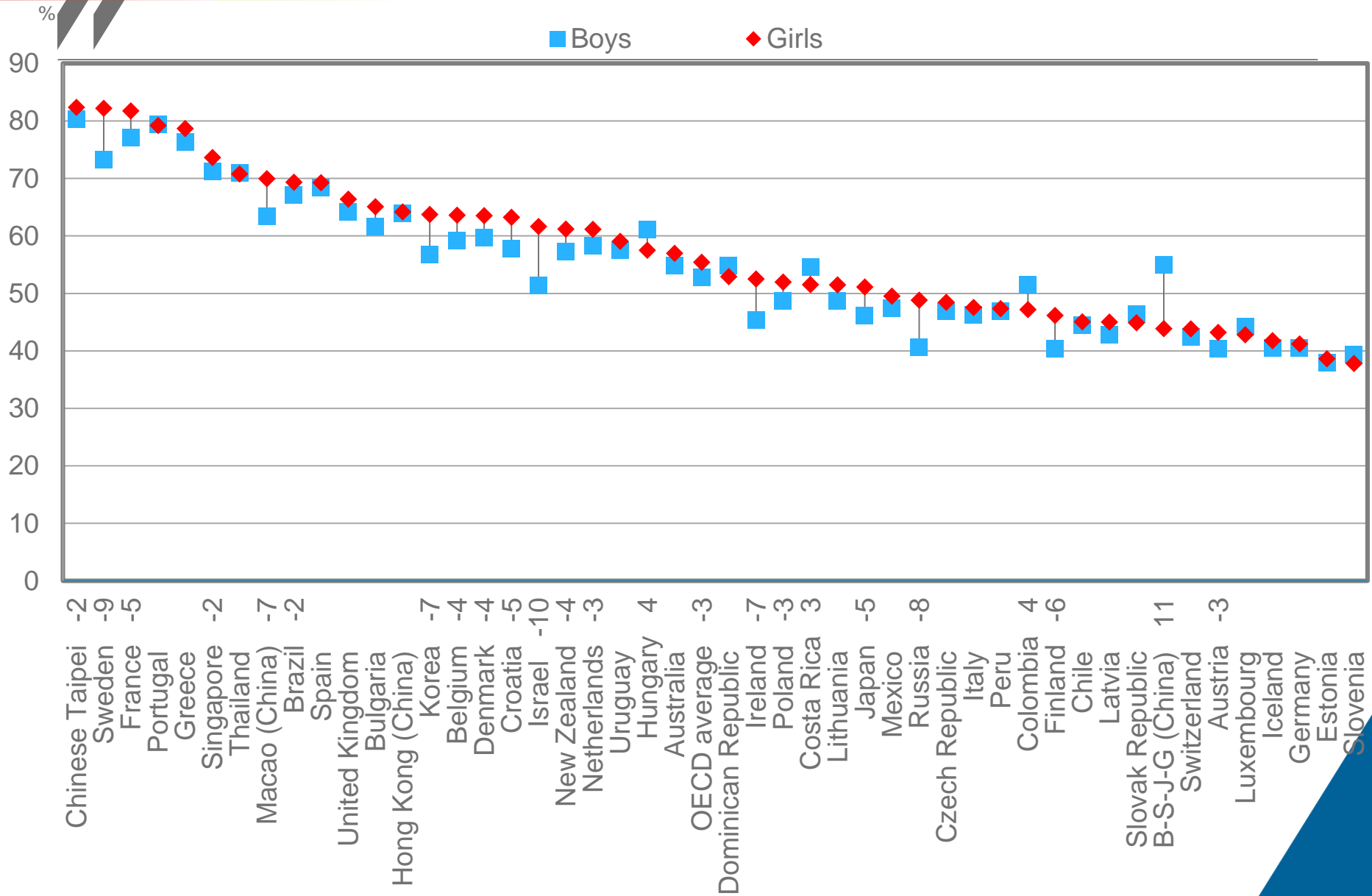
The Internet is good resource for obtaining practical information, 2015



Source: OECD (2017), *PISA 2015 Results (Volume III): Students' Well-Being*, PISA, OECD Publishing, Paris.



Feeling bad if not connected to the Internet (PISA)





What skills?



research, critically assess and **use** sources of **information**

engage in public **deliberation** with **informed** and **critical** viewpoints and **respectful** attitudes

produce civic-related content and effectively **distribute** and **communicate** it

build **networks** for civic and political **mobilisation**

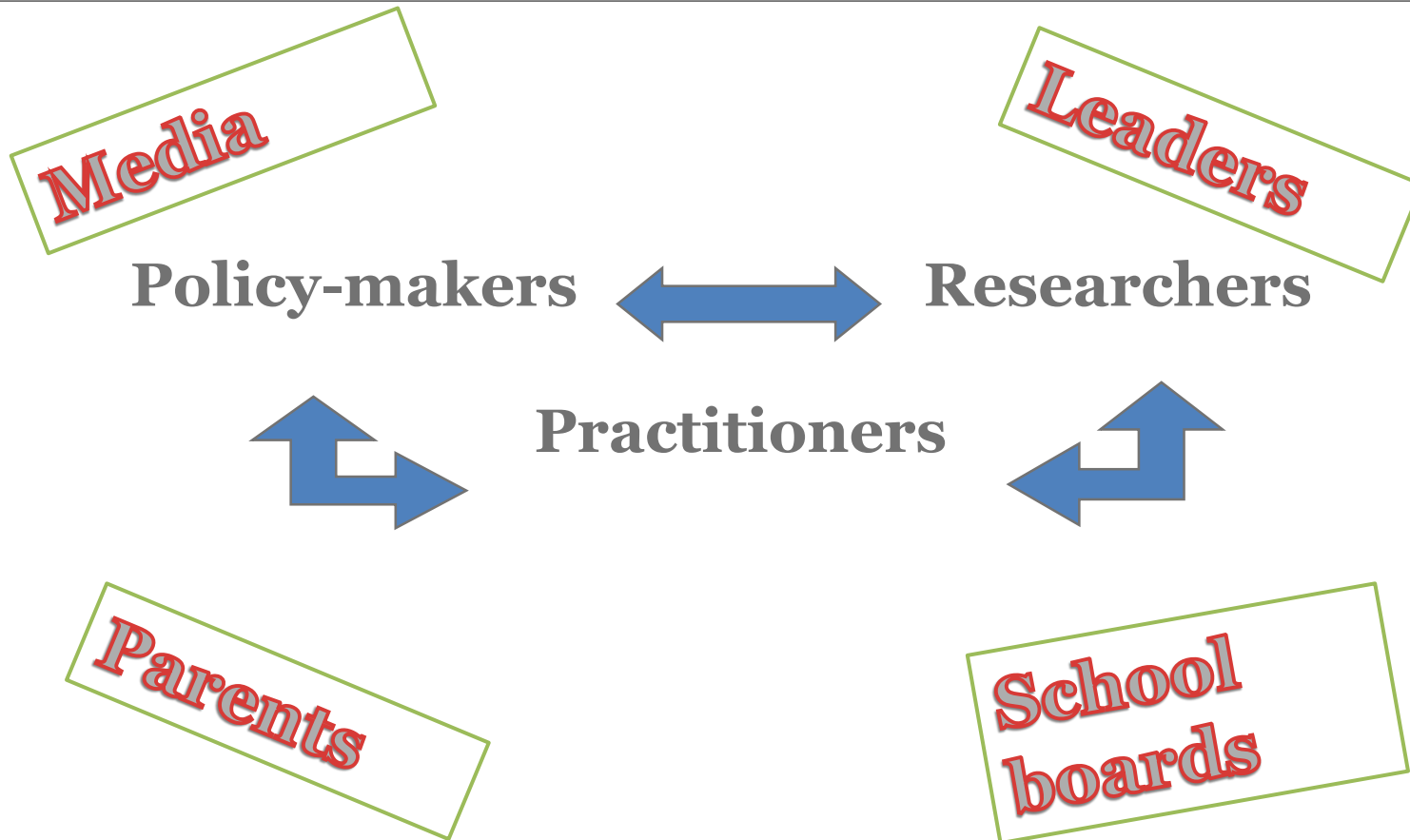


Open questions

- Are we in the same game, or has the paradigm shifted?
- Is this an “evidence backlash” or is this something more?
- Who are the major players and how do we reinforce the relationships and structures that matter?



Knowledge networks



Capacity: strengths/weaknesses of each link?

Role of brokerage agencies?



Thank you!

Tracey Burns
tracey.burns@oecd.org

www.oecd.org/edu/ceri