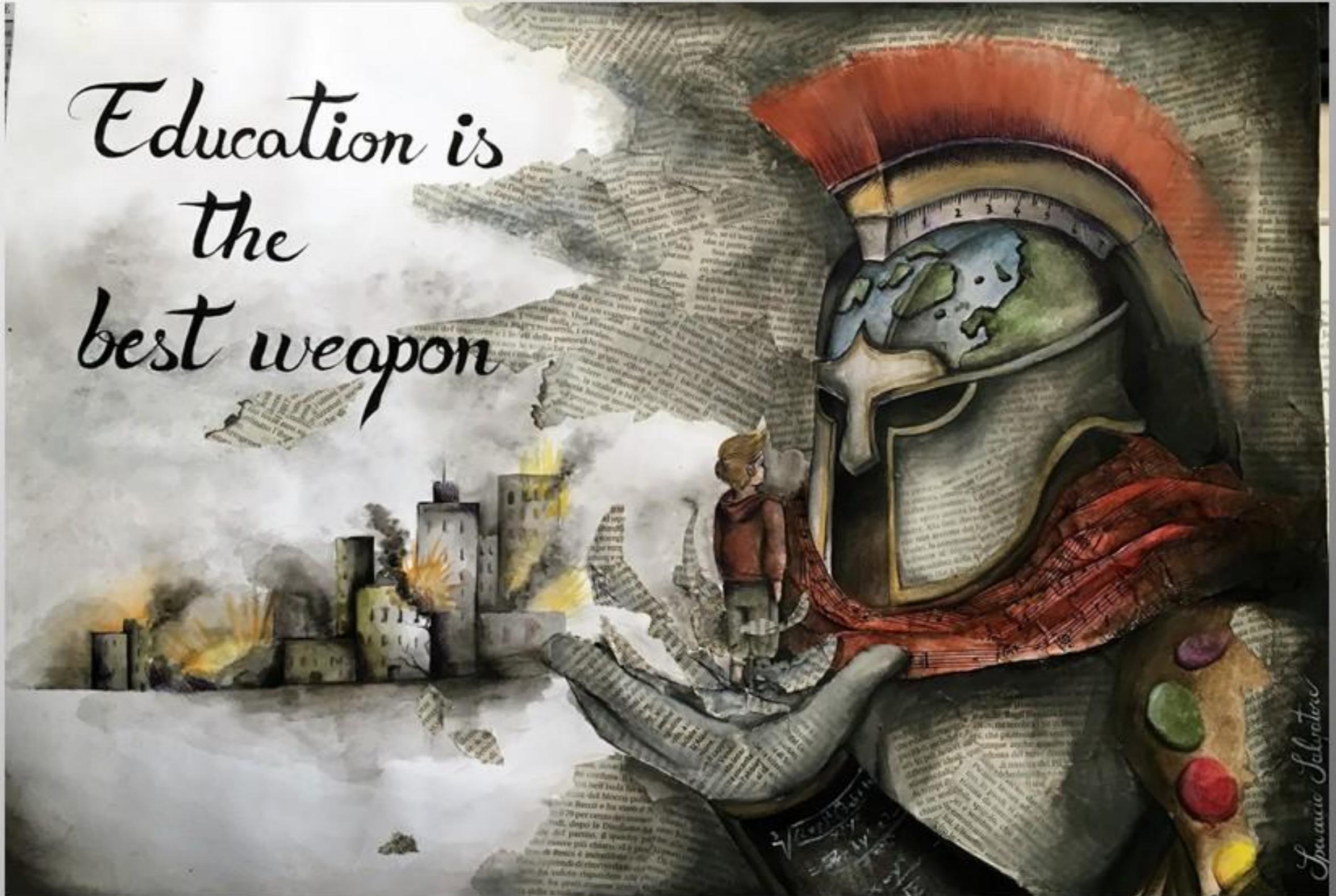




# Statistics About School Dropout In Italy



# Definition

At EU level, ESL rates are defined by the proportion of the population aged 18-24 with only lower secondary education or less and no longer in education or training. Early school leavers are young people who have only achieved pre-primary, primary, lower secondary or a short upper secondary education of less than 2 years and include those who have only a pre-vocational or vocational education which did not lead to an upper secondary certification.

In June 2013, the Ministry of Education in Italy focused exclusively on the detection of the phenomenon of “dropout”, which is understood and measured as “the difference between the initial data of pupils and that relating to pupils who are counted at the end of each school year”. This interpretation is due to the setting of the Registry National Student (ANS) of the Ministry of Education that aims, basically, to contrast early leaving, and renames the concept of dispersion in a “preventive” logic. This is therefore a phenomenon that records only partially the concept of ESL, as defined at EU level, because it focuses on a different target (students enrolled in school) that, at some point in their school career, interrupt studies but do not give formal communication.

The compulsory education age in Italy is generally from 6 to 16 The compulsory school curriculum is structured as follows:

- Scuola Primaria (Primary School): it lasts five years and it addresses the children between the ages of 6 and 10/11;

- Scuola Secondaria Inferiore (First level of Secondary Education): it lasts three years and it addresses the children between the ages of 11 and 13/14; • Primo Biennio della Scuola Superiore (first two years of the Second Level-Secondary Education): it addresses children between the ages of 14 and

15/16. It is important to stress that although students can legally leave school after the second year, no qualification is achieved. •Vocational training: after the “Scuola Secondaria Inferiore”, children can alternatively attend a vocational training that must last for at least two years. • After completion the first cycle of education, the last two years of compulsory education (from 14 to 16 years of age) can be accomplished either in

the State--administered upper secondary schools (licei, technical institutes and vocational institutes) whose courses last for five years or through the vocational education and training courses falling under the competence of the Regions that can last three or four years. 15- year olds can attend the last year of compulsory Education also through the apprenticeship.



# Introduction to the national situation

In Italy, as regards the reduction of the early dropout rate, there have been significant improvements: the percentage of young people between 18 and 24 who leave school early, not achieving diplomas or vocational training certificates, fall from 19.2% in 2009 to 15% in 2014. With this data, Italy reaches its national target set at 16%, although still far from the 10 % European objective by 2020.

A school evaluation system is being implemented, basic skills proficiency in international surveys has improved, the early school leaving rate is falling and participation in early childhood education is almost universal for 4-6 year-olds. Moreover, the recent reform of the school education system could further improve school outcomes.

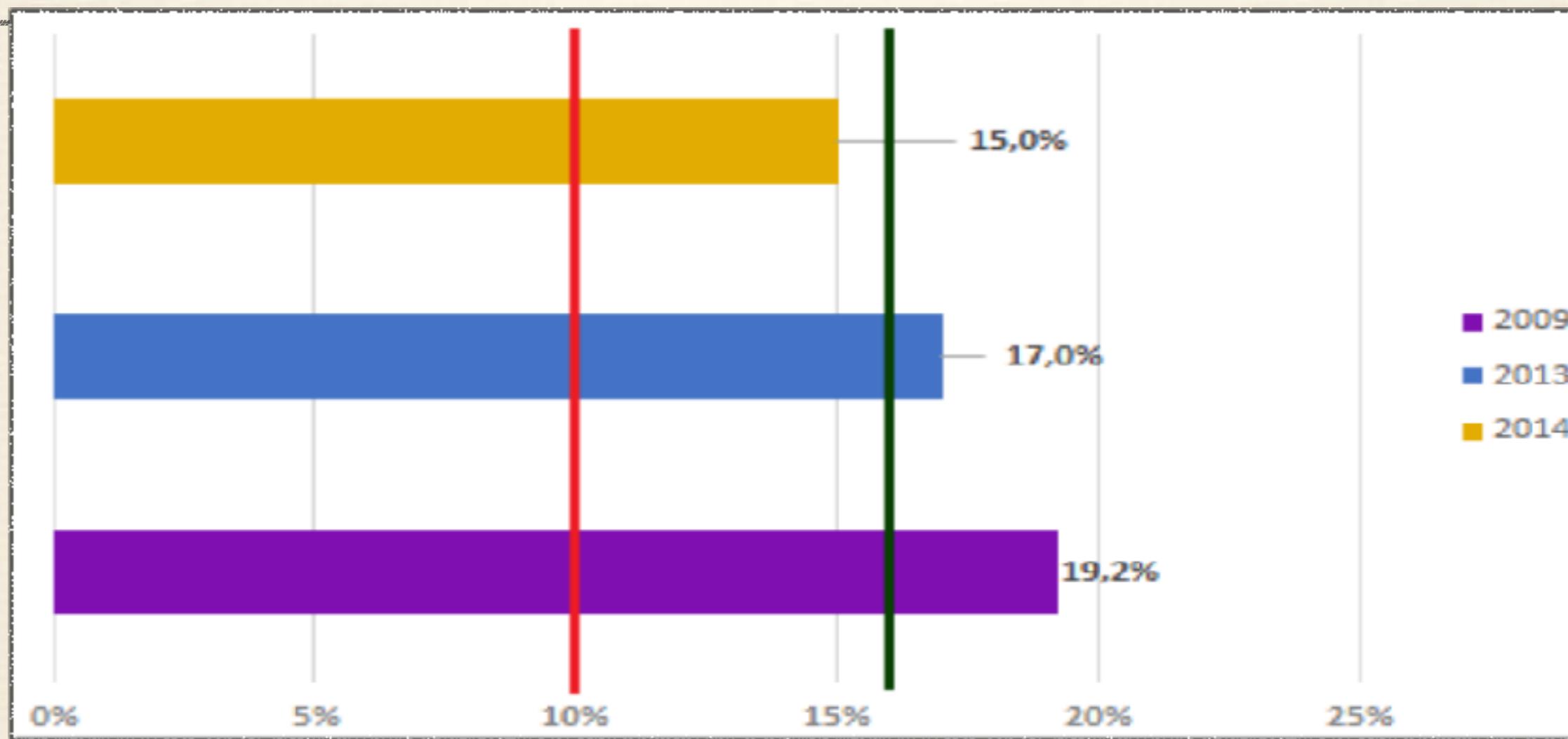
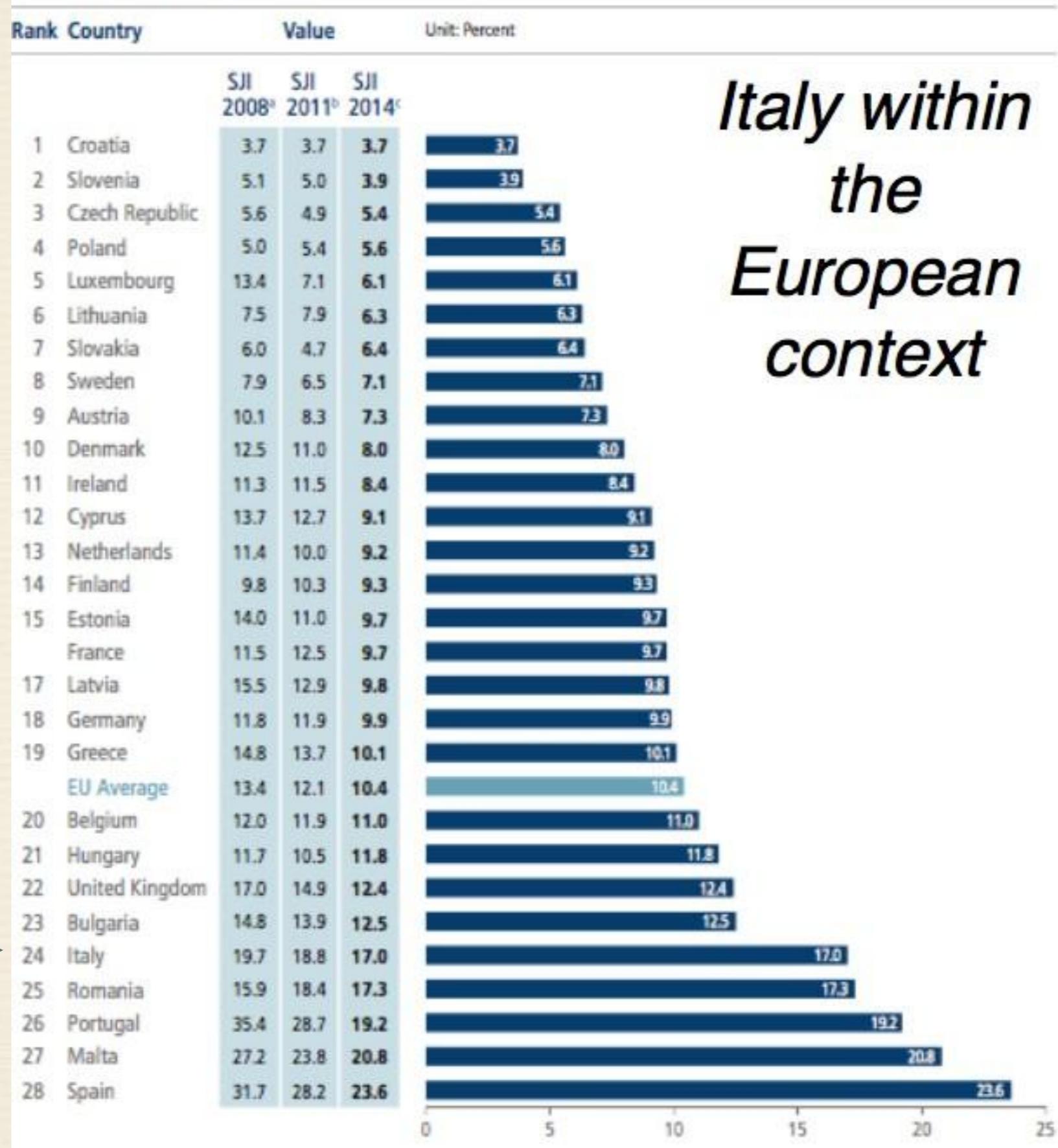
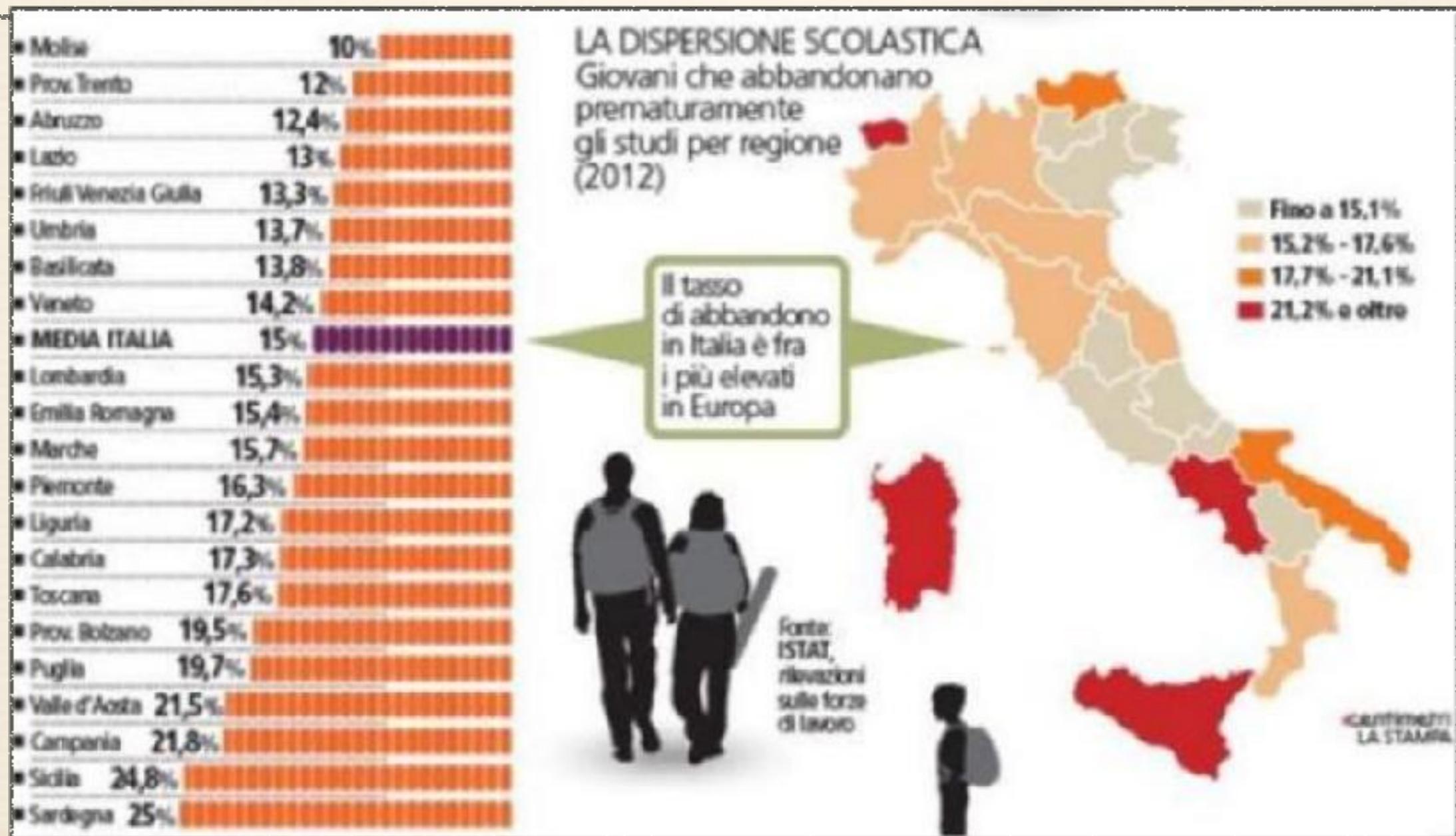


Figure 14: Early School Leavers



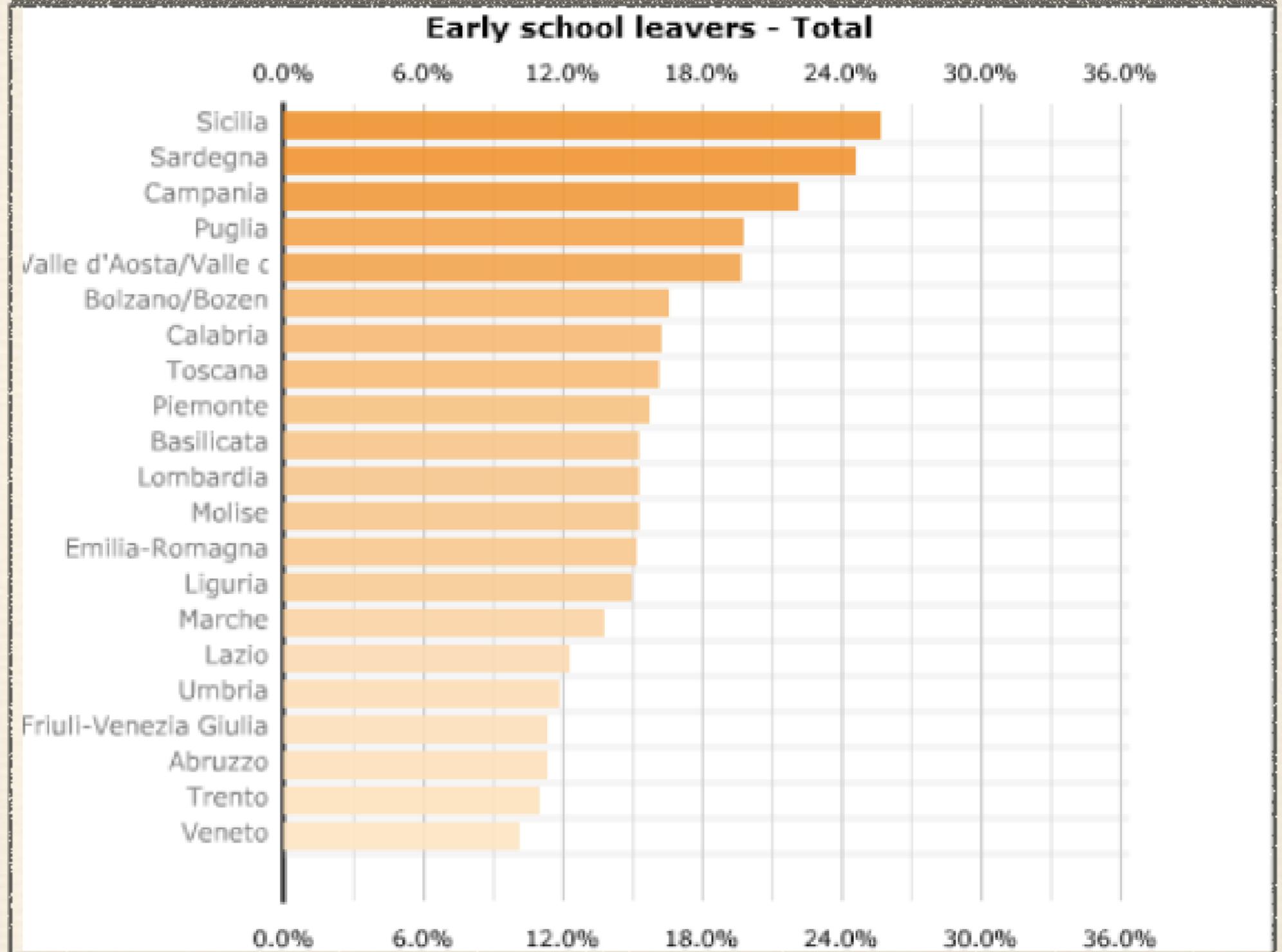
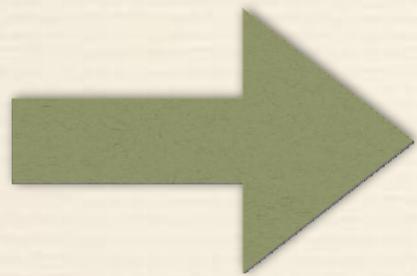
Nevertheless, the Italian education and training system is still affected by long-standing problems. The early school leaving rate remains well above the EU average. There are marked regional differences in basic skills proficiency.

There are great regional differences though: drop-out is more severe in regions such as Sicily and Sardinia (25 and 25,1% respectively), while it is a more restricted circumstance in other Regions such as Umbria and Emilia-Romagna (11,6% and 13,9% respectively).



From the geographical point of view, the “risk of dropping out” is localized mainly in Southern Italy.

Italy and  
its  
Regions

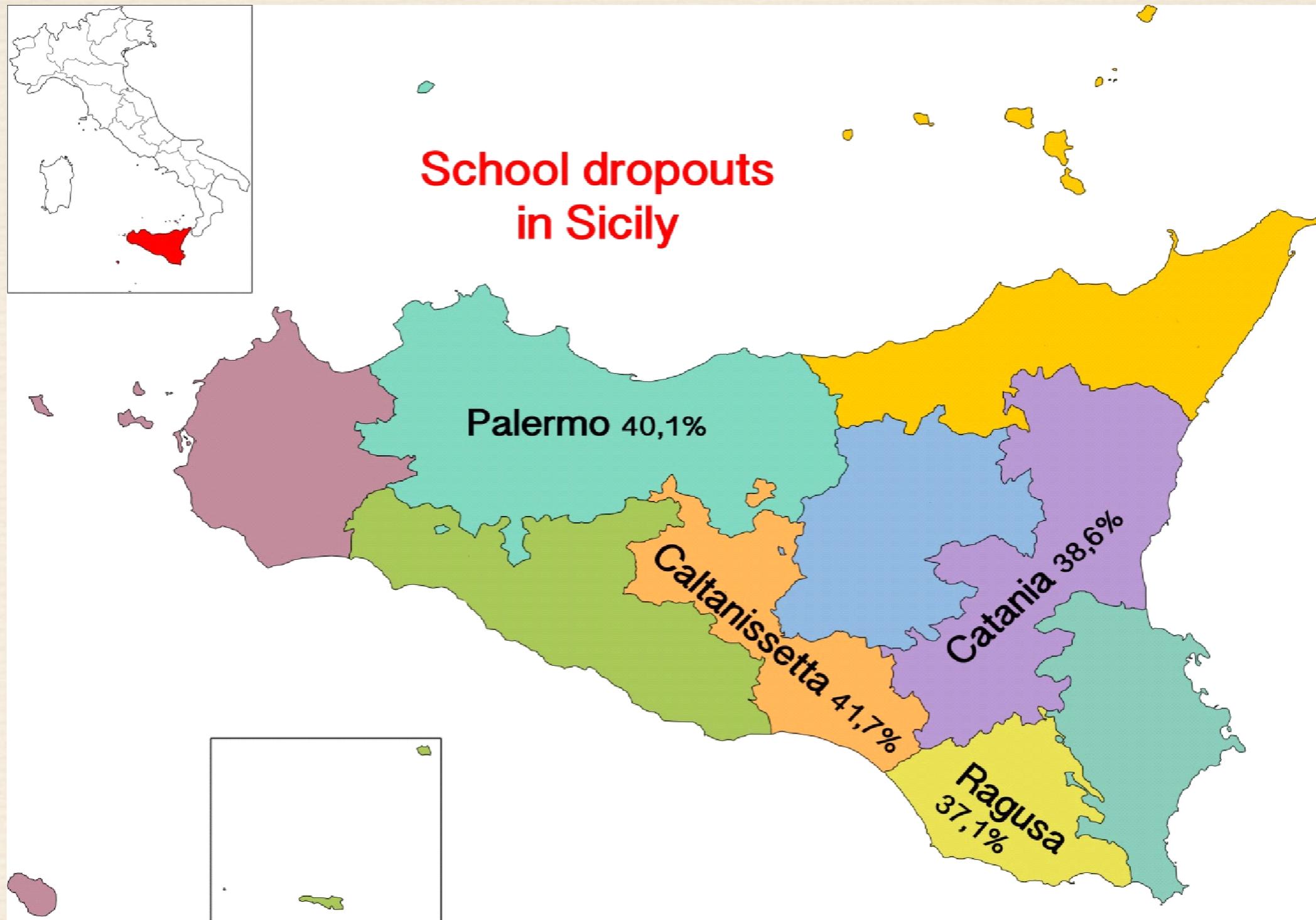


# Sicily

The phenomenon of school dropouts is becoming more worrying in Sicily with levels around 25% and peaks touching 32%.

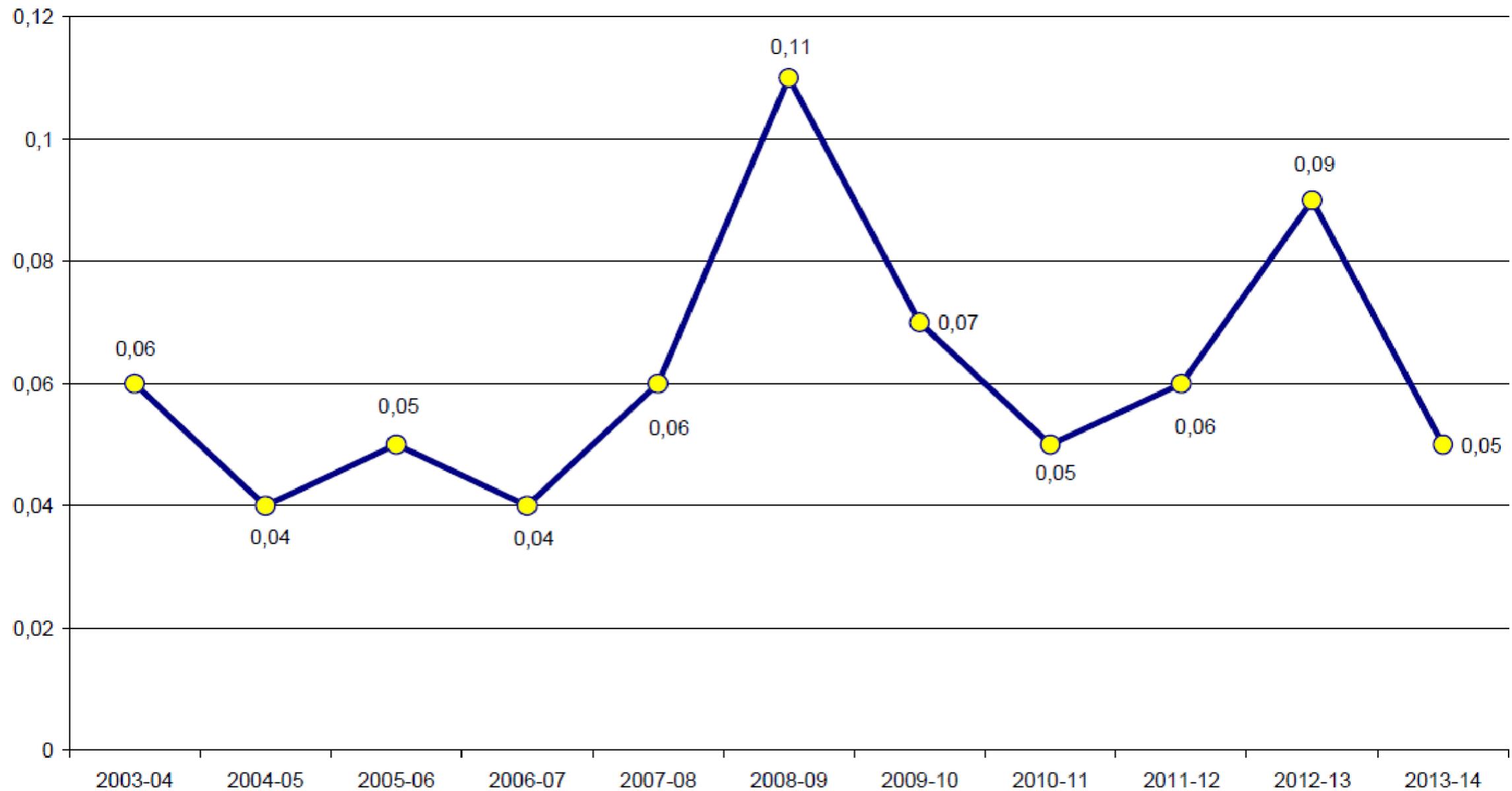
The data say that the island is well below the national average: a dismal record at the European level. In addition, the number of graduates is 12.6% compared to national 14.5%. The data on the adult population with vocational qualification, concerns 2.2% against 6.9. Students who leave school without achieving a diploma or a qualification of the second level, in Sicily, are 26.5% against the national average of 19%.



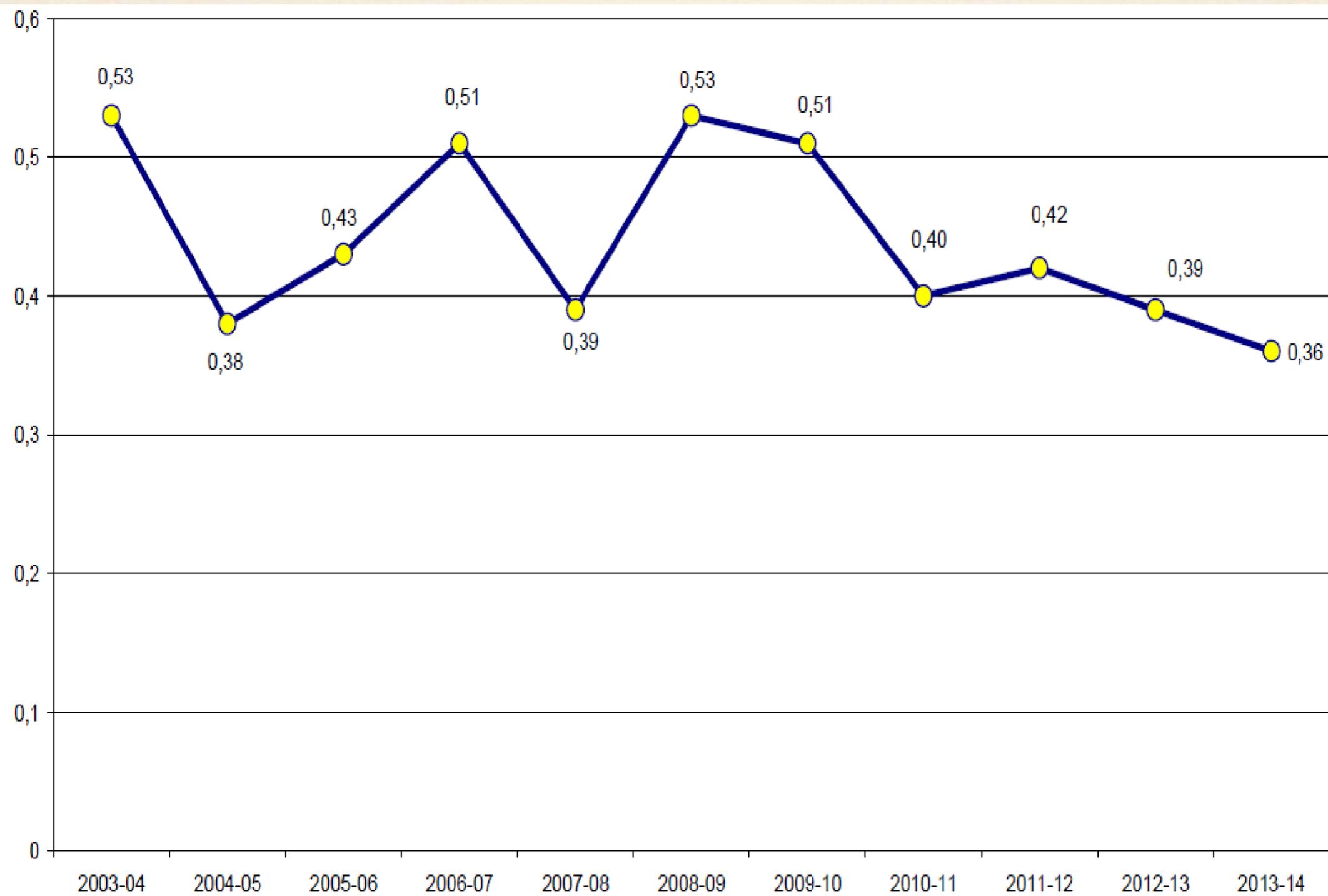


The cities where the phenomenon is assuming worrying proportions are: Caltanissetta (41.7%), Palermo (40.1%), Catania (38.6%) and Ragusa (37.1%): nearly 4 out of 10 boys abandon their studies, confirming the negative trend on the interruption of school or irregularity of the training course.

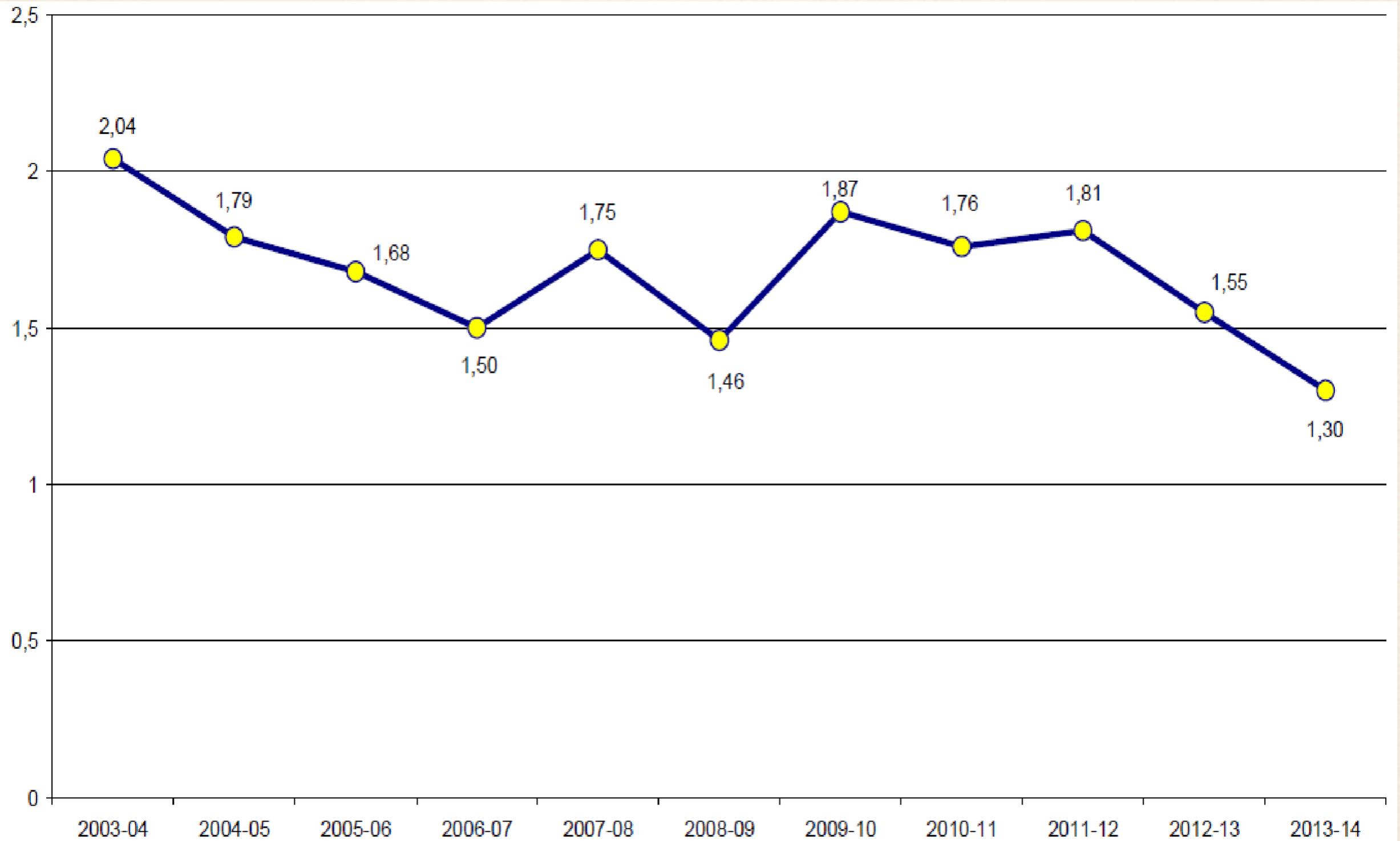
# Trend of dropouts in Sicily (Primary School)



## Trend of dropouts in Sicily ( Lower Secondary School)



## Trend of dropouts in Sicily (Upper Secondary School)



# Evolution of School Dropout in Europe

Giovani NEET in Europa

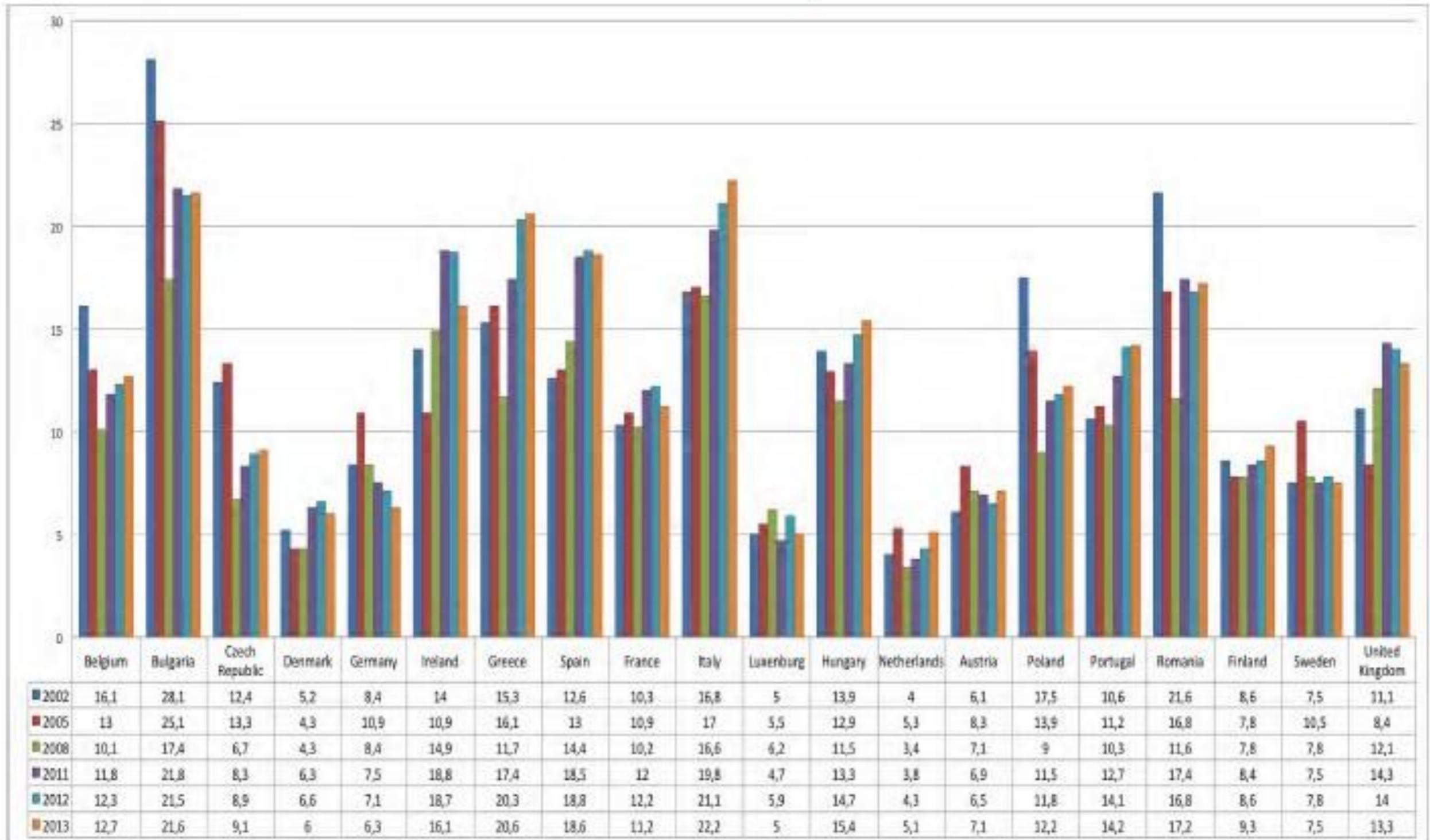
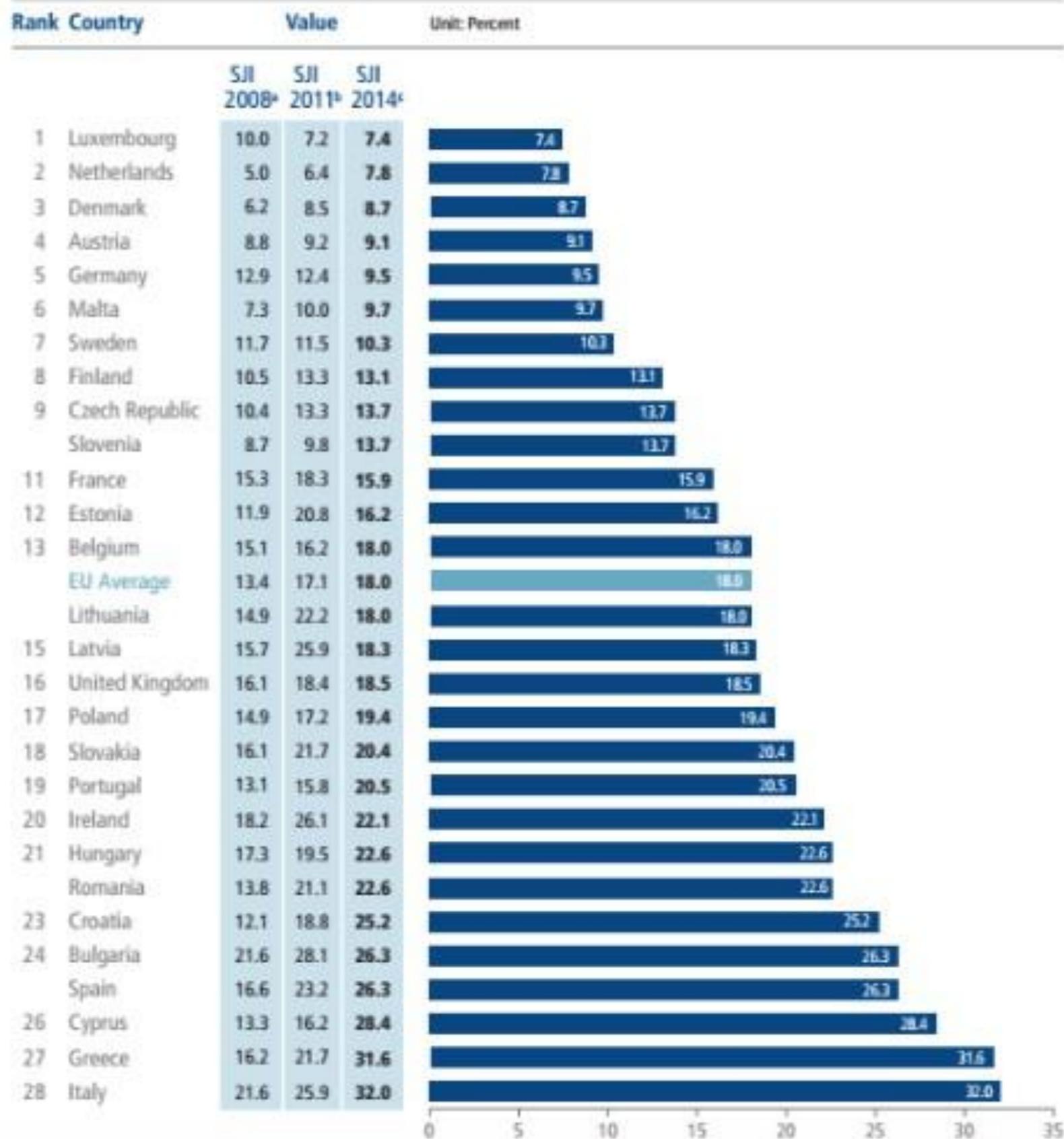
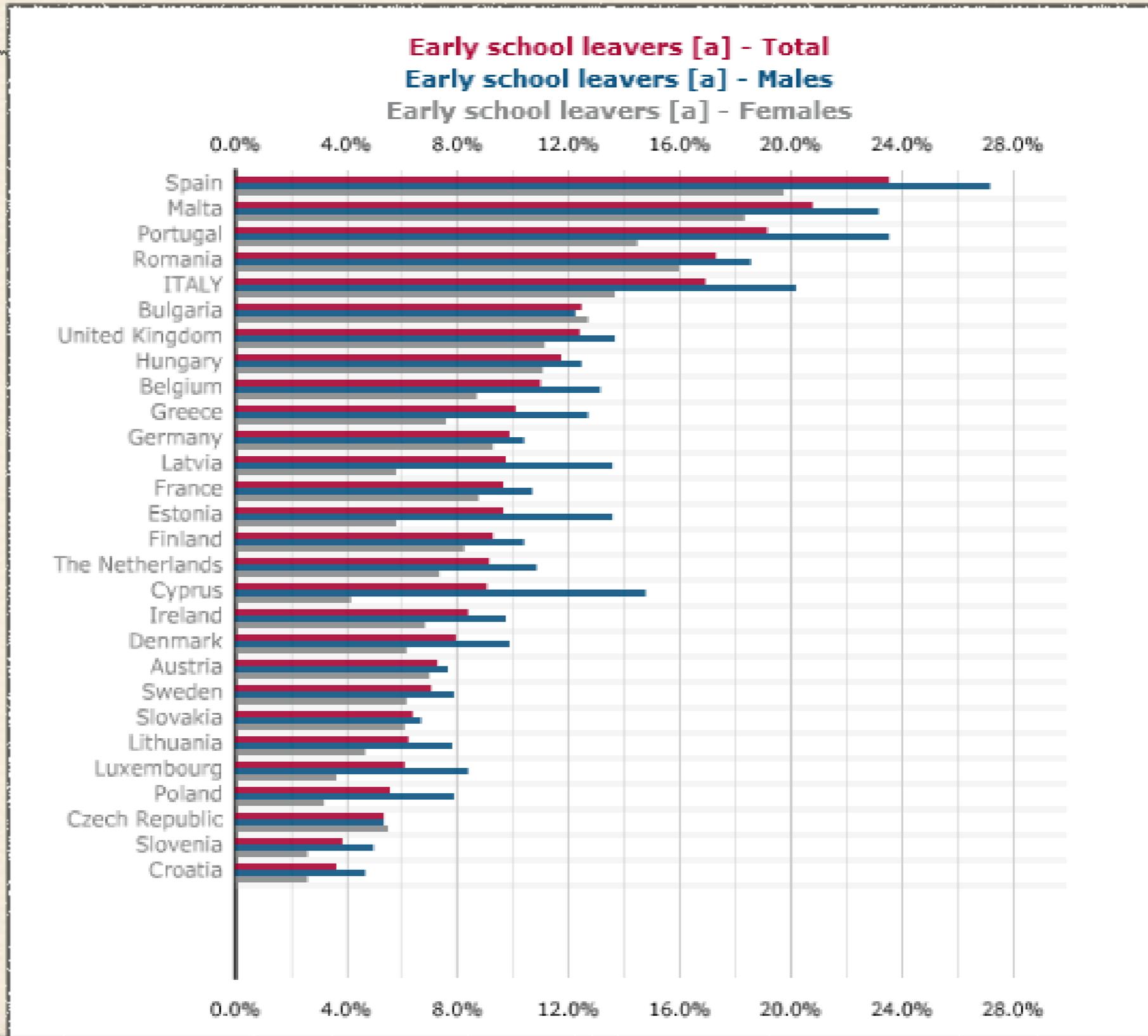


Figure 26: NEET Rate



NEET rates in Luxembourg and the Netherlands are particularly low; by contrast, they are high in Greece and Italy, where more than 30% of people between the ages of 20 and 24 are neither in employment or participating in training or further-education programs. For these people opportunities for societal participation are significantly impaired. The very significant negative trend in the southern European countries is particularly worrisome. In Greece, the NEET rate nearly doubled between 2008 and 2013. In Italy, it has climbed by ten percentage points in the last five years. In all, only three countries were able to improve during the period reviewed, including Germany, which showed a gain of more than three percentage points.

Drop-out is also a gendered phenomenon: in 2011 the 21,0% of the male population aged 18-24 were early school leavers, against the 15,2% of the female population. In the world of work, however, considerable differences remain, and the increase in employment among women was concentrated in those sectors where their presence was already relatively high and in part- time jobs.

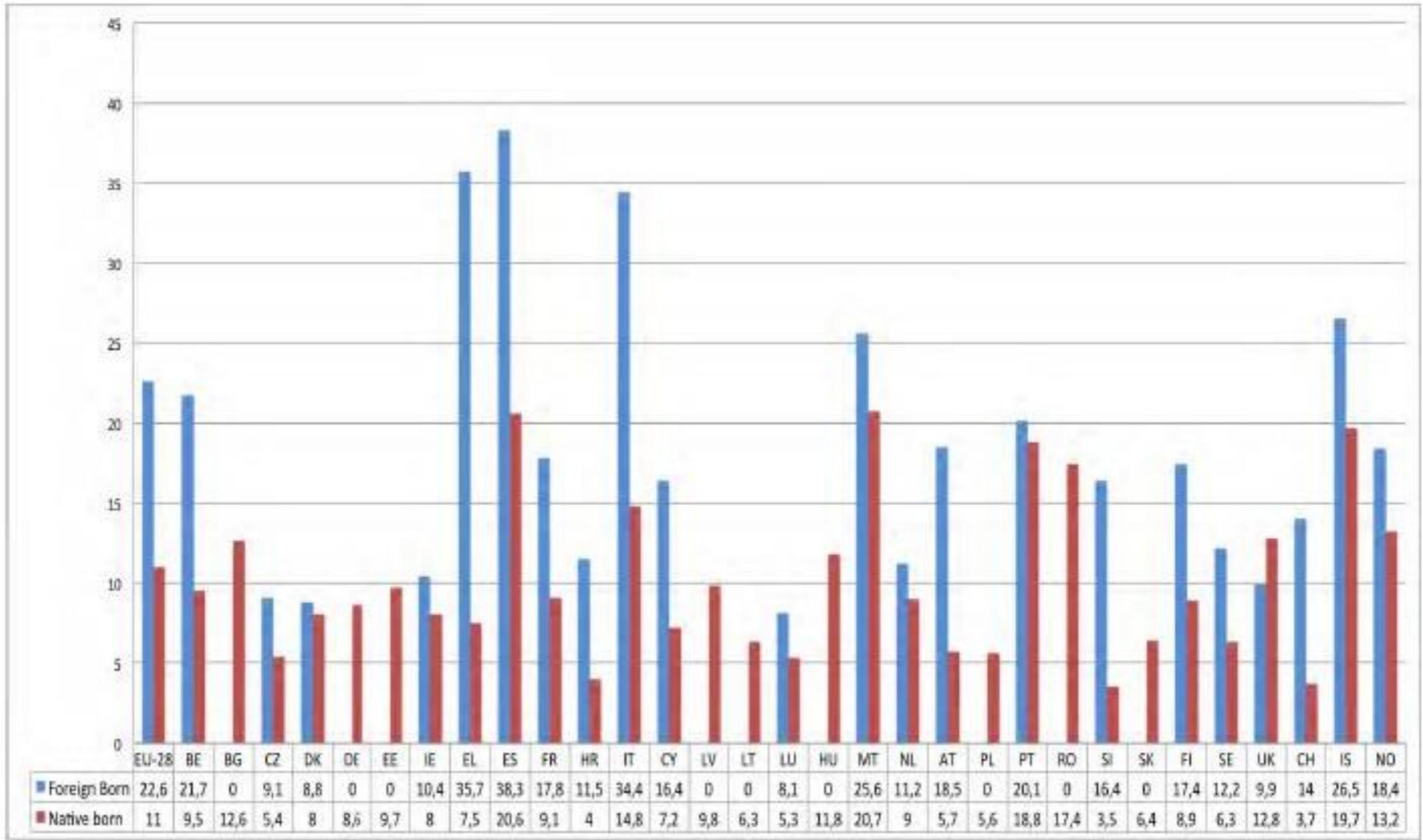


## Early school leavers by gender and region

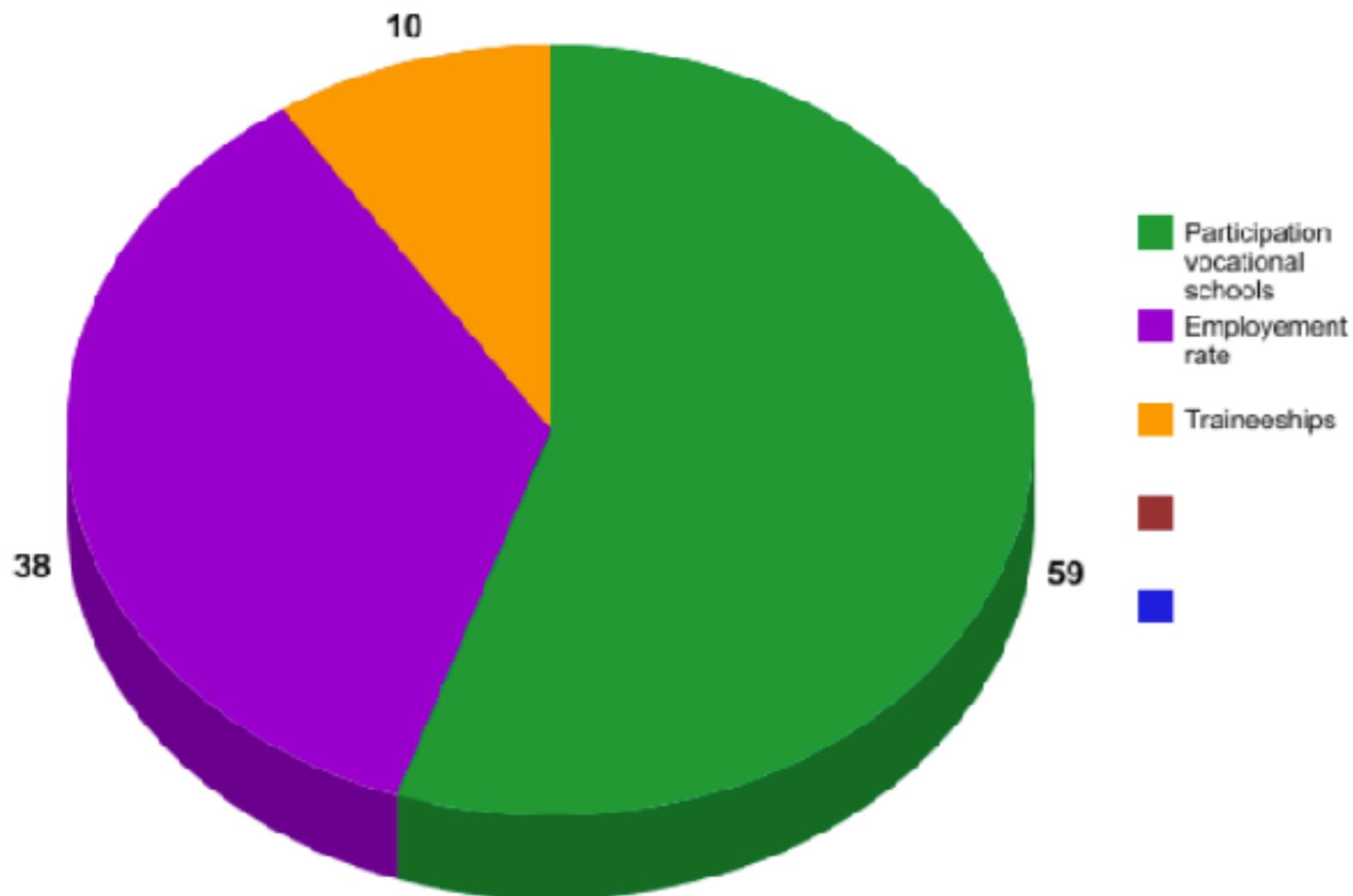
ESL in terms of gender in Italian Education system from the year 2004 to 2012, in terms of gender and region. We can register a 20,5% of males against a 14,5% of females.

REGIONI RIPARTIZIONI GEOGRAFICHE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
									Totale	Uomini	Donne
Piemonte	22,2	20,6	20,0	17,3	18,4	19,8	17,6	16,0	16,3	19,3	13,0
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	22,3	22,1	21,9	24,2	25,9	21,4	21,2	22,4	21,5	25,9	17,1
Liguria	16,3	17,0	16,1	16,5	12,6	12,4	16,2	15,0	17,2	19,1	15,2
Lombardia	21,7	21,5	18,5	18,3	19,8	19,9	18,4	17,3	15,3	19,0	11,5
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	21,6	19,5	17,3	17,2	17,0	16,7	17,3	14,0	15,9	20,5	11,2
Boziano/Bozen	30,6	26,4	23,5	23,3	21,5	21,0	22,5	18,2	19,5	23,8	15,4
Trento	11,9	12,2	10,5	10,6	12,3	12,2	11,8	9,6	12,0	17,1	6,3
Veneto	18,1	18,4	15,0	13,1	15,6	16,9	16,0	16,8	14,2	15,8	12,5
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	13,6	15,8	19,7	12,6	15,2	14,5	12,1	13,9	13,3	13,8	12,7
Emilia-Romagna	20,0	19,3	17,7	17,4	16,6	15,0	15,0	13,9	15,4	15,9	14,8
Toscana	20,9	17,2	16,3	17,9	16,5	16,9	17,6	18,6	17,6	20,1	14,8
Umbria	13,2	15,4	14,8	12,7	14,8	12,3	13,4	11,6	13,7	13,4	14,0
Marche	16,7	19,1	18,0	16,3	14,7	15,6	14,8	12,8	15,7	19,1	12,3
Lazio	15,6	14,8	12,3	10,9	13,2	11,2	13,4	15,7	13,0	15,7	10,1
Abruzzo	16,6	16,1	14,7	15,0	15,6	14,8	13,5	12,8	12,4	15,1	9,6
Molise	15,2	15,5	16,2	16,4	16,5	16,6	13,5	13,1	10,0	10,7	9,3
Campania	28,6	27,8	27,1	29,0	26,3	23,5	23,0	22,0	21,8	25,2	18,4
Puglia	30,2	29,2	27,0	25,1	24,3	24,7	23,5	19,4	19,7	23,3	16,1
Basilicata	16,8	18,1	15,2	14,1	13,9	12,0	15,1	14,5	13,8	18,3	8,8
Calabria	21,6	18,2	19,6	21,2	18,7	17,4	16,1	18,2	17,3	19,5	15,0
Sicilia	30,6	30,0	28,1	26,1	26,2	26,5	26,0	25,0	24,8	29,1	20,4
Sardegna	30,1	33,1	28,3	21,8	22,9	22,9	23,9	25,1	25,5	30,7	20,3
Nord-ovest	21,4	20,9	18,7	17,9	18,8	19,3	18,0	16,8	15,8	19,1	12,3
Nord-est	18,7	18,5	16,6	15,0	16,1	16,0	15,4	15,2	14,7	16,1	13,2
Centro	17,1	16,1	14,4	13,8	14,5	13,5	14,8	15,8	14,7	17,3	12,1
Centro-Nord	19,3	18,7	16,8	15,7	16,7	16,5	16,2	16,0	15,1	17,7	12,5
Mezzogiorno	27,6	26,9	25,5	24,9	23,8	22,9	22,3	21,2	21,1	24,7	17,4
Italia	22,9	22,3	20,6	19,7	19,7	19,2	18,8	18,2	17,6	20,5	14,5

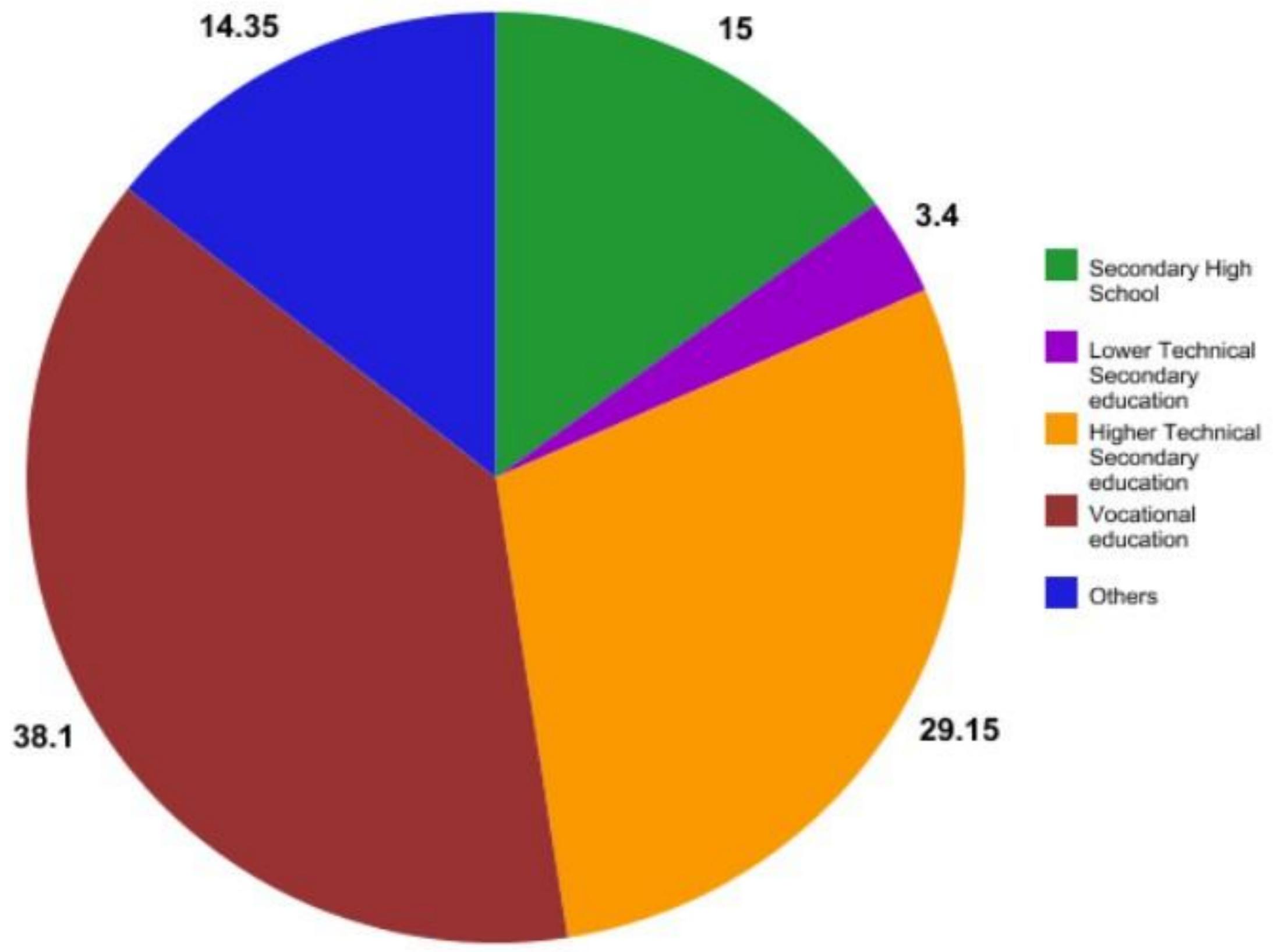
Percentage of early leavers from education and training by origin (foreign-born and native), 2013



While the participation of upper secondary students in vocational education and training remains above the EU average (59.4% compared with 48.9% in 2013), the employment rate of recent upper secondary graduates is the lowest in the EU (38.3% in 2014). This is partly due to insufficiently developed work-based learning: only 10.7% of upper secondary students participated in traineeships in 2013/14, although this figure has been on an upward trend in the last few years (INDIRE 2014).



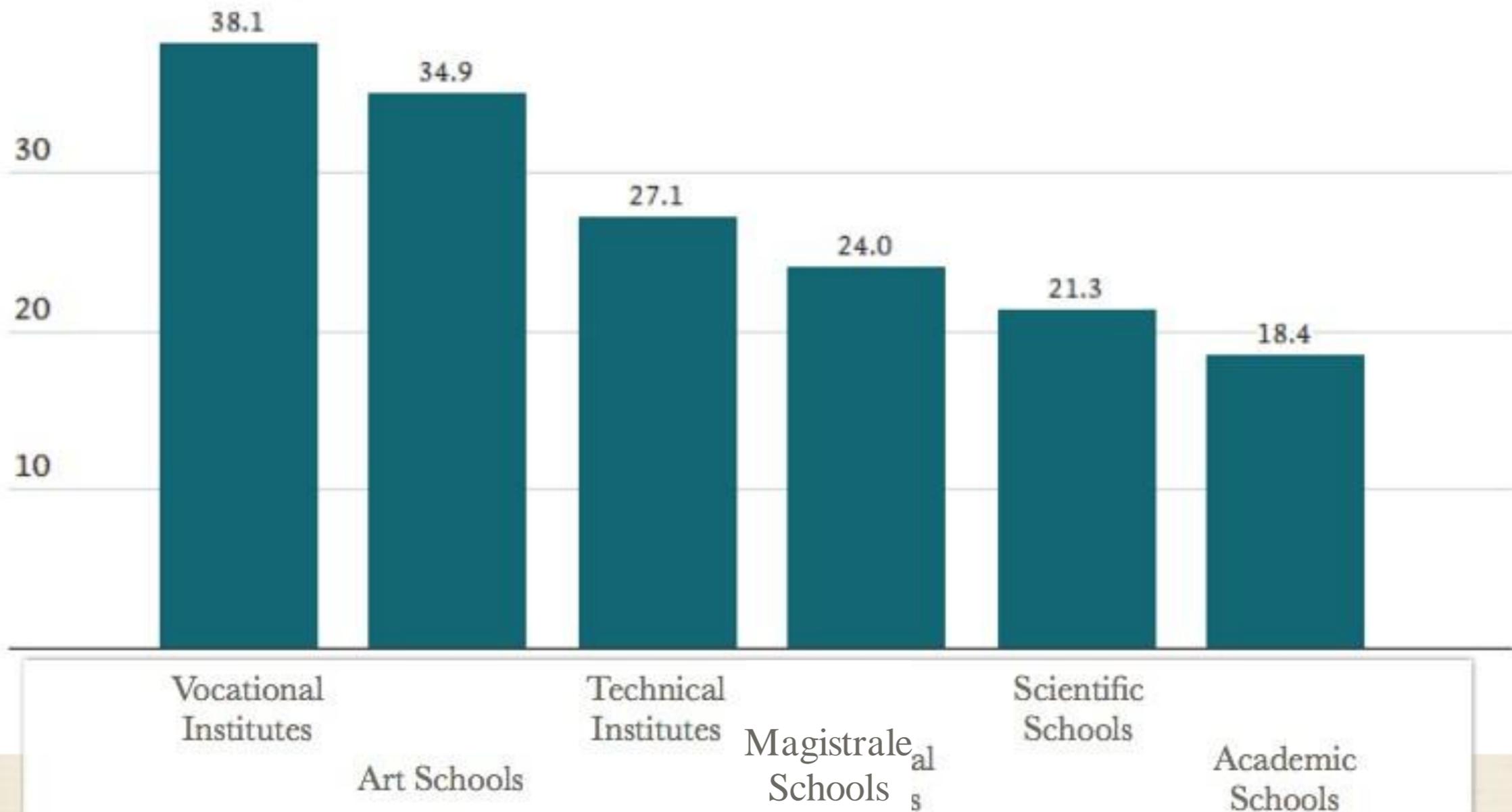
Dropouts in terms of school level



## School dropouts in terms of different types of schools

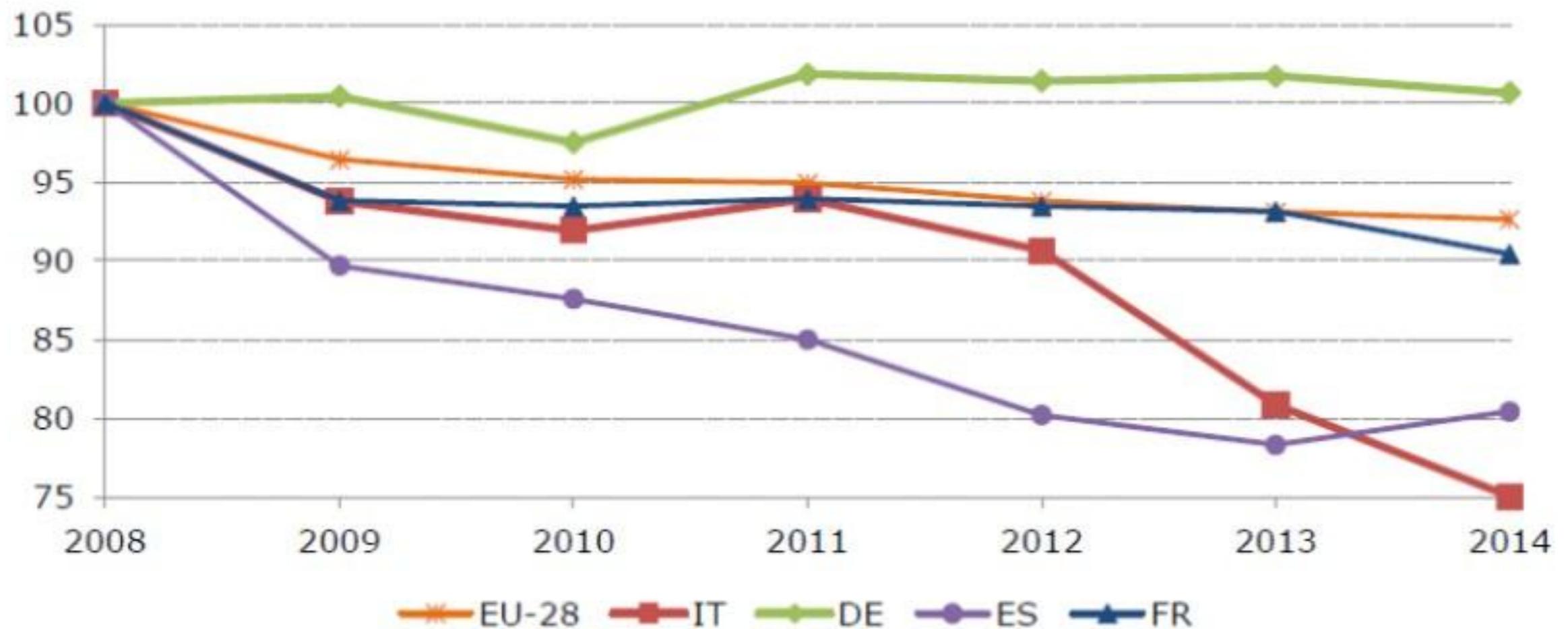
In vocational schools for students out of 10 leave early, against to out of 10 students from Academic and Scientific high schools, Art schools also have a high level of abandon: 35%.

Dates of  
2010-14



The tertiary education attainment rate for young people is the lowest in the EU and many students still drop out of tertiary education. Work based learning is not sufficiently well-developed and entry into the labour market is difficult for young people, including the high-skilled. General government expenditure on education as a proportion of GDP is among the lowest in the EU, particularly at tertiary level. Entry to the labour market is also difficult for highly-skilled people. For example, the employment rates of recent tertiary graduates fell sharply during the economic crisis to only 52.9% in 2014, compared with an EU average of 80.5%.

**Figure 3. Employment rates of recent tertiary graduates (index 2008 = 100)**



# Could this be the cause?

General government expenditure on education as a proportion of GDP is among the lowest in the EU, particularly at tertiary level. Investing in education means investing in the future. But this assertion doesn't work for Italy. This can be proved by the research results published by the OECD which analyzed the percentages of public investment devoted to education in a total of 37 countries around the world, noting that Italy spends less on school, University and Research: just 8.6% on an average of 12.9%. The economic crisis has forced some countries to strongly reduce investments in this sector.



In conclusion, early school leaving is one of the  
Biggest  
challenges faced by young people.

The lack of an adequate qualification is strictly  
related to a  
higher risk of exclusion from the labour market.  
Drop-out is also associated to a higher exposure to  
the risk of  
social exclusion: as some qualitative researches  
highlighted, drop-out can lead already marginalized  
youngsters to deviant behaviours.