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EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN LITHUANIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

AG HOCHSCHULFORSCHUNG + FREREF RÉSEAU UNI 21

EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. NEW STUDENTS, MORE PROBLEMS?

VII. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ

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Outline of the presentation

- Socio economical context.
- The structure of educational system in Lithuania. Higher Education.
- Changes in the legal framework.
- Expansion of Higher Education. Some empirical trends.
- Challenges?
- Opportunities?

Purpose of the presentation

- To discuss the expansion of higher education in Lithuania and to address main challenges and opportunities.

Socio economical context

- Socio economic transformation in CEE;
- Europeanization of Higher Education;
- Consolidation of joint policy and making platforms (e.g. Bologna process);

- And etc.

Development of quality assurance and assessment system

- **In 1995**, the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education was established;
- **In 1996**, the Register of Study and Teaching Programmes established, all study programmes of higher education institutions were registered;
- **In 1997**, evaluation of newly introduced study programmes was started on a regular basis (prior registration);
- **In 1999**, expert external assessment of study programmes was started;
- **In 2001**, benchmarking of study branches (63) has started;
- **In 2005**, Rules for Master programmes were adopted;
- **In 2005**, Diploma Supplement was implemented.

Profile of HE in Lithuania

- ***Undergraduate*** (bachelor degree, professional diploma), duration at least 3 years (120 credits) (for colleges, professional qualification) or at least 3,5 year (140 credits) for Bachelor degree or (and) professional qualification; 1 credit – 40 hours of work load.
- ***Graduate*** (master degree, professional diploma – only at universities) (at least 1,5 year, 60 credits). Some undergraduate and graduate programmes might be combined (total duration at least 5 years or 200 credits);
- ***Doctoral studies*** (3-4 years) or aspirancy for arts (2 years). Doctoral degree might be awarded only after defending of thesis.

Higher Education in Lithuania

University sector:

15 state HEI

7 private HEI

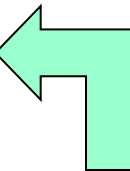
3 cycle - PhD studies 3-4 years



2 cycle - Master 2 years



1 cycle- Bachelor 4 years



5-6 years
Integrated
studies

Non-university sector:

sector:

16 state colleges

12 private colleges

3-4 years, professional Bachelor,
Diploma of Higher Education

Changes in the legal framework.

Directions of HE reform in the new law

- New legal status of Higher Education institutions;
- Council – the main governing board. It will be external: 5 (HEI, from which – 3 by Senate, 1- student, 1- administration) + 5 (by the Minister) +1 (together).
- Rector – appointed.
- New financing: “student basket”, private schools financing.
- Ombudsmen for HE.
- Legal implementation of ECTS.
- Requirements for quality assurance and assessment.

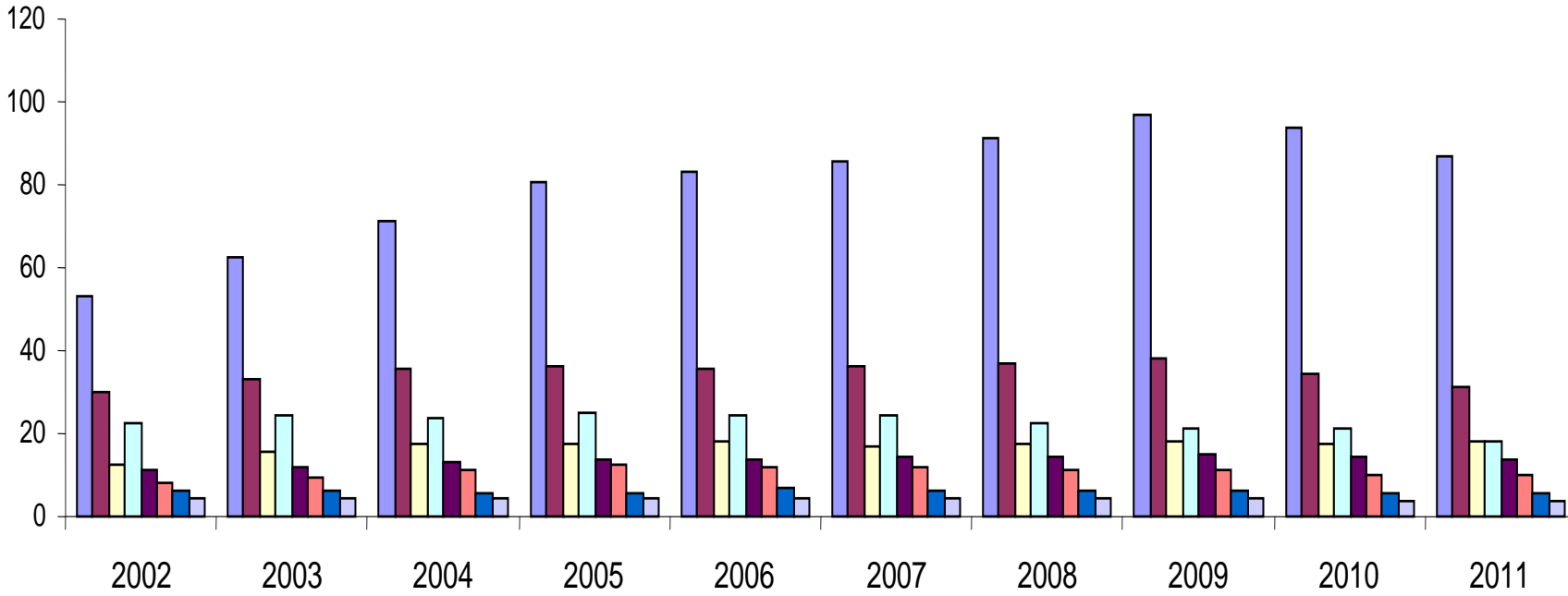
Legal status of Higher Education

- Public institutions;
- Right to purchase and to sell property;
- State property – right to use it by agreement (for 20 years);
- Right for the state to invest into the HEI;
- Right to get credit;
- Right to establish companies (such as joint stock co);
- Property and territory inviolable (except if decision is made by Seimas).

Financing of Higher Education

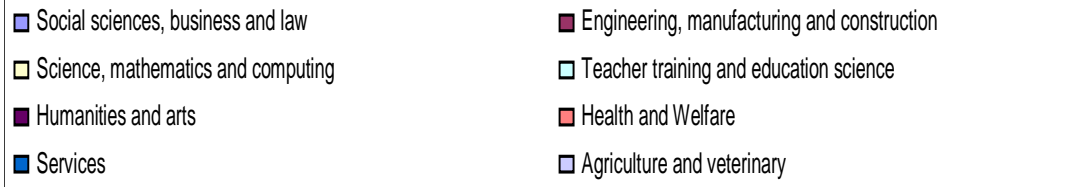
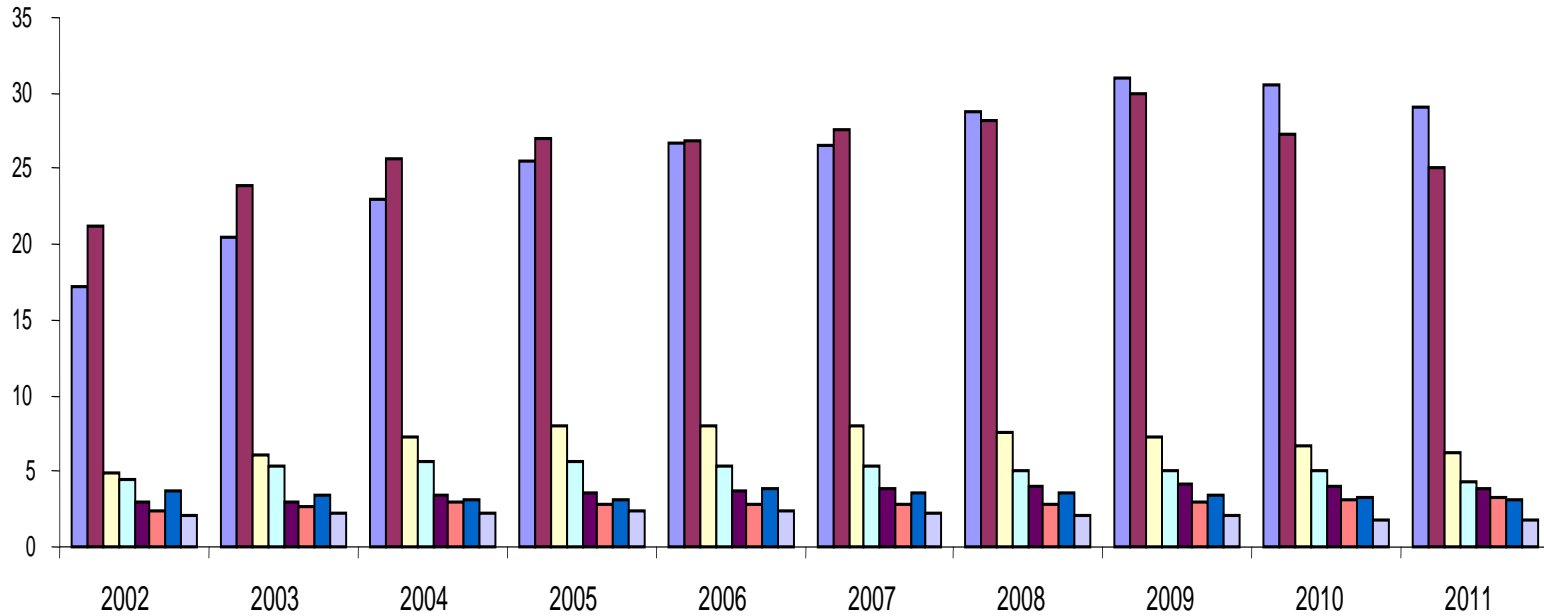
- “Student basket”;
- Basic (including funds according to results of research);
- State programs and projects;
- Fees and services;
- State and international funds;
- Grants and gifts.
- Salaries for the Faculty members and other staff;
- Funds for materials and goods;
- Scholarships

The number of students according to the study area

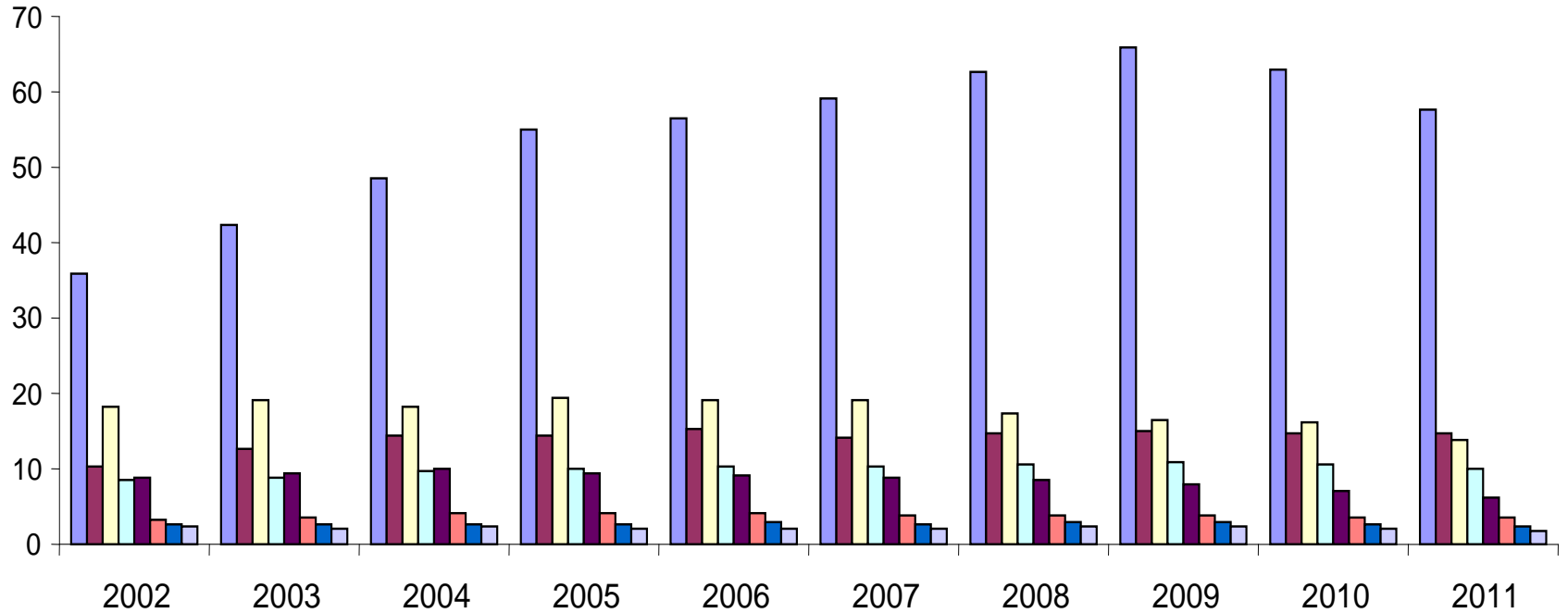


- Social sciences, business and law
- Engineering, manufacturing and construction
- Health and Welfare
- Teacher training and education science
- Humanities and arts
- Science, mathematics and computing
- Services
- Agriculture and veterinary

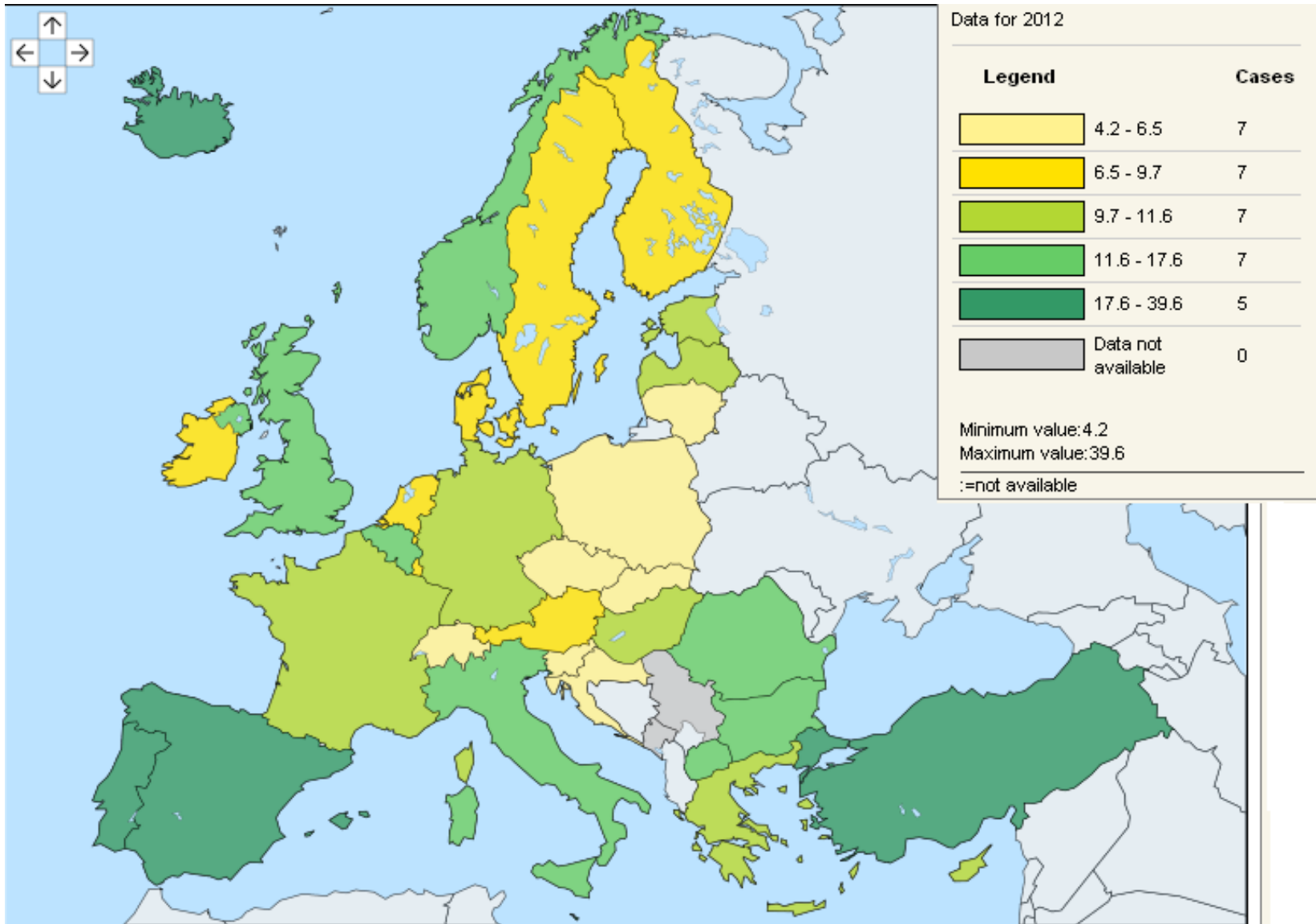
The number of the students according to the study area (males)



The number of the students according to the study area (females)

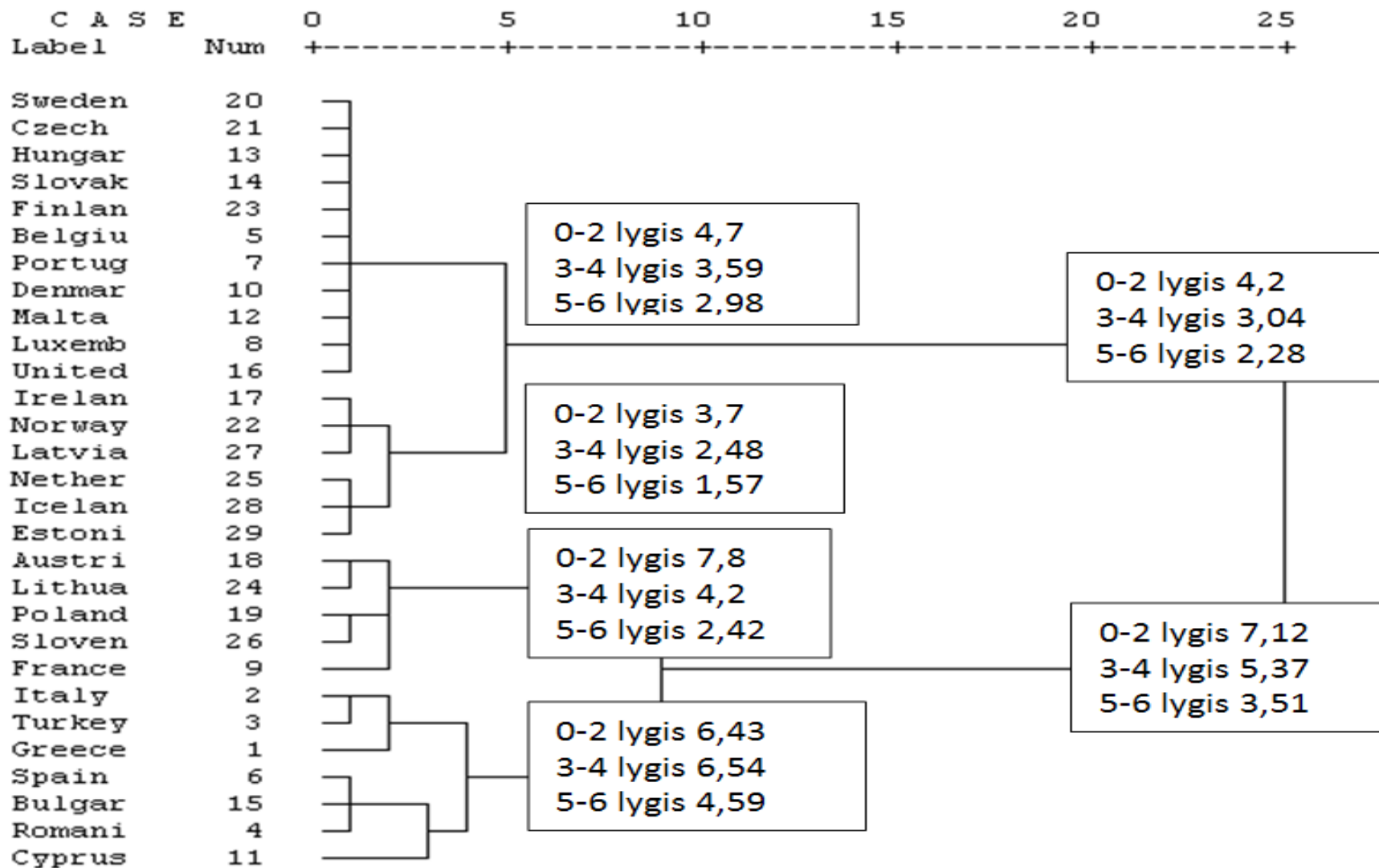


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Dendrogram using Ward Method

Rescaled Distance Cluster Combine



Challenges? Opportunities?

- More possibilities for students, academic community, state
- Competitiveness
- High quality of studies
- Adequate financing
- Modern governance of HEI
- Real autonomy and accountability
- Engagement of business
- Open dialog with the community

Challenges

- Constantly decreasing number of students;
- Mismatch between educational attainment and labour market demands;

Thank you for your attention!