



# GLOBAL COMPARISONS OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE SYSTEMS

Dirk Van Damme

OECD/EDU

Twitter: @VanDammeEDU



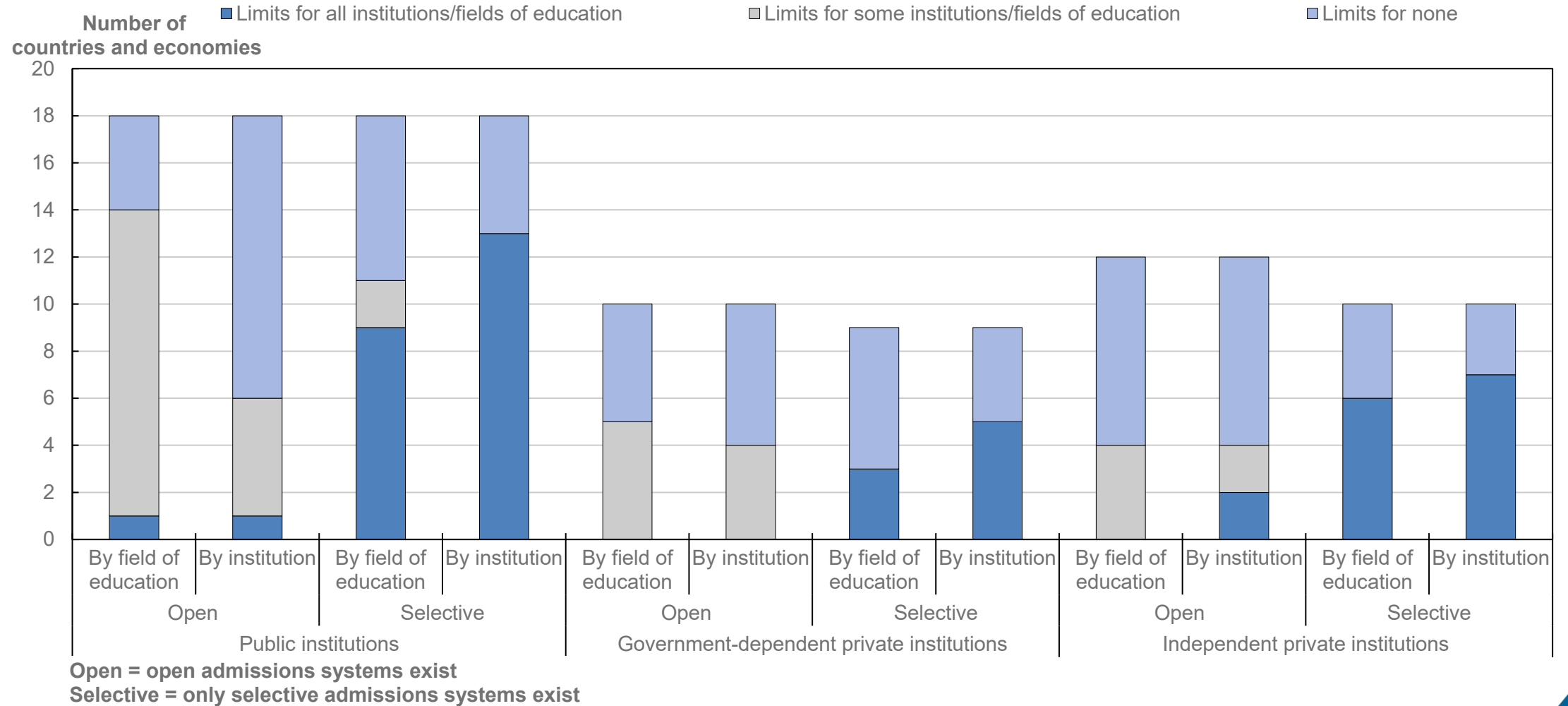
## A huge variety in admission systems

---

- Various types of tertiary admission systems:
  - Qualification requirements (e.g. excluding vocational secondary graduates); can be bypassed in particular cases (Open Universities)
  - Open or unselective admission
  - Selective (eventually based on quota, *numerus fixus*)
    - Performance requirements in secondary school or national examinations
    - Entrance examinations and tests (central or institutional)
  - Sometimes complemented by portfolios including past work experience, family background information, etc., or interviews

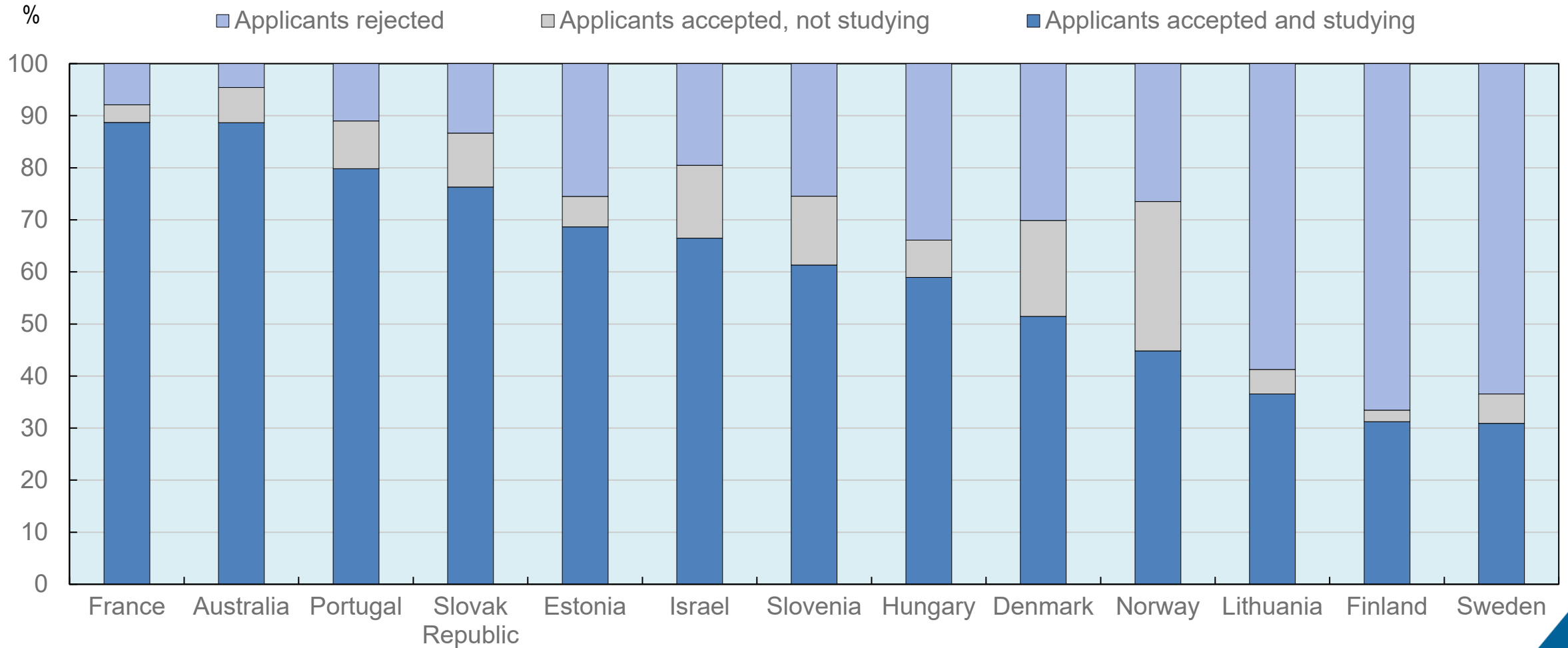


# Open and selective tertiary education systems



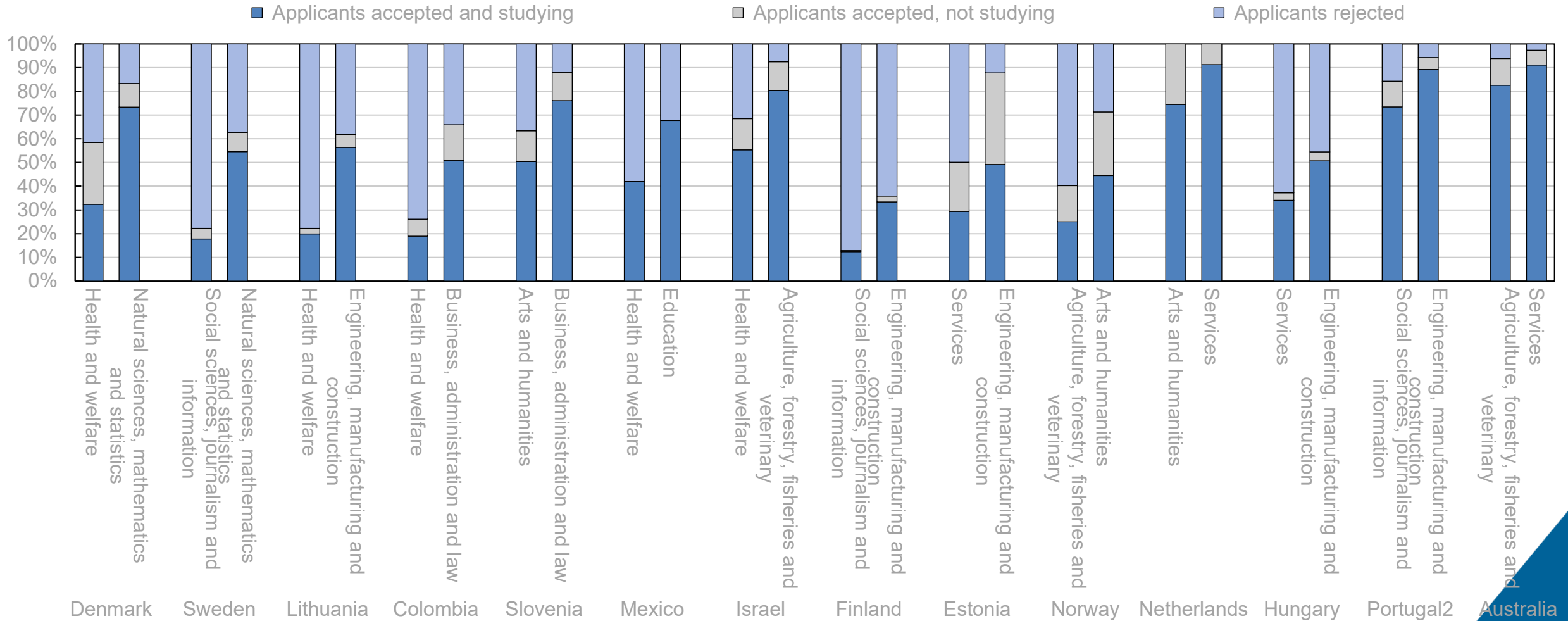


# Selectivity varies a lot between countries





# ...and between fields of study within countries





## Criteria

---

- Academic performance
  - In secondary education (students' grades, scores in central examinations)
  - Tests to assess academic readiness (predicting success rates in tertiary study)
- Professional aptitude, even if not part of academic curriculum
  - E.g. personality tests for medical or social work students
- Motivation (academic or professional)



## A few conclusions

---

- Entrance requirements and admission systems to tertiary are important gatekeepers in learning pathways of students
- ...and exert a strong influence on secondary school curricula
- Criteria are mostly academic, often influenced by higher education efficiency policies
- Labour market relevance plays a minimal role
- Growing awareness of the gap between qualifications and skills, and decreasing trust in tertiary credentials might become game-changing realities



# The broken promise

## Ernst & Young Removes Degree Classification From Entry Criteria As There's 'No Evidence' University Equals Success

The Huffington Post UK | By Lucy Sherriff

Posted: 04/08/2015 14:55 BST | Updated: 21/09/2015 09:59 BST



181k 27305 5338 210 93

Like Share Tweet G+ Share Comment

Ernst & Young, one of the UK's biggest graduate recruiters, has announced it will be removing the degree classification from its entry criteria, saying there is "no evidence" success at university correlates with achievement in later life.

The accountancy firm is scrapping its policy of requiring a 2:1 and the equivalent of three B grades at A-level in order to open opportunities for talented individuals "regardless of their background".

Maggie Stilwell, EY's managing partner for talent, said the company would use online assessments to judge the potential of applicants.

"Academic qualifications will still be taken into account and indeed remain an

ADVERTISEMENT

BlueworksLive

Team-based process modeling

A cloud application that's simple enough for everyone in your company to use.

Learn more