

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Where immigrant students succeed

A comparative review of performance and engagement in PISA 2003

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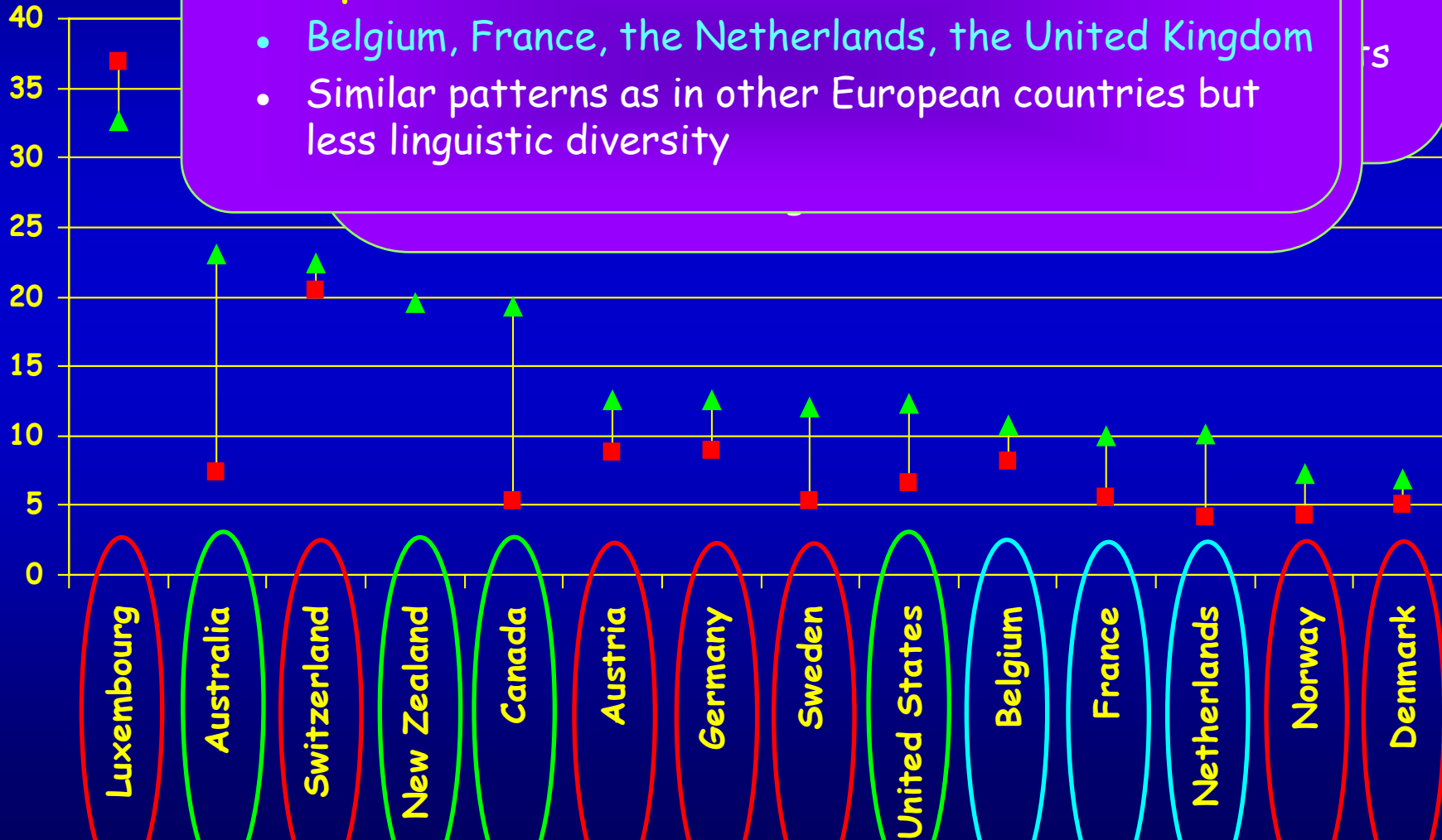
OECD Directorate for Education

European countries with post-war labour recruitment

- Austria, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg,

European countries with colonial histories

- Belgium, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom
- Similar patterns as in other European countries but less linguistic diversity



This report

- The report compares three student populations...
 - Native students are students who were born in the country of assessment or who had at least one parent born in that country
 - **Second-generation immigrant students** are students who were born in the country of assessment, but whose parents were born in another country, *i.e.* students who have followed their entire school career in the country of assessment
 - **First-generation immigrant students** are students who were not born in the country of assessment and whose parents were also born in another country
- ... also taking into account their socio-economic composition

Key features of PISA 2003

Information collected

- Volume of the tests
 - 3½ hours of mathematics assessment
 - 1 hour for each of reading, science and problem solving
- Each student
 - 2 hours on paper-and-pencil tasks (subset of all questions)
 - ½ hour for questionnaire on background, learning habits, learning environment, engagement and motivation, computer use
- School principals
 - questionnaire (school demography, learning environment quality)

Coverage

- PISA covers roughly nine tens of the world economy
- Representative samples of between 3,500 and 50,000 students

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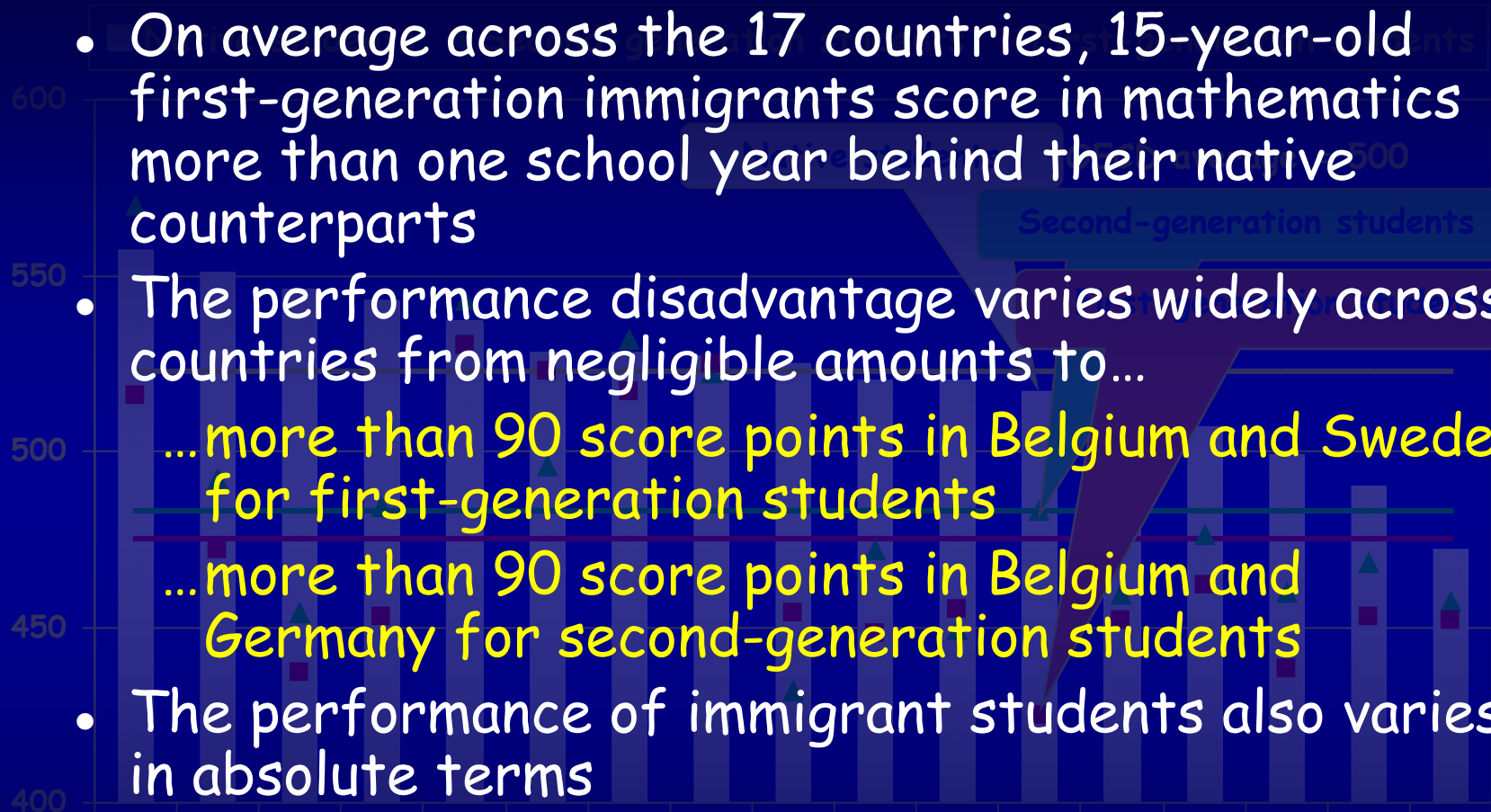
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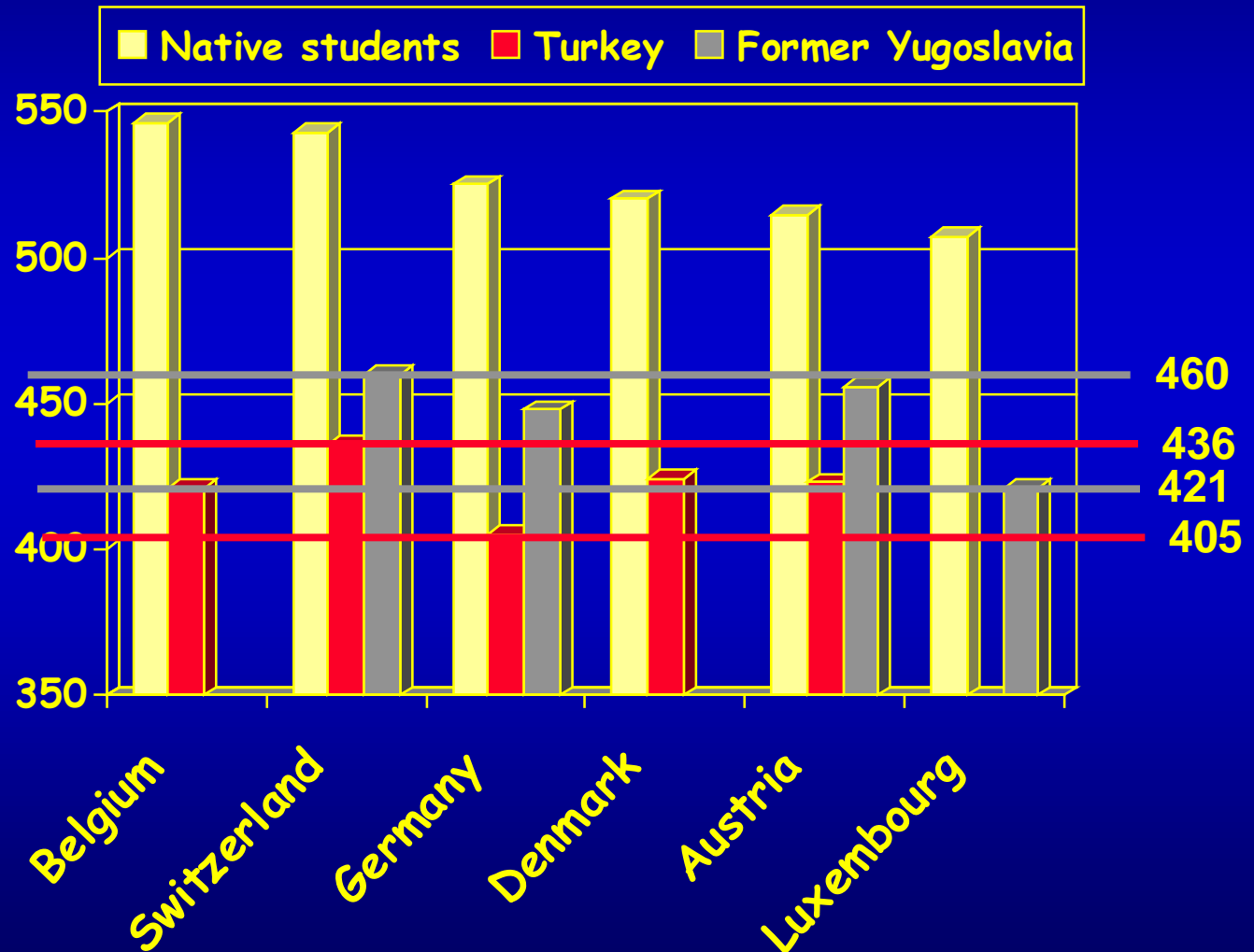
□ Key findings

- On average across the 17 countries, 15-year-old first-generation immigrants score in mathematics more than one school year behind their native counterparts
- The performance disadvantage varies widely across countries from negligible amounts to...
 - ...more than 90 score points in Belgium and Sweden for first-generation students
 - ...more than 90 score points in Belgium and Germany for second-generation students
- The performance of immigrant students also varies in absolute terms
 - ...with second-generation immigrants in Canada outperforming their German counterparts by 111 score points, almost equivalent to three school years



Performance of immigrant students whose families came from Turkey or the former Yugoslavia

Performance on the PISA mathematics scale



Further information

- www.pisa.oecd.org
 - All national and international publications
 - The complete micro-level database
- email: pisa@oecd.org
- Andreas.Schleicher@OECD.org

... and remember:

Without data, you are just another person with an opinion