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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EUROSTAT

Directorate F: Social Statistics and
Information Society
Unit F-6: Information Society and
Tourism Statistics

Hartmut BUCHOW
Information Society
Statistics

3rd workshop on Information Society Measurement for Latin America and the Caribbean

Panama City, Panama
22 – 24 November 2006
ECLAC, United Nations

Eurostat's Information Society Statistics

The digital divide in Europe



Information Society statistics (ISS): The Digital Divide

- ***Main source for monitoring:***
Community survey on ICT usage in households
- ***Data collection***
 - ✓ via national statistical institutes
 - ✓ annual Community model questionnaire
 - ✓ face-to-face or telephone interviews
- ***Quality***
 - accuracy and reliability is guaranteed by large sample:
 - ✓ About 130.000 households, and
 - ✓ 180.000 individuals (aged 16 to 74)
 - ➔ error levels in general not exceeding 2%

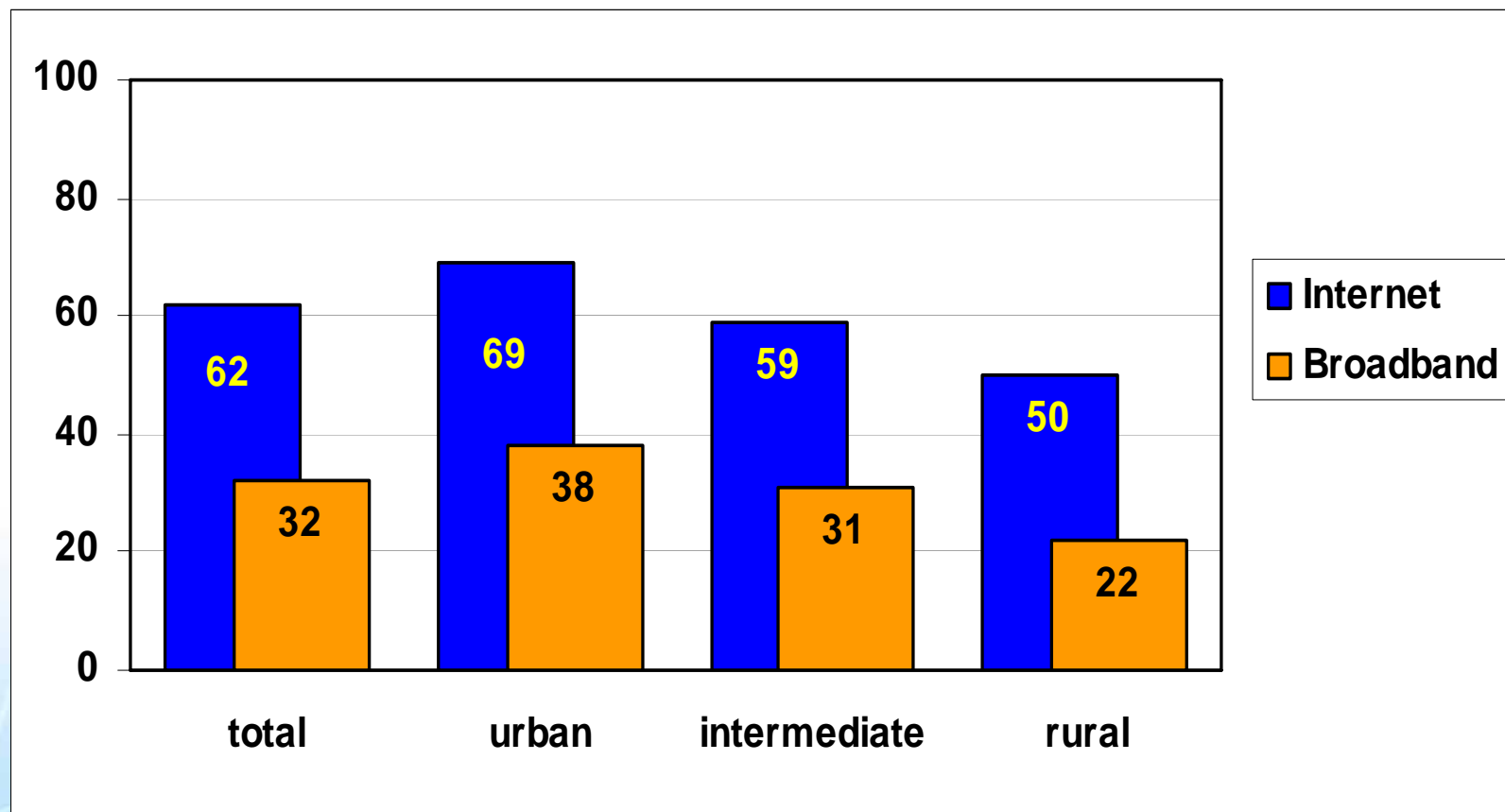
Eurostat's Information Society statistics

▪ *Explanatory variables*

All information can be broken down by socio-demographic profile:

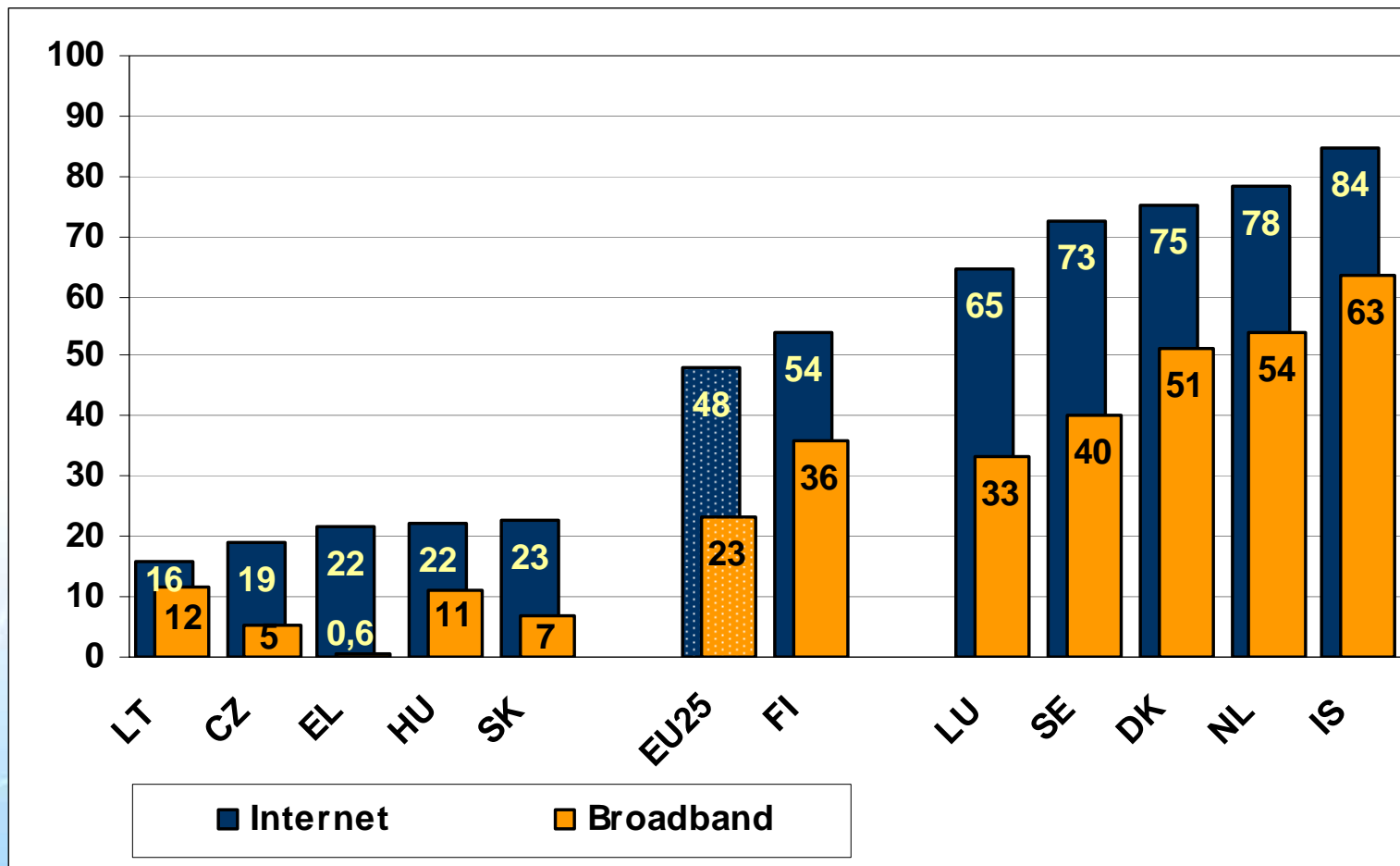
- ✓ Age, gender
- ✓ Educational level, employment situation
- ✓ Household type and composition
- ✓ Degree of urbanisation (urban? rural?)
- ✓ Type of region (covered by Objective 1 ?)
- ✓ Household income
- ✓ ...

Households' Internet access & type of connection used, by degree of urbanisation (EU25, 2006)



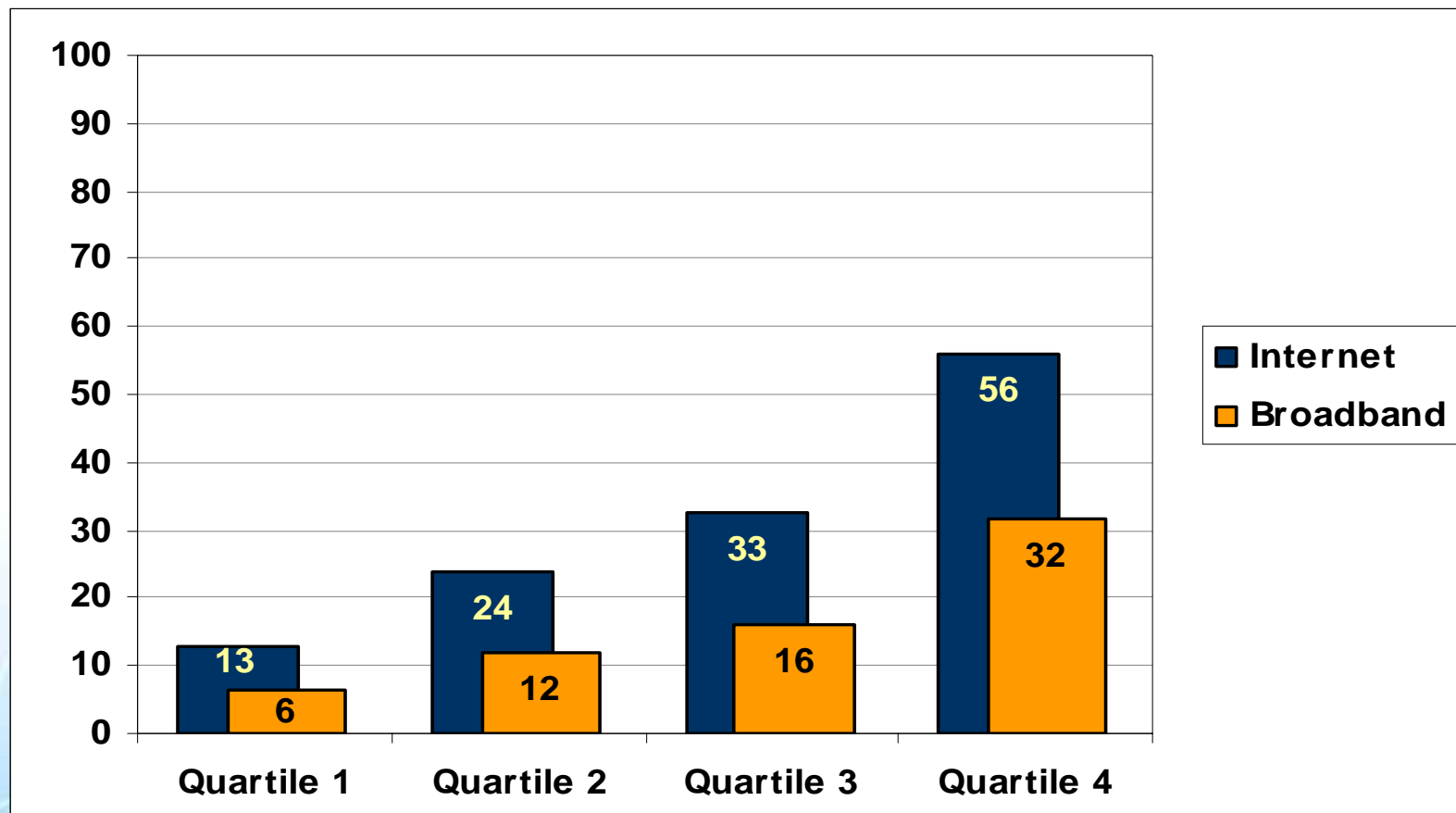
Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Households' Internet access & type of connection used, bottom5 and top5 countries (2005)



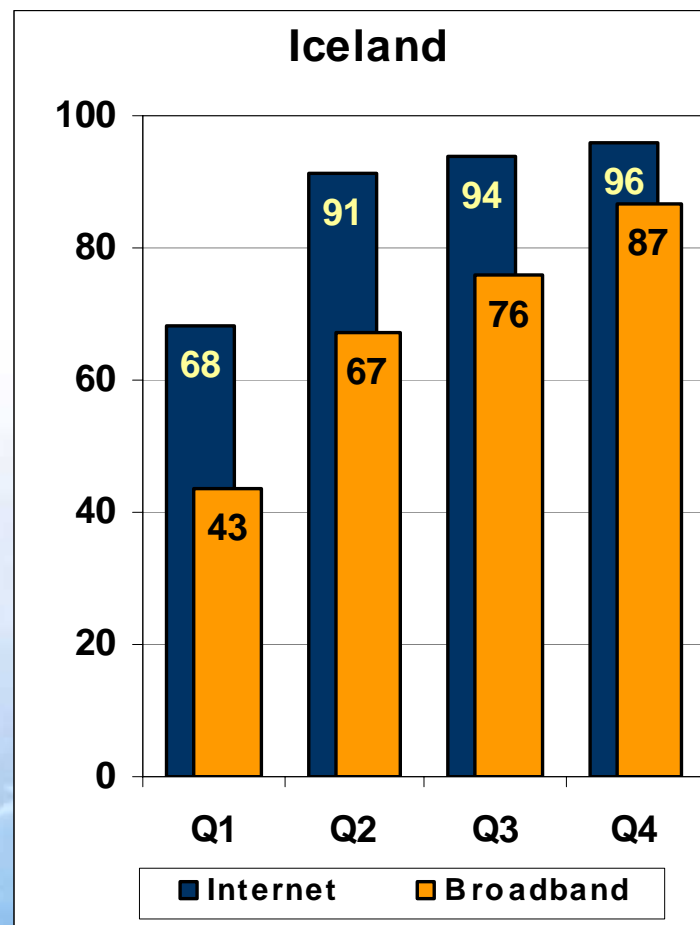
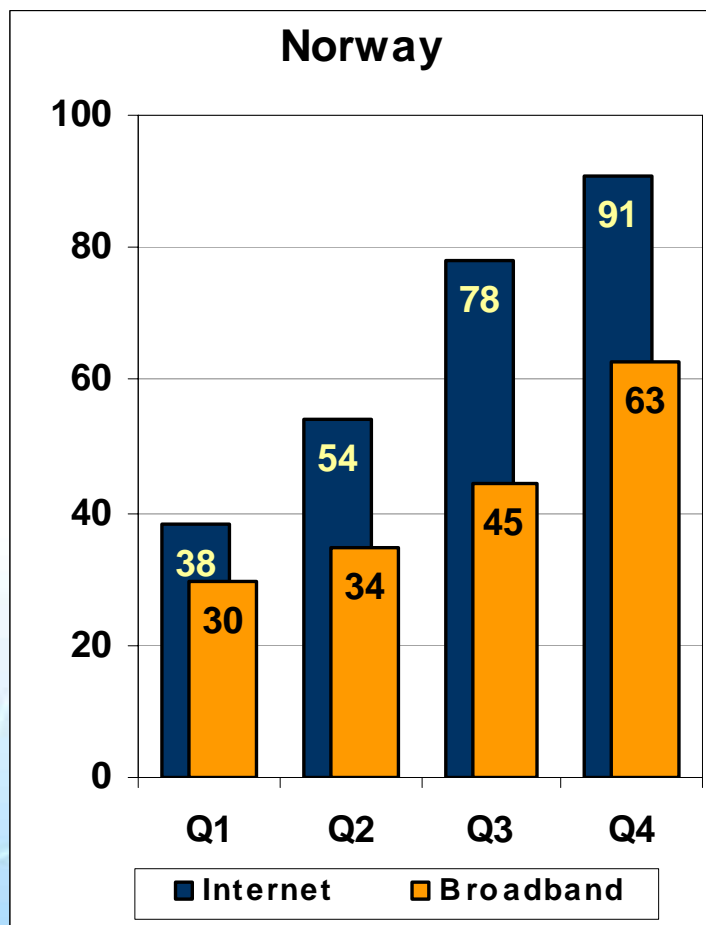
Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Households' Internet access & type of connection used, by income group (2005)



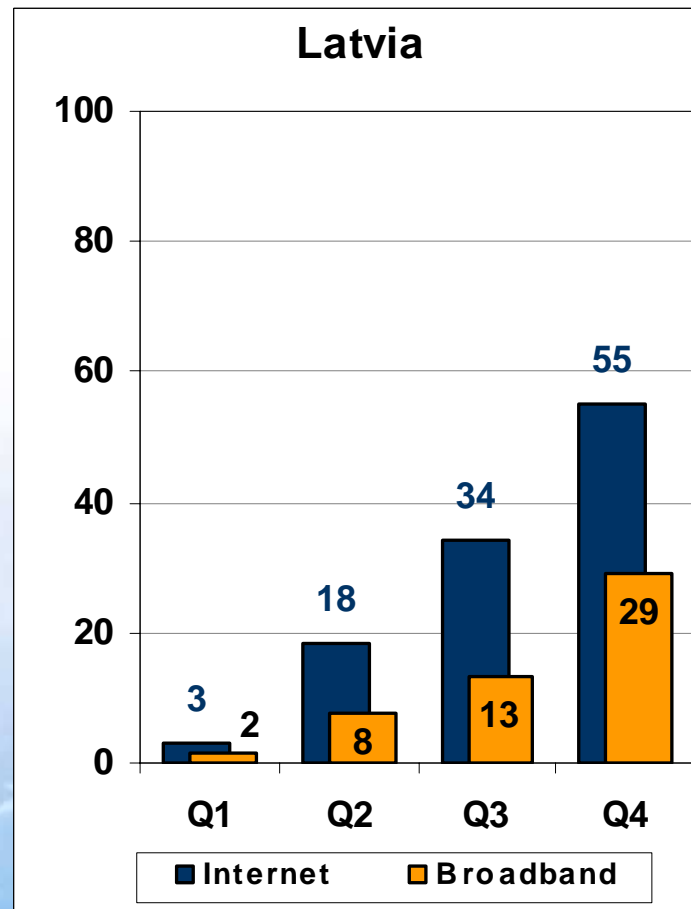
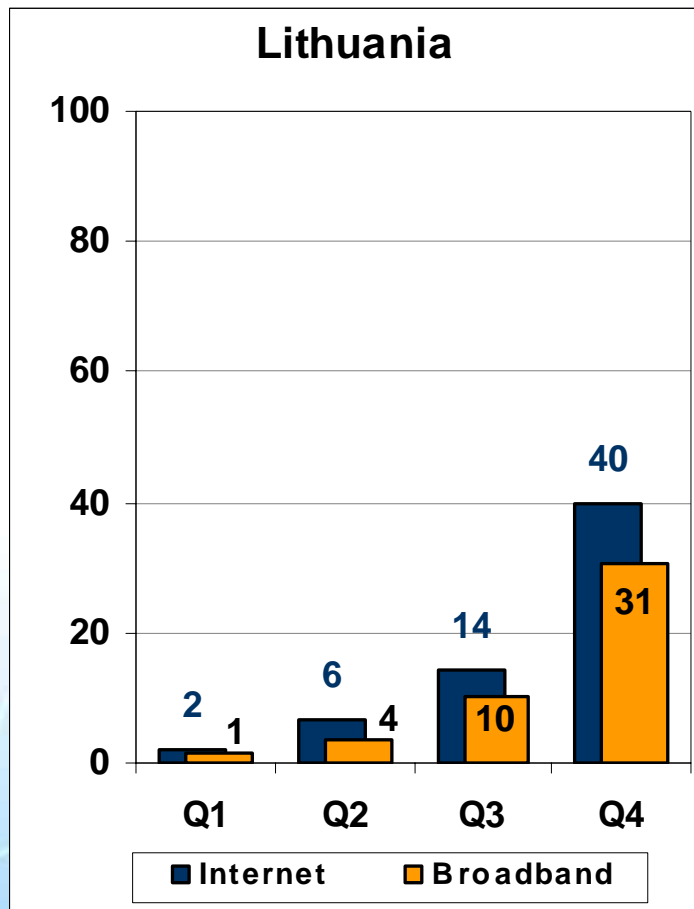
Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals
(data based on a subset of 8 European countries: HU, LV, LT, PL, SI, SK, IS, NO)

Households' Internet access & type of connection used, by income group (2005): *Iceland & Norway*



Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Households' Internet access & type of connection used, by income group (2005): *Lithuania & Latvia*



Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Barriers to households' **Internet access** (2005)

- *Question to households without home Internet connection*
- *Multiple answers were possible*

41% doesn't want Internet (content is not useful, etc.)

25% equipment costs are too high

24% lack of skills

23% access costs are too high (telephone, etc.)

18% has access elsewhere

8% doesn't want Internet (content is harmful, etc.)

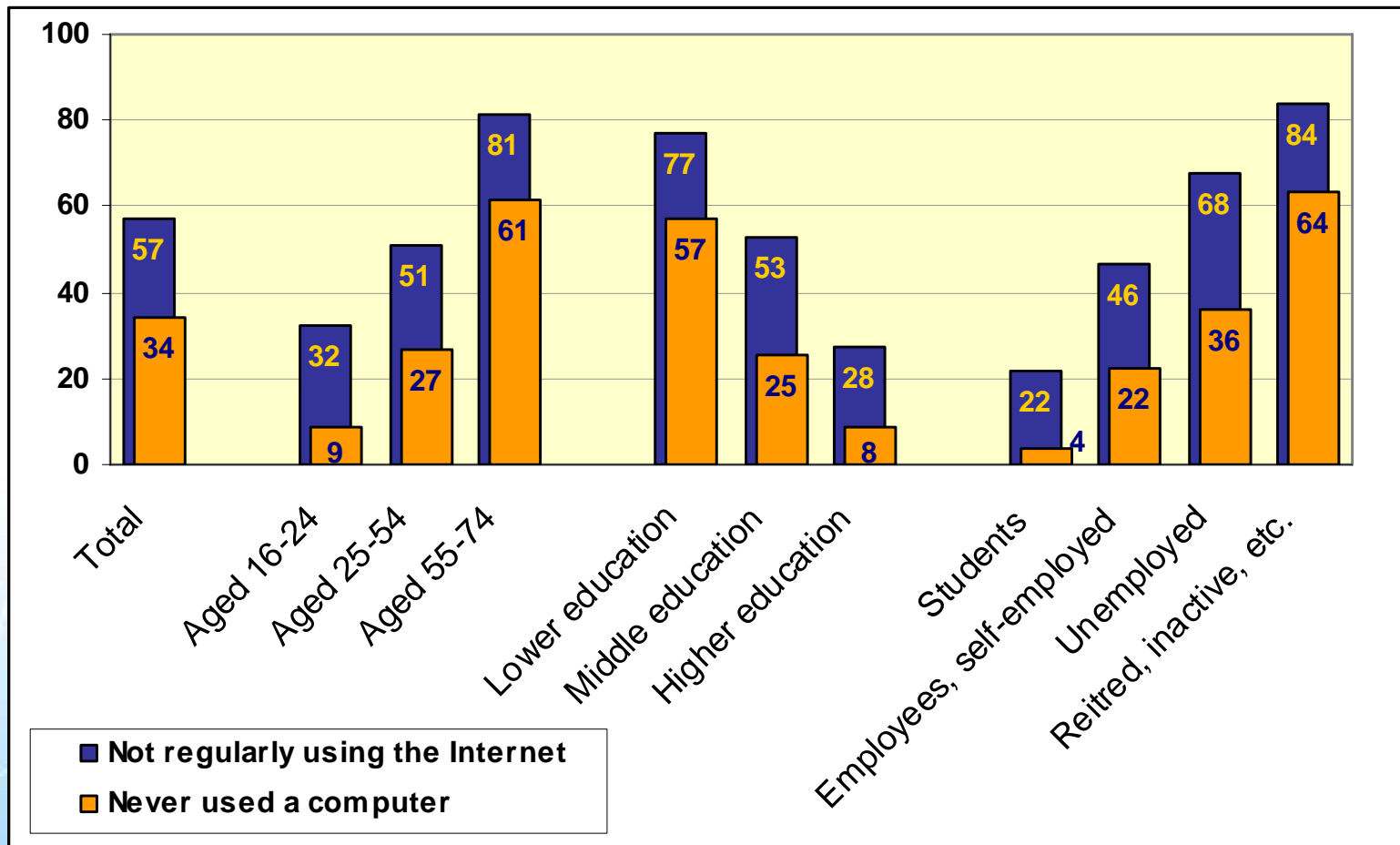
6% privacy or security concerns

1% physical disability

13% other reasons

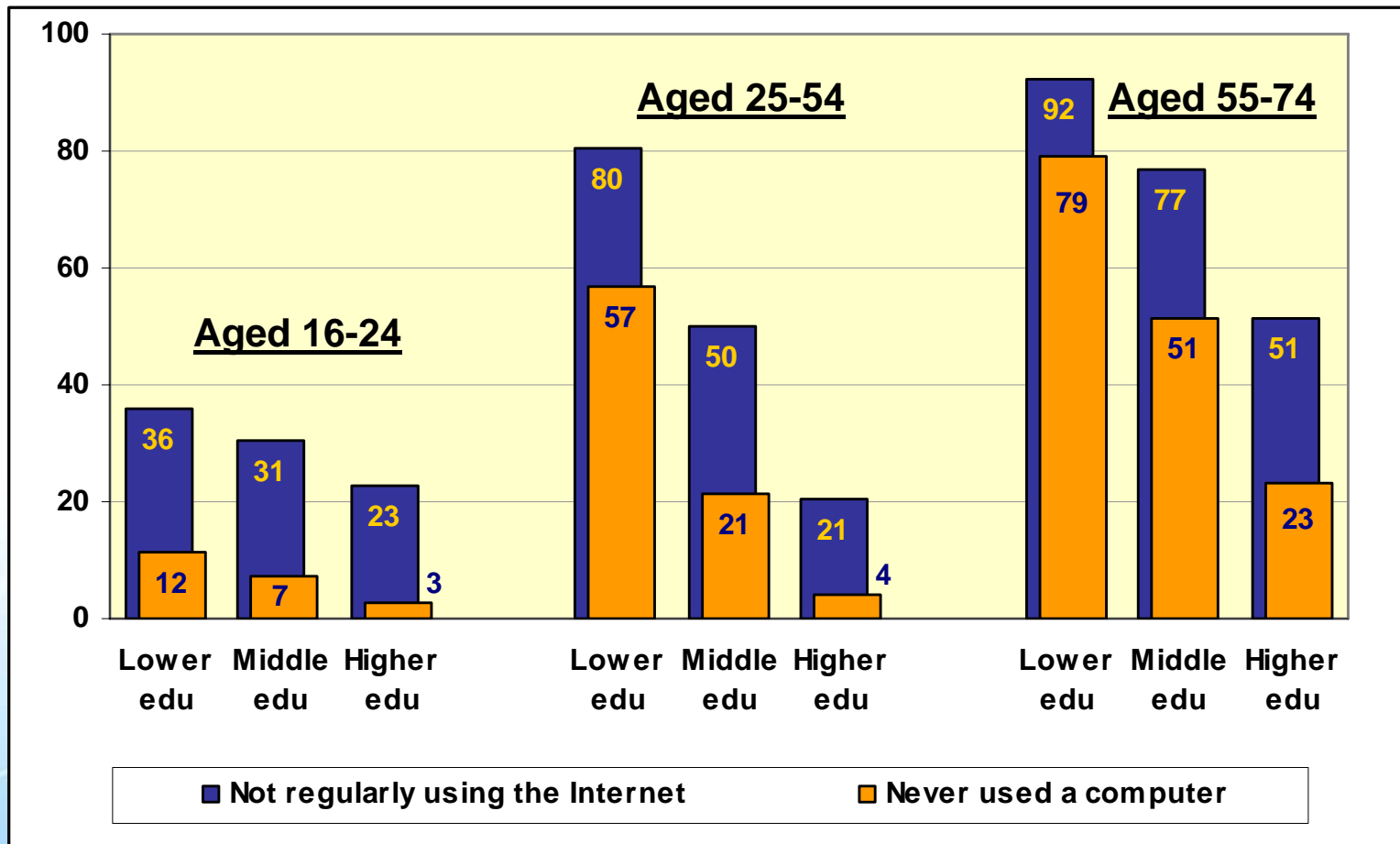
Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Proportion of individuals **not regularly using the Internet** / **never having used a computer** (EU25, 2005)



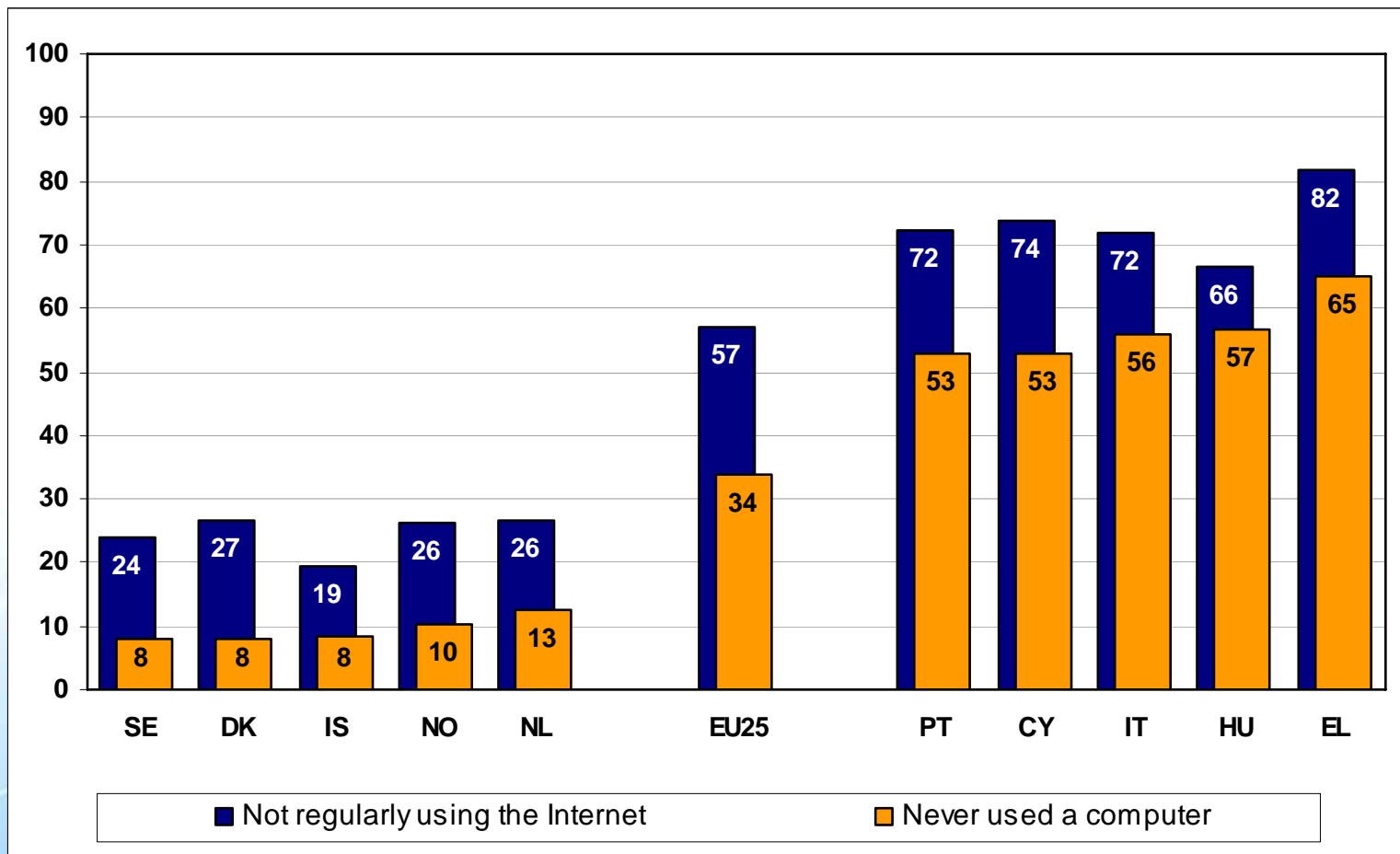
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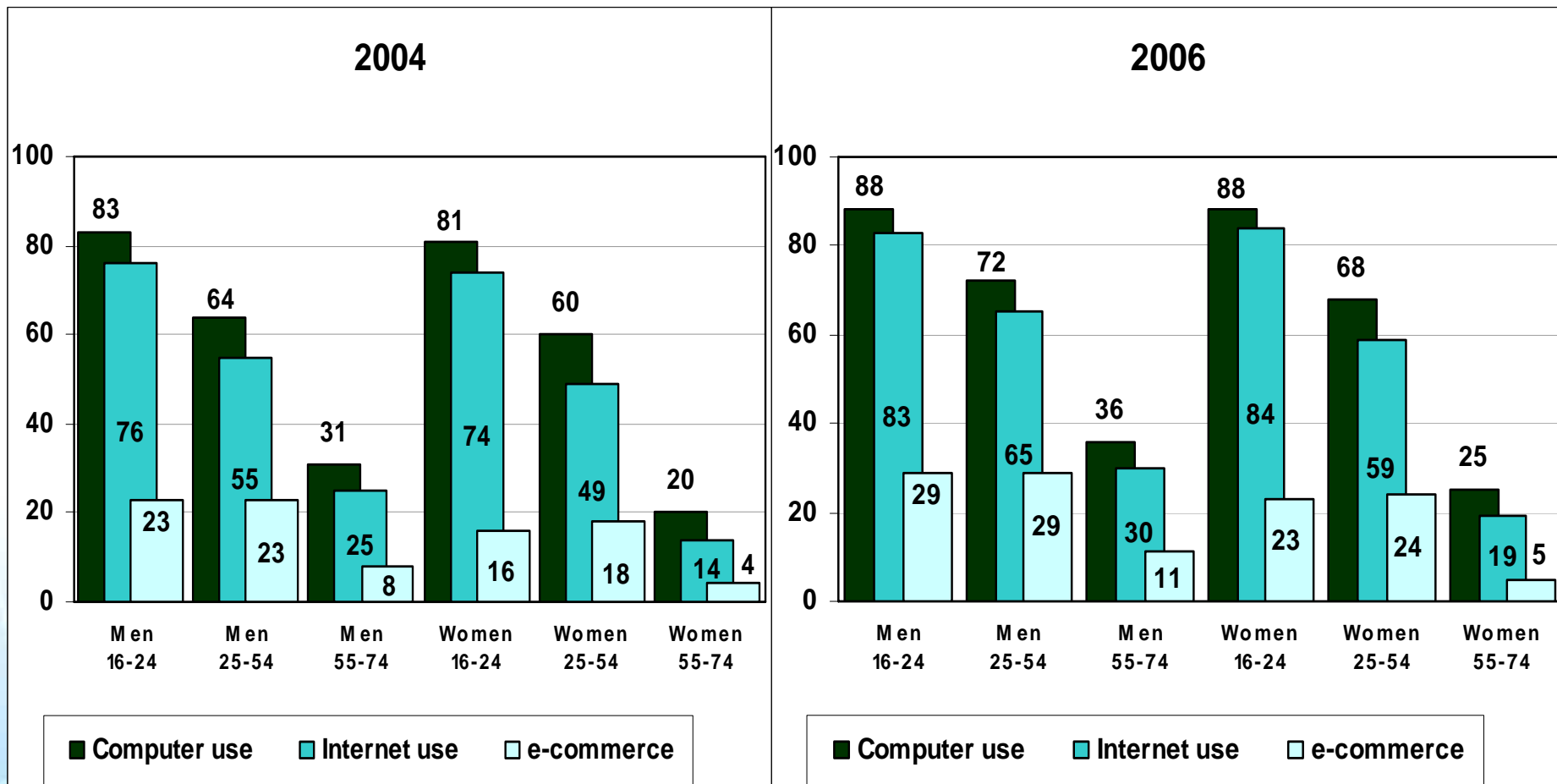
Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Proportion of individuals not regularly using the Internet / never having used a computer (2005)



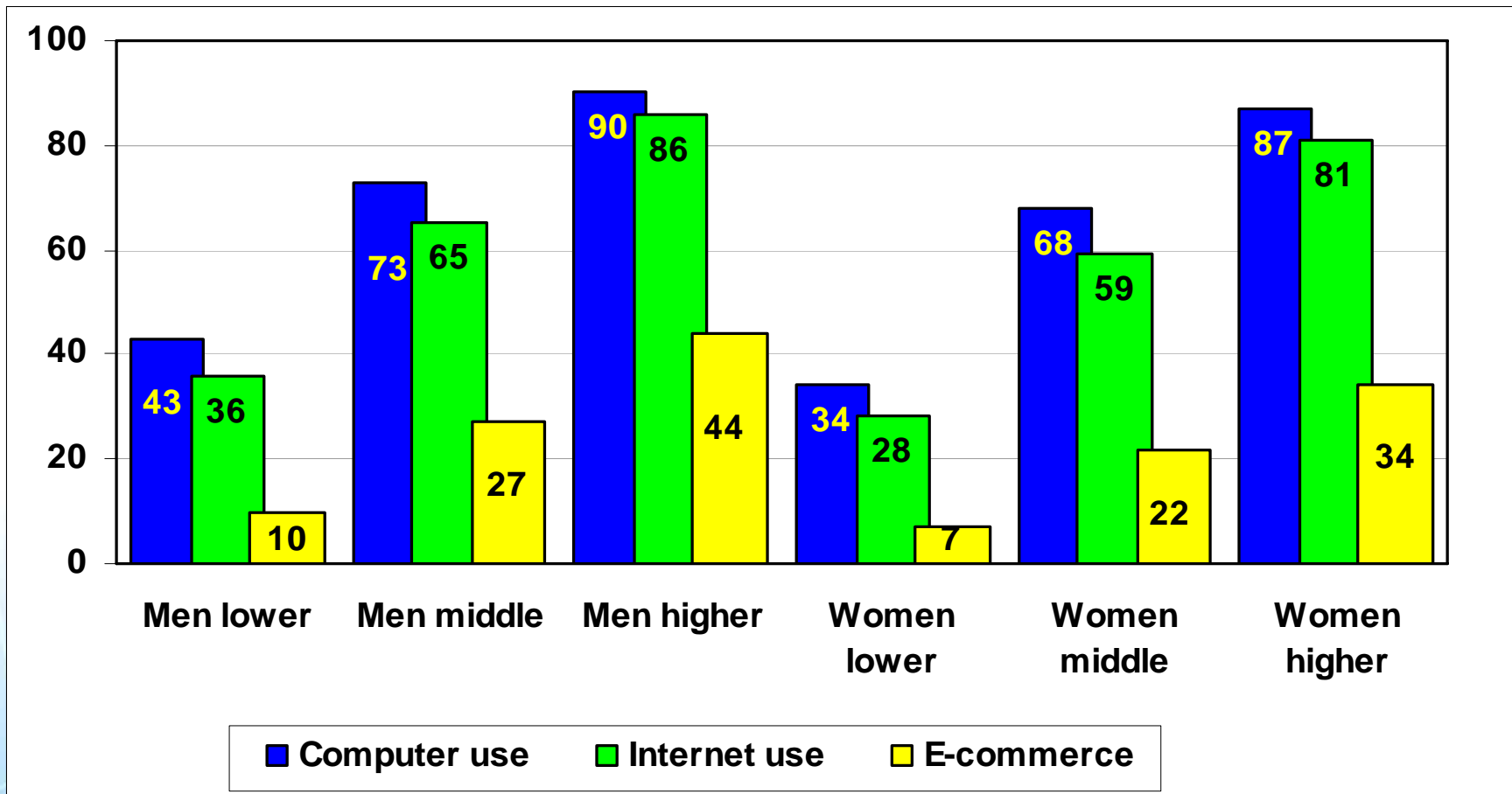
Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Individuals' use of computers and Internet (2004 and 2006), by gender and age group (EU25)



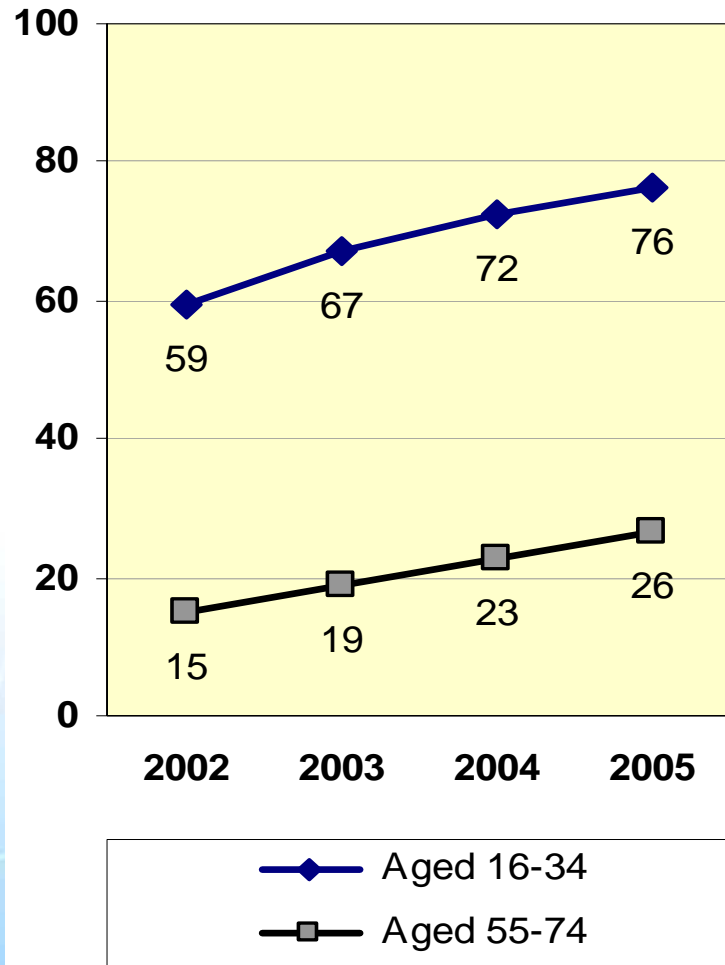
Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

Individuals' use of computers and Internet (2006), by gender and educational level (EU25)



Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

The **digital divide** 2002 – 2005: proportion of individuals using the Internet, by age group



- Internet use is increasing in all age groups
- But the gap or divide is becoming wider rather than narrowing

Source: Eurostat, Community survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals

(data based on 11 old Member States, namely DK, DE, EL, ES, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI, SE)

The future

- **Detailed module** on *digital literacy, e-skills and e-learning* in the 2007 survey
- **Additional breakdowns** in the pipeline for more detailed monitoring of e-inclusion and digital divide
 - Feasibility of more detailed **regional** breakdown is being studied (e.g. Länder, provinces, ...)
 - Expanding the number of countries collecting information on the **household income** (currently optional)
 - 2006 survey: data collection for younger individuals (< 16y) and older individuals (>74y)