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# Understanding Adults with Low Foundational Skills in Latvia Profile and Potential

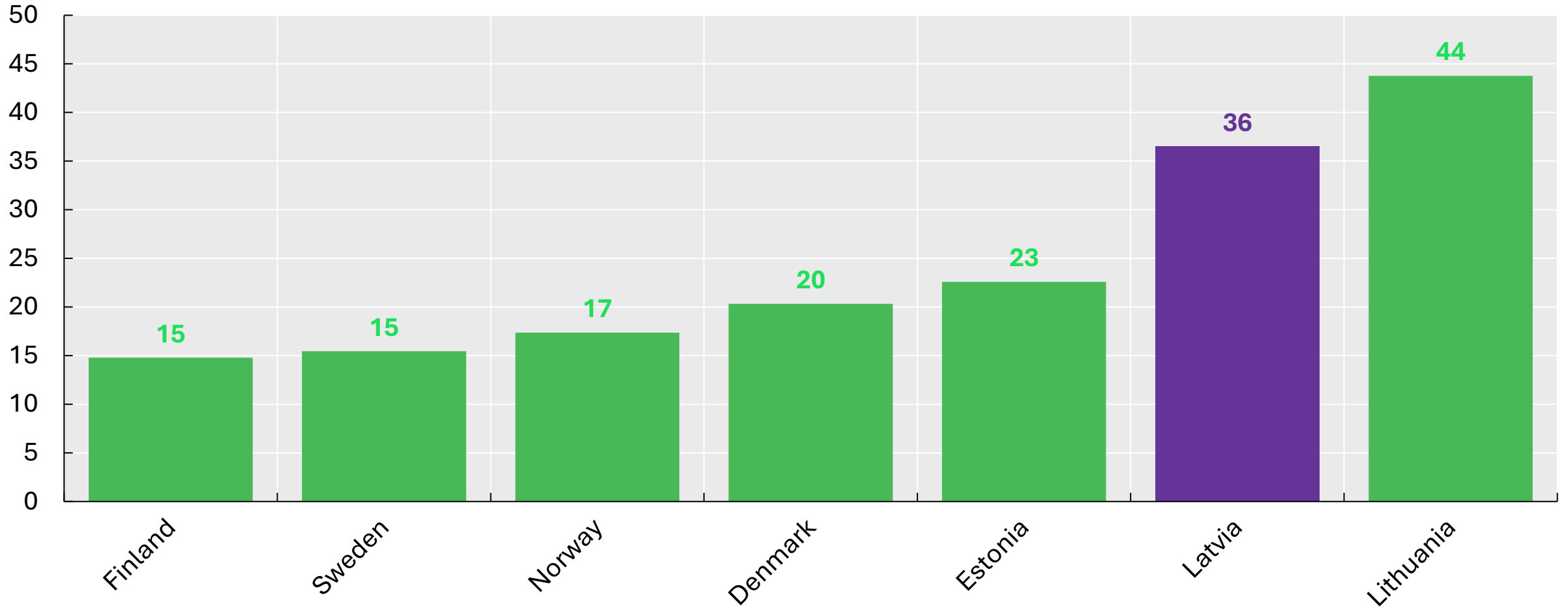
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## Many Latvians struggle with foundational skills

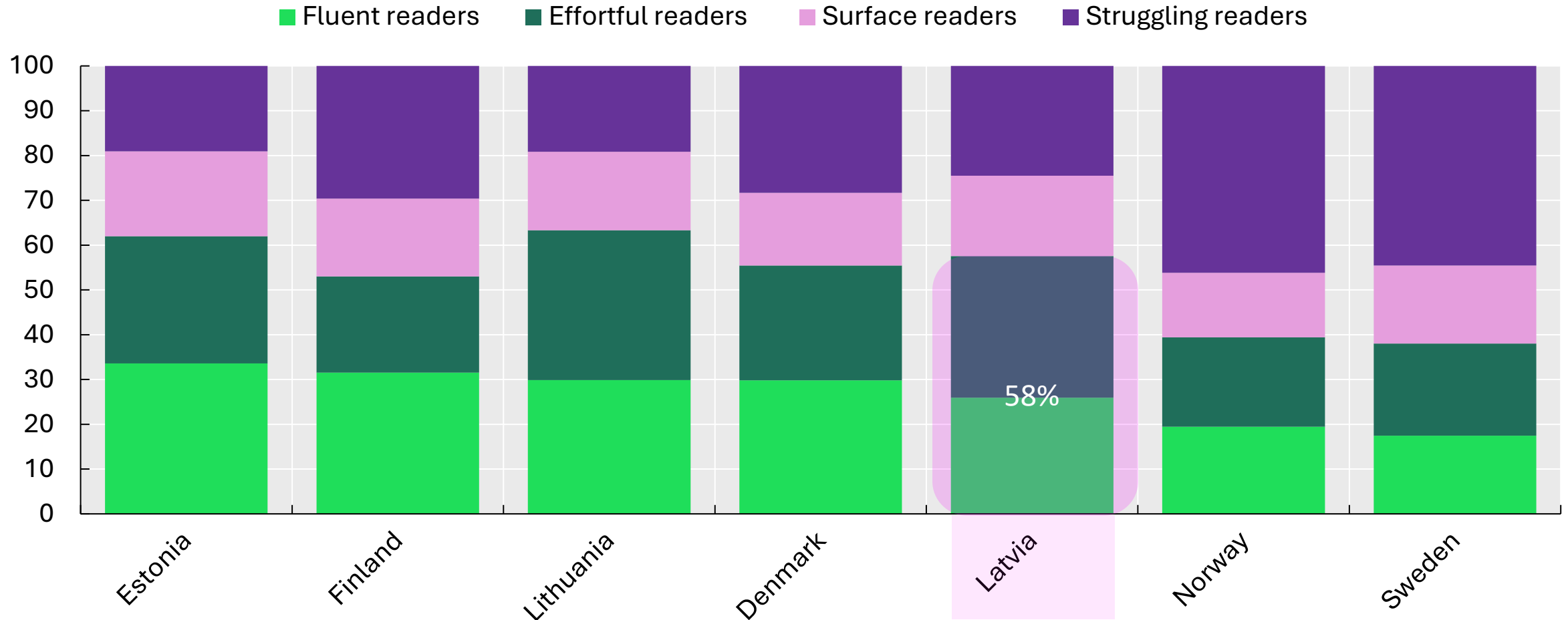
Percentage of adults scoring at or below Level 1 in literacy or numeracy, 2023





# Accurate reading is common in Latvia – fluent reading is not

Share of adults with low foundational skills by reader profile, by country, 2023



**1**

**Who has low foundational skills in Latvia?**

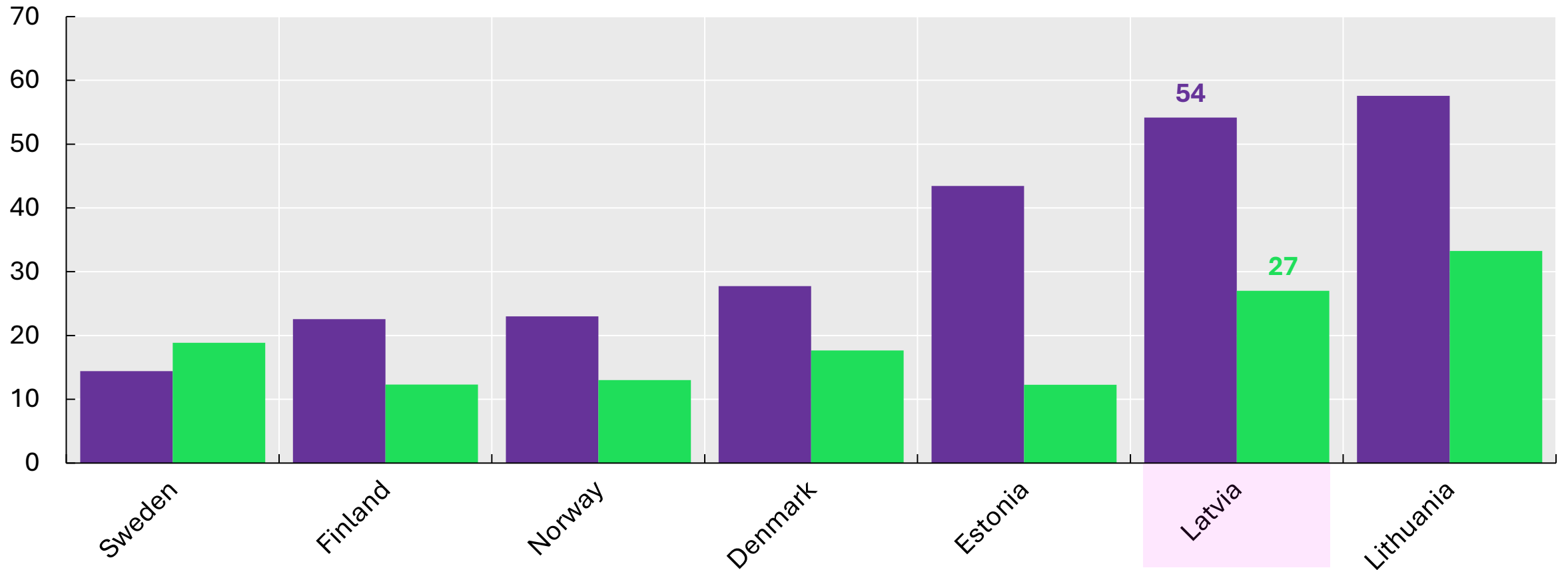




## More than one in two older adults in Latvia are low skilled

Share of adults with low foundational skills by age group, 2023

■ 56-65 ■ 16-25

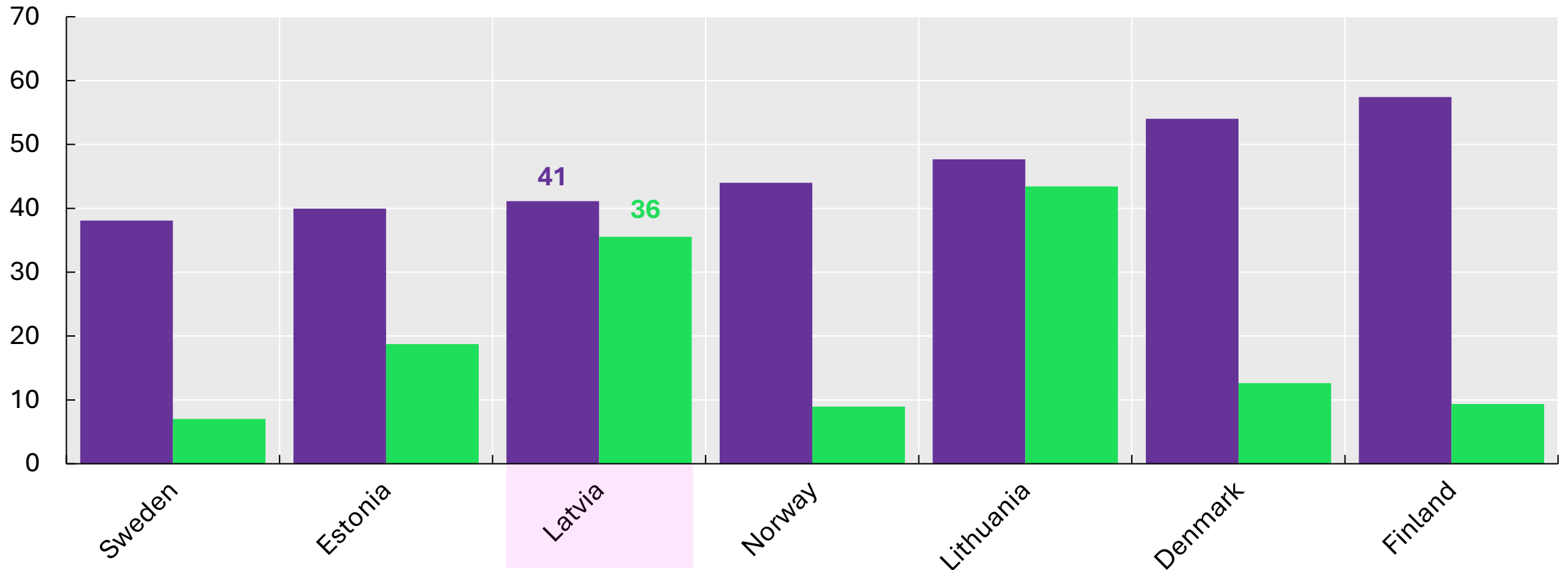




# Latvia stands out: migrants are only slightly more likely to be low-skilled...

Share of adults with low foundational skills by migration background, 2023

■ First generation migrants ■ Natives

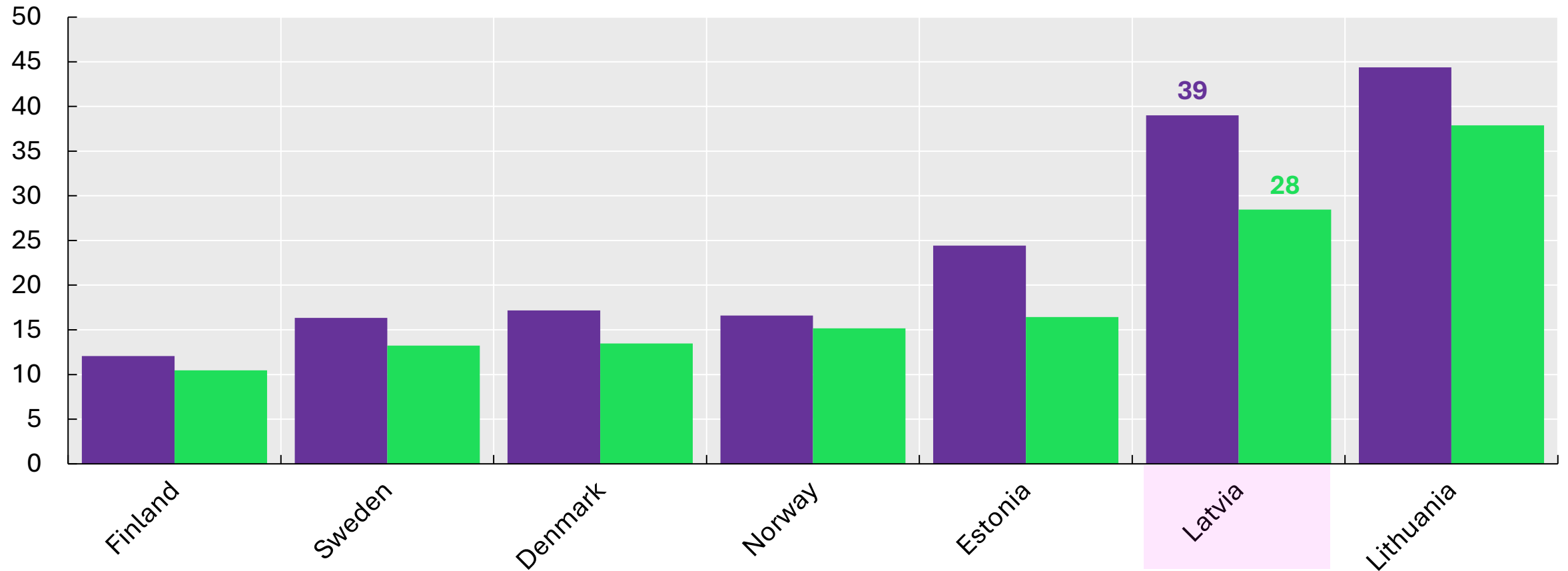




## ...but home language matters for low skills in Latvia.

Share of adults with low foundational skills by home language, 2023

■ Does not speak test language at home    ■ Speaks test language at home

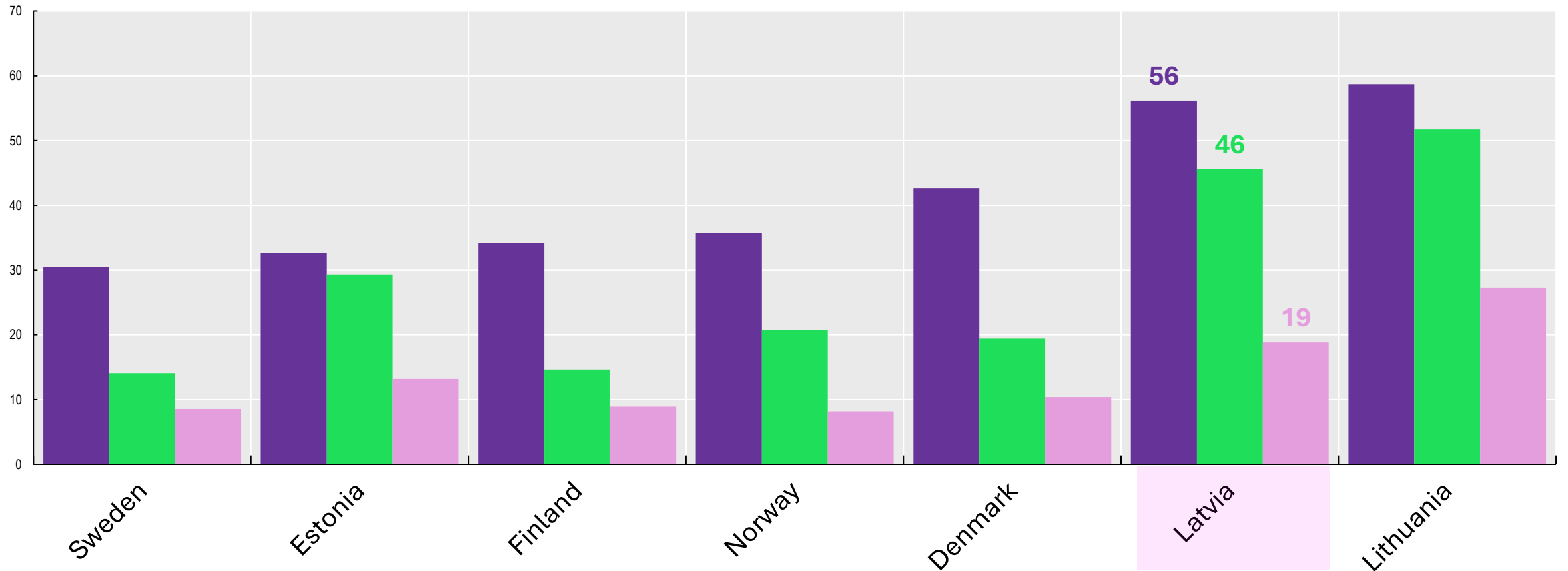




# Low skills exist even amongst those with medium or high education levels

Share of adults with low foundational skills by education level, 2023

■ Less than upper secondary ■ Upper secondary ■ Tertiary

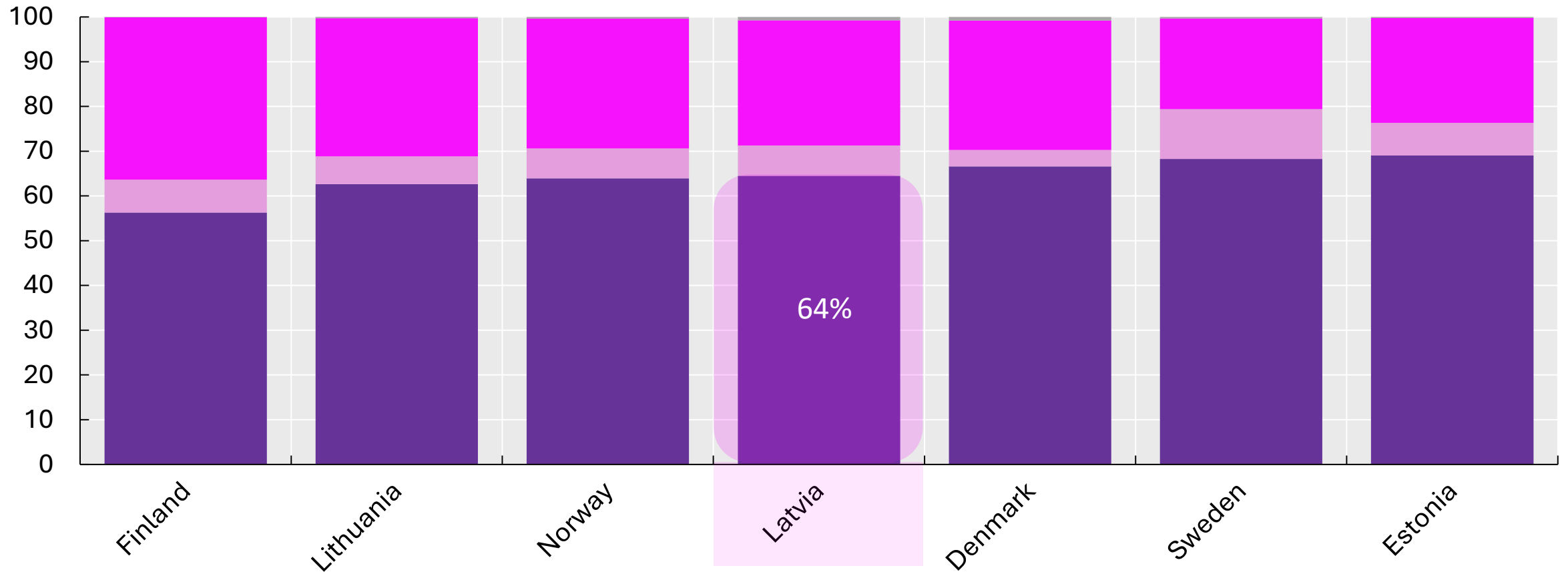




## Two in three adults with low skills in Latvia are in work

Labour market status of adults with low foundational skills, 2023

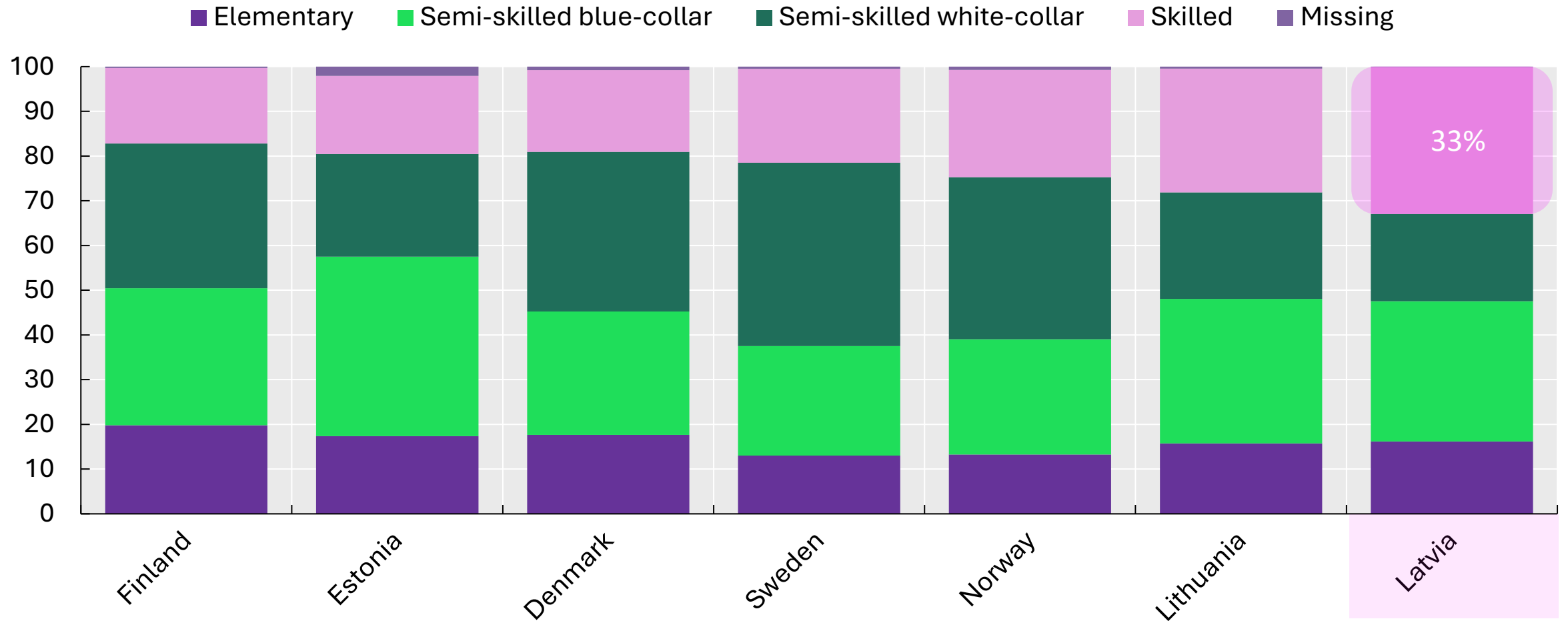
Employed Unemployed Inactive Missing





## ..and many are even employed in skilled jobs

Occupation of adults with low foundational skills, 2023



# What direction for policy in Latvia?

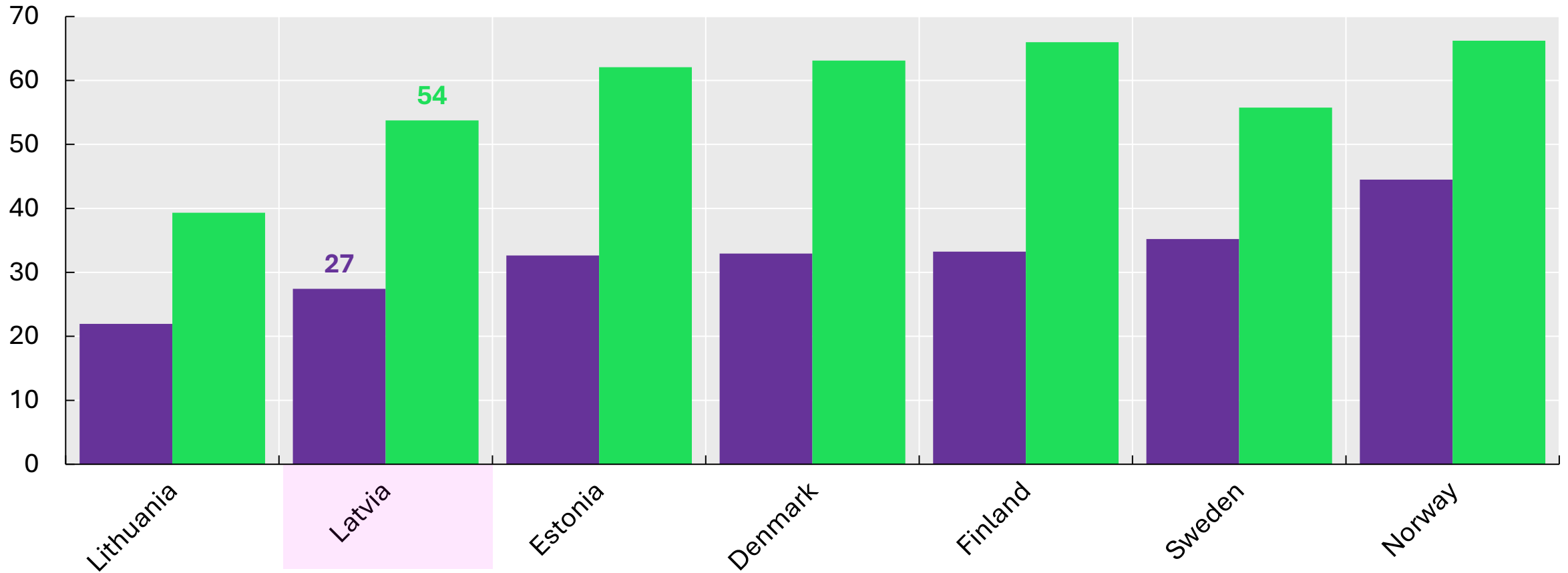




## Adults with low skills in Latvia lag behind in training participation

Share of adults who participated in adult education and training, 2023

■ Low skills ■ Medium or high skills





## Latvia: is it a literacy gap or a different challenge?

### Near-threshold countries

*Canada, Czechia, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden*

Population clustered just below medium proficiency and relatively homogenous. Well-targeted short-course upskilling is a viable policy lever.

### Deep deficit countries

*Chile, Denmark, Finland, Flemish Region (BE), France, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Portugal*

Population further from medium proficiency and more internally diverse. Provision must be intensive, long-duration, and embedded in an educational equity agenda.

### Literacy gap countries

*Austria, Latvia, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland*

Primarily a language integration challenge. Rapid, sustained language acquisition support for migrants and language minorities is the highest-return investment.

### Numeracy gap countries

*England (UK), New Zealand, United States*

Challenge likely originates upstream in compulsory mathematics education. Adult provision helps at the margins, but high quality and equitable initial education is key.