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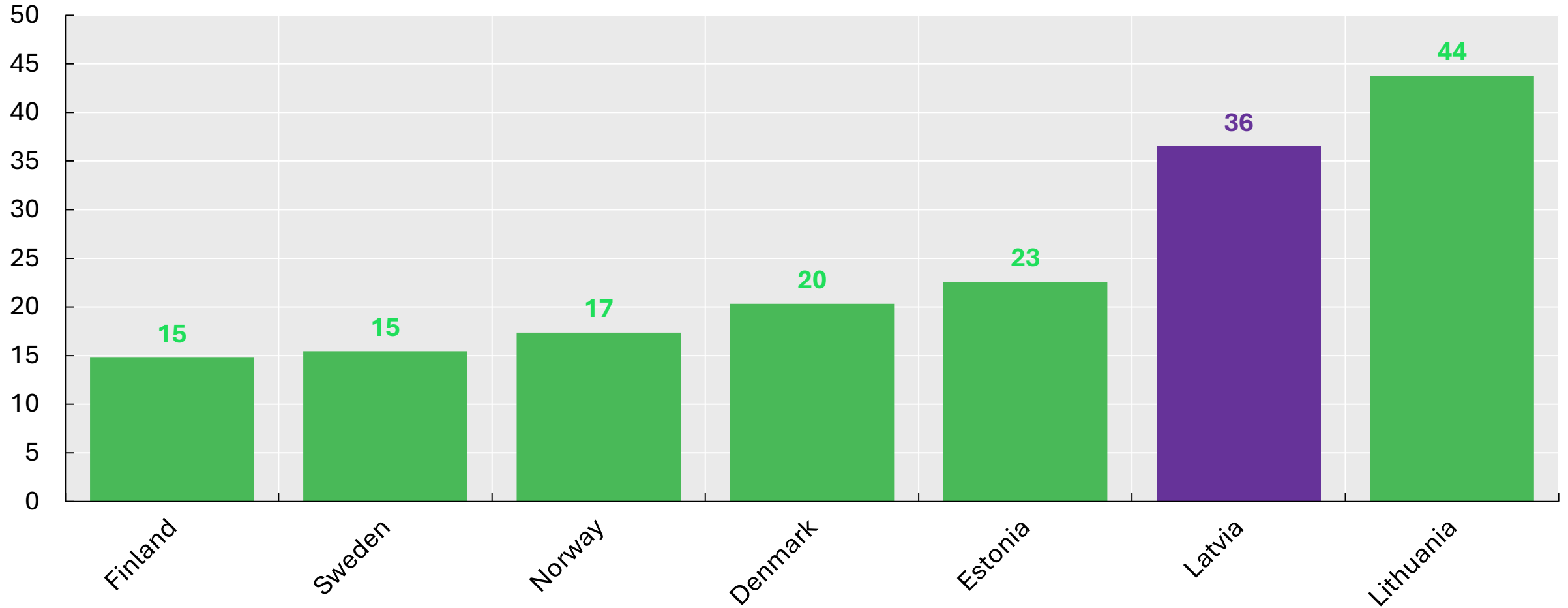
Understanding Adults with Low Foundational Skills in Latvia Profile and Potential





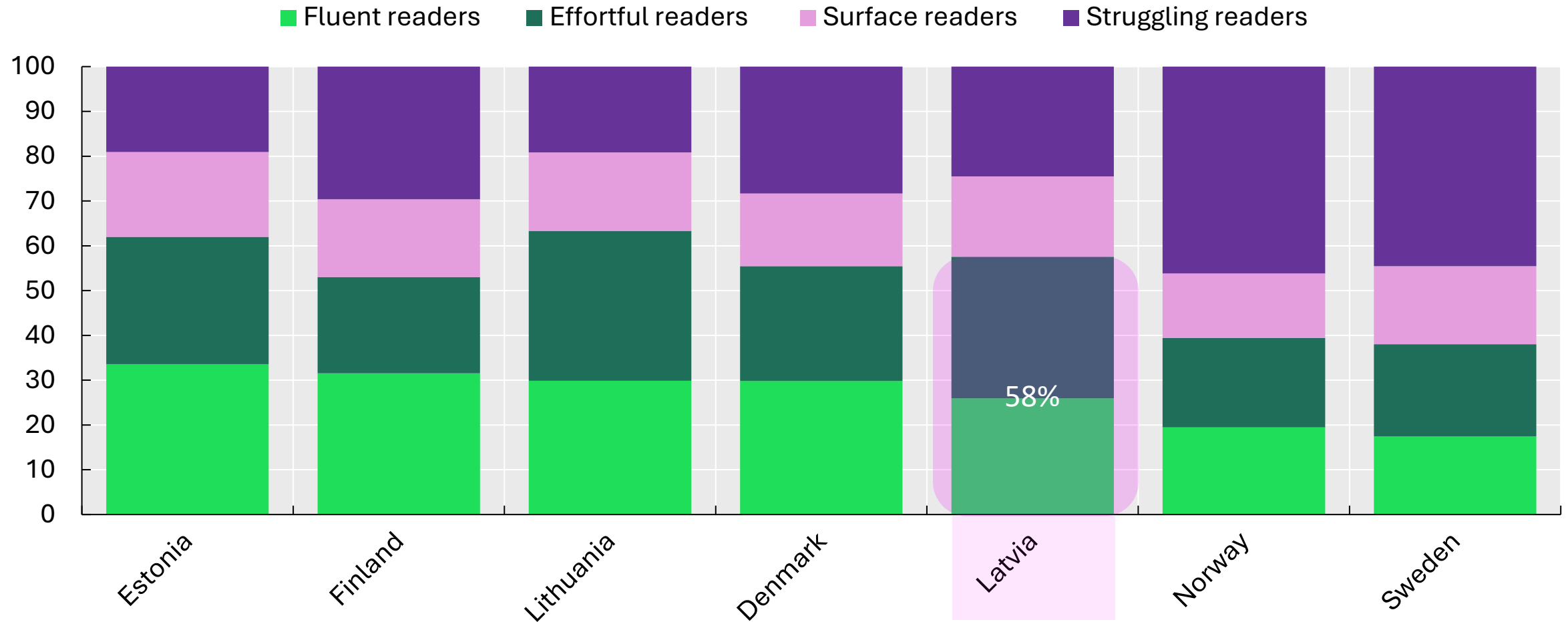
Many Latvians struggle with foundational skills

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



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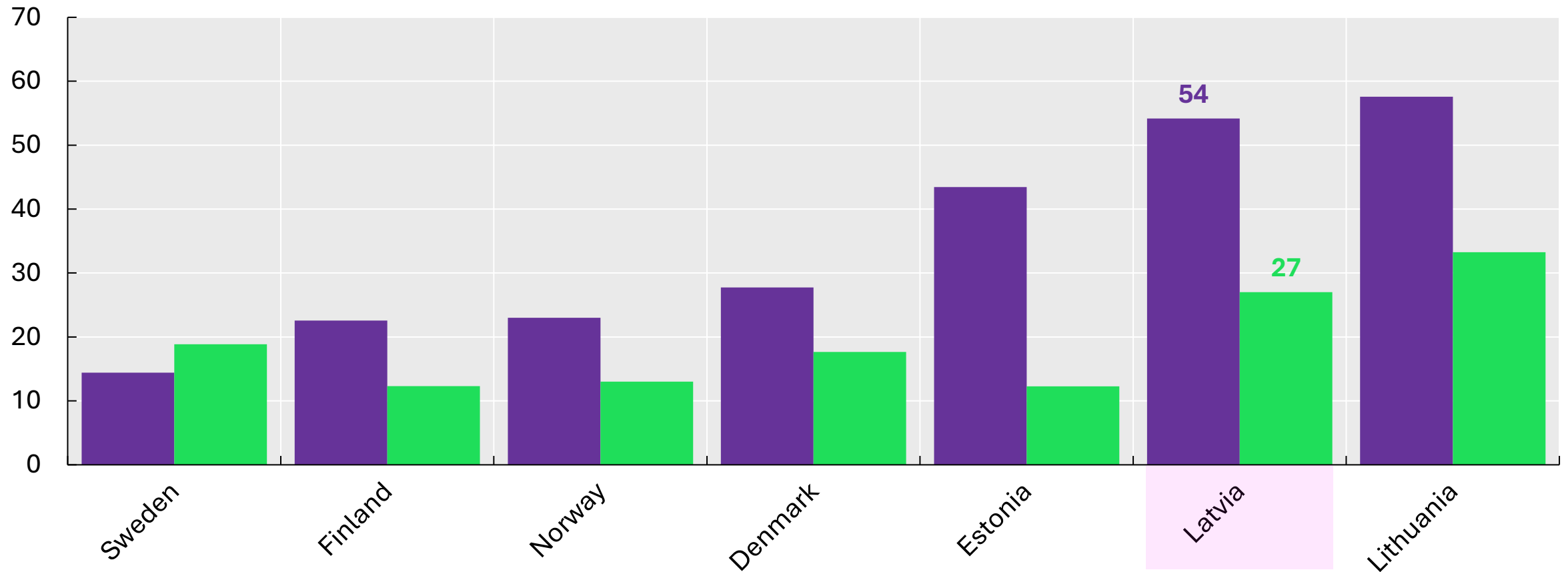
Who has low foundational skills in Latvia?



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

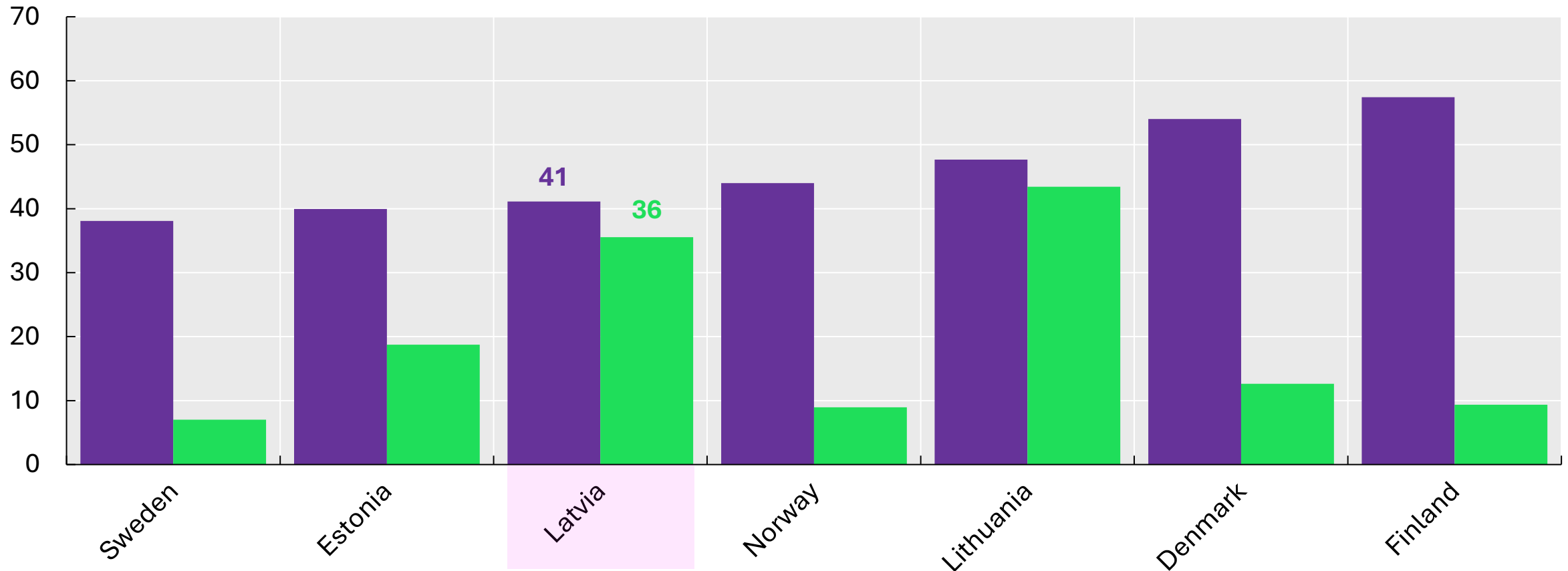




Latvia stands out: migrants are only slightly more likely to be low-skilled...

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

■ First generation migrants ■ Natives

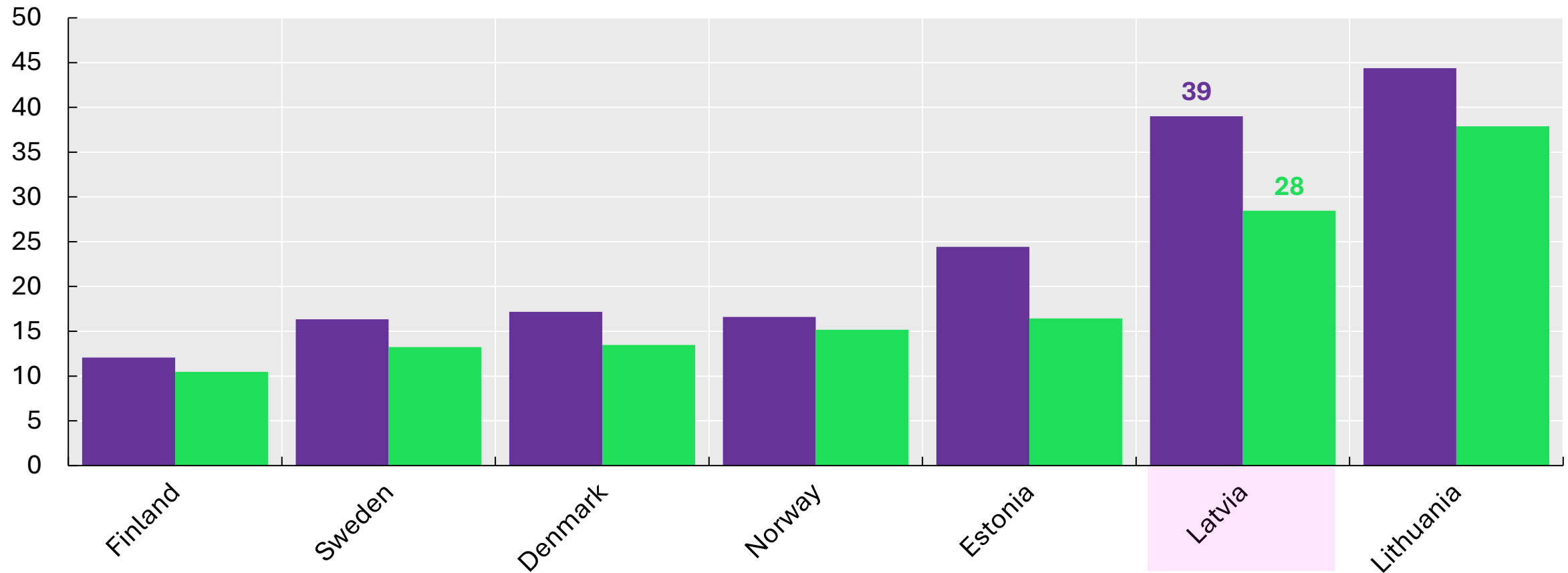




...but home language matters for low skills in Latvia.

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

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

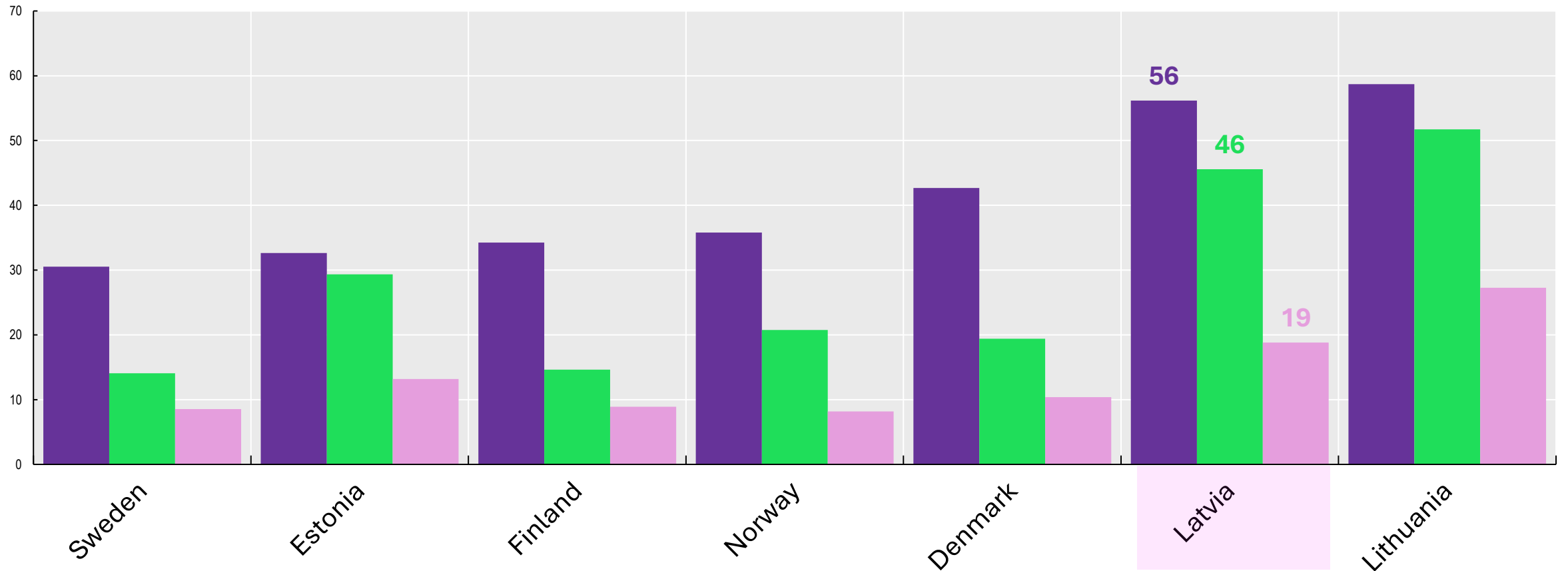




Low skills exist even amongst those with medium or high education levels

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

■ Less than upper secondary ■ Upper secondary ■ Tertiary

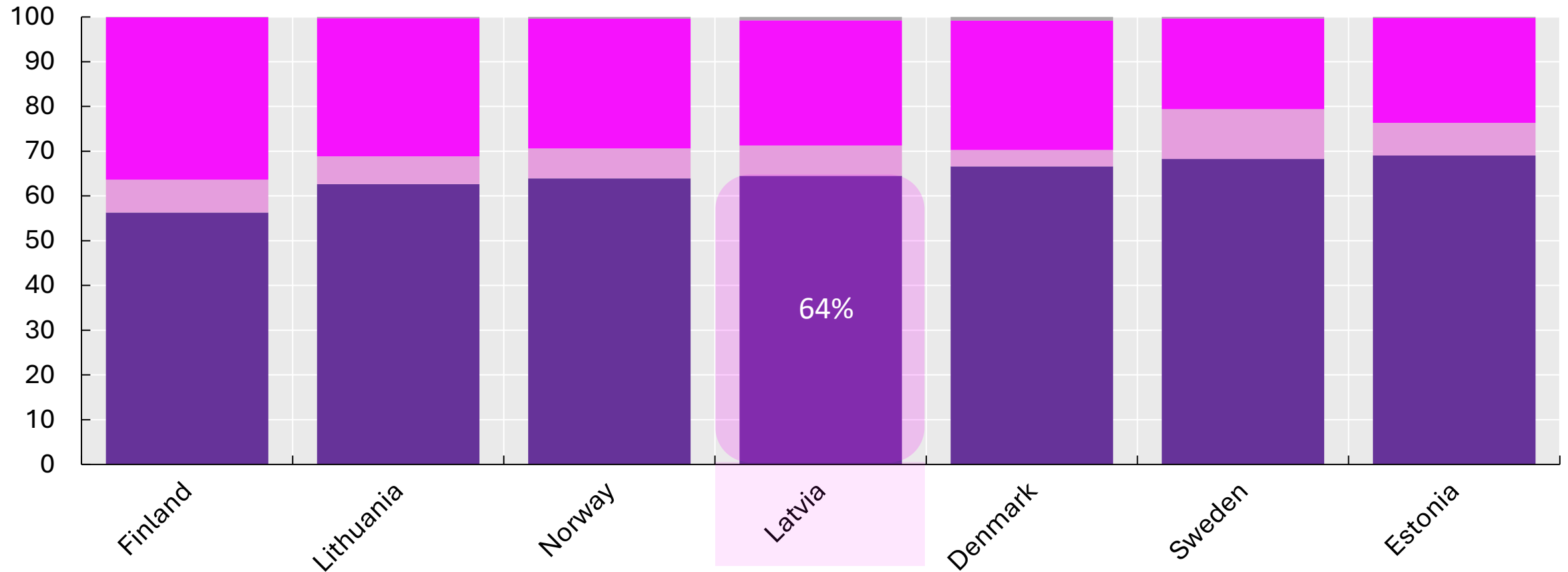




Two in three adults with low skills in Latvia are in work

Labour market status of adults with low foundational skills, 2023

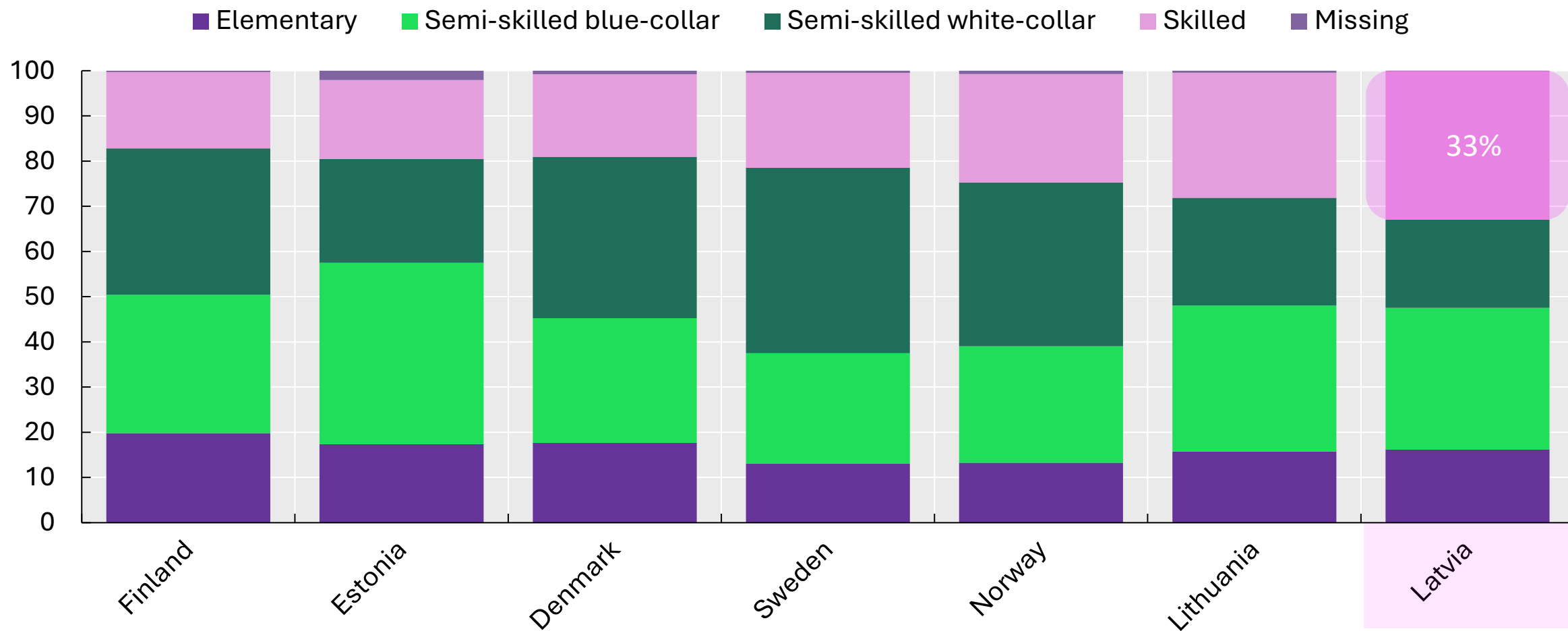
Employed Unemployed Inactive Missing





..and many are even employed in skilled jobs

Occupation of adults with low foundational skills, 2023



2

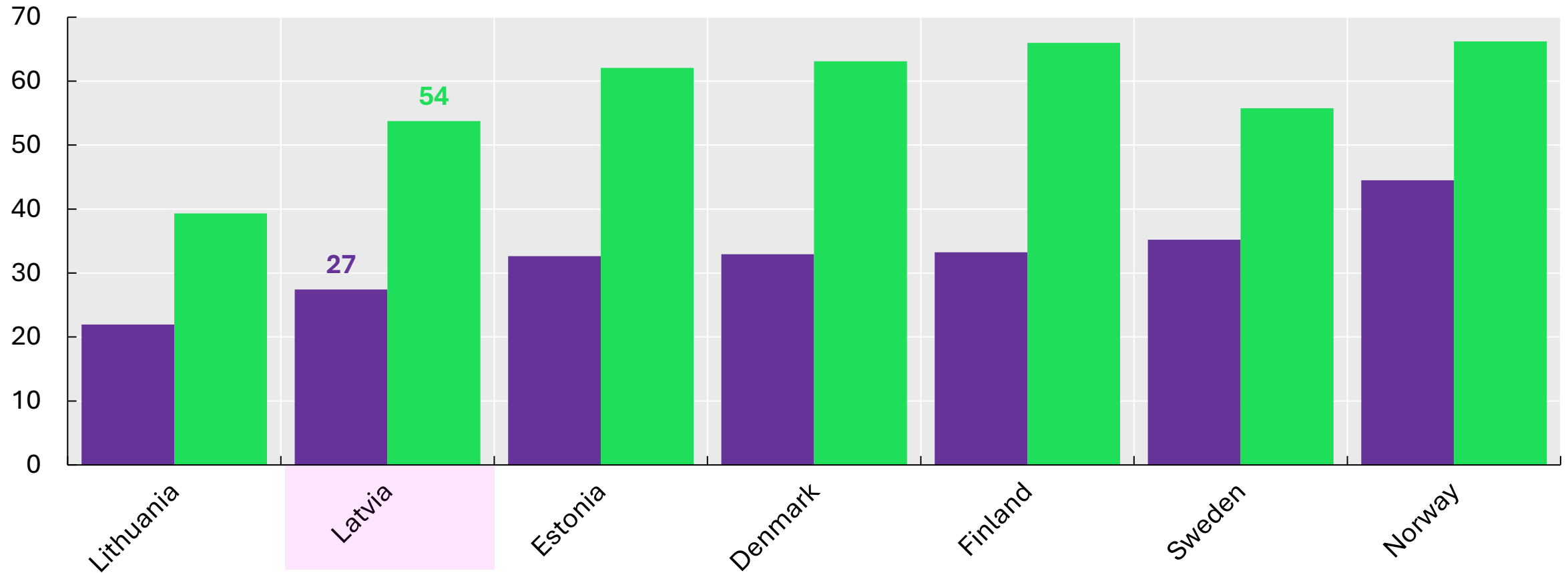
What direction for policy in Latvia?



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.