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Federal Statistical Office FSO

Gender digital divide

A 'FSO News' Publication

Carole Liechti, FSO, author

Katja Branger, FSO, presenter

10th Global Forum on Gender Statistics

Session 8: Gender data and the digital transformation

3 October 2025

Project launch

- Informal discussion with person responsible for gender equality indicators Katja Branger – Federal Statistical Office, Demography and Migration Section (FSO/DEM)
- Annual meeting with persons responsible for the Digital Switzerland Strategy Françoise Légeret and Dieter Tschan – Digital Transformation and ICT (DTI) Steering Group – Federal Chancellery (FCh)

Political context

- **In 2021**: Women in Parliament session on digitalisation and gender – written demands
- **In 2022**: Demands taken up by the National Council's Science, Education and Culture Committee – outcomes:
  - **a postulate (22.3878)**: Report and strategy on increasing the proportion of women in STEM professions => report published in May 2025
  - **a motion (22.3879):** Integrating the gender perspective in digitalisation => preliminary study underway

❖ STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics

FSO publication with FCh contribution

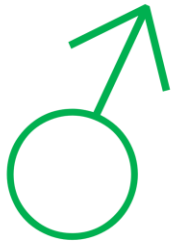
- 'FSO News' published on 19 November 2024: Interesting statistical results, a major current political issue
- First section: Presentation of the political context – by FCh
- Other sections: Statistical results and conclusions – by FSO

Statistical topics and sources of data

- Internet use, frequency of use and digital literacy – Survey on Internet Use by Households and Individuals (FSO/Omnibus ICT)
- ICT-related education and occupations – Swiss Labour Force Survey (FSO/SLFS) and Education Database (OECD)
  - **The focus is always on gender gaps, and the data is disaggregated by age and education.**

Results – Internet use and frequency

Persons aged 60 and over, 2023



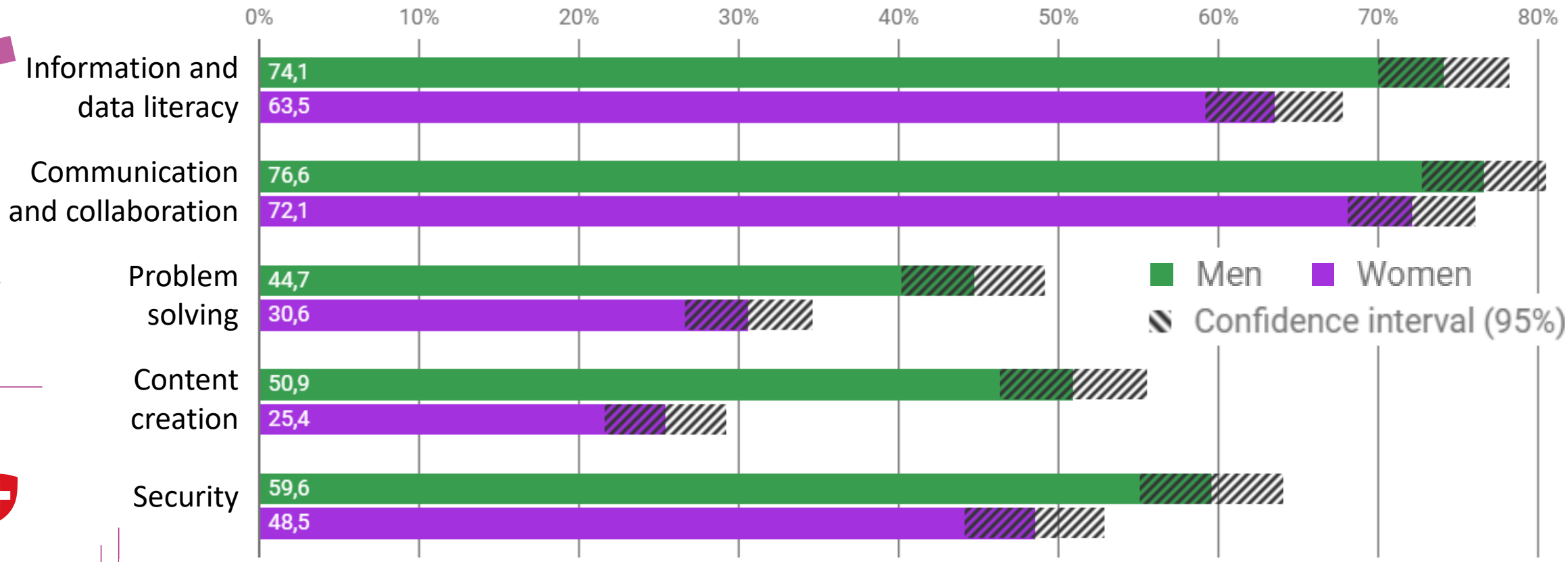
94%	In the last 3 months	**88%**
83%	Daily or almost daily	**73%**
58%	Several times a day	**49%**

Source: FSO – ICT Omnibus survey

Results – Digital literacy

Advanced digital skills by field, among the over-60s, 2023

In % of population aged 60 and over



Source: FSO – ICT Omnibus survey

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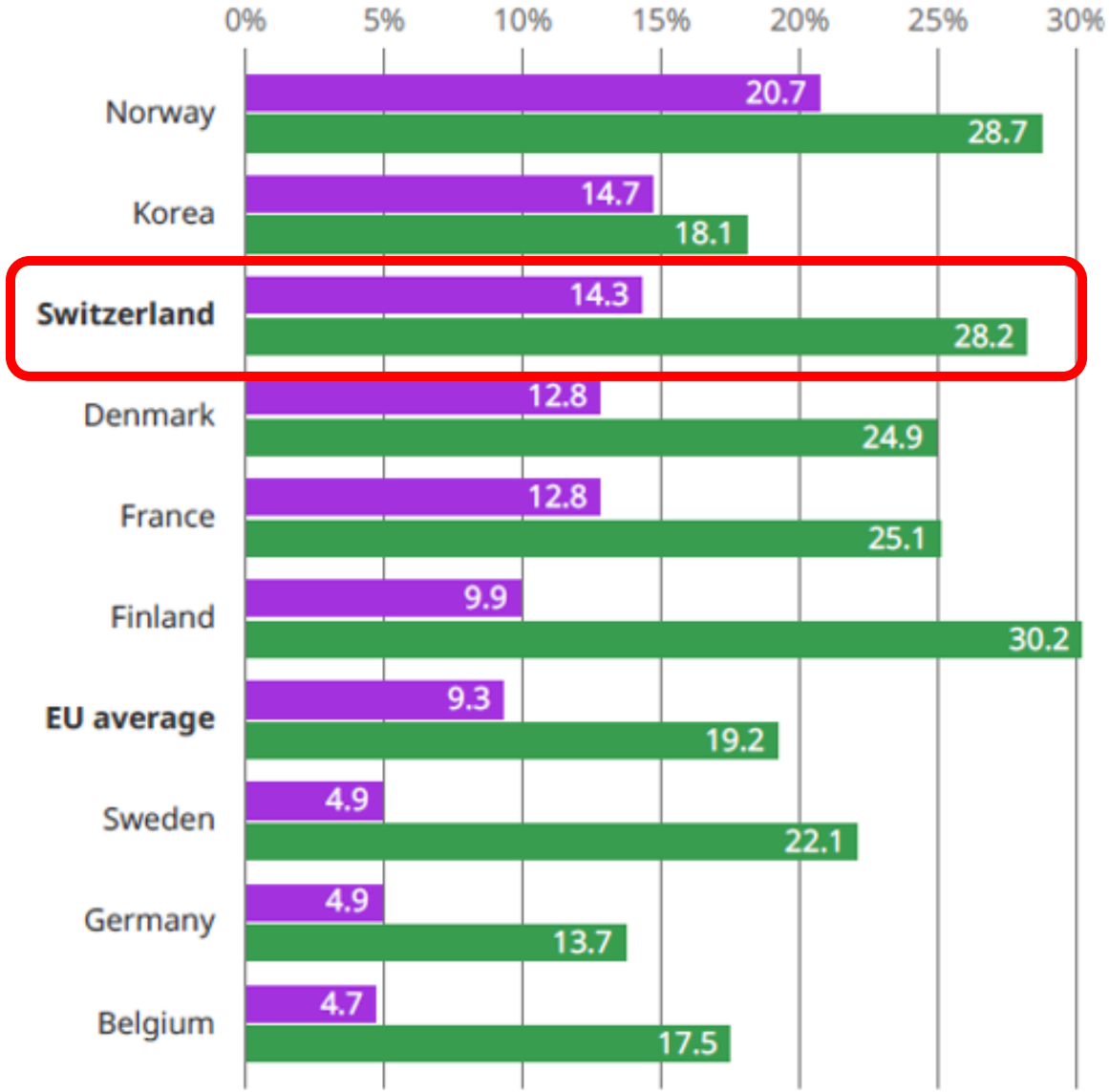
Results – Digital literacy

Percentage of 16 to 24 year-olds who have programmed in the last three months, international comparison, 2023

In % of population aged 16 to 24



Women Men

Source: OECD – Going Digital Toolkit

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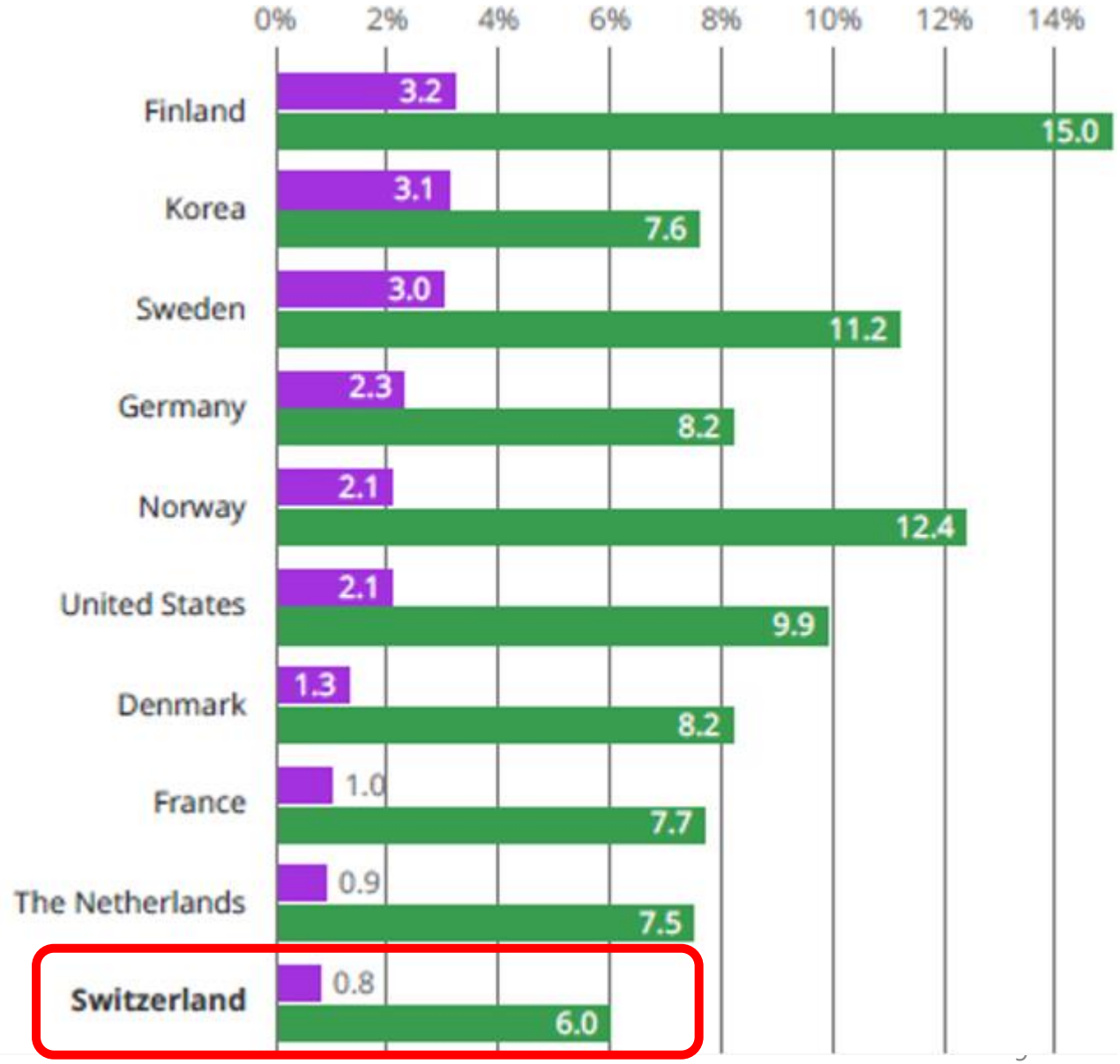
Results – ICT education

New tertiary-level graduates in information and communication technologies, international comparison, 2021

As a % of graduates with a bachelor's degree or equivalent



Women Men

Source: OECD – Going Digital Toolkit

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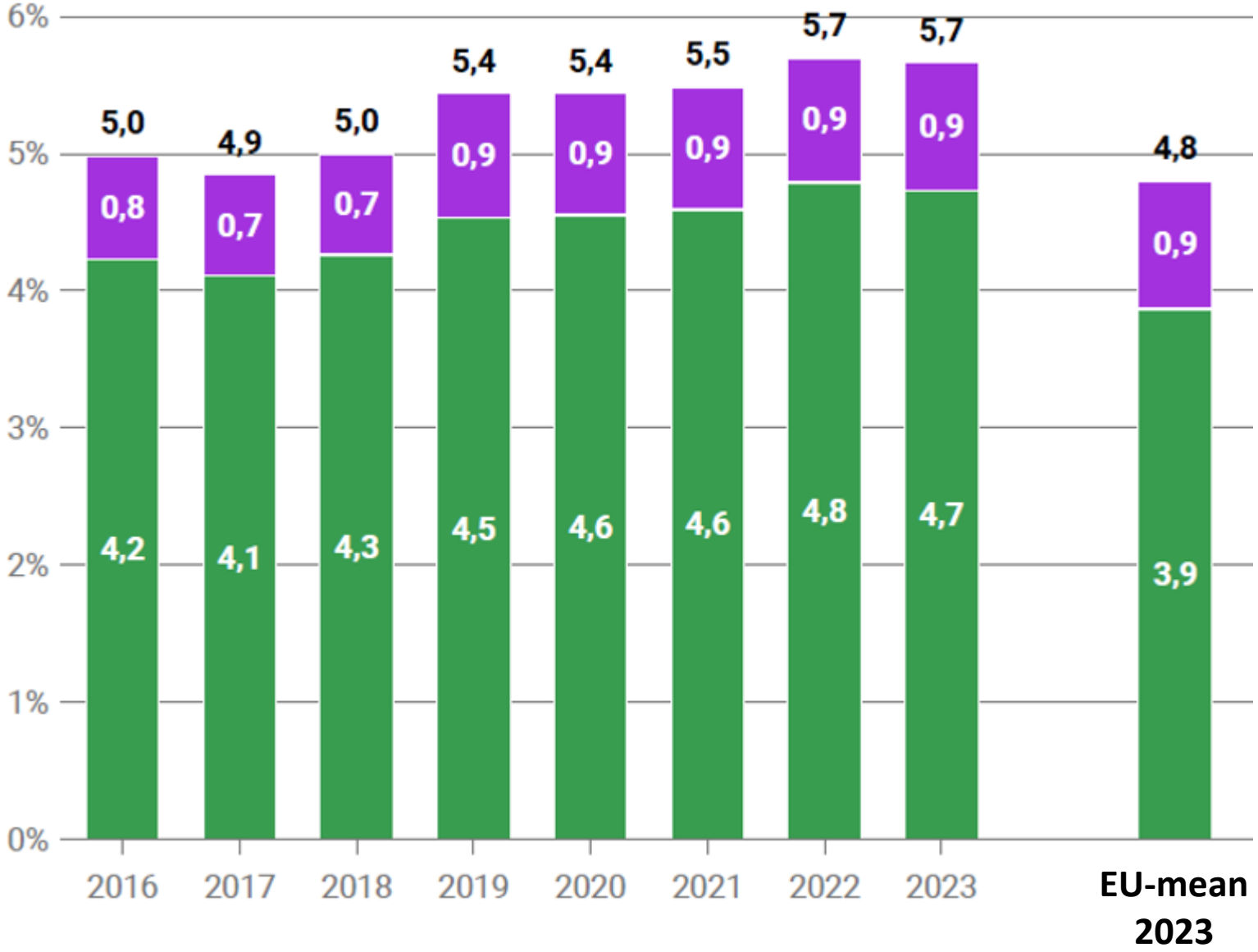
Results – ICT professions

Proportion of ICT specialists in Switzerland, 2021

As a % of employed persons aged 15 to 74



Women

Men

Source: Eurostat, FSO

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Conclusions

- The gender gaps only appear in the 60+ age group. It would therefore seem important to look at this age group to identify their digital needs.
- While women aged 15 to 59 appear to have the same levels of digital literacy as men, there are still major gaps when it comes to choosing education and career paths in ICT.
- One aim of the Digital Switzerland Strategy is to set gender equality in the digital transformation as a focus topic in 2027. A preliminary study is underway. Reliable, quality data and indicators are needed to monitor progress.

Any questions?

Thank you for listening!

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