

# New Millennium Learners in Higher Education

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# Overview

- **Scope of the NML project**

Research questions

Who are the NML?

Comparative evidence

Policy implications

- **NML in HE**



# Who are the NML?

- Definition – demographics – comparative evidence
- PISA 2003 data:
  - 99.31% of students report having used a computer
  - 75% use a computer at home at least a few times a week
  - 45% use a computer at school at least a few times a week



# Educational implications of NML

- Cognitive abilities
- Cultural practices/social values
- Expectations regarding teaching and learning

# Overarching questions

- Are the NML a relevant phenomenon in educational policy making?
- What evidence do we have?

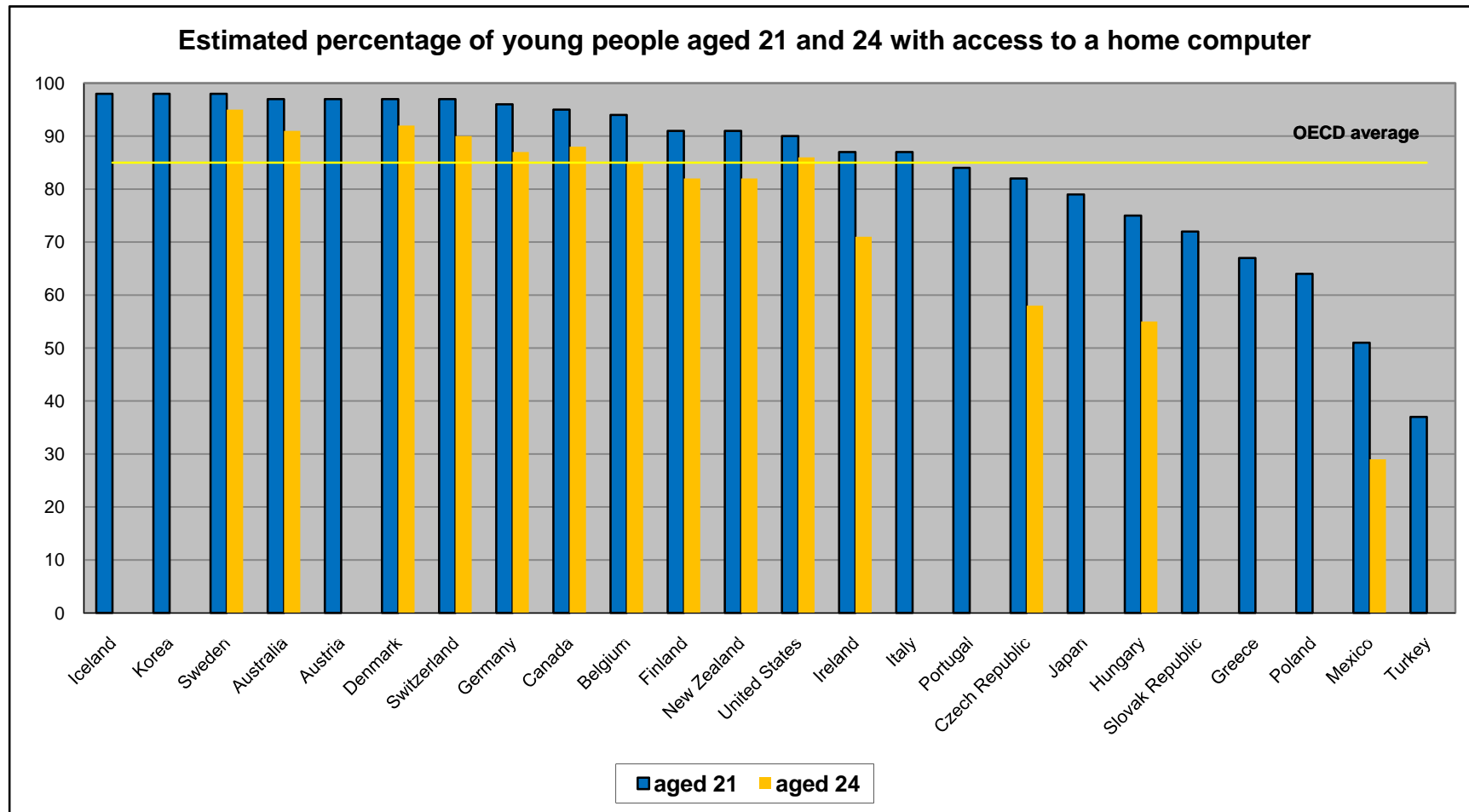


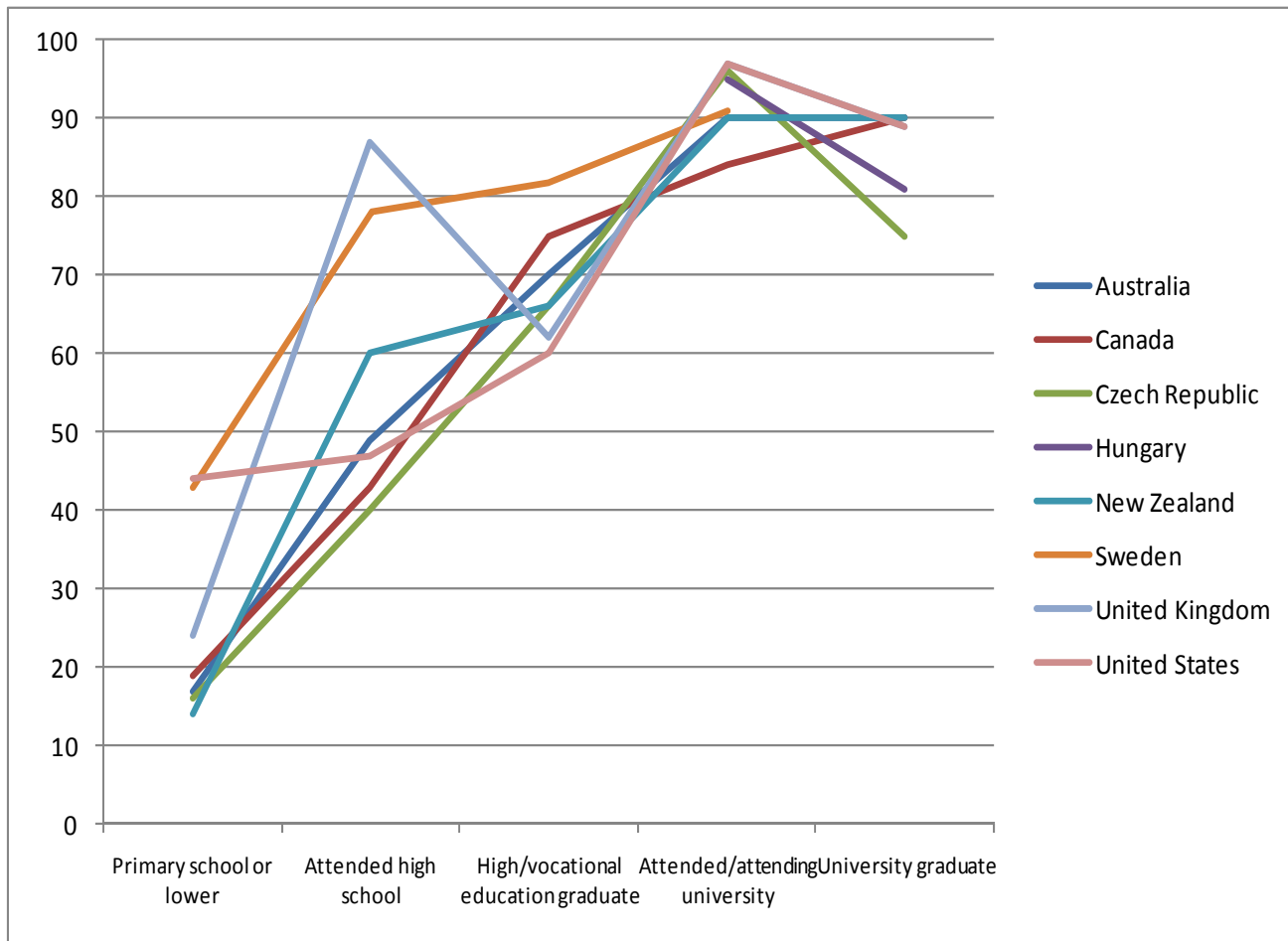
# NML in Higher Education

## Questions:

- Are today's HE students NMLs?
- Is there evidence that technology has altered the cognitive abilities/social values/learning expectations?
- How are HEIs coping with these developments?

# To what extent are HE students NML?

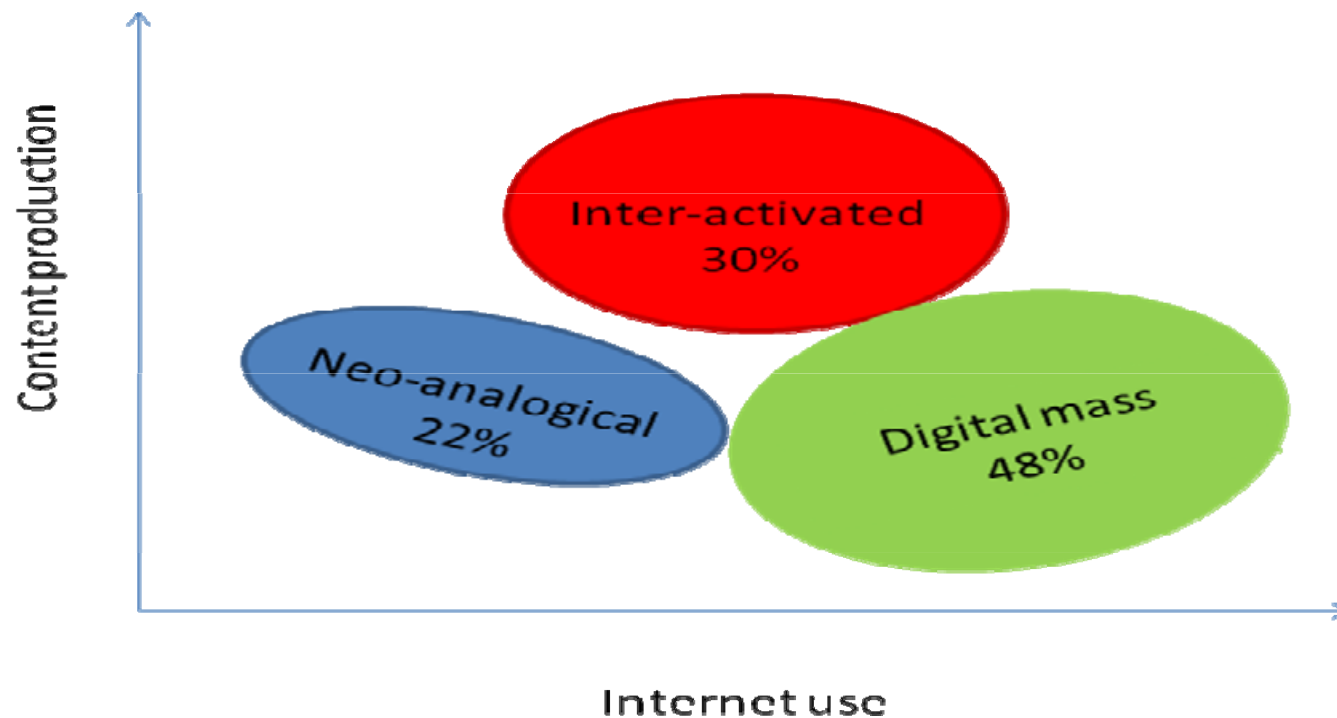




**Internet use by level of education. Population aged 18+, World Internet Project, 2007**

# To what extent are HE students NML?

Different profiles of students in terms of their use of technology:





# Do NMLs have different cognitive skills?

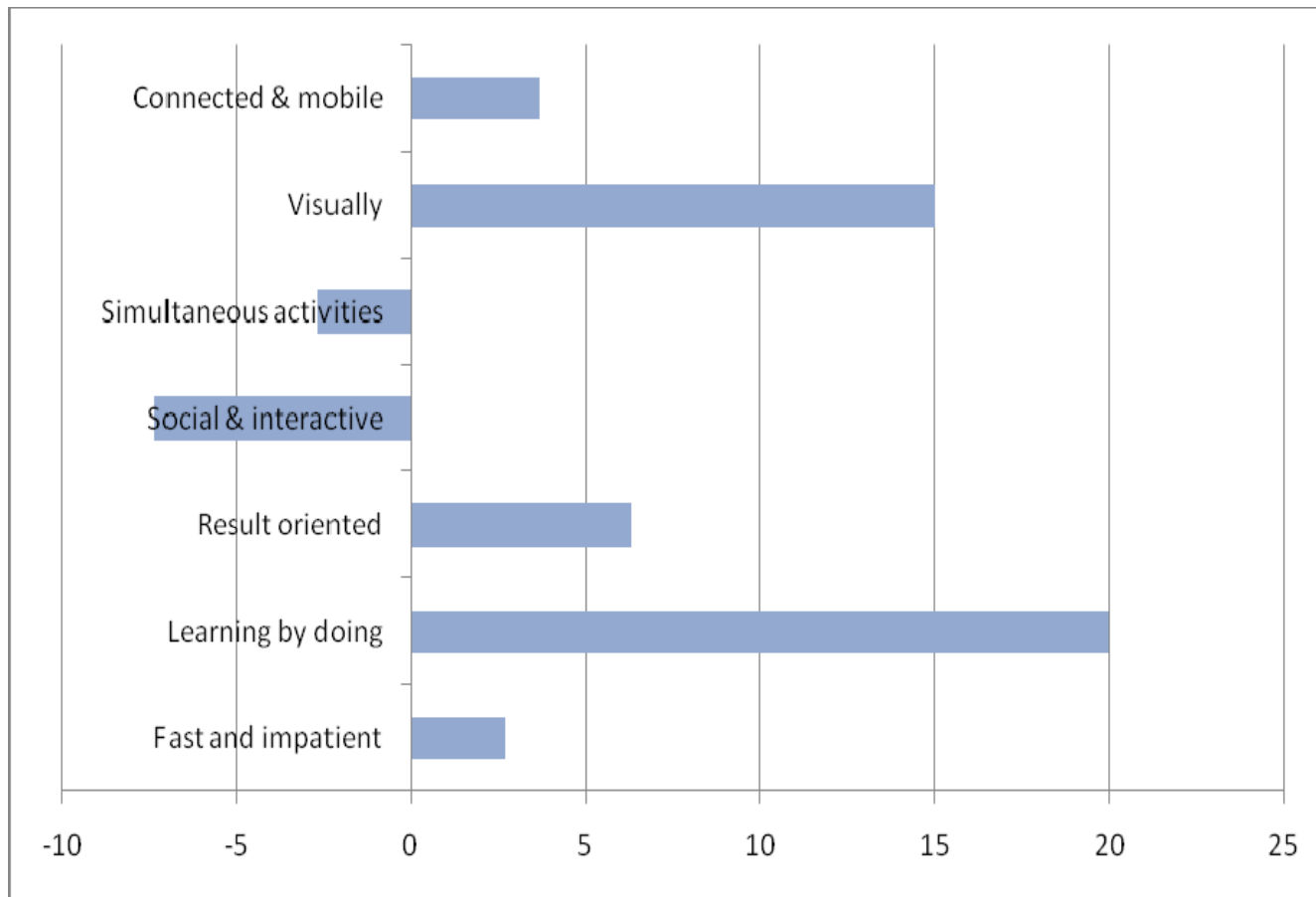
- Assumptions on NMLs' cognitive skills:
  - Short attention span
  - Used to accessing information mainly on non-printed, digital resources
  - Give priority to images, movement and music over text
  - Feel at ease with multi-tasking
  - Gain knowledge by processing discontinued, non-linear information



## Do NMLs have different cultural practices and social values?

- More physical isolation
- Immediate responses to exchanges/interactions
- Writing becomes more important
- Multimedia content highly valued

# Do NMLs have different teaching and learning expectations?



**between  
teachers  
perceptions and  
students' self-  
perceptions.  
Average of 6  
European  
countries.  
eLene-TLC  
project, 2008**



# How are HE institutions responding to the new developments?

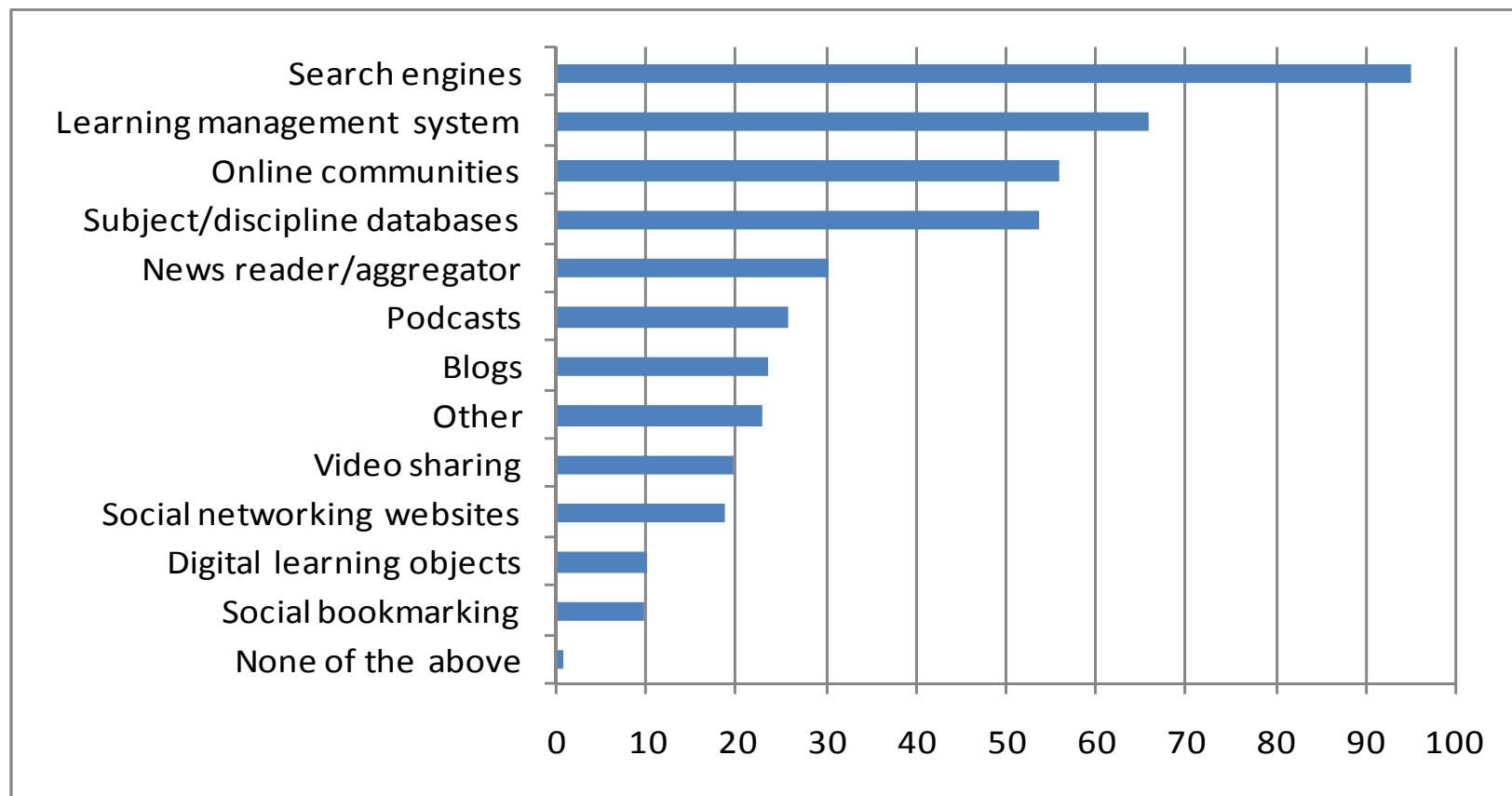
- Four domains:
  - Institutional PR
  - Management and administration
  - Research
  - Teaching and Learning



# How have HE teachers responded to the developments?

- HE teachers have on the whole embraced technology
- However not much innovative use of ICT

# How have HE teachers responded to the developments?



**Percentage of university teachers using different online services. Australia, 2008**



# Variations across countries

- Clear gap between Anglo-Saxon and continental European HE teachers and institutions
- Reasons:
  - Costs
  - Technological context
  - Approaches to teaching and learning

# Key messages

- Students in HE are heavy users of digital media
- Students want technology to improve teaching and learning, not change it radically
- Teachers in HE are far from being digital immigrants
- Teachers sometimes incorrectly assume that HE students are experts in ICT skills



Thank you!

[www.oecd.org/edu/nml](http://www.oecd.org/edu/nml)

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