



# SITUATING IRELAND IN THE OECD LANDSCAPE OF LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEMS

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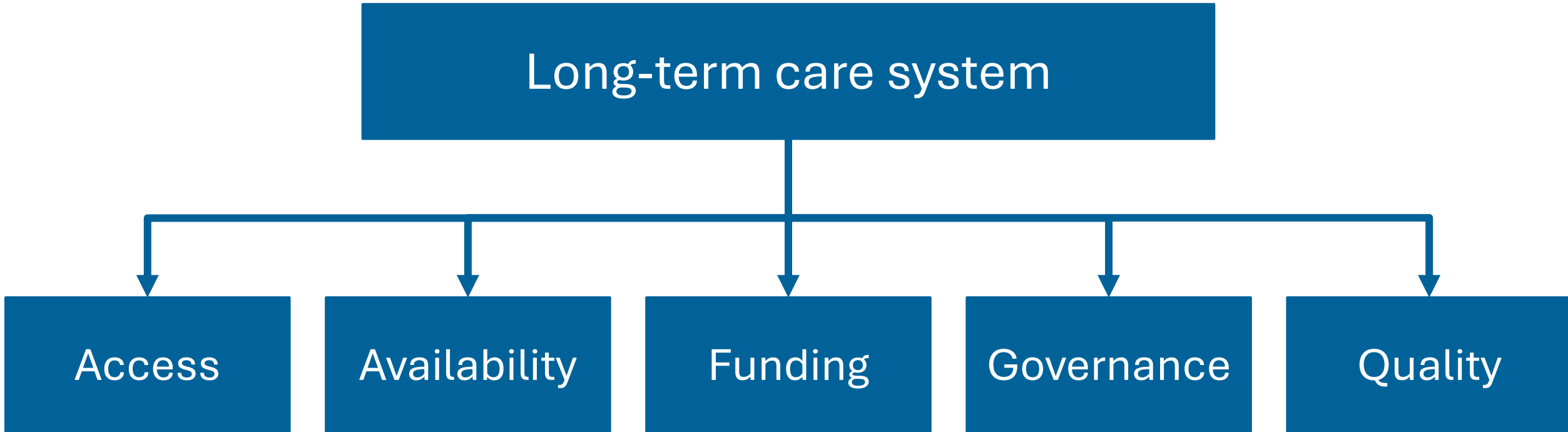
How does Ireland's  
long-term care system  
compare with that  
of the other OECD countries?





# Five pillars of long-term care systems

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The OECD collected data on **20 indicators** describing **five pillars** of long-term care systems.



# How to compare different systems?

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## OECD countries

Ireland vs

Austria Belgium Canada Estonia  
Denmark Sweden Hungary Italy Finland  
United Kingdom United States Latvia Portugal  
France Germany Iceland Slovakia  
Japan Luxembourg Malta Lithuania Poland  
Slovenia Spain Greece Croatia  
the Netherlands Czechia



# Cluster long-term care systems

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Compare Ireland's cluster with other clusters to identify general patterns

Compare Ireland with other countries that share similar features within the same cluster

Identify the strengths and challenges of Ireland's long term care system



# In this presentation, I will answer..

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1. How long-term care systems of the OECD countries are clustered?
2. What are the characteristics of Ireland's cluster?
3. How does the Ireland's system compare to other systems in its cluster?
4. What are three strengths and weaknesses of Ireland's long-term care system?



# Clustering of long-term care systems

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**20 indicators**  
describing **five**  
**pillars** of 29 long-  
term care systems

Advanced  
clustering methods



**Four** distinguish  
models of long-  
term care provision





# Four models of long-term care provision

## Cluster 1

Austria Belgium  
Denmark Finland  
France Sweden

## Cluster 3

Canada Estonia  
Hungary Italy **Ireland**  
United States Latvia

## Cluster 2

United Kingdom  
Germany Iceland  
Japan Luxembourg Malta  
the Netherlands Slovenia

## Cluster 4


Slovakia  
Portugal Poland  
Spain Lithuania  
Greece Croatia  
Czechia



# Main characteristics of Cluster 3

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## Cluster 3



Canada Estonia  
Hungary Italy Ireland  
United States Latvia

- Use of means- and needs-testing
- Average coverage of formal care
- Low prevalence of informal care
- Average generosity of public social protection
- Fragmented long-term care legislation
- Decentralised governance
- Presence of staff ratio and quality assurance framework



# Ireland vs other countries in Cluster 3

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## Ireland

- Use of needs- but no means-testing
- High coverage of formal care
- Low prevalence of informal care
- High generosity of public social protection
- Fragmented long-term care legislation
- Centralised governance
- Presence of quality assurance framework, but no staff ratio

## Cluster 3

- Use of means- and needs-testing
- Average coverage of formal care
- Low prevalence of informal care
- Average generosity of public social protection
- Fragmented long-term care legislation
- Decentralised governance
- Presence of staff ratio and quality assurance framework



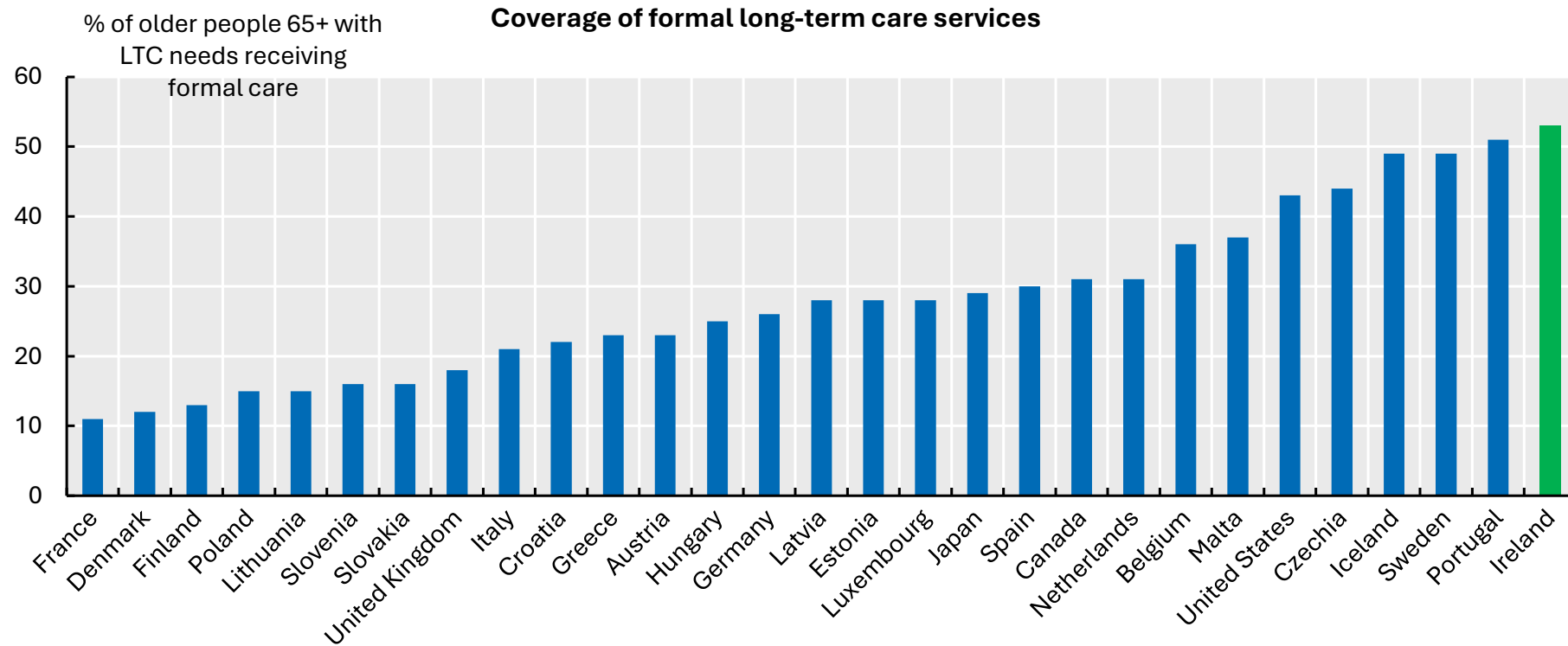
# Three strengths of Ireland's system

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**High coverage  
of formal long-  
term care  
services**



# High coverage of formal care services



In Ireland, more than 50% of older people (65+) with long-term care needs receive formal care – the highest share among all analysed OECD countries.



# Three strengths of Ireland's system

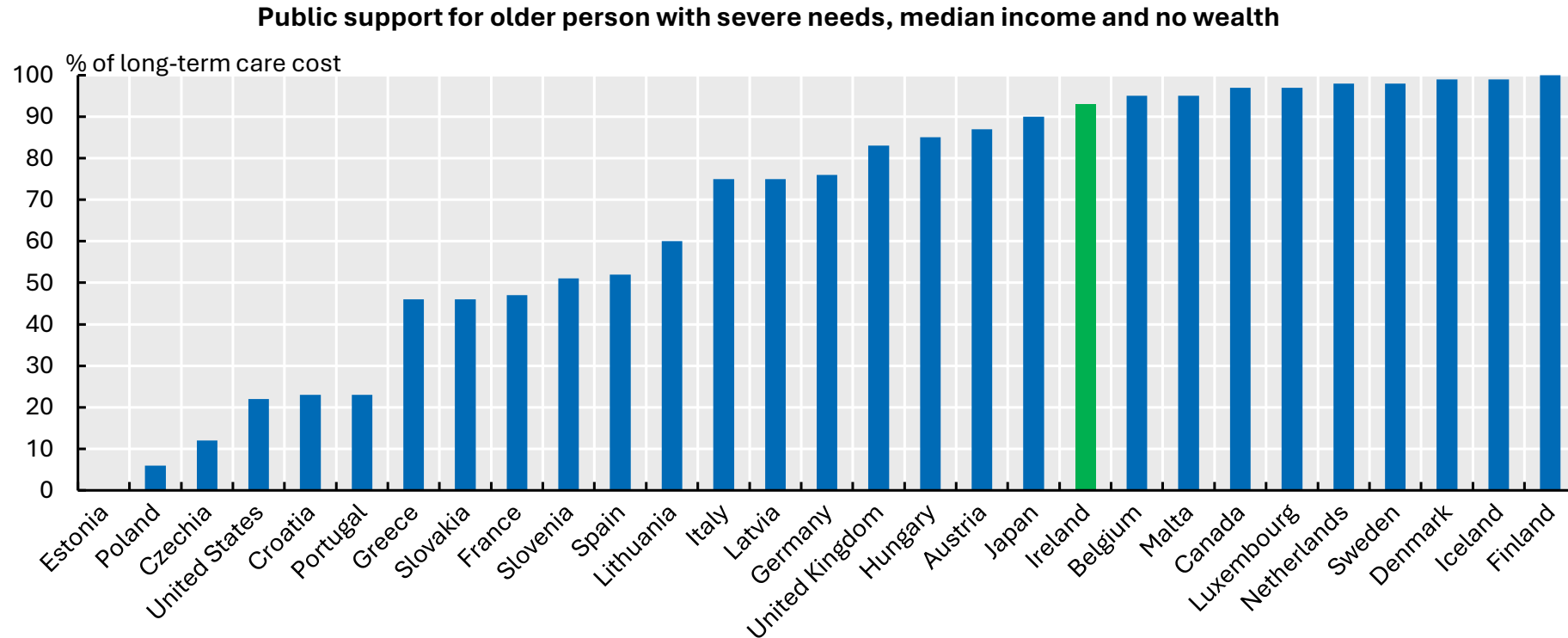
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**High coverage  
of formal long-  
term care  
services**

**High  
generosity of  
public social  
protection for  
long-term care**



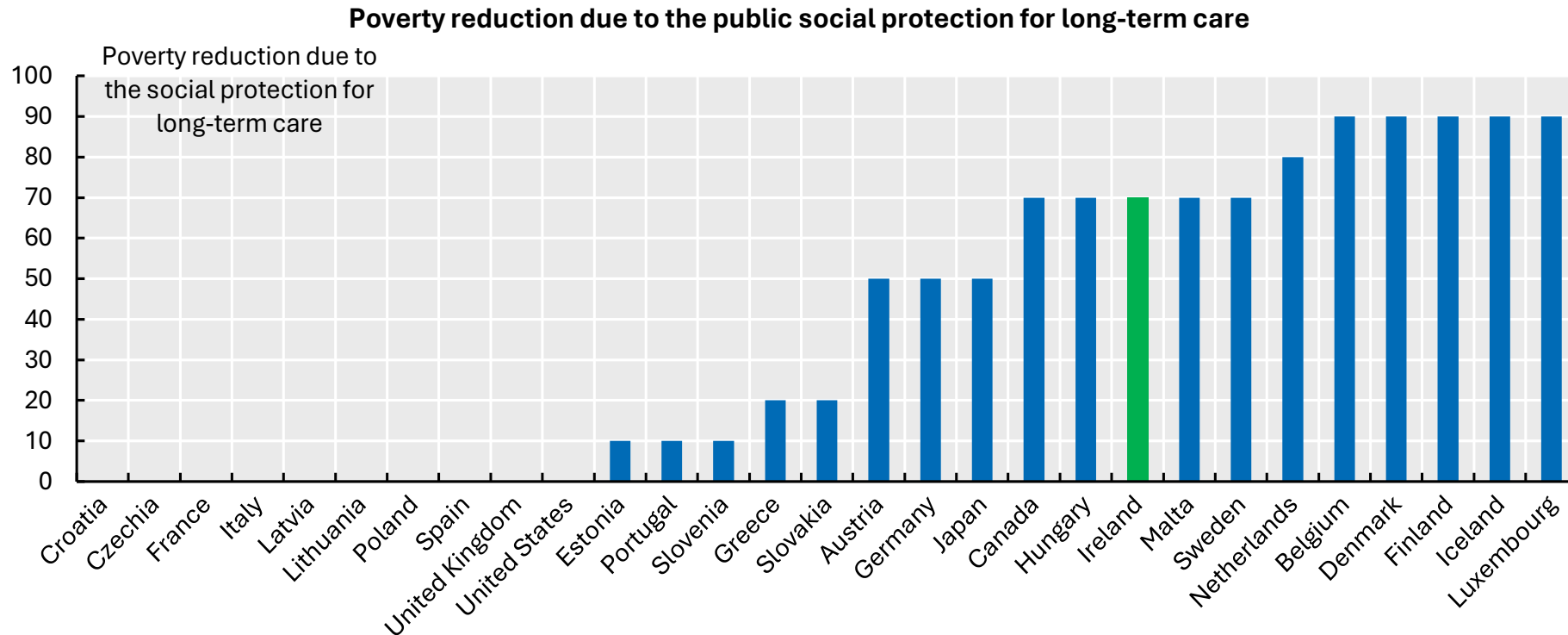
# High share of care cost is publicly covered



In Ireland, more than 90% of care costs are covered by public social protection for older people (65+) with severe long-term care needs receiving home care, a median income, and no wealth.



# Poverty risk is reduced for care recipients



The difference in poverty risk between care recipients receiving and not receiving public social protection is around 70 percentage points in Ireland, one of the highest among OECD countries.





# Three strengths of Ireland's system

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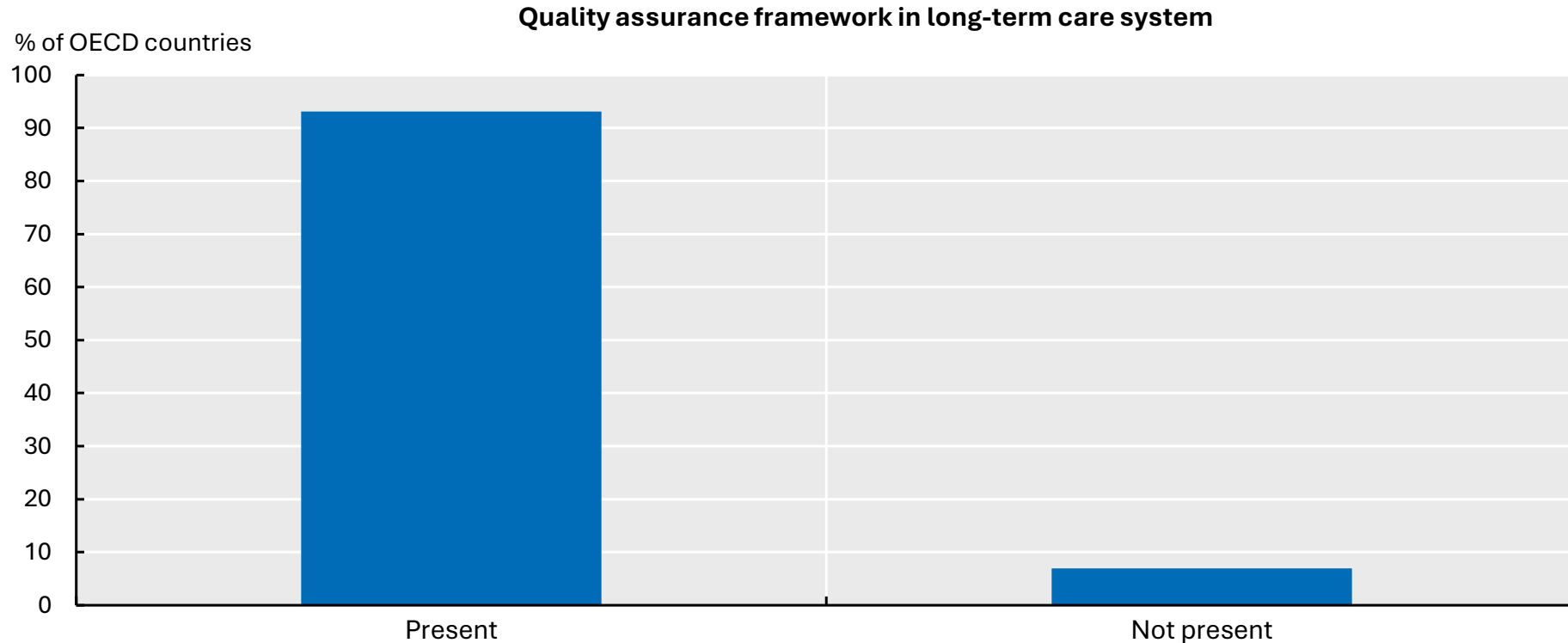
**High coverage  
of formal long-  
term care  
services**

**High  
generosity of  
public social  
protection for  
long-term care**

**Presence of a  
framework for  
monitoring  
quality of  
long-term care  
services**



# Quality monitoring framework is common



Most of the analysed OECD countries, including Ireland, have a quality monitoring framework in their long-term care systems to ensure high-quality care.



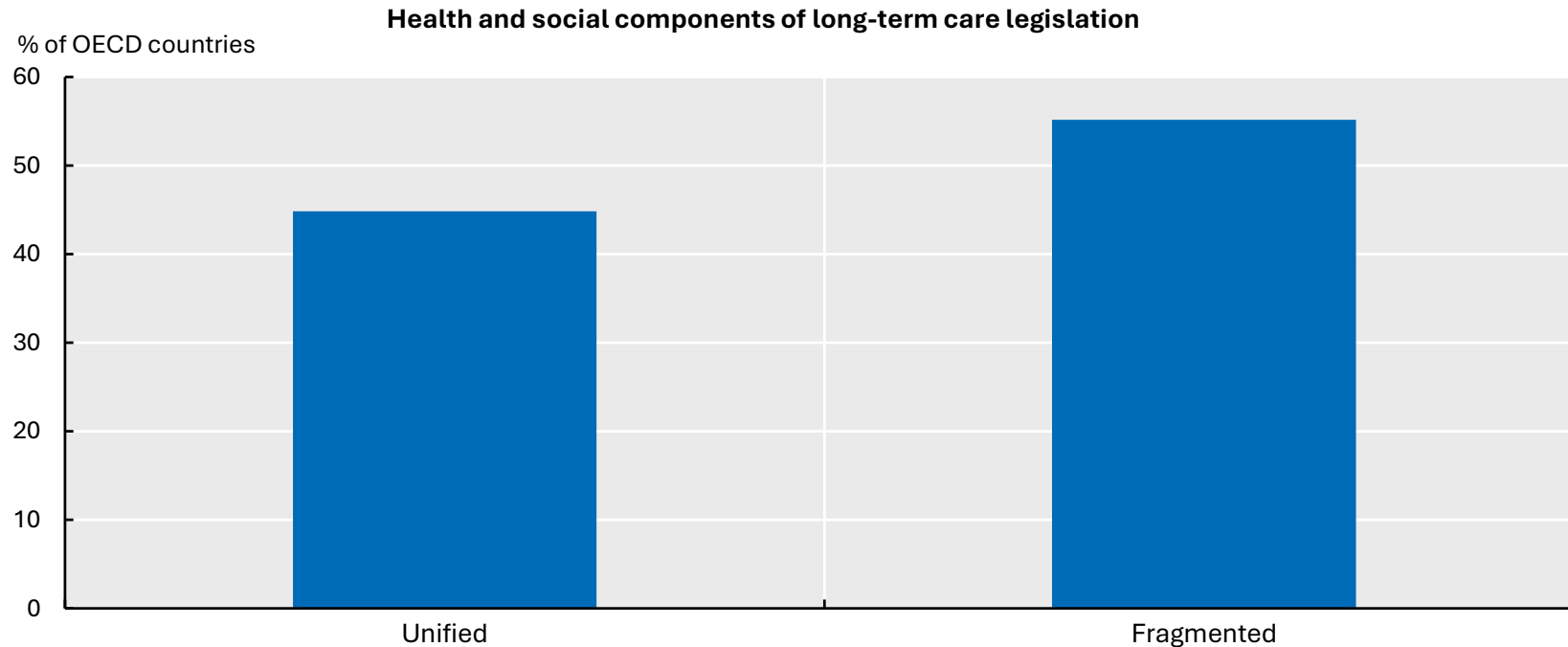
# Three challenges of Ireland's system

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**Fragmented  
long-term care  
legislation**



# Fragmented long-term care legislation



Fragmented long-term care legislation might lead to inequities in access and coverage, unclear financing mechanism, and fragmentation of responsibilities.



# Three challenges of Ireland's system

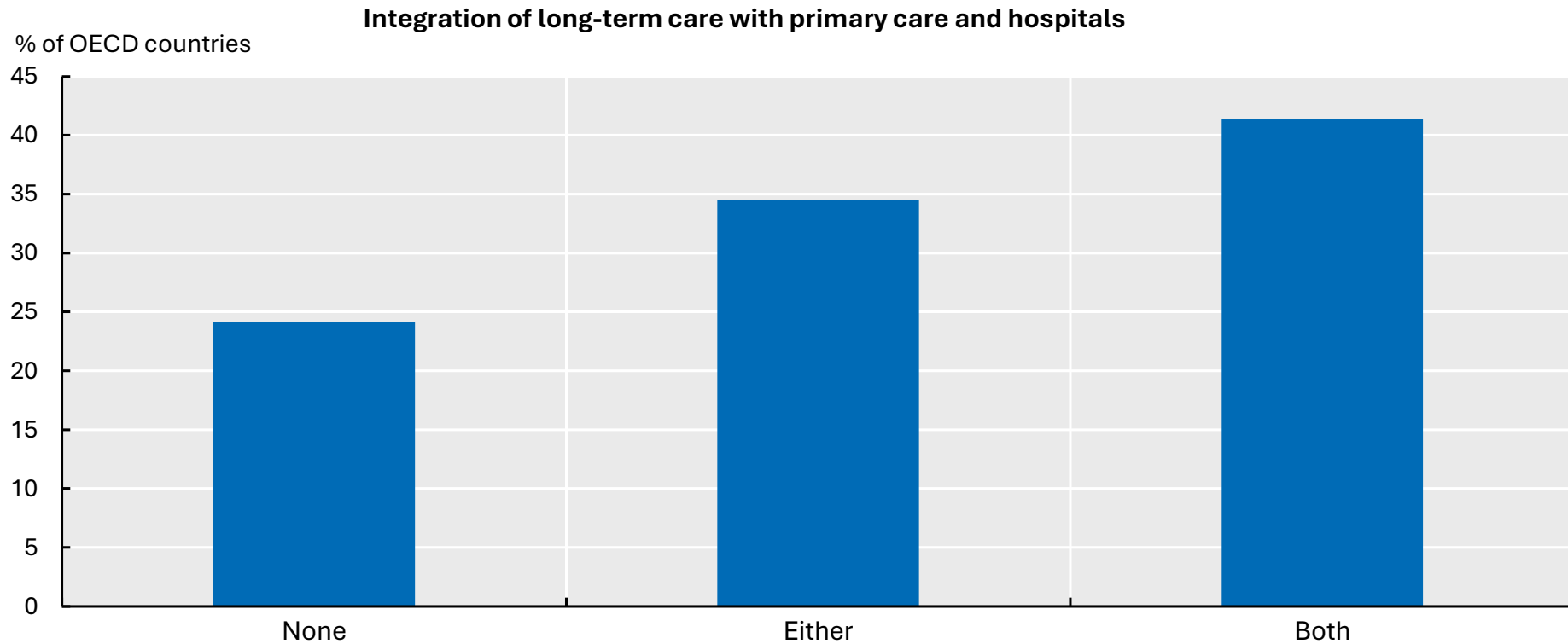
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**Fragmented  
long-term care  
legislation**

**Lack of long-  
term care  
integration  
with hospitals**



# Missing integration with hospitals



Long-term care system in Ireland is not integrated with hospitals, which might lead to fragmented care pathways, and misaligned incentives and financing.



# Three challenges of Ireland's system

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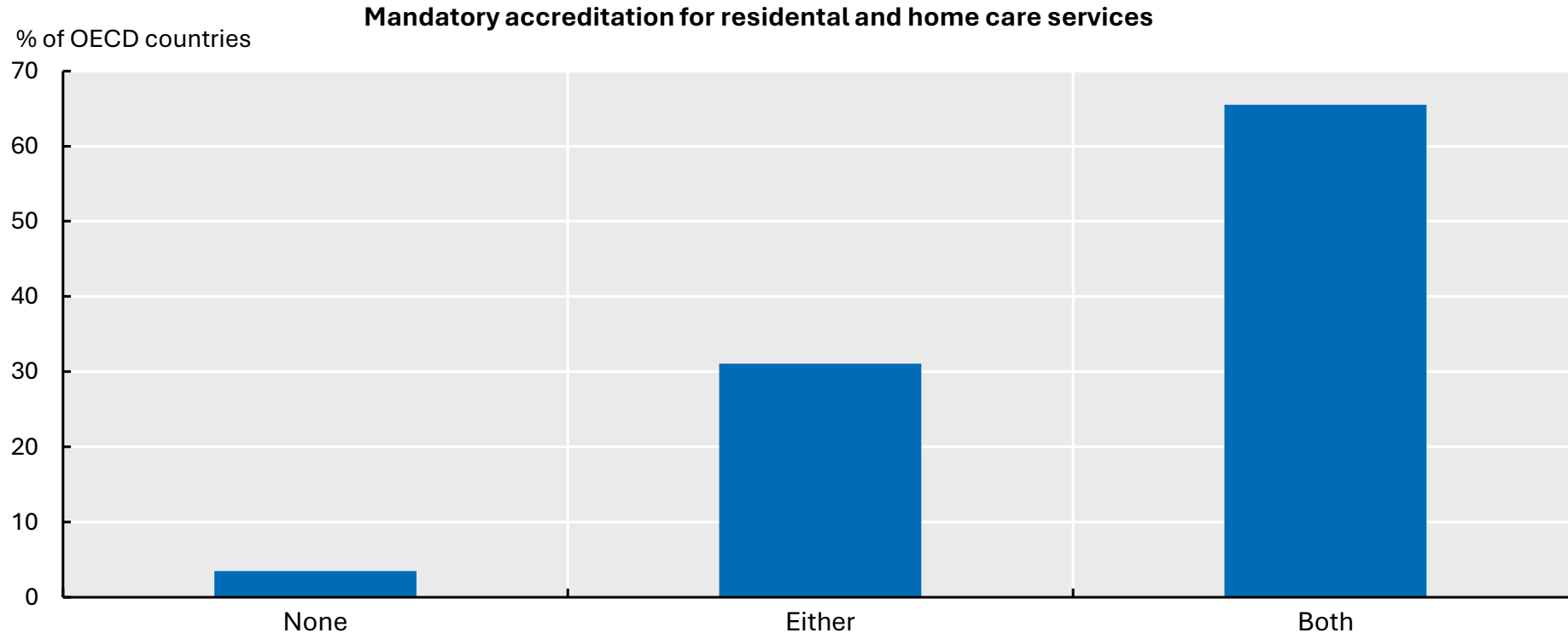
**Fragmented  
long-term care  
legislation**

**Lack of long-  
term care  
integration  
with hospitals**

**Limited  
requirements  
for home care  
providers**



# Lack of standards for home care services



In November 2024, Health Information and Quality Authority issued a draft of National Standards for Home Support Services to ensure that all home care users are provided with high-quality services.





# Key takeaways

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International comparisons require a clear definition of what constitutes a long-term care system and the collection of a wide range of indicators.



Facilitate the comparison by grouping countries with similar system characteristics.



Ireland is grouped with Canada, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, and the US.



Ireland's key strengths lie in its generous public social protection and high coverage of formal care services.



Ireland has room for improvement in integration and long-term care legislation.



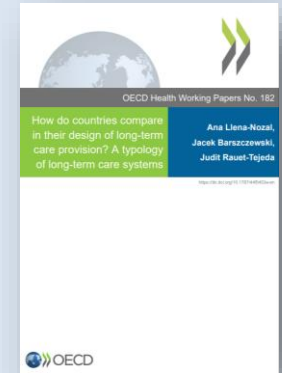
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