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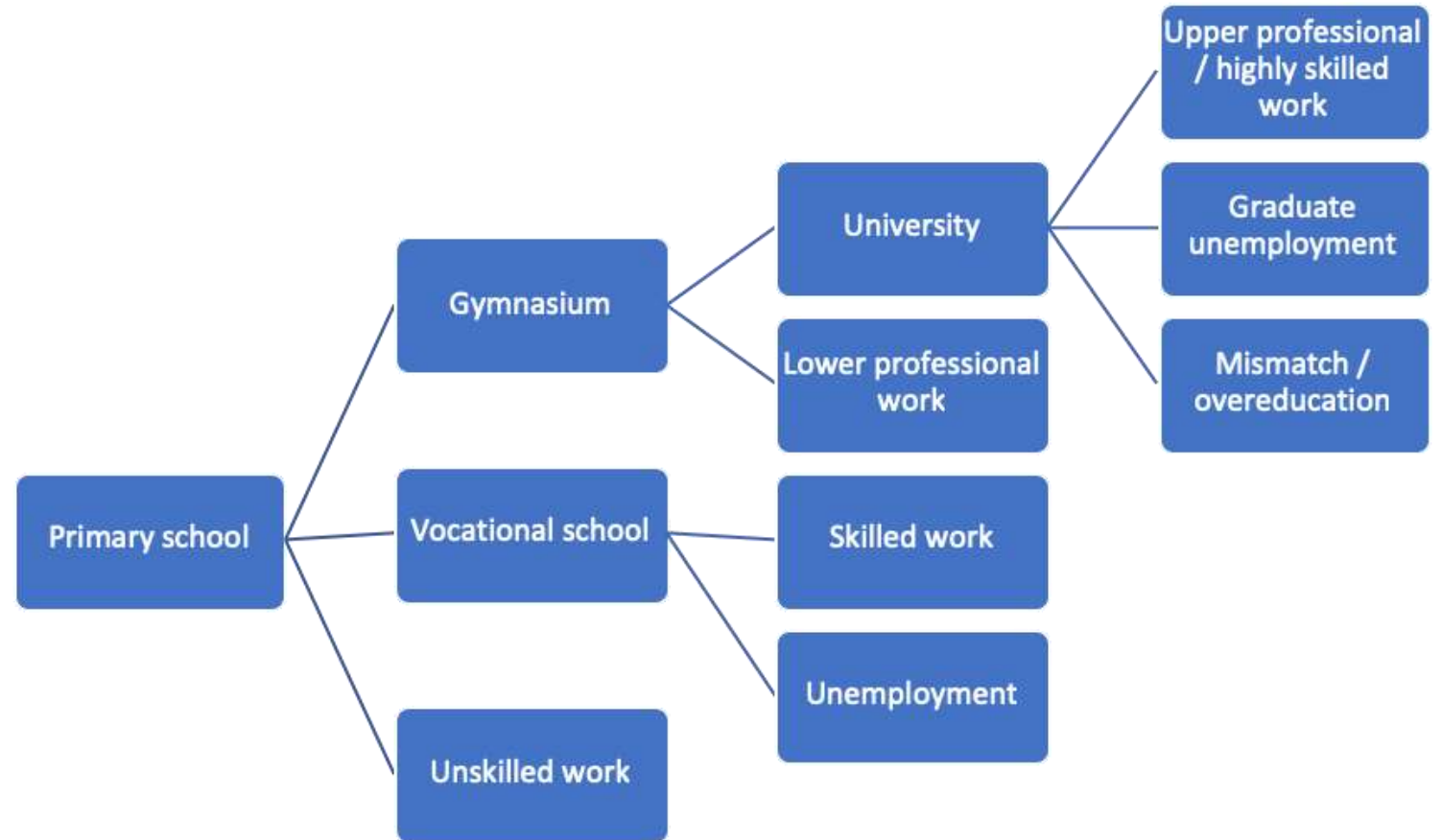
Effects of dual education at different levels

Research evidence

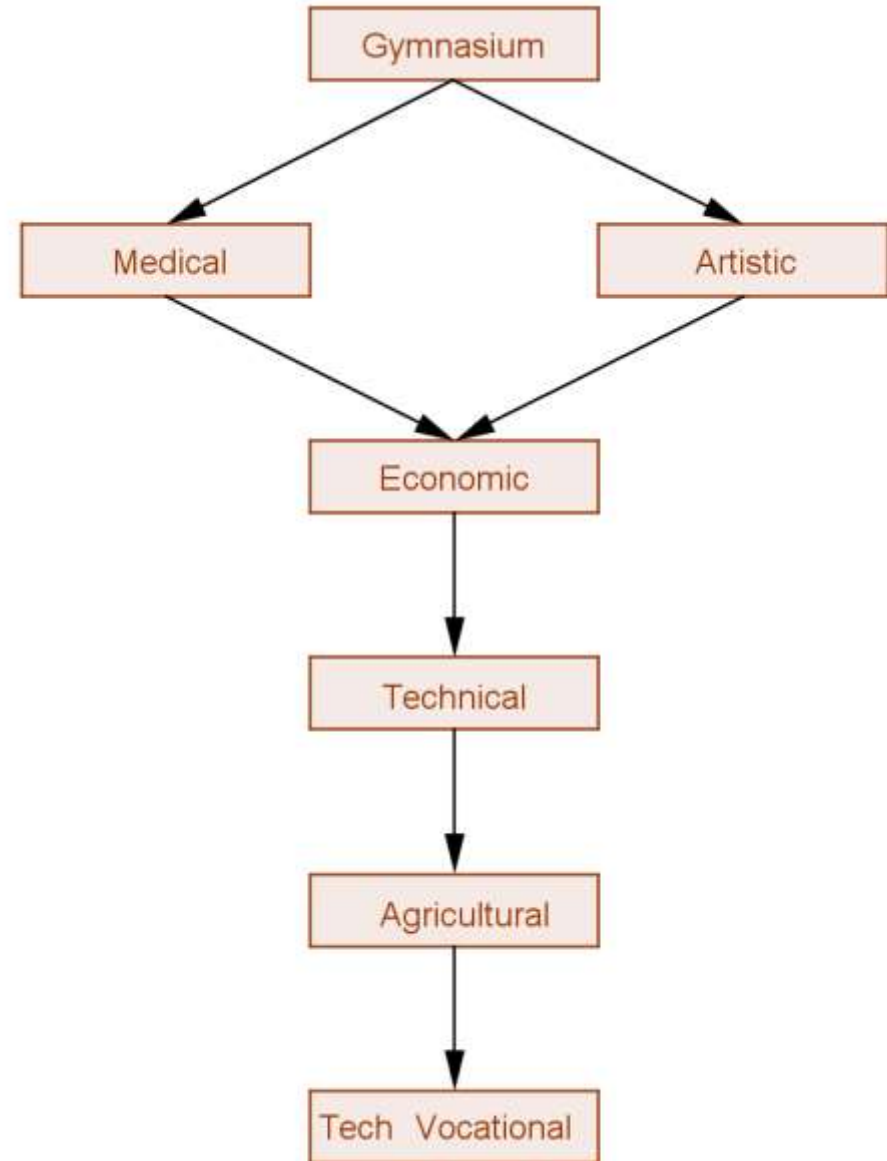
- Many countries select more able students into academic pathways and less able students into vocational pathways (tracking).
- Selective education leads to greater inequality in educational outcomes across countries with different educational systems (Hanushek & Woessmann, 2006).
- But, selection may provide a learning environment more suited to students with different abilities.



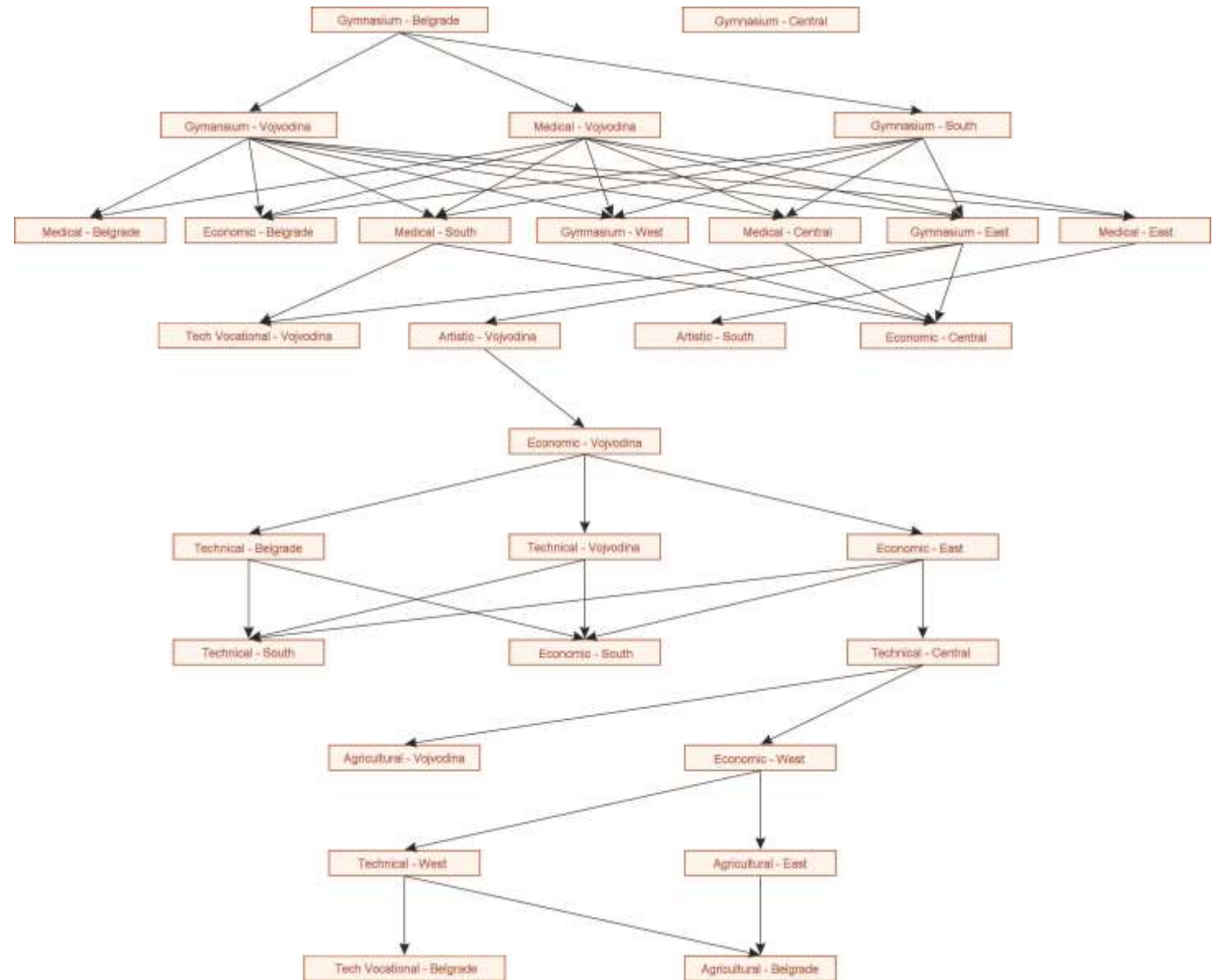
Pathways of transition from school to work in a selective school systems



What do PISA results show about the abilities of the students



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PISA results

Support the claim of different level of quality between tertiary education track and VET

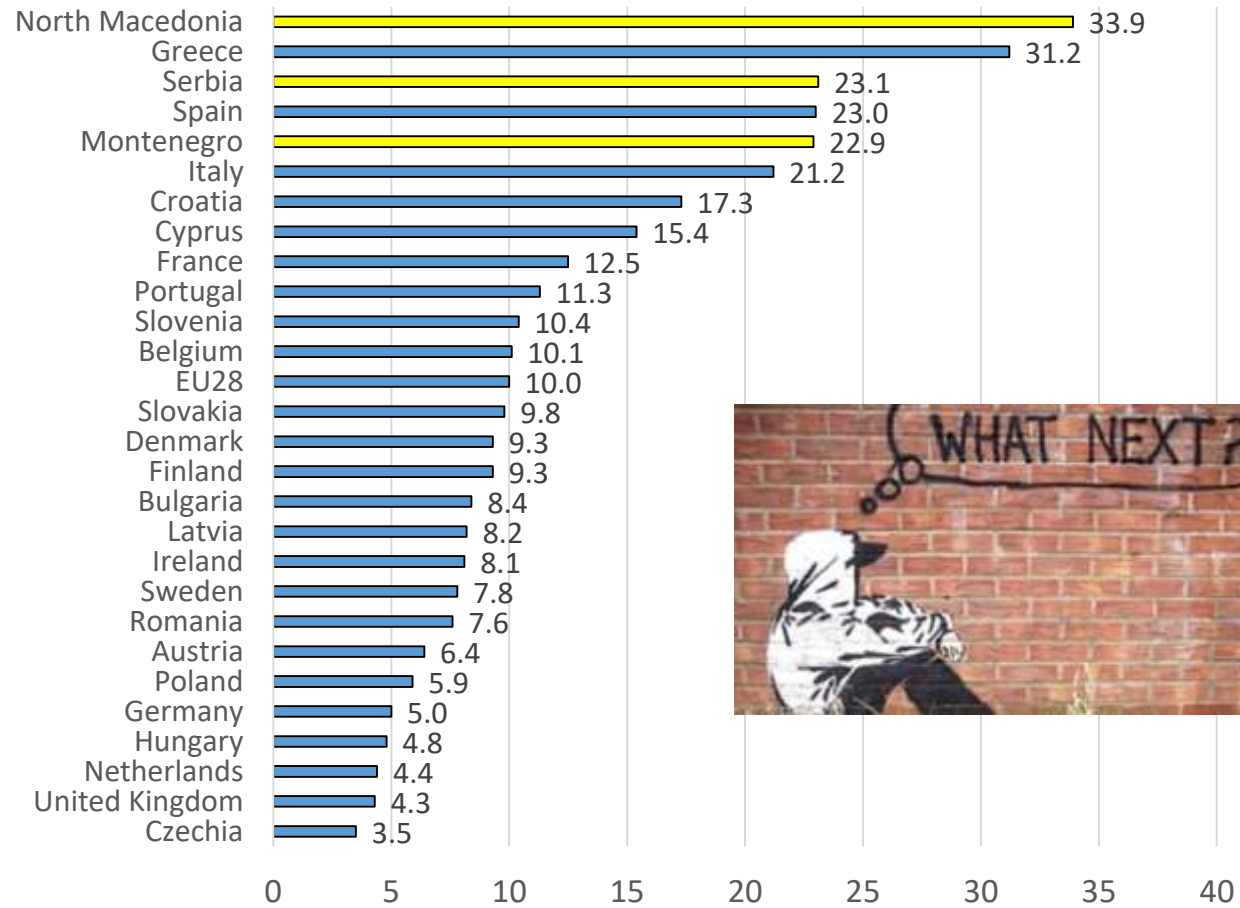
The difference remains between all socio-economic categories of students

Equality of opportunity

- In Germany poor parents are more likely to send their children to vocational schools, restricting intergenerational mobility (Dustmann, 2004)
- In Switzerland early selection reinforces the relative advantage of children of highly educated parents (Bauer and Riphon, 2005)
- In Sweden, 1950s reforms introduced comprehensive education and increased both educational attainment and equity by generating improvements for children of unskilled parents (Meghir and Palme, 2005)



Unemployment rate %, 25-29 age group, (Eurostat 2017)



Graduate labour market, 2015

Unemployment rate in Western Balkans: 23.9%

- compared to 9.4% in the EU

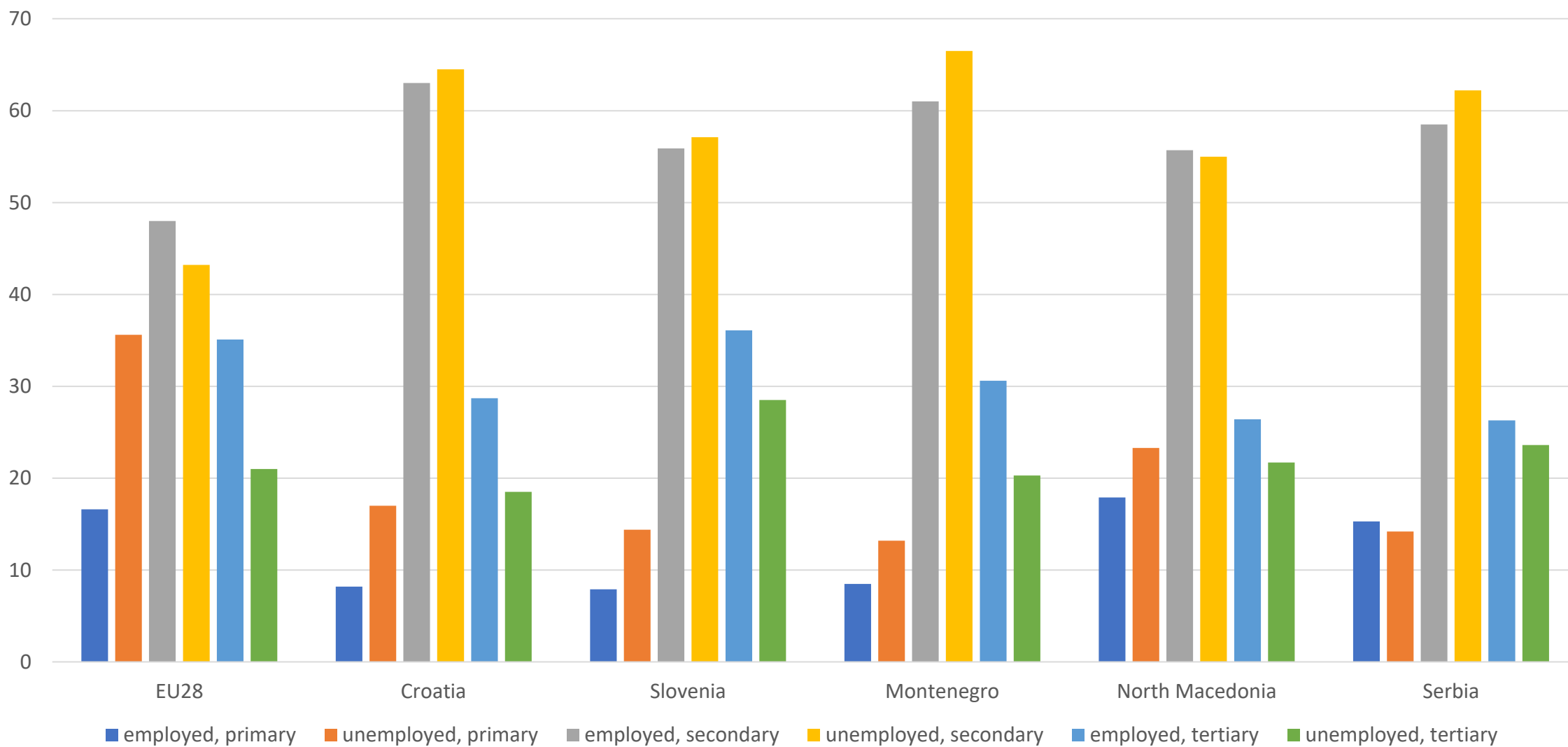
Graduate unemployment rate in WB: 16.2%

- compared to 5.6% in EU

Unemployment rate of recent graduates is 37.1%

- Compared to 49.0% youth unemployment rate

Employed share and unemployed share by educational level, 2007 (%)

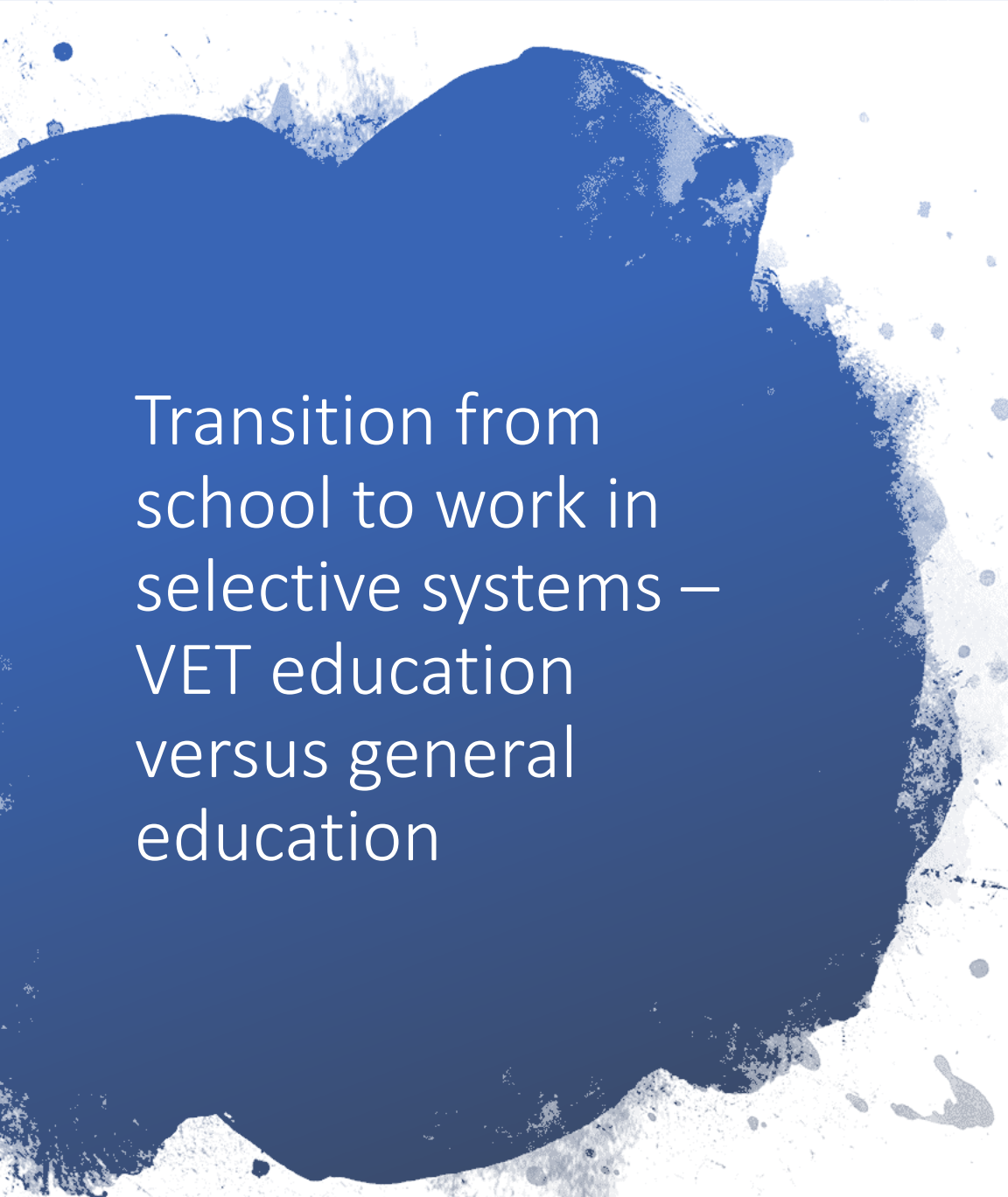


Vocational education in the Western Balkans

In former Yugoslavia, vocational education was well developed with strong links to the business sector

In most successor states, structural change was driven by privatization and deindustrialization that broke the links between VET schools and the business sector

In the Western Balkans, graduates of vocational schools have suffered disproportionately from unemployment



Transition from school to work in selective systems – VET education versus general education

- Within upper secondary education, VET may lead to improved labour market outcomes and better wages than those graduates from general schools who do not progress to university (Ryan, 2001).
- Beyond upper secondary education, the labour market advantage of VET education disappears due to the higher returns and lower unemployment rates of university graduates.

Returns to vocational education



In the USA early studies showed higher returns to vocational track than general tracks at school, although more recently this wage differential has been reversed (Meer, 2007).



Brunello and Checci (2007) found that VET education provides reasonable returns only in countries with well developed VET systems.



In the UK studies fail to find a wage gap between vocational and general education (Dearden, 2002). However, for students of lower ability, vocational education provides higher returns.

Conclusions: vocational schools



Education systems in Western Balkans are a powerful source of **transmission of social exclusion**



There is a **cascading effect** of exclusion as students progress through school and beyond



Selective systems in Western Balkans channel disadvantaged children into poorly resourced vocational schools and poor labour market outcomes



Vocational schools should be better resourced and **better links established with business sector**

Conclusions: higher education institutions

University reform

- Modernize curricula
- Use creative thinking and problem solving teaching methods,
- Teach more in small classes,
- Provide work placements
- This should ensure students achieve learning outcomes and raise completion rates

University-business cooperation

- Cooperation over design of curricula
- Recruitment policies
- Provision of work experience

Career guidance systems

- Provide better support to graduates in their job search so they are not reliant on family support and nepotism

Thank you for your
attention