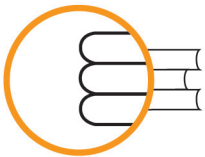




ISEI - IVEI

**Rs9. READING LITERACY AT AGE 15
ON THE PISA SCALE**





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PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS AT OR BELOW LEVEL 1 ON THE PISA 2006 READING LITERACY SCALE.

European Union Objective for 2010: No more than 15.5% of pupils at or below level 1 on the reading literacy scale.

Reading literacy is currently understood to mean “*understanding, using and reflecting on written texts, in order to achieve one’s goals, to develop one’s knowledge and potential and to participate in society*”. This new definition is in keeping with the knowledge society and lifelong learning and is a basic tool which aims to reach beyond the first years of schooling to become a series of skills, strategies and knowledge which people build up throughout their lives.

The European Union is therefore keen to improve levels of reading literacy among 15 year olds and this has led to the agreement to establish the objective for 2010 that the EU average does not exceed 15.5% at level 1 and below on the PISA scale.

This indicator shows the percentage of children who are currently at level 1 and below in countries which participated in the PISA 2006 assessment and the evolution since the PISA 2003 assessment.

In the PISA 2006 assessment of the Basque Country, the percentage of 15 year olds at level 1 and below is 17.7%, practically the same as the 17.1% in the PISA 2003 assessment and only 2.2 points away from the European objective for 2010.

Comparison of the Basque Country with the other Spanish regions which took part in the PISA 2006 assessment shows that it ranks fourth below La Rioja (15.5%), Castilla y Leon (17.5%) and Navarre (17.6%). Comparison of the Basque Country with participating countries shows that it is 2.4 points below the OECD average (20.1%), 12.9 points below Finland, the country with the lowest percentage of all (4.8%) but has a lower percentage than the average for Spain (25.7%) and Kyrgyzstan (88.2%), the country with the highest percentage of all.

With regard to the evolution in EU countries which took part in the PISA 2003 and 2006 assessments, except in four countries (Finland, Poland, Denmark and Germany) where the percentage of children at level 1 and below fell by 1 point in the PISA 2006 assessment, in the other countries the percentage has increased, by 0.1 point in Hungary and 0.6 point in the Basque country to 4.6 points in Spain and 5.5 points in the Czech Republic.



In the PISA 2006 assessment in European Union countries and the Spanish regions percentages are higher for boys than girls. Results for European Union countries vary between 6.6 point more boys than girls in Finland, where the difference is lowest, to 21.9 points in Greece, the country with the highest sex difference. In the Spanish regions the lowest difference is in Catalonia with 7.6 points and the highest difference in Galicia with 16.1 points. In the PISA 2003 assessment for the Basque Country the difference was 15.6 point more boys than girls and in 2006, 12.2 points.

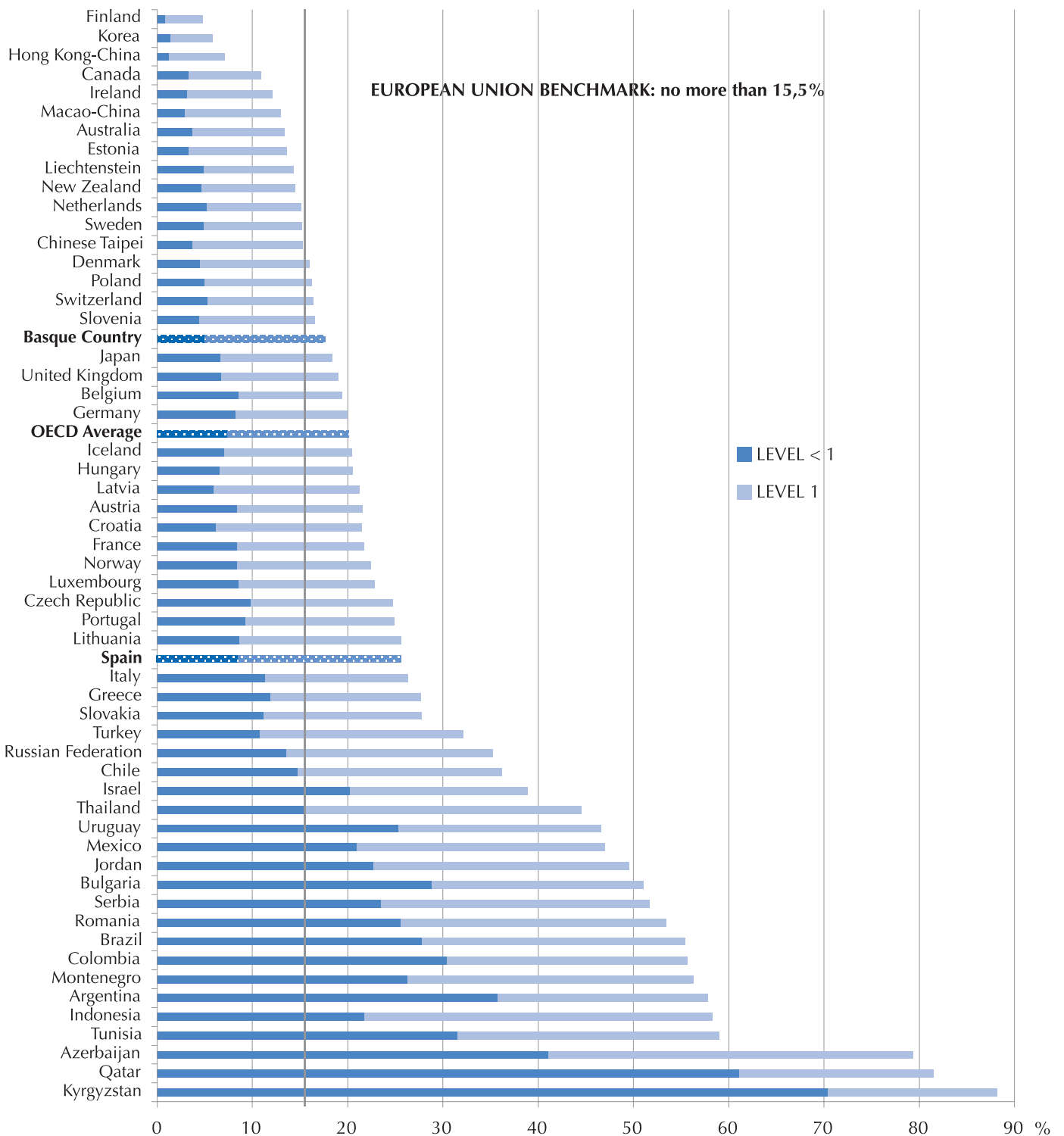
**Table Rs9.1:****Percentage of 15 year olds in countries participating in PISA 2006 at levels <1 and 1 in reading literacy.**

Countries	Performance levels		
	Level < 1	Level 1	Levels 1 and above
Finland	0.8	4.0	4.8
Korea	1.4	4.3	5.8
Hong Kong-China	1.3	5.9	7.1
Canada	3.4	7.6	11.0
Ireland	3.2	9.0	12.1
Macao-China	2.9	10.1	13.0
Australia	3.8	9.6	13.4
Estonia	3.4	10.3	13.6
Liechtenstein	4.9	9.4	14.3
New Zealand	4.7	9.9	14.5
Netherlands	5.2	9.9	15.1
Sweden	5.0	10.3	15.3
Chinese Taipei	3.8	11.5	15.3
Denmark	4.5	11.5	16.0
Poland	5.0	11.2	16.2
Switzerland	5.3	11.1	16.4
Slovenia	4.4	12.1	16.5
Basque Country	5.2	12.5	17.7
Japan	6.7	11.7	18.4
United Kingdom	6.8	12.2	19.0
Belgium	8.6	10.8	19.4
Germany	8.3	11.8	20.0
OECD Average	7.4	12.7	20.1
Iceland	7.1	13.4	20.5
Hungary	6.6	14.0	20.6
Latvia	6.0	15.2	21.2
Austria	8.4	13.1	21.5
Croatia	6.2	15.3	21.5
France	8.5	13.3	21.7
Norway	8.4	14.0	22.4
Luxembourg	8.6	14.2	22.9
Czech Republic	9.9	14.9	24.8
Portugal	9.3	15.6	24.9
Lithuania	8.7	17.0	25.7
Spain	8.7	17.0	25.7
Italy	11.4	15.0	26.4
Greece	11.9	15.8	27.7
Slovakia	11.2	16.6	27.8
Turkey	10.8	21.4	32.2
Russian Federation	13.6	21.7	35.3
Chile	14.8	21.5	36.3
Israel	20.3	18.6	38.9
Thailand	15.6	29.0	44.6
Uruguay	25.3	21.3	46.6
Mexico	21.0	26.0	47.0
Jordan	22.7	26.9	49.6
Bulgaria	28.8	22.3	51.1
Serbia	23.6	28.1	51.7
Romania	25.6	27.9	53.5
Brazil	27.8	27.7	55.5
Colombia	30.4	25.3	55.7
Montenegro	26.3	30.0	56.3
Argentina	35.8	22.1	57.9
Indonesia	21.8	36.5	58.3
Tunisia	31.5	27.5	59.0
Azerbaijan	41.2	38.3	79.4
Qatar	61.1	20.4	81.6
Kyrgyzstan	70.5	17.8	88.2



Graph Rs9.1:

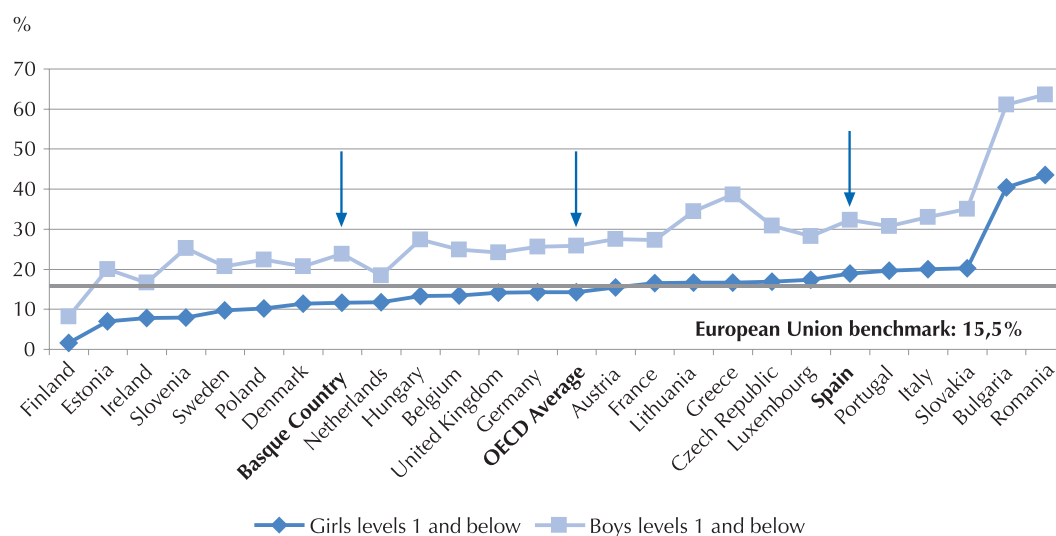
Percentage of 15 year olds in countries participating in PISA 2006 at levels <1 and 1 in reading literacy.



Source: ISEI-IVEI. PISA 2006

**Table and Graph Rs9.2:****Percentage of 15 year olds in EU countries participating in PISA 2006 at level 1 and below in reading literacy by sex.**

	Girls		Boys	
	Level < 1	Level 1	Level < 1	Level 1
Germany	5.3	8.9	11.0	14.5
Austria	5.2	10.2	11.5	15.9
Belgium	5.2	8.1	11.6	13.3
Bulgaria	18.6	21.8	38.3	22.6
Denmark	2.8	8.6	6.3	14.4
Slovakia	6.5	13.6	15.6	19.4
Slovenia	1.5	6.4	7.4	17.8
Spain	4.8	14.1	12.5	19.8
Estonia	1.1	5.9	5.5	14.4
Basque Country	2.1	9.5	8.2	15.5
Finland	0.1	1.5	1.5	6.6
France	5.4	11.1	11.7	15.6
Greece	4.9	11.8	18.9	19.7
Hungary	3.6	9.6	9.3	18.0
Ireland	1.6	6.1	4.7	11.9
Italy	7.0	12.9	15.9	17.1
Lithuania	4.4	12.2	12.9	21.6
Luxembourg	5.7	11.7	11.5	16.7
OECD Average	4.3	9.9	10.4	15.5
Netherlands	3.6	8.0	6.8	11.7
Poland	2.3	7.9	7.8	14.6
Portugal	6.5	13.1	12.3	18.4
United Kingdom	4.0	10.1	9.6	14.4
Czech Republic	5.9	11.0	12.9	17.9
Romania	17.2	26.3	34.0	29.5
Sweden	2.5	7.1	7.3	13.4



Note: Ascending order for the criterion "girls"

Source: ISEI-IVEI. PISA 2006

**Table Rs9.3:****Percentage of 15 year olds in EU countries participating in PISA 2003 and 2006 at levels 1 and below in reading literacy.**

EU countries	Levels 1 and below	
	2003	2006
Germany	22.3	20.0
Austria	20.7	21.5
Belgium	17.9	19.4
Bulgaria*		51.1
Denmark	16.5	16.0
Slovakia	24.9	27.8
Slovenia*		16.5
Spain	21.1	25.7
Estonia*		13.6
Basque Country	17.1	17.7
Finland	5.7	4.8
France	17.5	21.7
Greece	25.3	27.7
Hungary	20.5	20.6
Ireland	11.0	12.1
Italy	23.9	26.4
Lithuania*		25.7
Luxembourg	22.7	22.9
OECD Average	19.0	20.1
Netherlands	11.5	15.1
Poland	16.8	16.2
Portugal	21.9	24.9
United Kingdom	14.9	19.0
Czech Republic	19.3	24.8
Romania*		53.5
Sweden	13.3	15.3

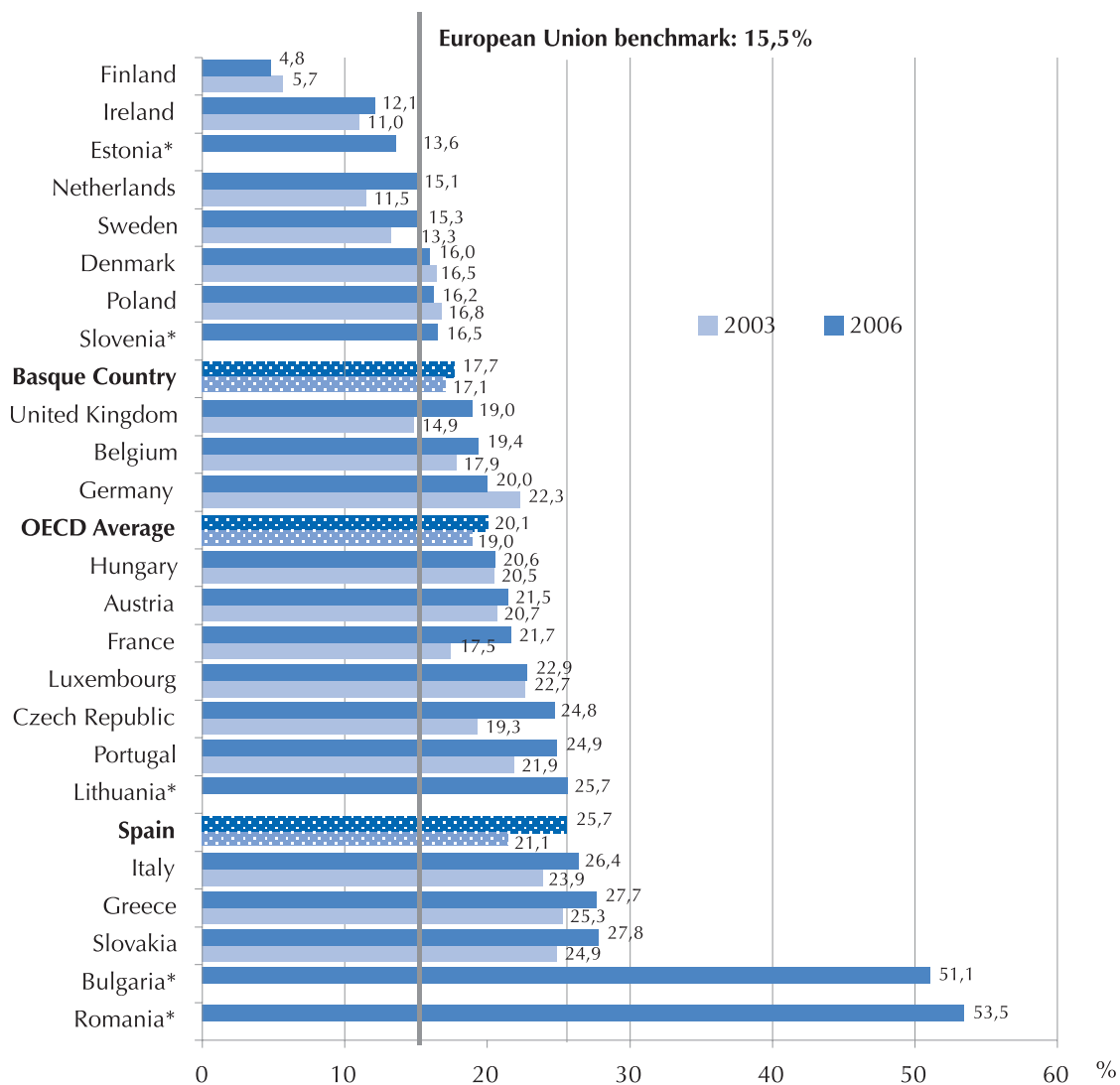
* Countries which did not participate in PISA 2003.

Source: ISEI-IVEI. PISA 2003-2006



Graph Rs9.3:

Percentage of 15 year olds in EU countries participating in PISA 2003 and 2006 at levels 1 and below in reading literacy.

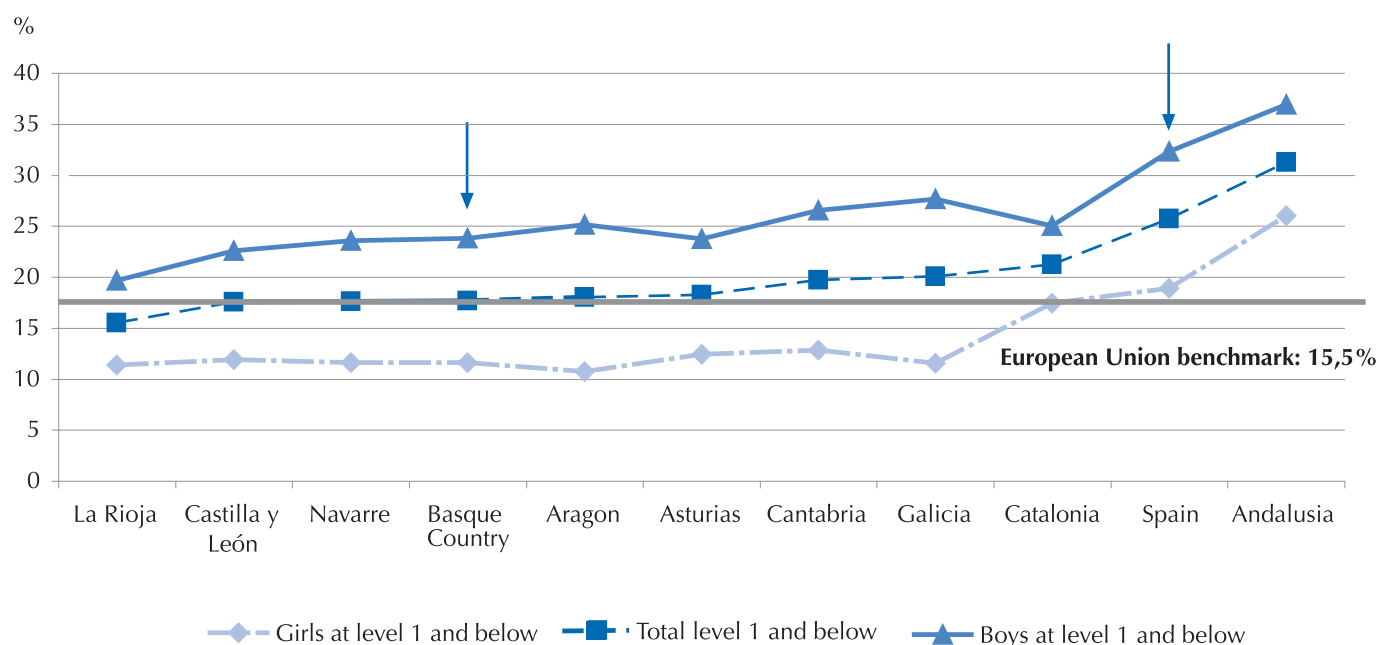


*Countries which did not participate in the PISA 2003 assessment

Source: ISEI-IVEI. PISA 2003-2006

**Table and Graph Rs9.4.:****Total Percentage, by sex of 15 year olds in Spanish regions participating in PISA 2006 at levels 1 and below in reading literacy by sex.**

	Total	Girls	Boys
	Levels 1 and below	Levels 1 and below	Levels 1 and below
Andalusia	31.3	26.0	36.9
Aragon	18.0	10.8	25.1
Asturias	18.2	12.4	23.7
Cantabria	19.7	12.9	26.5
Castilla y León	17.5	11.9	22.6
Catalonia	21.2	17.5	25.0
Spain	25.7	18.9	32.3
Basque Country	17.7	11.6	23.8
Galicia	20.0	11.6	27.6
La Rioja	15.5	11.4	19.6
Navarre	17.6	11.6	23.6



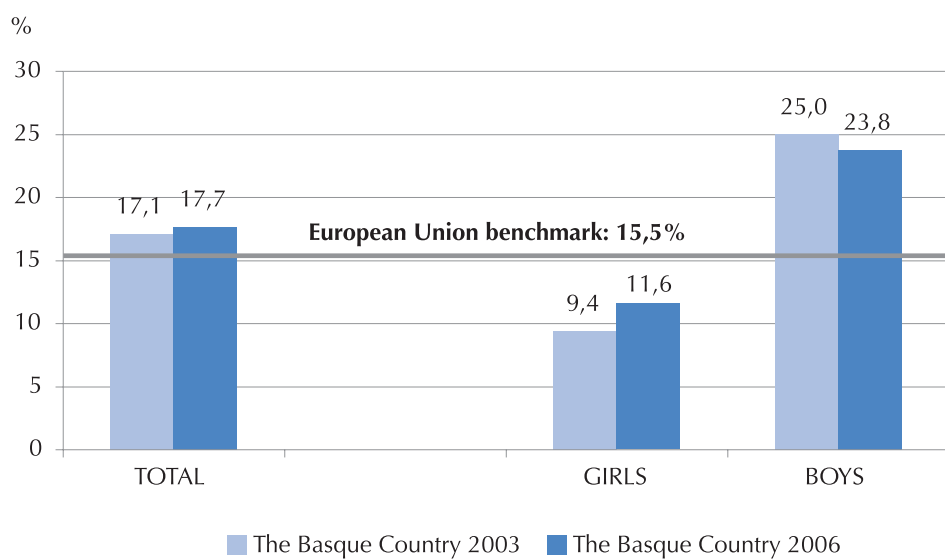
Source: ISEI-IVEI. PISA 2006



Table and Graph Rs9.5:

Basque Country performance at level 1 and below in reading literacy in the 2003-2006 PISA assessment.

	Performance levels			Girls			Boys		
	Level < 1	Level 1	Levels <1 & 1	Level < 1	Level 1	Levels <1 & 1	Level < 1	Level 1	Levels <1 & 1
Basque Country 2003	5.3	11.8	17.1	2.0	7.4	9.4	8.7	16.3	25.0
Basque Country 2006	5.2	12.5	17.7	2.1	9.5	11.6	8.2	15.5	23.8



Source: ISEI-IVEI. PISA 2006