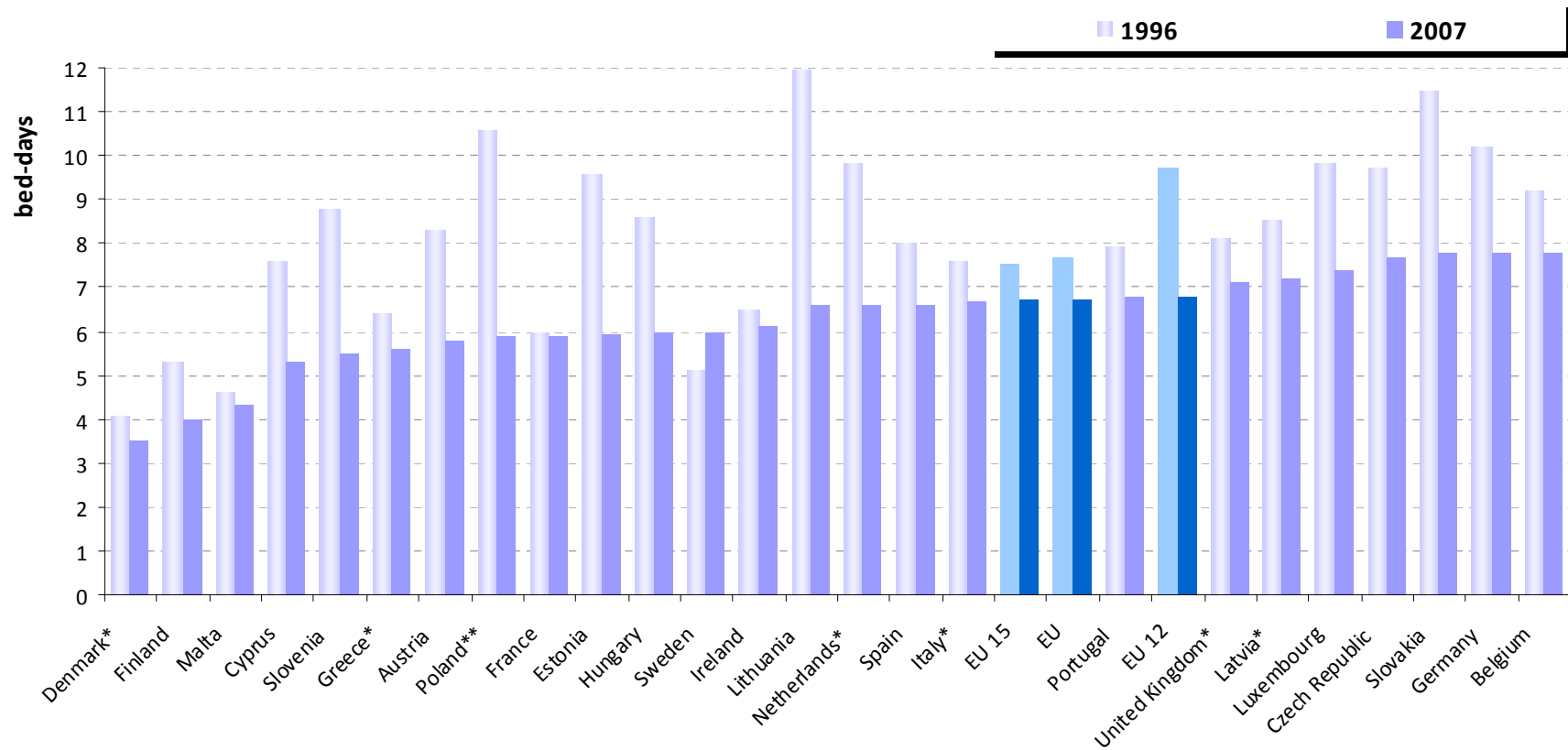


AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY FOR ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS



NOTE. All data refer to 2007 except Italy and the Netherlands (year 2006), Greece and Denmark (year 2005).

For Latvia and the United Kingdom the first reliable data refers to 2000.

Main source of data: WHO/Europe, European HFA Database, August 2009.

For Poland data are from the OECD Health data 2009.

Data for Bulgaria and Romania are not available.

The **average length of stay** represents the proportion between the total occupied hospital bed-days and the total number of admissions or discharges.

Since 1980 the average length of stay in acute care beds has been constantly reduced in all EU Member States.

Between 1996 and 2007 it dropped off by 1 bed-day in EU and no less than 3 bed-days in 'EU12'. The most significant reductions happened in Lithuania (-5,4 bed days), Estonia and Slovakia (-3,7 bed days) and Slovenia (-3,3 bed days).

However, in 2007 there were still significant differences: up to 3,8 bed days between Finland (4 bed days) and Belgium, Germany or Slovakia (7,8 bed days).

'EU15' - Countries joining the European Union between 1952 and 1995: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

'EU12' - Countries joining the European Union in 2004 or in 2007: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.