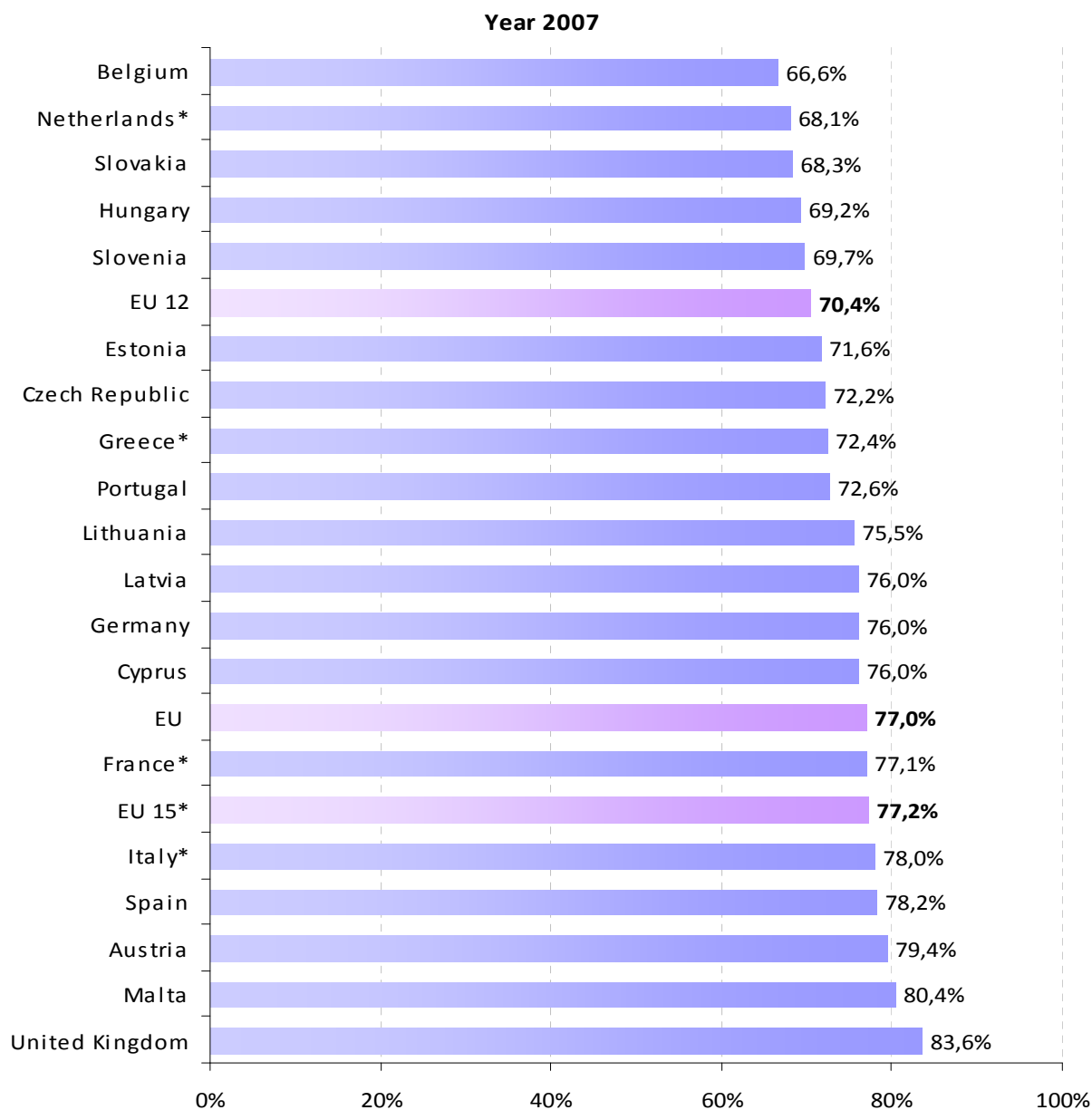


BED OCCUPANCY RATE FOR ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS



The **occupancy rate for acute care beds** mirrors how intensively hospital capacity is used.

In the 27 European Member States the occupancy rate has been relatively stable at a level of 77% - 78% of acute care beds since 1996, increasing by 1-2 percentage points compared to 1980.

As showed in the chart, in 2007 it was on average 77%, but the gap between the highest and the lowest value was wider than 20 percentage points.

In the last years no consistent trends were registered among EU Member States.

In the period 1996-2007 the most significant increases in the average rate of utilization of acute care hospital beds were registered in Greece (+10,1 p.p.), Ireland (+4,9 p.p.) and United Kingdom (+4,7 p.p.).

The most significant decreases were registered in Belgium (-14,3 p.p.), Slovakia (-11,2 p.p.), Slovenia (-7,9 p.p.) and Hungary (-6,2 p.p.).

'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.

NOTE. All data refer to 2007 except Italy and the Netherlands (year 2006), Greece (year 2005) and France (year 2004).

The value reported for EU15 refers also to 2006.

Data for Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania and Sweden are not available.

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