### Session 1 Ownership of Higher Education

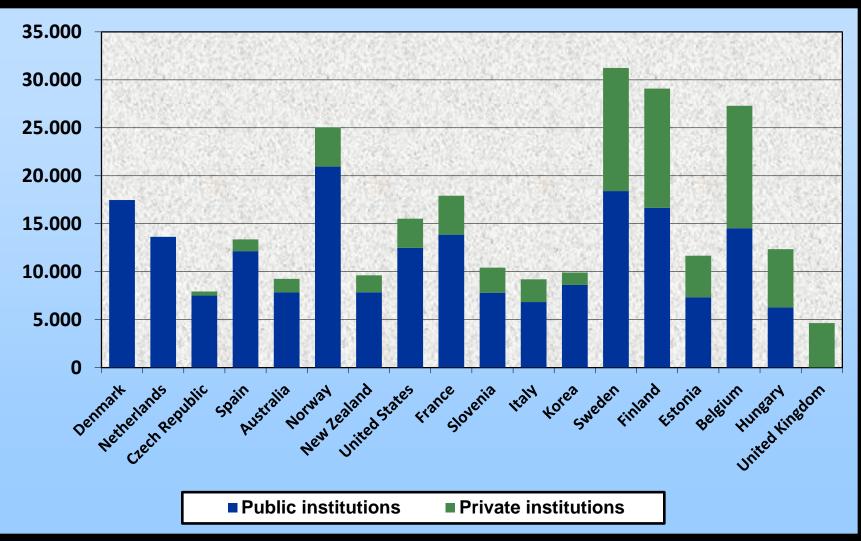
#### Muiris O'Connor Higher Education Authority, Ireland

Global Seminar on Strategic Issues in Higher Education Dubrovnik – September 2012

#### Ownership

 Is difficult to assess in the international context because of varying interpretations of public and private

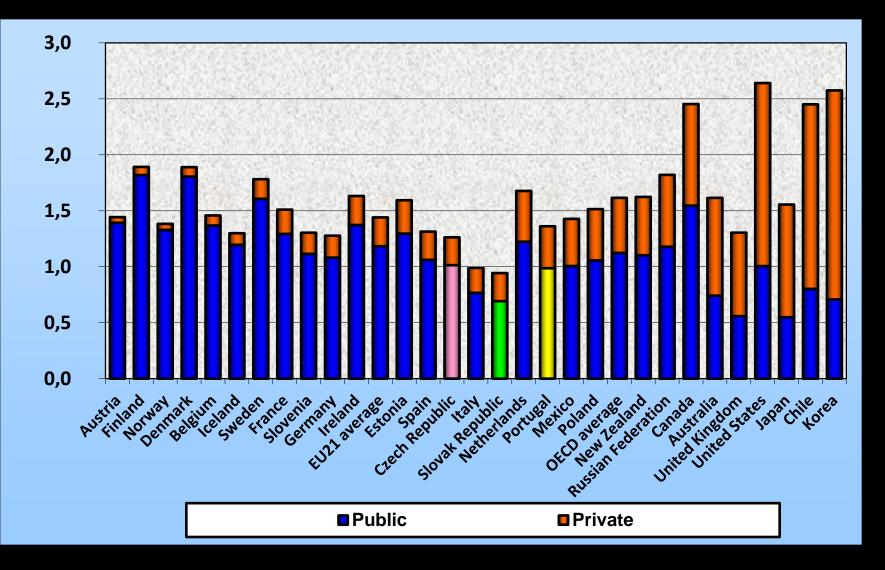
# Expenditure on HE per student by type of institution



#### Investment in education



#### Public/Private Investment in HE as % of GDP - 2009



#### Issues that arise include...

- The capacity of the HE systems to produce
- Sustainability
- Affordability
- Equality of opportunity

#### Capacity to deliver

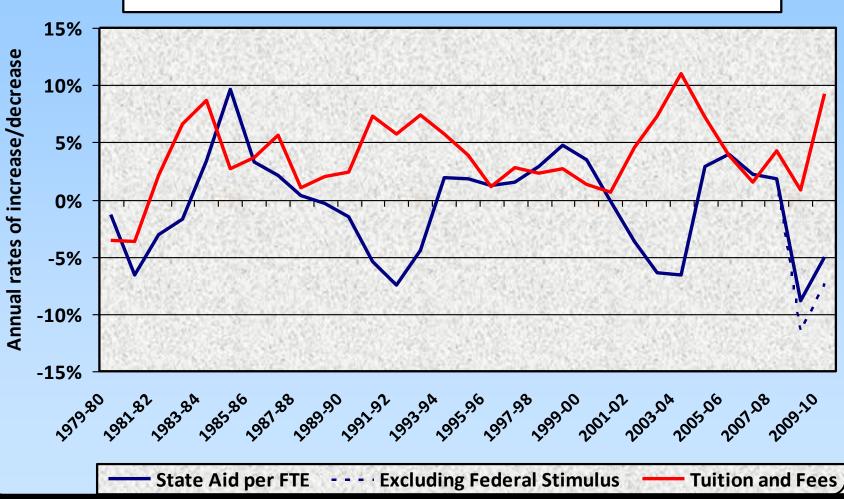
"The knowledge society is here to stay, requiring capable, highly gualified and innovative citizenry.... While nobody can predict how far the expansion in tertiary education will continue, countries need sustainable financing systems capable of responding to growing student numbers. Not doing so could mean that the knowledge society cound be a polarised world, peopled by those who can afford education and those who cannot." (EAG 2008 Editorial)

#### **Resources and choices**

"...A striking comparison is that average spending per tertiary student in most European countries is now well below half the level in the United States. While choices between greater public investments and a larger share of private money are difficult to make, doing neither in the face of the rising demand for more and better tertiary education seems no longer an option." (EAG 2008 Editorial)

#### The 'market' in action

Trends in public and private investment in higher education in the USA since 1979-80 (in public 4-year instititons)



### Equality



### Time for focus and fresh thinking

- Each country must pioneer new levels of efficiency and innovation in the design and delivery of higher education
- System-level infrastructures & efficiencies that are quality enhancing
- Shared services and collective engagement with the challenges
- The fundamental challenges are not financial
- They are educational; they are teaching and learning challenges
- And the challenges of research and discovery

#### The interconnectedness of learning

The higher education graduate is of the whole education system

## Any nostalgia for a golden age of education is misplaced...



#### ... we have yet to achieve it.