



Everyday Democracy Index v1.0 Approach, results and implications

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Paul Skidmore
Demos Associate
Kirsten Bound
Senior Researcher

Outline

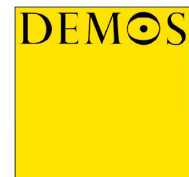
Background

Approach

Results

Interpreting the findings

Implications for the EU



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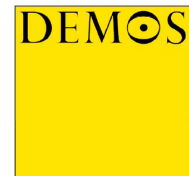
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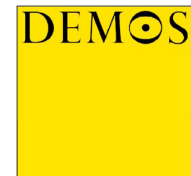


A word on everyday democracy

everyday (ěv'rē-dā') 1. of or pertaining to every day; daily: an everyday occurrence. 2. such as is met with every day; ordinary; commonplace.

democracy (dĭ-mŏk'rə-sē) 1. Government by the people. 2. A political or social unit that has such a government. 3. The common people, considered as the primary source of political power.

everyday democracy (ěv'rē-dā' dĭ-mŏk'rə-sē) 1. A society in which people feel empowered over the decisions – both formal and informal – that affect their lives. 2. The experience of feeling like the author of one's own script



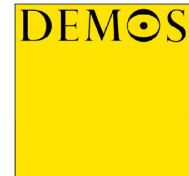
Why enter a crowded field?

With a number of democracy and governance indexes out there, we needed a clear sense of our value-added



The EDI proposition

1. **Finer-grained.** An index that can tell you about the difference between democracy in **Finland** and **France**, not just the difference between **Belgium** and **Burma**.
2. **More people-centred.** An index that is focused on people's **experience** of empowerment, not just the formal institutions of democracy themselves.



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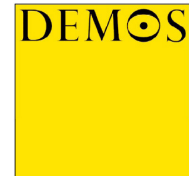
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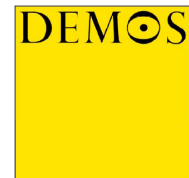
Principles

- A **prototype**: a way to start conversations not end them
- Focus on capturing the **experience** of everyday democracy, not the resources needed for it
- **Holistic**, measuring ED in different domains
- Enable **comparison** across countries

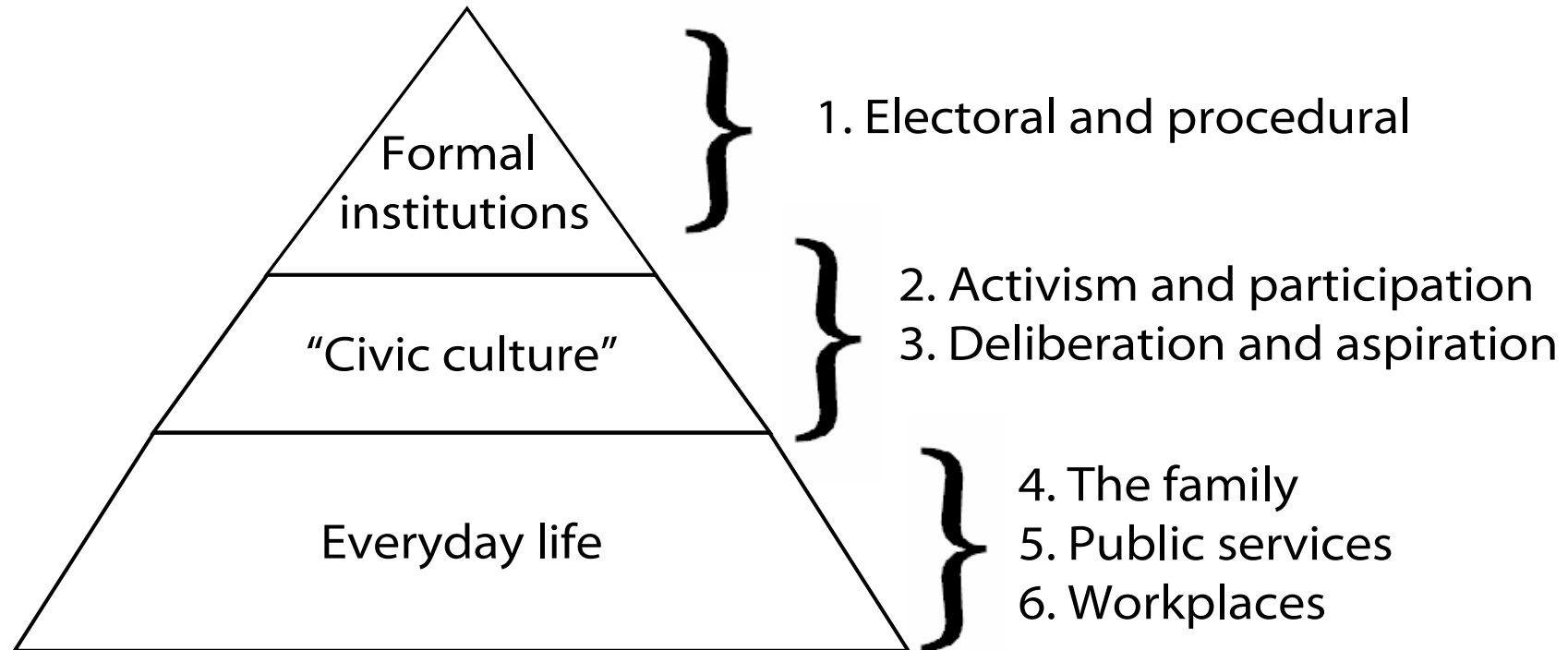


Approach

- Choose **dimensions**. Criteria: theoretical (what does our work tell us is important?) and practical (how many is manageable? Are data available?)
- Choose **indicators**. Criteria: theoretical (why is this a good proxy?) and practical (is this indicator reasonably well correlated with the other indicators for this dimension?)
- We end up with **6 dimensions** and **21 indicators**

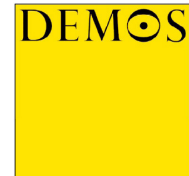


Six dimensions



Wide range of data sources

- **Cross-national surveys** (World Values Survey, European Working Conditions Survey, Eurobarometer, European Social Survey)
- **Existing indices** (World Bank Governance Indicators)
- **Specialist sources** (Institute for Democratic and Electoral Assistance voter turnout data, Eurydice schools data)
- **EU administrative sources** (Eurostat data on tax rates, Mutual Information System on Social Protection data)



Electoral and procedural

5 indicators

- Average voter turnout, last three elections
- Voice and accountability, WB Governance Indicator
- Political stability, WB Governance Indicator
- Control of corruption, WB Governance Indicator
- Rule of law, WB Governance Indicator



Activism and participation

4 indicators

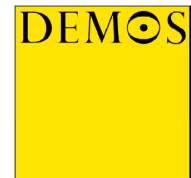
- Average number of group memberships
- % say they joined a protest in last 12 months
- % say they signed a petition in last 12 months
- % say they boycotted goods in last 12 months



Deliberation and aspiration

3 indicators

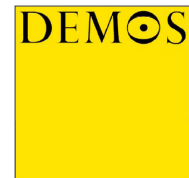
- Commitment to public engagement in science
- Extent to which people feel able and equipped to participate and engage in democratic deliberation
- Strength of opposition to authoritarian attitudes.



Family

3 indicators

- Permissiveness of the legal environment to different personal choices about family structure (4 pt. scale)
- Cultural attitudes to “democratic” children’s values (4 pt. scale)
- Cultural attitudes to gender roles (4 pt. scale)



Public services

3 indicators

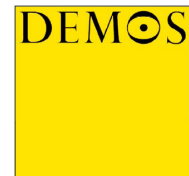
- Local taxation as % of total taxation
- Parent/pupil empowerment in education (5 pt. scale)
- “Co-production” in health (5 pt. scale)



Workplaces

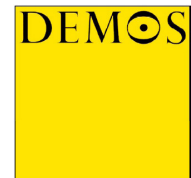
3 indicators

- Ability to influence the working environment (4 pt. scale)
- Workers' sense of autonomy (4 pt. scale)
- Workers' sense of creativity (4 pt. scale)



Scoring

- Indicators are converted to range from **0 to 10** and weighted by their importance to underlying dimension
- These indicators are averaged to give a **score for each dimension out of 10**
- Each dimension score is weighted and averaged to give a **total EDI score out of 60**



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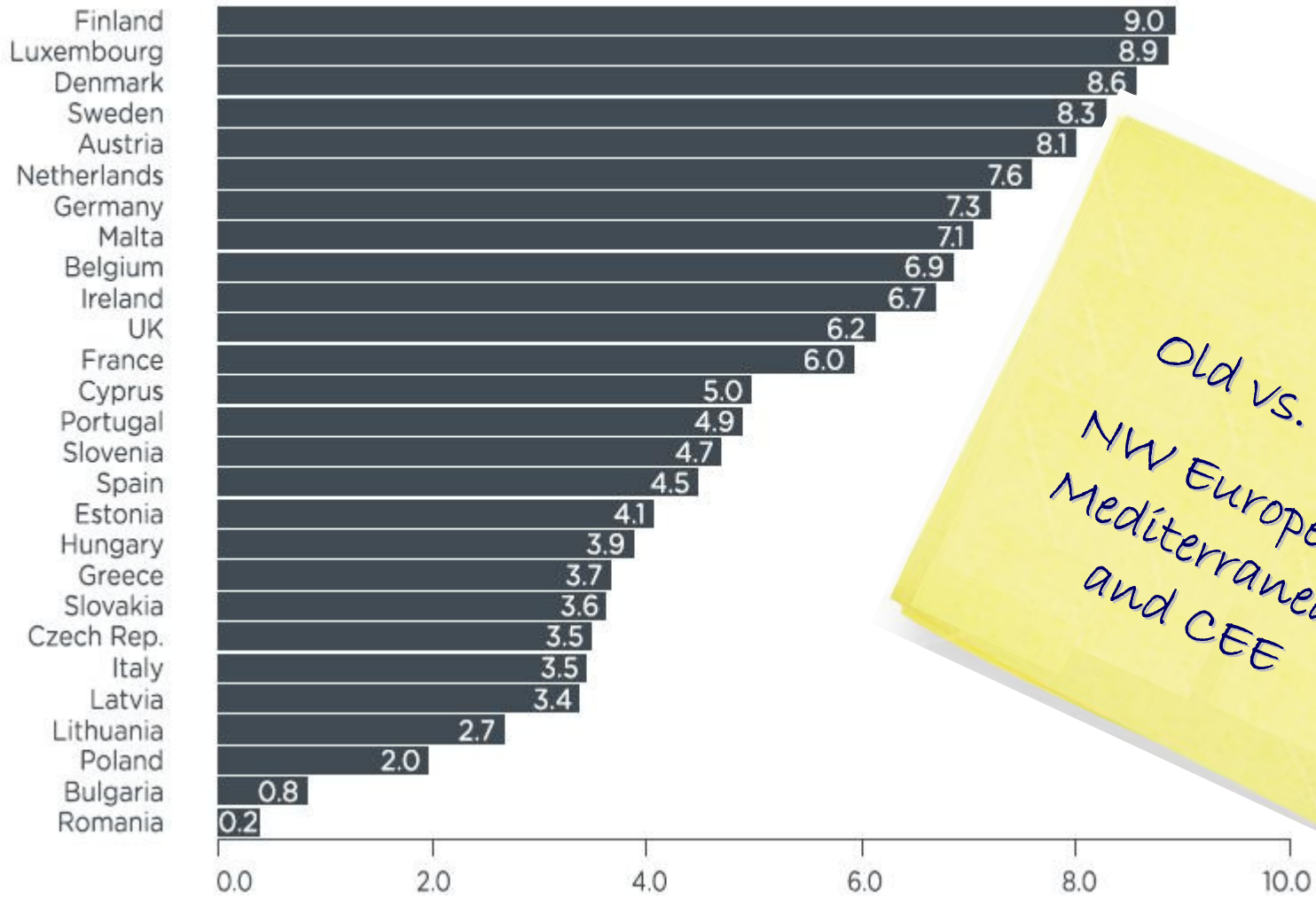
→ **Results**

Interpreting the findings

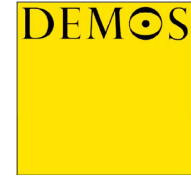
Implications for the EU



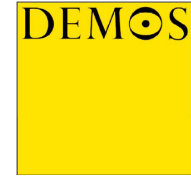
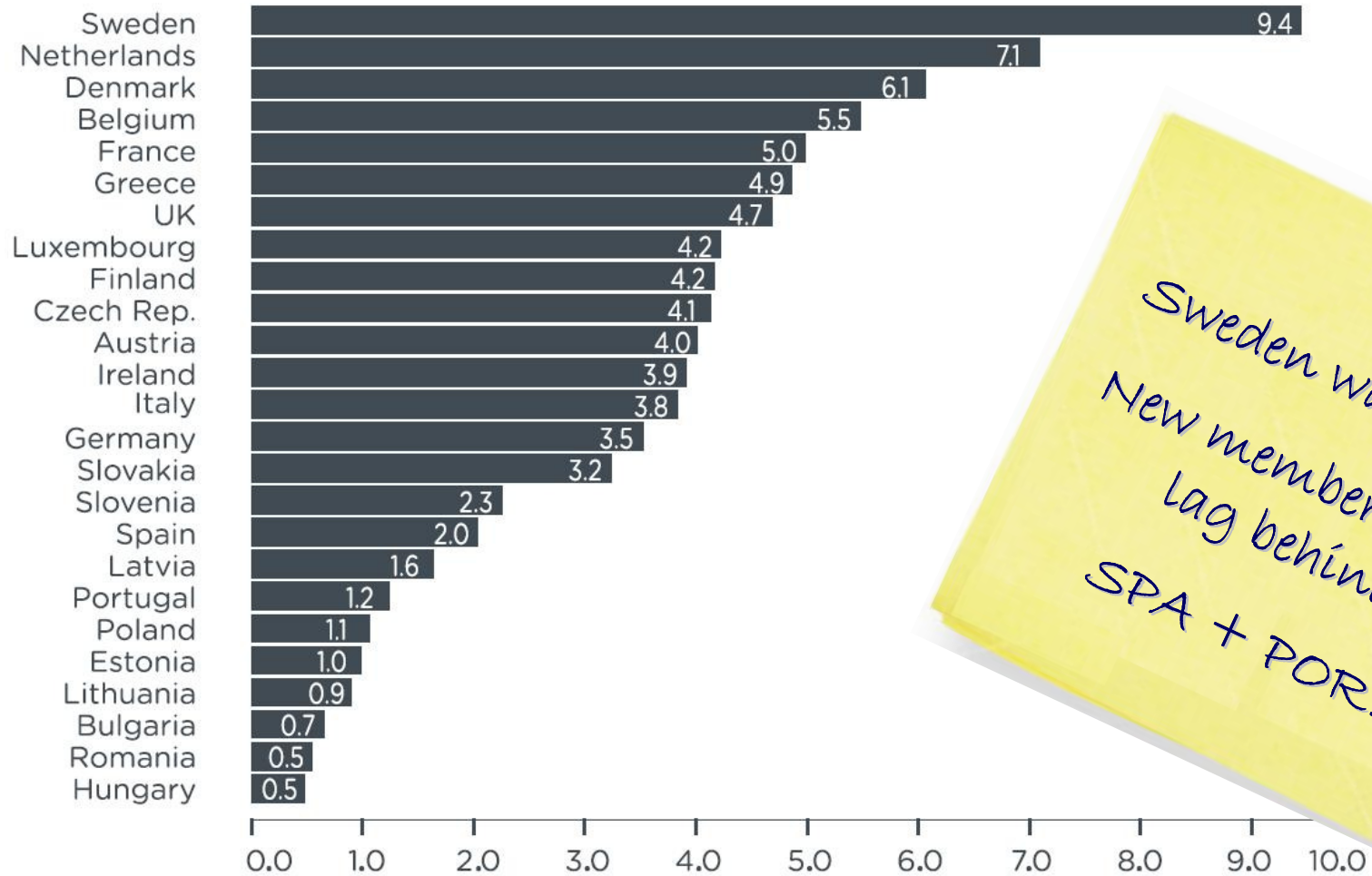
EDI Electoral and Procedural dimension



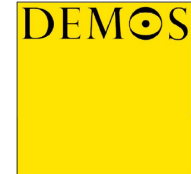
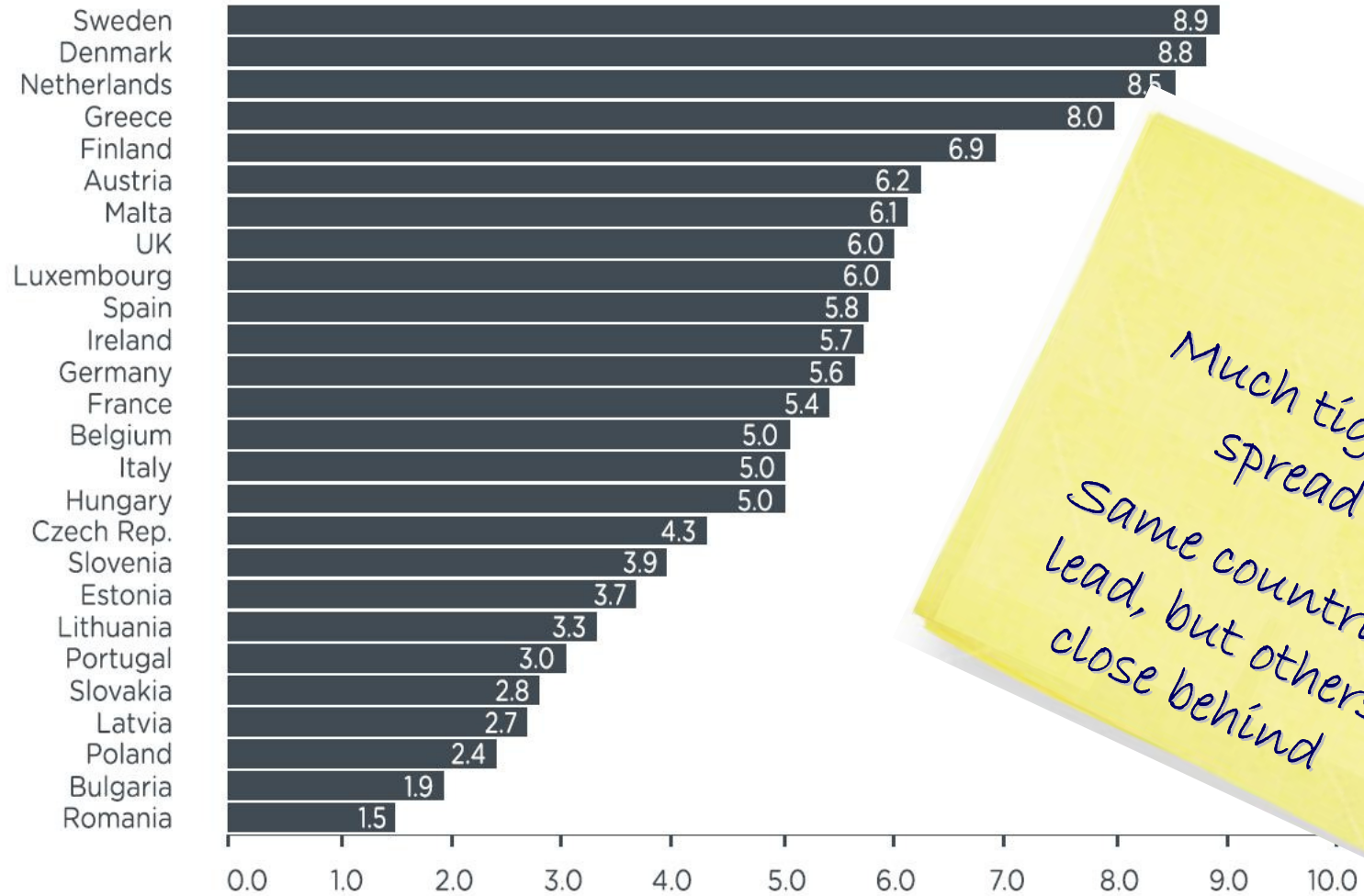
Old vs. new
NW Europe vs.
Mediterranean
and CEE



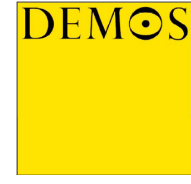
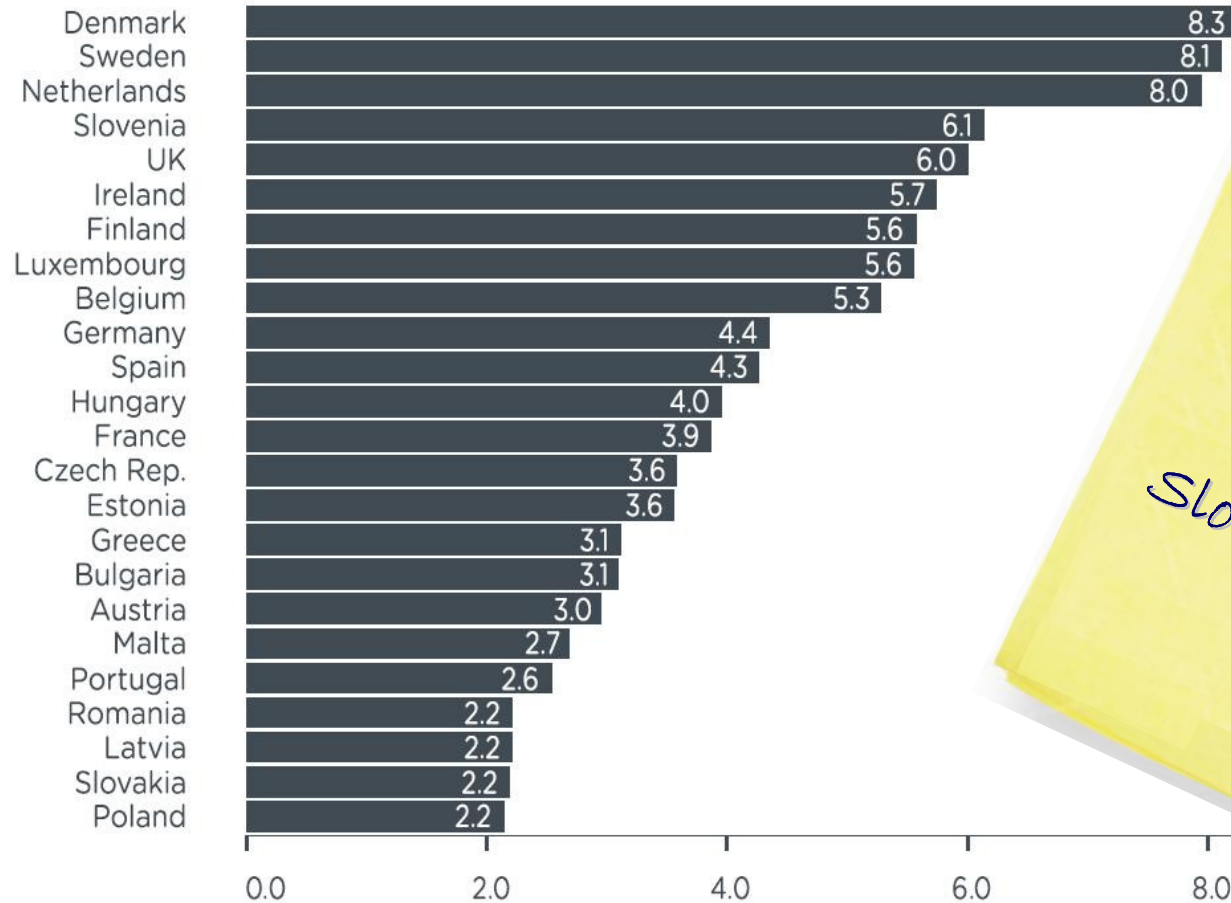
EDI Activism and Participation dimension



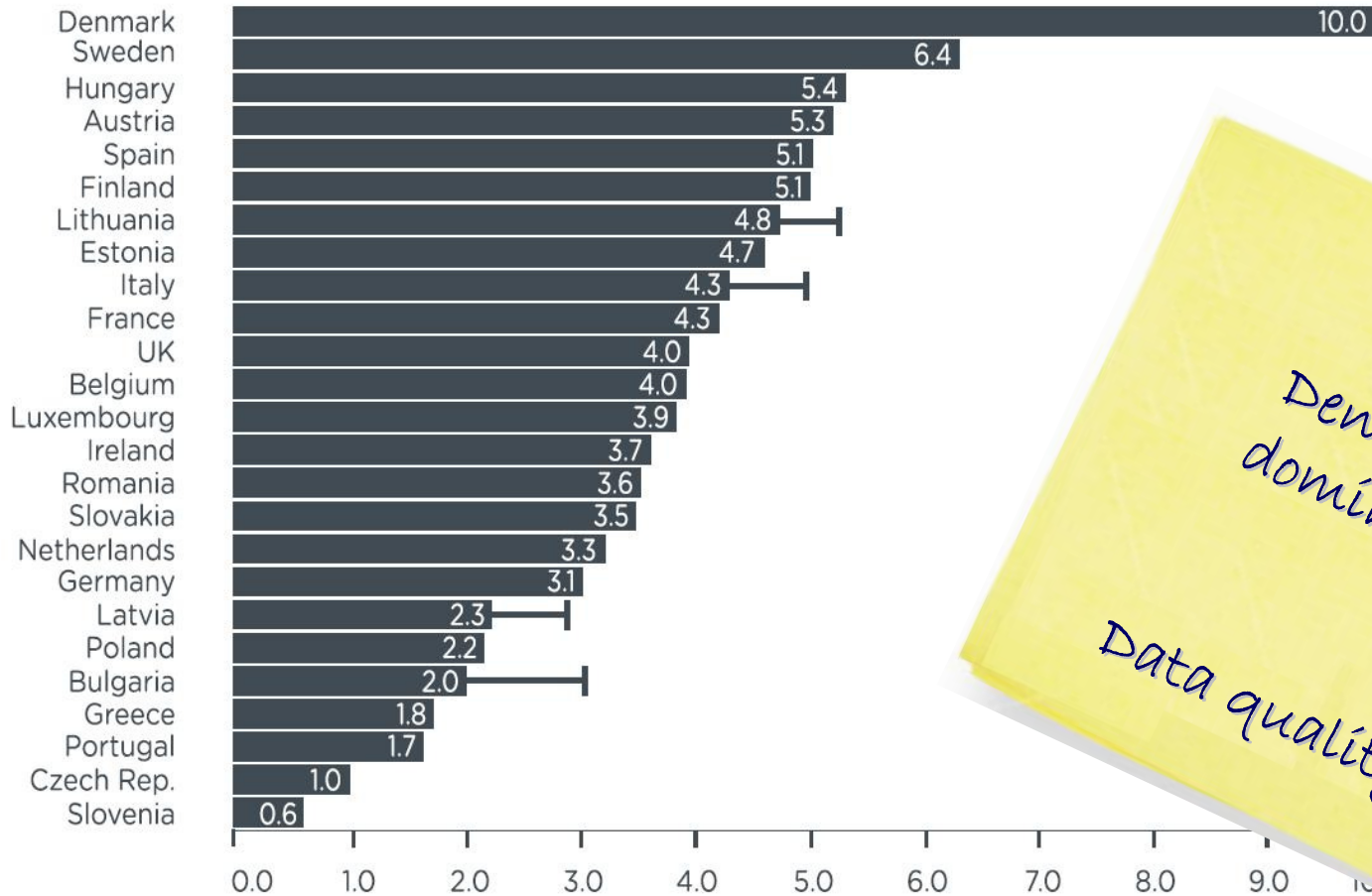
EDI Deliberation and Aspiration dimension



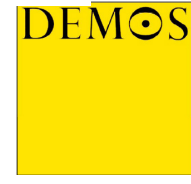
EDI Families dimension



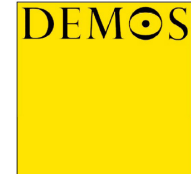
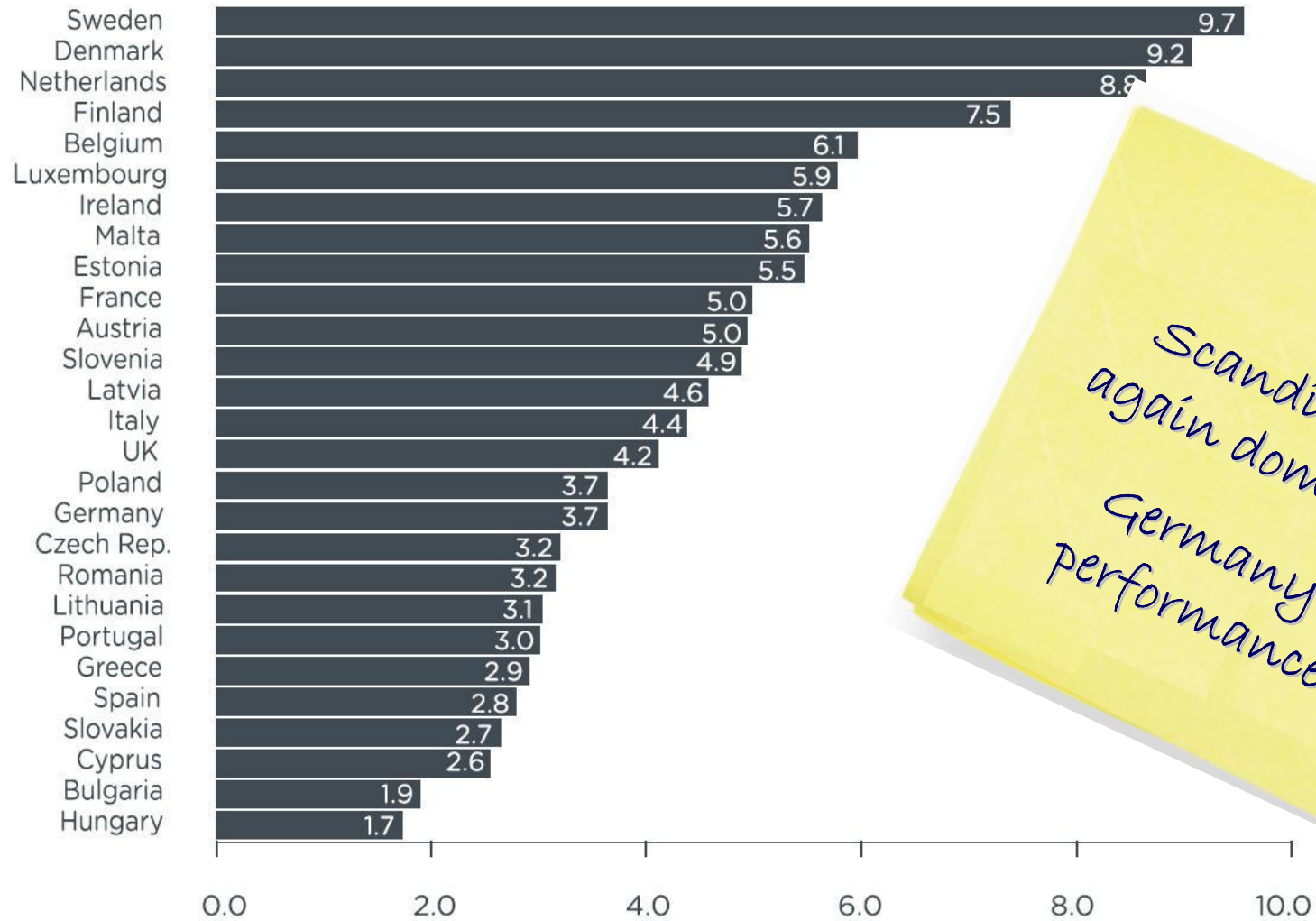
EDI Public Services dimension



Note: Lithuania, Italy, Latvia and Bulgaria based on two indicators only. Thin horizontal lines indicate potential error, estimated by using regression techniques to impute the value of the third indicator based on values of the first two.

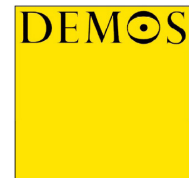


EDI Workplace dimension



Two key features of the results

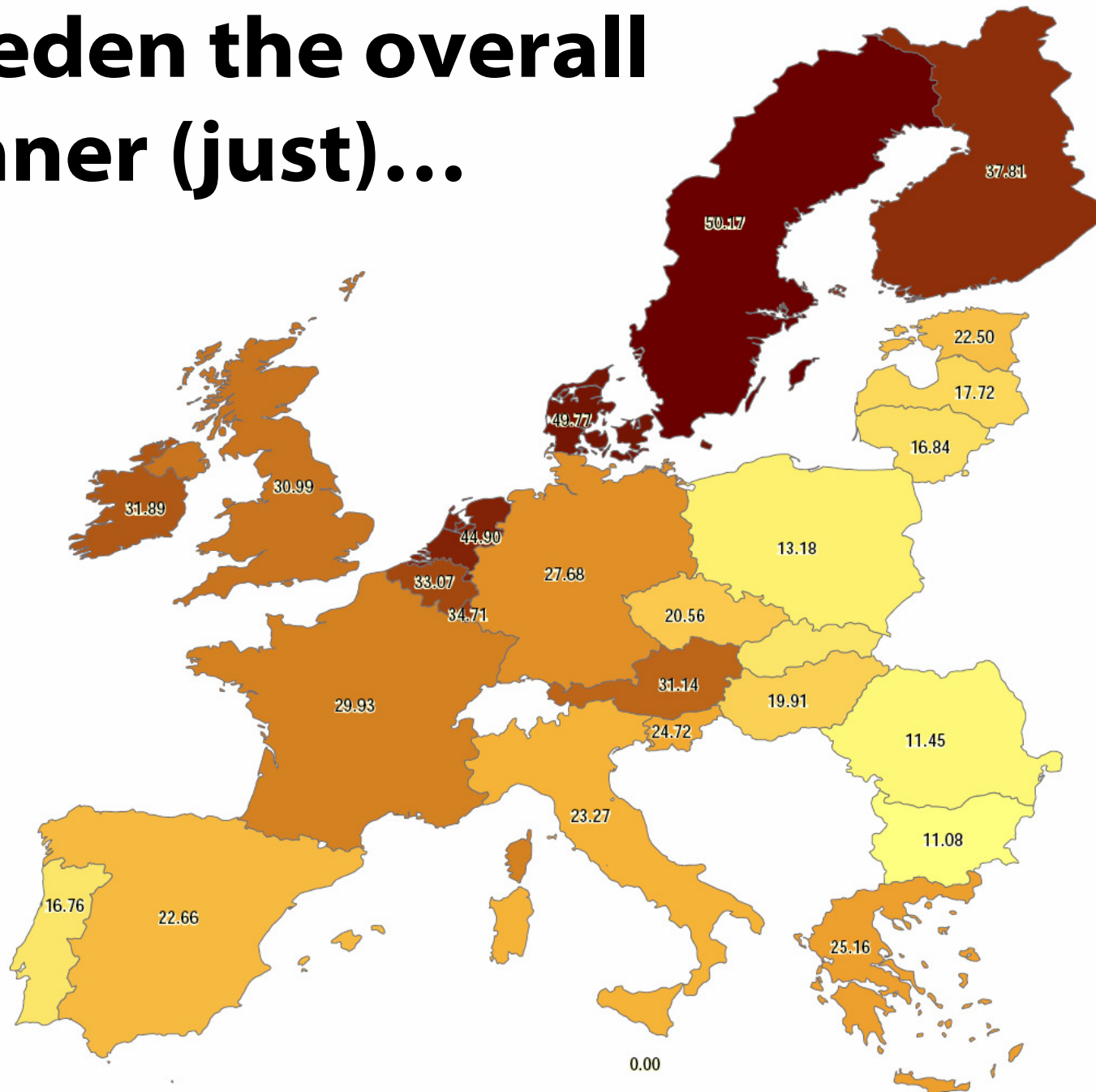
- Countries score very **consistently** across different dimensions
- Clear **geographical clustering** of high and low scores



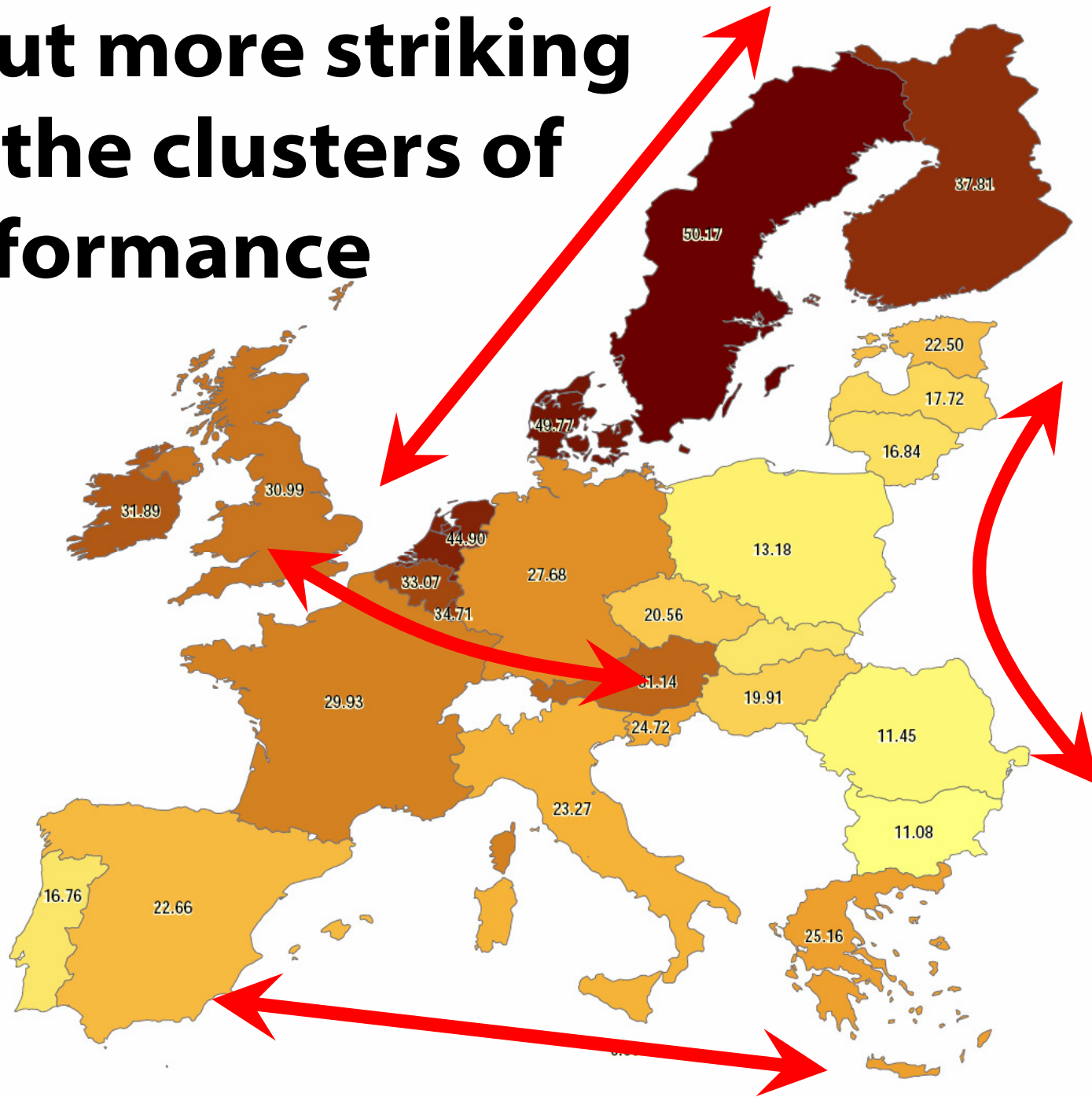
Consistency across countries

	E&P	A&P	D&A	F	PS	W
Top 3 performers	Fin Lux Den	Swe NL Den	Swe Den NL	Den Swe NL	Den Swe Hun	Swe Den NL
Bottom 3 performers	Pol Bul Rom	Bul Rom Hun	Pol Bul Rom	Lat Slk Pol	Por Cze Slv	Slk Bul Hun

Sweden the overall winner (just)...



**...but more striking
are the clusters of
performance**



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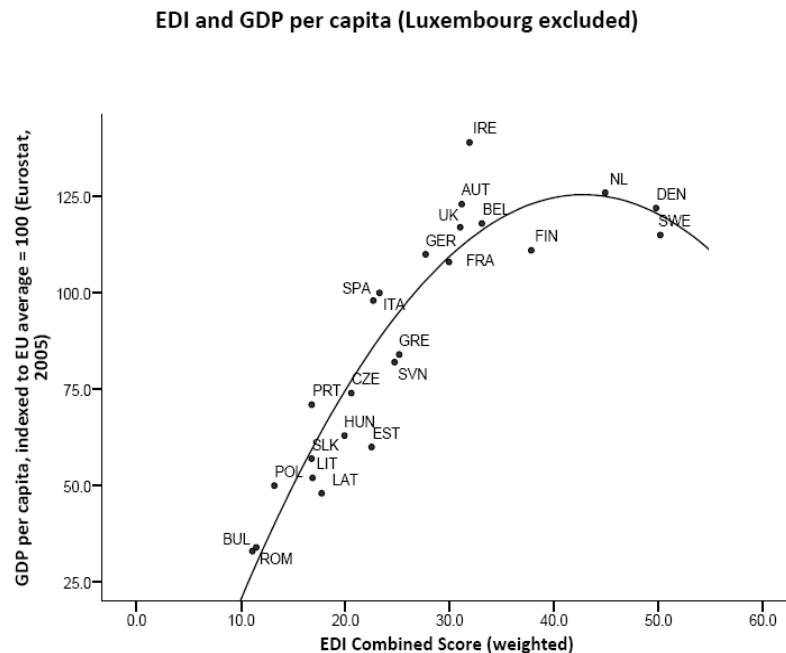


“Storylines” that emerge

- Interested in trying to detect patterns or relationships that might shed light on what was driving these results.
- Can’t test whether these relationships are causal yet. But they suggest some interesting **storylines** that we will look to explore in future work



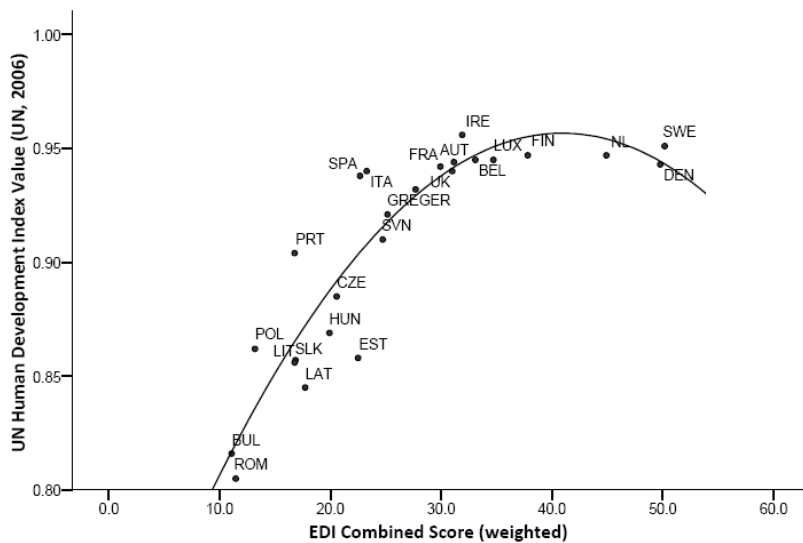
1. EDI and development



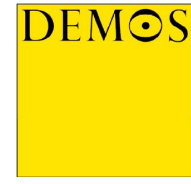
- There is a clear link between EDI and economic development.
- Below a certain level, rising affluence is associated with rising EDI scores
- But at some point that relationship breaks down

1. EDI and development

EDI and UN Human Development Index scores

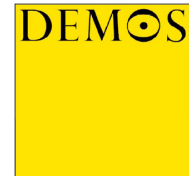


- This holds when you look at the UN Human Development Index too

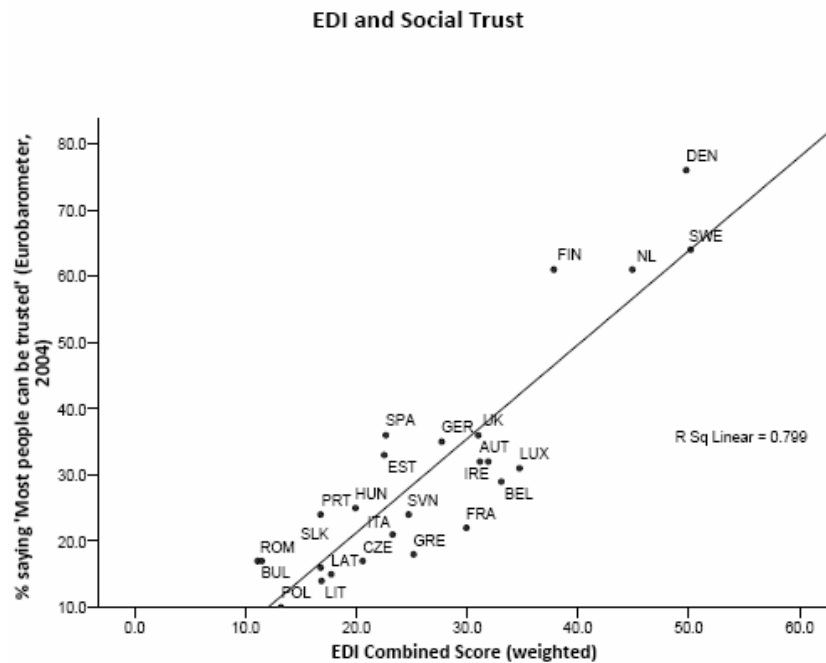


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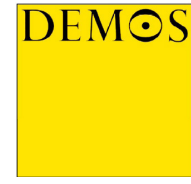
- A “hierarchy of needs”? Below a certain level of affluence, you don’t have a widespread commitment to self-expression values because people are satisfying more basic material needs
- As affluence increases, demand for self-authorship grows
- In some affluent countries, that demand for self-authorship has grown faster than the capacity of social institutions to supply it



2. EDI and Social Capital

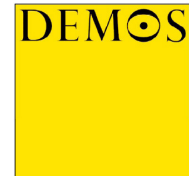


- Huge literature on the links between social capital and democracy
- We find a very close link between social trust – one common measure of social capital – and EDI scores

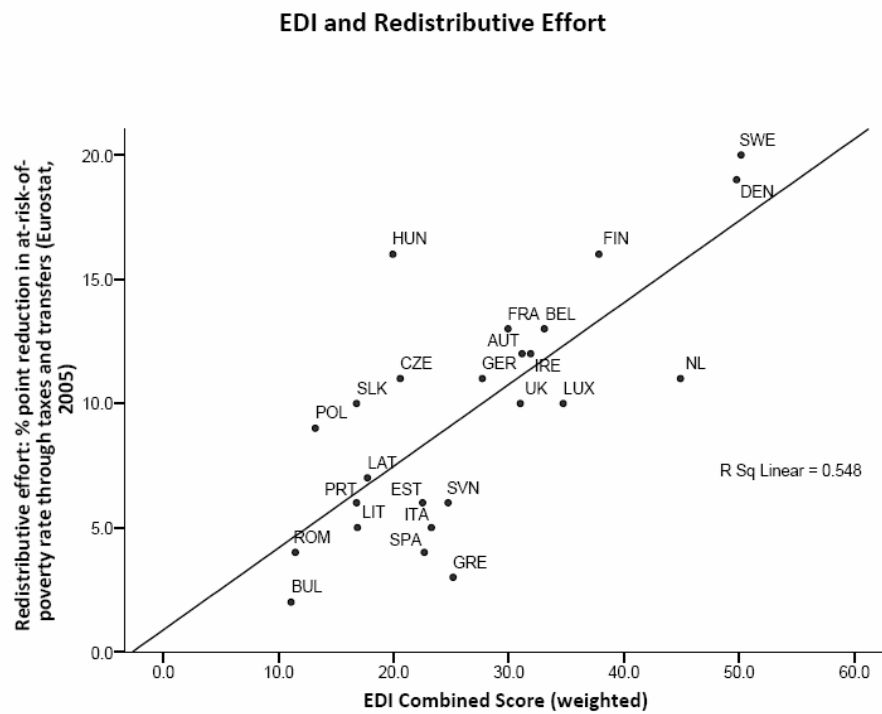


2. EDI and Social Capital

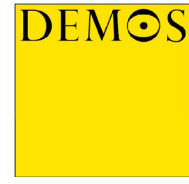
- Interesting that not just that the relationship holds but that the EDI “outliers” – Sweden, Denmark and Netherlands – are also social trust outliers
- Social capital could be a kind of ‘lubricant’ making possible the day-to-day interactions of everyday democracy



3. EDI and Redistribution

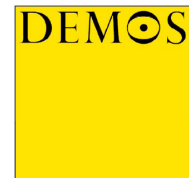


- Interested in links between EDI and character of welfare states
- Important to measure redistributive effort carefully

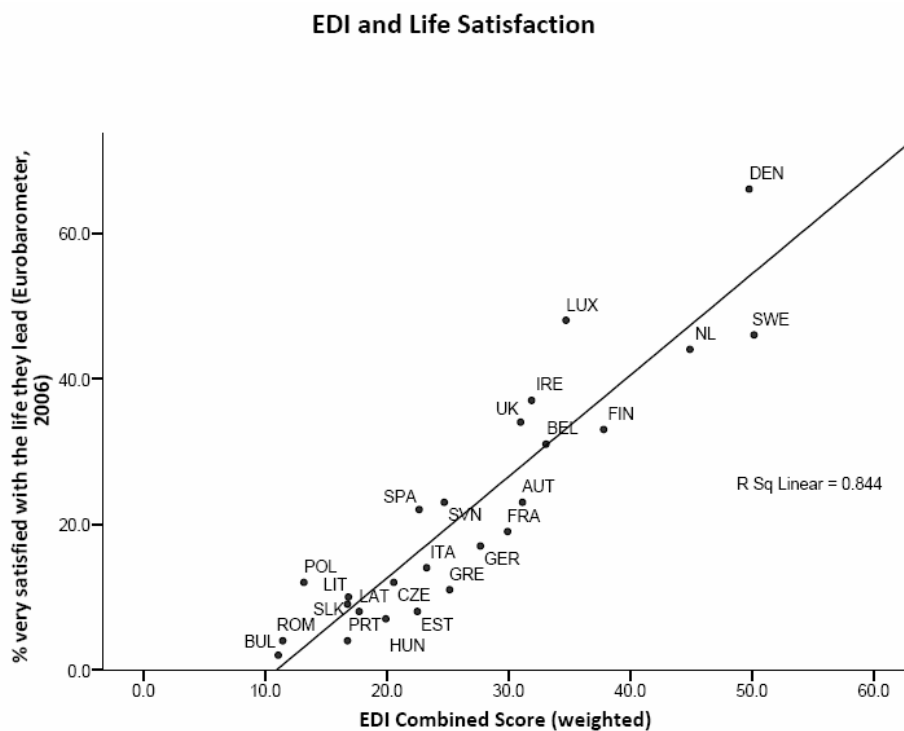


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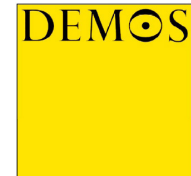
- Interesting but plausibly two-way relationship
- Generating the political legitimacy to sustain a high-tax, redistributive welfare state requires a highly mobilised group of citizens who believe in the power of state action
- But a welfare state that redistributes successfully may create more empowered citizens in the first place



4. EDI and Life Satisfaction

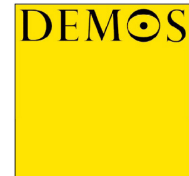


- Probably the most striking correlation we find is with levels of life satisfaction
- Democracy and happiness go hand in hand!



4. EDI and Life Satisfaction

- Our hypothesis here draws on the psychological concept of “locus of control”.
- For individuals, believing that you are in control of your own destiny not the victim of events is strongly associated with well-being and happiness.
- We conjecture that the same thing applies at the aggregate level



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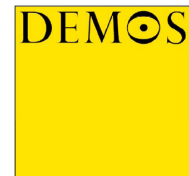
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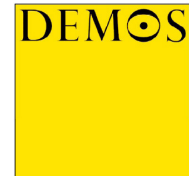
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Possible implications

- Before we promote democracy abroad we should admit our own democracies are imperfect
- The democratic deficit is national as much as European, and cultural as much as institutional
- Support for a “Europe of results”?



Thank you

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