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ESA2009

European Society **or** European Societies?

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Lisboa - Portugal
ISCTE

Social classes, Age and Values in Europe

RS13 Re-Assessing Class in Contemporary Sociology

Saturday, 5 September 09:00 - 10:30

Class Reproduction: Education, Age and Time

Building I, 1E11

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Our presentation is about values, considered as organized and relatively durable systems of preferences, which constitute, because they motivate action, good predictors of behaviour.

Values have their roots in individuals, in groups, in social classes, but they can also be connected with big aggregates like national states.

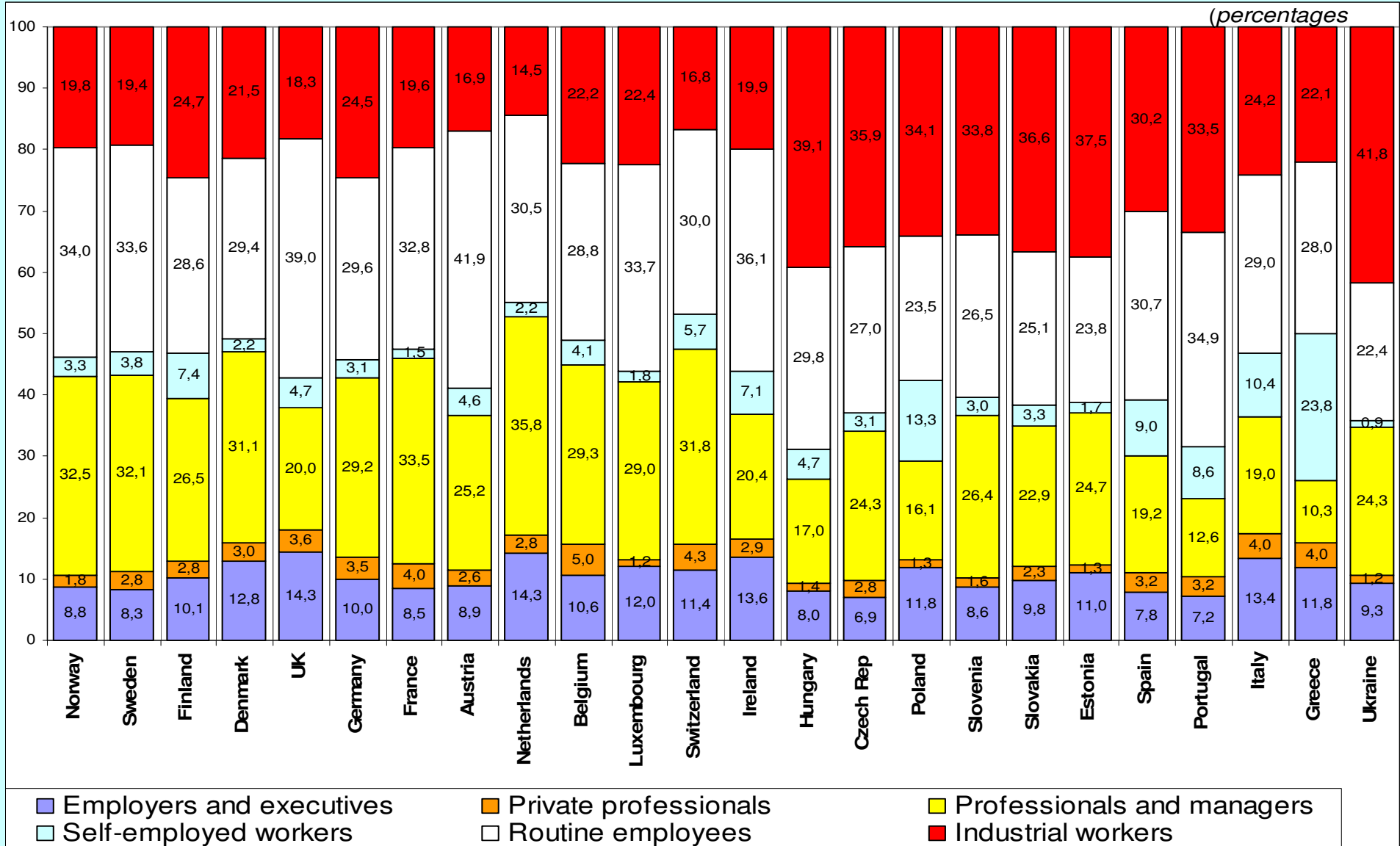
Following Schwartz, who advanced one basis for a structural theory of values, they express motivational goals and differentiate themselves through those goals (Schwartz, 1996). Values analysis assumes a central stance in social research. They are expressed in a definite culture, understood in the anthropological sense, that is as an enlarged and diverse aggregate of characteristics that at the limit is synonym of the notion of society.

Bearing in mind the actionalist properties of values – their behavioural repercussion – the research program that the authors have been developing in this domain identifies patterns of values connected to social classes. However, other values settings may equally show relevant distinctions, either in an isolated way or combined with social classes, as it is the case, for instance, of age or gender.

The data we are going to present proceed from the *European Social Survey, rounds 1, 2 and 3*, collected in 2002, 2004 and 2006. We use a typology of six categories (social classes) based on the information that the ESS also provides on occupation and situation in the occupation.

We also have comparative evidence from what Schwartz calls basic or transsituational values, and hope to present a small part of it. The aim of our presentation is to illustrate how social class and age contribute to differentiate individuals' values

Class structures in ESS countries



Source: **ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0.** Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

For well known historical reasons, the “industrial workers” have more relative weight in Portugal, Spain and Southern countries

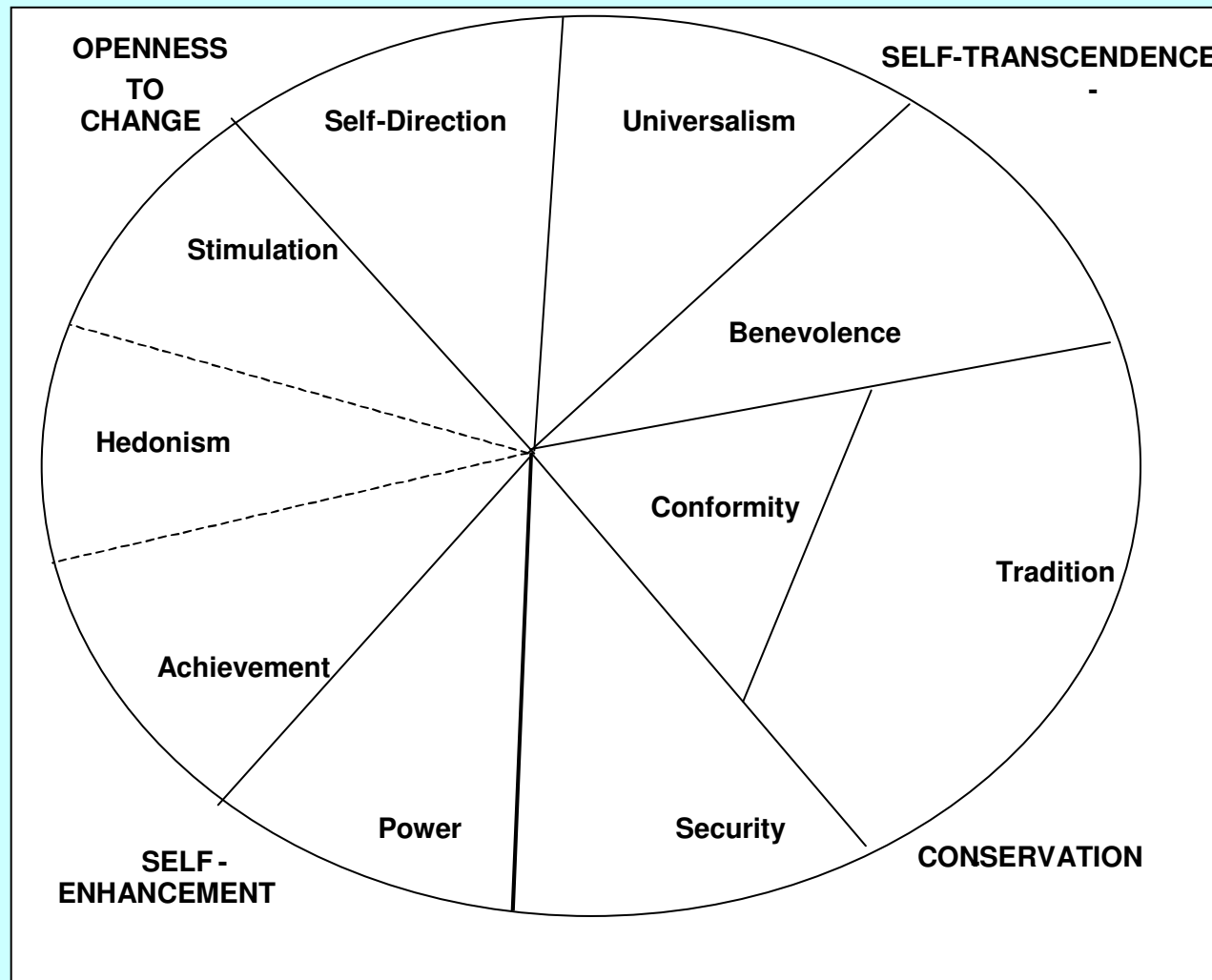
Human values in Europe

The European Social Survey integrates in its surveys a set of indicators about human values which basis is the typology proposed by Schwartz, that contemplates 21 indicators that constitute 10 types of motivational values, which individuals place on an hierarchy.

The relationship between the values is dynamic and can be summarized into two orthogonal dimensions: *Self-enhancement* vs. *Self-transcendence* and *Openness to change* vs. *Conservation*.

The first dimension presents in one of the extremes the motivational types *power*, *achievement* and *hedonism* and, on the other, the values of *universalism* and *benevolence*. This axis orders values based on persons' motivation to promote their own interests, even at someone else's expense, opposite to those who tend to transcend their selfish worries. The second dimension opposes the motivational types *self-direction* and *stimulation* to *conformism*, *security* and *tradition*, ordering the values based on the person's motivation to follow own intellectual and affective interests through new experiences, opposite to self-restriction, conformity to order and resistance to change .

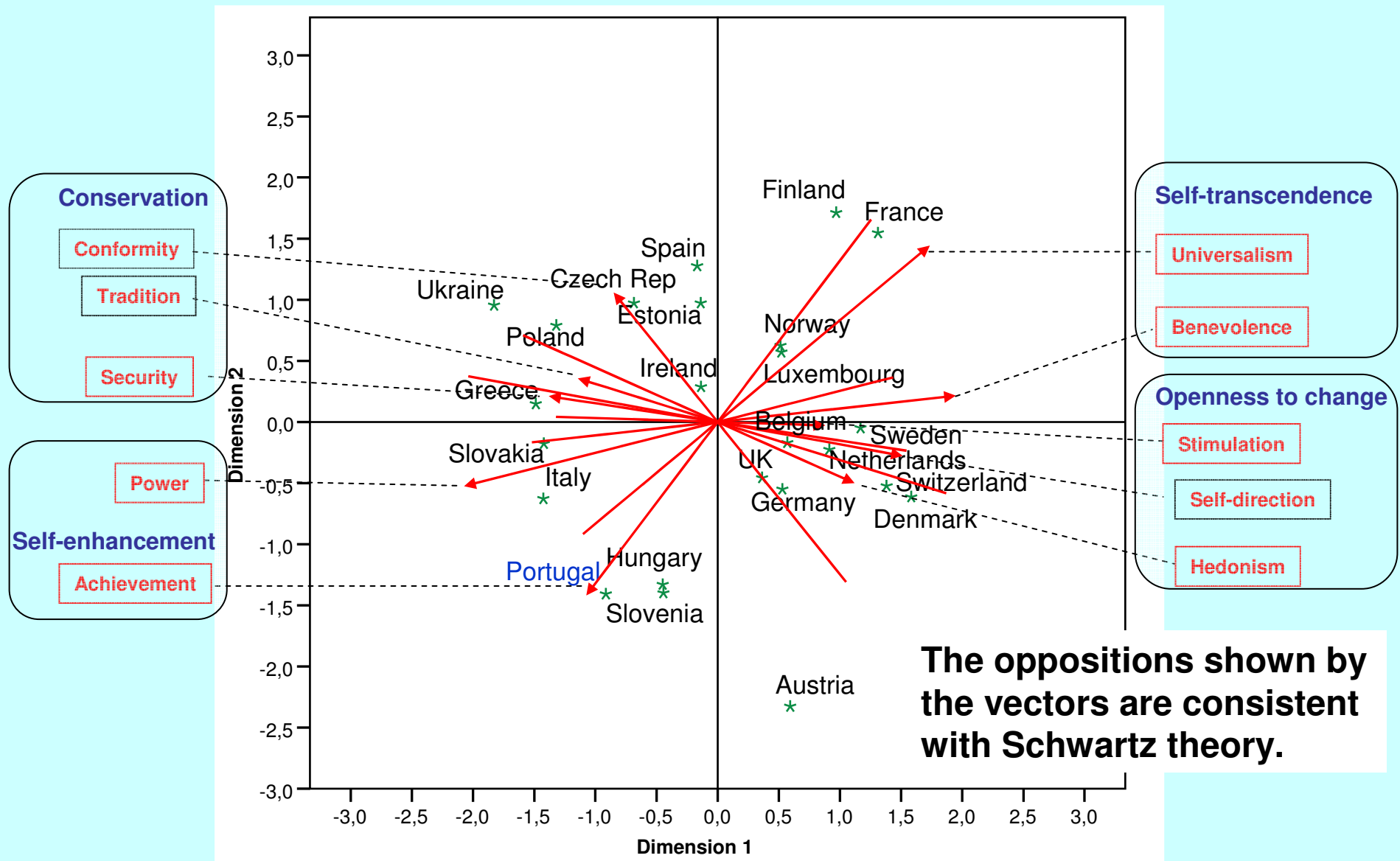
Schwartz's theoretical model of relations among ten motivational types of values *



The structure of these 10 types of motivational values among the Europeans, confirms the theoretical model proposed by Schwartz.

* Cfr. Schwartz, S. H.: "Universal in the content and structure of values: Theoretical Advances and Empirical Tests in 20 countries", in Zanna, M (1992) (ed.) *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*. Vol. 25. California, Academic Press.

Human Values priorities in Europe



Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

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SPSS/CatPCA. Total Chronbach's Alpha: 0,96; Total explained variance by dimensions: 71%

Cluster analysis based in the four Schwartz's values of higher order*:

- Self-transcendence
- Self-enhancement
- Openness to change
- Conservation

* SPSS/K-means. Input variables' means in the 4 Clusters are statistically significant
($p < 0,001$)

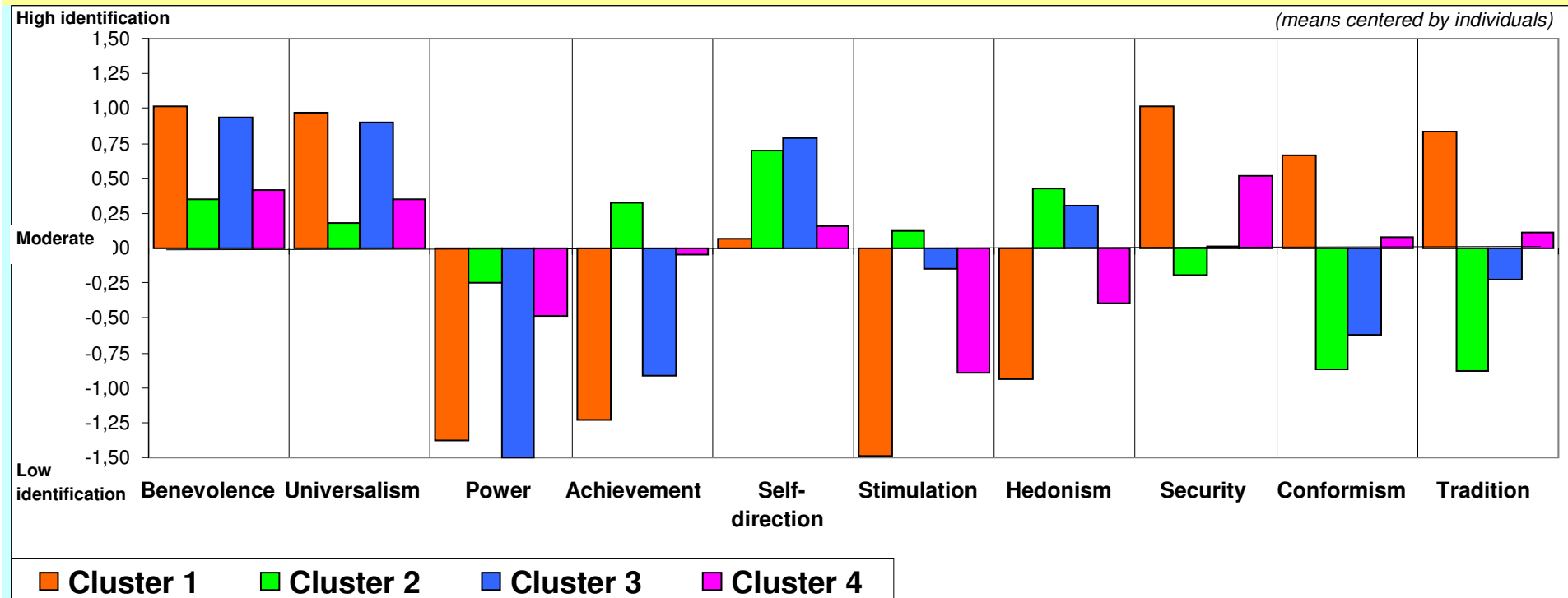
Value's main identifications



Main identifications

Self-transcendence: **Cluster 1** and **Cluster 4**
 Self-enhancement: **Cluster 2** and **Cluster 3**
 Openness to change: **Cluster 2** and **Cluster 4**
 Conservation: **Cluster 1** and **Cluster 3**

Human Values identification by cluster



Self-transcendence

vs.

Self-enhancement

Benevolence: more identification in Cluster 1 and 3
Universalism: more identification in Cluster 1 and 3
Power: more identification in Cluster 2 and 4
Achievement: more identification in Cluster 2 and 4

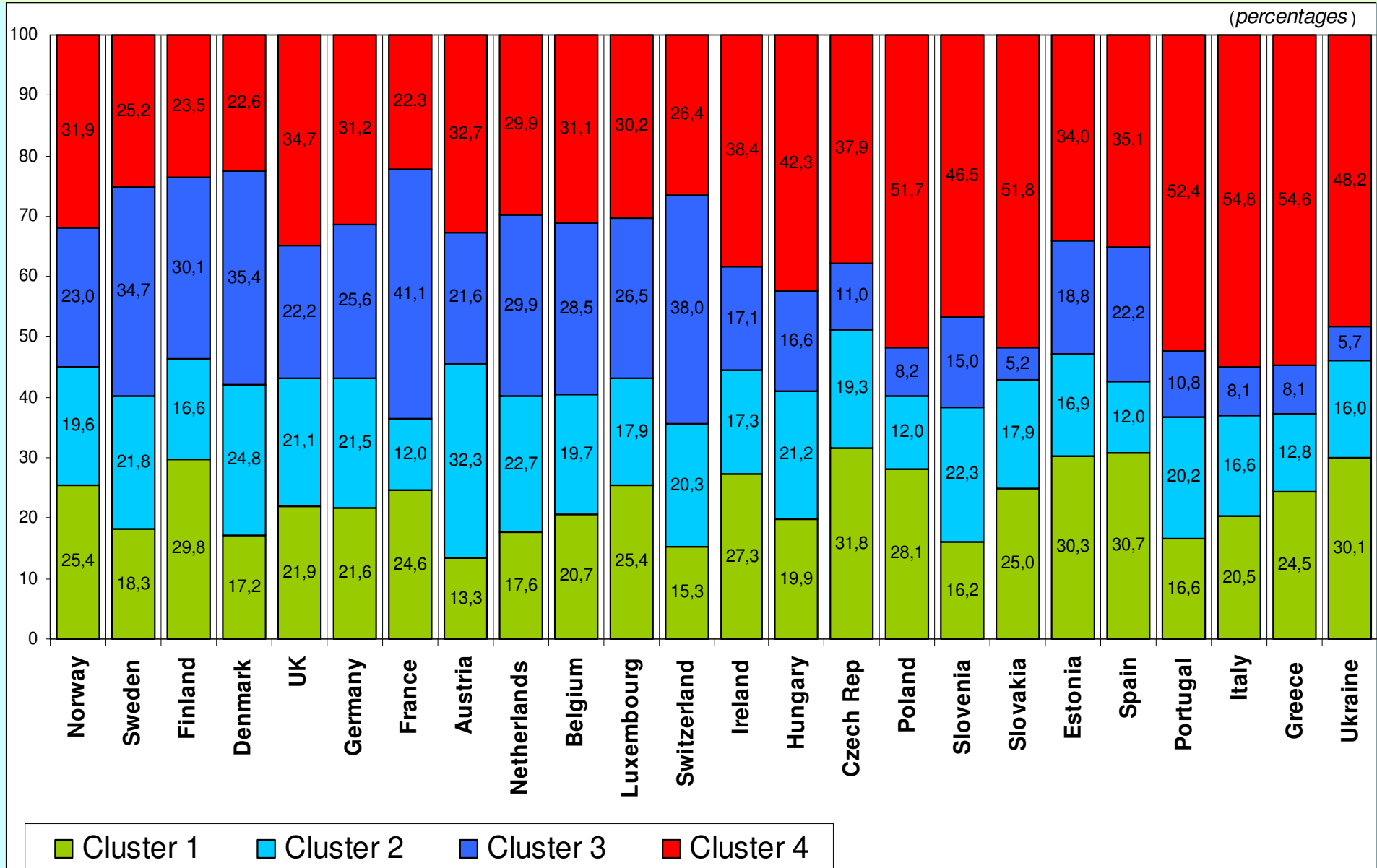
Openness to change

vs.

Conservation

Self-direction: more identification in Cluster 3 and 2
Stimulation: more identification in Cluster 2 and 3
Hedonism: more identification in Cluster 2 and 3
Security: more identification in Cluster 1 and 4
Conformism: more identification in Cluster 1 and 4
Tradition: more identification in Cluster 1 and 4

Weight of each cluster by country

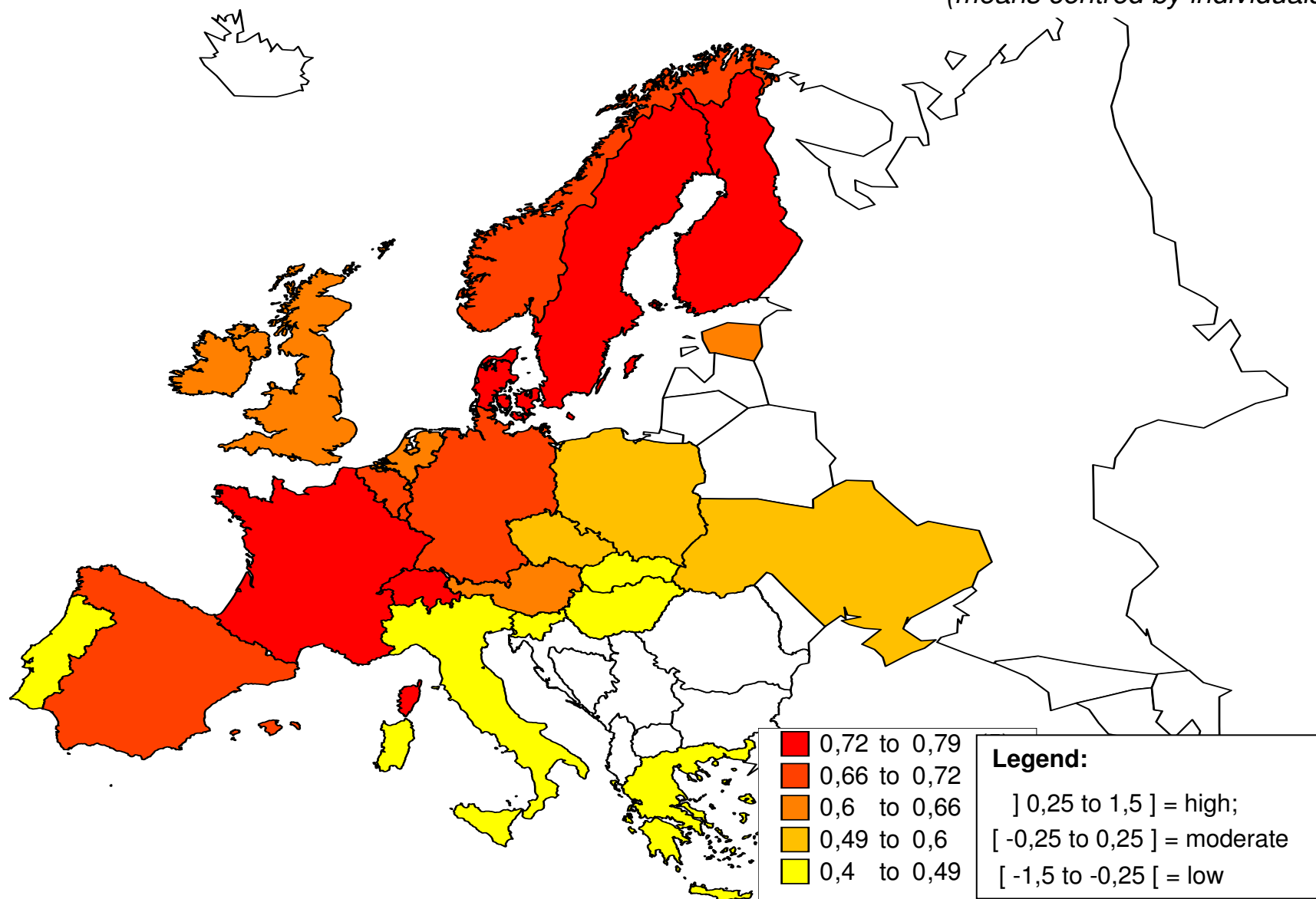


Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

Human Values in Europe

Identification with *Self-transcendence*

(means centred by individuals)

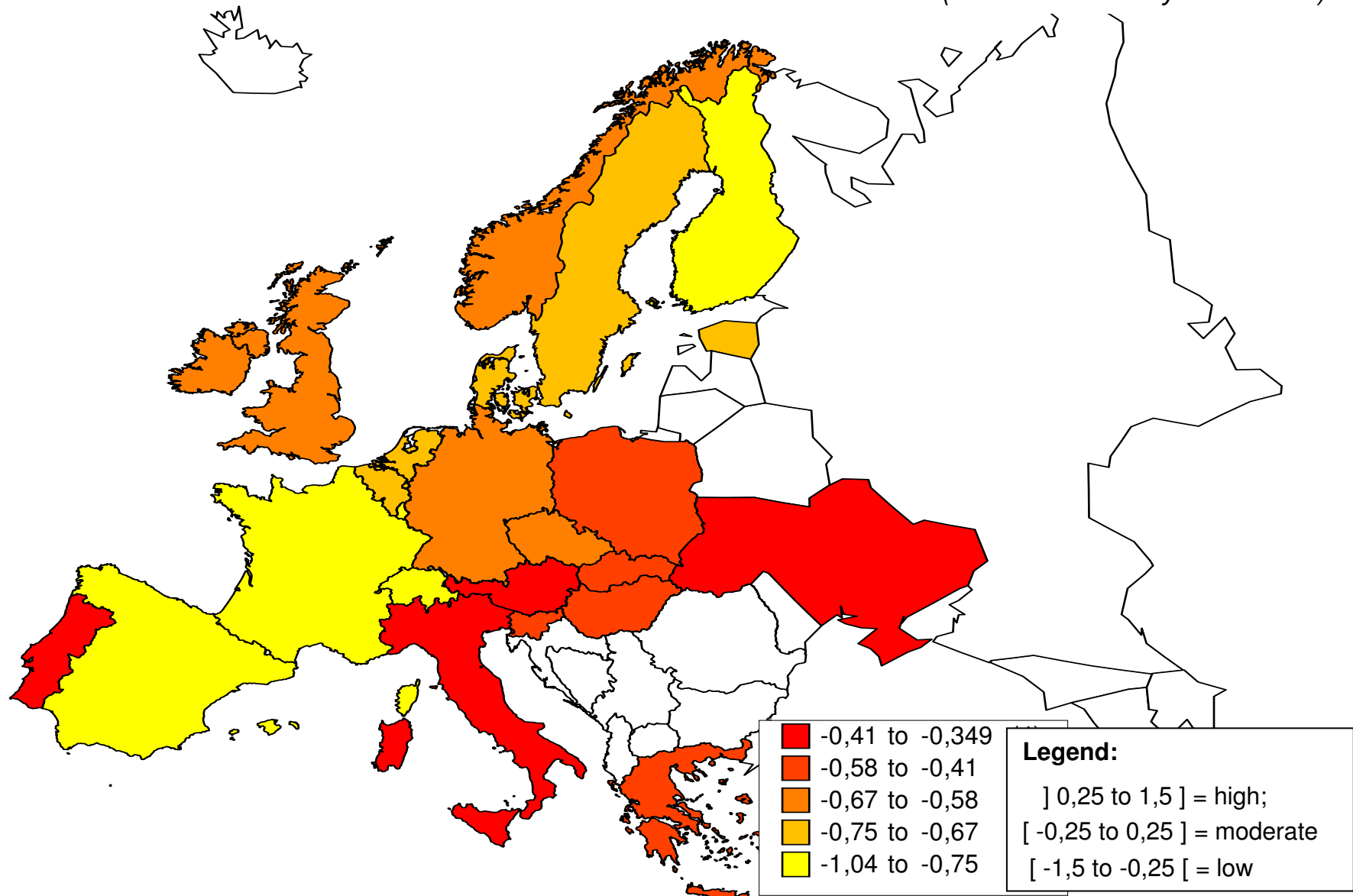


Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

Human Values in Europe

Identification with *Self-Enhancement*

(means centred by individuals)

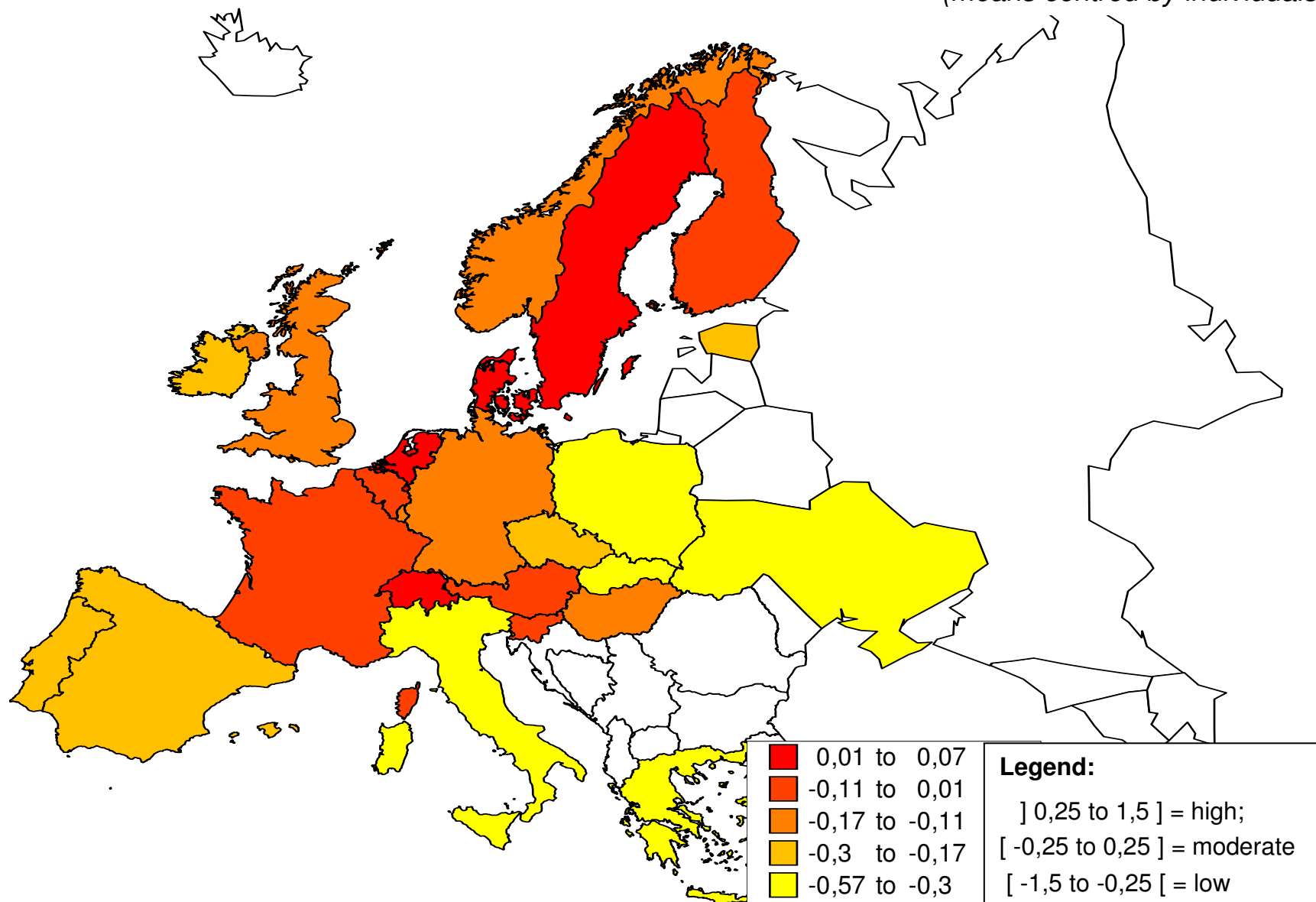


Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

Human Values in Europe

Identification with *Openness to change*

(means centred by individuals)

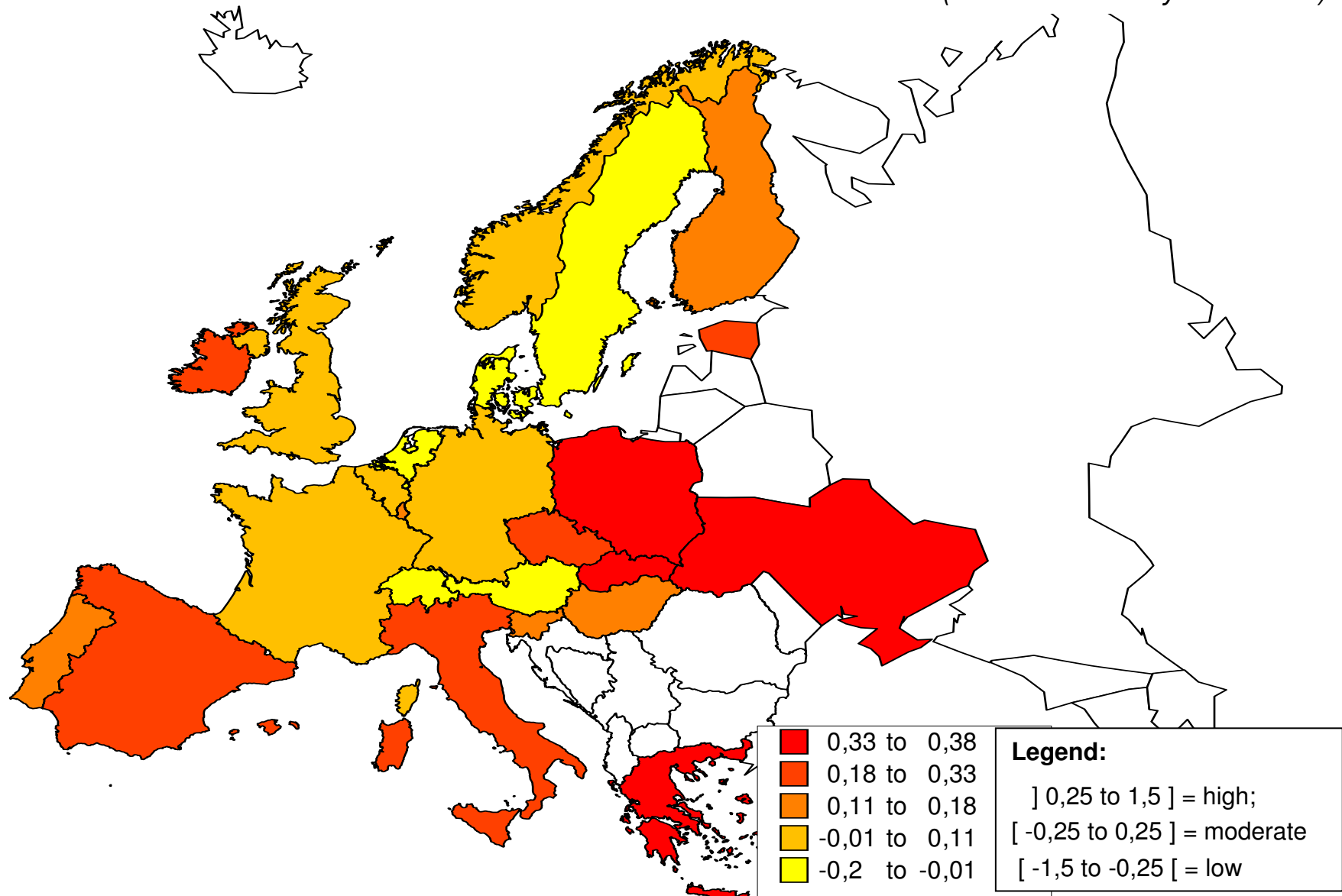


Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

Human Values in Europe

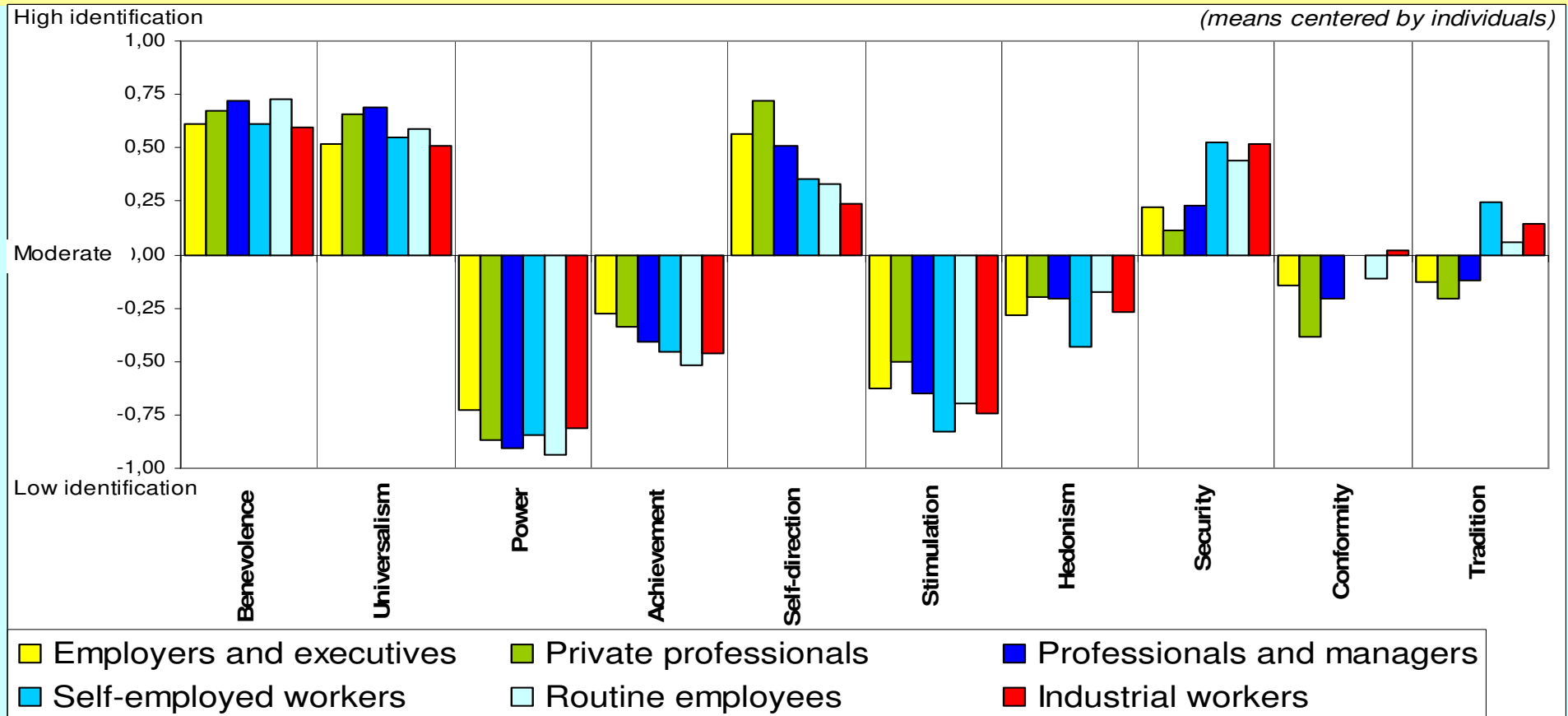
Identification with *Conservation*

(means centred by individuals)



Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

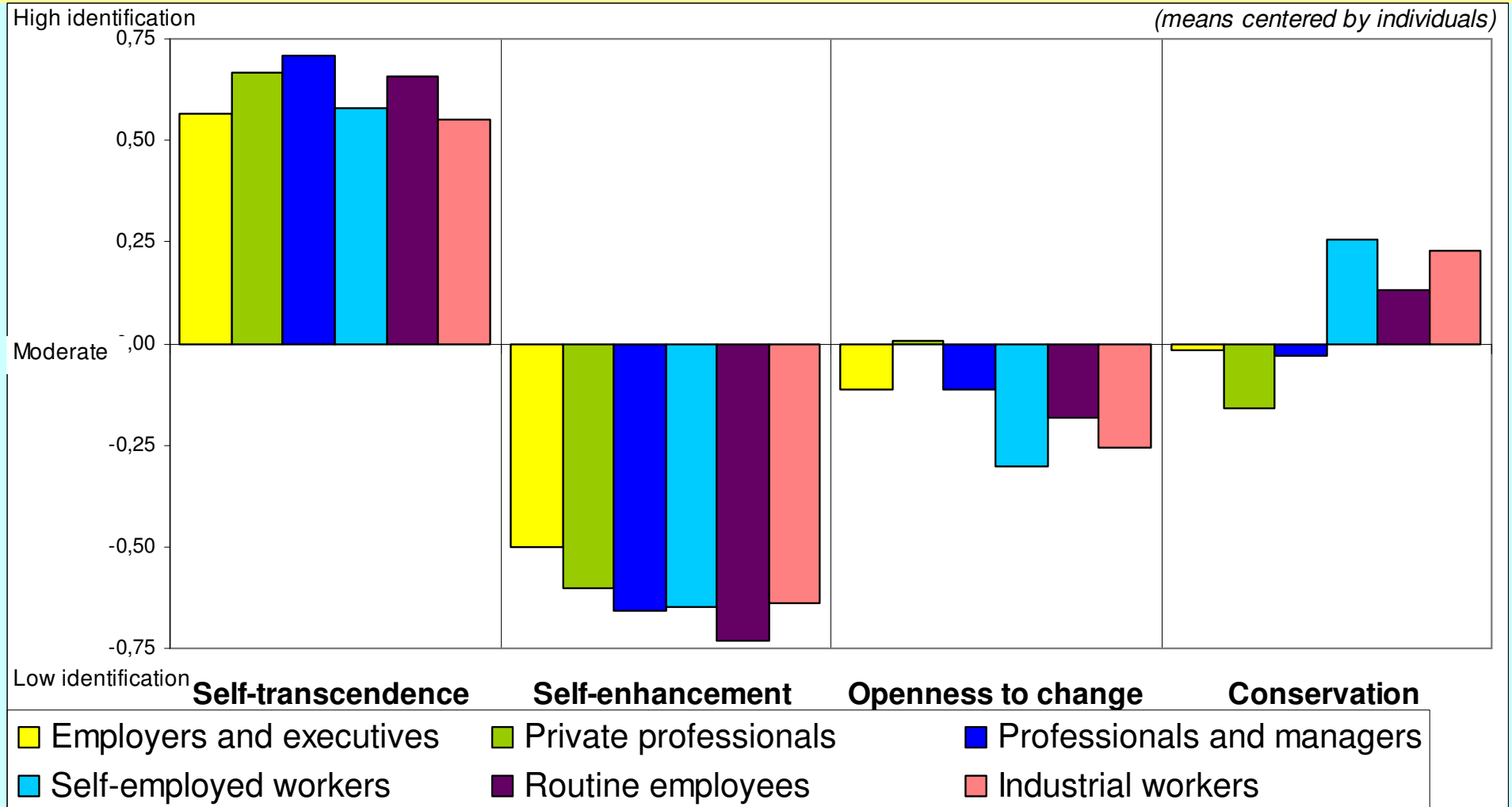
Human values priorities by social class



Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

Benevolence and **Universalism** are priority values in all social classes. **Self-direction** and **Security** are also always above the average. But **Self-direction** gains more importance in the classes with more capital and less in the others, while with **Security** the opposite happens. **Tradition** is above the average only with the “self-employed workers”, the “industrial workers” and the “routine employees” – classes with less capital. **Power**, **Stimulation**, **Achievement**, **Hedonism** and **Conformity**, with exception the “industrial workers” are below average in all the classes.

Human values priorities by social class



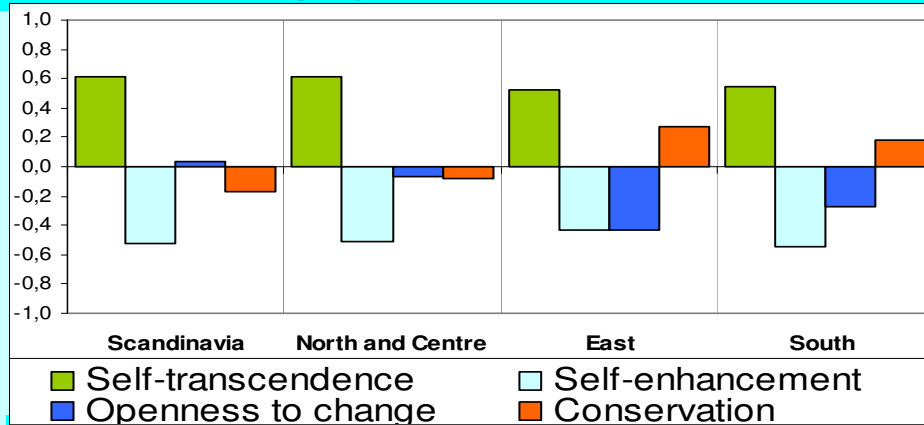
Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

Self-transcendence is priority value in all social classes.

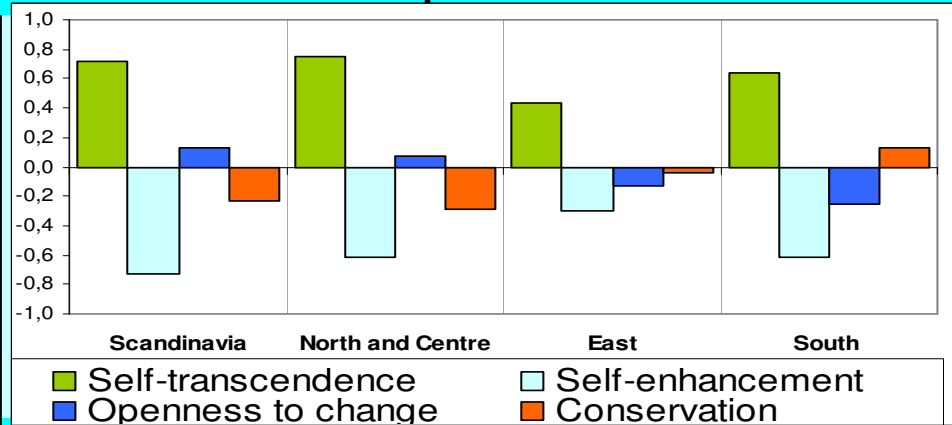
Openness to change is lower in classes with “less capital”

Human values priorities. by social class and groups of countries

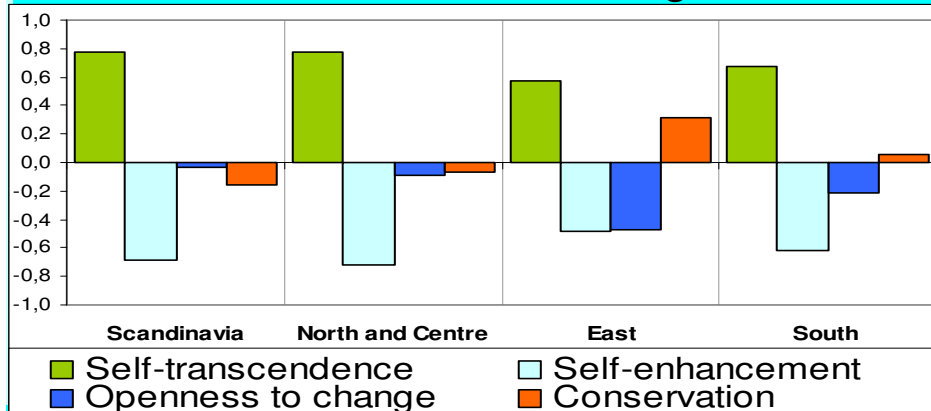
Employers and executives



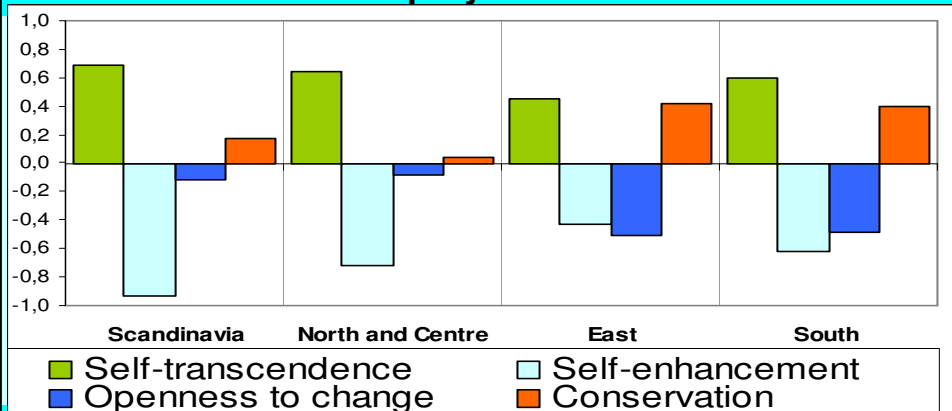
Private professionals



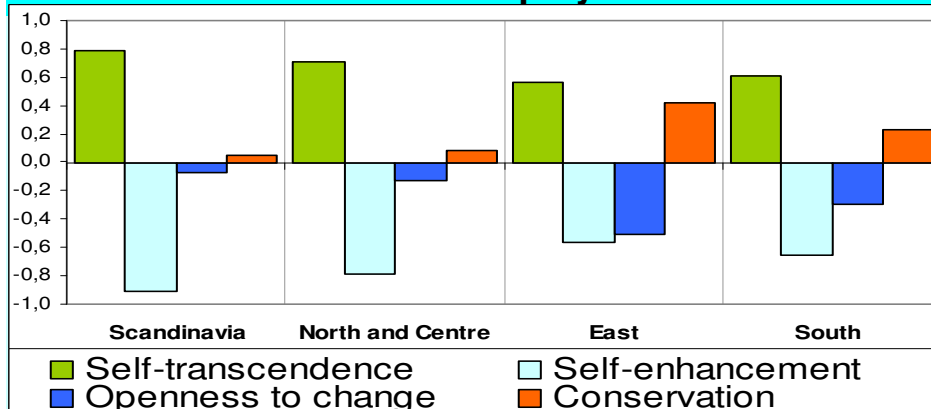
Professionals and managers



Self-employed workers



Routine employees



Industrial workers



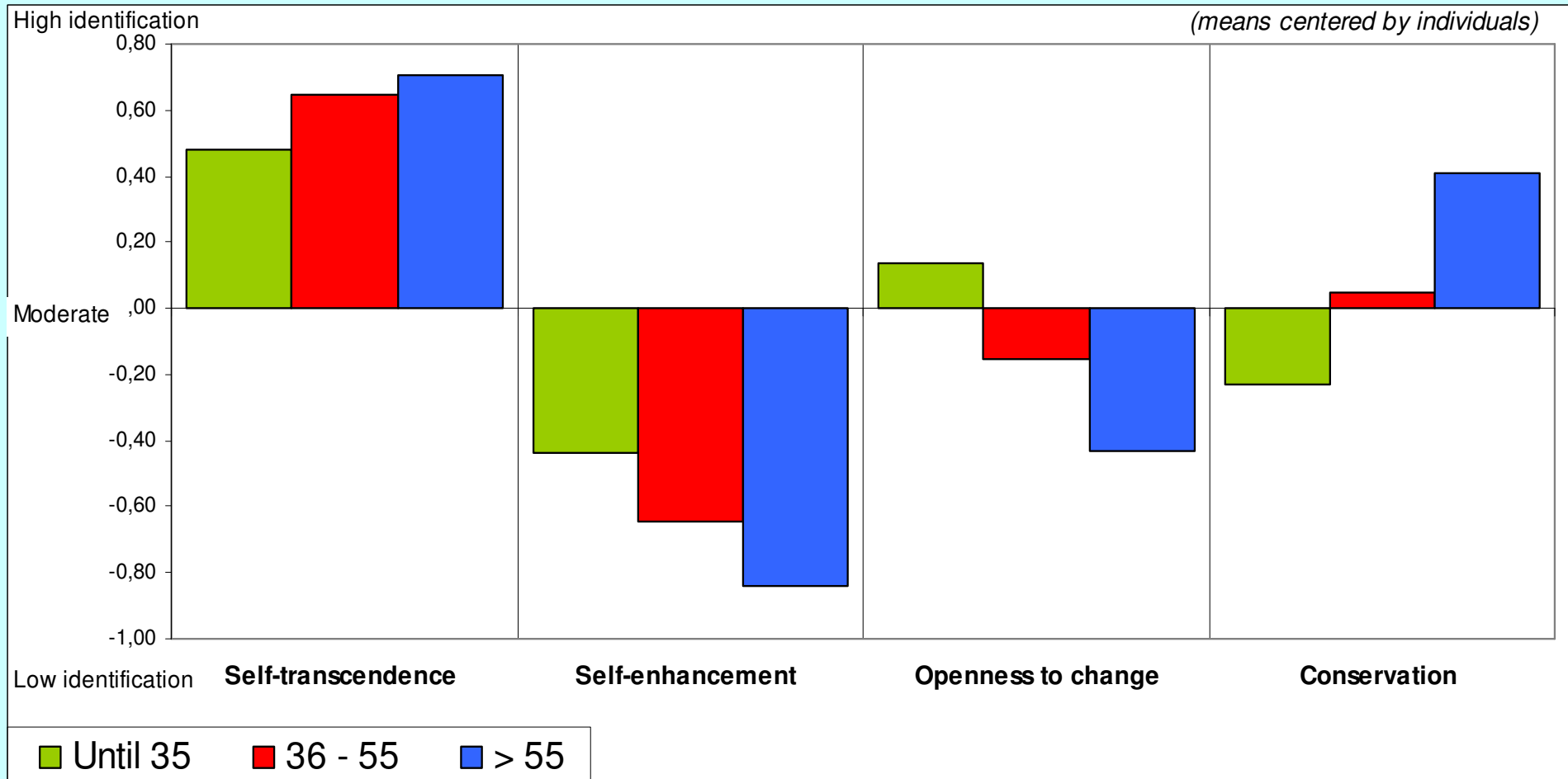
Self-transcendence is the value more chosen by all the social classes in all the countries groups.

On the contrary, ***Self-enhancement*** In all groups of countries and social classes, is below the average.

Openness to change has the lowest identification levels for all the classes in Eastern Europe and in the Southern countries. In Scandinavia, as well as in Northern and Central Europe, there is a moderate identification with this value.

Conservation registers moderate support in all the classes and countries, but there is still some identification with this value in Eastern Europe and in the South in all the classes (except for the eastern “private professionals”).

Human values priorities by age



Source: ESS1-3 - Cumulative data file, edition 1.0. Round 1 (2002) + round 2 (2004) + round 3 (2006)

Younger: more *Openness to change* and *Self-enhancement*;
less *Conservation* and *Self-transcendence*

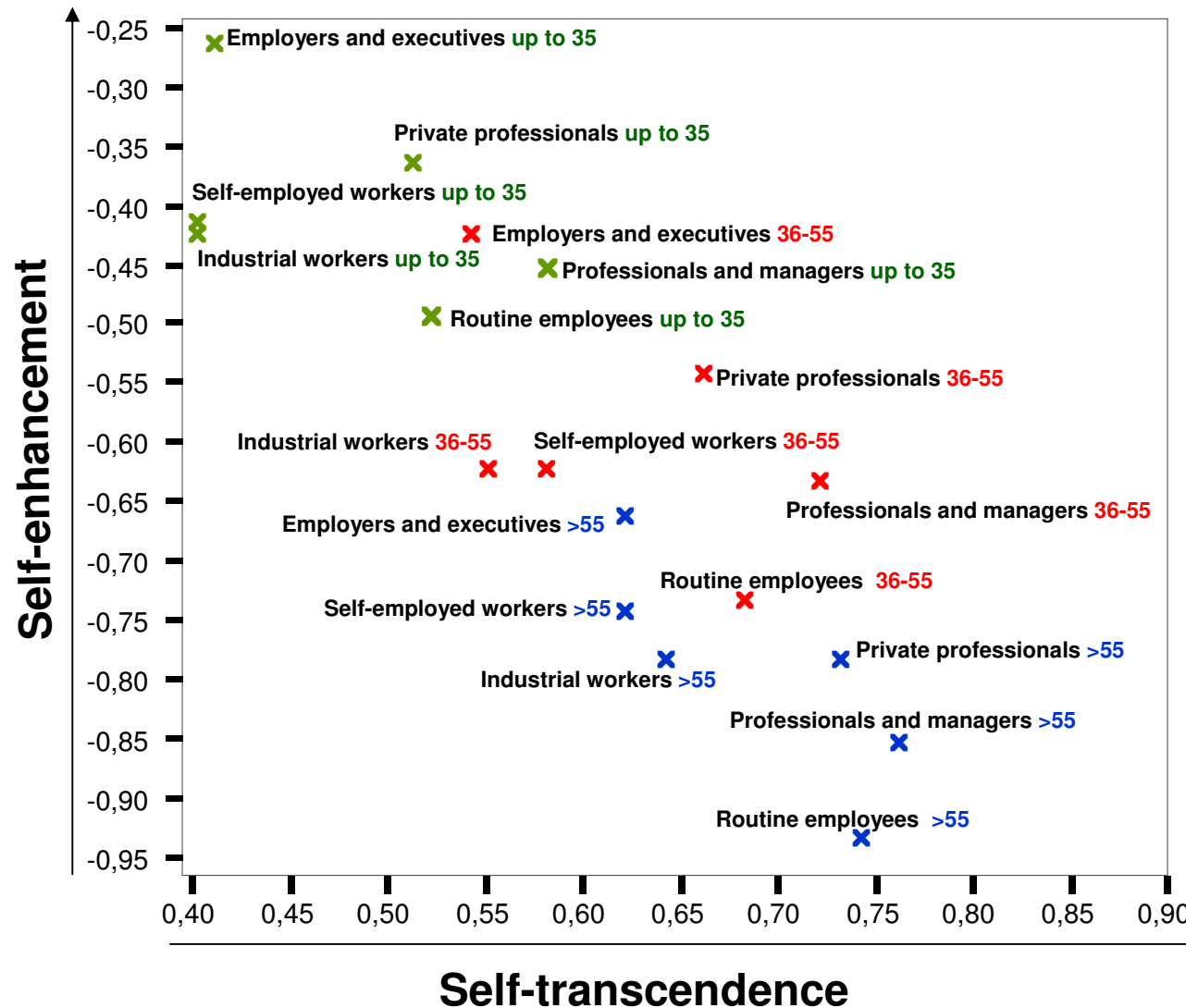
Older: more *Self-transcendence* and *Conservation*;
less *Self-enhancement* and *Openness to change*

* Anova. Means in the three groups are statistically significant ($p < 0,001$)

Human values priorities, by social classes and age

(centred means by individuals)

Self-transcendence vs. Self-enhancement



In all Classes

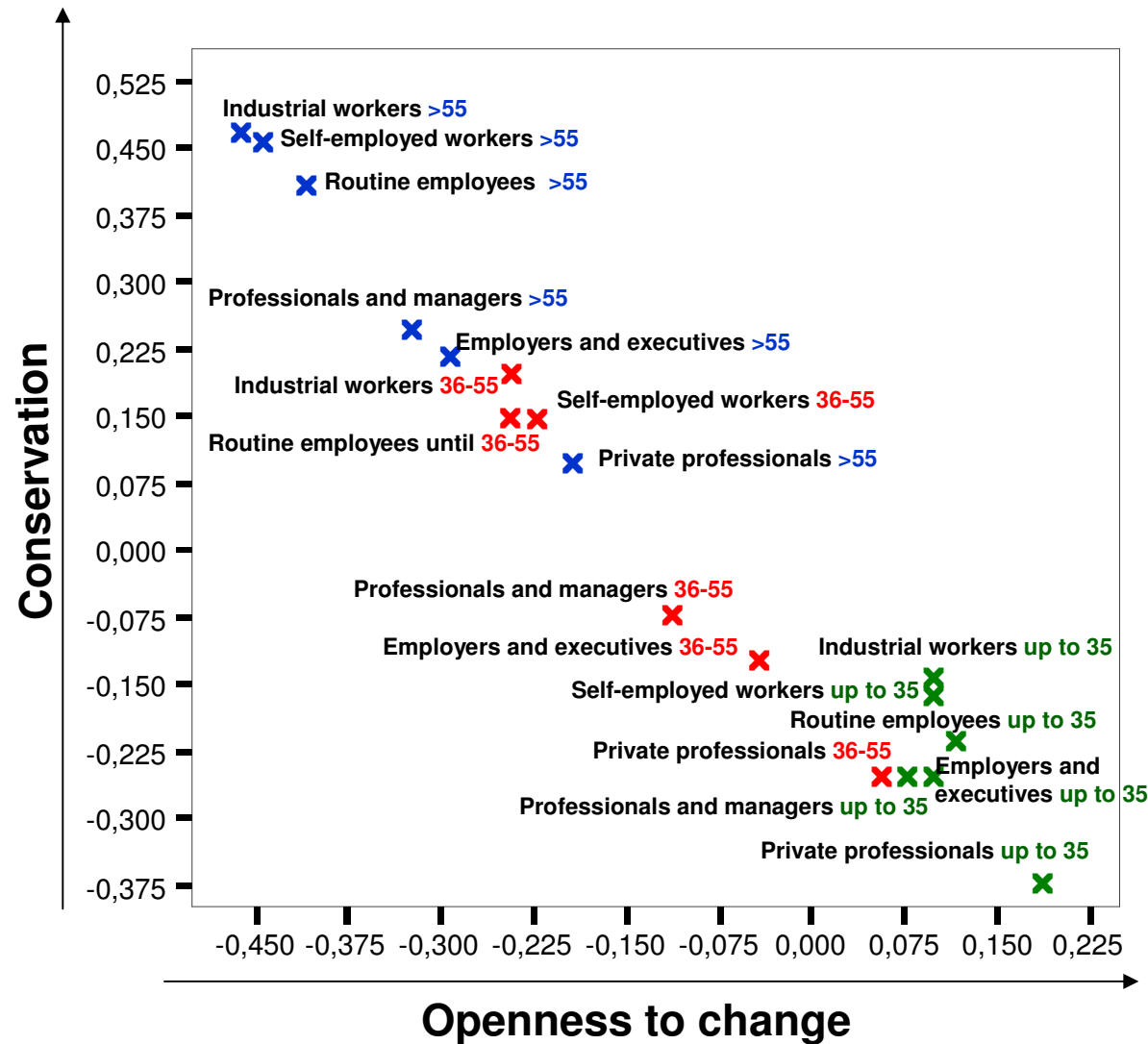
Younger more
Self-enhancement
and less *Self-transcendence*

Older more *Self-transcendence*
and less *Self-enhancement*

Human values priorities, by social classes and age

(centred means by individuals)

Openness to change vs. Conservation



In all Classes:

Younger more
Openness to change
and less *Conservation*

Older more
Conservation and less
Openness to change

**That's all
Thank you**