



European Survey Research Association

Warsaw 2009



**Third Conference of the European Survey Research Association
Warsaw from the 29th of June until the 3rd of July 2009.**

Values, Social Classes and Gender in Europe

session "Basic Human Values (II). Thursday, 11:00 - 13:00 in Room 2

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CIES/ISCTE**

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.

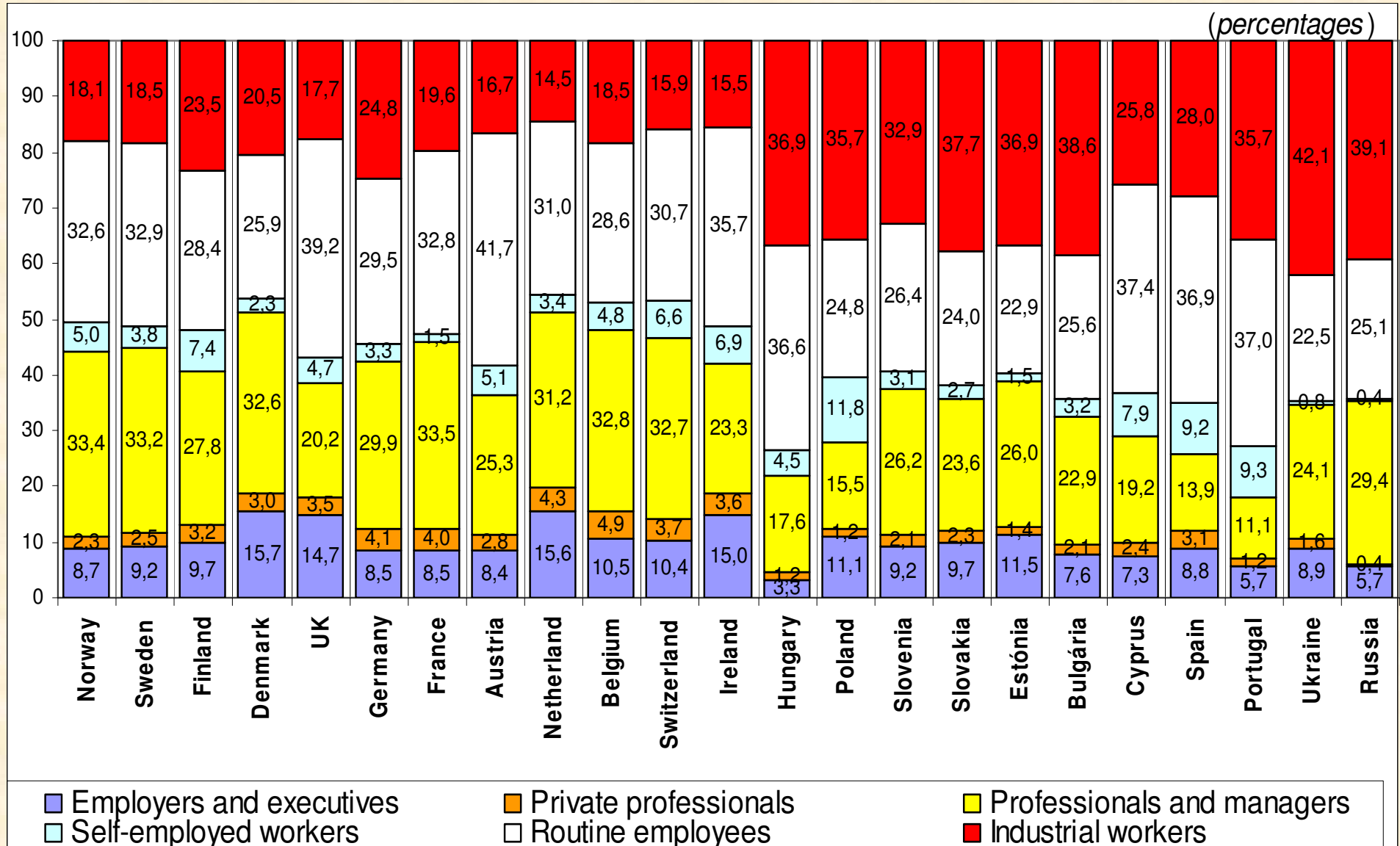
Following Schwartz, who advanced one basis for a structural theory of values, they express motivational goals and differentiate themselves through those goals (Schwartz, 1996). Values analysis assumes a central stance in social research. They are expressed in a definite culture, understood in the anthropological 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 we 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 of gender.

The data we are going to present proceed from the *European Social Survey, round 3*, 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 transituational values, and hope to present a small part of it.

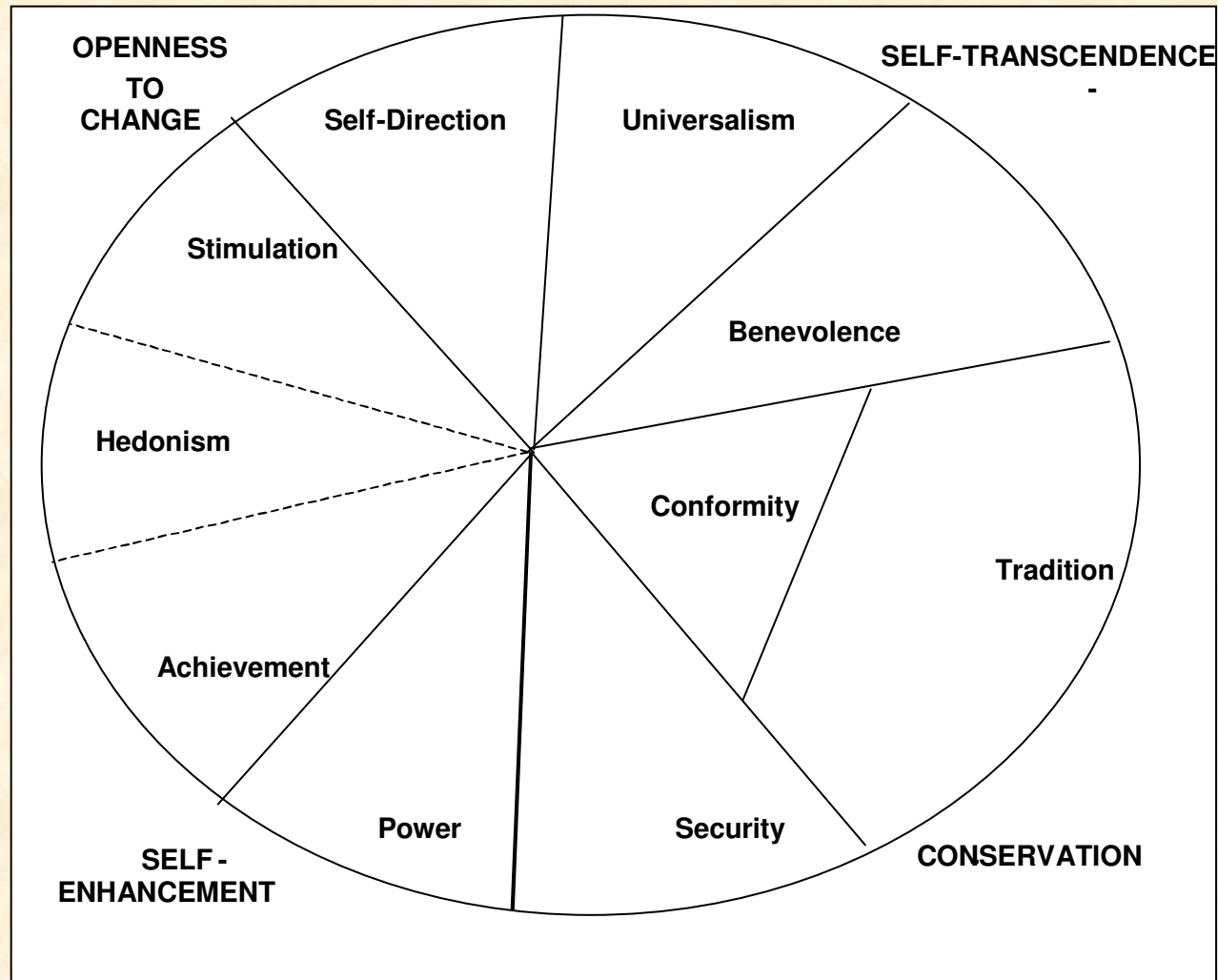
Class structures in ESS countries



Source: ESS, round 3 (2006)

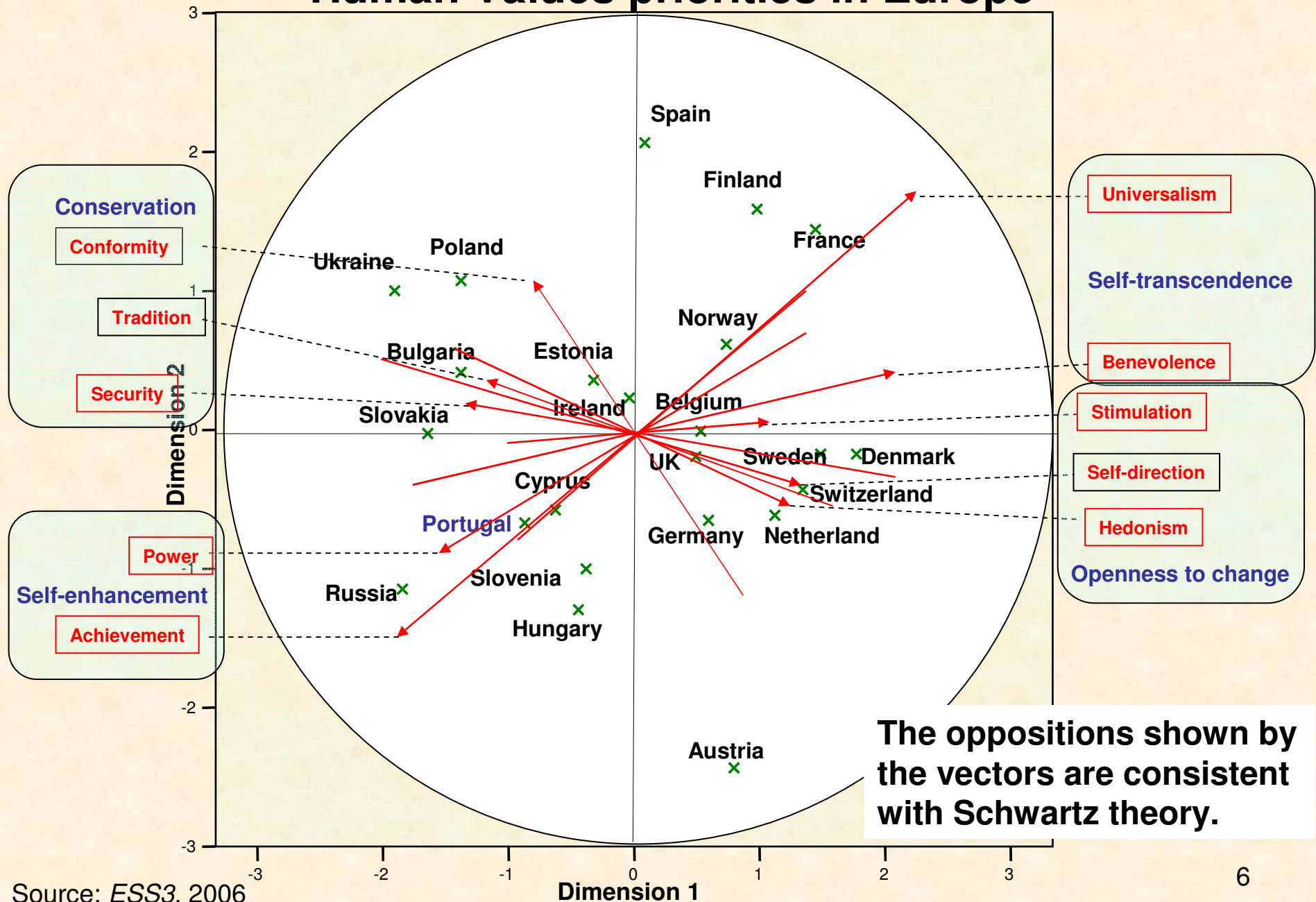
For well known historical reasons, the “industrial workers” have more relative weight in Eastern and Southern countries

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



* 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: ESS3, 2006

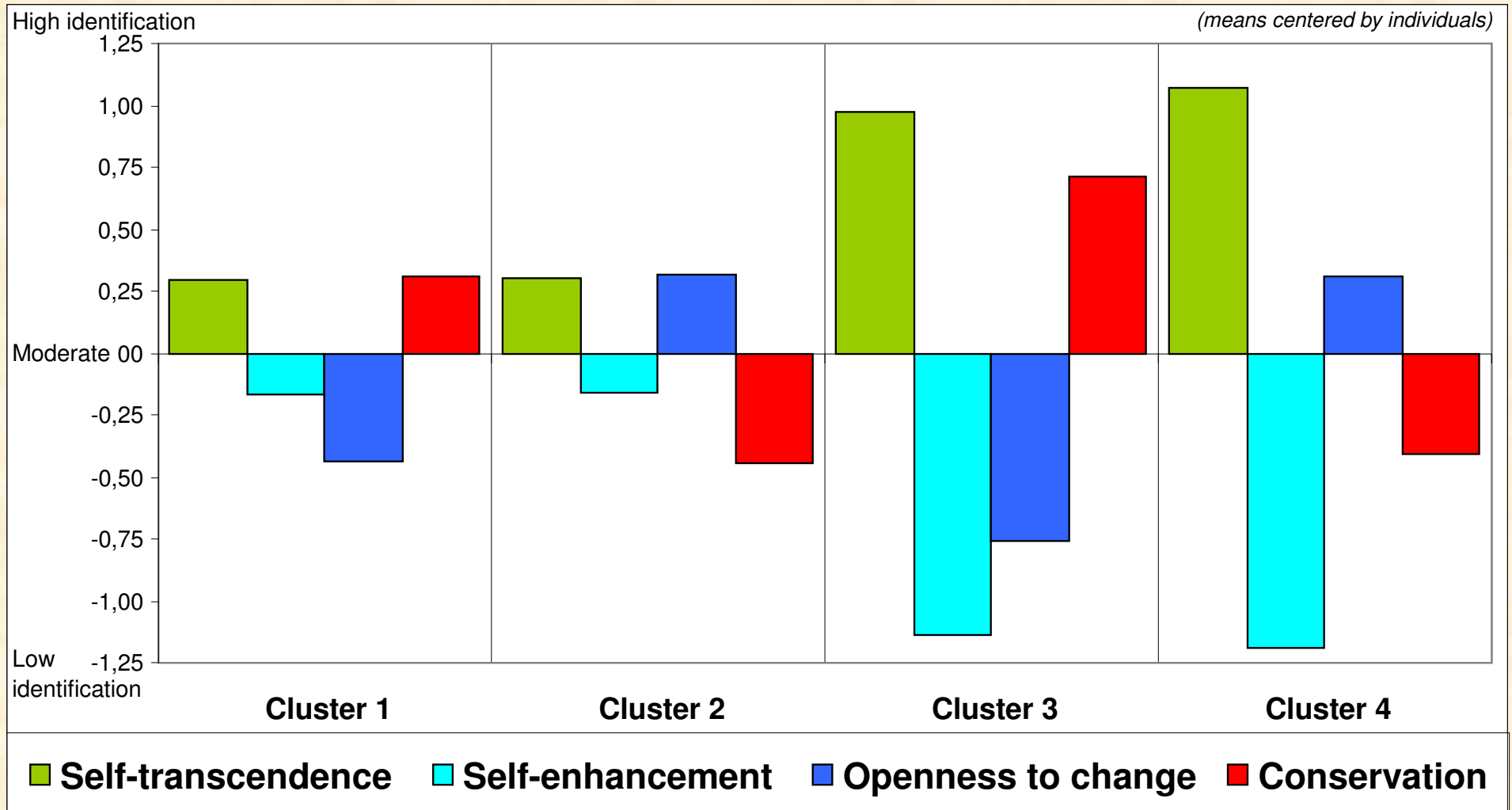
SPSS/CatPCA. Total Chronbach's Alpha: 0,94; Total explained variance by dimensions: 64%

Based in the 2 dimensions of SPSS/CatPCA, we made a clusters' analysis* whose results we are going to show.

The two dimensions (formed by individual scores - coordinates) **are input variables.**

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

Values's main identifications



Main identifications

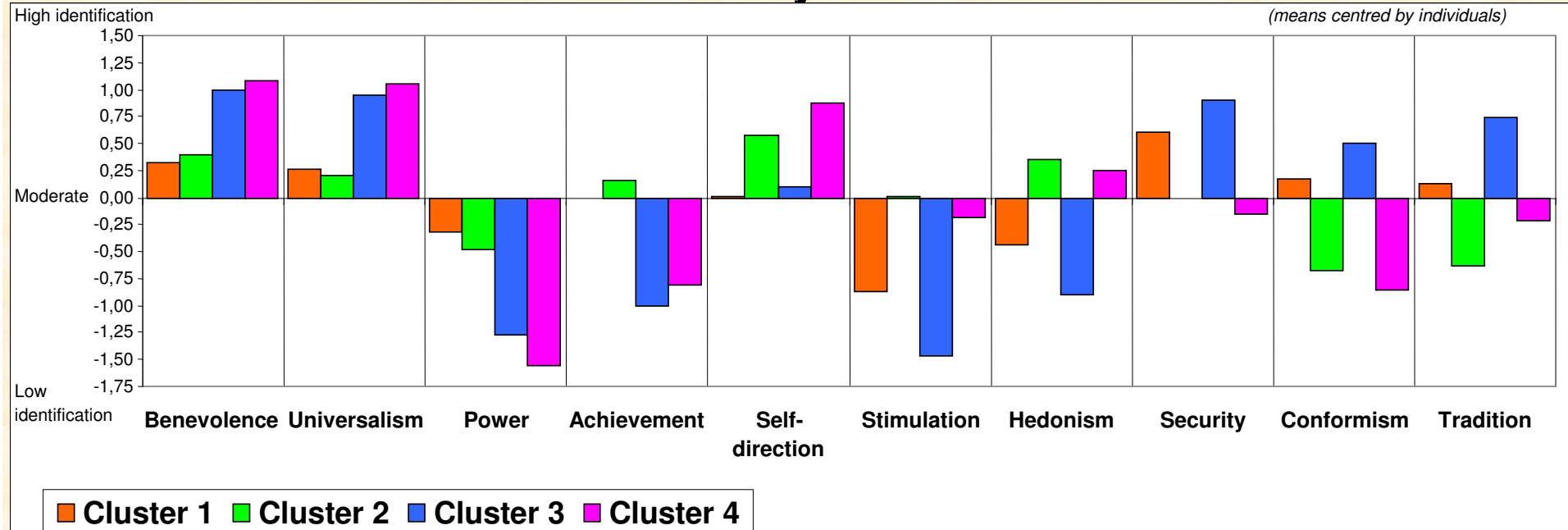
Self-transcendence: Cluster 3 and Cluster 4

Self-enhancement: Cluster 1 and Cluster 2

Openness to change: Cluster 2 and Cluster 4

Conservation: Cluster 1 and Cluster 3

Values by cluster



Self-transcendence
vs.

Self-enhancement

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

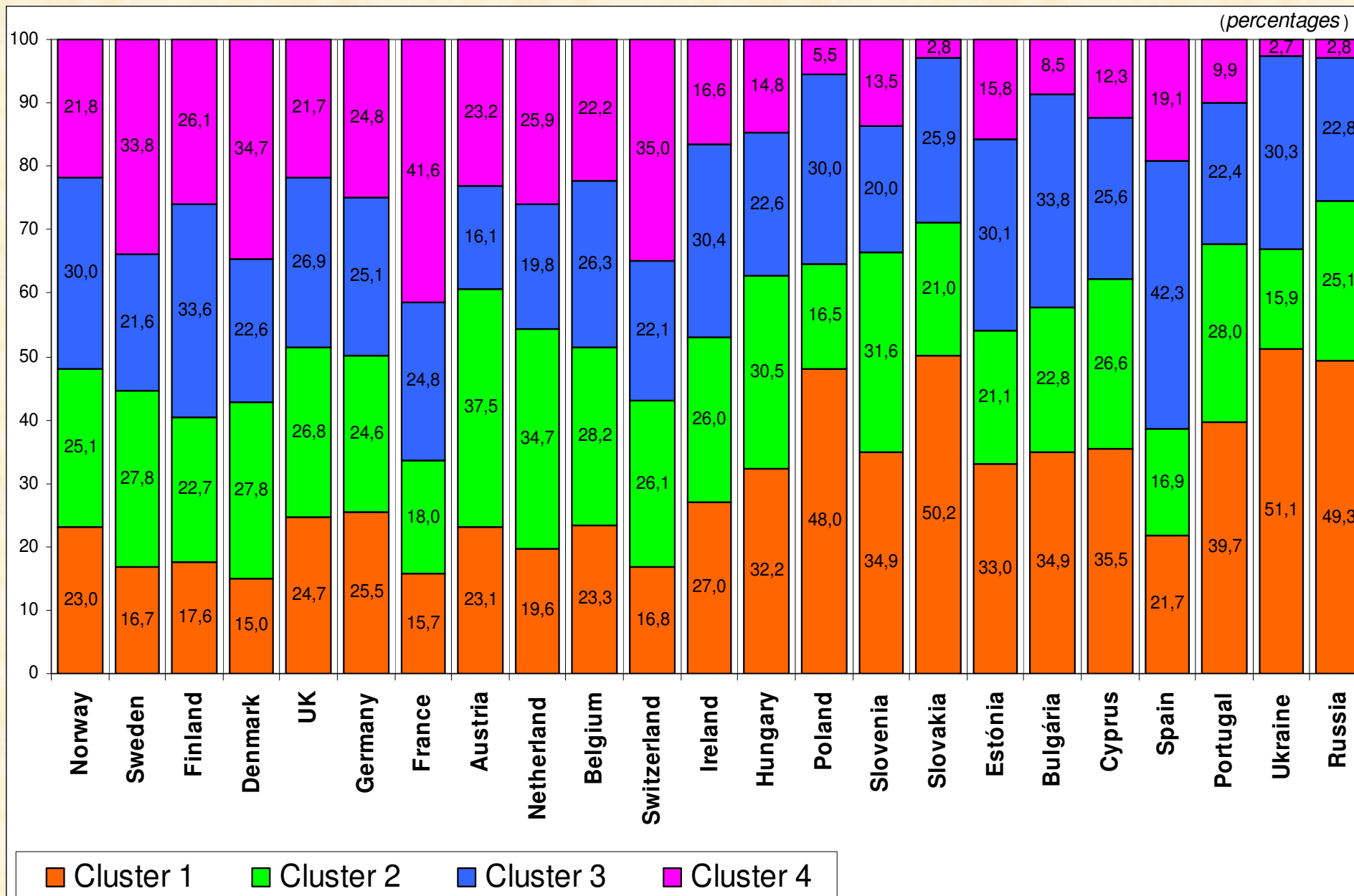
Openness to change

vs.

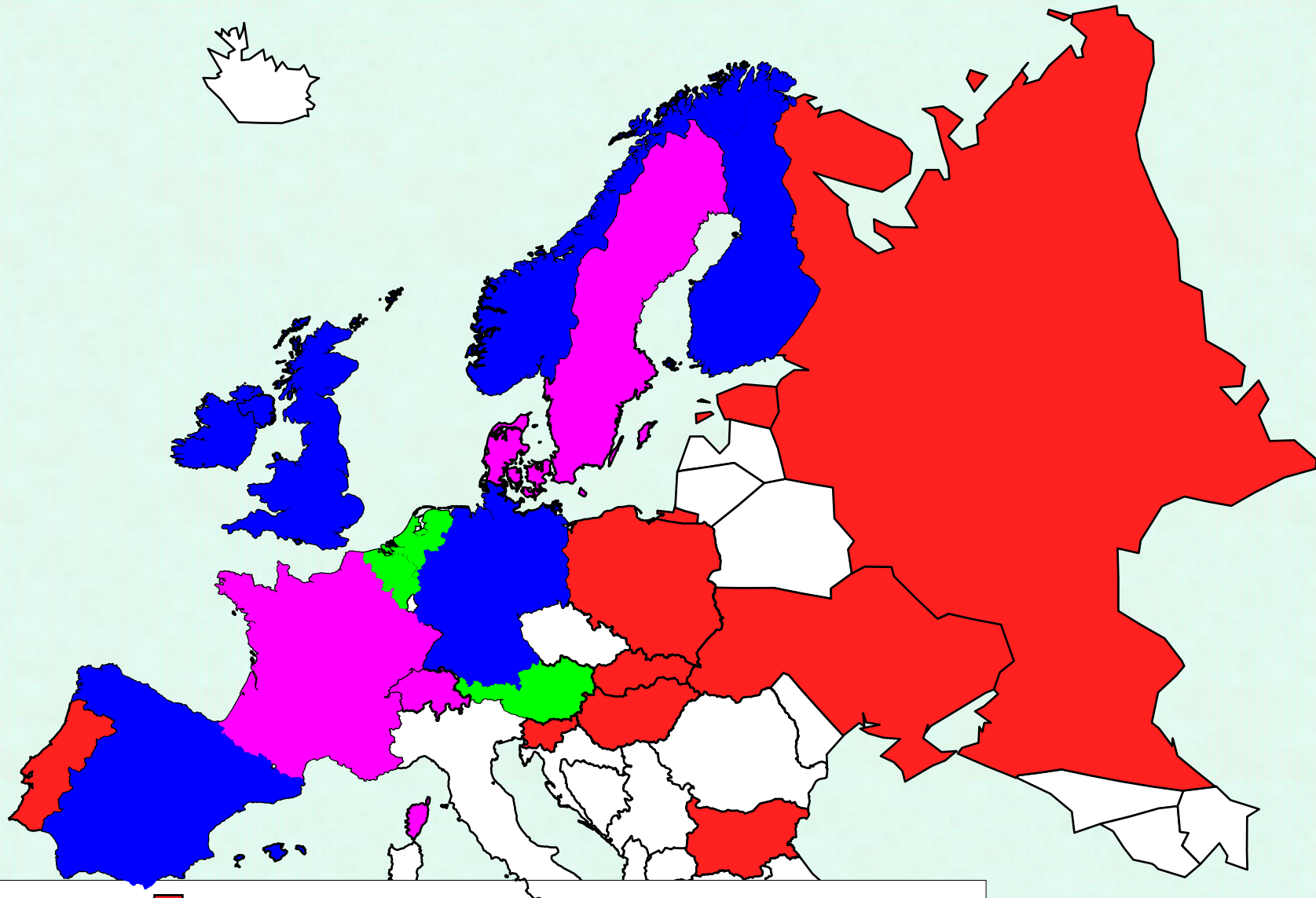
Conservation

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

Weight of each cluster by country

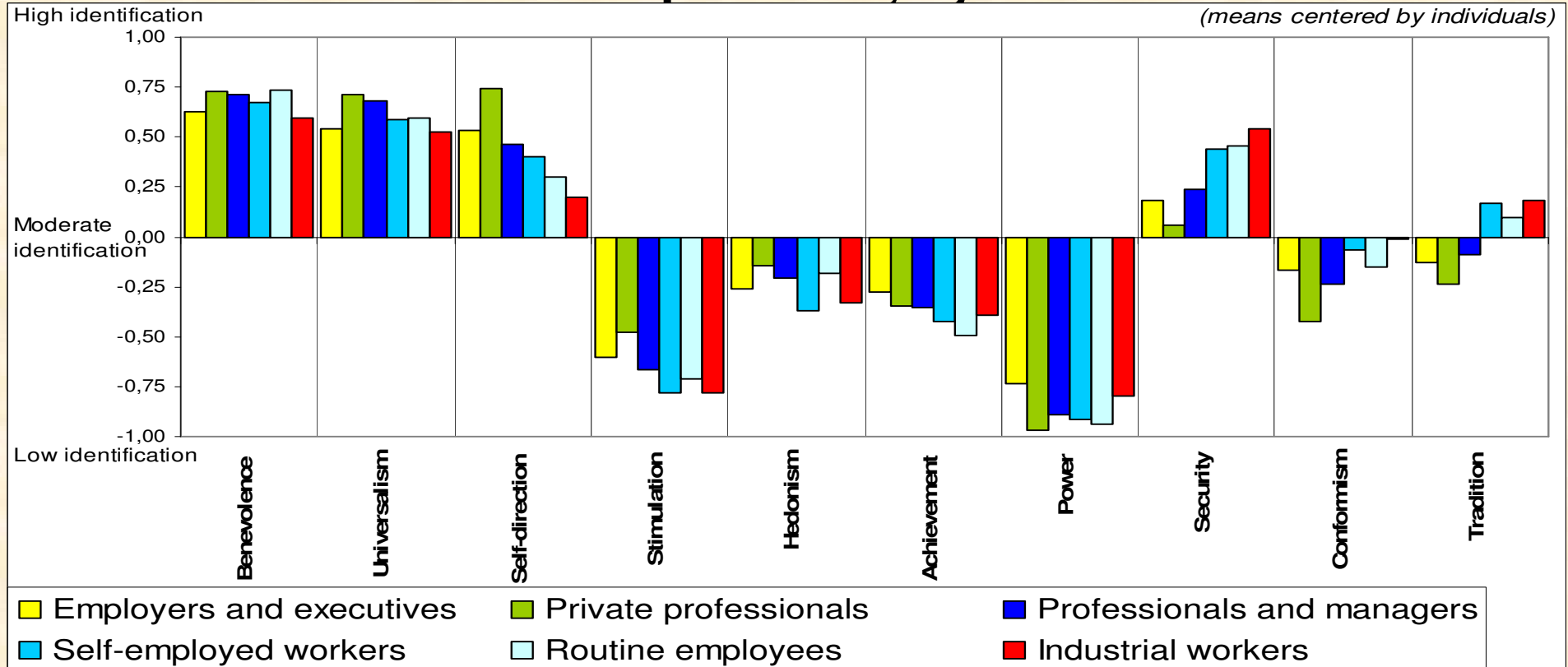


Human Values priorities in Europe: Predominant Cluster



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

Human values priorities, by social class

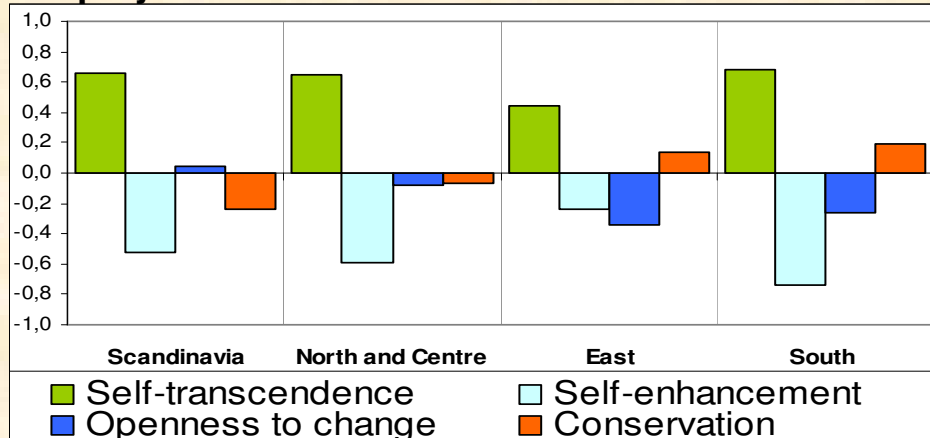


Source: ESS, round 3 (2006)

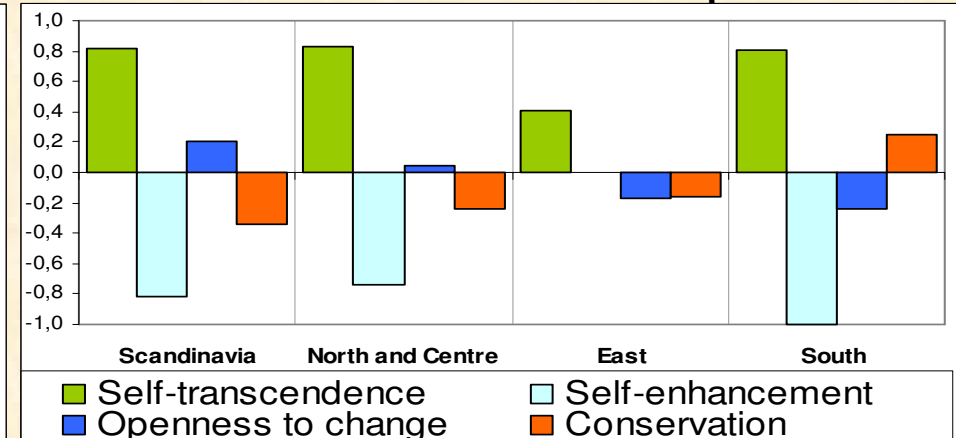
Benevolence and **Universalism** are priority values in all social classes. **Self-direction** and **Security** are also always above the average. But **Self-direction** gains more importance in the classes with more economic capital and less in the others, while with **Security** the opposite happens.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

Human values priorities, by social class and groups of countries

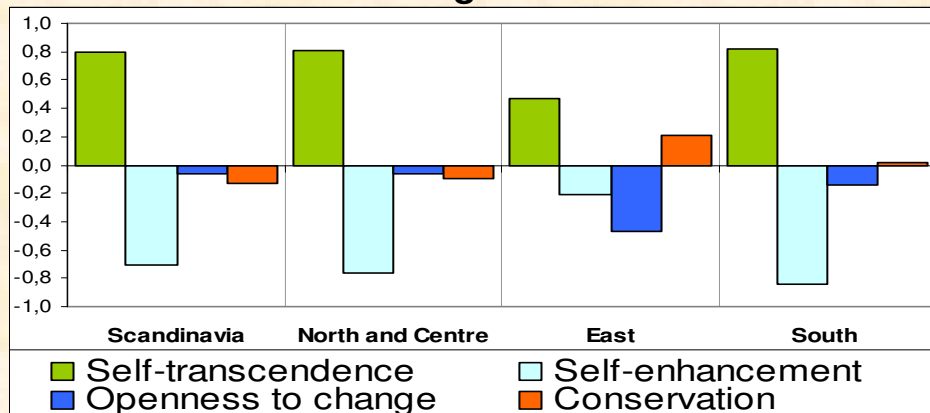
Employers and executives



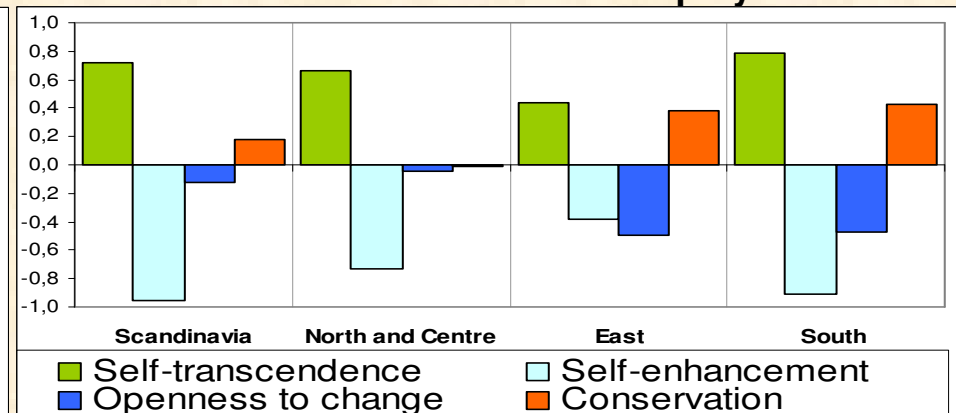
Private professionals



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*** only has global acceptance by all the classes in Eastern Europe. In all the other countries and in all their social classes, ***Self-enhancement*** is below the average.

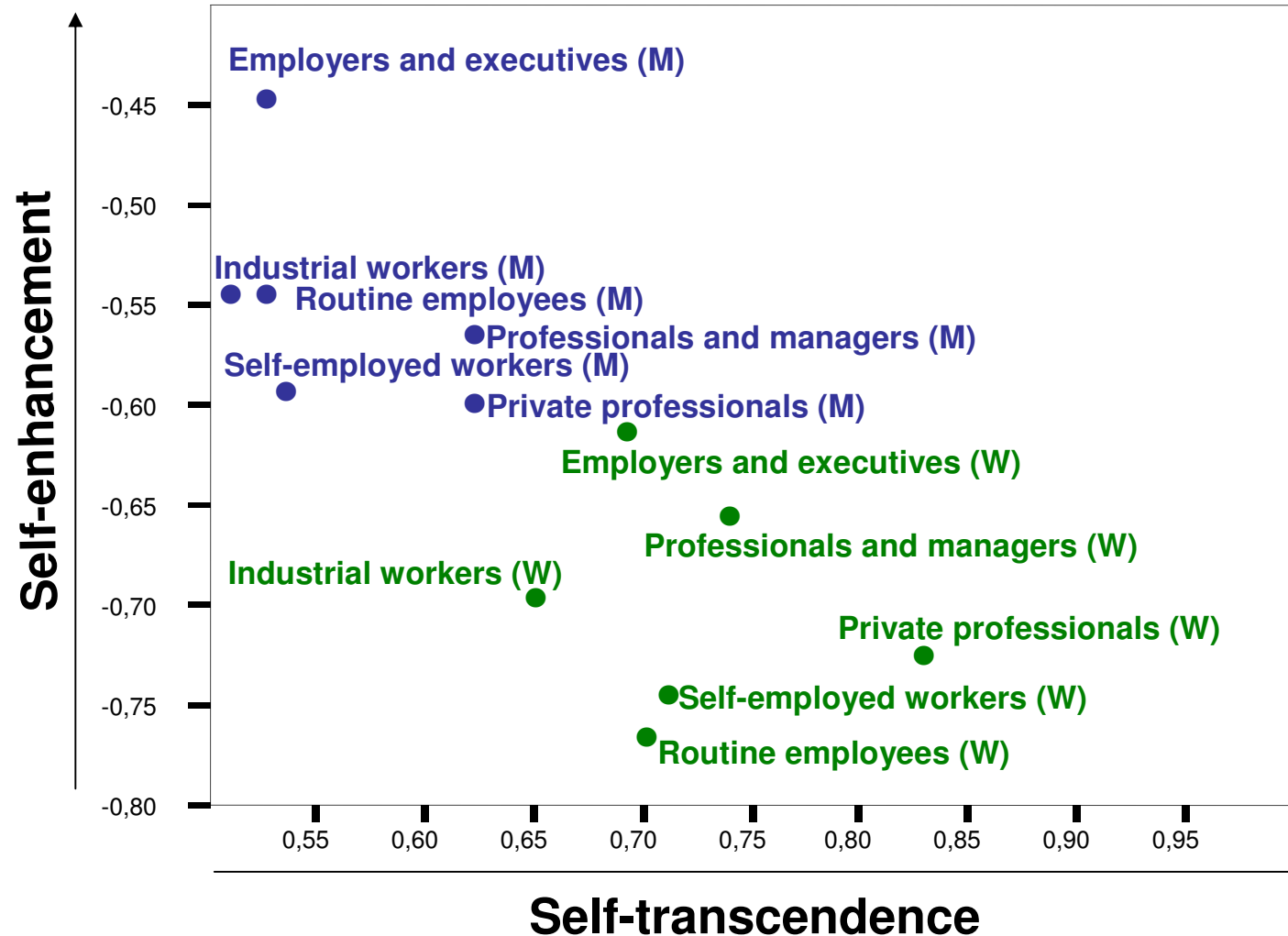
Conservation registers moderate support in all the classes and countries, but there is still some identification with this value in Eastern Europe and in the South in all the classes (except for the eastern “private professionals”).

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.

Human values priorities, by social classes and gender

(centred means by individuals)

Self-transcendence vs. Self-enhancement



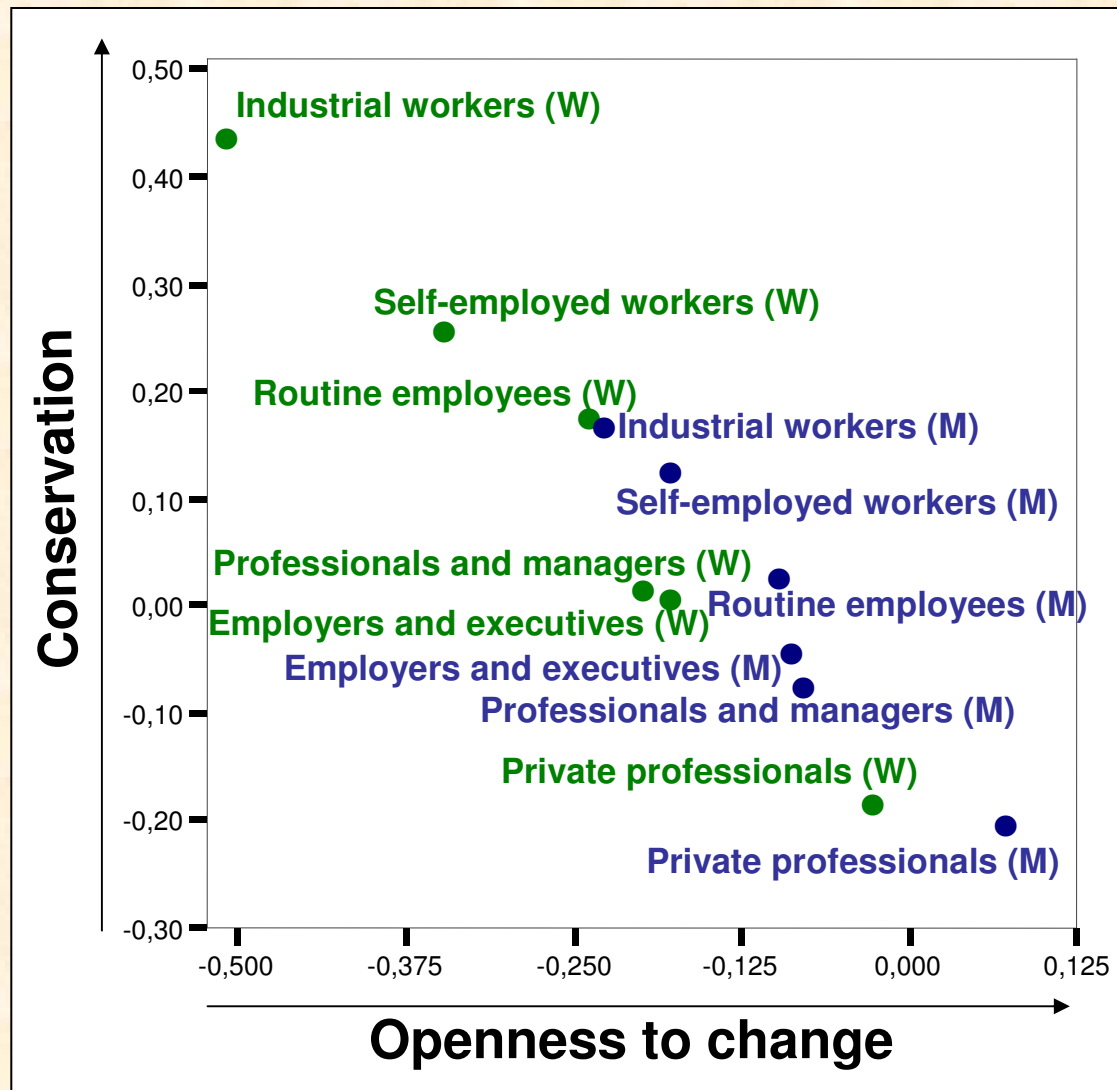
Men, in all the classes, are more prone to *Self-enhancement*;

Women are more in *Self-transcendence*

Human values priorities, by social class and gender

(centred means by individuals)

Openness to change vs. Conservation



Women in classes with less capital are more in *Conservation*.

Private professionals (**men** and **women**) are more in *Openness to change*.