9th European Sociological Association Conference

ESA2009

02 - 05 September 2009
Lisboa - Portugal
ISCTE

European Society or European Societies?

Semi Plenary Sessions

Thursday 3 September

Session V (11:00 -12:30)

Portugal and Europe: societal trends

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João Ferreira de Almeida

PORTUGAL AND EUROPE: SOCIETAL TRENDS

Forced to choose in a so broad spectrum - the societal trends of recent evolutions - my presentation will have two parts.

In the first, and as it is about Portugal, the focus will be in certain salient aspects of transformation in our society since the second half of the last century. It is of course a very brief and crude sketch, but it refers both to social structures and symbolic dimensions, namely social representations and values.

In the second part it will be presented some evidence about how the Portuguese - and also other Europeans - evaluate their respective societies and, in particular, their relative personal well-being, their perceived quality of life. How this relates to the evaluations also made about certain "ecological" determinants, about the social contexts, is equally an aim of the presentation, with the evidence provided by the ESS.

The relevance of this second part results from the awareness of the necessity to complement the traditional measure of "objectivist" indicators on societies with identical measure of cognitive and emotional evaluations made by individuals.

Those attitudinal data are also decisive for the understanding of social processes and they are not necessarily more volatile then the "objectivist" ones
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1.

The first thing we have to remember about Portugal is that from 1926 to 1974 there was a right wing, conservative dictatorship, with close ties to the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. Since 1961 till the Revolution a consuming colonial war shook and weakened the country.

Running away from the war, but mainly from the negative economic and social conditions of the time, there was a massive migration to Europe, for the most part to France and Germany.

This depart of many thousands migrants, mainly from the interior of the country - witch was in fact an implicit political protest, - had, of course, several consequences, one of the most important being the quick abandon of the agriculture. In the mid fifties, still worked in the land about fifty percent of the active population with a large component of peasants. Today, as generally in Europe, the rural workers became residual.

The evolution of other social classes in Europe, as well as in Portugal with some specificity, followed in general in the same direction in the last fifty years

The **routine employees** almost everywhere became the class with more weight in the active population, following the trend of the huge growth of the services sector. The **professionals and managers**, with more scholar and cultural resources, also grew all over Europe, in consonance with the new needs of the so-called knowledge society. Finally, **employers and executives** also gained relative importance.

In contrast, the **self-employed workers** loosed heavily its former weight, as did, but much slowly, the **industrial workers**. The latter used to have the relative majority, witch is no longer the case except for the ex-communist countries.

The effects of this very fast evolution are in Portugal manifold: from work relations to propensity to save money, from reproductive behavior to symbolic dimensions.

The growing distance from a rural society brought, for instance, new dispositions along two axes.

In an axis that goes from values favoring the facing of the future, to values more centered in day-to-day life, those last ones tend to prevail, in particular with the younger generations.

In another axis that goes from the kind of collectivism inherent to peasant societies to more individualist values, the trend approaches the latter.

The incertitude, the insecurity, the fears of our "risk" societies, which impinge on every dimension of life, perhaps paradoxly seem to reinforce this individualism, turned to the short period. As the tomorrows don't sing anymore it was generated a sort of anxiety of happiness. Everything must happen now. And if and when it is possible we avoid thinking much about the future, in line with the diagnosis of inutility that John Lennon made when he said: "Life is what happens while you are making other plans".

There where of course in Portugal other important global events and trends.

The 74 Revolution brought the long path of the democracy construction.

Before and after the adhesion to European Union (EEC – 1986) there were clear progresses in economy– even though not linear – but also in several significant aspects of social life. This was globally true notwithstanding some more or less strong turbulences. Perhaps the most noteworthy was the massive return of refugees from the ex-colonies in the aftermath of the new independencies –and all came in a very short time (1975) – when the country was digesting the Revolution and an economic crisis.

In another plan, but carrying also manifold consequences, there was a massive entrance of women in the labor market, which was itself in part a consequence of the colonial war of the sixties and the seventies. This feminization of paid work was, in any case, atypical in comparison with other southern European countries.

But what needs attention because of their specificity for Portugal are two "hangovers", two disappointments, which occurred after April 74.

The Revolution brought for a short time unrest and conflict but also, for some committed sectors of the population, utopia, possession of the Agora, open participation, solidarities and feast. Everything seemed possible. When the reality came back, some of those committed members and activists felt deprived and loosed the drive to carry on political and social participation.

The second disillusion came later but lasted much longer. It had to do with the generalized idea that economic prosperity would follow soon. New hopes were born with the adhesion to the EEC in 1986. A small sector of yuppies thought they would be rich in a fortnight, but only a few, generally by unethical means, hit the target.

The important thing, though, is that a considerable number of the middle classes members and of the working people in general thought that the country would quickly join the European levels in economical and social terms. They verified it was not the case, that things went desperately slow. And it must not be forgotten they were well placed for an accurate diagnosis, in view of the direct or indirect experience of central European societies, derived for the previous massive migration.

Contributing for the relative discontent of the Portuguese there are other obvious and more general factors, as the difficulties of the late modernity, namely the incertitude and the multiple fears (of unemployment, of violence, of crime…). The recent financial and economic crisis will no doubt prolong its effects in our societies and will not mitigate the negative evaluations that already exist.
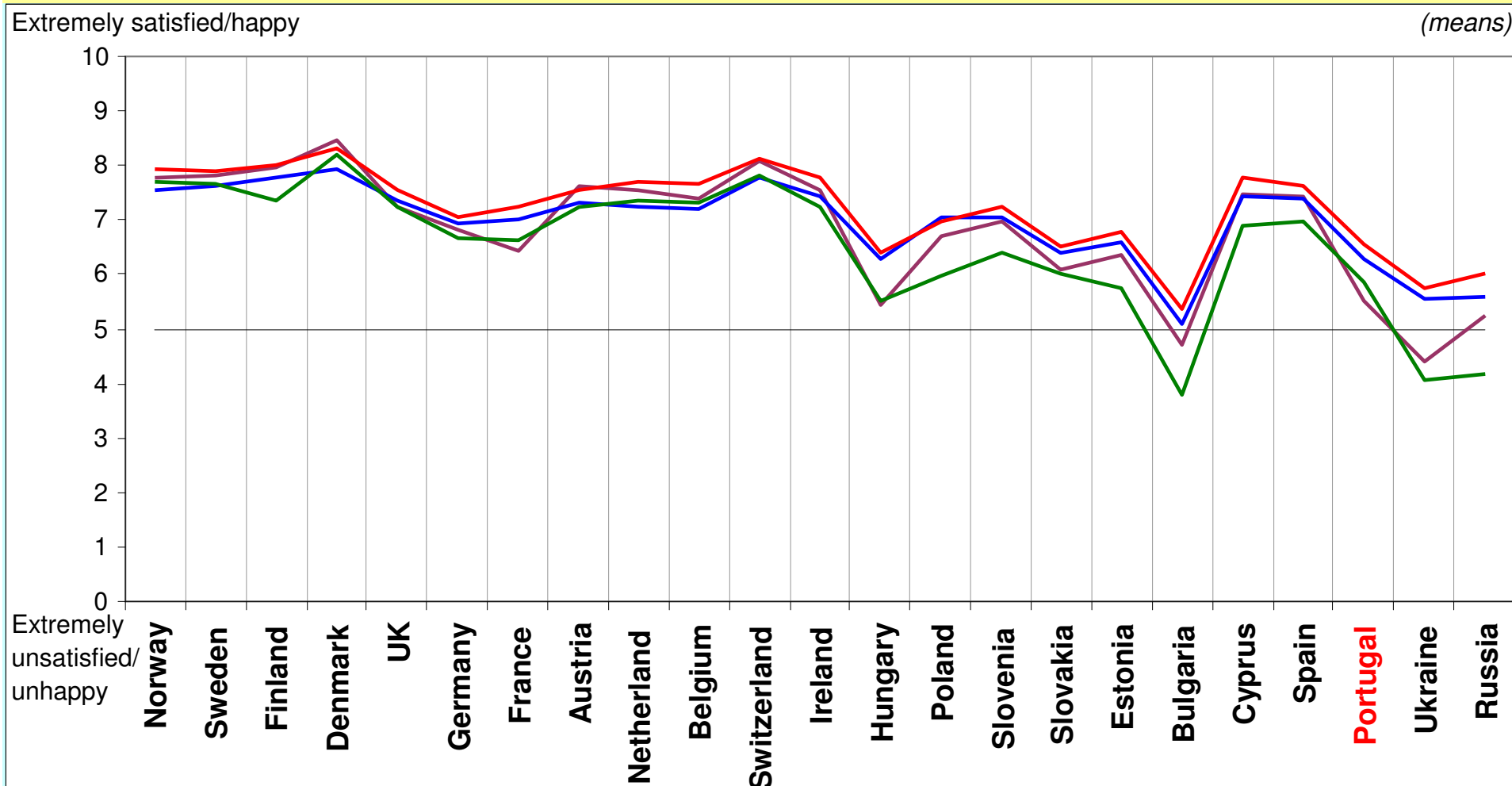
We of course know that happiness has not the same ingredients for every one and that societal and contextual evolution continually keep changing its pattern.

It must be stressed, however, that although Portuguese society did progress since the seventies in all dimensions - political, economical, social and cultural - personal evaluations of well-being are also always influenced by the expectations. That is why it is useful to keep in mind the two "hangovers", earlier referred, of our recent history.

2.

Let's now look at some information provided mainly by the third wave of the ESS (2006).

Subjective Well-being *

Extremely satisfied/happy

(means)

Countries (left to right): Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Austria, Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, **Portugal**, Ukraine, Russia

Extremely unsatisfied/ unhappy

Source: *ESS3*, 2006

— Satisfied with life as a whole
— Satisfied with how life has turned out so far
— Satisfied with present standard of living
— Happy

* B24 - All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?
 E31 - How satisfied are you with how your life has turned out so far?
 E32 - How satisfied are you with your present standard of living?
 C1 - Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?

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Synthetic index of Subjective Well-being *

(means)
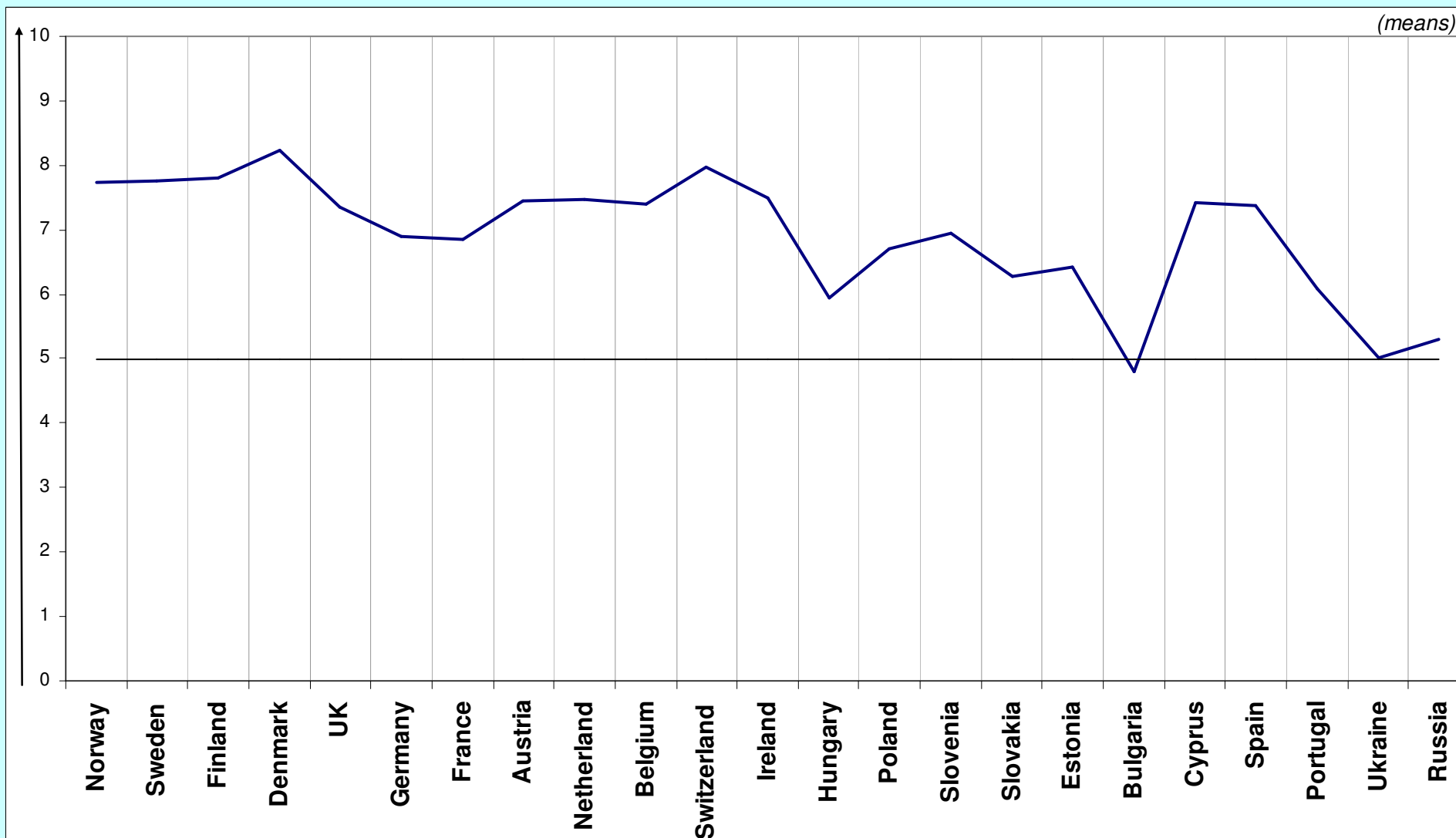
* B24 - All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?
  C1 - Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?
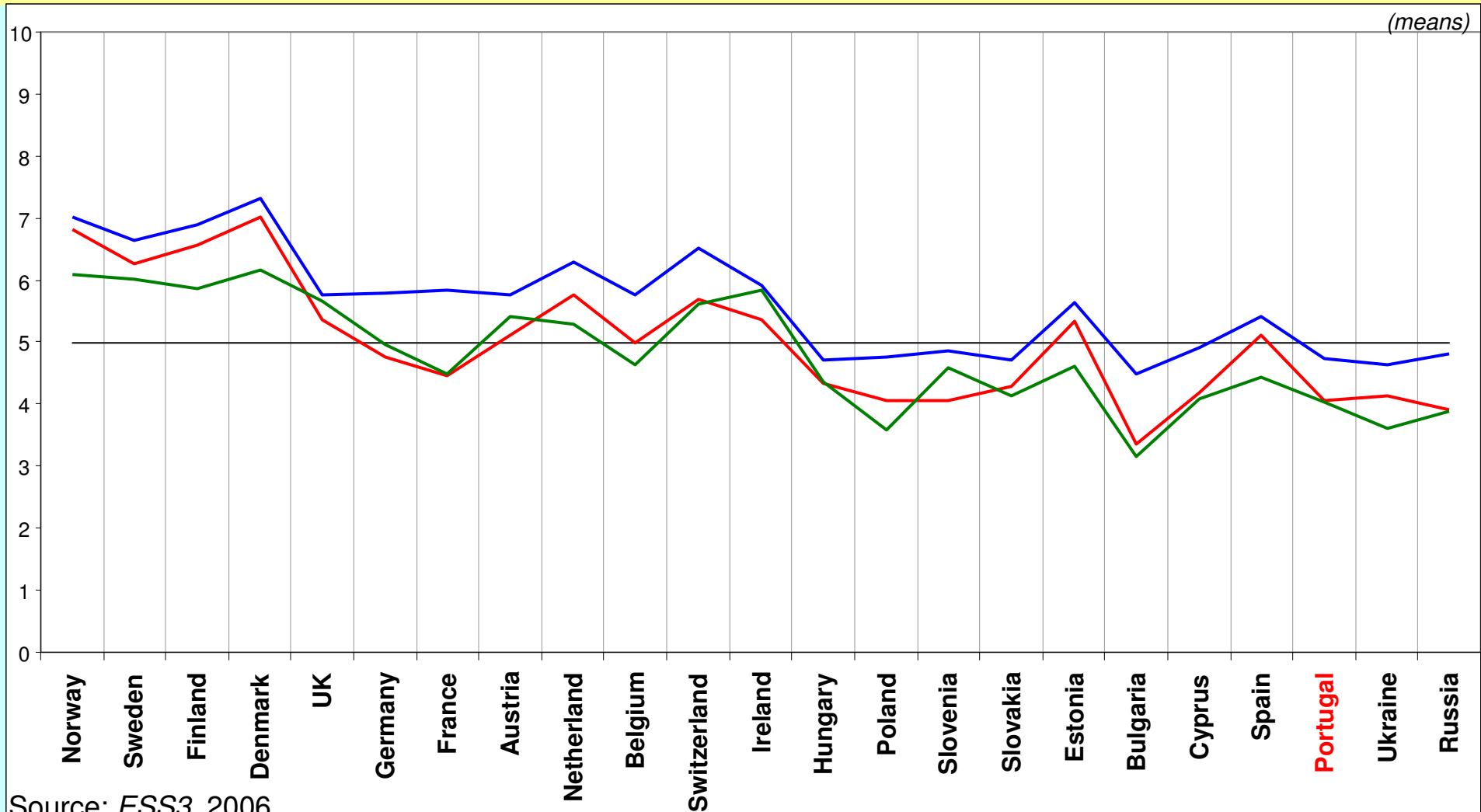 E31 - How satisfied are you with how your life has turned out so far?
  E32 - How satisfied are you with your present standard of living?
  Cronbach's Alpha: 0,88; explained variance: 74,6%

Source: *ESS3*, 2006

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Social trust

(means)

Source: *ESS3*, 2006

A8 - Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?*

A9 - Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?**

A10 - Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?***

Scales: { * 0=You can't be too careful; 10=Most people can be trusted
** 0=Most people would try to take advantage of me; 10=Most people would try to be fair
*** 0=People mostly look out for themselves; 10=People mostly try to be helpful

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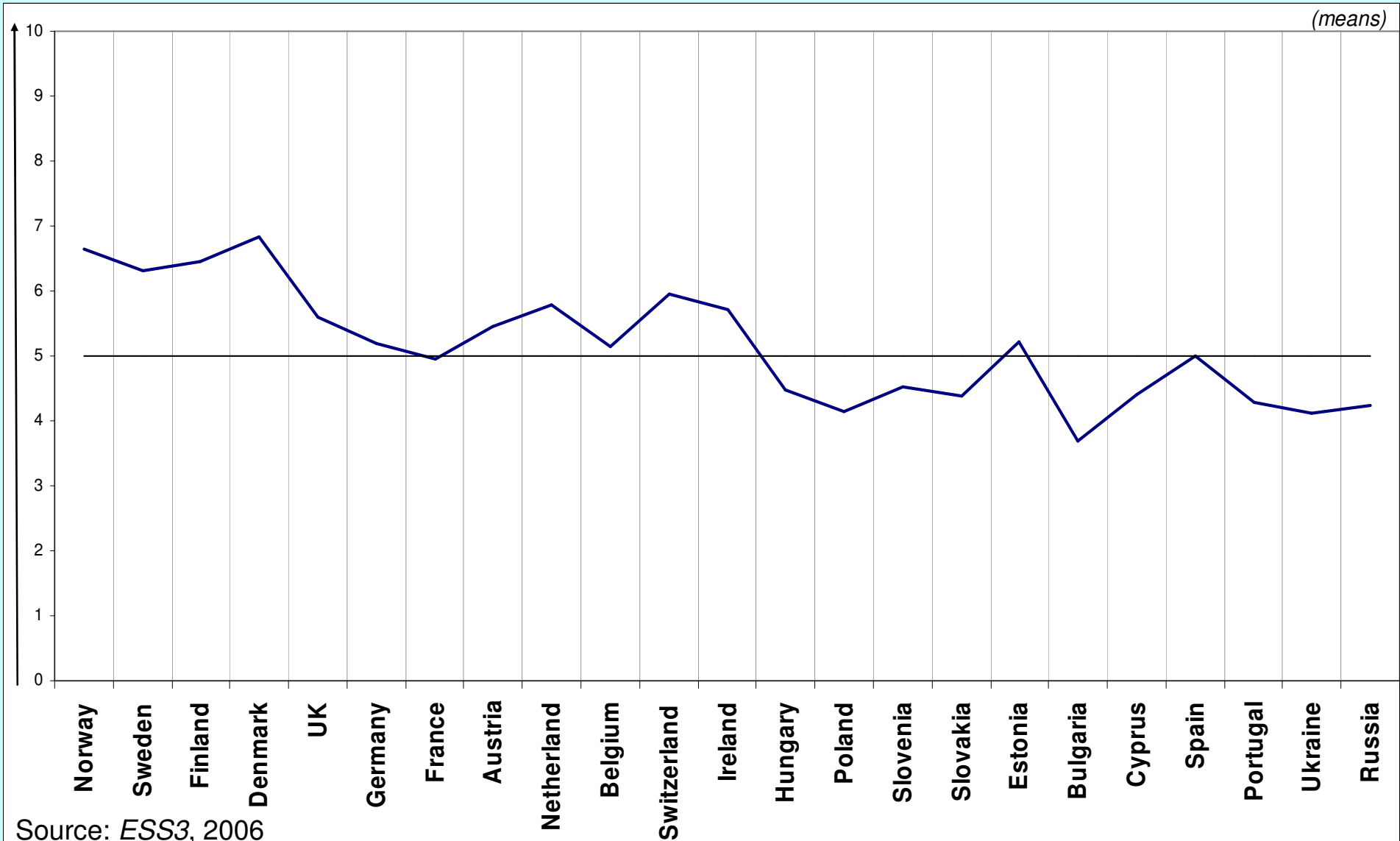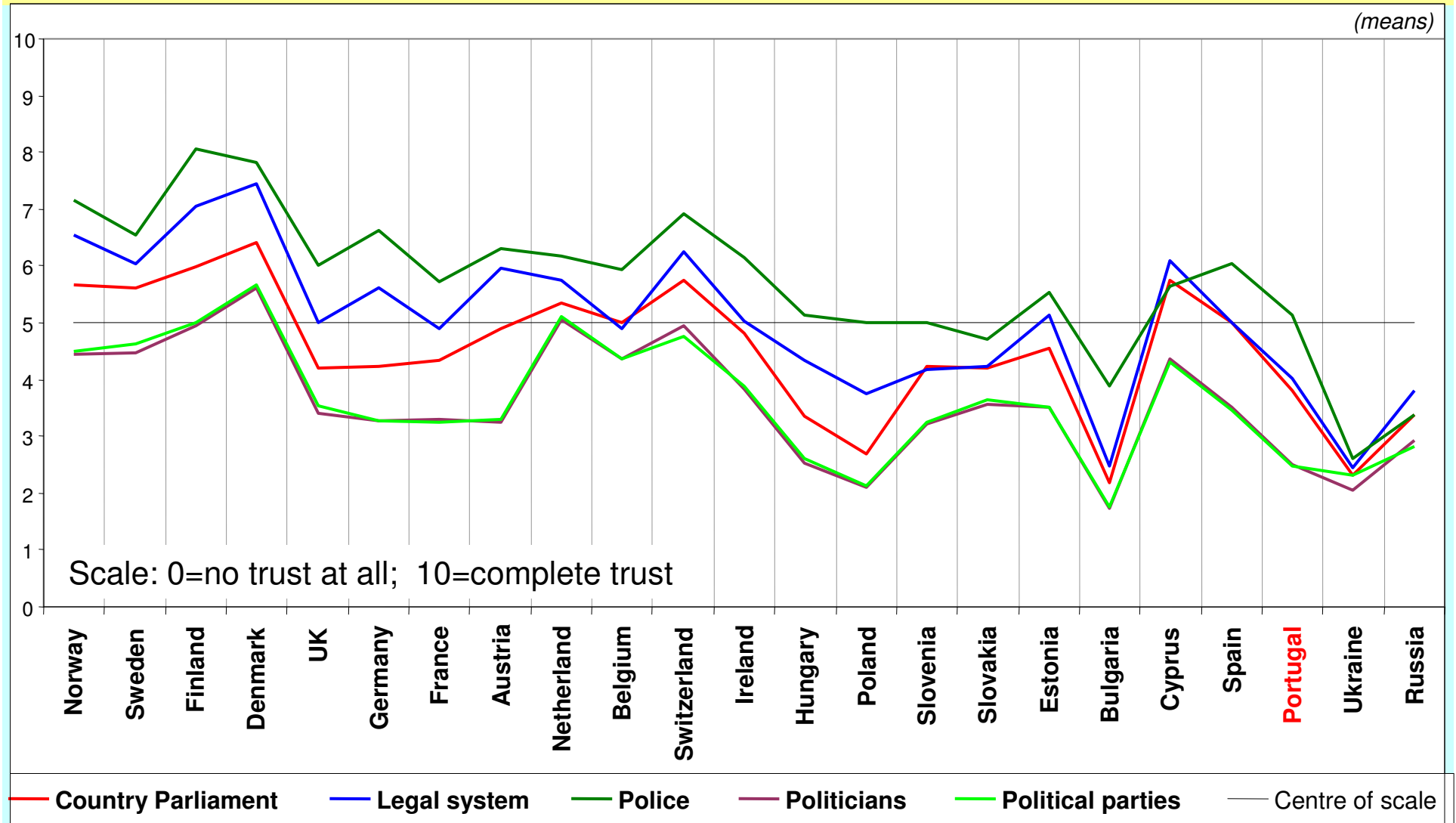# Synthetic index of Social trust *

(means)

Source: *ESS3*, 2006

* A8 - Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?
  A9 - Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?
 A10 - Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?
 Cronbach's Alpha: 0,77; explained variance: 68,8%

Institutional trust *

(means)

Scale: 0=no trust at all; 10=complete trust

Legend:
- **Country Parliament** (red)
- **Legal system** (blue)
- **Police** (dark green)
- **Politicians** (purple)
- **Political parties** (light green)
- Centre of scale (grey)

Countries (x-axis): Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Austria, Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Portugal, Ukraine, Russia

Source: *ESS3*, 2006

* How much you personally trust each of the institutions:
B4-Country Parliament + B5-Legal system + B6-Police + B7-Politicians + B8-Political parties.
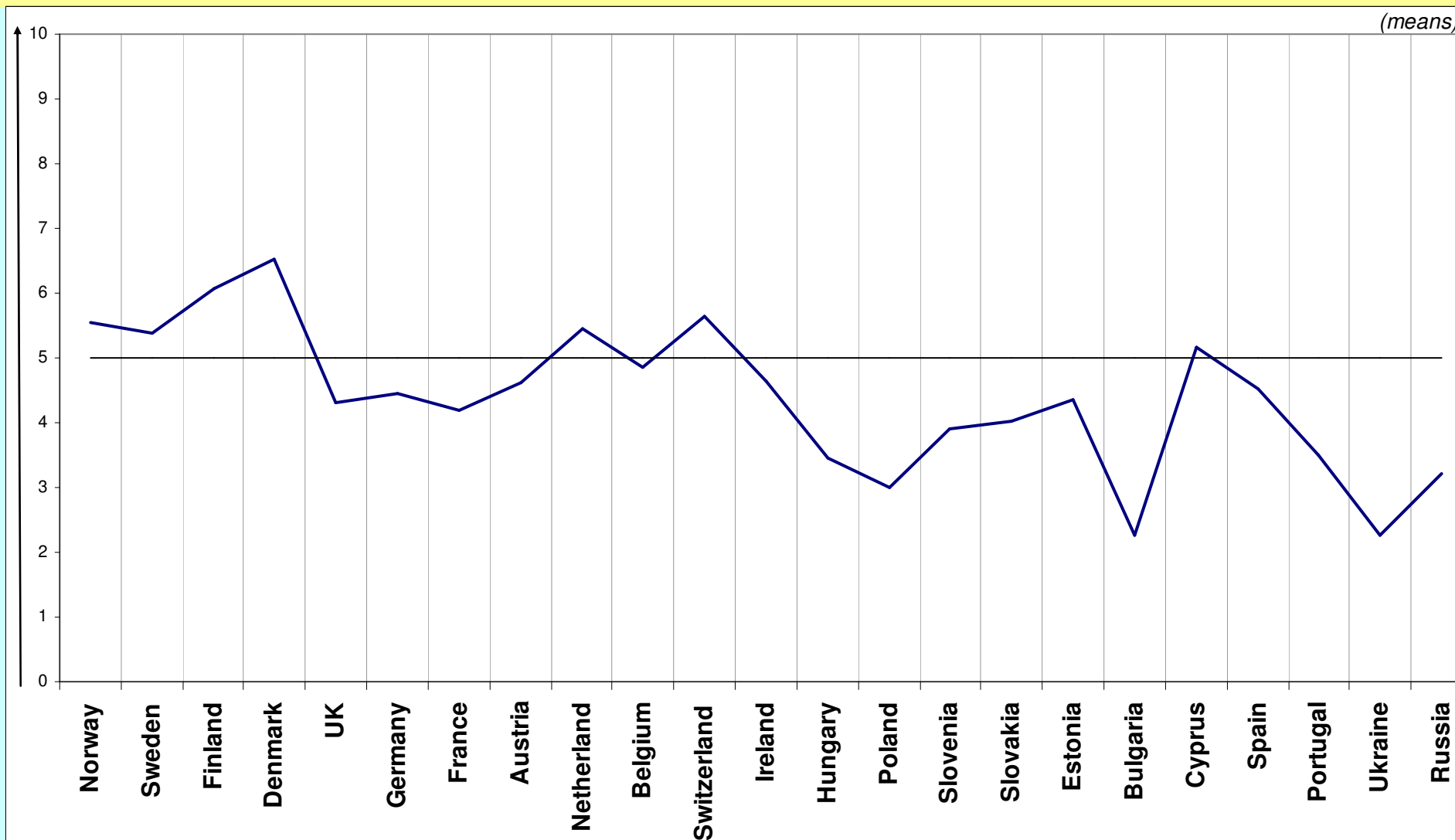
13

Synthetic index of Institutional trust *

(means)

Source: *ESS3*, 2006

* How much you personally trust each of the institutions
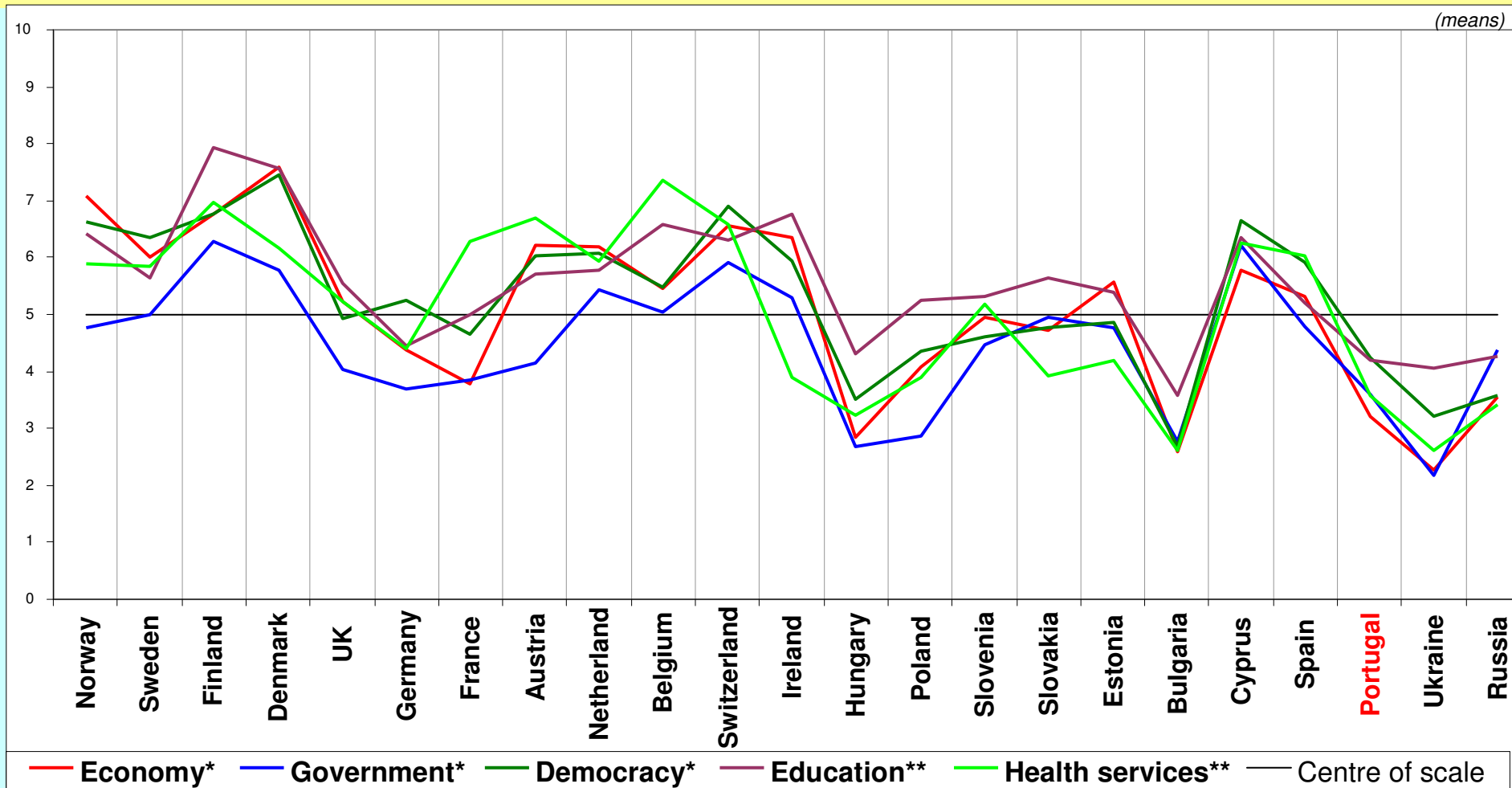 B4-Country Parliament + B5-Legal system + B6-Police + B7-Politicians + B8-Political parties.
  Cronbach's Alpha: 0,89; explained variance: 70,2%

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Political satisfaction*

(means)

Countries (left to right): Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Austria, Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, **Portugal**, Ukraine, Russia

Legend: —— **Economy*** —— **Government*** —— **Democracy*** —— **Education**** —— **Health services**** —— Centre of scale
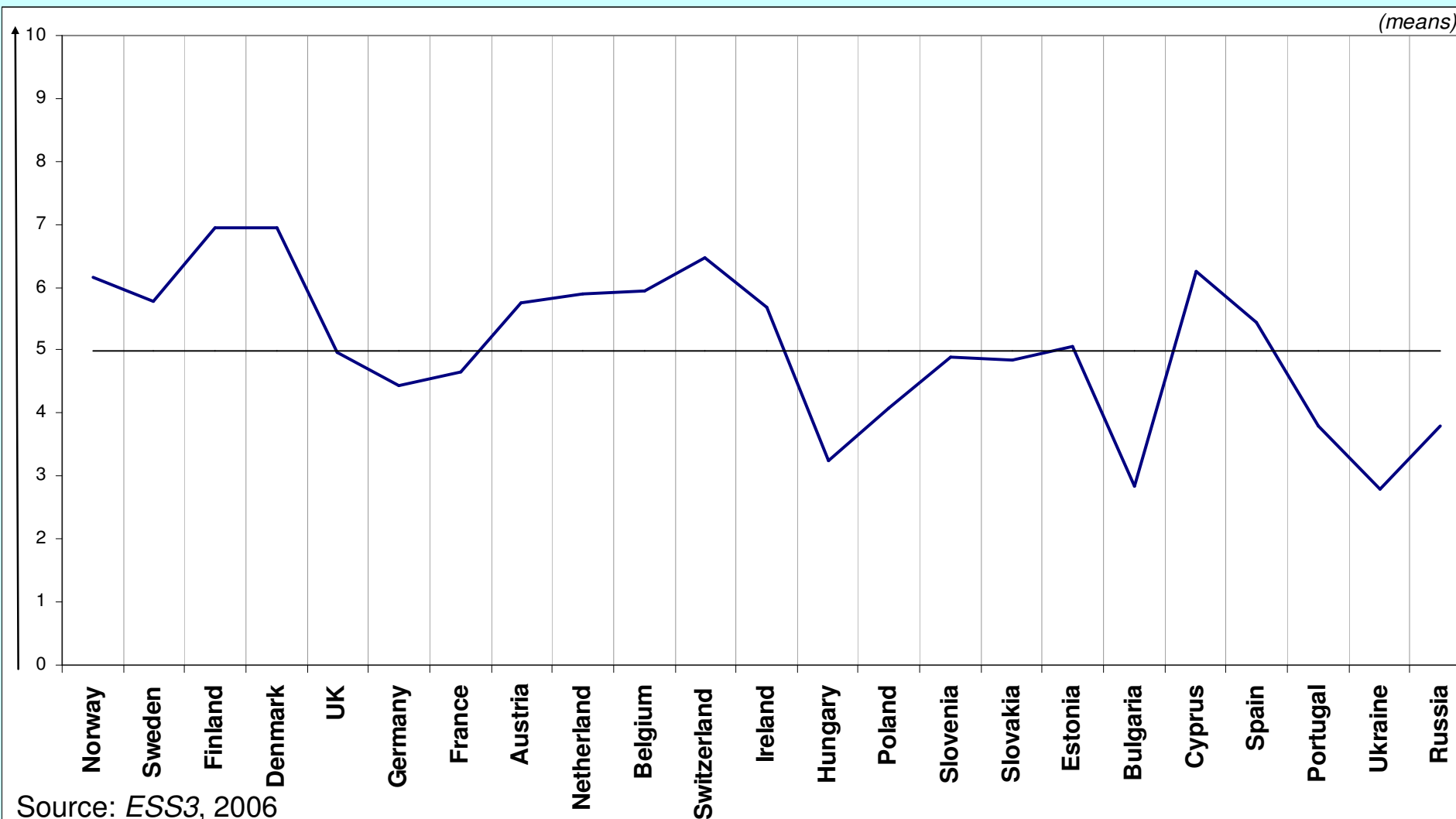
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* B25 - On the whole how satisfied are you with the present state of the **economy** in [country]?

B26 - Thinking about the [country] **government**, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job?

B27 - On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way **democracy** works in [country]?

B28 - What you think overall about the state of **education** in [country] nowadays?

B29 - What you think overall about the state of **health** services in [country] nowadays?

Scales: { * 0=extremely unsatisfied; 10=extremely satisfied
         { ** 0=extremely bad; 10=extremely good
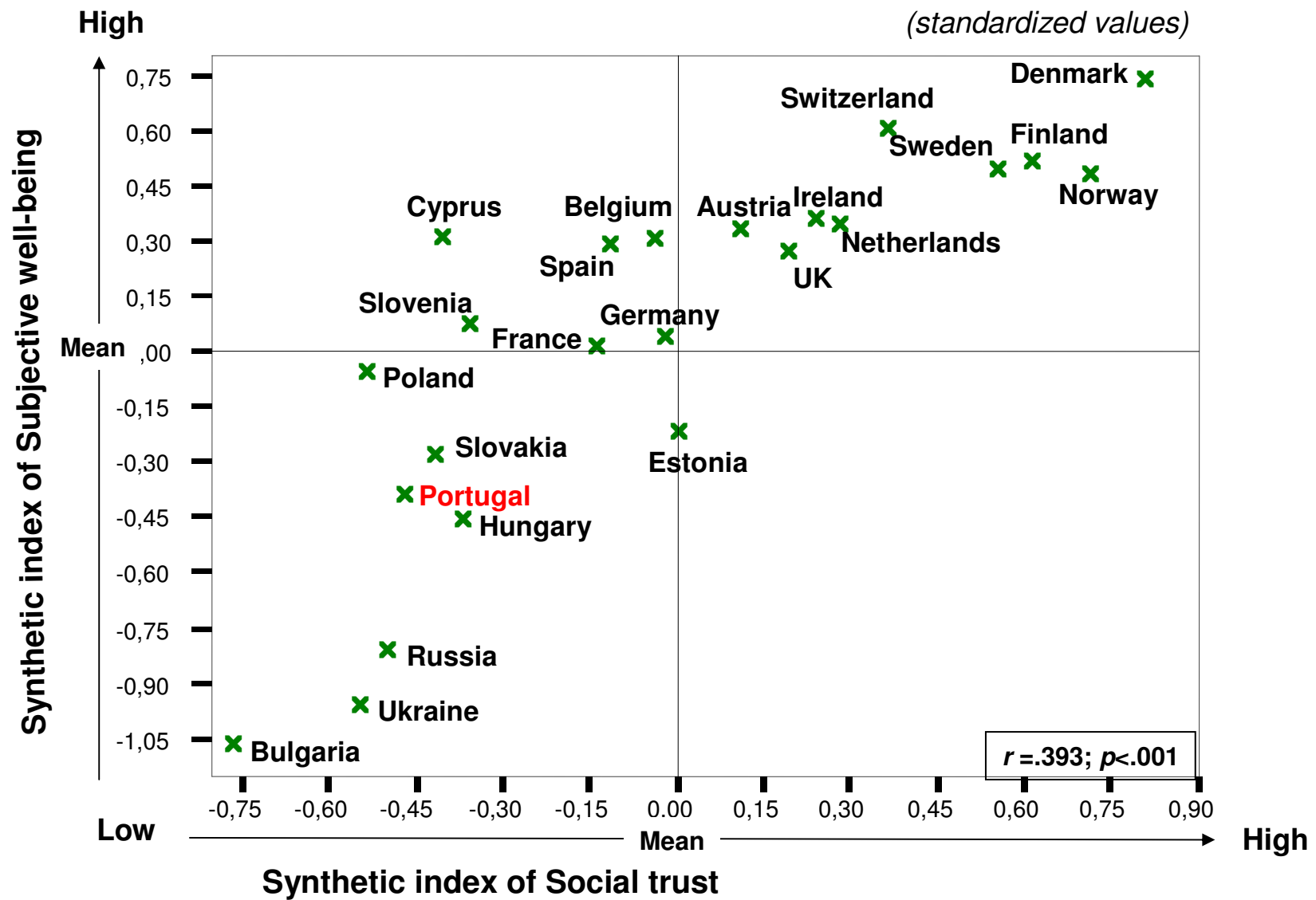
Source: *ESS3*, 2006

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Synthetic index of Political satisfaction*

(means)

Source: *ESS3*, 2006

X-axis labels: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Austria, Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Portugal, Ukraine, Russia
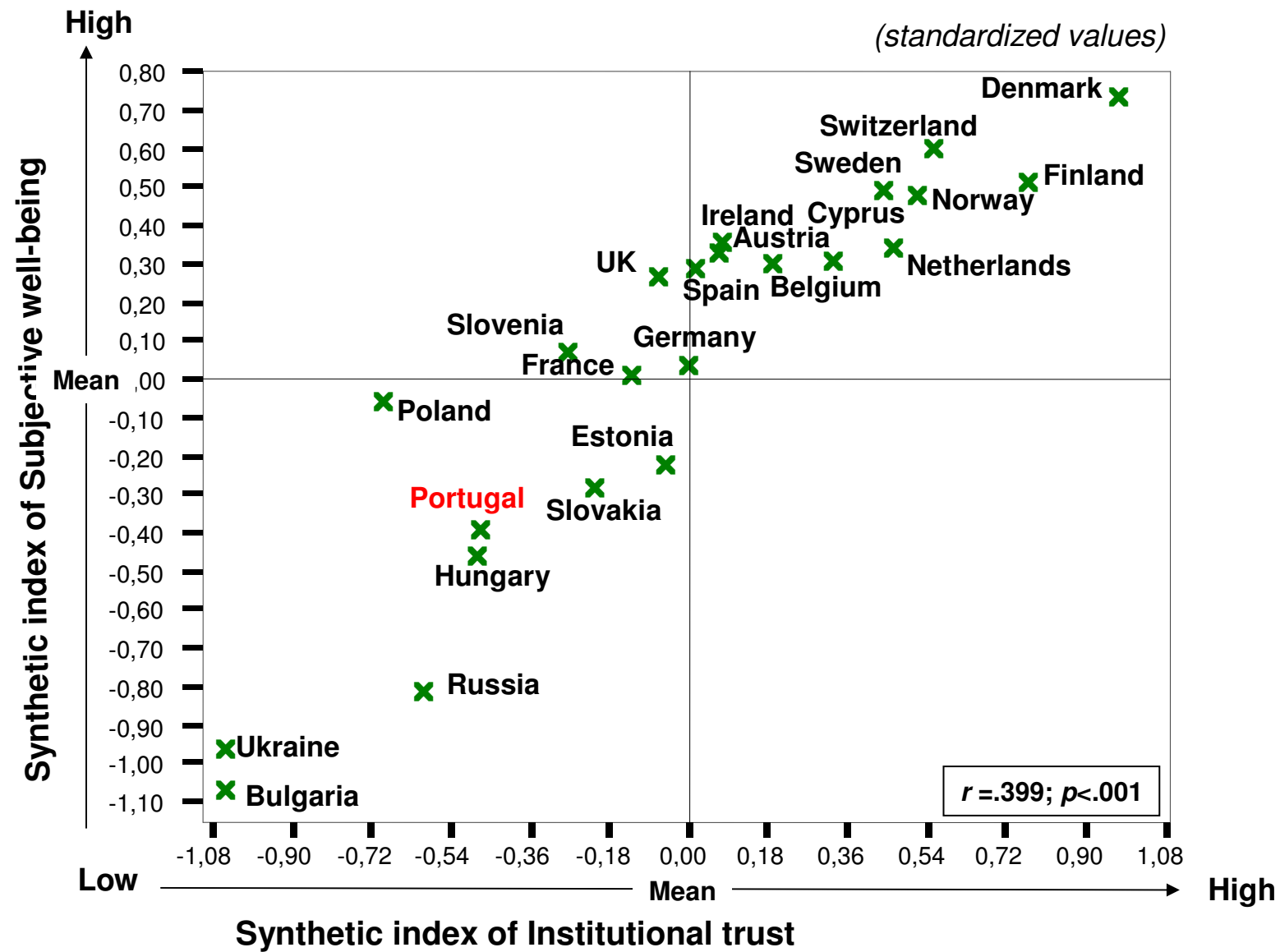
* B25 - On the whole how satisfied are you with the present state of the **economy** in [country]?
B26 - Thinking about the [country] **government**, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job?
B27 - On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in [country]?
B28 - What you think overall about the state of education in [country] nowadays?
B29 - What you think overall about the state of health services in [country] nowadays?
Cronbach's Alpha: 0,84; explained variance: 61,6%

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Social trust *vs.* Subjective well-being

(standardized values)

High

Synthetic index of Subjective well-being

- Denmark
- Switzerland
- Sweden
- Finland
- Norway
- Cyprus
- Belgium
- Austria
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Spain
- UK
- Slovenia
- Germany
- France
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Estonia
- Portugal
- Hungary
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Bulgaria

r = .393; *p* < .001

Low — Mean — High

Synthetic index of Social trust

Source: *ESS3, 2006*

Institutional trust *vs.* **Subjective well-being**

(standardized values)

Synthetic index of Subjective well-being

High

0,80
0,70 — Denmark
0,60 — Switzerland
0,50 — Sweden, Norway, Finland
0,40 — Ireland Cyprus, Austria
0,30 — UK, Spain Belgium, Netherlands
0,20 —
0,10 — Slovenia, Germany
Mean ,00 — France
-0,10 — Poland
-0,20 — Estonia
-0,30 — Portugal, Slovakia
-0,40 —
-0,50 — Hungary
-0,60 —
-0,70 —
-0,80 — Russia
-0,90 —
-1,00 — Ukraine
-1,10 — Bulgaria

r =.399; p<.001

-1,08 -0,90 -0,72 -0,54 -0,36 -0,18 0,00 0,18 0,36 0,54 0,72 0,90 1,08

Low   Mean   High

Synthetic index of Institutional trust

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Political satisfaction *vs.* Subjective well-being

Source: *ESS3, 2006*

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Synthetic indexes by country

(means)

Legend: Social trust — Institutional trust — Political satisfaction — Subjective well-being

Countries (x-axis): Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Austria, Netherland, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Portugal, Ukraine, Russia

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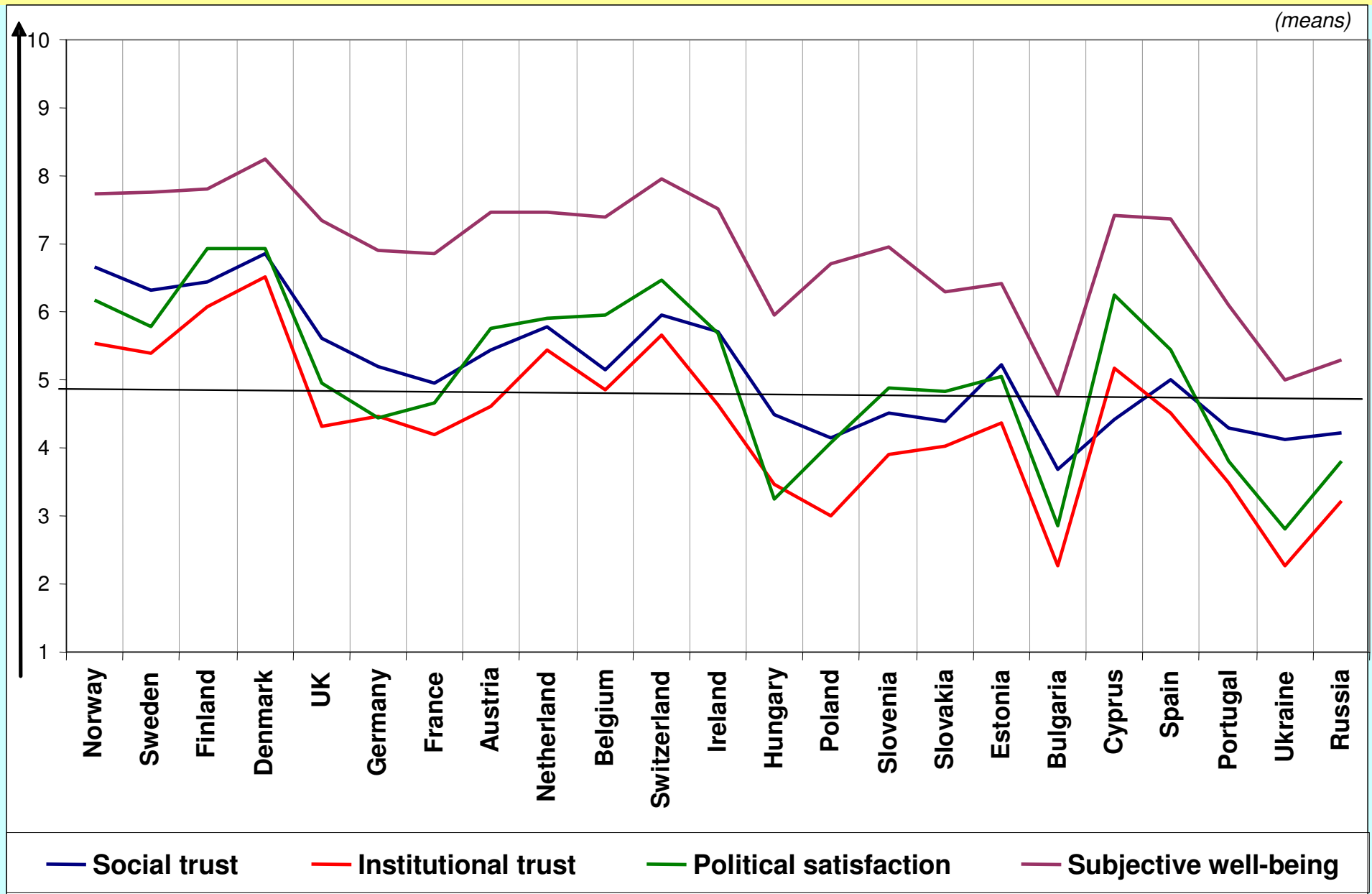
Source: *ESS3, 2006*

How important is each of these things in <u>your</u> life...

Extremely important

(means)

Extremely unimportant

Family — **Friends** — **Leisure time** — **Work**

Religion — **Voluntary organisations** — **Politics** — **Centre of scale**
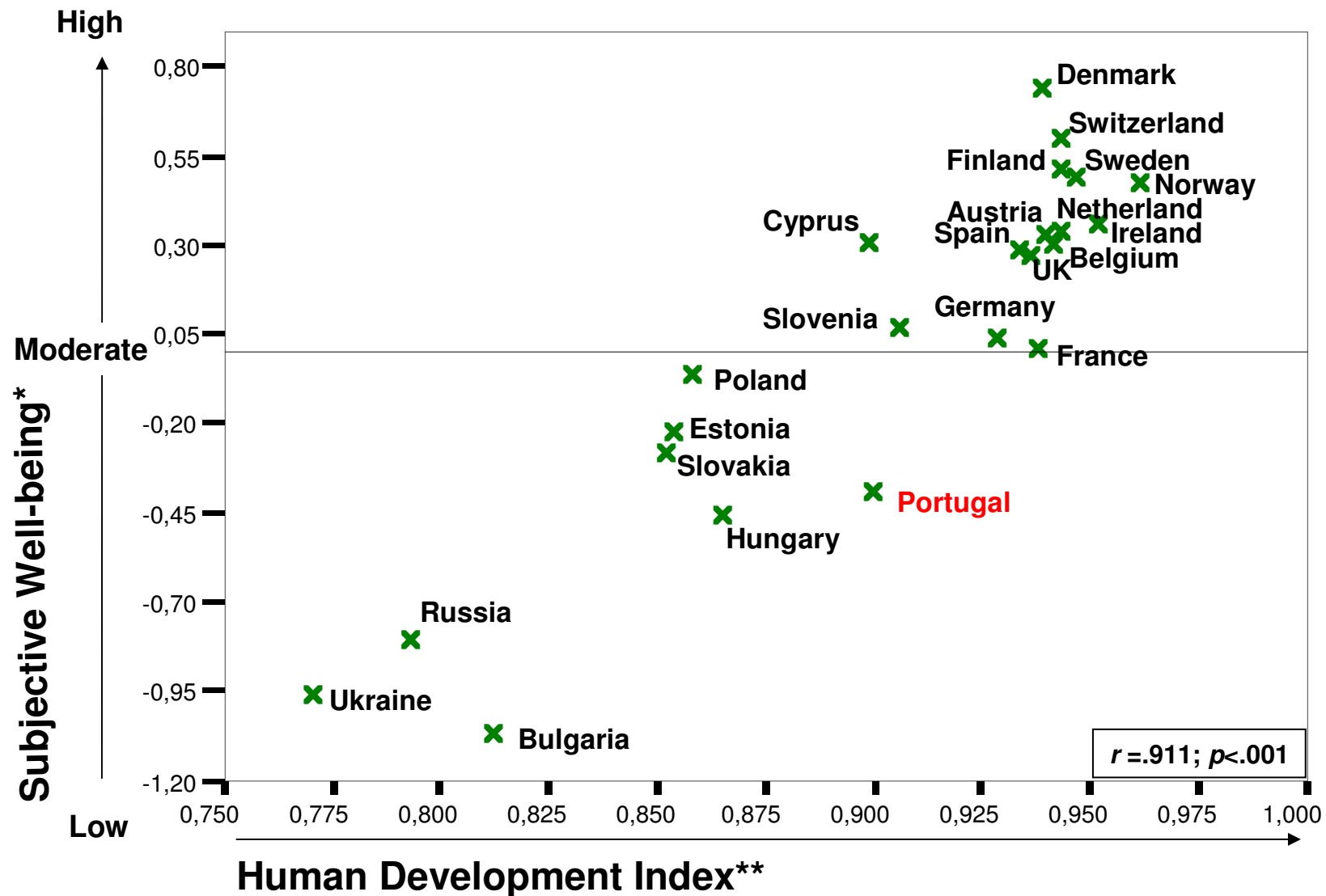
Source: *ESS1, 2002*

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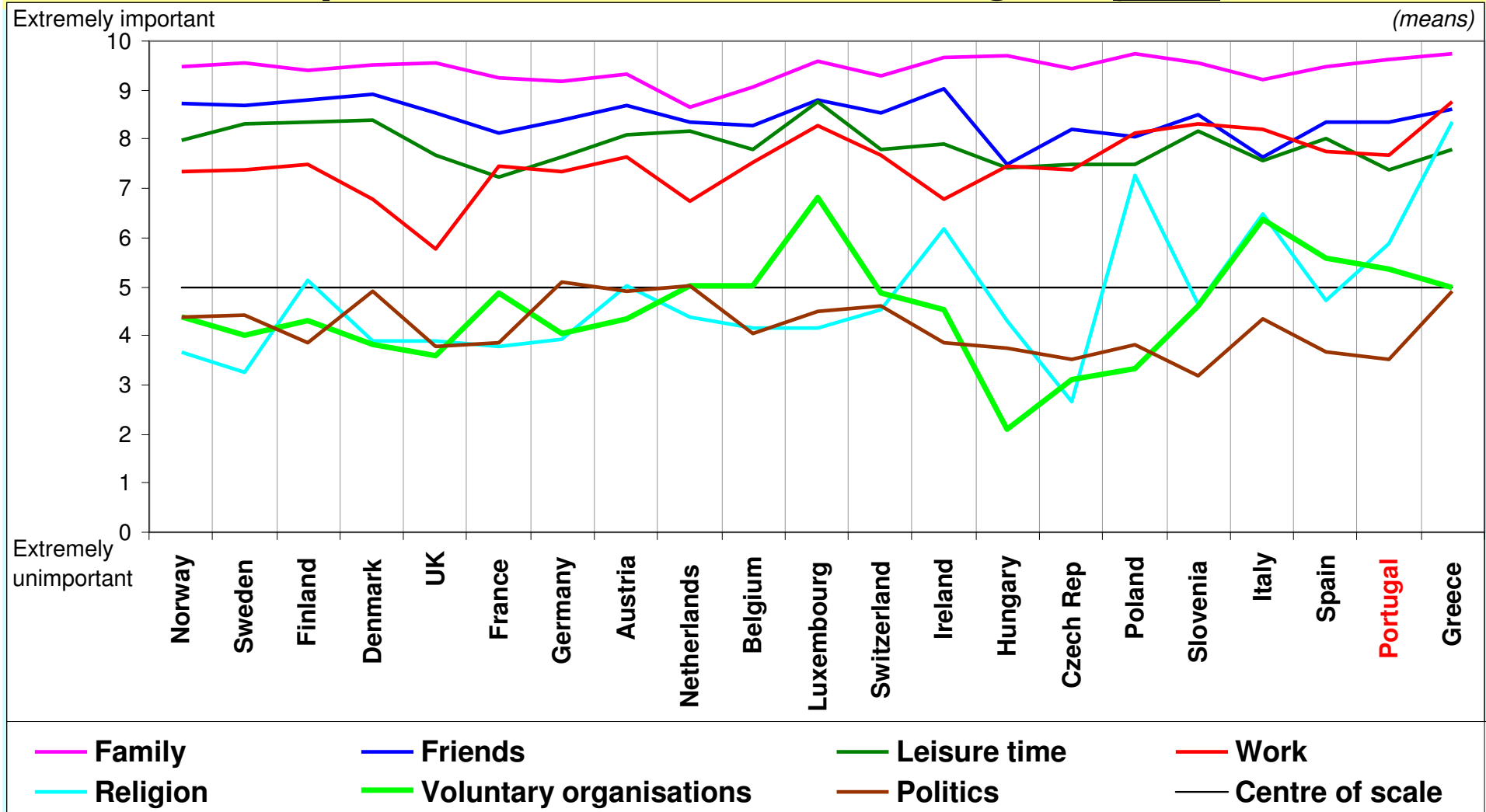
Subjective well-being *vs.* Gini Index
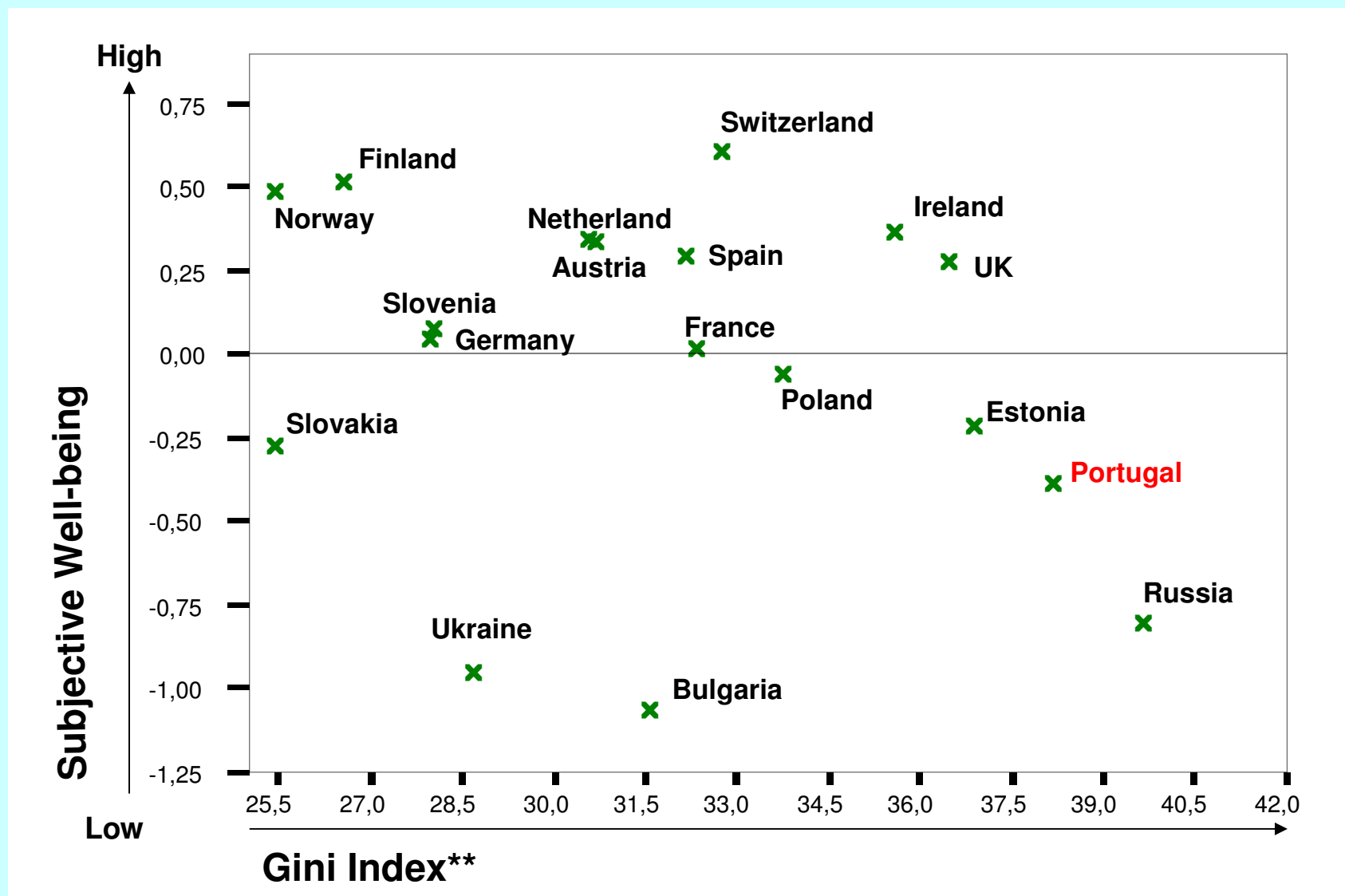
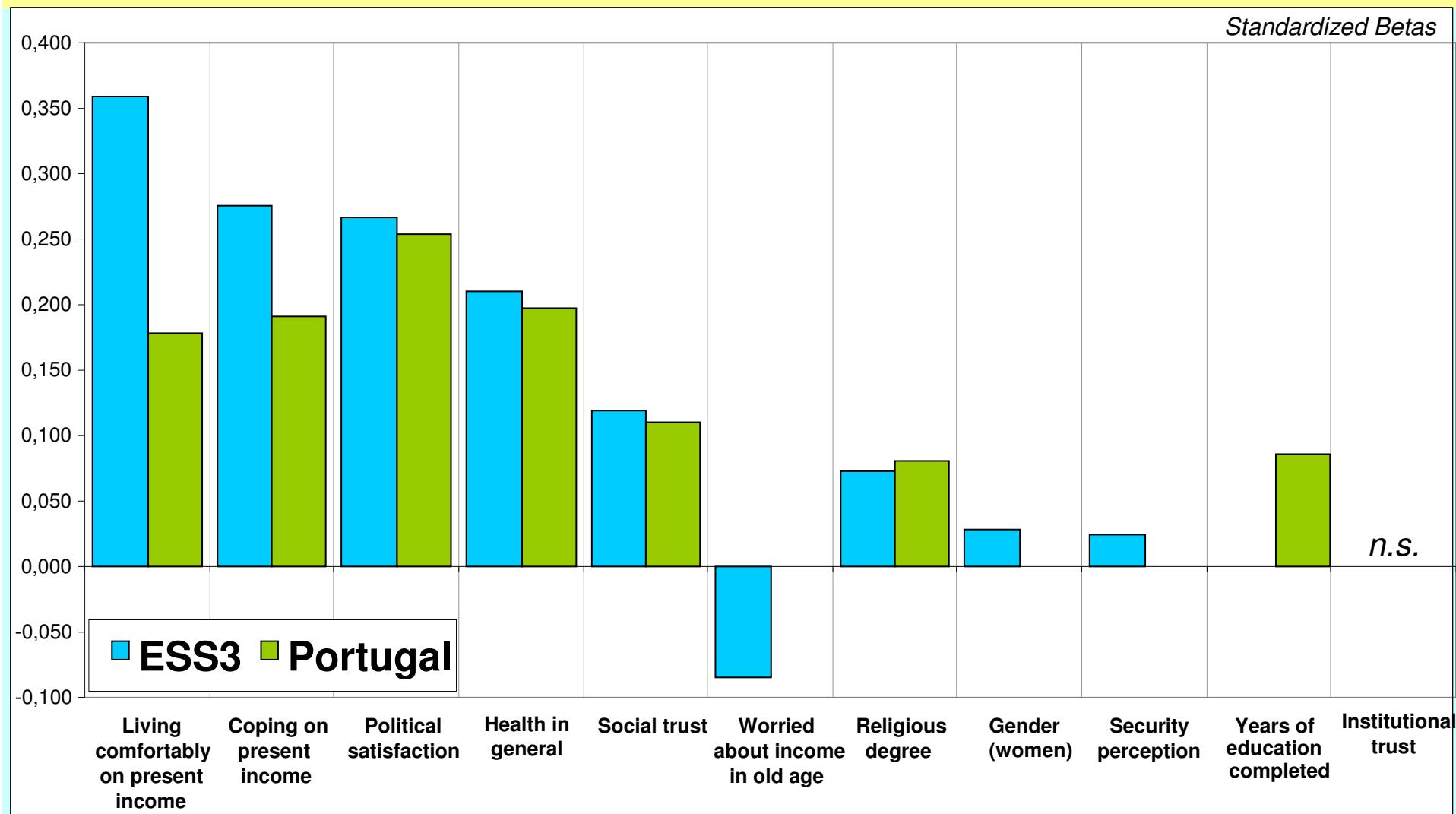Source: *ESS3, 2006;* ** CIA World Factbook, 2006

Subjective well-being *vs.* Human Development Index

Source: *ESS3, 2006;* ** Human Development Report - 2006

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Predictors of **Synthetic index of Subjective Well-being**

(Multiple regression analysis)

Standardized Betas

Legend: ■ ESS3 ■ Portugal

Categories (x-axis): Living comfortably on present income · Coping on present income · Political satisfaction · Health in general · Social trust · Worried about income in old age · Religious degree · Gender (women) · Security perception · Years of education completed · Institutional trust
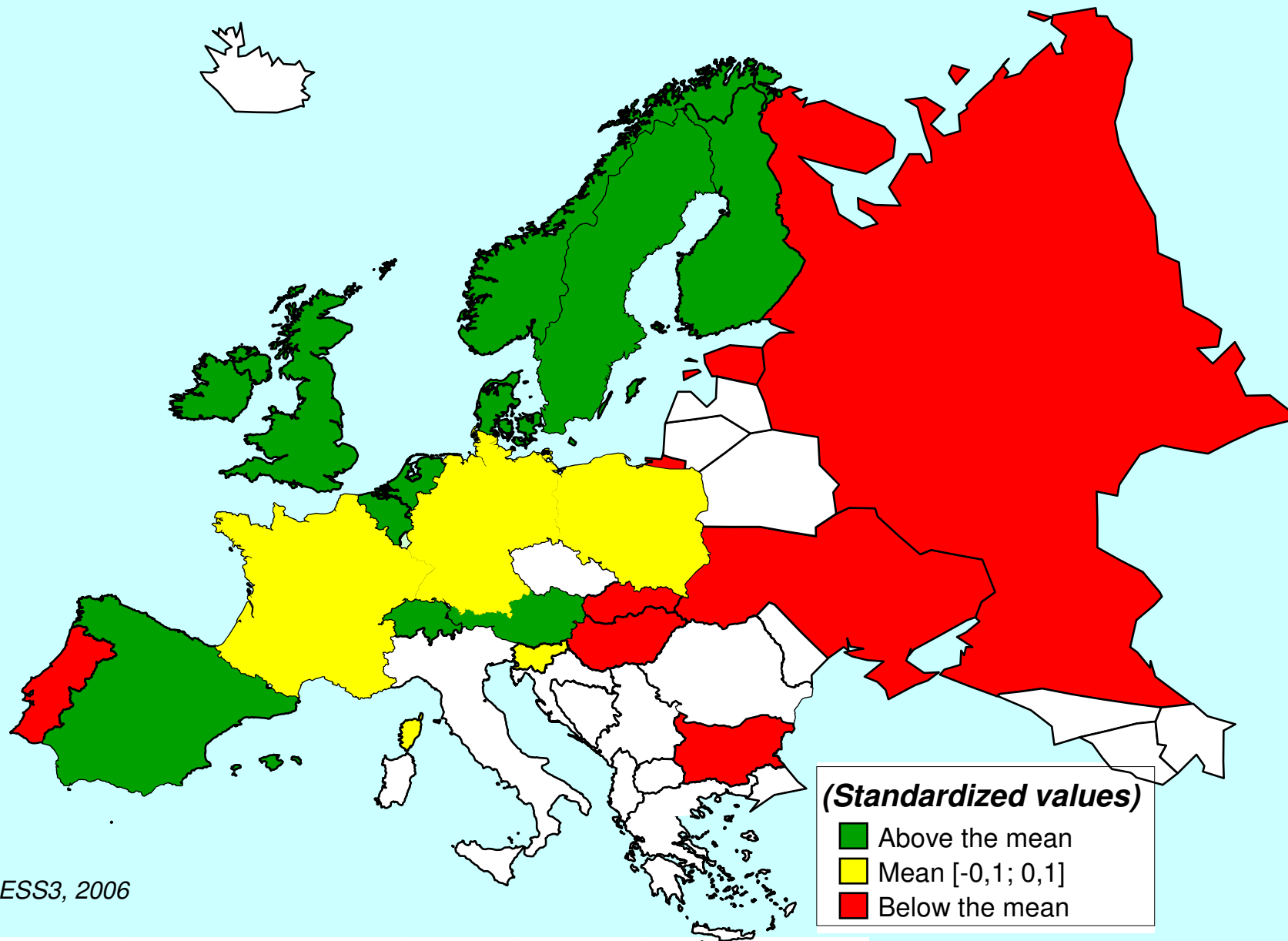
n.s.

$p<0,001$

ESS countries: $F(11,34007)=2476,4$; R_a^2: 0,45. **Portugal**: $F(11,1621)=52,9$; R_a^2: 0,26.

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Source: *ESS3, 2006*

Subjective well-being* in Europe

Source: *ESS3, 2006*

(Standardized values)
- Above the mean
- Mean [-0,1; 0,1]
- Below the mean

* B24 - All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?
  C1 - Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?
  E31 - How satisfied are you with how your life has turned out so far?
  E32 - How satisfied are you with your present standard of living?

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Technical Appendix

Predictors of Synthetic index of Subjective Well-being*

(Multiple regression analysis)

C15 - How is your health in general? [a]

C21 - Regardless of whether you belong to a particular religion, how religious would you say you are? [b]

D53 - How worried are you, if at all, that your income in old age will not be adequate enough to cover your later years? [c]

F33 - Which of the descriptions on this card comes closest to how you feel about your household's income nowadays? [d]

F2 - Gender [e]

Education - Years of education completed

Synthetic indexes: [f]

- Social trust
- Institutional trust
- Political satisfaction
- Security perception

a) 1=very bad; 5=very good
b) 0=not at all religious; 10=very religious
c) 0=not worried at all; 10=extremely worried
d) Dummy variable: 0=Finding it difficult/very difficult on present income
e) Dummy variable: 0=men; 1=women
f) Standardized values

* B24 - All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?
  C1 - Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?
  E31 - How satisfied are you with how your life has turned out so far?
  E32 - How satisfied are you with your present standard of living?
Cronbach's Alpha: 0,88; Explained variance: 74,6%

Synthetic indexes

In Social sciences many different concepts have been measured using multiple indicators. We can mention: Media use, Political efficacy, Social Trust, Political Trust, Party identification, religiosity, Attitude toward immigrants, Human values , Fear of Crime etc. In order to develop measures for these concepts several steps have to be made. The items have to be evaluated on quality, the items have to be evaluated on equivalence across countries, weights have to be chosen for the calculation of the composite scores, and the quality of the composite scores has to be determined.

William Saris (http://surveymethodology.eu/conferences/warsaw-2009/sessions/106/)

So, the Synthetic Indexes we used here, result of a Principal Component Analyses (ACP) with a single factor. The individuals' scores are formed from the respective factorial scores (standardized), with a subsequent algebraic transformation to make them easier to read, as Vauss (2004) suggests: 'the rounded up minimum value is made to coincide with minimum, and the maximum with the maximum value on the original scale of the constituent indicators'.

- *The items have to be evaluated on quality* **by Cronbach's Alpha** (previously);
- *Weights* **are the items coefficients;**
- *The quality of the composite scores* **are expressed by explained variance.**

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Synthetic indexes (cont.)

Subjective Well-being:
B24 - All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?
C1 - Taking all things together, how happy would you say you are?
E31 - How satisfied are you with how your life has turned out so far?
E32 - How satisfied are you with your present standard of living?
Cronbach's Alpha: 0,88; explained variance: 74,6%

Social trust:
A8 - Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?
A9 - Do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?
A10 - Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?
Cronbach's Alpha: 0,77; explained variance: 68,8%

Institutional trust:
How much you personally trust each of the institutions
B4-Country Parliament + B5-Legal system + B6-Police + B7-Politicians + B8-Political parties.
Cronbach's Alpha: 0,89; explained variance: 70,2%

Political satisfaction:
B25 - On the whole how satisfied are you with the present state of the economy in [country]?
B26 - Thinking about the [country] government, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job?
B27 - On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in [country]?
B28 - What you think overall about the state of education in [country] nowadays?
B29 - What you think overall about the state of health services in [country] nowadays?
Cronbach's Alpha: 0,84; explained variance: 61,6%

Security perception:
C6 - How safe do you or would you - feel walking alone in this area after dark?
C7 - How often, if at all, do you worry about your home being burgled?
C9 - How often, if at all, do you worry about becoming a victim of violent crime?
Cronbach's Alpha: 0,62; explained variance: 69%

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