

Diversity of our societies and the intra-EU labour migration

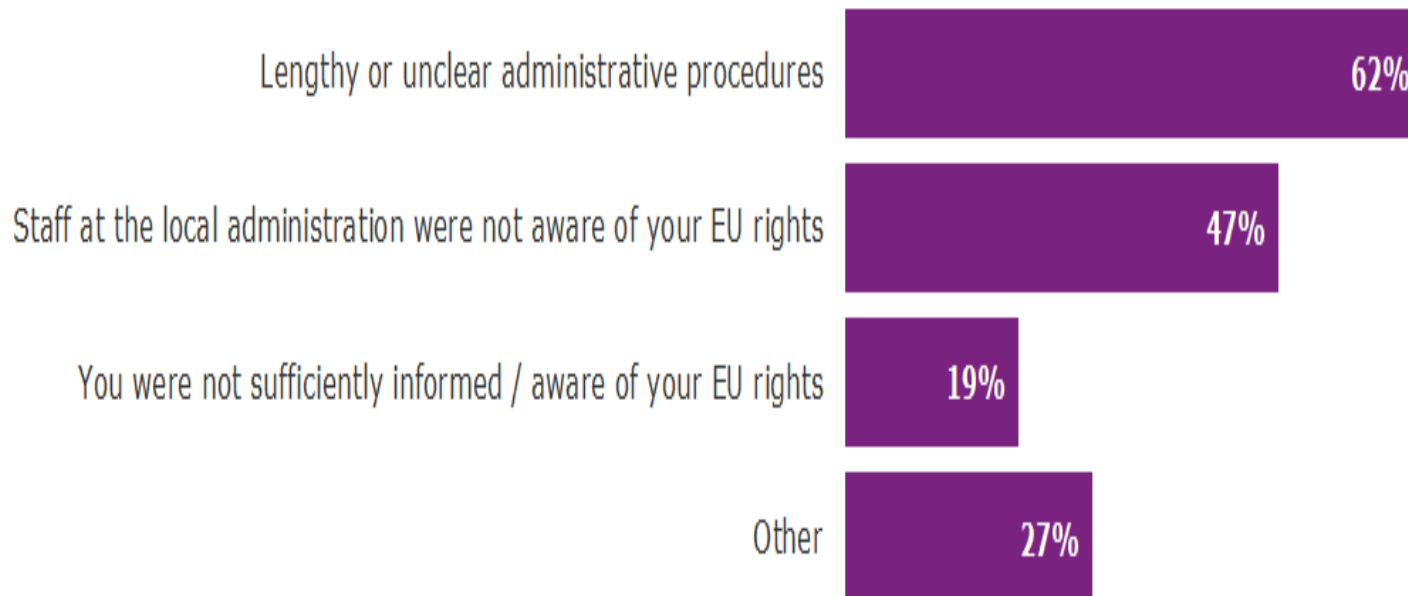
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Quo vadis, Europa?

- Factors driving towards immigration, integration and multiculturalism: open labour market, globalization and digital economy without borders, depopulation and ageing in EU
- Factors driving towards desintegration and xenophobia: history of conflicts, aggression and violence, economic inequality and recession, security threats and terrorism, lack of solidarity, low tolerance, absence of intercultural dialogue
- EU migration policies and priorities are targeted toward immigration pressure and asylum seekers in Mediterranean
- Comprehensive policy concerning economic, social and cultural implications of the free movement of EU citizens still needs to be developed

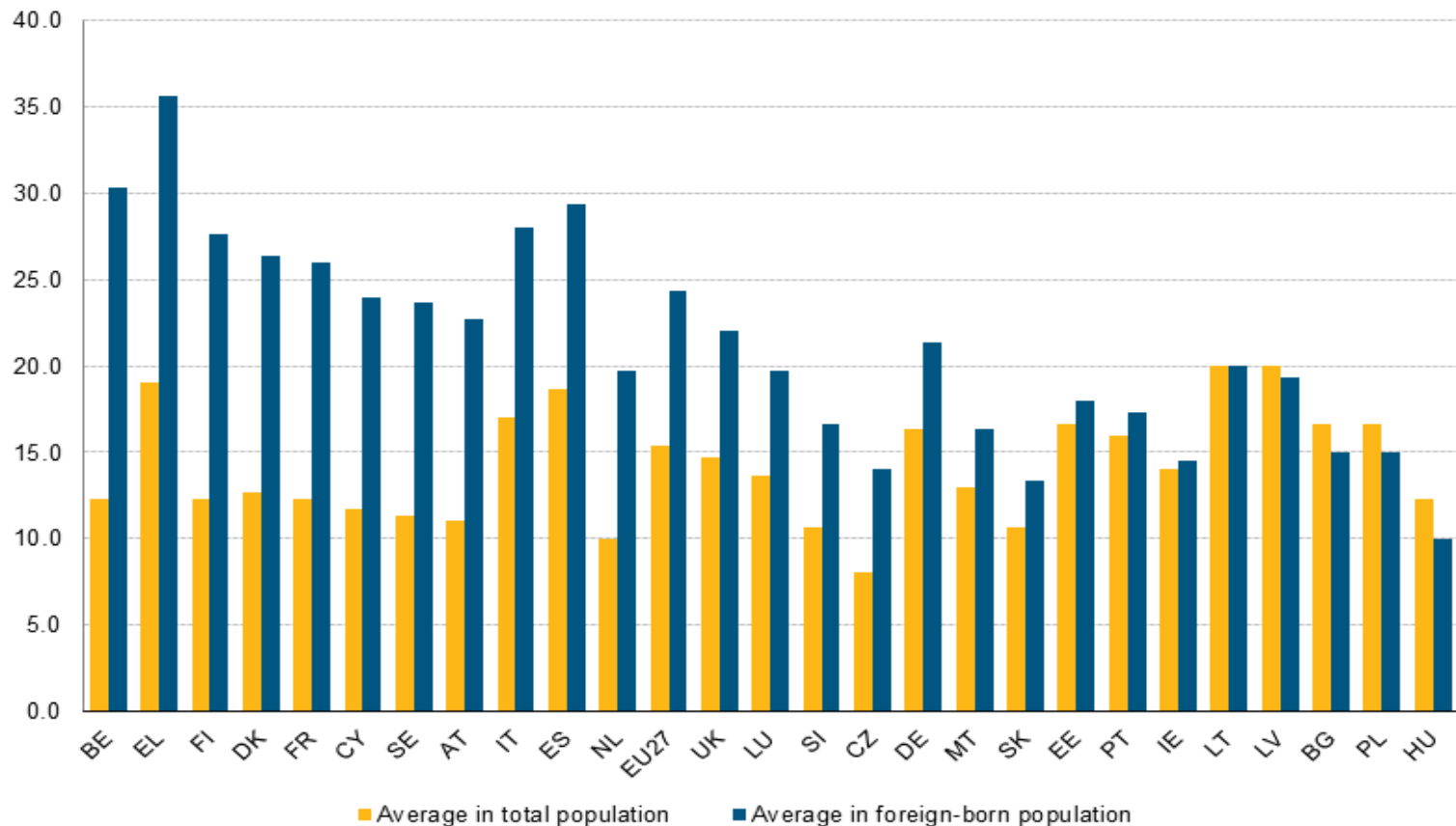
People do not know their EU citizen's rights and face bureaucratic obstacles

Q3. Have you ever faced problems while moving and residing within the European Union: Q3a. Were the problems due to one of the following reasons?



Inequality feeds the tensions

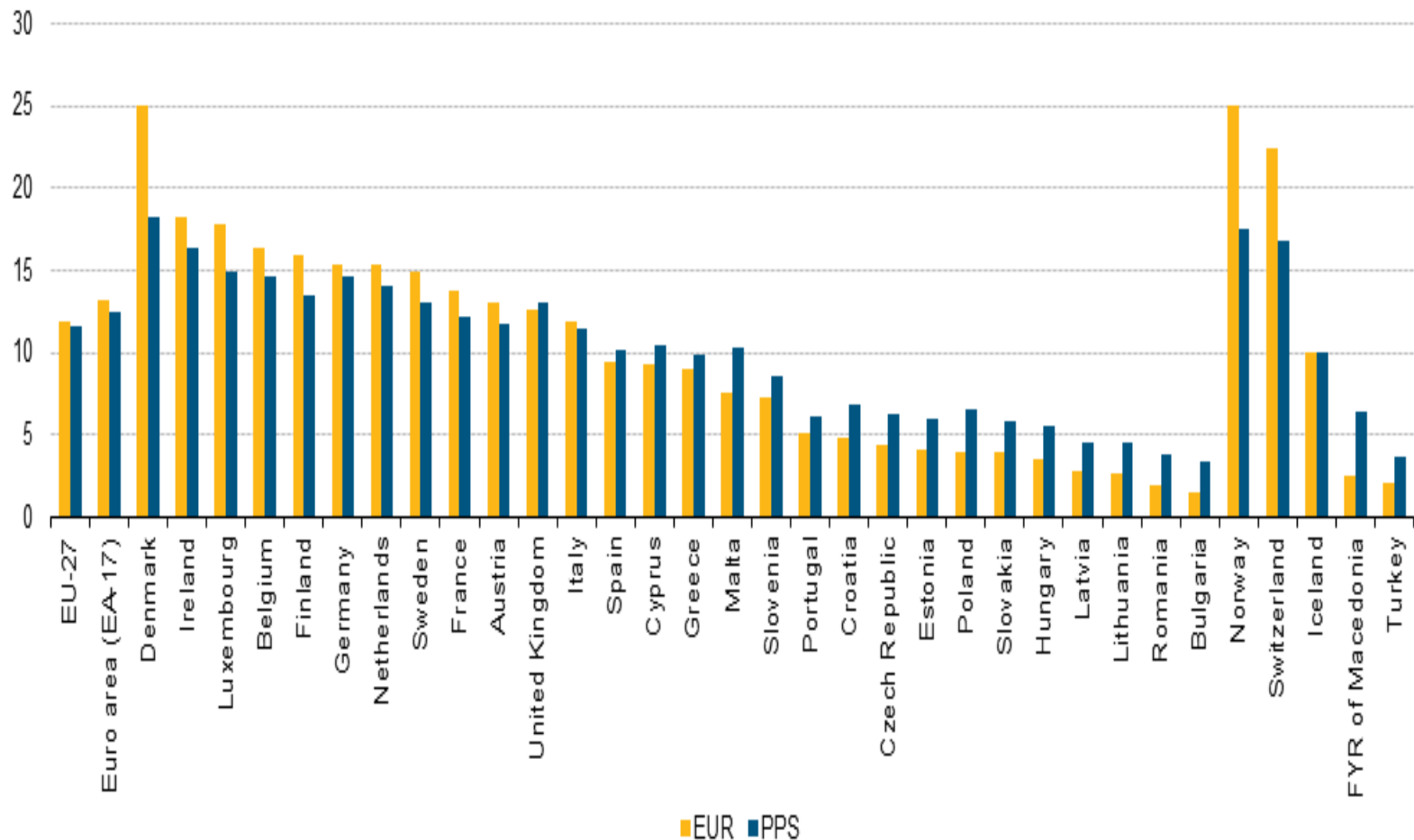
Risk of poverty (after social transfers) among native and foreign born population (Eurostat)



Excluding unreliable data.

Excluding RO due to missing data for the foreign-born population.

Hourly earnings in Europe (Eurostat)



(¹) Enterprises with 10 or more employees. Whole economy excluding agriculture, fishing, public administration, private households and extra-territorial organisations.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: earn_ses_pub2s)

De-population pressure

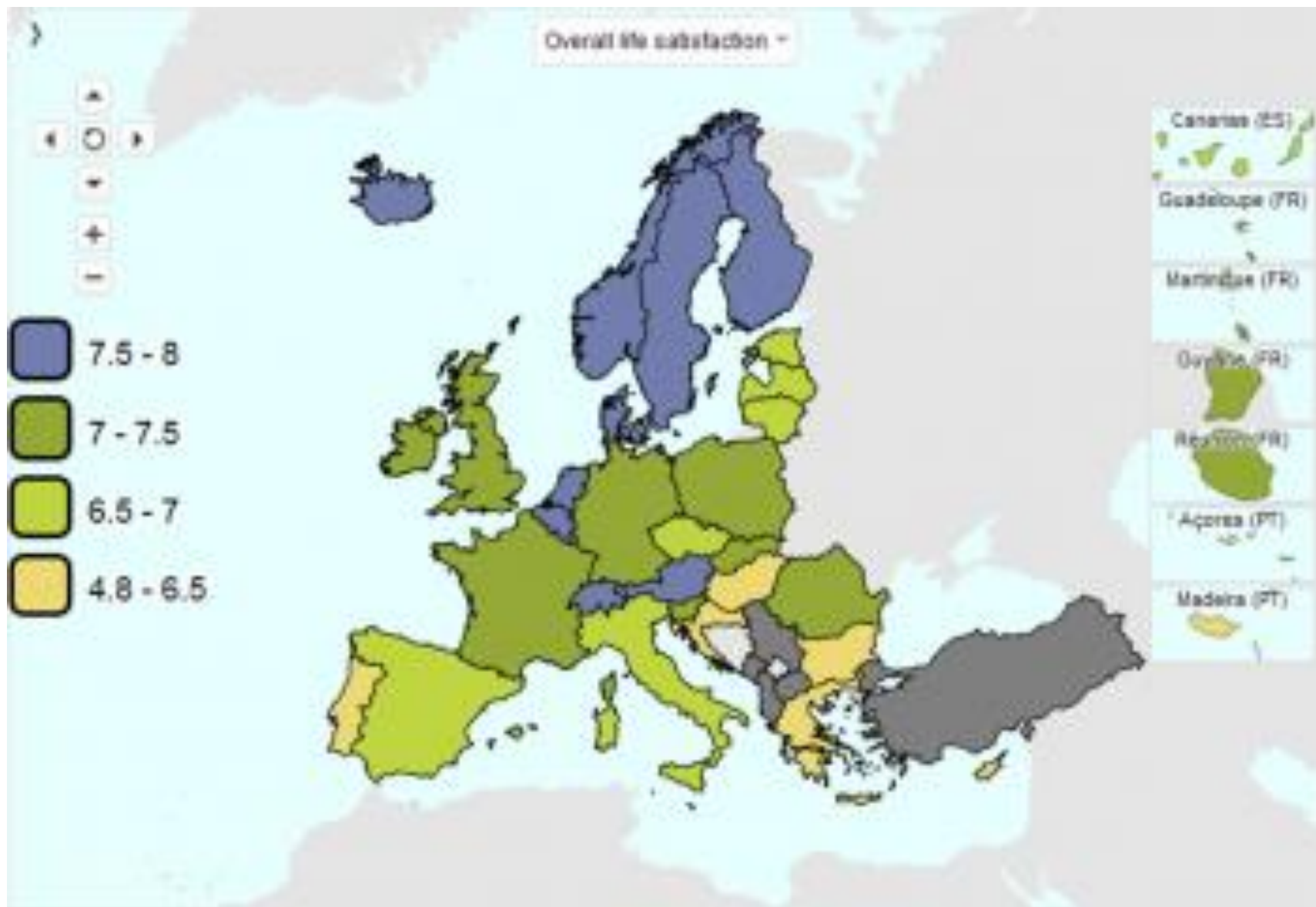
- In many European countries the natural growth of population has stopped or turned down
- In the new member states low level of natural growth of population is combined with the high level of emigration
- Ageing and diminishing population is threatening sustainability of social security systems and is creating shortage of qualified labour in the growing number of sectors
- Pro-active immigration policy seems as only effective (albeit hardly desirable) alternative to de-population

External context and internal consequences

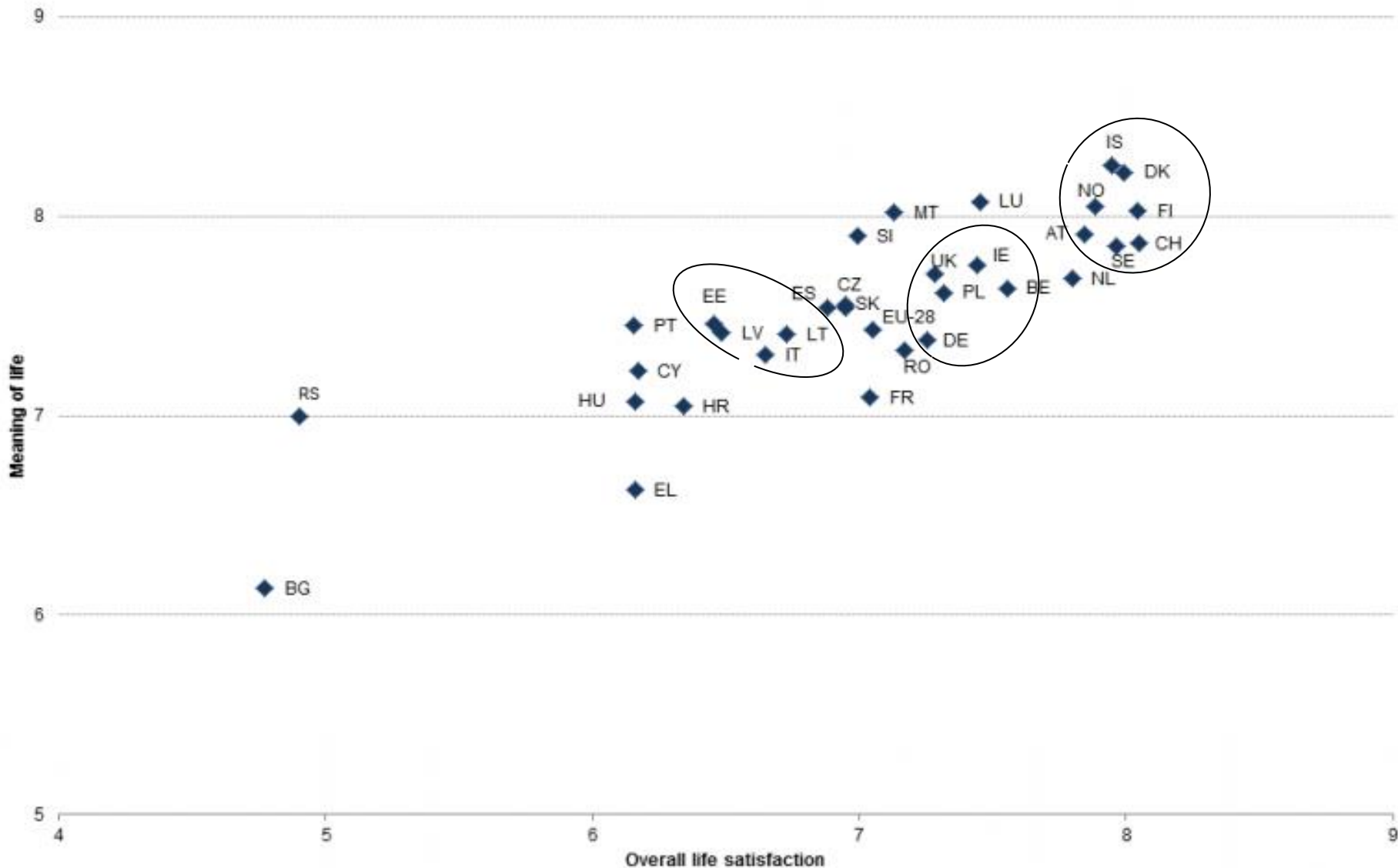
- External security pressure in the South and East of EU
- Rise of the militant islamistic forces
- Radicalization among minority youth
- Militant and extremist groups among minorities
- Radicalization among majority populations
- Challenges for solidarity as a corner stone of the European welfare society
- Political reactions in the member states: securitization of politics, radicalization, extremism, national defensiveness, rise of the xenophobic, anti-Eu populism

Baltic Sea region: a special case?

Overall life satisfaction in the European countries (Eurostat)



Meaningful life and life satisfaction (Eurostat)

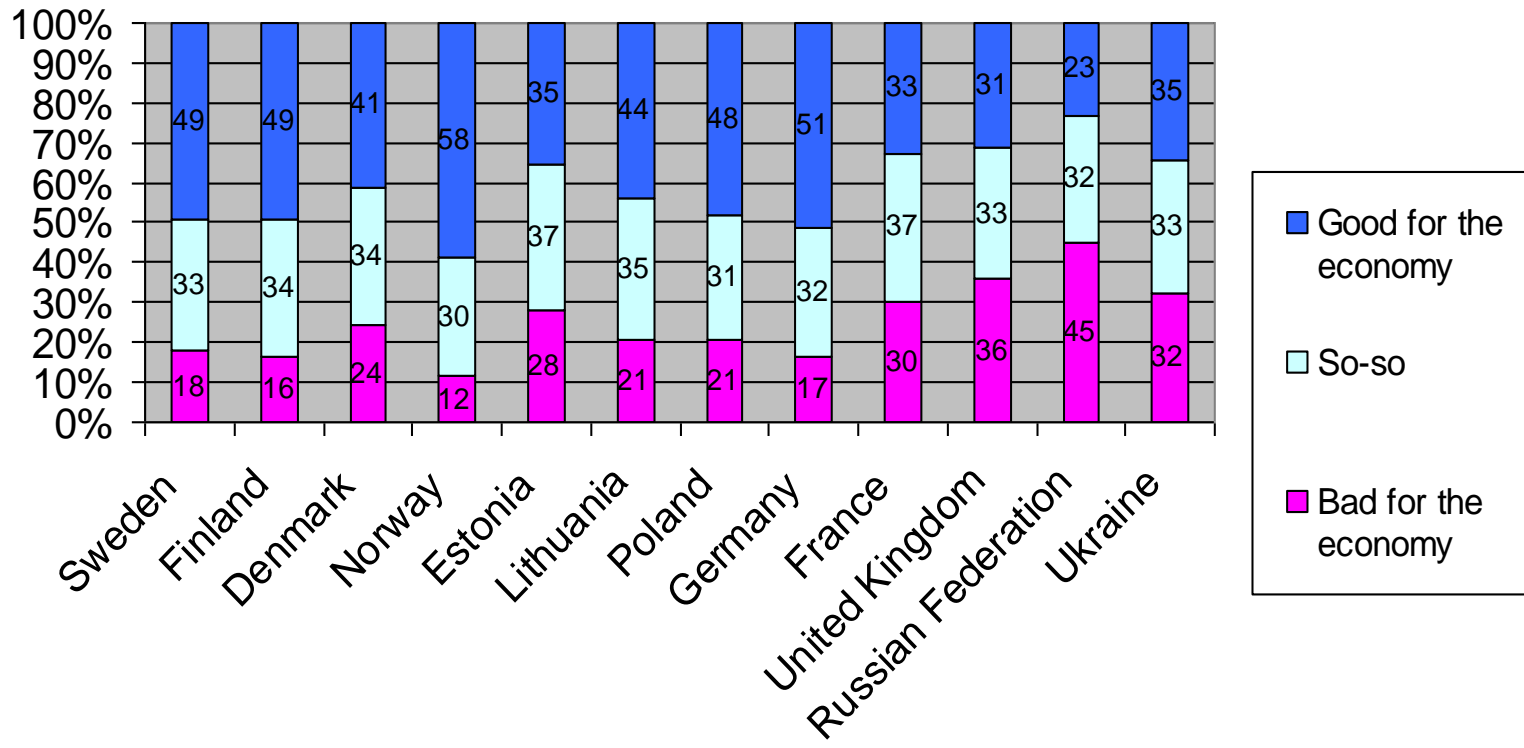


Attitudes concerning immigration and immigrants

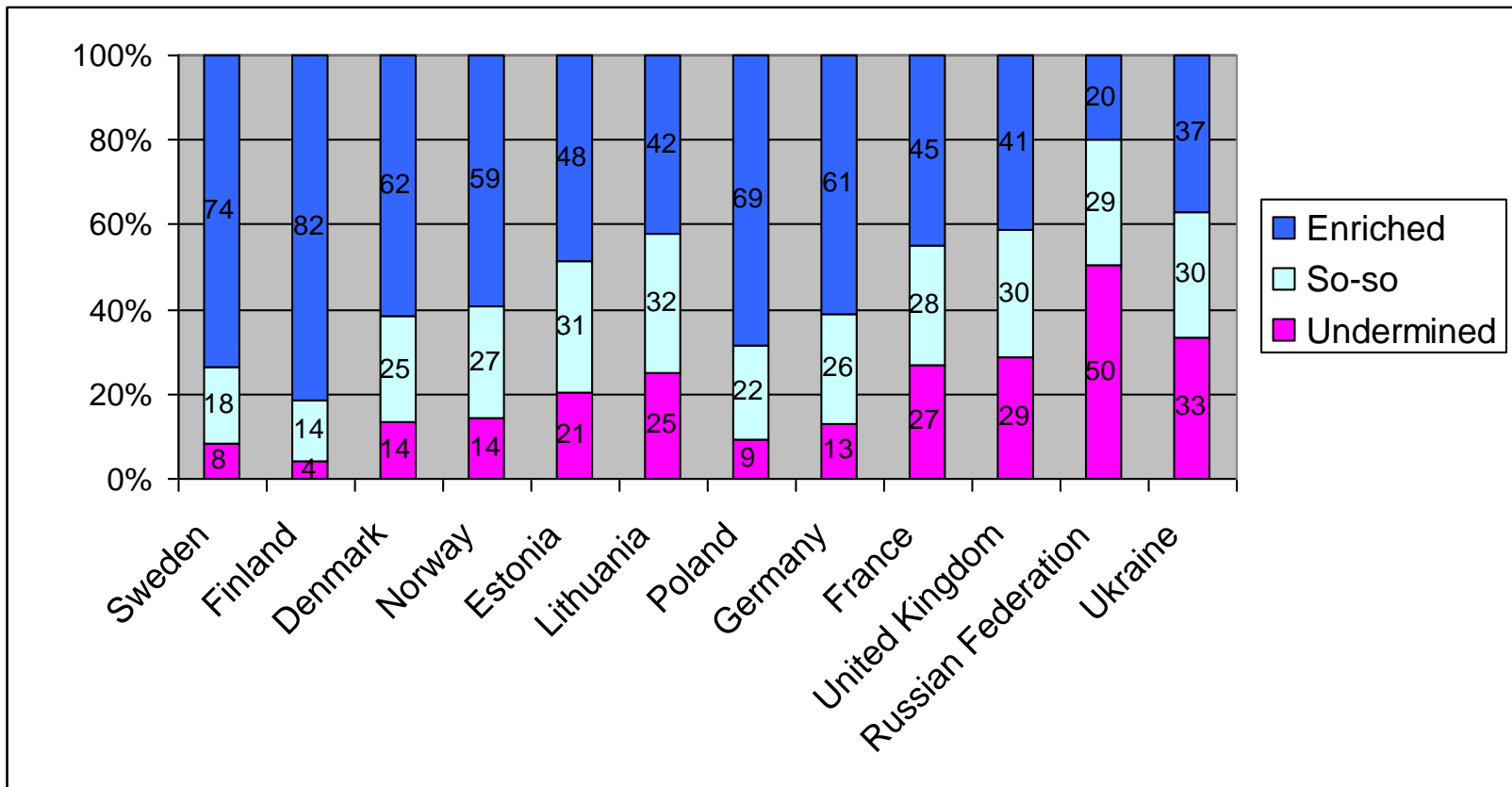
Source:

- European Social Survey (ESS 2012)

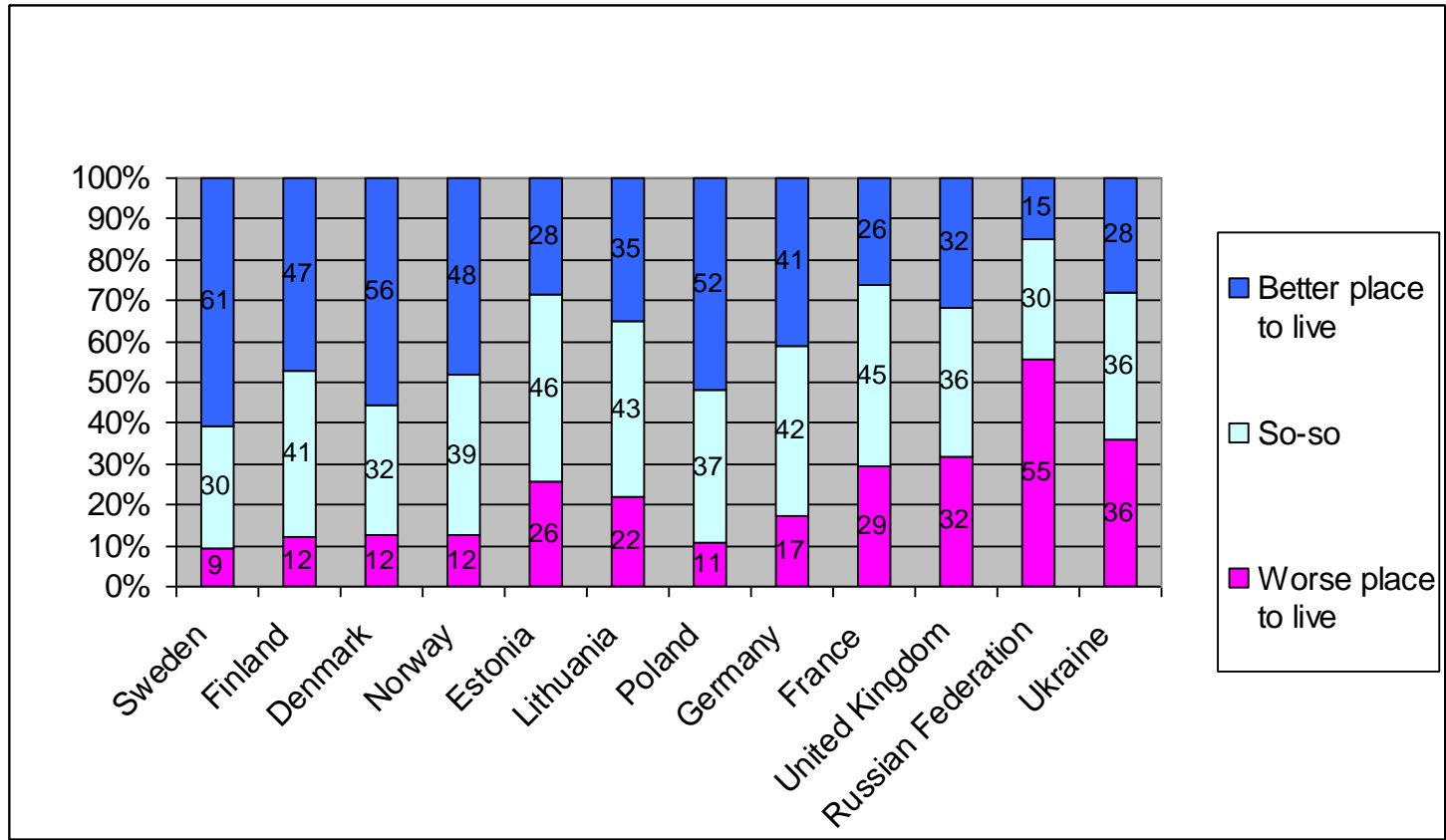
Immigration bad or good for the economy? Norway the most optimistic (ESS 2012)



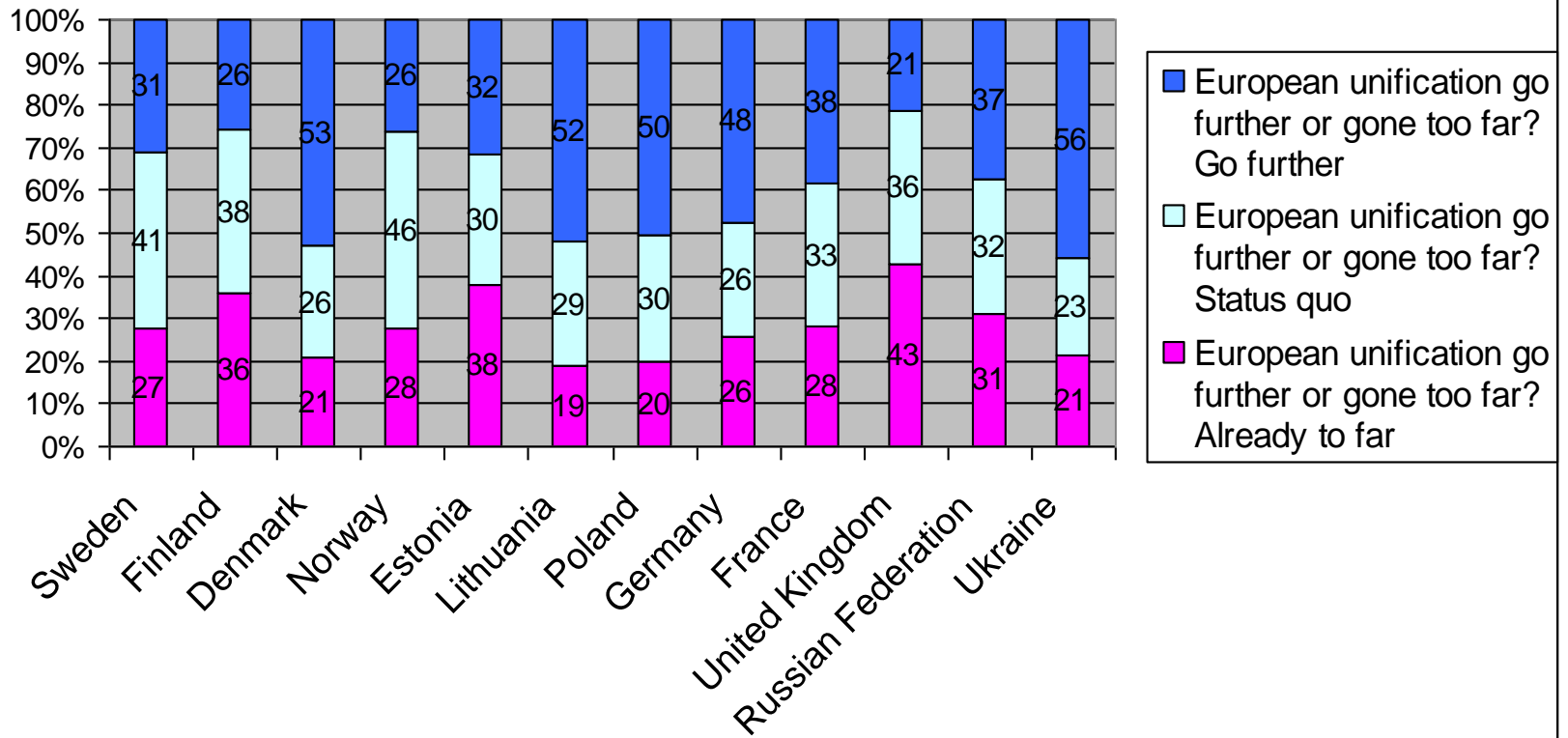
Country's culture enriched or undermined by immigration? Sweden, Finland and Poland exceptionally positive (ESS 2012)



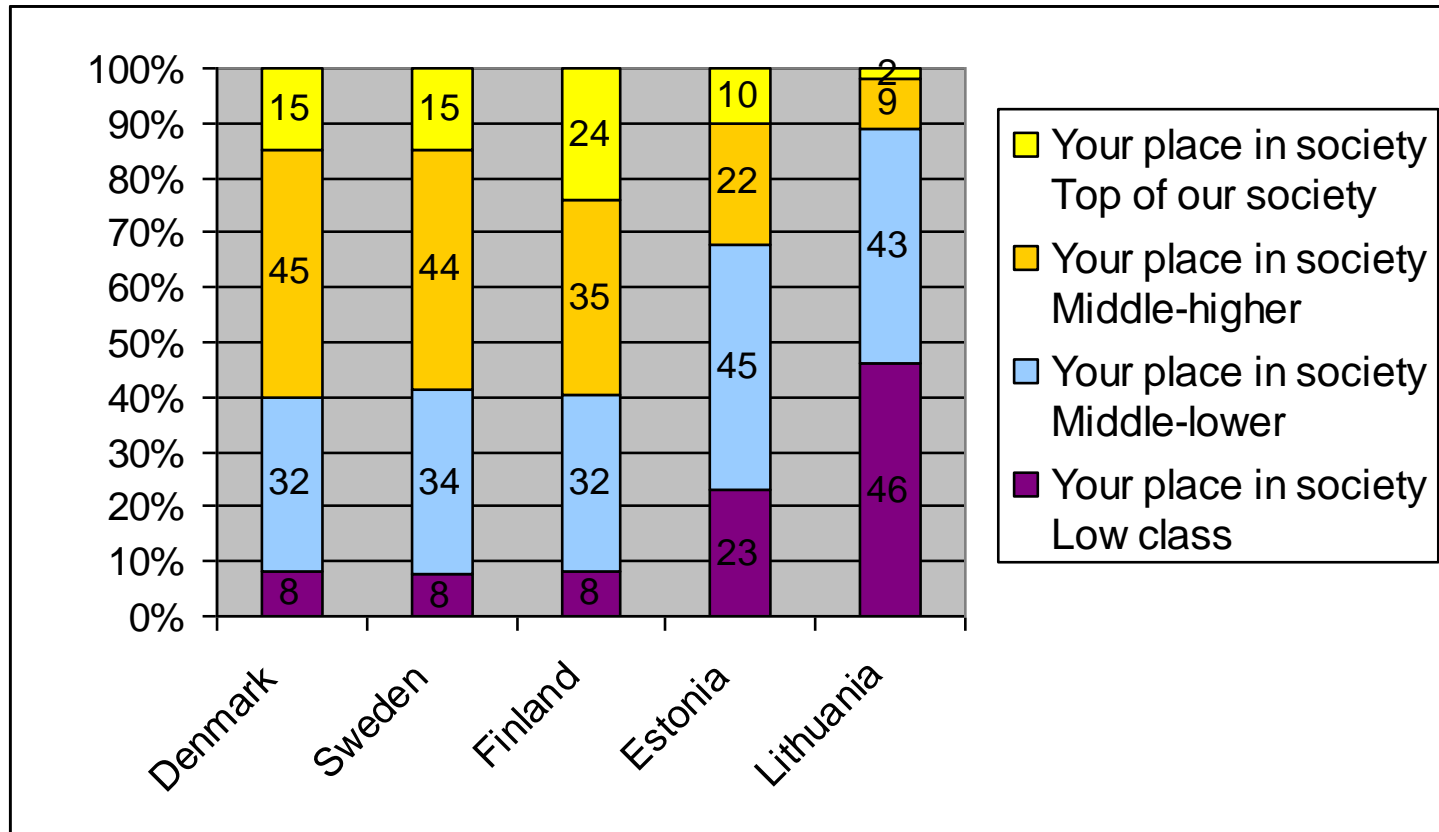
Immigrants make your country worse or better place to live? Northern countries more open (ESS 2012)



European unification should go further or gone already too far? Denmark, Lithuania and Germany the most supportive (ESS 2012)



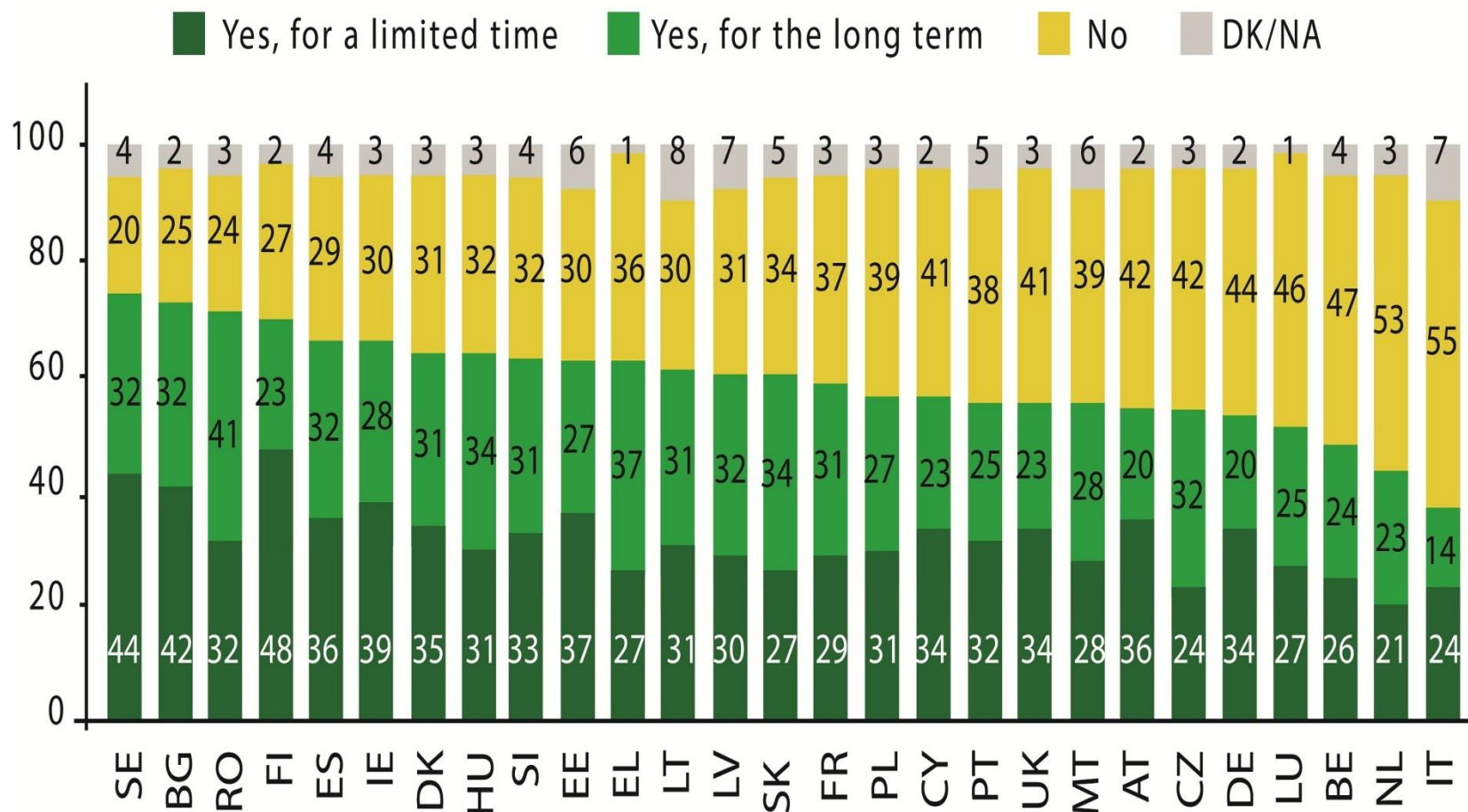
Place of society as perceived by the members of minority group. Minorities in the Baltic countries feel themselves on the lower side (ESS 2012)



How to harness the positive opportunities of the free movement of people in EU and avoid the risks emerging from the open EU labour market?

Opening Europe for the young people

Young people willingness to work in another EU country (Eurobarometer 2011)



EU policy supports mobility of students and teachers

- Only 10% of European higher education graduates have studied elsewhere in the EU. Numbers for degree (full-programme) mobility in the EU are even lower. This is partly because of the costs of studying in another EU country.
- In 2011 the Council adopted a benchmark on learning mobility within higher education according to which at least 20% of higher education graduates should have had a period of higher education-related study or training abroad (either for a full degree or a period of at least three months) by 2020
- In the framework of Erasmus for All programme the Commission has proposed a students' loan guarantee scheme to enable Master's level students who wish to complete a full degree programme in another EU country to access bank loans on favourable conditions. According to the Commission's proposal up to 330 000 students should benefit over the seven-year period of the programme.
- Furthermore, the Commission will continue to foster mobility for young people to study, train or volunteer abroad or to take part in youth exchanges.
- Teachers and educational staff will also be given the possibility to teach or train abroad. Thanks to the new programme, almost five million citizens should be able to benefit from these opportunities over the 2014-2020 period.

Removing obstacles for workers, students and trainees in the EU

- Citizens on the move boost the EU's economy
- Despite high levels of unemployment (over 26 million people in the EU), the number of unfilled vacancies is on the rise compared to mid-2009 and businesses face difficulties recruiting qualified staff.
- Labour mobility can thus be a powerful adjustment mechanism to address imbalances and contribute to a better matching of jobs and skills, whilst restoring dynamism and alleviating social suffering among EU citizens.

Traineeships framework

- To make it easier for young people to find quality work experience in another EU country, the Commission will develop a quality framework for traineeships setting out the terms for protecting trainees' rights and helping them make the most of their working experience.
- It will also review and reform the EURES network to make it more suitable to the real needs of the labour market by enhancing job matching services for the benefit of jobseekers and companies alike.
- It will in addition launch a pilot initiative with some Member States to improve the EURES information exchange about traineeships and apprenticeships with a view to further facilitating the transition to work for the young people.

Policy implications

- Removing legislative and other barriers, harmonization of the rules on the common labour market, digital single market and open market of services
- Ensuring the full rights of the EU citizens to live, work and participate in the public life in the other EU country
- Strengthening social and cultural dimensions of the EU: 'Cultural diplomacy', European media, common public sphere
- Removing cultural and informational barriers between South and North, East and West: 'European curriculum' in schools, facilitating exchange of students, apprentices, teachers etc

Thank you!