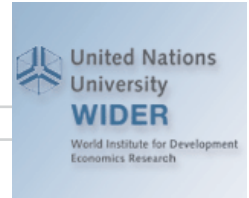


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**ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries**



Hanse



Wissenschaftskolleg

**The European System of Social Indicators:
A Tool for Welfare Measurement and
Monitoring Social Change**

Heinz-Herbert Noll

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Paper for the
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in Developing Countries**

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2-4th July 2004

The European System of Social Indicators: A Tool for Welfare Measurement and Monitoring Social Change

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www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/index.htm

Workshop on Measurement of Wellbeing in Developing Countries
Hanse Kolleg, Delmenhorst, July 2-4, 2004

What are Social Indicators?

- "Statistics ...and other forms of evidence - that enable us to assess where we stand and are going with respect to our values and goals."(Bauer 1966)
- A social indicator is a "direct measure of welfare and is subject to the interpretation that if it changes in the 'right' direction ...things have gotten better, or people are 'better off'". (Olson 1969)
- "All statistical information which is important in reference to the quality of life, modernization, and an active social policy." (Zapf 1977)
- „social indicators as measuring the means available to people to construct good lives“ (Esping-Andersen 2000)

Two Basic Functions of Social Indicators & Social Reporting

- **Measurement of Welfare**

Major objective:

To measure and monitor improvements or deteriorations of individual and societal well-being.

- **Monitoring of Social Change**

Major objective:

To measure and monitor structural changes and progress in modernization of a society and to register related problems and consequences.

Social Indicators and Social Reporting: Knowledge for whom and what?

- to inform and enlighten citizens and the general public
⇒ part of 'democratic infrastructure'
- to provide expert knowledge for political elites, administrations and governments
- to provide information for research and education
- ⇒ **Overall:** Creation and supply of knowledge for the continuous self-reflection of societies

Why Do We Need Social Indicators and Reporting at the European Level?

- process of European integration creates needs for more and better comparative information on social structures and conditions
- improvement of living conditions and the quality of life are among the main political goals of the European Union
- Maastricht treaty requests the presentation of social reports
- key role of social indicators and reporting in European social policy: benchmarking, best practice, open coordination
- post Lisbon process places new emphasis on social indicators to be used to monitor advances in goal attainment
- recent enlargement increases heterogeneity and inequality within the European Union



European System of Social Indicators

Overall Objective:

- To develop a theoretically as well as methodologically well-grounded set of social indicators to be used to monitor the development of welfare or quality of life as well as changes in the social structure at the European level.

General Properties and Requirements:

- science based, theory and concept driven approach
- comprehensive system
- European perspective
- use of most appropriate - valid and reliable - indicators
- use of best available databases and ensuring cross-national comparability

Final Product:

- EUSI - Electronic European Information System Social Indicators

Data, Policy and Concept Driven Approaches of Indicator Construction



- ◆ **Data Driven**

Data ⇒ Indicators ⇒ Classification of Indicators

e.g. Eurostat's „list of social Indicators“

- ◆ **Policy Driven**

Policy concerns ⇒ policy objectives ⇒ Indicators ⇒ Data

e.g. „Common Indicators Relating to National Strategies for Safe and Sustainable Pensions“ by Indicators Subgroup of the EU - Social Protection Committee

- ◆ **Concept Driven**

Concept ⇒ Measurement Dimensions ⇒ Indicators ⇒ Data

e.g. European System of Social Indicators (EUSI)

Developing a Conceptual Framework for Welfare Measurement

2 Types of Analysis:



Review of Available Concepts of Welfare:

- **Quality of Life**
- Human Development
- Livability
- **Sustainability**
- **Social Cohesion, Social Capital**
- Social Exclusion
- Social Quality



Review of Political Goals of Societal Development at EU-Level:

- European Treaties: Rome 1957, Maastricht 1992, Amsterdam 1997
- Other Official Documents of the European Commission:
 - White Papers, Communications, Action Programmes, etc.

Basic Approaches to Operationalize and Measure Quality of Life

- Scandinavian Level of Living Approach

⇒ Resources concept of welfare

Welfare defined as:

“individuals **command over resources**, by which a person can control and consciously direct her living conditions” (R. Erikson)

- American Quality of Life Approach

⇒ **“Subjective Well-being” as the ultimate goal and measure to evaluate social conditions and social development**

- German Approach as a synthesis of both

⇒ **Quality of life as a combination of good objective living conditions and a positive subjective appreciation of life (well-being)**

Typology of Welfare Positions

Objective Living Conditions	Subjective Well-Being	
	good	bad
Good	Well-Being	Dissonance
Bad	Adaptation	Deprivation

Source: Zapf 1984, p. 25

Social Cohesion - Definition & Dimensions

"The ongoing process of developing a **community of shared values, shared challenges and equal opportunity...based on a sense of trust, hope and reciprocity** among all Canadians"
(PRI 1999)

Canadian Policy Research Networks / Policy Research Initiative (Jenson 1998b, p. 15ff.):

- **Belonging – Isolation** (shared values, identity, feelings of commitment)
- **Inclusion – Exclusion** (equal opportunities of access)
- **Participation – Non-Involvement**
- **Recognition – Rejection** (issue of respecting and tolerating differences in pluralist society)
- **Legitimacy – Illegitimacy** (of institutions)

O' Connor (1998, p. 2), Social Cohesion depends on ...

- **ties that bind**, such as values, identity, culture
- **differences and divisions**: inequalities, inequities, cultural diversity, geographic divisions
- **social glue** (associations and networks, infrastructure, values, identity)

Woolley (1998, p. 2-5), Social Cohesion as ...

- **absence of social exclusion**
- **interactions and connections** based on social capital
- **shared values and communities** of interpretation based on group identity.

Approaches to Operationalise and Measure Sustainability

The Three Pillar Approach

- ecological / environmental sustainability
- economic sustainability
- social sustainability

The OECD's **Pressure-State-Response Model** (PSR)

- pressures on the environment / sustainability
- state of the environment / sustainability
- responses in terms of individual or collective activities

The World Bank's **Four Capital Approach**

- **natural capital**: the stock of environmental assets (land, water, minerals, flora fauna)
- **produced/man-made capital**: stock of machinery, factories, buildings etc.)
- **human capital**: people's productive capacities based on skills, education, health)
- **social capital**: social networks, associations and institutions

Dimensions of individual and societal welfare to be covered by the European System of Social Indicators:

Quality of Life

- Objective Living Conditions
- Subjective Well Being

Social Cohesion

- Inequalities, Fragmentation, Exclusion
- Social Relations, Bonds, Inclusion (social capital)

Sustainability

- Human Capital
- Natural Capital

European System of Social Indicators: Conceptual Framework

	Welfare Measurement	Monitoring Social Change
Individual Level	<i>Quality of Life</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- living conditions- subjective well being	<i>Values and Attitudes</i> <i>e.g.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- postmaterialism- gender roles- party preferences <i>etc.</i>
Societal Level	<i>Quality of Society</i> <i>Sustainability</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- preservation of natural and human capital <i>Social Cohesion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- reduction of disparities, inequalities, exclusion- strengthening of relations and ties	<i>Social Structure</i> <i>e.g.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- demographic- social class- employment <i>etc.</i>

Life Domains & Measurement Dimensions

Life Domains

- Population, Households and
- Transportation
- Leisure, Media and Culture
- Social and Political Participation
Integration
- Income, Standard of Living,
Consumption Patterns
- Education and Vocational Training
- Health
- Housing
- Labour Market and Working
- Social Security
- Public Safety and Crime
- Environment
- Total Life Situation

Domain-specific Measurement Dimensions

e.g.

- ▶ Child Care Services
- ▶ Evaluation of Leisure Time
- ▶ Income Inequality
- ▶ Trust in Educational System
- ▶ Health Prevention
- ▶ Environmental Impacts of
Housing
- ▶ Occupational structure
- ▶ Attitudes towards
- ▶ Environmental Protection

Dimensions of Welfare

Quality of Life

- ▶ Objective Living Conditions
- ▶ Subjective Well-Being

Social Cohesion

- ▶ Disparities, Inequalities, Social
Exclusion
- ▶ Social Ties/Social Capital

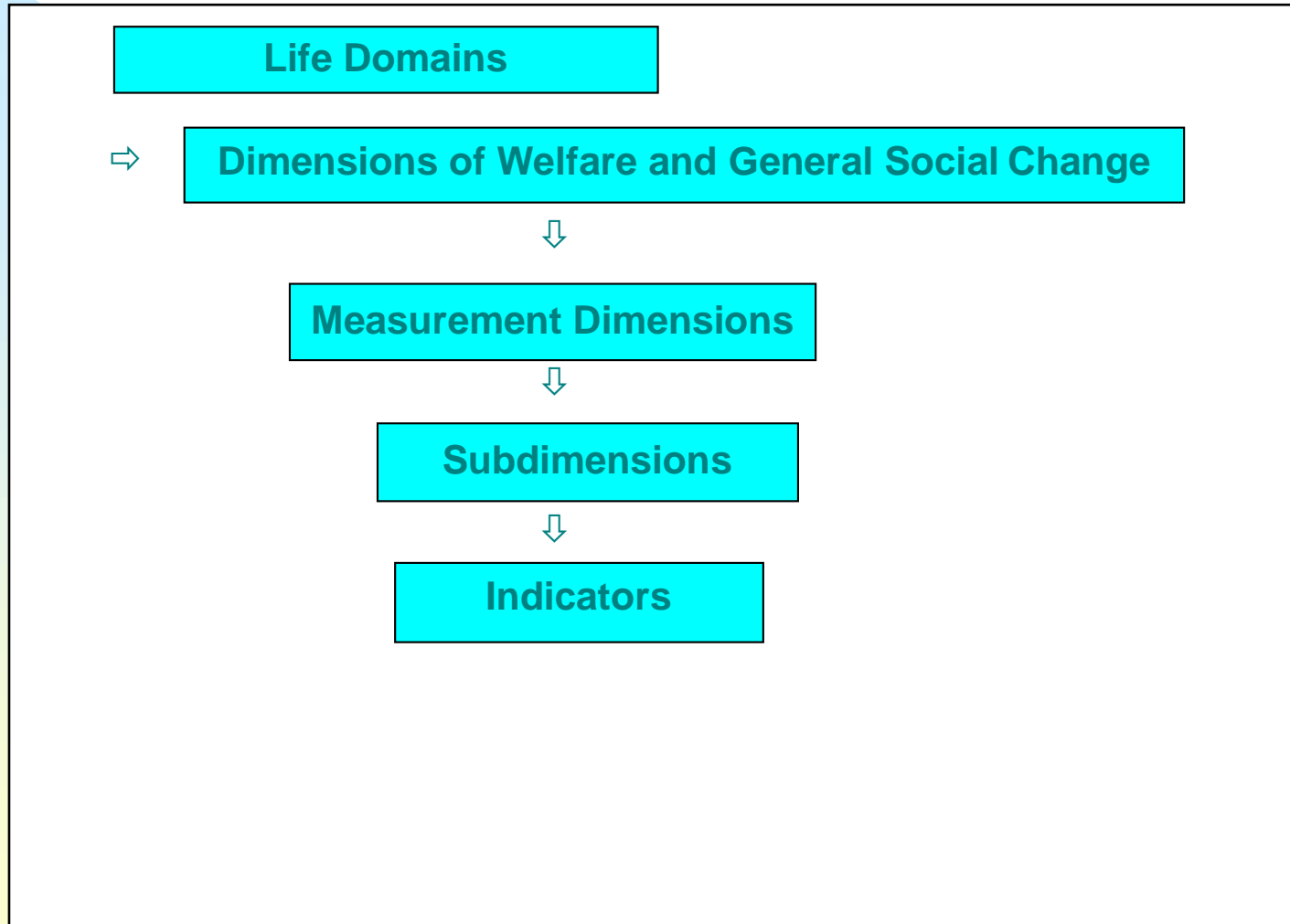
Sustainability

- ▶ Human Capital
- ▶ Natural Capital

Dimensions of Social Change

- ▶ Sociodemographic and -economic
Structure
- ▶ Values and Attitudes

Dimensional Structure of the European System of Social Indicators



Some Additional Elements of System's Architecture

- Indicators:
objective (outcomes, resources, conditions, inputs)
and subjective (outcomes)
- Coverage
EU15 - Member States + Norway, Switzerland, Czech Republic,
Hungary, Poland, Japan, United States

new EU member states will be included
- Periodicity of Observation
Starting point of time-series: 1980; year by year observations as far
as data are available
- Level of Regional Disaggregation: NUTS-1 or similar level as far
as meaningful and data are available

Data Sources Used for the European System of Social Indicators

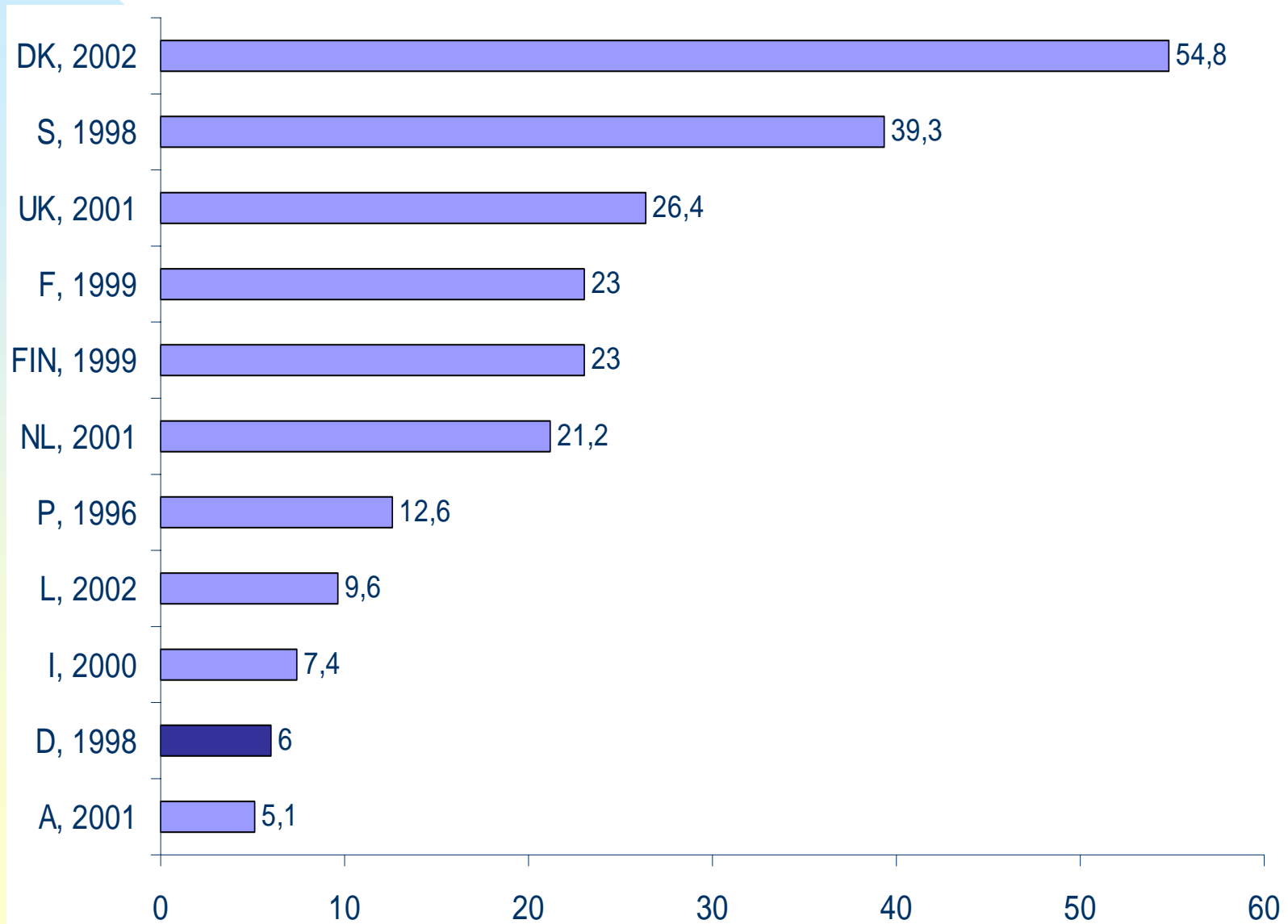
Aggregate data from official national and supra-national statistics (examples):

- Eurostat / European Commission:
 - New Cronos Database
 - Demographic Statistics
 - Labour Force Surveys
 - Household Budget Surveys
 - European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS)
- Council of Europe, Demographic Data Base
- UNESCO/ OECD/ Eurostat Data on Education
- WHO – Health for All Database
- OECD Health Data
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- European Environment Agency (EEA)

Microdata from international Surveys (examples):

- Eurostat / European Commission:
 - European Community Household Panel (ECHP)
 - Eurobarometer Studies
 - Central and Eastern Eurobarometer (CEEB)
 - Candidate Countries Eurobarometer (CCEB)
- World Values Survey (WVS)
- European Values Study (EVS)
- International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)
- European Social Survey (ESS)
- European Survey on Working Conditions
- Euromodule

Dimension: Objective Living Conditions
Life Domain: Population, Households, Families
Indicator: Coverage of Care Services for Children aged less than 3 years (in %)



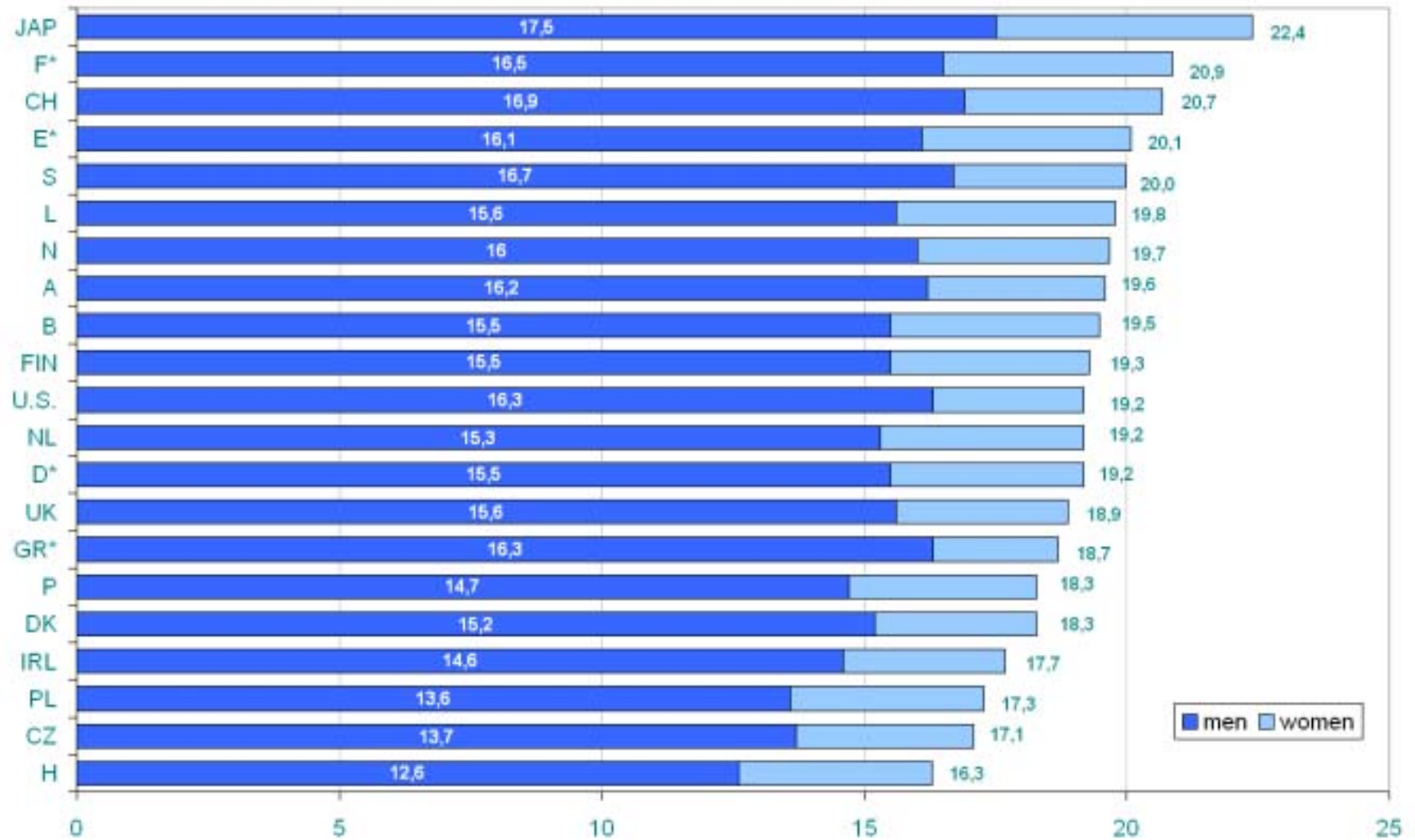
Data Sources Indicator „Child Care Services

A: Statistik Austria, Statistical Yearbook; D: 1982-1990/91: Rostgaard, T./Fridberg, T., Caring for Children and Older People - A Comparison of European Policies and Practises, Copenhagen, Danish National Institute of Social Research 1998; D 1994: Federal Statistical Office Germany, Fachserie 13, Reihe 6.3.1; D 1998: Deutsches Jugendinstitut e.V.: Zahlenspiegel. Daten zu Tageseinrichtungen für Kinder; DK 1982-1996: Rostgaard/ Fridberg 1998; DK 1999-2002: Statistics Denmark, Statistical Yearbook; F 1986-1996: Rostgaard/Fridberg 1998; F 1998,1999: Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité, Annuaire des Statistiques Sanitaires et Sociales; Ministère de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation National et de la Recherche: Repères et Références Statistiques sur les Enseignements et la Formation 2001; FIN 1994-1996: Rostgaard/Fridberg 1998; FIN 1999: Feasibility Study on the Availability of Comparable Child Care Statistics in the European Union, Eurostat Working Paper, Luxembourg 2002; I 1983, 1991, 1992: Dipartimento Affari Sociali, Centro Nazionale per la Tutela dell' Infanzia, Rapporto sulla condizione dei minori in Italia 1996; I 2000: Centro Nazionale di Documentazione e Analisi per l' Infanzia e l' Adolescenza, Istituto degli Innocenti, banca dati statistica, online; L: STATEC, Recueil de Statistiques par Commune, online; NL: Rostgaard/Fridberg 1998; Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sport/Ministry of Education, Culture & Science, Early Childhood Education and Care Policy in the Netherlands. Background Report to the OECD-project 'Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Policy'; SGBÖ, Kinderopvang in gemeenten, de monitor over 2001; P: Ministry of Education: Early Childhood Education and Care Policy in Portugal. Background Report to the OECD-project 'Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Policy'; S 1982-1996: Rostgaard/Fridberg 1998; S 1997-98: Statistics Sweden, Statistical Database, online; UK 1982-1996: Rostgaard/Fridberg 1998; UK 1997-2001: Department for Education and Skills, Statistics of Education: Children's Day Care Facilities at 31 March 2001 England; H: Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Yearbook of Welfare Statistics 2000 and Hungarian Statistical Yearbook; N: Statistics Norway, Barnehager 2000; PL: Central Statistical Office, Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland, various years; Jap: Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare, Statistical Abstracts on Health and Welfare in Japan, various years

Life Domain: Health

Measurement Dimension: State of Health

Indicator: Life Expectancy at Age 65 in 2000 (* 1999)

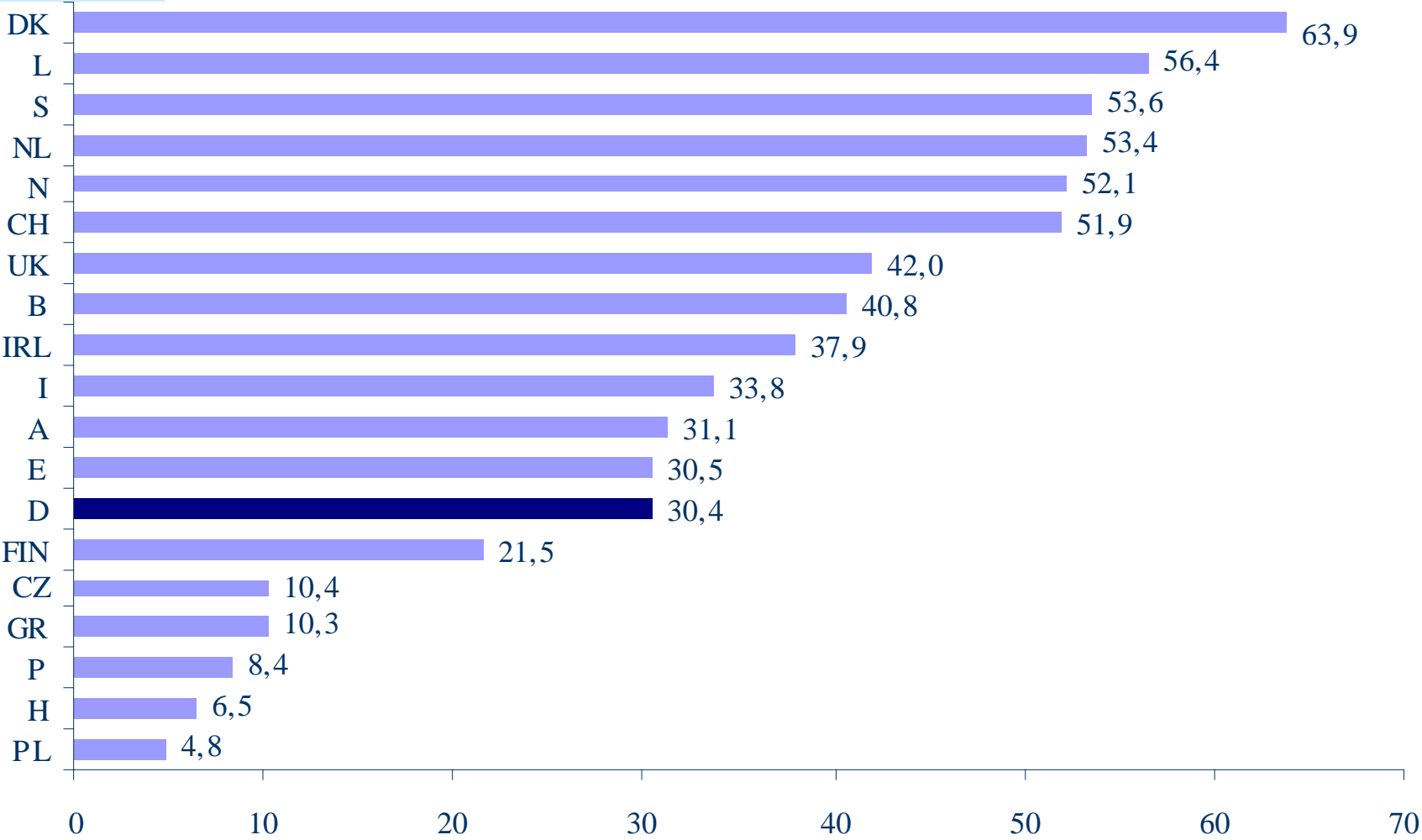


Database: OECD Health Data

Dimension: Subjective Well-being

Life Domain: Income, Standard of Living and Consumption Patterns

Indicator: Possibility to live comfortable on present income (in %)

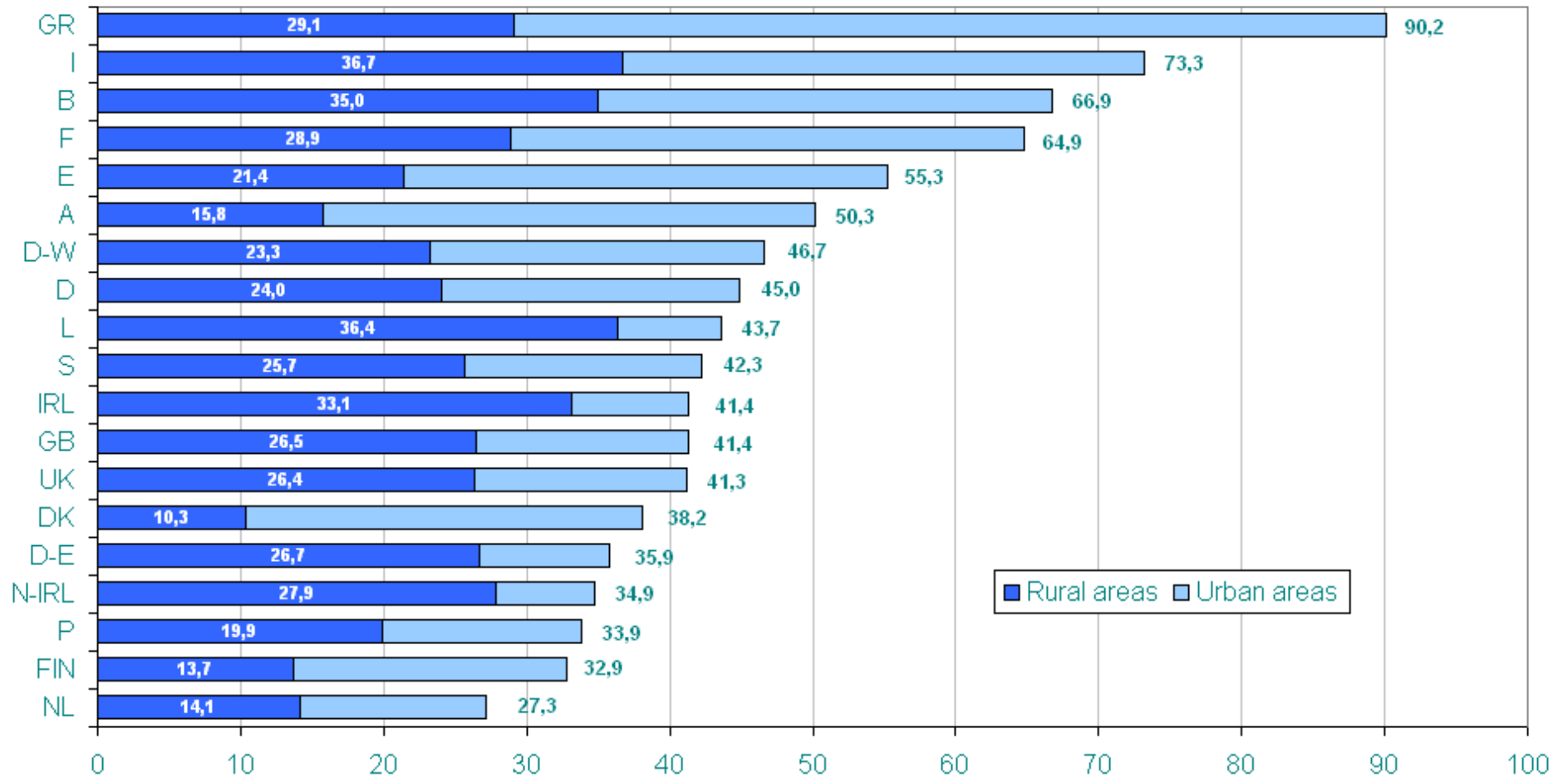


Database: European Social Survey

Life Domain: Housing

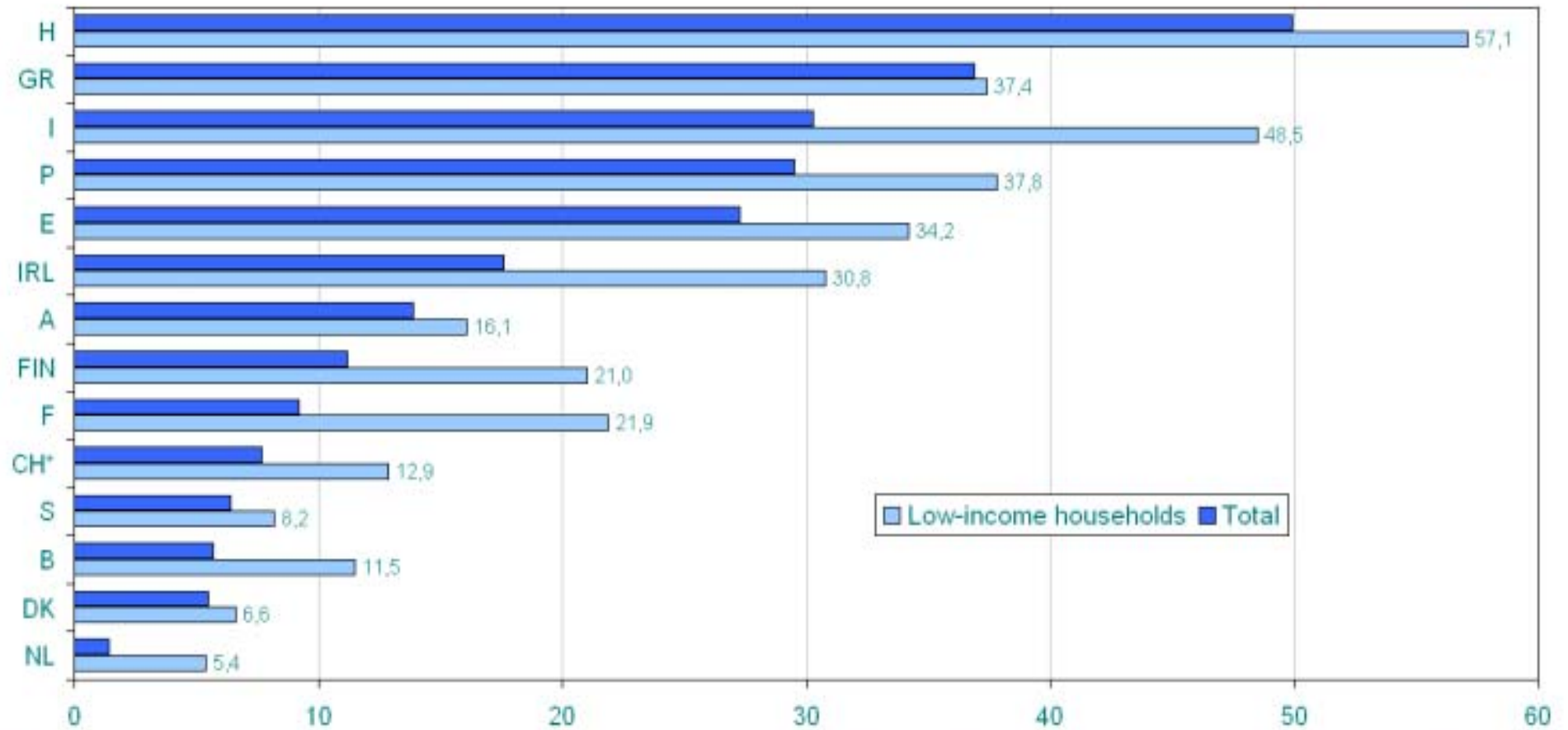
Measurement Dimension: Residential Area

Indicator: Air Pollution (Percentage of persons who have reasons to complain) in 1999



Database: Eurobarometer

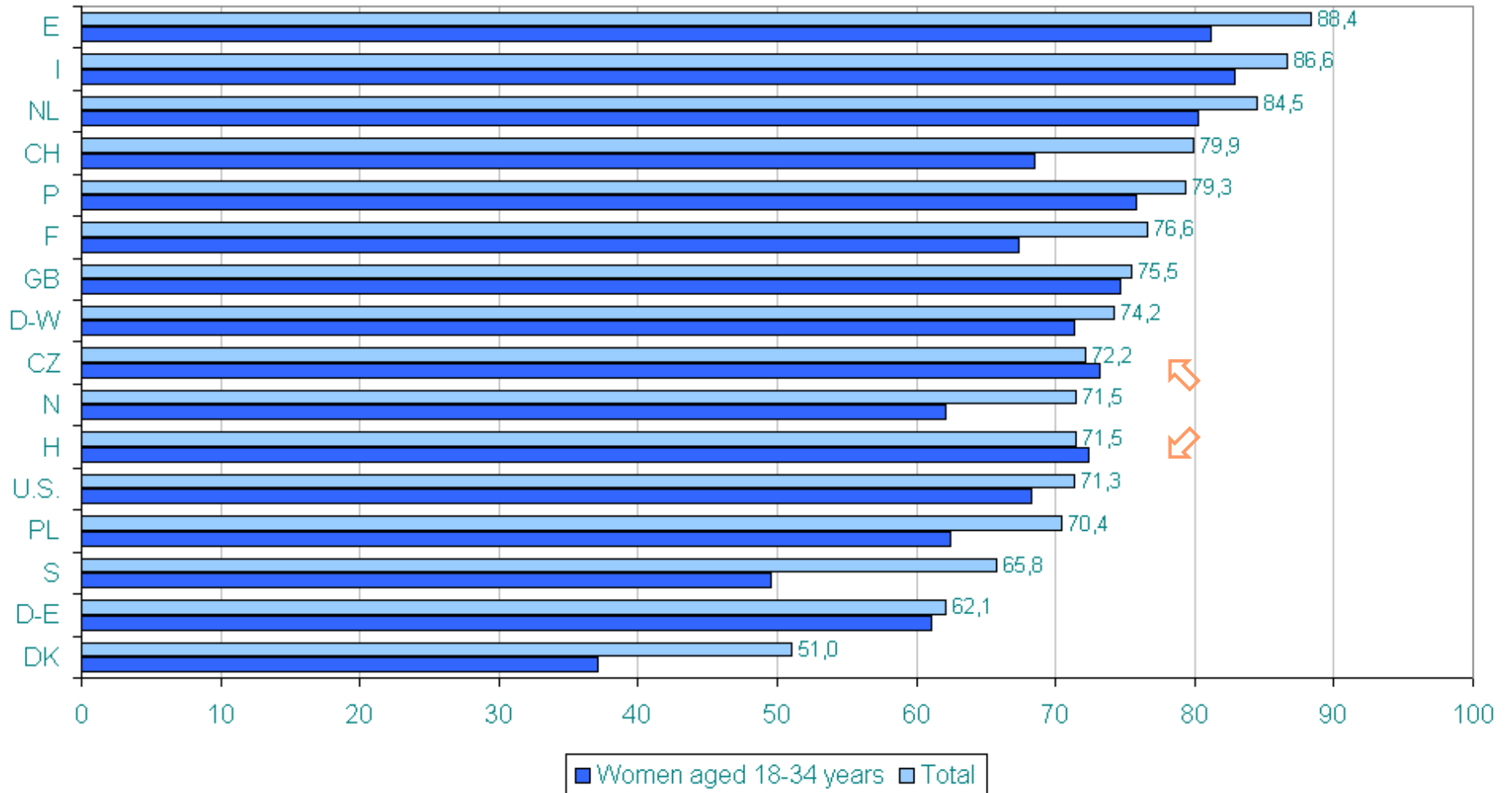
Life Domain: Housing
 Measurement Dimension: Social Exclusion
 Indicator: Overcrowded Dwellings¹ (%) in 1999 (+ 2000)



¹ Percentage of persons living in a dwelling where the number of rooms (without kitchen) is less than the number of household

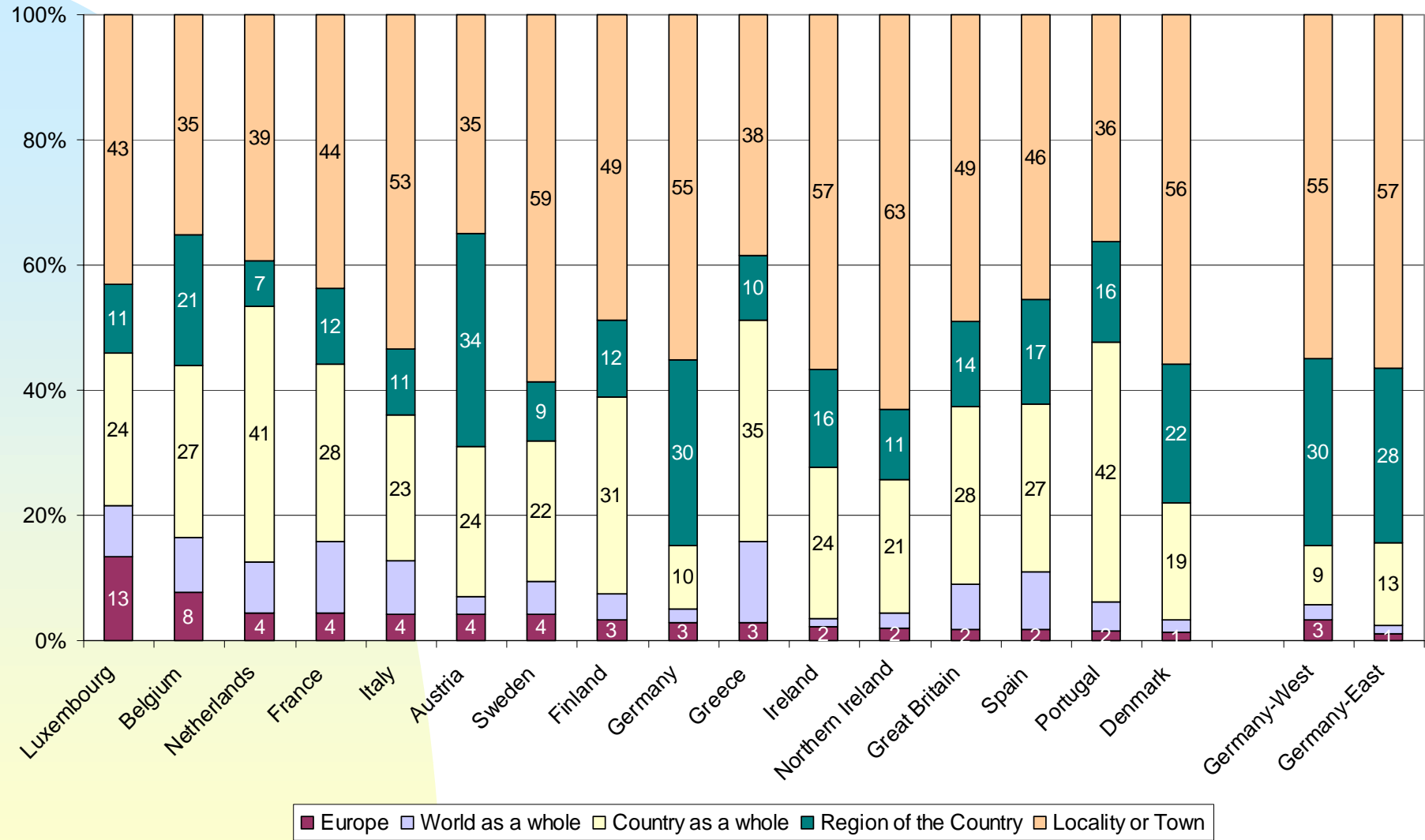
Database: ECHP, Euromodule

Life Domain: Population, Households and Families
 Measurement Dimension: Equal Opportunities of Women and Men
 Indicator: Responsibility for Household Work (% women being "mainly responsible") in 1997



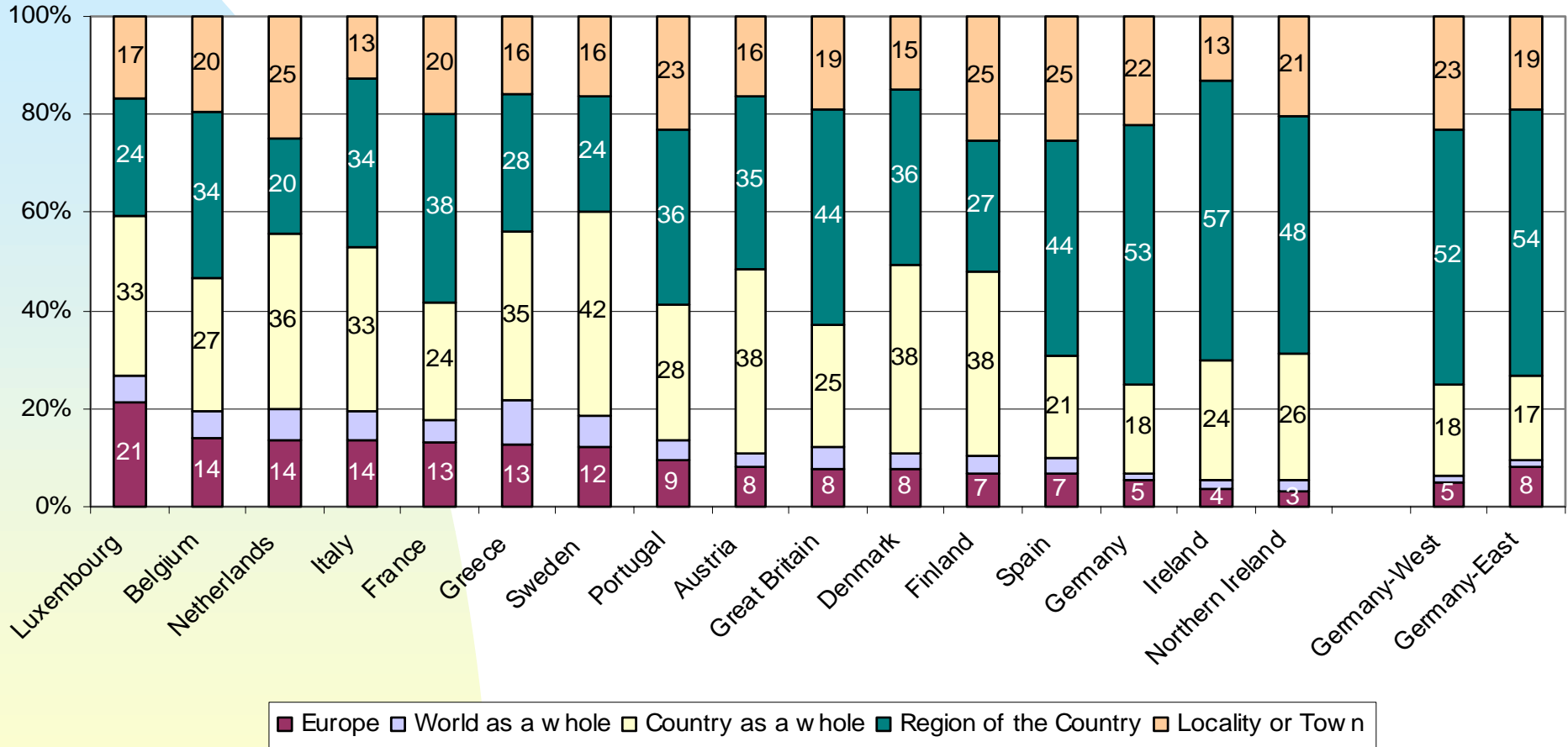
Database: International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)

Which of these geographical groups you belong to first of all (first mention)?
Sorted by "Europe"



Database: European Values Study 1999/2000

Which of these geographical groups you belong to ...next (second mention)?
Sorted by "Europe"



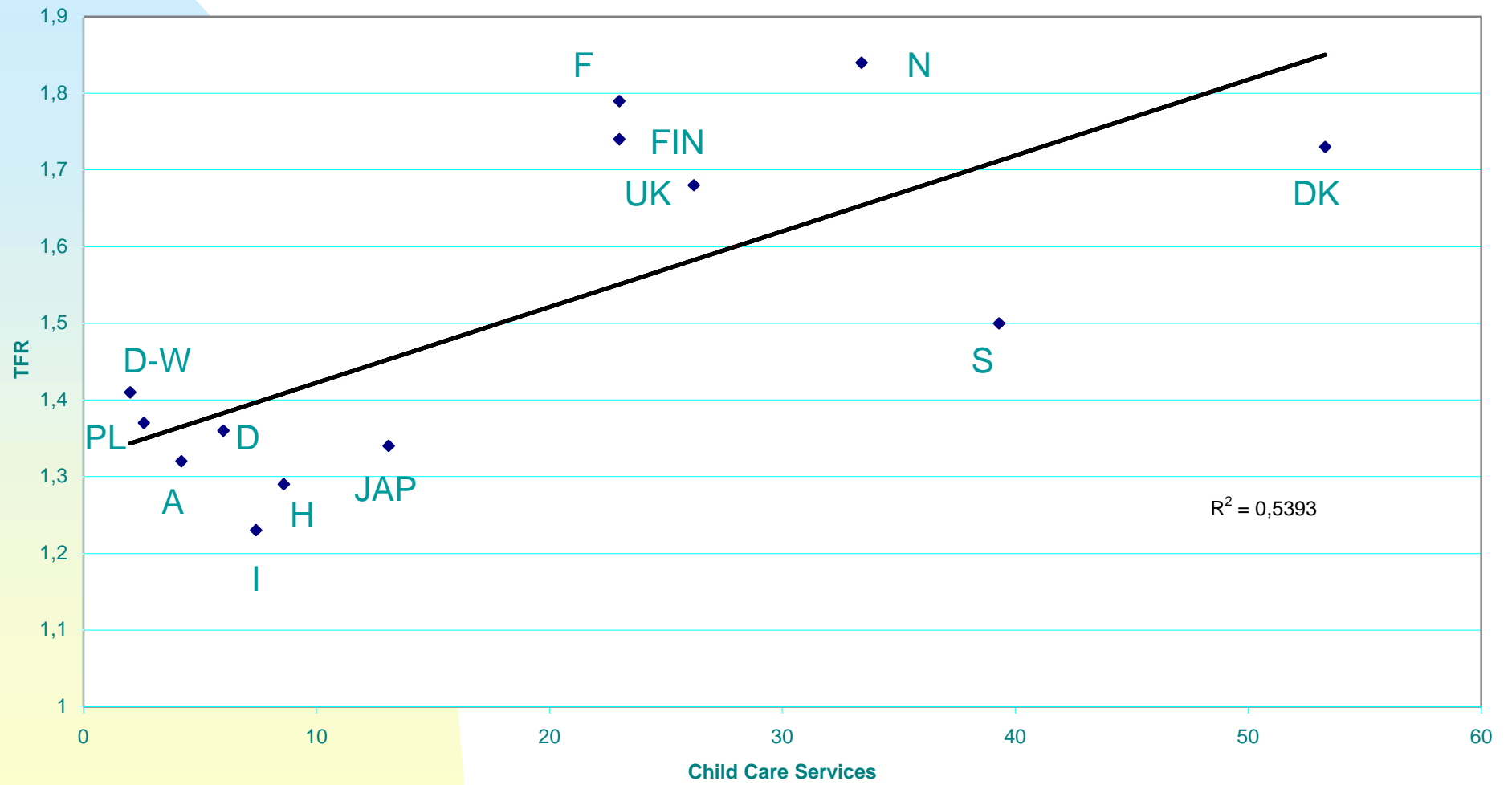
Database: European Values Study 1999/2000

Potential Uses and Applications

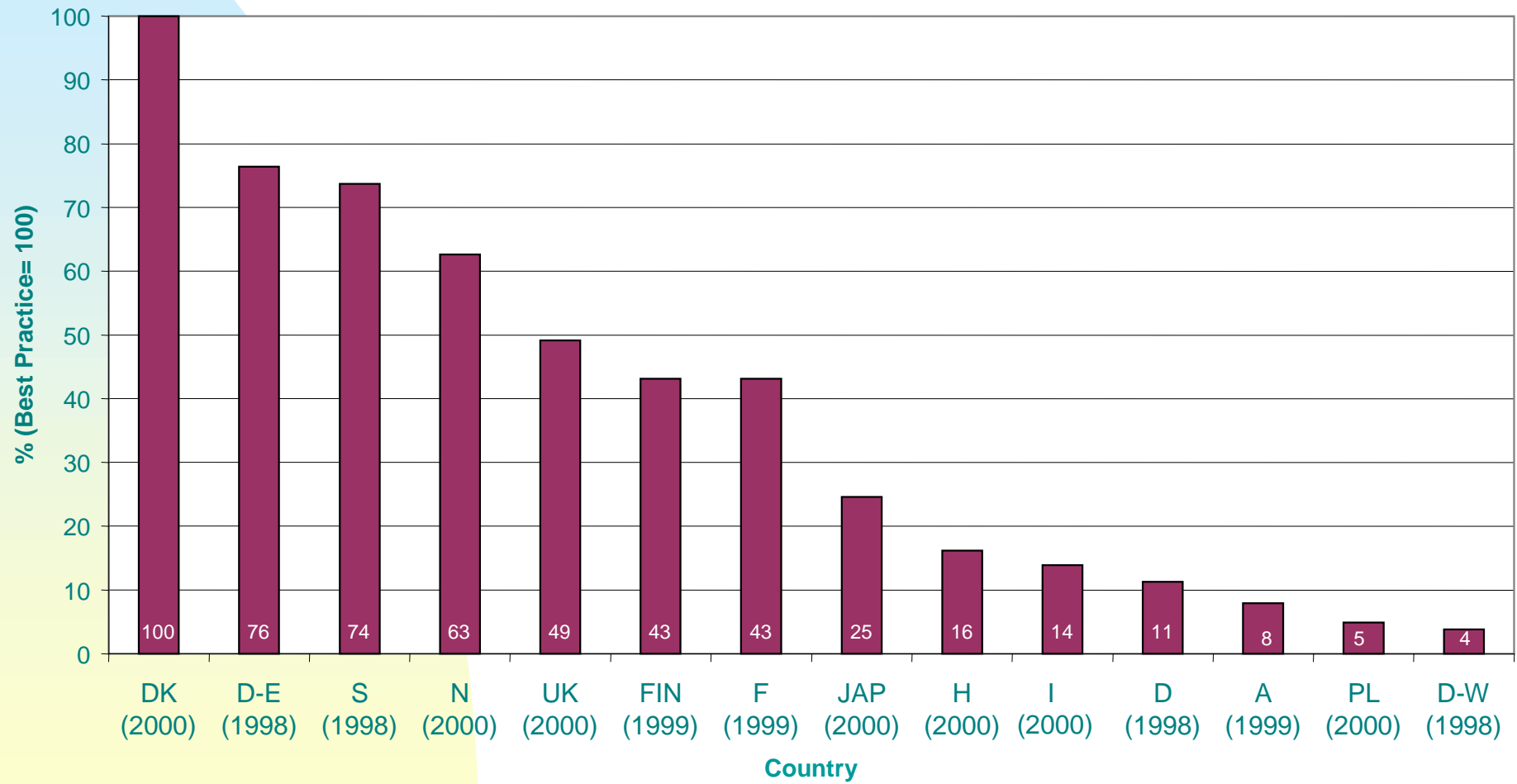
- Monitoring Tool for Comparative Social Research and Reporting
 - descriptive background information for comparative microdata analysis (e.g. based on European Social Survey)
 - database to be used for the comparative charting and analysis of macro social change in Europe (attitudinal and structural)
 - database to be used for testing of macro-sociological hypotheses
 - database to be used for monitoring and analysis of individual welfare and societal quality across Europe

- Monitoring Tool for Policy Making
 - information on goal achievement
 - Information on convergence and divergence
 - benchmarking / information on best practice
 - Identification of deficiencies and need for action

Total Fertility Rate by Supply of Child Care Services



Coverage of Child Care Services for Children Aged less than 3 Years In % of Best Practice (DK)



Domains **totally** or in part completed:

- **Population, Household and Family**
ca. 140 Indicators
- **Housing**
ca. 50 Indicators
- Education and Vocational Training
- **Labour Market and Working Conditions**
ca. 160 Indicators
- Income, Standard of Living, and Consumption Patterns
- Health

Two Major Forms of Use and Access to the Data:

- Website:

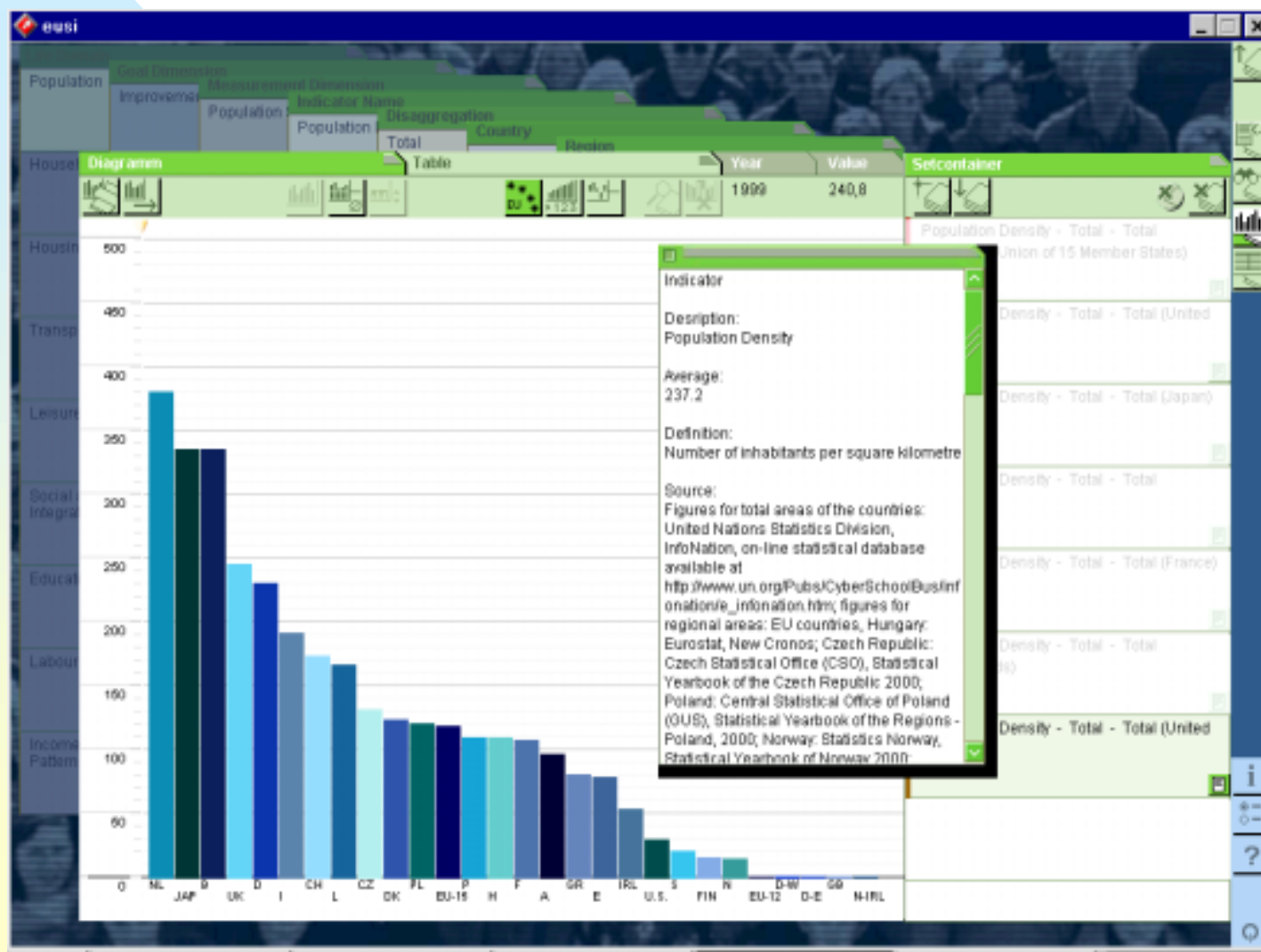
www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/EU_Reporting/eusi.htm

Life Domain: Labour Market and Working Conditions
Measurement Dimension: Employment: Potential and Level
Subdimension: Labour Force: Participation
Indicator: H1122: Labour Force Participation Rate
Definition: Share of labour force aged 15-64 years in the working age population
Population: Total Population Disaggregated by Regions

Country/Region	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	97
EU-12										66.7	67.3	68.1	68.6	69.7	69.9	69.9	6	
EU-15																67.1	67.9	6
Austria																71.6	71.1	7
Österreich																72.9	72.2	7
Belgien																61.7	62.4	6
Vlaanderen																52.7	52.1	7
Wallonie																69.6	69.9	6
Belgium																62.1	62.2	6
Région Bruxelles-capitale																62.0	61.1	6
Vlaams Gewest																61.7	61.7	6
Région Wallonie																58.6	58.7	6
Germany																70.1	70.5	7
Sachsen																70.9	70.8	7
Sachsen-Anhalt																70.0	71.8	7
Baden-Württemberg																74.0	74.4	7
Bayern																74.0	74.4	7
Berlin																76.4	74.9	7
Brandenburg																76.7	74.1	7
Chemnitz																76.4	74.9	7
Hessen																71.8	71.8	7
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern																69.6	69.3	6
Niederrhein																75.6	75.0	7
Nordrhein-Westfalen																69.0	69.8	6
Rheinland-Pfalz																69.0	68.2	6
Saarland																69.3	69.6	6
Sachsen																67.8	68.1	6
Sachsen-Anhalt																61.8	61.0	6
Schleswig-Holstein																76.4	75.1	7
Thüringen																74.9	73.8	7
Traralgon																71.7	71.1	7
Traralgon																74.7	73.4	7

■ Electronic European Information System Social Indicators (Prototype)

⇒ Planned: Web-based Electronic Information System



More information on the European System of Social Indicators:

http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/EU_Reporting/eusi.htm

Berger-Schmitt, Regina; Noll, Heinz-Herbert: Conceptual Framework and Structure of a European System of Social Indicators. EuReporting Working Paper No. 9, Subproject "European System of Social Indicators". Mannheim: Centre for Survey Research and Methodology (ZUMA), Social Indicators Department, 2000

Noll, Heinz-Herbert: Towards a European System of Social Indicators: Theoretical Framework and System Architecture. In: Social Indicators Research, Special Issue, Vol. 58 (2002), 1-3, S. 47-84.