

Social Justice in the EU – The State of Play

Composite Indicators and Scoreboards, 08 November 2018, Ispra

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Agenda

- 1. Measuring the State of Social Justice: Concept and Approach**
- 2. Results of the Social Justice Index 2017**
- 3. Dissemination**
- 4. Challenges**

Social Justice Index in Brief



- Cross-national comparison of social justice in all EU countries
- Latest edition published in October 2017
- Index based on 39 indicators
- Download at www.sgi-network.org and www.social-inclusion-monitor.eu

Theoretical Background of the Social Justice Index

Social Justice...

as a constitutive element of legitimacy and stability of any political community

Our understanding:

- de facto equal opportunities as a conceptual ideal: guaranteeing each individual genuinely equal opportunities for self-realization through targeted investment in the development of individual „capabilities“
- investment in inclusion instead of compensation of exclusion
- goal of creating equal opportunities – today and tomorrow – requires creating the necessary social, economic and ecological conditions
→ link between social justice and sustainability

Dimensions and Indicators of the Social Justice Index

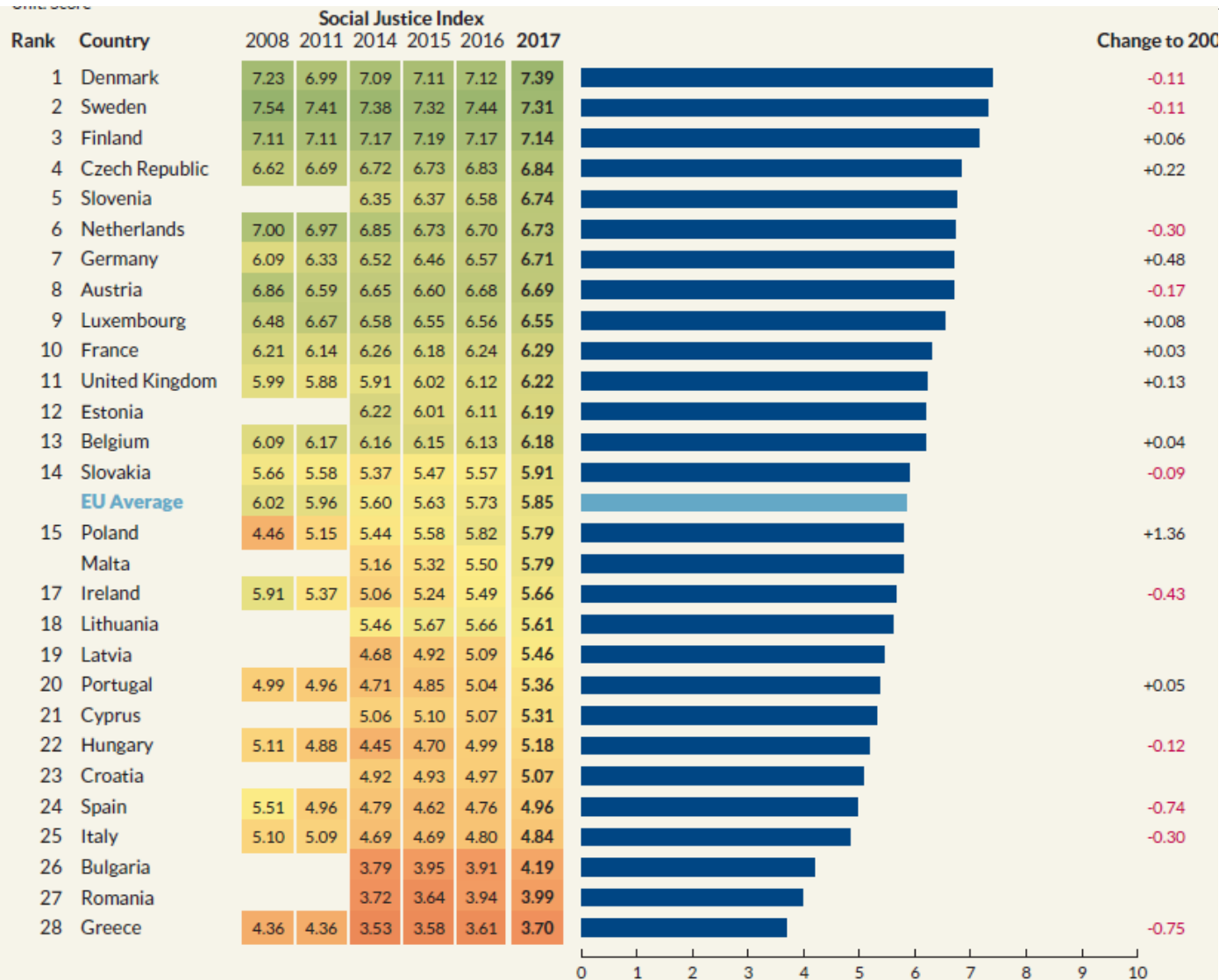


Example for qualitative indicator: Integration Policy

Cultural, education and social policies effectively support the integration of migrants into society.	10 9
Cultural, education and social policies seek to integrate migrants into society, but have failed to do so effectively.	8 7 6
Cultural, education and social policies do not focus on integrating migrants into society.	5 4 3
Cultural, education and social policies segregate migrant communities from the majority society.	2 1

Experts have to give a written explanation!

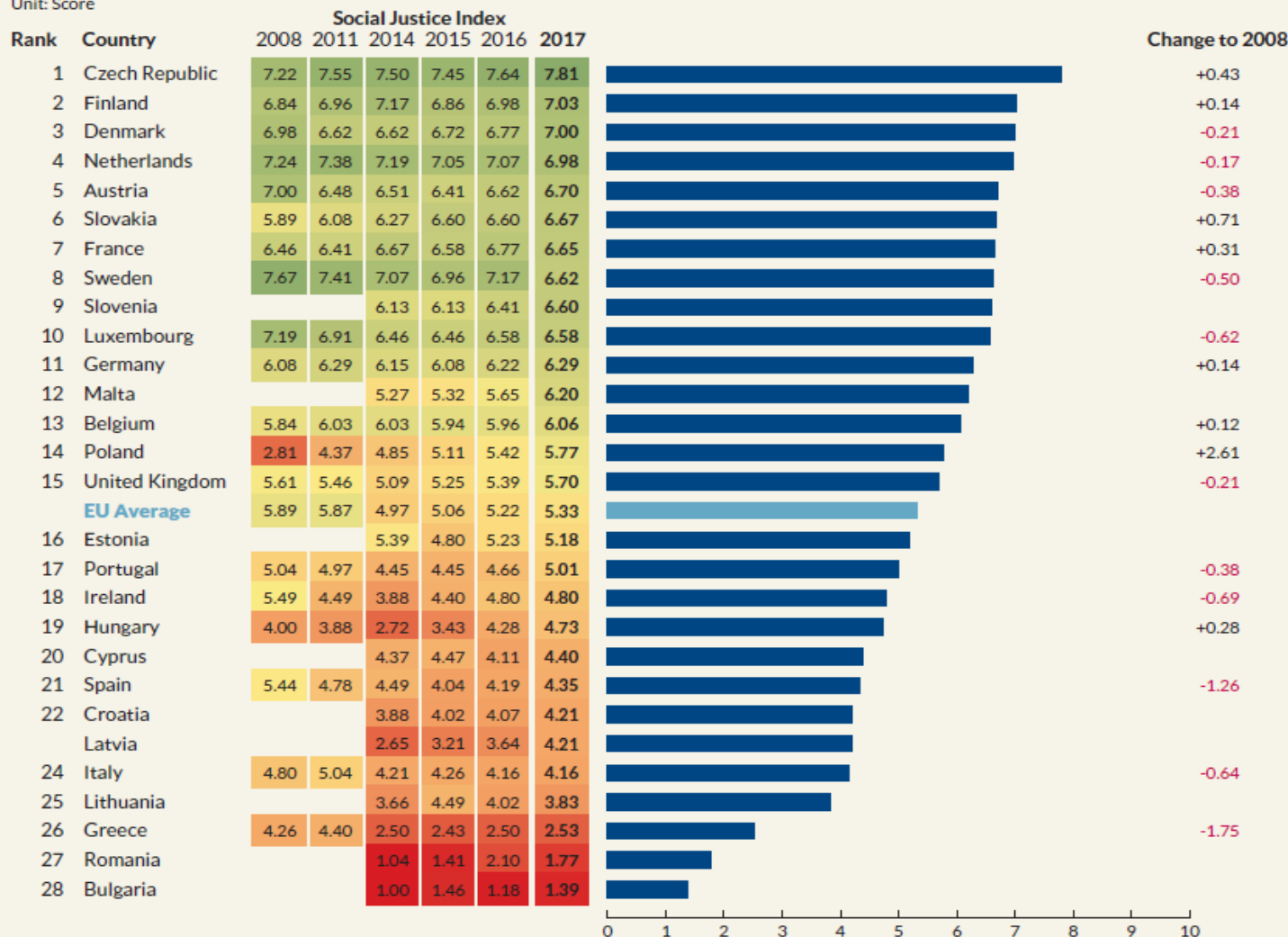
EU Social Justice Index 2017



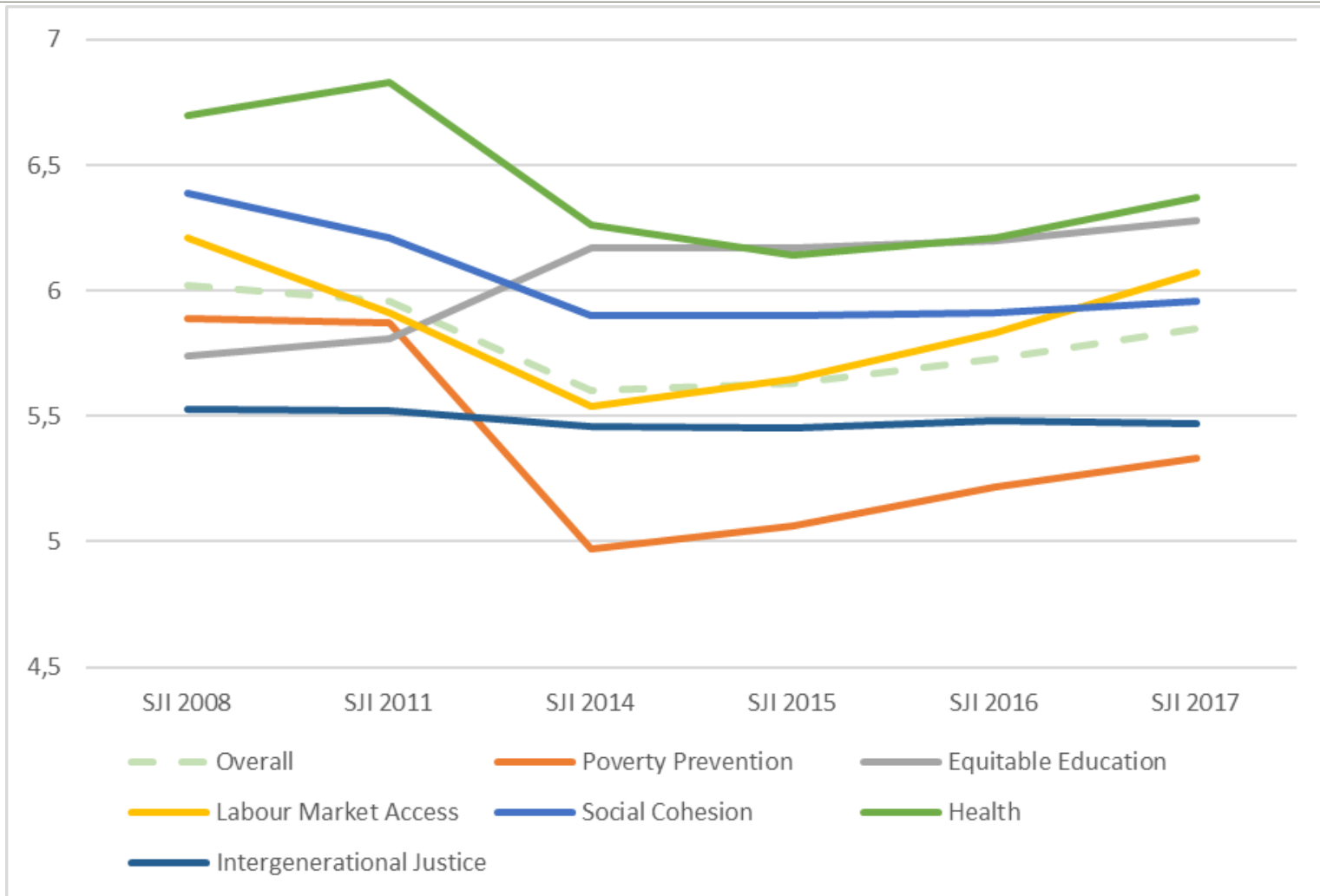
Poverty Prevention

FIGURE 6 Poverty prevention

Unit: Score



Social Justice Index: Dimension trends



SJI 2017 – Overall Results

- Upward trend is evident in most member states, but many countries have not reached their pre-crisis level yet
- Improvement is driven by recovery in the labour market, job opportunities have improved in 26 countries compared to SJI 2016
- Risk of poverty has fallen slightly across the EU, but north-south gap remains large (CZ: 13,3 %, GR: 35,6%, BUL: 40,4) Severe material deprivation: SWE: 0,8 %, BUL: 31,9 %)
- Large but shrinking gap between generations
- The share of “Working poor” has risen

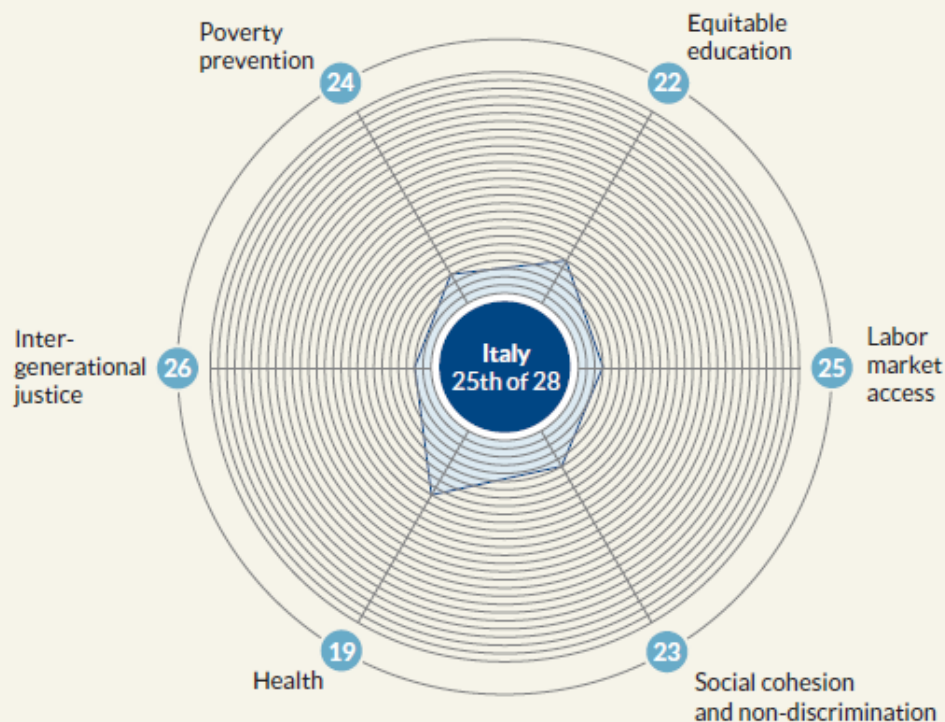
SJI 2017 – Conclusions

- Most EU countries are still far from achieving a „Social Triple – A“ rating
 - EU policymakers need to take seriously the fact that social justice can promote growth
 - urgent need for an integrated long-term strategy to support this positive-sum relationship
 - EU's pillar of social rights (reference framework to monitor the employment and social performance of participating Member States) is a step in the right direction
- The question is if it helps to drive reforms at the national level

28 Country Profiles

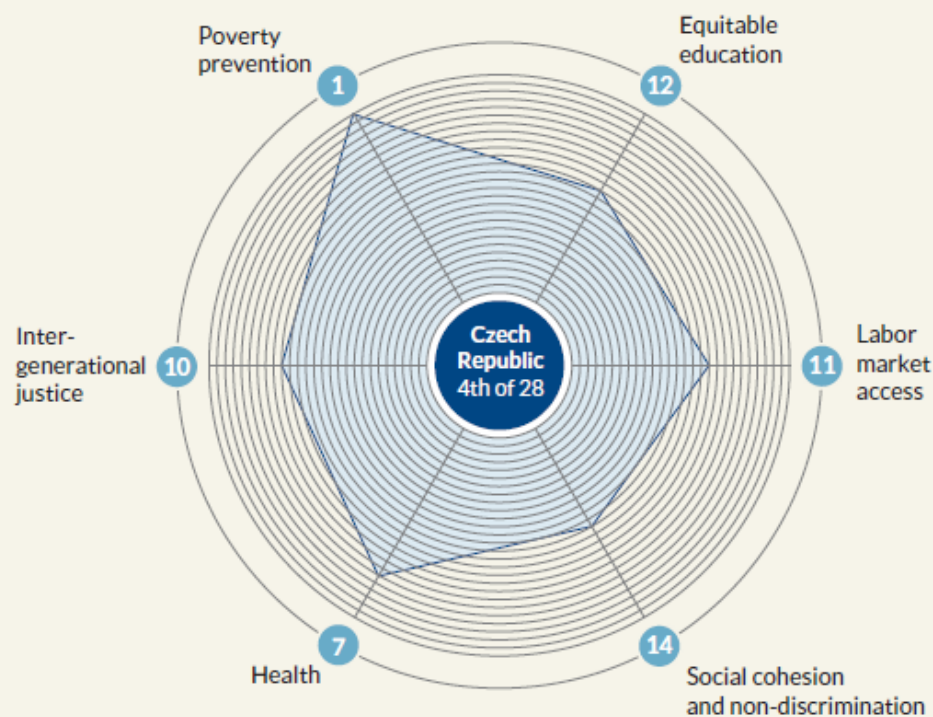
Italy

EU Social Justice Index 2017



Czech Republic

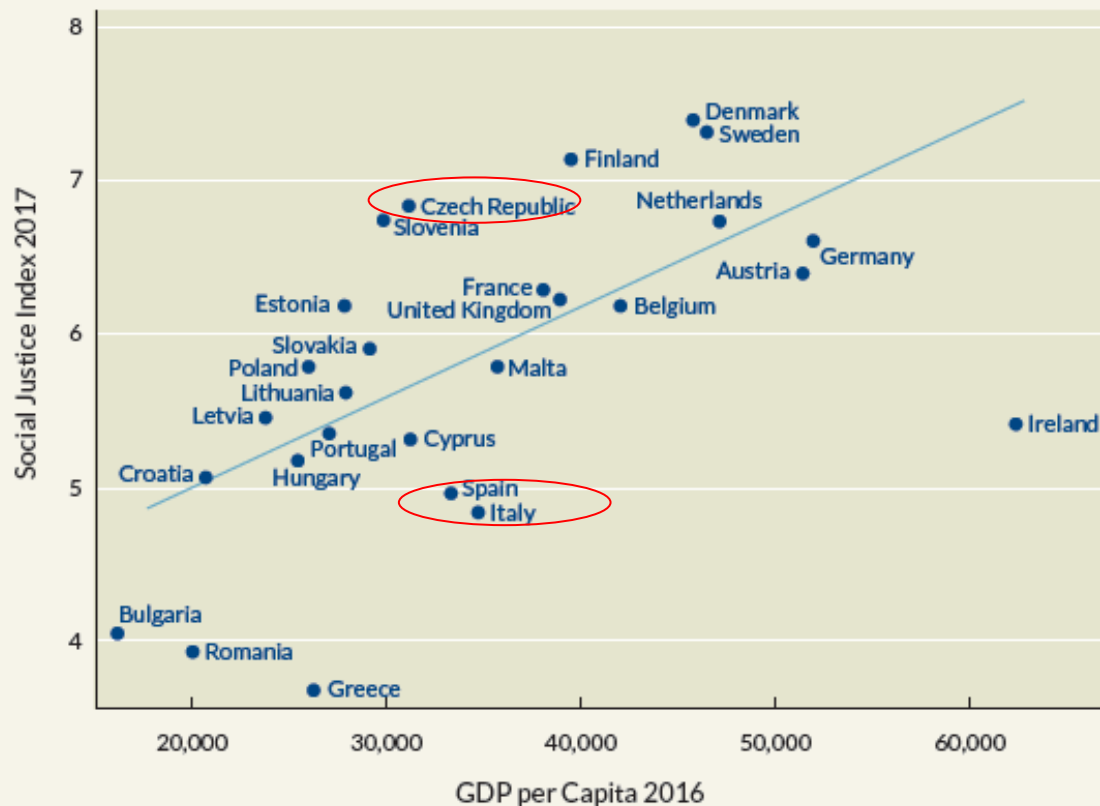
EU Social Justice Index 2017



Social Justice: Only a matter of money?

FIGURE 4 Social Justice 2017 and GDP per capita 2016

Unit: Social Justice Index score / GDP per capita, PPP



Source: Own calculations.

Italy/Spain compared
to Czech Republic

Dissemination

- Targets:
- Initiate debates on the topic of social inclusion
- Foster mutual learning
- Target groups: Politicians, scientists, associations, public in general
- For all countries: press release with country specific findings in the respective national language
important: Find a local press partner and offer study exclusively
- PDF of study sent to several thousand experts in Europe
(more difficult because of European directive on data protection)
- Printed study sent to over 100 SGI experts -> multipliers
- Website
- Social media strategy (just started)
- Accept presentation request
- Organize events (with local partners)

www.social-inclusion-monitor.eu

INSTRUMENT

Social Justice Index



YEAR

2016



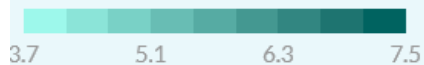
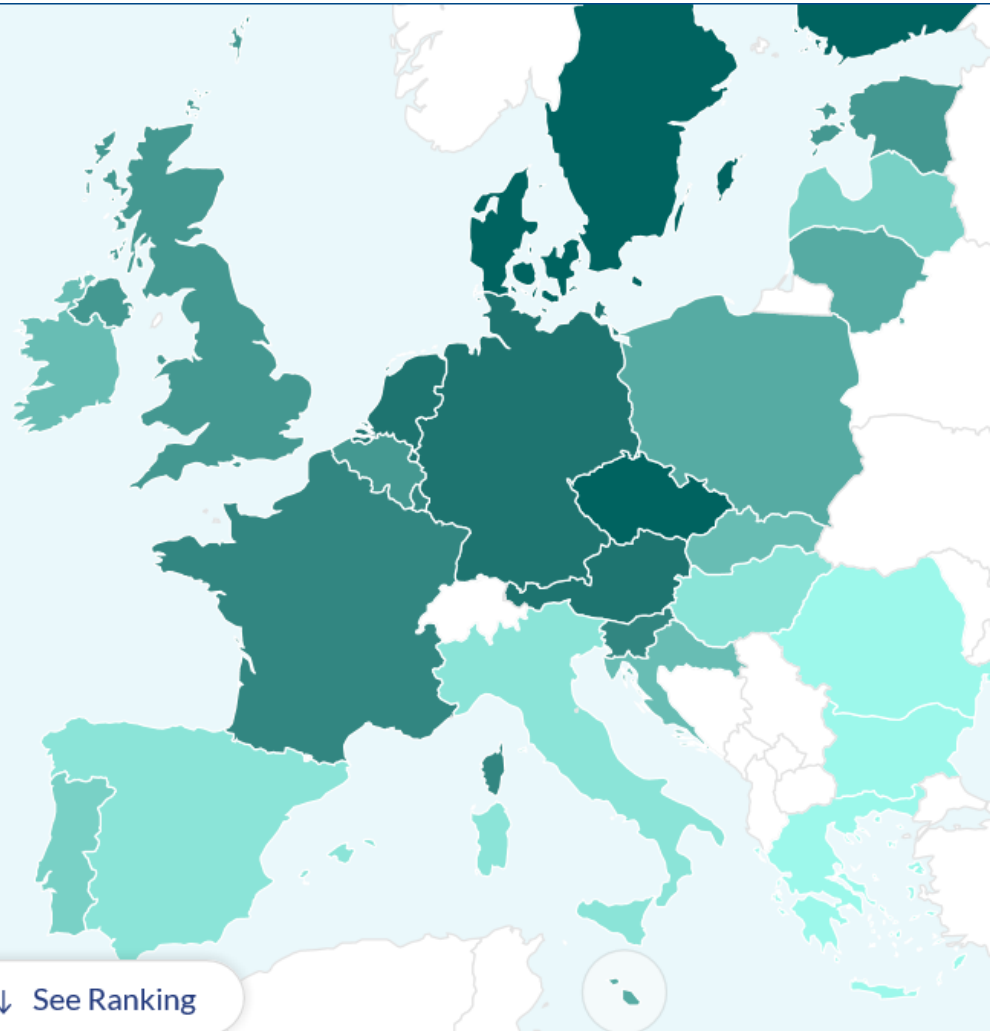
DIMENSION

Overall



The map shows the overall **Social Justice Index 2016 score** (1 = worst; 10 = best). This score is derived from the scores for the **6 dimensions** Poverty Prevention, Equitable Education, Labor Market Access, Social Cohesion and Non-discrimination, Health, and Intergenerational Justice.

SOCIAL JUSTICE INDEX 2016

[↓ See Ranking](#)

Challenges

- Develop a normative model: What is Social Justice?
-> together with scientific experts
- Find indicators that
 - have an theoretical/empirically proven impact
 - are available for all countries
- Weighting/Missing data
- -> external data analyst
- There is no perfect index!
 - Be open to criticism / try to improve (but: comparability)
 - Be transparent with regard to methodology and data
 - Be fast (time lag)

Thank you very much for your attention!

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Appendix

A multi-stage survey of 41 OECD and EU states

