

## **Sustainable Governance Indicators**

**Measuring sustainable governance across OECD and EU countries**

8.11.2018

JRC Week on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards

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Speaker: Julia Schmidt

Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany

# Agenda

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- 1. Measuring Sustainable Governance in OECD and EU countries**
- 2. Main findings of the Sustainable Governance Indicators 2018**
- 3. Concluding Remarks and Trends**

# Measuring Sustainable Governance in OECD and EU countries

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## Key Facts



- cross-national comparison of 41 OECD & EU countries
- conducted annually (**since 2009**)
- **136** indicators
- **100 renowned international experts**
- detailed **country reports** for each country
- informs **policy makers**, academics but also the civil society

## Three guiding questions

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How do OECD and EU countries compare with regard to the **quality of democracy**?

How well-developed are the **governance capacities** of these countries in terms of long-term oriented political steering capacities?

How successful are the OECD and EU countries in achieving sustainable **policy outcomes**?

# Three Analytical Pillars of Sustainable Governance

## Quality of Democracy



- Four key dimensions of democracy
- Substantive and procedural criteria
- Focus on *quality* of institutions and processes

## Governance Capacity



- Executive capacities (steering, implementation, learning)
- Executive accountability (integration of societal actors)
- Focus on *quality* of institutions and processes

## Sustainable Policy Performance



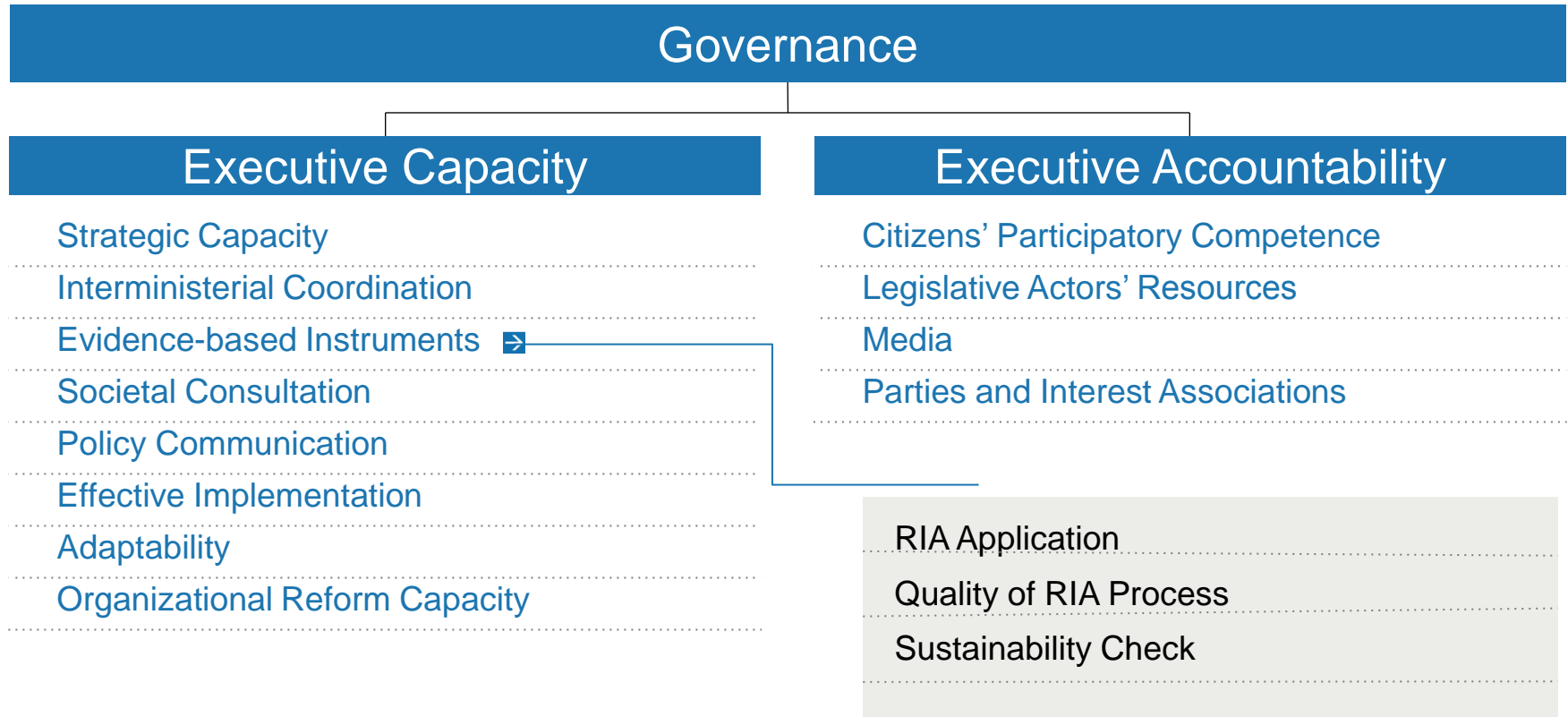
- Three dimensions of sustainability
- Distinction between domestic and international activities
- Focus on *policies and outcomes*

**Framework conditions for long-term system stability**

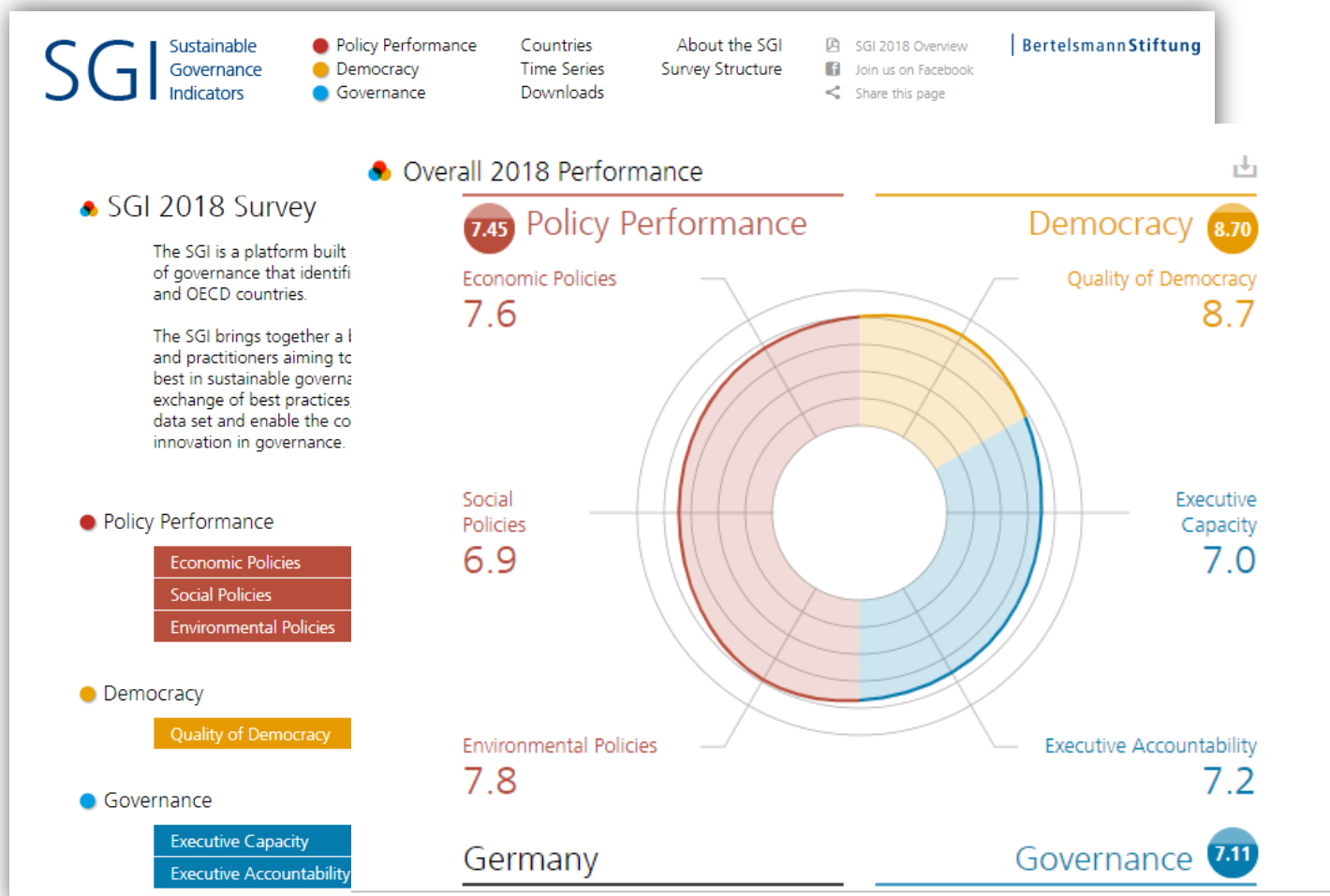
**Reform capacities**

**Strengths and weaknesses (need for reform)**

# An International Comparison of Governance Capacities



# Dissemination strategies – A mix is most efficient





## Challenges

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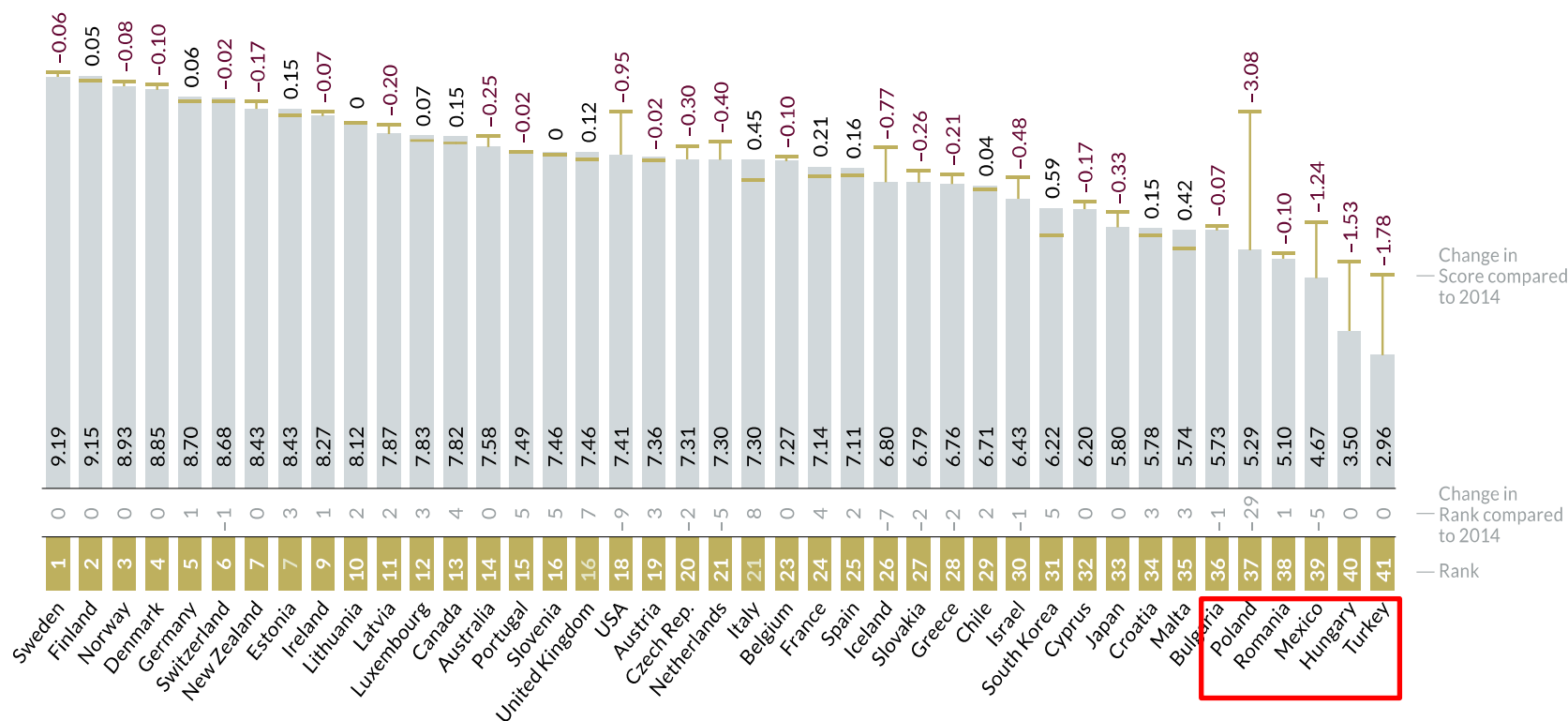
- Develop a normative model describing the social constructs
- Collect and standardize the data in a transparent way
- Coordinate the expert network/ data submissions
- Contextualize the time-lag between data collection and presentation
- Engage in a on-going recalibration and adjustment process

# Main findings

## Sustainable Governance Indicators 2018

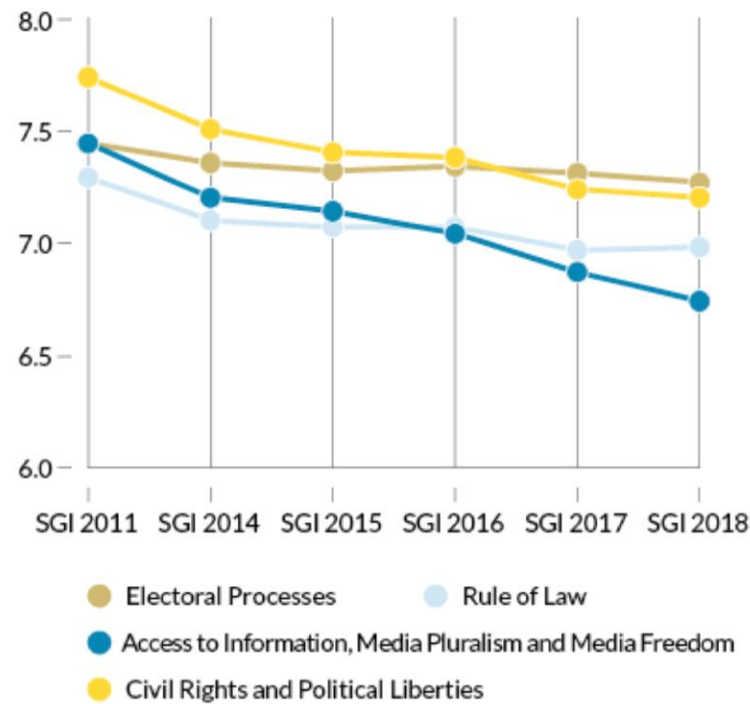
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# Quality of democracy declines in a majority of countries



# Declining quality of democracy is a steady trend

FIGURE 5: Quality of Democracy  
2011-2018 - Dimensions

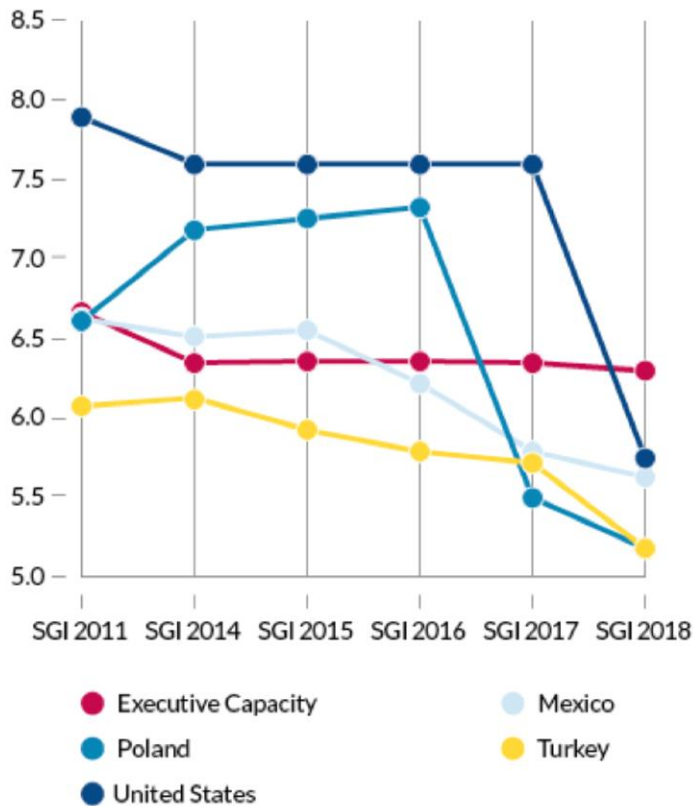


Source: SGI.

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# Growing polarization makes good governance difficult

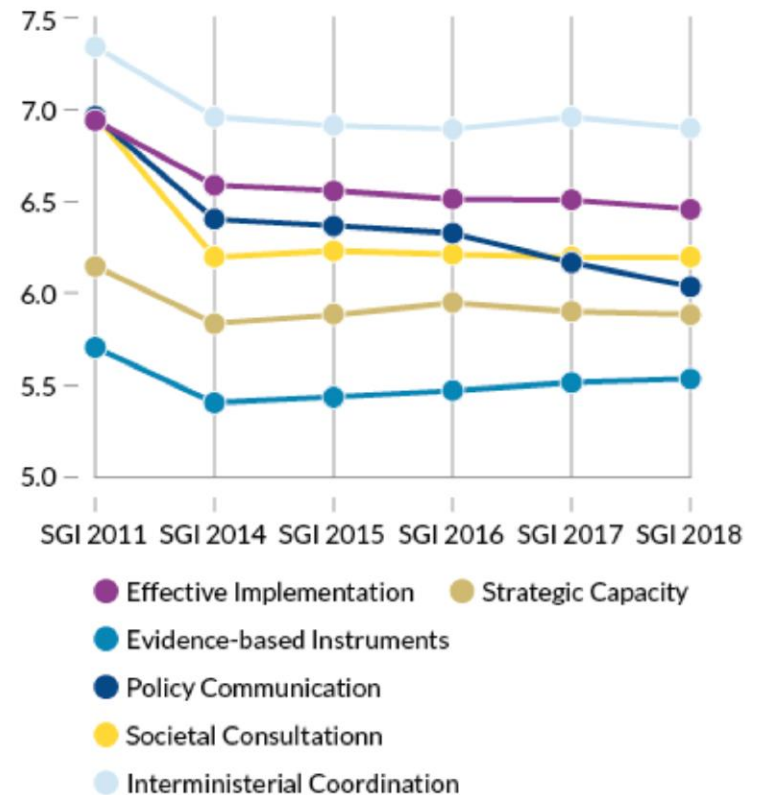
FIGURE 15: Executive Capacity 2011-2018



Source: SGI.

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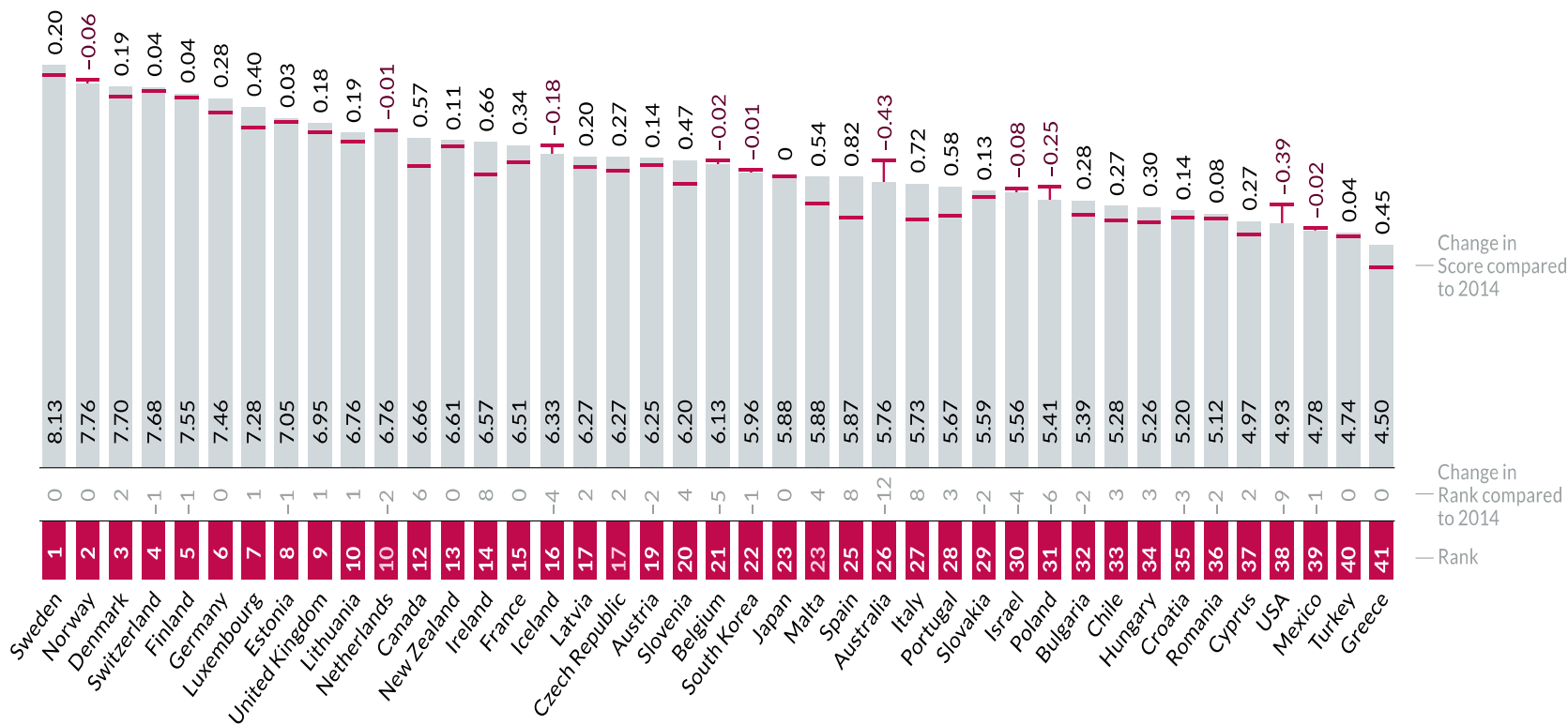
FIGURE 16: Executive Capacity 2011-2018 - Dimensions



Source: SGI.

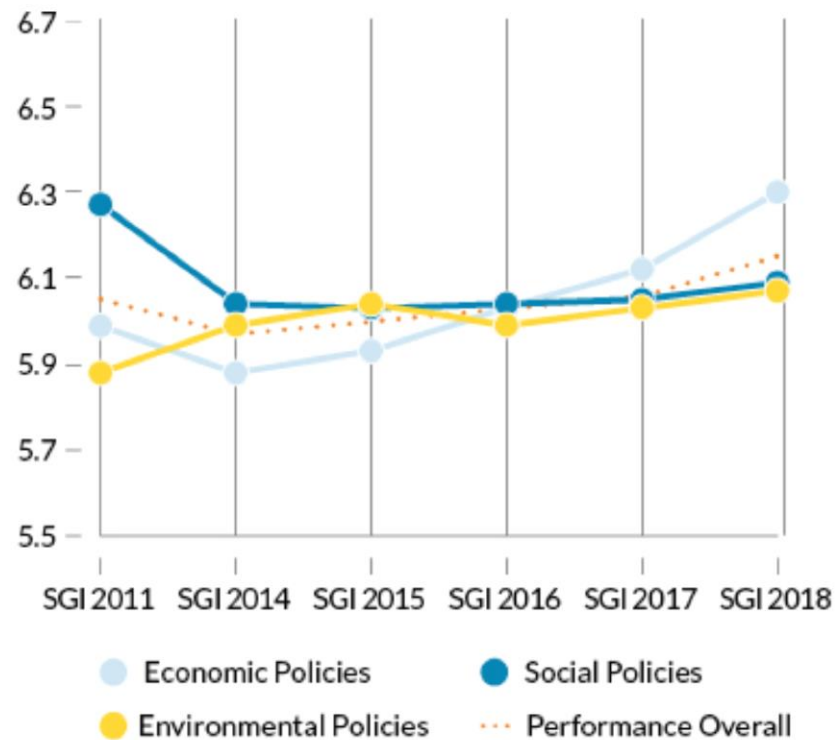
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# Slight improvement in terms of policy performance



## Economy keeps up, but other policies lag behind

FIGURE 21: Policy Performance  
2011–2018<sup>48</sup>



Source: SGI.

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# Governance and Policy Performance go hand in hand

FIGURE 29: Correlation Governance and Policy Performance



Source: SGI.

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## Concluding Remarks and Trends

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## Conclusion

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- Quality of democracy is deteriorating in a majority of countries since 2011
- Problem-solving abilities within and between OECD and EU countries decline as a result of mounting political polarization
- Policy performance in terms of economic policies improve, but social and environmental policies lag far behind



Have a look at [www.sgi-network.org](http://www.sgi-network.org)

Thank you very much for your attention!

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## Appendix

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## Sustainable Policy Performance



- Three dimensions of sustainability
- Distinction between domestic and international activities
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**Framework conditions for long-term system stability**

**Reform capacities**

**Strengths and weaknesses (need for reform)**

## The analytical pillars of the SGI

### Quality of democracy

Electoral  
processes

Access to  
information

Civil rights/  
political liberties

Rule of law

### Governance capacity

Executive  
capacity

Executive  
Accountability

### Policy performance

Economic  
policies

Social policies

Environmental  
policies

# An International Comparison of democratic systems

## Quality of Democracy

Electoral  
Processes

Access to  
Information

Civil Rights and  
Political Liberties

Rule of Law

### FOUR CRITERIA AND THEIR INDICATORS

Candidacy Procedure

Media Access

Voting/Registration

Rights

Party Financing

Pop. Decision-Making

Media Freedom

Media Pluralism

Access to

Government

Information

Civil Rights

Political Liberties

Non-Discrimination

Legal Certainty

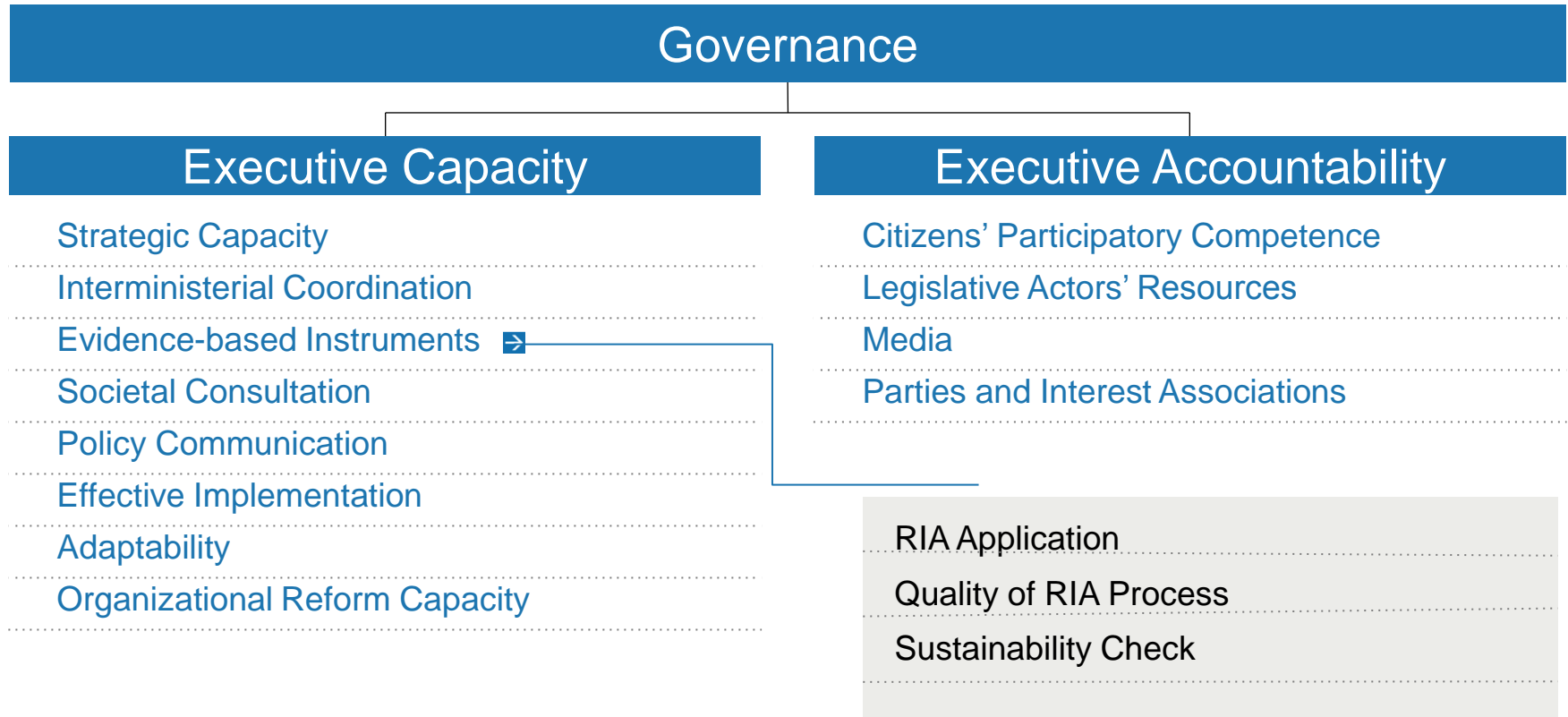
Judicial Review

Appointment of  
Justices

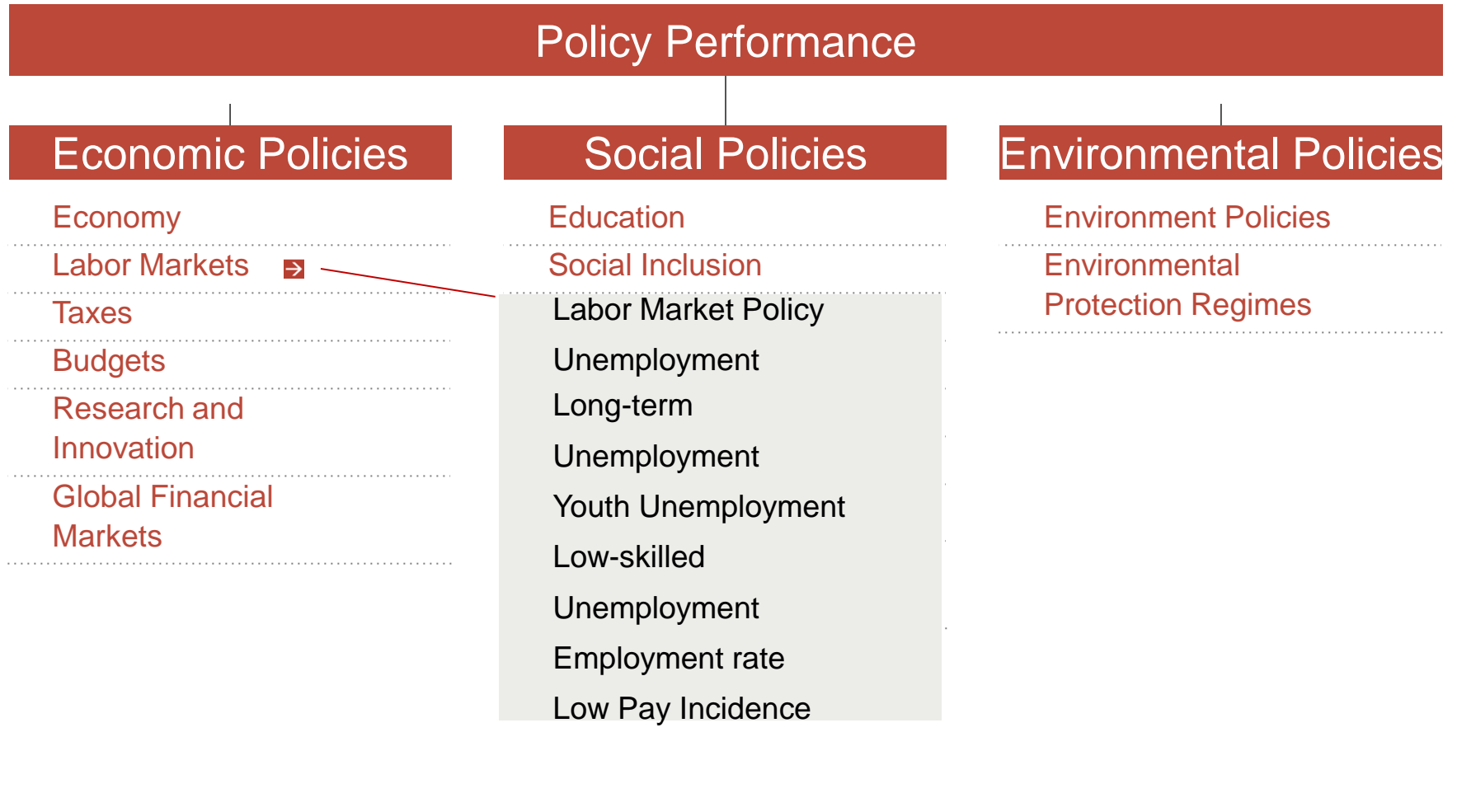
Corruption  
Prevention



# An International Comparison of Governance Capacities



# An International Comparison of Reform Needs



## A multi-stage survey of 41 OECD and EU states



# Equal weighting on aggregate level

## Set weighting of categories to calculate dimensions.

				<a href="#">update all parameter</a>	
<b>P</b>	Policy Performance	<b>PA</b>	Economic Policies	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="3"/>	33%
		<b>PB</b>	Social Policies	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="3"/>	33%
		<b>PC</b>	Environmental Policies	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="3"/>	33%
<b>D</b>	Democracy	<b>DA</b>	Quality of Democracy	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="1"/>	100%
<b>GI</b>	Executive Capacity	<b>GA</b>	Steering Capability	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="3"/>	33%
		<b>GB</b>	Policy Implementation	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="3"/>	33%
		<b>GC</b>	Institutional Learning	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="3"/>	33%
<b>GII</b>	Executive Accountability	<b>GD</b>	Citizens	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="4"/>	25%
		<b>GE</b>	Legislature	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="4"/>	25%
		<b>GF</b>	Intermediary Organizations	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="4"/>	25%
		<b>GG</b>	Independent Supervisory Bodies	<input type="text" value="1"/> / <input type="text" value="4"/>	25%
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