

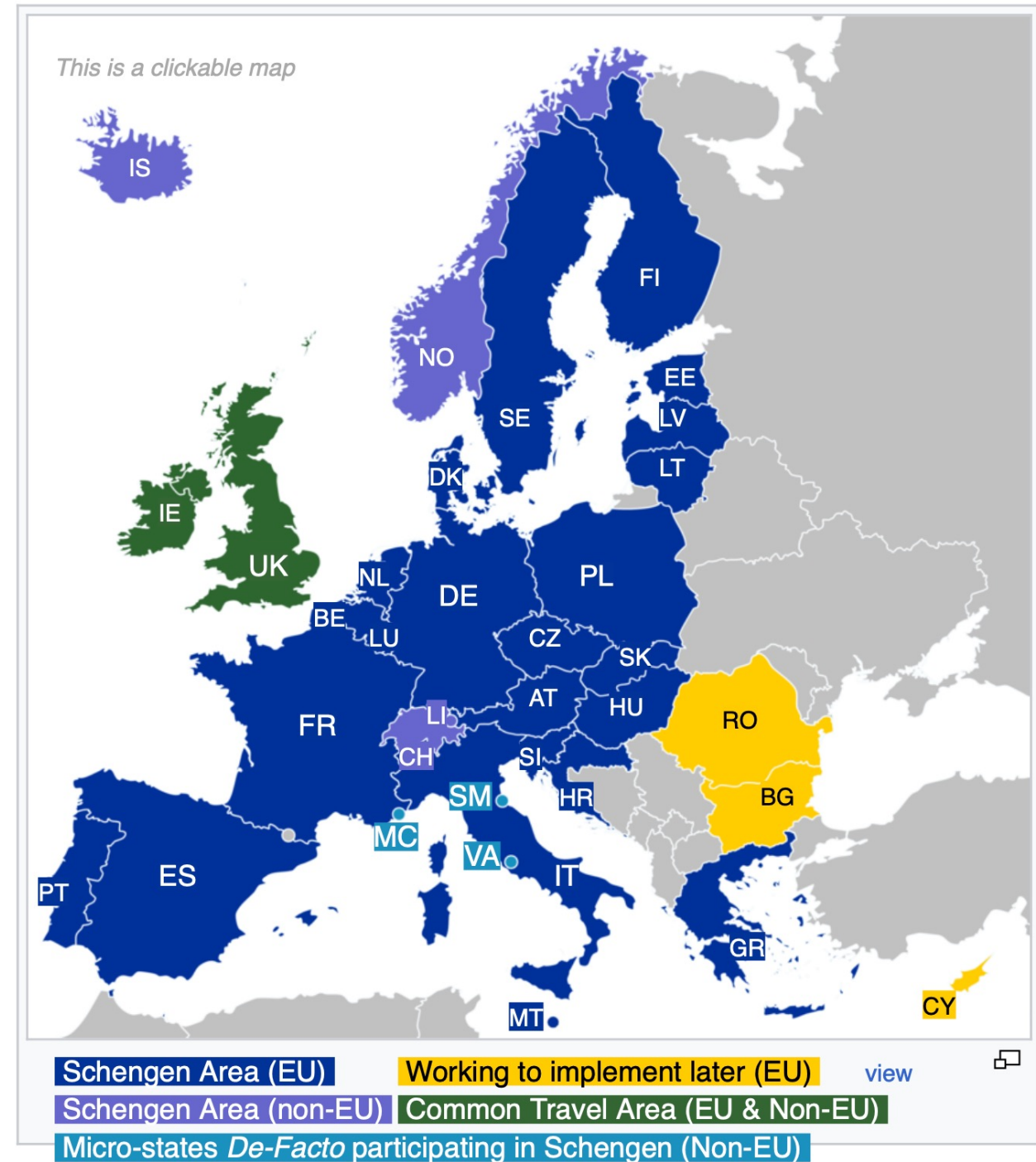
How random the Schengen states issuing short-term visa

Based on data from Schengen consulates in London (2013-2021)

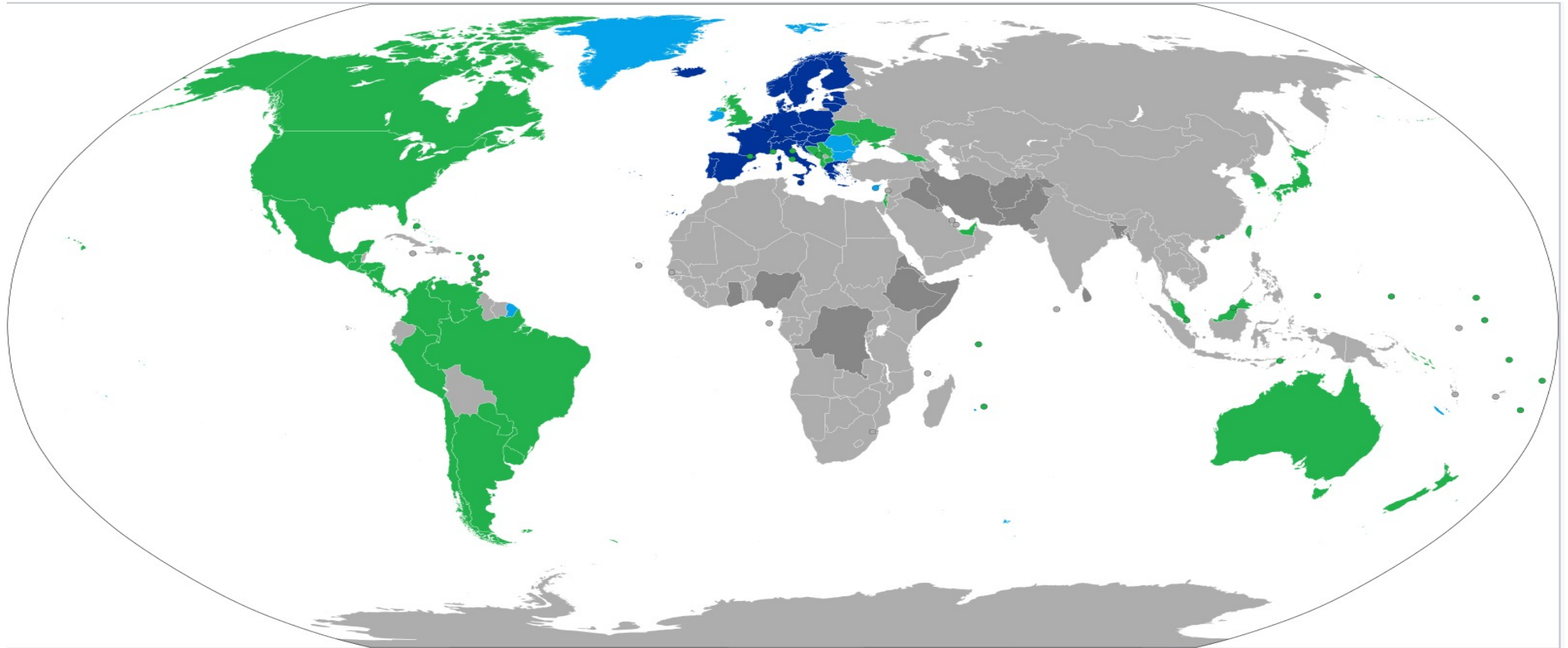
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What is a Schengen visa

- Schengen area functions as a single borderless entity based on EU's "freedom of movement agreement" in 1990.
- Schengen states share the same short-term visa policy which requires same documents and follows the same guild line.
- Can be single, double and multiple entry. MEV tends to have longer granted duration of stay.
- One valid for all 27 states.



Who needs a visa and who does not?



-  Schengen Area
-  Other EU members and territories of Schengen countries outside the Schengen Area (freedom of movement in the Schengen Area)
-  Visa not required for short stays in the Schengen Area, usually 90 days in any 180-day period (EU 2018/1806 Annex II)
-  Visa required to enter the Schengen Area, and to transit some Schengen countries in some cases (EU 2018/1806 Annex I)
-  Visa required to enter or transit any Schengen country (EC 810/2009 Annex IV)

Are all Schengen visa issued equal?

Available data:

- share of multiple entry visa issued by each consulate (2013-2021)
- rejection rate of each consulate (2013-2021)
- the number of application per year.
- The report only used data from the London consulate as every Schengen state has office in London

Methods:

- One-way ANOVA
- Boxplots
- A table of standard deviation among states.
- attempts of regression (linear and non-linear)

Residual standard error: 0.2036 on 192 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.4554, Adjusted R-squared: 0.3902
F-statistic: 6.981 on 23 and 192 DF, p-value: 1.365e-15

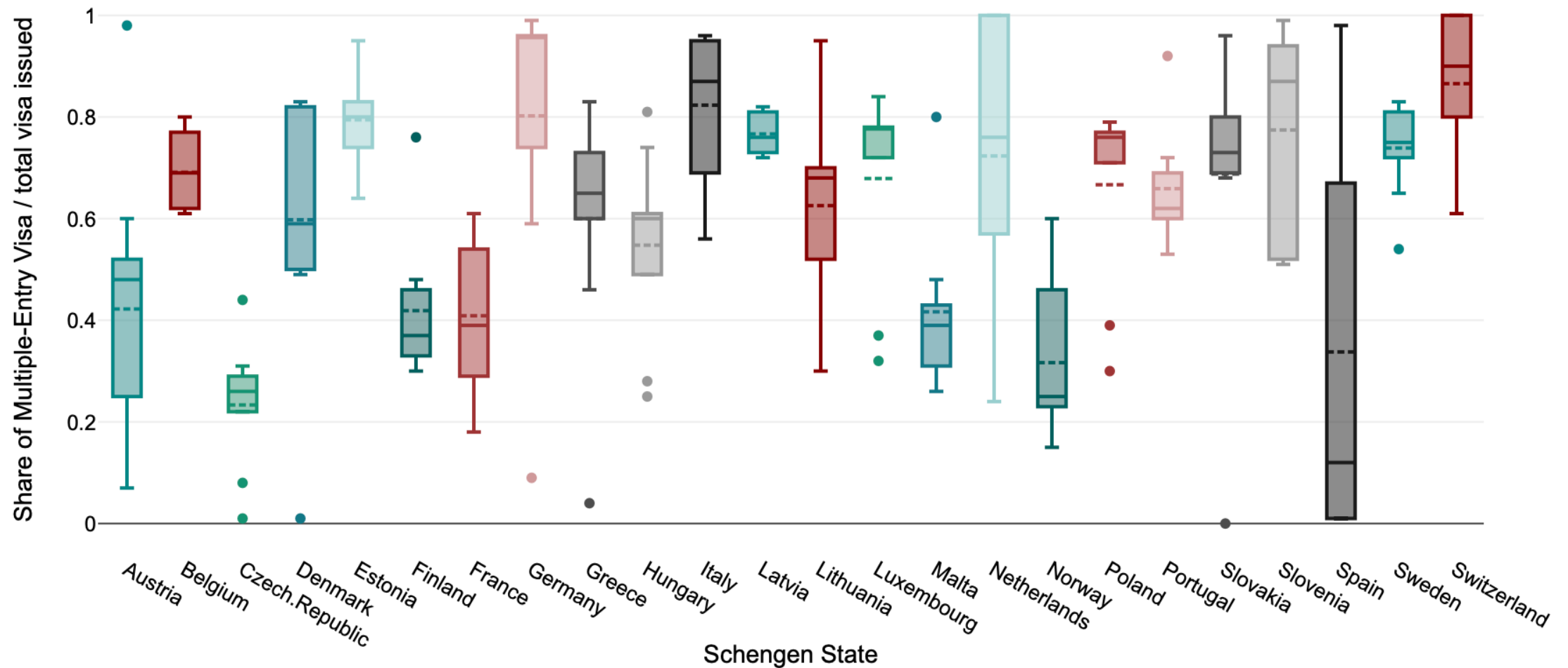
Residual standard error: 0.0358 on 192 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.2128, Adjusted R-squared: 0.1185
F-statistic: 2.257 on 23 and 192 DF, p-value: 0.001498

Are all Schengen visa issued equal?

- Not all Schengen visas were issued equal in the past 9 years.
- One-way ANOVA suggests there is a significant difference in rejection rate ($P=0.0015$) and a much higher difference in share of multiple entry visa ($p=1.37e-15$) issued by each Schengen states.
- Standard deviation result shows Latvia ($sd=0.042$), Belgium ($sd=0.078$), Estonia ($sd=0.085$) are the three most predictable countries in issuing multiple entry visa. Spain ($sd=0.399$), The Netherlands ($sd=0.308$), Germany ($sd=0.301$) are the three most least predictable countries in issuing multiple entry visa.
- In terms of reject rate, Czech Republic ($sd=0.008$), Poland ($sd=0.008$), Germany ($sd=0.009$) are the three most predictable countries to reject visa application whereas Norway ($sd=0.089$), Belgium ($sd=0.059$) and France ($sd=0.057$) are the three least predictable countries to reject visa application.

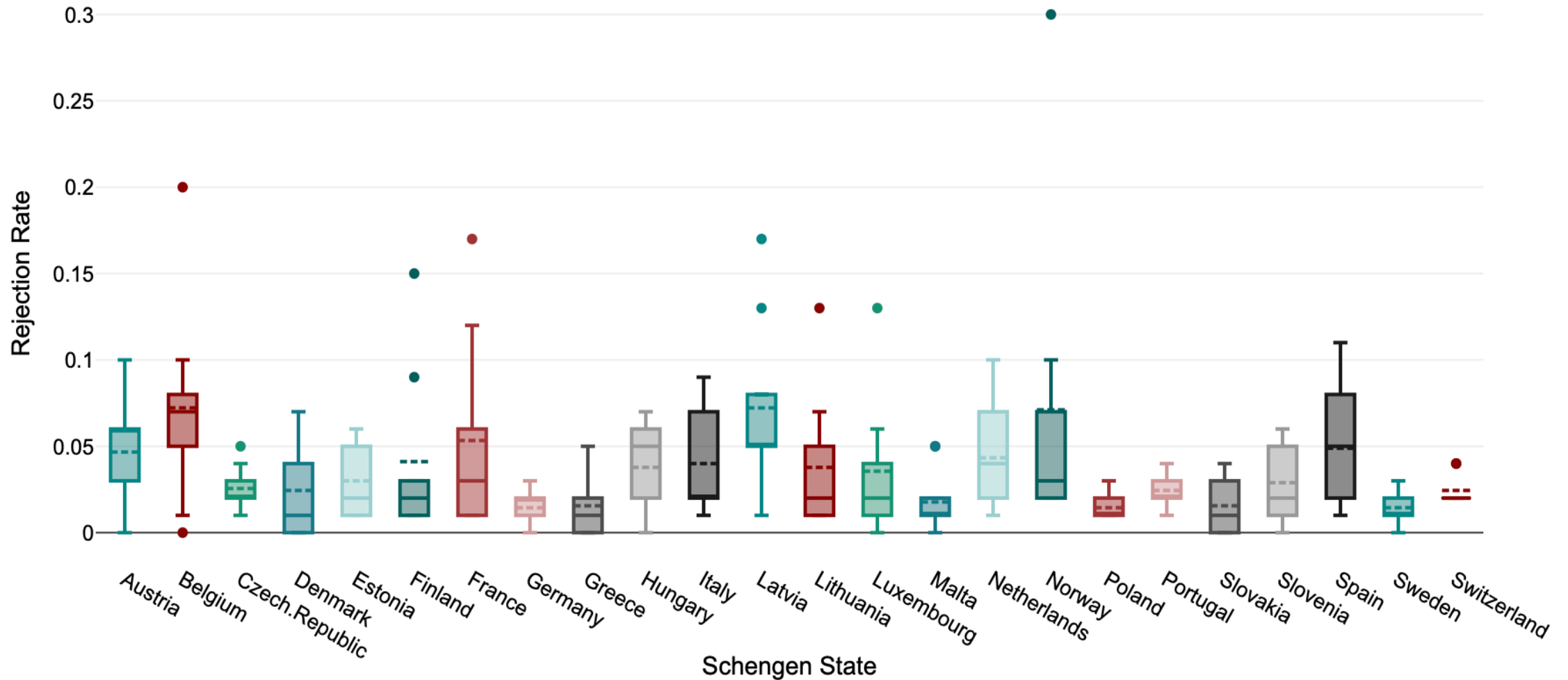
Not all Schengen visa were issued equal

MEV by Schengen State (2013-2021)



Not all Schengen visa were issued equal

Rejection Rate by Schengen State (2013-2021)



Conclusion.

- Not all Schengen visa were issued that same, despite follows the same policy and it can be described as “random”.
- Some consulates are generally more reliable than the others.
- Some consulates are generally more generous in granting the duration of stay in issuing the visa by issuing more multiple entry visa.
- Get a visa from the German, Italian, Slovenian or Swiss consulates and avoid the Spanish consulate if you need one.

Discussion and limitations.

- The main problem of this project was the lack of data.
- Visa decision is essentially a multi-factorial problem, which may be influenced by applicant's financial status, the nationality or the type of residency.
- The lack of transparency in the visa decision process and random factors would significantly affect the outcome (which is impossible to quantify). E.g., Greece issues visa with shorter duration of stay in winter (Mau *et al.*, 2015)
- Not all multiple entry visa were issued equal.



Reference.

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