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Week 7:

Design choices: I used code for the datamaps visualisation from previous week, together with a new bar chart. The map is linked to the barchart, hovering over an European country on the map will make the corresponding bar in the chart red. When leaving the country with the mouse cursor, the bar will go back to its original color. I chose a barchart mainly because I couldn't think of any other visualisation for displaying population. Because the big countries make it difficult the see the differences between the small countries, I have implemented a function to adjust the chart. When one of the bars is clicked, it disappears from the chart. So when the larger bars are clicked, the smaller bars become enlarged and the scaling adjusts.

Design process: One of the main drawbacks of using the datamaps visualisation I used last week is that it is quite hard to select a country on the map while hovering on one of the bars (the other way around was quite doable). This is because of the datamaps library, which does a lot of things for you, leaving you with a lack of knowledge on the how and when of the program. The paths used by datamaps also lack identification, making it almost impossible to select a path by knowing the name of a country.

Another thing worth mentioning is that I barely had any time for the design of the visualisation at all. It was already quite a struggle trying to implement the most basic visualisation, the design process was interfered by the programming process. If I could, I would make a map where you could sort the countries on the ordinal scales I had chosen, making only one of those scales visible on the bar chart. Or I would implement the bar chart in such a way that you can drag and zoom to a particular portion of the chart, with functional adjusting axes and with smooth transitions. But when you are still conquering the code, the design is something you can only dream of.