Design choices

Map vs Barchart

- First, I placed the map and bar chart below each other. The width and height of the containers was a bit bigger then.
- However, I later decided that it was visually more appealing to make them a bit smaller and place them next to each other. When they were placed on top of each other, both visualizations were not visible in one part of the screen. Placing them next to each other makes it easier to compare the two visualizations and see how the interaction with the map changes the barchart.

Map

- I created a map centered on Europe, with a scale that makes it possible to see all the countries clearly
- At first, I wanted to have the title and legend above and next to the map container, but because I decided to put the bar chart next to the map, this would have looked ugly since the bar chart title is in the container.
- Therefore, I figured out how to place extra SVG's on top of an outer container so that the map title is at the same height as the bar chart title in the container, and the legend is in the container as well.

Barchart

- At first, I decided to have a bar chart that displays the HPI or QOL rank for all 30 countries in Europe.
- I wanted to make it interactive by having the bar of a certain country light up when it was clicked on the map.
- However, I then decided that it would be nice to be able to compare both ranks at once for a certain country, instead of only being able to switch between the two ranks.
- Therefore, I decided to have two types of bar chart: the general bar chart that shows the chosen rank for all the countries, and a bar chart that shows both the HPI index and the QOL index for a certain country when clicked on on the map.
- Because I did this, I had to figure out how to switch between different types of data, with different x values. I eventually was able to create smooth transitions between the bar charts, which I think looks very nice.
- The only issue with these transitions is that it might seem as if the QOL/HPI values of the two first countries are the same bars as those of the HPI and QOL rank of a certain country, since these transition into each other. However, since the x labels also change, I think it is clear enough that these are different and that it is just a very nice visual effect.

Description of data

- I decided to put the description of the data below the visualizations instead of on a different page, because I feel like this makes it easier to follow the story. It is now easy to scroll back to the visualizations to see how the story relates to them.
- I centered this text below the visualizations, since it concerns both visualizations.
- I put the description in a hero unit, because it nicely centers and envelops the text.

Sources

- I put the sources, references and my information in a hero unit at the bottom of the page, to recreate the feel of most webpages where additional information/links are provided in a unit at the bottom of the page.

Colours

- From the very beginning, I used a green to red colour scale.
- I chose this because I think it looks very pretty, and because it really visualizes the ranges of the scale (from "good" to "bad").
- However, I realized that this is very bad design for people who might be colour blind, but I really liked the green to red scale and wanted to keep this on my page.
- Therefore, I decided to create a second dropdown menu for colour blind people, which allows them to switch to a different colour range. For this range, I chose yellowish to red, since that is a range that is colour blind safe. I actually really like that you can now switch between colours, and it also gives it a bit of a jovial feel.

Overall design of webpage

- For the overall design, I decided to choose a simplistic, sleek design with black, white and grey, because I feel an overly colourful/playful theme might distract from the goal of the page: telling a story through my visualizations.
- I explicitly chose a bootstrap theme that has red drop down buttons and red links, to have a tiny bit of colour in the web page that nicely fits with both colour scales.
- The title of the website is in a grey hero unit, since this nicely distinguishes the main title and subtext from the rest.