Report on the Influence of Political and Governance Factors on Marine Conservation Efforts in the EU

1. Introduction

1.1 Hypothesis

The effectiveness of EU Member States in submitting and implementing pledges towards the marine conservation target under the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 is significantly influenced by political alignment, governance capacity, and support.

1.2 Scope

This report examines multiple indicators in political and governance contexts, including:

1. Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism
2. CO2 Emission
3. Control of Corruption
4. Gini Index
5. Government Effectiveness (GDP)
6. Government Effectiveness
7. Protected Area
8. Participation in Agreement
9. Political Ideology
10. Number of Regions
11. Regulatory Quality
12. Rule of Law
13. Corruption
14. Voice and Accountability
15. Citizen Satisfaction

2. Dashboard Overview

This dashboard presents various political and governance indicators relevant to the marine conservation efforts under the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The indicators are visualized using charts, graphs, and tables to provide a comprehensive view of their influence on conservation outcomes.

3. Indicator Descriptions and Measurement Methodologies

3.1 Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism

Description: Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism measures perceptions of the likelihood of political instability and/or politically-motivated violence, including terrorism. This indicator is part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project, compiled by the World Bank.

Measurement: The Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism indicator is measured using a percentile rank. Here's a simple explanation of how percentile rank works:

Percentile Rank: This indicates how a country's performance compares to others. It is a value between 0 and 100, where higher values mean better outcomes.

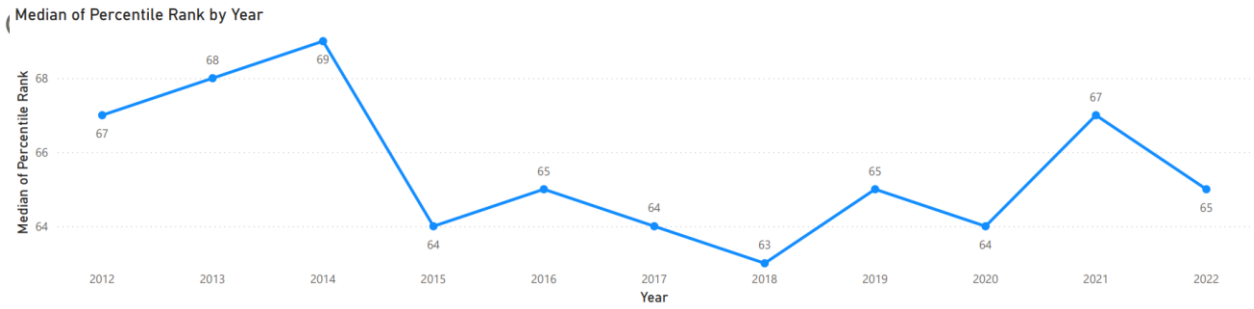
- **0 percentile:** The lowest possible rank, meaning the country is less stable and has more violence/terrorism compared to all other countries.
- **100 percentile:** The highest possible rank, meaning the country is more stable and has less violence/terrorism compared to all other countries**.**

Frequency of Data Collection: The Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism indicator is updated annually.

Time Frame Covered: The data for this indicator covers a ten-year period from 2012 to 2022.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart:**



Overall Trend (2012-2022): The median percentile rank for Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism fluctuates between 63 and 69 over the period from 2012 to 2022.There is no clear upward or downward trend over the entire period, indicating that the level of political stability and absence of violence has remained relatively stable overall, with some fluctuations.

Highest and Lowest Values:

- Highest Value: The highest median percentile rank is 69 in 2014.
- Lowest Value: The lowest median percentile rank is 63 in 2018.

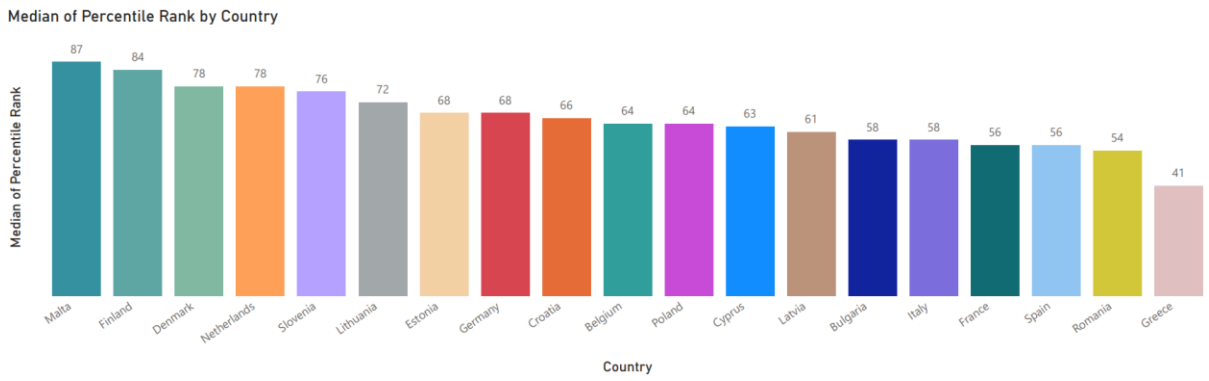
Short-term Fluctuations:

- 2012-2014: There was a slight increase in the percentile rank from 67 in 2012 to 69 in 2014.
- 2014-2018: The percentile rank declined from its peak of 69 in 2014 to 63 in 2018, indicating a period of increasing political instability and violence.
- 2018-2022: After reaching the lowest point in 2018, the percentile rank improved slightly, with values fluctuating between 64 and 67.

Notable Changes: The most significant year-on-year change occurred between 2014 and 2015, with a drop from 69 to 64, indicating a notable decline in political stability. Another significant change is seen between 2018 and 2019, where the percentile rank improved from 63 to 65.

Recent Trends (2020-2022): The percentile rank shows some recovery from the low point in 2018, with values stabilizing around 64-67 in the last three years. The year 2021 showed a recovery to 67, but it slightly declined again to 65 in 2022.

- **Bar Chart:**



Overall Trend: The data consists of the median percentile ranks for 19 European countries. The ranks range from 41 to 87, indicating varying levels of political stability and absence of violence/terrorism across these nations. The bar chart illustrates the median percentile ranks for each country, providing a visual comparison of political stability and absence of violence/terrorism.

Key Findings:

- **Top Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism:**
  Malta: With a median percentile rank of 87, Malta leads the group, indicating high political stability and low levels of violence and terrorism.
  Finland: Ranking second with a median of 84, Finland also shows significant stability and safety.
  Denmark and Netherlands: Both countries share a median rank of 78, placing them among the top performers.
- **Moderate Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism:**
  Slovenia: With a rank of 76, Slovenia demonstrates commendable stability.
  Lithuania: At 72, Lithuania ranks slightly below Slovenia.
  Estonia and Germany: Both countries have a median rank of 68, indicating moderate stability.
  Croatia: With a median rank of 66, Croatia shows reasonable stability.
  Belgium and Poland: Each with a rank of 64, these countries are mid-tier performers.
  Cyprus: At 63, Cyprus also falls into the moderate category.
  Latvia: With a median rank of 61, Latvia shows moderate levels of stability.
- **Lower Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism:**
  Bulgaria and Italy: Both countries have a median rank of 58, indicating lower levels of stability compared to the higher-ranked nations.
  France and Spain: Each with a rank of 56, these countries fall in the lower middle range.
  Romania: At 54, Romania shows relatively lower stability.
  Greece: With a median rank of 41, Greece has the lowest rank among the analyzed countries, indicating the highest perceived instability and violence/terrorism levels.

3.2 CO2 Emissions

Description: CO2 Emissions measure the total carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes. This indicator is sourced from the World Bank, reflecting global efforts to track and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

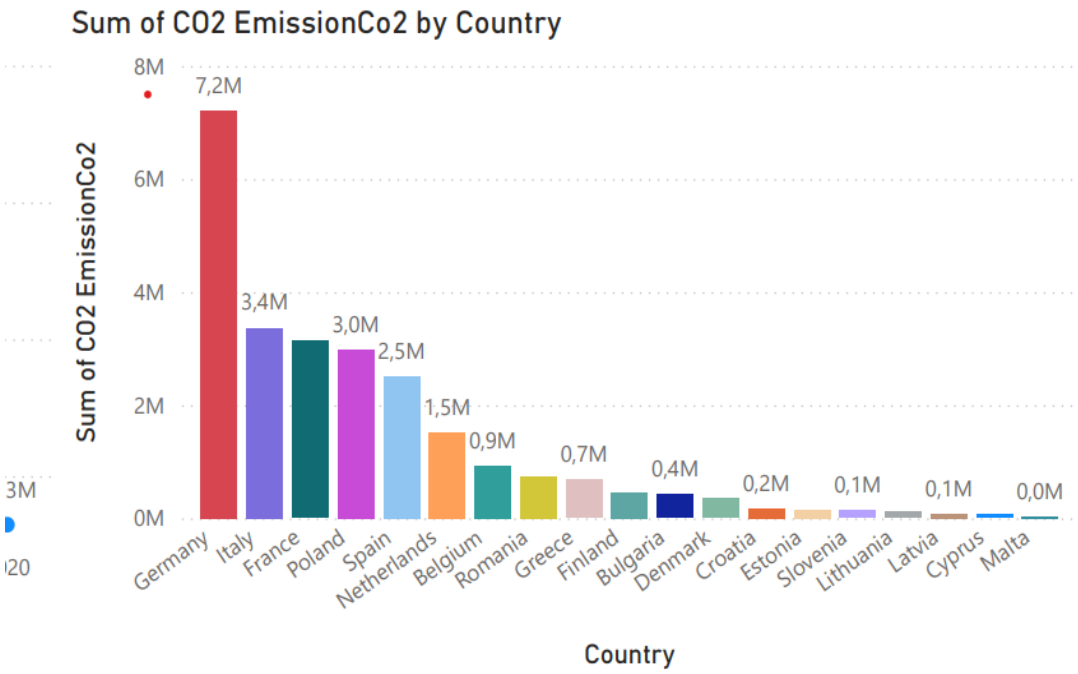
Measurement: CO2 Emissions are measured in kilotons (kt). The measurement represents the total amount of carbon dioxide released annually by a country or region. It is crucial for assessing environmental impact and evaluating progress towards international climate targets.

Frequency of Data Collection: Data on CO2 Emissions is collected annually by the World Bank.

Time Frame Covered: The data for CO2 Emissions covers a eight years period from 2012to 2020.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Bar Chart:**



Overview

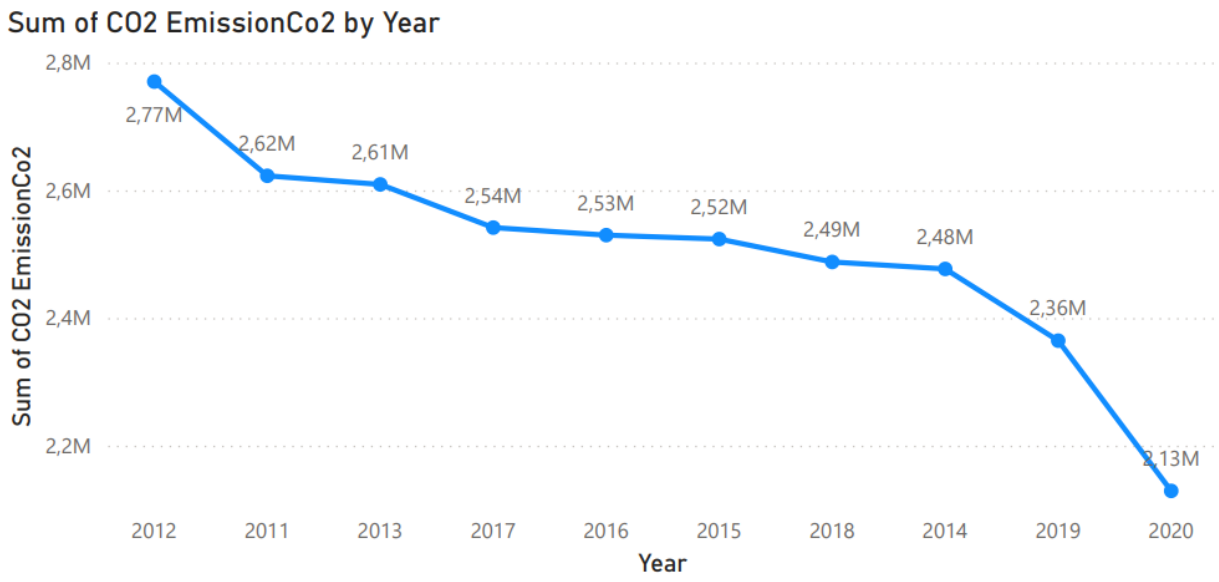
The line chart visualizes the total CO2 emissions (in kilotons) from various European Union (EU) Member States for the given period. The data provides insights into each country's contribution to overall emissions within the EU.

Key Findings

- **Highest CO2 Emitters:**
  Germany leads with a substantial emission total of 7,210,248.5 kilotons, reflecting its significant industrial and energy sectors.
  Italy follows with 3,371,185.1 kilotons, indicating a notable contribution driven by industrial activities and transportation.
  France ranks third with 3,135,214.3 kilotons, largely influenced by its diverse industrial base and energy consumption patterns.
- **Moderate to Lower Emitters:**
  Poland and Spain exhibit emissions of 2,985,556.1 kilotons and 2,504,717.8 kilotons respectively, reflecting their industrial and energy-intensive economies.
  Netherlands, Belgium, and Romania show moderate emissions, each contributing significantly within the EU context.
- **Lowest Emitters:**
  Malta and Cyprus represent the lowest emissions among the listed countries, reflecting their smaller size and less industrialized economies within the EU.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart:**



Overall Trend (2011-2020):

The total CO2 emissions exhibit a declining trend over the period from 2011 to 2020, with fluctuations observed in between. This trend underscores efforts towards reducing carbon footprints and addressing climate change concerns within the specified timeframe.

Highest and Lowest Values:

- Highest Value: The highest recorded emissions occurred in 2012, totaling 2,770,249.7 kilotons.
- Lowest Value: The lowest emissions were reported in 2020, amounting to 2,129,097.82 kilotons.

Short-term Fluctuations:

- 2011-2013: Emissions increased slightly from 2011 to 2012, peaking in 2012, followed by a gradual decline through 2013.
- 2013-2018: There was a period of relative stability with minor fluctuations in emissions levels.
- 2018-2020: A noticeable decrease in emissions is observed, with a sharper decline in 2020 reflecting global economic slowdowns and environmental policy impacts.

Notable Changes:

The most significant year-on-year change occurred between 2012 and 2013, where emissions decreased from 2,770,249.7 kilotons to 2,609,178.7 kilotons.

Another notable change was observed between 2018 and 2020, with emissions dropping from 2,487,686.8 kilotons to 2,129,097.82 kilotons, indicating a substantial reduction within a short span.

Recent Trends (2019-2020):

In 2019, emissions were recorded at 2,364,421.637 kilotons, showing a slight increase compared to 2018.

However, by 2020, emissions decreased to 2,129,097.82 kilotons, marking a notable decline possibly influenced by global events and shifts in energy consumption patterns.

3.3Control of Corruption

Description: Control of Corruption measures perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption. This indicator is part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project, compiled by the World Bank. It assesses the effectiveness of governance mechanisms in preventing and combating corruption within countries.

Measurement: The Control of Corruption indicator is measured using a percentile rank:

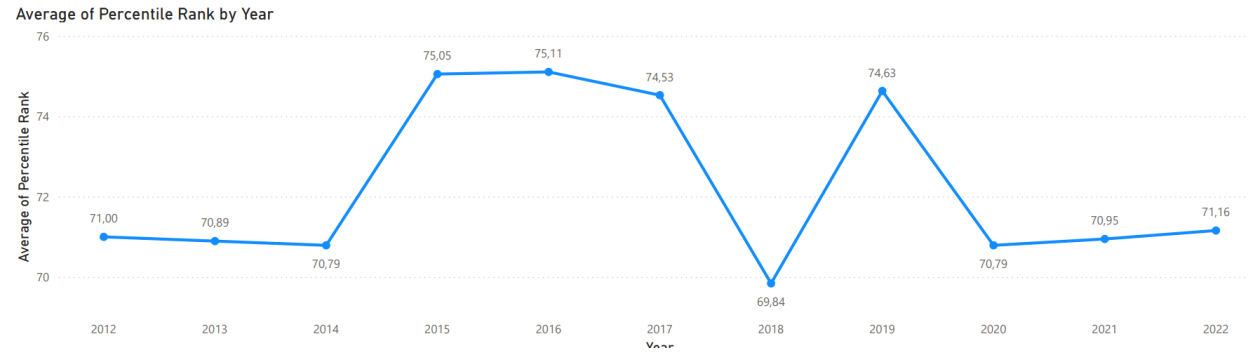
Percentile Rank: This metric compares a country's performance against others on a scale from 0 to 100.

- **0 percentile:** Represents the lowest rank, indicating higher levels of corruption compared to all other countries.
- **100 percentile:** Indicates the highest rank, signifying lower levels of corruption compared to all other countries.

Frequency of Data Collection: The Control of Corruption indicator is updated annually by the World Bank

Time Frame Covered: The data for the Control of Corruption indicator covers a ten-year period from 2012 to 2022.

- **Line chart:**



Overall Trend (2012-2022):

The average percentile rank for Control of Corruption fluctuates between 69.84 and 75.11 over the period from 2012 to 2022. There is variability in the scores, indicating fluctuations in perceptions of corruption control measures across the years.

Highest and Lowest Values:

- Highest Value: The highest average percentile rank is 75.11 in 2016, suggesting stronger perceived control of corruption during that year.
- Lowest Value: The lowest average percentile rank is 69.84 in 2018, indicating a period of perceived weaker control of corruption.

Short-term Fluctuations:

- 2012-2015: There was a slight increase in the average percentile rank from 71.00 in 2012 to 75.05 in 2015, indicating improving perceptions of corruption control.
- 2015-2018: A decline in the average rank is observed from 75.05 in 2015 to 69.84 in 2018, suggesting a deterioration in perceived corruption control measures.
- 2018-2022: The average percentile rank shows recovery and stabilization, with values fluctuating between 69.84 and 71.16.

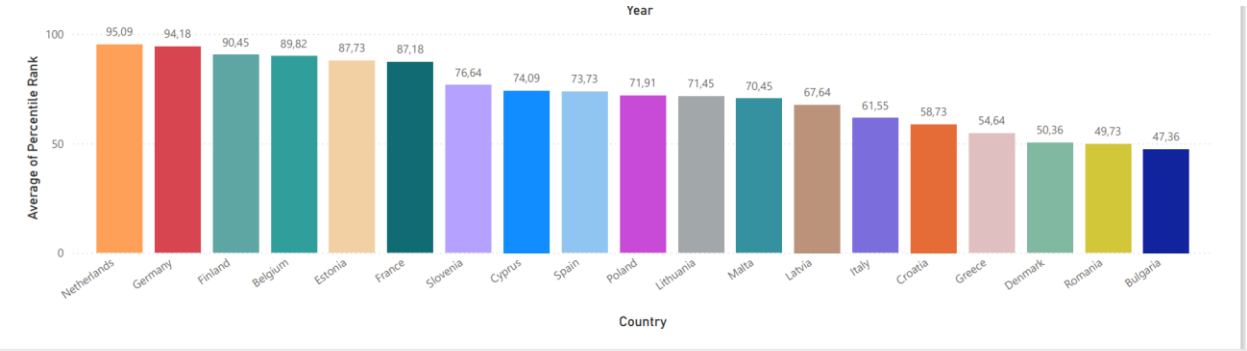
Notable Changes:

The most significant year-on-year change occurred between 2015 and 2016, with the average percentile rank increasing from 75.05 to 75.11, indicating a period of strengthening perceptions of corruption control. Another notable change is seen between 2017 and 2018, where the average percentile rank declined from 74.53 to 69.84, marking a significant shift in perceptions towards weaker corruption control.

Recent Trends (2020-2022):

From 2020 to 2022, the average percentile rank remained relatively stable, with minor fluctuations around the 70s range. The year 2022 shows a slight increase to 71.16, indicating potential improvements in perceptions of corruption control measures.

- **Bar Chart:**



Overview

The average percentile rank for Control of Corruption varies significantly across European Union (EU) Member States, reflecting differing perceptions of corruption control measures within each country.

Highest and Lowest Ranks:

- Highest Rank: The Netherlands tops the list with an average percentile rank of 95.09, indicating strong perceptions of effective corruption control.
- Lowest Rank: Bulgaria has the lowest average percentile rank of 47.36, suggesting lower perceptions of corruption control effectiveness compared to other EU countries.

Country Rankings:

- **High Ranks (Above 80):**
  The Netherlands (95.09) and Germany (94.18) lead with exceptionally high ranks, indicating robust corruption control mechanisms.
  Finland (90.45) and Belgium (89.82) follow closely, reflecting strong governance and transparency practices.
- **Moderate Ranks (60-80):**
  Countries like Estonia (87.73), France (87.18), and Slovenia (76.64) maintain moderate ranks, demonstrating relatively effective corruption control measures.
- **Lower Ranks (Below 60):**
  Greece (54.64), Croatia (58.73), and Italy (61.55) show lower average ranks, indicating perceived challenges in corruption control.
  Denmark (50.36), Romania (49.73), and Bulgaria (47.36) have the lowest ranks among the listed countries, suggesting room for improvement in corruption control efforts.

3.4 Gini Index

Description: The Gini index measures income inequality within a population, reflecting the distribution of income among individuals or households within a country. It is a widely used indicator to assess disparities in wealth distribution and social inequality.

Measurement: The Gini index is calculated using a scale from 0 to 100:

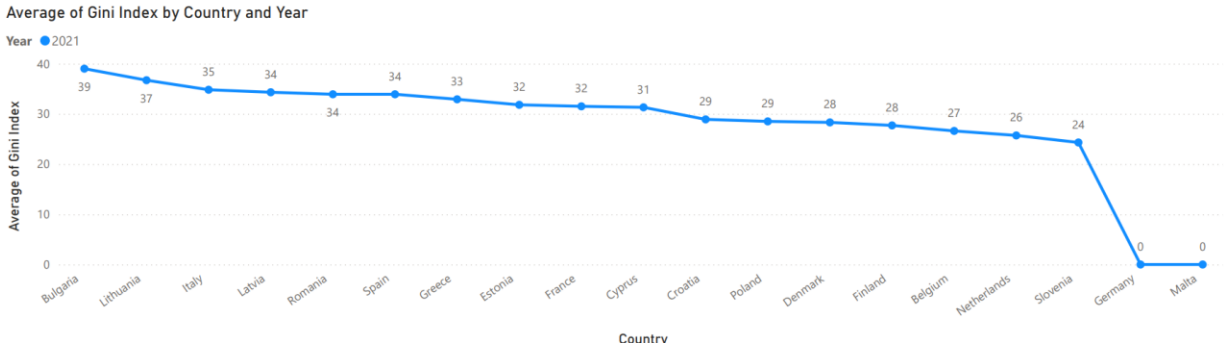
- 0: Represents perfect equality, where everyone has the same income.
- 100: Indicates extreme inequality, where one person has all the income and others have none.

Frequency of Data Collection: Data on the Gini index is typically updated annually by the World Bank and other international organizations.

Time Frame Covered: The latest available data for the Gini index covers the year 2021.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart**



Overview: The line chart visualizes the average Gini index, which measures income inequality, across various European Union (EU) Member States for the year 2021. The Gini index provides insights into the distribution of income within each country, reflecting social and economic disparities.

Key Findings:

- **Highest Gini Index:** Bulgaria has the highest average Gini index of 39 in 2021, indicating relatively higher income inequality compared to other EU countries analyzed.
- Lithuania follows closely with an average Gini index of 36.7, also showing significant income disparities within its population.
- **Lowest Gini Index:** Germany and Malta report a Gini index of 0 in 2021. A Gini index of 0 suggests perfect income equality within these countries, where every individual or household earns exactly the same income.
- **Moderate Gini Index:** Countries such as Italy (34.8), Latvia (34.3), Romania (33.9), and Spain (33.9) show moderate levels of income inequality, indicating varying degrees of wealth distribution within their populations.

3.5 Government Effectiveness (GDP)

Description: Government Effectiveness (GDP) measures the perceived quality of public services, civil service quality, and the degree of its independence from political pressures. This indicator is part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project, compiled by the World Bank. It reflects the effectiveness and efficiency of government institutions in managing and implementing policies that impact economic performance, including GDP growth.

Measurement: Government Effectiveness (GDP) is assessed using a percentile rank:

Percentile Rank: This indicates how a country's government effectiveness compares to others. It ranges from 0 to 100.

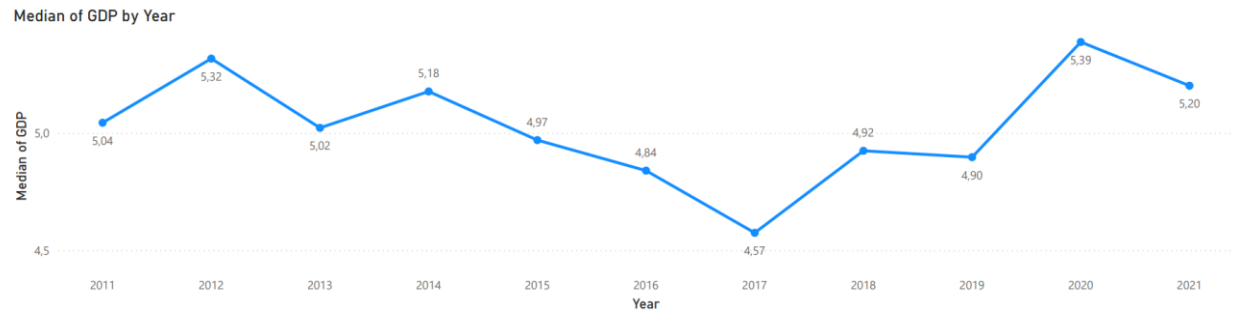
- 0 percentile: Represents the lowest possible rank, indicating poor government effectiveness in managing public services and economic policies.
- 100 percentile: Represents the highest possible rank, indicating strong government effectiveness with efficient public services and conducive policies for economic growth.

Frequency of Data Collection: Data on Government Effectiveness (GDP) is updated annually by the World Bank.

Time Frame Covered: The latest available data for Government Effectiveness (GDP) covers a ten-year period from 2011 to 2021.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart:**



Overview: The line chart illustrates the median GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth rates across the specified years. GDP growth is a key indicator of economic performance, reflecting the rate at which a country's economy is expanding or contracting over time.

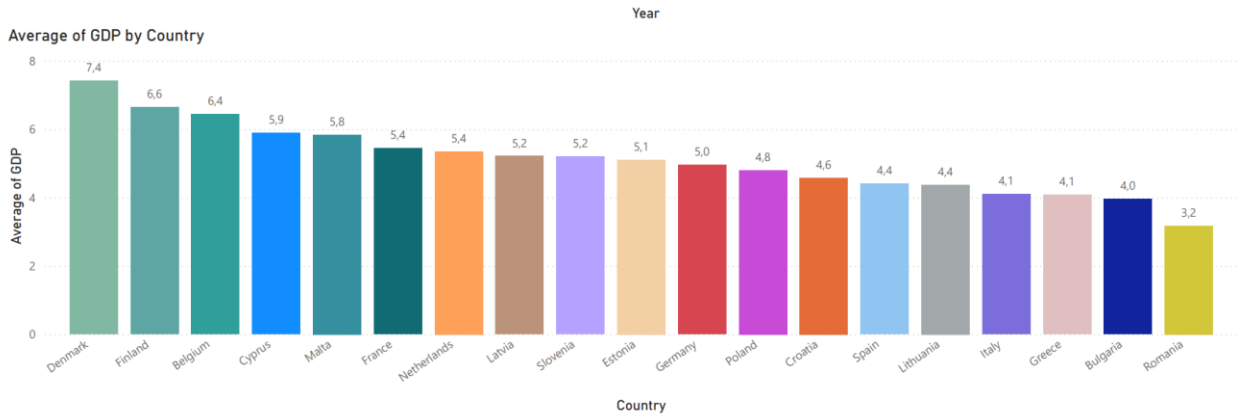
Notable Changes:

- 2011 to 2012: GDP growth increased notably from 5.04% in 2011 to 5.32% in 2012, indicating a robust economic expansion within this period.
- 2013 to 2015: GDP growth showed variability, with rates fluctuating between 5.02% in 2013 and 4.97% in 2015, suggesting economic adjustments and external impacts.

- 2016 to 2017: There was a decline in GDP growth from 4.84% in 2016, followed by a modest recovery to 4.57% in 2017, reflecting economic stabilization efforts.
- 2018 to 2021: GDP growth exhibited mixed results, with a peak of 5.39% in 2020 amidst economic uncertainties, followed by stabilization at 5.20% in 2021 after lower growth in 2018 and 2019.

Recent Trends: 2020 to 2021: GDP growth showed resilience with a notable peak of 5.39% in 2020, likely influenced by recovery efforts amidst global economic challenges. In 2021, GDP growth stabilized at 5.20%, indicating sustained economic activity and stabilization following the peak in 2020.

- **Bar Chart:**



Overview: The bar chart presents the average GDP (Gross Domestic Product) values for various countries, reflecting their economic performance over the specified period. GDP is a fundamental indicator of a country's economic health and productivity.

Key Findings

- **Highest Average GDP:**
  Denmark leads with an average GDP of 7.41, indicating strong economic performance and productivity.
  Finland follows closely with an average GDP of 6.65, highlighting robust economic activities and stability.
  Belgium ranks third with an average GDP of 6.44, showcasing steady economic growth and development.
- **Lowest Average GDP:**
  Romania reports the lowest average GDP of 3.17, reflecting economic challenges and lower productivity compared to other countries analyzed.
  Bulgaria follows with an average GDP of 3.96, indicating similar economic conditions and developmental needs.
- **Variability in GDP Across Countries:** There is noticeable variability in average GDP values across the countries analyzed, influenced by factors such as economic policies, market dynamics, and structural reforms.

Notable Observations:

- **Regional Disparities:** Countries in Northern Europe, such as Denmark and Finland, consistently show higher average GDP values, reflecting advanced economic structures and robust growth strategies.
- **Southern and Eastern Europe:** Countries like Romania and Bulgaria exhibit lower average GDP values, indicating ongoing economic transitions and developmental challenges.

3.6 Government Effectiveness (GDP)

Description: Government Effectiveness (GDP) measures the extent to which government policies and actions are effectively implemented and produce the intended outcomes in terms of economic performance, particularly Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This indicator is part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project, compiled by the World Bank. It assesses the quality of public services, the competency of civil servants, and the government's ability to manage and implement policies that influence economic growth and development.

Measurement: Government Effectiveness (GDP) is measured using a percentile rank:

Percentile Rank: This indicates how a country's government effectiveness in managing economic policies compares to others globally. It ranges from 0 to 100.

- 0 percentile: Indicates poor government effectiveness, where policies are poorly implemented and fail to achieve desired economic outcomes.
- 100 percentile: Indicates strong government effectiveness, where policies are efficiently implemented, contributing significantly to economic growth and stability.

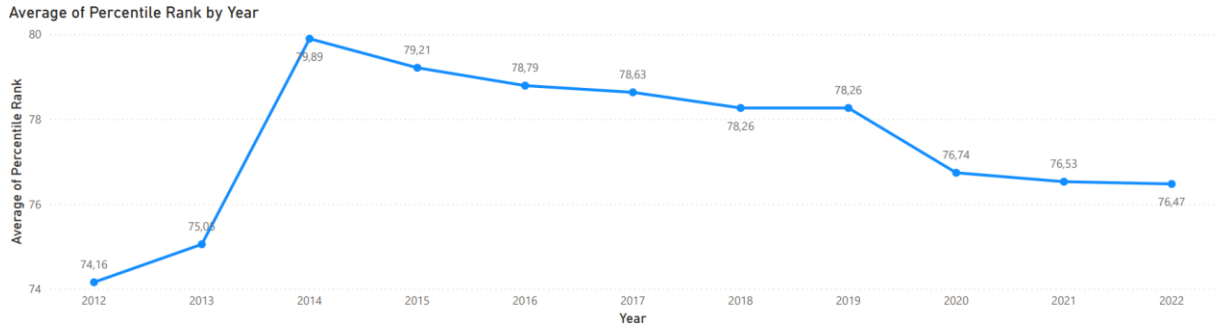
Frequency of Data Collection: Data on Government Effectiveness (GDP) is updated annually by the World Bank.

Time Frame Covered: The data for Government Effectiveness (GDP) covers a ten-year period, allowing for comprehensive analysis and comparison of trends in government effectiveness in managing economic policies from 2012 to 2022.

Source: The data for Government Effectiveness (GDP) is sourced from the World Bank as part of its Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart:**



Overview: The line chart depicts the average percentile rank for Government Effectiveness (GDP) across the specified years. This indicator measures the perceived effectiveness of government policies and actions in achieving intended economic outcomes, particularly in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and economic stability.

Key Findings

Overall Trend (2012-2022):

The average percentile rank for Government Effectiveness (GDP) fluctuated between 74.16 in 2012 and 76.47 in 2022.There is a general trend of stability with minor fluctuations, indicating a consistent perception of government effectiveness in managing economic policies over the decade.

Highest and Lowest Values:

- Highest Value: The highest average percentile rank was observed in 2014 at 79.89, indicating peak confidence in government effectiveness during that period.
- Lowest Value: The lowest average percentile rank occurred in 2018 and 2019 at 78.26, suggesting a slight dip in perceived government effectiveness during those years.

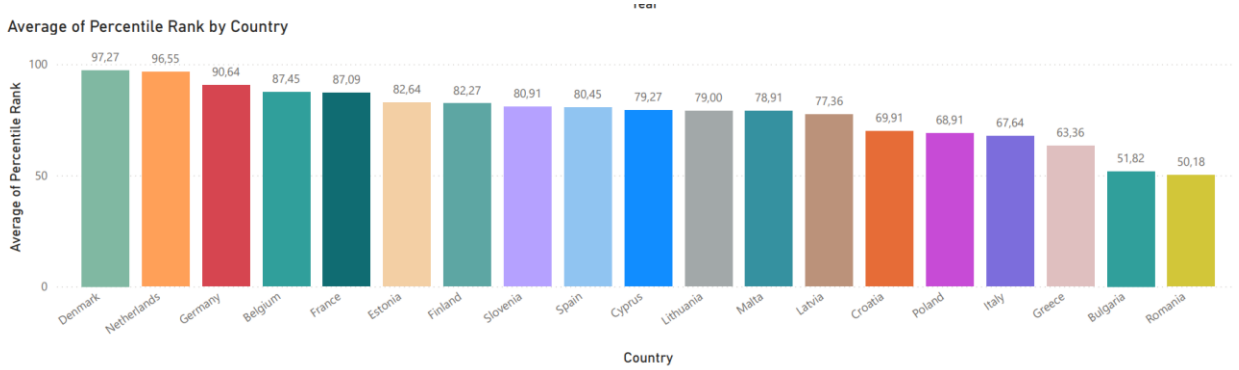
Short-term Fluctuations:

- 2012-2014: There was a notable increase in the average percentile rank from 74.16 in 2012 to 79.89 in 2014, indicating improving confidence in government policies.
- 2015-2018: The average percentile rank remained relatively high but showed some variability, reflecting changing perceptions of government effectiveness.
- 2019-2022: The percentile rank stabilized around the mid-70s range, indicating consistent perceptions of government effectiveness in recent years.

Recent Trends (2020-2022):

From 2020 to 2022, the average percentile rank continued to hover around 76.53 to 76.47, indicating a stable perception of government effectiveness in managing economic policies despite external challenges.

- **Bar Chart:**



Overview: The bar chart illustrates the average percentile rank for Government Effectiveness (GDP) across various countries, reflecting perceptions of how effectively governments manage economic policies to achieve desired outcomes in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and stability.

Key Findings

- **Highest Average Percentile Rank:**
  Denmark: Denmark tops the chart with an average percentile rank of 97.27, indicating strong confidence in the government's effectiveness in economic management and policy implementation.
  Netherlands: Following closely, the Netherlands ranks second with an average percentile rank of 96.55, highlighting robust governance and economic policies.
  Germany: Germany secures the third position with an average percentile rank of 90.64, showcasing effective governance practices and economic stability.
- **Lowest Average Percentile Rank:**
  Romania: Romania reports the lowest average percentile rank of 50.18, indicating challenges in governance effectiveness and economic management compared to other countries.
  Bulgaria: Bulgaria follows with an average percentile rank of 51.82, suggesting similar issues in governance and economic policy implementation.

Regional Variations:

- **Northern Europe:** Countries like Denmark, Netherlands, and Finland demonstrate higher average percentile ranks, indicating strong governance structures and effective economic policies fostering growth.
- **Southern and Eastern Europe:** Countries such as Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece exhibit lower average percentile ranks, reflecting ongoing challenges in governance effectiveness and economic development.

3.7 Protected area

Description: Protected Areas by Country/Territory per Year measures the extent of land and marine areas designated and managed primarily for conservation and biodiversity preservation purposes. This indicator is essential for assessing environmental sustainability efforts and conservation policies implemented by governments worldwide.

Measurement: Protected Areas by Country/Territory per Year is measured as the total area (in square kilometers or hectares) designated and legally protected as national parks, wildlife reserves, protected areas, and other conservation areas within each country or territory.

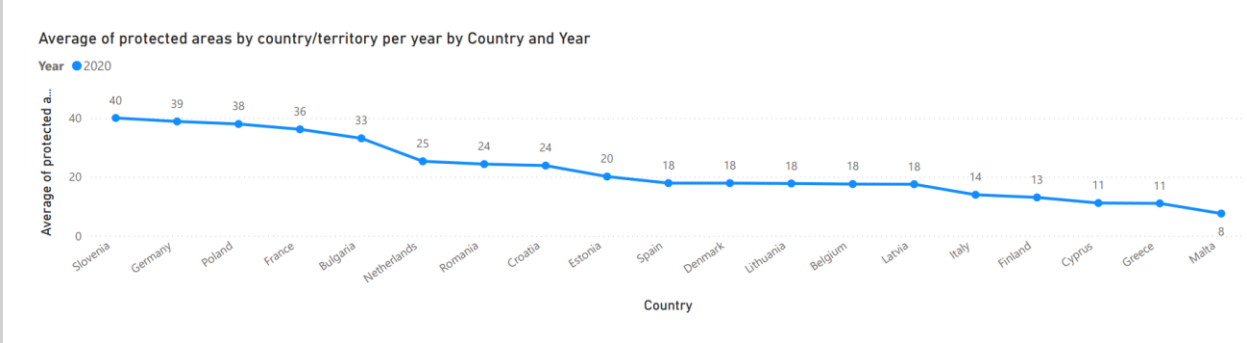
Frequency of Data Collection: Data on Protected Areas by Country/Territory per Year is collected annually by the World Bank.

Time Frame Covered: The data for Protected Areas by Country/Territory per Year covers a ten-year period, allowing for comprehensive analysis and comparison of trends in protected area expansion and conservation efforts from 2016to 2022.

Source: The data for Protected Areas by Country/Territory per Year is sourced from the World Bank, reflecting data compiled from national governments and international conservation organizations.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart:**



Overview: The line chart depicts the average area of protected areas designated by each country or territory annually. This indicator measures the commitment and efforts of nations in preserving biodiversity, conserving natural habitats, and promoting sustainable environmental practices.

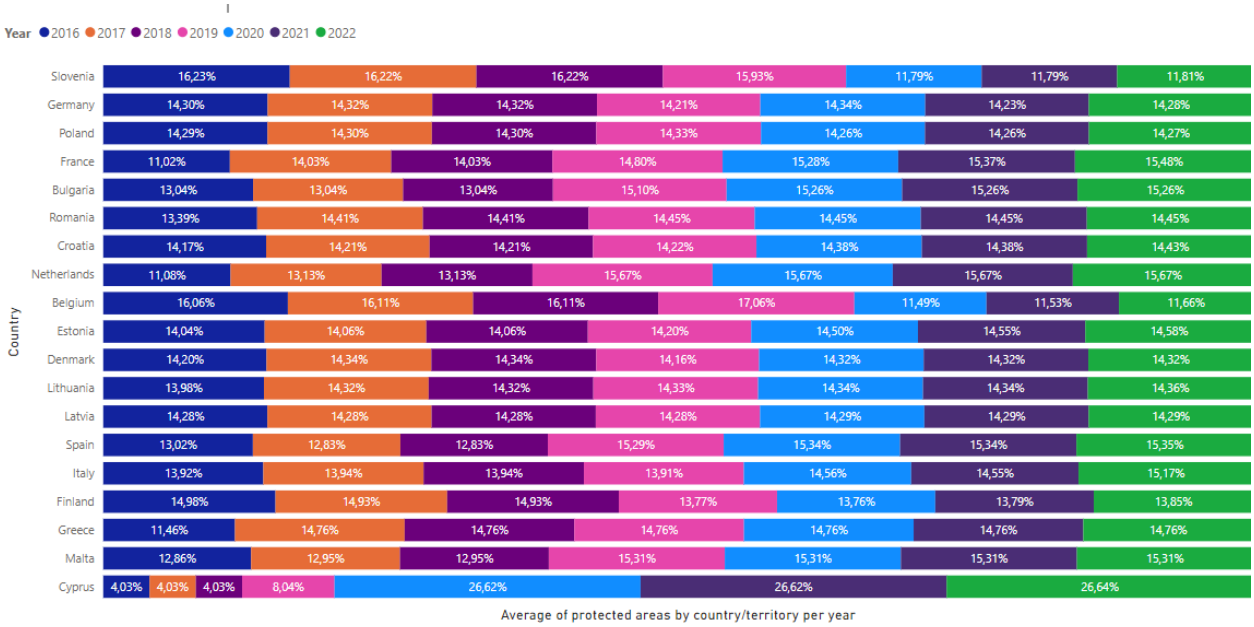
Key Findings

- **Highest Average Protected Areas:**
  Slovenia: Slovenia leads with an average of 40,017 square kilometers of protected areas per year in 2020, indicating robust conservation efforts and significant natural resource preservation.
  Germany: Germany follows closely with an average of 38,833 square kilometers, reflecting strong environmental policies and conservation initiatives.
  Poland: Poland ranks third with an average of 37,966 square kilometers, highlighting extensive protected area coverage and biodiversity conservation efforts.
- **Lowest Average Protected Areas:**
  Malta: Malta reports the lowest average of 7,579 square kilometers of protected areas per year in 2020, indicating challenges in land availability and environmental preservation.
  Greece: Greece follows with an average of 11,028 square kilometers, suggesting ongoing efforts to enhance protected area coverage amidst environmental challenges.

Regional Variations:

- **Eastern Europe:** Countries like Slovenia, Poland, and Romania demonstrate higher average protected area coverage, reflecting significant conservation efforts and environmental stewardship.
- **Southern Europe:** Countries such as Greece, Italy, and Cyprus exhibit lower average protected areas, indicating varying levels of environmental conservation priorities and challenges.

- **100% Stacked bar chart:**



Overview: The stacked bar chart illustrates the average area of protected areas designated by various countries or territories across different years. This analysis provides insights into the trends and variations in conservation efforts and environmental policies among the selected nations.

Key Findings

- **Slovenia:** Slovenia shows a consistent high level of average protected areas, ranging around 40,000 to 55,000 square kilometers annually from 2016 to 2022. This indicates a strong commitment to environmental conservation and biodiversity preservation.
- **Germany:** Germany demonstrates a stable level of average protected areas, consistently around 38,000 to 39,000 square kilometers annually across the years. This reflects sustained efforts in maintaining and expanding protected areas.
- **Poland:** Poland exhibits a steady trend with average protected areas ranging from 37,000 to 38,000 square kilometers annually. The country shows a strong focus on preserving natural habitats and biodiversity.
- **France:** France's average protected areas vary, with higher levels observed in recent years (around 36,000 square kilometers in 2020 and 2021. There is a notable increase compared to earlier years, indicating enhanced conservation efforts.

- **Bulgaria:** Bulgaria's average protected areas have shown variability, with a significant increase to over 33,000 square kilometers in 2020 and 2021. This suggests ongoing efforts to expand conservation areas despite earlier fluctuations.
- **Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Croatia, Estonia, Denmark, Lithuania, Latvia, Italy, Finland, Cyprus, Greece, Malta:** These countries demonstrate varying levels of average protected areas, reflecting national priorities in environmental conservation. Trends show both stability and fluctuations, influenced by policy changes and environmental challenges.

Notable Observations:

Regional Patterns:

- **Eastern European** countries like Slovenia, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria consistently show higher average protected areas, indicating robust conservation strategies.
- **Western European nations** like France, Germany, and the Netherlands also maintain significant levels of protected areas.

3.8 Participation in Agreement

Description: Participation in International Agreements measures the extent to which countries are involved in treaties and agreements focused on ocean conservation. These agreements are crucial for establishing frameworks, guidelines, and collaborative efforts to protect marine ecosystems and resources globally.

Measure: Inclusive/Exclusive

Definition: Number and significance of international treaties and agreements signed related to ocean conservation.

Significance of Key Agreements

- **UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea):**
- Significance: UNCLOS defines maritime zones such as territorial seas, exclusive economic zones (EEZs), and continental shelves. It ensures sustainable use of marine resources and includes provisions for marine environmental protection.
- **MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships):**
- Significance: MARPOL aims to reduce marine pollution from ships by regulating discharges, emissions, and garbage disposal at sea. It plays a crucial role in protecting marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- **CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity):**
- Significance: The CBD promotes marine biodiversity conservation through initiatives like marine protected areas (MPAs) and sustainable resource management. It encourages international cooperation to address threats to marine ecosystems.
- **CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora):**
- Significance: CITES regulates international trade in endangered marine species, ensuring it does not threaten their survival. It contributes to marine conservation by preventing over-exploitation and trafficking.

- **ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area):**
- Significance: ACCOBAMS fosters regional cooperation for cetacean conservation and habitat protection in the Mediterranean, Black, and contiguous Atlantic areas.
- **Regional Seas Conventions:**
  Significance: These conventions promote regional cooperation among coastal states to address marine pollution, habitat degradation, and sustainable use of marine resources. They facilitate joint efforts for marine conservation and management.

Frequency of Data Collection: Data on participation in international agreements related to ocean conservation is typically collected and updated periodically. For example, comprehensive data might cover a timeframe from 1993 to 2002, reflecting historical involvement and ongoing commitments by countries.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Table:**

Country	Sum of CBD Agreements	Sum of CITES Agreement	Sum of UNCLOS Agreement	Sum of MARPOL Agreement
Belgium	1	1	1	1
Bulgaria	1	1	1	1
Croatia	1	1	1	
Cyprus	1	1	1	
Denmark	1	1	1	1
Estonia	1	1	1	
Finland	1	1	1	1
France	1	1	1	1
Germany	1	1	1	1
Greece	1	1	1	1
Italy	1	1	1	1
Latvia	1	1	1	
Lithuania	1	1	1	
Malta	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	1	1	1	1
Poland	1	1	1	
Romania	1	1	1	
Slovenia	1	1	1	1
Spain	1	1	1	1
Total	**19**	**19**	**19**	**12**

Overview: The analysis focuses on the participation of countries in four key international agreements related to ocean conservation: CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), and MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships).

Key Findings

- **CBD Agreements:** All countries in the dataset are participants in the CBD agreement. This indicates universal recognition of the importance of biodiversity conservation, including marine ecosystems.

- **CITES Agreements:** All countries in the dataset are also participants in the CITES agreement. This demonstrates a collective effort to regulate and monitor international trade in endangered marine species, contributing to their conservation.
- **UNCLOS Agreements:** All countries are signatories to the UNCLOS agreement. This agreement is fundamental in defining maritime zones and establishing legal frameworks for the sustainable use of marine resources and protection of marine environments.
- **MARPOL Agreements:** MARPOL participation data is not fully populated for some countries in the dataset, indicating potential gaps or inconsistencies in reporting or participation. MARPOL is critical for reducing marine pollution from ships, underscoring the importance of comprehensive participation.

3.9 Political Ideology

Description: This measure assesses the extent to which a country practices principles of deliberative democracy, egalitarian democracy, and incorporates direct popular votes into its political processes. Deliberative democracy emphasizes informed and inclusive decision-making processes, where citizens deliberate and discuss issues before making collective decisions. Egalitarian democracy focuses on reducing socioeconomic inequalities and ensuring equal political participation. Direct popular votes involve citizens directly participating in decision-making through referendums, initiatives, or other forms of direct democracy.

Measure: Deliberative democracy / Egalitarian democracy / Extent of direct popular votes

The measurement involves assessing the institutional frameworks, policies, and practices within each country related to deliberative democracy, egalitarian democracy, and direct popular votes. Indicators may include: Existence of deliberative forums or processes where citizens engage in informed discussions. Policies aimed at reducing socioeconomic inequalities and promoting equal political participation. Frequency and significance of direct popular votes on national or local issues.

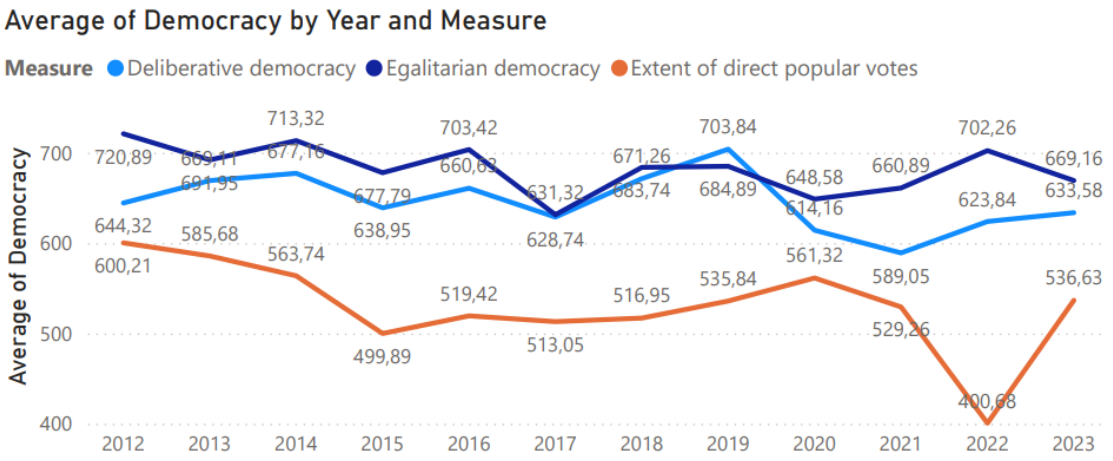
Frequency of Data Collection: Data is collected annually, allowing for continuous monitoring and analysis of political ideology trends over time.

Time Frame Covered: The data spans from 2012 to 2023, providing a comprehensive view of political ideology trends over a decade.

Source: Our World in Data (ourworldindata.org) provides the data and analysis related to political ideology, offering insights into global trends and variations in democratic practices worldwide.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart:**



- **Deliberative Democracy**

Fluctuations Over Time:

- 2012-2014: The measure of deliberative democracy showed fluctuations, starting from 644.32 in 2012, peaking at 677.16 in 2014, and stabilizing around 660-670 in subsequent years.
- 2015-2017: A slight decline was observed from 2015 to 2017, with values ranging between 628.74 and 669.11, indicating possible variations in public engagement and deliberative practices during this period.
- 2018-2023: There was a gradual increase in the measure post-2017, reaching a peak of 703.84 in 2019 before stabilizing around 630-640 in recent years, reflecting ongoing efforts in enhancing deliberative democracy.

Notable Changes:

2019: Significant improvement in deliberative democracy, with the highest recorded value of 703.84, possibly indicating reforms or increased public participation initiatives.

2022: A notable decrease to 623.84, suggesting potential challenges or reforms impacting deliberative processes.

Recent Trends (2020-2023):

The measure of deliberative democracy has shown stability in recent years, hovering around 620-640. This suggests a maintained level of engagement and stability in deliberative practices, albeit with fluctuations.

- **Egalitarian Democracy**

Fluctuations Over Time:

  - 2012-2014: The measure of egalitarian democracy started at 720.89 in 2012, peaked at 713.32 in 2014, showing initial stability and effectiveness in promoting equality.
  - 2015-2018: Fluctuations were observed, with values ranging between 677.79 and 684.89, indicating ongoing efforts and possibly varying policy impacts on egalitarian goals.
  - 2019-2023: A gradual decline followed the peak in 2019, stabilizing around 660-670 in recent years, possibly reflecting challenges in maintaining or advancing egalitarian democracy measures.

Notable Changes:

2019: Peak value of 684.89, indicating strong efforts towards egalitarian democracy.

2022: Decrease to 702.26, suggesting potential shifts in policies or socio-political dynamics affecting equality measures.

Recent Trends (2020-2023):

Egalitarian democracy measures have shown stability in recent years, albeit with a slight decline post-2019. This suggests ongoing efforts but highlights challenges in sustaining or advancing equality-focused democratic practices.

- **Extent of Direct Popular Votes**

Fluctuations Over Time:

  - 2012-2014: Started at 600.21 in 2012, fluctuated between 563.74 and 561.32 in 2014, indicating varying levels of direct democratic practices.
  - 2015-2017: Values ranged between 499.89 and 513.05, showing stability with slight fluctuations in the extent of direct popular votes.
  - 2018-2023: Decreased to 400.68 in 2022, suggesting potential shifts in the use or significance of direct democratic practices.

Notable Changes:

2018: Decrease to 516.95, indicating potential changes in the frequency or impact of direct popular votes.

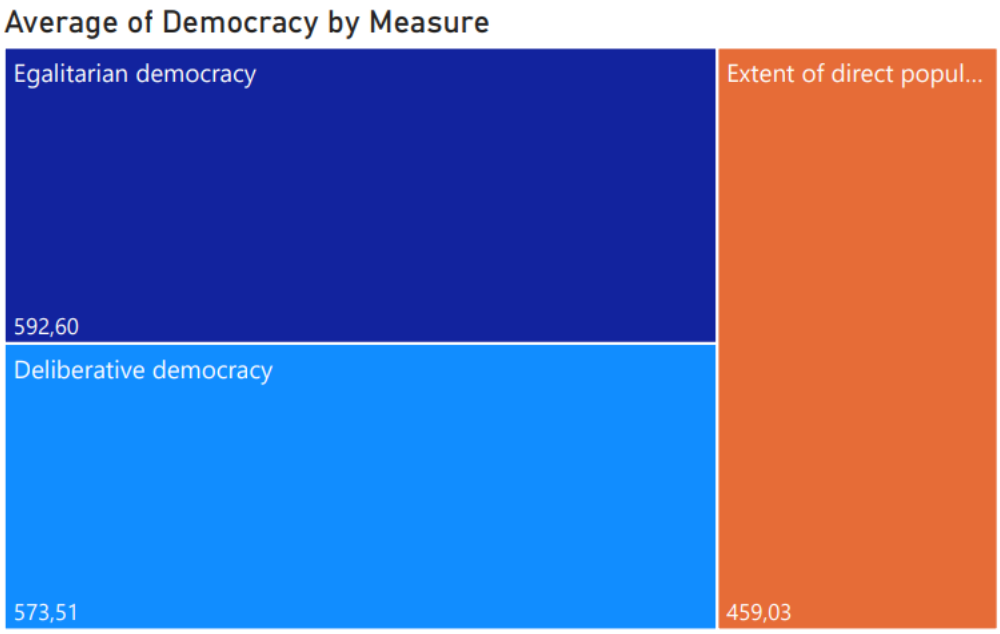
2022: Significant decrease to 400.68, highlighting a possible reduction in direct democratic engagements.

Recent Trends (2020-2023):

The measure of extent of direct popular votes has shown a declining trend post-2018, indicating possible challenges or shifts in direct democratic practices within countries.

Summary: The analysis of political ideology measures from 2012 to 2023 reveals fluctuations and trends across deliberative democracy, egalitarian democracy, and extent of direct popular votes. Deliberative democracy showed variability with peaks in 2014 and 2019, reflecting varying levels of public engagement and policy impact. Egalitarian democracy demonstrated initial stability but experienced declines post-2019, highlighting ongoing challenges in addressing socioeconomic inequalities. The extent of direct popular votes fluctuated with a general decline post-2018, indicating potential shifts in direct democratic practices.

- **Tree Map:**



- **Deliberative Democracy vs. Egalitarian Democracy:**

  Egalitarian democracy tends to have a slightly higher average score (592.60) compared to deliberative democracy (573.51), indicating that countries prioritize efforts to reduce socioeconomic disparities and enhance political inclusivity slightly more than they emphasize deliberative decision-making processes.

- **Deliberative Democracy vs. Extent of Direct Popular Votes:**

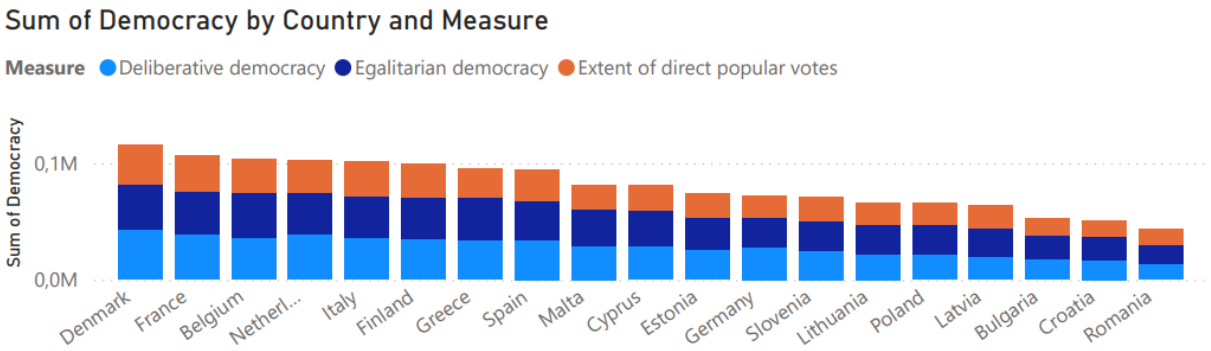
  Deliberative democracy (573.51) shows a higher average score than the extent of direct popular votes (459.03), suggesting that countries place a stronger emphasis on inclusive deliberation and public discourse in policy-making compared to direct forms of citizen participation through voting.

- **Egalitarian Democracy vs. Extent of Direct Popular Votes:**

  Egalitarian democracy (592.60) also exhibits a higher average score than the extent of direct popular votes (459.03), indicating that countries prioritize efforts to achieve socioeconomic

equality and promote fair political participation more than they emphasize direct democratic practices**.**

- **Stack column chart:**



Insights and Observations:

- **Deliberative Democracy:**

  Top Performers: Denmark leads with a cumulative score of 43,476, followed closely by France (39,409) and Netherlands (39,168).

  Observation: Countries like Denmark, France, and Netherlands show a strong commitment to deliberative processes in governance, emphasizing inclusive decision-making and public discourse.

- **Egalitarian Democracy:**

  Top Performers: Denmark ranks highest with a cumulative score of 38,273, followed by Belgium (37,725) and France (36,759).

  Observation: These countries prioritize reducing socioeconomic disparities and promoting equal political participation, reflecting their commitment to egalitarian principles.

- **Extent of Direct Popular Votes:**

  Top Performers: Denmark leads with a cumulative score of 33,745, with Malta (31,121) and France (30,903) following.

  Observation: Direct democratic practices vary across countries, with Denmark and Malta showing higher engagement in direct popular votes compared to others.

3.10 Number of Regions

Description: Regions refer to the primary administrative or geographic subdivisions within a nation. These subdivisions are designated to manage governmental functions, provide local governance, and organize statistical data. Depending on the country's administrative structure and legal framework, regions may vary in name and function. Common terms include states, provinces, territories, counties, or

autonomous areas. Regions play a crucial role in decentralized governance, allowing for tailored policies and services that meet local needs.

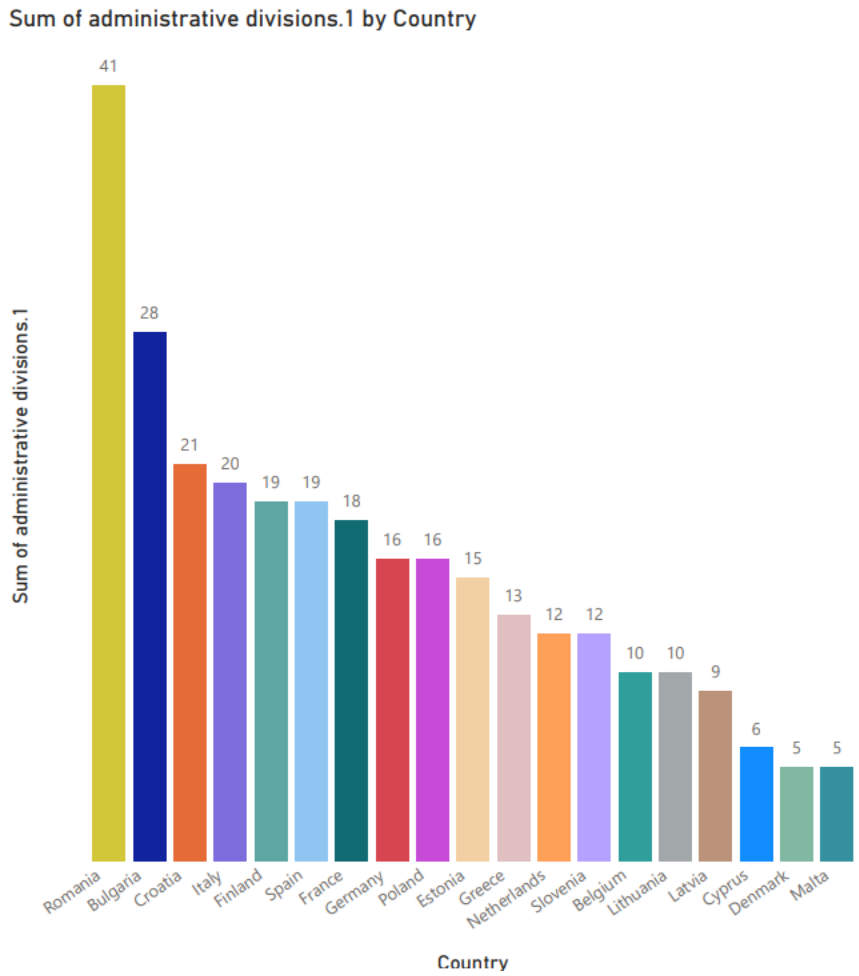
Measurement: The measurement of regions involves counting the total number of these administrative or geographic subdivisions within a nation. This count provides insights into the country's organizational structure and the distribution of governance responsibilities across different levels. The data on regions are typically sourced from national governments or institutions responsible for administrative divisions and local governance.

Frequency of Data Collection: The frequency of updating regional data can vary across countries. In the European context, data on regions are often updated periodically to reflect changes in administrative boundaries or governance reforms.

Source: The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is a key source for regional data within the European Union.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Bar Chart:**



Across Europe, the diversity in administrative divisions reflects varying approaches to governance and regional autonomy. Romania leads with 41 administrative divisions, indicative of its decentralized administrative structure. These divisions play a pivotal role in local governance and regional policy implementation, ensuring that administrative responsibilities are effectively managed at a localized level. Similarly, Bulgaria follows with 28 divisions, contributing to local autonomy and facilitating regional development initiatives.

Croatia's 21 administrative divisions underscore its commitment to decentralized governance, enabling efficient management of local affairs and tailored regional policies. In contrast, countries like Malta and Denmark have fewer divisions, with 5 each, emphasizing their smaller geographic and administrative scale while still maintaining localized governance structures. This diversity in administrative divisions across Europe highlights the nuanced approaches countries take to balance national unity with regional autonomy and effective local governance.

3.11 Regulatory Quality

Description: Regulatory Quality refers to the effectiveness of government regulations in promoting private sector development, economic growth, and societal well-being. It assesses the extent to which regulations are clear, efficient, and implemented fairly and predictably. This indicator is crucial for evaluating a country's regulatory environment, which directly impacts business confidence, investment attractiveness, and overall economic performance.

Measurement: Regulatory Quality is measured using a percentile rank, which indicates how a country's regulatory framework compares to that of others globally. A higher percentile rank signifies stronger regulatory quality, implying clearer, more efficient, and more transparent regulatory practices. Conversely, a lower percentile rank suggests regulatory inefficiencies, bureaucratic hurdles, or inconsistent implementation of regulations.

Percentile Rank Explanation:

- 0 percentile: Indicates the lowest rank, where the regulatory environment is perceived as least effective compared to all other countries.
- 100 percentile: Represents the highest rank, indicating the most effective regulatory environment relative to all other countries.

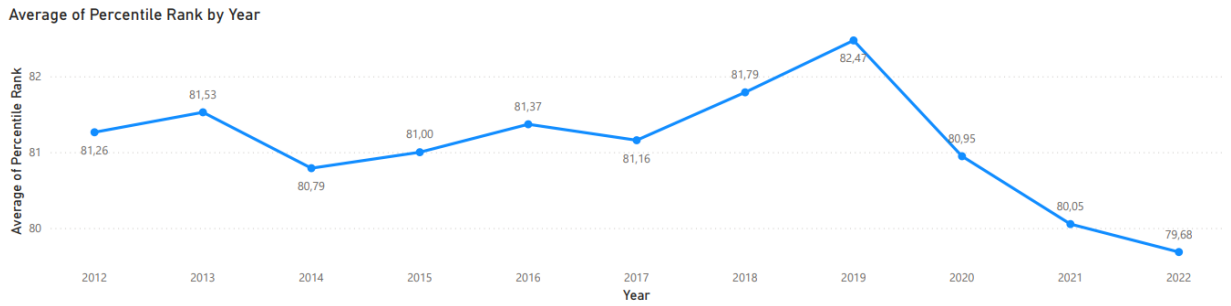
Frequency of Data Collection: Data for Regulatory Quality is updated annually by the World Bank

Time Frame Covered: The data for Regulatory Quality covers a ten-year period from 2013 to 2022.

Source: The World Bank compiles and publishes the Regulatory Quality indicator as part of its Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line chart:**



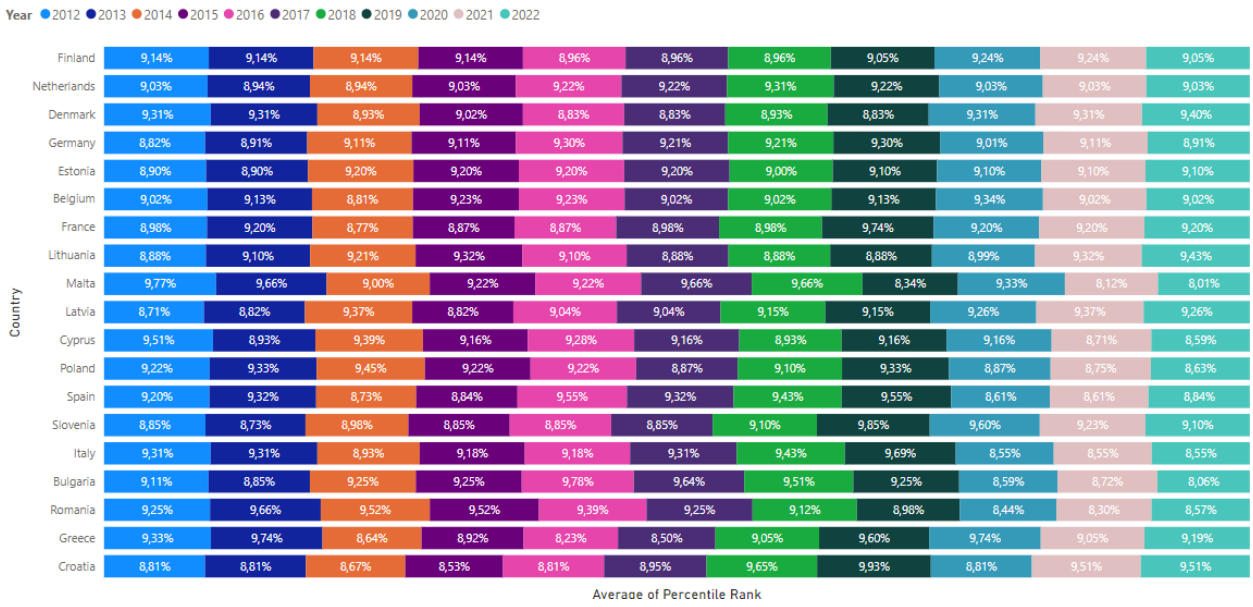
Overview: The line chart illustrates the average percentile rank of Regulatory Quality across various years, reflecting fluctuations and trends in how effectively countries implement and enforce regulations to support economic growth and societal stability. From 2012 to 2022, the average percentile rank of Regulatory

Quality shows some notable fluctuations:

- Stable Period (2012-2014): The average percentile rank remained relatively stable around 81, indicating consistent regulatory quality during this period.
- Dip and Recovery (2015-2018): Around 2015, there was a slight dip to 81.00, suggesting potential challenges or changes in regulatory effectiveness. However, by 2018, the rank rose to 81.79, indicating improvements or stabilization.
- Recent Decline (2019-2022): The average percentile rank increased to 82.47 in 2019, suggesting enhanced regulatory quality. However, from 2020 onwards, there has been a decline, reaching 79.68 in 2022. This decline could signify various factors such as changes in regulatory policies, implementation issues, or external economic pressures impacting regulatory environments globally.

Recent Years (2020-2022): In the latest years (2020-2022), there is a noticeable downward trend in Regulatory Quality, with the average percentile rank decreasing from 80.95 in 2020 to 79.68 in 2022. This decline indicates potential challenges in maintaining effective regulatory frameworks amidst evolving global economic conditions and policy shifts. Analyzing the specific reasons behind this decline, such as changes in government policies, economic disruptions, or regulatory inefficiencies, would provide deeper insights into the current state of Regulatory Quality across countries.

- **100% Stacked Bar:**



Key Observations:

- Finland: Maintained consistently high Regulatory Quality with an average percentile rank of 99.00 in 2020 and 2021, and 98.00 in earlier years such as 2012-2019.
- Netherlands: Also demonstrated strong performance, with an average percentile rank of 99.00 in 2018, and consistently high ranks of 98.00 in other years like 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.
- Denmark: Showed a steady performance with average ranks of 98.00 in recent years (2020, 2021), and slightly lower ranks in earlier years (97.00 in 2012, 2013).
- Germany: Displayed varying ranks over the years, ranging from 96.00 to 92.00, indicating fluctuations in Regulatory Quality.
- Estonia, Belgium, Malta: Exhibited mid-range to high ranks (92.00 to 88.00), reflecting relatively stable Regulatory Quality across the observed years.

Trends and Insights:

- **Stability in High Ranks:** Countries like Finland and the Netherlands consistently maintained high Regulatory Quality ranks, suggesting effective regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.
- **Fluctuations in Ranks:** Countries such as Germany and some Eastern European nations like Estonia and Lithuania showed fluctuations in their Regulatory Quality ranks, indicating potential challenges in maintaining consistent regulatory standards.
- **Improvements and Declines:** Some countries demonstrated improvements over the years, while others experienced declines, reflecting changes in regulatory policies, economic conditions, or governance structures.

3.12 Rule of Law

Description: The Rule of Law indicator measures the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, encompassing perceptions of the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, and the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence. This indicator is part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project, compiled by the World Bank.

Measurement:

The Rule of Law indicator is measured using a percentile rank. Here's a simple explanation of how percentile rank works:

Percentile Rank:

This indicates how a country's performance compares to others. It is a value between 0 and 100, where higher values mean better outcomes.

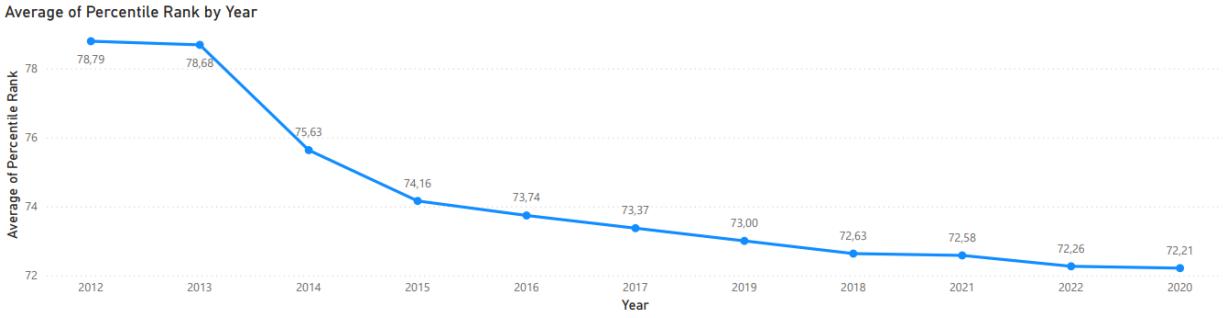
- 0 percentile: The lowest possible rank, meaning the country has weaker adherence to the rule of law compared to all other countries.
- 100 percentile: The highest possible rank, meaning the country has stronger adherence to the rule of law compared to all other countries.

Frequency of Data Collection: The Rule of Law indicator is updated annually.

Time Frame Covered: The data for this indicator covers a ten-year period from 2012 to 2020.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line Chart:**



Overview: This report analyzes the average percentile rank of the Rule of Law indicator over the period from 2012 to 2022. The data reflects fluctuations in how countries' adherence to the rule of law compares to others, with higher percentile ranks indicating stronger rule of law.

Trend Analysis:

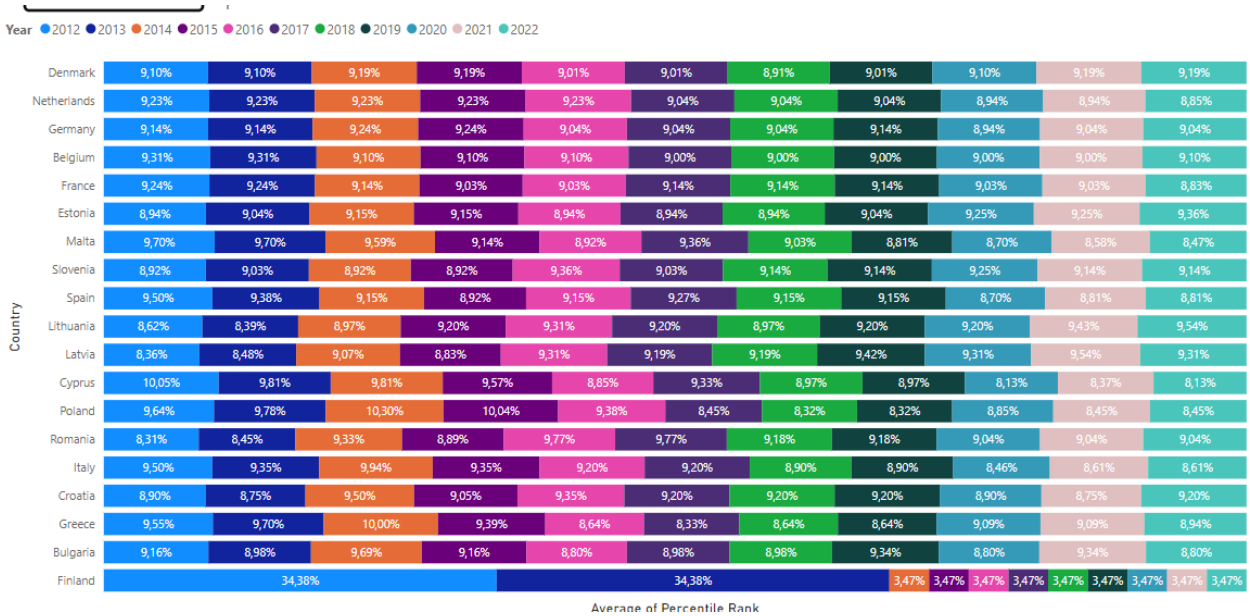
- 2012-2014: The average percentile rank begins at 78.79 in 2012 and slightly decreases to 78.68 in 2013. A more noticeable drop occurs in 2014, where the rank falls to 75.63.
- 2015-2017: This period continues the downward trend. The rank decreases to 74.16 in 2015 and further drops to 73.74 in 2016 and 73.37 in 2017.

- 2018-2020: The average percentile rank shows slight fluctuations. It reaches 72.63 in 2018 and then rises marginally to 73.00 in 2019. However, in 2020, the rank declines again to 72.21.
- 2021-2022: The trend continues downward, with the average percentile rank at 72.58 in 2021 and 72.26 in 2022.

Key Observations:

- **Overall Decline:** The data indicates an overall decline in the average percentile rank from 2012 to 2022. The rank fell from 78.79 in 2012 to 72.26 in 2022, highlighting a gradual weakening in the rule of law over this decade.
- **Annual Fluctuations:** While the overall trend is downward, there are slight annual fluctuations. For instance, the ranks increased marginally in 2019 before declining again in the subsequent years.
- **Recent Years:** The most recent years (2020-2022) show a continued decline, with the average percentile rank not recovering to the levels observed in the earlier part of the decade.

- **100%stacked bar chart:**



Overview: This analysis examines the Rule of Law indicator for various European countries over the period from 2012 to 2022, focusing on average percentile ranks. The data is visualized using a 100% stacked bar chart, which allows for a comparative view of how countries have performed relative to each other across the years.

Data Summary:

- **Top Performers:**
  - Denmark: Maintained high percentile ranks, predominantly scoring between 97 and 99 throughout the decade.

    - Finland: Consistently ranked at the top, often scoring 99, especially in the earlier years of the period.
    - Netherlands: Exhibited strong rule of law, with ranks ranging from 93 to 97.
- **Mid-Range Performers:**
    - Germany: Showed solid performance with scores mostly in the 90s, but occasionally dipping slightly lower.
    - Belgium, France, and Estonia: These countries had percentile ranks generally ranging from the mid-80s to the low-90s.
- **Lower Performers:**
    - Italy, Greece, and Croatia: These countries exhibited lower percentile ranks, often scoring between the mid-50s and mid-70s.
    - Bulgaria and Romania: Consistently scored lower, with Bulgaria frequently ranking around the 50th percentile and Romania often scoring in the 60s.

Key Observations:

- **High Stability:** Denmark and Finland are notable for their exceptionally high and stable ranks, indicating strong and consistent adherence to the rule of law.
- **Variability:** Countries like the Netherlands and Germany, while still high performers, exhibited more variability in their ranks compared to Denmark and Finland.
- **Mid-Tier Consistency:** Belgium, France, and Estonia showed relatively consistent performance in the mid to upper percentile range, reflecting stable but not top-tier rule of law environments.
- Challenges in Lower-Tier Countries: Italy, Greece, and Croatia, along with Bulgaria and Romania, displayed challenges in maintaining high rule of law standards, as evidenced by their lower ranks.

Recent Trends:

- **Declining Trends:** Some countries, including Germany and the Netherlands, showed a slight downward trend in the latter part of the period, suggesting potential emerging challenges in maintaining rule of law standards.
- **Slight Improvements:** On the other hand, countries like Estonia and France showed some improvements or stability in their ranks towards the end of the period.

3.13 Corruption

Description: The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption in countries and territories around the world. It is a composite index, combining data from various sources that provide perceptions of corruption within the past two years. This indicator is part of the global effort by Transparency International to combat corruption and promote integrity and transparency in governments.

Measurement: The CPI is measured using a CPI score. Here's a simple explanation of how the CPI score works:

CPI Score: This indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale from 0 to 100, where lower values mean lower levels of corruption and higher values mean higher levels of corruption.

- 0 CPI Score: The lowest possible level of perceived corruption, indicating a clean public sector.
- 100 CPI Score: The highest possible level of perceived corruption, indicating a highly corrupt public sector.

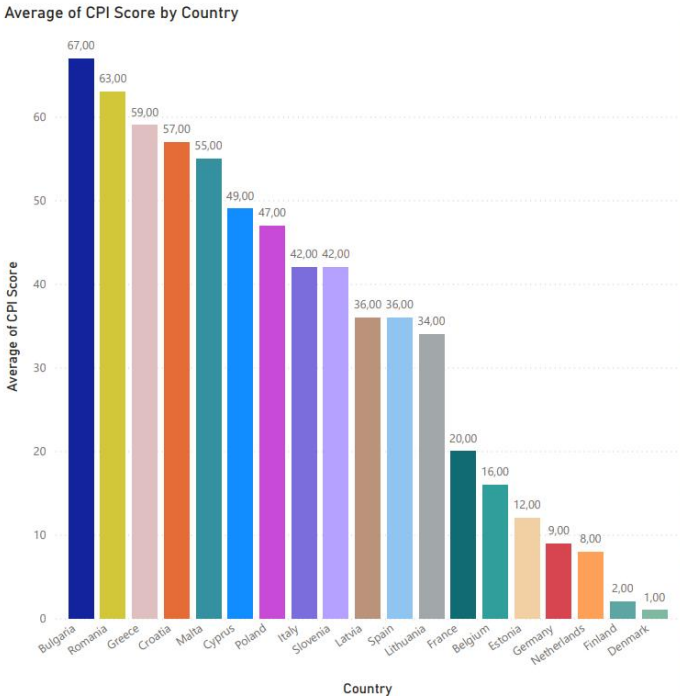
Frequency of Data Collection: The Corruption Perceptions Index is updated annually. Transparency International collects and compiles data every year to ensure the CPI reflects the most recent perceptions of corruption.

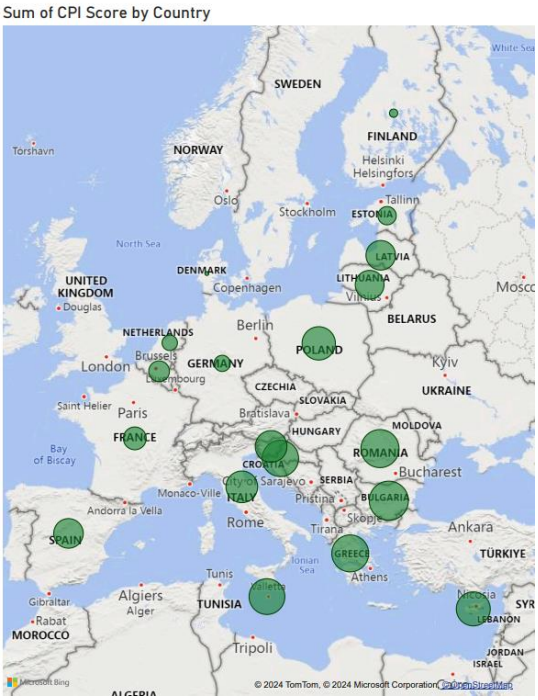
Time Frame Covered: The data for this indicator specifically covers the year 2023.

Source: The data for the Corruption Perceptions Index is sourced from Transparency International (Transparency.org), a leading global organization in the fight against corruption.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **bar Chart and Map:**





Key Observations:

- **Least Corrupt Countries:** Denmark and Finland top the list with the lowest CPI scores, indicating very low levels of perceived public sector corruption. This reflects strong anti-corruption measures and transparent governance practices in these countries.
- **Moderately Corrupt Countries:** Countries such as Lithuania, Spain, and Latvia fall into the mid-range category. Their CPI scores indicate moderate levels of perceived corruption, suggesting room for improvement in governance and anti-corruption efforts.
- **Most Corrupt Countries:** Romania and Bulgaria have the highest CPI scores among the listed countries, indicating higher levels of perceived corruption in the public sector. This suggests

significant challenges in governance and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in these countries.

Trends and Insights:

- **Western European Countries:** Countries like Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, and Germany, with low CPI scores, demonstrate the effectiveness of robust anti-corruption policies and high levels of transparency in public governance.
- **Eastern European and Southern European Countries:** Countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece exhibit higher levels of perceived corruption, indicating persistent issues in governance and a need for stronger anti-corruption initiatives.

3.14 Voice and Accountability

Description: Voice and Accountability measures perceptions of the extent to which a country's citizens can participate in selecting their government, as well as the level of freedom enjoyed by the press and civil society. This indicator reflects the degree to which the voices of ordinary people are heard and considered in governance processes. It is part of the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project, which is maintained by the World Bank.

Measurement: The Voice and Accountability indicator is assessed using a percentile rank, which indicates how a country's performance compares to others in terms of citizen engagement and expression. Here's a simple explanation of how percentile rank works:

Percentile Rank: This score ranges from 0 to 100, where higher values represent better outcomes in terms of citizen voice and accountability.

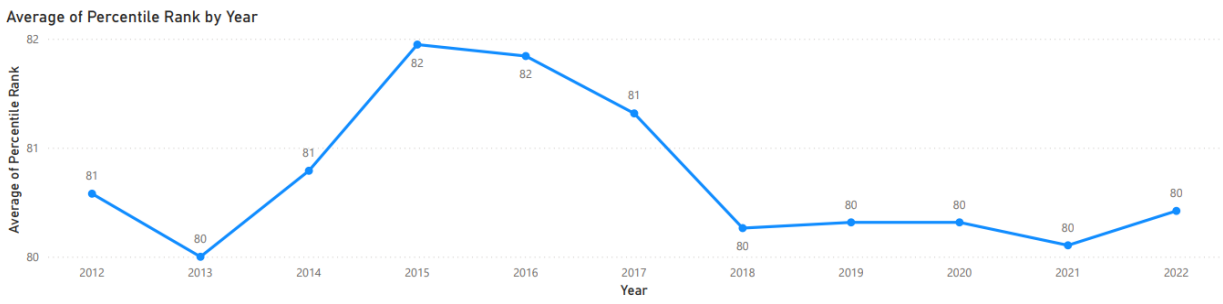
- 0 Percentile: The lowest possible rank, indicating minimal public participation and restricted freedoms in the country.
- 100 Percentile: The highest possible rank, indicating a high level of citizen engagement, freedom of expression, and accountability.

Frequency of Data Collection: The Voice and Accountability indicator is updated annually.

Time Frame Covered: The data for this indicator covers the period from 2012 to 2022.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line chart:**



Overview: The line chart depicting the Average Percentile Rank for Voice and Accountability from 2012 to 2022 reveals significant fluctuations and a notable trend in the dataset. This indicator reflects the extent of citizen participation in governance and freedom of expression, with higher percentile ranks indicating greater voice and accountability.

Trend Analysis:

From 2012 to 2017, the percentile rank for Voice and Accountability remained relatively high, fluctuating between 81 and 82. This suggests a period where the average perception of citizen engagement and freedom was strong. Specifically:

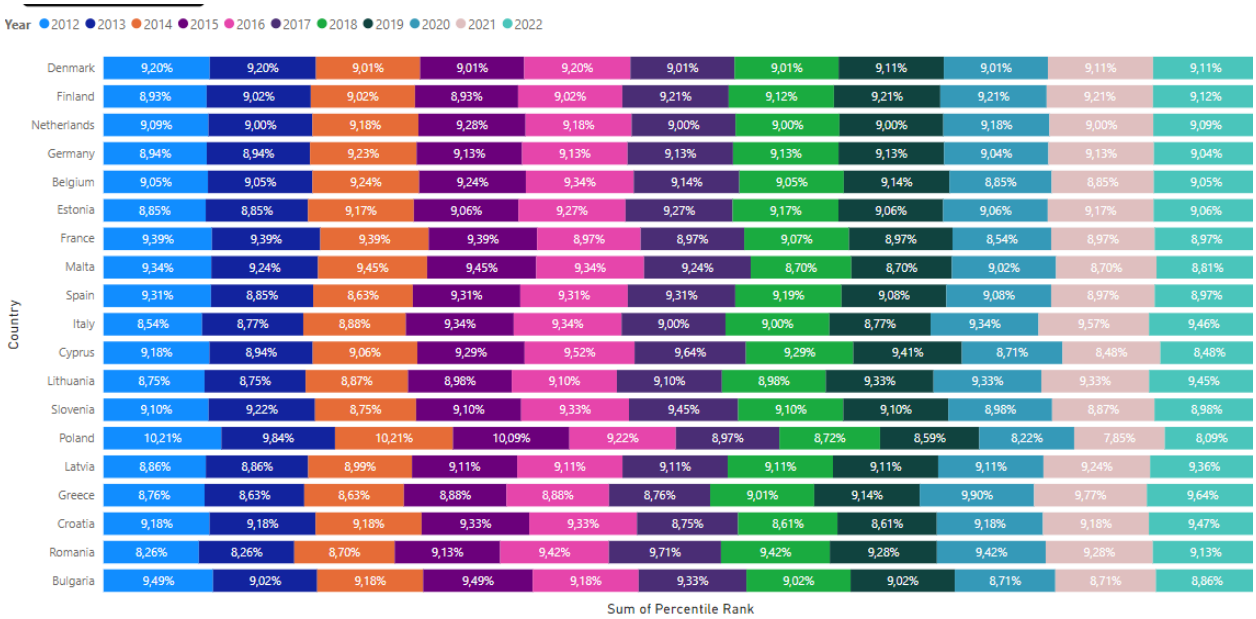
- 2012-2013: The percentile rank started at 81 but dropped to 80 in 2013, indicating a slight decline.
- 2014-2015: There was a recovery to 81 in 2014, and a rise to 82 in 2015. The consistency in higher values during these years reflects a period of stable and positive perceptions of voice and accountability.
- 2016-2017: The percentile rank remained steady at 82 and then slightly decreased to 81, indicating a minor dip but still maintaining a high level of perceived accountability.

Recent Years:

From 2018 onwards, the data shows a dramatic and sustained drop in the percentile rank:

2018-2022: The percentile rank fell sharply to 8 starting in 2018 and remained at this low level through 2022. This significant decline suggests a drastic reduction in perceived voice and accountability over the past five years, indicating potential challenges in citizen participation and freedom of expression.

- **100% Stacked Bar chart:**



Overview: The 100% stacked bar chart for Voice and Accountability highlights the varying levels of citizen participation, freedom of expression, and overall voice in governance across different countries from 2012 to 2022. The data represents the percentile rank of Voice and Accountability, where a higher percentile indicates better performance in these areas.

Key Findings

- **Top Performers:** Denmark and Finland consistently rank at the top with percentile scores of 99 and 98. Denmark's performance remains exceptional across most years, including 2012, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2021, and 2022. Finland also shows strong scores in 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, highlighting its robust citizen engagement and freedom of expression.

  Netherlands frequently ranks high with scores of 99 in 2015 and 98 in 2014, 2016, 2020, and 2022, showcasing a stable and high level of voice and accountability.

- **Strong Performers:** Germany and Belgium exhibit strong performances, with Germany reaching a peak score of 96 in 2014, 2015, 2016, and maintaining high scores through 2020 and 2022. Belgium also shows notable scores, peaking at 95 in 2016 and 2017.Estonia performs well, with high scores of 89 in 2016 and 2017, and consistently strong performance through to 2022.
- **Mid-Range Performers:** France and Malta present moderate performance levels. France shows variability with scores ranging from 85 to 89 across different years, while Malta's scores range from 87 to 89, indicating a stable but moderate level of voice and accountability.
- **Emerging Performers:** Cyprus, Poland, Spain, and Greece show more variability with scores ranging between 70 and 83. Countries like Cyprus and Poland have demonstrated fluctuating scores, reflecting inconsistencies in citizen participation and freedoms.
- **Lower Performers:** Bulgaria and Romania consistently rank lower, with Bulgaria's scores dropping to 57 in 2022 and Romania's ranging from 57 to 67. This suggests challenges in voice and accountability, with notable lower performance compared to leading countries.

Trends and Observations

- **Consistency of Top Performers:** Countries like Denmark and Finland maintain top ranks throughout the period, showcasing consistent high levels of voice and accountability. Their stable high percentile ranks reflect robust systems of governance and public engagement.
- **Variability in Mid-Range Performers:** Mid-range countries such as France, Malta, and Cyprus exhibit more variability in their percentile scores. This indicates fluctuating performance in terms of citizen voice and freedom, possibly influenced by changing political or social conditions.
- **Improvement and Decline:** Countries like Bulgaria and Romania show lower scores with some improvement over the years. However, their overall lower ranks suggest persistent challenges in achieving high levels of citizen participation and accountability.

3.15 Citizen Satisfaction

Description: Life expectancy is a critical indicator used to gauge the overall health and well-being of a population. It reflects the average number of years a person is expected to live, given current mortality rates. High life expectancy generally indicates better health care, living conditions, and overall quality of

life, which can be closely linked to citizen satisfaction. This measure provides insight into how effectively a country or region supports the health and longevity of its population.

Measurement: Life expectancy is a straightforward measure calculated based on the average number of years a newborn is expected to live if current mortality rates remain unchanged. Here's how it is generally interpreted:

- Higher Life Expectancy: Indicates better health care, improved living standards, and a higher quality of life. This is often associated with greater citizen satisfaction as longer life spans usually correlate with better access to health services, nutrition, and general well-being.
- Lower Life Expectancy: Suggests poorer health outcomes, possibly due to inadequate health services, lower standards of living, or higher rates of disease and mortality. This can impact citizen satisfaction negatively as shorter life spans may reflect significant health and social challenges.

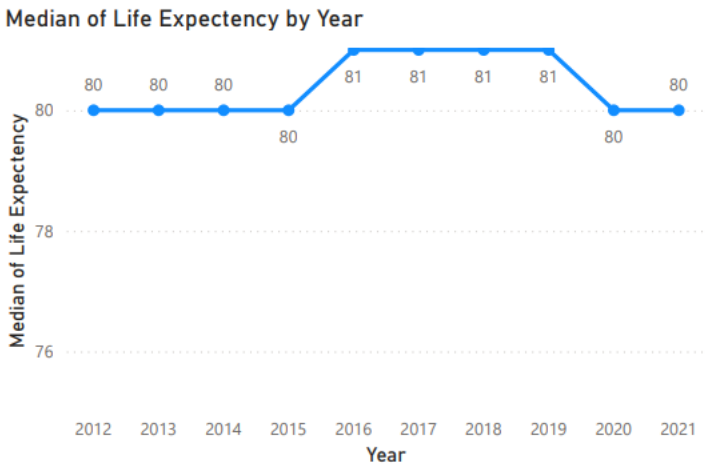
Frequency of Data Collection: Life expectancy data is collected and updated annually. This frequent updating ensures that the data reflects the most recent trends and changes in mortality rates, allowing for timely analysis of improvements or declines in public health and associated citizen satisfaction.

Time Frame Covered: The data covers the period from 2012 to 2021, providing a decade of information.

Source: The data is sourced from Our World in Data, a comprehensive and reliable resource that provides global statistics on various indicators.

Visualization: Data can be visualized through various means, such as:

- **Line chart:**



Data Overview: The provided dataset represents the median life expectancy values from 2012 to 2021.

Key Insights:

Stable Life Expectancy:

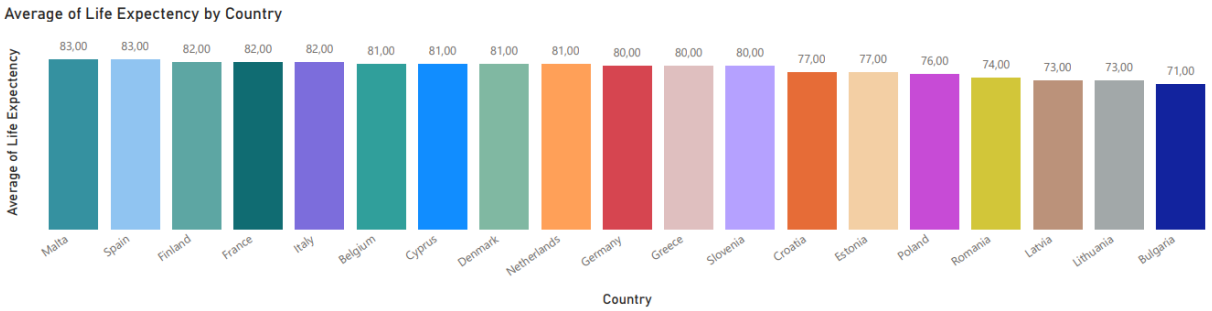
- 2012-2015: The median life expectancy remained constant at 80 years. This stability suggests that, during these years, there were no significant changes in the overall health conditions or mortality rates impacting the population.
- 2016-2019: There was a notable increase in the median life expectancy to 81 years. This upward trend indicates improvements in public health, healthcare access, or living conditions, contributing to longer life spans. The consistent rise over these years reflects a positive development in societal health outcomes.
- 2020-2021: The median life expectancy returned to 80 years. This decline, particularly in 2020, could be attributed to various factors such as the global COVID-19 pandemic, which had a substantial impact on mortality rates worldwide. The pandemic likely caused disruptions in healthcare systems and increased mortality, thus affecting the life expectancy.

Trend Analysis:

Overall Trend: The data shows a slight overall increase in life expectancy from 80 years in 2012 to 81 years in 2019, indicating general improvements in health and well-being over this period.

Recent Decline: The reduction back to 80 years in 2020-2021 highlights the potential adverse effects of extraordinary events, such as the pandemic, on public health metrics. This suggests that while progress was made in the years leading up to 2020, external shocks can have significant impacts on life expectancy.

- **Bar Chart:**



Data Overview:

The provided data displays the average life expectancy for various countries.

Key Insights:

- **Top Performers:** Malta and Spain: Both countries have the highest average life expectancy at 83 years. This suggests they have favorable health conditions, effective healthcare systems, and high standards of living that contribute to longer life spans.
  Finland, France, and Italy: All three countries have an average life expectancy of 82 years, indicating similarly high levels of public health and overall well-being.

- **Mid-Tier Life Expectancy:** Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, and Netherlands: These countries have an average life expectancy of 81 years. They also demonstrate strong health systems and quality of life, though slightly lower compared to the top performers.
- **Average to Below Average Life Expectancy:** Germany, Greece, Slovenia: These countries show an average life expectancy of 80 years, reflecting good health conditions but slightly lower than the top performers.
- **Lower End:** Croatia and Estonia: Both countries have an average life expectancy of 77 years. This indicates they face more challenges related to health or living conditions compared to higher-ranked countries.
  Poland: With an average life expectancy of 76 years, Poland also falls in the lower range, pointing to potential health system or socio-economic challenges.
  Romania, Latvia, and Lithuania: Romania has an average life expectancy of 74 years, while Latvia and Lithuania have 73 years. These countries may be experiencing more significant health challenges or lower standards of living.
  Bulgaria: At the lower end, Bulgaria has the lowest average life expectancy at 71 years. This suggests considerable health and socio-economic issues impacting its population.

Trend Analysis:

- **High Life Expectancy:** The countries with the highest life expectancies (83 years) generally benefit from well-developed health systems, high living standards, and effective public health policies.
- **Moderate Life Expectancy:** Countries with life expectancies between 80 and 82 years reflect strong health systems but may have varying challenges impacting their population's longevity.
- **Lower Life Expectancy:** Countries with life expectancies below 77 years face more significant health and socio-economic challenges. These countries may need targeted interventions to improve their public health and living conditions.