



BEING HAPPY AND HAVING TRUST IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT?

A view into European Social Survey 2002-2016

Juha Riissanen 2018-08-07

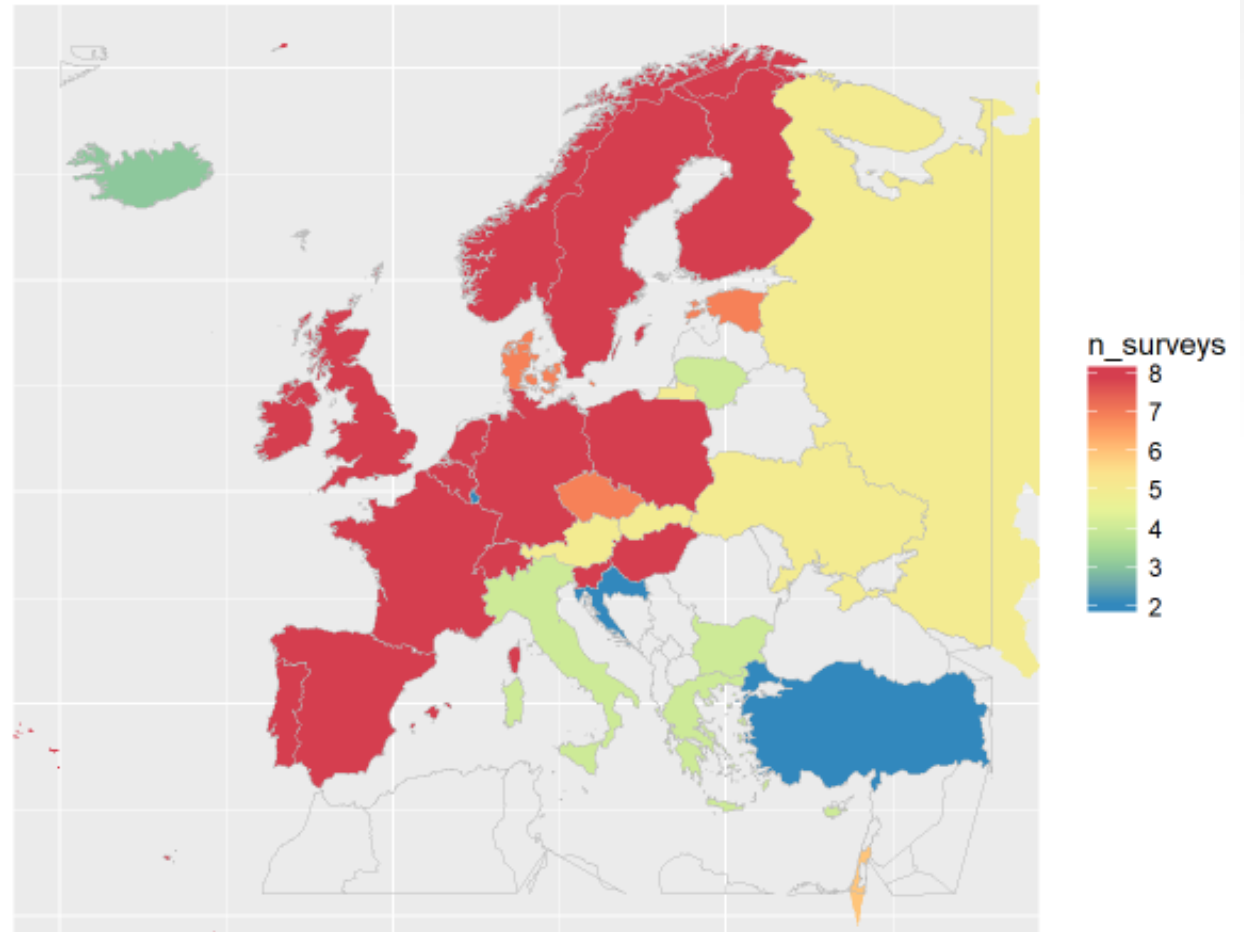
2002-2016: SUBJECTIVE HAPPINESS UP, TRUST IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DOWN *

- Europe divided between happy North West and not so happy South East
- Northern & smaller countries trust European Parliament more than larger / southern countries, generally
- Trust dropped from 2002 to 2016 (at lowest level in 2014)
- In the UK trust rose significantly after the Brexit vote 2016
- Correlation between happiness and trust changed from negative in 2002 to positive 2016
- The unhappy countries with originally with higher trust levels had changed their minds

(*) By country averages based on European Social Study data 2002-2016

EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY

- academically-driven multi-country survey, 2002-2016 every 2 years
- administered in over 30 countries to date, 15 countries have participated in all surveys
- Face-to-face interviews
- Aims
 - monitor and interpret changing public attitudes and values within Europe and to investigate how they interact with Europe's changing institutions
 - advance and consolidate improved methods of cross-national survey measurement in Europe and beyond
 - develop a series of European social indicators, including attitudinal indicators.
- Funded by the Members, Observers and Guests of ESS European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ESS ERIC) representing national governments
- Participating countries directly fund the central coordination costs of the ESS ERIC, as well the costs of fieldwork and national coordination in their own country.

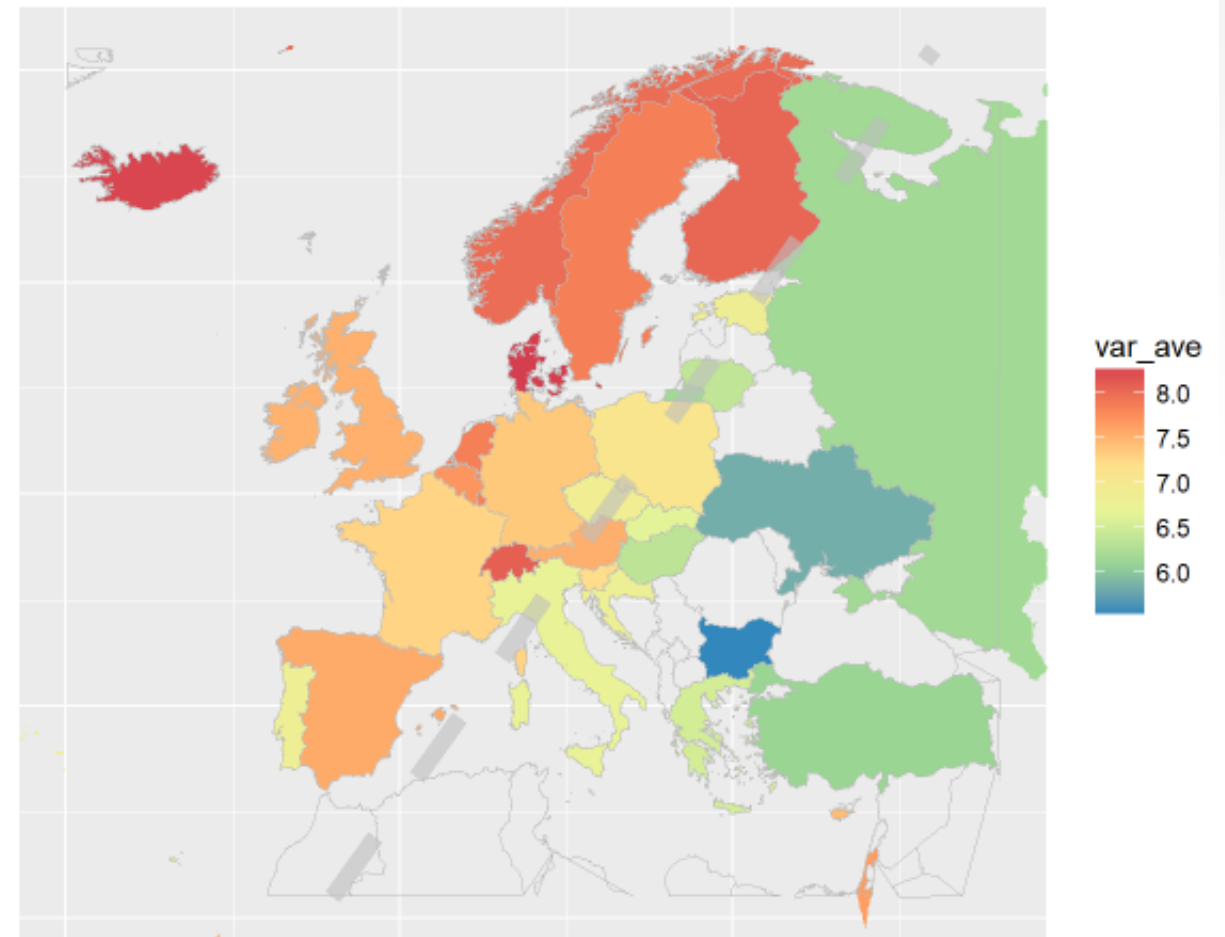


Subjective Happiness

"TAKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER,
HOW HAPPY WOULD YOU SAY YOU
ARE?"

MAP OF AVERAGE HAPPINESS

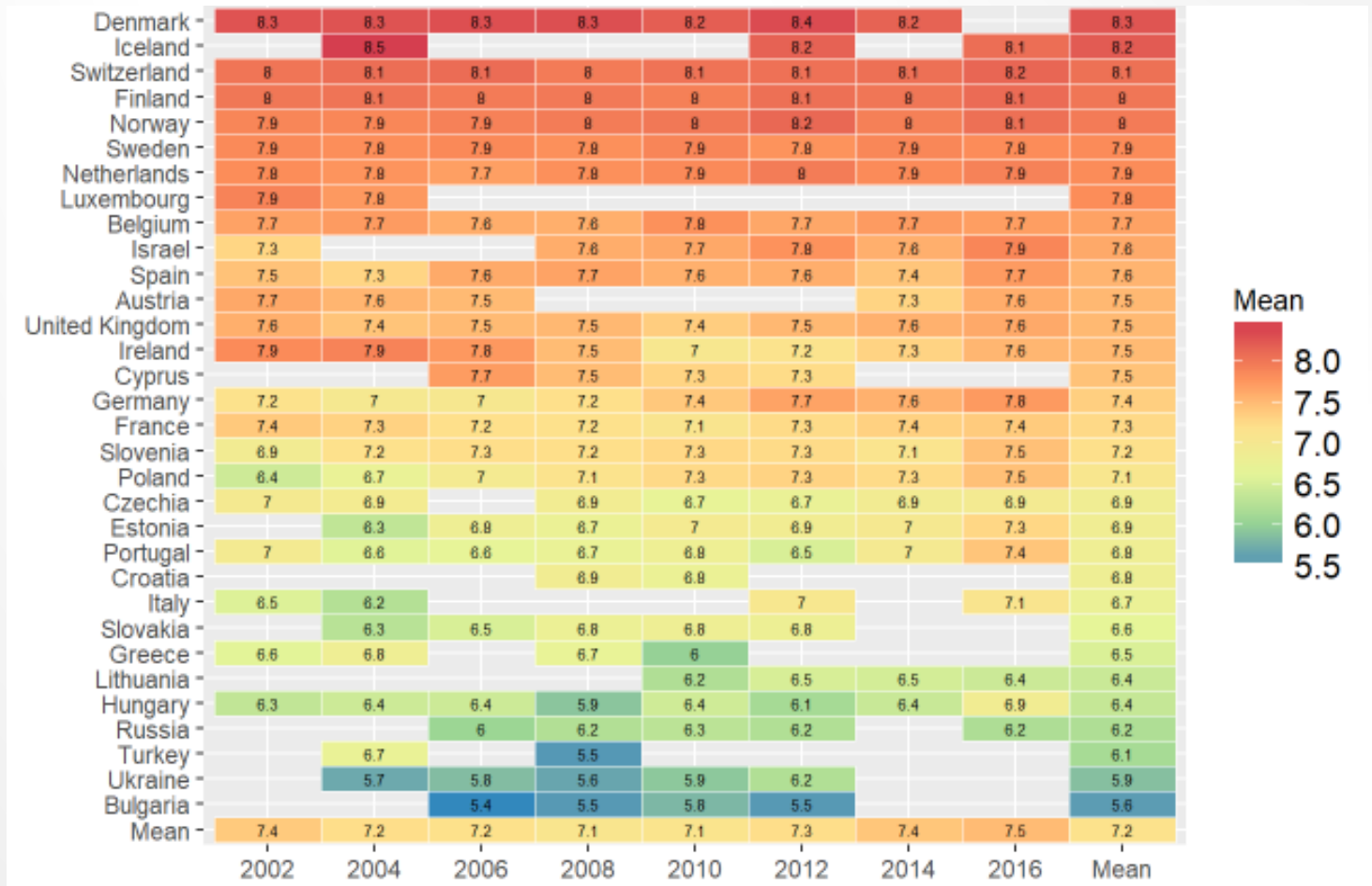
- Warning: averages are not fully comparable, some from limited number of surveys only
- Still, appears that Europe could be divided to "happy" north west and not so happy south east
- Are people really so much happier / unhappier..?
- Is personal happiness a "different thing" in different geographic areas..?
- A detailed separate study(*) using ESS data shows that this is far more nuanced question than what one number here can tell..



(*) Europeans' Personal and Social Wellbeing, Topline Results from Round 6 of the European Social Survey

HAPPINESS BY SURVEY

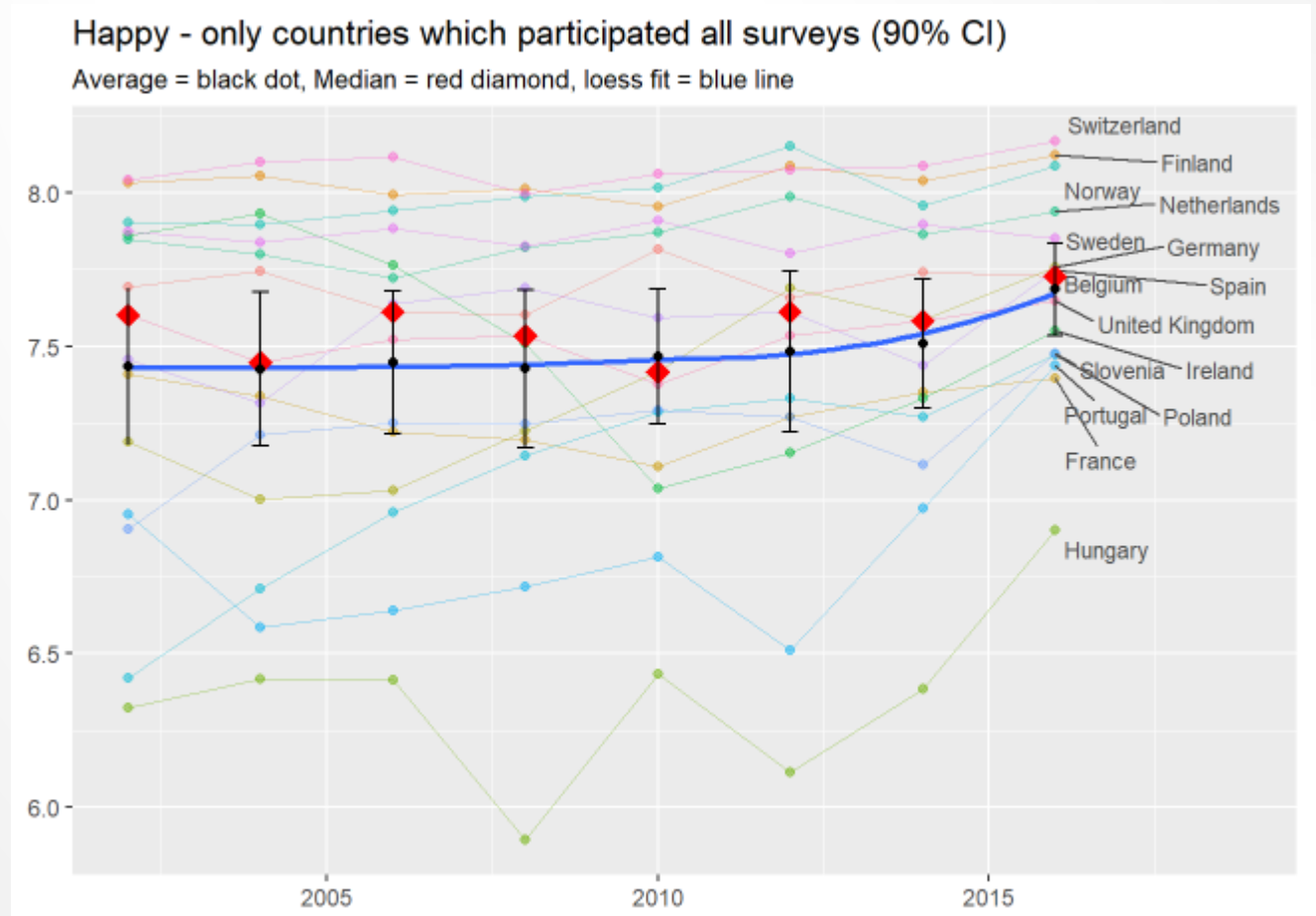
- Based on news media exposure, the low scores from e.g. Bulgaria, Ukraine, Turkey, Russia are not surprising..
- But there could be cultural biases encouraging / discouraging giving high / low scores
- E.g. Nordic / protestant countries vs mid european / catholic countries..?
- Therefore rather than absolute scores more meaningful would be comparing trends



AVERAGE EUROPE* GETTING HAPPIER?

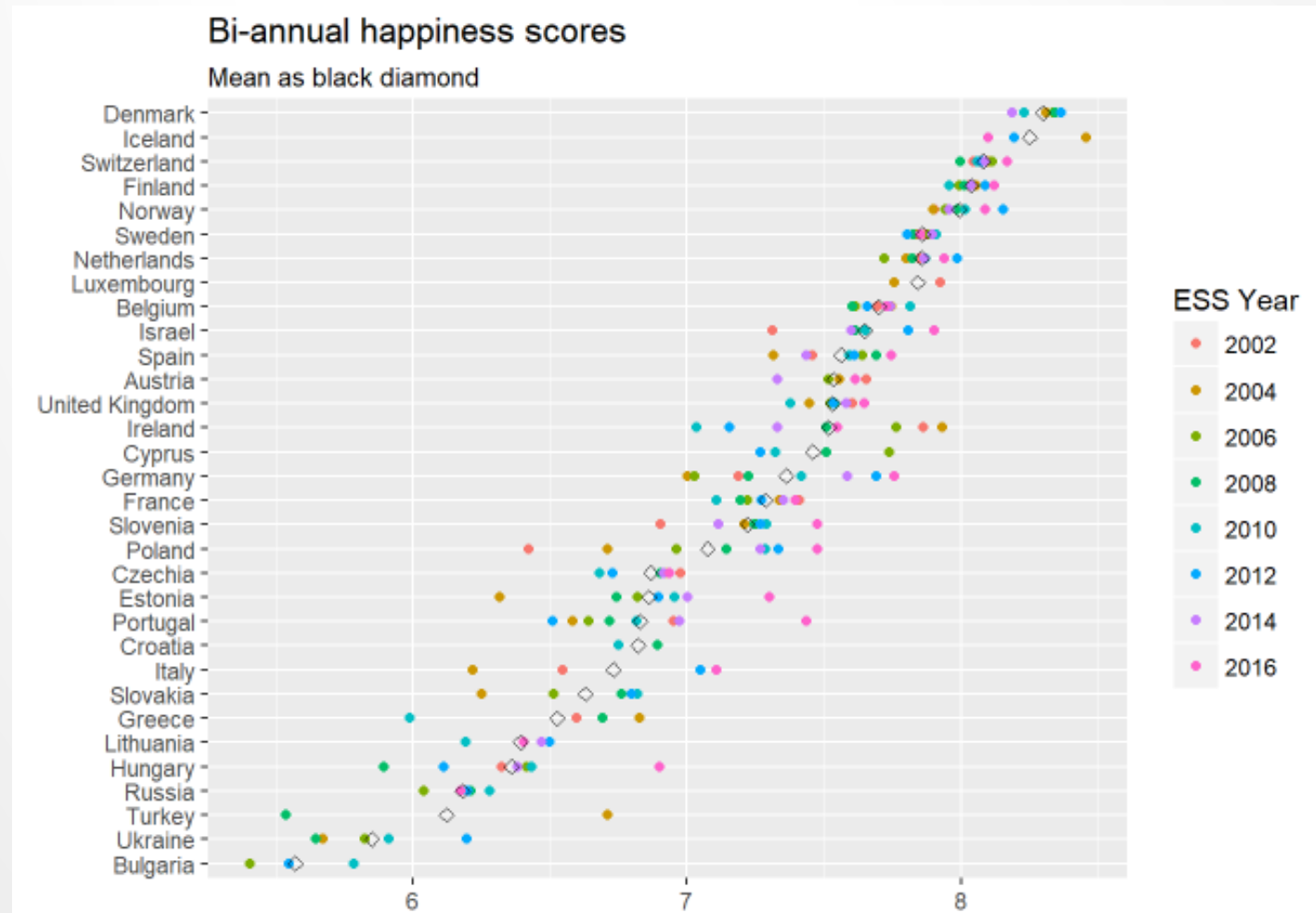
- Average is slowly improving since around 2012
- Countries with different "temperaments?"
 - Wide changes (e.g. Hungary, Ireland)
 - Stable (e.g. Switzerland, Finland, Norway)

(*)countries which have been in all surveys only



HAPPIER COUNTRIES ARE CONSISTENTLY SO

- Variation in the higher end smaller
- Not only explained by number of surveys participated



Correlations

.. AND WHAT – IN THE 500+
FEATURES IN THE DATA - COULD BE
ASSOCIATED WITH HAPPINESS..?

POTENTIAL FEATURES IN ESS DATA SUBJECTIVELY CHOSEN

People

Interests

Trust

1. `ppltsrt` - Most people can be trusted or you can't be too careful - All rounds: Using this card, generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please tell me on a score of 0 to 10, where 0 means you can't be too careful and 10 means that most people can be trusted.
2. `pplfair` - Most people try to take advantage of you, or try to be fair - All rounds: Using this card, do you think that most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?
3. `pplhlp` - Most of the time people helpful or mostly looking out for themselves - All rounds: Would you say that most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?
4. `polintr` - How interested in politics - All rounds: How interested would you say you are in politics – are you...
5. `trstprl` - Trust in country's parliament - All rounds: Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... ... [country]'s parliament?
6. `trstlgl` - Trust in the legal system - All rounds: Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... ... the legal system?
7. `trstplc` - Trust in the police - All rounds: Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... ... the police?
8. `trstplt` - Trust in politicians - All rounds: Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... ... politicians?
9. `trstprt` - Trust in political parties - ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS5, ESS6, ESS7: Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... ... political parties?

10. `trstep` - Trust in the European Parliament - All rounds: Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... ... the European Parliament?
11. `trstun` - Trust in the United Nations - All rounds: Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0-10 how much you personally trust each of the institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust. Firstly... ... the United Nations?
12. `stflife` - How satisfied with life as a whole - All rounds: All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays? Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied.
13. `stfeco` - How satisfied with present state of economy in country - All rounds: On the whole how satisfied are you with the present state of the economy in [country]?
14. `stfgov` - How satisfied with the national government - All rounds: Now thinking about the [country] government, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job?
15. `stfdem` - How satisfied with the way democracy works in country - All rounds. And on the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in [country]?
16. `stfedu` - State of education in country nowadays - All rounds: Now, using this card, please say what you think overall about the state of education in [country] nowadays?
17. `stfhlth` - State of health services in country nowadays - All rounds: Still using this card, please say what you think overall about the state of health services in [country] nowadays?
18. `eisced` - Highest level of education, ES - ISCED - All rounds: Generated variable: Highest level of education, ES – ISCED
19. `health` - Subjective general health - All rounds: How is your health in general? Would you say it is ...

Trust

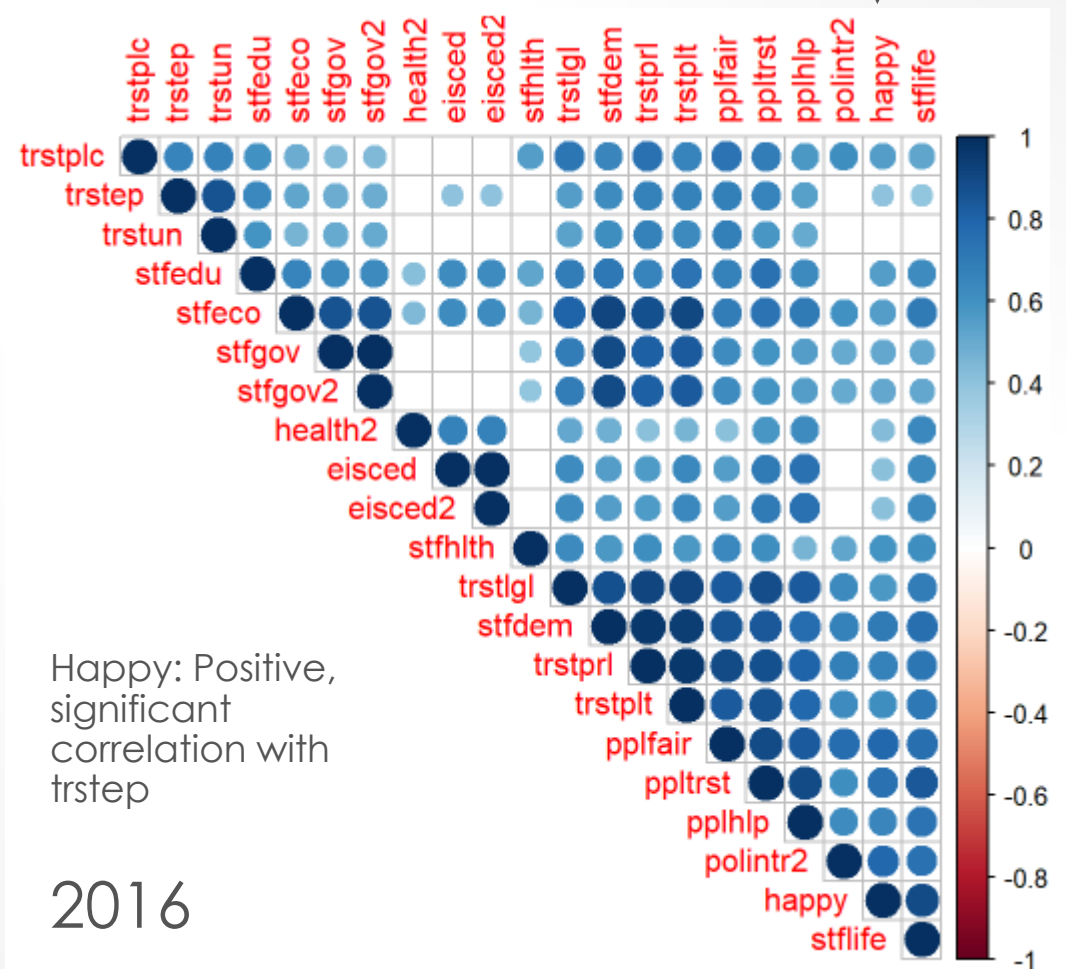
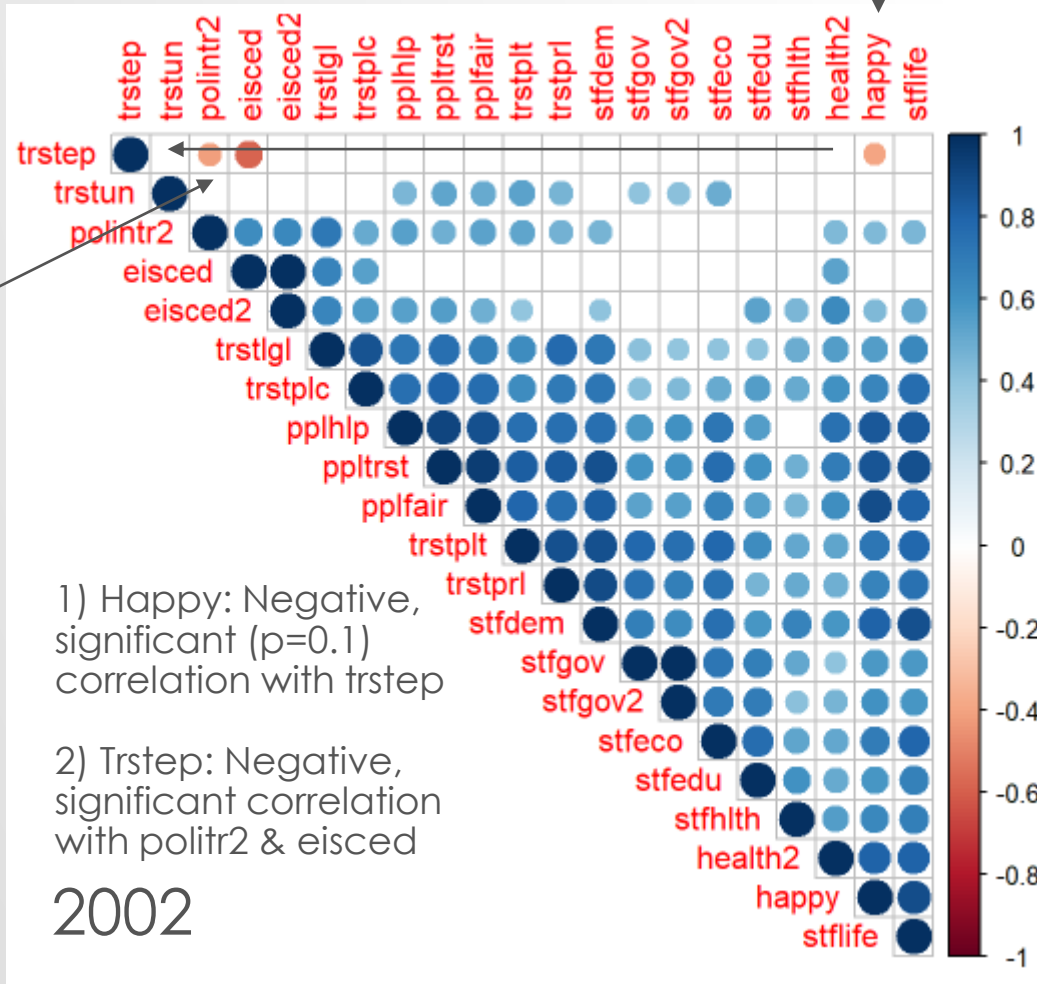
Satisfaction

Education

Health

CROSS CORRELATING FEATURES 2002 AND 2016 + MOSTLY POSITIVE

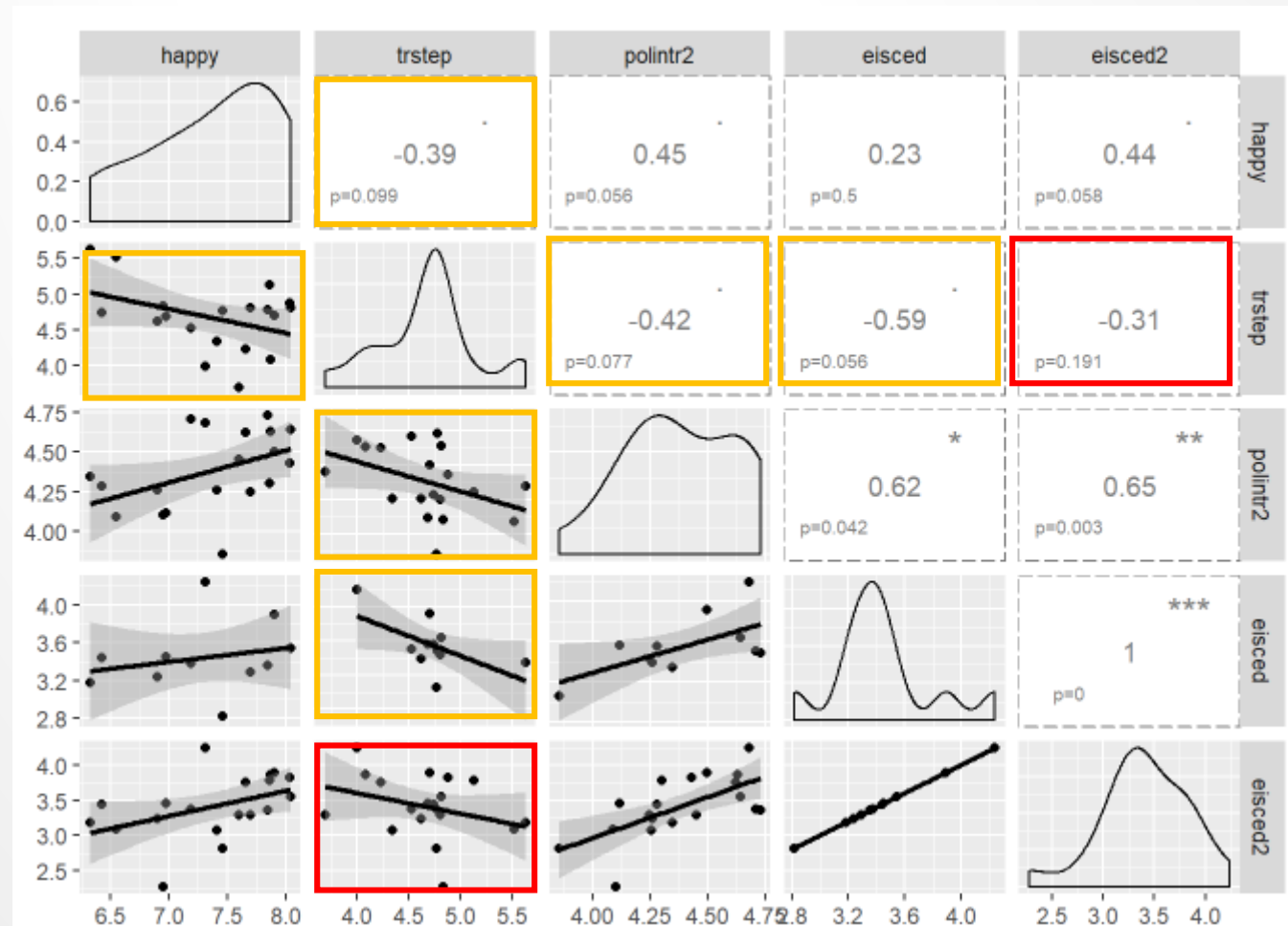
*Polintr2
& eiscd
vs
trstep?*



Countries which participated both 2002 & 2016

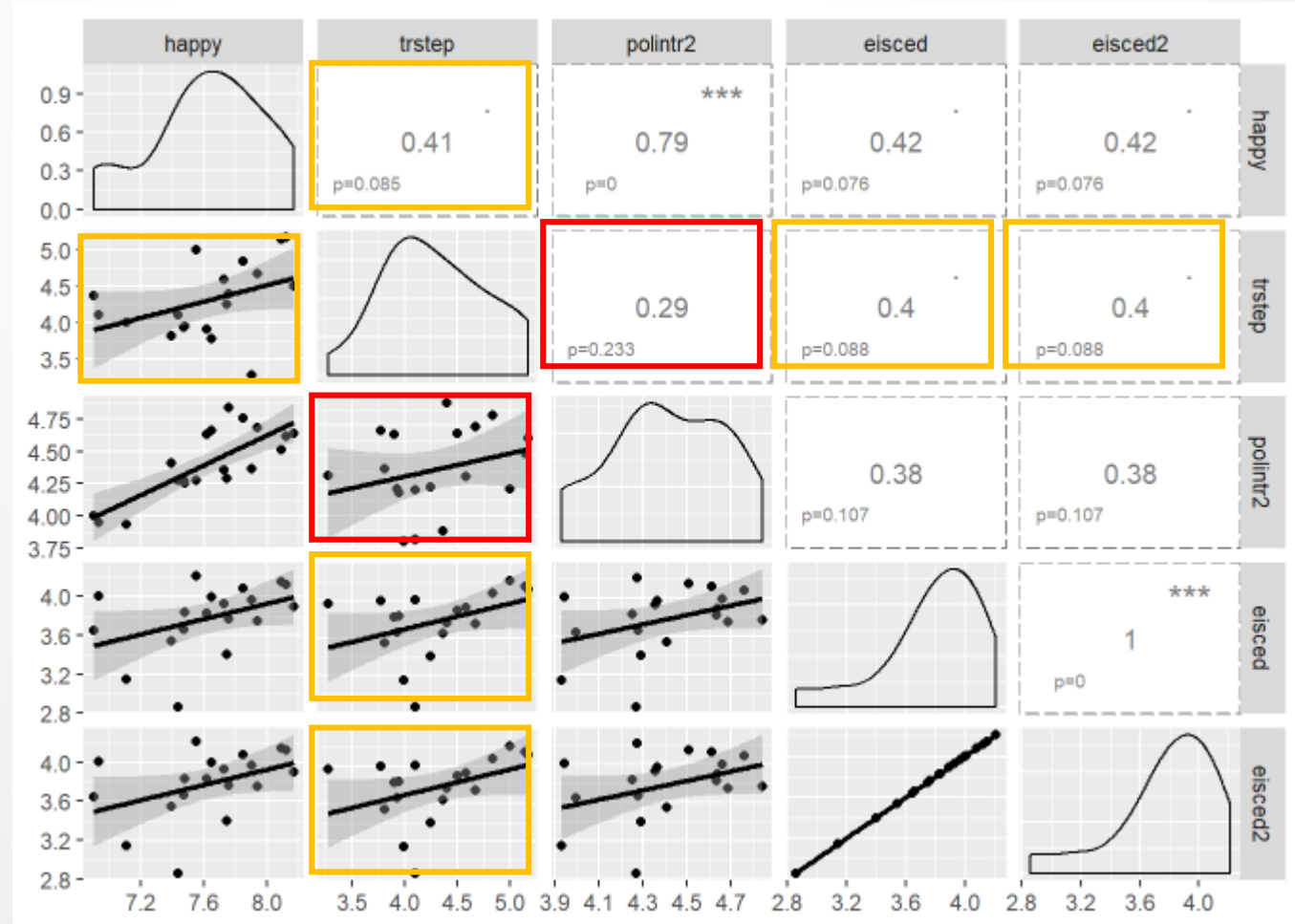
KEY CORRELATIONS 2002

- **Trstep vs happy** – negative correlation, significant(ish) at $p=0.1$ level
- **Trstep vs polintr2** – negative correlation, significant(ish) at $p=0.1$ level
- **Trstep vs Eisced** – negative correlation, significant(ish) at $p=0.1$ level – but has significant missing eisced scores
- **Trstep vs Eisced2** – negative correlation, but not really even significantish – when the missing responses were imputed

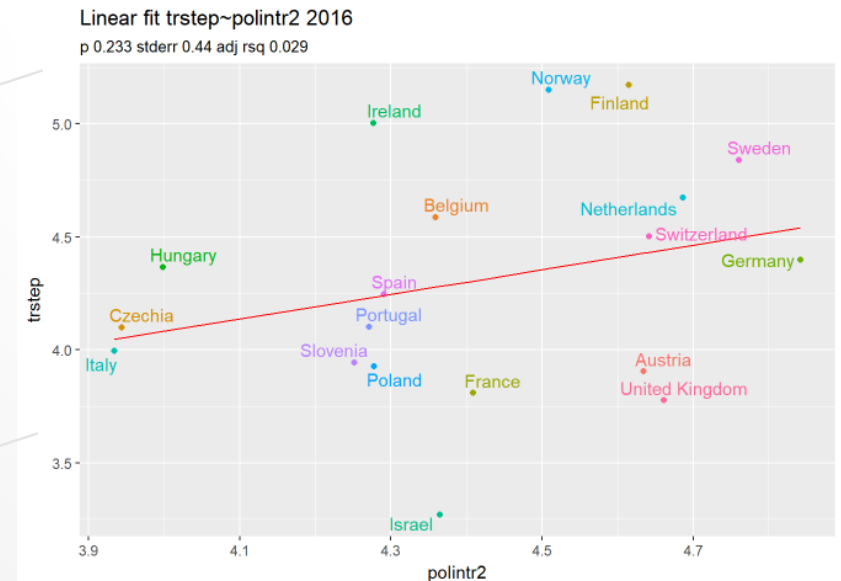
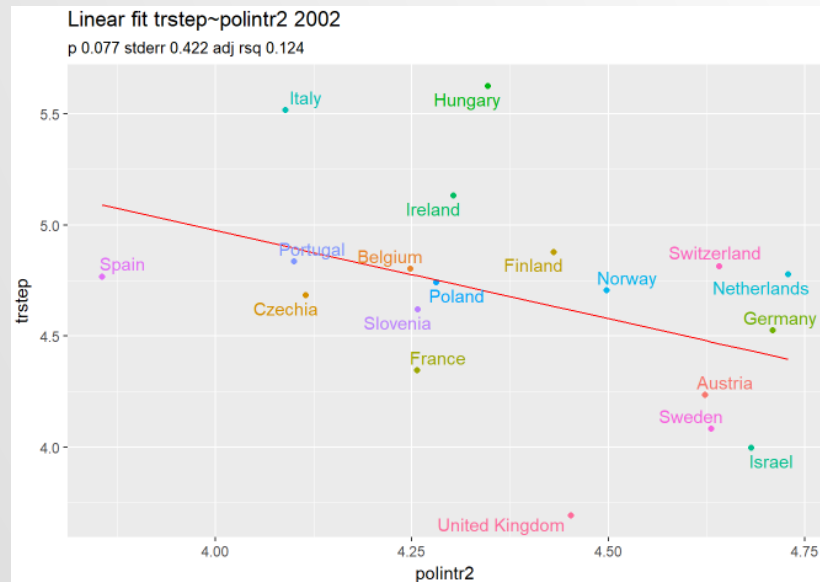
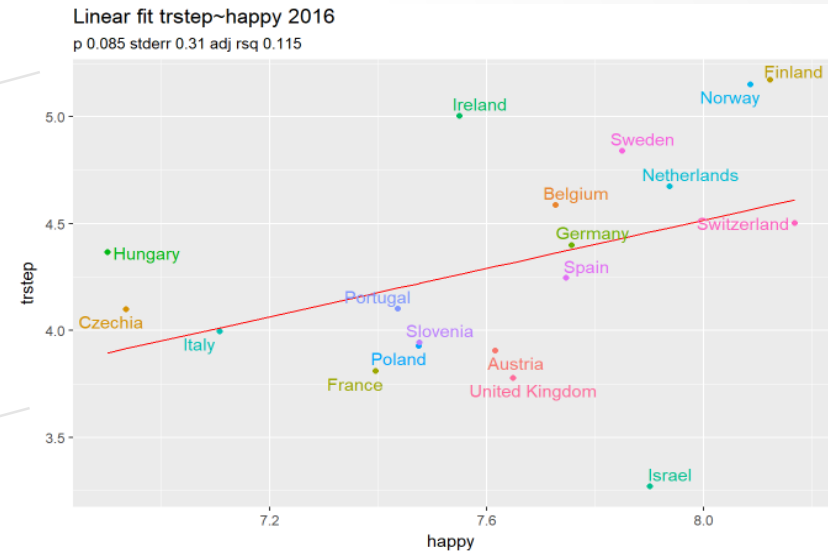
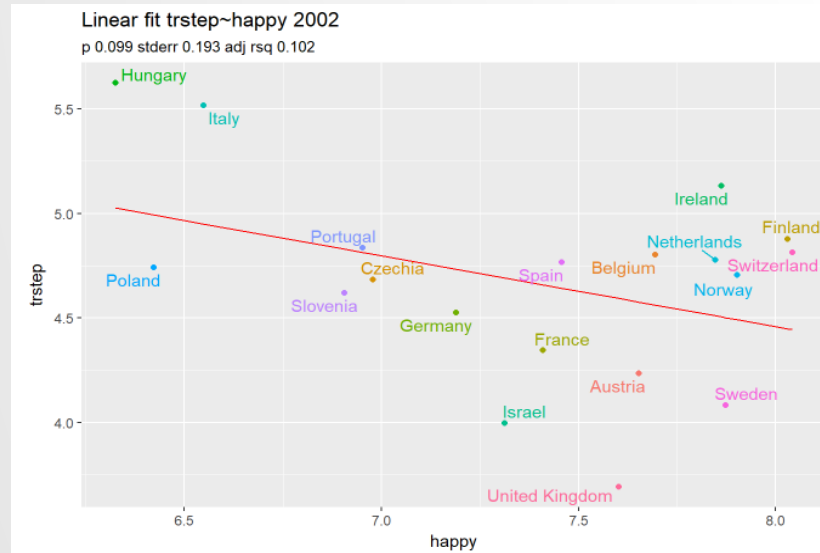


KEY CORRELATIONS 2016

- **Trstep vs happy** – positive correlation, significant(ish) at $p=0.1$ level
- **Trstep vs polintr2** – positive correlation, but not significant
- **Trstep vs Eisced** – positive correlation, significant(ish) at $p=0.1$ level – but has significant missing eisced scores
- **Trstep vs Eisced2** – positive correlation, significant(ish) at $p=0.1$ level – when the missing responses were imputed



FROM NEGATIVE CORRELATION IN 2002 TO POSITIVE IN 2016

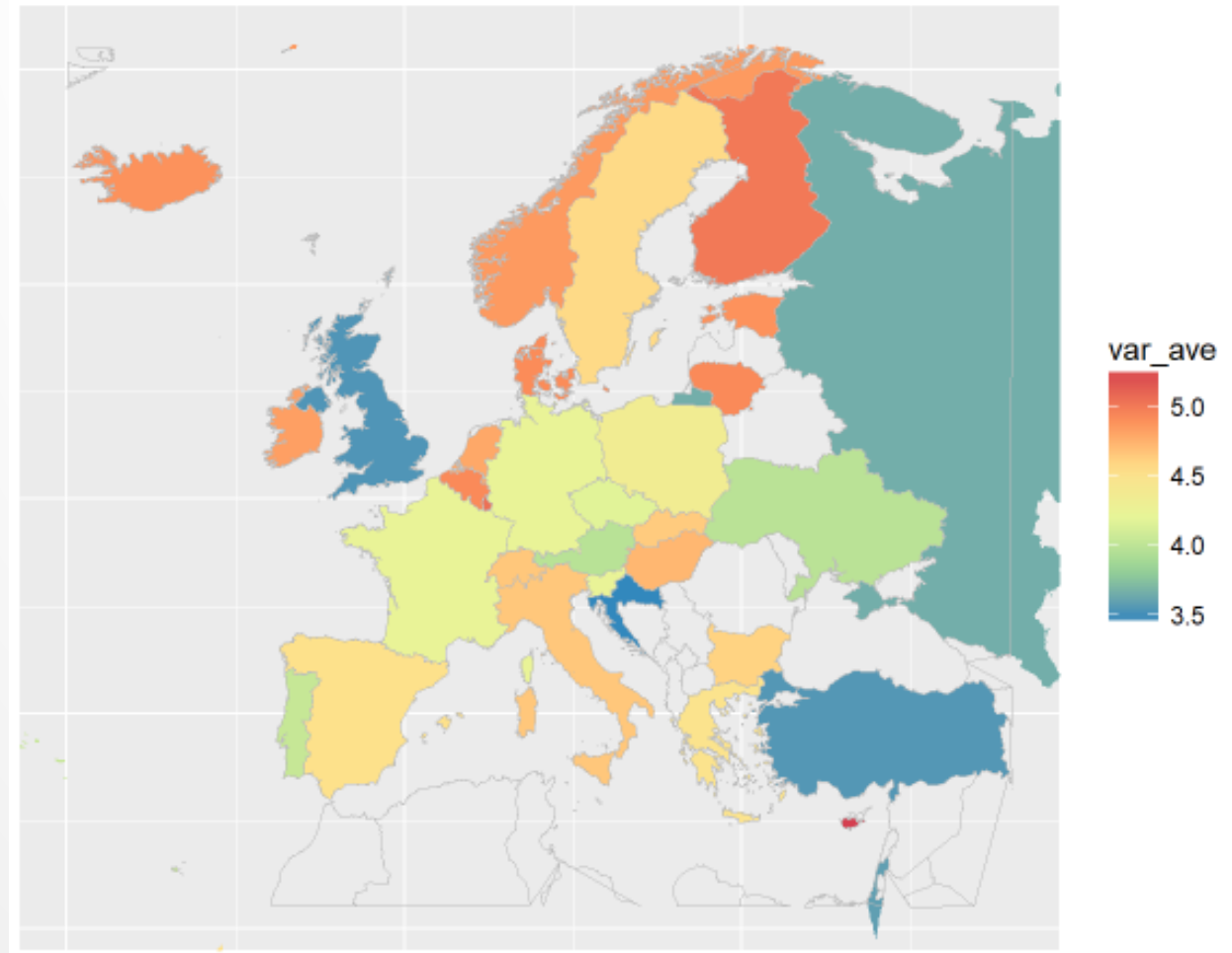


Trust in European Parliament

“...ON A SCORE OF 0-10 HOW MUCH YOU PERSONALLY TRUST.. 0 MEANS YOU DO NOT TRUST AN INSTITUTION AT ALL, AND 10 MEANS YOU HAVE COMPLETE TRUST.. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT?”

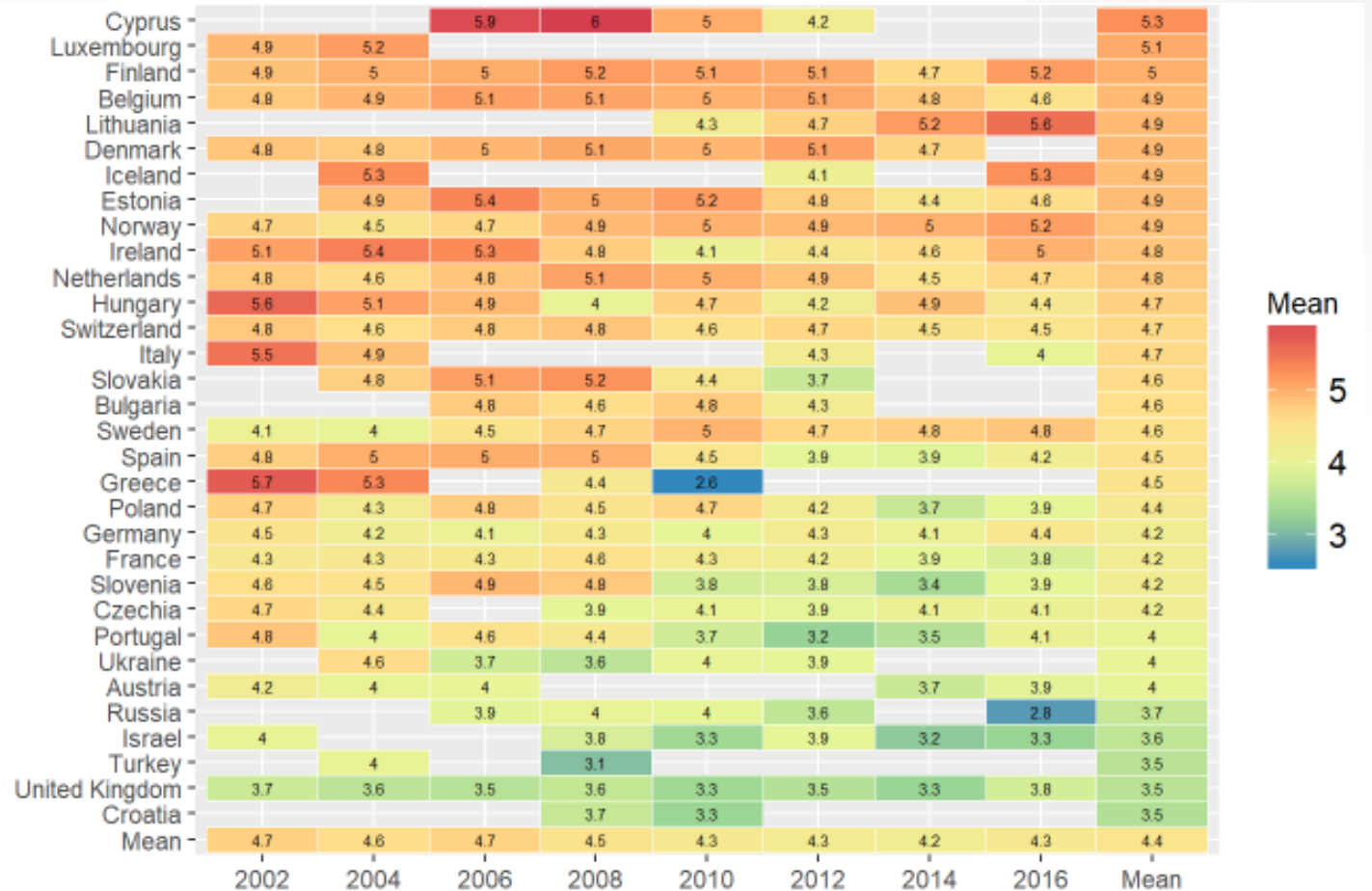
MAP OF AVERAGE TRUST IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Smaller / nordic countries seem to trust more
- Countries with known issues with EU e.g. UK, Turkey & Russia not so much
- Not obvious what is the reason for Portugal and Austria.. Would need more study..



HISTORY OF TRUST IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

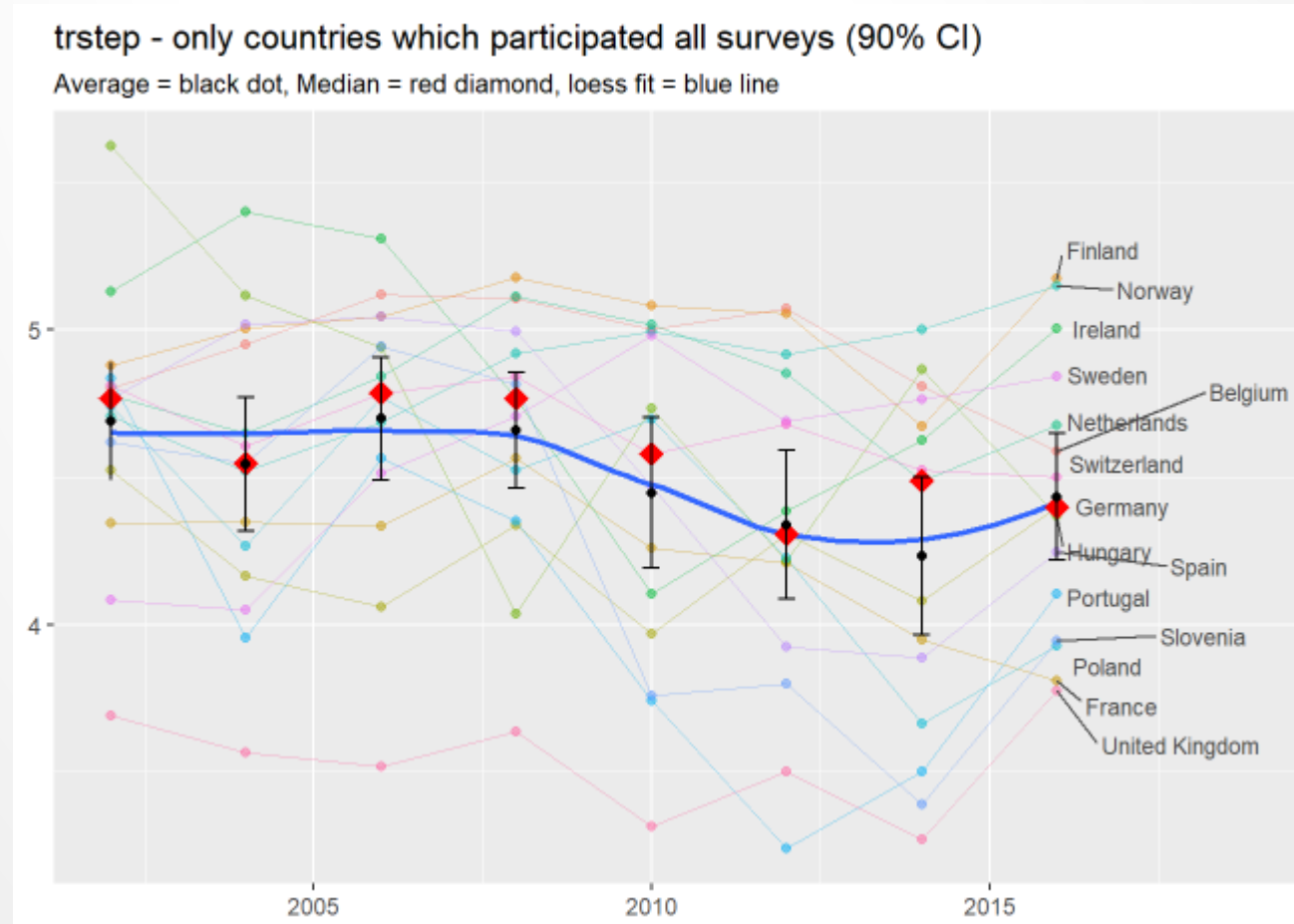
- Greece at the top of trust in 2002.. .. And at the bottom 2010 when Euro Area / IMF agreement on financial support program was organized
- Crimea was annexed by Russia 2014.. Russian trust at the bottom 2016 (no survey 2014)
- UK traditionally with low trust but after Brexit vote in the summer 2016 it went upwards



TRUST IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY EUROPEANS* LOWER 2016 THAN 2002

- "Interesting time" for European Union – and globally
- E.g. Hungary started at the top 2002 (joined EU 2004) but came down significantly by 2016 – high expectations collided with reality?
- Essentially all countries improved from 2012 to 2016 – but that is no real trend yet

(*)countries which have been in all surveys only

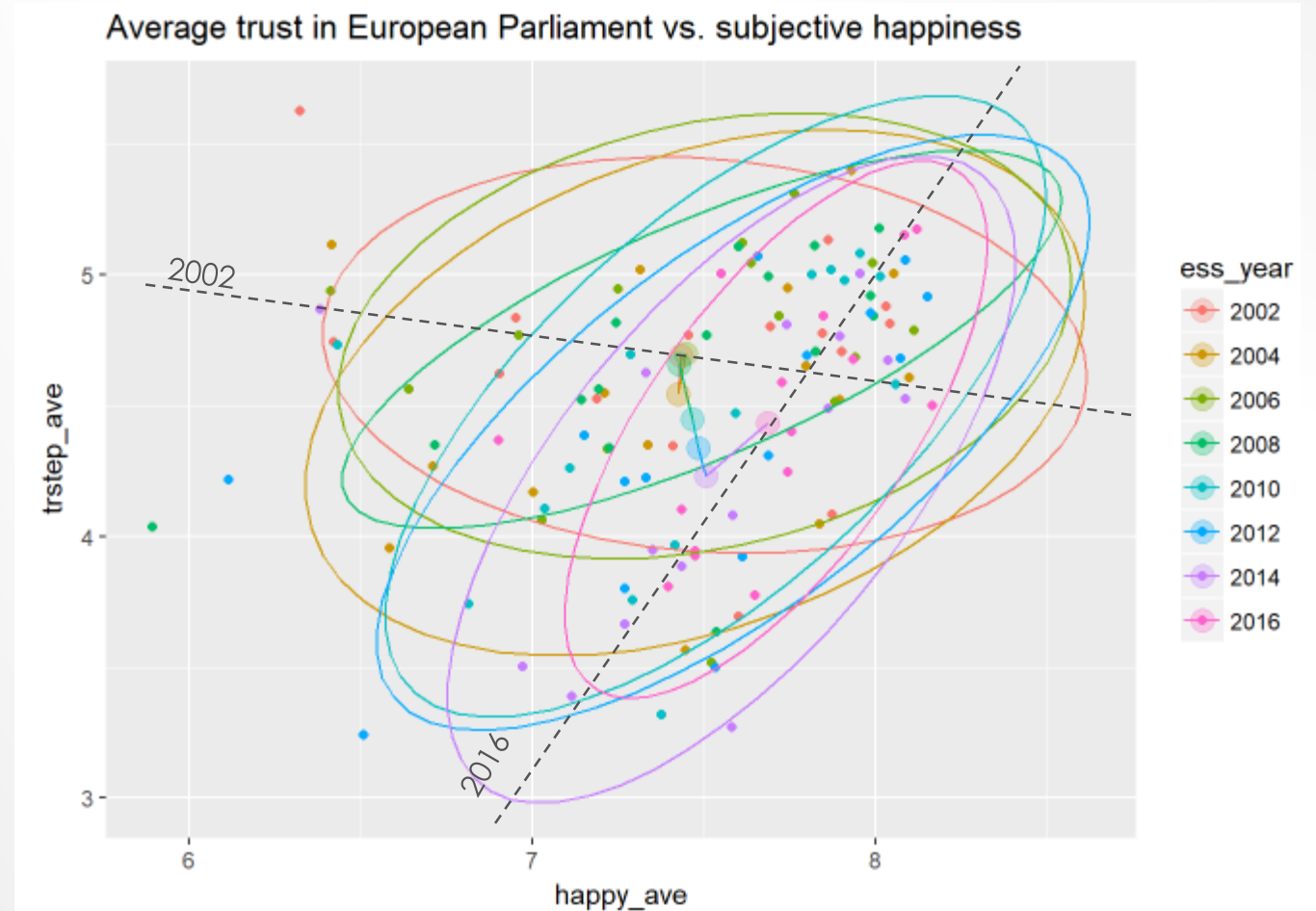


European Parliament and Subjective Happiness

AND SO WHAT..?

HAPPINESS VS. TRUST IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 2002 more "unhappy" countries with high trust in European Parliament
- 2016 the "unhappy" countries had lost their trust – while the "happy" largely remained high
- From negative to positive correlation



Appendix

ADDITIONAL SLIDES AND REFERENCES

REFERENCES

- A study related to the question on happiness
 - Europeans' Personal and Social Wellbeing, Topline Results from Round 6 of the European Social Survey,
link: http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/docs/findings/ESS6_toplevels_issue_5_personal_and_social_wellbeing.pdf
- Citation of ESS data:
 - European Social Survey Cumulative File, ESS 1-7 (2016). Data file edition 1.0. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS REIC.
 - European Social Survey Round 8 Data (2016). Data file edition 2.0. NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data, Norway - Data Archive and distributor of ESS data for ESS ERIC
- Citation of ESS documentation:
 - European Social Survey (2016). ESS 1-7, European Social Survey Cumulative File, Study Description. Bergen: NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data for ESS ERIC.
 - European Social Survey (2016): ESS8- 2016 Documentation Report. Edition 2.0. Bergen, European Social Survey Data Archive, NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data for ESS ERIC
- Distributor of ESS Data
 - NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data,
Harald Hårfagresgt. 29 N-5007 Bergen, Norway.
Phone: +47 55 58 21 17
Fax: +47 44 58 96 50
e-mail: nsd@nsd.no
Web: <http://www.nsd.no/english>
 - ESS: essdata@nsd.no
ESS: www.europeansocialsurvey.org

EUROPEAN UNION

- Countries with their year of admission
- Those admitted during ESS survey periods
- Source: Wikipedia
- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6c/Evolution_of_the_European_Union_SMIL.svg

