

ESTONIA'S EUROVISION: NORDIC OR BALTIC?



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ESTONIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

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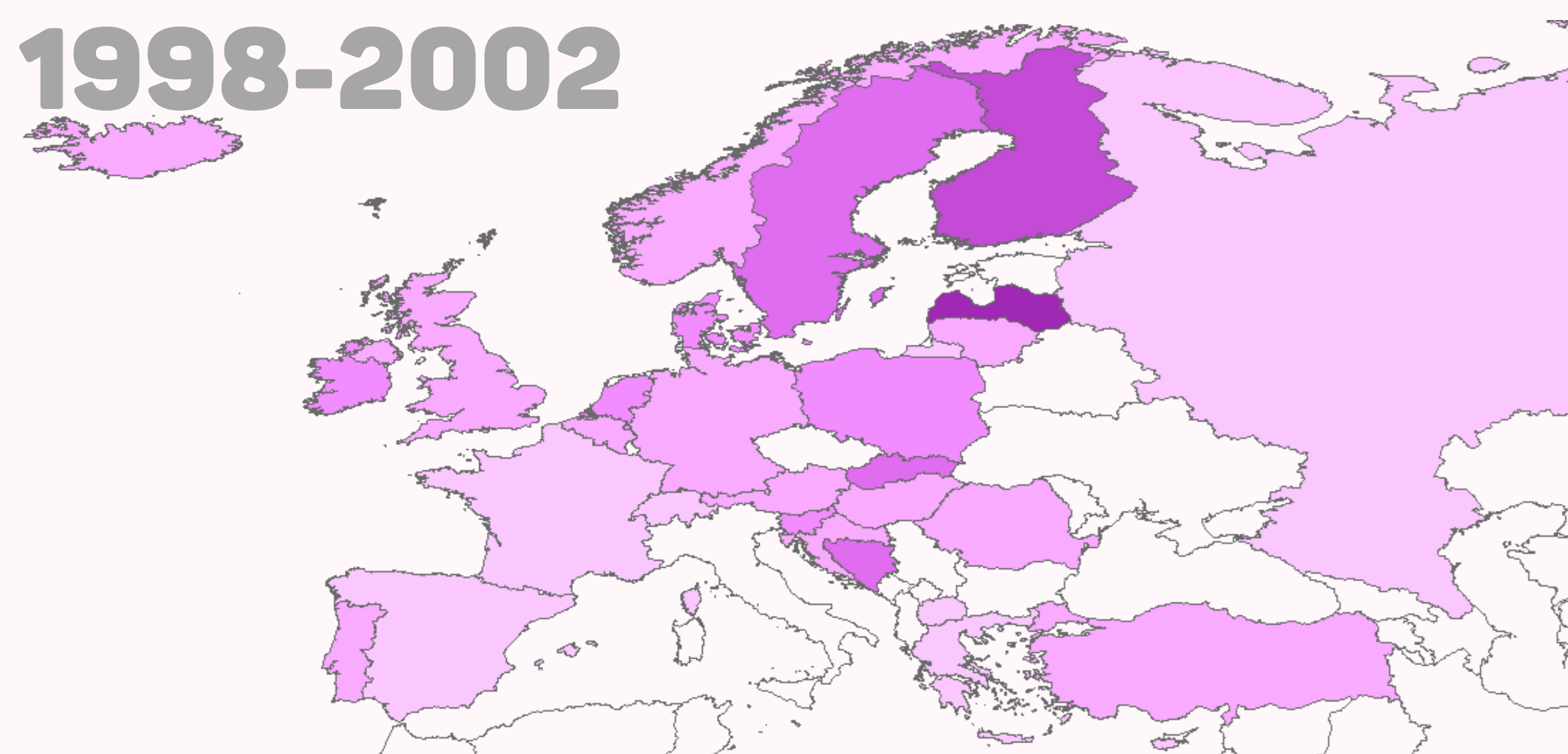
BACKGROUND

Eurovision Song Contest is a annual international TV song contest, first held in 1956. Every year Eurovision is watched by at least 100 million people from all over the world. The winner is determined by combining the votes from national juries and televoting. The aim of the Eurovision is to unite the countries of Europe, yet over the years many have noticed the trend of countries voting for their neighbors. We decided to take a look whether Estonia belongs to the Nordic or Baltic block.

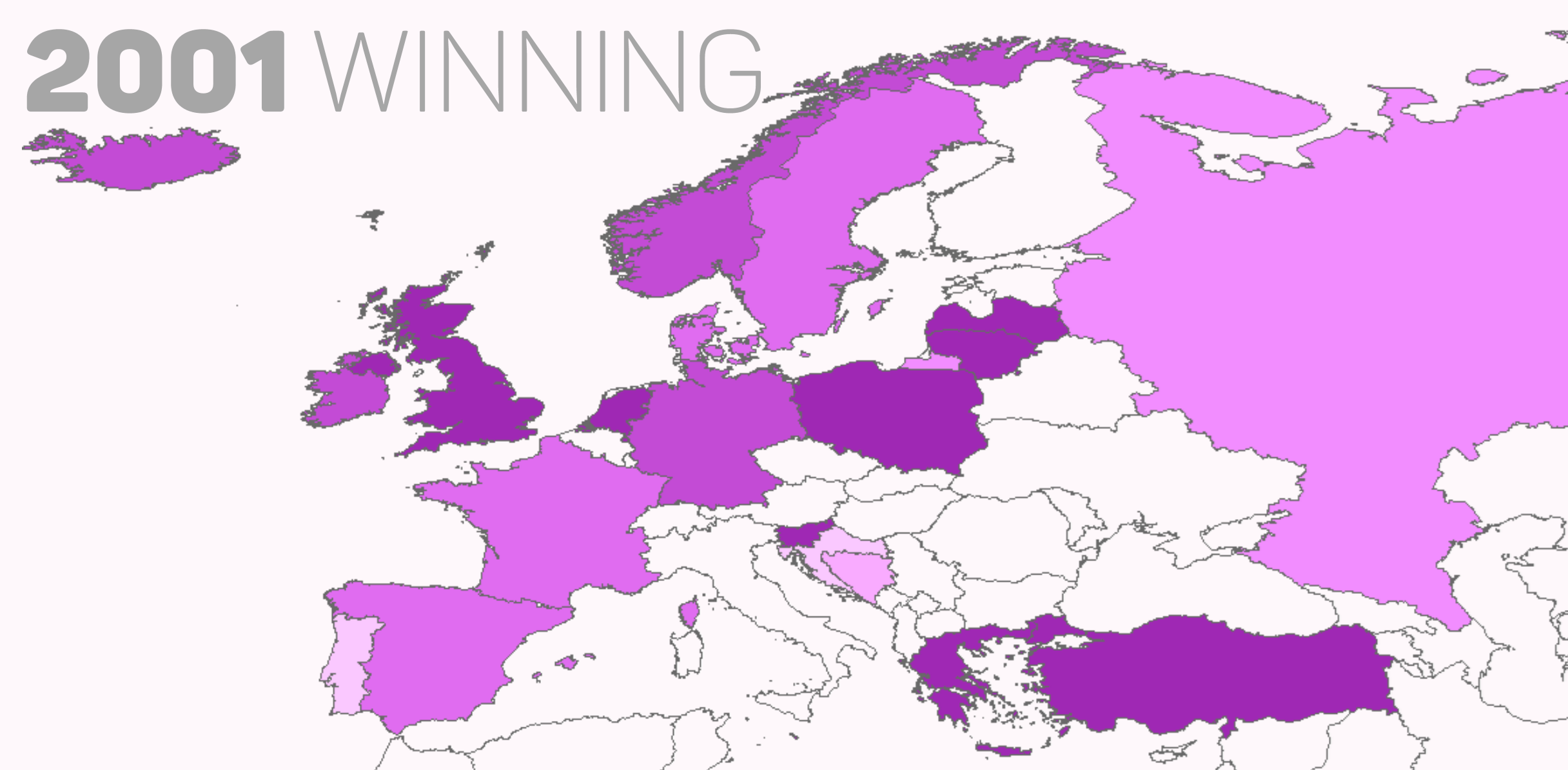
ESTONIA'S SUPPORTERS

As a part of a descriptive analysis we decided to show how Estonia was supported by the different countries throughout the different time periods.

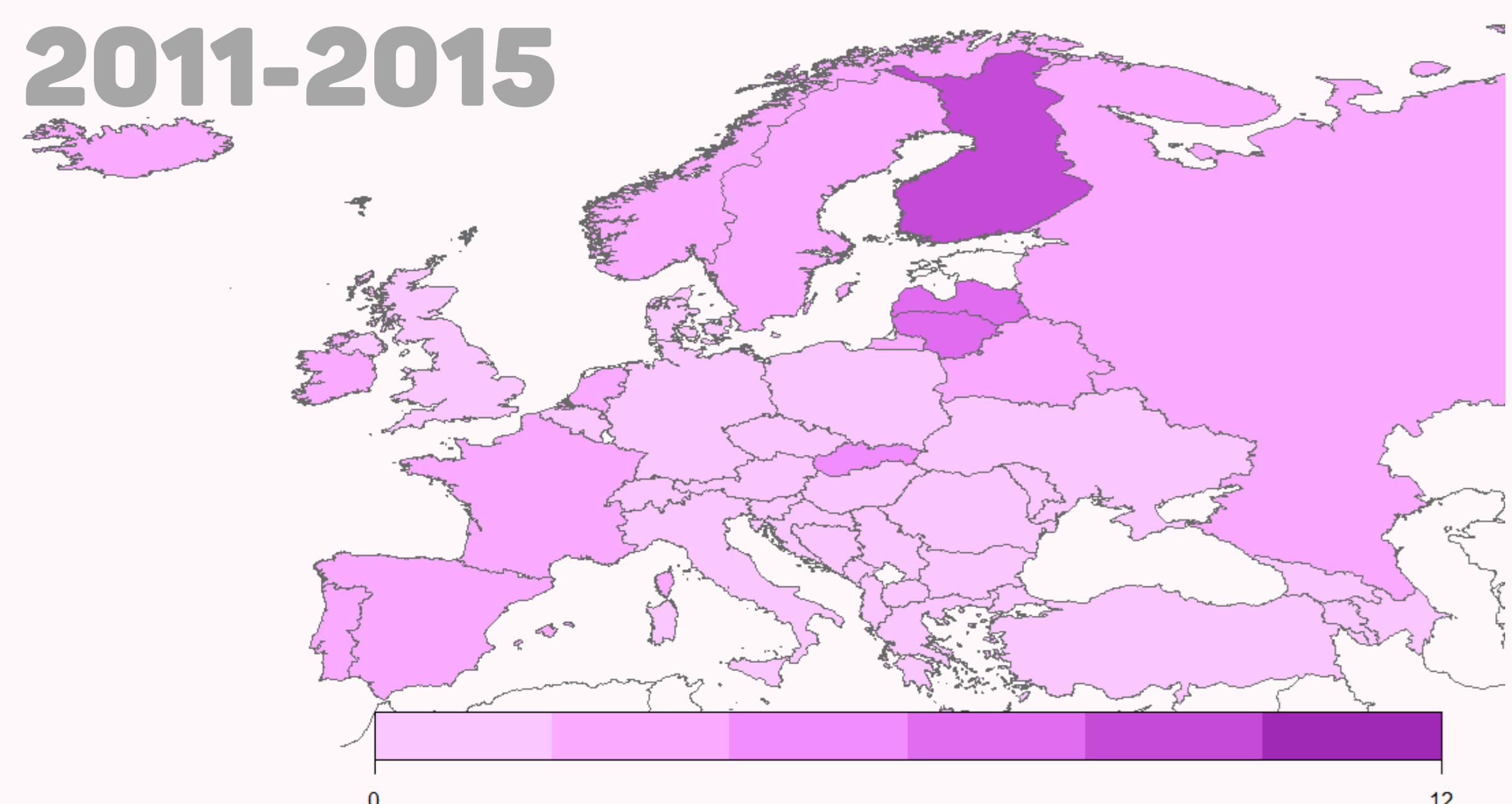
1998-2002



2001 WINNING



2011-2015



CONCLUSION

Even though Estonia wants to be a part of the Nordic region by supporting Nordic countries, data suggests, that only Finland is an avid supporter of Estonia, the rest of Scandinavia is not that fond of Estonia. On the other hand, Latvia and Lithuania have always been supporters of Estonia. In conclusion, one can say that in spirit Estonia belongs to the Nordic group, but in reality, it is still part of the Baltic region.

DATA PROCESSING

We used publicly available datasets to create a single one, with data about voting from 1998 to 2016 year. Most of the data was available in a machine-readable format, as an exception, the year 2013 was added manually. Here is the list of data sources used:

2014-2016

Official Eurovision data
<http://www.eurovision.tv/page/results>

1998-2009

Kaggle competition data
<https://www.kaggle.com/c/Eurovision2010>

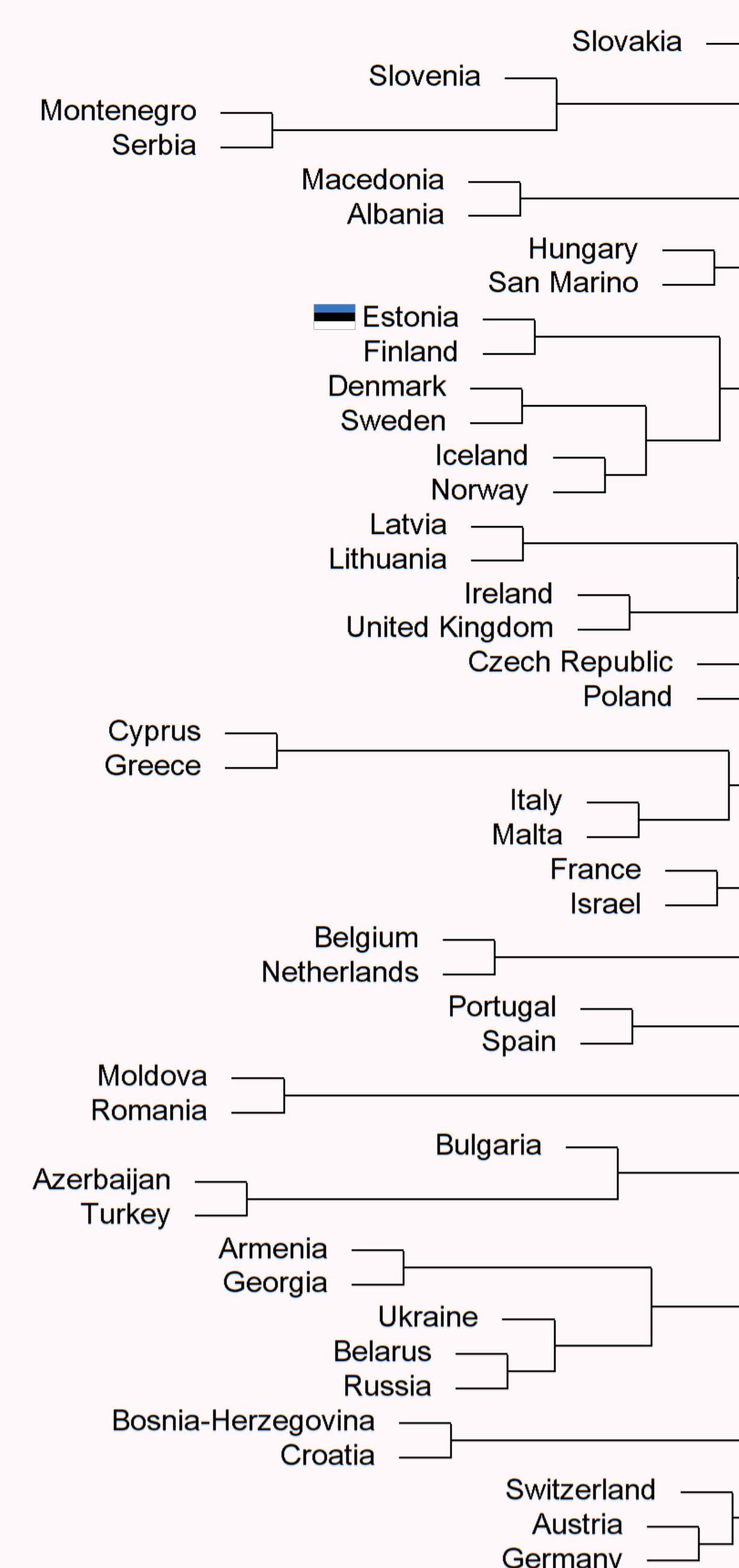
1998-2012

Open data about finals from GitHub
<https://github.com/mewo2/eurovision/blob/master/data/finals1998-2012.csv>

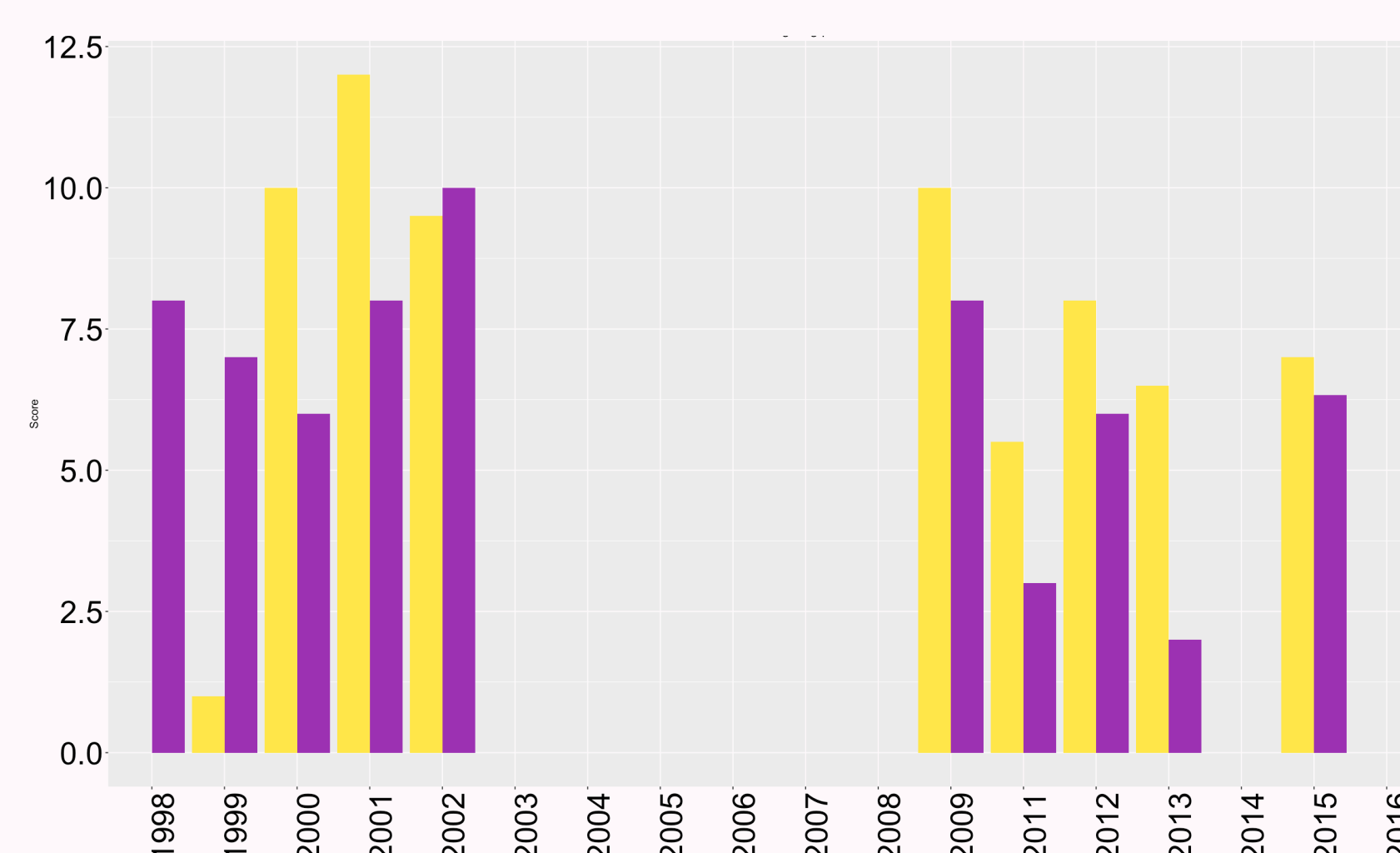
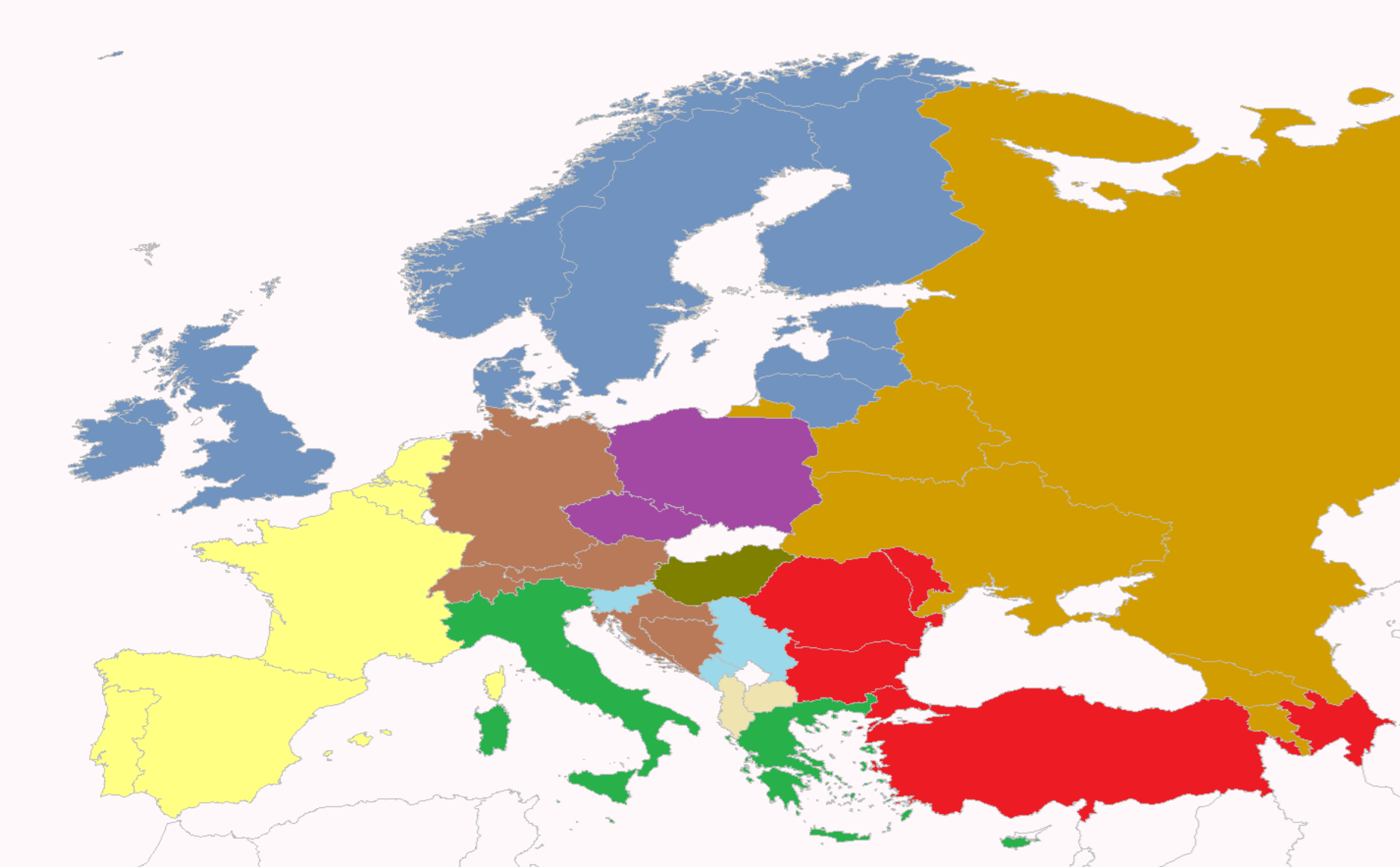
2013

Wikipedia data about Eurovision final
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurovision_Song_Contest_2013

VOTING GROUPS

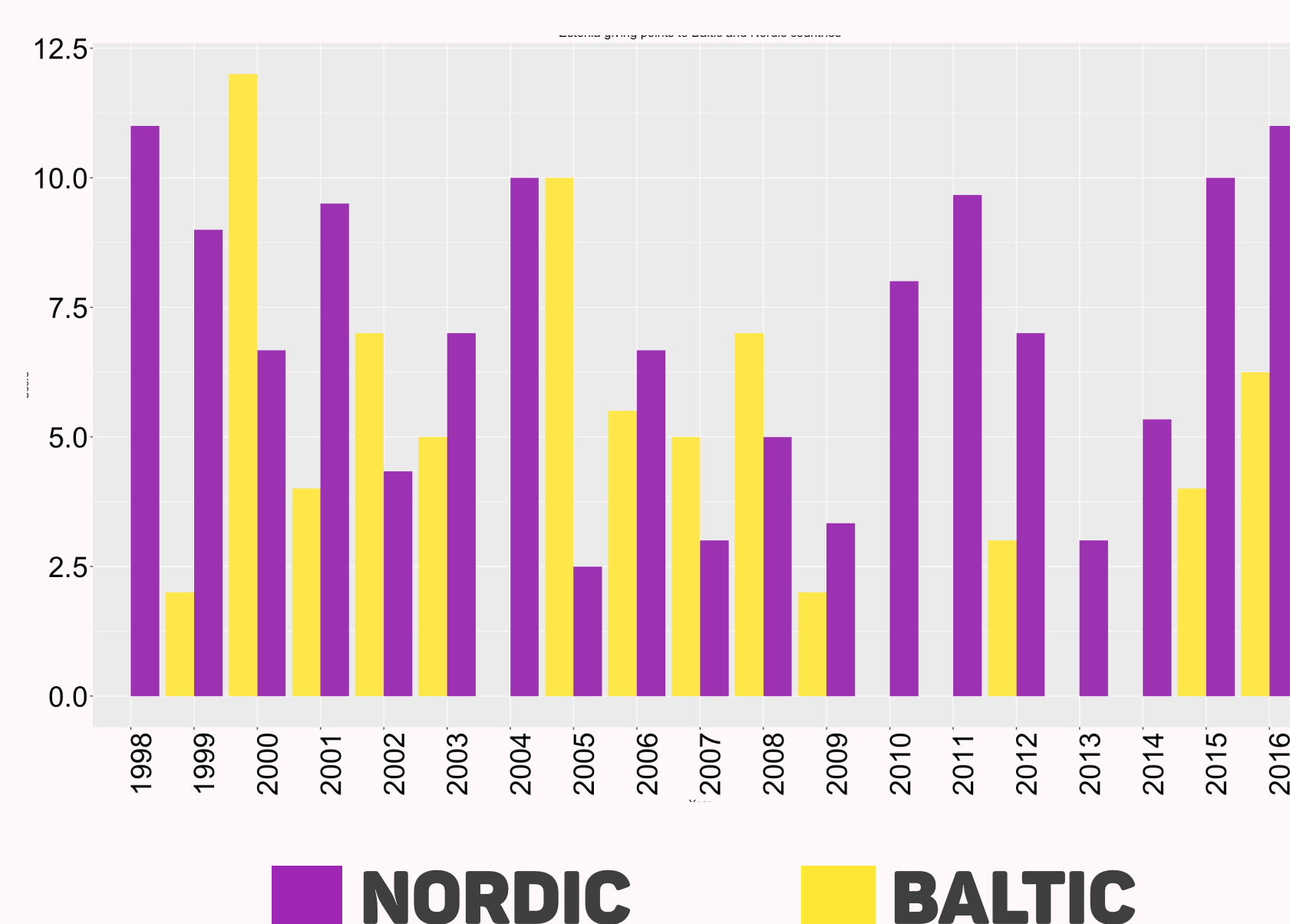


In order to understand “hidden patterns” in the data, we used complete link hierarchical clustering. First, the voting data was gathered, then the distances between countries were calculated based on the amount of points they have given to each other. As a result, the distance matrix was created, which was used as an input for *hclust* function to build a dendrogram. The results of the clustering confirm that certain countries vote in blocks. According to the historic data, Nordic and Eastern European countries have performed pretty well in recent years, while, for example, France hasn't won since 1977.



WHO VOTES FOR ESTONIA?

In general the Baltic countries are more supportive of Estonia. The fact that in the 1998 and 1999 the support from the Baltic states was unusually low because Latvia started participating in Eurovision in 2000.



WHO ESTONIA VOTES FOR?

On the other hand, it can be seen that Estonia votes mostly for Nordic countries. 2000 and 2002 are the only two exceptions, first one connected with Latvia's first appearance in Eurovision, and the second one is Latvia's win.



sources available at:

https://github.com/michaeldorf/dm_project2016

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