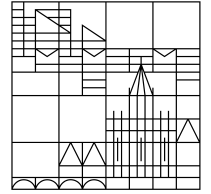


Universität
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The Past, Present and Future: European Social Citizenship & the Publics` View

EuSocialCit
European Social Citizenship

Gianna Maria Eick

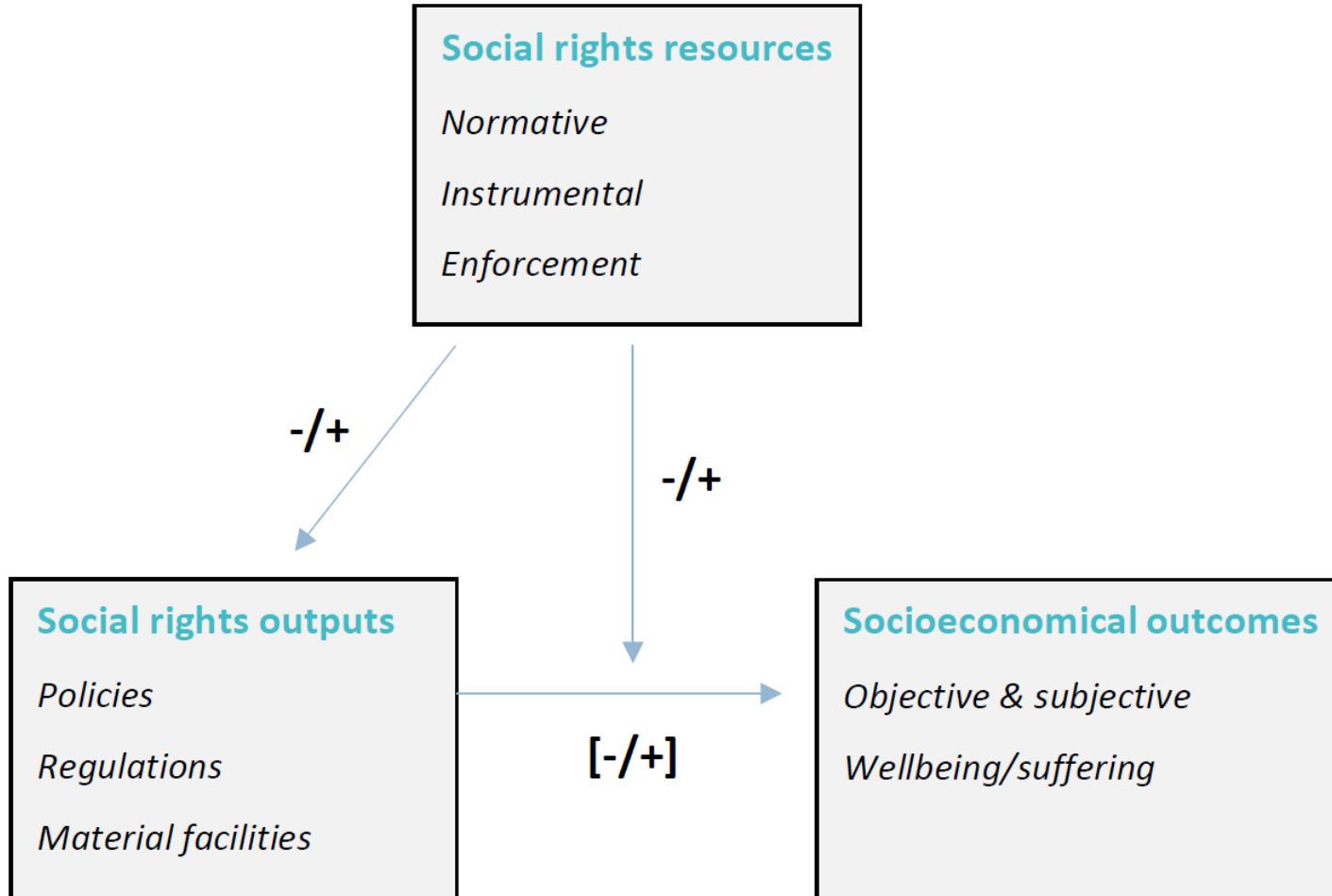
Haus der Universität, November 2022

Eu Social Cit

European Social Citizenship



H2020 research project on the
state and future of social rights
and European social citizenship



Why Does the Public's View Matter?

Citizens versus elites?

Disentangle the views of the general public with those of the more powerful elites that frequently claim to speak for the general public.

Democratic representation?

Are the elites doing what the public wants? Is what the public wants what benefits individuals in need? What influences the public and their views?

What Type of Social Citizenship does the Public Want and what is Delivered by Governments?

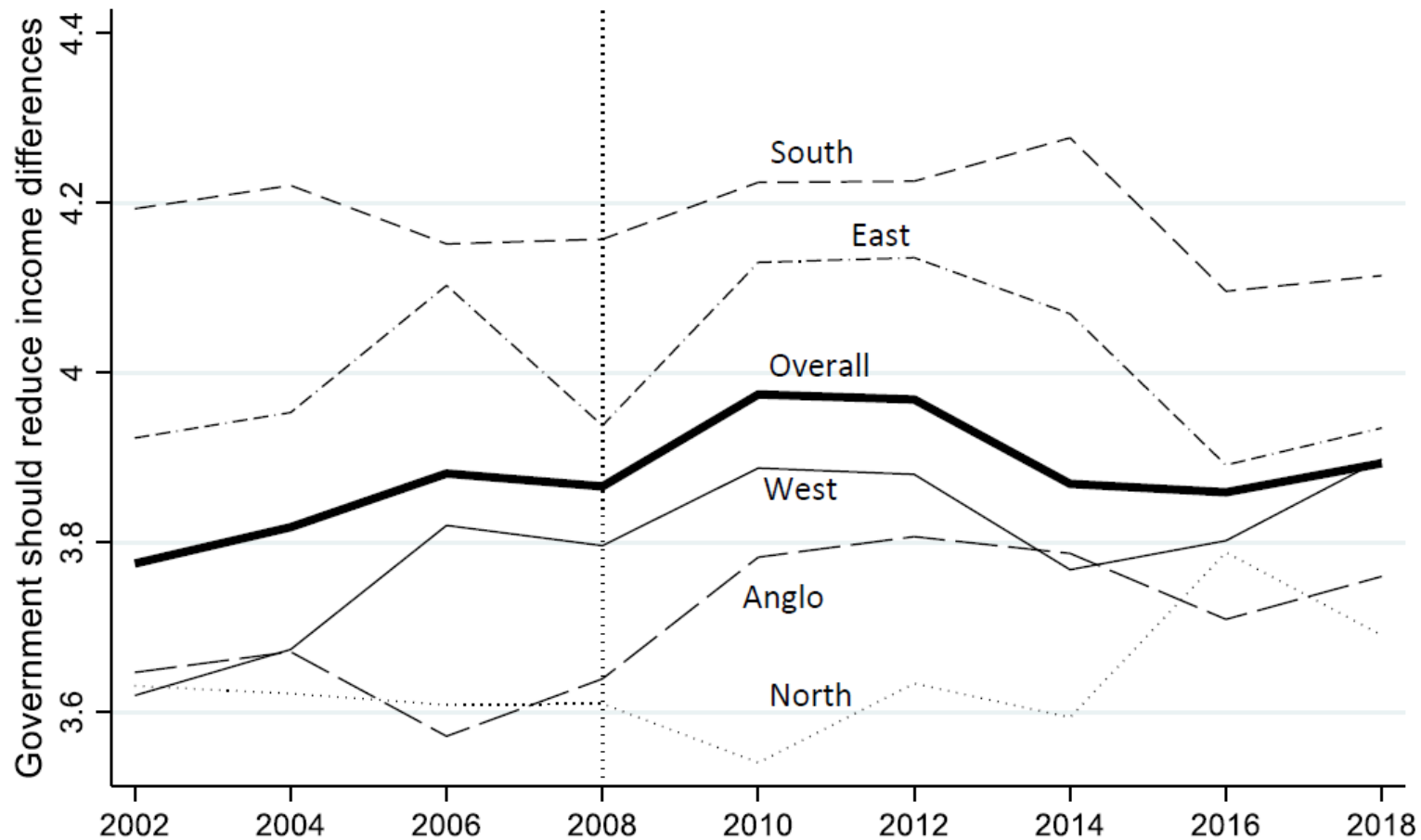


Figure 1. "Government should reduce differences in income levels" (mean) in EU regions, 2002-2018.

Data: European Social Survey, 1 = disagree strongly to 5 = agree strongly, 418,713 individuals, 33 countries, dotted line indicates the financial crisis in 2008.

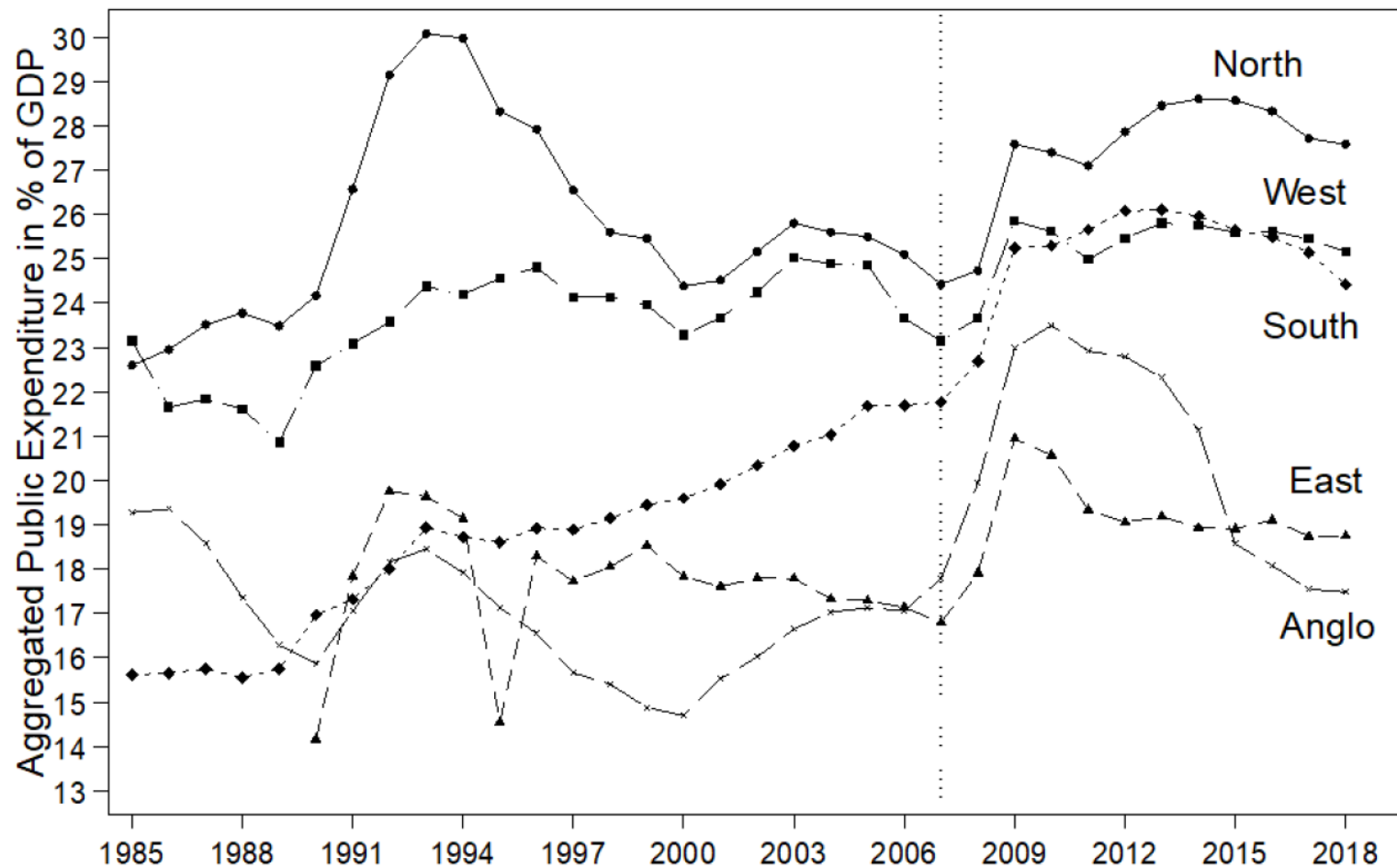


Figure 2. Average public expenditure in EU regions (%GDP) , 1985-2018.

Data: OECD Social Expenditure Data Base, dotted line indicates the beginning of the financial crisis in 2007/2008.

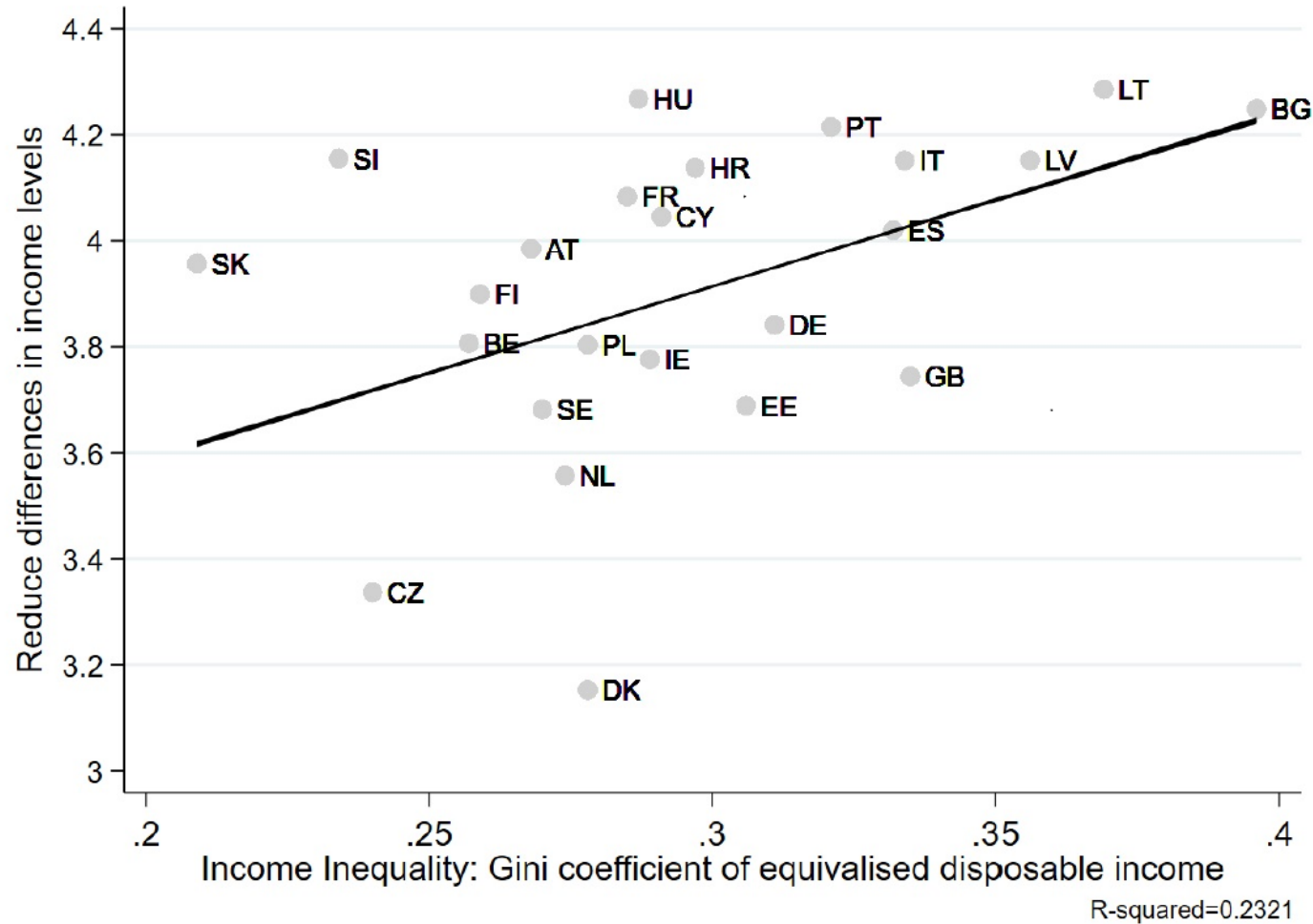


Figure 3. Relationship between attitudes on “Government should reduce differences in income levels” and Gini in EU.
Data: European Social Survey 2018, 1: disagree strongly to 5: agree strongly, 418,713 individuals, 33 countries.

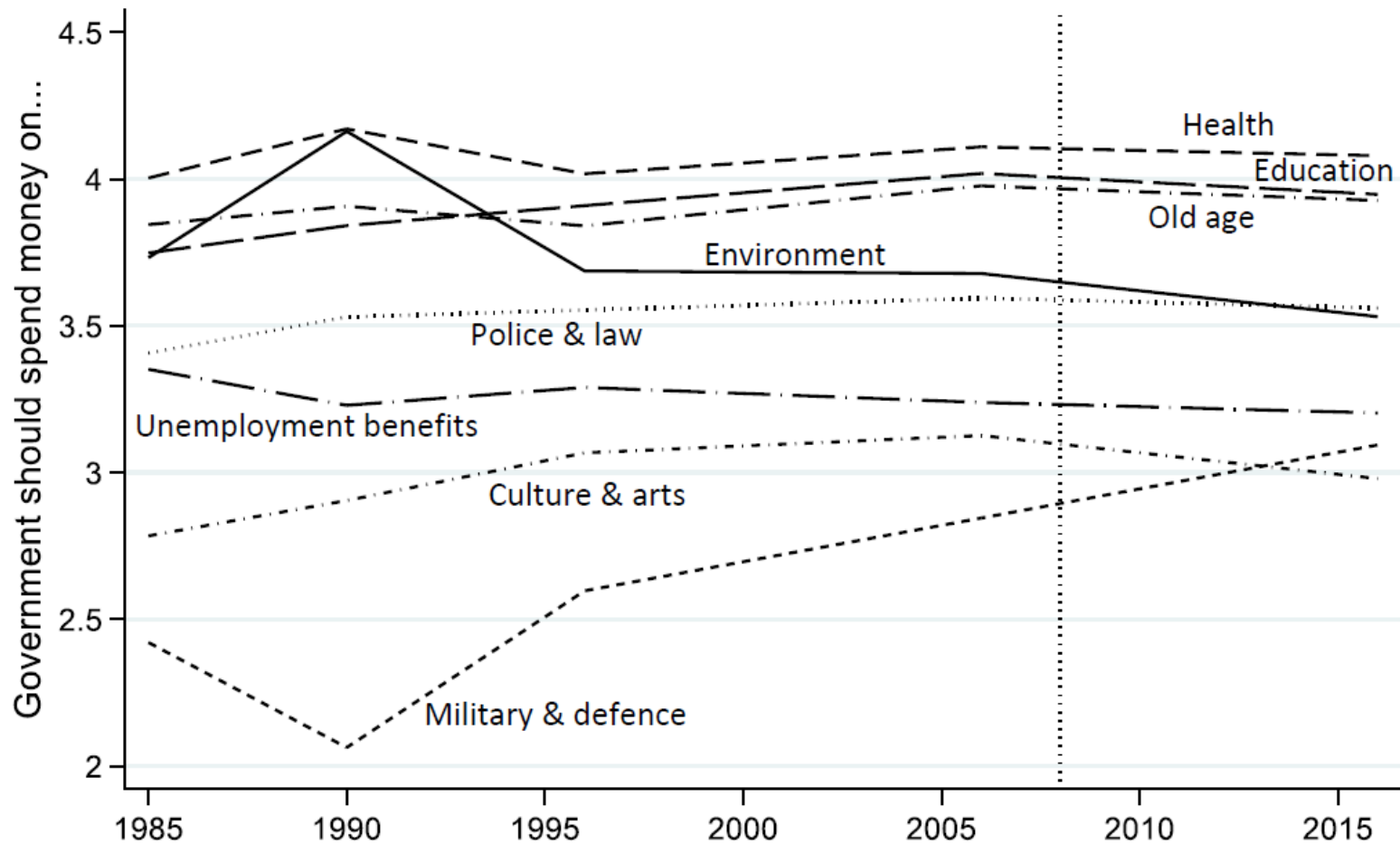


Figure 4. Different government areas where spending should be increased/decreased (mean) in EU, 1985-2015.

Data: International Social Survey Program, 1 = Spend much less to 5 = Spend much more, 82,870 individuals, 23 countries, dotted line indicates the financial crisis in 2008.

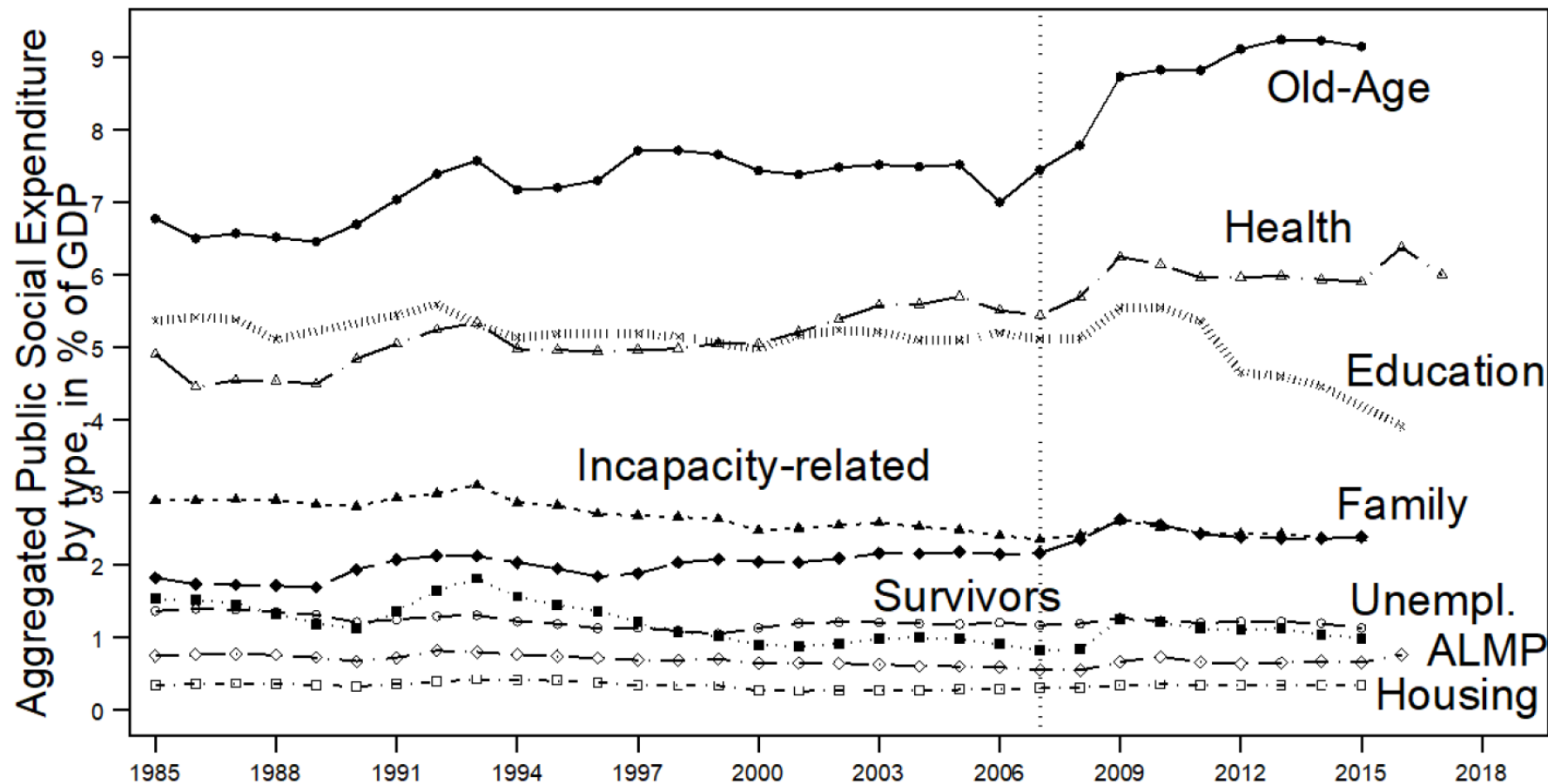
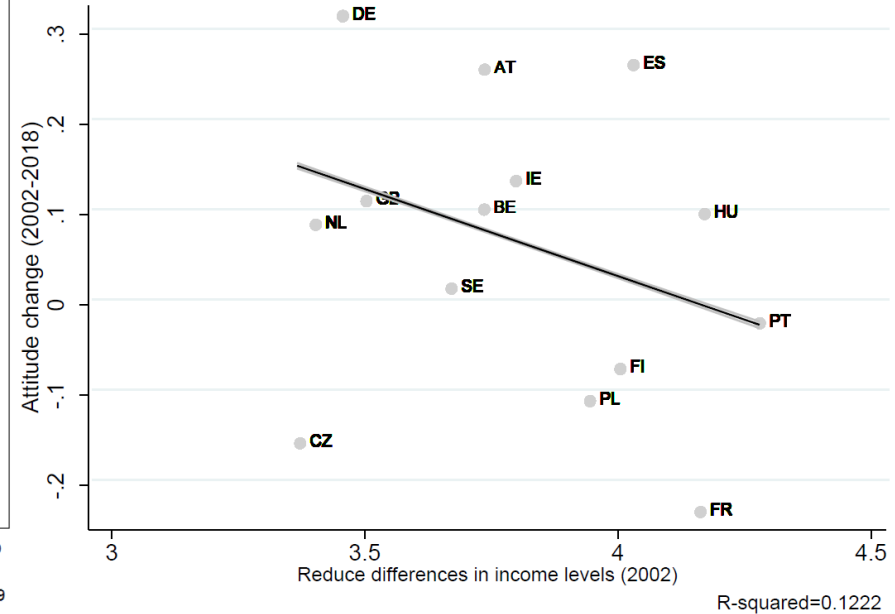
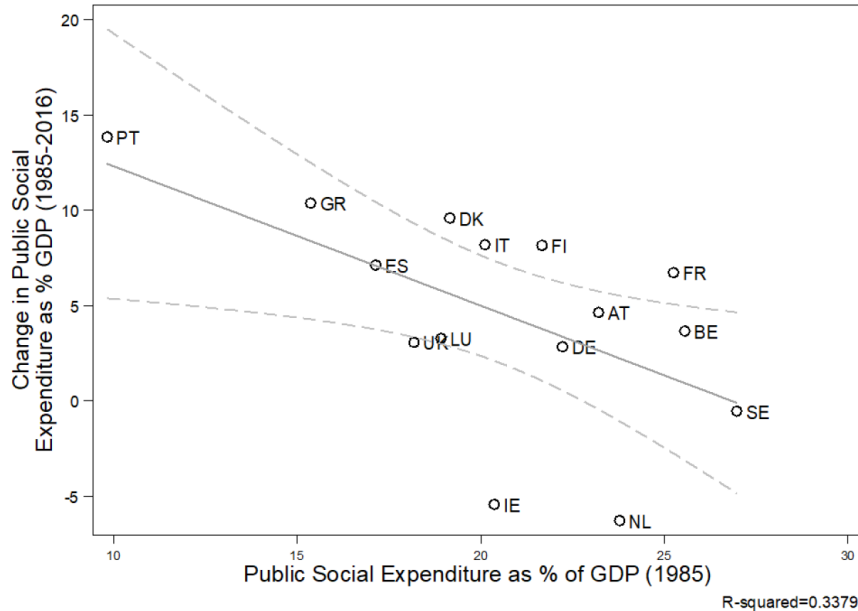


Figure 5. Average public social expenditure across policy areas (%GDP) in EU, 1985-2016.

Data: OECD Social Expenditure Data Base, dotted line indicates the beginning of the financial crisis in 2007/2008

Is there Convergence in Spending and Attitudes? Yes!



National Welfare States in Crisis

National welfare states only partly equipped to address growing inequality, globalization, and crises

Social Europe to

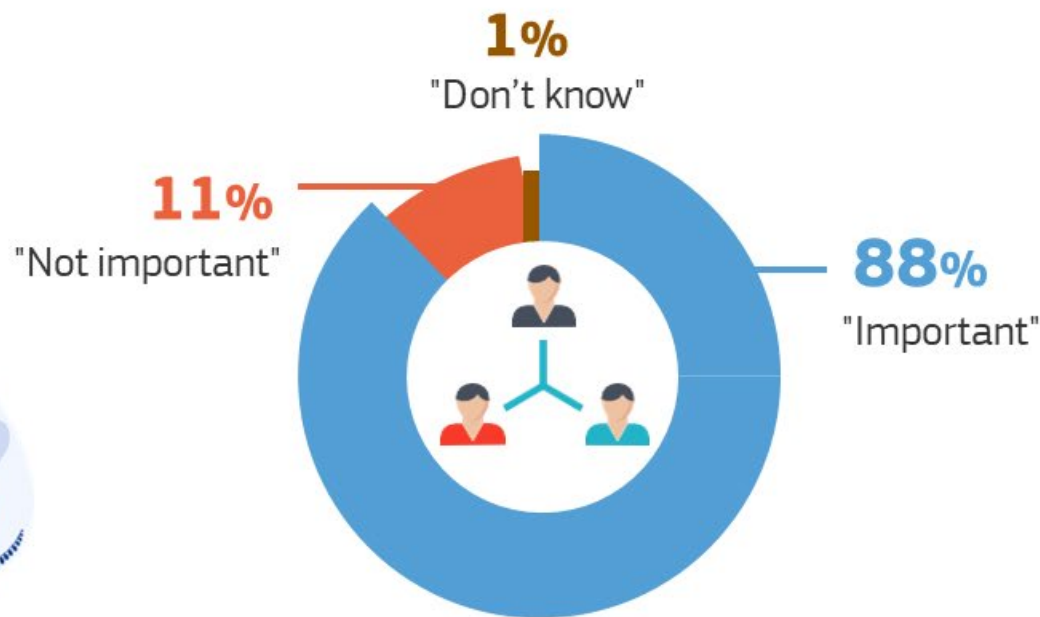
1. Foster better socioeconomic outcomes for European citizens
2. Address divergence in social trends across and within EU Member States
3. Reduce the risk of socioeconomic shocks, anti-democratic/EU movements

Example measures

Social Cohesion Funds 2007 (€300 billion), Social Investment Package 2013, European Pillar of Social Rights 2017, Work-Life Balance Directive 2019, Next Generation EU 2021 (€800 billion)

Critique: soft law character

88% OF EUROPEANS CONSIDER SOCIAL EUROPE TO BE IMPORTANT FOR THEM PERSONALLY



What principles do you associate with a "Social Europe"?



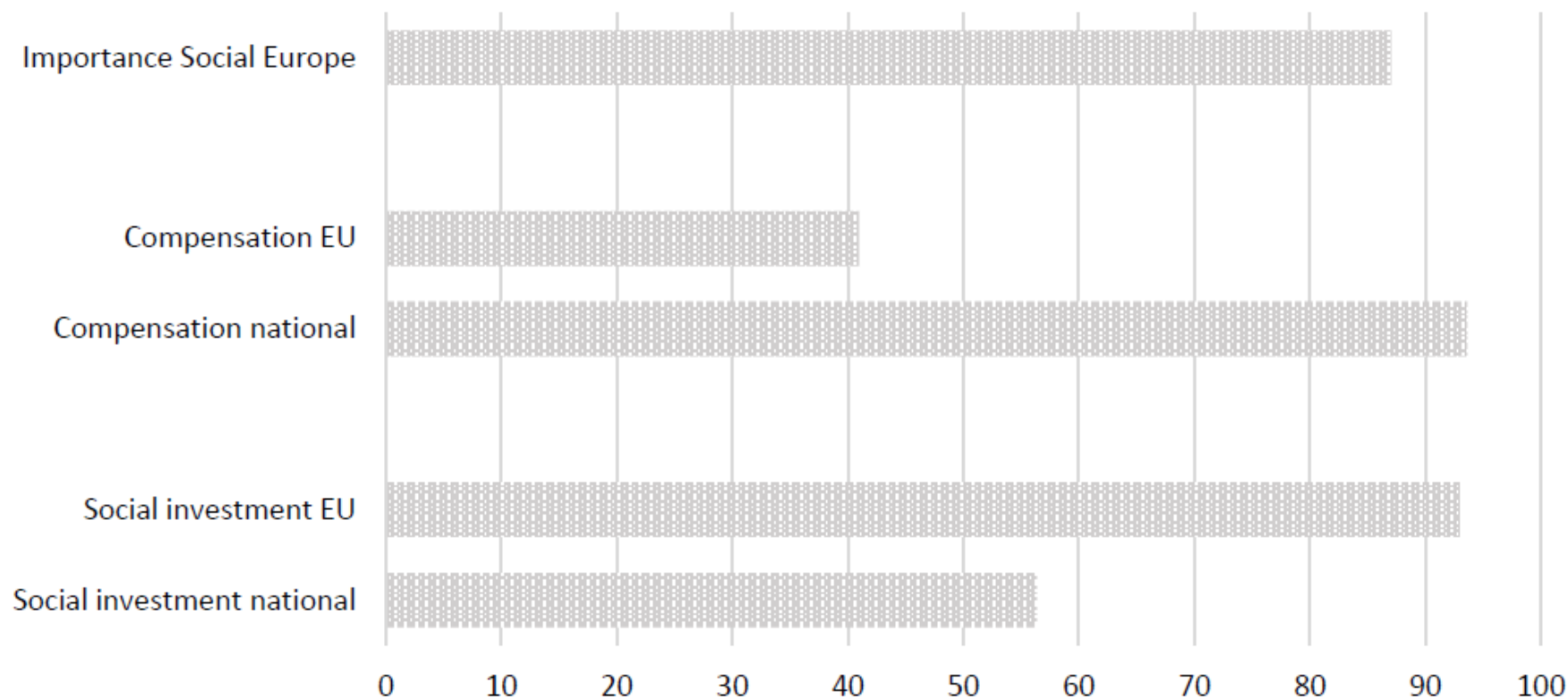


Figure 6. Future policy preference for the importance of Social Europe and CP vs SI on EU vs national level.
Data: Eurobarometer 509, 2020; $N = 25,145$.

Who Supports Social Citizenship in the Public?

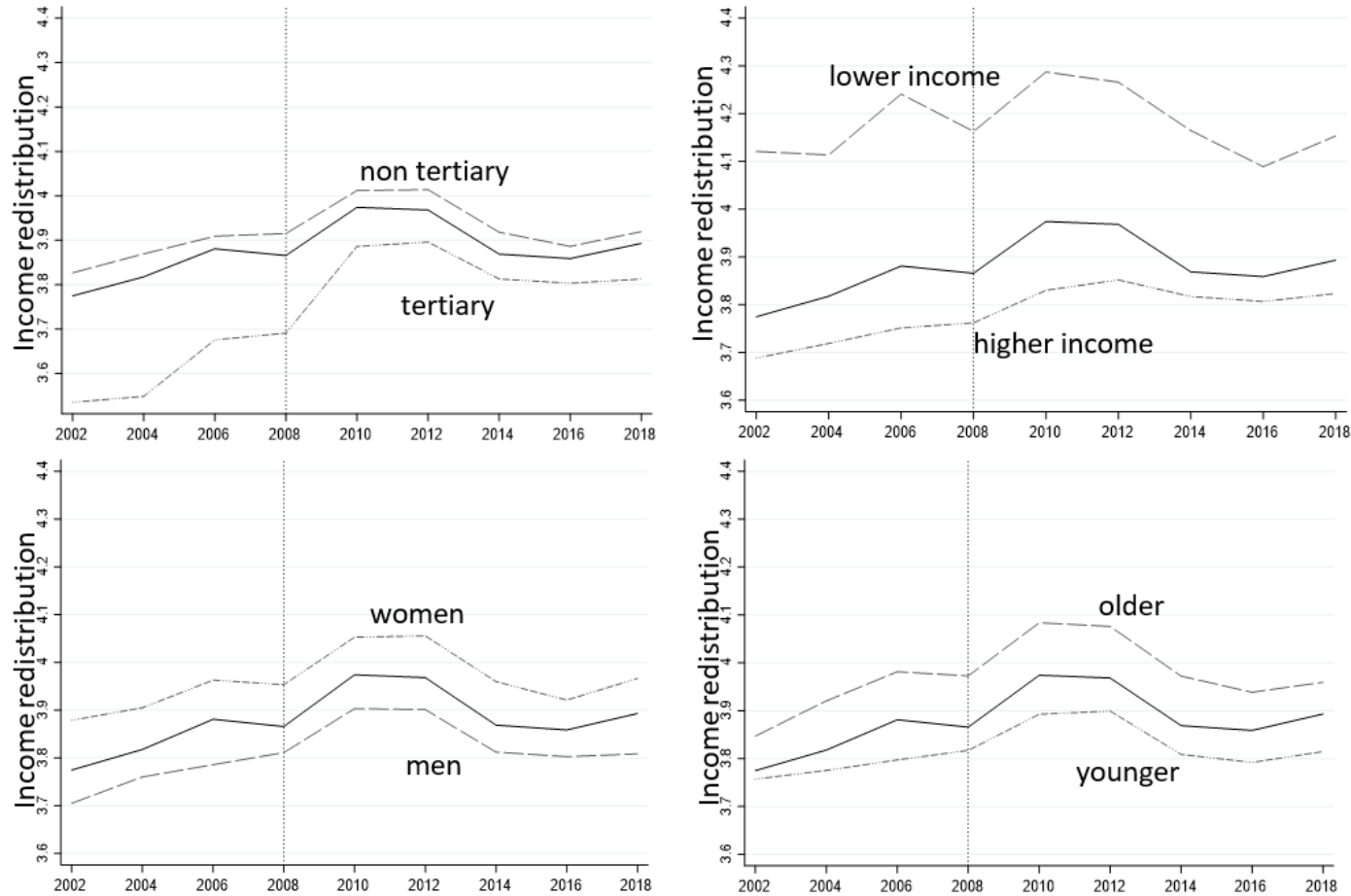


Figure 7. Convergence/divergence of “Government should reduce differences in income levels “ (mean) across socioeconomic groups (2002-2018). Data: European Social Survey, 1 = agree strongly to 5 = disagree strongly, 418,713 individuals, 33 countries, dotted line indicates the financial crisis in 2008.

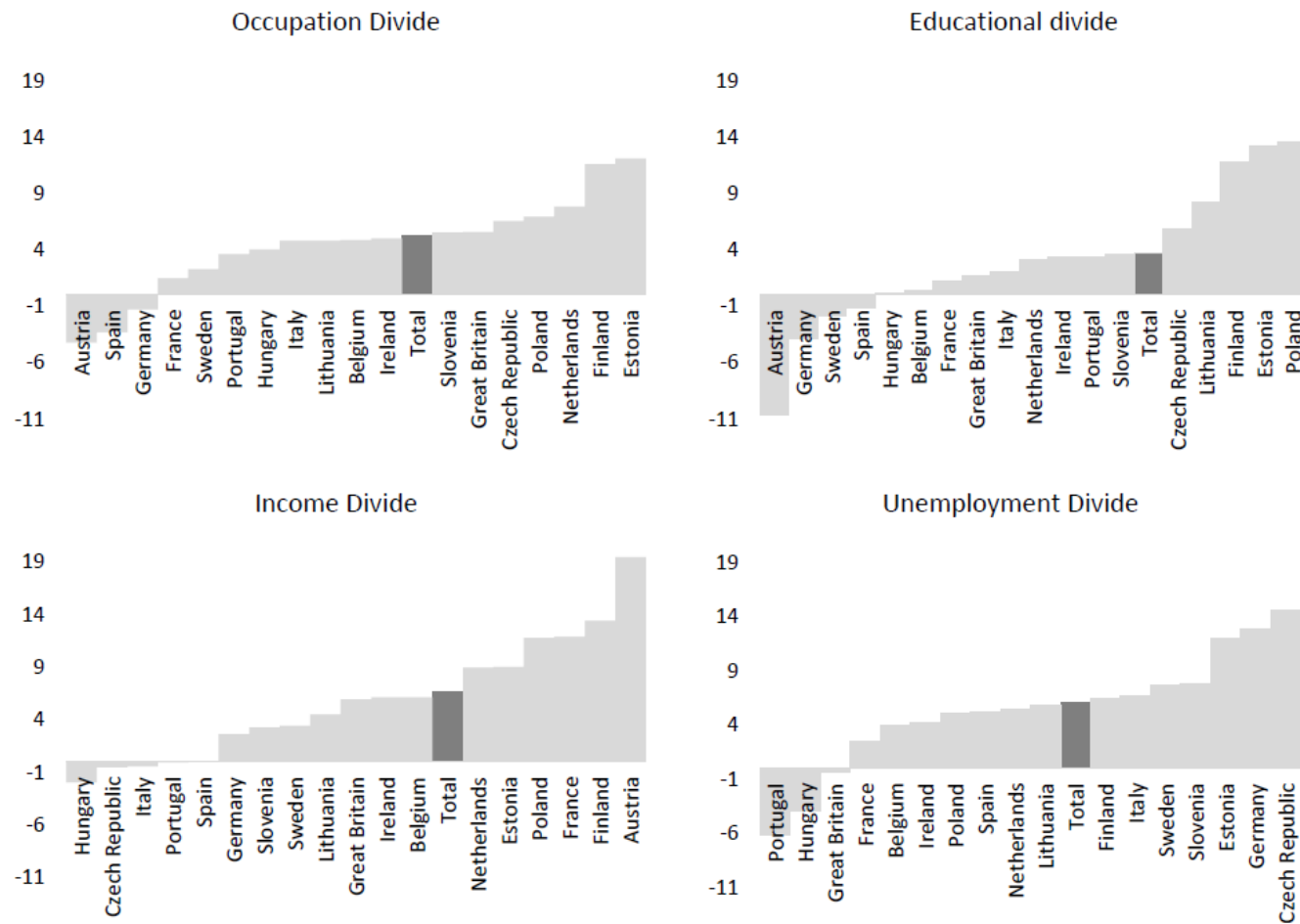


Figure 8. Higher levels of welfare Euroscepticism among higher SES groups in comparison to lower SES groups divides (in percentage). Data: European Social Survey 2016-2017; $N = 36,082$. Design and population-weighted. Sorted by level of divide across the countries.

Who Has Access to Social Citizenship in the Public?

Higher educated individuals, Berlin 2022

Christoph: I'm going to say informed or I think I know what my rights are in the social sphere. And even if I miss out on certain things, so to speak, I know where I can get the relevant information.

Eva: I think you have to make your own way and if you do that, I think... Even on the Berlin government page, I'm stunned what you find there. So in the positive sense stunned, because I would never have trusted our failing administration.

Lower educated individuals, Berlin 2022

Antje: **Active support from the state to enforce one's rights is rare. You almost have to go to a lawyer in the meantime. You have to go twice for every case. That's why I don't see myself supported by the state.**

Silke: **I also have the feeling that I am not so sufficiently informed.**

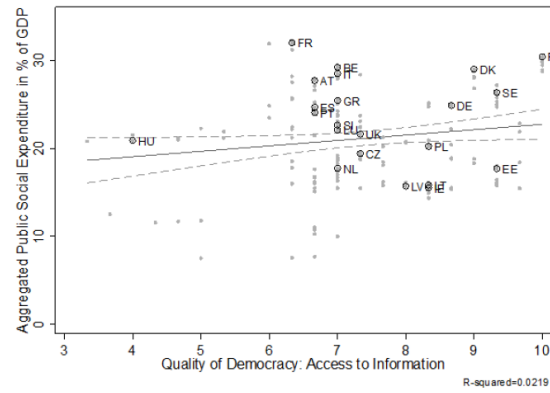
Wolfgang: **But it's always totally annoying to me that you always have to feel behind as a citizen of this country.**

Karina: **But the job center has so many employees who say: No, you're not allowed to do that, where I really have to pick out the paragraph myself and say: But according to this and that, I'm allowed to do that, and you're paying me for this additional certificate or something else.**

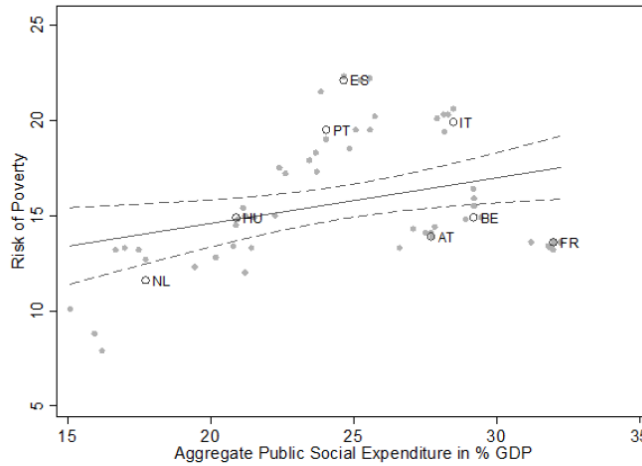
Younger individuals, Berlin 2022

Pia: I mean, you can always call somewhere yourself, I don't know, for example, the job center and ask what they have available, how you can do something. But I think people should be informed about this much earlier. Also at school. I think there should also be smaller subjects on the matter.

Patrick: The access to it is there. Awareness is not always there and it is not always offered directly. For example, I had my first flat of my own and didn't know that you can apply for initial equipment. So you first have to know that from somewhere. And that's where it starts [...] when I came out of school, I didn't know how to do paperwork, how to get my rights at all. So you learn that somehow, yes, mostly through experience.



Sub-sample with **LOWER**-than-median
information access



Sub-sample with **HIGHER**-than-median
information access

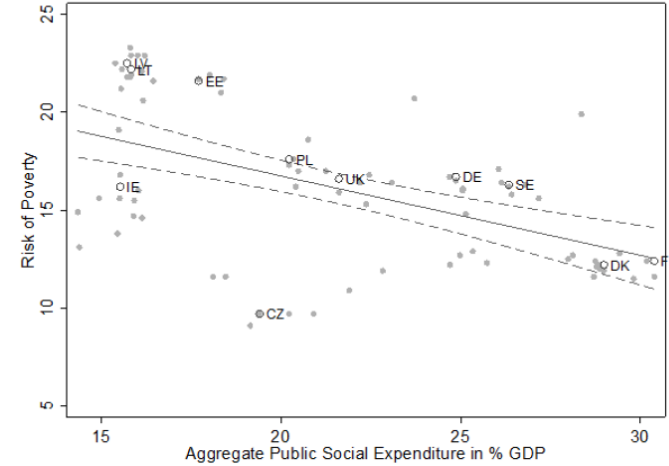


Figure 9. The Relationship between total public expenditure (%GDP) and poverty, moderated by access to information.
Data: OECD Social Expenditure Data Base, SGI Quality of Democracy Data.

Take-away

European social citizenship is getting stronger, especially in times of crises.

Still debates on governance level and who should get access.

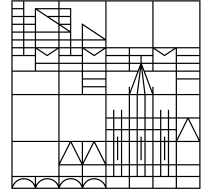
Individuals that want/need social support the most also lack access the most.

One of the reasons is missing education/information on rights > more investment in communication/education in this area?

Solution social investment? In line with what governments increasingly do and what individuals also increasingly want.

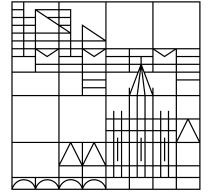
Social investment is also what the public expects more than social transfers from a European Social Union.

However, need to diversify social investment to make it accessible to all individuals.



**Thank you
for listening!**

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