

Corruption and Healthcare Inequalities in Europe

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Naples, Italy, 26.5.2016



Corruption and Healthcare Inequalities in Europe

What is corruption?

- Misuse of entrusted power for private gain
- Complex problem that threatens the impact of public investments, health care access, services, equity and outcomes
- Every year more than 1 trillion € are spent by European citizens in healthcare



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Healthcare sector is particularly vulnerable to corruption

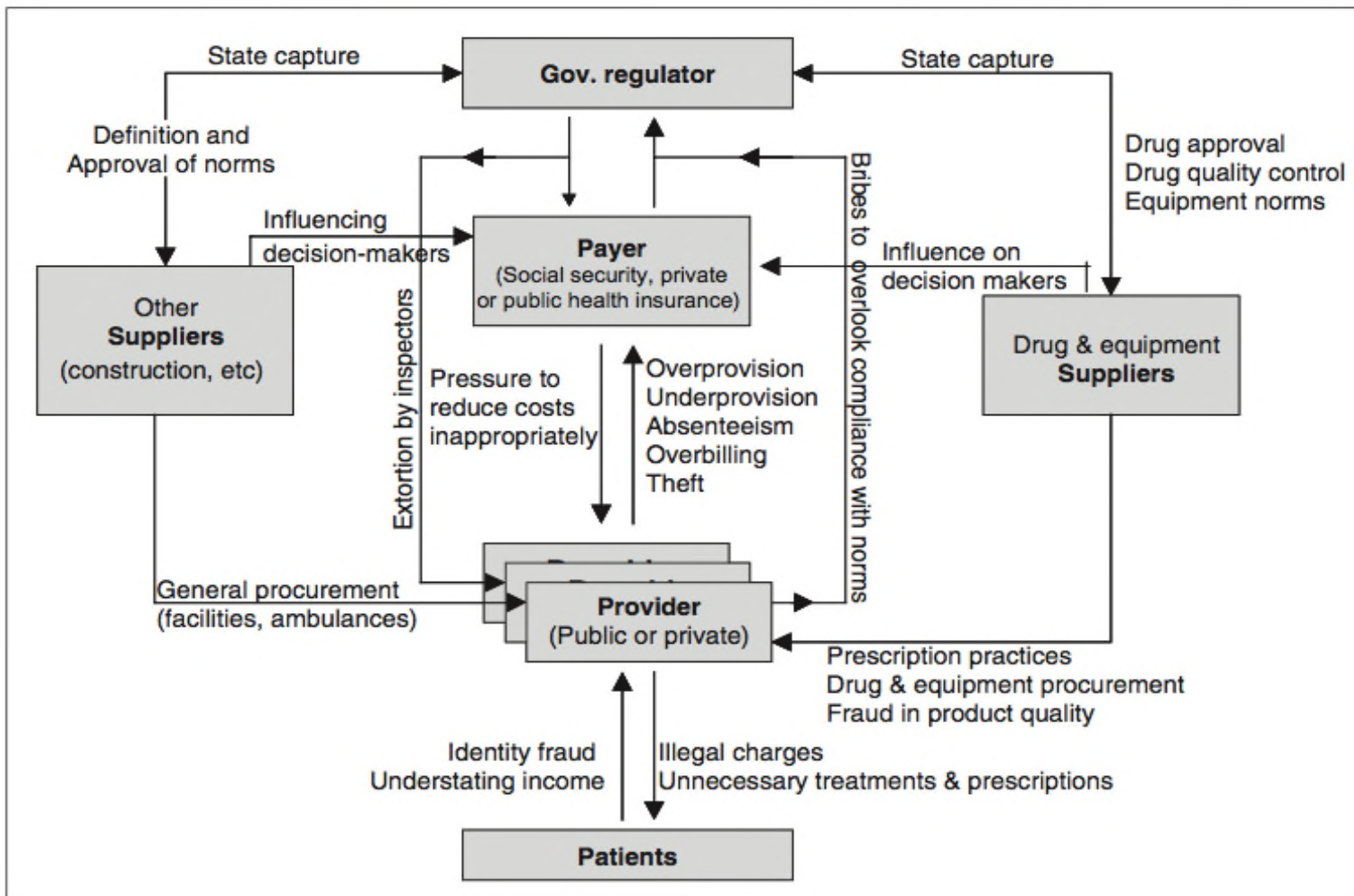
- Information asymmetry between providers and consumers
- Uncertainty surrounding demand for services
- Large number of actors that have complex inter-relations
- Providers are responsible for choosing services to patients
- The payer is often not the same as the recipient of the service



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Corruption and Healthcare indicators

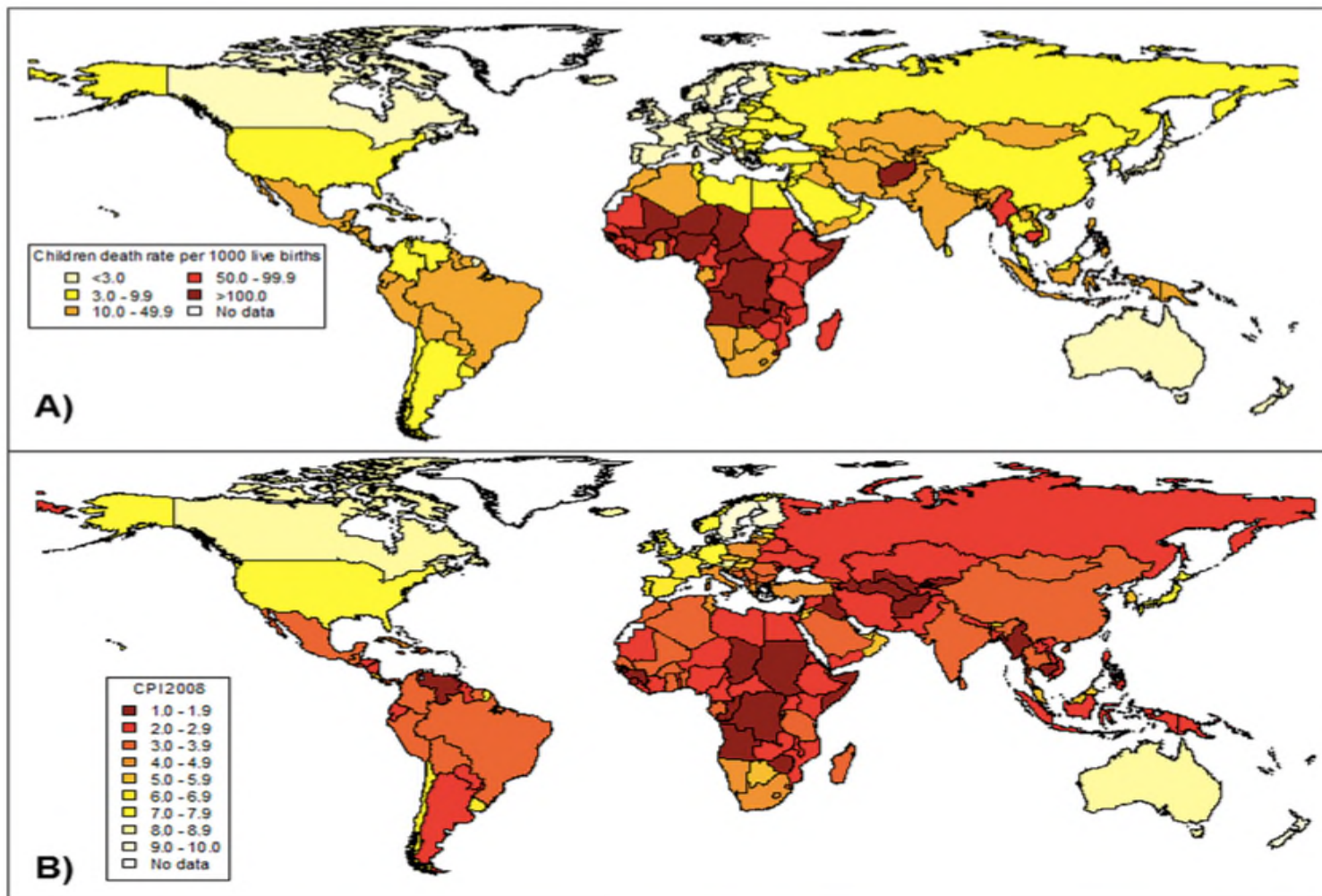
- Several studies tried to find correlations between degrees of perceived corruption and health indicators.
- Corruption has a significant impact on infant mortality.
- Other health indicators seem to be influenced by corruption but no definitive correlation has been made.



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What Happens in Europe?



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What Happens in Europe?



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European Union (EU)

- Obvious healthcare inequalities between countries and between regions
- 3 groups of countries
 - Central Europe and Nordic Countries
 - Southern Europe
 - Eastern Europe



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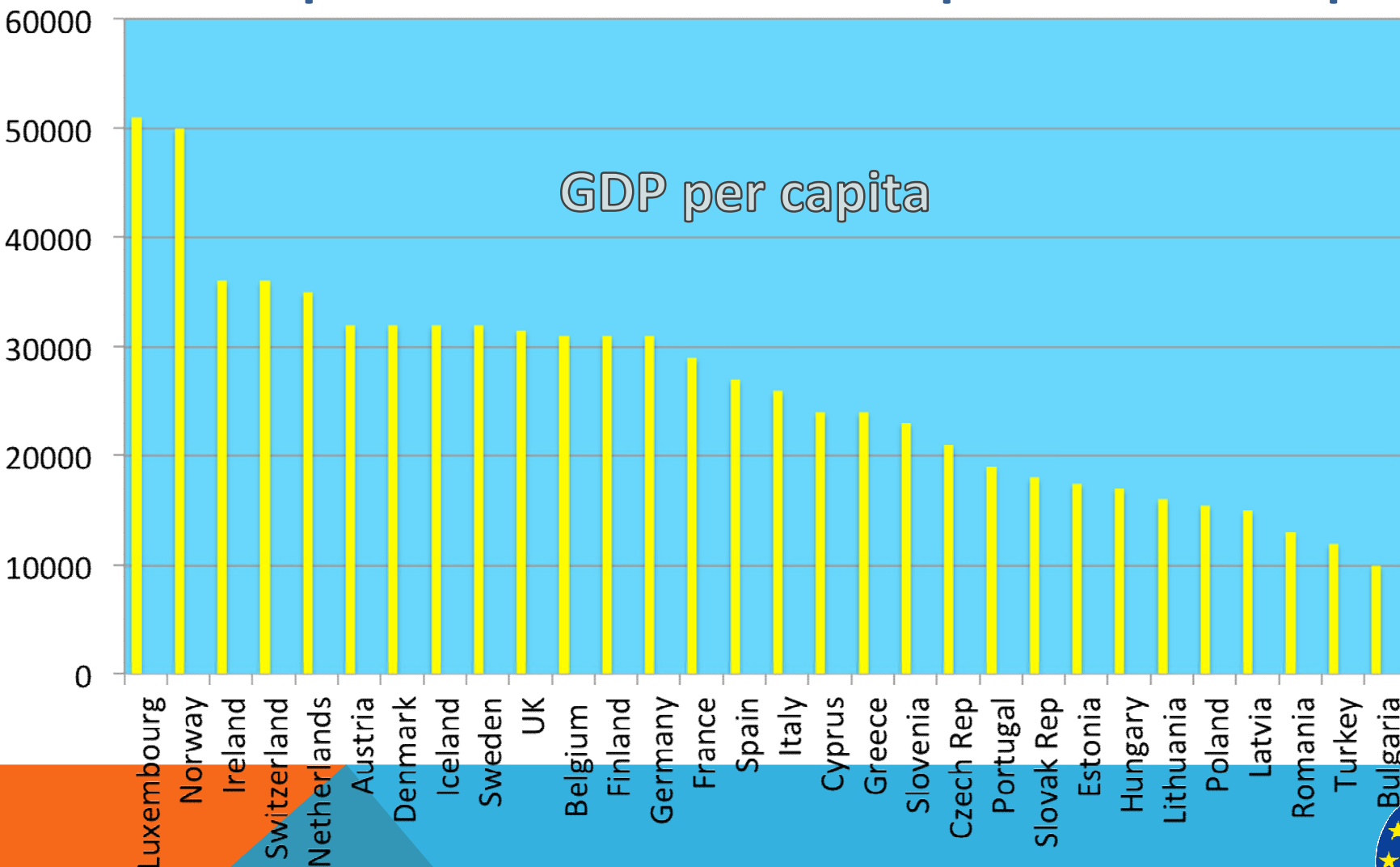


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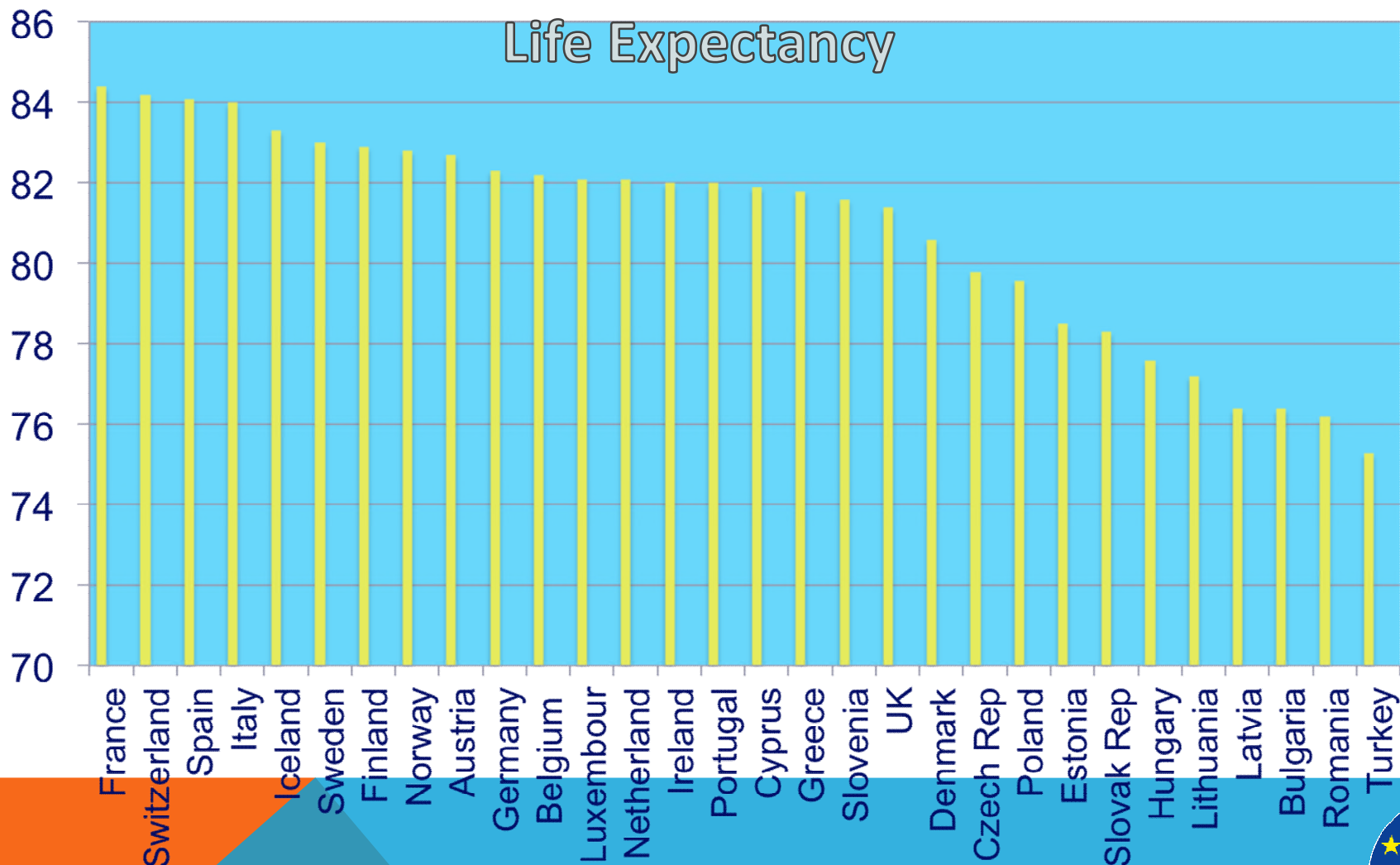
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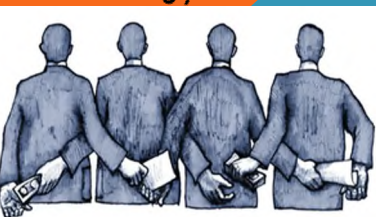
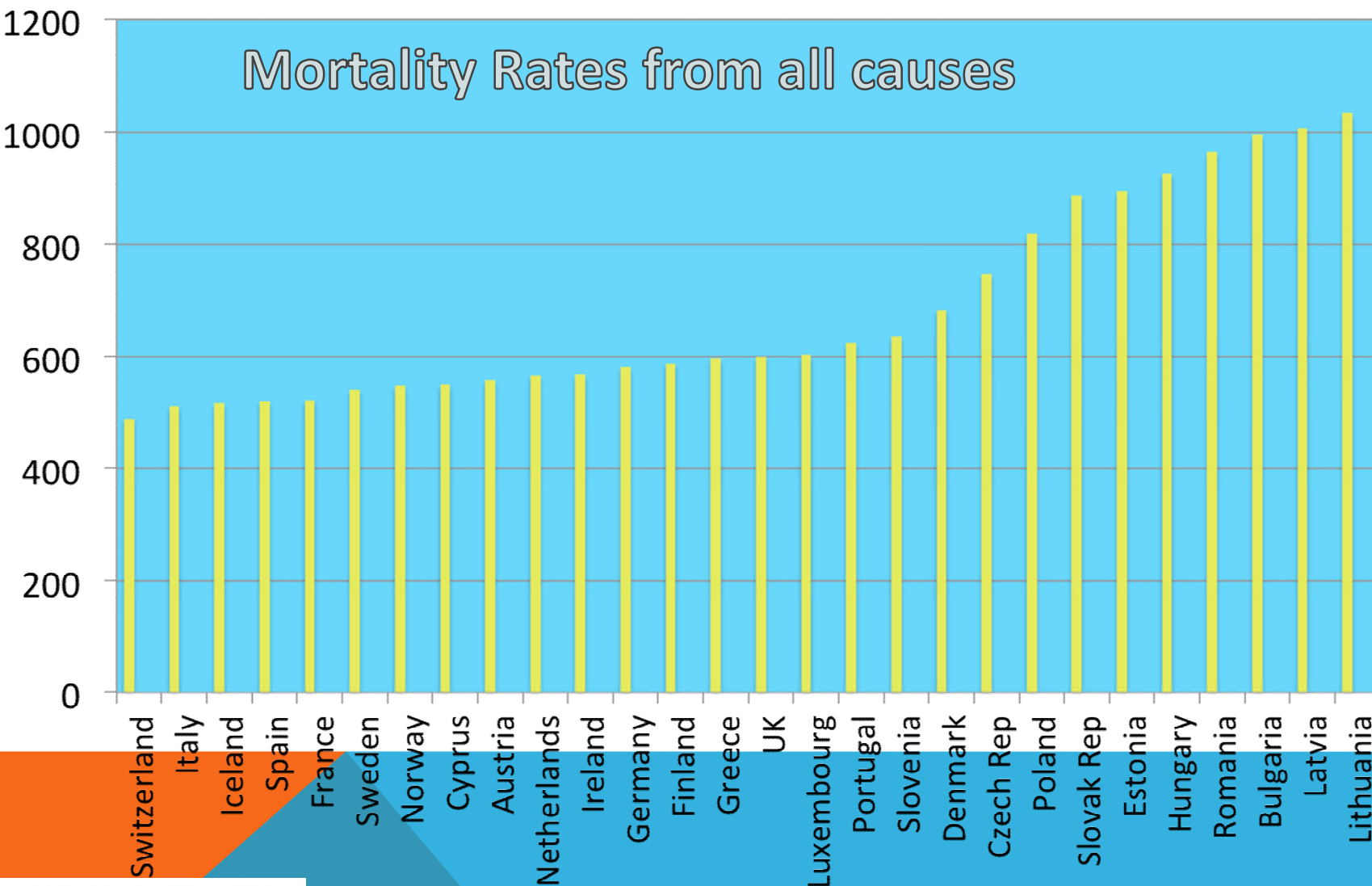
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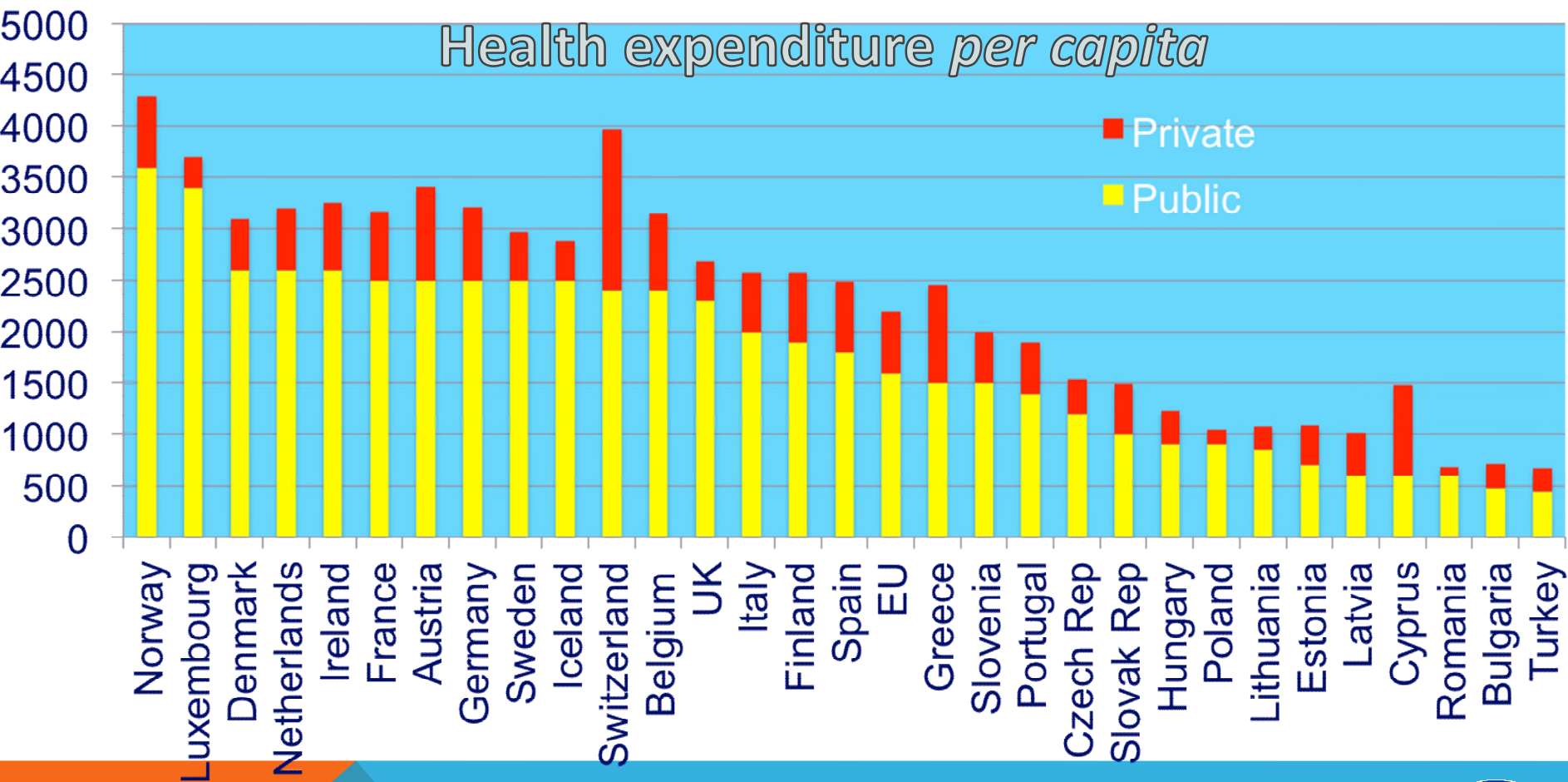
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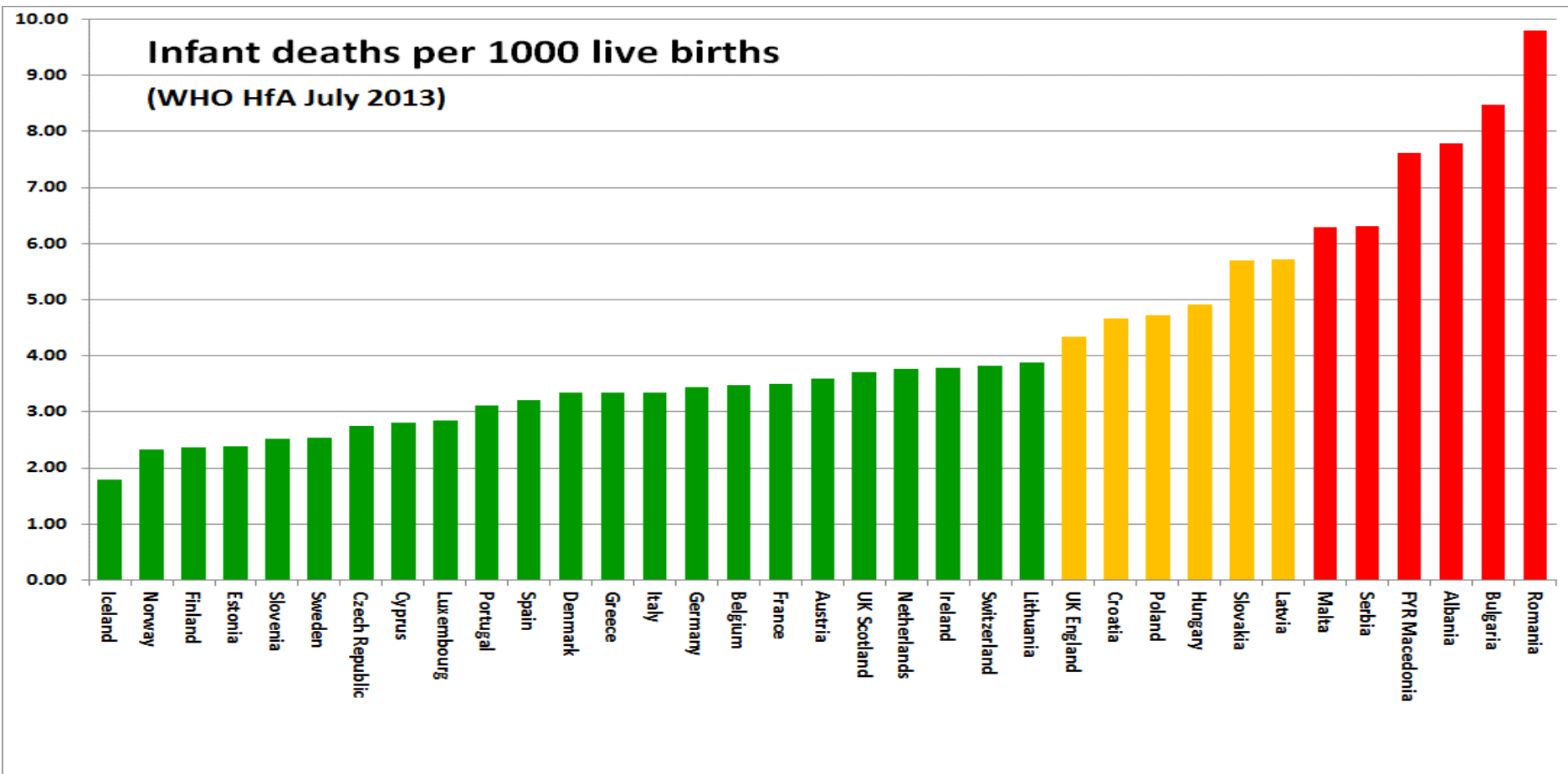
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Rank	Country	Eurobarometer mean score for perception of quality of healthcare	Health expenditure per capita (current USD) average 2008-2010	Total health expenditure (as % of GDP) average 2008-2010
1	Austria	1.613	5048.8	10.8
2	Belgium	1.671	4707.2	10.5
3	Sweden	1.74	4641.3	9.6
4	Netherlands	1.862	5527.0	11.3
5	Finland	1.866	4105.6	8.8
6	Denmark	1.895	6406.2	11.0
7	UK	1.905	3581.3	9.4
8	Luxembourg	1.918	8166.1	7.5
9	Malta	1.922	1653.6	8.5
10	France	1.955	4823.9	11.7
11	Germany	1.998	4703.1	11.3
12	Spain	2.064	3015.2	9.4
13	Czech Rep.	2.133	1482.8	7.6
14	Cyprus	2.217	1805.5	6.0
15	Estonia	2.265	959.5	6.2
16	Slovenia	2.299	2214.3	9.0
17	Italy	2.52	3347.6	9.3
18	Ireland	2.527	4732.1	9.2
19	Slovak Rep.	2.531	1428.3	8.6
20	Lithuania	2.653	850.5	7.1
21	Portugal	2.664	2371.7	10.6
22	Latvia	2.791	816.1	6.6
23	Poland	2.837	906.4	7.3
24	Hungary	2.92	1006.0	7.4
25	Bulgaria	2.931	475.2	7.0
26	Greece	2.974	2941.1	10.3
27	Romania	2.984	458.8	5.6



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How can we measure corruption?

- Use the known cases of corruption and extrapolate?
- Guess?
- Assume?




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How can we measure corruption?

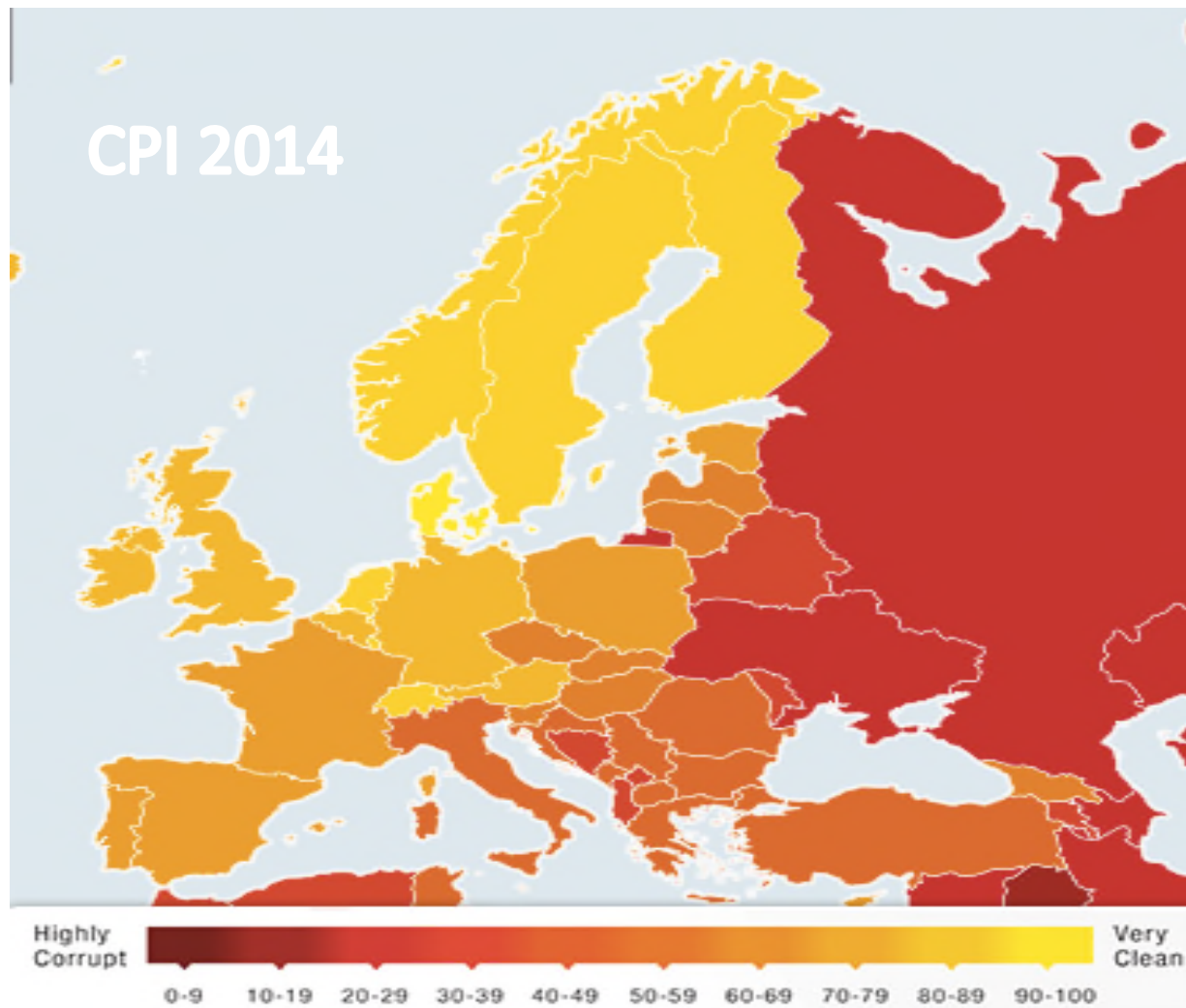
- CPI: Corruption Perceptions Index
- Established by  **TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL** 1995
the global coalition against corruption
- Ranks countries by “their perceived levels of corruption as determined by experts assessments and opinion surveys”
- Ranks 177 countries “on a scale from 100 (very clean) to 0 (highly corrupt)”



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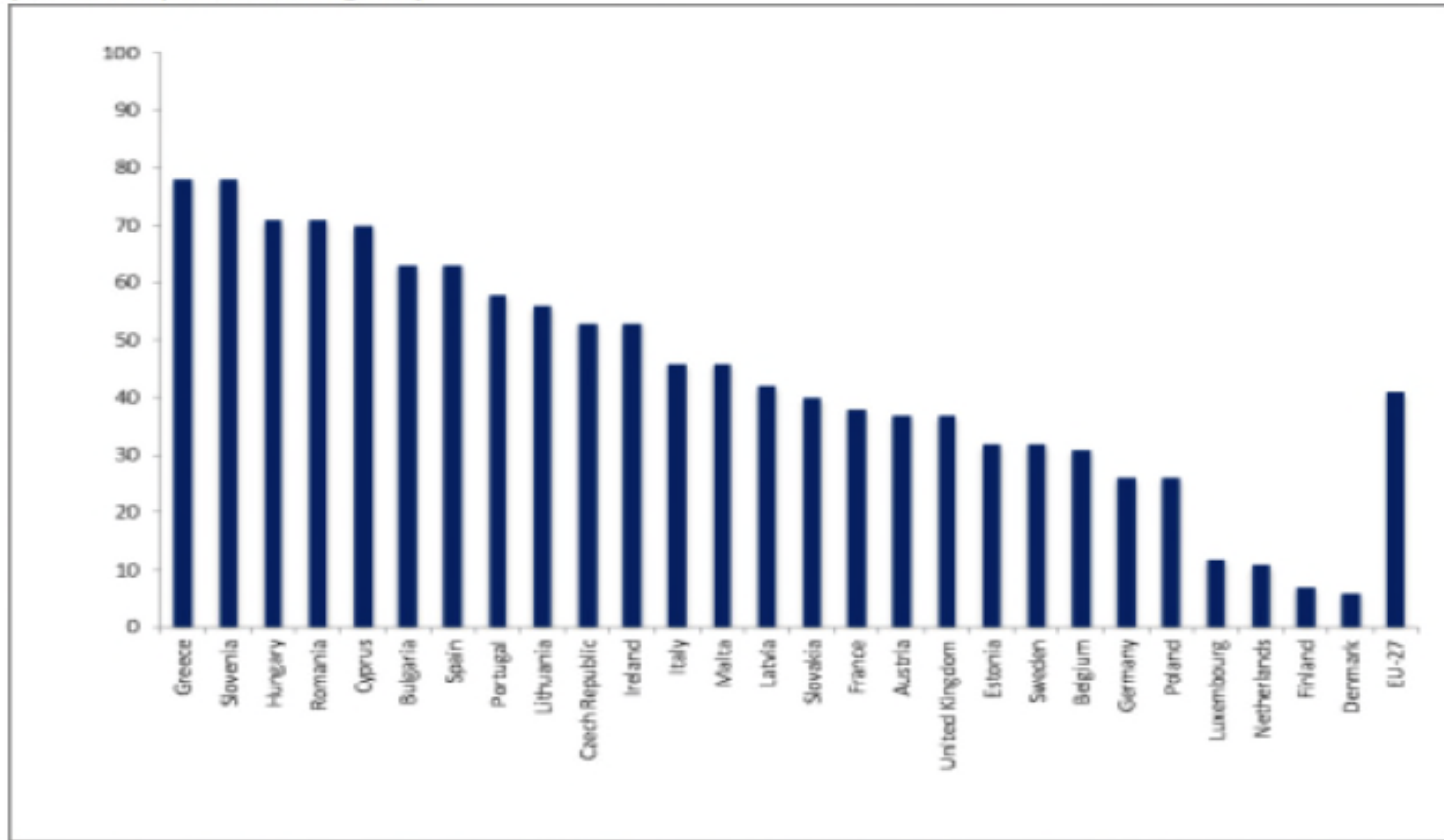


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Do you think that the giving and taking of bribes, and the abuse of positions of power for personal gain are widespread among people working in the public healthcare sector? (% of respondents agree)



Source: Special Eurobarometer 374, QC1, February 2012. See also Annex B of this report.

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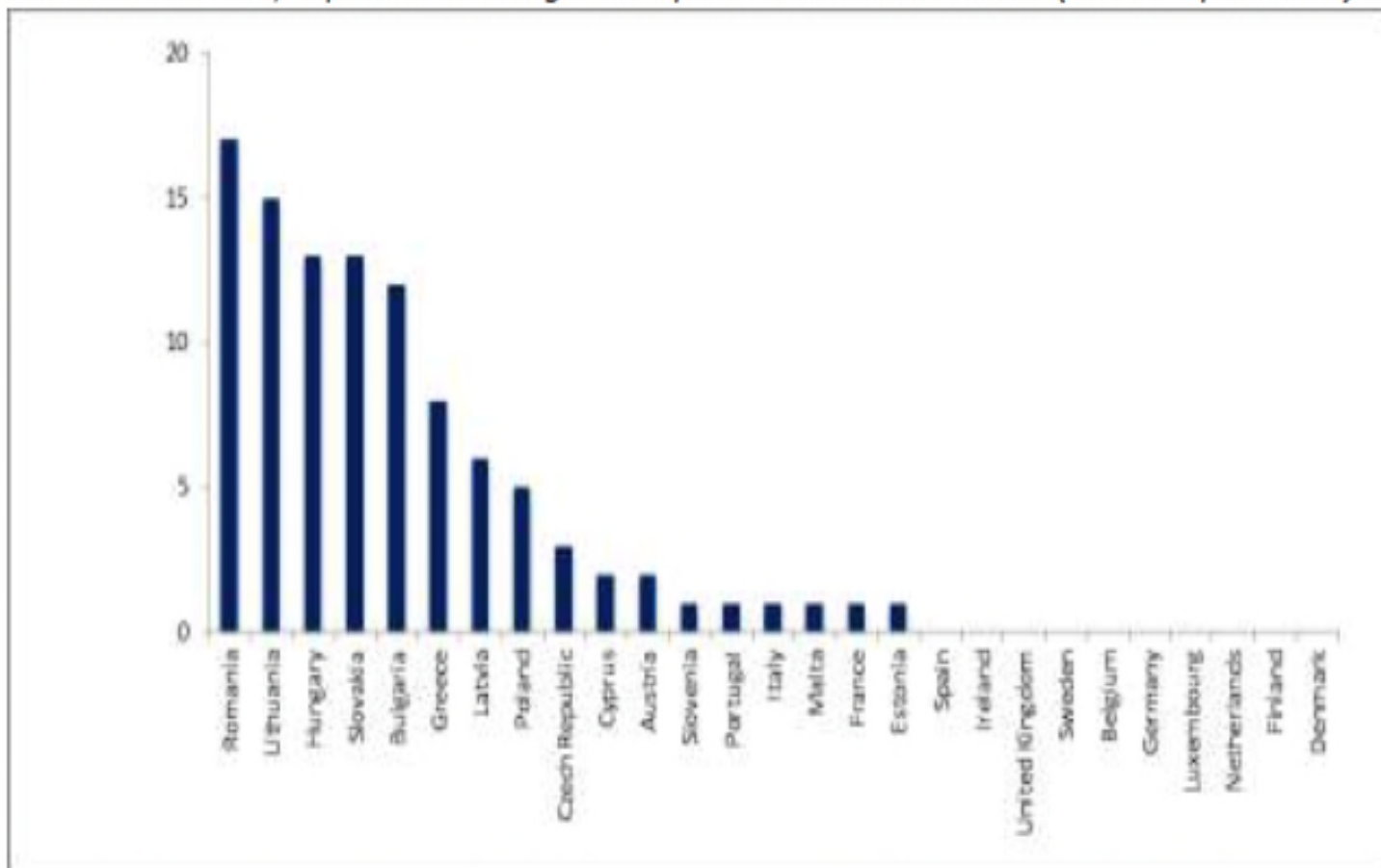
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Over the last 12 months, has anyone asked you, or expected you, to pay a bribe for his or her services? Yes, a person working in the public healthcare sector (% of respondents)



Source: Special Eurobarometer 374, QC5, February 2012. See also Annex B of this report.

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Conclusions I

- Corruption in the healthcare sector is widespread across EU
- Corruption perception on healthcare is widespread and considered systemic in former transition economies of central and eastern Europe
- Corruption perception on healthcare is a problem of growing proportions in some of the Southern Europe Countries, particularly on the ones subjected to economic rescue
- In more transparent countries the perception of the quality of healthcare tends to be higher



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Conclusions III

- Corruption on healthcare has an impact on several issues such as, Prices, Public budgets, Markets, medical immigration and others
- But above all, corruption in healthcare has a impact on access to health → it prevents the ones that need the most from having access to healthcare.
- The question that remains: Is corruption a cause or a consequence of healthcare inequalities?



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Thank You!



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