



Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau



Public trust and social safety: 'The benefit of the doubt'

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Explore relationship between trust in society and role of government for improving quality of life

1. Work in progress, first thoughts

2. Trust:

- Personality trait: self confidence, self respect, self actualisation, assertivity, to be in control over own life. Nurture and nature.
- **Social trust**
 - General, in other people
 - In institutions, e.g. government, democracy

3. Social safety and the role of government:

- Crime reduction, child protection, law enforcement
- **Social security and protection of citizens: social policy**



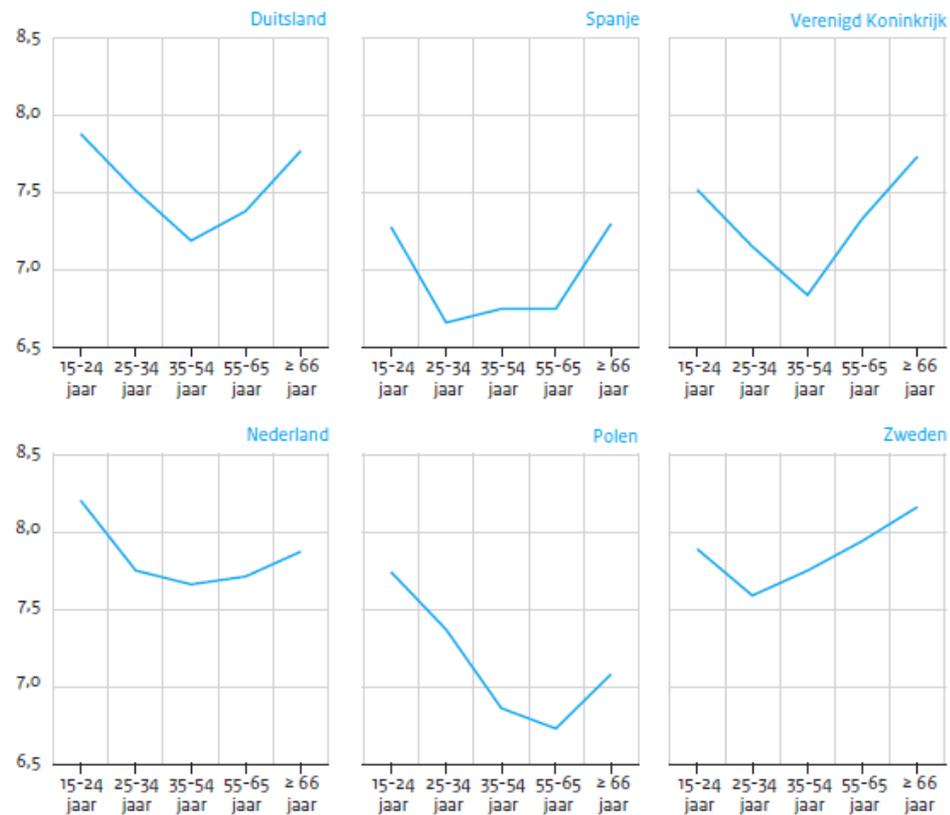
The most happy people in Europe live in Switzerland (WHR, 2015; world ranking list of 138 countries, score 0-10)

	2012-2014		
Zwitserland (1)	7,6		
IJsland (2)	7,6		
Denemarken (3)	7,5		
Noorwegen (4)	7,5		
Finland (6)	7,4		
Nederland (7)	7,4		
Zweden (8)	7,4		
Oostenrijk (13)	7,2		
Luxemburg (17)	6,9		
Ierland (18)	6,9		
België (19)	6,9		
Verenigd Koninkrijk (21)	6,9		
Duitsland (26)	6,8		
Frankrijk (29)	6,8		
Tsjechië (31)	6,5		
Spanje (36)	6,3		
Slowakije (45)	6,0		
Italië (50)	5,9		
Polen (60)	5,8		
Roemenië (86)	5,1		
Portugal (88)	5,1		
Griekenland (102)	4,9		
Hongarije (104)	4,8		
Oekraïne (111)	4,7		
Bulgarije (134)	4,2		



Happiness by age : U-shape (score 0-10; ESS 2012)

Geluk naar leeftijd in Nederland en de vijf referentielanden afzonderlijk, 2012 (in rapportcijfers)



Bron: ESS'12

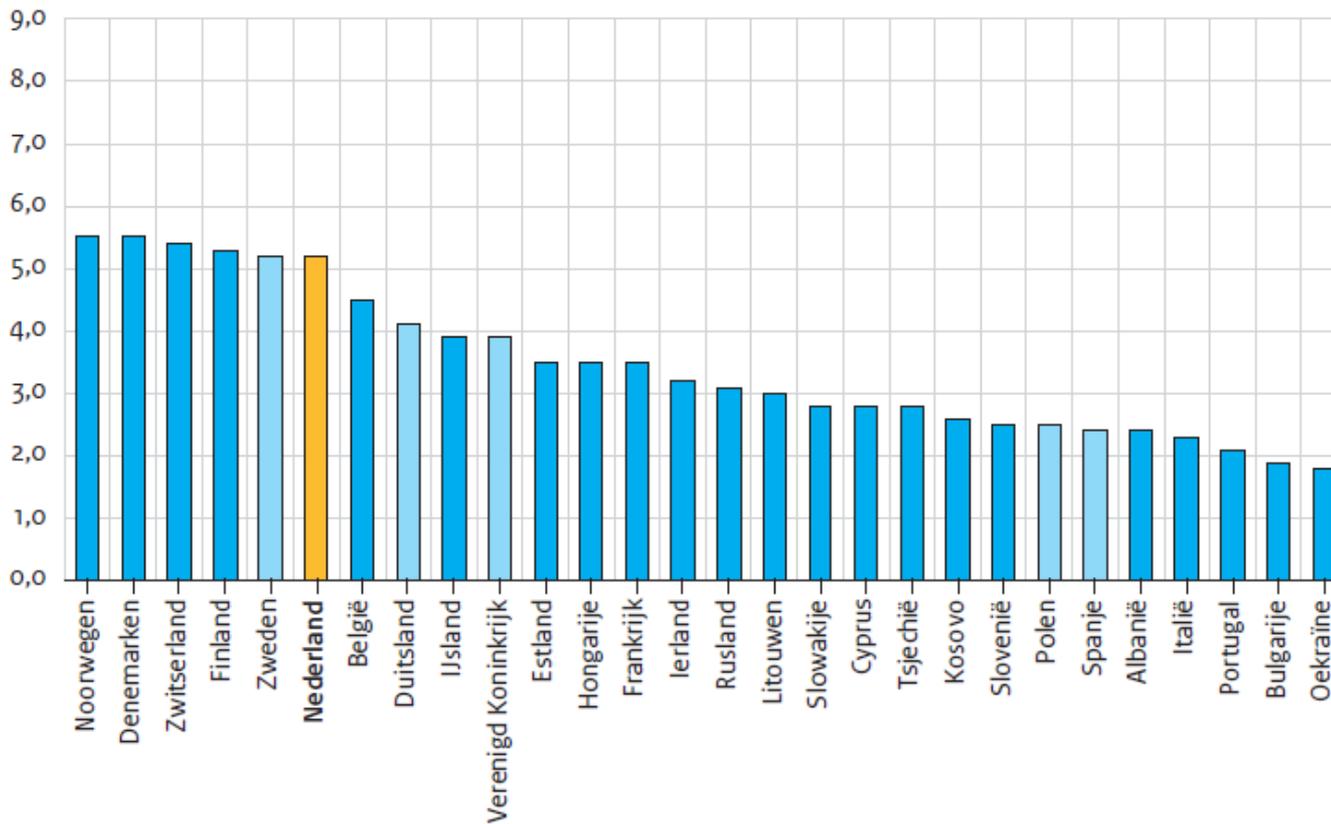


Effectiveness of government is strongest explanation of life satisfaction (ESS, 2012)

	model 1 econo- misch	model 2 vrijheden	model 3 overheid	model 1+2+3	model incl. individuele kenmerken
economisch					
welvaart per hoofd van de bevolking	n.s.			n.s.	n.s.
aandeel langdurig werklozen	-0,13*			n.s.	n.s.
Gini-coëfficiënt (inkomensongelijkheid)	n.s.			n.s.	n.s.
genderongelijkheid (GI)	n.s.			n.s.	n.s.
uitgaven aan gezondheid (% van bbp)	n.s.			n.s.	n.s.
vrijheden					
religieuze vrijheden		n.s.		n.s.	n.s.
vrijheid van vereniging		0,24**		0,10*	0,10*
vrijheid van menings- uiting		-0,13**		n.s.	n.s.
individuele vrijheden (fysieke integriteit)		0,22**		n.s.	n.s.
overheid					
effectiviteit van de overheid			0,36**	0,23**	0,18**
verklaarde variantie op individueel niveau (Snijders/ Bosker R ² in %)	13	10	13	15	31
verklaarde variantie op landniveau (%)	78	59	75	89	89

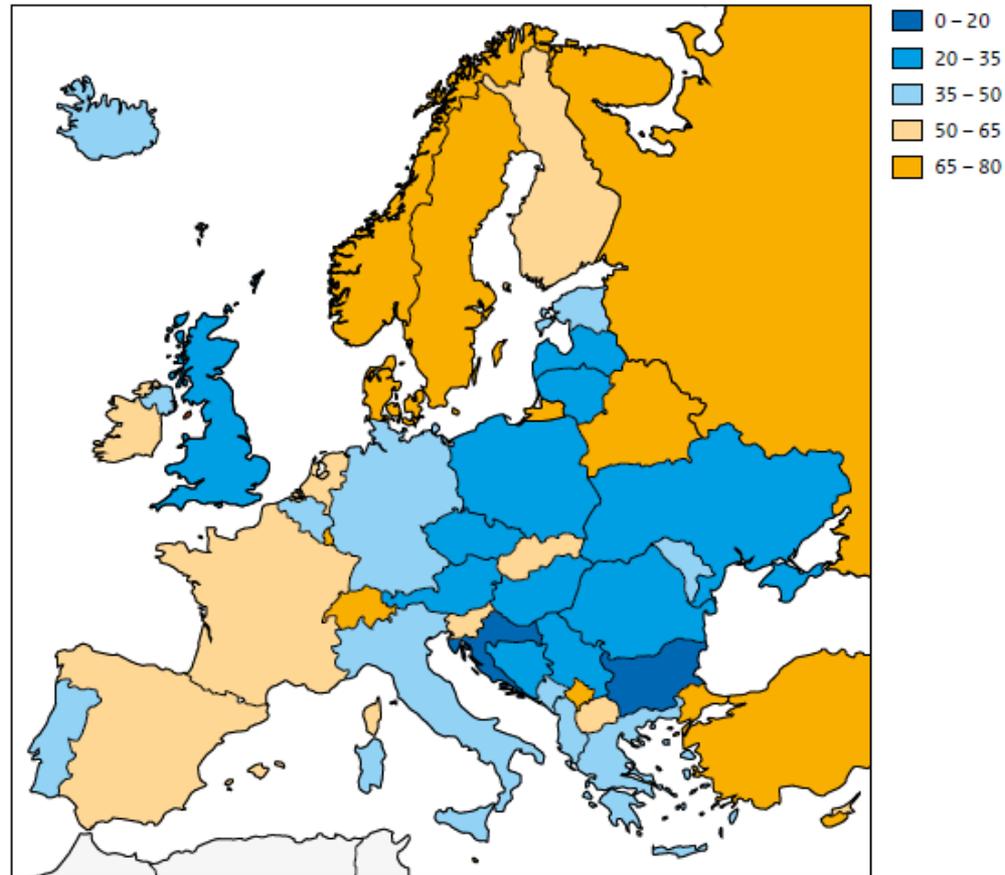


Political trust (trust in politicians, political parties, (national) parliament; score 0-10), 2012, source: ESS





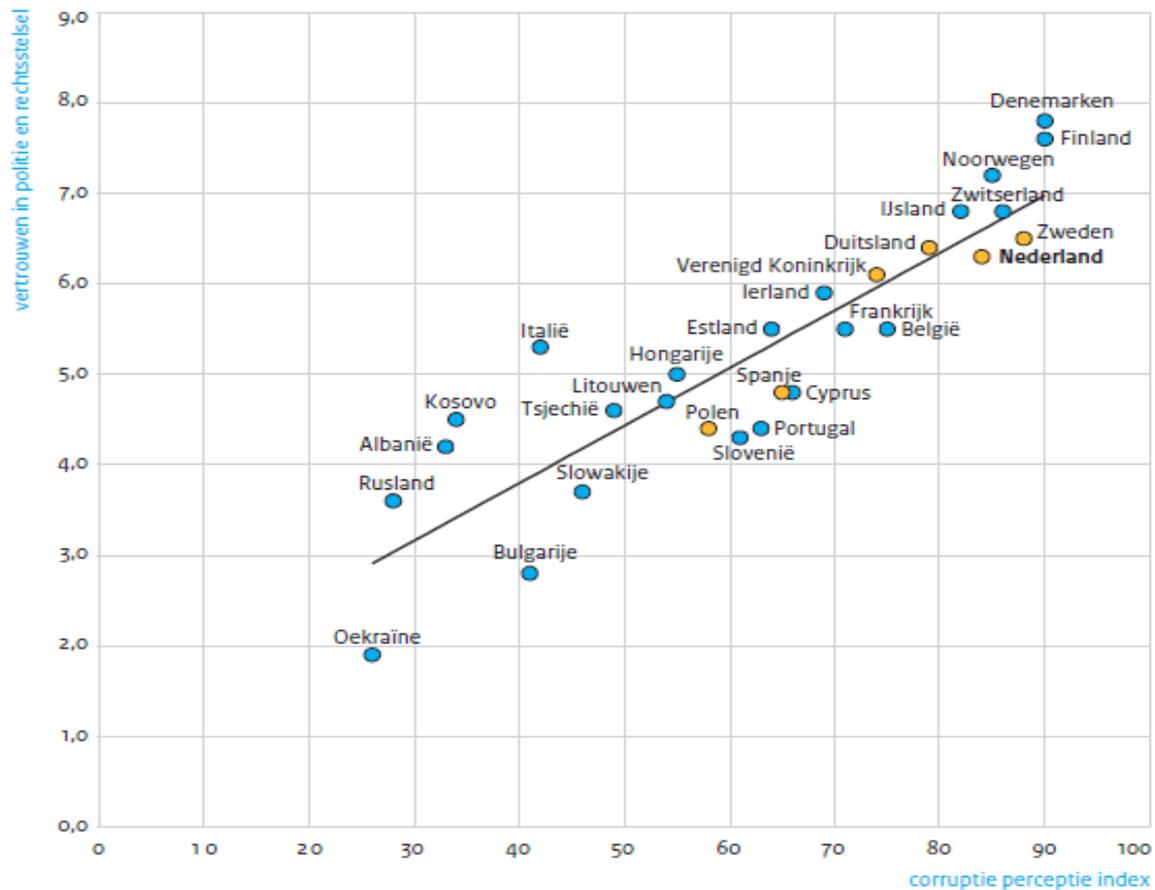
Trust in politics, Europe, 2008-2010 (%)



Bron: EVS 4 (2008-2010)

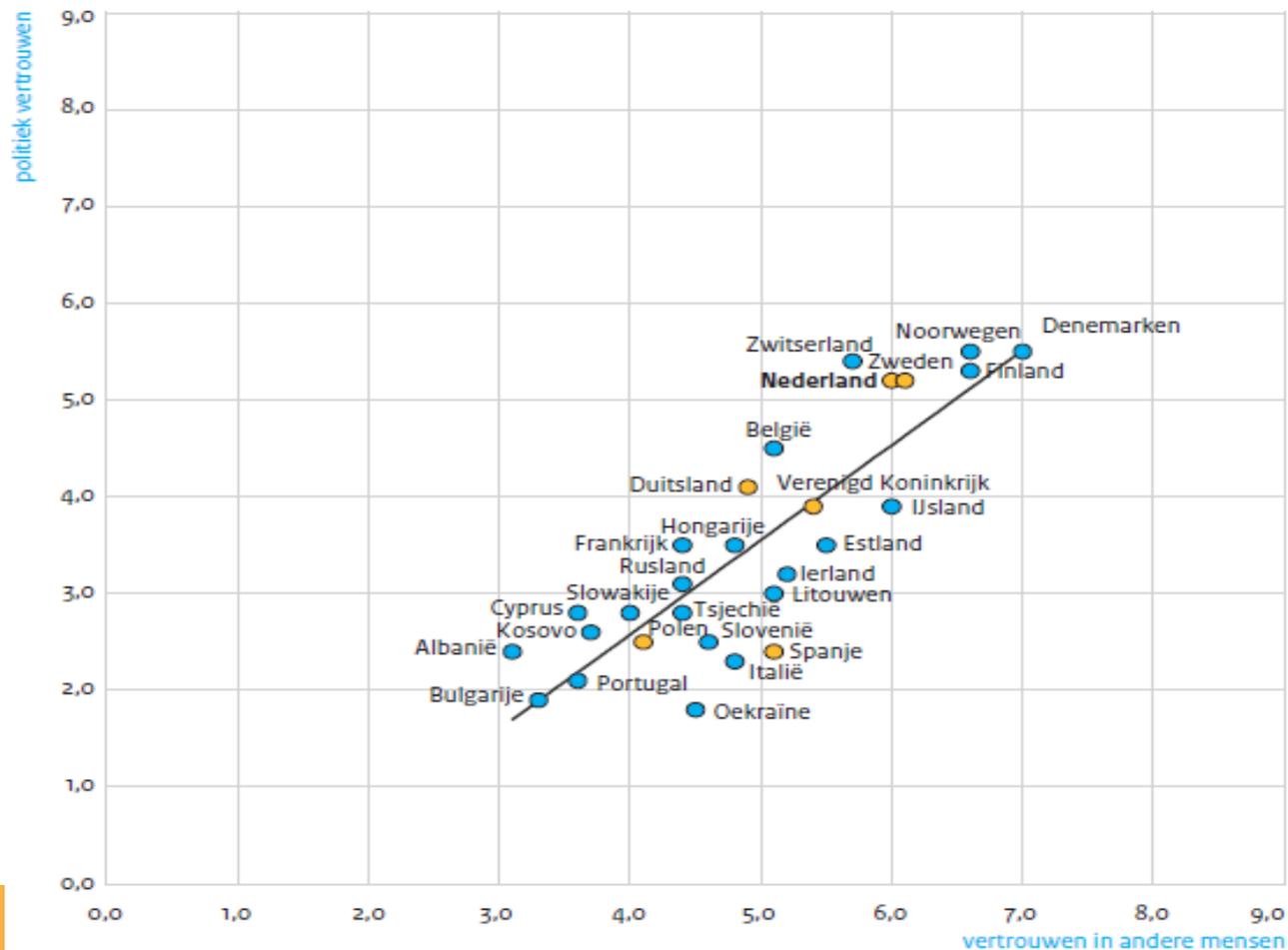


Positive relationship between trust in justice system and police and perceived corruption (ESS,2012)





Positive relationship between Political trust and Trust in other people (social trust), 2012, scores 0-10; ESS)





High education, high social trust (Netherlands population 18+, 2014/15; COB 2015)

	'In general, most people can be trusted' %	'You have to be careful dealing with other people'
All	58	43
Men	59	40
Women	57	46
18-34 jaar	53	46
35-54 jaar	60	41
≥ 55 jaar	60	44
Low education	47	54
Middle education	55	46
High education	73	31
Low income huishoudensinkomen	48	52
Middle income	54	46
High income	71	33
Is unsatisfied with health (24%)	46	52
Is not (very) happy (23%)	41	53
Feels little grip on the future (38%)	50	55



Trust in 7 institutions (The Netherlands; COB 2015)

Kranten = newspapers

Vakbonden = trade unions

Grote ondernemingen = big companies

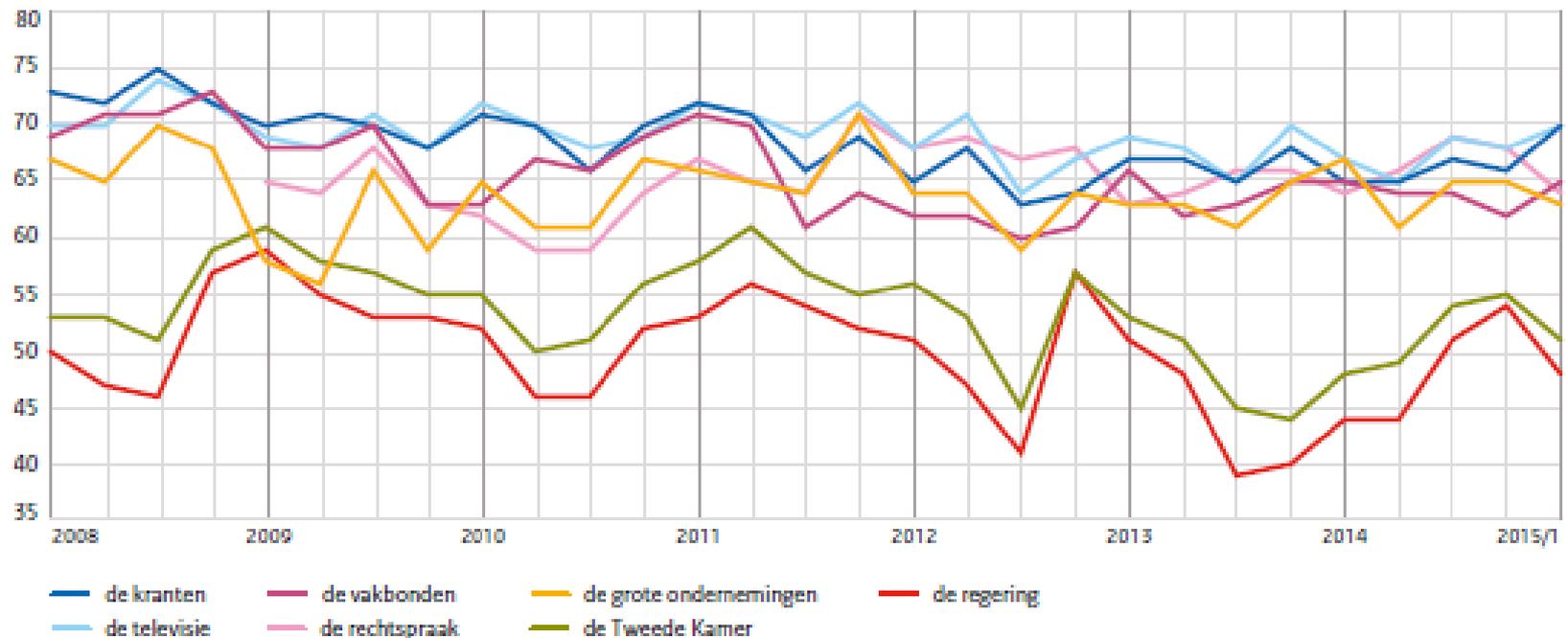
Regering = government

Televisie = television

Rechtspraak = justice

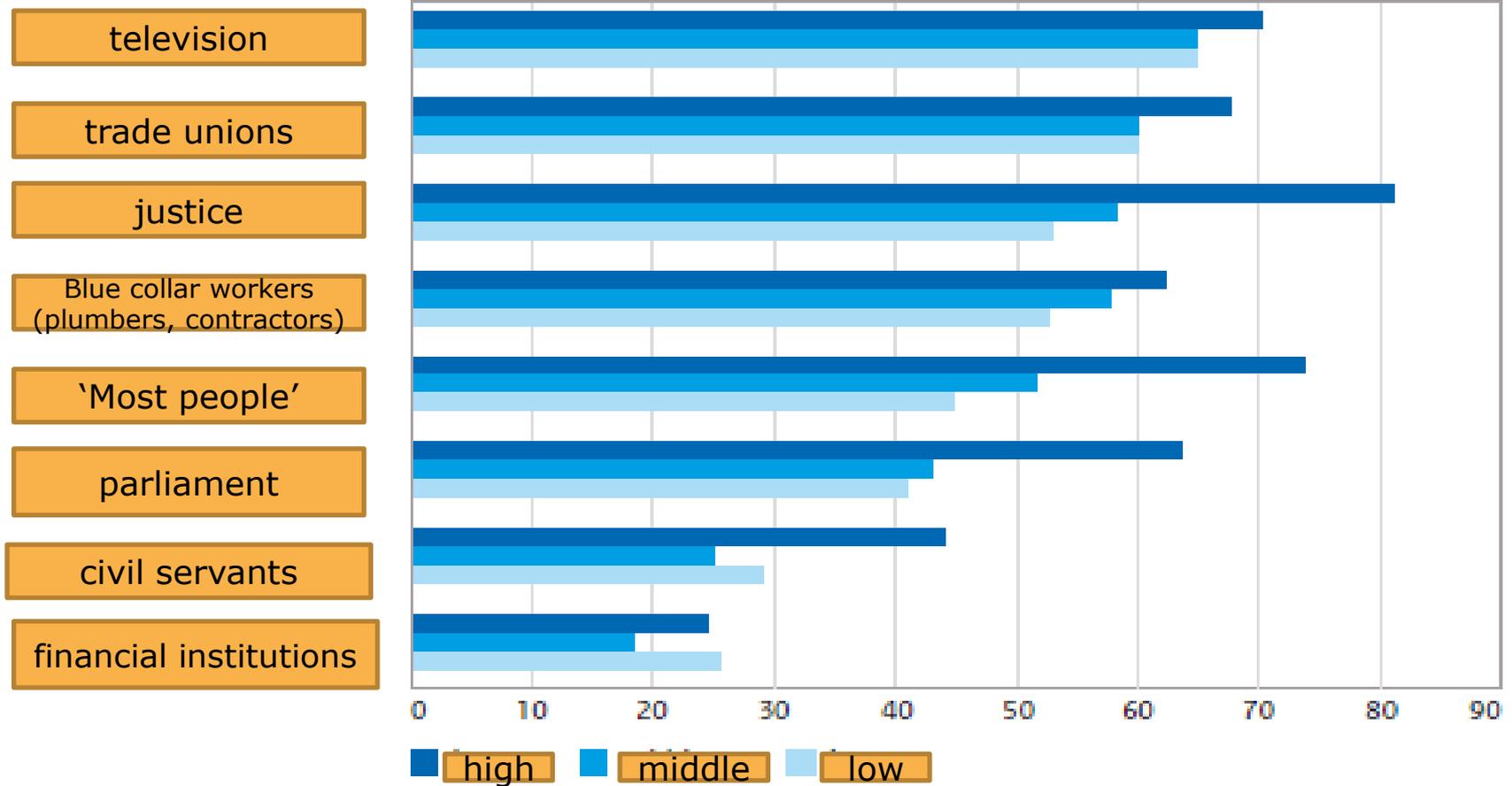
Tweede Kamer = parliament

Figuur 1.3 Voldoende vertrouwen in zeven instituties², bevolking van 18+, 2008-2015/1 (in procenten)





Trust in, by level of education (Netherlands, 2015;%. Source:COB)





People in countries with a strong welfare regime are more positive about government and future of the country than many other Europeans

population \geq 15 jaar, spring 2013, Eurobarometer79

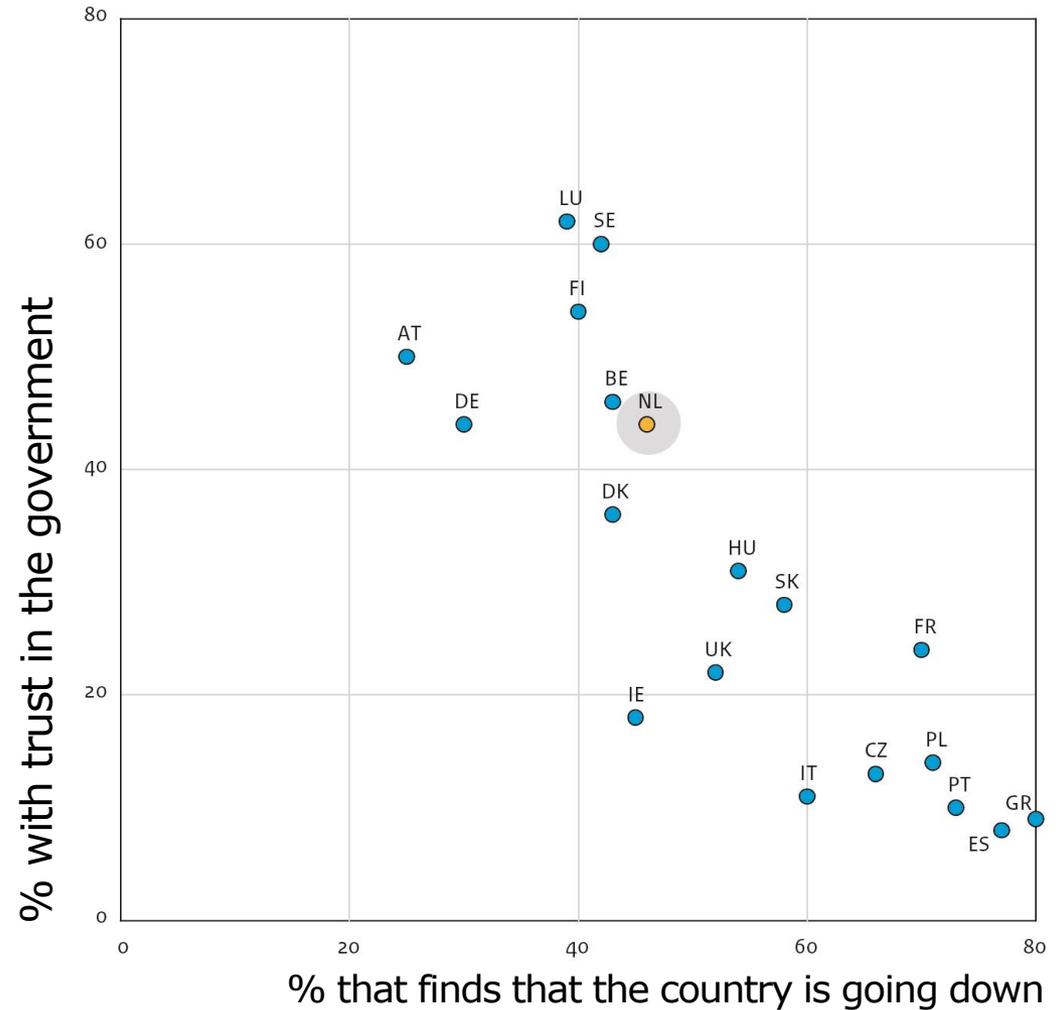
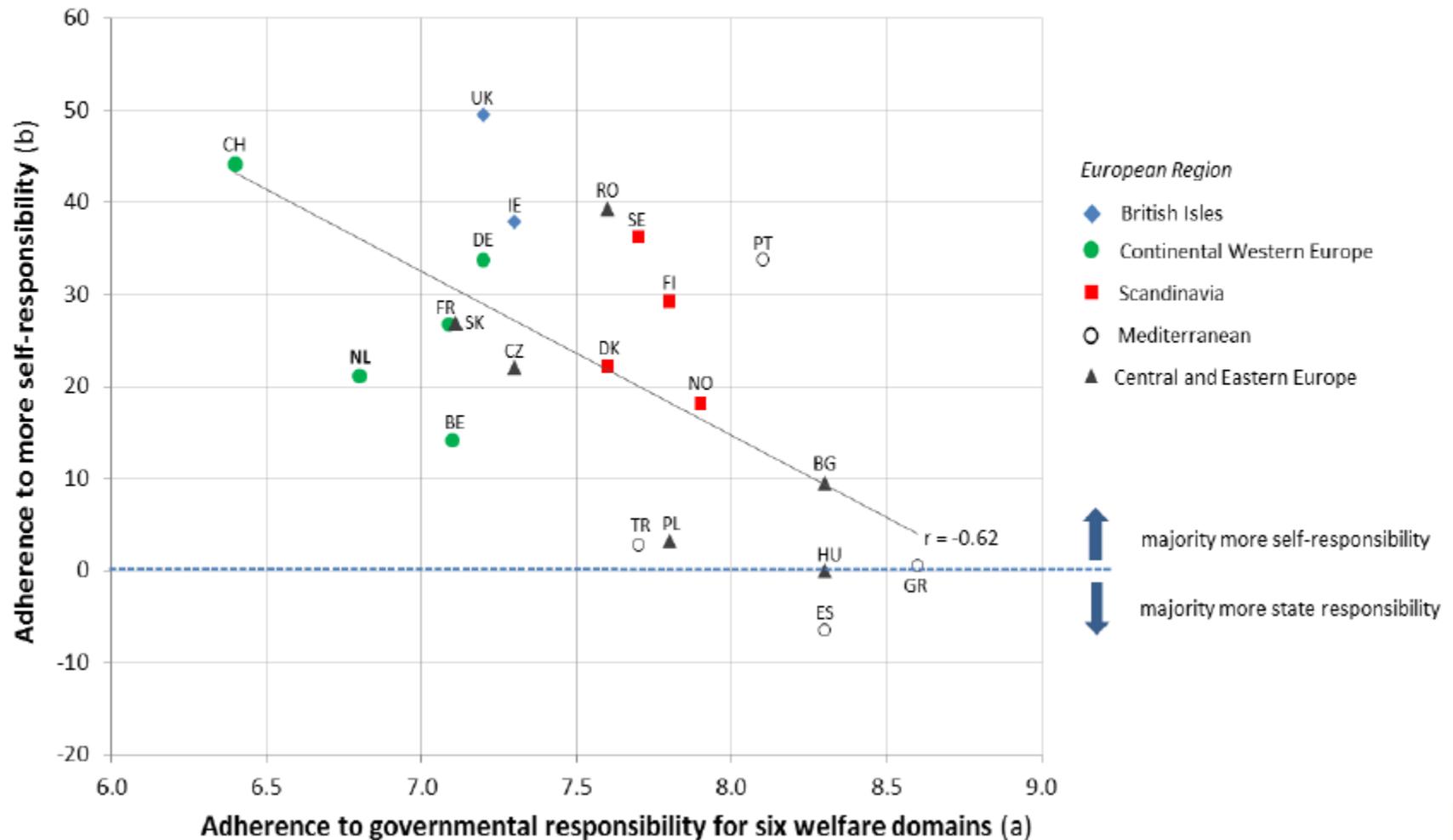




Figure 2 Adherence to governmental responsibility for welfare and to more self-responsibility: public opinion in 21 European countries, 2008





Observations/hypotheses

A reliable and (perception of) neutral government is positively related to life satisfaction and trust. Good quality government is creating trust and confidence in a population

General trust (in other people) and political trust are correlated. Politically stable countries create higher levels of social trust.

Educational level is related to trust: human and social capital seem to be related to trust. Highly educated people are master of their own lives and are more confident in the future.