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Conditions

The tripartite EU Agency providing knowledge
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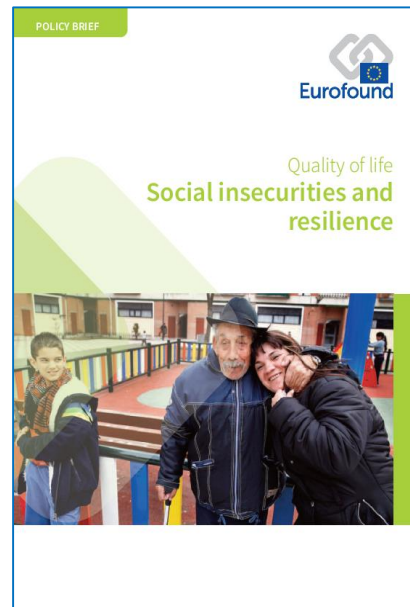
Underlying resources for trust: Social insecurities and trust in national institutions

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14th Conference “Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe”:
Weakening Social Cohesion in Europe?

15 October 2019, Villa Vigoni

Topic of trust in recent reporting by Eurofound

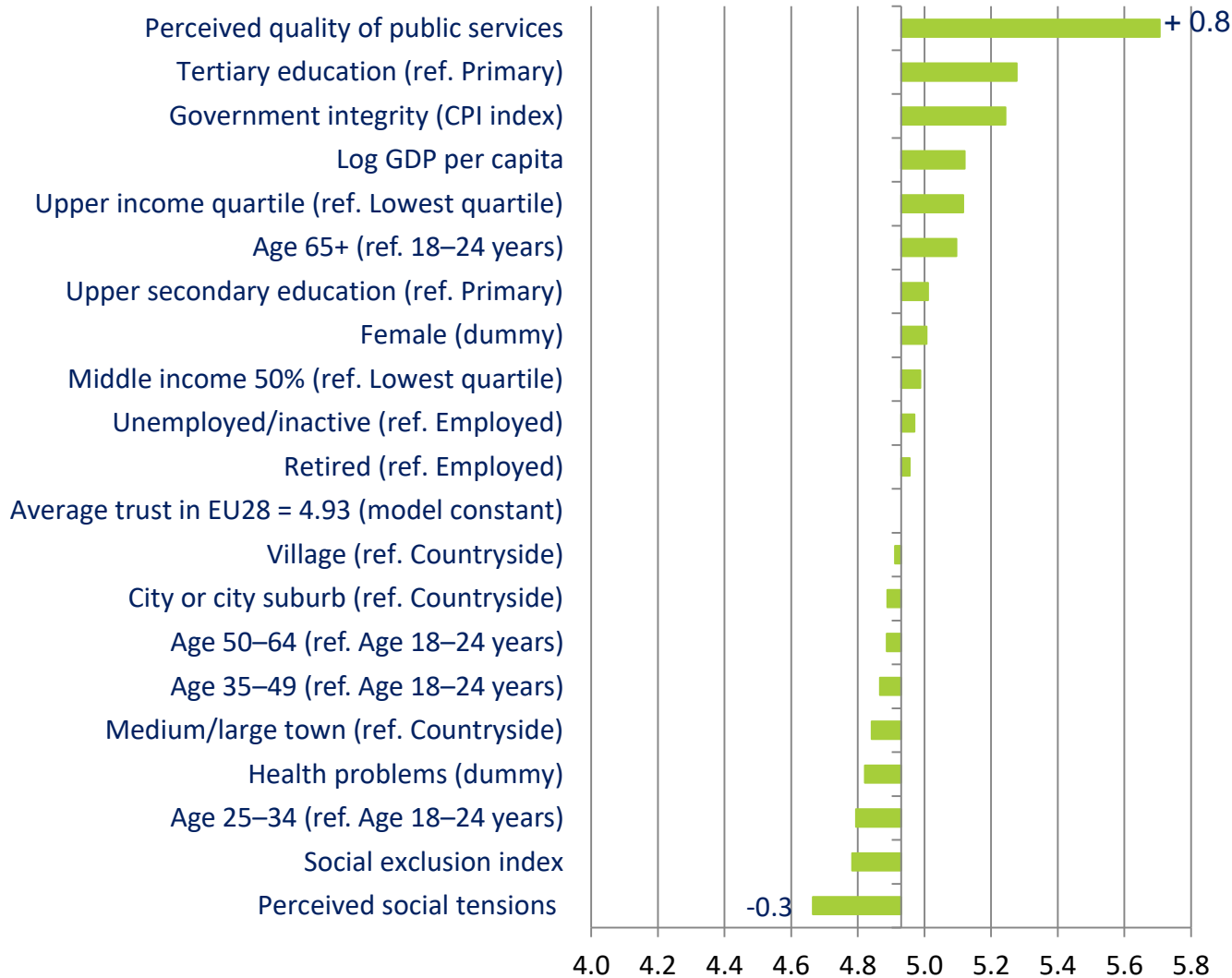


Eurofound (2018), [Societal change and trust in institutions](#)

Eurofound (2018), [Social insecurities and resilience](#)

Eurofound (2019), [Challenges and prospects in the EU: Quality of life and public services](#)

Factors affecting trust in national institutions



Regression on pooled sample of EQLS 2007, 2011, 2016:

Effect on average trust if the factor variable is increased by one standard deviation.

Trust in national institutions (average 4.9 for EU28)

- national parliament
- government
- legal system
- police,
- news (media)

Public services

- health care
- education
- public transport
- childcare
- state pension system

Questions on insecurities in EQLS 2016

I feel safe when I walk alone in this area after dark.

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

I feel safe when I am at home alone at night.

Using this scale, how likely or unlikely do you think it is that you might lose your job in the next 6 months?

1. Very likely
2. Rather likely
3. Neither likely nor unlikely
4. Rather unlikely
5. Very unlikely

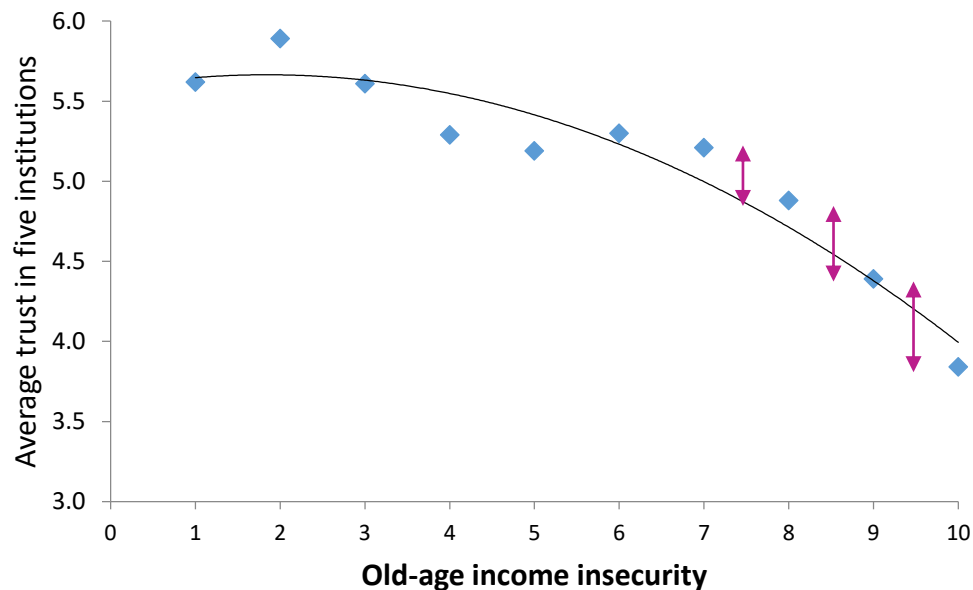
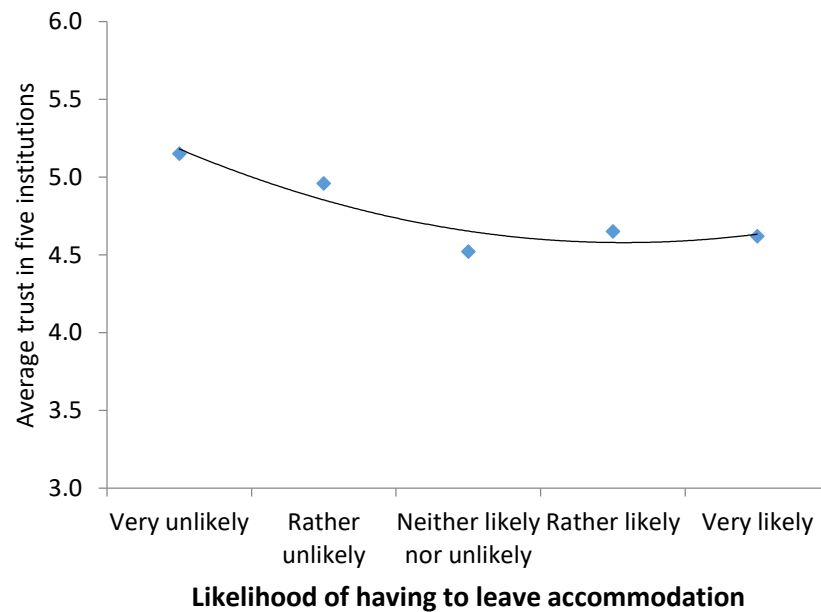
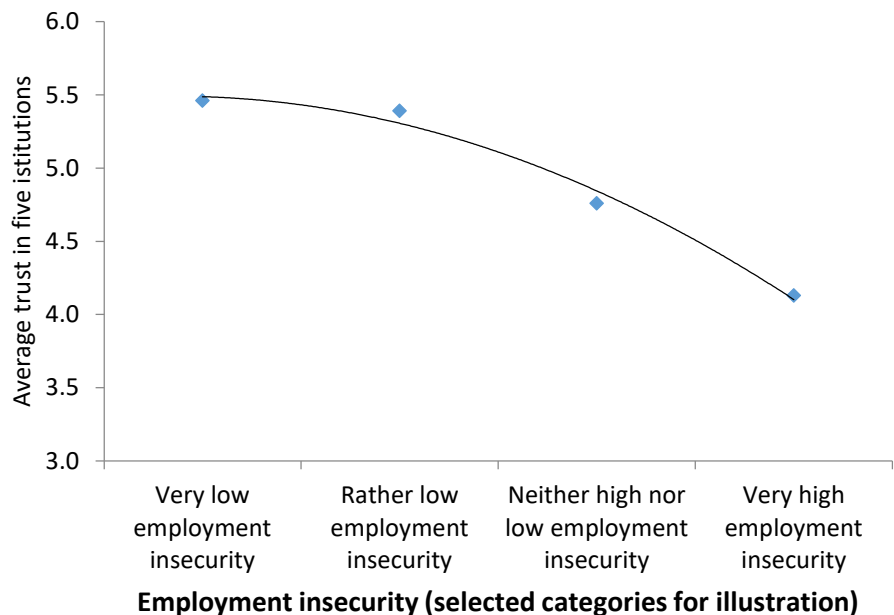
If you were to lose or had to quit your job, how likely or unlikely is it that you will find a job of similar salary?

How likely or unlikely do you think it is that you will need to leave your accommodation within the next 6 months because you can no longer afford it?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how worried are you, if at all, that your income in old age will not be sufficient?

1 means not worried at all,
10 means extremely worried.

Social insecurities and trust in institutions (EU28, EQLS2016)



Note:

- People experiencing insecurities have lower trust in government as well as in other political and non-political national institutions (Eurofound 2017; 2018; 2019).
- The relation between trust in institutions and social insecurity is not linear: extent of the negative impact on trust depends on the degree of insecurity.

Social insecurities as predictors of trust in institutions: strategy for regression analysis (outline of the models)

Total sample			Sample of those in employment			
			ALL INSECURITIES	ALL INSECURITIES	ALL INSECURITIES	
Univariate			<i>model 1 - limited multivariate</i>	<i>model 2 - extended multivariate</i>	model 2 - extended multivariate	
Female			Female			
Age (Ref. Cat. 18-24 years)			Age (Ref. Cat. 18-24 years)			
25-34 years			25-34 years			
35-49 years			35-49 years			
50-64 years			50-64 years			
65+ years			65+ years			
Education (Ref.Cat. Low secondary/below)			Education (Ref.Cat. Low secondary/below)			
Upper secondary			Upper secondary			
Tertiary			Tertiary			
Employment status (Ref. Cat. Employed)			Employment status (Ref. Cat. Employed)			
Retired			Retired			
Unemployed/inactive			Unemployed/inactive			
Income quartiles (Ref. Cat. First Quartile)			Income quartiles (Ref. Cat. First Quartile)			
Second quartile			Second quartile			
Third quartile			Third quartile			
Fourth quartile			Fourth quartile			
Urbanisation (Ref. Cat. Countryside)			Urbanisation (Ref. Cat. Countryside)			
Village			Village			
Medium/large town			Medium/large town			
City or city suburb			City or city suburb			
Health problems (dummy)			Health problems (dummy)			
Living alone (dummy)			Living alone (dummy)			
	Accommodation insecurity (dummy)	Old age income insecurity	Safety walking alone after dark (dummy)	Accommodation insecurity (dummy)	Old age income insecurity	Safety walking alone after dark (dummy)
			Accommodation insecurity (dummy)	Old age income insecurity	Safety walking alone after dark (dummy)	employment insecurity
			Old age income insecurity	Old age income insecurity	Safety walking alone after dark (dummy)	
			Safety walking alone after dark (dummy)	Safety walking alone after dark (dummy)	Safety walking alone after dark (dummy)	

Also: various coding

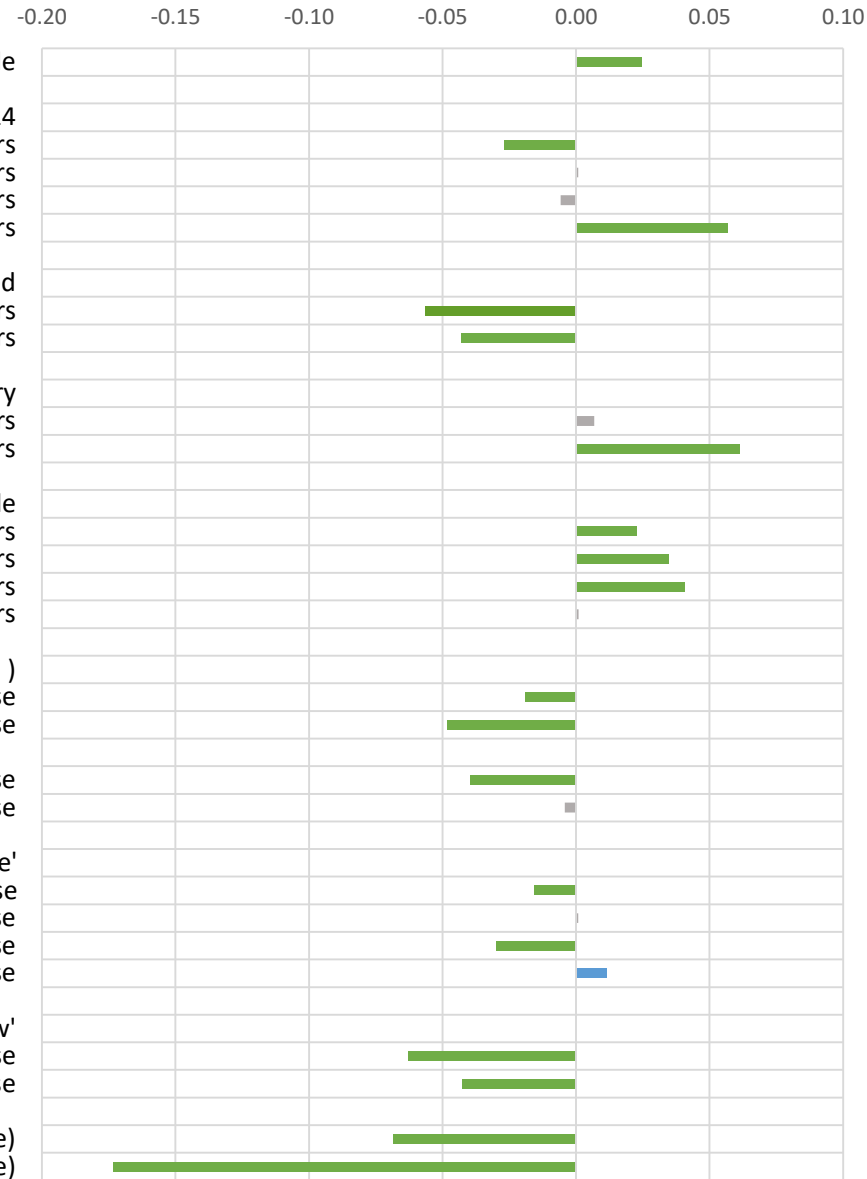
Effect of insecurities on trust in institutions

OLS regression, standardised coefficients.

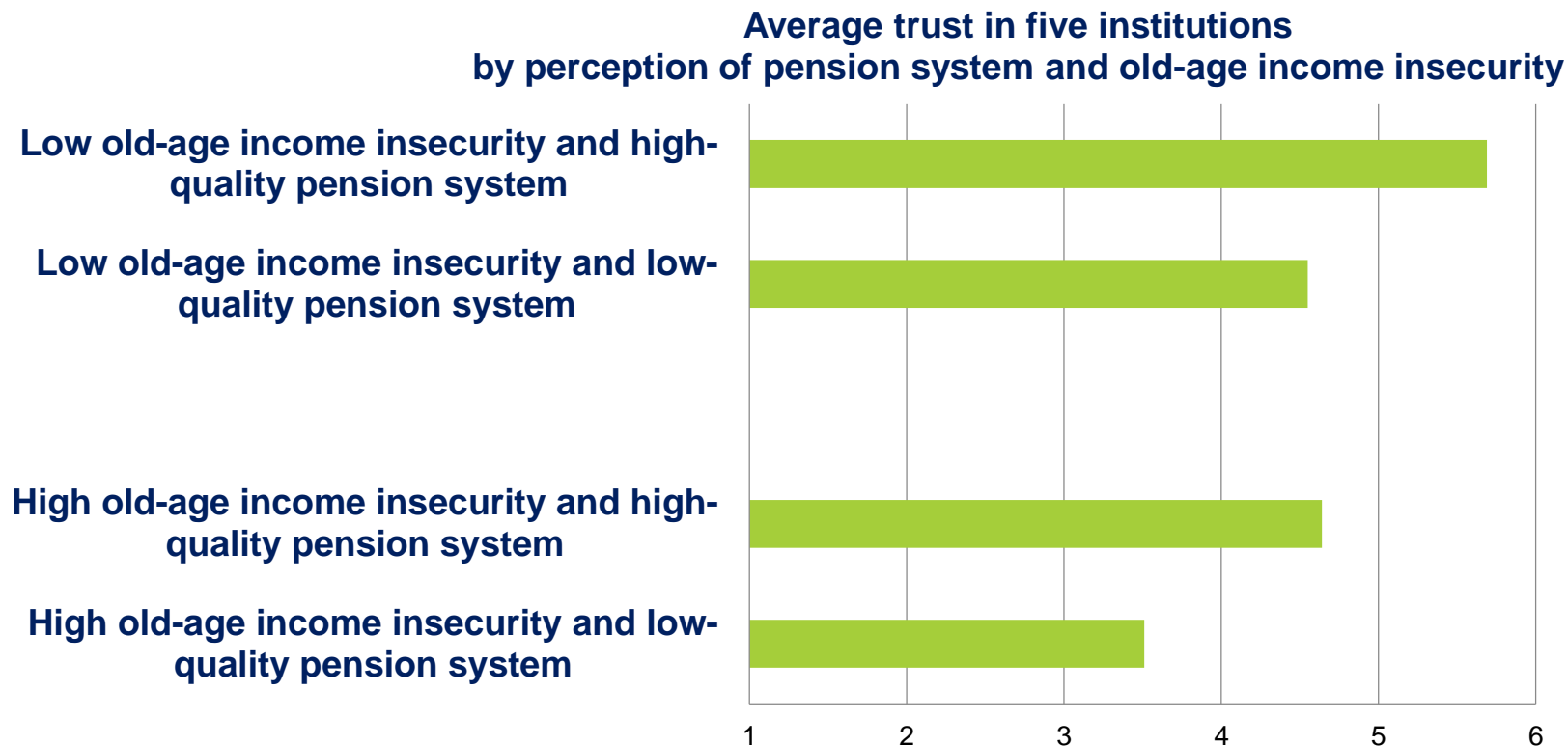
Country-effects fixed (not displayed).
R2 = 18%

EU28, EQLS 2016

1 = Female; 0 = male
 AGE: ref. 18-24
 1 = 25-34; 0 = others
 1 = 35-49; 0 = others
 1 = 50-64; 0 = others
 1 = 65+; 0 = others
 EMPLOYMENT status: ref. employed
 1 = unemployed; 0 = others
 1 = retired; 0 = others
 EDUCATION: ref. below secondary
 1 = secondary; 0 = others
 1 = higher; 0 = others
 Income: ref. lowest quartile
 1 = Q2; 0 = others
 1 = Q3; 0 = others
 1 = highest quartile; 0 = others
 1 = missing income info; 0 = others
 Ref ()
 1 = lives in small/medium sized town; 0 = else
 1 = lives in a village; 0 = else
 1 = has bad or very bad health; 0 = else
 1 = lives alone; 0 = else
 HOUSING INSECURITY: ref. 'very unlikely to leave'
 1 = Very likely to leave the accommodation; 0 = else
 1 = Rather likely to leave the accommodation; 0 = else
 1 = Neither likely nor unlikely to leave the accommodation; 0 = else
 1 = Rather unlikely to leave the accommodation; 0 = else
 EMPLOYMENT INSECURITY: ref. 'low'
 1 = Medium employment insecurity; 0 = else
 1 = High employment insecurity; 0 = else
 UNSAFETY (1 = Strongly disagree, disagree in feeling safe; 0 = else)
 OLD-AGE INCOME INSECURITY (1= 10 on scale 1-10; 0 = else)



Good social protection can mitigate effects of insecurity: an example



Notes: EU28, EQLS 2016.

Old-age income insecurity (Q41 dichotomised): on scale 1-10, 9 or 10 = 'high', else = 'low insecurity'.

Quality of the state pension system (Q58g): on scale 1-10, 1-5 = 'low quality', 6-10 = 'high quality'.

Source: Eurofound (2019), *Challenges and prospects in the EU: Quality of society and public services*

Also note:

if people think pension system quality is poor, they feel insecure about old-age income adequacy regardless whether they are in lower income half (70% worried) or in top income half (60% worried)

(Eurofound 2018, *Social insecurities and resilience*)

Concluding messages

A certain degree of safety and social security is critical for maintaining overall trust in national institutions –

Hence, security can be a resource (than merely a cost). This by no means implies that every uncertainty has to be removed nor that all requests for more security have to be dismissed.

With regard to types of insecurities discussed, negative effect of old-age income insecurity on trust in institutions is highest compared to other types of insecurities, both for the employed and for the non-active.

High quality social protection measures (or public services in a broad sense) can have a mitigating effect on overall trust in national institutions.

Caveat 1: this presentation focused on capturing the impact of social insecurities, but of course there are other important factors: fairness and transparency, along with quality of public services, are critical too.

Caveat 2: only perceived quality of public services such as pension system was considered. However, it broadly (though not perfectly) coincides with MSs differences in terms of pension wealth. Other than that, perceptions matter as they may increase systemic risks – for example, of withdrawing from the pension systems that are seen as weak, thus leading to further weakening of those systems.

Point for polemics

(or why the above evidence matters)

‘...many of the distinctive socioeconomic factors associated with the victory for “Leave” in the June 2016 UK referendum are also present in other EU countries. Like the United Kingdom, other EU member states are also divided between those who are optimistic about their future versus those who are pessimistic, between **those who embrace change and globalisation versus those who fear them**, and between those who live in large metropolitan areas and adopt what might be referred to as cosmopolitan attitudes versus those who live in small towns or the countryside’

Dustman et al. (2017) *Europe's Trust Deficit: Causes and Remedies*, p.xiv

By way of comment:

- A piece aiming to explain populism adopts same – binary – approach;
- It emphasises adoption of attitudes or values, but ignores resources (including resources for resilience).

Instead, it could be argued that a certain level of resources and security makes it possible (or there are less grounds to fear) to ‘*embrace change*’ as well as the risks it may ensue.

Additional information

The European Quality of Life Survey



Rounds	2003, 2007, 2011 , 2016
Target population	Resident population 18+ years living in private households. 28 EU Member States 5 candidate countries (AL, ME, MK, RS, TR)
Fieldwork period	September 2016 – February 2017
Sample size	Minimum N=1000 Increase in DE (n=1600), UK (n=1300), FR (n=1200), IT (n=2000), TR (n=2000)
Sampling methodology	Random probability sampling: 17 EU and TR (6 individual, 11 address registers) Random route enumeration: 11 EU and 4 CC
Sample stratification	By region and urbanisation level (except MT)
Interview type	Face-to-face, CAPI in all 33 countries; CATI recruitment in SE (and partially in AT), Average duration: 40 min

Key changes in quality of life 2011 - 2016

Quality of Life

- Less material hardship - more people can make ends meet, satisfaction with standard of living up
- Overall health has improved
- Optimism has risen
- Subjective well-being remains high
- Work-life balance deteriorated

Quality of Society

- Perception of being socially excluded has declined
- Perceived tensions between poor and rich, management and workers, and old and young reduced
- Perceived tensions between different religious and different ethnic groups increased
- **Trust in people increased, particularly among those aged 18-24**
- Engagement and participation in community organisations (activities) increased
- **Trust in all the national institutions measured rose**

Quality of Public Services

- Overall ratings for some public services - from healthcare to public transport - have increased
- Indications of improvements in healthcare or childcare in some countries where ratings were low
- Assessment of quality of long-term care is lowest for health and care services
- People in lower income groups see less improvement in quality of public services

Measuring employment insecurity

(3 categories used in regression analysis presented before)

Table 1: Shades of perceived employment insecurity (%), EU, 2016

		Likelihood of finding a similar job					Total
		Very unlikely	Rather unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Rather likely	Very likely	
Risk of losing one's job in the next 6 months	Very likely	1	1	1	1	1	3
	Rather likely	1	1	1	2	1	5
	Neither likely nor unlikely	2	3	6	4	1	16
	Rather unlikely	2	7	6	8	3	27
	Very unlikely	12	8	6	12	11	49
	Total	17	20	21	27	16	100

