

Is social cohesion really weakening in Europe? Societal Index of Interpersonal Destructiveness Across Time and European societies

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Introduction

- Social cohesion describes the collective nature of a group of people, such as a country's society and the *social quality of society* in more particular (Dragolev, Delhey and Boehnke in Eurofound 2018, p.3)
- The *interpersonal/social relationships and their quality* can be considered as an important dimension of social cohesion (Eurofound 2018; Schiefer and van der Noll 2017)
- Nahkur et al. (2017) have constructed a country-level cross-nationally comparable and regular new social indicator - Societal Index of Interpersonal Destructiveness (SIID)

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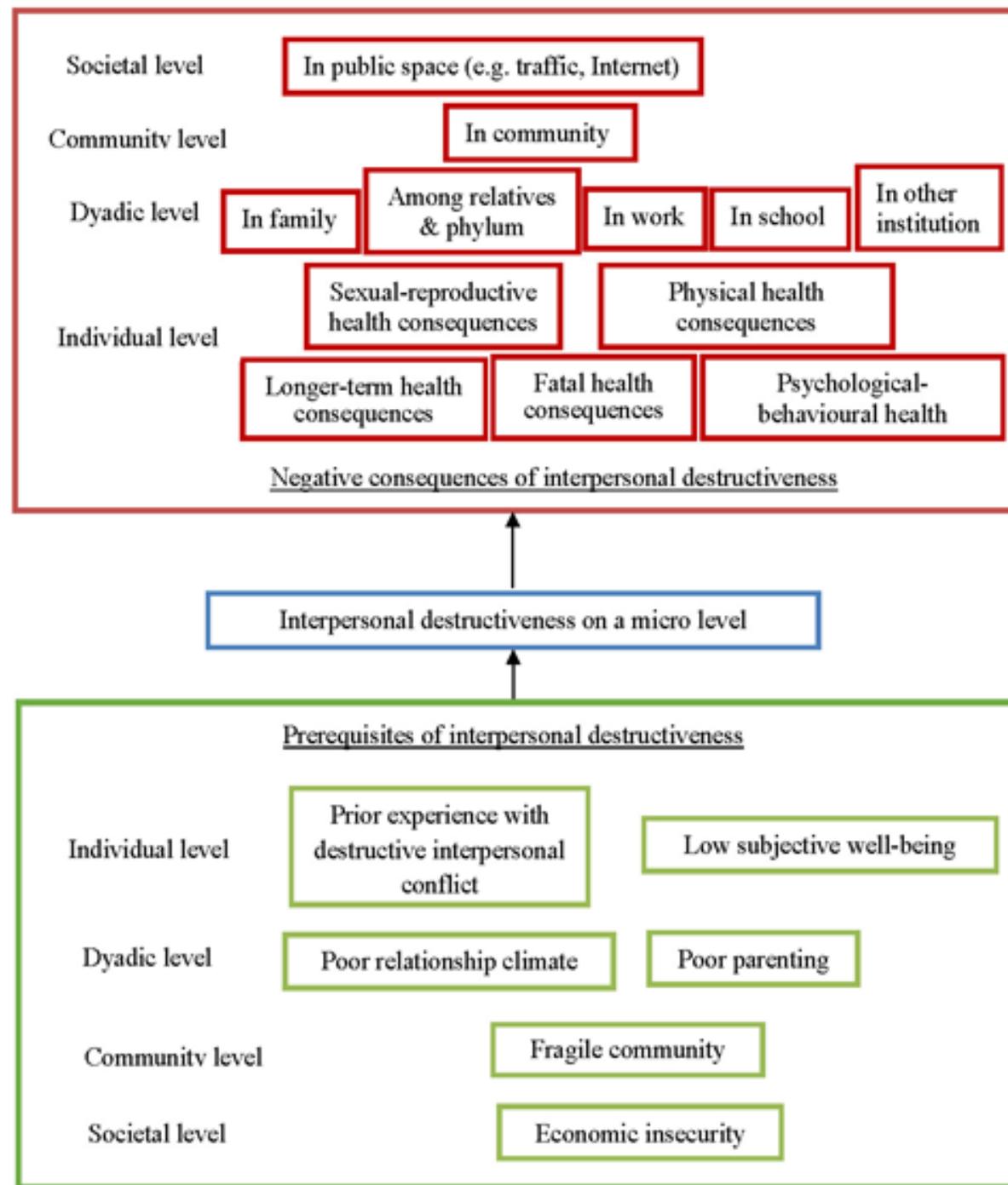
**A Two-Dimensional Two-Layered Societal Index
of Interpersonal Destructiveness: Internal Consistency
Analysis**

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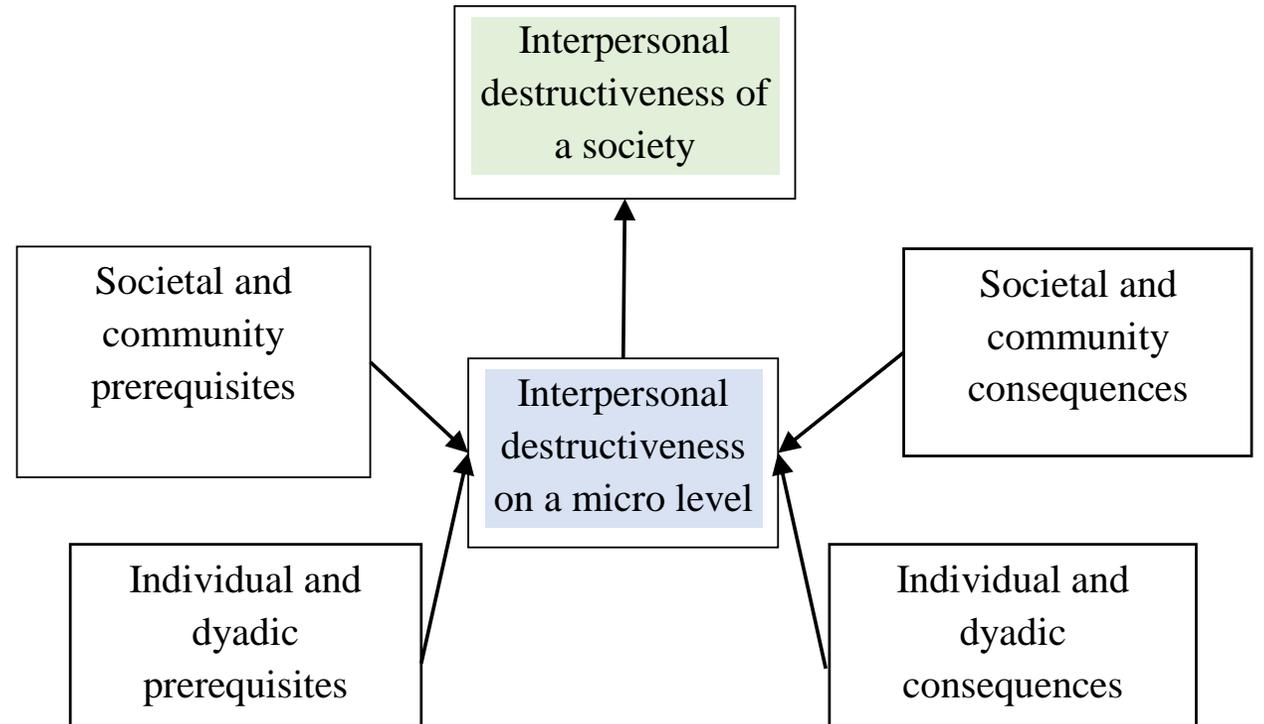
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Conceptual scheme of SIID

Interpersonal destructiveness on a micro level can be treated as a two-dimensional construct represented by prerequisites and consequences of interpersonal destructiveness



Interpersonal destructiveness is a two-layered construct represented by prerequisites and consequences of interpersonal destructiveness, aggregated to the societal level.



- The problems with data availability and quality influence the operationalisation process of the SIID and support the indirect measurement approach—measuring the level of interpersonal destructiveness by factors that predispose or may be the result of destructiveness in interpersonal conflicts or relationships.

	Item(s)	Original scale	SIID scale	Ecological level	Data type and source
Sub-dimensions of prerequisites					
Prior experience with destructive interpersonal conflict	(P1) Could you please sort out any that you would not like to have as neighbours? Drug addicts, people of diff. race, people who have AIDS, immigrants or foreign workers, homosexuals, people of diff. religion, heavy drinkers, unmarried couples living together, people who speak a diff. language	Mentioned or not mentioned	Average % of mentioned between all diff. groups	Individual	Nationally representative subjective data from WVS/EVS
Low well-being	(P2) All things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?	10 point Likert scale	% of the responses 1 to 5	Individual	Nationally representative subjective data from WVS/EVS
Poor relationship climate	(P3) Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?	Binary	% of "cannot trust"	Dyadic	Nationally representative subjective data from WVS/EVS
	(P4) How important are friends in your life?	4 point Likert scale	% of "not very or not at all important"	Dyadic	Nationally representative subjective data from WVS/EVS
Poor parenting	(P5) Here is a list of qualities that children can be encouraged to learn at home. Which, if any, do you consider to be especially important? - Tolerance and respect for other people	Binary	% of not mentioned	Dyadic	Nationally representative subjective data from WVS/EVS
Fragile community	No suitable items/data found				
Economic insecurity	(P6) Men's unemployment rate	% of unemployed men in male labor force		Societal	Objective country-level data from World Bank Open Data
	(P7) Gini	Neto value		Societal	Objective country-level data from Swiid

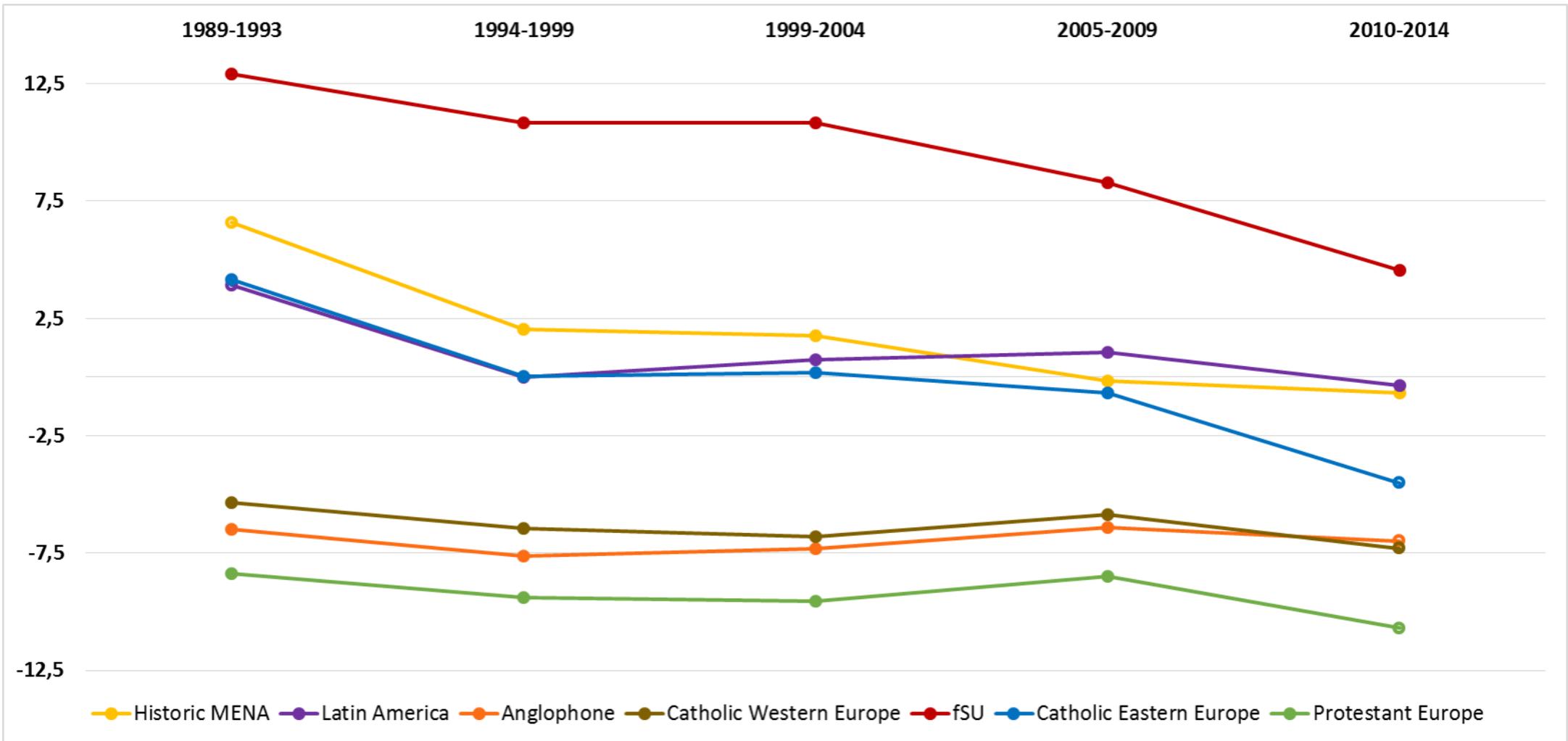
	Item(s)	Original scale	SIID scale	Ecological level	Data type and source
Sub-dimensions of consequences					
Longer-term consequences to health	(C1) Life expectancy at birth	In years		Societal	Objective country-level data from World Bank Open Data
Fatal consequences to health	(C2) Assault	Standardised death rate per 100 000 inhabitants		Societal	Objective country-level data from WHO Online Mortality Database
	(C3) Death due to suicide and self-inflicted injury	Number per 100 000 inhabitants		Individual	Objective country-level data from WHO Online Mortality Database
Relationship contexts: (1) family; (2) relatives and phylum; (3) work; (4) school; (5) traffic; (6) internet; (7) community; (8) other institutions	No suitable items/data found				
Consequences to health: (1) physical; (2) psychological and behavioural; (3) sexual and reproductive	No suitable items/data found				

- Standardisation
- Equal weighting
- Linear additive aggregation

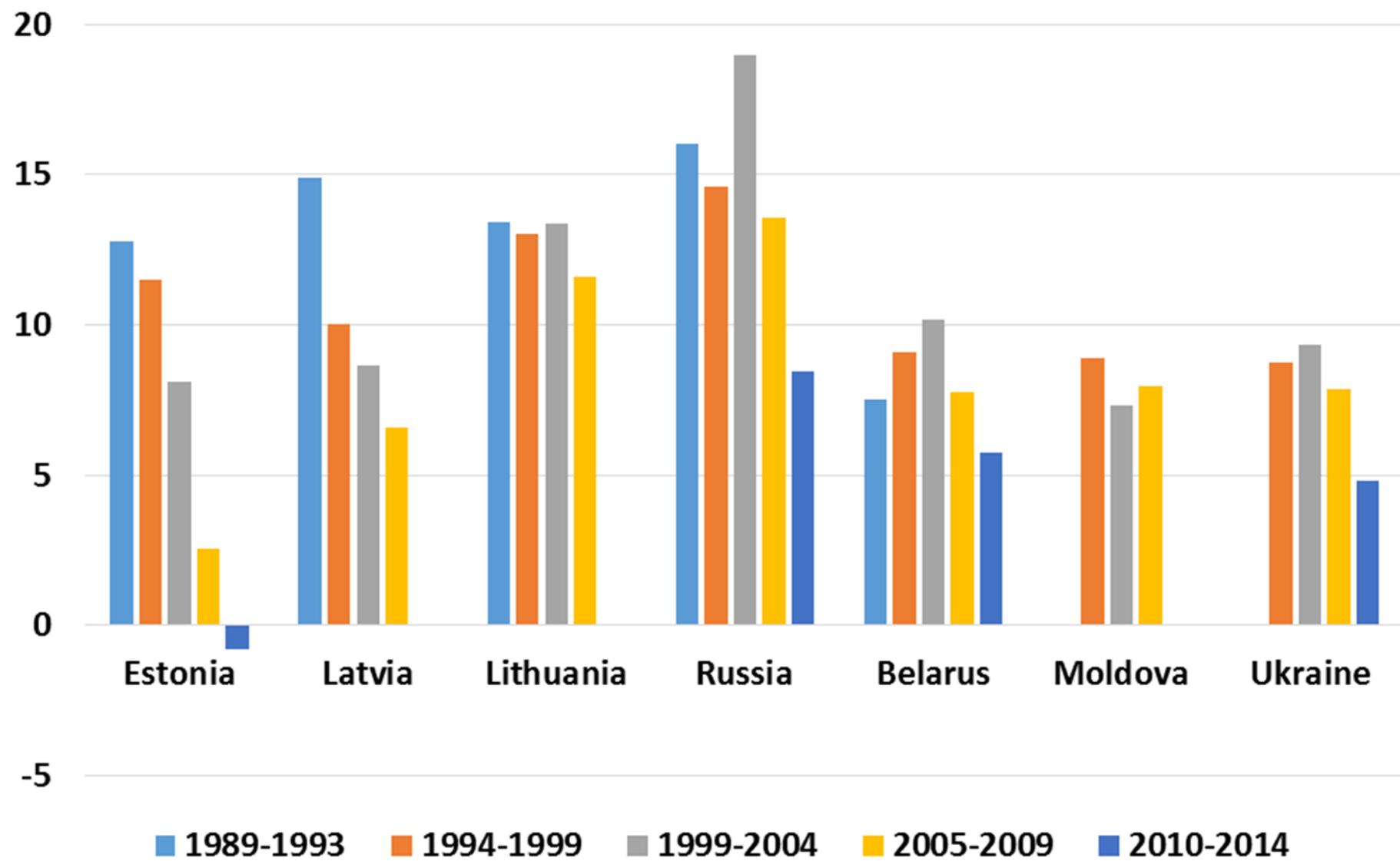
$$\text{SIID-P} = P1 + (0,5 * P2 + 0,5 * P3) + P4 + P5 + (0,5 * P6 + 0,5 * P7)$$

$$\text{SIID-C} = (C1 + C2 + C3) * 7/3$$

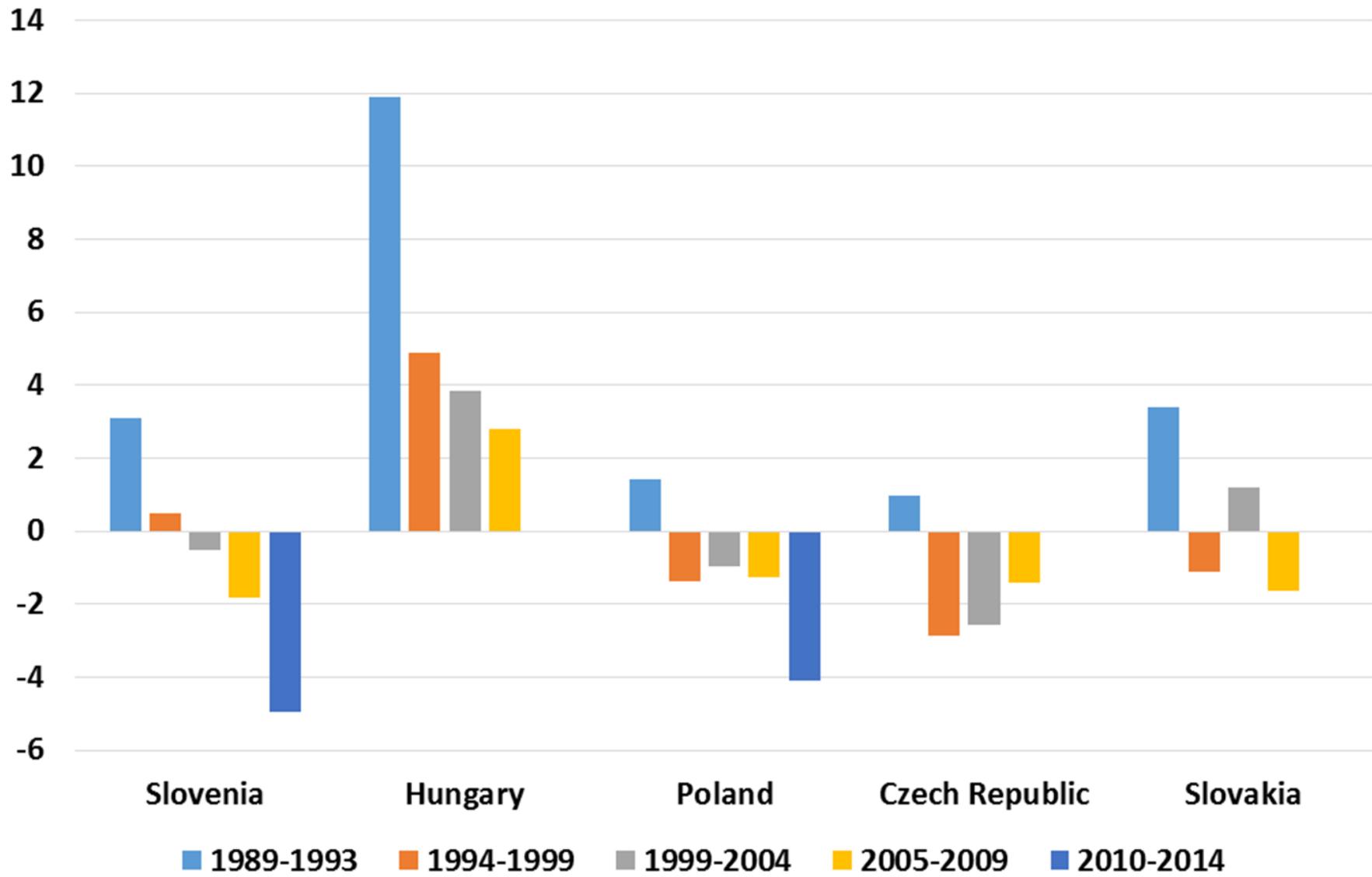
$$\text{SIID} = \text{SIID-P} + \text{SIID-C}$$



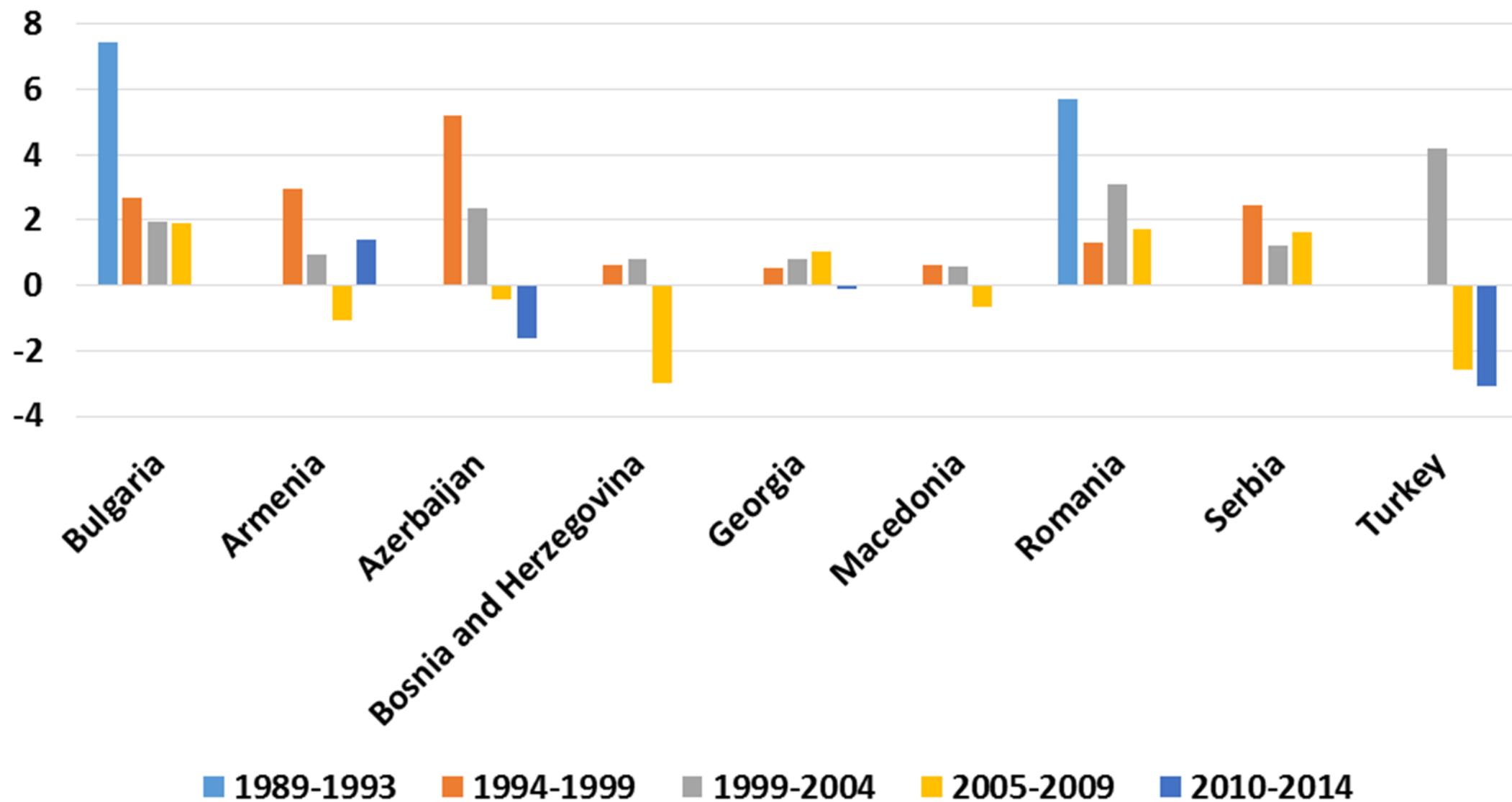
Former Soviet Union, except Caucasia



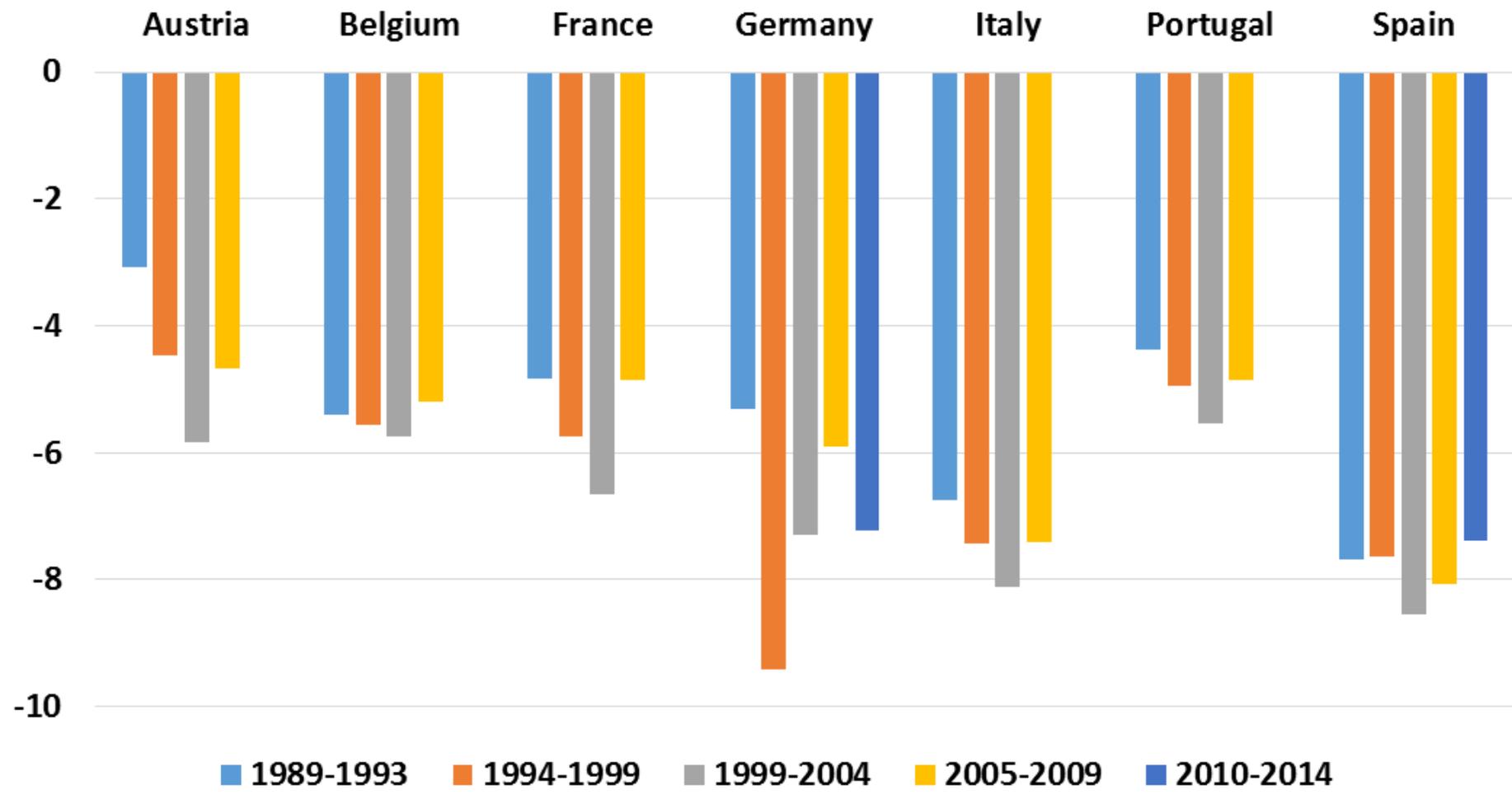
Catholic Eastern Europe



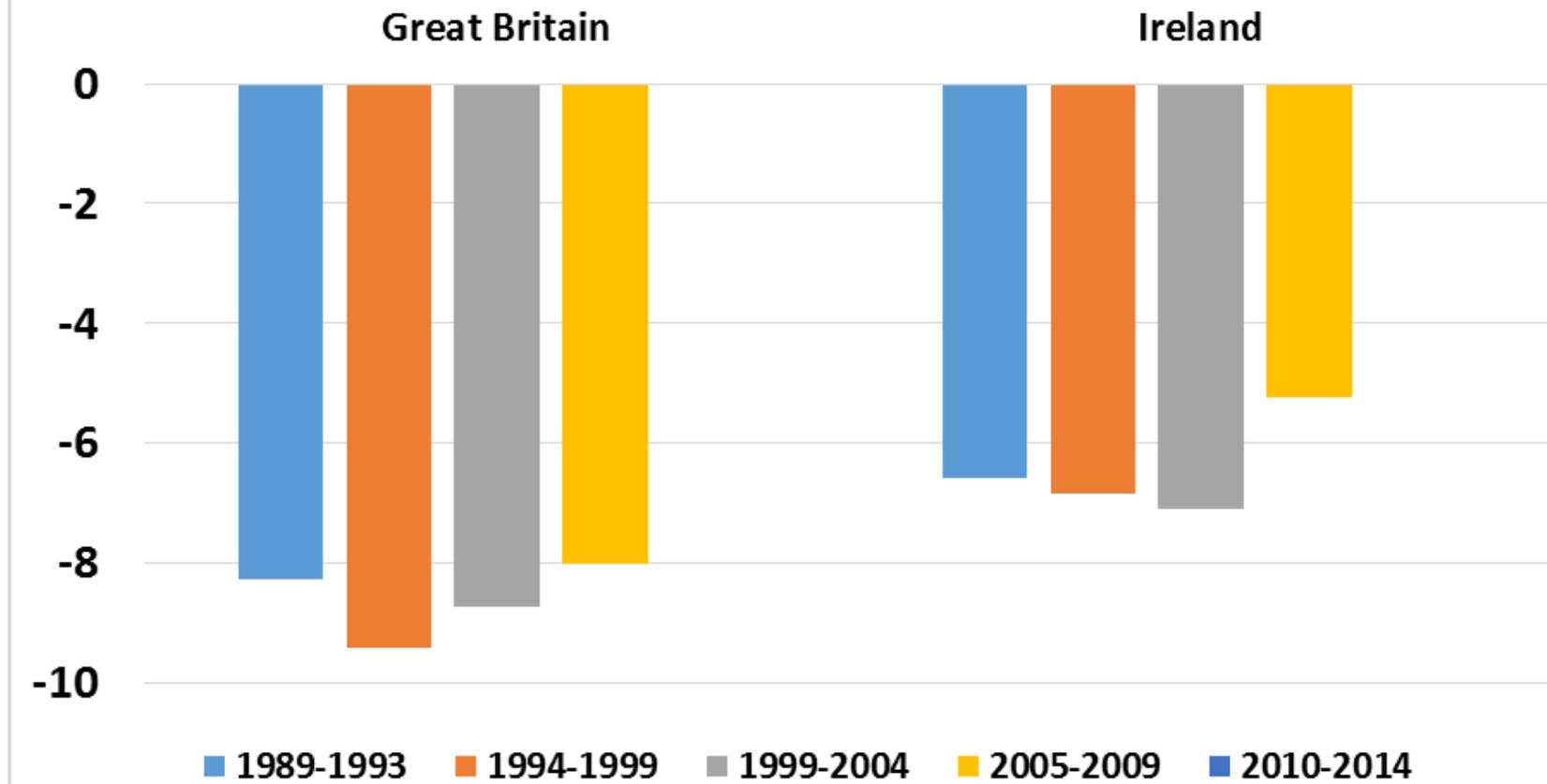
Historic MENA



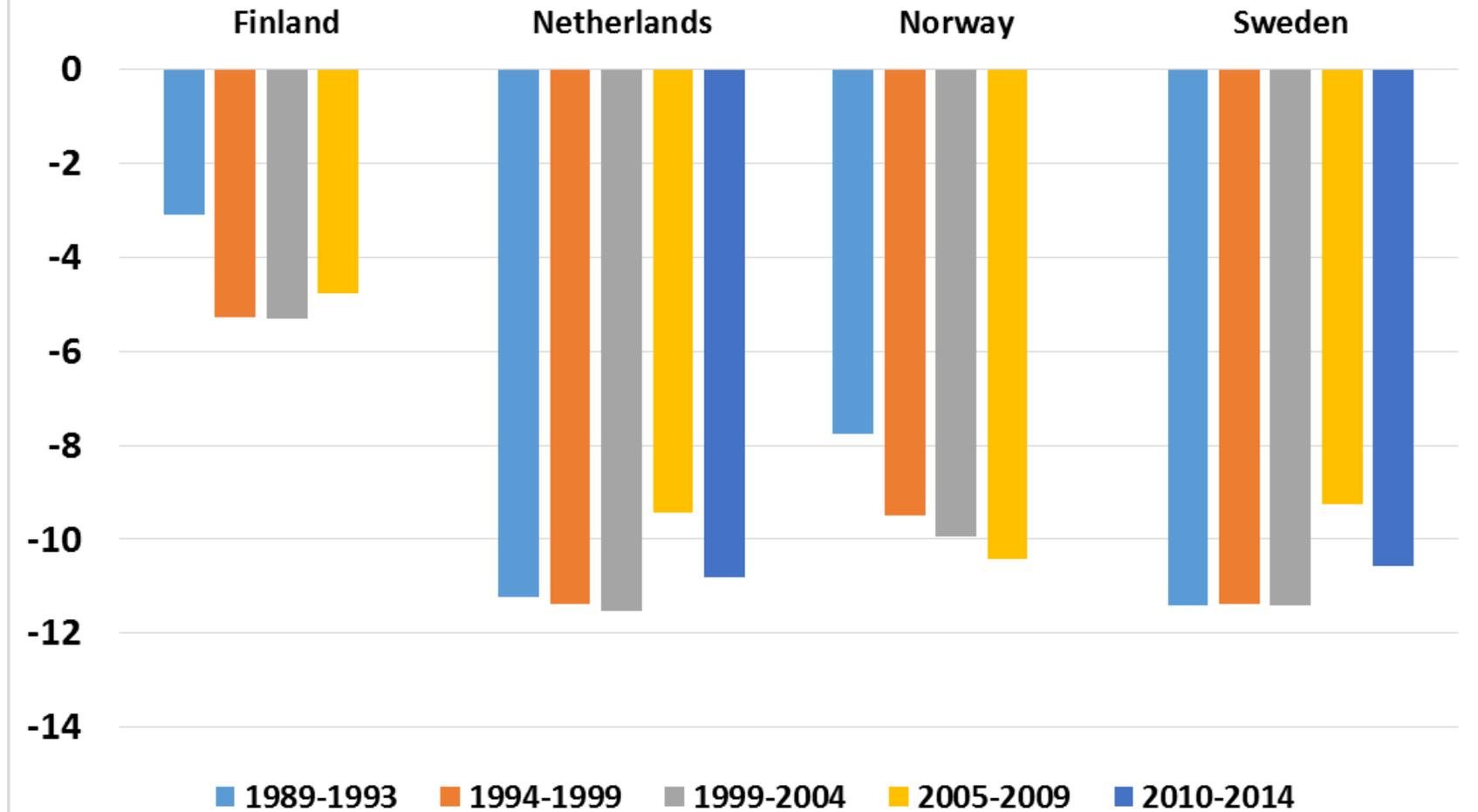
Catholic Western Europe



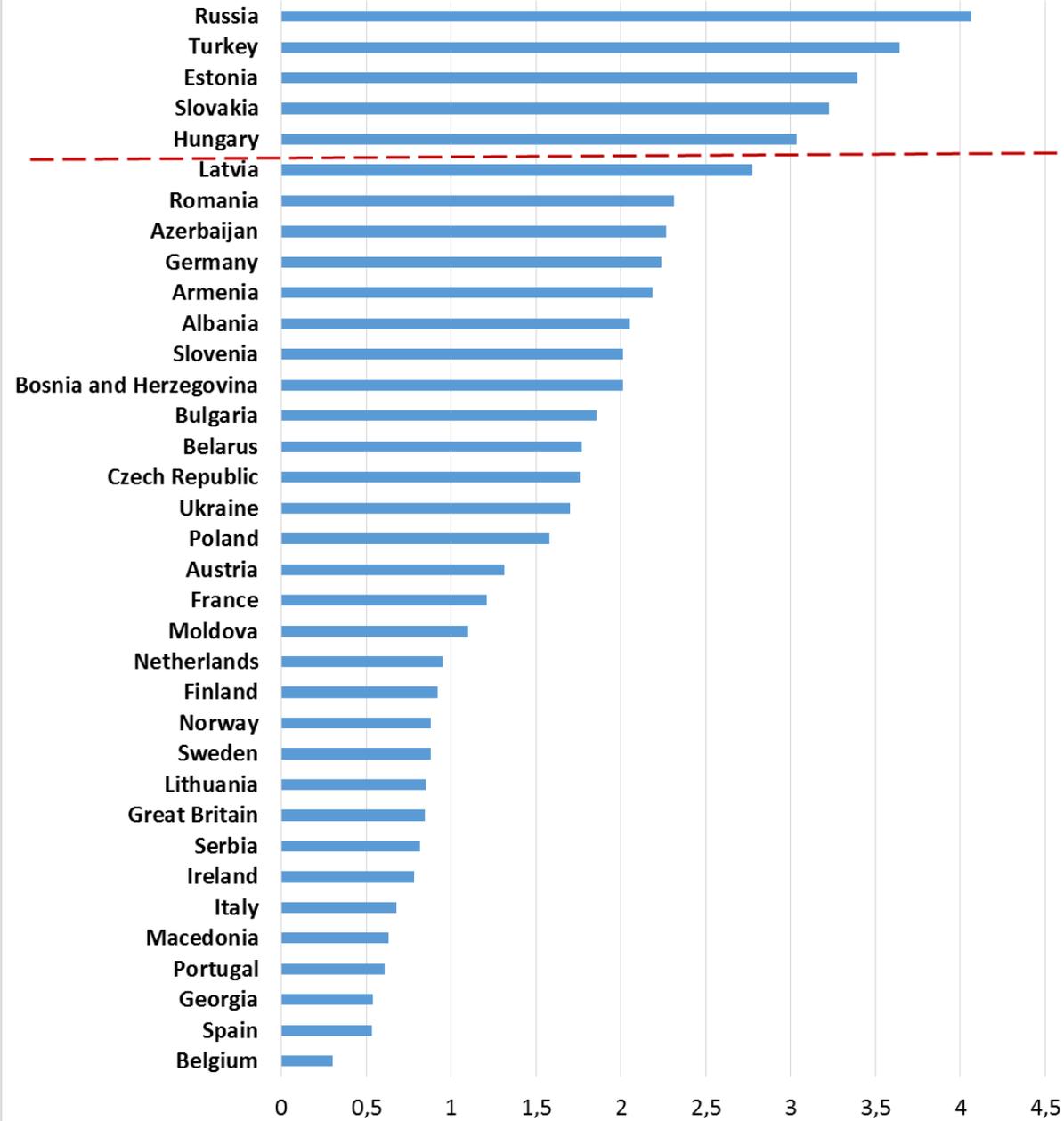
Anglophone

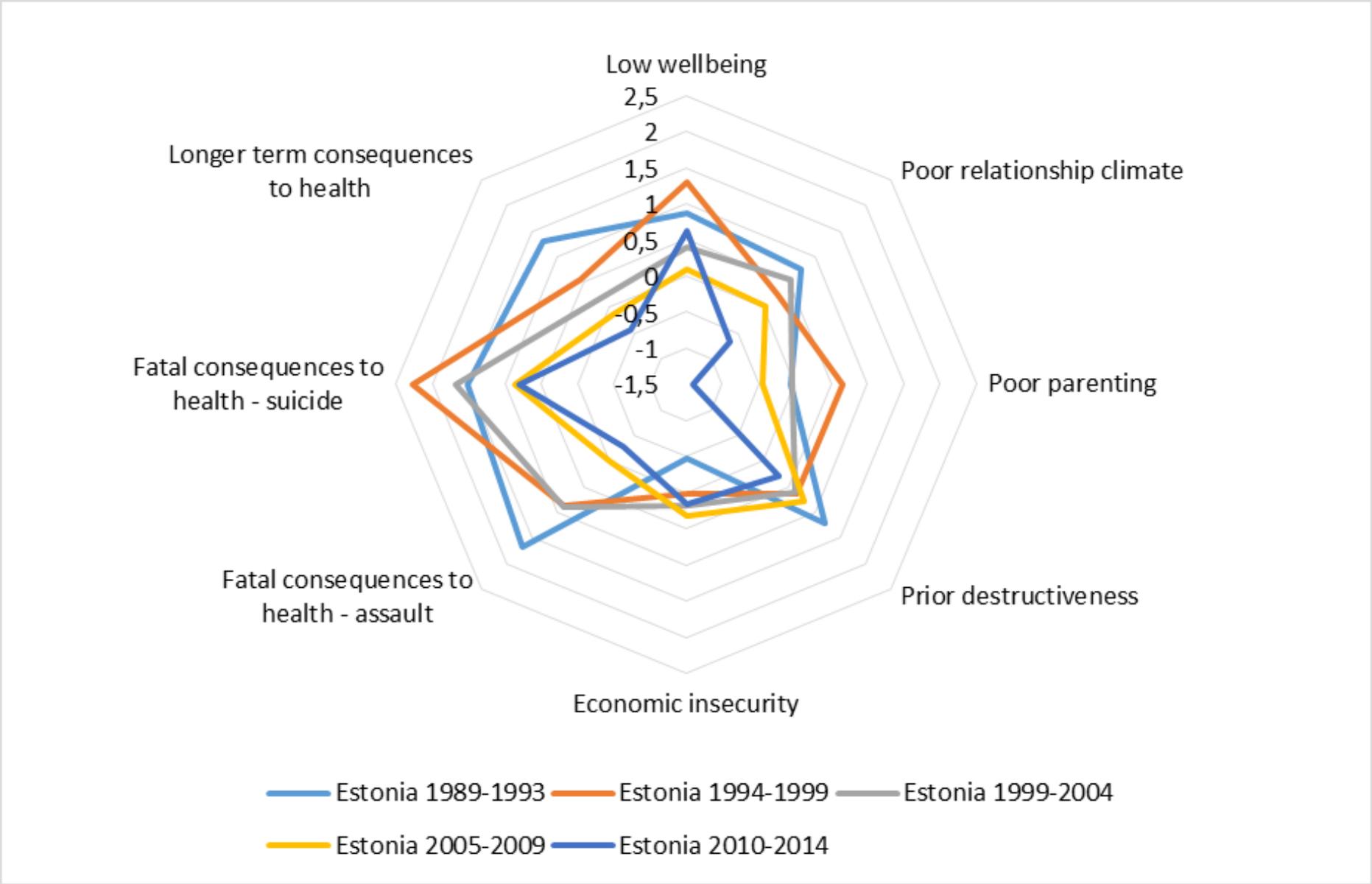


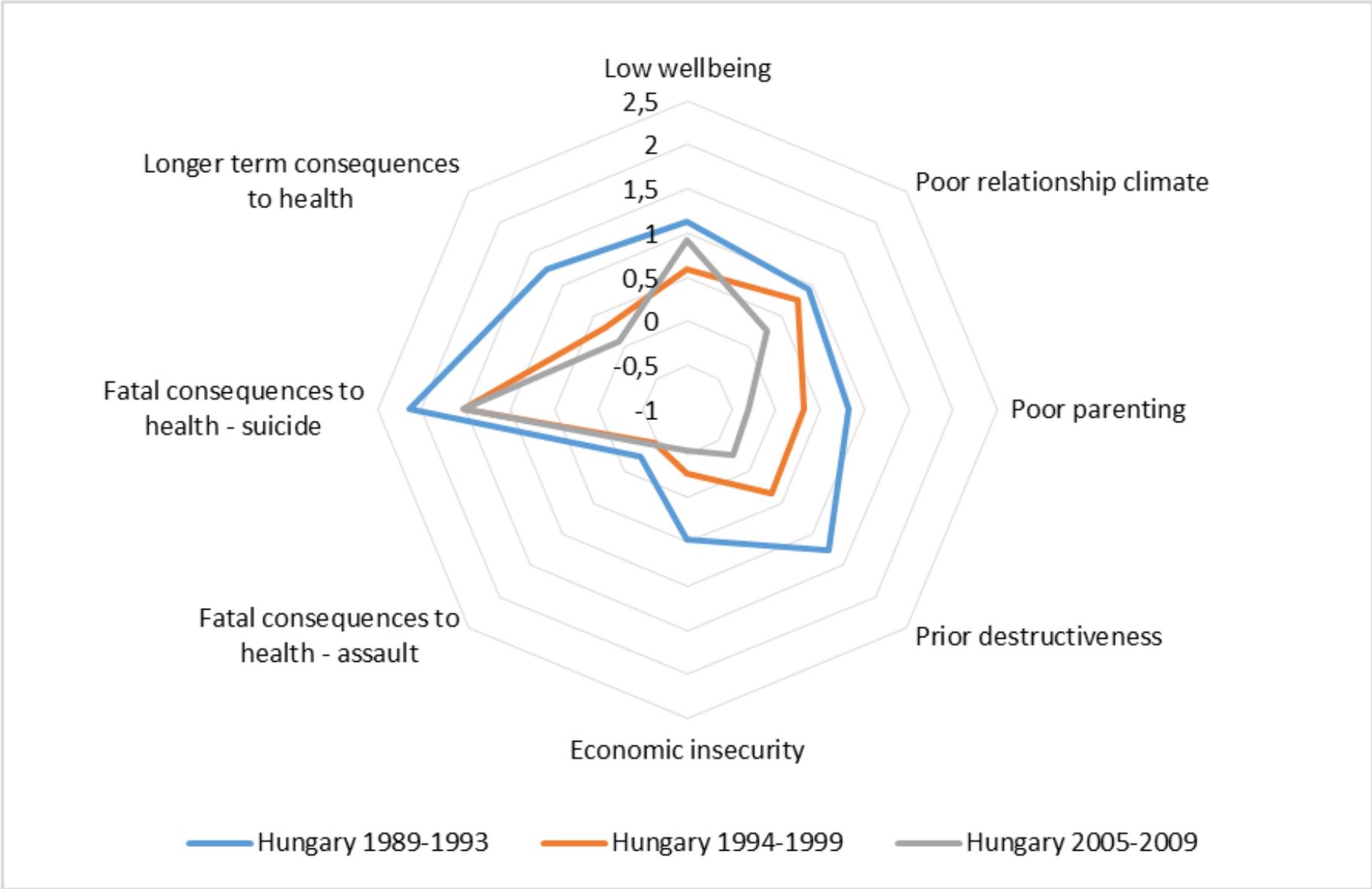
Protestant Europe

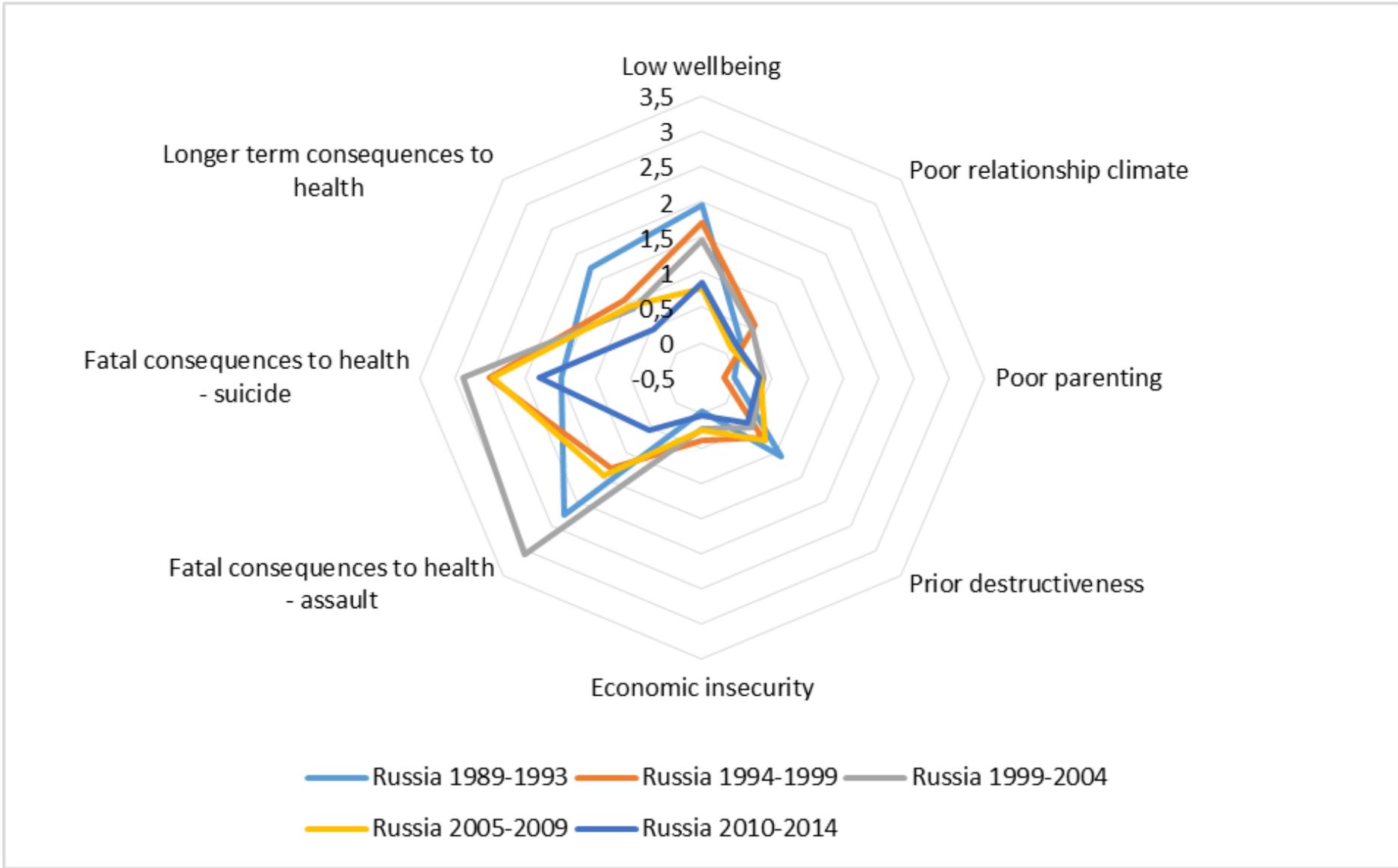


Mean absolute change of SIID score









Conclusion

- Based on SIID between 1989 to 2014
 - social cohesion seem to have consistently increased in Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey;
 - there are also turbulent societies like Russia where the level of social cohesion decreases in some and increases in other period;
 - there are no such societies in Europe where the level of social cohesion has consistently decreased;
 - in Protestant, Catholic Western and Anglophone societies the level of social cohesion have not changed much.

Thank you!

Literature cited:

- Eurofound (2018), *Social cohesion and well-being in Europe*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.
- Schiefer, D., and van der Noll, J. (2017), 'The Essentials of social cohesion: A literature review', *Social Indicators Research*, 132(2), pp. 579–603.