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# Political Freedom and Welfare in Europe

Where  
*knowledge and challenge*  
meet

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# *Content*

- 0. Introduction*
- 1. Theoretical model*
- 2. Operationalization*
- 3. Democracy Barometer*
- 4. Results*

# 1. Theoretical model

Based mainly on capability approach

The role of political freedom in welfare:

*Instrumental:* enhancing welfare through free agency

*Valued in self:* political freedom has self-value

(claims against political freedom)



## 2. Operationalization

Instrumental role: real income indicators (World Bank)  
other welfare indicators (for instance: unemployment)  
are excluded because of possible bias

Valued in self: Subjective Well-Being (World Values  
Survey)

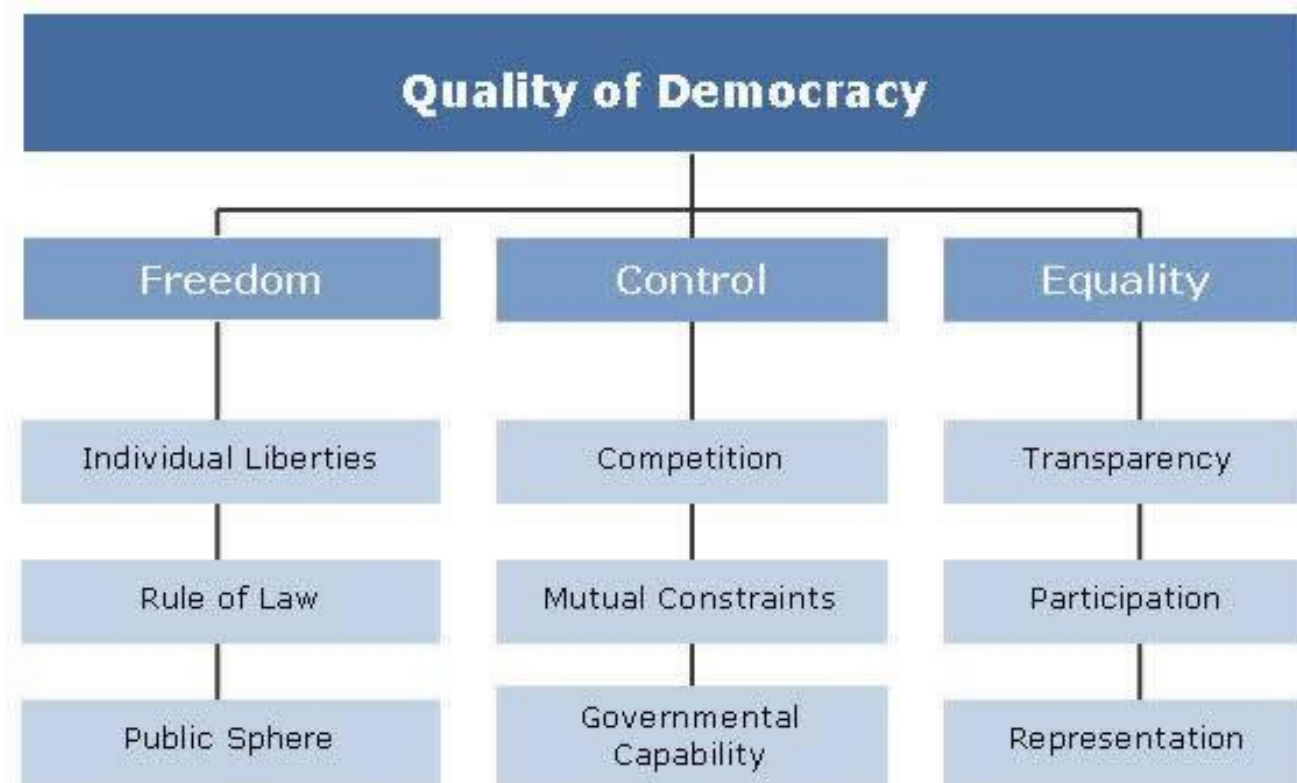
Political Freedom: freedom indicators, (Democracy  
Barometer)

→ Analysis: European countries, cross-sectional



# 3. Democracy Barometer

From a theoretical concept of democracy



# 3. Democracy Barometer

- Standardized variables: 0- 100
- Levels are aggregated with means and the Arctan-formula
- For stable and developed democracies
- Hard data not just expert judgement
- Rules in law vs. Rules in use



# 4. Results - Instrumental

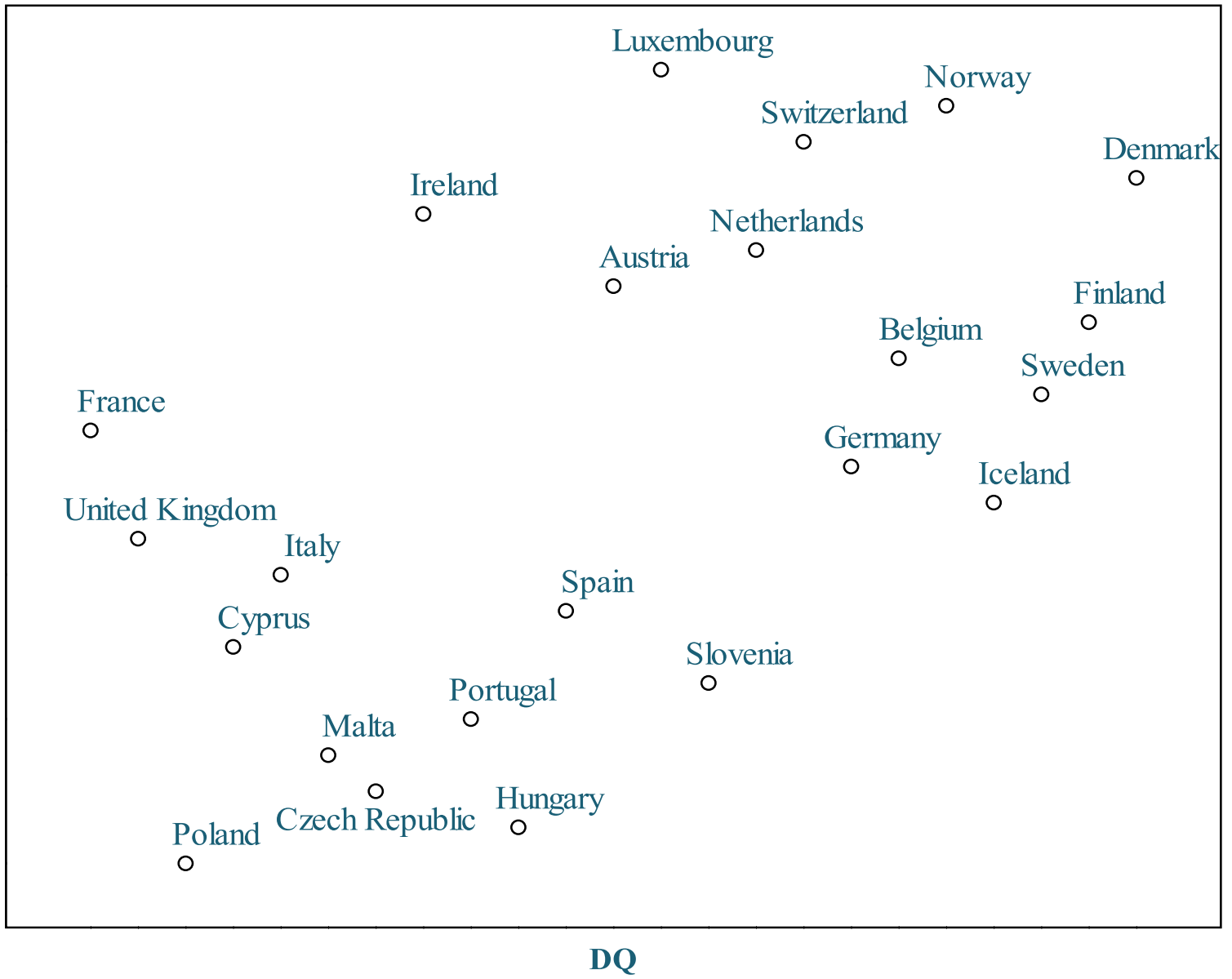
	Quality of Democracy
GDP	.551**

	Freedom	Control	Equality
GDP	.444*	.227	.545**





GDP





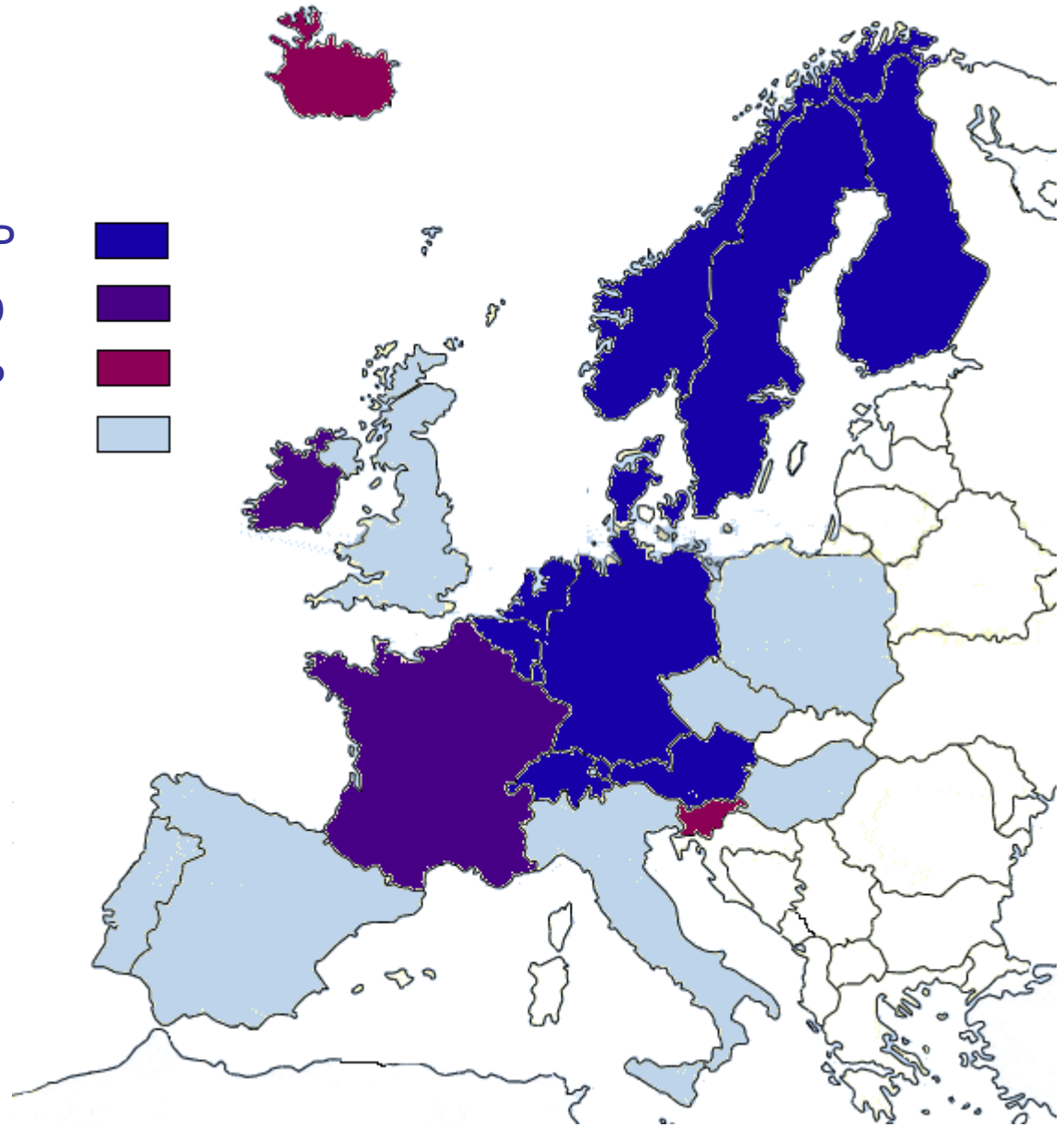
# 4. Results - Instrumental

<b>Low QD, High GDP</b>	<b>High QD, High GDP</b>
France, Ireland	Austria, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark
<b>Low QD, Low GDP</b>	<b>High QD, Low GDP</b>
Czech Republic, Cyprus, Poland, Italy, Spain, UK, Portugal, Hungary	Slovenia, Iceland





High QD – High GDP  
High GDP – Low QD  
High QD – Low GDP  
Low GDP – Low QD



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Thank your for your attention!

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