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**Attitudes and values of the European:
the gender perspective on a transversal analysis**

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This presentation is based on the data provided by the 1st round of the “European Social Survey”.

Although it is known that the differences *within* sexes are much more significant than the differences *between* sexes, the tendency is to overstress the later ones (Kimmel, 2000; Connel, 1987, 2002; Torres, 2004).

We analysed:

- Media exposure
- Social and political trust
- Distance from politics
- Political self-positioning
- Political satisfaction
- Attitudes towards economy, the role of the state and the trade unions
- Importance of family, work, friends, leisure, politics, religion and voluntary organizations
- Human values of the Europeans
- Education

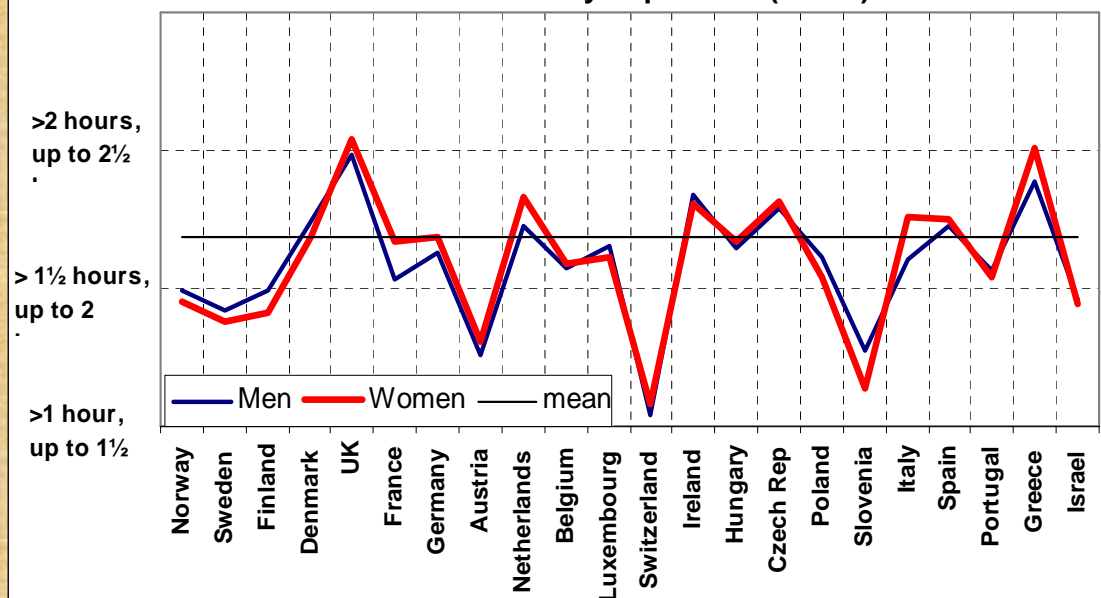
Media exposure

About watching TV, men and women are completely similar. The differences between countries are much more statistically significant. The longer time of exposure happens in the UK and in Greece.

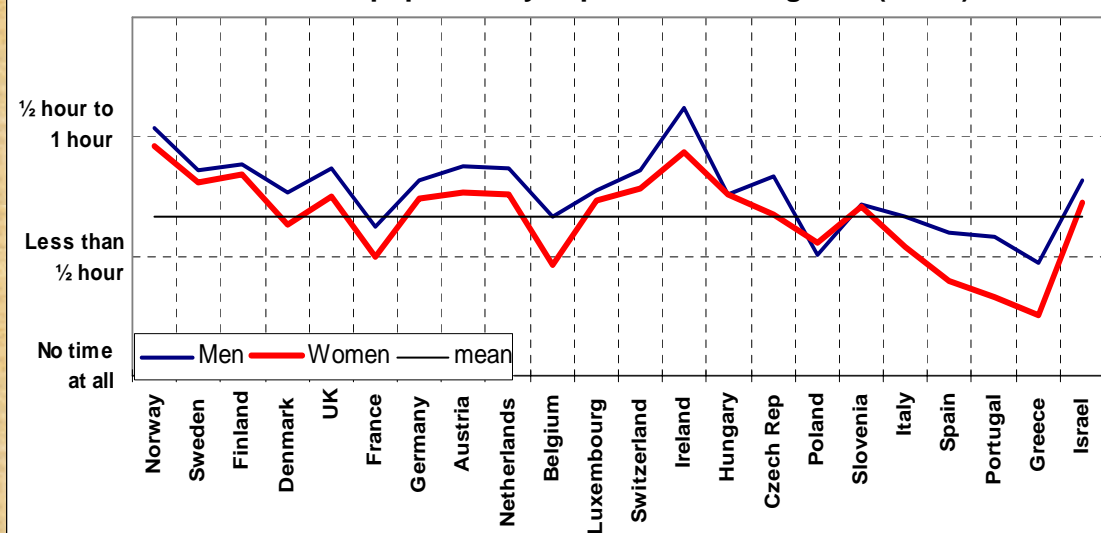
Differences between men and women are slightly bigger in what concerns newspaper reading. The southern countries consume less time reading newspapers.

These results contradict the idea that women are greater consumers of television than men.

Television daily exposure (mean)



Newspapers daily exposure: reading time (mean)

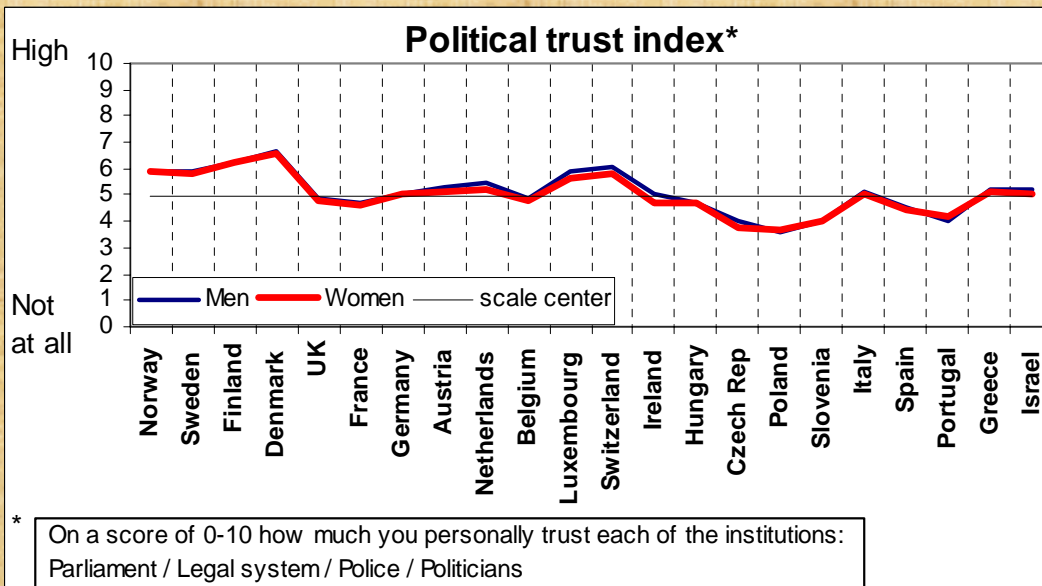
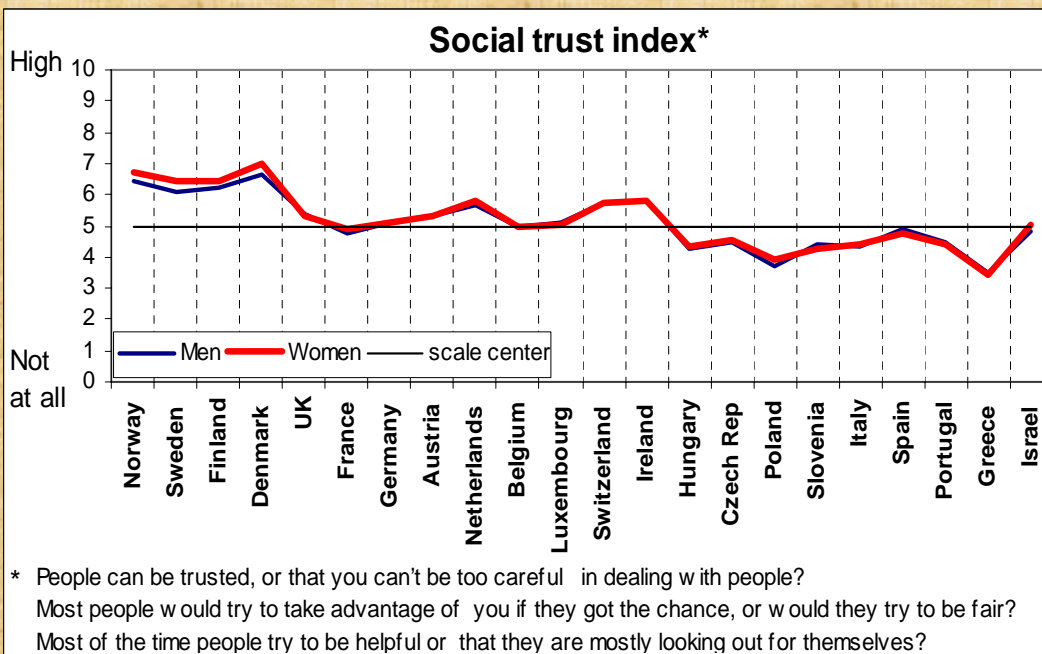


Social and Political Trust

About social and political trust men and women are completely similar in the 21 countries.

Social and political trust is higher in Scandinavian countries.

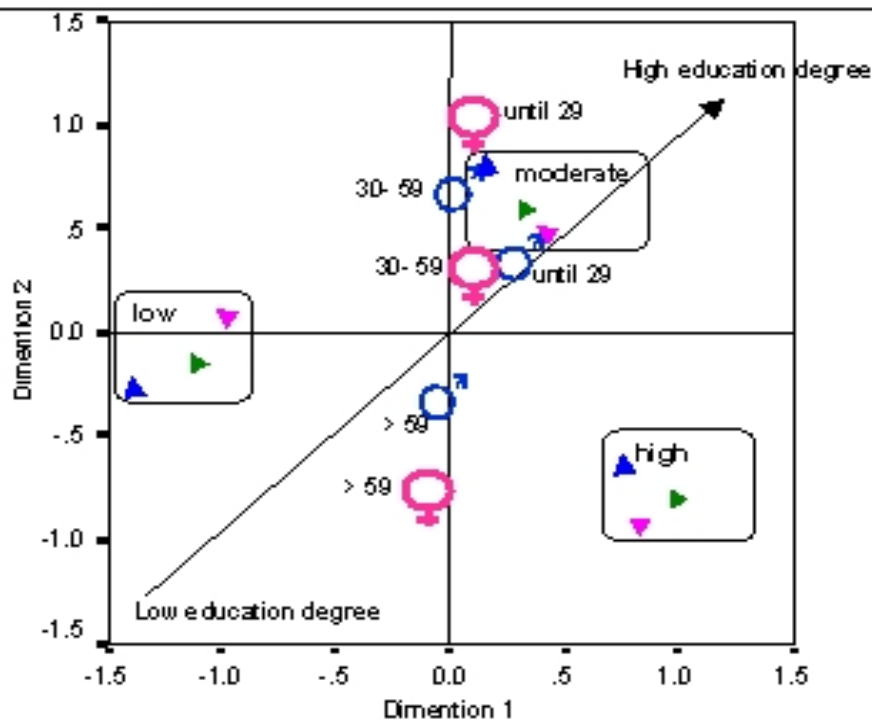
Taking all countries together we observe that *police* is the institution deserving the greatest confidence and *politicians* the least, the late ones never surpassing the centre of the scale.



Social Trust

Social trust by sex, age and education

- ▶ **Personal trust:** "People can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?"
- ▲ **Honesty:** "Most people would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance, or would they try to be fair?"
- ▼ **Altruism:** "Most of the time people try to be helpful or that they are mostly looking out for themselves?"

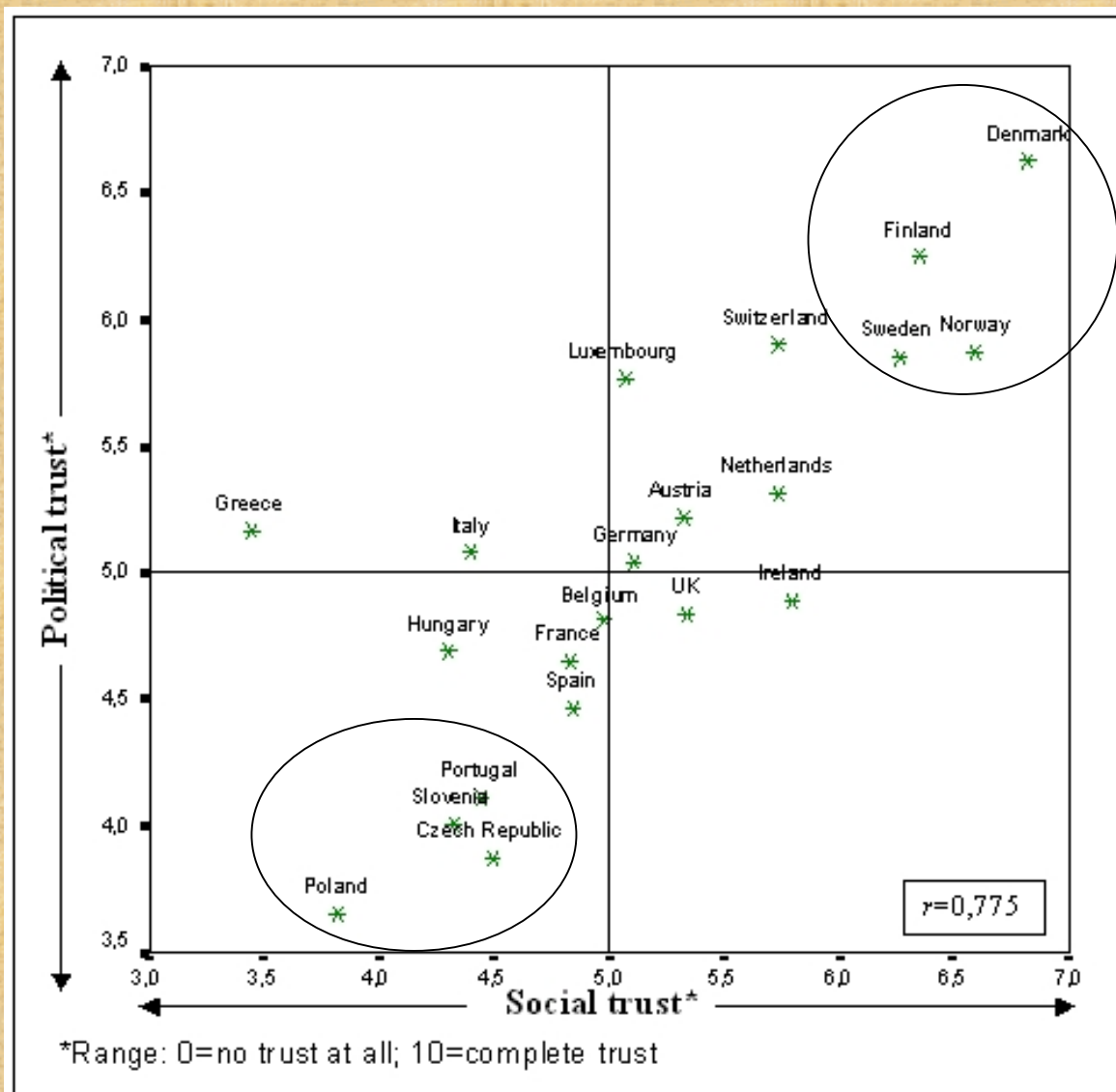


- Range: ▶ 0=You can't be too careful; 10=Most people can be trusted
 ▲ 0=Most people try to take advantage of me; 10=Most people try to be fair
 ▼ 0=People mostly look out for themselves; 10=People mostly try to be helpful

Both men and women up to 59 years register moderate values of trust, while the elderly are relatively equidistant of the three profiles of social trust – low, moderate and high.

Having lower education and being older is more associated to a lower social trust; a higher education to a moderate trust; and an intermediate education to a higher trust.

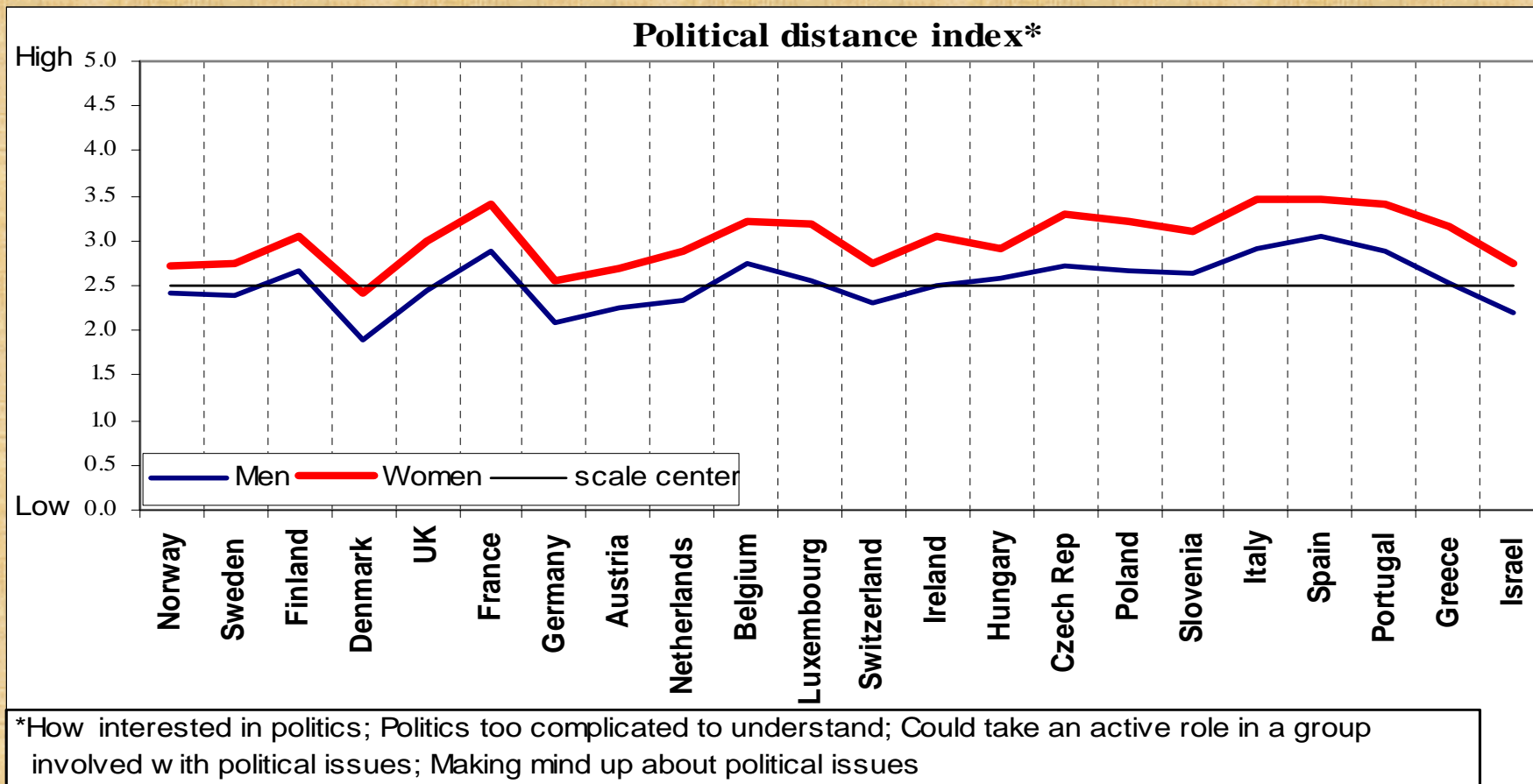
Social and Political Trust



The higher is the social trust the higher the political trust.

The Scandinavians trust the most, in opposition to the enlargement countries and Portugal

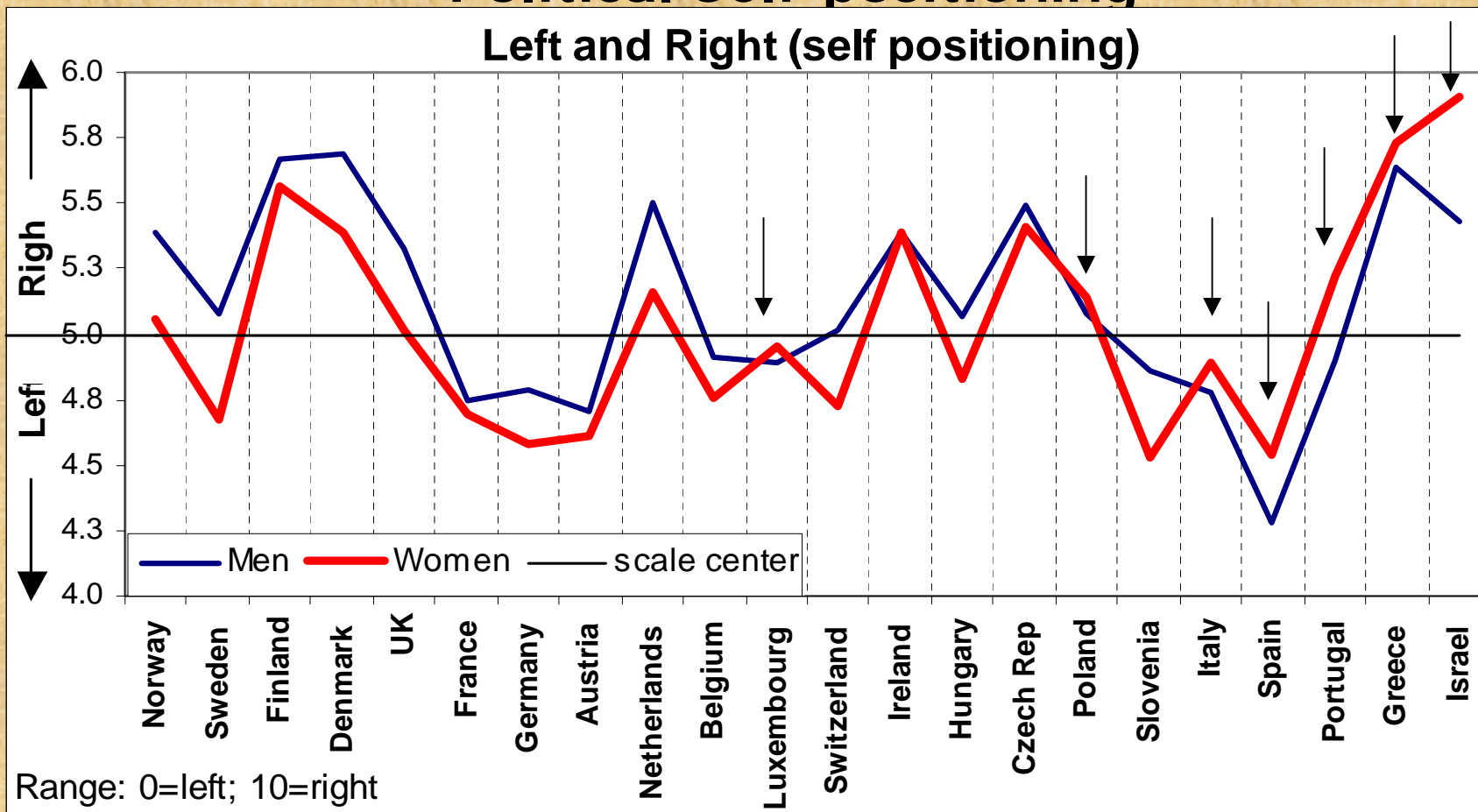
Distance from Politics



The differences between sexes show that women - in a regular trend and in all the countries - have a higher distance from politics than men.

Political Self-positioning

Left and Right (self positioning)

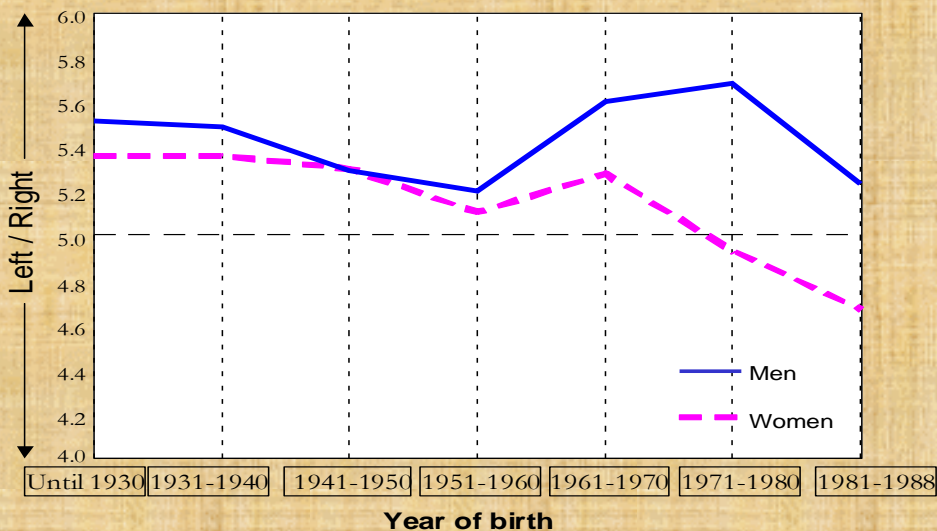


Women position themselves always slightly to the left in relation to men in the majority of the countries, except in Luxembourg, Poland and Southern Europe, where they are slightly to the right.

Attitudes and values of the European: a gender perspective on a transversal analysis

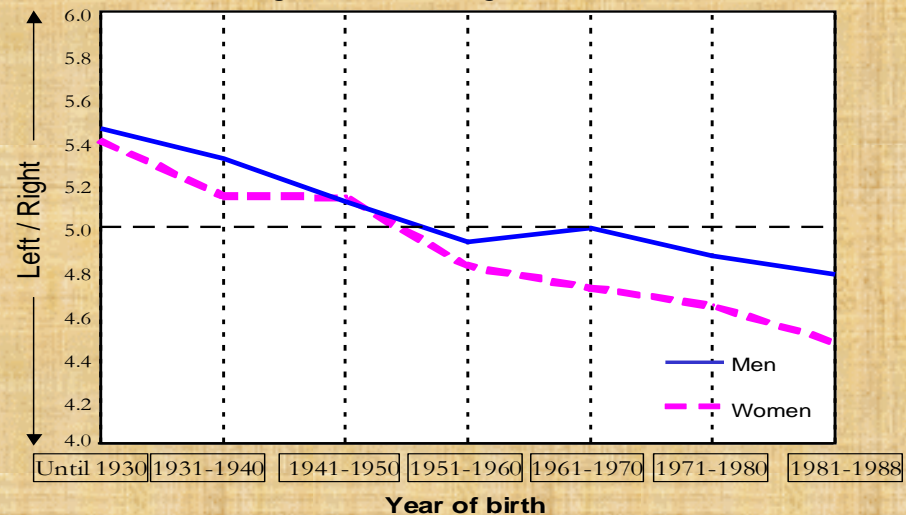
Political Self-positioning

Scandinavian countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark



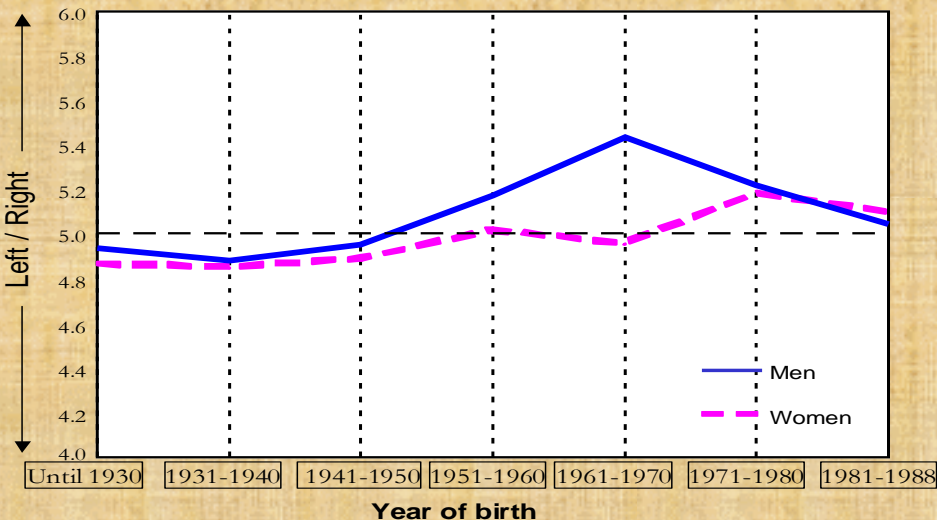
Political Self-positioning

North and centre of Europe: UK, France, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Ireland



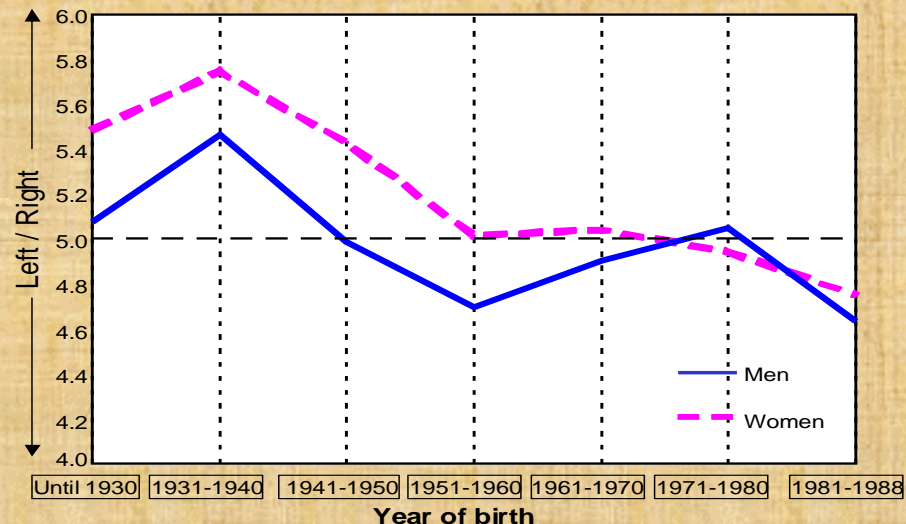
Political Self-positioning

Enlargement: Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovenia



Political Self-positioning

Southern Europe: Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece



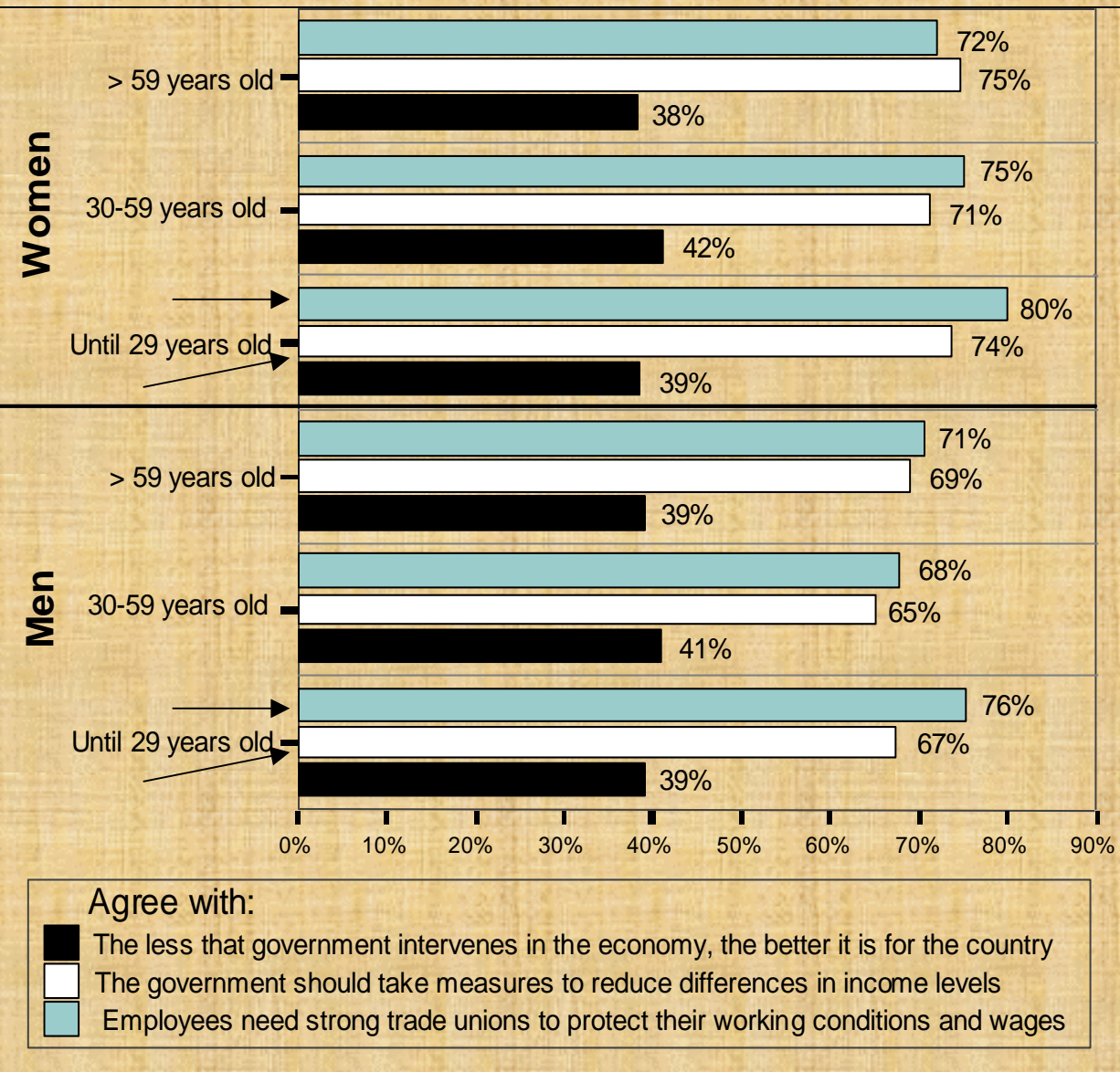
Political self-positioning

These results are convergent with others about political self-positioning. Since the 80s, women tend to position themselves more to the left than men, even in voting (Inglehart e Norris: *Rising Tide. Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World*, 2003).

This tendency as been designated as a change from a *traditional gender gap* to a *modern gender gap*.

The left-wing parties tend to be more compromised with the Welfare State, the public services of care for children and the family, with education, with reproductive rights and have more ecological concerns, all of those being issues that seem more relevant for women.

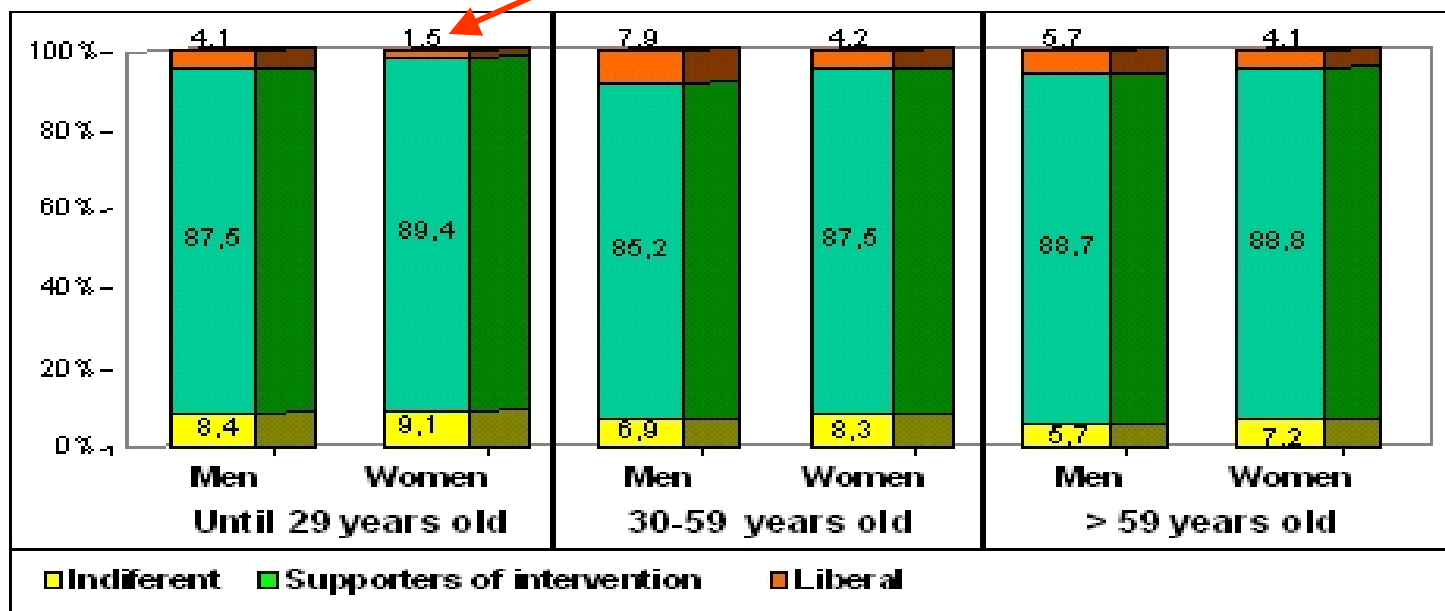
Attitudes towards economy, the role of the state and the trade unions



1. High propensity to sustain the intervention of the state in the economy, it's regulator role and the relevance of trade unions.

2. Younger women are still more attached to these issues (in harmony with left-right position).

Attitudes towards economy, the role of the state and the trade unions*



- * 1. The less that government **intervenes in the economy**, the better it is for the country
 2. The government should **take measures to reduce differences in income levels**
 3. Employees **need strong trade unions** to protect their working conditions and wages

Legend:

Indifferent: Tend to not agree nor disagree with the 3 questions;

Supporters of intervention: Tend to disagree with the first and to agree with 2nd e 3rd;

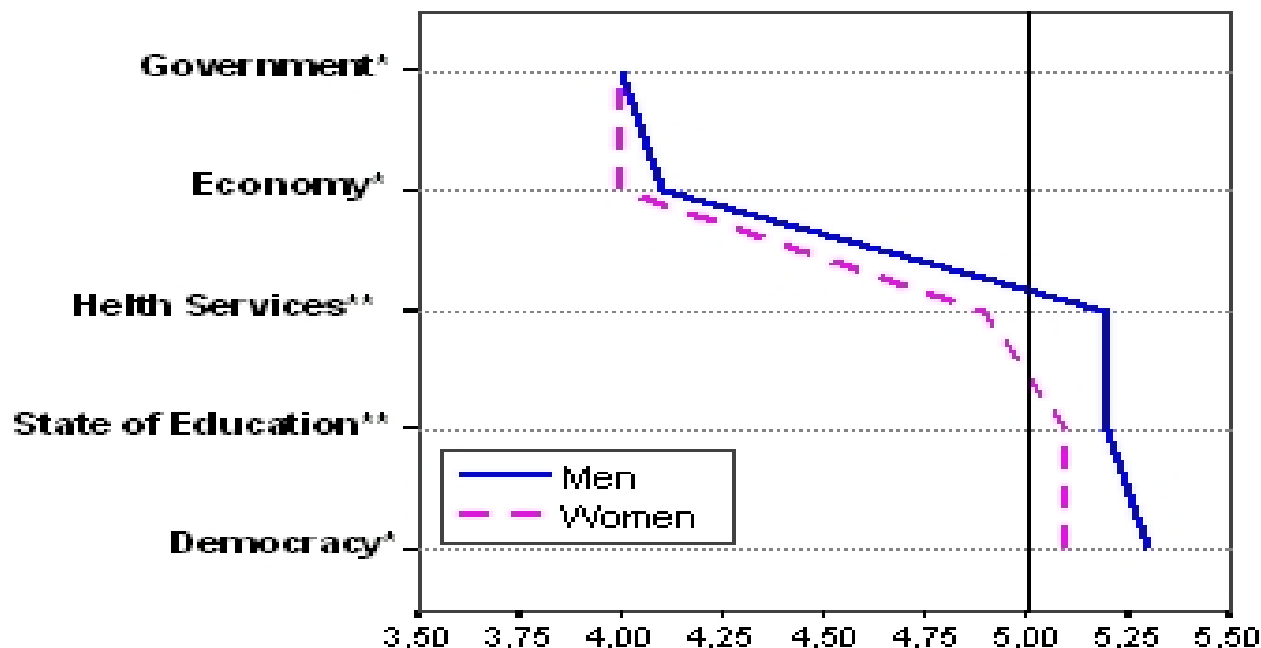
Liberals: Tend to agree with the 1st and to disagree with the 2nd e 3rd

A clusters analysis, based on the 3 indicators, shows that youngest women are the main supporters of state's intervention.

Political satisfaction

Political satisfaction

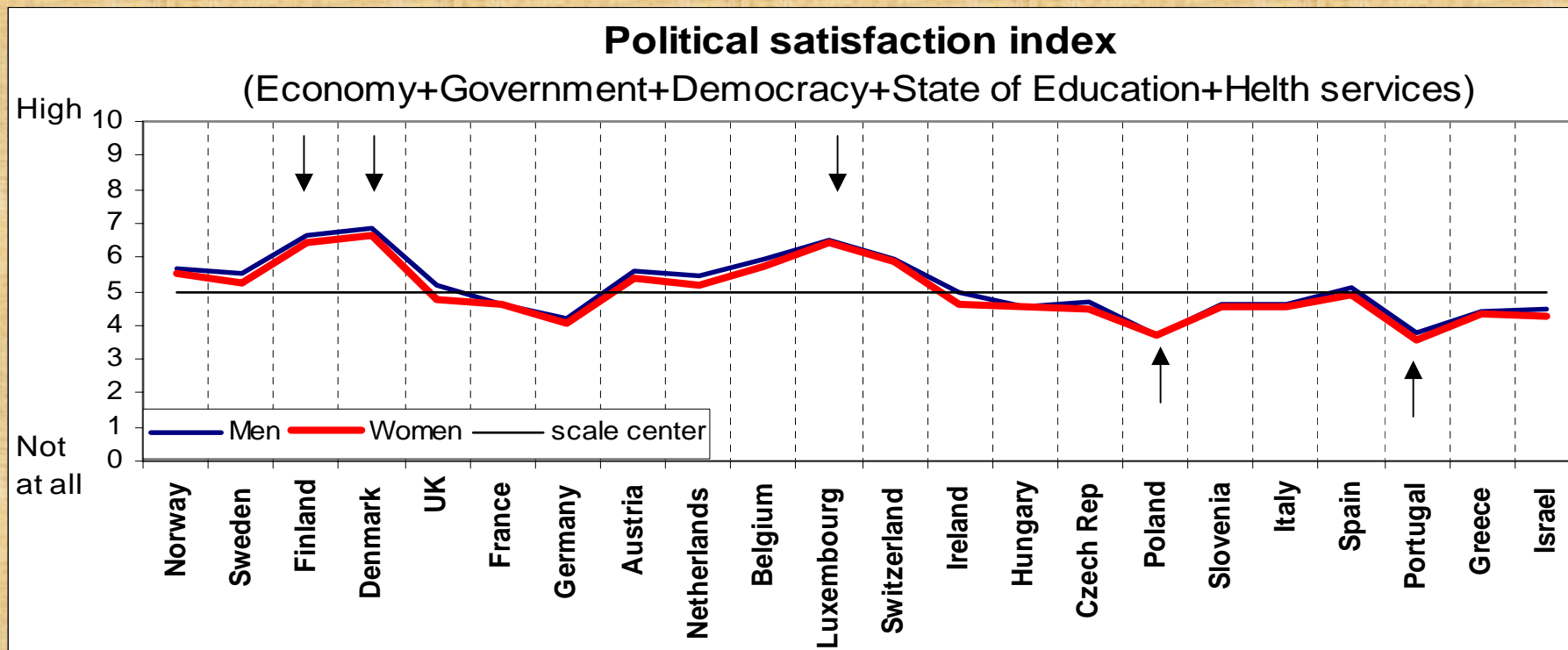
- On the whole how satisfied are you with the present state of the **economy**?
- Now thinking about the **government**, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job?
- And on the whole, how satisfied are you with the way **democracy** works?
- What you think overall about the **state of education** in nowadays?
- What you think overall about the state of **health services** in nowadays?



*Range: 0=extremely dissatisfied; 10=extremely satisfied;

**Range: 0=extremely bad; 10=extremely good

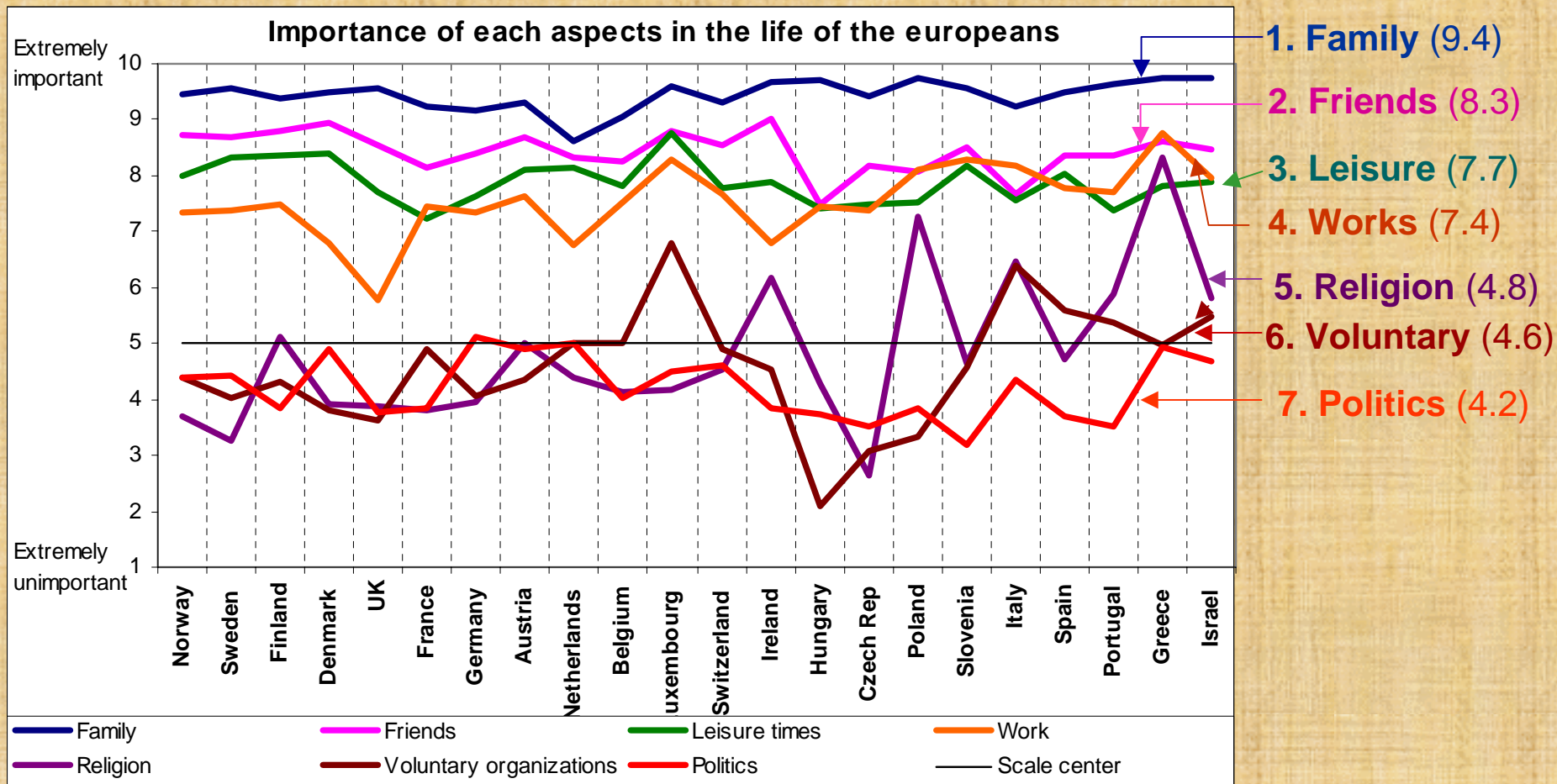
Political satisfaction



The political satisfaction index - five dimensions – shows that the differences between men and women aren't statistically significant in most of the countries, the differences *between* them being much more relevant.

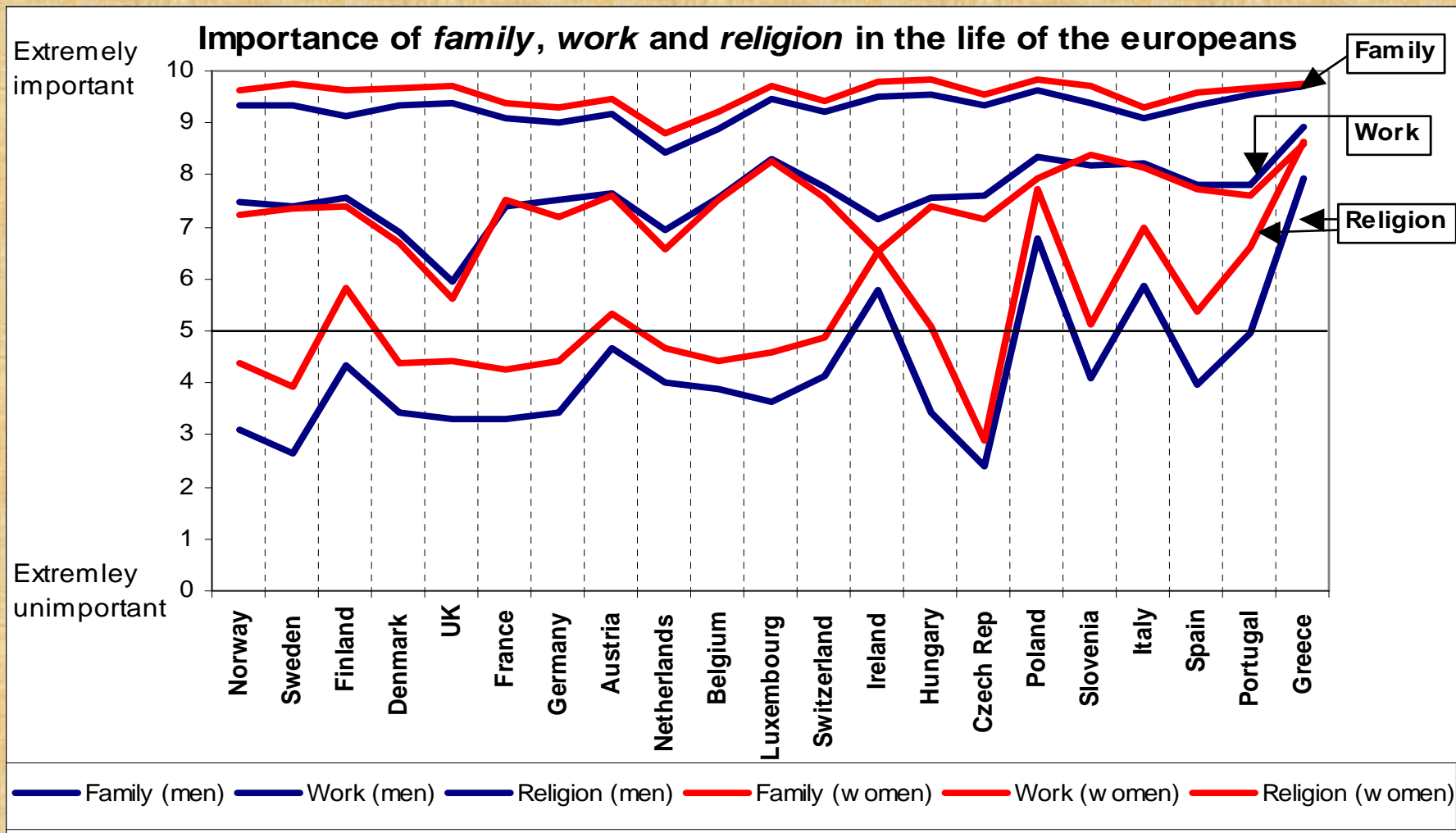
Finland, Denmark and Luxembourg have the highest degree of political satisfaction while Germany, Poland and Portugal register the lowest.

Attitudes and values of the European: a gender perspective on a transversal analysis

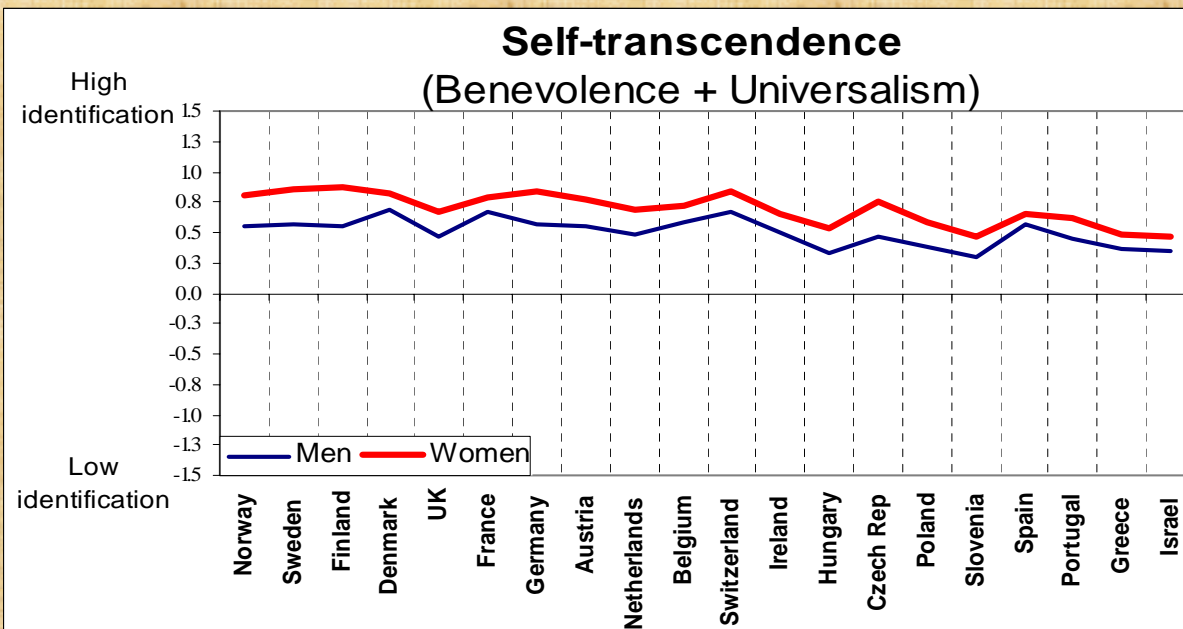


The values associated with emotions and sociability, that is *family*, *friends* and *leisure*, in this order, are the most important issues. *Work* appears in the fourth place, for men as well as for women.

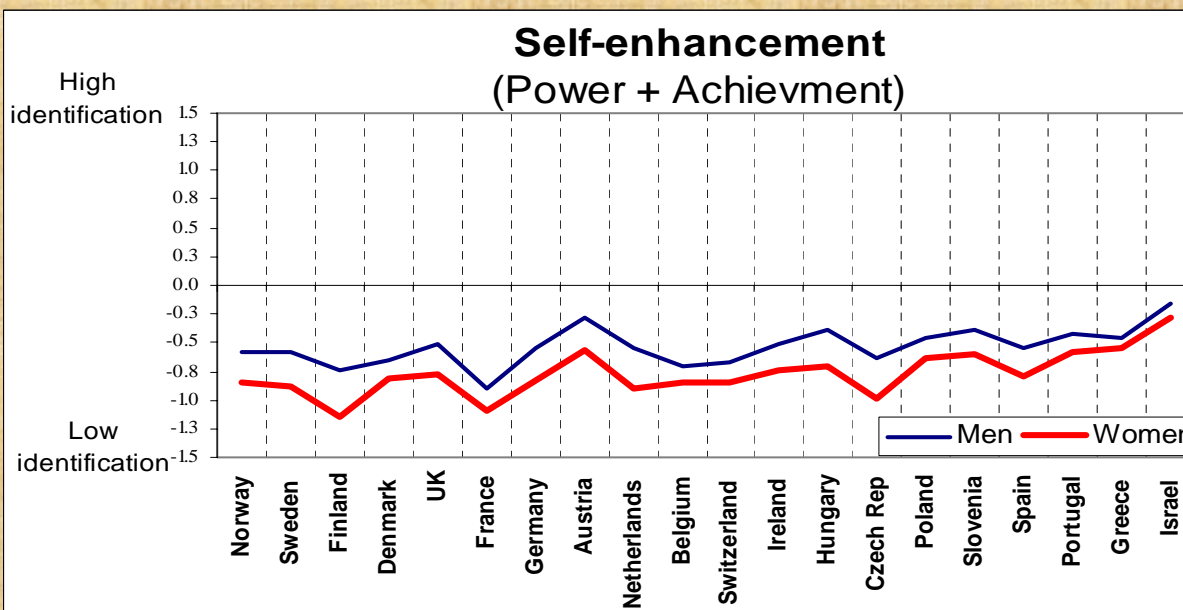
Importance of family, work, friends, leisure, politics, religion and voluntary organizations



Attitudes and values of the European: a gender perspective on a transversal analysis

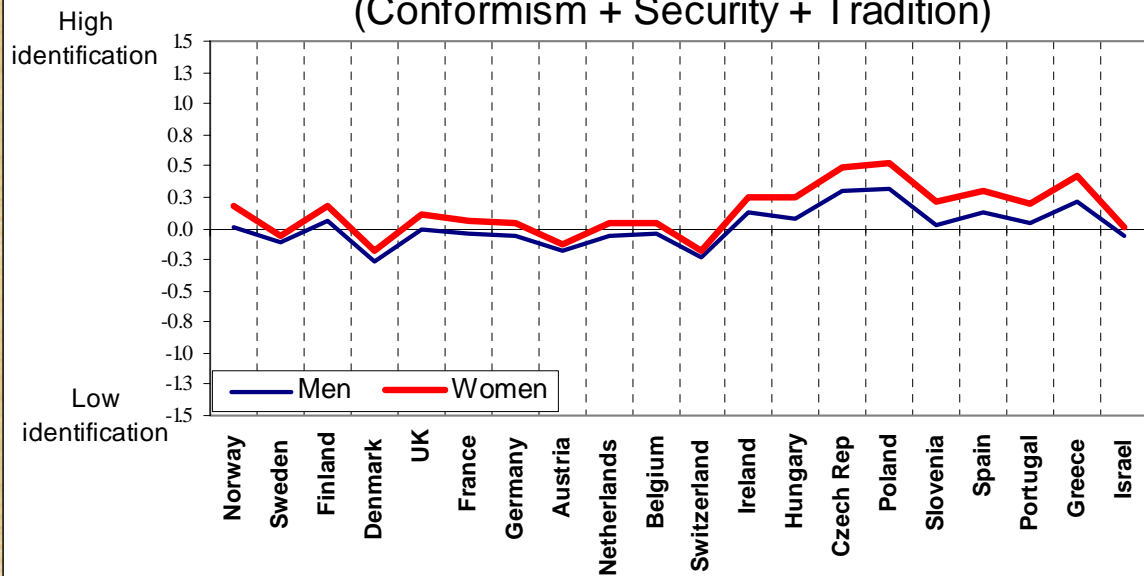


In all countries individuals consider themselves “self-transcendent” - women more than men. Slight decrease of the scores from the Scandinavian countries and of north and central Europe to the eastern and southern countries (with the exception of Spain).



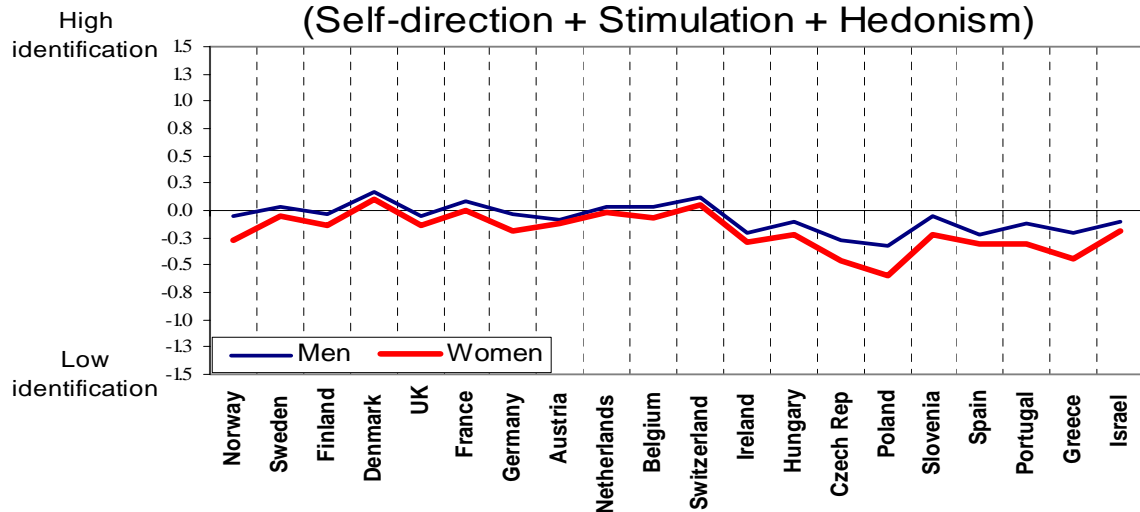
There's no country where the individuals identify positively with “self-enhancement” – women even less than men. Slight increase of the scores from the Scandinavian countries and of north and central Europe to the eastern and southern countries.

Conservation (Conformism + Security + Tradition)



About “conservation” choices are mainly around the centre of the scale assuming positive values only in the eastern and in southern Europe where women are also more conservative than men.

Openness to change (Self-direction + Stimulation + Hedonism)



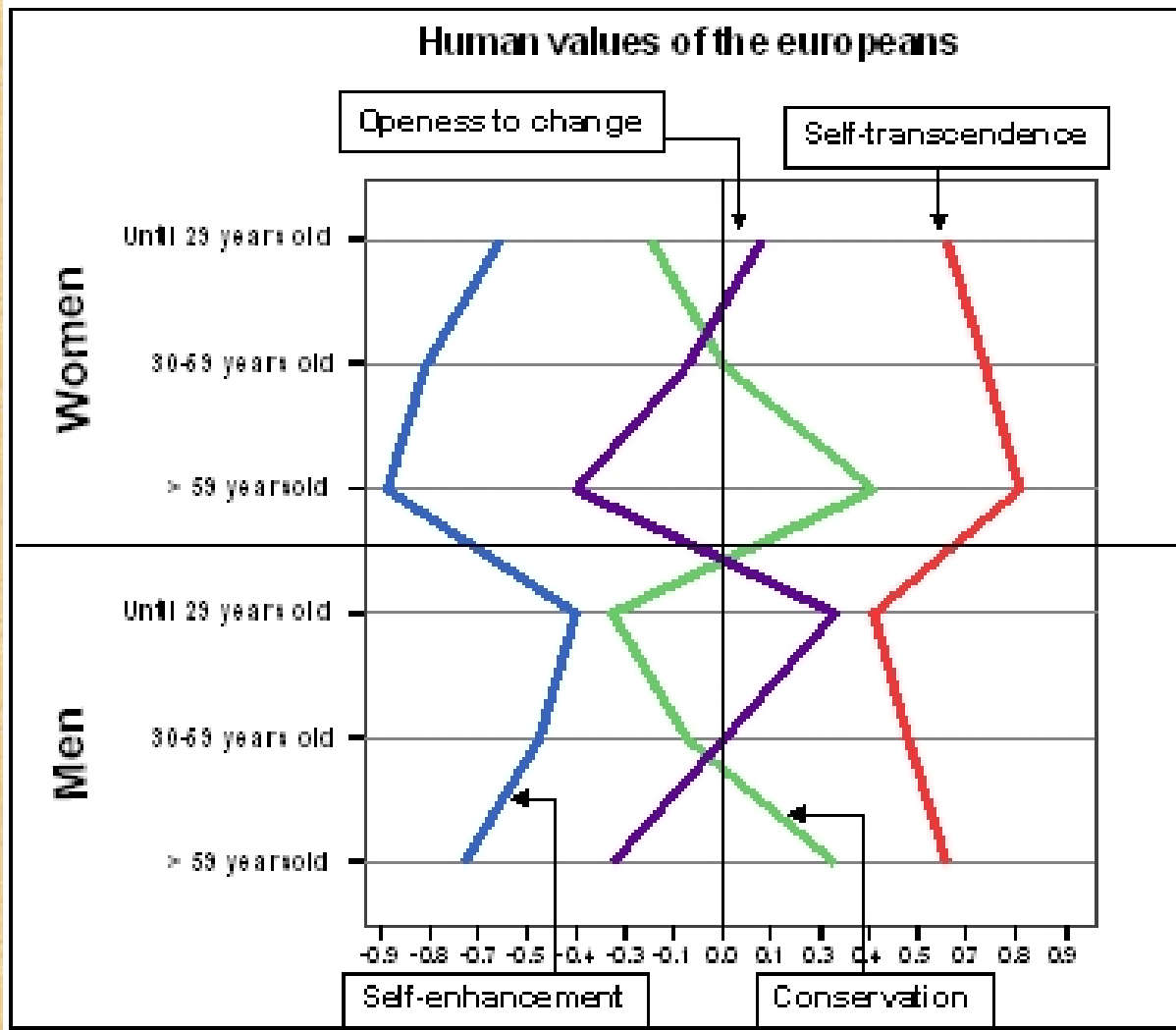
About “openness to change” individuals position themselves also around the centre of the scale in the majority of the countries. Denmark and Switzerland are the “more open” countries and eastern and the south the least. Men are, in all the countries, more open to change than women.

Human values of the europeans

Europeans see themselves as supporters of values that stress the help to others and the loyalty to friends (benevolence), and give importance to the equality of opportunities, the respect for difference and the harmony with nature (universalism).

They give less importance to wealth and to influence other persons (power), as well as to have success, or to be well admired and recognized by the others (achievement).

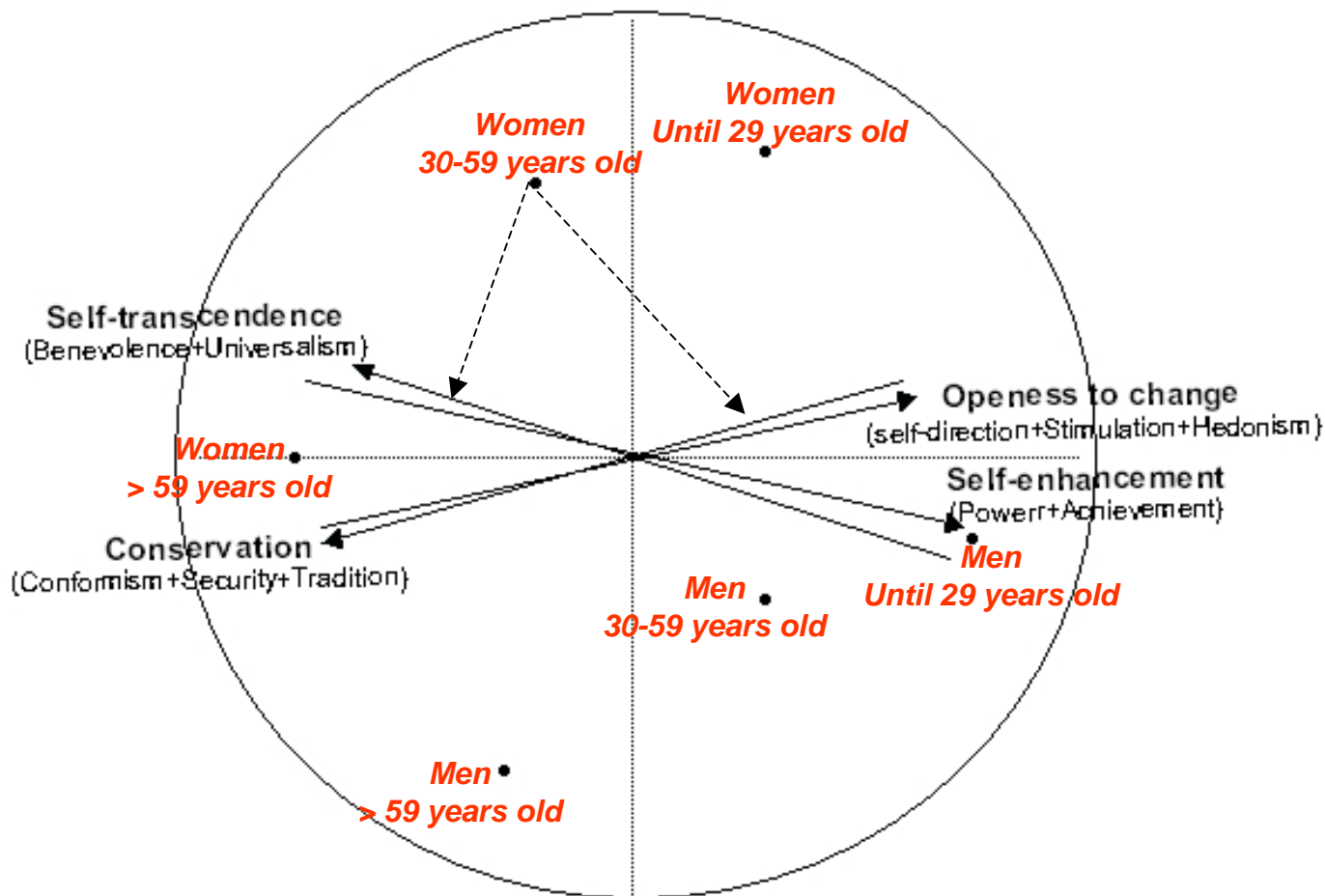
Women tend to be more self-transcendent and even less “self-enhanced” than men, more for conservation and less opened to change. But...



The “*openness to change*” seems now to be more associated with youngest men and women (until to 29 years old), while the “*conservation*”, of which women were more close to, appears now more associated with older men and women (> 59 years old).

“*Self-transcendence*” (more relevant for both men and women) and “*self-enhancement*” (less relevant for men and women) are respectively more associated with oldest women in the first case and with the youngest men in the second.

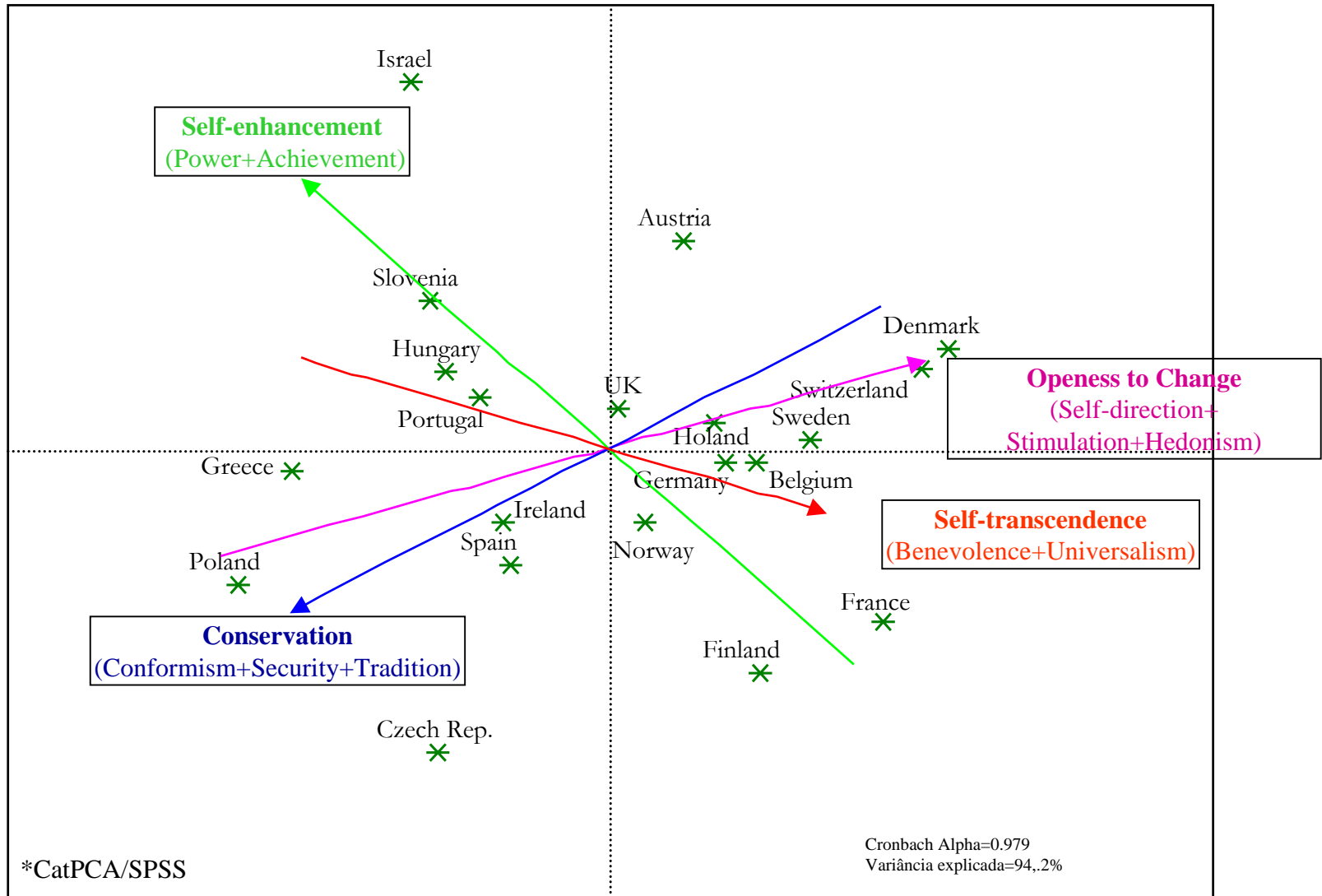
Human values of the europeans*



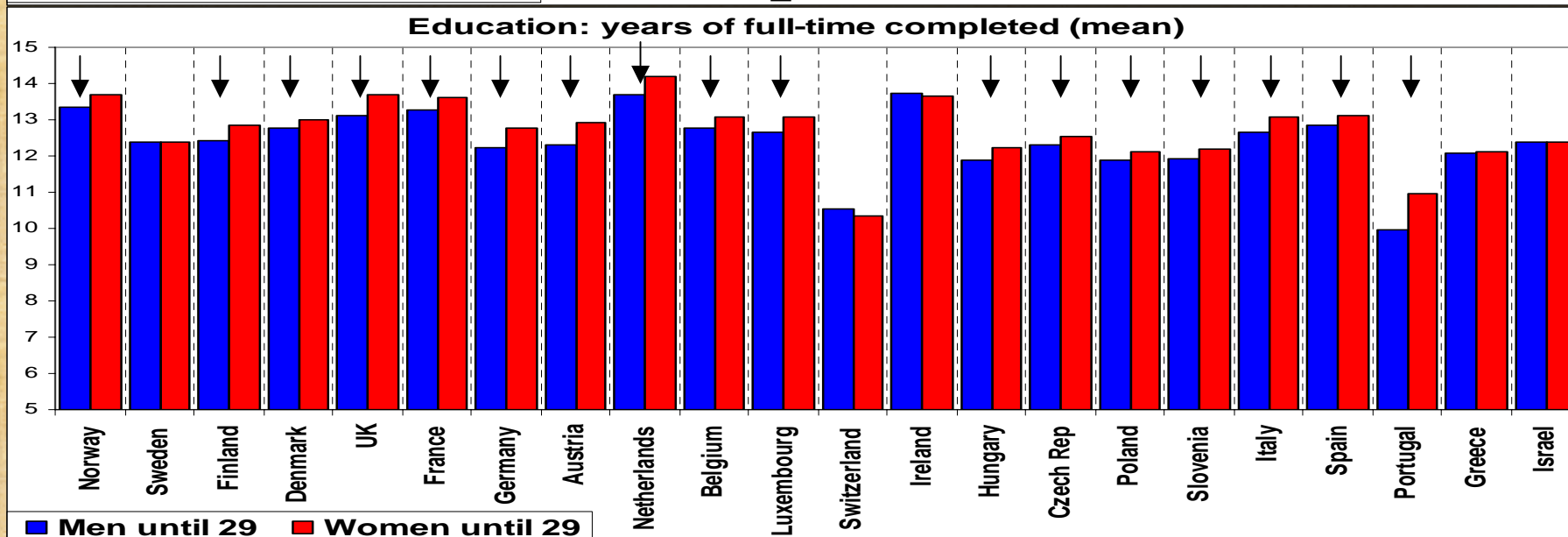
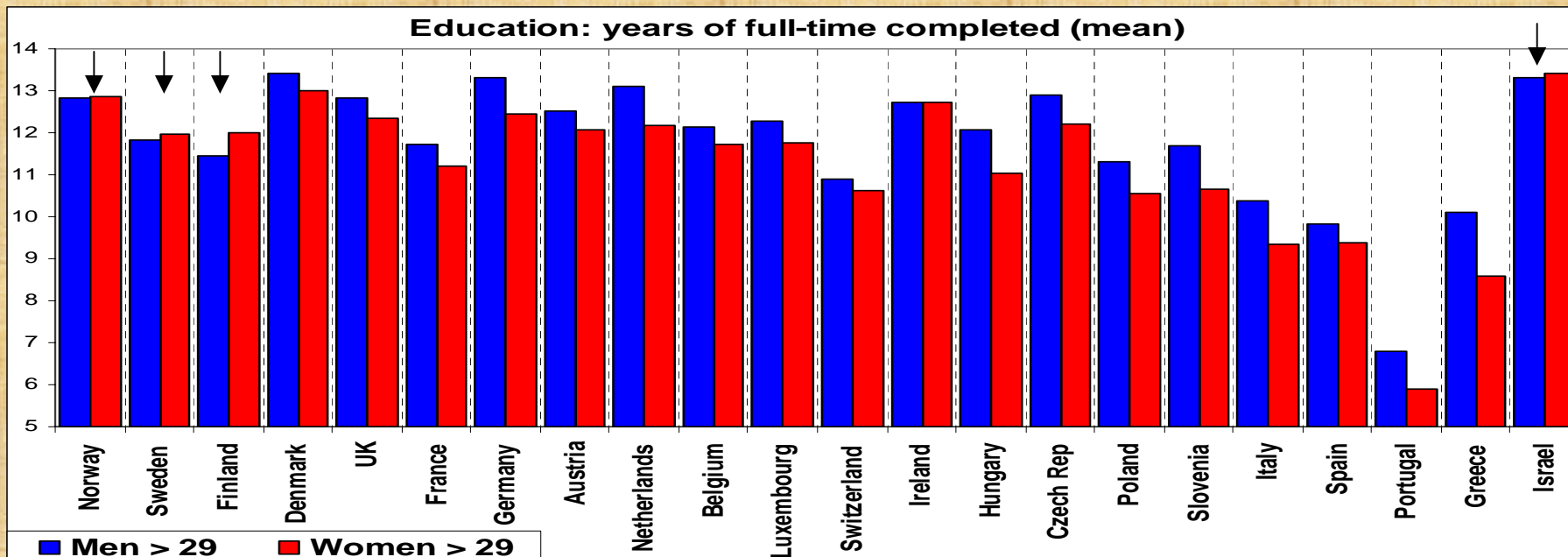
Legend: The position of the categories, in relation with values, is obtained by drawing a perpendicular to each vector, imagining the position of the category in the respective intersection area. See, for instance, women 30-59 years old are much more close to **Self-transcendence** and distant from **Conservation**. The closest to the arrow the higher is the agreement with the value.

*SPSS/CatPCA. Cronbach Alpha = 0.999; Explained variance=99,56%

Human values of the Europeans*



Attitudes and values of the European: a gender perspective on a transversal analysis



Conclusions

As great groups...

• Differences

- Men read more newspapers
- Women are more distant from politics (specially in terms of interest and participation);
- Women are more for the left, more religious, more self-transcendent and more for conservation.

• Similarities

- Watching TV
- Social Trust
- Political Trust
- Political Satisfaction
- Well being and Satisfaction with life
- Importance given to Family, to Work and Friends
- Positions towards immigration

And differences within men and women are greater than the differences between them...