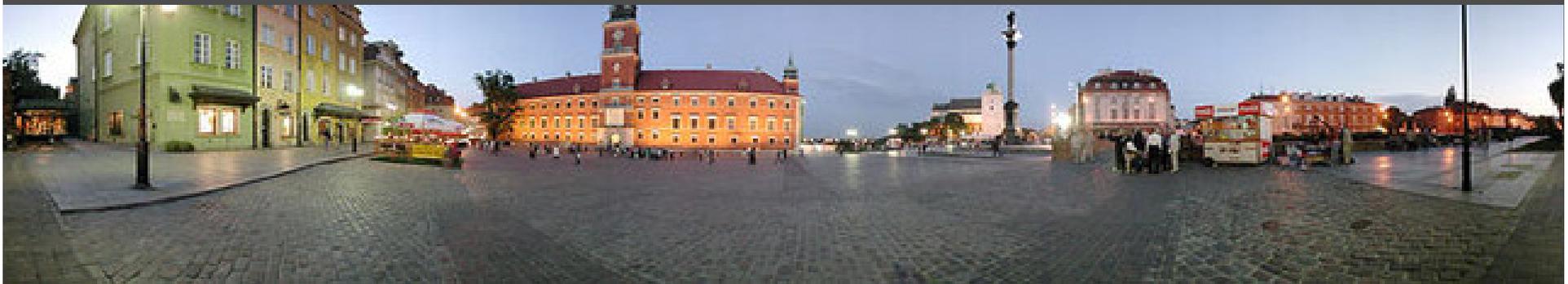


**III ESRA International Conference
29 June - 3 July 2009 | Warsaw**

**Event Data Analysis: relating events with
respondent's attitudes in the three ESS' rounds**

Anália Torres, Rui Brites and Paula Jerónimo

**Session:
Media-reported events: the context of surveys
Coordinator:
Ineke Stoop**



- We are relating major events (international and national) reported on the news with respondent's answers from the three ESS rounds (2002, 2004, 2006).
- For some events, we will focus our attention also in events occurring in 2006 relating them to answers before, during and after the news.
- Accounting for some debates occurring in Portugal in 2008 we will try to advance some possible effects on respondent's opinions for round 4.
- We discuss also the capability of relating the effect of headline news on ESS answers. Are our indicators able to capture event effects?

Selected Events

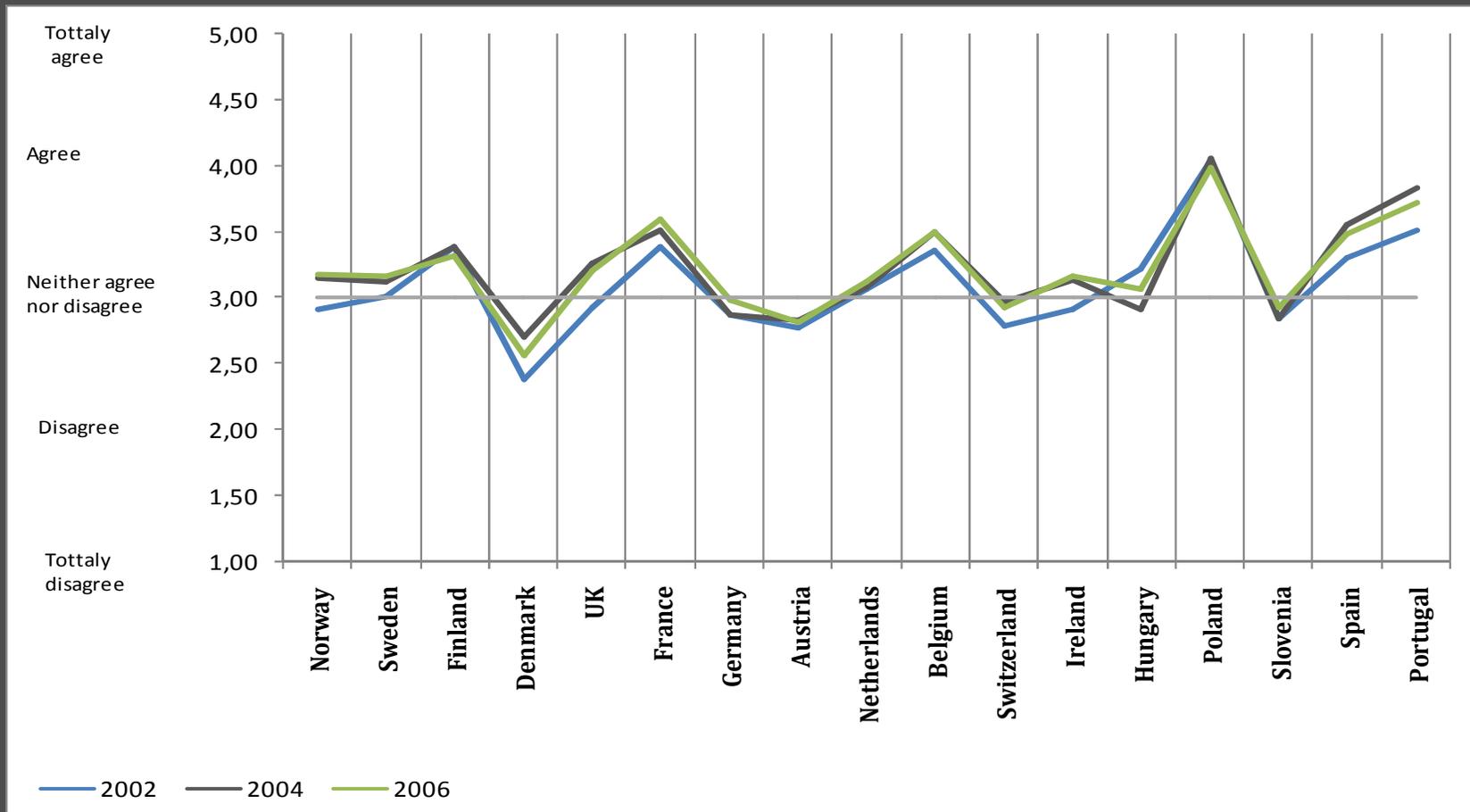
- **International level**

- Big climate changes (2006)
- Debate on Turkey's accession to the EU (2006)

Influence of the news:

- Big climate changes (2006)

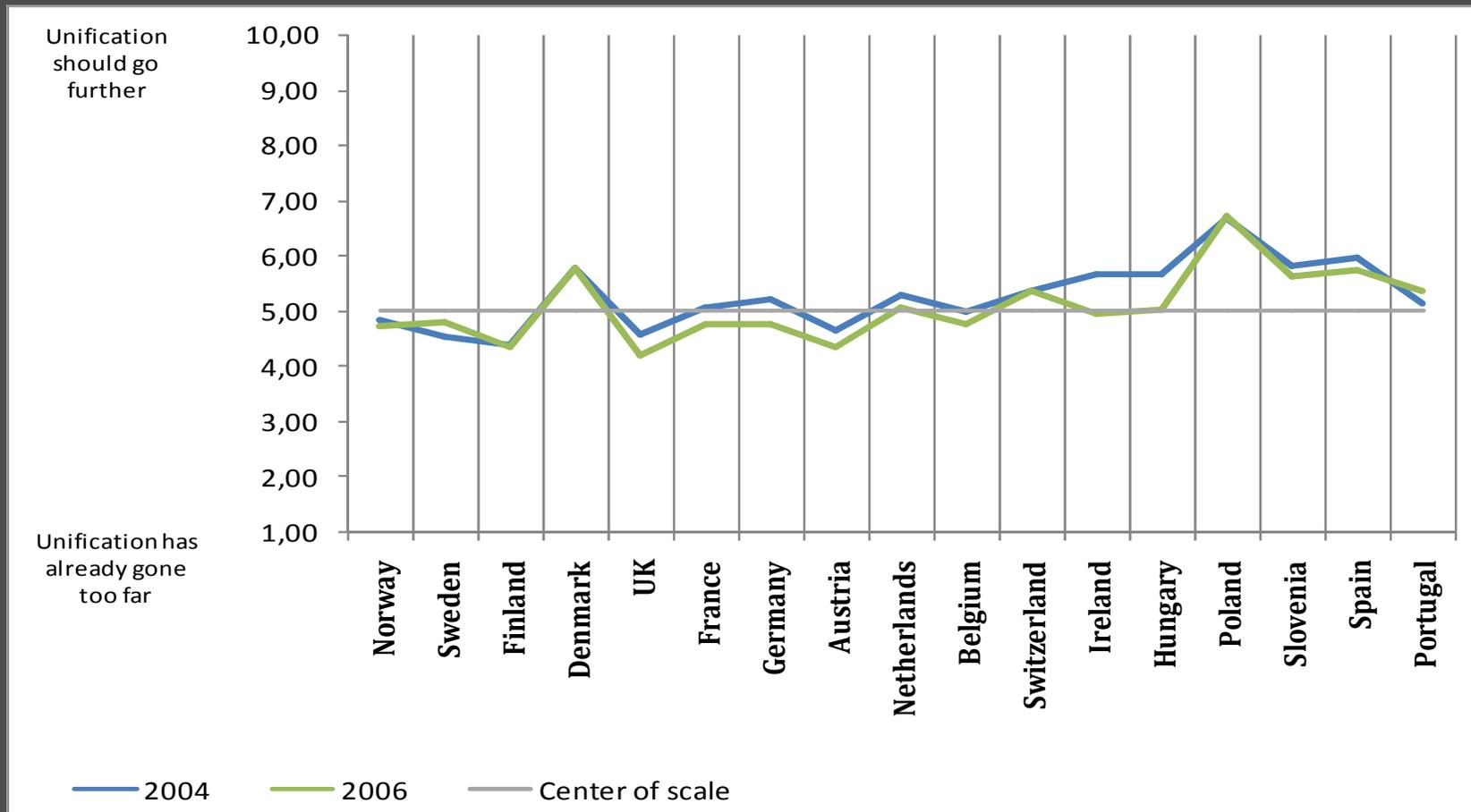
“Modern science can be relied on to solve our environmental problems”



Influence of the news:

- Debate on Turkey's accession to the EU (2006)

“Now thinking about European Union...”



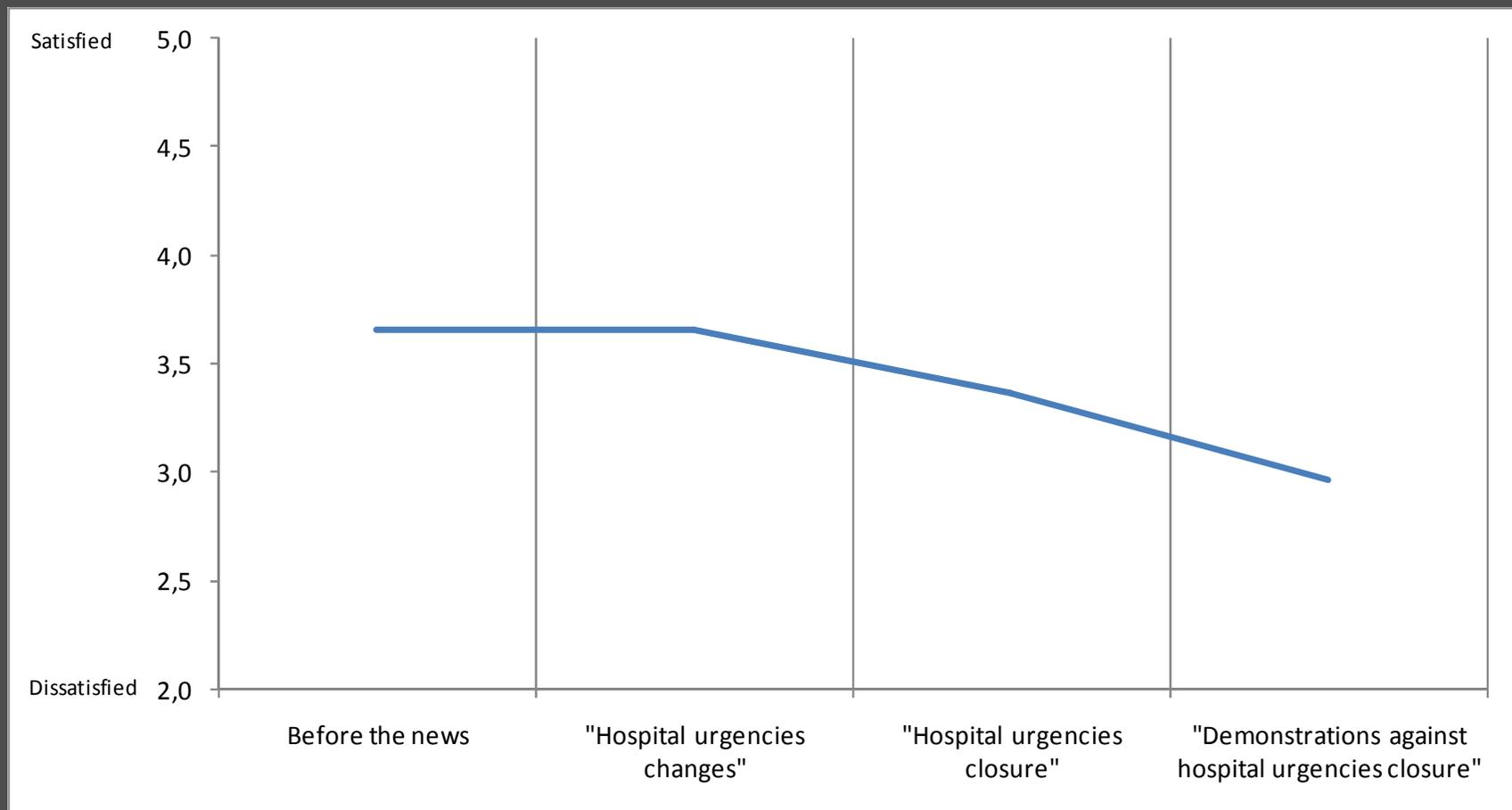
Selected Events

▪ **National level – Portugal - 2006**

- Health: new emergencies services
- Primary schools later closure
- Public administration strikes
- Big protests against the Government, the Ministries of Education and of Health

Survey answers collected before, during and after the news event report (attention methodological precaution...)

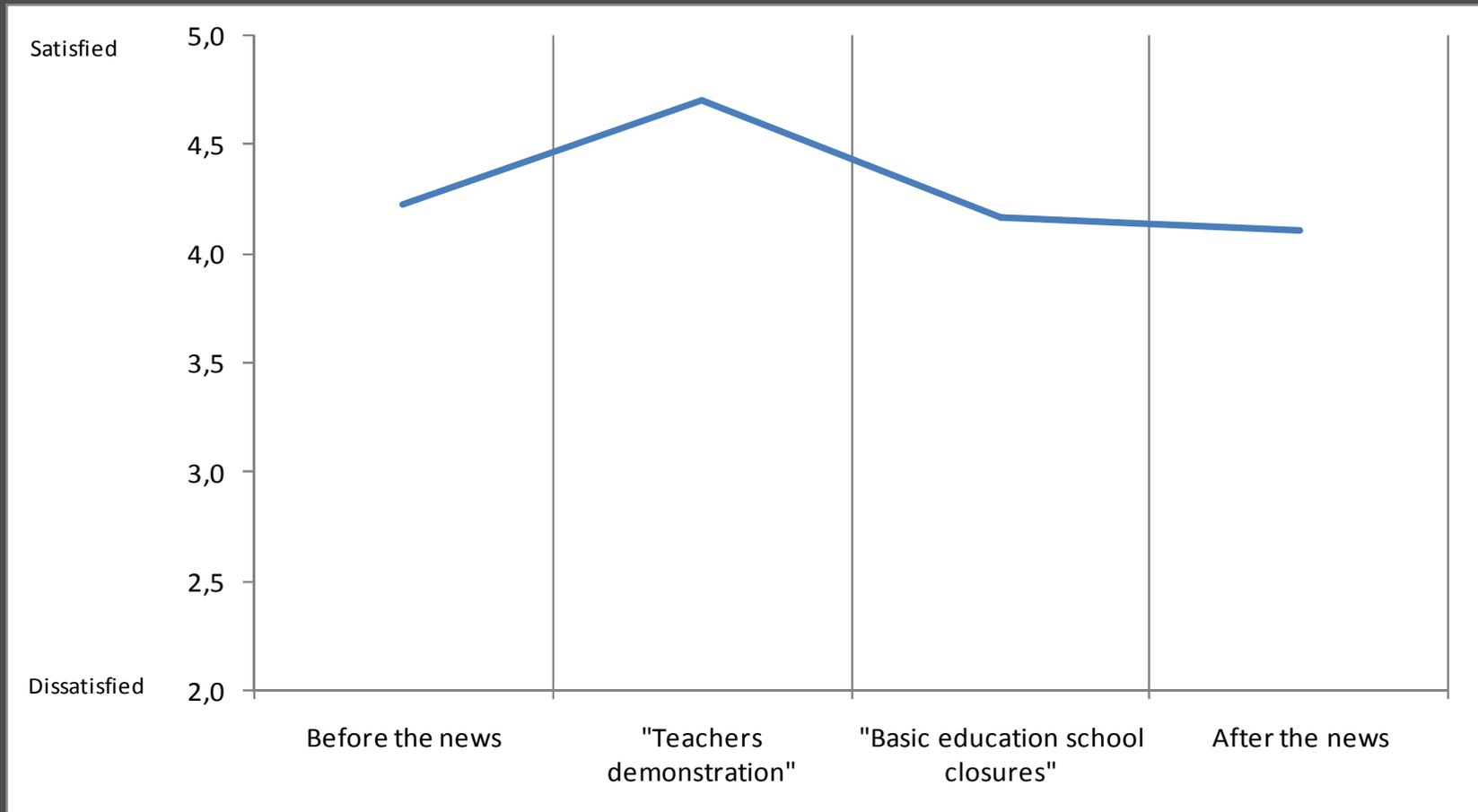
*"Please say what you think overall about the state of health services nowadays?"**



* $p < 0,01$

Scale: 0= Extremmely dissatisfied, 10= Extremmely satisfeid

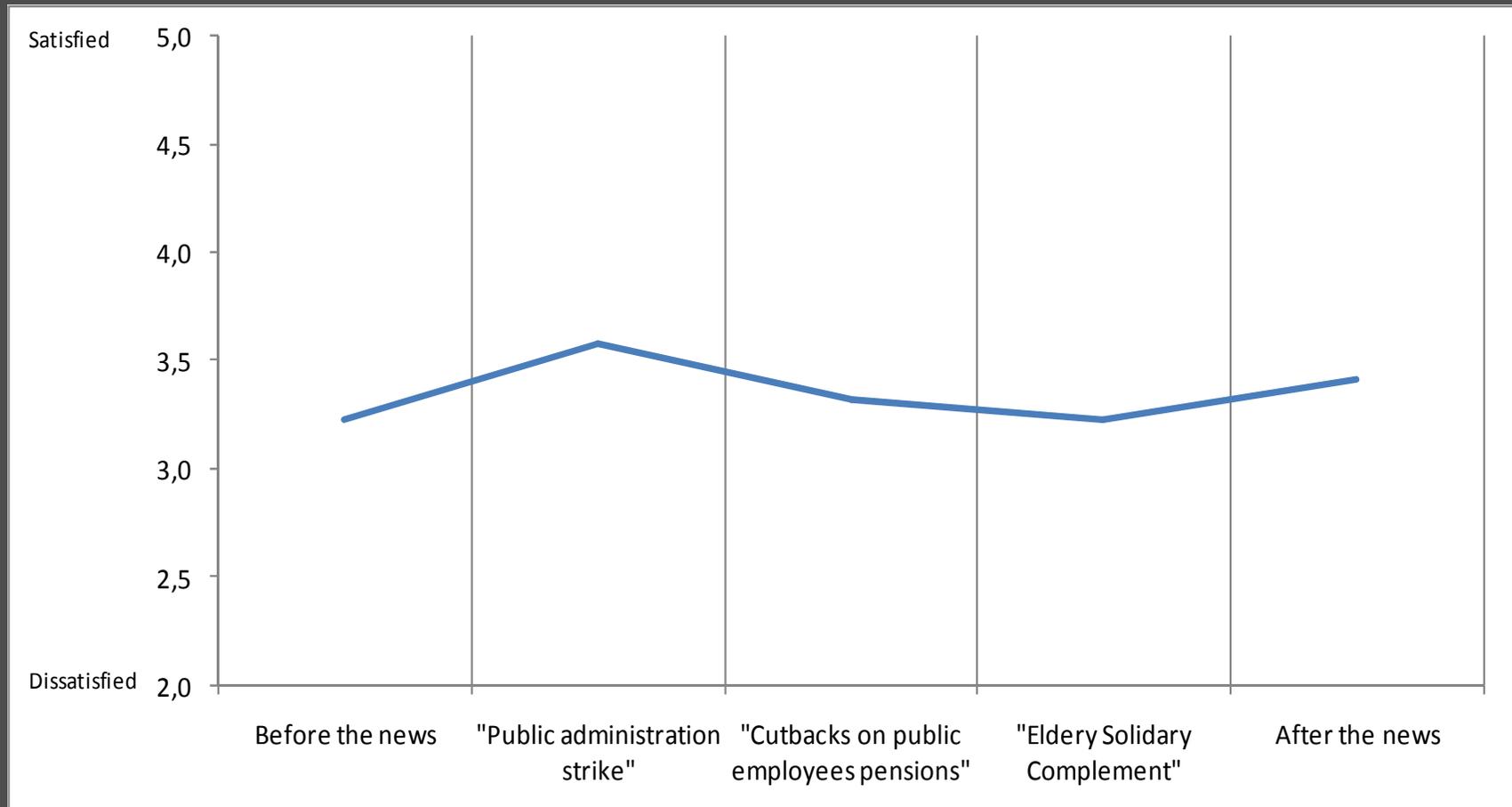
*“Please say what you think overall about the state of education nowadays?”**



* $p < 0,01$

Scale: 0= Extremmely dissatisfied, 10= Extremmely satisfeid

*“Now thinking about Portuguese government, how satisfied are you with the way it is doing its job?”**



* ns.

Scale: 0= Extremmely dissatisfied, 10= Extremmely satisfeid

Before, during and after Elections for national Parliament in Portugal....

- **2002** – Parliament elections.

Prime Minister elected: Durão Barroso (Social Democratic Party)

- **2004 (June)** – Prime Minister resignation (assumed the presidency of European Commission)

- Santana Lopes – Prime Minister

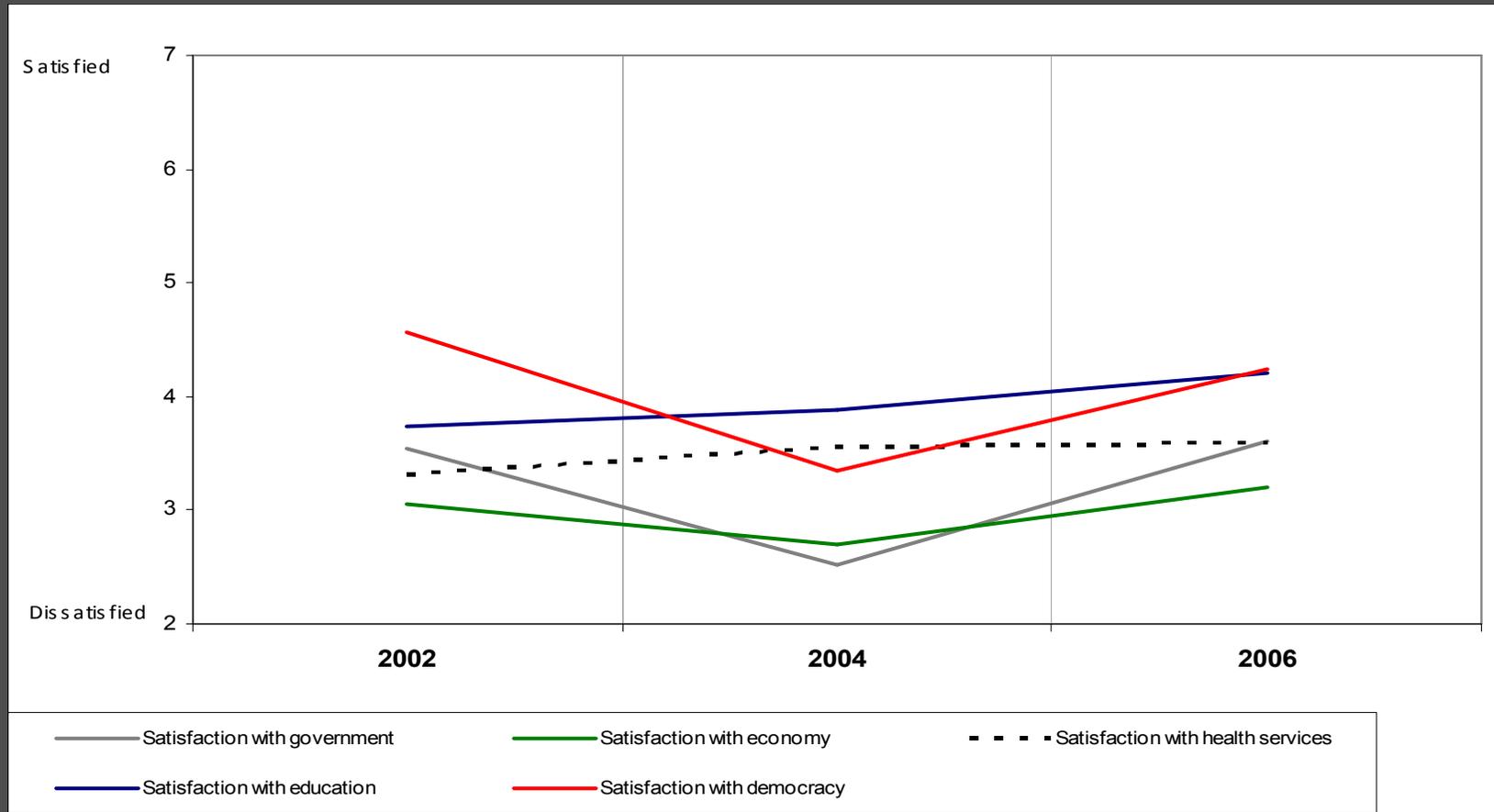
- **2004 (December)** – Parliament dissolution

- **2005** – Parliament elections

- Prime Minister elected – José Sócrates (Socialist Party)

- **2009** – New elections...

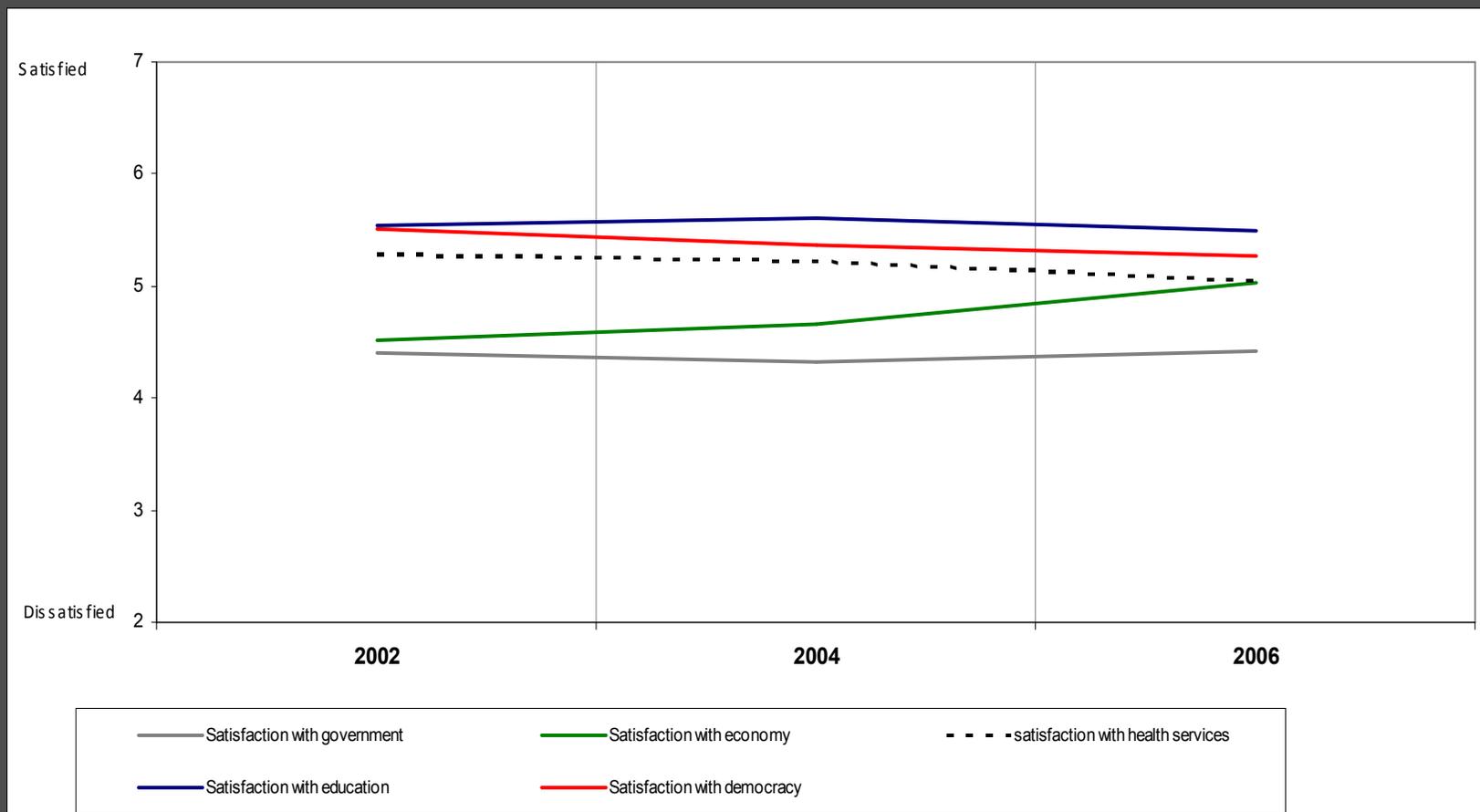
Satisfaction with government, economy, health services, education and democracy - Portugal (means)



Scale: 0= Extremmely dissatisfied, 10= Extremmely satisfeid

Satisfaction with government, economy, health services, education and democracy (17 countries)

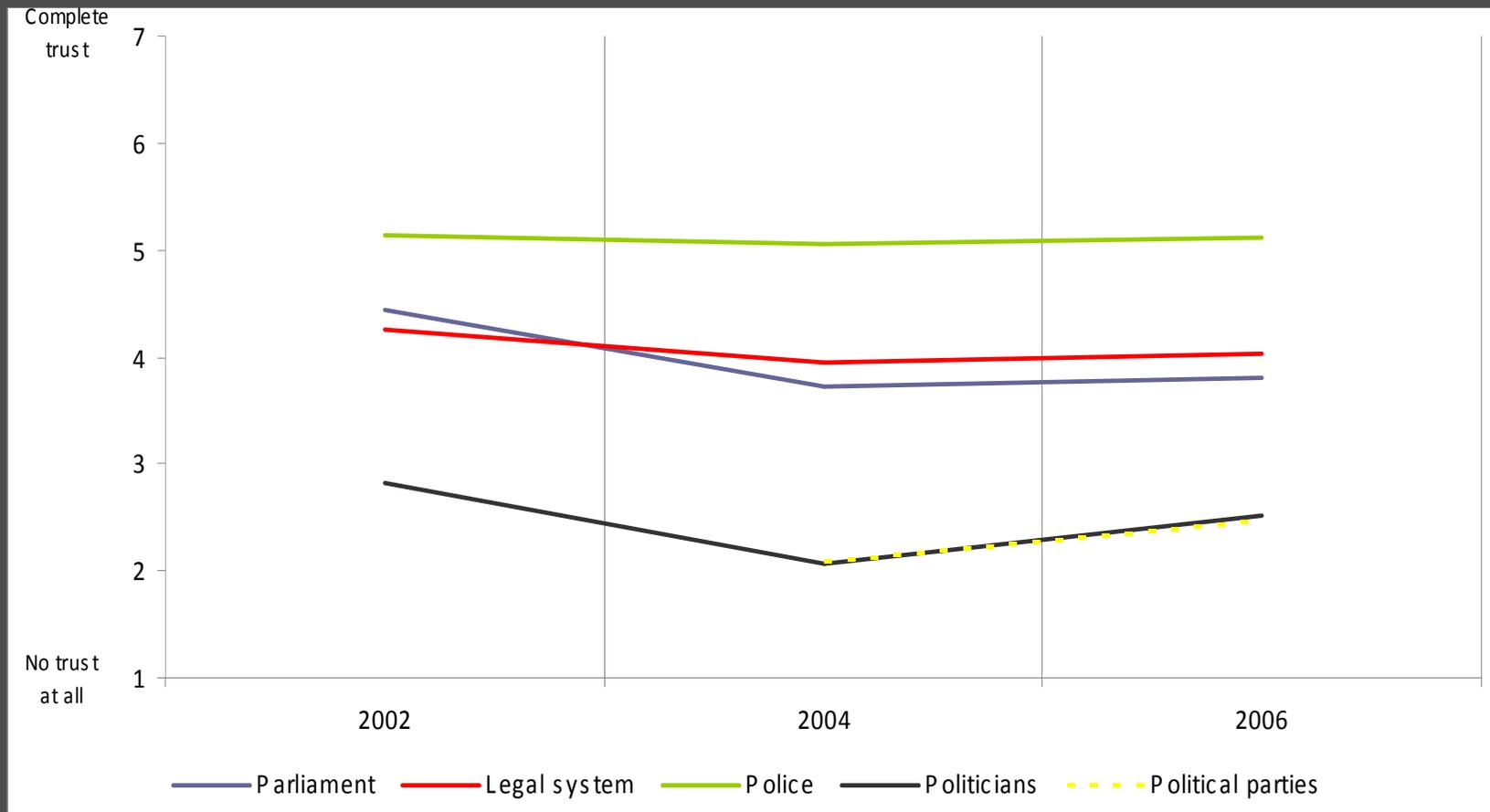
(means)



Scale: 0= Extremmely dissatisfied, 10= Extremmely satisfeid

Trust in Institutions - Portugal

(means)



Scale: 0= No trust at all, 10= Complete trust

Main events in 2008

▪ **International level**

- Financial crisis
- Rising unemployment
- Barack Obama election
- Russia stops gas supply

▪ **National level – Portugal**

- New divorce law
- Debate about homosexual marriage's
- Rising crime
- Teachers evaluation
- Freeport process
- Increase in fuel prices

What might we expect from ESS data round 4?

■ **International level**

- Effects on the opinion about the European unification
- Impact of economic crisis on answers mainly related to economical issues (module B , satisfaction and trust in economy and institution) and module D, welfare state)

■ **National level – Portugal**

- Effects on the satisfaction with government performance, democracy, economy, education and health services
- Effects on the trust in parliament, political parties, politicians and legal system
- Effects on the opinion about security

Final Remarks

- **Assessing event effects on attitudes' and opinions' answers to ESS questionnaires is rather difficult.**
 - **Some of the reported media events have intense effects on the answers. This was clearly the case for Portugal where there were two parliamentary elections between 2002 and 2006. Changes also in main welfare institutions (Health, Education)**
 - **Some events may have effects only for a short period. Other effects have cumulative effects (ex. Climate changes, economic crisis) .**
 - **Accounting for change in specific periods we have to take into consideration sample effects.**
 - **Some events tend to forget easily. Nevertheless, collecting event data maybe useful also to account for the volatility of part of those effects.**