



“Toolbox for Improving the Comparability of Cross-National Survey Data with Applications to SHARE”

**Specific Targeted Research Project
no. 028857**

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Overview

Goals of COMPARE:

- Data collection
- Models and analysis

Some Results:

- Income Satisfaction
- Political efficacy
- Satisfaction with main activity
- Health
- Health care responsiveness

Main Project Features

Goal: Enhancing cross-country comparability of subjective measures of well-being using anchoring vignettes

Data collection:

- SHARE 2006-2007 (representative for the 50+ population)
- 10 Countries:
 - Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden
- Same data collected in Denmark funded through NIA

Analysis:

- Comparisons of measures of well-being, corrected for differences in response styles (using econometric models and “counterfactuals”)
- Longitudinal analysis comparing with similar data collected in 2004

Project deliverables

- Public web site www.compare-project.org
- Vignettes Questionnaire
- State of the art report
- Data collection (completed 1 October 2007)
- Preliminary release of the data made available for research (January 2008)
- Public pre-release of the data (September 2008)
- Final policy conference (September 2008)
- First public release of the data (November 28, 2008)
- Final report (December 2008)

Domains of well-being

Also in 2004 (for longitudinal analysis):

- Health in six dimensions (mobility, pain, sleep, breathing, cognition, depression)
- Work disability (with vignettes on pain, heart problems, depression)

New:

- Satisfaction with:
 - household income
 - job or daily activities
 - Social contacts and family relations
- Health care responsiveness (Waiting times, quality of facilities, communication)
- Political efficacy
- Satisfaction with life in general

Example: Satisfaction with Social Contacts (Family, Friends, etc)

Self-assessment:

How satisfied are you with your social contacts (with family, friends, etc.)?

**Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Nor satisfied, neither dissatisfied/
Satisfied/ Very satisfied**

Vignette 1:

Katie is single, but gets on well with her relatives and has a large circle of friends. They often go out together to attend sporting events or to have a meal. How satisfied do you think Katie is with her social contacts (family, friends, etc.)?

**Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Nor satisfied, neither dissatisfied/ Satisfied/
Very satisfied**

Example: Satisfaction with Social Contacts (Family, Friends, etc)

Vignette 2:

Tom has been married for many years. Lately he has spent little time with his wife and they have been quarrelling more. They seem to prefer spending time with others rather than with each other. Both of them have many friends. How satisfied do you think Tom is with his social contacts (family, friends, etc.)?

Very dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Nor satisfied, neither dissatisfied

Satisfied

Very satisfied

How Do Vignettes Work?

Very satisfied



← Katie 1

← Tom 1

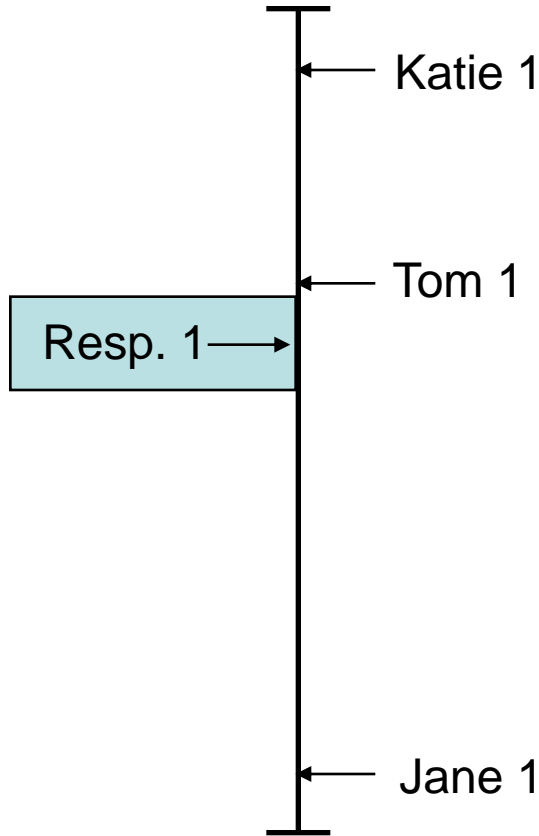
Resp. 1 →

← Jane 1

Very dissatisfied

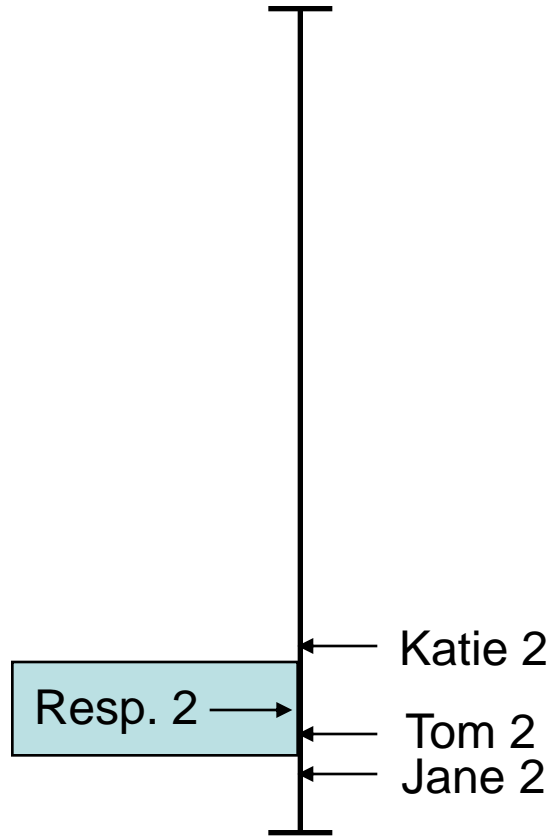
How Do Vignettes Work?

Very satisfied



Very dissatisfied

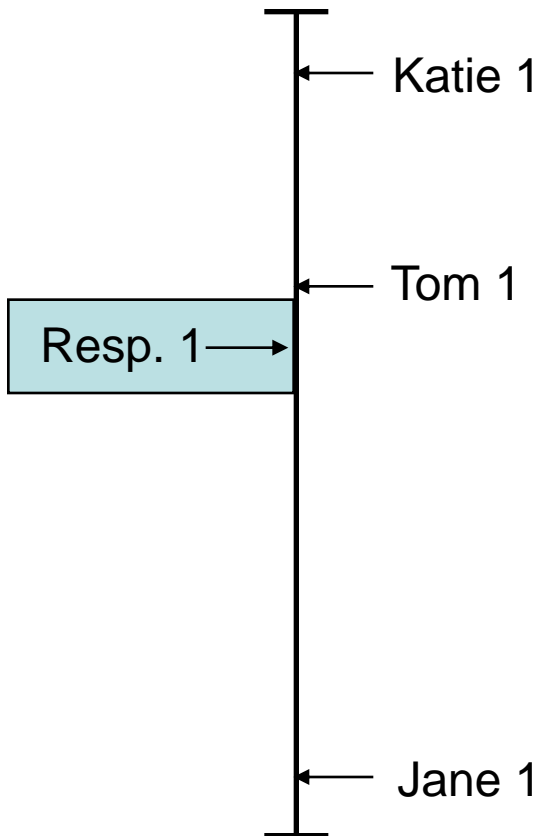
Very satisfied



Very dissatisfied

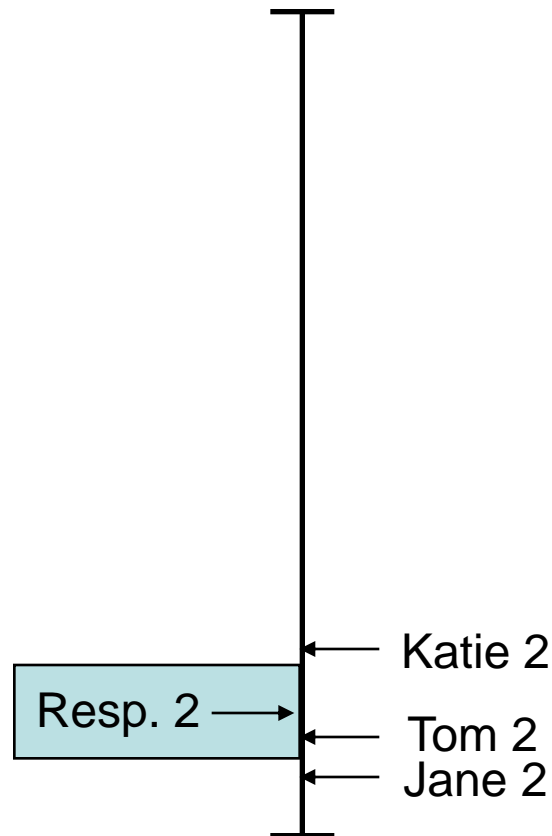
How Do Vignettes Work?

Very satisfied



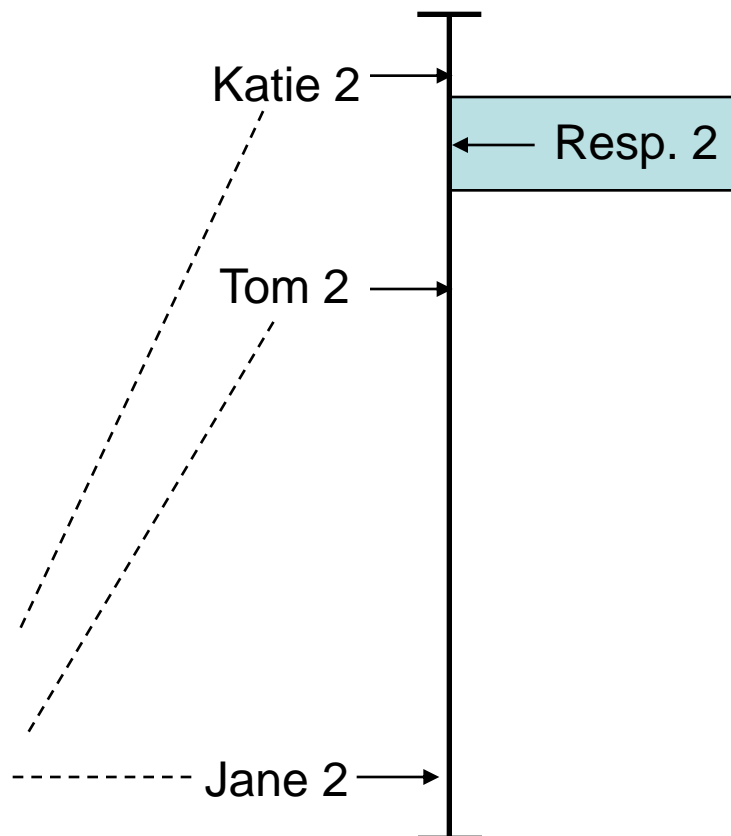
Very dissatisfied

Very satisfied



Very dissatisfied

Very satisfied



Very dissatisfied

Common framework: Hopit model

- One model for each domain or sub-domain (i.e., for each self-assessment)
- Ordered response equation for self-assessments



- Ordered response equations for vignette assessments
- Common thresholds In all these equations
- Thresholds vary with individual characteristics and across countries

Model: Self-reports in one domain or global self-reports

$$Y_i^* = X_i \beta + \varepsilon_i ; \varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2),$$

ε_i independent of X_i

$$Y_i = j \text{ if } \tau_i^{j-1} < Y_i^* \leq \tau_i^j, \quad j = 1, \dots, 5$$

Model: Thresholds

$$\tau_i^0 = -\infty, \quad \tau_i^5 = \infty, \quad \tau_i^1 = \gamma^1 X_i + \eta_i,$$

$\eta_i \sim N(0, \sigma_\eta^2)$, indep. of everything else

$$\tau_i^j = \tau_i^{j-1} + \exp(\gamma^j X_i), \quad j = 2, 3, 4$$

Model: Vignettes $l=1,\dots,L$

$$Y_{li}^* = \theta_l + \theta_{fem} \text{Female}_{li} + \varepsilon_{li}$$

$\varepsilon_{li} \sim N(0, \sigma_v^2)$ independent of each other,
of ε_i , η_i , and of X_i

$$Y_{li} = j \text{ if } \tau_i^{j-1} < Y_{li}^* \leq \tau_i^j, \quad j = 1, \dots, 5$$

Questions Addressed in the Analysis

- Which characteristics drive self-assessments and thresholds?
- What are the differences across countries?
- What would self-assessments in all countries look like if all countries used the same thresholds, for example the German thresholds? (“counterfactuals”)

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- Satisfaction with main activity
- Health
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Satisfaction with job and income among older individuals across European countries

**Eric Bonsang, ROA, Maastricht University;
CREPP, University of Liège**

Arthur van Soest, Netspar & Tilburg University

Satisfaction with income:

How satisfied are you with the total income of your household?

**Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Nor satisfied,neither dissatisfied/
Satisfied/ Very satisfied**

Vignette 1:

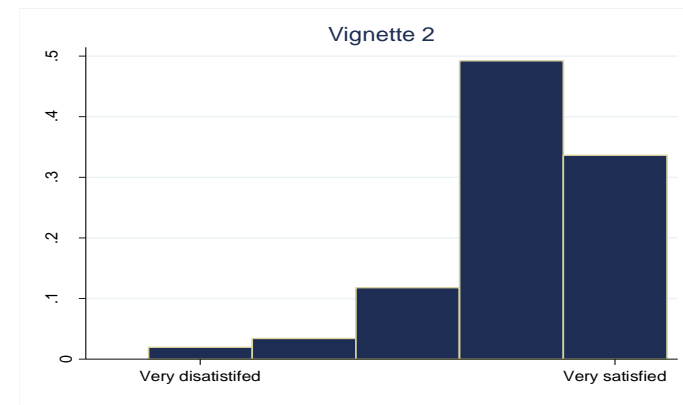
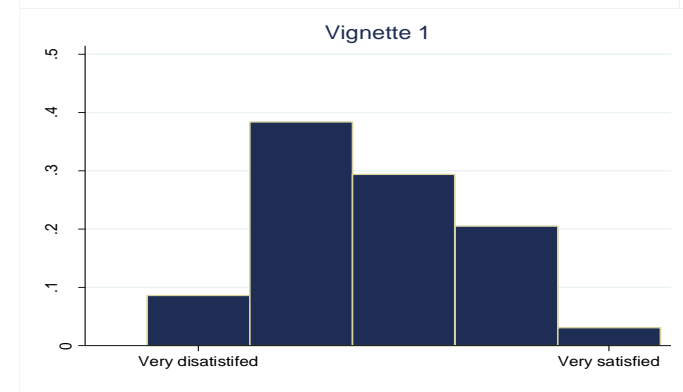
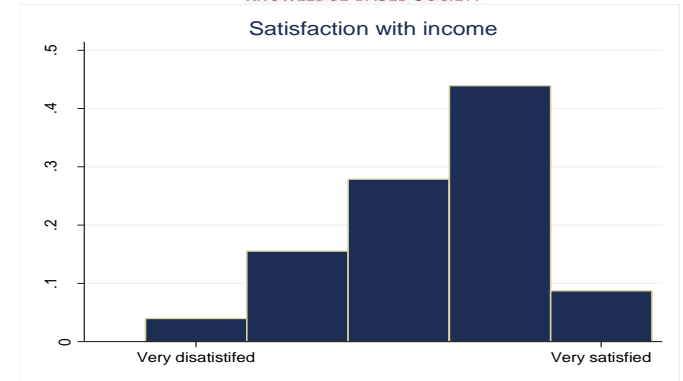
Jim is married and has two children; the total after tax household income of his family is €1,700 per month. How satisfied do you think Jim is with the total income of his household?

**Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Nor satisfied,neither dissatisfied/
Satisfied/ Very satisfied**

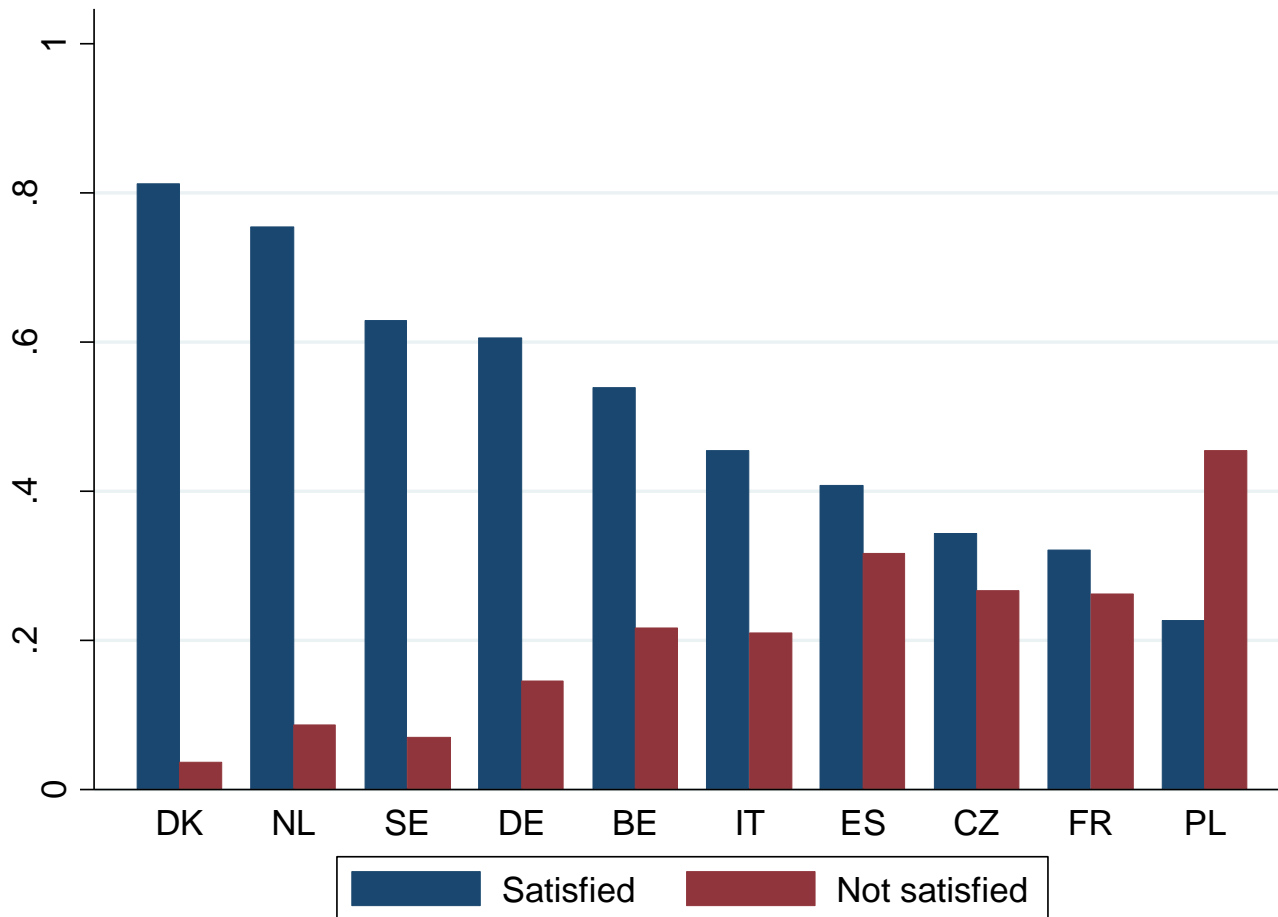
Vignette 2:

Anne is married and has two children; the total after tax household income of her family is €3,400 per month. How satisfied do you think Anne is with the total income of her household?

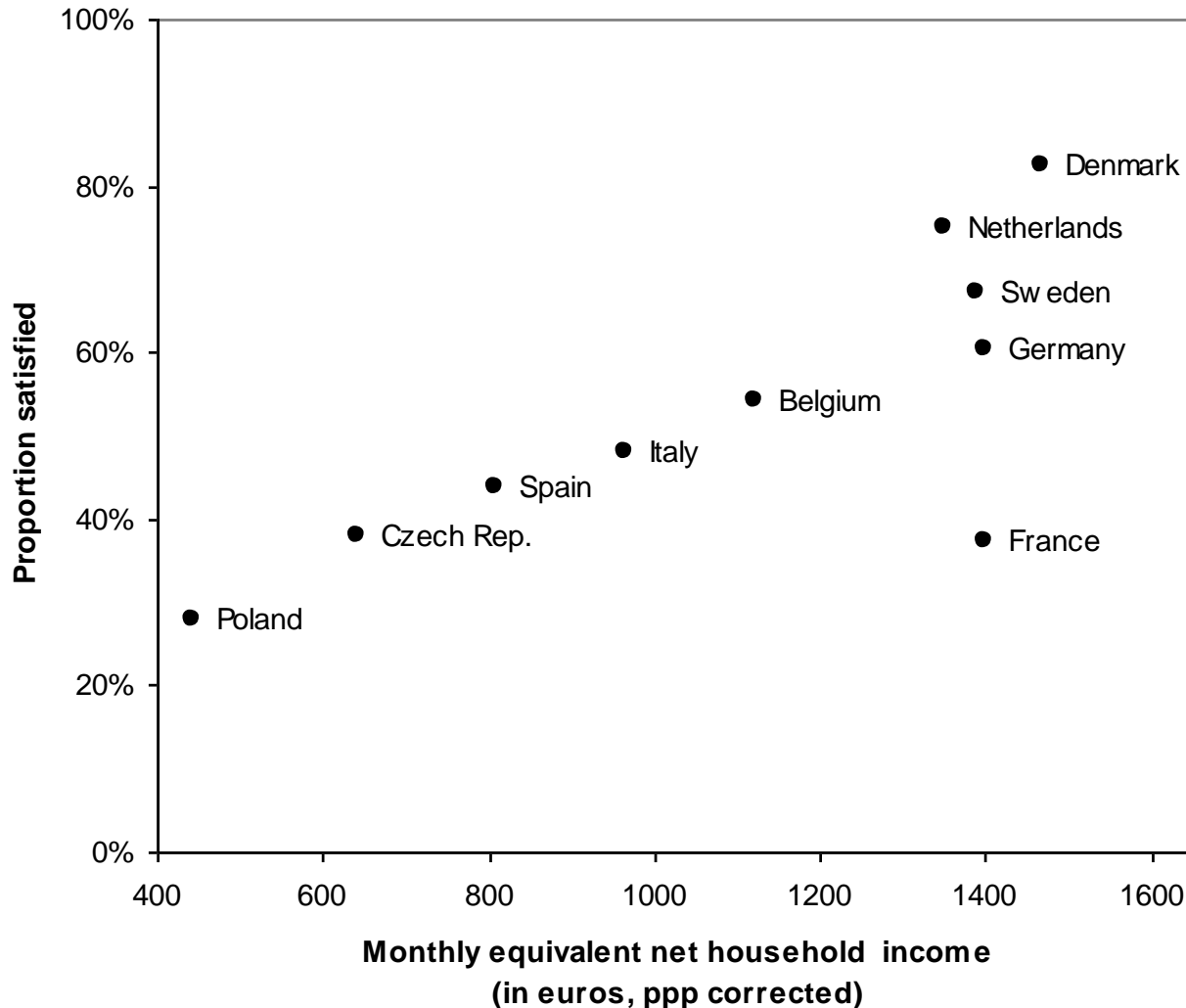
**Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Nor satisfied,neither dissatisfied/
Satisfied/ Very satisfied**



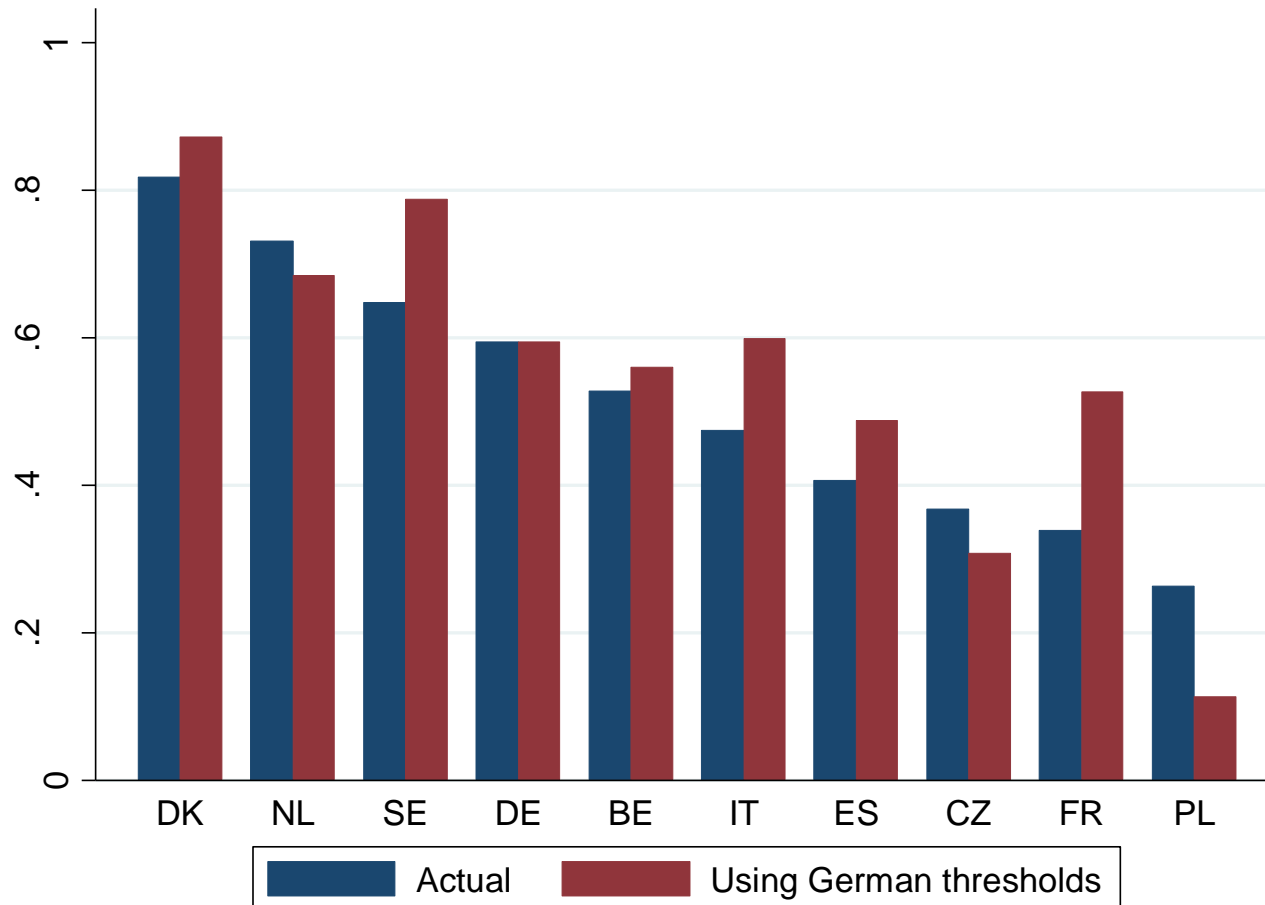
Satisfaction with income among the 50+ across European countries



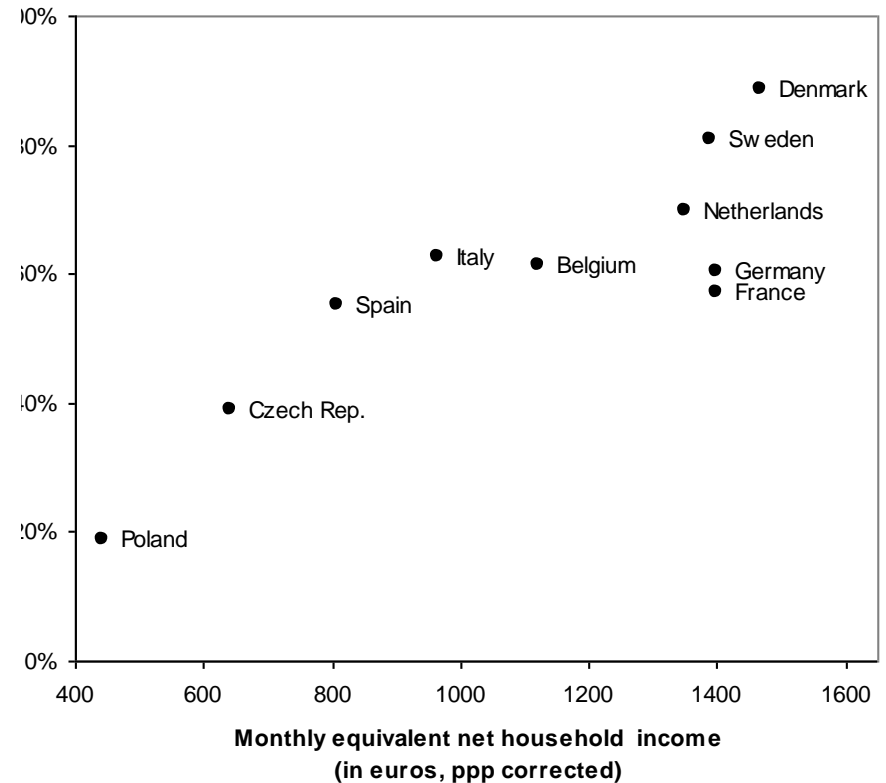
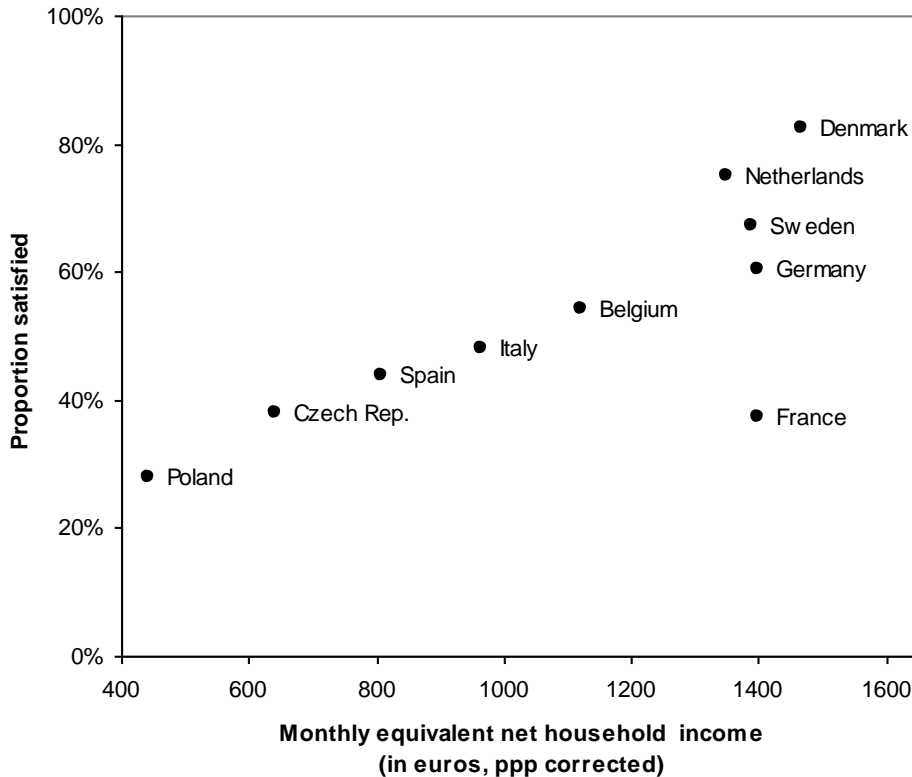
Median (equivalent) household income and satisfaction with income among the 50+ across European countries



Comparison of actual income satisfaction and income satisfaction using German scales

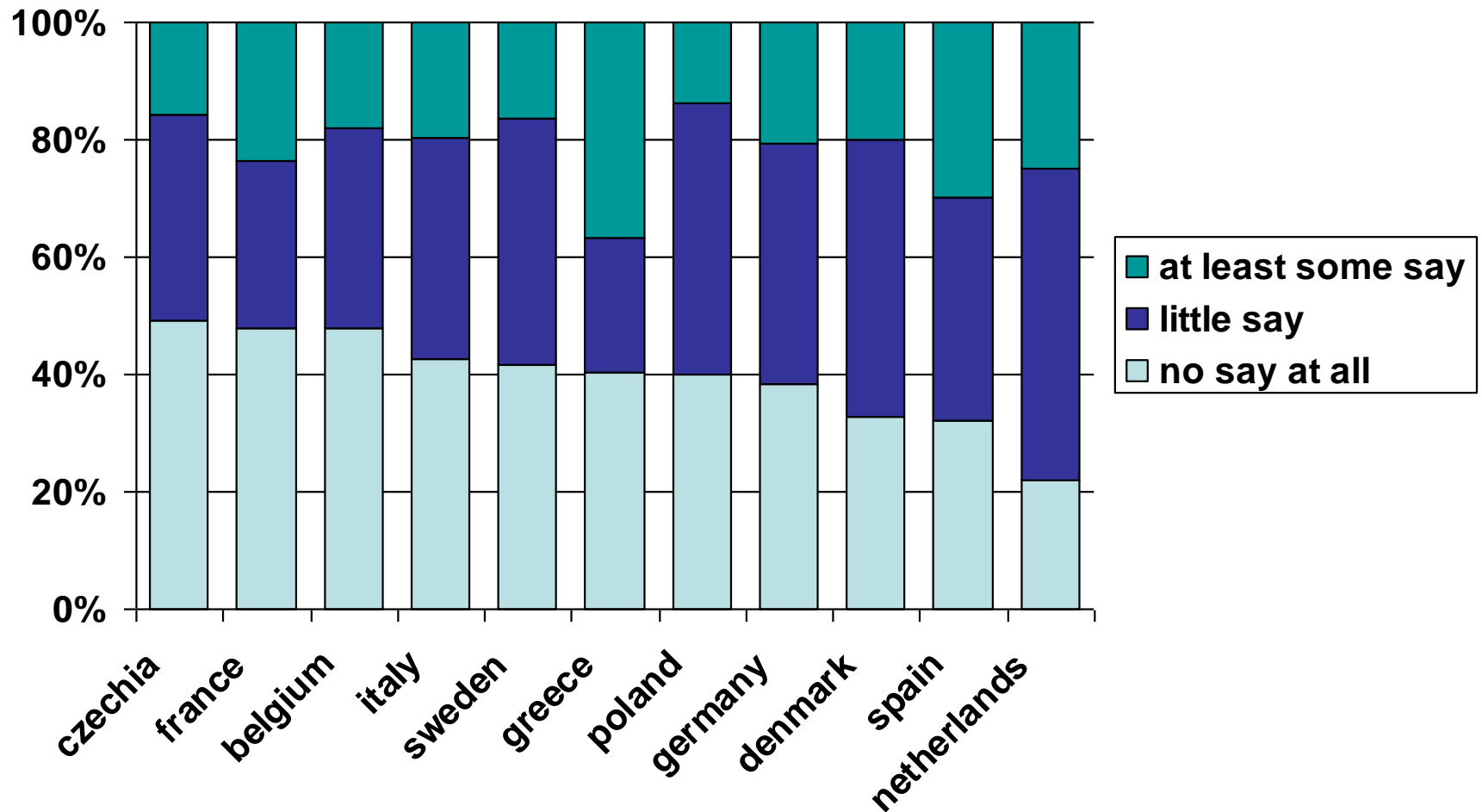


Counterfactual: Income satisfaction and household income



Political Efficacy: How much say do you have in getting the municipality to address issues that interest you?

Unlimited say, a lot of say, some say, little say, or no say at all



Vignette 1

Alison is bothered by the air pollution caused by a local firm. It is not dangerous but sometimes leads to a bad smell.

She and her neighbors are supporting an **opposition candidate** in the forthcoming local elections that has **promised to address the issue**. So many people in her area feel the same way that the **opposition candidate will probably defeat** the incumbent representative.

How much say does Alison have in getting the municipality to address issues that interest her?

Unlimited say, a lot of say, some say, little say, or no say at all

Vignette 2

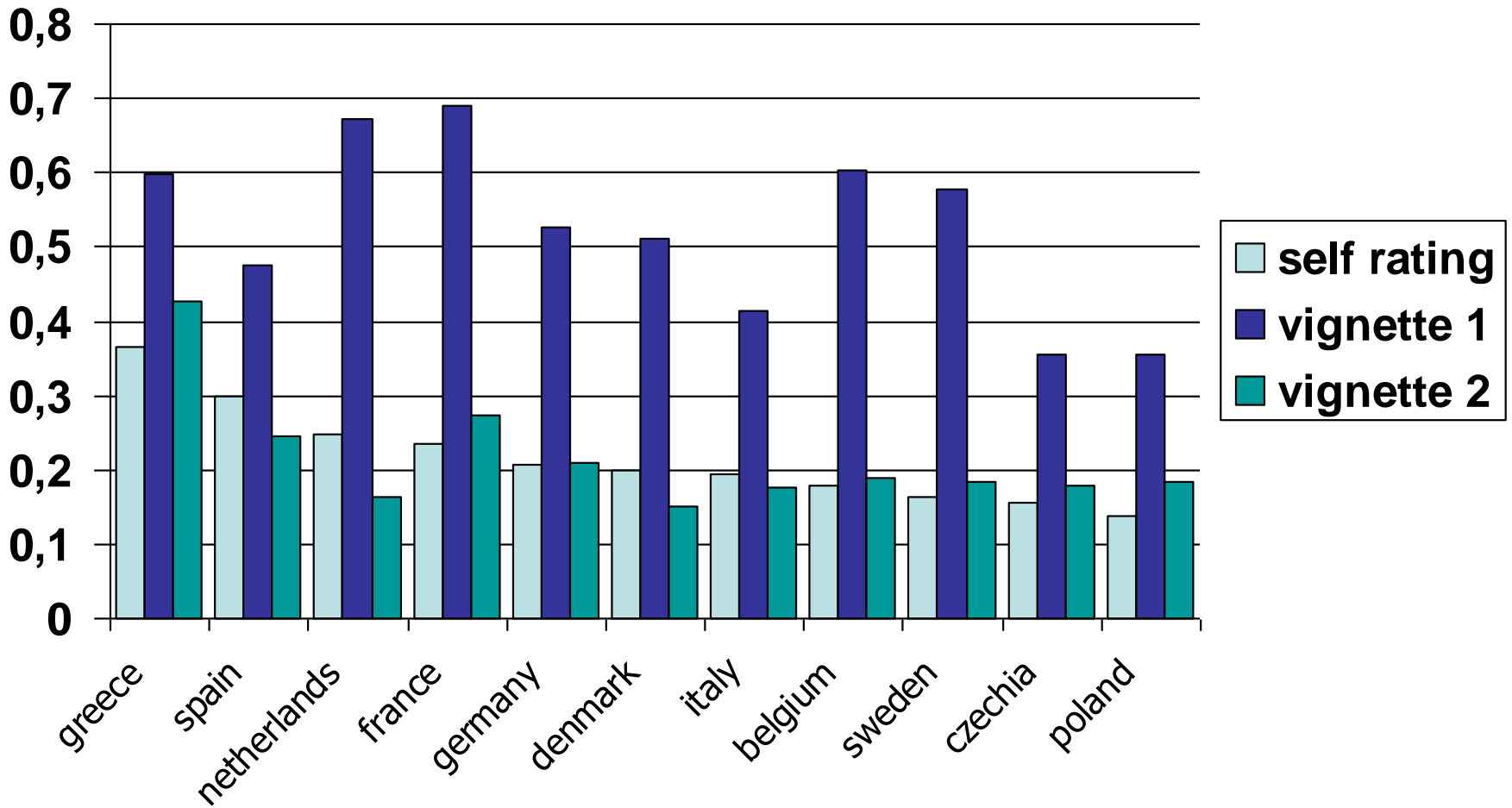
Toby is bothered ... by the same ... bad smell.

The **mayor has looked into the problem**, but concluded that **industrial development is the most important policy** right now instead of clean air.

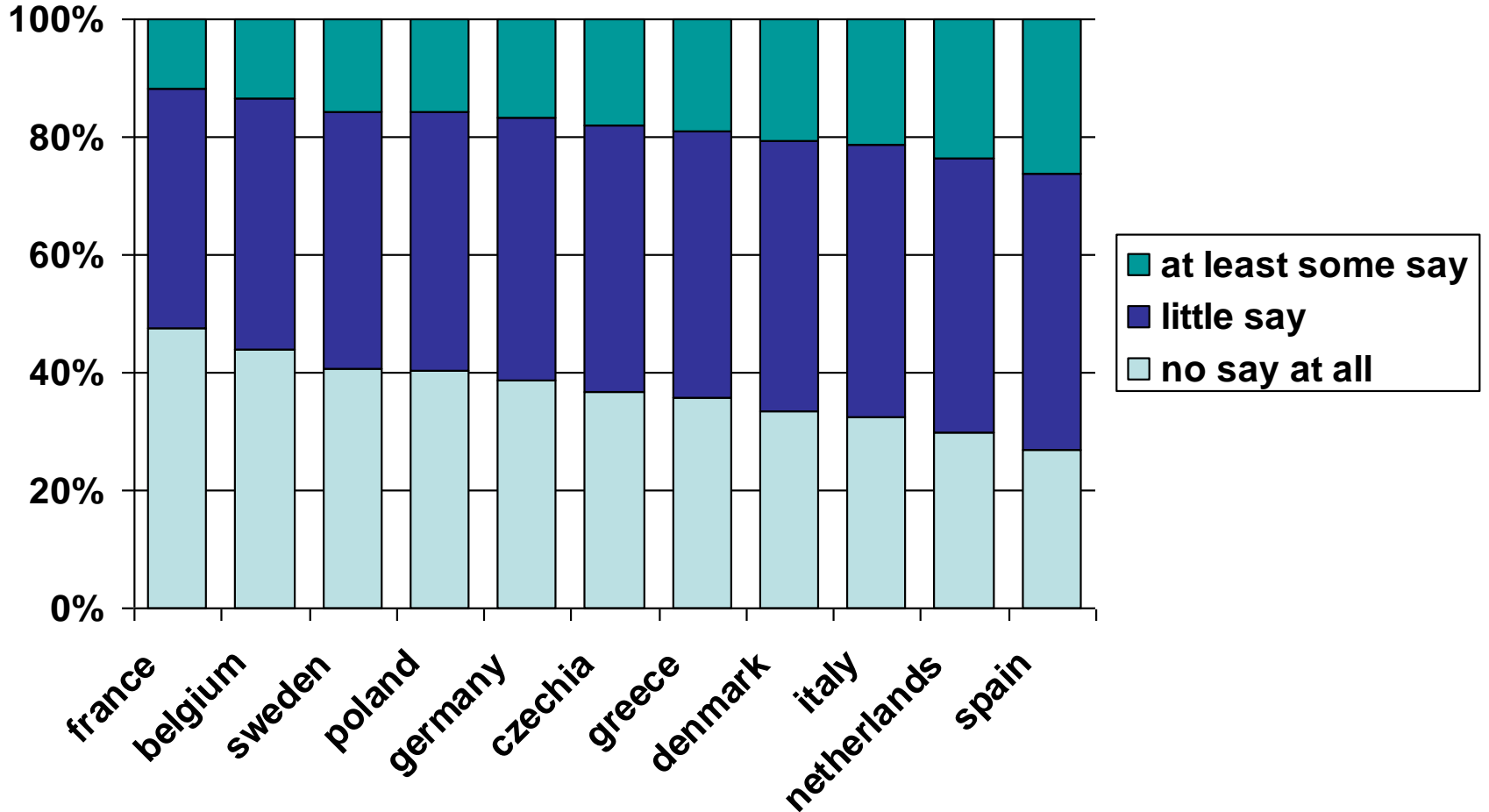
How much say does Toby have in getting the municipality to address issues that interest him?

Unlimited say, a lot of say, some say, little say, or no say at all

Proportion of respondents saying at least "some say"



HOPIT results: Response styles affect country rankings

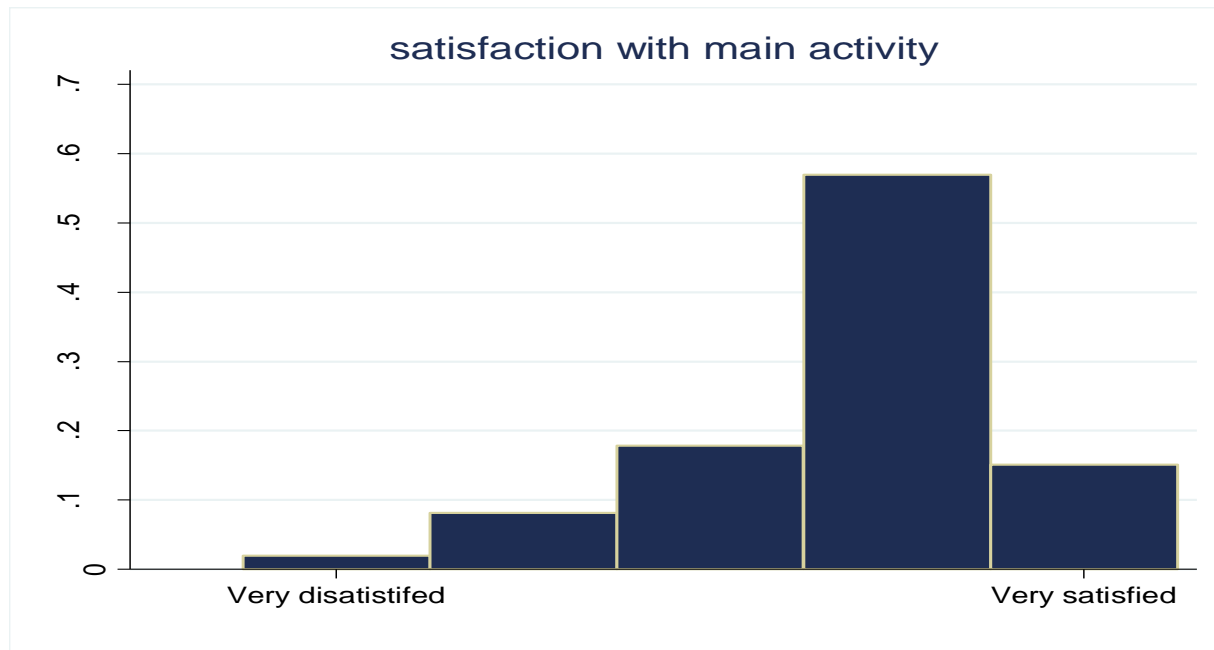


Satisfaction with main activity

(respondents aged 65 and older):

How satisfied are you with your daily activities (for example, your job, if you work)?

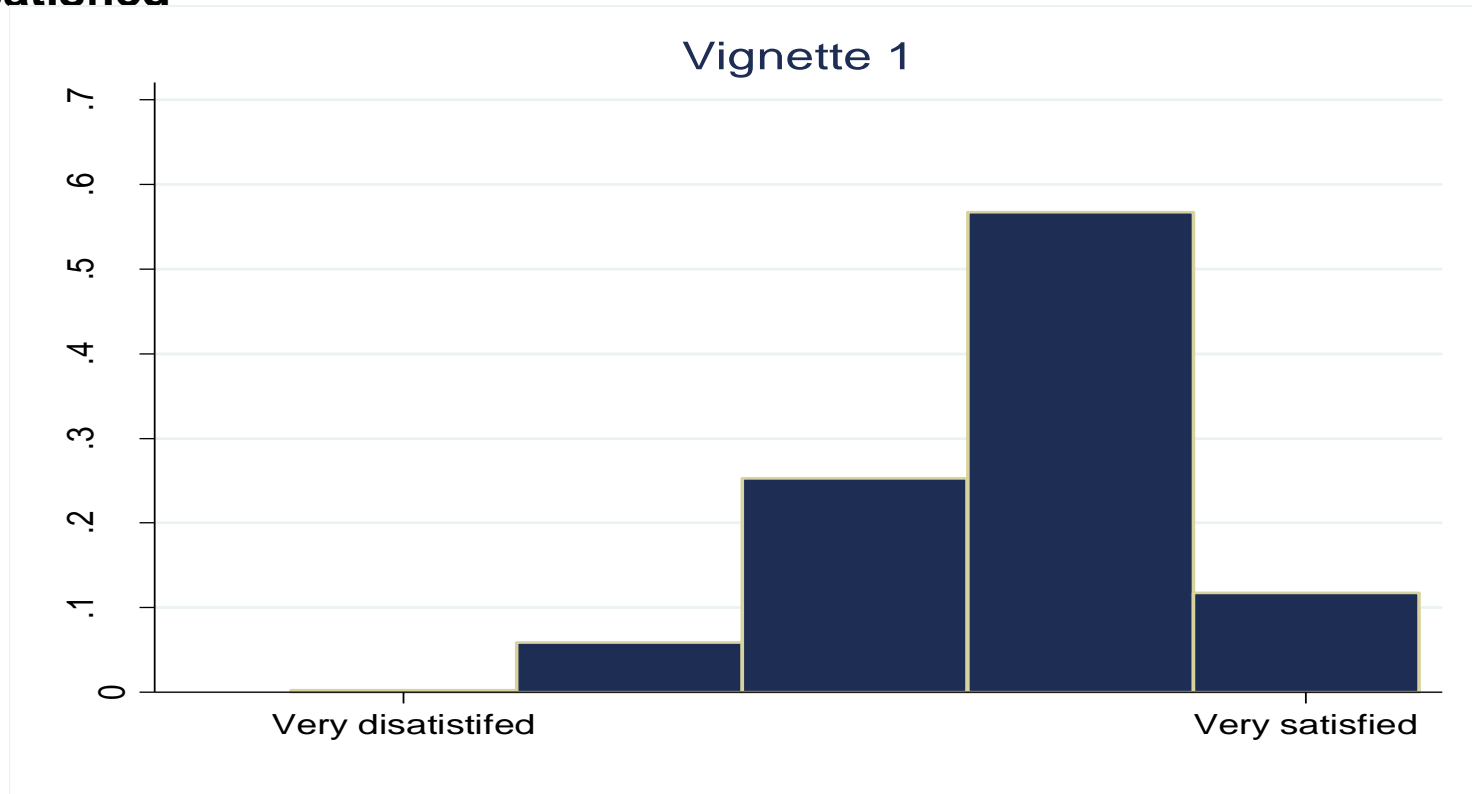
Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Not satisfied, neither dissatisfied/ Satisfied/ Very satisfied



Vignette 1

Mike has been retired for five years. He quit his job as soon as he could. He enjoys spending most of his time with friends and family and watches TV when he sometimes gets bored. How satisfied do you think Mike is with his daily activities?

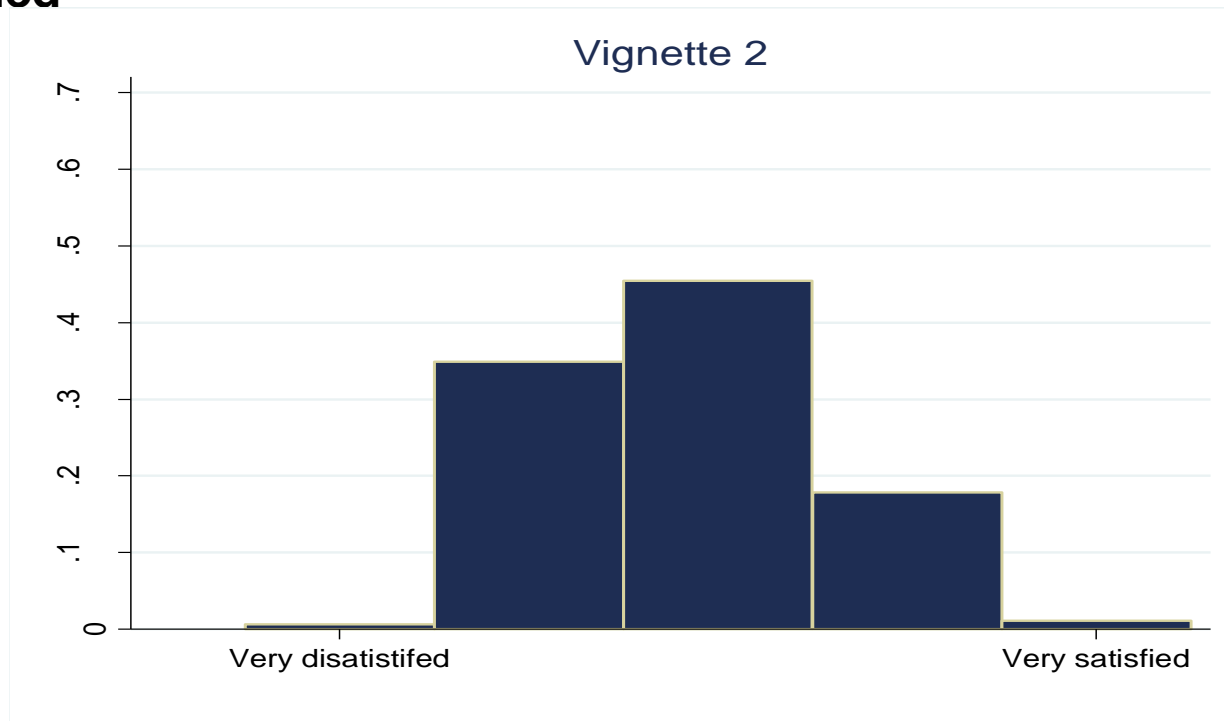
Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Nor satisfied, neither dissatisfied/ Satisfied/ Very satisfied



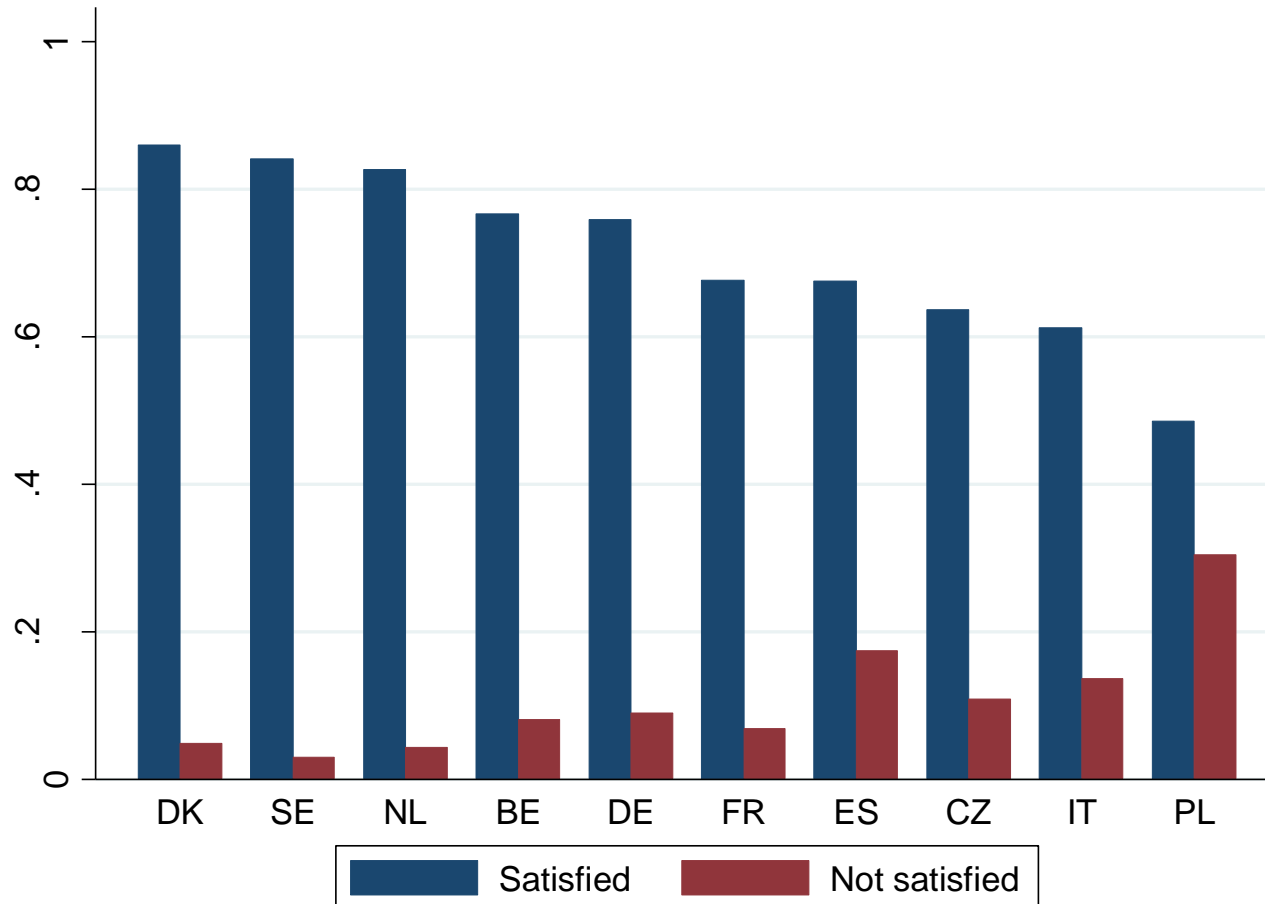
Vignette 2

Sally has been retired for five years. Although she enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, she still misses the contacts with her colleagues and would have liked to keep working. How satisfied do you think Sally is with her daily activities?

Very dissatisfied/ Dissatisfied/ Nor satisfied, neither dissatisfied/ Satisfied/ Very satisfied



Satisfaction with main activity among the 65+ across European countries

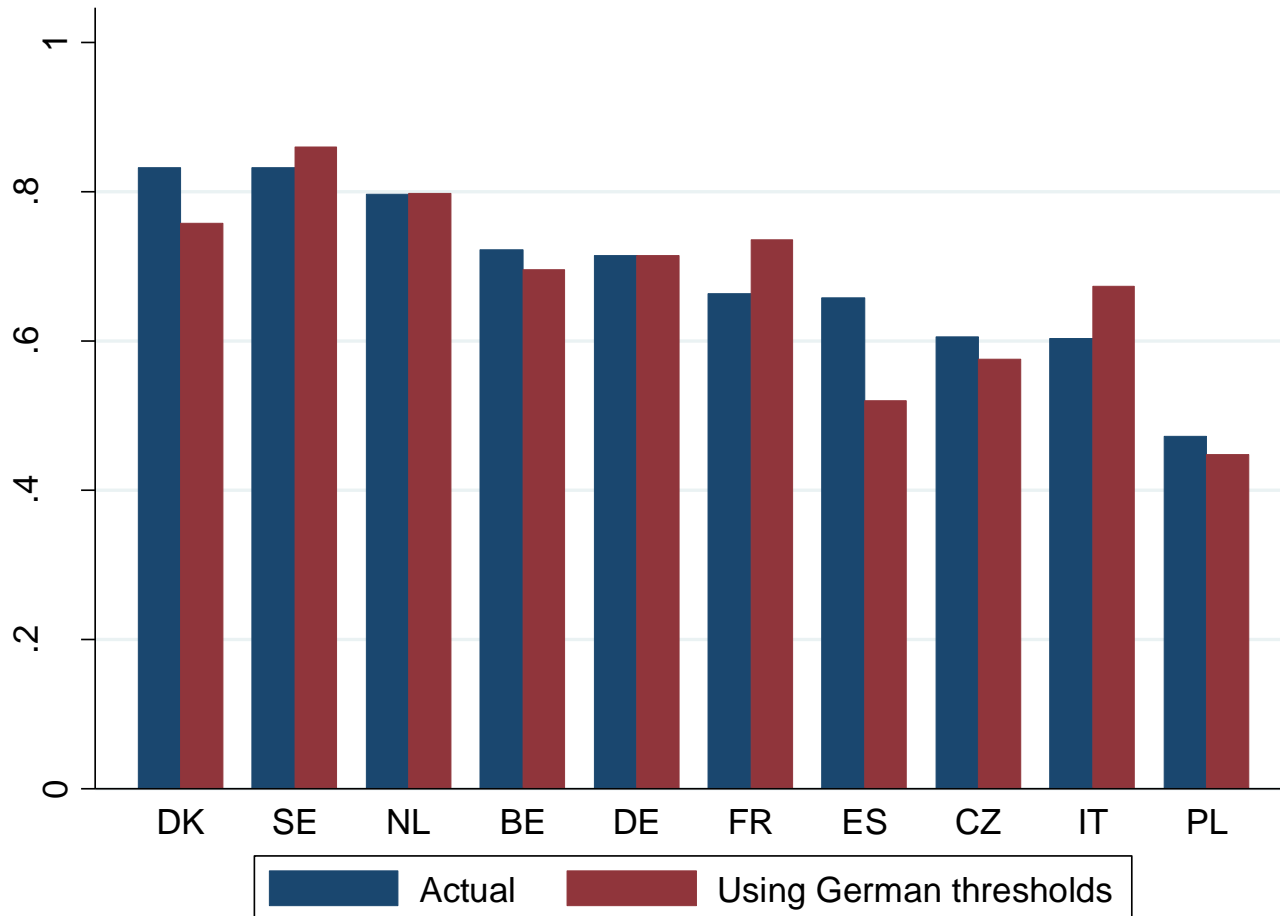


	Ordered Probit	Hopit
Country:		
DK	0.526***	0.092
SE	0.354***	0.524***
NL	0.089	0.077
DE		
BE	0.232**	-0.004
FR	-0.041	0.154
PL	-0.168	-0.207
CZ	0.058	-0.095
IT	-0.165*	0.055
ES	0.066	-0.258
Woman	-0.014	-0.010
Age	-0.006	-0.013**
Years of education	0.007	0.009
Log(household size)	0.029	0.199
Log(household income)	0.116**	0.169**
Log(net worth)	0.008	0.016
Symptoms	-0.175***	-0.162***
Chronic disease	-0.044**	-0.019
Living in a couple	-0.010	-0.234**
Coresiding with children	-0.032	-0.134
Log(contacts with non-coresiding	0.014	0.022

The determinants of satisfaction with main activity (65+)

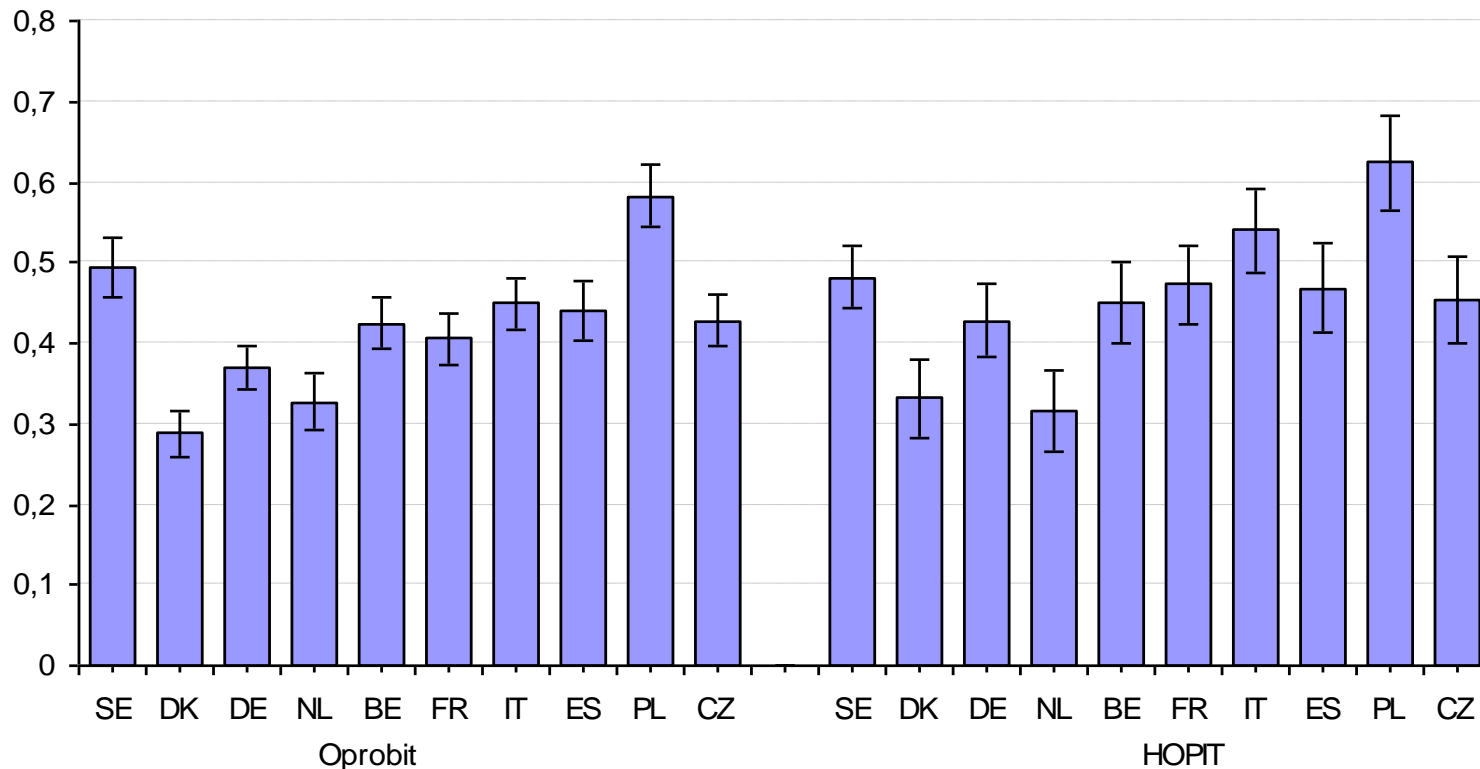
	Ordered Probit	Hopit
Number of children	0.020	0.020
Coresiding with children	-0.032	-0.134
Log(contacts with non-coresiding children)	0.014	0.022
Non-professional activities:		
Charity/voluntary work	0.134	0.138
Caring for adult	-0.068	0.014
Helping friends/neighbours	0.190**	0.461***
Educational or training course	0.128	0.274
Sport/social or other club	0.261***	0.308***
Activities in religious organisation	0.158*	0.254**
Political activities	0.344***	0.259
Constant		
N	2,193	

Comparison of actual satisfaction with main activity and satisfaction with main activity using German scales



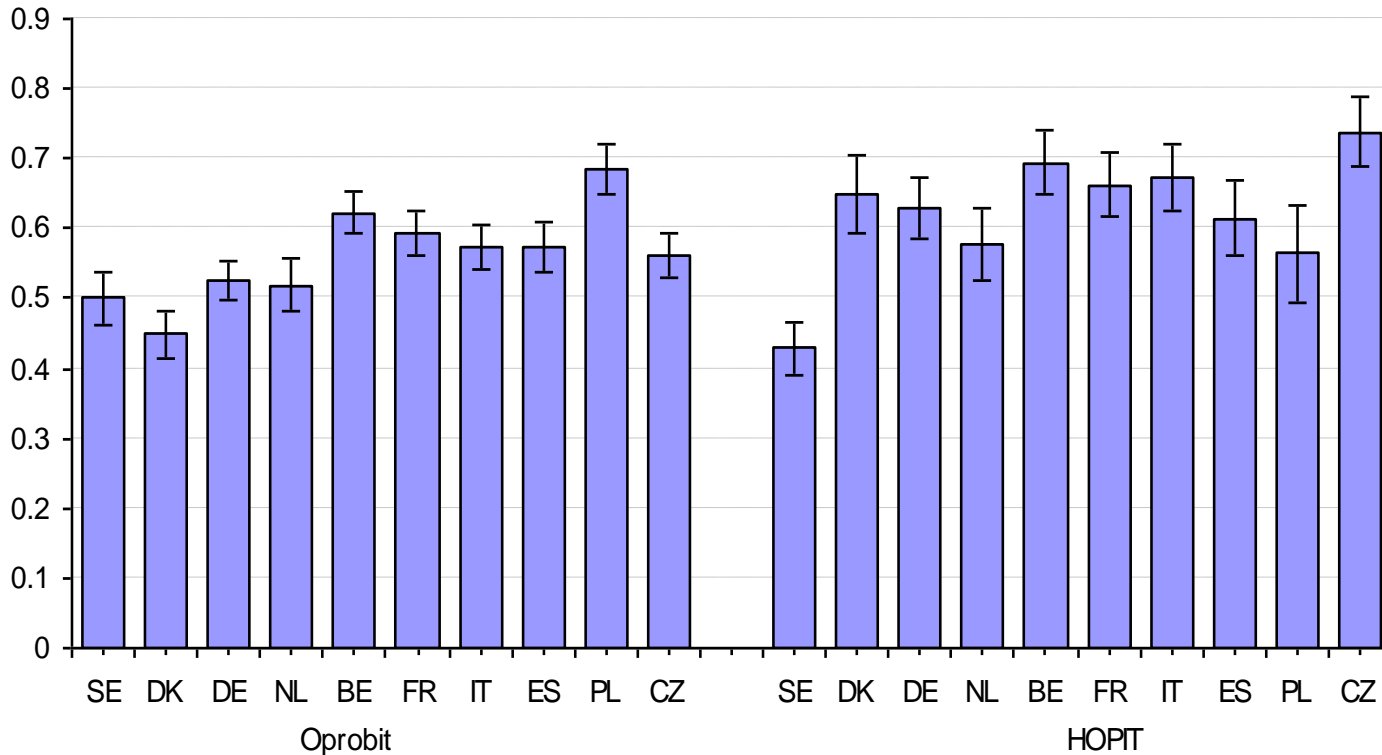
Overall in the last 30 days, how much of a problem did you have with feeling sad, low, or depressed?

Probability of mood problems for a benchmark person (male, 64 years)

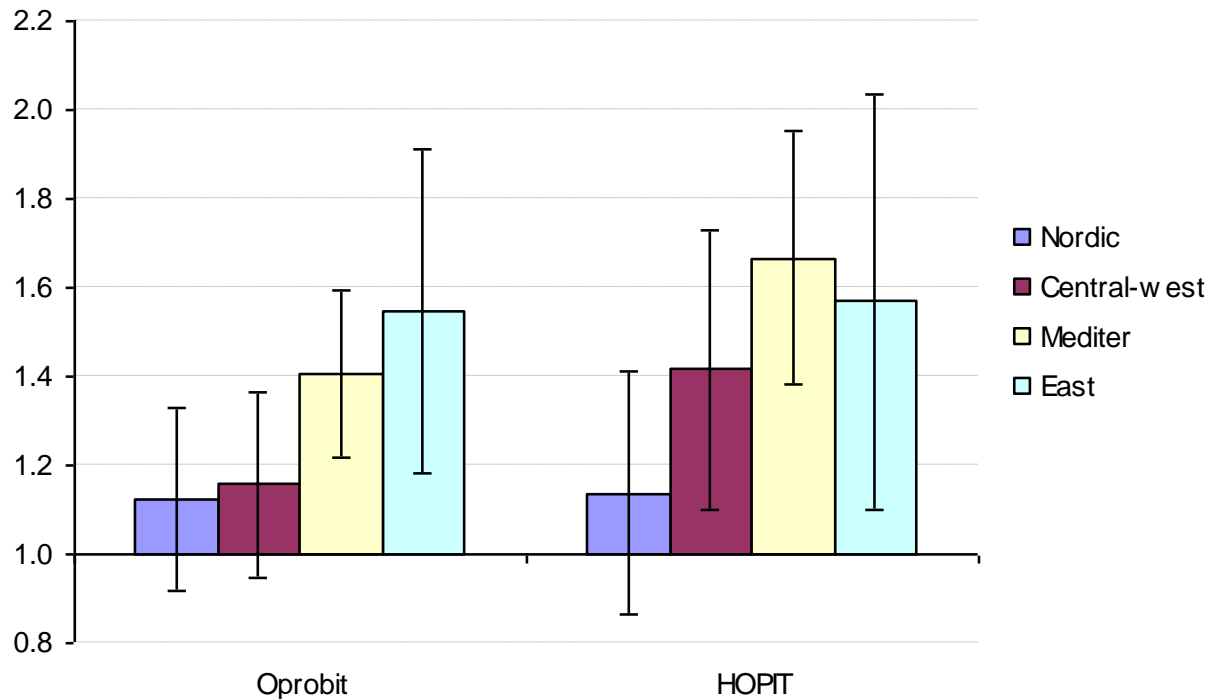


Overall in the last 30 days how much difficulty did you have with concentrating or remembering things? (None, Mild, Moderate, Severe or Extreme)

Probability of memory/ concentration problems for a benchmark person (male, 64 years)



Educational differences in having depression problems increase



Ratio's comparing 3 years with 17 years of education. All ratios are computed for males of 64.

Health care responsiveness: Waiting times

Own experience:

In many countries, it takes time before people can see a specialist and there are waiting lists for certain procedures.

Overall, in your situation, how would you rate the amount of time you have to wait for medical treatment?

•Very short •Short •Reasonable •Long •Very long

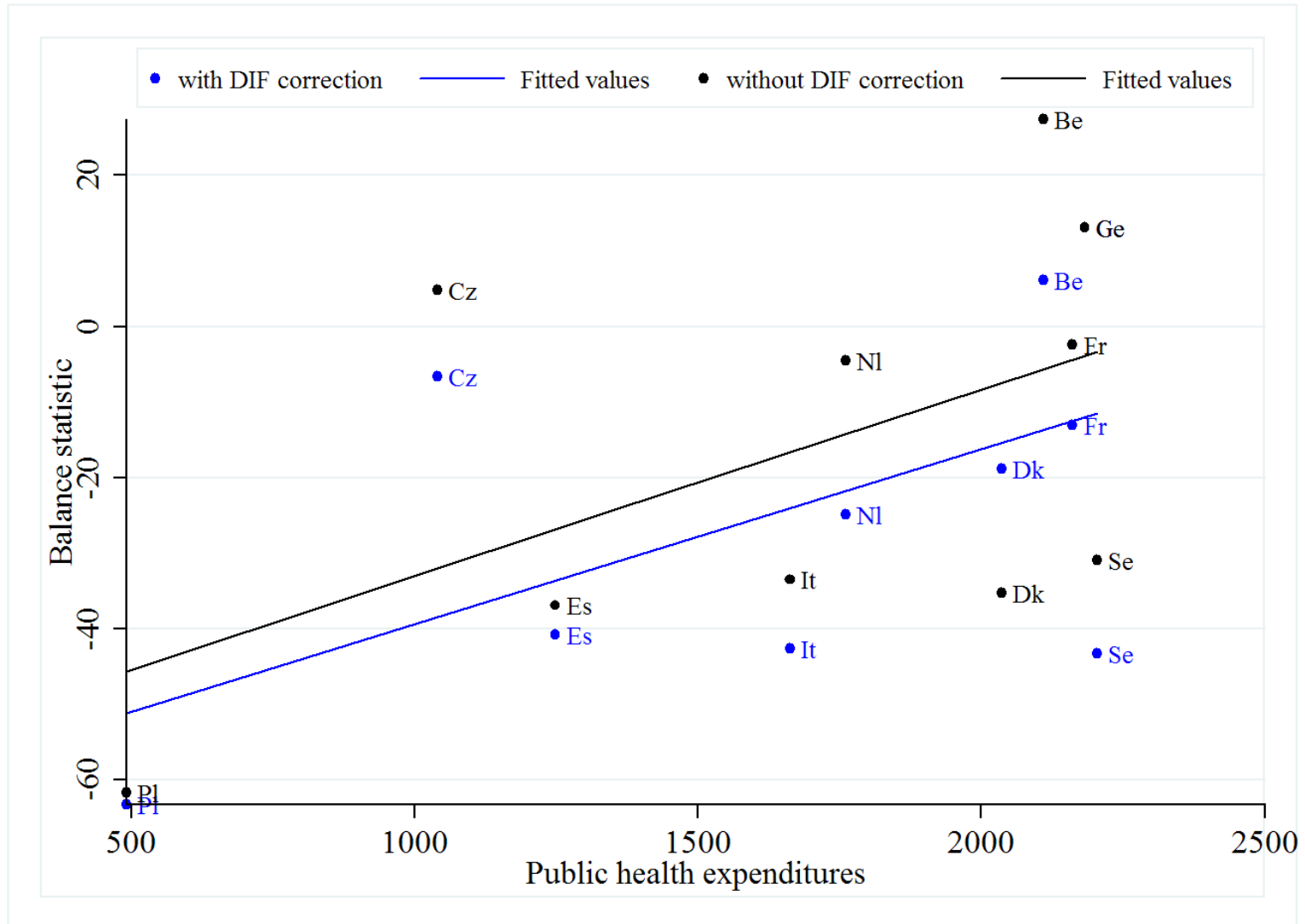
Vignette (common situation):

Jim has a stomach problem, which causes a lot of pain and requires surgery. He is immediately admitted to hospital and constantly monitored and his pain is relieved with strong pain-killers, but because the problem is not life threatening, he has to wait four days before surgery takes place.

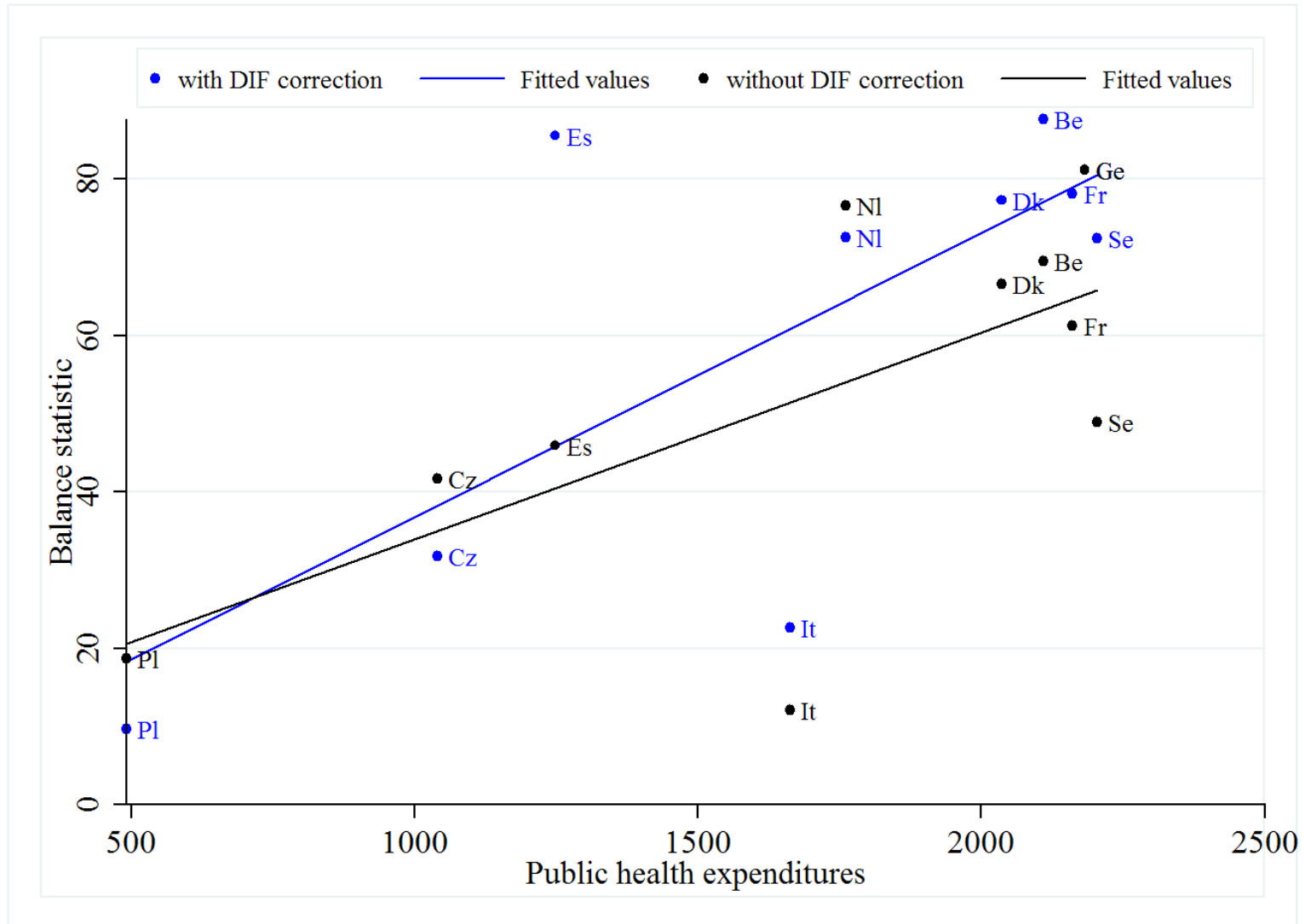
Overall, how would you rate the amount of time Jim has to wait for medical treatment?

•Very short •Short •Reasonable •Long •Very long

Satisfaction with “Time to wait for treatment”



Satisfaction with “Conditions of the health facilities”



Satisfaction with “Communication with doctors”

