

Democracy Dies in Darkness without Official Statistics

Instructions: Click on the link to access each author's presentation.

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[Luca Splendore](#): Democracy Dies in Darkness without Official Statistics

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[Kumafan Shadrach Dzaan](#): Deepening Nigeria's Democracy With Official Statistics: The Role of Sub-National Statistics Offices

[Jean-Pierre Cling](#): Democracy Dies in Darkness without Official Statistics
Have statistics lost their power?

*Work presentation not available or non-existent

IAOS-ISI 2024, Mexico City - Improving Decision-Making for All - May 15, 2024 - May 17, 2024



Democracy Dies in Darkness without Official Statistics

LUCA DI GENNARO SPLENDORE

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FUNDING HORIZON EUROPE BY MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

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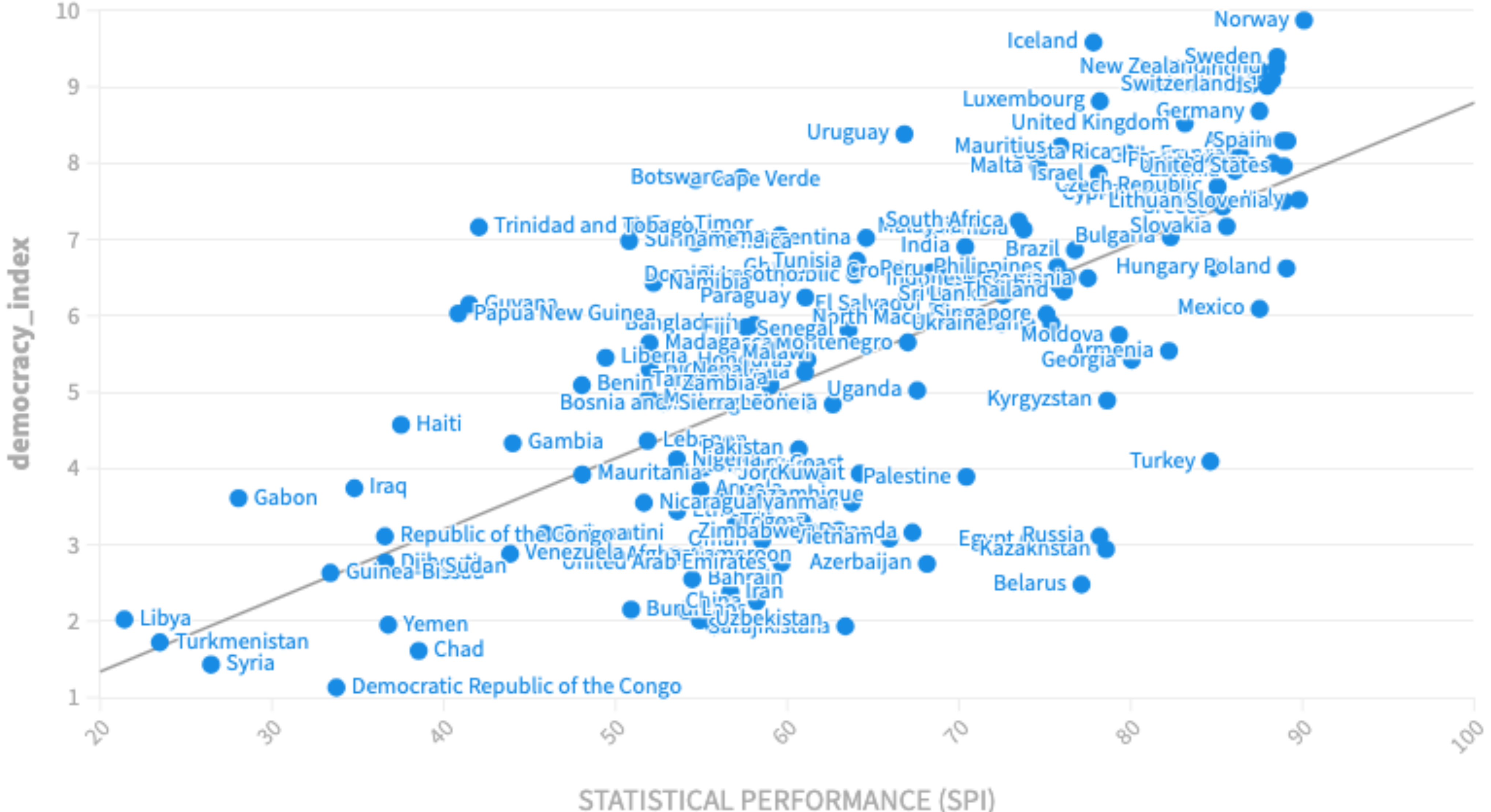
Agenda - Questions?

- Is there a **quantitative** relationship between democracy and official statistics?
- How can a democratic country organize an election without official statistics?

Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

World

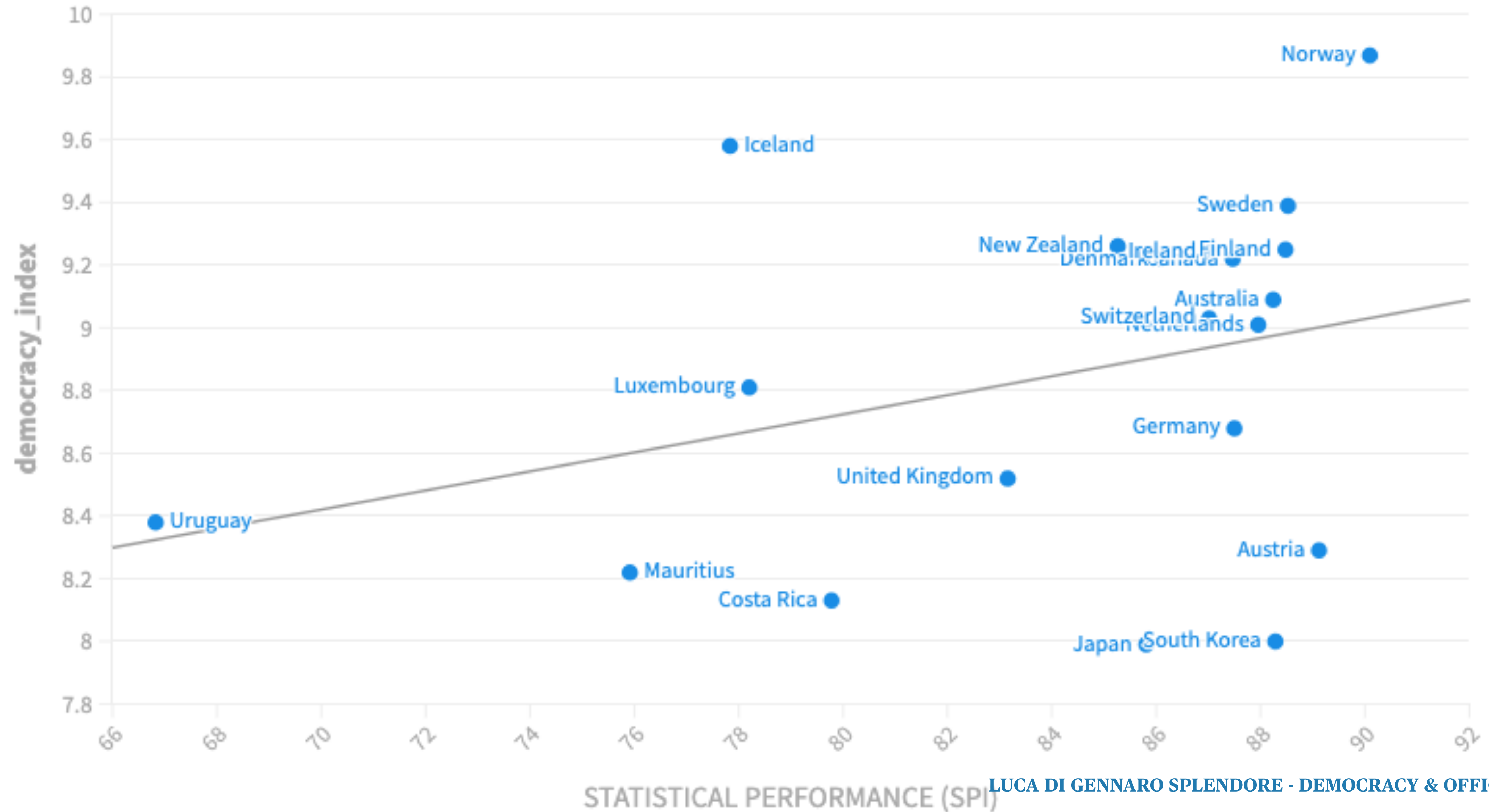
All



Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

All ▼

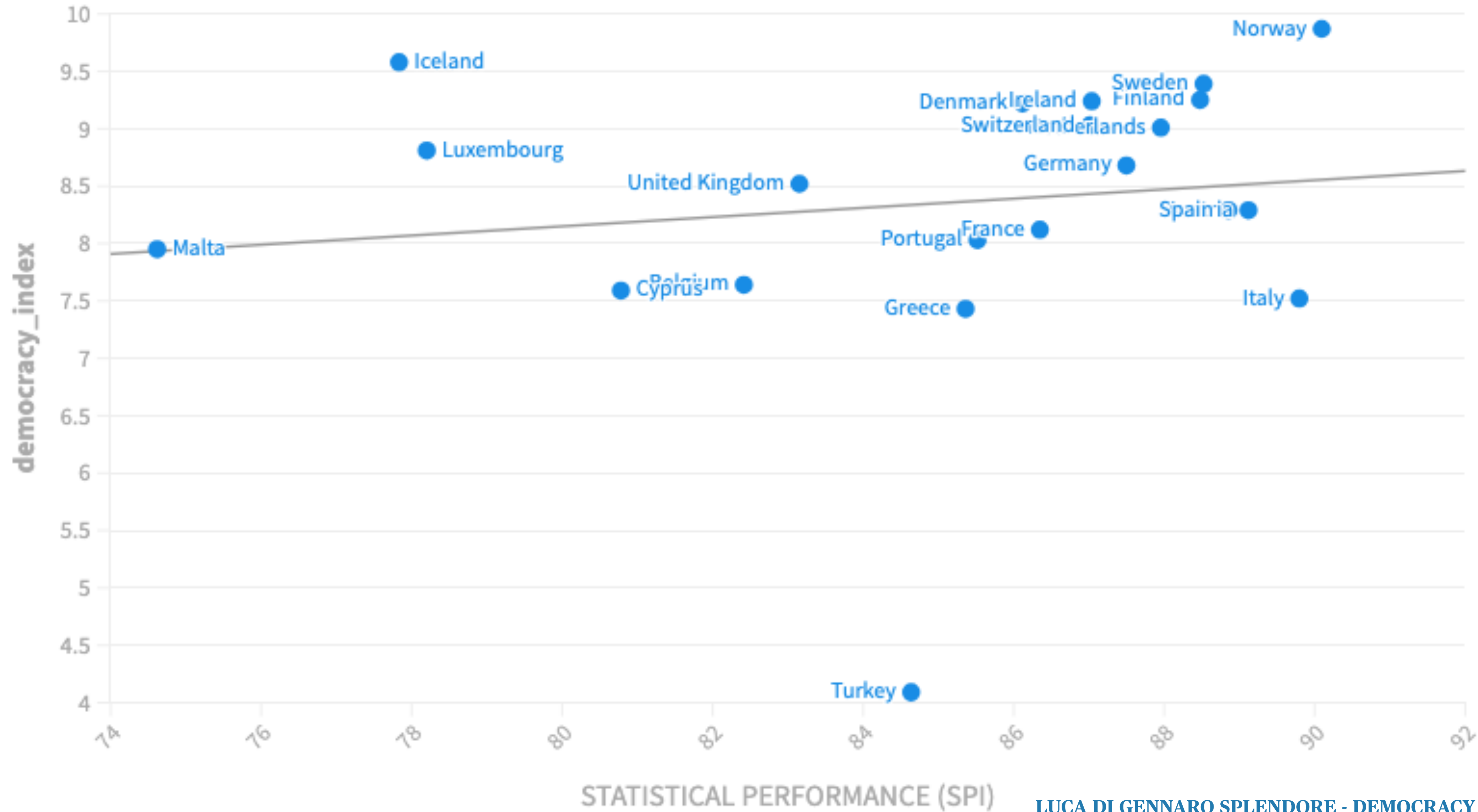
Only Full Democracy



Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

All ▼

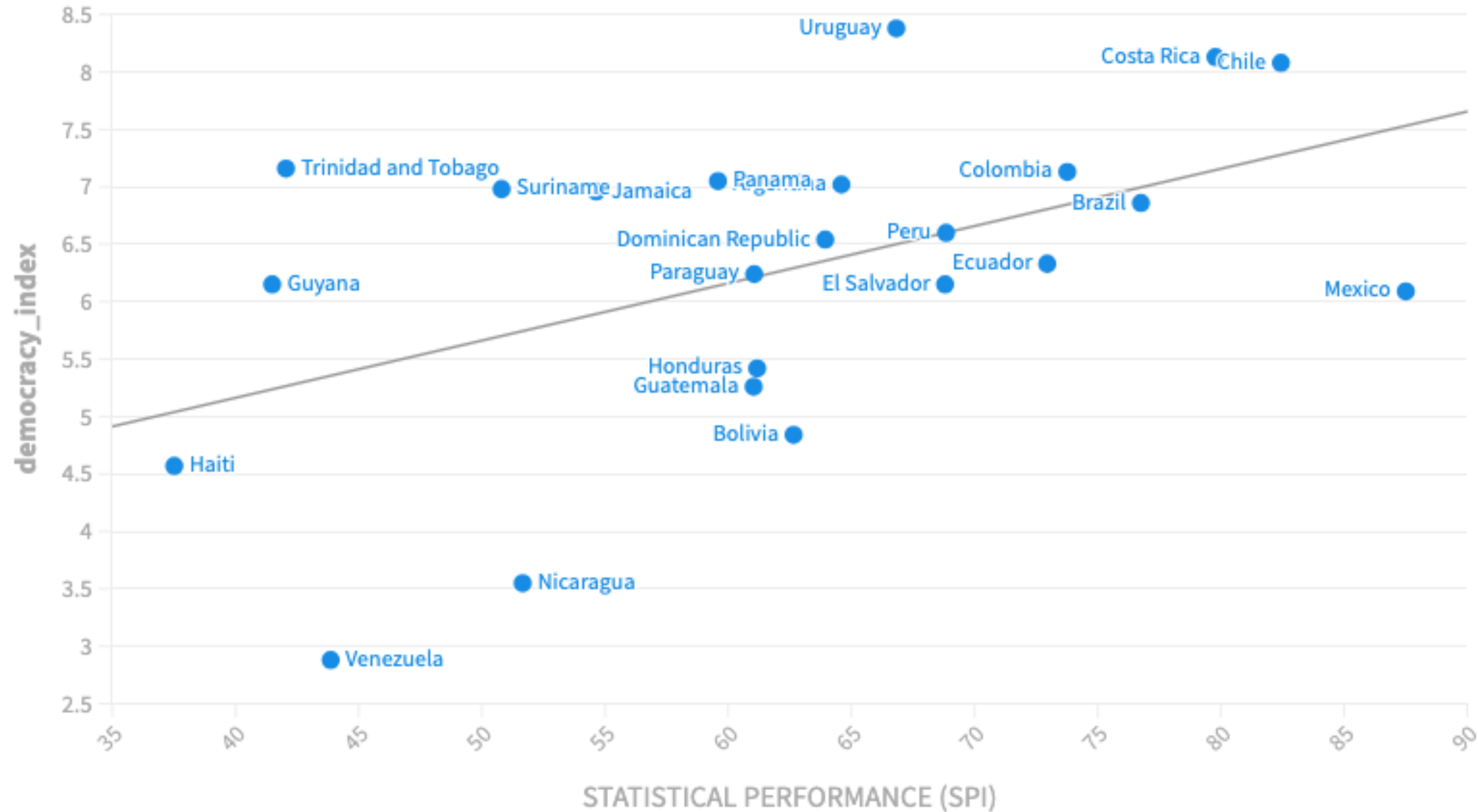
Only Europe



Full Democracy

Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

All ▼



**Latin America
and the
Caribbean**

69% 41% 56%

The correlation between the **Democracy Index** and the **Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI)** for 2022 for 167

The correlation between the **Democracy Index** and **Gender Data Compass** for 2022/2023

The correlation between the **Democracy Index** and **Open Data Inventory (ODIN)** for 2022

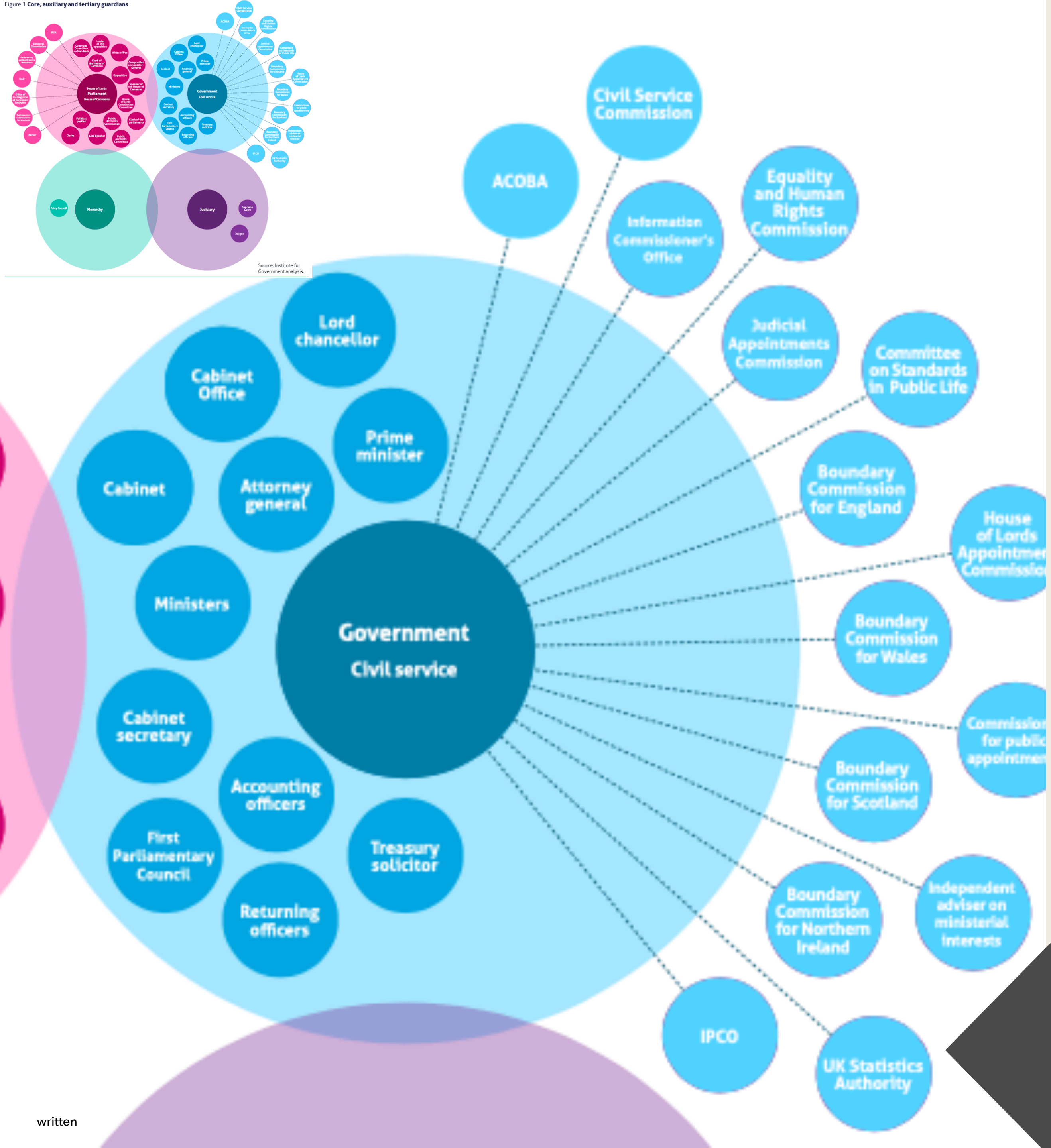
‘In a democratic society, the independence of official statistics has the same status as the freedom of speech for the citizens.’

Jeskanen-Sundström, 2007

awareness

understanding

‘Independence of Official Statistics, a Finnish Experience’. Seminar on Evolution of National Statistical Systems.



Constitutional guardians (UK)

‘For example, if the government is seen to have undue influence over the Electoral Commission, or the UK Statistics Authority, then trust in fair elections or accurate statistics will be undermined.’



UK Statistics Authority

NSOs are in Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 17.18 and 17.19

The SDG 17 promote the official statistics: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Indicator 17.18.2)

Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding
Indicator 17.18.3

Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries (Target 17.19)

- **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**
- UN (2014)

‘Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government...’

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

NSOs are crucial to archive the SDG data



KEYNES

‘The statistics from which to build up these estimates are very inadequate. Every government since the last war has been unscientific and obscurantist, and has regarded the collection of essential facts as a waste of money’

Popper, Shumpter, Sociology

- Keynes (p13, Ch 3)
- Keynes, John Maynard (1940). How to Pay for the War: A Radical Plan for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Macmillan.

The Official Statistics under Attack (small list)

The official statistics can be a threatening for the political system

- The NSO of El Salvador was incorporated in the Central Bank
- In Ecuador in 2021 an unforeseen resignation by the NSO's (INEC in Ecuador) Director, took place just one week before the election day. Every NSO has a statistical calendar, normally pre-established and disseminated a few years in advance.
- The National Bureau of Statistics of China suspended disseminating data on youth unemployment.
- The Greek government prosecuted the former director of NSO Greece (ELSTAT)
- INDEC (NSO Argentina) suffered a lot of political interference especially on the inflation rate

Moving Forward

- ***Official Statistics Awareness***
- ***No scientific literature? Democracy does cause a good statistical system?***
- ***Who produces the data?***
- ***Governance?***

**Democracy Dies in
Darkness
without Official
Statistics**

Thank you!

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Thank you!

DATA

- **Democracy** Index and Freedom House
- **Statistical** Performance Indicators
- Open data and subcategories
- **Statistical Capacity Index** (only Developing countries)
- **Who produces the data?** Central bank, NSO, Gov
- Gender data, minority and representation of minority group

Reference Image

- <https://freedomhouse.org/explore-the-map?type=fiw&year=2024>
- https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_Index
- <https://the-media-leader.com/are-future-freedoms-of-expression-under-threat/>
- <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- <https://www.dawn.com/news/1118784/when-maradona-sought-his-mothers-help-against-germany>
- <https://www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/blog/blog-constitutional-guardians/>
- <https://www.phdadmission.in/blog/phd-in-sociology/>
- <https://www.stfspa.it/en/>

IAOS-ISI 2024
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Democracy Dies in Darkness Without Official Statistics



Deepening Nigeria's Democracy With Official Statistics: The Role of Sub-National Statistics Offices

Kumafan Dzaan
Central Bank of Nigeria
Wednesday 15 May 2024, 15:30 - 16:00



Outline

- Context and Study
Justification
- Official Statistics in Nigeria
- Recent developments in
Nigeria's Statistical System
- The state of Nigeria's SSOs
- The Benue SSO experience
- Recommendations
- Concluding thoughts

Context and Study Justification (1/3)

- ❖ Democracy, good governance and official statistics reinforce one another to support economic development (Yusuf, 2004)
- ❖ National Statistical Systems highlight the importance of statistics to government's development agenda, and citizens' standard of living (Olubusoye *et al.*, 2015)
- ❖ Official statistics are public goods (Doguwa, 2012), the insights therefrom must serve the public good (Pullinger, 2020), as a foundation for good governance and democratic society

Context and Study Justification (2/3)

- ❖ Principle 1 of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics says
“Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation.” (United Nations, 2014)

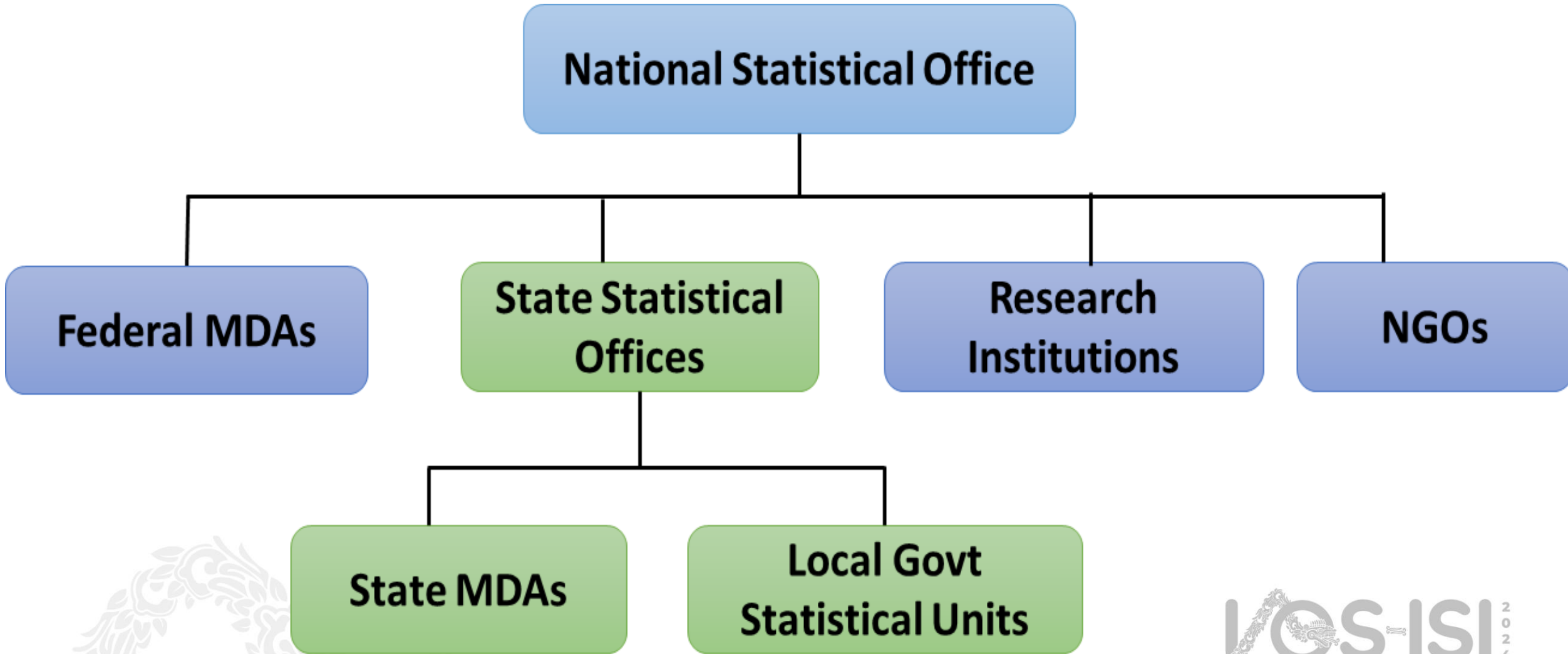
- ❖ This equips the citizens with the tools to hold governments accountable

Context and Study Justification (3/3)

- ❖ Official statistics therefore play a crucial role in deepening democracy
- ❖ The Sub-national Statistical Offices (SSOs) are creations of the law, and are responsible for producing, managing and disseminating official statistics that serve the government and other stakeholders in their respective jurisdictions
- ❖ Therefore, the quality of SSOs determines the overall quality of the National Statistical System (NSO)



Official Statistics in Nigeria (1/2)



Official Statistics in Nigeria (2/2)

- ❖ Statistics is on the concurrent legislative list in Nigeria
- ❖ The Statistics Act empowers the NSO to coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS) and maintain all datasets for the country
- ❖ The NSO maintains Zonal and State Offices to enhance coordination
- ❖ Sub-National Statistics Offices (State Statistics Offices, SSOs) coordinate the State Statistical Systems
- ❖ SSOs maintain Zonal and Local Government Statistics Units for effective data production activities

Recent Developments in Nigeria's Statistical System

- ❖ Increased demand for data
- ❖ Stronger departments of Planning, Research and Statistics in Federal MDAs (CDCU Brief, May 2023)
- ❖ The National Statistical System being aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ❖ Revised National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2024-2028 (New Statistics Act, revised governance structure, stronger NSO, more funding, new data sources, enhanced collaborations, etc.)

The state of Nigeria's SSOs (1/2)

- ❖ Pace of statistical development slow in many states - SSOs not yet established in some states
- ❖ General apathy towards statistics among stakeholders, as SSOs get uneven/inequitable support
- ❖ Poor capacity, experience, and exposure in the SSOs
- ❖ Support from state governments is still not adequate



The state of Nigeria's SSOs (2/2)

- ❖ Renewed efforts by NSO to support SSOs – more SSOs being established
- ❖ NSO collaborating better with the Legislature, academia, CSOs, and development partners to assist SSOs
- ❖ New **National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2024-2028** is designed to give more attention and ensure adequate support for SSOs

The Benue State Experience

- ❖ Govt willing to recognize and fund Benue SSO, *finally!*
- ❖ Using data, Govt is providing more impactful interventions:
 - Creation of appropriate Govt agencies and welcomed interventions in disadvantaged areas/sectors
 - Collaborative efforts to resettle IDPs in their homes
 - Employment and youth empowerment
- ❖ Citizens now using official data to ask questions to keep the Govt accountable

Recommendations

1

The NSO should be given every support by the government and all stakeholders to diligently implement the **NSDS 2024-2028**

2

Institutions of higher learning and research institutions need to play a more active role

3

NSO needs to sustain and deepen its engagement with the SSOs, with more avenues for interactions and peer review among SSOs

Concluding Thoughts

Official statistics provide a foundation for democracy and good governance

Support from development partners needs to extend more to the sub-national level for data-driven governance in Nigeria

SSOs will assist the NSO in creating and meeting the demand for data (SPARC, 2015) → better governance and citizen participation → deepening our democracy and bringing benefits to the people

While implementing the **NSDS 2024-2028**, government, development partners and all stakeholders need to give priority to SSOs as a critical success factor

Sources

- ❖ Doguwa, S.I. (2012). Statistics for National Development. *CBN-Journal of Applied Statistics* 1:1, pp 99-106
- ❖ Olubusoye, O.E., Korter, G.O. and Keshinro, O.A. (2015). Nigerian Statistical System: The Evolution, Progress And Challenges. Retrieved 16/05/2023 from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283715250_NIGERIAN_STATISTICAL_SYSTEM_THE_EVOLUTION_PROGRESS_AND_CHALLENGES
- ❖ Pullinger, J. (2020). Trust in official statistics and why it matters. *Statistical Journal of the LAOS* 36 (2020) 343–346.
- ❖ State Partnership for Accountability and Capability (SPARC) (2015). How to Guide: Establishing a State Bureau of Statistics.
- ❖ Yusuf, A. (2004). The Role of Statistics in Promoting Good Governance in Nigeria's Democracy. Retrieved 19/06/2023 from <https://www.statistics.gov.hk/wsc/CPS104-P4-S.pdf>



Thank you





Discussion/Session 628

(Wednesday 15th May 15h30-16h)

Democracy dies in Darkness without Official Statistics





Jean-Pierre Cling INSEE, FRANCE

Have statistics lost
their power?

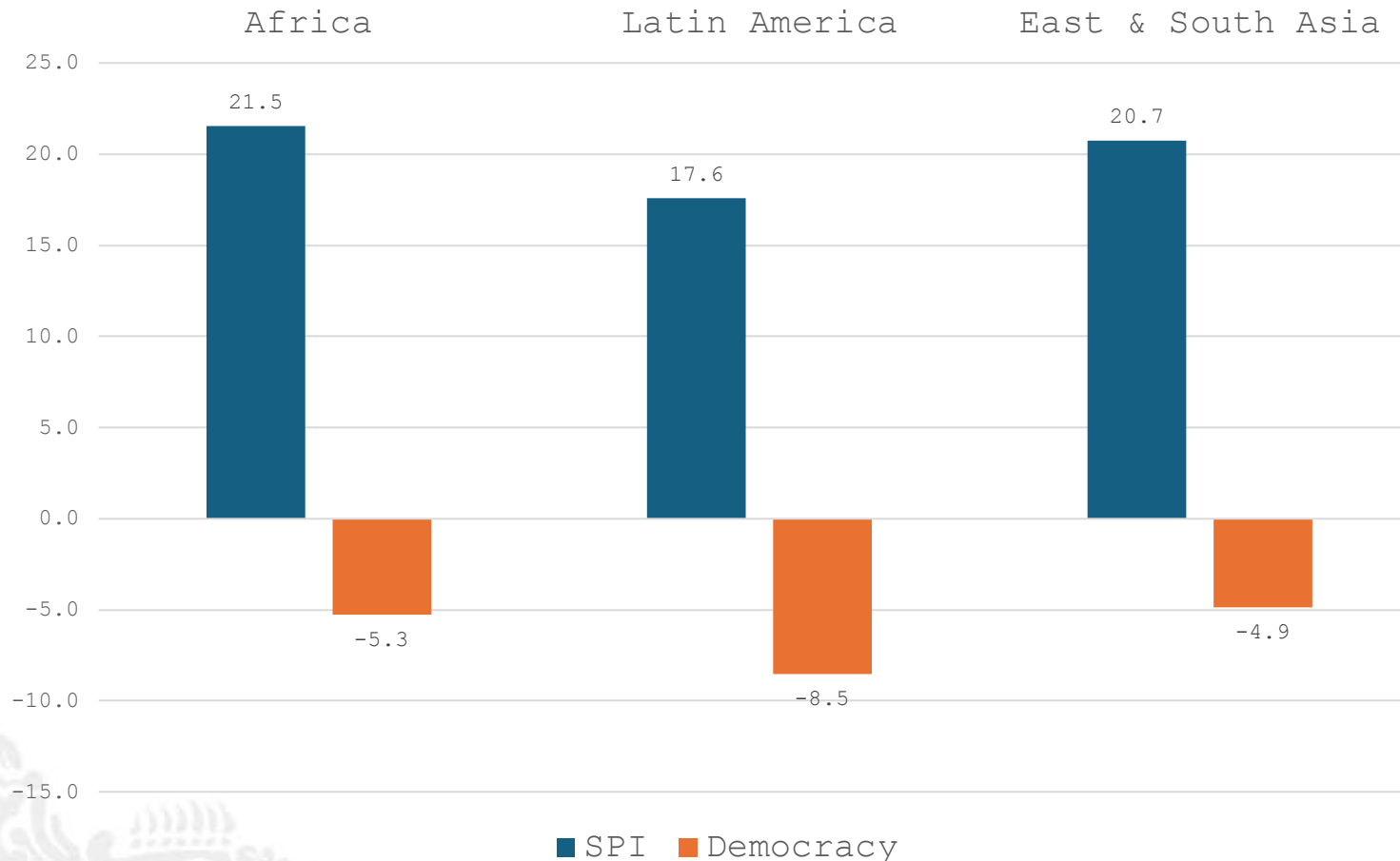
*(The Guardian, January
2017)*

Outline

1. Good statistics promote democracy and development (and vice versa)
2. Required: Money+Strict rules + an adapted framework
3. New frontier: Statistics on democracy and governance

(1) A puzzle: increase in SPI & decrease in democracy (2022/2016 in %)

Source: World Bank and The Economist



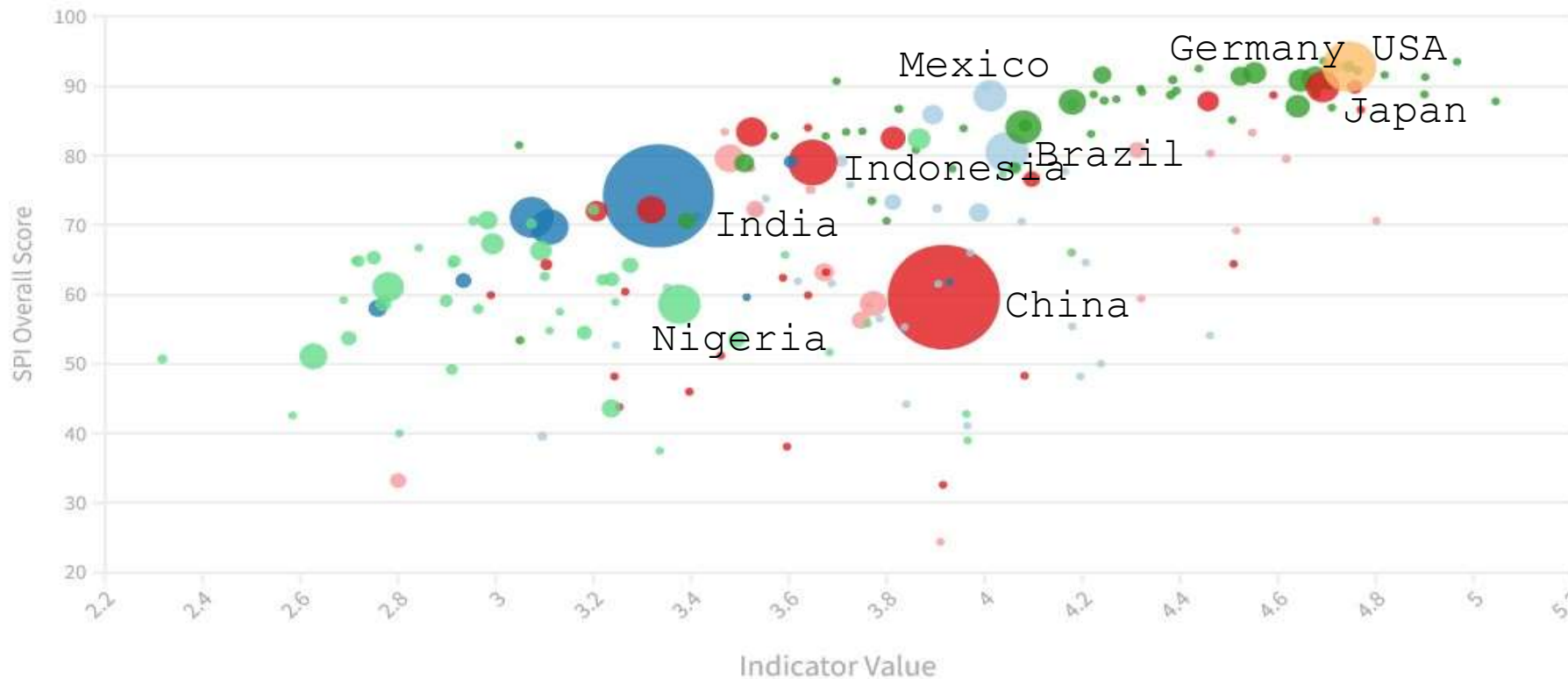
(1) Correlation between SPI and GDP/capita

Source: World Bank

Log GDP per capita (constant 2010 U)

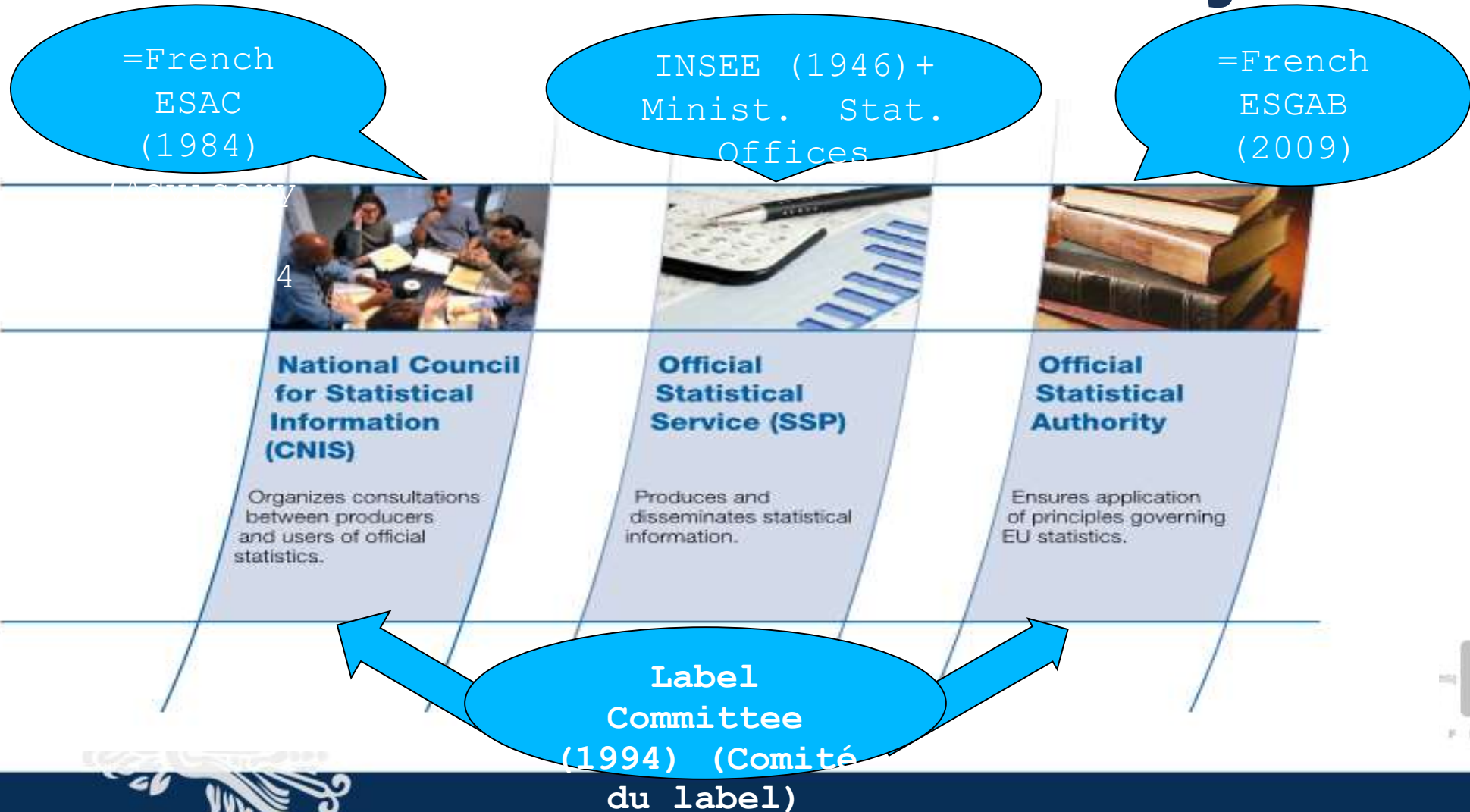
Region

- Latin America & Caribbean
- South Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Europe & Central Asia
- Middle East & North Africa
- East Asia & Pacific
- North America

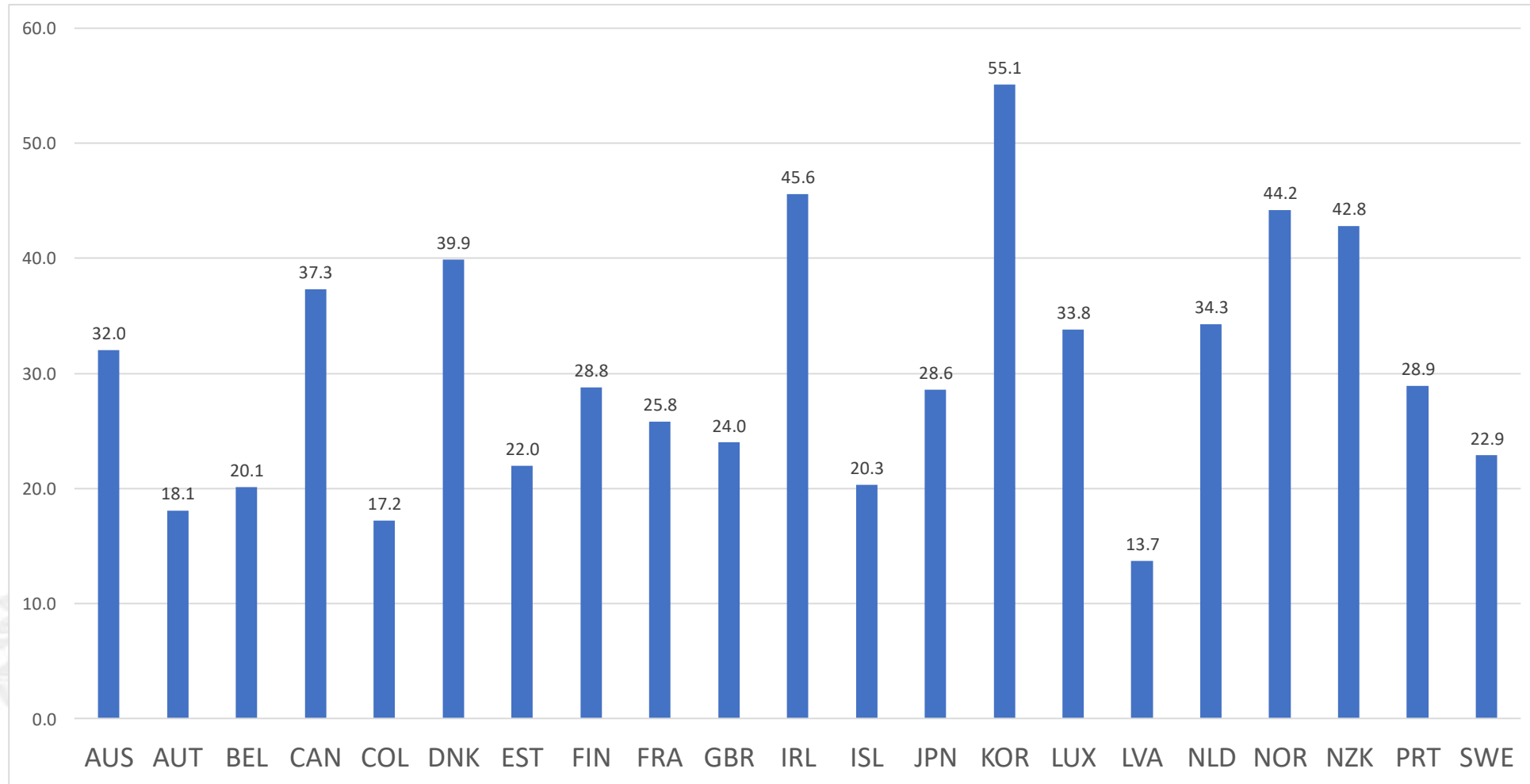


Source: World Development Indicators (IQ.SPI.OVRL, NY.GDP.PCAP.KD, HD.HCI.OVRL, SP.POP.TOTL), Worldwide Governance Indicators
Size of the bubble is based on 2019 World Bank population numbers for the country.

(2) The French national statistical system



(3) Do people have a say in decision-making? (OECD survey)





Thank you

