

***DYNAMIC OF ‘US’ TO ‘THEM’
TOLERANCE AT EUROPEAN
CONTEXT
(2013 – 2017)***

**Lilia DIMOVA
Martin DIMOV
2019**

The main research questions:

How the attitudes of European citizens towards people, who are different from the majority, have changed in the past 5 years in the new multicultural environment of the continent?

What remains unchanged and what not in the tolerance of Europeans towards the “others”?

What happens with US to THEM distance?

The answers are based on cross-national and diachronic comparisons on ESS data from R6, R7 and R8.

Conceptual framework

Tolerance = a fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose opinions, beliefs, practices, racial or ethnic origins, etc., differ from one's own

“US” = the majority of people which share dominated social norms

“THEM” = homosexuals, foreigners from dominate ethnos, foreigners from different ethnos, foreigners from poorer country in/outside Europe

Tolerance index = a synthetic indicator calculated as a centered average weighted by actual respondents' answers, ranging from -100 (no tolerance) to + 100 (high tolerance) on the basis of **Random Forest** interactive method that combines hundreds or thousands of regression trees

Quota selections

Countries: 10 ESS countries from different parts of Europe, different political background, conducting all ESS rounds from 2013 to 2017 - **CZ, GB, DE, NL, PL, PT, EE, HU, SE, ES**

ESS Rounds: R6, R7 and R8

Variables from ESS core modules: set of items measuring attitudes to people, different from the majority, i.e. homosexuals, immigrants, different people in general

UNDERSTANDING LEVEL OF TOLERANCE **= willingness of US to understand THEM**

Shalom H. Schwartz

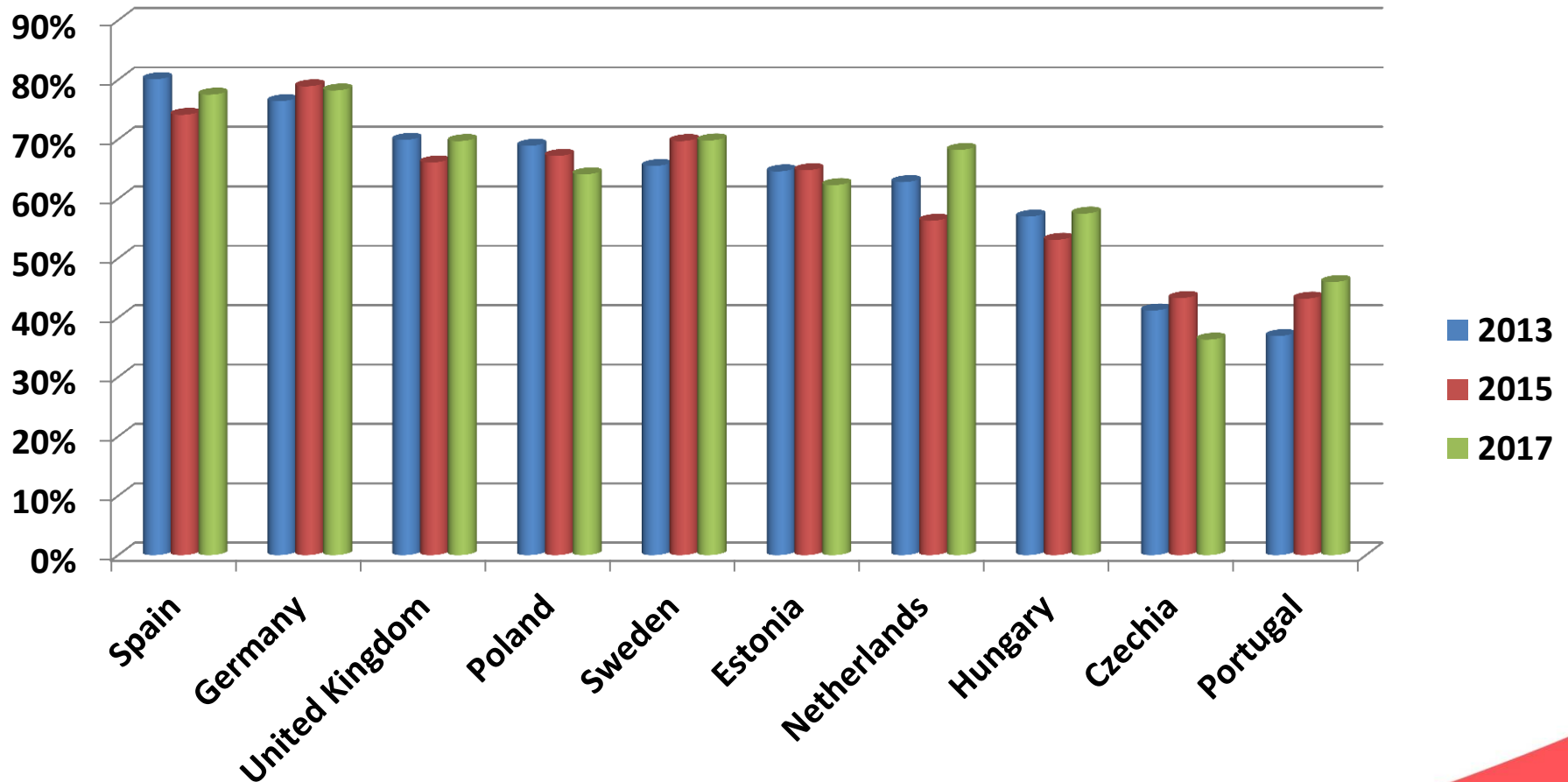
Measuring Value Orientations across Nations

“It is important to him/her to listen to people who are different from him. Even when s/he disagrees with them, s/he still wants to understand them.”

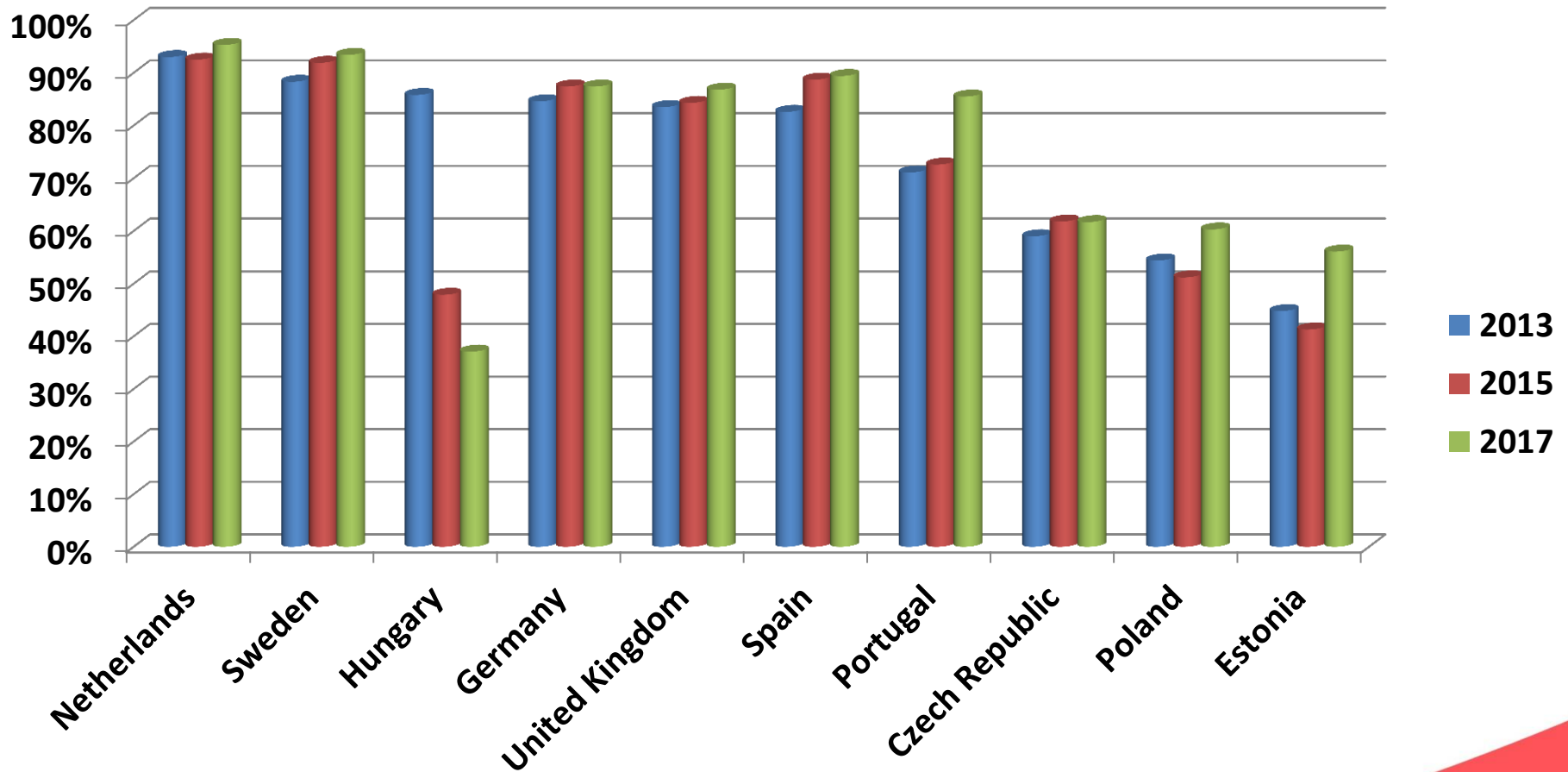
How much is this person like you?

<i>Very much like me</i>	<i>Like me</i>	<i>Somewhat like me</i>	<i>A little like me</i>	<i>Not like me</i>	<i>Not like me at all</i>
<i>Tolerant</i>		<i>Somewhat tolerant</i>		<i>Intolerant</i>	

Tolerance to different people and opinions by years and countries



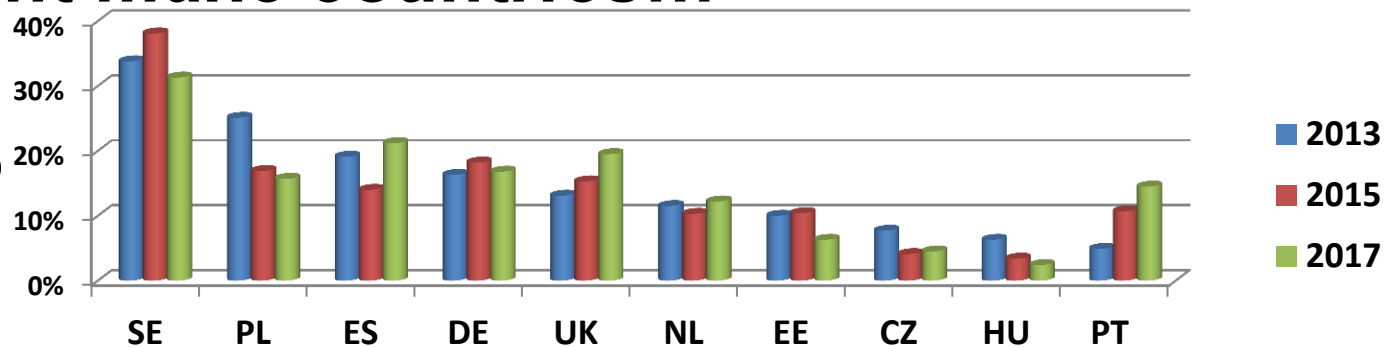
Tolerance to homosexuals by years and countries



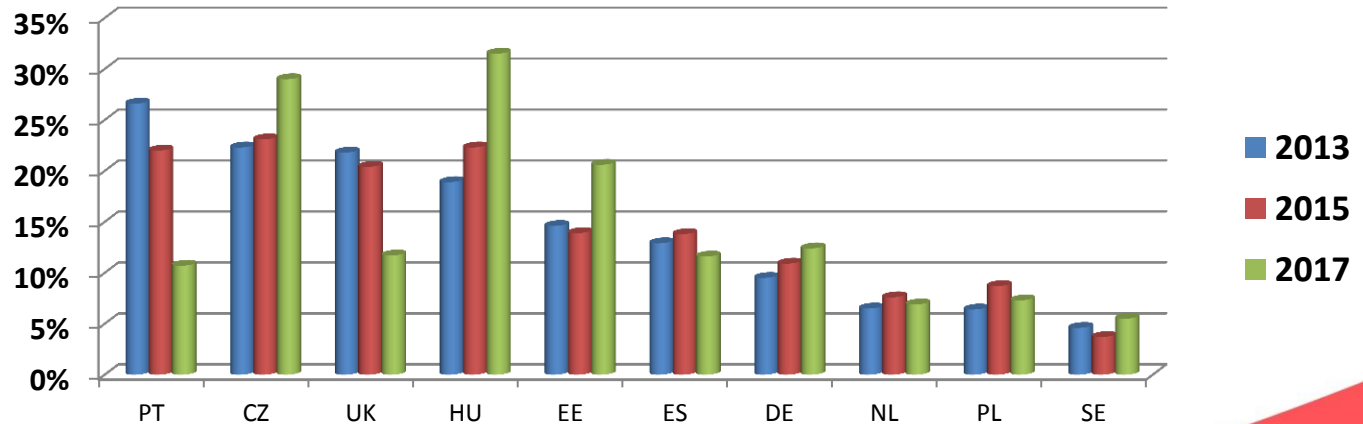
Tolerance to immigrants by countries and years

Immigrant make countries...

*...better
place to live*



*...worse
place to live*



Tolerance index

Main characteristics

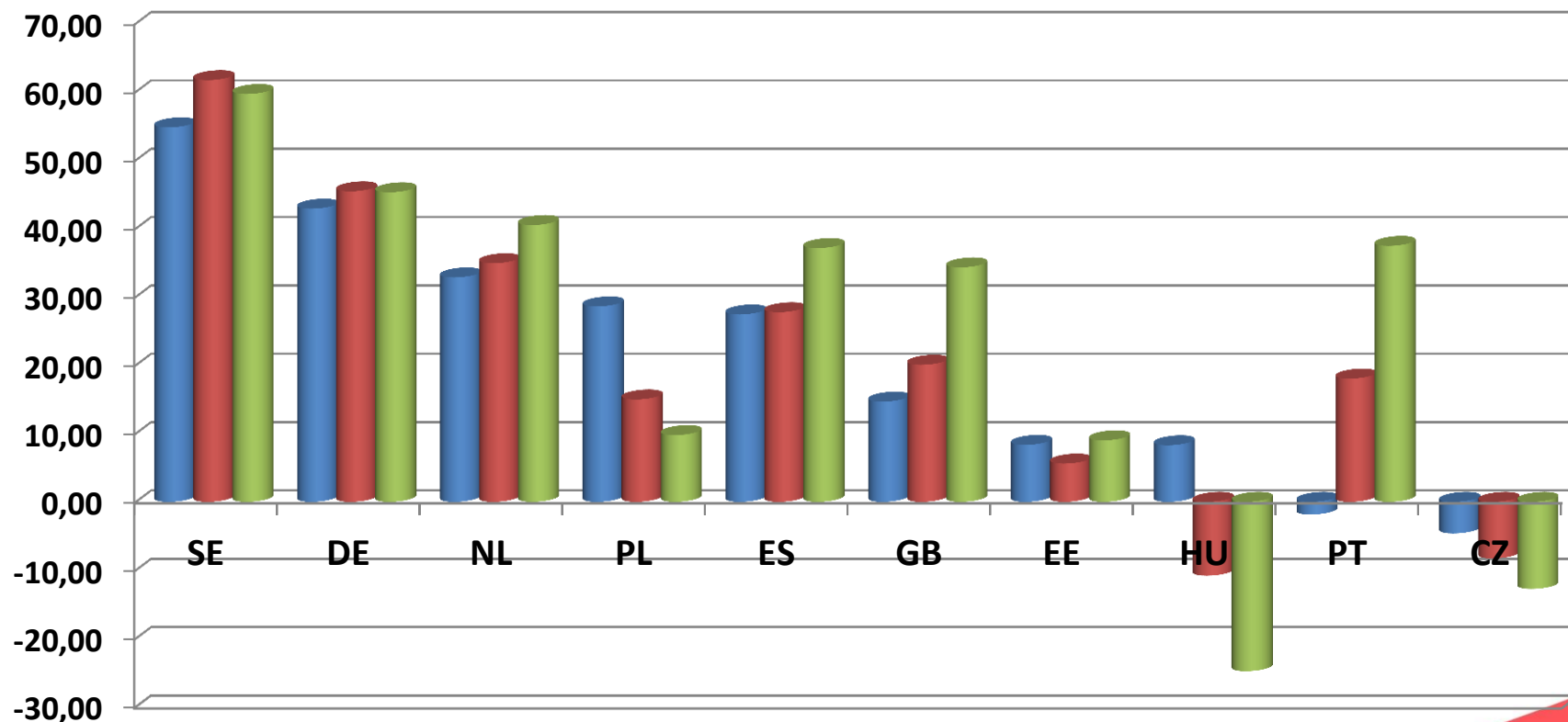
- Tolerance index - a synthetic indicator, calculated as a centered average weighted by actual respondents' answers
- Ranging from -100 (no tolerance) to + 100 (high tolerance)
- Could be implemented to any ESS round and any country

Variables and Levels

- The Index combines tolerance levels to:
 - People with different sexual orientation
 - Immigrants
 - Different people in general
- Based on ESS core module variables on:
 - Understanding the others
 - Assessments the others'
 - Migrant policy

Tolerance index by selected 10 countries 2013 - 2017

■ R6 ■ R7 ■ R8



Calculating the Variable Importance (VI)

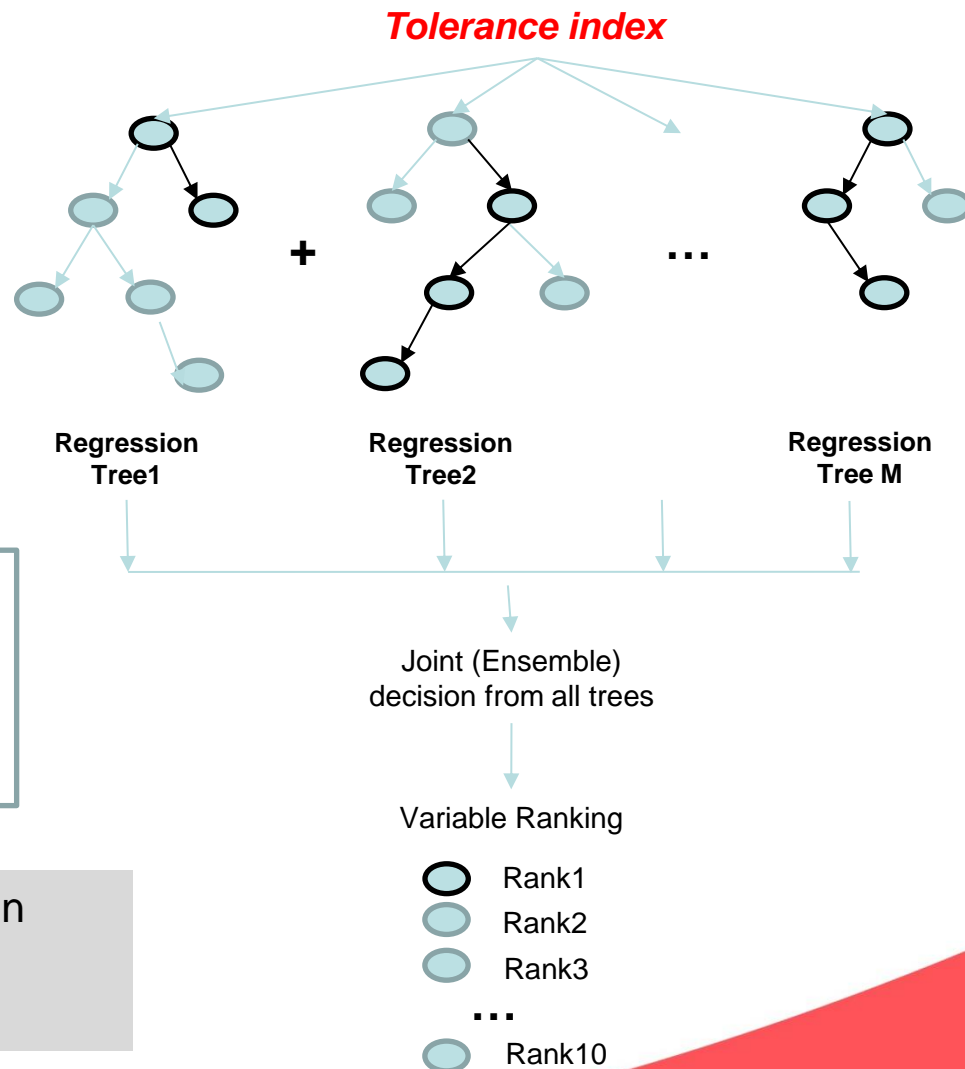
■ Determining which variables have the most predictive power using Random Forest

- VI represents the statistical significance of each variable in the data with respect to its affect on how well it explains the Tolerance index.
- VI actually is each predictor ranking based on the contribution predictors make to the model.
- Variable importance is calculated by sum of the decrease in error when split by a variable.
- The first measure is based on how much the accuracy decreases when the variable is excluded.
- Then the relative importance is the variable importance divided by the highest variable importance value so that values are bounded between 0 and 1.

Random Forest

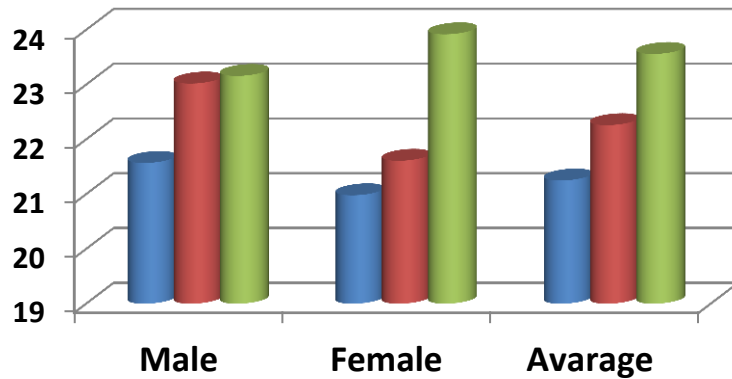
Interactive method that combines hundreds or thousands of **regression** trees, with random set of the observations and variables, splitting nodes in each tree considering a limited number of the features. The final predictions of the **random forest** are made by **assembling** the predictions of each individual tree.

“ This technique helps to weed out certain predictors which are contributing to nothing instead adds time to process.

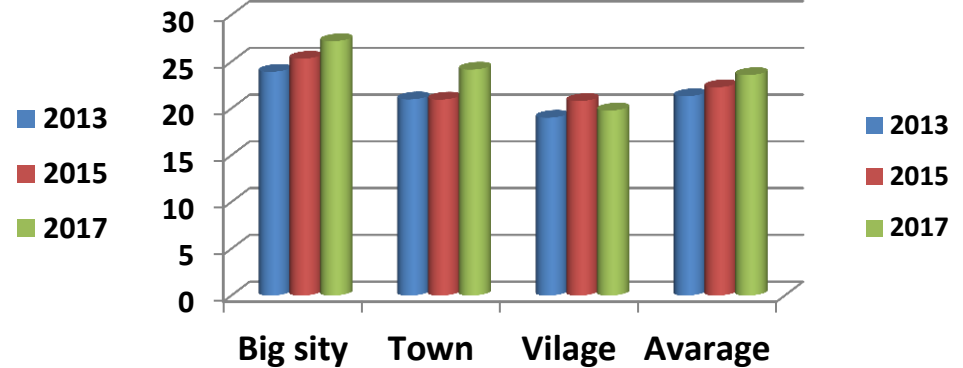


Dimensions of tolerance by demographic factors and years

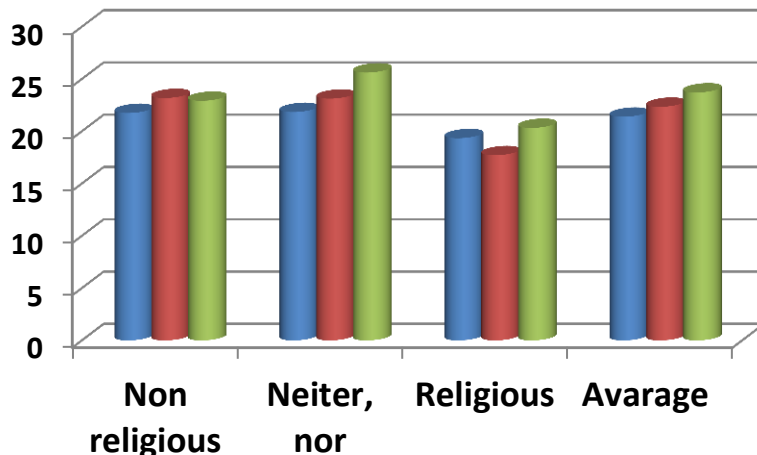
■ Tolerance by gender



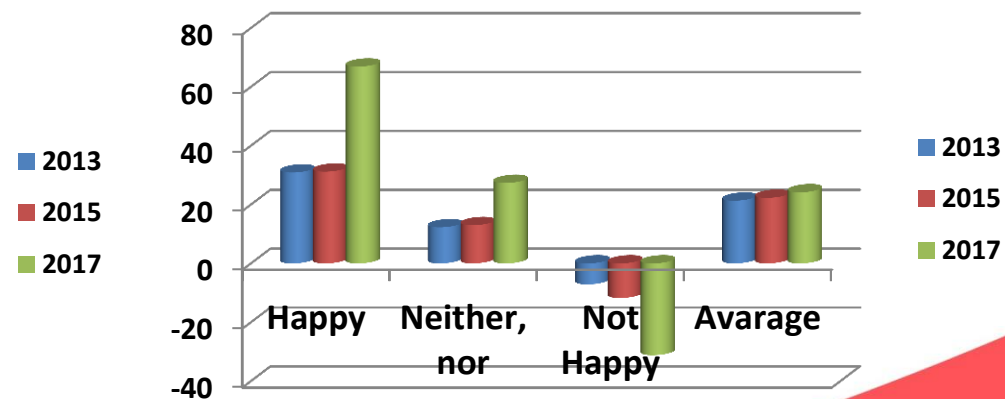
■ Tolerance by residence



■ Tolerance by religion

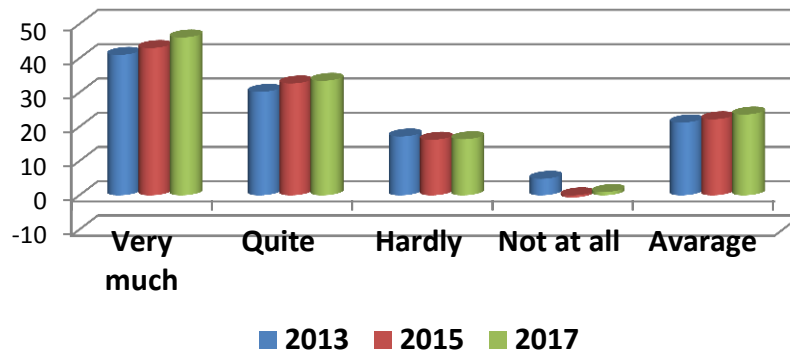


■ Tolerance by happiness

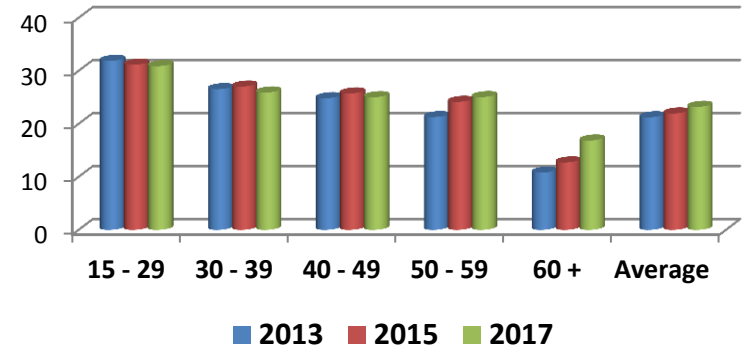


Dimensions of tolerance by demographic factors and years

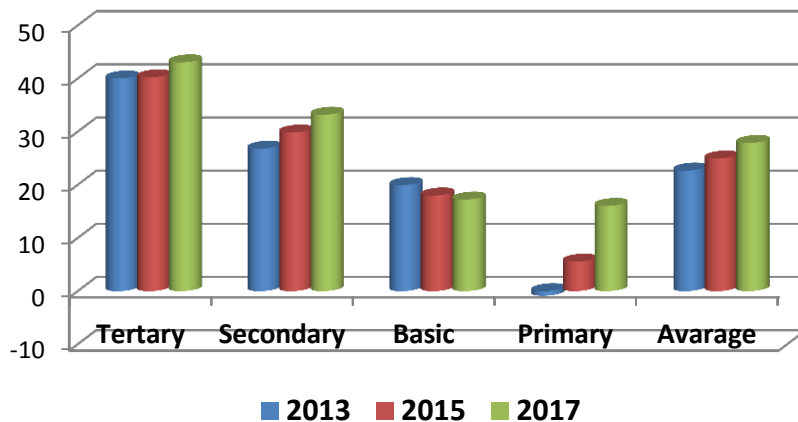
Tolerance by interest in politics



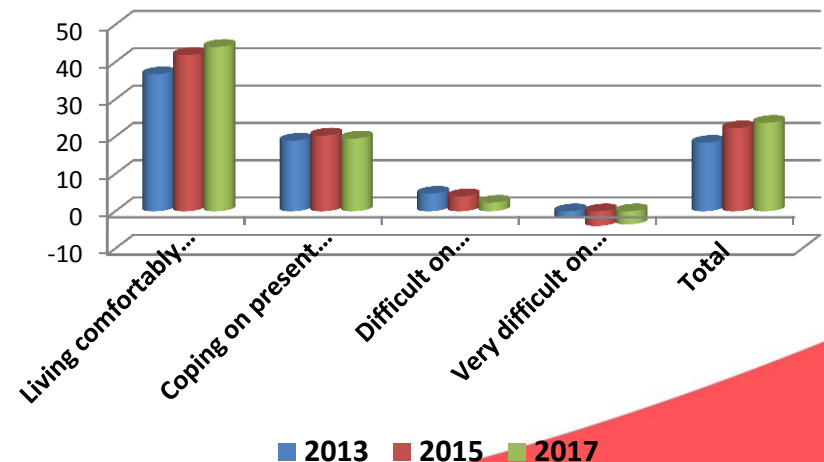
Tolerance by age



Tolerance by education

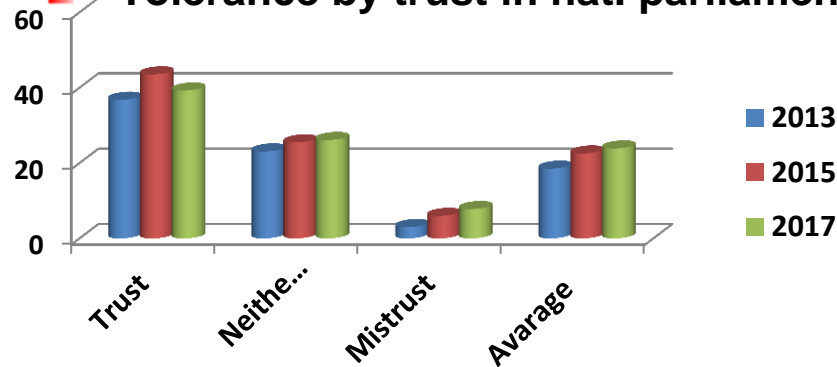


Tolerance by living standard

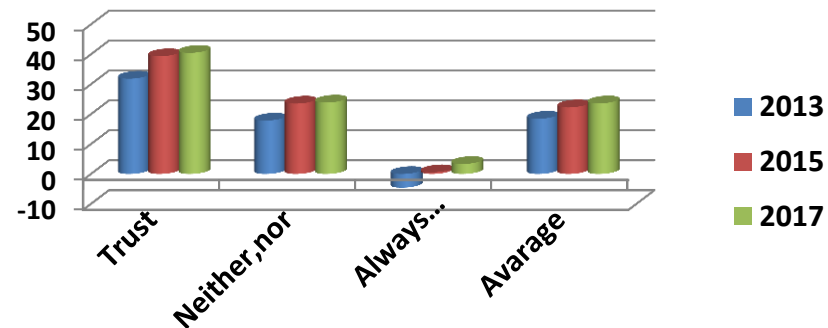


Dimensions of tolerance by trust factors and years

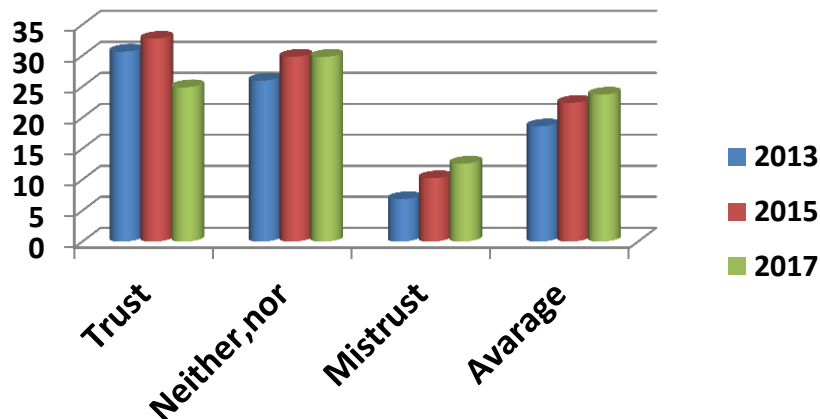
Tolerance by trust in nat. parliament



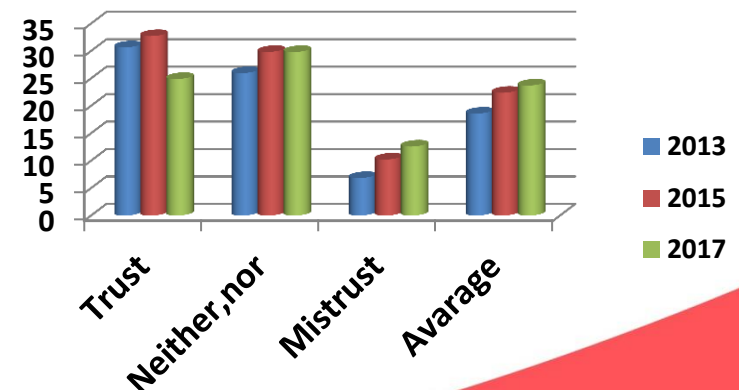
Tolerance by trust in people



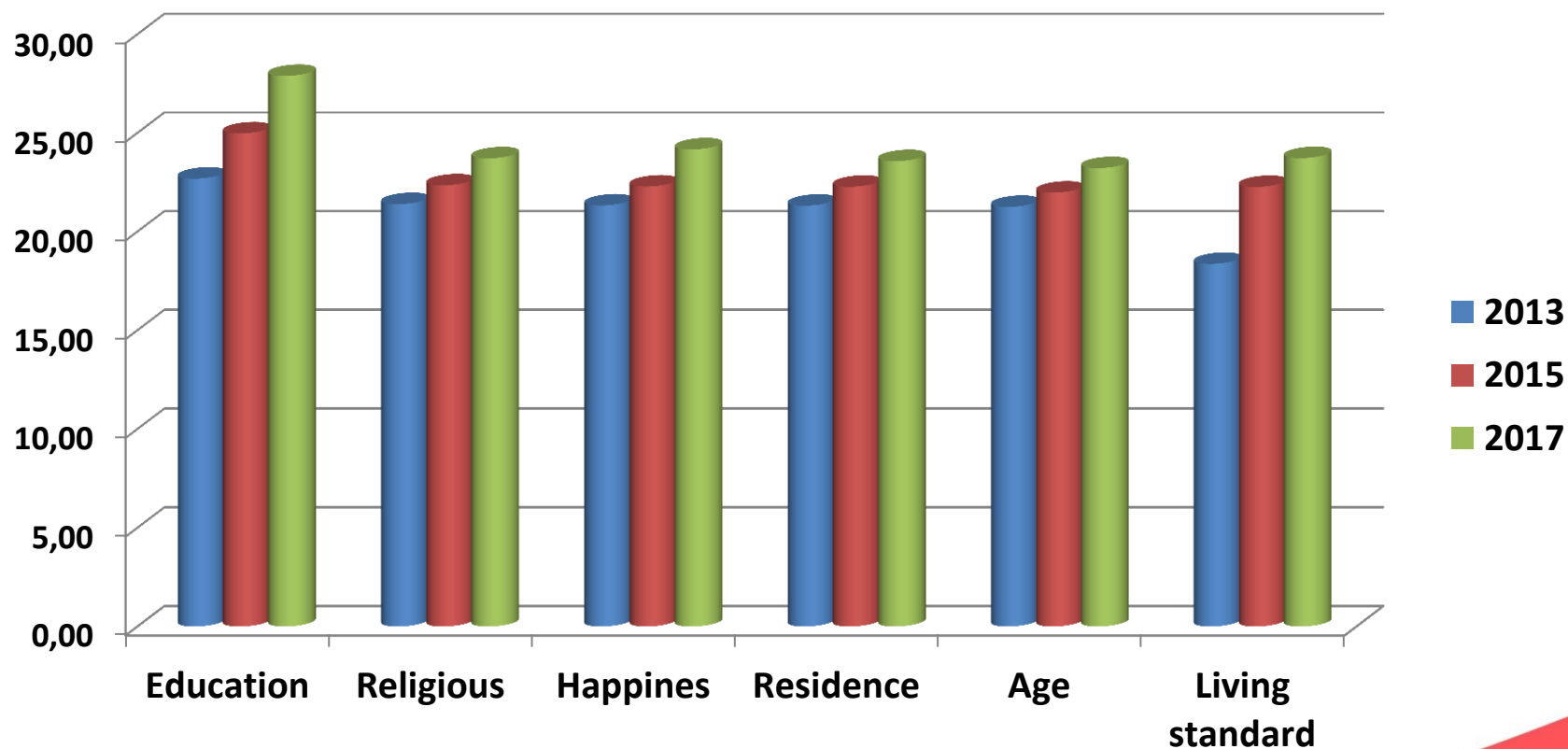
Tolerance by trust in EU parliament



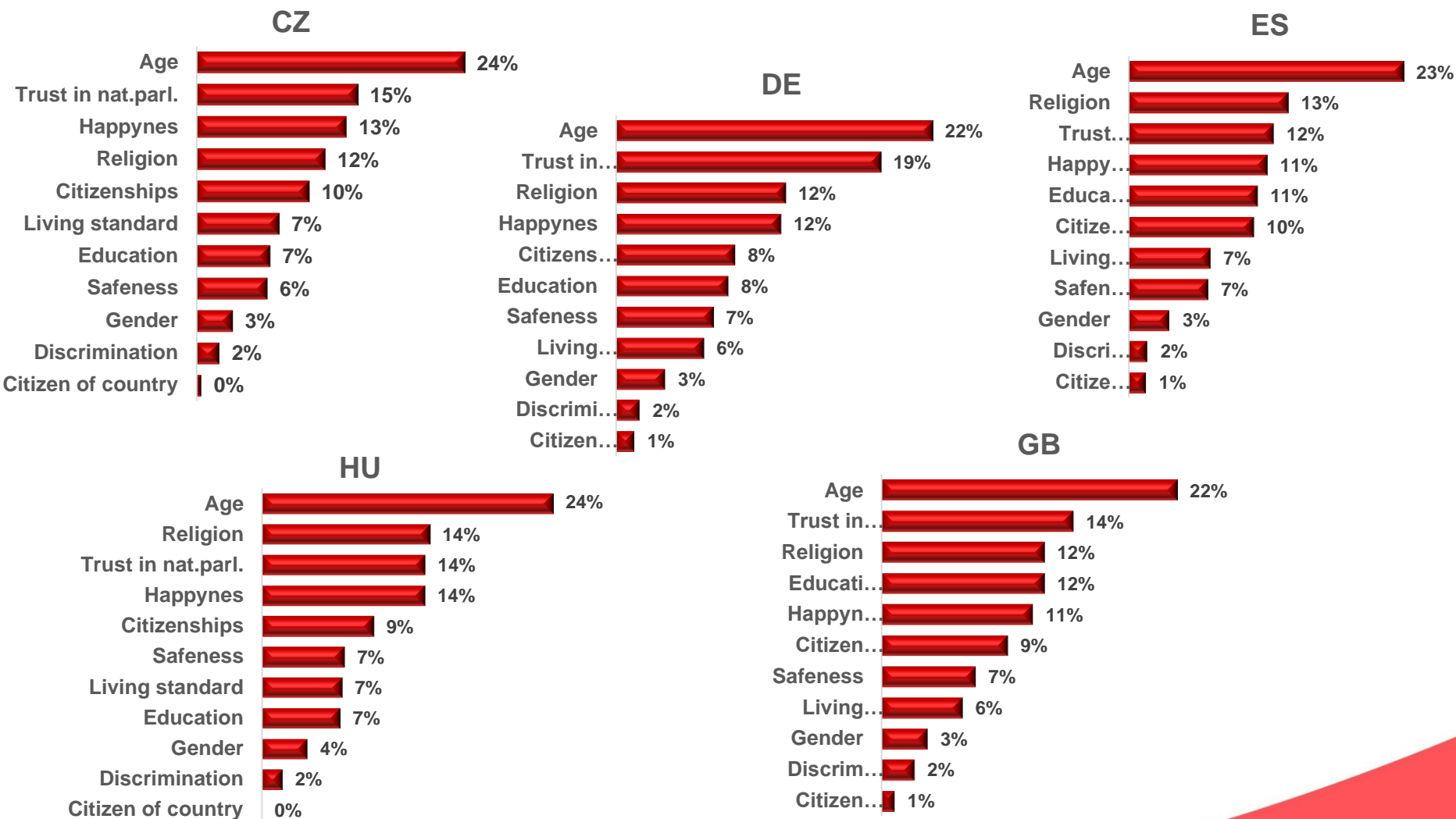
Tolerance by trust in politicians



Profiles of tolerance index by main factors and years

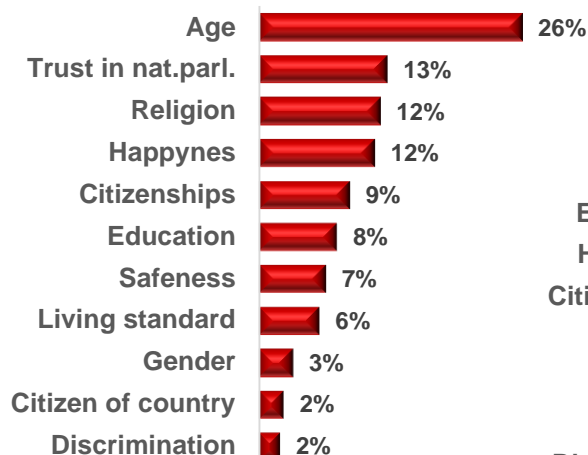


Variable importance* towards tolerance index by countries

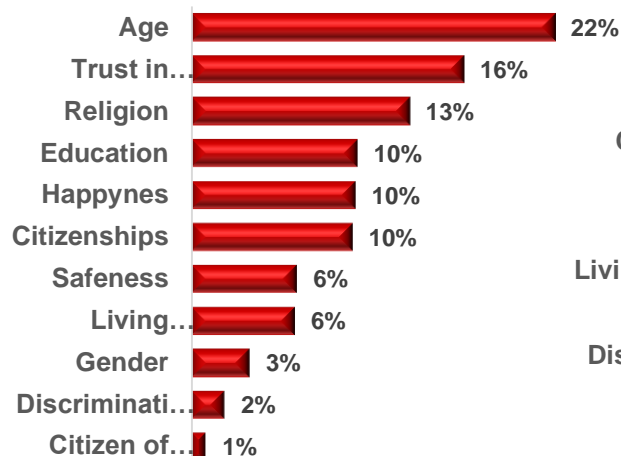


Variable importance towards tolerance index by countries

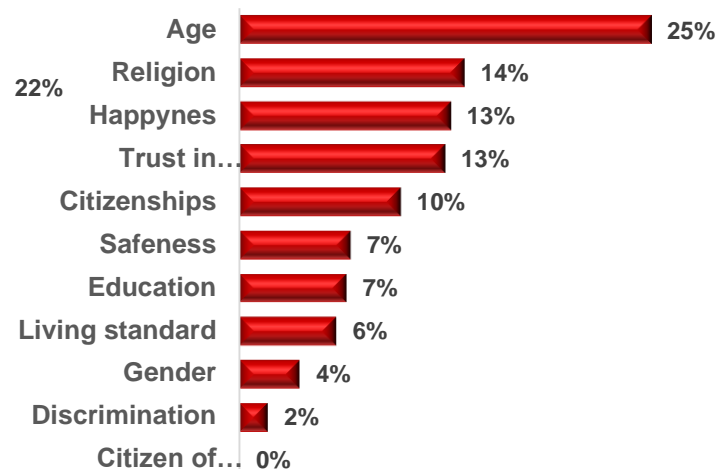
EE



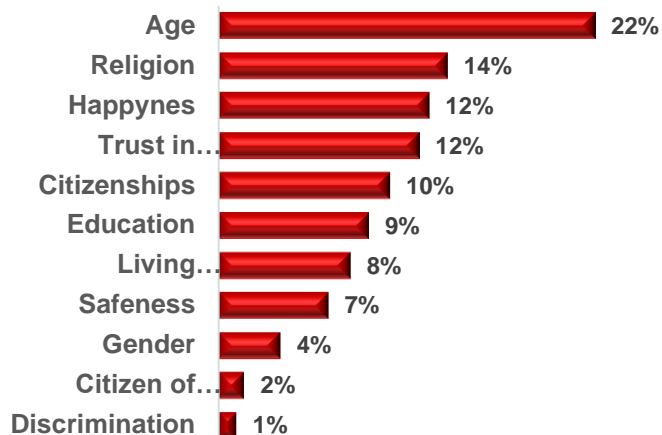
NL



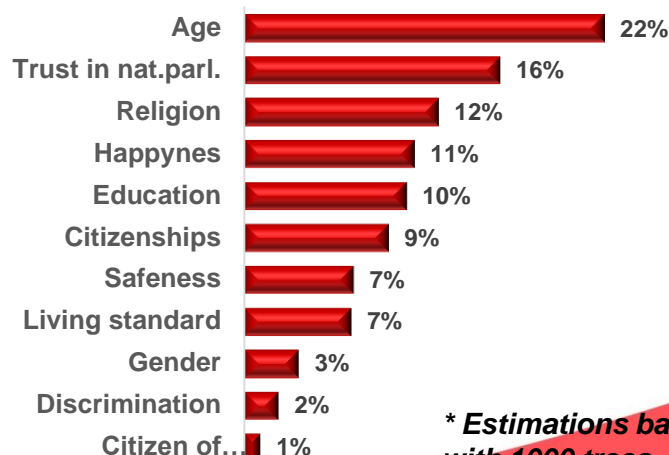
PL



PT



SE

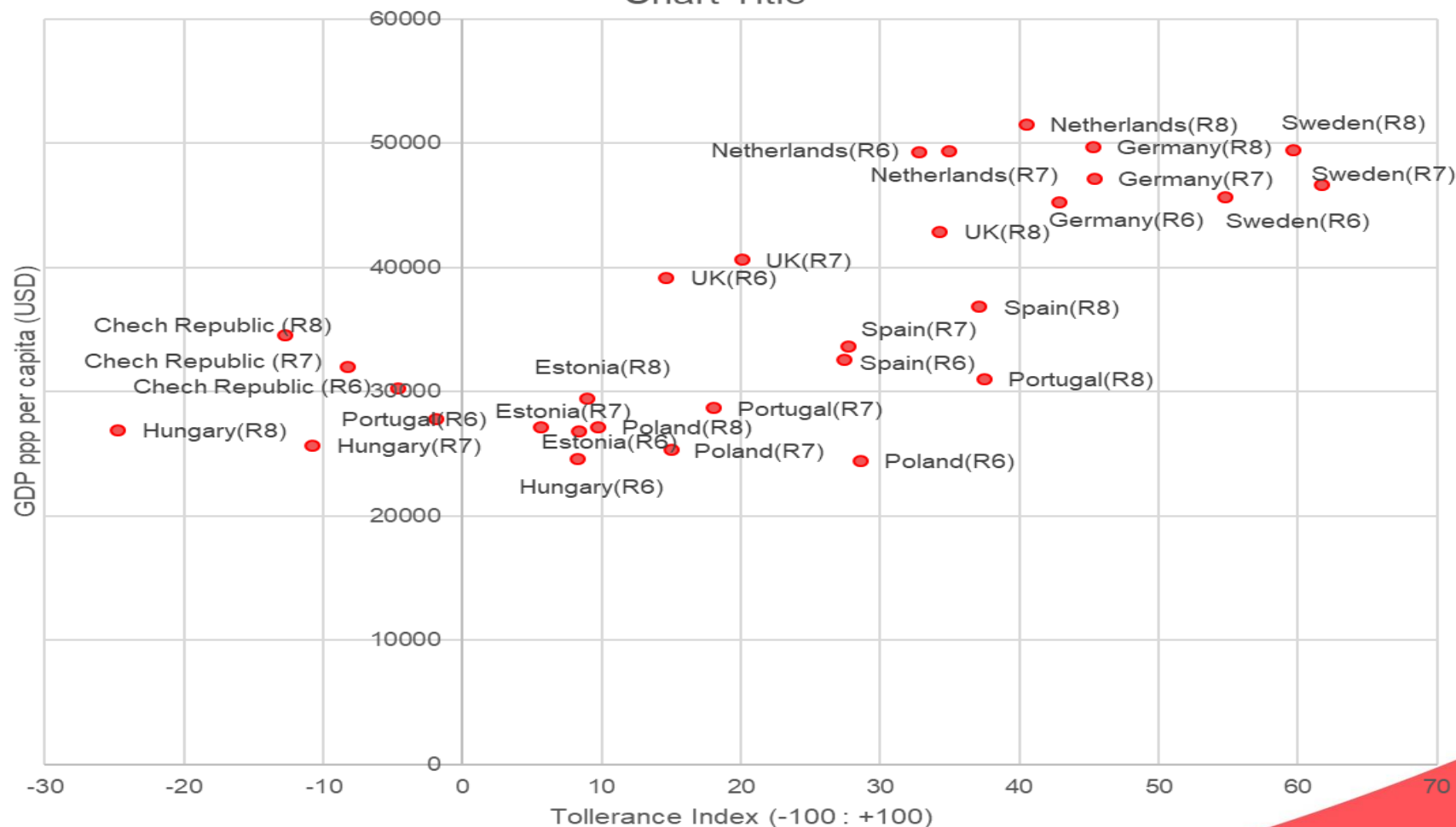


** Estimations based on random forest with 1000 trees, limited to 3 nodes for each tree*

Tolerance Levels by country's maturity

Diachronic comparisons between R6, R7 and R8

Chart Title



The main conclusions

1. The changed multicultural Europe mostly due to migrant waves **does not** influences significantly people's attitudes to 'THEM'- i.e. to those who are different from US. Even when US disagree with THEM, US still want to understand THEM.
2. The most serious **changes** in tolerance are discovered in Hungary, Czech Republic and Poland (negative), Portugal and GB (positive).
3. European citizens share **selective tolerance** – i.e. as close to US in general are special features of the 'others', as tolerant to THEM are attitudes.
4. North European US is more tolerant compare to Central and South European.
5. The strongest influencing factor on tolerance at cross national context is **GDP PP**.
6. The strongest influencing factors on tolerance at individual context are **age, education and living standard**
7. In general, European tolerance to different opinions remains unchanged, while tolerance to the "new Europeans" coming from outside the continent varies between North, Central and South Europe.

**As to in-depth analyses based on
the ESS 2013 – 2017 data, the most
tolerant US to THEM are:**

**Young happy man and women,
well educated,
living in safe environment,
residents of big cities in North Europe,
with high living standard,
who trust their national and European governments,
Interested in politics.**

AGENCY FOR SOCIAL ANALYSES (ASA)

**ASA is a
Think Tank organization,
the BG national representative
in the
International Social
Survey Programme (ISSP)
since 1994
and in the
European Social Survey (ESS)
2006 – 2013**

**1, Macedonia Sq.
1040 Sofia**

**Tel/Fax: +359 2986 1072
asa@mail. bg**

**<http://www.asa-bg.org>
www.ess-bulgaria.org**