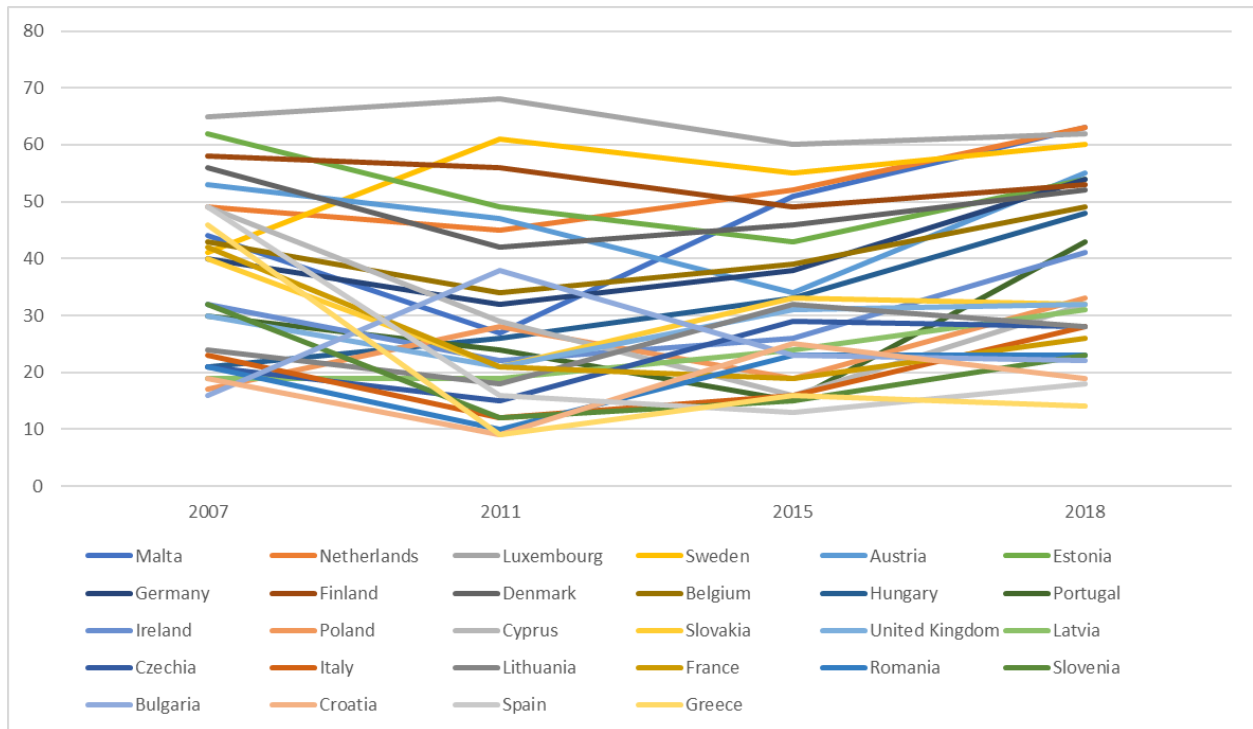


Governance and Participation

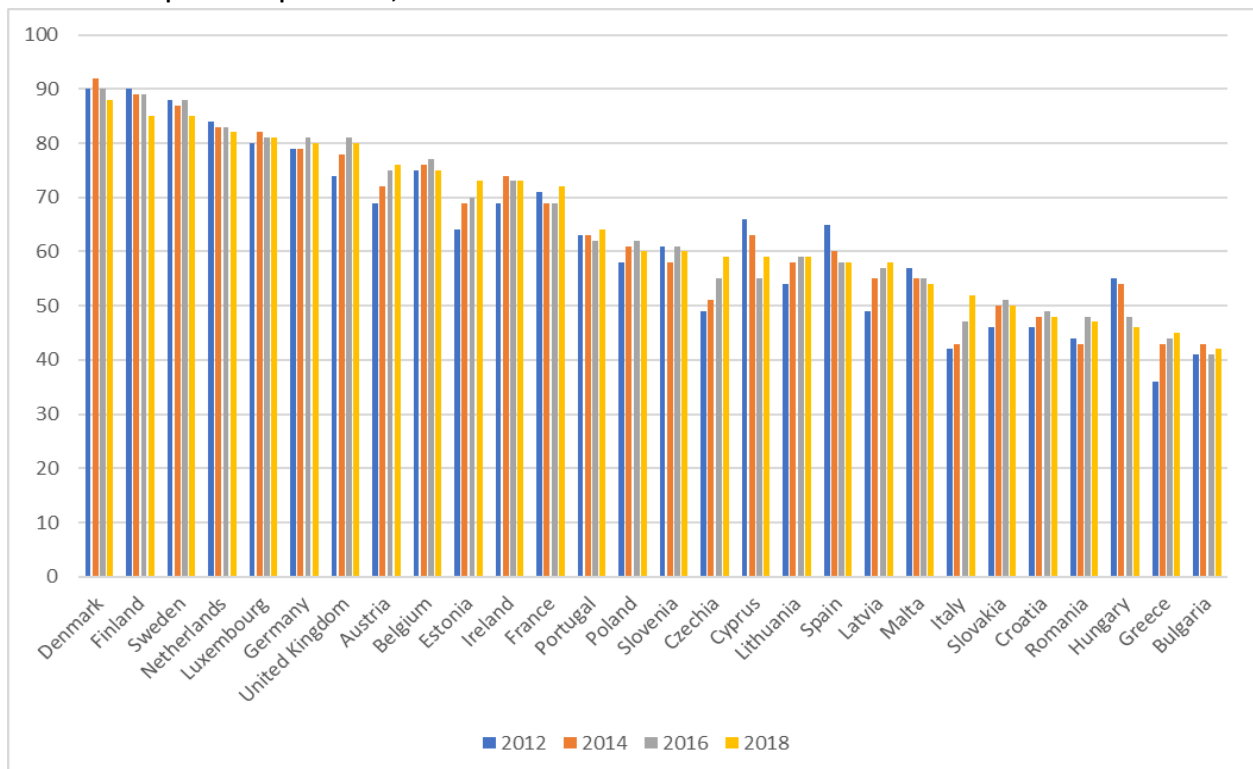
Chart 6.1: Trust in National Government, EU-28, 2007-2018



Source: Eurobarometer, European Commission

Note: Data for November in each year except 2007 when data gathered in September

Chart 6.2: Corruption Perception Index, EU-28 2012 to 2018



Source: Eurostat, [sdg_16_50]

Governance and Participation

Trust in National Governments



For a democracy to function, there must be trust in national governments. In the wake of a global financial crisis, in which national government regulation and policy played a significant part, it is not surprising that this trust would be damaged to some extent.

Eurobarometer, a European-wide survey investigating in depth the motivations, feelings and reactions of selected social groups towards a given subject or concept, measures among other things the population's sentiment towards their national governments. When asked to respond as to whether they trusted, did not trust or did not know if they trusted their national government in 2007, prior to the crash, Luxembourg (with 65% of respondents saying they did trust their national government), Estonia (54%), Finland (53%) and Denmark ranked at the top. Ireland (32%), Slovenia (32%), Portugal (30%) and the United Kingdom (30%) ranked in the middle, and Latvia (19%), Croatia (19%), Poland (17%) and Bulgaria (16%) were at the bottom (Chart 6.1). Move forward to 2011 in the midst of the economic recession, while the relative position of most countries remain unchanged, the level of trust has decreased. A notable exception to this is Sweden which increased from 41% in 2007 to 61% in 2011, ranking second highest in the EU-28. Bulgaria saw the highest increase in trust during this period, rising by 22 percentage points, with Greece experiencing the largest decrease of 37 percentage points, from 46% in 2007 to 9% in 2011.

Trust in national governments has generally increased and in 2018 the Netherlands (63%), Malta (63%), Luxembourg (62%) and Sweden (60%) rank at the top, Poland (33%), Cyprus (32%), Slovakia (32%) and the United Kingdom (32%) rank towards the middle and Bulgaria (22%), Croatia (19%), Spain (18%)

and Greece (14%) are at the bottom. Trust in the Irish government, which decreased during a decade of recession was higher in 2018 than 2007, at 41%.

Corruption Perception Index

One of the measures that Eurostat use for SDG10, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, is the Corruption Perception Index developed by Transparency International. This is a composite index based on a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption from 13 different sources and scores and ranks countries based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be, with a score of 0 representing a very high level of corruption and a score of 100 representing a very clean country.

As can be seen in Chart 6.2, the relative position of the EU-28 countries has remained quite static, with Denmark consistently ranking at the top (with a score of 90 in 2012, 2014 and 2016 and 88 in 2018), followed by Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands, each constantly ranking in the 80s and 90s in each of the years shown. Ireland, along with Estonia, France and Portugal, rank in the middle with scores in the 60s and 70s over the period shown (Ireland had a Corruption Index score of 73 in 2018, having risen from 69 in 2012). Romania, Hungary, Greece and Bulgaria rank the lowest on this indicator, although there are some notable fluctuations in the individual scores of these countries. Hungary's score decreased by 9 points between 2012 and 2018 whereas the score for Greece has actually increased from 36 to 45 in this period.

Policy Priorities

- A review of the Country Specific Recommendations against the overall goal to use current favourable conditions to make Europe's economies **and societies** stronger and more resilient.

