

Mapping Health Differences by Political Ideology in Europe

Tiago Alexandre Alcobia Pereira

tapereir@stud.ntnu.no

Motivation

- ▶ Results suggest that both individual political ideology and national political systems are associated with self-rated health.
- ▶ Previous research shows that conservative voters report better health than liberals, while studies on political extremism (e.g., far-right support) find poorer self-rated health among these voters.
- ▶ With the rise of extreme political parties, it is uncertain whether the link between political ideology and self-rated health has changed over time.
- ▶ **Goal:** Evaluate how political ideology associates with self-rated health across European countries.

- ▶ Lower education, lower income, and lower interpersonal trust are associated with a higher probability of poor health, while higher levels are linked to better self-rated health.
- ▶ Gender shows little association with self-rated health. The association between political ideology and health varies across countries in both magnitude and direction (e.g., far-right voters are strongly associated with better health in Hungary but strongly associated with poorer health in Slovenia). In most cases, centrist voters report similar or better health.

Data

- ▶ All 11 ESS rounds are used, covering approximately 350,000 respondents across 30 countries over a period of around 20 years.
- ▶ The dataset includes around 300 variables on voting behavior, in addition to self-rated health and socioeconomic and demographic factors (income, education, trust, age etc.).
- ▶ Political ideology is based on reported electoral voting in the last national election and contains substantial missing data due to its sensitive nature.
- ▶ Most control variables are categorical. Age is treated as continuous.

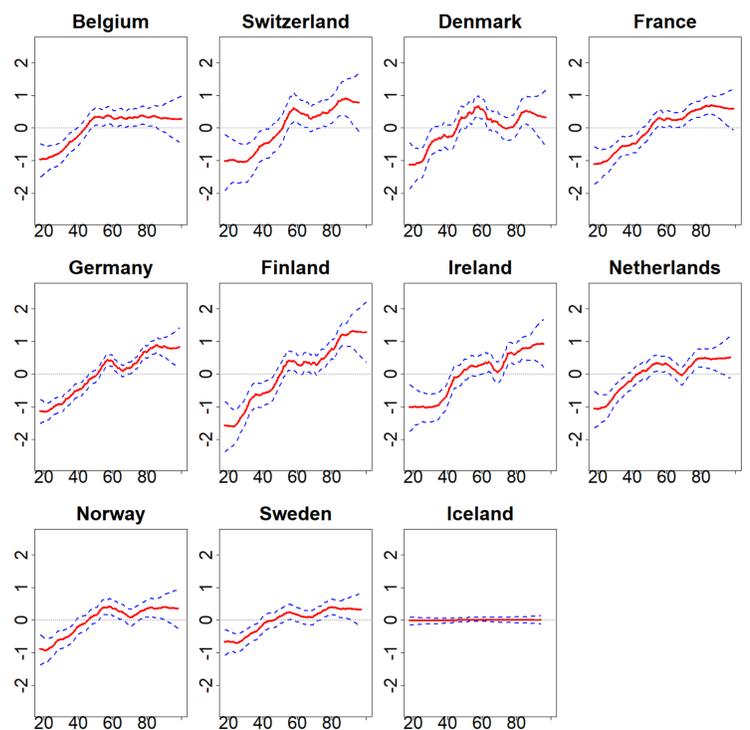


Figure 2: Age Effects (Log-Odds) on Reporting Poor Health, for Significant Countries

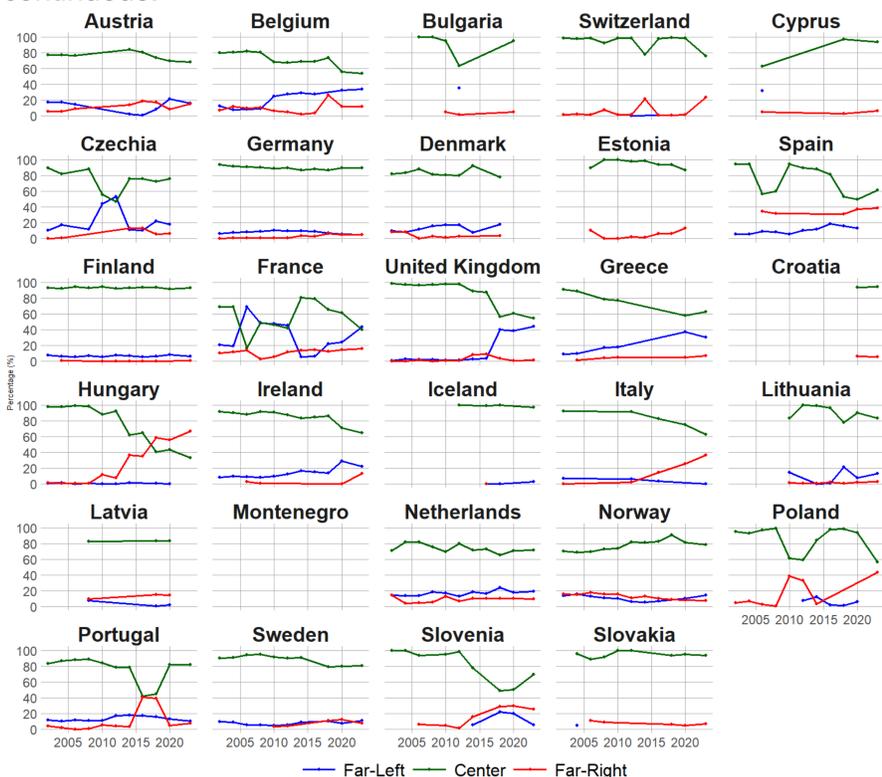


Figure 1: Political Ideology Distribution (%) by Country and Year

Time trends

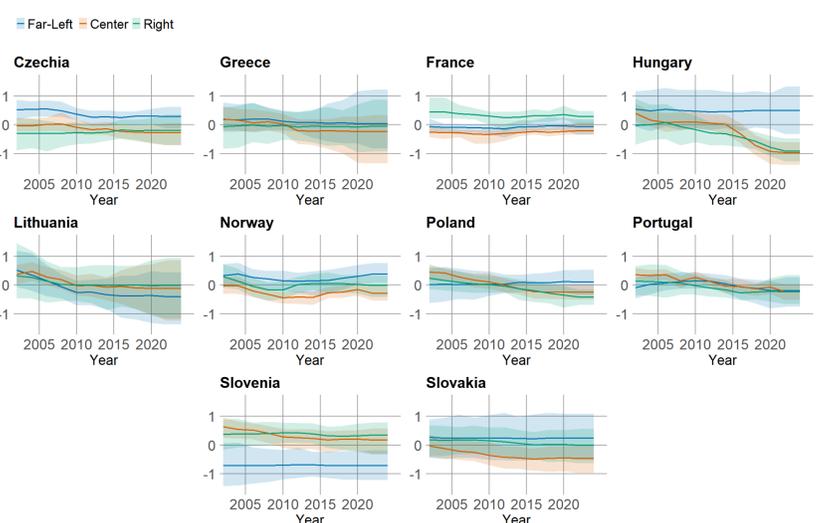


Figure 3: Significant Political Time Effects (Log-Odds) on Reporting Poor Health, by Country

Country specific analysis

- ▶ A multilevel model for each country evaluates the relationship between political ideology, socioeconomic and demographic factors, and self-rated health. The model accounts for age and political time trends and includes fixed effects for ideology, education, interpersonal trust, gender, and household income.

Future plans

- ▶ Carry out further exploratory analysis by comparing grouped distributions of key political and socioeconomic variables.
- ▶ Conduct a spatial analysis to examine whether political trends spread across neighboring countries and how this relates to health outcomes.