

Environmental Attitudes in the EU: Do the New Member States Differ?

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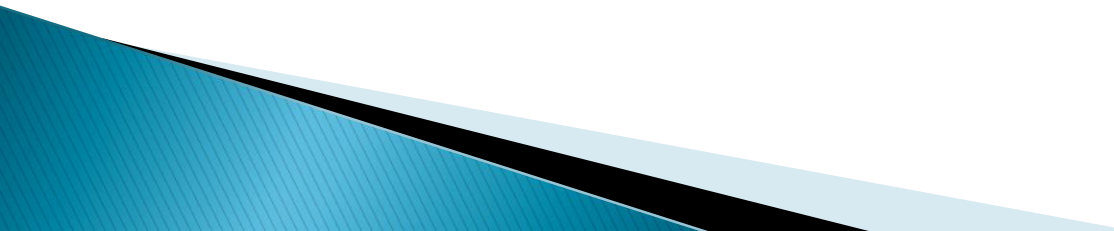
Questions

- ▶ Do attitudes toward environmental policy differ between the EU-15 and the post-communist New Member States (NMS)
- ▶ To what degree is there attitudinal convergence?
- ▶ What explains the similarities and differences?

Significance: Is Europeanization successful?
How strong are communist legacies?

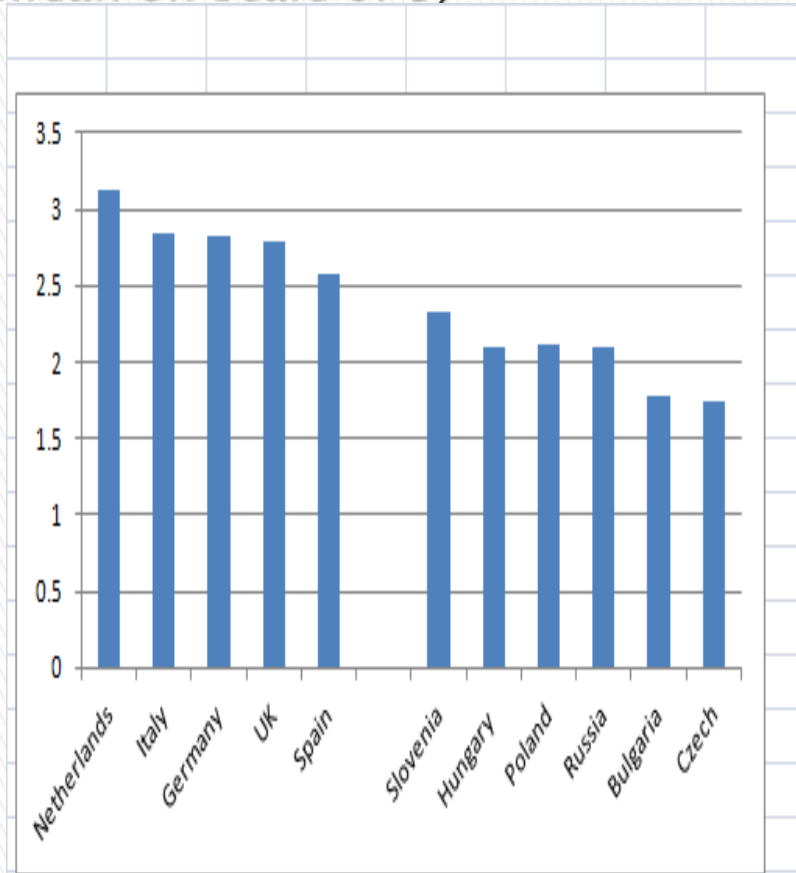


Possible reasons for differences

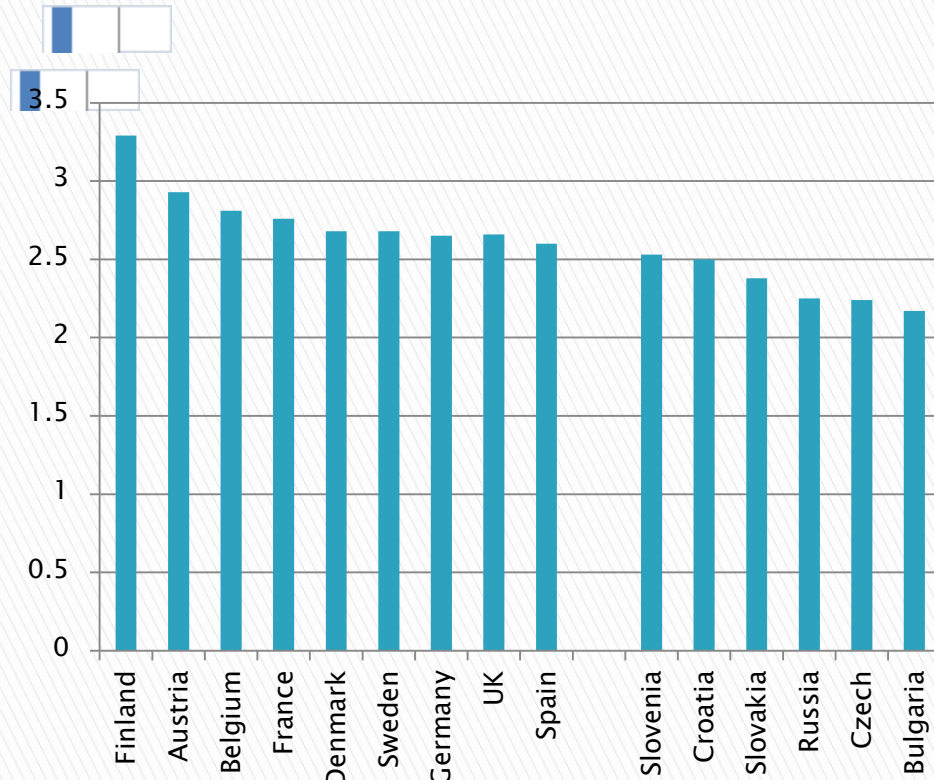
- ▶ Communist legacy: a different attitudinal ‘inheritance’
 - relatively low priority of environmental protection
 - necessity of state action (not market)
 - interdependence of economic growth and env prot
 - ▶ Differing levels of economic prosperity
 - ▶ Differing nature of environmental burden
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Belief that env protection doesn't require economic growth , 1993, 2010

(mean on scale of 5)

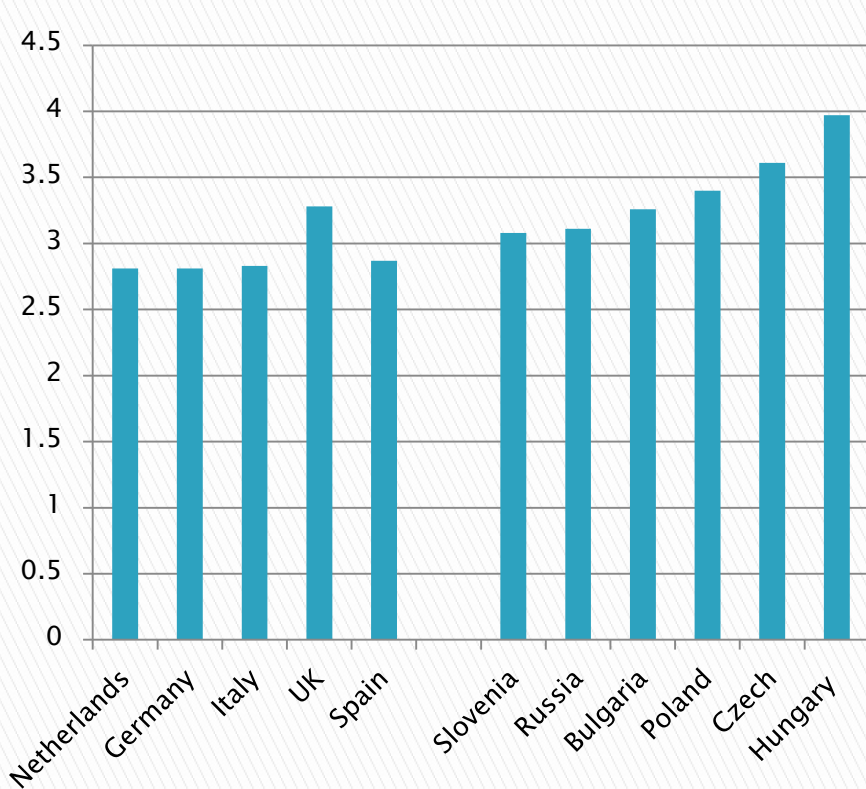


1993

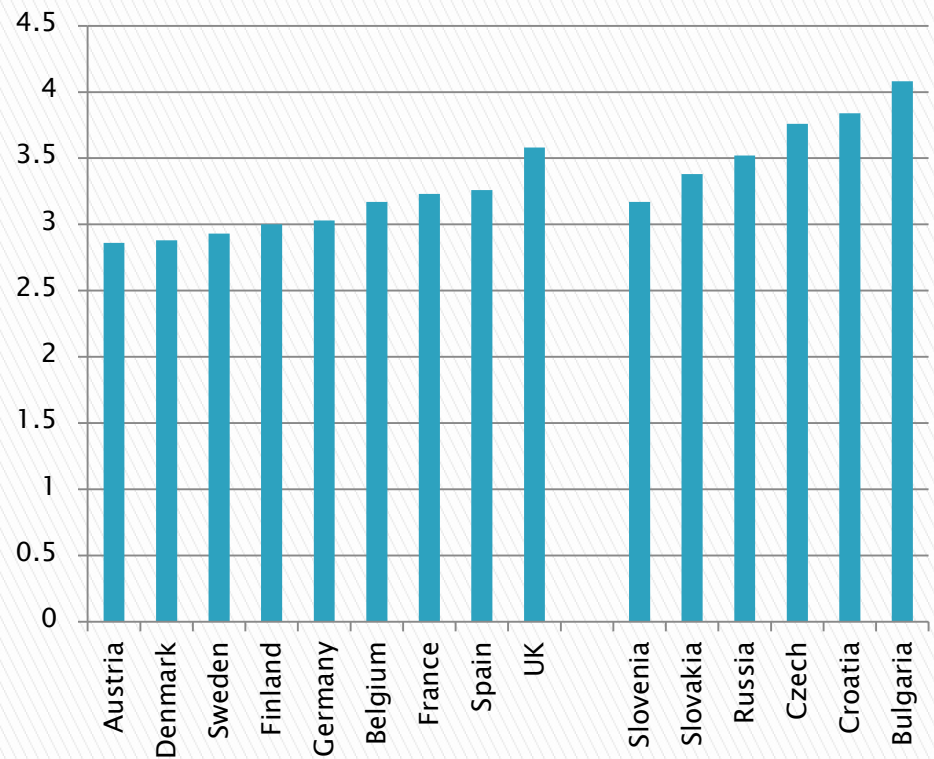


2010

Unwillingness to cut standard of living for env protection, 1993, 2010 (mean on scale of 5)

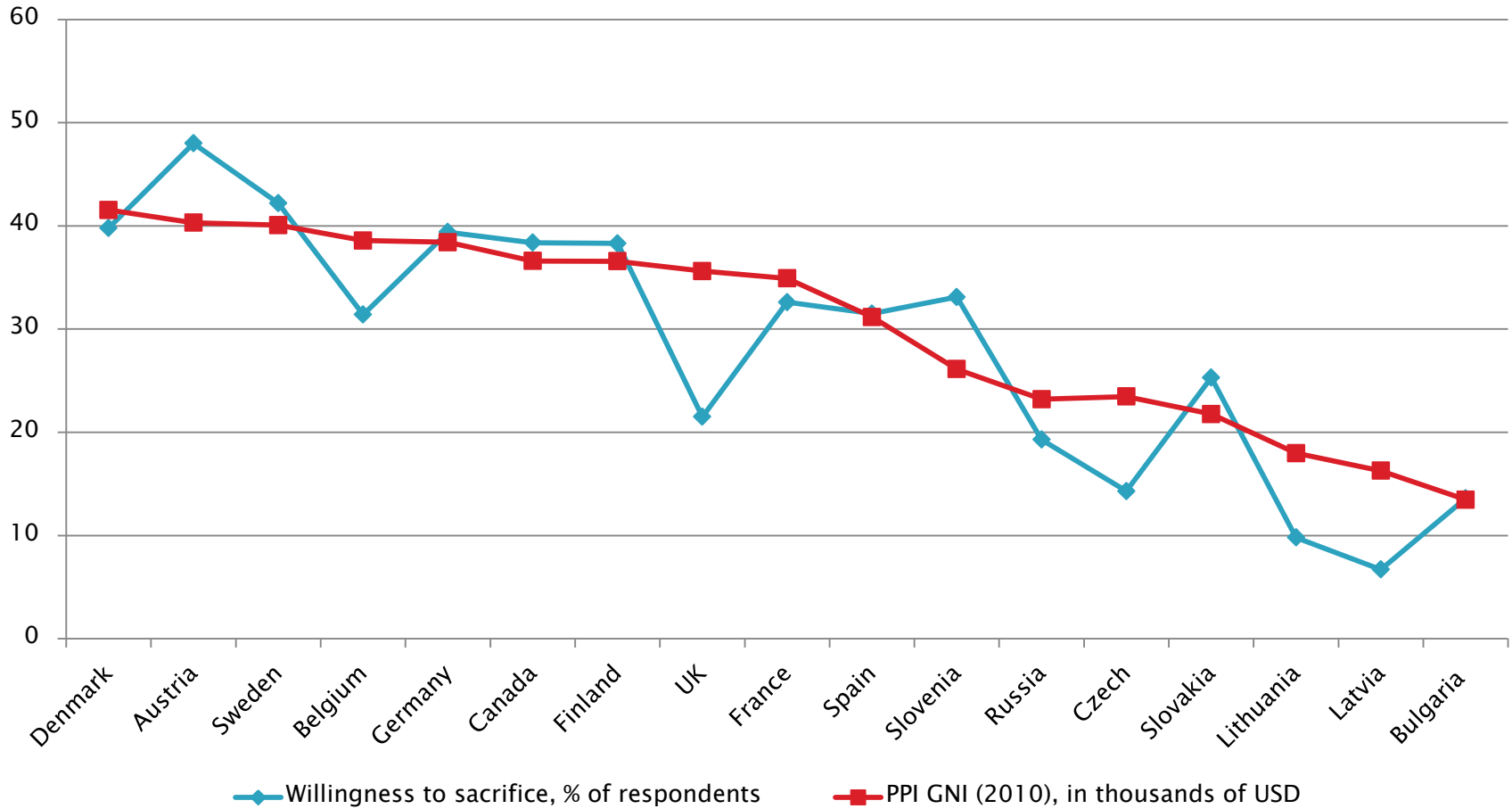


1993



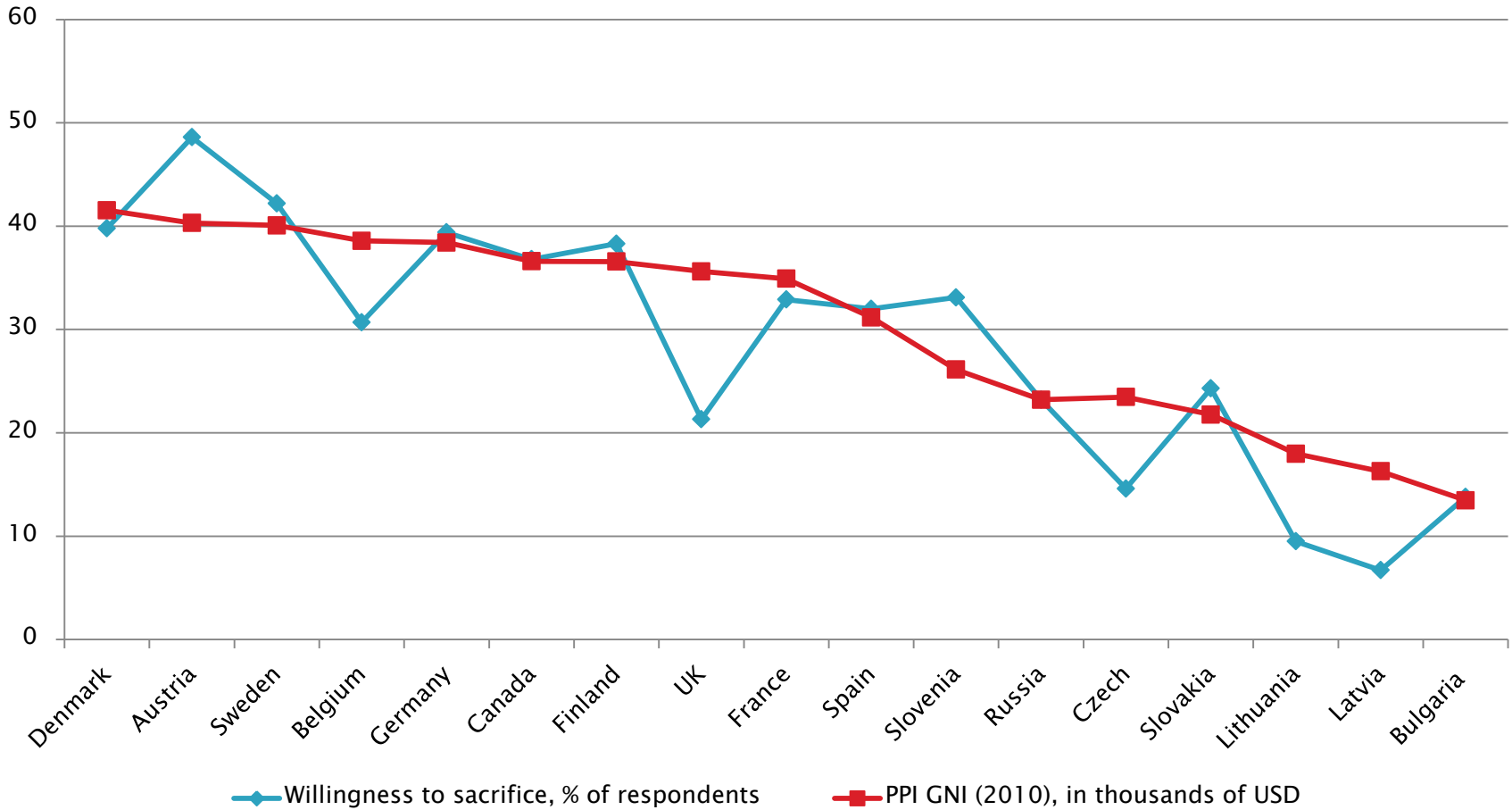
2010

Purchasing power parity (PPP) by willingness to sacrifice s-o-l , 2010

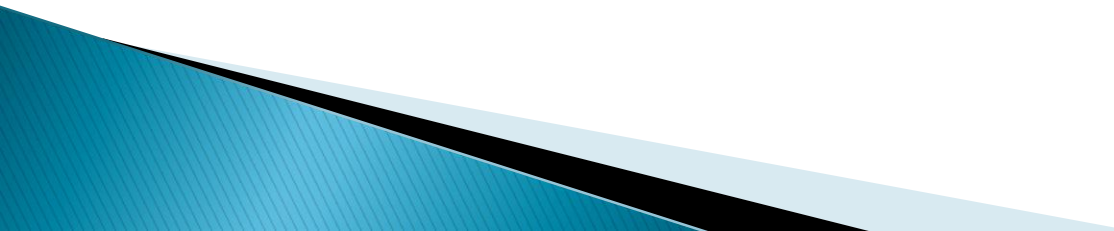


Purchasing power parity (PPP) by willingness to sacrifice s-o-l , by country 2010

(correlation .281, $p < .001$)

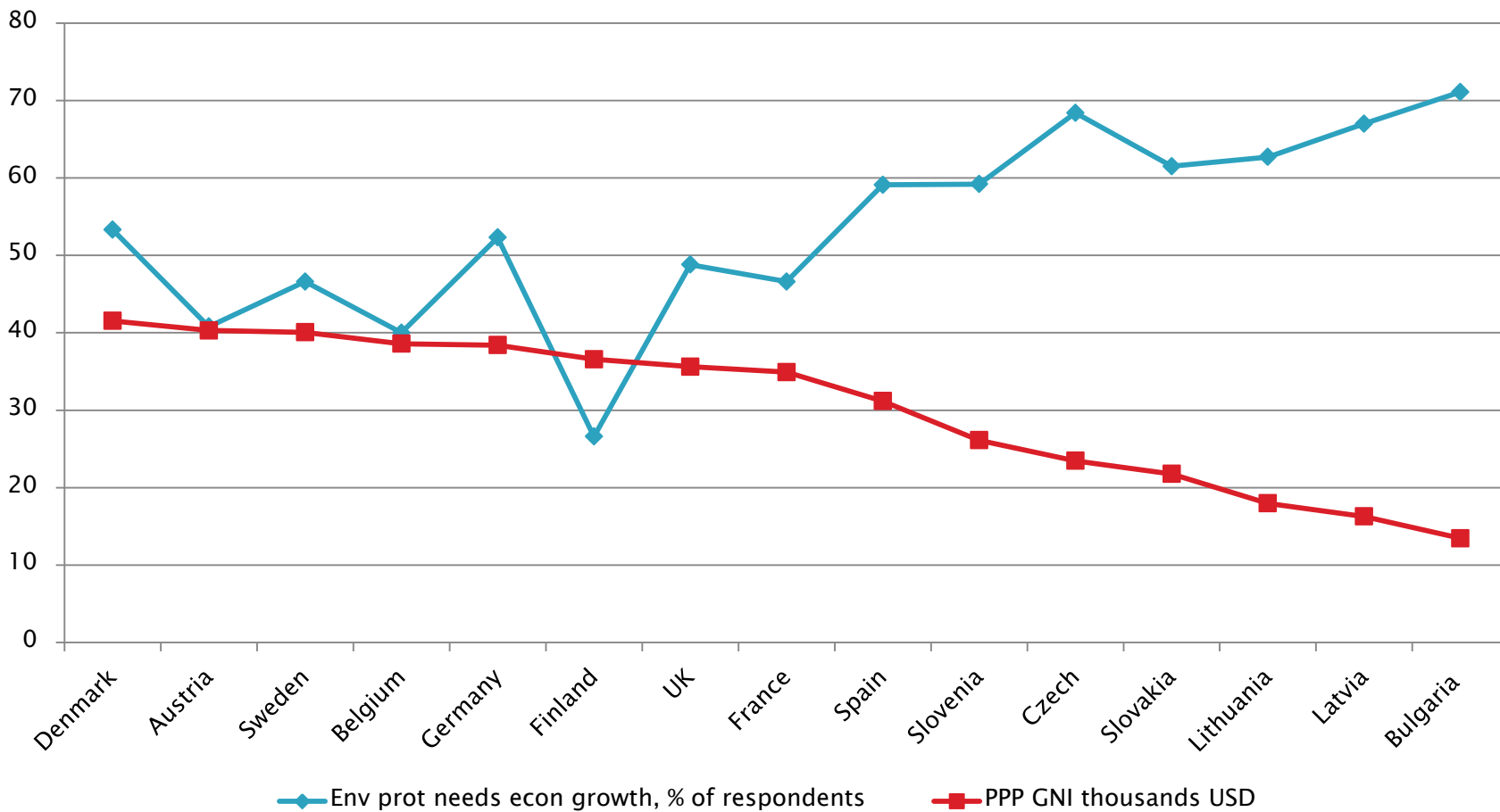


Implications

- ▶ Willingness to sacrifice seems to relate closely to PPP (economic prosperity),
 - ▶ But we can't be sure that lesser willingness to sacrifice isn't a post-communist legacy because NMSs are less prosperous
 - ▶ Canada is at the norm in relation to Europe
 - ▶ Russia looks pretty much like EU NMSs
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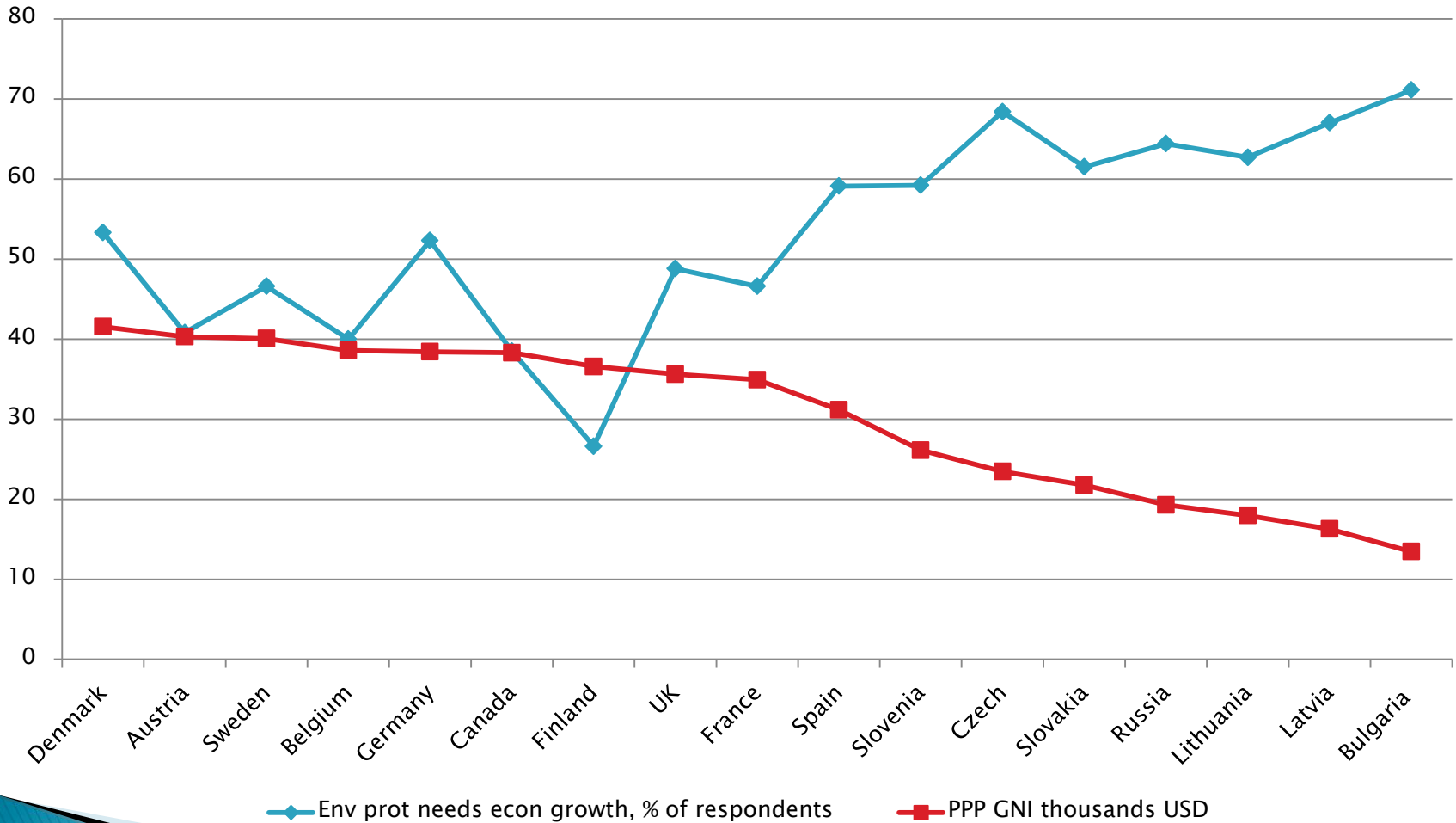
PPP by belief that env prot needs econ growth, 2010, by country

(correlation $-.190$, $p < .001$)

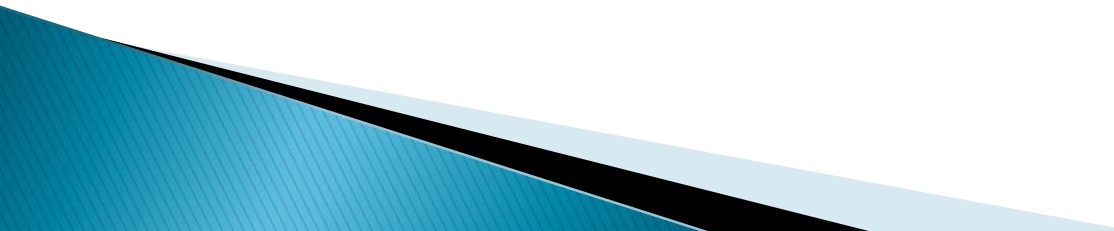


PPP by belief that env prot needs econ growth, 2010, by country

(correlation $-.208$, $p < .001$)

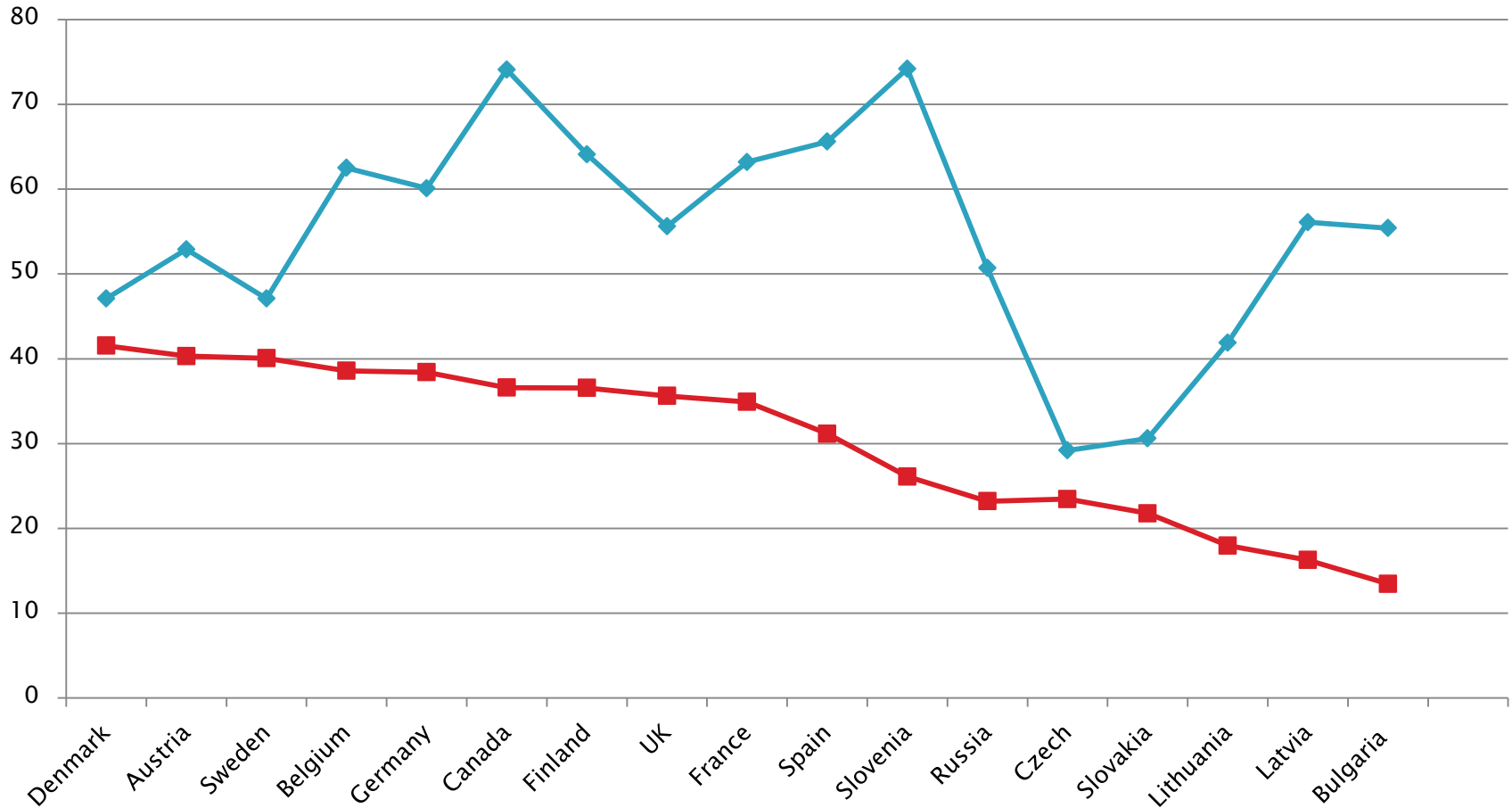


Implications

- ▶ Belief that env protection depends on economic growth seems to be higher in less prosperous countries
 - ▶ It is, however, hard to be certain that this attitude isn't a post-communist legacy
 - ▶ Canada is at the norm in relation to Europe
 - ▶ Russia looks pretty much like EU NMSs
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PPP by concern about env issues, by country 2010

(correlation .076, $p < .001$)



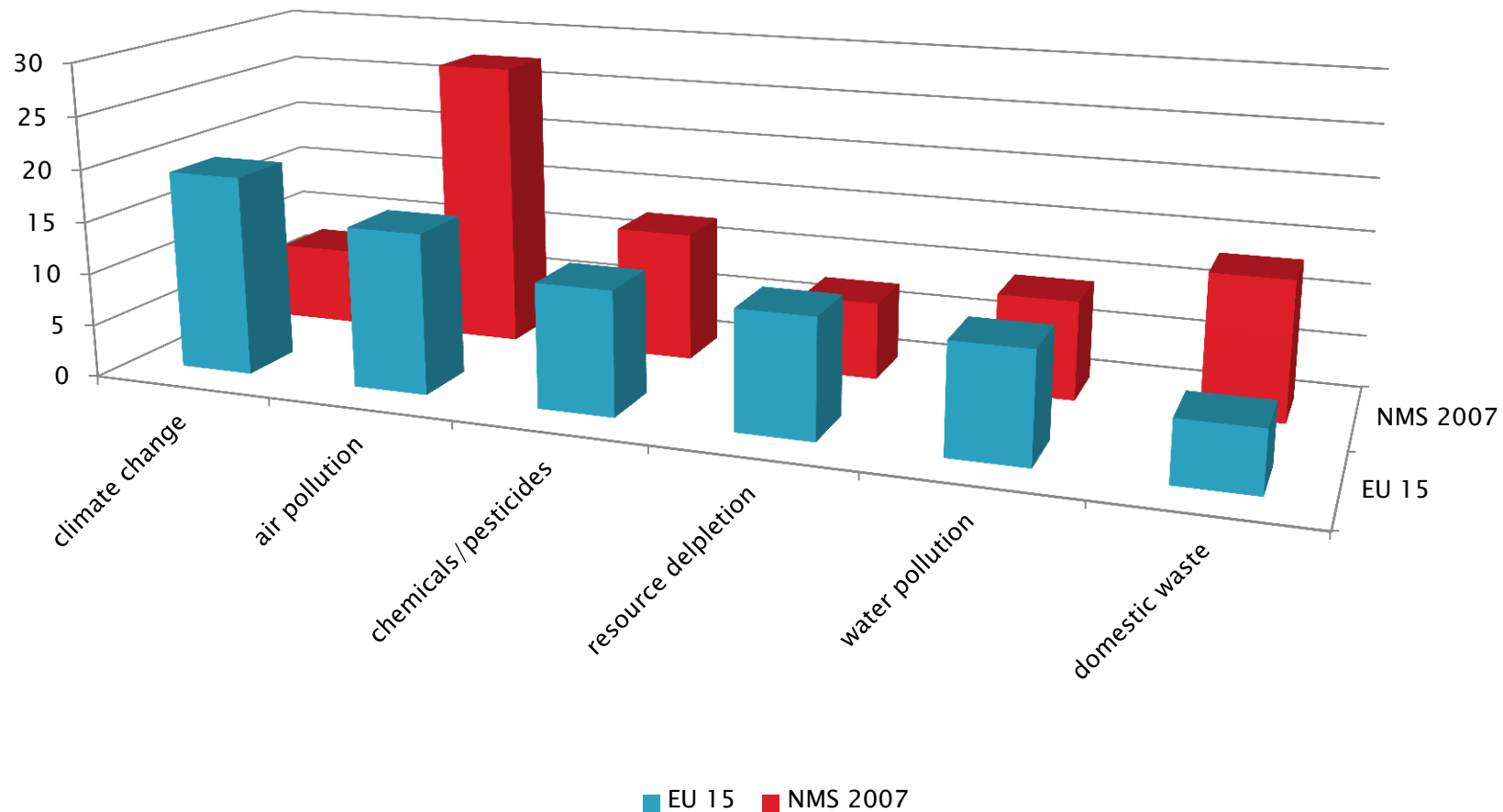
◆ Concerned about environmental issues, % of respondents ■ PPI, thousands of USD, 2010 ▲ Series 3

Implications

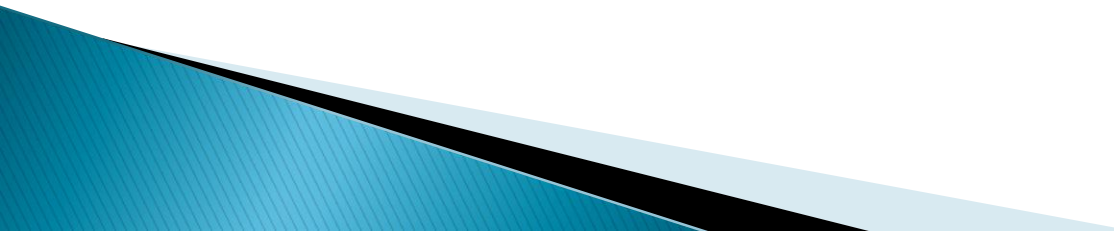
- ▶ Environmental concern doesn't seem to be closely related to economic prosperity
- ▶ Willingness to sacrifice is correlated with environmental concern but it is by no means the same thing
- ▶ In the post-communist states concern is less likely to translate into willingness to sacrifice
- ▶ Correlations between concern and willingness to sacrifice vary:

Russia	.221
NMS	.236
EU 15	.296
Canada	.403 (looks different!)

Choice of most important problem, % of repondents, 2010

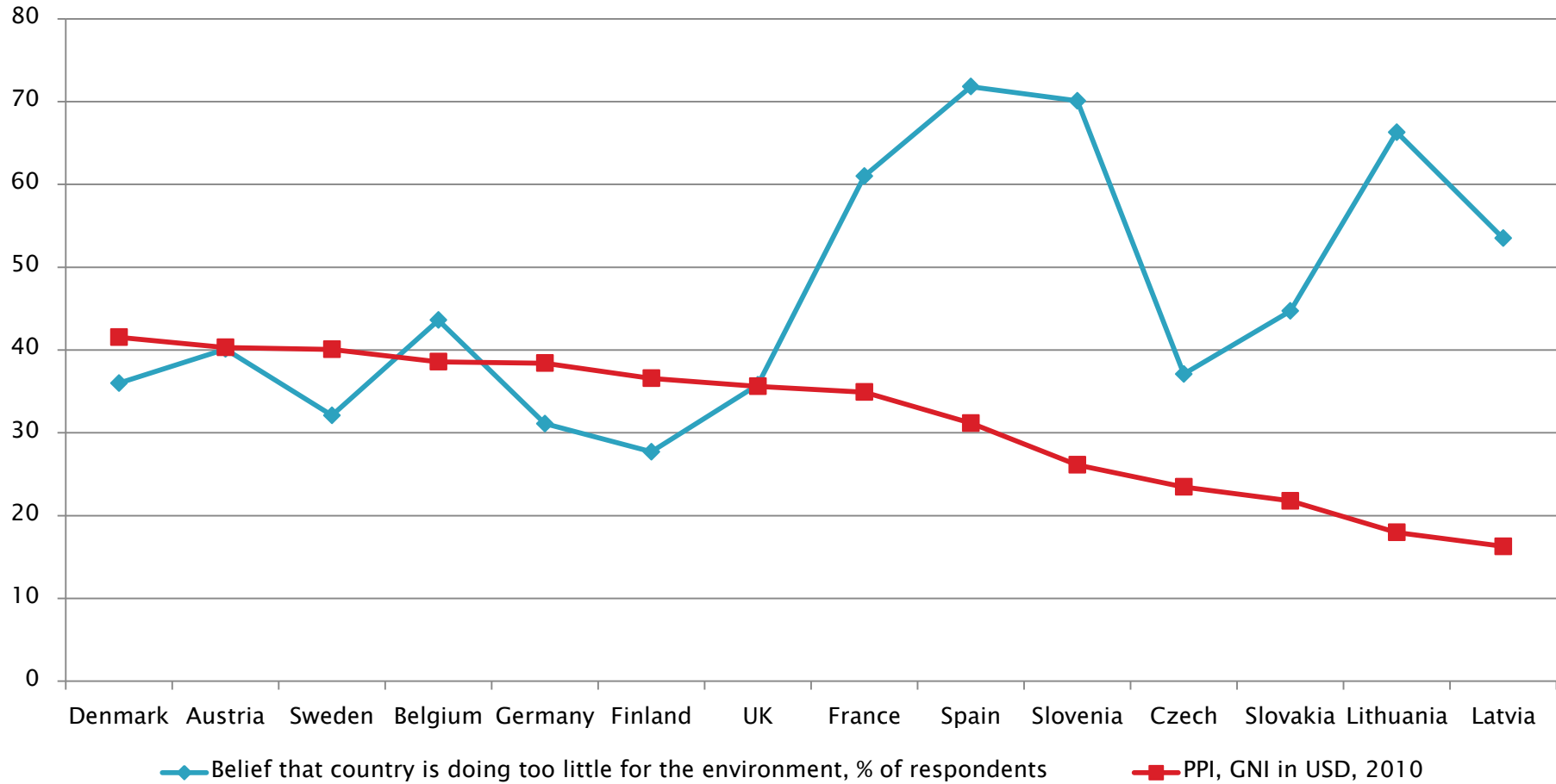


Implications

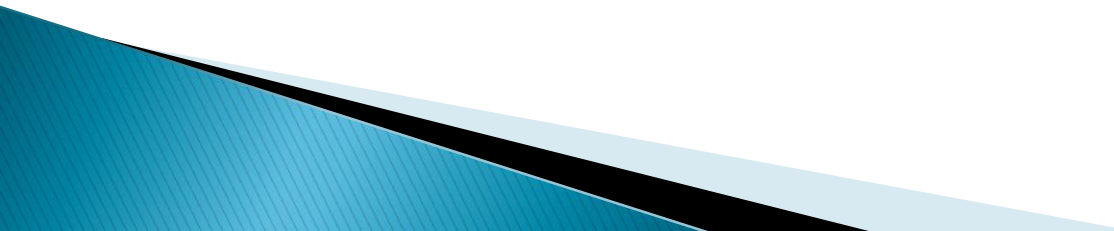
- ▶ Issues that are of most concern differ by region.
 - ▶ In the NMSs, air pollution and waste disposal are ranked tops (however, in Latvia and Lithuania, concern about genetically modified foods is second)
 - ▶ In EU 15 and Canada, climate change is first, with water pollution second.
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Belief that country isn't doing enough, by PPP, 2010

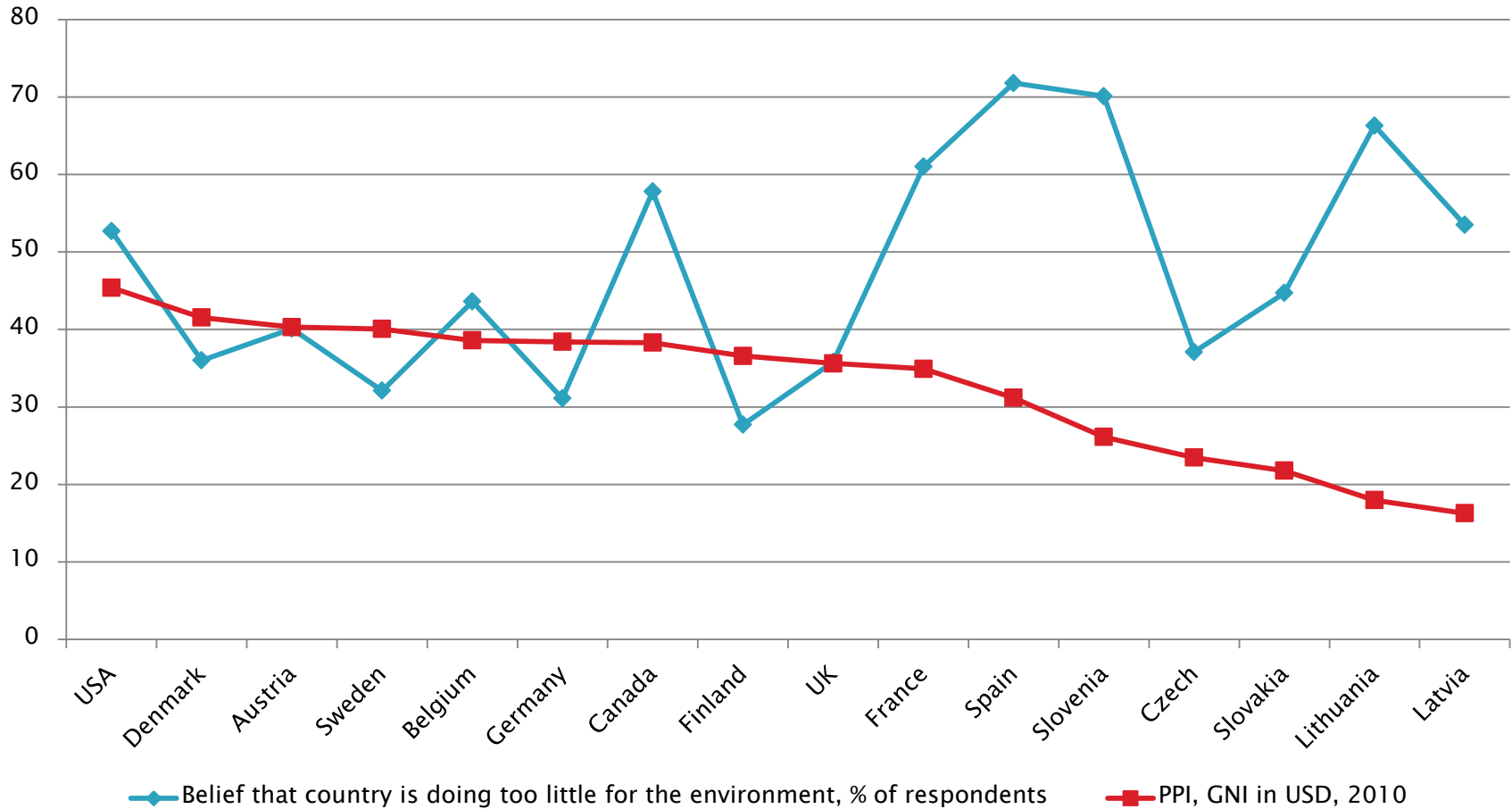
correlation, .102 , $p < .01$



Implications:

- ▶ In most post-communist states, the public feels that their governments are doing too little for the environment; that belief is less prevalent in the EU-15
 - ▶ Canadian and the US respondents also feel their countries are falling behind
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Country doing too little - compare Canada and US with Europe...



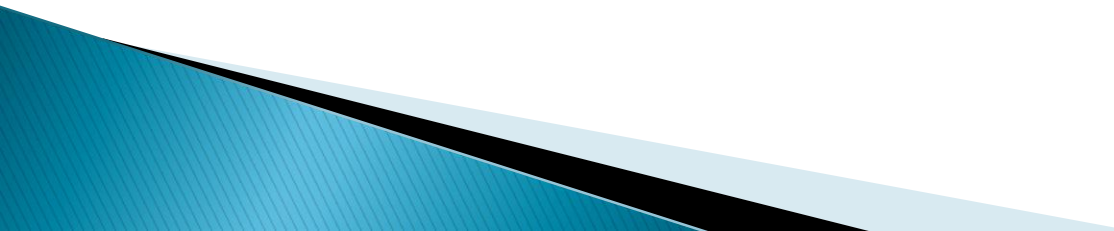
Explaining willingness to sacrifice, 2010)

	EU27	EU 15	NMS 2007
Age (older)		.025	-.058
Education (higher)	.027	.036	.036
Subjective social position (higher)	.057	-.071	.051
Unemployed (personal)			-.038
Unemployment rate (higher)	.048		
NMS07 dummy	.162		
PPP of country (higher)	.375	.075	.221
Trust in politicians (Q5b)	.075	.085	.056
Efficacy to act on environment (Q13a)	.051	.048	.033
Gov't should reduce income diff (q2b)		.025	-.033
Auto pollution dangerous(Q14a)	.076	.068	.098
Concern about environment high(index)	.216	.242	.19
Env has direct effect on life (Q13g)	.075	.096	
Understanding of causes (Q8a)	.040	.031	.075
Need econ growth for env (Q11a)	-.056	-.069	
Need env prot for econ progress (Q19c)	.057	.061	.065
Country doing too little (Q16)	.044	.074	-.034
R ²	.230	.207	.170

Conclusions

- ▶ The strongest predictor of willingness to sacrifice is prosperity of the country. In better off countries people are more willing to sacrifice (post-materialist thesis?)
- ▶ Because the NMSs are poorer, this makes it difficult to distinguish the effects of the communist legacy from effects of lower levels of prosperity
- ▶ **BUT once level of prosperity is controlled for, respondents in NMSs indicate MORE willingness to sacrifice than respondents in the EU15. Why?**

Conclusions (cont'd)

- ▶ The second most important predictor ,in both systems , is level of environmental concern,
 - ▶ But it is a stronger predictor in the EU15 than in the NMSs
 - ▶ That is, concern doesn't as likely translate into commitment in the NSMs (an effect of lesser prosperity or a communist legacy?)
- 

Conclusions (con'd)

- ▶ **Age:** In NMSs, the young are more willing to sacrifice, the opposite in EU15. A sign of generational change in the NMSs?
- ▶ **Social status:** in the NMSs the better off are more willing to sacrifice, in the EU15 they are slightly less willing (in Canada, no correlation)
- ▶ In the EU15 people are less convinced that economic growth is needed for env protection than in the NMSs
- ▶ In the EU15 people who think the country is doing too little are more willing to sacrifice, in the NMSs less so.
- ▶ Trust in politicians and efficacy increase the willingness to sacrifice in both cases, as does higher education.
- ▶

In short...

- Differences remain, but they may decline

with increasing prosperity

AND

by generational change

- Impact of Europeanization as such is unclear
- There may be some legacies but will they survive?