Why confidence in the police varies between European countries?

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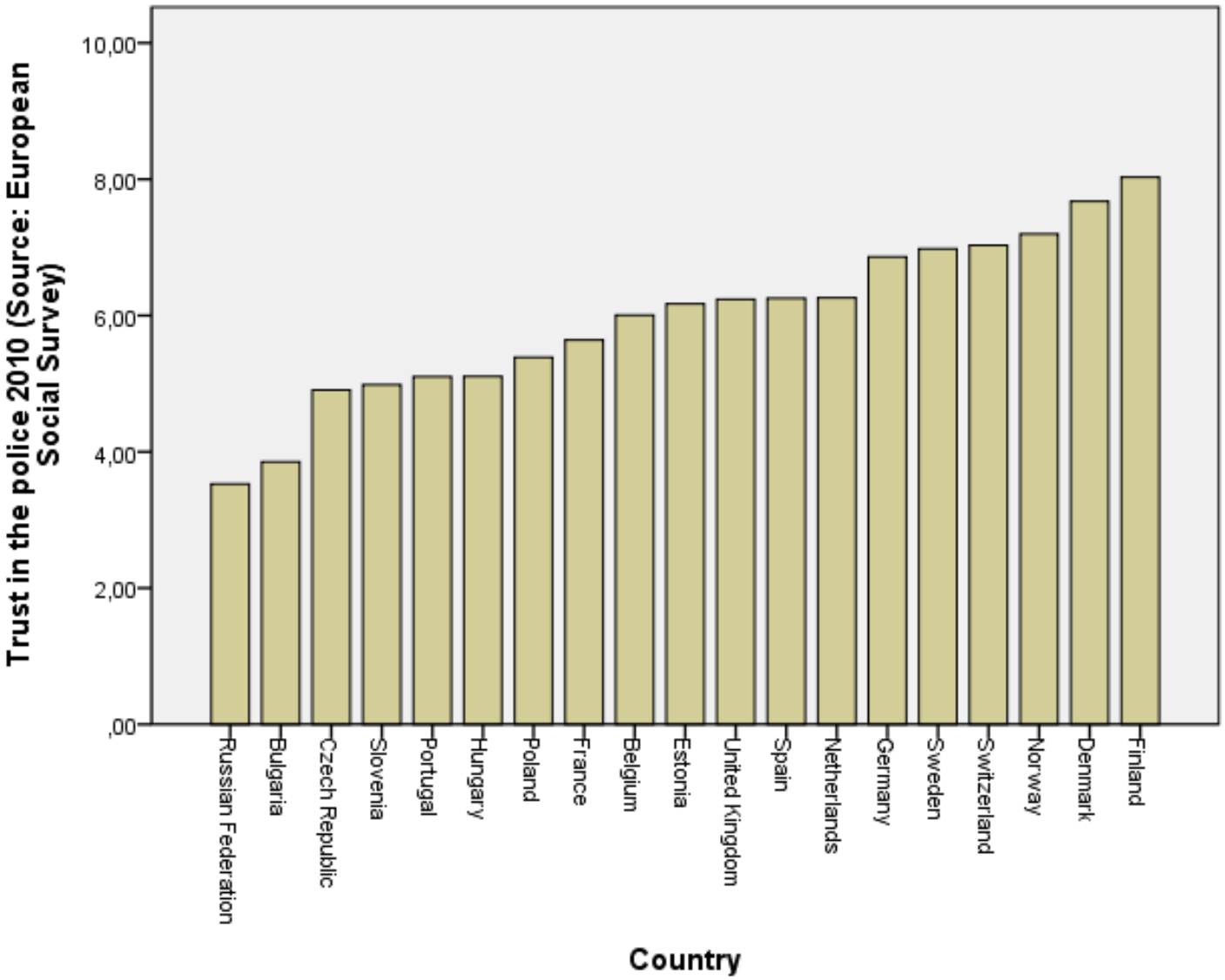


Question: "Using this card, please tell me on a score of 0 – 10 how much you personally trust each of institutions I read out. 0 means you do not trust an institution at all, and 10 means you have complete trust".

Instrumental explanation

- Instrumental vs. procedural explanation (Tyler et. al.)
- Instrumental: trust in the police is based on the effectiveness of police work
- Fear of crime and victimization -> low level of trust in the police
- Basic ideas of community policing:
  - Visibility
  - Accessibility
  - Approachability

Procedural explanation

- People trust in the police, if police is treating them fairly, ethically acceptable way -> police –citizens co-operation
- Wesley G. Skogan: “Asymmetry in the impact of Encounters with Police” (*Policing & Society* 16 (2), 99-126)
- Critical question from the point of view minorities: e.g. the results of EU-MIDIS

Empirical evidence

- For both of those hypothesis: yes
- However:
  - empirical research mainly from USA and UK;
  - survey questions are measuring more images than real experiences on police work
  - study-designs mainly based on individual-level data
- Is police work in Nordic countries or in Germany really more effective, fair and impartial than in some other European countries? We don't know.
- How to explain country-level differences of trust?
- Three country-level explanations: Welfare-state, Quality of governance and Social capital

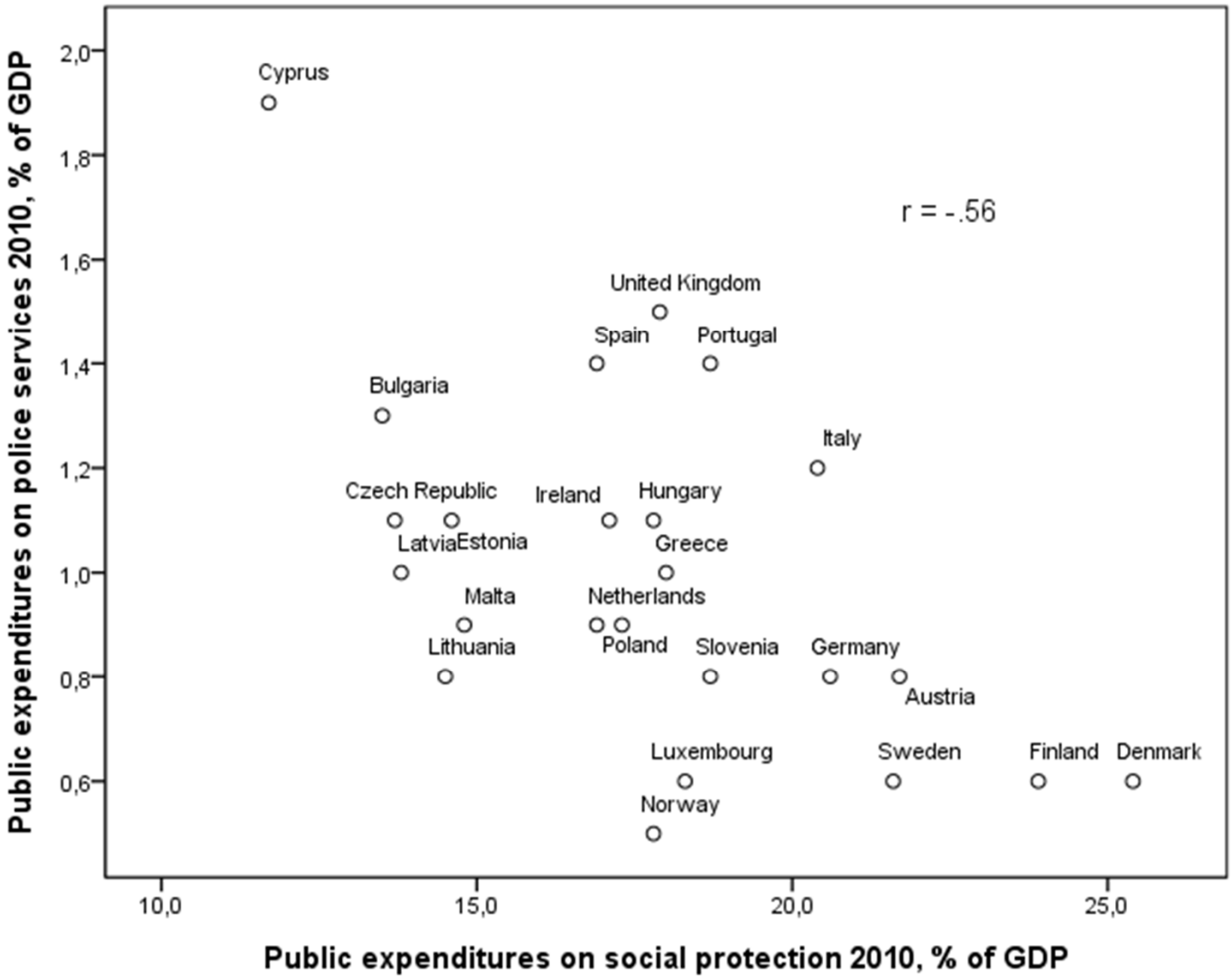
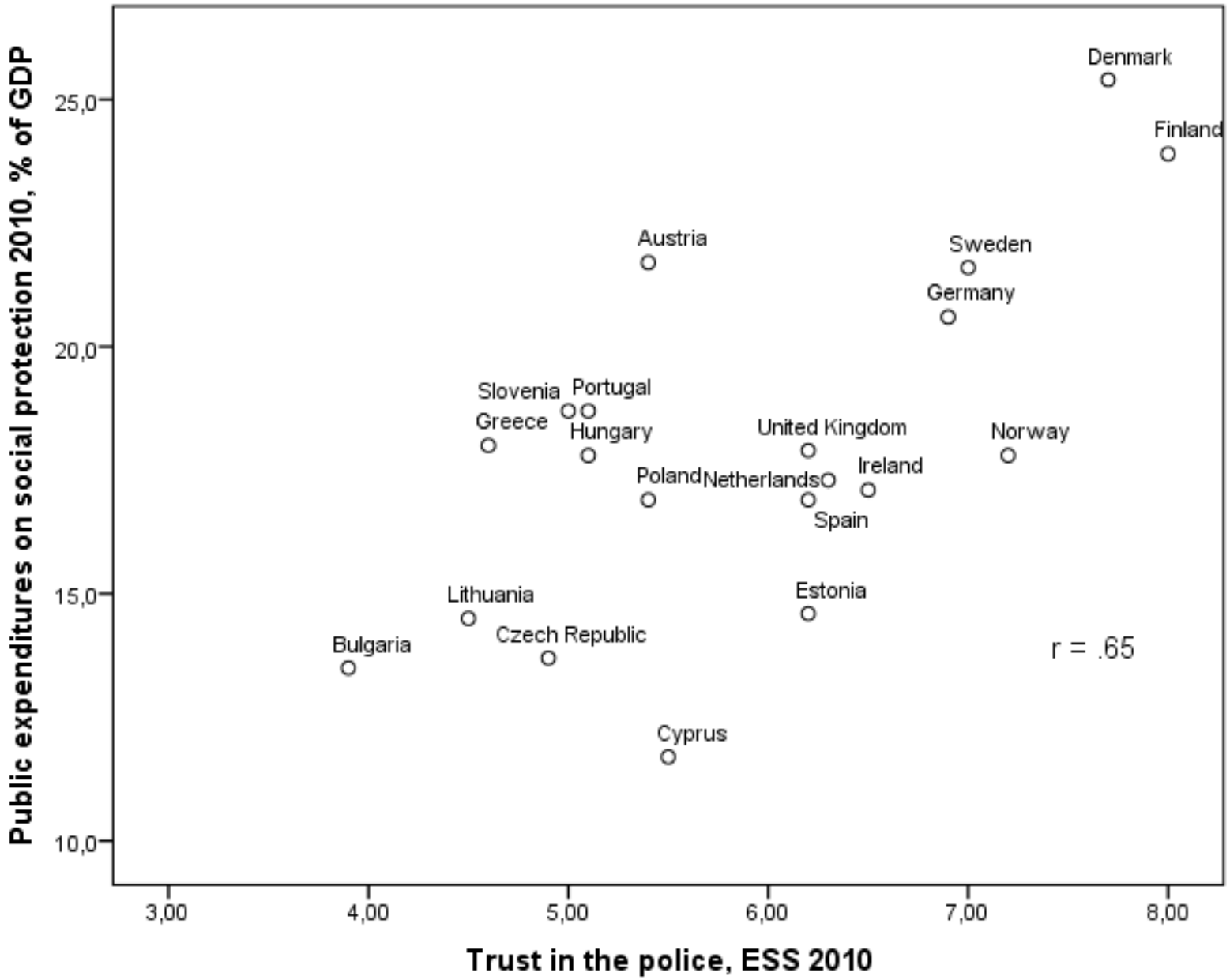
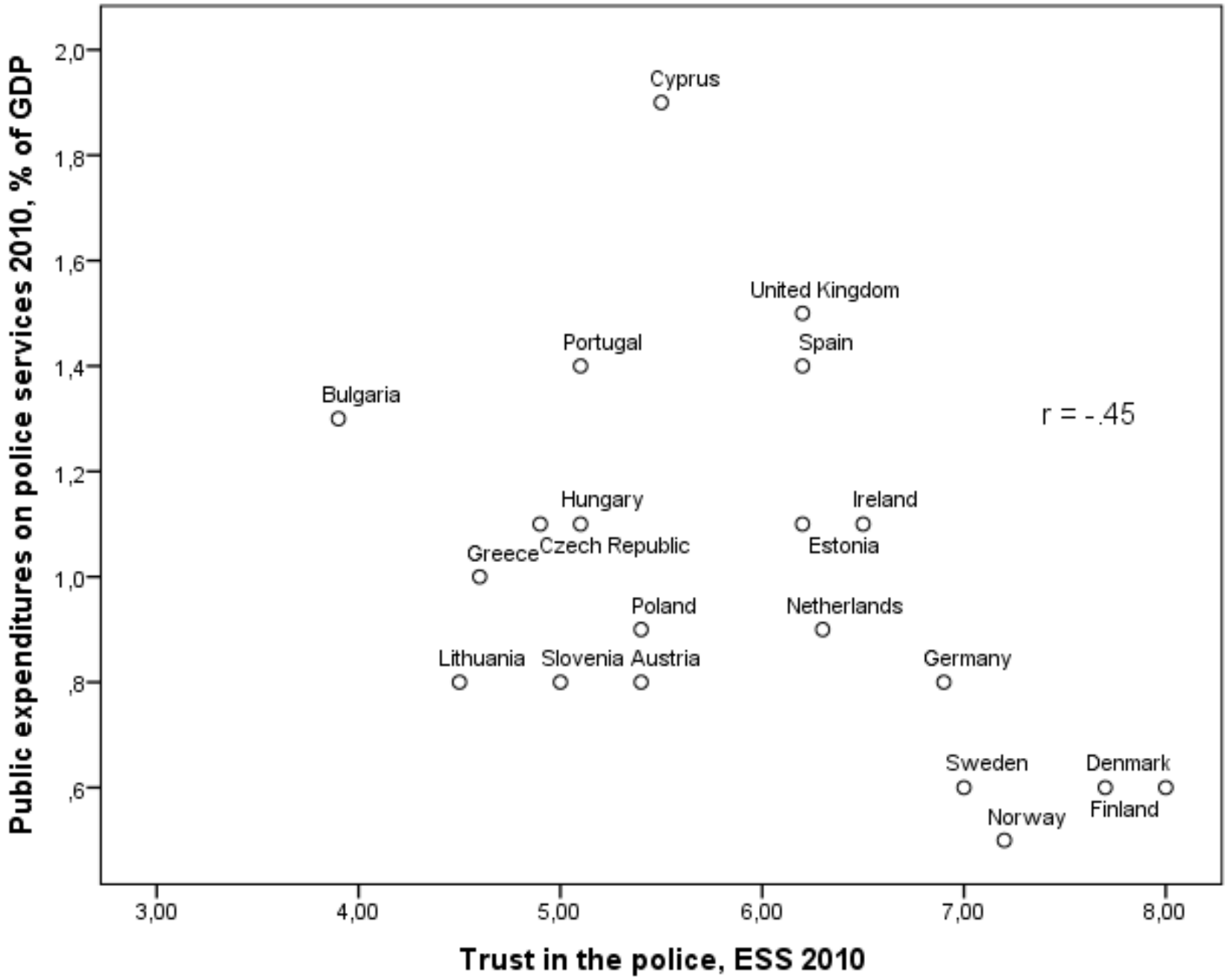
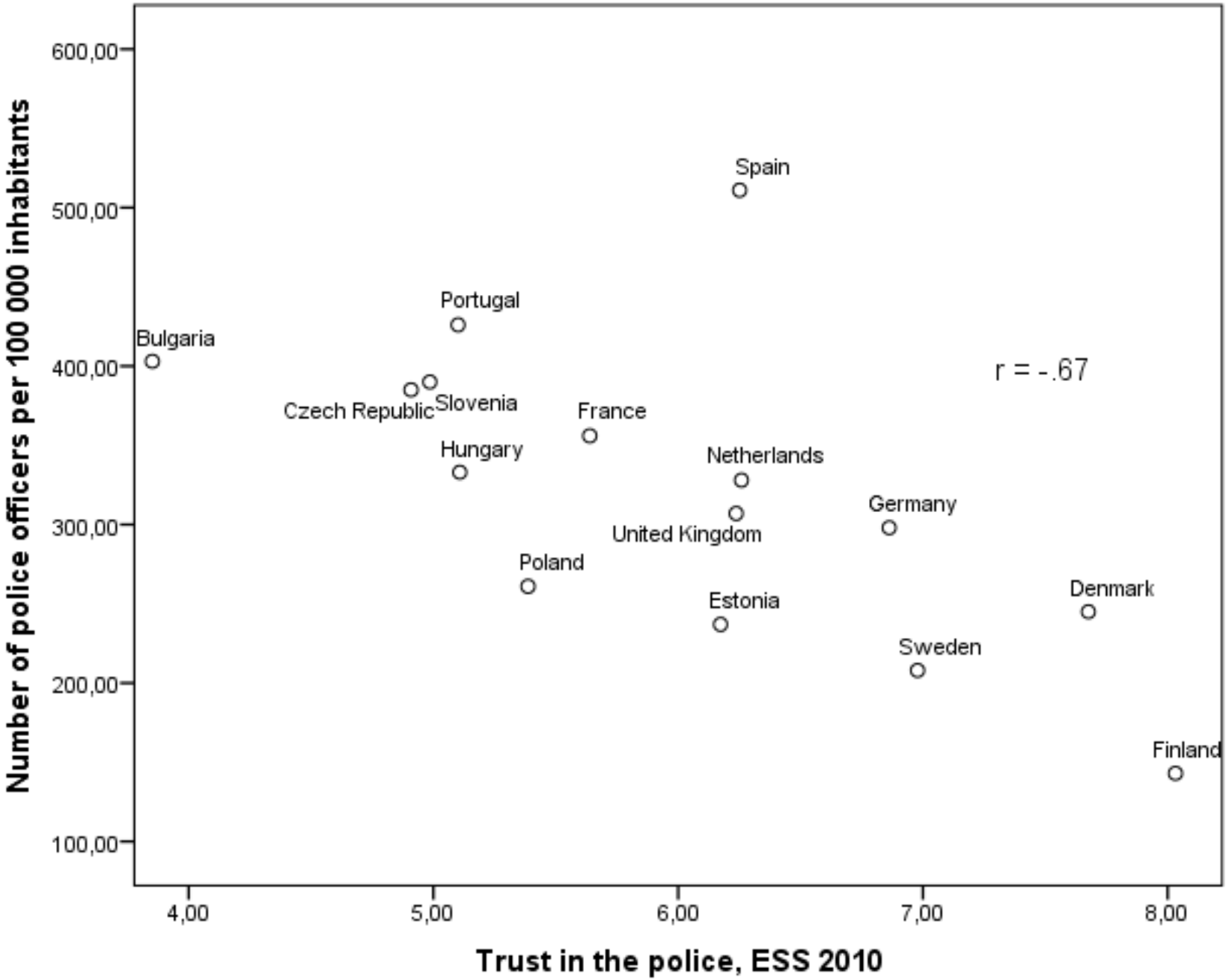
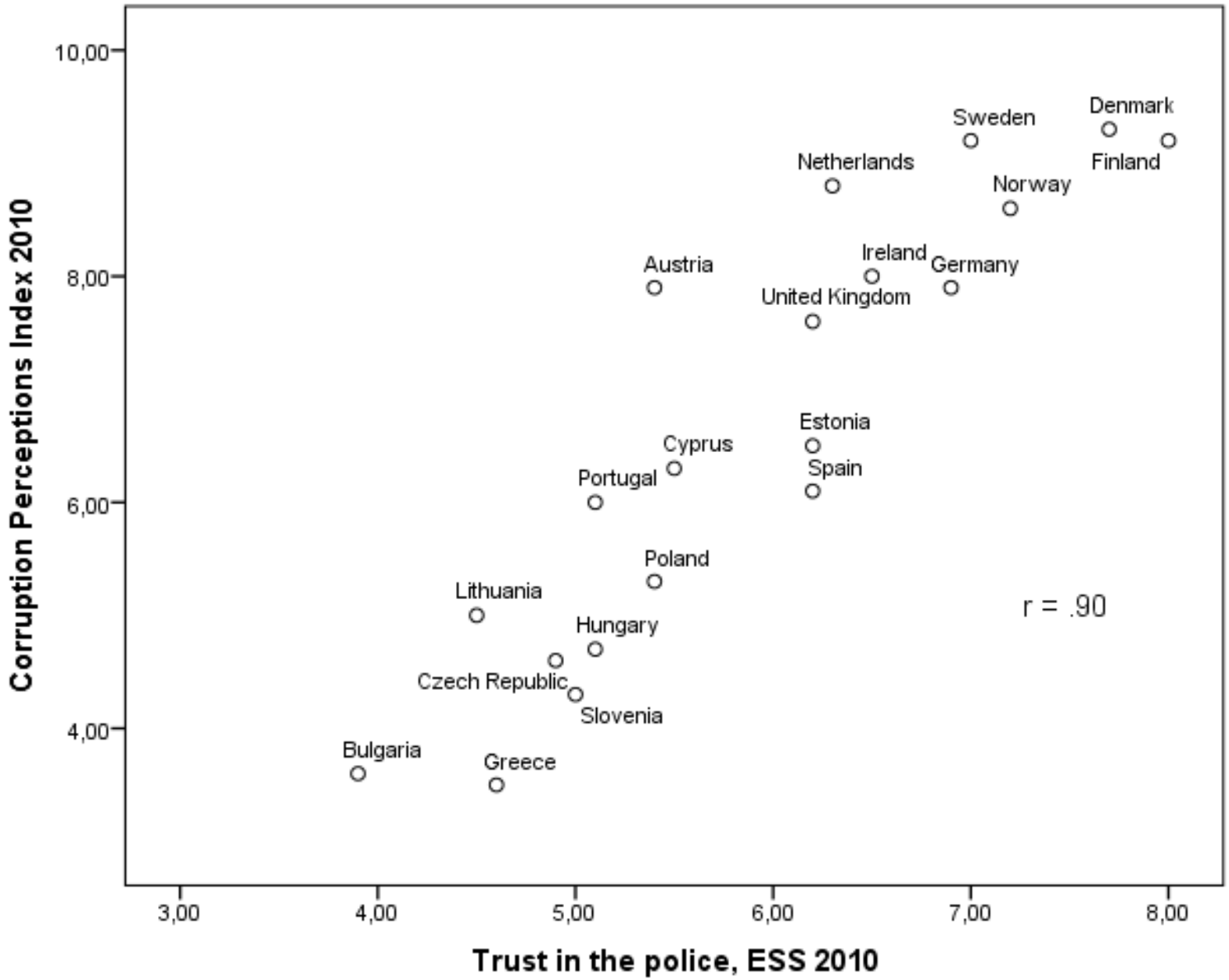


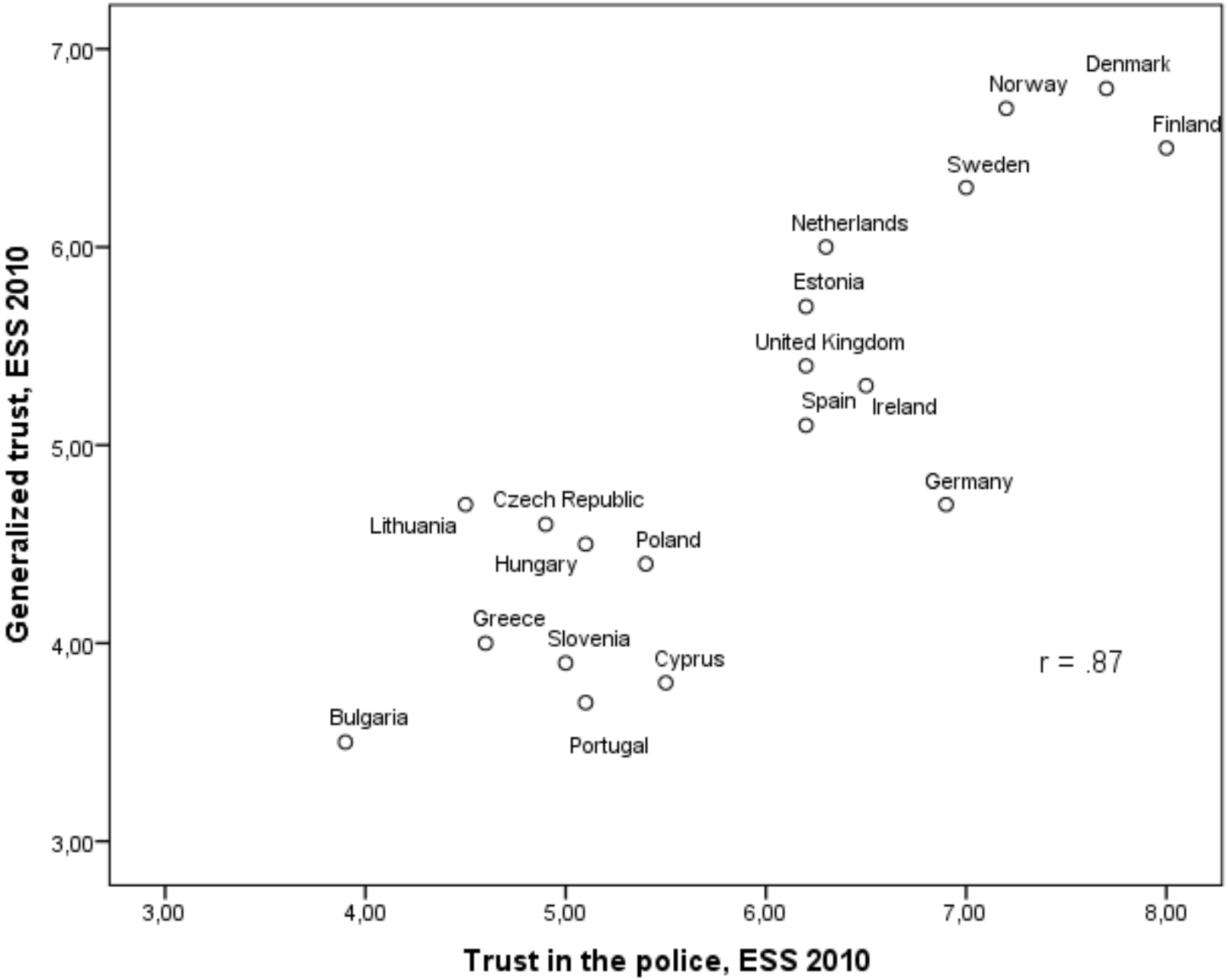
Figure 1. Public expenditures on police services and social protection in some European countries 2010. Source: Eurostat.


Public expenditures on social protection 2010, % of GDP
25,0
20,0
15,0
10,0
3,00
4,00
5,00
6,00
7,00
8,00
Trust in the police, ESS 2010
Denmark
Finland
Austria
Sweden
Germany
Slovenia
Portugal
Greece
Hungary
United Kingdom
Norway
Poland
Netherlands
Ireland
Spain
Lithuania
Estonia
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Cyprus
r = .65


Public expenditures on police services 2010, % of GDP
2,0
1,8
1,6
1,4
1,2
1,0
,8
,6
Cyprus
United Kingdom
Portugal
Spain
Bulgaria
r = -.45
Hungary
Ireland
Greece
Czech Republic
Estonia
Poland
Netherlands
Lithuania
Slovenia
Austria
Germany
Sweden
Denmark
Norway
Finland
3,00
4,00
5,00
6,00
7,00
8,00
Trust in the police, ESS 2010


Number of police officers per 100 000 inhabitants
600,00
500,00
400,00
300,00
200,00
100,00
Spain
Portugal
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Slovenia
France
Hungary
Netherlands
Germany
United Kingdom
Poland
Denmark
Estonia
Sweden
Finland
r = -.67
4,00
5,00
6,00
7,00
8,00
Trust in the police, ESS 2010


Corruption Perceptions Index 2010
10,00
8,00
6,00
4,00
3,00
4,00
5,00
6,00
7,00
8,00
Trust in the police, ESS 2010
Denmark
Sweden
Finland
Netherlands
Norway
Ireland
Germany
Austria
United Kingdom
Estonia
Cyprus
Spain
Portugal
Poland
Lithuania
Hungary
Czech Republic
Slovenia
Bulgaria
Greece
r = .90


Generalized trust, ESS 2010
7,00
6,00
5,00
4,00
3,00
Denmark
Norway
Finland
Sweden
Netherlands
Estonia
United Kingdom
Spain
Ireland
Germany
Czech Republic
Lithuania
Poland
Hungary
Greece
Slovenia
Cyprus
Bulgaria
Portugal
r = .87
3,00
4,00
5,00
6,00
7,00
8,00
Trust in the police, ESS 2010

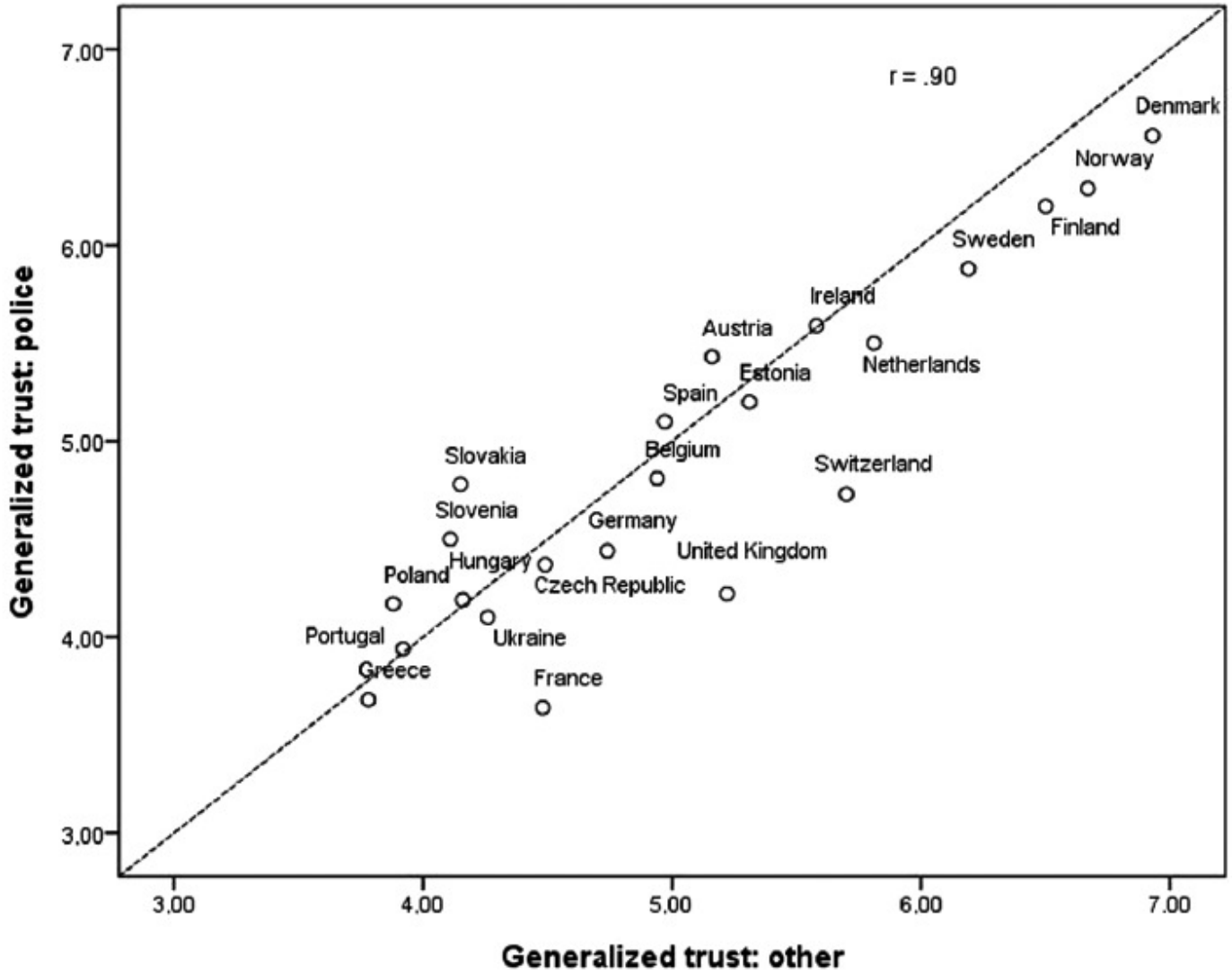


Figure 1. Generalized trust score for police officers vs. other respondents. Estimated marginal means from LM by country.

Conclusions

- Explaining society-level differences needs society-level explanatory variables
- Safe society for all, reliable administration, social capital -> easy to trust in the police
- Much more national and comparative research is needed