



MedChild Conference

An index of child well-being in the EU 25

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Background

- ◆ Child absent from EU discourse – lack of “competency”
- ◆ Lisbon summit introduced Social Inclusion process
- ◆ To be monitored by Laeken primary and secondary indicators
- ◆ Only one indicator child based (relative child poverty)
- ◆ EU Luxembourg Presidency conference on “Taking forward the EU Social Inclusion Process”: **child mainstreaming** & call for development of child well-being **indicators**
- ◆ So far no comprehensive set of EU indicators for child poverty & well-being populated with data
- ◆ Eurostat very cautious one additional suggested on educational attainment

➡ Development of an index of child well-being based on existing comparative data sources forthcoming *Journal of Social Indicators*

➡ UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 7 on child poverty and well-being in rich countries 2006



Conceptualisation of child well-being

- ◆ Multi-dimensional approach
- ◆ Based on children's rights as outlined in the UN CRC
- ◆ Drawing on national and multi-national experiences in indicator development



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- ◆ **primary consideration in all actions concerning children must be in their best interests and their views must be taken into account**
- ◆ contains 54 articles that cover every aspect of a child's life,
- ◆ applying without exception or discrimination to all children under 18.
- ◆ The articles of the UNCRC divide into the broad areas of
 - ◆ survival rights,
 - ◆ development rights,
 - ◆ protection rights and
 - ◆ participation rights



Multinational indicators for monitoring and measuring child well-being

- ◆ Safety and physical status
- ◆ Personal life
- ◆ Civic life
- ◆ Economic resources and contribution
- ◆ Activities

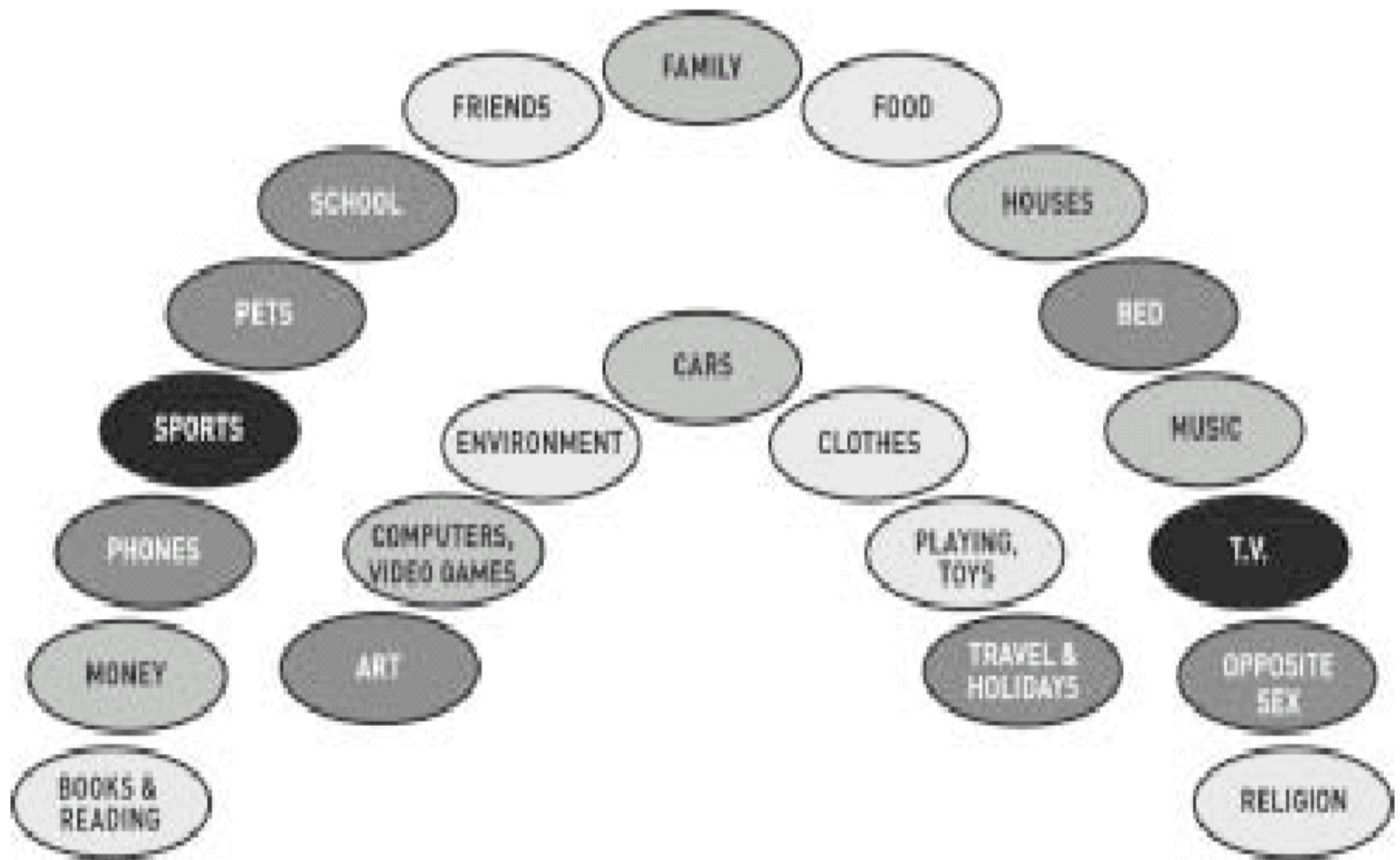
Source: <http://multinational-indicators.chapinhall.org>



DfES outcomes framework

- ◆ ***Economic well-being***: having sufficient income and material comfort to be able to take advantage of opportunities.
- ◆ ***Being healthy***: enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ ***Staying safe***: being protected from harm and neglect and growing up able to look after themselves.
- ◆ ***Enjoying and achieving***: getting the most out of life and developing broad skills for adulthood.
- ◆ ***Making a positive contribution***: developing the skills and attitudes to contribute to the society in which they live.

Hanafin and Brooks (2005)





Methods

- ◆ **Data-driven approach:** creation of child well-being data base with 613 variables
- ◆ **Maximal comparability:** Data from the same source
- ◆ **Maximal coverage:** 3 EU countries dropped Cyprus, Malta and Luxembourg
- ◆ **Use of most recent data available:** not always the same year in some series data



Data Sources I: Surveys

- ◆ WHO Health Behaviour of School Aged Children (HBSC) 36 countries at 2001
- ◆ Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 32 countries at 2000, 41 at 2003
- ◆ European Social Survey (ESS) 22 countries at 2002
- ◆ Citizenship and Education Survey (CIVED) 28 countries at 1999 and EUYOUNG (2005)
- ◆ European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD) 26 countries at 2003
- ◆ European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) 28 countries at 2003



Data Sources II: Series

- ◆ WHO mortality data base 1993-1999, all countries except DK & CY
- ◆ World Bank World Development Indicators 2003, all countries
- ◆ OECD (2004) Education at a Glance, 2002 data
- ◆ Eurostat (2003) Population and Social Conditions
- ◆ Eurostat (2004) Labour Force Survey
- ◆ World Bank (2002) Health, Nutrition and Population Data



Structure

- ◆ 51 variables organised
- ◆ 23 domains making
- ◆ 8 clusters
 - ◆ Material situation
 - ◆ Housing
 - ◆ Health
 - ◆ Subjective well-being
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Children's relationships
 - ◆ Civic Participation
 - ◆ Risk and safety



Summarising data

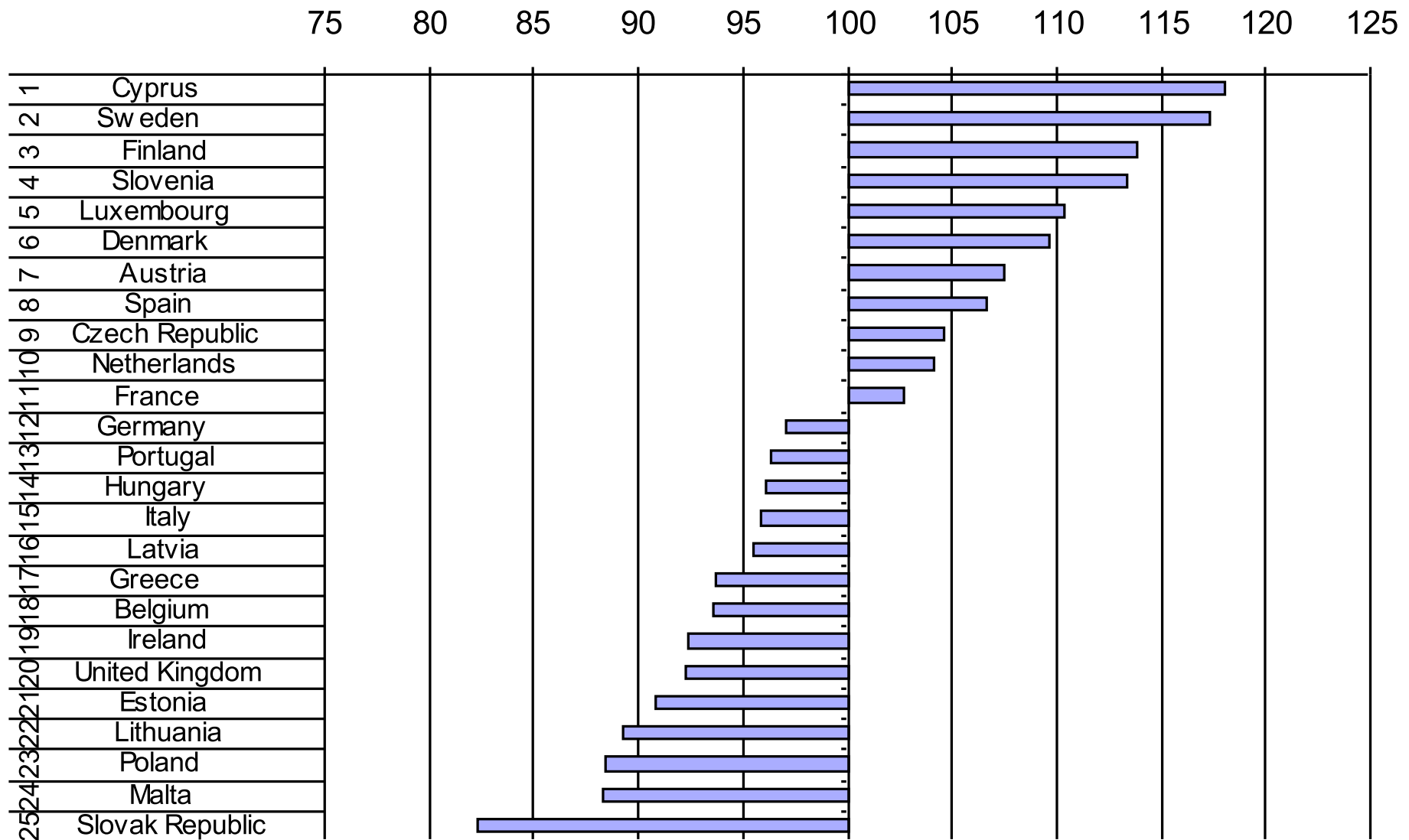
- ◆ Indicators summarised into domains and domains into clusters using z scores
- ◆ Better than average ranks because it takes account of dispersion
- ◆ Assumed equal weighting



Material situation

- ◆ Relative child income poverty
 - ◆ Child poverty rate
 - ◆ Child poverty gaps
- ◆ Child deprivation
 - ◆ Lacking car, own bedroom, holidays last year, a computer
 - ◆ Lacking a desk, quiet for study, a computer, calculator, dictionary, text books
 - ◆ Less than ten books in the home
- ◆ Parental worklessness.

Material situation

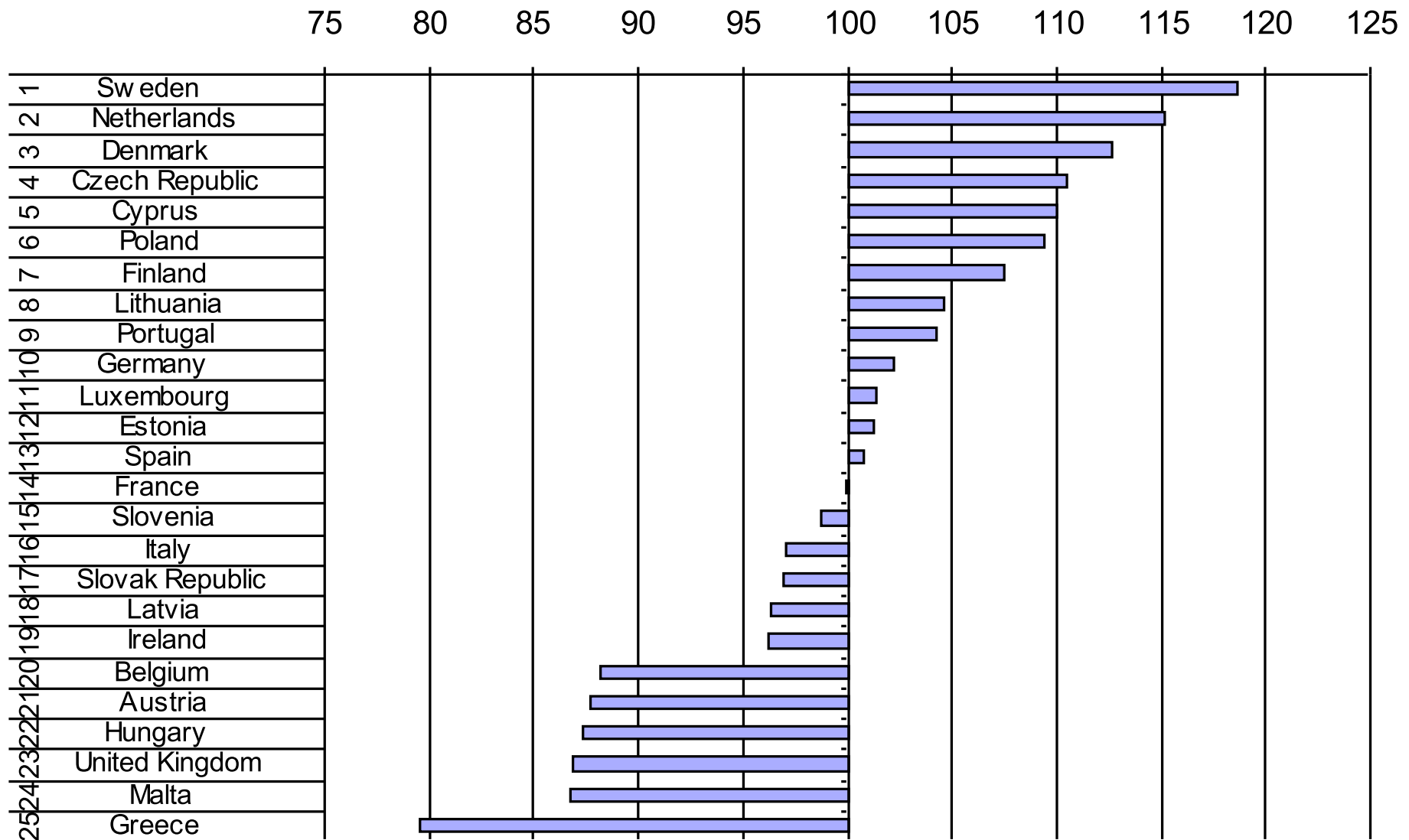




Health

- ◆ Health at birth.
 - ◆ Infant mortality rate
 - ◆ Low birth weight
- ◆ Immunisation.
 - ◆ Measles
 - ◆ Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus
 - ◆ Polio
- ◆ Health behaviour
 - ◆ Brushing teeth
 - ◆ Eating fruit
 - ◆ Eating breakfast
 - ◆ Physical activity
 - ◆ Overweight.

Health

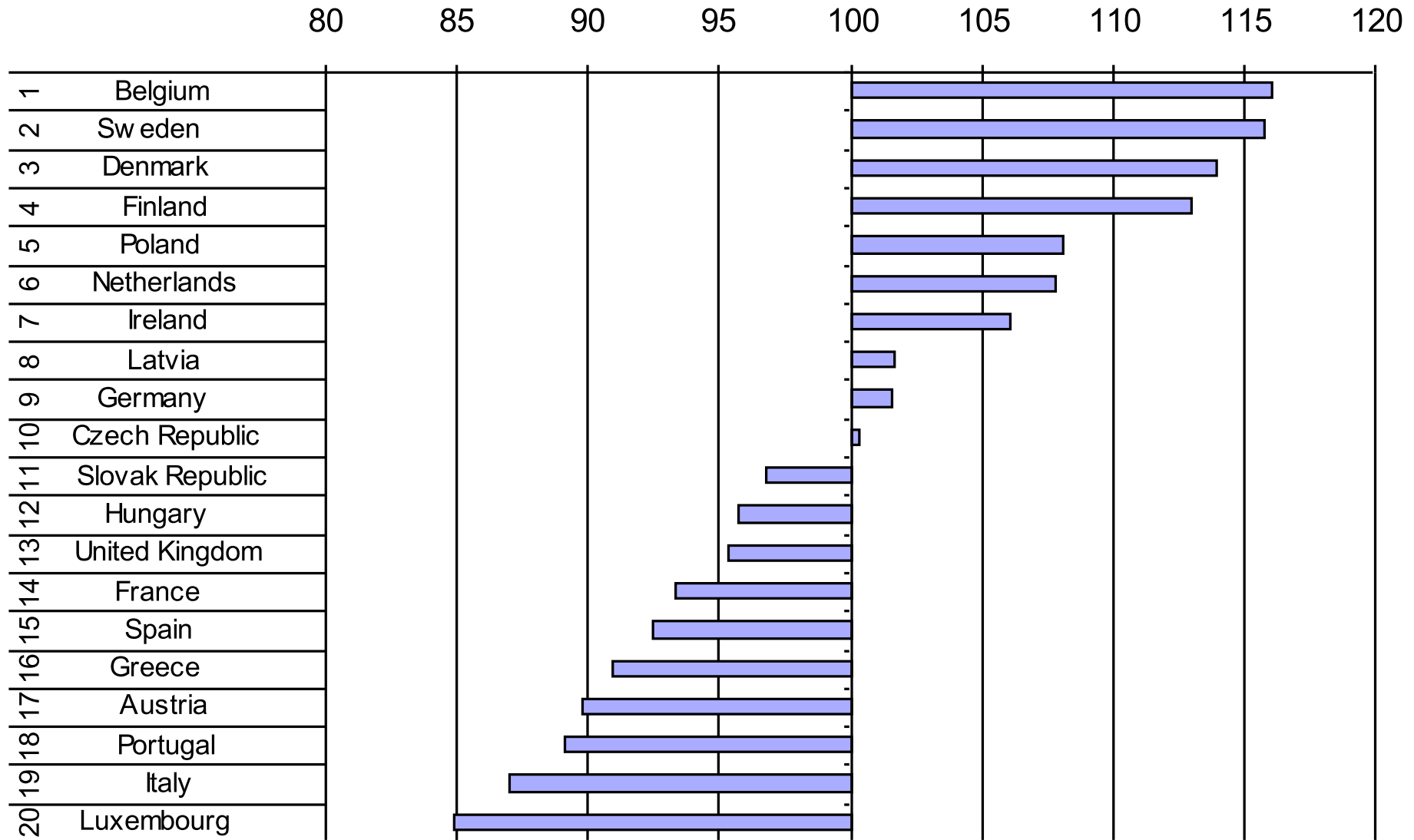




Education

- ◆ Attainment
 - ◆ Reading
 - ◆ Maths
 - ◆ Science
- ◆ Participation
 - ◆ In childcare
 - ◆ 15-19
- ◆ Labour market outcomes
 - ◆ NEET 15-19
 - ◆ Low skills aspirations

Education

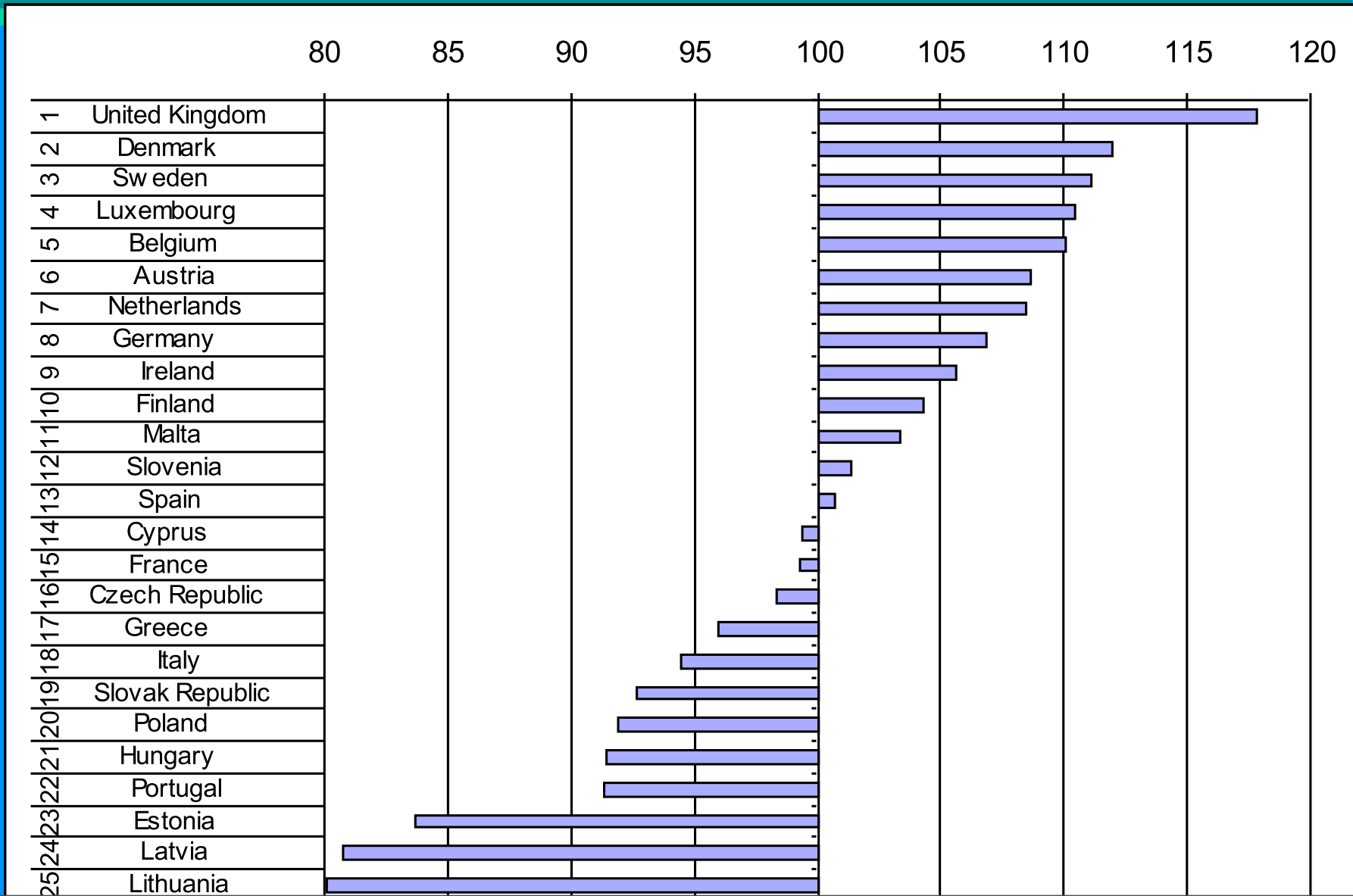




Housing and environment

- ◆ Overcrowding
 - ◆ Rooms per person
- ◆ Local environment and space
 - ◆ Feeling unsafe
 - ◆ Six or more environment problems
- ◆ Housing problems
 - ◆ Space, rot in windows, damp, no inside flush toilet

Housing and environment

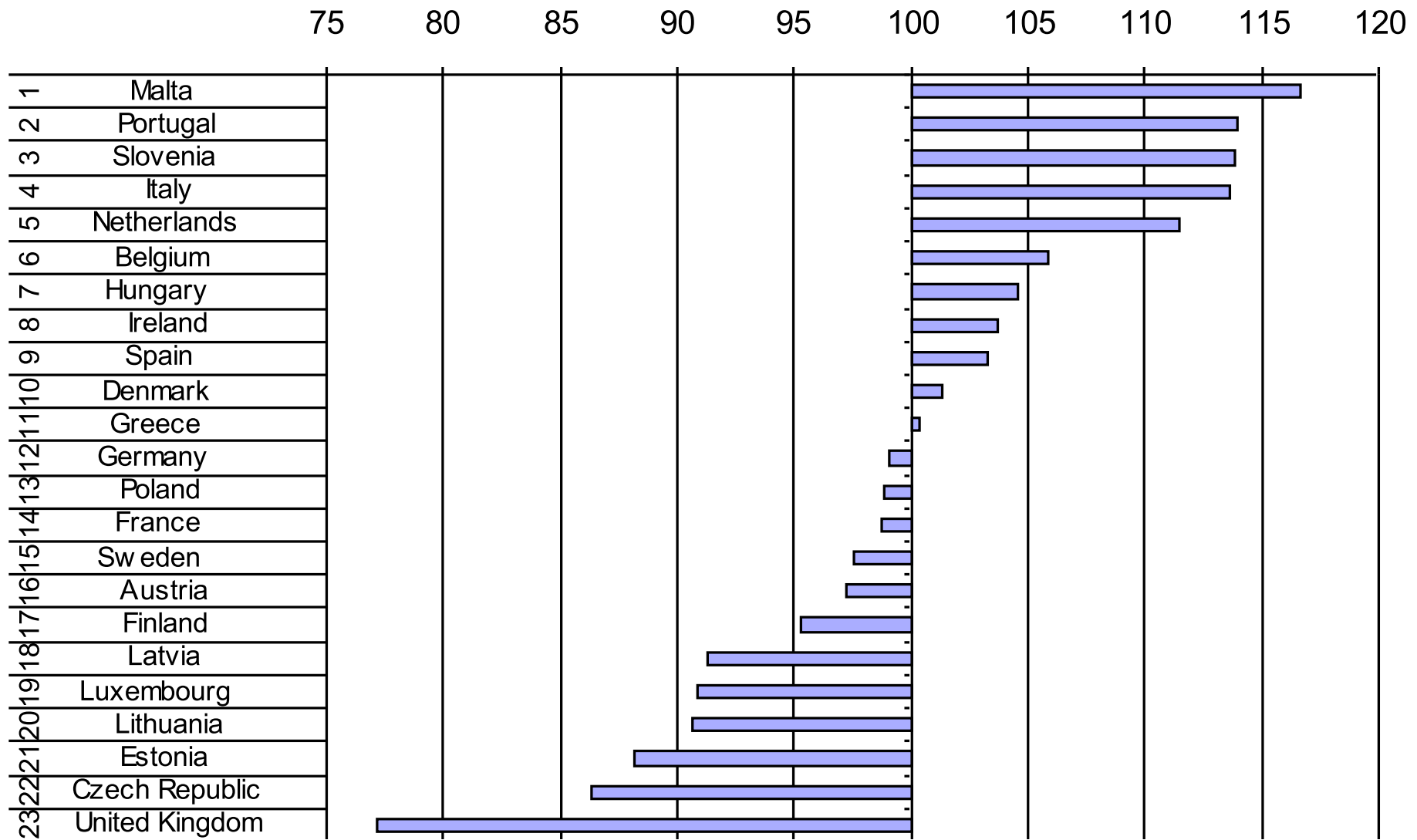




Family relationships

- ◆ Family structures
 - ◆ Single parents
 - ◆ Step parents
- ◆ Relationship with parents
 - ◆ Family meals together
 - ◆ Talking to parents several times per week
- ◆ Relationships with peers
 - ◆ Finding peers kind and helpful

Children's relationships

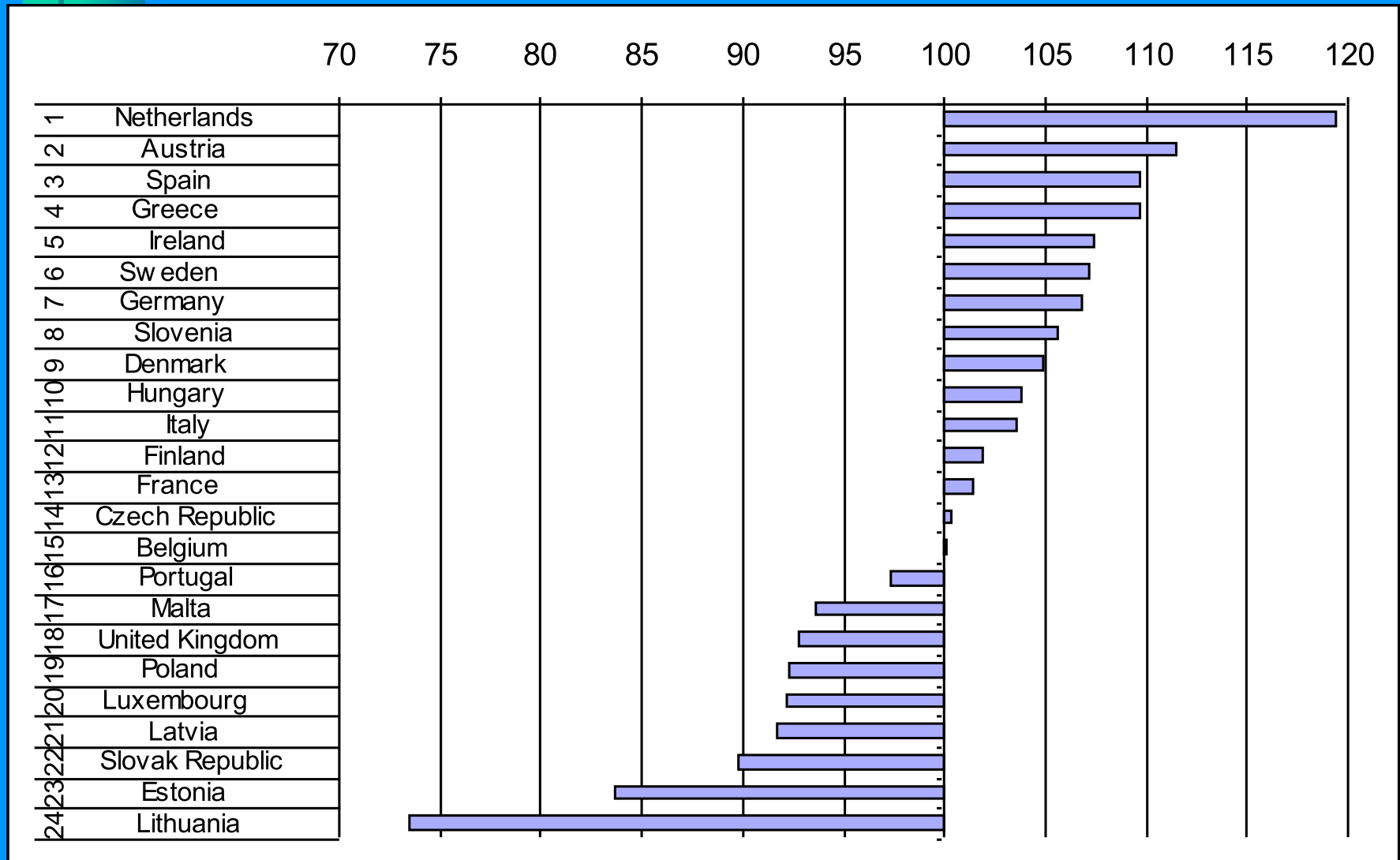




Subjective well-being

- ◆ Self defined health
 - ◆ Health rated fair or poor
- ◆ Personal well-being
 - ◆ Score on life satisfactions scale
 - ◆ Feeling an outsider/left out of things
 - ◆ Feeling awkward and out of place
 - ◆ Young people feeling lonely
- ◆ Well-being at school
 - ◆ Feeling pressured by school work
 - ◆ Liking school a lot

Subjective well-being

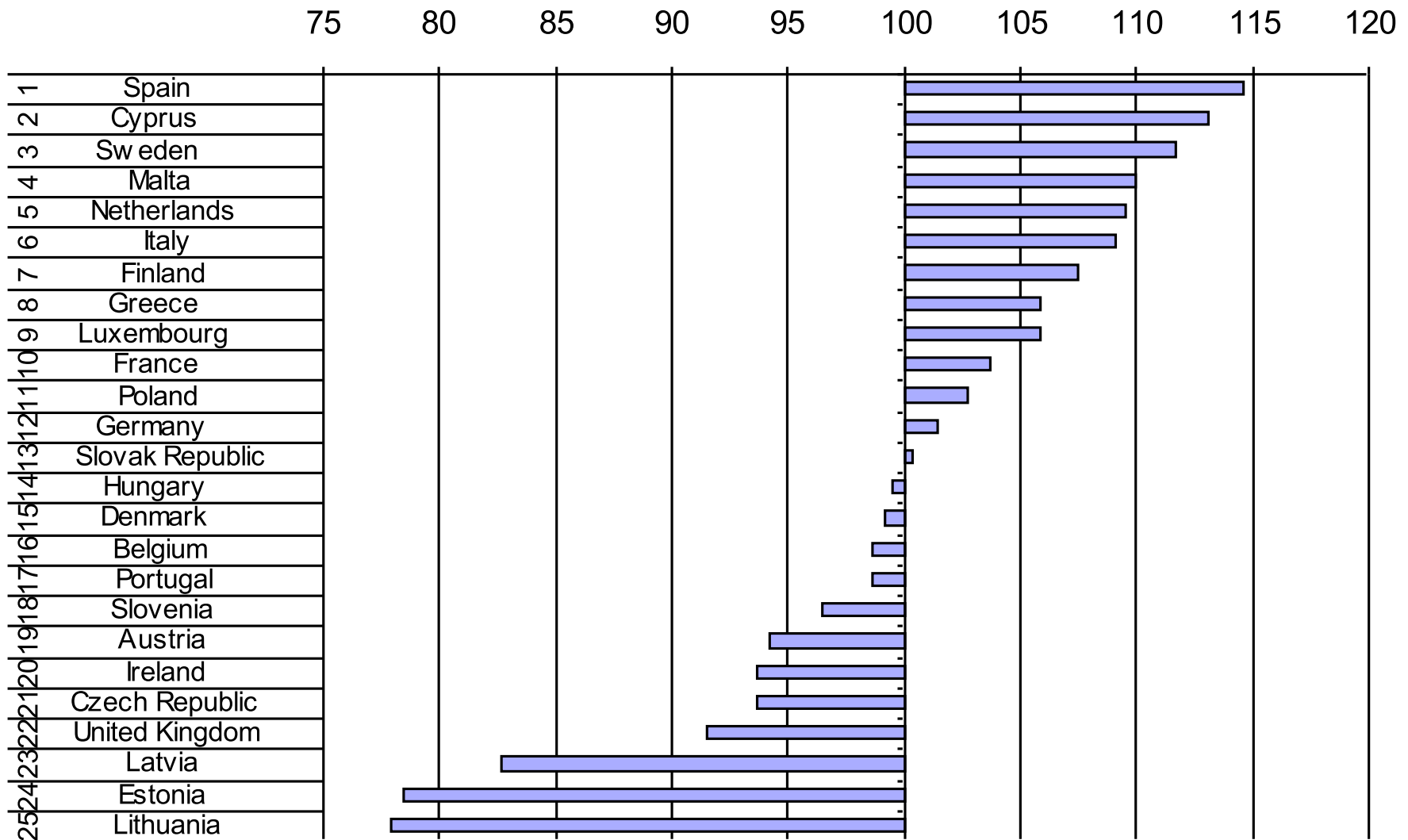




Risk and safety

- ◆ Child mortality
 - ◆ Accidental and non accidental deaths
- ◆ Risky behaviour
 - ◆ Cigarettes
 - ◆ Drunkenness
 - ◆ Cannabis
 - ◆ Inhalants
 - ◆ Teenage pregnancy
 - ◆ Sexual intercourse at 15
 - ◆ Use of condoms
- ◆ Experience of violence
 - ◆ Involved in physical fighting
 - ◆ Bullied

Risk and safety

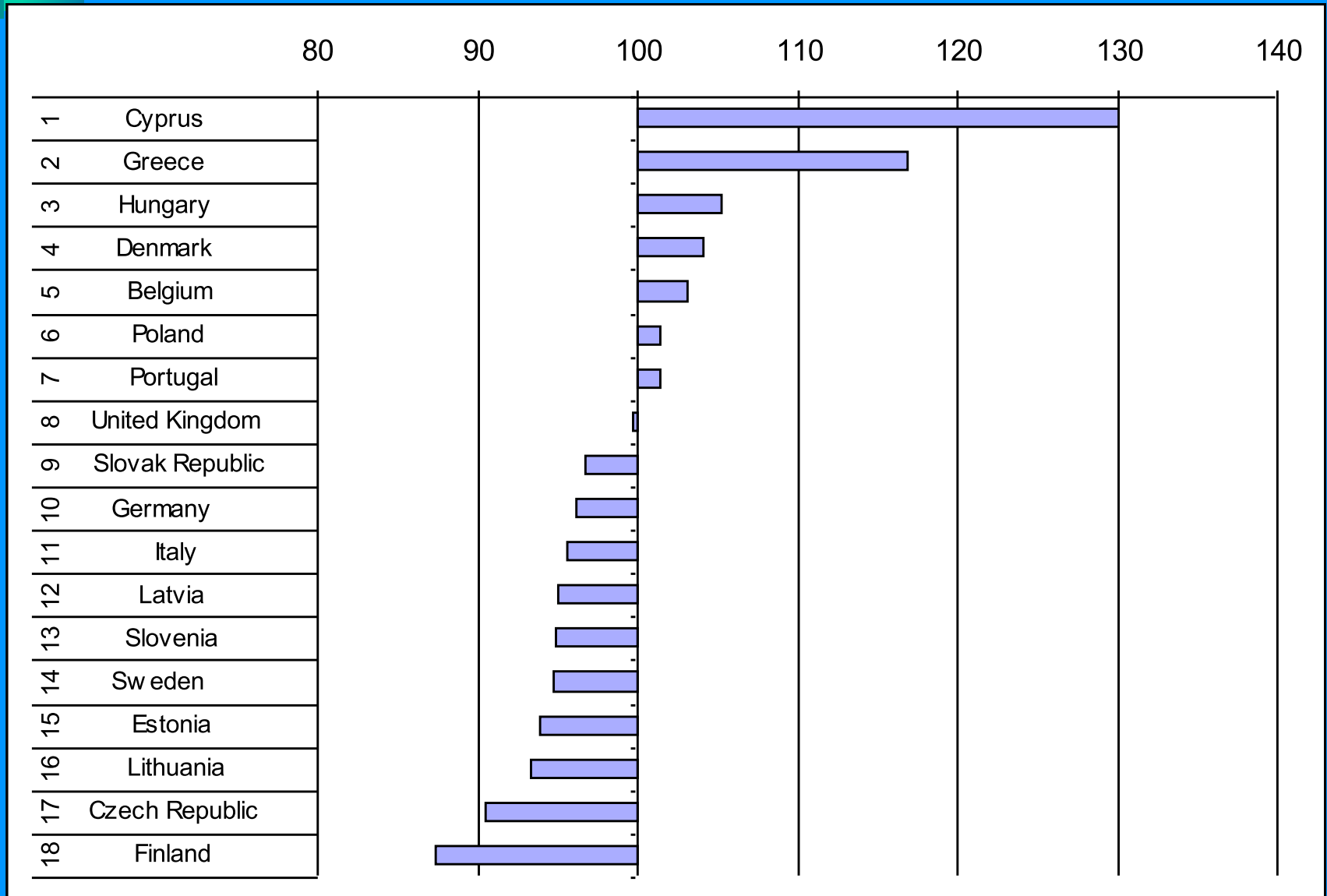




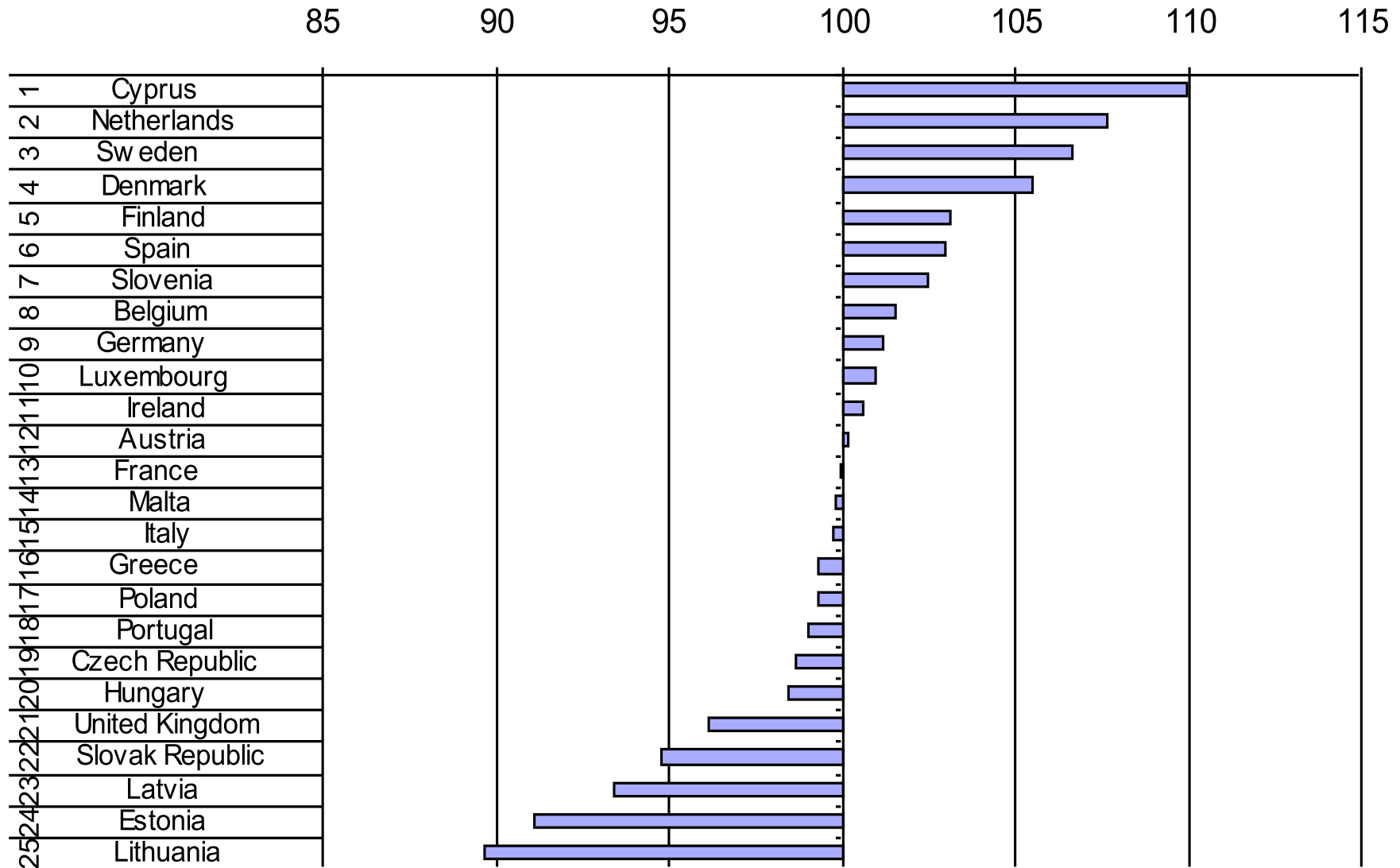
Civic participation

- ◆ Participation in civic activities
 - ◆ Two or more activities
- ◆ Political interest
 - ◆ Above the median

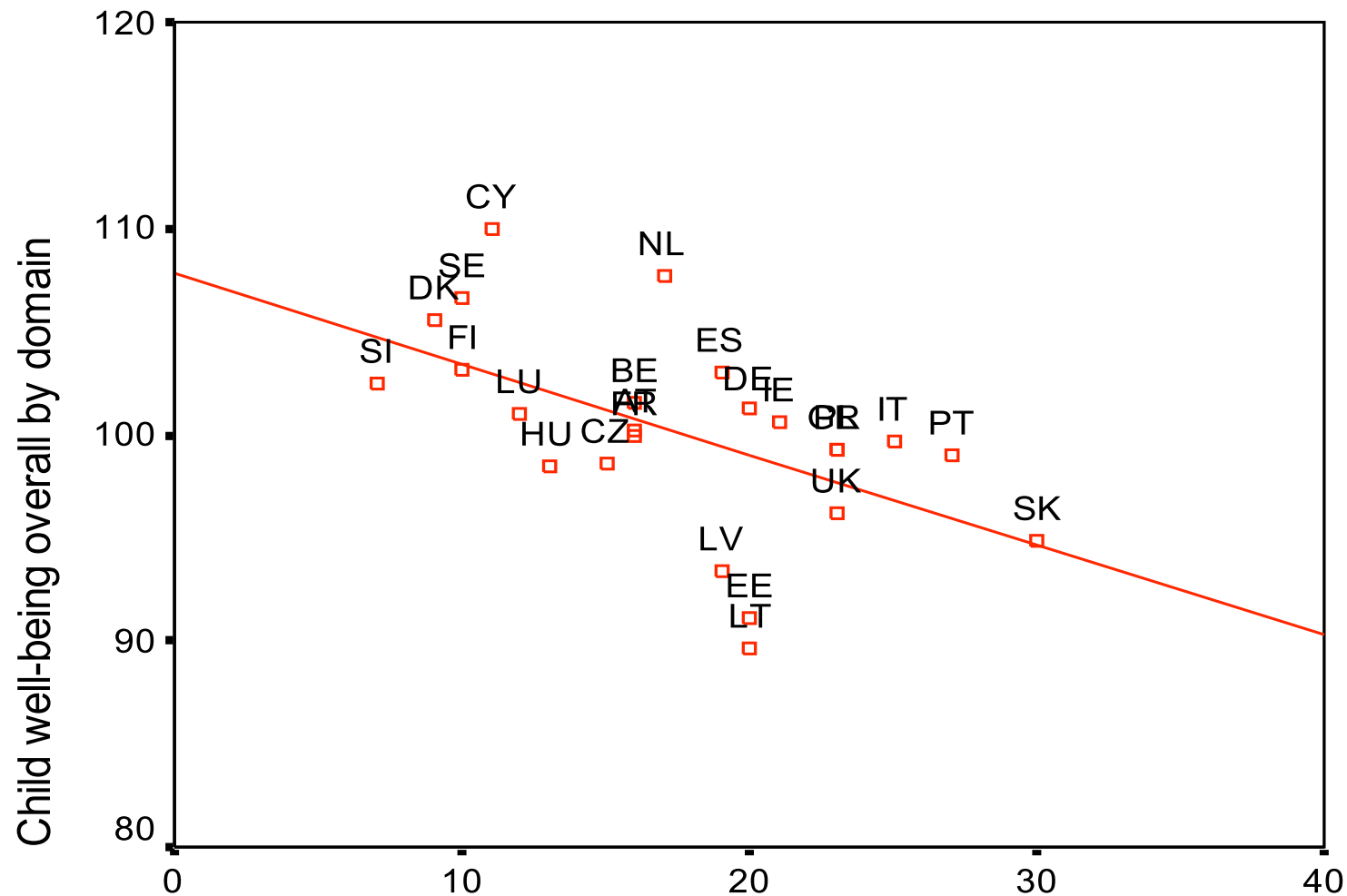
Civic participation



Overall child well-being

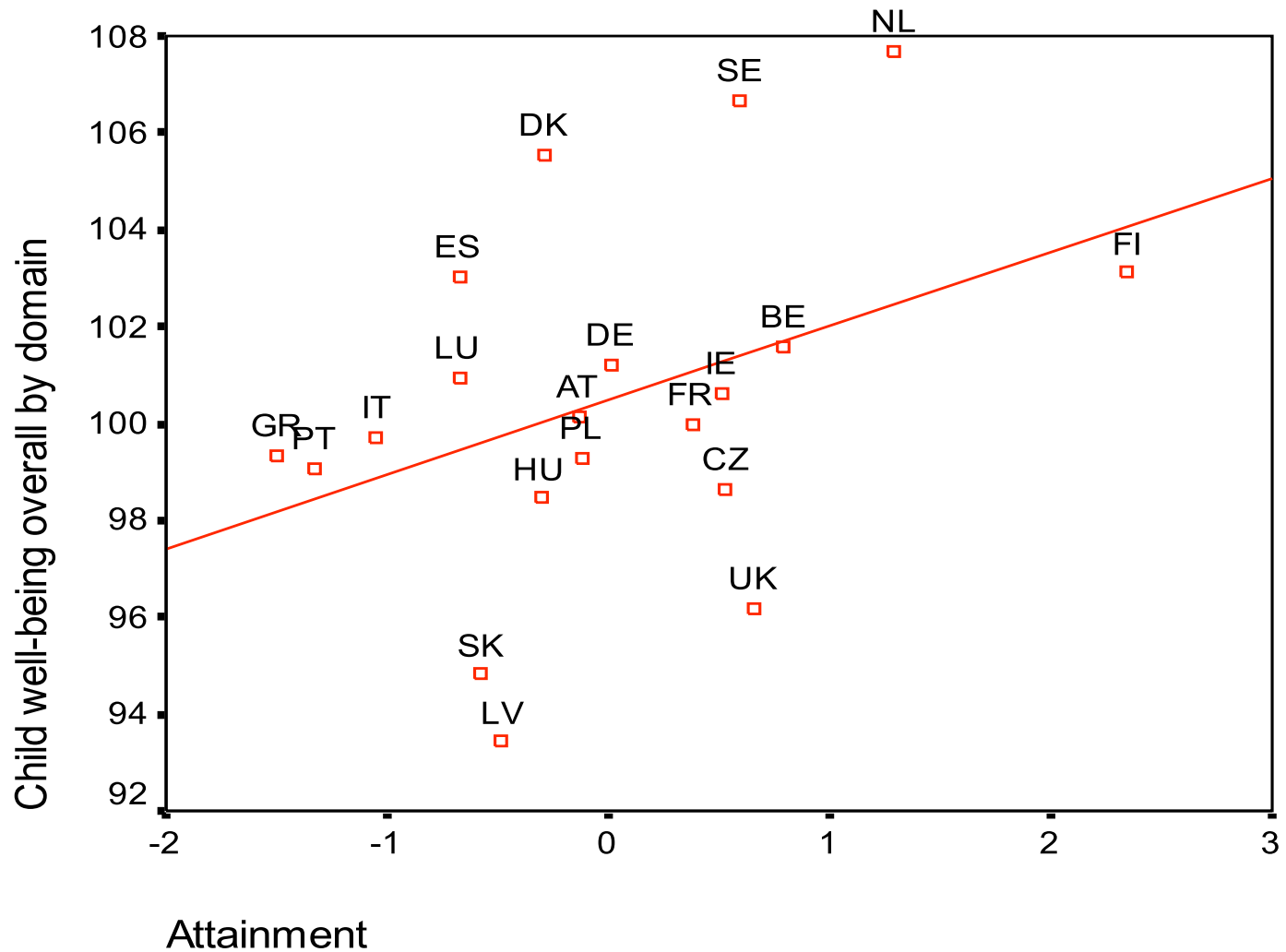


Overall child well-being by child poverty rate. $R=-0.55^{**}$



At risk of poverty rate (60% of median equivalised income after)

Child well-being and educational attainment



This is work in progress!