



Research on child poverty and child well-being

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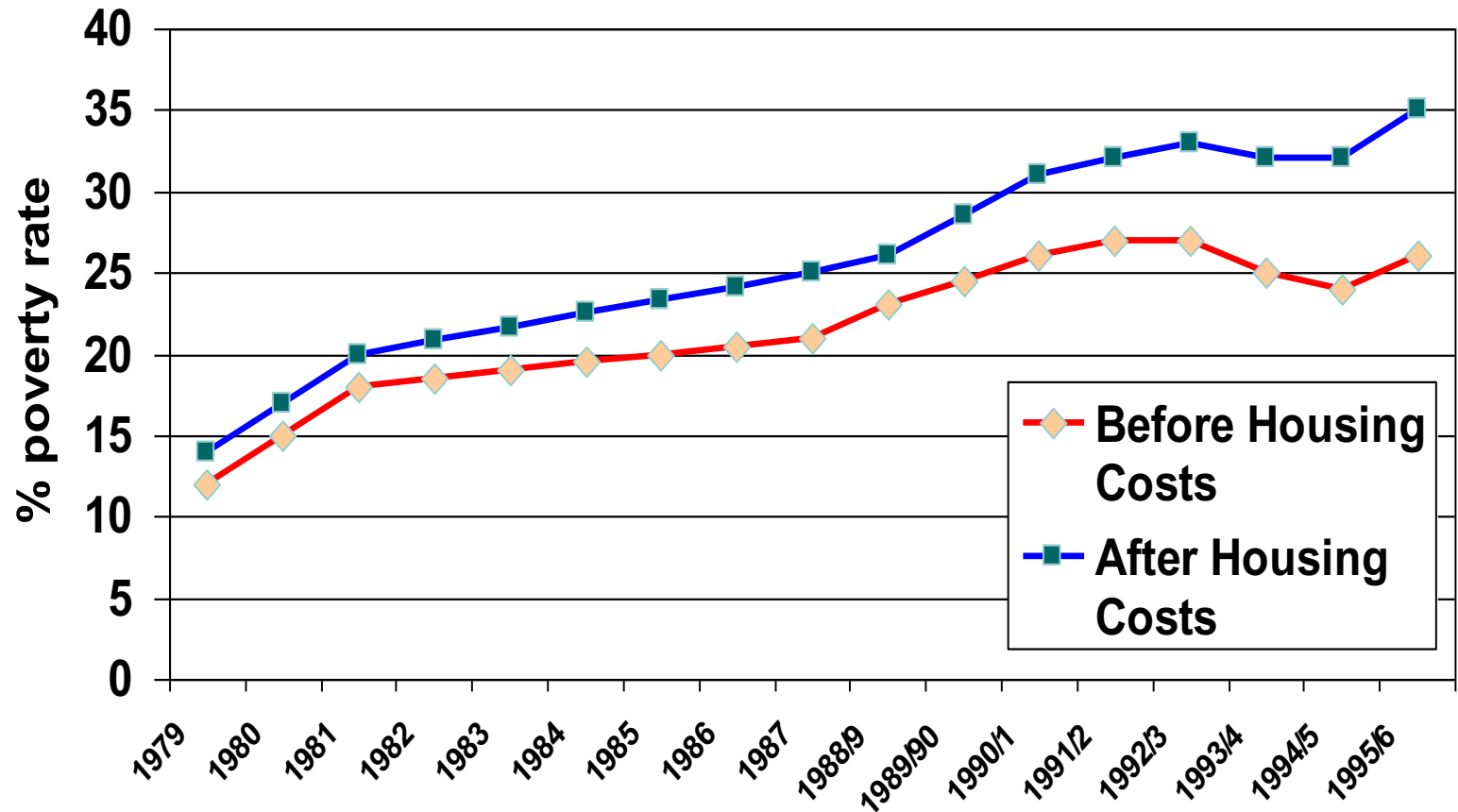


Outline:

- ◆ Tour of my research on the subject over the last decade
- ◆ It has moved from
 - ◆ UK research on child income poverty
 - ◆ To comparative research on child income poverty
 - ◆ To UK research on overlaps - more than one indicator
 - ◆ To comparative research on overlaps
 - ◆ To UK research on child wellbeing and spatial
 - ◆ To comparative research on child well-being
- ◆ Northern Ireland

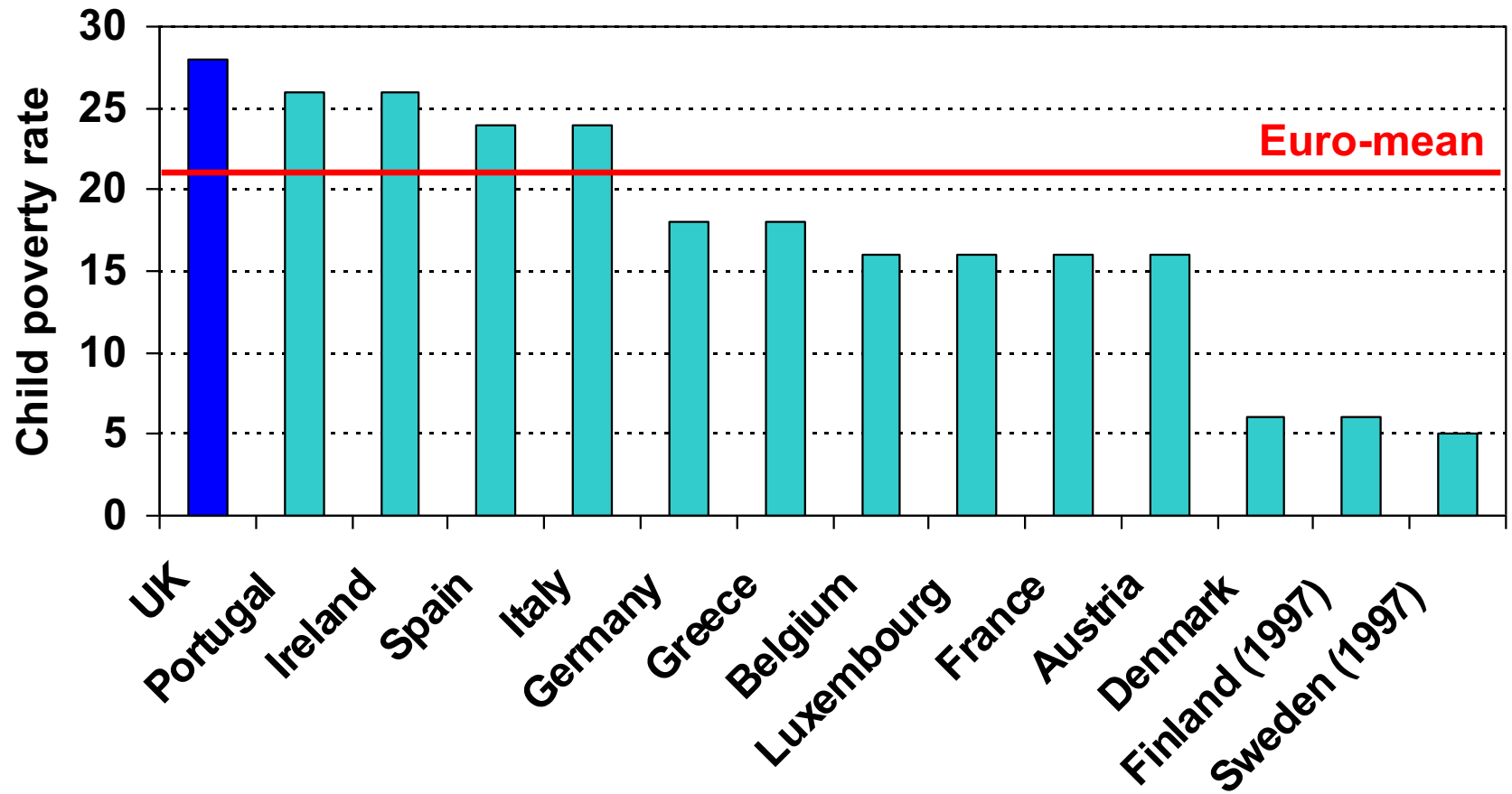
Child poverty:1979-1995/6

60 per cent equivalent household income



Child poverty rates 1995

60% of the national equivalised median income.



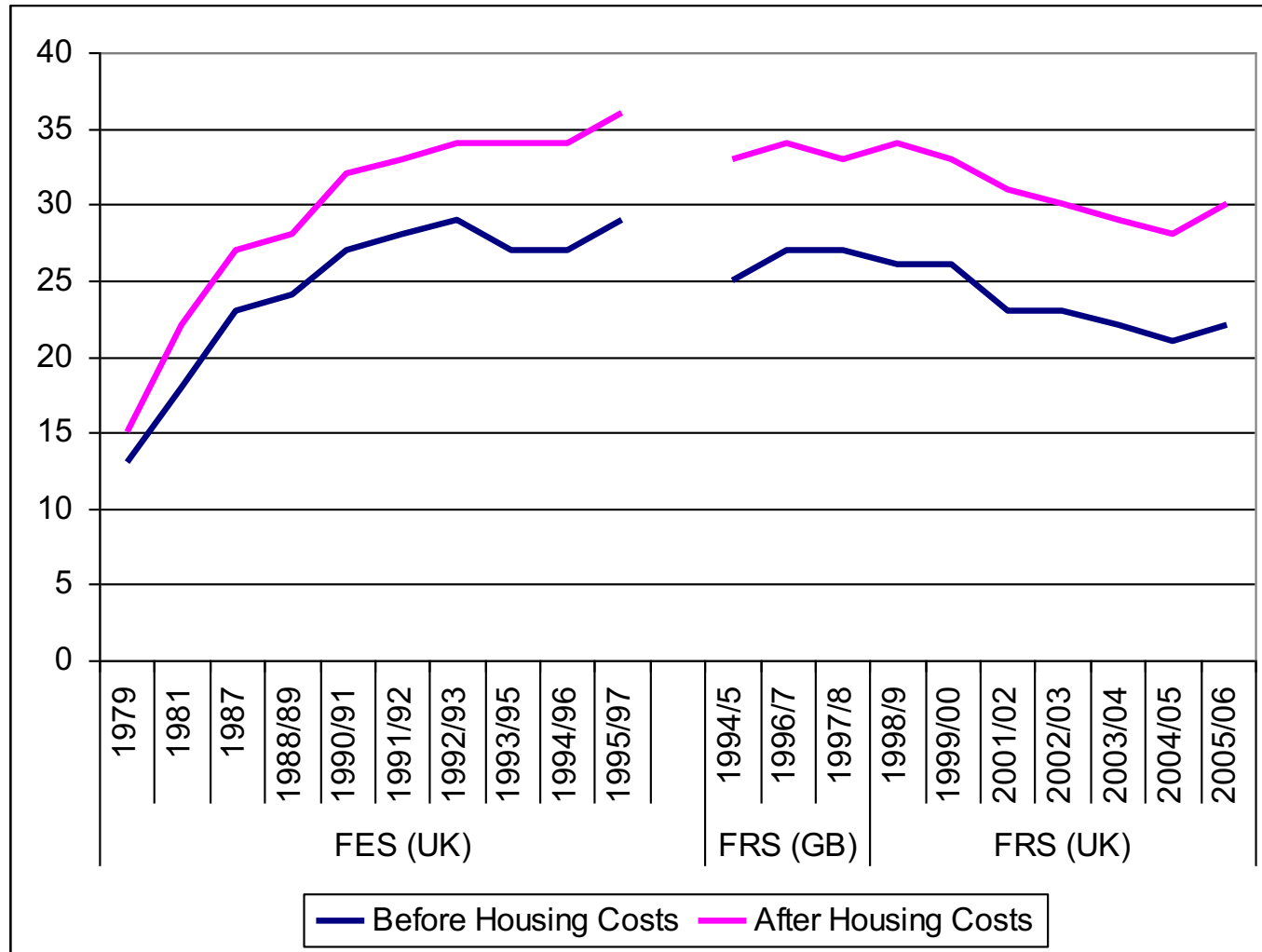


End of child poverty

◆ Prime Minister's pledge:

“Our historic aim, that ours is the first generation to end child poverty forever....It's a 20 year mission but I believe it can be done”

Child poverty rates 1979-2005/6

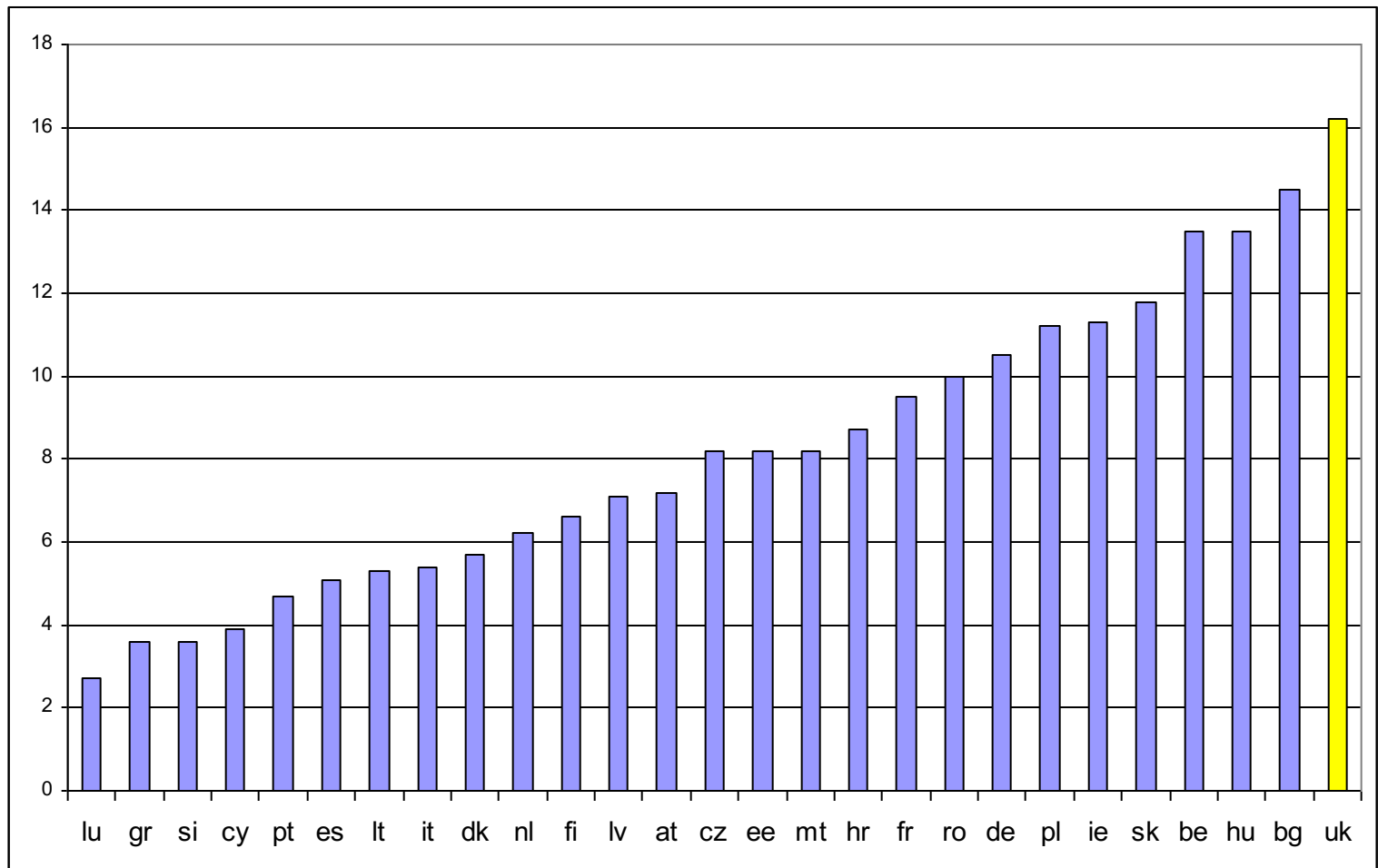




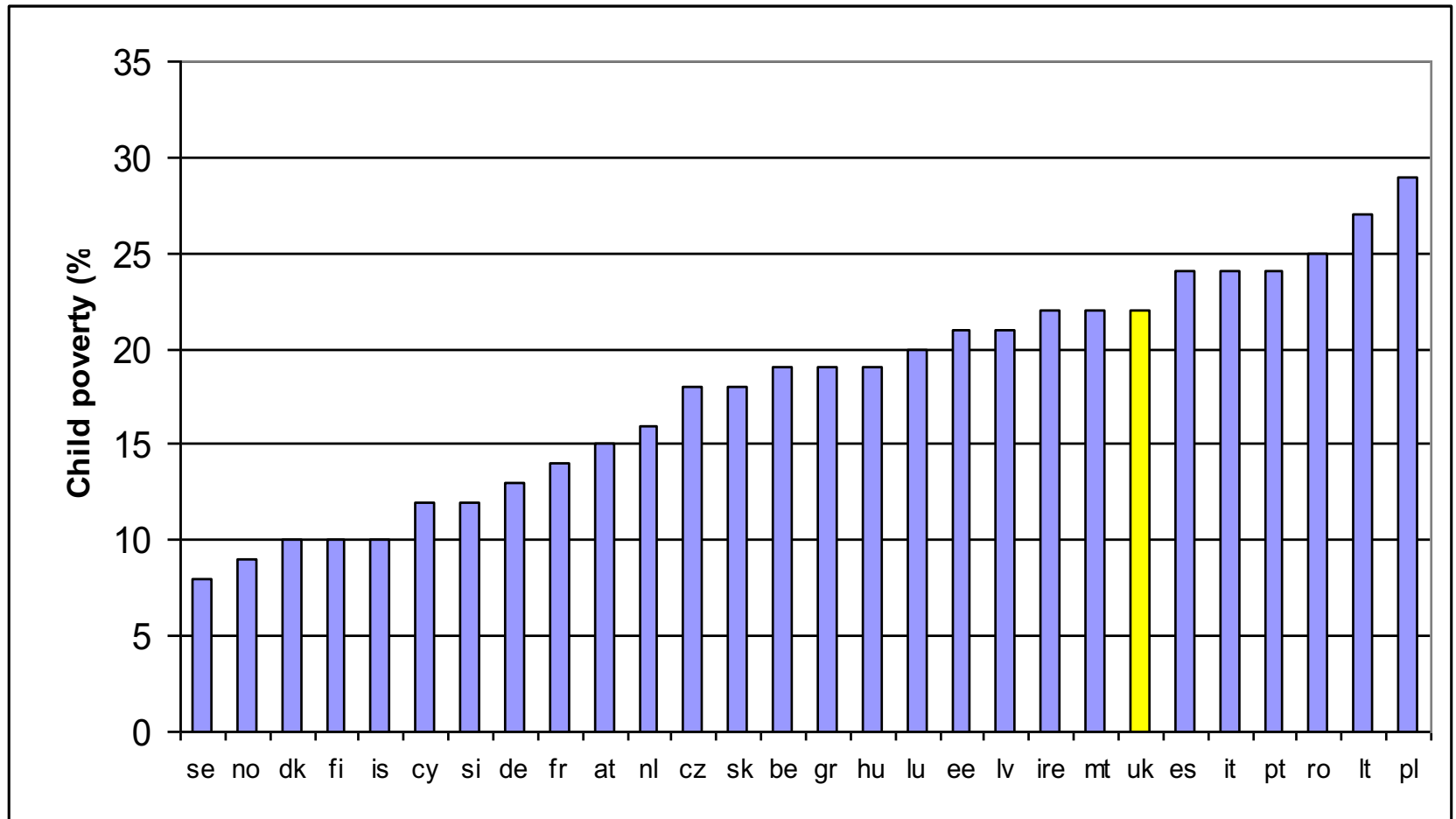
Comparative background:

- ◆ The child has been absent from EU – lack of “competence” under Treaties
- ◆ Lisbon summit introduces social inclusion – and enables the child to come in
- ◆ Social inclusion strategy monitored by “Laeken” indicators – only two on children
 - ◆ % children living in workless families
 - ◆ Relative child poverty rates

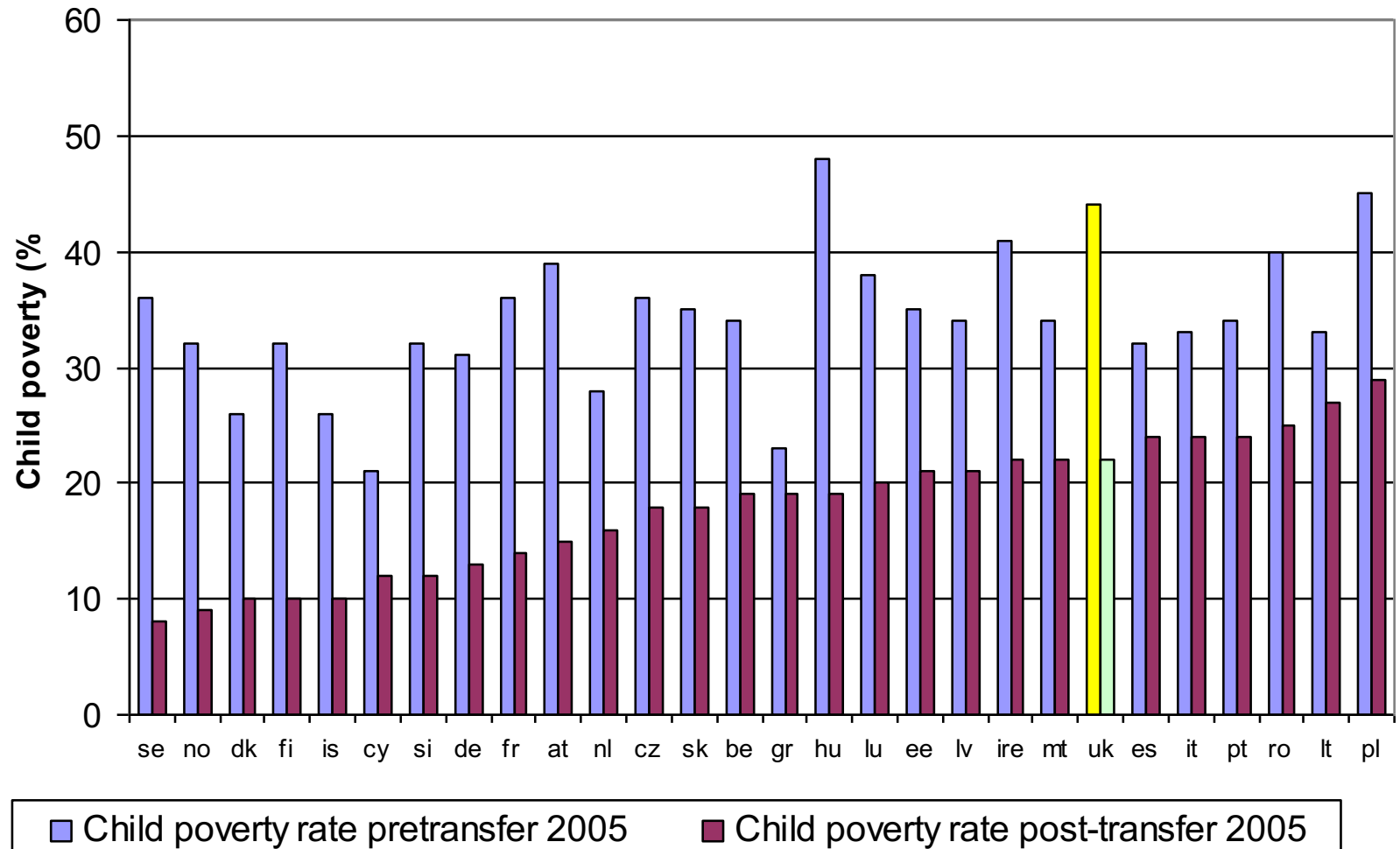
% children 0-17 living in workless households 2006. (Eurostat 2007)



Child poverty rate (less than 60 per cent of the median 2005 (Eurostat))



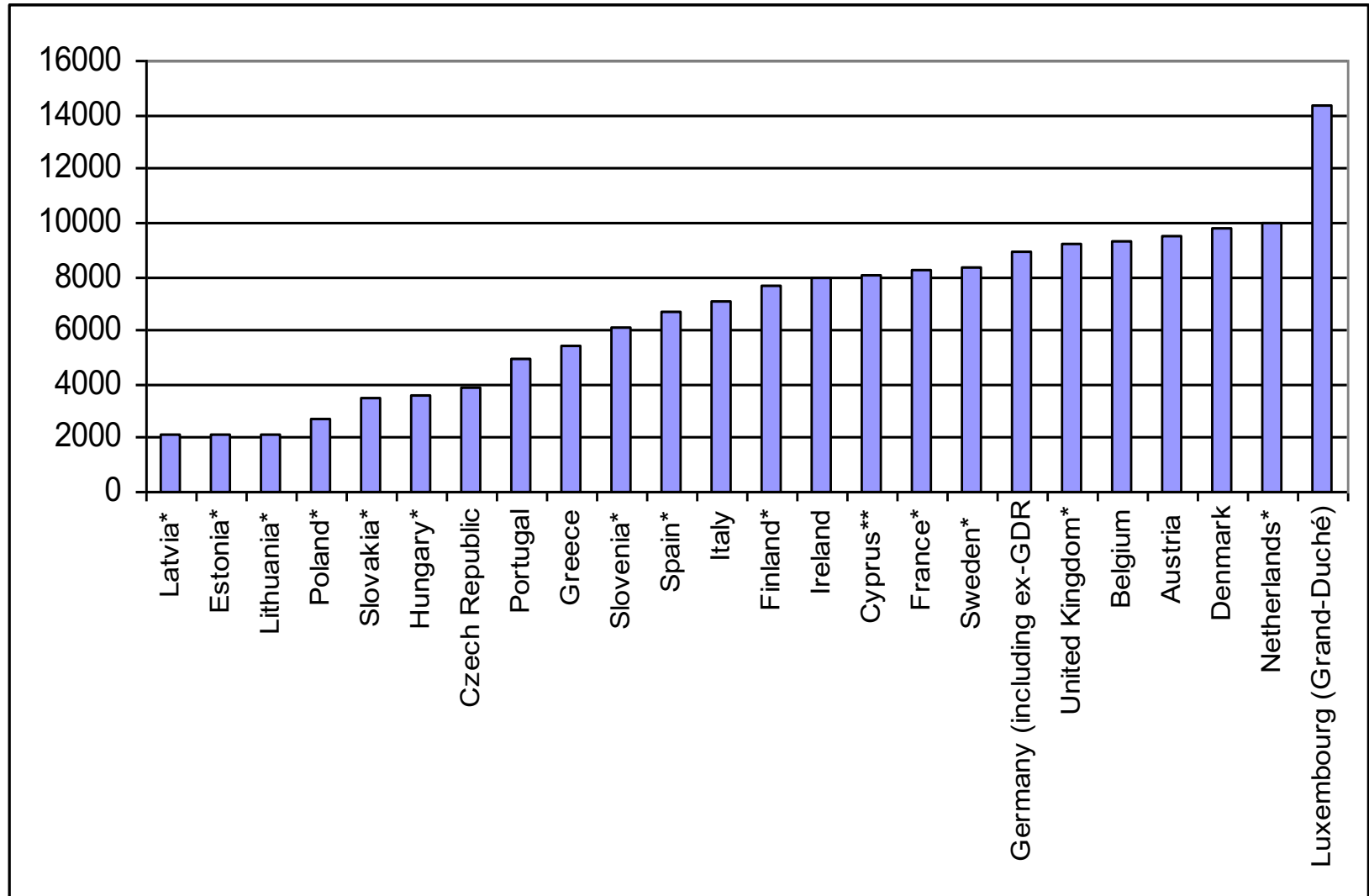
Child poverty before and after cash benefits 2005



What is wrong with income poverty?

- ◆ Income
 - ◆ Is not easy to measure
 - ◆ Is not a good measure of command over resources – ignores dissaving, borrowing and domestic consumption
- ◆ Relative thresholds very different in different countries (including NI)

60% of median poverty threshold 2001, 2002*, 2003** Euros

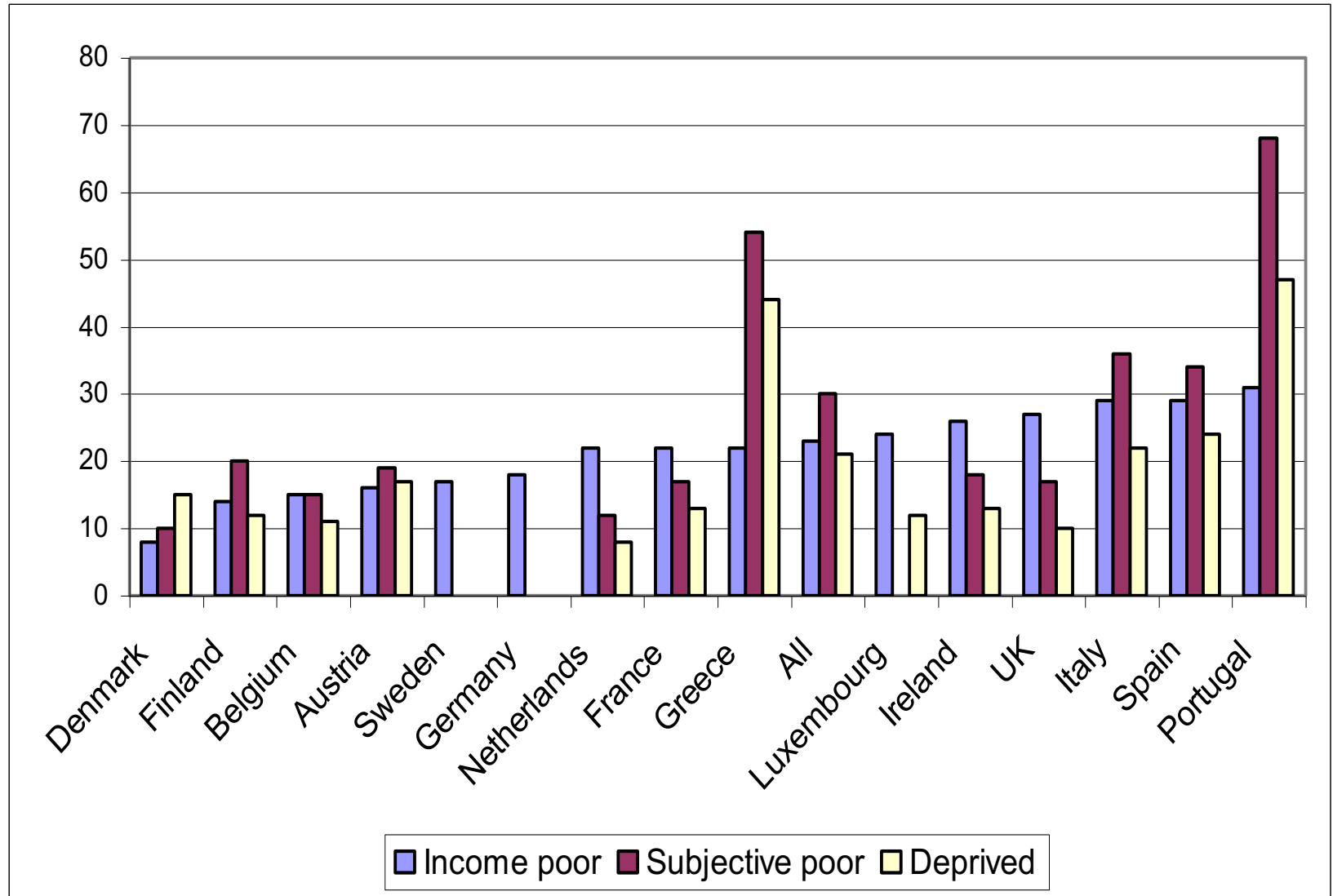




What is wrong with income poverty?

- ◆ Income not easy to measure
- ◆ Not a good measure of command over resources
- ◆ Relative threshold very different in different countries
- ◆ 60 per cent of median arbitrary
- ◆ Modified OECD equivalence scale has no basis in science
- ◆ Poverty rates hide poverty gaps and poverty persistence

Child poverty rates by dimension. Own analysis of ECHP 2001





Overlaps analysis

- ◆ Began in Ireland
- ◆ Now in FRS
- ◆ Coming in EU SILC
- ◆ Have used it in
 - ◆ MCS
 - ◆ BHPS
 - ◆ SASAS
 - ◆ Bulgaria
 - ◆ Georgia



Monitoring child well-being in the UK

- ◆ *Poverty the outcomes for children* (FPSC 2001)
- ◆ *Child well-being in the UK*, Save the Children (2002)
- ◆ *Child well-being in the UK*, Save the Children (2005)



Chapters

- ◆ Child demography
- ◆ Child poverty and deprivation
- ◆ Child health
- ◆ Child lifestyles
- ◆ Mental health and well-being
- ◆ Child's time and space
- ◆ Child maltreatment
- ◆ In and leaving care
- ◆ Childcare
- ◆ Crime and illegal drug use
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Housing and neighbourhoods

NORTHERN IRELAND



Every Child Matters: 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.
- ◆ Input orientated – not operationalised

More background:

- ◆ At Luxembourg Presidency of EU: Atkinson Report recommends “child mainstreaming” and development of child well-being indicators
- ◆ EUROSTAT cautious and reluctant
- ◆ Suggestion that one extra indicator on educational attainment might be added to Laeken set
- ◆ So for UK Presidency we develop of an index of child well-being based on existing comparative data sources
- ◆ (Bradshaw, J., Hoelscher, P. and Richardson, D. (2007) An index of child well-being in the European Union 25, *Journal of Social Indicators Research*, 80, 133-177.)
- ◆ Later produce others for
 - ◆ OECD for UNICEF
 - ◆ CEE/CIS for UNICEF



Conceptualisation of child well-being

- ◆ Multi-dimensional approach
- ◆ Based on children's rights as outlined in the UN CRC
- ◆ Ideology
 - ◆ Child the unit of analysis
 - ◆ What children think and feel is important
 - ◆ Well-being more important than well-becoming
 - ◆ Outcomes rather than inputs
 - ◆ Direct measures rather than indirect measures



Data Sources I: Surveys

- ◆ Health Behaviour of School Aged Children (HBSC) 36 countries at 2001
- ◆ Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 32 countries at 2000, 41 at 2003
- ◆ 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

	<i>EU</i>	<i>OECD</i>	<i>CEE/CIS</i>
Indicators	51	40	52
Components	23	18	24
Dimensions	8	6	7
Names of the dimensions	1. Material situation 2. Housing and environment 3. Health 4. Subjective well-being 5. Education 6. Children's relationships 7. Civic participation and 8. Risk and safety	1. Material well-being 2. Health and safety 3. Educational well-being 4. Family and peer relationships 5. Behaviours and risks and 6. Subjective well-being	1. Material situation 2. Housing 3. Health 4. Education 5. Personal and social well-being 6. Family forms and care 7. Risk and safety

	Average rank	Health	Subjective Well-being	Children's Relationships	Material Situation	Risk & Safety	Education	Civic and political participation	Housing
Cyprus	46	5			1	2		1	14
Netherlands	49	2	1	5	10	5	6		5
Sweden	59	1	6	15	2	3	2	14	4
Denmark	64	3	9	10	6	15	3	4	1
Spain	87	13	3	9	8	1	15		12
Finland	98	7	12	17	3	7	4	18	10
Germany	99	10	7	12	12	12	9	10	7
Belgium	104	20	15	6	18	16	1	5	2
Slovenia	107	15	8	4	4	18		13	13
Ireland	121	18	5	8	19	20	7		8
Italy	123	16	11	2	15	6	19	11	18
Luxembourg	124	11	20	19	5	9	20		3
Greece	125	25	4	11	17	8	16	2	17
Austria	126	21	2	16	7	19	17		6
Portugal	129	9	16	3	13	17	18	7	20
France	130	14	13	14	11	10	14		15
Poland	130	6	19	13	23	11	5	6	21
Hungary	130	22	10	7	14	14	12	3	22
Malta	135	24	17	1	24	4			11
Czech Republic	141	4	14	22	9	21	10	17	16
Slovak Republic	166	17	22		25	13	11	9	19
United Kingdom	170	23	18	23	20	22	13	8	9
Latvia	176	19	21	18	16	23	8	12	24
Estonia	199	12	23	21	21	24		15	23
Lithuania	200	8	24	20	22	25		16	25

OECD

	Average rank	Material Situation	Health and Safety	Education	Children relationship	Subjective Well-being	Behaviours and risk
Netherlands	4.2	10	2	6	3	1	3
Sweden	5.0	1	1	5	15	7	1
Finland	7.3	3	3	4	17	11	6
Spain	8.0	12	5	16	8	2	5
Switzerland	8.0	5	9	14	4	6	10
Denmark	8.2	4	4	8	9	12	12
Norway	8.3	2	8	9	10	8	13
Belgium	10.0	7	12	1	5	16	19
Italy	10.0	14	6	20	1	10	9
Ireland	10.2	19	19	7	7	5	4
Germany	11.2	13	11	10	13	9	11
Greece	11.8	15	18	17	11	3	7
Canada	12.0	6	14	2	18	15	17
France	12.5	9	7	15	12	18	14
Poland	12.5	21	16	3	14	19	2
Czech Republic	12.7	11	10	11	19	17	8
Austria	13.7	8	20	19	16	4	15
Portugal	14.0	16	15	21	2	14	16
Hungary	14.5	20	17	13	6	13	18
United States	18.0	17	21	12	20		20
United Kingdom	18.5	18	13	18	21	20	21

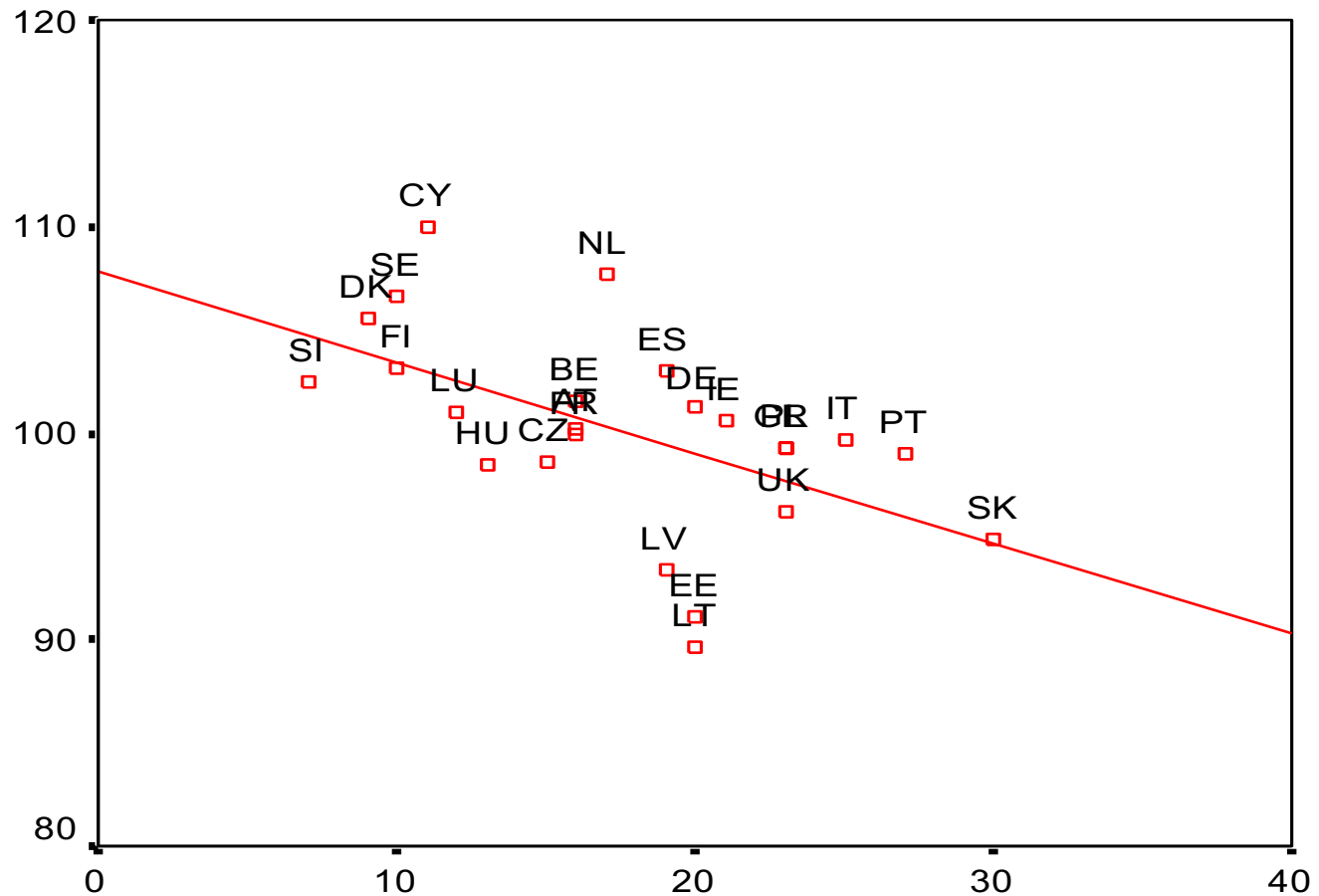
Lines Ros Asquith



CEE/CIS

	Average rank	Material	Housing	Health	Education	Personal and Social	Family forms and Care	Risk and Safety
Croatia	3.4	1	1	1	4	1	7	9
Bosnia Herzegovina	4.8	9	3	13	-	2	1	1
FYR Macedonia	6.3	8	10	3	6	3	4	10
Serbia	6.6	5	6	9	11	7	3	5
Uzbekistan	7.5	14	2	6	-	13	8	2
Turkmenistan	7.6	-	9	15	-	4	6	4
Belarus	8.3	6	5	4	2	11	14	16
Montenegro	8.6	7	11	8	13	7	2	12
Bulgaria	10.6	2	7	14	5	16	12	18
Ukraine	10.6	4	13	7	8	9	19	14
Kazakhstan	11.1	15	12	10	1	12	17	11
Russia	11.3	3	15	5	3	17	16	20
Kyrgyzstan	11.7	16	17	11	18	5	9	6
Romania	12.0	10	19	16	7	14	5	13
Armenia	12.1	17	8	19	12	15	11	3
Georgia	13.6	18	4	17	15	6	18	17
Turkey	14.0	13	-	12	17	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	14.1	11	16	20	16	19	10	7
Albania	14.4	12	14	18	9	20	13	15
Tajikistan	14.4	19	18	21	10	10	15	8
Moldova	16.1	20	20	2	14	18	20	19

Child well-being by child poverty



$R=-0.55$

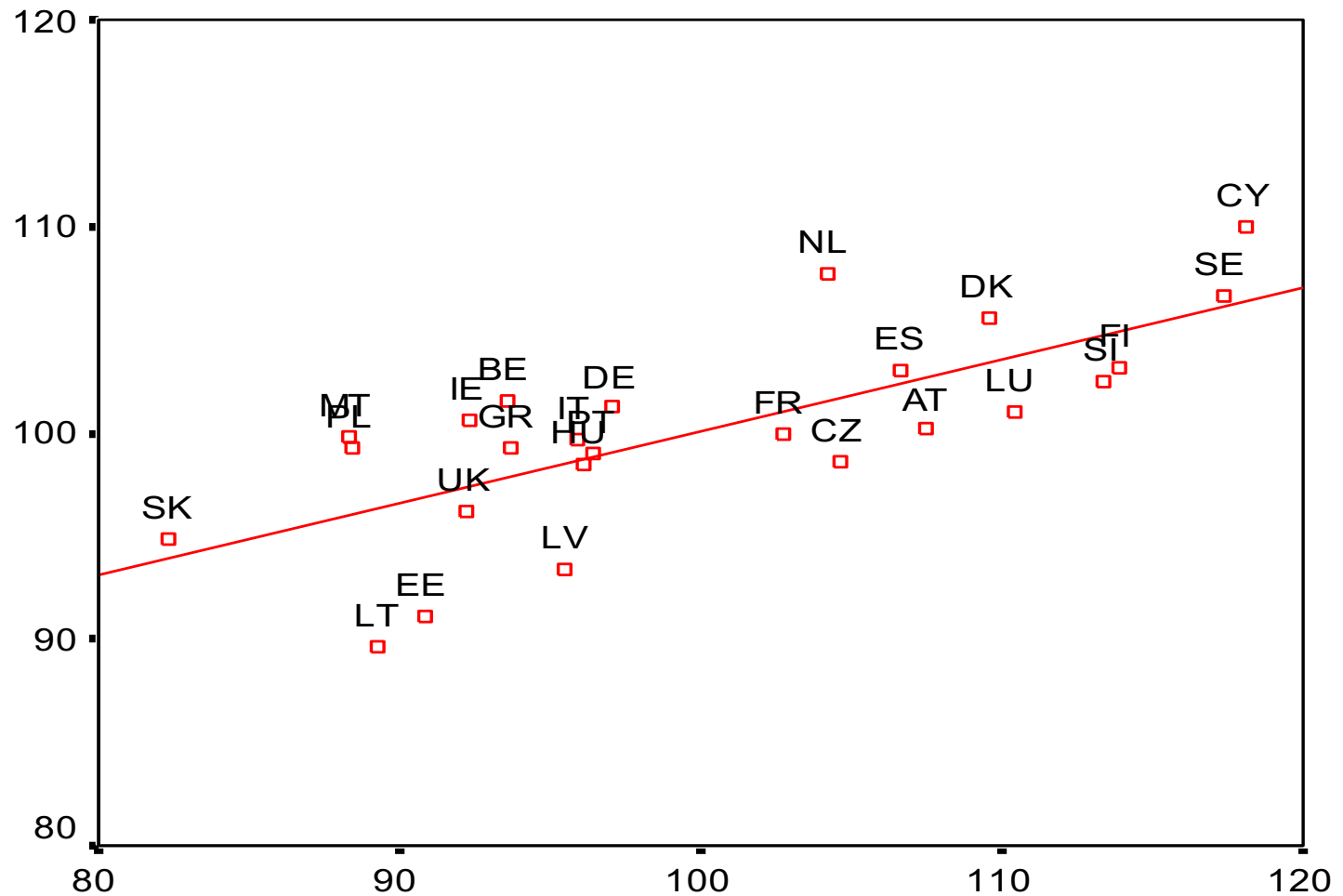
At risk of poverty rate (60% of median equivalised income after)



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

Overall well-being and material well-being



R=0.73

Material situation cluster score

Subjective Well-being

◆ Personal well-being

- ◆ Young people with scores above the middle of a life satisfaction scale 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02
- ◆ Students who agree or strongly agree to 'I feel like an outsider (or left out of things)', 15 years (%) - PISA 2003
- ◆ Students who agree or strongly agree to 'I feel awkward and out of place', 15 years (%) - PISA 2003
- ◆ Students who agree or strongly agree to 'I feel lonely', 15 years (%) - PISA 2003

◆ Well-being at school

- ◆ Young people feeling pressured by schoolwork 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02
- ◆ Young people liking school a lot 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02

◆ Self defined health

- ◆ Young people rating their health as fair or poor 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02



Children's relationships

◆ **Quality of family relations**

- ◆ Students whose parents eat the main meal with them around a table several times a week, 15 years (%) - PISA 2000
- ◆ Students whose parents spend time just talking to them several times a week, 15 years (%) - PISA 2000

◆ **Family structure**

- ◆ Young people living in 'single parent' family structures 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02
- ◆ Young people living in 'Stepfamily' family structures 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02

◆ **Peer relationships**

- ◆ Young people finding their peers kind and helpful 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02

Overall child well-being and % of young people saying they lived in a lone parent or step parent family $r=0.13(ns)$





Health

◆ Health at birth

- ◆ Infant mortality rates (WDI 2003)
- ◆ Low birth weight (OECD Health Data)

◆ Immunisation

- ◆ Measles WDI (2003)
- ◆ DPT3 WDI HNP (2002)
- ◆ Pol3 WDI HNP (2002)

◆ Health behaviour

- ◆ Brushing teeth (HBSC)
- ◆ Eating fruit every day (HBSC)
- ◆ Eating breakfast before school (HBSC)
- ◆ Physical activity (HBSC)
- ◆ Obesity and pre obesity (HBSC)

Risk and Safety

◆ Risk & Safety

- ◆ Young people who were involved in physical fighting at least once in the previous 12 months 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02
- ◆ Young people who were bullied at least once in the previous couple of months 11, 13 and 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02

◆ Child deaths

- ◆ All child deaths: All under 19 deaths per 100,000 children, WHO mortality database, 3 year averages, MRD

◆ Risk behaviour

- ◆ Teenage pregnancy (adolescent fertility rate), adolescent fertility rate, births per 1000 women 15-19 - WDI, 2003.
- ◆ Young people who have had sexual intercourse, 15 years (%) - HBSC 2001/02
- ◆ Young people who used a condom during their last sexual intercourse, 15-year-olds (%) - HBSC 2001/02
- ◆ Cigarette smoking: Lifetime use 40 times or more 16 years (%) - ESPAD, 2003
- ◆ Drunkenness: Lifetime 20 times or more 16 years (%) - ESPAD, 2003
- ◆ Cannabis: Experience of use in Lifetime 16 years (%) - ESPAD, 2003
- ◆ Inhalants: Experience of use in Lifetime 16 years (%) - ESPAD, 2003



Education

◆ Achievement

- ◆ Reading literacy achievement, 15 years - PISA, 2003
- ◆ Mathematics literacy achievement, 15 years - PISA, 2003
- ◆ Science literacy achievement, 15 years - PISA, 2003

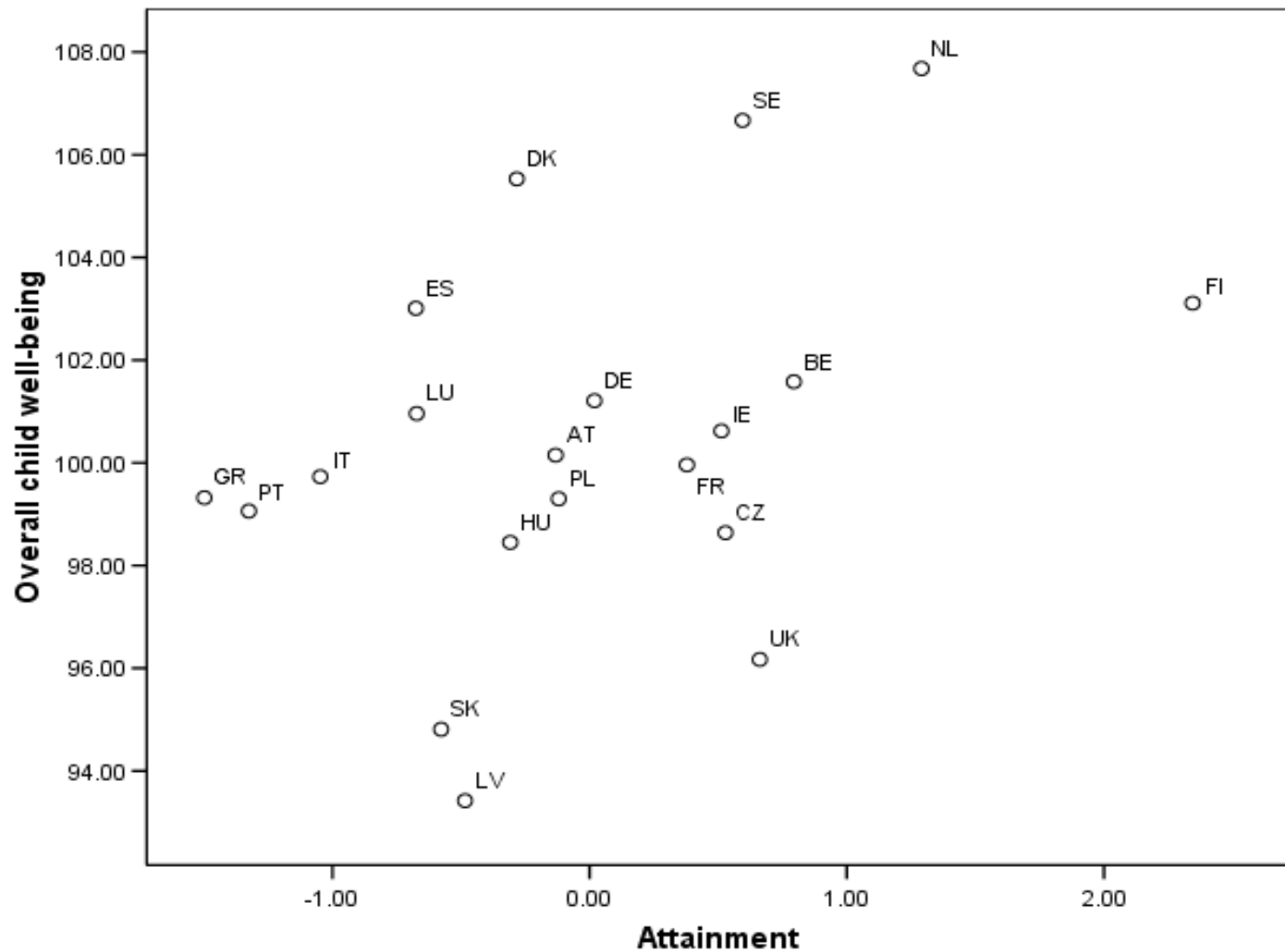
◆ Participation

- ◆ Full-time and part-time students in public and private institutions, by age: 15-19 as a percentage of the population of 15 to 19-year-olds (2003) LU SK (2002)
- ◆ Early Years Participation - children in registered childcare (% of children aged 0-2) - OECD, MRD

◆ Aspirations

- ◆ Percentage of the youth population not in education, not in the labour force or unemployed - age 15-19 - OECD, 2003
- ◆ Proportion of pupils aspiring to low skill work, 15 years - PISA, 2000

Child well-being and educational attainment



$r = 0.39$ (ns)



Civic and political participation

◆ Civic participation

- ◆ Participation rates: young people reporting involvement in two of five social participations 14 years (%) (Eng for UK, French BE) - CivEd. 1999

◆ Interest in politics

- ◆ Political interest: young people reporting above the median involvement in political behaviours 14 years (%) (Eng for UK, French BE) - CivEd. 1999



Housing and environment

◆ Overcrowding

- ◆ Rooms per person in households with children (under 16's) - EQLS, 2003

◆ Environment

- ◆ Households with children who think it is unsafe or very unsafe to walk around in their area at night (under 16's) - EQLS, 2003
- ◆ Households with children reporting many physical environment problems (under 16's) - EQLS, 2003

◆ Housing problems

- ◆ Households with children reporting at least two household problems (under 16's) - EQLS, 2003



Search for a summary measure

- ◆ Material well-being is better than child poverty
- ◆ Different domains have varying relationship to child well-being



Correlation between domains and overall well-being

Subjective	0.83
Risk and safety	0.79
Material situation	0.73
Housing and environment	0.65
Children's peers relations	0.47
Education	0.47
Civic participation	0.45
Health	0.40



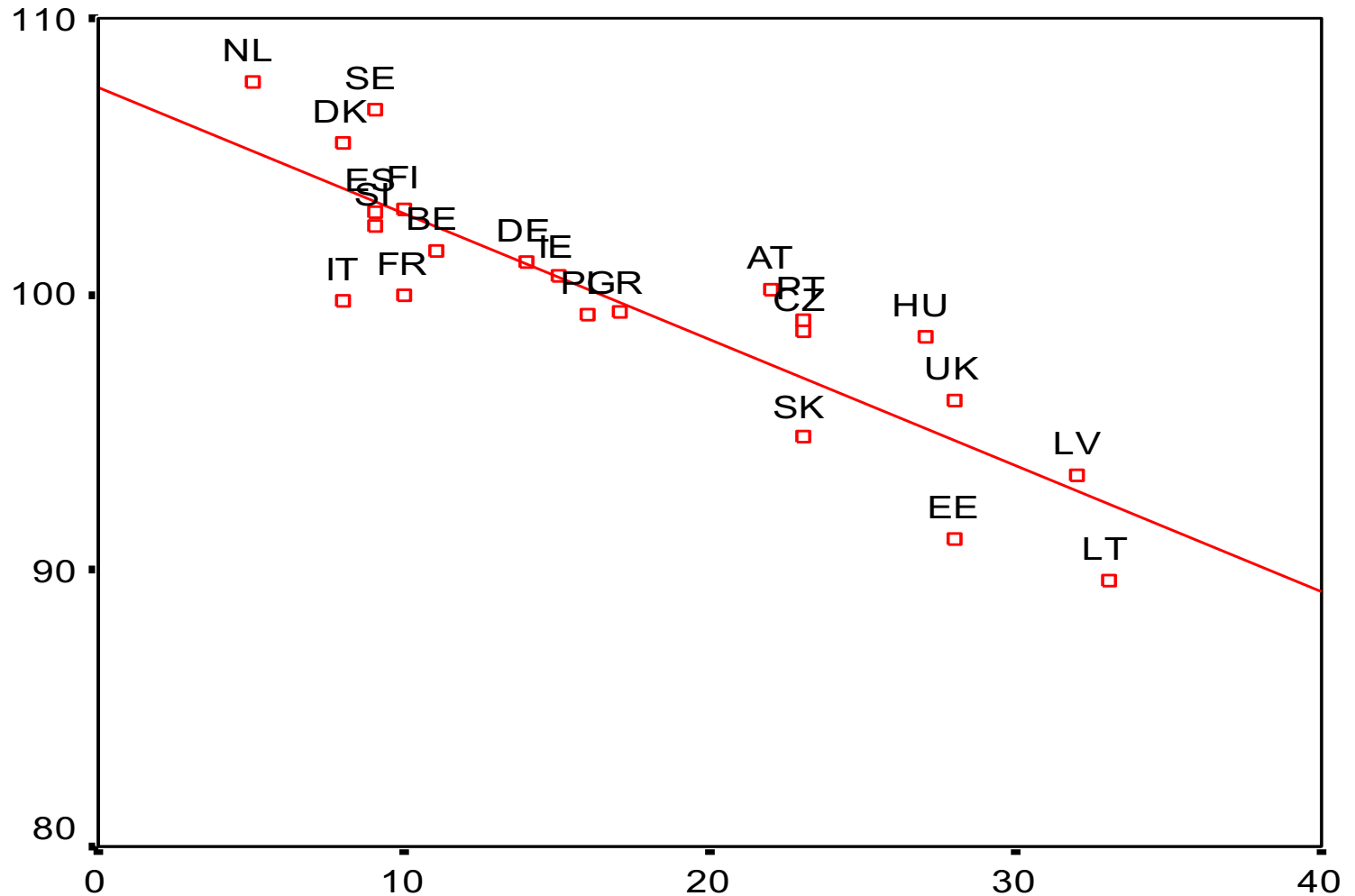
Search for a summary measure

- ◆ Material well-being is better than child poverty
- ◆ Different domains have varying relationship to child well-being
- ◆ **What about single indicators?**

Best match between single indicators and overall wellbeing

Indicator	Correlation coefficient r
Teenage fertility rate	0.88***
Feeling unsafe in neighbourhood	0.82***
Life satisfaction score	0.81***
Low family affluence (deprivation)	0.78***
Infant mortality rate	0.74***
Under 19 mortality rate	0.67***
Bullied last month	0.67**
Self rated health	0.64**
At least two household problems	0.63**
Low educational possessions	0.60**
Peers kind and helpful	0.61**

Child well-being and teenage fertility rate



R = 0.88***

Teenage pregnancy (adolescent fertility rate), adolescent ferti



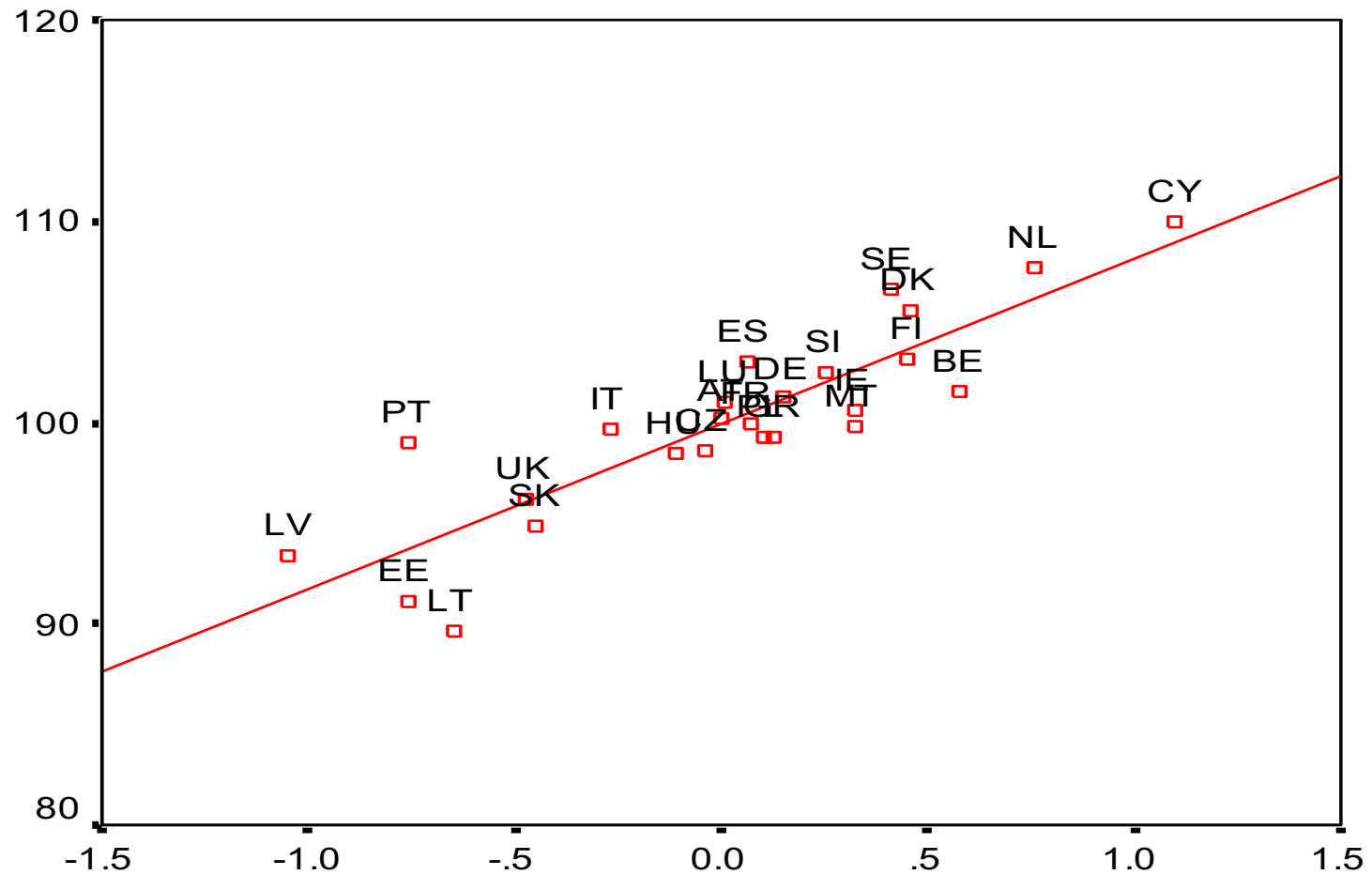
Search for a summary measure

- ◆ Material well-being is better than child poverty
- ◆ Different domains have varying relationship to child well-being
- ◆ What about single indicators?
- ◆ **What about selected indicators representing domains**

Single indicators with highest correlation with cluster score

Cluster	Indicator	r with cluster	r with overall well-being
Health	Low Birth Weight	-0.58	0.06
Subjective	Life satisfaction score	0.88	0.81
Relationships	Single/step parents	-0.75	-0.25
Material	Relative income poverty	-0.83	-0.55
Risk&Safety	Under 19 deaths per 1000	-0.81	-0.67
Education	Participation rates 15-19	0.73	0.35
Civic	Political interest	0.86	0.24
Housing	At least 2 housing problems	-0.89	-0.63

Child well-being by domain by selected indicators



Child well-being on select indicators

Comparison of ranking by domain and selected indicators

Well-being by domain	Well-being by selected indicators
CY	CY
NL	NL
SE	BE
DK	DK
FI	FI
ES	SE
SI	IE
BE	MT
DE	SI
LU	DE
IE	GR
AT	PL
FR	FR
MT	ES
IT	LU
GR	AT
PL	CZ
PT	HU
CZ	IT
HU	SK
UK	UK
SK	LT
LV	EE
EE	PT
LT	LV



Criticisms

◆ Data driven

- ◆ Countries without some or all indicators
- ◆ Some well-being domains not represented
- ◆ Focus on older children
- ◆ Out of date

◆ Summarising indicators

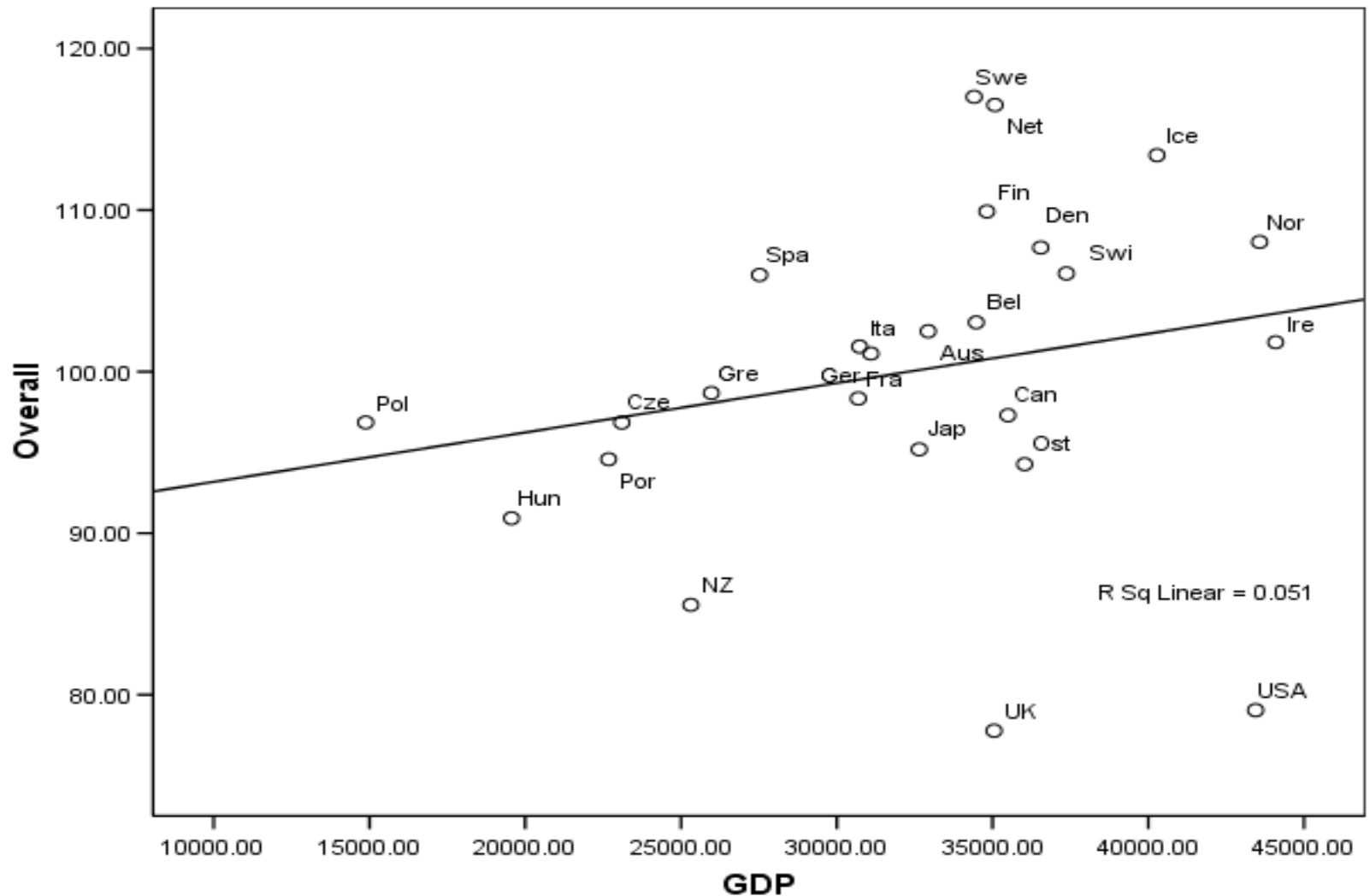
- ◆ Z scores implied weights
- ◆ No weights
- ◆ Limited direct access to sample data
- ◆ Cumulating % without regard to confidence intervals
- ◆ No measures of dispersion
- ◆ Validity and reliability



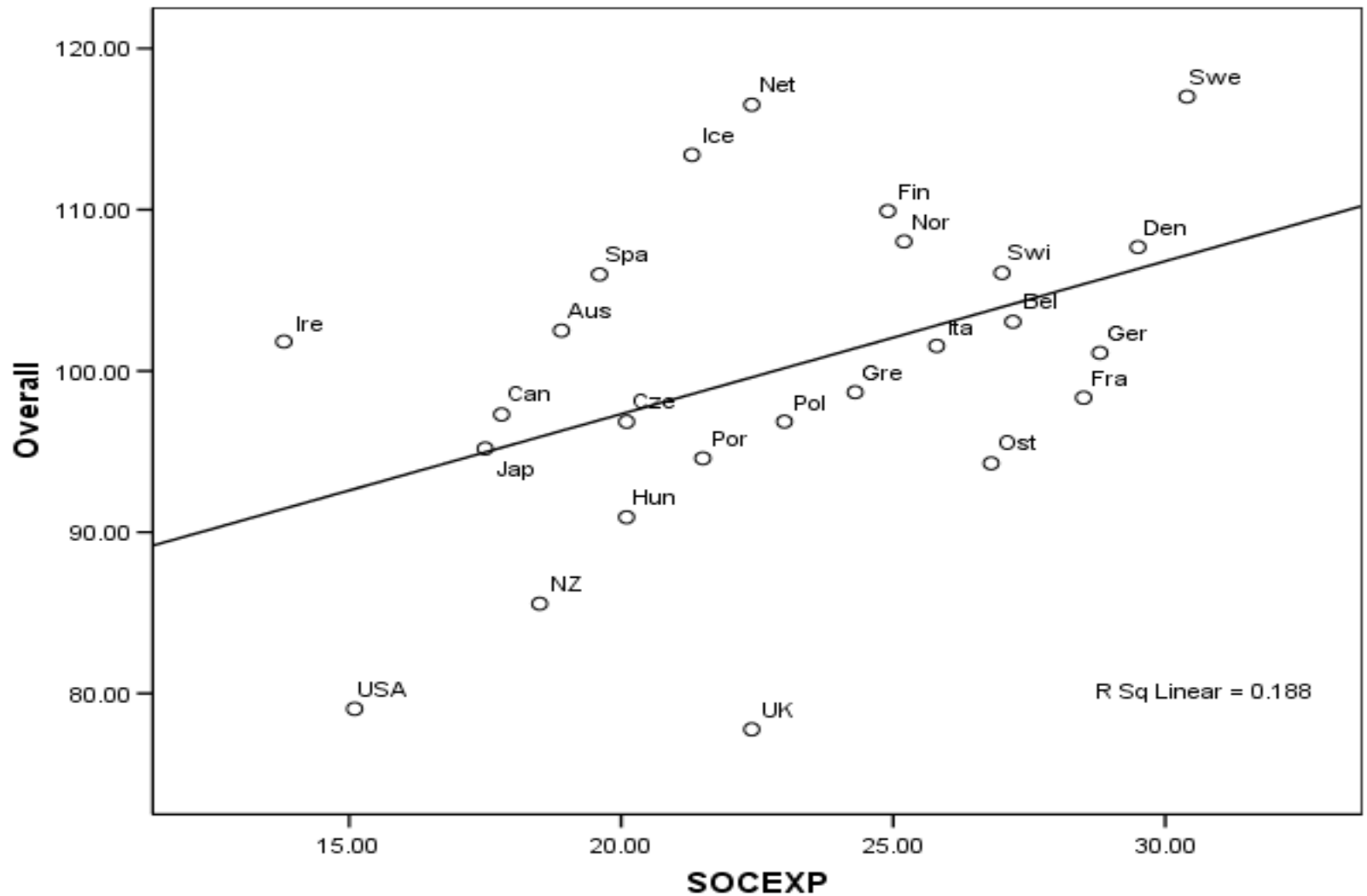
Discussion

- ◆ Our index first attempt
- ◆ Academic - probably too complex
- ◆ Explored scope for a simpler index
- ◆ Domains more important than overall ranking
- ◆ They get closer to why questions and thus policy

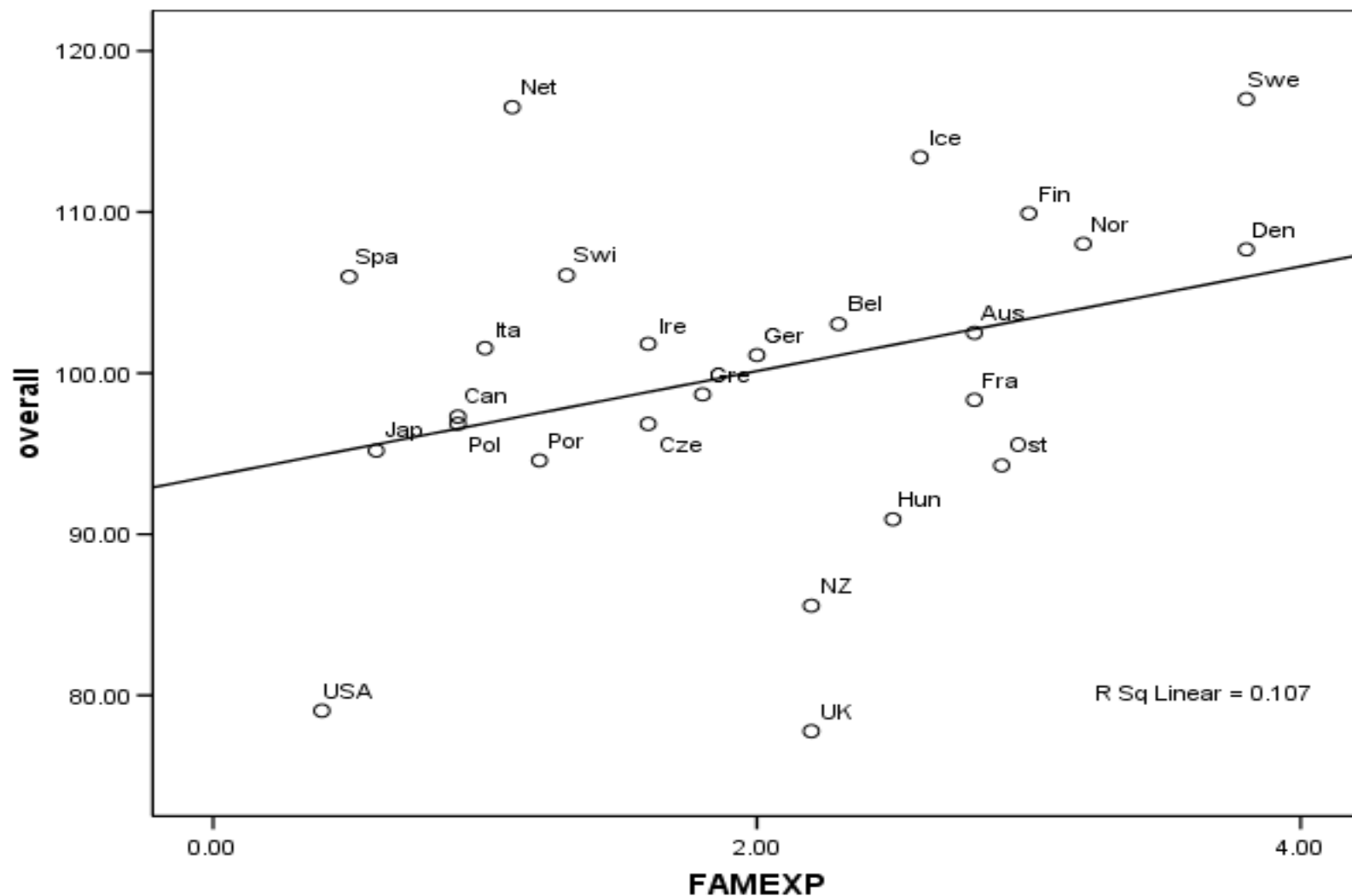
Overall child well-being and GDP per capita complete countries



Child well-being and expenditure on social protection benefits as % GDP 2003



Child well-being by expenditure on family benefits and services as % GDP all countries



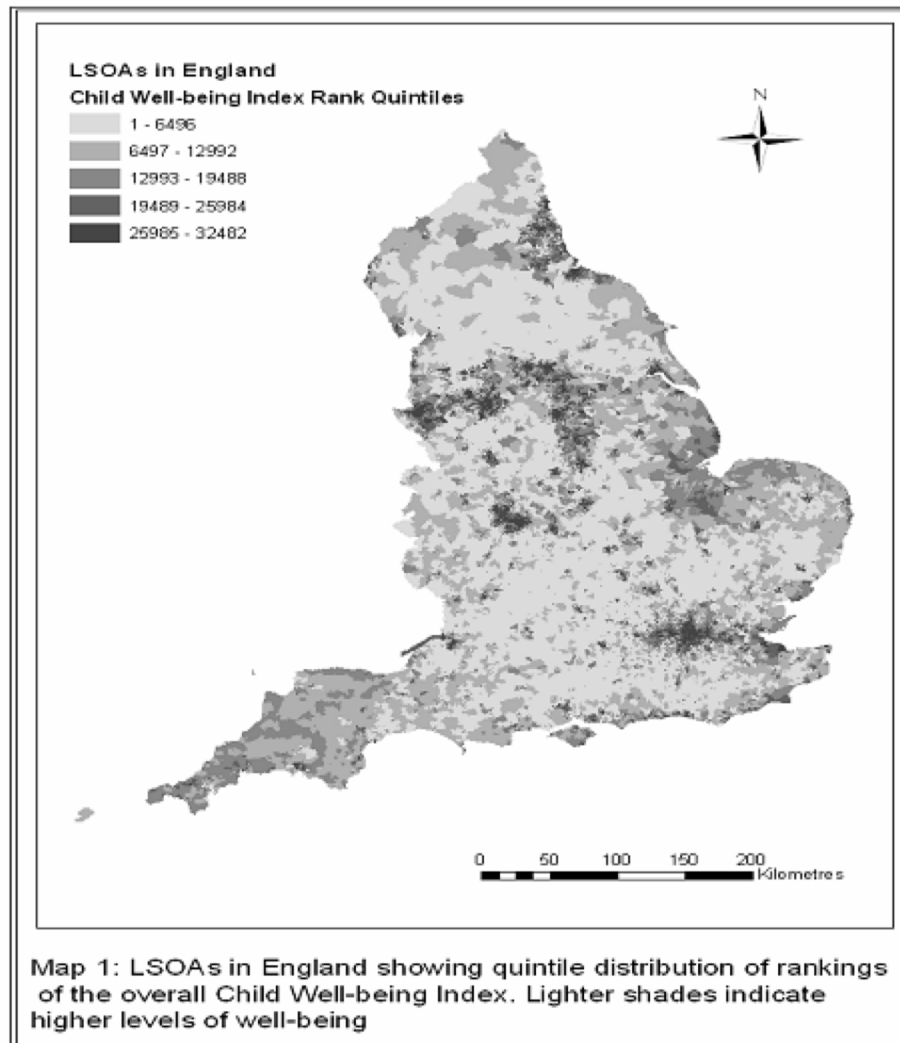


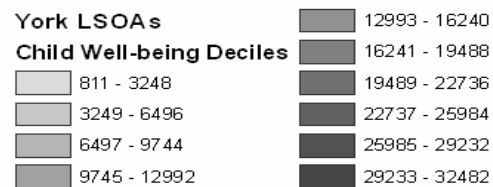
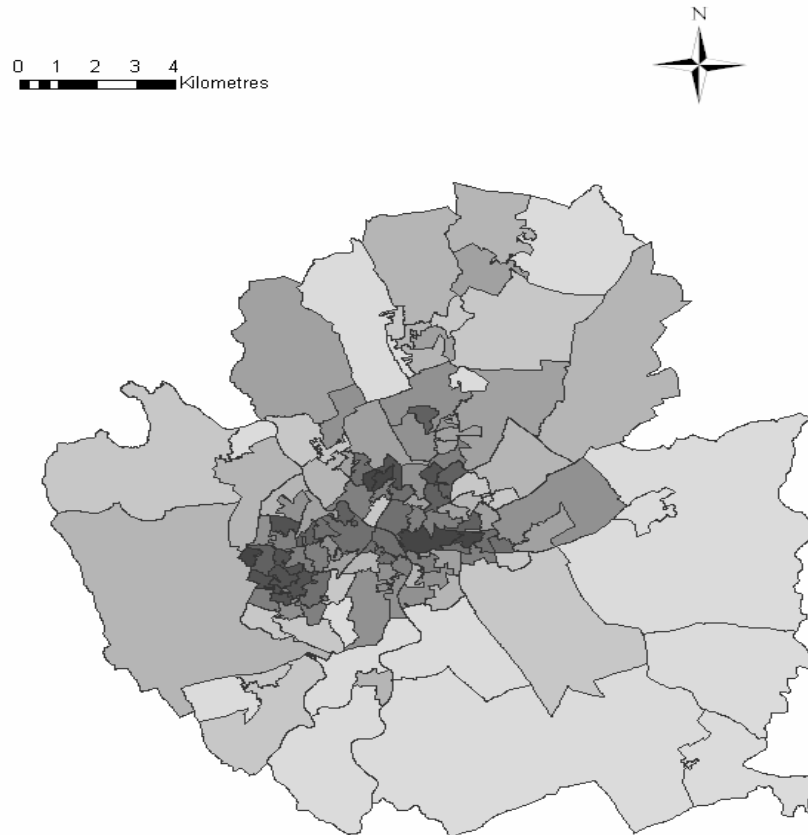
Index at small area level: Oxford/York collaboration

◆ Domains

- ◆ Material well-being
- ◆ Health
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Crime
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Environment
- ◆ Children in need.

◆ Geography LLSOA





Map 3: LSOAs in York showing decile distribution of rankings of the overall Child Well-being Index. Lighter shades indicate higher levels of well-being



Rank order of LAs out of 355 Lower =Better

	<i>Material</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Crime</i>	<i>Housing</i>	<i>CiN</i>	<i>CWI</i>
Oxford	266	324	174	44	214	285	301	259
York	140	141	220	122	190	207	150	167



Next

- ◆ Survey of child well-being in the UK
- ◆ Good Childhood Inquiry
- ◆ School based 15,000 aged 10,12 and 14
- ◆ Focus on well-being
- ◆ Repeated every two years



EU now heavily engaged in the issue of child well-being

- ◆ NAPs' experts devoted to child well-being in 2007
- ◆ Portuguese Presidency priority
- ◆ Social Protection Group Indicators Sub committee report on child poverty and child well-being
- ◆ New element in SILC 2009 onwards



Northern Ireland

- ◆ Major investment in child well-being research in Ireland
- ◆ HBSC not in NI but PISA is?
- ◆ BHPS enhanced sample (youth)
- ◆ FRS series child poverty and deprivation
- ◆ Quite a lot of series data with NI comparisons – devolution making it more difficult?
- ◆ Could replicate child index at LLSOA in NI