

# WHY ARE THE DANES HAPPIER THAN THE DUTCH?

Jeroen Boelhouwer<sup>1</sup> and Ruut Veenhoven<sup>23</sup>

Data behind presentation at virtual conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS) August 23-27 2021, Session Promoting Well-Being: Public Policy and Development, Wednesday August 25 12-13.40  
(paper version 24/8)

[Difference in average happiness in Denmark and the Netherlands](#)

[Differences in conditions for happiness in Denmark and the Netherlands](#)

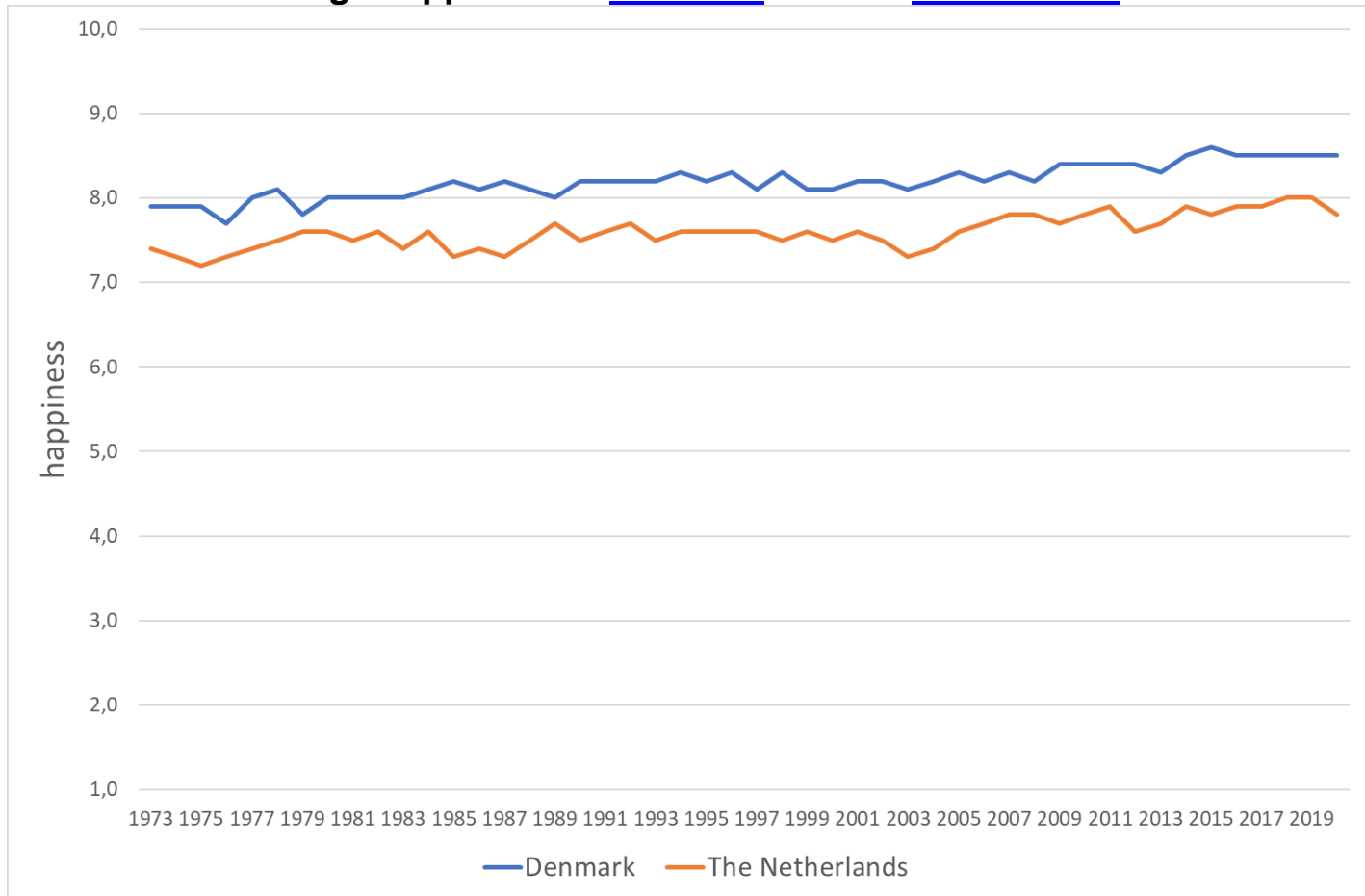
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<sup>1</sup> Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP), Netherlands, E-mail: [j.boelhouwer@scp.nl](mailto:j.boelhouwer@scp.nl)

<sup>2</sup> Erasmus Happiness Economics Research Organization (EHERO) Erasmus University Rotterdam Netherlands. E-mail: [veenhoven@ese.eur.nl](mailto:veenhoven@ese.eur.nl)

<sup>3</sup> Thanks to Sasqia Chin Hon Foei who helped us collecting the data

## Difference in average happiness in [Denmark](#) and the [Netherlands](#) 1973-2020



## Differences in conditions for happiness in Denmark and the Netherlands 1973-2020

NB: when there is a year mentioned after the indicator, the information is updated compared to previous versions of this paper

<i>Condition for happiness</i>	<i>Difference in the 2010s Absolute scores</i>				<i>Change in difference</i>
	<i>DK</i>	<i>NL</i>	<i>Difference in % range<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Variable name in file <a href="#">States of Nations</a><sup>2</sup> NB: has to be updated, not all recent data included yet,</i>	
<b>Economy: no difference</b>					
Buying power per capita, 2020	51882	51462		RGDP_201?	See graph <a href="#">Trend RGDP</a>
Economic Growth 2019	2,41	1,08		EconGrowth_201?	

<b>Education: slightly more investment, somewhat lower cognitive performance (but better social skill?)</b>					
Enrolment, 2018	104	110		EduEnrollGrossRatio_2006	See graph <a href="#">Trend in Enrolment</a>
Years in school, 2018	12,6	12,3		EducationYears_2000	See graph Trend <a href="#">average years of schooling</a>
IQ	98	100	-4%	IQ_2006	n.a.
PISA <sup>3</sup>	502	524	-		n.a.

<b>Demography: less populated, less growth, less migrants</b>					
Density <sup>4</sup> , 2018	145	512		PopulationDensity_2005	
Population growth, 2019	0,4	0,6		PopulationGrowth_1975-2005	
<b>Diversity: slightly less diverse</b>					
Ethnic diversity	0,055	0,073	-1,1%	EthnicDiversity1_1970-95	

	0,08	0,11	-0,03%	EthnicDiversity2_1955-2001	
Religious diversity	0,23	0,73	-58 %	ReligiousDiversity2_2001	
Immigrants, 2015	10,1	11,7		Immigrants_2005	See: <a href="#">Trend Migration</a>
Foreign Born, 2019	10,5	13,4		ForeignBorn_2005	
<b>Equality: Same gender inequality, less income inequality</b>					
Gender <u>inequality</u> , 2019	0,038	0,043		GenderEqualIndex2_2005	See <a href="#">Trend Gender Inequality</a>
Income <u>inequality</u> , 2018	28,2	28,1		IncomeInequality1_2005	
<b>Freedom: more economic freedom, less private freedom</b>					
Economic, 2020	88,7	80,4		BusinessFreedom2_2006	See: <a href="#">Trend Business Freedom</a>
	86,2	60,2	+37%	LabourFreedom2_2006	See: <a href="#">Trend Labor Freedom</a>
Political freedom, 2021	57	58		CivilLiberties_2000s	

Private freedom, 2020	6,45	6,26		PrivateFreedom_1990s	
<b>Life style: more fun, harder work</b>					
Alcohol use, 2018	9,7	8,3		AlcoholUse_2003	
Sexual partners	9,3	7	+20%	SexNumberPartners_2005	
Work hours, 2019	1380	1434		WorkTime1_1999	
<b>Mental Health care: less institutional, more prevention?</b>					
Psychiatric beds	7,1	18,7	-40%	PsychiatricBeds_2004	
Psychiatrists	16	9	+28%	Psychiatrists_2004	
Psychiatric nurses	59	99	-31%	PsychiatricNurses_2004	
Psychologists	85	28	+54%	PsychologistsMHcare_2004	
Social workers	7	176	-35%	SocialWorkersMHcare_2004	
Psychologists (all per 100.000)	123	78		Psychologists2_2010	

<b>Government: slightly bigger and better</b>					
Consumption, 2021	23,1	47,7		GovConsumption1_2006	See <a href="#">Government Consumption</a>
Size, 2018	5,48	5,23		GovSizeReal_2006	See <a href="#">Trend Government Size</a>
Effectiveness, 2019	1,94	1,80		GovQualTECH_2006	See <a href="#">Trend Government effectiveness</a>
Transparence (non)	15	24	+19,6%	OpacityIndex_2009	n.a.
<b>Politics: equally democratic and stable</b>					
Democracy, 2019	1,58	1,56		DemocracyIndex1_2006	
Stability, 2019	1,01	0,86		PoliticalStability2_2006	No change in difference since 1980
<b>Public Goods: more public expense</b>					
Education Expense (%GDP), 2017	7,8	5,2		EducationExpense2_2002-05 jb: is dit 2 of 1?? Lijkt 1	

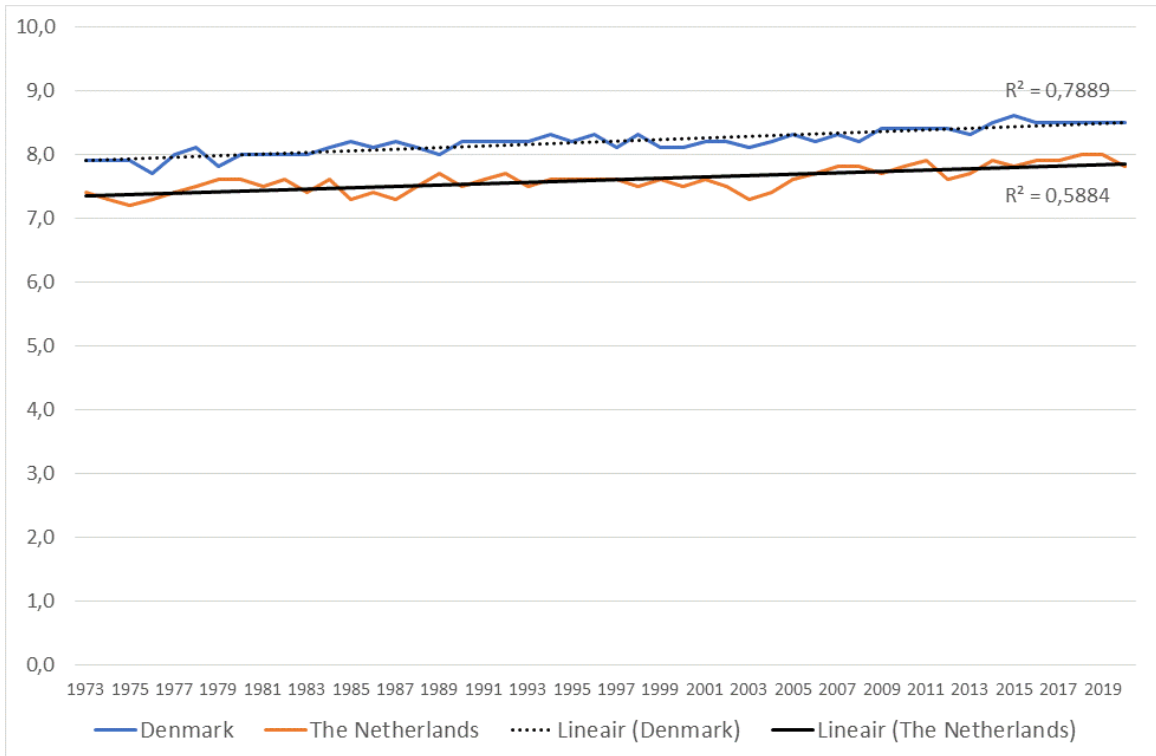
Health expense (%GDP), 2017	10,1	10,1		HealthExpensePublic_2004	No change in difference since 1990
<b>Religion: less religious</b>					
Religiousness	4,02	4,81	-12%	Religiousness2_1998-2008	
Religious diversity	0,23	0,73	-58%	ReligiousDiversity2_2001	
<b>Legal security: slightly better</b>					
Rule of Law, 2019	1,90	1,81		RuleLaw_2006	See <a href="#">Trend in Rule of Law</a>
Legal security	9,0	8,52	+6,8%	LegalSecurity1_2006	
Corruption, 2021	2,1	2,0		Corruption2_2002	<a href="#">Trend in Control of Corruption</a>
<b>Sociability: More helpful, less voluntary work</b>					
Helpfulness	78	54	+45 %	Helpfulness_1995	
Active volunteer, 2010 (%)	39,5	47,5		VolunteerActive_1990s	
Membership	2,06	2,85	-10 %	MemberCivicOrganization_1990s	



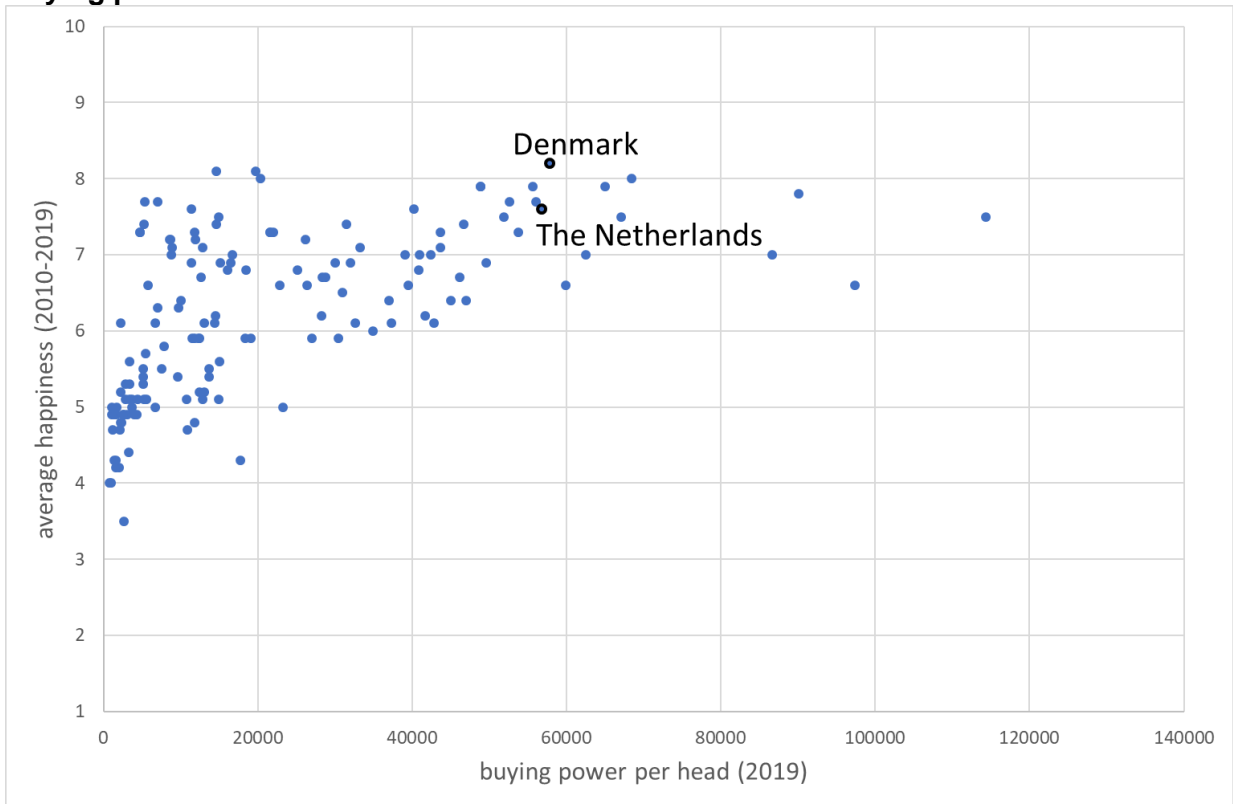
<b>Values: little difference in preference, slightly less difference with practice</b>					
Gap value-practice	0,47	0,61	-10 %	ValuePracticeGapmean_1996	n.a.
<b>Welfare state: same rights, slightly more expense</b>					
Welfare Rights, 2010	34,1	38,6		WelfareLaw3_2000-03	
Welfare expenditures: 1: unchanged since previous version; 2b: 2015; 3b: 2019	35,5	26,7	+27%	WelfareExpense1_1996	
	28,8	22,3		WelfareExpense2b_2004	
	28,3	16,1		WelfareExpense3b_2004	

## Plots

### Life satisfaction

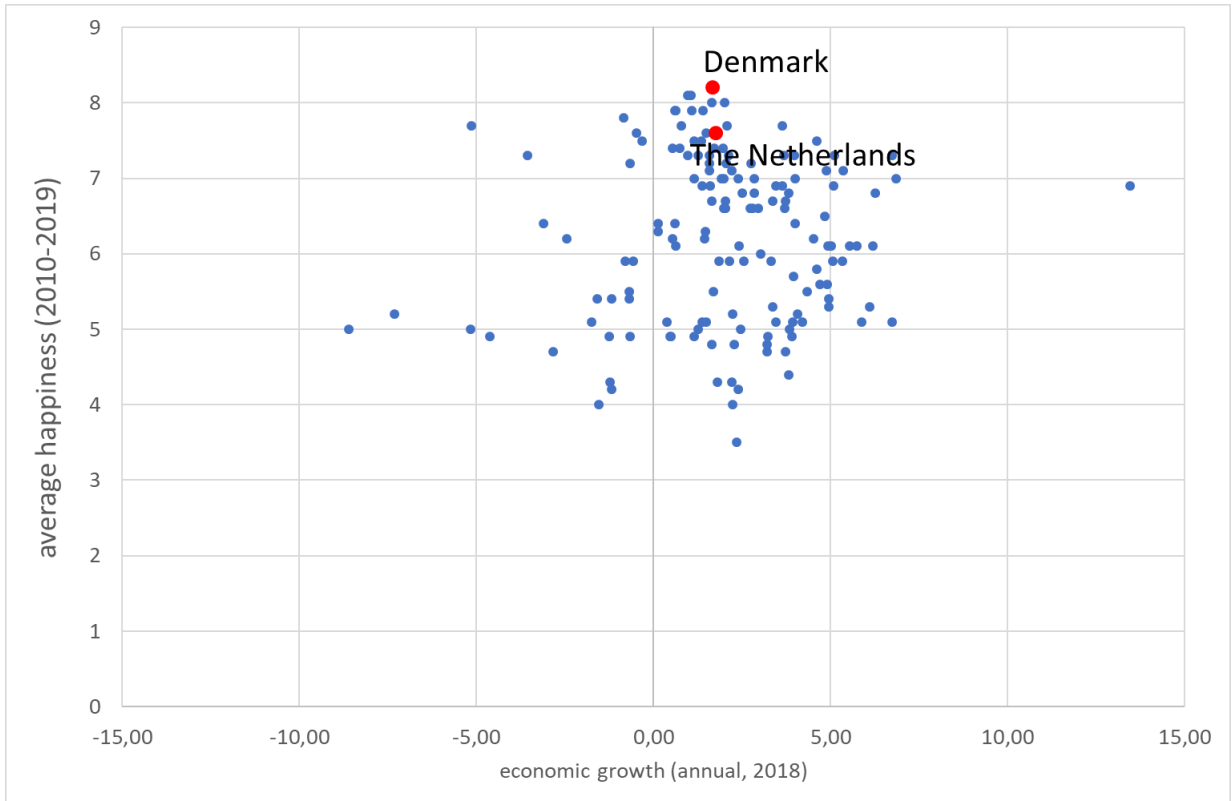


### Buying power



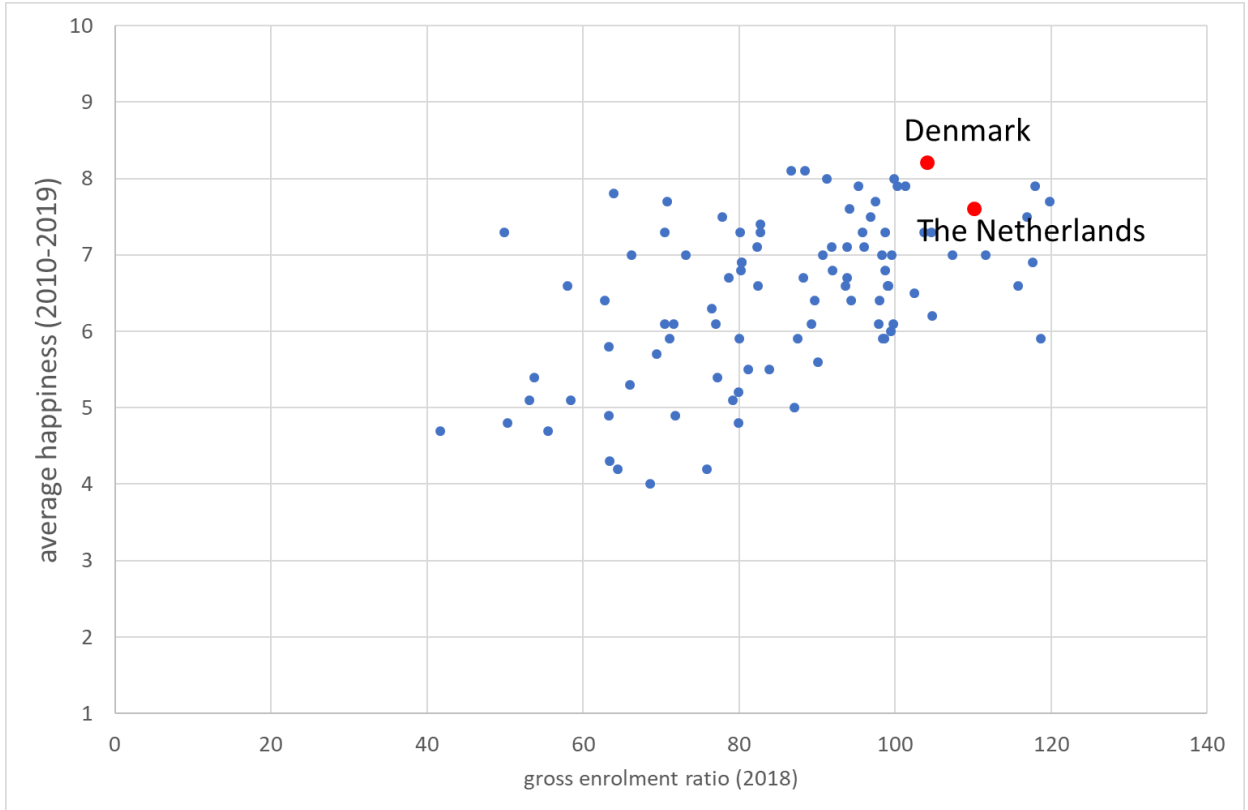
Source: world bank\_\_

## Economic Growth



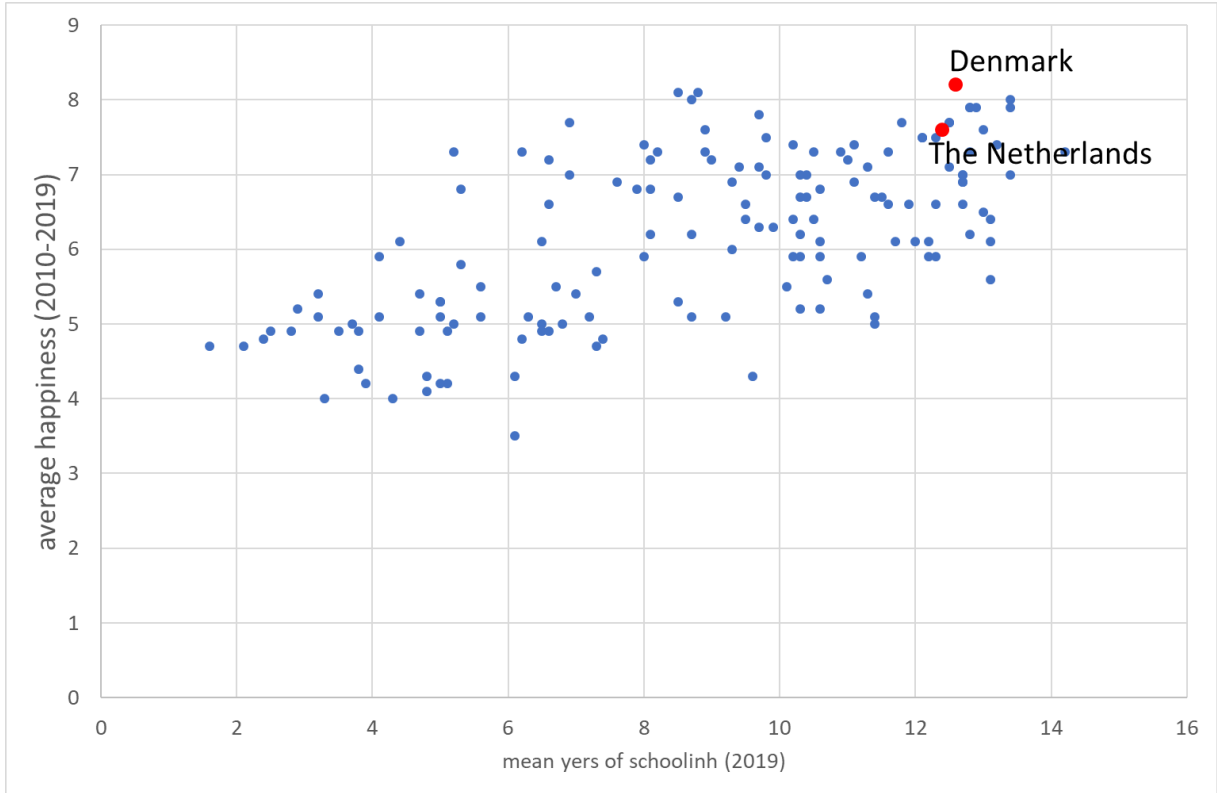
Source: world bank\_\_

## Enrolment



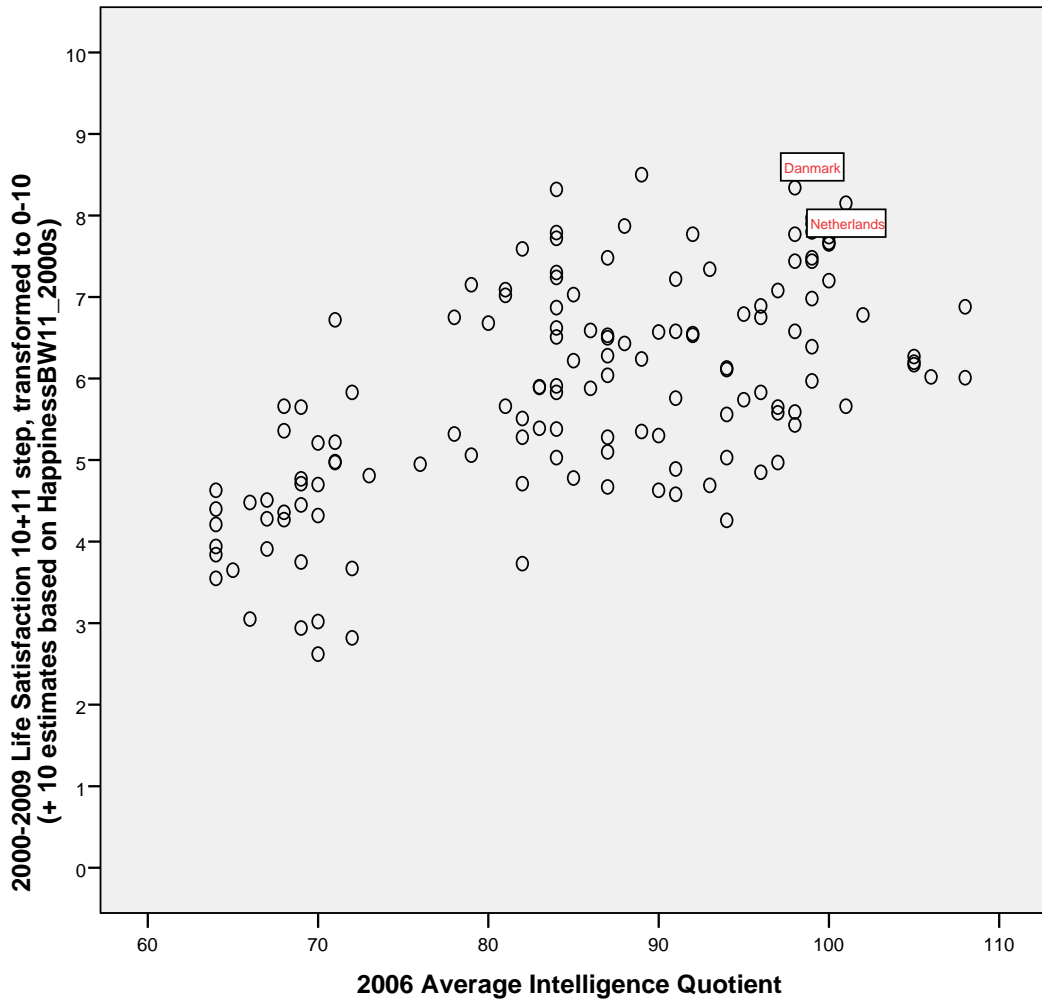
Source: unesco

## Years of Schooling

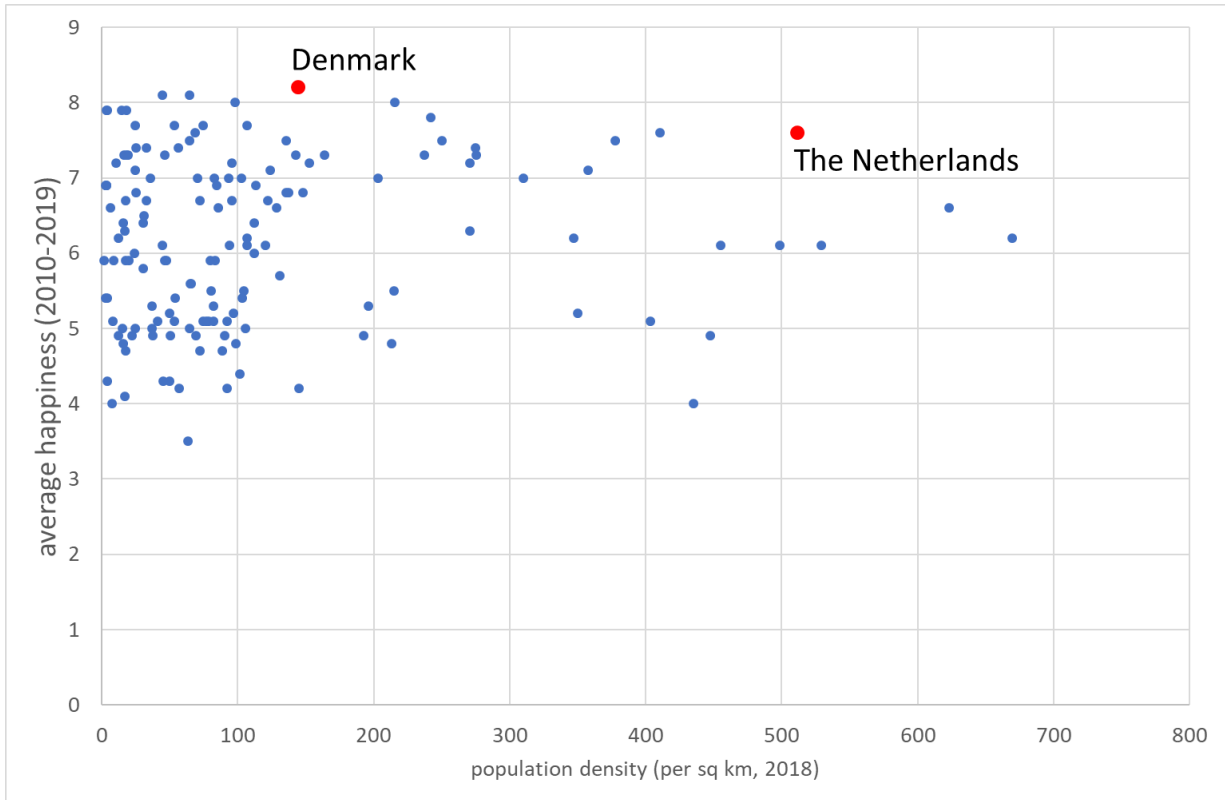


Source: Unesco

# Intelligence



## Population Density



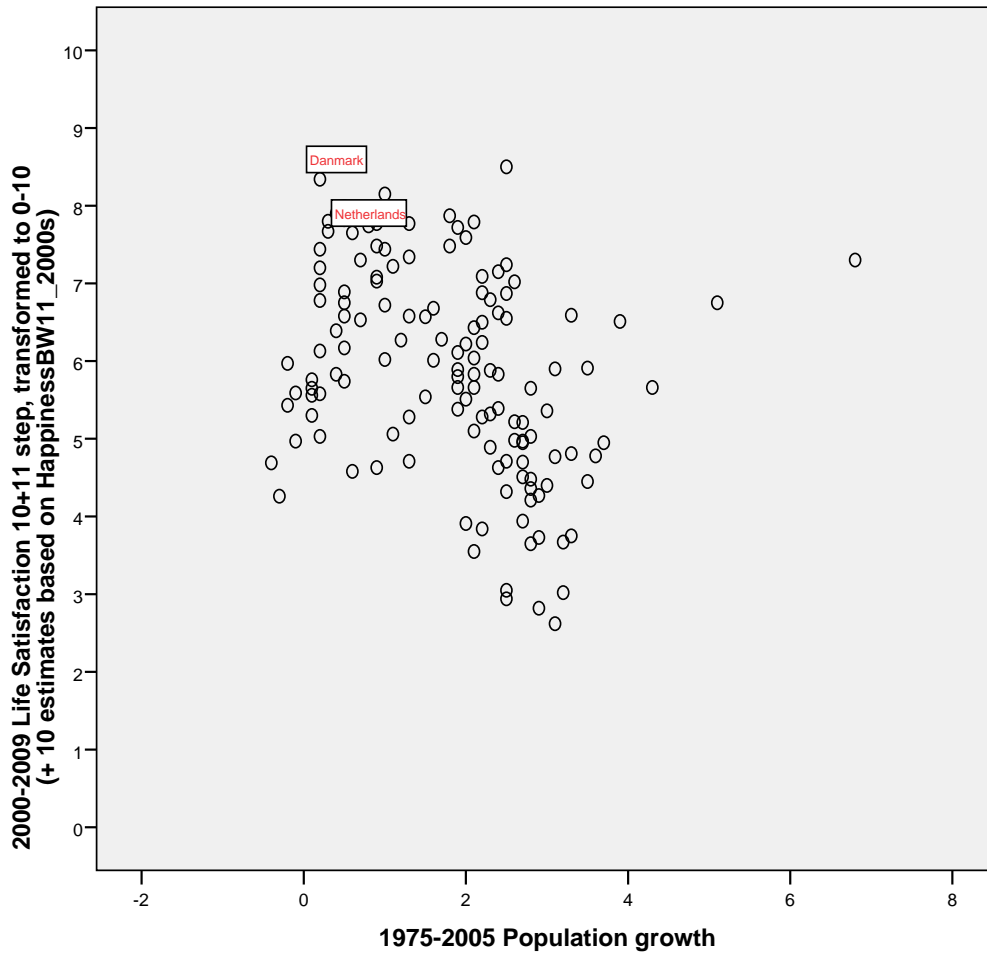
Source: world development indicators

Not included for presentation purposes:

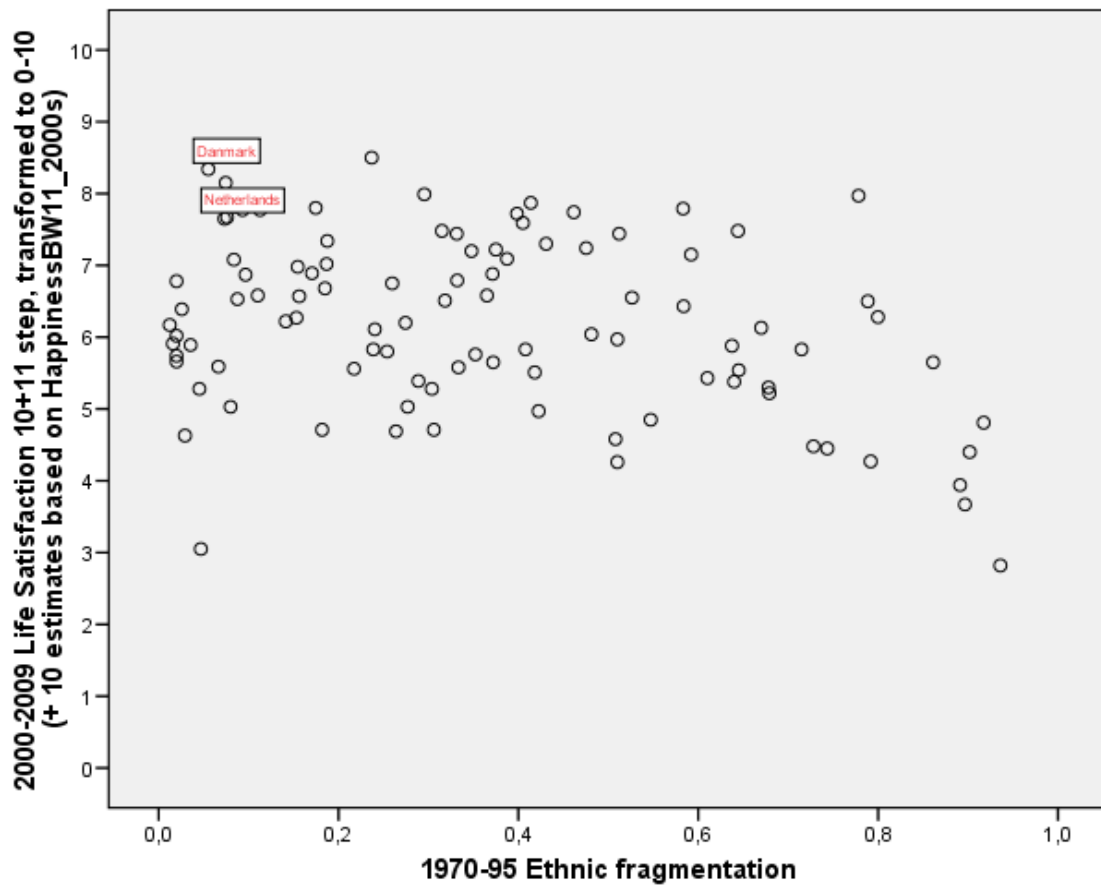
	Density	life satisfaction
Bahrein	2012	6,4
Bangladesh	1240	7,3
Malta	1524	7,1



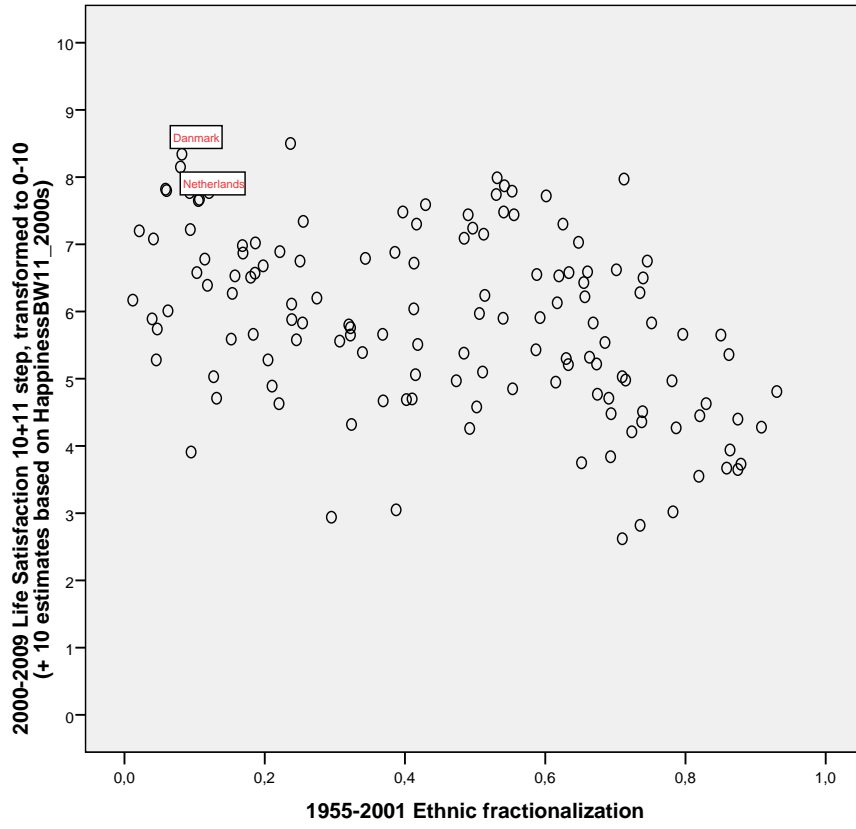
## Population growth



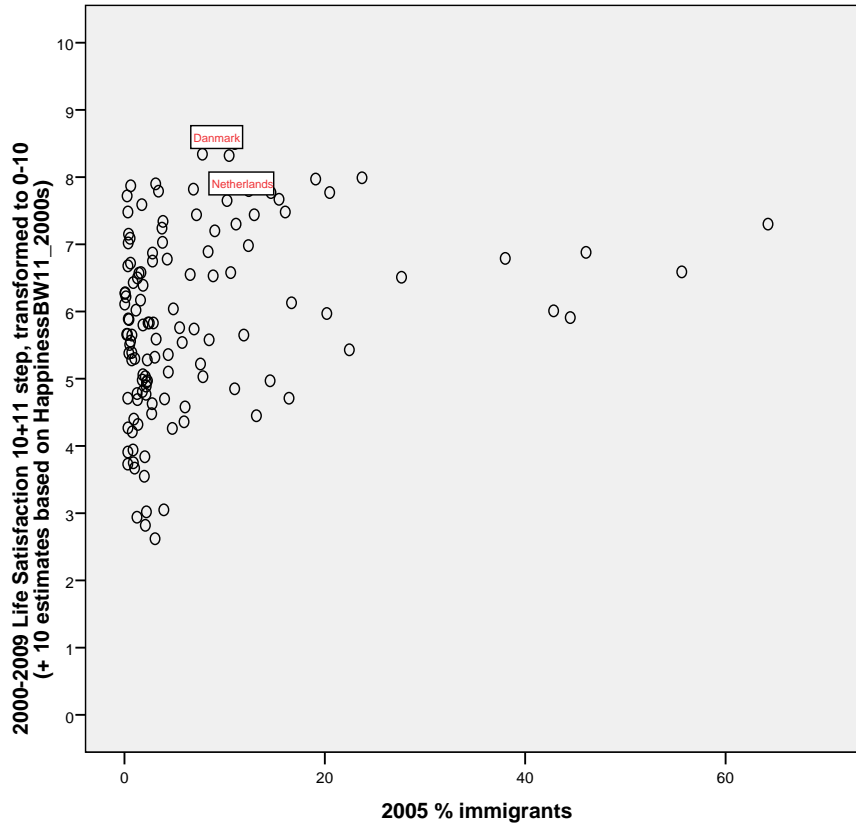
### Ethnic diversity 1970-1995



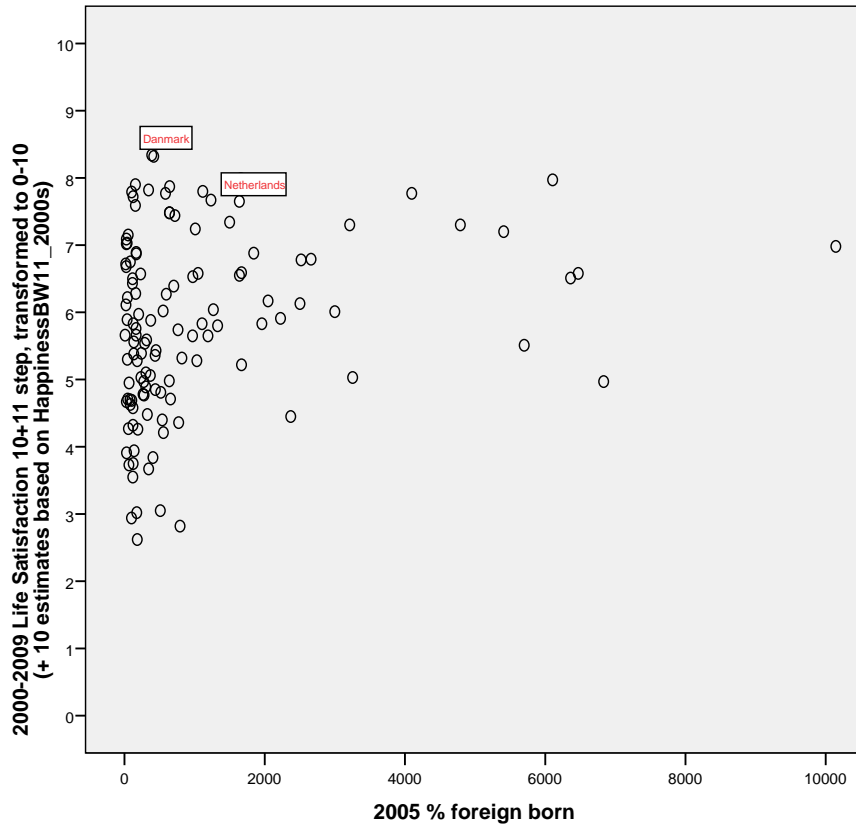
# Ethnic diversity 1955-2001



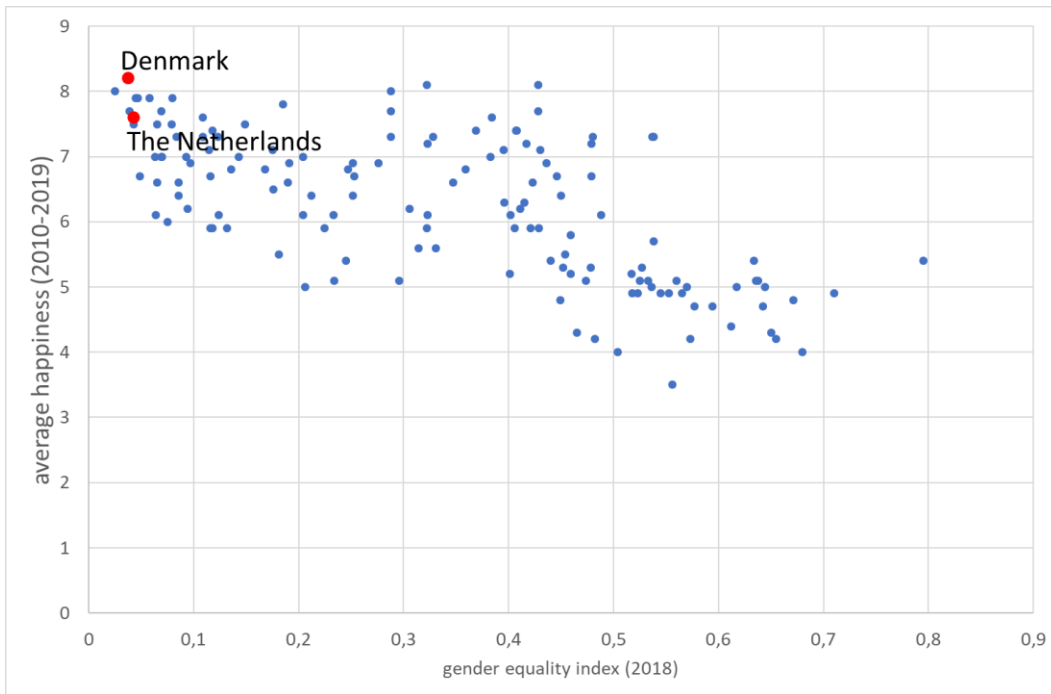
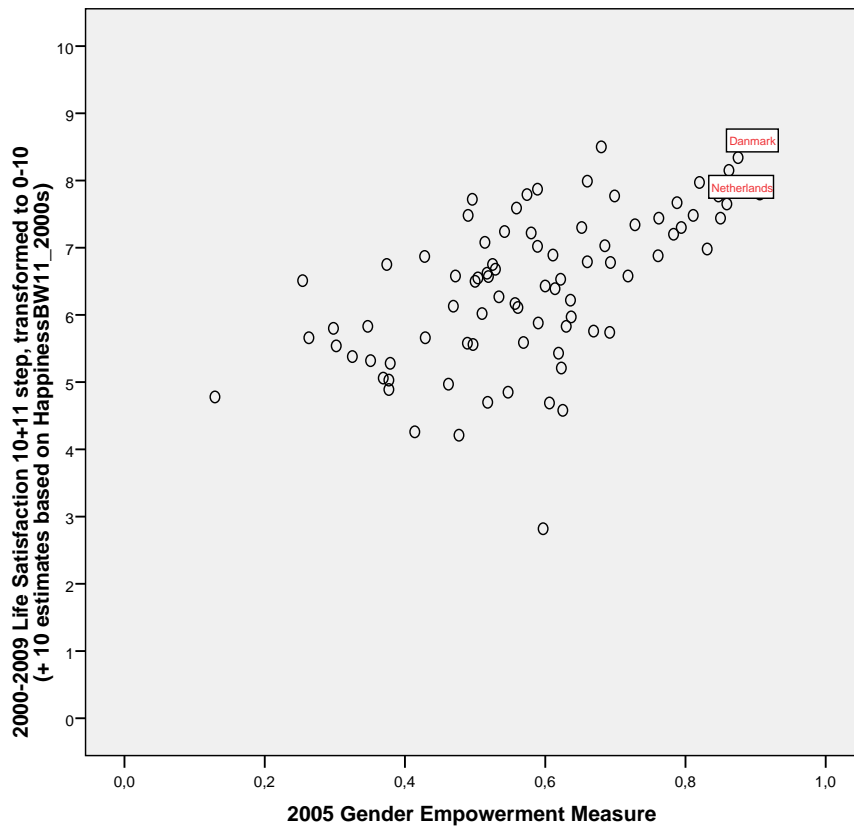
# Immigrants



## Foreign Born

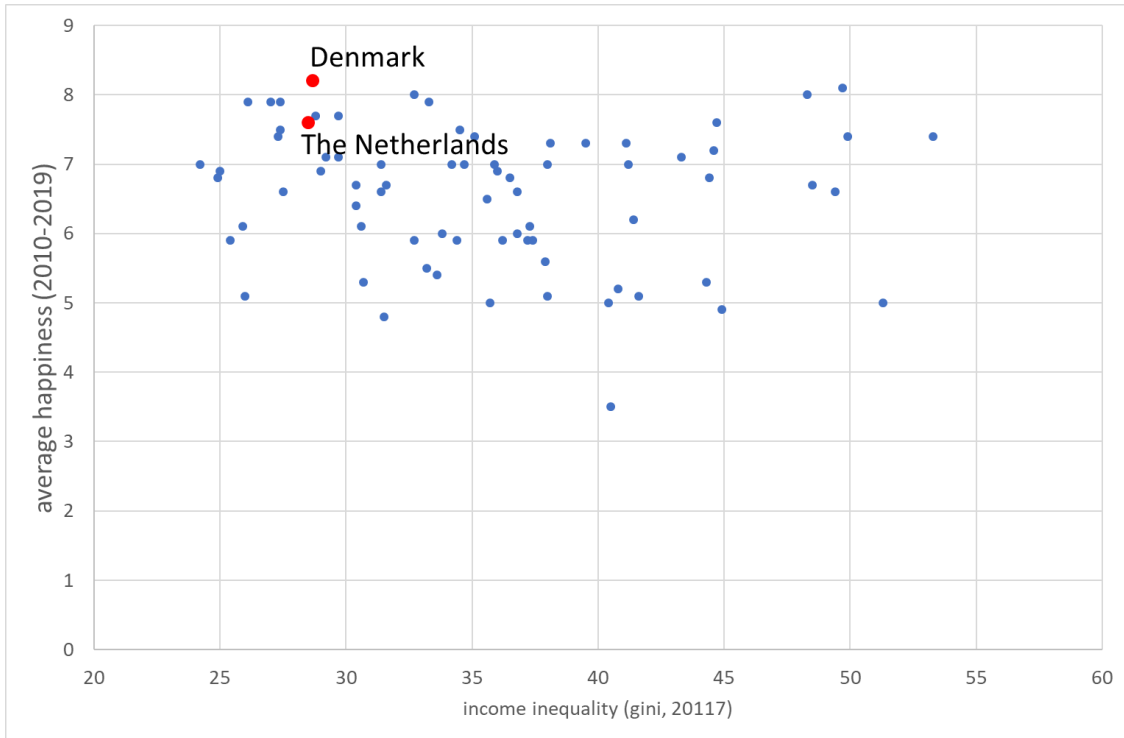


## Gender inequality



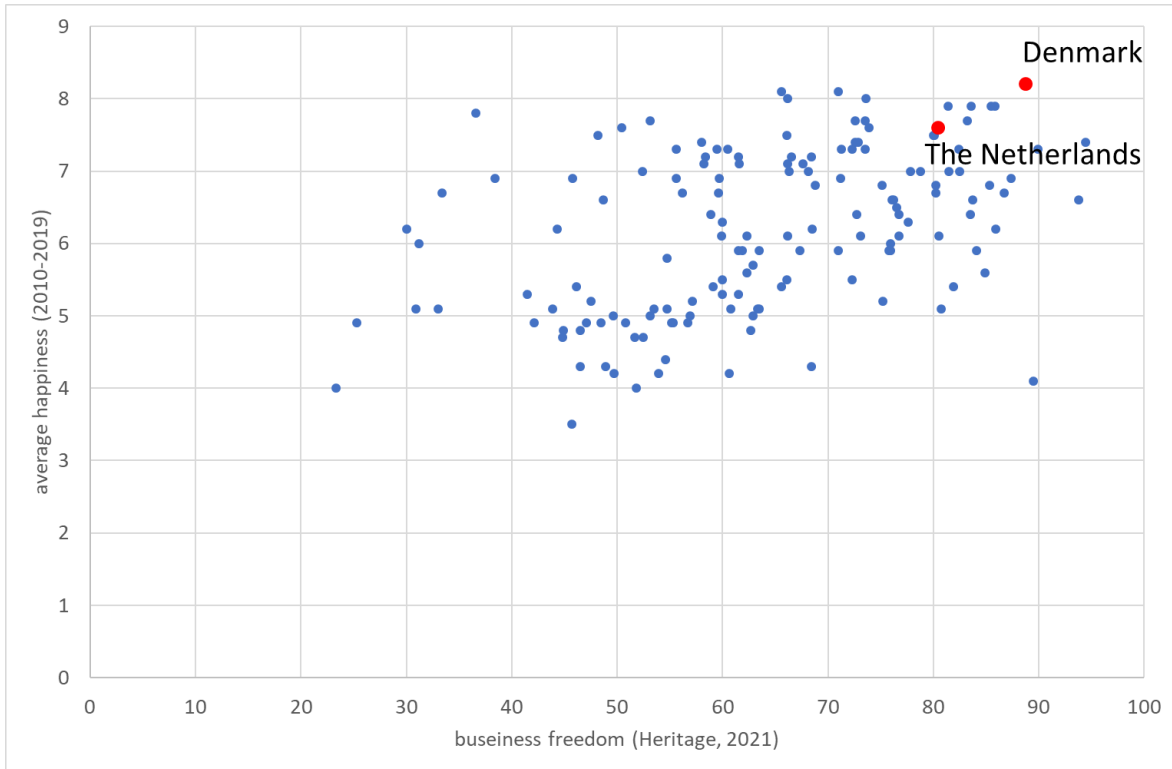
Spurce: HDR

## Income inequality



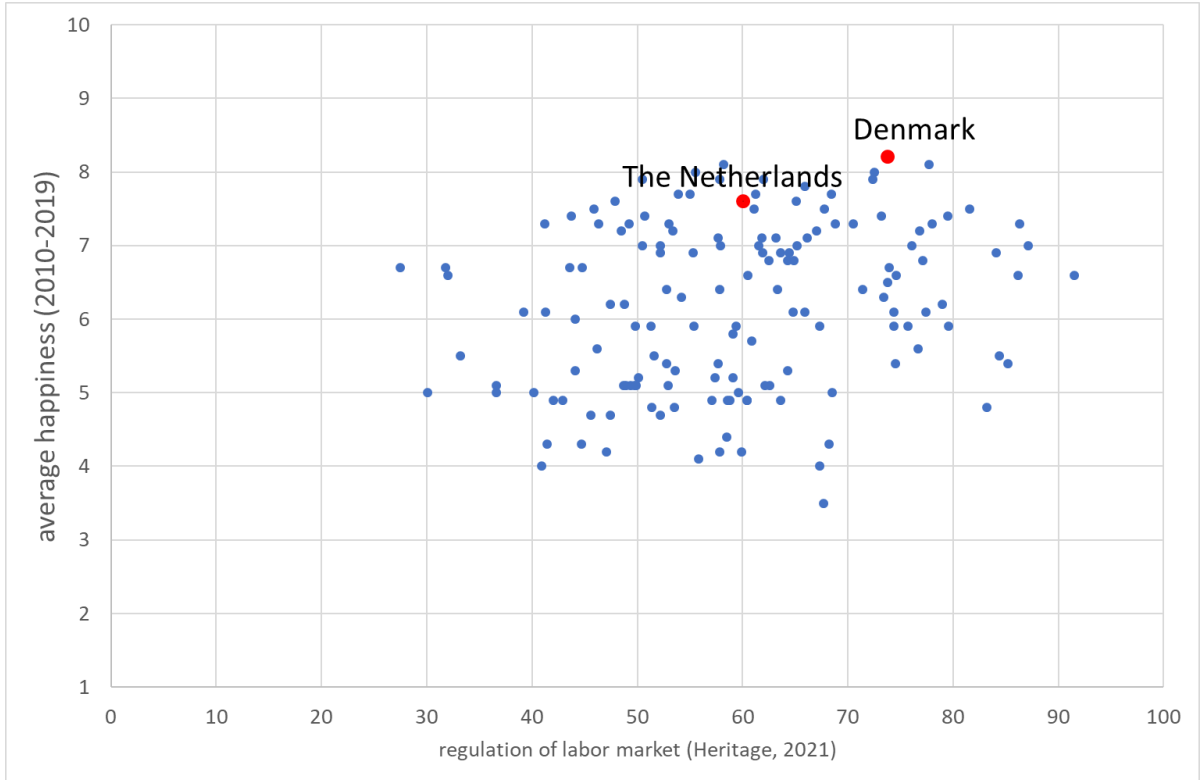
Source: World Bank

## Business Freedom

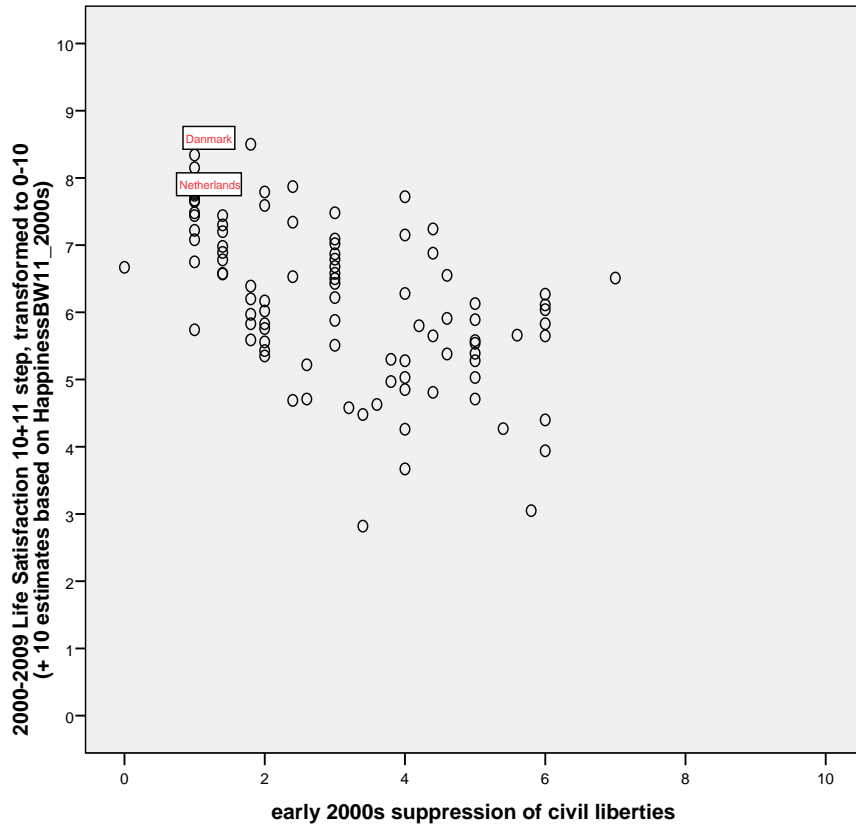




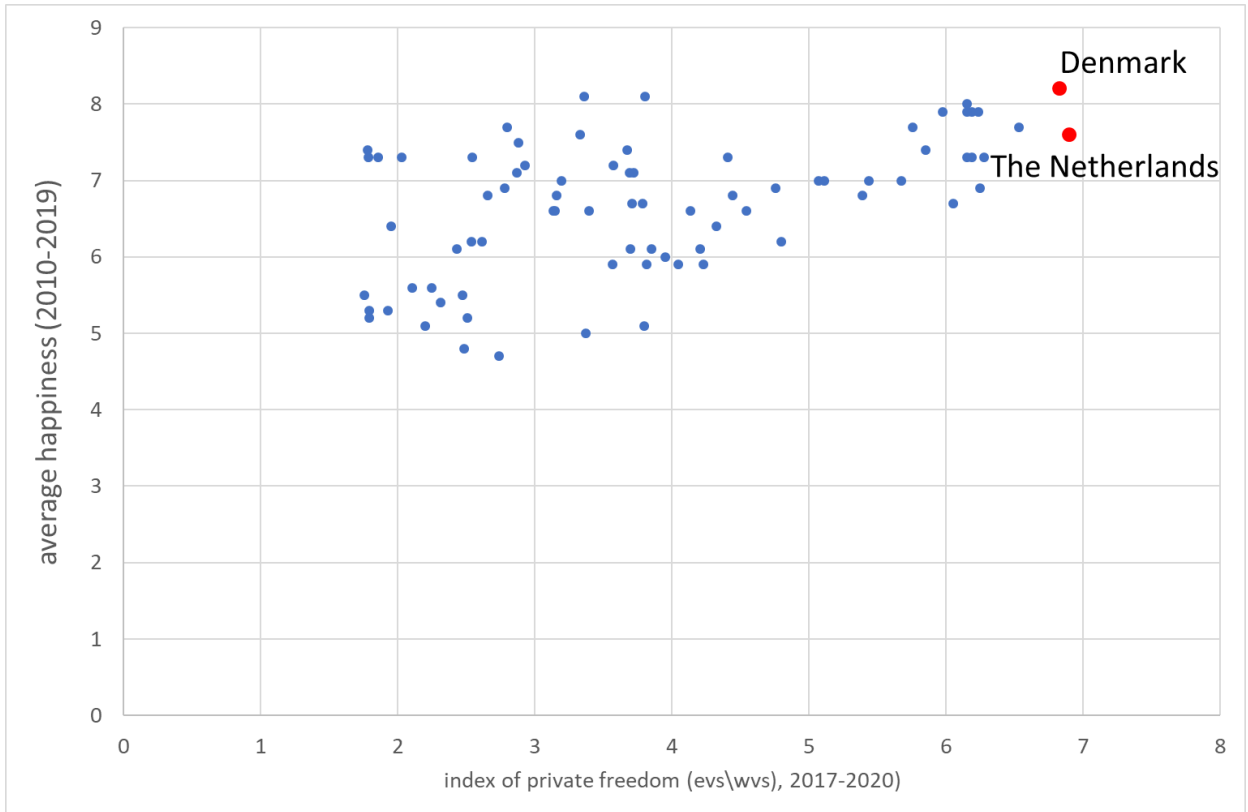
## Labour Freedom



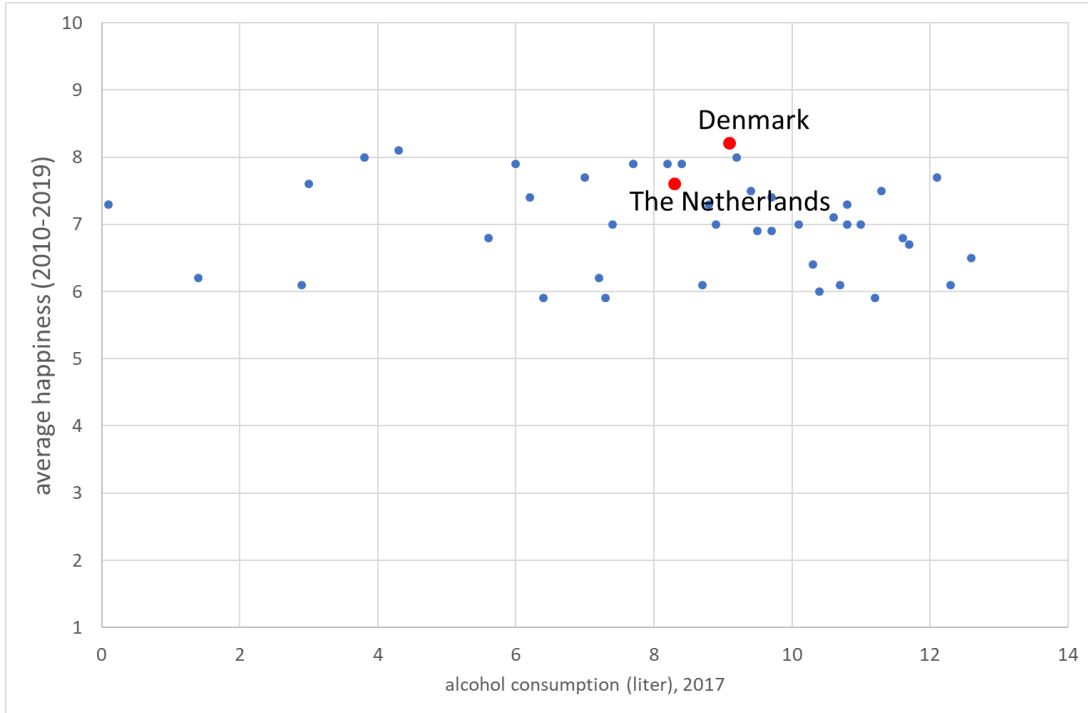
# Political freedom



## Private freedom

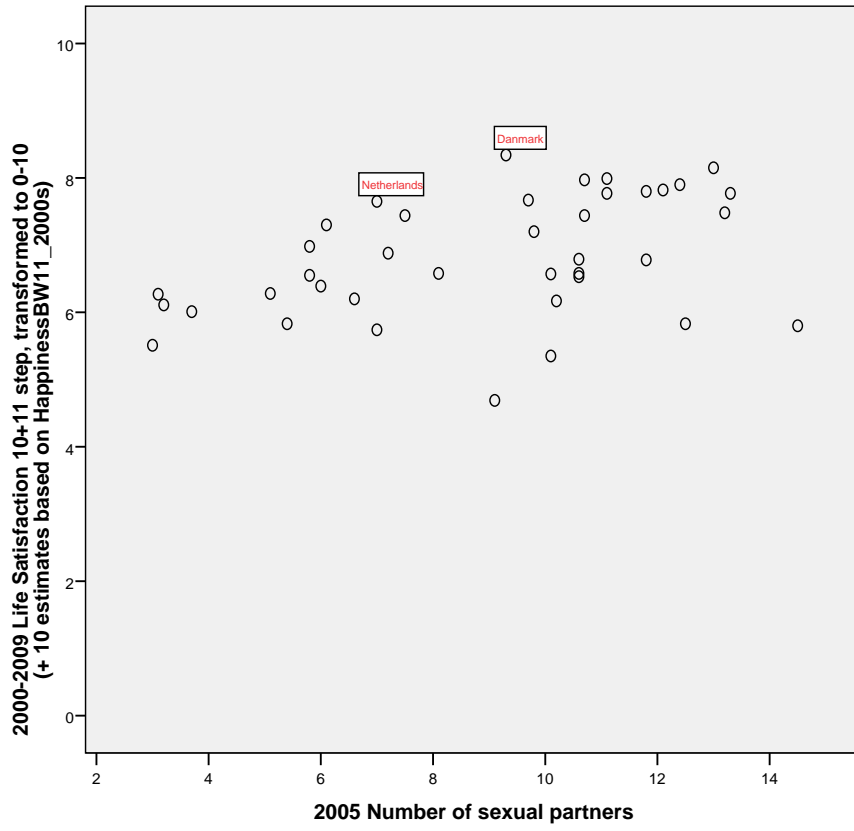


## Alcohol use

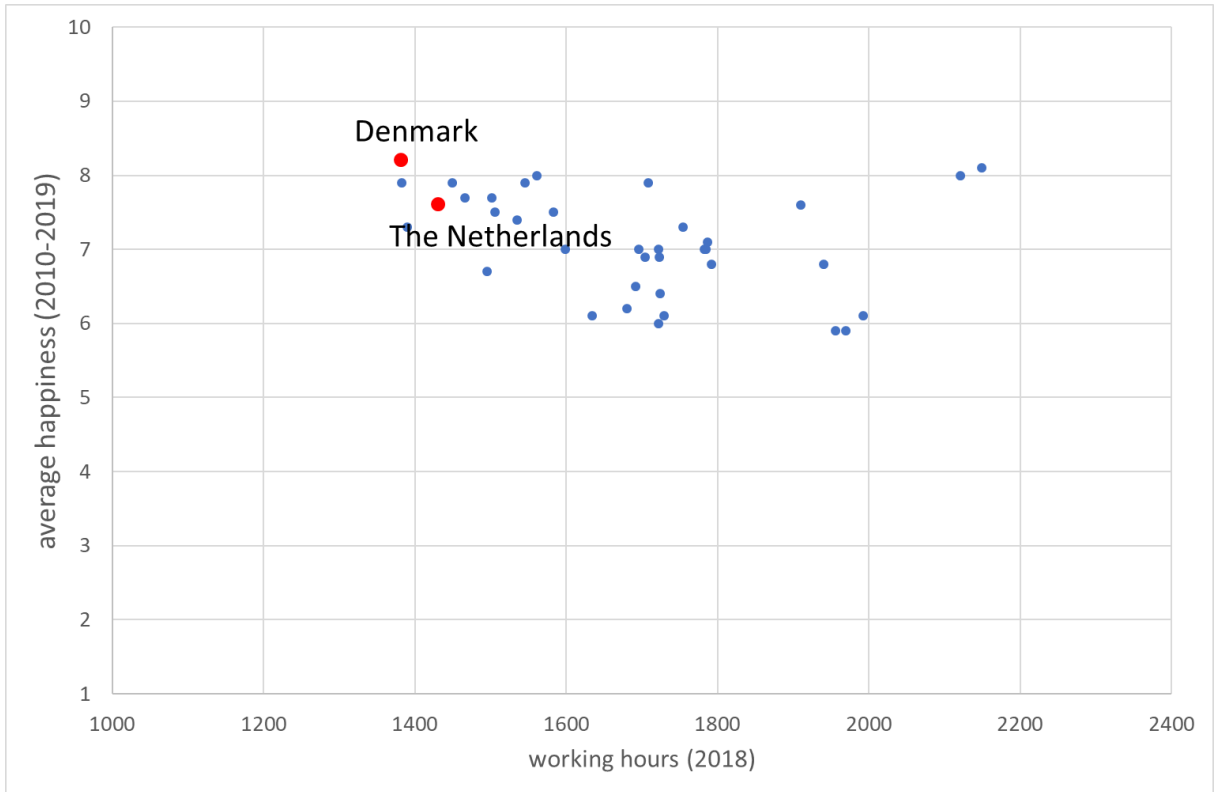


Source: OECD

## Sexual partners

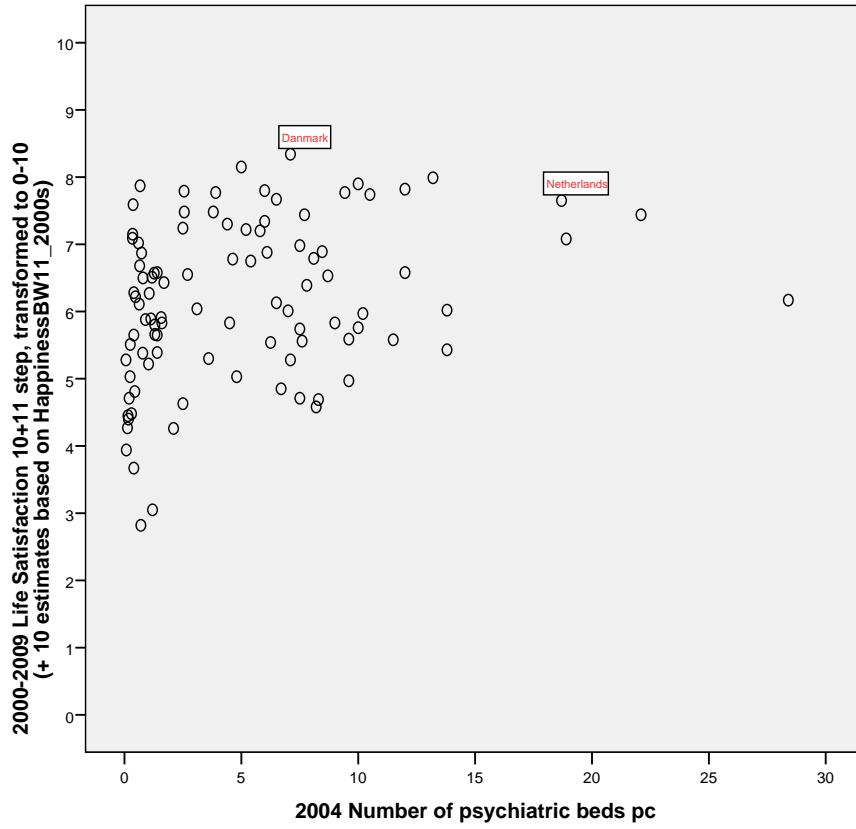


## Work hours

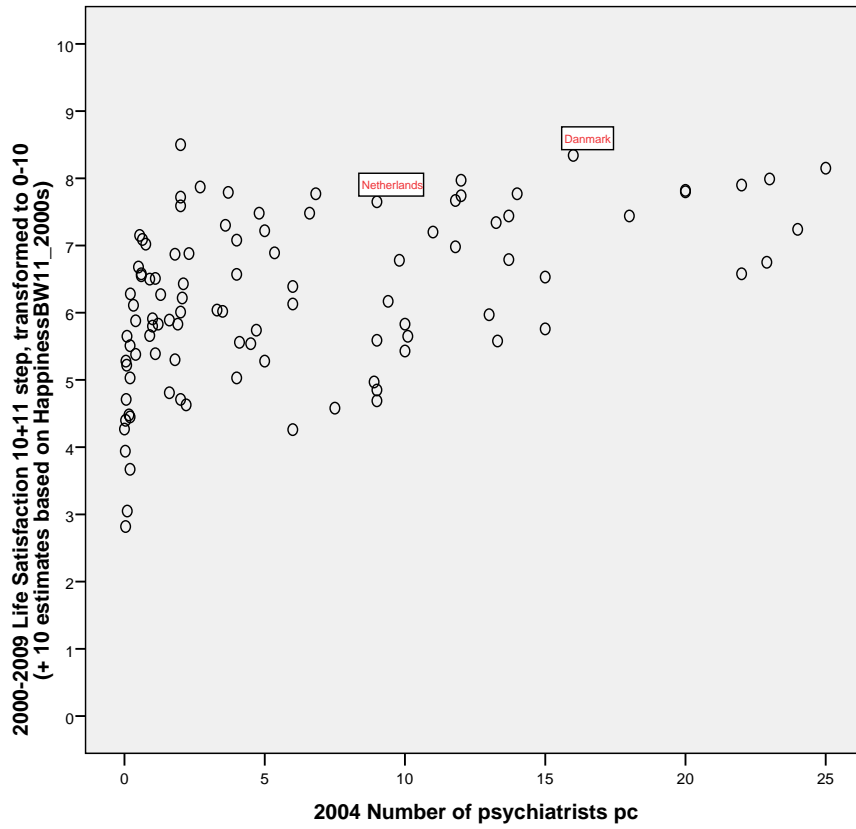


Source: OECD

# Psychiatric beds

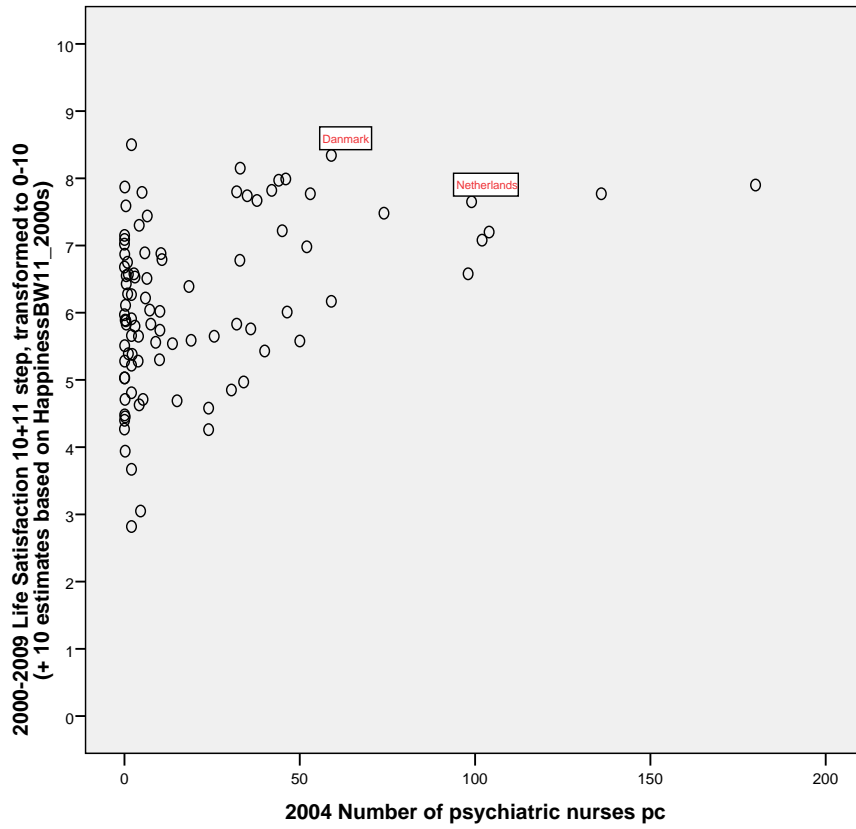


# Psychiatrists

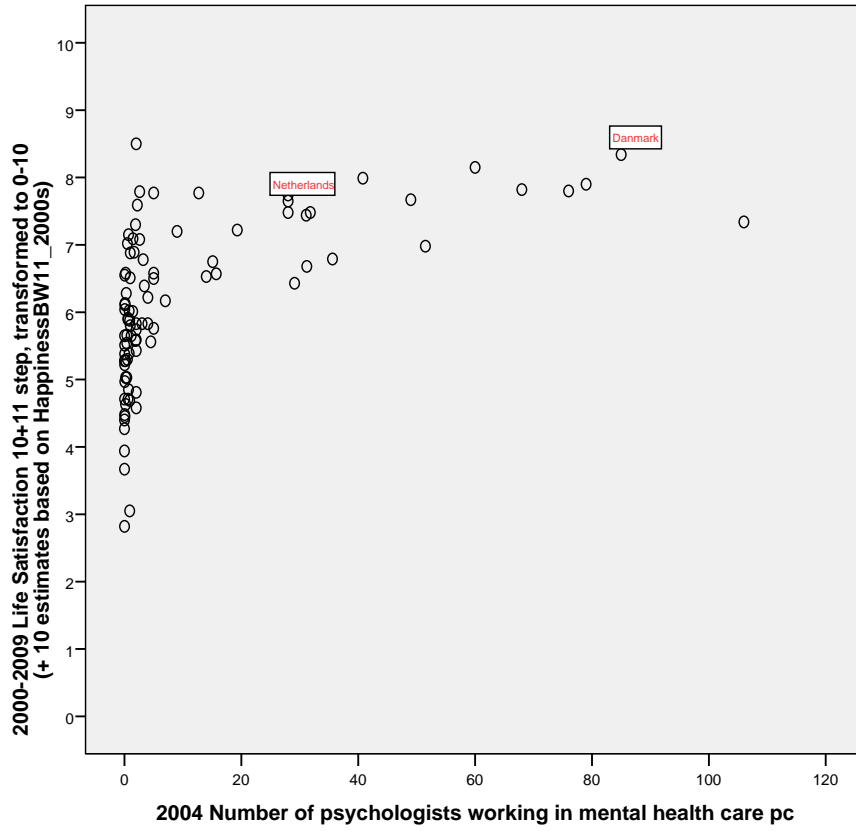




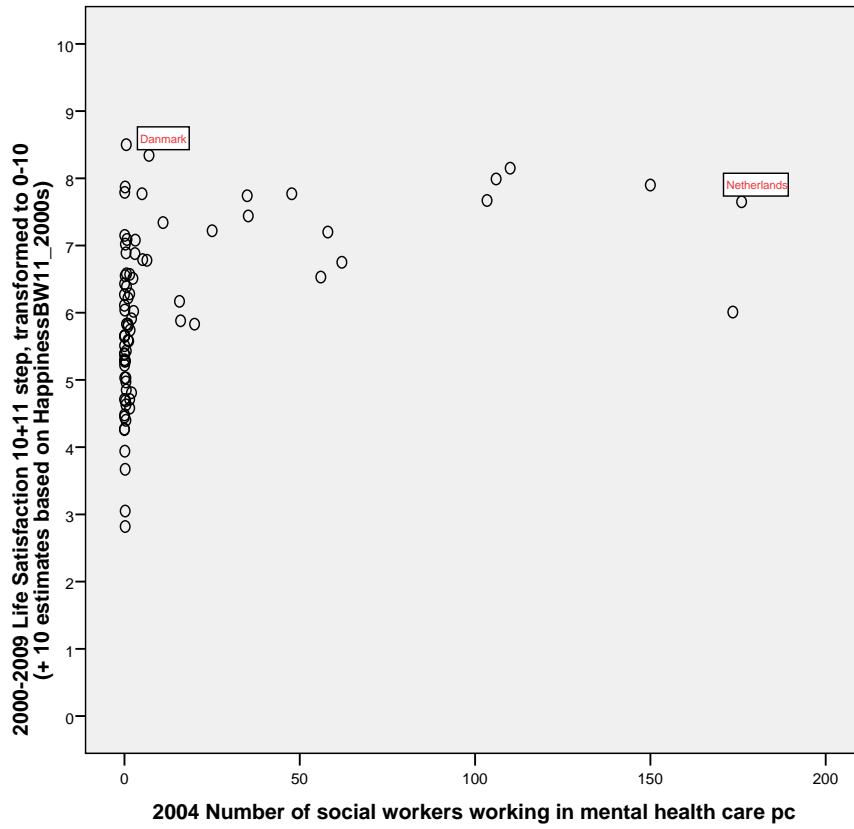
# Psychiatric nurses



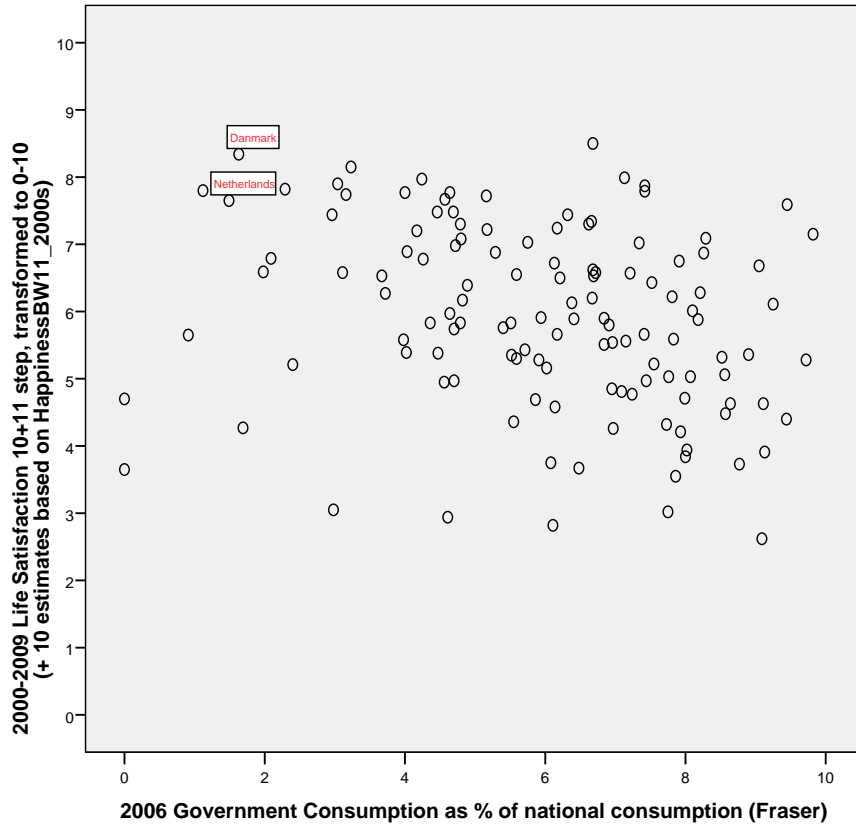
# Psychologists



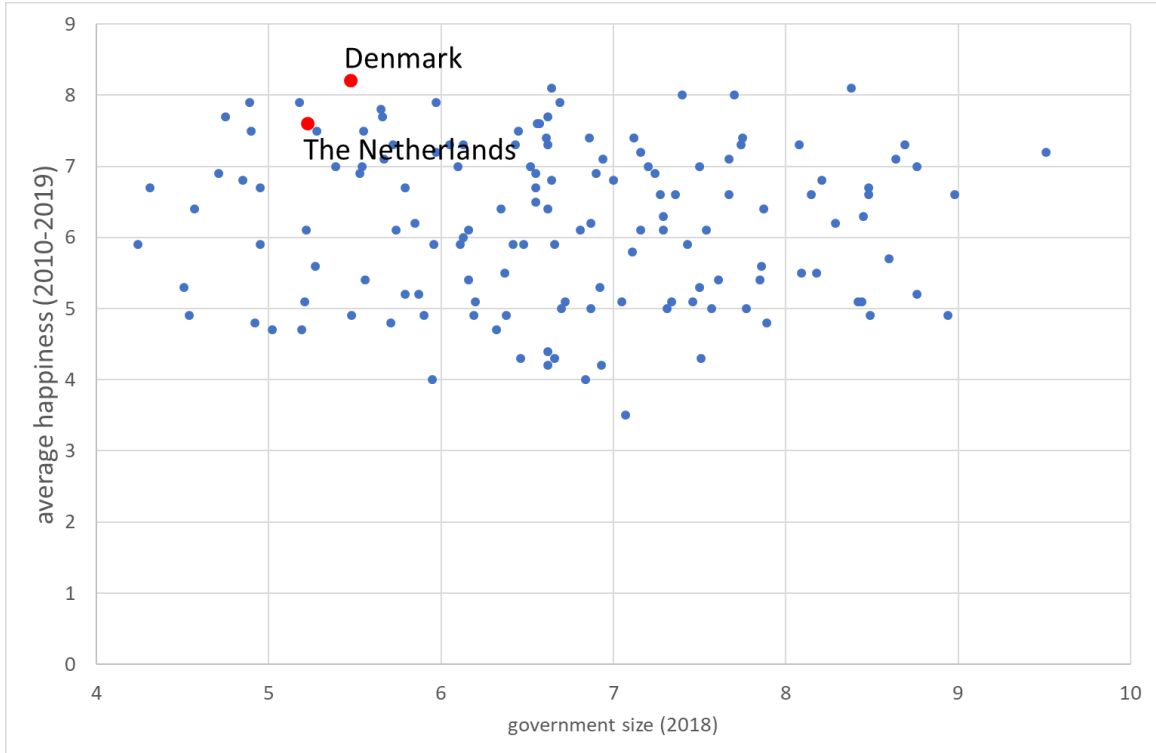
## Social workers



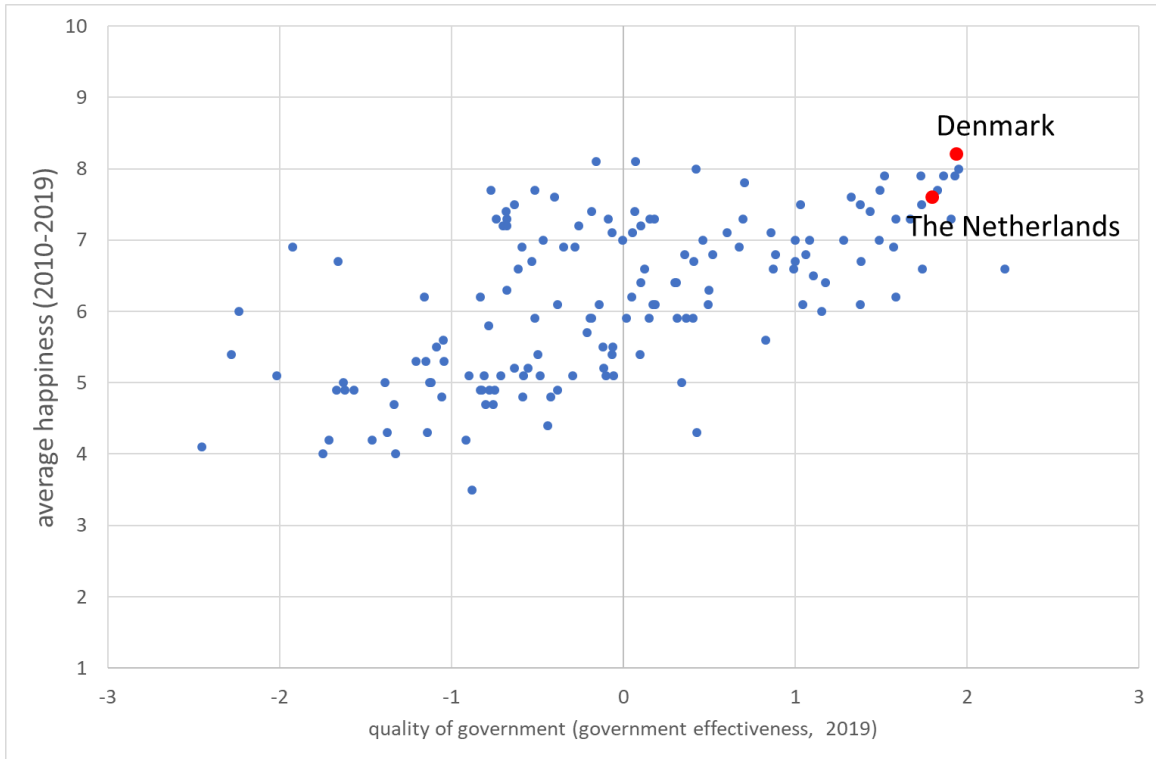
# Consumption



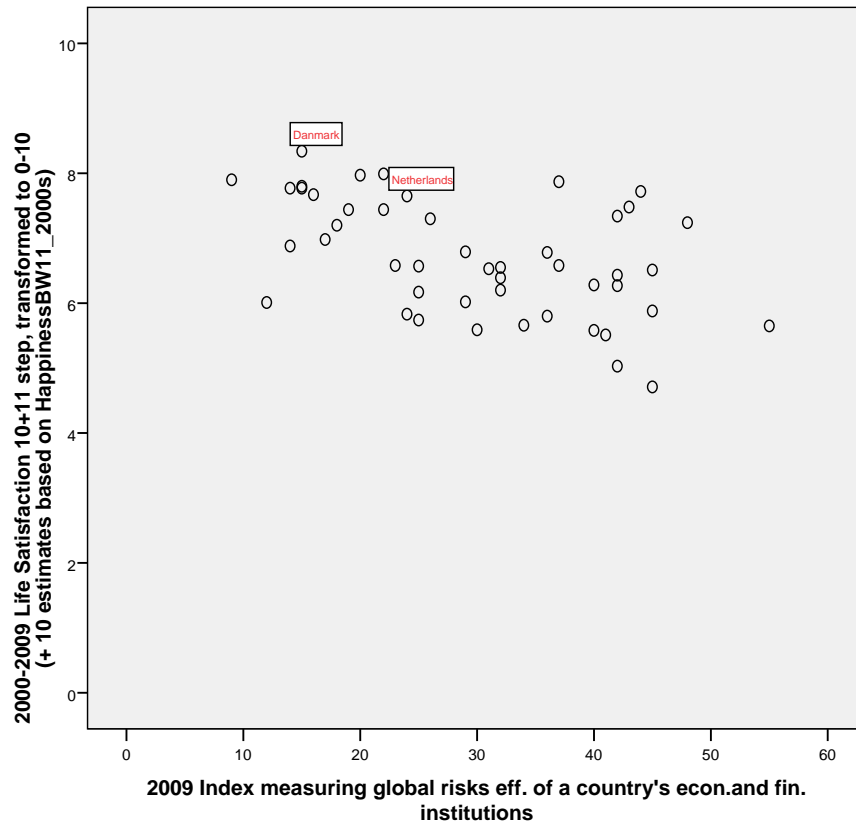
## Size



## Effectiveness

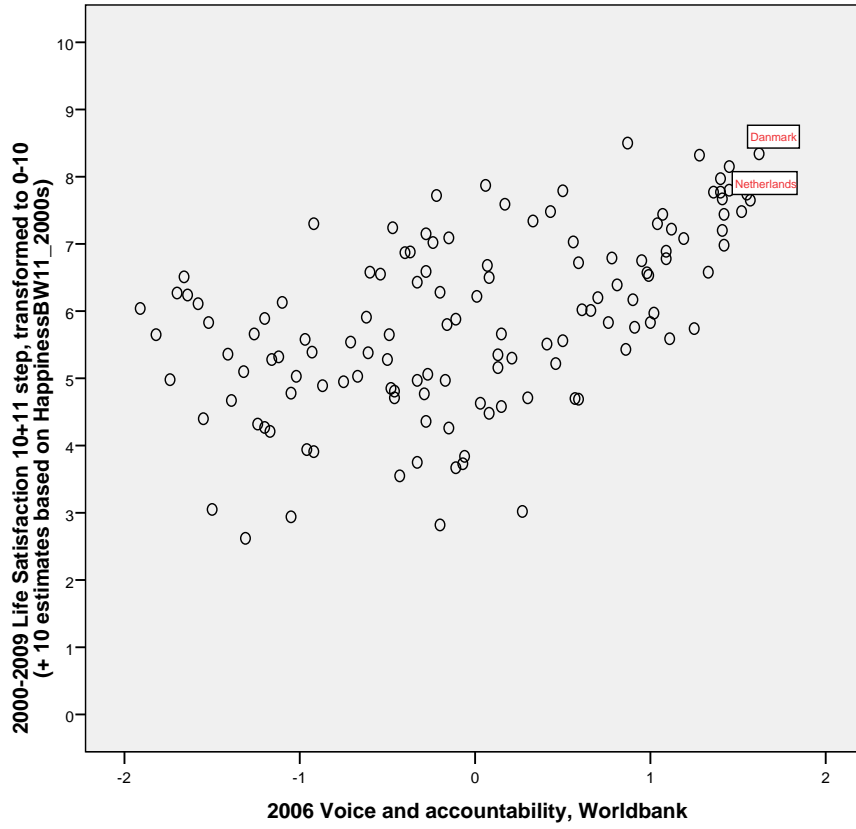


## Transparency (non)



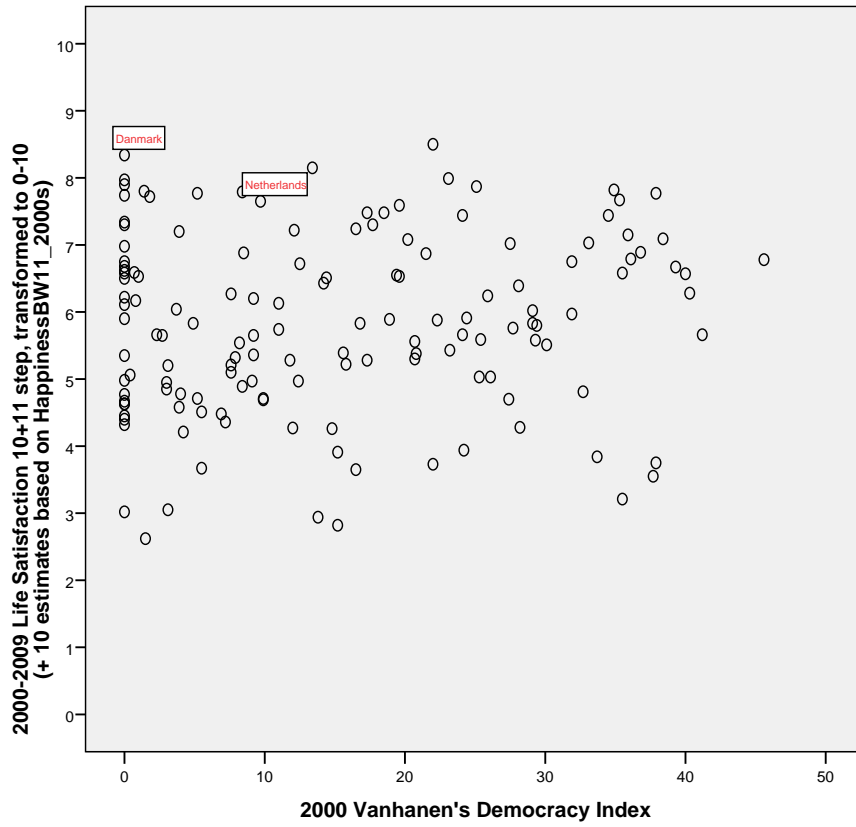
# Democracy

## Index 1

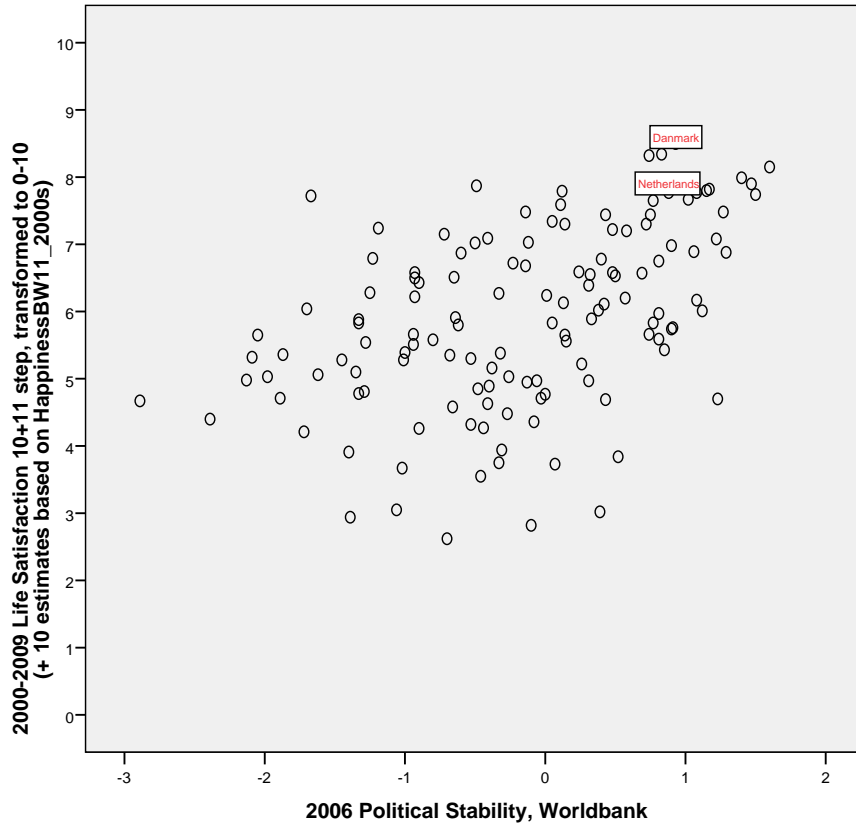




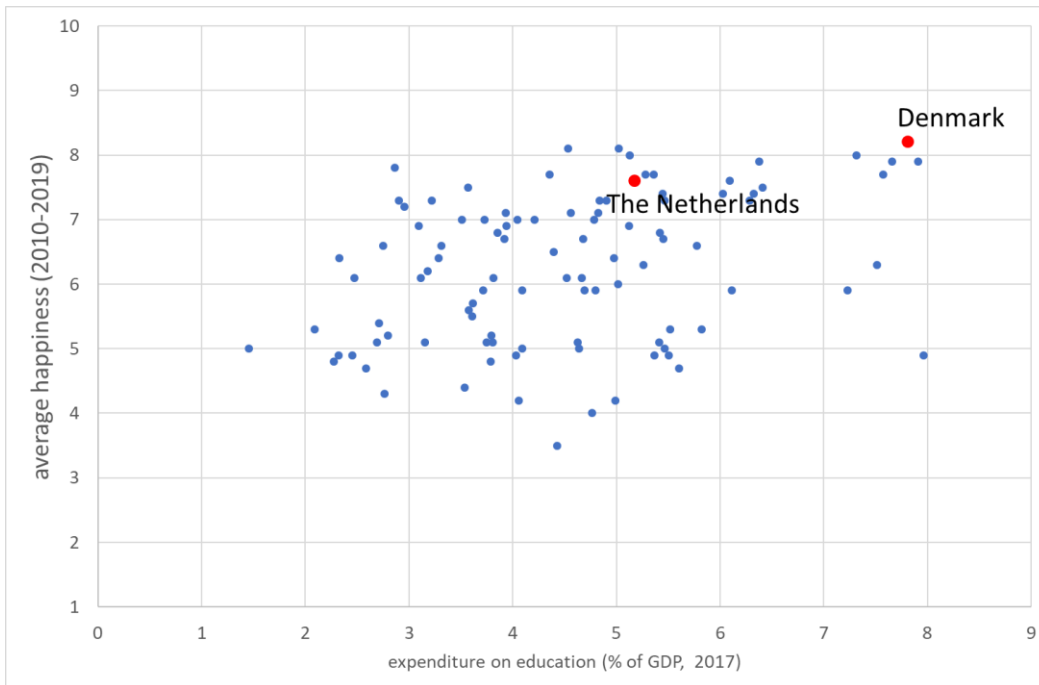
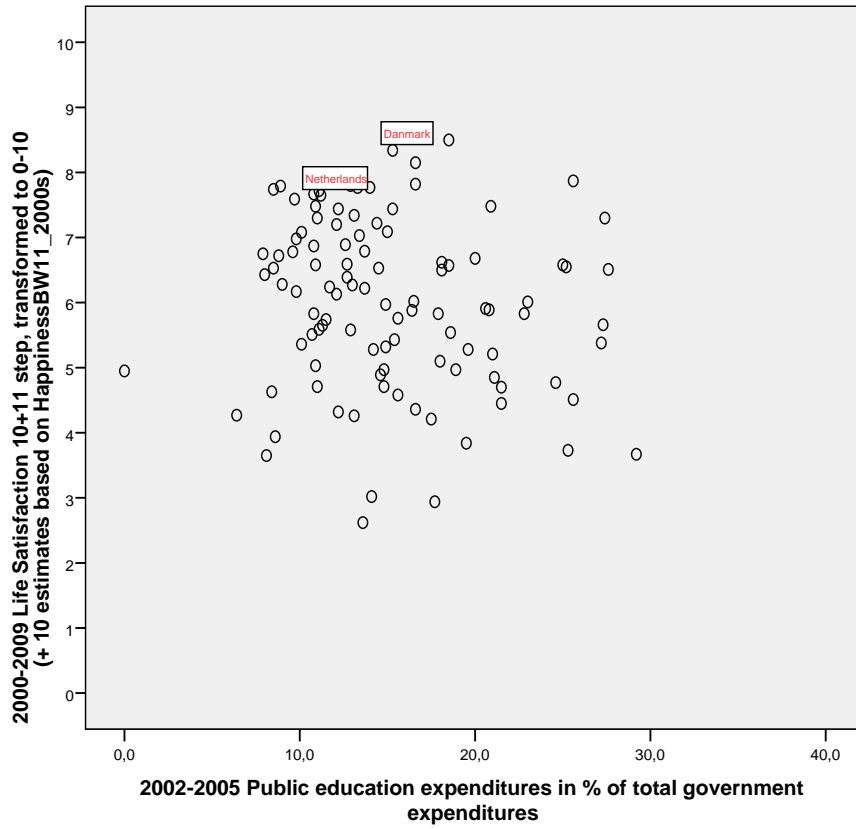
# Index 4



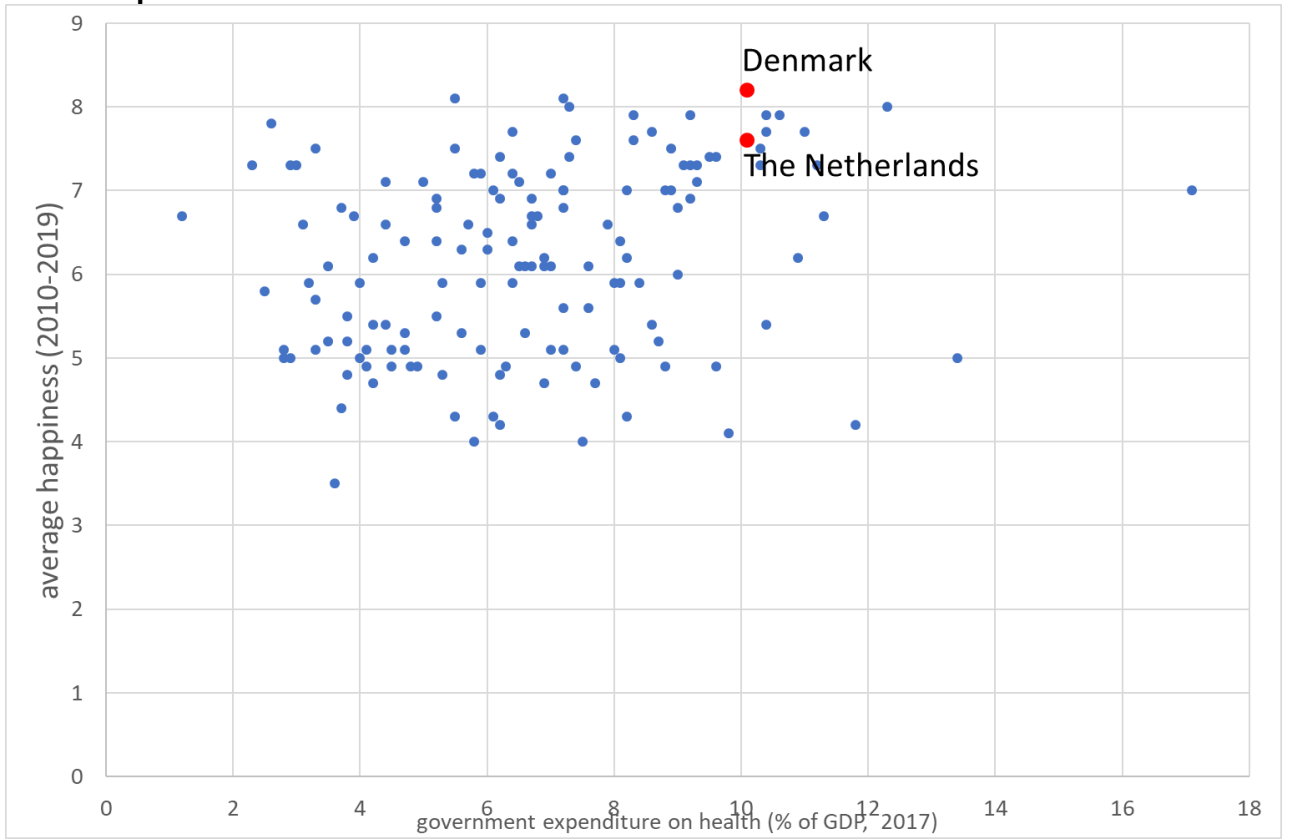
# Stability



## Education Expense

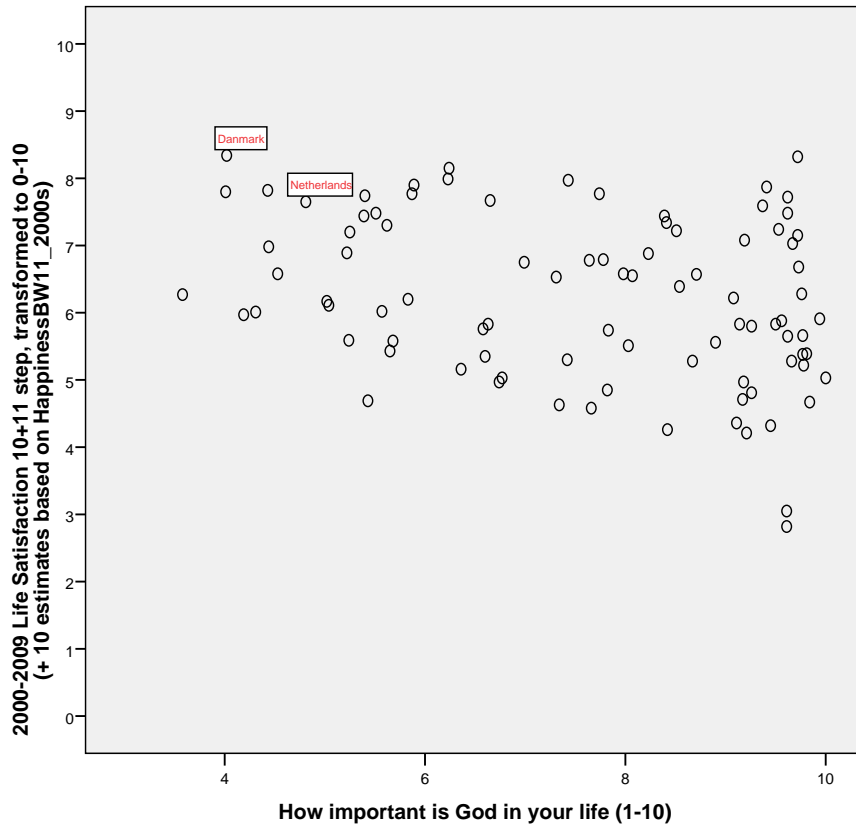


## Health expense

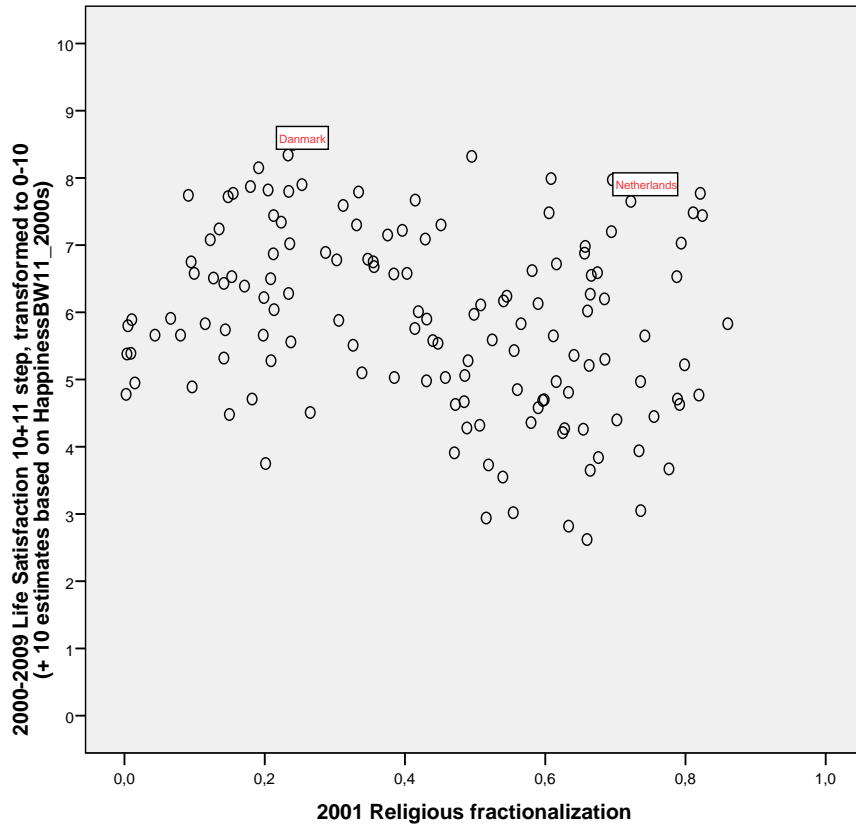


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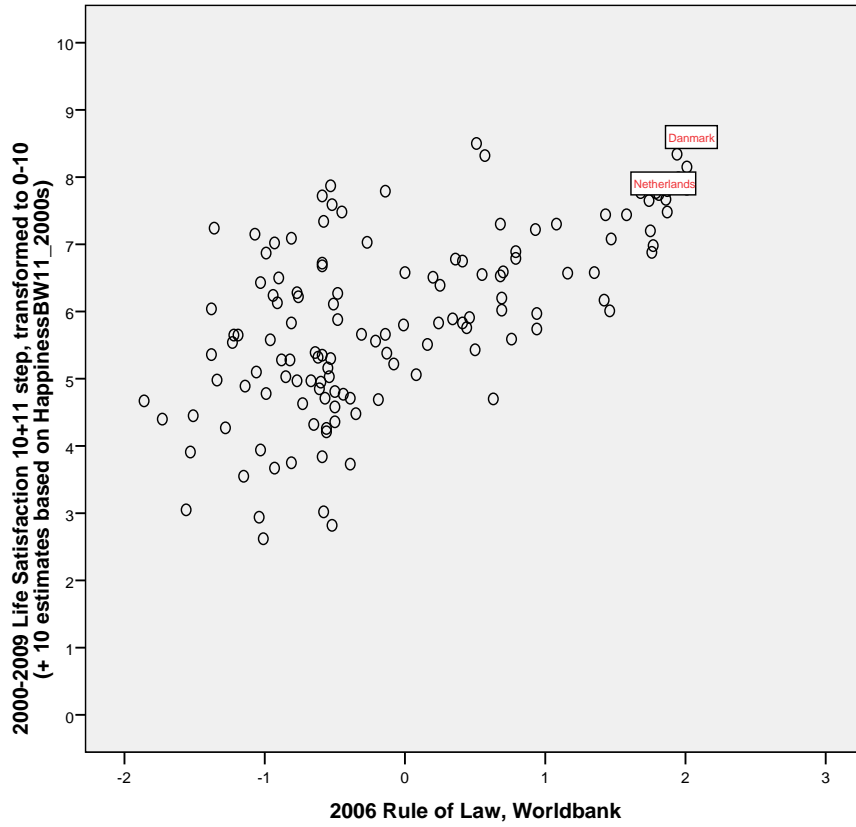
# Religiousness



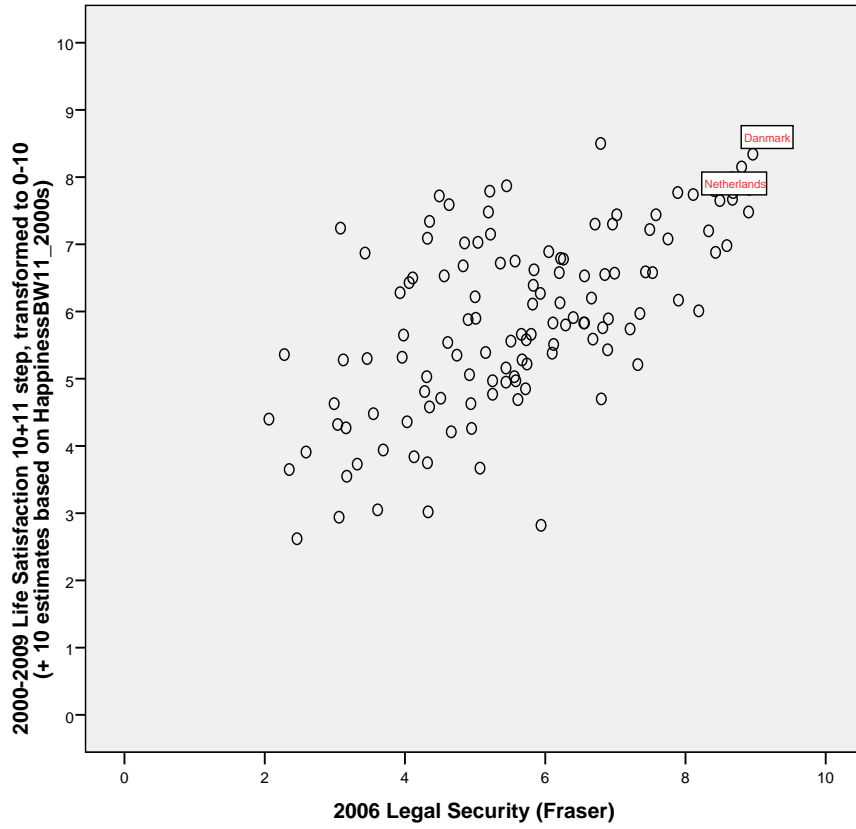
## Religious diversity



# Rule of Law

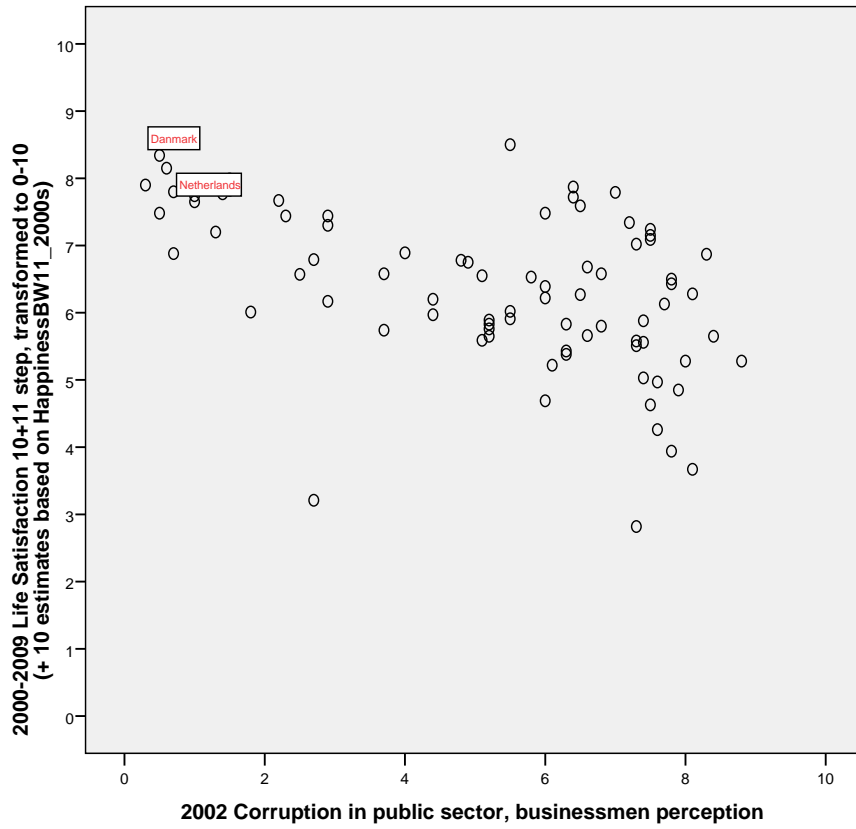


# Legal security

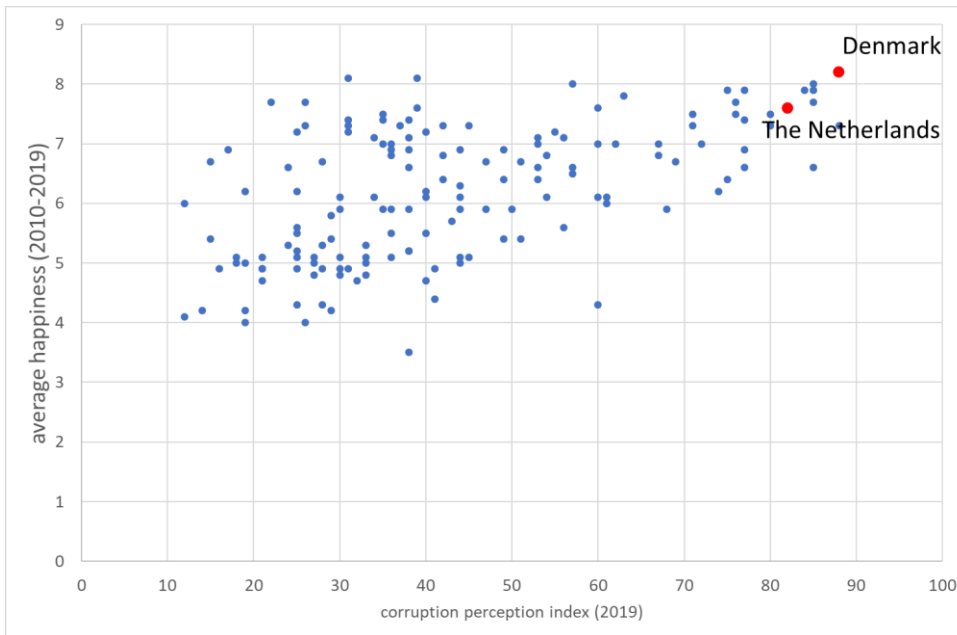




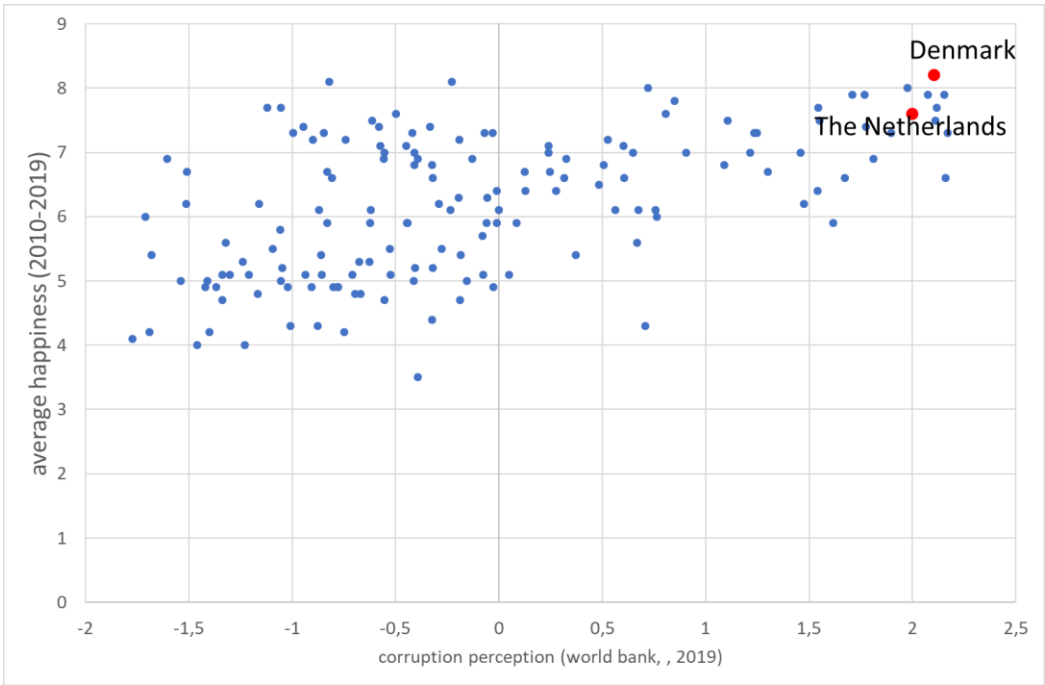
# Corruption



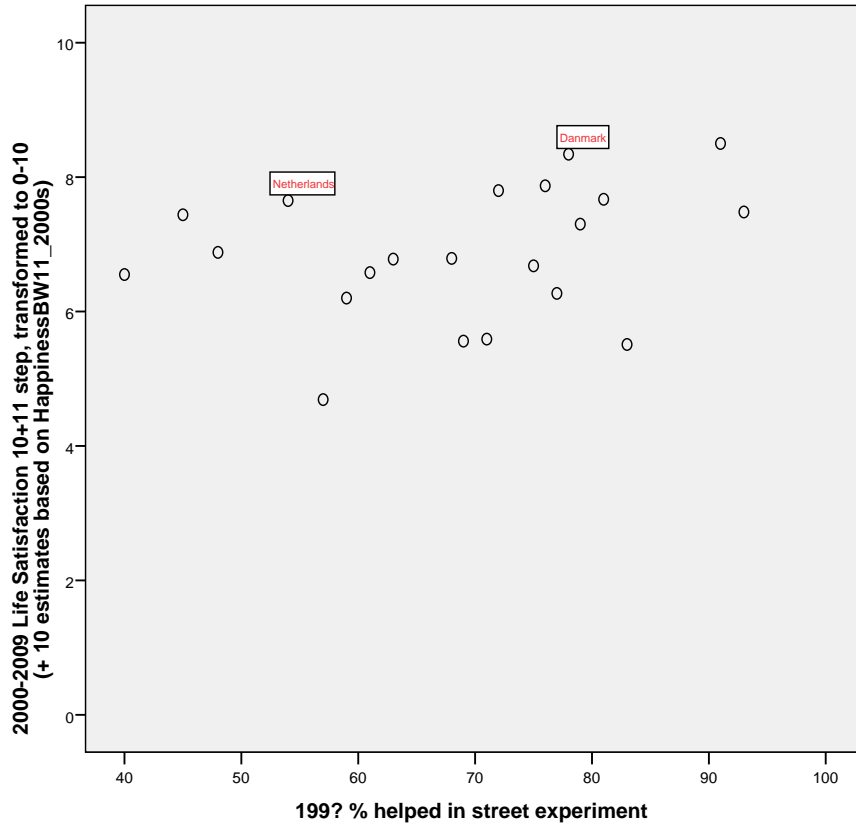
NB: higher score is more corruption



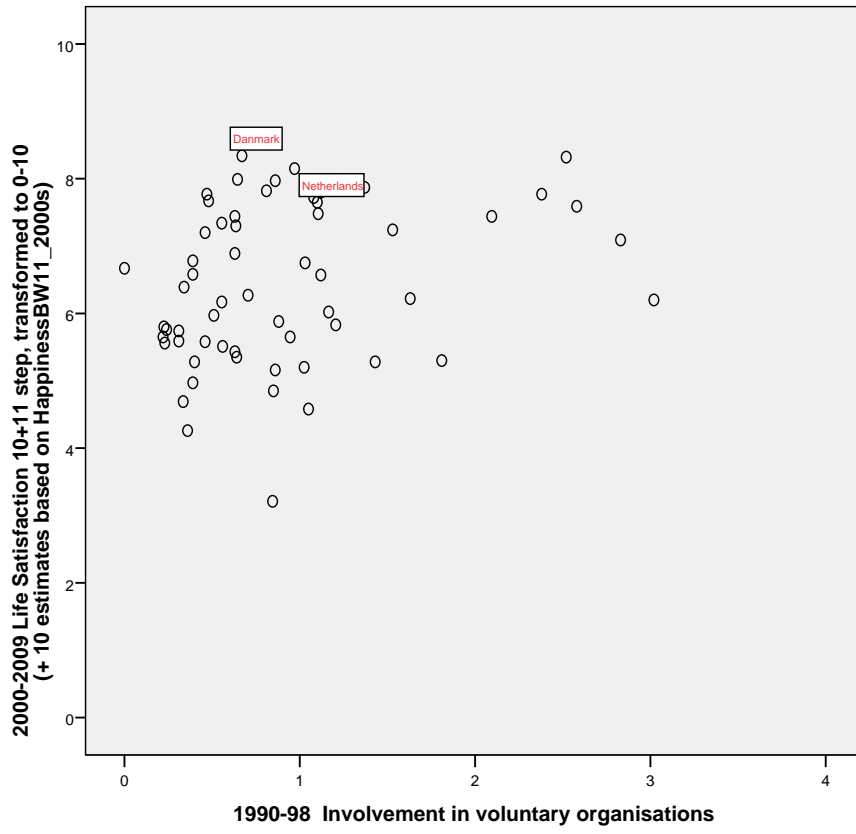
NB: higher score is less corruption



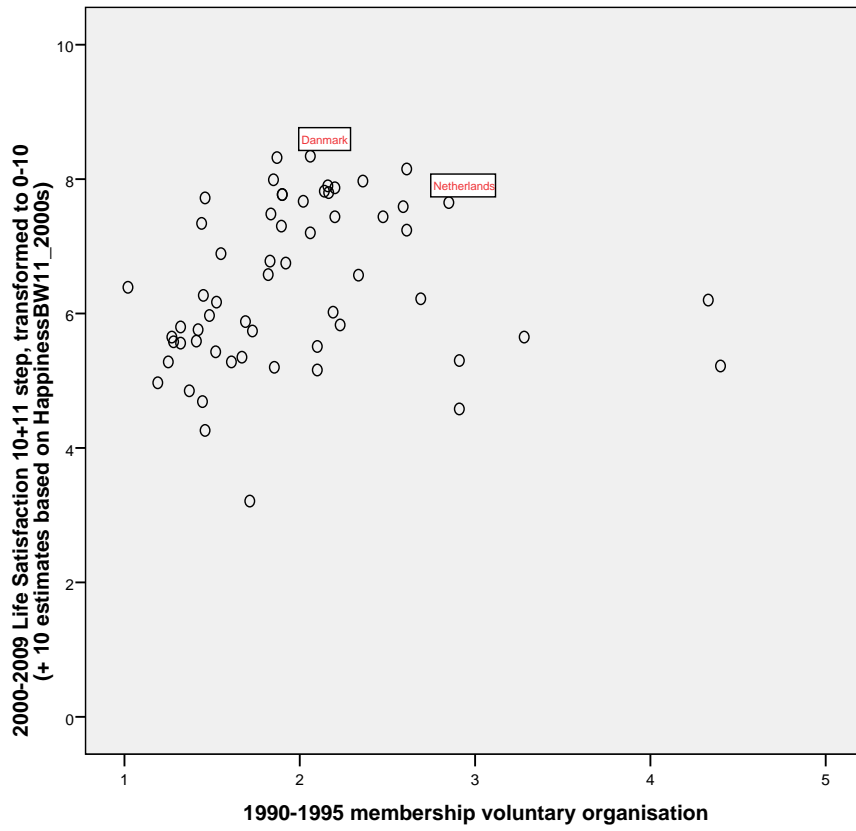
# Helpfulness



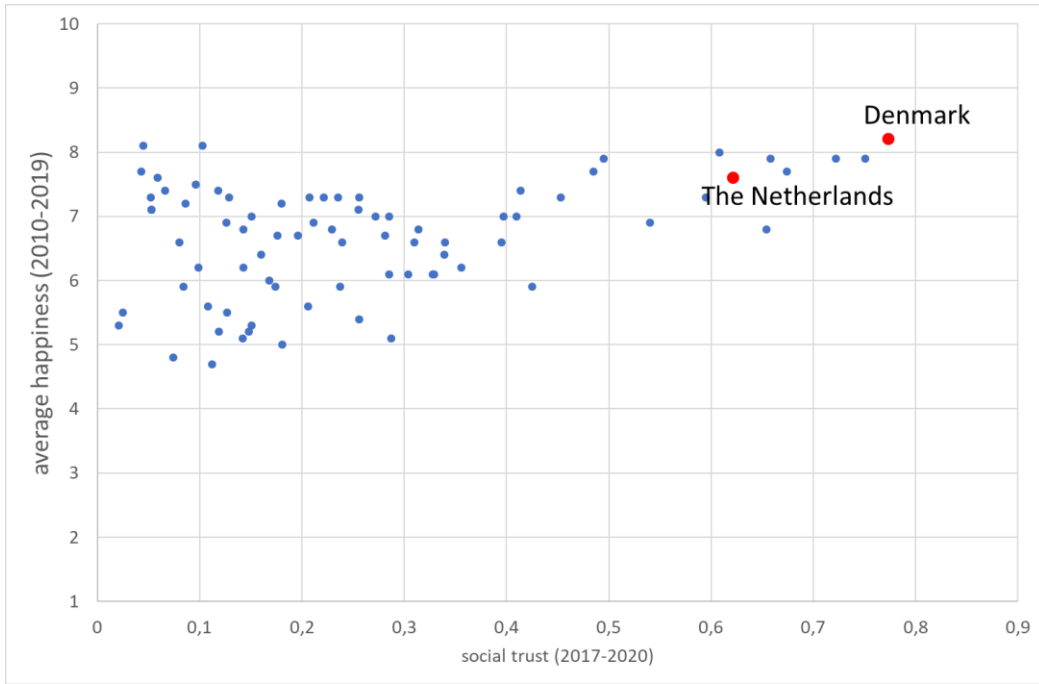
## Active volunteer



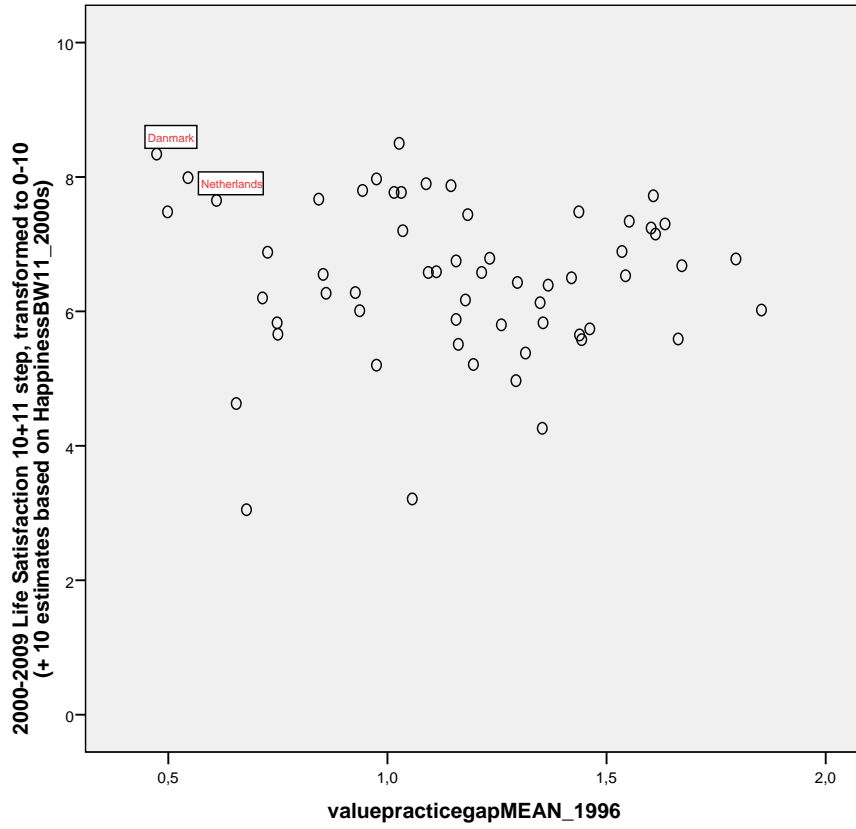
## Memberships



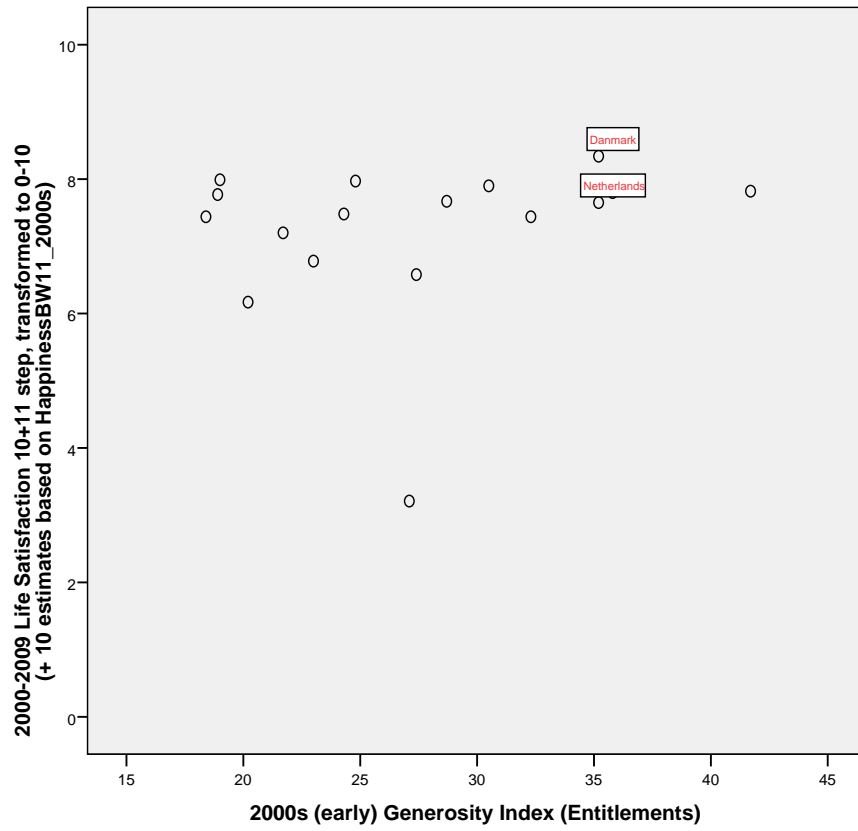
## Social trust



## Gap value-practice



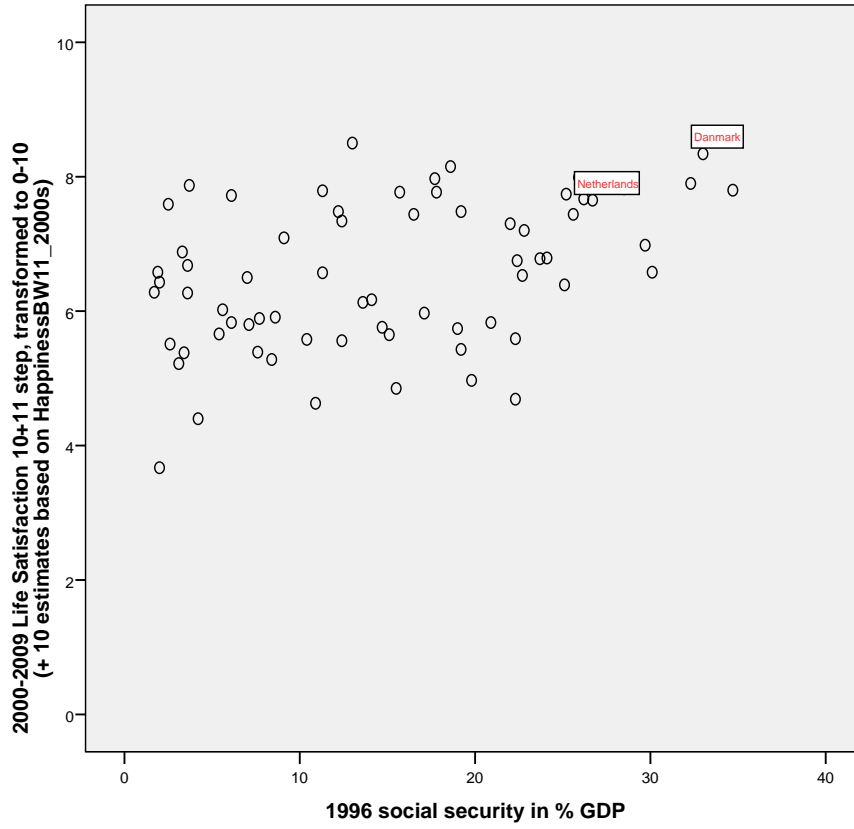
## Welfare Rights



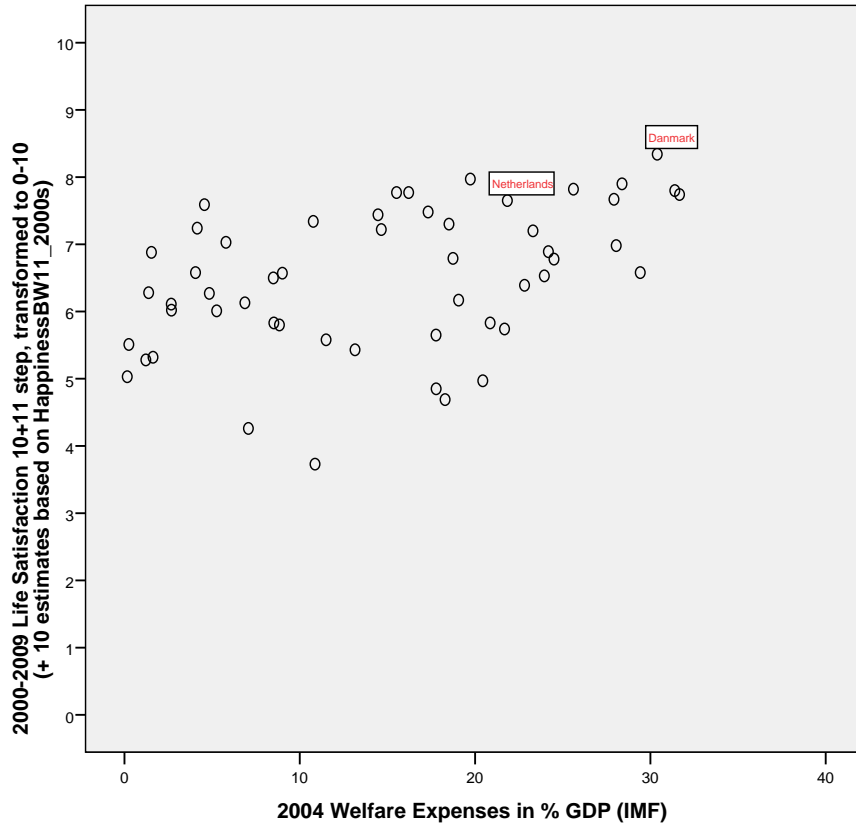


# Welfare expenditures

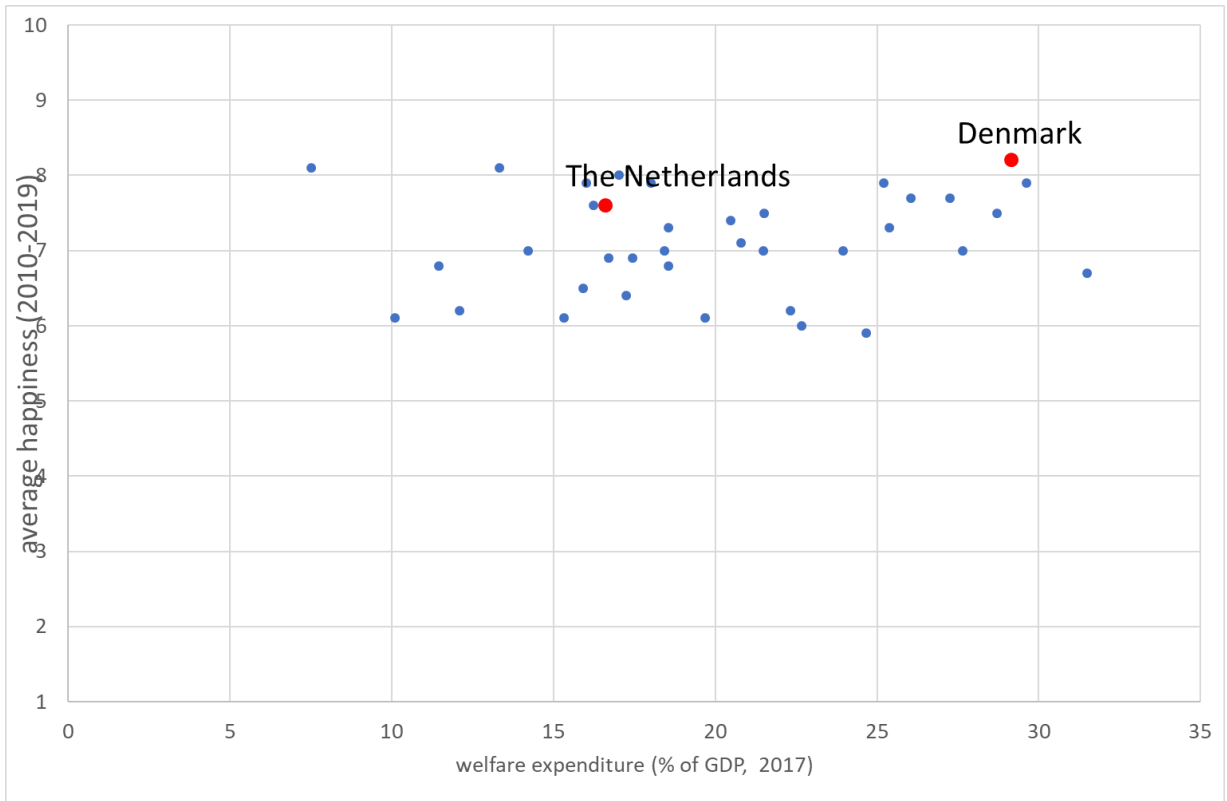
## Social security



# Welfare expenses in % gdp

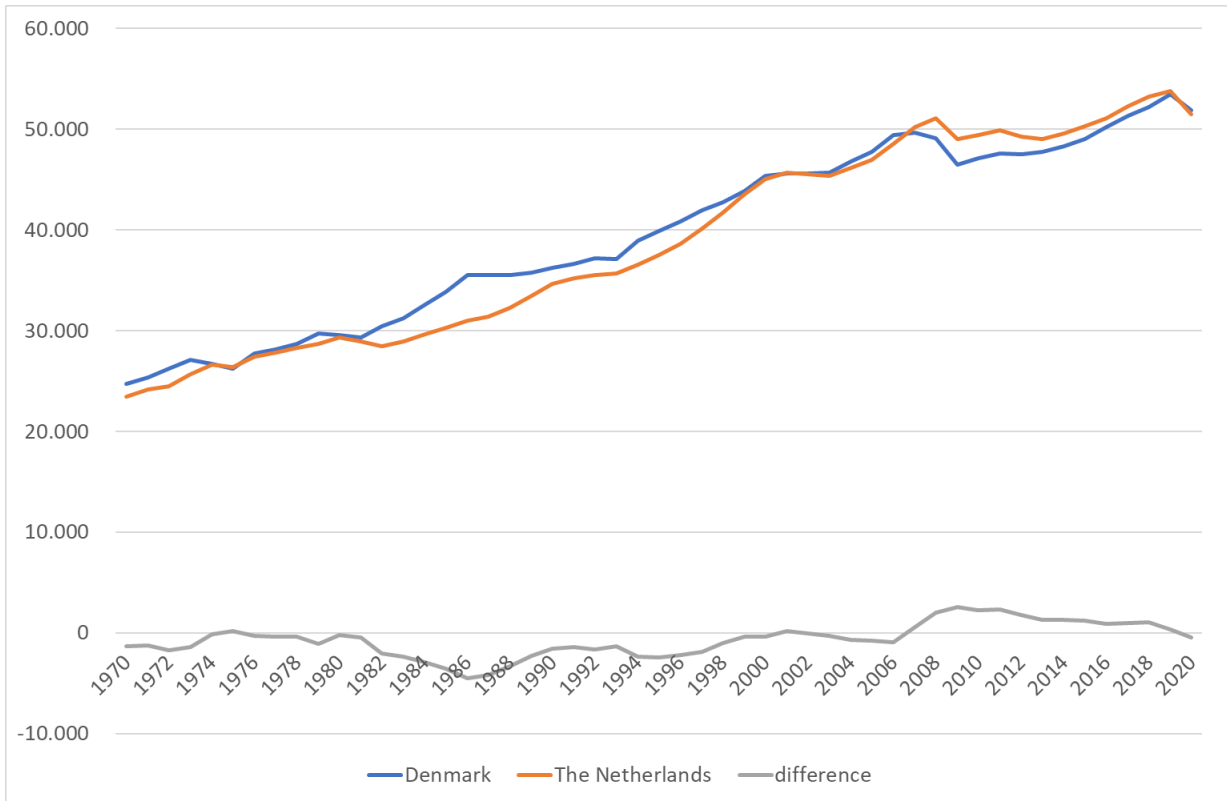


### OECD Welfare definition



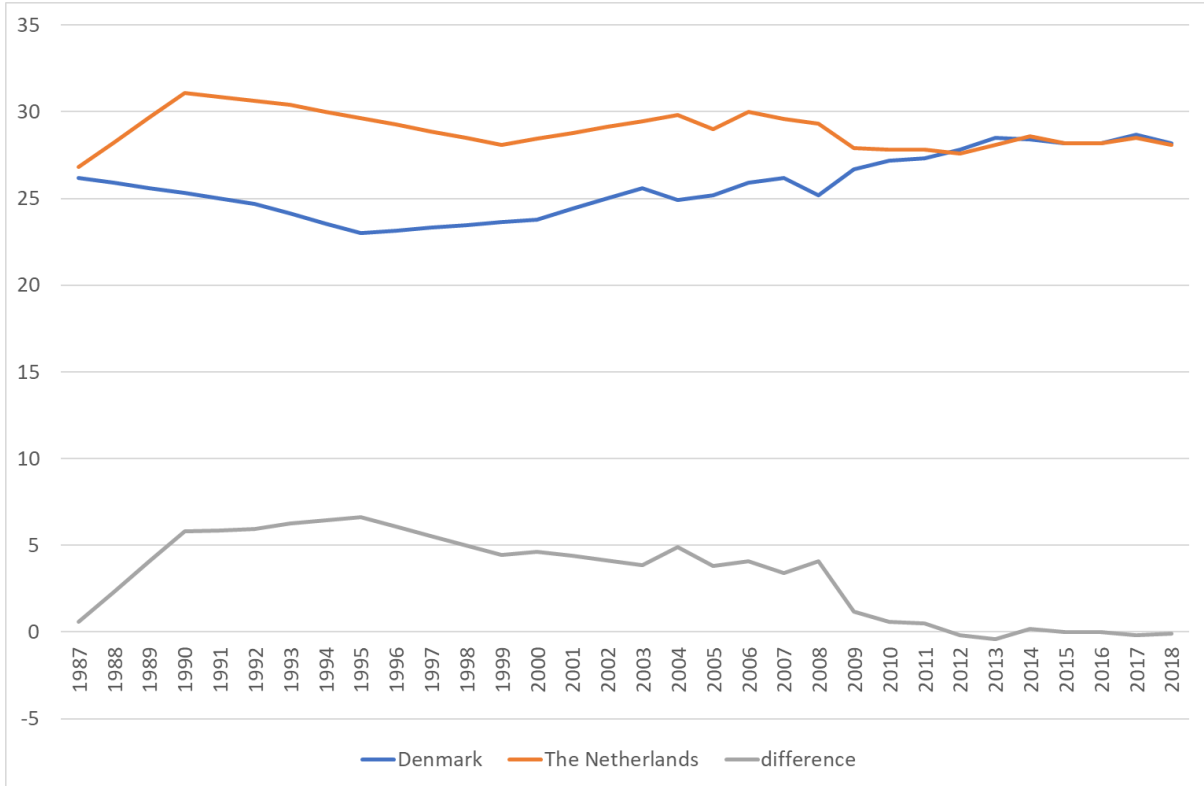
## Trends

### Trend in RGDP

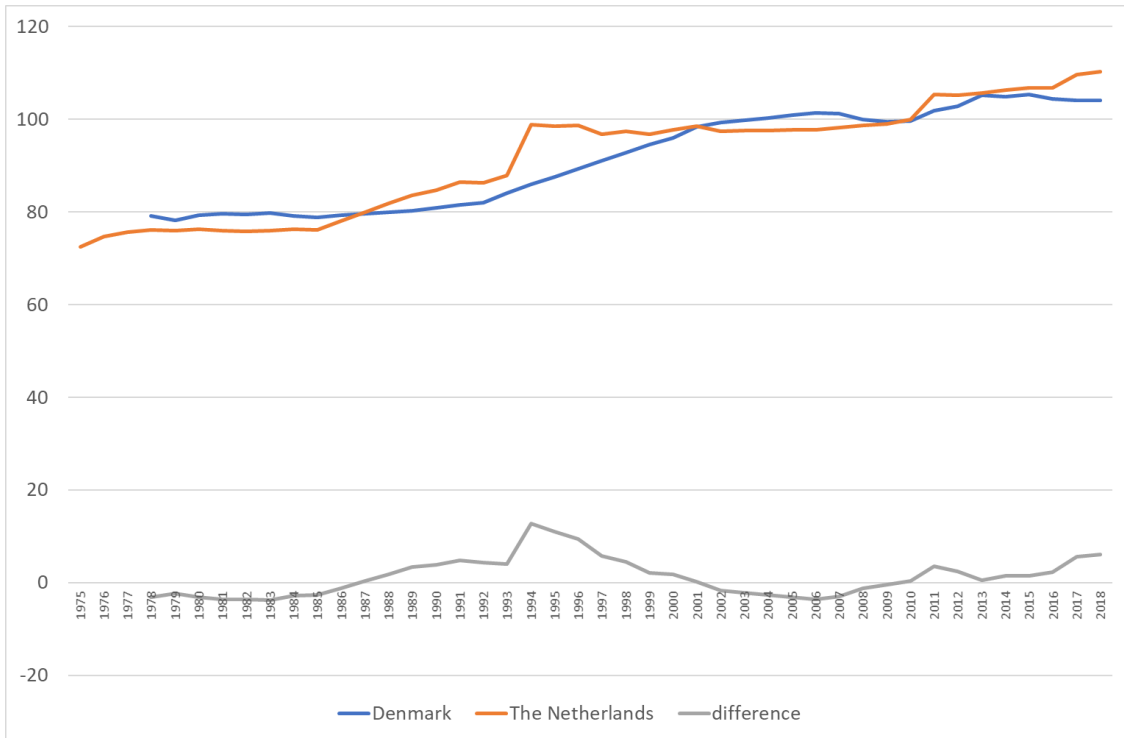


Source: <https://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=60702#>  
(differs from the graph with all countries)

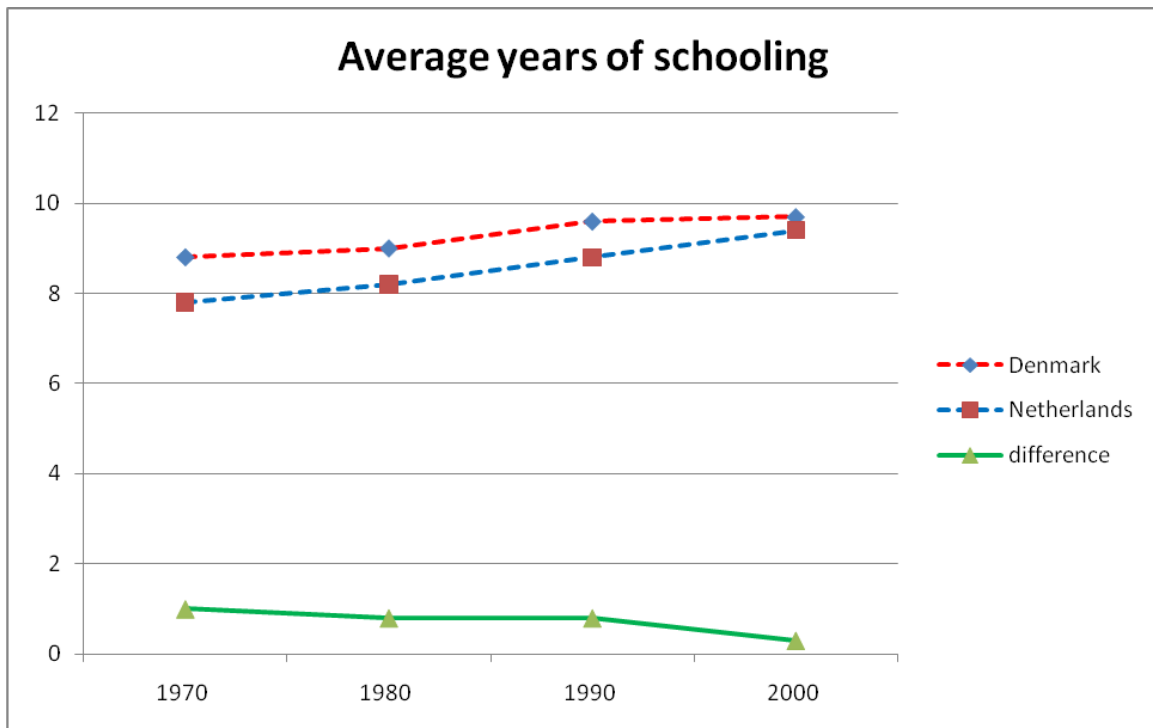
## Trend in income inequality (gini)



## Trend in Education enrolment

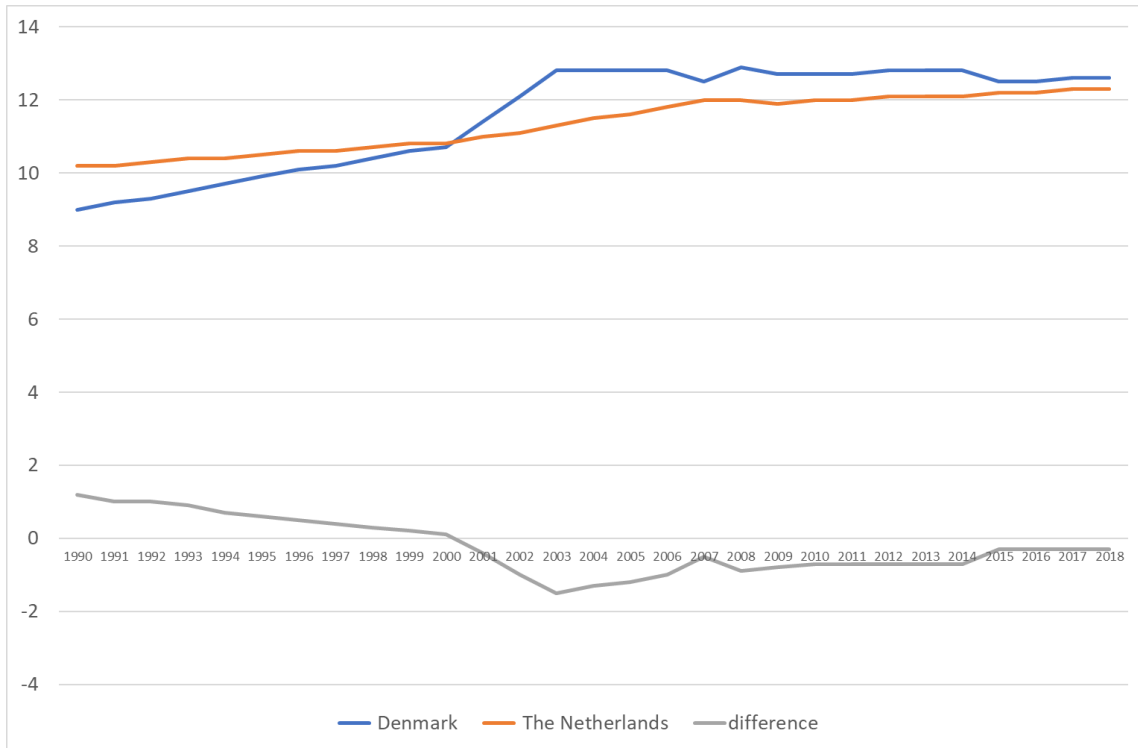


## Trend in average years of schooling

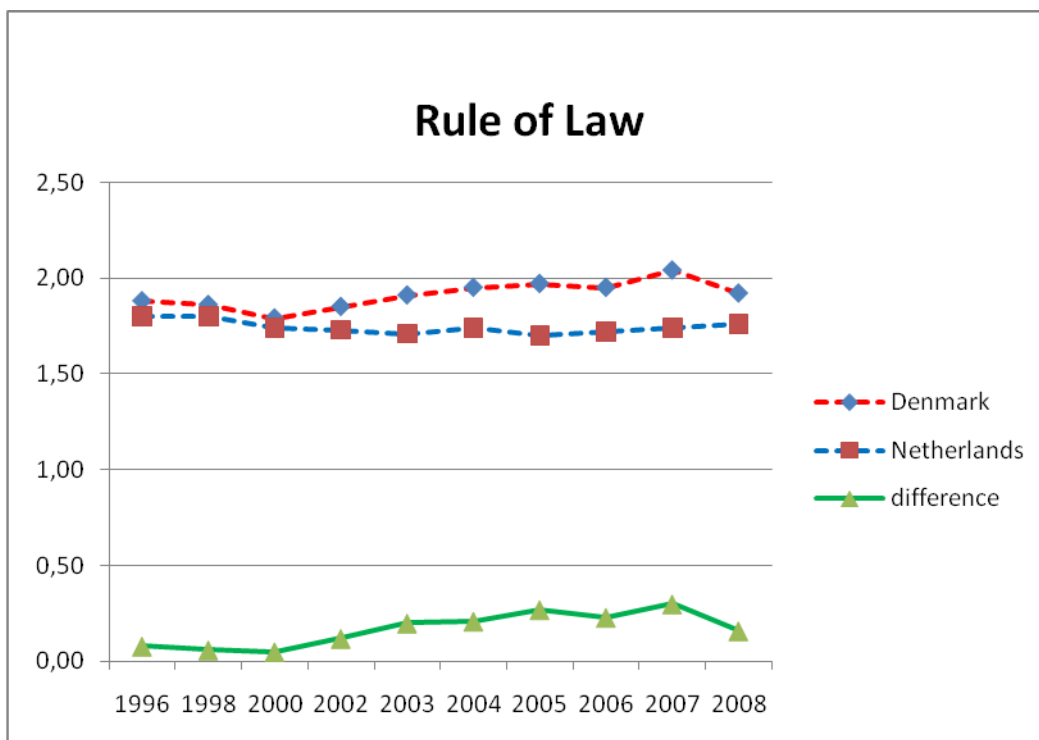


	Denmark	Netherlands	difference
1970	8,8	7,8	1
1980	9	8,2	0,8
1990	9,6	8,8	0,8
2000	9,7	9,4	0,3

Source: UN-HDR



## Trend in Rule of Law

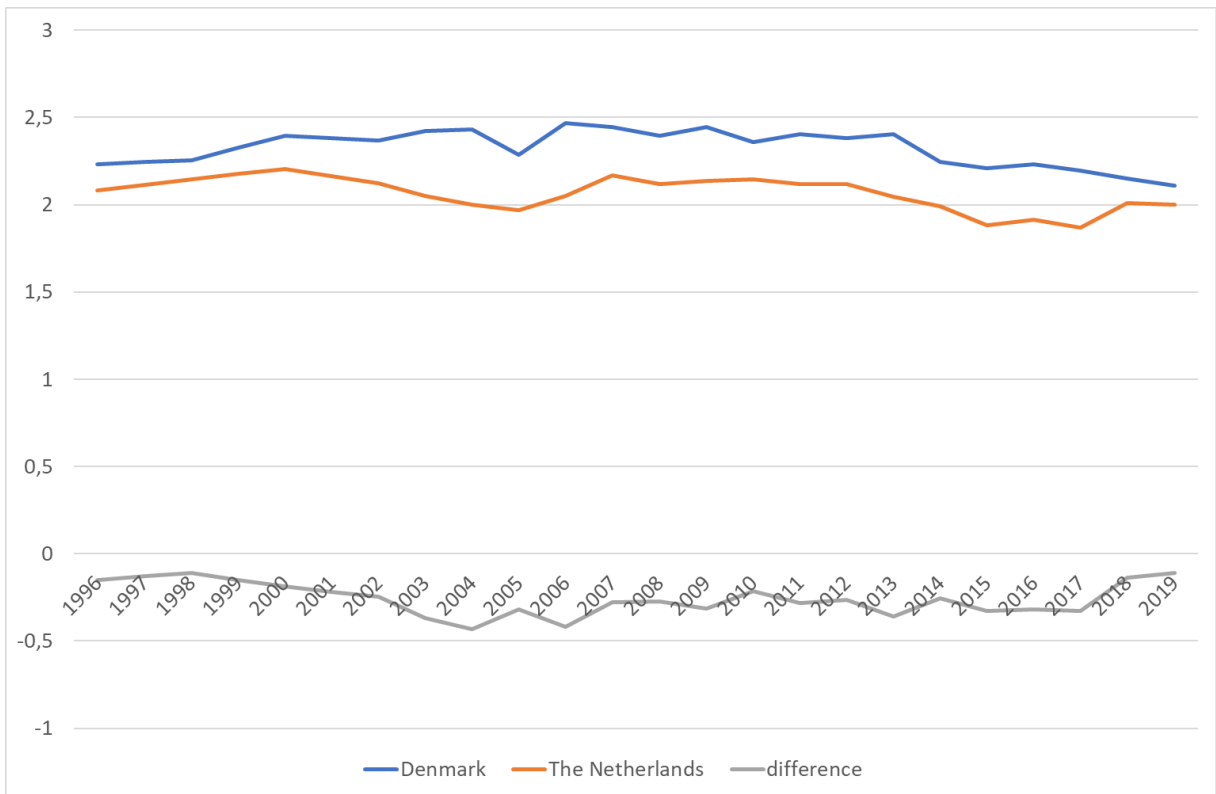


Rule of Law	Denmark	Netherlands	Difference
1996	1,88	1,80	0,08
1998	1,86	1,80	0,06
2000	1,79	1,74	0,05
2002	1,85	1,73	0,12
2003	1,91	1,71	0,20
2004	1,95	1,74	0,21
2005	1,97	1,70	0,27
2006	1,95	1,72	0,23
2007	2,04	1,74	0,30
2008	1,92	1,76	0,16

Source: World Bank



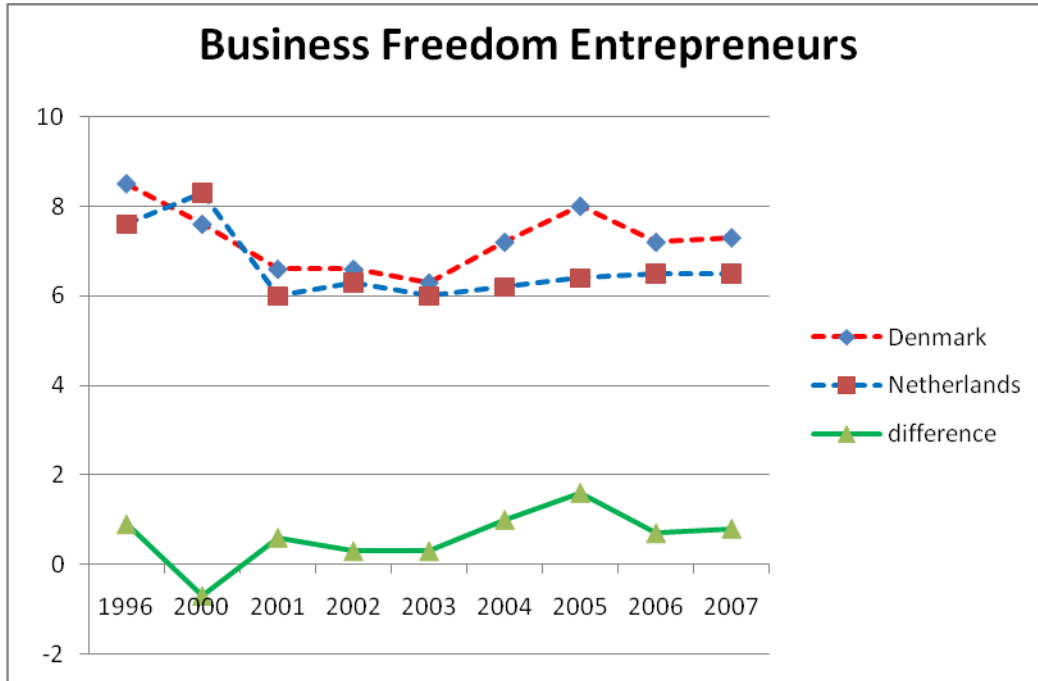
## Control of corruption



Control of corruption	Denmark	Netherlands	Difference
1.996	2,29	2,21	0,08
1.998	2,18	2,20	-0,02
2.000	2,12	2,21	-0,09
2.002	2,21	2,17	0,04
2.003	2,27	2,10	0,17
2.004	2,32	2,02	0,30
2.005	2,19	1,98	0,21
2.006	2,35	2,07	0,28
2.007	2,39	2,28	0,11
2.008	2,32	2,19	0,13

Source: World Bank

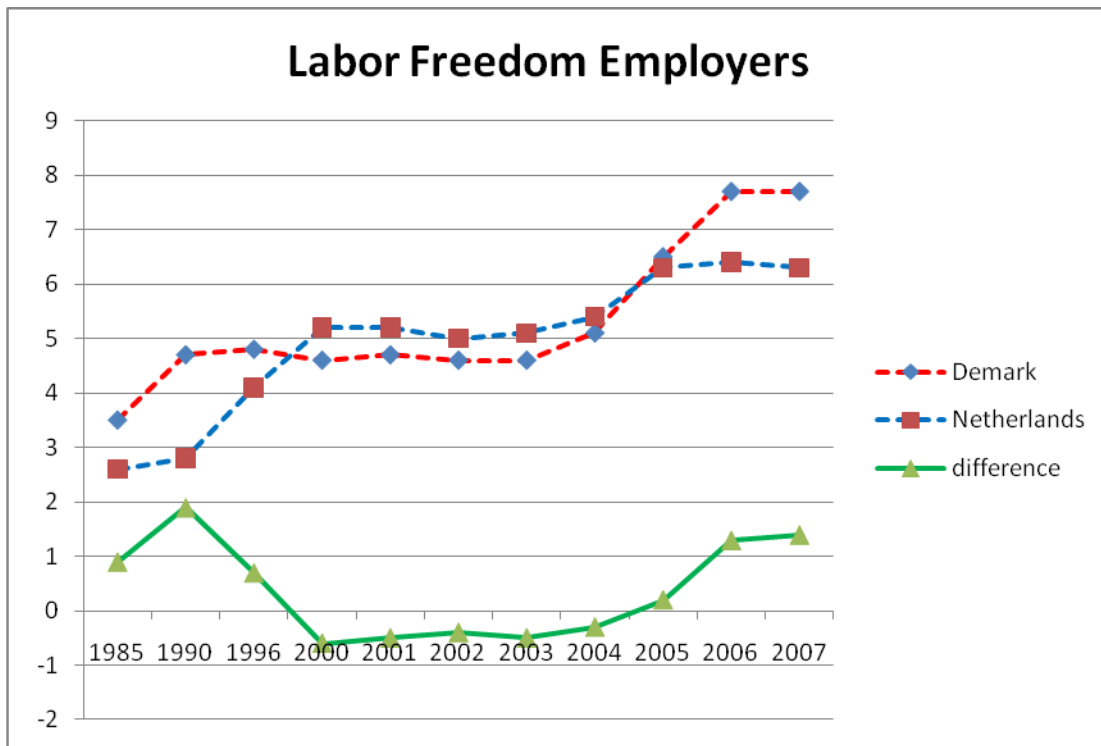
## Trend Business Freedom Entrepreneurs



Business Freedom Entrepreneurs	Denmark	Netherlands	difference
1996	8,5	7,6	0,90
2000	7,6	8,3	-0,70
2001	6,6	6	0,60
2002	6,6	6,3	0,30
2003	6,3	6	0,30
2004	7,2	6,2	1,00
2005	8	6,4	1,60
2006	7,2	6,5	0,70
2007	7,3	6,5	0,80

Source: Data Fraser Institute

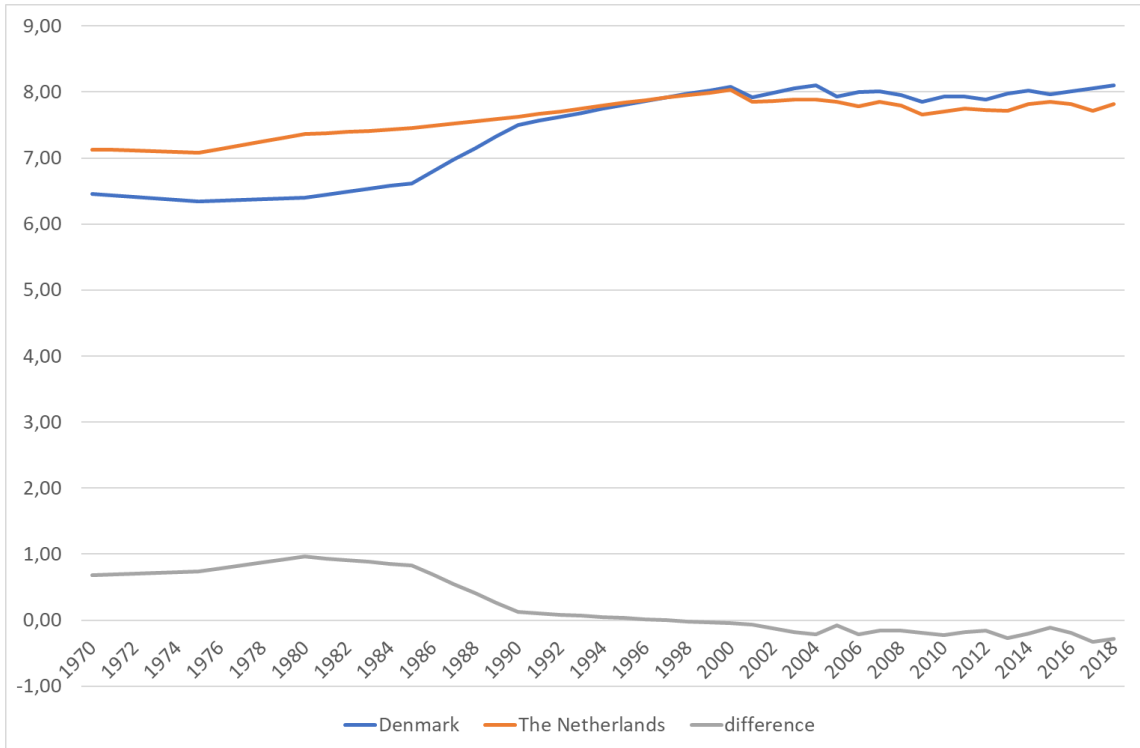
## Trend Labor Freedom Employers



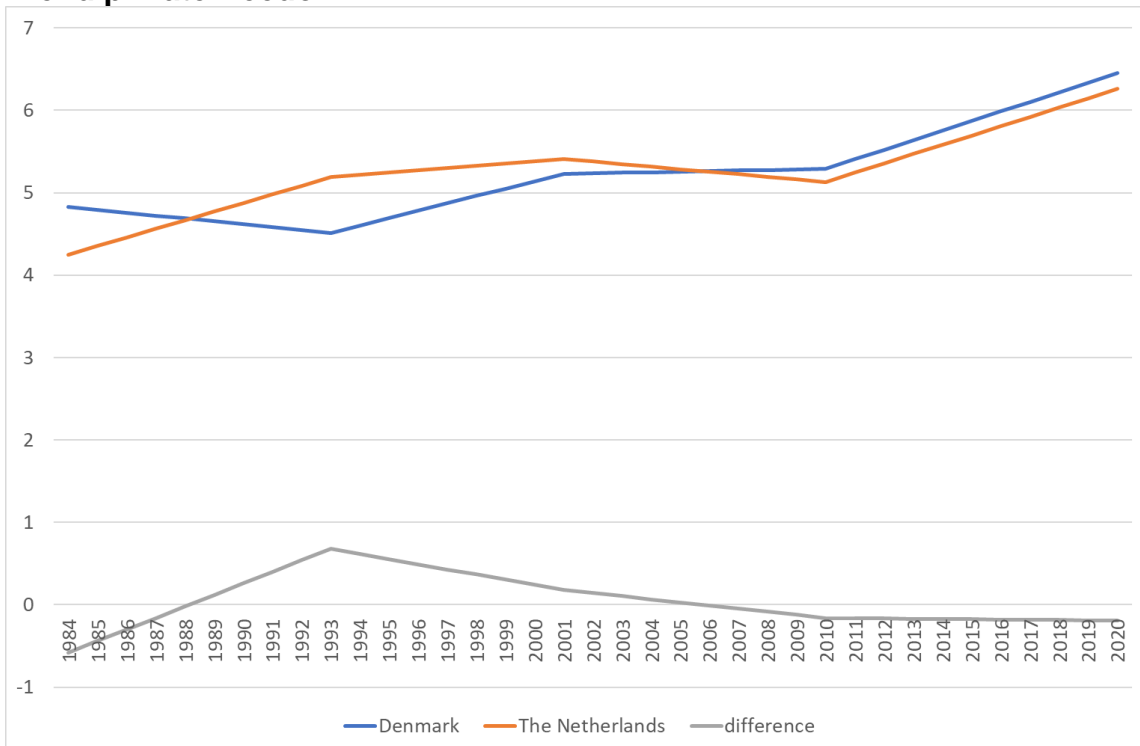
Labor Freedom Employers	Denmark	Netherlands	difference
1985	3,5	2,6	0,90
1990	4,7	2,8	1,90
1996	4,8	4,1	0,70
2000	4,6	5,2	-0,60
2001	4,7	5,2	-0,50
2002	4,6	5	-0,40
2003	4,6	5,1	-0,50
2004	5,1	5,4	-0,30
2005	6,5	6,3	0,20
2006	7,7	6,4	1,30
2007	7,7	6,3	1,40

Source: Data Fraser Institute

## Trend Economic Freedom



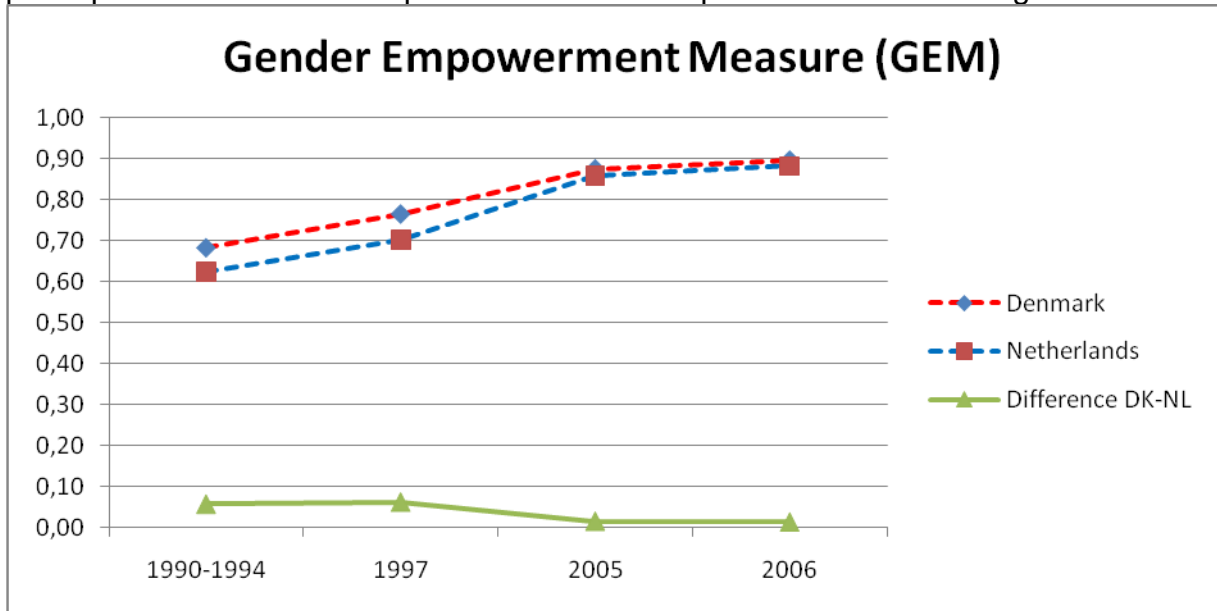
## Trend private freedom



Source: evs/wvs

## Gender Inequality

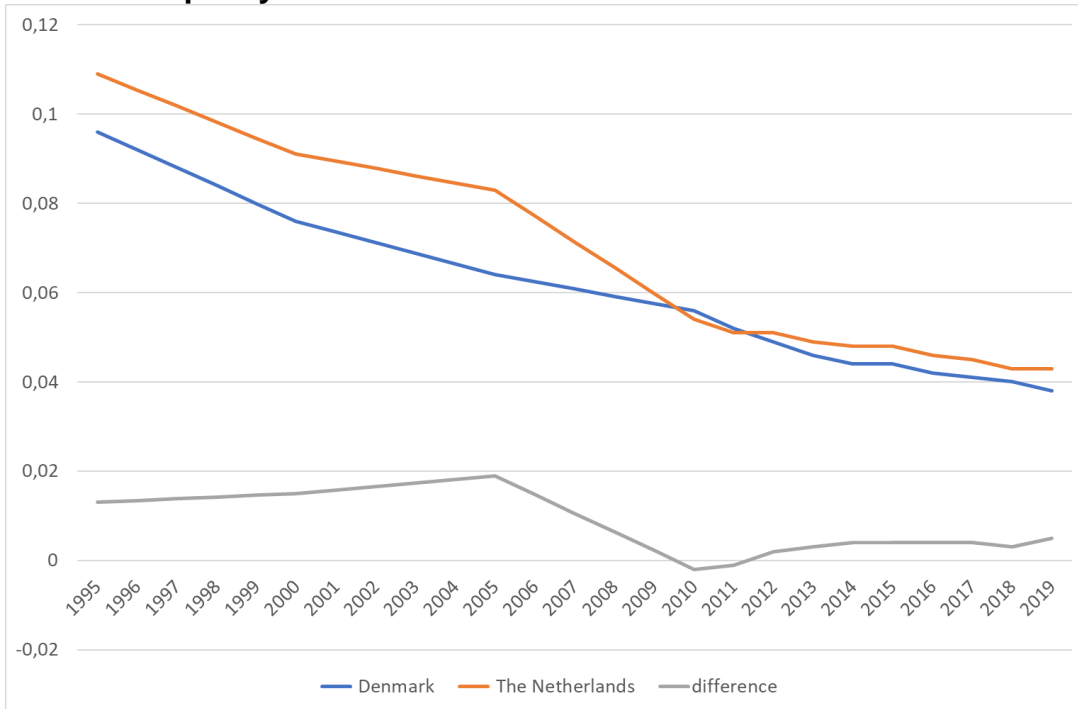
The **Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)**, is a measure of agency. It evaluates progress in advancing women's standing in political and economic forums. It examines the extent to which women and men are able to actively participate in economic and political life and take part in decision-making.



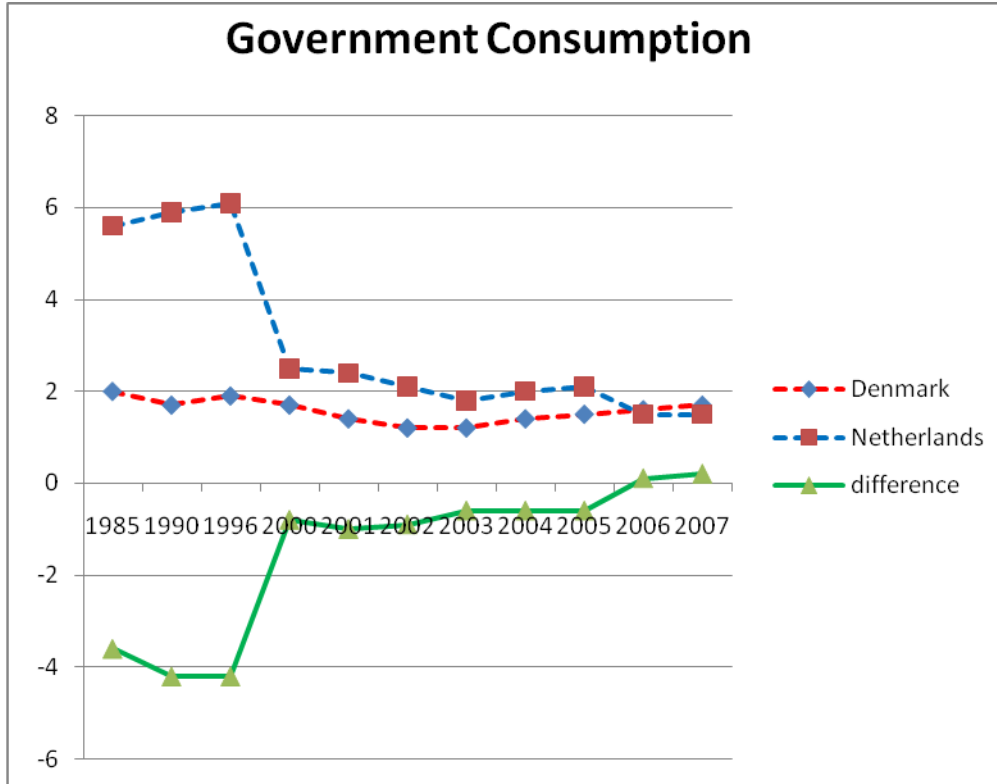
	Denmark	Netherlands	Difference
1990-1994	0,68	0,63	0,06
1997	0,77	0,70	0,06
2005	0,88	0,86	0,02
2006	0,90	0,88	0,01

Source: UN-HDR

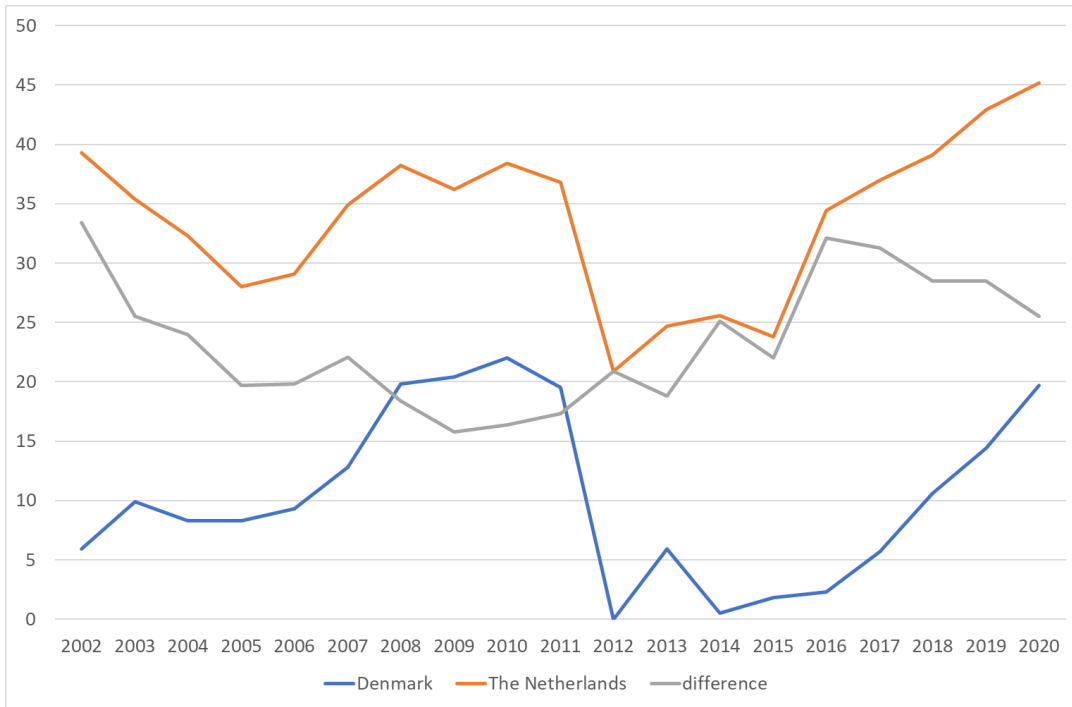
## Gender inequality index



## Trend in Government Consumption



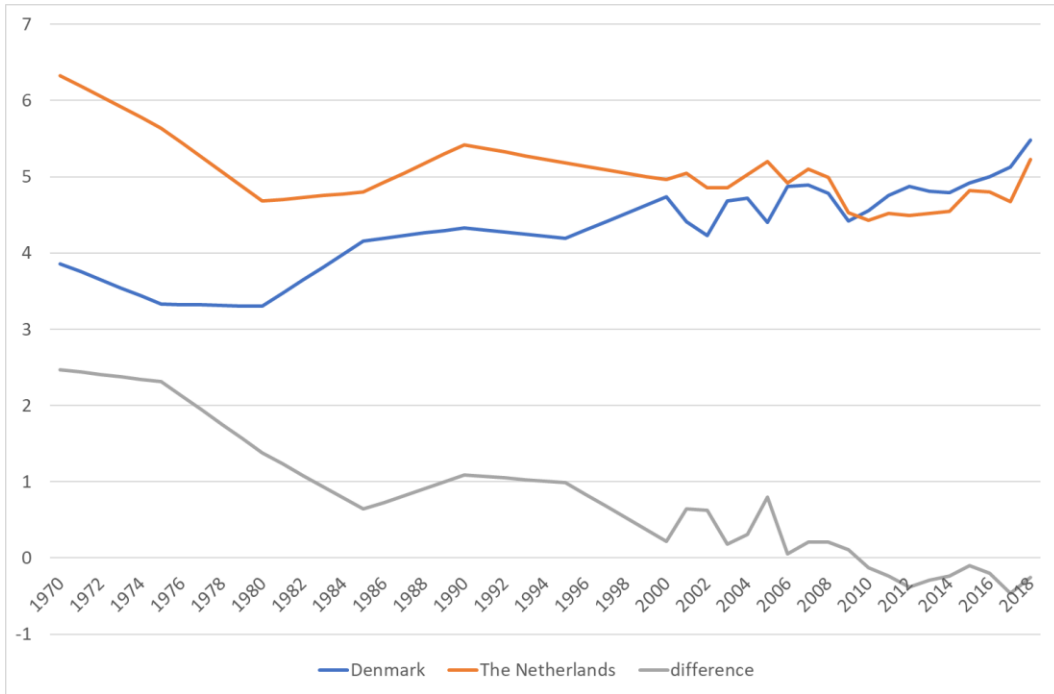
Government Consumption	Denmark	Netherlands	difference
1985	2	5,6	-3,60
1990	1,7	5,9	-4,20
1996	1,9	6,1	-4,20
2000	1,7	2,5	-0,80
2001	1,4	2,4	-1,00
2002	1,2	2,1	-0,90
2003	1,2	1,8	-0,60
2004	1,4	2	-0,60
2005	1,5	2,1	-0,60
2006	1,6	1,5	0,10
2007	1,7	1,5	0,20



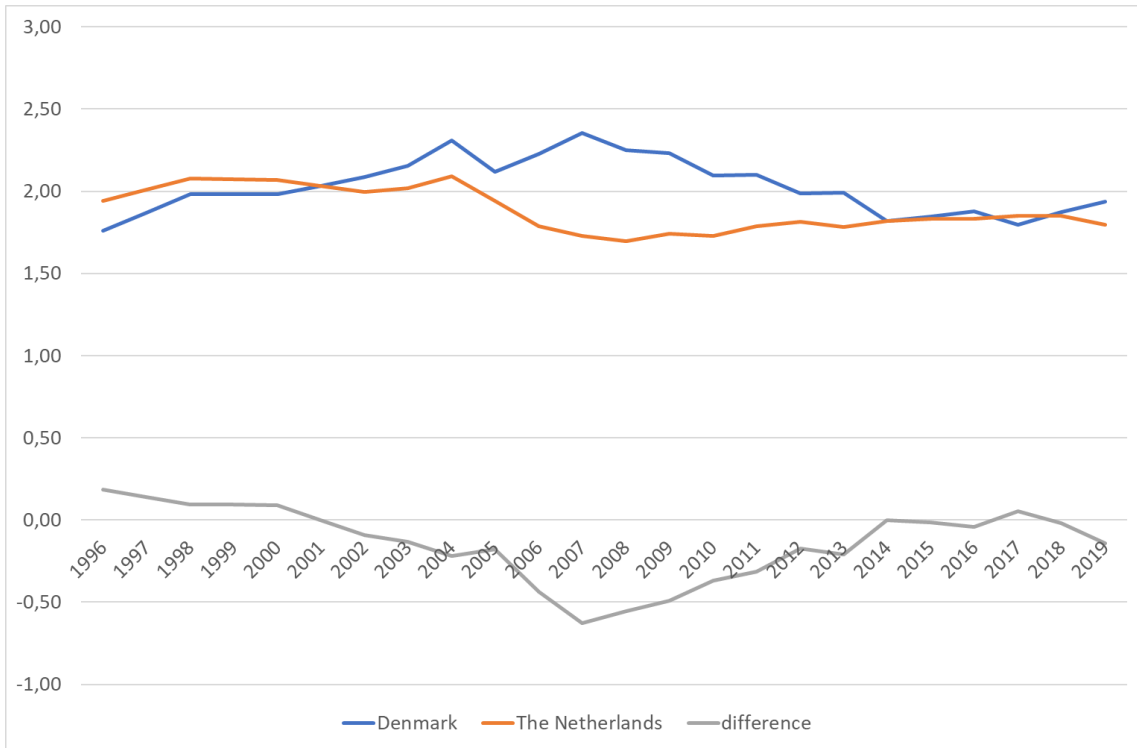
Source: Data Fraser Institute



## Trend Government Size



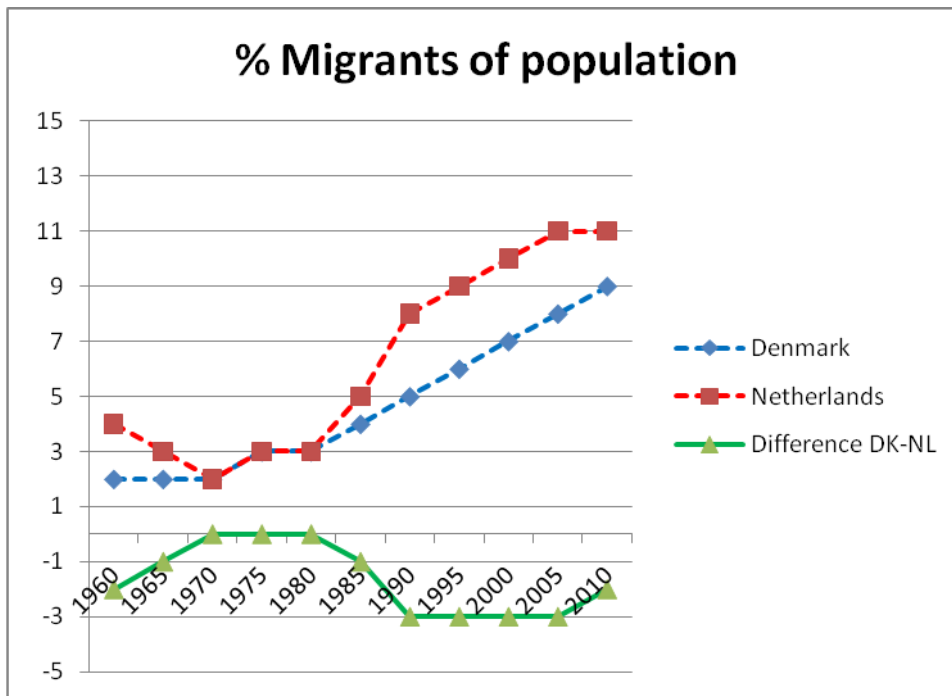
## Trend Government effectiveness



Source: World Bank

## Migration

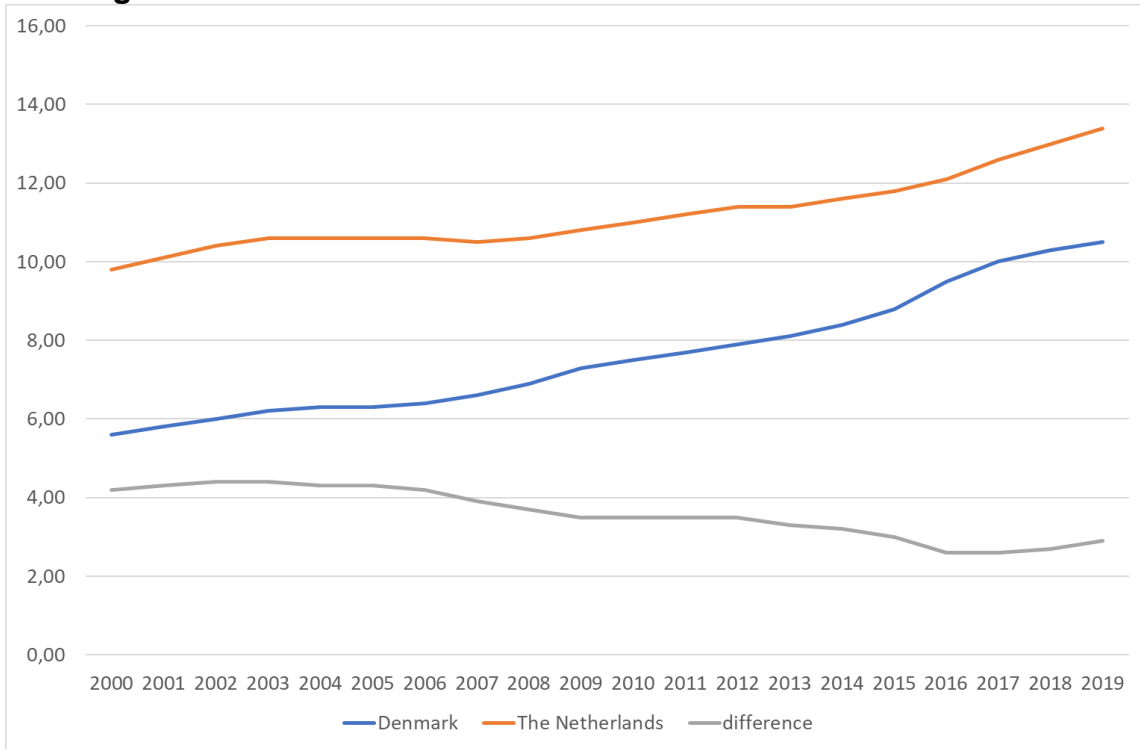
International migrant stock is the number of people born in a country other than that in which they live. It also includes refugees.



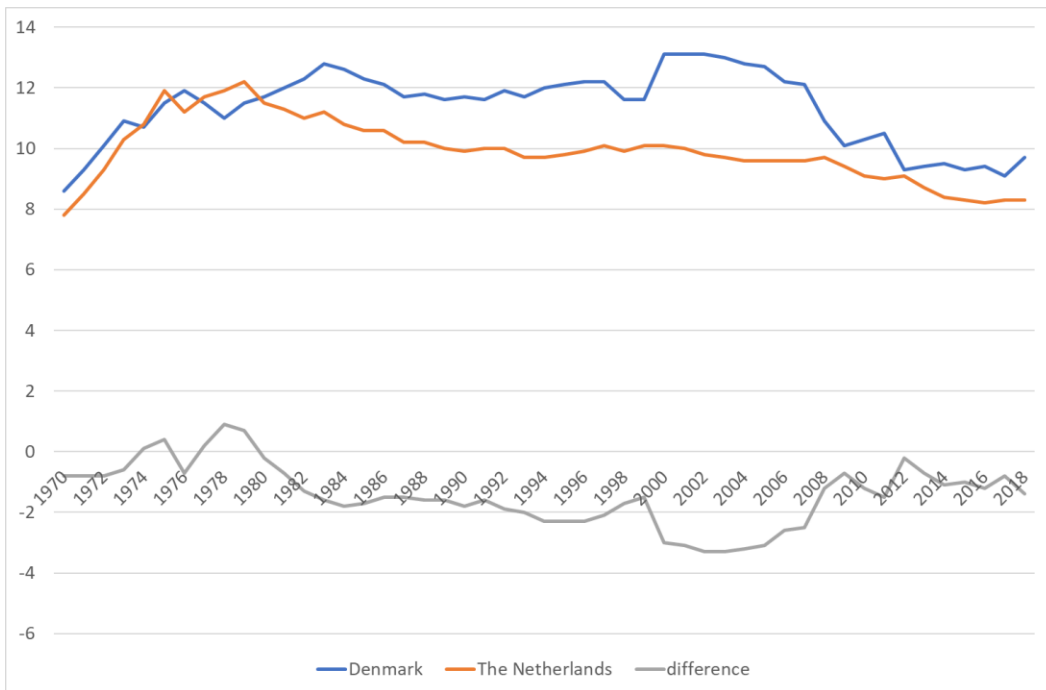
	Denmark	Netherlands	Difference
1960	2	4	-2
1965	2	3	-1
1970	2	2	0
1975	3	3	0
1980	3	3	0
1985	4	5	-1
1990	5	8	-3
1995	6	9	-3
2000	7	10	-3
2005	8	11	-3
2010	9	11	-2

Source: World Bank

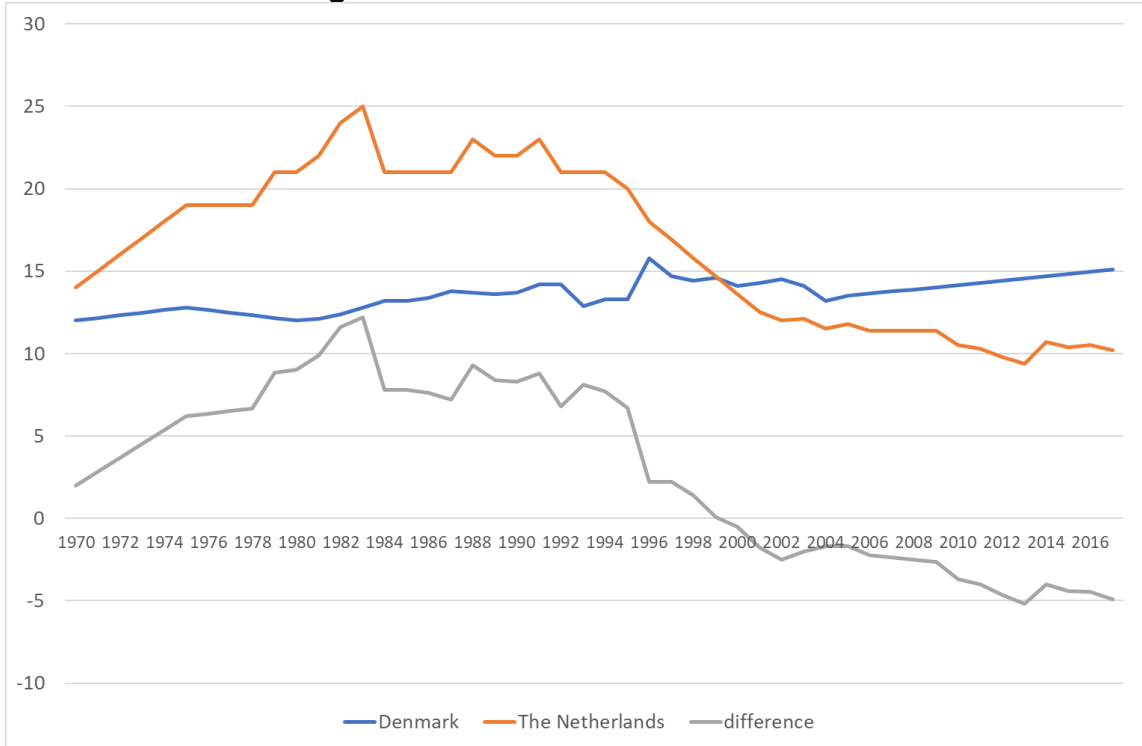
## % foreign borns



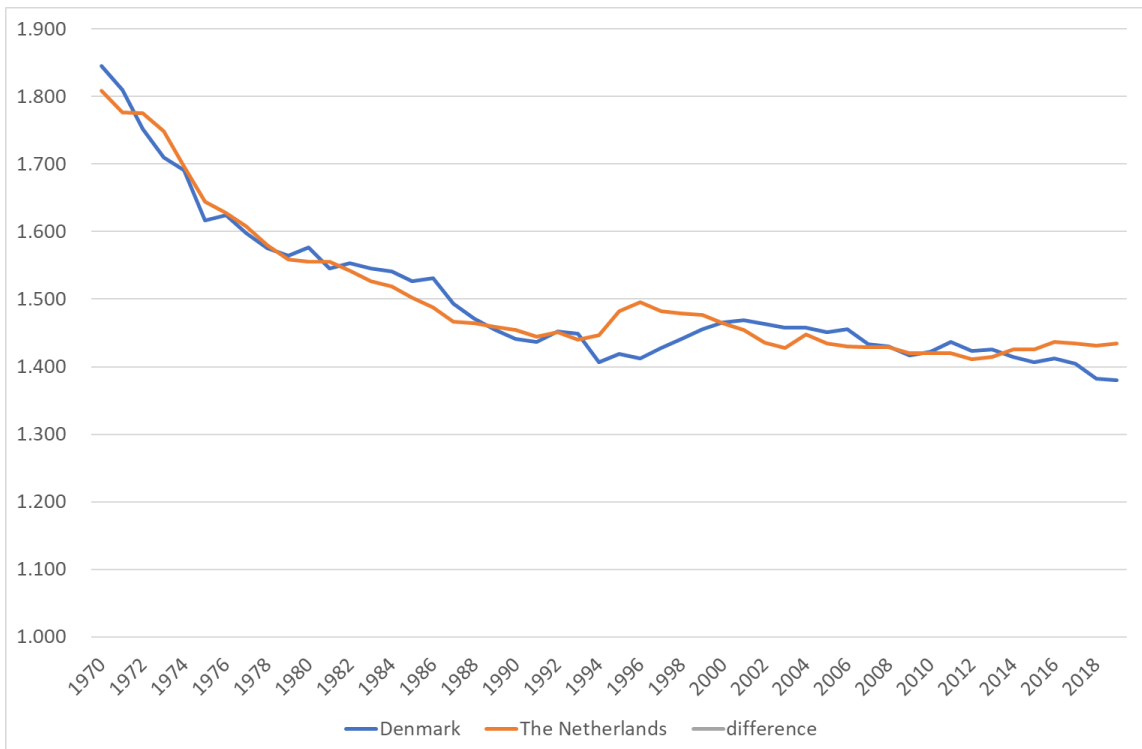
## Trend in Alcohol consumption



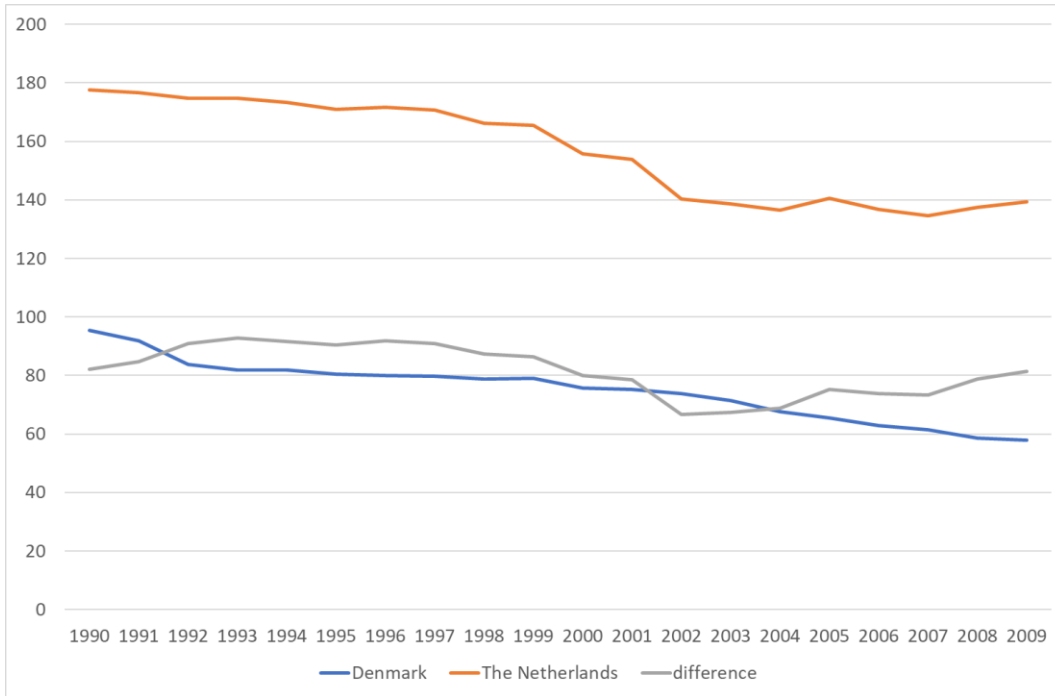
### Trend in tobacco usage



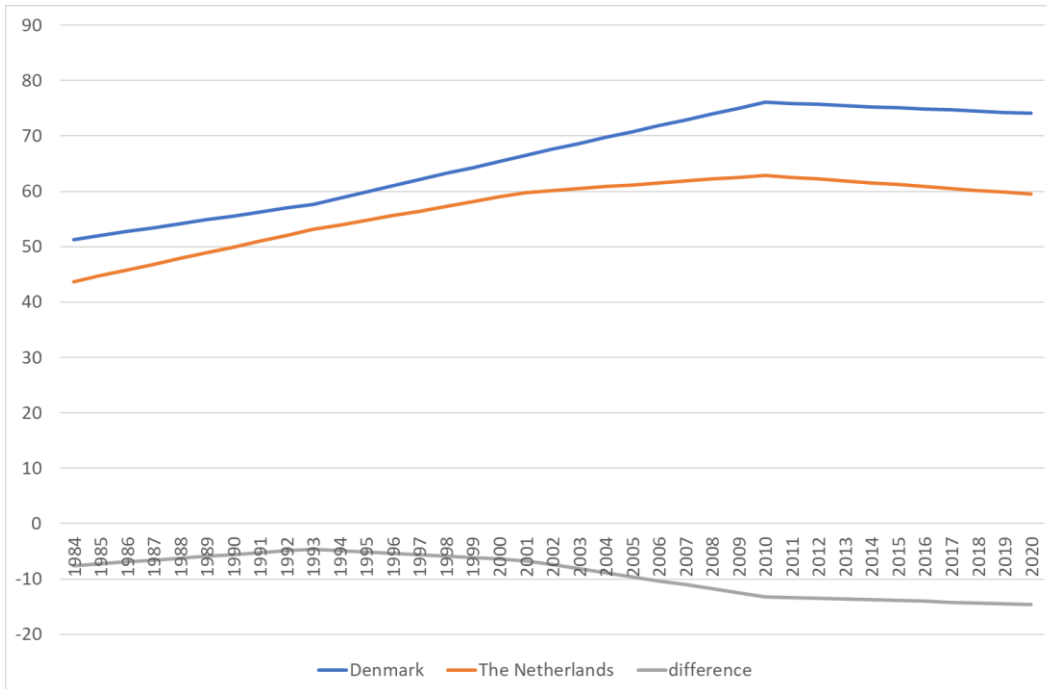
### Trend in working hours



## Trend in psychiatric hospitals

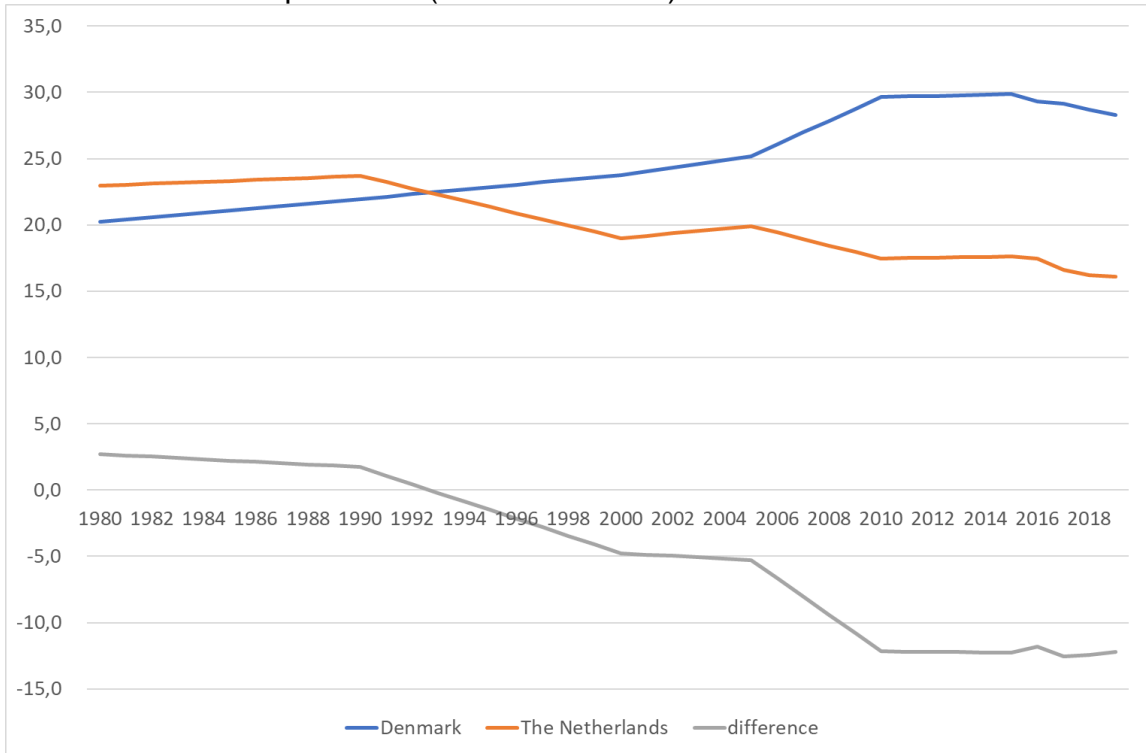


## Trend in social trust



Source: EVS/WVS (some datapoints have been interpolated)

### Trend in Welfare expenditure (OECD definition)





## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> The 'range' is the interval between the highest and lowest country score on this variable, that is the 'actual range' (instead of the theoretically possible range).

<sup>2</sup> R. Veenhoven, States of Nations: Data set to be used for the cross-national analysis of happiness. Assessed June 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 at:  
[http://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl/statnat/statnat\\_fp.htm](http://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl/statnat/statnat_fp.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Average of performance of 15 years aged on 1) mathematics, 2) reading, 3) science and 4) identification of scientific issues.  
Taken from: <http://pisacountry.acer.edu.au>

<sup>4</sup> City states Hong Kong and Singapore excluded