

# POPULISM, POLARIZATION, & PEACE

# POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE PEACE

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## Negative Peace

- Absence of direct violence
- Absence of fear of violence



Global Peace Index,  
Global Terrorism Index

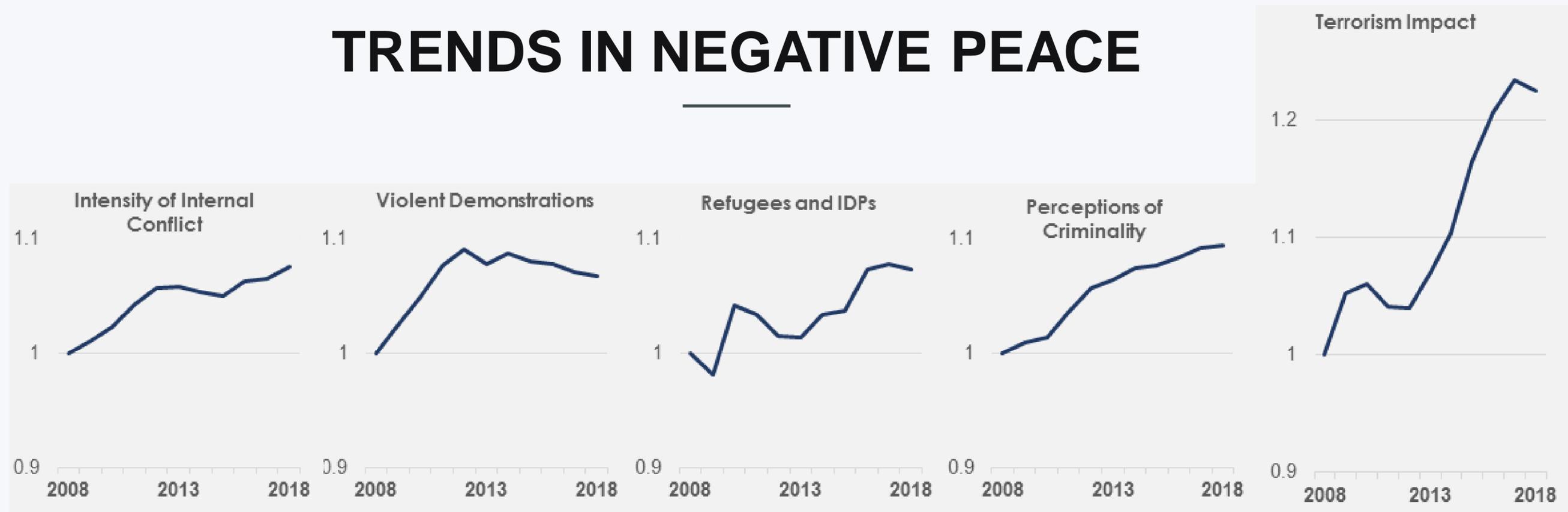
## Positive Peace

Attitudes, institutions and  
structures which sustain  
peace.



Positive Peace Index

# TRENDS IN NEGATIVE PEACE

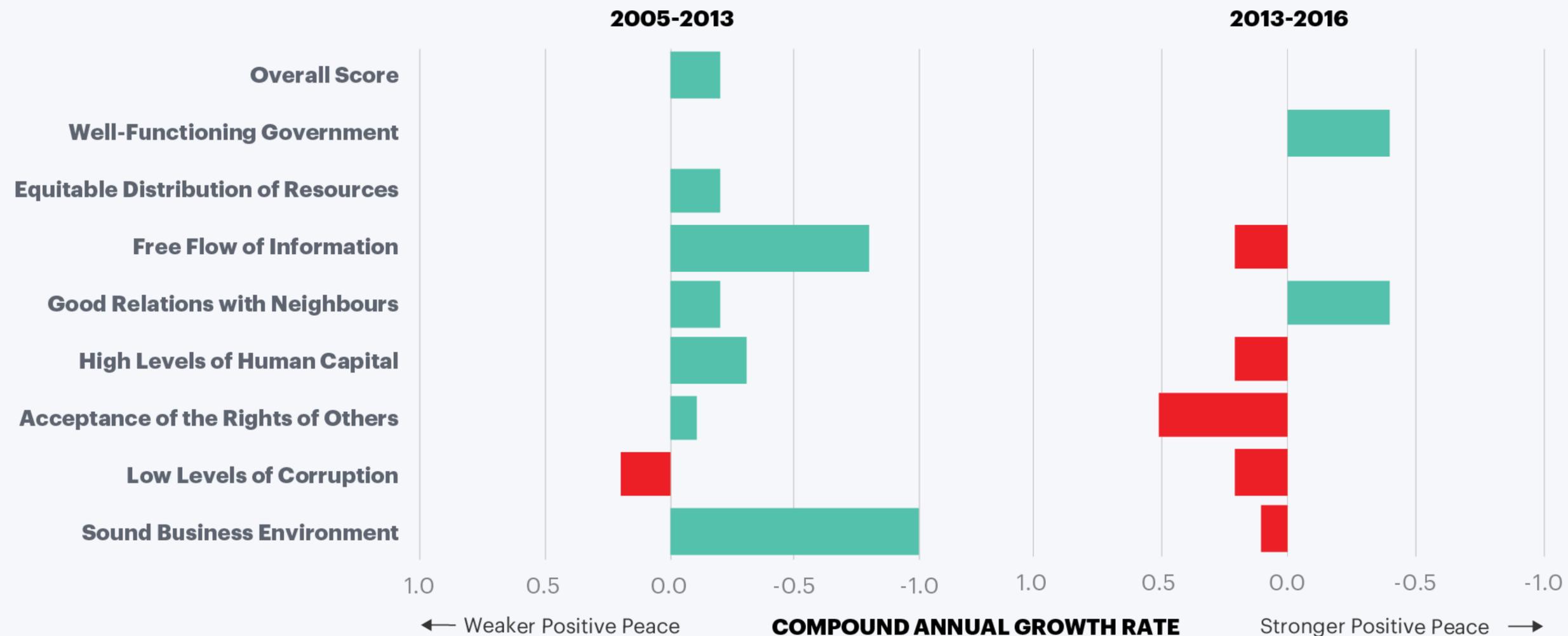


- Increased likelihood of violent demonstrations (increase in social unrest)
- Refugee Crisis – nearly 1% of the global population is displaced
- Increasing perceptions of criminality – fear of crime and distrust is increasing, especially in the OECD
- Spread of terrorism in both conflict and non-conflict environments
- Increased intensity of internal conflict – the end point of populism and polarization

# TRENDS IN POSITIVE PEACE

## Global change in Positive Peace Pillars, 2005-13 & 2013-16

Five Pillars – Acceptance of the Rights of Others, High Levels of Human Capital, Free Flow of Information, Low Levels of Corruption and Sound Business Environment – show an average deterioration post 2013.



Source: IEP

# OVERARCHING TREND – GROWING INSTABILITY

- The world is becoming less peaceful, in both positive and negative terms
- Deteriorations in perceptions of criminality, impact of terrorism, internal conflict, increased impact of refugee crisis
- Notable deterioration in the Acceptance of the Rights of Others, particularly related to group grievances
- These deteriorations have been most notable in traditionally peaceful countries and regions.
- What is going on in countries with high levels of Positive Peace?

## A less peaceful Europe

GPI score, European countries, % change, 2015-2018

**Less peaceful**

**More peaceful**



Data source: IEP

# POPULISM AND POLARIZATION

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## POPULISM

**Anti-establishment:** appeals to the wisdom and virtue of ordinary people. Support for majoritarian decision making

**Authoritarian:** Strong and charismatic leadership

**Nationalist/Traditionalist:** Nativism, isolationism, nostalgic, mistrustful of outsiders

## POLARIZATION

The divergence of attitudes (political, social, economic) to the extremes

Reflected in diverging social, cultural, media consumption

Increasing inequality (income)

Can be within groups or across groups

Gender, Class, Identity, Age, Geography

# POSITIVE PEACE, POPULISM, AND POLARIZATION

*The attitudes, institutions and structures that sustain a peaceful society.*

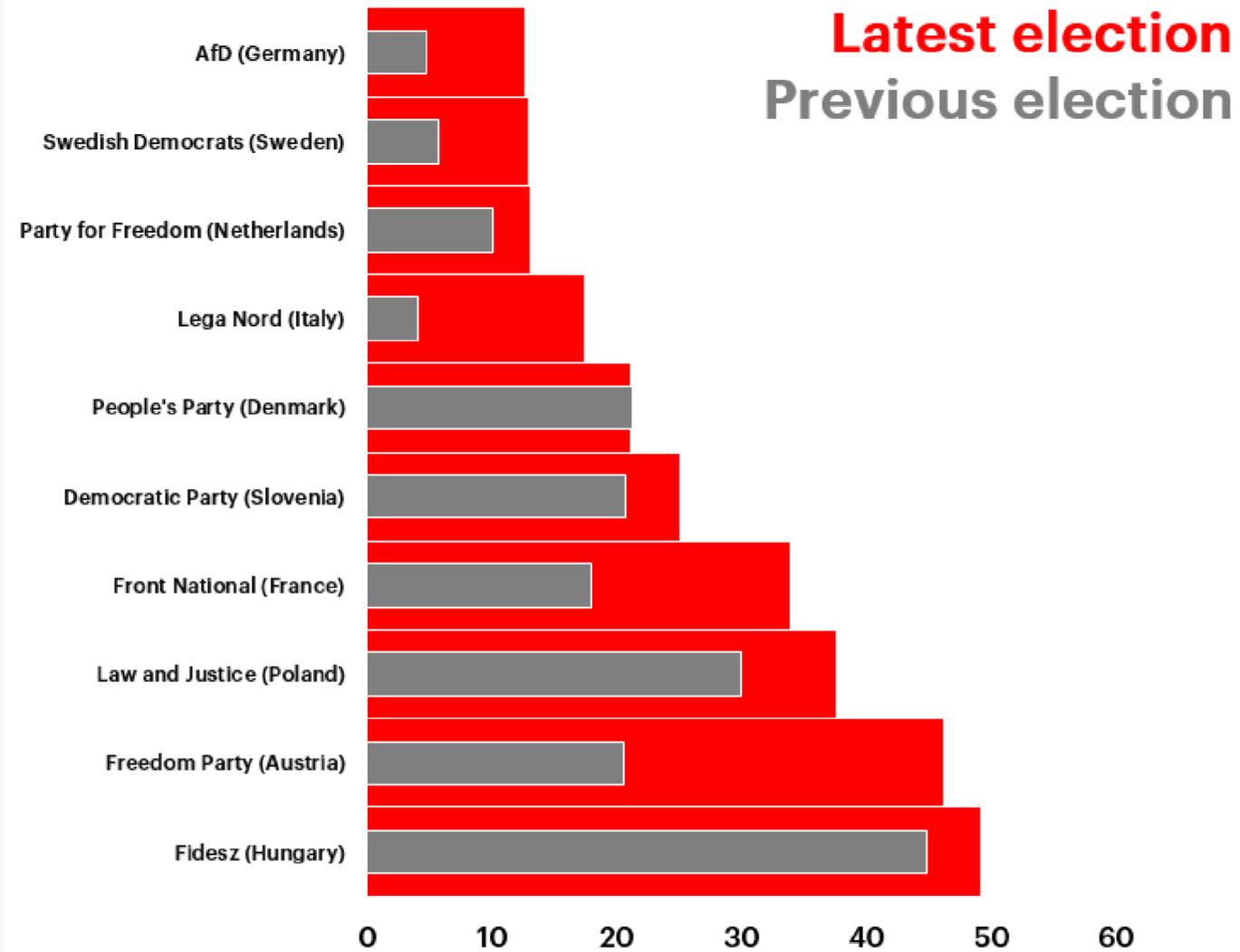


Pillar of Positive Peace	Populist / Polarization Factor
Well-Functioning Government	Political polarization, populist parties
Sound Business Environment	Protectionism, Anti-corporate sentiment
Low Levels of Corruption	Populist anti-corruption campaigns
Equitable Distribution of Resources	Income Inequality
Free Flow of Information	Media polarization, non-traditional media
Good Relations With Neighbours	Secession, regional disintegration
Acceptance of the Rights of Others	Anti-immigrant sentiment, political violence
High Levels of Human Capital	Educational inequality, anti-expert sentiment

# TRENDS IN POPULISM

## National wave

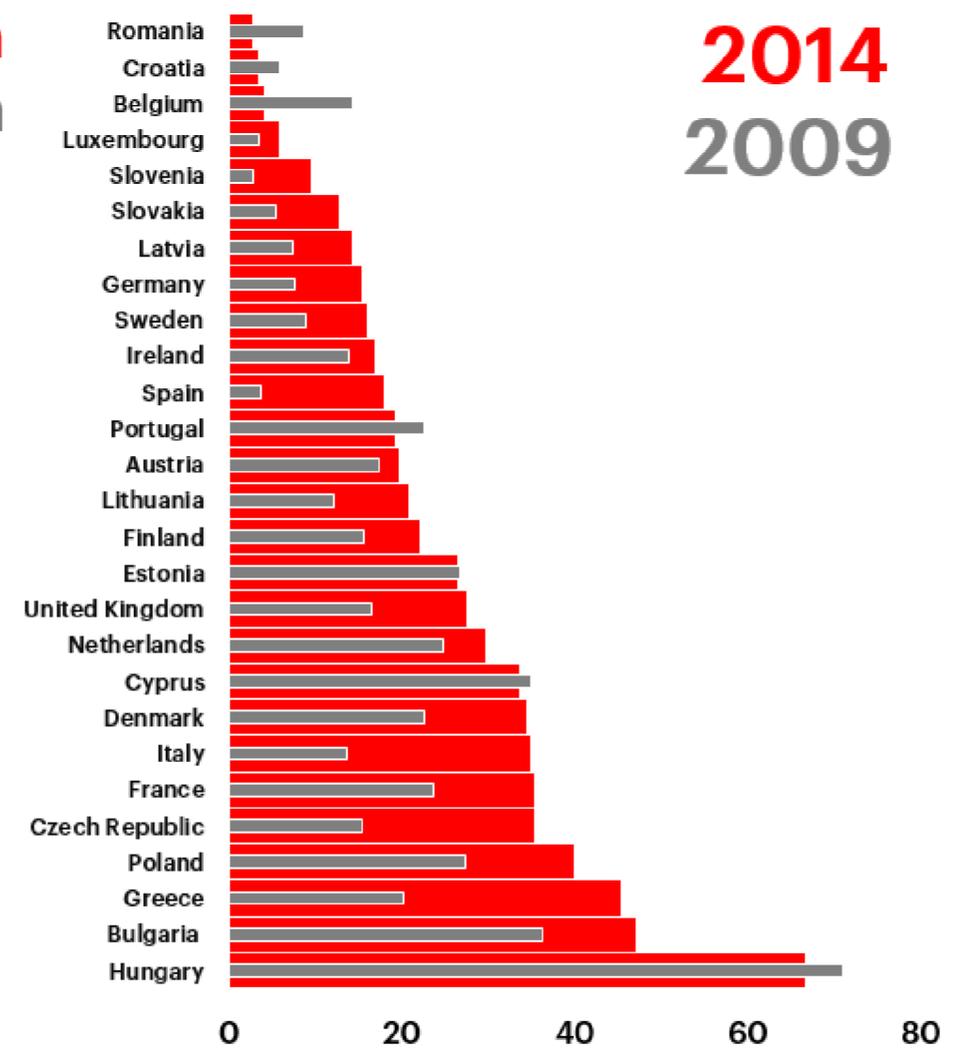
% vote share, national parliamentary elections, right-wing populist parties



Data source: European Election Database

## European wave

% vote share, all populist parties, EP elections



# DATA CHALLENGES

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- **What is measured:** Which indicators, which groups, how is it disaggregated.
  - Compare census data in the US (racial categories) with France
- **When it is measured:** Survey, attitudinal data is often a reflection of prevailing concerns, thus questions about terrorism may only be asked in the wake of a significant terrorist attack. Hard to construct a narrative around populism and polarization in the years that these issues are not on the radar
  - Compare availability of European Social Survey with GSS from the US
- **How it is measured:** differences in reporting procedures, particularly related to indicators of crime and violence impossible (still an issue in countries with large, sophisticated NSOs). Makes comparisons across countries impossible.
  - Related issue with comparisons within countries: Surveys often only done at the national level (eg. Crime Survey of England and Wales) masking subnational trends

# THE RISE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE

- **Why is it such an important issue?**  
Concerns around populism and polarization may just naturally fade over time
- However, the increase of open political violence in the US and elsewhere, coupled with falling Positive Peace, suggests widespread political instability is a serious possibility (note also increase in internal conflict in many countries)

