

Longing for democracy  
vs. malaise of democracy:  
the hidden link.

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# What is the problem?

- Two phenomena in different areas with no apparent connections
- Is there a link? If so, what is it?
  - Let's explore it in authoritarianisms and in democracies?
- Conclusions: toward a compatible democracy?

# The phenomena and the areas

- Dissatisfaction about democracy: a large literature with normative and empirical perspectives
  - a recent new upsurge with global protest all over the democratic world; plus the crisis of euro with change of cabinets in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece, and related protests
- Search for democratic paths in the Arab Spring
  - elections in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, planned in Yemen
  - but entire area is involved: about 20 countries

# What is the link?

- Failures in delivering collective goods
- That is: looking for responsiveness
  - for democracies
  - for authoritarianisms

# For authoritarianisms

- Crisis and breakdown or continuous transition of civil, rightist, old authoritarianisms (Spain and Portugal)
- Crisis and breakdown or continuous transition of military regimes (Argentina, Brazil and Chile, Uruguay, and others)
- Crisis and continuous transition of communist authoritarianisms (Eastern Europe), complemented by international factors
- Crisis and continuous transition in East Asia

# Can we conceive responsiveness inside authoritarianisms?

- Linz: limited, non responsible pluralism
- responsiveness toward elite for traditional authoritarianisms
- societal responsiveness?
- concerning non material and material goods:
  - Taiwan and South Korea
  - Egypt
  - Russia
- Suppression
- Personal rule

## Why can/should we now analyze responsiveness inside authoritarianisms?

- Their transformation toward more open and partially competitive regimes
  - Electoral authoritarianism: primacy of popular consent, manipulation of elections, minimal party competition
- Transformation toward hybrid regimes
  - Where traditional, populist, personal legitimation are also important
- Explanatory factors: democratization processes and diffusion of media

# What happens inside democracies?

- Definition of democratic responsiveness:  
the capacity of government of satisfying the governed by executing its policies in a way that corresponds to their demands (Dahl)
- Indicators and measures:
  - Perceived Legitimacy: satisfaction with democracy
  - Constraints to responsiveness: Public Debt (% GDP)
- Connections with other dimensions: which ones?



# How assess a democracy: the qualities

1. a product is the result of a exact, controlled process carried out according to precise, recurring methods and timing (*procedure*);
- 2. the structural characteristics of a product (design, materials, functioning of the good, or other details) (*content*);
- 3. indirectly derived from the satisfaction expressed by the customer, who requests again the same product or service (*result*).

# Connection with other dimensions

procedures:

- **Rule of law**
- **Electoral Accountability**
- **Inter-institutional Accountability**
- **Participation**
- **Competition**

Result:

- **Responsiveness**

Content:

- **Freedom**
- **Equality/solidarity**

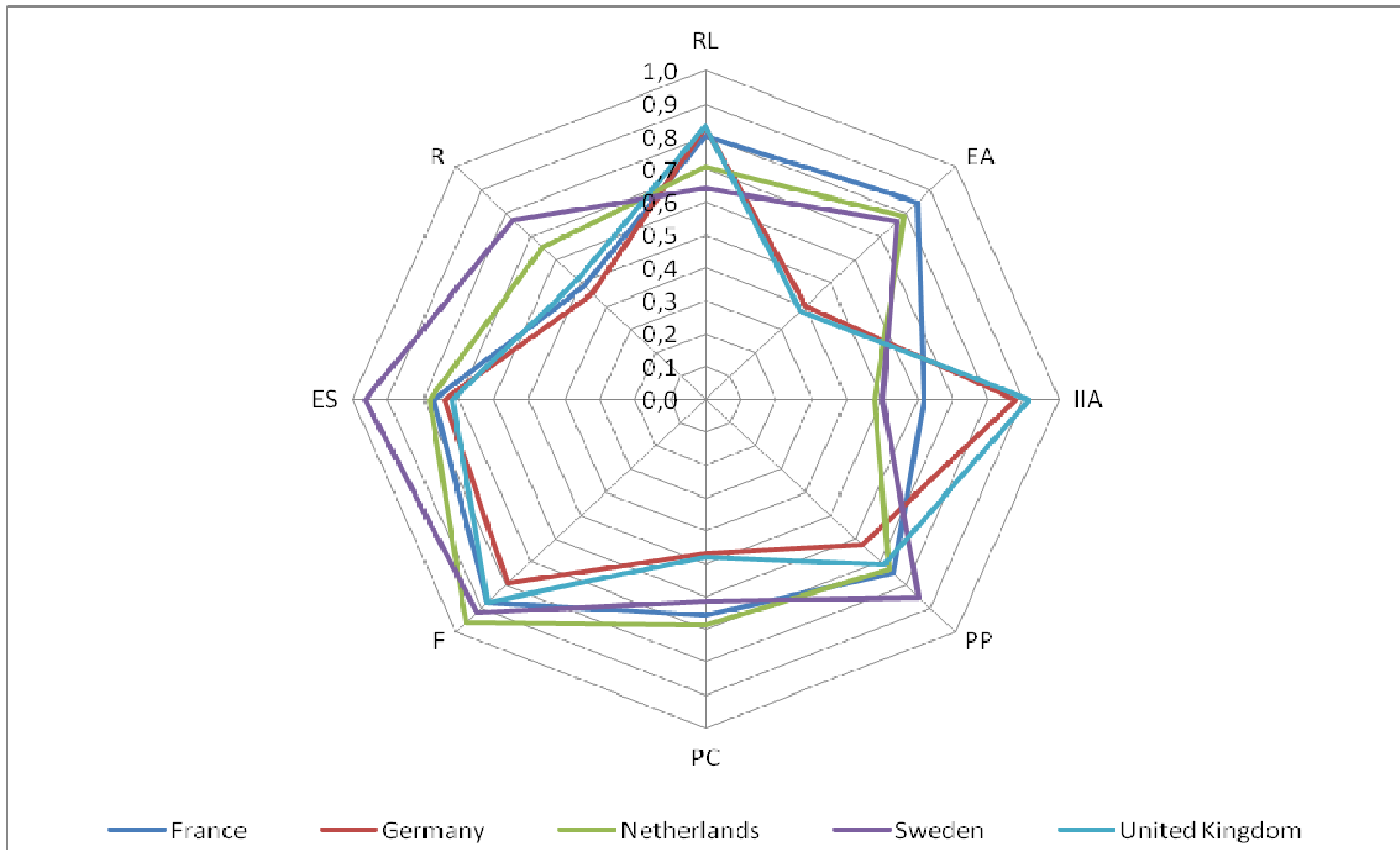
## TODEM: procedural sub-dimensions & selected indicators

Dimens.	subdimensions	indicators	sources
Rule of law	Individual security and civil order; Independent judiciary Institutional and administrative capacity; Absence of corruption; Civil control of military	Physical Integrity Rights; Index Independence of the central judicial organ(s); Government effectiveness; Corruption Perceptions Index; Executive Power over Military Force	Cingranelli & Richards – Human Rights Dataset; Comparative Constitution Project; World Bank Governance Indicators; Trasparency International; Institutions and Elections Project
Elec Account	Free fair recurrent elections; Freedom of party organization- related aspects; Presence/ stability of alternatives	Electoral Process; Freedom of Assembly and Association; Effective number of electoral parties	Freedom House; Cingranelli & Richards – Human Rights Dataset; Golden
Inst Account	Legislative-Executive relations; Constitutional Court; Ombudsman; Audit Courts; Plural/ independent information; Modes/extent of decentralization	Executive Constraints; Constitutional Court; Ombudsman; Specialized courts in the constitution; Freedom of the press; Federalism Index	Polity IV; Comparative Constitution Project; Gerring-Thacker Project
Compet	Competition among Actors; Competition within Actors; Effective Alternation; Opposition Strenght; size of the opposition	Competition; Fractionalization of the Party systems Alternation Index Opposition Fractionalization Opposition Vote Share (%)	Vanhanen Database of Political Institutions; Database of Political Institutions; Database of Political Institutions
Particip	Opportunities for Participation; Election Turnout; Political Participation; Illegal Political Participation	Rights of participation; Turnout in Parliamentary Election; Petitions; Boycotts; Demonstrations; Unofficial strikes; Occupying buildings	Freedom House IDEAWVS-EVS and Latino Barometro WVS-EVS and Latino Barometro

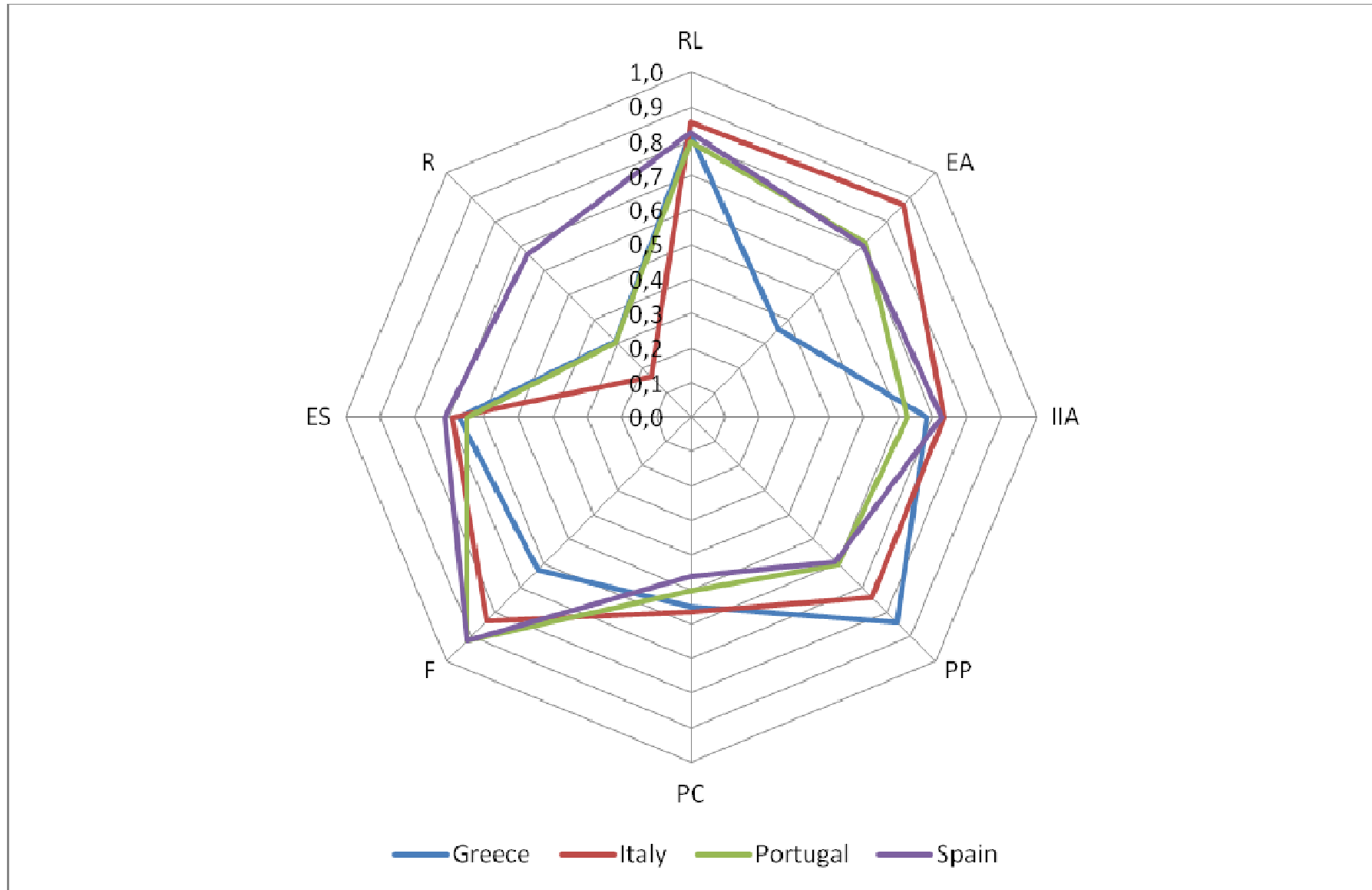
## TODEM: Content and result sub-dimensions & selected indicators

dimensions	subdimensions	indicators	sources
Freedom	Personal Dignity; Civil Rights; Political Rights	Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights Empowerment Rights Index Political Rights	Freedom House Cingranelli & Richards – Human Rights Dataset Freedom House Cingranelli & Richards – Human Rights Dataset
Equality	Distribution of Resources; Existence of Economic Discrimination; Social, security and cultural rights	Gini Index Women’s Economic Rights Human Development Index	UNU-WIDER – World Income Inequality Database Cingranelli & Richards – Human Rights Dataset UNDP – Human Development Report
Responsiv.	Perceived Legitimacy; Constraints to Responsiveness	Satisfaction with the way democracy develops; Confidence in Parliament; Public debt (% GDP)	WVS-EVS and Latino Barometro; C.I.A. Facts book

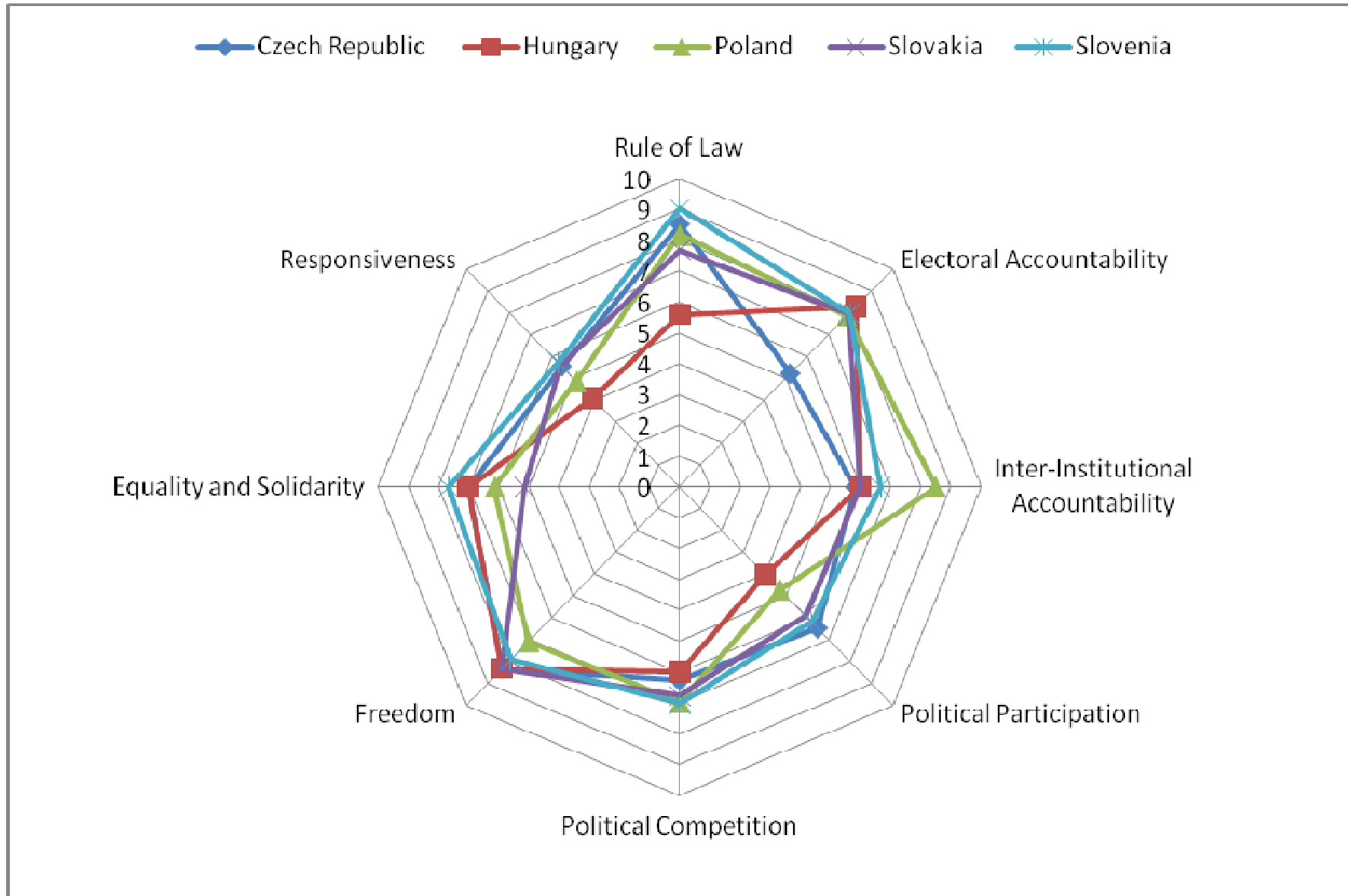
## *The web of qualities: North and Centre Europe (selected countries)*



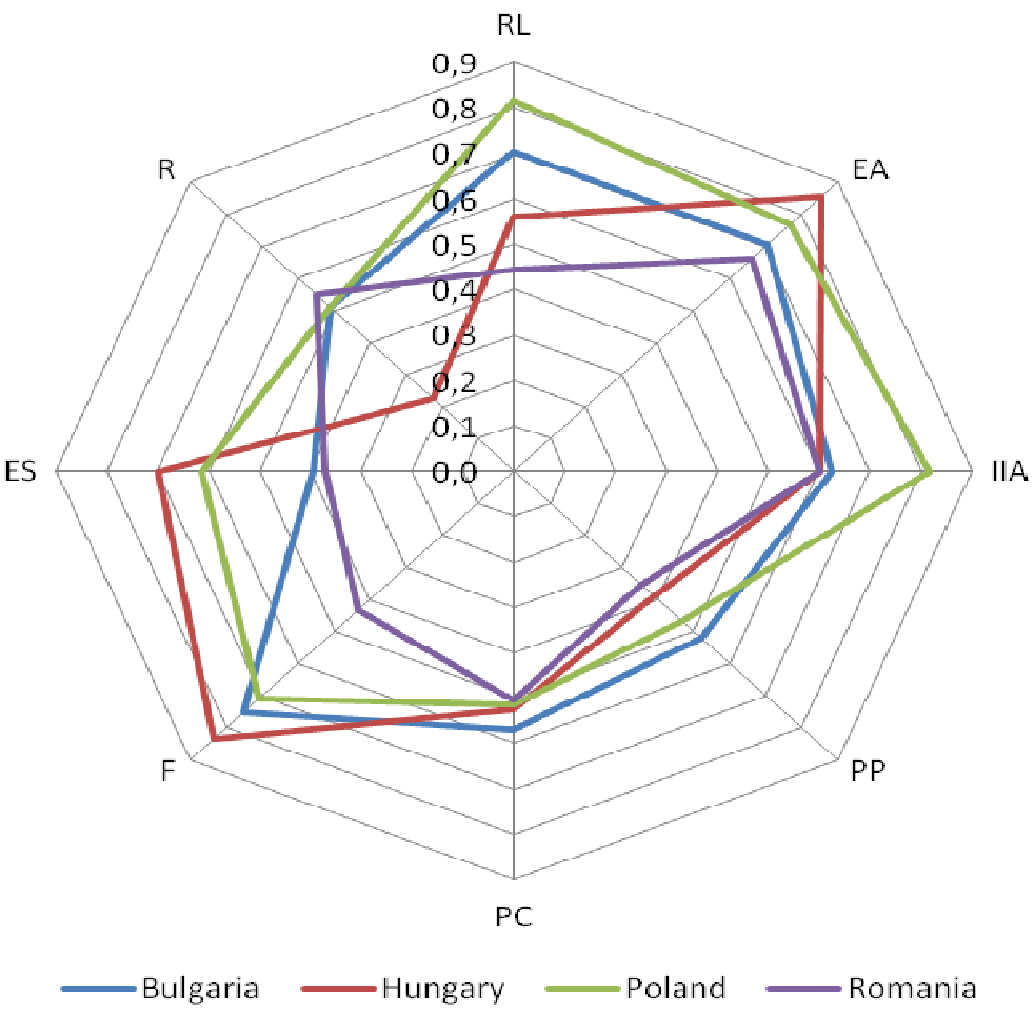
# *The web of qualities: South Europe*



# Eastern Europe – Central Countries

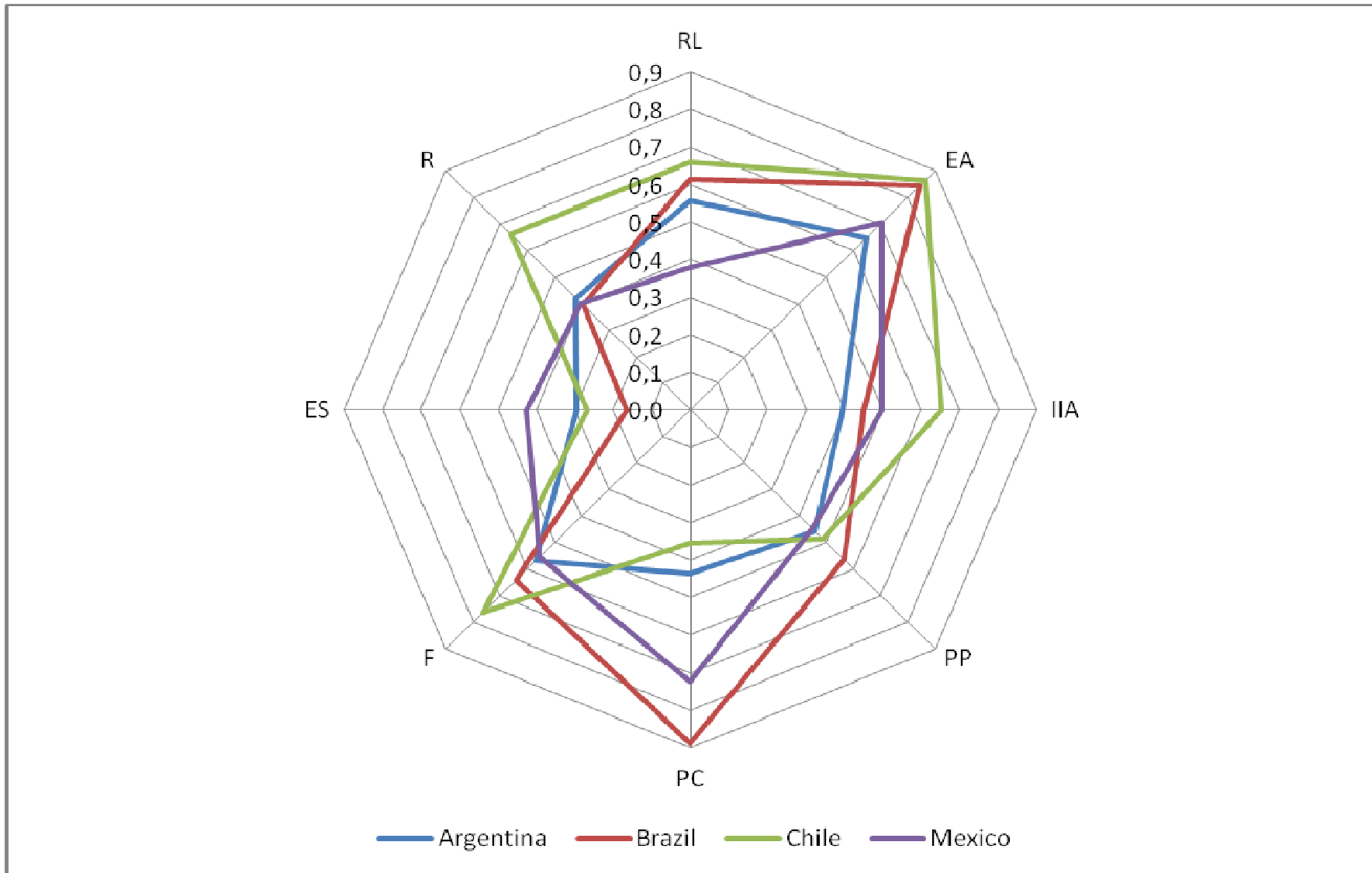


*The web of qualities: East Europe (selected countries)*

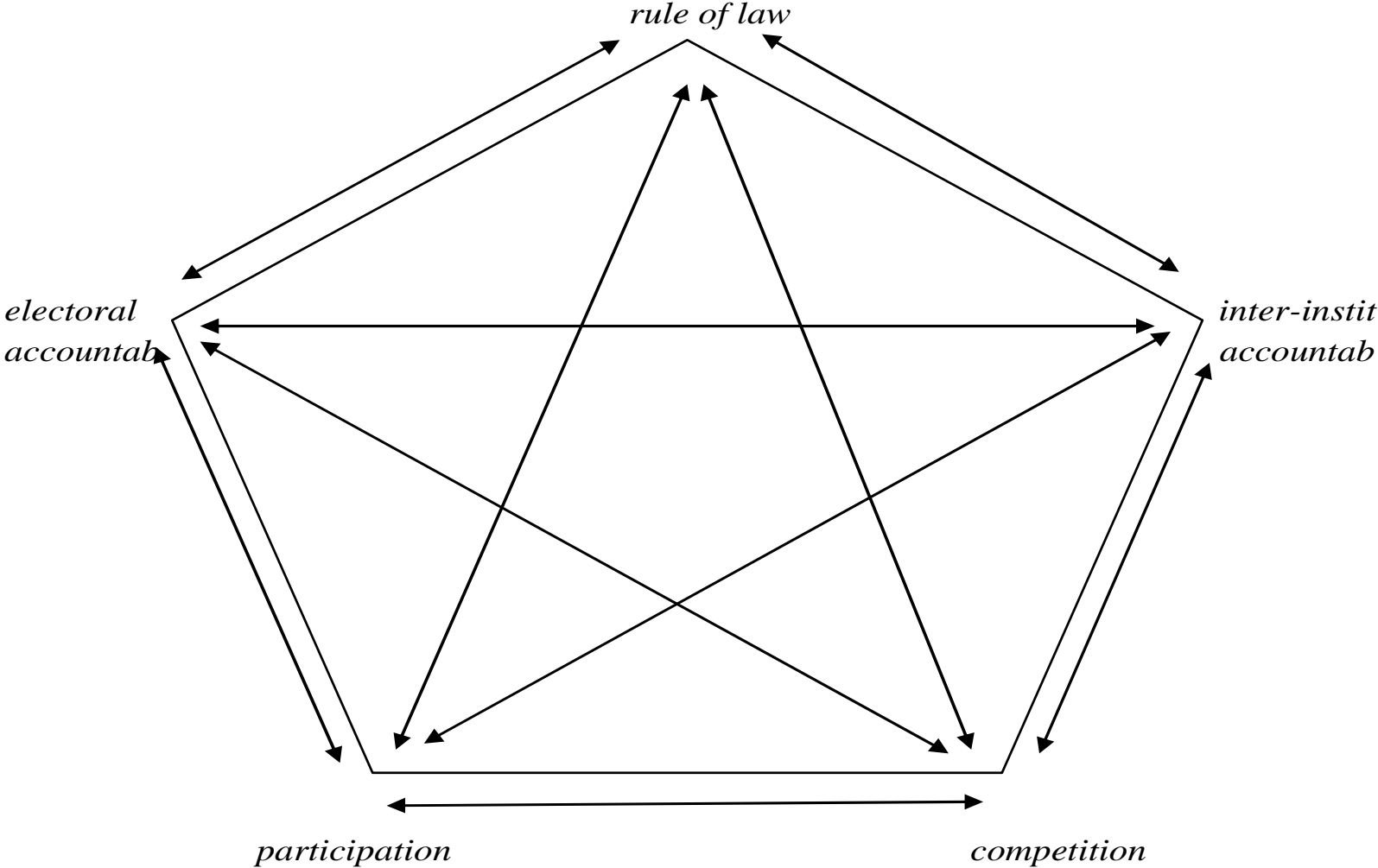




## *The web of qualities: Latin America (selected countries)*



Connections among procedural dimensions



*Rule of law, Inter-Institutional Accountability, and More (selected correlations)*

RoL ◀▶ I-IAcc = .53

EAcc ◀▶ I-IAcc = .28 / EAcc ◀▶ I-IAcc (plural, indep.info) = .73

EAcc (electoral process) ◀▶ I-IAcc = .33

EAcc (political process) ◀▶ I-IAcc (plural, independent info) = .83

PP ◀▶ I-IAcc = .36

PP (Non conventional PP) ◀▶ I-IAcc = .27

PC (competition among actors) ◀▶ I-IAcc = .22

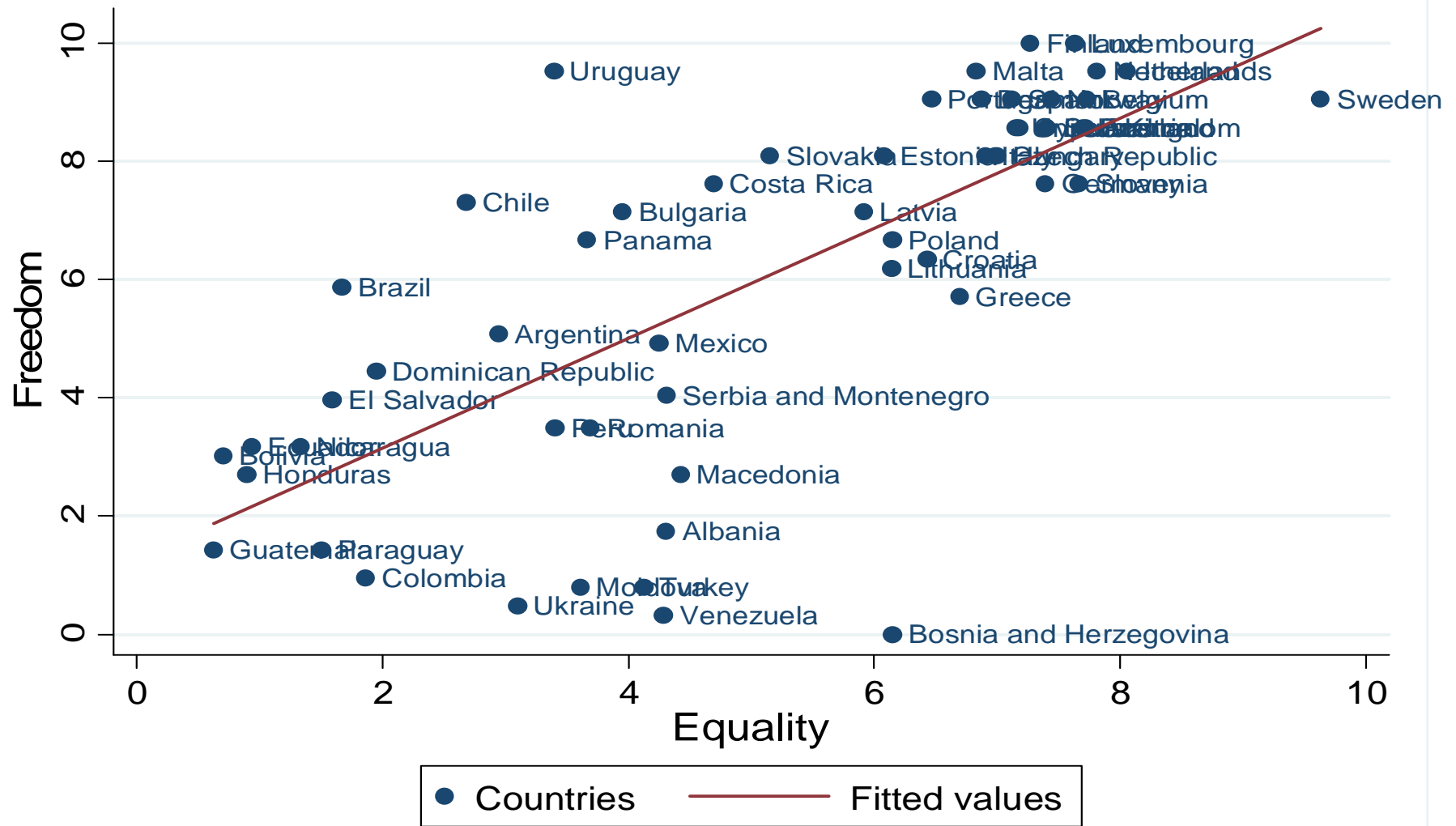
F ◀▶ I-IAcc = .27

F ◀▶ I-IAcc (plural, independent info) = .93

Freedom (political rights) ◀▶ I-IAcc = .35

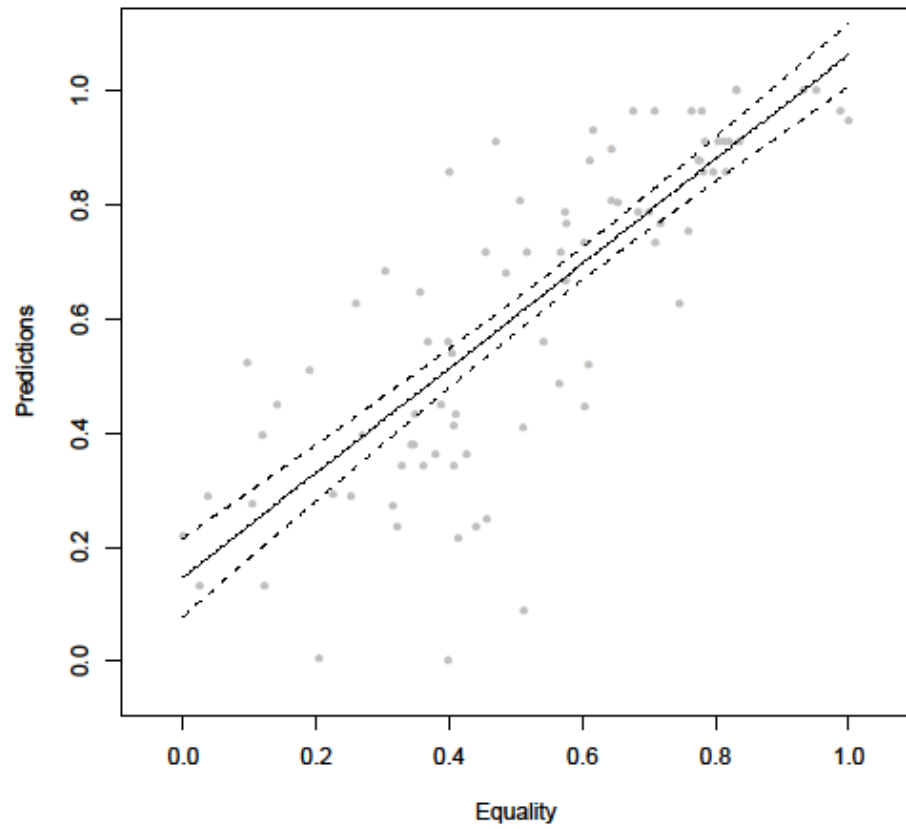
ES ◀▶ I-IAcc = .39

# Equality and Freedom

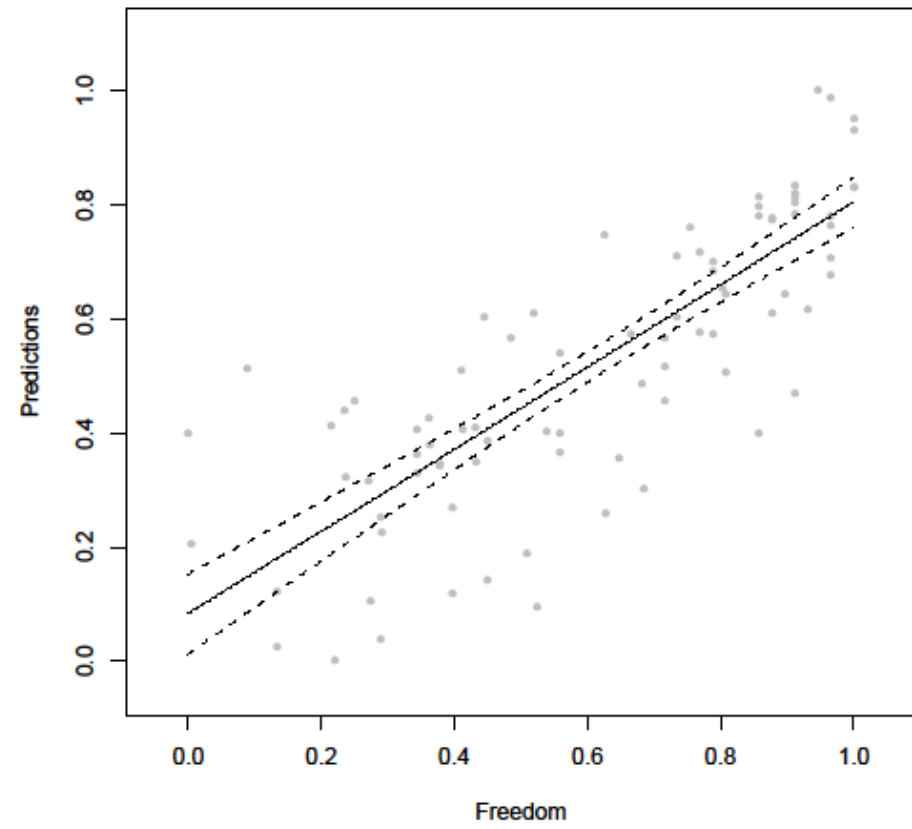


Source: TODEM (2010)

**Freedom**



**Equality**



# Responsiveness: the weakest link (I)?

- relevant factors: integrity (RL4), autonomous role of constitutional court (I-IAcc2), effective alternation (PC3), social and cultural rights (ES3), but low variance ( $R^2$ ) is explained: .18/.20.
- R1 (perceived legitimacy) ◀▶ RL1 (individual security)= .49
- R1 (perceived legitimacy) ◀▶ EAcc =.28
- R1 (perceived legitimacy) ◀▶ I-IAcc4 (plural, independent info) = .60
- Responsiveness ◀▶ I-IAcc5 (decentralization) = . 27
  
- Responsiveness ◀▶ all sub-dimensions of competition: weak links  
– (PC1 =.19, PC2 =.19, PC3= .20)
  
- R1 (perceived legitimacy) ◀▶ participation = . 65

# Responsiveness: the weakest link (II)?

- R1 (perceived legitimacy) ◀▶ freedom = .64
- R1 (perceived legitimacy) ◀▶ all sub-dimensions of equality
  - fairly salient: ES1= .43, ES2 =.46, **ES3 = .72.**

# Where is the responsiveness?

VARIABLES	(1) R	(2) R	(3) R	(4) R	(5) R	(6) R	(7) R
RL-1	0.0425 (0.0929)						
RL-2	0.0270 (0.0678)						
RL-3	-0.0709 (0.0915)						
RL-4	0.227** (0.0972)						
RL-5	-0.00817 (0.0441)						
EA-1		0.0651 (0.0826)					
EA-2		0.0143 (0.0506)					
EA-3		0.0446 (0.105)					
I-IA-1			0.0547 (0.0706)				
I-IA-2			-0.0889* (0.0447)				
I-IA-3			-0.0831 (0.0908)				
I-IA-4			0.127 (0.0760)				
I-IA-5			0.0222 (0.0652)				
PP-1				0.0846 (0.0942)			
PP-2				-0.134 (0.112)			
PP-3				0.145 (0.129)			
PP-4				0.0670 (0.131)			
PC-1					0.105 (0.112)		
PC-2					0.109 (0.114)		
PC-3					-0.151** (0.0656)		
F-1						0.164 (0.114)	
F-2						0.0768 (0.102)	
F-3						-0.0395 (0.0923)	
ES-1							-0.0529 (0.0927)
ES-2							0.0210 (0.100)
ES-3							0.198* (0.107)
Constant	0.415*** (0.0911)	0.435*** (0.0760)	0.464*** (0.0773)	0.454*** (0.0607)	0.544*** (0.0898)	0.400*** (0.0532)	0.422*** (0.0480)
Observations	49	52	48	54	52	55	55
R-squared	0.185	0.024	0.182	0.098	0.207	0.146	0.113



# Provisional conclusions (I)

- low salience of procedural qualities
- special salience of a sub-dimension content qualities
  - social rights
- connection equality/freedom
- so stronger connection with content rather than procedures

# Provisional conclusions (II)

- Diamond: "democracies....must demonstrate that they can solve governance problems and meet citizens' expectations for freedom, justice, a better life, and a fairer society".
- That is, responsiveness is crucial
- In a context of deep economic crisis, how can responsiveness be maintained?

# Provisional conclusions (III)

- No solution, except lowering expectations, that is, to accept consciously the possibility of a  
**compatible democracy**
- a democracy that is able to implement the levels of equality and freedom actually allowed by the resources the country has.
- an impossible goal or a wrong one for present and future democracies? For the processes of transition toward hybrid regimes or democracies?
- For sure, we expect a growth of internal conflict, as any time when there are fewer resources to allocate in a country