



TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY ACTION – USING DATA

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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Stimulating policy actions with data: Need to respond to three questions

1 What?

2 So what?

3 Now what?

➤ *“Without data, you’re just another person with an opinion”*

W. Edwards Deming



Stimulating policy actions with data

- 1 What?** Grab policy maker or general public attention by describing the problem in a compelling way (key facts)
- 2 So what?** Tell policy makers or general public why the problem is important (health and economic impacts)
- 3 Now what?** Outline policy options to address the problem, including potential benefits and costs



International comparisons can be a “starting point” to policy actions

- Comparisons of aggregate national data can be a useful starting point to identify potential problems and opportunities for improvement with best performing countries (eye opener)
- But need further disaggregation of data and analysis because:
 - There are important differences in contextual factors across countries (demography, economy, geography, etc.)
 - There can be as much variations within countries as across countries
- Need to follow tradition of “Open Comparisons” in Sweden:
 - Public reporting of comparisons across regions and providers, to stimulate further analysis and actions to improve performance

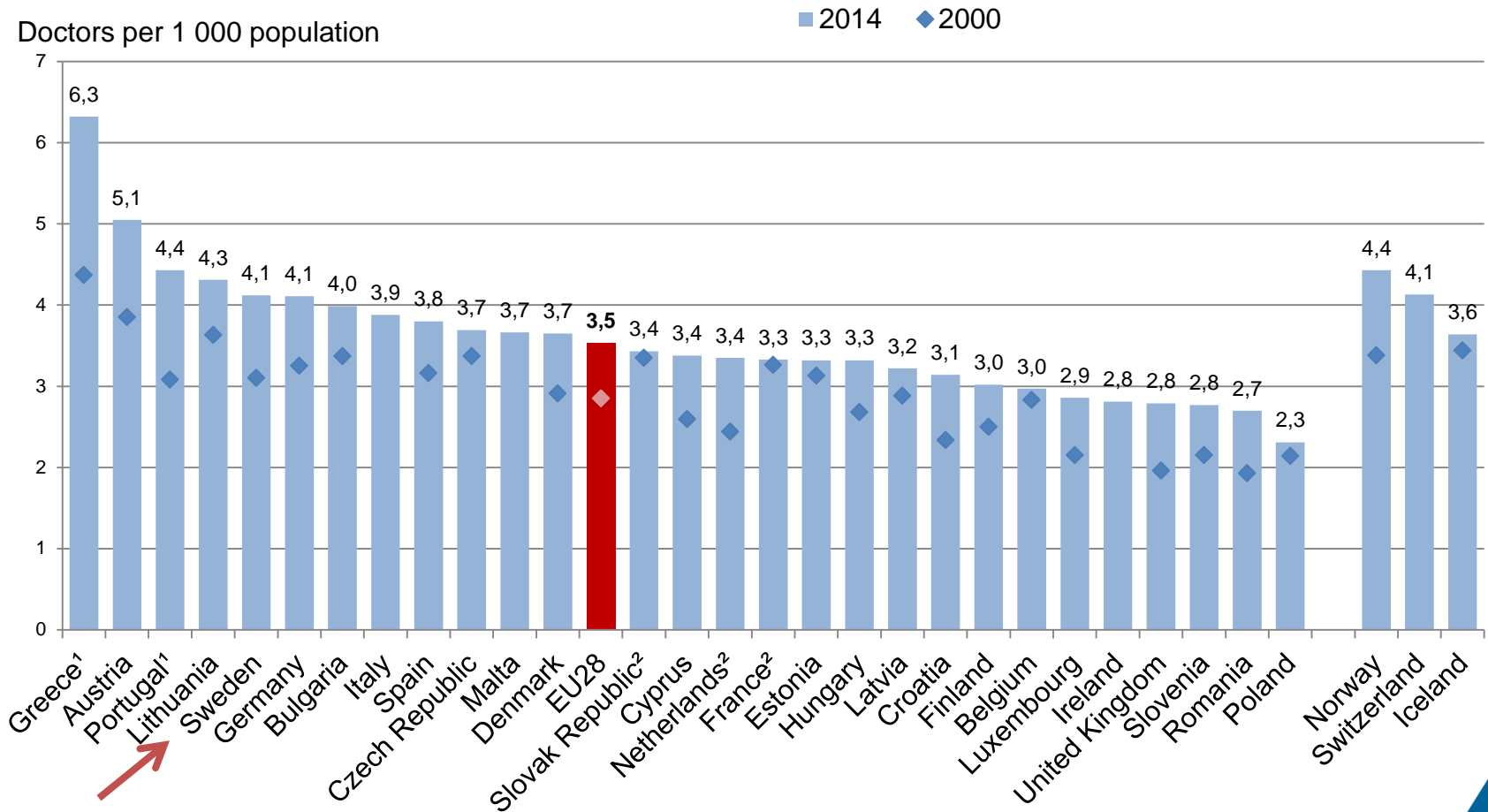


Examples of some basic international comparisons that have stimulated some policy reactions



Example 1: Activities of doctors in Sweden

The number of doctors in Sweden has increased and is relatively high

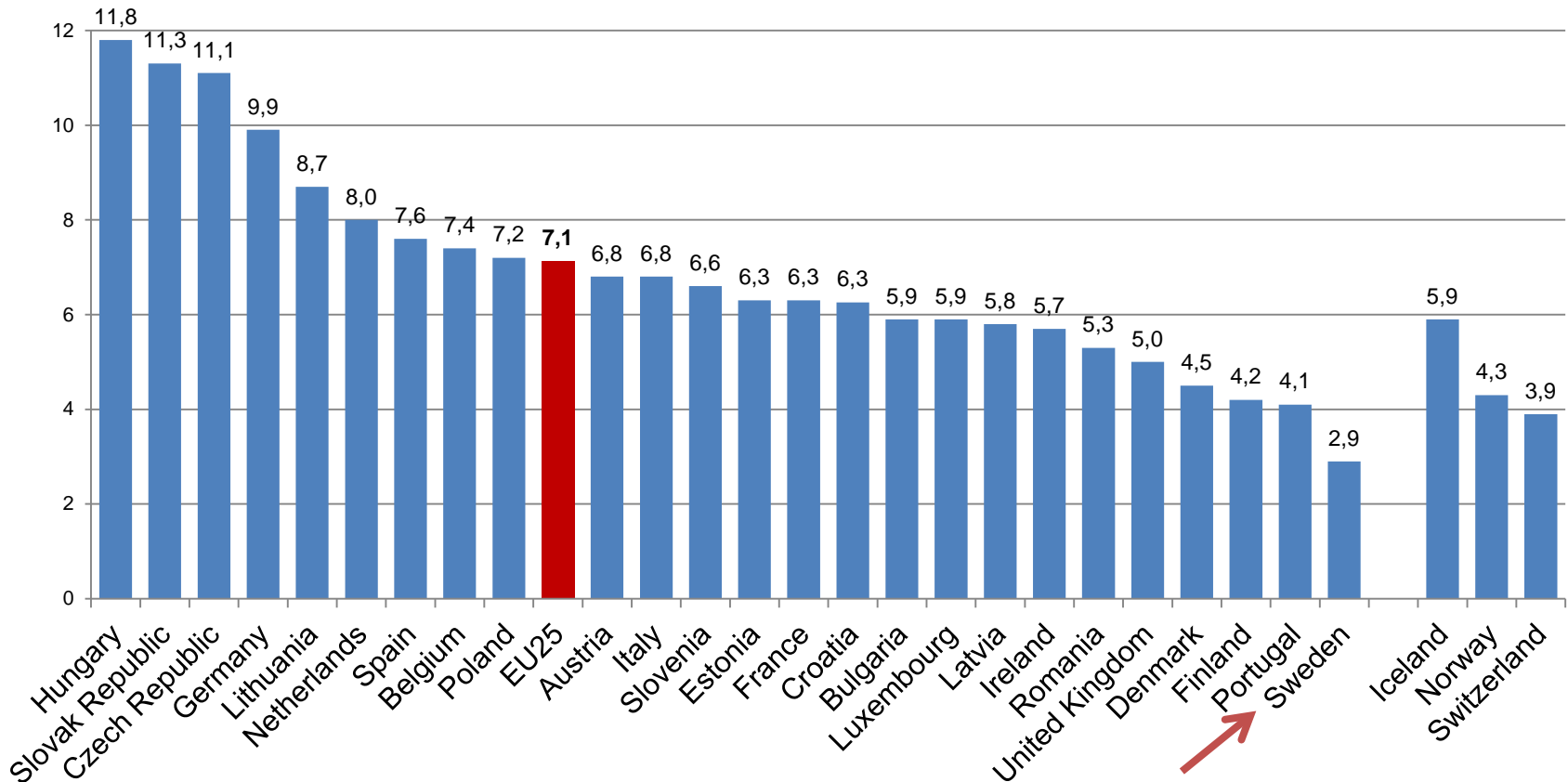


Source: Health at a Glance: Europe 2016



But Swedish people don't have a lot of consultations with doctors each year...

Annual consultations per person per year (2014)

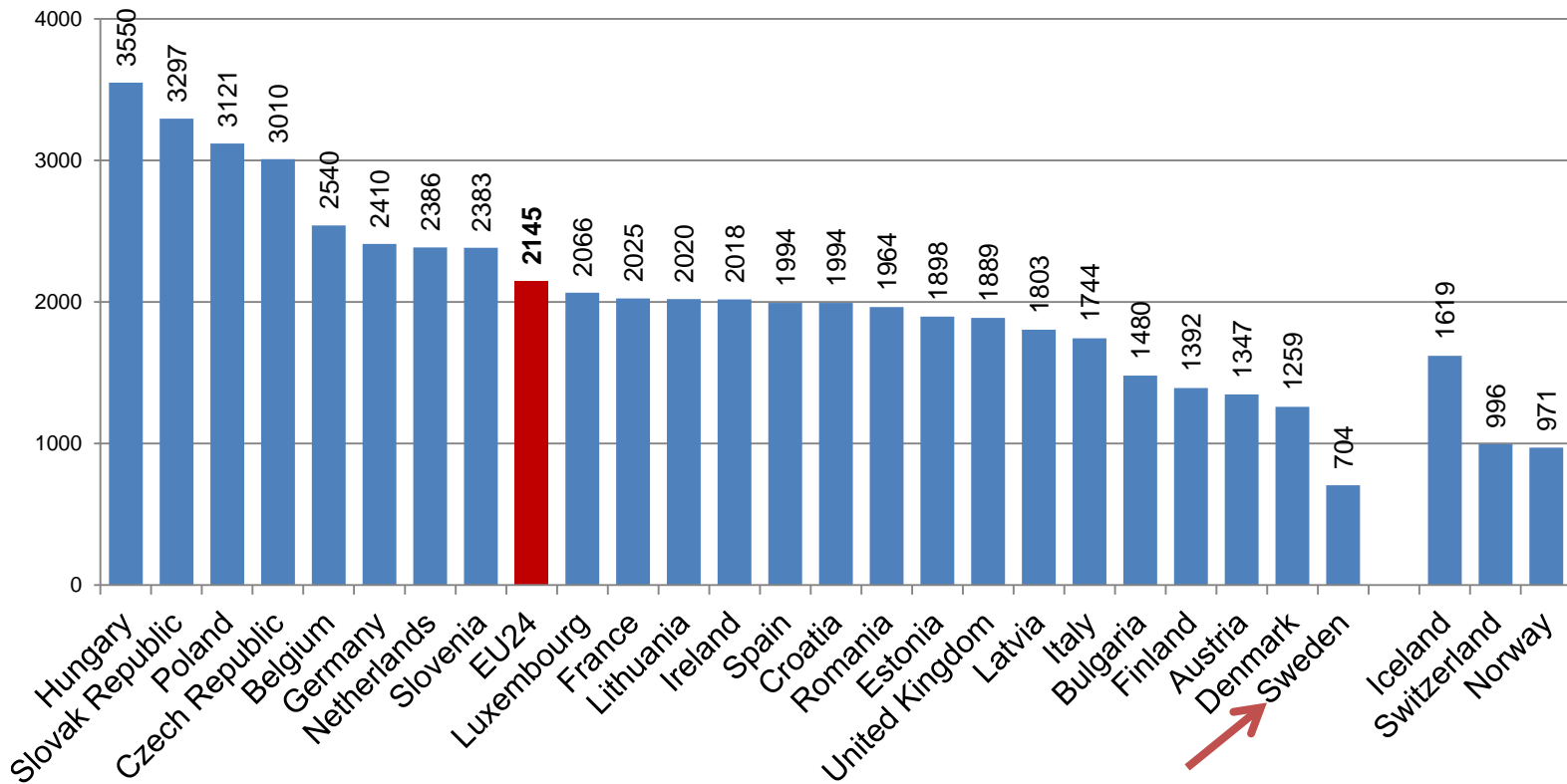


Source: Health at a Glance: Europe 2016



So the average number of consultations per Swedish doctor is very low

Estimated number of consultations per doctor per year (2014)



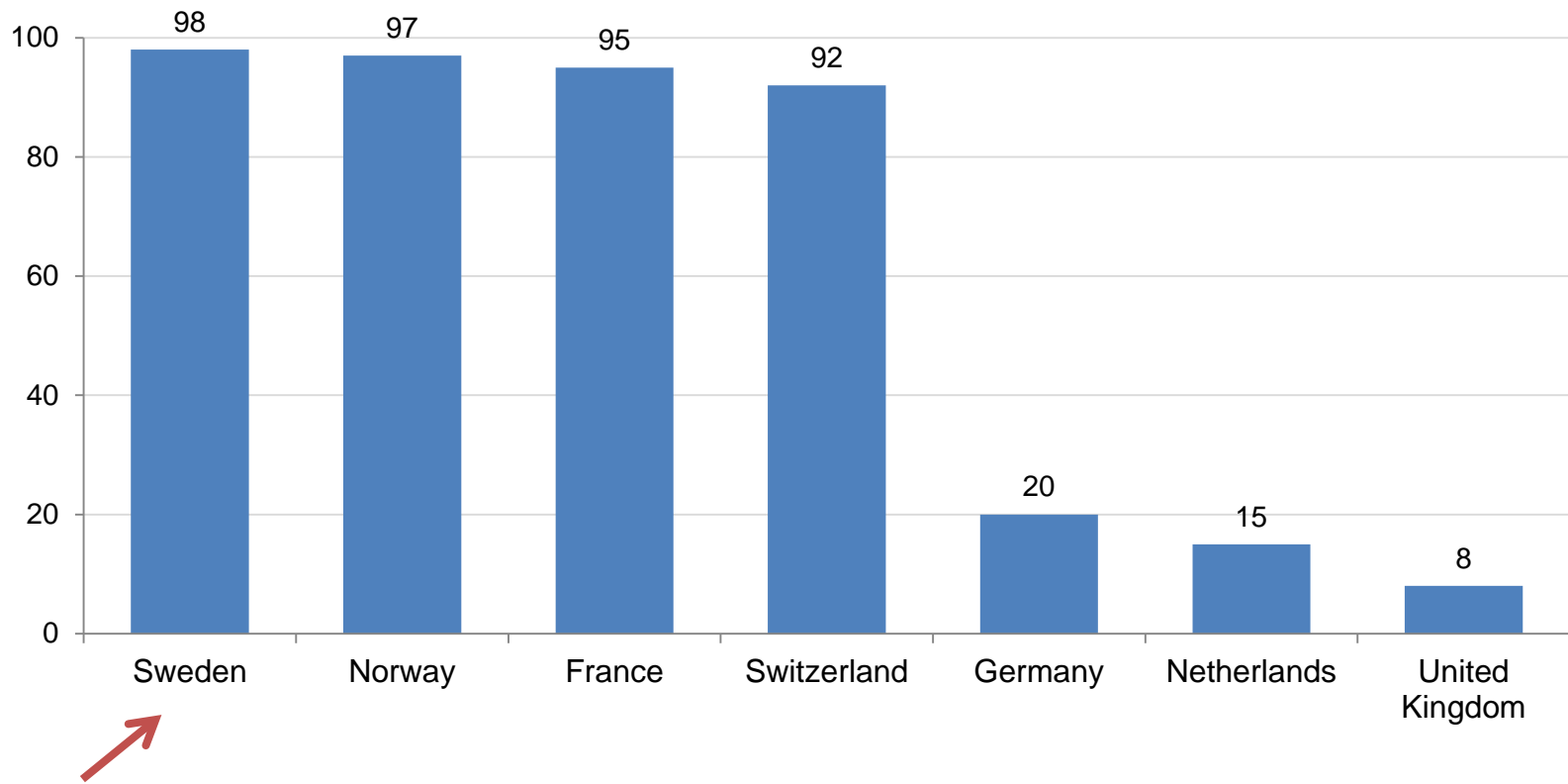
Source: Health at a Glance: Europe 2016

- This led to some debate and investigation on the activities of Swedish doctors (e.g. content/length/quality of consultations, other activities?)



Swedish doctors report that they spend more time with their patients

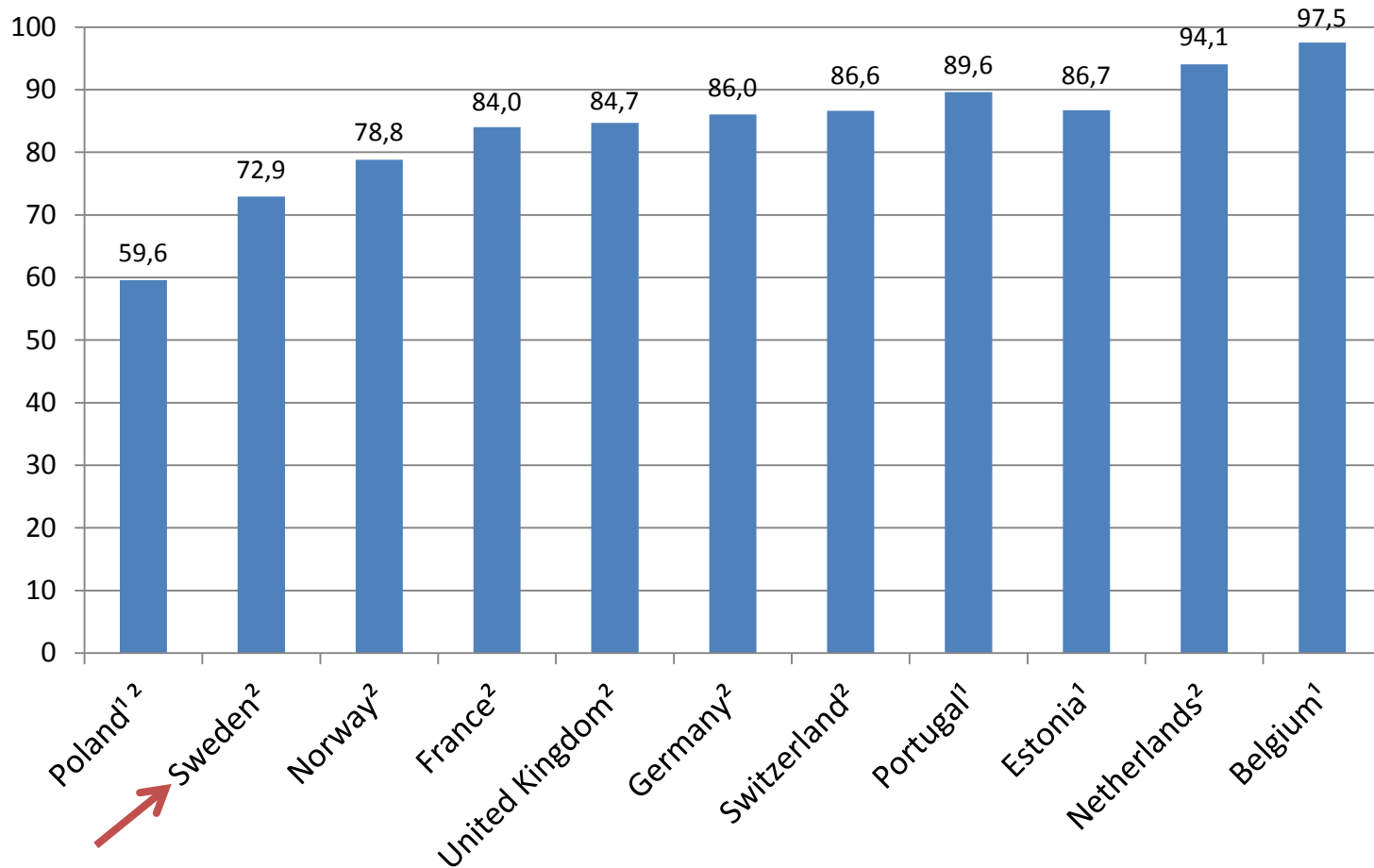
% of primary care doctors reporting to spend at least 15 minutes with a patient (2015)





But over 25% of Swedish people say that their doctor does not spend enough time with them!

% of population reporting that their doctor spent enough time during last consultation (2016 or nearest year)



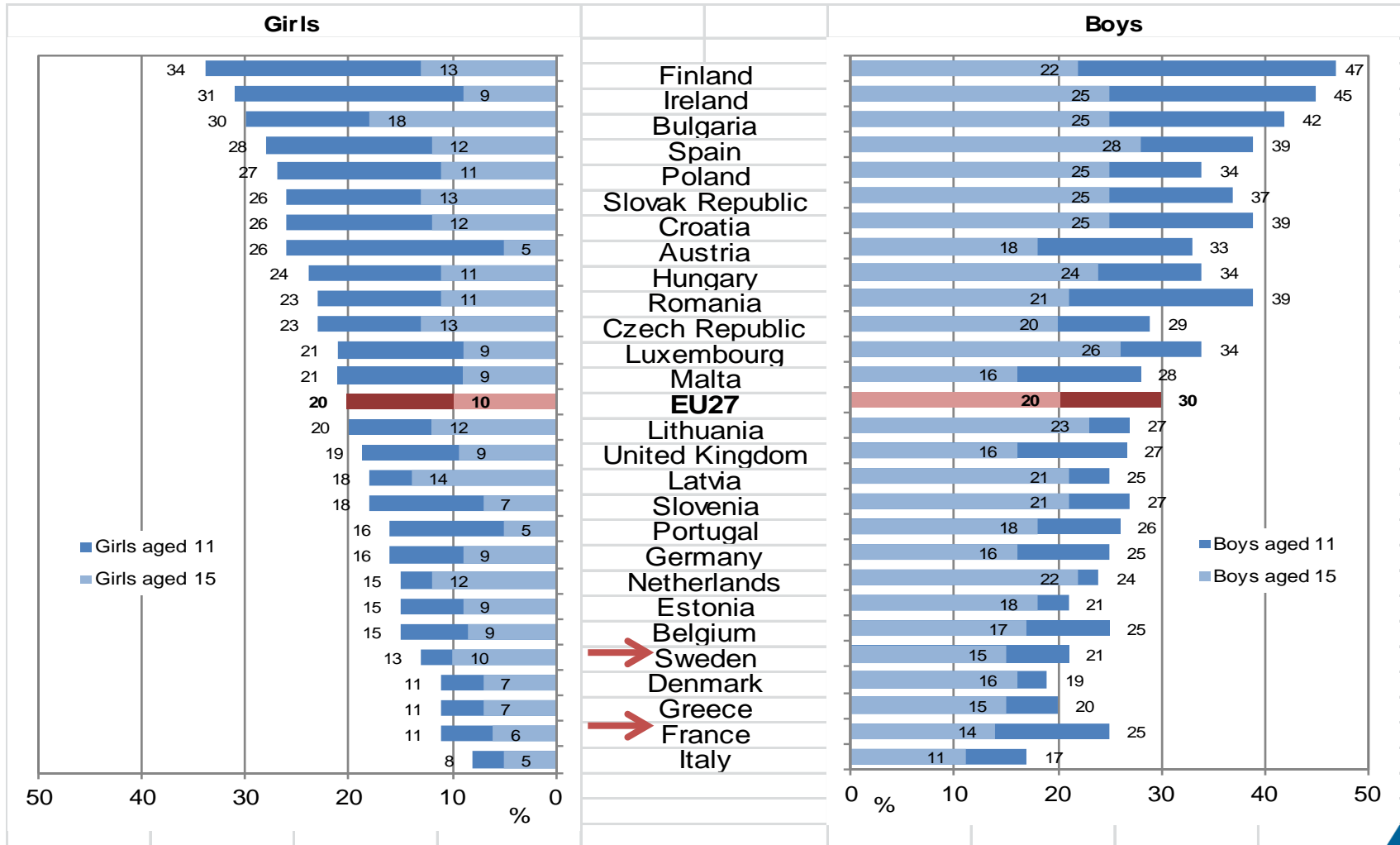
1. National sources. 2. Data refer to patient experiences with regular doctor.

2. Source: 2016 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey and other national sources.



Example 2: Physical activity among teenagers (or lack of!)

% of 11 and 15-year olds reporting to do moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day




Source: HBSC Survey (2013-14), shown in Health at a Glance: Europe 2016



Stimulating policy actions to address physical inactivity among teenagers (and adults also!)

- **What is the problem?**
 - Breaking down physical activity by population group (inequalities by gender, socioeconomic status, regions, ...)
 - Breaking down physical activities by location/type (school/work, transportation/commuting, leisure time)
- **So what?**
 - Quantifying the consequences of physical inactivity among youth and adults (during the life course)
- **Now what?**
 - Analysing policy options to increase physical activity
 - Reviewing evaluations of benefits and costs of various policies and programmes adopted in other countries
 - Proposing policy recommendations (“best buy”)



Recommendations on how to stimulate policy actions: Respond to 3 questions with data

1 **What?** Grab policy maker or general public attention by describing the problem in a compelling way (key facts)

2 **So what?** Tell policy makers or general public why the problem is important (health and economic impacts)

3 **Now what?** Propose policy options/recommendations to address the problem, including potential benefits & costs