

Democracy Dies in Darkness without Official Statistics

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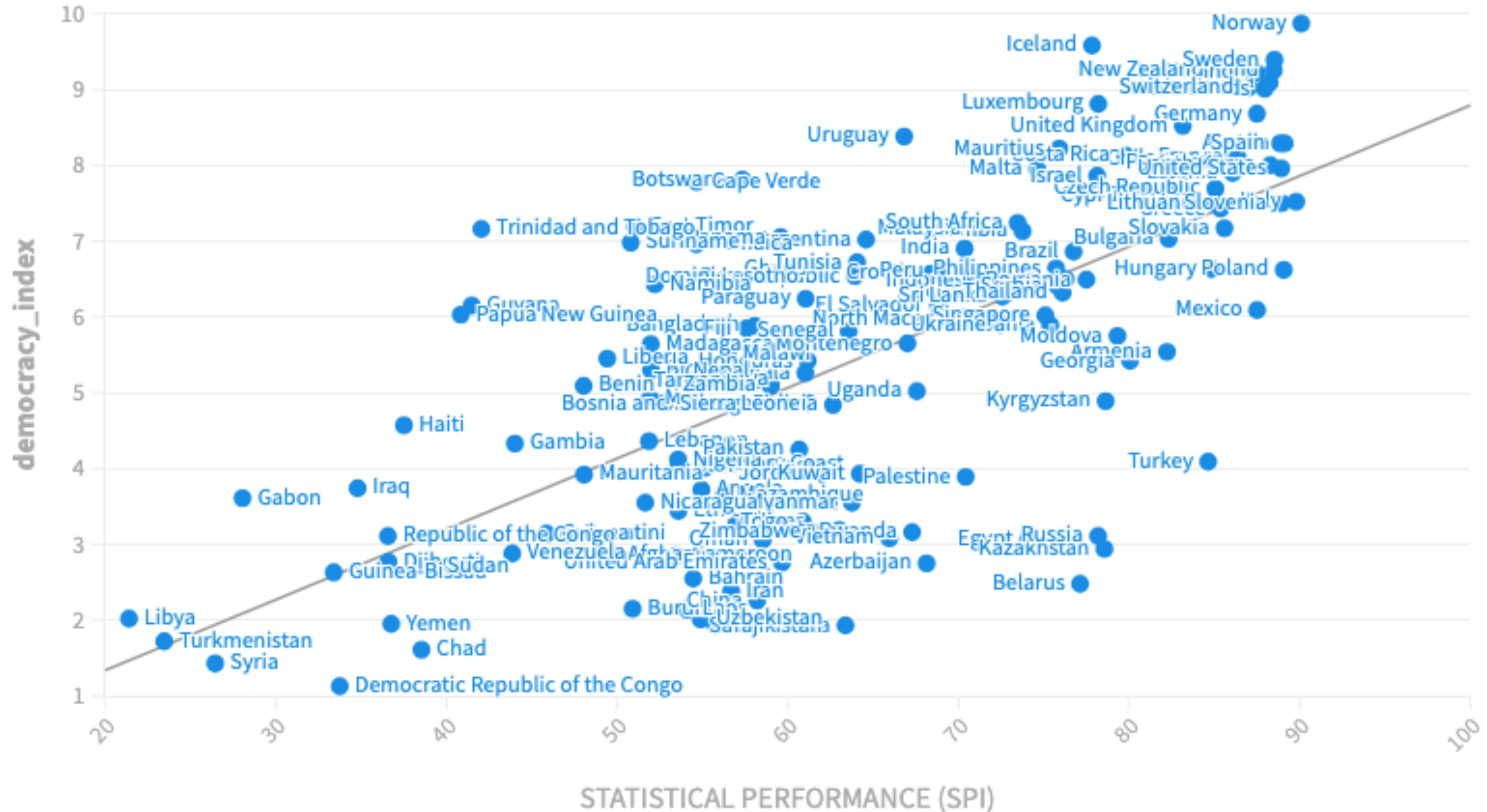
Agenda - Questions?

- Is there a **quantitative** relationship between democracy and official statistics?
- How can a democratic country organize an election without official statistics?

Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

World

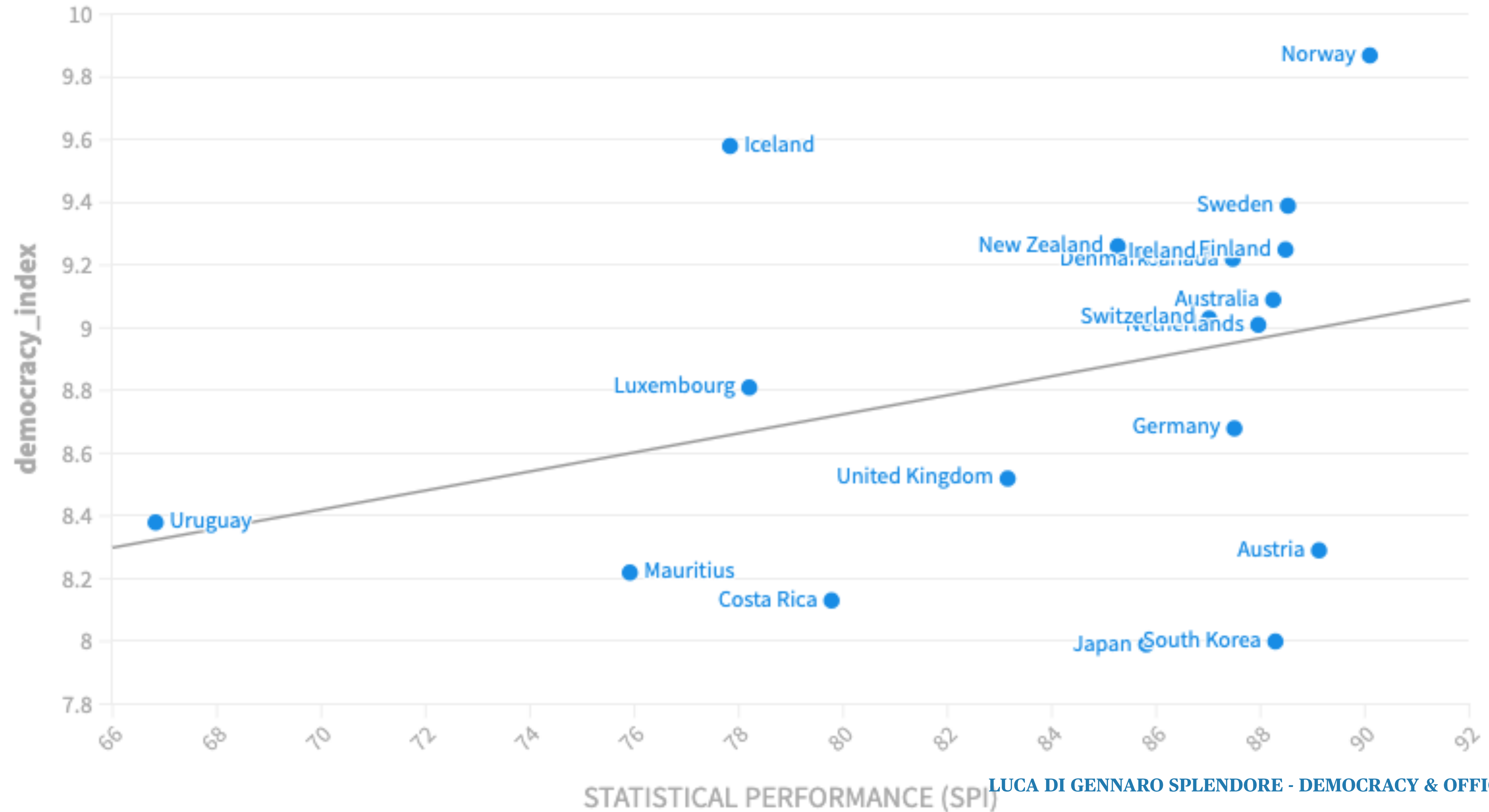
All



Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

All ▼

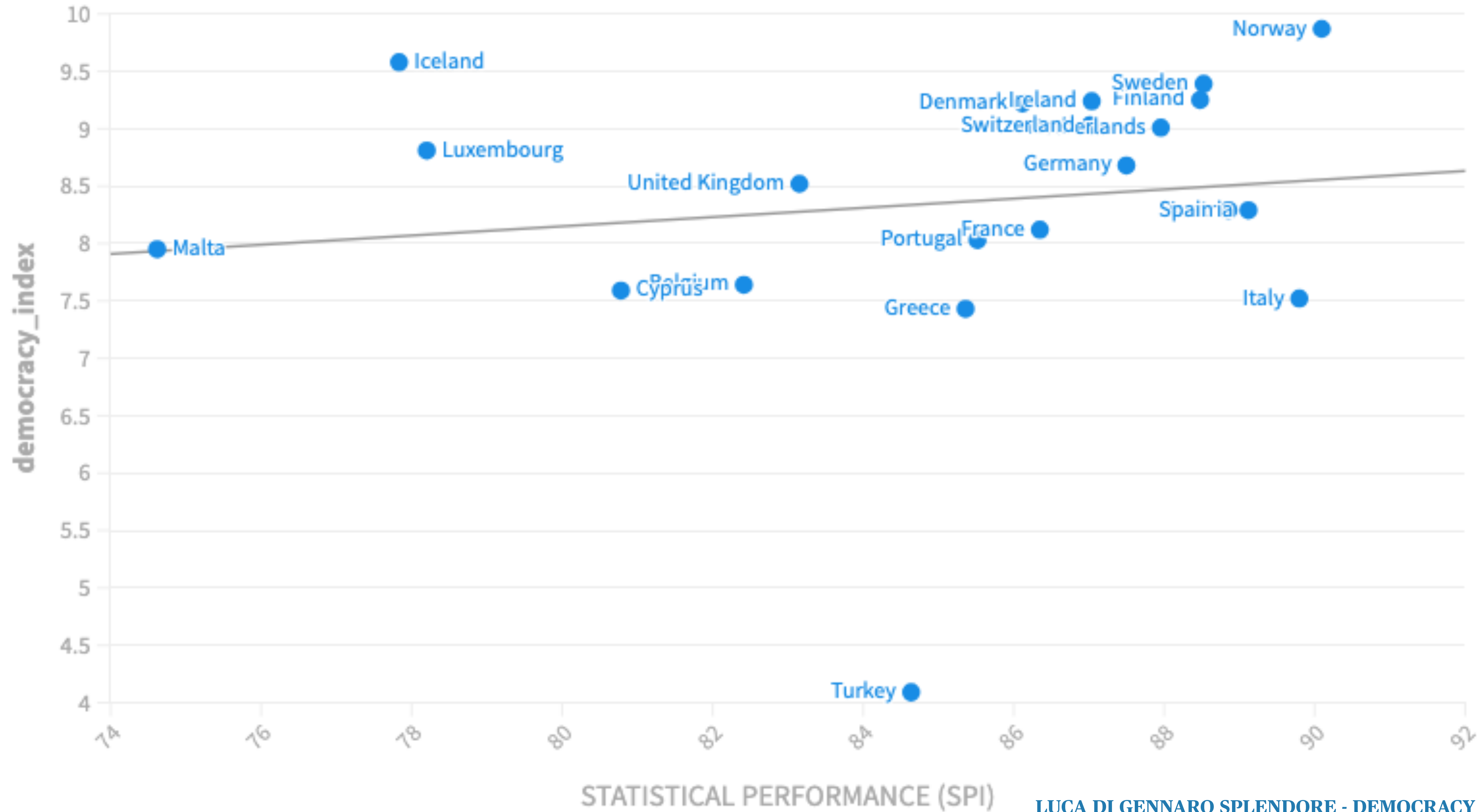
Only Full Democracy



Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

All ▼

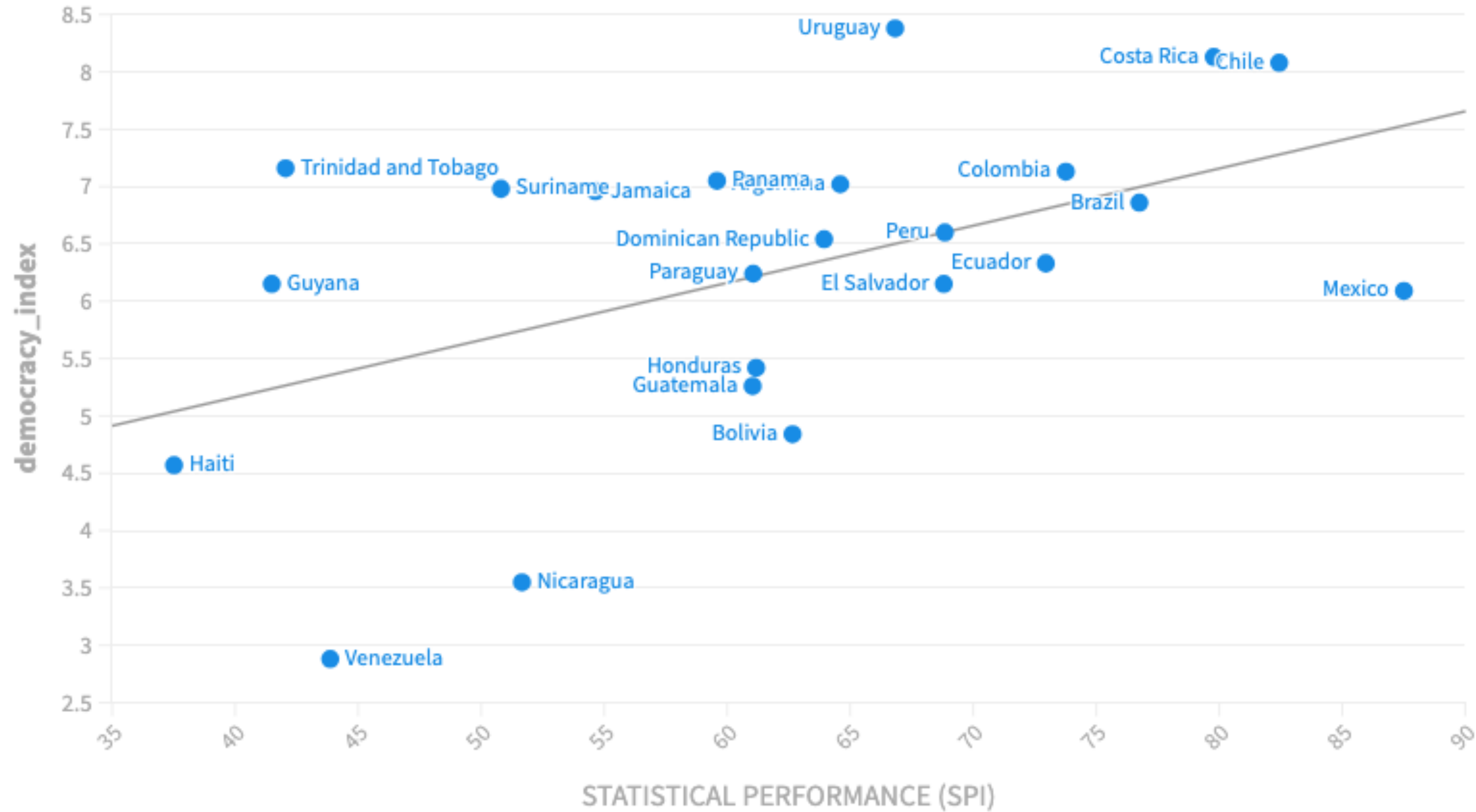
Only Europe



Full Democracy

Democracy Index - Statistical Performance Indicator

All



**Latin America
and the
Caribbean**

69% 41% 56%

The correlation between the **Democracy Index** and the **Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI)** for 2022 for 167

The correlation between the **Democracy Index** and **Gender Data Compass** for 2022/2023

The correlation between the **Democracy Index** and **Open Data Inventory (ODIN)** for 2022

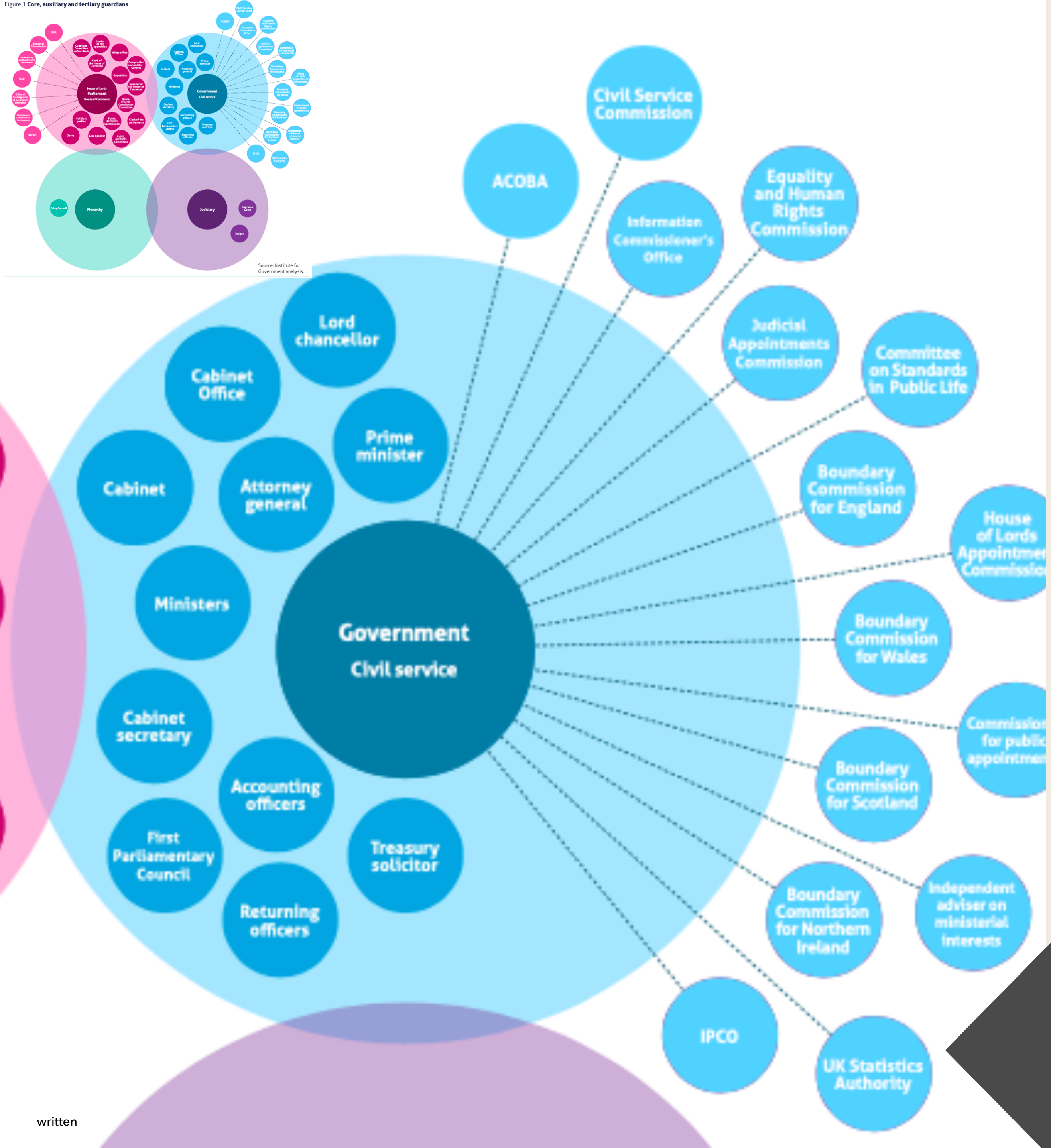
‘In a democratic society, the independence of official statistics has the same status as the freedom of speech for the citizens.’

Jeskanen-Sundström, 2007

awareness

understanding

‘Independence of Official Statistics, a Finnish Experience’. Seminar on Evolution of National Statistical Systems.



Constitutional guardians (UK)

‘For example, if the government is seen to have undue influence over the Electoral Commission, or the UK Statistics Authority, then trust in fair elections or accurate statistics will be undermined.’



UK Statistics Authority

NSOs are in Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 17.18 and 17.19

The SDG 17 promote the official statistics: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Indicator 17.18.2)

Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding
Indicator 17.18.3

Build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries (Target 17.19)

- **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**
- UN (2014)

‘Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government...’

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

NSOs are crucial to archive the SDG data



KEYNES

‘The statistics from which to build up these estimates are very inadequate. Every government since the last war has been unscientific and obscurantist, and has regarded the collection of essential facts as a waste of money’

Popper, Shumpter, Sociology

- Keynes (p13, Ch 3)
- Keynes, John Maynard (1940). How to Pay for the War: A Radical Plan for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Macmillan.

The Official Statistics under Attack (small list)

The official statistics can be a threatening for the political system

- The NSO of El Salvador was incorporated in the Central Bank
- In Ecuador in 2021 an unforeseen resignation by the NSO's (INEC in Ecuador) Director, took place just one week before the election day. Every NSO has a statistical calendar, normally pre-established and disseminated a few years in advance.
- The National Bureau of Statistics of China suspended disseminating data on youth unemployment.
- The Greek government prosecuted the former director of NSO Greece (ELSTAT)
- INDEC (NSO Argentina) suffered a lot of political interference especially on the inflation rate

Moving Forward

- ***Official Statistics Awareness***
- ***No scientific literature? Democracy does cause a good statistical system?***
- ***Who produces the data?***
- ***Governance?***

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Statistics**

Thank you!

DATA

- **Democracy** Index and Freedom House
- **Statistical** Performance Indicators
- Open data and subcategories
- **Statistical Capacity Index** (only Developing countries)
- **Who produces the data?** Central bank, NSO, Gov
- Gender data, minority and representation of minority group

Reference Image

- <https://freedomhouse.org/explore-the-map?type=fiw&year=2024>
- https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_Index
- <https://the-media-leader.com/are-future-freedoms-of-expression-under-threat/>
- <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- <https://www.dawn.com/news/1118784/when-maradona-sought-his-mothers-help-against-germany>
- <https://www.bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/blog/blog-constitutional-guardians/>
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