



The EFTA Statistical Office:

Building a common language for the EEA

EEA Seminar
Brussels, 19 January 2012



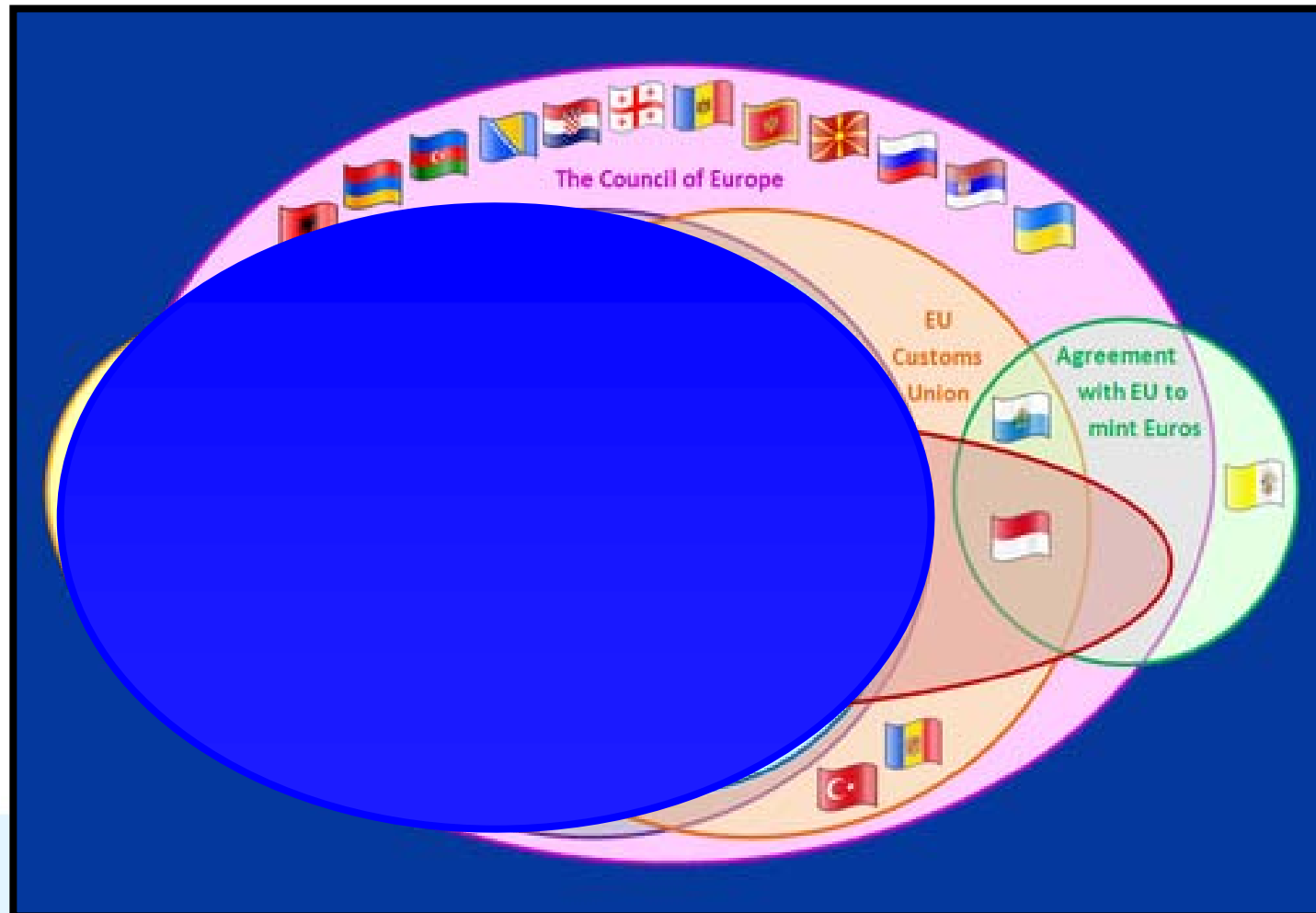
Statistical Cooperation

Comparable, impartial and reliable statistical data are a prerequisite for a democratic society and a necessary condition for the smooth running of any economy.

- Statistics are important for policy making in a modern society
- Statistics are vital for monitoring the effects of policies
- Statistics are crucial for understanding the society around us
- Comparable statistics across countries and regions are a necessity in a globalised society



European Statistical System (ESS)





EFTA Statistical Office (ESO)

- Established in 1991 as a result of the EFTA State's informal cooperation with ESS
- Formalised in 1994 in its role as liaison office between Eurostat and the EFTA national statistical institutes through the EEA Agreement
- Part of the EFTA Secretariat and driven by the working group of the Heads of the EFTA National Statistical Offices
- Located on the premises of Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, in Luxembourg



EEA Statistical Cooperation

- **Goal**

Developing an integrated European Statistical System (ESS) which can give coherent descriptions of all fields of cooperation covered by the EEA Treaty

- **Objectives of the EEA Statistical Cooperation**

Production and dissemination of comparable statistical information for describing and monitoring all economic, social and environmental policies covered by the EEA Treaty

- ① Harmonising concepts, methods, structures and technical standards in all relevant statistical fields. In this respect, Eurostat organises around 200 meetings with experts from EU and EFTA Member States
- ② Collecting data from EU and EFTA national statistical authorities and disseminating them through various channels



EEA Statistical Cooperation

- **Legal Basis for the EEA Statistical Cooperation**
 - Art. 76 of the EEA Agreement concerns statistical cooperation
 - Provisions for the organisation of statistical cooperation, including EFTA Statistical Office (ESO), are mentioned in Protocol 30
 - Annex XXI deals with EC legislation in the field of statistics relevant for the EEA



European Statistical System (ESS)

- **European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)**

- The ESSC is the management body of the ESS. The ESSC discusses and agrees on the objectives and actions of the ESS.
- It has comitology functions in all issues delegated to the Commission by the Council and the Parliament.
- The ESSC is chaired by Eurostat and brings together the Heads of all EU and EFTA National Statistical Institutes (NSIs).
- The ESSC meetings are combined meetings with the EEA Statistical Conference (EEA NSIs, Eurostat and ESO)

- **Other EU committees and groups**

- EFTA States participate fully, without the right to vote, in EU committees, working groups and other bodies dealing with statistics.



EFTA Statistical Cooperation

- **Technical Assistance in the field of statistics**

Assisting countries neighbouring the EU to develop their statistical capacity and to harmonise statistical methods and standards with international norms

- **European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)**

EFTA participation in the design and the implementation of a training programme for official statisticians of the EU and EFTA States

- **Secondment of National Experts to Eurostat**

EFTA States second 9 SNEs, of which 2 as part of technical assistance, 4 through EEA agreement and 3 through the CH/EU agreement.



Role of the EFTA Statistical Office (ESO)

- Following up on and implementing the procedures for incorporating EU statistical acts into Annex XXI
- Contributing to the development of the EEA Statistical Programme
- Supporting the production and dissemination of EFTA statistics (via Eurostat)
- Coordinating EFTA experts' participation in Eurostat meetings
- Liaising between Eurostat and the EFTA national statistical institutes in the recruitment of EFTA national experts
- Designing and implementing EFTA technical assistance projects
- Organising courses for the European Statistical Training Programme



Challenges in the field of statistics

- Do official statistics fail in measuring market disturbances and imperfections ?
- Do official statistics pay enough attention to the long term and sustainability ?
- Are official statistics timely enough in showing changes in the economy and the society ?
- Do official statistics give priority to economic growth instead of the distribution of income and wealth in our societies
- Is official statistics capable of capturing globalisation?
- Do official statistics appropriately communicate with users ?



Useful links

- **Eurostat website**
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>
- **ESO webpage**
<http://www.efta.int/statistics>

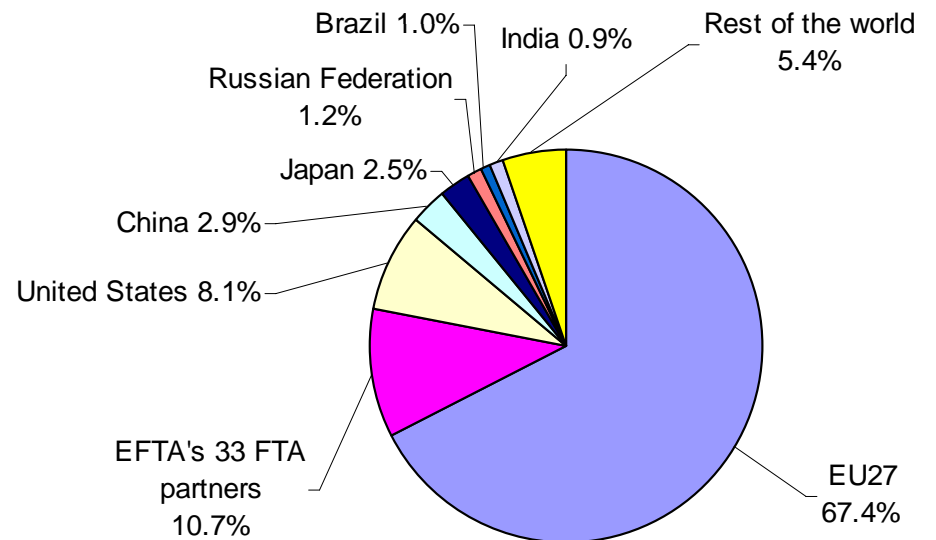
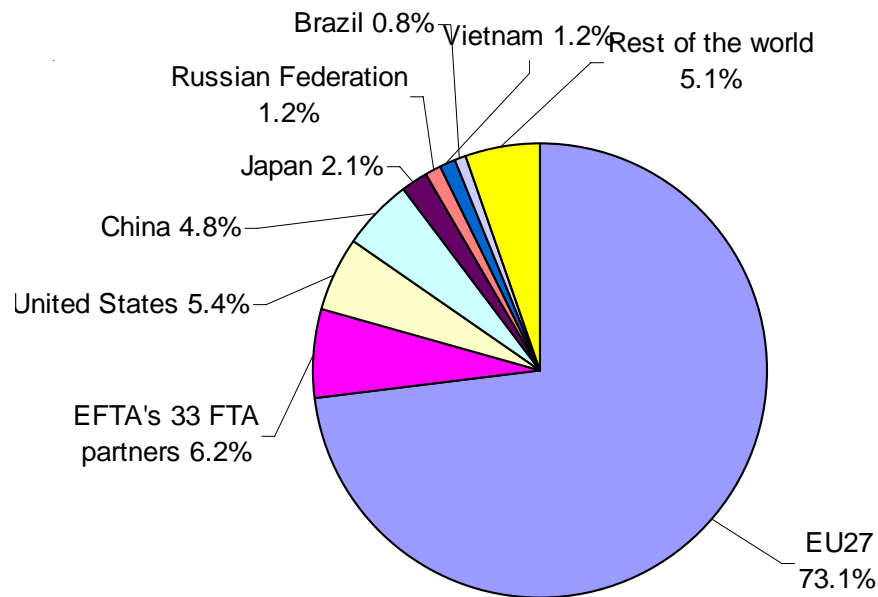


**Takk! Merci! Takk fyrir! Grazie! Danke!
Thanks!**



External Trade Statistics

EFTA's top import and export sources of merchandise trade, 2010

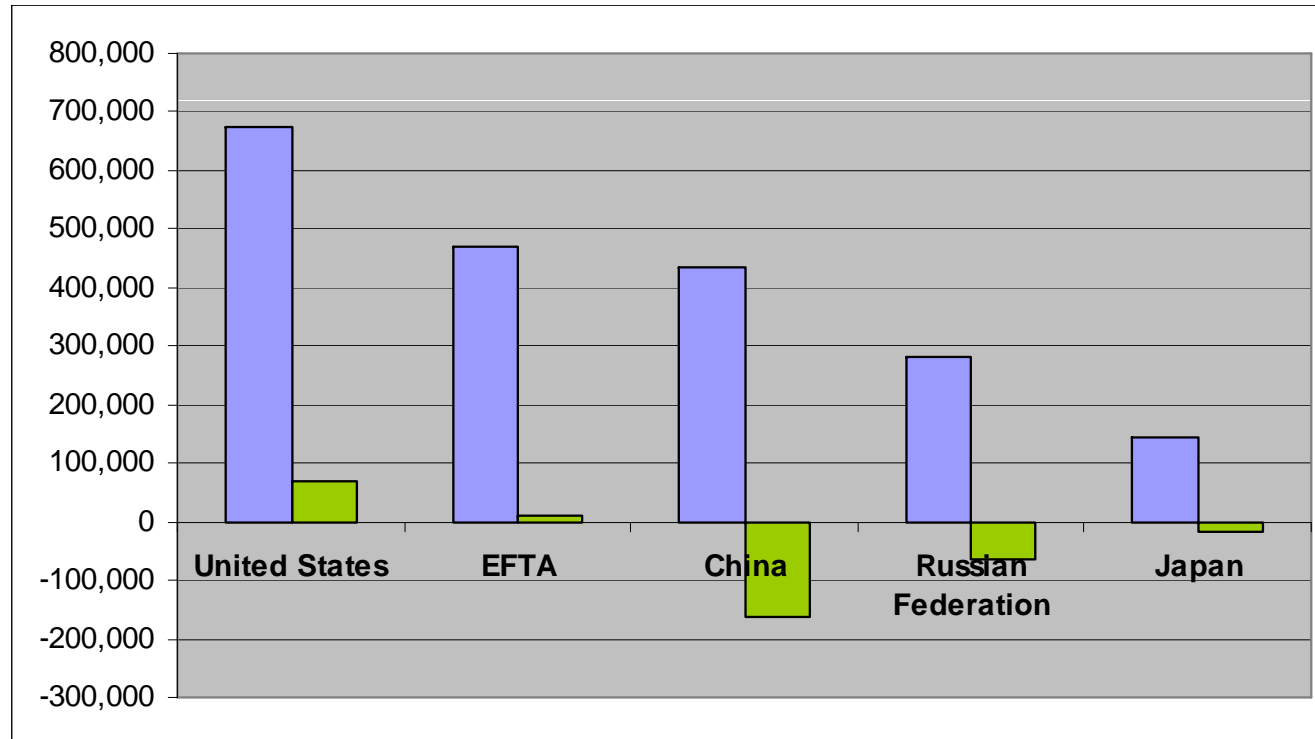




External Trade Statistics

EFTA second largest trade partner of EU-27 (goods and services)

2010 figures, Mio EUR

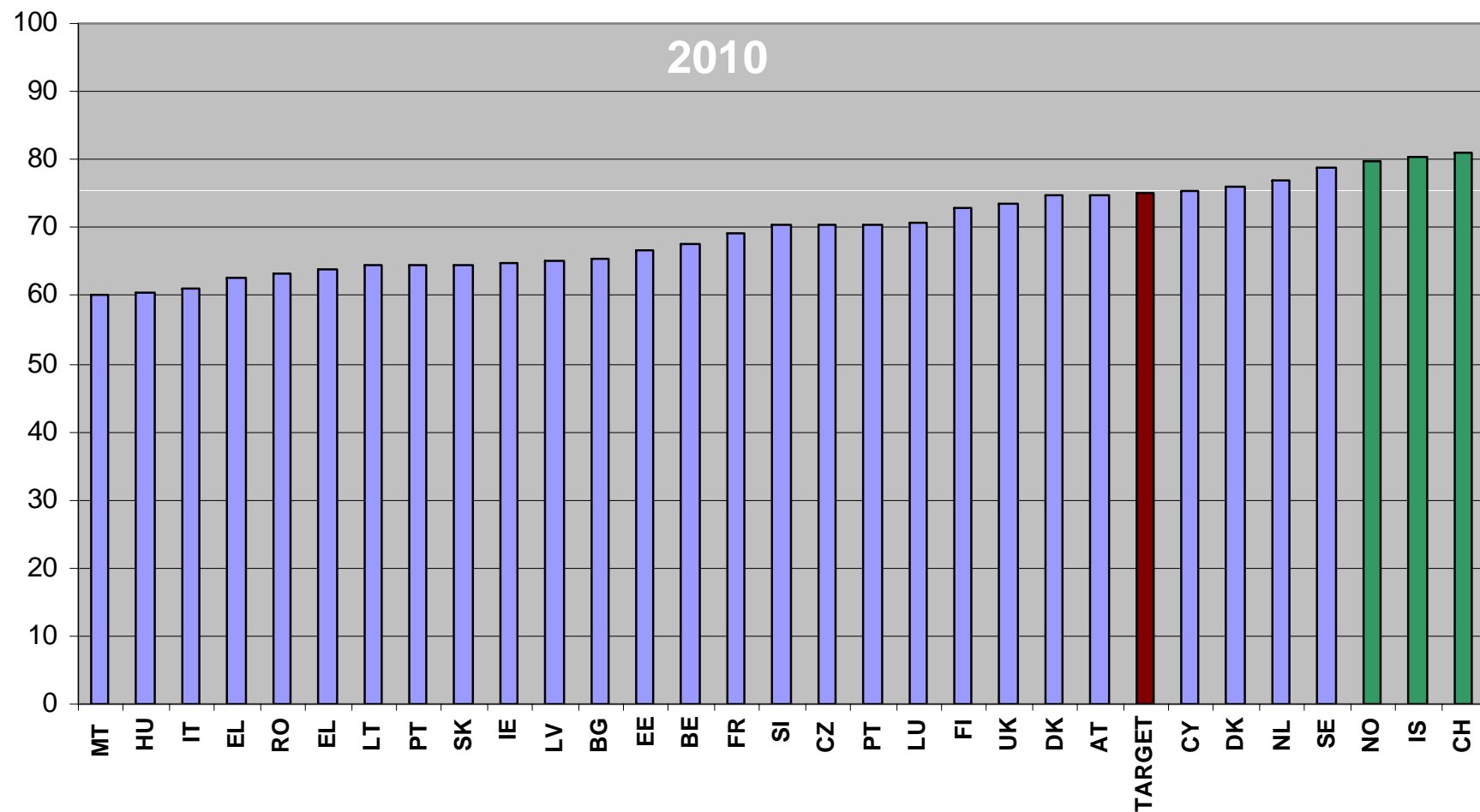


Trade

Balance

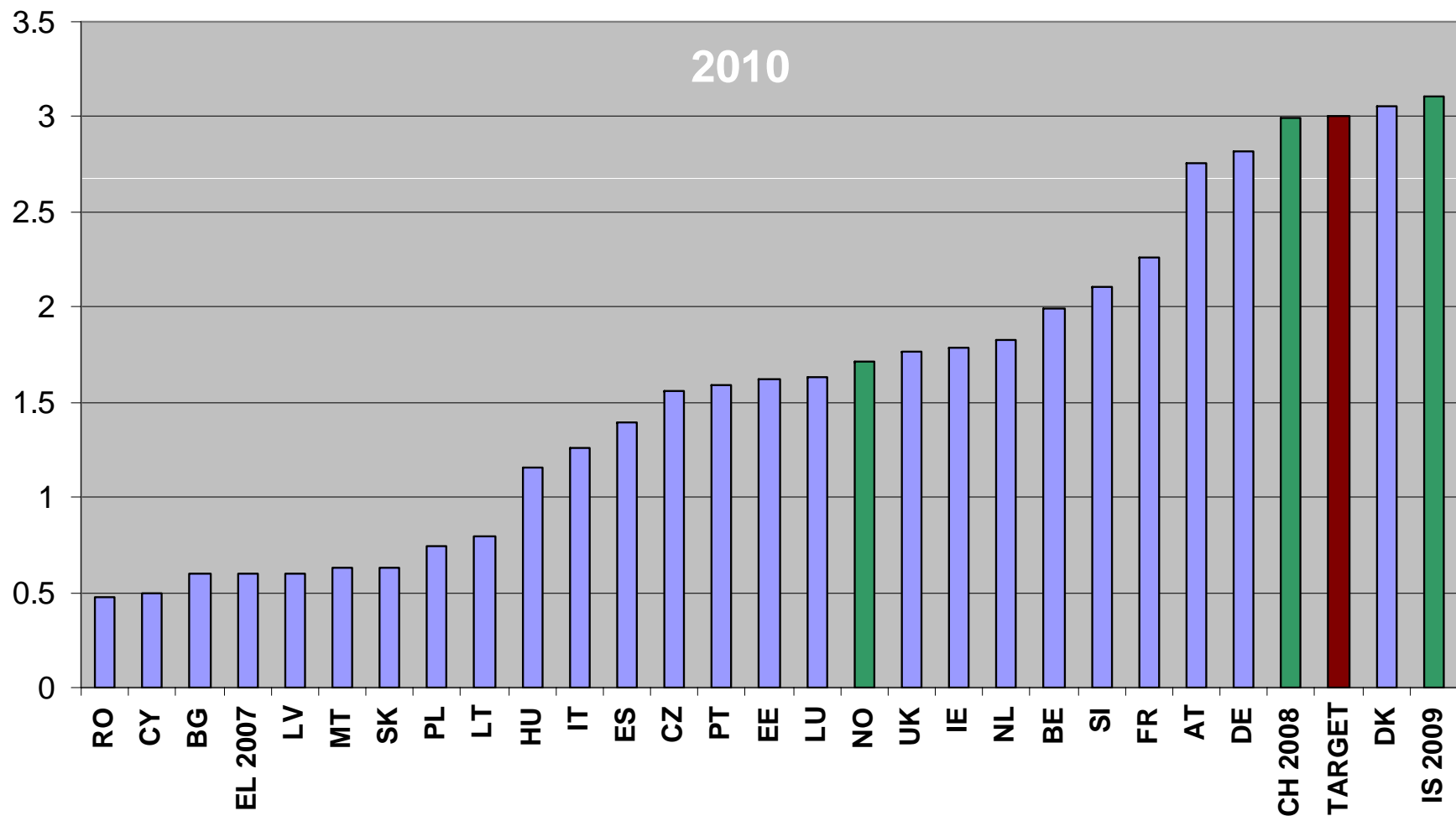


Europe 2020: Employment rate, % of age 20-64



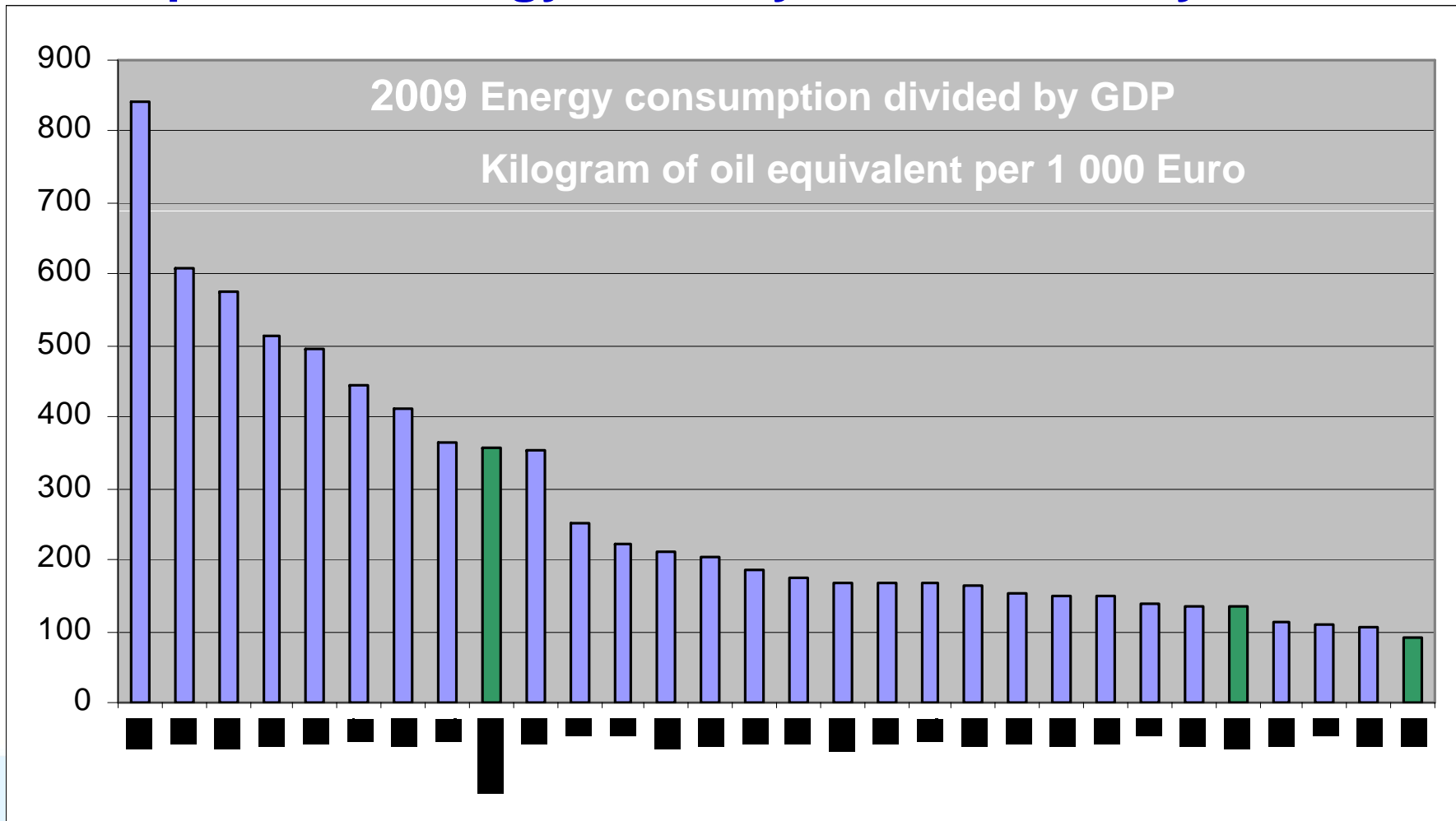


Europe 2020: R&D expenditure, % of GDP



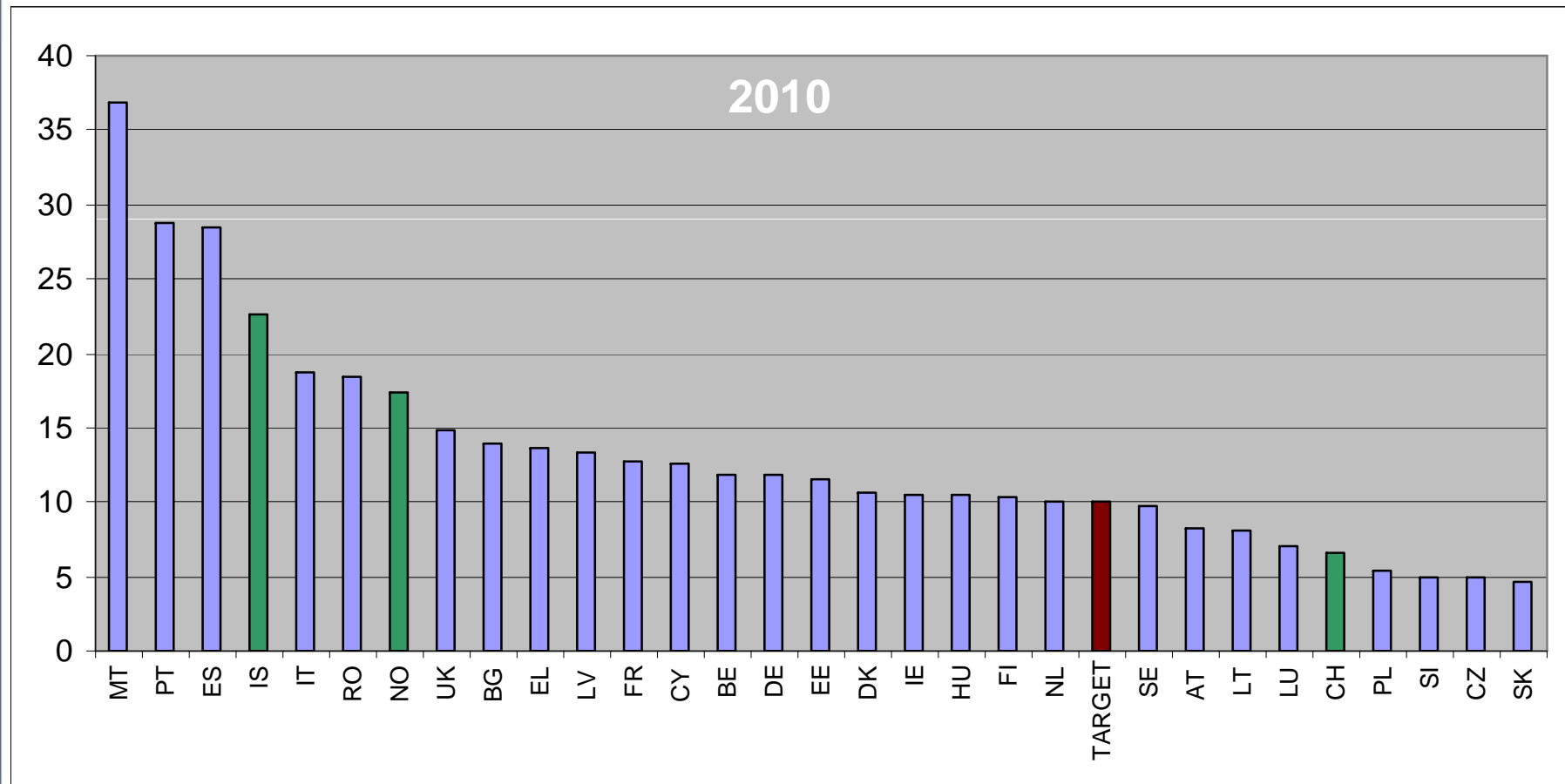


Europe 2020: Energy intensity of the economy



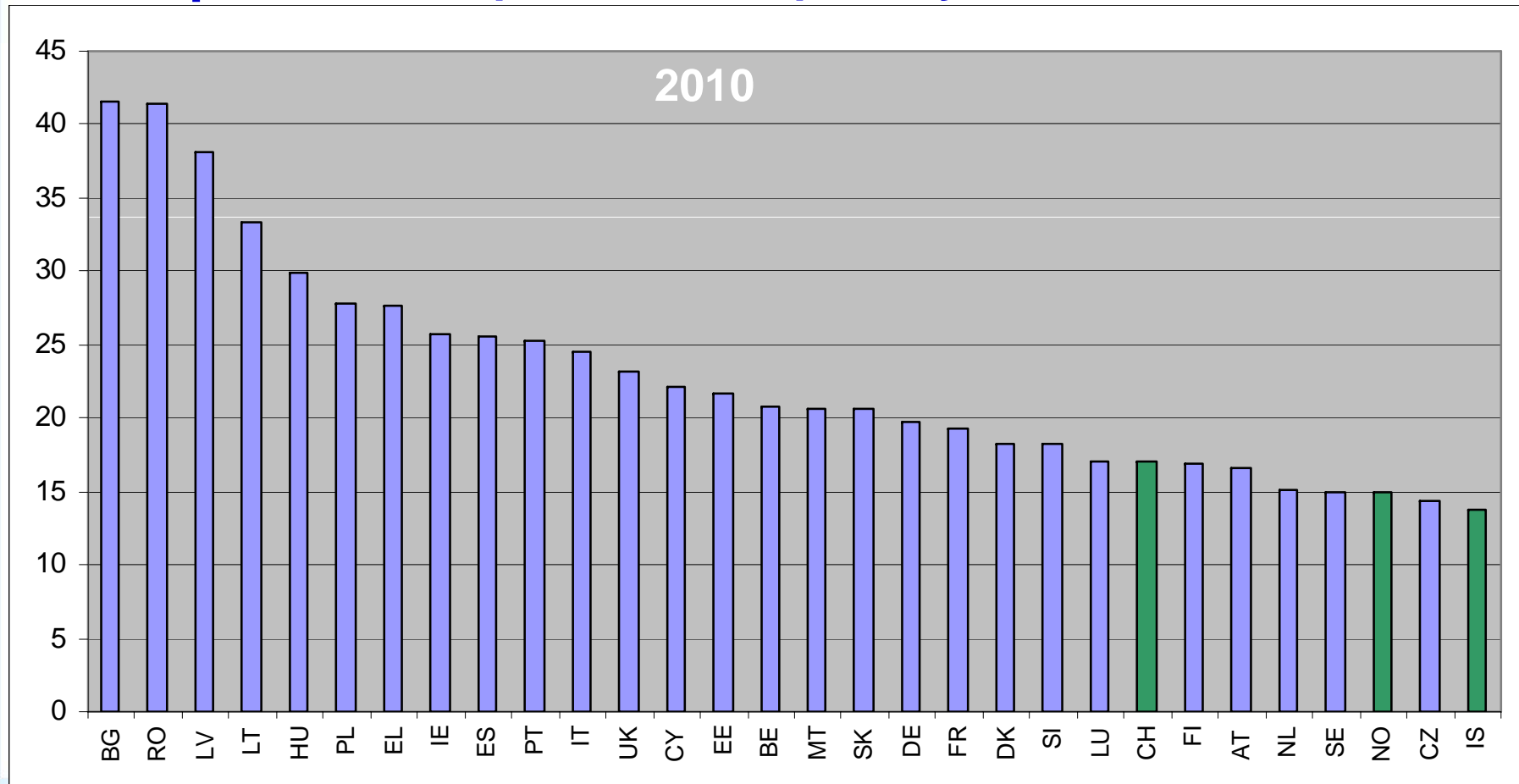


Europe 2020: Early school leavers, % of age 18-24



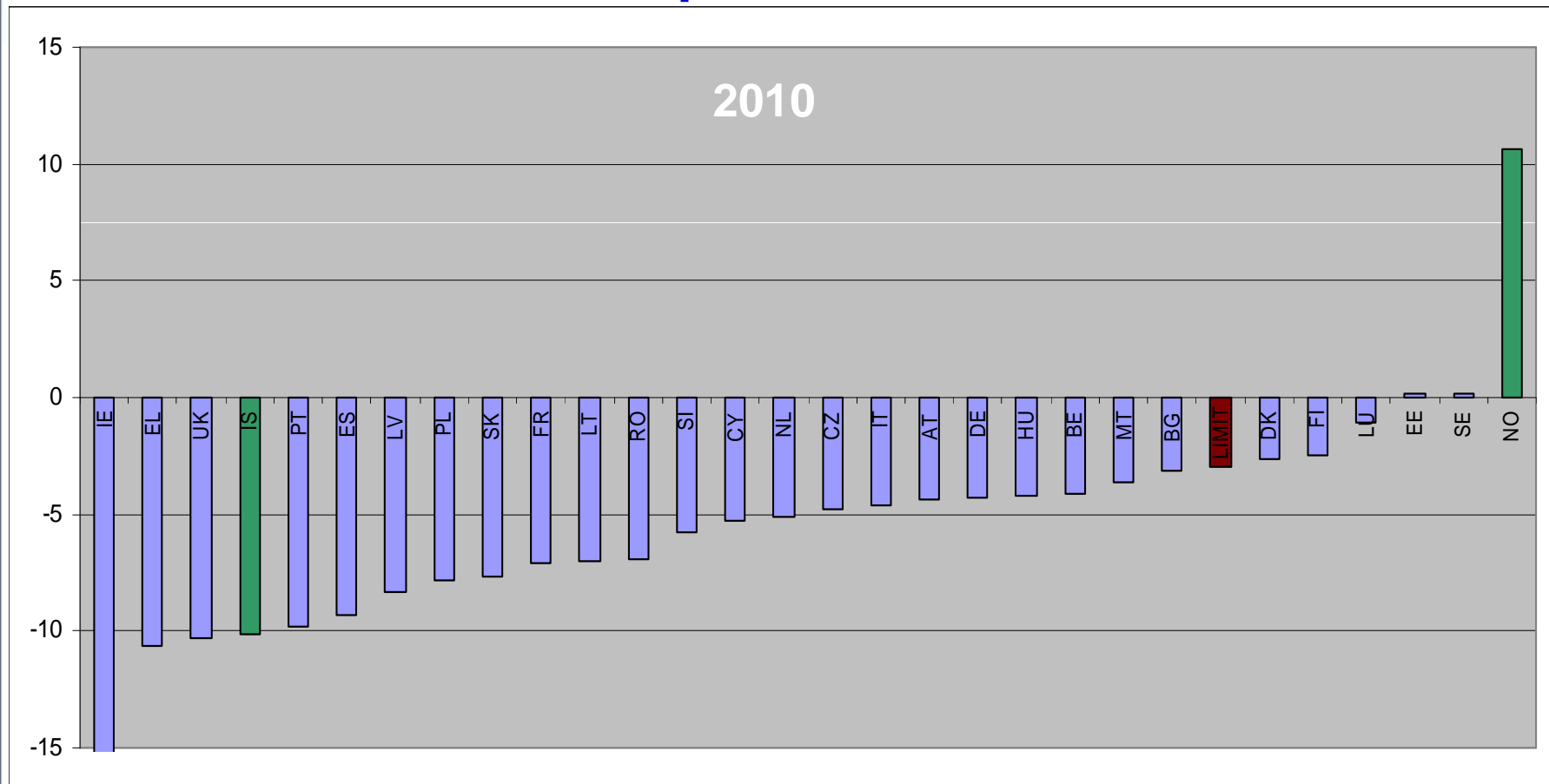


Europe2020: People at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion, %



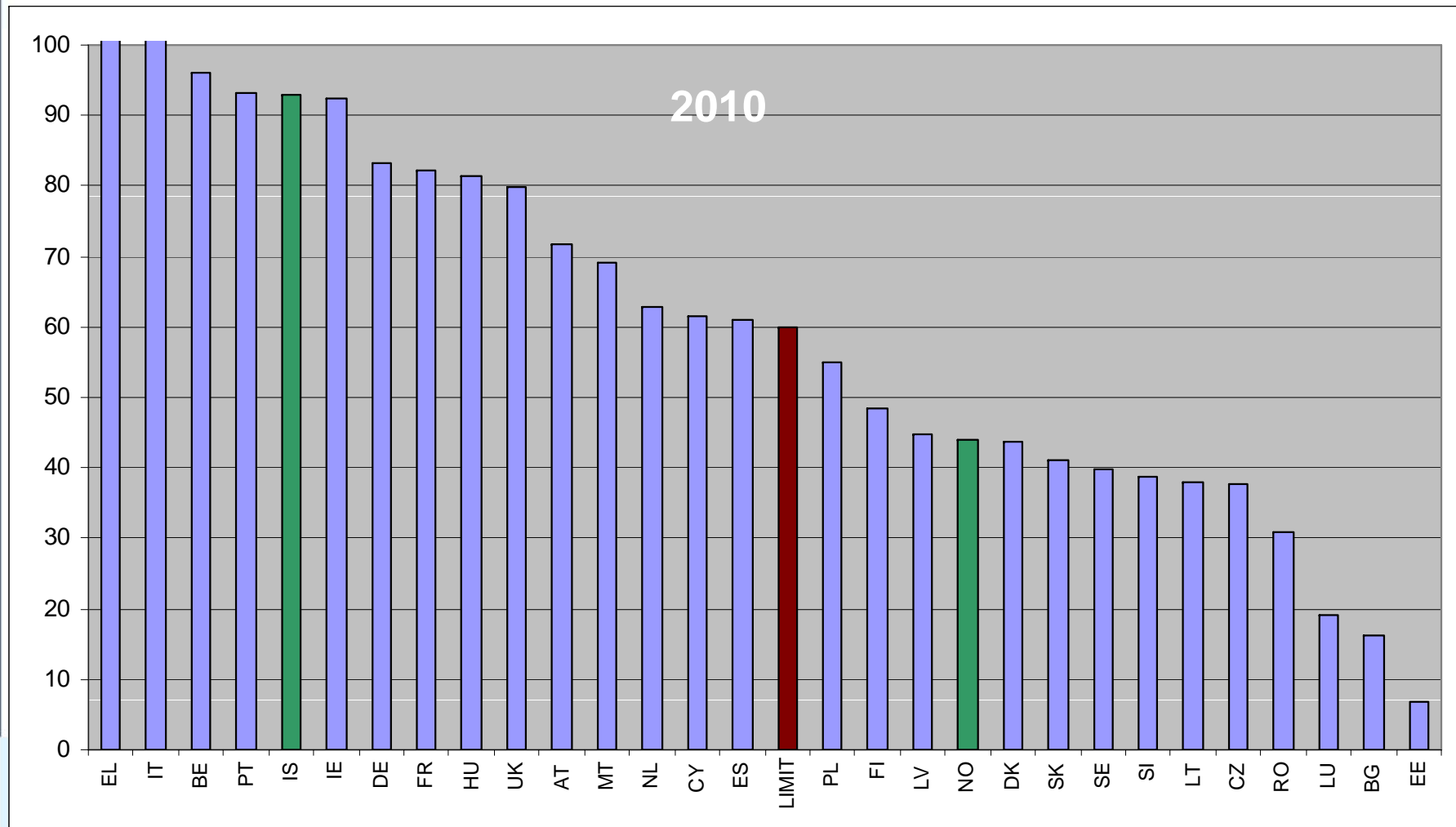


Government deficit/surplus: % of GDP





General government gross debt : % of GDP





Inflation rate: annual percentage changes

Nov 2011

