

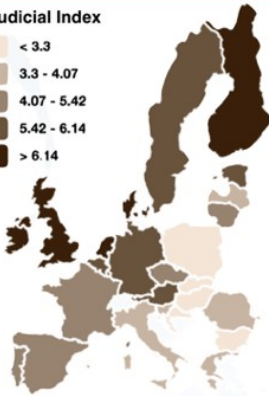
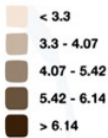


EU 'LAGGARDS' & UNEVEN BURDEN-SHARING



1. Adherence to Copenhagen Criteria

Judicial Index

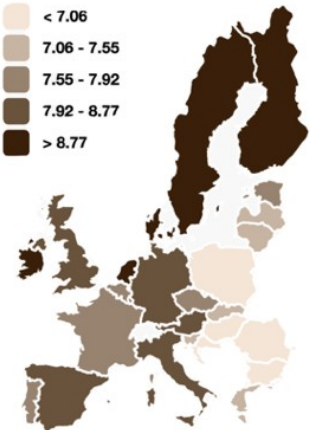
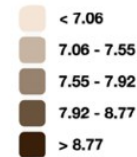


- To the left, a map showing the 2017 Judicial Independence indices for EU countries (darker = more independent judiciary)

- To the right, a map showing the 2017 Democracy Indices for EU countries (darker = more consolidated democracy)

- The resemblance between the maps indicates a similar group of 'laggards' underperforms on these two key Copenhagen Criteria; as this infographic shows below, these 'laggards' also generally share less of the burdens of EU membership while receiving arguably greater material benefits

Democracy Index



% Rejected Apps.



2. Xenophobia & Refugee Crisis Burden-Sharing

- To the right, a map measuring relative xenophobia, gauged by reluctance for living alongside immigrants from 2005-2009 (brighter green = lower % reluctance)

- To the left, a map showing the % of rejected asylum applications in 2015 (brighter green = lower % rejection)

- Despite notable exceptions, the maps show, again, that a similar group of countries exhibits reluctance to accept part of the EU immigration & refugee crisis burdens

% Pop. Xenophobia

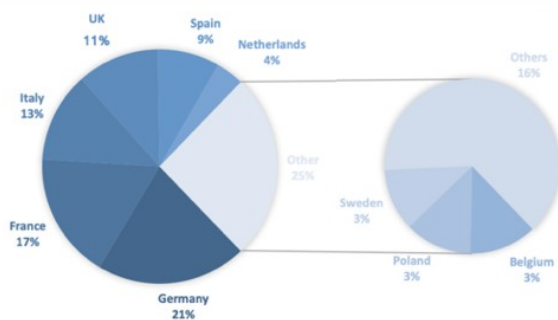


3. The Financial Gap

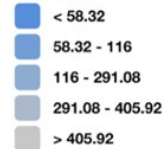
- To the left, a pie chart of the % share of countries' absolute contributions to the EU's total budget in 2016

- To the right, a map showing countries' contributions to the EU budget in 2016, relative to the amount of EU funds they received, characterized as their '% Return' (brighter blue = less return on investment)

- A similar group of countries (to 1. And 2.) receives greater financial benefits from the EU while contributing less



% Return



- The graphics above highlight the EU's problem of 'laggards' and uneven burden-sharing

- Indeed, it appears to be a similar (though not identical) group of countries that has lagged in its adherence to EU norms and values, while also showing a reluctance to share part of the burdens of EU membership

- This group of consistent 'laggards' is composed largely of post-communist countries, including Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania; among others

4. Conclusions?

- Interestingly, however, it is also this group of 'laggards' that arguably receives the most material benefits from EU membership—via greater EU funding, as indicated in section 3.

- As such, there may be a broad issue of 'free-riding' in the EU, where countries become members to receive the Union's material benefits, without fully committing to its principles—or accepting a fair share of burdens of EU membership