

Local governments and institutions in regional policy – regional overview

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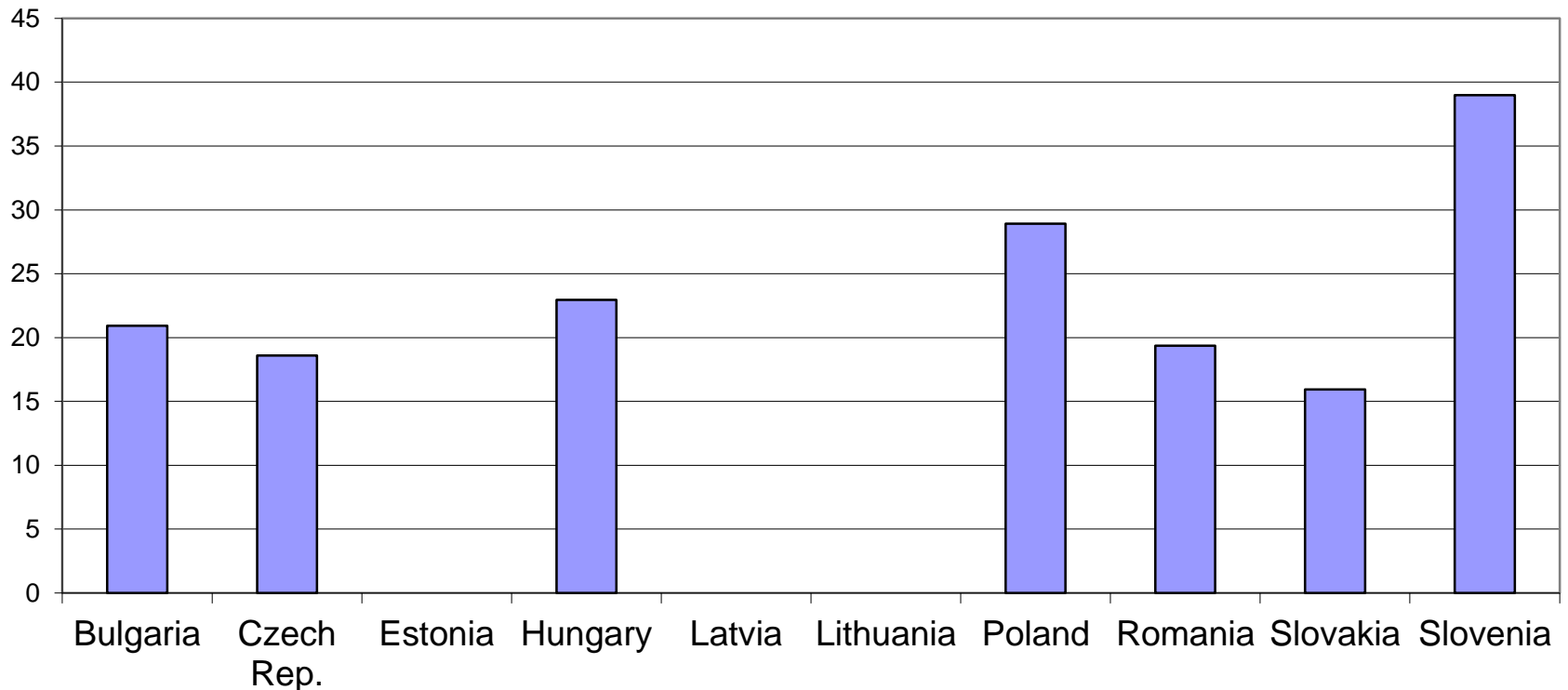
This event is co-funded by the European Union.

Institutional conditions for sub-national governments to play a role in regional policies

- Functional decentralization
- Financial decentralization
- Territorial arrangements fitting with functions and finance

- But not only institutions
 - Culture matters (social capital as an example of cultural factor)

The share of Regional Programmes in total EU Operating Programmes 2007-2013

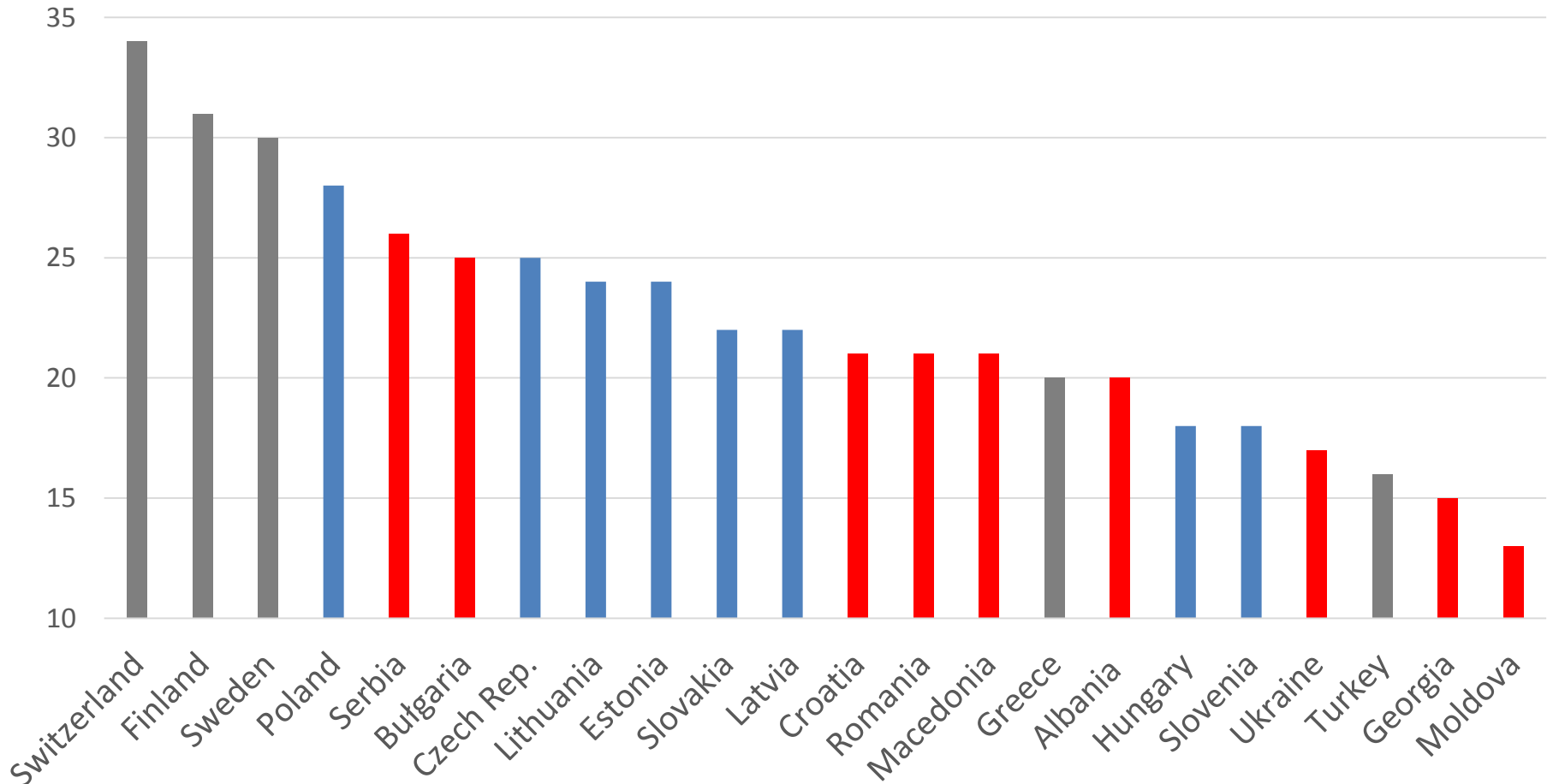


Implementing institutions:

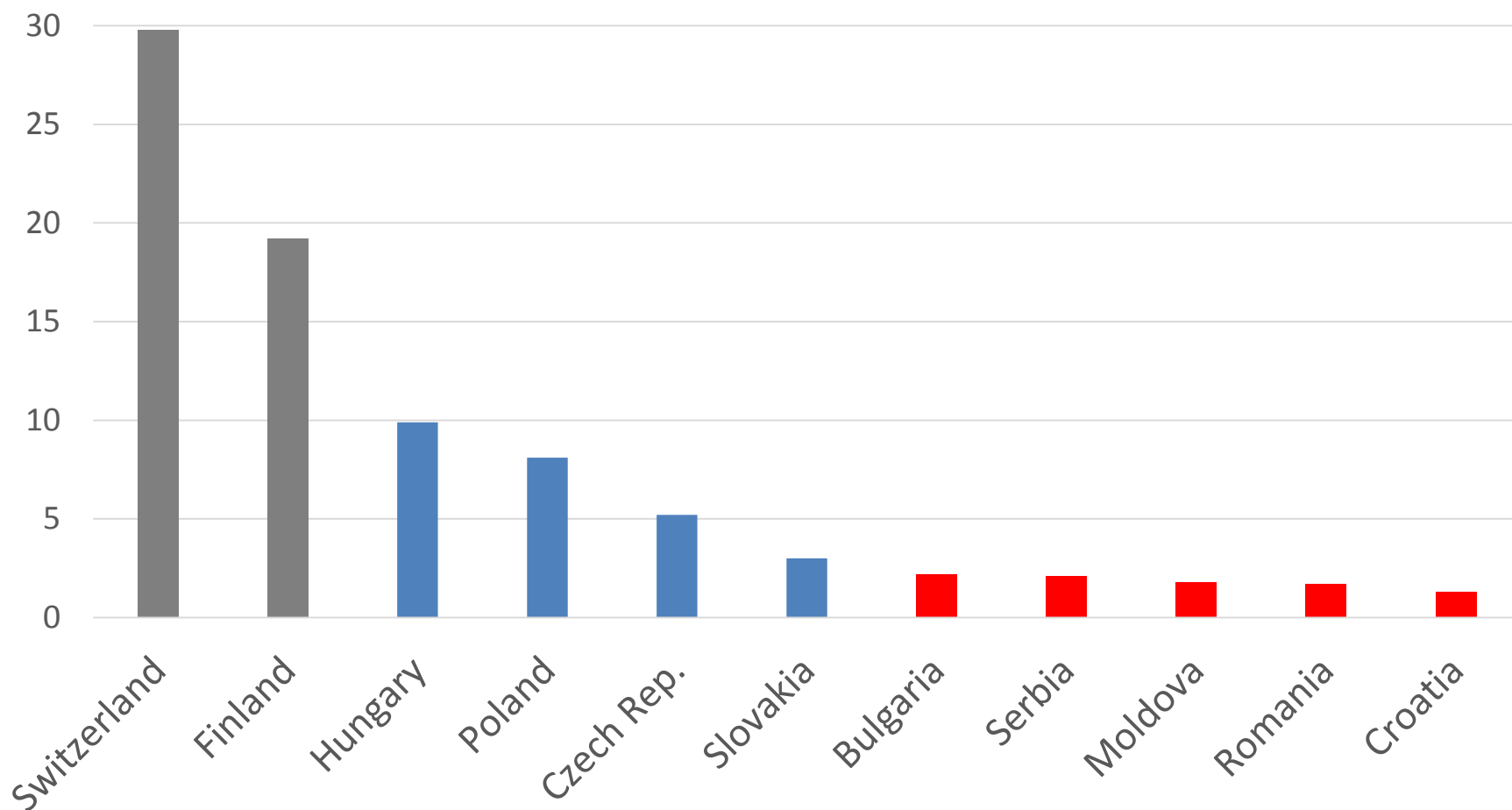
- Elected regional government – Poland
- Special purpose institutions – Czech Rep., Hungary, Slovakia
- IROP – Bulgaria, Romania
- Single regional programme, implemented by central government - Slovenia

Local Autonomy Index (2014 tentative values)

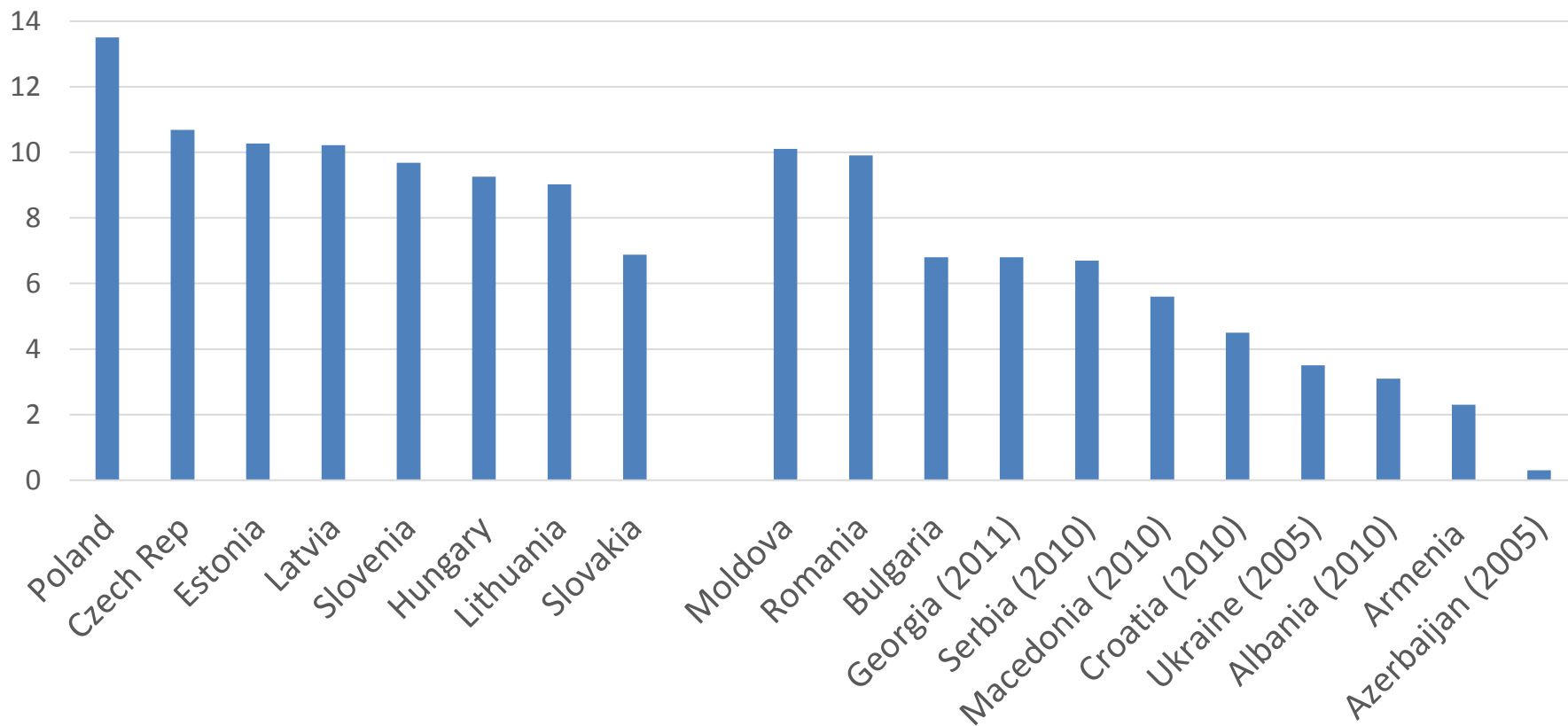
LAI 2014 (draft)



Ivanya & Shah (2012) decentralization index



Local government spending as proportion of GDP

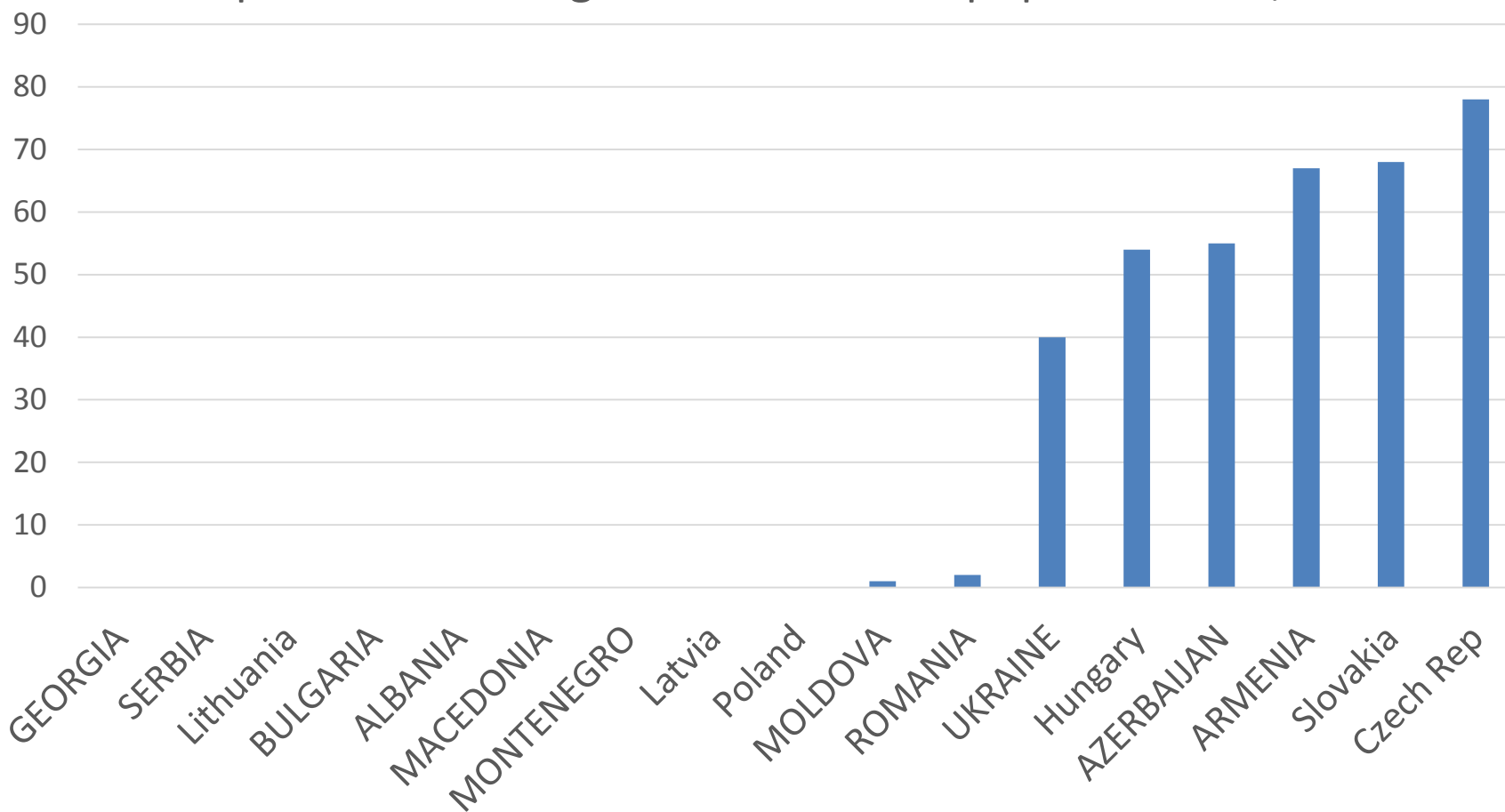


Denmark 32%

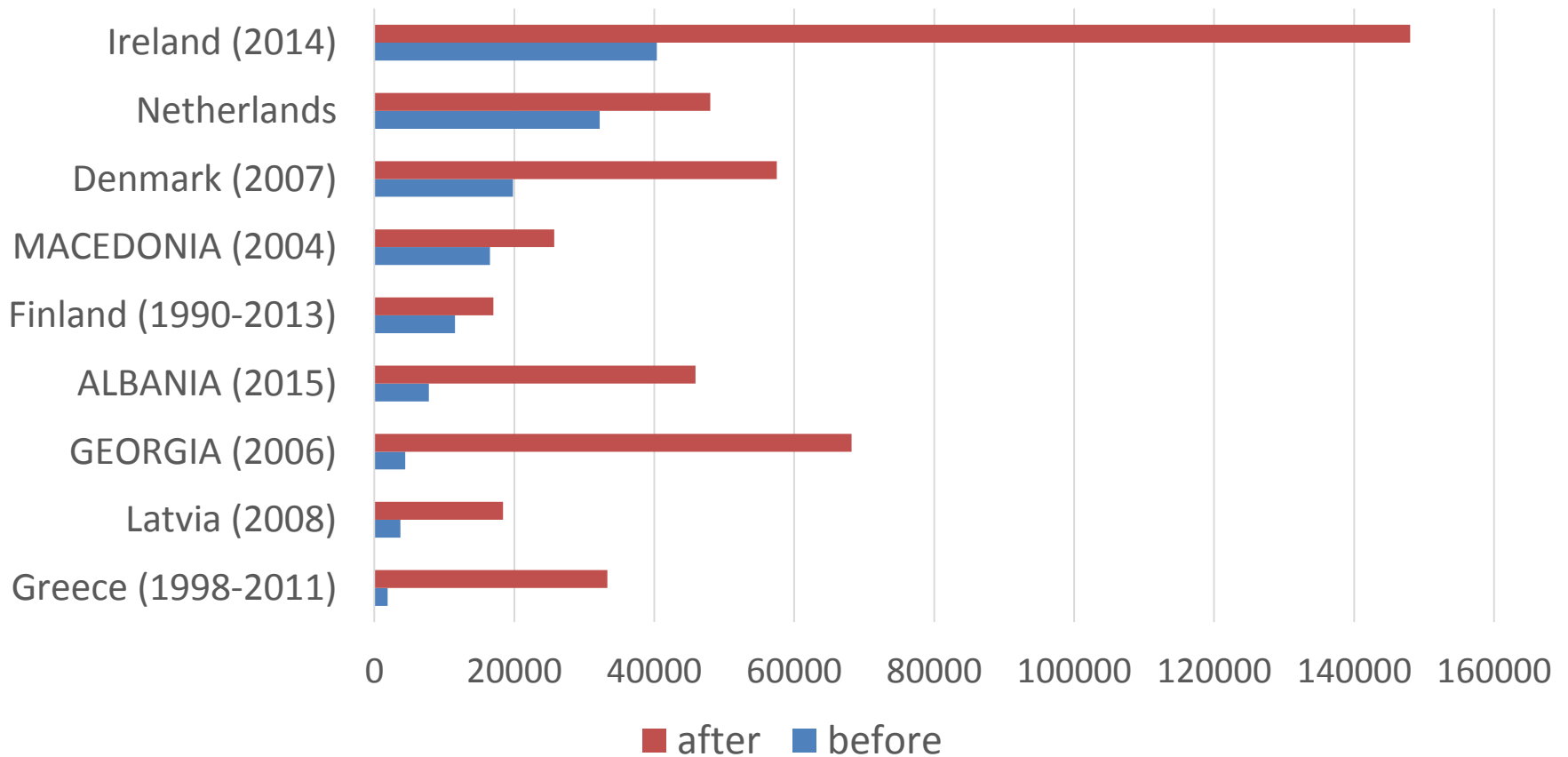
Sweden 25%

Switzerland 21%

Proportion of local governments with population < 1,000



Mean population size of municipal governments in countries experiencing recent territorial reforms



Challenges and conditions of the successful territorial reform

- One step – top-down or two-steps with semi-voluntary phase?
 - Trust in stable policy and determination in the implementation
 - Consensual versus majoritarian political culture
 - High level of bridging social capital among political elites and local communities
 - High level of local autonomy which helps local governments to realize that performance challenges cannot be met without a change,
 - Clear incentives for the change
- Searching for a political consensus since very beginning of the reform design process
- Integration of territorial, functional and financial reforms
- Using „window of political opportunity”

IMC as viable alternative for territorial reform?

- Indeed, in some countries main motive of IMC (Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary)
- Necessary incentives
 - Functional
 - Financial
 - EU funds as an incentive
- Clear legal framework
- Transparency and accountability issues (democratic deficit)
- Cooperative culture

Development funds management and the vicious circle of mistrust

