



Nordic Council
of Ministers

ANALYSIS NO. 02/2019

DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

– STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

How much trust does the Nordic population have in democratic institutions and national politicians? How actively do those living in the Nordic Region participate in democracy? Data from surveys of more than 7,000 people in the Nordic Region have been analysed in an effort to explore these questions. In addition, the report examines whether attitudes towards and trust in democracy differ in the Nordic Region compared with the rest of Europe.

Don't worry, be happy

State of democracy in the Nordic Countries

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Nord 2019:038

ISBN 978-92-893-6281-8 (PDF)

ISBN 978-92-893-6282-5 (EPUB)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.6027/NO2019-038>

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Layout: Jette Koefoed

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In general terms, interest
in politics appears to be
rising in the Nordic Region.

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Foreword

The relatively high trust that those living in the Nordic Region have in their politicians and democratic institutions is an already well-established concept. Considerable interest in politics, democratic participation, and high election turnouts are also things that we often associate with the Nordic countries. In times of political change and growing mistrust and scepticism of political institutions across the world, it is interesting to explore whether this still stands. We have analysed data from a large sample of Nordic residents to find out whether this is the case.

The last study of democratic participation in the Nordic Region by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Council took place in 2004 through the report *Democracy in the Nordic Countries*. How have democratic participation, interest in politics, and trust in institutions changed since then? Following the recent European parliamentary elections, it is also interesting to look at how the Nordic Region differs from the rest of Europe on these issues.

The study shows that those living in the Nordic countries continue to show high levels of trust in their politicians and institutions. Not only are democratic participation and interest in politics high in the region, but also trust in the European Parliament has grown over the past 15 years among those living in the Nordic Region, which is in stark contrast with the trend in the rest of Europe.

The report has been written by Christoffer Waldemarsson of the policy analysis unit at the Secretariat to the Nordic Council of Ministers. It forms part of the unit's report series which explores current key topics from a Nordic perspective.

Copenhagen, August 2019

Paula Lehtomäki

Secretary General

Nordic Council of Ministers

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Unlike the rest of Europe, trust in the European Parliament has increased in the Nordic countries since 2002.

Summary

The challenges faced by democracy and declining political participation are now common topics of discussion. The Nordic Council of Ministers has compiled data from interviews conducted between 2002 and 2016 with those living in the Nordic countries to examine how interest in politics and political participation has changed in the region. In addition, the report examines the level of trust in politicians and parliaments among Nordic residents and whether this has changed over time. In addition to comparing the Nordic countries with one another nationally, attitudes towards democracy and participation in democratic processes have been compared by gender and age group for each Nordic country. Do attitudes towards democracy differ between the young and the old? Furthermore, the Nordic countries have been compared with the rest of Europe to gain an understanding of whether the region stands out in a wider European context.

In general, although interest in politics appears to have increased in the Nordic Region since the start of the century, there is no clear trend in terms of trust in politicians and political parties. Norway stands out as the country where people have the most trust in national parliaments, while Iceland has the least trust in the political sphere. Nordic men are generally more interested in politics than Nordic women, and young people in the Nordic Region demonstrate a consistently lower level of interest in politics than older people, despite the interest of young people appearing to be on the rise. Compared to other European countries, the level of trust of Nordic people in the European Parliament is higher than the European average. Unlike the rest of Europe, trust in the European Parliament increased in the Nordic countries between 2002 and 2016. In line with the higher level of trust, the declared election turnout figures are higher in the Nordic Region than in the rest of Europe.



Introduction

Political participation is a key driver of democratic society. Similarly, citizens' trust in politicians and political institutions is important. In times of international geopolitical instability, political polarisation, and increasing distrust of politicians and political parties, it is interesting to study the statistics on how perceptions of political institutions and general interest in politics have changed. Of particular interest are the Nordic countries, known for their trust in national institutions and democratic processes. How has trust in politicians and parliaments changed in the Nordic Region? And to what extent do those living in the region participate in politics?

The Nordic Council of Ministers has analysed data collected by the European Social Survey (ESS) from the Nordic countries to try to identify trends in how Nordic citizens' interest in national politics, perception of political parties, and trust in their own political parties and parliaments have changed over time. In addition, this report seeks to map the possible trends that exist in the Nordic countries in relation to political and democratic participation. In addition to comparing the Nordic countries with each other, there will be a focus on the possible differences observed between different groups in each country broken down by gender and age. Is there a difference in how actively Nordic women participate in democratic processes compared with Nordic men? Is it possible to discern any trend in participation between different age groups?

The Nordic countries will also be compared with the rest of Europe to examine whether trust in politicians and political participation differs. Previous surveys from Dalia (2016), for example, show that election turnout in Europe has fallen for both national and European elections, despite interest in politics appearing to remain high. Are the Nordic countries part of this trend?

Every other year, the ESS conducts interviews with residents of more than 30 countries to map behaviours, beliefs, and general social attitudes.

About democratic participation

The active participation of citizens in democratic processes is important for several reasons. The higher election turnout is, the better the views and values of society are reflected. Similarly, being aware of and understanding citizens' views is a fundamental task of a democratic society. In the same way, it is reasonable to assume that a higher election turnout results in a composition of a country's parliament that is more representative of the country's population and the various groups that exist in society.

However, it is not just election turnout that plays a role. If interest in politics changes, it can affect the extent to which citizens participate in the social debate and either endorse or reject the policies being pursued. If major differences between different social groups and how actively they participate in democratic processes can be discerned, this is also interesting as it can help us to develop an understanding of the current political climate and the challenges a country faces.

By studying political participation, we can also identify various gaps and groupings in society. Extreme differences in participation can result in policies that alienate certain social groups and do not reflect the views and values found in public opinion.

Successfully engaging as much of the population as possible is a key challenge in democratic societies.

Traditionally speaking, political parties have played a key role in gathering opinions and values and translating these into concrete proposals that can bring about change. Identifying with a party has guided citizens in how they view the social debate and how they unite differing views and turn them into a real political agenda. Researchers have recently agreed that the sense of party political affiliation has been falling globally (Dalton, 2005) and that citizens no longer adhere to a specific party to the same extent as before. In addition, this is linked to more critical attitudes of political parties and institutions.

Trust

Earlier publications from the Nordic Council of Ministers have discussed the importance of trust in society, and in particular how high levels of trust have benefited the Nordic countries. A high level of trust not only has several socio-economic benefits but has come to be regarded as a key component in promoting participation in society at large (Andreasson, 2017).

When it comes to general trust in the political sphere, international studies in the area frequently emphasise the difference between the Nordic countries (which traditionally rank highest in such analyses) and a number of primarily Eastern European countries where trust is low (van der Meer, 2017). Although the debate around whether democracy and trust in politicians are in decline is one that has been rattling on for some time, there is good reason to study this area carefully in the current political climate. As recently as 2014, the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, said that "the public negativity about politics and politicians" is the greatest problem facing the European Union.

A Nordic perspective

This publication builds on the report *Democracy in the Nordic Countries*, published by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Council in 2004. The aim of the report was to map current social trends in the Nordic Region in terms of political and social participation, and the use and impact of information technology in democratic processes. The publication was based on data from the first ESS survey, conducted in 2002. At this time, interest in politics in the Nordic Region was generally high, while trust was weaker. A slight decline in election turnout was seen, although as pointed out later, the primary aim was to explore the differences between the Nordic countries in terms of political culture and focus on various political problems. In line with the reasoning set out in the previous section, the report explored the dilution of traditional party-bound politics. Political parties were losing members, and increasing numbers of voters were seen to switch party from election to election, while the policy issues being debated became increasingly complex. The authors believed that a risk of this was a fall in election turnouts.

In addition, the report examined how the interest of Nordic women in politics was on the rise and, linked to this, how women and men in the Nordic Region were sharing the same social ambitions and a more homogeneous interest in social issues than before. At the time, the turnout of younger voters in elections had fallen, with reports putting forward the idea that youth as a phase of life was increasing. The authors reasoned that higher education puts young people in a "free-floating" situation outside of established society, without a job or children, and therefore weakening their interest in politics. A lot has happened since the report was published. The question is now whether political participation has changed since the early 2000s, and if so, how.

Method and structure

The European Social Survey (ESS) is a multinational survey that has been conducted in Europe every other year since 2001. It consists of interviews and attempts to map the behaviours, beliefs, and general attitudes of the populations of more than 30 mainly European countries. A particular focus of the surveys is areas such as political stability, social structures, and changes in society's perception of the political climate.

Country	Year	Number of participants
Denmark	2002	1506
Finland	2002	2000
Iceland	2004	579
Norway	2002	2036
Sweden	2002	1999
Denmark	2014	1502
Finland	2016	1925
Iceland	2016	880
Norway	2016	1545
Sweden	2016	1551

Table 1:
Number of
participants in the
ESS survey.

The ESS compiled interviews with randomly selected people in the countries surveyed by asking them a number of predetermined questions. Although there was no upper age limit for participating in the study, the lower age limit was set at 15. The statistics of this publication compare the data from the first survey published by the ESS in 2002 with the latest survey published in 2016. Since Iceland did not take part in the 2002 survey, data has been taken from the 2004 survey instead. The same applies to Denmark, which did not take part in the 2016 survey, and so statistics have been taken from the 2014 survey instead. The number of participants in the study is listed in the adjoining table.

In our comparisons between the Nordic countries and the rest of Europe, the results of some countries outweigh others. This is because the results of the countries are weighted based on population size.

The results from the interviews in the Nordic countries are structured according to the topics used by the ESS and are intended to describe both general trends and country-specific differences. The data gathered has also been broken down in order to identify differences between women and men and between age groups. Once the data from the Nordic countries is presented, these are compared with statistics from the rest of Europe. Consequently, the report is divided into four sections.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. How interested are you in politics? | Nordic Region |
| 2. Do you trust your country's parliament? | Nordic Region |
| 3. Do you trust politicians? | Nordic Region |
| 4. Nordic Region and the rest of Europe | The Nordic Region and Europe |

Norway and Iceland are included in the statistics for the Nordic Region, although they are not members of the European Union.

In comparisons between the Nordic countries and the rest of Europe, data has been used for the European countries which took part in the ESS survey at the time. All the countries included in the survey are listed below. In some cases, data for individual countries is missing for one of the surveys, which is why the selection differs slightly between 2002 and 2016.

2002: Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia.

2016: Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania.

How interested are you in politics?

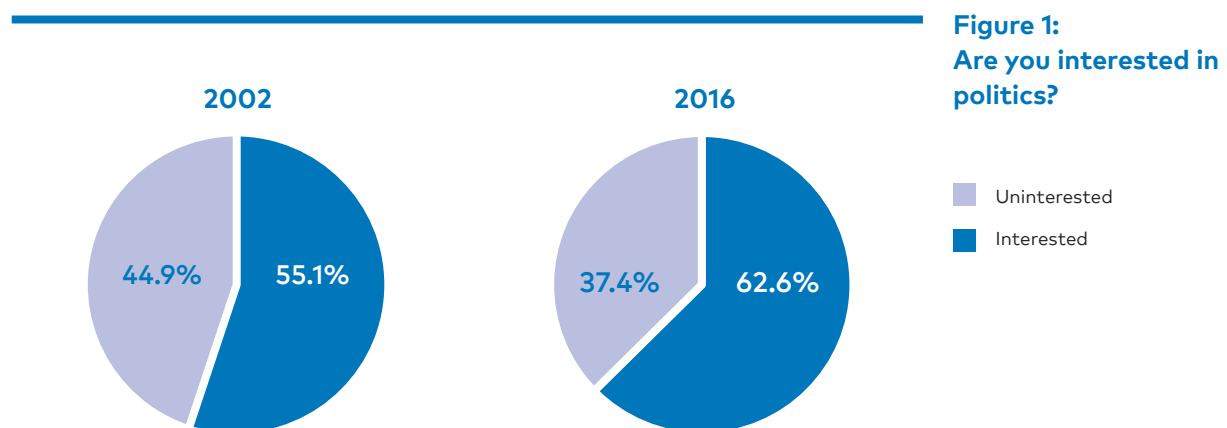
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A general trend in the Nordic countries is that interest in politics has increased between the time periods studied. Participants in the study were asked if they felt very interested, quite interested, hardly interested, or not at all interested in politics. While the proportion of people who are very interested in politics has increased in all countries, the proportion of people who said that they are not at all interested in politics fell on the whole in the Nordic Region. Nordic men state they are interested in politics more than do Nordic women. This is evident in all the countries, in both periods studied. Although interest in politics is also greater among those aged 30 and over than among those aged under 30, it is possible to discern an increase in interest among young people in the Nordic Region.

A clear increase in interest in the Nordic countries

In order to more easily identify a trend of growing interest in politics in the Nordic Region, the four response options have been condensed as "interested in politics" and "uninterested in politics". The average level of interest is then aggregated for all the Nordic countries included, and weighted according to each country's population size. It is then possible to clearly see how the proportion of those living in the Nordic Region who are interested in politics increased between 2002 and 2016. The proportion who state that they are interested in politics increased from 55.1 per cent in 2002 to 62.6 per cent in 2016.

Finland is the Nordic country that has seen the greatest increase in people who are very or quite interested in politics, from 46.5 per cent in 2002 to 60 per cent in 2016. The proportion of people who state that they are not especially or not at all interested in politics fell by more than 20 per cent between 2002 and 2016.



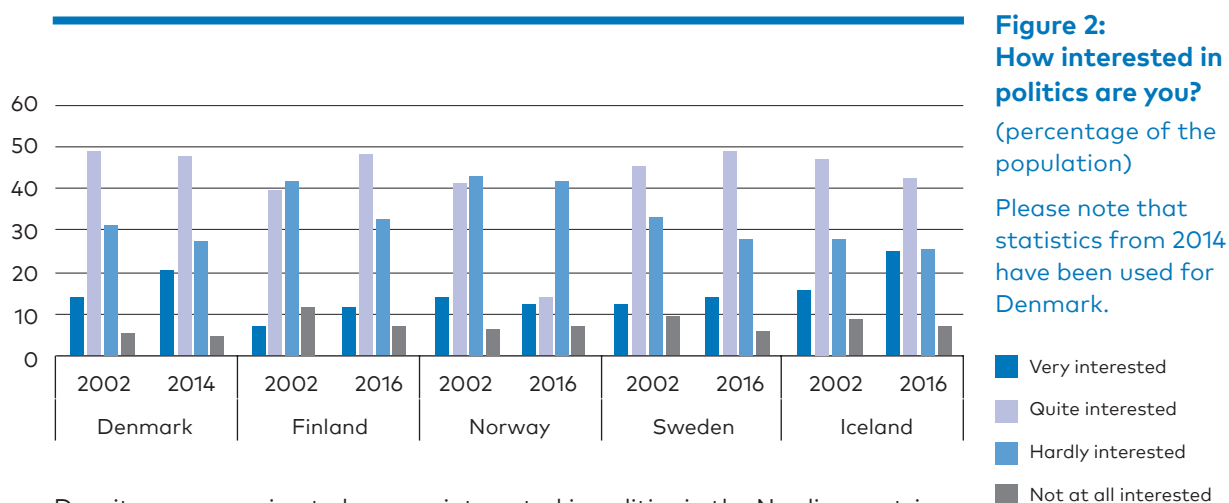
It is worth noting that there is no data for Iceland in 2002 or Denmark in 2016. Consequently, Iceland is excluded from the chart for 2002 and Denmark from the chart for 2016. In Iceland in 2004, the proportion of people interested in politics was 63 per cent. In Denmark in 2014, the proportion of people interested in politics was just over 67 per cent. Consequently, the countries would probably slightly increase the proportion of interested people in the Nordic Region.



In Iceland, the proportion of people who consider themselves to be very interested in politics is higher than in all the other Nordic countries, with a quarter of the population falling into this category. 30 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women state that they are very interested in politics. Interest appears to be strong among young people in Iceland, where almost one in four people under the age of 30 stated that they are very interested in politics, which is the highest in the Nordic Region in the younger age group.

In Denmark around two-thirds of the population stated that they are quite or very interested in politics, and, as in Sweden, the proportion of those who stated they are interested or uninterested has risen and fallen respectively since 2002. Denmark has the lowest proportion of people who stated that they are not at all interested in politics, at less than 5 per cent.

Only Norway shows no discernible change between the two periods studied. However, of the respondents under the age of 30, Norwegians showed a markedly lower interest in politics than their Nordic neighbours. Almost 65 per cent of young Norwegians said that they were not especially or not at all interested in politics, with only 6.6 per cent stating that they were very interested in politics.



Despite men seeming to be more interested in politics in the Nordic countries, women appear to vote to a greater extent. In response to the question "Did you vote in the last election?", the proportion of women who said they did was higher in all of the Nordic countries in 2016. The highest election turnout among women was observed in Sweden, where more than 89 per cent respondents stated that they voted. The lowest election turnout among women was in Norway, at 76.8 per cent. The highest turnout among men was observed in Iceland (87.1 per cent), while Finland was noted as having the lowest election turnout among men (76.9 per cent).

The data in the section above is based on responses collected by the ESS in 2016 in response to the question of whether the respondents voted in the last general election. Below is a summary of the official statistics of election turnout in the most recent general election from the national statistics offices of each country.

Denmark	85.9 per cent (2015)	Statistics Denmark
Finland	70.1 per cent (2015)	Statistics Finland
Iceland	81.4 per cent (2013)	Statistics Iceland
Norway	78.2 per cent (2013)	Statistics Norway
Sweden	87.2 per cent (2014)	Statistics Sweden

Facts: Election turnout in the Nordic Region

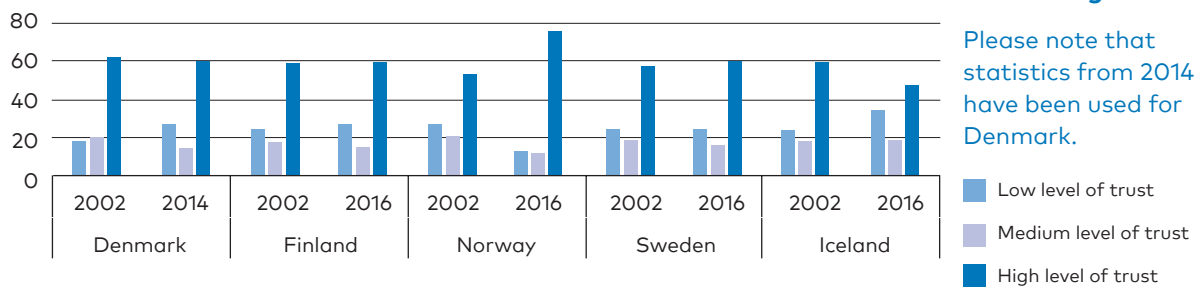
2 Do you trust your country's parliament?

Participants in the study were asked to what degree they trust their own country's parliament on a scale of 0 to 10, where no trust at all is 0 and complete trust is 10. To make the results clearer, this has been condensed into three categories: 0 to 4 is considered a low level of trust, 5 is considered a medium level of trust, and 6 to 10 is considered a high level of trust in the country's parliament. The clearest contrast is between Norway and Iceland. The trust of Norwegians in their parliament increased sharply during the period studied, while the proportion of Icelanders who trust their parliament fell. There is no discernible trend among the different age or gender groups.

There is a general increase in the proportion of Danes who have a low level of trust in their country's parliament, rising from 17.5 per cent to 26.2 per cent during the period studied. In Denmark the proportion of people with a medium level of trust fell markedly from 20.4 per cent in 2002 to 13.5 per cent in 2014. In Finland, although the proportion of people with a low level of trust also increased, the change was not as great as in Denmark.

Norway stands out among the Nordic countries as the country with the biggest increase in trust in its national parliament. The proportion of people who state they have little trust in their parliament has more than halved from 26.6 per cent to 12.7 per cent. Similarly, the proportion of people who state that they have a high level of trust has increased sharply from 53.4 per cent to 76.1 per cent. This makes Norway the Nordic country where the largest proportion of the population trusts the country's parliament, as well as the country where the lowest proportion of the population has a low level of trust in the parliament.

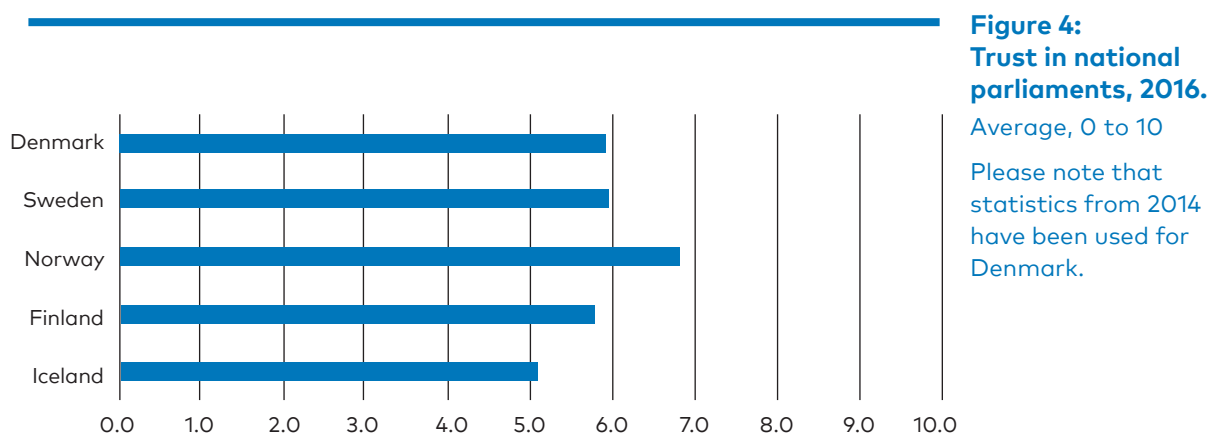
The contrast with Iceland is substantial, where trust in the country's parliament is the lowest among the Nordic countries. In 2004, less than a quarter of the population stated that they had little trust in the Icelandic parliament. By 2016 this had increased to more than a third of the population. In 2004, 60 per cent of respondents stated that they trust their parliament. This fell to 48 per cent in 2016.



Trust highest in Norway and lowest in Iceland

When averaging each country's level of trust, Norway's high level of trust in its national parliament becomes even more apparent. 10 indicates continued complete trust, while 0 indicates that the respondents have no trust at all.

Furthermore, it becomes clear that trust in Iceland is lower than the Nordic average, while Denmark, Sweden, and Finland all have roughly the same level of trust.



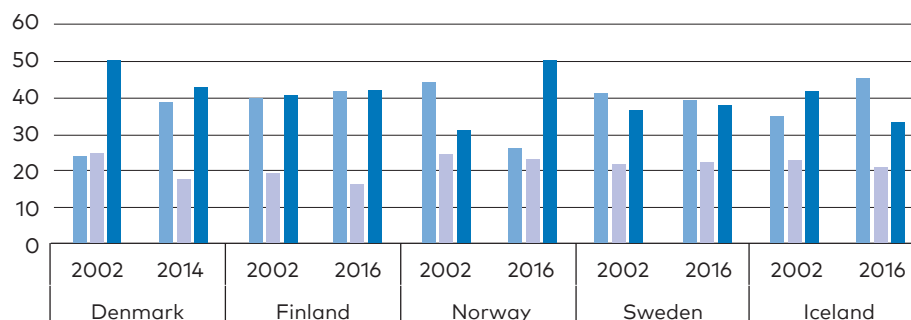
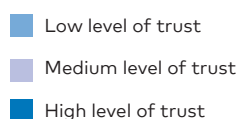
3 Trust in politicians

Participants in the survey were asked how they rated their trust in national politicians on a scale from 0 to 10, where 10 corresponded to complete trust. As before, the options have been condensed into three categories, where 0 to 4 is considered a low level of trust, 5 a medium level of trust, and 6 to 10 a high level of trust.

There is no discernible trend for how trust in politicians has changed in the Nordic countries, as trust in national politicians in Denmark and Iceland fell over the period studied, while Norway in particular saw a sharp increase in trust. Similarly, there is no clear trend in relation to gender or age.

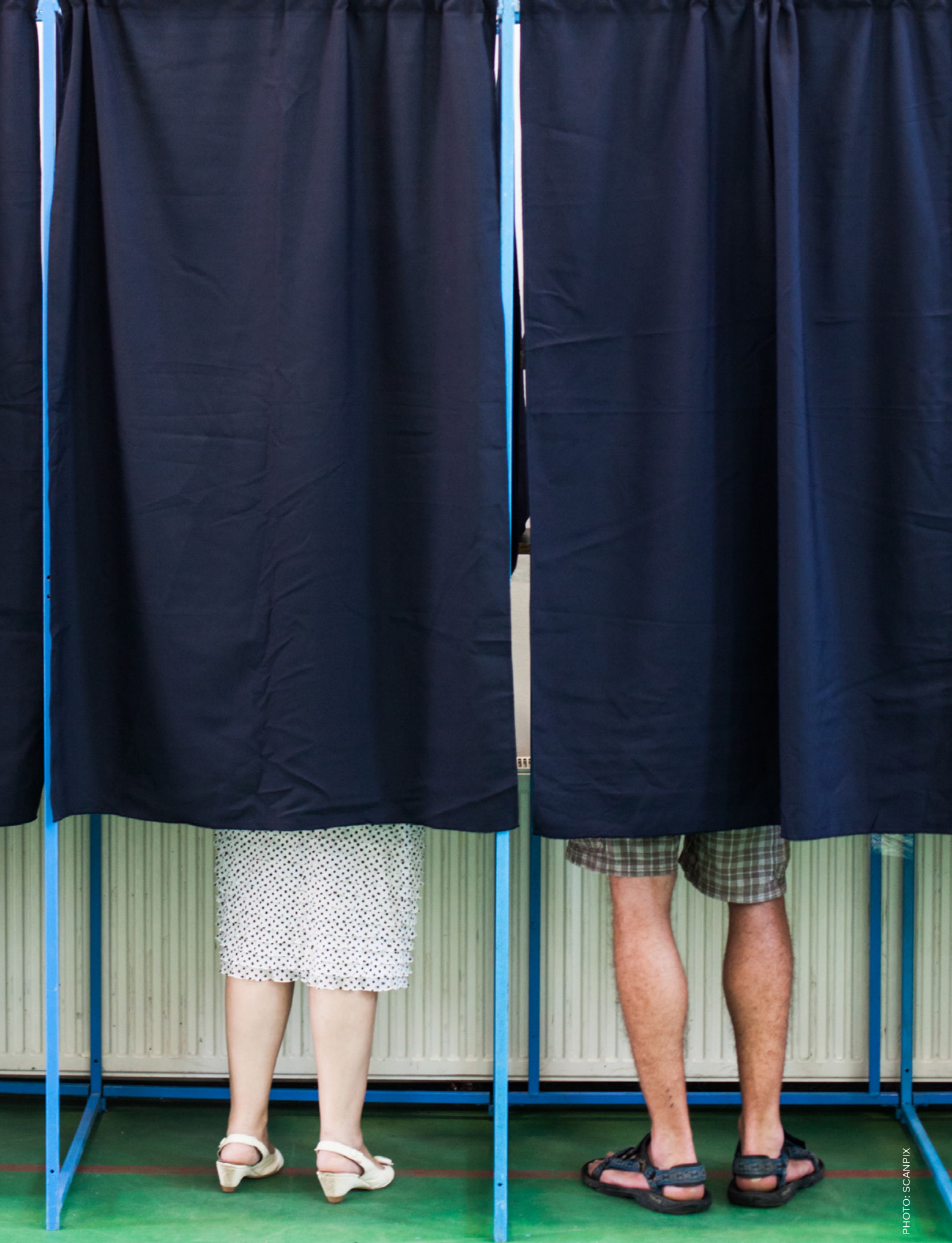
Figure 5:
Trust in politicians.

Please note that statistics from 2014 have been used for Denmark.



In Denmark, trust in national politicians has fallen, and where half of the population stated they had a high level of trust in 2002, only 43 per cent continued to have a high level of trust in 2014. Trust in national politicians appears to have fallen in Iceland as well, with 45 per cent of respondents in 2016 stating they had a low level of trust - the highest in the Nordic Region.

While the results for Finland and Sweden are largely unchanged, Norway has seen a sharp increase in trust in its national politicians. The proportion of Norwegians stating that they have a high level of trust has increased from just over 31 per cent in 2002 to more than 50 per cent. This makes Norway the country where, by a good margin, most residents state that they have a high level of trust in their politicians.



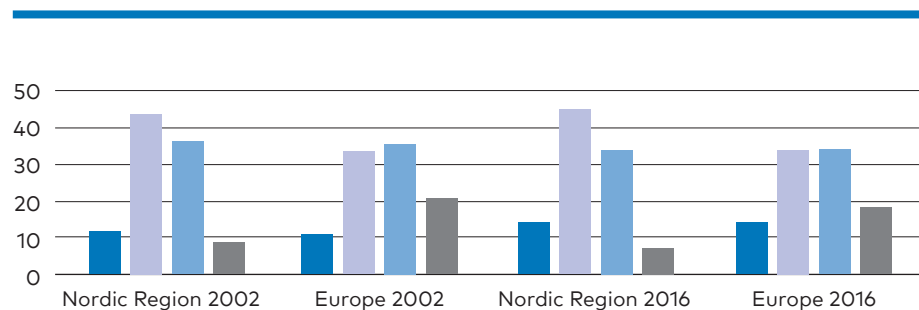
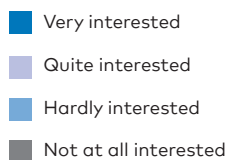
4 The Nordic Region and Europe

Studies and articles regularly point to the high level of trust that the Nordic countries have in their political institutions compared with the rest of the world. This also holds true when the Nordic countries are compared to other European countries. In the Nordic countries the level of interest in politics and the level of trust in national parliaments were higher than the European average. Election turnout is also higher in the Nordic Region than in the rest of Europe.

Interest in politics

Although interest in politics appears to have increased in Europe since 2002, it is still lower than in the Nordic countries. Not only does the proportion of people who state that they are quite interested in politics differ markedly between the two sets of countries, the proportion of the population who consider themselves completely uninterested in politics is three times higher in Europe than in the Nordic Region. While just over 59 per cent of those living in the region consider themselves interested in politics, the corresponding figure for Europe is just 47.6 per cent.

Figure 6:
How interested are
you in politics?



Iceland has been excluded from the Nordic dataset for 2002, while Denmark has been excluded for 2016. Please see the diagram in section 1 for data for Iceland in 2004 and Denmark in 2014.

Election turnout

Despite interest in politics having seemingly increased in both the Nordic Region and the rest of Europe, the stated election turnout has fallen for both. This decrease is greater in other European countries than in the Nordic Region, and since the Nordic countries already showed higher election turnouts in 2002, the difference is now even greater. The proportion of respondents in the rest of Europe who stated that they voted in the last general election fell from 72.7 per cent in 2002 to just over 68 per cent in 2016. The corresponding figures for the Nordic Region are 80.7 per cent in 2002 and 79.2 per cent in 2016.

Trust in national parliaments

There is a clear difference between Nordic and other European countries in terms of trust in national parliaments, with the Nordic countries showing a consistently higher level of trust in both periods. Although the proportion of people who are confident in their national parliaments has increased for both groups, the proportion is still substantially higher in the Nordic Region, with the number of those ranking their trust between 7 and 10 being more than twice as high as in the rest of Europe.

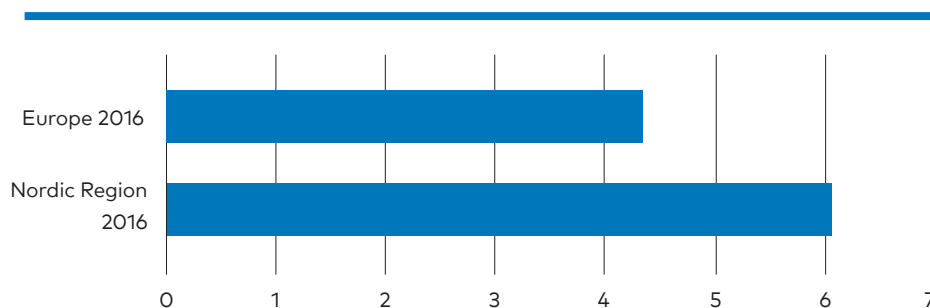


Figure 7:
Trust in national
parliaments.

Average, 0 to 10

Denmark is excluded from the above dataset for the Nordic Region. The corresponding average for Denmark in 2014 was 6.3.

At the other end of the scale, the proportion of people who state that they have no trust in their national parliaments has increased in both Europe and the Nordic countries. However, the proportion of people who rate their trust as 0 is more than four times higher in Europe than in the Nordic Region. 11.9 per cent of respondents in the rest of Europe state they have no trust in their national parliaments. In 2016 the average level of trust in the Nordic Region was 6.05, compared with 4.34 in the rest of Europe.

Trust in national politicians

The same trend as for national parliaments can be seen in relation to the respondents' trust in national politicians. The Nordic countries show a consistently higher level of trust than does the rest of Europe, although the proportion of people who state they have a high level of trust is low for both groups. Particularly astonishing is the high proportion of the European population who state that they have no trust in their national politicians, with almost one in five Europeans (excluding the Nordic Region) rating their trust in national politicians at 0 on a scale of 0 to 10.

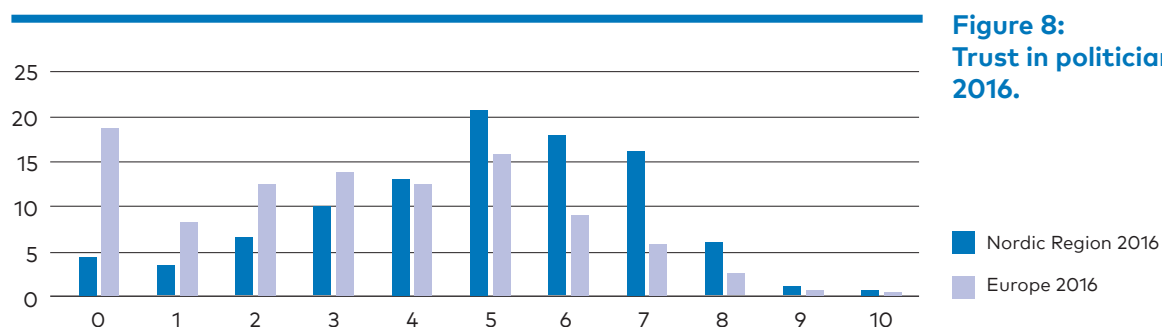


Figure 8:
Trust in politicians,
2016.

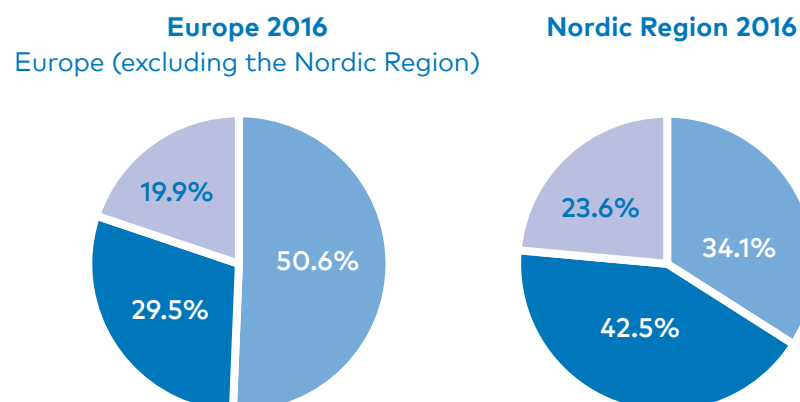
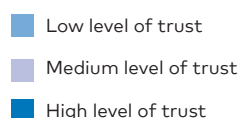
Trust in the European Parliament

As expected, although the general level of trust in the European Parliament in 2016 in the Nordic countries was higher than in the rest of Europe, this trend is not as clear as it was in 2002. The figures from the ESS show that trust in the European Parliament has increased in the Nordic Region while it has decreased in the rest of Europe. The proportion of people who state they have no trust in the European Parliament is more than twice as high in the rest of Europe as it is in the Nordic countries.

If levels of trust are condensed into three categories, where 0 to 4 represents a low level of trust, 5 a medium level of trust, and 6 to 10 a high level of trust, it becomes even clearer that, in general, the Nordic countries have a higher level of trust in the European Parliament. In addition, it becomes graphically clear how the proportion of people who distrust the European Parliament has increased in the rest of Europe. In 2016, more than half the people in these countries stated that they have a low level of trust in the European Parliament. The corresponding figure for the Nordic countries is just over a third. Roughly 30 per cent of respondents in the rest of Europe state that they have a high level of trust in the European Parliament, compared with 43 per cent in the Nordic Region.

The proportion of respondents in the Nordic Region who state they have a high level of trust in the European Parliament has increased from 33.6 per cent to 42.5 per cent - an increase of more than 26 per cent.

Figure 9:
Trust in the European
Parliament and the
Nordic Region.



A brief note about the statistics for the Nordic Region:

In the Nordic statistics in section 4, Iceland has been excluded from the dataset for the Nordic countries for 2002, while Denmark has been excluded from the dataset for 2016. In both cases, this is because the countries did not take part in the surveys in the years stated.

Conclusion and closing reflections

Several general trends, as well as some differences between the Nordic countries, can be identified in the survey. Below are some of the key observations:

- In general terms, interest in politics appears to be rising in the Nordic Region. In 2016, 62.6 per cent of the Nordic population stated that they were interested in politics, compared with 55.1 per cent in 2002. Interest in politics generally seems to be greater among men than women in the Nordic Region. Similarly, the older generation appears to be more interested in politics than the younger generation. However, younger people's interest in politics is growing, and they were more interested in 2016 than in 2002.
- Despite interest in politics appearing to be higher among Nordic men, Nordic women stated that they vote to a greater extent than did men. Consequently, self-stated election turnout does not appear to correlate with self-stated interest in politics.
- Although a slight average decline in trust in the political sphere can be observed, the Nordic countries are ranked highly from an international perspective. In fact, the negative trend observed in the rest of Europe appears not to apply in the Nordic countries. Low levels of corruption, a strong tradition of trade unions, and the perceived fairness of the actions of social institutions partly explain the high level of trust in the Nordic countries.
- Although the level of trust in politicians is relatively stable in the Nordic Region when compared to the rest of Europe, there are differences between the Nordic countries. One of the most conspicuous results is the considerable difference in trust in the political sphere between Iceland and Norway. Icelanders' markedly lower level of trust than in the other Nordic countries is probably attributable to the consequences of the most recent financial crisis and the debate that followed. Norwegians' high level of trust in politicians and the political parties is less obvious but startling nonetheless.
- Those living in the Nordic Region are more interested in politics than those living in the rest of Europe, and although election turnout has fallen in both the Nordic Region and the rest of Europe, it remains at a high level in the Nordic countries.
- The Nordic countries show a significantly higher level of trust in their national parliaments than does the rest of Europe. The same is true of trust in the European Parliament, where not only do the Nordic countries have a higher level of trust than does the rest of Europe, but also their trust has increased since 2002.

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Statistics Iceland (Iceland) – <https://www.statice.is/>

Statistics Norway (Norway) – <https://www.ssb.no/>

Statistics Sweden (Sweden) – <https://www.scb.se/>

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Although a slight average decline in trust in the political sphere can be observed, the Nordic countries are ranked highly from an international perspective.



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Don't worry, be happy

The Nordic Council of Ministers has analysed data from interviews with residents of the Nordic Region to explore how democratic participation and perceptions of democracy have changed since the beginning of the 2000s.

The study shows that although interest in politics has increased in the region since 2002, there is no discernible trend with regard to trust in national parliaments or trust in politicians. Compared with the rest of Europe, those living in the Nordic Region have a high level of trust in the European Parliament. Interest in politics in the region is also greater than in the rest of Europe.

This report is authored by the policy analysis unit at the Secretariat to the Nordic Council of Ministers. It forms part of the unit's report series exploring current key topics from a Nordic perspective.