



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Overview of drug-induced deaths in Europe

- What does the data tell us?

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**EMCDDA expert group on the key-indicator
Drug-related deaths and mortality among drug users
12-13 November 2012**

Overall situation



Between 10 000 and 20 000 opioid users die each year

Main causes: overdose, infectious disease, trauma, suicide

About 7 000 reported overdose deaths in 2010 (decrease compared with 2009) — mainly opioids, males, polydrug use

Provisional data for 2011: suggest a further decrease



Drug-induced deaths in Europe

- In the period 1995–2010, between 6 300 and 8 400 drug-induced deaths were reported each year in Europe
- Most fatal overdoses are associated with opioids (typically over 85 %)
- Around 650 cocaine-related deaths were reported by 16 countries (decreases in most member states)
- Following an overall falling trend in drug-induced deaths between 2000 and 2003, subsequent data show an increase. Peaked reached in 2008
- From 2009 onwards there is a general decreasing trend



Overdoses reported

- ~ 6 500 fatal overdoses reported in 2011
 - ~80 males
 - Mean age ~38 years
 - Mostly 'polydrug' overdoses with alcohol
 - 22 countries show a decrease
 - Mainly opioids – heroin
 - 10/23 countries with info available have 80% or more of their cases related to opioids

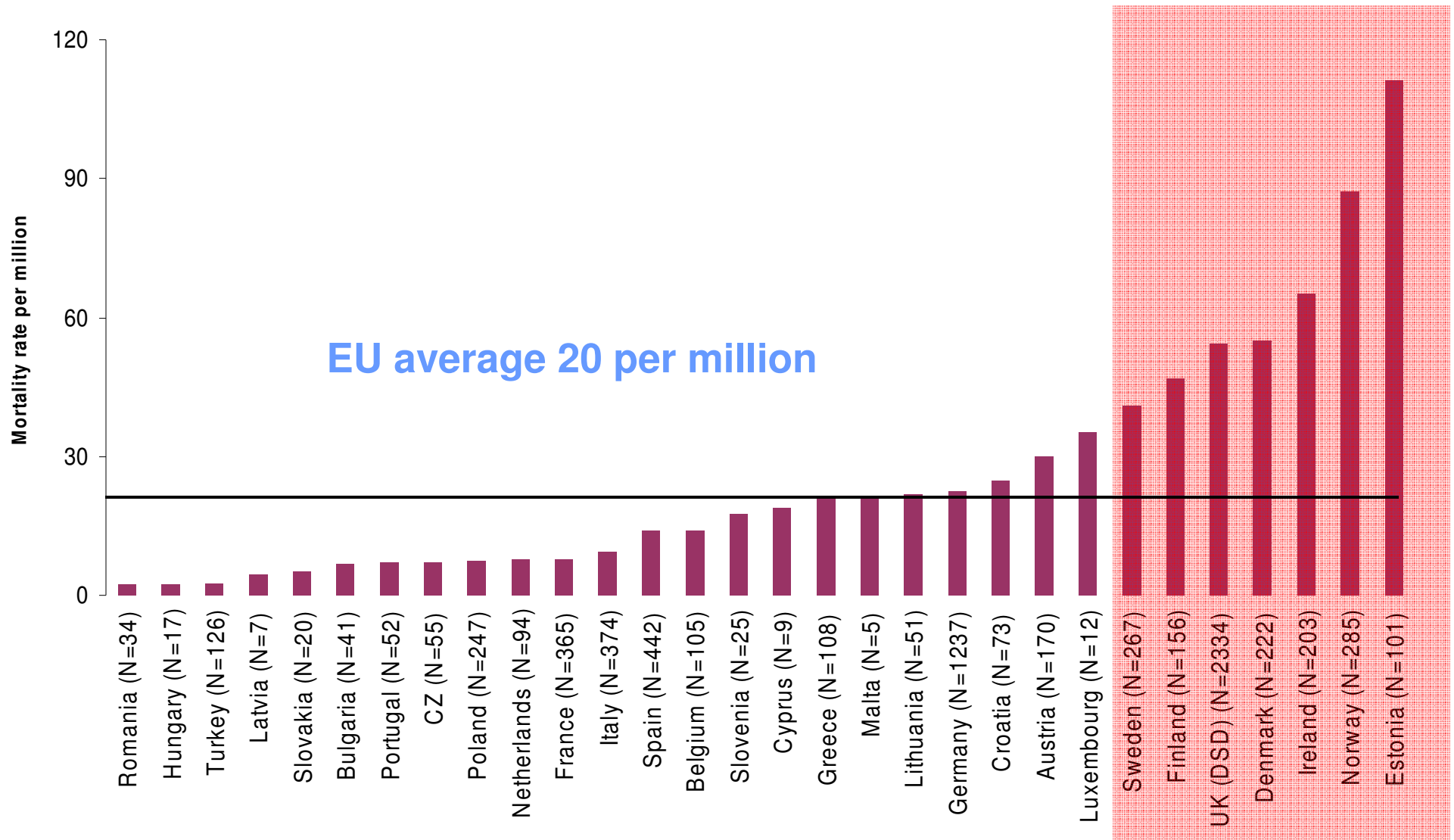


Factors associated with drug-induced deaths

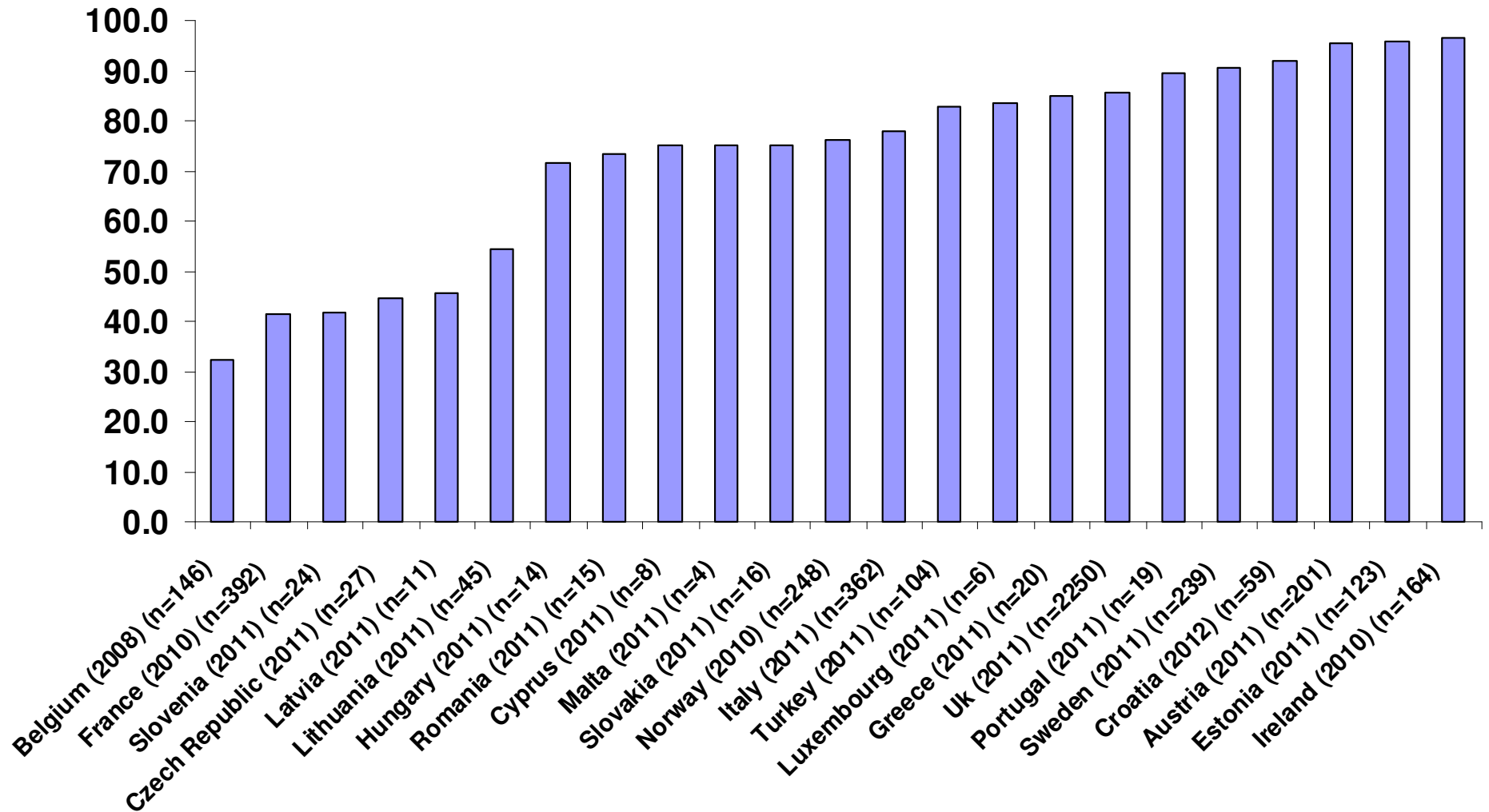
- Not being in drug treatment
 - waiting list, dropped out
- Injecting
- Simultaneous use of alcohol, BZD, other drugs
- Poor mental health
- Homelessness
- Previous overdose
- Using drugs alone
- Time immediately after release from prison or discharge from drug treatment



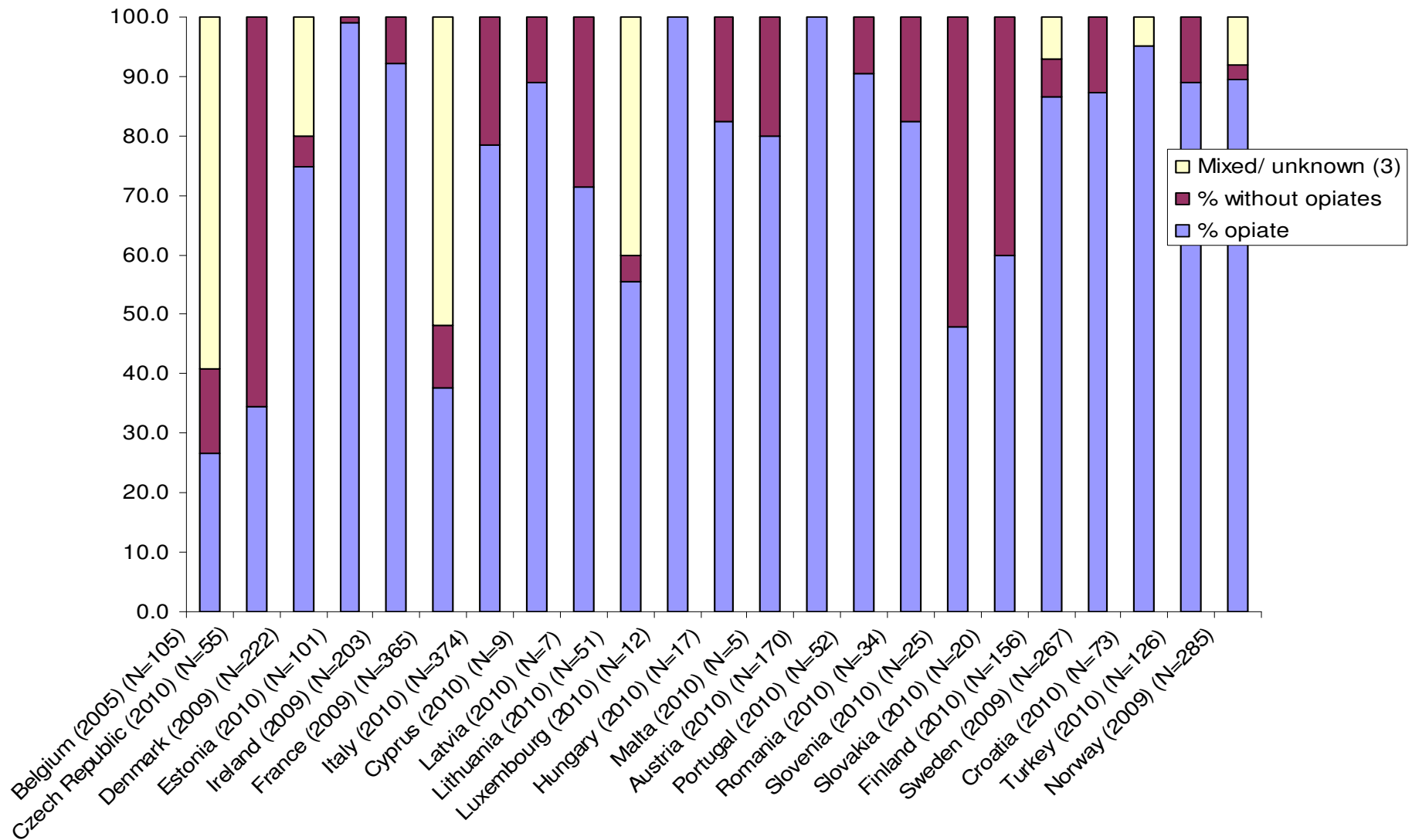
Mortality rates due to drug-induced deaths among all adults



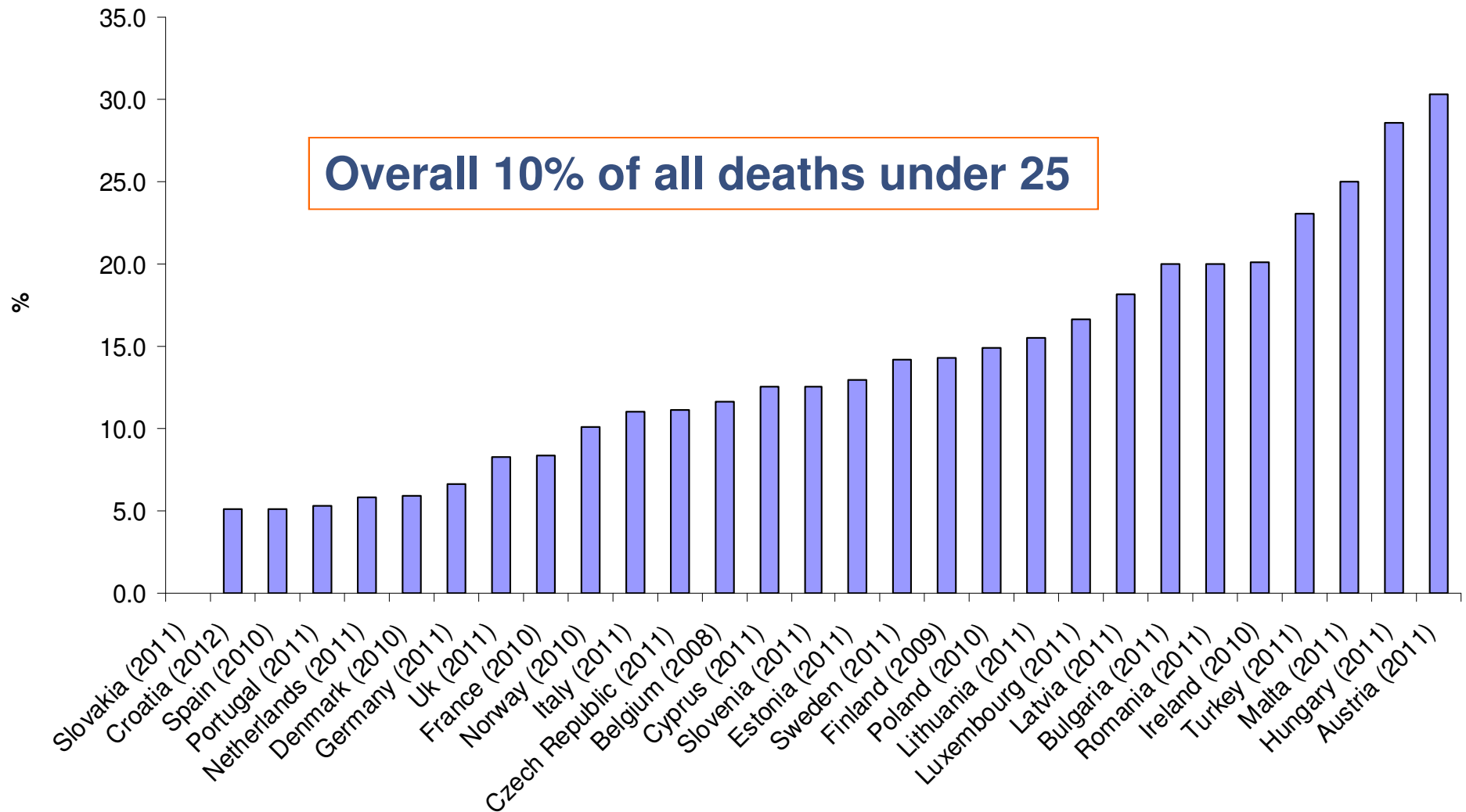
Proportion of drug-induced deaths that show presence of opioids for the most recent year reported



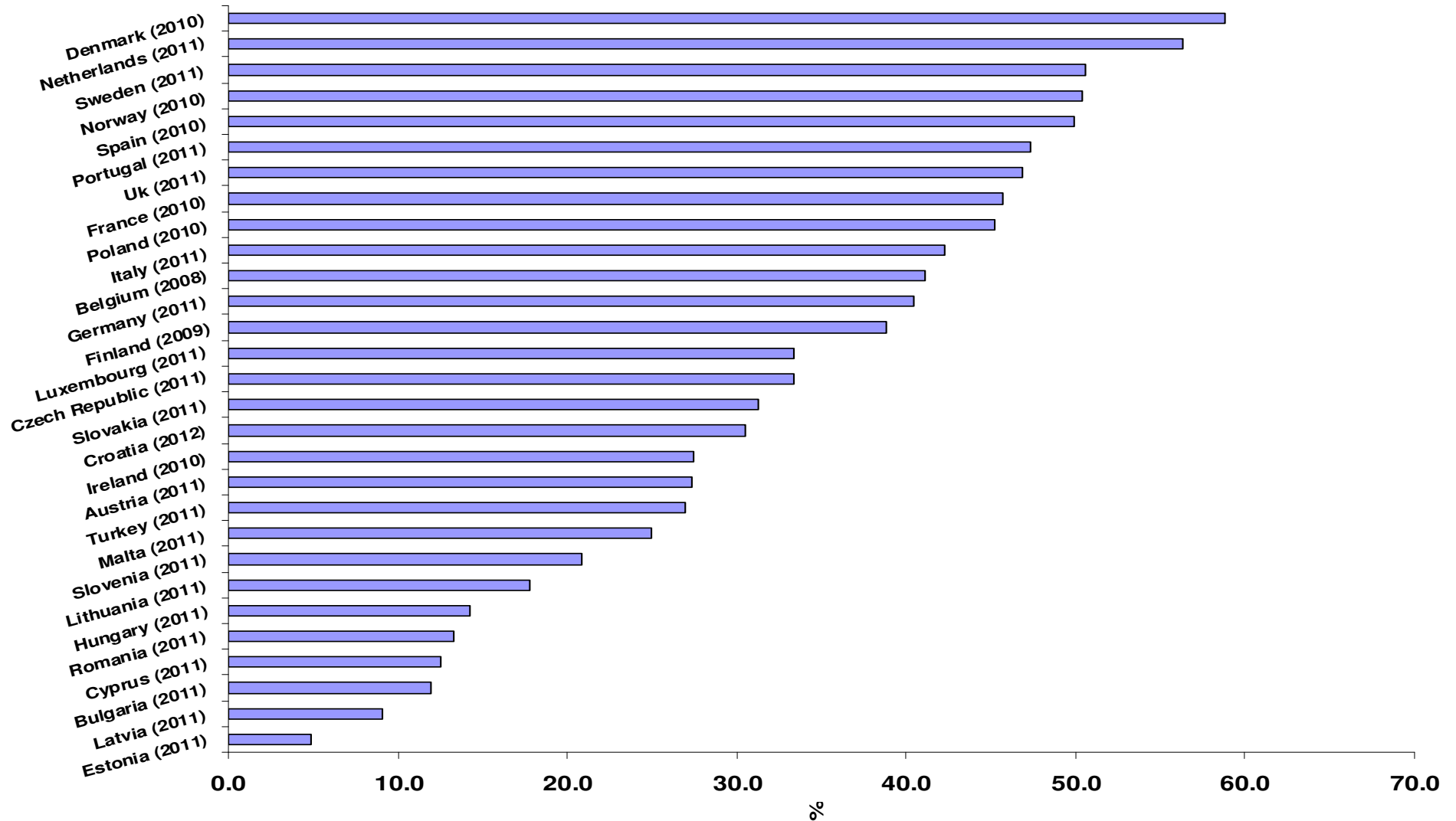
% of overdoses that show presence of opioids



Proportion of drug-induced deaths occurring under the age of 25 years

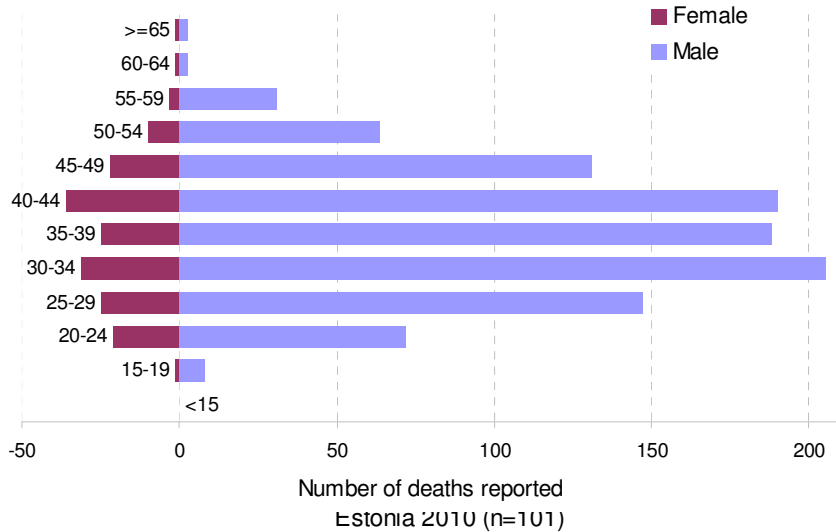


Proportion of overdose deaths over 40 years

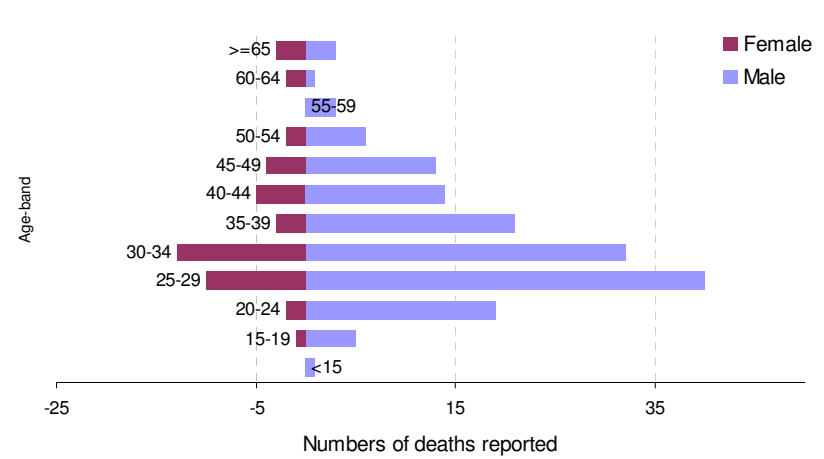


Age pyramids of overdose cases

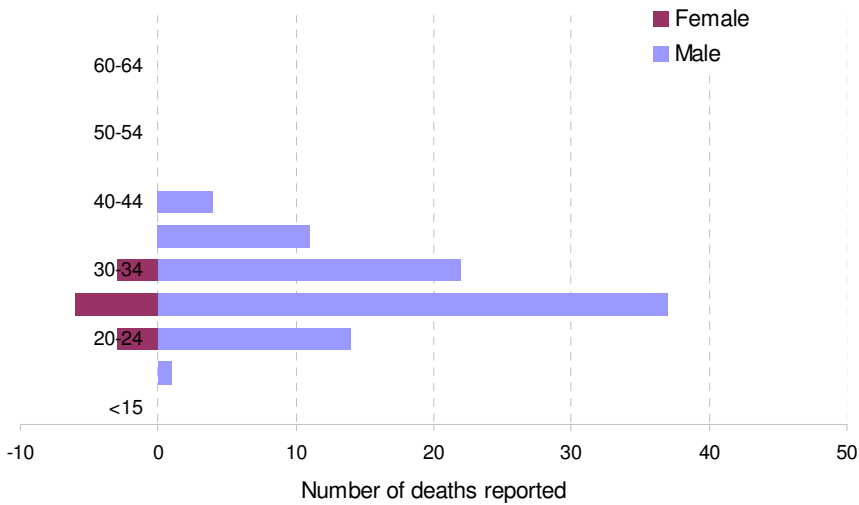
Germany 2010 (n=1237)



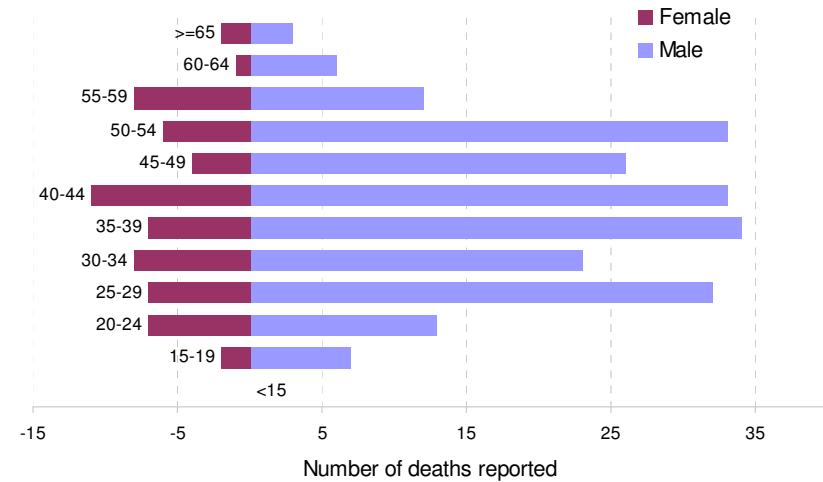
Ireland 2009 (n=203)



Estonia 2010 (n=101)



Norway 2010 (n=285)

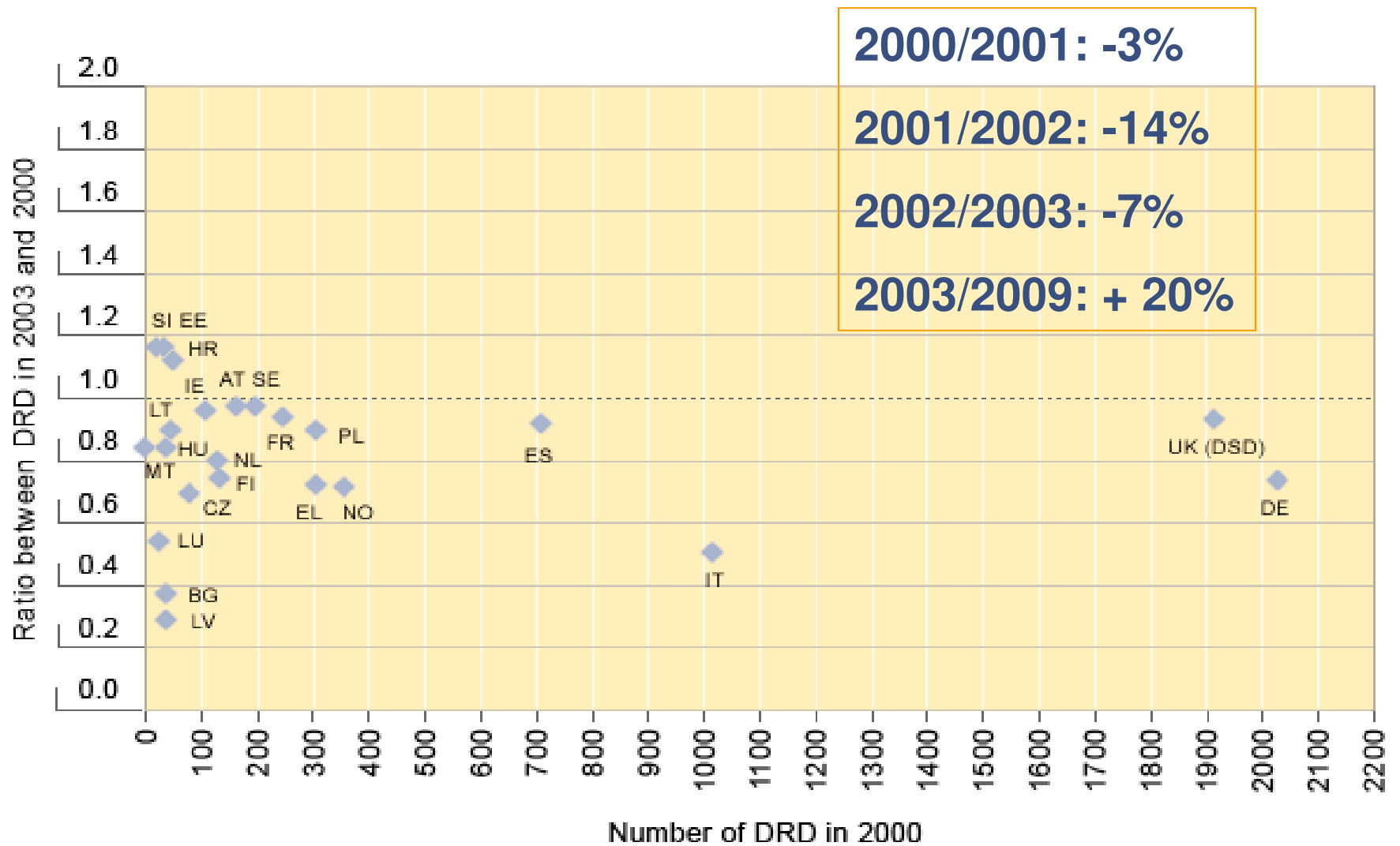


Trends and patterns of drug-induced deaths

- Clear decrease between 2000 and 2003 in the EU
- Different patterns in national trends
- In 2008, 18 reporting countries showed a rise
- New data (2012) suggest a possible decline (22/30 countries)

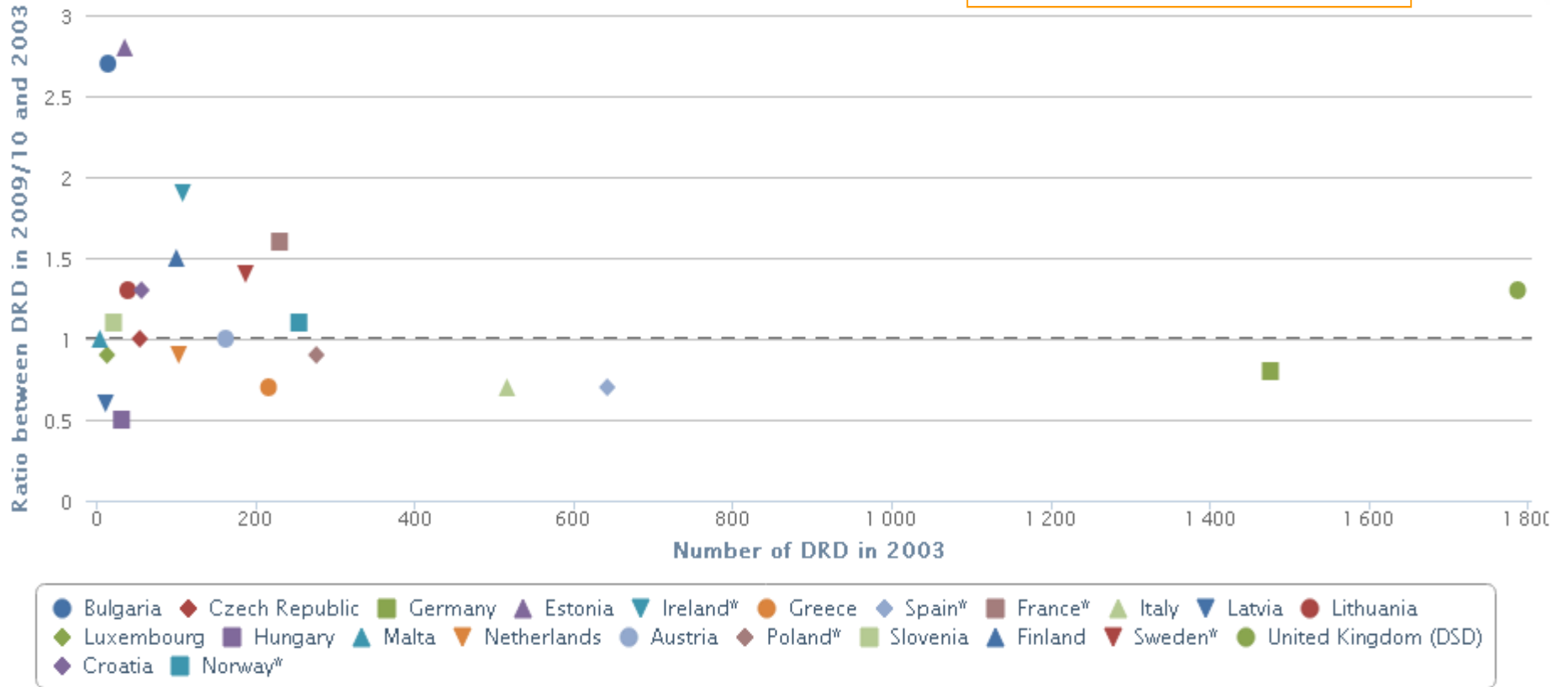


Drug-induced deaths: change 2000 to 2003

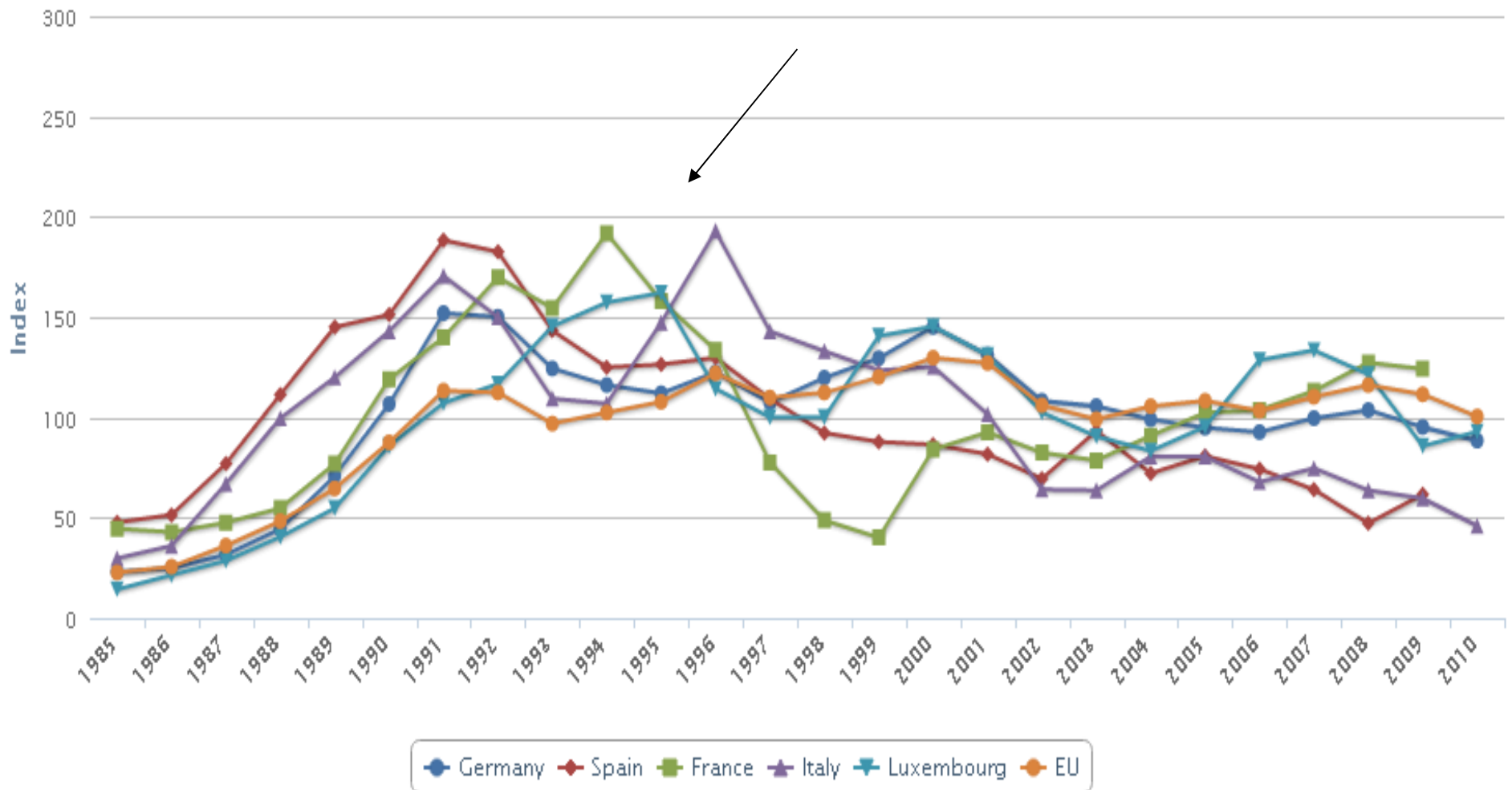


Drug-induced deaths: change 2003 to 2009/10

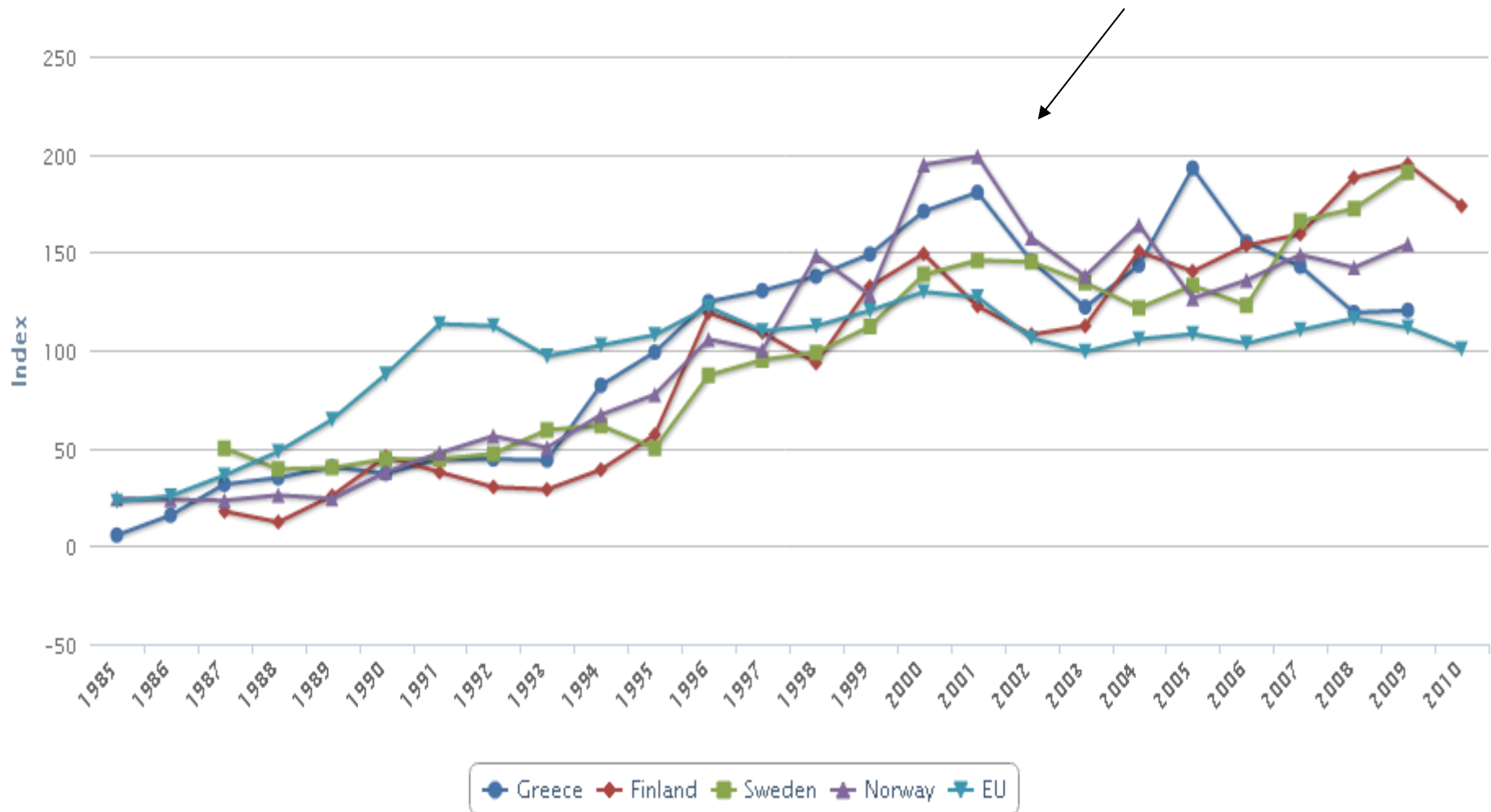
2003/2009: + 20%



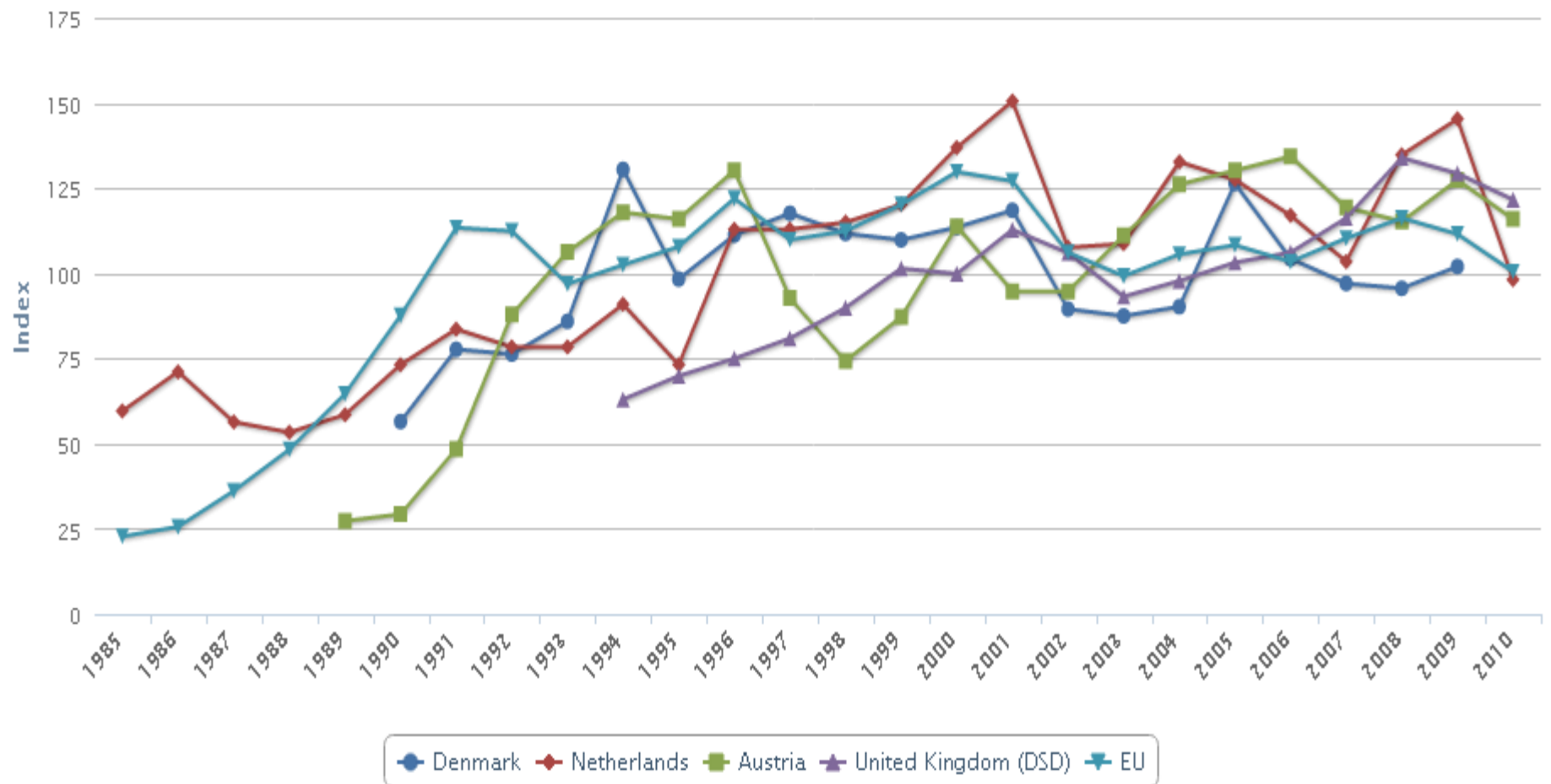
Indexed time series of patterns of drug-induced deaths in different countries and in the EU as a whole, 1985 to 2010



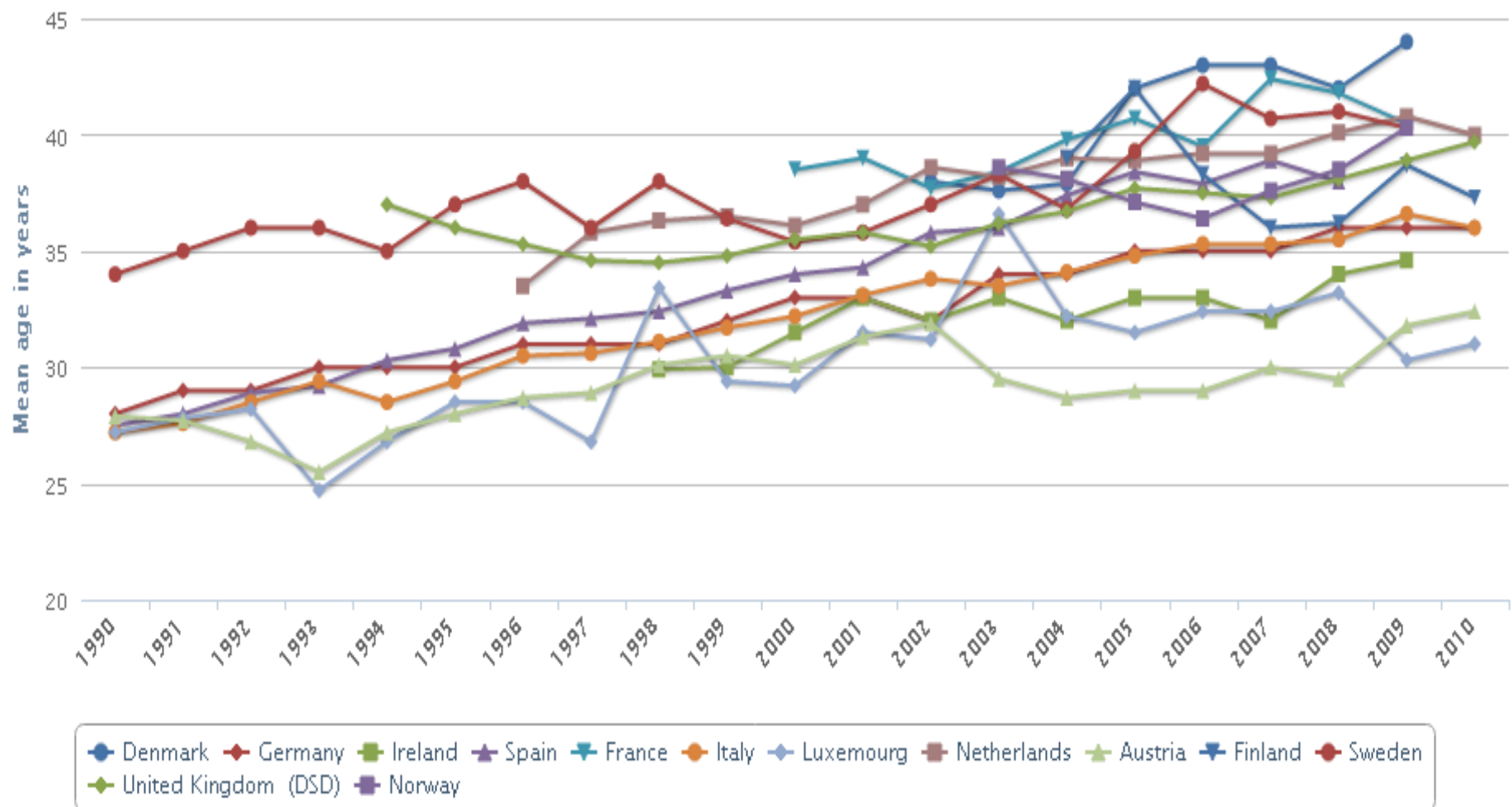
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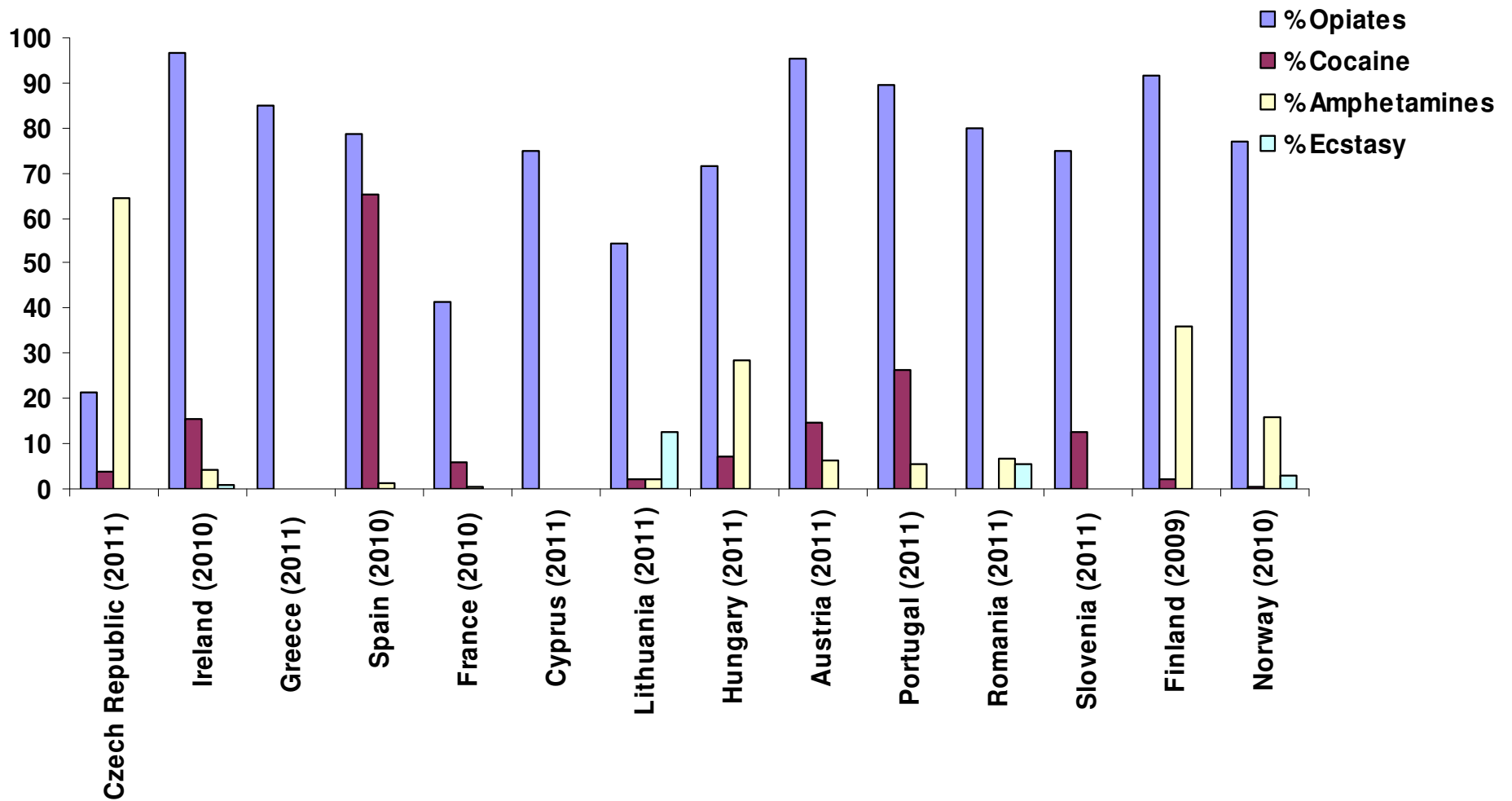
Indexed time series of patterns of drug-induced deaths in different countries and in the EU as a whole, 1985 to 2010



Trends in mean age of drug-induced deaths in some of the EU-15 Member States, 1990 to 2010



Toxicological findings (based on Standard Table 5 – Section 4)



Possible reasons for the sustained numbers of DRD

- Difficult to explain as...
 - Indication of decreases in injecting drug use
 - Increases in the number of opioid users in contact with treatment and harm-reduction services
- Ageing cohort of more vulnerable problem opioid users
- Polydrug use and other high-risk behaviours
- Increase in the number of relapsing opioid users leaving prison or treatment



Interpreting the numbers of drug-induced deaths...

May be influenced by...

- Prevalence and patterns of drug use (polydrug, injecting drug use...)
- Age and co-morbidities of drug users
- Availability of treatment and emergency services
- Quality of the data collection and reporting



The annual report package

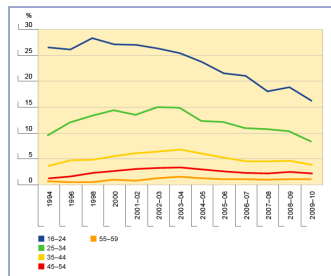
drug situation > publications



Annual report



Selected issues



Statistical bulletin



Drugnet Europe



Country overviews

emcdda.europa.eu/events/2012/annual-report

