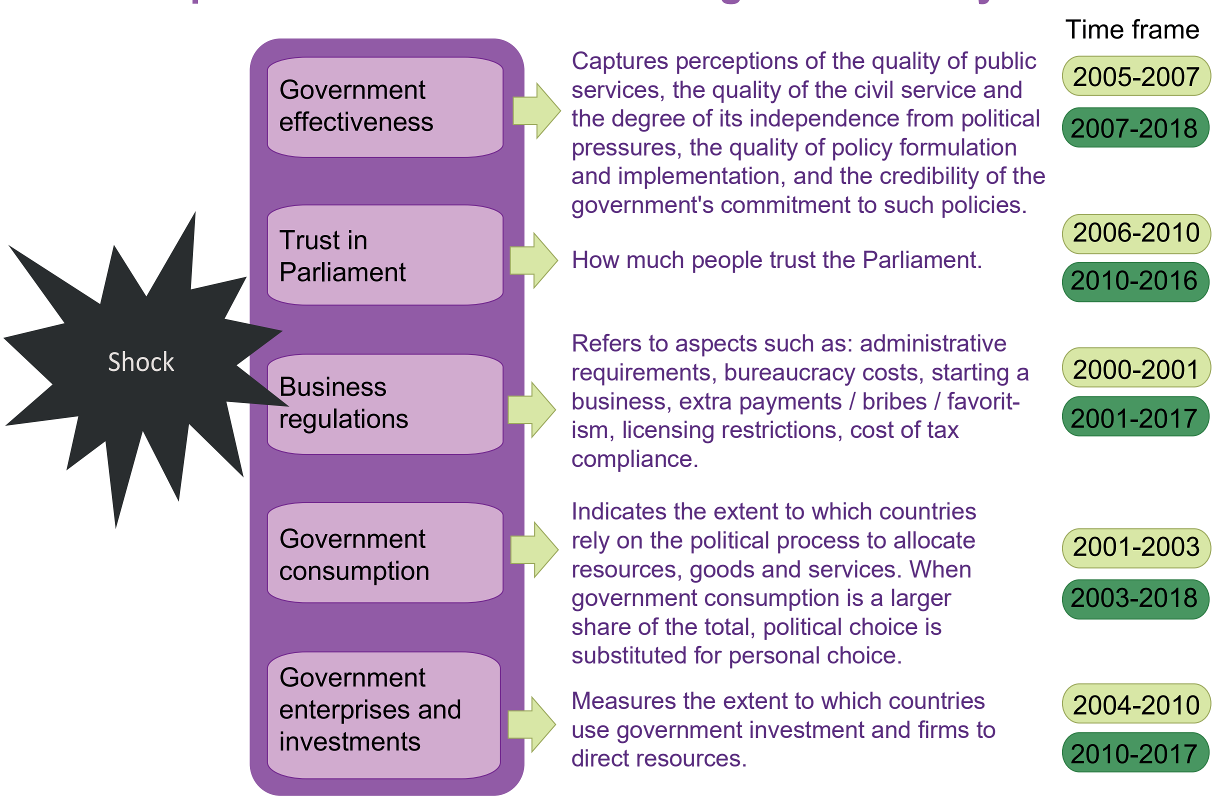
Resilience of governance systems

The resilience of the governance system represents the capacity of government / public administration to respond effectively to shocks and stressors. In a broad sense, the government / public administration proves its resilience in relation to: the efficiency of the measures taken in conditions of crisis, the quality of the decision-making process and the strategic vision, as well as the capacity to generate transformative policies.

From a methodological standpoint, the different visions related to governance measurement emphasize that there is no unitary and integrative approach and, therefore, the operationalization of some variables is difficult to achieve. In general, governance indicators fit better as drivers than outcomes. Therefore, it is delicate to assess the resilience performance of governance systems without an approach that also includes economic indicators. The variables chosen in the resilience of the governance system provide an overview of the characteristics that may contribute to the differences in transformation, adaptation and management of shocks that occur in the economy.

Conceptualisation of resilience of governance systems



Note: resistance period shown in light green background, recovery period shown in dark green background.

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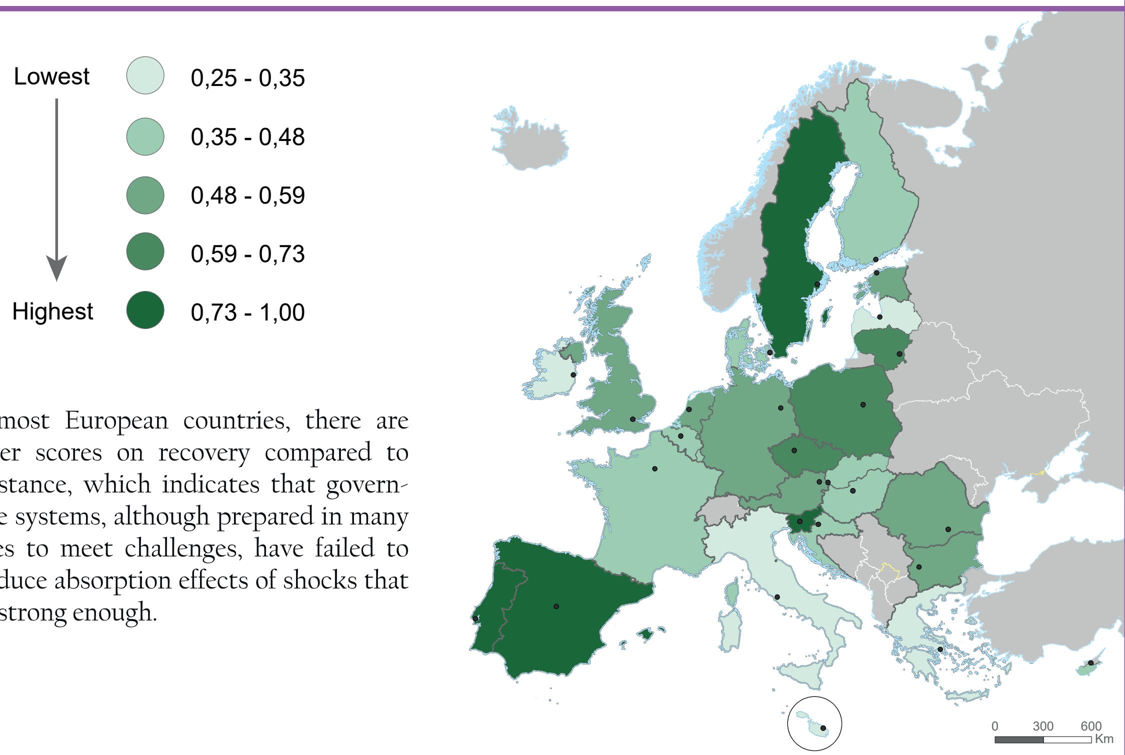
Government enterprises and investments

The extent to which state-owned enterprises can sustain the economy is an essential element in strengthening a state's resilience capacity. After 1990, in most former communist states, mass privatizations were carried out, with shareholders and foreign capital, in order to streamline the input-output relationship. The moments of EU enlargement were an engine for the adjustment of government entreprises and investments to the requirements of the European Internal Market, but the same cannot be observed in the context of the financial crisis of 2007/2008.

Resilience of governance systems



In most European countries, there are lower scores on recovery compared to resistance, which indicates that governance systems, although prepared in many cases to meet challenges, have failed to produce absorption effects of shocks that are strong enough.

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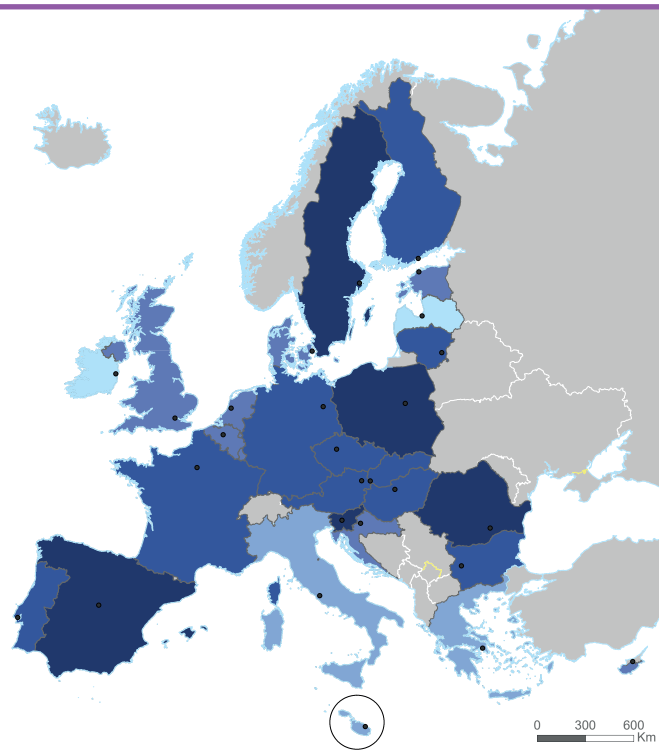
Resistance

Lowest → Highest

- 0.00
- 0.01 - 0.42
- 0.43 - 0.59
- 0.60 - 0.74
- 0.75 - 1.00

The governance resistance to shocks for the European countries is high in most of the cases. The highest resistance of the governance systems is registered in Sweden, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Spain. The countries with the lowest values of the index are Latvia, Ireland, Greece and Italy.

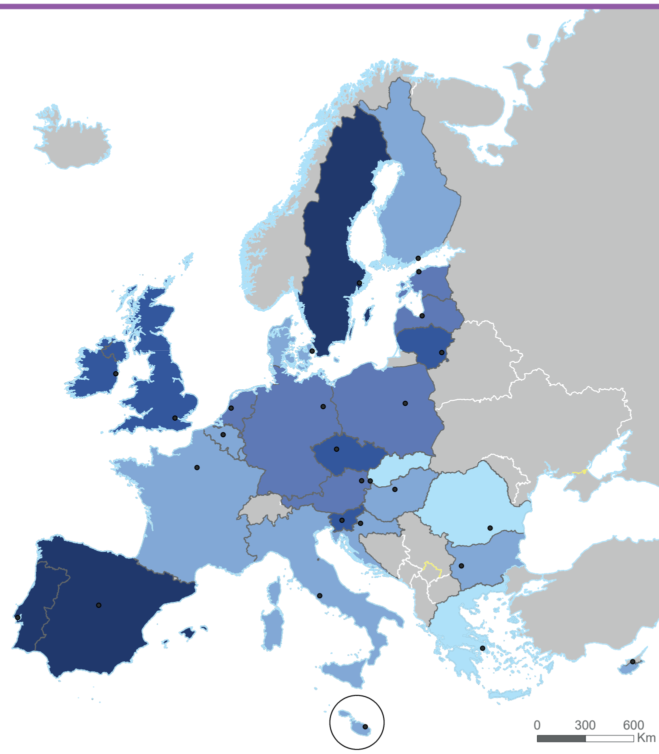


Recovery

Lowest → Highest

- 0.13 - 0.19
- 0.20 - 0.38
- 0.39 - 0.54
- 0.55 - 0.78
- 0.79 - 1.00

Overall, the recovery of the governance system is fairly low. The highest recovery performance is observed for Spain, Portugal and Sweden, while at the lower end of recovery speed are Romania, Slovakia and Greece.



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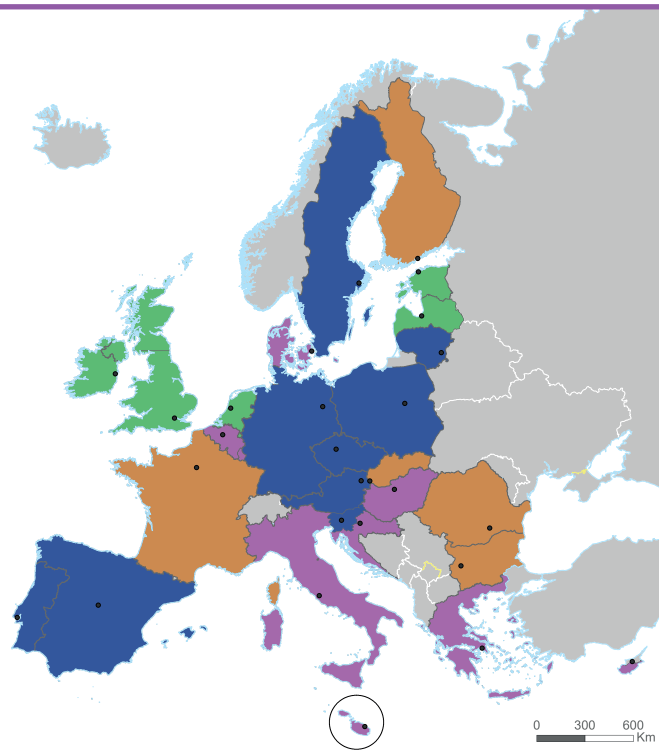
Typology of resilience

Most countries are either high-performing or low-performing in both resistance and recovery phases of resilience. The highest-performing countries in terms of both resistance and recovery are Sweden and Spain, followed by Slovenia and Portugal. Also registering both high resistance and recovery are Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Austria and Czech Republic. The countries that have a high recovery of the governance system, but low resistance are UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Estonia and Latvia.



There is also a small number of countries with a low recovery rate and a high resistance to shock, such as France, Finland, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia. The largest category of countries is the one registering low values for both resistance and recovery indexes, countries such as Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Hungary and Italy. Although most of the countries are grouped around the centroid, there are some notable exceptions – countries with very low resistance and medium to high recovery (Latvia and Ireland), and countries with very low recovery rates and medium to high resistance to shock (Romania and Slovakia).

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