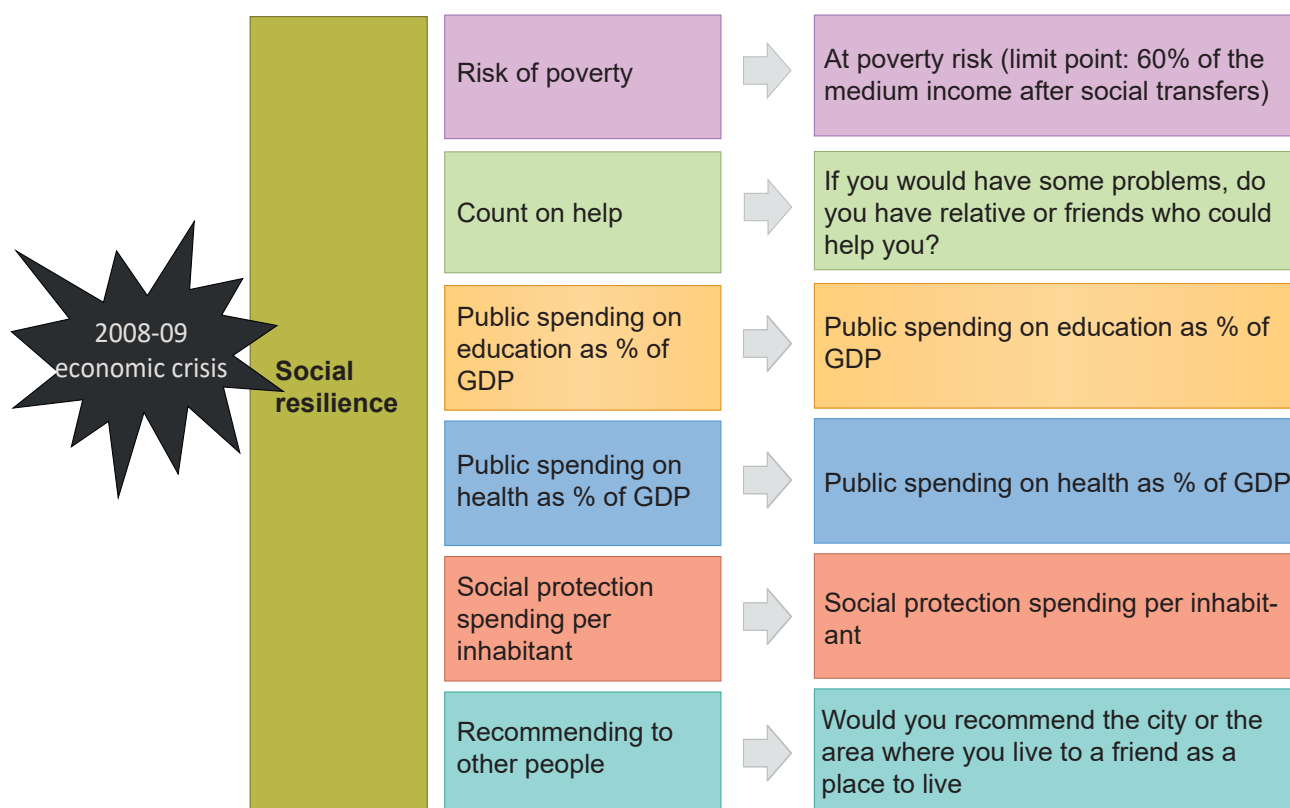


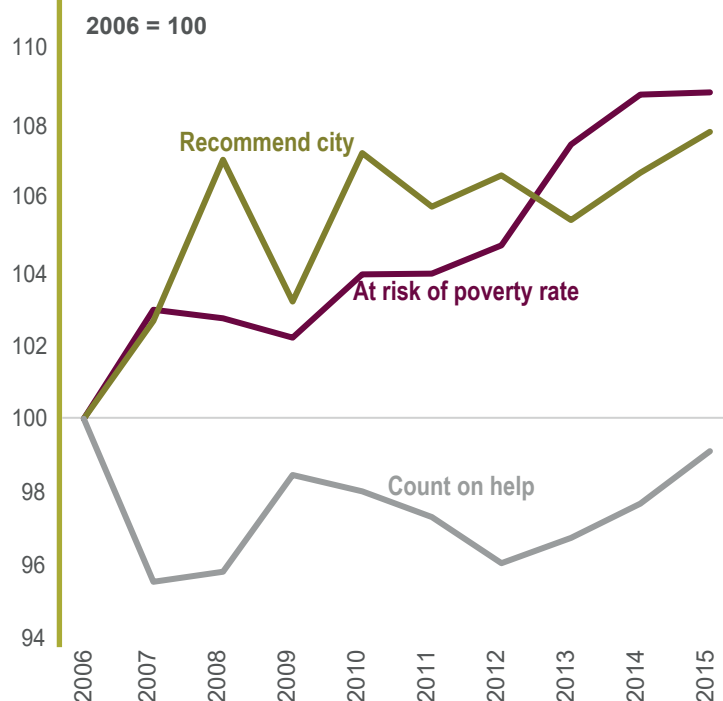
Social resilience

Social resilience can be seen as a set of complex characteristics connected in different ways within social systems that are continuously changing. In this respect, two main perspectives should be acknowledged: on one side social resilience can be analysed from the perspective of a social system to absorb, adapt, or transform following a shock, while on the other side, social resilience can be seen as the ability of social entities and mechanisms to anticipate, prepare and answer to a shock while carrying out activities to ensure recovery and reduce the potential effects of the shock on the community (Bruneau et al., 2003; Cox and Hamlen, 2015; Saja et al., 2018). Both perspectives were taken into consideration within this analysis. Social resilience is based on community resilience (at a smaller group level) and on individual resilience, but it also implies the existence of specific mechanisms to allow the interaction between the two levels so that the social entities can effectively manage the shock. Social resilience is rather a skill or aptitude of a social entity that allows it to function properly in times of crisis.

Conceptualization of social resilience

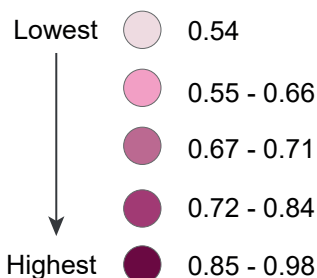


Key dimensions composing social resilience

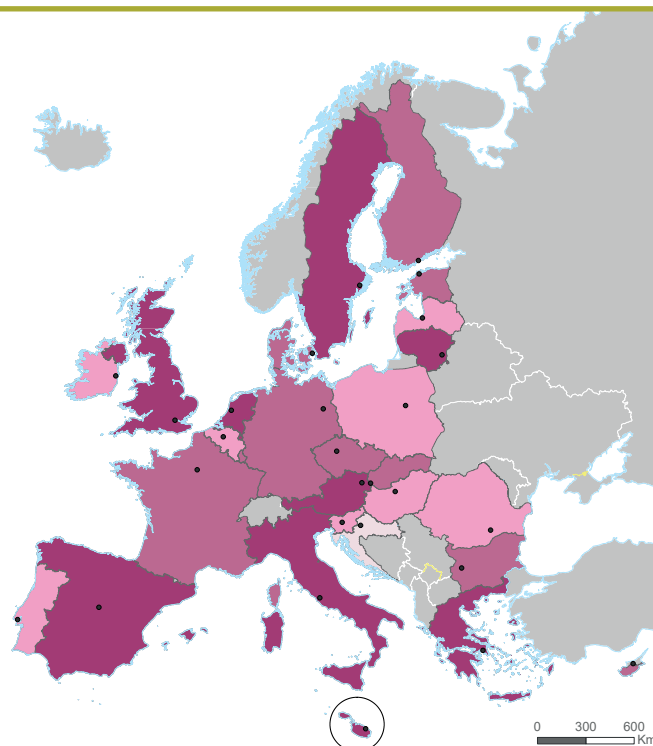


Social resilience was computed by taking into consideration six indicators (see the conceptualization scheme). However, only three of them were included in the overall multidimensional resilience index. As the social resilience index is a combination of official statistics and individual surveys, the results should be interpreted with caution. One can assume that the effect of economic decline influenced social indicators for a longer period (e.g. “at risk of poverty rate” begun to decrease only after 2016) or that there were other stressors and “crises” that influenced their evolution. “Recommend city” had an inconclusive dynamic during the crisis, while “count on help” increased when the economic shock occurred and decreased in the recovery phase).

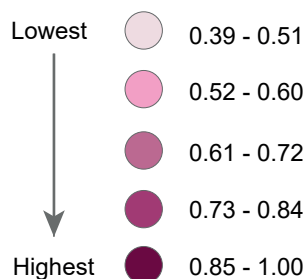
Social resilience index



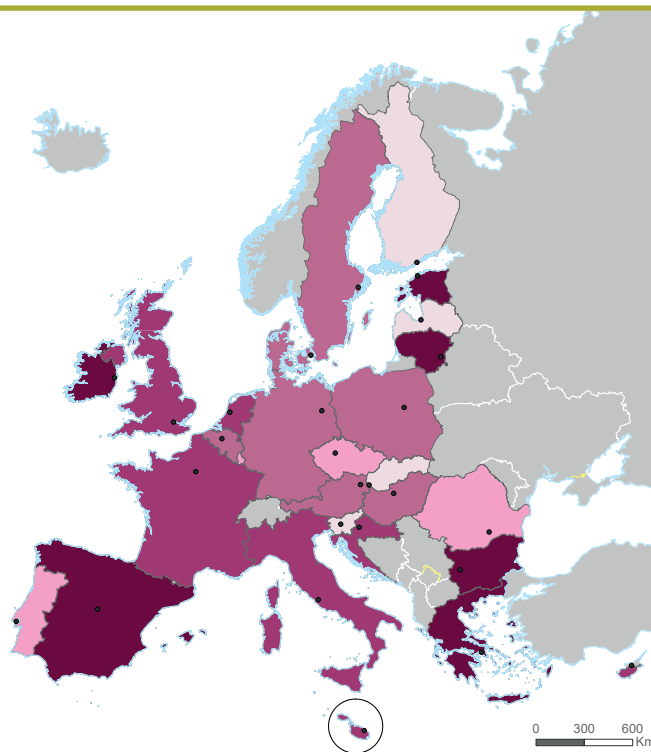
Contrary to individual resilience, which was more easily influenced by the economic dimension, social resilience was computed using indicators that rely on social connections between individuals, as well as social protection. Therefore, it is not surprising that countries such as Italy, Estonia, Denmark, or the Netherlands are among the best performers.



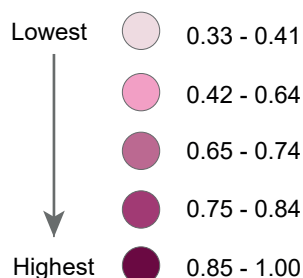
Resistance index



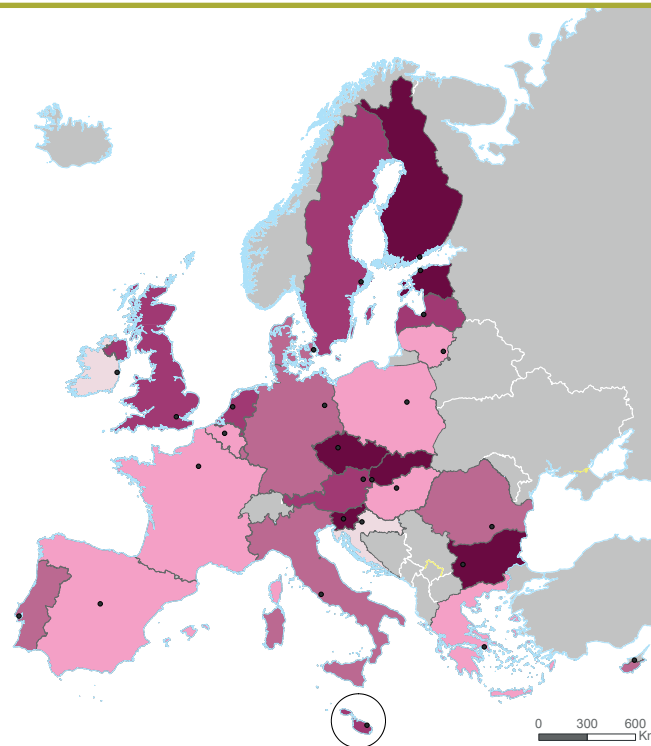
Estonia, Spain and Greece have the highest resistance scores for social resilience. Both Spain and Greece have cultures that are oriented toward helping others, being considered more collectivistic in nature (Hofstede, 1983). The same can be noticed for medium-high performance such as France and Italy.



Recovery index

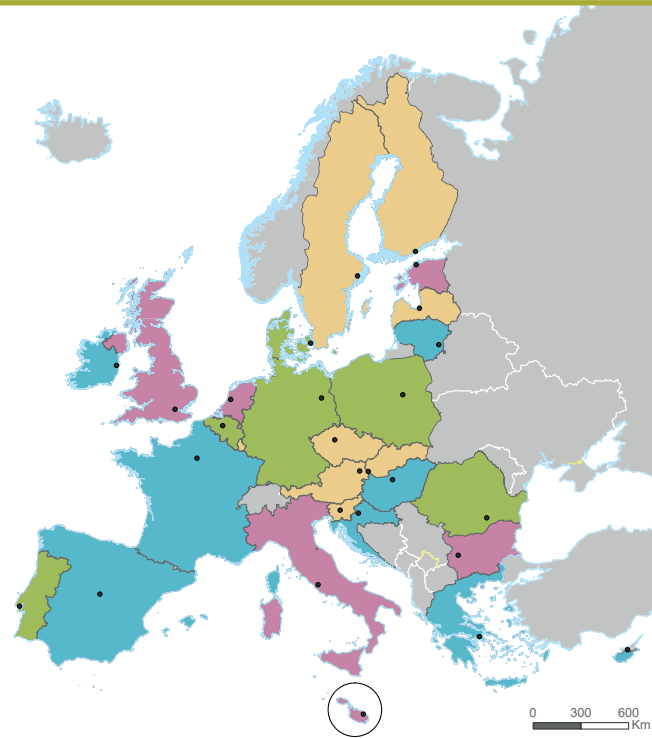


Bulgaria, Estonia and Slovakia have the highest recovery social resilience scores, while Croatia, Ireland and Hungary have the lowest results on social resilience recovery. Medium-high performers are Germany, Romania, and Portugal and lower performances are noticed for France and Spain.

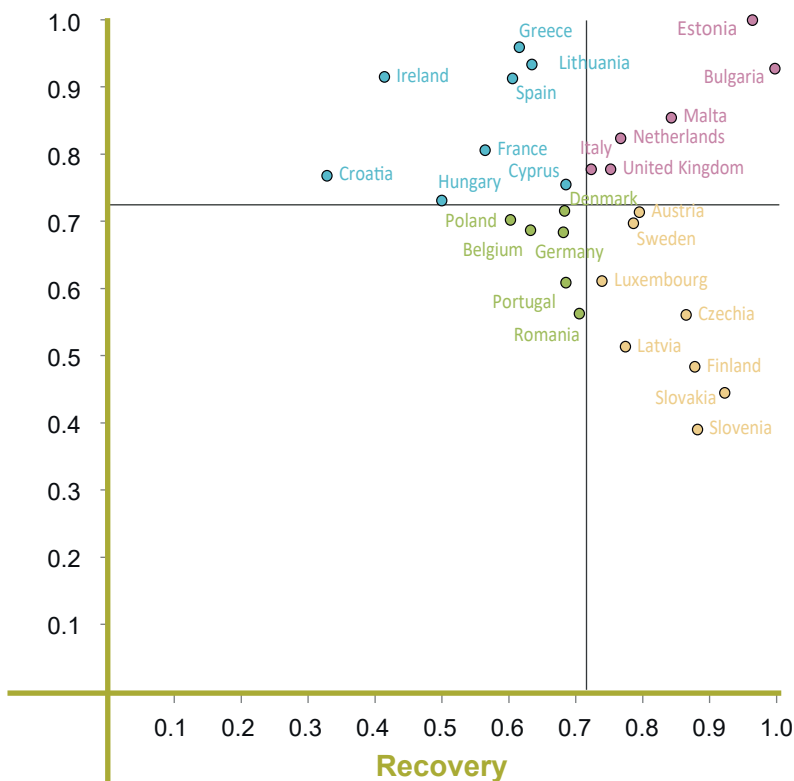


Typology of resilience

The overall capacity of social resilience for each country in the European Union was computed by considering each country's performance during the resistance and the recovery phases. Four types of resilience were mapped: high resistance and high recovery (a very good performance for both stages), high resistance and low recovery (high performance during resistance, but lower recovery scores, indicating a lower than expected performance), low resistance and high recovery (lower than expected performance during the resistance stage and high recovery scores) and finally, low resistance and low recovery countries (lower than expected performance for both stages).



Resistance



The analysis of social resilience highlights that, in the European Union, the countries are grouped towards the higher end of the scale both when it comes to resistance and recovery, indicating a rather uniform behavior of EU territory. All countries perform rather well for both resistance and recovery phases following the 2008-09 economic crisis. All the differences between categories are based on very small changes in performance. Consequently, the four identified types do not show a clear geographic pattern, while the interpretation of these results should be made with caution, only in relative terms.