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Exploring government contracting data to hold governments accountable in the Big Data Era

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The challenge of public procurement

9.3 trillion USD per year*

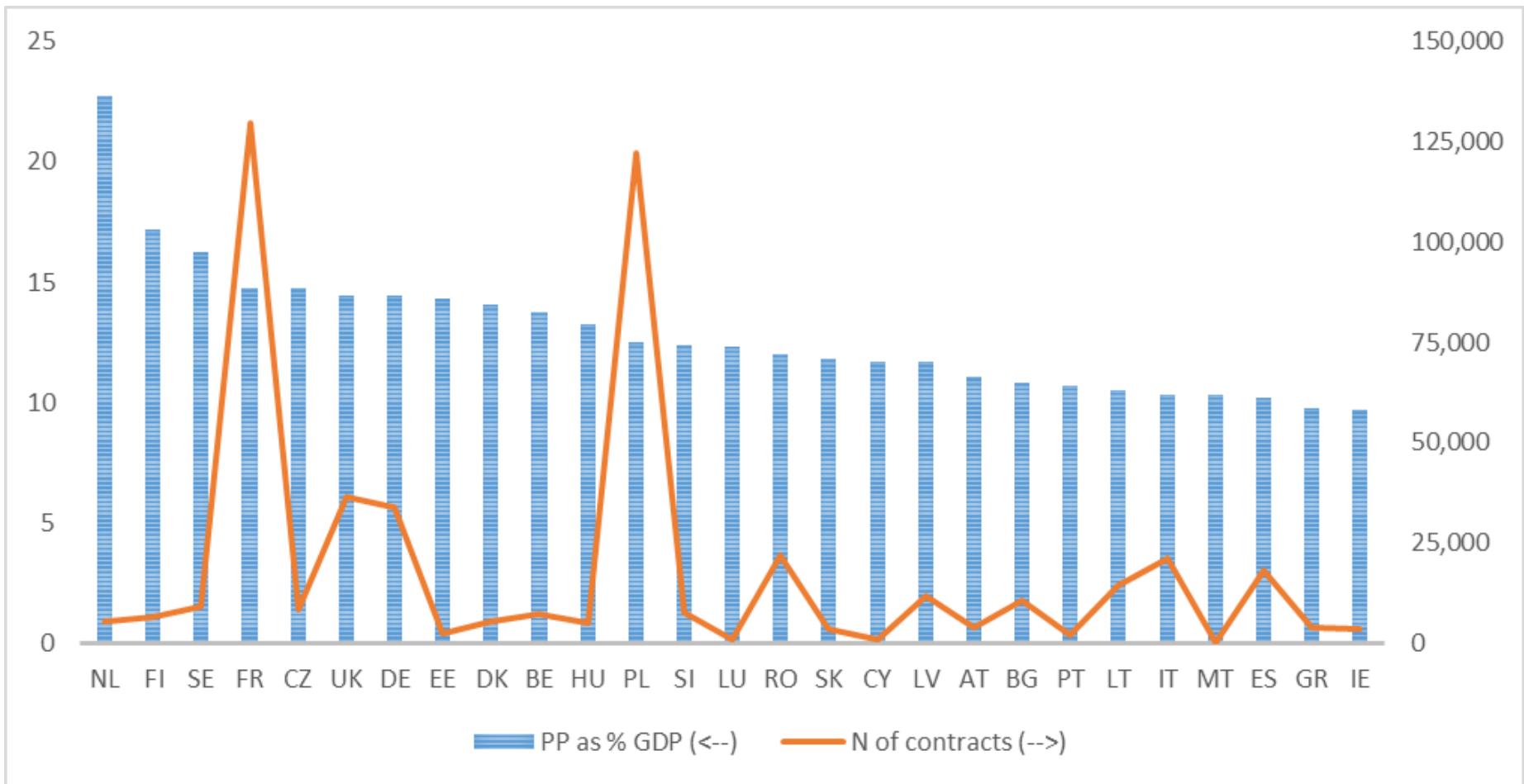
20-25% lost to corruption**

Should we be worried?

* <http://www.open-contracting.org/data-standard-announcement>

** OECD (2013), Implementing the OECD Principles for Integrity in Public Procurement. Progress since 2008. OECD, Paris

Why we need big data in PP?



2012, EU, TED

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State of data

- Patchwork of data sources
 - Formats: xml,html, pdf, etc
 - Content
 - Quality
 - Linking
- Administrative data provision is not ready for Big Data
 - Public initiatives: OCDS
 - Civil society/researach community: DIGIWHIST

DIGIWHIST

The Digital Whistleblower. Fiscal Transparency, Risk Assessment and Impact of Good Governance Policies Assessed

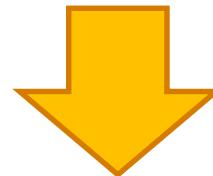
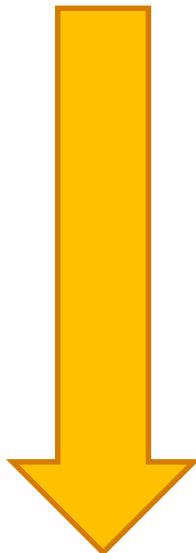
Goals

1. Advancing anticorruption, transparency, and spending efficiency in public procurement
2. Unlock research potential
3. Enabling losers of corruption to mobilize
4. Helping audit bodies fighting corruption, fraud, and collusion

34 European countries+EC

DIGIWHIST: Data

Legislation: transparency & procurement



Transactions: contracts & tenders



Actors: Companies, public bodies, individuals

DIGIWHIST: Indicator building

- built on thorough understanding of context
- ,open-ended'
- actionable+real-time

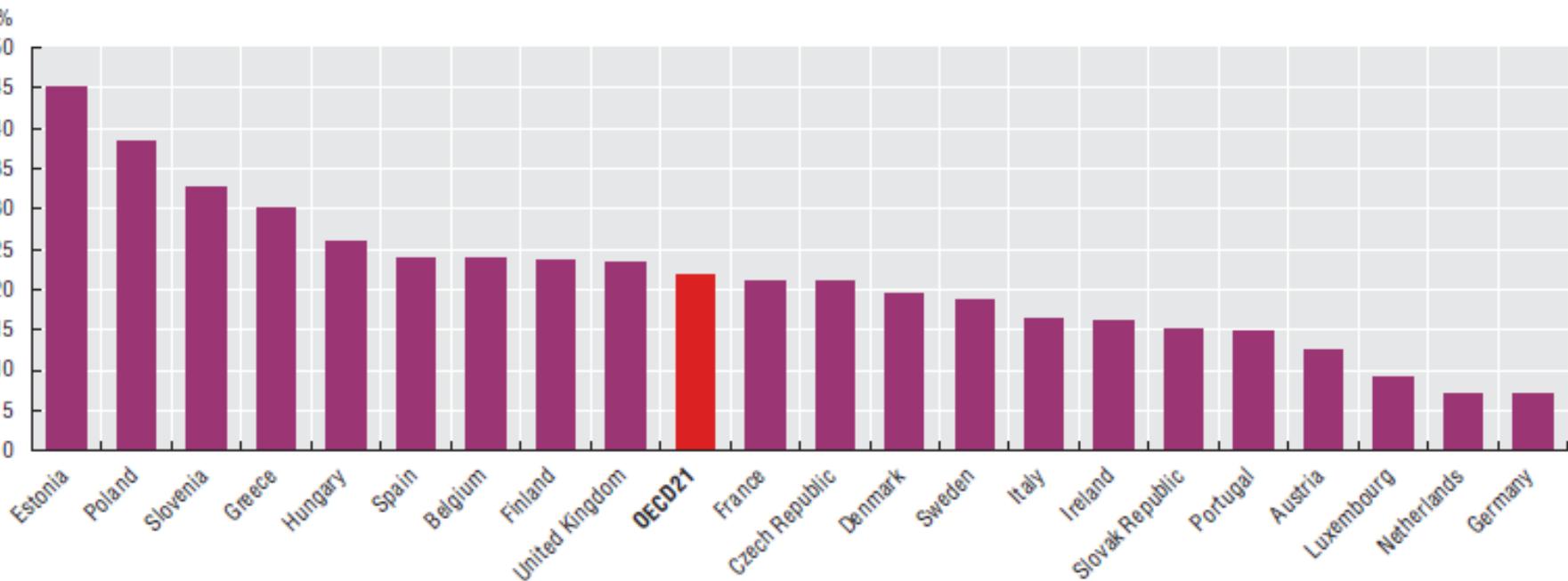
DIGIWHIST: Measuring government quality

- Transparency
 - Share of spending advertised

Advertised vs total PP spending

- MOST of the data is missing

40.3 Public procurement tenders advertised in the OJEU as a percentage of total national procurement market (2008)



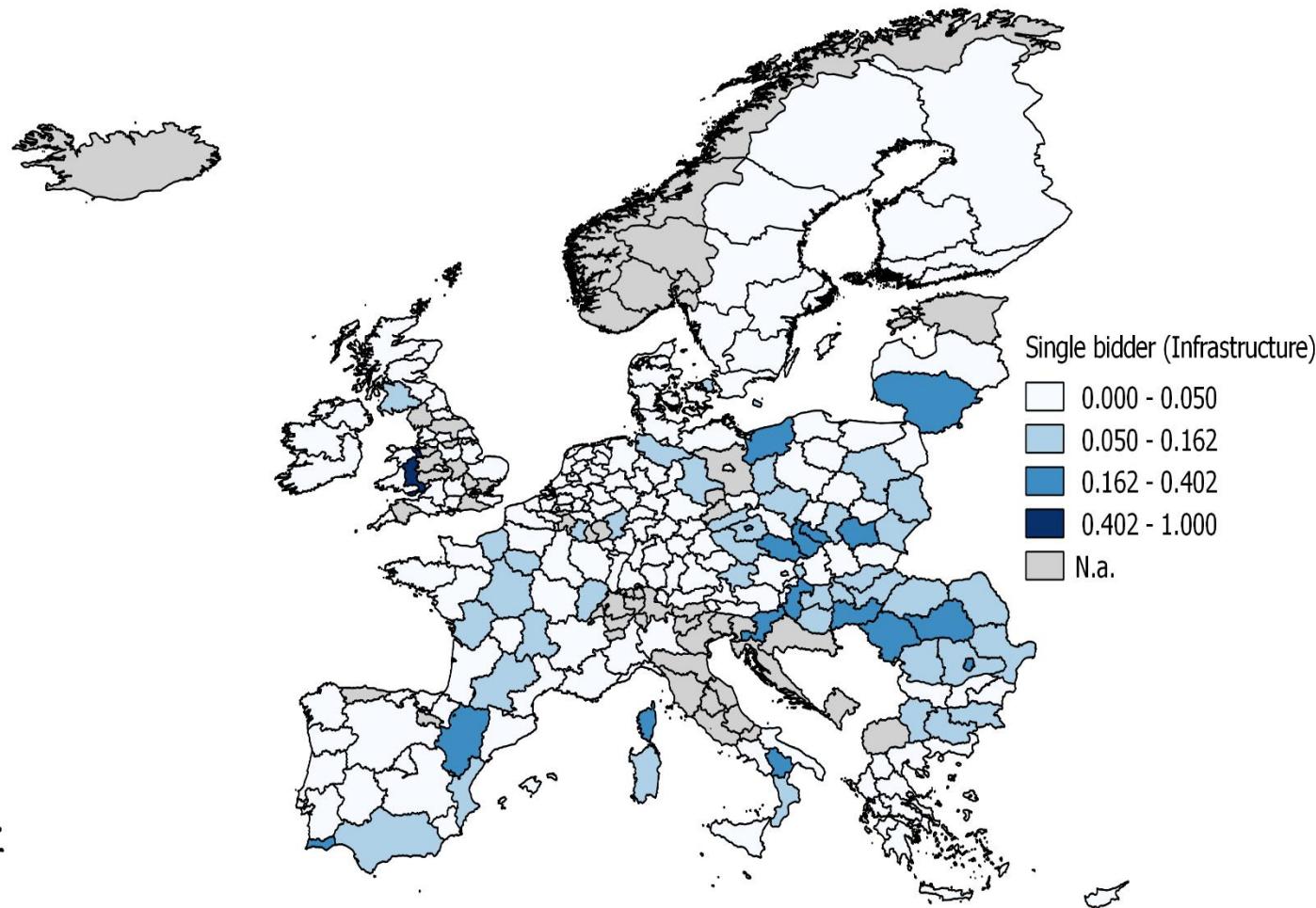
Source: Eurostat.

DIGIWHIST: Measuring government quality

- Transparency
 - Share of spending tendered
- Corruption
 - Tendering red flags: single bidding

Single bidding

NUTS regions, large infrastructure only



DIGIWHIST: Measuring government quality

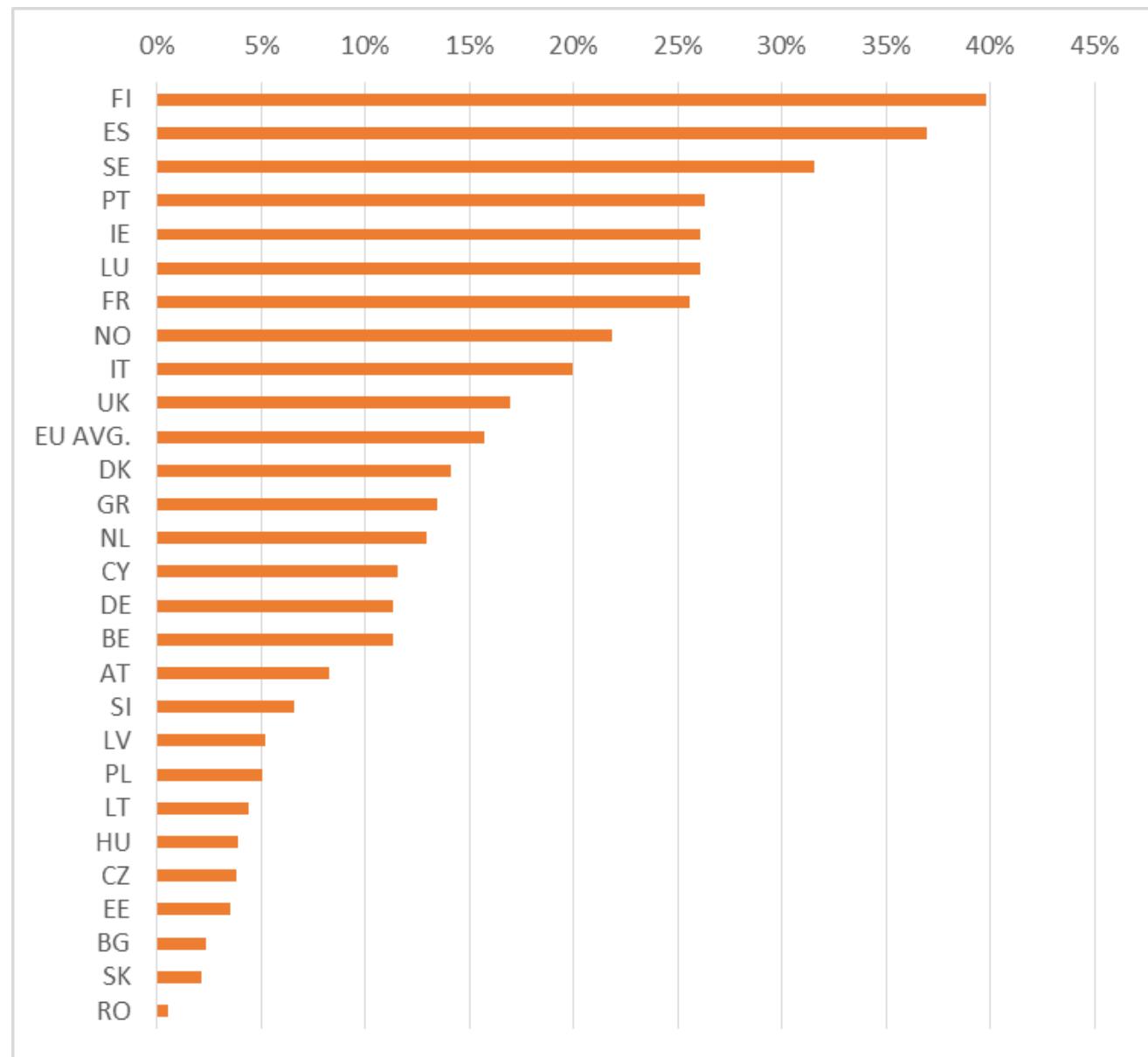
- Transparency
 - Share of spending tendered
- Corruption
 - Tendering red flags: single bidding, exceptions
- Administrative error
 - Missing data

Average admin error

TED:2009-13

13 mandatory items:

- Organisation name, address
- Contract values
- Subcontract
- Dates



DIGIWHIST: Utilization

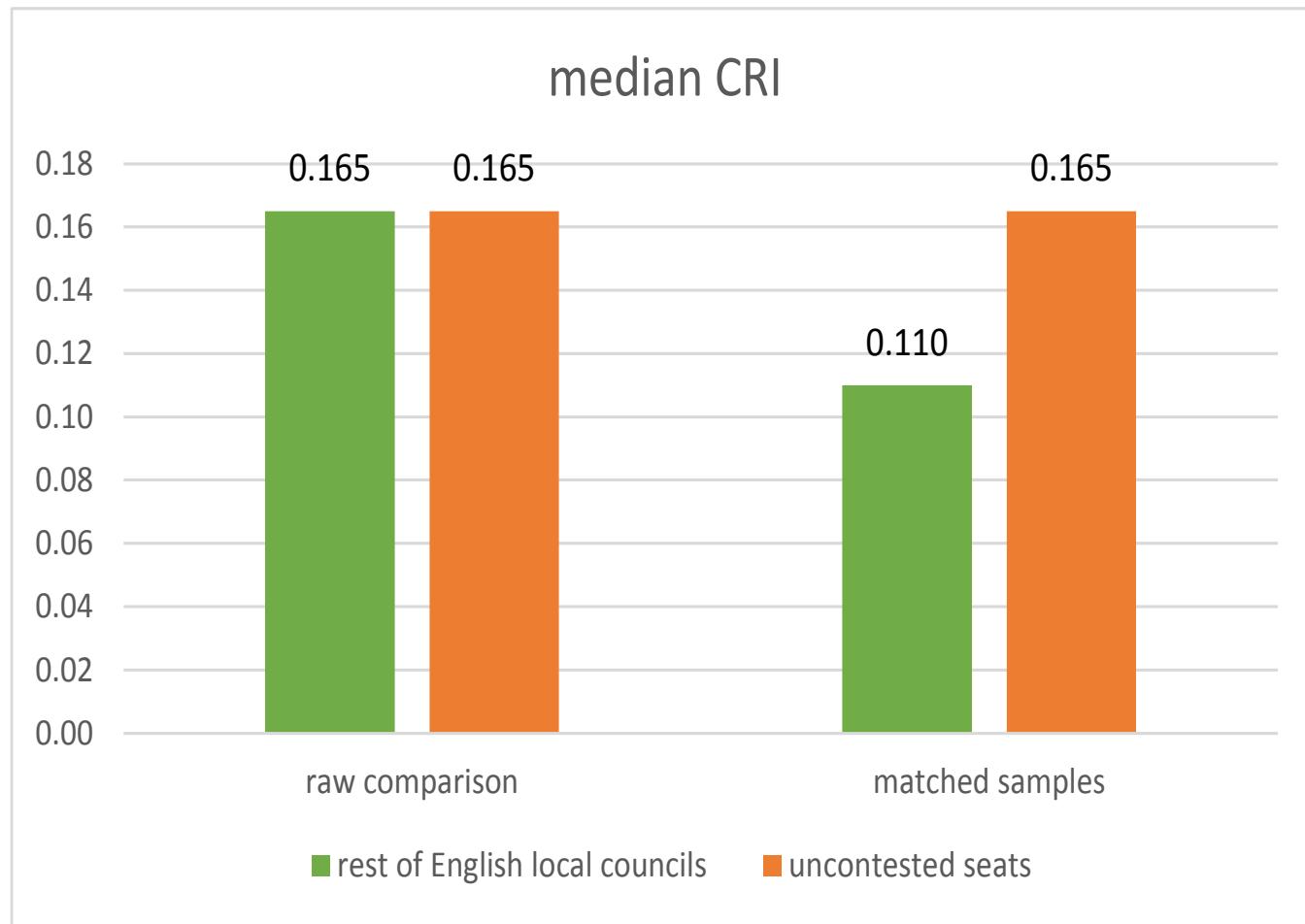
- Data download
- Web portals, mobile apps
- Whistleblower reporting: Big Data+user info
- Risk assessment software for public servants

3 brief examples

1. Electoral accountability in the UK
2. Mafia infiltration
3. Court effectiveness

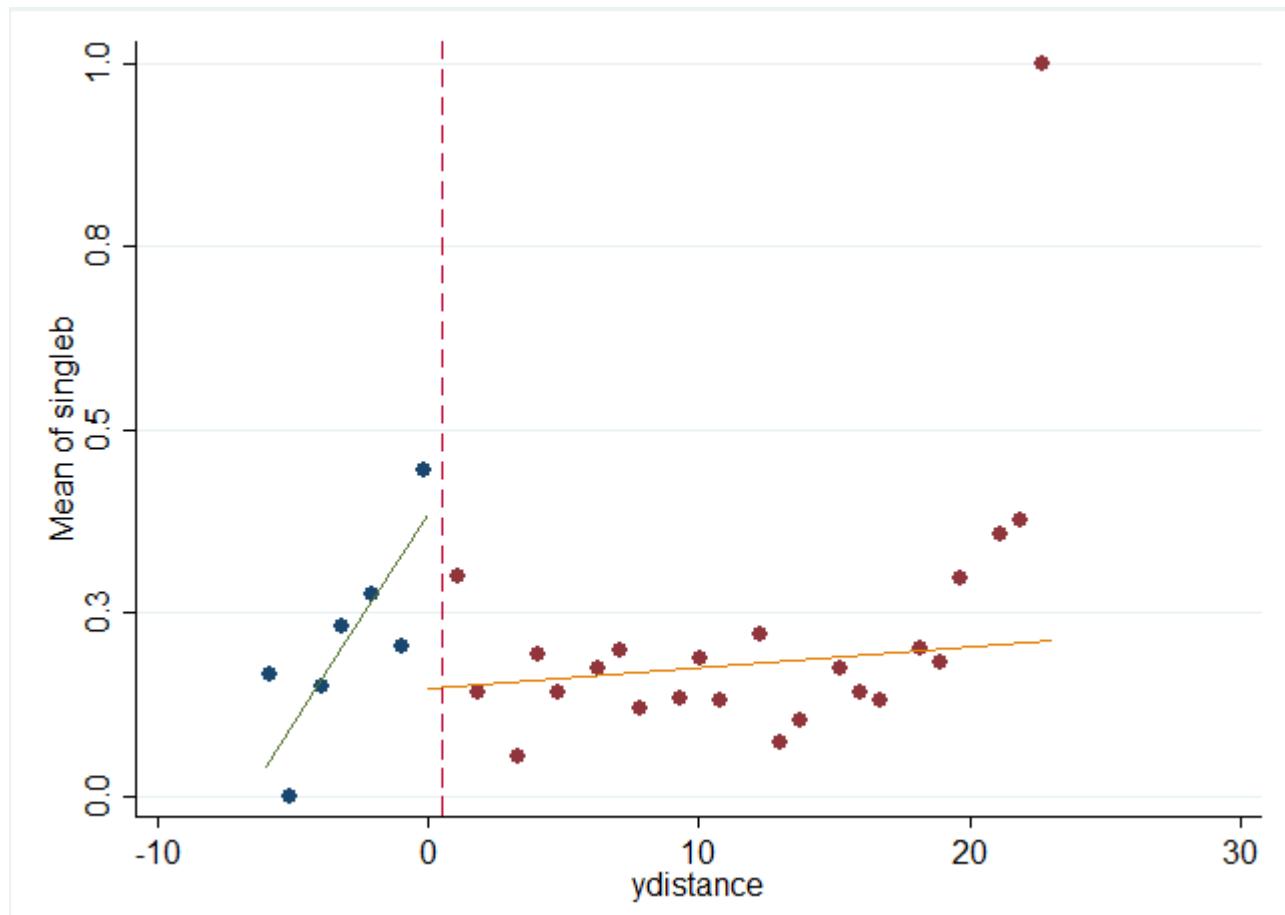
Electoral accountability

- Lack of electoral competition can lead to corruption even in well governed countries
- UK



Mafia infiltration in Italy

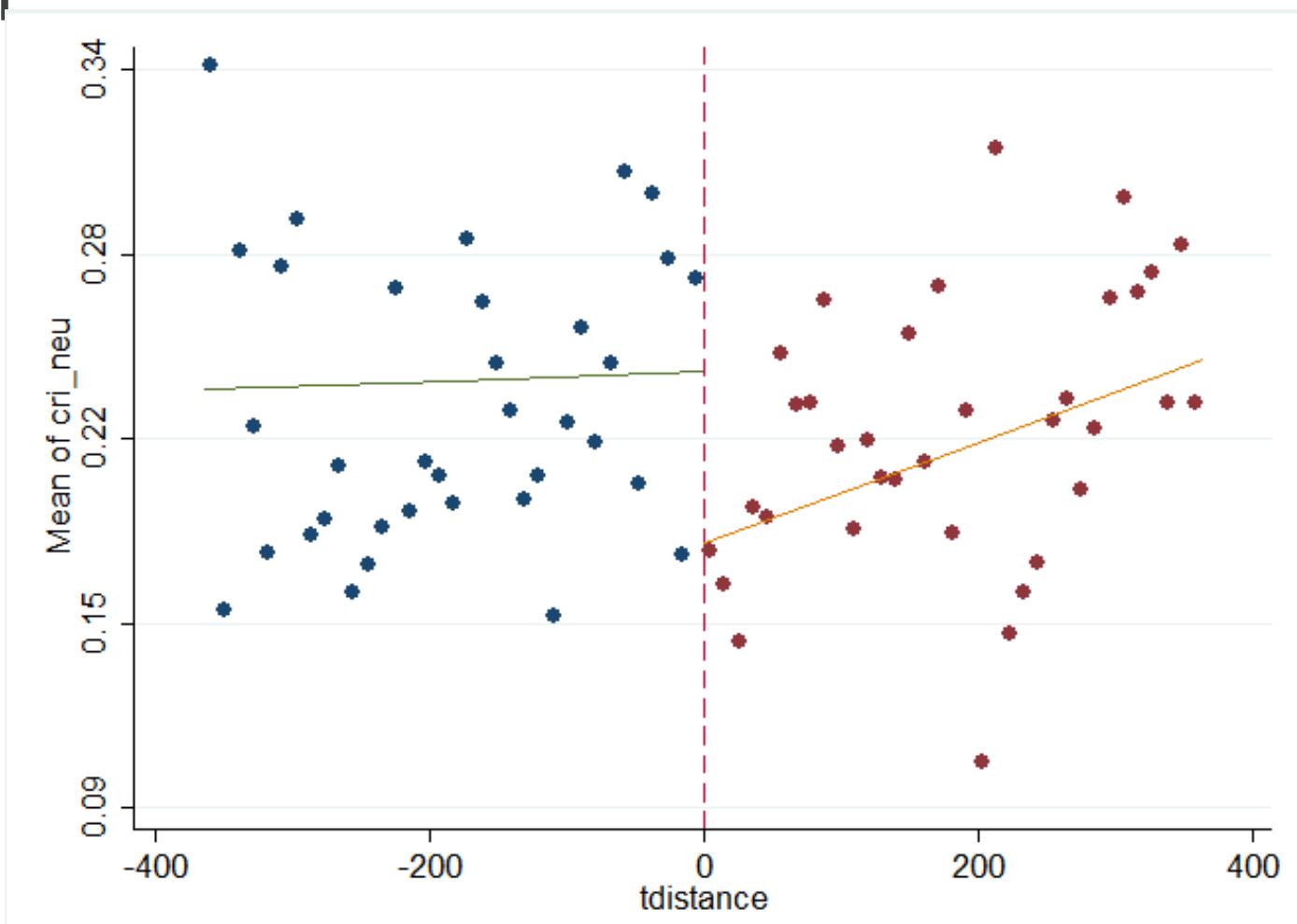
- Municipalities dissolved due to mafia infiltration
- Italy



ECJ as anticorruption actor

Corruption
risks in
markets
judged by
ECJ

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Areas of collaboration

- Methodologocial
 - text mining,
 - machine learning
- Sectoral/thematic research
 - Local service provision
 - Education, health, etc.
- Geographical extensions outside Europe
 - Brazil, US, Russia, etc.
- Lobbying governments to better manage admin data

Furter information

digiwhist.eu