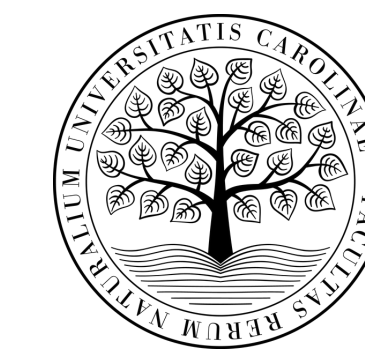


# Educational inequalities in self-rated health in 15 European countries: a time trend analyses based on the European Social Survey 2002–2020

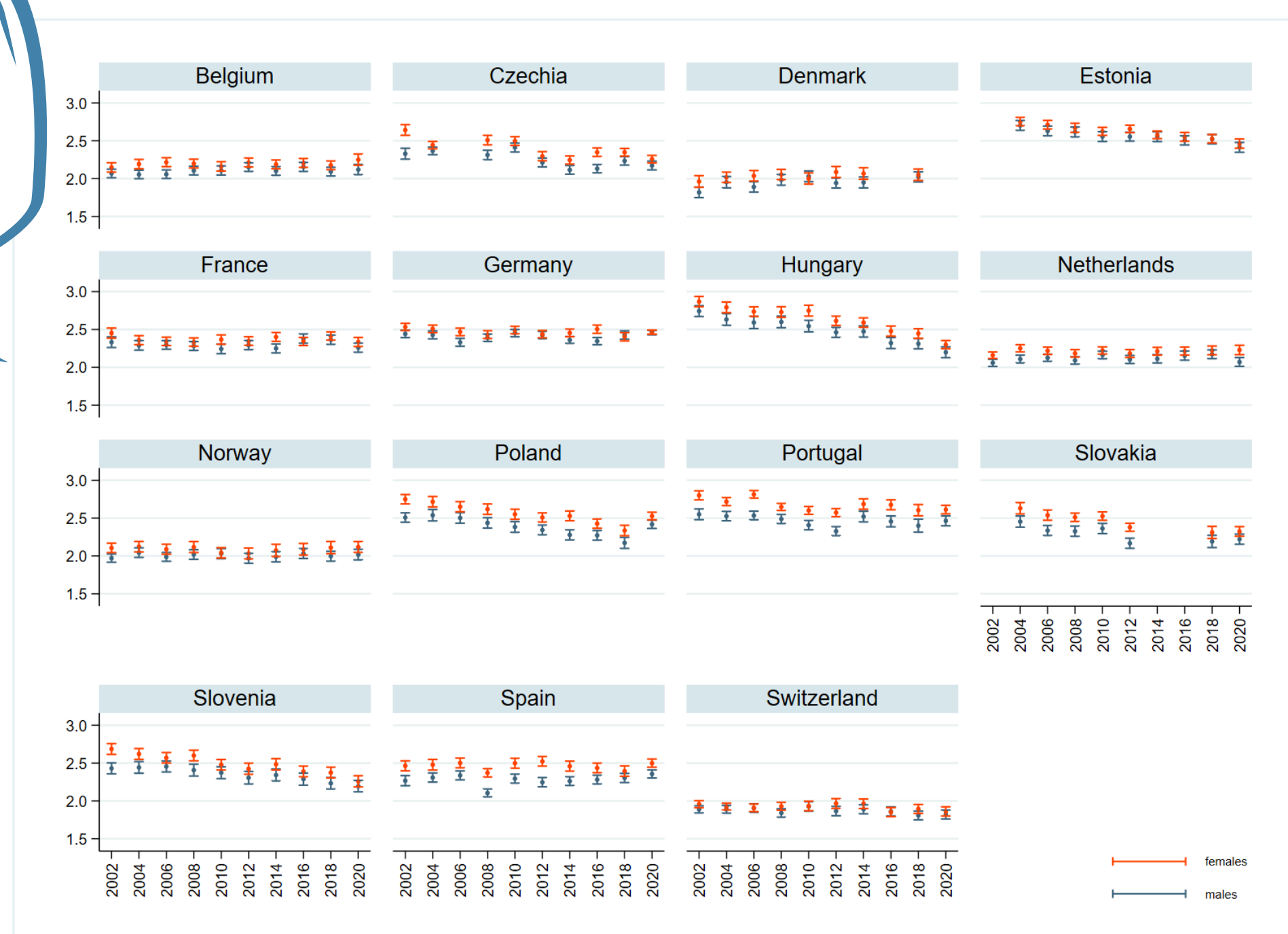
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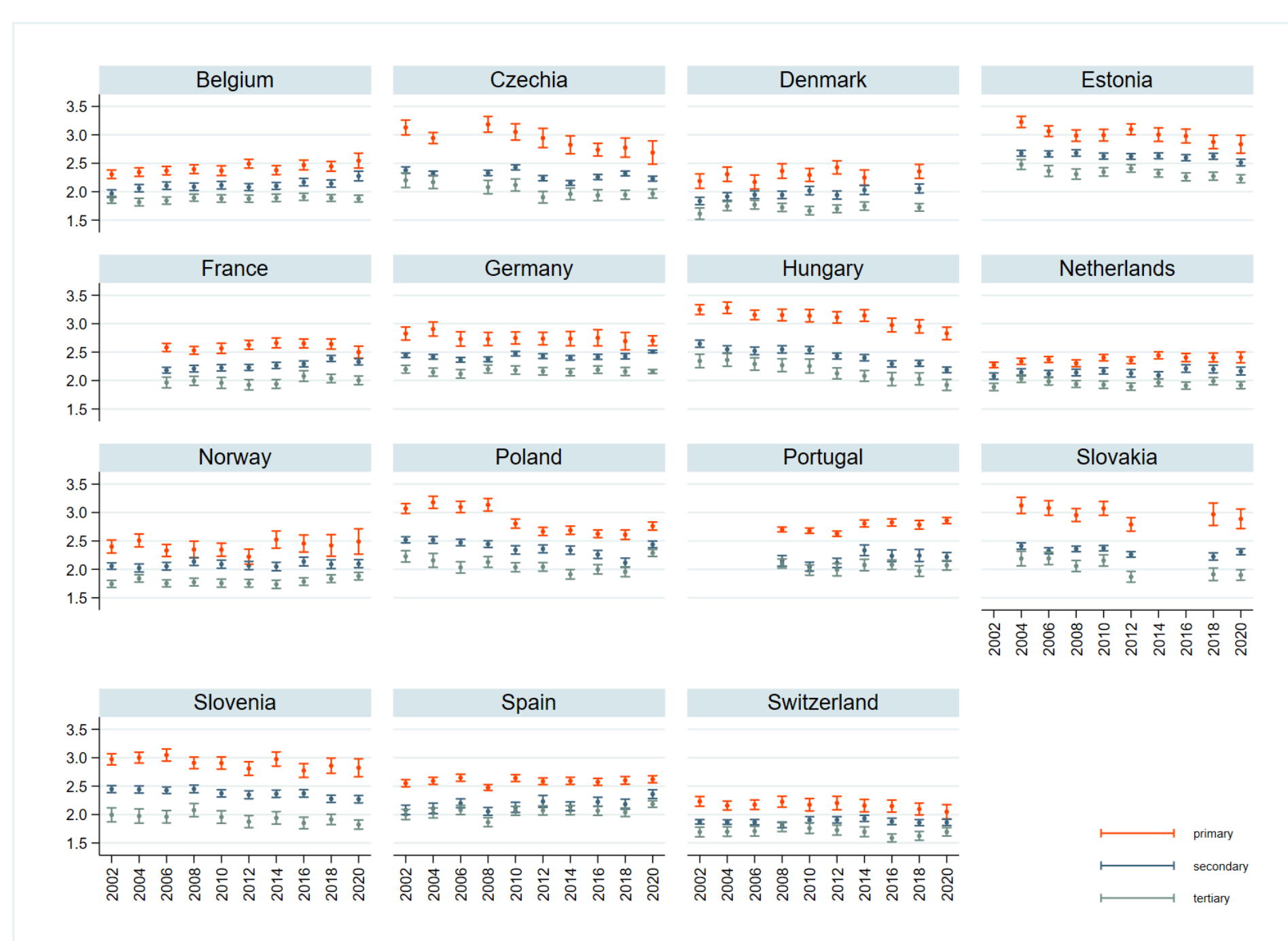
## Results

### Trends in mean value of self-rated health by country, ESS round 1–round 10 (2002–2020)

Self-rated health (SRH) has been shown as a reliable indicator of general health. There is evidence for a general increase of good SRH in Europe, however, not all socioeconomic groups seem to benefit from these trends.



Gender



Education, total

Education, males



Education, females

## Project information

### Objectives

- Investigation of the impact of education on self-rated health in European countries and the role of gender in the inequalities over time.
- By selecting 2002–2020, we focus on a period during which fundamental events such as e.g. the 2008 financial crisis, the 2015 migration crisis and the 2020 covid-19 pandemic occurred affecting the economy and labour market and hence possible the conditions in which people live and work.
- Assessment of trends in a view of changes in the society, such as e.g., financial crisis, migration wave, covid-19 pandemic etc. potentially affecting the well-being and perceived health of the European citizens.

### Data

- Data come from the 10 waves of the European Social Survey (ESS).
- ESS is a repeated cross-sectional survey conducted in different European countries since 2002 every two years.
- Selected population for the analysis:
  - 25 years and older
  - countries and information on education available at least in 7 waves of the ESS

### Number of respondents for each round of ESS by country

Country	Number of ESS rounds										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Belgium	1,831	1,847	1,864	1,880	1,896	1,912	1,928	1,944	1,960	1,976	19,852
Czechia	1,842	1,847	1,854	1,859	1,865	1,871	1,876	1,882	1,888	1,894	18,965
Denmark	1,931	1,939	1,947	1,955	1,963	1,971	1,979	1,987	1,995	2,003	19,988
Estonia	1,946	1,951	1,956	1,961	1,966	1,971	1,976	1,981	1,986	1,991	19,766
France	1,928	1,936	1,944	1,952	1,960	1,968	1,976	1,984	1,992	2,000	19,853
Germany	1,945	1,950	1,955	1,960	1,965	1,970	1,975	1,980	1,985	1,990	19,733
Hungary	1,936	1,942	1,948	1,954	1,960	1,966	1,972	1,978	1,984	1,990	19,598
Netherlands	1,931	1,934	1,937	1,940	1,943	1,946	1,949	1,952	1,955	1,958	19,115
Norway	1,948	1,950	1,952	1,954	1,956	1,958	1,960	1,962	1,964	1,966	19,681
Poland	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	19,609
Portugal	1,932	1,932	1,932	1,932	1,932	1,932	1,932	1,932	1,932	1,932	19,793
Slovakia	1,949	1,952	1,955	1,958	1,961	1,964	1,967	1,970	1,973	1,976	19,667
Slovenia	1,931	1,932	1,933	1,934	1,935	1,936	1,937	1,938	1,939	1,940	19,388
Spain	1,935	1,936	1,937	1,938	1,939	1,940	1,941	1,942	1,943	1,944	19,423
Switzerland	1,949	1,949	1,949	1,949	1,949	1,949	1,949	1,949	1,949	1,949	19,488
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,044</b>	<b>21,072</b>	<b>21,099</b>	<b>21,126</b>	<b>21,153</b>	<b>21,180</b>	<b>21,207</b>	<b>21,234</b>	<b>21,261</b>	<b>21,288</b>	<b>214,544</b>

Data on education were missing for France (years 2002 and 2004) and Portugal (years 2002, 2004, and 2006)

### Methods

- The mean value of self-rated health was calculated by gender and educational level in each country and for each wave of the ESS from 2002 to 2020.
- Data were weighted using analytical weights providing corrections for differential selection probabilities (e.g. non-response, non-coverage, and sampling errors) within each country.
- The gender differences and their changes over time and the educational inequalities and their changes over time for both sexes and separately for men and women were tested using adjusted Wald F-test.

### Conclusion

- The indicator of self-rated health is relatively stable over time.
- Females consistently rate their health worse compared to males.
- Individuals with lower educational levels rate their health worse compared to those with higher educational level; differences in self-rated health by education are particularly noticeable among women.
- Significant differences in trends of self-rated health – e.g., decline in health status during the COVID-19 pandemic is observable in Poland and Portugal.

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