

# István György Tóth

Comments to Heinz-Herbert Noll:  
„Challenges to the future of social monitoring and reporting”

Presented at the 18th Conference “Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe”  
Fears, Worries, and Anxieties in Contemporary Europe, 09.10.2024

## To sum up the argument presented by Heinz-Herbert:

1: Retreat/pushback of social reporting in Europe

2: This can be attributable to expansion of anti climate change movements and policies, as

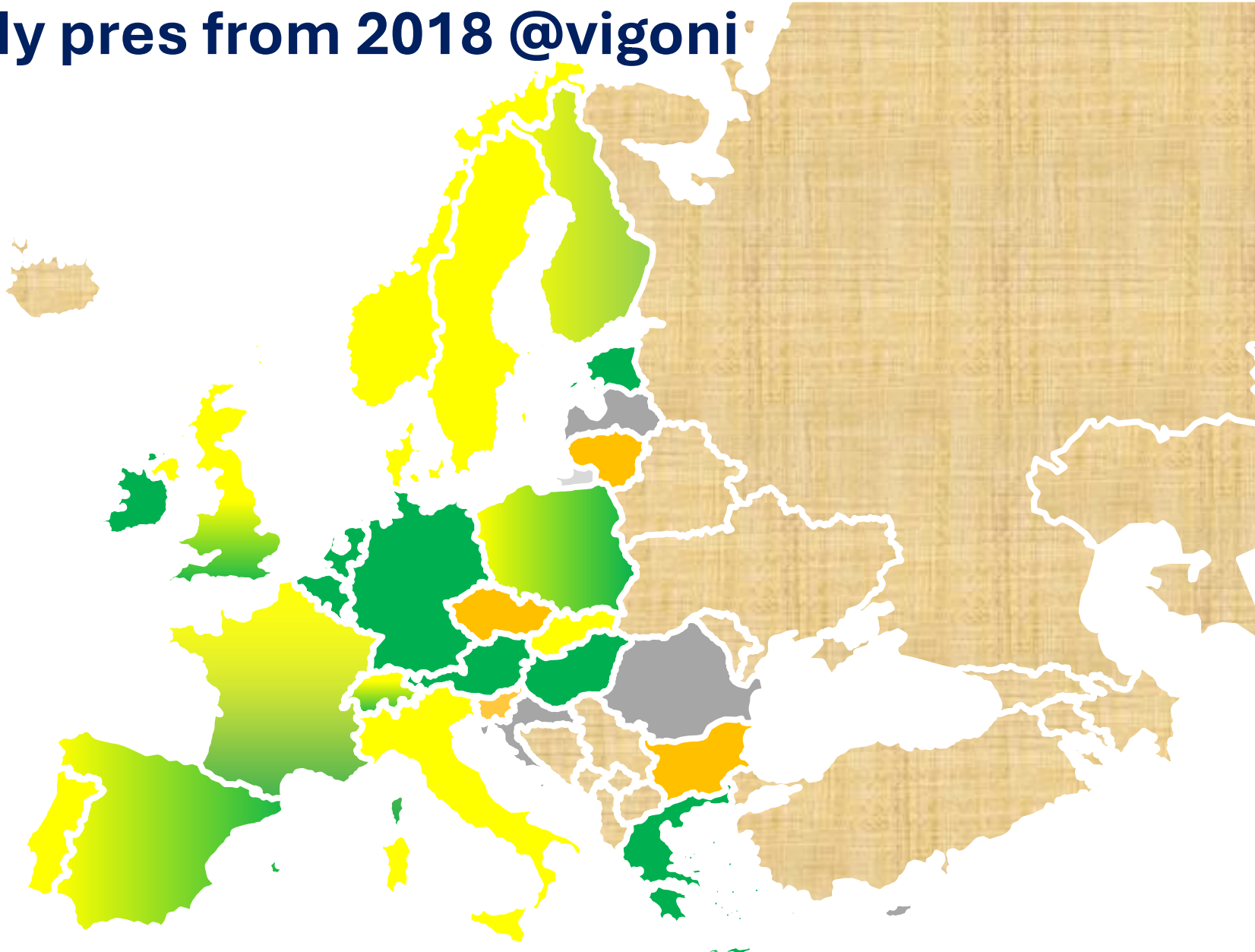
- they changed (devalued) development goals and political priorities,
- which dicredits development and progress, as we new it before, and
- this, in turn, kills social reporting.

# Questions/comments

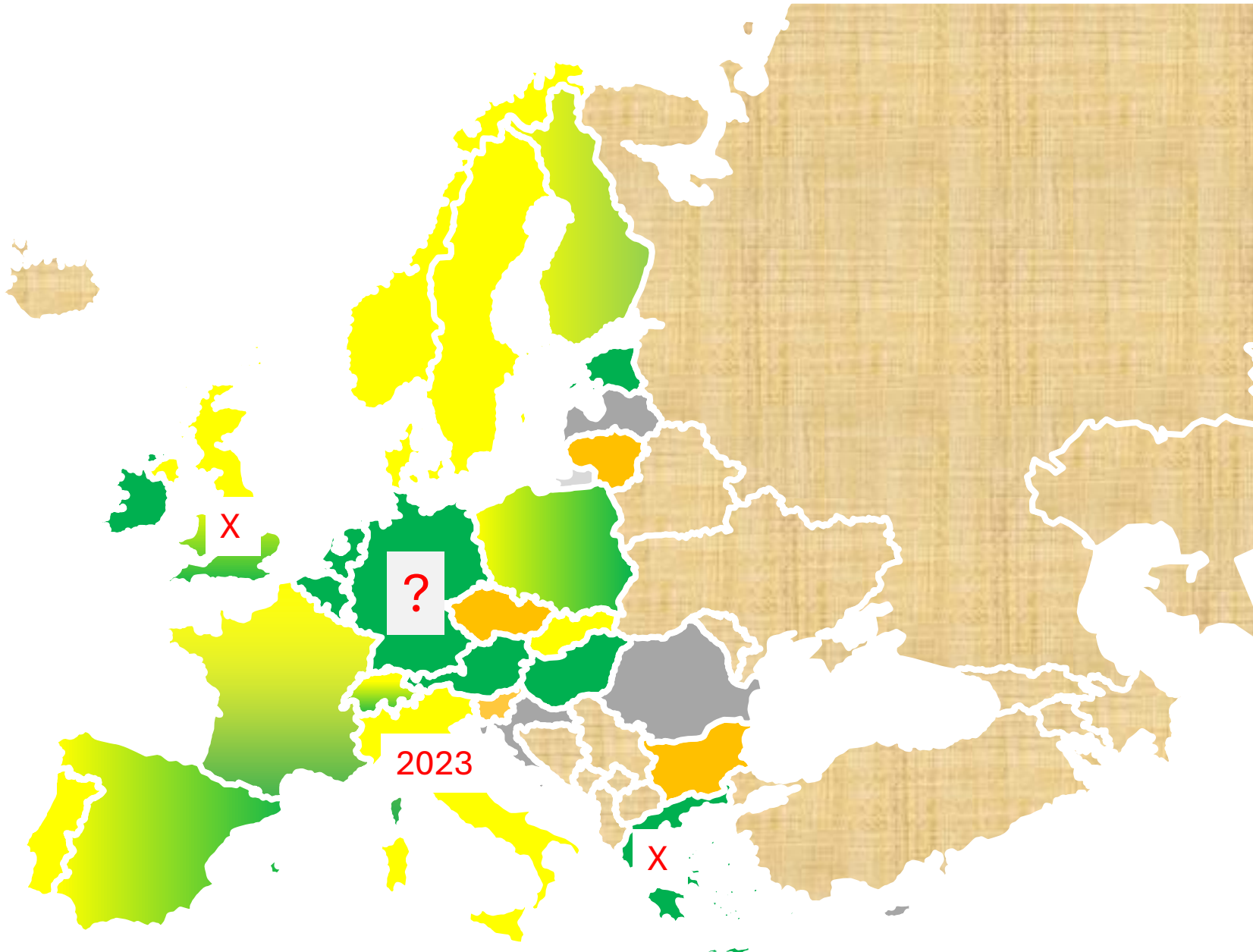
- 1: Is there a retreat/pushback of social reporting?
  - See the map of social reports

# National scene: the Social Report Map of Europe (EU+CH+NO)

My pres from 2018 @vigoni



# National scene: how did it change since 2018?

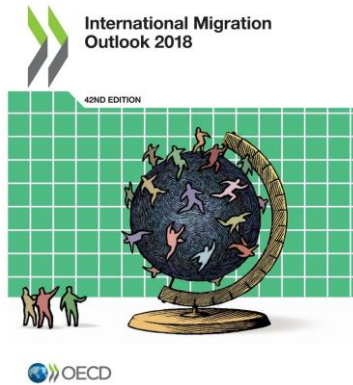
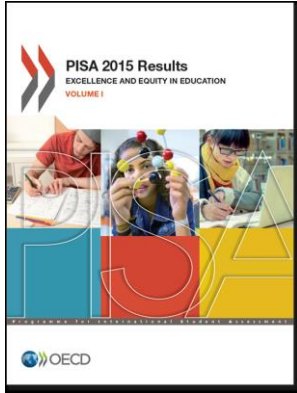


# Questions/comments

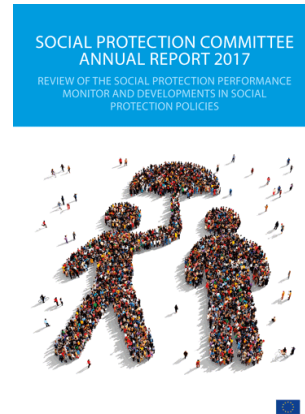
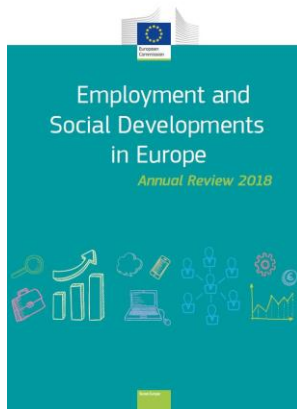
1: Is there a retreat/pushback of social reporting?

- See the map of social reports
- See the extension of of specialized data collection and monitoring excercises, esp of intl data collection and reporting excercises
- Primary data sources: EU-SILC, EQLS, ESS, LIS, PISA, SHARE, EWCS, and many others
- Secondary sources and policy indicators Bertelsmann, WEF, WIL, UNICEF, Freedom House, etc
- country report cards based on these surveys consitute mini social reports

# Supra-national scene: thematic databases and reports



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# Questions/comments

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2: Does the anti-climate expansion have a negative effect on social reporting?

Probably yes, but needs to be proven by further empirical investigations

(Even if consumption and material growth is questioned: there are no green progress indicators to follow?)



# Questions/comments

3: Is it climate activism (and: weakened belief in progress ) only to blame? (What if the deteriorating social climate can be attributed to a more general change of the wind?)

In the **golden age** of social reporting, politics tried to sell hope and it promised progressive policies as an instrument to get closer to heaven on Earth. (Social indicators were to measure the remaining laps to go.)

**Nowadays** political actors sell protection against dangers like

- Climate change endangering our life space (the greens)
- Migration endangering our way of life (the radical conservatives)
- Excess power of plutocracies (various new left movements)

This continues under circumstances of polarization and the rise of new tribalism when rational policies questioned from the (radical) right and from the (radical) left as well?

## **Scenario A:**

The demand for protection drives: people start identifying migrants/climate change/global plutocracy as „enemies” than political entrepreneurs start offering protection against these enemies.

## **Scenario B:**

The supply of protection drives: parties make attempts to exaggerate enemies to increase the value of the protection they offer.

Scenario A increases the demand for social monitoring and social reporting

Scenario B decreases the demand for social monitoring and social reporting

**What if we experience Scenario A or B?**

**+ austerity, from time to time?**