

INDICATOR FRAMEWORK ON CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY (IFCD)

The 2024 Update

Helmut K Anheier
Hertie School & UCLA



In his seminal work “*Keywords*,” Raymond Williams remarked that

“culture is one of the two or three most complicated words in the English language”

....or in any other language for that matter, with numerous connotations ranging from culture as civilization to culture as high art.

... democracy can be thought of as "power of the people": a way of governing which depends on the will of the people.

There are so **many different models of democratic government** around the world that it is sometimes easier to understand the idea of democracy in terms of what it definitely is not...

Properly understood, democracy should not even be "rule of the majority", if that means that minorities' interests are ignored completely. A democracy, at least in theory, is government on behalf of all the people, according to their "will".

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/democracy>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/steering-committee-on-democracy/10-principles-for-democracy>

Fundamental challenges

Consider the Huntington - Sen debate in the early 2000s

Huntington: In the 1960s, Ghana and South Korea had about the same per capita GDP.

“Thirty years later South Korea had become an economic giant ... and was on its way to the consolidation of democratic institutions. No such changes had occurred in Ghana.”

He posits “that culture had to be a large part of the explanation. South Koreans valued thrift, investment, hard work, education, organization, and discipline. Ghanaians had different values...in short, cultures count.”

While South Korea became a resilient democracy, Ghana remained politically unstable, with periods of autocratic rule.

Sen was unconvinced and argued that

“it is hard to justify either a cultural triumphalism in favor of Korean culture or the radical pessimism about Ghana’s future...

This is not to suggest that cultural factors are irrelevant to the process of development. But they do not work in isolation from social, political, and economic influences. Nor are they immutable.”

The same holds for democratic developments.

Basic tenants as to the relationship between culture and democracy:

- **The relationship between culture and democracy is strong**, but it is not uniform across countries, both in terms of its strengths and meaning
- Culture, while of immense importance, is not unique in determining how countries develop as democracies. **Other factors matter, too**, such as economy, politics, history, etc.
- Culture includes a fundamental **tension between cultural liberty** (the freedom to change priorities and innovate) **and cultural conservation** (the preference to maintain and preserve)
- **Culture is neither homogenous nor bound by nation-states** but can show great variation within the same milieu or country - and so vary democratic cultures.
- **Culture is dynamic and changing, and so is democracy**; they interact with each other, with other cultures and and political systems, including economic factors as well as values and norms.

So,

Culture and democracy are strongly related.

It is a complex relationship that matters in fundamental ways.

We need to understand it better, especially underlying changes.

Need to observe that relationship over time and across countries.

Background: knowing more about culture's effects

**2013 Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture:
improving the effectiveness of cultural policies through better evidence base**



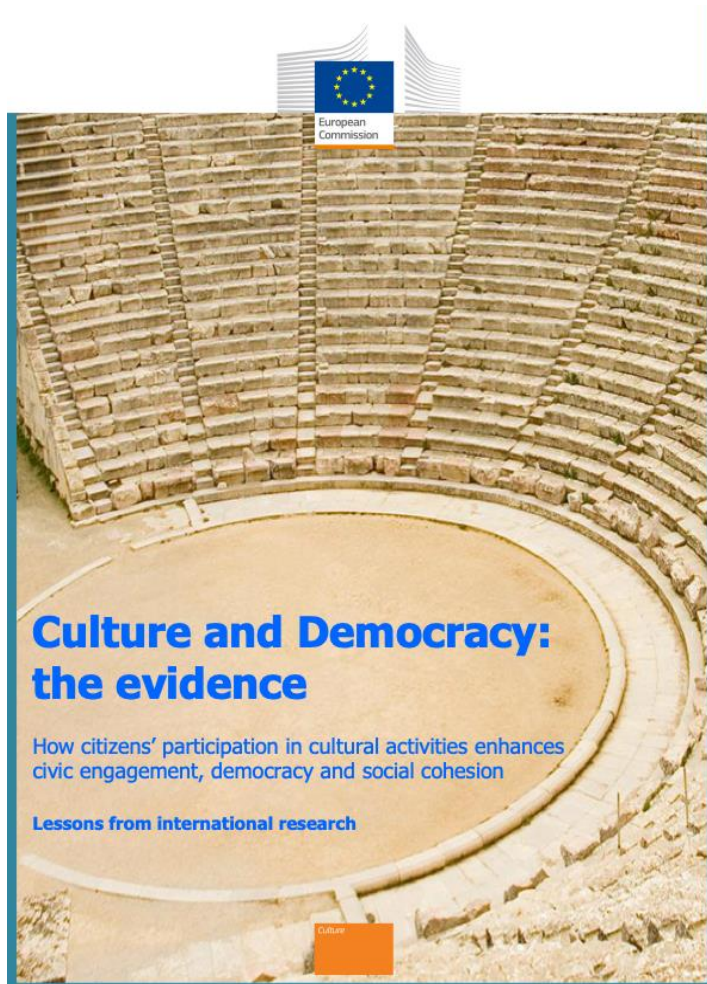
Indicators on the impact of culture on democracy

Indicators on the economic efficiency of financing culture

Comparisons and monitoring trends

Cross-learning

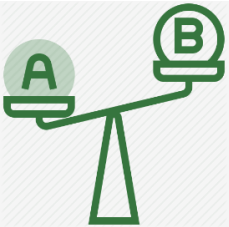
Building on past achievement to take next steps



Purpose



Identify cultural indicators associated with development and sustainability of democracy



Provide evidence on how to advocate for culture on the national and international level

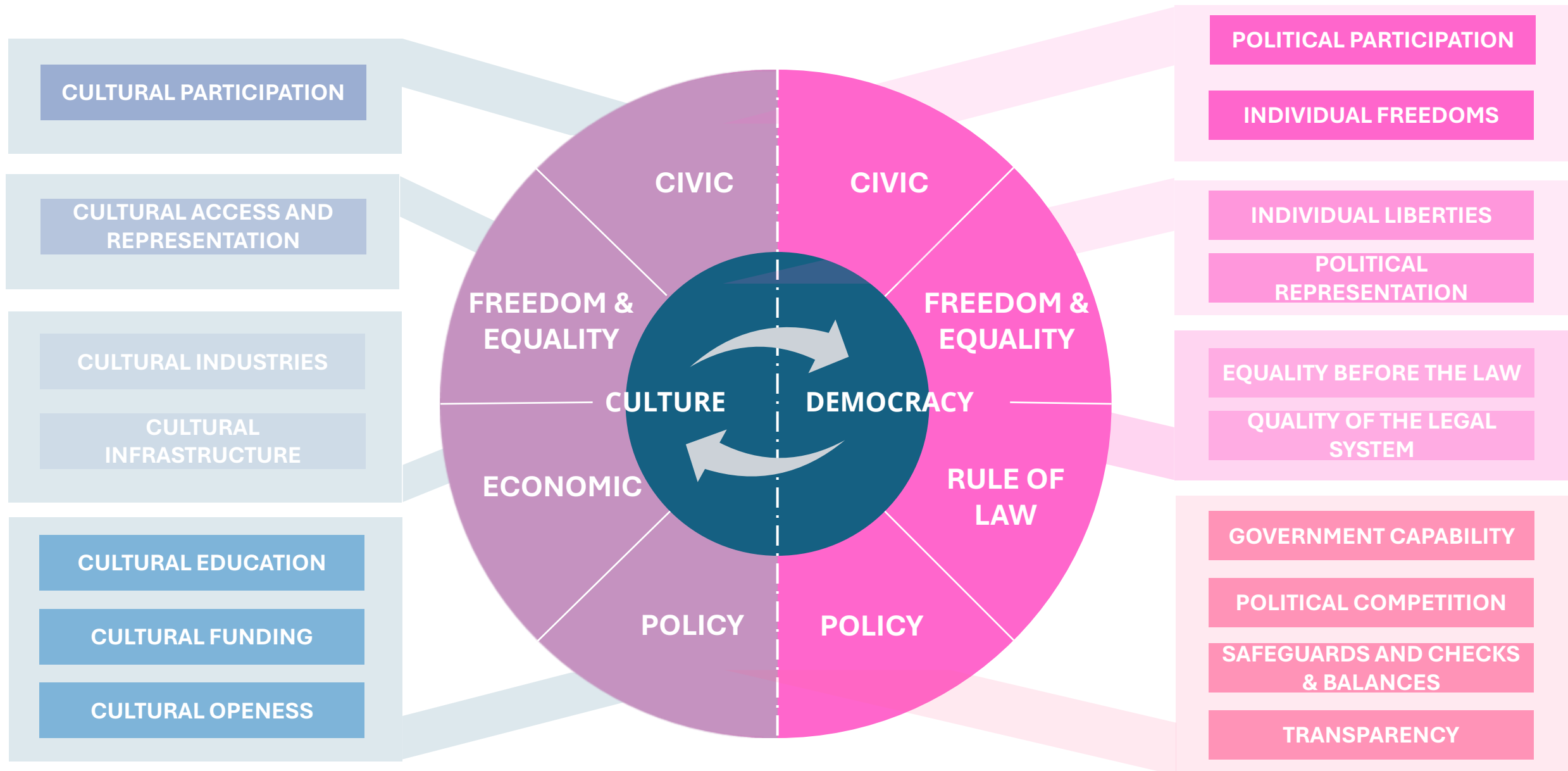


Supply policy makers and practitioners with comprehensive knowledge base





Contribute to other Council of Europe activities and relevant initiatives

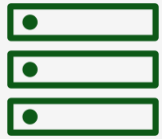
INDICATOR FRAMEWORK ON CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY (IFCD)



Operationalization

		COMPONENTS	INDICATORS	VARIABLES
	CULTURE	7	17	60
	DEMOCRACY	10	20	76
	TOTAL	17	37	136

Data management



Identify variables based on a comprehensive review of academic/policy literature



Seek and **assess** potential data sources and **collect** data



Exclude variables when less than 50% data availability (half of CoE countries
(many variables come from EU sources that do not include non-EU member states)



Include countries with > 40% coverage of remaining variables

Main Data Sources Include



CULTURE

Eurobarometer

Eurostat

Eurydice

UNESCO Institute for Statistics

UNESCO World Heritage list

Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends

Global Innovation Index

Global Competitiveness Report

European Group on Museums Statistics

Migrant Integration Policy Index



DEMOCRACY

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)

Democracy Barometer

World Values Survey

Institutional Profiles Database

Polity IV Project

Rule of Law Index

Worldwide Governance Indicators

Quality of Government Expert Survey World Press

Freedom Index

Gallup World Poll

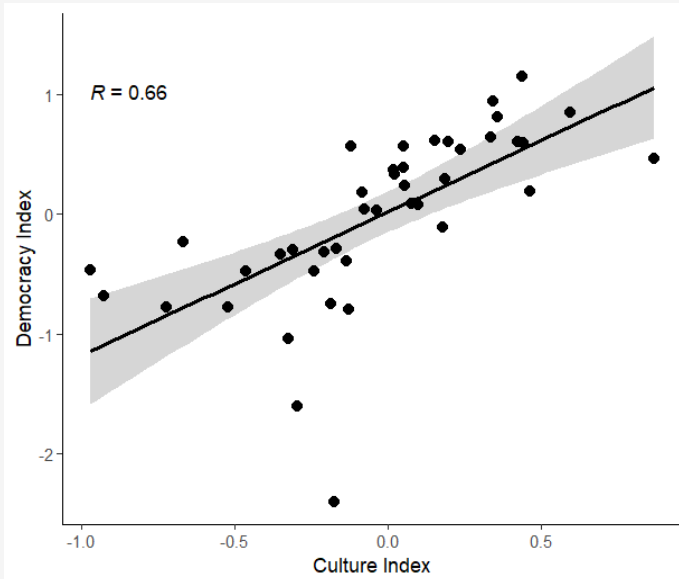
Progress to Date



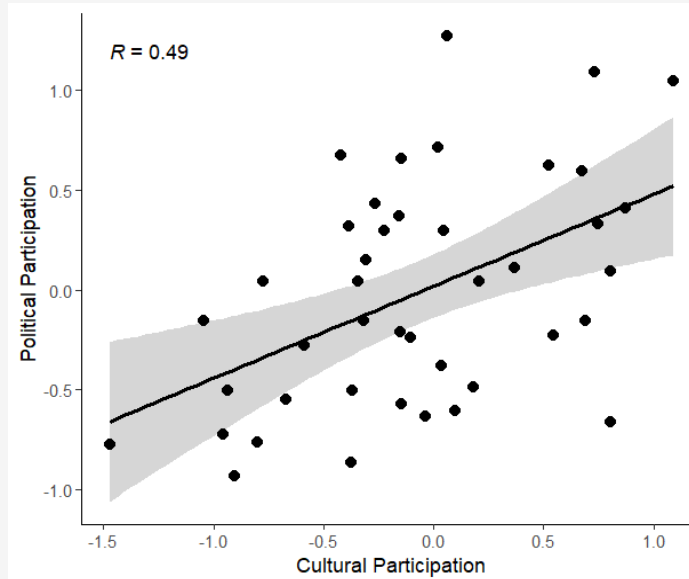
The 2024 IFCD Update

A First Look at Initial Results

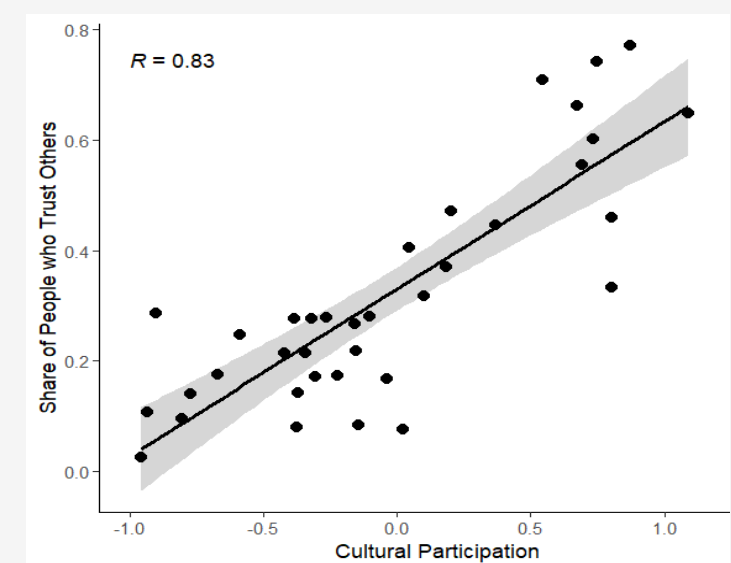
INDICATOR FRAMEWORK ON CULTURE AND DEMOCRACY (IFCD)



Combining **domains** within the IFCD



Combining **components** and **indicators** within the IFCD



Combining **IFCD** components and indicators with **external data**

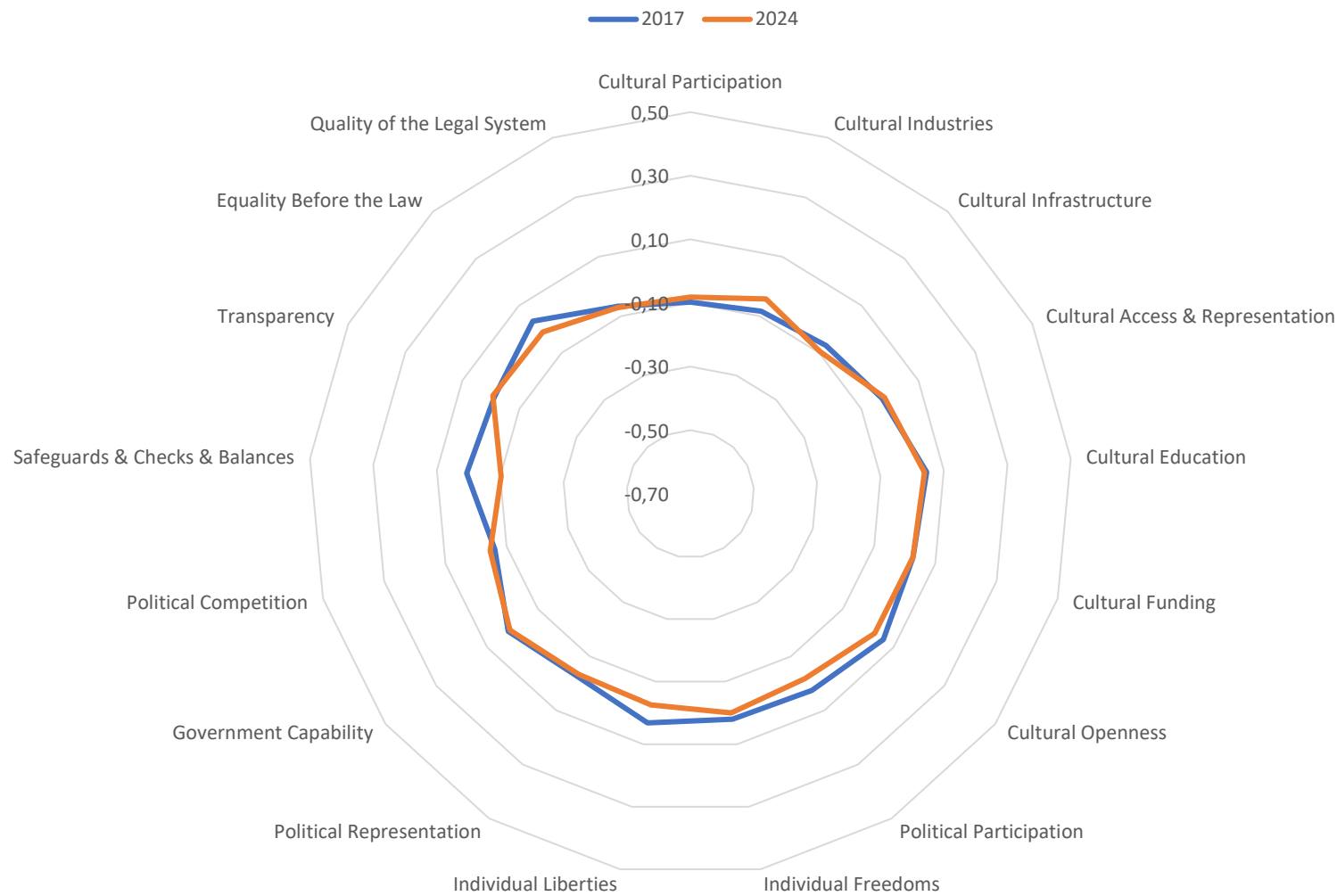
COMPARATIVE RANKING	Higher Democracy Rank (1-14)	Average Democracy Rank (15-28)	Lower Democracy Rank (29-42)
Higher Culture Rank (1-14)	11	3	
Average Culture Rank (15-28)	3	9	2
Lower Culture Rank (29-42)		2	12

All but 10 countries along diagonal, suggesting a close relationship.

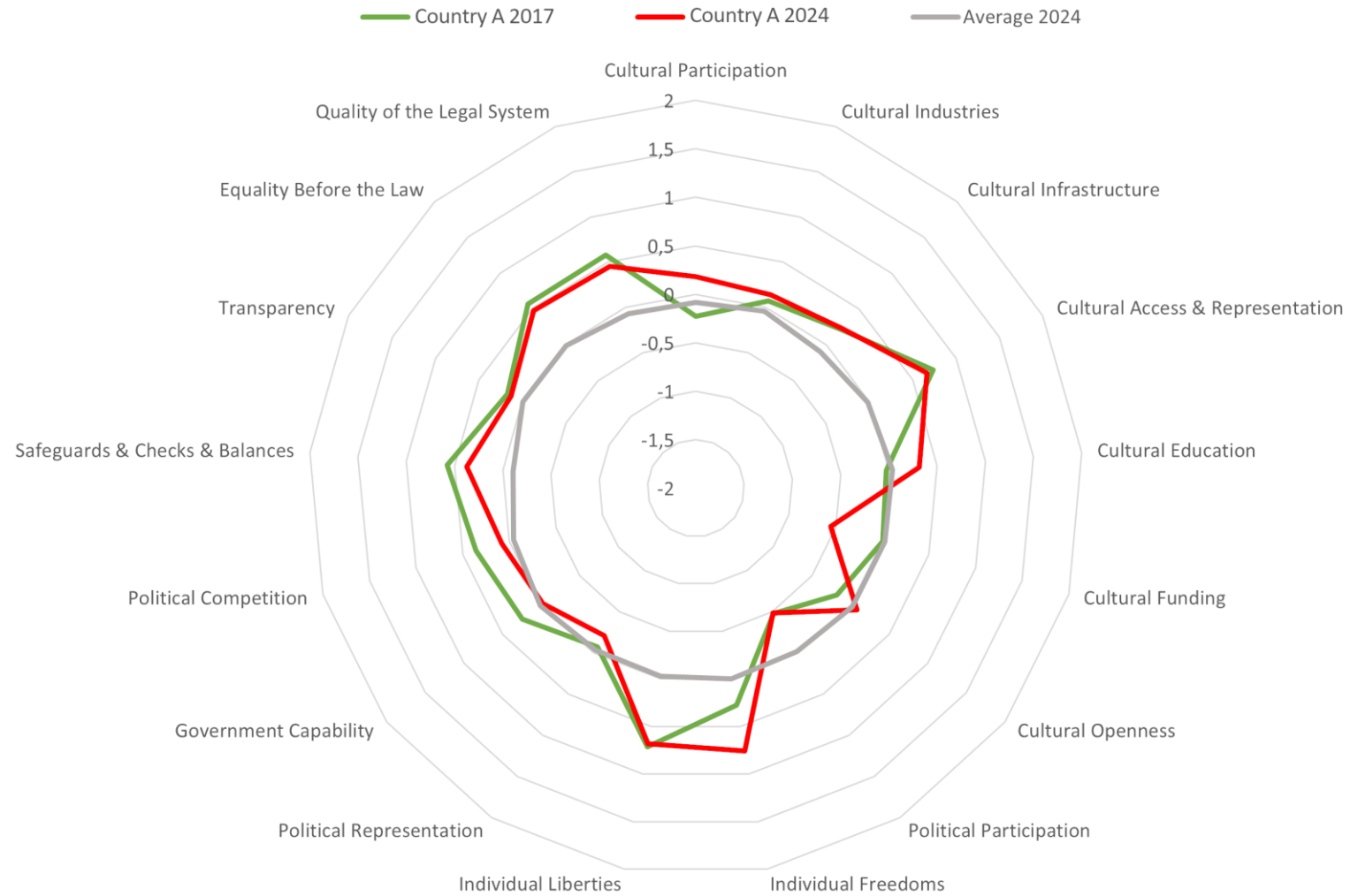
More divergences at level of individual components

Correlation is .66

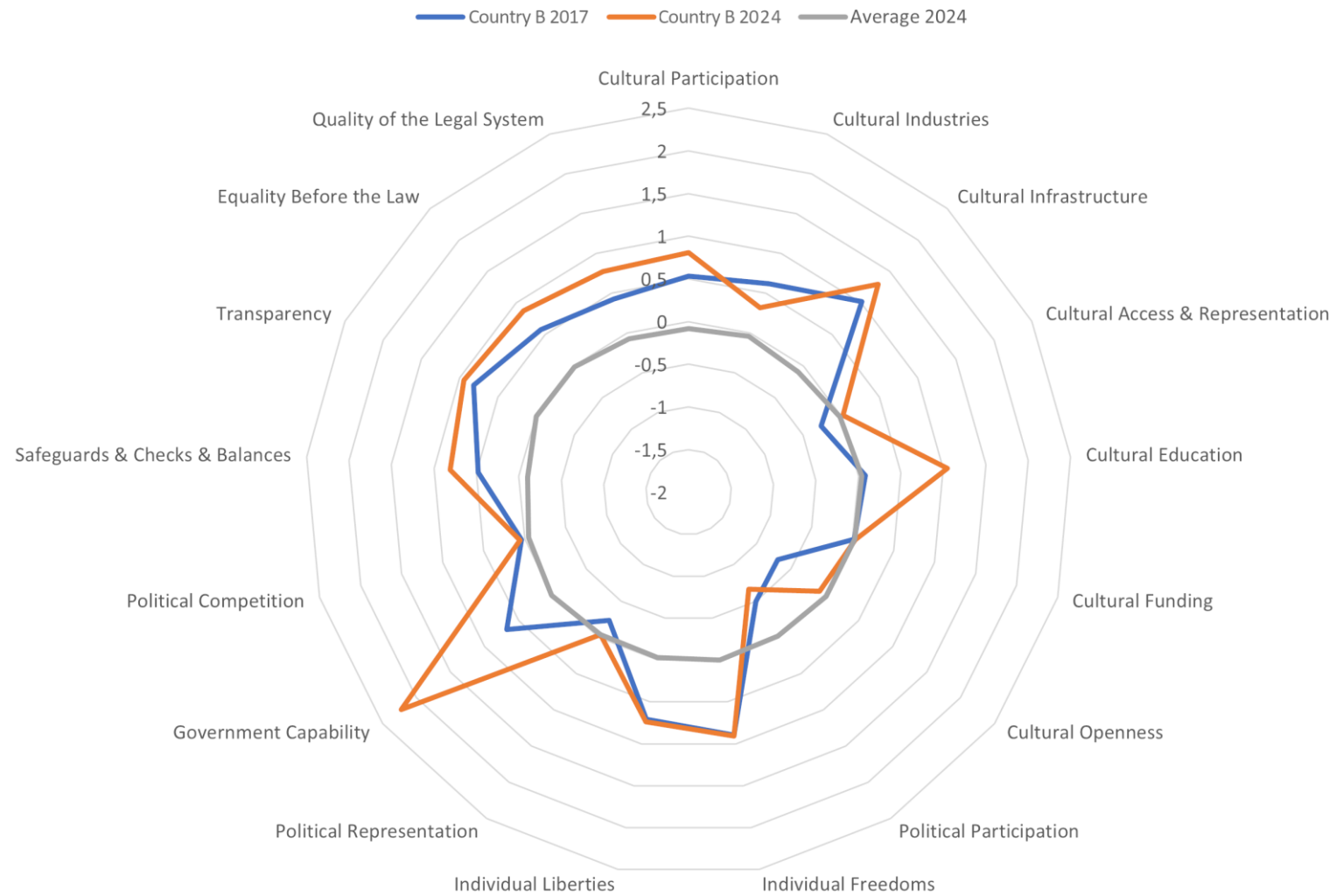
Average performance of CoE countries across culture and democracy dimensions



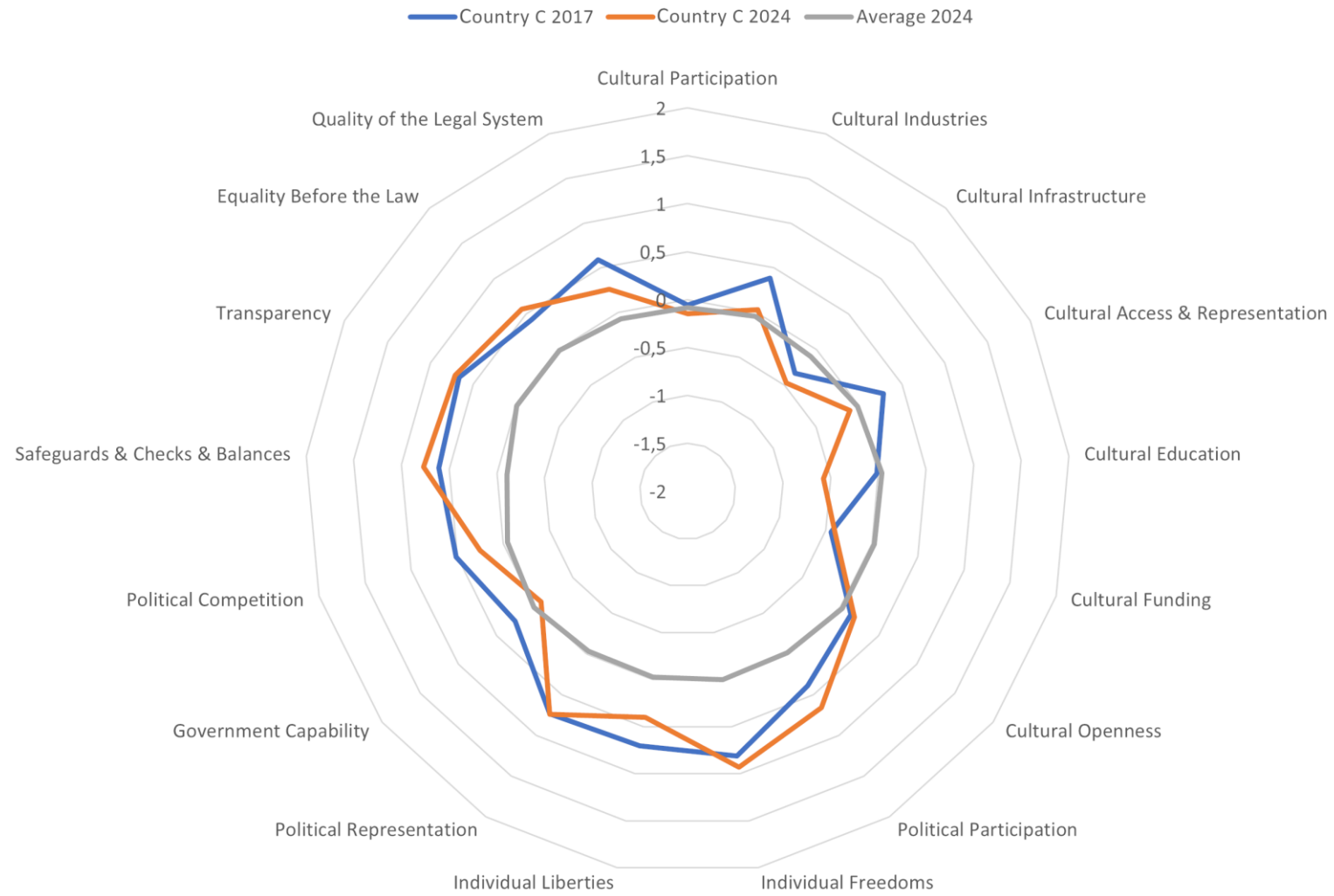
Country A performance across culture and democracy indicators



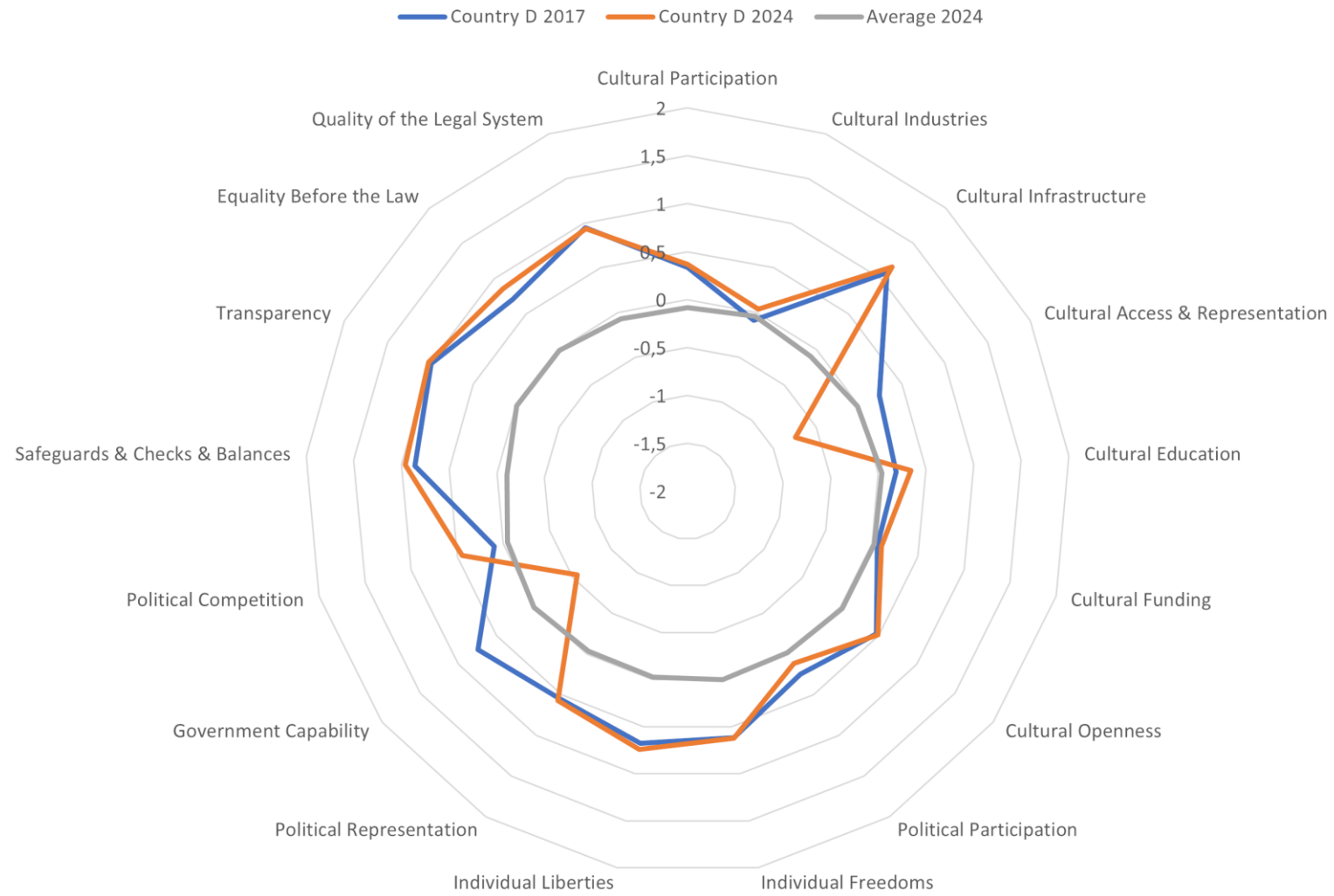
Country B performance across culture and democracy indicators



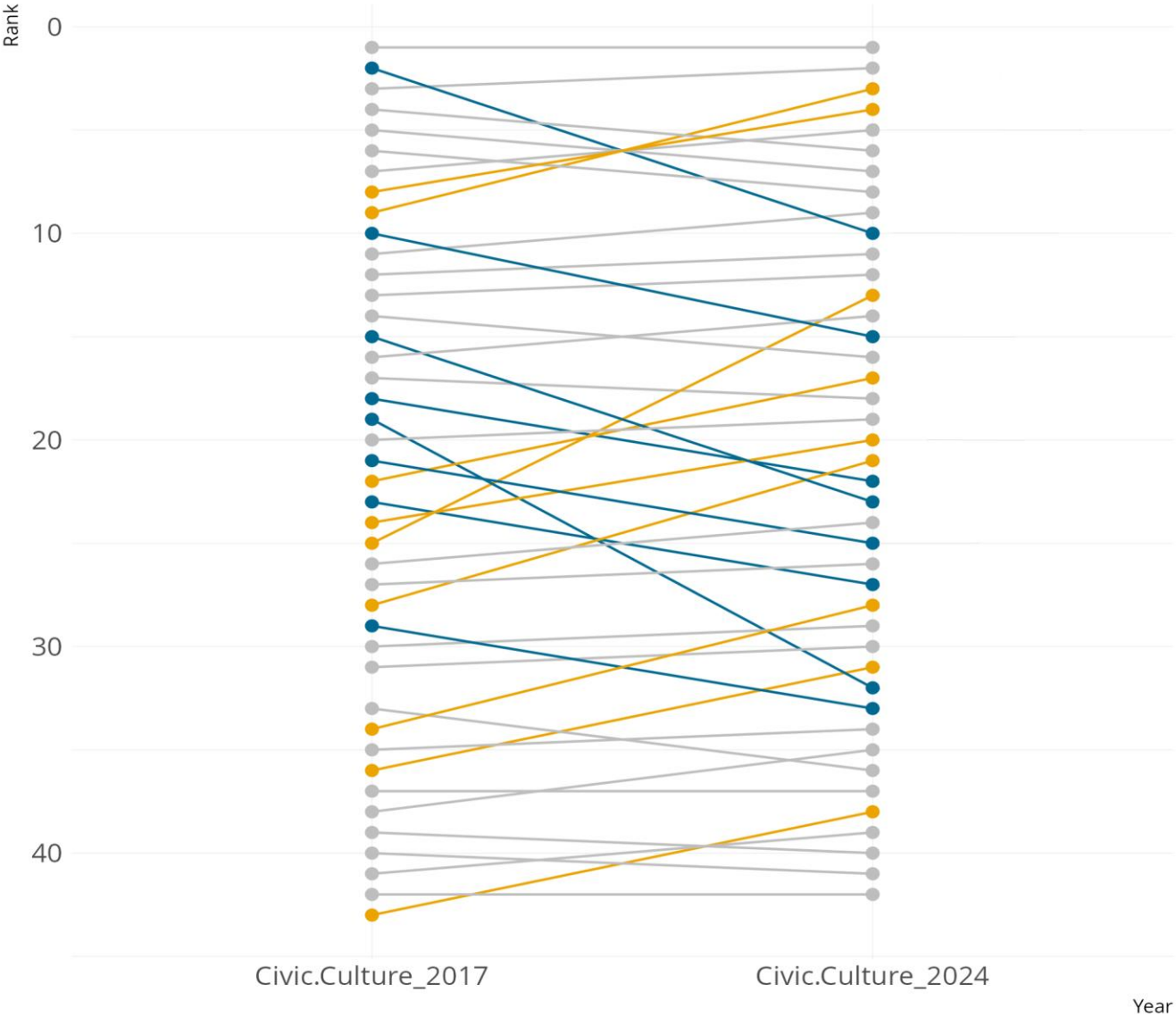
Country C performance across culture and democracy indicators



Country D performance across culture and democracy indicators

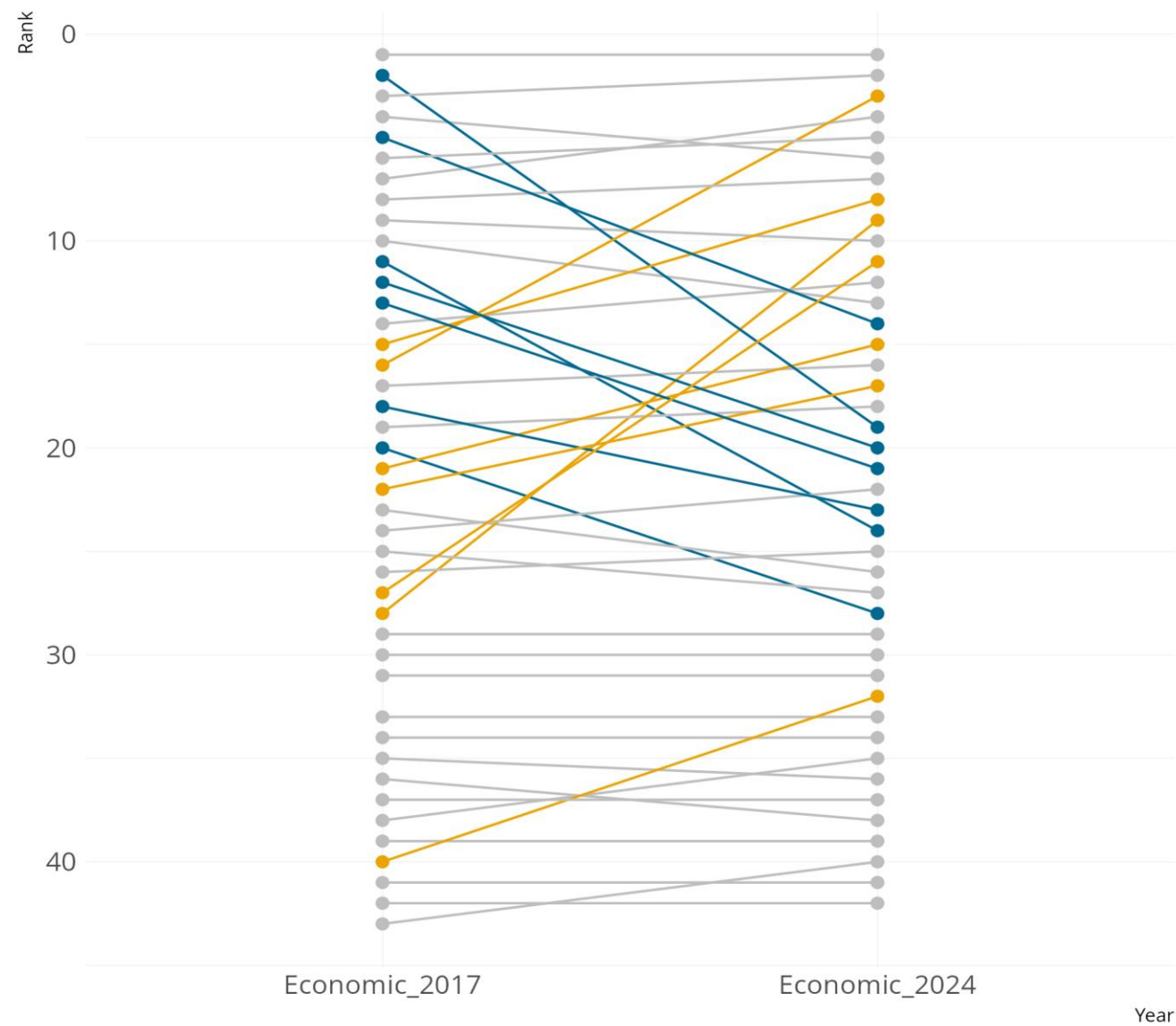


Change in Civic.Culture Rankings (2017 vs 2024)
A country position changed by at least 4 ranks

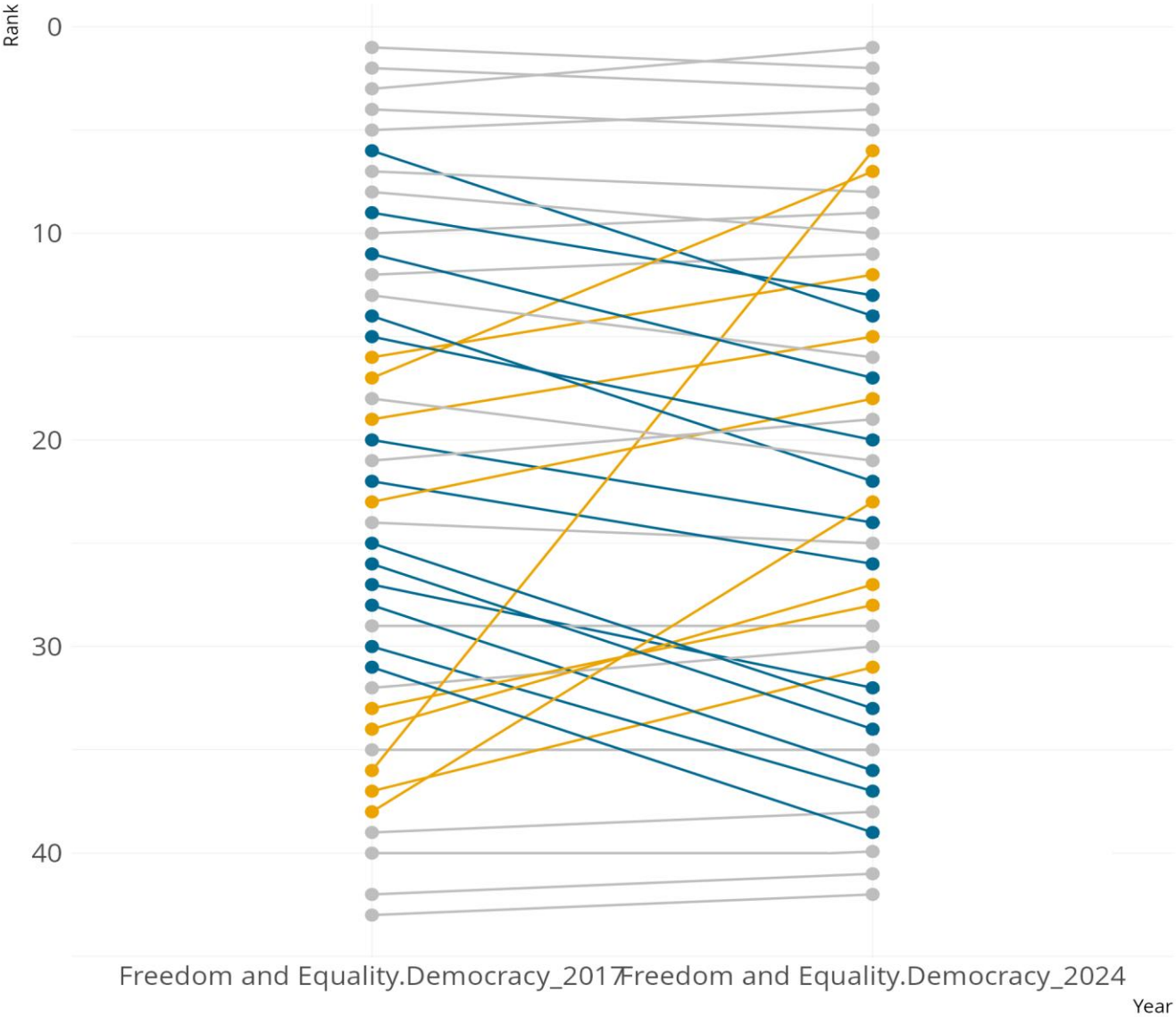


Change in Economic Rankings (2017 vs 2024)

A country position changed by at least 4 ranks

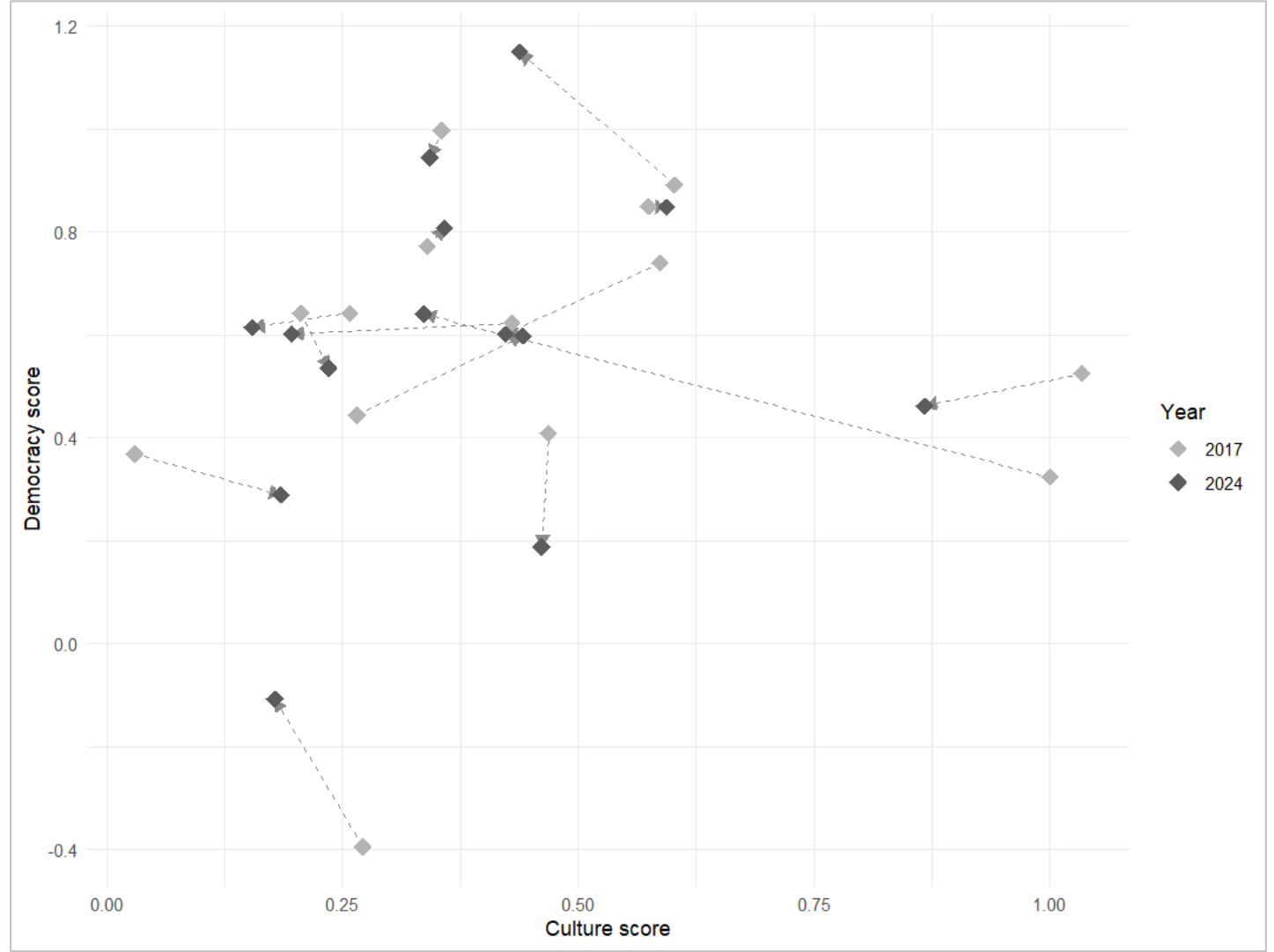


Change in Freedom and Equality.Democracy Rankings (2017 vs 2024)
A country position changed by at least 4 ranks



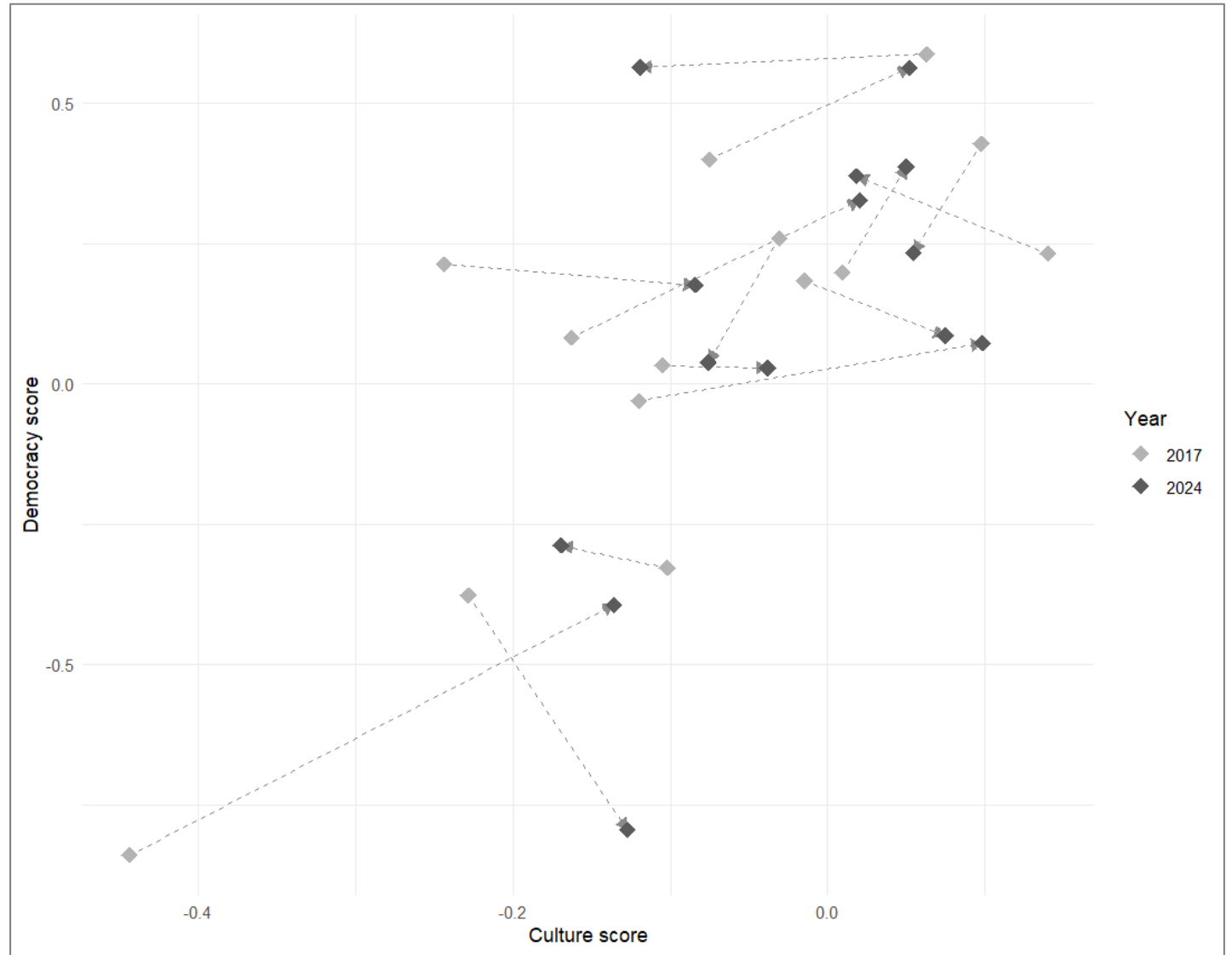
Democracy and Culture, 2017-2024

(top ranked countries)



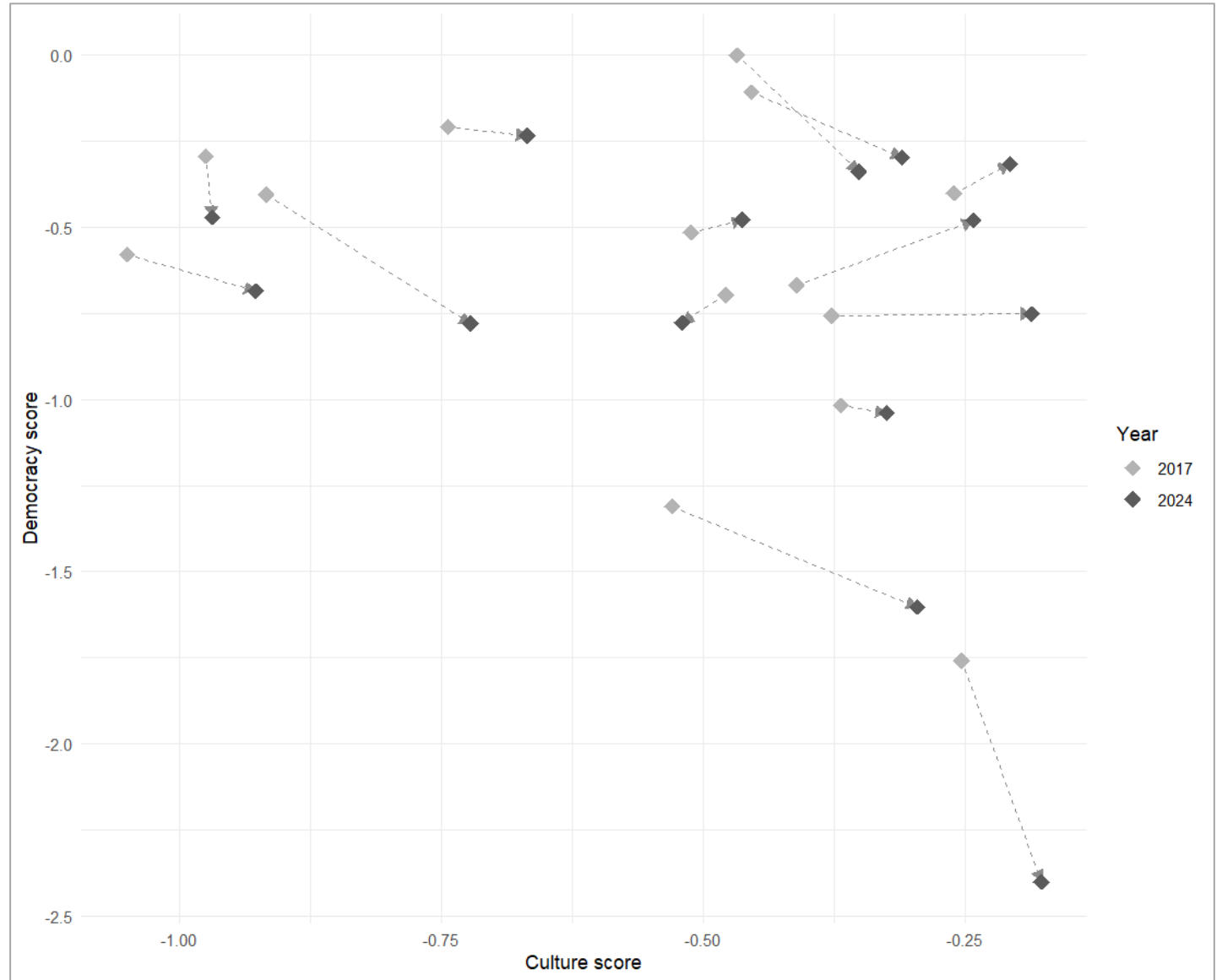
Democracy and Culture, 2017-2024

(middle ranked countries)



Democracy and Culture, 2017-2024

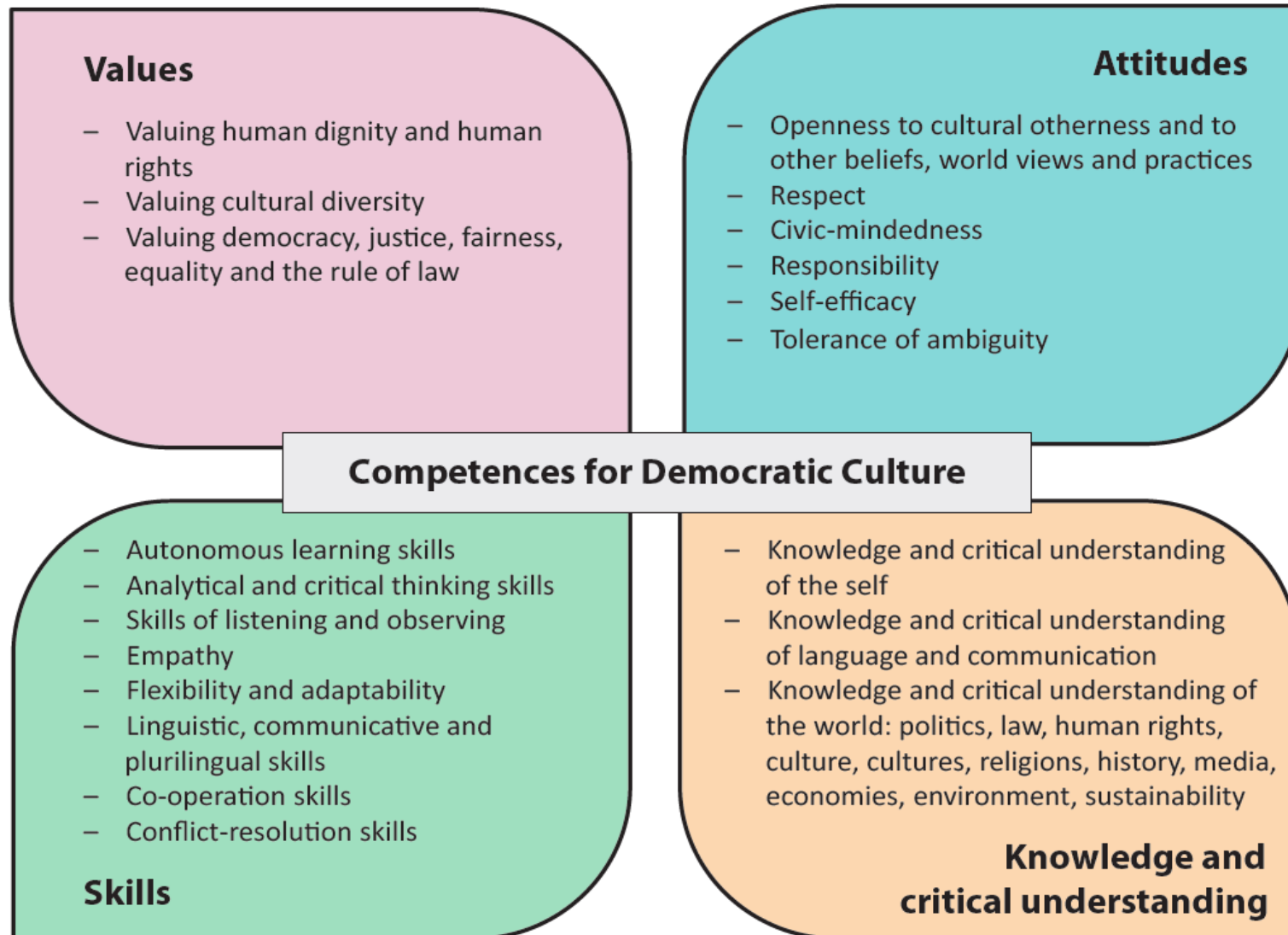
(bottom ranked countries)



Next steps

- Brief report with 2024 update
- Explore future prospects
- Revise Index
- Link to complementary activities (CoE, EU, other)
- Establish longer time series
- Regular updates (every two years)
- Conduct deeper analyses
- Emphasis on country consultations
- Involve policymakers

The model of competences for democratic culture



Next steps

- Brief report with 2024 update
- Explore future prospects
- Revise Index
- Link to complementary activities (CoE, EU, other)
- Establish longer time series
- Regular updates (every two years)
- Conduct deeper analyses
- Emphasis on country consultations
- Involve policymakers

Thank you for your attention

Contact:

Anheier@hertie-school.org