

Legislation as (In)action: Relevance and limits of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

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Actions for social justice in multilingual societies

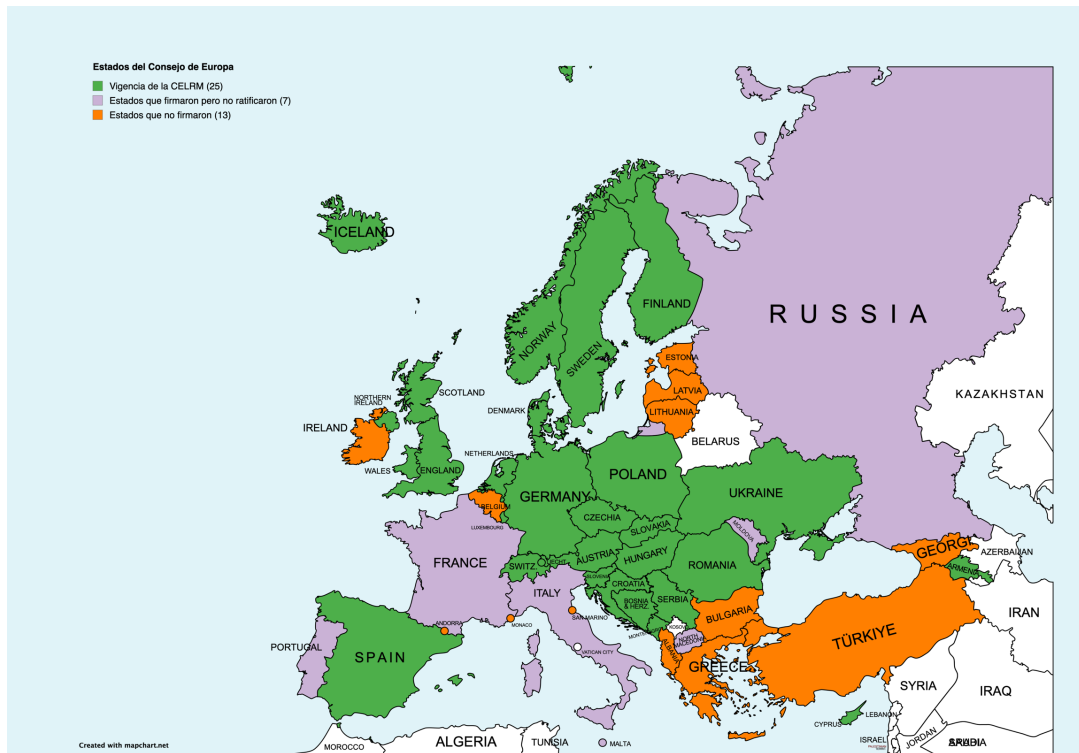
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The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES



- 1992/1998 Council of Europe: 27 years in force
- The most important legal instrument for the protection and promotion of Europe's minoritized languages.
- 46 States: 33 signatures, 25 ratifications
- 84 languages / 209 varieties / 224 linguistic groups
- 5 parts, 23 articles, and a preamble
 - Part II (Art. 7)
 - Part III (Art. 8 to 14)



Constitutional models (Ruíz Vieytez 2023)

Multilingual

- **Full official multilingualism:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Finland, Luxembourg
- **Territorialized official multilingualism:** Switzerland
- **Asymmetrical official multilingualism:** Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom, Ukraine
- **Limited official multilingualism:** Austria, Croatia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden

Monolingual

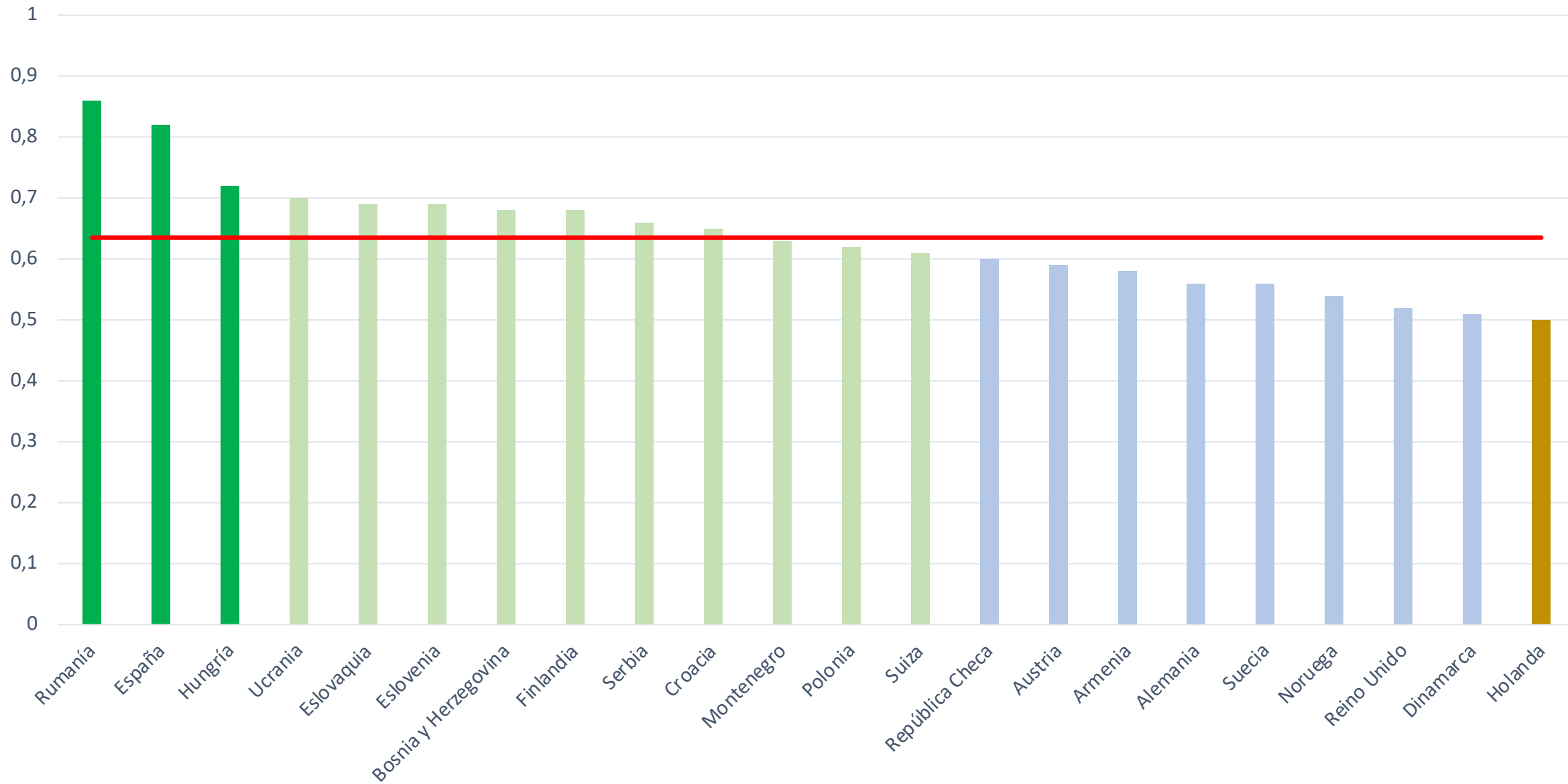
- **Modulated official monolingualism:** Chequia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia
- **Strict official monolingualism:** Armenia, Liechtenstein

State effort in the implementation of the Charter

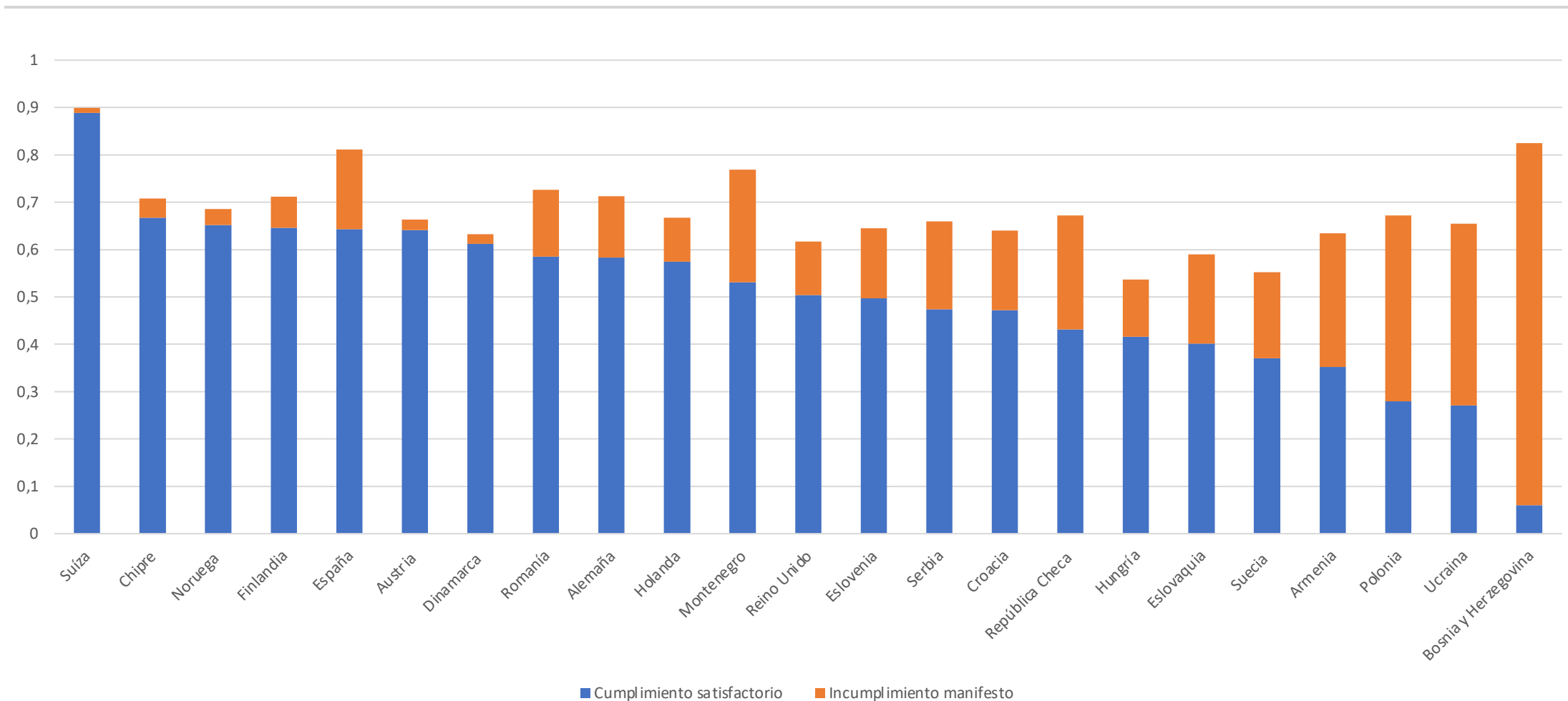
- Number of protected languages (Part II and Part III)
- Number of undertakings accepted under Part III (from 35 to 68)
- Range of undertakings
- Domestic legislation

$$SE = \frac{NL+NU+RU+DL}{4}$$

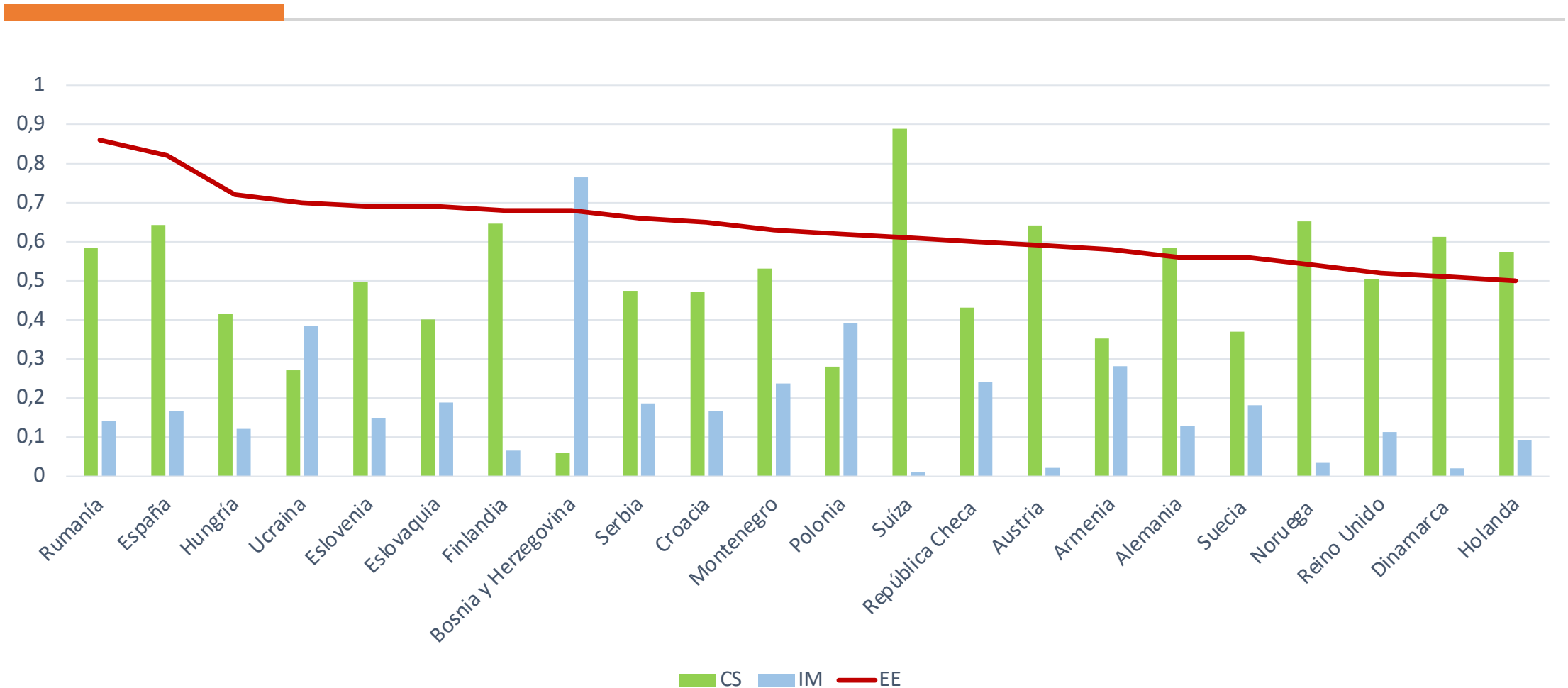
State effort ($NL+NU+RU+DL/4$)



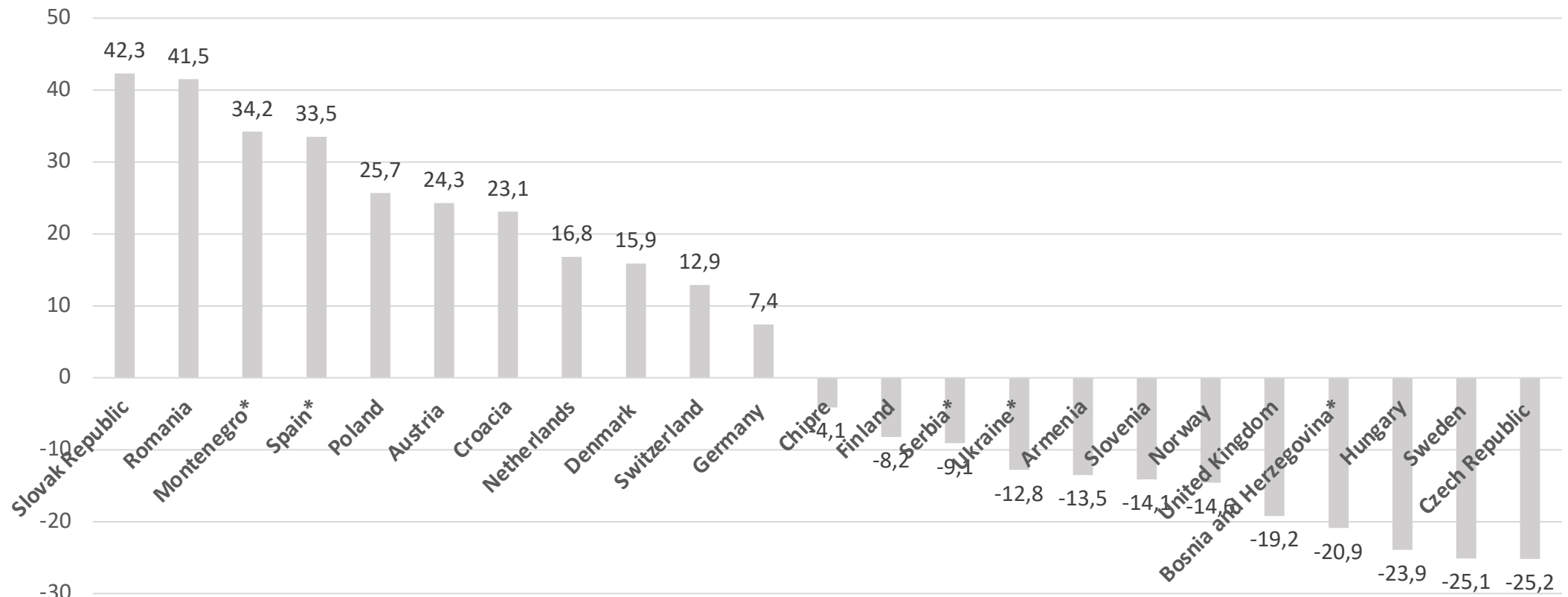
Satisfactory implementation vs. manifest non-compliance



State effort, satisfactory implementation, and manifest non-compliance



Global evolution of each State from the first to the last cycle



Linguistic groups with very satisfactory results (+85% satisfactory implementation in the latest report)

Albanian
(Montenegro)

Catalán
(Aragón*, Catalonia
e Balearic Islands)

Slovak
(Czechia)

Euskera
(Basque Country)

Wales
(United Kingdom)

Italian
(Ticino, Grisons)

Romansh
(Grisons)

Noth Sámi
(Norway)

Sweden
(Finland)

Tatar*
(Finland)

Linguistic groups with very unsatisfactory results (–15% satisfactory implementation in the latest report)

Albanian (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
German (Bosnia and Herzegovina; Slovenia*)
Czech (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Croatian* (Slovenia)
Slovak (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Slovene (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Gagauz (Ukraine)
Hungarian (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Irish (United Kingdom)
Italian (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Karaite* (Ukraine)
Crimean Tatar* (Ukraine)
Ladino (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Polish (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Romani* (Netherlands; Norway)
Romani (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Romanian (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Ruthenian (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Serbian* (Slovenia)
Turkish (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Ukrainian (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Valencian / Catalan* (Murcia)
Yiddish (Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ukraine)

Closing questions



1

Is the Charter a good indicator of the sociolinguistic, political, and legal situation of linguistic communities with minority languages?



2

Linguistic inequality as a manifestation of social injustice



3

The minoritization of languages as both a cause and consequence of language policies

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