

# Measuring Policy at the Micro-Level: The example of Parental Leave

Tom Emery & Alzbeta Bartova

Mannheim, March 2015

# EXISTING MEASURES

---

- **Social Policies are largely measured at the Macro Level**
- **Measures predominantly use a ‘model household’ model**
- **Problems of representativeness (Danforth & Stephens, 2013)**
- **Reductive and omits within country variation**
- **Some examples of alternatives: (Zabel, 2008; Vaalavuo, 2013; Sutherland & Figari, 2013)**

# EXTENDING THE LOGIC

---

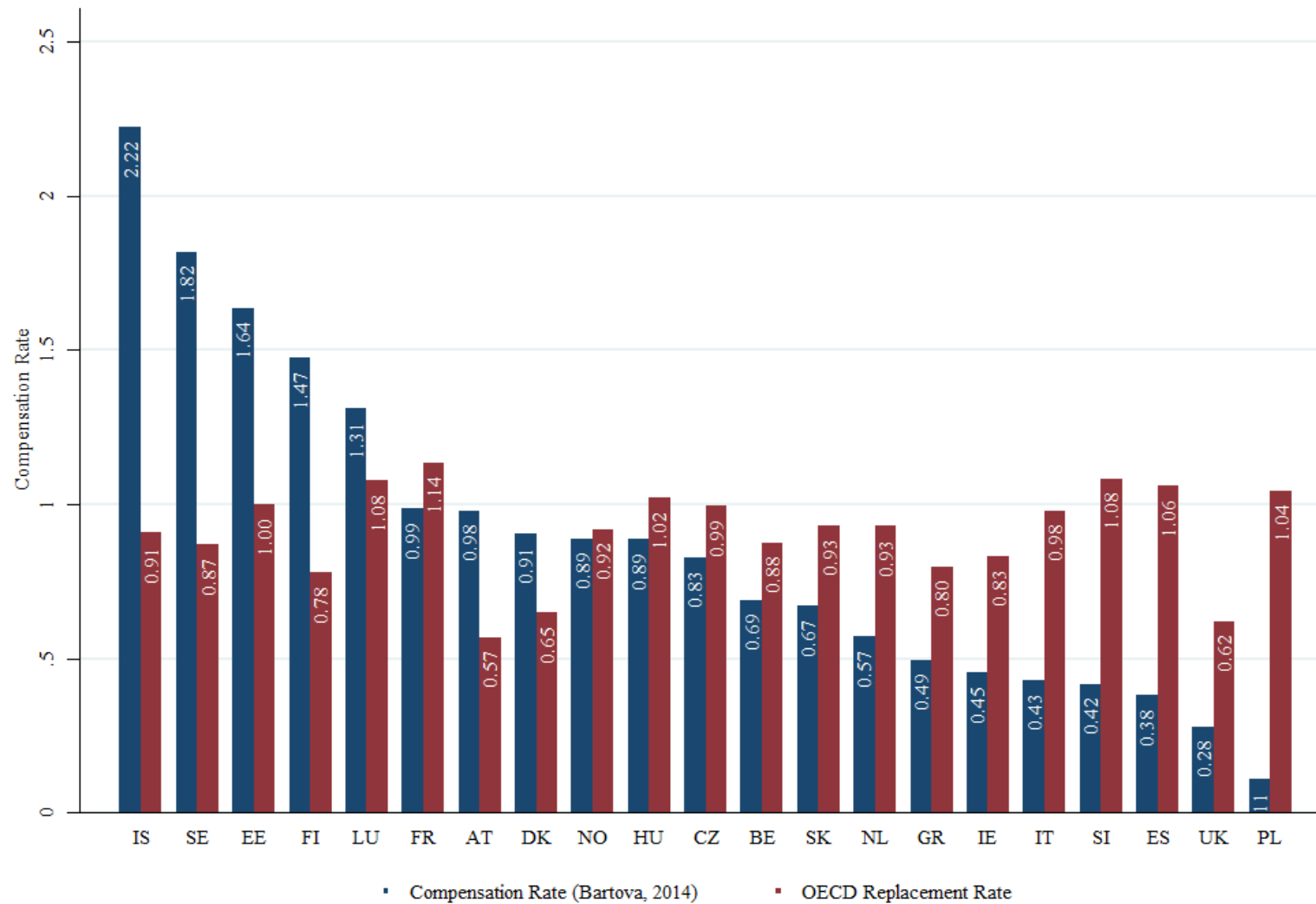
- **Social Surveys such as the EU-SILC provide sufficient data to impute an individuals policy eligibility**
- **By calculating the policy coverage for every individual, aggregates can be produced that are representative**
- **Calculating policy at the micro level also allows for analysis by SES; Education level; Contract type; Region and many other social indicators**

# OUR EXAMPLE

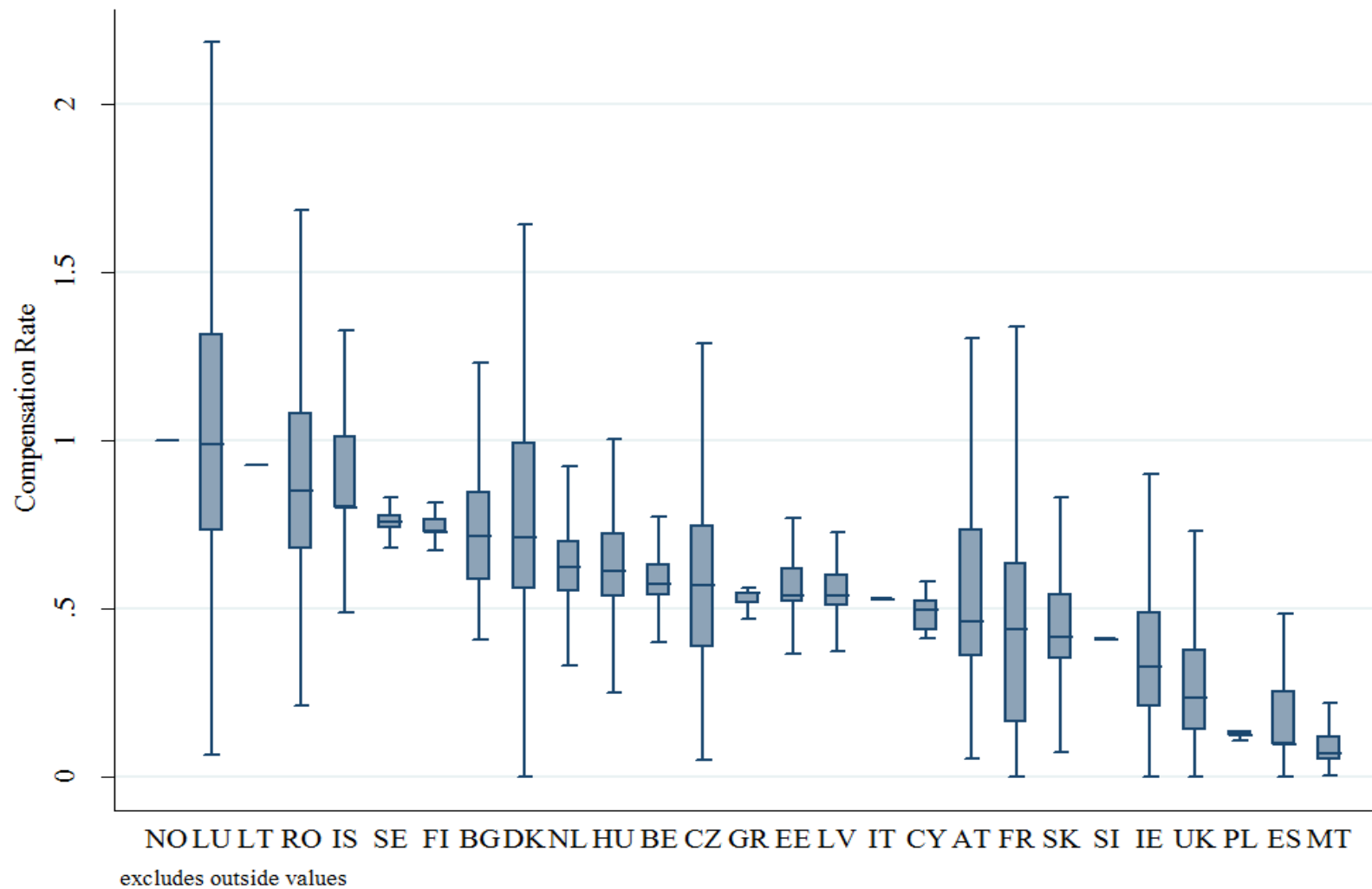
---

- **Data: EU-SILC, 2006–2010. 28 Countries across Europe**
- **Maternity and Parental Leave Coverage (Bartova, 2014)**
- **Policy Data taken from International Network on Leave Policies & Research, MISSOC, Multilinks, European Platform for Investing in Children**
- **20,697 cohabiting couples were selected (sample limited for reasons unrelated to this research)**
- **Closest comparison is with OECD Family Policy Database**

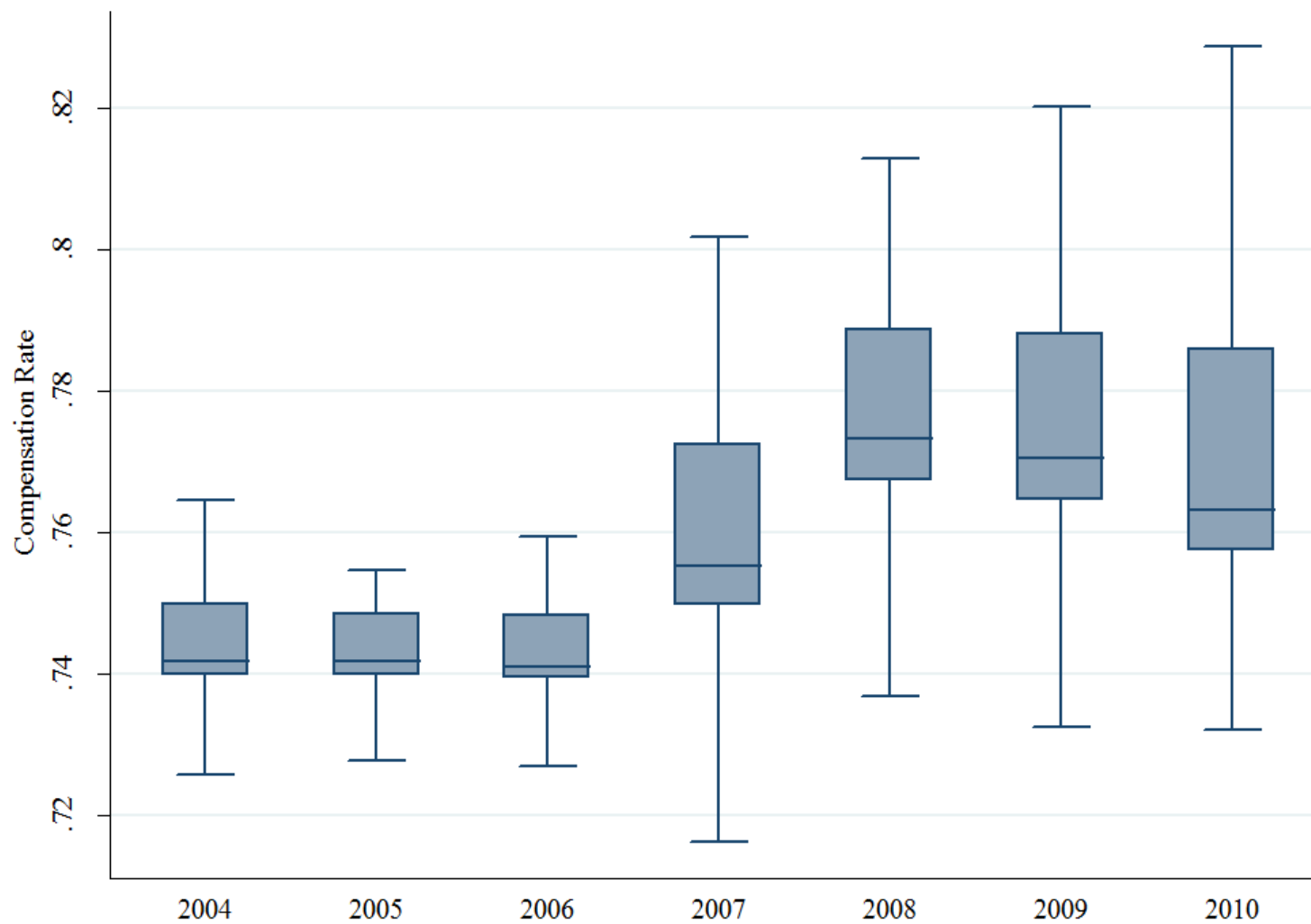
# REPLACEMENT & COMPENSATION RATE...



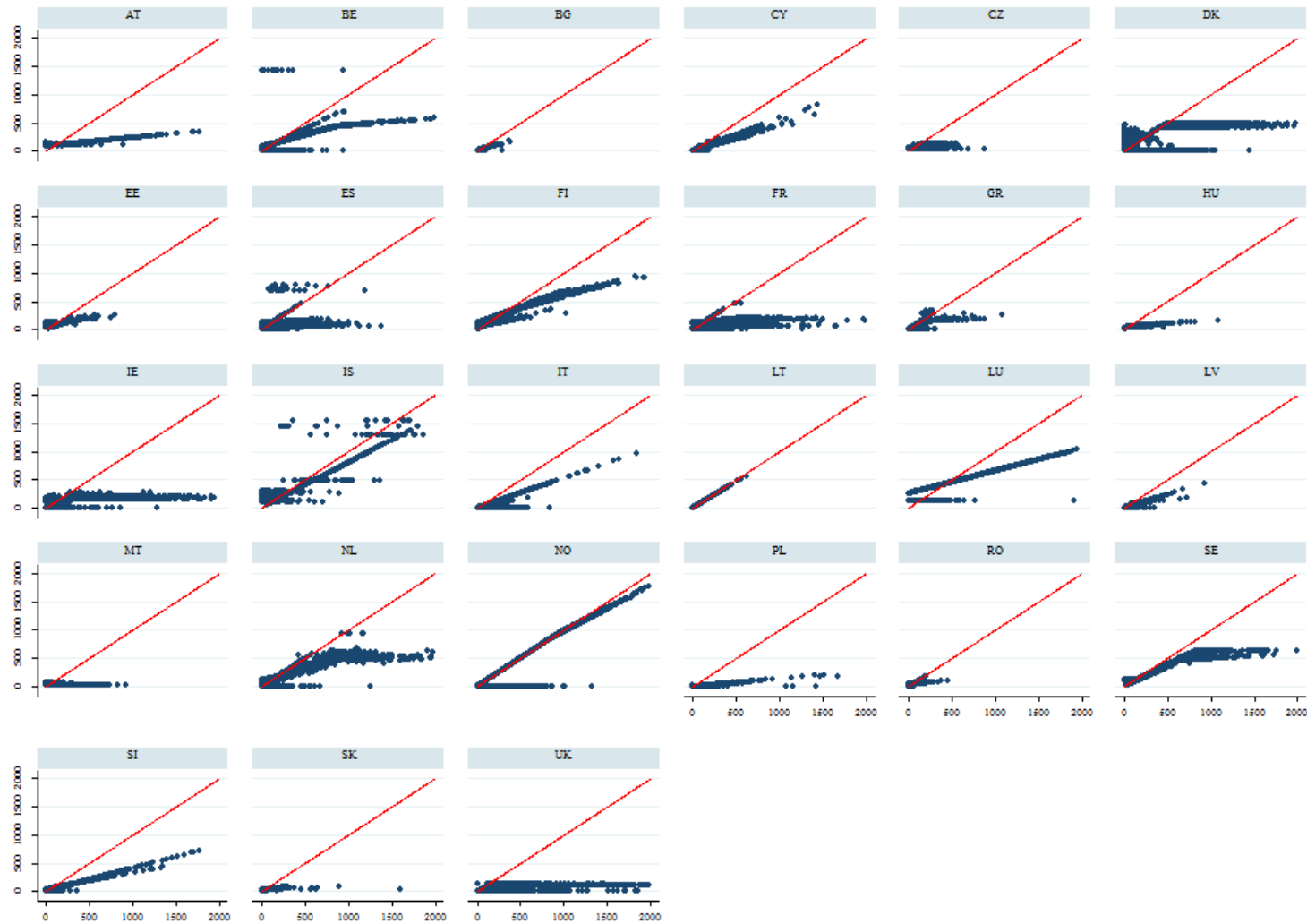
# DISTRIBUTION OF COMPENSATION RATE



# POLICY CHANGE: SWEDEN

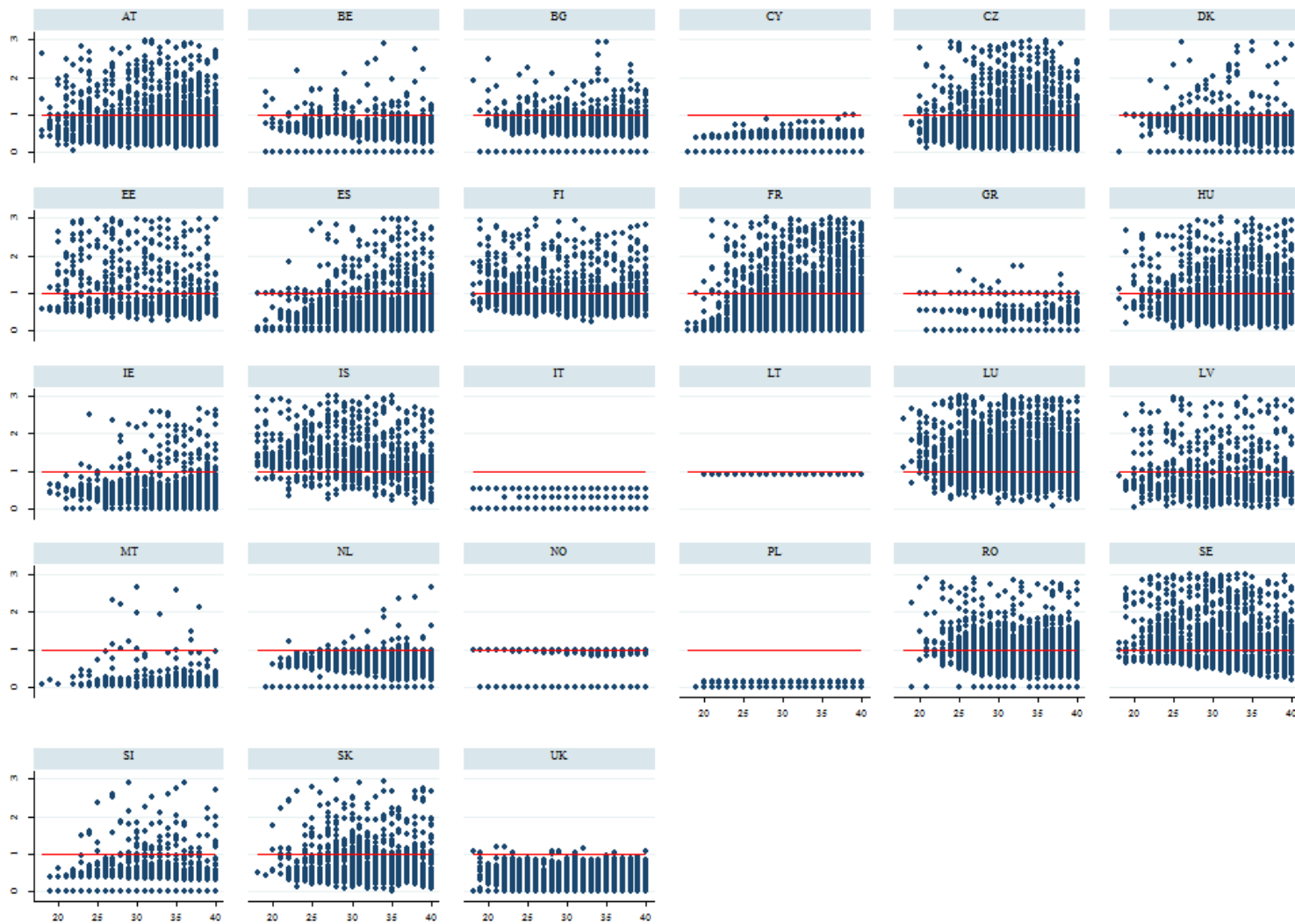


# COMPENSATION RATE PROFILE





# COMPENSATION RATE OVER AGE



# SO WHAT.....

---

- **Social Surveys have developed significantly as infrastructures**
- **Policy Databases are also heavily developed: MISSOC, CWED, SCIP**
- **Communication between the two could enrich both:**
  - **Policy databases have improved instruments**
  - **Social Surveys have a number of relevant and accurate indicators for free**
- **Could be achieved if policy databases code policies**

# SO WHAT.....

---

- **Social Surveys have developed significantly as infrastructures**
- **Policy Databases are also heavily developed: MISSOC, CWED, SCIP**
- **Communication between the two could enrich both:**
  - **Policy databases have improved instruments**
  - **Social Surveys have a number of relevant and accurate indicators for free**
- **Could be achieved if policy databases code policies**

# LIMITATIONS.....

---

- **Model Households are a valuable theoretical tool and should not be abandoned in search of representativeness**
- **Social Survey data has improved but is not perfect (e.g. trade union data)**
- **Combining policy datasets with survey data means compounding the problems of both**

# FINALLY.....

---

**Thank you for your time**

**We would greatly appreciate any comments**