



UNIVERSITY
of
GLASGOW

Conference: Housing and Social Justice

Teacher Building, Scottish Engineering Centre, St Enoch Square, Glasgow

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Plenary Session 1: Dr Mark Stephens, Housing Research Group, Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow

Housing and Social Cohesion: a Comparative Perspective



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Scottish Centre for Research on
SOCIAL JUSTICE



**HOUSING & SOCIAL COHESION:
A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

MARK STEPHENS

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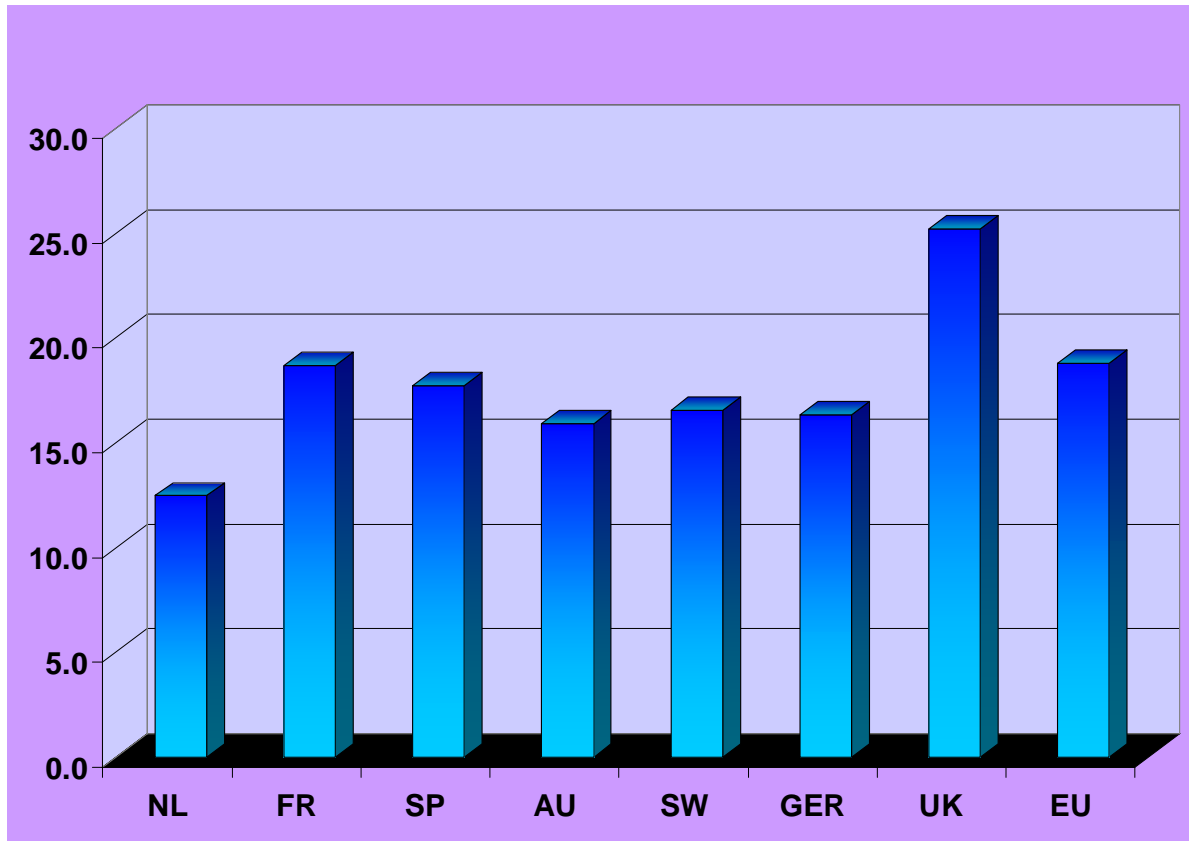
Summary: a modest reinterpretation of British housing policy

- UK has poor record on poverty & inequality
- Housing outcomes of poor are relatively good
- Can be explained by housing policy
- Limits housing reform options

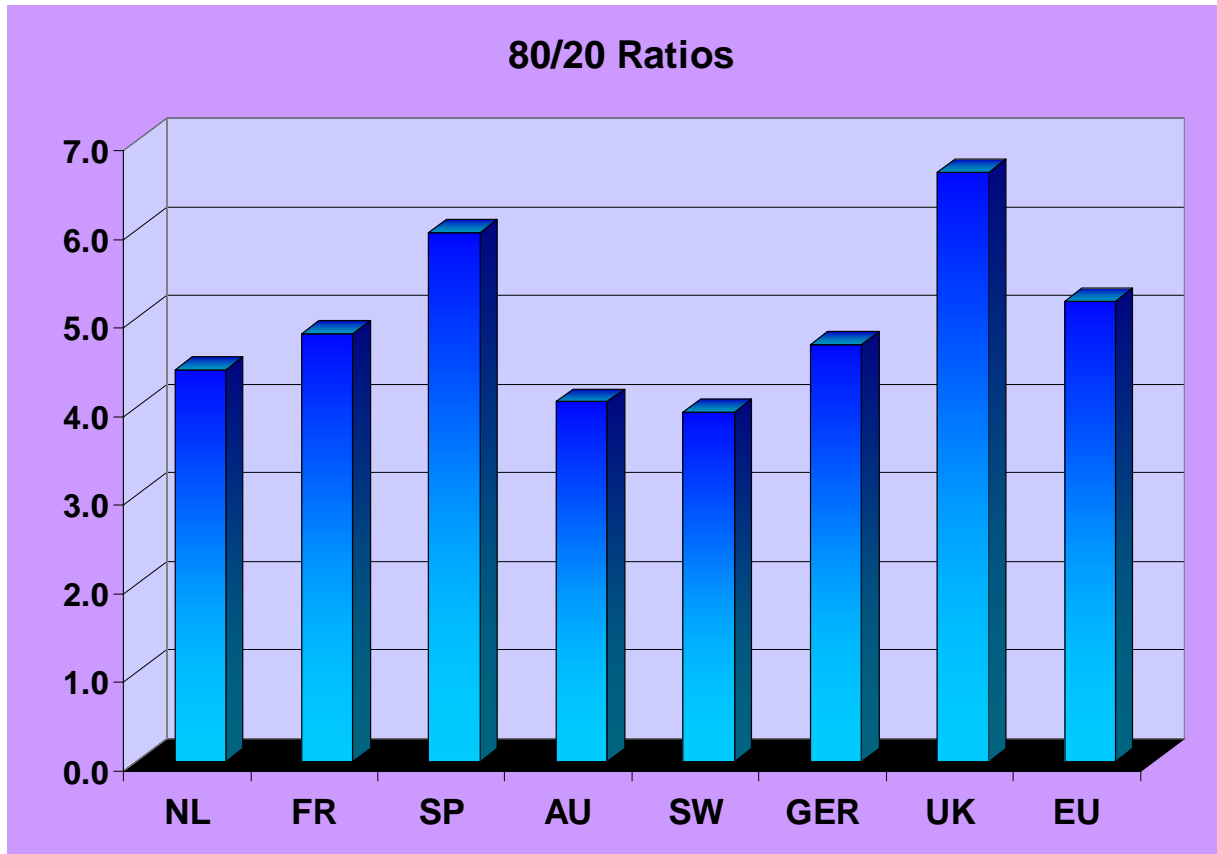
Basis of argument

- EU project
- 6 partners
- analysis of ECHP + BHPS
- interpretation

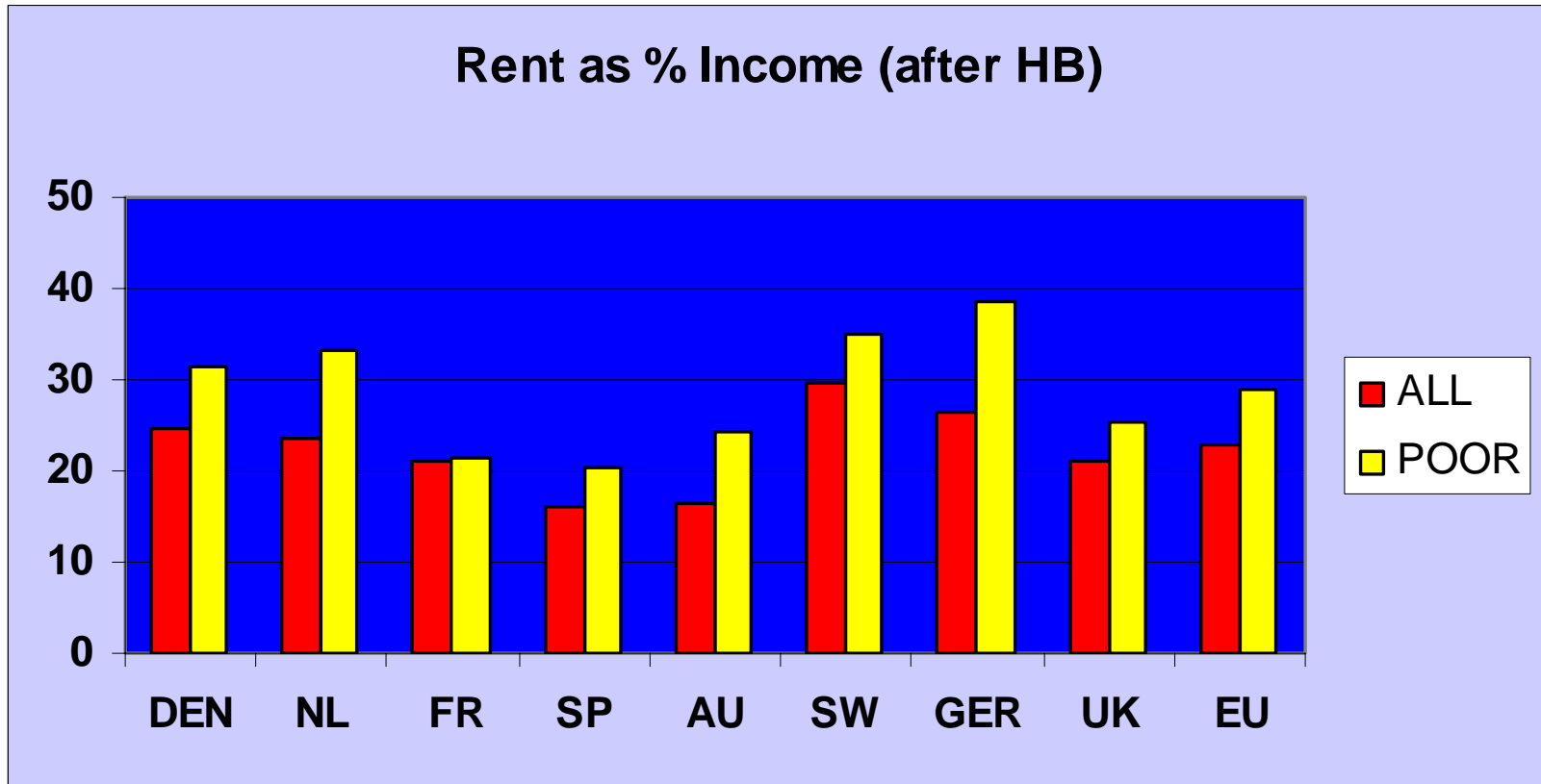
Poverty



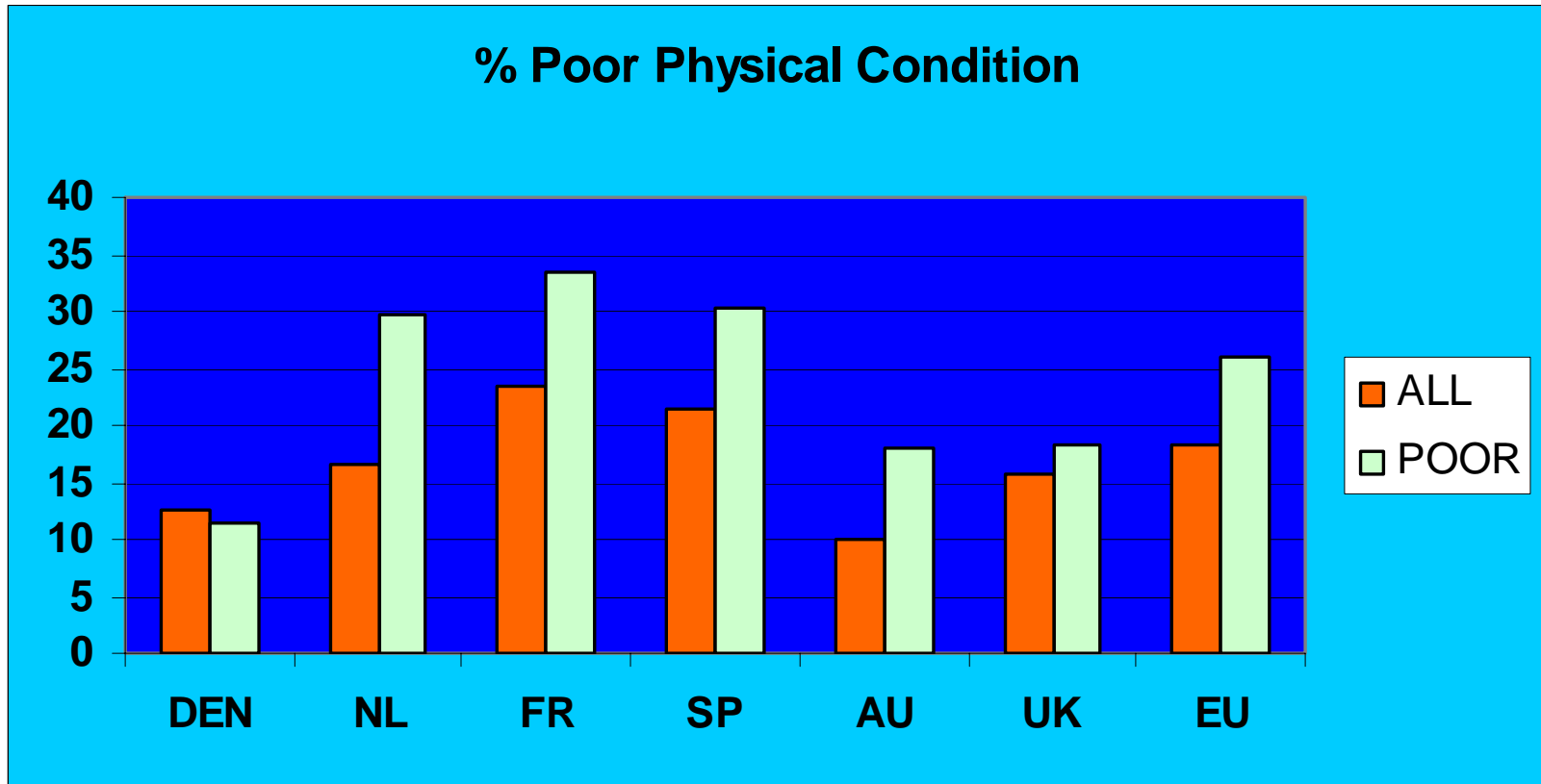
Inequality



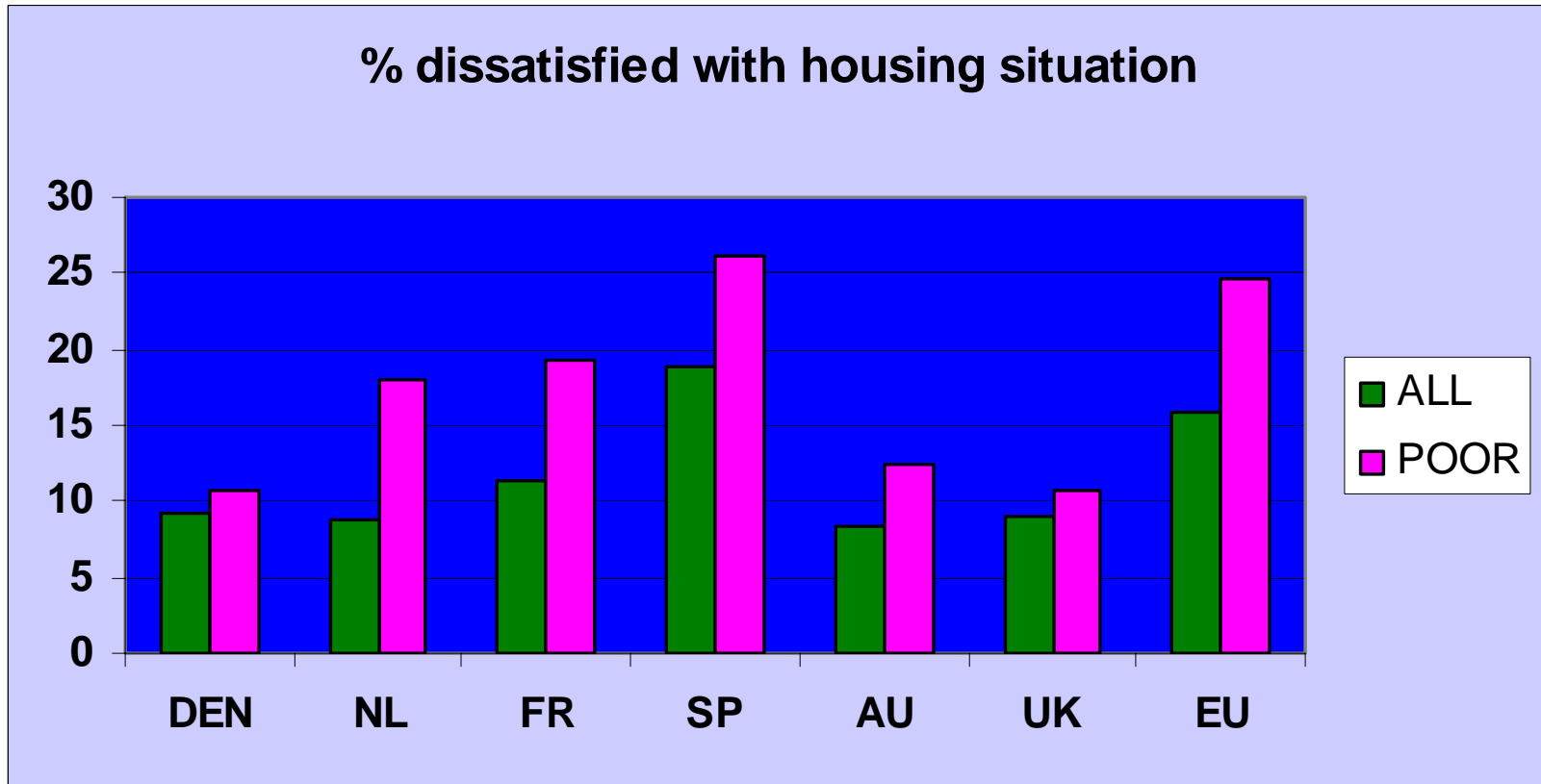
Housing outcomes: affordability



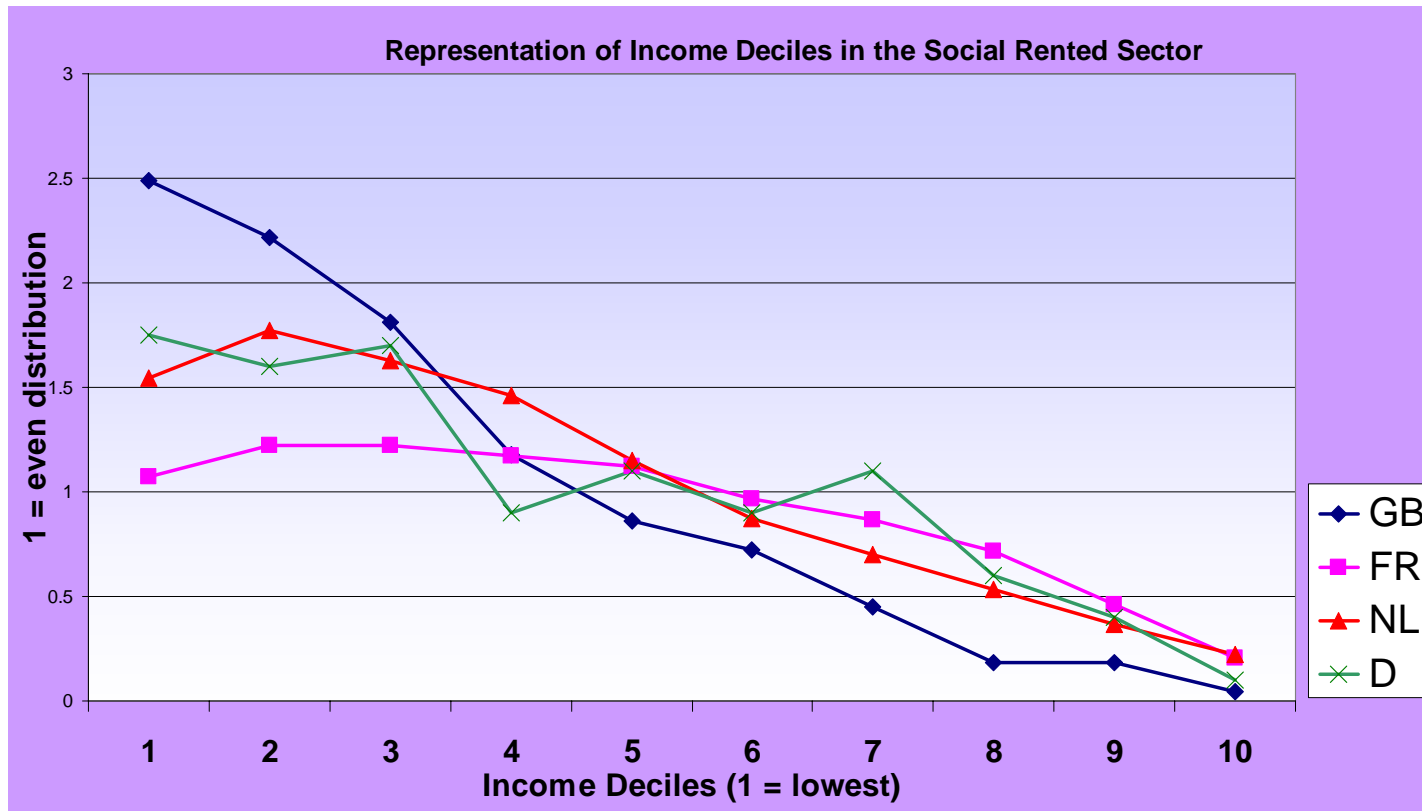
Housing outcomes: quality



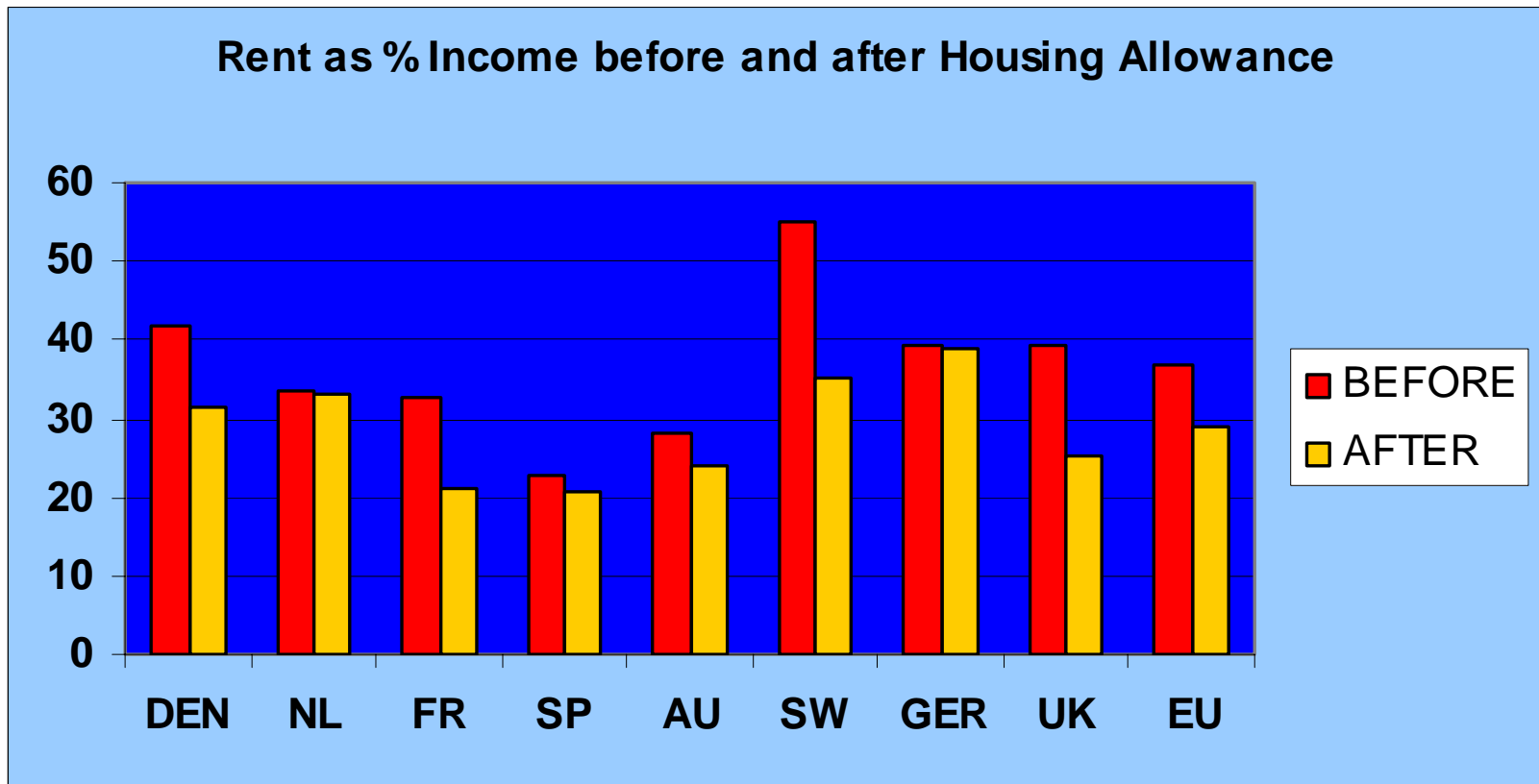
Housing outcomes: dissatisfaction



Why? Consumption of past investment (aka council housing)



Why? Targeting of current subsidy (aka Housing Benefit)



COST

=

SEGREGATION

Implications for Housing Policy

- Allocations
- Rents
- Housing Benefit

Conclusions

- Housing policy plays key role in countering impacts of inequality/ poverty
- It does this by “decommodifying” a key area of consumption
- Success of attempts to “recommodify” likely to be limited
- - unless the underlying problem is tackled