



AN OVERVIEW OF POLITICAL FINANCE REGULATIONS IN EUROPE

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MONEY IN POLITICS

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Dr Magnus Ohman

IFES Senior Political Finance Adviser & Director, Regional Europe Office



Regulation components

1. Bans on contributions & expenditure
2. Limits on contributions & expenditure
3. Public funding of parties and/or candidates
4. Disclosure





Donation bans

<i>Question</i>	<i>Africa</i> %	<i>Americas</i> %	<i>Asia</i> %	<i>Europe</i> %	<i>MENA</i> %
Ban on foreign donations parties/candidates	64/35	72/64	89/65	69/60	87/67
Ban on corporate donations to parties/candidates	22/9	23/42	28/31	23/23	42/22
Ban on anonymous donations to parties/candidates	51/24	72/68	81/60	71/59	70/29
Ban on state resources given to or received by parties or candidates	79	74	93	92	100

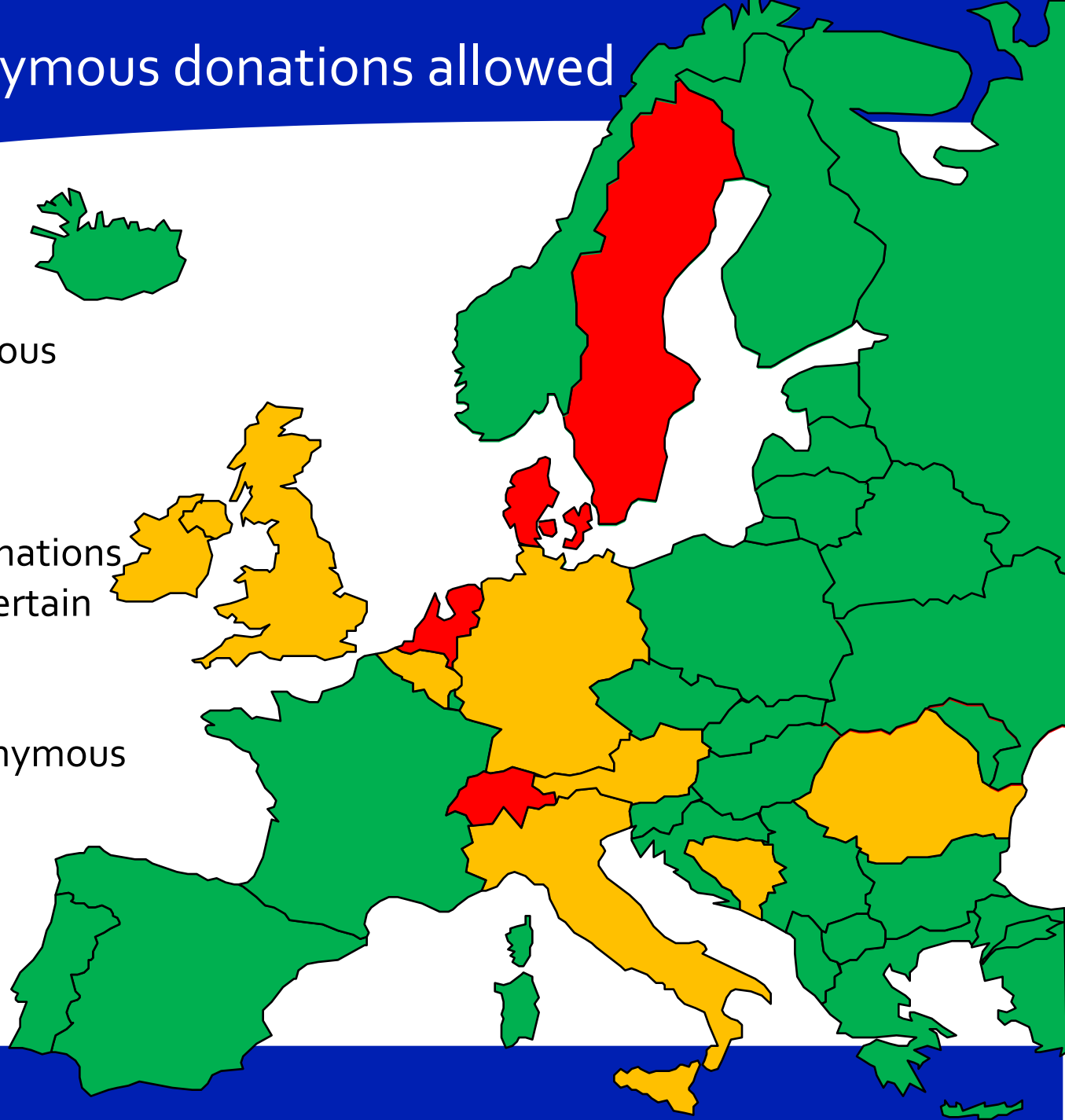


Anonymous donations allowed

 = Ban on anonymous donations


 = Anonymous donations allowed up to a certain limit


 = No limit on anonymous donations

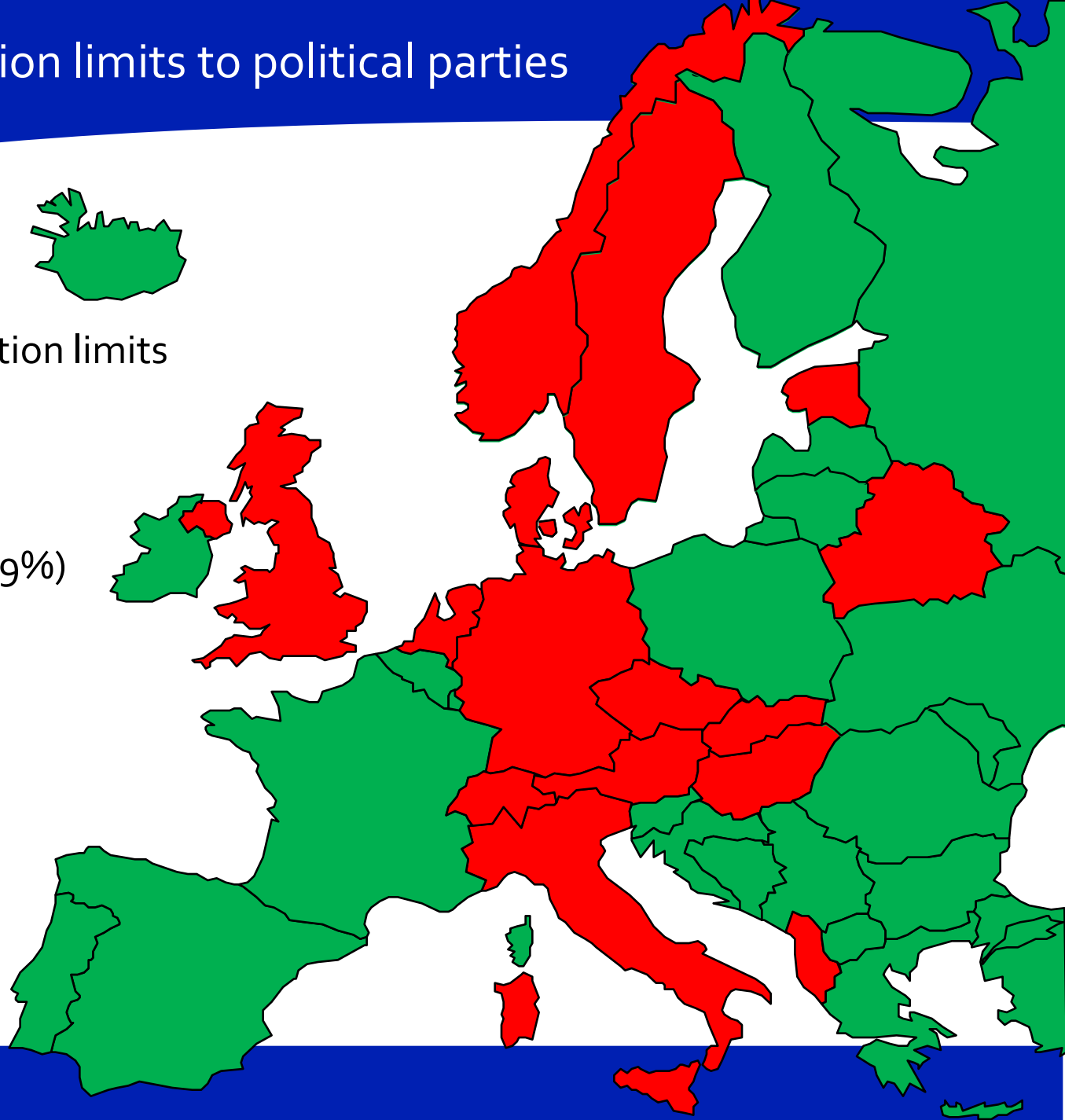




Donation limits to political parties

 = does have donation limits (51%)


 = does *not* have donation limits (49%)

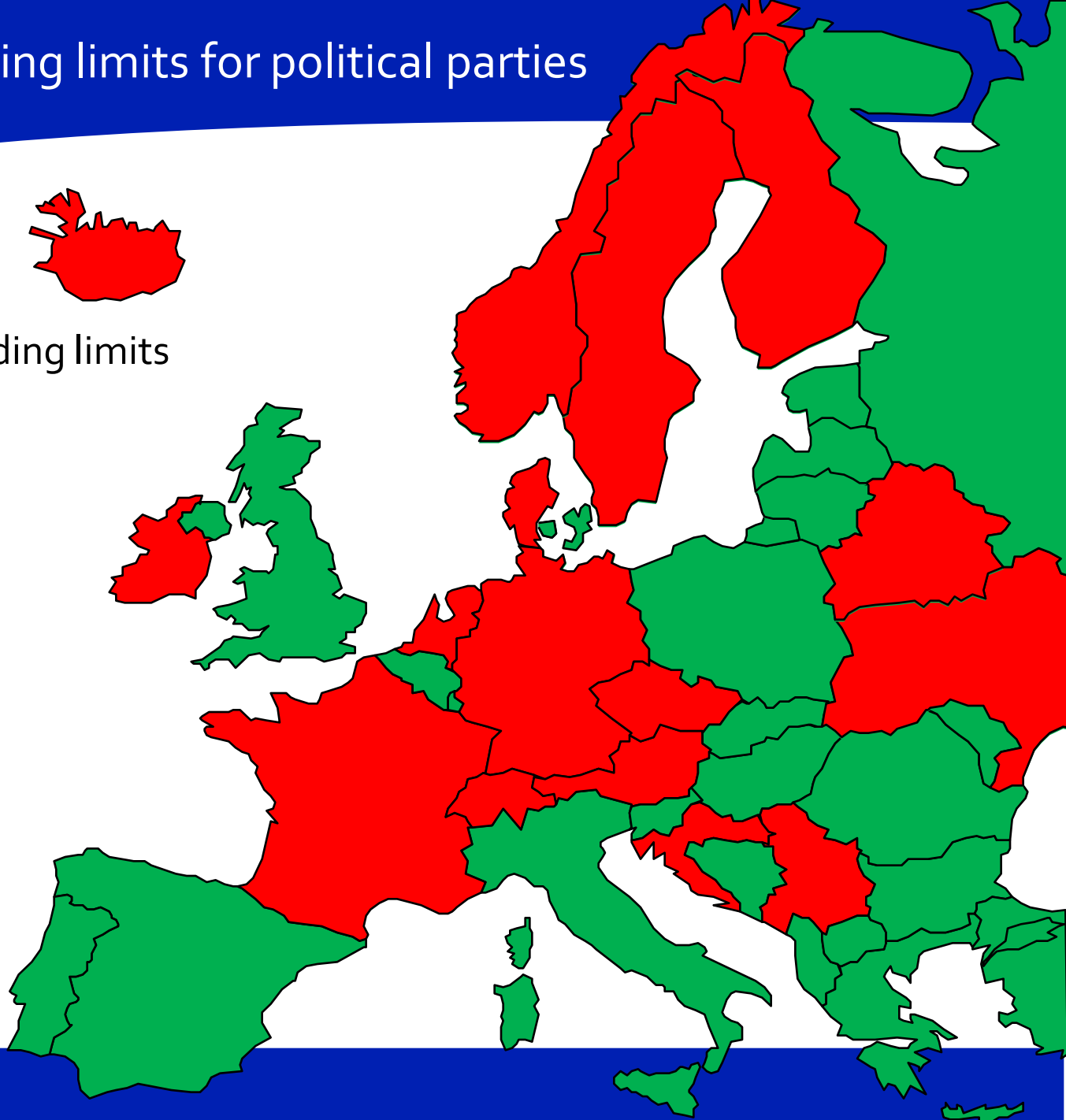


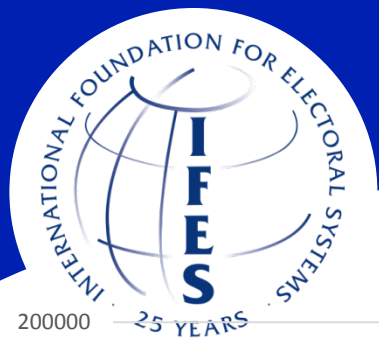


Spending limits for political parties

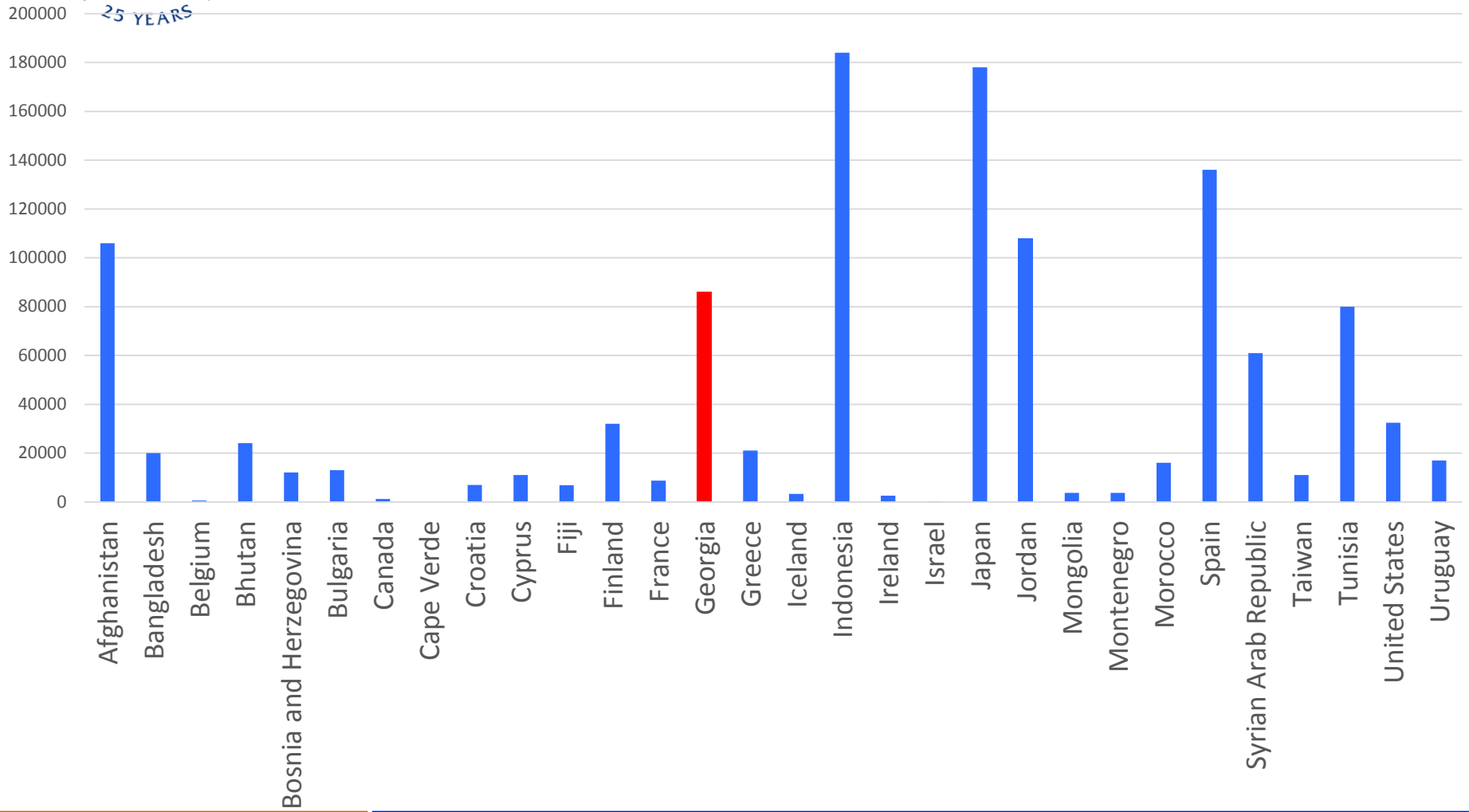
 = does have spending limits

 = does *not* have spending limits





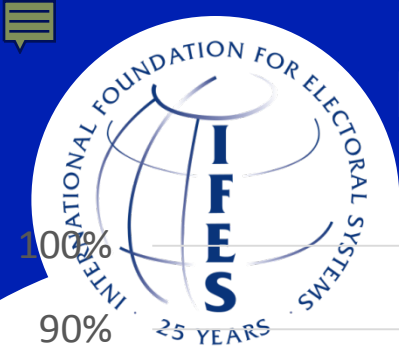
Limit on donations to political parties



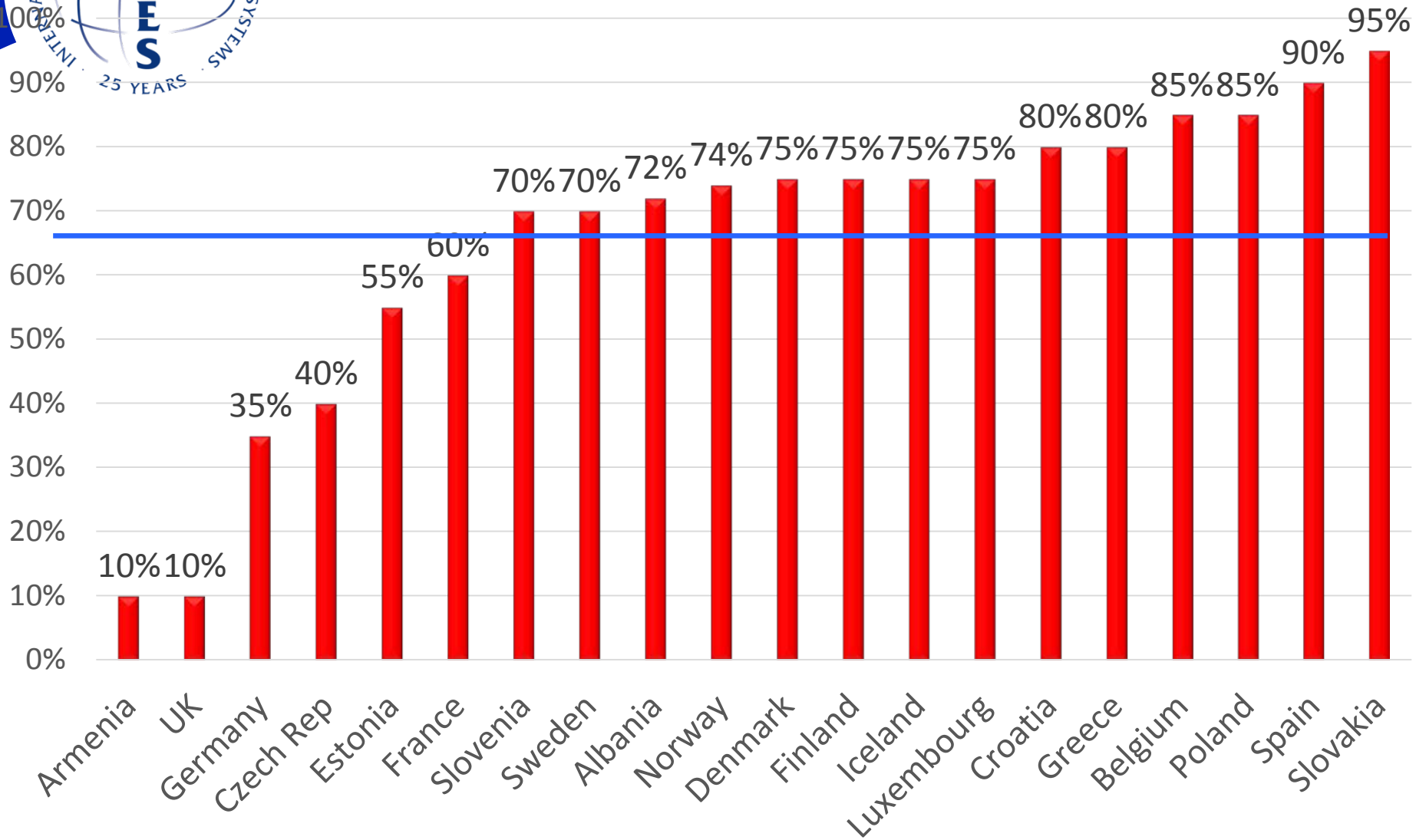


Public funding of political parties

<i>Question</i>	<i>Africa</i> %	<i>Americas</i> %	<i>Asia</i> %	<i>Europe</i> %	<i>MENA</i> %
Provision for direct public funding	71	63	58	86	75
Free or subsidised access to media	79	60	65	77	50
Other forms of indirect public funding	52	65	51	93	11



Public funding dependency among European parties



Data: GRECO country reports



When to provide public funding?

Timing	BEFORE election	AFTER election
Advantages	Parties have money when they need to spend it	Provision dependent on election results, can be withheld if non-compliance
Disadvantages	Difficult get money back from those who did not qualify	Parties only get the money after they have to spend it

OSCE/ODIHR & Venice Commission GUIDELINES ON POLITICAL PARTY REGULATION:

“...careful consideration should be given to preselection funding systems, as opposed to post-election reimbursement which can often perpetuate the inability of small, new, or poor parties to compete effectively.”








Reporting requirements for political parties

<i>Question</i>	<i>Africa</i> %	<i>Americas</i> %	<i>Asia</i> %	<i>Europe</i> %	<i>MENA</i> %
Do parties have to report regularly on their finances?	69	64	86	89	75
Do parties have to report on their finances in relation to election campaigns?	49	64	43	66	9
Do candidates have to report on their campaigns finances?	49	57	71	68	45



Party reporting threshold for identity of donor

(€/year)

-  = Threshold below €500
-  = €500-€5,000
-  = Above €5,000
-  = No threshold
-  = No requirement

