

A multidimensional analytical framework for analysing benefit coverage

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Motivation

(Comparative) analyses of social protection:

- financing: what is there to get
- income replacement: what people get
- take-up: who receives
- **coverage**: who is included in social protection

Considerable empirical and conceptual confusion when it comes to measuring coverage

- Coverage as potential recipients
- Coverage as actual recipients

Propose an analytical framework to analyse coverage, eligibility and take-up, that:

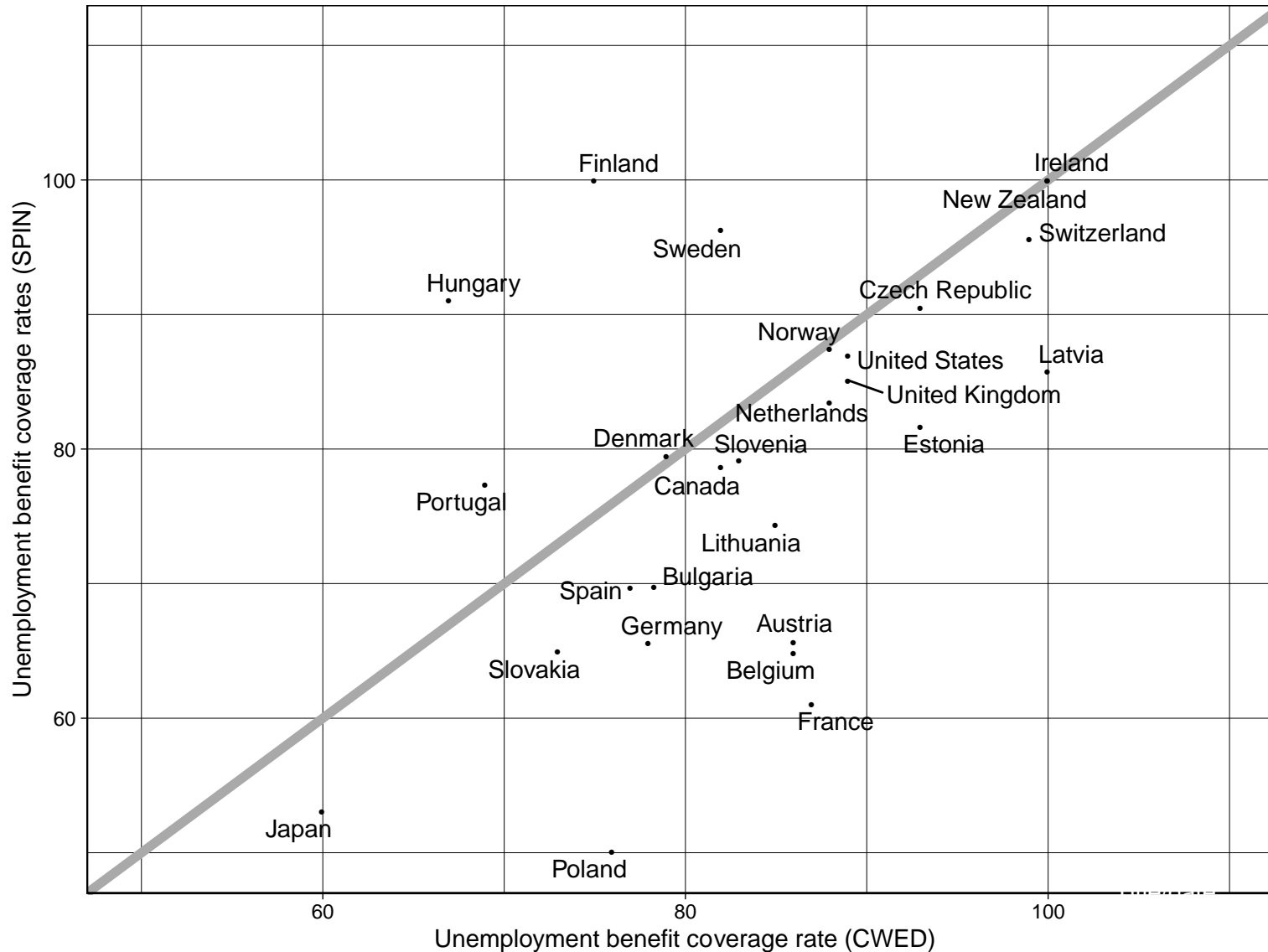
- Helps clarify conceptual confusion
- Brings into focus empirical questions (for future research)

Coverage as potential recipients

- Numerator: number of insured persons
- Denominator: target group
 - Unemployment, sickness, work accident: labour force
 - Pensions: population in retirement age
- Not all who are covered as potential recipient will receive benefits upon needing them (eligibility)
- **SPIN, CWED** Korpi (1989), Esping-Andersen (1990), Scruggs, Jahn & Kuitto (2017)
 - Minor differences: revisions of underlying databases
 - Major differences: selection of programs that are included

Unemployment benefits: Coverage as potential recipients (SPIN & CWED)

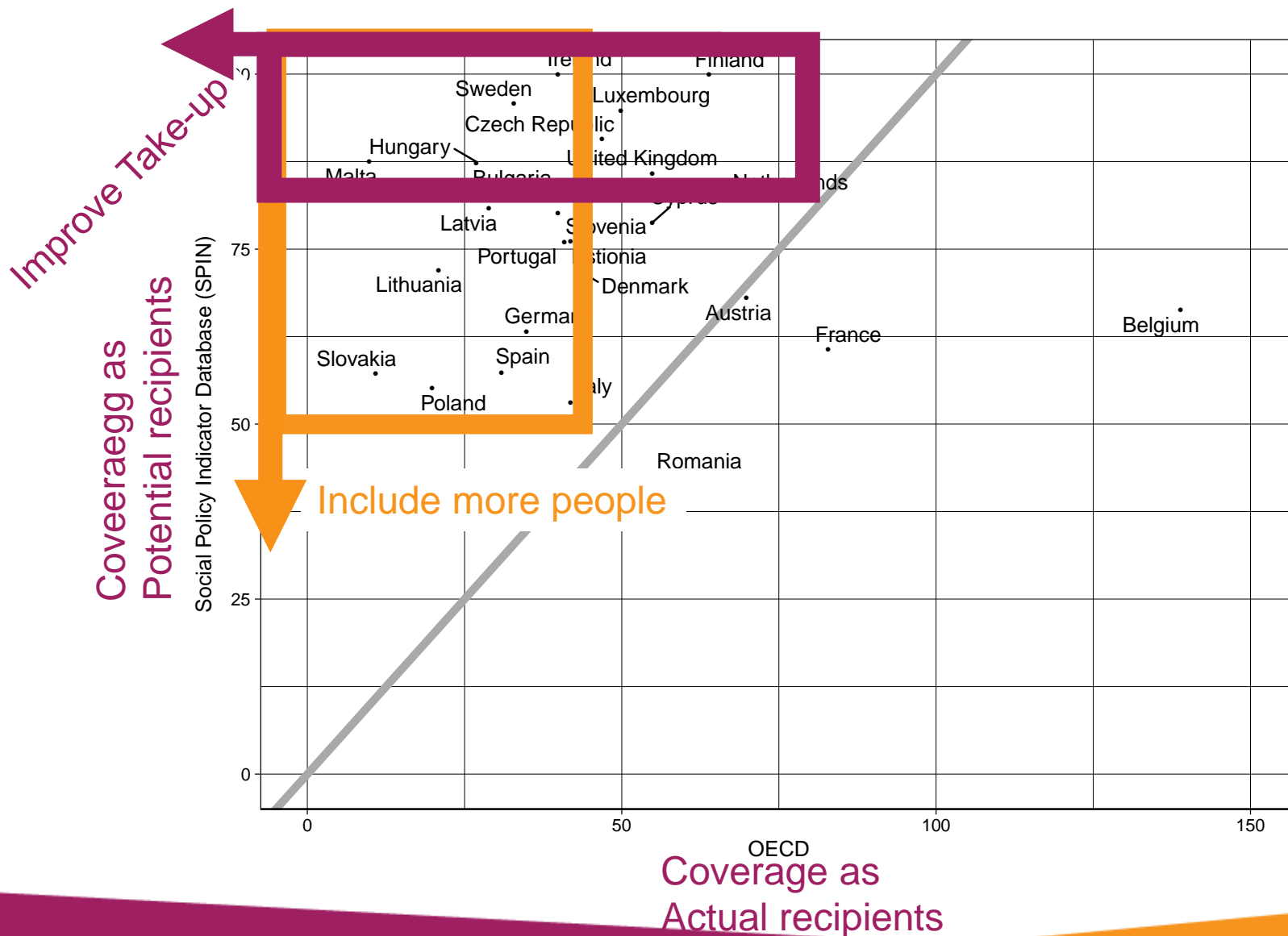
SPIN hopes to reduce double-counting by starting with most general program



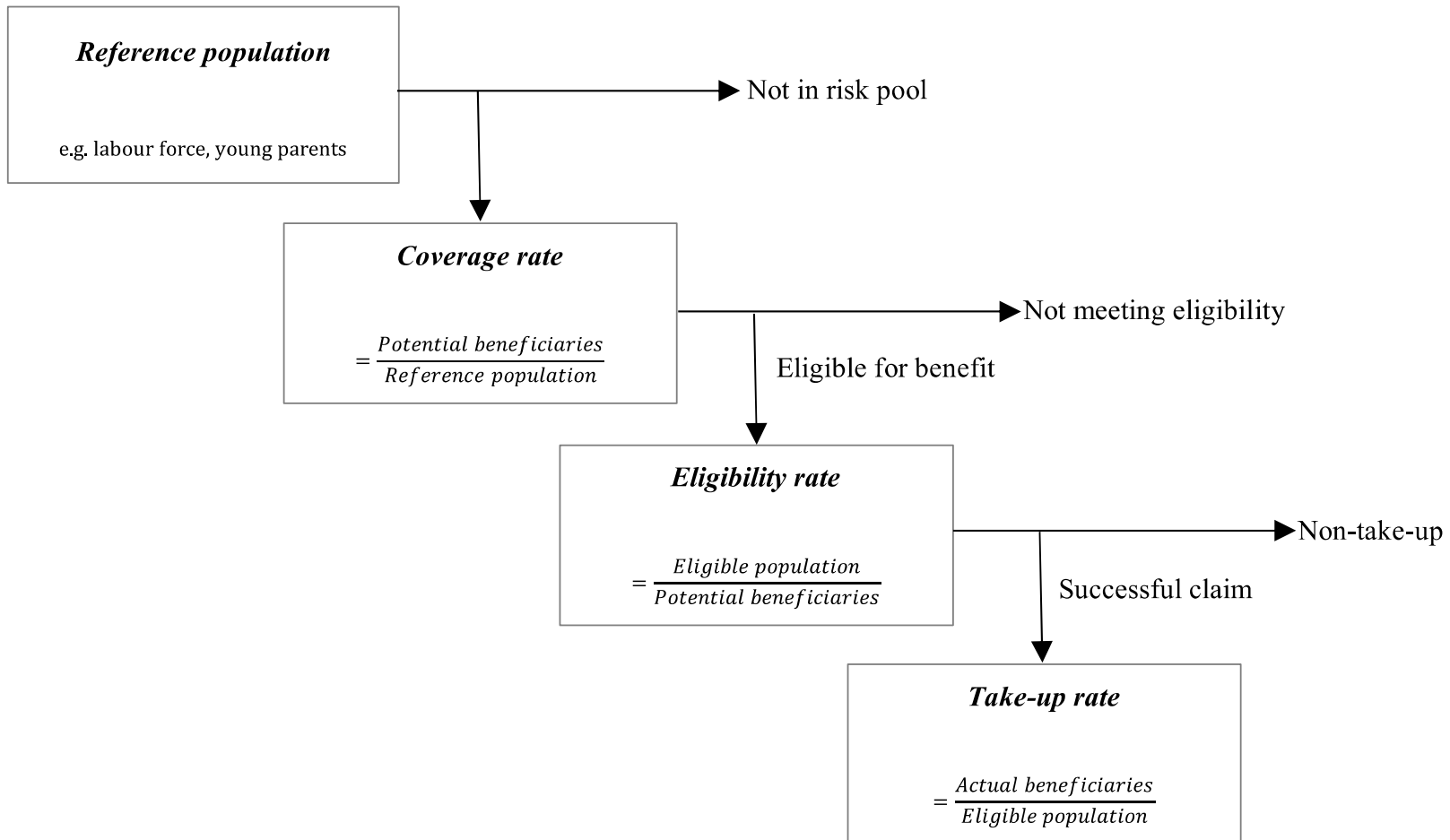
Coverage as actual recipients

- Actual benefit recipients relative to target group
- European Commission, OECD
 - Renewed interest: 2007/2008 crisis demonstrated inability out-of-work benefits to act as automatic stabilizer
- Empirical challenge: mismatch in measurement of numerator and denominator
 - EU-SILC: benefit receipt (*numerator*) based on annual income but activity data (*denominator*) is measured on monthly basis. Assumes full coverage for full year.
 - OECD administrative data includes means-tested benefits, SILC/LFS do not
- Conceptual challenge: conflates social rights (supply) with what people do with these rights (demand)

The Case for Multiple Measures (unemployment benefits)



A multidimensional framework for the analysis of benefit coverage



Conclusion

- Aim to provide conceptual clarity, but no single measure to 'rule them all'
- Case for a multidimensional framework for the analysis of benefit coverage
 - Reference population
 - Coverage rate
 - Eligibility rate
 - Take-up rate
- Raises new questions, and policy implications can vary widely across countries

Thank you for your attention!

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