

# Developing Sexual Freedom: Constructing a Spatial Context for Sex Positive Countries

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## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to define a way to distinguish sex positive countries and sex negative countries. Sex positivity is defined through a feminist ideology and consist of many different aspects of life. If sex positivity is promoted then many communities that include women, LGBT, and sex workers can live safer and healthier lives. Fifteen countries in Europe were chosen as the subjects of this study. To create a ranking of these countries both policies and demographics were studied.

## Countries Chosen for Study

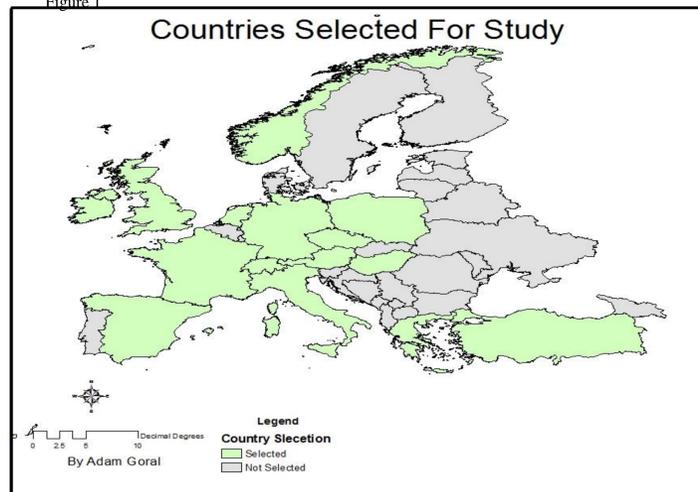
Table 1  
Population of the Chosen European Countries

Country	Population	Number of Males	Numbers of Females
Austria	8,217,280	4,012,036	4,205,244
Czech Republic	10,190,213	4,988,251	5,221,962
France	62,814,232	30,721,890	32,092,342
Germany	81,417,834	40,014,040	41,457,794
Greece	10,760,136	5,265,767	5,494,369
Hungary	9,976,062	4,751,788	5,224,274
Ireland	4,670,967	2,332,092	2,338,884
Italy	61,016,804	29,452,611	31,564,193
Netherlands	16,847,007	8,339,767	8,507,240
Norway	4,691,849	2,326,551	2,365,298
Poland	38,613,237	18,613,237	19,828,351
Spain	46,754,784	23,072,851	23,681,933
Switzerland	7,639,961	3,758,525	3,881,436
Turkey	78,785,548	39,708,547	39,077,001
United Kingdom	62,689,362	31,118,895	31,576,467

### Main Reasons Countries Were Chosen:

1. Well-Known; Normal Person Would Know Them
2. Diversity of people, race, ethnicity, and religion
3. Size of Population; Some European Countries too Small

Figure 1  
Countries Selected For Study



## Methodology

To create a comprehensive ranking of the countries there were four main aspects of sex positivity that were looked at:

- Sex Education
- Rape Culture
- Sex Workers
- LGBT Population

Table 2 below should each variable and where the information came from within the methodology.

Table 2  
Variable Table

Variable Name	Source	Expected Findings	Range of Variable
Levels of Sex Education	World Health Organization	The UN has certain standards regarding sex education. I expect that since Europe has a strong history of reaching UN expectations the majority of countries will have sex education at all levels.	School Levels: Primary Secondary Post-Secondary
Inclusive Sex Education	World Health Organization	WHO has set standards that sex education must be all inclusive and has recorded if countries have complied. I expect that this one will have less countries complying.	Inclusion must include: Sexuality Gender expression Abortion Abstinence Varying Relationship Types
Sex Education and Healthy Masculinity	World Health Organization	WHO's new standards of sex education do talk about rape and masculinity. I expect that this one will only have a few countries complying	Education must define healthy masculinity in relation to rape culture.
Rape Culture Policies and Regulations	European Union	European Union has started to keep a closer eye on rape since more women have been gaining office. I expect that most countries will have laws and regulations on rape.	Policies Should Include: Strict regulations against rape Hard Conventions Extend Jail Time for those found guilty Services for Victims
Rate Of Rape	United Nations	It is important when looking at combating rape culture as an identifier for sex positivity. I expect that most countries will have high rates of rape.	Total recorded rapes Rate of Rape per 100,000 people
Rate of Conviction	United Nations	I expect that since most of the Western World has issue with rape culture especially with convictions that most of these countries will too.	Total Number of Convictions Rate of Conventions per 100,000 people
Legality of Sex Work	Central Intelligence Agency World Fact book	The majority of the world has strict regulations against sex work, so many of Europe's countries will probably follow suit.	Is sex work legal: Yes Limited No
Number of Sex Workers	No Source	Hoping that there would be some sort of statistically information to look at amounts of identified sex worker in countries, but there is not.	Number of Sex Workers
Workers' Rights For LGBT Individuals	European Union	The fight for all LGBT rights has been going on for 50 plus years now around the world. With a huge spotlight on LGBT rights global I would expect that the countries would have mostly proposed laws.	Workers' Rights: Yes Some Proposed No
Marriage Equality for LGBT	European Union	Marriage Equality equates to a lot of benefits for LGBT people. The fight for gay marriage is a strong one with a lot of progress, yet I predict most of Europe still has no LGBT marriage.	Marriage Rights: Yes No No, Constitutional Ban

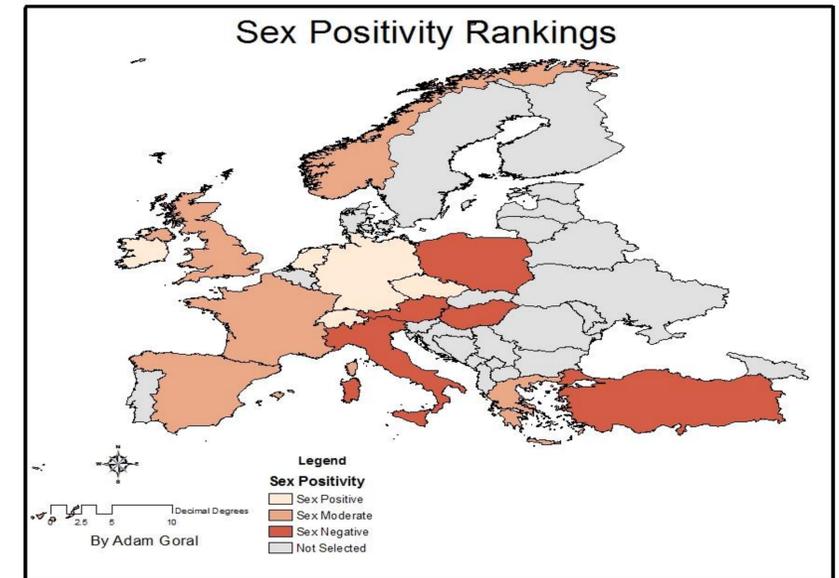
## Results

### Ranking of Countries

1. Netherlands (most sex positive)
2. Czech Republic
3. Ireland
4. Switzerland
5. Germany
6. Norway
7. United Kingdom
8. Spain
9. Greece
10. France
11. Poland
12. Turkey
13. Austria
14. Italy
15. Hungary (most sex negative)

### Aspects of the Ranking to note:

- Countries considered the most developed are actually sex moderate
- Countries with a strong religious standing fell hard; except Ireland
- As shown in figure 2 the majority of the countries are clustered together in relation to there ranking
- A former soviet state is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most sex positive country in this study



## Conclusion

- Even with the rankings each country could still improve their sex positive policies to create even safer environments
- Religion seems to play a big part in whether or not a country can even get polices passed
- Each country needs to improve on missing data such as no record on sex workers and the actual population of LGBT
- Even with the amount of rape statistics countries need to also record violence against sex workers and LGBT individuals to improve laws they will keep them safe