

# Nursing Problematic : Convergence or Divergence ?

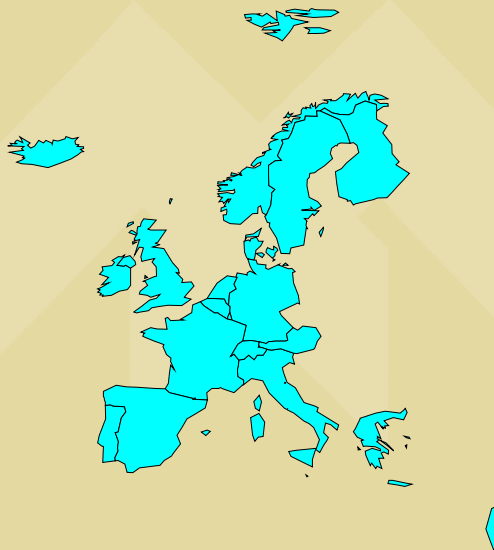
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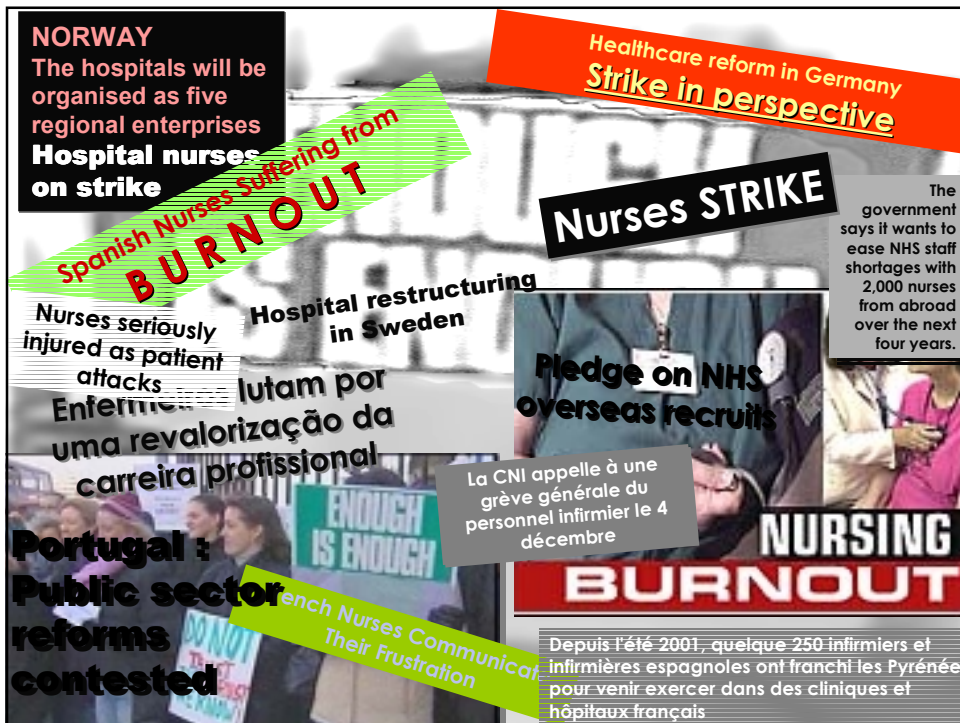
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## Introduction

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## Introduction

### A critical question to determine:

To what extent is the nature of nursing problematic similar or dissimilar in different countries and consequently should solutions be country specific or general?

## Introduction

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- **The convergence / divergence theoretical debate**
- **The context dependency of nursing**

## Research Question

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- **To what extent can the processes of reforms and the changing contexts faced by nurses be classified as convergent or divergent?**

## Research Purpose

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- **To examine the applicability of the widely used convergence approach for studying nursing problematic**

## Research Aims

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- **To compare contextual healthcare changes implemented across Western Europe within the last decade (1990-2001)**
- **To classify Western European countries according to convergent or divergent healthcare contexts faced by the nursing profession**

## Measures I: Domains and Indicators

<b>Workforce composition</b>	<b>Patient care processes</b>	<b>General organisational structures</b>
No of Nurses per 1000 Inhabitants	Average Length Of acute Stay	Inpatient Health Care Expenditure expressed in PPP \$
No of Physicians per 1000 Inhabitants	Acute beds Occupancy Rate	Number of Acute Beds
Ratio of Nurses to Physicians	Rate of Acute Care Admission	

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## Measures II: Definition of Divergence

- **Divergence in “outcomes” = elevated coefficient of variation and range**
- **In the cluster analysis, divergence illustrated by the diversity in groupings of the countries, and changes over time**

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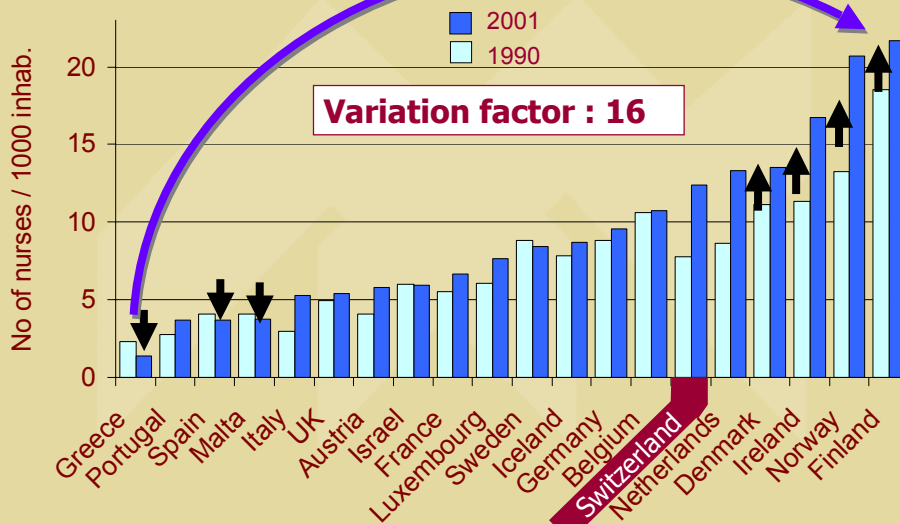
## Data Sources

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- **Health for All Database**

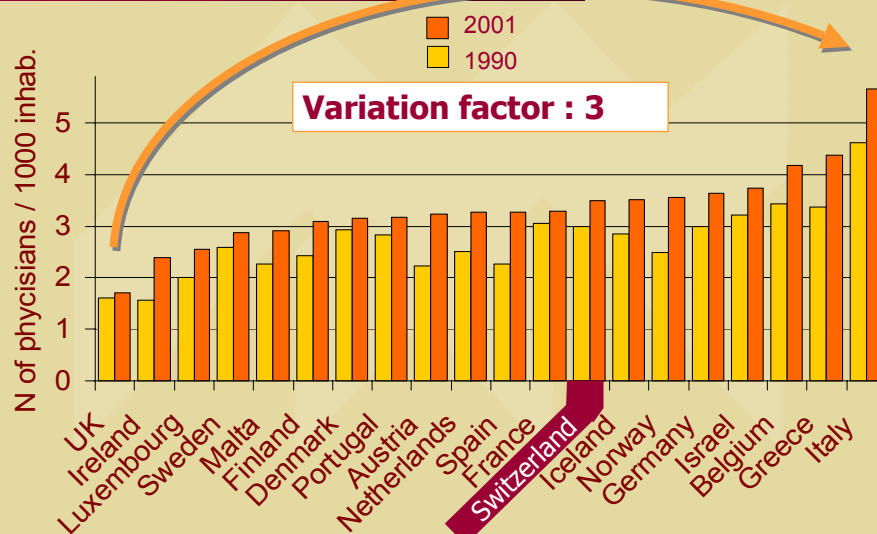
## Results

## Number of Nurses



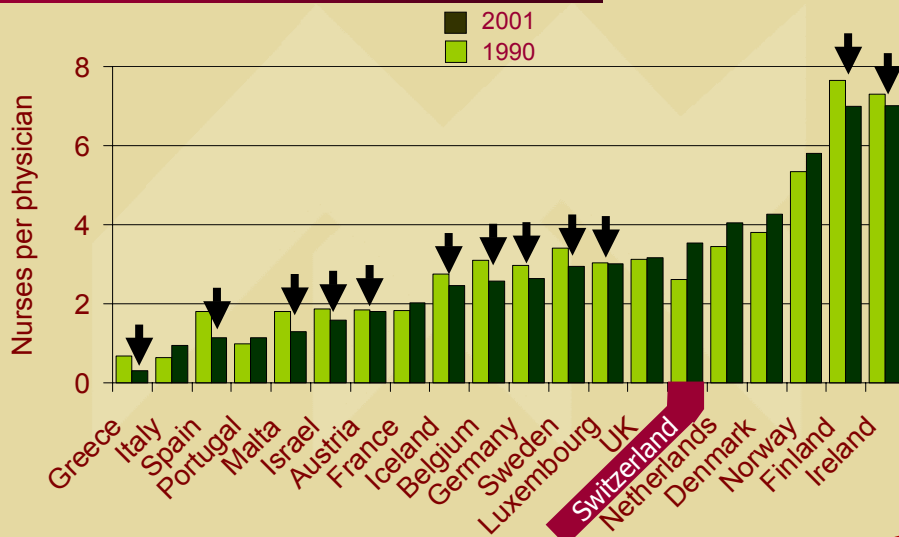
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## Number of physicians



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## Ratio Nurses to Physician



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## Care Processes

**Average Length of Acute Stay :** 4.1 to 10.0 days

**Acute beds Occupancy Rate :** 58% to 93 %

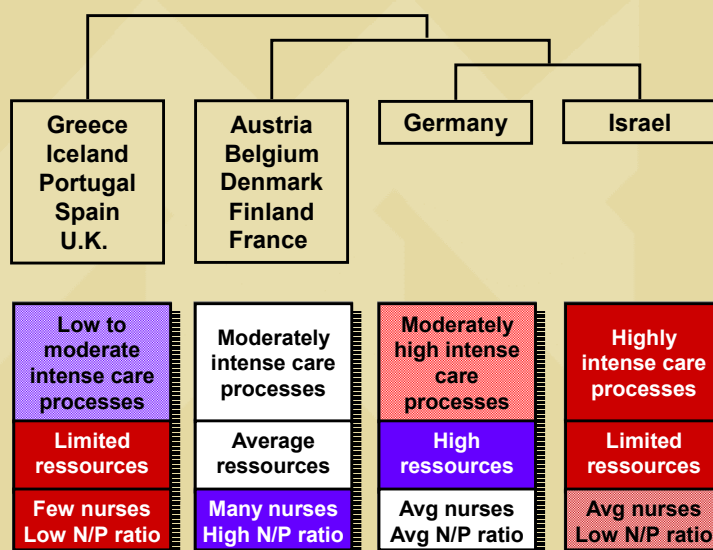
**Rate of Acute Care Admission :** 8.8% to 27.2 %

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# Cluster Analysis

**Cluster analysis was conducted to classify Western European countries according to convergent or divergent healthcare contexts faced by the nursing profession (n=12)**

# Cluster Analysis 1990

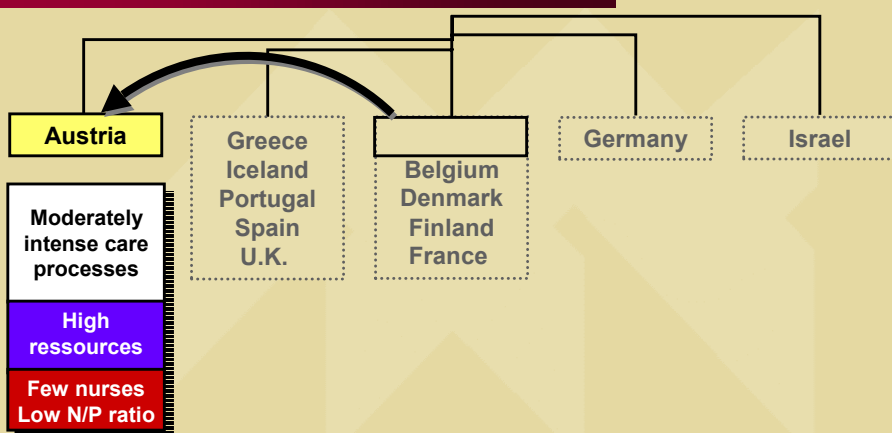


## Changes between 1990-2001



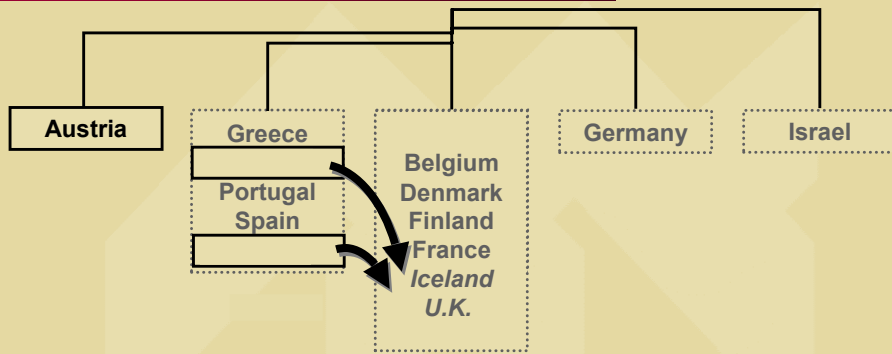
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## Changes between 1990-2001



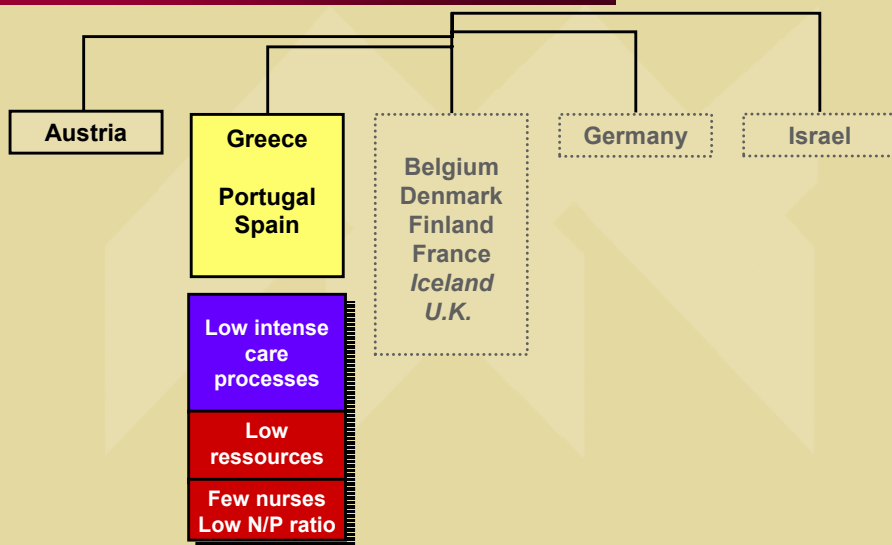
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## Changes between 1990-2001



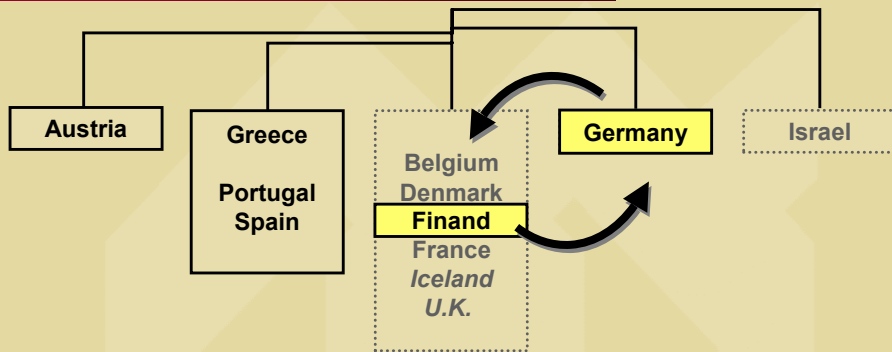
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## Changes between 1990-2001



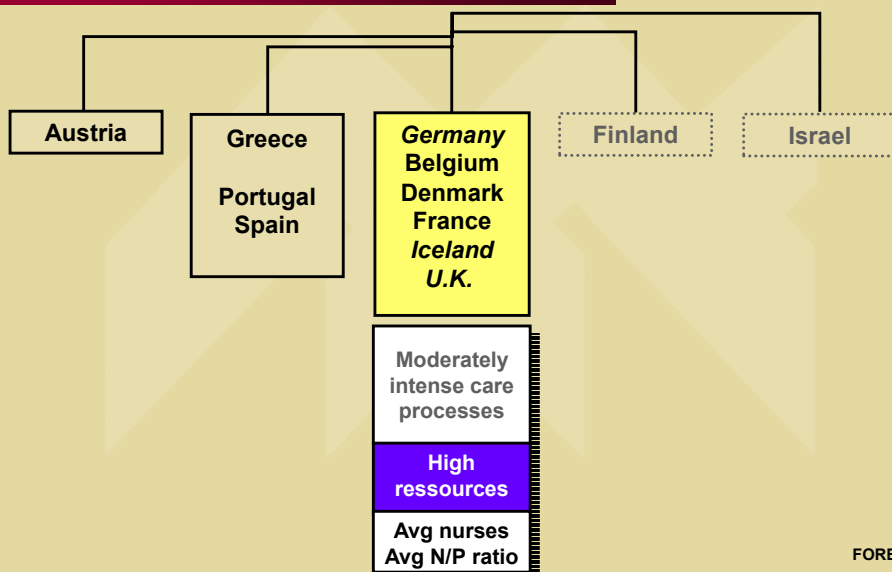
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## Changes between 1990-2001



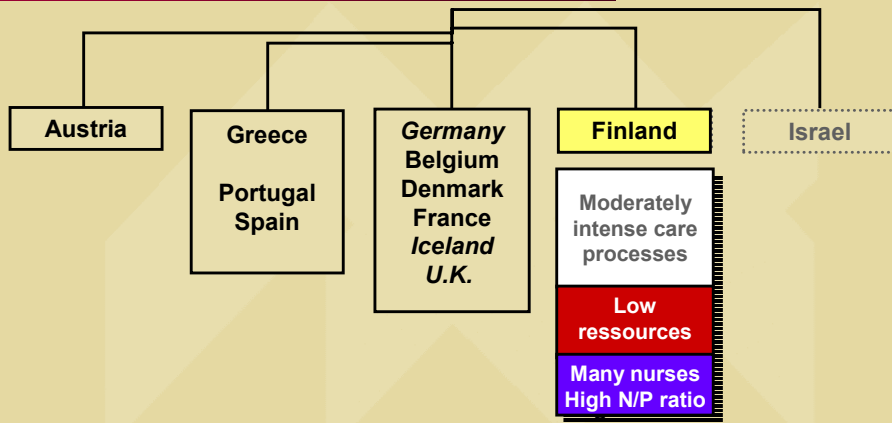
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## Changes between 1990-2001



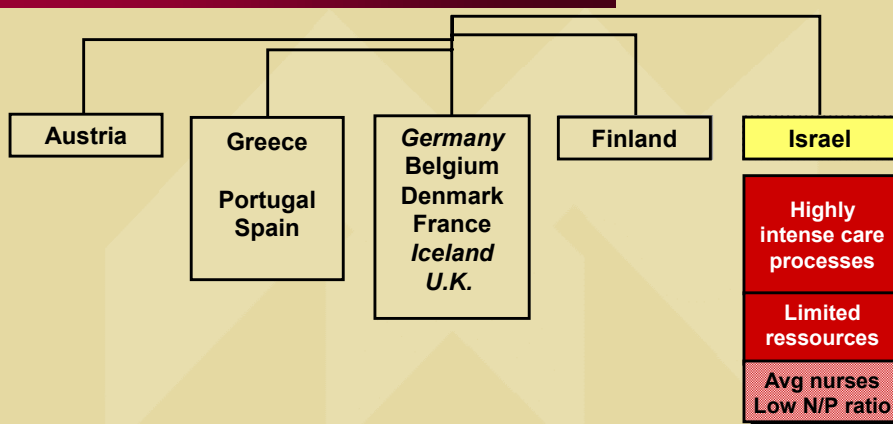
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## Changes between 1990-2001



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## Changes between 1990-2001



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## Summary and Conclusions

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- **Nursing has been facing contexts that are divergent and changing**
- **Nursing problems can emanate from changes in any of the three domains**
- **What seems to be identical nursing problems are mostly divergent**

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## Summary and Conclusions (cont.)

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- **Results are supporting Saltman's (1997) claim regarding the changing balance of divergence and convergence between countries**

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## Summary and Conclusions (cont.)

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- **The convergence approach does not fit as a conceptual basis for studying nursing problematic**
- **The divergence approach is the conceptual basis that should be adopted**

## Summary and Conclusions (cont.)

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- **There is no « gold standard »**
- **Nursing is expected to become more unique and context dependent**

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**Merci**

**Thank you**