A Future Ireland worth working for:

A Social vision and Economic Strategy

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Research for new economic policies

NERI Working Paper Series

The Better is yet to come

A Social Vision and an Economic Strategy for Ireland in the 21st Century

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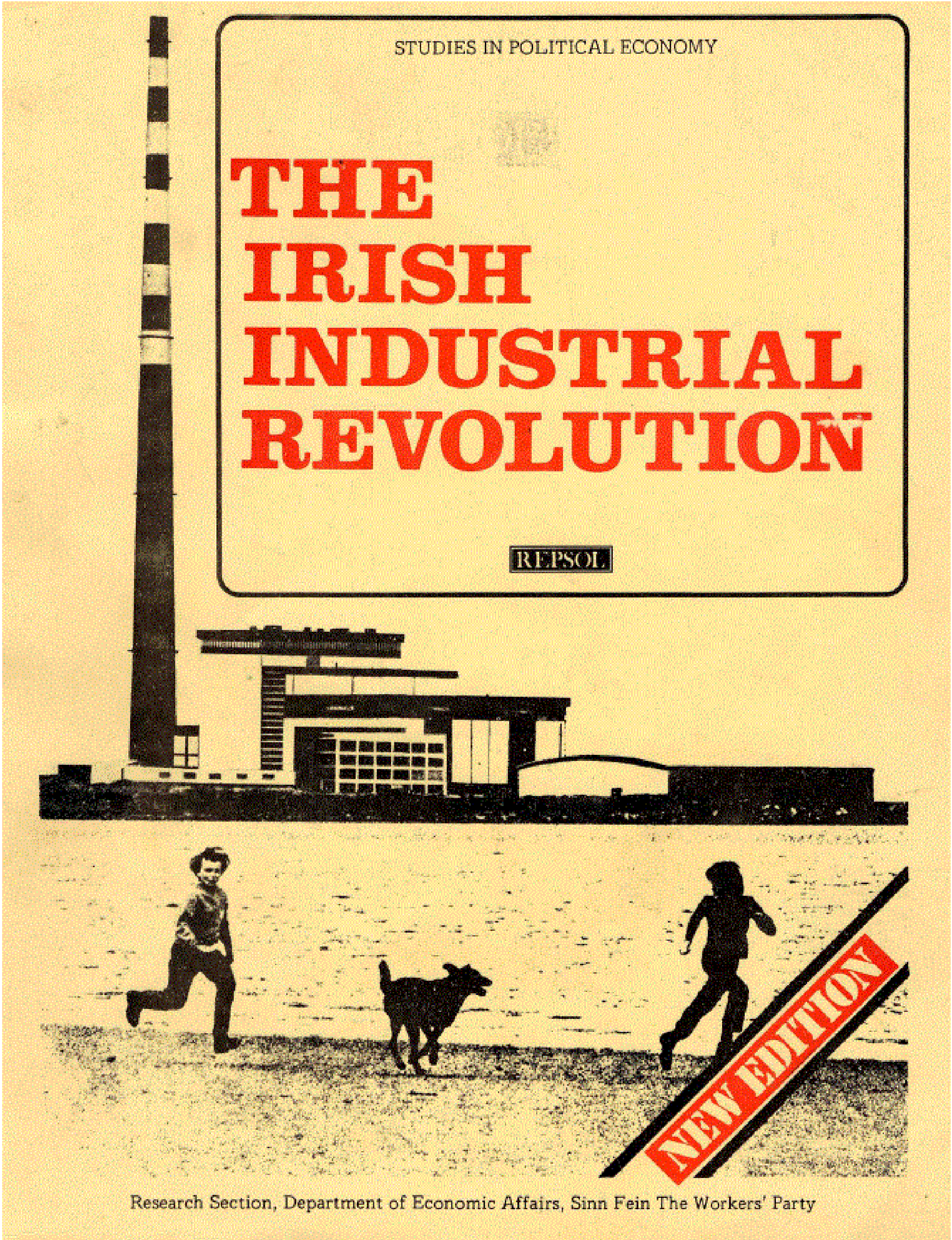
Three Questions

1. Where are we at?
2. What social vision is possible & desirable?
3. What sort of political-economic strategy is required to get there?

A window from the past …

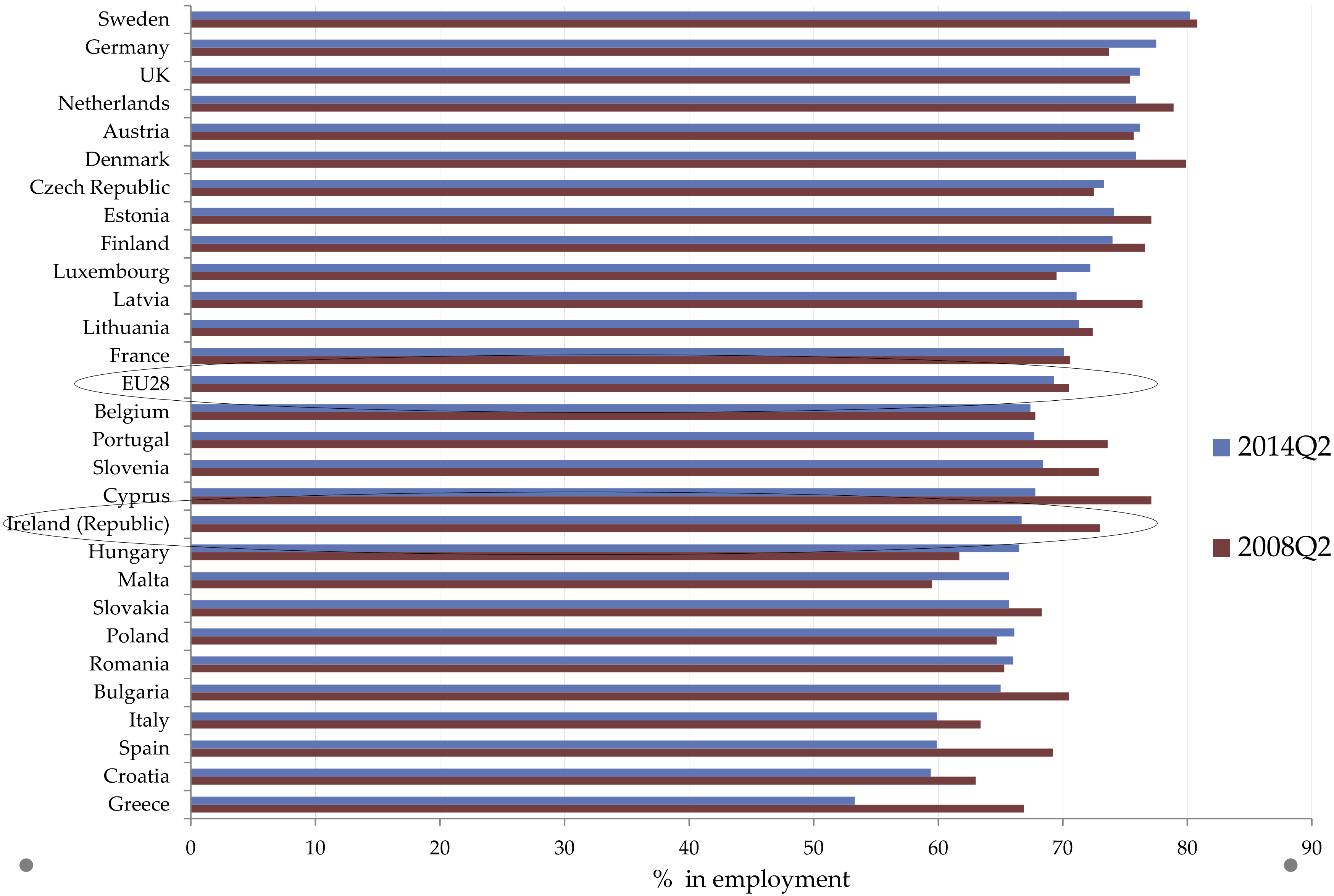


Where are we at….?

Seven challenges

1. Demography
2. Technological change
3. Climate change/energy
4. Weakness of indigenous enterprise base
5. European context
6. Irish political landscape
7. Northern Ireland, UK & European Union

Employment rates in EU 28



Imagining 2015 in 1985

- The ‘Peace Process’?
- The ‘fall of the wall’
- Internet, smartphones, email?
- The Celtic Tiger?
- The Crash of 2008?
- The transformation in social and cultural values (e.g. gender, sexuality)

What social vision is possible and desirable….?

Seven-part social vision

1. Human well-being
2. Personal & community efficacy
3. Sustainability of consumption/investment
4. Adequacy of income, employment
5. Quality of life/work experience
6. Civic engagement/democracy
7. Access to social goods/services – education, health, housing

What sort of political-economic strategy is required….?

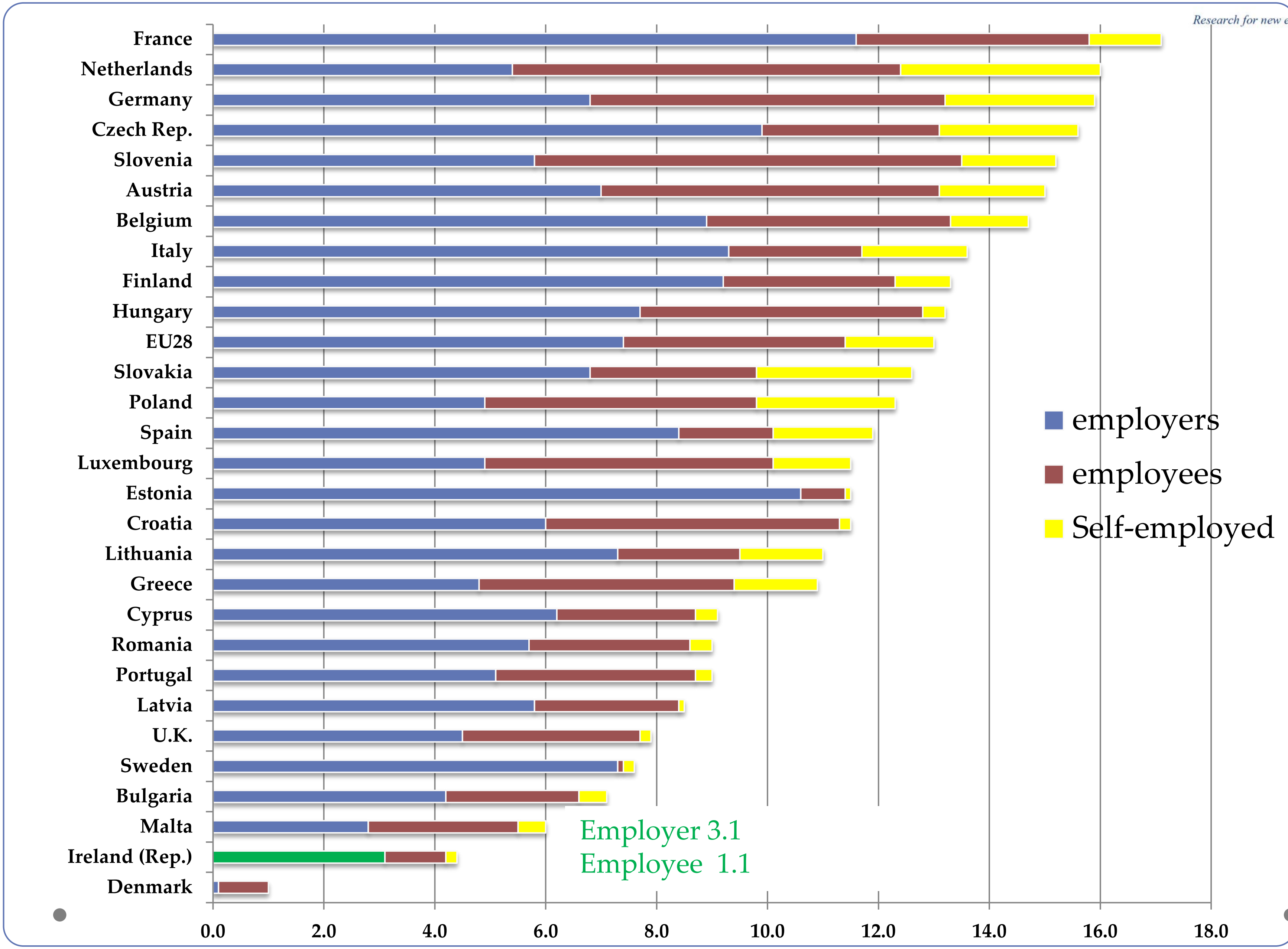
Seven-point political economic strategy

1. Basic income / progressive tax / social prot
2. ‘Social wage’/universalism
3. Economic democracy
4. Dynamic & supportive enterprise culture
5. Role of banking and credit
6. Public ownership & control
7. Sustainable investment and consumption

And we need to talk more about the ‘social wage’….

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Early care
- ✓ Elder care
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Community services
- ✓ Pensions

Social Insurance % of GDP, 2012



Seven Questions

1. One Vision, one agenda, one narrative?
2. ‘Classic’ Social Democracy? Or ‘contemporary’?
3. The ghost of Lenin…..?
4. Greening of the red?...
5. Linking with radical civil society…(inc faith-based)?
6. Vexed question of the ‘islands’…
7. Models of capitalism…or abolishing & replacing it? & And if replaced – with what? & Where did it happen?

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