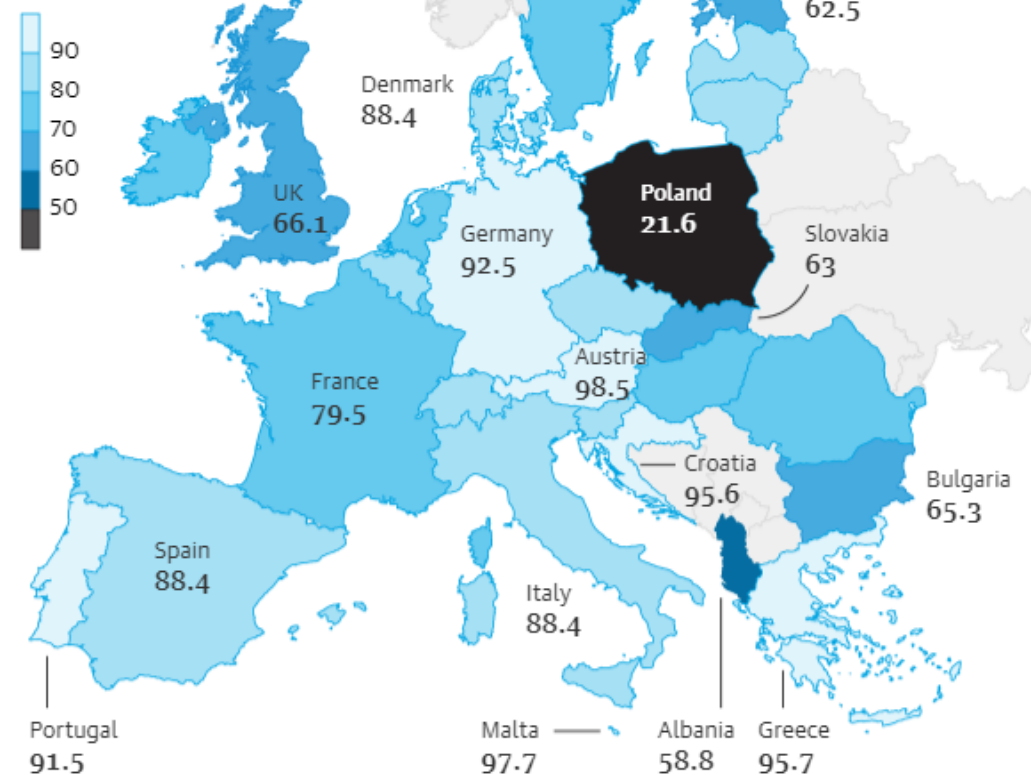


The EU's highest water quality standards were met at 85% of swimming sites monitored in 2019

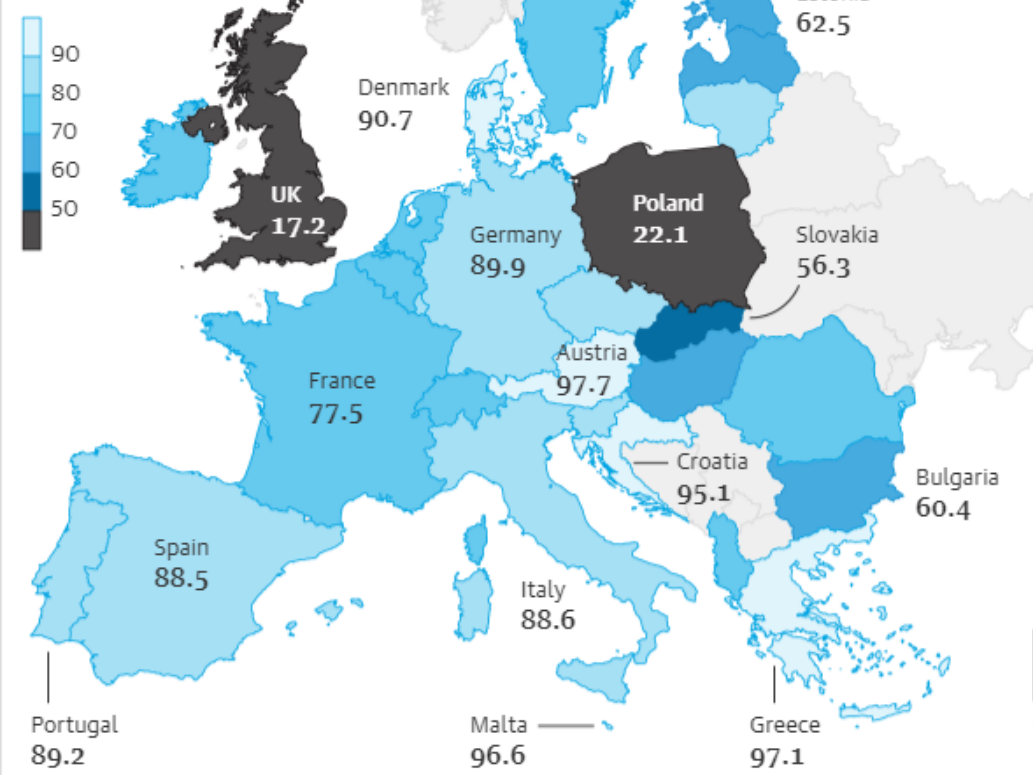
Bathing waters rated as excellent quality in 2019, %



Guardian graphic. Source: European environment information and observation network (Eionet). Note: 10 highest and six lowest-rated countries (plus France) shown

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Comment on the graphs

What The Graph 23: teacher notes

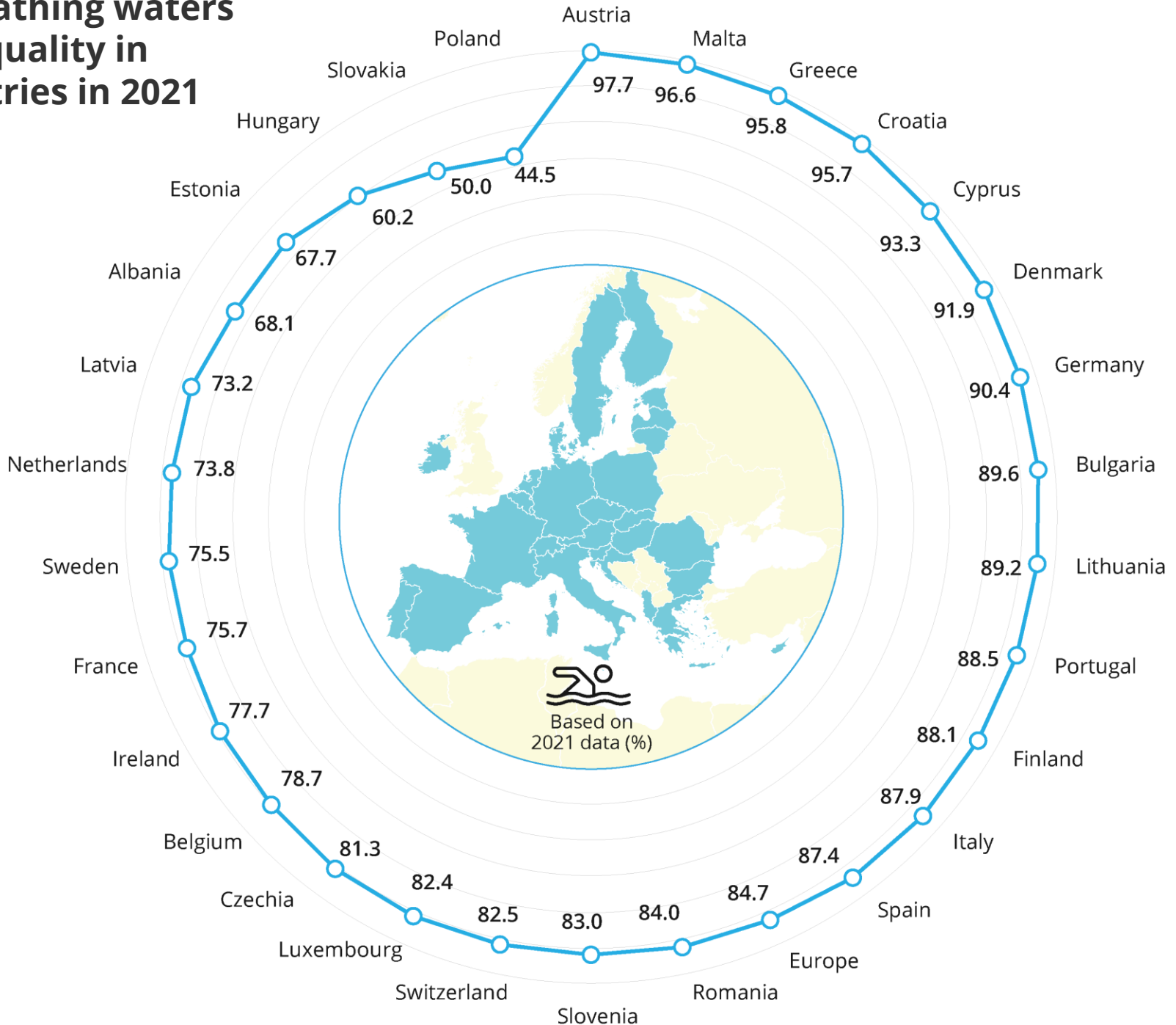
Notes/comments

- These come from the Guardian, a year apart.
- The countries involved are the EU countries, plus the UK and Albania (don't know why!).
- The colours are unhelpful (I think), because the lighter the colour the better the beaches/swimming sites ... except that light grey means they aren't involved.
- They have chosen to put on the percentages for the top 10 and the bottom 10 countries ... plus France and Spain (why?).
- Is it easy to tell which countries have got better/worse ?
- The headline is actually misleading, because they also count swimming sites that exist but which haven't been measured. That's why Poland does so poorly (lots of not-measured ones that count as not being high-quality beaches). It is also why the UK appears to have slipped so badly.
- In the Guardian article: In Britain "Only 110 coastal and inland sites were judged excellent in the latest bathing water quality data from Europe's environmental watchdog. Most of the UK's bathing sites were not classified in 2020, however, because Covid-19 restrictions prevented sampling. This meant that out of 640 sites, 457 received no verdict in the rankings."
- This seems to render the data/graphs meaningless!
- $110/640 = 17.2\%$.
- The next slide shows an utterly bizarre (and unhelpful) graph to display the data. Zero is at the edge of the central ring.
- The final two slides are larger versions of the original graphs.

Sources:

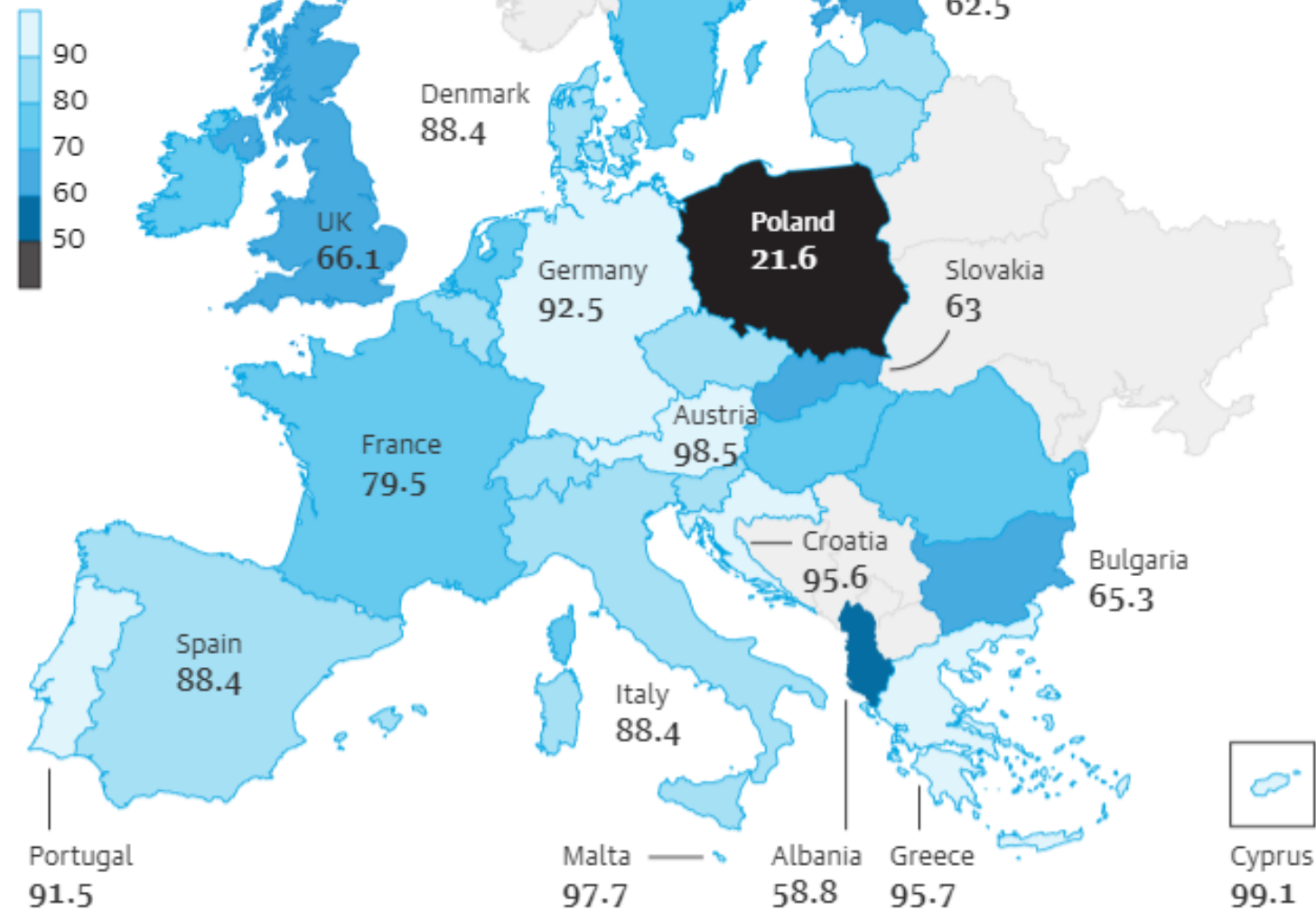
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/08/only-two-thirds-uk-bathing-waters-rated-excellent-eu-survey-wild-swimming>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/01/uk-ranked-last-in-europe-for-bathing-water-quality-in-2020>
- <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/bathing-water-quality-in-2021/european-bathing-water-quality-in-2021>

Proportion of bathing waters with excellent quality in European countries in 2021



The EU's highest water quality standards were met at 85% of swimming sites monitored in 2019

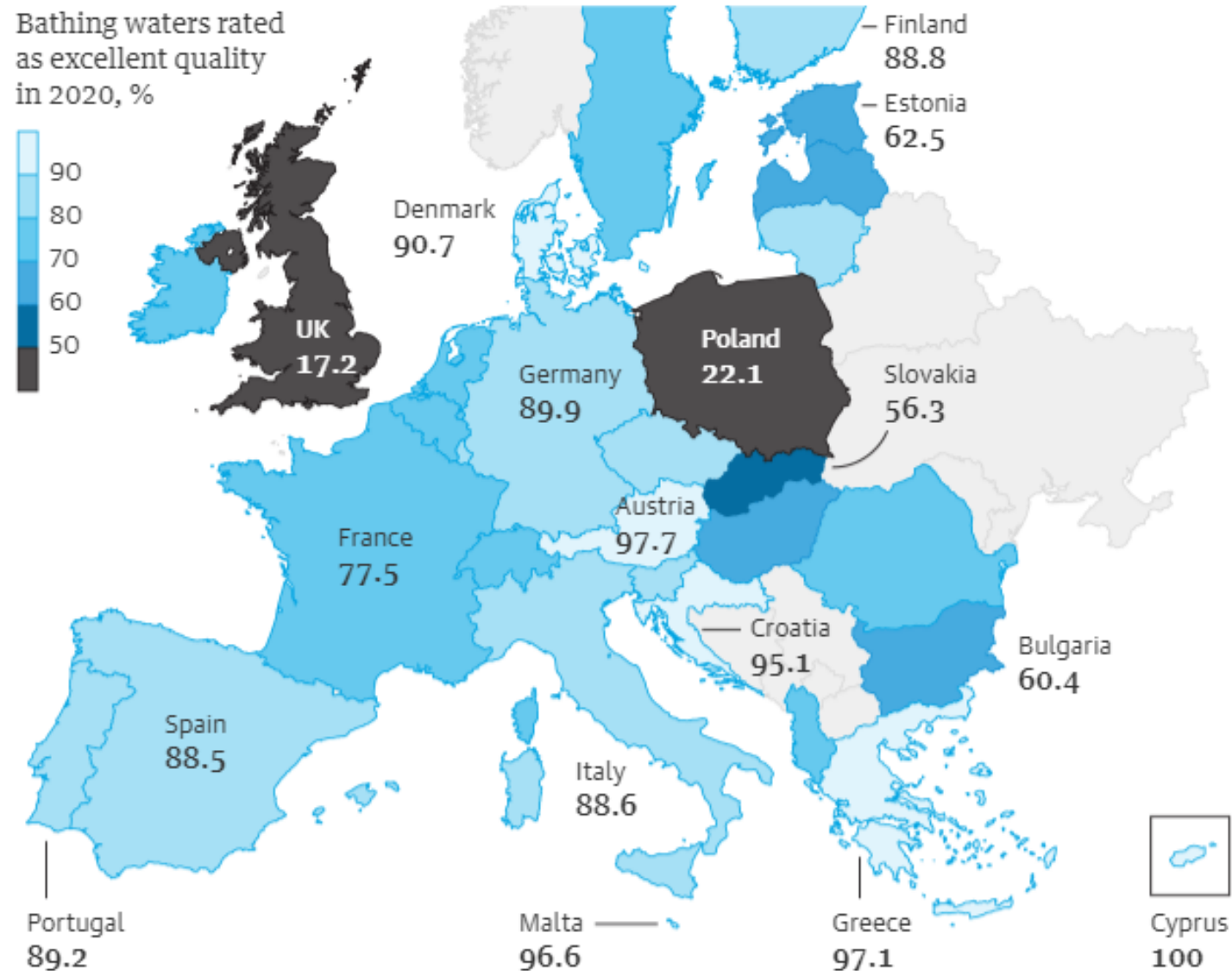
Bathing waters rated as excellent quality in 2019, %



Guardian graphic. Source: European environment information and observation network (Eionet). Note: 10 highest- and six lowest-rated countries (plus France) shown

The EU's highest water quality standards were met at 83% of swimming sites monitored in 2020

Bathing waters rated as excellent quality in 2020, %



Guardian graphic. Source: European environment information and observation network (Eionet). Note: 10 highest- and five lowest-rated countries (plus France and Spain) shown