

# Step 9

# Data sensemaking

18<sup>th</sup> JRC Annual training on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards

*Valentina Montalto*

# 10 STEPS to build a Composite Indicator

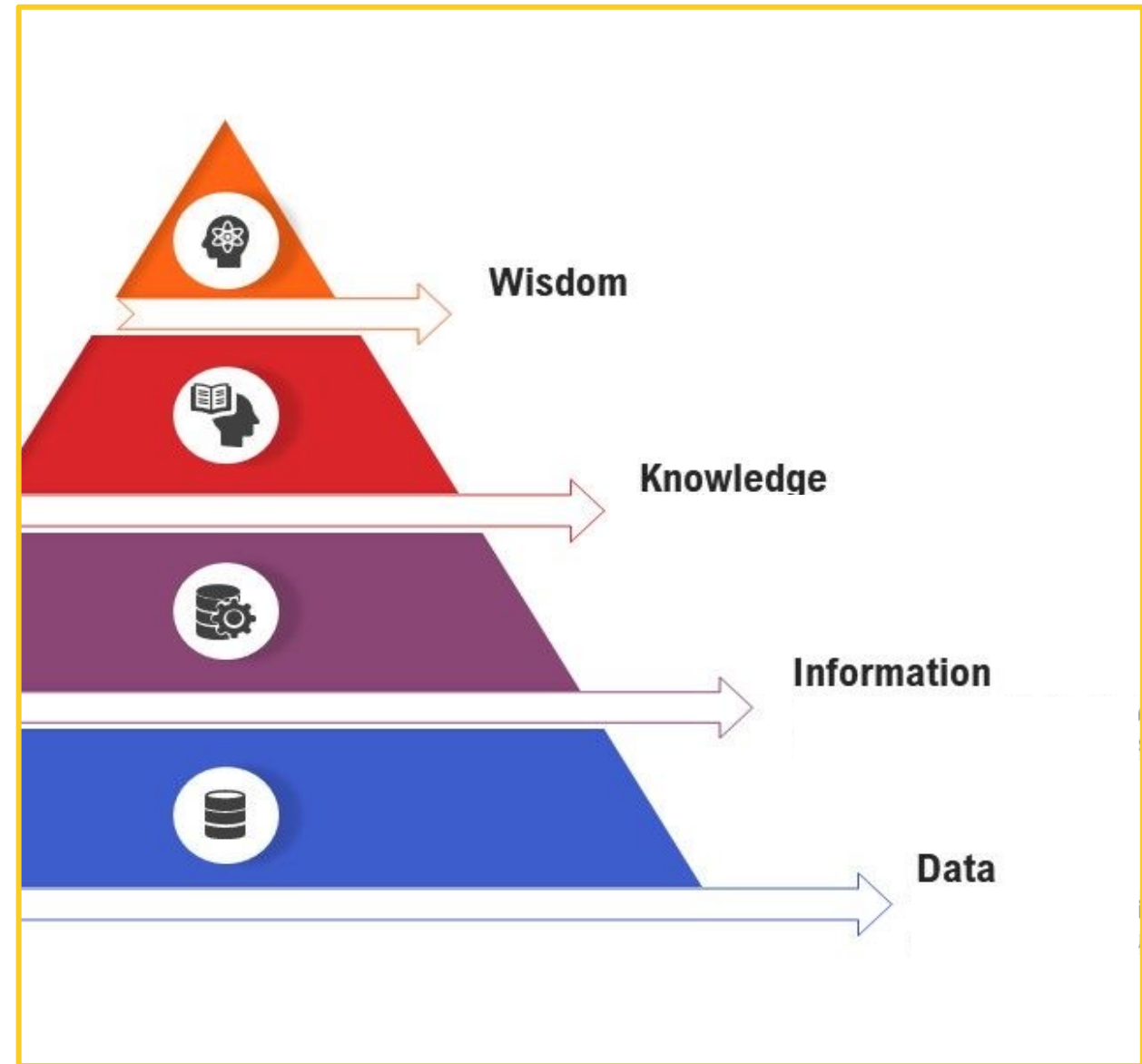




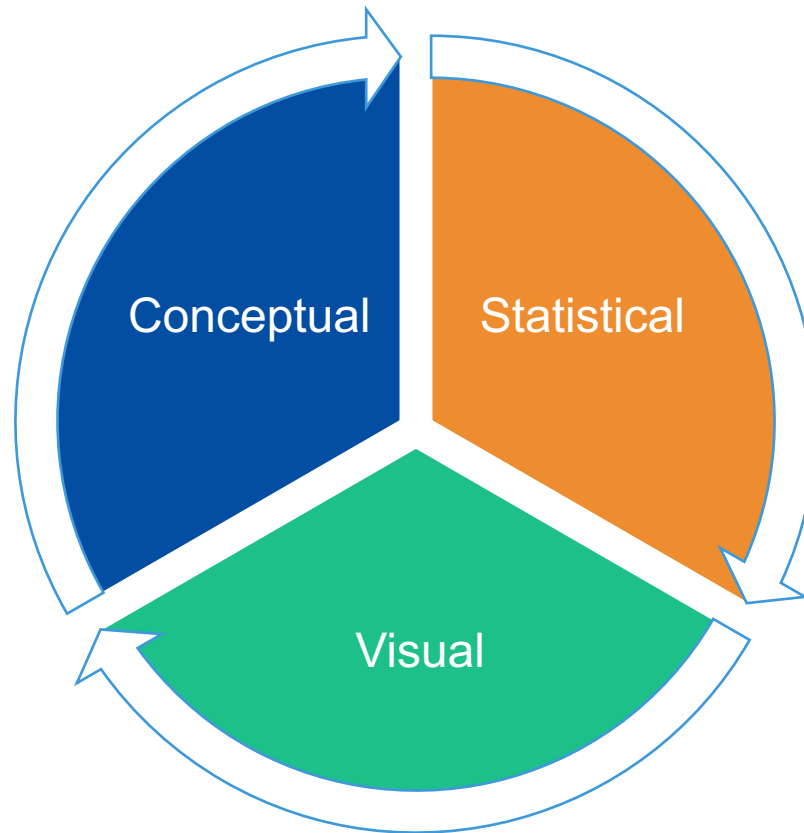


*"If 'data is the new oil', just as oil is only useful once it's refined, data is only useful once we process it into understanding".*

Stephen Few



# Three skills sets needed

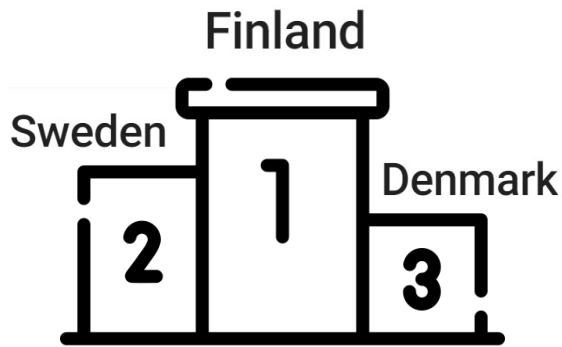


# Our focus: composite indicators

- a. Detect stories behind the aggregate numbers
- b. Identify reference points for meaningful comparisons
- c. Connect your index to external variables to detect drivers or trade-offs

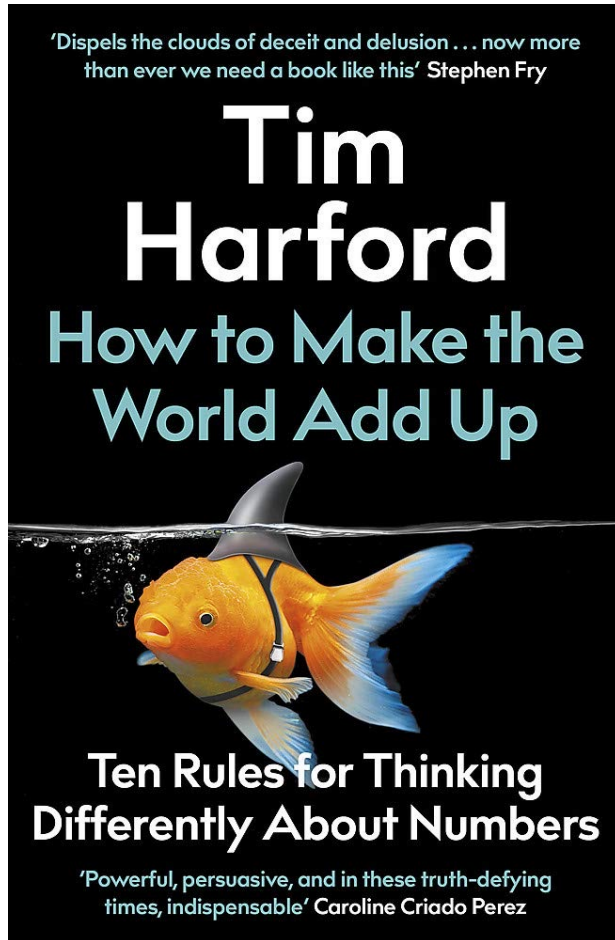
## a. Detect stories behind the aggregate numbers

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2021





## b. Identify reference points for meaningful comparisons

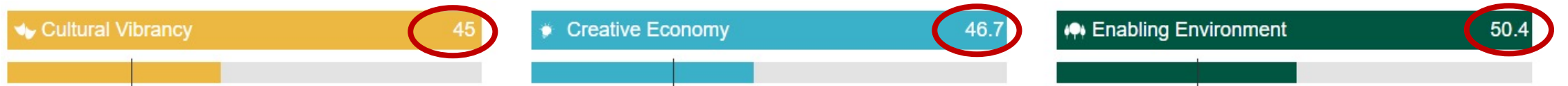


“When we **struggle to understand a number**, various aspects can help clarify our ideas: first of all, the language we use. Second [...] we need **points of reference**: contextualize or use a number we know are two useful tactics.”

## b. Identify reference points for meaningful comparisons

### Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor 2019

#### Copenhagen



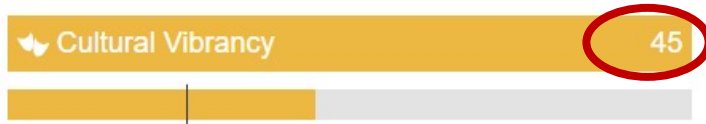
#### Venice



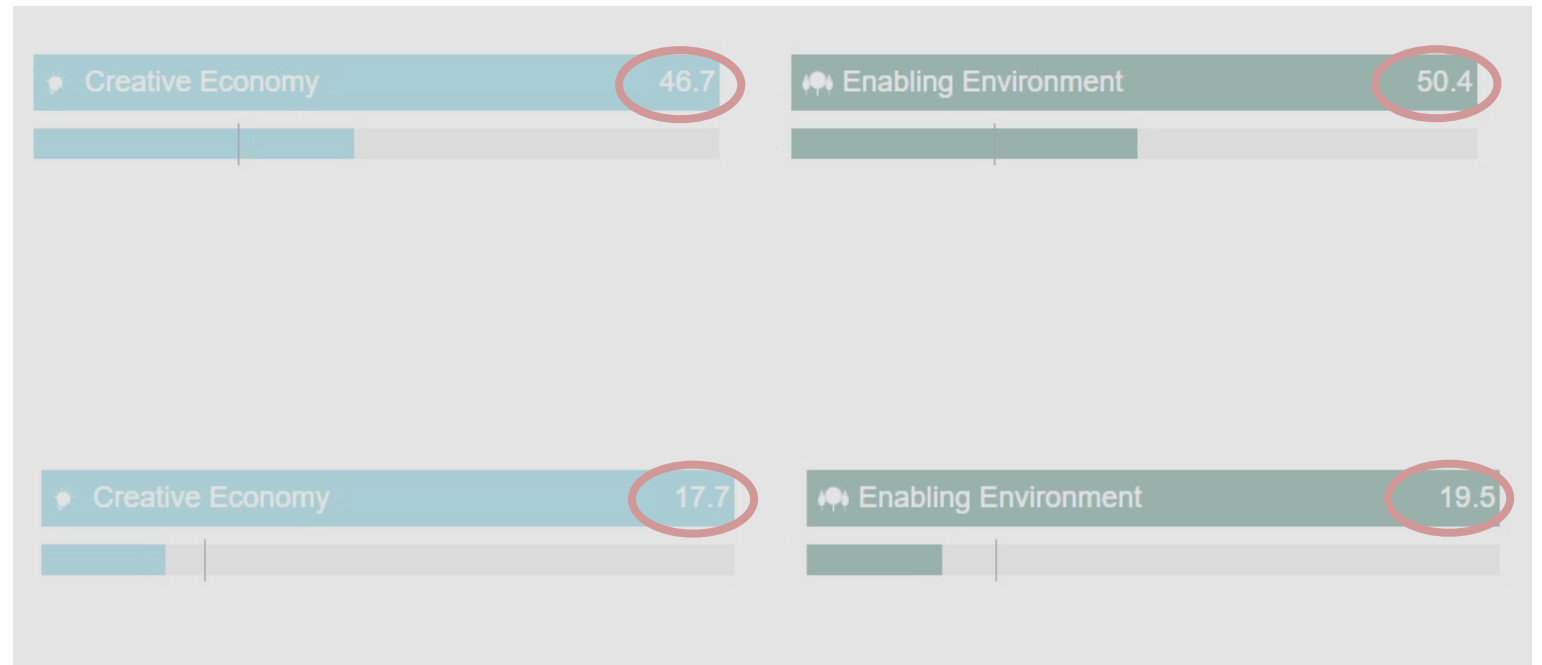
## b. Identify reference points for meaningful comparisons

### Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor 2019

#### Copenhagen



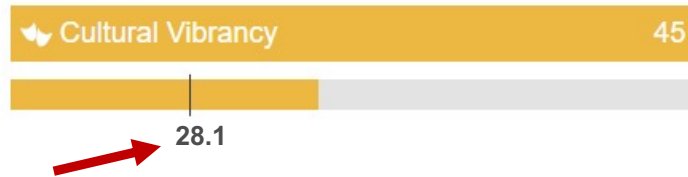
#### Venice



## b. Identify reference points for meaningful comparisons

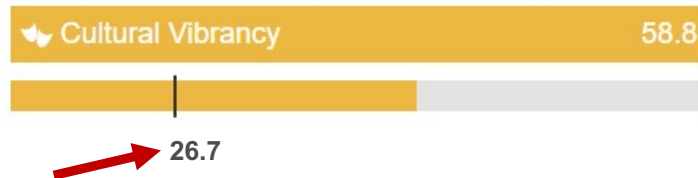
### Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor 2019

#### Copenhagen



Average score peer GDP group (Prague, Vienna, Helsinki ...)

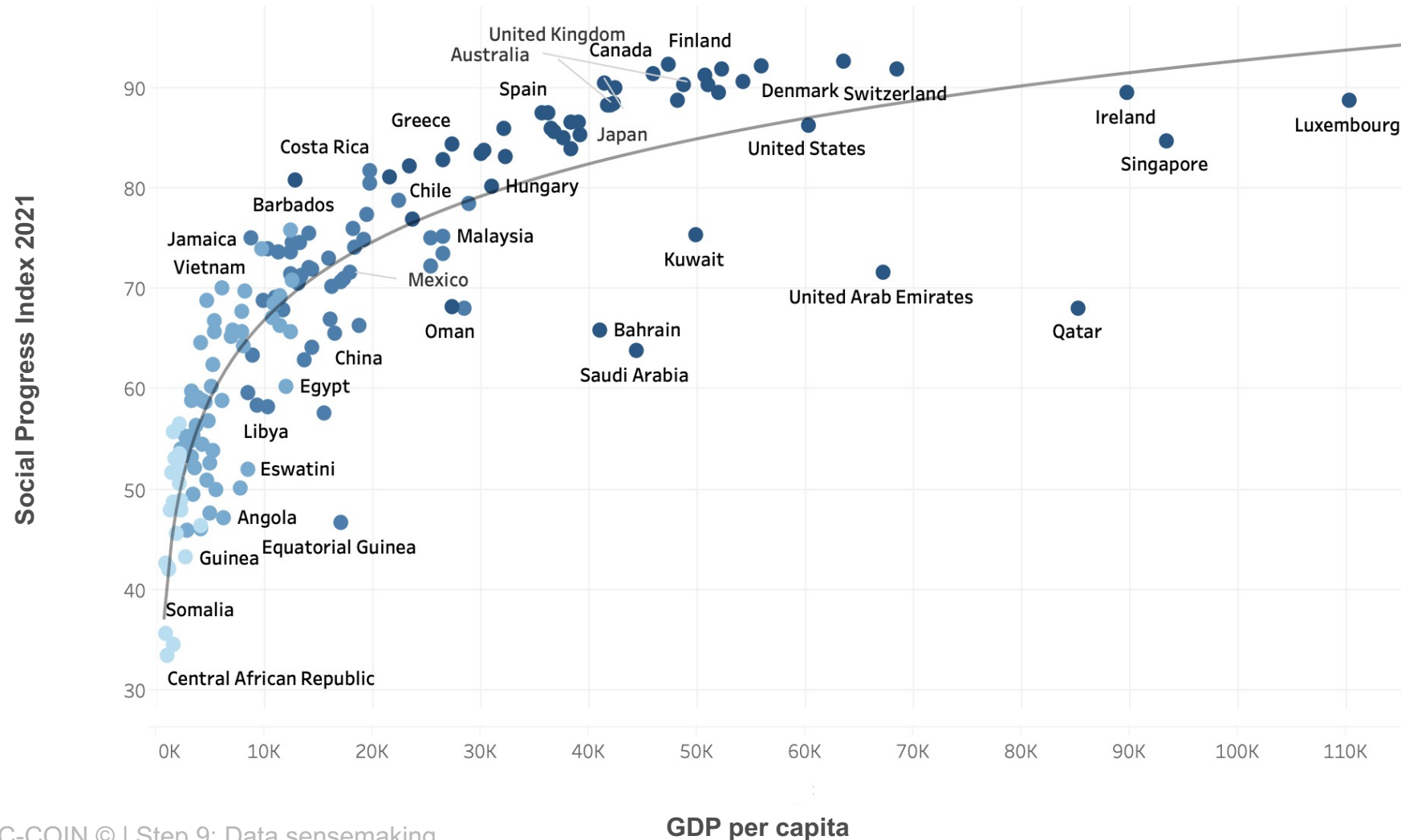
#### Venice



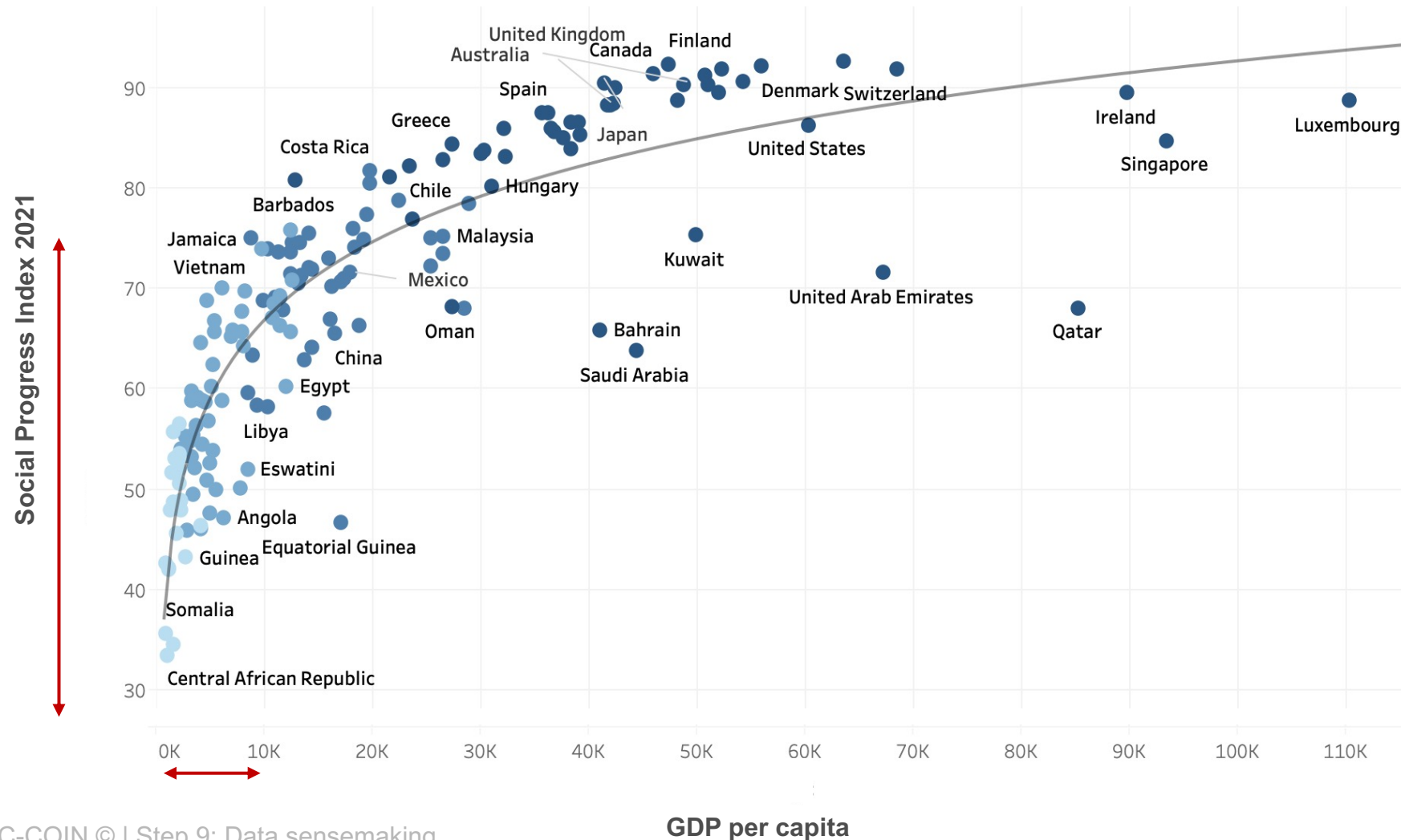
Average score peer GDP group (Weimar, Galway, Heidelberg, ...)



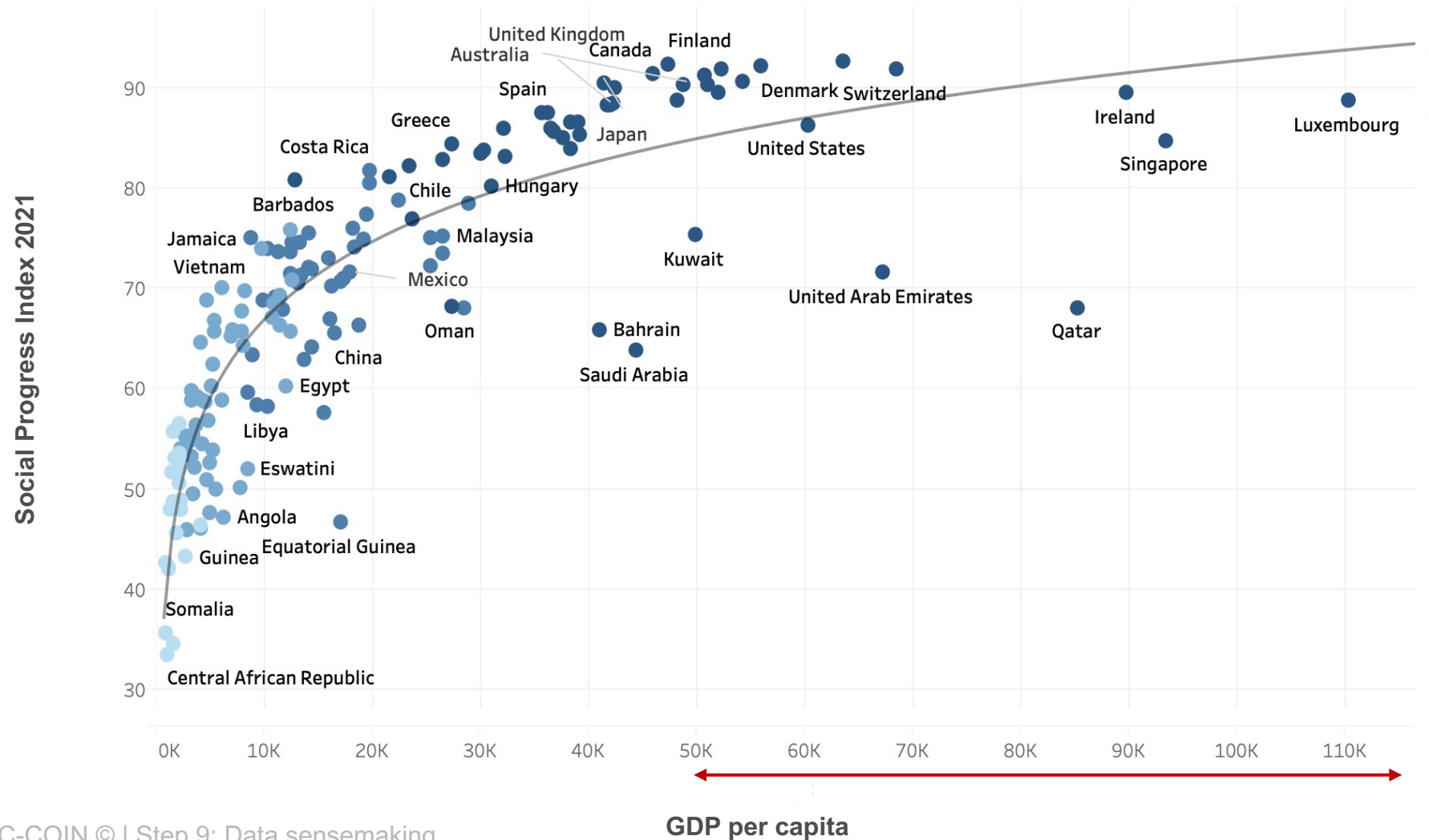
## c. Connect your index to external variables



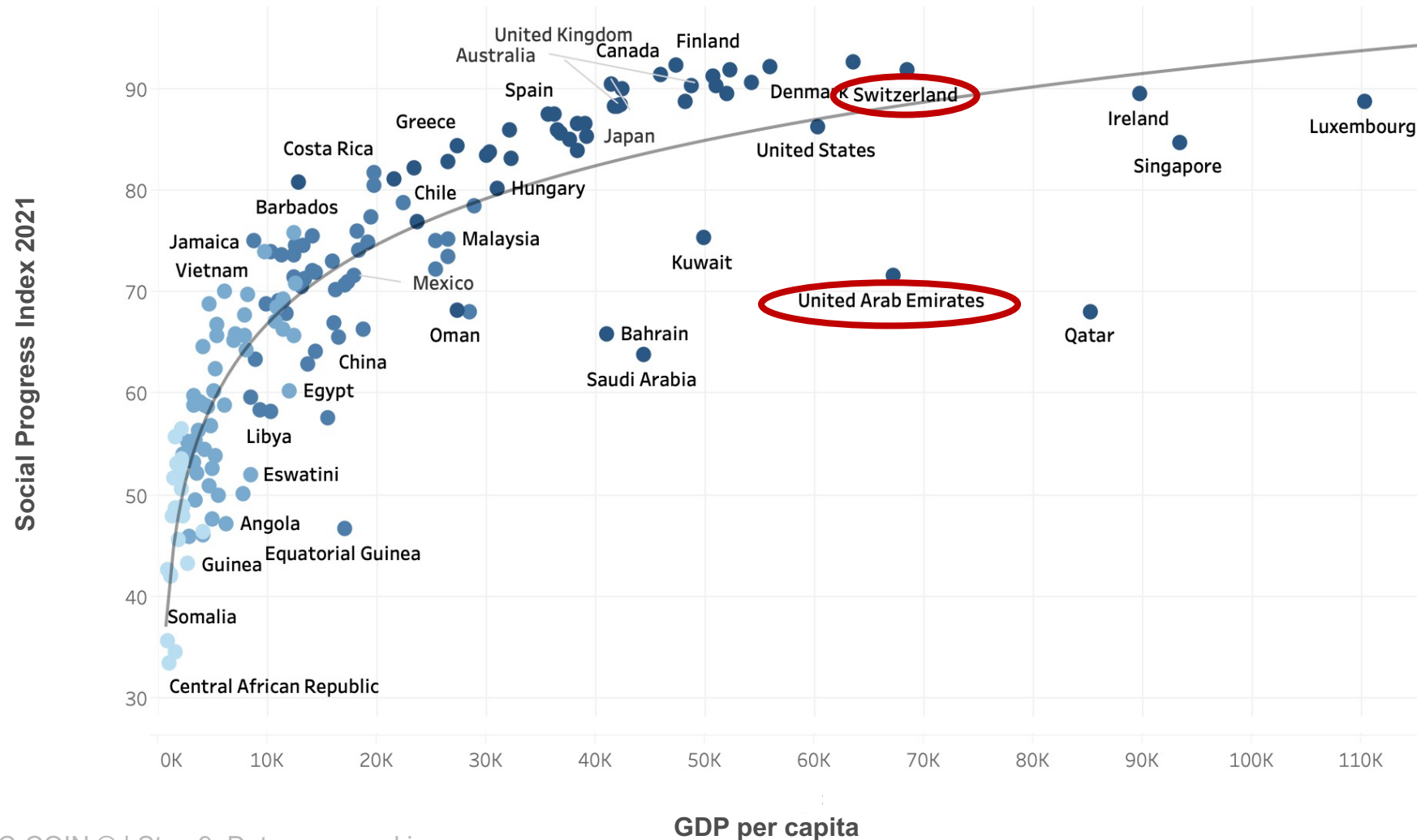
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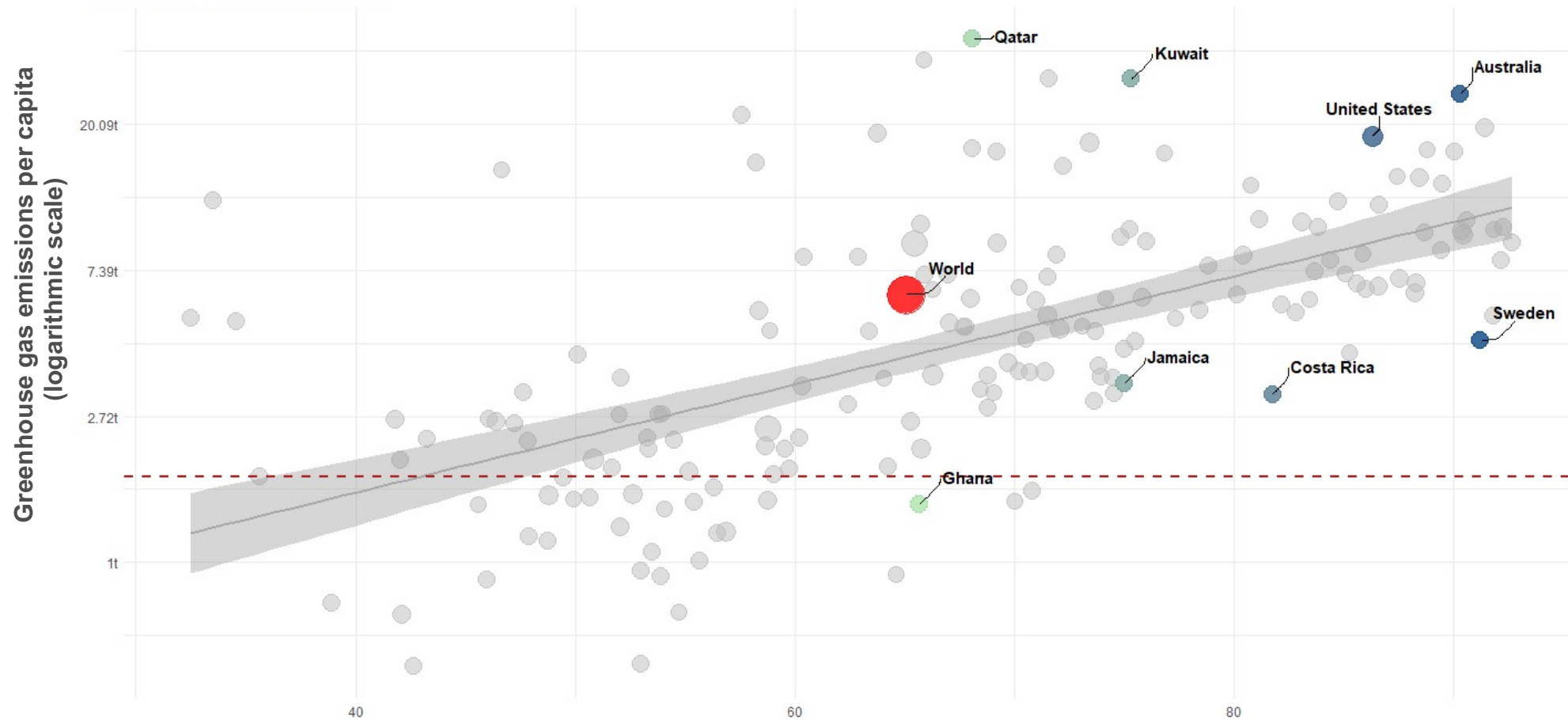


## c. Connect your index to external variables





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Social Progress Index 2021

# COIN's takeaway ©

- Primarily a human activity
- Analyst's ability to connect the dots
- 'Augmented' statistical skills

“Simplicity is the ultimate  
sophistication.”

Leonardo da Vinci

# Thank you



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