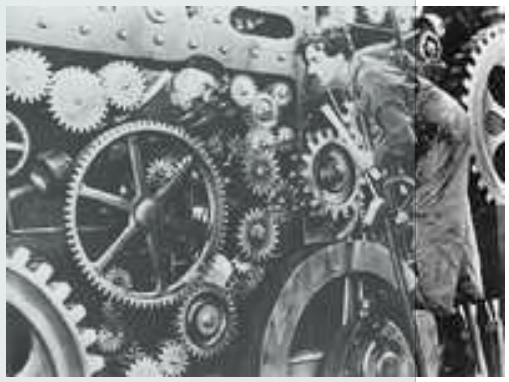
Sociologia del Lavoro



Opzione 1: Sostenibilità ecologica, lavoro e welfare

II Parte: Social Investment e Cambiamento climatico

3 maggio 2017

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Seconda parte:

I. Social Investment e Climate Policy:

   c. Investimenti sul futuro verso uno sviluppo sostenibile?

   d. Lavoro, tecnologia, ecologia: un rapporto controverso

Quali prospettive teoriche sulla sostenibilità?

- Molte correnti di pensiero
- Recente e ancora limitato ruolo della sociologia ?
- Limiti degli approcci attuali
- Necessità di un paradigma ecologico trans-disciplinare

Immagine su:

https://triskel182.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/altan.png

Polanyi: economia formale e sostanziale

Definizione di economia formale (Robbins 1947):

«L'economia è la scienza che studia la condotta umana come una relazione tra scopi e mezzi scarsi, applicabili a usi alternativi»

Definizione di economia sostanziale (Polanyi):

"nessuna società può esistere senza possedere un qualche tipo di **economia sostanziale**" implicata dal fatto che **l'uomo dipende per la sua sopravvivenza dai processi di interazione con i suoi simili e con la natura.**

"stabilire un'uguaglianza fra l'economia umana in generale e la sua forma di mercato" costituisce un errore logico, una palese fallacia. L'identificazione con il mercato implica un significato del termine economico derivante dalla natura logica della relazione mezzi-fini. Questa **veicola "una nozione estranea al processo complessivo di cui essa stessa fa parte", che rinuncia a osservare l'interdipendenza tra fenomeni e leggi della natura e fenomeni storici**.

Invece…. the neoliberal turn

Kyoto mechanisms: influence of neoliberal ideas on climate policy in the EU

- Cost-effectiveness is the guiding principle
- Maximizing the role of market forces and minimizing the one of public actors
- Parallel but latecomer of the neoliberal turn in social policy

➔ **Polanyi: fictitious commodities (merci fittizie): nature and money**

Growing dissatisfaction with the neoliberal approach to climate change in recent years and main weak points:

- Liberalized markets not well designed to coordinate major infrastructure projects for the transition to a low-carbon society
- Low level of investment in research and development
- European energy companies huge windfall profits from emissions trading
- Great volatility of prices in the carbon market

Resistance and reluctance (industry and unions): only 3 states carbon taxes (Sweden, Denmark, Finland)

Economic crisis: raised doubts on the neoliberal doctrine

EU: very limited public investment

Points to be discussed:

- Challenges and contradictions of neoliberal European climate policies
- Need for change in the interpretive framework of EU policy making
- A new possible economic policy paradigm:

  'the economics of sustainable development'

Main Source:

L. Sommestad, *Climate policy and the social investment approach, towards a European model for sustainable development*, in Morel N., Palier B. and Palme J. (eds.), "Towards a social investment welfare state? Ideas, policies and challenges", Bristol, Policy Press, 2012, pp. 309-332

The issue:

- Lack of attention to climate change implications in the social policy field… but:
  - Climate change tends to **hit hardest those who are poor and vulnerable**:
  - Climate Policies can put **disproportionate burdens on the less affluent**.
  - **Social policy can affects the ways to respond to climate change**.

Focus: Social and climate policy in EU on inequality and employment policy areas

Hypothesis

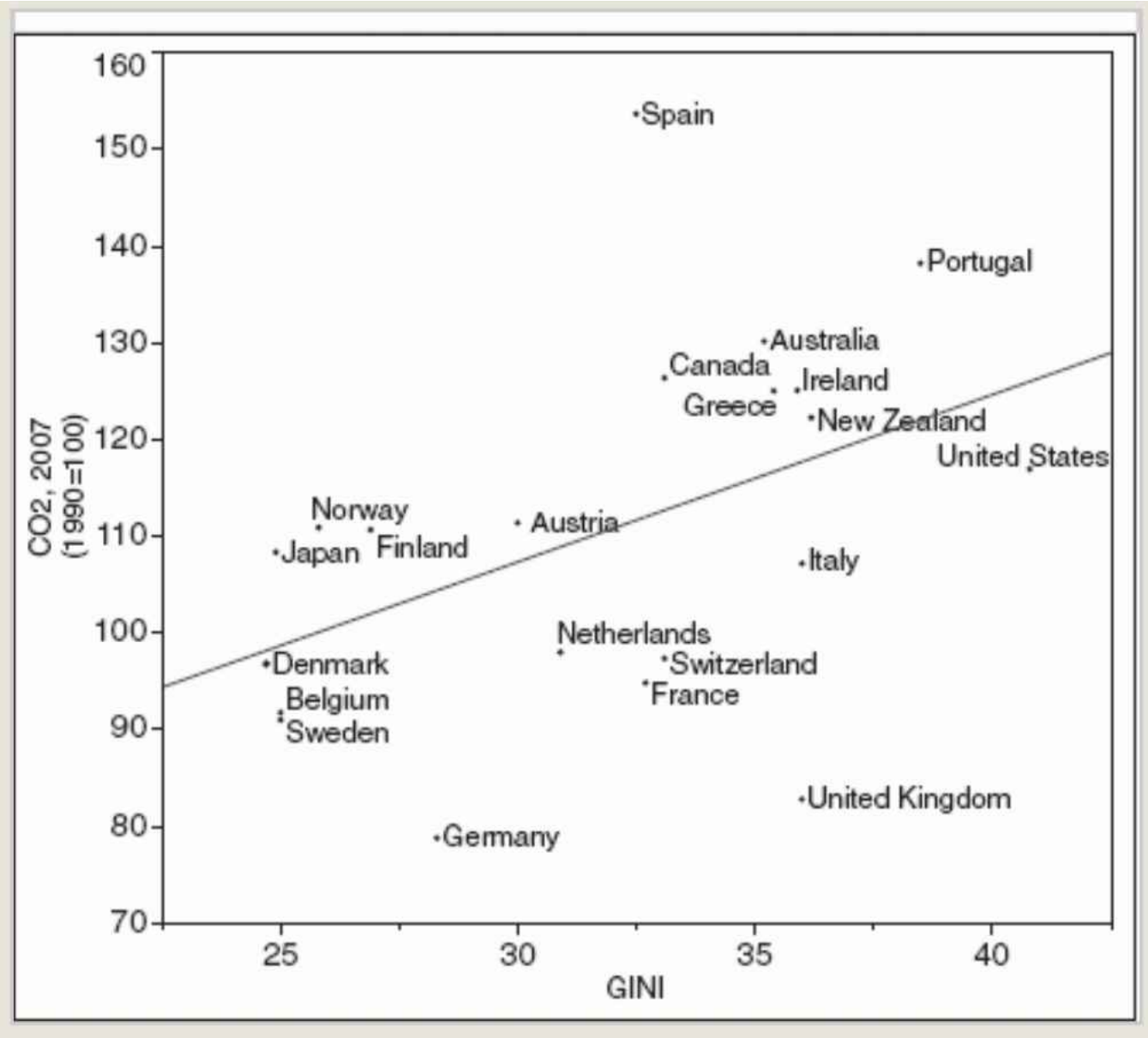
1. Success of EU climate policies dependent on successful social policy design
2. Successful climate policies have features in common with social investment:
   - investment in the future
   - preoccupation for quality of life
   - tense relationship to neoliberal economics

Figure 12.1:

Successful reduction of CO2 emissions 1990–2007 (1990=100) by Gini coefficient

Source: UNFCC (2010) for CO2 index; Human Development Report (2005) for Gini coefficient.

Sommestad (2012): **significant relationship income distribution / $C0_2$ emission reduction**



Income inequality problem:

1. Individual interests are given precedence
   → BUT people will contribute if the burden is **fairly shared**

2. make difficult carbon taxation and social policy compensation
   - Example: UK
   - Opposite example: Sweden. More equal income distribution and aggressive carbon taxation

- Green employment **opportunities** will open up
- But thousands of jobs will also be **at risk**

- Significant **redistribution effects** between jobs, sectors and countries
  - **human capital investment** can make the difference between successful adaptation and industrial failure.
  - **Upgrading of skills** is needed, to manage the negative sides of the transition and to make the most of new opportunities.
- Key role for SI policies:
  - Activation and upgrading skills
  - Possible conflicts and resistances
- Sweden '90s: green investments vs. recession + environmental issues

- **SI vs. Neoliberal** idea tradeoff social equity / economic efficiency

- Need for a **new "Economics of Sustainable Development"** (integrating Climate and SI policies) → long term goals
- **Definition**: 'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

- **EU: ambiguity between the two ideas**

Still no explicit theory of sustainable growth

- **Ideas from researches**: long term investment in public goods as ecosystems, education, health, social cohesion and policy related to age structure
- Competitiveness, quality of life and social cohesion: is it possible any compatibility?
- Togetherness across the world to face common problems

→ **Different ideas of Growth, A-growth, De-growth**

Emersione:

Trasformazioni connesse a ambiente e innovazione tecnologica:

- Quali lavori si perderanno / diminuiranno ?
- Quali lavori si creeranno / aumenteranno ?

FARE ALCUNE IPOTESI

Main Source:

N. Angelov, M.V. Johansson, *Green jobs*, in Fitzpatrick T. (ed.), “Understanding the environment and social policy”, Bristol, Policy Press, 2011, pp. 245-269.

The topic:

- **Relationship between environmental policies and employment** from 3 different angles:
  1. **Structural change**: net impact on employment and changing profiles (polarizations low / high) → What and How many Jobs???
  2. **Policy issues**: ≠ kind of studies and ≠ policy implications
  3. **The future**: forecasting the number/types of future green jobs

Assumption

- Reciprocal link economy / environment
  → people depend on the environment for their livelihood (cfr. Polanyi)

Definition of green jobs

No universal definition. Examples:

- Bexdek et al (2008): jobs are performed more pro-environmentally today than before
- Jobs that are created in the environmental sectors of economy

Definitions need to be appropriate for the specific context it is used.

OECD definition

- Environmental goods and services industry … to measure, prevent, limit, minimise or correct environmental damage ….
- 3 main groups: pollution management, cleaner technologies, resource management
- No all the jobs in which environment is an essential input (agriculture, tourism)

UNEP definition

- Work in activities … that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality … jobs that help to protect ecosystems and biodiversity

How many green jobs

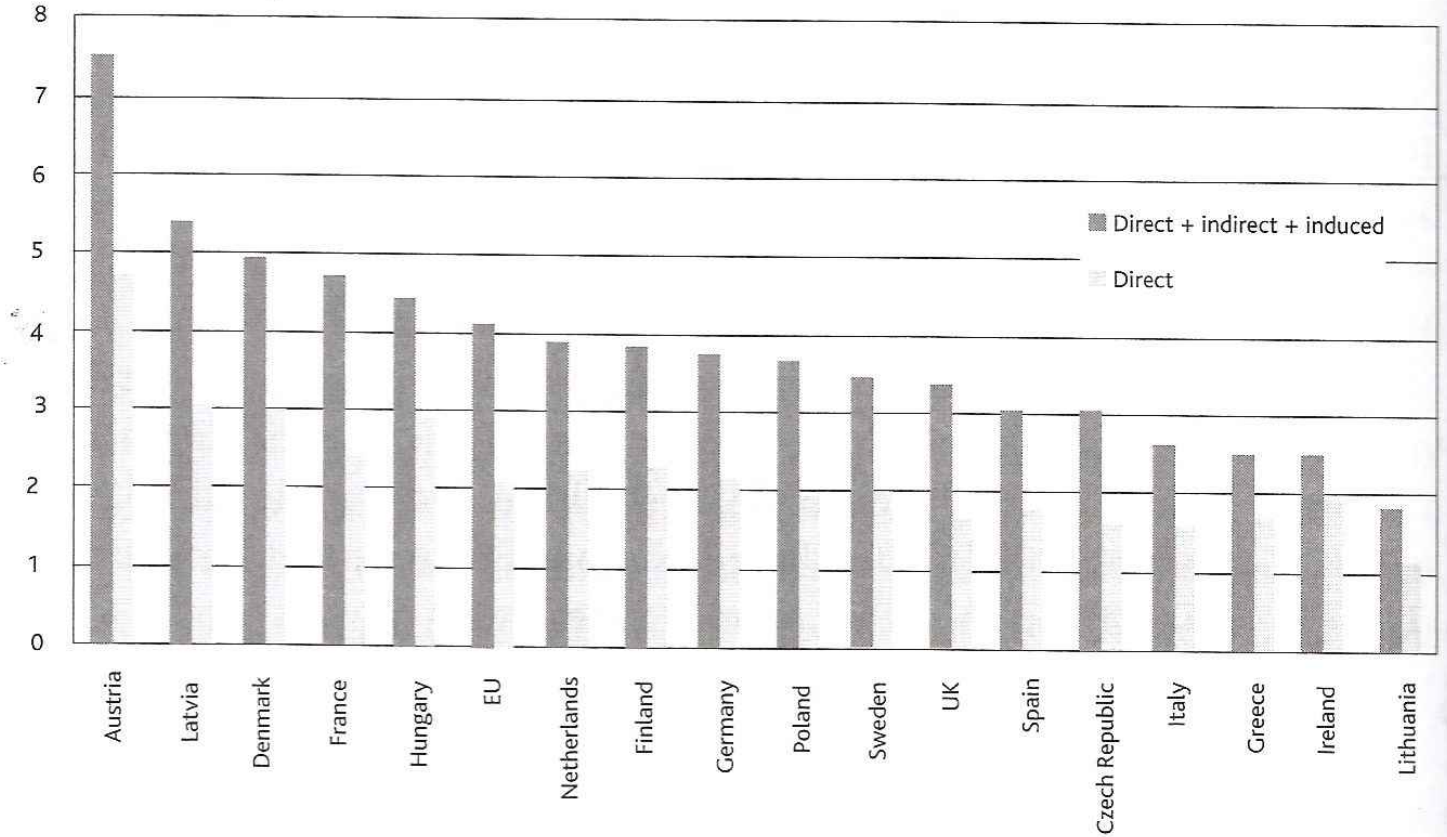
Consequences of different definitions:

- Different operational definitions change the share of green employment to total employment

Distributions among countries (typology of activities where):

1. environment is a resource input,
2. related to management of environment,
3. dependent on environmental quality.

Figure 11.1: Green employment as percentage of total employment in EU countries, 2000



Sources: GHK (2007); European Commission (2007)

Structural unemployment ≠ from cyclical and frictional one

- **Environmental policies generate or eliminate jobs?** Problem open since the '70s
- Policy instruments: Regulatory, Economic, Information, Voluntary agreement
  - Instruments should be related to different environmental problem and contexts: not enough research ...

Job are created, substituted, eliminated

- Hard to say there is a net gain or loss in jobs. Technology and welfare compensations

Current effects

- Possible suffering in the **short run** but zero or slightly positive effect in the **long run**
- Biggest impact not on **size** but **composition of labor market** and jobs quality
- Concern about the “pollution haven effect”

Quality and decency of green jobs:

- Different skills, educational backgrounds and occupational characteristics:
  - **Not all green jobs are decent, desirable, healthy**
  - **Not very advanced** (in general) (≠ *position regard to Social Investment*)
  - **More than 1/3 are low skilled and low paid** (higher in the clean tech industries)
- Not only consider 'how many' but 'what types of' jobs

2. Issues for policy: methods and models

Different research approaches

- Descriptive / Causal Analysis
- Micro / Macro effects
- Gross / Net effects

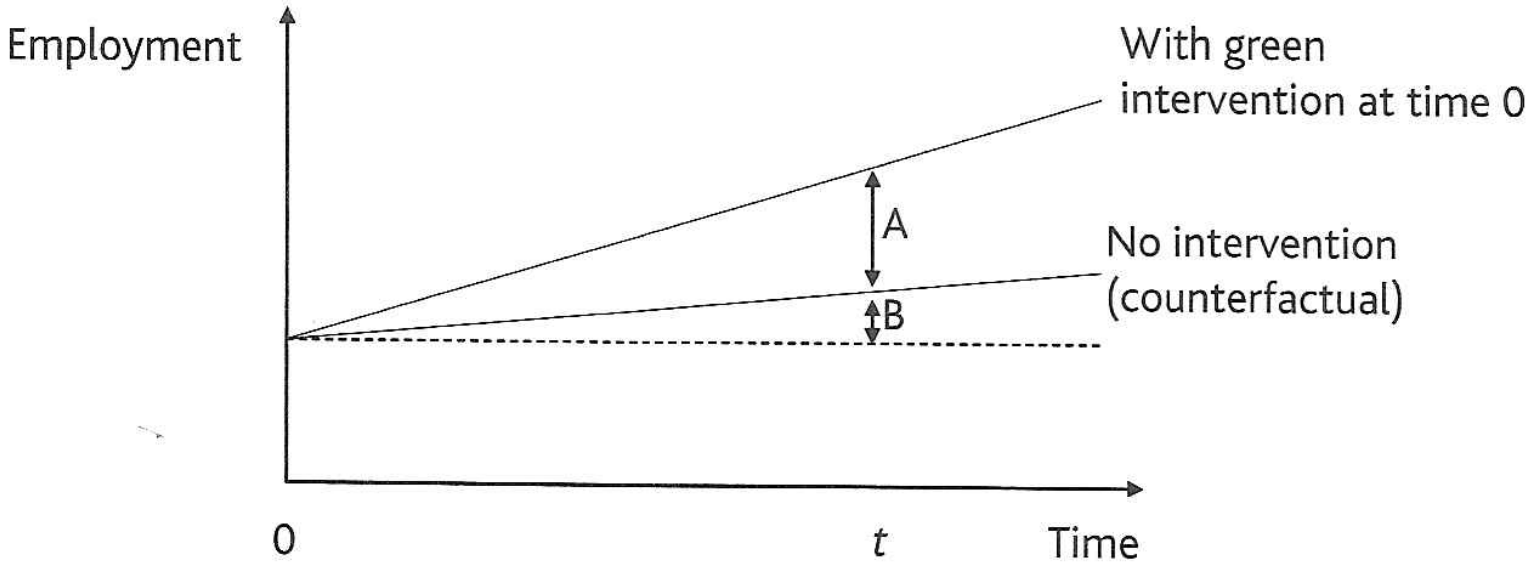
Understanding explicit and implicit or secondary effect (e.g environmental, economic, employment)

Understanding causal effects:
very important for policy implications and fundamental for policy evaluation

- Only in some situations there is only one way to respond to and environmental issue
- But causal effects are difficult to identify and to answer. It is easier to observe changes (e.g. number/types of jobs) than understand their causes
- Policy conclusions have to be drawn carefully (depending on the type of data analysis: descriptive or explanatory)

The counterfactual analysis:

Figure 11.2: Evaluating policy interventions



EU - Ecological industry provides:

- Clean technologies
- Renewable energy
- Waste recycling, nature and landscape protection
- Ecological renovation of urban areas

Some data

- EU 2007: 1,7 % of the total paid employment (3,4 million full-time equivalent) (European Car industry: 2,7 million)
- Difficult to forecast future numbers: some technological changes create some jobs and eliminate the needs of other ones
- Various techniques and scenario. Forecasts for increase of 80 – 300% by 2030. Need to be careful but a probable bright future

Employment, Economic crisis, Green policies

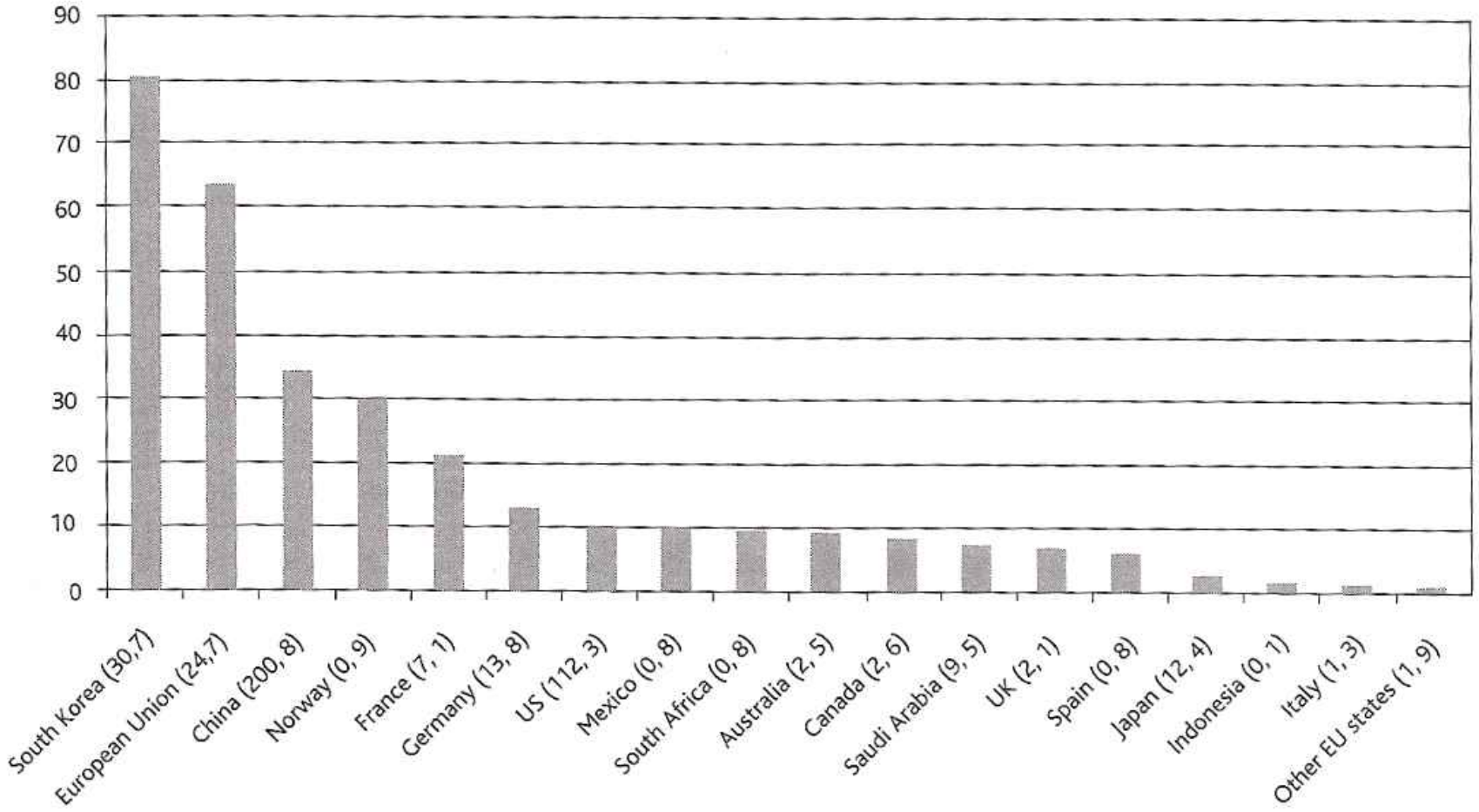
- 2008: financial, environmental, humanitarian crisis (today: add war and political - social – ethnic conflicts)
- UN 2009 Global Green New Deal, counter cyclical measure with 3 objectives:
  - Revive the world economy and create employment opportunities
  - Reduce carbon dependency, ecosystem degradation, water scarcity
  - Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger

Countries stimulus measures (2009)

- Different level and kind of stimulus packages: South Korea 79% green, USA 12% green, Italy 1% green

  → See figure 11.3

Figure 11.3: *Green stimulus as a percentage of total economic stimulus, 2009*



Source: HSBC (2009)