

A Profile of Danger and Development of the Languages of Europe

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SIL International

Maintaining Languages, Developing Multilingualism
University of Vienna, 10-11 June 2013

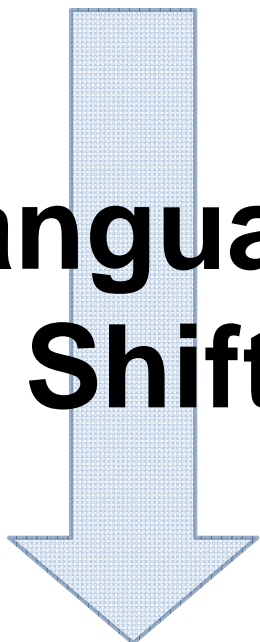
Overview

- Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (EGIDS) as a means for assessing development versus endangerment of all the world's languages
- European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML) as a benchmark for language policy in Europe
- We use EGIDS to give a profile of the language situation in Europe and to explore the relationship between ECRML recognition and the status of languages

The basic premise of GIDS

- Language shift (ending in extinction) happens as a language loses functions in society
- To reverse language shift, the community must work to bring those functions back

**Language
Shift**



1

2

3

4

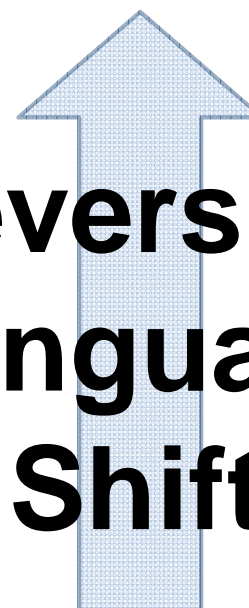
5

6

7

8

**Reversing
Language
Shift**



The 13 levels of EGIDS

- Adapted from: Lewis, M. Paul and Gary F. Simons. 2010. Assessing endangerment: Expanding Fishman's GIDS. *Revue Roumaine de Linguistique* 55(2):103-120.
<http://www.lingv.ro/RRL%202%202010%20art01Lewis.pdf>

0	International
1	National
2	Provincial
3	Wider communication
4	Educational
5	Developing
6a	Vigorous
6b	Threatened
7	Shifting
8a	Moribund
8b	Nearly Extinct
9	Dormant
10	Extinct

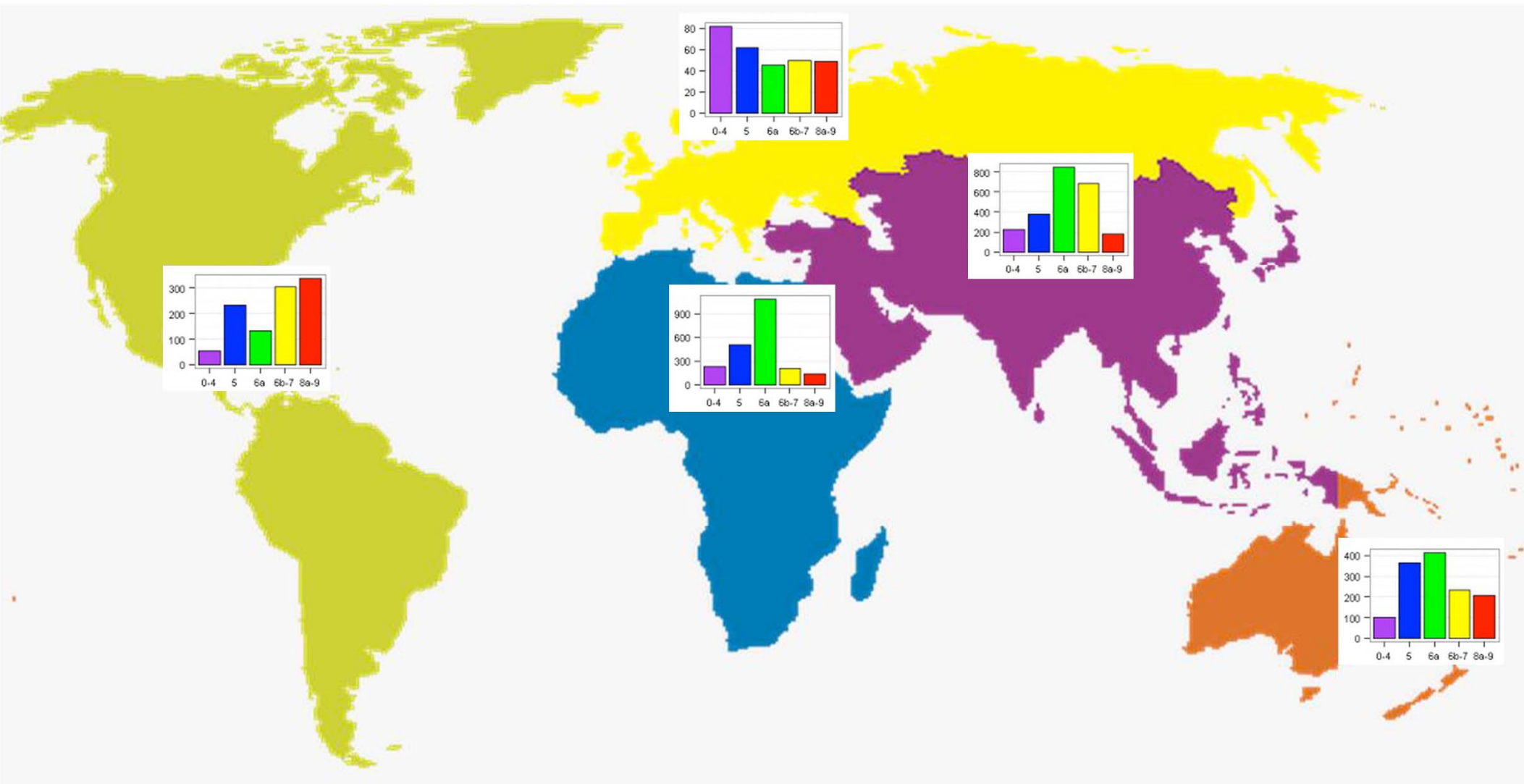
EGIDS (Lewis & Simons 2010)

- A 13-level scale that expands on Fishman's GIDS (1991) by increasing its scope and giving greater internal precision
- Enables us to provide an estimate of relative danger and development for every language
- EGIDS 6a (Vigorous) is taken as the unmarked “norm” of sustainable oral use that represents the dividing line between endangerment (EGIDS 6b –10) and development (EGIDS 0 – 5)
- Broad and shallow analysis complementing more focused and deeper investigation



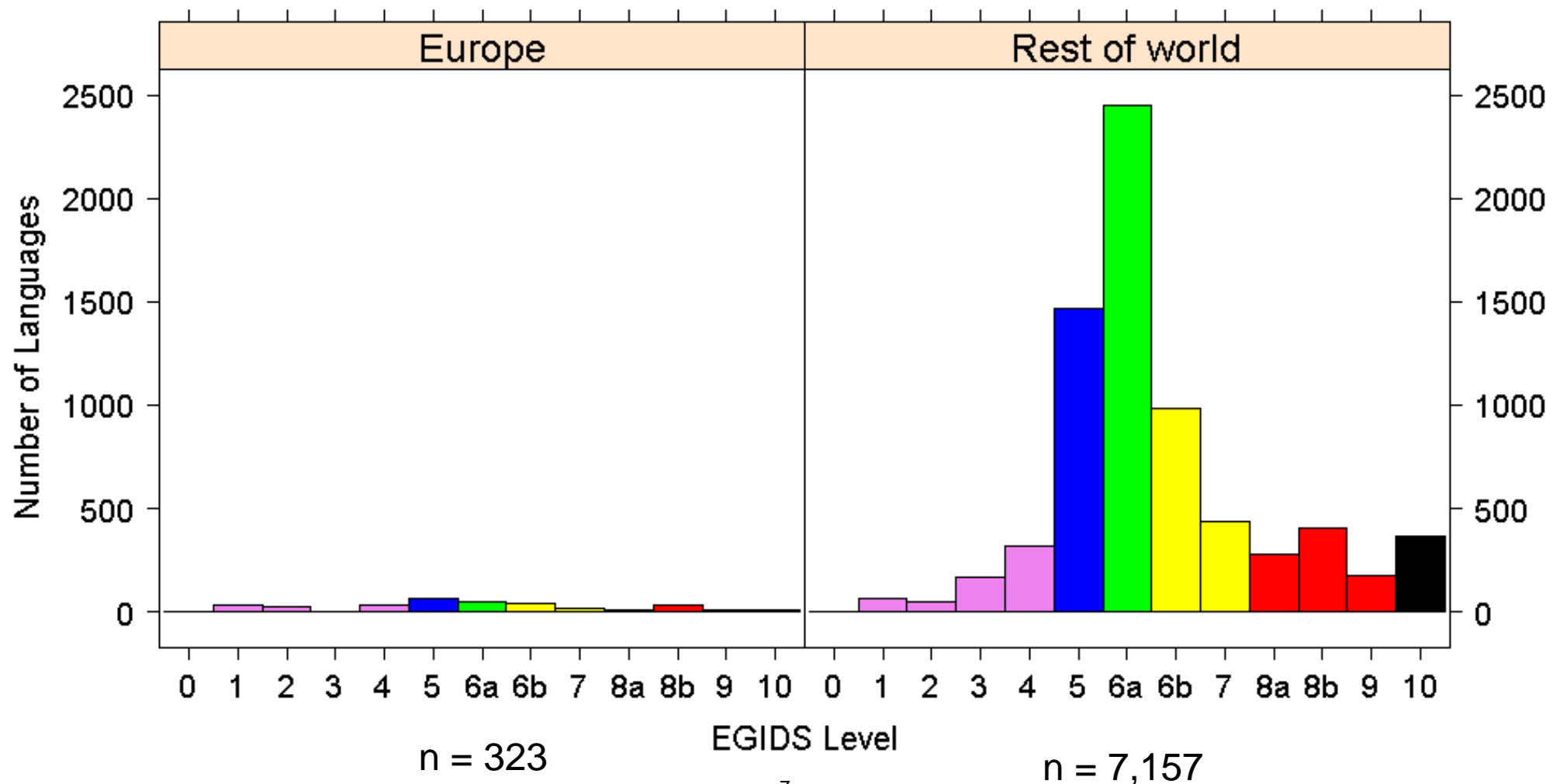
Vitality Profiles by World Regions

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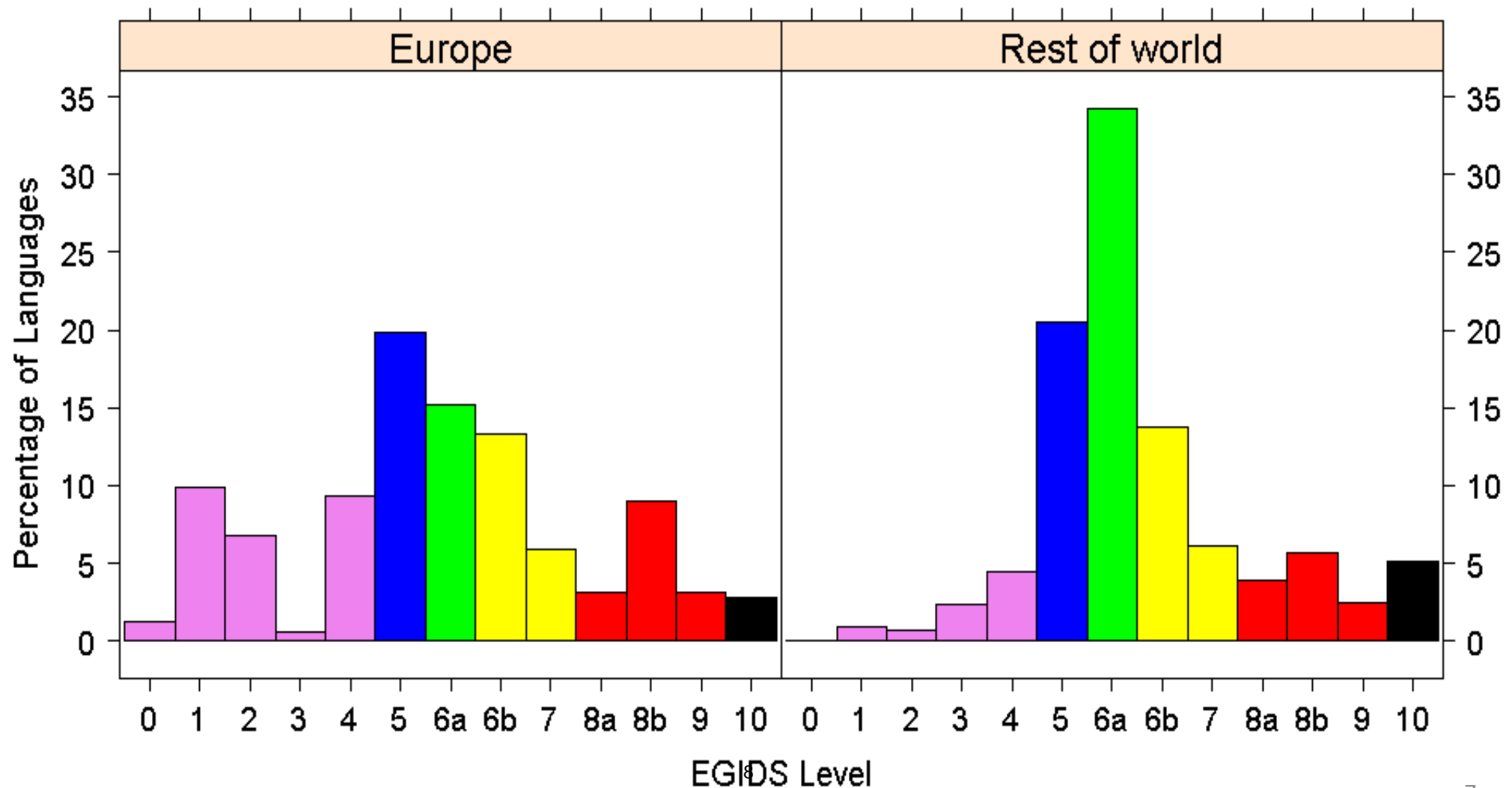


Language status in Europe vs. Rest of world (as counts)





Language status in Europe vs. Rest of world (as %s) [\(World Map\)](#)

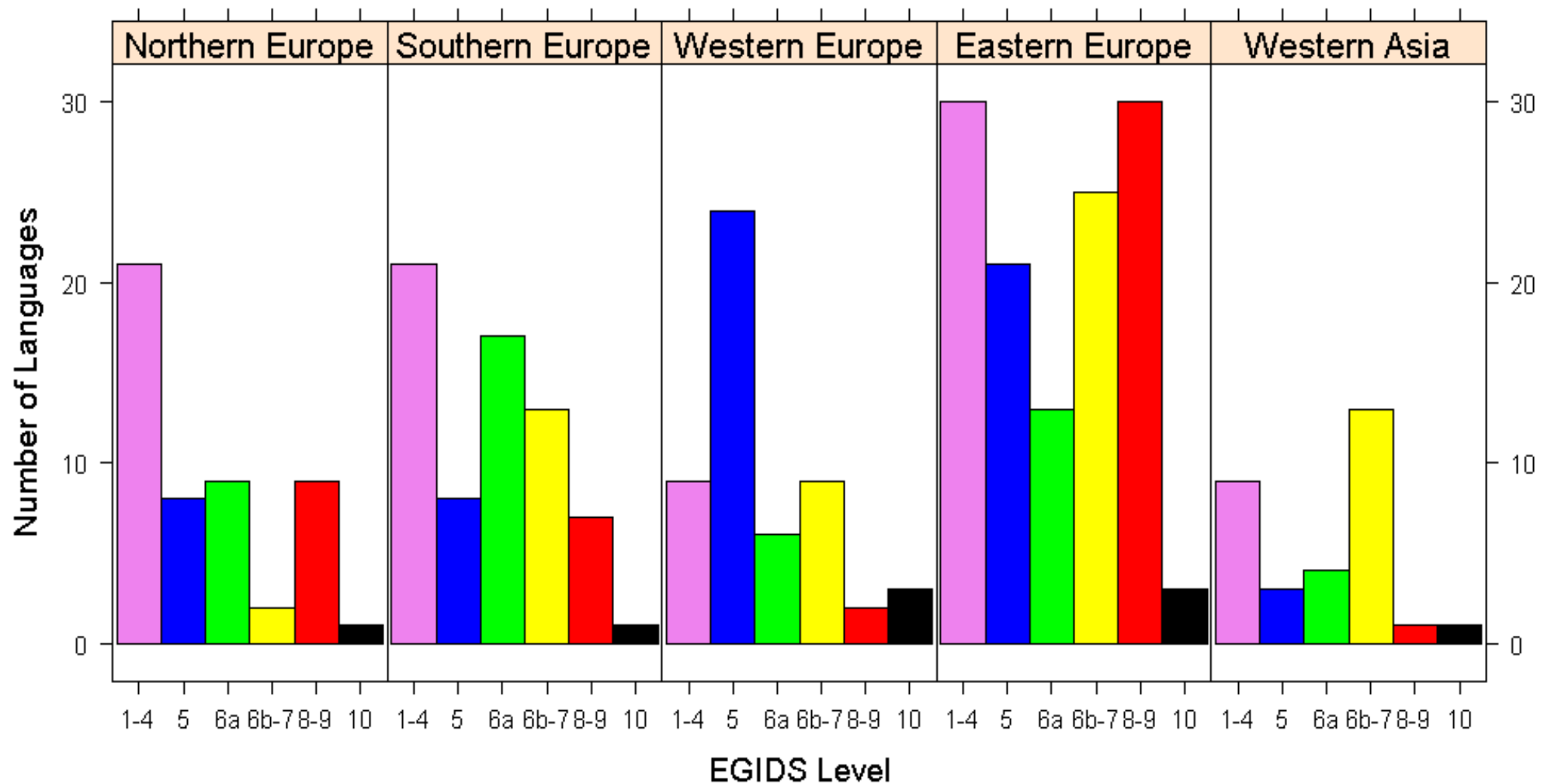


UN Regions



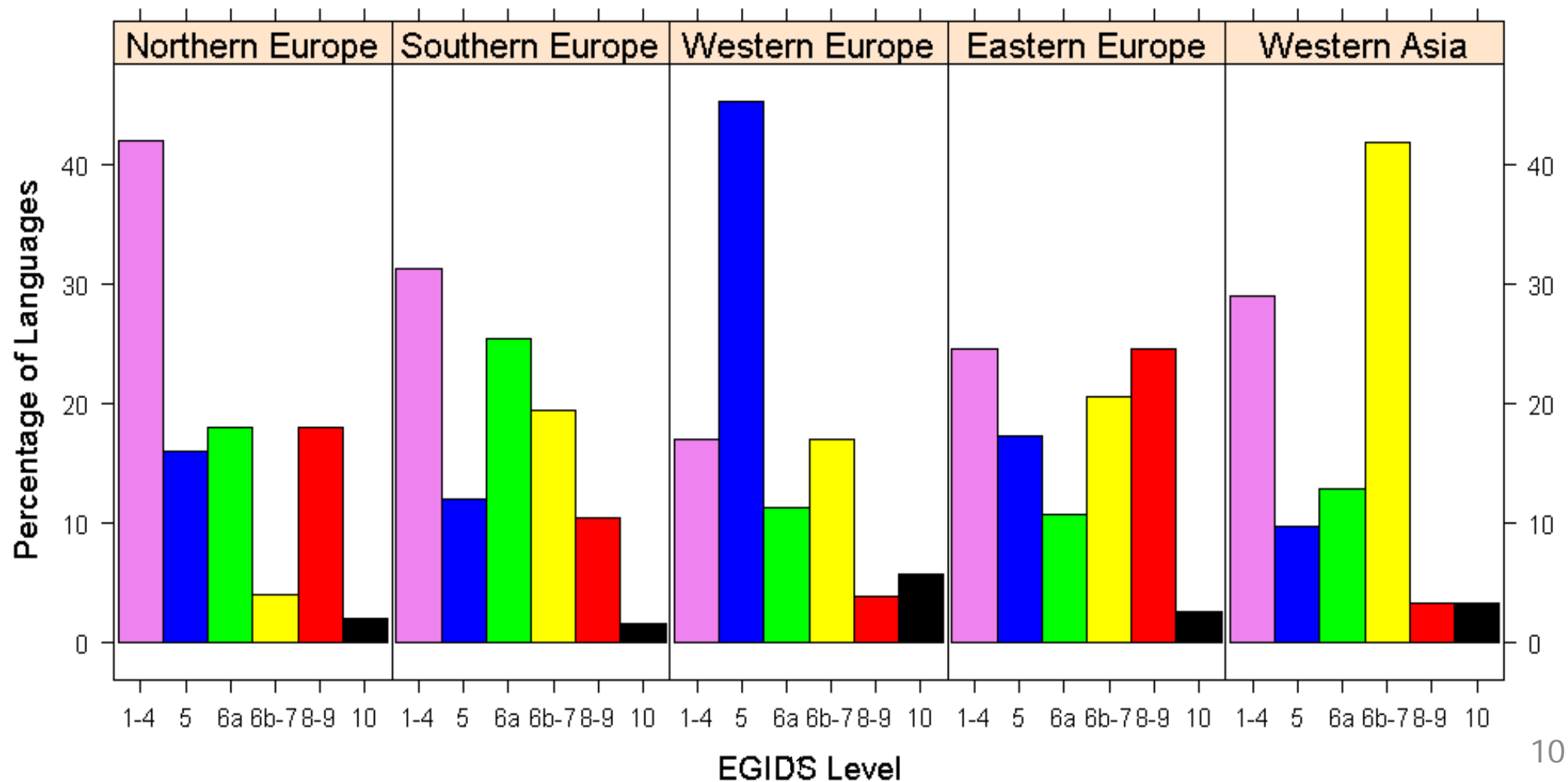


Language status by UN region (as counts)

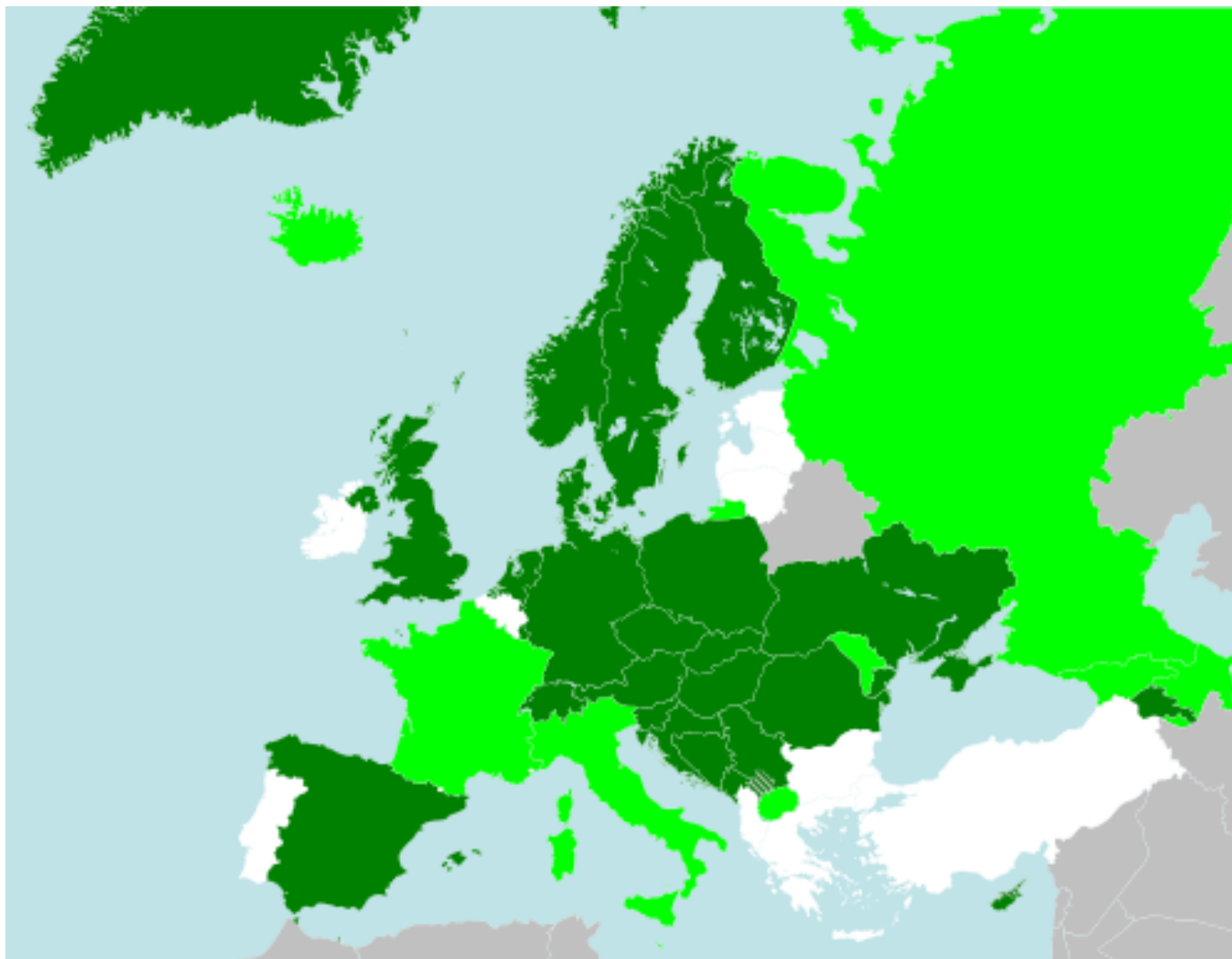




Language status by UN region (as %s) [\(World Map\)](#)



Status of ECRML in European states

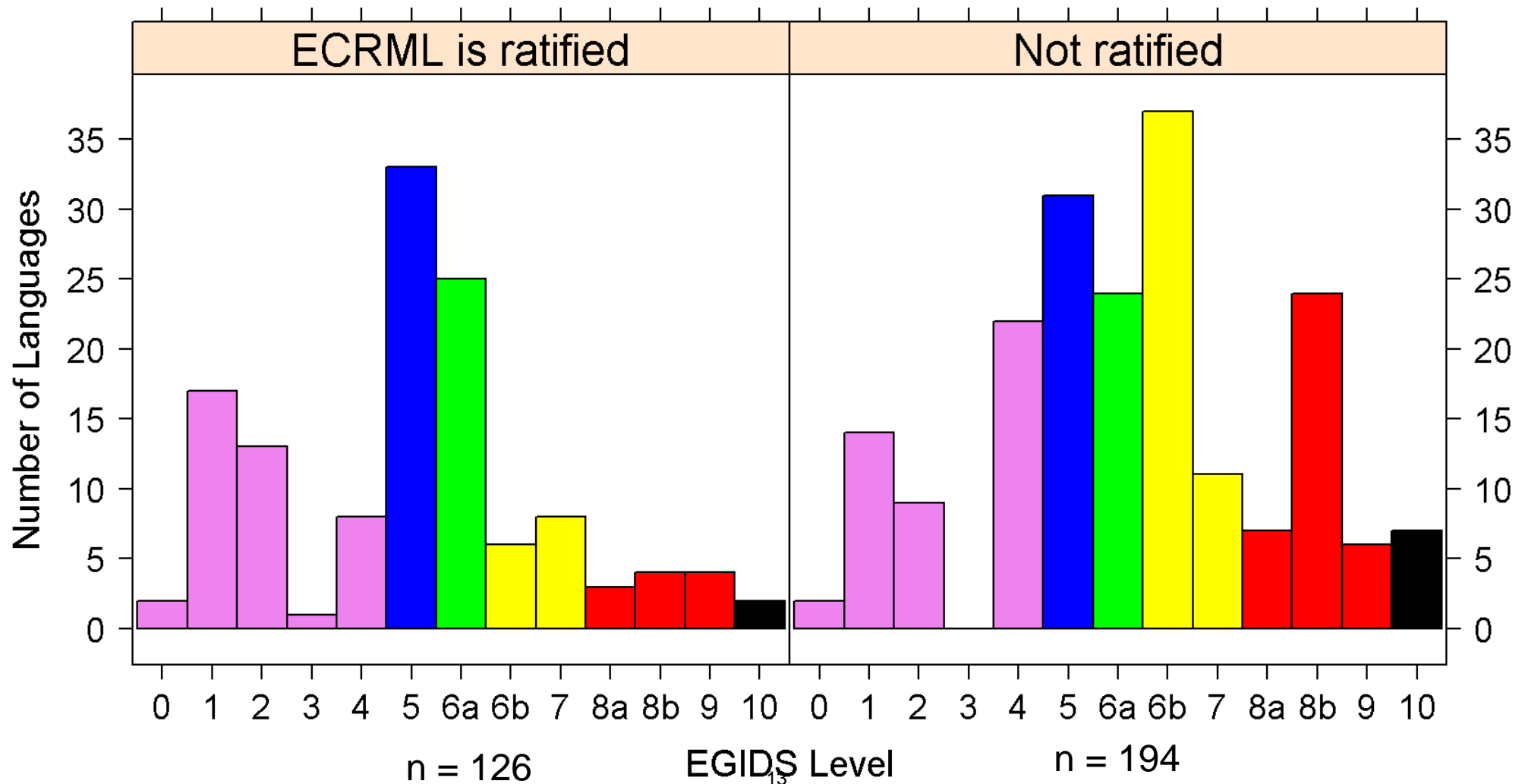


- Dark green — Both signed and ratified
- Light green — Signed, but not ratified
- White — Neither signed nor ratified
- Gray — Not a member state

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Charter_for_Regional_or_Minority_Languages

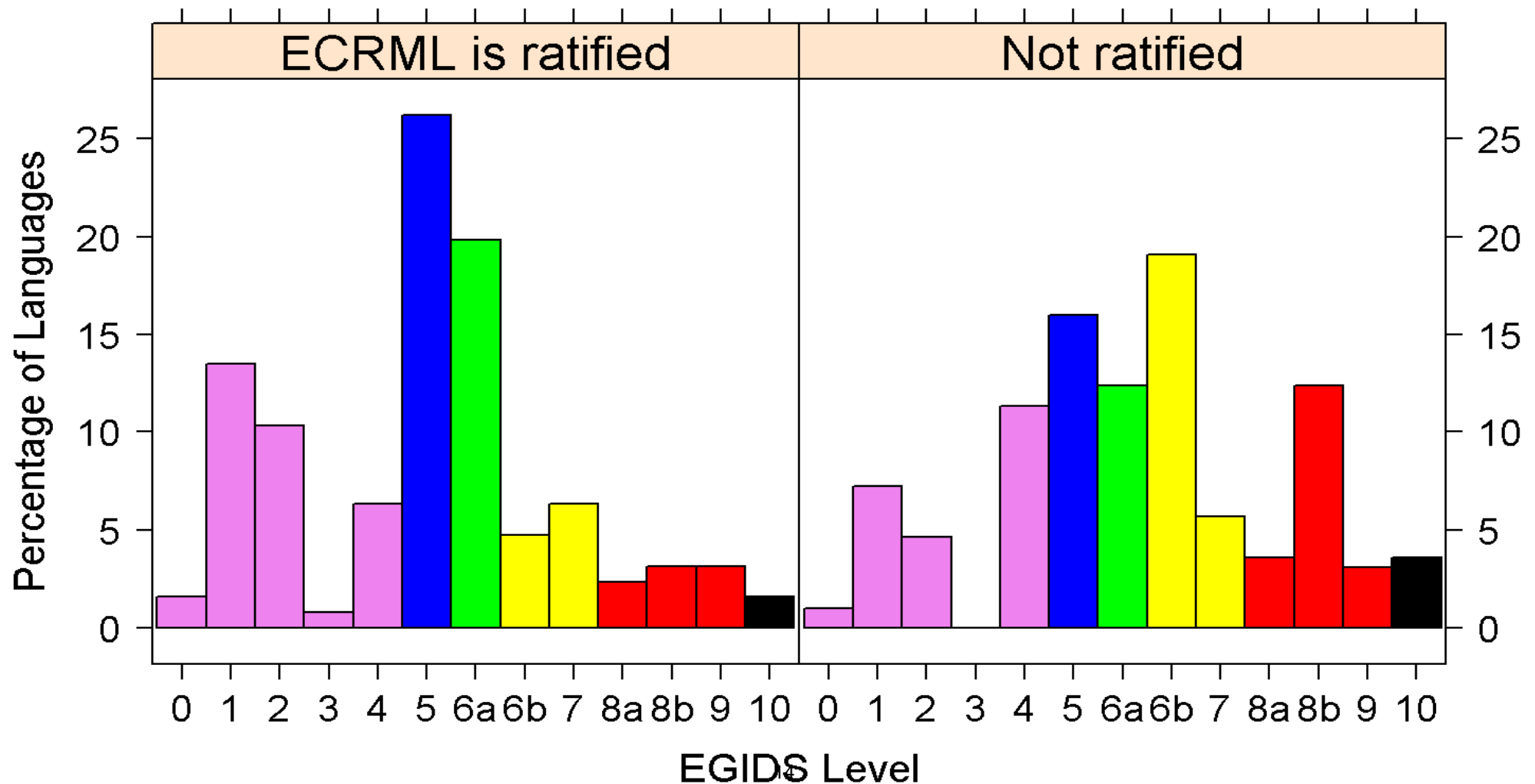


Language status in countries that have ratified ECRML vs. those that have not





Language status in countries that have ratified ECRML vs. those that have not (%)



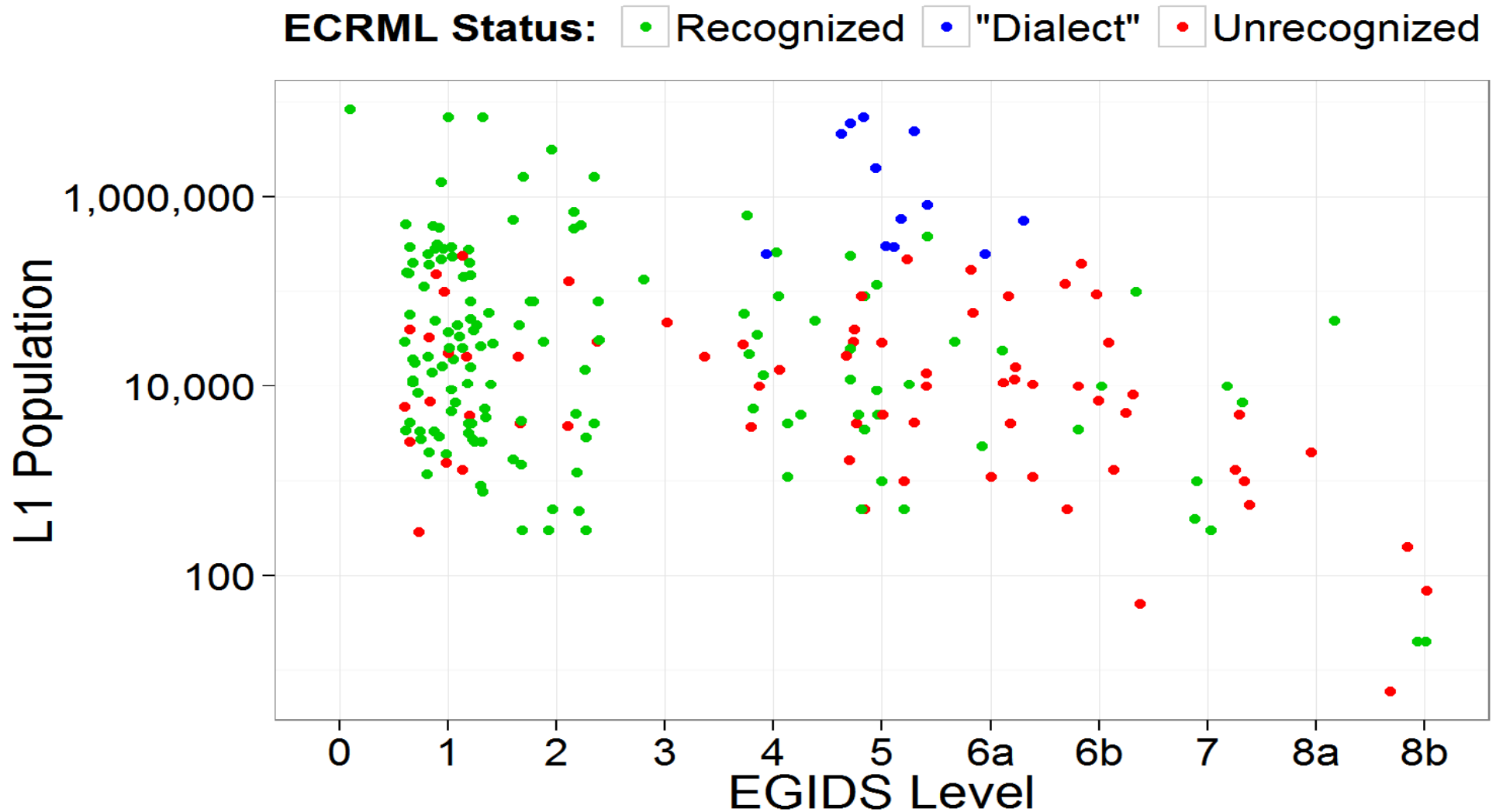


Much more language endangerment where ECRML is not ratified

Language status	ECRML is ratified		Not ratified	
Institutional	41 (33%)		47 (24%)	
Developing or Vigorous	58 (46%)		55 (28%)	
In trouble, Dying, or Extinct	27 (21%)		92 (47%)	
Totals	126		194	



Language status in ECRML countries



Which languages are recognized?

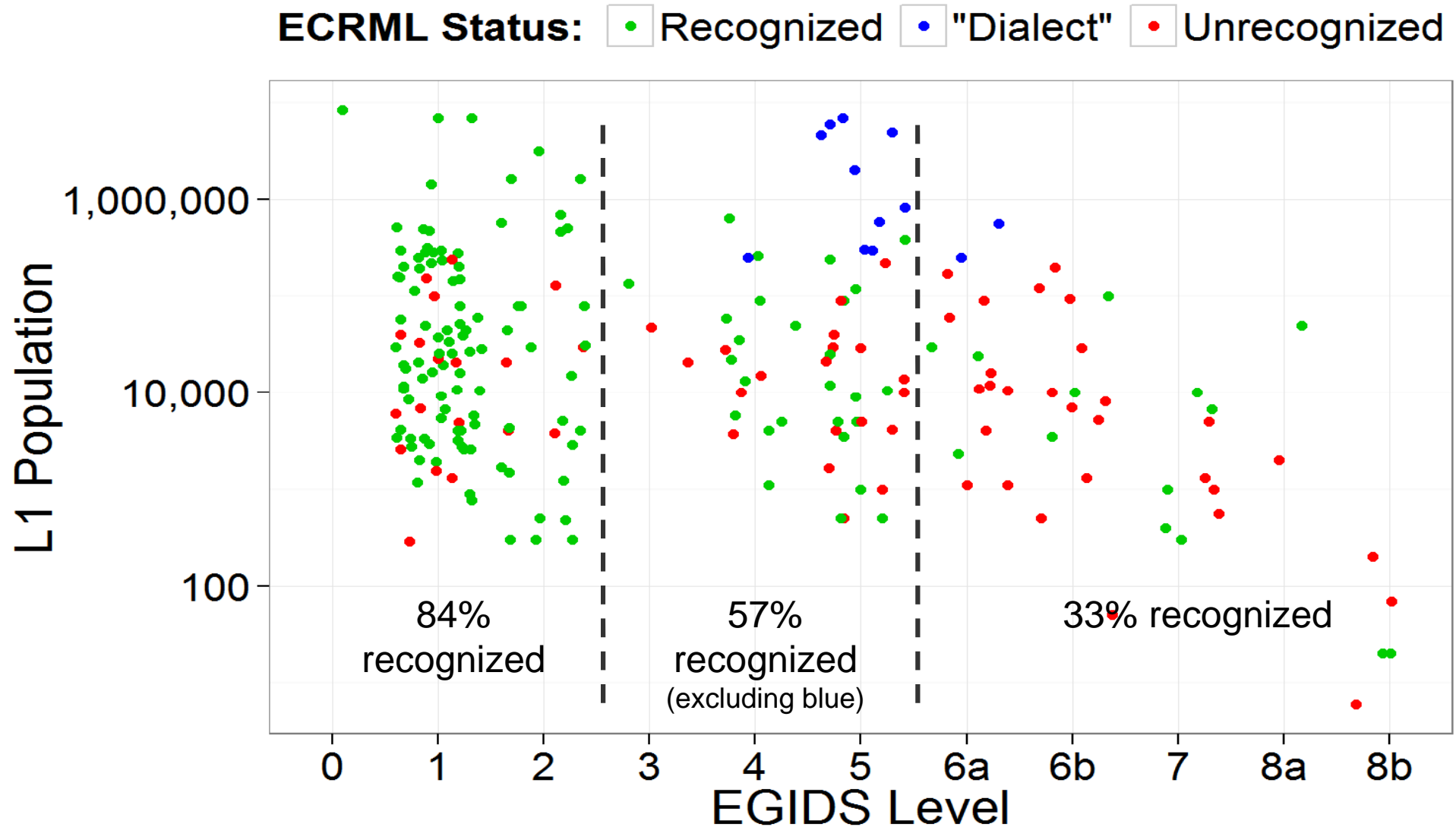
- Official languages (EGIDS 1,2) of other countries
 - 84% (99 of 118) are recognized vs. 40% (41 of 102) for other languages
 - 100% of those with a population over 250,000 are recognized
- 0% are recognized if the government considers them to be a dialect of the national language
(= blue dots on the scatter plot)

Which languages are recognized?

- For languages not official in any country and not a dialect of the national language
 - 46% (41 of 90) are recognized with a greater preference for larger languages
 - 50,000 and higher: 60% (12 of 20) are recognized
 - Under 50,000: 41% (29 of 70) are recognized
 - And a greater preference for languages that are
 - written and vital
 - » EGIDS 3–5: 57% (27 of 47) are recognized
 - » EGIDS 6a–8b: 33% (14 of 43) are recognized



Language status in ECRML countries



Summary & Conclusions

- The profile of Europe is unique, with a preponderance of developed and developing languages.
- Policy makes a difference in language maintenance and development though it is not by itself a sufficient cause.
- In spite of a policy focus on minority/minoritized languages, already Institutionalized languages receive more recognition than do less developed languages.
- The perilously endangered languages continue to receive less attention than needed.
- The EGIDS categories applied to the ECMRL recognitions are helpful in pointing out the tendency of governments to recognize the already strong and to fail to notice the weakest of the weak.



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Thank You!

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