

V Coalition statistics

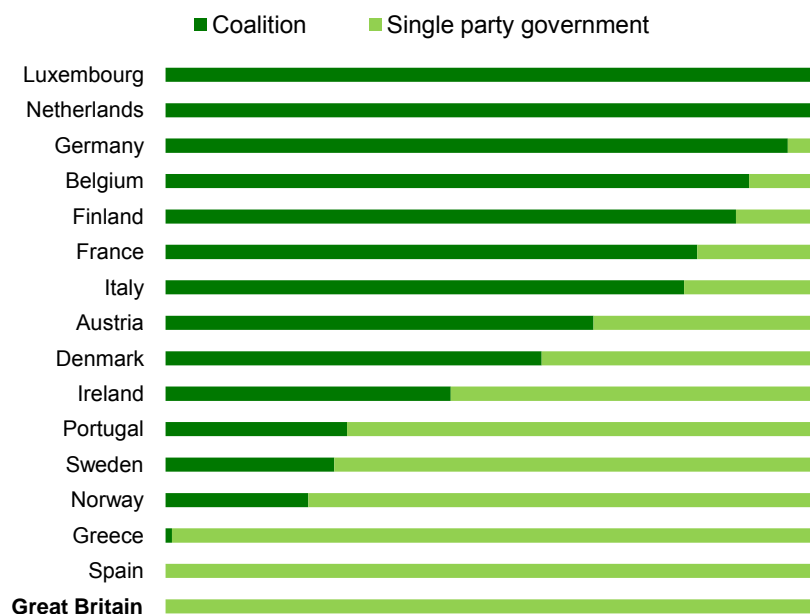
- Following the May 2010 General Election, the UK has a coalition government for the first time in decades.
- The UK is unusual in that it has rarely had a coalition government, unlike many countries in Europe. In some countries – for example the Netherlands or Germany – coalition governments are the norm. While some coalitions do not last long, others hold for many years.
- In the devolved legislatures in the UK single-party majority governments are not typical. The SNP have a minority government in Scotland. In Wales there is a coalition government between Labour and Plaid Cymru. In Northern Ireland the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein share power.
- Another place where coalitions are common is local government – there is no party with overall control in more than one-quarter of councils in Britain.

Percentage of councils with no overall control following May 2010 elections

London boroughs	6%
Metropolitan boroughs	42%
County councils	4%
Unitary authorities	33%
Shire districts	18%
England total	20%
Welsh unitary authorities	59%
Scottish unitary authorities	84%
Great Britain total	28%

Rallings & Thrasher (Local elections handbook 2009), House of Commons Library

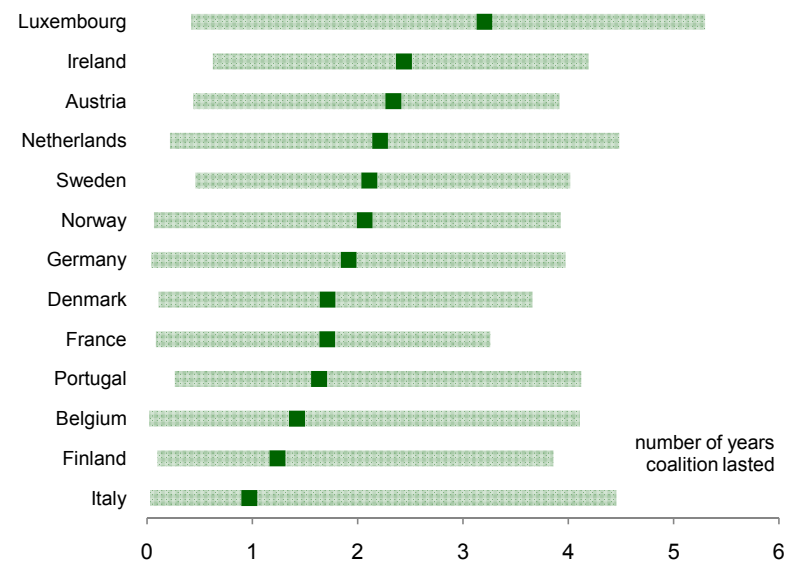
Amount of time spent by Western European governments in coalition, 1945-1999



Muller and Strom: Coalition governments in western Europe

Duration of coalitions in western European countries, 1945-1999

Point shows mean duration of coalition cabinets in each country and bar shows range of lengths of time they have lasted



Muller and Strom: Coalition governments in western Europe