

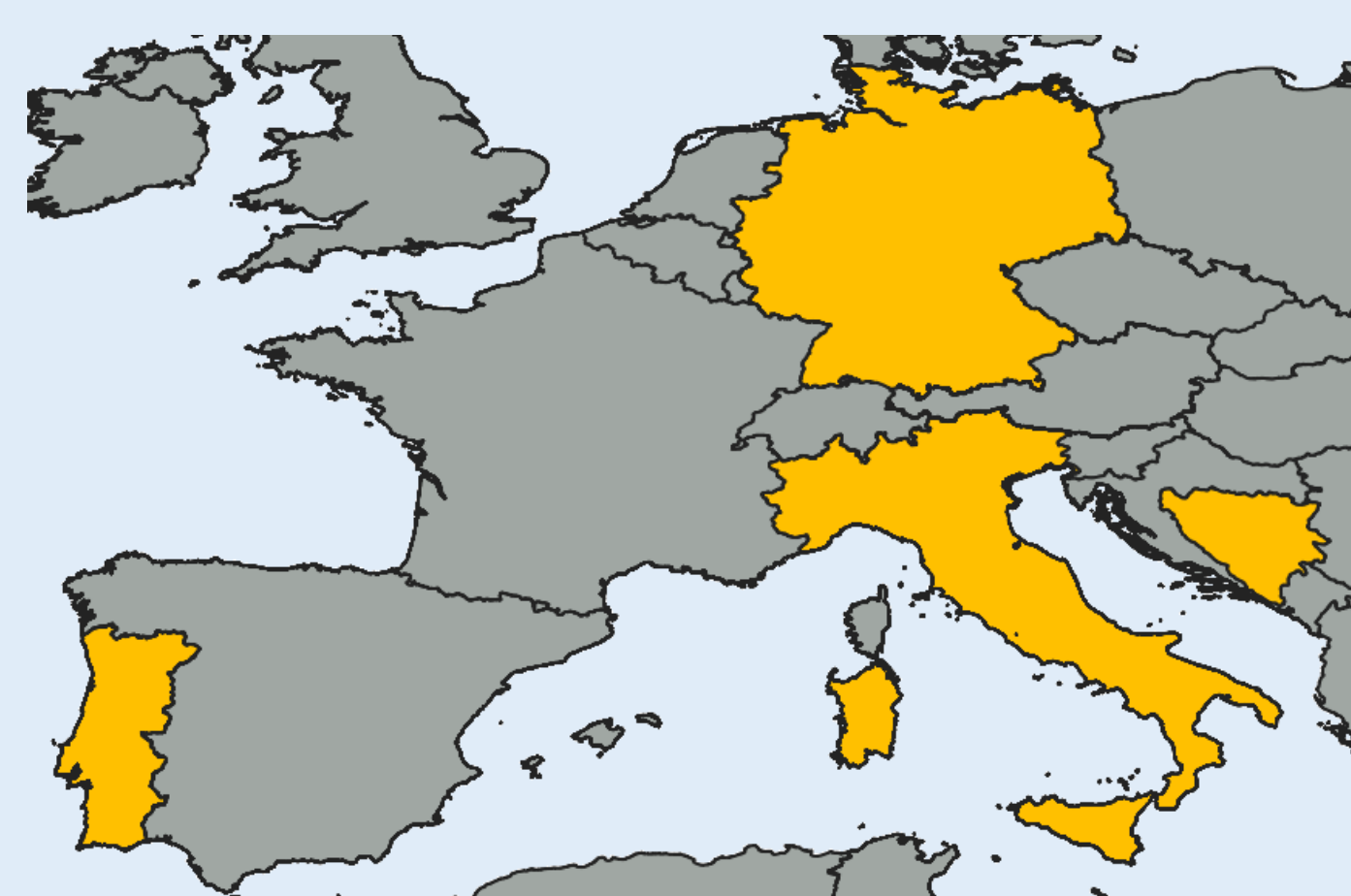
# Accent Discrimination and Attitudes to World Englishes Among High School Students From Four European Countries

Halves, T.; Fuchs, R.; Meer, P.; Altendorf, L.; Antunes, J.; Brdarević-Čeljo, A.; Calamai, S.; Cavalheiro, L.; Dubravac, V.; Guerra, L.; Köhler, P.; Matz, F.; Melgão, L.; Nodari, R.; Pereira, R.; Schilling, J.; Soria, C.; Stoddard, B.; Wirbatz, K.

## Relevance

### Accent discrimination

- Accent affects perceived competence and warmth [1][2][3]
- Shapes consequential decisions in educational and professional settings [1][2][3]
- These social cues are learned and reproduced in school [4][5]
- Project in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Germany, Italy, Portugal
- Represent different European contexts of English education



## Method

- **School students** aged ~15/16 heard 9 different English accents in a verbal guise test
- **Rated** speakers on 9 items: *friendly, competent, intelligible, arrogant, educated, pleasant, correct, prestigious, fluent*
- Principal Component Analysis conducted on the ratings
- **Regression** analysis to determine effects of relevant predictors

Category	Accents
Inner Circle Standard	Standard American English, Standard British English
Inner Circle Non-Standard	African American English, Multicultural London English
Outer Circle	Indian English, Nigerian English
Expanding Circle	Relevant E. C. Englishes (e.g., Turkish English in Germany) and local accent (e.g., German English in Germany)

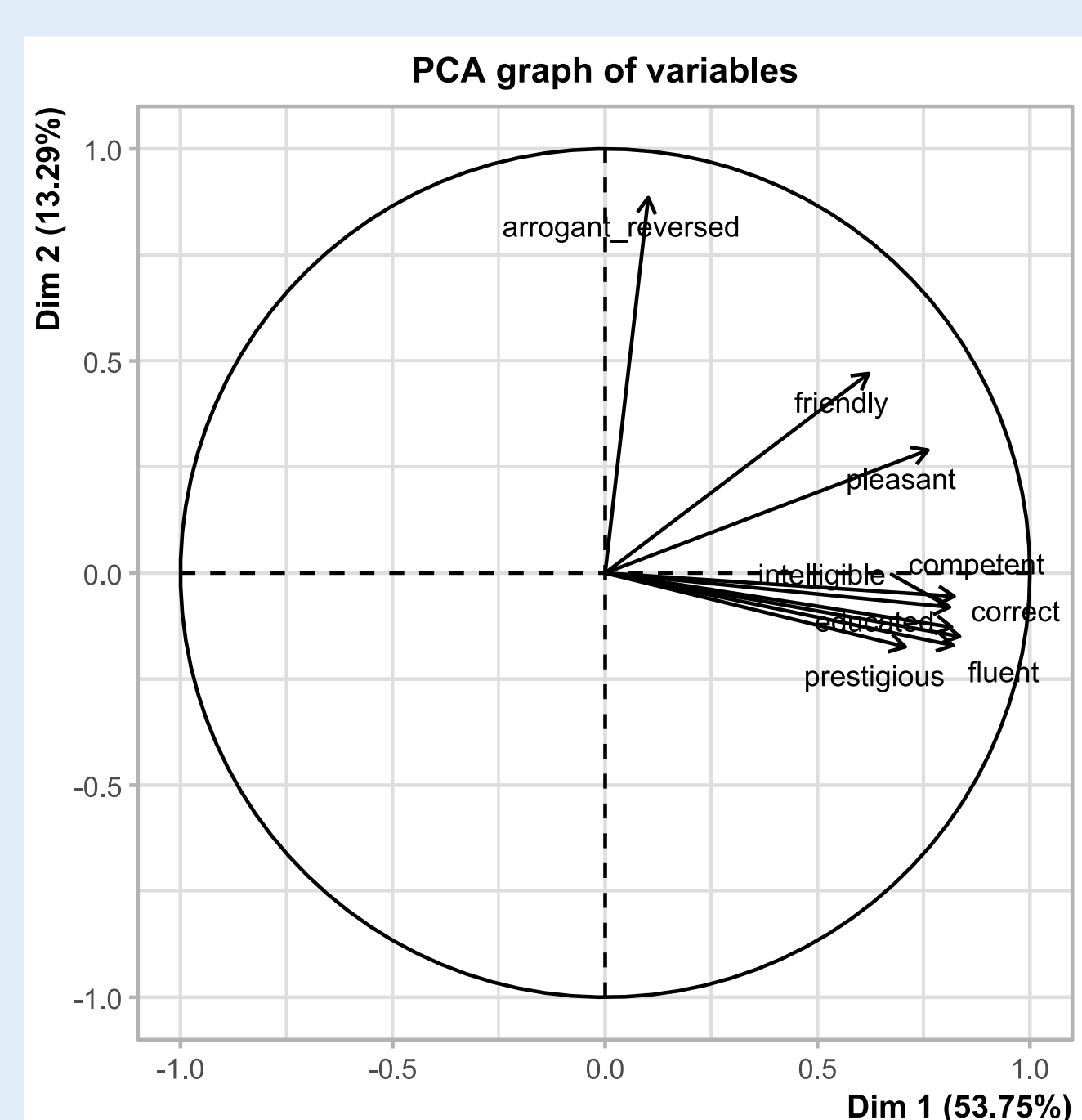
## Results

### Two dimensions:

**1. SOCIAL STATUS**  
*correct, competent, educated, ...*

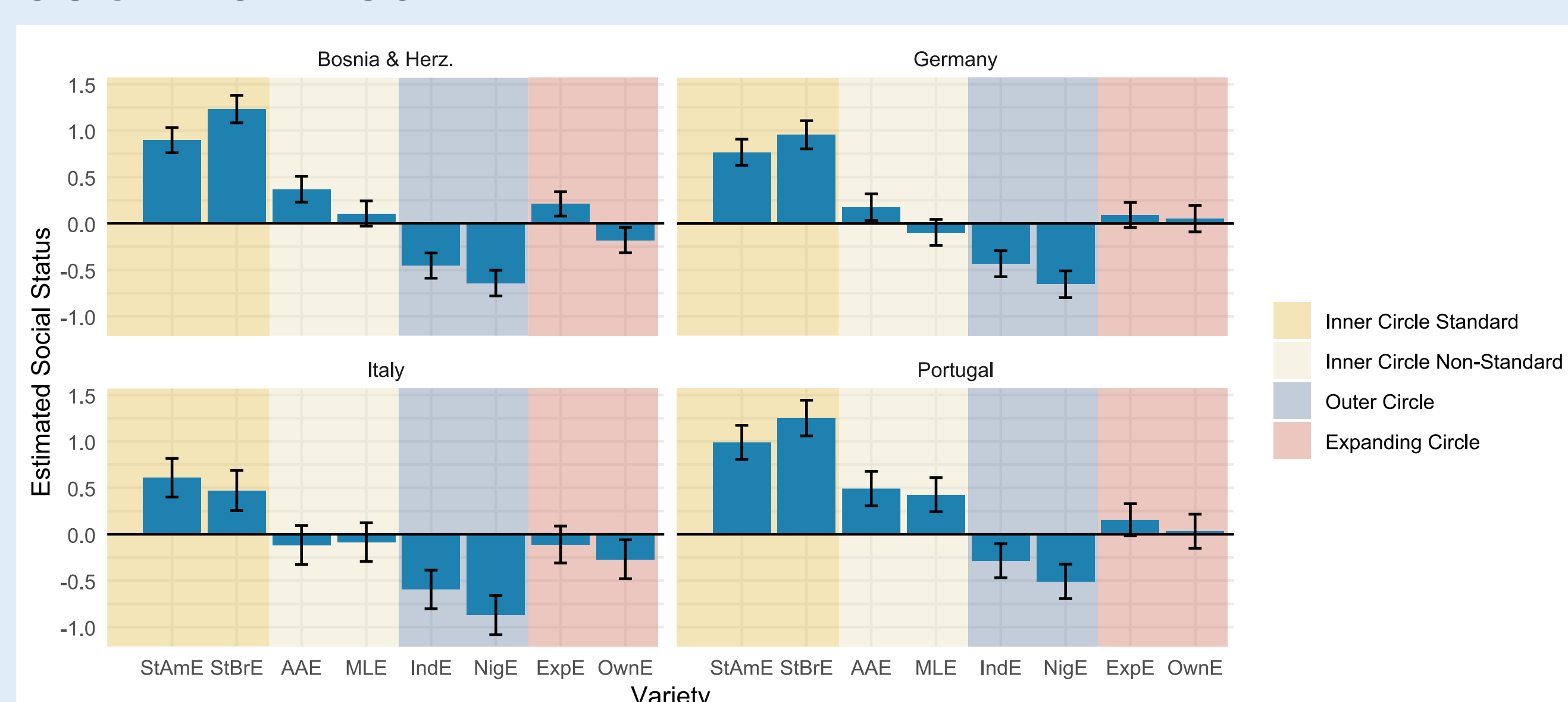


**2. SOCIAL ATTRACTIVENESS**  
*not arrogant, friendly*

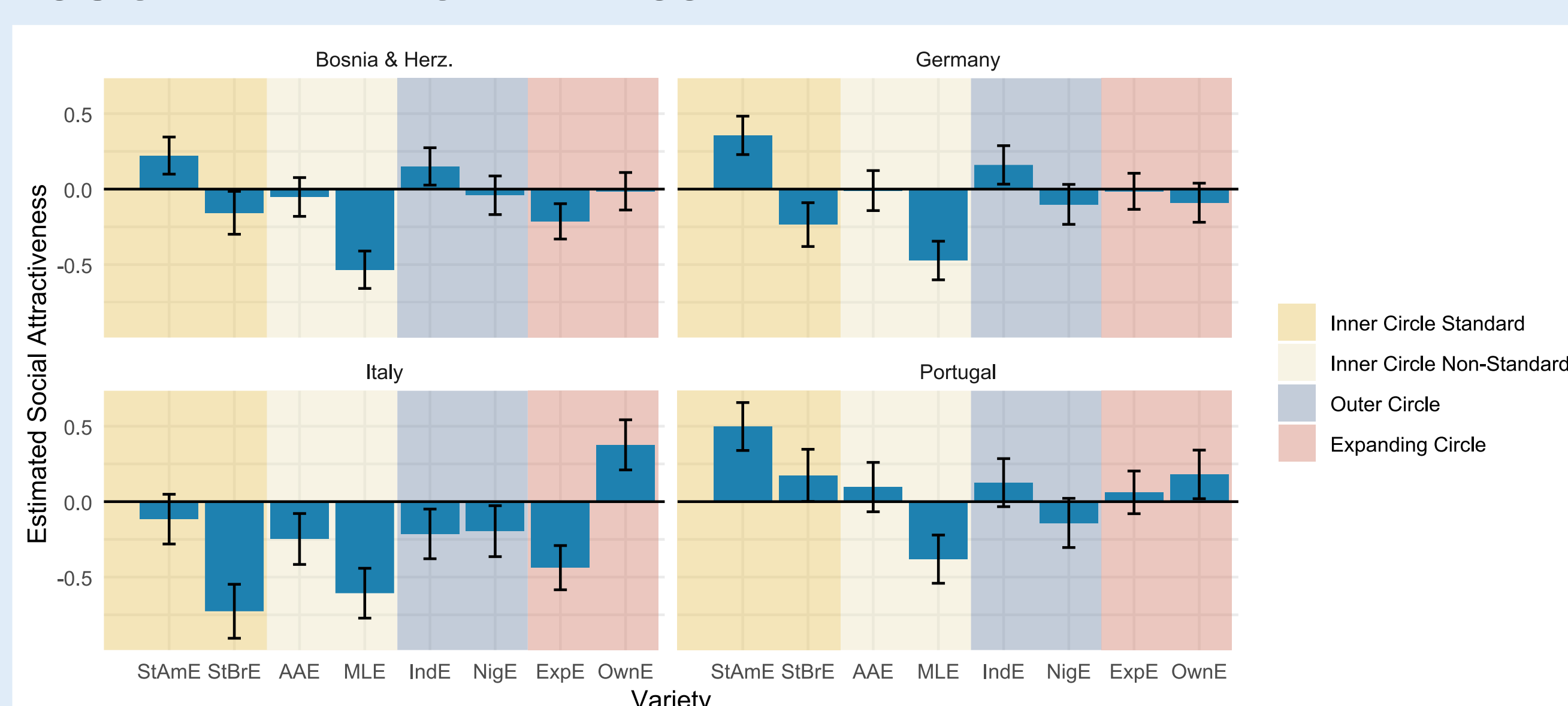


- **Inner Circle standard** accents rated positively, **Outer Circle** accents rated negatively on **social status**
- **StAmE, IndE** rated positively on **social attractiveness** in three countries
- **Local accent** rated positively in Italy and Portugal, neutrally in Bosnia & Herz., negatively in Germany on **social attractiveness**
- Increased reported **familiarity with accents** associated with more positive overall ratings across both dimensions
- **International experience** effect significant but not consistent

### SOCIAL STATUS



### SOCIAL ATTRACTIVENESS



## Implications

- Students learn and reproduce accent discrimination
- Likely from parents, in school, in social environment
- **Counteracting accent discrimination** in education is vital
  - Implicit exposure to diverse accents and varieties of English
  - Explicit teaching about accent discrimination

**Our project produced a handbook for educators and teaching materials on accent discrimination!**

[circe-project.eu](http://circe-project.eu)

**Can you guess each speaker's accent?**



**Check out the CIRCE project's website!**



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