

# Family and Gender in Europe. Comparing South to North

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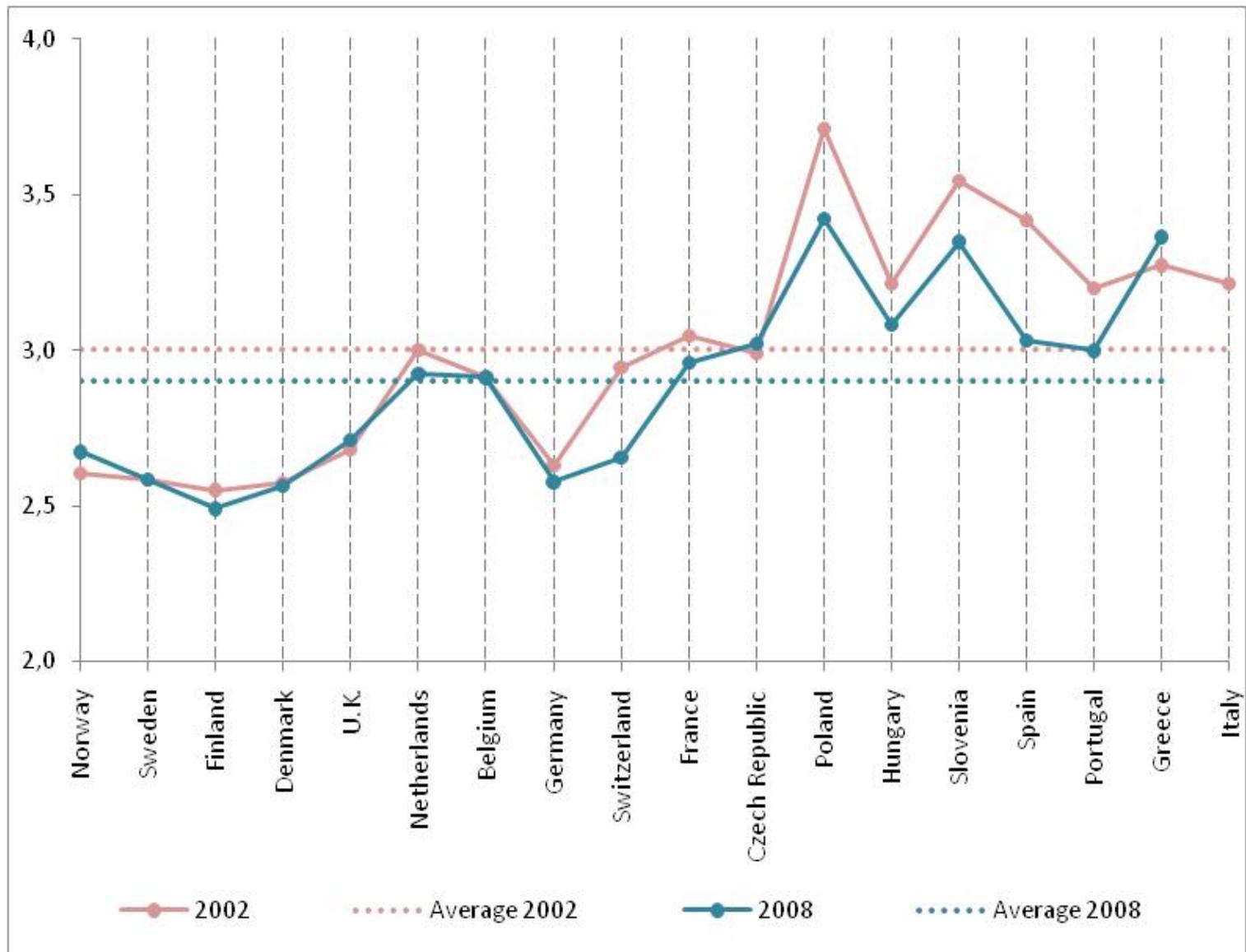
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Technical University of Lisbon

**Eighteenth International Conference of Europeanists**  
Session: Towards the End of the Mediterranean Welfare Model?

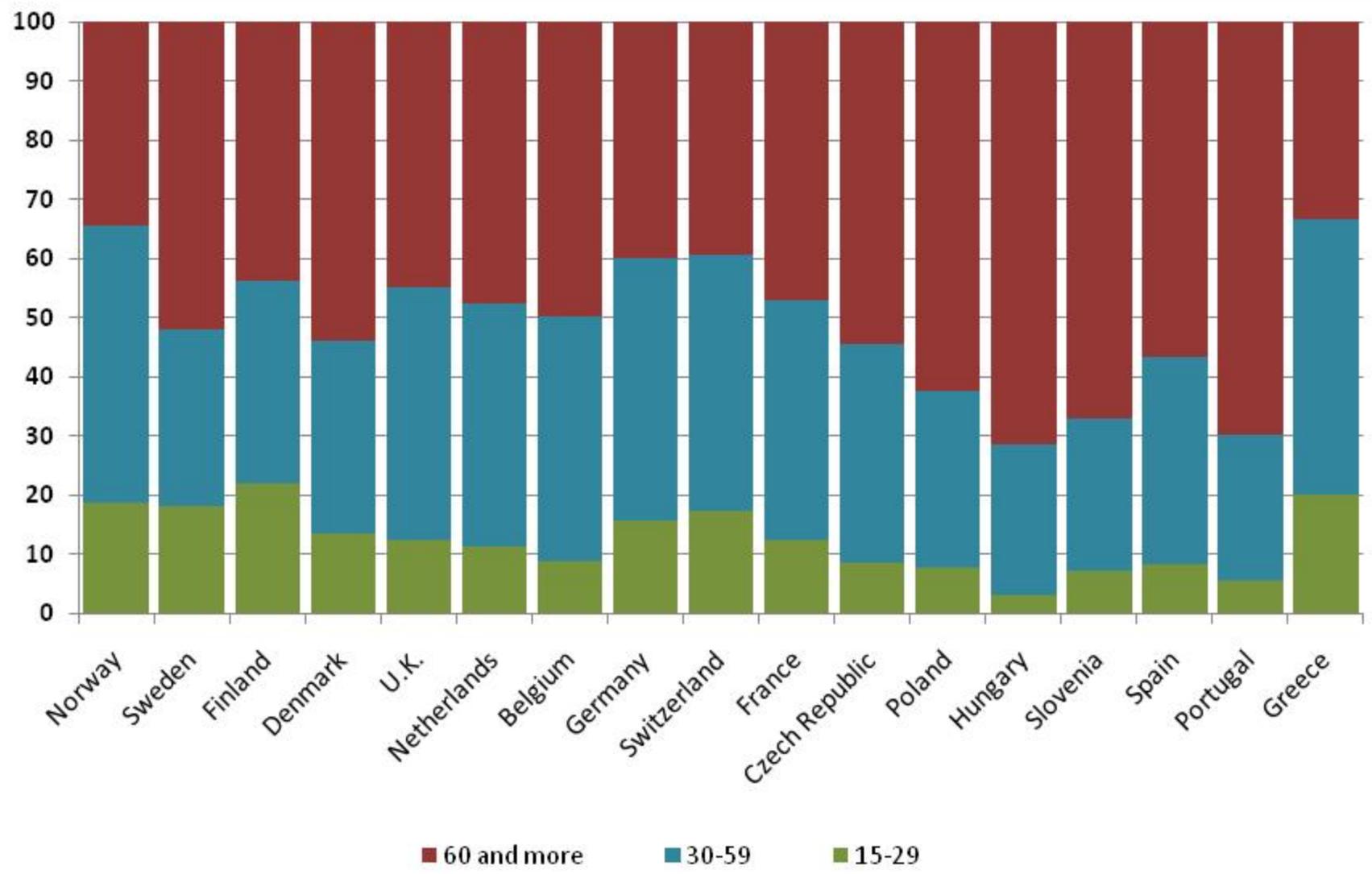
Barcelona, 22 June 2011

- Some trends about family change in Europe; comparing regions and countries to assess the impact of these changes on the welfare states.
- Fathers and mothers paid work and working hours in Europe.
- Discussing relation between fertility rate trends (in the last 20 years), female or mother's activity and social policies. Trends in the long run and what may contribute to explain them. Can policies be effective?
- Showing some value differences among generations and discussing their motives and their impacts.
- European Social Survey (2002, 2004, 2006, 2008) data and qualitative research on work and family.

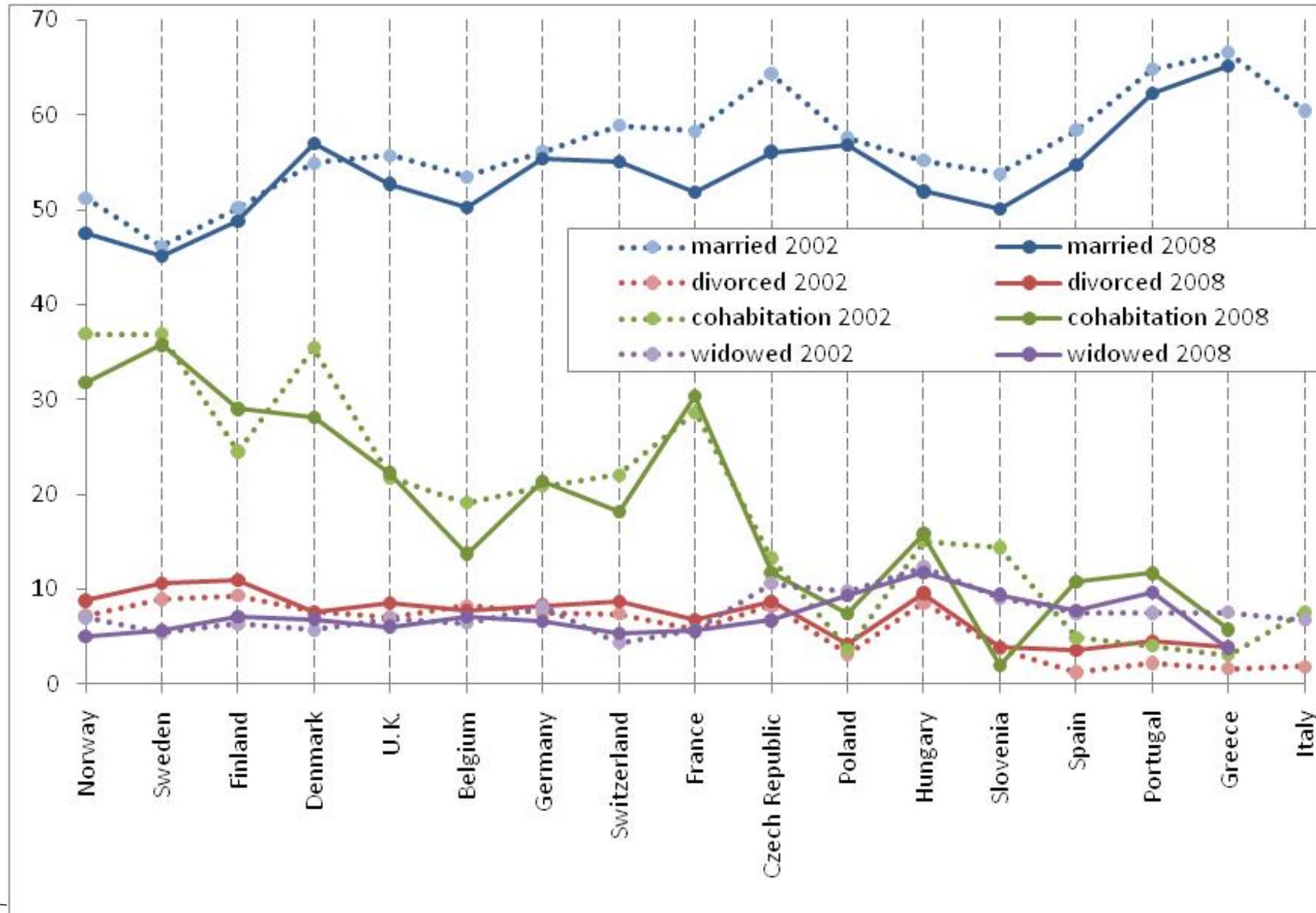
## Average number of household members (2002 and 2008)



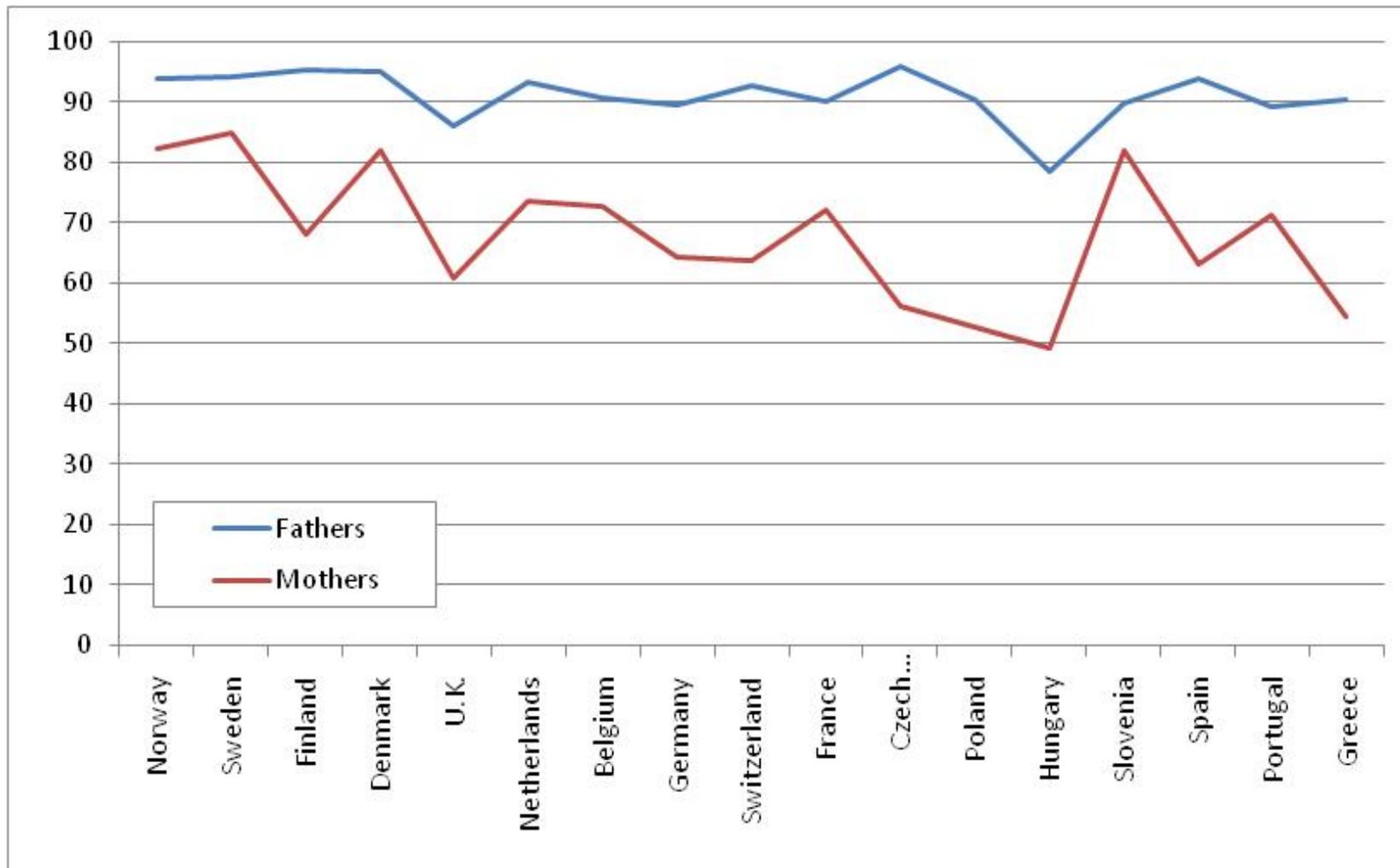
# Age of living alone (2008)



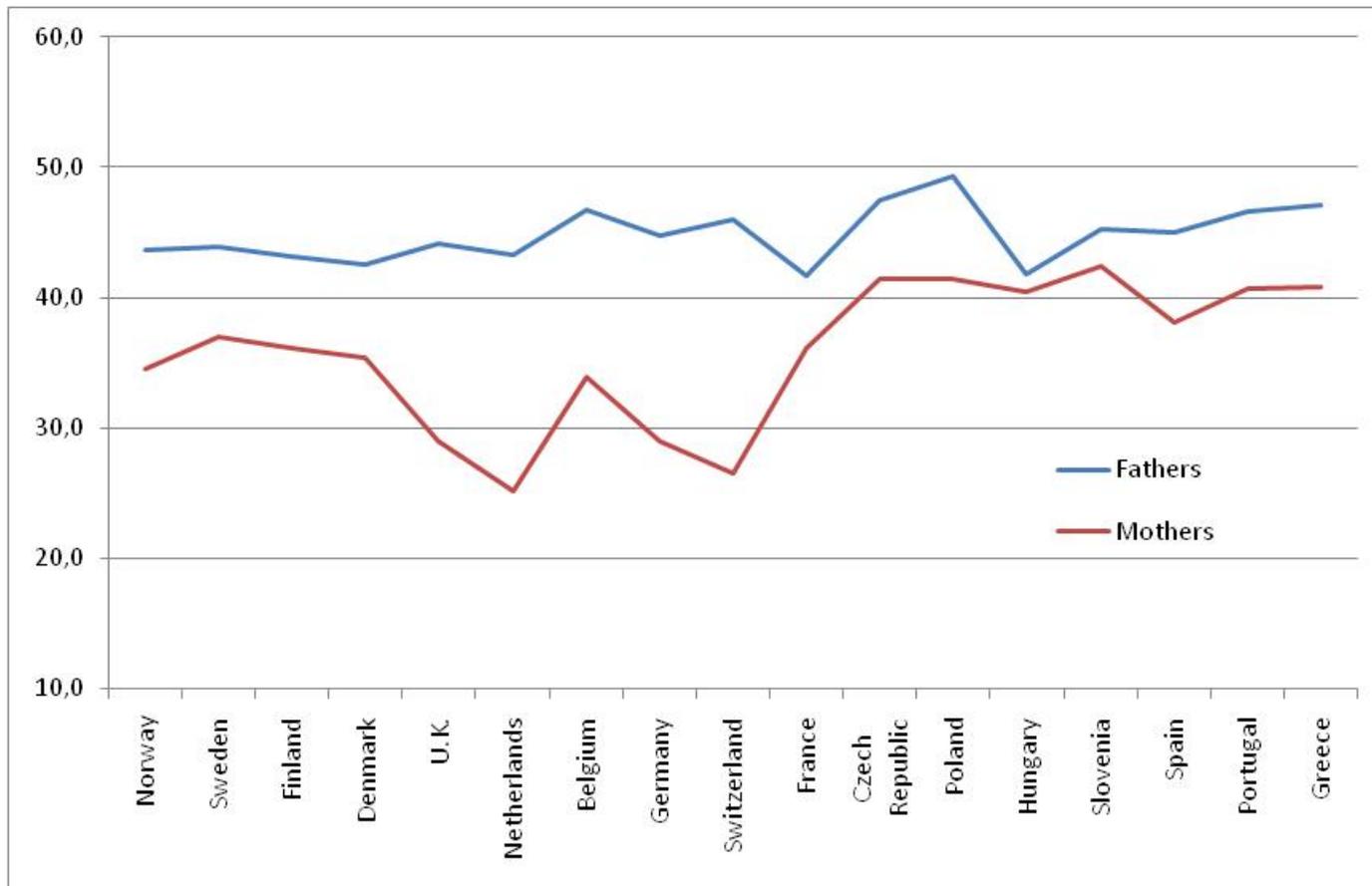
# Marriage, cohabitation, divorce and widowed (2002 and 2008) - %



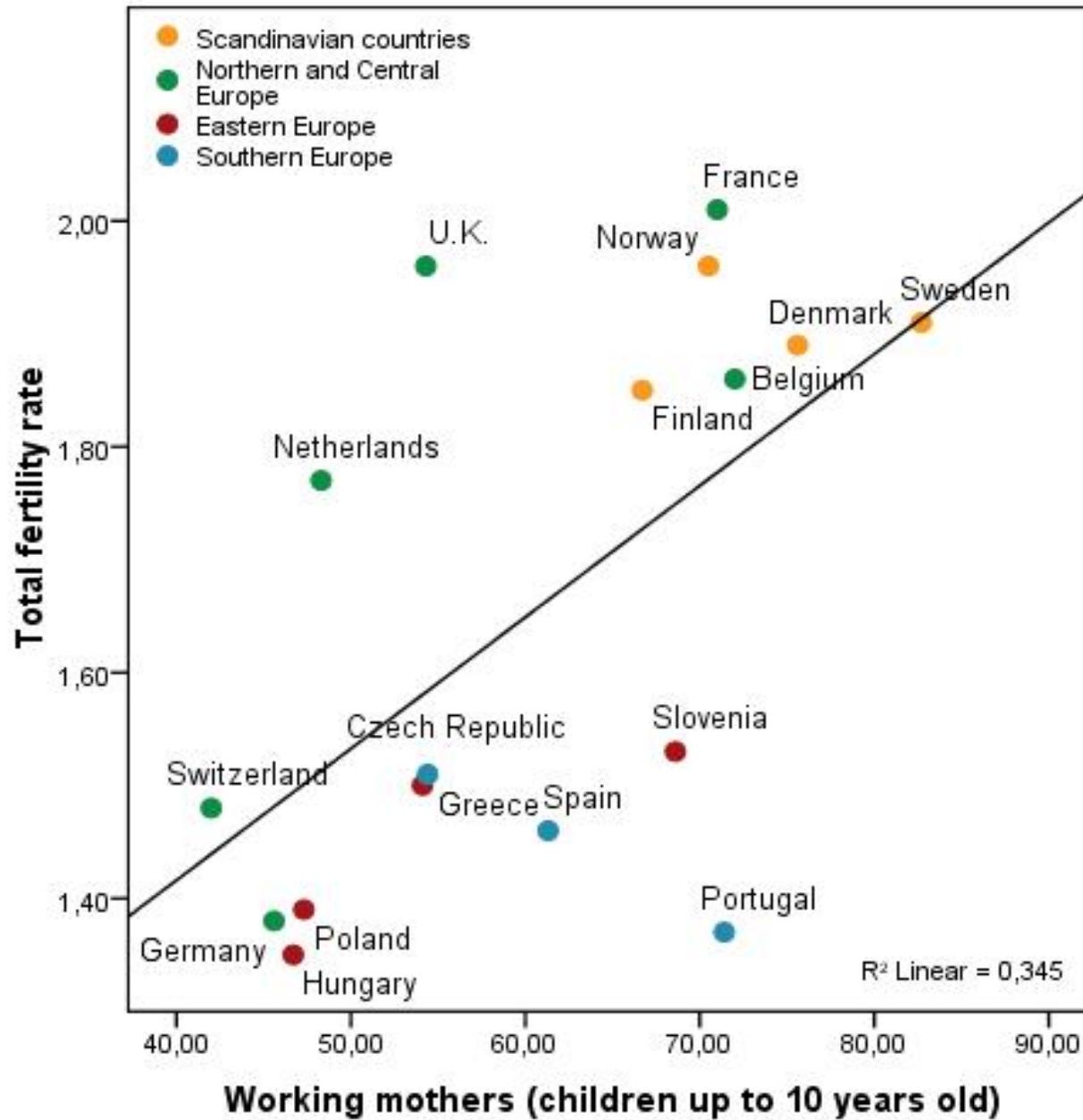
Mothers and fathers of children under 10 who carried out paid work in the preceding 7 days (%), 2008



## Average hours of work of mothers and fathers with children under 10, 2008

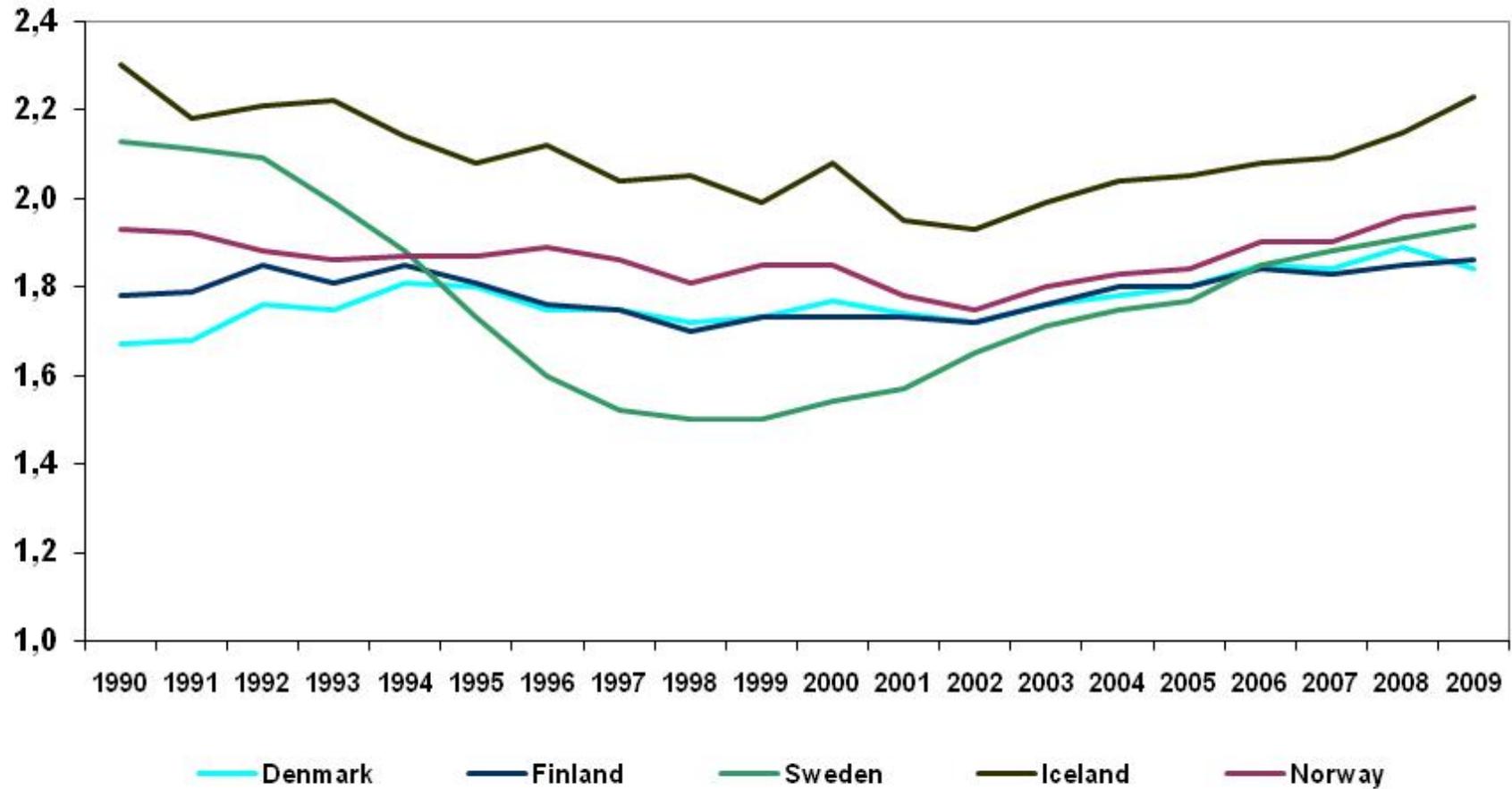


Total fertility rate and working mothers (2008)

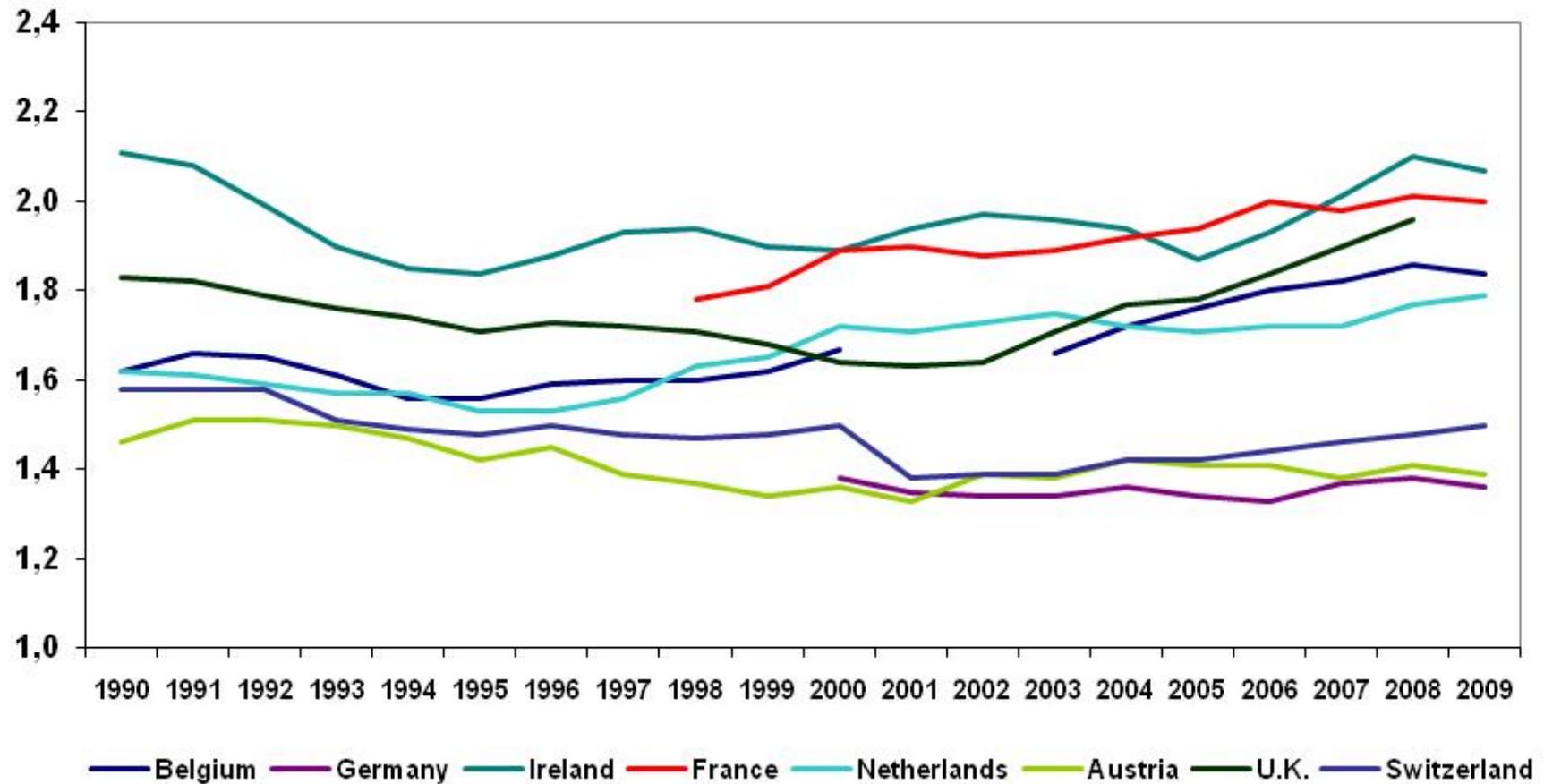


- **Fertility trends in the last 20 years in Europe. The relevance of historical dynamics of change in each country or group of countries.**
- **Long term structural dynamics in each country. But also specific effects: changes in politics and policies.**
- **Or historical and cultural dimensions: the strength of feminist movements (differences among countries); or some backlash effects (Eastern countries) motherhood ideologies (Germany) , etc.**
- **The relation between employment, unemployment, fertility rate and policies.**

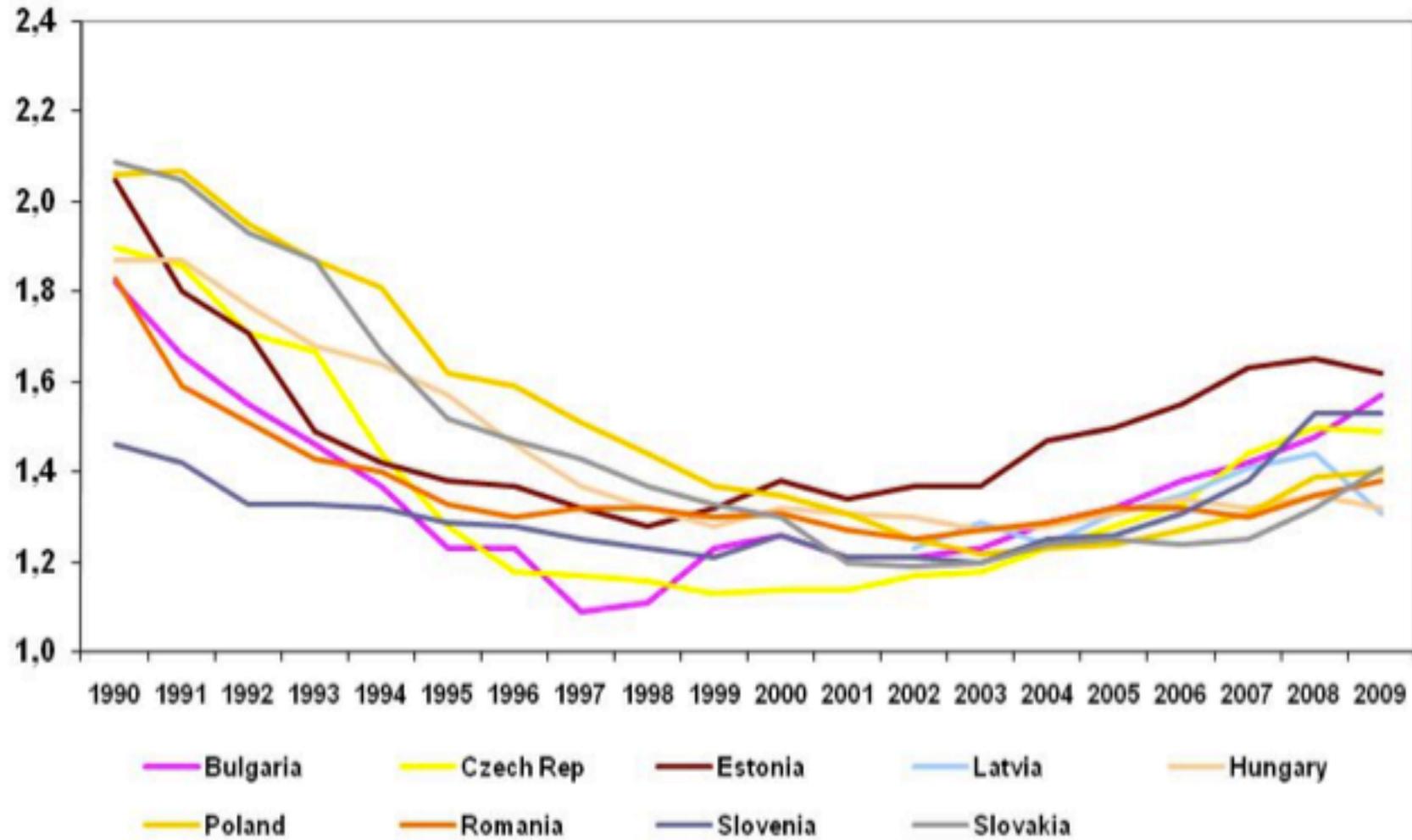
## Scandinavian countries fertility rate



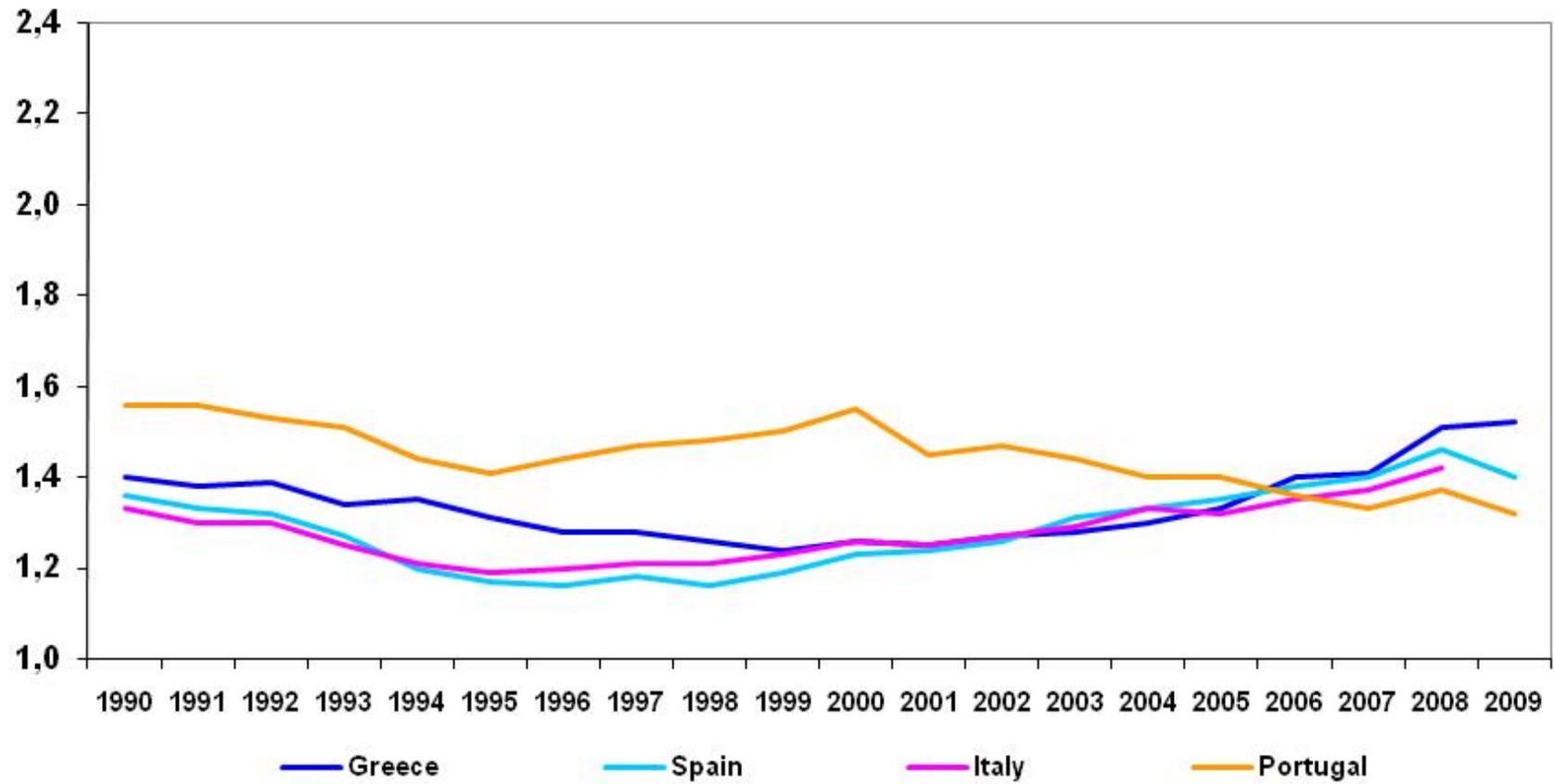
## Northern and Central Europe fertilty rate



## Eastern Europe fertility rate

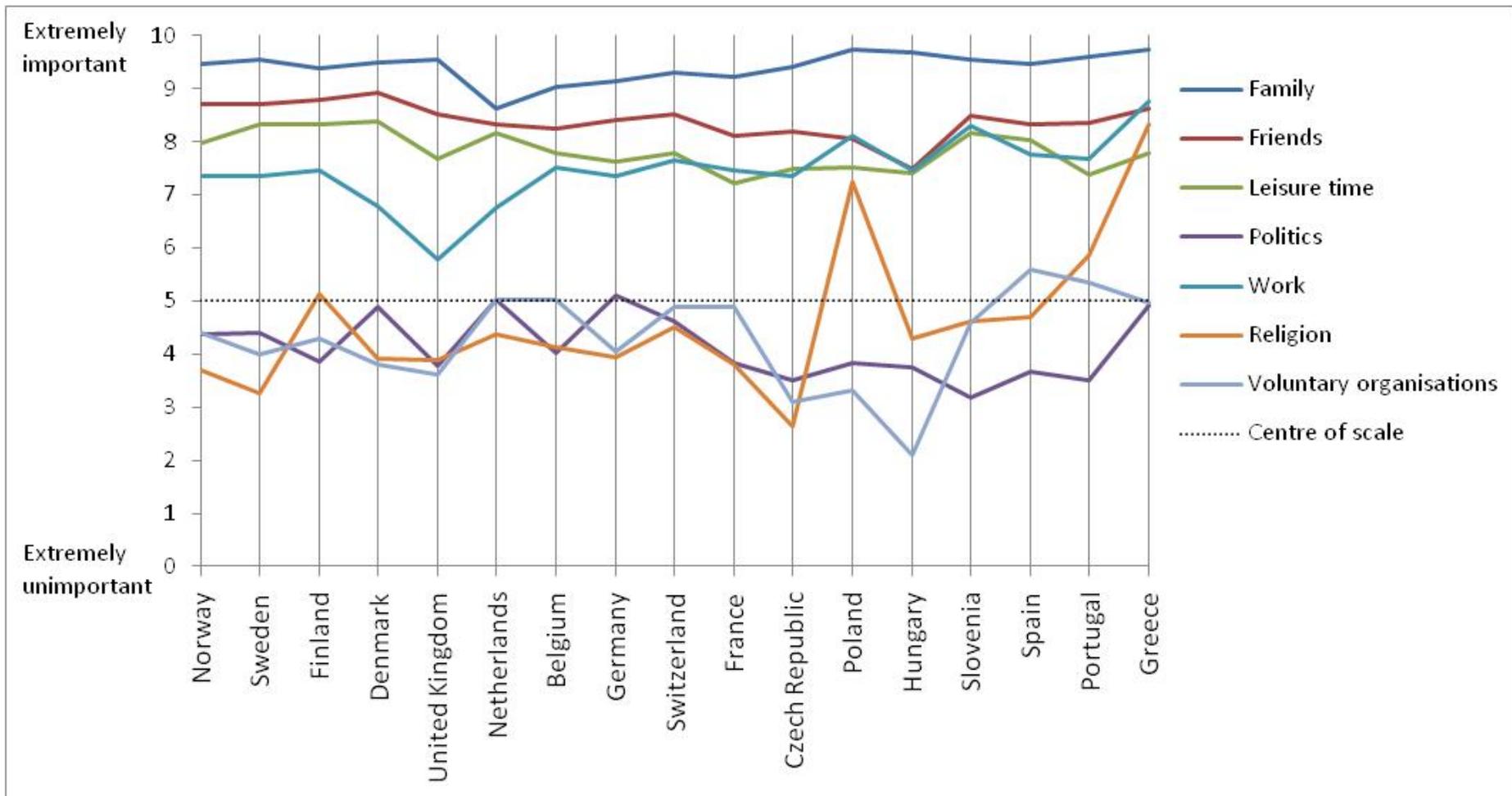


## Southern Europe fertility rate



- Do Europeans value Family?
- And what about differences between generations?

## Average importance of each aspect in life (2002)



## Values (ESS, 2006) - %

	Disapproves if person chooses not to have children			Disapproves if a person lives with an unmarried partner		
	Bust Generation (15-34)	Boom Generation (35 - 64 )	War Generation (65+)	Bust Generation (15-34)	Boom Generation (35 - 64)	War Generation (65+)
Sweden	6,6	4,7	12,5	3,1	2,8	4,3
Finland	7,9	14,7	27,5	4,9	4,5	20,6
Netherlands	10,1	12,3	21,3	9,7	10,7	17,6
Germany	18,5	20,5	37,2	6,1	7,2	19,8
Uk	9,1	4,7	12,4	10,4	9,9	29,7
Spain	<b>20,3</b>	<b>22,2</b>	<b>41,7</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>10,5</b>	<b>44,3</b>
Portugal	<b>16,6</b>	<b>23,0</b>	<b>34,1</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>11,3</b>	<b>24,9</b>

## Values (ESS, 2006) - %

	Dissapproves if a person has children with an unmarried partner			Dissapproves if a person has a full-time job and the children are younger than 3 years old		
	Bust Generation (15-34)	Boom Generation (35 - 64)	War Generation (65+)	Bust Generation (15-34)	Boom Generation (35 - 64)	War Generation (65+)
Sweden	6,1	4,4	10,7	15,2	13,1	22,7
Finland	<b>6,6</b>	8,6	<b>27,0</b>	5,5	6,5	14,2
Netherlands	11,1	13,6	23,8	26,8	29,1	37,0
Germany	12,2	12,9	28,4	24,3	26,7	31,5
UK	11,6	18,0	39,9	14,6	17,6	37,8
Spain	<b>6,6</b>	14,1	<b>47,0</b>	14,2	15,3	21,6
Portugal	6,4	11,8	21,9	13,1	12,5	14,1

# Final Remarks

- **Several impacts of these family trends. On the welfare states and on political agendas. Policies (and politics) have an impact and they can facilitate or harm individual, family and societal well being.**
- **Family change in Europe follows the same patterns but with calendar differences and cultural variants. Global trends of individualization, different forms of coupling, lesser valorisation of formal and institutionalized marital and family relationships.**
- **The participation of women in the labour market is not a constrain to a higher fertility rate, on the contrary, it is a factor that seems to enhance it. Policies do have effects.**

- **Fertility trends have to be explained by the interaction of different social dimensions.**
- **Family is the main sphere of personal investment both for men and women. What is changing is the family models, the meanings and forms of investment in the family. The importance of feelings and emotional life is globally stressed - family, friends, leisure.**
- **Differences among generations are relevant especially in southern countries.**