

MEN AND WOMEN BETWEEN FAMILY AND WORK.

SOME RECENT DATA FROM EUROPEAN SOCIAL SURVEY 2002

Lisbon Workshop on
Contemporary Families
March 2005
ESA

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1) Individualization:

- ◆ Size of the family
- ◆ Autonomy of young people
- ◆ Formal and informal ties
- ◆ The gender balance. Are women more individualised?

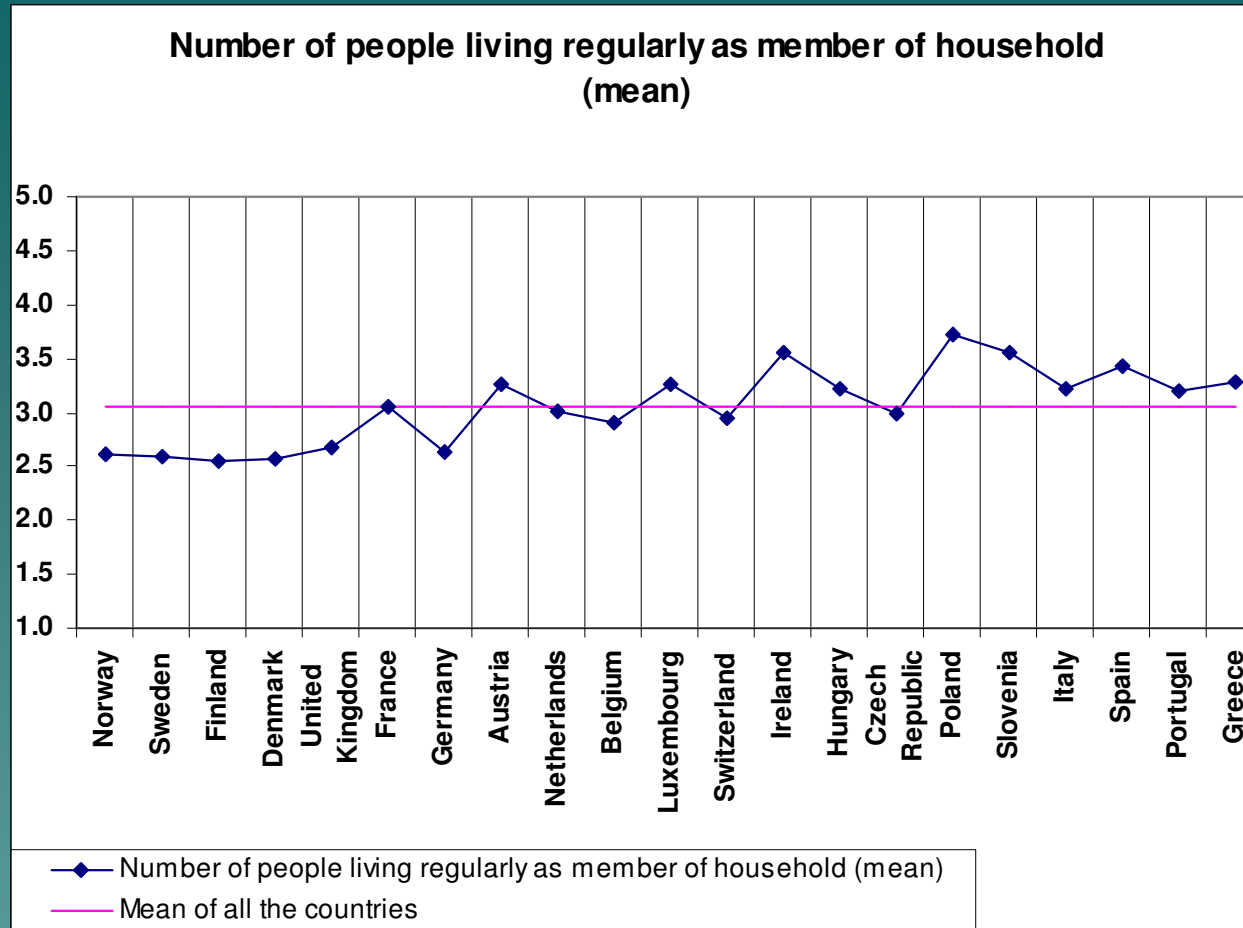
Are there consistent differences between regions? Is the south so different from the north?

2) Differences between countries related to **women's activity**. Relations between **fertility** rate and **activity** rate.

- ◆ What happened to the traditional “fertility” of the southern countries?

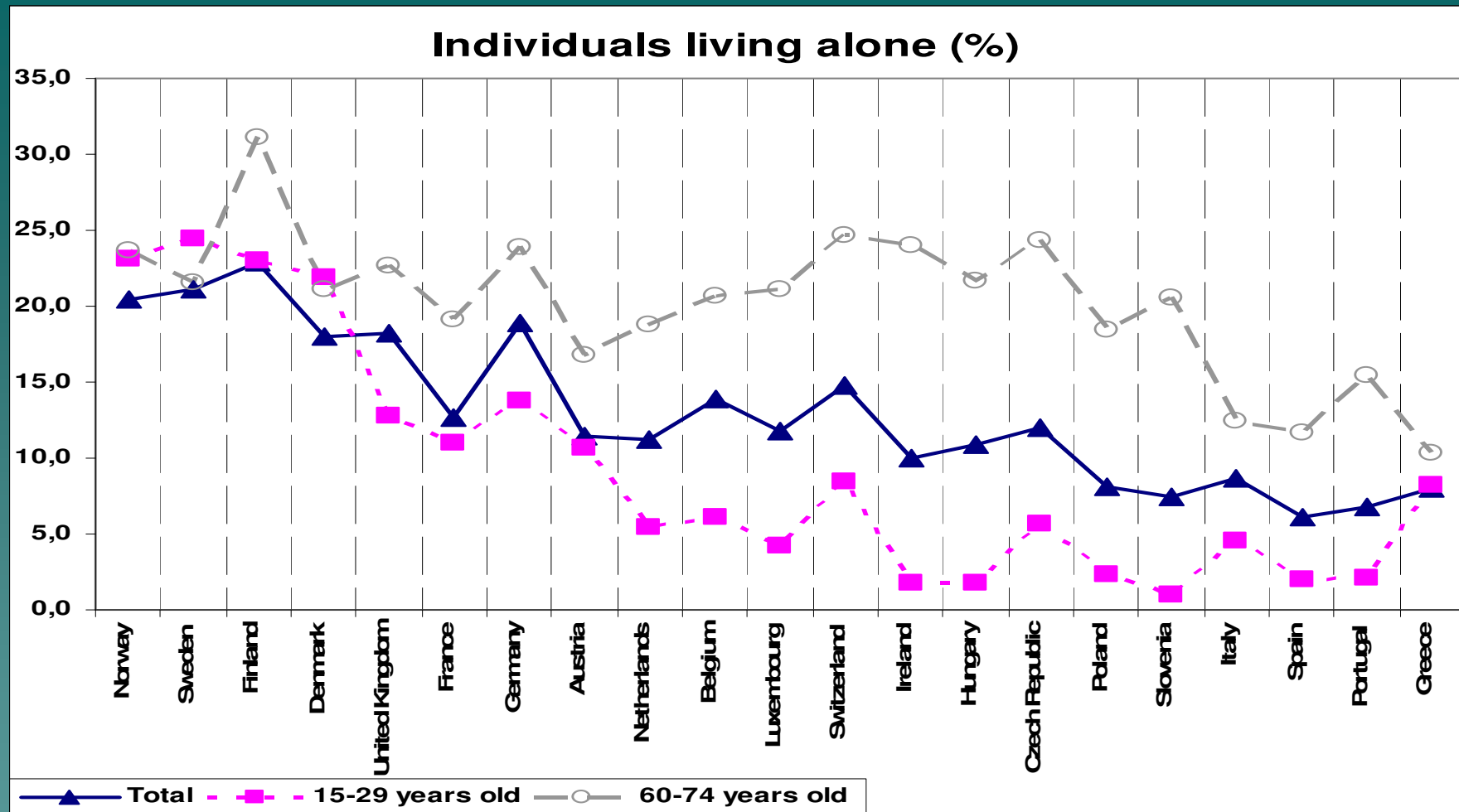
3) **Values**: Family, friends, leisure work, religion, politics, voluntary work...

- ◆ What is more important in life? What are the differences between men and women?



- Average size of the households in Europe: 3,03 persons.

- It continues to make some sense the distinction between north/south. The scandinavian countries present smaller households (2,6) than the south (3,3). But the differences are narrowing and they are not at all strong.



- ◆ People living alone: lesser in the south, and in the countries of the enlargement, but older. Younger and older in scandinavian and some northern countries.

	Average Europe (ESS)	Portugal	Sweden	United Kingdom
Married	57,8	64,9	46,1	55,7
Divorcee	5,1	2,2	8,9	7,1
Cohabitants	20,4	4,0	36,9	21,8

- Less formal ties in scandinavian and in the north than in the south
- The “state” of divorcee is transitory.

<p>Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark)</p>	<p>Northern and central Europe (United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ireland)</p>	<p>Eastern Europe (Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia)</p>	<p>Southern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smallest households - More people living alone - Younger people more autonomous - Less marriage - More informal relationships - More divorce - Higher fertility rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium size households - Medium percentages of people living alone - Younger people a bit more autonomous (except Ireland) - Medium percentages of married people - Medium percentages of informal relationships - More divorce (except Ireland) - Average fertility rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bigger households - Less people living alone - Younger people less autonomous - Medium percentages of married people - Medium percentages of informal relationships (except Poland) - More divorce (especially Hungary and Czech republic) - Lower fertility rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bigger households - Less people living alone - Younger people less autonomous - More marriage - Less informal relationships - Less divorce - Lower fertility rates

Social and sexual division of labour:

Class Structure
Gender relations
Culture, Ideology, values

Government policies:

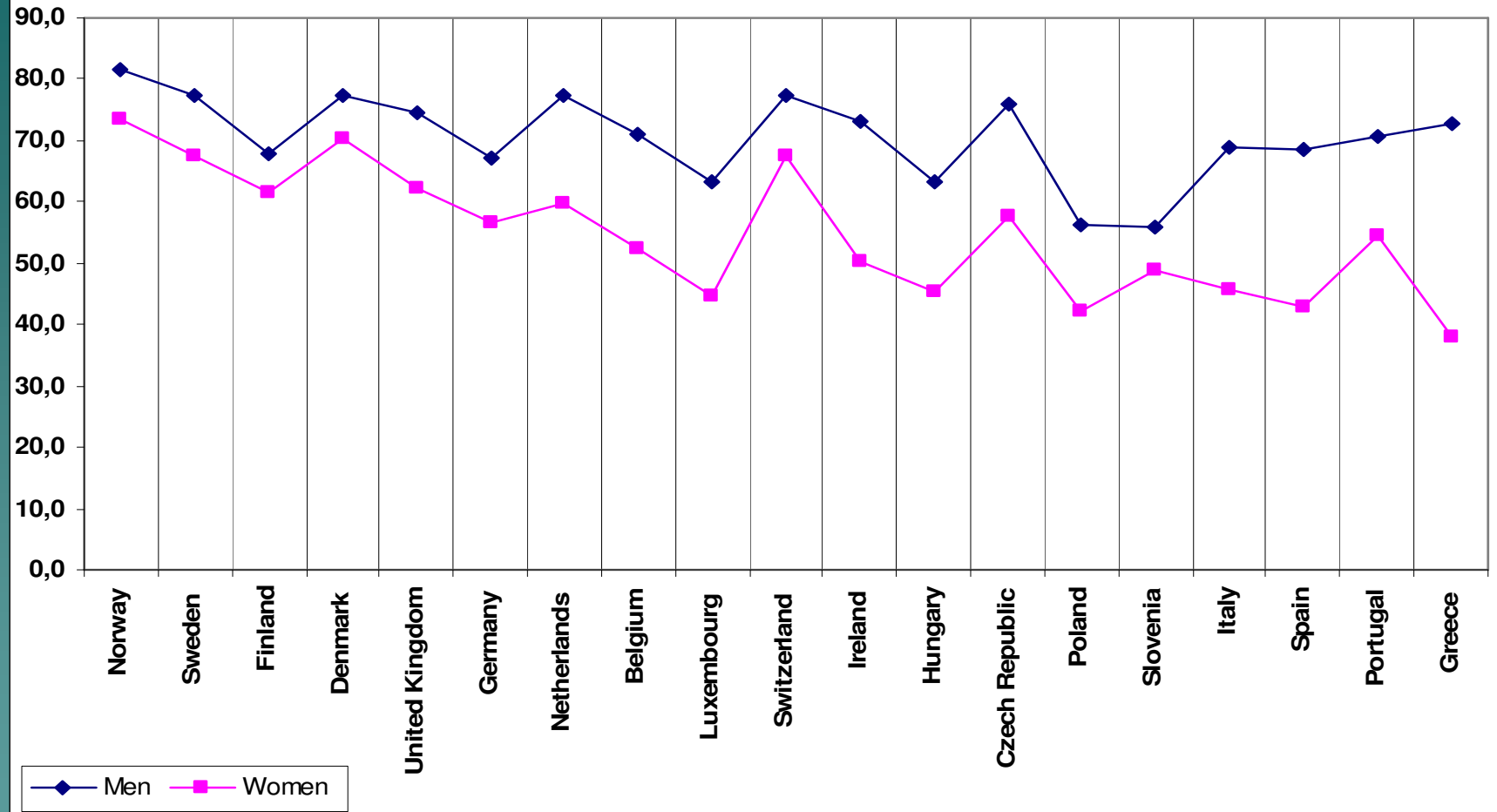
- Welfare-State Extended
- Welfare-State Restricted
- Welfare-State Disadvantaged

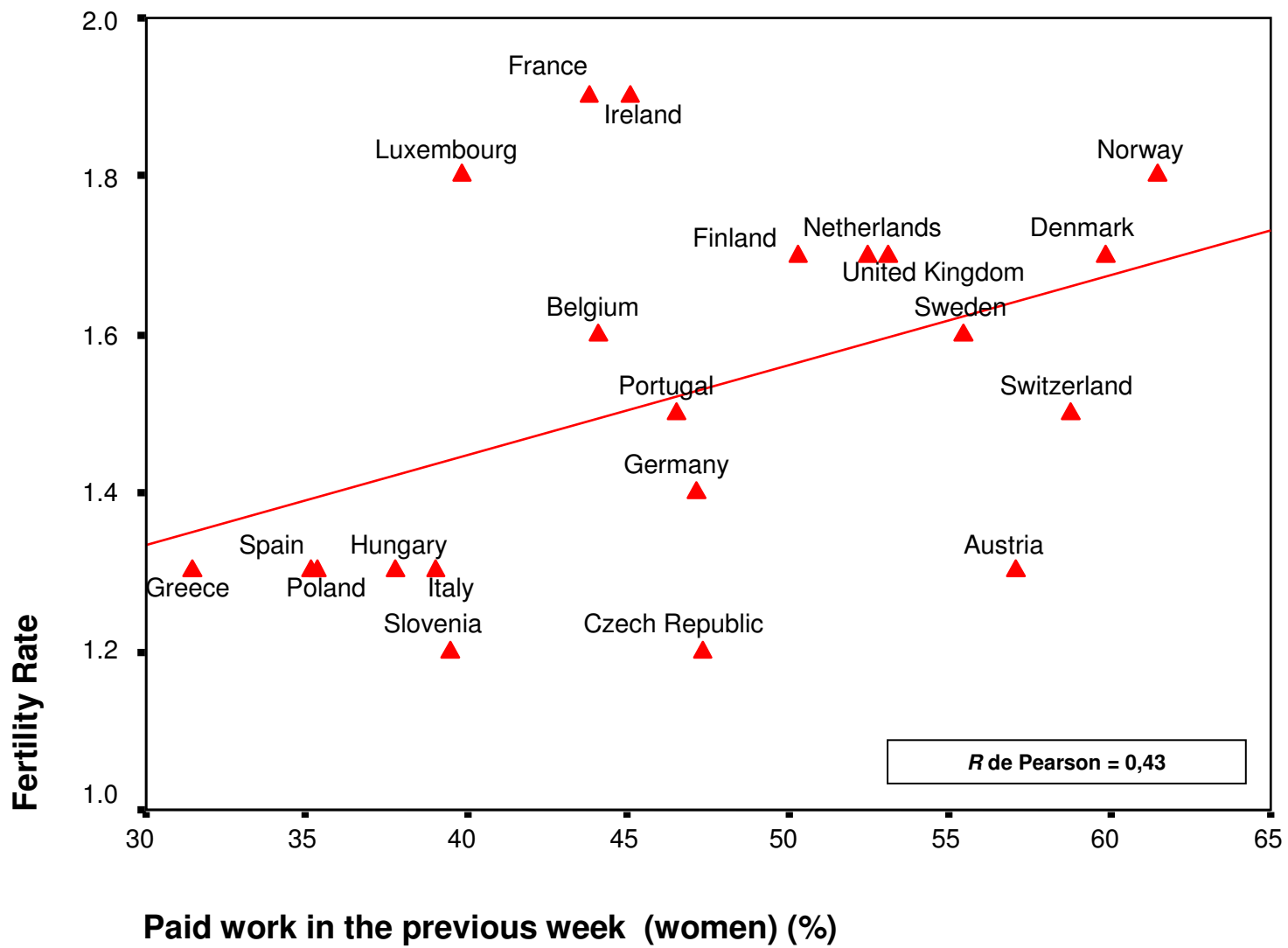
Gender and family division of paid and unpaid work

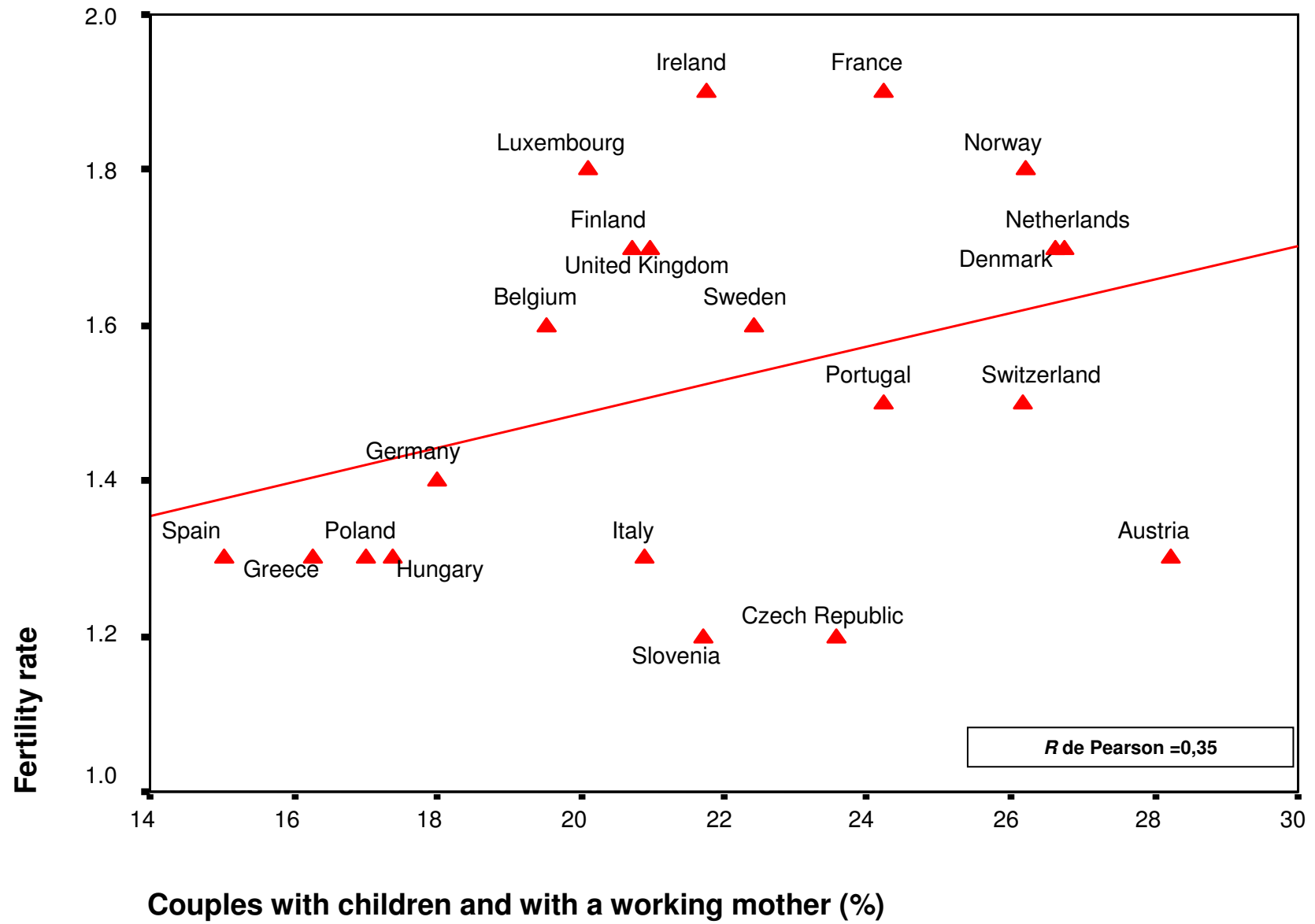
Labour market

***Domestic work,
Childcare***

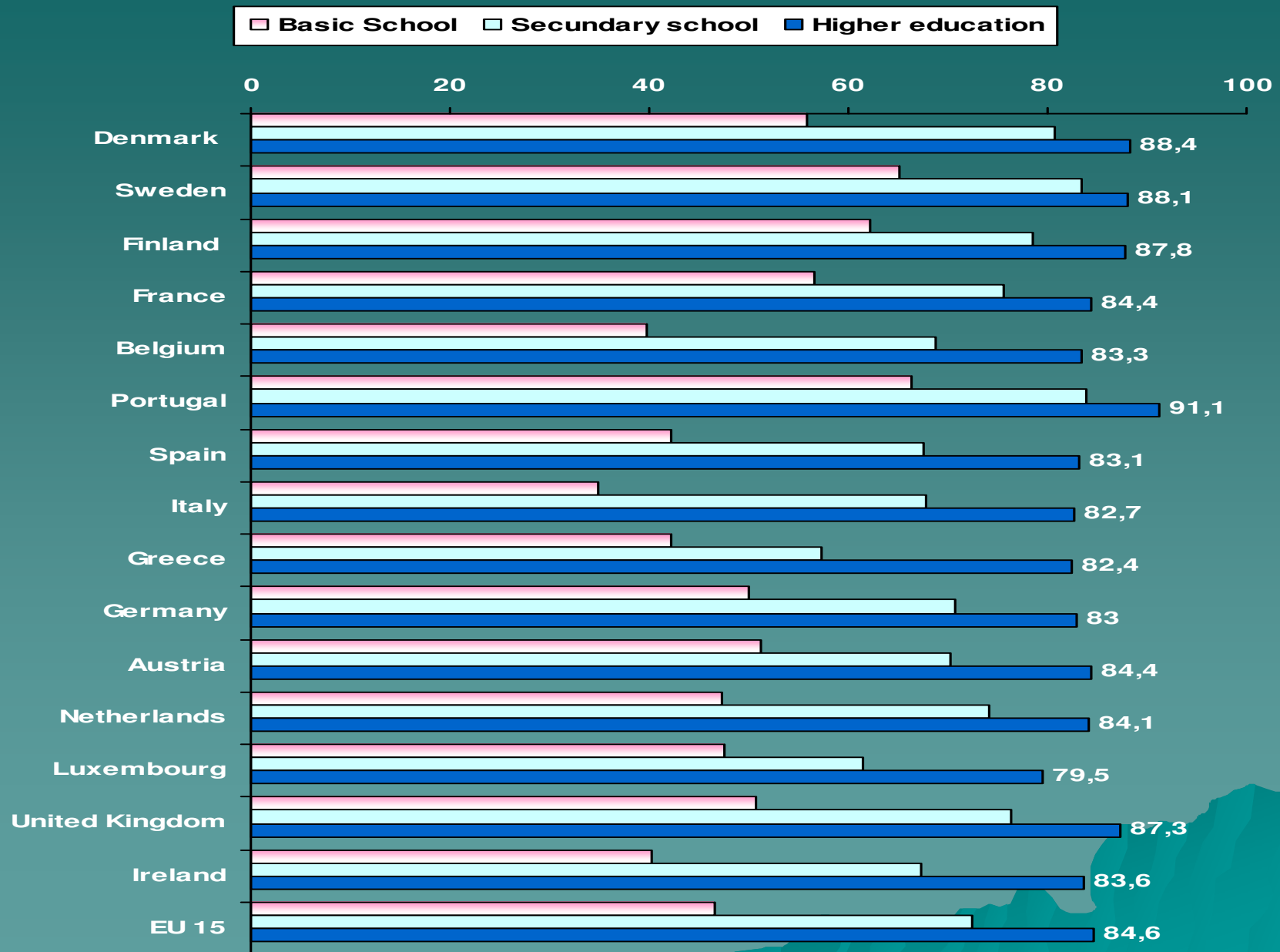
Paid work in the previous week (ESS) (%)







Active women, (25-64 years old), according to the level of education attained, 2002 (%)

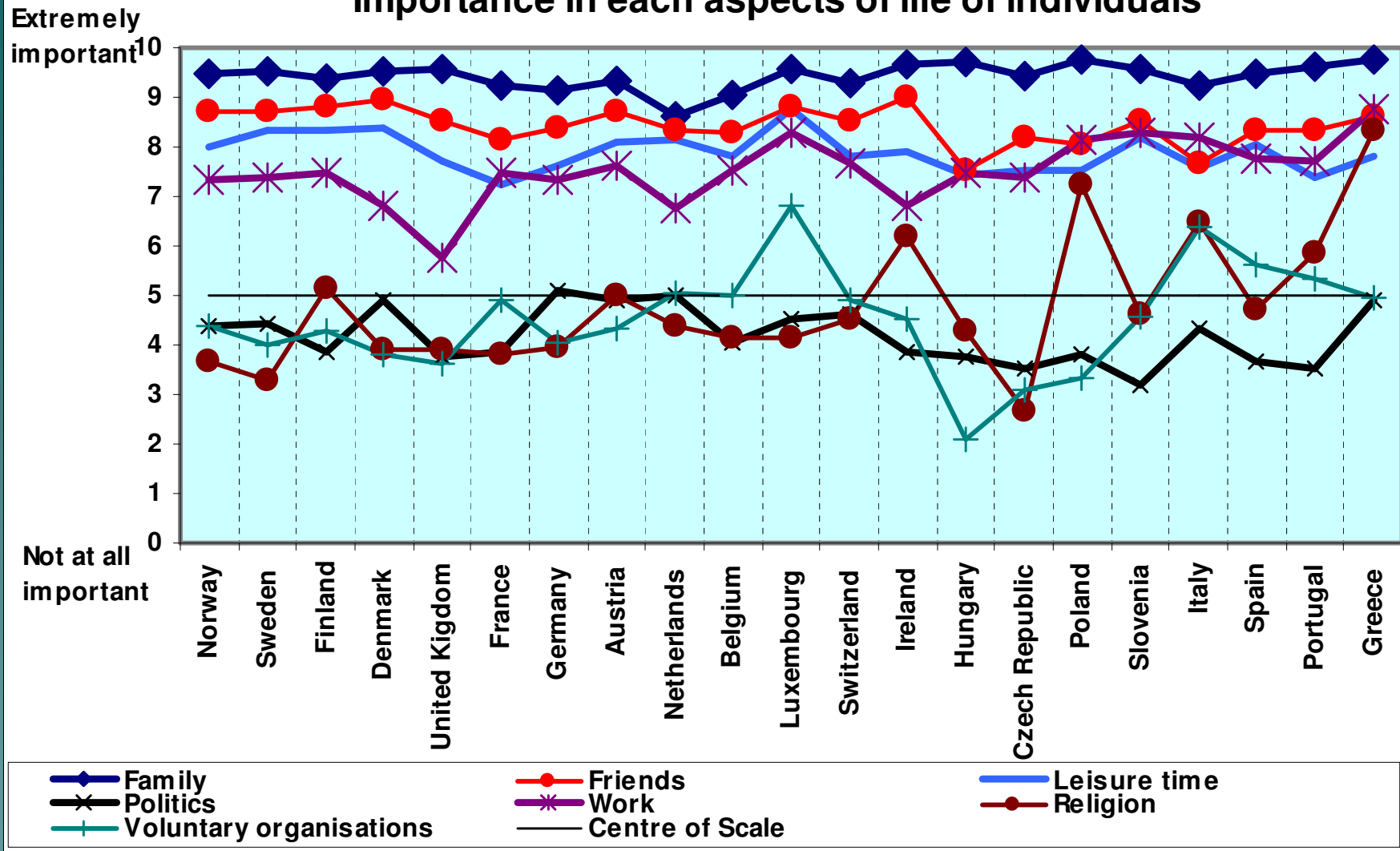


- ◆ Trying to answer to some why?
 - ◆ So low fertility rate in the south, against tradition...
 - ◆ So low fertility rate in eastern countries now.
 - ◆ The relation between employment, unemployment, fertility rate and policies.
- ◆ **Long term structural dynamics in each country. But also conjuncture effects, changes in politics and policies, the strength of feminist movements...**

Examples:

- ◆ Portugal. The effect of Colonial War. But also young people leaving home soon to marry (less skilled, less educated..)
- ◆ Eastern countries. (The cry of revenge... U.Beck)
- ◆ Germany. Doing it it all differently from the East...
- ◆ U. Kingdom. Changes from 1999 on.
- ◆ Spain and Finland. Both with high young people unemployment rate but with different fertility rates and policies.

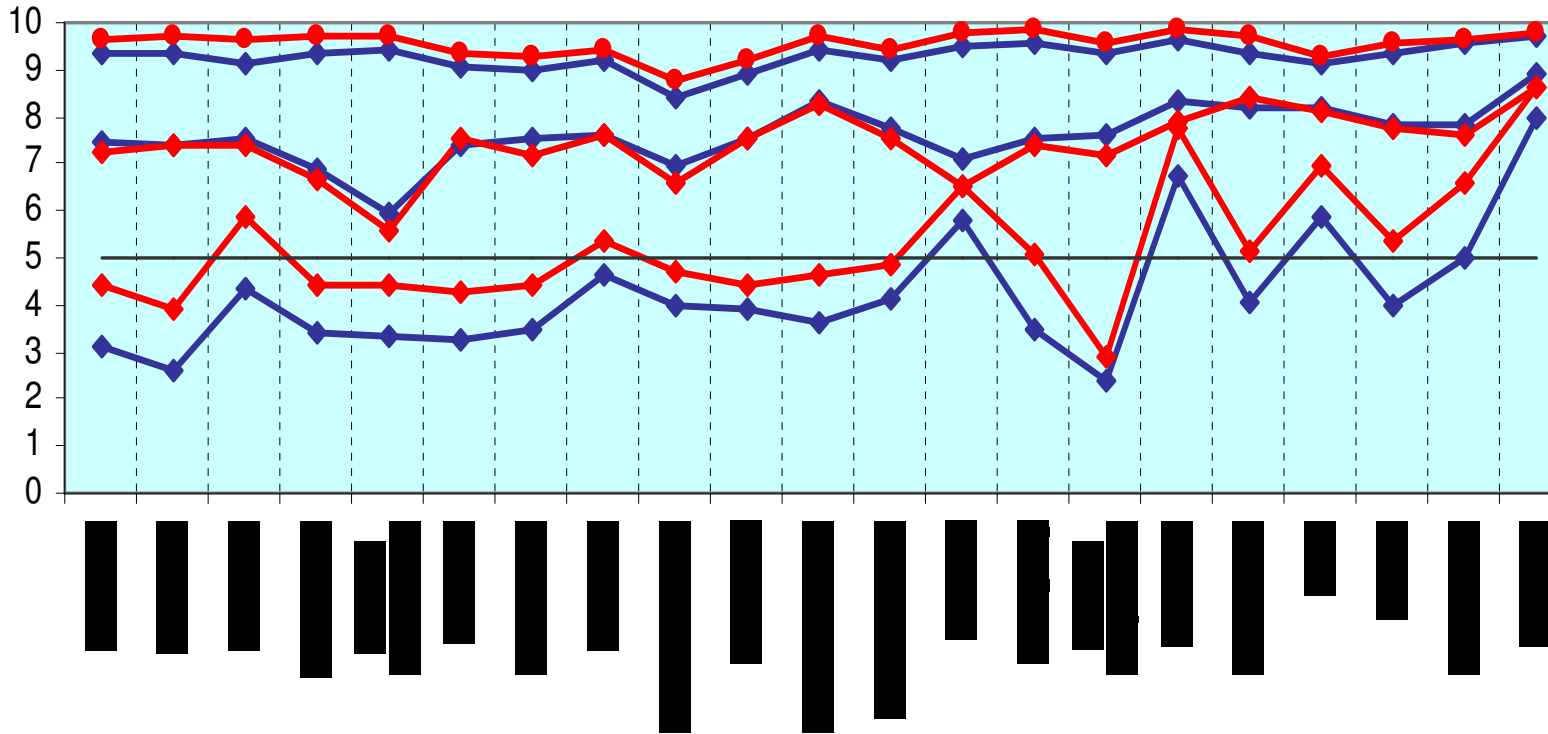
Importance in each aspects of life of individuals



Importance of family, religion and work, in the life of women and men

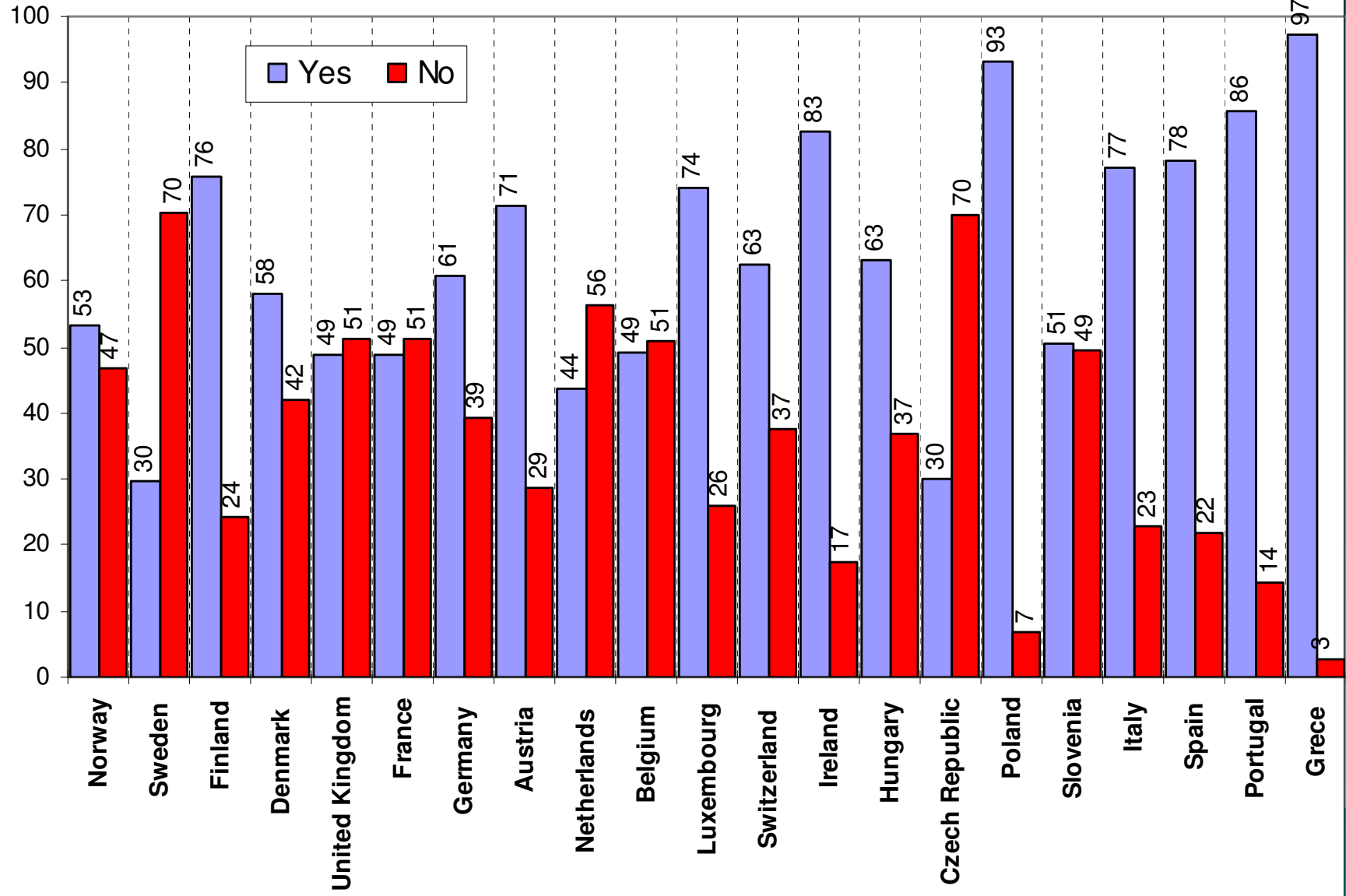
Extremely
important

Not at all
important



◆ Family (men) ◆ Work (men) ◆ Religion (men) ◆ Family (w omen)
◆ Work (w omen) ◆ Religion (w omen) — Centre of scale

Do you consider yourself as belonging to any particular religion or denomination? (%)



Conclusions

- ◆ **The transformations of the family in Europe follows the same patterns but with calendar differences and cultural variants. Global tendencies of individualization, different forms of coupling, lesser valorisation of formal and institutionalized marital and family relationships. Nevertheless the majority of the European are married and show the relevance of leaving in couple.**
- ◆ **Each region have particular configurations and combinations between the old and the new. It still makes sense, analytically, to differentiate between the northern and the southern European countries (although there are also internal differences within the groups of countries).**
- ◆ **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. If both members of a couple are working (and with the interaction of other factors like social policies that favour the articulation between work and family) there are more chances for a couple to make the decision of having children.**

- ◆ **Family is not more important in the south than in other countries. It is a taken-for-granted value for each of the countries of the ESS.**
- ◆ **Therefore, 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.**
- ◆ **Women tend to attribute the same importance to work as men do. Work is a value in itself, making part of a feminine identity, even in countries where there is a lower participation of women in the labour market.**
- ◆ **Women want to invest in both fronts, family and work. But in the majority of the countries they have to pay a price for maintaining both investments. Overload, not having a career, guilt feelings, unfulfilled identities. Gender equality is continually at stake.**