

Laboratory for Comparative Social Research
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Marital Behaviour and Social Change in Eastern and Central Europe 1991-2011

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Outline

1. Change in marital behaviour – theoretical frame, research questions and hypotheses
2. Data and methods
3. Percentage of never-married women in Eastern, Central and Western Europe 1991-2011
4. Determinants of increased percentage of never-married women in 2011

Change in marital behaviour – theoretical frame, research questions and hypotheses

Theoretical and empirical gaps in research of family change

The Second Demographic Transition theory (SDT)

(Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa 1986)

- “...‘the’ mainstream concept in demographic research in Europe in the last four decades” (Billari and Liefbroer 2004: 1)
- links family behaviour and value orientation
- the connection between the demographic and value transformations is essential

The Second Demographic Transition theory in a nutshell

- **Views and ideas** people hold individually or collectively have an impact on their **family behaviour**

Current research

- Western Europe experienced the Second Demographic Transition since the 1970s
- Since the 1990s, Central and Eastern European countries show trends in marital behaviour which resemble the initial stages of the SDT in the West
- There is little evidence that ideational change similar to the West has taken place, especially in Eastern Europe

Do Central and Eastern European countries experience the SDT similarly to Western Europe, or follow another path?

Research questions

- How do marital behaviours and value orientations in Eastern and Central Europe in 1991-2011 differ from Western Europe?
- Do the determinants of marital postponement differ between the Eastern, Central and Western European countries?

Why is it interesting to focus on the 1991-2011 time frame?

- Collapse of USSR and emergence of new nation states in post-communist space
- Economic crisis and political instability
- Fall of the 'iron-wall': cultural exchange and exposure to various value orientations

Theoretical proposition

- Increasing age at marriage in Russia has common features with the pattern of socio-economic disadvantage found in the U.S., and little with the SDT related ideational shift (Perelli-Harris and Gerber 2011)

Hypotheses

- In Central and Eastern Europe, marital behaviours are better predicted by the concurrent socio-economic and political factors than value orientations
- In contrast, in Western Europe, marital behaviour is better predicted by the concurrent emancipative values than socio-economic and political factors

Data and methods

Data and methods

- World Marriage Data (5 year age-groups) (United Nations 2012)
- WVS 3rd wave; ESS 1st wave

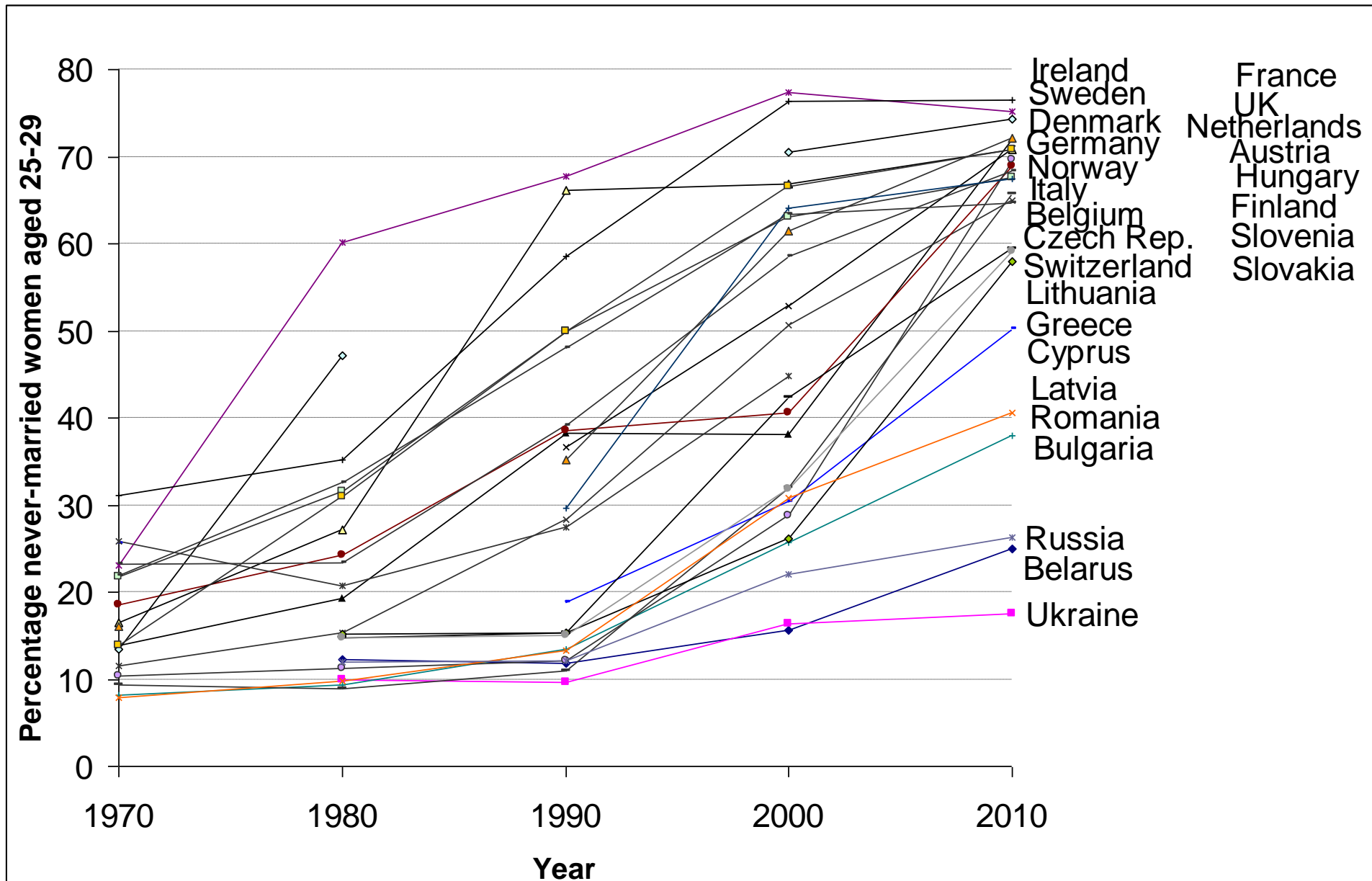
Sample: women aged 25-29; 30-34 from European countries

Method: multivariate regression analysis

Percentage of never-married women in Eastern, Central and Western Europe

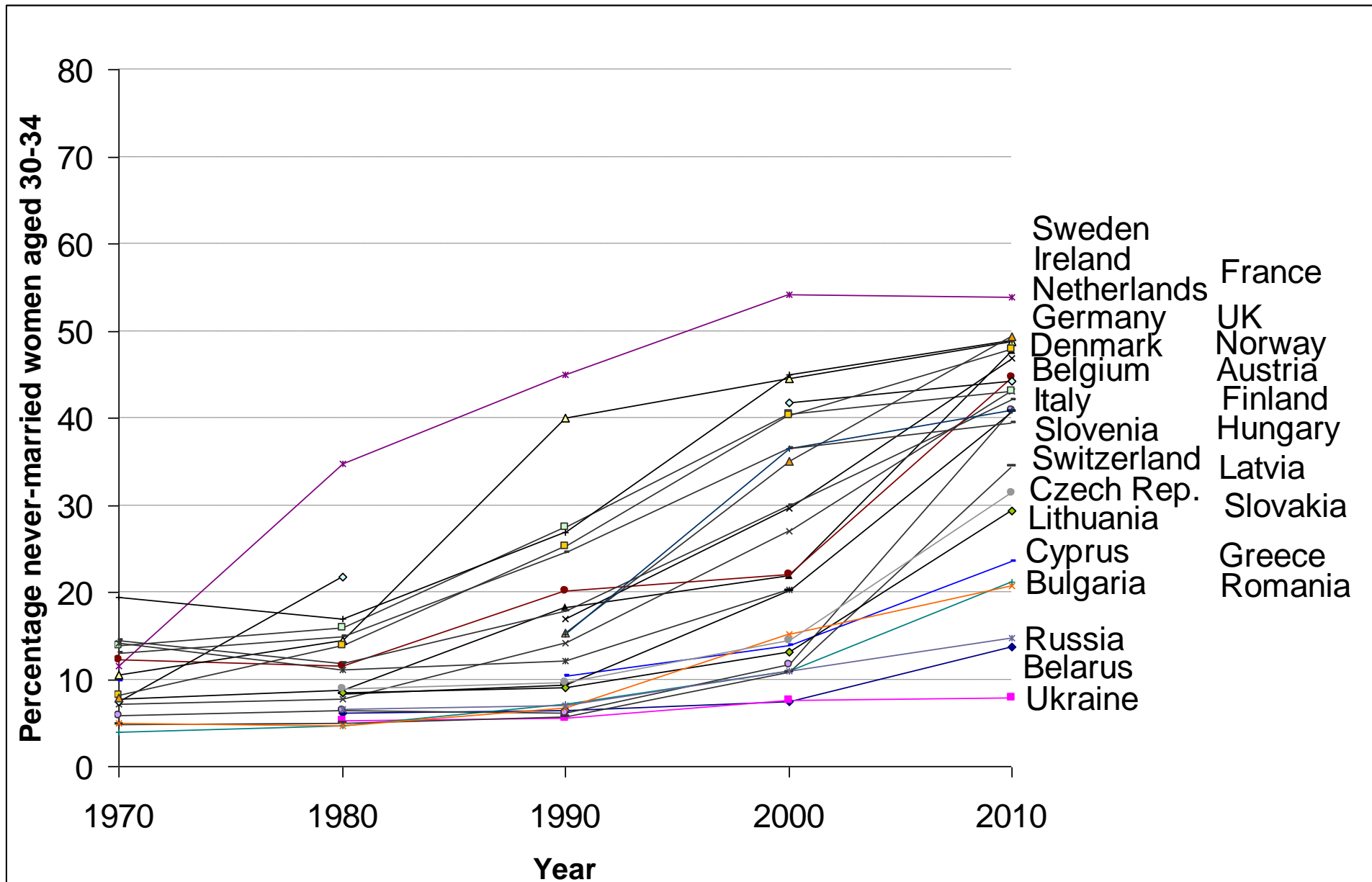
Percentage of never-married women aged 25-29

Source: World Marriage Data 2012



Percentage of never-married women aged 30-34

Source: World Marriage Data 2012



Determinants of increased percentage of never-married women in 2011

Model specifications

Percentage of never married women at (t) =

B1*Value orientation at (t-1) +

B2*Economic security at (t-1) +

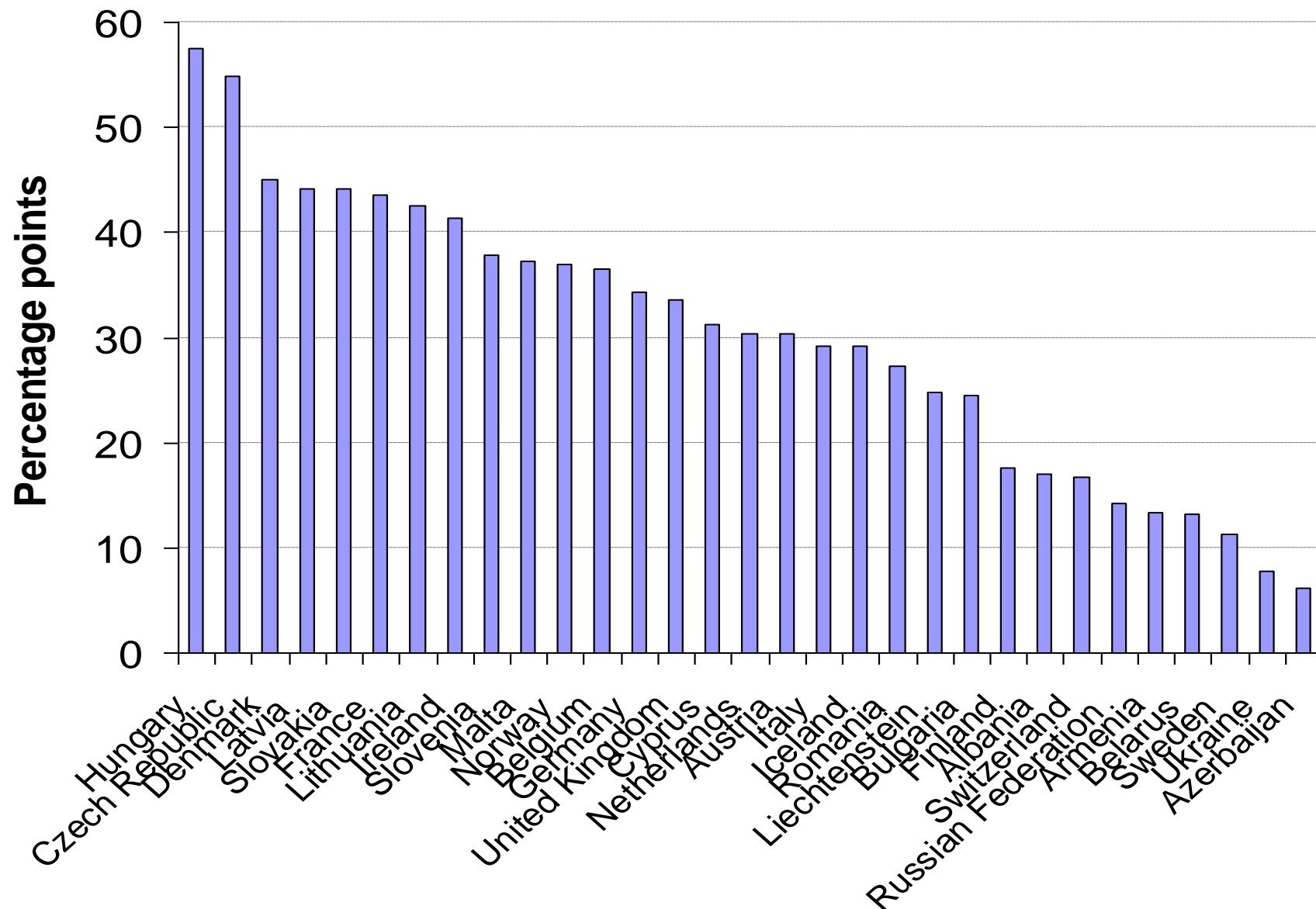
B3*Political stability at (t-1) +

B4*Gender equality at (t-1) +

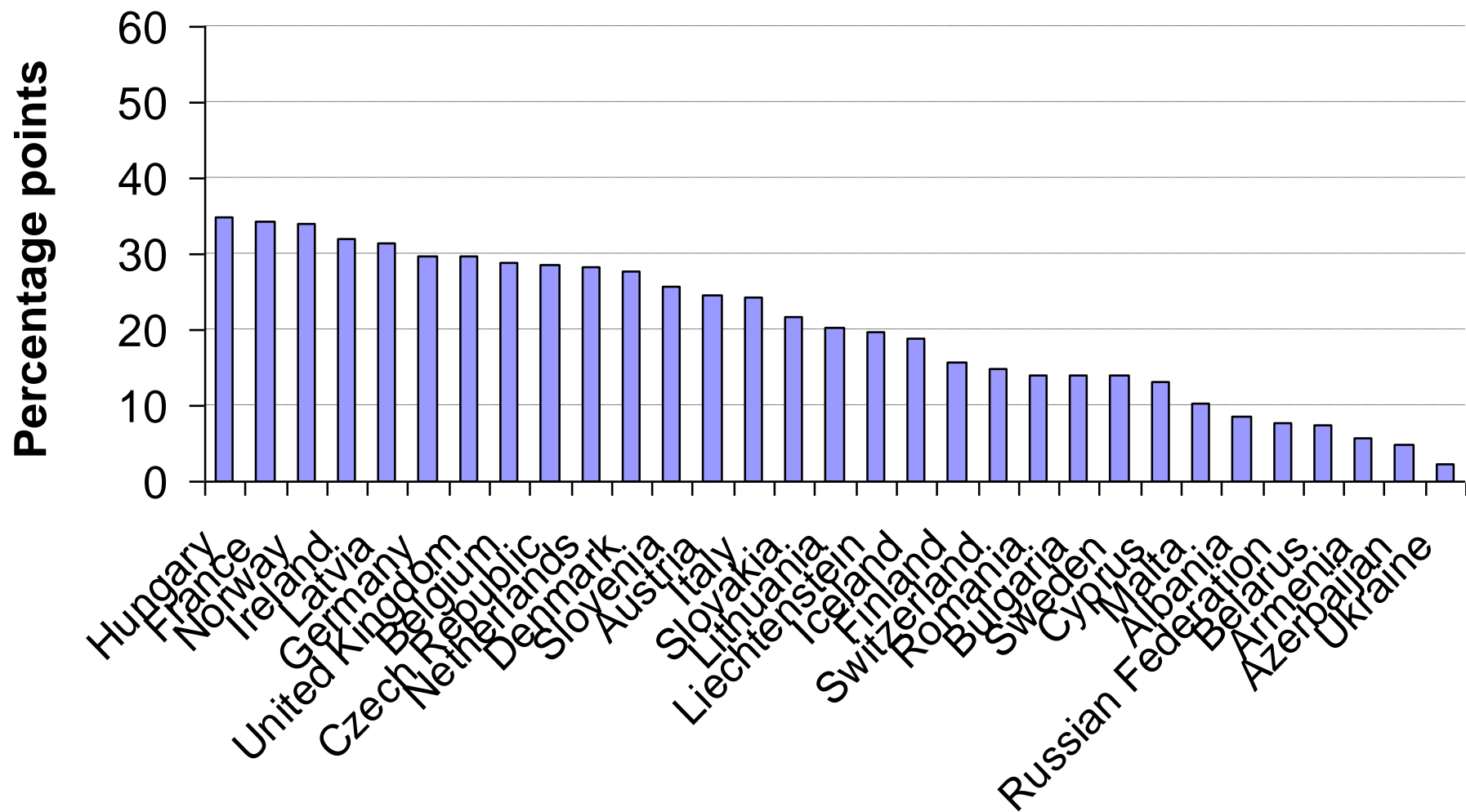
residual

Thank you for your attention!
Comments or questions?

Increase in percentage of never-married women aged 25-29 between 1990 and 2010 (Source: World Marriage Data 2012)



Increase in percentage of never-married women aged 30-34 between 1990 and 2010 (Source: World Marriage Data 2012)



European emancipative value change (recalculated for average 15 years)

Source: WVS aggregate data 1981-2008

