

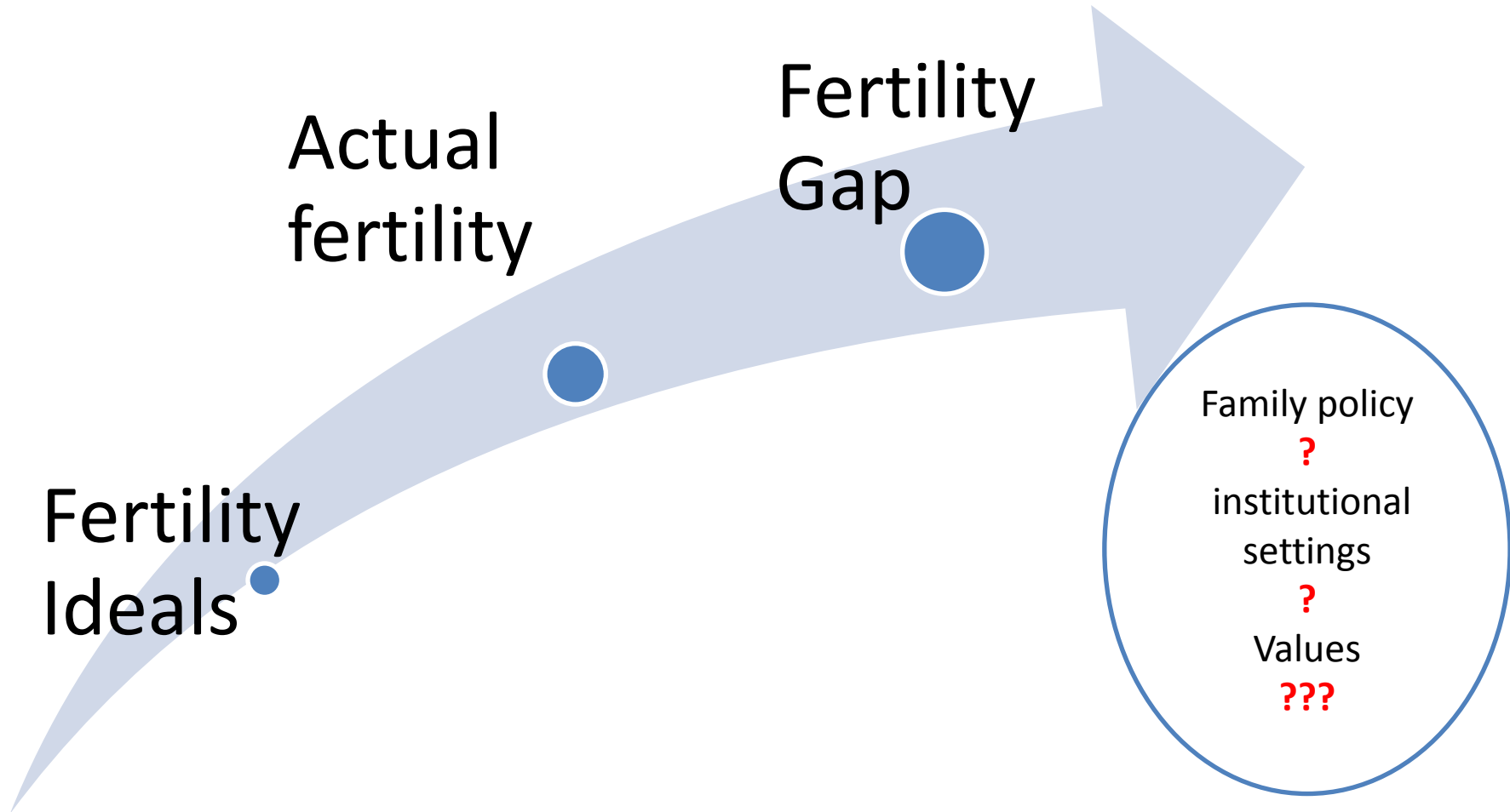


Fertility gap: “Ideal” and “Actual” fertility among European countries in comparative perspective

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Motivation



Previous research

- Female labor force participation, economic uncertainty, job insecurity, the extend of family – work balance, fertility decline and fertility gap [A.Adsera,2004]
- Fertility intentions and its realization or frustration[D.Philipov, T.Sobotka, W. Lutz 2007]
- Ideal and actual number of children – latent demand for policies [J.Goldstein 2003, S.Coleman 1996]
- Rising gender equity - fertility decline [P.McDonald, 2000]

Theoretical background

- **Modernization, emancipation rising** -> fertility [Inglehart R., Welzel C. 2008].
- **Second Demographic Transition Theory:** transition from a traditional society to modern society(Individualization, weakening of external (social) control – rising fertility gap [Van De Kaa 2001, R.Lesthaeghe,1998]
- **Preference theory** by C.Hakim,2011

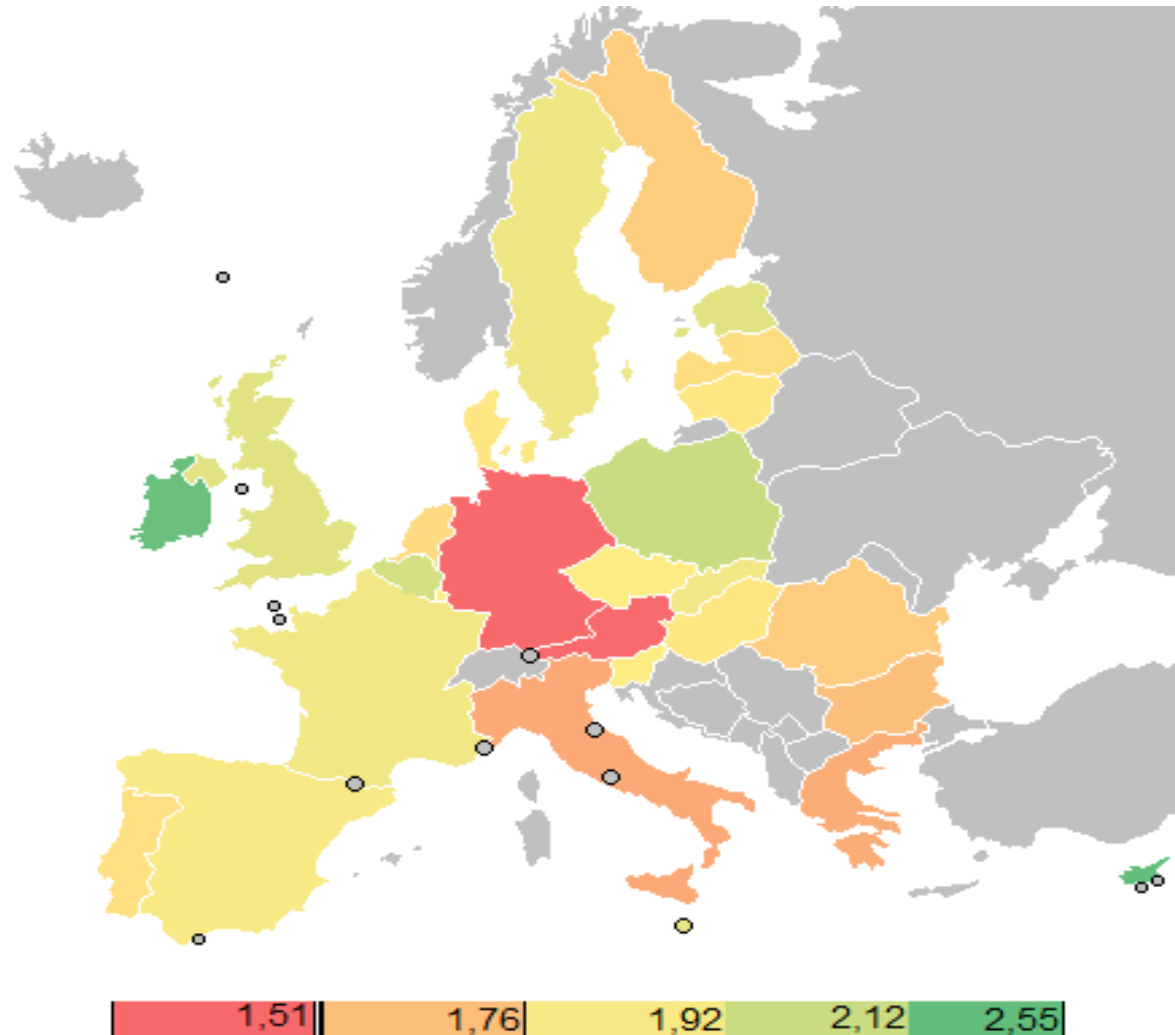
Hypotheses

- H1:** Fertility *ideals* is rather high among Western and Nordic European countries, because of advanced economic development, higher level of well – being and life satisfaction [C. Welzel 2013].
- H2:** Maternal employment influence the level of gap: the high is the share of economically active women, the higher is a gap [V. Oppenheimer 1997].
- H3:** In the countries with advanced family support and child-bearing, the *gap* between preferences and outcomes is seems to be less [J. Bongaarts 2008].

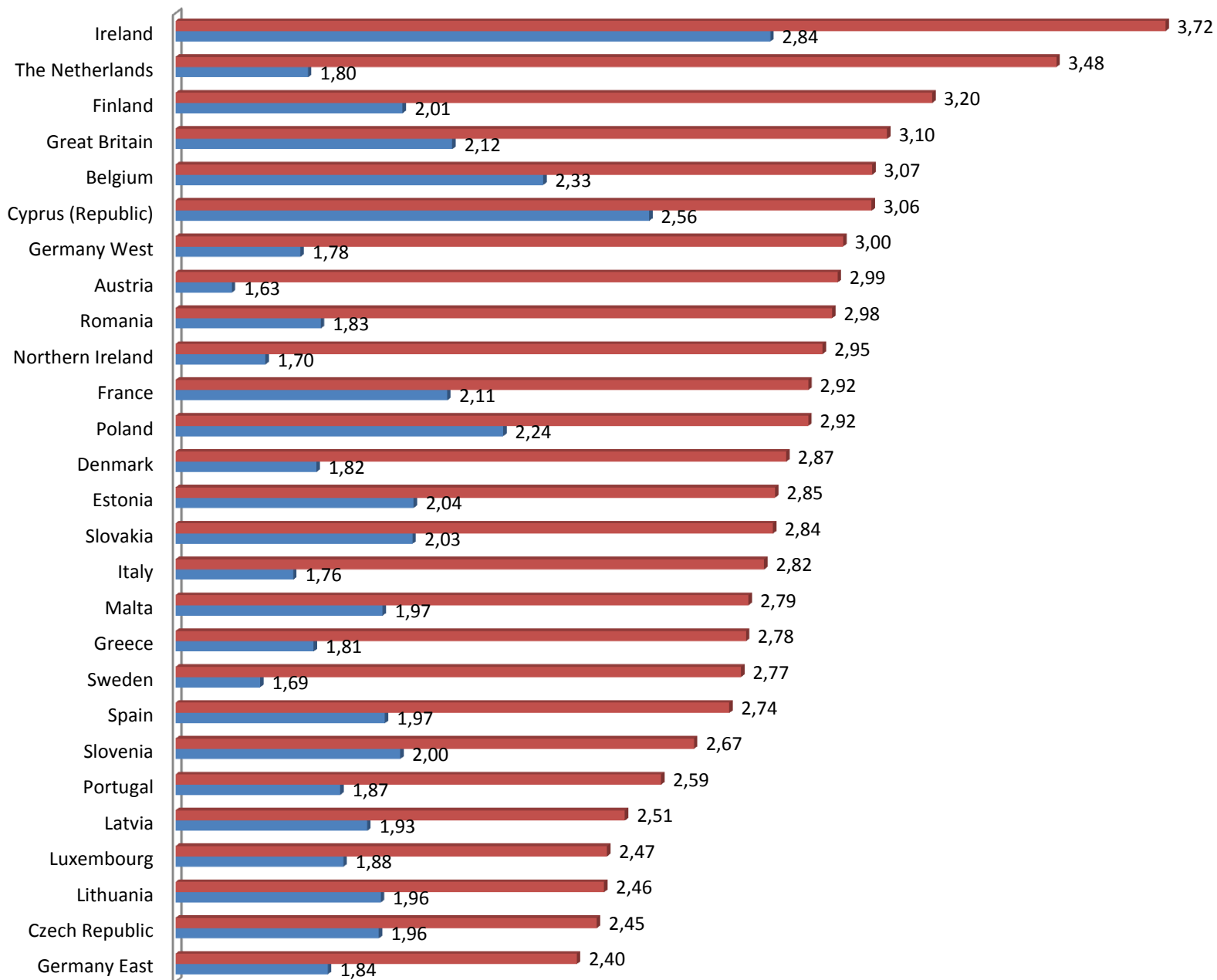
Data

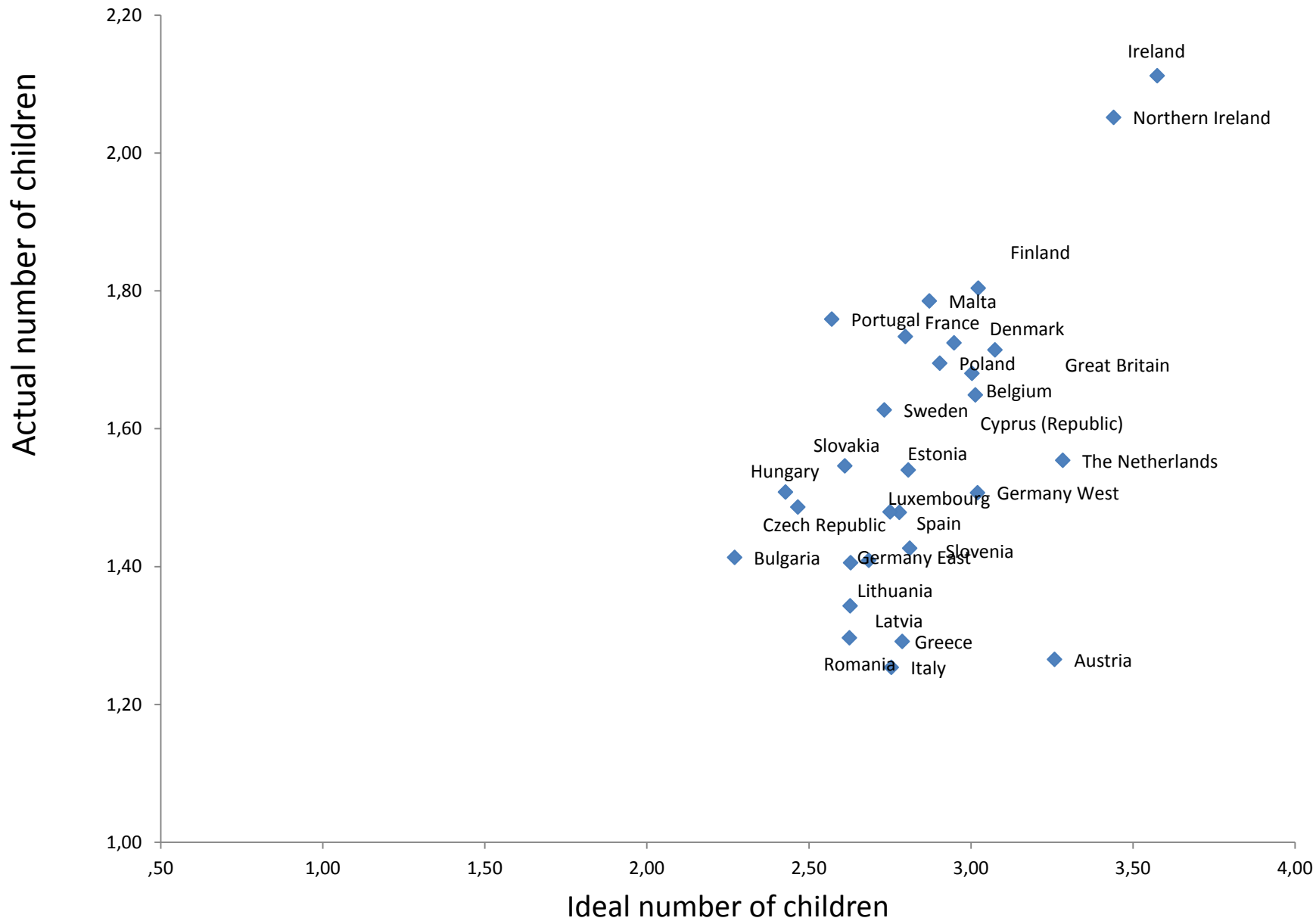
- Eurobarometer 2011 *Dependent variables:*
- 29 countries
 - Actual number of children
- N=26840
 - Ideal number of children
- Sample: 15 – 75 years old
 - Delta

Actual fertility

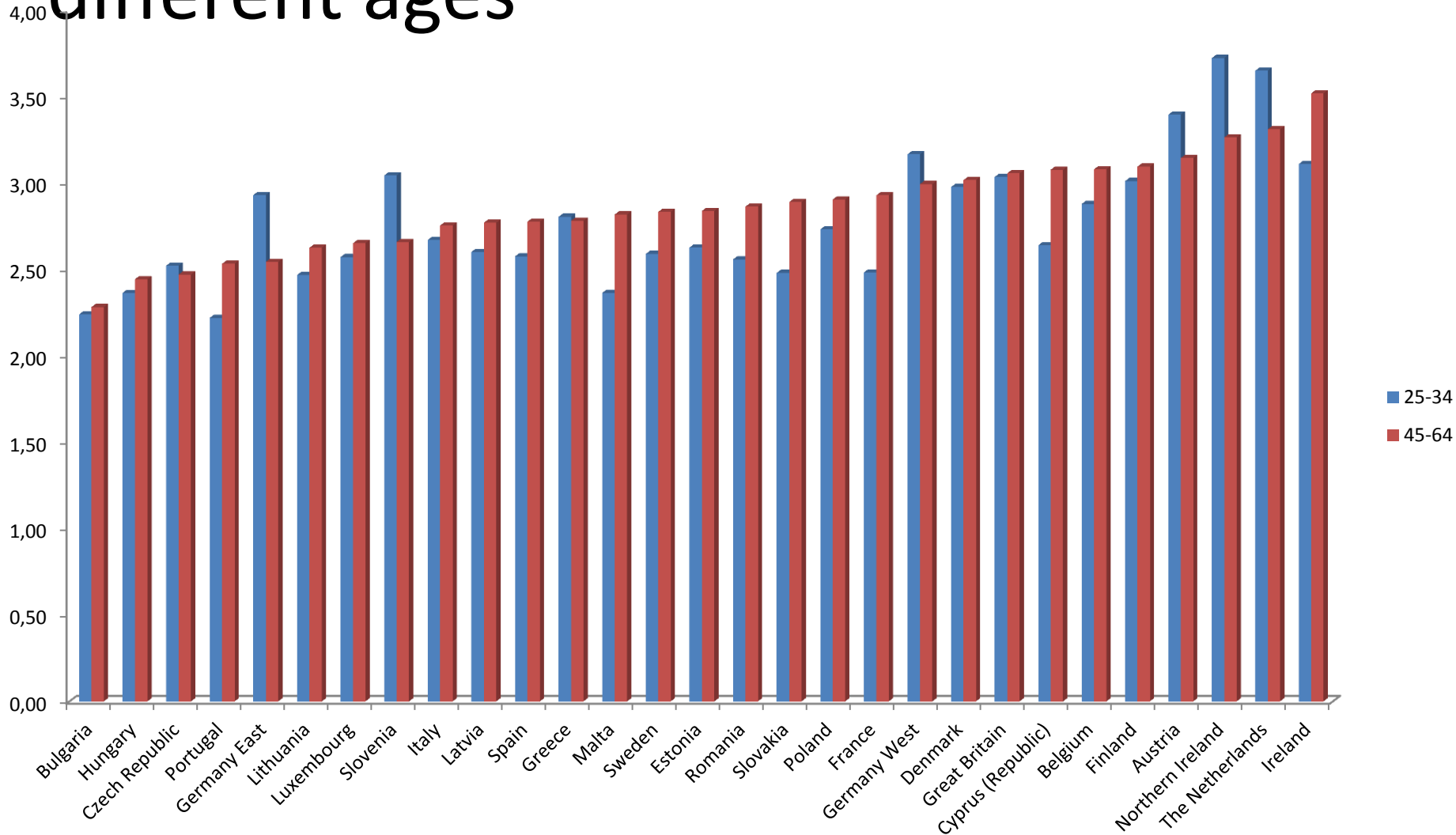


■ ideal number of children ■ real number of children



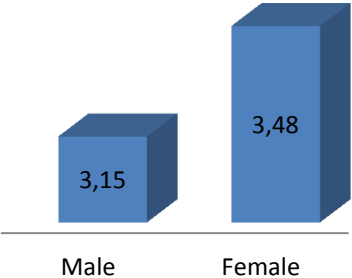


Fertility “ideals” among women of different ages

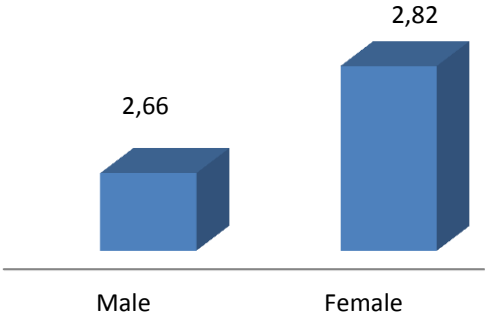


Ideal number of children, aged 45-64

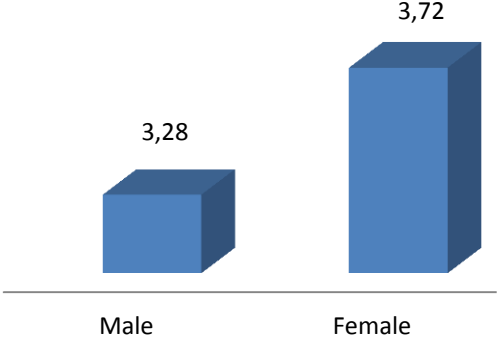
Netherlands



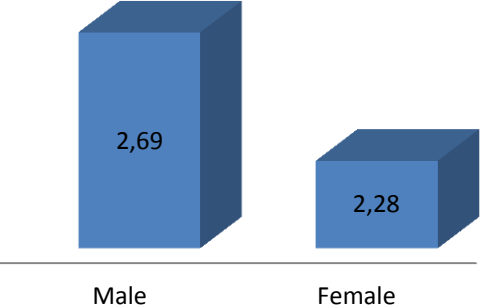
Italy



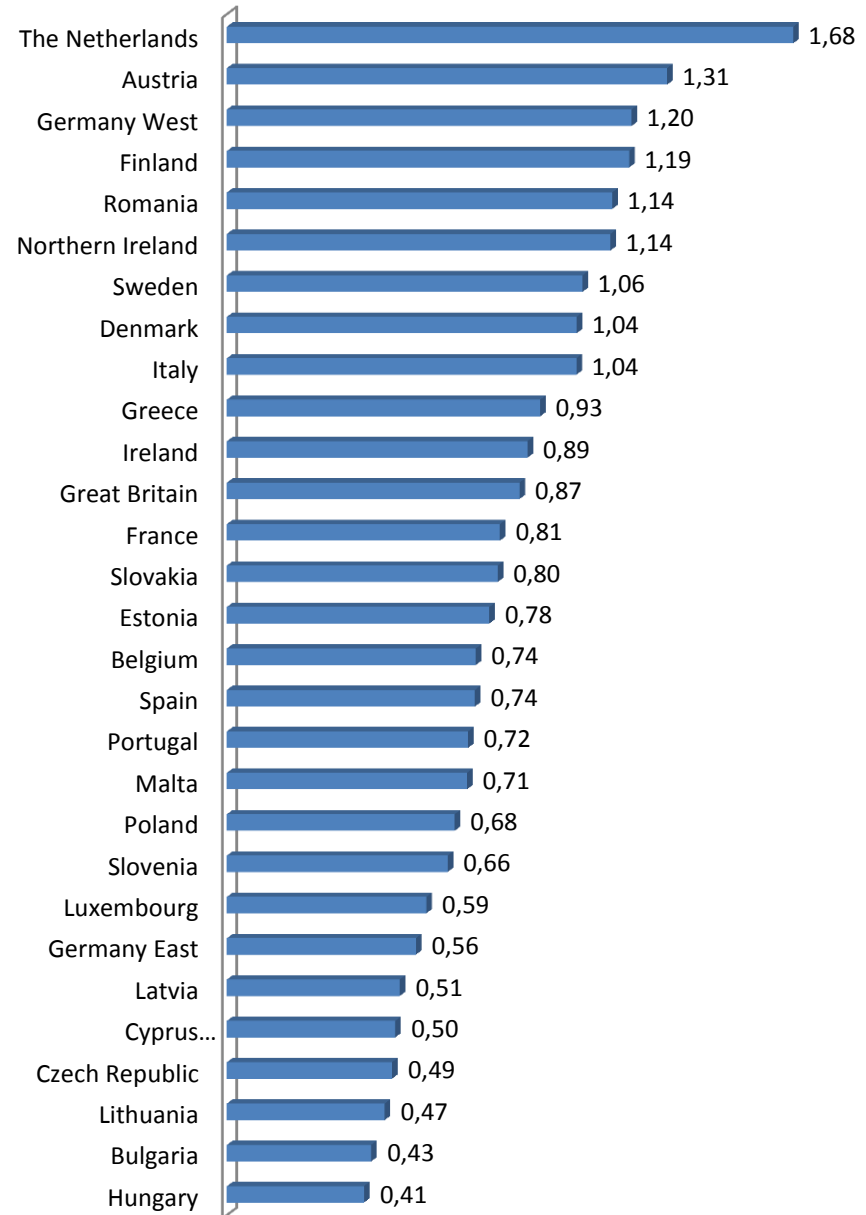
Ireland



Hungary



Fertility gap



Actual and ideal number of children

Predictors	Actual fertility		Ideal fertility	
	<i>Low fertility countries</i>	<i>High fertility countries</i>	<i>Low fertility countries</i>	<i>High fertility countries</i>
Ideal number of children	0.0859***	0.0968***		
Female	0.104***	0.180***	-0.114**	0.0291
Unmarried	-0.727***	-0.750***	0.250***	0.249***
45-65	-0.130***	-0.0772	-0.166	-0.0847
35-44	-0.354***	-0.174***	-0.652***	-0.440***
Large town	-0.143***	-0.119***	0.0178	0.0535
Life satisfaction	0.00726	-0.0173	0.0744**	0.0756
Educational level	-0.155***	-0.0257	-0.503***	-0.0758
Level in society – self replacement	-0.0477**	0.0202	-0.142***	-0.0467
Educational level # Level in society	0.0170*	-0.00443	0.0699***	-0.00187
Gender Inequality Index	-0.0441	0.136	-0.826***	4.507***
Maternal employment	-0.0510***	-0.105***	0.148***	0.541***
Maternity leave(duration)	-0.000298	-0.00373***	-0.0113***	-0.00784***
Public spendings(cash) on family benefits	-0.0182	0.259***	-0.0379	-0.853***
lnGDP	0.0177***	0.00279	-0.00318	0.0568***
Constant	1.733***	0.872***	5.053***	4.719***
Observations	15,905	10,935	15,905	10,935

Fertility gap. Education & social class interaction

Predictors	Delta	
	<i>Low fertility countries</i>	<i>High Fertility countries</i>
Female	-0.224***	-0.143**
Unmarried	0.947***	0.948***
45-65	-0.0515	-0.0383
35-44	-0.310***	-0.308**
Small/middle town	-0.134**	-0.0291
Large town	0.128**	0.166*
Life satisfaction	0.0695**	0.0733
Educational level	-0.385***	-0.0362
Level in society – self replacement	-0.114**	-0.0620
Educational level # Level in society – self replacement	0.0587**	-0.000171
Gender Inequality Index	-0.816***	4.009***
Maternal Employment	0.185***	0.641***
Maternity leave(duration)	-0.0109***	-0.00406*
Public spending on family benefits	-0.0127	-1.108***
lnGDP	-0.0201	0.0523***
Constant	3.490***	3.955***
Observations	15,905	10,935

Fertility gap. Maternity leave& GII interaction

Predictors	Delta	
	Low fertility countries	High fertility countries
Female	-0.223***	-0.150**
Unmarried	0.947***	0.923***
45-65	-0.0602	-0.0247
35-44	-0.321***	-0.292**
Small/middle town	-0.133**	-0.0281
Large town	0.117*	0.151*
Life satisfaction	0.0691**	0.0869
High education	-0.126*	-0.0995
Maternity leave(duration)	-0.0613***	-0.0233***
GII	-4.638***	-4.726
Maternity leave#GII	0.232***	0.324**
Maternal employment	0.157***	0.571***
Public spending on fam benefits	-0.0262	-1.013***
lnGDP	-0.0115	0.0469***
Constant	3.643***	4.553***
Observations	15,905	10,935

Fertility gap. Public spending on family benefits & GII interaction

Predictors	Delta	
	Low fertility countries	High fertility
Female	-0.228***	-0.147**
Unmarried	0.944***	0.923***
45-65	-0.0650	-0.0420
35-44	-0.313***	-0.314**
Small/middle town	-0.117**	-0.0218
Large town	0.143**	0.158*
Life satisfaction	0.0881***	0.0848
Educational level	0.000327	-0.0652**
Level in society – self replacement	-0.0752**	-0.0367
Public spendings (cash) on family benefits	0.500***	-1.032***
Gender Inequality Index	3.926***	-23.32*
Public spendings #GII	-2.401***	6.439**
Maternal employment	0.0769*	0.227
Maternity leave	-0.0114***	-0.00673***
lnGDP	0.00747	0.0540***
Constant	1.694***	5.524***
Observations	15,905	10,935

Main findings

- High fertility ideals are spread among Western and Nordic countries. Economic development is likely to increase fertility gap
- Maternal employment is likely to decrease actual fertility and fertility gap but increase fertility ideals
- Family support policy decrease the gap among Western and Nordic countries, but it works inefficient among South and Eastern Europe
- Gender inequality decrease fertility gap among Western and Nordic countries, but decrease among South and Eastern Europe

Thank you for your attention!