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Demographic challenges in the European Union

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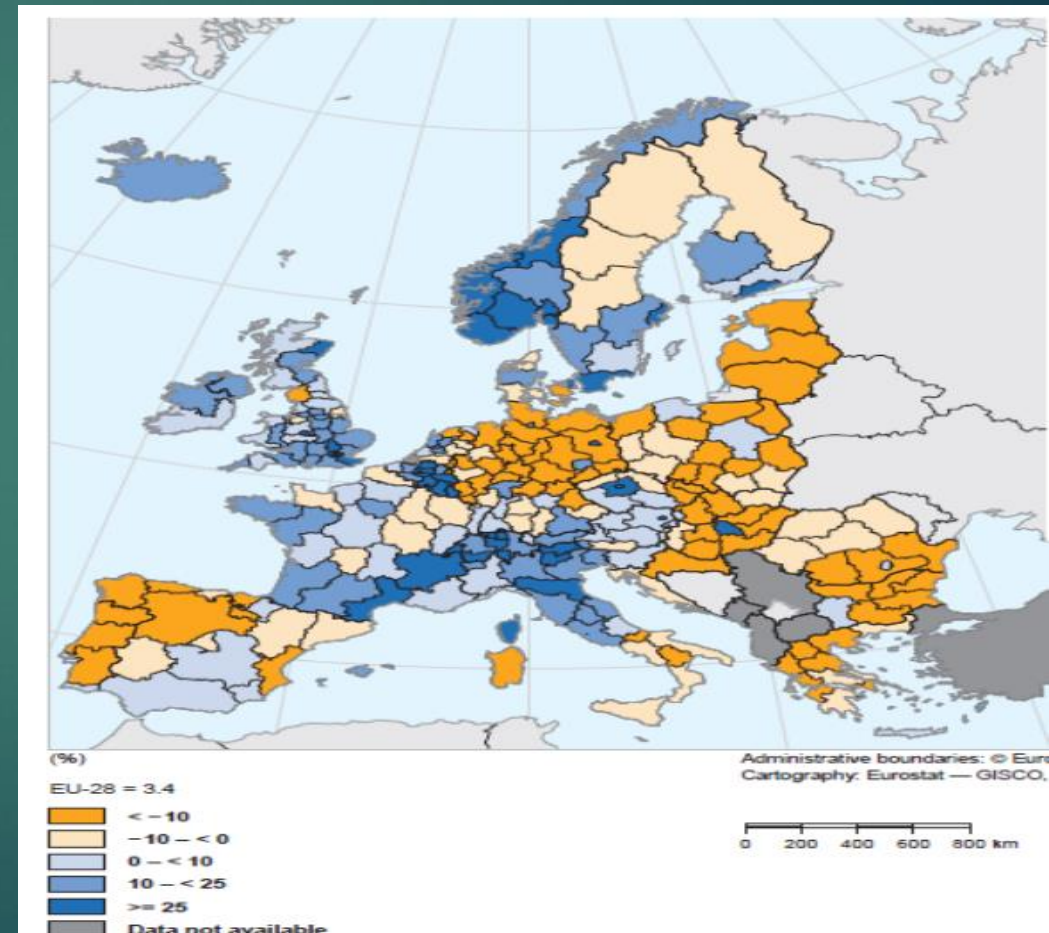
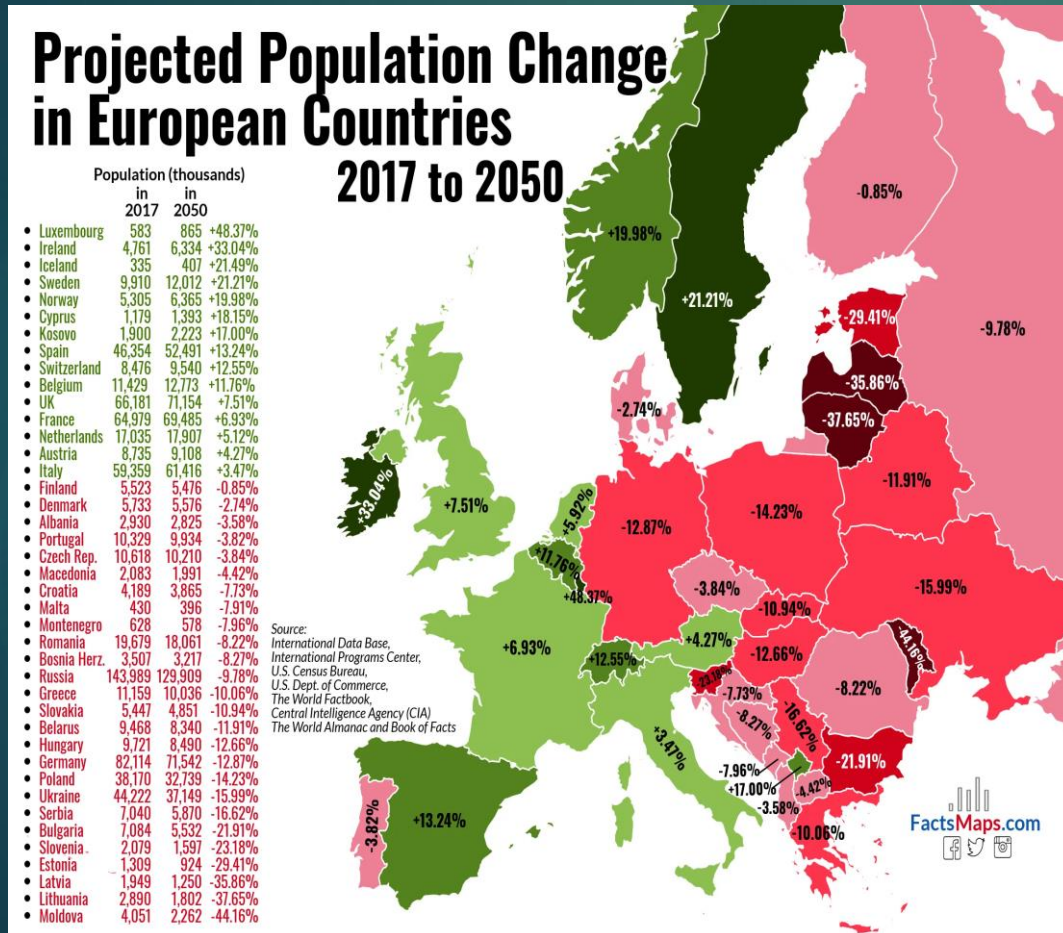
Demographic facts about the EU

- ▶ Population 450 million: share of EU's population in the world 6% → 4%
- ▶ Ageing society: life expectancy growing (men: 78y → 86y, women 84y → 90y)
- ▶ Decreasing rate of working age population (59% → 51%)
- ▶ Increasing rate of dependents (6% → 13% over 80y)
- ▶ Importance of intra-EU mobility (*brain drain*) and extra-EU migration
- ▶ Growing number of single households (in 2019 a third of homes)
- ▶ Huge regional inequalities + different local realities

Map of Reality

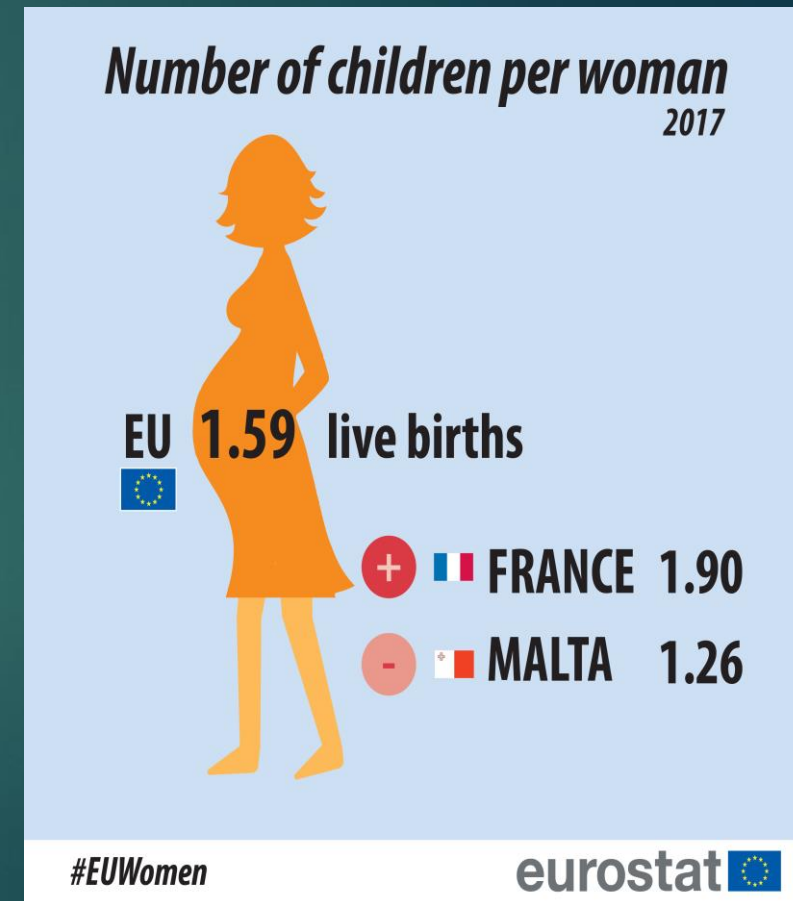
According to MSs

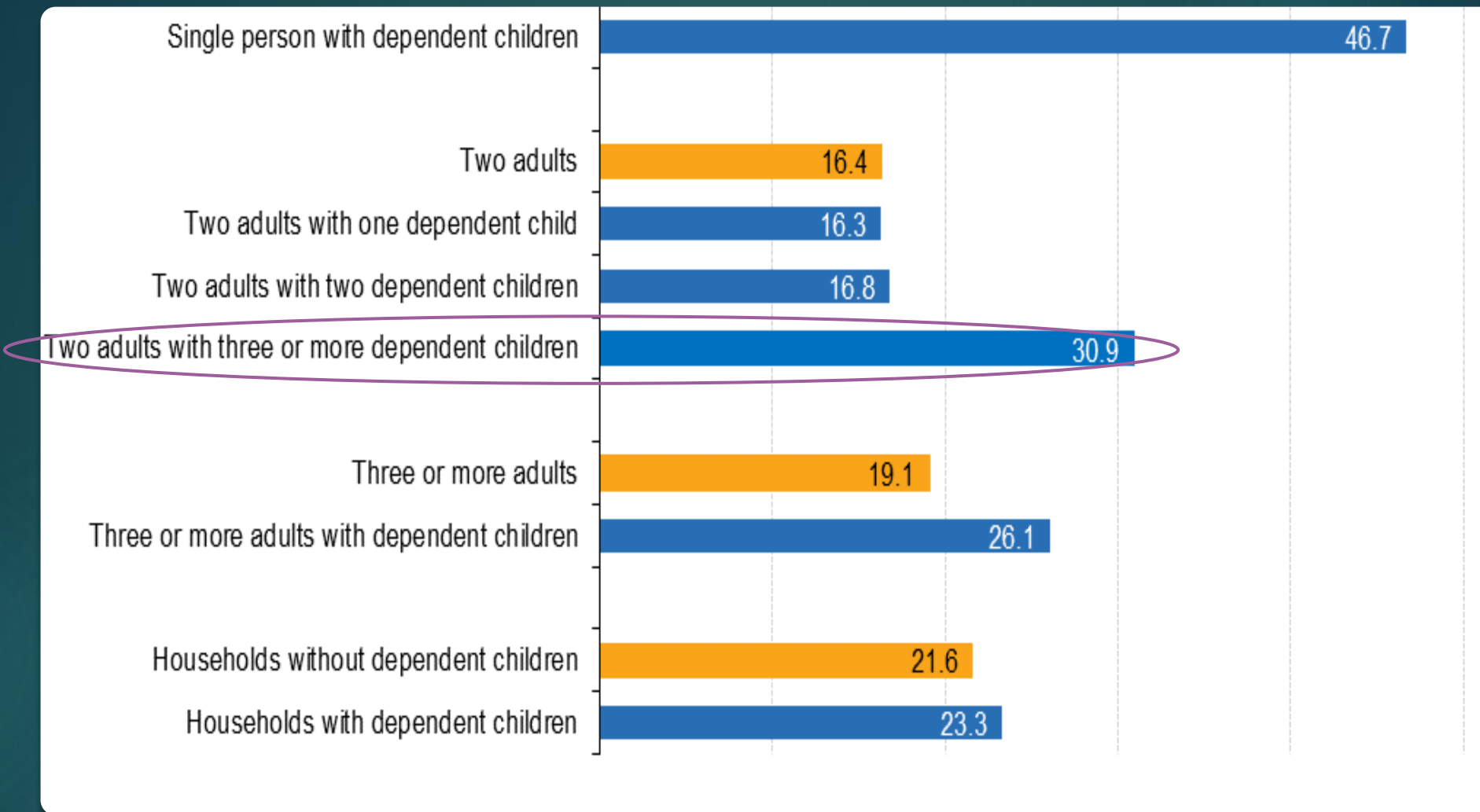
According to regions



Challenges and Actions

- ! Fertility rate below replacement level in ALL member states
 - ! Having children is still/again a risk of poverty
 - ! Growing (instead of shrinking) care gap due to pandemic
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- ▶ COMM portfolio for „Democracy and Demography” - 2021 Green Paper on Ageing, 2021 Long-term vision for Rural Areas
 - ▶ Work-Life Balance directive (8/2022)
 - ▶ Child Guarantee program (along with existing Youth Guarantee program)





Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by household type -
(Share of all population)

Eurostat, 2017

Good practices in intergenerational solidarity

- ▶ Hungary: family protection action plan – grandparents subsidized parents' leave since 2019
- ▶ Poland: Mama+ and 500+ programme
- ▶ Southern Europe: intensive (daily) informal child care provided by grandparents for more than 20% of children
- ▶ France: family carers' leave – financial support and legal recognition
- ▶ Belgium: cohabitation of young and old in an intergenerational spirit – 1toit2ages

List of References

- ▶ **Demographic challenges in the EU in light of economic and development inequalities (EESC, 2020)** <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/demographic-challenges-eu-light-economic-and-development-inequalities-exploratory-opinion-request-croatian-presidency>
- ▶ **European Commission Report on the Impact of Demographic Change (COMM, 2020)** https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/demography_report_2020_n.pdf
- ▶ **Demographic Scenarios for the EU (COMM, 2019)** <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/demographic-scenarios-eu>
- ▶ **Demographic change: proposals on measuring and tackling its negative effects in the EU regions (CoR, 2019)** <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opId=CDR-4647-2019>



Thank you for your attention!

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