



**European Expert Group Meeting
“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion;
ensuring work-family balance;
advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity
in Europe”**

Convened as part of preparations for the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014
(Cfr. Report of the Secretary-General ,
Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the
International Year of the Family in 2014,
A/67/61-E/2012/3)

6-8 June 2011



Introductory remarks: Family resilience

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Risk and resilience

- Resilience tied to risk
- What are the risks facing families?
 - ... how can families show resilience in facing these risks?
 - ...and how can policies reduce risk / help families to be resilient?

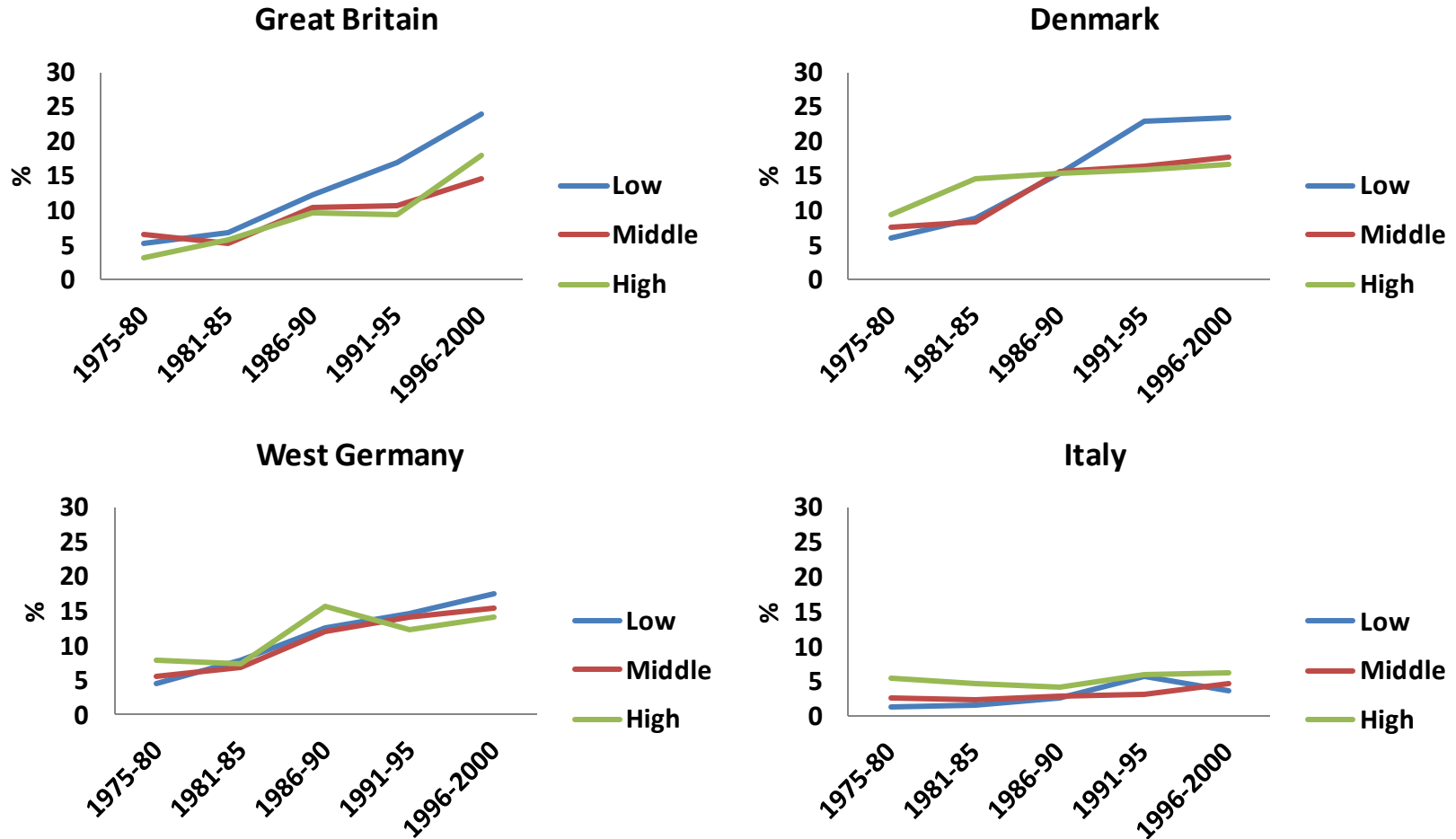
Sources of risk

- Demography
- (Labour) market
- (Welfare) states
- All of the are "class-biased" -> their occurrence and effects are not random, but differ between socioeconomic groups

Demographic sources

- Increase in family instability and single parenthood
- Difficulties in the transition to adulthood and family formation -> postponed parenthood
 - Postponement, however, also can have benefits
- Population aging
 - Possible need to care for aging (grand-)parents
 - Also a possibility
- These processes linked to socioeconomic characteristics

Single parenthood trends by education, %



Source: Mannheim Eurobarometer Trend File, own calculations

(Labour) market risks

- Unemployment
 - Especially, its accumulation to families
 - Also, unemployment and income traps
- Precarious employment, especially among youth
 - Also, low-waged labour and limited chances for improvement
 - Poor and stressful working conditions, work hours
- Again, class-biased

(Welfare) state risks

- Poor support in terms of cash transfers and services
- Unintended policy consequences
 - E.g., Income and unemployment traps
- Pressures from the economic crisis? Will cuts be targeted at families (less political power)?
 - In previous decades already, the economic position of kids and families declined relative to elderly

(Some) aspects of family resilience

- Coping with increased family diversity
- Labour supply strategies
 - Dual-earner vs single-earner families
 - Need to balance work and family; job quality
- Policies and (welfare) states
 - Provision of support: Cash or services?
- Gender aspects: Men contribution to care still lagging, although women's contribution to the economy increased

Thank you!