



**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)

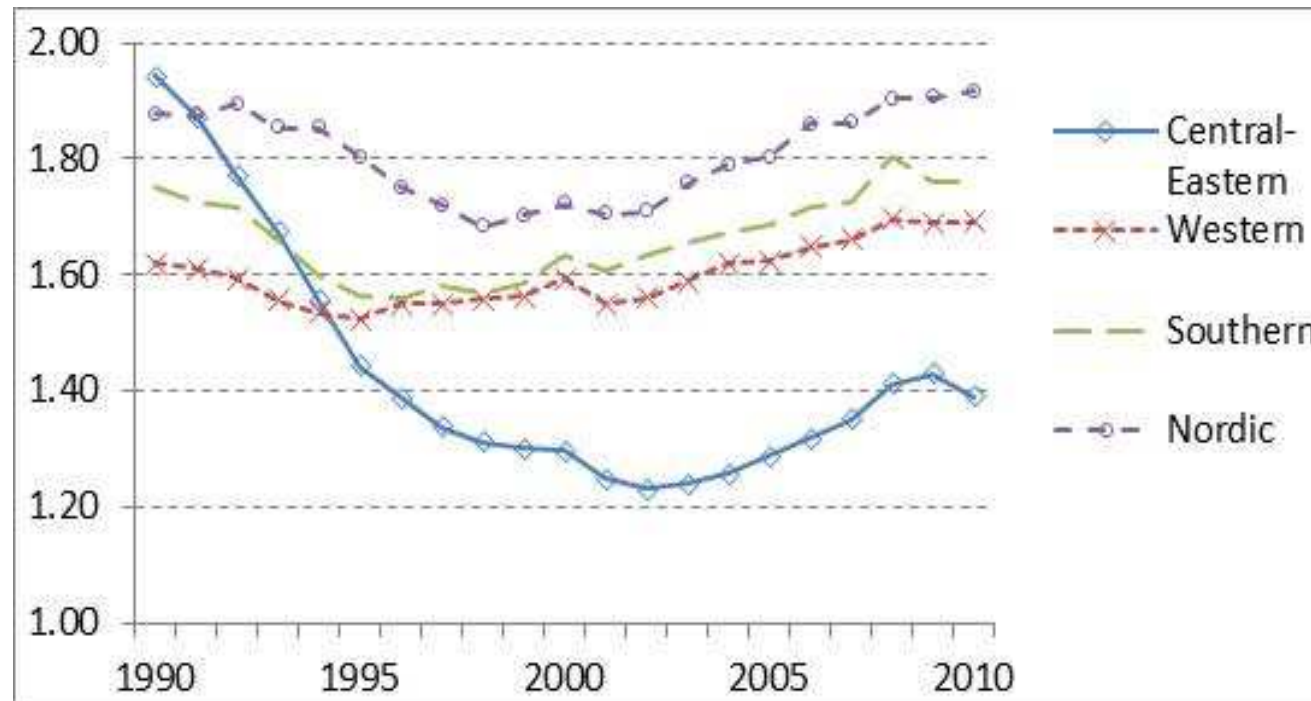
6-8 June 2011

Work, fertility and the transition to parenthood:

Trends and their impact on work and family agenda

Dimiter Philipov

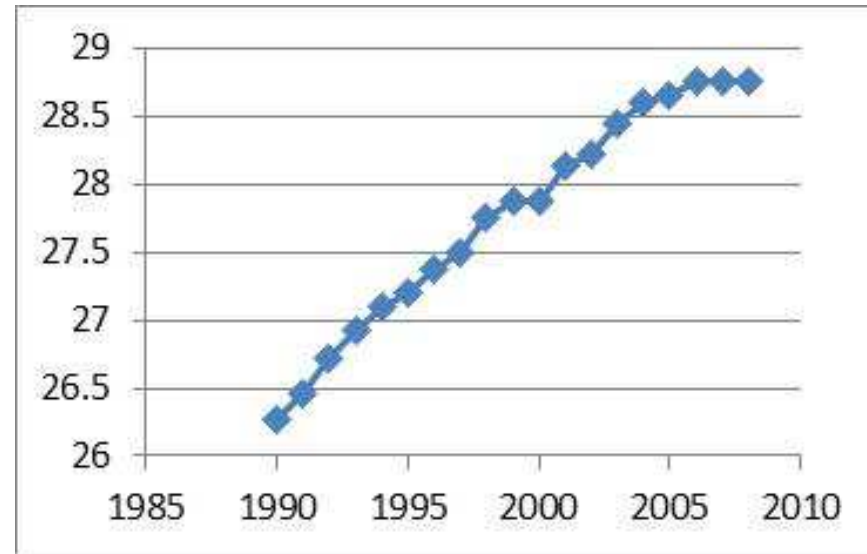




1. Decline and Postponement
2. Rebound
3. Effect of the recession

Total fertility rate in regions of the EU

(source: Eurostat and Human Fertility Database)



*Changes in the mean age at first birth,
Sweden*

(source: HFD)

The work-family interface

1. Postponement: an outcome of the work-family dilemma, poverty and uncertainty.

The work-family dilemma is a problem of time-use. It can be solved with a postponement of some competing life paths.

Hence: “tempo” policies.

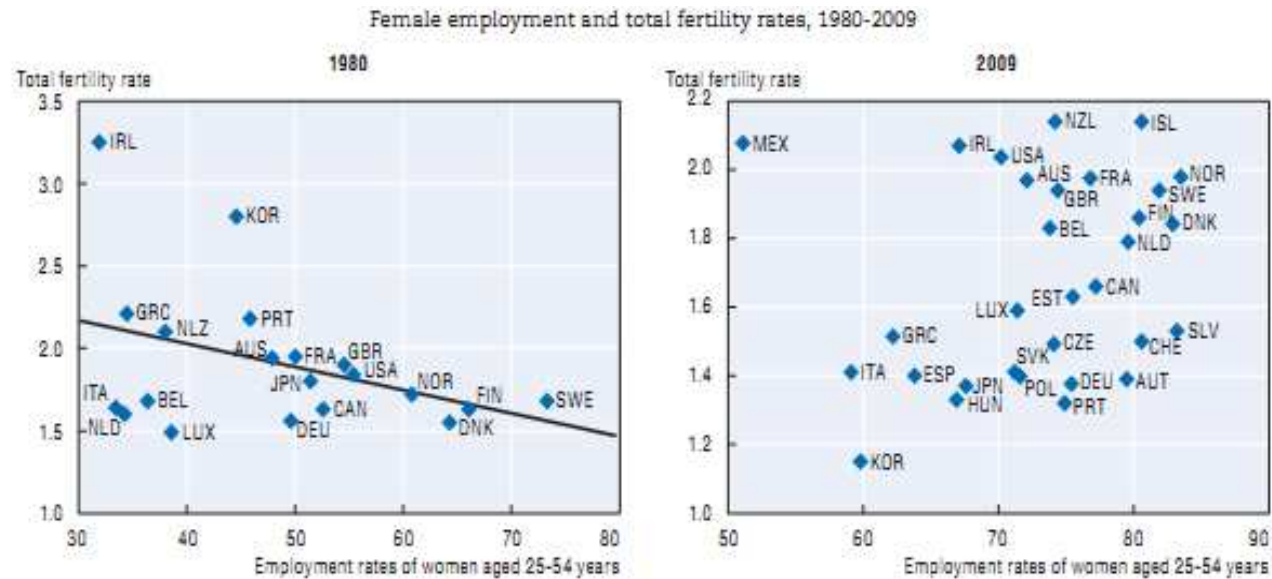
But: other reasons for postponement are poverty and uncertainty (with respect to crucial life events)

The work-family interface (beyond postponement)

2. Life-style preferences (Hakim 2001)

**3. Gender equity:
conflict between welfare and social
norms**

Work and the family in contemporary social life



Note: The y-axis (total fertility rate) scale is 1.0-3.5 for 1980 and 1.0-2.2 for 2009.

Source: OECD (2010b), OECD Family Database, SF2.1.

Female employment and total fertility rates, 1980 and 2009 (source: Fig.3.8 in OECD, 2011)

Families in transition (new forms)

- Childless couples
- Single parent
- Cohabiting couples
- Single-sex families
- Families of “others”: foreigners,
other ethnicity ...

A broader view with respect to policy implications

- Are more children desired?
- A syndrome of postponement?
- Value of children?