



**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**

---

## **9. European Alliance For Families**

### *Official name of the Organization*

European Union, European Alliance For Families.

### *Website of the Organization*

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/families/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/families/index.cfm).

### *Name of the practice*

European Alliance For Families.

### *Aim of the practice*

The European Alliance for Families is a portal devoted to family policies in the European Union. It aims to create impulses for more family-friendly policies through exchanges of ideas and experience in the various Member States. The Alliance website serves as a medium for exchanging good practice, ideas and experience among the different Member States. It is available in English, French and German.

### *Target group of the practice*

The Alliance website serves as a medium for exchanging good practice, ideas and experience among the different Member States. It is available in English, French and German.

### *Name of the person who will make the presentation*

Emanuela Tassa.

### *Position in the Organization*

Socio-economic analyst at the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.



# European Alliance for families: how to share best practices at EU level

Emanuela TASSA – DG EMPL  
[Emanuela.tassa@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Emanuela.tassa@ec.europa.eu)

**Expert Group Meeting**

**Bruxelles, CoR, JDE 70  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

## Summary

*1) the demographic challenge*

*2) EU competences and the EAF*

*3) the technical support group: identifying evidence-based practices and compare them*



## **"The disturbing demographic situation in Europe" (COM(89) 363 final)**

*All EU countries have now fertility rates below replacement level of 2.1*

*In the next 20 years, roughly 2 million +60 more per year and 1 million fewer 20-59*

*Among 55-64, 10% UE women are not on the labour market because of family commitments (men, <1%)*

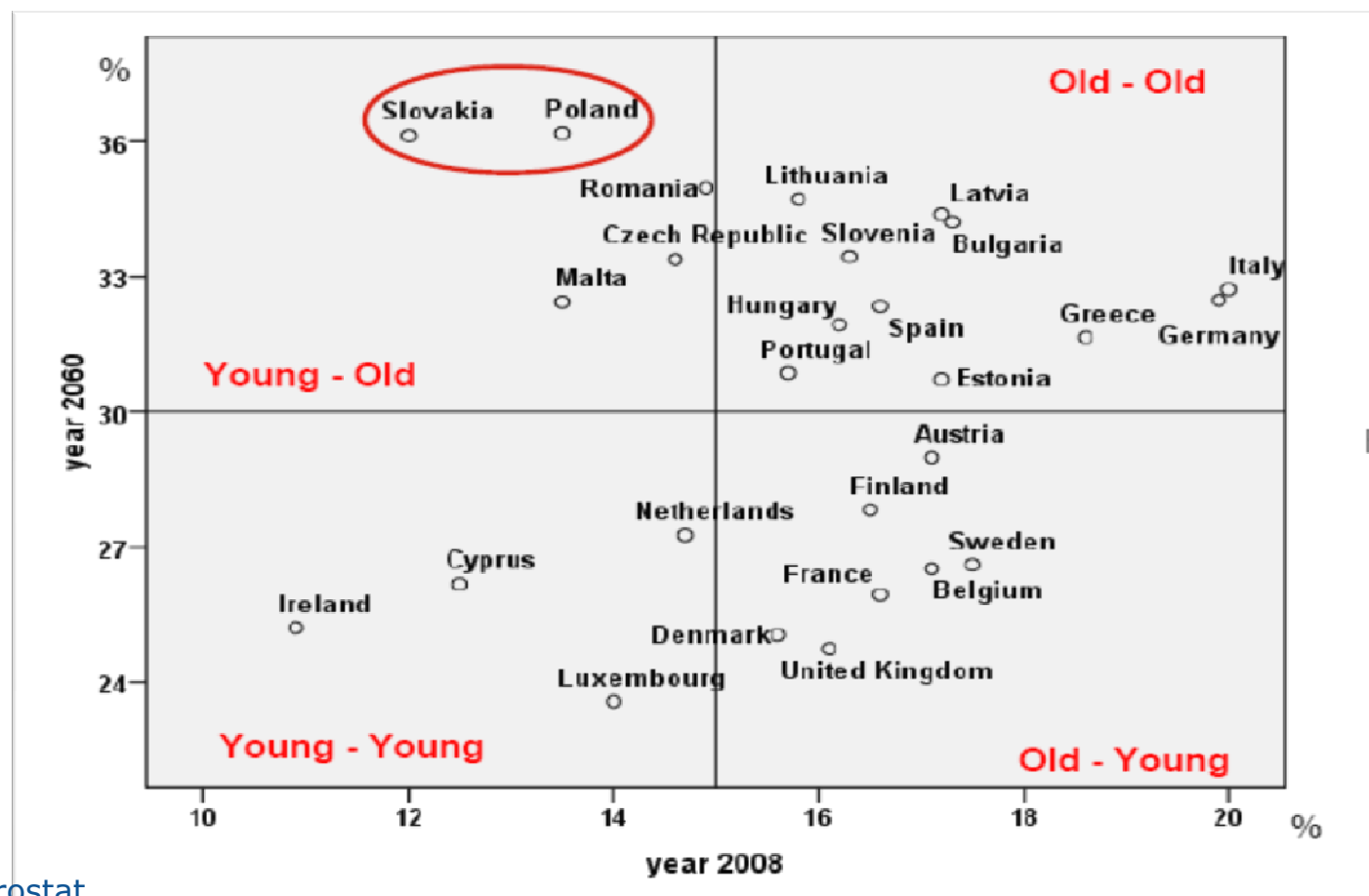




European  
Commission

## Growing older....or younger?

Shift in the share of people aged 60+ in the overall population from 2008 to 2060

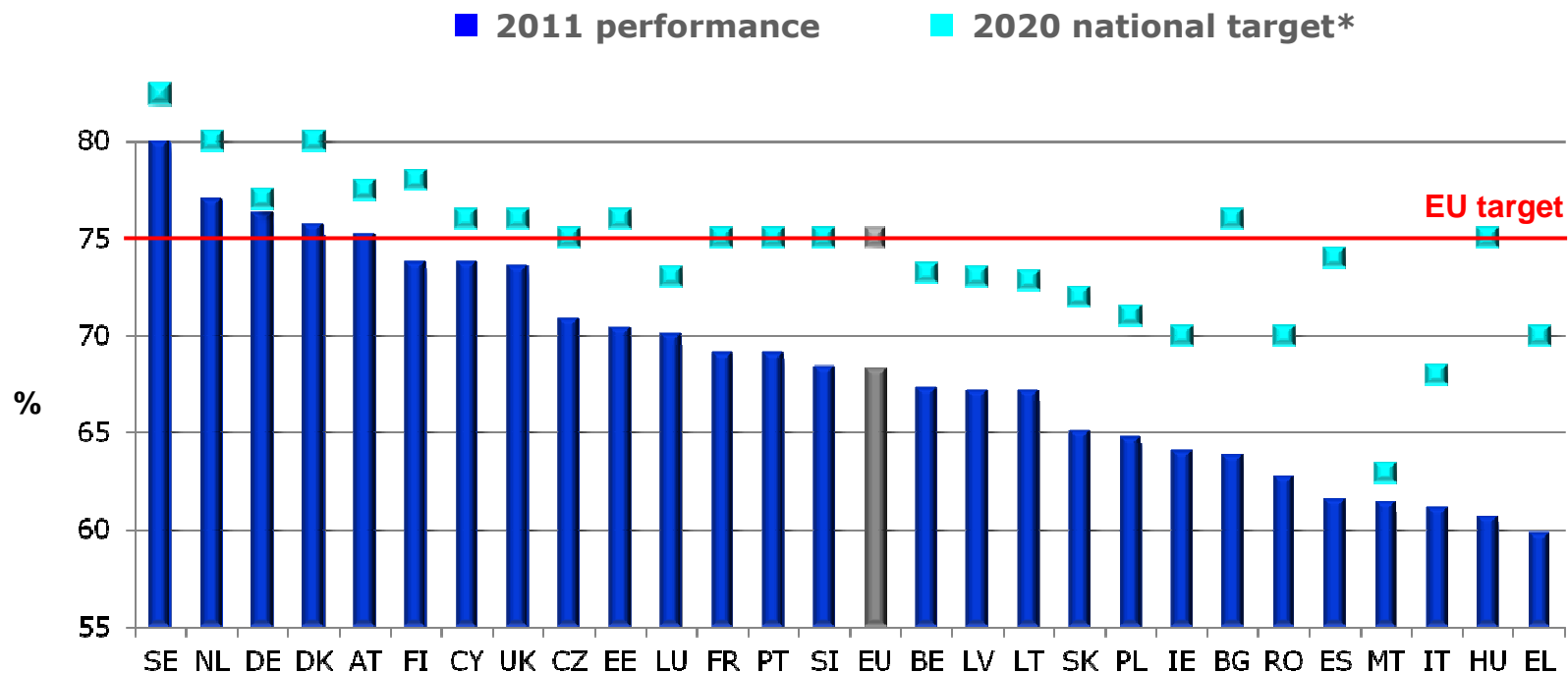


Source: Eurostat



# Employment performances vary markedly

Employment rates in the EU  
(share of people employed in the 20-64 age group)

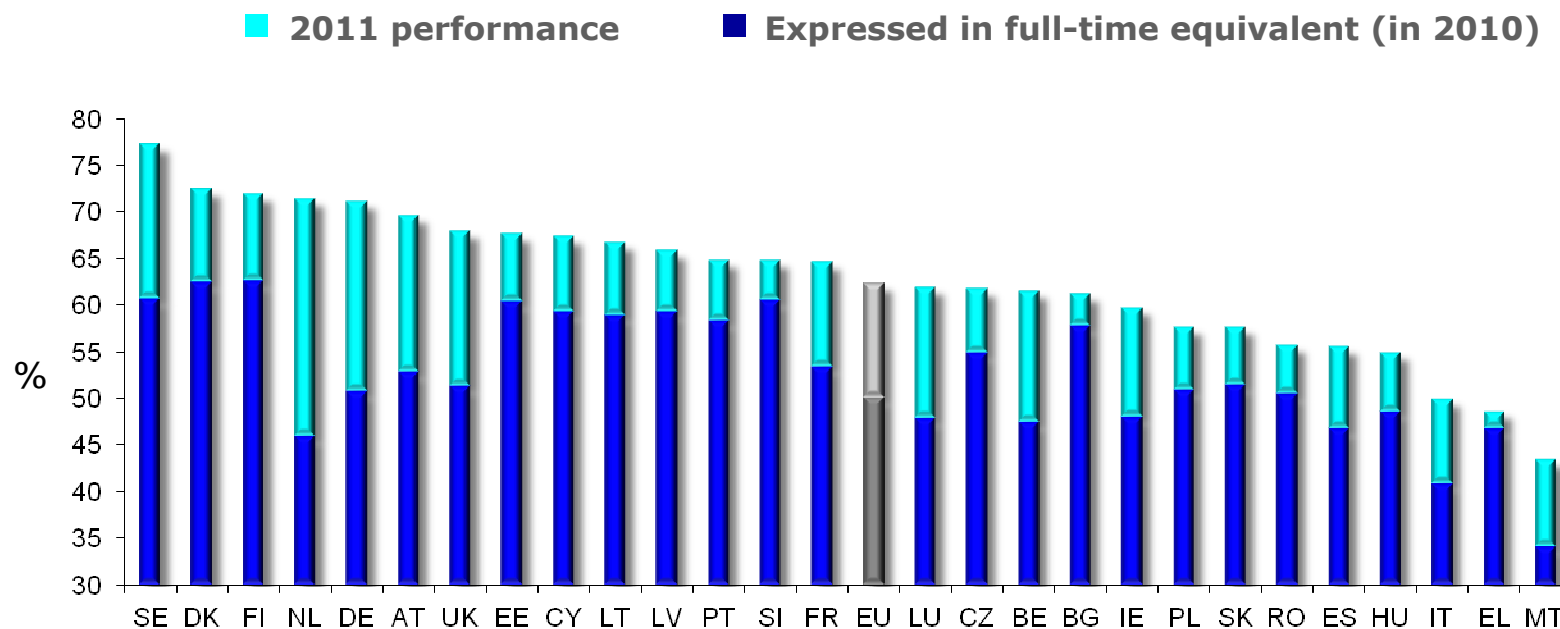


\* No target set for UK. For SE the target is well above 80 %.

Source: European Commission

# This is notably the case for women...

**Female employment rates across the EU**  
(share of women employed in the 20-64 female age group)

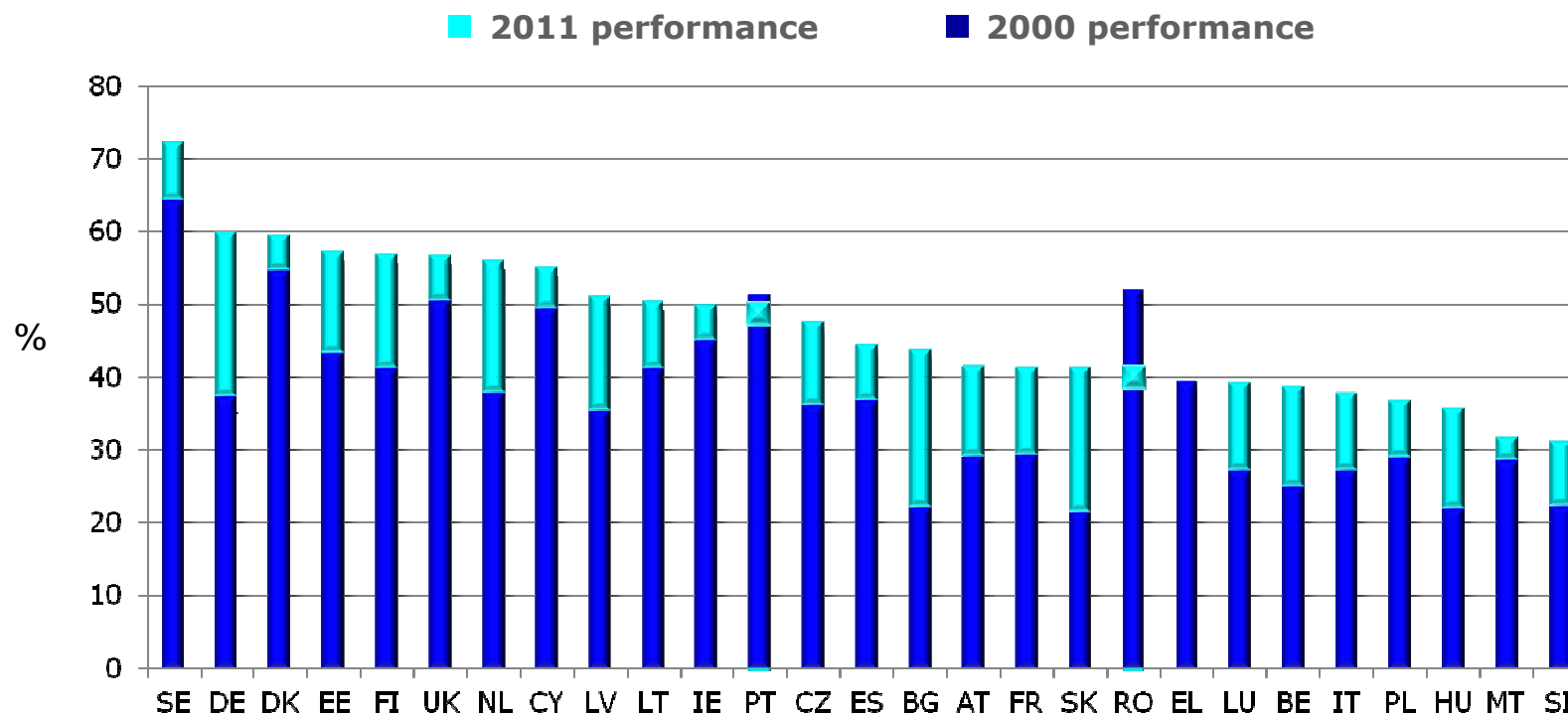


Female employment rates vary very significantly across the EU. If the share of part-time work is factored in to estimate a “full-time equivalent employment rate”, less than half of the female workforce is employed in several countries.



## ... and for older workers

**Older workers' employment rates across the EU**  
(share of people employed in the 55-64 age group)



Source: European Commission



## **...and the young ones?**

*Youth unemployment lies at 21%, in 5 countries it is more than 30%, 12% of 15-24 are NETT: risk of a lost generation*

*Young people (particularly women) in precarious positions postpone parenthood*

*New social risks such as rapid skill depletion, family formation, declining fertility, reconciliation, divorce, inadequacy of social security coverage bear primarily on young people and families*





# Eu role and activities in family policies

*Legal base as for non discrimination (1957)  
and workers' protection (1992)*

*Open method of coordination for social policies  
(1997)*

*Mutual learning and exchange of best practice*





## **2006 Communication**

# ***“The demographic future of Europe – from challenge to opportunity”***

*“...we can take up the challenge of the ageing population if we create conditions in support of people who wish to realise their desire to have children...”*

*“An overall strategy appears essential...a reference framework at Community level for Member States’ policies... in five core policy directions...”*

- Promoting demographic renewal in Europe





## **2007 Communication** ***“Promoting solidarity between the generations”***

*European Alliance for Families:*

*“...a platform for exchanges and knowledge concerning pro-family policies and best practices in the Member States, with a view to meeting the challenges of demographic change.”*





## THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP

- evaluation framework for best practices in the area of family policy;
- To identify and validate best practices
- To support and promote the dissemination and the exchange of these practices at EU level;
- To monitor and report on family policy trends and changes in the EU;
- To contribute to the evidence base on family policies at EU level;





# **Evidence Based Family Practises: Evaluation Framework**

*To provide a reference framework for evaluating family practice*

*To adhere to scientific standards of transparency and replicability*

*To distinguish between practices with differing levels of evidence and benefits*





European  
Commission

# **PROGRAM NAME**

## **Evidence of Effectiveness**

**Transferability**

**Sustainability**







# Criteria One: Evidence of Effectiveness

*All practice evaluations will be assessed against agreed-upon standards for internal validity in 6 categories.*

*Some example requirements:*

- **Evaluation includes a comparison group**
- **Significant positive results are shown on at least one relevant outcome**
- **Sample size exceeds at least 20 in each group**

***Practices will be assigned either a + or ++***  
*depending on the degree to which the practice meets most rigorous evaluative standards.*

*Practices that do not merit at least a + in this category will not be eligible for inclusion*





## Criteria Two: Transferability

*Each practice will also be assigned a -, 0, +, or ? in two additional categories, according to the following criteria:*

- **Transferability (external validity):**

Program has been evaluated in at least one additional population beyond the original study population (broadly defined), in such a way that at least meets the basic criteria for internal validity

Program materials are available, or documentation is sufficient, such that program can be replicated

Bonus Category: Program has been implemented successfully in more than one EU Member State



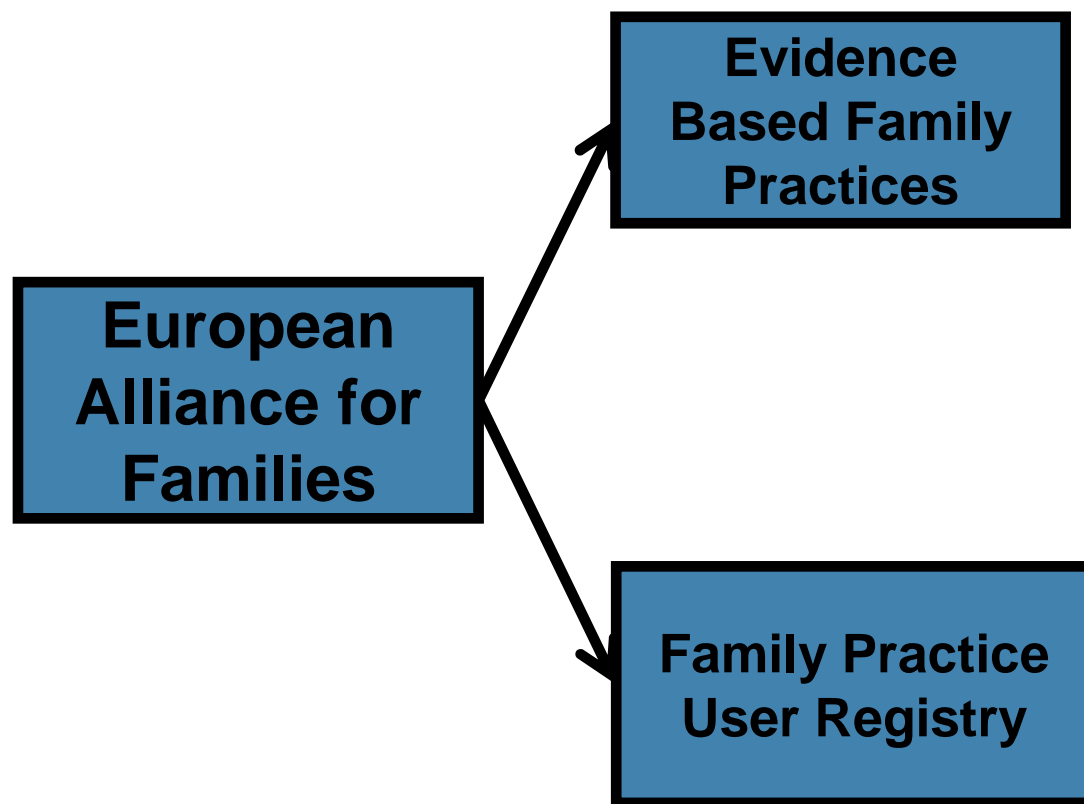


## Criteria Three: Sustainability

- **Each practice will also be assigned a -, 0, +, or ? according to the following criteria:**
- **Sustainability (long-term benefits):**
  - An evaluation of the practice has conducted a follow-up of at least two years, and shown at least one positive outcome ( $p < 0.1$ )
  - Bonus category: Program has been found to be cost-effective/cost-beneficial



## EAF website: Two-pronged approach to content



- **Resource for “what works”**
- Reviewers rank practice evaluations across several domains of quality
- Only practices that prove to be robust in at least one domain are posted
  
- **Resource for sharing ideas and lessons learned**
- Users submit content on practice experience in the field and practices being evaluated



# EAF Website: Process for establishing content

*Practises to be included in the website will initially be drawn from the existing European Alliance for Families website*

*Further practises will be identified through continued research and reaching out to Member State stakeholders, then submitted to the Family Practise User Registry*

*If submitted practises have previously been evaluated, they will be subjected to the evaluation framework and further review by external experts. If successful, they will be included as examples of Evidence Based Family Practises.*





# Thanks!

***For more info on the European Alliance for families:***

***<http://www.europa.eu/familyalliance>***

***Emanuela TASSA***

***European Commission***

*DG Employment, social Affairs and Inclusion*

*Unit Demography, Migration, Social Innovation, Civil Society*

+32 2 29 92556

*emanuela.tassa@ec.europa.eu*

