Europe and the demographic challenge
Societal aging
Population pyramids of selected European countries, 2025
Source: US Census Bureau
Period total fertility rates (average number of children per woman) in different country-groups, 1960 – 2011
Data source: Eurostat
Family benefits in percentage of GDP and TFR (Pearson= 0.65); completed cohort fertility in selected countries, early 2000s

Data source: Eurostat, OECD, Sardon and Robertson 2004
Gender differences in labour market activity
[women’s activity rate in proportion of men’s rate; 20-64 years] in different welfare regime clusters, 1992-2012.

Data source: Eurostat

Note: Unweighted data; means for each group. Countries are grouped as follows (years for missing data listed in brackets):
Gender difference in education (proportion of women with upper secondary and tertiary education in proportion to men with similar educational attainment) in different welfare regimes, 1992-2012

Data source: Eurostat

Ages: 25-34 years

Ages: 25-64 years
Correlation between female labor force participation (15-64 years of age) and total fertility rates in Europe

Data source: Eurostat, OECD

Pearson's coefficient of correlation= -0.83

Pearson's coefficient of correlation= 0.56

Pearson's coefficient of correlation= 0.84
What matters most is *how* family policy spending is divided between **cash support** and **service provision**

*Data sources: European Commission, Eurostat, OECD*
Public childcare services

- assistance for working parents (or parents studying)
- pedagogic activities for children
- improve life chances for all children, also those in marginalized groups

Correlation between childcare enrolment of the under 3s and total fertility rates in European OECD countries, 2010-12

(Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.56)

*Data sources: Eurostat, OECD*
Average enrolment rate of children under age 3 in formal childcare

Source: OECD Family database

Use of informal childcare arrangements by the age of the child, 2008

Source: OECD Family data
Maternal employment rates by number of children below age 15, 2011

Source: OECD Family database

Average enrolment rates for children under age 3 in formal childcare
Poverty rates for children and the total population, 2010

Source: OECD Family database
Family policy models

Dual-Earner model / Social democratic welfare regime (Nordic countries)

- extensive state support to share earning and family tasks; gender equality

General Family Support model / Conservative welfare regime

(Western Europe – most heterogeneous model)

- support to mothers’ engagement in care and fathers prioritizing paid work

Latin Rim model / Familialistic welfare regime (Southern European countries)

- separate spheres for women and men, limited state support to combine employment and family tasks

Market Oriented model / Liberal welfare regime (English-speaking countries)

- reconciliation of work and care via the market

Transition Post-Socialist model / Post-socialist welfare regime (CEE-countries)

- state support to women combining earning and caring reduced
Total fertility rates in Europe, 1960-2011
Data source: Council of Europe, Eurostat, INED, VID

Northern Europe

Western Europe

Southern Europe

Central-Eastern Europe
Female labor-force participation at ages 25-49 years in a number of European countries, 1987-2012
Data source: Eurostat
Example of best practice: Swedish parental leave program

- since 1974 (6 months then; 480 days since 2002)
- High flexibility (until the child’s 8th birthday; full-time or part-time basis)
- Income-related benefit (90% of income prior to the birth; since the mid-1990s: 80%)
- Father’s role strengthened over time (1980: daddy days ; 1995: father’s quota, extended in 2002)
- New reforms: 2008 - gender equality bonus (changes 2012);

Uptake of parental leave among fathers in Sweden, 1986-2013

Data source: National Social Insurance Board, Sweden
Changing families and sustainable societies:
Policy contexts and diversity over the life course
and across generations

Large-scale integrating project in the European Union’s Seventh
Framework Programme; February 2013 – January 2017;

The main objectives of the project:
• to investigate the diversity of family forms, relationships, and life courses in Europe;
• to assess the compatibility of existing policies to family changes; and
• to contribute to evidence-based policy-making
Thank you for your attention