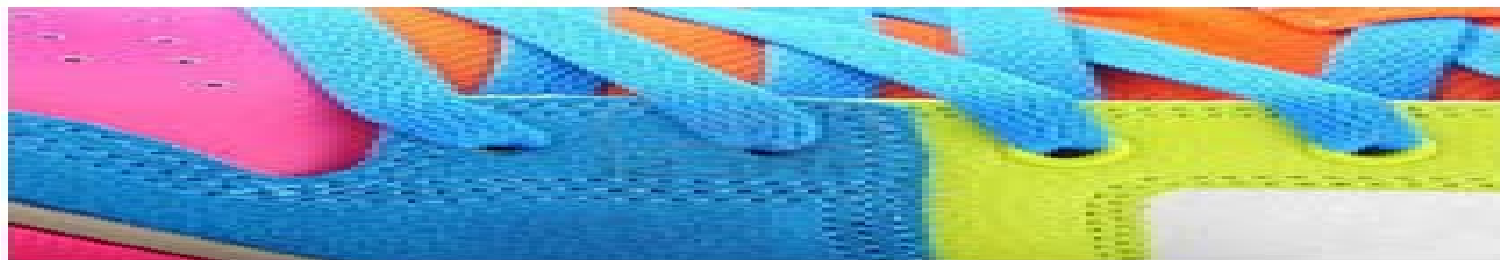


Youth in 2020
The Future of Youth Policies Conference
1-3 October 2013, European Youth Centre Budapest

Working group on housing and family

Facilitator

Siyka Kovacheva, University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria



Structure of the discussion

1 session. Knowledge inputs from youth research, youth work and youth policy on:

- what we know
- what we need to know
- what we expect to happen

2 session. Discussion on the differences and similarities in Europe:

- consideration of horizontal aspects: globalisation, human rights, minority groups' situation and rights, youth participation and youth rights
- debate on the role and limitations of youth policy and youth work

3 session. Examples of good practice:

- what works well and what does not work
- what is new and promising

4 session. Looking forward:

- identification of three challenges
- proposals for the role of youth policy in meeting these challenges

Main questions in the first session

- What do we know about the situation of young people's housing and family transitions and what are the certain trends and uncertain but probable new developments?
- What else should be taken into consideration as outcomes from interesting research, youth work and youth policy; what do we need to know but is missing; what do we expect to happen?

Basic assumptions from theory and research (often disputed)

- Youth transitions in modern societies are passages from family dependence to autonomy.
- An integral part of this process in Europe is the transition from the family home to a home of one's own and from parental family to forming one's own family.
- The general trend in Europe is toward the prolongation, reversibility and diversification of youth family transitions.
- The forms and speed of achieving autonomy in housing and family are influenced by economic, demographic, cultural and policy factors as well as by individual psychological stances and motives.
- In every society there are groups of young people who are more vulnerable and accumulate various disadvantages.

Diversity of housing and family transitions of European youth

Among European countries (Welfare regime typology):

- Liberal
- Corporatist/conservative
- Social democratic/universalist
- Sub-protective/familialistic
- Post-socialist

Diversity of housing and family transitions of European youth

among young people inside the countries:

- gender
- educational level
- employment status
- ethnic, immigrant and other minority status
- at risk of poverty
- family situations
- ...

Statistical data on housing transitions

- The age of leaving the parental home
- Overcrowding
- Severe housing deprivation

Figure 1. Mean age of leaving parental home

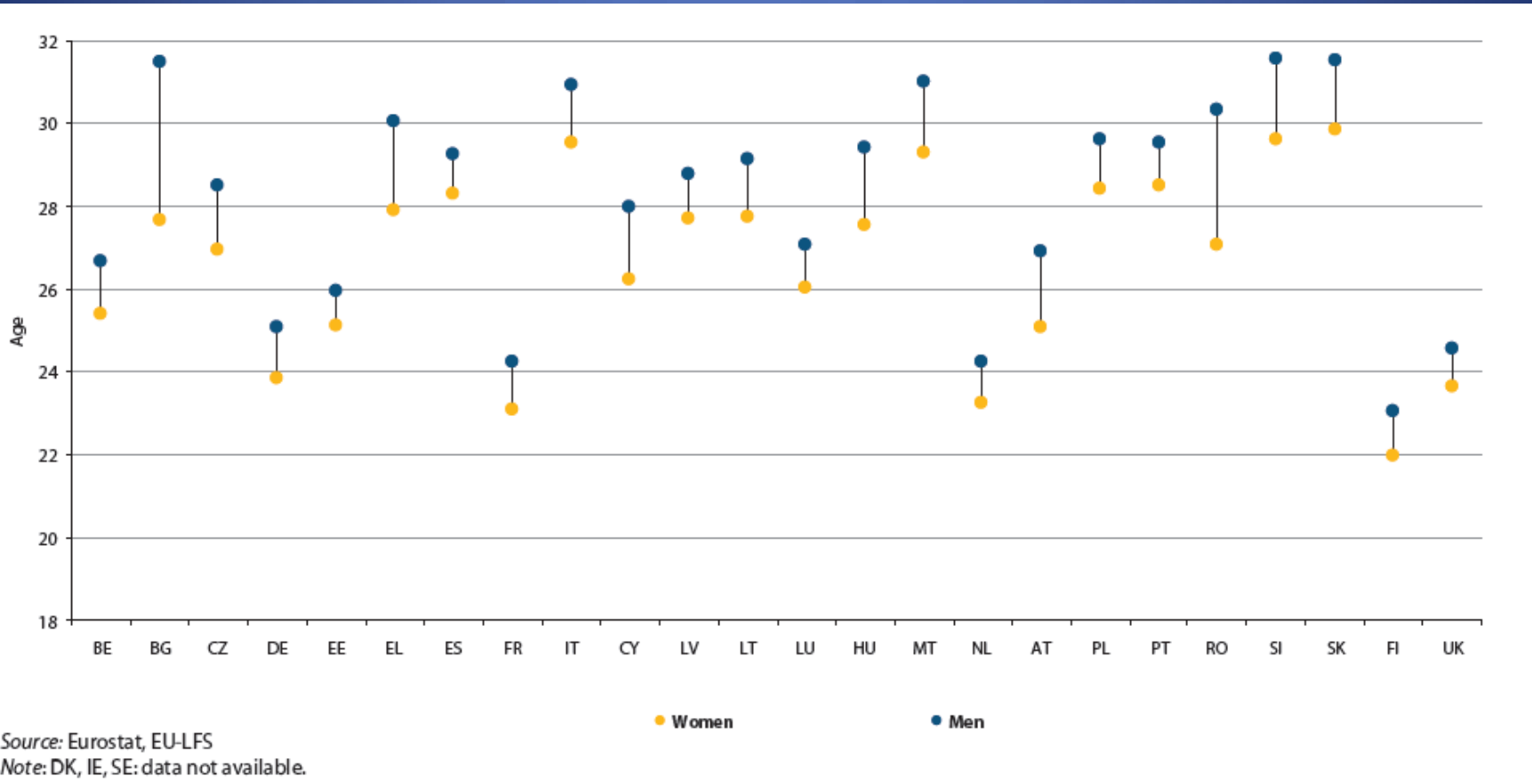
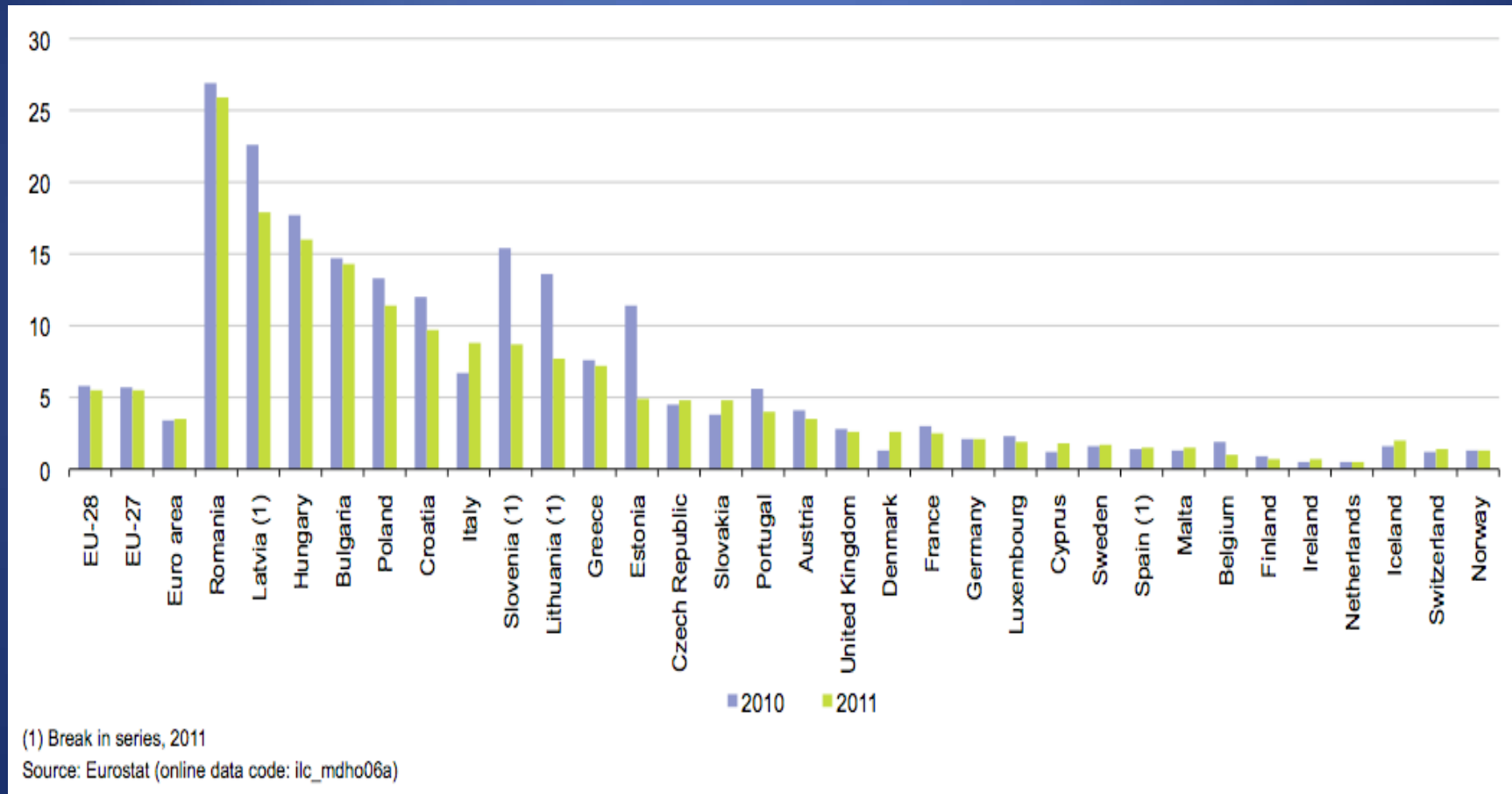


Figure 2. Overcrowding rate

▪

Figure 3. Severe housing deprivation



Housing policies:

- No unified EU policy in the field of housing, with national governments responsible for developing housing policies
- Challenges recognized in the EU social policy:
 - Ensuring access for all to decent and sanitary housing
 - Supporting young and disadvantaged groups to get into the housing market
 - Combating homelessness
 - Providing social housing
 - Promoting energy efficiency among homeowners

Statistical data on youth transitions to parenthood

- Delay of giving birth
- Limiting the number of children in the family
- Diversification of family forms

Figure 4. Mean age of women in childbirth

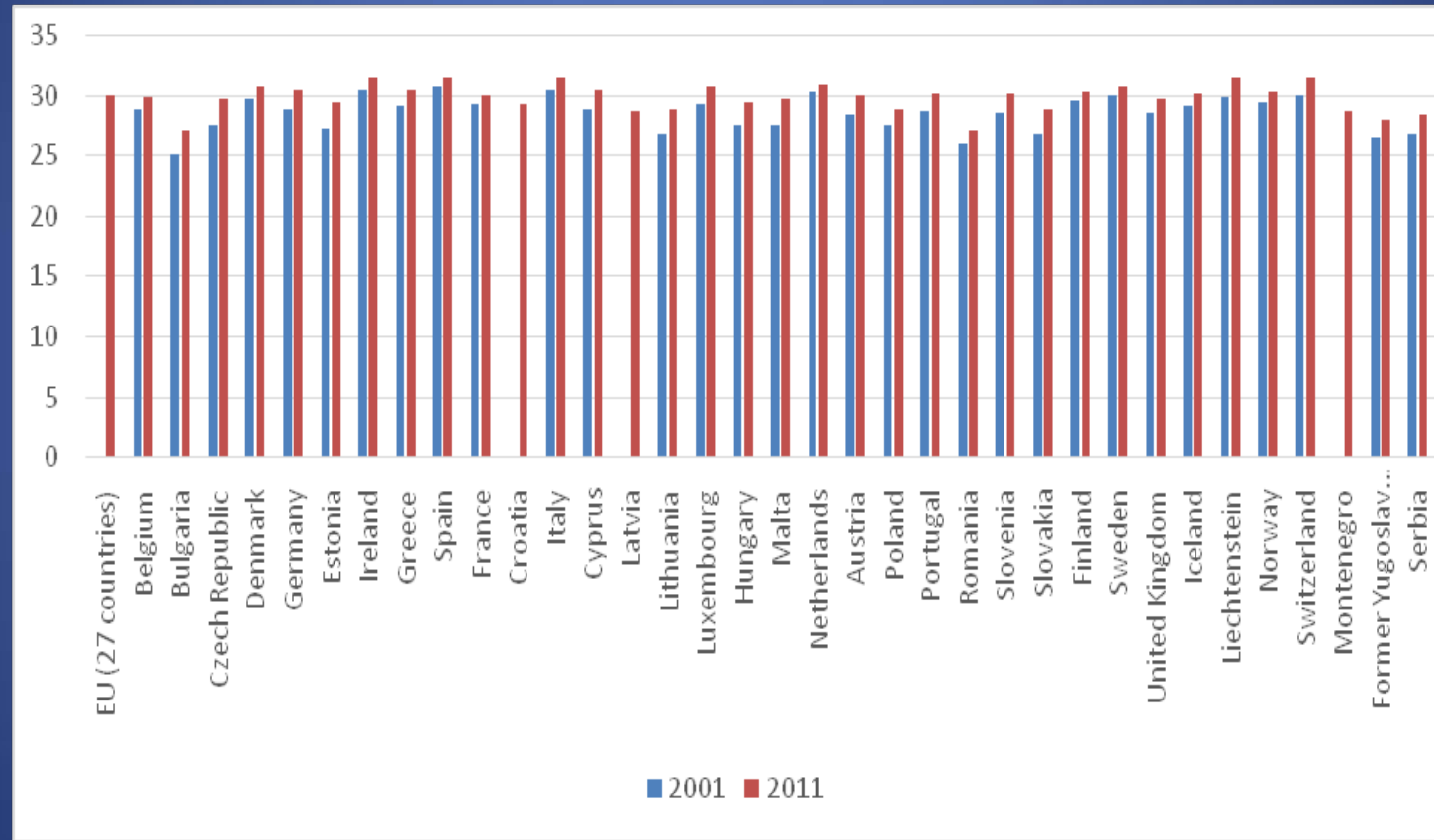


Figure 5. Total fertility rate (number of children per woman)

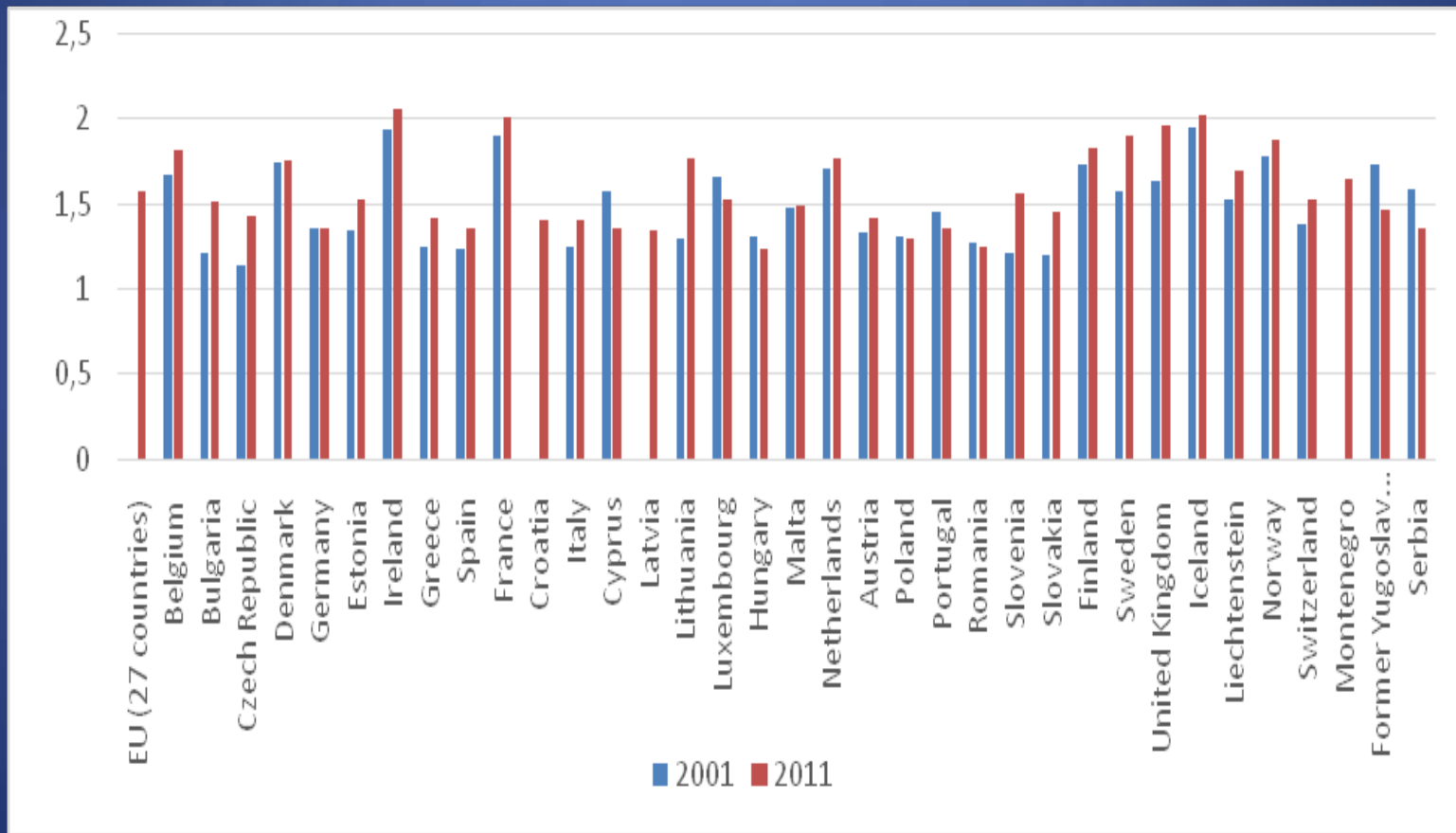
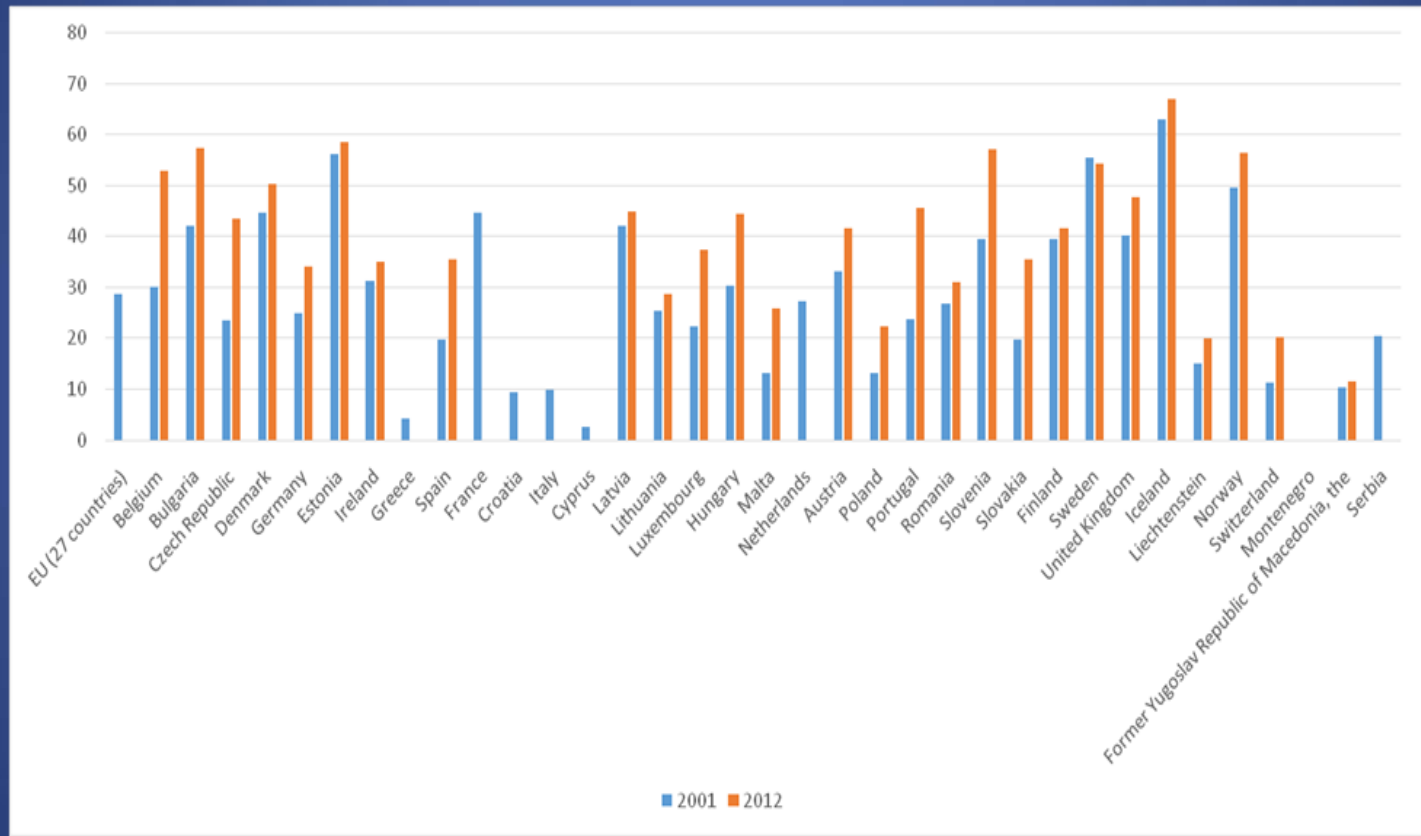


Figure 6. Live births outside marriage



Family policies

- No unified EU family policy
- Common concerns:
 - Parental leaves
 - Childcare provision
 - Financial support to young families

Qualitative data on youth transitions

Examples from the Transitions study:

- Figure 7. Rosa - Short and linear transition
- Figure 8. Nelly - Prolonged and de-standardised transition

Figure 7. Short and linear transition - Rosa

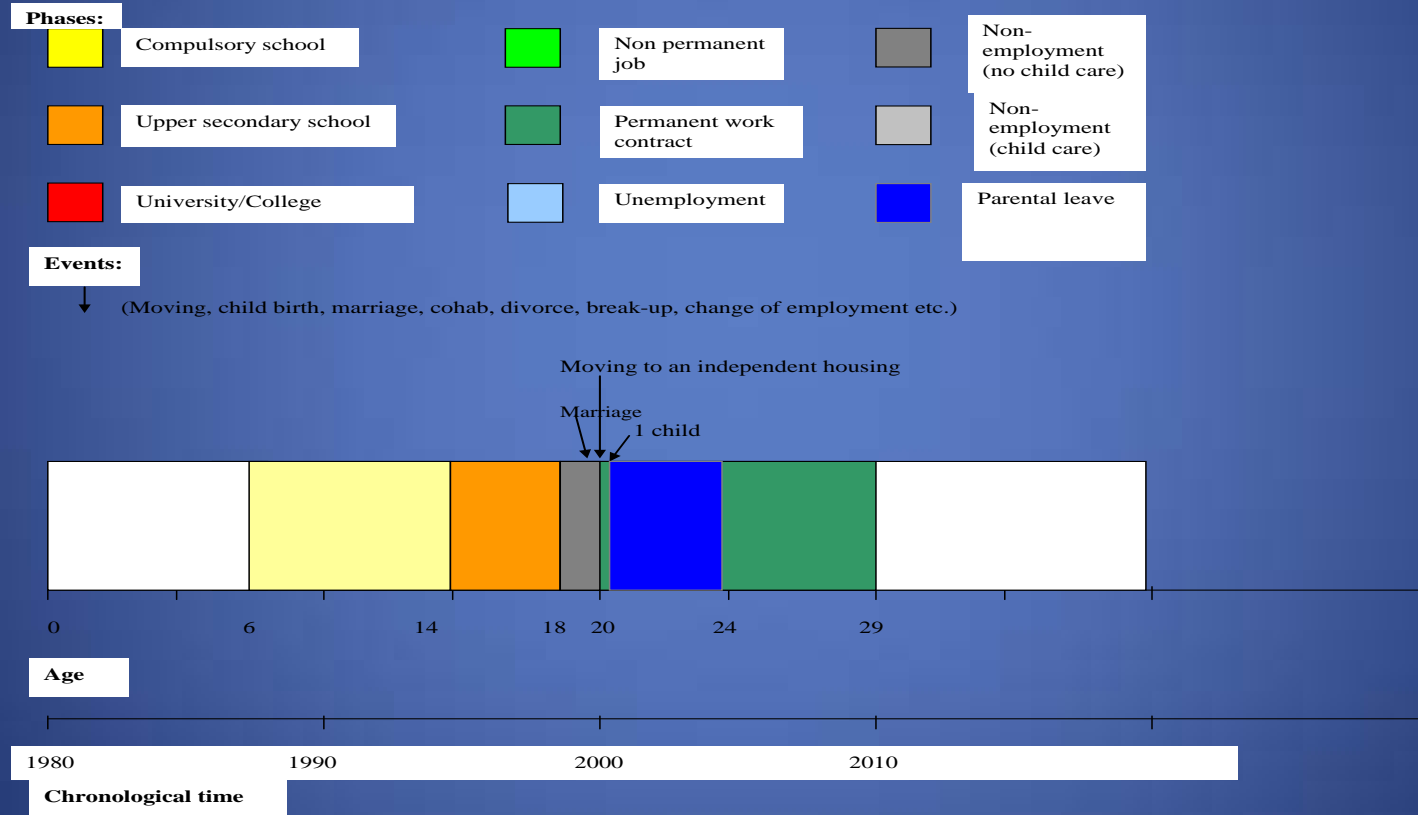
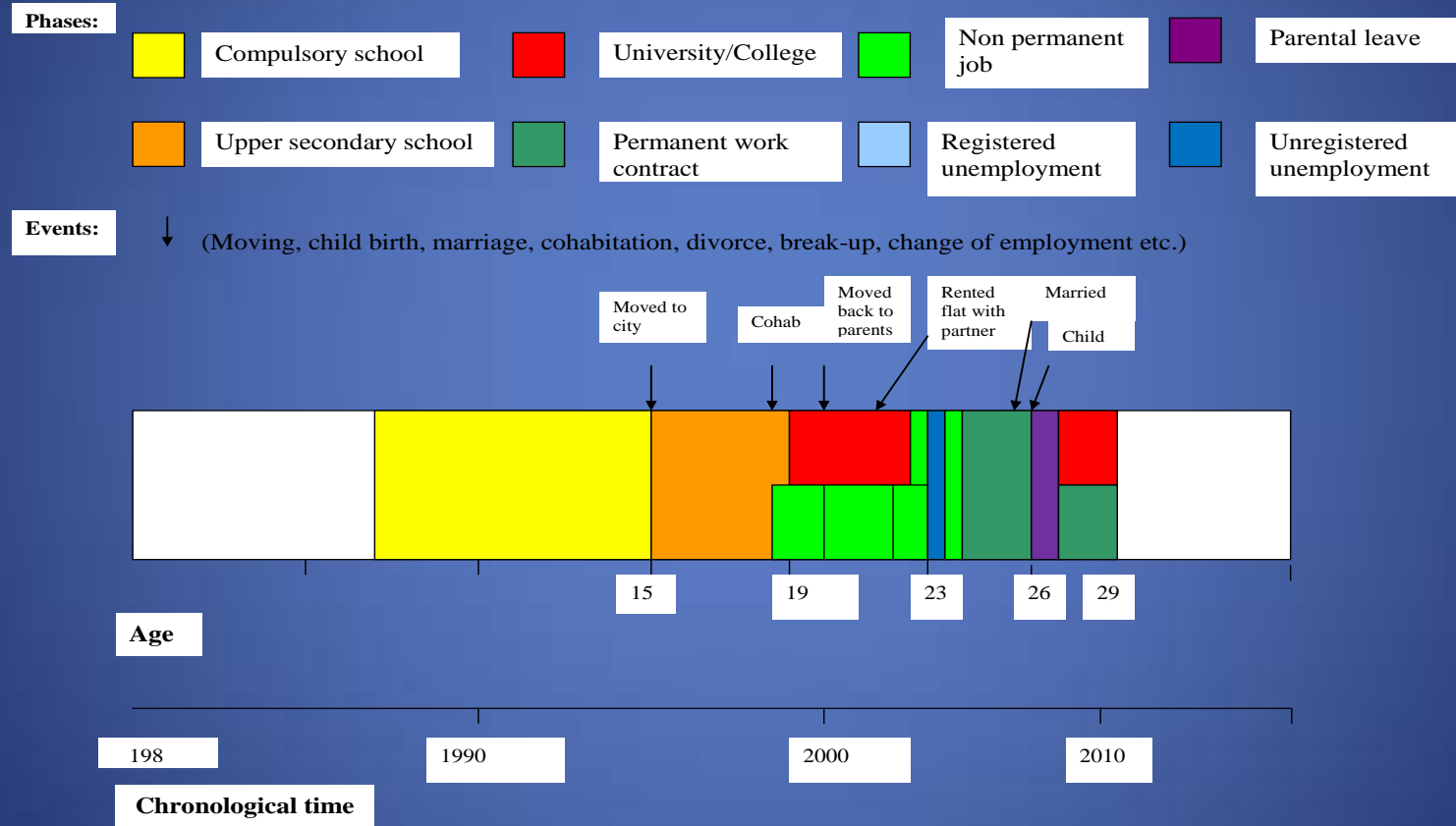


Figure 8. Prolonged and de-standardised transition - Nelly



Thank you for your attention!

