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REPORT ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE FAMILY IN EUROPE 2006

Rapport sur l'évolution de la famille en Europe 2006
Informe evolución de la familia en Europa 2006

INTRODUCTION

Over recent years, both European member states and supra-national bodies (the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, United Nations Organisation etc.) have become increasingly concerned by the problems facing families. This concern is the result of a growing awareness within society of the need to protect the family and family life, and has meant that family policies have become a social and public priority.

The social, economic and demographic crises of recent decades have emphasised the role of the family unit as a highly effective cushion against problems such as unemployment, illness, housing, drug addiction and social exclusion. Nowadays the family is seen as a principal support element within society, representing far more than merely a legal, social and economic entity. Above all, the family represents a community built on love and support.

Furthermore, families and family associations themselves are insisting that both social structures and governments should assist the family group and its individual members by putting in place political, economic, labour, social and tax measures to promote and protect the rights of the family, helping to consolidate its position as an indivisible, stable unit and its vital social function as the environment which fosters balanced individual development and the passing on of ethical, cultural and social values.

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY POLICIES



**REPORT ON THE
EVOLUTION OF THE FAMILY IN EUROPE 2000**

INTRODUCTION

With this aim, the Institute for Family Policies (IFP) has undertaken a fresh and in-depth study of the family, presented today and titled "Report on the Evolution of the Family in Europe 2006". This study has been carried out by a multi-disciplinary team of experts in the fields of demography, psychology, sexology, medicine, successful integration of professional and family lives etc. This team has gathered data from various international bodies which have subsequently been analysed, debated and assessed to extract the most significant aspects.

Based on this analysis, the Institute for Family Policies (IFP) presents a set of social, economic, cultural, educational and media measures which it considers indispensable for the implementation of a genuine, all-inclusive family policy across the countries of Europe.

Lola Velarde

President of the European Network of Institutes for Family Policies (IPF)



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➤➤ I_ POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

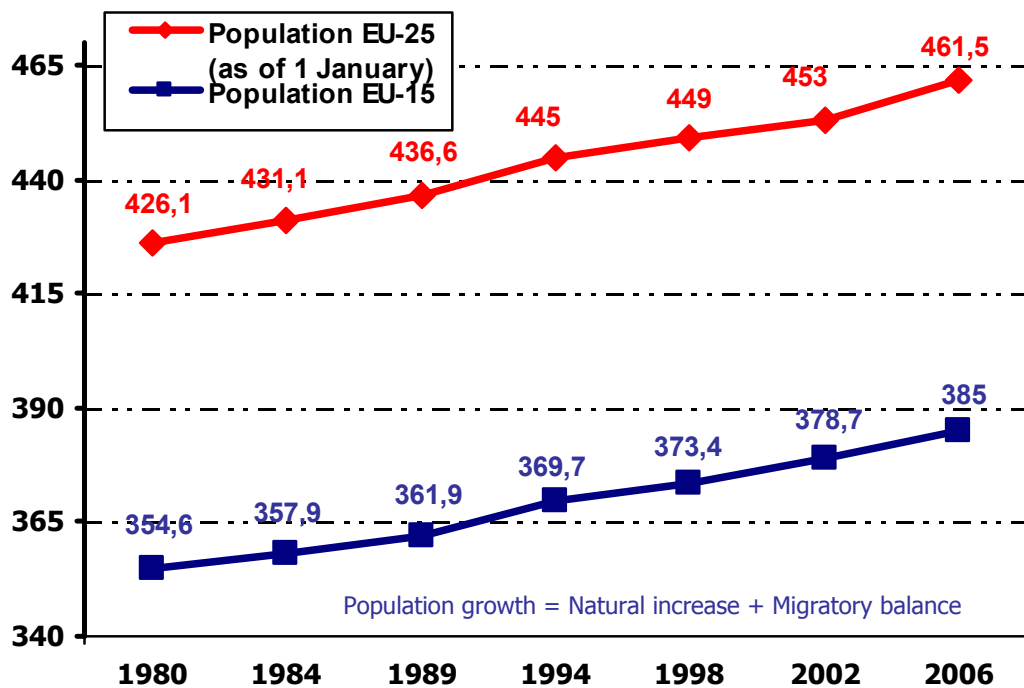
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**REPORT ON THE
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Slow growth of the European population...



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data

Over 26 years (1980-2006), the population the EU25 has increased by over 35 million, growth of 8.3%.

Over 12 years (1994-2006), the population the EU has increased by 15.3 million, a growth of 3.44%

...although slightly faster over the last four years...

Over the last 4 years (2002- 2006) the population has increased by 6.3 million, a growth of 1.66%



. but with very unequal distribution...

Population of countries in the enlarged EU has decreased... by 1.1 million compared to 1984 levels...

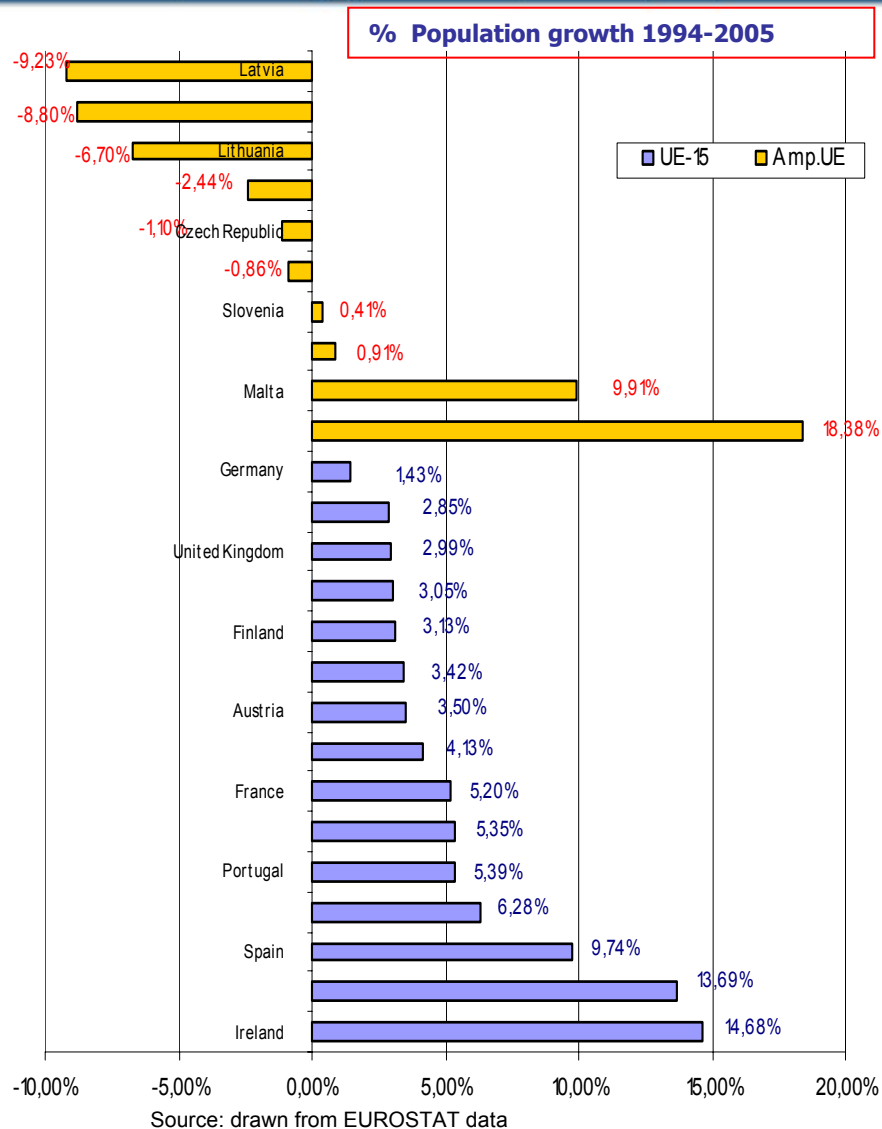
With the exception of Cyprus and Malta, the populations of the remaining EU enlargement countries have either remained static (Slovenia and Slovakia) or have decreased (Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Estonia).

...with 74.1 million inhabitants (2005), representing one sixth of the EU25

By contrast, the populations of the EU-15 are increasing... Although also unequally

Ireland (14.7% growth), Luxembourg (13.7%) and Spain (9.7%) are the countries with the greatest growth

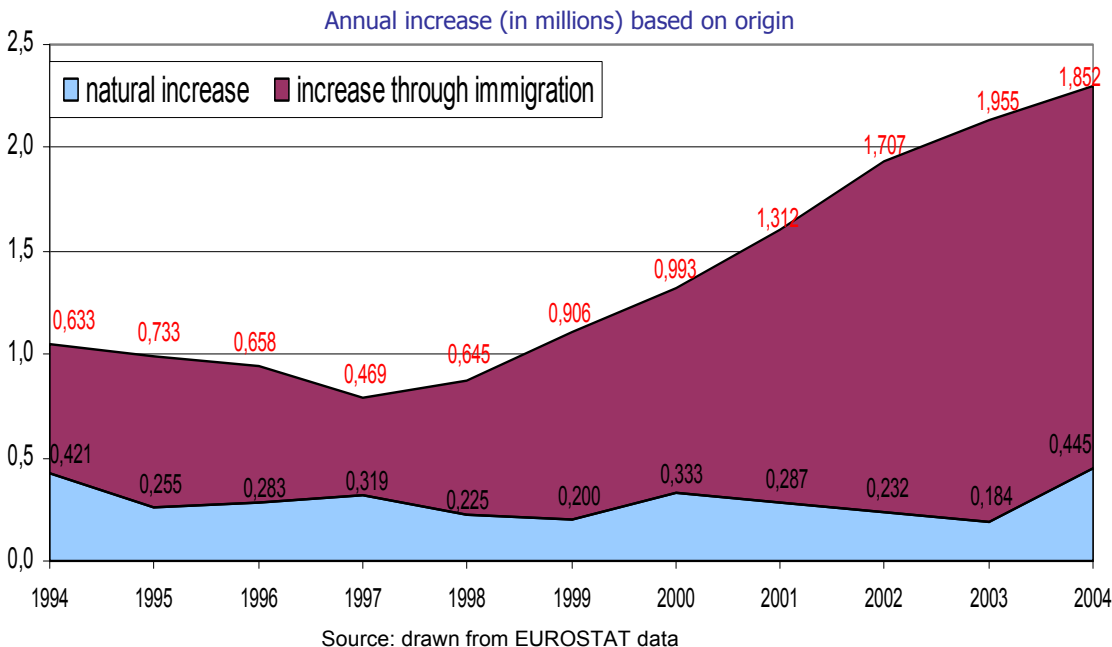
Germany, with growth of only 1.43%, Italy (2.89%) and the United Kingdom (2.99%) are the EU15 countries with lowest growth



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT data



...and basically due to immigration...



...Over 80% of population growth is the result of immigration...

Of the increase of 14 million in the EU between 1994-2005, almost 12 million is the result of immigration (82%)...

The disproportion has increased over recent years. Between 2000 and 2005, 90% of population growth (7.5 million) was the result of immigration.

... immigration in the EU now being over 50% higher than USA levels (but similar in terms of population %)

Stagnation of Natural Increase...

Natural Increase has remained static over recent years (around only 290.000 persons/year),

... Significantly lower than USA figures

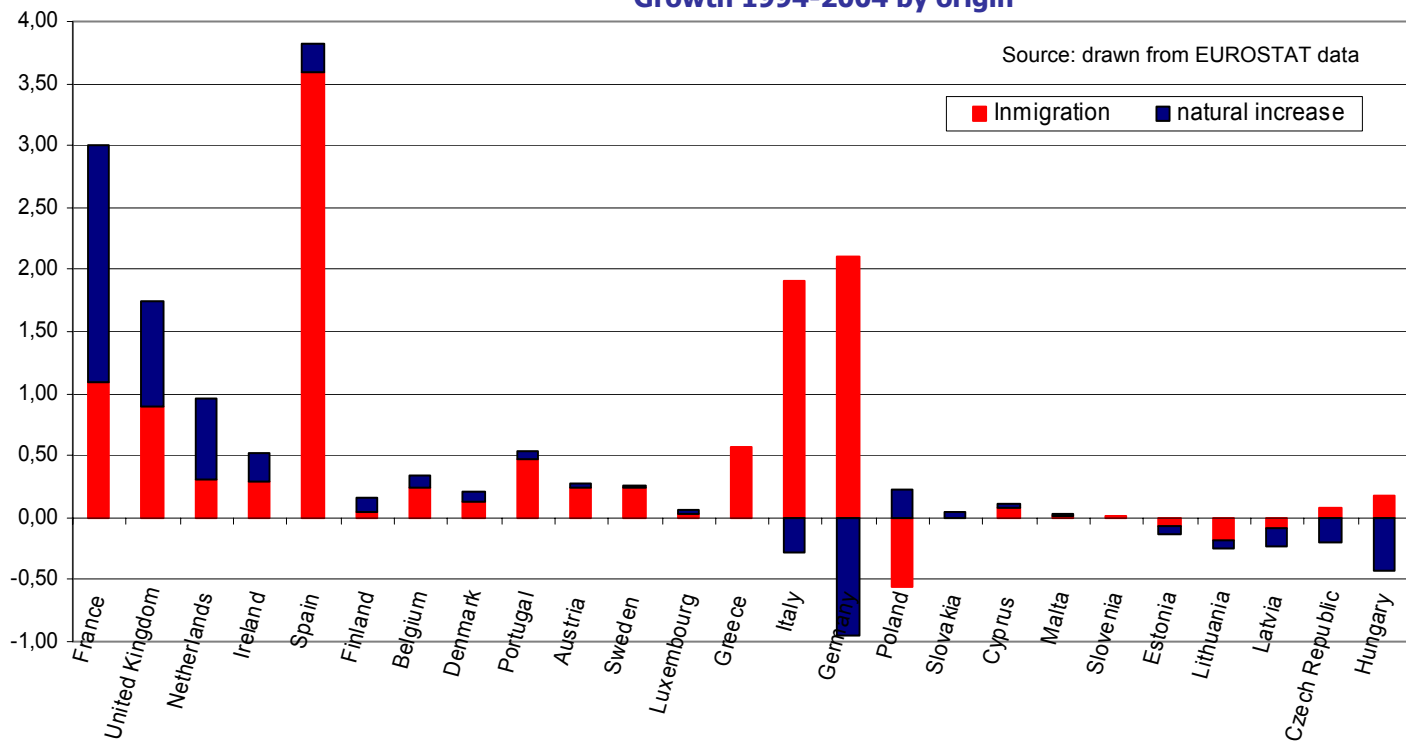
Natural Increase in the USA (% population) is 12 times greater than in the EU.

...And not of Natural Increase



...And has become the basis of population growth in almost all European countries

Growth 1994-2004 by origin

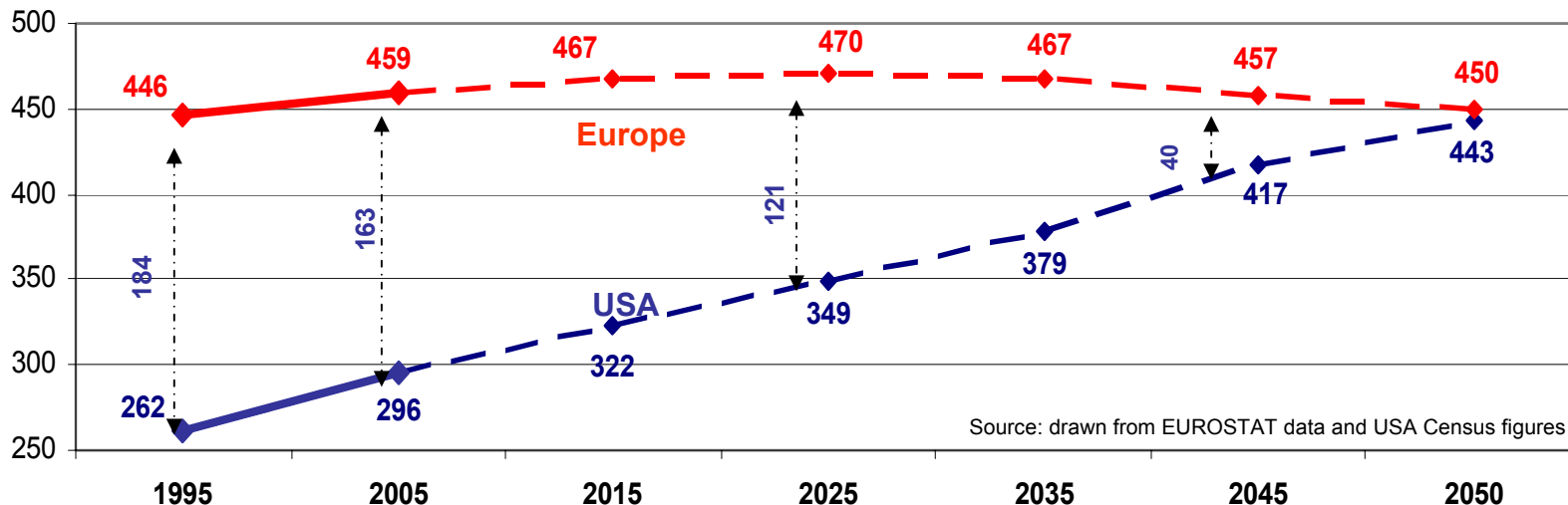


Only France, United Kingdom and Holland have natural increase rates higher than their immigration rates.

Germany and Italy offset their figures with immigration and natural decrease
 Hungary, Czech Republic and Latvia populations decrease with low immigration
 Poland and Lithuania populations decrease through emigration
 Rates of immigration in Spain are 16 times greater than its natural increase rate



... Which causes concern for future population growth:



The population of Europe will become static and then start to decline...

According to population prediction figures, they will reach a peak in 2025 and then begin to decline.

... Whilst the USA will continue to grow

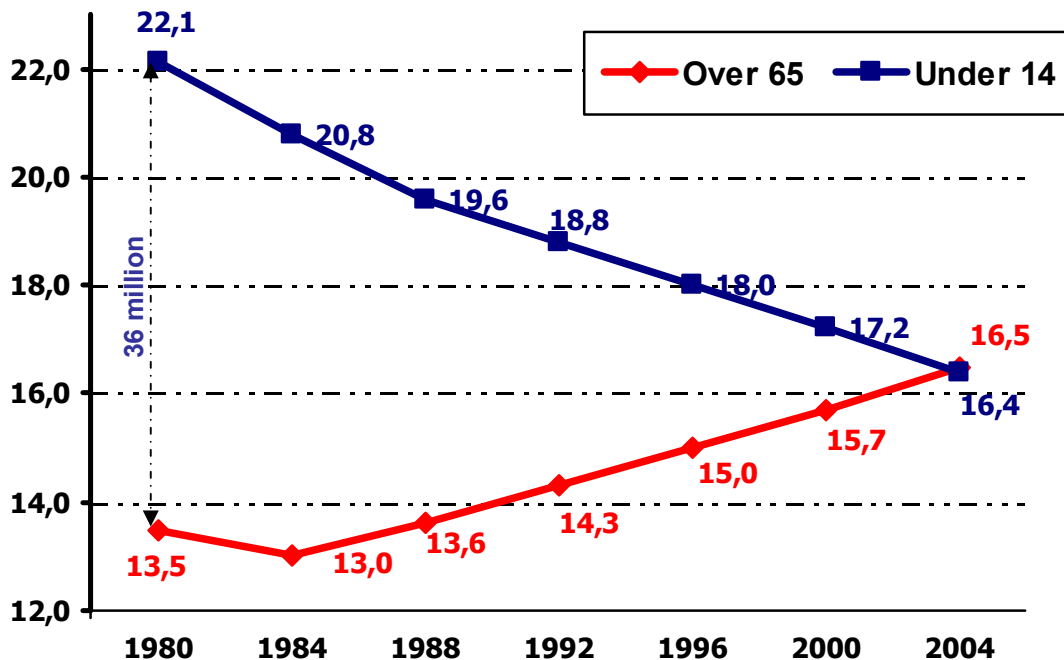
The USA has grown 4 times more than the EU since 1994.

... And figures will meet by 2050

At this rate, by 2051 the USA and the EU will have the same population figures (some 448 million inhabitants)



The European population has aged...



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT data

There are already more elderly individuals than children...

Whilst in 1980 there were 36 million more children than elderly individuals, by 2004 there are more elderly individuals than under 14s

...due to reduction in the young population by over 20 million (over 24 years)

- Representing a reduction of 21%. 10% over the last ten years.
- The under14 population now only accounts for 16.4% of total population (74 million in the EU).

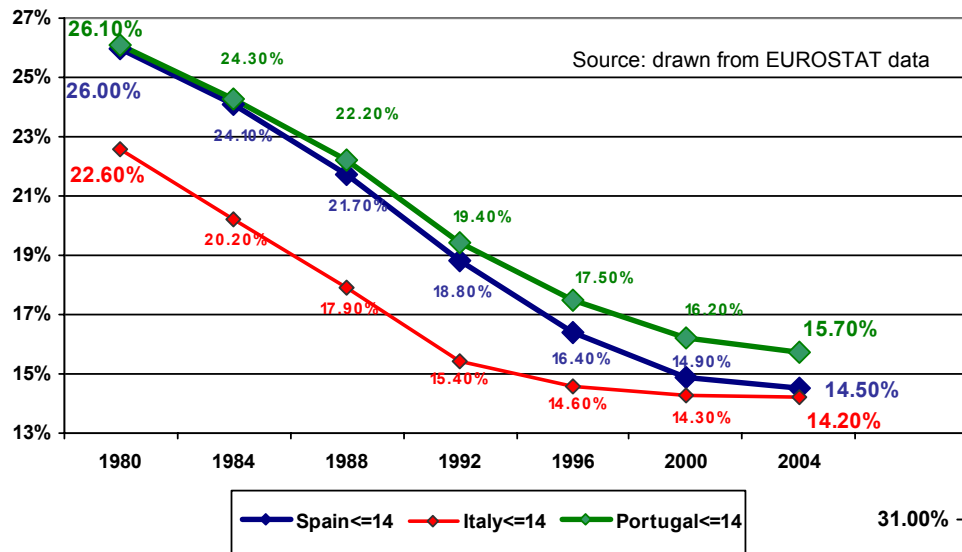
...and increase of the elderly population by over 17 million (over 24 years)

Representing an increase of 29%. 15% over the last ten years.

- The 75.4 million over 65s now account for one sixth of the population (16.5 %).
- The over 80s have increased by 84%, from 9.8 to 18 million (one out of every 25 community members).



Italy has the fewest young people...1 out of every 7 Italians (14.2%)



...but it is the young population of Spain that has experienced the sharpest decrease over this period, 44% (1980-2004)

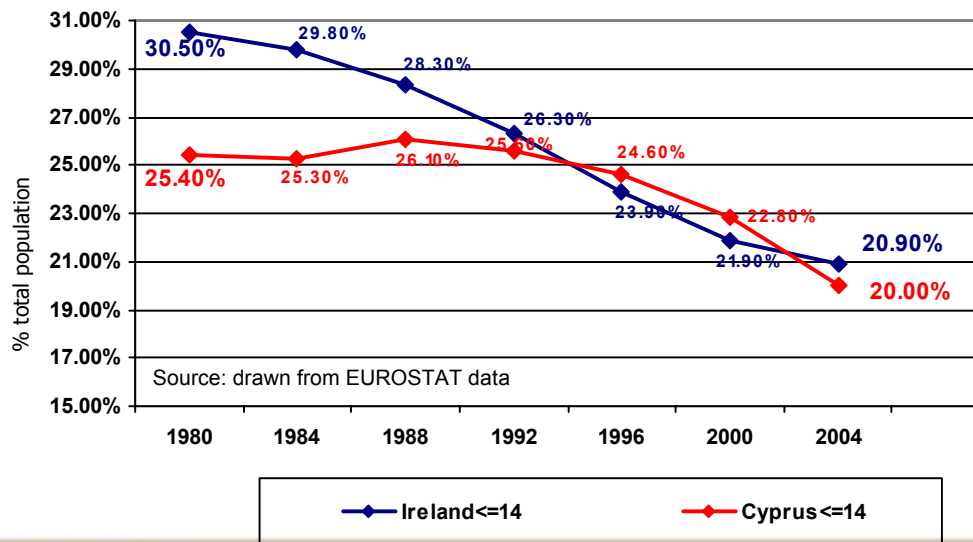
...going from 26% in 1980 to 16.4% in 2004,

Spain (44% decrease), Portugal (40%), and Italy (37%) are the countries where the number of young people (under 14) has decreased most over this period...

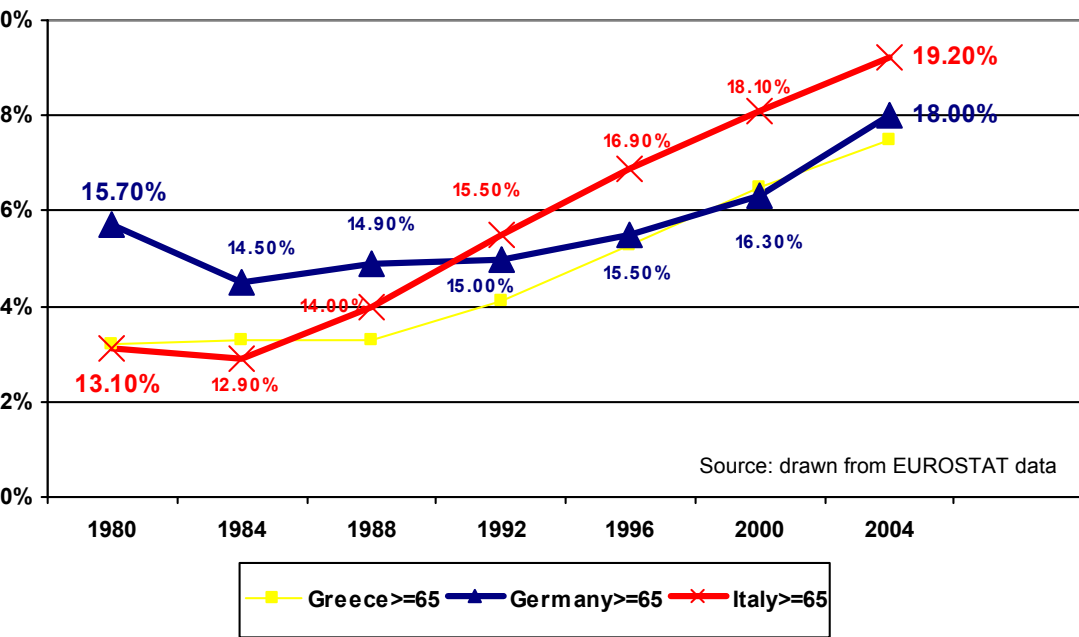
And Ireland has the most...1 out of every 5 (20.9%)

Ireland and Cyprus are the EU25 countries with the highest percentage of young people in their population, over 20% and significantly above the European average...

...And Denmark is the country which has experienced the lowest decrease in the young population (10%)



Italy is also the country with the largest elderly population...One out of every 5



...Equivalent to almost 20% of the population (19.2%)

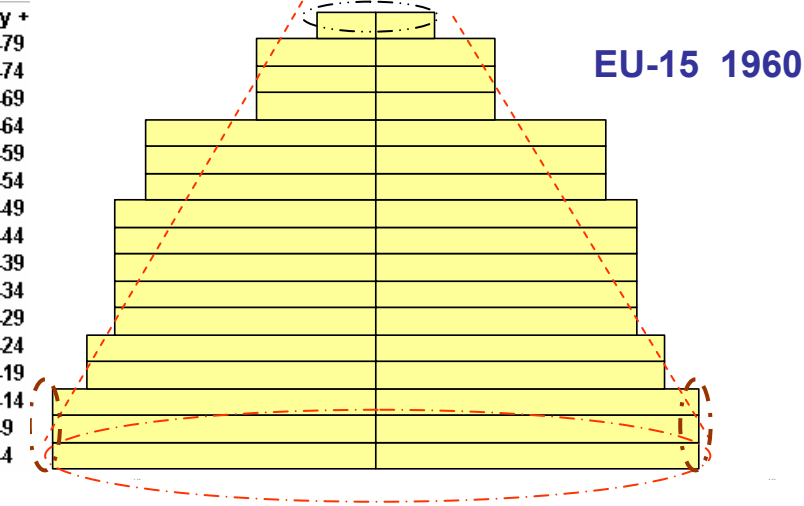
Italy, Germany and Greece are the countries with the largest elderly populations.

...but it is the elderly population in Spain which has increased the most over this period, by 56% (1980-2004), from 10.8% in 1980 to 16.8% in 2004,

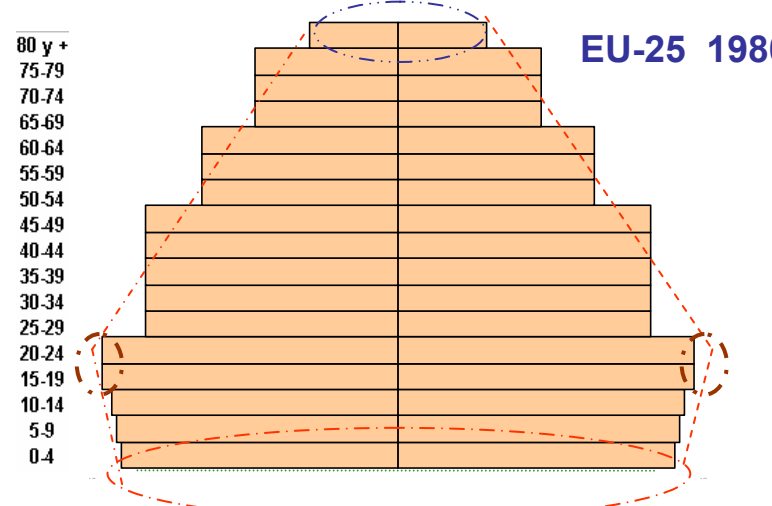
...And although Germany occupies second position in countries with the largest elderly population, the growth of the sector over this period has been small.



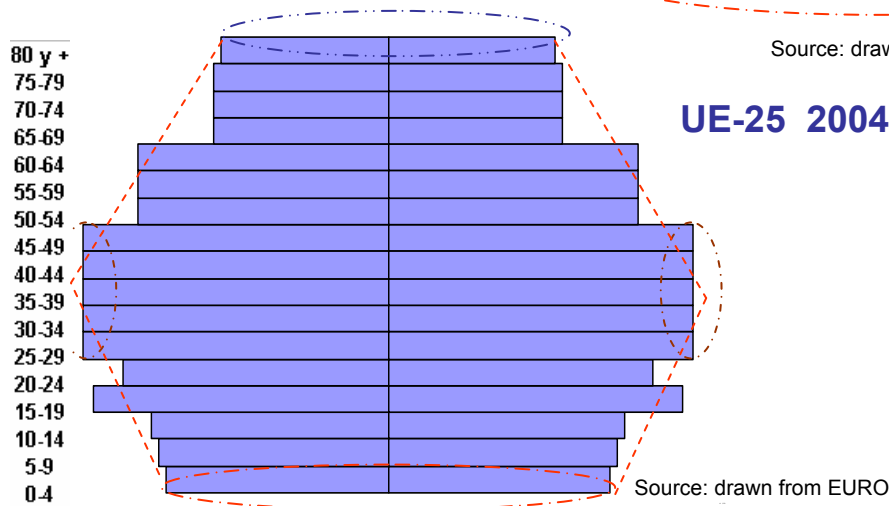
...with the age profile almost inverted



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT data



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT data



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT data



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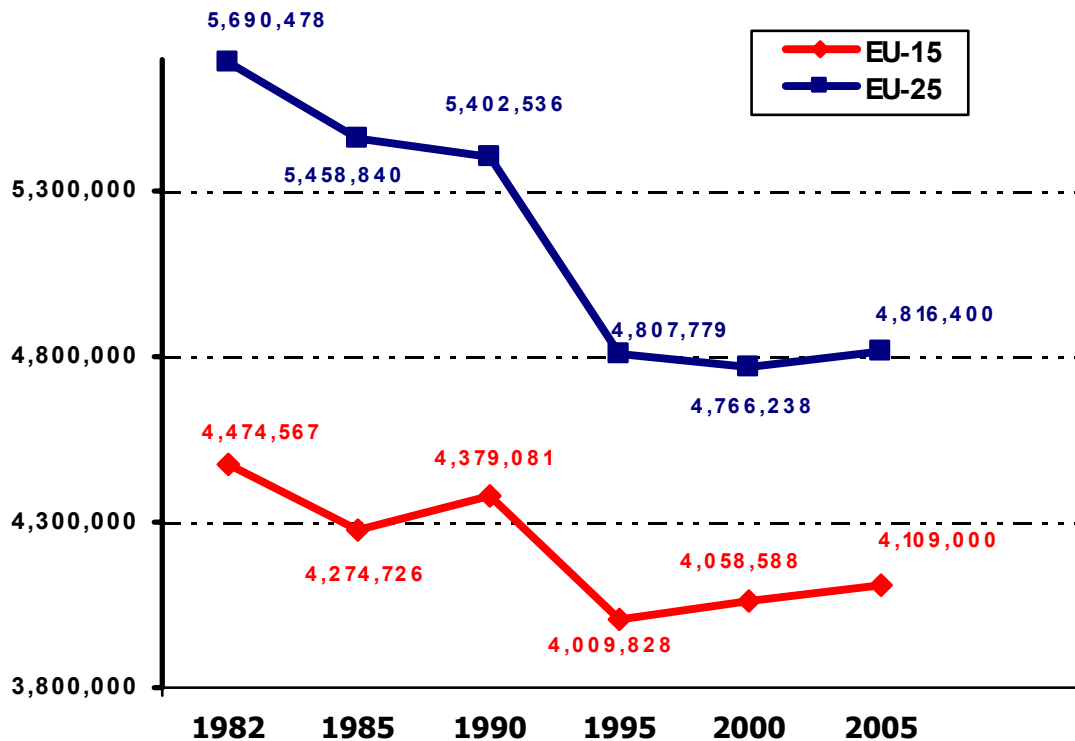
»» 2_ DEVELOPMENT OF BIRTH RATES

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REPORT ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE FAMILY IN EUROPE 2000

Fewer children are born...



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT data

In 2005, there were 870,478 fewer babies born in the EU25 than in 1982, representing a decrease of 15.3%. And in the EU15, there were 365,000 fewer births than in 1982 (a decrease of 8.5%)

From 1990 to 1995 the decrease in birth rates was dramatic, 590,000 fewer in the EU25 and 370,000 fewer in the EU15

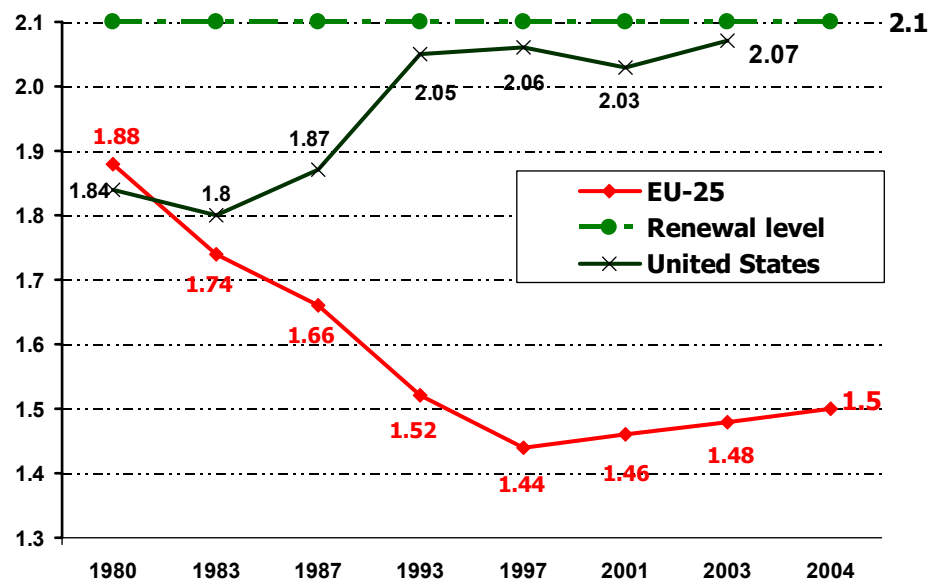
Over the last ten years (1995-2005) the birth rate has remained static (EU25) or has increased slightly (EU15)

...but there is a population increase

Over this period population increased by 30 million



Which indicates a very low birth rate in Europe (1.5)...



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT data

...a long way off the level required for population renewal...

In 2004 the birth rate was 1.5 / female (EU25), which is far below the Population Renewal Level (2.1 / female).

...and also considerably lower than the USA rate (2.07), which is almost at the level of population renewal...

...With some countries recovering from the birth rate crisis

Ireland (1.99) and France (1.90) are the EU25 countries with the highest birth rate, followed by Finland (1.80), Denmark (1.78), Sweden (1.75) and the United Kingdom (1.74).

Greece (1.29), Spain (1.32) and Italy (1.34) are EU15 countries where birth rates are at a critical level.

None of the EU enlargement countries – except Cyprus – has a birth rate of over 1.3

...with the birth rates in some European countries at a critical level.

...And significantly lower than European citizens' expectations (2.3 children)



.In Europe (EU-25) there is one abortion every 30 seconds

...equal to one million deaths annually through abortion (995.976) (2003)...

Each day in Europe (EU25), 2880 children are not born, representing 120 terminations per hour.

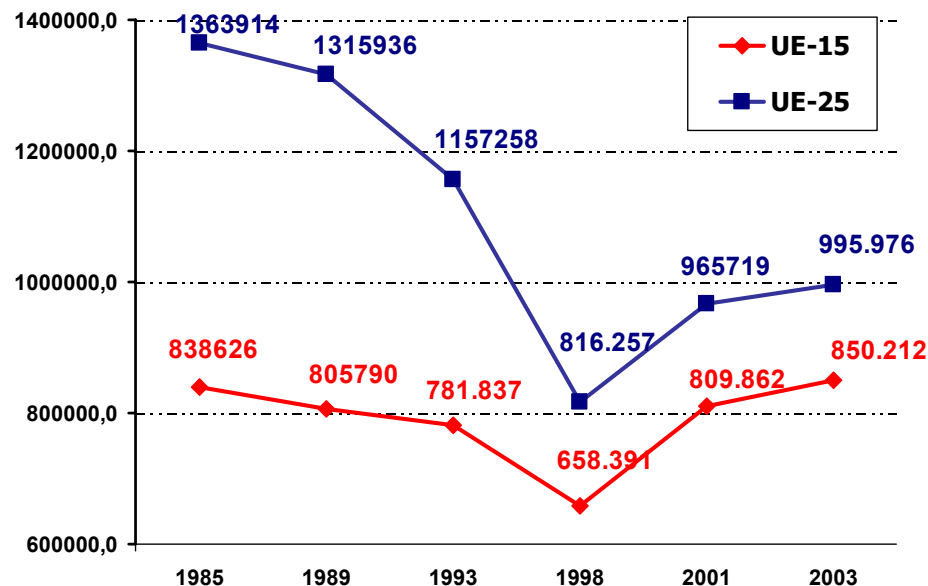
Each day in Europe, two schools are closed due to insufficient numbers of children

So one out of every 6 pregnancies (17.2%) in Europe ends in termination

... over 850,000 deaths through termination in the EU-15, with an increase of 9% (8.7%) over the last ten years (1993 - 2003), going from 781,837 to 850.212 abortions

France (208,759), United Kingdom (195,483), Italy (133,000), Germany (128,030) and Spain (79,788) are the five EU25 countries with the highest abortion rates, and represent 75% of total abortions in the EU25

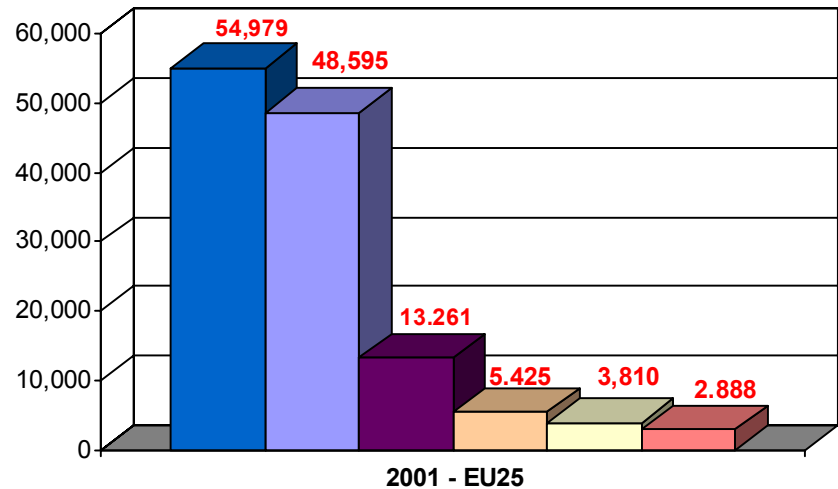
Spain is the country with the highest increase in abortion rates over the last ten years **with a 75% increase**, followed by **Belgium with 50%** and **Holland with 45%**.



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data



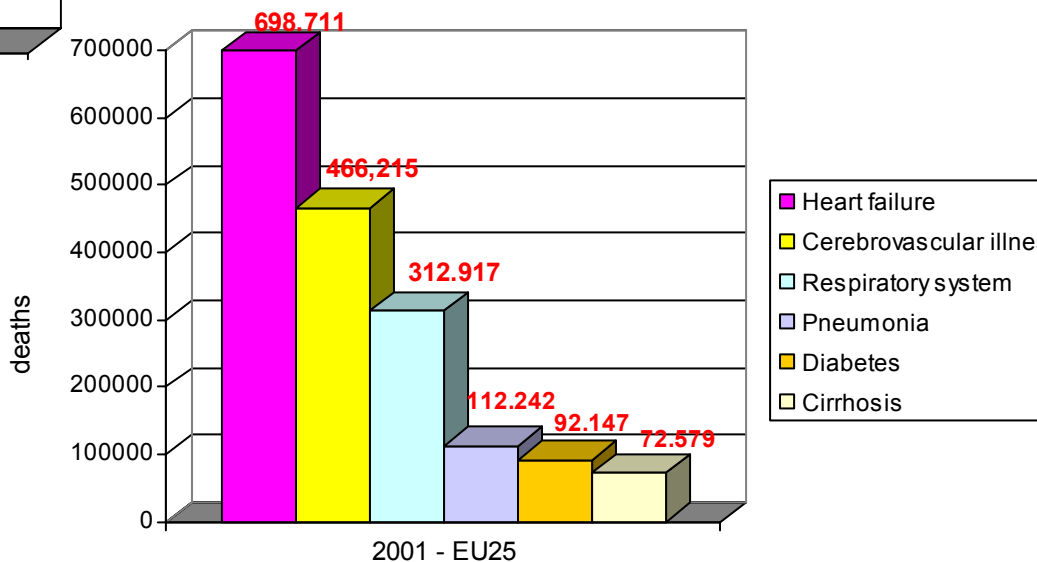
... Which means that abortion and cancer are the main causes of death in Europe



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and WHO data

...Far exceeding other 'external causes of death, such as suicide, traffic accidents, drug and alcohol abuse, AIDS, etc.

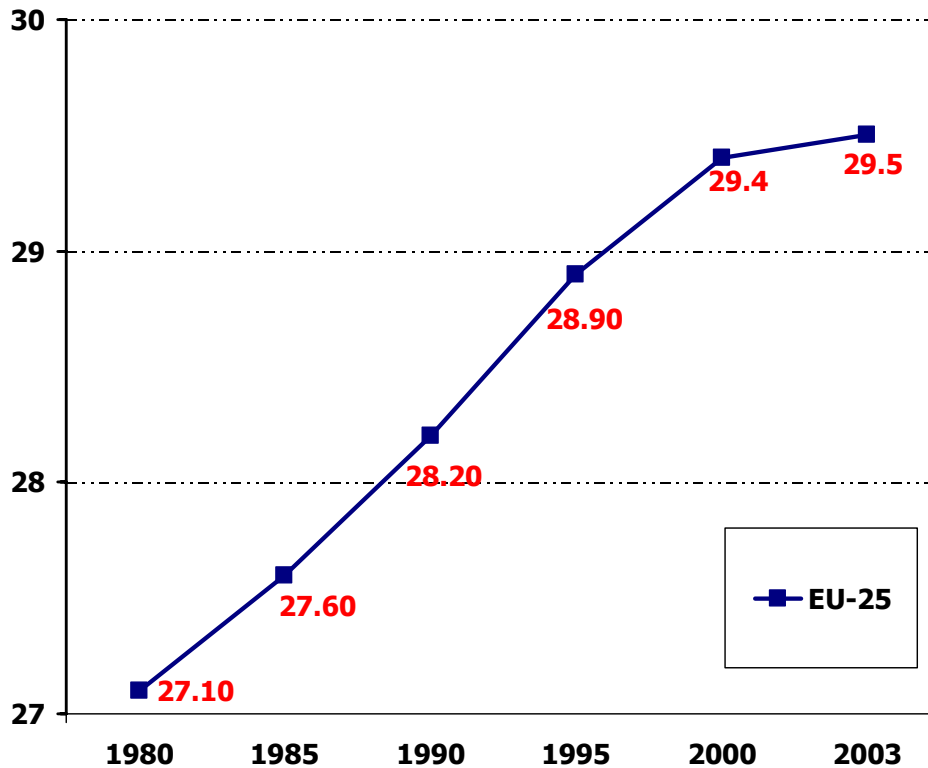
...And also exceeding deaths resulting from illness



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and WHO data



Europeans start having children later....



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data

The average age at maternity has increased to almost 30 years...

Age at maternity has increased by 2.4 years over the last 23 years.

...Spain being the country with the highest average age at maternity in Europe (30.84 years)

Spanish women have children latest (30.84 years), followed by the Irish (30.6), Dutch (30.4) and Danish (30.1 years)...

... And Lithuania being the country with the youngest age at maternity (27.1 years)

By contrast, in EU enlargement countries it is Lithuania (27.1 years), Latvia (27.2), Slovakia (27.3) and Poland (27.9) where women have their first child at a younger age.



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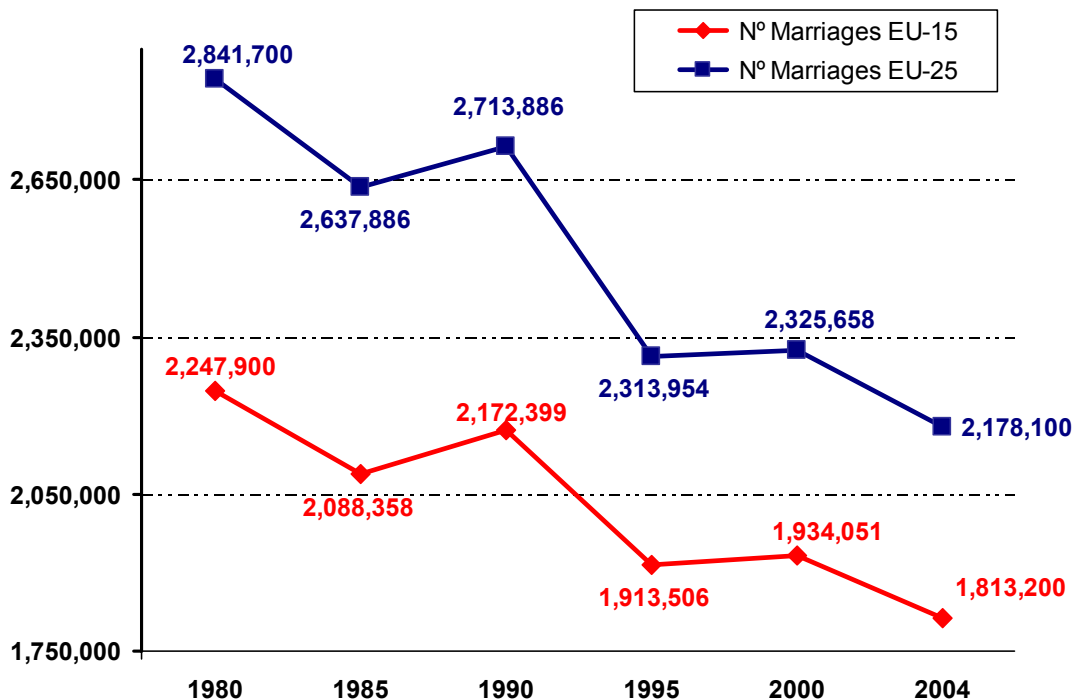
»» 3_ DEVELOPMENT OF MARRIAGES

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There are fewer marriages...



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data

With a decrease of 23.5%...

Over 24 years (1980-2004), the number of marriages in the EU25 has decreased by more than 663,600, equivalent to 23.5%.

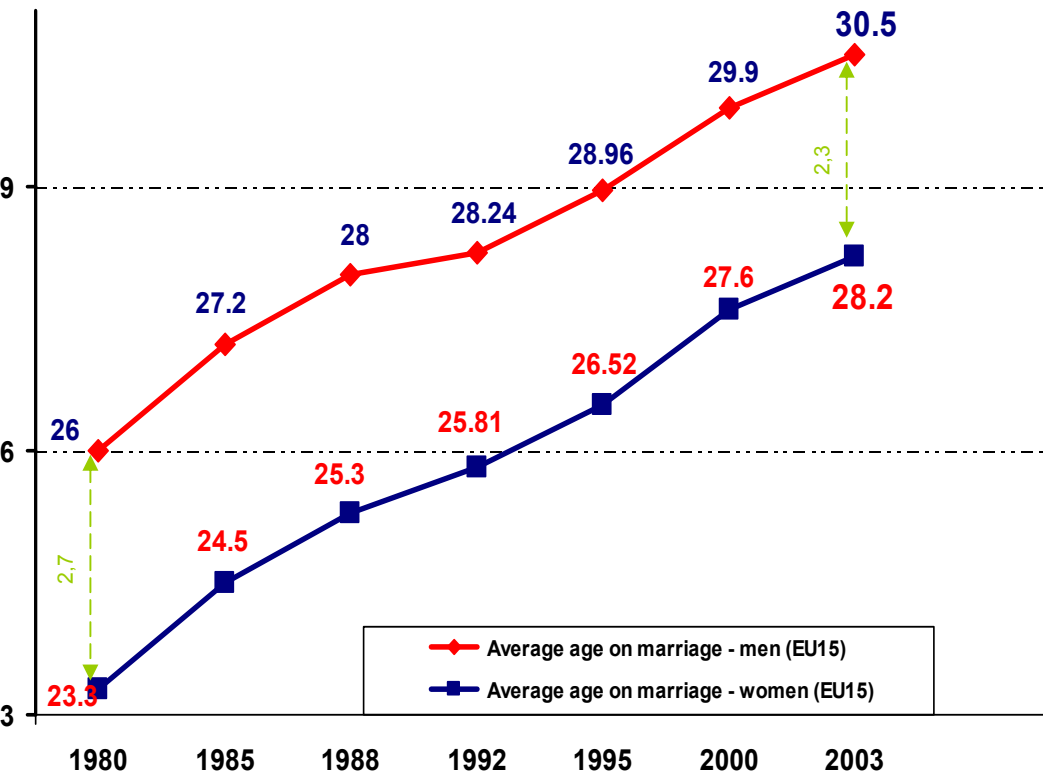
And in the EU15, the decrease has been 434,000 equivalent to 19%.

...And this is spite of population increase

...in spite of an EU25 population increase of 31.1 million over the same period (1980-2004)



...And people marry at a later age...



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data

In the space of a mere 23 years, the age at which Europeans have children has increased by almost 5 years (4.9 years for women and 4.5 years for men), over 30 years old for men and 28 years old for women

(EU-15) (2003)

Males: 30.5 years
Females: 28.2 years

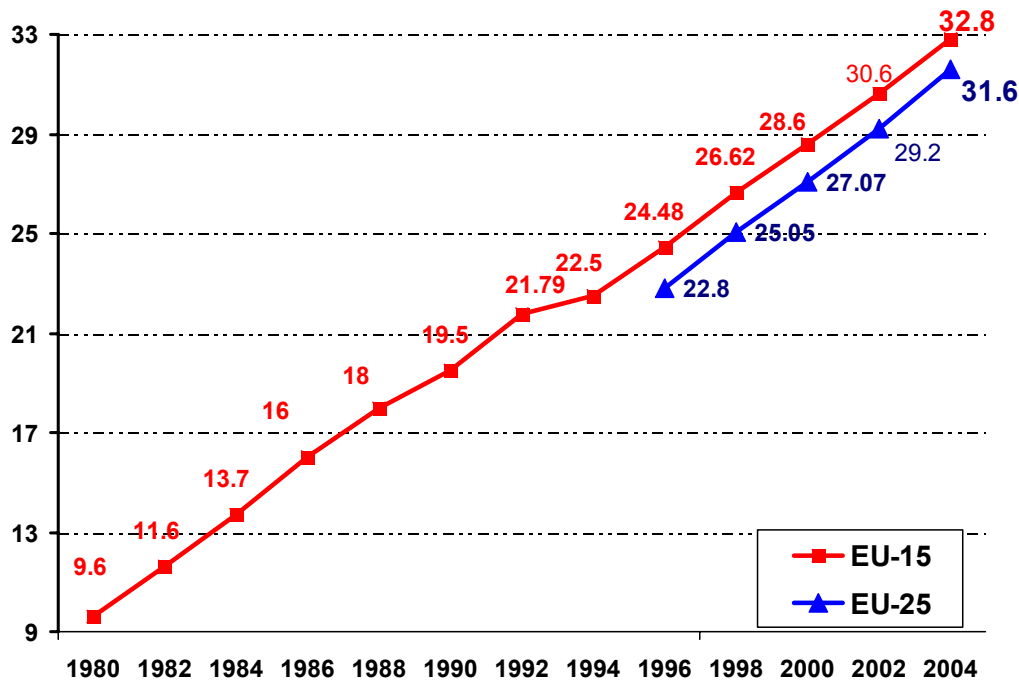
EU-25 (2003)

Males: 30 years
Females: 27.7 years

In Denmark (32.3) and Sweden (32.9) age on marriage is around 33 and 31 for Danish women (30.1) and Swedish women (30.5).



**One out of every three children is born outside marriage
(31.6 % in EU25 and 32.8% in EU15) ...**



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data

...This means that over 1,300,000 children are born outside marriage (in EU15)

In some countries, almost half of children are born outside marriage

Sweden (55.4%), Denmark (45.4%), France (45.2%) and United Kingdom (42.3%)

Greece (4.9%), Cyprus (3.3%), Italy (14.9%) and Switzerland (13.3) are the countries with the lowest rate of births outside marriage

Over 25 years (1980-2004) ??? the rate of births outside marriage have increased from 9.6% to 32.8% (EU-15).



And there have been huge increases in divorce rates...

...One marital breakdown occurs every 33 seconds...

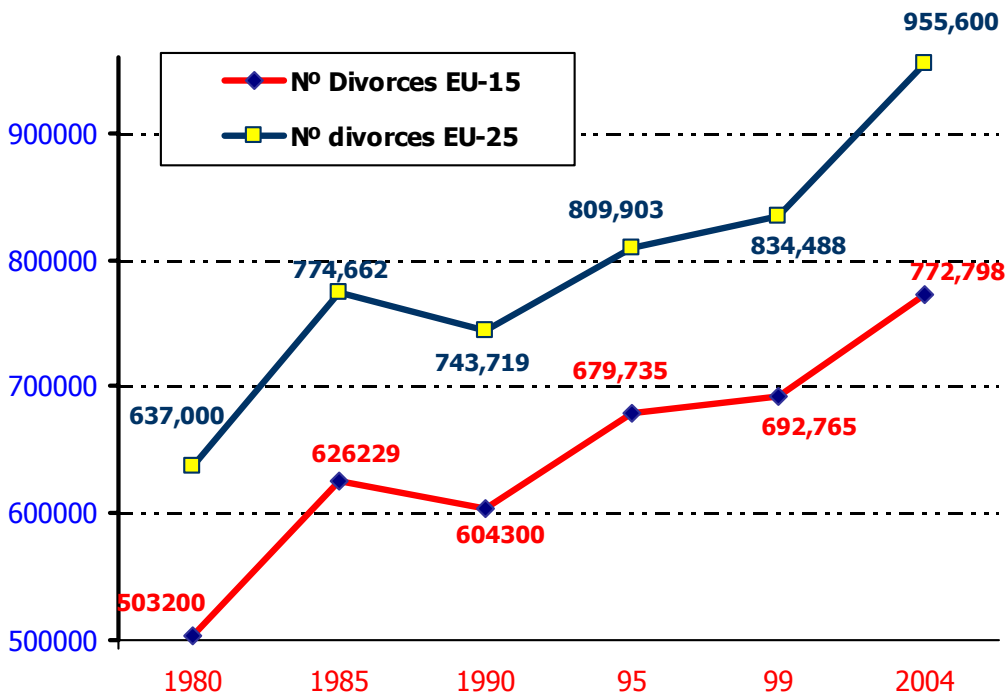
Marital breakdowns have increased by 315,360 over 25 years (1980-2004), equivalent to a 50% increase

Portugal, with an 89% increase, is the EU15 country with the greatest increase over the last ten years (1995-2004), followed by Italy (62%) and Spain (59%)

...and more than 10 million in 15 years (EU15)

Over only 15 years (1990-2004), there have been over 10 million marital breakdowns in Europe (10.190.000)...

...affecting over 16 million children

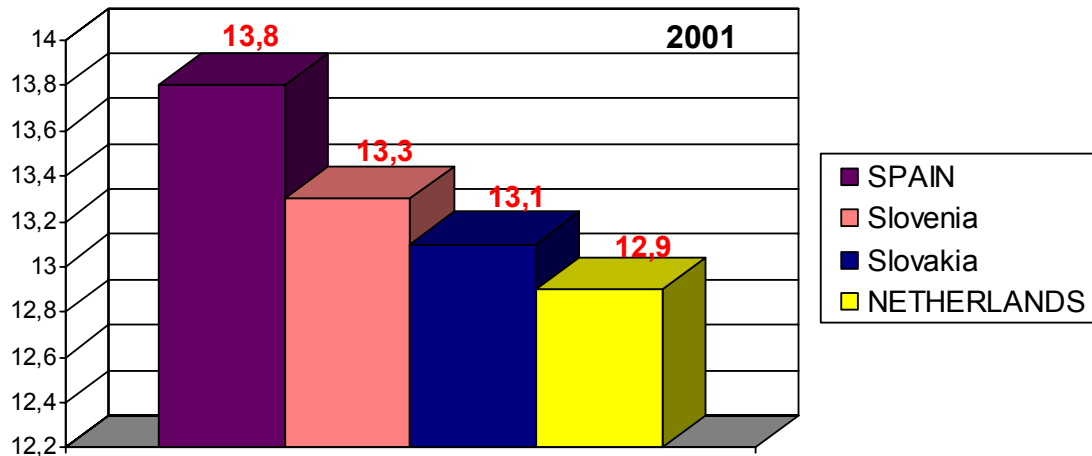


Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data and national sources



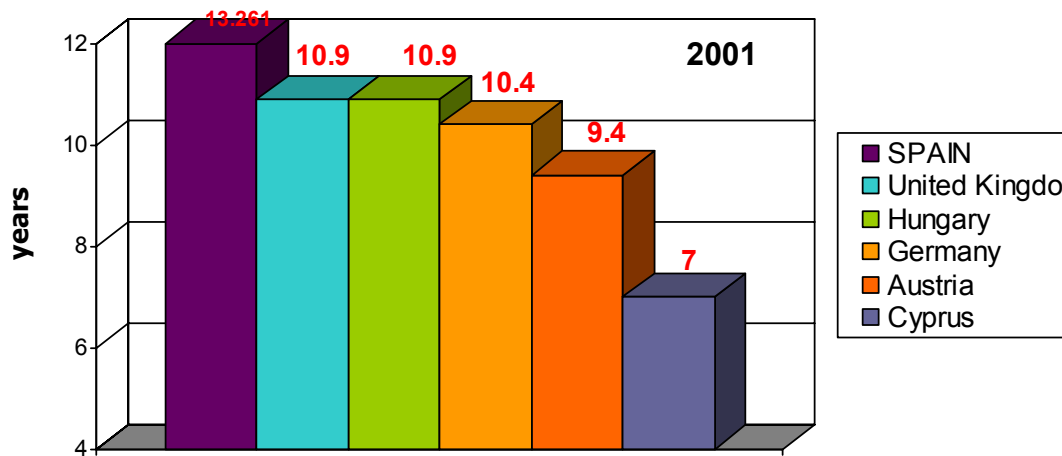
Duration of marriages decreasing

Spain is the EU25 country where marriages last longest (13.8 years)



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data and national sources

And in many countries marriages barely last more than 10 years: United Kingdom and Hungary (10.9), Germany (10.4), Austria (9.4) and Cyprus (7 years)



Source: drawn from EUROSTAT and UNECE data and national sources



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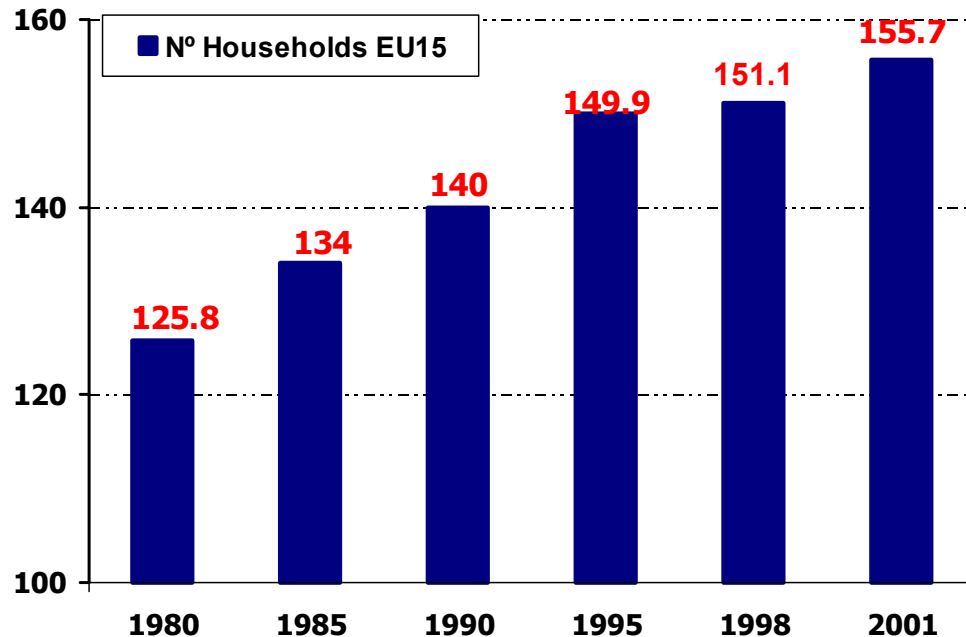
➤➤ 4_ DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSEHOLDS

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REPORT ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE FAMILY IN EUROPE 2006

Increase in number of households in Europe



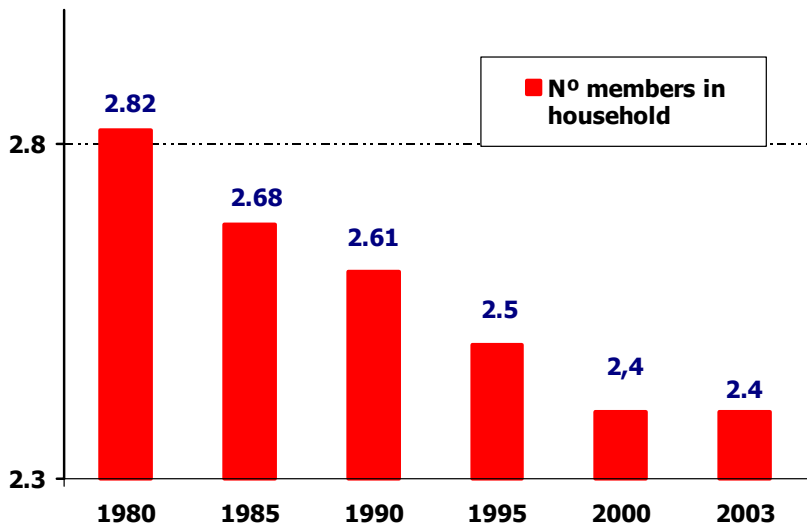
IFP figures drawn from Eurostat and European Environment Agency

Growth in number of households in Europe...

Over barely 21 years (1980-2001), there has been an increase of almost 30 million in the number of households (29.9 million), equivalent to a 23.8% increase



But the size of European households is decreasing...

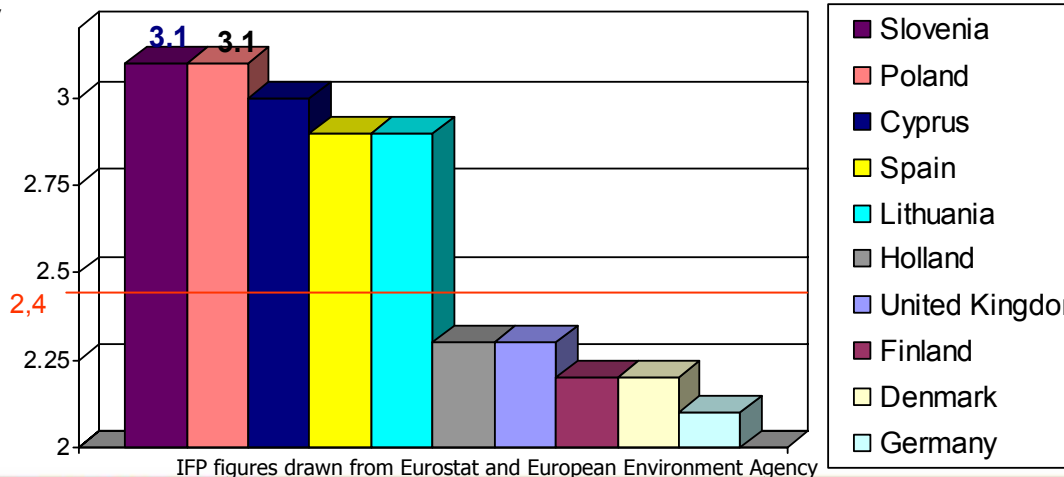


IFP figures drawn from Eurostat and European Environment Agency

...since the number of members per household is declining...

In barely 23 years (1980-2003), the average size of the household has decreased from almost 3 (2.82) to 2.4 members

Slovenia (3.1), Poland (3.1), Cyprus (3) and Spain (2.9) are the countries with the greatest number of members per household
 United Kingdom (2.3), Finland (2.2), Denmark (2.2) and Germany (2.1) are the countries with the lowest number of members per household



IFP figures drawn from Eurostat and European Environment Agency



The difficulties faced by families in Europe have become more acute over recent years



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➤➤ 5_ DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY POLICIES

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REPORT ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE FAMILY IN EUROPE 2006

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European countries have begun providing institutional support for the Family...



Department of Social and Family Affairs

An Roinn Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh

**Department of Social and Family Affairs
Ireland**



Bundesministerium
für Familie, Senioren, Frauen
und Jugend

**Department of Family, Elderly,
Women's and Youth Affairs
Germany**



**Department of Family and Children Affairs
France**



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

**Department of Labour, Family and Social Affairs
Slovenia**



**Department of Social and Family Affairs
Hungary**



**Department of Family, Social Cohesion and Youth Affairs
Luxembourg**



**Department of Labour, Social and Family Affairs
Slovakia**

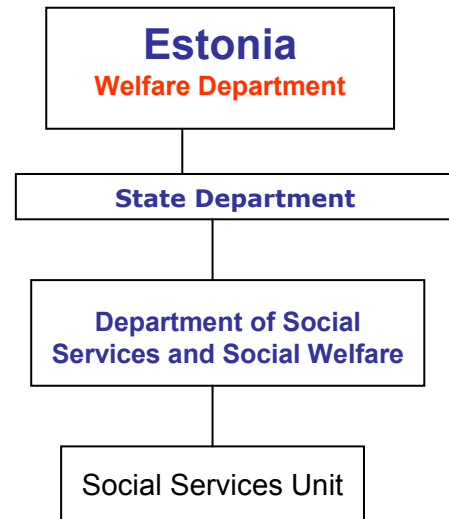
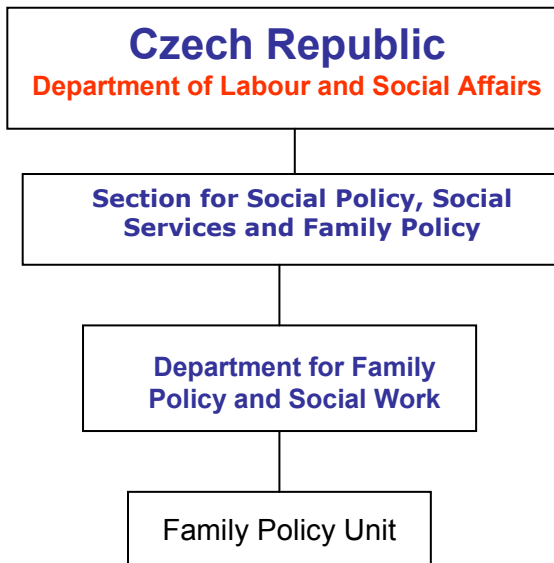
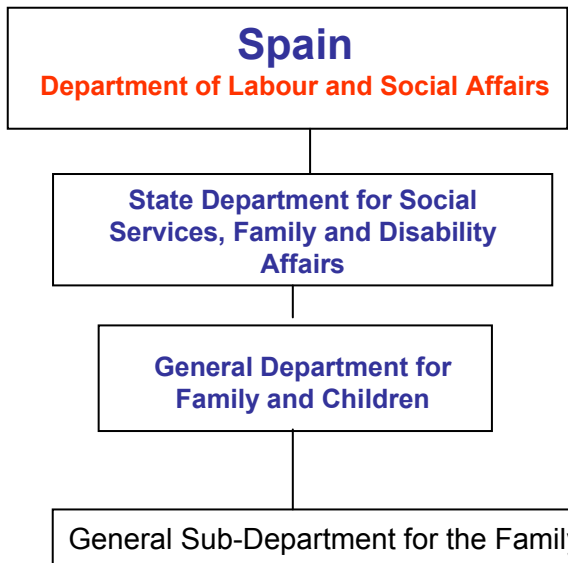


**State Department for Family and Disability Affairs
Belgium**

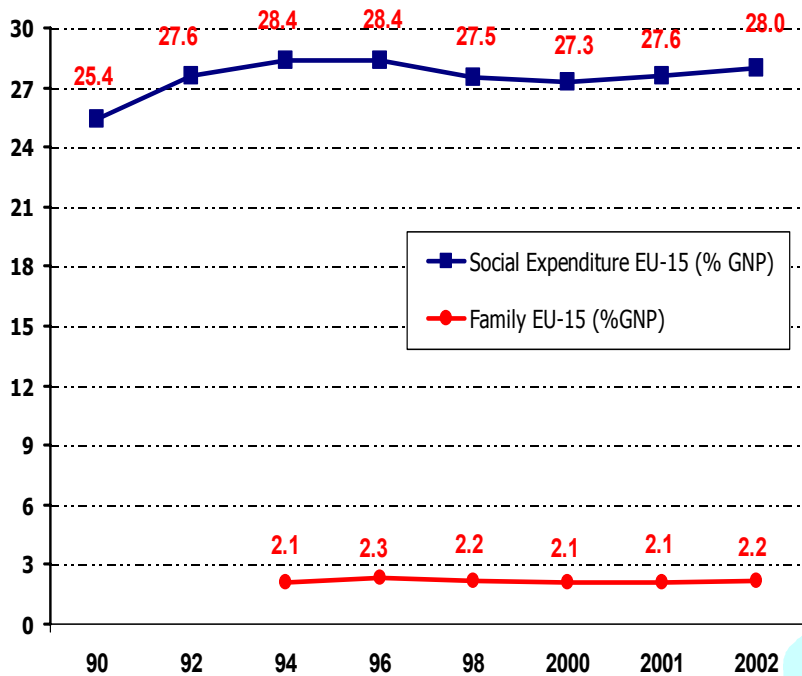
...Although largely differing between countries



...But other countries give far less significance to the Family...



Of every 13 euros Europe sets aside for Social Expenditure, only 1 euro is set aside for the Family



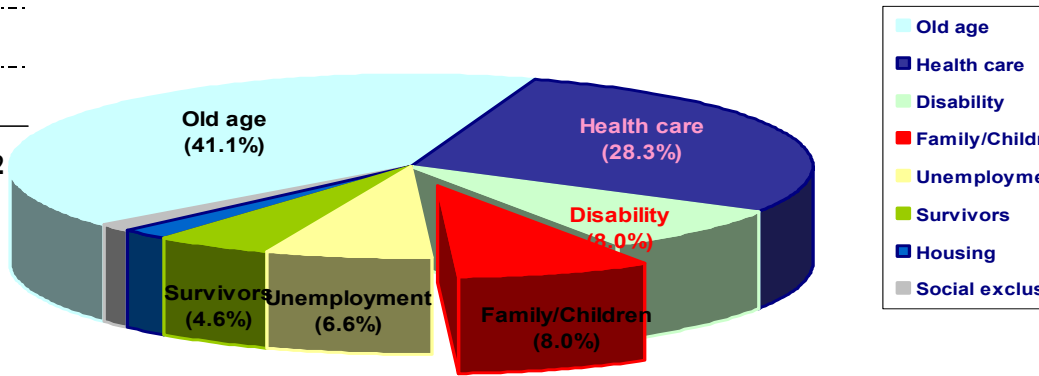
IFP figures drawn from Eurostat and INE sources.

Europe's average spending on Social Expenditure is 28% of GNP... With significant differences between countries:

Sweden sets aside 32.5% of GNP, more than double that of Estonia and Latvia which set aside only 14.3% of GNP for Social Expenditure

...But by contrast only spends 2.2% of GNP on the Family

...which represents a mere 7.8% of Social Expenditure (2003)

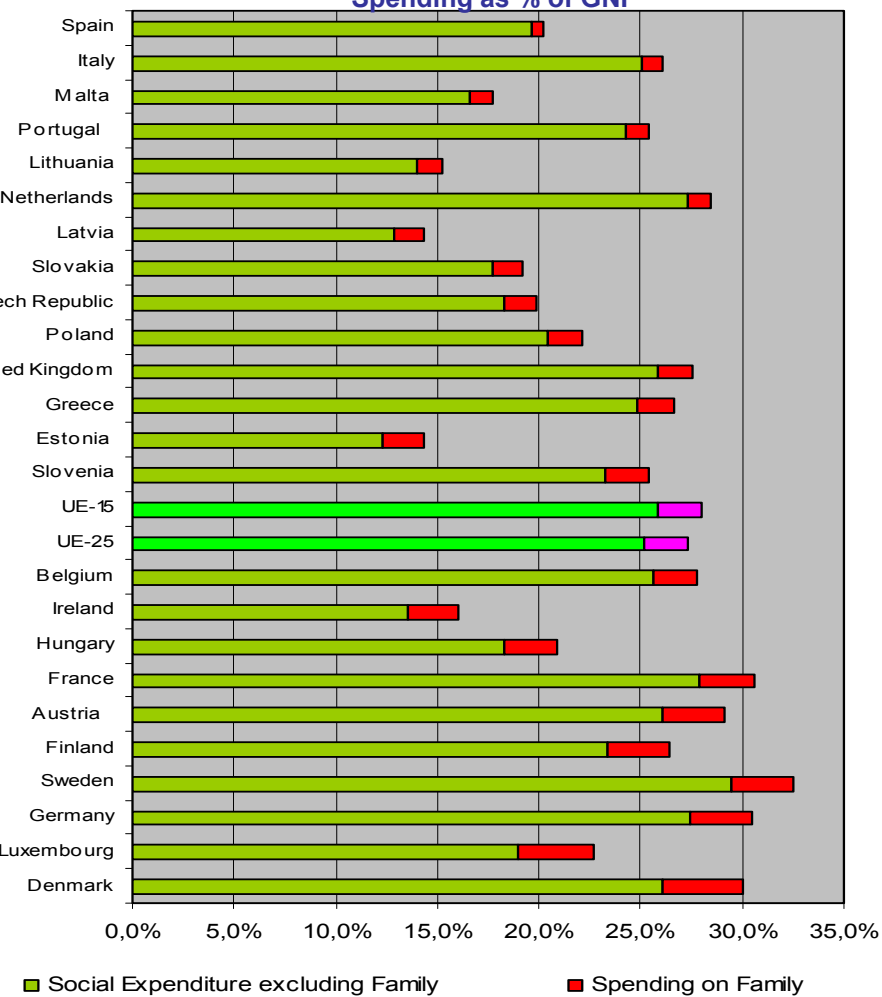


IFP figures drawn from Eurostat sources



...and furthermore with huge differences between countries...

Spending as % of GNP



...since the divergence is almost 5 times greater in spending on Family than in remaining Social Expenditure

Average Social Expenditure in the EU (excluding Family) is 25.2%, varying between 12.3% in Estonia and 29.3% in Sweden

...by contrast, EU spending on the Family (average 2.1% of GNP) varies more widely, Denmark setting aside 3.9% and Luxembourg 3.7%, these two being the EU countries offering most assistance to the Family.

Spain being the EU15 country offering least assistance to the Family

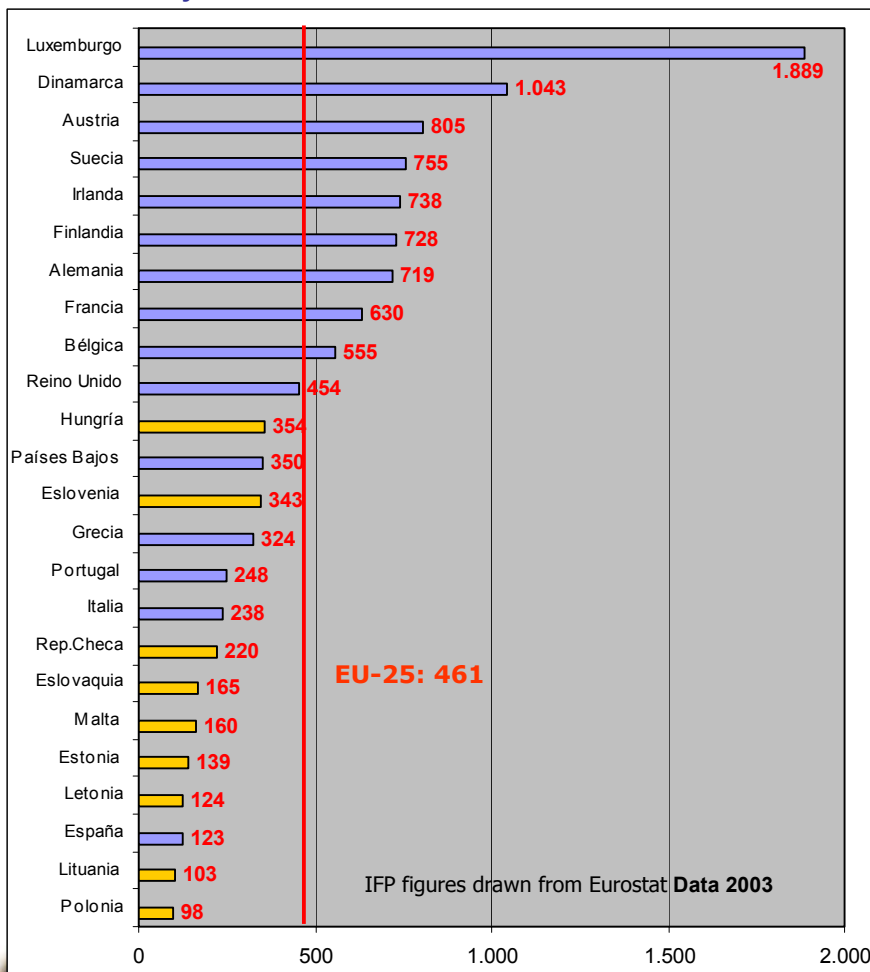
Italy sets aside a mere 1% of GNP and Spain 0.5% of GNP

...which is leading to major inequalities in terms of social provision



And to the creation of first and second-class families in Europe

Family benefits: expressed in Euros per person per year



There is a gulf separating countries such as Luxembourg, Denmark, Austria or Sweden, on the one hand and...

...Poland, Lithuania, Spain or Latvia on the other.

EU enlargement countries are generally far below the EU average (EU25 = 461€ and EU15 = 532€), occupying the lowest positions in the table...

Of the EU15, only Spain is among them.

Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece are the EU15 countries offering least assistance to the Family



Benefits per child in Europe vary in terms of amount, number of children and limits depending on age and income...

Benefits per child supported 2005 (Euros)

Country	1° child	2° child	3° child	4° child	Income Limit	Age Limit
Germany	154	154	154	179	UNIVERSAL	18-27
Austria	121,80	134,60	221,90	183,70	UNIVERSAL	18-26
Belgium	75,54	139,78	208,70	208,70	UNIVERSAL	18-25
Denmark	120,78	120,78	120,78	120,78	UNIVERSAL	18
Spain	24,25	24,25	24,25	24,25	8.793,03 €/year	18
Finland	100	110,50	131	151,50	UNIVERSAL	17
France	Syst.APJE	115,64	263,80	411,96	UNIVERSAL	20
Greece	8,22	24,65	55,47	67,38	UNIVERSAL	18-22
Ireland	117,60	117,60	147,30	147,30	UNIVERSAL	16-19
Italy	72,31	72,31	72,31	72,31	46.142,56 €/year	18
Luxembourg	181,08	429,98	783,18	1.136,18	UNIVERSAL	18-27
Netherlands	72,23	72,23	72,23	72,23	UNIVERSAL	17
Portugal	24,04	24,04	24,04	24,04	24.500 €/year	16-24
United Kingdom	101	169	169	169	UNIVERSAL	16-19
Sweden	106	106	134	191	UNIVERSAL	16-23
Czech Republic	19,13	19,13	19,13	19,13	3.800 €/year	15-26
Estonia	19,18	19,18	19,18	19,18	UNIVERSAL	16-19
Cyprus	33,42	50,00	152,18	217,20	UNIVERSAL (acc. income)	18-25
Latvia	8,62	10,00	14,00	16,00	UNIVERSAL	15-20
Lithuania	19,80	19,80	53,2	17,80	UNIVERSAL	18-24 (7 if < 3 childs)
Hungary	21	29	46	32	UNIVERSAL	16-24
Malta	36,02	54,03	72,03	90,04	23.647 €/year	16-21
Poland	11	11	13	16	4.464 €/year	16-21
Slovenia	28,93	34,67	40,33	40,33	16.293 €/year	18-26
Slovakia	14	14	14	14	UNIVERSAL	16-25

IFP figures, data source: SS, MISSOC



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>> 6_ IFP PROPOSALS

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY POLICIES



**REPORT ON THE
EVOLUTION OF THE FAMILY IN EUROPE 2006**

AIM:

To instigate the development in Europe of “family-oriented” government policies, and the implementation of a universal, genuine and comprehensive policy...



Built around the following Axes:

- Giving the Family status as a policy priority
- Making the “Family-oriented” approach an integral part of all measures put in place by the European Union
- Promoting convergence between national family policies to avoid differences between countries
- Pushing for equality of opportunity for all European families, to avoid discrimination based on number of children, income levels, income distribution, etc.



And doing so by means of...

...Appropriate bodies

...Budgetary provision

...Plans, measures and legislation



Following action plans that...

- ...Promote the Family as an institution,
- Encourage a universal concept of the Family and also a culture and environment that allows the Family to manage its day-to-day existence,
- Help parents to have the children they want,
- Include, in a genuinely constructive and humane fashion, the different areas of professional, family and personal development,
- Provide assistance during cases of family crisis,
- Recognise the fundamental right of parents to educate their children,
- Promote the active participation of parents and family associations
- And, through specific measures, take account of families with particular needs.



I. ...which promote the Family as an institution...

1. **Creating an Institute for the Family Perspective within the European Commission** in order to promote the Family as a policy priority in European Union countries, and to ensure that all European legislation considers the Family as a social base with rights and roles that must be respected and promoted
2. **By urging EU member states to set up a Ministry for the Family** with sufficient organisational and budgetary capacity to develop Family promotion and protection measures in Europe
3. **By drafting a Green Paper on the Family in Europe** which analyses the problems faced by the Family along with their causes and consequence, and sets out solutions and alternatives
4. **By promoting a European Agreement on the Family** between political parties, social agents and family institutions.



II ...which promotes a Family-oriented culture, disseminating a universal concept of the Family and encouraging an environment which favours it...

5. **By re-establishing the Family Policy Observatory**, with social involvement, to analyse the situation and development of the Family in Europe and to advise on, manage and oversee policy measures affecting it, and to ensure that public policy measures are drawn up to take account of the Family.
6. **By running campaigns to increase awareness within society** and to promote an environment and culture that favours the Family, placing value on childhood and maternity.
7. **By incorporating into European Directives on communication media** the criteria of respect for and promotion of the Family, in addition to the creation of Independent Audiovisual Councils one of whose objectives is the protection of minors and the Family.



III ...which assist families in the management of their day-to-day existence, helping parents to have the children they want...

8. **By urging governments to adopt a more equal distribution of benefits aimed at the Family –currently accounting for 8% of total social benefits– gradually increasing their amount.**
9. **By promoting the establishment of gradual convergence between family protection measures in different European countries, so that:**
 - * In 5 years time, all countries are setting aside a minimum 70% of the mean EU GNP intended to cover social expenditure on the Family.
 - * In 5 years time, all countries are promoting universal family assistance practices or at least, as the first step towards achieving this, are establishing limits (per capita) which include 90% of families.
 - * Countries establish tax convergence objectives for tax exemption on family benefits.
 - * Countries put in place measures ensuring that family benefits increase in line with inflation.



III ...which assist families in the management of their day-to-day existence, helping parents to have the children they want...

10. By adopting measures of support for pregnancy and maternity

- Reducing by 50% the VAT payable on a series of essential infant products (baby hygiene items such as nappies, soap, moisturising creams, wet wipes, feeding products such as formula milk, containers and feeding bottles, cereal and food preparations and baby furniture items such as cots, chairs and prams, baby carriers, car seats etc.).
- Setting up Care Centres for Pregnant Women to help for all mothers, married or single, with their pregnancies, with particular attention for immigrant mothers.

11. By increasing tax convergence in Europe to make it Family-oriented



... Which include, in a genuinely constructive and humane fashion, the different areas of professional, family and personal development, providing assistance for cases of family crisis...

12. By insisting on paternity leave of 4-6 weeks in EU countries, on the same terms as maternity leave.
13. By insisting on a statutory wage for those fathers/mothers who request extended leave for child care.
14. By insisting on universal assistance for families caring for elderly relatives in their home
15. By insisting on preventive measures to assist in cases of family crisis (following Council of Europe recommendations) to reduce instances of family breakdown in Europe.
 - Updating and modernisation of Council of Europe recommendations (1974-1980)
 - Urging EU countries to draw up a Law for Preventive Measures and Family Mediation



V ...Which recognise the right of parents to educate their children...

16. By recognising Education as a Fundamental Family Right (not as a public service)

- Making the education costs met by families (text books, schools etc.) income tax-deductible.
- Increasing the number of parent representatives on School Councils.

VI ...and promoting the active involvement of families and family associations...

17. By creating Internet Portal “InfoFamilias” with information on services for European families.



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Published by IPF, Instituto de Política Familiar, Institute for Family Policies

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INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY POLICIES

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Rapport sur l'évolution de la famille en Europe 2006
Informe evolución de la familia en Europa 2006