

SOCI1015 Human Rights, Wellbeing & Politics

UNIVERSITY OF
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‘New’ versus ‘old’ social risks: Introducing the debate

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Today's lecture



1. Social risk – definitions
2. ‘Old’ social risks
3. Post-industrial changes → ‘new’ social risks
4. Policy responses
5. Cross-national differences in abilities to respond to new social risks

Social risks: definitions

'Risk' to welfare covers any event that makes some/all components of welfare hard to achieve:



When do individuals risks to welfare become social?

1

When society's welfare is also at stake

2

When society recognises a risk as warranting public consideration

3

When the risk originates from sources beyond the individual's control

Source :Esping-Andersen, 1999

The industrial welfare state



Typical client: male blue-collar production worker, who is the breadwinner for his family

Main social risks: unemployment, disability, sickness, and old age

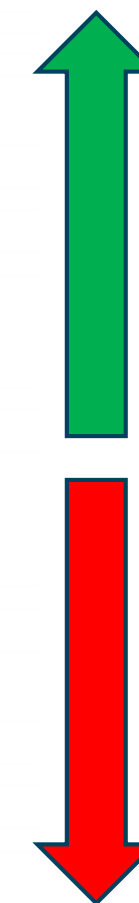
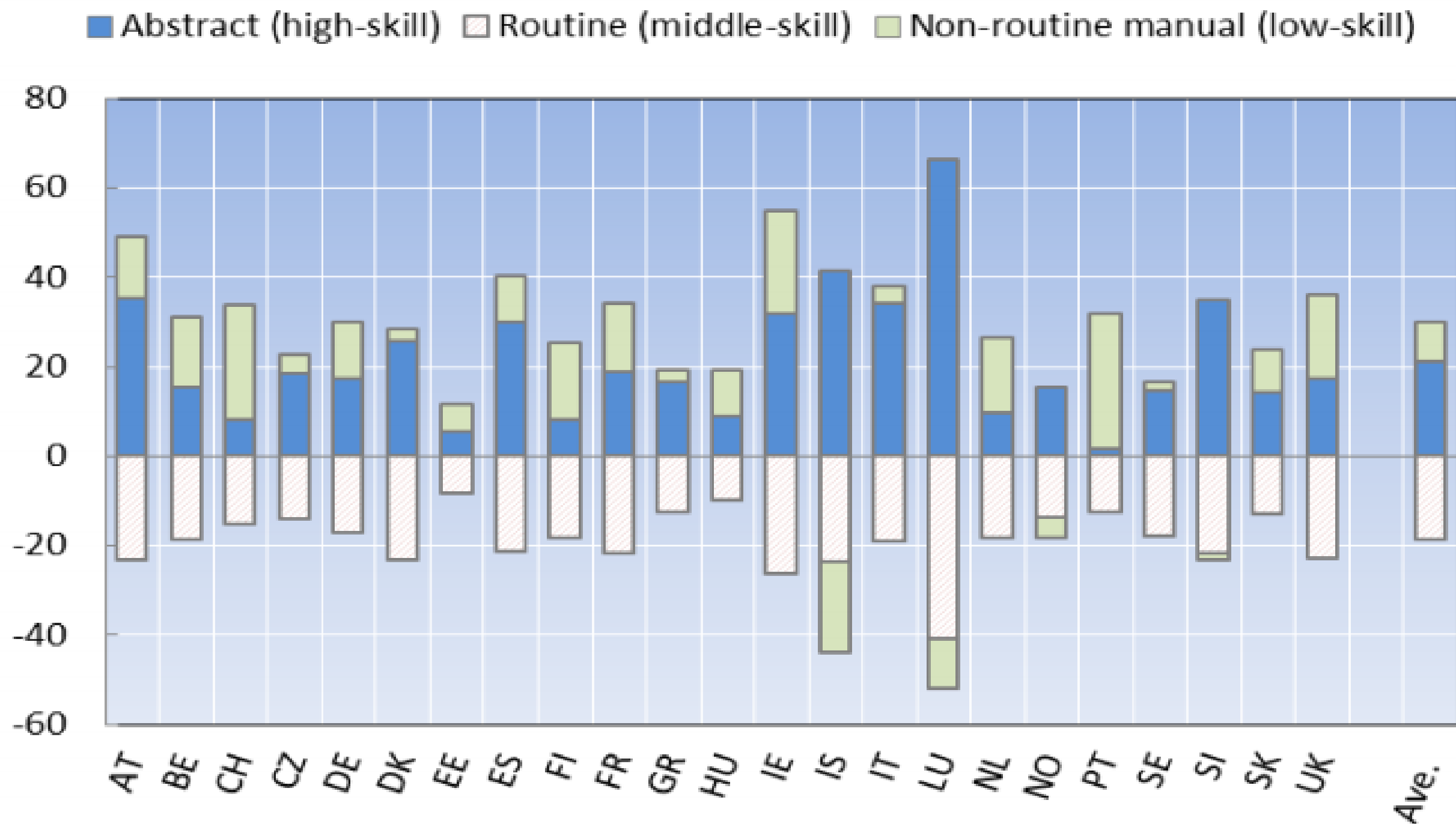
Key social policies: unemployment benefits, disability benefits, healthcare, pensions, widows' benefits

Post-industrial changes

Taylor-Gooby (2004): Four main processes

1. Tighter link between education and employment

Percentage change in employment shares by task category, 1995/98-2010



In most countries, employment has polarised into high- and low-skill jobs, and away from routine jobs....

...and this has been associated with growing shares of non-standard work

Share of non-standard employment in total employment, 2013 or close

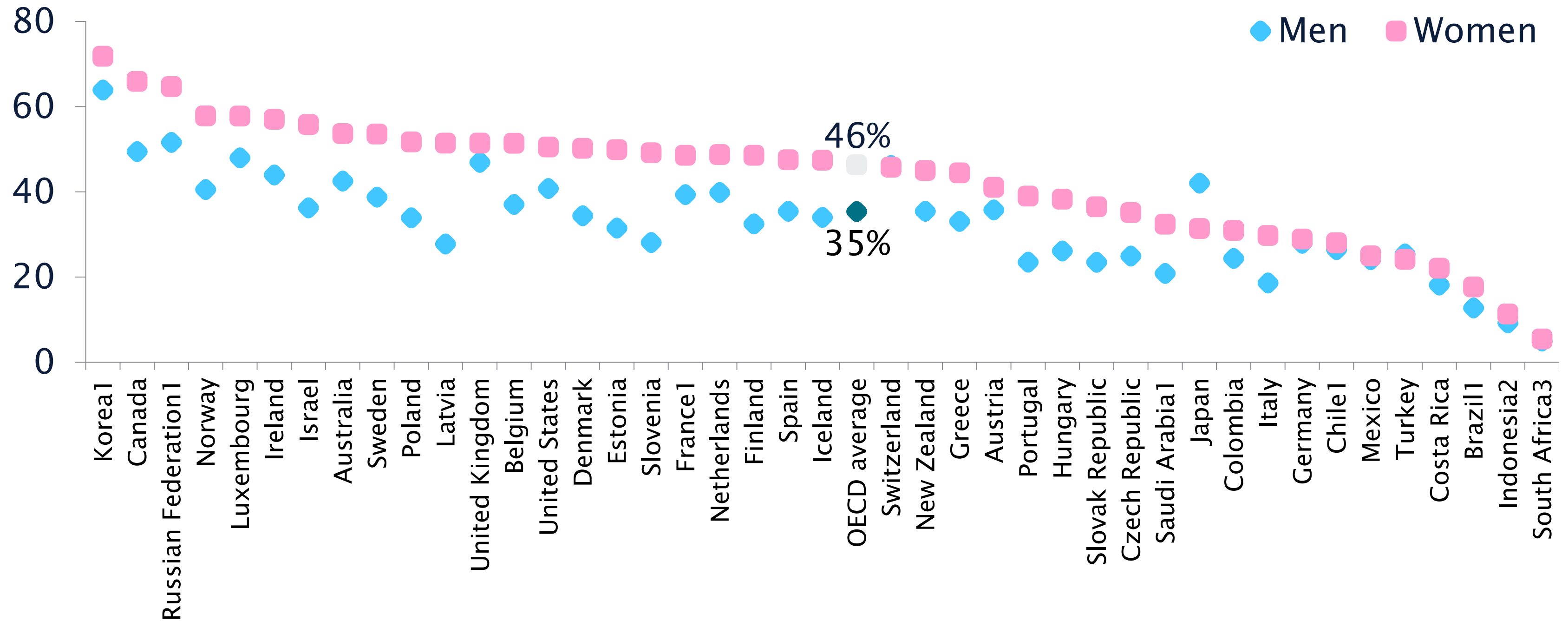


Note: Sample restricted to paid and self-employed (own account) workers aged 15-64 years old, excluding employers, student workers and apprentices.
 Source: Scarpetta (2014)

Post-industrial changes

2. Women's revolution

Men and women aged 25-34 with tertiary education (%), 2014



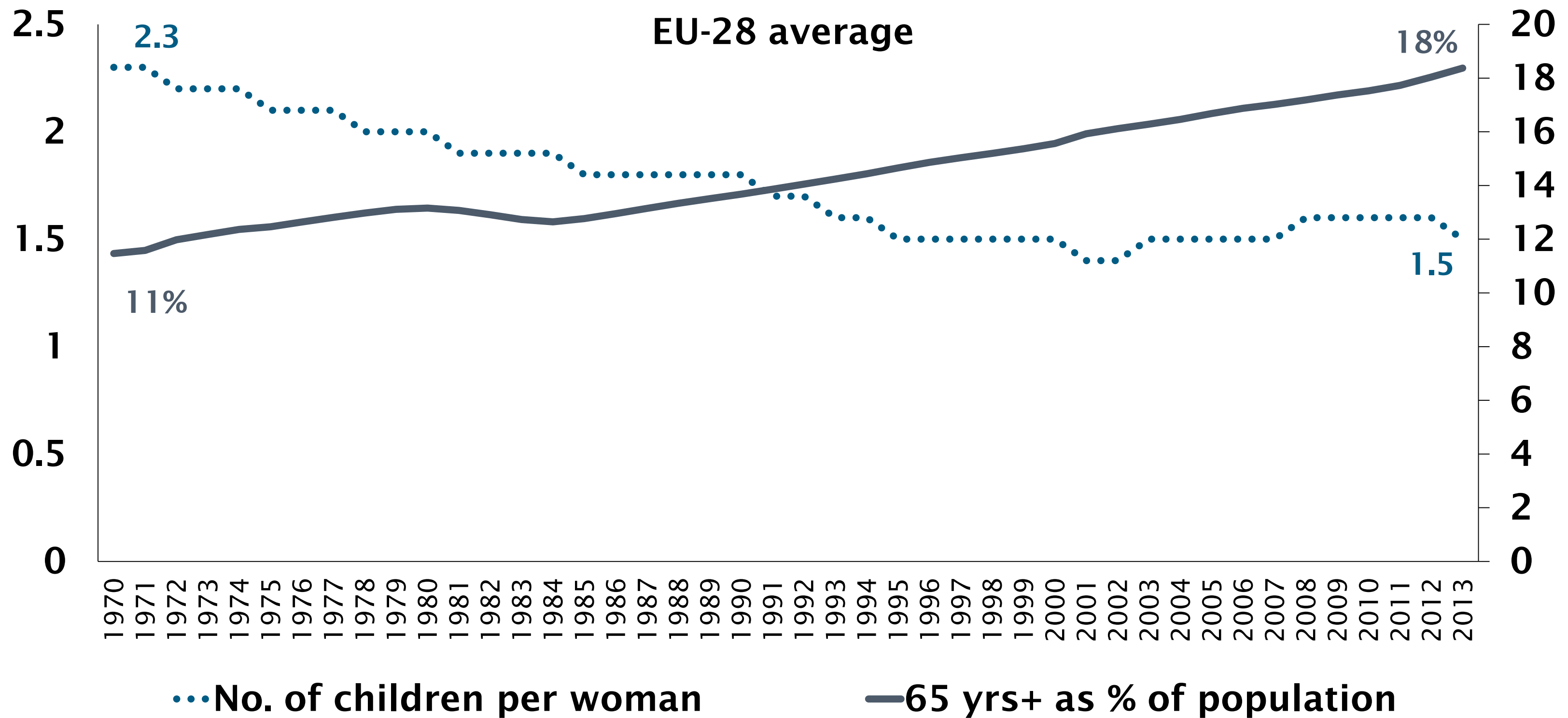
Average labour force participation rates across OECD countries

	Men	Women
1970	89%	45%
2001	78% ↓	61% ↑

Source: Taylor-Gooby, 2004

Post-industrial changes

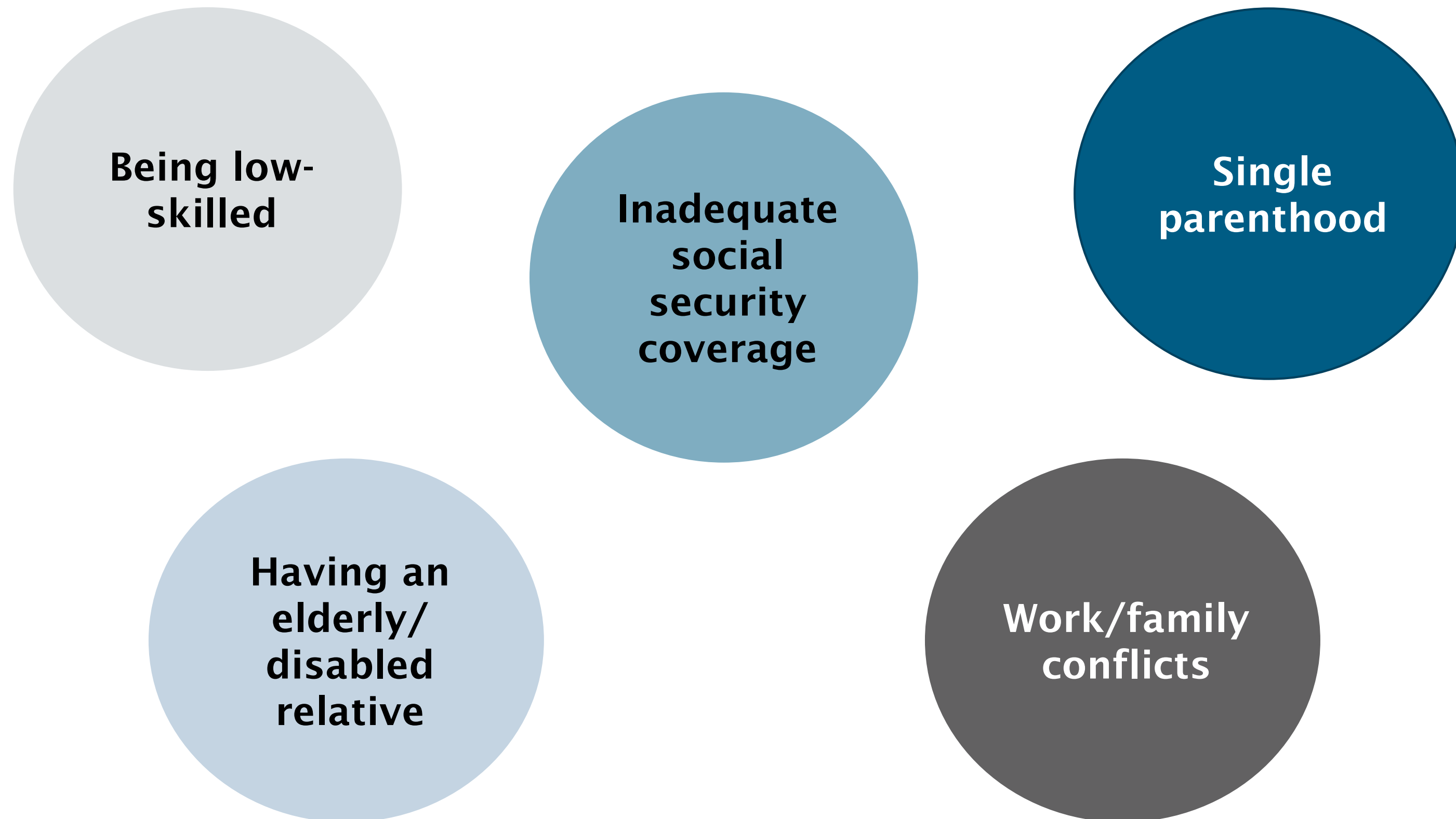
3. Demographic changes



Source: OECD

4. The expansion of private providers of welfare

'New' social risks (NSRs)



These risks are 'new' insofar as they:

1. Are more common than before (or are they just newly recognised?);
2. Bear disproportionately on young people, families with small children, and working women, who aren't adequately protected by industrial social policies.

Being low-skilled

Low-skilled individuals used to mostly be employed in manufacturing - now they are in low value-added services with low wages.

Fig 2. Men on fixed-term employment contracts, %

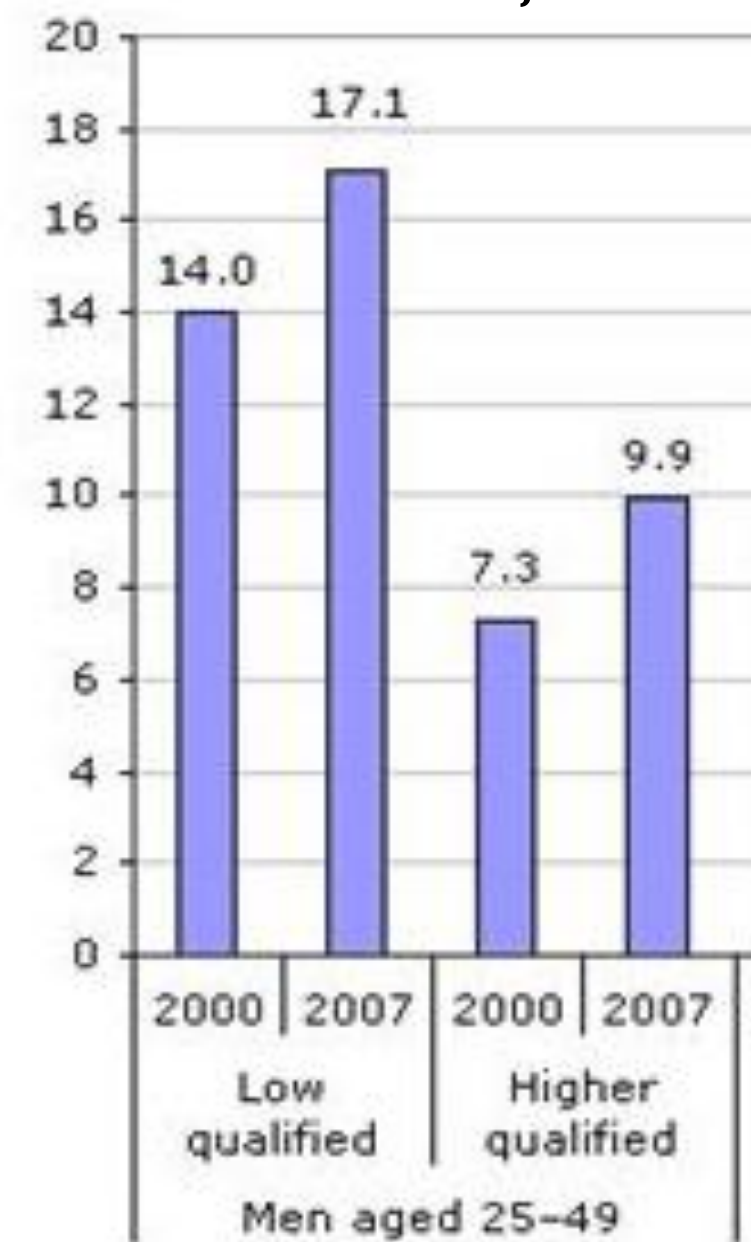
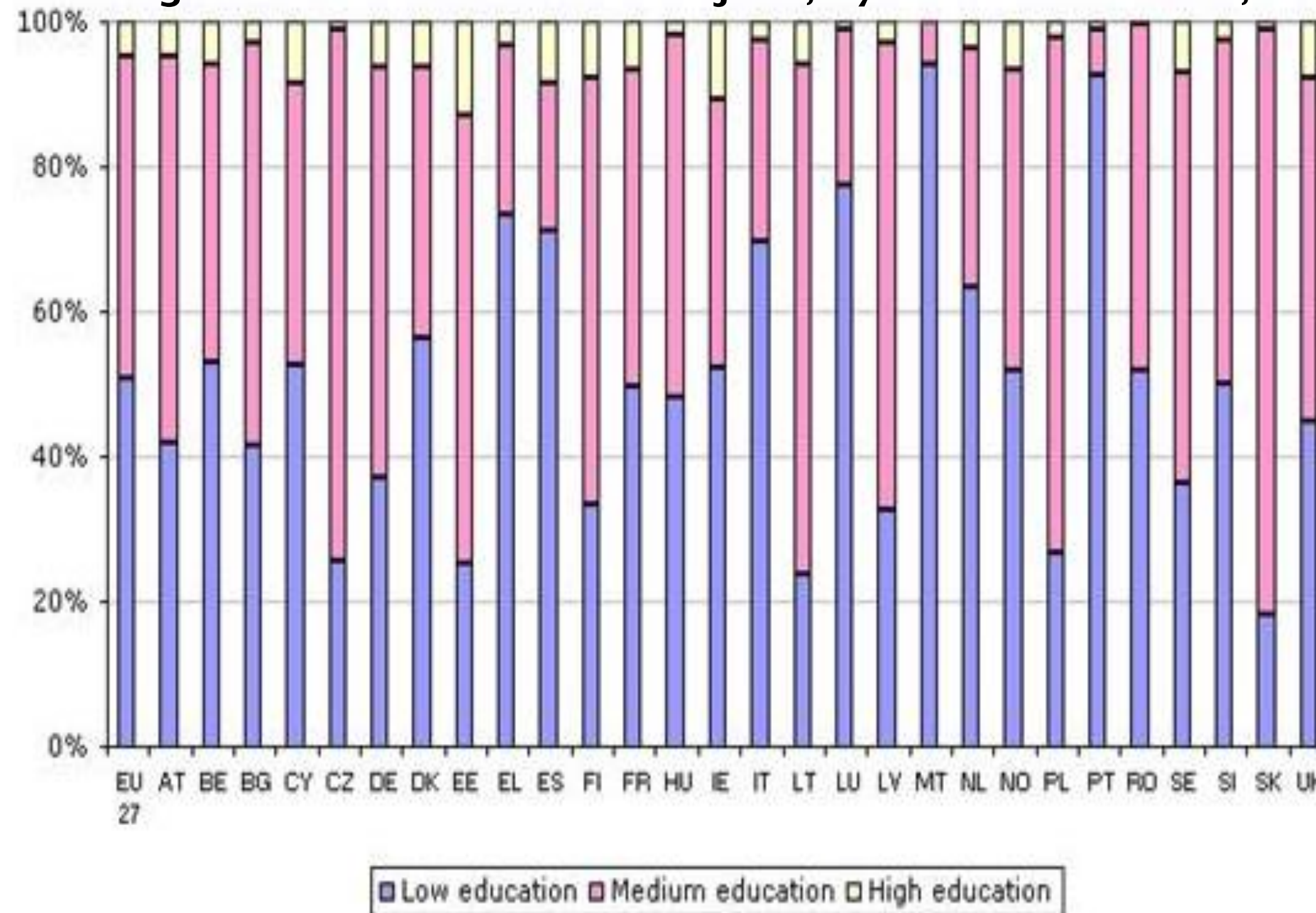
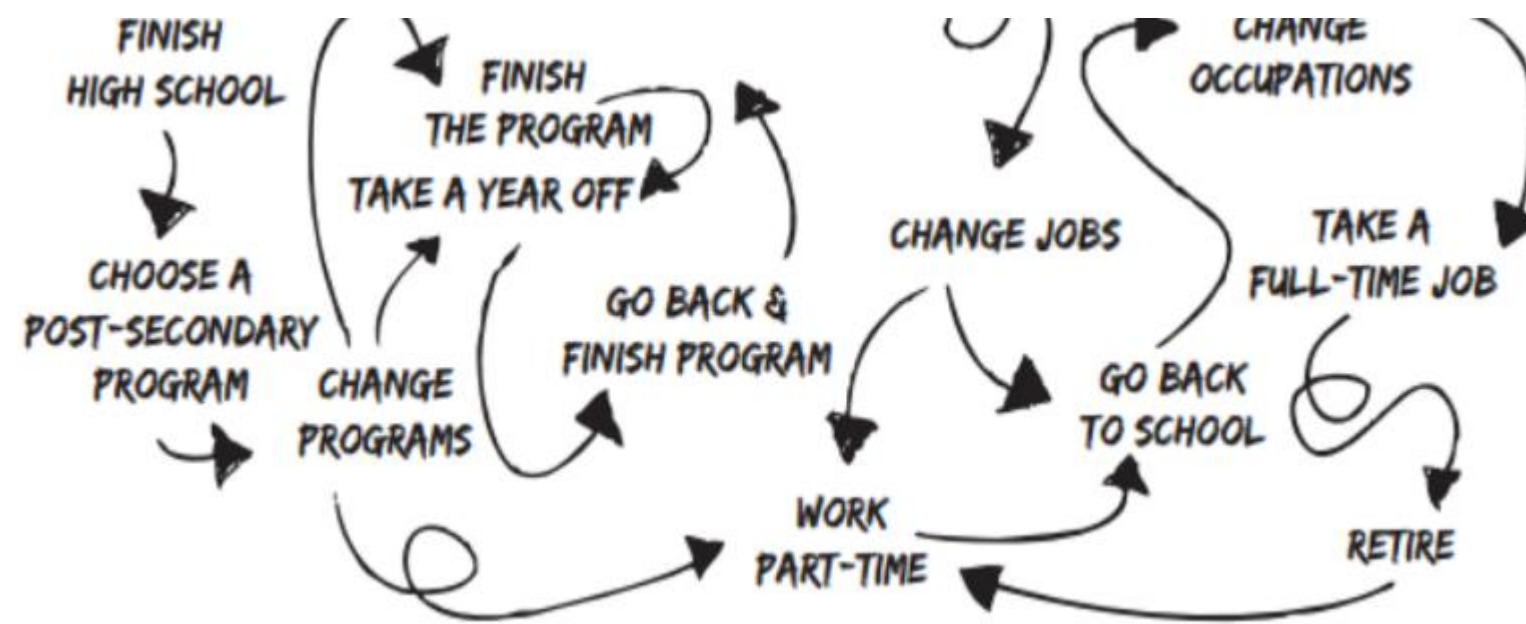


Fig 1. Workers in low-skilled jobs, by educational level, %



Lower-skilled individuals dominate low-skilled jobs (Fig 1) and precarious employment (Fig 2).

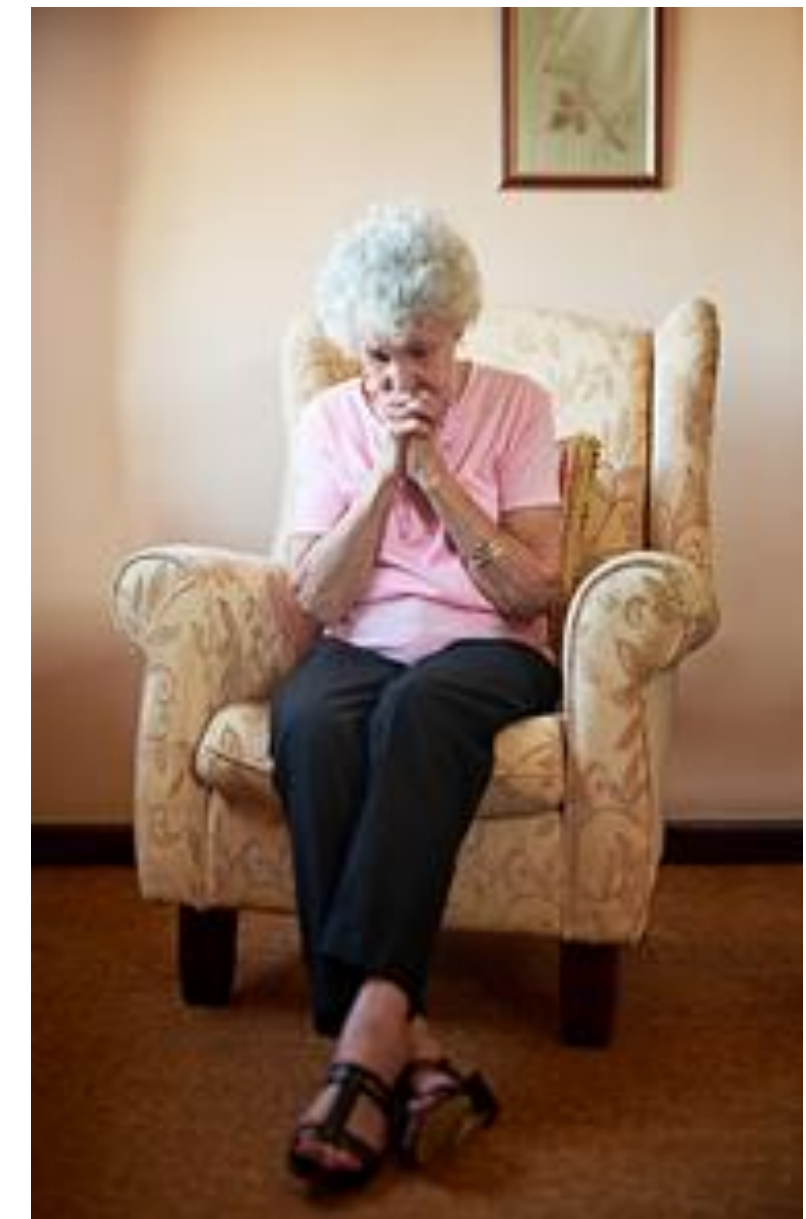
Inadequate social security coverage



Career profiles have changed. Yet, the assumptions of social-security systems lag behind.

Example: women and pensions in the UK

- Almost 2/3 of UK pensioners in low-income HHs are women (DWP, 2017).
- 2015: average weekly amount of State Pension for women was 79% that for men (Thurley et al., 2015).
- 3.4m women **not** automatically enrolled in workplace pensions (TUC, 2016).

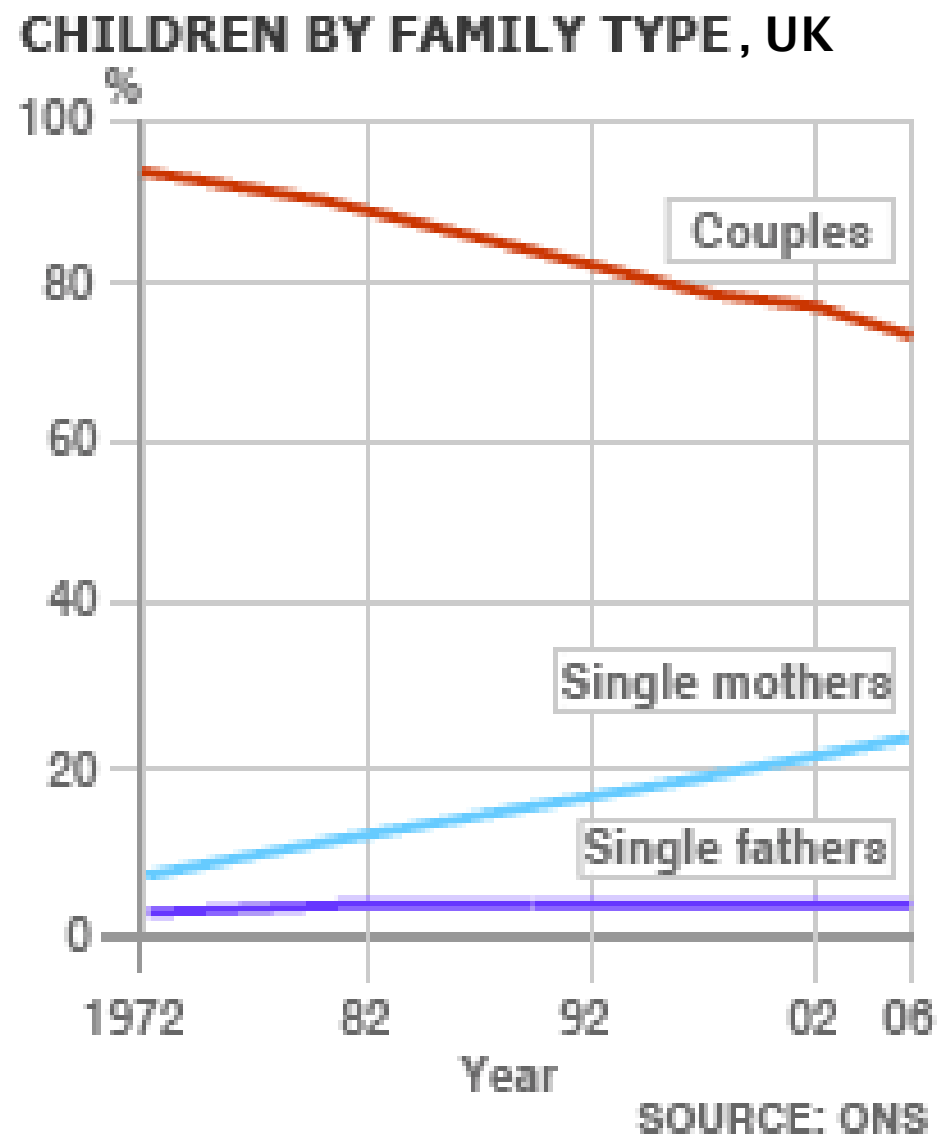


Work/family conflicts

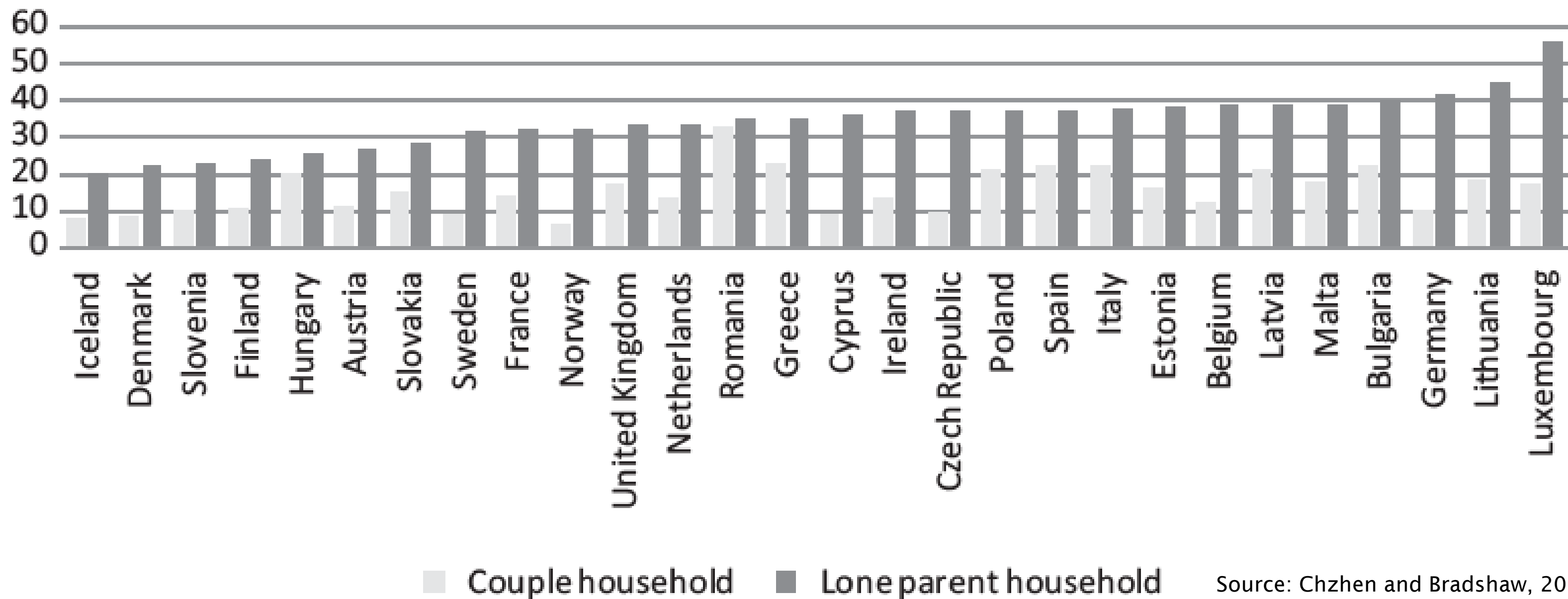
% of day (24hrs) spent on unpaid work and care work by gender across selected countries, 1999-2013

	Women		Men		Difference	
	Unpaid work	Care work	Unpaid work	Care work	Unpaid work	Care work
Australia	17.3	5.3	10.5	2.2	6.8	3.0
Austria	17.3	3.2	9.4	1.5	7.9	1.7
Belgium	16.1	1.9	9.7	0.8	6.5	1.0
Canada	15.1	3.4	10.3	1.7	4.8	1.7
Finland	15.4	2.5	11.2	1.0	4.2	1.5
France	14.9	2.3	9.7	1.0	5.2	1.3
Germany	15.9	1.7	9.8	1.4	6.1	0.3
Italy	21.0	2.4	8.2	1.2	12.8	1.2
New Zealand	17.8	2.9	11.3	1.1	6.4	1.9
Norway	13.9	2.5	11.7	1.6	2.2	0.9
Poland	18.8	3.3	6.2	1.5	12.6	1.9
Slovenia	19.7	2.6	11.4	1.6	8.3	1.0
Spain	17.8	3.6	8.9	2.0	8.9	1.6
Sweden	14.0	3.0	10.0	1.8	4.0	1.2
UK	16.6	3.6	9.5	1.6	7.1	2.0
US	14.8	3.2	10.2	1.6	4.6	1.7
Average	16.6%	3.0%	9.9%	1.5%	6.8%	1.5%

Single parenthood



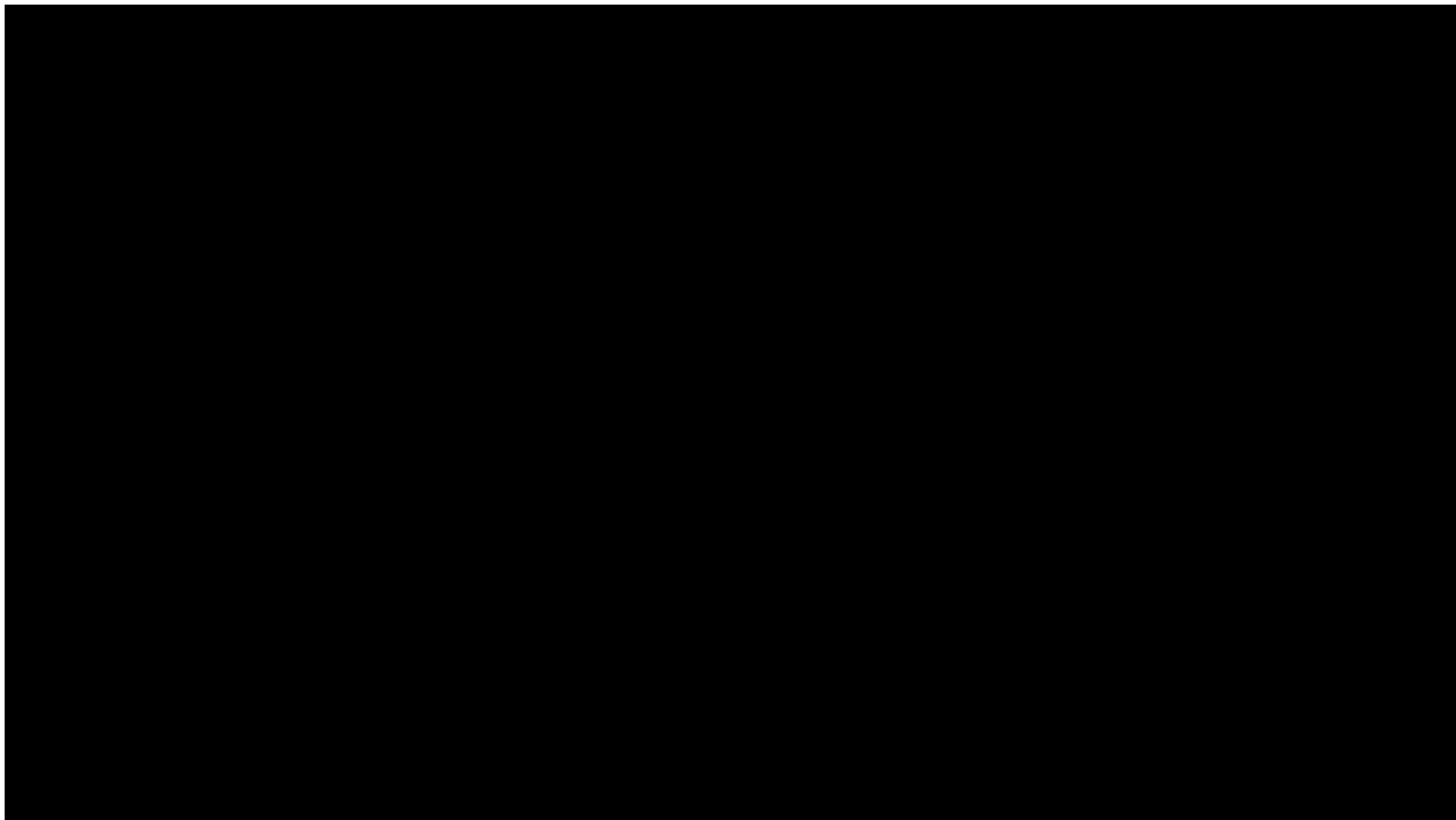
One-quarter of women will spend at least some time as a single parent by age 40 (Andersson & Philipov, 2002).



Having an elderly or disabled relative

Activity: watch the following clip and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think might be the implications of having an elderly relative for welfare?
2. Why is this a social risk?



New social risk policies



‘Old’ social risk policies aren’t enough. Governments have had to introduce ‘new’ social risk policies (Jenson, 2008):

1. Services for the elderly and disabled
2. Policies for families with children
3. ‘Active’ labour market policies

Aims:

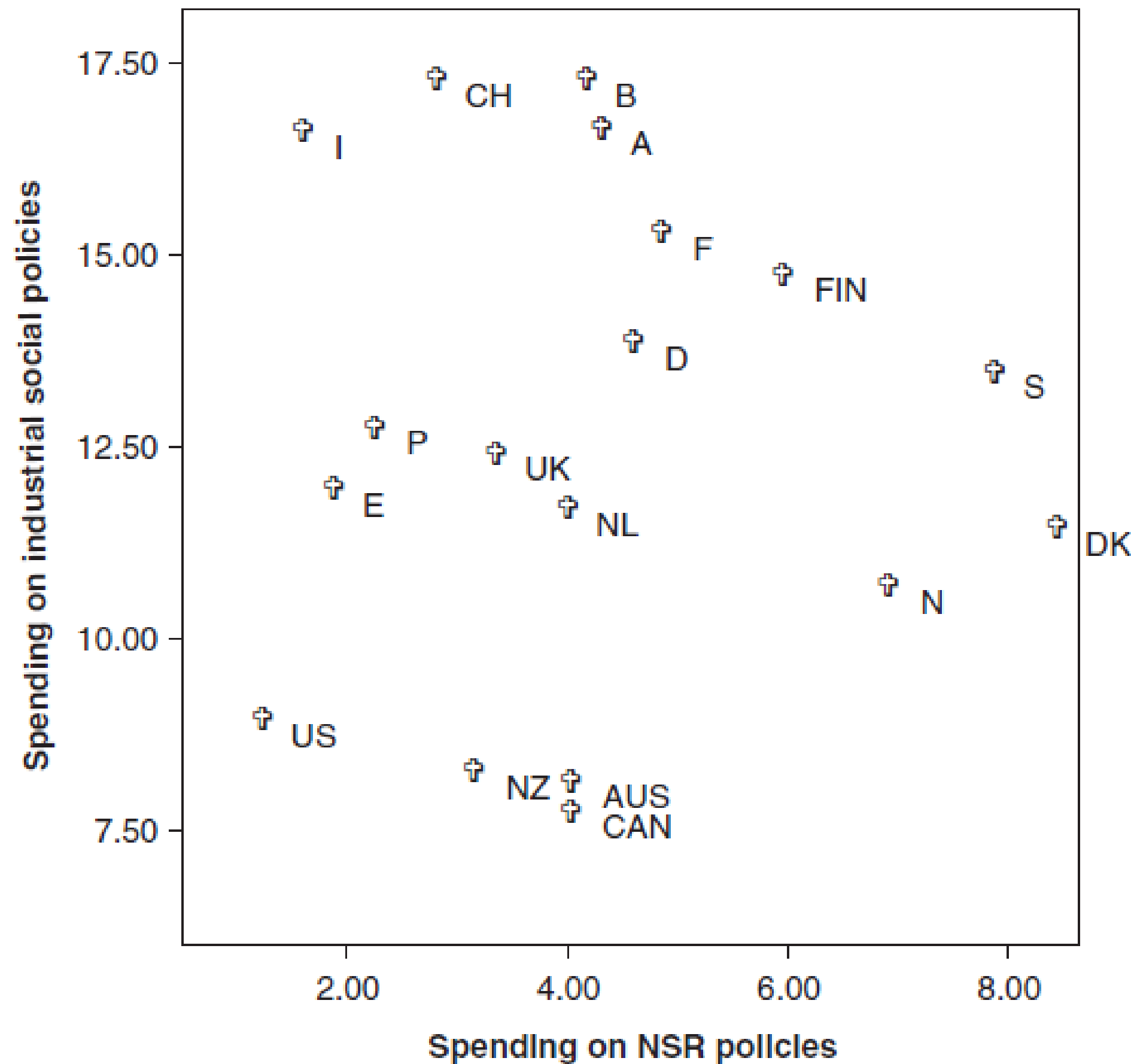
- To enhance gender equality as well as reduce poverty;
- Target different stages of the life-course rather than a specific group;



- (Re)commodify, i.e. enable employment, rather than decommodify, i.e. reduce reliance on employment;
- Encourage and enable different choices and behaviours

Cross-national patterns in NSR adaptation

Spending on OSR and NSR policies as a % of GDP, 1997-2001



Some countries have been able to provide more effective protection against new social risks than others.

Bonoli (2005, 2007)

suggests four reasons:

- The power of the left
- Institutional predisposition
- Differences in women's political empowerment
- It's about time!

The Timing of Key Postindustrial Developments in 18 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Countries

	Service Employment as a Percentage of Total Civilian Employment (%)	Female Employment Rate, as a Proportion of the 15-64 Population (%)	Divorce Rate (Divorce as per 100 Marriages)	Average Benchmark Year
Benchmark (Swedish level in 1970)	54	58	30	
	Year in Which the Swedish 1970 Level Was Reached (Benchmark Year)			
Sweden	1970	1970	1970	1970
Denmark	—	1971	1972	1972
Norway	1972	—	1981	1977
Finland	1983	1982	1976	1980
UK	1975	1988	1975	1979
United States	<1970	1984	<1970	1975
Canada	<1970	1987	1978	1978
Australia	<1970	1995	—	1982
New Zealand	1978	1988	—	1979
Germany	1986	2001	1981	1989
France	1978	>2003	1982	1988
Netherlands	—	1998	1981	1990
Switzerland	1980	1987	1980	1982
Belgium	—	>2003	1984	1993
Austria	1988	1994	1982	1988
Italy	1985	>2003	>2003	1994
Spain	1989	>2003	>2003	1996
Portugal	1992	1990	>2003	1995

Time matters

Scandinavian countries entered post-industrialism when expansion to address NSRs was possible.

Southern European countries entered when demands for protection against NSRs were up against (more powerful) demands from OSR groups.

English-speaking countries also entered post-industrialism early but didn't have the institutional predisposition.