

Population Ageing a Great Challenge for Former Eastern Europe

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Outline

- ✓ Introduction, definitions, data, methods, and publications
- ✓ Change in age structure between 2010 and 2060
- ✓ Country classification according to the ageing paths
- ✓ Gender gap
- ✓ Survival and healthy years
- ✓ Living arrangements
- ✓ Poverty risk
- ✓ Attitudes towards the elderly

Introduction

- Europe will remain the world's oldest region into the 21st century.
- Former Eastern European countries that are young today will be the oldest in the future.
- The older population itself is ageing and the oldest-old (aged 80+) will become the fastest growing age group.
- Replacement migration cannot reverse the trend.

Definitions, Data, Methods, and Publications

Definitions:

Population ageing is the change in age structure when the proportion of people age 65 and over is increasing.

*The population ageing related to the shrinking number of live births at the bottom of the age pyramid is called **ageing from the bottom**, while the mortality decrease in older age is labeled as **ageing from the top**.*

Data:

EUROSTAT, Eurohex Database

Methods:

Rates, Ratios, Life Tables, Cluster analysis, Factor analysis

Publications related to the topic:

Active Ageing and solidarity between generations. A statistical portrait of the European Union 2012. EUROSTAT,

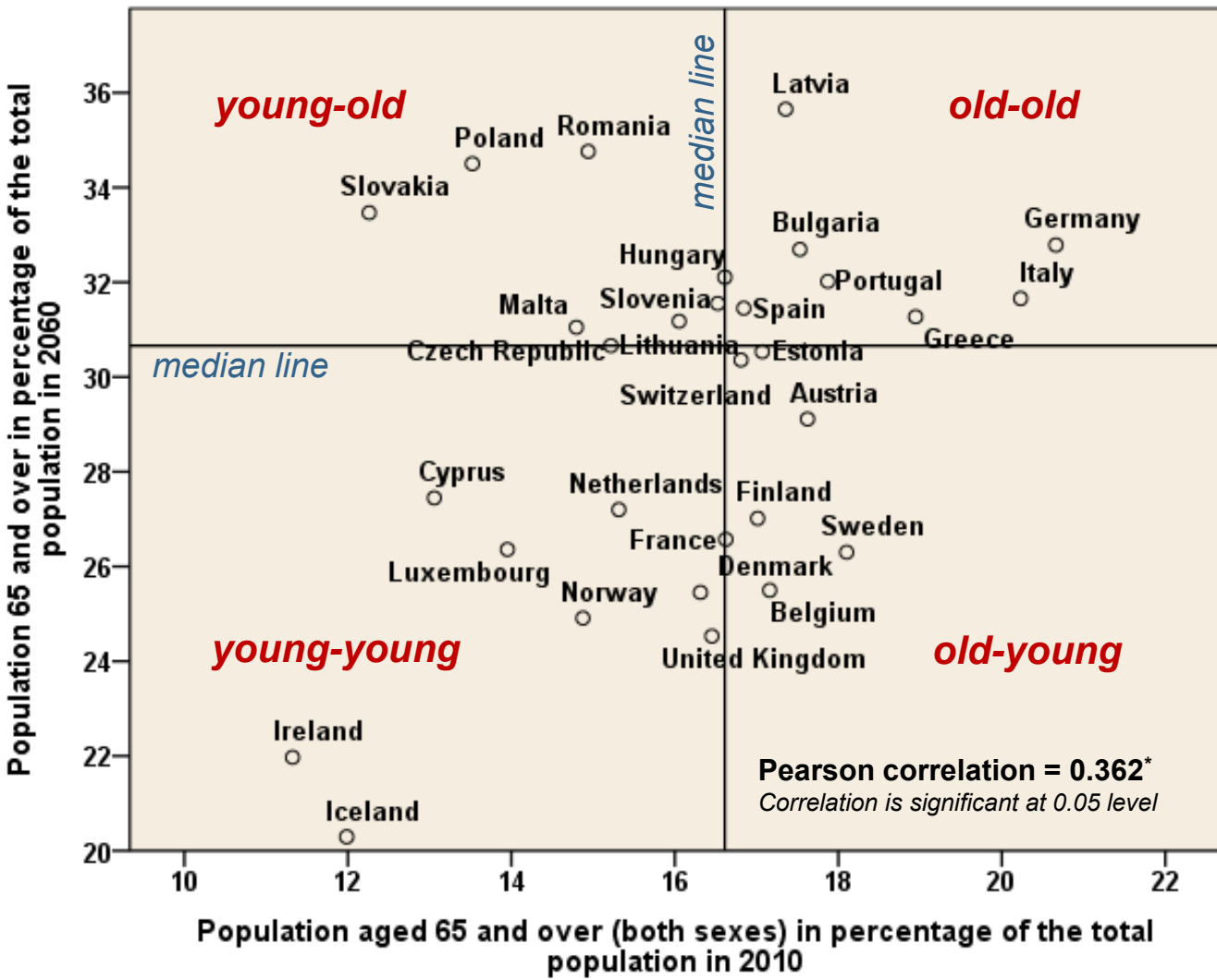
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-EP-11-001

International solidarity. Analytical Report. Flash Eurobarometer 269, The Gallup organisation
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_269_en.pdf

Change in age structure between 2010 and 2060

- Shift in percentage of people aged 65 and over
- Typology of ageing

Four types of population ageing paths between 2010 and 2060: young-young; young-old; old-old; old-young

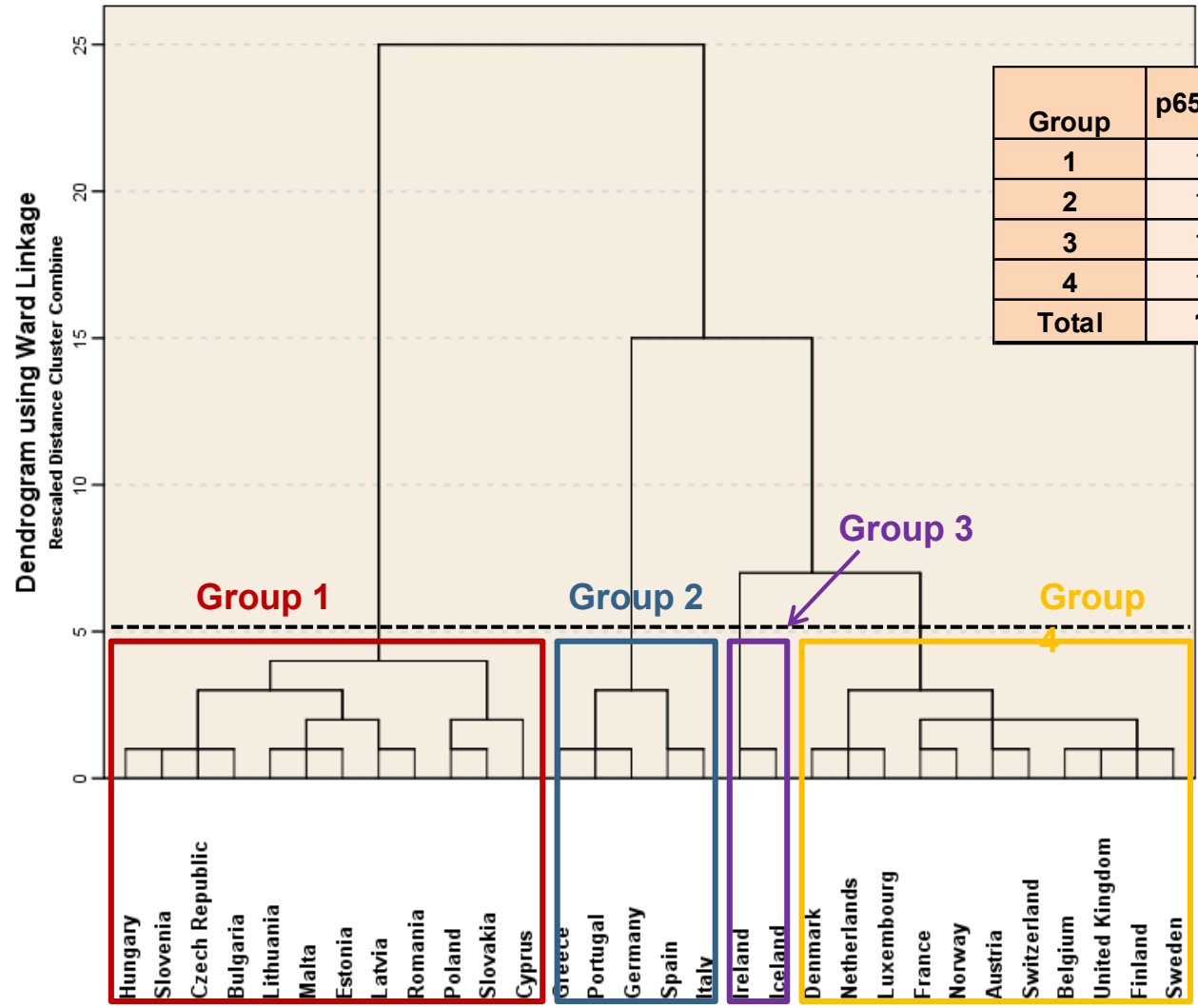


Former “Eastern” Europe experienced, up to the end of 1980s, high mortality at adult and older ages, as well as higher fertility rates, consequently the population there aged slowly.

In the same region, current deep decline in fertility, together with increasingly longer survival at older age, will result in the fastest population ageing in the future.

Pearson correlation = 0.362*
 Correlation is significant at 0.05 level

Four country groups based on types of change between 2010 and 2060



Percentages

Group	p65+ 2010	p65+ 2060	p80+in65+ 2010	p80+in65+ 2060
1	15,4	32,1	22,8	36,9
2	18,9	31,8	26,3	43,1
3	11,7	21,1	26,2	39,6
4	16,4	26,7	27,9	39,3
Total	16,1	29,3	25,5	39,0

- 1.group: faster ageing but lower proportion of oldest old.**
- 2.group: slower ageing but higher proportion of oldest old.**
- 3.group: lower proportion of 65+ but average level of oldest old.**
- 4.group: slower ageing but average level of oldest old.**

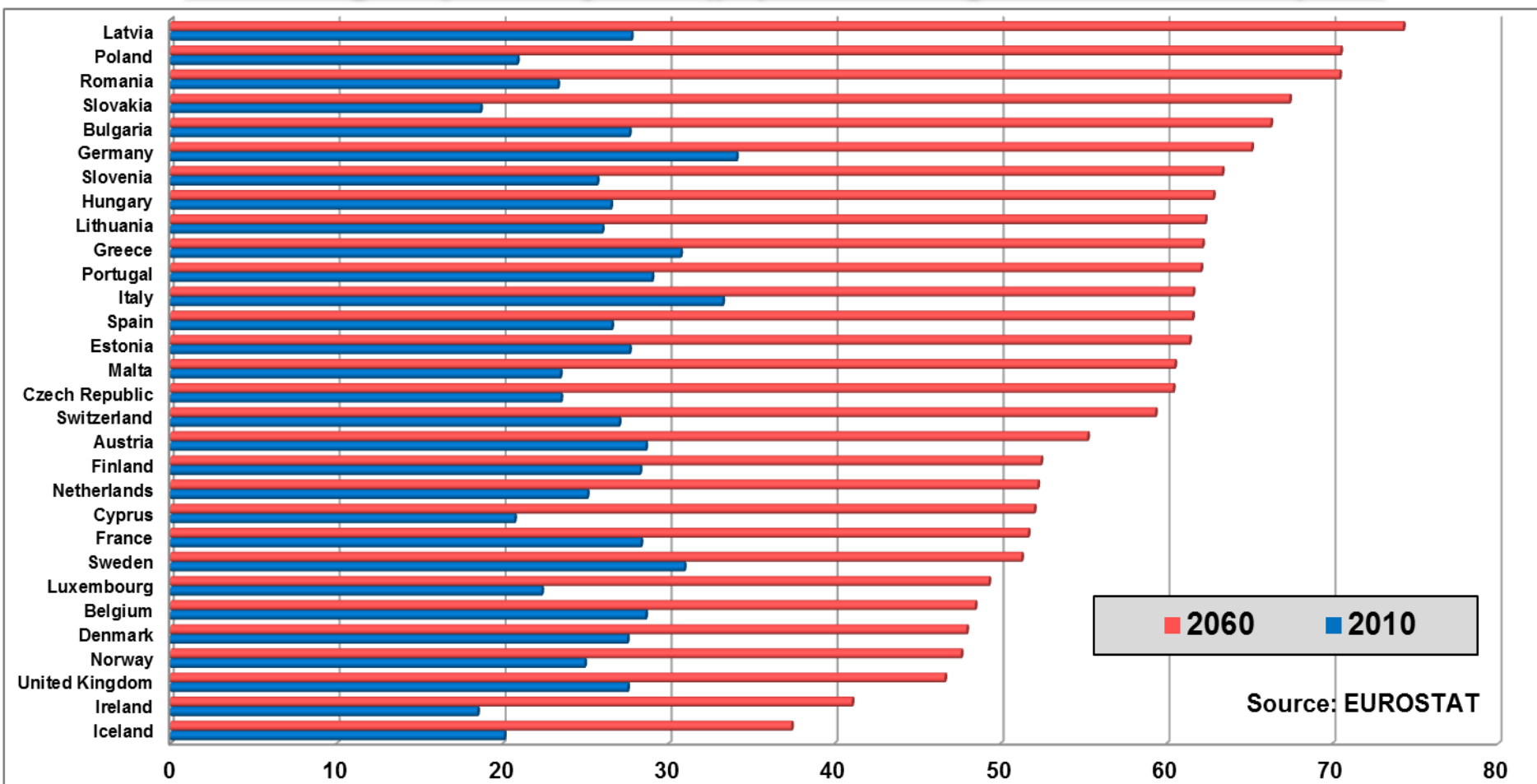
Cluster analysis: variables transformed in Z-scores, squared Euclidean distance

Despite the fact that in 2060 Eastern Europe will become the oldest region worldwide (when considering age group 65+), the share of the oldest old (aged 80+) will not be the highest.

Population ageing matters

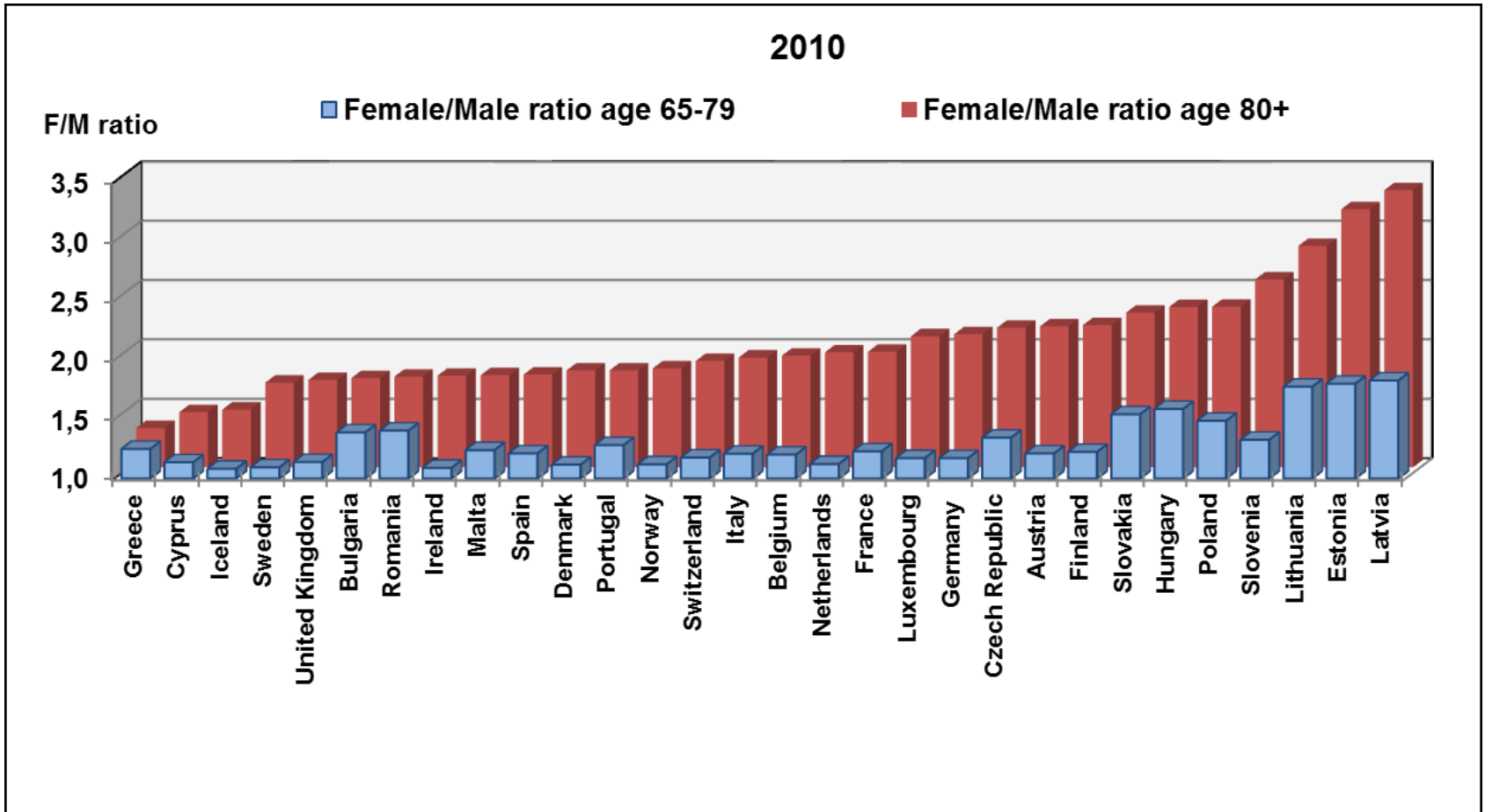
The old-age dependency ratio (OADR) will double

Old-age dependency ratio (population at age of: 65+/20-64*100)

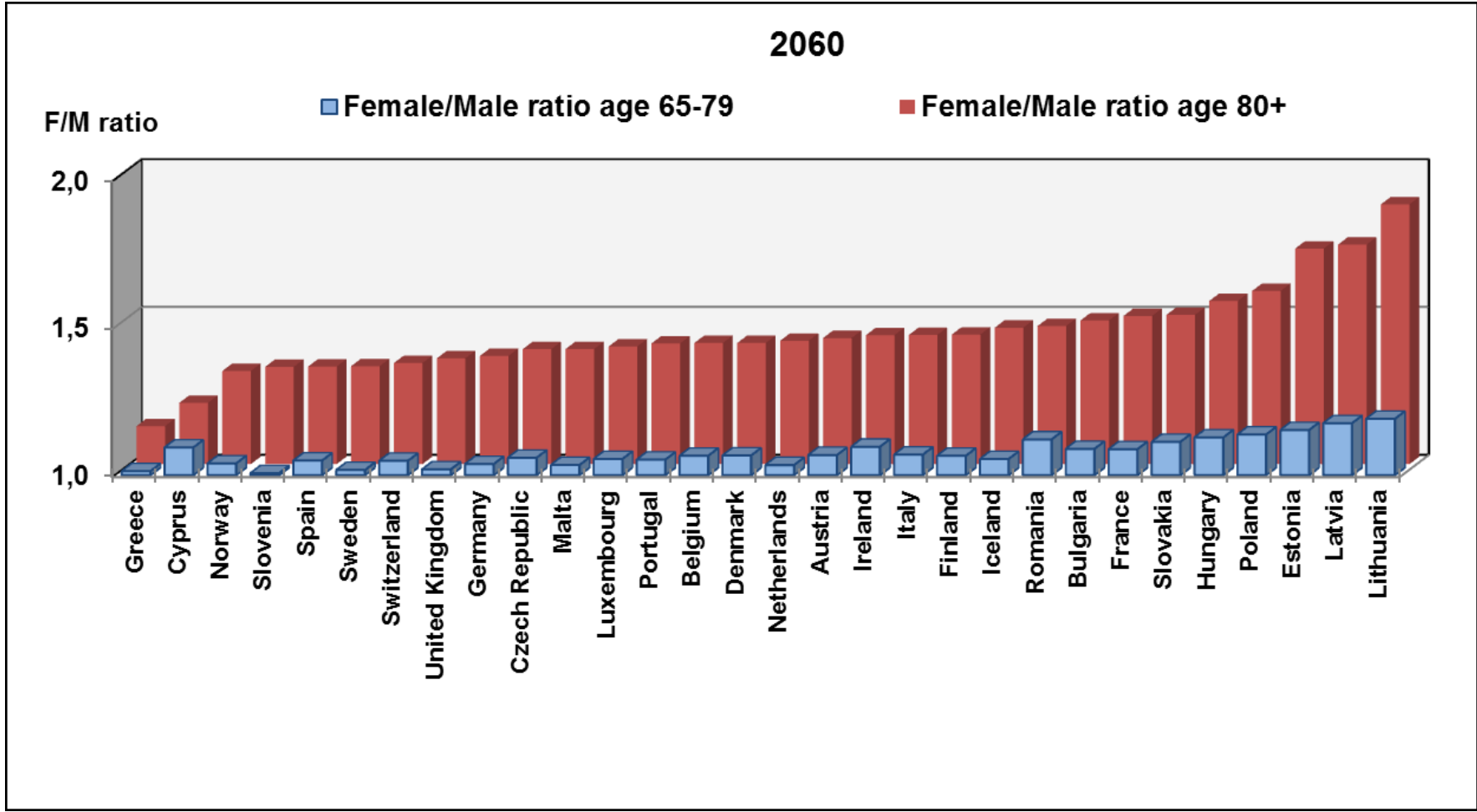


Source: EUROSTAT

The ratio of women compared with men was the highest at age 80+ and predominantly in Eastern Europe countries (3.34 in Latvia)



The feminization of the oldest age group (80+) will weaken in the future and the gender ratio in 2060 will be, „only“ 1.13 in Greece and 1.88 in Lithuania



Longer life a second factor of population ageing

Since WW II life expectancy at birth has increased significantly and the health of Europe's populations has improved substantially.

Starting in 1965 a declining mortality from cardiovascular diseases at older age is observed. This new phenomenon was labeled cardiovascular revolution.

Healthy life years = Years without activity limitations

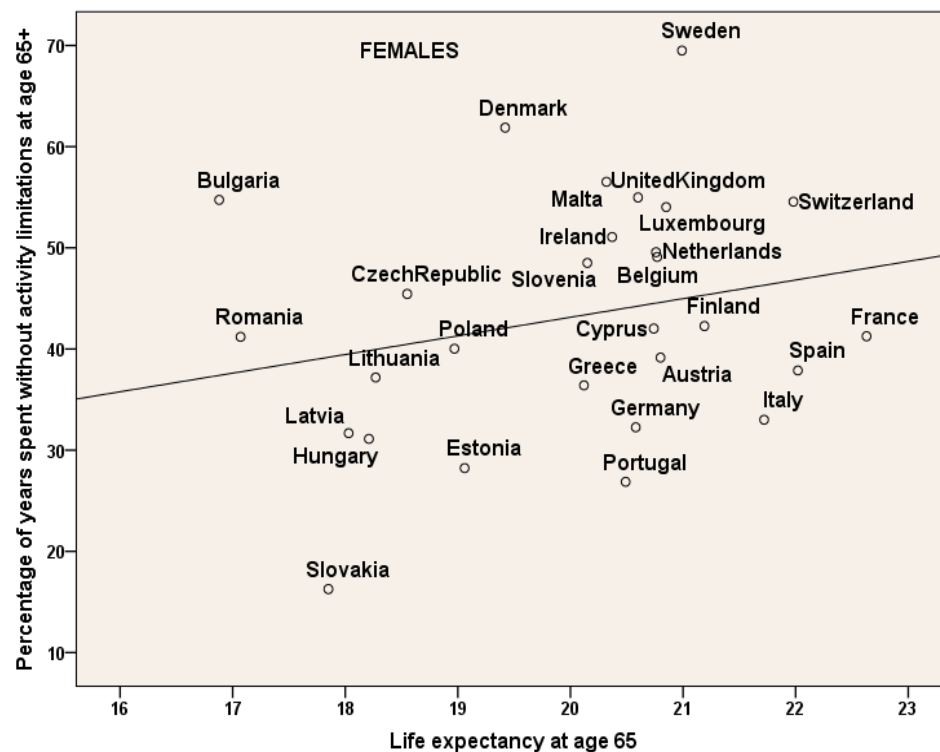
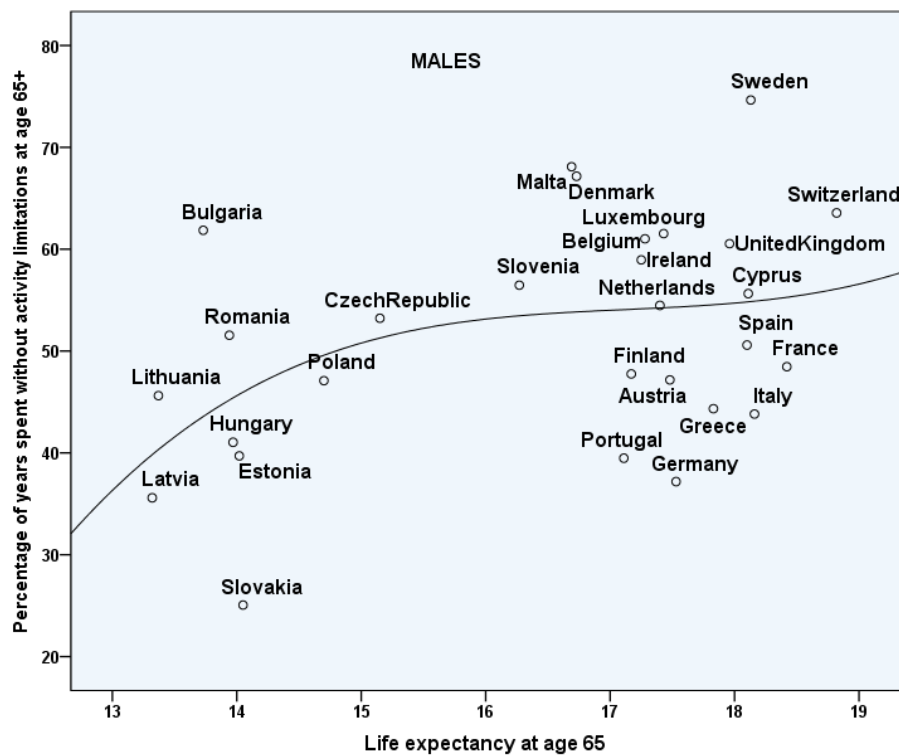
People at old age are not all ill or frail. Those who remain active can make a significant contribution to society.

In EU 27 males aged 65 years are expected to live 17 additional years and females 21 years.

The proportion of years spent without activity limitations beyond the age of 65 stand for 48 % in male population and 41 % for females.

Life expectancy at age of 65 combined with the share of years spent without activity limitations at age 65+

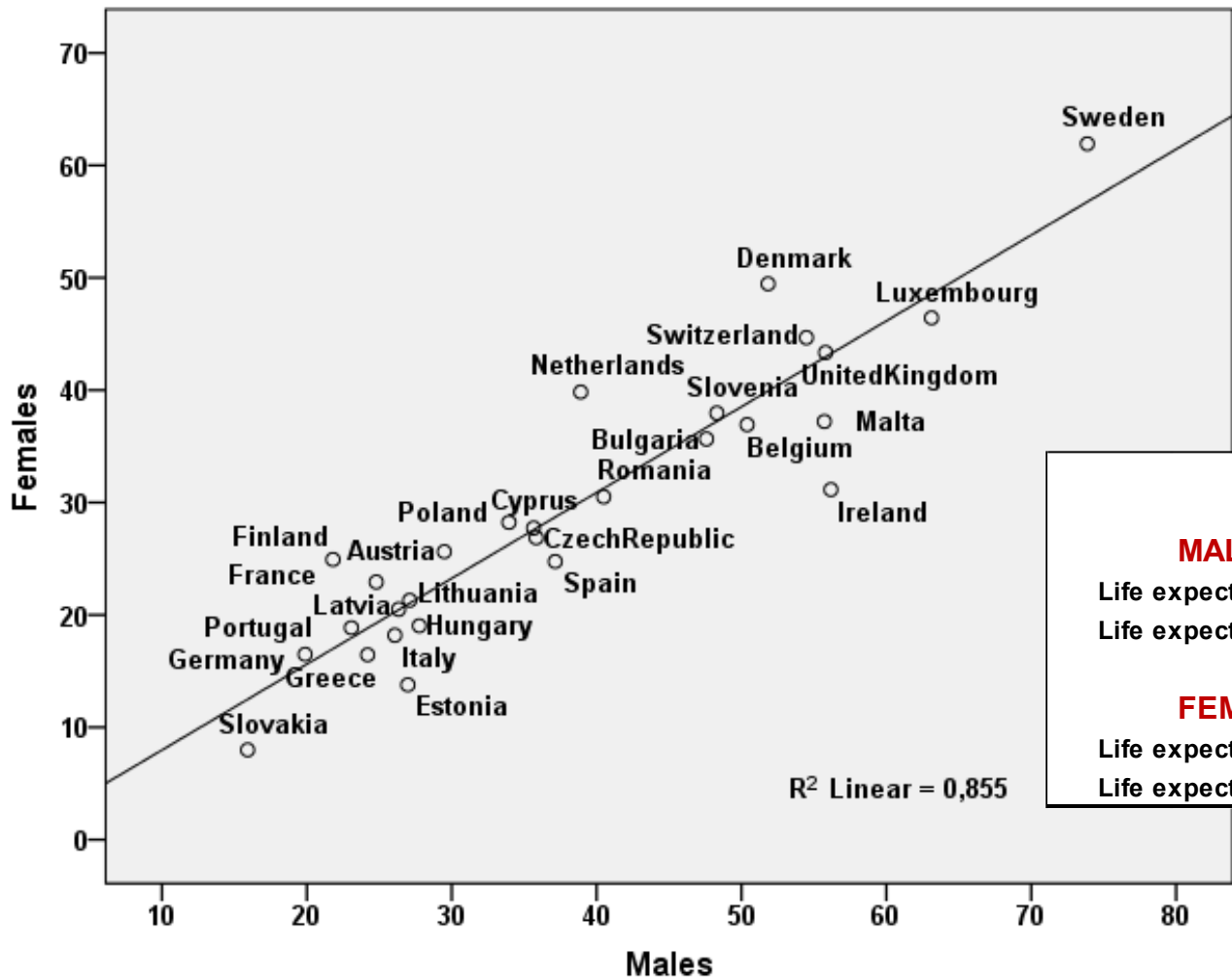
2009



Note: A healthy condition is defined by the absence of limitations in functioning/disability.

There is no clear correlation between length of life after the age of 65 and health status. The health evaluation also depends on social and cultural norms.

Share (in %) of years spent without activity limitations at age 80+ in 2009



There is almost no correlation between length of life and share of years spent without activity limitations

	Share of years spent without activity limitations
MALES	
Life expectancy at age 65	0.409*
Life expectancy at age 80	0.141
FEMALES	
Life expectancy at age 65	0.236
Life expectancy at age 80	0.317

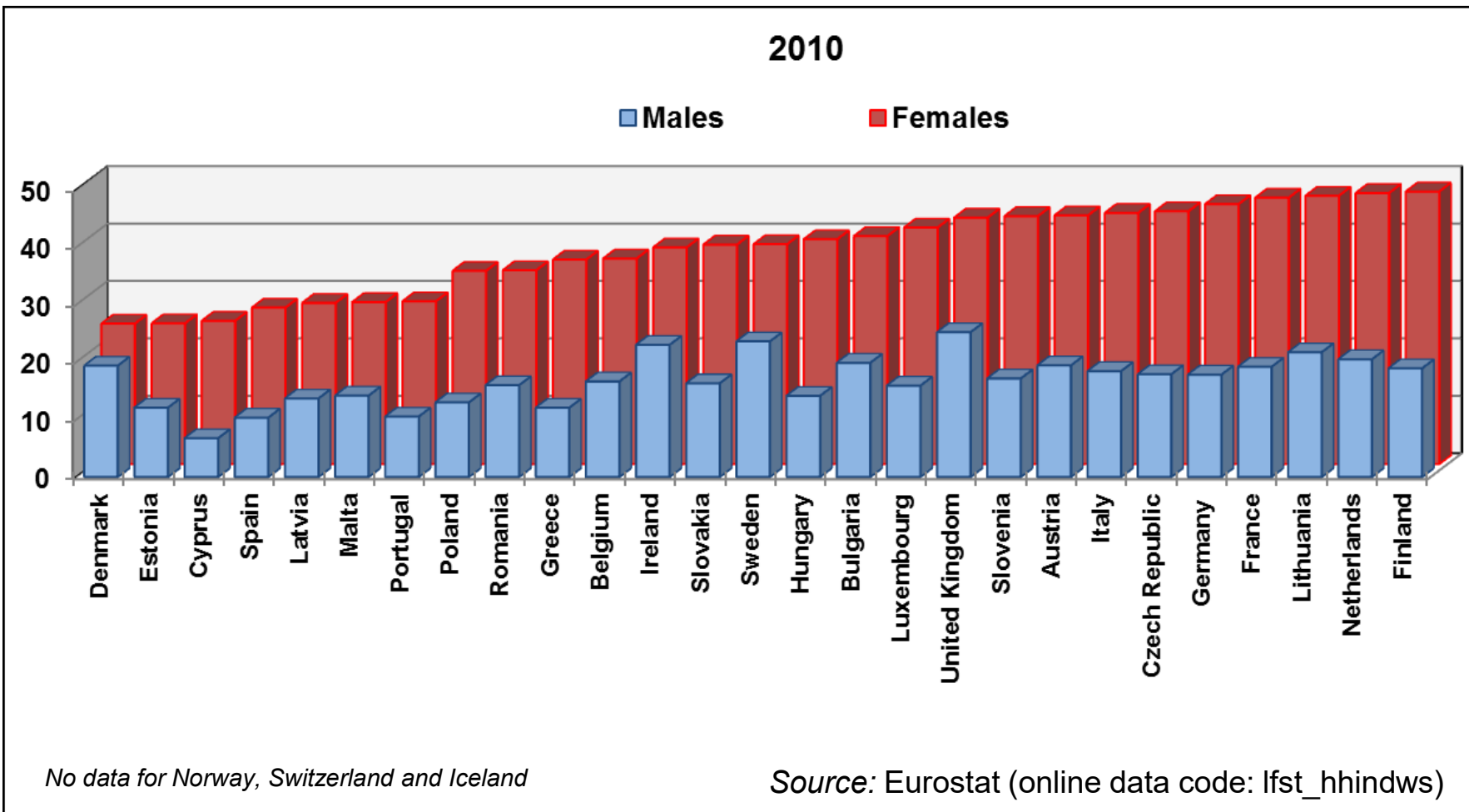
Cultural and social norms are not gender specific.

Living arrangements

One person households have increased over time and across countries.

Around three out of ten persons aged 65 or above live alone in EU27; women account for 58% of those individuals.

Living arrangements by gender: Share of single adults aged 65+



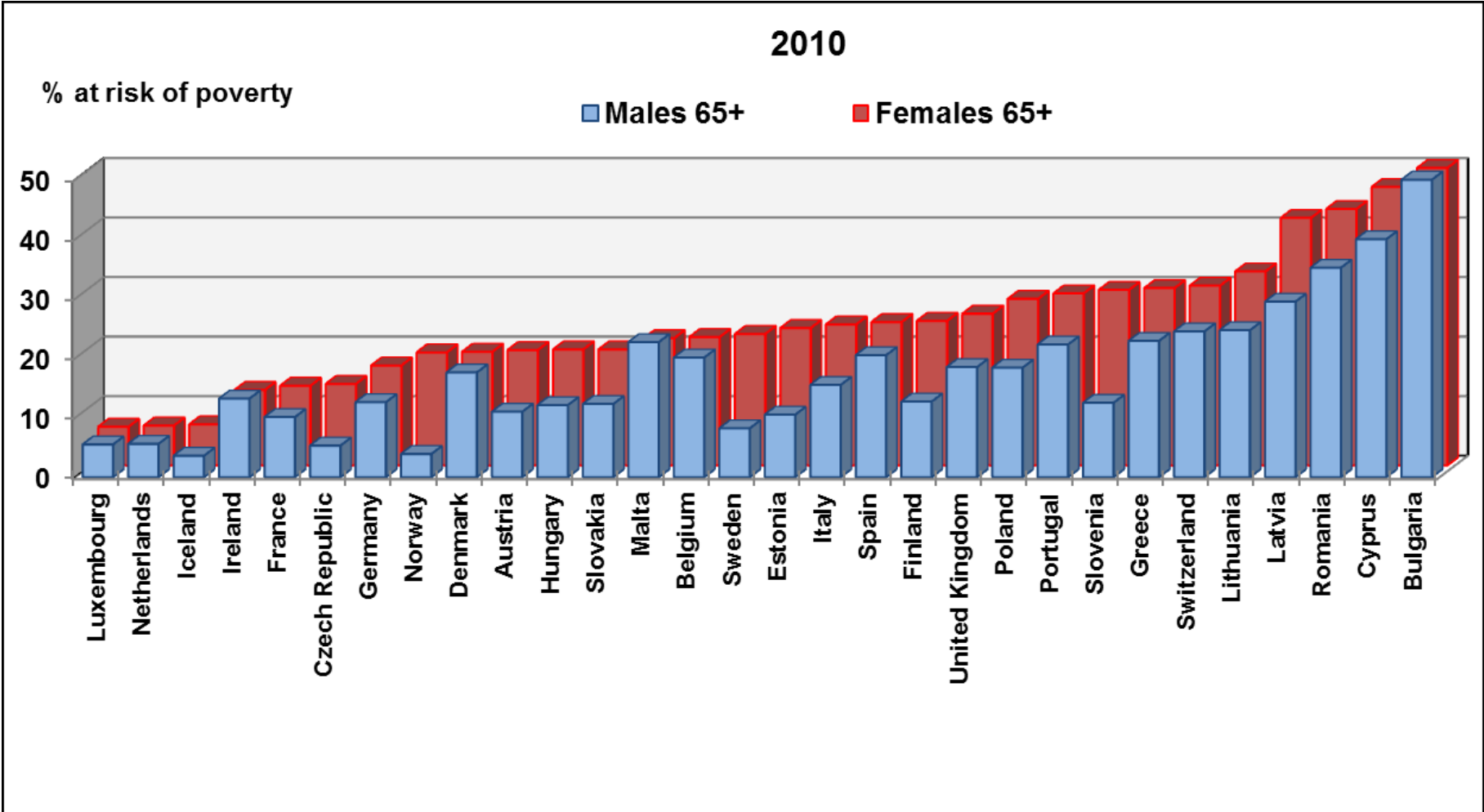
The lowest shares of elderly persons living alone were recorded in Southern Europe but also in populations with higher mortality.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

At-risk-of-poverty rates are based on the share of persons with an equivalised disposable income that is below the threshold of 60 % of national equivalised median income.

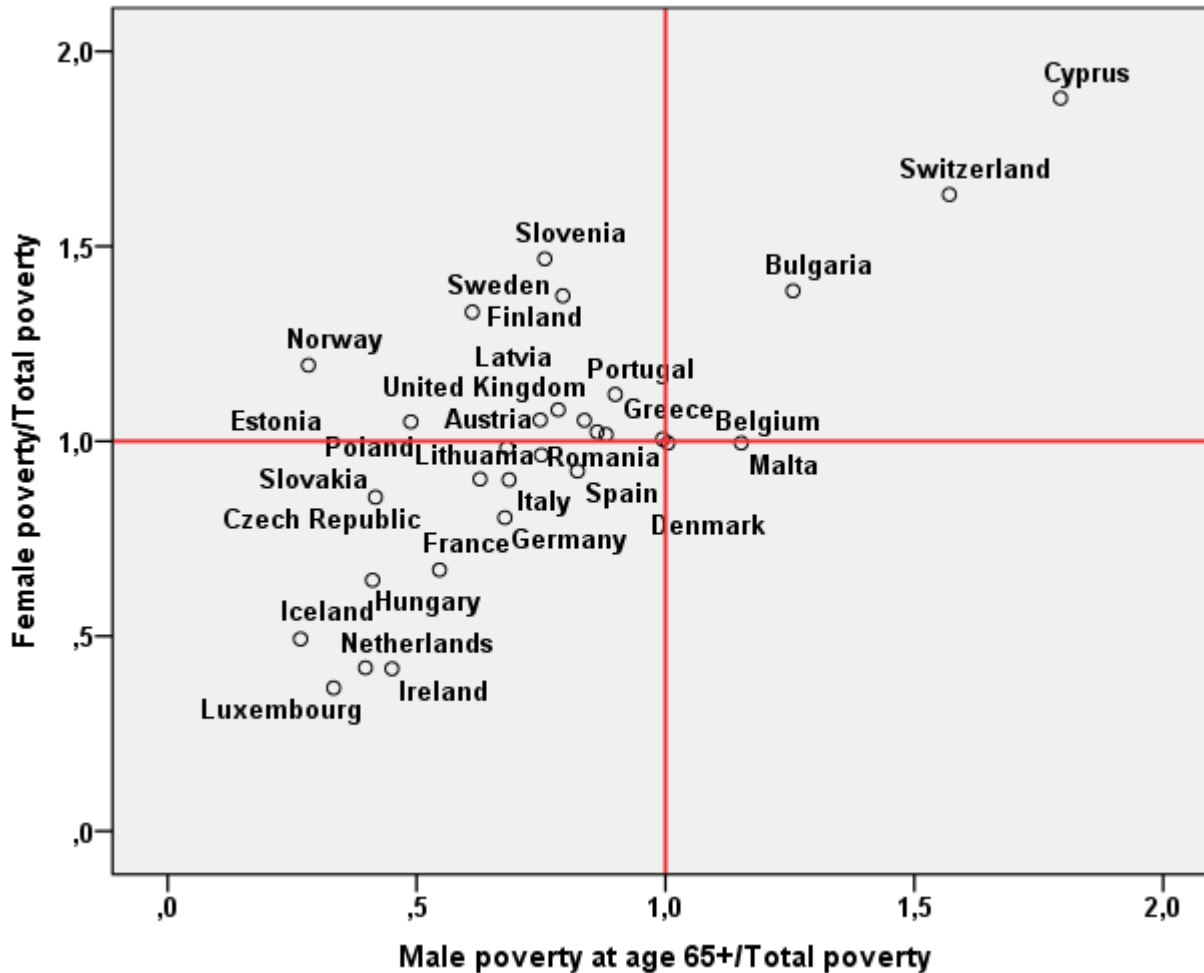
Some 19.8 % of people aged 65 and over in EU27 were at-risk-of-poverty in 2010; 16.2 % of men and 22.6 % of women.

People aged 65+ at risk of poverty or social exclusion by gender



Women are more at risk than men; however a social protection does not show a clear pattern.

People aged 65+ at risk of poverty or social exclusion compared to total poverty level



For both genders :
 Higher than average
 risk of poverty is
 observed in Cyprus,
 Switzerland and
 Bulgaria.

The populations aged 65+
 of countries located in the
 third quadrant (lower left)
 have lower poverty level
 than average (total), while
 populations located in the
 second quadrant (upper
 left) experience higher
 poverty of females aged
 65+.

Intergenerational solidarity

Ageing process can also have a strong impact on conventional relationships between generations.

EU citizens were most likely to accept that **young people and older people do not easily agree on what is best for society** (69% agreed) and most likely to disagree that **older people are a burden on society** (85%).

Source: European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer No. 269 – Intergenerational solidarity

Attitudes towards elderly are divided

As older people work until a later age, fewer jobs will be available for younger people

Companies which employ mostly young people perform better than those which employ people of different age

Older people are a burden for society

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

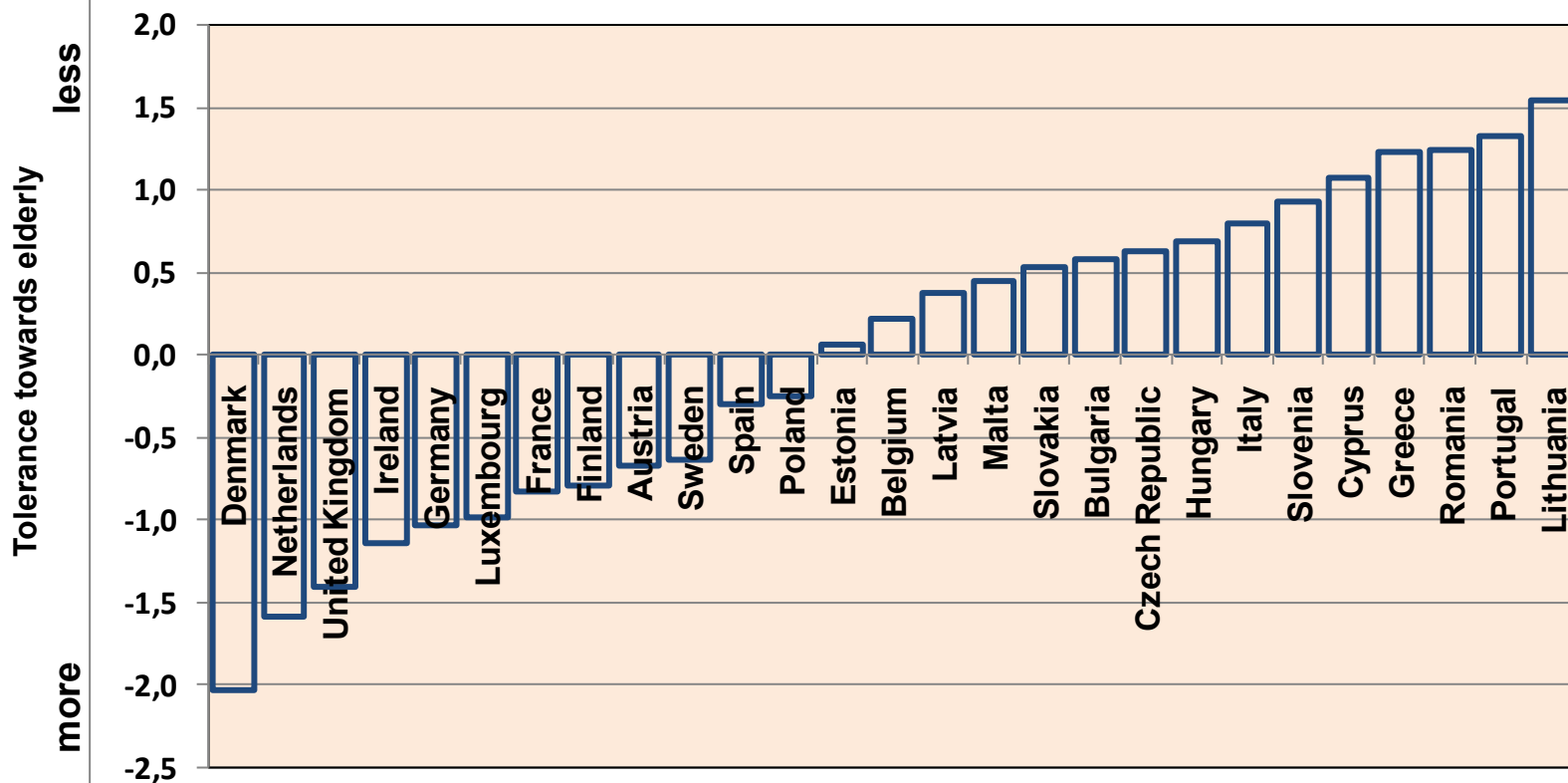
Component

0,884

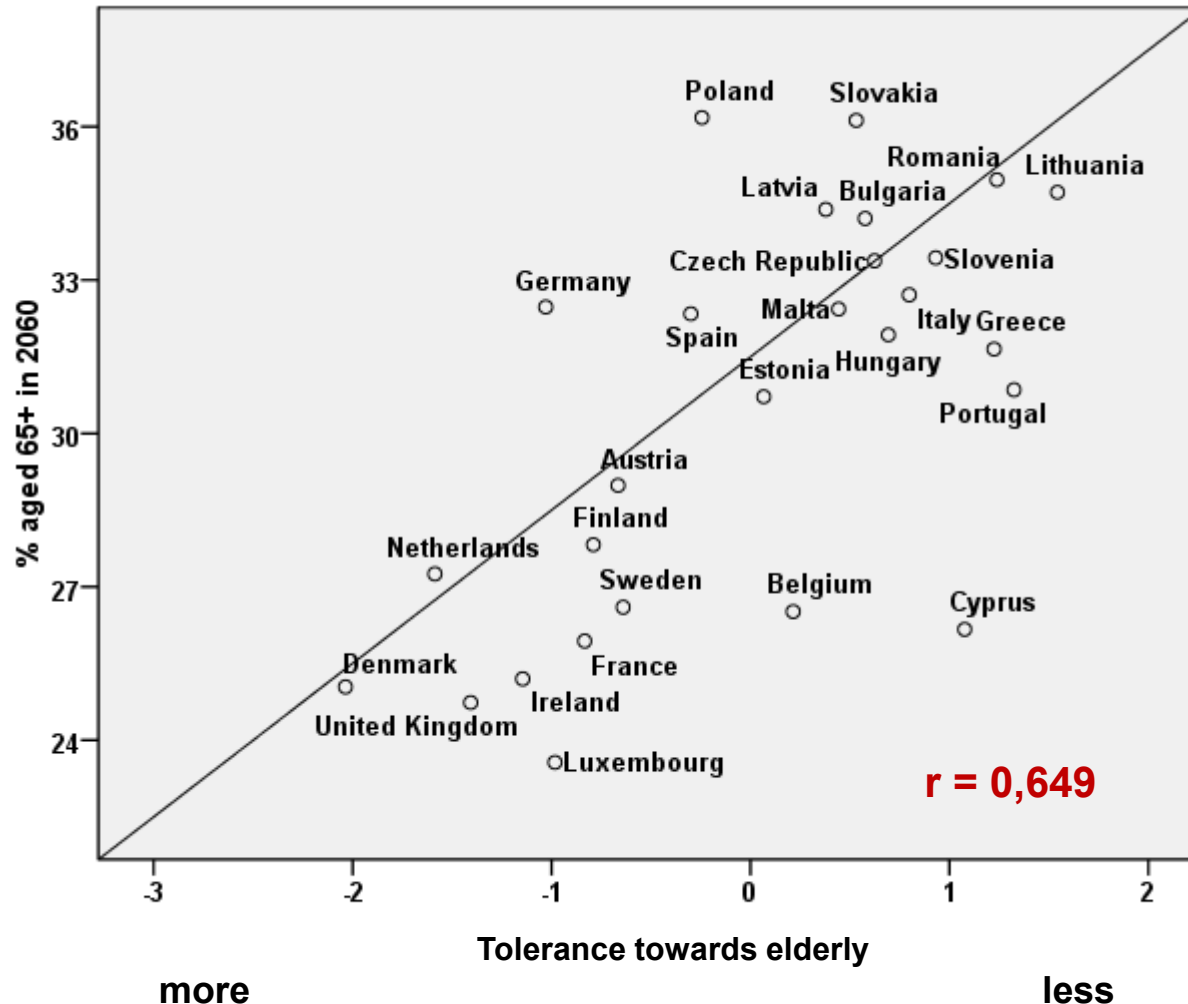
0,881

0,653

66,1 % of variance



Will Europe divide be strengthen?



Correlation between negative attitudes on ageing and future oldest populations is strong.

Conclusions

- In 2060, Eastern Europe will become the oldest region worldwide, however the share of the oldest old (aged 80+) will not be the highest.
- Eastern Europe populations experience the highest female/male ratio at older age.
- Higher mortality at older age separates East from the rest of Europe; however the proportion of years spent without activity limitations is not systematically the highest among East European populations.
- The poverty risk for the elderly and for old women is not always high in Eastern Europe.
- Negative attitudes towards the elderly are clearly heard in the East European countries despite the fact that currently they are still young.



Thank you for your attention

Population Europe Event

LONG-LIVE EUROPE:

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROSPECTS FOR EUROPE IN THE NEXT
DECADES**

Prague, 1 June 2012, 09:00-16:30

Charles University in Prague
Karolinum, Ovocný trh 3
Meeting Room Malá Aula
Prague 1, Czech Republic

<http://www.population-europe.eu/>