



The Family and its threads

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Family Challenges

Main questions and challenges in terms of family policies, at Global level, are currently represented:

- to support **families**, according to social justice, equal citizenship rights, subsidiarity;
- **tackling the introduction of "new families"** definitions and entities (which are weakening natural family in terms of rule of law, policy-making and cultural environment);
- empowering popular initiatives, **direct-democracy actions** and vinculative referendum in defense and promotion of family.

The fight for the family moving south-eastward

- **Greece** just passed civil unions (2015)
- The **Slovenians** defeated same-sex “marriage” (referendum)
- **Romanians** collected 3 million signatures on a **petition** to constitutionally **define marriage**
- **Hungary** and **Poland stopped** a attempt to impose **homosexual marriage on all EU area**
- Russian **Duma**, an anti-propaganda law (2013) protecting minors from sexual radicals.
- Mexico, **Frente por la Familia** brought rallies of millions of people in hundreds of cities vs gay marriage
- EU countries are plagued by **fertility rates** well **below replacement level**.
- EU institutions, US State Dept. and wealthy NGO’s **assaulting the faith-based, traditional cultures**, pushing sexual radicalism, marriage deconstruction and indoctrination in the guise of education.

Who wouldn't want to be happy?

Large families are the most happy, while single dads struggle more because they feel marginalized from the lives of their children.

Same-sex parents are the most resistant, have a high degree self-esteem and the most social support, but their satisfaction with their life is marginally lower than that of parents with large families, according to the study conducted by Edith Cowan University researcher Bronwyn Harman.

Bronwyn Harman, a lecturer in the School of Psychology and Social Science, asked parents from different family types about resilience, social support and self-esteem



Source: <https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/arts-and-humanities/staff/profiles/senior-lecturers/dr-bronwyn-harman>

Who wouldn't live longer?

The more the family endures the longer is the longevity : the research shows that “social relationship really do matter” (2016).

James Iveniuk, researcher at the University of Toronto School of Public Health
Philip Schumm, a senior biostatistician at the University of Chicago

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Sources:

<http://www.health.com/news/family-trumps-friends-extending-seniors-lives>

<http://www.asanet.org/press-center/press-releases/relationships-family-members-not-friends-decrease-likelihood-death>

Who wouldn't want better sex relationship?

More Traditional Gender Roles, More Sex (2013):

Researchers from the Juan March Institute and the University of Washington, however, suspect that the reverse is true. According to their hypothesis, **husbands and wives who do more gender-related tasks tend to experience greater sexual frequency.**

The
Family
in America **A JOURNAL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

Source:

http://familyinamerica.org/journals/summer-2013/more-traditional-gender-roles-more-sex/#.V9FKiP_r19B

Marriage, cohabitation and mortality in Denmark (2013)

Mortality as a function of marital status and cohabitation status

Living arrangements have changed markedly in recent decades, so we wanted to provide an up-to-date assessment of mortality as a function of marital status and cohabitation status in a complete population. We studied mortality in a national cohort of 6.5 million Danes followed for 122.5 million person-years during 1982–2011

Opposite-sex married persons had consistently lower mortality

In 2000–2011, opposite-sex married persons (reference, HR¼1) had consistently lower mortality than persons in other marital status categories in women (HRs 1.37–1.89) and men (HRs 1.37–1.66). Mortality was particularly high for same-sex married women (HR¼1.89), notably from suicide (HR¼6.40) and cancer (HR¼1.62).



Source: *Marriage, cohabitation and mortality in Denmark: national cohort study of 6.5 million persons followed for up to three decades (1982–2011)*, 2013, Morten Frisch and Jacob Simonsen (*International Journal of Epidemiology* 2013;1–20, Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the International Epidemiological Association)

Marriage and divorce statistics 2016

Marriage, as recognised by the law of each country, has long been considered to mark the formation of a family unit. Legal alternatives to marriage, like registered partnership, have become more widespread and national legislation has changed to confer more rights on unmarried couples.

Recent demographic data show that the number of marriages per 1 000 persons decreased within the [EU-28](#) in recent decades, while the number of divorces increased. An increase in the proportion of children who are born to unmarried couples was also apparent.



Source: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Marriage_and_divorce_statistics

Marriage and divorce statistics 2016

Some 2.1 million marriages and 986 thousand divorces took place in the EU-28 in 2011, according to the most recent data available for all EU Member States. These figures may be expressed as 4.2 marriages for every 1000 persons (in other words the crude marriage rate) and 2.0 divorces for every 1 000 persons (in other words the crude divorce rate).

Among the [EFTA](#) countries, [candidate countries and potential candidates](#), crude divorce rates in Bosnia and Herzegovina (0.6, 2012 data), Kosovo (0.7, 2012 data), Montenegro (0.9), Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (both 1.1) were also relatively low, while none reported particularly high rates, with a peak of 2.4 (2012 data) being recorded in Liechtenstein.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Marriage_and_divorce_statistics

Crude marriage rate

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU-28 (*)	.	7.9	6.8	6.3	5.2	4.4	4.2	.	.	.
Belgium (*)	7.1	7.6	6.7	6.5	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.8	.	.
Bulgaria	8.8	8.6	7.9	6.9	4.3	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.4
Czech Republic	7.7	9.2	7.6	8.8	5.4	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.3
Denmark	7.8	7.4	5.2	6.1	7.2	5.6	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.0
Germany	9.5	7.4	6.3	6.5	5.1	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.8
Estonia	10.0	9.1	8.8	7.5	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.3	4.7
Ireland	5.5	7.0	6.4	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.5	.	.
Greece	7.0	7.7	6.5	5.8	4.5	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.9
Spain	7.8	7.3	5.9	5.7	5.4	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4
France (*)	7.0	7.8	6.2	5.1	5.0	3.9	3.6	3.7	.	.
Croatia	8.9	8.5	7.2	5.8	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.6
Italy	7.7	7.3	5.7	5.6	5.0	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.1
Cyprus (*)	.	8.6	7.7	9.7	13.4	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.4	.
Latvia	11.0	10.2	9.8	8.9	3.9	4.4	5.2	5.5	5.7	6.3
Lithuania	10.1	9.5	9.2	9.8	4.8	6.0	6.3	6.9	6.9	7.6
Luxembourg (*)	7.1	6.4	5.9	6.1	4.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.0
Hungary (*)	8.9	9.3	7.5	6.4	4.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.9
Malta	6.0	7.9	8.8	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.7	6.1	6.7
Netherlands	7.7	9.5	6.4	6.5	5.5	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.8	3.9
Austria	8.3	7.1	6.2	5.9	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.3	.
Poland	8.2	8.6	8.6	6.7	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.4	4.7	5.0
Portugal	7.8	9.4	7.4	7.2	6.2	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0
Romania	10.7	7.2	8.2	8.3	6.1	5.7	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.9
Slovenia	8.8	8.3	6.5	4.3	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.2
Slovakia	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.9
Finland	7.4	8.8	6.1	5.0	5.1	5.6	5.3	5.3	4.6	4.5
Sweden	6.7	5.4	4.5	4.7	4.5	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.4	5.5
United Kingdom	7.5	8.5	7.4	6.6	5.2	4.5	4.5	.	.	.
Iceland	7.5	7.8	5.7	4.5	6.3	4.9	4.6	.	.	.
Liechtenstein	5.7	5.9	7.1	5.6	7.2	5.0	4.5	5.0	.	.
Norway	6.6	7.6	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.6
Switzerland (*)	7.8	7.6	5.7	6.9	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	4.9	5.1
Montenegro	.	.	.	.	.	5.9	.	5.3	6.2	5.7
FYR of Macedonia	8.6	9.0	8.5	8.3	7.0	6.9	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.7
Albania	7.8	6.8	8.1	8.9	8.4	.	.	.	8.2	.
Serbia	.	.	.	.	5.7	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.1	5.1
Turkey	.	.	8.2	.	.	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10.1	9.3	8.5	6.7	5.6	5.1	.	4.8	.	.
Kosovo (*)	.	.	.	.	.	.	9.3	9.5	.	.

Crude divorce rate

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU-28 (*)	:	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.0	:	:	:
Belgium	0.5	0.7	1.5	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.3	:	:
Bulgaria	:	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5
Czech Republic	1.4	2.2	2.6	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.5
Denmark	1.5	1.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.4	3.4
Germany	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	:	2.1
Estonia	2.1	3.2	4.1	3.7	3.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4
Ireland	:	:	:	:	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	:	:
Greece	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.5	:
Spain	:	:	:	0.6	0.9	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.2
France (*)	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	:	:	:
Croatia	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	:
Italy	:	:	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Cyprus	:	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.7	2.3	2.3	2.4	:	:
Latvia	2.4	4.6	5.0	4.0	2.6	2.4	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.1
Lithuania	0.9	2.2	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3
Luxembourg	0.5	0.6	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.6
Hungary (*)	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.1	1.1	0.8	0.8
Netherlands	0.5	0.8	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1
Austria	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	:	:
Poland (*)	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Portugal	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.9	1.9	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	:
Romania	2.0	0.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.4
Slovenia	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2
Slovakia	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9
Finland	0.8	1.3	2.0	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5
Sweden	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.7
United Kingdom	:	1.0	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.0	:	:
Iceland	0.7	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	:	:	:
Liechtenstein	:	:	:	:	3.9	2.4	2.5	2.4	:	:
Norway	0.7	0.9	1.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9
Switzerland (*)	0.9	1.0	1.7	2.0	1.5	2.8	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
FYR of Macedonia	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1
Albania	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia (*)	:	:	:	:	:	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	0.4	:	0.6	:	:
Kosovo (*)	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.8	0.7	:	:

Live births outside marriage

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU-28	:	:	:	:	27.3	38.6	39.3	40.0	:	:
Belgium	2.1	2.8	4.1	11.6	28.0	45.7	50.0	52.3	:	:
Bulgaria	8.0	8.5	10.9	12.4	38.4	54.1	56.1	57.4	59.1	58.8
Czech Republic	4.9	5.4	5.6	8.6	21.8	40.3	41.8	43.4	45.0	46.7
Denmark	7.8	11.0	33.2	46.4	44.6	47.3	49.0	50.6	51.5	52.5
Germany	7.6	7.2	11.9	15.3	23.4	33.3	33.9	34.5	34.8	35.0
Estonia	:	:	:	27.2	54.5	59.1	59.7	58.4	:	:
Ireland	1.6	2.7	5.9	14.6	31.5	33.8	33.9	35.1	:	:
Greece	1.2	1.1	1.5	2.2	4.0	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.0	8.2
Spain	2.3	1.4	3.9	9.6	17.7	35.5	37.4	39.0	40.9	42.5
France (*)	6.1	6.8	11.4	30.1	43.6	55.0	55.8	56.7	:	:
Croatia	7.4	5.4	5.1	7.0	9.0	13.3	14.0	15.4	16.1	17.4
Italy	2.4	2.2	4.3	6.5	9.7	21.5	23.4	24.5	26.9	28.8
Cyprus	:	0.2	0.6	0.7	2.3	15.2	16.9	18.6	:	:
Latvia	11.9	11.4	12.5	16.9	40.4	44.4	44.6	45.0	44.6	44.0
Lithuania	:	3.7	6.3	7.0	22.6	25.7	27.7	28.8	29.5	29.0
Luxembourg	3.2	4.0	6.0	12.8	21.9	34.0	34.1	37.1	37.8	39.1
Hungary	5.5	5.4	7.1	13.1	29.0	40.8	42.3	44.5	45.6	47.3
Malta	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.8	10.6	25.3	23.0	25.7	25.9	25.9
Netherlands	1.4	2.1	4.1	11.4	24.9	44.3	45.3	46.6	47.4	48.7
Austria	13.0	12.8	17.8	23.6	31.3	40.1	40.4	41.5	:	:
Poland	:	5.0	4.8	6.2	12.1	20.6	21.2	22.3	23.4	24.2
Portugal	9.5	7.3	9.2	14.7	22.2	41.3	42.8	45.6	47.6	49.3
Romania	:	:	:	:	25.5	27.7	30.0	31.0	30.5	31.2
Slovenia	9.1	8.5	13.1	24.5	37.1	55.7	56.8	57.6	58.0	58.3
Slovakia	4.7	6.2	5.7	7.6	18.3	33.0	34.0	35.4	37.0	38.9
Finland	4.0	5.8	13.1	25.2	39.2	41.1	40.9	41.5	42.1	42.8
Sweden	11.3	18.6	39.7	47.0	55.3	54.2	54.3	54.5	54.4	54.6
United Kingdom	5.2	8.0	11.5	27.9	39.5	46.9	47.3	47.6	:	:
Iceland	25.3	29.9	39.7	55.2	65.2	64.3	65.0	66.9	:	:
Liechtenstein	3.7	4.5	5.3	6.9	15.7	21.3	23.5	19.9	15.9	21.8
Norway	3.7	6.9	14.5	38.6	49.6	54.8	55.0	54.9	55.2	55.5
Switzerland	3.8	3.8	4.7	6.1	10.7	18.6	19.3	20.2	21.1	21.7
FYR of Macedonia	5.1	6.2	6.1	7.1	9.8	12.2	11.6	11.6	11.3	:
Serbia	:	:	:	:	20.7	24.0	23.9	24.7	25.1	25.1
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	10.8	:	10.7	:	:
Kosovo (*)	:	:	:	:	:	40.3	46.7	46.1	:	:

Cost of family breakdown in UK

Relationships Foundation's updated annual **"Cost of Family Failure Index"** reveals that **the 2016 cost of family breakdown** to the taxpayer has **increased** for the eighth year in a row **to £48 billion**, up from 37 million in 2009.

This means that **the average taxpayer now shoulders the financial burden of £1,820 a year**, a rise of £274 from last year.

Total cost Euro 57.292.910.002.39 (USD 63.969.722.837.4095)
Citizen cost Euro 2,171 (USD 2,425)



Source: Marriage Foundation, 2016, The cost to Britain's children of the trend away from marriage; Relationship Foundation, Counting the Cost of Family Failure, 2016 Update

Eurofound 2015

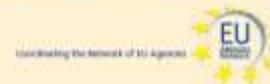
In 2011 universal cash benefits on average still represented more than half of the social expenditure on families in the EU, followed by universal in-kind benefits such as childcare services.

Means-tested cash benefits (14%) and means-tested benefits in-kind (8%) represented less than one-quarter of the total social expenditure on families. Universal support was thus, at least in 2011, still the preferred approach over targeted help in all Member States except Portugal, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Croatia.

Source: Eurofound (2015), Families in the economic crisis: Changes in policy measures in the EU, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.



Families in the economic crisis: Changes in policy measures in the EU



Eurofound 2015

Child/family cash benefits (allowances) and tax relief

The experts identified four universal child benefit measures as mitigating the effect of the crisis for disadvantaged families: the Latvian child support measure for all families with children up to 18 months, the Finnish child benefit, the Polish Big Family Charter and the Latvian tax relief amendments initiative.

Examples. Latvia and Finland set up a child benefit: in 2013, the Latvian monthly payment doubled from €70 per month to €140 per month (increased again in 2014 to €171); the Finnish one ranges from €96 for the first four children, rising to €174 for the fifth child onward (even if in 2014, the amount was higher). Other examples are the Polish *Big Family Charter* and the Austrian Transport Network Pass.

Some policy pointers:

involving stakeholders and beneficiaries in evidence-based policy and evaluation of programmes;
family policy – part of an integrated strategy;
benefits and programmes – information and access should be simple.

A possible response

The first step to target proper family policies and governmental initiative is to **count on an objective and independent description about the situation of family** as a human right at international level.

This make us able to identify needs and weaknesses of the family, its current problems and which measures the local, regional or international institutions can take to counter its difficulties and promote its inestimable value.

Since the end of 2014, The Novae Terrae Foundation, in collaboration with the **Family Studies and Research University Centre** (at the Catholic University of Milan) and thanks to some **WCF level experts' and organizations'** support, conducted a very important large research, aimed to build an Independent Global Index on Family.

The Index provides **a measure of how the family**, based on marriage between a man and a woman and children, **is supported in each country**.



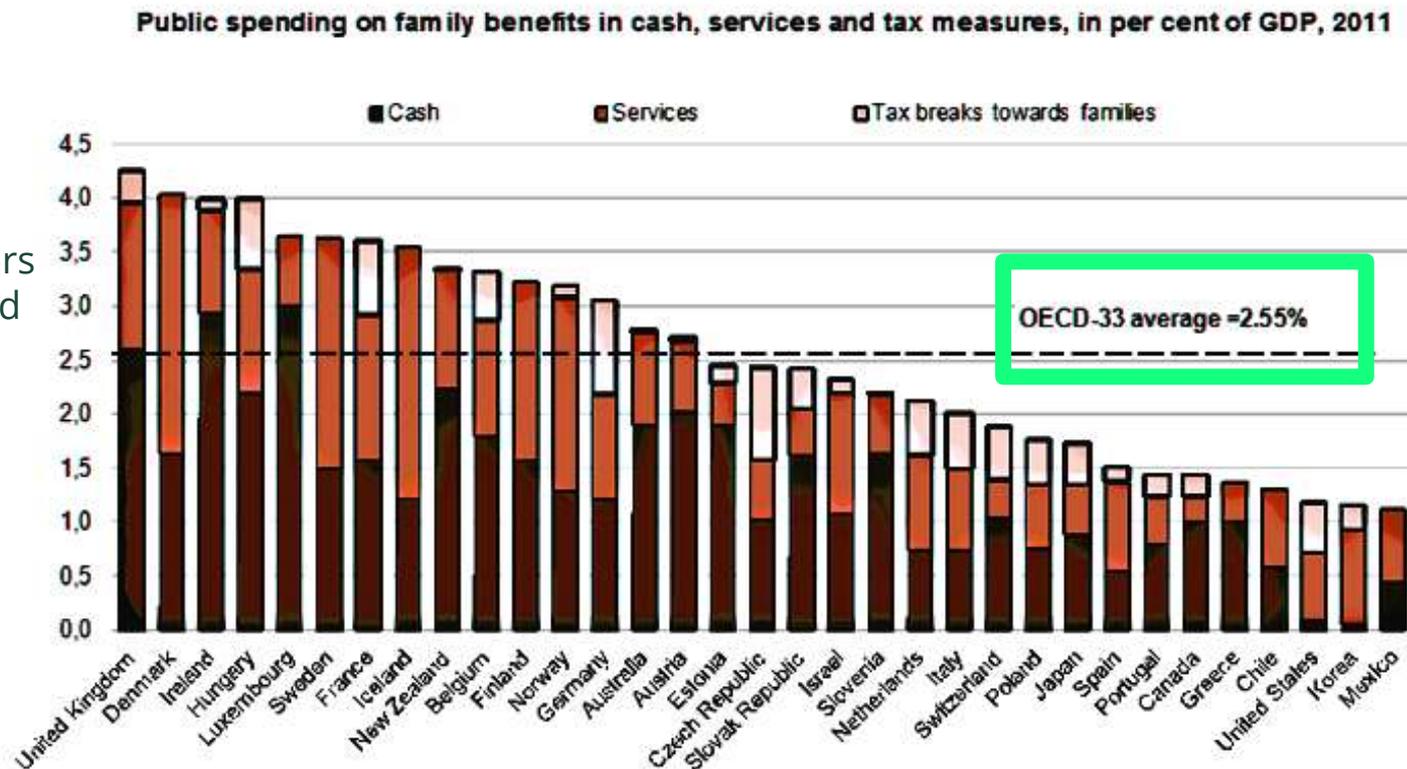
The Independent Global Index on Family (IGIF)

We used data found through web searching and the help of people and international organisations collaborating with the Foundation in a relationship based on work, trust and friendship all around the world.

An example: on public spending on family benefits

In average OECD-33 Countries spend 2.5% of GDP for Families.

Given families are fundamental, indicators will help to understand if this is enough.



IGIF Methodology

We selected a set of indicators to construct the **composite Index** that answers to two main purposes:

- the need to detect **comparable indicators** between different countries **across the globe**,
- and the desire to be able to **use** the obtained **marker** for the **greatest number of countries** possible.

Following this criteria, we arrived at a set of **19** comparable **indicators** for **46 countries**.

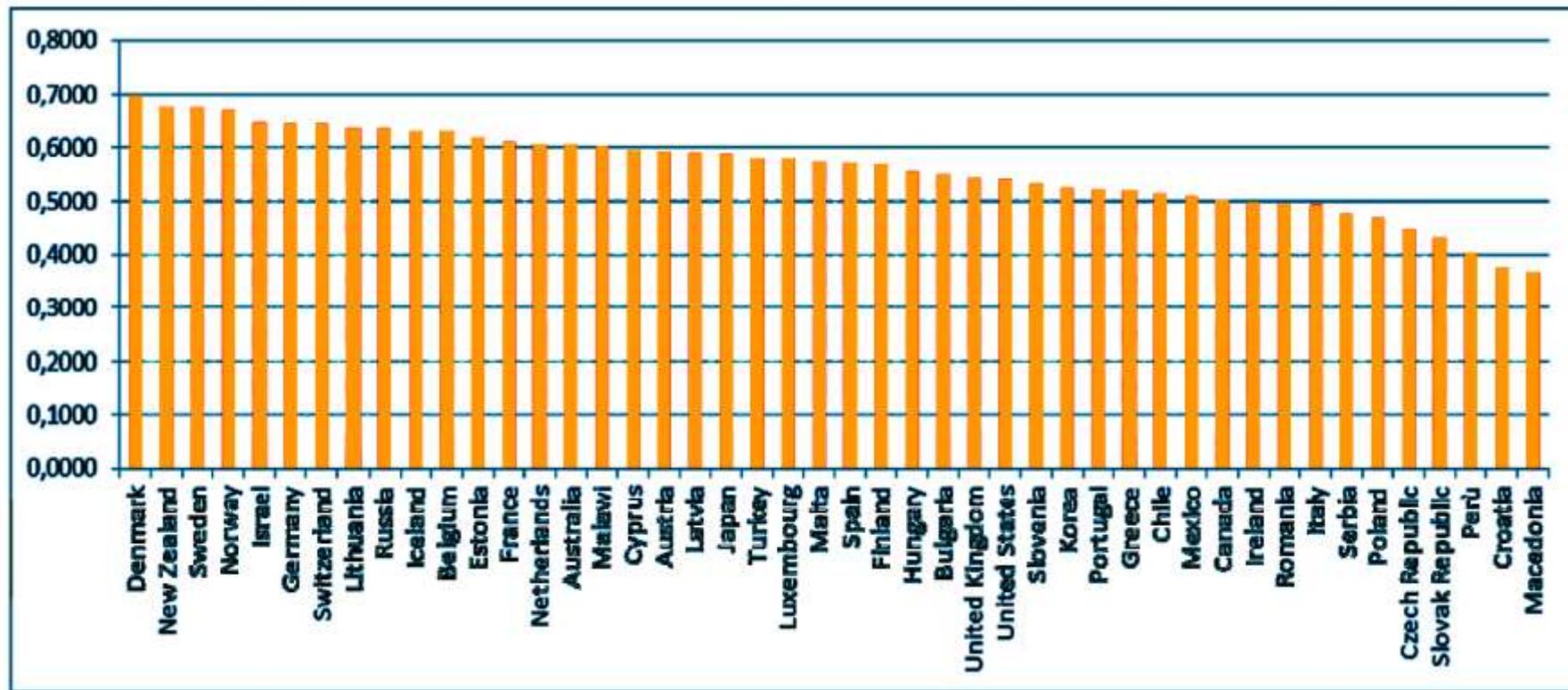
IGIF Indicators

The indicators included in the Independent Global Index on Family are:

1. **Structural dimension**, that is, the structure of the family itself, included indicators regarding parenthood and the relationship between partners.
2. **Resources** supporting the family in its **basic tasks**:
 - economic resources directly available **in the family unit** (employment, income etc.);
 - resources potentially available in the **context** (childcare services, work-life balance systems, family policies).
3. **Social resources**, concerning relationships and support, also related (if not corresponding) to the concept of social capital. Included: presence of associations advocating the family and/or mutual support between families; and the trust people express towards their family network (primary trust) and towards others in general (secondary/ general trust).

Countries comparisons

The IGF total score and each sub-index scores are reported for all the countries.



Major findings

Looking at the country rankings, we can see the lack of a clear geographical articulation, except for a greater presence in the **first positions** of some north European countries, with, in the lead, New Zealand, Sweden and Norway, followed by Israel, Germany, Switzerland, Lithuania, Russia, with over 0.61 points.

A considerable number of countries are in the **middle range** with index scores between 0.60 and 0.50, showing the presence of a generic support to the family, but with some deficit (“could do more”):

- France, Netherlands, Australia, Malawi, Cyprus, Austria, Latvia, Japan, Turkey, Spain, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, United Kingdom, United States, Portugal, Greece, Chile, Mexico and Canada.
- Ireland, Romania, Italy, Serbia, Poland, Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are below 0.50 points, **thus highlighting some problems for families.**
- In the last places with scores around the 0.35 we can see Croatia and Macedonia.

Major findings

Looking at different **sub-indexes**, we can grasp how different dimensions contribute to the IGIF total score.

The **sub index structural dimension**: that is, a **solid marriage bond and the presence of children**, Malawi is at the top with 0.93 points, followed by Turkey – however, with a lower value (0.71).

All the other countries vary in a range between 0.60 and 0.35, thus showing a general homogeneity.

Croatia (0.47), Serbia (0.46), Slovakia (0.49).

Major findings

The **sub-index of the domestic economic resources** – including primarily employment for both men and women and also mothers – appears much more varied:

Iceland at the top (0.88), followed closely by the Netherlands (0.83), Switzerland (0.82), Sweden and Norway (0.81).

The countries where the index stands below 0.50 points are: Lithuania, Poland, Mexico, Malta, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Greece, Romania and Turkey (0.29).

Croatia (0.35), Serbia (0.31), Slovakia (0.38).

Major findings

The **sub-index of contextual resources**, including care services, family-work leave system and fiscal policies for the family, sees Lithuania (0.77) at the top, then Belgium (0.76) and France (0.76).

In contrast, 19 countries (including Canada, Spain, Australia, Italy, United Kingdom) remain below 0.50, thus indicating **a possible lack of services and/or public resources** for addressing care tasks.

Croatia (0.44), Serbia (0.43), Slovakia (0.29).

Major findings

The **sub-index of social resources** (family associations and level of trust) shows in general very high levels, with most countries reporting values over 0.50 while Norway (0.96), Denmark (0.95) and Sweden (0.91) at the top.

Support and social resources appear critical with a low level of trust in Canada, Macedonia, and Korea, where the index marks values below 0.40.

Croatia (0.23), Serbia (0.64), Slovakia (0.35).

INDEX WITH THREE DIMENSIONS

		STRUCTURE Sub-index	RESOURCES Sub-index DOMESTIC ECONOMIC	CONTEXTUAL RESOURCES Sub-index	Synthetic Index
1	Iceland	0.4514	0.8841	0.6883	0.6746
2	Denmark	0.3747	0.7997	0.6778	0.6174
3	Germany	0.3977	0.7712	0.6551	0.6080
4	New Zealand	0.4225	0.7252	0.6702	0.6060
5	Israel	0.5436	0.6130	0.6603	0.6057
6	Malawi	0.9372	0.6375	0.2272	0.6006
7	Russia	0.5547	0.5503	0.6892	0.5981
8	Lithuania	0.5154	0.4932	0.7736	0.5940
9	Sweden	0.3790	0.8118	0.5903	0.5937
10	Korea	0.3966	0.6817	0.7027	0.5937

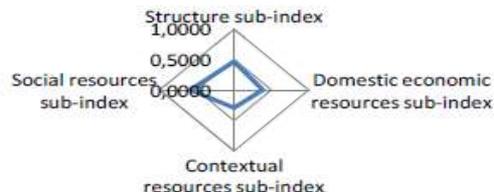
40	Croatia	0.4701	0.3559	0.4413	0.4225
41	Serbia	0.4977	0.3187	0.4352	0.4172
44	Slovak Republic	0.4693	0.3851	0.2916	0.3820

**Slovak Republic**

	Rank	Points
Independent Global Index on Family	43	0.4324

Main Information

Population (million)	5.421
Human Development Index	0.830

Slovak Republic

	Rank	Points
Structure sub-index	16	0.4693
Fertility rate (births per woman)		1.3
Mean age of mothers at first birth (year)		26.9
Crude marriage rate (% over 1000)		4.7
Cohabitation rate (%)		3.9
Crude divorce rate (% over 1000)		2
Domestic economic resources sub-index	41	0.3851
Labour force participation rate, male (%)		77.7
Labour force participation rate, female (%)		62.7
Maternal employment (%)		55.5
Unemployment, youth (%)		57.9
GNI pro capite ppp (\$)		26820
Contextual resources sub-index	43	0.2916
Provision of childcare services (children less than 3 years) (%)		4
Provision of childcare services (children between 3 years and school age) (%)		74
Work-family leave system (points)		6
Public spending on family benefits (% GDP)		2.4
Tax deduction for children (yes/no)		no
Social resources sub-index	35	0.5835
Presence of family association (yes /no)		yes
Concern about family (%)		76.4
General trust (%)		11.9

Family obligations

“Intergenerational solidarity is a relevant issue both in general terms, as it is a fundamental element of social cohesion, and if we refer to the relationships between generations within the family. In this sense, **solidarity has characterized the family across all societies over time**. Taking into account the general ageing population and the demographic and social transformations that are affecting the family institution, intergenerational solidarity assumes even more importance.”

The sense of duty towards the other family members is determined by **four main elements**:

- the values system of the group;
- the typology and the form of the family;
- the concrete possibility of providing caring;
- the support exchange system established between the family members.

Family obligations

The family obligations described so far can be referred to as **filial obligations**, those that adult children experience towards their old parents, and as parental obligations, those experienced by parents towards their children.

- **Responsibility of parents towards children** (“parents’ duty is to do their best for their children even at the expense of their own well-being”)
- **Responsibility of children towards parents** (“adult children have the duty to provide long-term care for their parents even at the expense of their own well-being”)
- **Responsibility of children towards ill parents** (“when a parent is seriously ill or fragile, it is mainly the adult child’s duty to take care of him/ her”)

Family obligations

In all three cases, the greater score means higher endorsement of family obligations. The following table shows the score average for these three aspects by country.

	Parental obligations		Filial obligations		Filial obligation in case of illness	
	Mean (1-3)	N	Mean (1-3)	N	Mean (1-3)	N
Croatia	2.83	596	2.42	583	2.88	601
Serbia	2.71	616	2.29	605	2.90	622
Slovak Republic	2.56	870	2.46	855	2.89	885

IGIF - Conclusions

The analysis originates from the definition of **family as** “the stable relationship between **1 man and 1 woman**. It is based on **marriage** and it has the **purpose of procreation**. It should focus on sexual differences and reciprocity, intergenerational solidarity and the principle of non-remuneration.”

The **international community** has, in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights acknowledged a fundamental social dimension of the human person in **reaffirming** that the **family based on marriage between one man and one woman**, predating the State, is the **natural and fundamental group unit of society**, and as such entitled to protection by society and the State.

IGIF - Conclusions

The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that the **child** has the **right to know and be cared for by his or her parents** and that the family, the fundamental group of society, is the natural environment for the growth and well-being of children.

Both society and the State have a legal **obligation to support the family** in the task of giving birth to children and educating them to live as responsible citizens and contributors to the community.

We are sure that the **Independent Global Index on Family** will become a **fundamental tool** to compare and improve every necessary and **virtuous policy of family** around the world.

Ideal and actual number of children (OECD 2015)

What would be the ideal number of children you would like to have or would have liked to have?

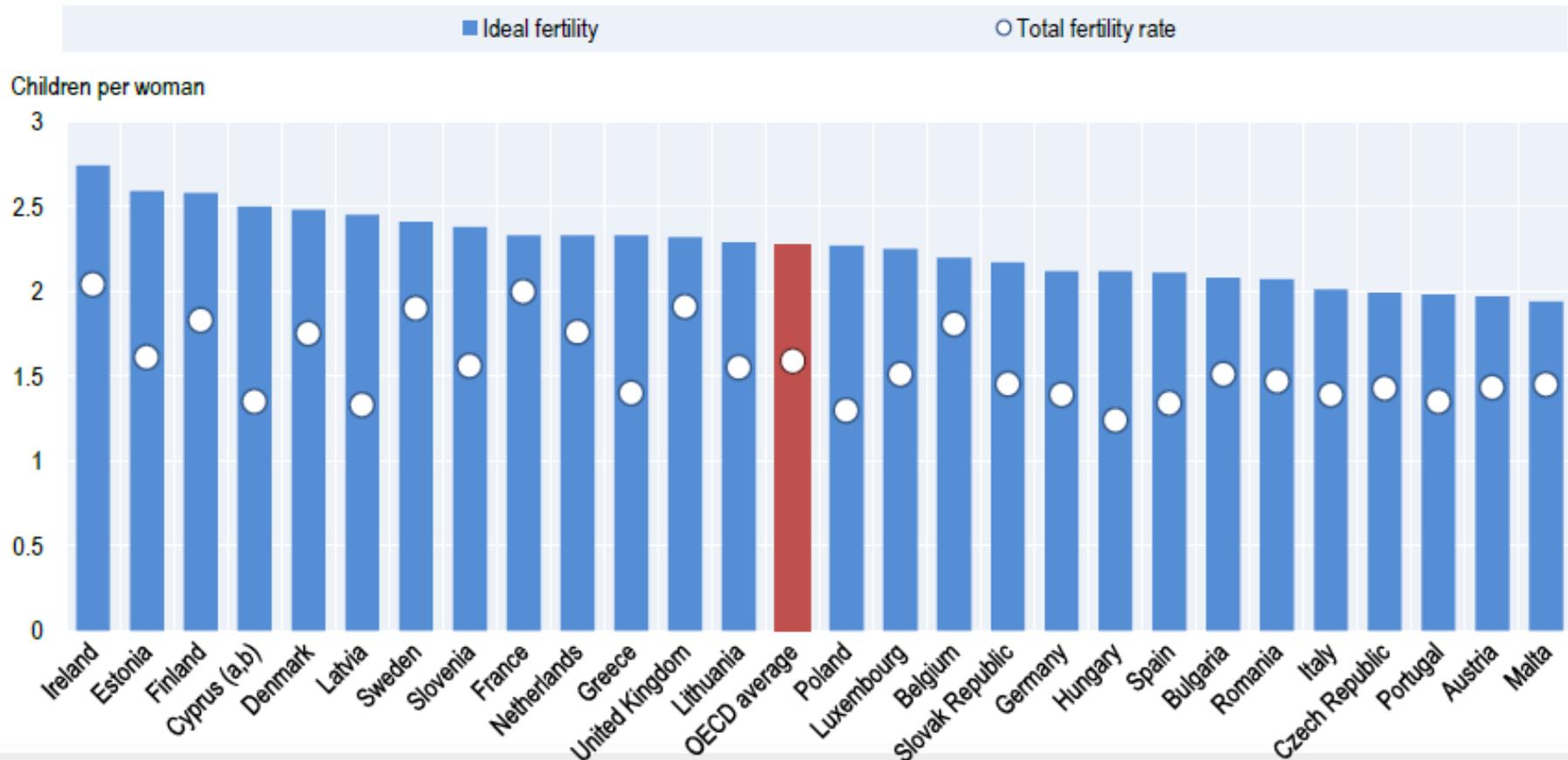
On average across OECD countries with available data, **the mean** personal ideal number of children both men and women **is around 2.3, slightly above the population replacement rate level of 2.1 children per woman**. Ideal personal family size does however vary widely across OECD countries.

Not many women wish to have one child only; on average across the OECD, only about 8% of respondents report their ideal personal family size as 'one child', although the proportion is considerably higher (at around or just less than 15%) in some of the Southern European (Italy and Portugal) and Eastern and Central European (Austria, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic) OECD countries.



Source: OECD Family Database <http://www.oecd.org/social/family/database.htm> OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (Updated 09-10-2015)

Chart SF2.2.D. Ideal and actual fertility rates, 2011
 Mean average ideal fertility and the actually observed total fertility rate



EU Commission advancing LGBTI action plan



Věra Jourová
*Commissioner for
Justice, Consumers
and Gender Equality*



“The Commission cannot bring about change alone. Member States have a key role to play, and in many areas, it is Member States’ competence to ensure LGBTI rights. ”

“The Commission will closely monitor the situation of LGBTI people in the European Union and beyond [...]”

“I am committed to defending and promoting the values of equality, tolerance and respect for each other, values on which the European Union is founded.”

Source: *List of Actions by the Commission to Advance LGBTI Equality, Foreword*
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/lgbti_actionlist_en.pdf

The Council of Europe and homosexual marriage

Gregor Puppinck (2015)

In Europe, the situation has evolved rapidly in contrasting ways

in the past ten years, a double movement of the legalisation of “homosexual marriage” in the West and of the constitutionalization of “heterosexual marriage” in the East has been observed, with the result that the continent appears more and more divided.

CoE doesn't require to grant same-sex marriage nor prevent to define it as monogamous and heterosexual

Access to homosexual marriage is largely presented as a question of equality and nondiscrimination, in other words in terms of human rights. The Council of Europe, [...], is the principal advocate in this debate. **Council of Europe do not require governments to grant same-sex couples access to marriage nor prevent them to define marriage in their Constitution as only between one man and one woman.** At CoE since last September 2011, six Member States supported the creation of an “LGBT project”.

The Committee of Ministers

recalling “that **Article 12** of the Convention **does not impose an obligation [...] to grant a same-sex couple access to marriage**”.
March 24th 2014, Written Question n°647, Doc. 13369 - question denouncing the “prohibition of same-sex marriage in Croatia”

The Venice Commission,

defining marriage as monogamous and heterosexual is conforming to the recent trend shared by numerous European States.
(Opinion n°779 of September 25th 2014 (CDL-AD(2014)026)

Incrementalism from civil unions to samesex marriage.

Alliance Defending Freedom, October 2014

The creation of civil partnerships/unions is part of a clearly documented strategy by those seeking marriage redefinition to achieve their aim. In almost every country that has now redefined marriage, this was preceded by the creation of civil unions.

The creation of civil partnerships or unions has almost inevitably been the forerunner to marriage redefinition.

It is no coincidence that so many states have followed this path. Kees Waaldijk, William N Eskridge and Yuval Merin have all noted this theory of the “law of small change” or “incrementalism.” They suggest that every country will, on its path to the legalization of samesex marriage, follow the following **three stages**:

- I. *Repeal of sodomy laws*
- II. *Enactment of antidiscrimination laws protection LGBT people*
- III. *Enactment of civil unions expedites legalization of samesex marriage.*

Once a civil union is endorsed, the next step is to identify, in law, differences between a marriage and a civil union and effect media campaigns and direct litigation complaining of subsisting discrimination.

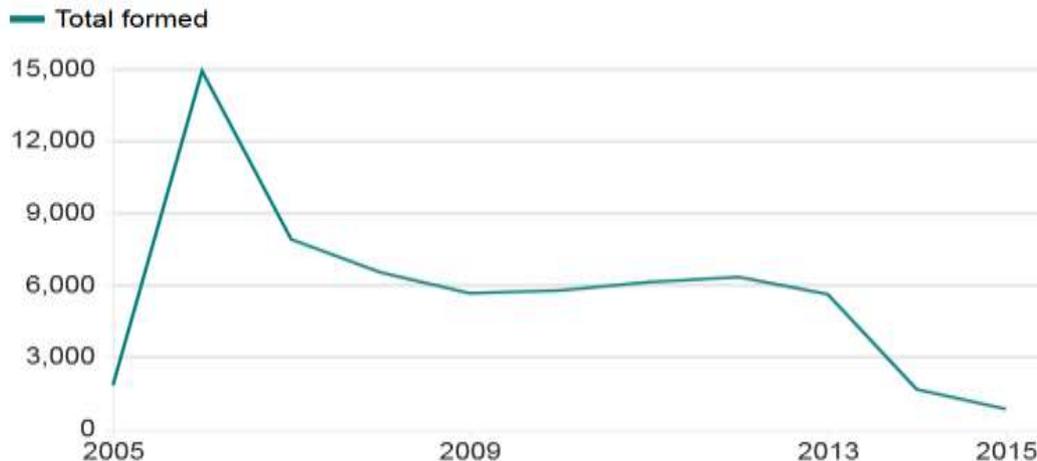
Even if all other differences were eliminated, from the tax and social security code to provisions for adoption, **the argument remains that a civil union affords less “dignity” and “respect” to a samesex union which can only be remedied by “full marriage equality.”**



BBC - Civil partnership formations halved after same-sex marriage

Decline in civil partnerships

Same-sex marriage has offered couples a choice



Source: ONS

BBC

In England and Wales, there were 861 formed in 2015 compared with 1,683 the year before. Civil partnerships have declined by 85% since 2013, a result of the introduction of marriage for same-sex couples in 2014.

The figures for 2015 showed two thirds (66%) of civil partnerships were between men. And almost half (48%) of people forming a partnership were aged 50 and over.

Source <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-37307459>



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