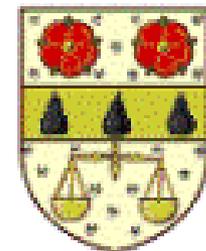


Young people and the transition to adulthood in low fertility countries

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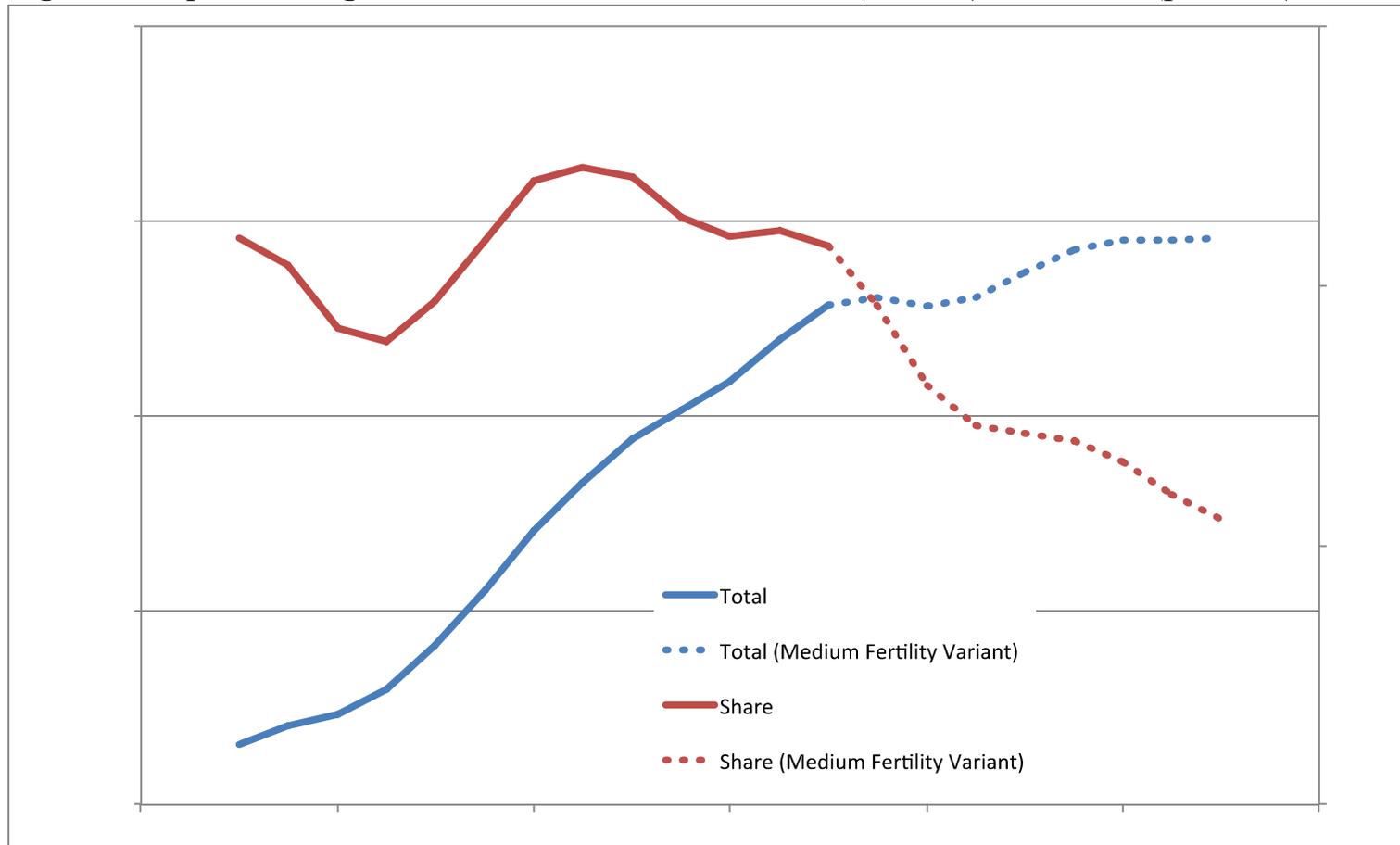


Outline

- Who are the young people?
- Patterns in the transition to adulthood
- Does the transition to adulthood matter?
- Challenges and policy prospects

Who are the young people?

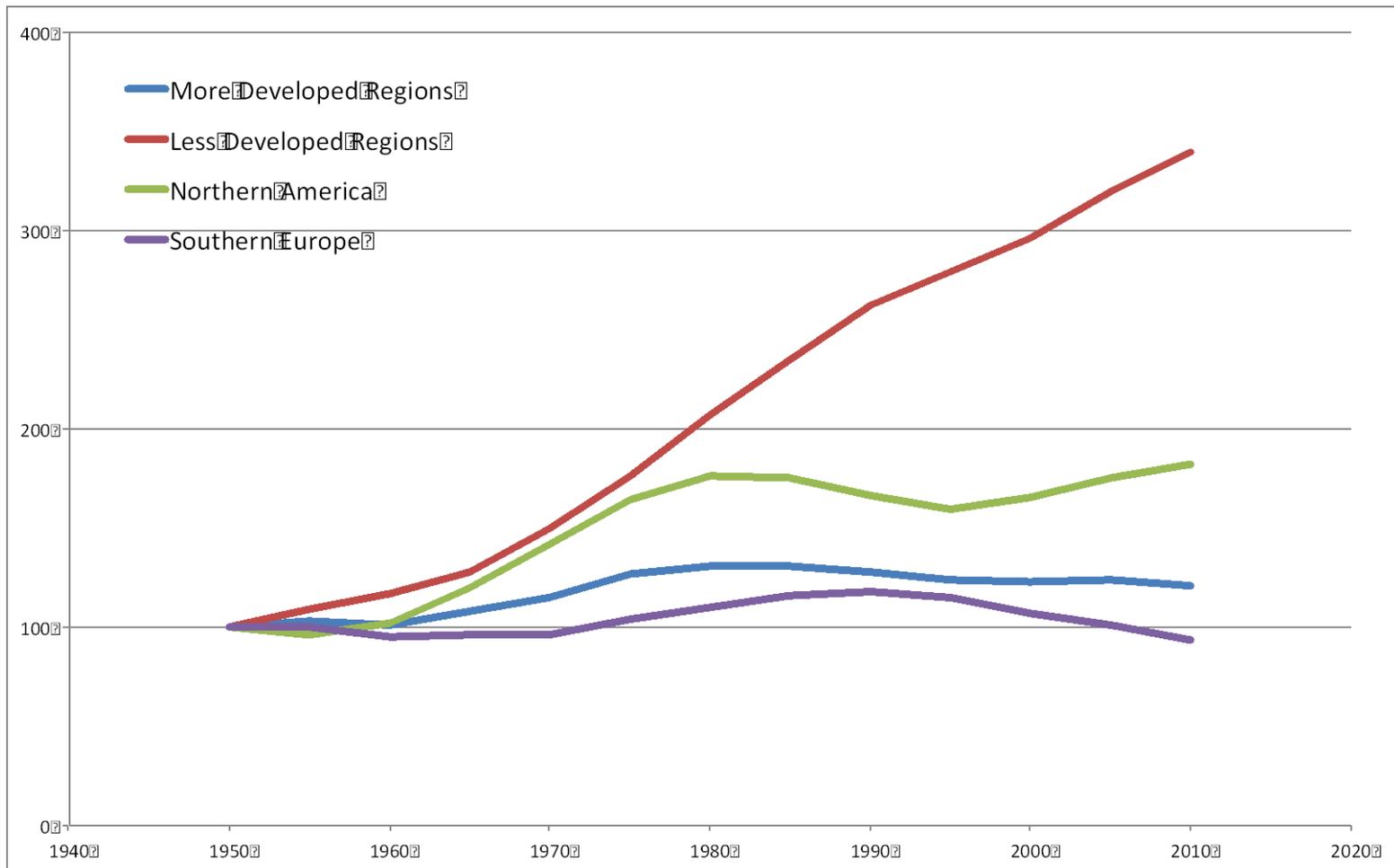
Figure I. Population aged 15-29 in the world. Estimates (million) and share (per cent).



Source: United Nations World Population Prospects, the 2012 Revision.

Who are the young people?

Population aged 15-29 in selected regions (1950=100). Source: UN WPP 2012



Who are the young people?

Table 1. Decomposition of the forces driving cohort replacement at age 30 for the world population, major regions and low fertility regions. 1980 birth cohort at age 30 (2010).

	Cohort size (Million)	Inertia (Million)	Fertility	Survival	Migration
WORLD	51,886	33,647	1.81	0.84	1.00
More Developed Regions – MDRs	8,308	8,392	0.92	0.97	1.09
Less Developed Regions – LDRs	43,578	25,084	2.12	0.82	0.98
Eastern Europe	2,187	2,338	1.02	0.97	0.94
Northern Europe	642	644	0.88	0.98	1.14
Southern Europe	1,083	978	1.00	0.96	1.13
Western Europe	1,154	1,241	0.80	0.97	1.18
Northern America	2,281	2,162	0.88	0.97	1.22
Oceania	258	180	1.30	0.93	1.17

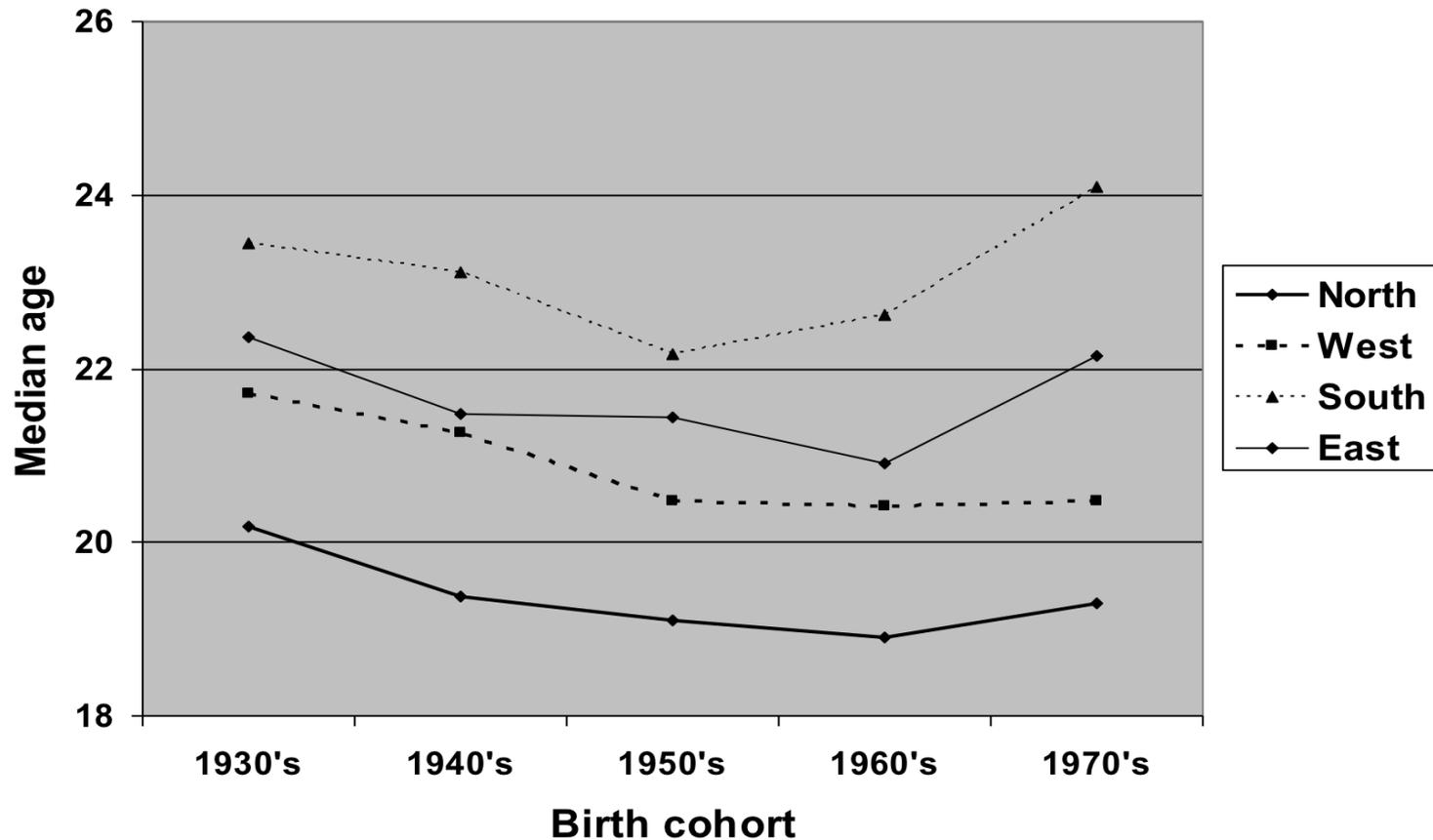
*Source: Billari and Dalla Zuanna (Forthcoming on *Population and Development Review*).*

Patterns in the transition to adulthood

- Traditional definition (Modell et al. 1976): **leaving home, first marriage, first birth**, leaving education, first job as *marker events*
- The new pattern of transition to adulthood is (Billari & Liefbroer, 2010):
 - *late* (postponement of events)
 - *protracted* (larger distance between first and last event)
 - *complex* (more diversity in trajectories)

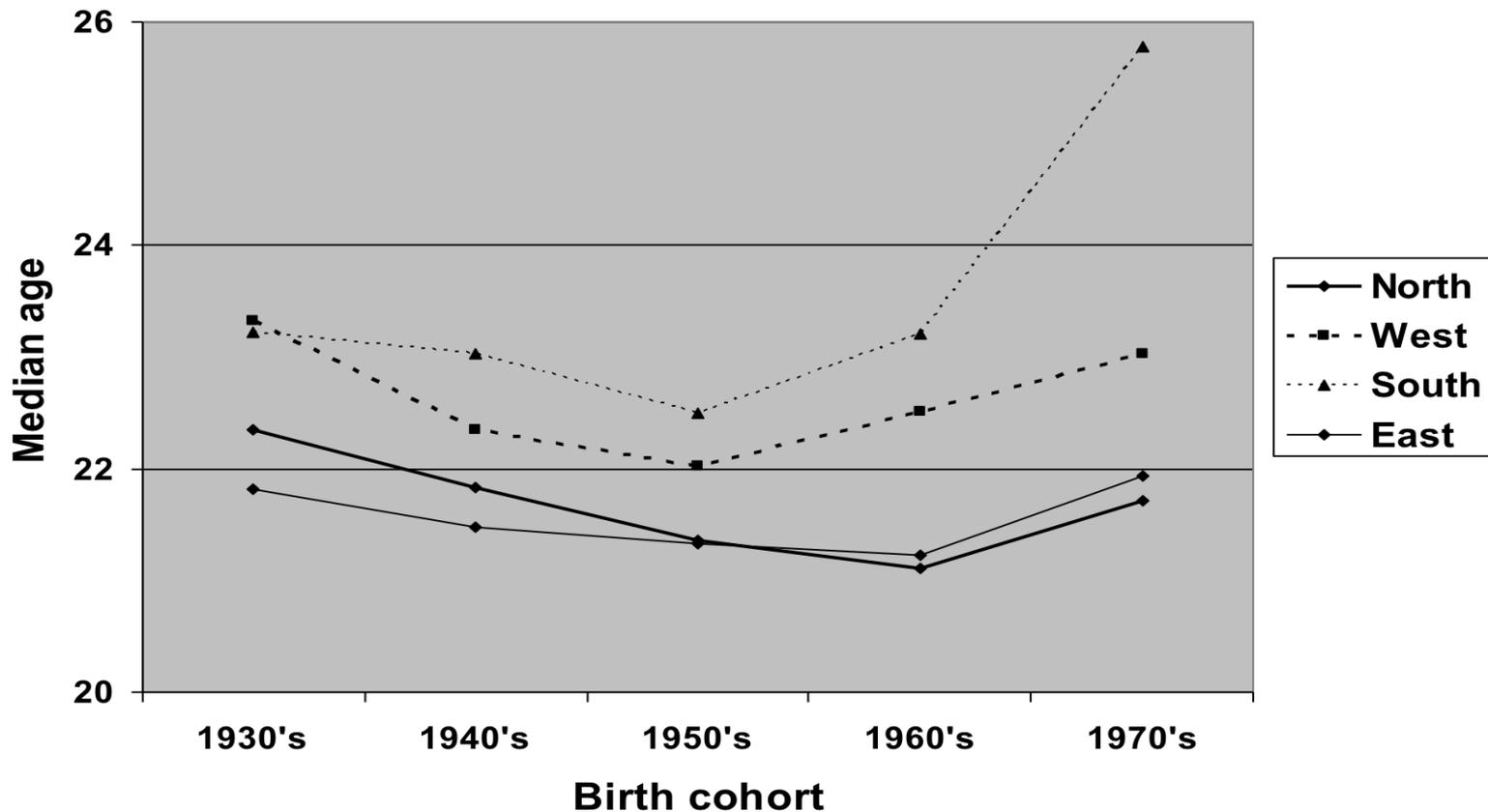
Patterns in the transition to adulthood

Median age at **leaving home** by cohort, women: European regions. Source: Billari & Liefbroer (2010), ESS data.



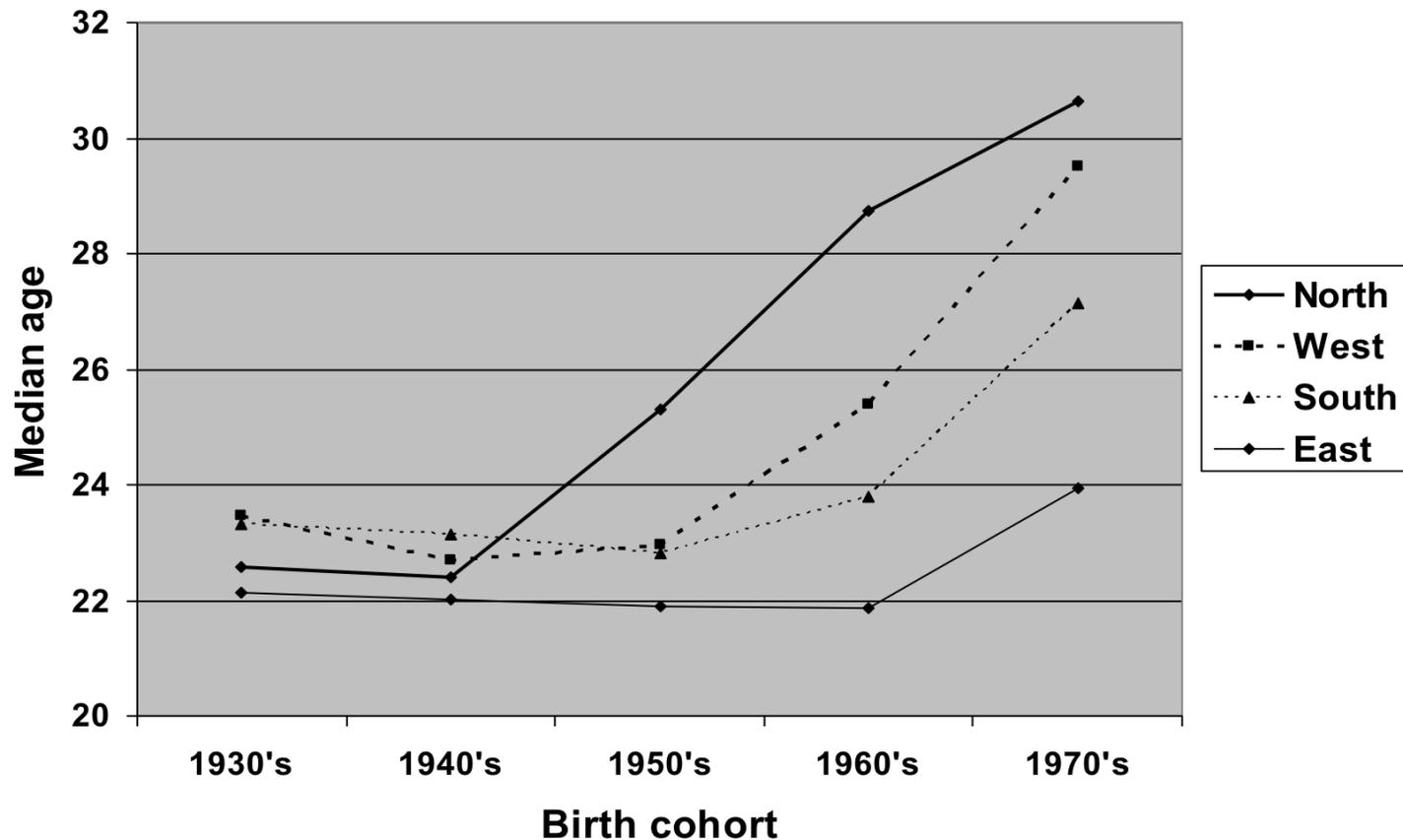
Patterns in the transition to adulthood

Median age at **first union** by cohort, women: European regions. Source: Billari & Liefbroer (2010), ESS data.



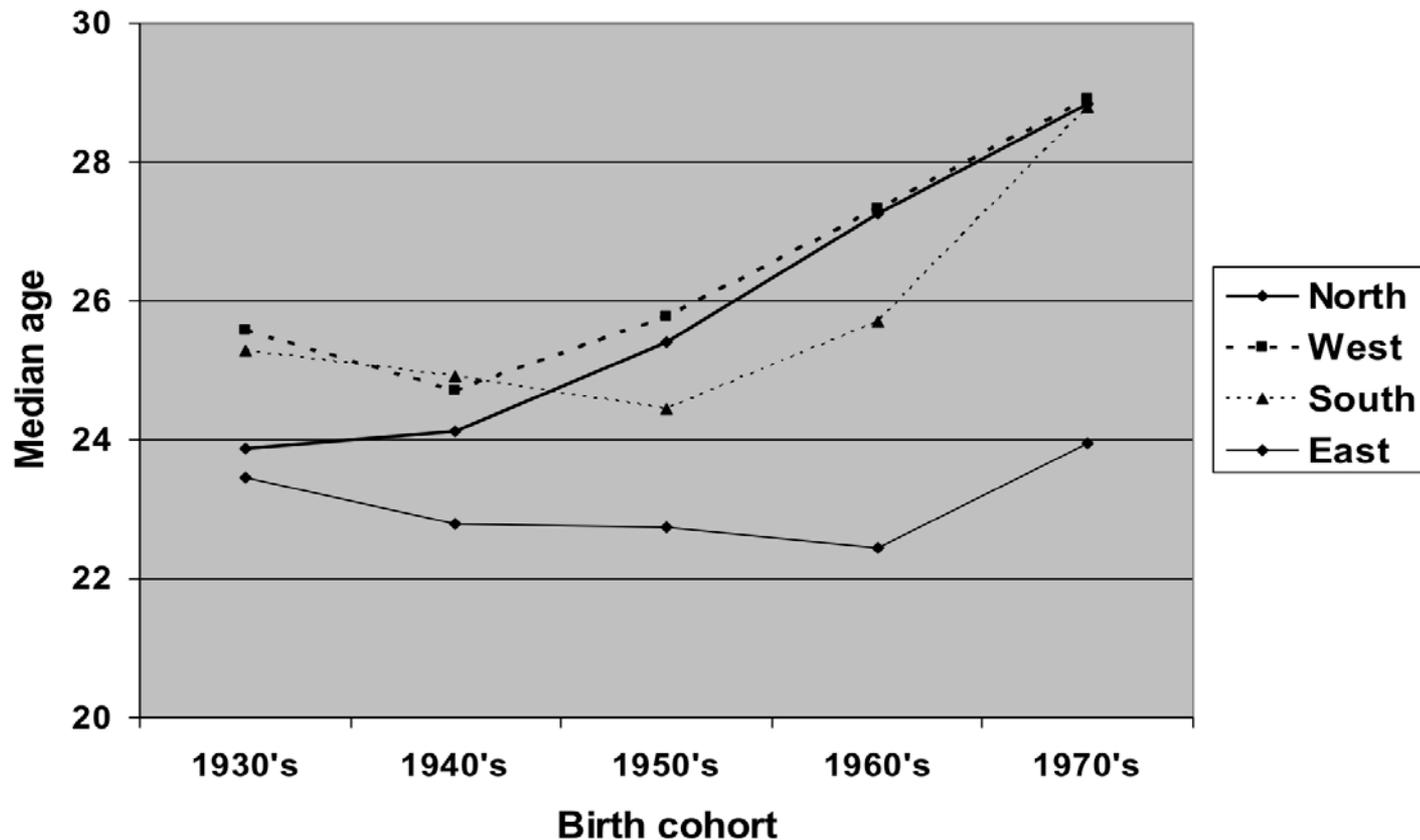
Patterns in the transition to adulthood

Median age at **first marriage** by cohort, women: European regions. Source: Billari & Liefbroer (2010), ESS data.



Patterns in the transition to adulthood

Median age at **first birth** by cohort, women: European regions. Source: Billari & Liefbroer (2010), ESS data.



Does it matter? *Human capital and economic prospects*

- Contrary to high fertility countries a key issue is whether postponement matter. Is it an issue?
 - Under-researched topic. Billari & Tabellini (2011) on Italy: it does! Leaving home one year earlier has the same effect of having 5 months of additional education on salary in the mid-thirties
 - Impairment of human capital if transition is too delayed?

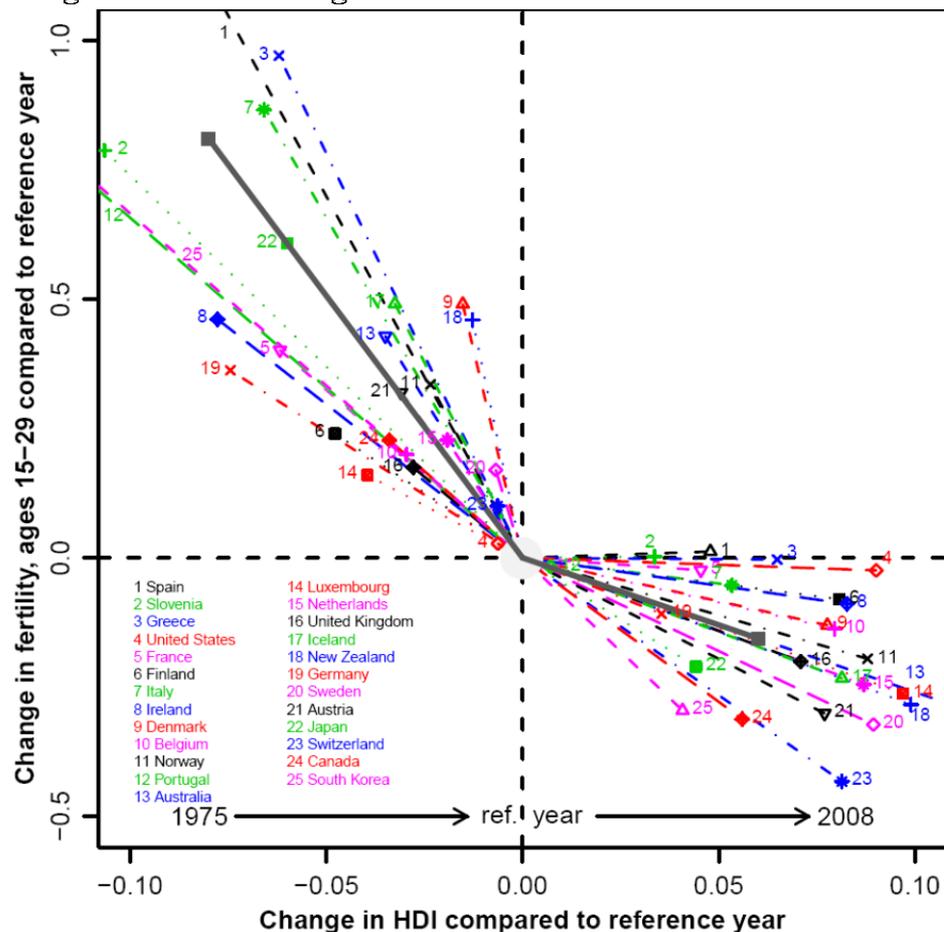
Does it matter? *Fertility*

- In low fertility societies, final fertility levels are determined by what goes on after age 30+
- Individual effect of postponing the transition to parenthood, but a) country specific (Kohler et al., 2002) and b) relatively small
- Very interesting cross-national association patterns

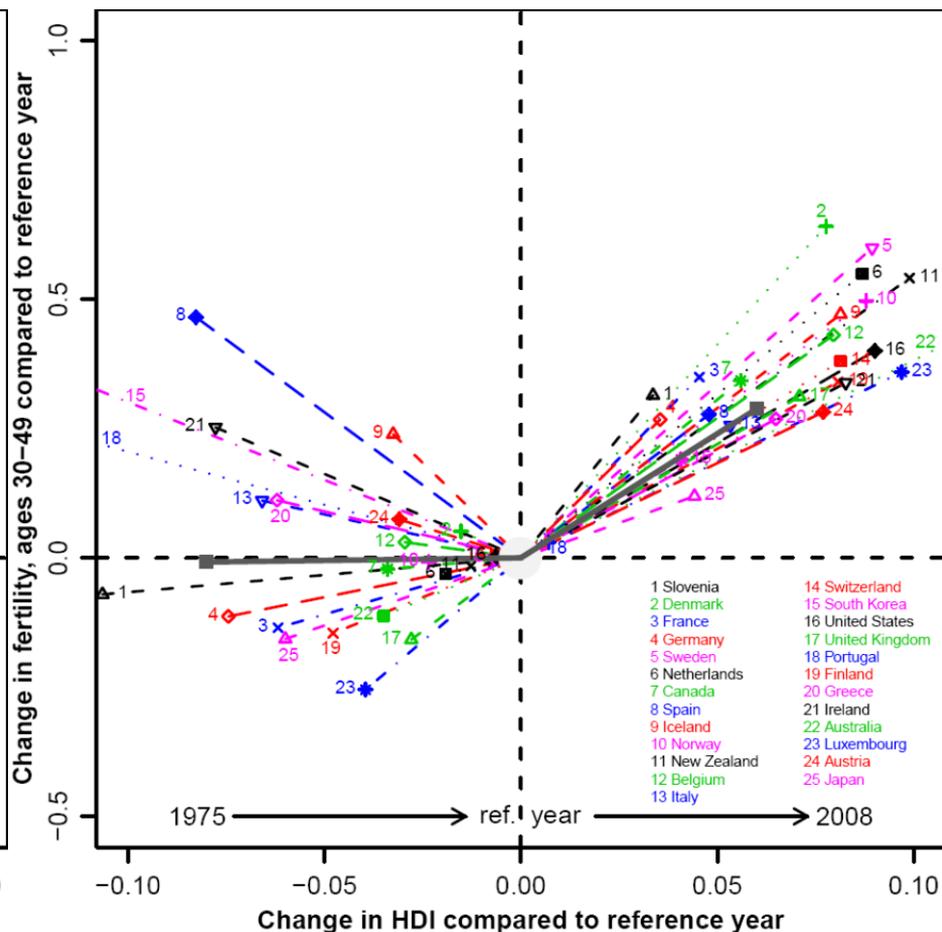
Does it matter? *Fertility*

Figure 3. Longitudinal relationship between fertility by age and the Human Development Index (HDI).

A. Change in fertility at ages 15-29 and change in HDI at ages 30-49 and change in HDI



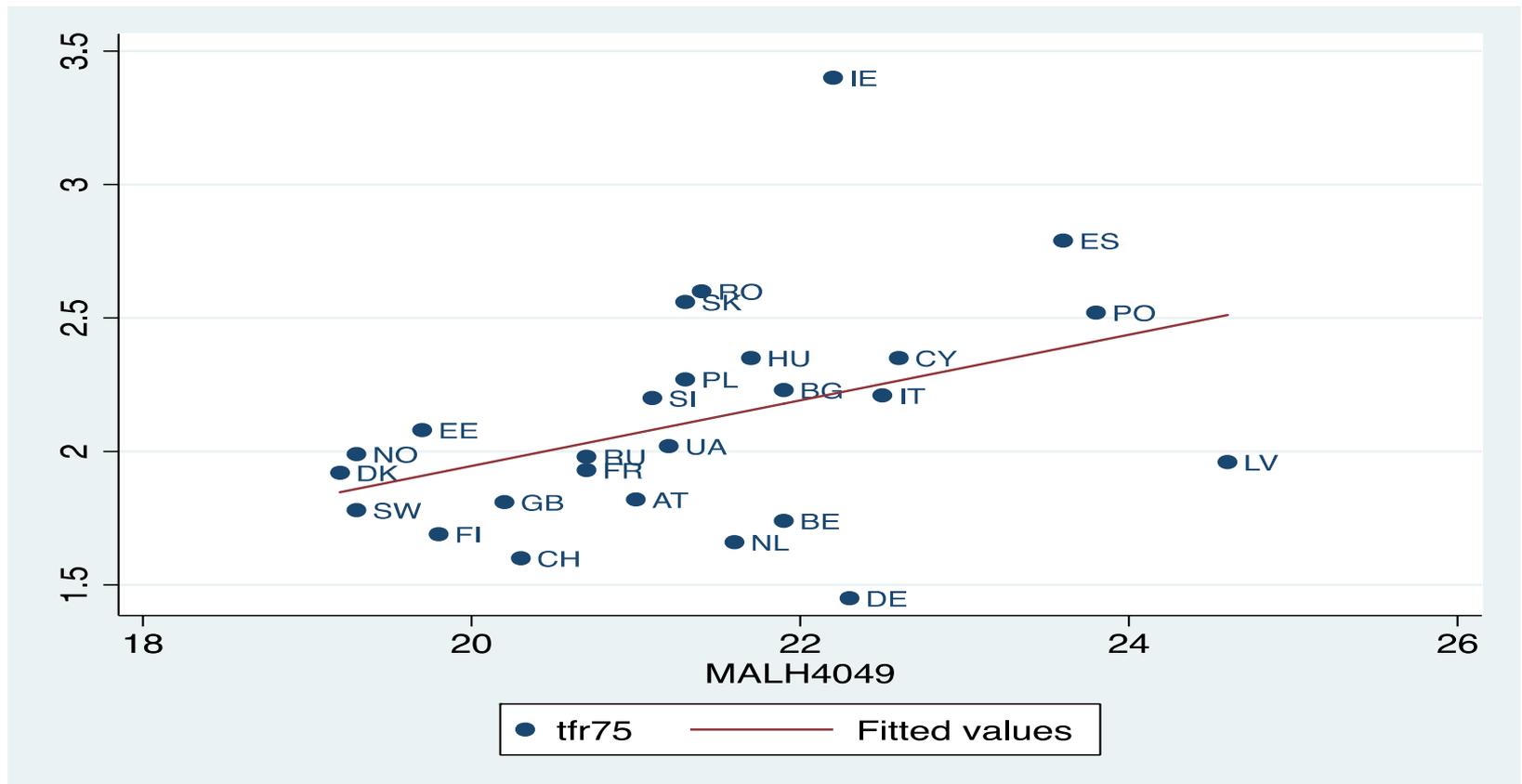
B. Change in fertility



Source: Myrskylä, Kohler, Billari (2013)

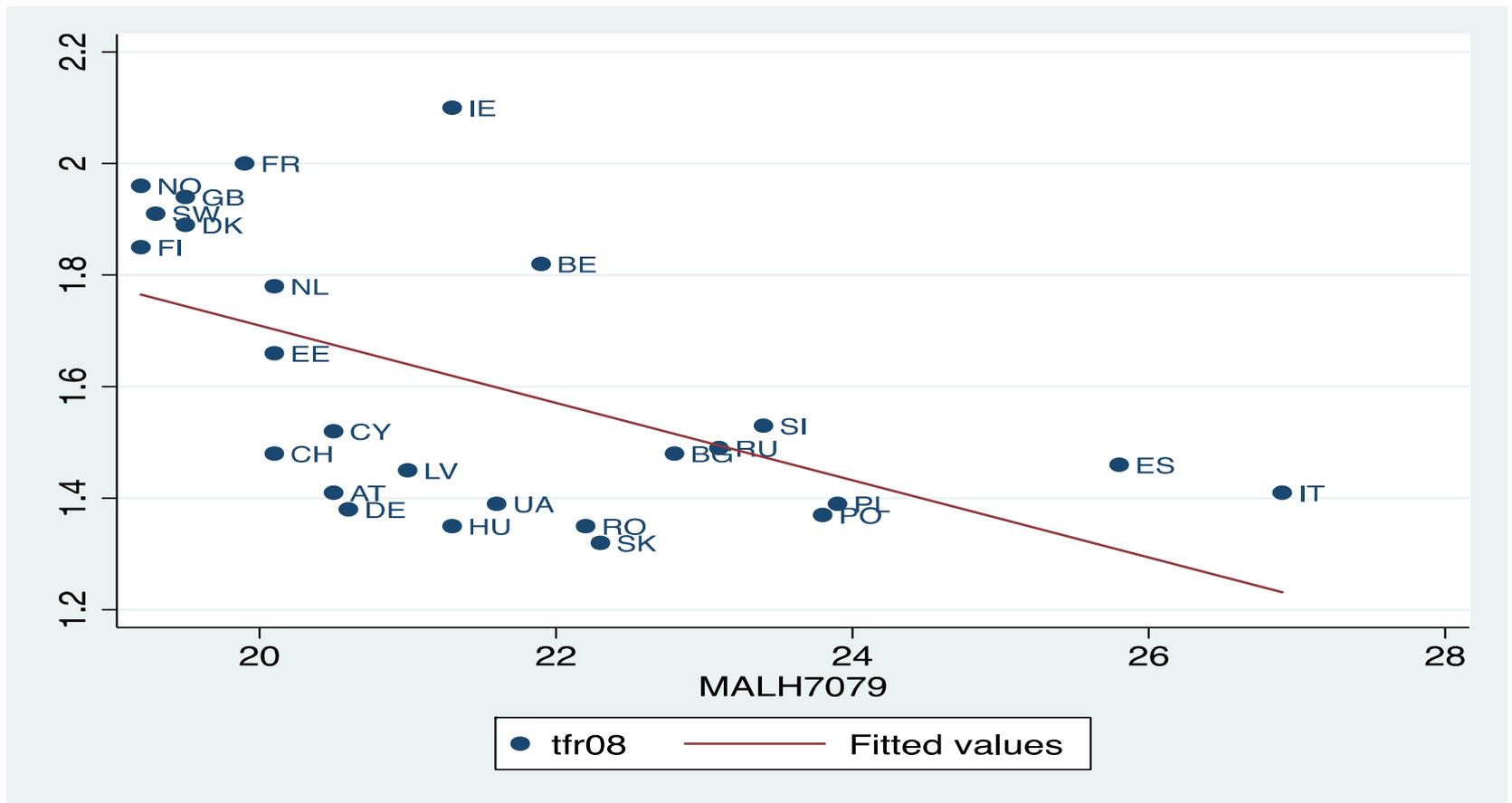
Does it matter? *Fertility*

Total Fertility Rate in 1975 and Median Age at Leaving Home (women) of the 1940-49 birth cohort. $Rho=0.40$



Does it matter? *Fertility*

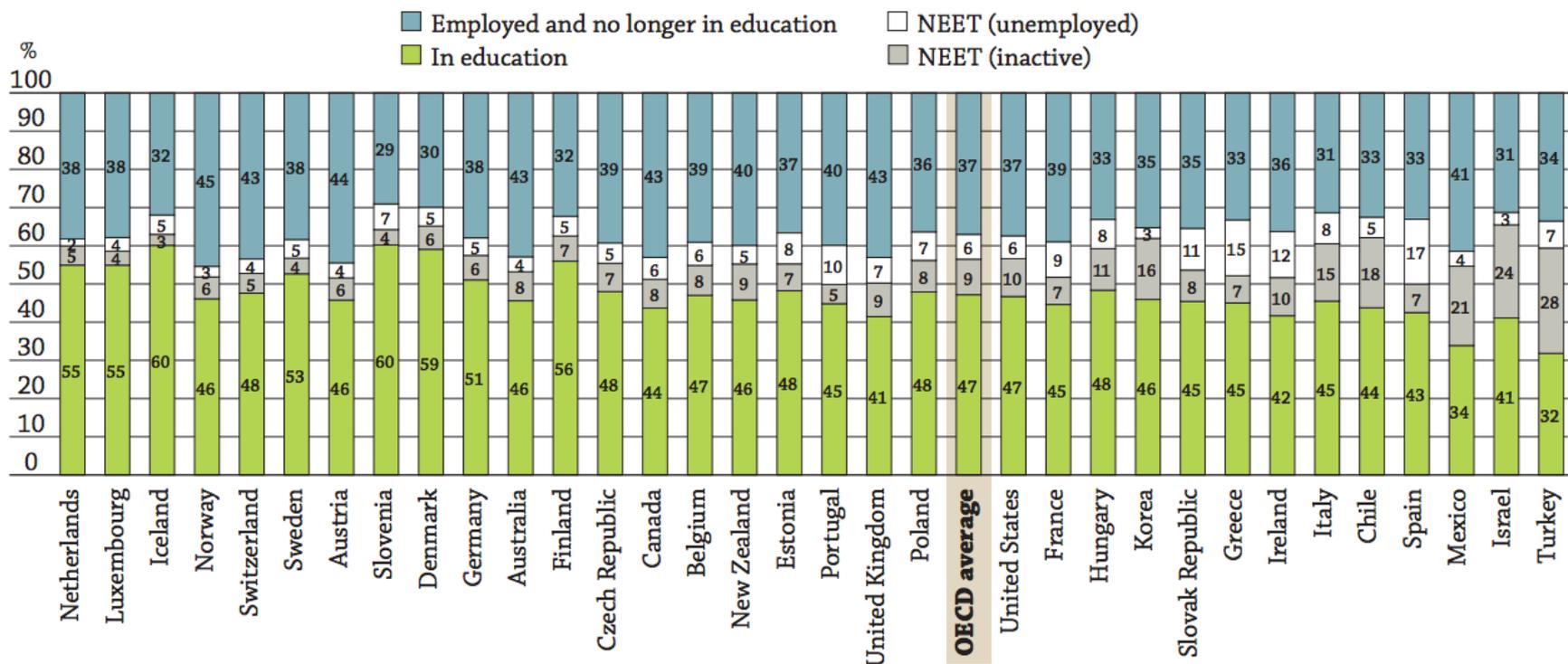
Total Fertility Rate in 2008 and Median Age at Leaving Home (women) of the 1970-79 birth cohort. $Rho=-0.57$



Does it matter?

NEET

Education and employment among 15-29 year-olds in 2011 (%)



Countries are ranked in ascending order of population neither in employment nor in education (NEET).

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance 2013: OECD Indicators, Indicator C5 (www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm), to be released 2013, 25th June.

Challenges and policy prospects

- 1. The late, protracted and complex pattern of transition to adulthood is here to stay
 - Consequence of broad transformations (First and Second Demographic Transitions)
 - Unlikely that policies will reverse these changes (e.g. policies lowering the age at which youth leave education, with the same educational level—Germany)

Challenges and policy prospects

- 2. Youth hardship (as signaled by high youth unemployment, late age at leaving home) has become correlated with family hardship (as signaled by comparatively lower fertility)
 - Youth friendly societies are also women and family friendly
 - Issues with Southern and Eastern Europe. Added problem—ageing of the electorate

Challenges and policy prospects

- 3. Also as a consequence of low fertility, the composition of youth by migrant origin has shifted substantially
 - E.g. Spain: in 2011 census one out of five 25-year-olds is born abroad
 - Need for specific policies
 - Issues of citizenship—higher barriers to vote
 - Different layers (e.g. intra-EU vs. other migration)

Challenges and policy prospects

○ 4. Gender

- Gender reversal in the educational system—young women *are* increasingly more educated than young men
- What are the consequences on marriage markets, family
- Gender equality increasingly more likely to shape policies



Thank you for your attention!