



Context and policy options in countries with very low fertility: UNECE region

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UNECE member States



56 states, 18 % of world population, ~1/3 of world's 65+



Regional trends: population 1990 -2015

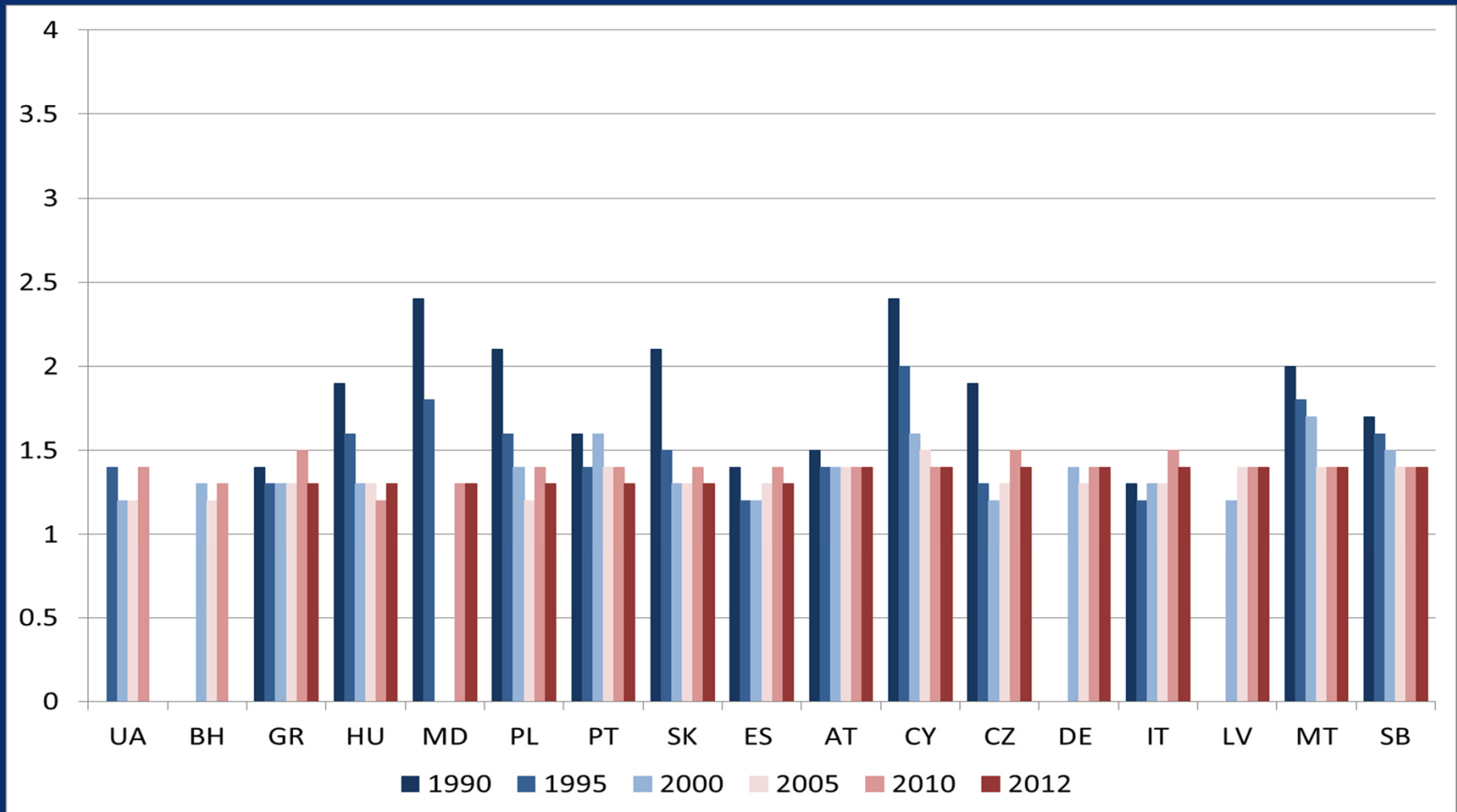


People in the UNECE region:

- live longer
- are healthier
- are better educated
- **have fewer children, and later in life**
- live in more diverse family settings
- have higher incomes
- are more mobile



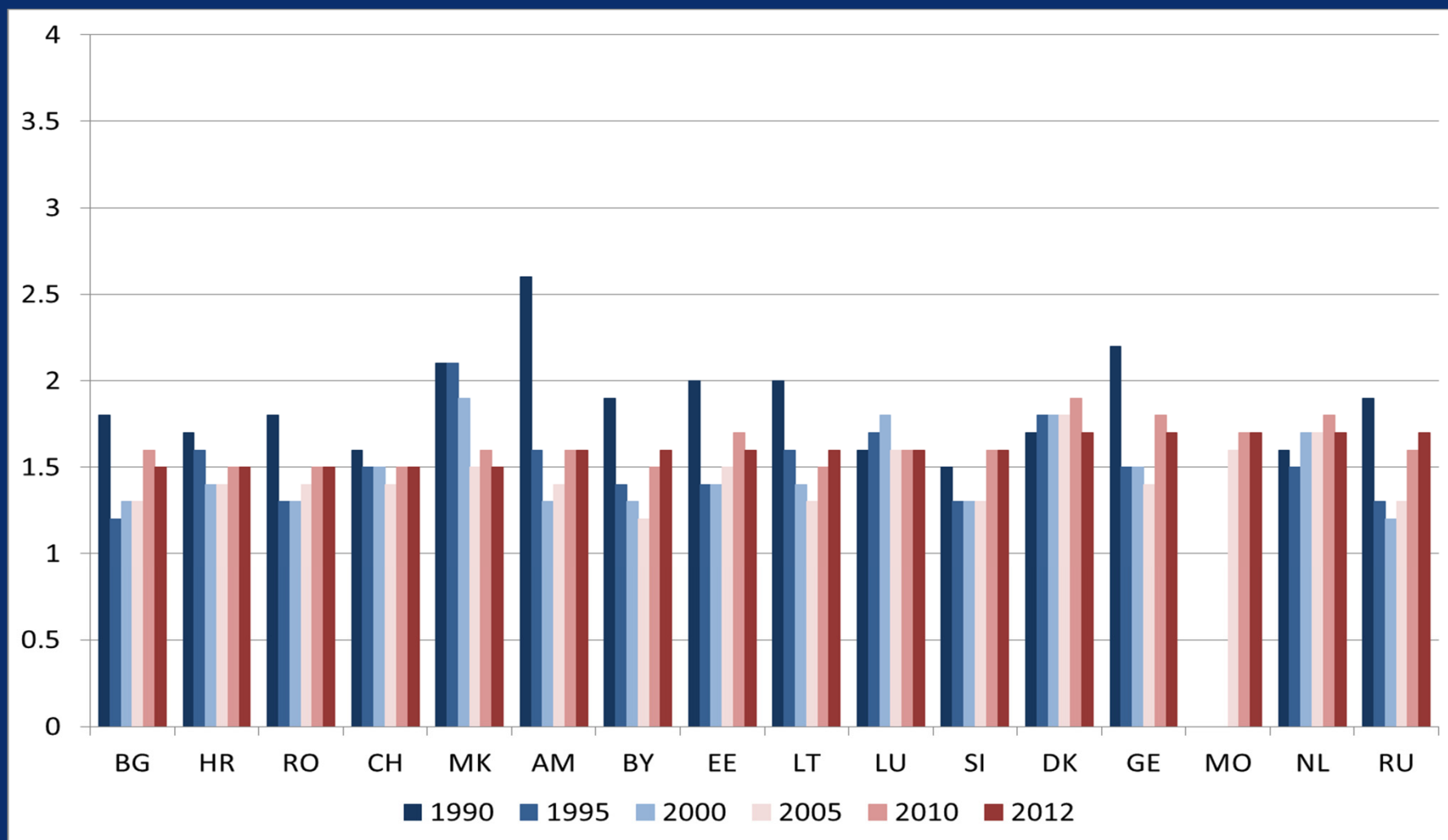
UNECE countries with lowest TFR



Source: UNECE database



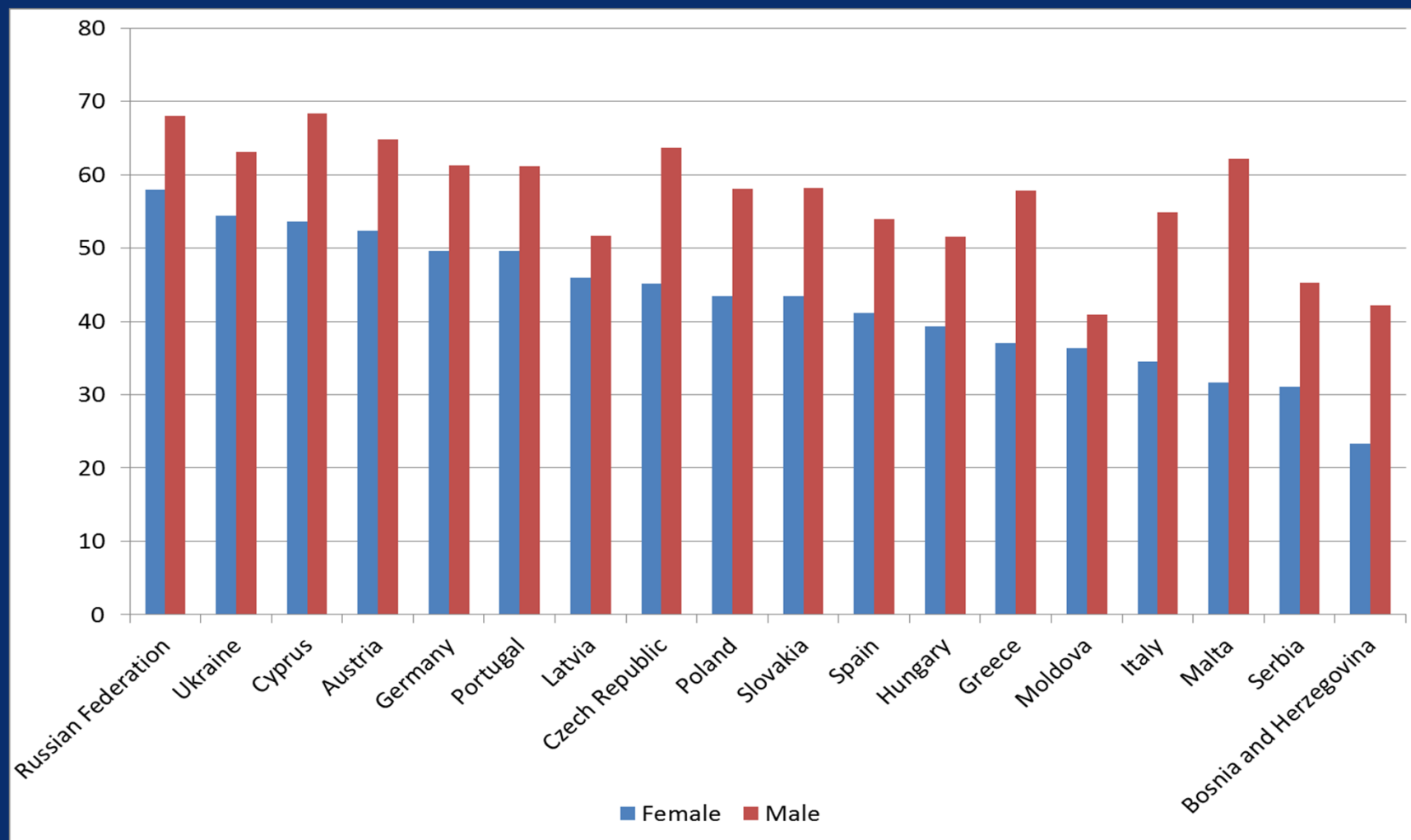
TFR changes in other UNECE countries



Source: UNECE database



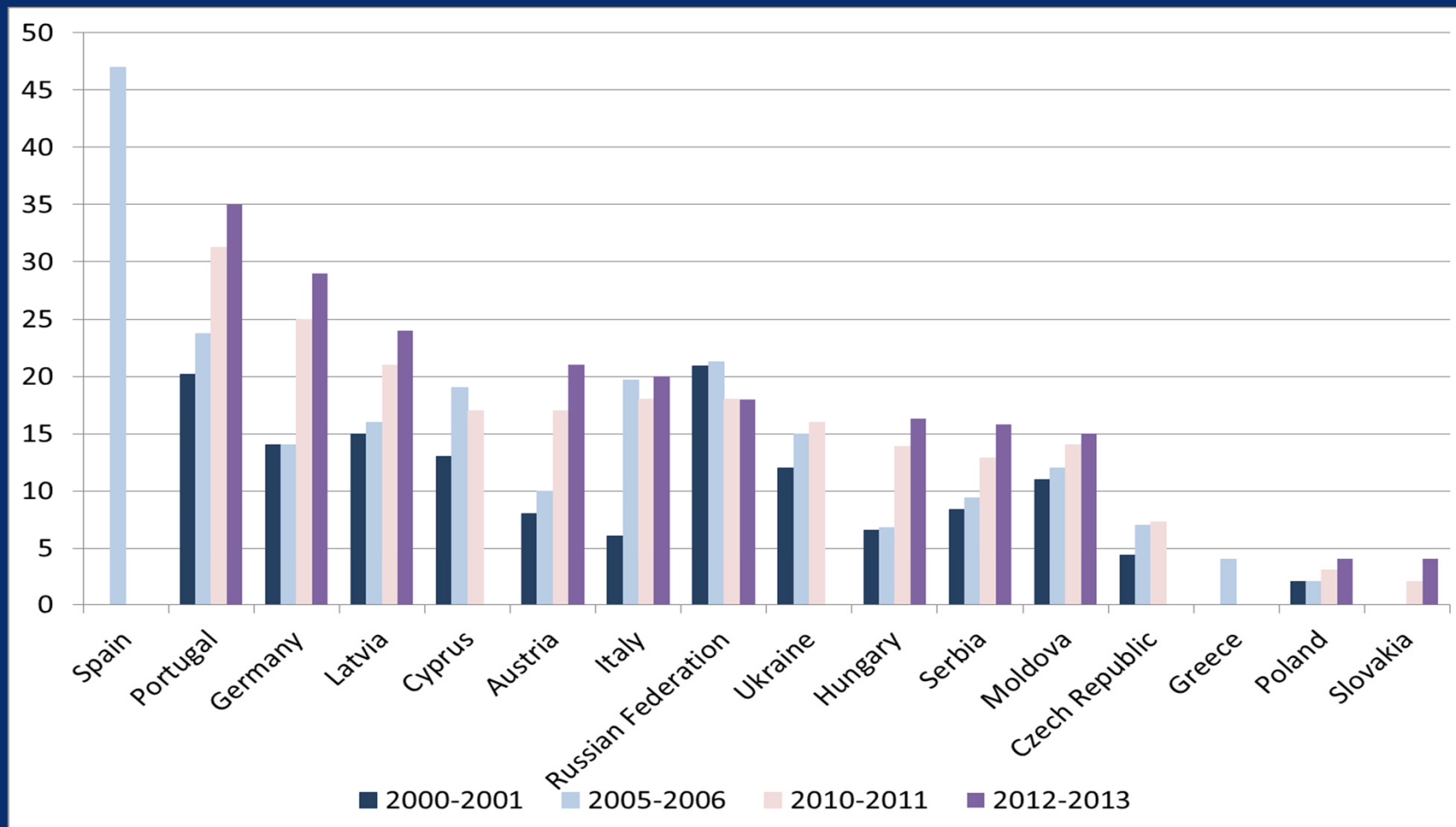
Employment rate, 2010 (%)



Source: UNECE database



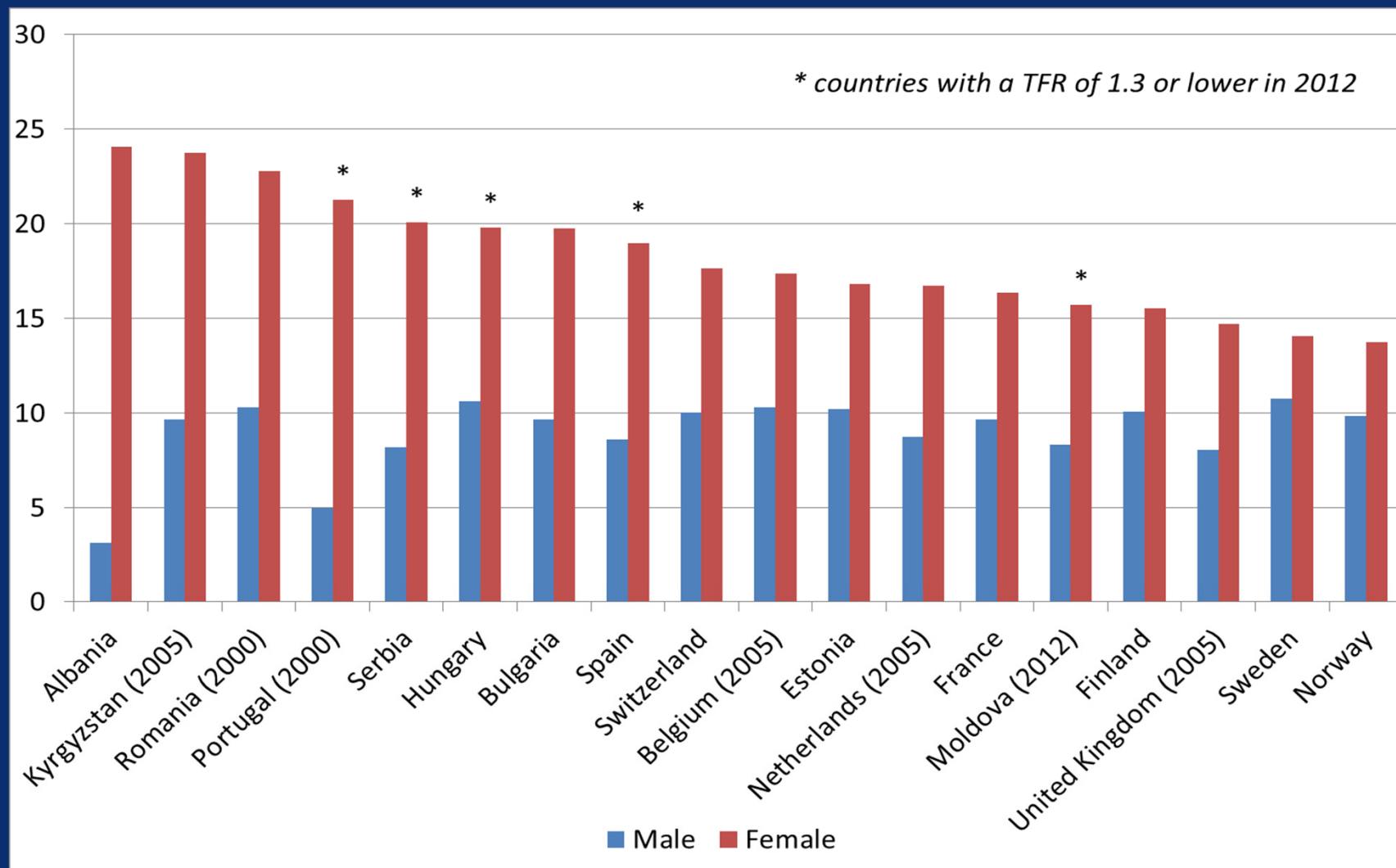
Childcare enrolment of <3 year old children in low fertility countries (%)



Source: UNECE database



Domestic activities (% of total activities)



Source: UNECE database



Regional trends: population

- Population growth slowing or negative
- Ageing societies
- Increasing diversity

Societies can prosper with slow/negative population growth & with population ageing

if they:

- anticipate change and prepare for it
- adapt institutions & systems
- invest in people's education, health, employment and social participation opportunities throughout the life



Case 1: Germany

Low fertility and high childlessness since 1970

- Comprehensive cash benefits: maternity allowance, parental allowance, child allowance
- Flexible leave options: Maternity leave, paid parental leave for 12/14 – 24/28 (since 07/2015) months after childbirth, unpaid parental leave for up to three years
- Efforts to increase availability of childcare facilities
- Incentives to share care tasks more equally and increase workforce participation of mothers: Parental allowance is paid longer if both parents take leave or both parents work part-time

Cash benefits are found to have unfavourable cost-benefit ratio
Enrolment of under 3 year olds in childcare has positive effect



Case 2: Russian Federation

Lowest low fertility levels appeared first in the beginning of the 1990s

Mainly monetary incentives

- Maternal allowance (100% of previous salary) payable for 2 months before the birth and 3 months after, up to 18 months of parental leave (partly remunerated) and up to 3 years of unpaid leave
- Care allowance (40% of salary) per child, payable until the child is 1.5 years old
- After age 1.5, families with 3+ children and low income families are entitled to monthly allowances
- Maternal Capital subsidy for the birth/adoption of a subsequent child and can only be used for specified purposes

Cash / material benefits are found to have limited effects and in the longer term may not be sustainable



Case 3: Republic of Moldova

High share of children (about 30%) not living with parents

Extensive parental leaves

- Parental leave of 34 months which can be used any time until the child reaches age 3 by either parent or a grandparent or other relative, with fixed remuneration
- Unpaid leave option for child minder of children aged 3-6 with a right to flexible work arrangements
- Means-tested assistance paid for children aged 3-6 under guardianship
- One-time birth grant

Long leaves are criticised for keeping women out of labour force



We work on:



Policy Briefs

to actively manage knowledge on and exchange around effective policies and good practice examples for implementing the Madrid International Plan

Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing

to provide concrete hands-on technical and policy support to countries according to their circumstances

Monitoring tools and evidence building

to translate evidence into policy-advice by facilitating development of targeted indicators and strategic data



Thank you

UNECE Population Unit

<http://www.unece.org/pau/welcome.html>

