



HUNGARIAN **DEMOGRAPHIC**  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# An overlooked aspect of the post-communist fertility transition (PCFT)

**Zsolt Spéder**

Presentation at the European Population Conference Budapest,  
25-28 June, 2014

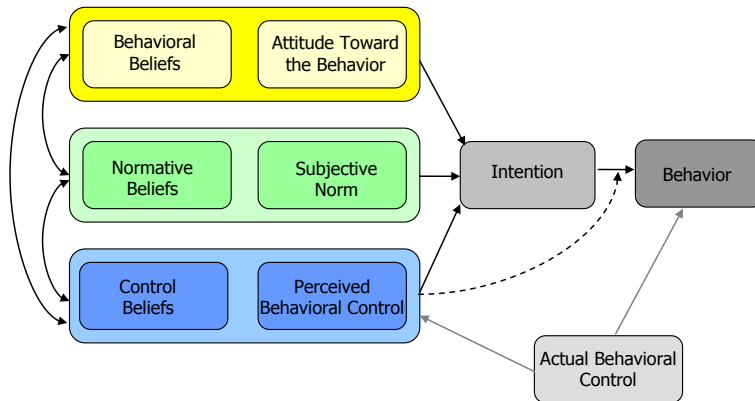


# Tools analyzing a new (overlooked) aspect of the post-communist fertility transition

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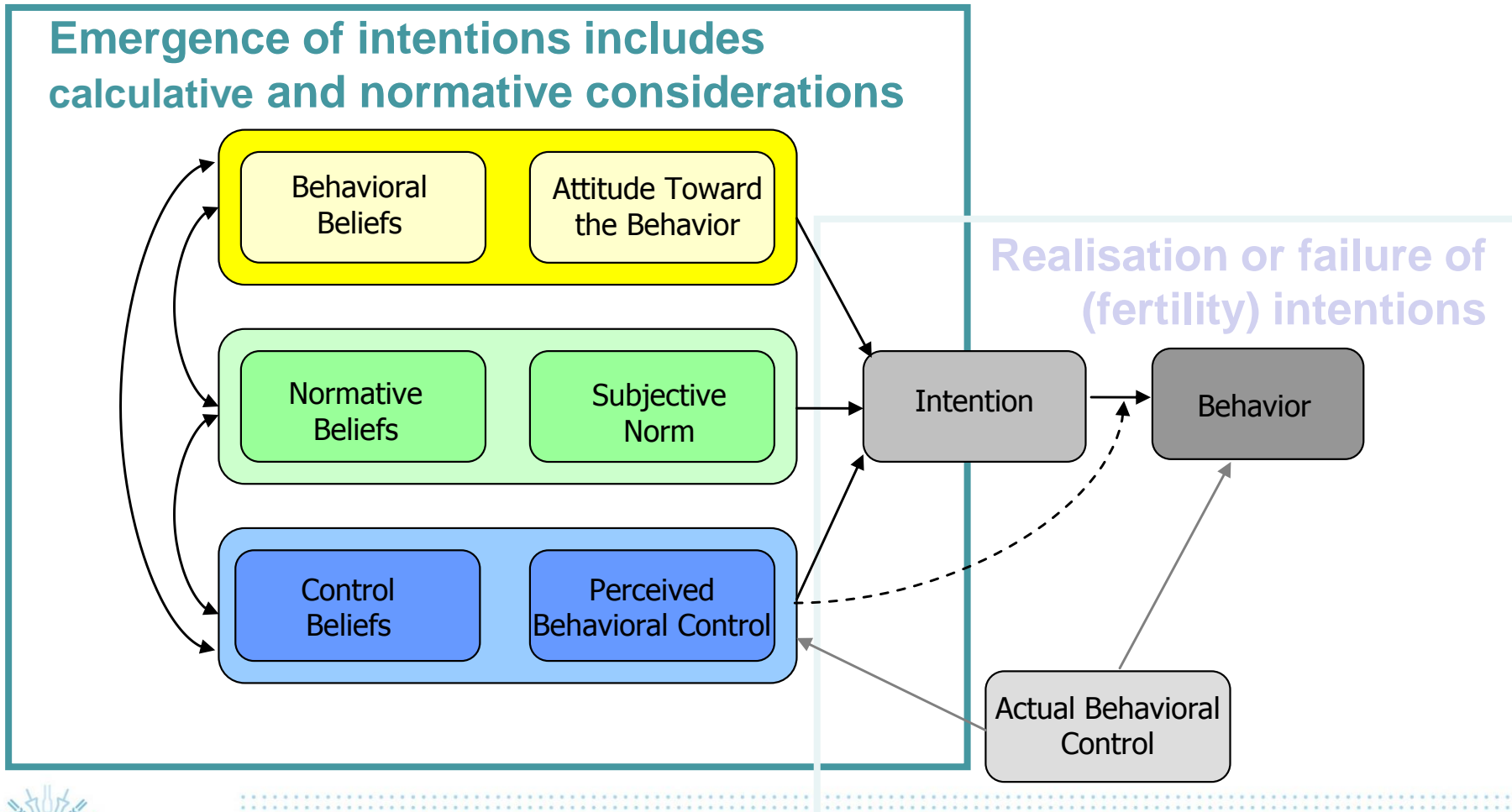
Generations and Gender Survey  
= longitudinal panel design



Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)  
= an approach to understanding  
fertility decision making



# The basic framework of the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)



# The major approaches of post-communist fertility transition (PCFT)

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CONSCIOUS FERTILITY  
DECISIONS  
(WANTED  
POSTPONEMENT)

Economic theory of fertility

Theory of the Second  
Demographic Transition  
(SDT)

Developmental idealism

Social anomie

Postponement transition

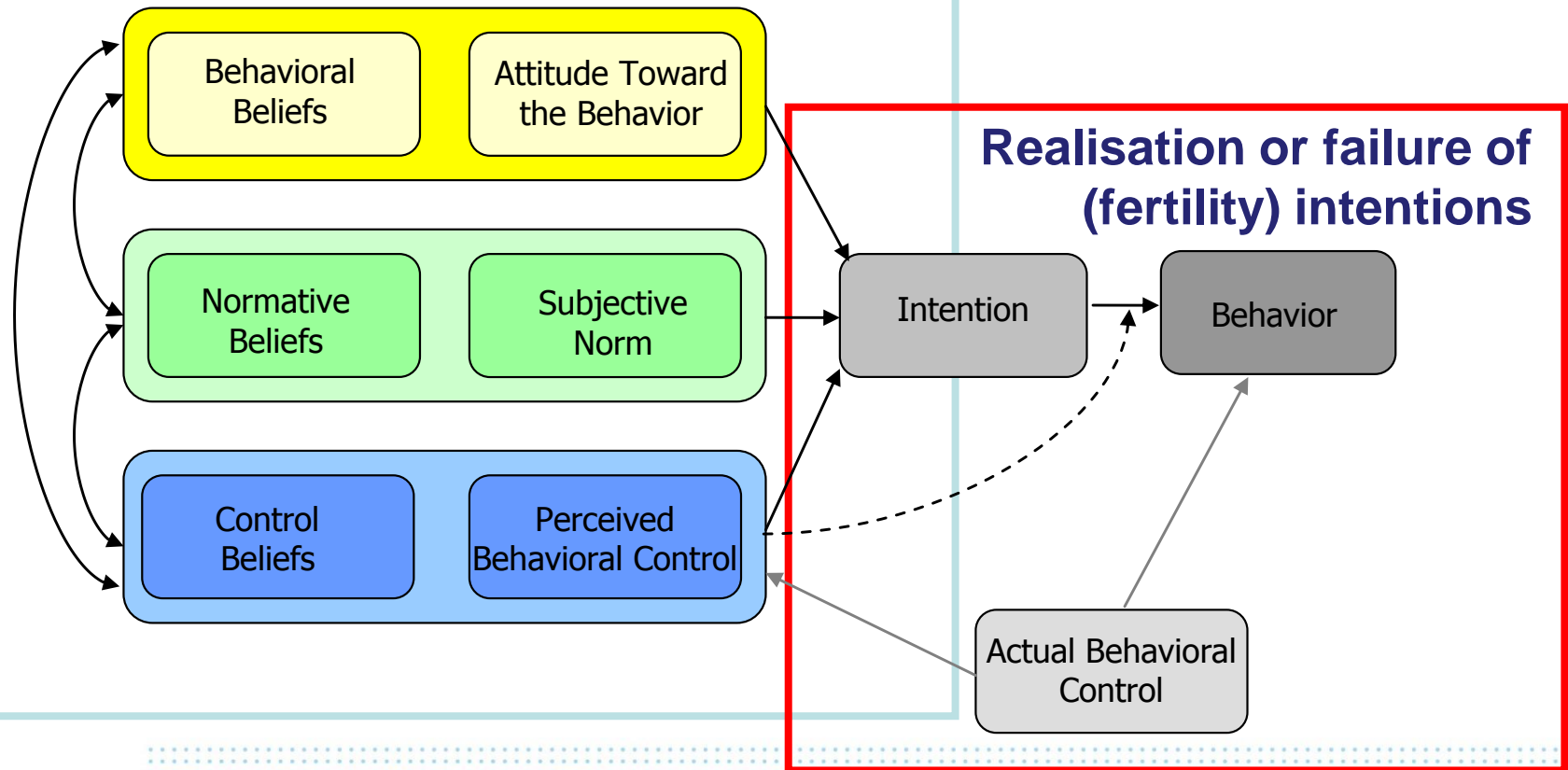
Educational expansion

Diffusion of contraceptives



# The basic framework of the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)

Emergence of intentions includes calculative and normative considerations



# The major approaches of post-communist fertility transition (PCFT)

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CONSCIOUS FERTILITY  
DECISIONS  
(DESIRED  
POSTPONEMENT)

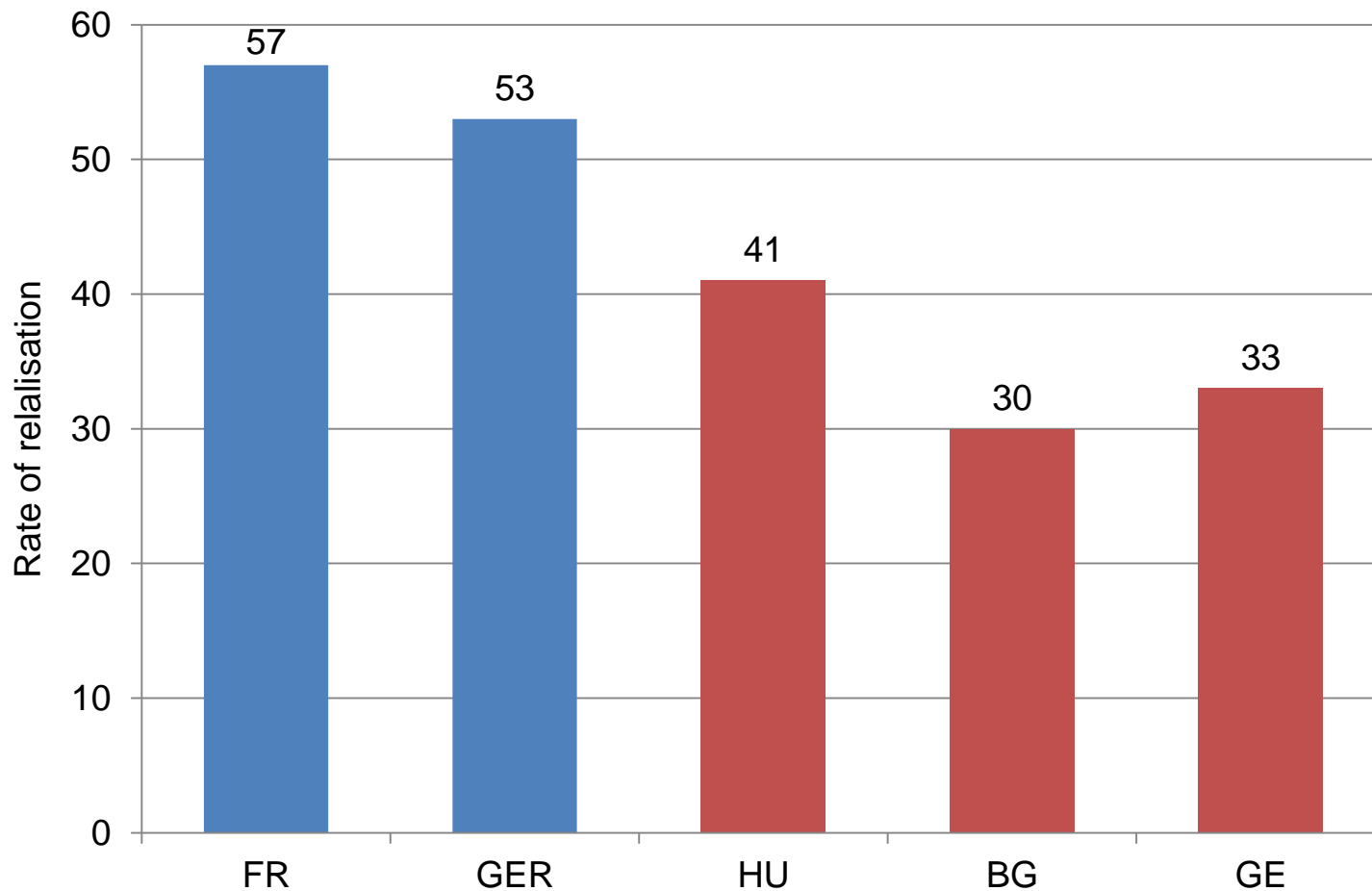
NON-REALISATION  
/FAILURE/ OF INTENTION

Economic theory of fertility  
SDT  
Developmental idealism  
Social anomie  
Postponement transition  
Educational expansion  
Diffusion of contraceptives

?



# Ratio of realisation 3 years intention within three years (partnered)

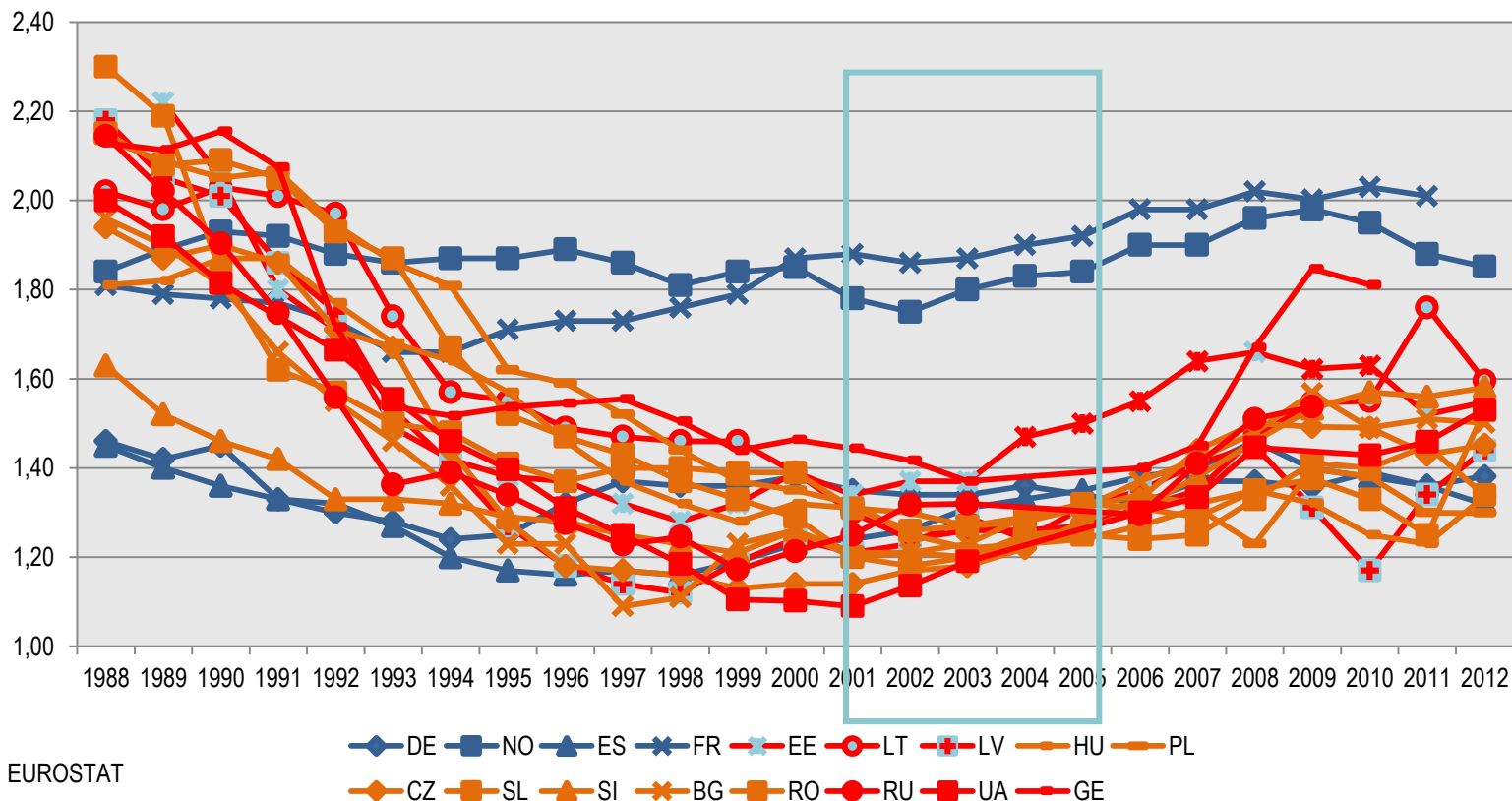


HDRI

Source: Spéder – Kapitány 2014. Failure to Realize fertility Intentions  
*Population Research and Policy Review*

# The historical timeframe: development of the TFR

TFR of all new EU member states and some selected western countries, 1988–2012



Source: EUROSTAT

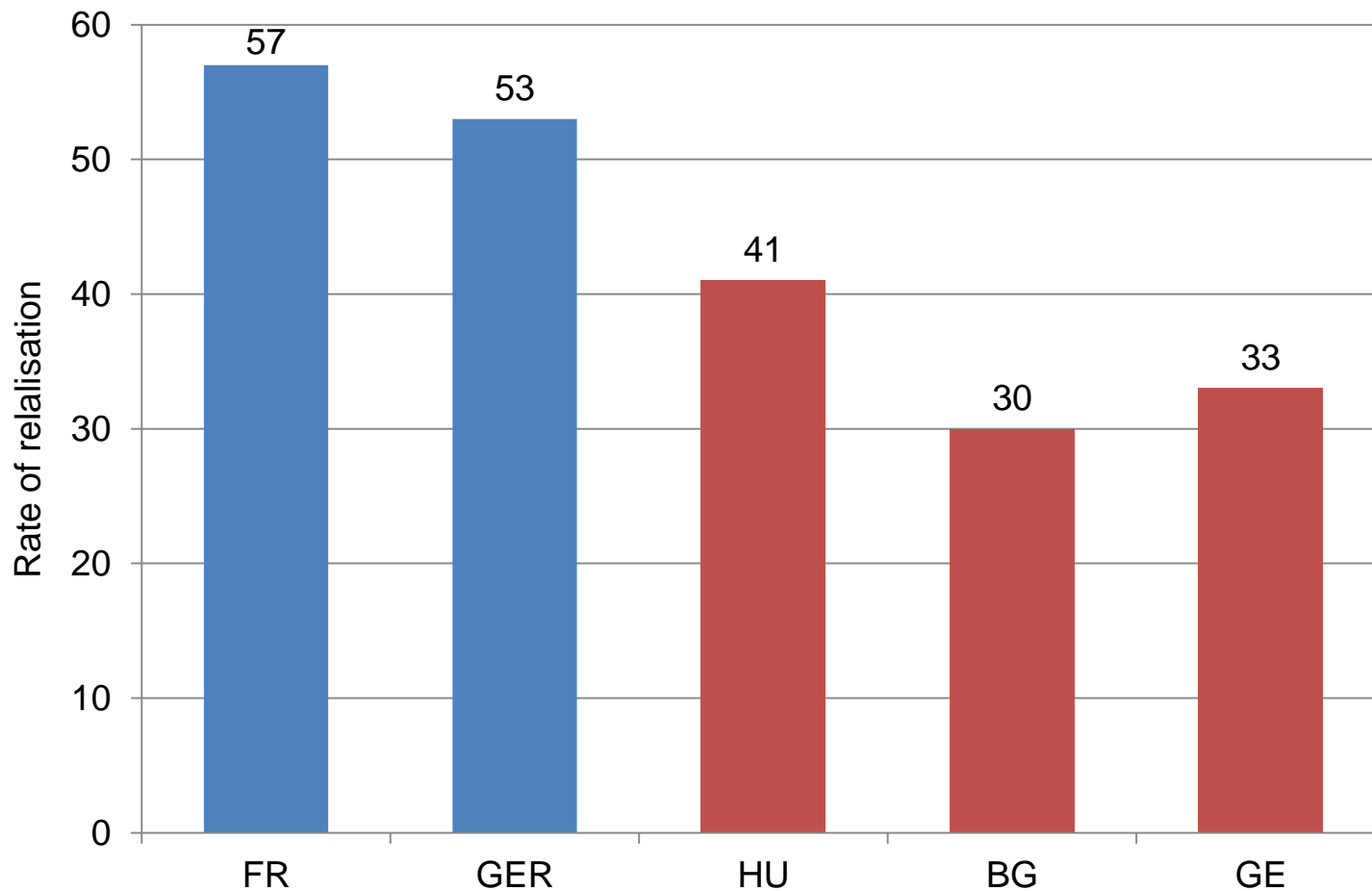


HDRI

Source: EUROSTAT data



# Ratio of realisation 3 years intention within three years (partnered)



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# Country-level and interaction effects (in pooled data analyse)

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## Main effects

- Key variable: **east/west** (HU, GEO, BU, vs. FR, DE)
- Subjective income status
  - Low (Continuous problem making ends meet)
  - Medium (Some problem with making ends meet)
  - High
- Index of perceived norms (index constructed using a selection of the Fishbein-Ajzen battery, continuous)

## Interaction effects

- East/west **and** subjective income status
  - East by highest income position
- East/west **and** index of perceived norms

Controlled independent variables: gender, age of women, parity, partnership, labour market of women, level of education



Independent variables		All (micro- and macro-level) factors (pooled data)	
	Categories	Sig.	Exp(B)
East/West	ref: West	.000	2.431
Income level (subjective)	ref: High	.471	
	Lowest	.651	1.084
	Medium	.221	1.222
East/West * income position		.060	
East by lowest income position		.021	1.614
East by medium income position		.749	1.063
Index of perceived norms		.038	1.043
East by index of perceived norms		.576	.987
Constant		.000	.309
Nagelkerke R2			.174



# Societal-level results

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- Key variable:  
east-west (HU, Georgia, BUL, vs. FR, DE)
  - 2.43 times higher “failure” in the EAST
- Subjective income status
  - Non significant as main effect but significant effect in interaction
  - Low income status at the EAST clearly higher failure (odds ratio: 1.61)
- Index of perceived norms (effect in all countries)

## Summary:

- People on the EAST and
- Low income positions at the EAST lower chance of realisation



# Dynamics of structure, institutions and culture

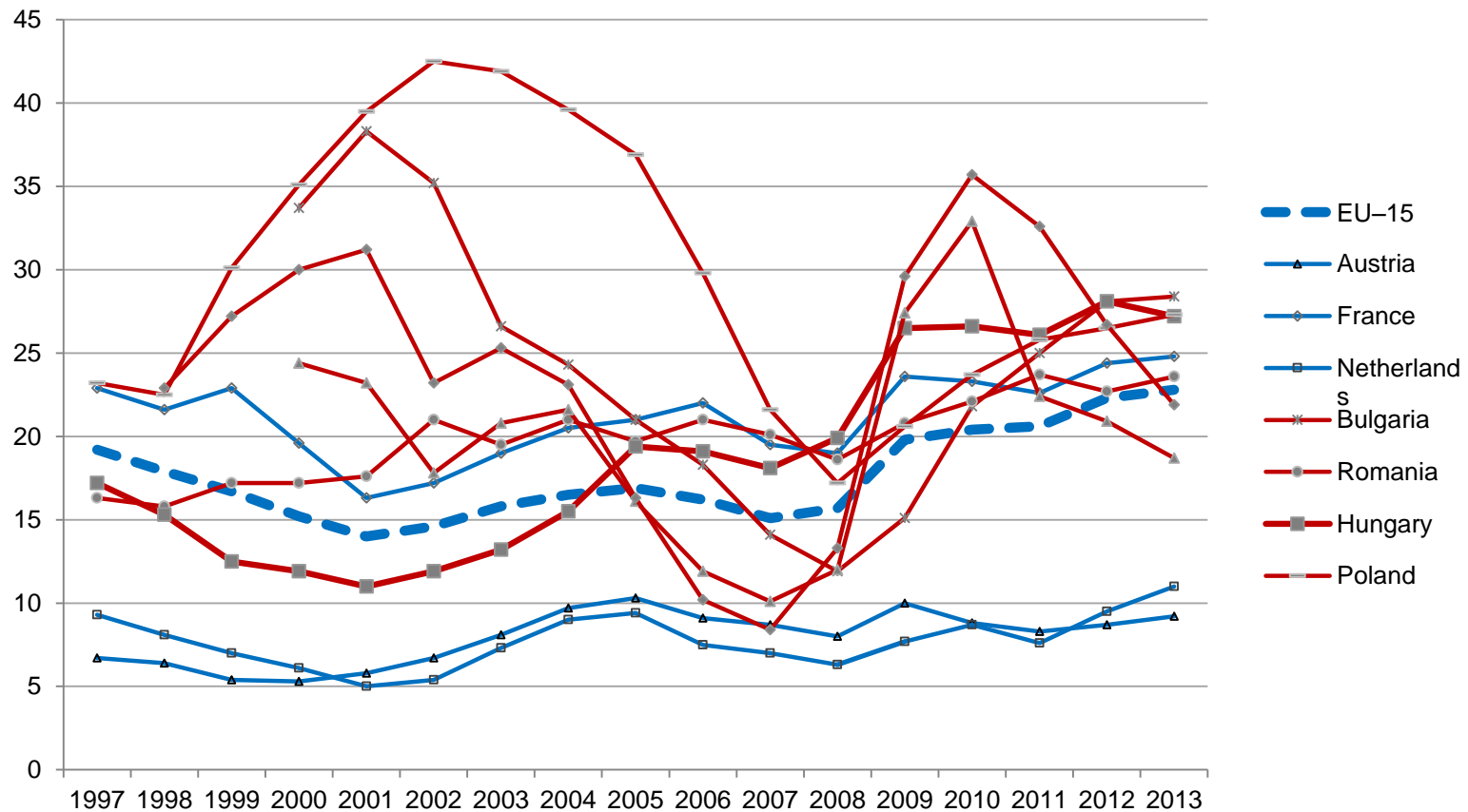
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Indicators of macro-social circumstances relevant to fertility decision making

- Structural/Economic circumstances
    - Market fluctuation
      - Labour market dynamics
    - Institutional dynamics
      - Family policy/spending
  - Cultural changes
    - Attitudes towards gender and family roles
- Income dynamics /  
change of social status



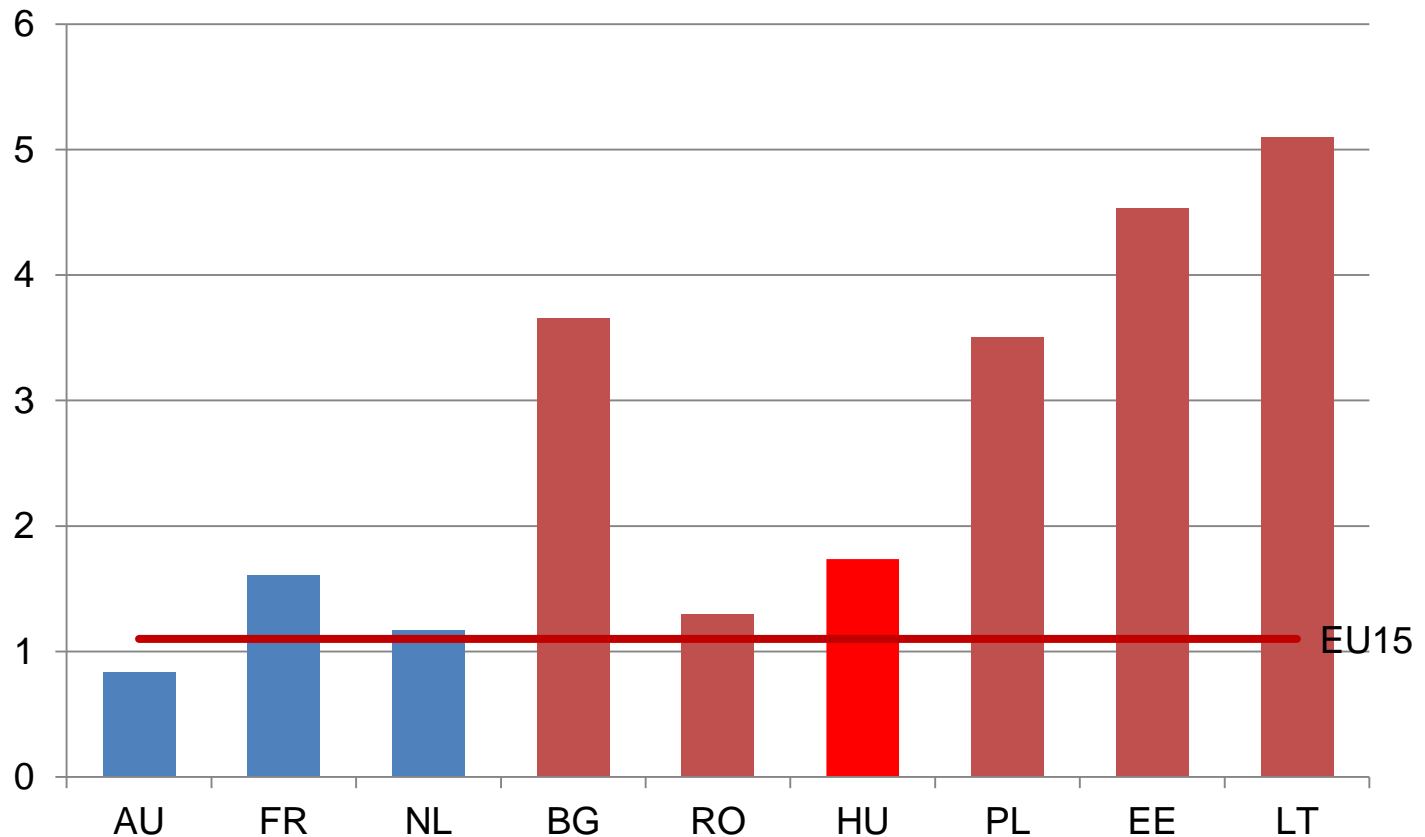
# Youth (- 25 age) unemployment rate



HDRI

Source: EUROSTAT

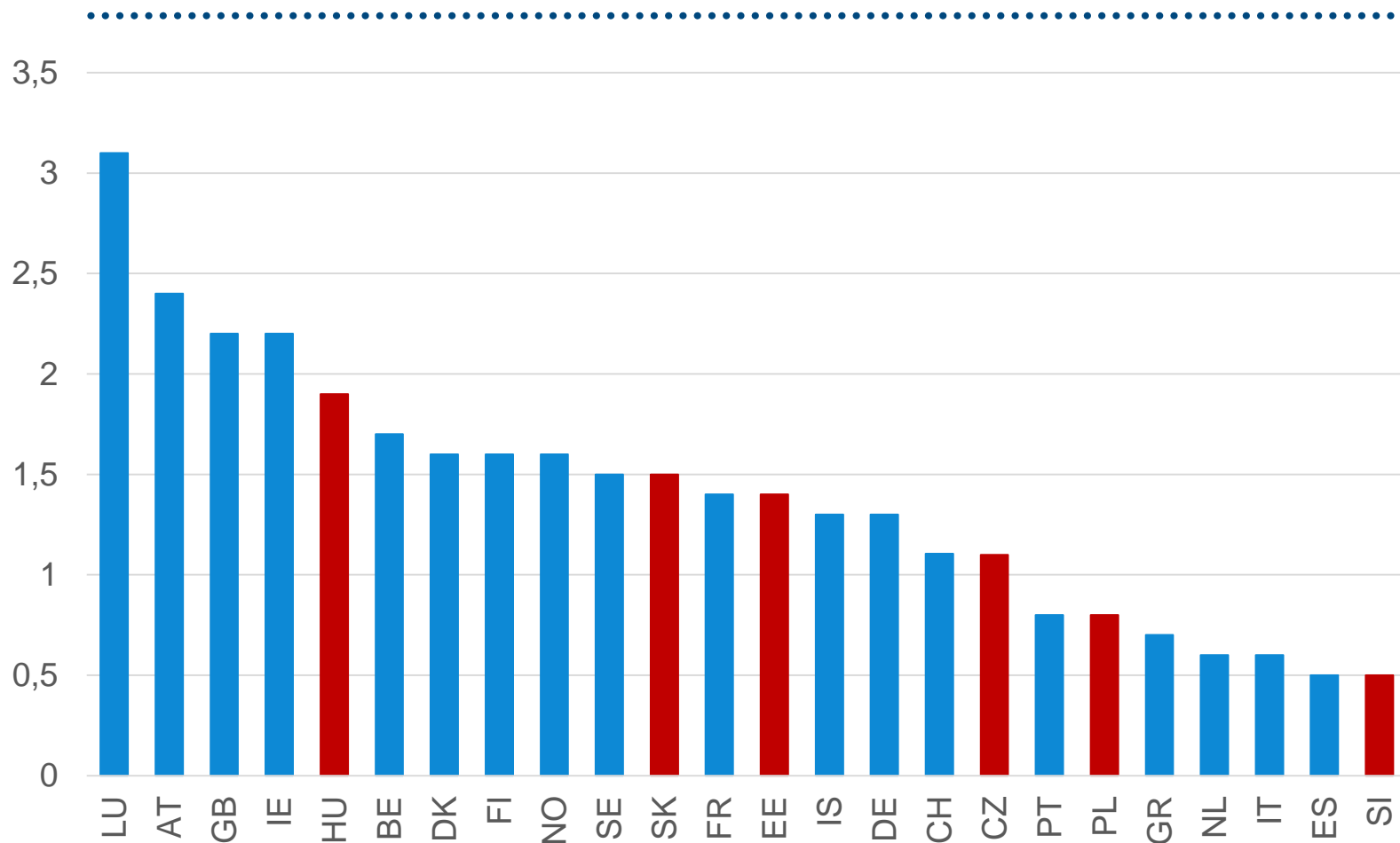
# Average yearly change of youth (–25 year) unemployment rate of selected European countries, 1998–2013



HDRI

Source: own calculation, based on EUROSTAT data

# Public spending (CASH) on families as a proportion of GDP, selected European countries in 2005

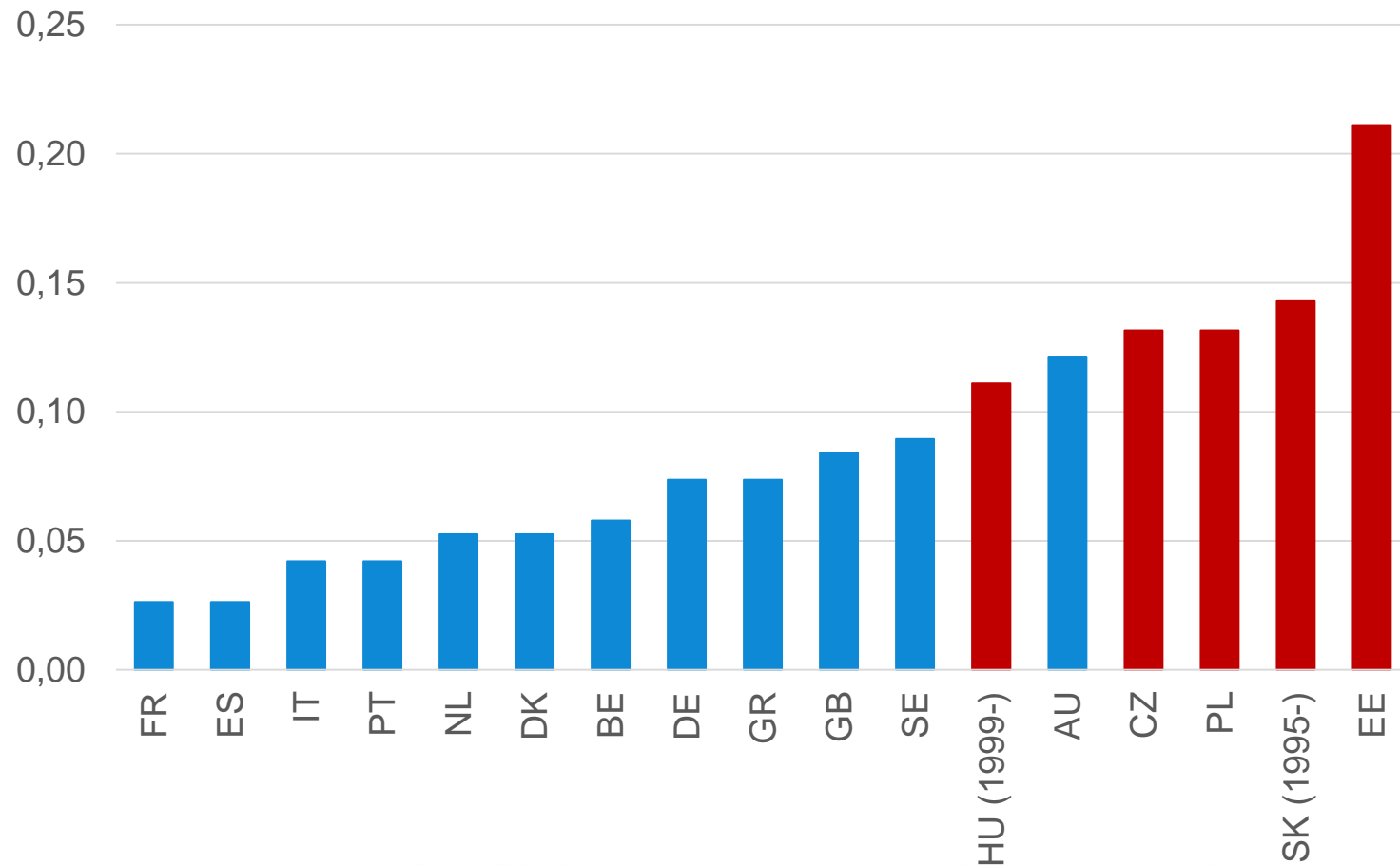


HDRI

Source: OECD Social Expenditure Data Base



# Average change of spending (CASH) on families as ratio of GDP, 1990-2009



HDRI

Source: own calculation, based on OECD Social Expenditure Data Base

# Changes in family policy regimes in Hungary, 1990–2012

- 1992: extension of tax credit related to the number of children (**revenue** based) and introduction of full-time housewife in case 3+ children (**universal**)
- 1994: **cut** of tax credit related to the number of children
- 1995: change from **insurance-based** to **income-tested** family allowance and leave system
- 2000: change from **income-tested** to **universal** family allowance and leave system
- 2000: introduction of family tax allowance/deduction (towards **revenue** based)
- 2002: strong limitation of tax deduction (towards **universal**)
- 2008: **shortening** of parental leave
- 2010: re-introduction of family tax deduction (**revenue** based)



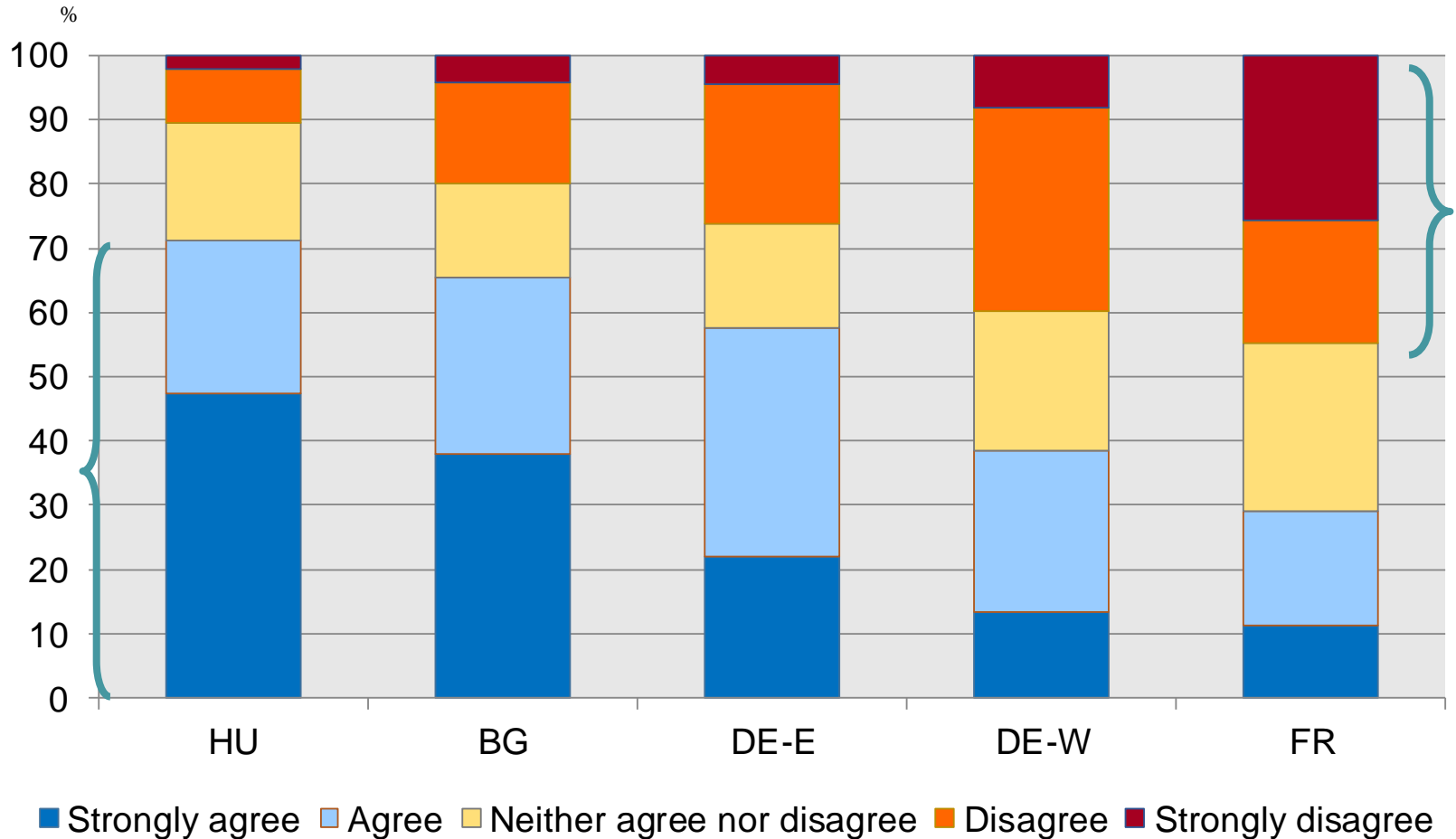
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The lower chance of realisation for those at low income position in the EAST may be due to

- Having less recourses to adapt to the changing circumstances, and therefore
- Adaptation is through changes of intentions



# “People who have never had children lead empty lives” (ISSP, 2002)



# Available items measuring gender and family role attitudes in International Social Survey Program (ISSP), 1988, 1994, 2002, 2012

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A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work.

A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.

All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job.

A job is all right, but what most women really want is a home and children.

Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay.

Both the man and the woman should contribute to the household income.

A man's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the home and family.

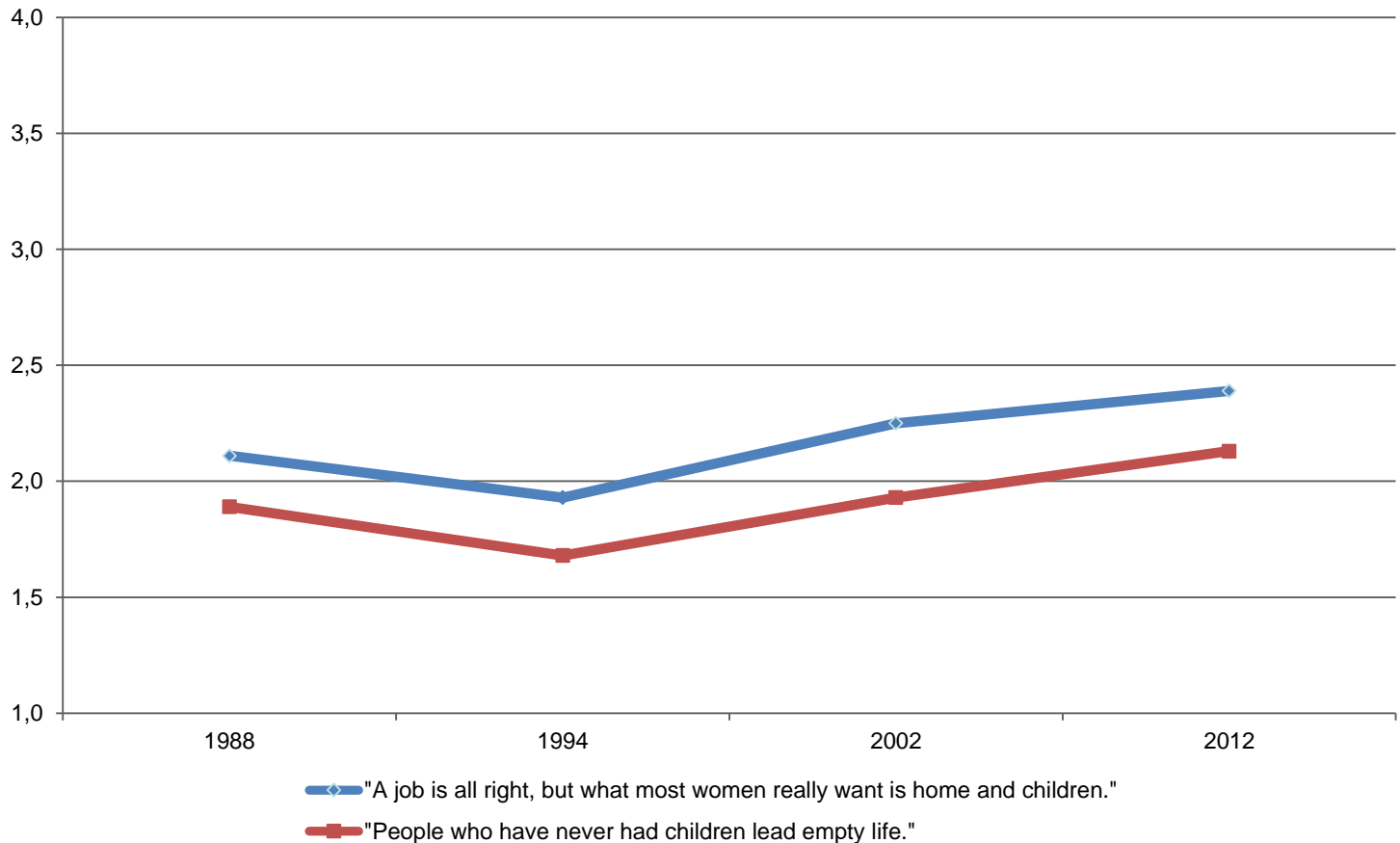
Married people are generally happier than unmarried people.

People who want children ought to get married.

Watching children grow up is life's greatest joy.

People who have never had children lead empty lives.

# Trends of gender and family role attitudes, Hungary, 1988-20013, (mean values)



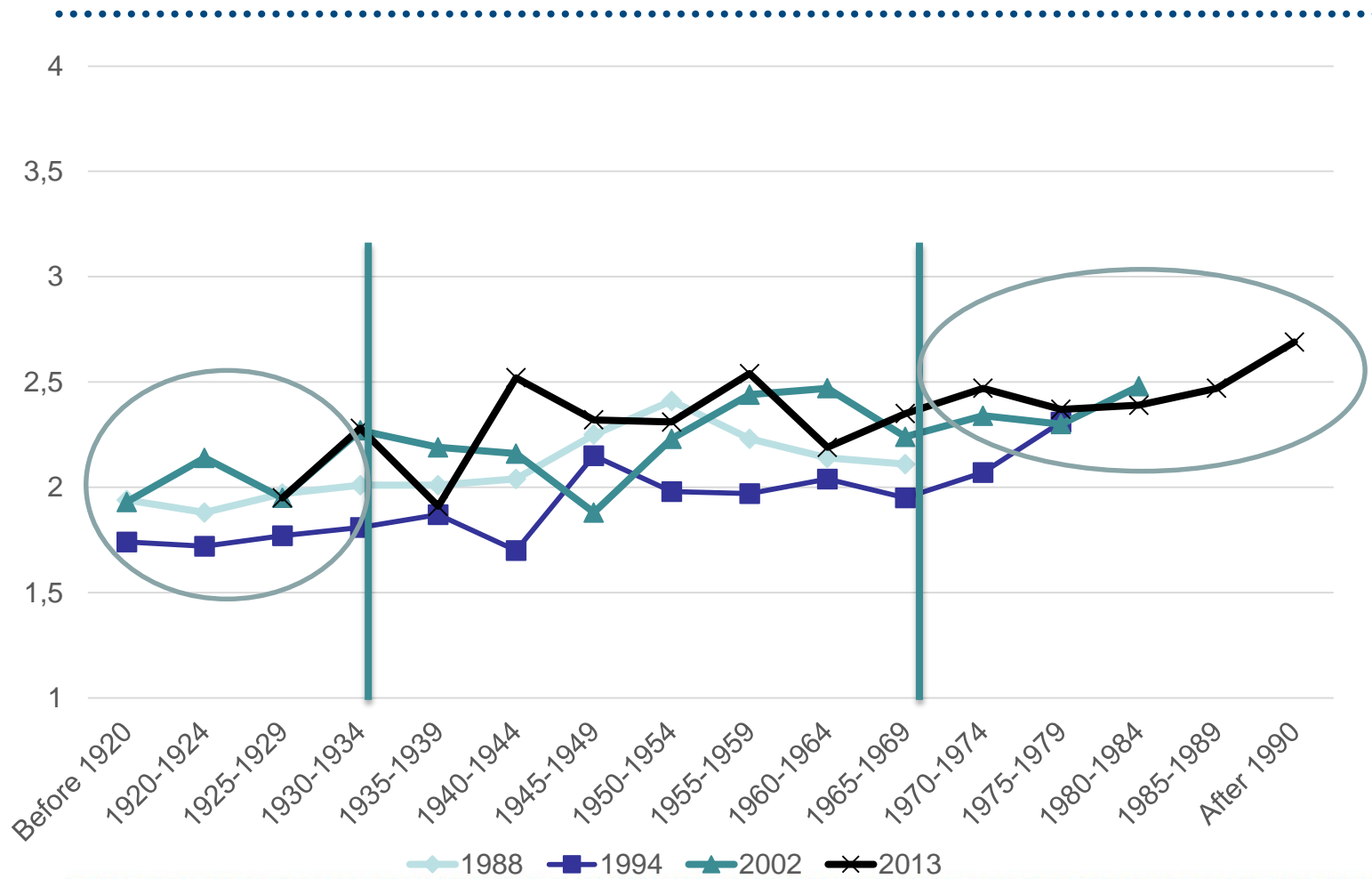
HDRI

„... what most women really want home and children”  
„...people have empty life” without children

# Value changes: cohort replacent and inter-cohort effects

	Cohort replacement effect			Inter-cohort (period) effect		
	1988-1994	1994-2002	2002-2013	1988-1994	1994-2002	2002-2013
A working mother can establish warm relationship.	,06	,05	-,03	,15	,32	-,13
A pre-school child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works.	,07	,10	,10	-,35	,19	,28
All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job.	,08	,10	,11	-,29	,22	,06
A job is all right, but what most women really want is a home and children.	,02	,08	,10	-,19	,23	,06
Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay.	,06	,06	,11	,55	,07	,13
Both the man and the woman should contribute to the household income.	-,01	,01	,01	,06	,07	-,19
A men's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the home and family.	,03	,14	,06	-,59	,35	-,23
Married people are generally happier than unmarried people.	,08	,09	,19	-,31	,08	,22
People who want children ought to get married.	,12	,21	,22	-,02	,21	-,25
Watching children grow up is life's greatest joy.	,01	,04	,08	-,38	,04	,10
People who have never had children lead empty lives.	,02	,08	,08	-,23	,16	,12

# “A job is all right, but what most women want is home and children”



HDRI

Source: own calculation, ISSP data



# Value changes: cohort replacement and inter-cohort effects

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# Back to the main questions

- Societal factors/context *do* influence fertility decisions
- The lower chance of realisation of short-term, committed fertility intentions may be caused by
  - Unusually high dynamics of social structure
    - High fluctuation on/instability at the labour market
    - Frequent institutional changes
  - Different pace of change of social structure and culture
    - High speed of social change and low change of family-related orientations
- The lower chance of realisation for those at low income position in the EAST may be due to
  - Having less recourse to adapt to the changing circumstances, and therefore
  - Adaptation is through changes of intentions



# Extension of understanding the post-communist fertility transition (PCFT)



Economic theory of fertility  
SDT

Developmental idealism

Social anomie

Postponement transition

Educational expansion

Diffusion of contraceptives

- **Social anomy** (discontinuities in societal changes)
- **Economic/structural uncertainty**
- **Postponement transition**





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**Thank you for your attention!**

