



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Combating Child Poverty in the EU

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Main messages

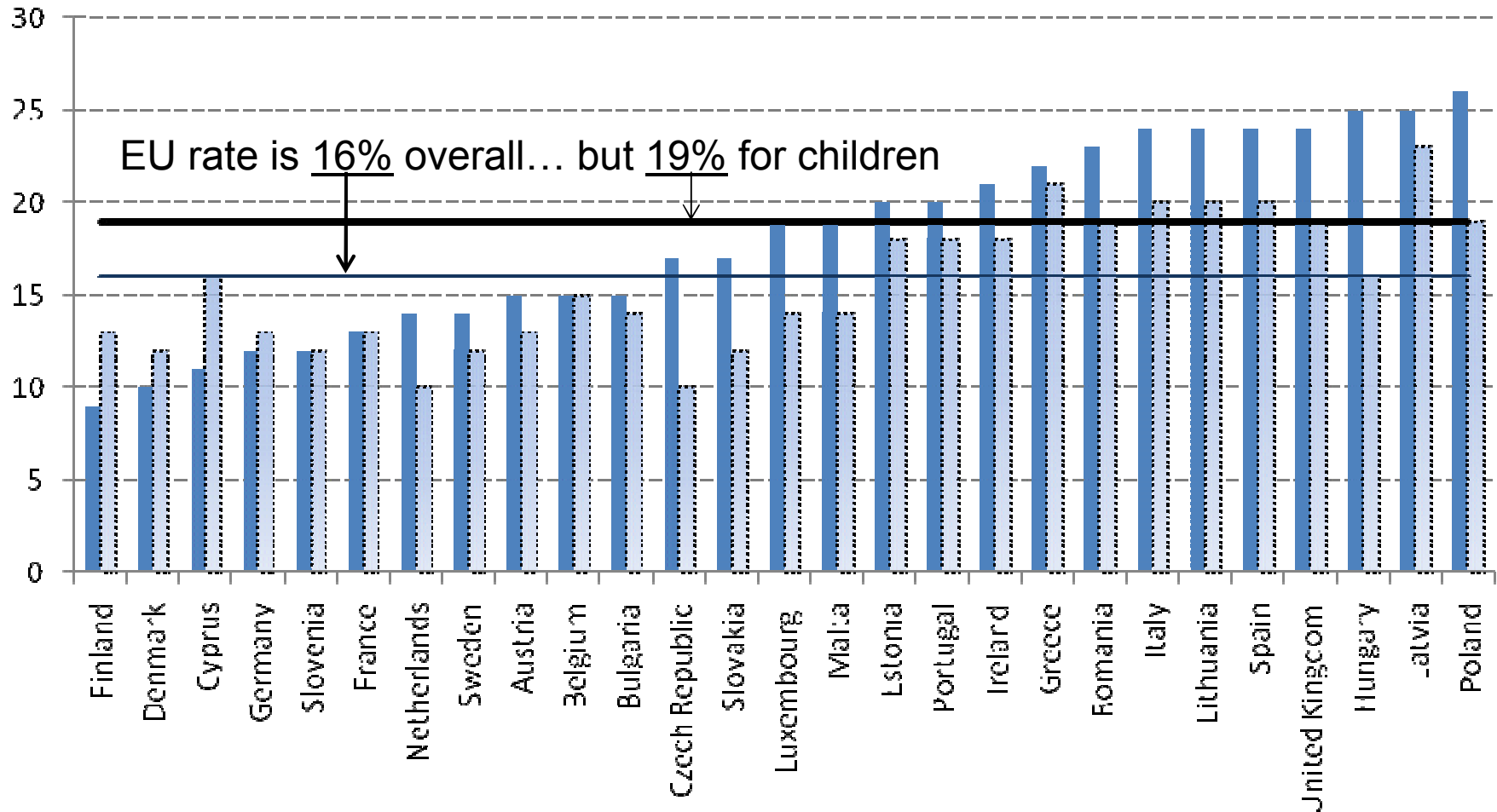
- Child poverty in Europe is too high. Reducing it should remain firmly on the agenda
- Poverty is just one aspect of children's lives that undermines happiness and productivity
- New data for monitoring child well-being to complement efforts to reduce child poverty is essential



Where, who and why? Poor children in Europe.

- Child poverty in Europe is too high
- Child poverty in Europe varies by country
- Child poverty varies by age
- Child poverty occurs in families without work, and with sole parents

Child poverty rates in the EU are higher than population rates





The youngest children are more likely to be the poorest children

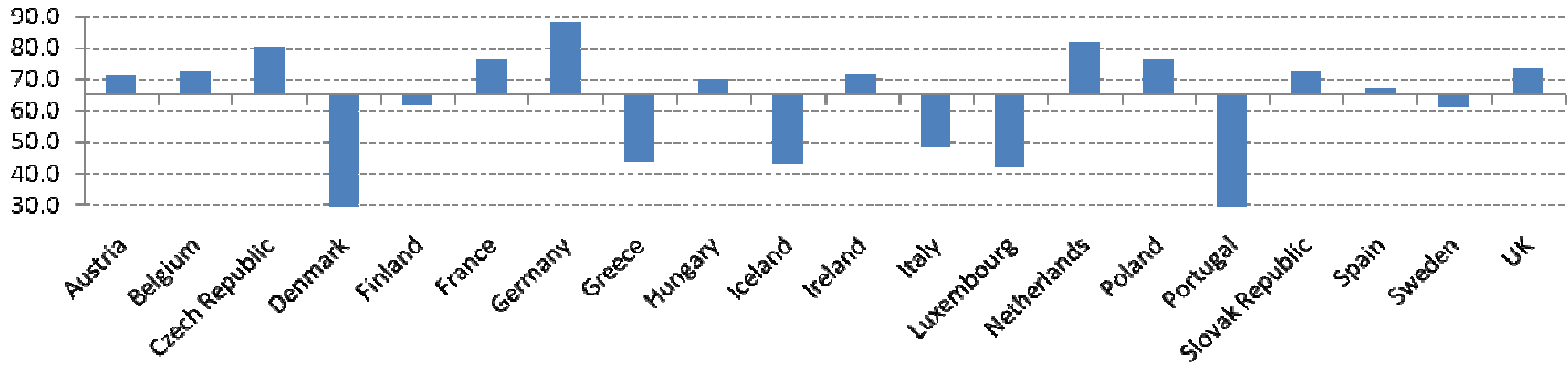
0-5 years	6-14 years	15-17 years
Austria, <u>Belgium</u> , Bulgaria, Cyprus, <u>Denmark</u> , Estonia, <u>Finland</u> , France, Hungary, <u>Luxembourg</u> , Malta, Netherlands, Slovenia, <u>Sweden</u> , <u>United Kingdom</u>	Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Slovakia.	Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal.

Calculations from EU SILC 2005 data.

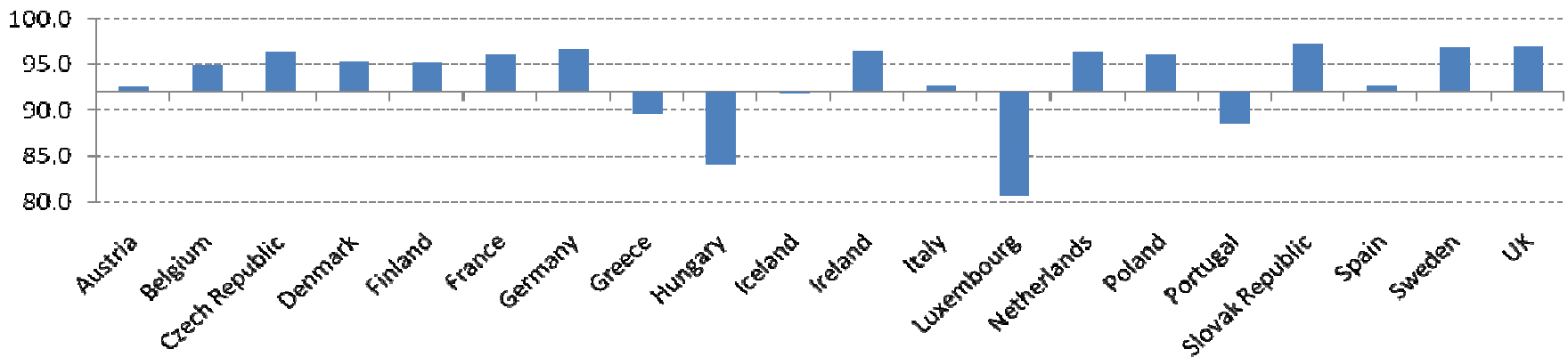
Underlined countries have rates at least 3 points higher than for children overall.

Working their way out of poverty is easier for some parents

Proportion decrease in poverty rates, 2 adult families, from no worker to one worker



Proportion decrease in poverty rates, 2 adult families, from no worker to two workers

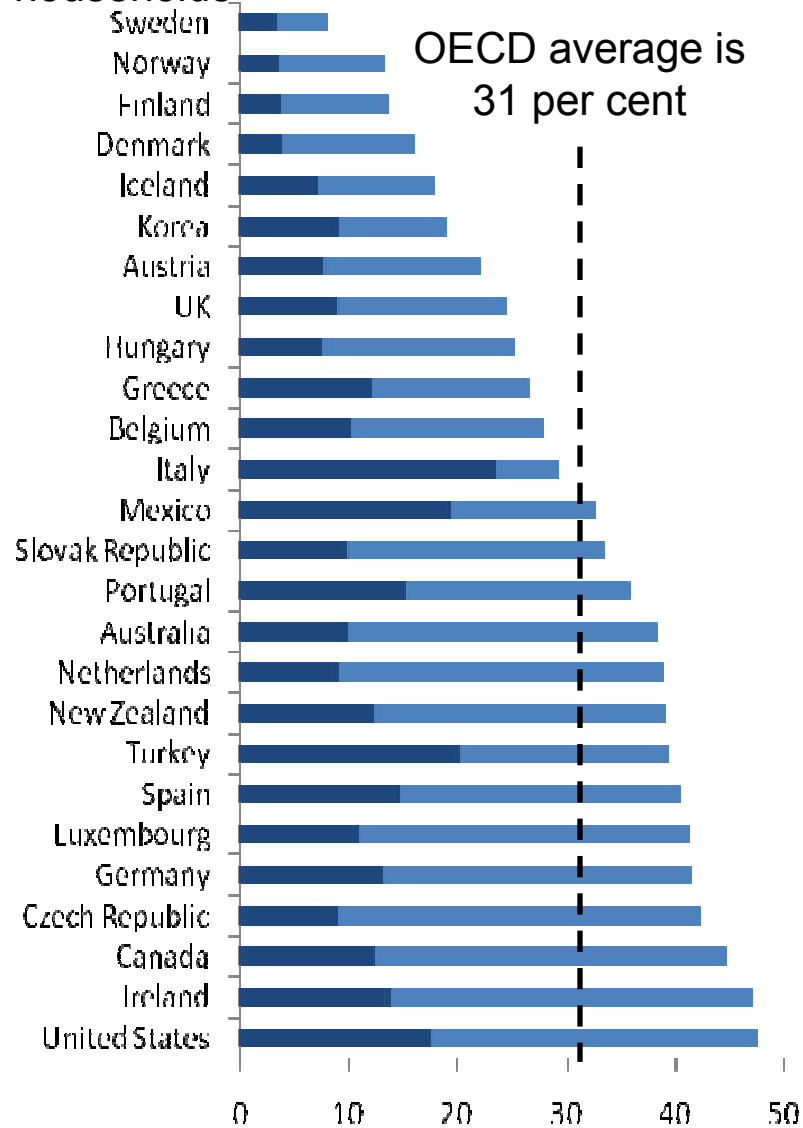


Children in lone parent families

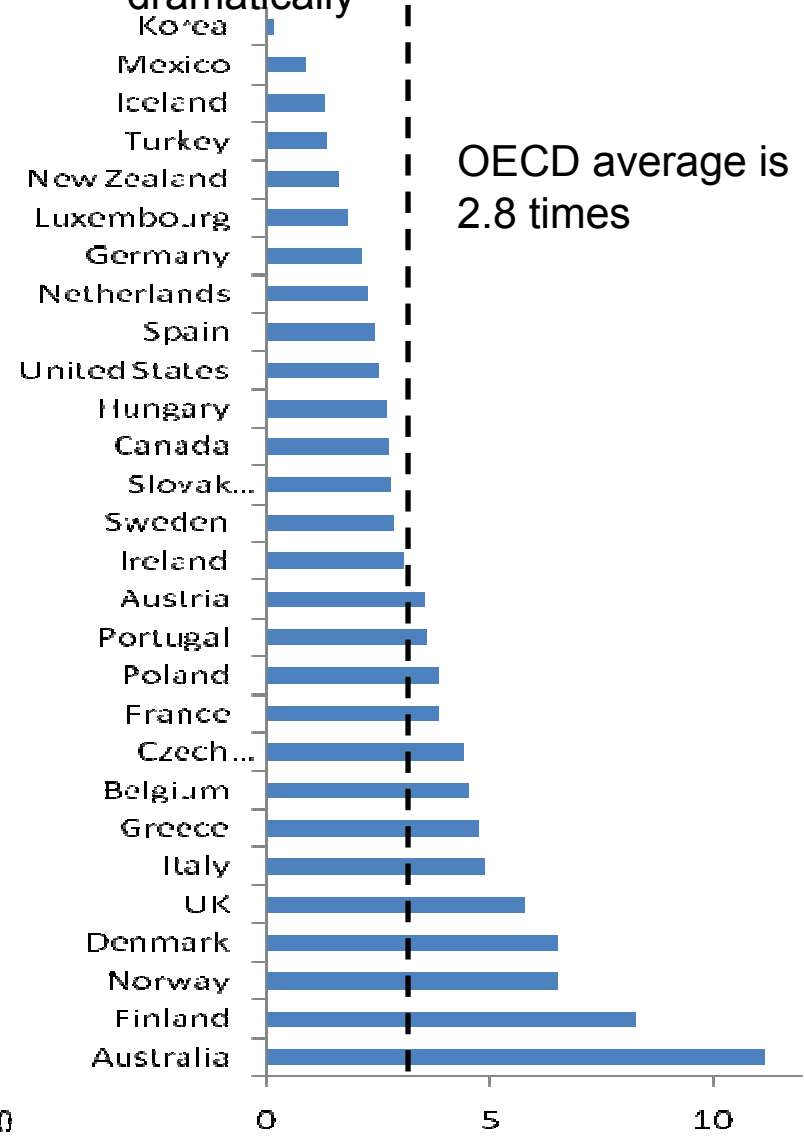
- Rates of lone parents in Europe vary a good deal
- Lone parents are at an increased risk of being in poverty
- Employment works differently for lone parents across EU countries
- Social contributions to lone parents play a role
- What do we know about outcomes for children in lone parent families?
- How do we help lone parents into work?



Rates of lone parent poverty are always higher in comparison to poverty in all households



Probability of a lone parent being in poverty if not working can increase dramatically



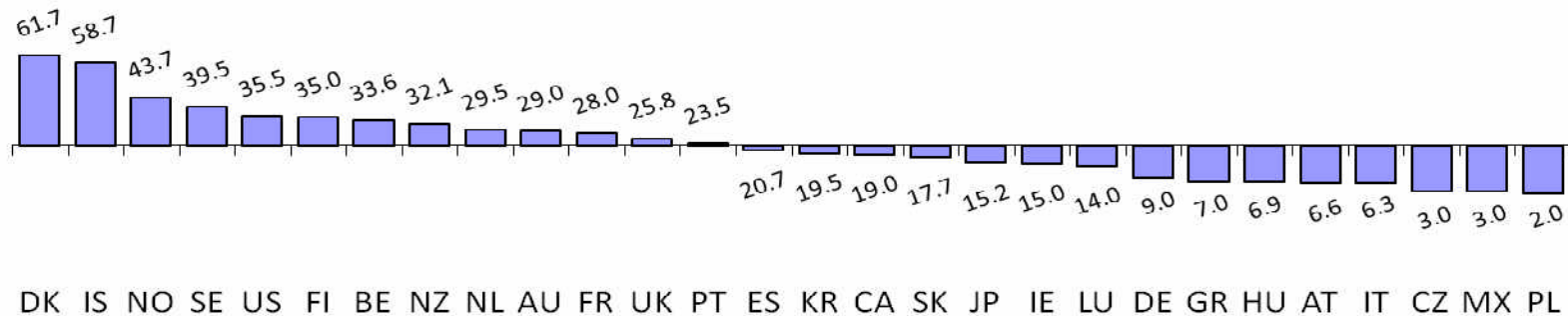


Getting Jobs for Parents

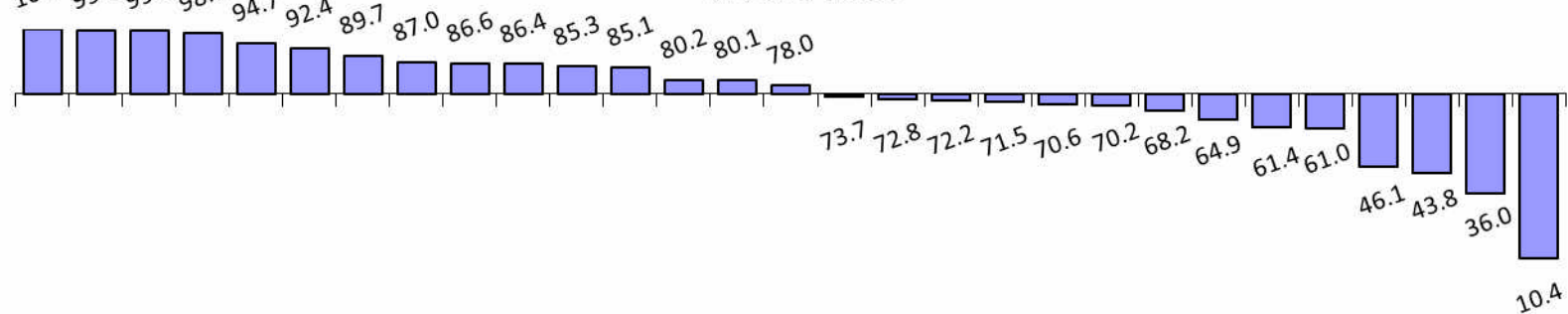
- Sufficient pay
- In work benefits and tax concessions
- Job seeking assistance and employer subsidies
- Flexible hours and leave
- Childcare
- What are the outcomes for Children in jobless families?

Children in northern Europe spend more time in childcare in the first years... in a number of countries preschool is almost universal

Participation in childcare services for children aged under 3 years related to OECD average of 22.9, 2004



Participation in childcare services for children aged 3 to 5 years related to OECD average of 74.7 around 2005



FR BE IT ES IS NZ DK HU SE JP CZ NO DE UK PT AT LU SK KR GR AU NL IE MX US FI CH PL TR



...and helping those children whose families can't work!

- Childcare
- Sufficient social assistance
- Training and Opportunities for parents

- Under what circumstances might joblessness be appropriate ?

Poverty and Child well-being

- What is child well-being?
- How does this differ from child poverty?
 - by definition
 - in measurement
- Why is child well-being important?
 - Informs policy
 - Assesses policy
 - Is policy



Child well-being in Europe

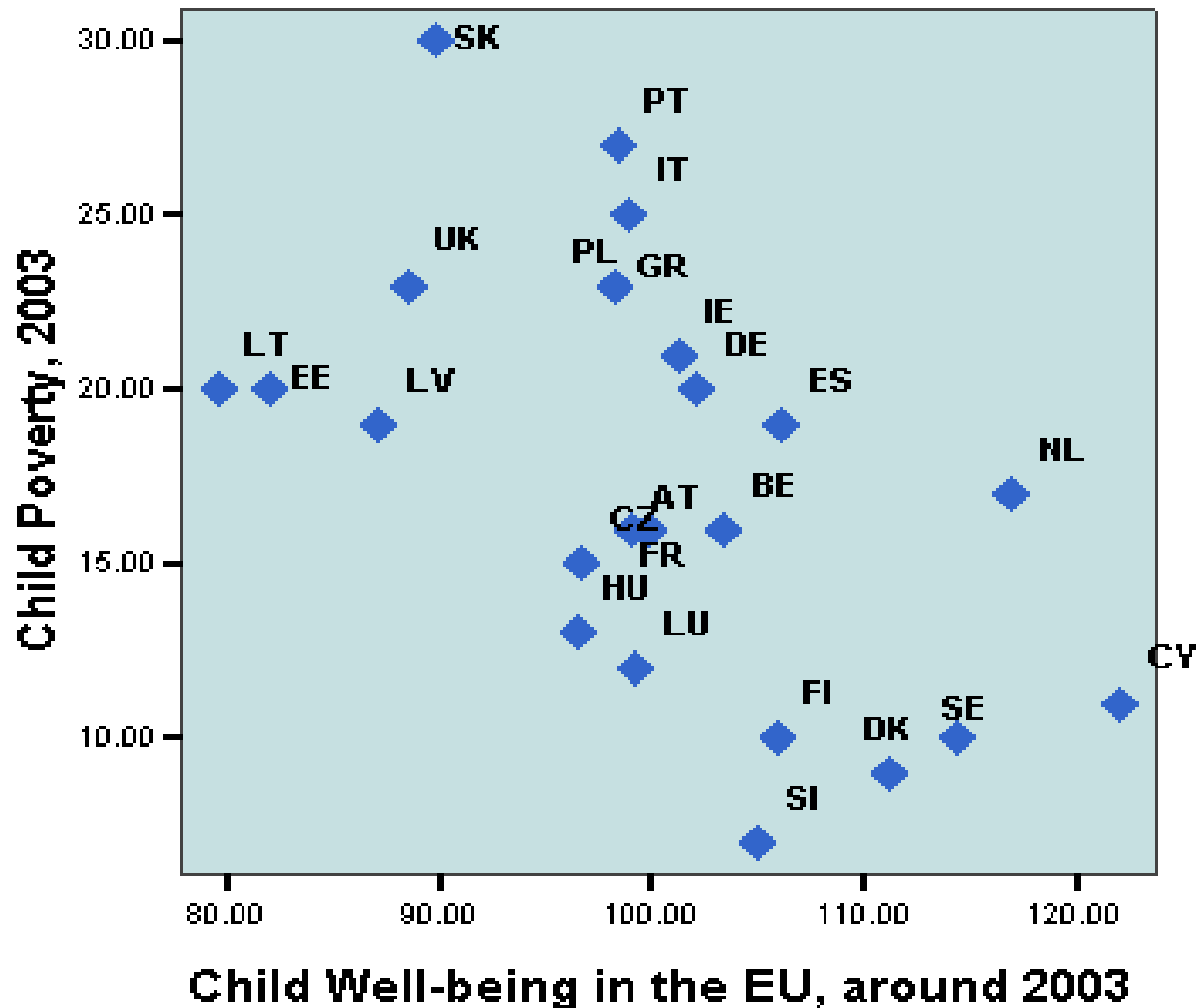
- Well being in EU 25
- What do we know about what drives differences in well-being?
 - Poverty
 - GDP
 - Family policy investment
 - Housing, environment, education, health, risk behaviours, bullying
- What don't we know?
- Negative adult outcomes for children with low levels of well-being are evident

Child well-being in the EU 25

	Average rank	Health	Subjective Well-being	Children's Relationships	Material Situation	Risk & Safety	Education	Civic and political participation	Housing
Cyprus	4.6	5			1	2		1	14
Netherlands	4.9	2	1	5	10	5	6		5
Sweden	5.9	1	6	15	2	3	2	14	4
Denmark	6.4	3	9	10	6	15	3	4	1
Spain	8.7	13	3	9	8	1	15		12
Finland	9.8	7	12	17	3	7	4	18	10
Germany	9.9	10	7	12	12	12	9	10	7
Belgium	10.4	20	15	6	18	16	1	5	2
Slovenia	10.7	15	8	4	4	18		13	13
Ireland	12.1	18	5	8	19	20	7		8
Italy	12.3	16	11	2	15	6	19	11	18
Luxembourg	12.4	11	20	19	5	9	20		3
Greece	12.5	25	4	11	17	8	16	2	17
Austria	12.6	21	2	16	7	19	17		6
Portugal	12.9	9	16	3	13	17	18	7	20
France	13.0	14	13	14	11	10	14		15
Poland	13.0	6	19	13	23	11	5	6	21
Hungary	13.0	22	10	7	14	14	12	3	22
Malta	13.5	24	17	1	24	4			11
Czech Republic	14.1	4	14	22	9	21	10	17	16
Slovak Republic	16.6	17	22		25	13	11	9	19
United Kingdom	17.0	23	18	23	20	22	13	8	9
Latvia	17.6	19	21	18	16	23	8	12	24
Estonia	19.9	12	23	21	21	24		15	23
Lithuania	20.0	8	24	20	22	25		16	25

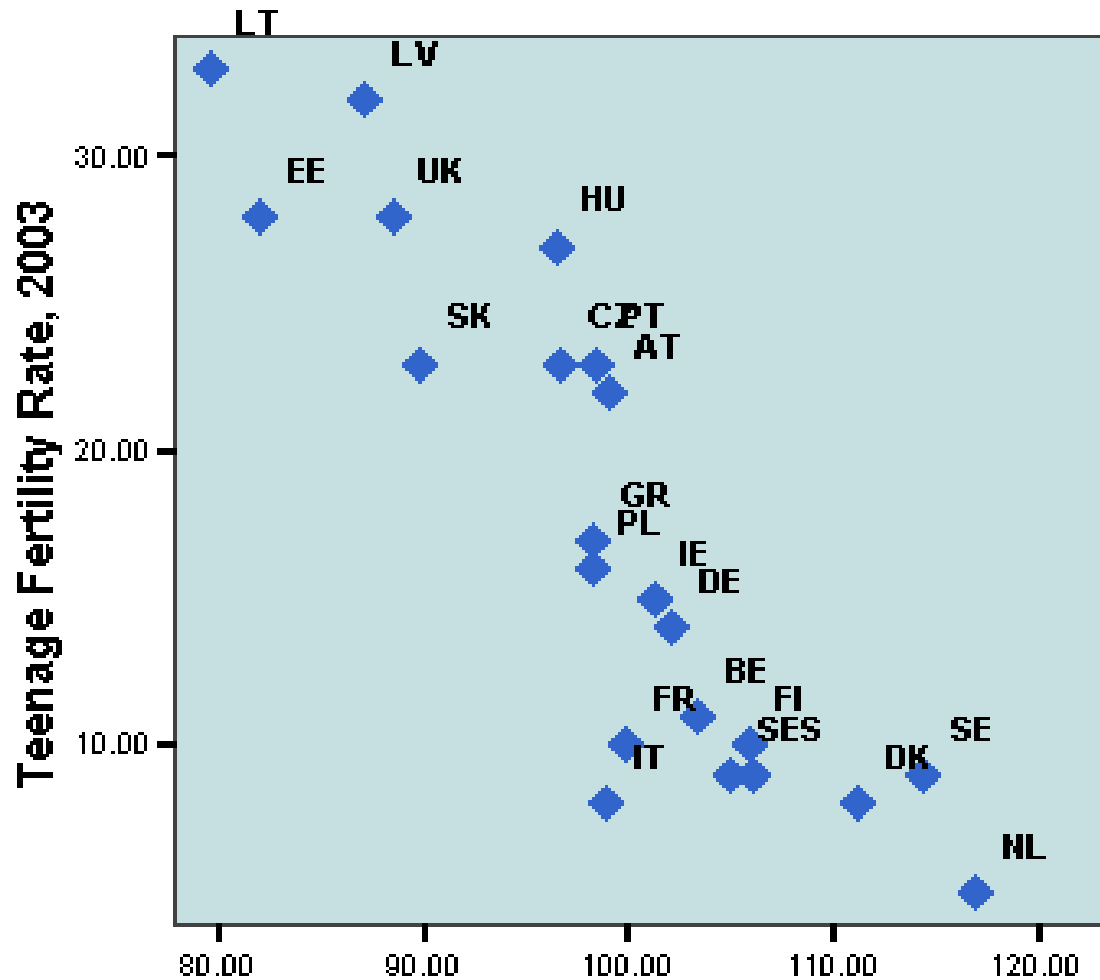
Child Well-being has a strong relationship with child poverty, but...

$R = -0.54, p < 0.001$



...the relationship is much stronger for teenage fertility rates.

$R = -0.88, p < 0.001$



Child Well-being in the EU, around 2003



Children on the margins: multiple deprivation

- Children in poverty and...
 - Low education
 - With poor health
 - Poor local services
 - High levels of risk behaviour
 - Suffering neglect or abuse
- The long term social and economic costs from such exclusion make the marginalisation of children both inequitable *and* inefficient



What do we need...

- More data to monitor the well-being of the European child
- Better information on what works to enhance child well-being
- Coordination of policy and services

Conclusions

- Child poverty is too high, and should remain a key concern for European policy makers...
- ...understanding what this means for child well-being is critical
- More financial incentives could be used to get parents into work but these need to be matched with commitments to high quality and appropriate childcare
- New data for monitoring of the lives of children, their families and local environment is needed



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