



Impact of the crisis on vulnerable groups – 3rd EQLS findings

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- Richard Layard – economics of happiness – measurement of well-being essential for policy-makers (2005)
- Stiglitz Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (2009)
- European Commission Communication on “GDP and beyond: measuring progress in a changing world” (2009)
- 3rd OECD World Forum ‘Charting progress, building visions, improving life’ – Better Life Index
- Increasing demand for QoL information at both Member State and international levels

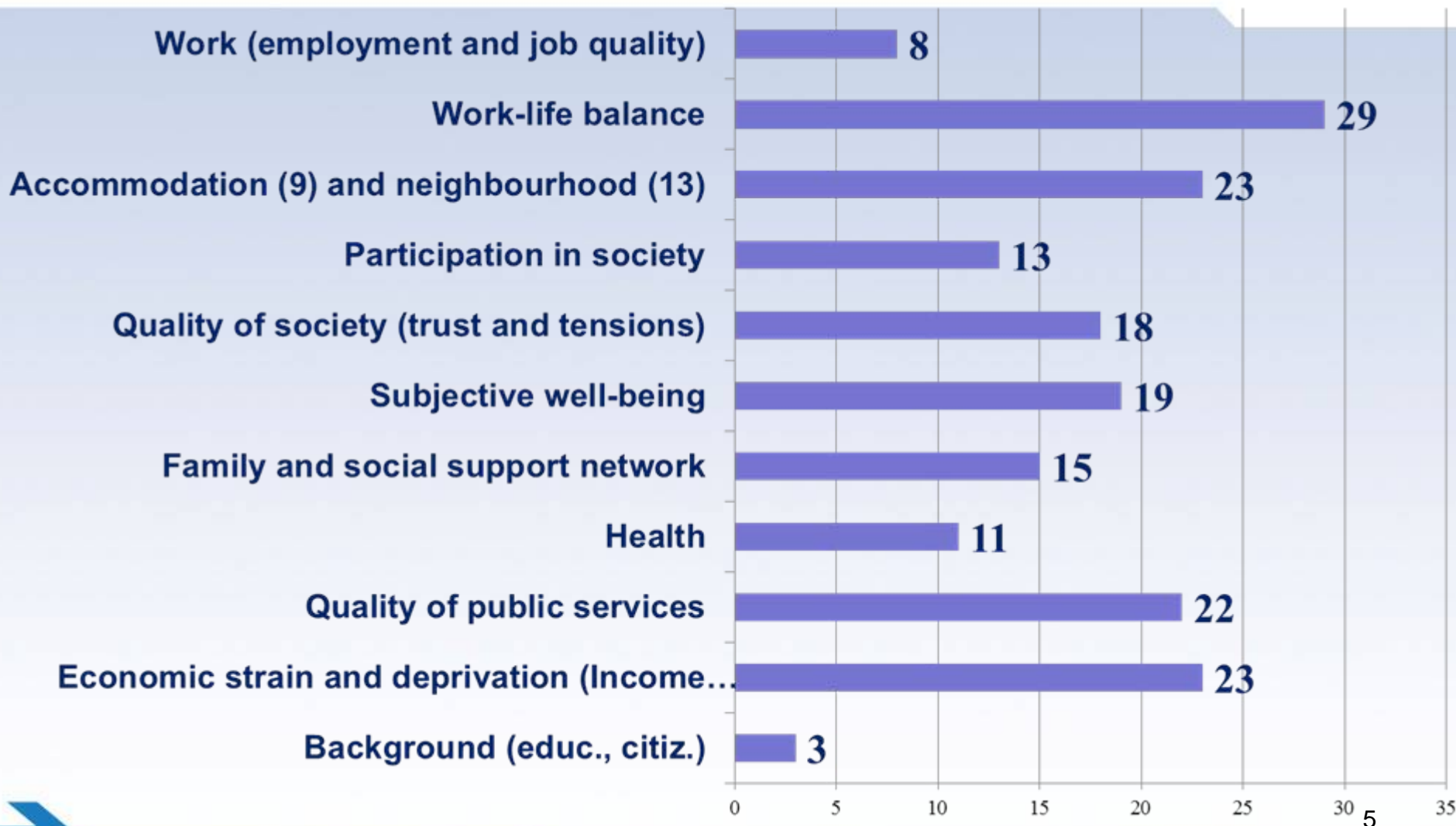
Distinctive characteristics:

- Views quality of life in terms of the well-being of individuals, both global and domain
- Assessed in terms of outcomes and experiences (objective), but also how people feel about their lives (subjective)
- Multidimensional, but core focus on domains of employment, economic resources, family, housing, community and health – and specifically on the inter-relationships between domains (e.g. work and family, health and economic situation)
- Addresses the quality of society – in terms of quality of services and environment, social capital and societal relations.

- Representative survey of 18+ country residents in private households
- Stratified multistage sampling (regions – settlements – PSU – addresses – individuals)
- Input harmonised survey (common q'aire for face-to-face interviews)

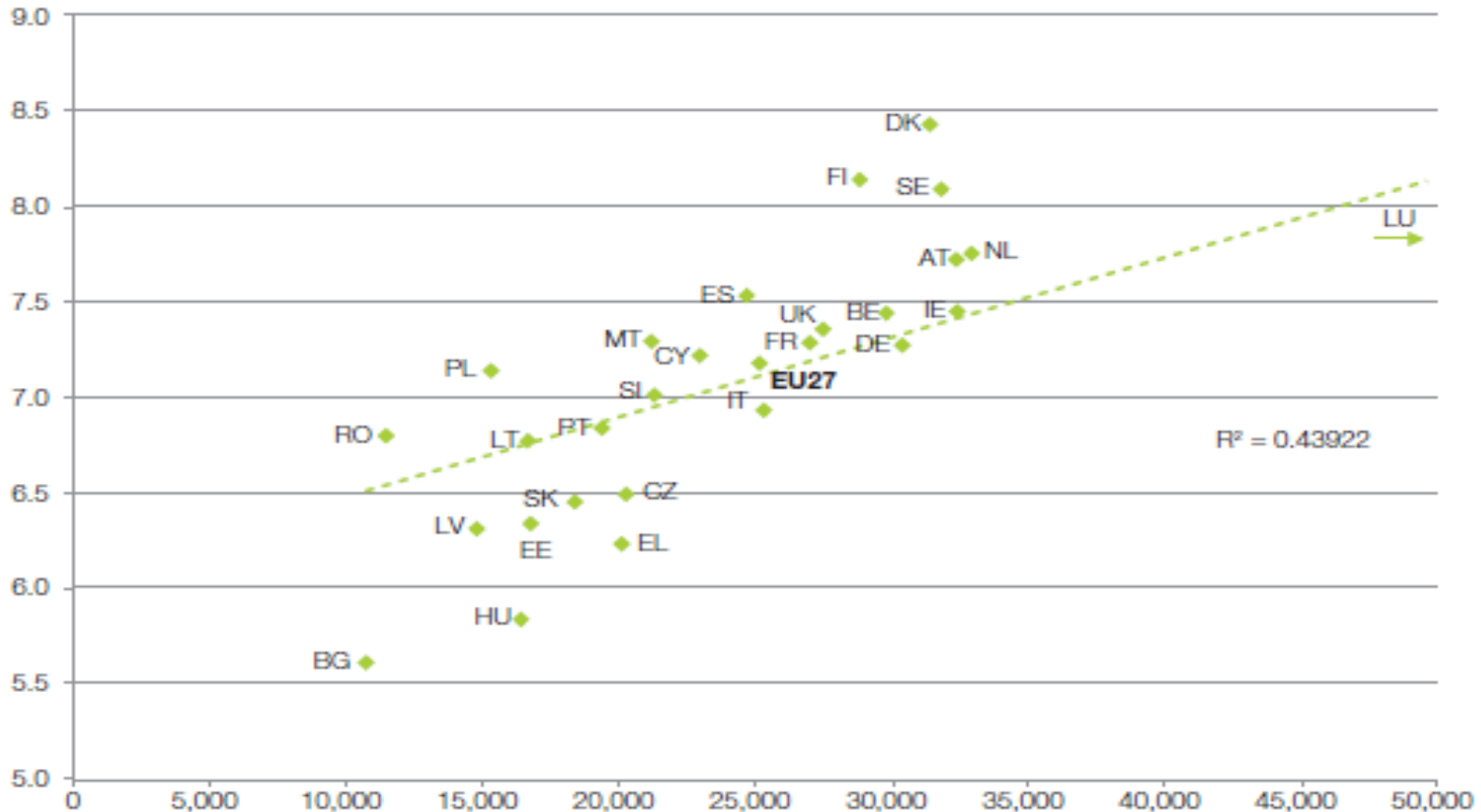
	<i>2003</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2011</i>
Country coverage	28	31	34
Sample size	600-1000	1000-2000	1000-3000
Total # of int. in EU27	26,000	31,500	35,000





Overview report (2012)	Based on EQLS 2011-12 results in EU27, expected by the end of 2012
Analytical reports (2013)	Trends in quality of life 2003-2007-2011 Subjective well-being and quality of life Quality of society and public services Social inequalities in quality of life
Survey results on SMT (end2012/13)	Check EF web-site http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/smt/eqls/results.htm
Data file (2013)	Freely available on UK Data Archive (university of Essex) ⁶

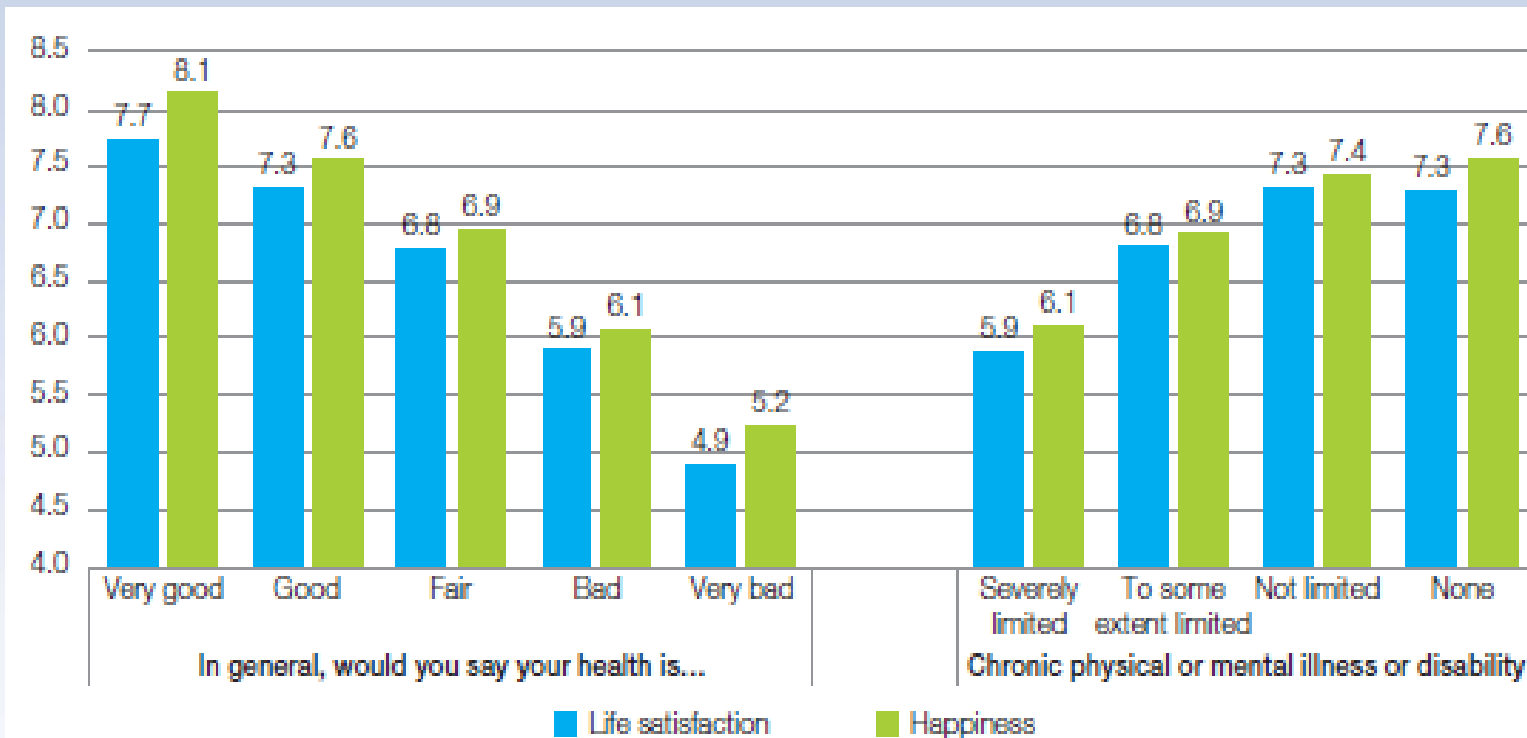
Correlation between life satisfaction (on a scale 1-10) and GDP per capita



Note: for GDP per capita: Eurostat, 2012; all data is from 2011, except for Bulgaria, Poland and Romania (2010 data)

The R^2 value is the square of the Pearson correlation coefficient. It shows the extent of variation in a dependent variable explained by an independent variable. The value of 0 means that none of the variance is explained, and the value of 1 indicates that 100% of the variance is explained.

Life satisfaction and happiness, by health status (on a scale from 1-10)

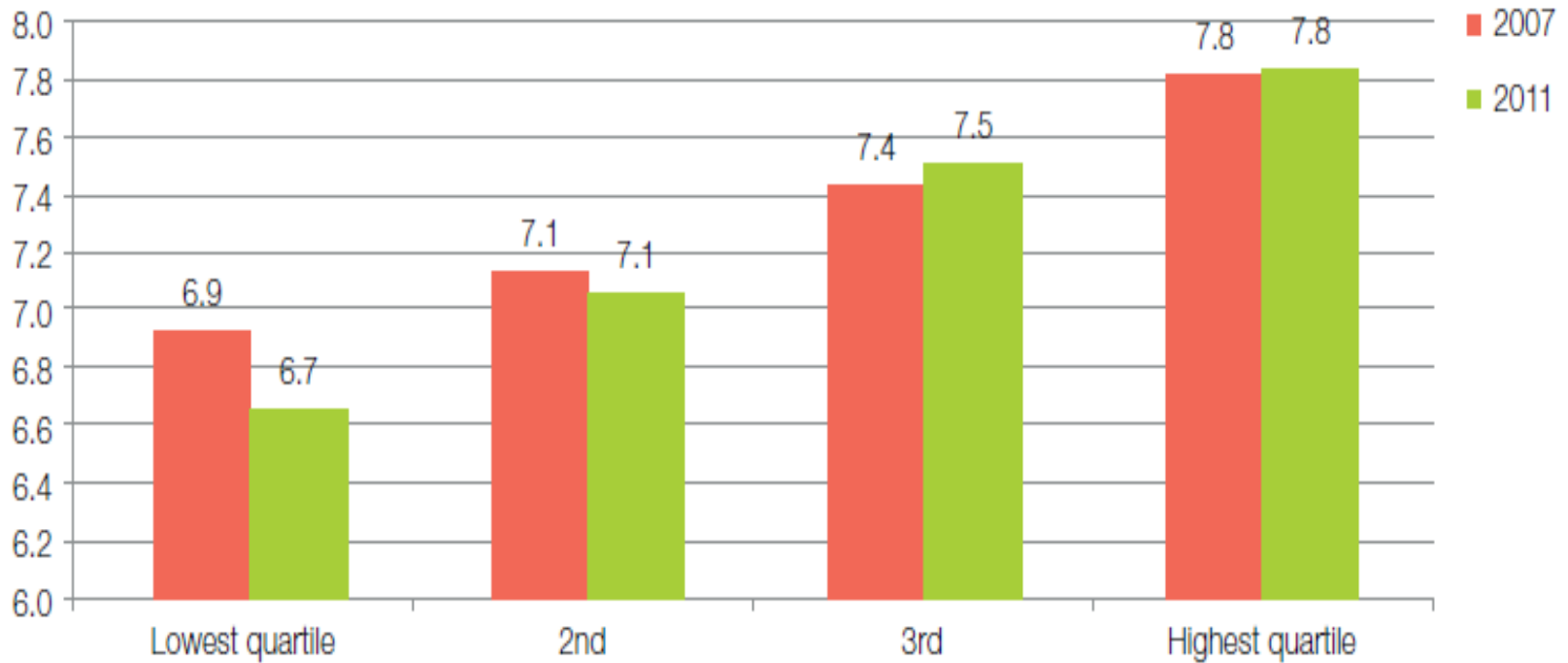


Note: Q42 In general, would you say your health is...

Q43 Do you have any chronic (long-standing) physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?

Q44 Are you limited in your daily activities by this physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?

Satisfaction with health by income level, 2011 and 2007 (scale 1-10)



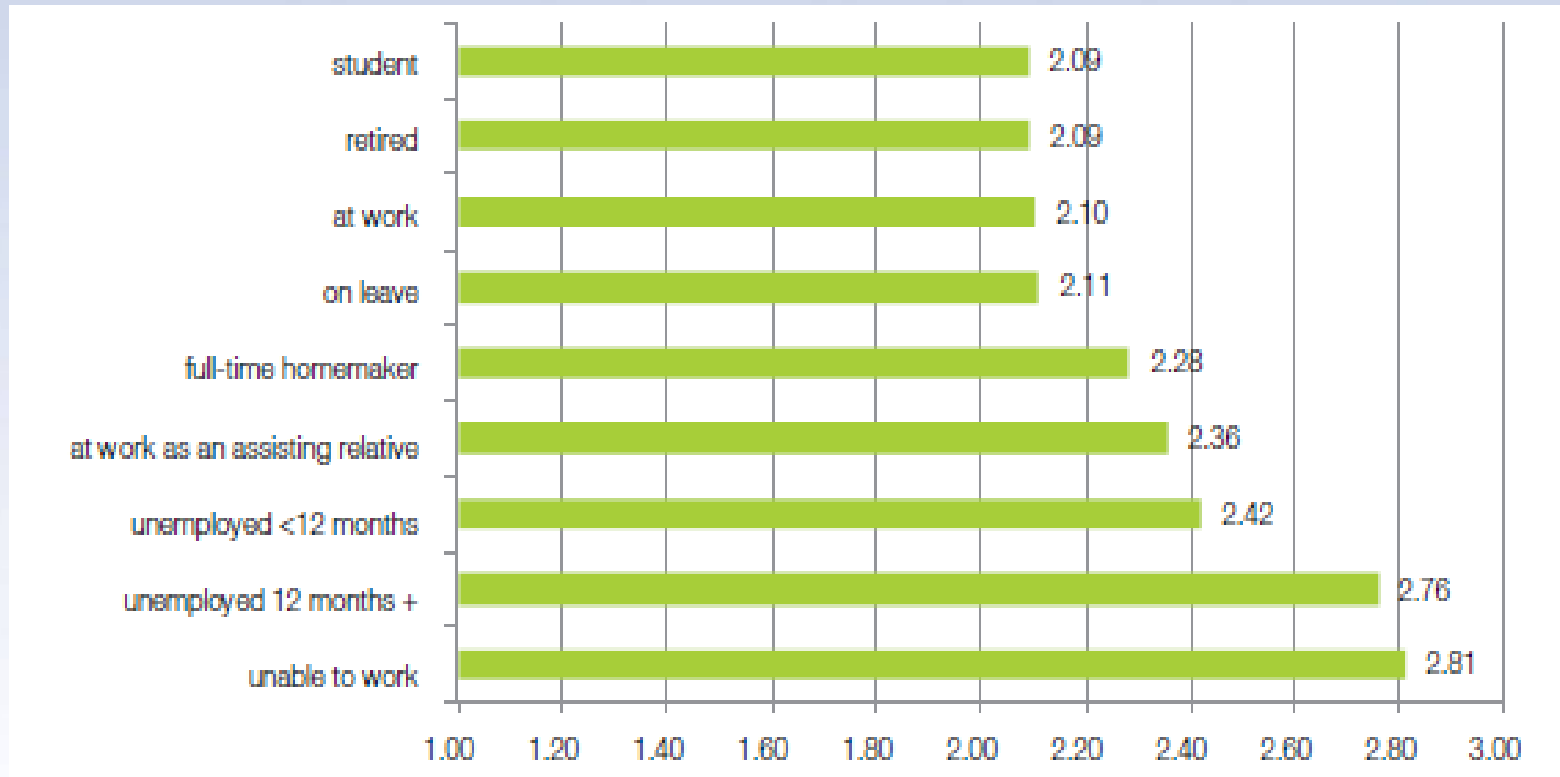
Note: Q40(f): Could you please tell me on a scale of 1 to 10 how satisfied you are with... f) Your health, where 1 means you are very dissatisfied and 10 means you are very satisfied?

Measures of perceived social exclusion (%)

	Agree and strongly agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree and strongly disagree
I feel left out of society	10.5	11.0	78.5
Life has become so complicated today that I almost can't find my way	20.7	16.8	62.5
I feel that the value of what I do is not recognised by others	21.2	20.1	58.8
Some people look down on me because of my job situation or income	15.1	12.1	72.8

Note: Q29. Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the statements above (strongly agree/agree/neither agree nor disagree/disagree/strongly disagree).

Perceived social exclusion index for EU27

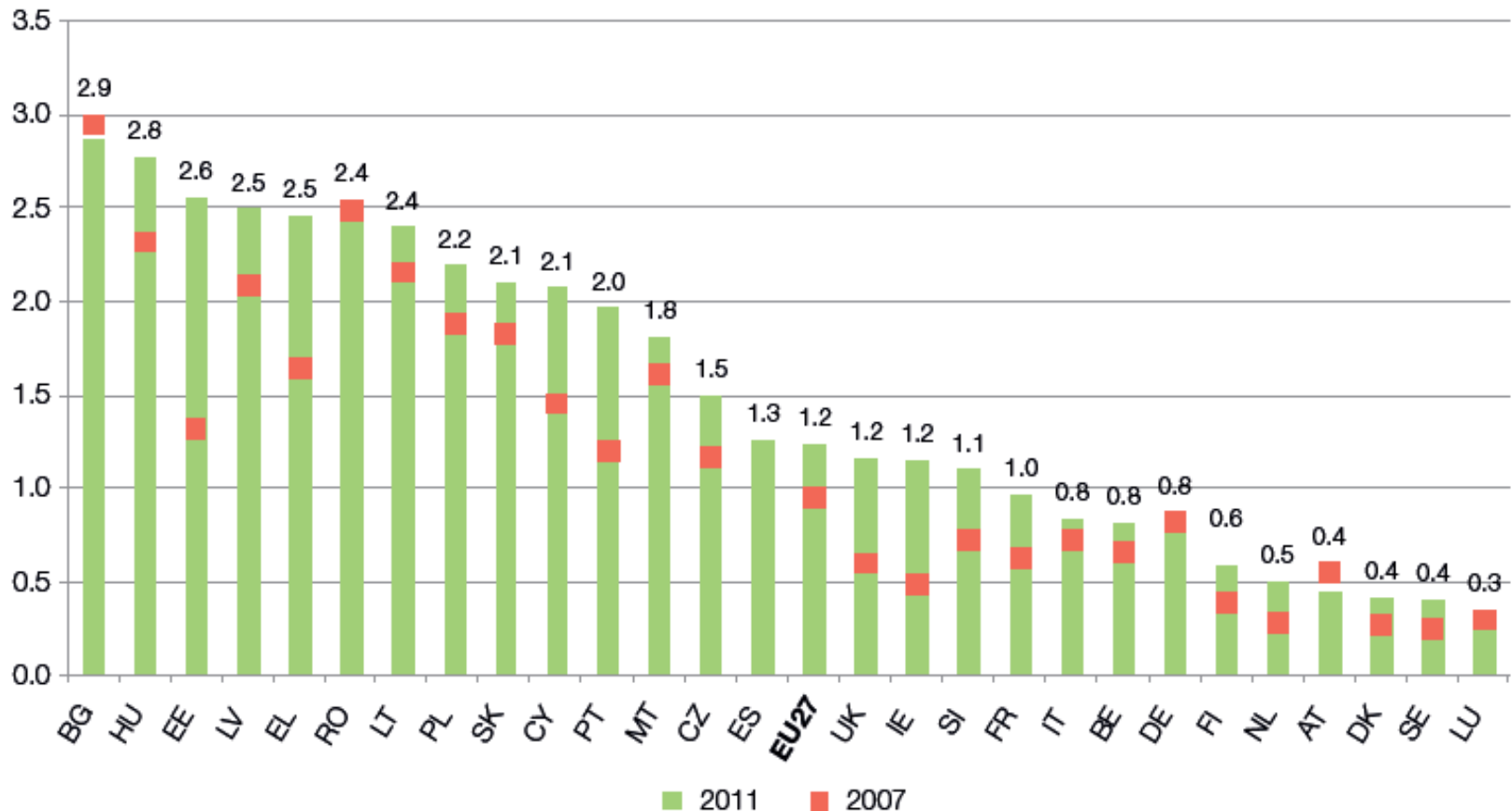


Survey questions: Could your household afford the following?

- Keeping the home adequately warm
- Paying for a week's annual holiday away from home (not staying with relatives)
- Having a meal with meat, chicken, fish every second day
- Replacing any worn-out furniture
- Buying new, rather than second-hand, clothes
- Having friends or family for a drink or meal at least once a month

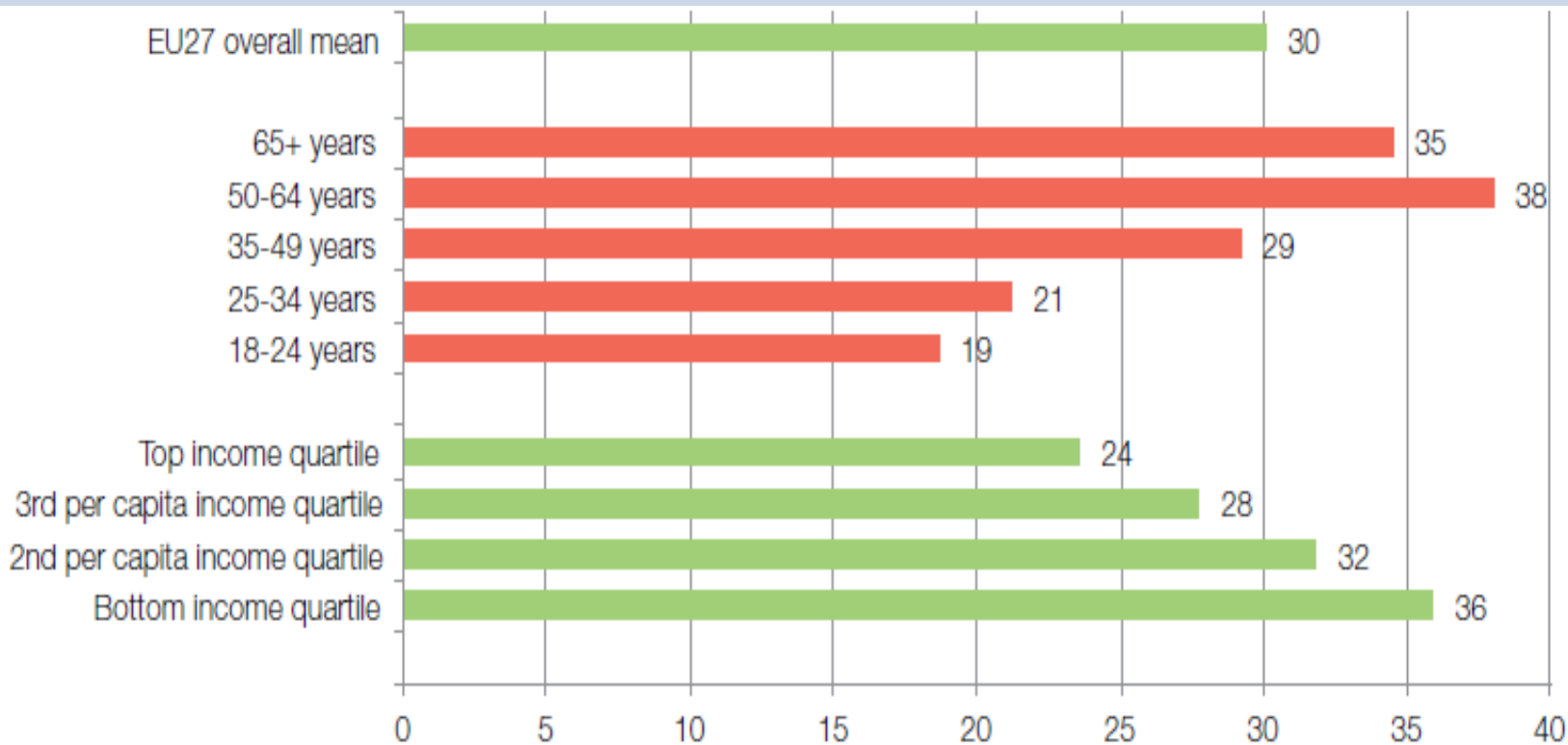
Europeans reporting that their households cannot afford at least one of these six items increased from 38% in 2007 to 45% in 2011.

Mean deprivation index, 2011 versus 2007



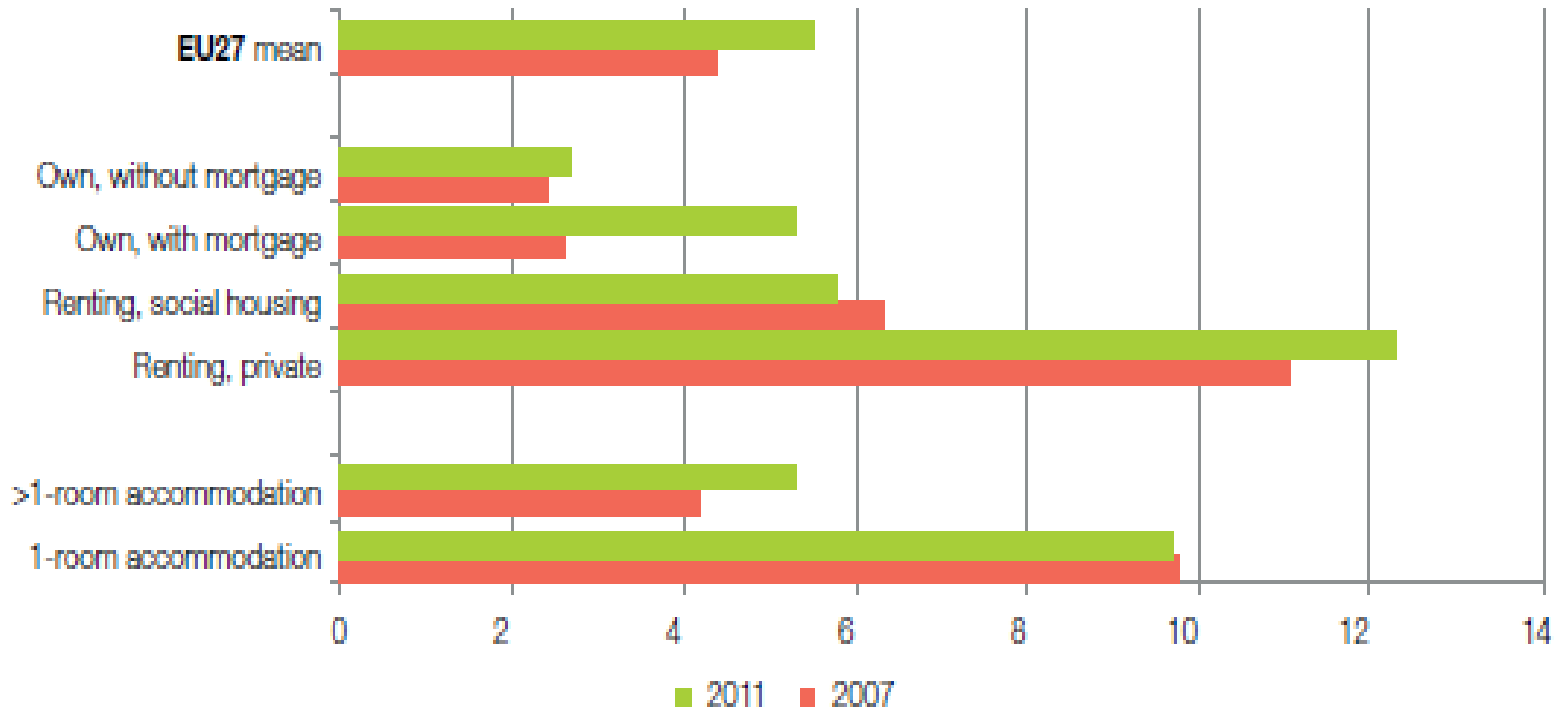
Note: Q59 There are some things that many people cannot afford, even if they would like them. For each of the following things on this card, can I just check whether your household can afford it if you want it? Yes, can afford if want; No, cannot afford it. Measured on a scale of 0–6 items people can afford.

Expectations of household's financial situation, by age & income groups (% believing it will get worse)



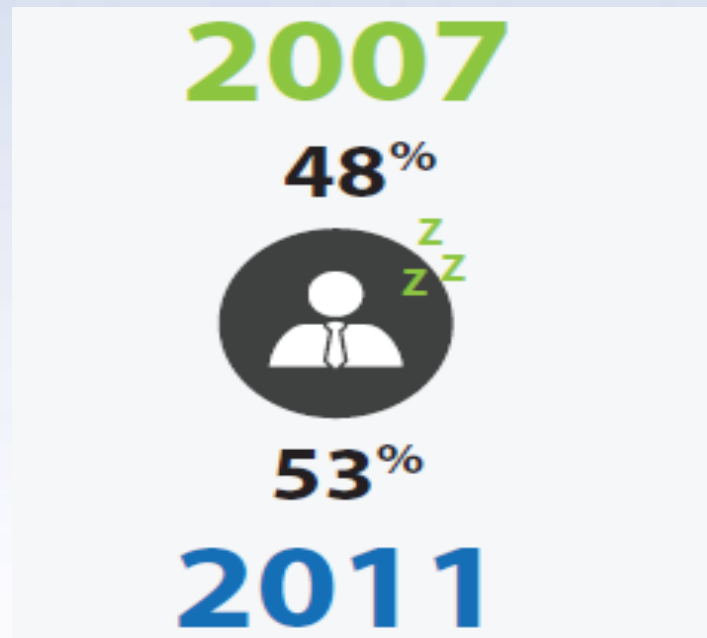
Note: Q66 'When it comes to the financial situation of your household, what are your expectations for the 12 months to come, will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same?'

Likelihood of need to leave accommodation due to unaffordability (%)



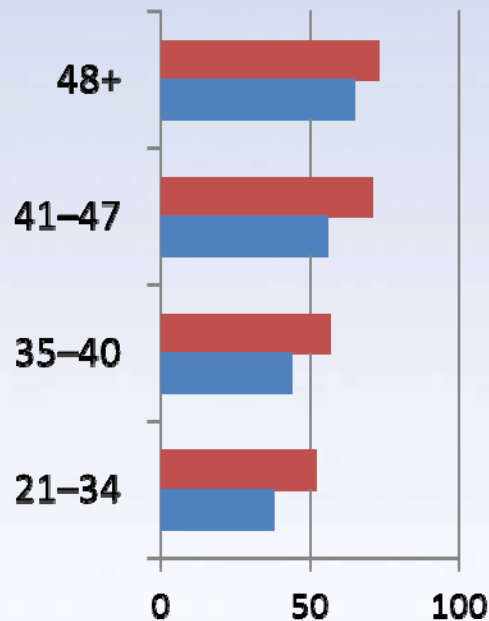
Note: Q20: How likely or unlikely do you think it is that you will need to leave your accommodation within the next six months because you can no longer afford it? Is it... 1) Very likely; 2) Quite likely; 3) Quite unlikely; 4) Very unlikely.

**I have come home from work too tired to do household jobs
that need to be done**
/ several times a month /

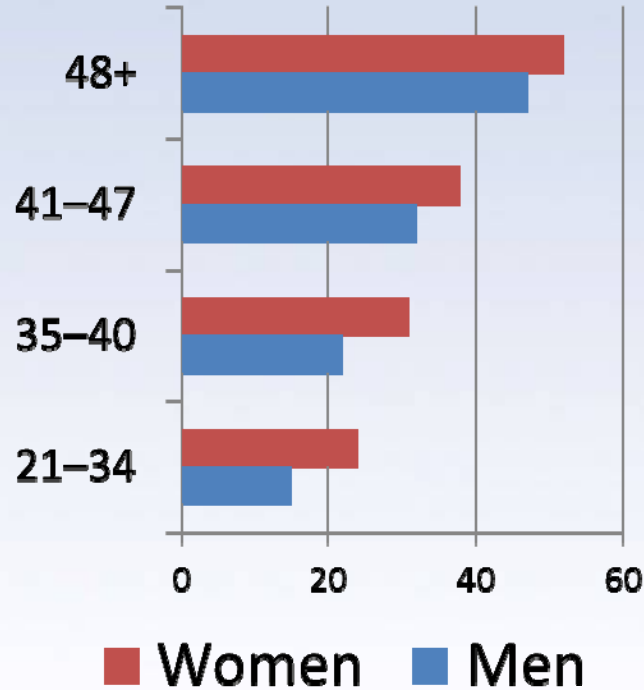


Challenges of work-life balance by working hours (% at least several times a month)

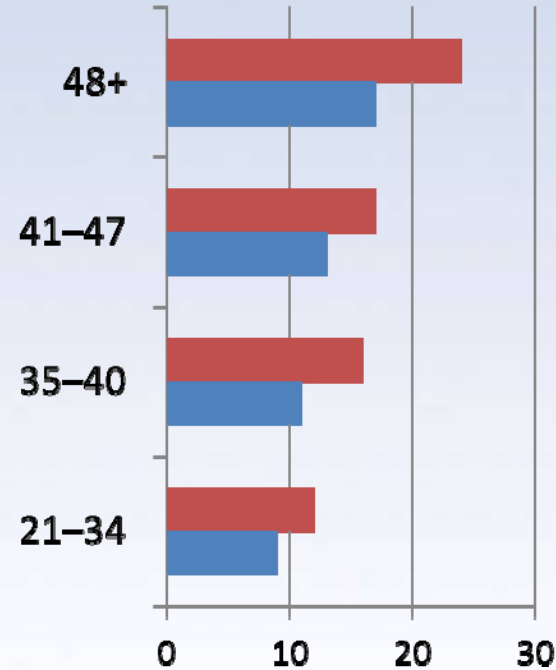
Too tired to do household jobs



Family responsibilities suffer

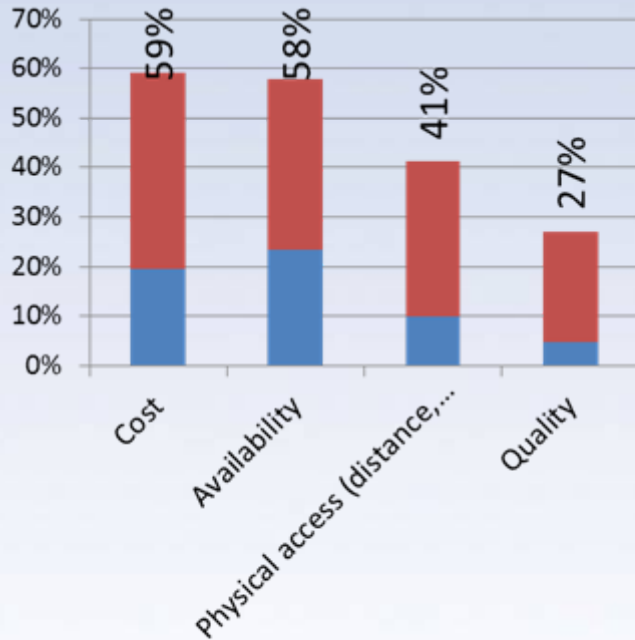


Difficult to concentrate at work

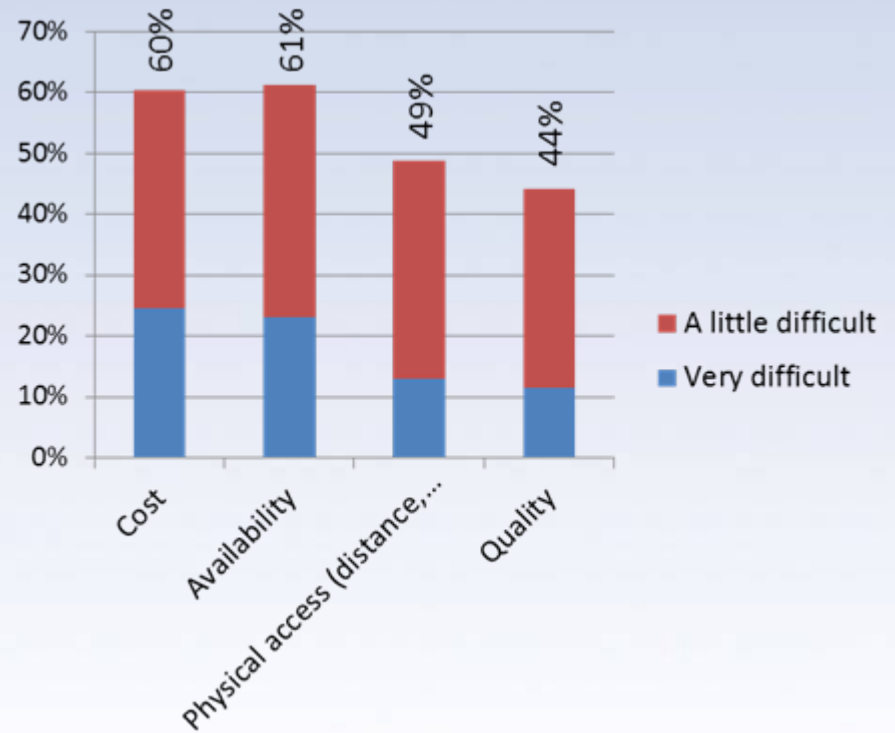


Factors making it difficult to use the services

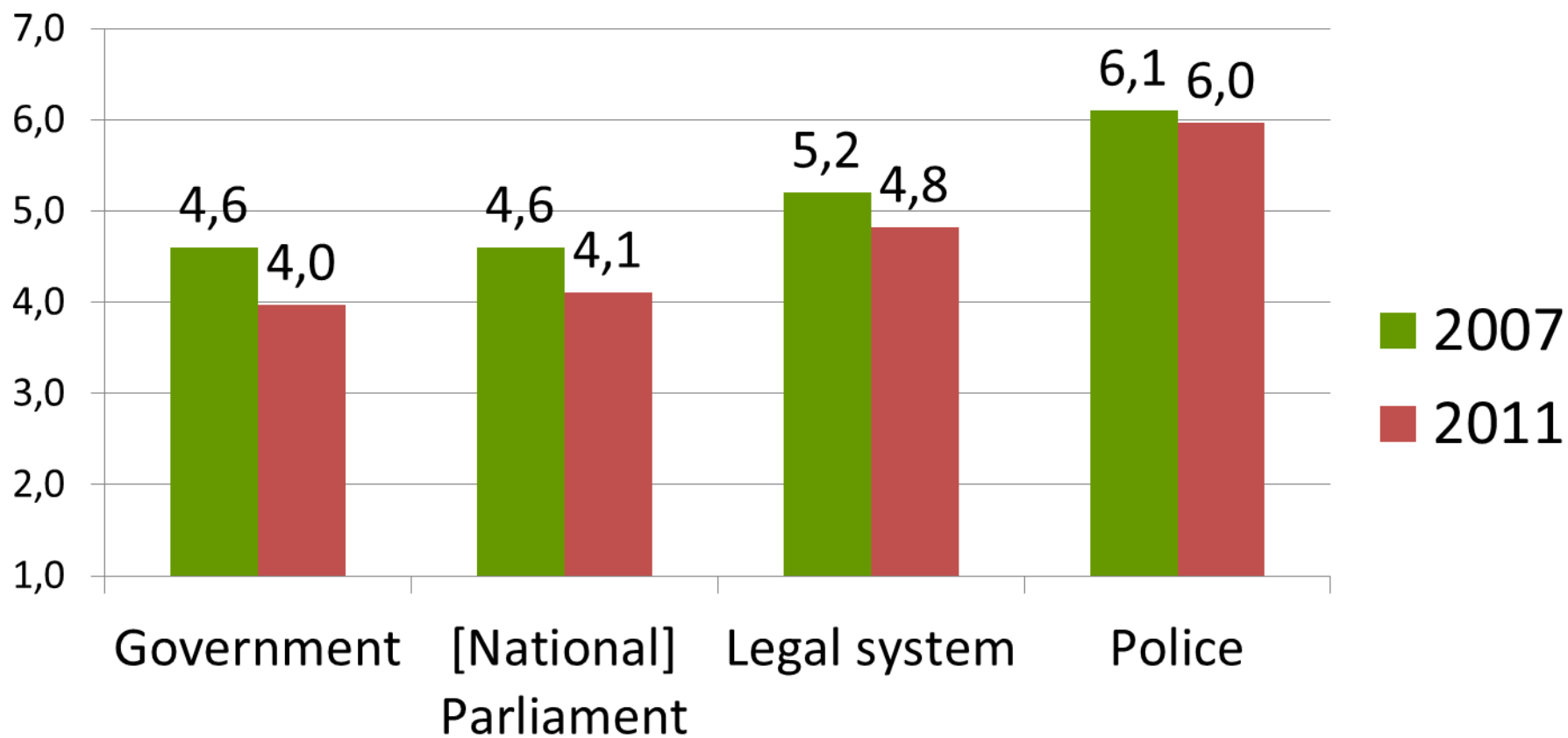
Child care



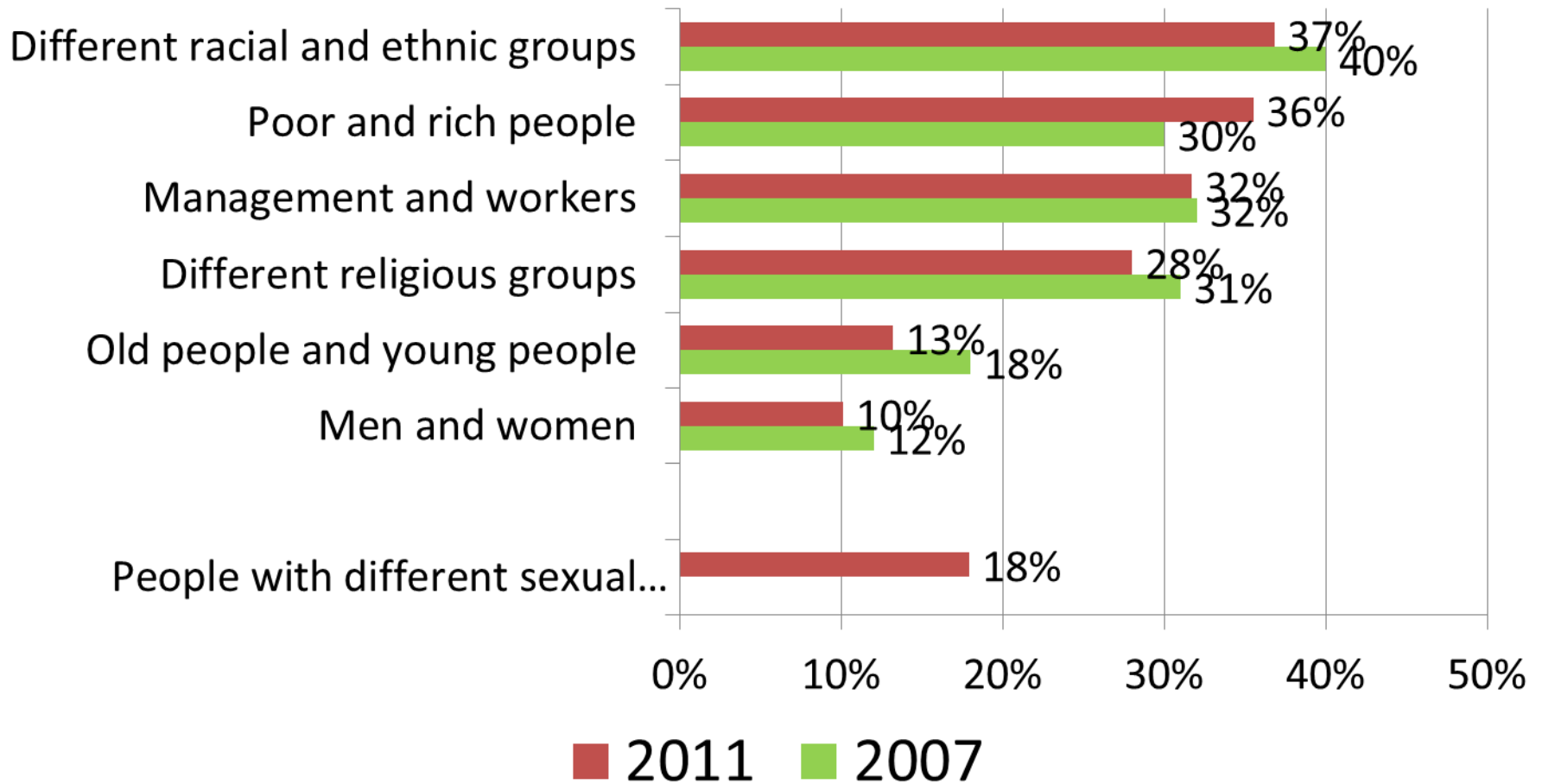
Long term care



Trust in public institutions EU level



How much tension is there between ...?



- **Impact of the crisis:** decline in happiness and optimism is apparent;
- **Devastating impact of unemployment**, especially long-term: not only economic but also social and human costs;
- **Vulnerable groups:**
 - ▶ older people in eastern Europe (standard of living and poor health);
 - ▶ Growing number of **lone parent** households – need to address not only income situation, but also social and employment integration;
 - ▶ Job and housing (tenure) insecurity goes across many segments of society
- Role of **family remains** important for life satisfaction and as a source of support:
 - ▶ the role of women in care has not diminished;
 - ▶ work-life reconciliation difficulties increase (note working time arrangements and eldercare responsibilities).

- A growing proportion of people identify tensions between the rich and poor. Such social tensions are particularly among those who are most disadvantaged by low income or unemployment.
- The cost of services appears to be an important barrier for access to childcare and long-term care and is increasingly reported as a problem for access to health services.
- Not all measures to address social exclusion can be through the labour market or even through improving income; people involved in associations and doing voluntary work feel less excluded. There is a need to increase opportunities for civic and political involvement.
- There is declining trust in key political institutions, specifically in governments and parliaments at national level; and this is particularly evident in the countries most affected by the economic crisis.