

"European Policies to Support Families with Children"



Family law is the competence of EU countries, and EU rules apply only in cross-border cases.

Children's wellbeing

Information on the responsibilities of divorced parents towards their children.

Property of international couples (marriages and registered partnerships)

Property of international couples (marriages and registered partnerships): how to manage it and divide it in case of divorce, separation or death

Successions and wills

EU rules on international succession.

Divorce and separation

Information on divorce law applicable in cases of international couples in the EU.

Public documents

The Union facilitates the free movement of citizens by simplifying the circulation of public documents.

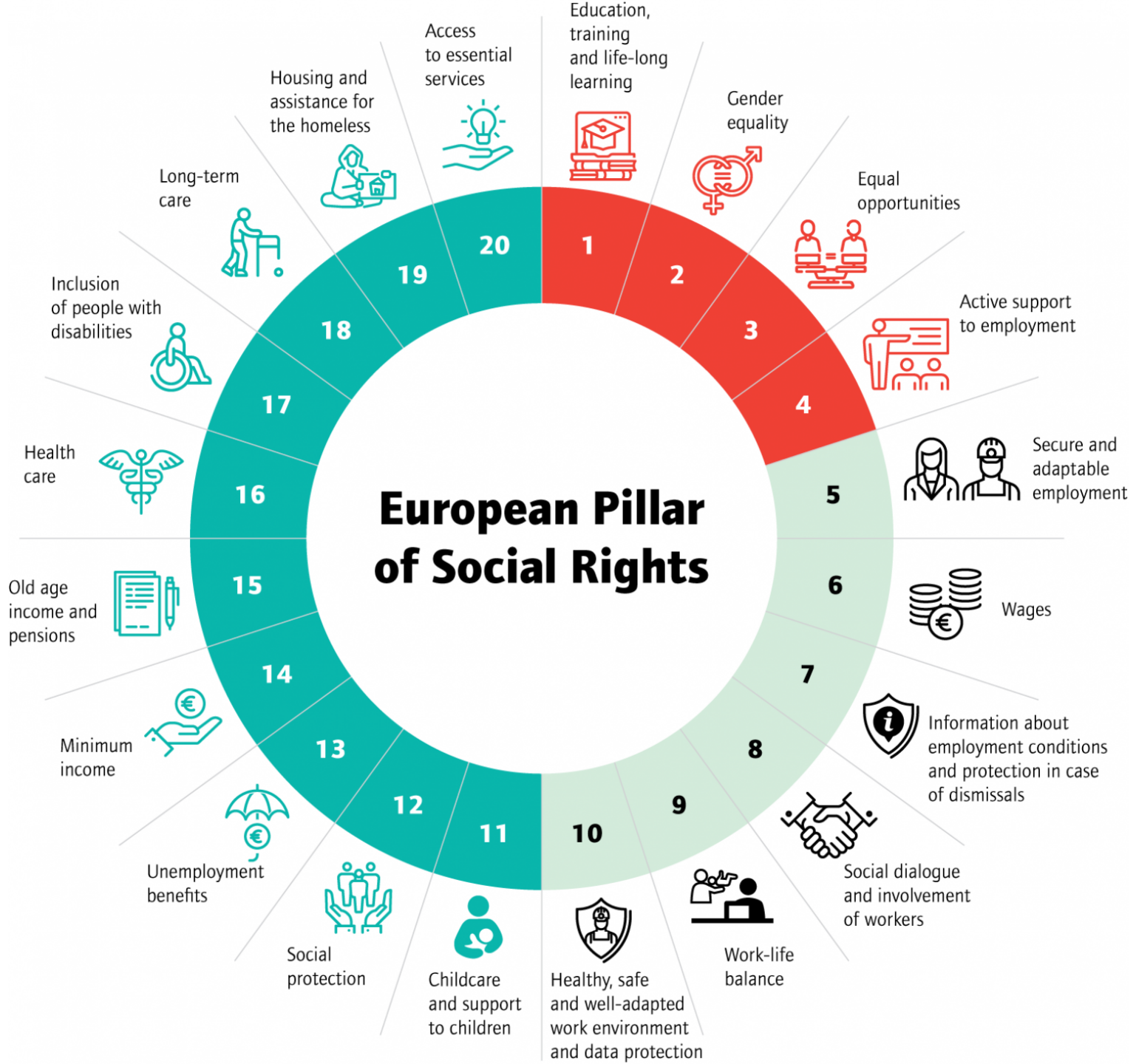
Overview of family matters

Family law issues from the European point of view.

Recognition of parenthood between Member States

Proposal to facilitate the recognition in a Member State of the parenthood established in another Member State.

from the European website





Dubravka Šuica, Vice President-designate, Democracy and Demography

Demographic change in the EU has an impact on

- **the labour market** - as Europe's working-age population is shrinking sustaining economic growth requires us to bring more people into the labour market and/or to increase productivity through technological advances and skills development
- **employment** - as people live longer and healthier lives, many citizens want to work longer, although not necessarily in the same kind of jobs.
- **care services** - the growing share of older people in the EU brings an increased need for care services and challenges the long-term financial sustainability of our welfare states
- **demographic balance** - demographic trends do not affect every country and every region in the same way. Whereas a number of EU Member States are projected to experience a decline in their population already in the next years, others are projected to see population growth over the same period
- **rural areas** - generally speaking, rural regions are more affected by population decline due to natural changes and outmigration than predominantly urban ones
- **Europe's position in the world** - as the EU's share of the global population is projected to continue falling in the coming decades, the need for close cooperation at all levels to ensure the competitiveness of our Single Market becomes ever more pressing

DEMOGRAPHIC WINTER IN EUROPE

Falling birth rates, aging and depopulation are changing the face of cities. Small municipalities are emptying out and dying. Companies are also suffering the consequences of the demographic crisis: young talents are leaving and it is increasingly difficult to find qualified, capable and young personnel.



Causes:

economic insecurity
job insecurity of young people
both parents work
late motherhood
loneliness
precarious relationships
individualistic culture
no-child culture
lack of work-life balance measures
lack of support from State,
Municipalities and Companies
.....

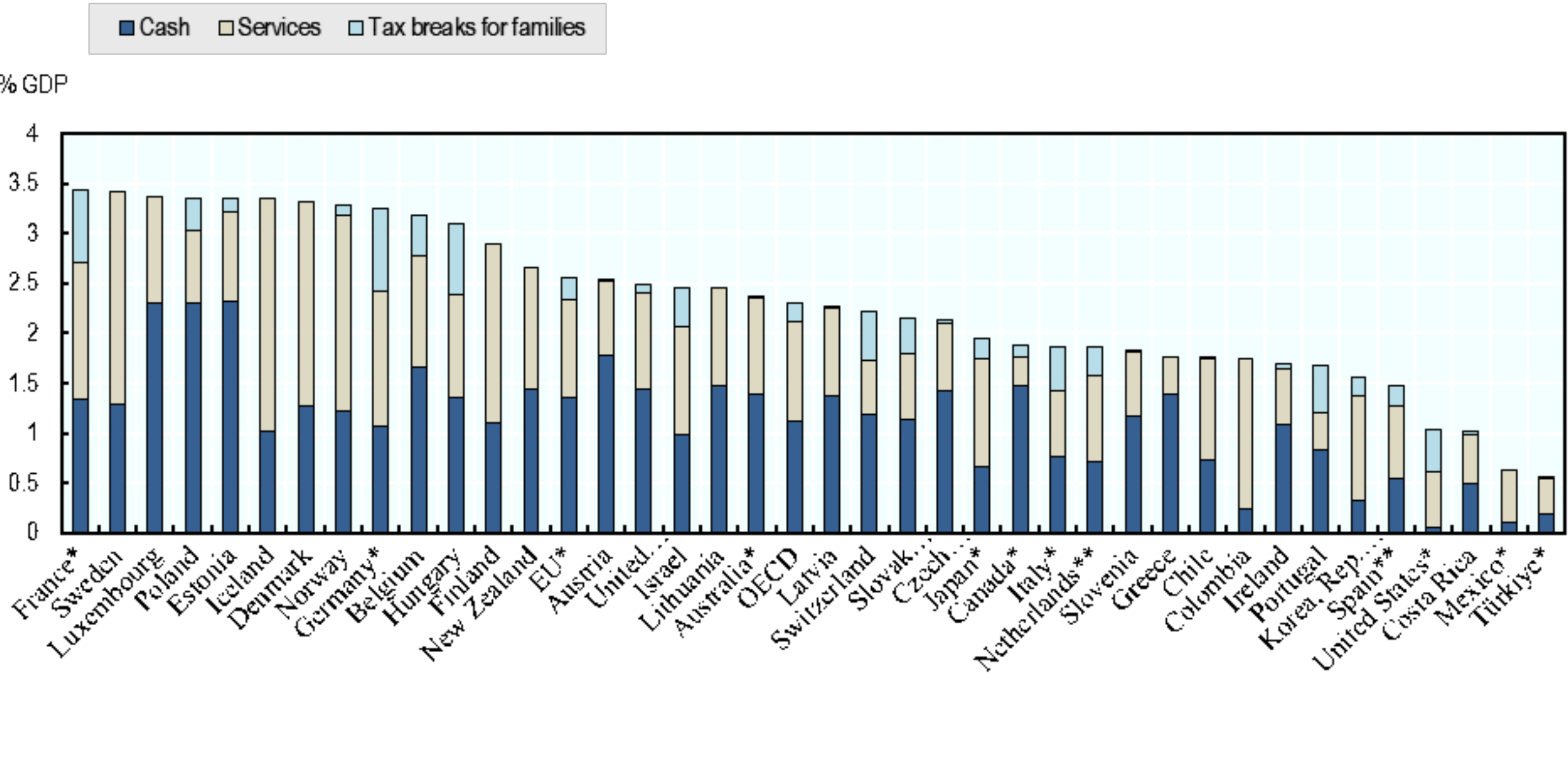
Consequences:

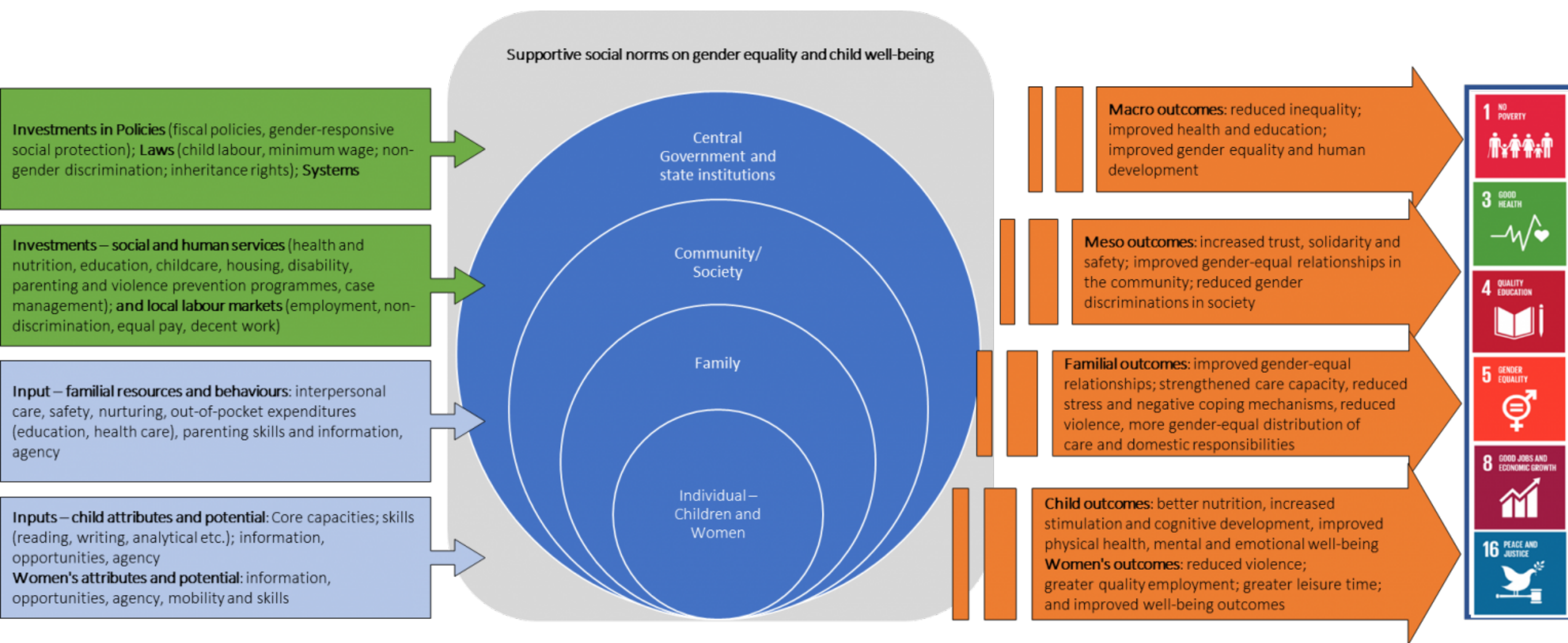
drop in GDP
decline and aging of the population
unsustainability of the pension, healthcare and social welfare systems
brains drain and migration
depopulation of rural areas
loneliness
less innovation, entrepreneurship, market, services
difficulty in finding qualified and reliable personnel
For SMEs: unsustainable costs for maternity, training and work life balance.

The drop in the birth rate in Italy:

- 1.24 average number of children per woman, among the lowest in the world;
- 31.4 years of age for mothers with their first child, record in Europe;
- 30 years, average age of leaving the home;
- 1.6 marriages for every 1,000 inhabitants;
- 33.8 years, average age of the spouses

GDP INVESTED IN FAMILY POLICIES 2019





CURRENT WELL-BEING

Key dimensions



How we measure them



RESOURCES FOR FUTURE WELL-BEING

Key dimensions



How we measure them



OECD AND WELLBEING

FAMILY WELLBEING

family well-being as a goal of family policy. Family policy is defined as all actions of governments that affect families, directly or indirectly, explicitly or implicitly, intentionally or not. Three frameworks are presented together with their underlying assumptions and concepts for assessing the extent to which such policies meet the family well-being criterion: family systems theory, exchange and choice theories, and family stress theory. The application of such frameworks allows for a more holistic and contextual approach to the conceptualization of family well-being and the implications of policies that governments enact that affect families.

Well-being is recognized as a fundamental human goal and a universal human aspiration. However, some cross-country studies suggest that the desirability of the most often studied concept of well-being—personal life satisfaction—varies across countries, and we know little about the desirability of other types of well-being. focusing on the family (as compared to the individual) as the subject of well-being, in four countries that tend to occupy different positions in rankings of personal life satisfaction (i.e., Canada, Colombia, Japan, and Poland), we document that, irrespective of cultural context, family well-being is valued over personal well-being. These findings suggest that policy makers and scientists may need to pay more attention to family well-being than they currently do.

The well-being of a family as a whole is fundamentally important to thriving individuals and societies (McKeown and Sweeney [2001](#)), for positive parenting and child well-being (Newland [2015](#)), and for couples (Johnson et al. [2006](#); Kamp Dush et al. [2008](#)). Family well-being provides a foundation for positive parenting and child well-being. Many previous studies have outlined the possible connections between family well-being, parenting, and child well-being, yet translating research into practice continues to be problematic. The purpose of this article is to review the current literature (from 2000 to 2014) on family and child well-being in order to create a model of well-being that is useful for both researchers and practitioners. The model builds upon Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, addresses family well-being (parental well-being, family self-sufficiency, and family resiliency), developmental parenting (affection, responsiveness, encouragement, teaching, engagement, positive discipline, and co-parenting), and child well-being (physical and mental health, self-regulation, social and cognitive competence).

3 Recommendations to the G20, India July 2023

In light of the significant challenge ahead, we suggest a set of three recommendations for G20 member and guest countries.

Make a commitment to advancing gender-equitable, integrated family policies that promote child well-being and gender equality to achieve sustainable development.

The G20 governments are urged to:

- implement mandatory national policies for paid leave for parents and caregivers in both formal and informal economies; and
- support and facilitate exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months by providing time and space for mothers to breastfeed as long as they choose.

Increase investments in benefits and services that provide care and support during the critical early years of a child's life and ensure that resources are distributed equitably to support care and parenting.

The G20 governments are urged to :

- progressively provide for universal access to affordable quality childcare;
- gradually implement universal child benefits; and
- invest in evidence-based family violence prevention programmes.

Recommendation #3: Ensure sufficient public and private funding and build broad-based political consensus on family policies as a top national priority.

The G20 heads of state/governments and finance ministers are urged to:

- allocate and redistribute resources towards establishing comprehensive national family policies that incorporate multiple sectors, coordinate diverse stakeholders, and benefit all families, while promoting gender equality and foundational child well-being; and
- promote widespread political backing for investments in national systems of family policies to ensure their sustainability over time, generate long-term benefits, and aid millions of families globally.

What would *you* recommend?

To your Country
to Europe