

FAMILY INSTITUTION IN THE CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN SOCIETY



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MAIN CHANGES IN EUROPEAN FAMILY PATTERN



Decline in marriage and birth rates

Rise in mean age at marriage

Emergence of non-traditional family forms

Fragility of families and high divorce rate

MARRIAGES



Since 1964, the marriage rate in the EU has declined by close to 50 %.

Causes:

- **Cultural** - decreased importance of marriage from a religious and civil point of view, popularity of cohabitation;
- **Economic** - lack of jobs, large debts and rising property costs

The highest marriage rates:

- Lithuania, Cyprus and Malta

The lowest marriage rates:

- Portugal, Slovenia and Italy

BIRTH RATE IN THE EU



Households with children in the EU (2017 data)



47%

have **one** child



40%

have **two** children



13%

have **three or more** children

of which



15%

are **lone** parents

DIVORCE



- Divorce rates in the EU more than doubled between 1965 and 2013
- It has been legal to seek a divorce in all Member States since legislation in Malta in October 2011
- The lowest divorce rates are often recorded in those Member States where adherence to religious and traditional family values form
- Divorce rates peaked in Lithuania and Denmark
- The lowest divorce rate was in Croatia, Italy, Greece and Slovenia

CONSENSUAL UNIONS



- **Consensual unions** is the situation when two persons belong to the same household are not married to or in a registered partnership with each other
- Among young people aged 20 to 29, 15 % live in a consensual union in the EU
- The highest proportions observed in Sweden, Estonia, France and the lowest in Greece, Poland, Malta and Croatia

Pros. It enables the partners to test their suitability without damaging personal or financial commitment

Cons. Fragility of unmarried unions



GERMAN FAMILY MODELS

FAMILY LIFE IN GERMANY

The importance of it

- Fundamentally essential
- Unique personal relationship with each family member and support
- Place where an individual's eccentricity can be fully revealed
- Helps to reach full potential



TRADITIONAL GERMAN FAMILY & GENDER ROLES

- Mother, father, one or three children
- Grandparents don't live in the same building
- Both parents work (usually women work part-time)
- Gender does not dictate a person's role or duty
- Women enjoy equal rights



MARRIAGES & DIVORCES

- Alike as in most other European countries
- The minimum marriage age is 18
- Most Germans marry in their late 20s
- The number of divorces has fallen to its lowest level in 25 years
- In 2017 around 150,000 divorces (9000 times fewer than the previous year)
- Non-residential parent has to pay child support to the residential parent



TOLERANCE TO OTHER FAMILY FORMS

- Legal same-sex unions are new
- Since 2001, same-sex couples have been permitted to register their partnership
- Same-sex couples in a registered union still do not have the same rights and obligations as legally married heterosexual couples



FAMILY ALLOWANCES

- Mixed system of child benefits and tax allowances
- Virtually universal and paid monthly
- Amounts varying depending on the number of children in the family
- Paid until the child is 18
- Special benefits for single parents (around 1,300 euros per child)



CHALLENGES DUE TO “OPEN DOOR POLICY”

- Threatens the values and idea of a traditional family
- Much more marriages with foreigners
- Low percentage of real Germans





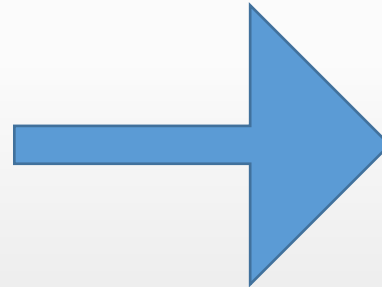
Swedish Family Models

CHANGES IN FAMILY INSTITUTION



Social changes:

- Increased levels of education
- Female labor force participation
- More flexible gender roles
- Changes in ideals and values (especially regarding family life and sexual relations)

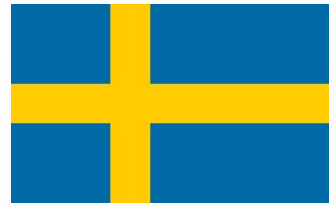


Increase of the age of first marriage

Fewer people marrying

More couples choose cohabitation over marriage

MARRIAGE REGULATION



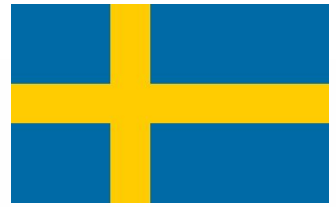
Marriage is gender-neutral

Marriageable age - 18 years or above

Marriages between persons of direct blood relation are prohibited by law

Polygamy is prohibited by law

DIVORCE REGULATION



The right to divorce in Sweden dates back to the sixteenth century

From 1734 matters of marital dissolution were to be handled by a local court of law instead of the cathedral chapter

In the new divorce law of 1974, it was stated that the individual reasons behind divorce should be regarded as a strictly private matter

COHABITATION (SAMBO RELATIONSHIPS)



In the 1970s Sweden was a leader in a tendency among young people to cohabit

Since the late 1980s, sambo relationships have entailed nearly the same legal rights and responsibilities as marriage

Today more than 50% of all children are born out-of-wedlock



Italian Family Models

ITALIAN FAMILIES TODAY



The increase in the number of singles

Increase in the number of couples without children

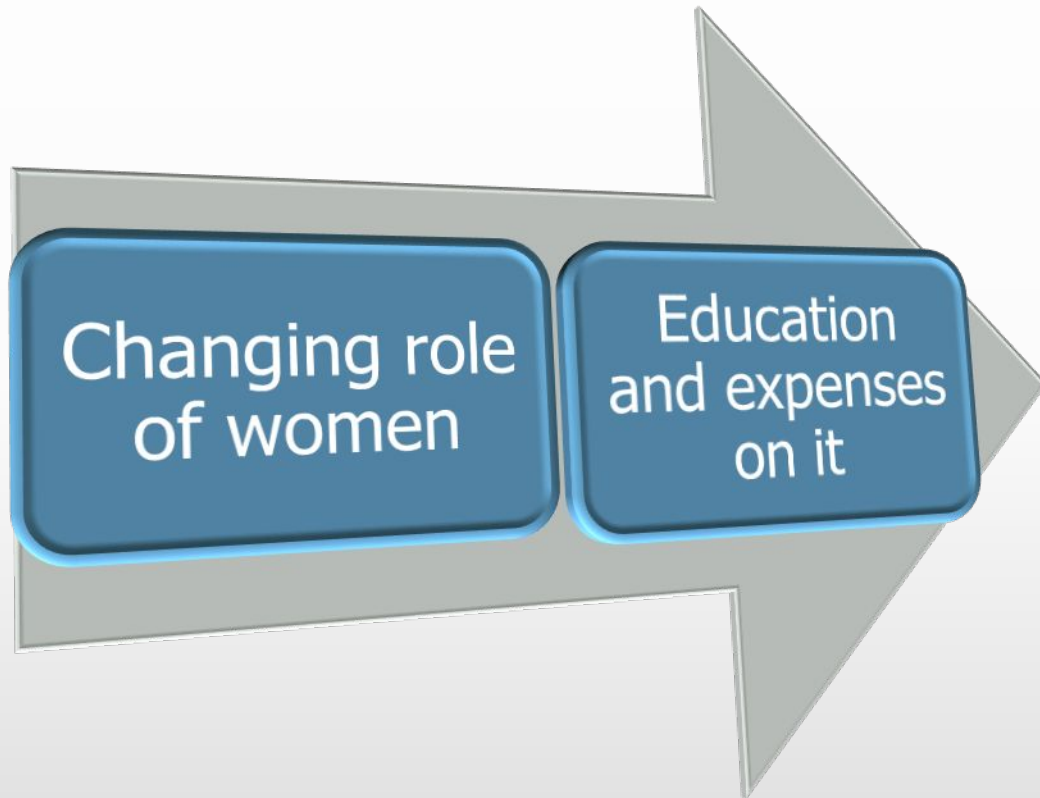
Decrease in the number of marriages

Rise in the number of single-parent families

Rise in the number of old couples

Reconstituted families

NEW FAMILY MODELS



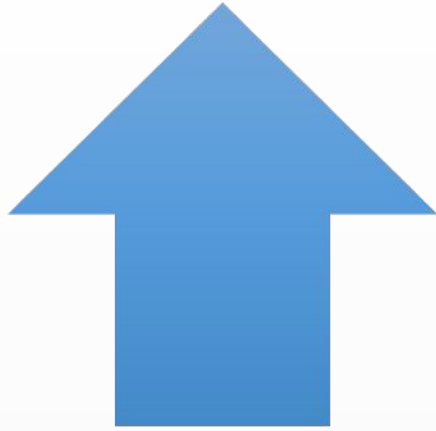
Families made up of singles

Not married couples

Couples without children

Single-parent families

CHANGES IN FAMILY INSTITUTION



The increase:

- Of the number of singles equals 25.9%
- Of couples without children equals 19.8%



The decrease:

- Of the number of couples with children - 39.5%
- Of number of big families - 5.1%



Family policy in each EU state can both be alike and have its own peculiarities at the same time