European Expert Group Meeting
“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion; ensuring work-family balance; advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity in Europe”

Convened as part of preparations for the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014 (Cfr. Report of the Secretary-General, Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014, A/67/61-E/2012/3)

6-8 June 2011
Work, fertility and the transition to parenthood:

Trends and their impact on work and family agenda

Dimiter Philipov
Total fertility rate in regions of the EU
(source: Eurostat and Human Fertility Database)

1. Decline and Postponement
2. Rebound
3. Effect of the recession
Changes in the mean age at first birth, Sweden

(source: HFD)
The work-family interface

1. Postponement: an outcome of the work-family dilemma, poverty and uncertainty.

The work-family dilemma is a problem of time-use. It can be solved with a postponement of some competing life paths.

Hence: “tempo” policies.

But: other reasons for postponement are poverty and uncertainty (with respect to crucial life events)
The work-family interface (beyond postponement)

2. Life-style preferences (Hakim 2001)

3. Gender equity:
   conflict between welfare and social norms
Work and the family in contemporary social life

Female employment and total fertility rates, 1980-2009

Female employment and total fertility rates, 1980 and 2009 (source: Fig.3.8 in OECD, 2011)

Note: The y-axis (total fertility rate) scale is 1.0-3.5 for 1980 and 1.0-2.2 for 2009.
Source: OECD (2010b), OECD Family Database, SF2.1.
Families in transition
(new forms)

- Childless couples
- Single parent
- Cohabiting couples
- Single-sex families
- Families of “others”: foreigners, other ethnicity ...
A broader view with respect to policy implications

• Are more children desired?
• A syndrome of postponement?
• Value of children?