

Ageing in a Rural Environment
2nd June 2009.

Health, Age and Work.

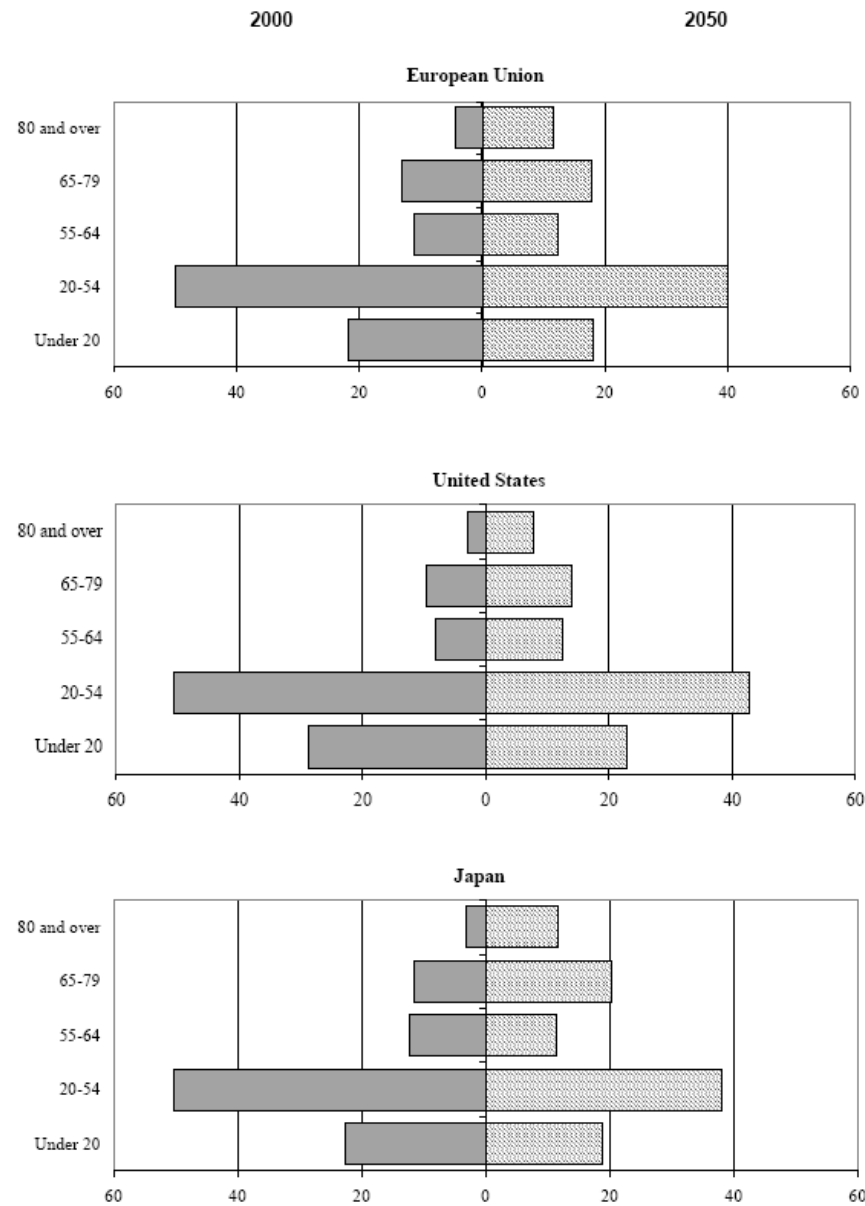
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An ageing population

- Life expectancy at birth and at age 65 has improved across all countries of the EU.
- In 2007, life expectancy at birth in the EU ranged from 74.5 – 80 years
- Better survival in old age accounts for most of this improvement.
- Predictions are for further increases in survival

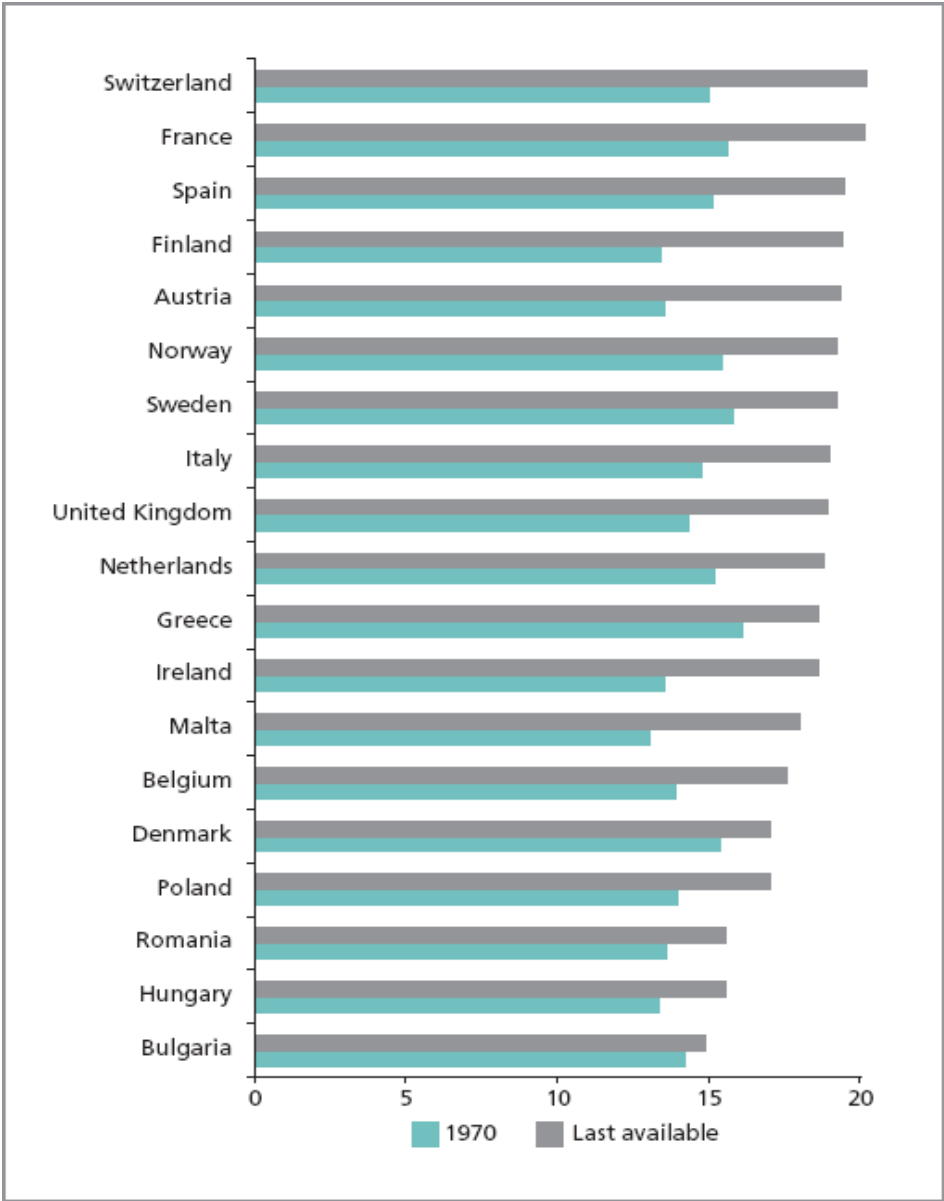


**POPULATION CHANGE,
EU, US AND JAPAN –
2000-2050**

Source: Eurostat; United Nations (1998).

Figure 2. Breakdown of age groups in major OECD zones: estimates and projections
Percentage of total population

Life expectancy at age 65 in selected European countries, 1970 and last available year

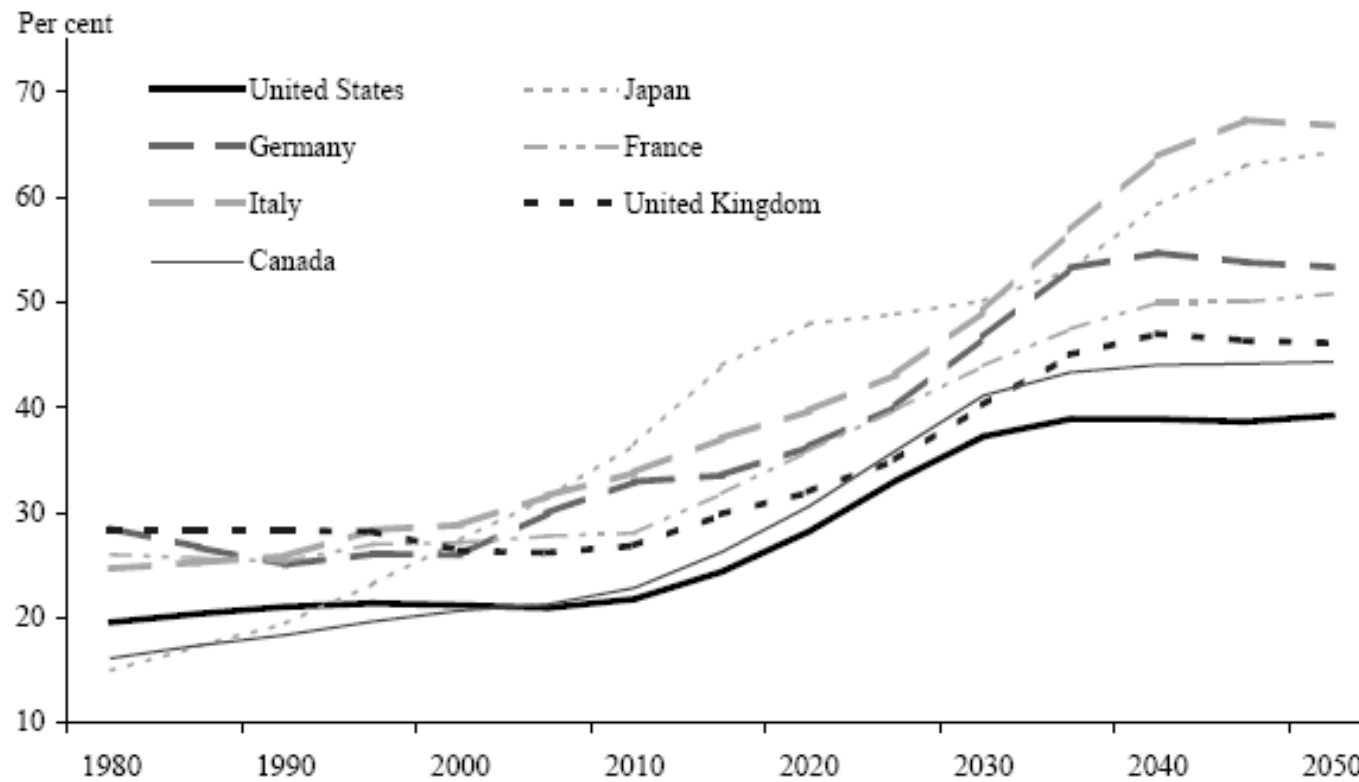


Source: WHO European Health for All Database, 2009 (4)

Dependency ratios internationally between 2010-2050

Where will dependency ratios rise most ? Projections within the G7 .

Figure 3. **Old-age dependency ratios in G7 countries**
Population aged 65 and over as a percentage of the working-age population (aged 20-64)

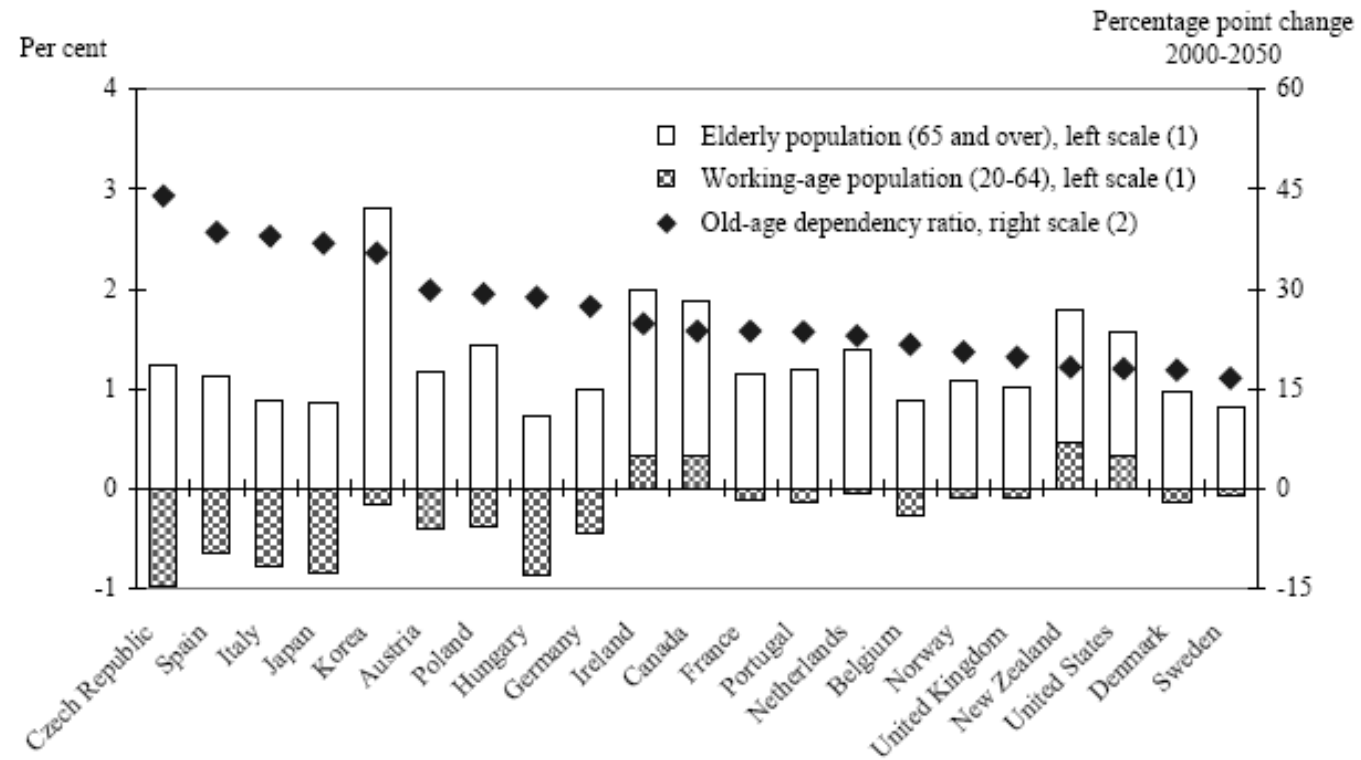


Source: Eurostat; United Nations (1998).

The dependency ratio in old age will rise by 2050

- It's a ratio. This does not describe the nature of the people in the numbers.
- The degree to which true 'dependency' rises depends on the health status of populations
- Dependency ratios are also influenced by the age of retirement, and pension allowances - matters of national policy.

Figure 4. Decomposition of the change in the old-age dependency ratio, 2000-2050

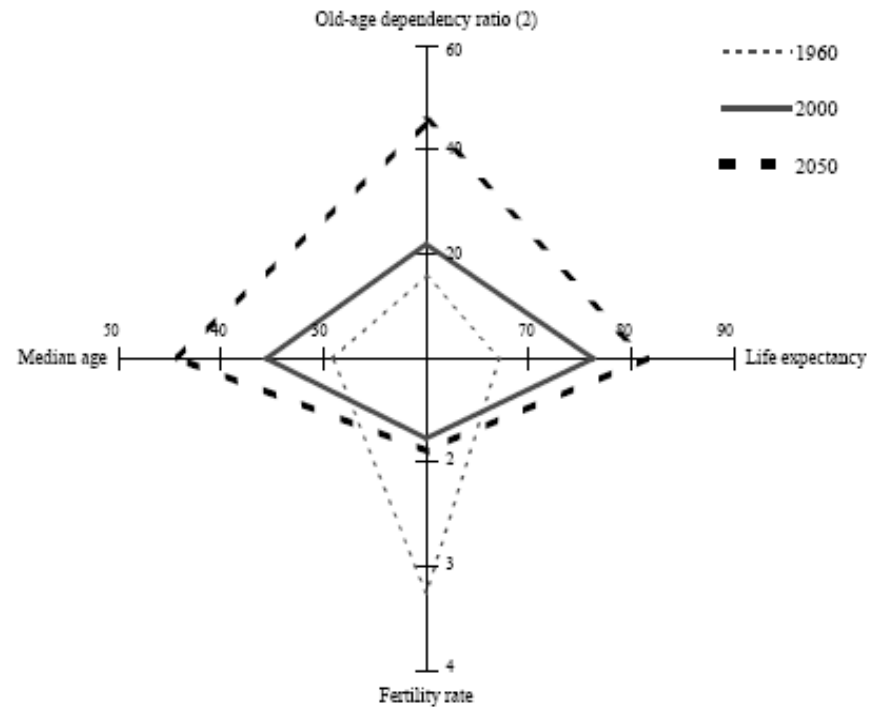


1. Annual average per cent change over the period 2000-2050.
2. Percentage point change in the old-age dependency ratio over the period 2000-2050.

Projections of old age dependency with the OECD area, 1960-2050

Reducing fertility, increasing longevity

Figure 1. Demographic pressures in the OECD area¹



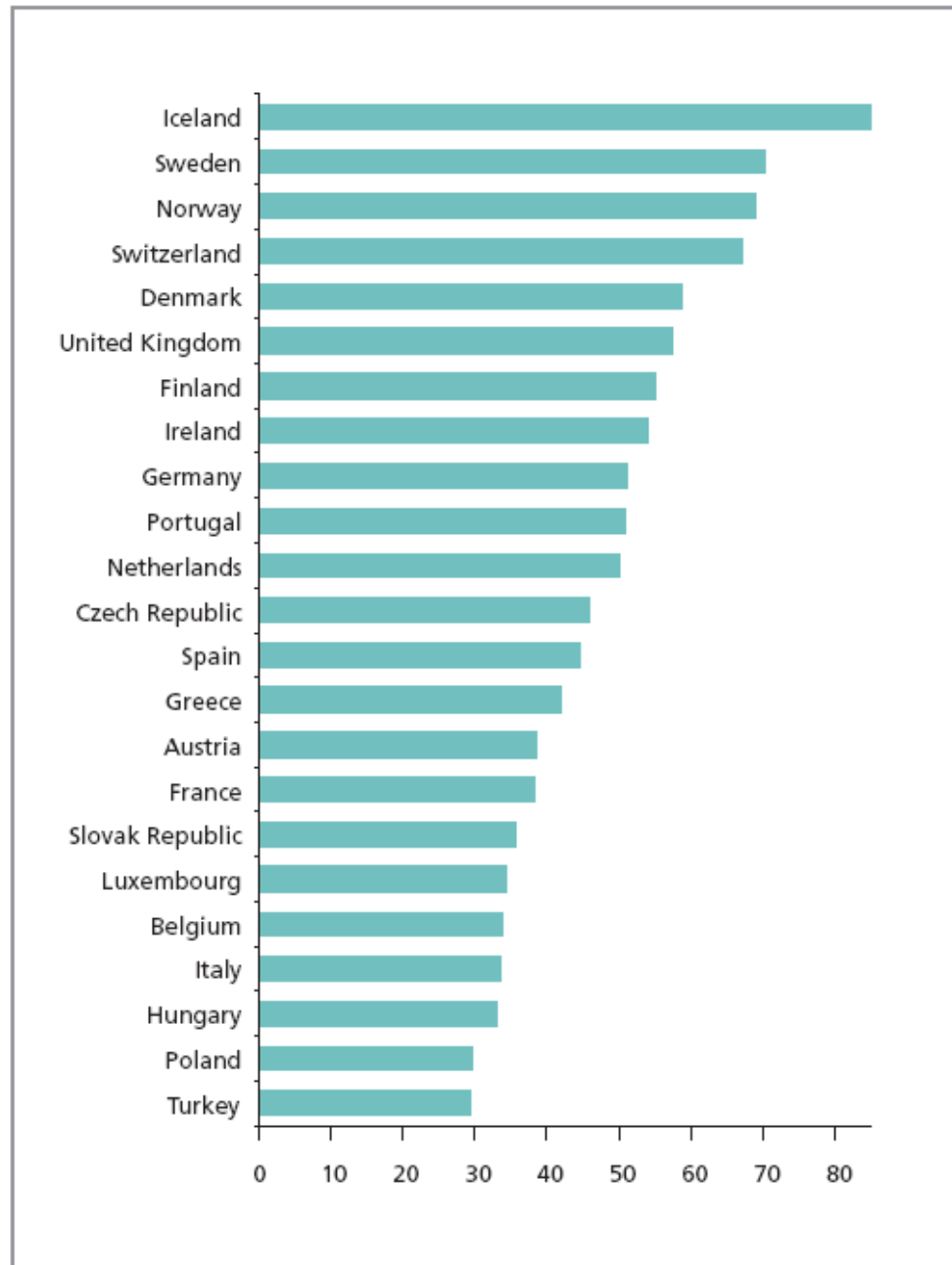
1. Weighted average of OECD countries, based on total population shares in each period.

2. Population aged 65 and over as a percentage of the population aged 20-64.

Source: United Nations (1998).

Implications for the workforce – current trends

Labour force
Participation,
Age 55-64,
2007



Source: OECD Labour Market Statistics

Labour force Participation, Age 55-64 1998



1. Employment of workers aged 55-64 as a percentage of the population aged 55-64.

2. 1998 data.

Source: OECD Labour Force Statistics.

The number of people of working age per retiree will fall from 4:1 to 2:1 across the OECD countries

Are (predominantly functional) people who leave the workforce amenable to 'productive' involvement in society? What needs to happen to enable this?

Time spent in different life stages



What will need to happen?

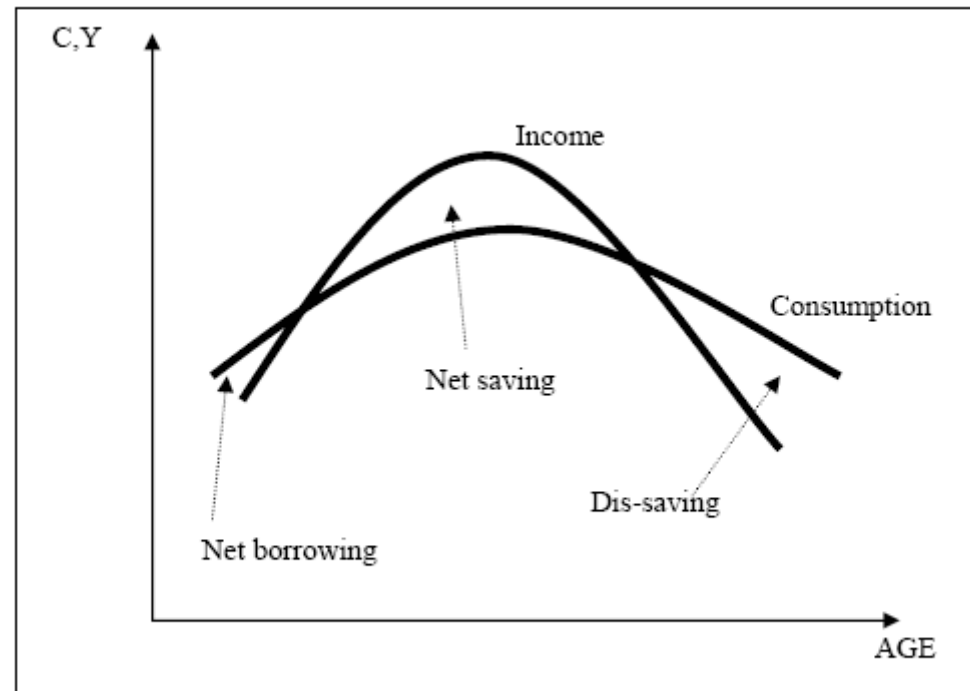
- Policies will need to incentivise for later retirement
- Messages about old age will need to change
- Flexible working will need to become a reality
- People need to prepare for functionality during many decades of 'later life'

Work trends in southeast England

- 80% of people aged 50-59 are in salaried or self-employment
- This drops to under 40% aged 60-69
- 20% of people in both urban and rural districts work within 2km of where they live
- 10% of people in urban districts work from home, 11% of those in rural Districts

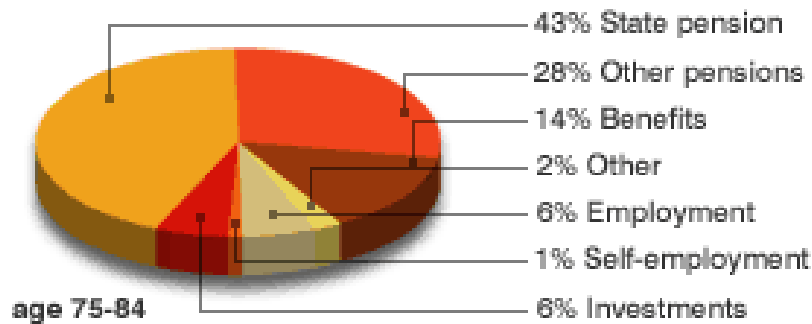
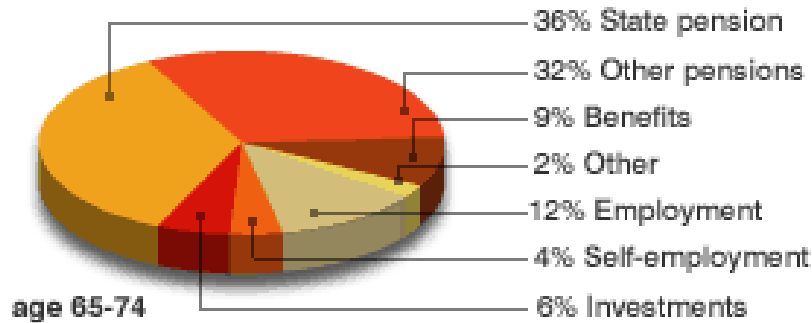
Consumption does fall over age, but are older people going to have enough to live on?

Figure 3.2 Consumption smoothing over the life cycle: an illustration



National trends on pensioners' incomes

Pensioners' household income



SOURCE: Dept Work Pensions, Family Resources Survey 2002-3



Only one in three young people are putting funds into a pension

So, how will people bridge their income gap in old age?

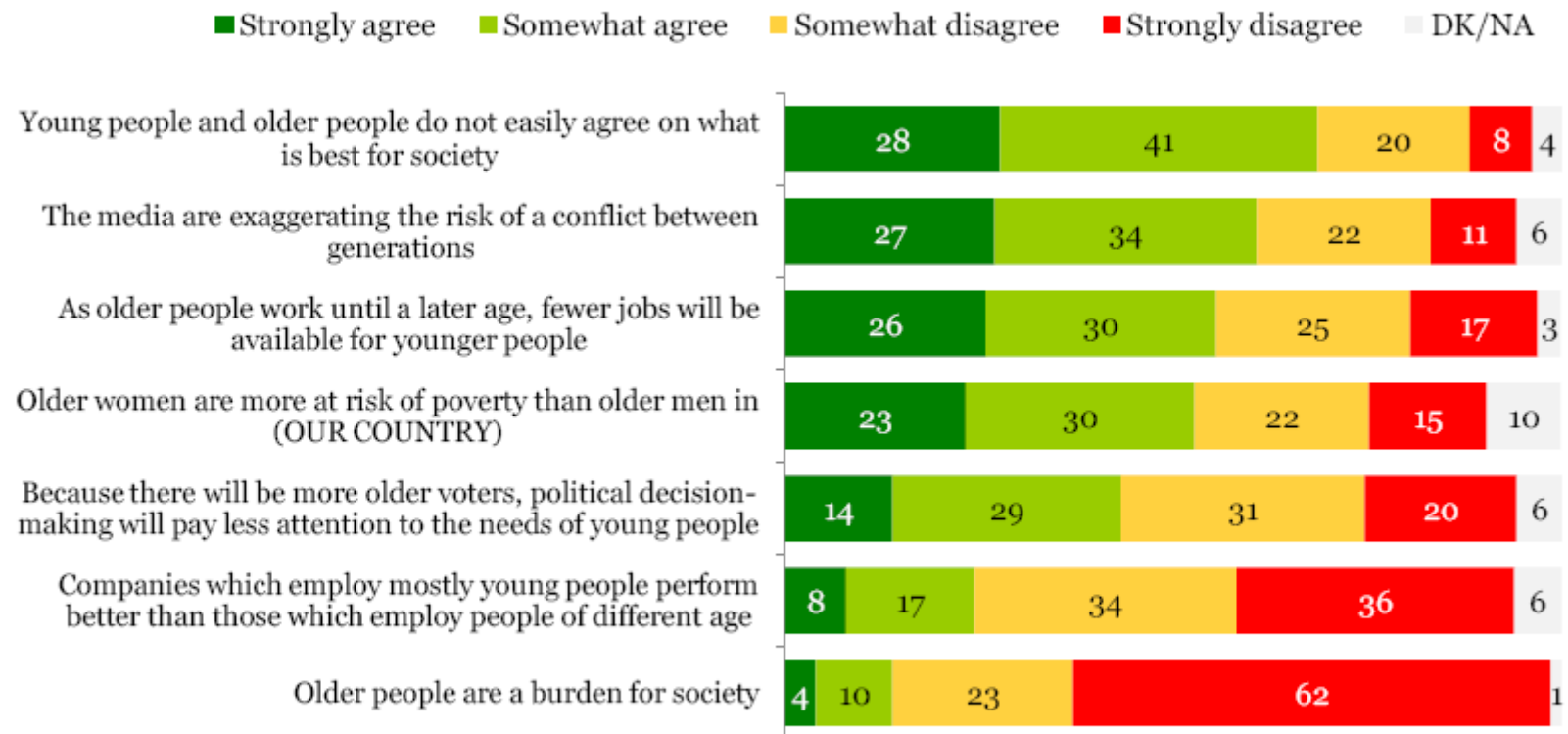


“ We will be doing some kind of work well into our 70s, we accept that's where we are, because we haven't got the pension provision ”

Rachel Knowles

Does the rest of society accept this
new involvement of older people in
the workforce?

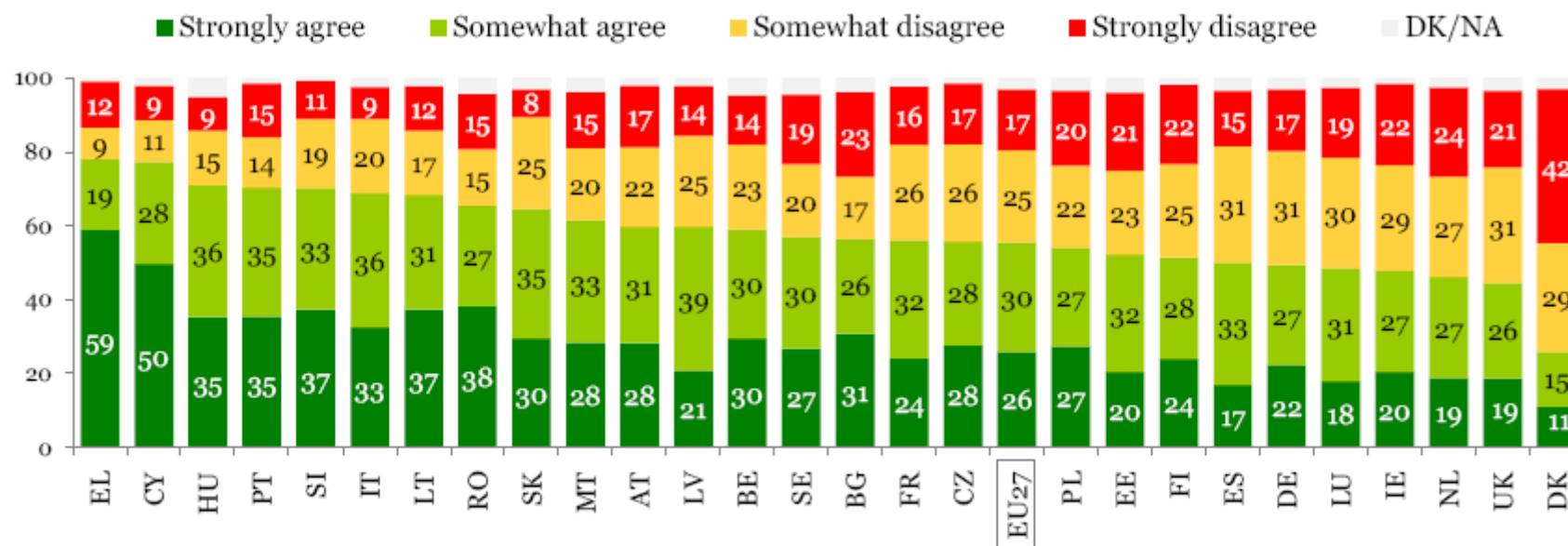
Perceptions regarding the relations between younger and older people



Q1. I am going to read out a number of statements about relations between younger and older people. For each one, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Base: all respondents, % EU27

As older people work until a later age, fewer jobs will be available for younger people



Q1. I am going to read out a number of statements about relations between younger and older people. For each one, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Base: all respondents, % by country

Will people be able (and willing) to
work into old age?



Increasing health aspirations is about people of all ages not writing off their quality of life because of engrained attitudes towards illness and age

HEALTH ASPIRATION

With more and more people living longer, the health service and its partners must address some communities' low expectations on quality of life, says Claire Laurent

OLD IS NOT ILL

What does well conducted research tell us about aging?

- Intellectual preservation good until mid-70's with few showing global decline at age 80.
- Men and women perform differently at older ages
- Long marriage to an intelligent spouse is an advantage!
- Stimulating environment important.
- People can learn new life skills up to advanced old age
- ?Compression of intellectual decline possible – but after 90 years 40% have dementia



Health trends among the elderly

- There are conflicting health trends across the EU.
- This translates into significant differences in healthy life expectancy in old age across and within countries
- These differences reflect the varying prevalence of disability and chronic disease – including poor mental health driven by:
 - Risk factors and lifestyles in earlier life
 - Inequalities in health

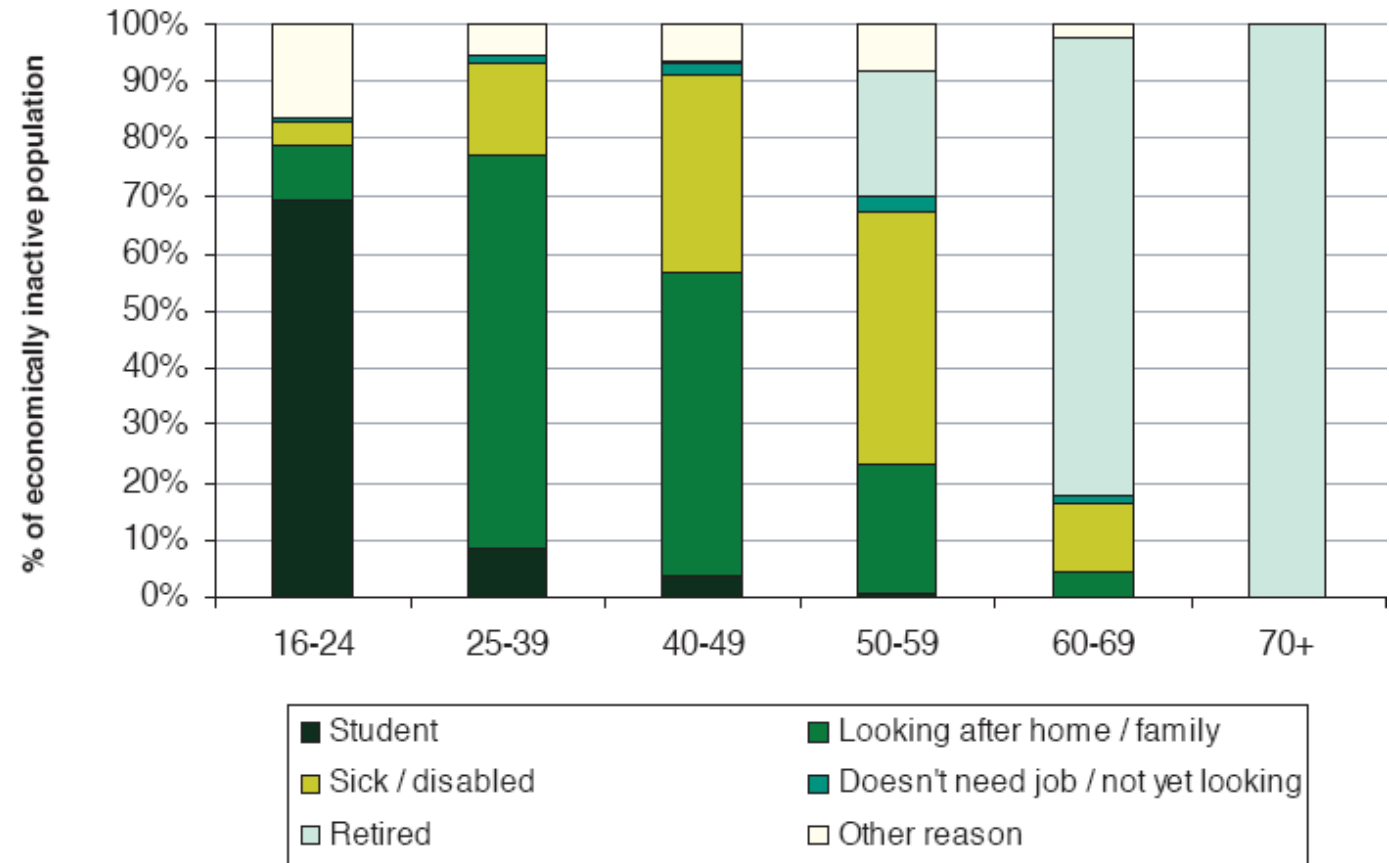
There are major gaps between length of life and functional life

Life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and disability free life expectancy at age 65 by sex, England, 1981 to 2001⁹.

	Men at 65		Women at 65	
	1981	2001	1981	2001
Life Expectancy	13.07	16.06	17.04	19.17
Healthy life expectancy	10.09	11.72	12.00	13.33
Disability free life expectancy	7.67	8.94	8.61	10.22

South East England. Note the levels of disability among 50-59 year olds

Figure 10:
Reasons for economic inactivity, by age band, 2007/08



Source: ONS Crown Copyright, Annual Population Survey, July 2007-June 2008 (via Super Cross)

CONCLUSIONS

1. Increasing dependency ratios need not mean that old age is a dependency burden **provided that:**

- Older people remain functional from mid-life onwards
- They are willing to remain in the workforce
- Flexible working enables them to do so
- National policies incentivise workplace participation
- The message gets out that we all need to provide more for our increasing longevity
- Society 'ages well' to accommodate larger numbers of older people as the norm

AGEING IN A RURAL ENVIRONMENT

2ND JUNE 2009.