

# The GAP of fertility intention and completed fertility in Europe - Lessons for shaping policies

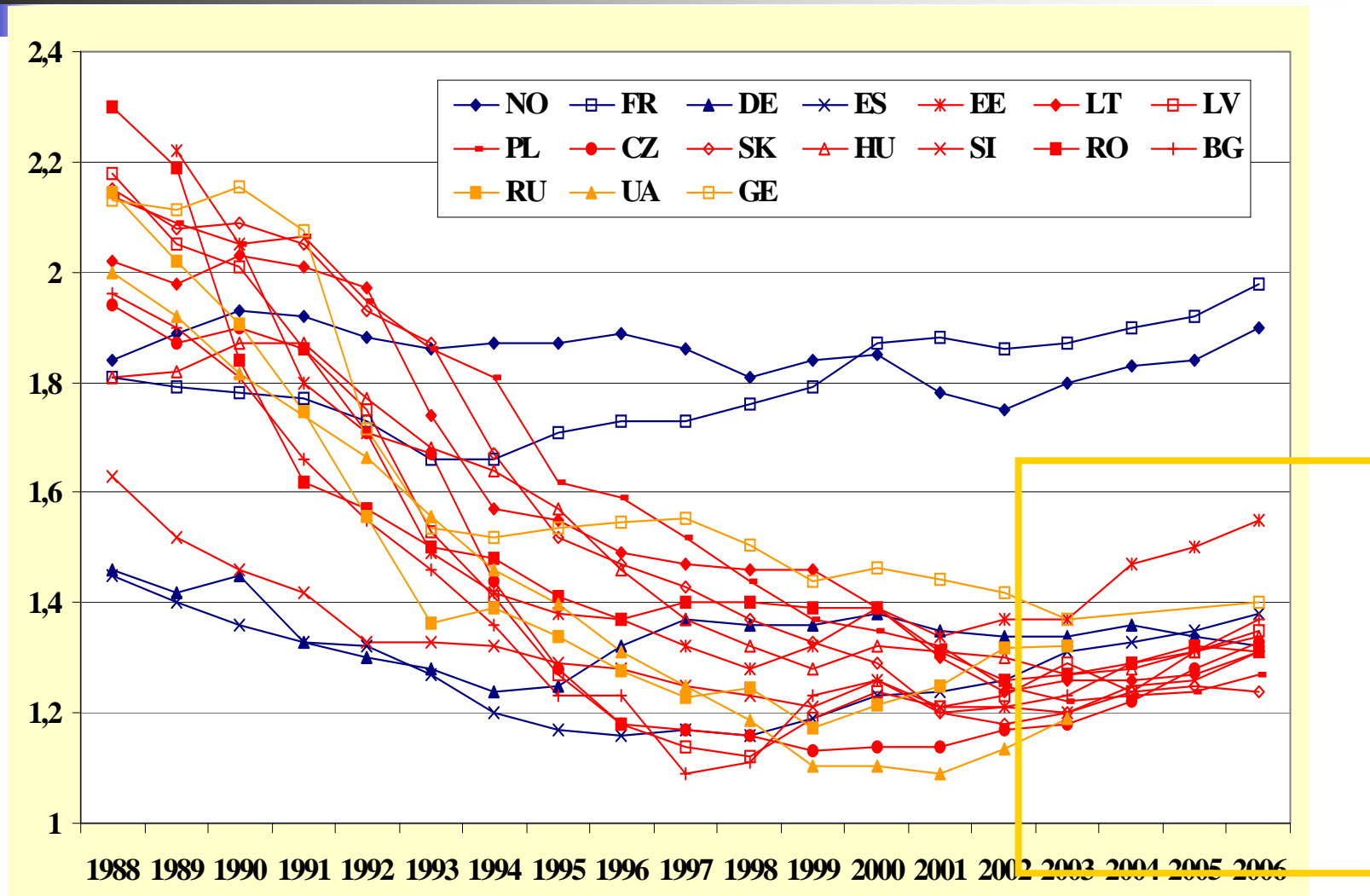


Zsolt Spéder

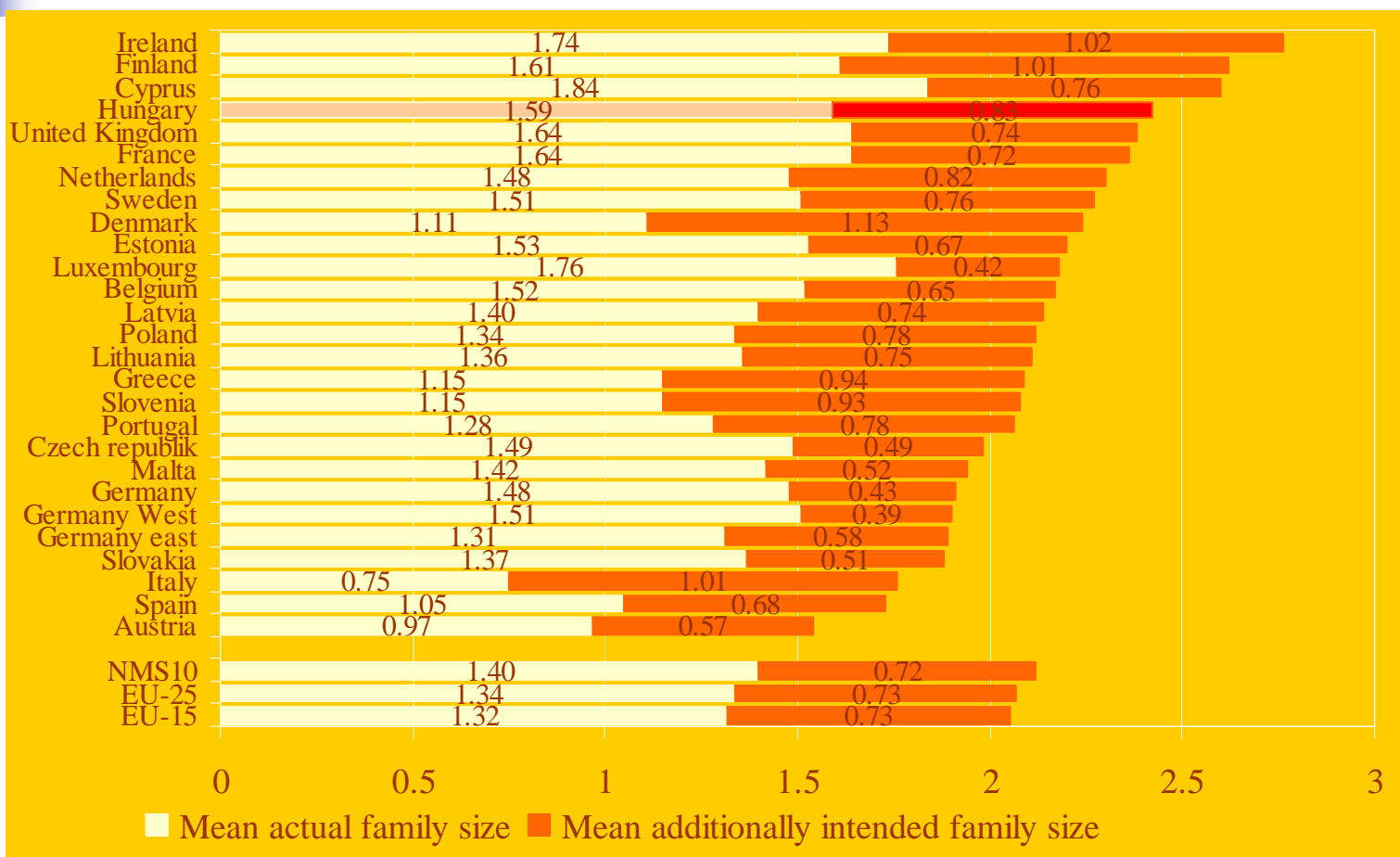
Demographic Research Institute Budapest



# Total fertility rates (TFR), 1988–2006

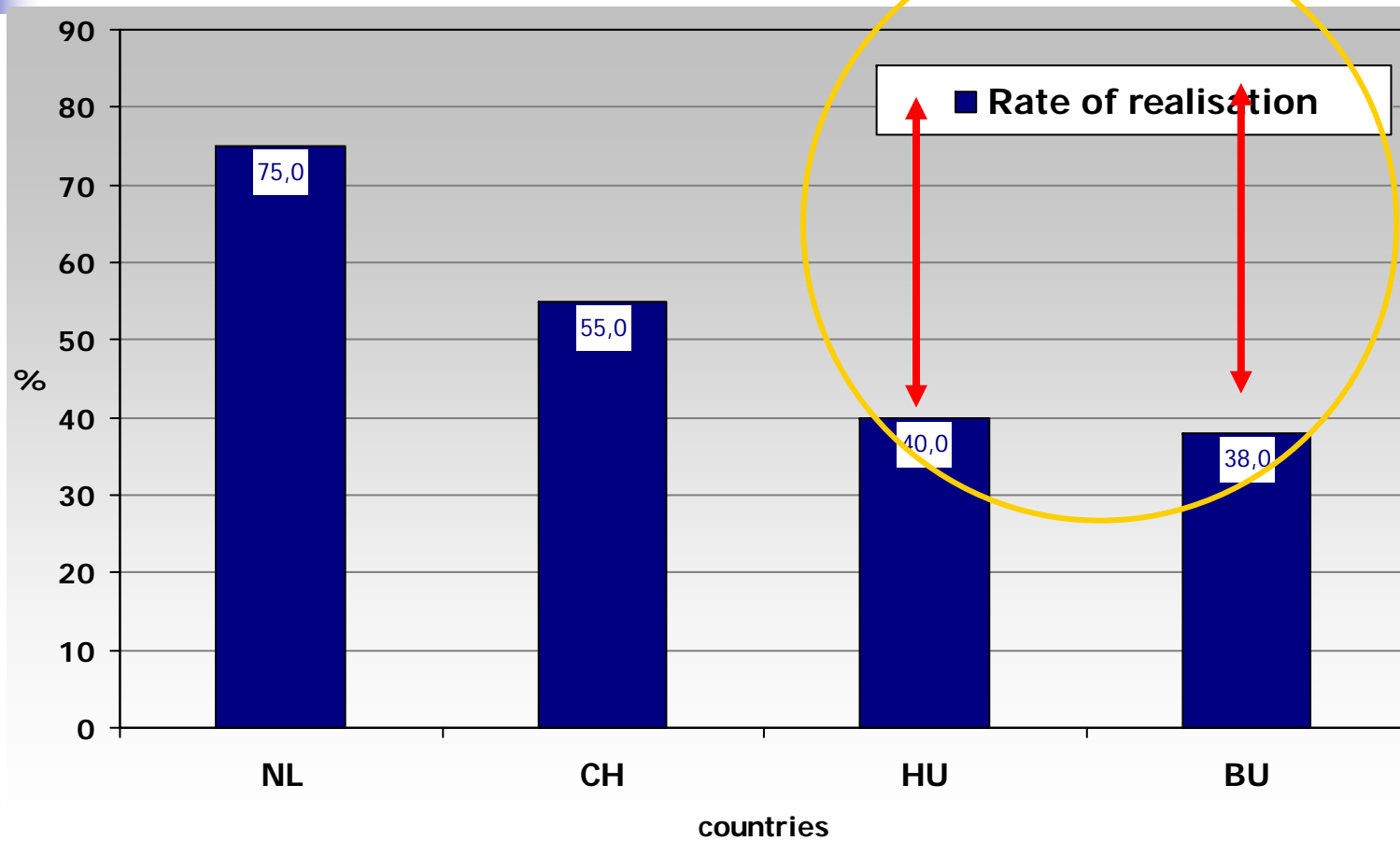


# Mean ultimately *intended* family size of women aged 25–39 and *TFR* by country



Source: Testa, R.M. (2007): Childbearing preferences and family issues in Europe: evidence from Eurobarométer 2005 survey. *Vienna Yearbook of Population Reserch* 357–379.

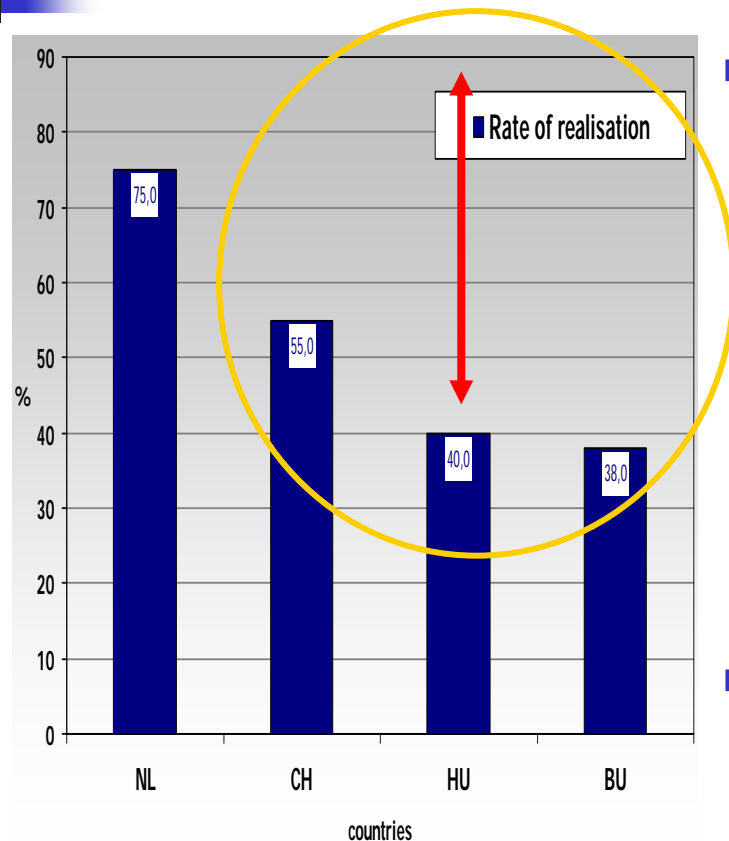
# Ratio of the realization of birth intention, % of success within intended in 3 years



# Research rational (FERTINT Project)

a) „Success rate” of birth intention

b) identifying possible intervening „place” of any policy programs



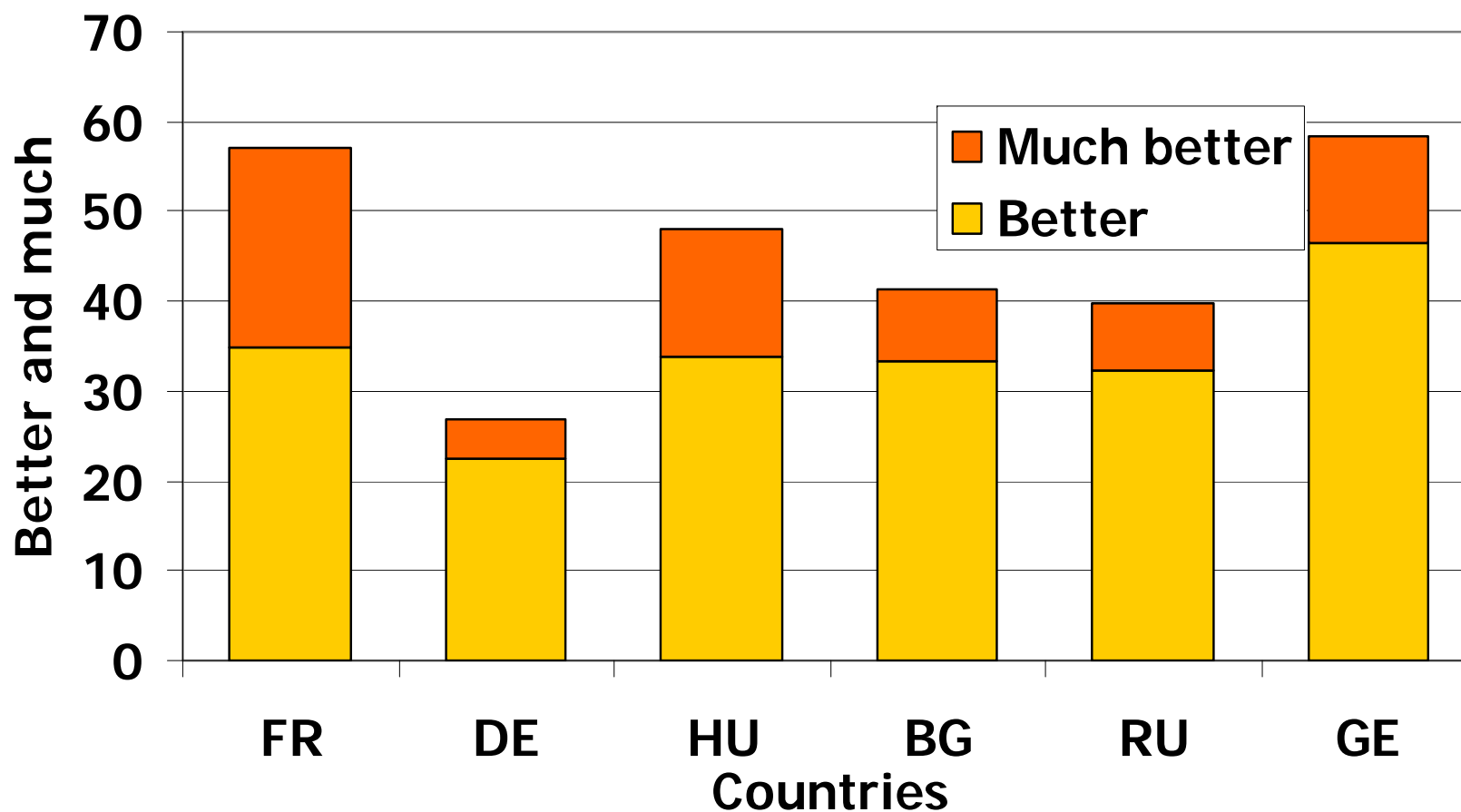
## ■ Possible programs

- No reason/chance to influence intentions
- But: Government could/should help in achieving individual life goals
- Having children is a legitimate life goal

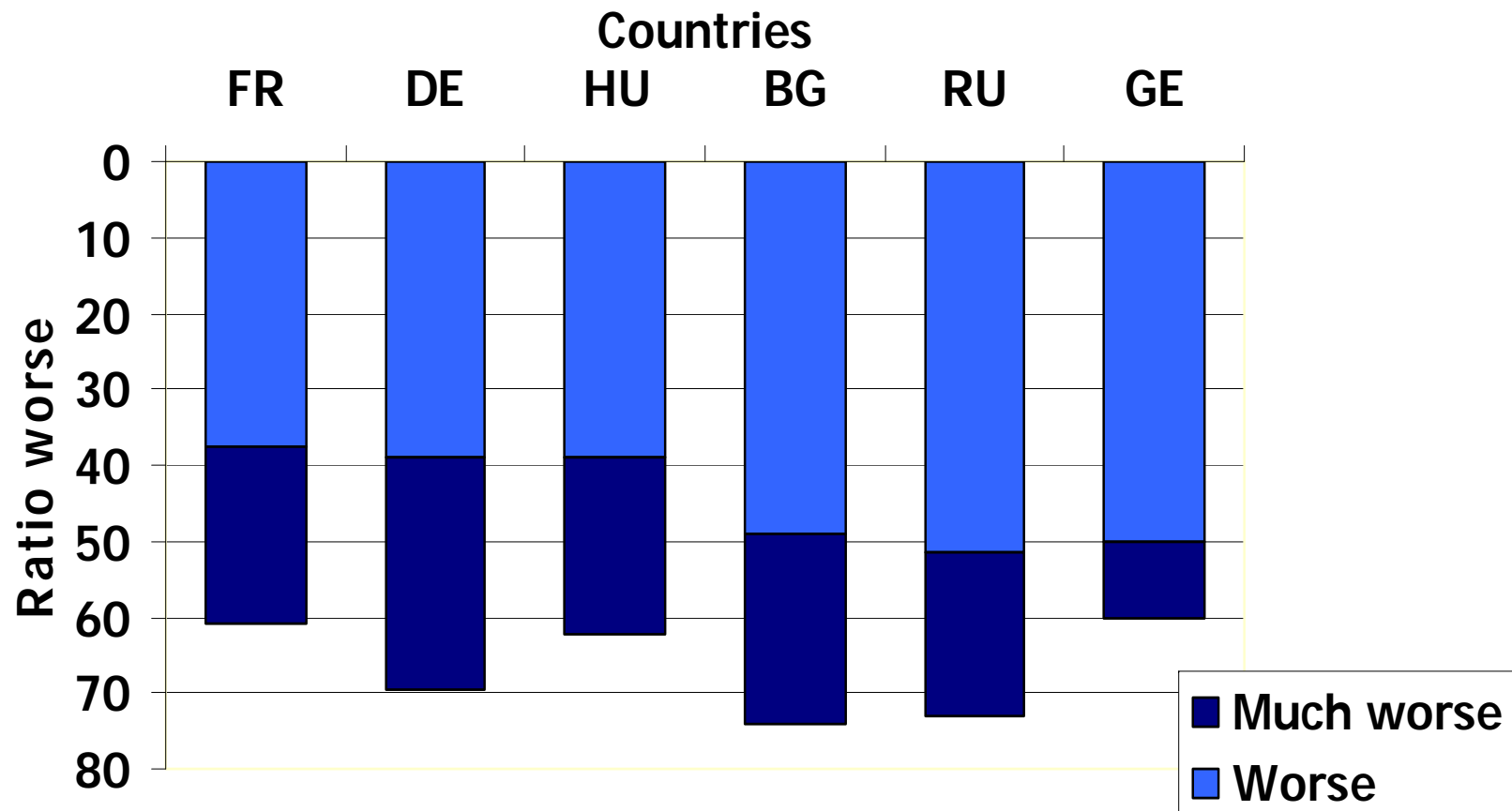


## ■ Understanding factors hampering and stimulating realization

# Expected joy and satisfaction of a childbirth (ratio of expecting more joy and satisfaction)



# Expected negative labor market consequences of a childbirth (ratio of expecting worse)





# Lessons for shaping policy programs

- Age is significant in multivariate models
  - $\Rightarrow$  opportunity for „time policy”
- Labour market:
  - „opportunity cost effect” is shaping the low and middle strata on the labor market;
  - Reconciliation work and family
- Leave policies
  - $\Rightarrow$  stimulate next births within a period
  - $\Rightarrow$  if leaving maternity leave no chance for additional births
- Childcare, kindergarten – opening hours