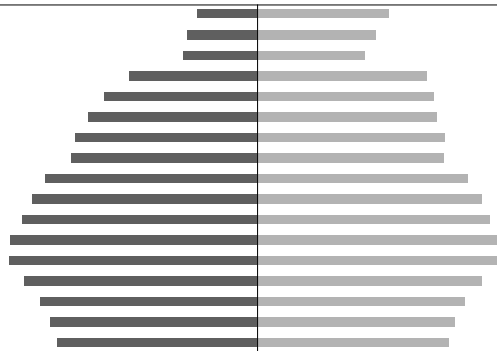


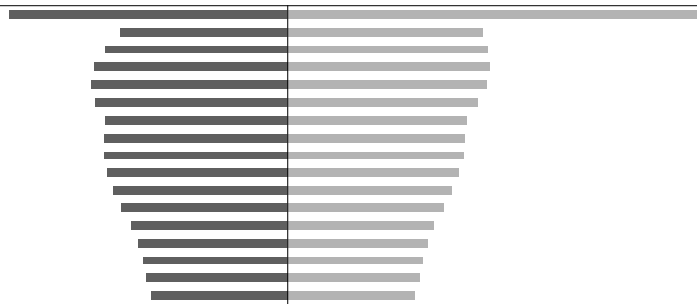
Social inequalities and support between generations

Martina Brandt & Christian Deindl
Esch-sur-Alzette, April 2018

EU27 1990



EU27 2050



■ Male ■ Female

Eurostat

- ▶ Ageing, crises, rising inequalities
- ▶ Pressure
 - ▶ Pensions, support
- ▶ Potentials
 - ▶ Healthy life years
 - ▶ More shared time between generations (?)
- ▶ Middle (sandwich) generation has an important function within families
 - ▶ Support to parents
 - ▶ Support to children
- ▶ Links between solidarity and inequality?

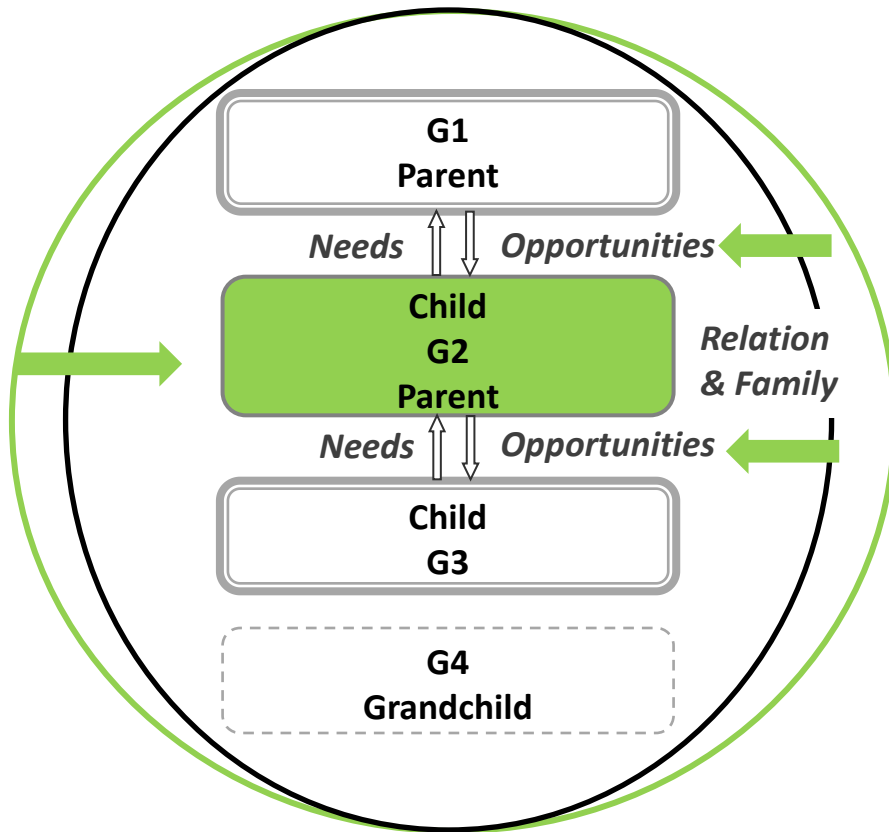
Intergenerational support

- ▶ Transfers are common within families
 - ▶ Financial and practical support to adult children
 - ▶ Grandchild care
 - ▶ Hands-on help and care to older parents
 - ▶ Most support between parents and (adult) children

 - ▶ Support motives
 - ▶ „Altruism“
 - ▶ Joy of giving
 - ▶ Reciprocity
 - ▶ Love and concern

 - ▶ Family as safety net in times of need
-

Context



▶ Social inequality and deprivation might change exactly that!

▶ Personal level

▶ Increased needs

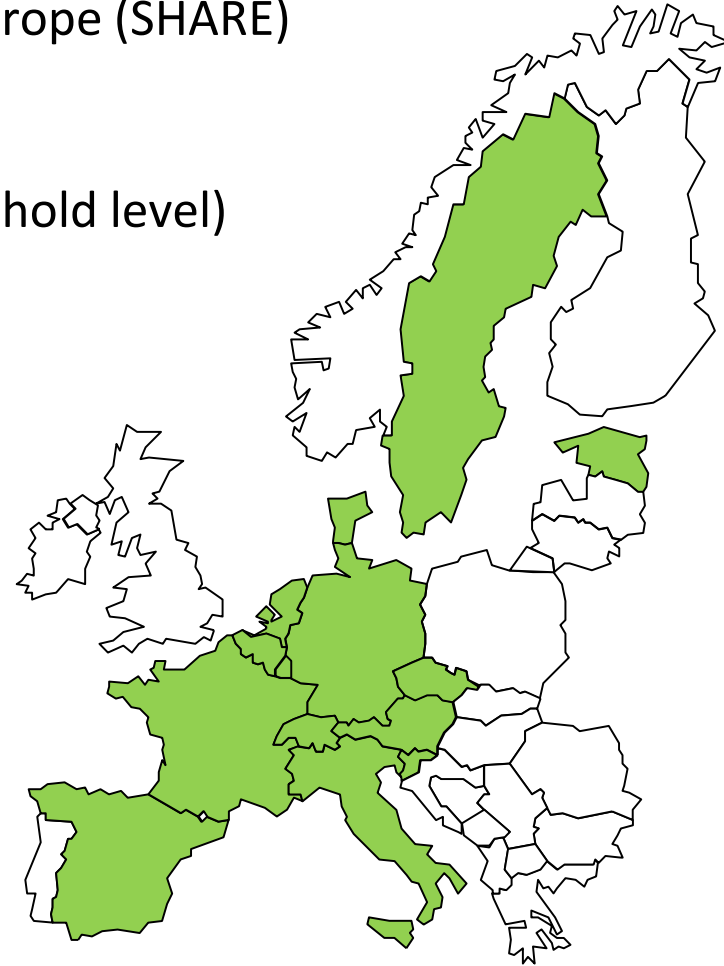
▶ Reduced opportunities

▶ Context level

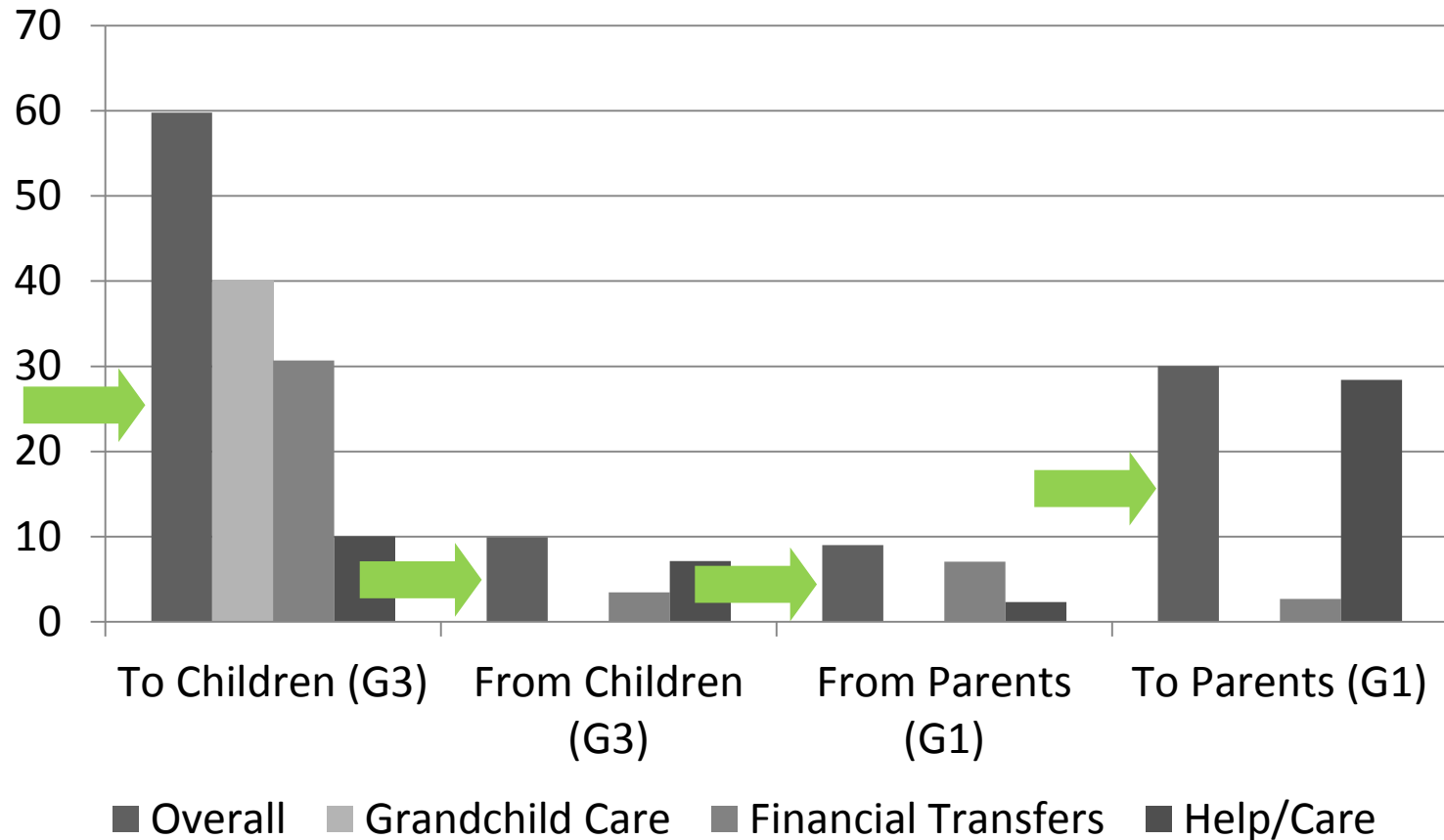
▶ Increased family support due to more dependence

▶ Reduced family support due to lower overall resources and lower social cohesion

- ▶ Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE)
 - ▶ Wave 5, respondents 50+
 - ▶ Transfers between three generations
 - ▶ Social and material deprivation (household level)
- ▶ 116 regions from 14 countries
 - ▶ Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovenia
 - ▶ Regional context: Income inequality (Gini)



Transfers



Source: SHARE Wave 5; n=6,659

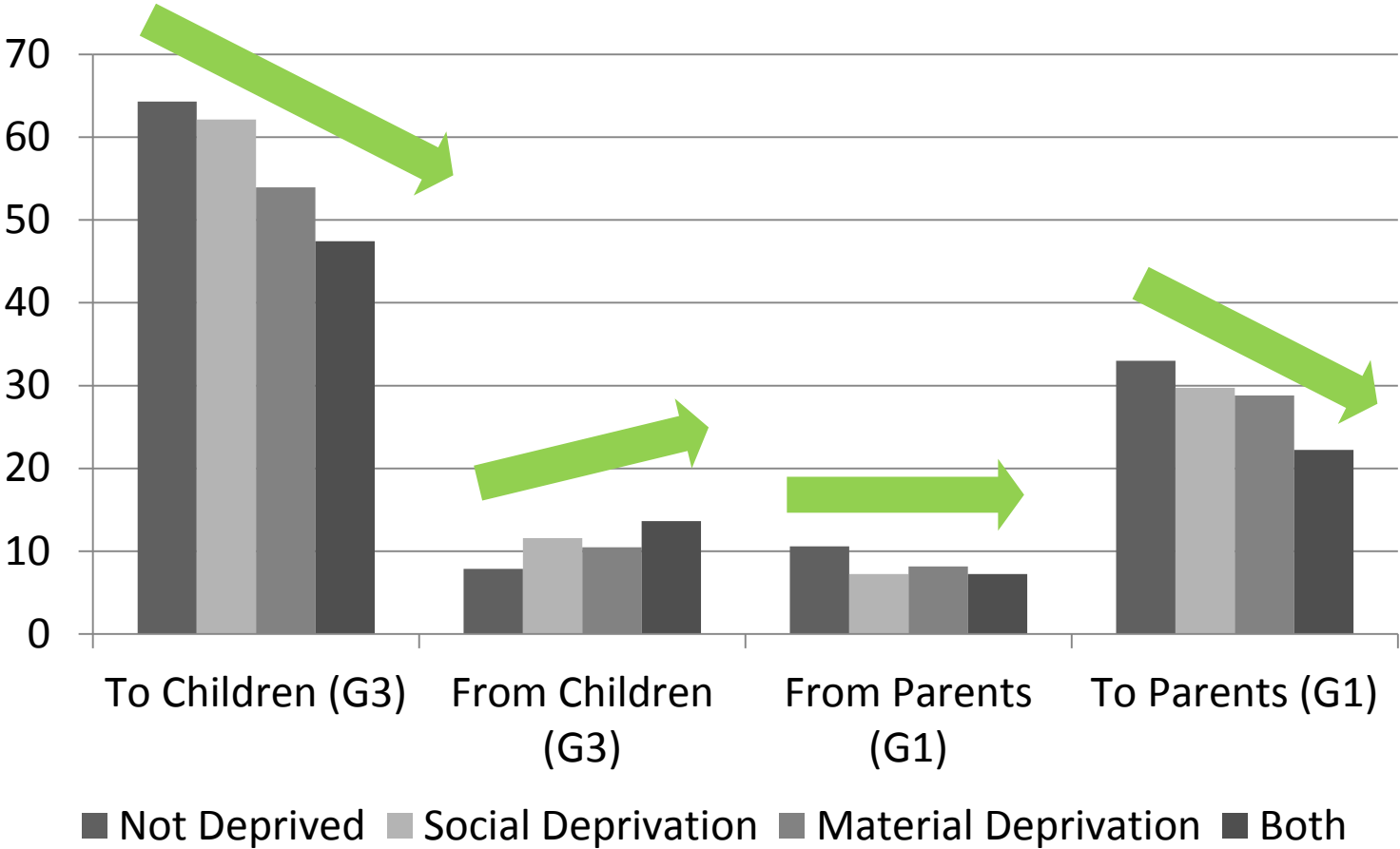
- ▶ Less than one room per person in HH
 - ▶ Poor reading or writing skills
 - ▶ Poor computer skills or never used a computer
 - ▶ Not feeling part of the local area
 - ▶ Vandalism in the local area
 - ▶ Local area not clean
 - ▶ No helpful people in local area
 - ▶ Difficult access to bank
 - ▶ Difficult access to grocery shop
 - ▶ Difficult access to pharmacy
 - ▶ Waiting too long to see a doctor
 - ▶ Not attending any course in the past 12 months
 - ▶ Not taking part in any organisation in the past 12 months
 - ▶ People cannot be trusted
 - ▶ Feeling left out of things
-

Material deprivation

- ▶ Was there a time in the past 12 months when you needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost?
- ▶ [You] do not eat meat, fish or chicken / fruits or vegetables more often [than three times per week] because: you cannot afford to eat it more often
- ▶ Can your household afford to regularly buy necessary groceries and household supplies/ to go for a week long holiday away from home at least once a year/ to pay an unexpected expense without borrowing any money?
- ▶ In the last twelve months, to help you keep your living costs down, have you...
 - ▶ continued wearing clothing /shoes /not replaced glasses that was worn out because you could not afford replacement?
 - ▶ put up with feeling cold to save heating costs?
 - ▶ postponed visits to the dentist?

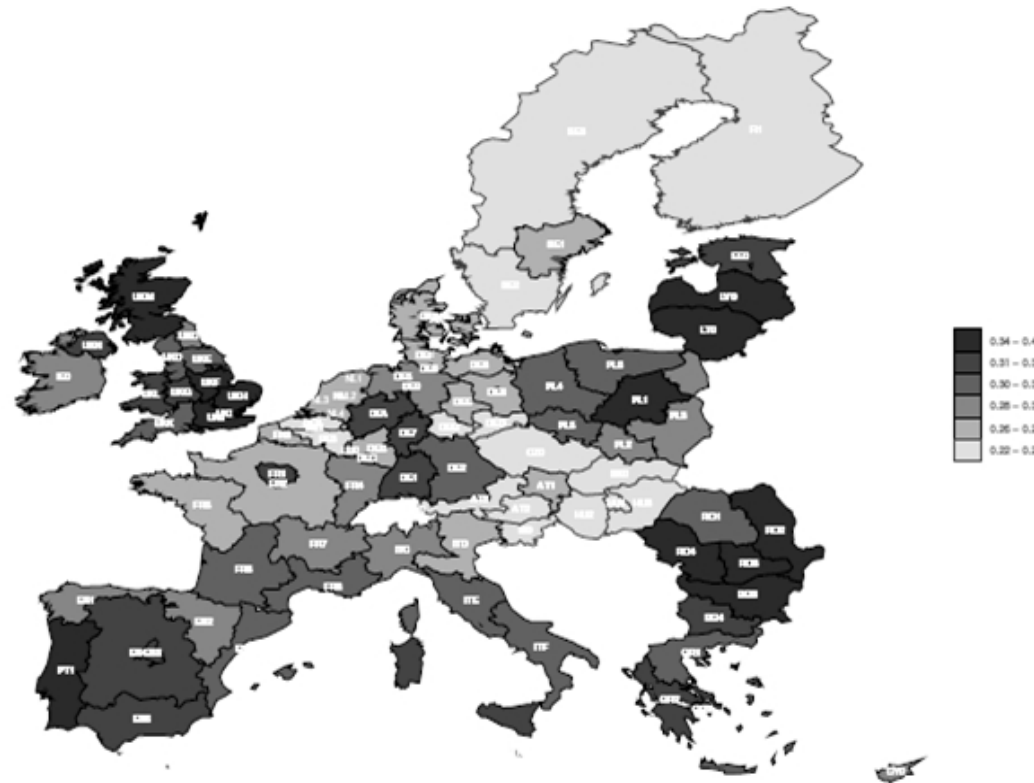
- ▶ Descriptive analysis
 - ▶ No deprivation 50%
 - ▶ Material deprivation (2+) 21%
 - ▶ Social deprivation (2+) 12%
 - ▶ Material and social deprivation 16%

Deprivation and transfers





Source: SHARE Wave 5; n=6,659

Social inequality (Gini) NUTS1



Elia, d'Hombres, Weber, and Saltelli (2013): Income Inequality and Social Outcomes: Bivariate Correlations at NUTS1 Level . [Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics]

Binary multilevel logit models: transfers

	To child	From child	From parent	To parent
<i>Respondent households</i>				
 Deprived (log(n items))	-0.33**	0.26**	-0.03	-0.17**
<i>Regions</i>				
 Inequality (Gini)	-0.07**	-0.12**	-0.10**	-0.06**

Source: SHARE Wave 5, n=6,659 respondents, 116 regions; + p < .10. * p < .05. ** p < .01.

Controlling for household composition, education, income, age, family composition, child and parent characteristics: gender, contact, distance, health, employment as well as regional GDP

Summary: solidarity changed

- ▶ Deprived respondents
 - ▶ *give* transfers to children and older parents *less* likely (opportunities)
 - ▶ but *receive* help from their children *more* likely (needs)
- ▶ Intergenerational support in all directions is *less* likely in regions having more inequality
- ▶ Changed solidarity patterns between generations with more inequality

- ▶ Social inequality problematic for families
 - ▶ Micro level
 - ▶ Parents lose their “normal” role as providers and need help from their offspring
 - ▶ Macro level
 - ▶ Families are more vulnerable in regions with more inequality

- ▶ How can we get a little closer to “mechanisms” and causalities here?
 - ▶ What is the additional role of contextual social inequality when controlling for individual deprivation and GDP?
 - ▶ Wilkinson & Pickett: The Spirit Level
 - ▶ lower social cohesion – higher social stress?!
 - ▶ Information about non-resp. deprivation missing
 - ▶ control for intergenerational social mobility (but we have no measures)
- ▶ ... further suggestions & comments – or questions?!

THANK YOU!