

Task sharing in abortion care

WS I Abortion in minors



FIAPAC

Ljubljana 2014

PD Dr. G.S.Merki-Feld
Leiterin Jugendgynäkologie und Familienplanung
Universitätsspital Zürich
gabriele.merki@usz.ch

Abortion in minors



- **Legal situation**
- **Analyse the situation in Europe**
- **Development during the last decade across European countries**
- **Situation in Switzerland**
- **Risk factors**
- **Discuss with you, what is needed and what can be improved**

What abortion rates might depend on

- Access to information - SRH services
- Sex education at school
- Access to contraception
- Reimbursement of contraception in teens
- Stronger involvement of the boys ?
- Reimbursement of costs of by health insurances
- What about the social and economic situation

Teen pregnancies – Established social factors

The social environment strongly influences teenage behaviour



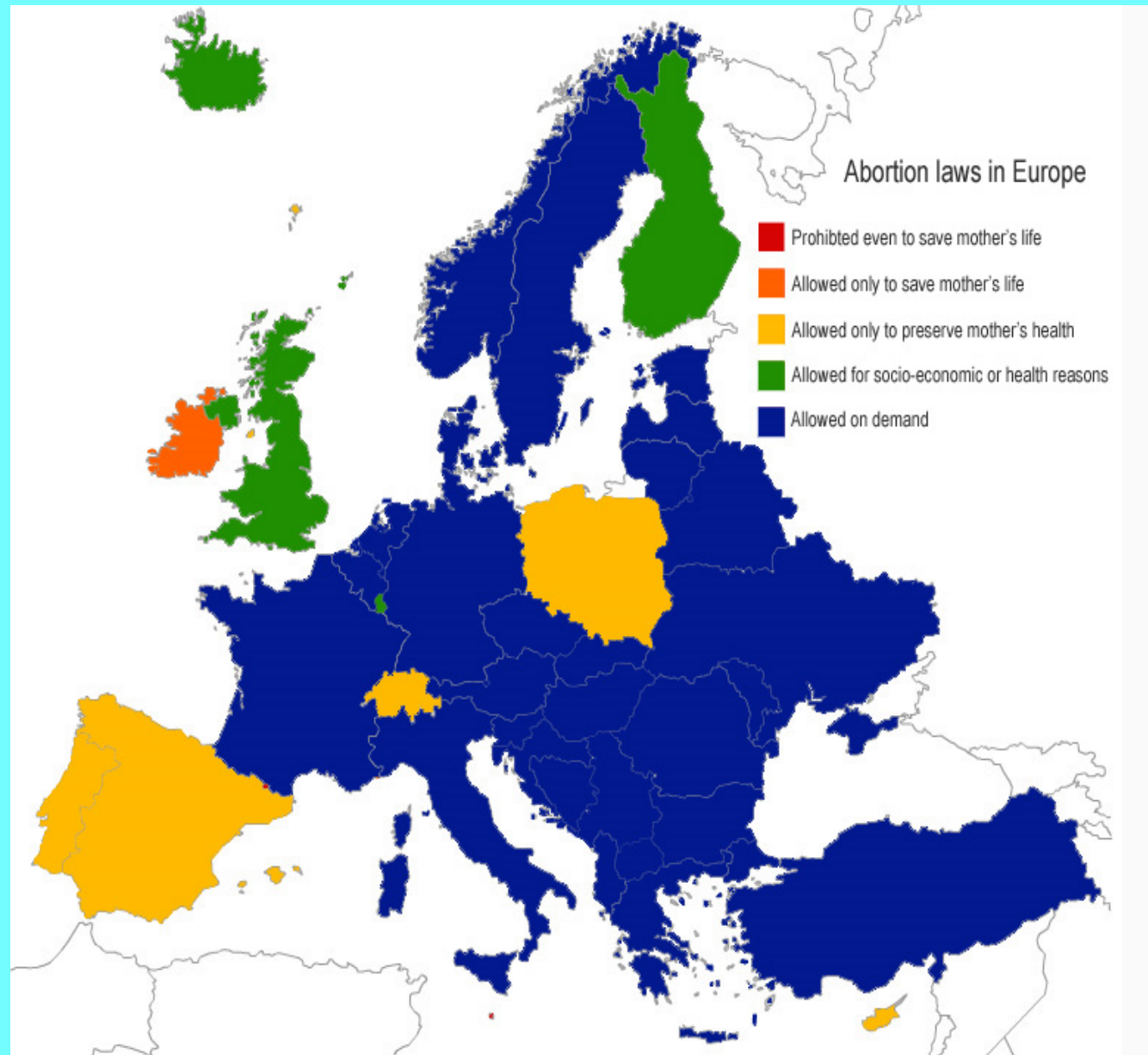
Teen pregnancies – Established social factors

- **Poverty Low Education**

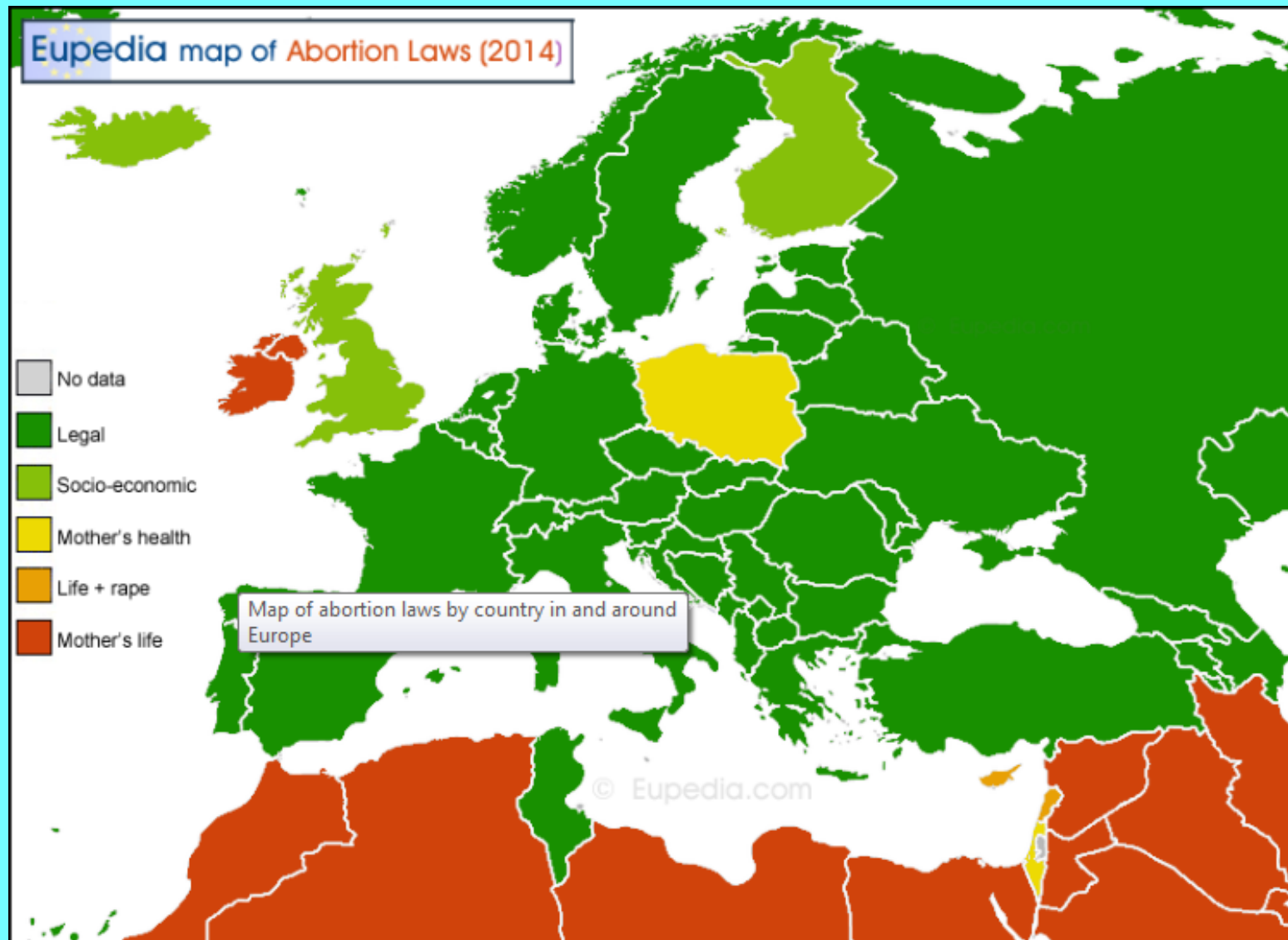
With regard to contraceptive use

- **Future goals / plans**
- **Youths assets are not associated with decreased risk for high-risk sexual behaviour**
- **Many adolescents do not believe that being a parent will be an impediment to achieving this goals.**
- **But in those who consider it as an impediment there is increased contraceptive behaviour.**

Legal situation



Legal situation



Great Britian and Finland

- The law states that a woman must face a greater risk to her mental or physical health by continuing with an unwanted pregnancy than if she had an abortion.
- Two doctors need to sign a document to that effect.
- Practised more or less as a formal procedure

Poland`s abortion law

- includes the right to terminate a pregnancy before 25 weeks, if a mother's life is in grave danger,
- if a fetus is known to have severe birth defects,
- if a pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

Ireland

- Abortion is prohibited for any reason in Ireland
- Around 5000 women travel to the UK annually for legal abortion

The situation in the Western world 2011

	Adolescent birth rate	Pregnancies per 1000	Births per 1000	Abortion ratio	Abortions per 1000
Australia	15.5				14.2
Canada	14.1	27.4	13.6	50.4	13.7
Denmark	4.5				15.2
France	11.9	10.3	3.5	66.0	17.4
Germany	8.2				6.1
Italy	6.5				10.0
Japan	4.6				9.2
Netherlands	9.3				9.7
Norway	9.5				16.2
Sweden	5.9	16.4	2.7	83.5	20.8
United Kingdom	25.1	28.6	14.8	48.3	14.2
United States	34.2	52.8	33.8	36.0	19.6

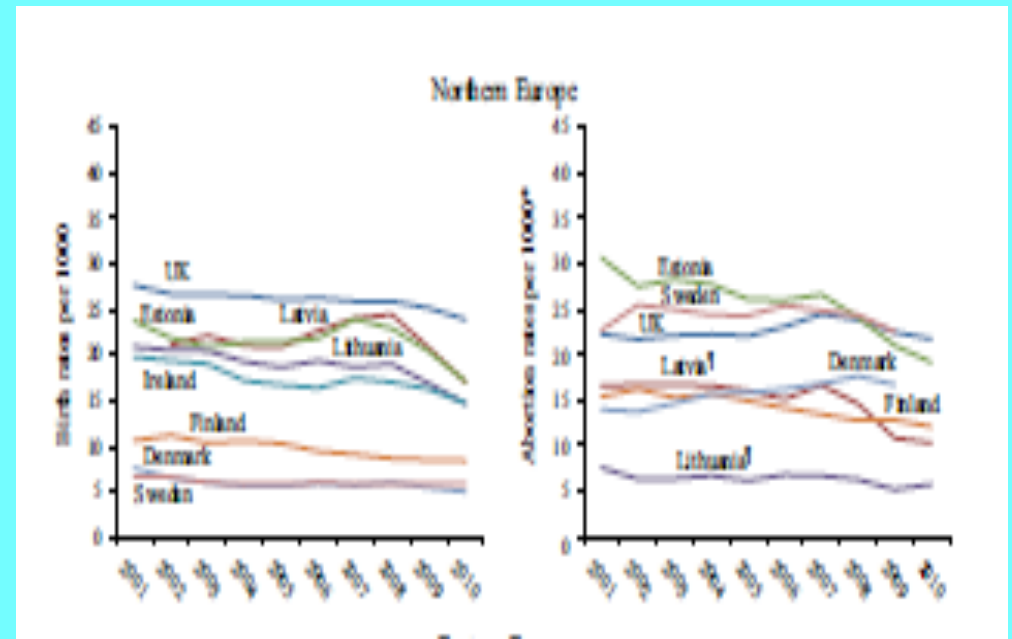
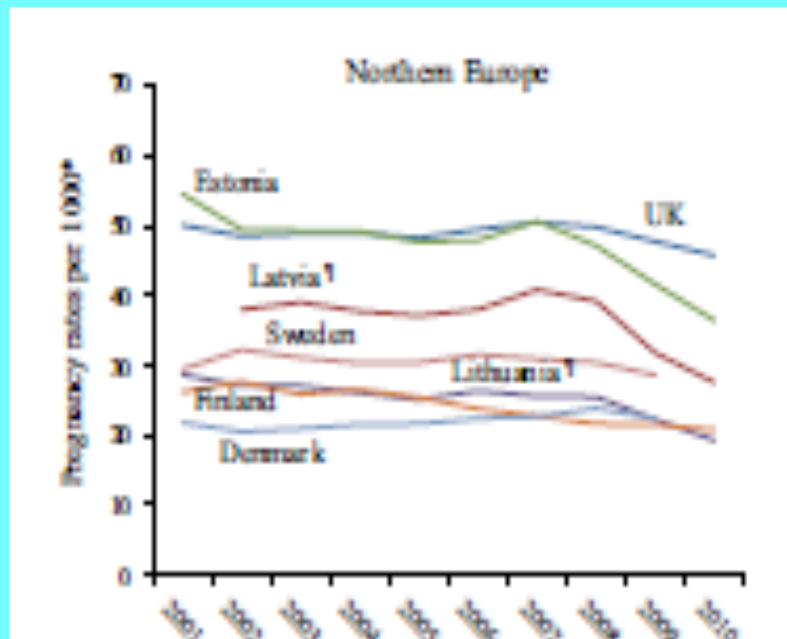
WHY ???? Information, economic reasons, access to contraception

Teenage pregnancy and abortion rates in Europe 2009

	per 1000
Teenage birth rates	15.0
Netherlands	5.3
Bulgaria	46.7

Teenage abortion rates	12.2
Estonia, Sweden, UK	> 20
Netherlands , Germany, Switzer- land, Slovenia	< 9

Teenage abortion and pregnancy rates Northern Europe



K.Part et.al : AOGS 2013

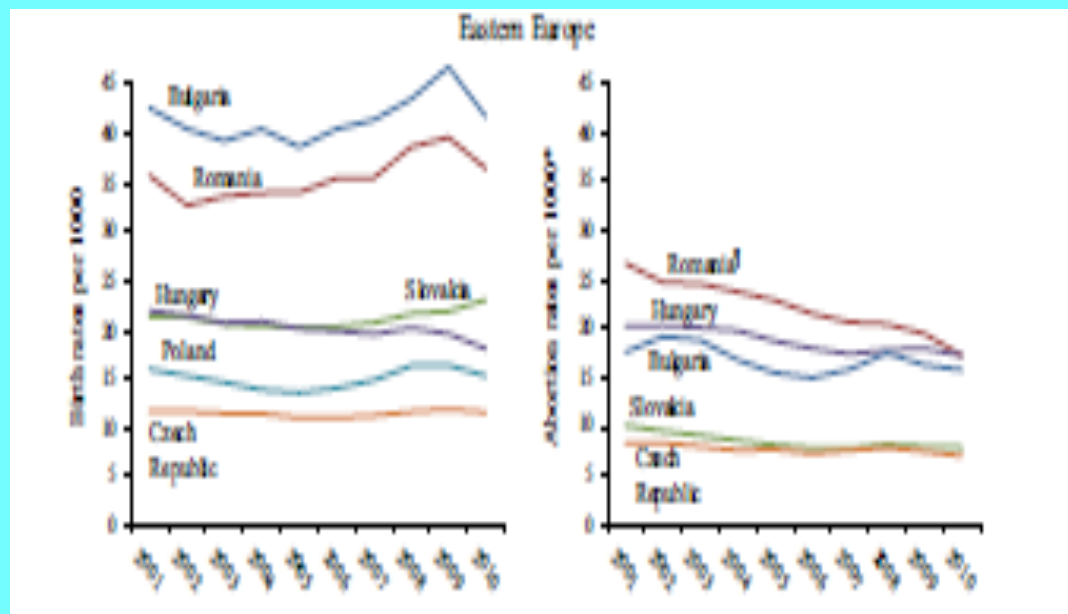
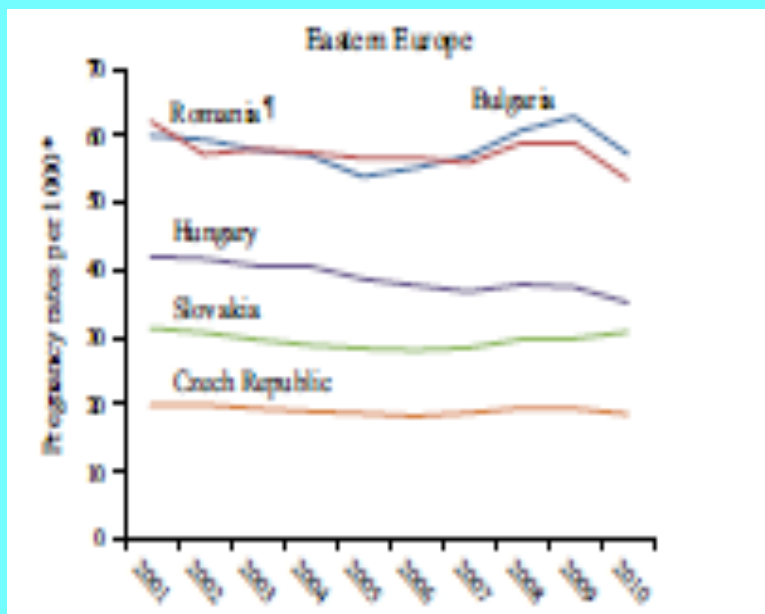
Northern Europe

	Sweden	UK	Estonia
Pregnancy-rate	28.4	47.6	41.5 ↓
Abortion on demand	Yes	(Yes)	Yes
Free contraception	Subsidized (free of charge in some municipalities)	(Yes) NHS in most areas	50% subsidized
SRH services	> 200 ; free	Integrated with primary care	Free SRH,
Gross domestic product / person / US Dollar	57000	39000	19000
Youth Unemployment	22.6%	20 %	19.1 %

Northern Europe

- Sweden: Influence of media, attitude towards contraception :positive not negative
- Estonia: Positive development with regard to pregnancy and abortion rates
- UK : Lots of efforts , but no result

Teenage abortion and pregnancy rates Eastern Europe

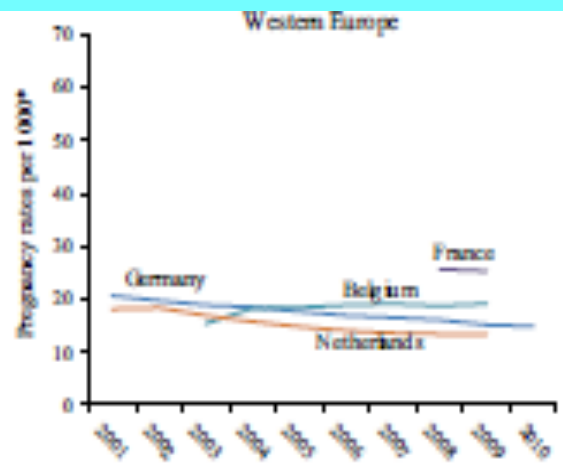


Eastern Europe



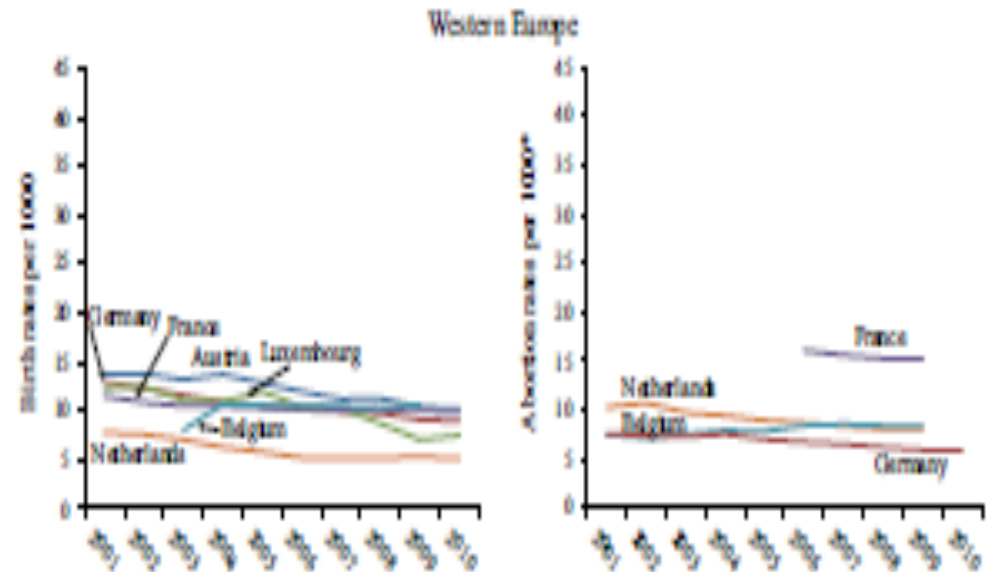
	Bulgaria	Slovakia	Poland
Pregnancy-rate/1000	63	29.7	? Birth 16.3
Abortion on demand	Yes	Yes	no
Free contraception	In SRH services	no	no
SRH services	exist	Gynecologyc ambulance	
Gross domestic product / person / US Dollar	7300	4500	13000
Youth Unemployment	28%	33.5%	27%

Teenage abortion and pregnancy rates Western Europe



† Abortion reporting was estimated as incomplete (defined as including less than 90% of all legal abortions) or completeness uncertain in 2008 (18).
* Teenage pregnancy rates could not be calculated for Ireland, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Austria and Luxembourg (abortion data not available).

Figure 2. Teenage pregnancy rates per 1000 women aged 15–19 years in the European Union in 2001–2010.

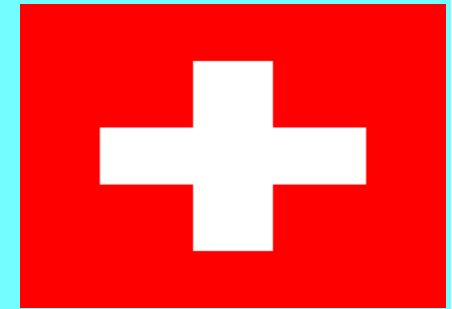


† Abortion reporting was estimated as incomplete (defined as including less than 90% of all legal abortions) or completeness uncertain in 2008 (18).
* Data on teenage abortions were not available for Ireland, Poland, Cyprus, Malta, Austria and Luxembourg.

Western Europe

	France	Germany	Switzerland
Pregnancy-rate	25.2	15.1	10
Abortion on demand	yes	yes	yes
Free contraception	yes	yes	no
SRH services	FP services / GP	gynaecologists	gynaecologists
Gross domestic product / person / US Dollar	43000	44900	81000
Youth Unemployment %	23.7	7.9	3.2

Switzerland



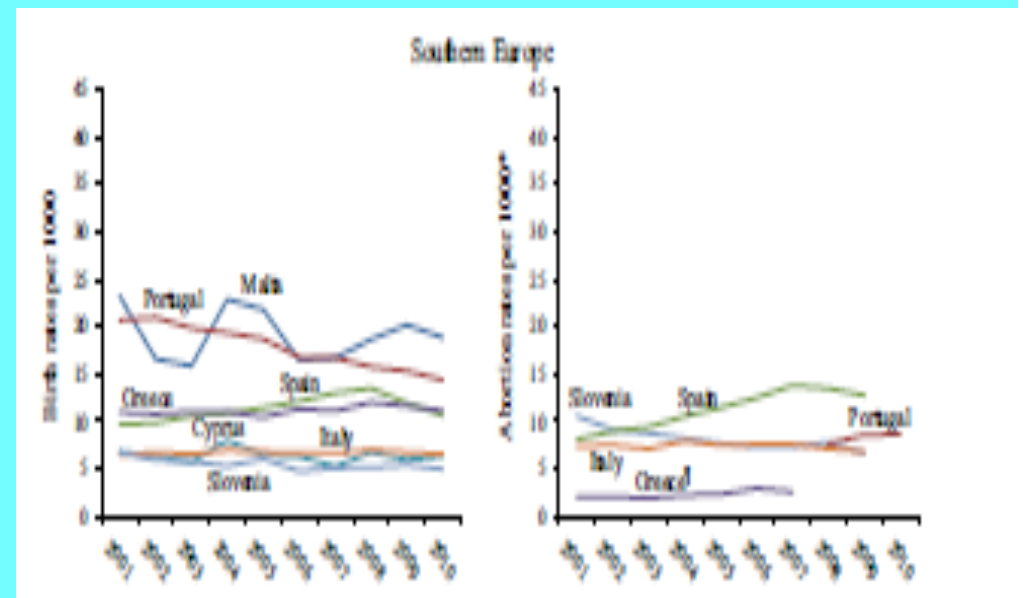
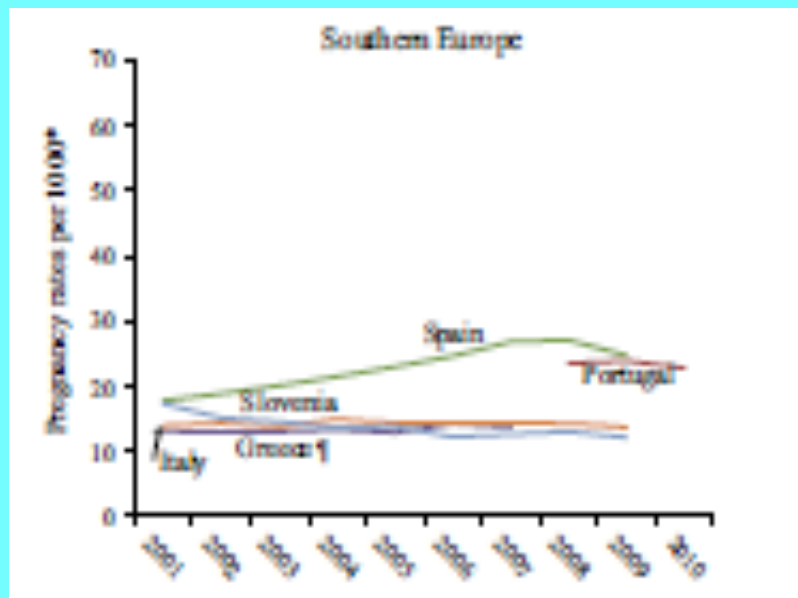
- All abortions constant since 2004 at 6.9/1000
- EC over the counter since 2002
- Abortion on demand since 2003
- Nationality of women demanding abortion :in all regions around 50% Swiss
- Contraception not free, needs doctors
- Abortion free
- SRS available in many areas but are not allowed to distribute contraception
- Education with regard to SRH in schools limited (more mother –daughter)
- High economy, good perspectives for the future,

	2005	2010	2013
Teen abortions	6.0	4.7	4.0
Geneva			6.0
Zürich			4.0
Aargau			2.1

Western Europe

- **Economy**
- **Employment**
- **Free contraception not so important in rich countries**
- **However SRH should be free**

Teenage abortion and pregnancy rates Southern Europe



Southern Europe

	Spain	Portugal	Slovenia
Pregnancy-rate	24.7	23.9	12.1
Abortion on demand	Yes (2010)	Yes (2007)	Yes
Free contraception	Yes	Yes	Yes
SRH services	Integrated in FPA services	Pediatric Clinics integrated in health services	
Gross domestic product / person / US Dollar	29000	20000	22000
Youth Unemployment	55%	37.7	33.5

Trends in reported teenage pregnancies across the 27 European Union member states 2001-2009

- Teenage pregnancy rates have decreased slightly in most European countries, but there are remarkable differences across countries
- Some differences might be caused by underreporting
- Especially Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia experienced a huge decline in birth rates. This was achieved by SRH services, free (subsidized) contraception.

Trends in reported abortion ratios across the 27 European Union member states 2001-2010

**Low abortion ratio expresses a low motivation
to delay motherhood**

**Low abortion ratios were found in Slovakia,
Portugal, Bulgaria**

(?) opposition to abortion

(?) cut- backs in public health services

What is needed to decrease teenager pregnancy rates ?

- Data suggest that most of the countries that offer free SRH services in all areas also deliver free contraception have low teenager birth rates.
- **Needs of SRH services**
 - conveniently accessible
 - trained staff
 - short waiting times
 - confidentiality

What is needed to explain and potentially decrease teenager pregnancy rates ?

- **School sexuality education**
- **National wealth**
- **Gender norms**
- **Cultural aspects to consider**
- **Familial factors**
- **Boys education**
- **Perspectives for the future**

Discussion

To reduce teenager abortions every country has its own needs and these have to be formulated