



# Policies which reach out to single parent realities

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Prague

National Assembly of Active Mothers, Lithuania



# Brief presentation of the context



Population change from 1993 to 2019



47 | 53  
Estonia



46 | 54  
Latvia



46 | 54  
Lithuania

Population structure by sex (%), 2019



Estonia 16%  
Latvia 16%  
Lithuania 15%



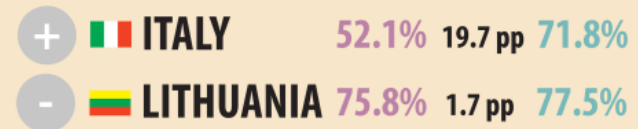
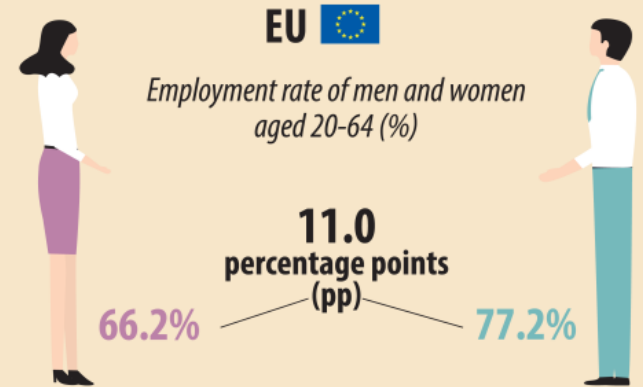
Estonia 20%  
Latvia 20%  
Lithuania 20%

Children (aged 0-14) and persons aged 65 and over (%), 2019



Total fertility rate 2008 to 2018 / 2022

## Gender employment gap 2020



#InternationalWomensDay [ec.europa.eu/eurostat](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

# Family status

## Share of single-parent households with children in the EU, 2020

(% of all households with children)

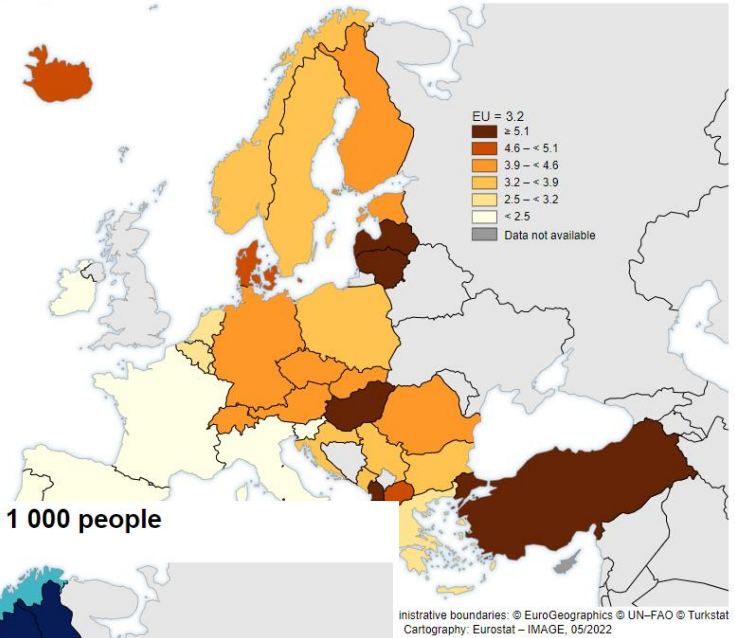


Note: Break in series and provisional data in Germany in 2020; Data for Sweden should be interpreted cautiously, as non-response in household data has not been corrected with administrative data

[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

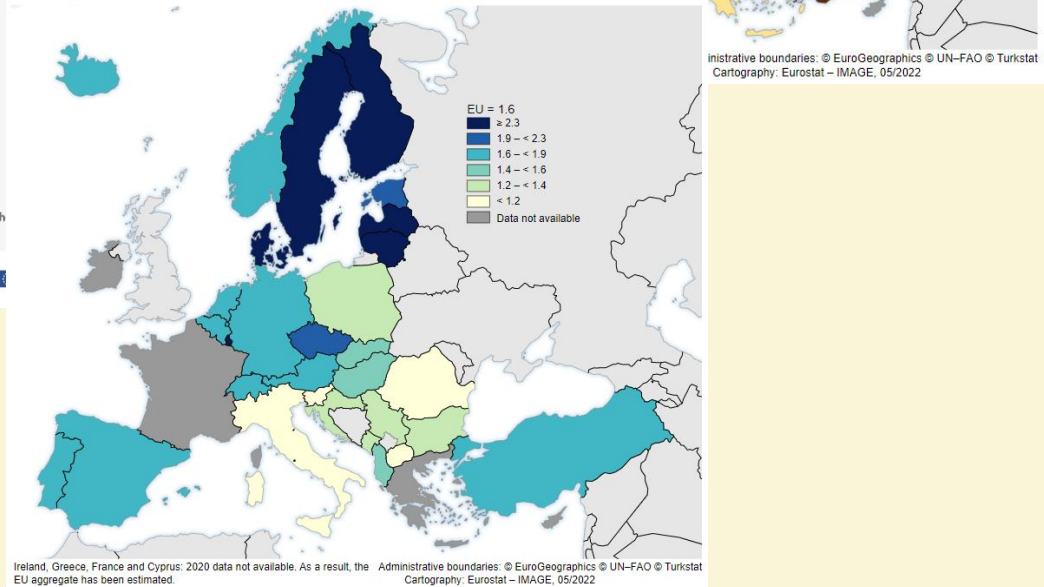
## Number of marriages per 1 000 people

2020



## Number of divorces per 1 000 people

2020



Ireland, Greece, France and Cyprus: 2020 data not available. As a result, the EU aggregate has been estimated.



# System design reasons / Why it is the way it is

Concept / criteria for classification

Distribution of support / burdens

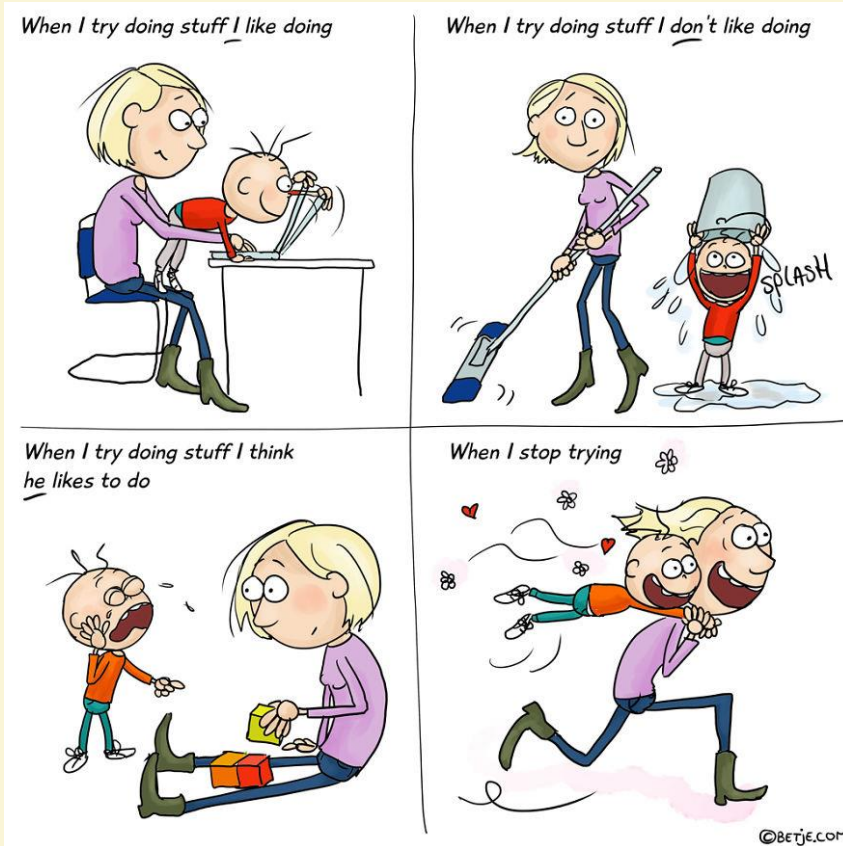
Issues, messages and policy measures

Political / value forces dominated the situation of the group



# Problems and Consequences

- results of a divorce or separation;
- 95% of cases it is the woman who is granted custody of the child;
- legal framework established: the woman is automatically considered to be the primary caregiver of the child in Lithuania.



# Chronology of policy decisions, LT

1991-1996

- the most generous year for single mothers with children;
- 1994-1995 Stigmatizing policies begin;
- All support for single parents stops;  
First Concept of Family Policy;

1999

- the worst financial situation of single parent families is recognized, but the blame is shifted to the families;
- Family policy becomes fragmented, direction of the married family

2001-2004 till now

- Shaming policy develops neither members of society nor policy makers want to be associated with single parent families;
- child rights, custody and strengthening the married family come into force

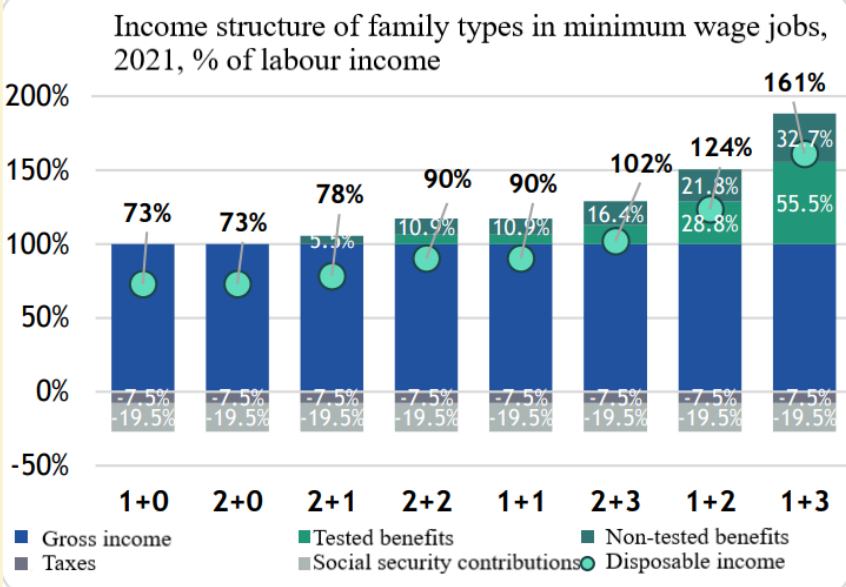
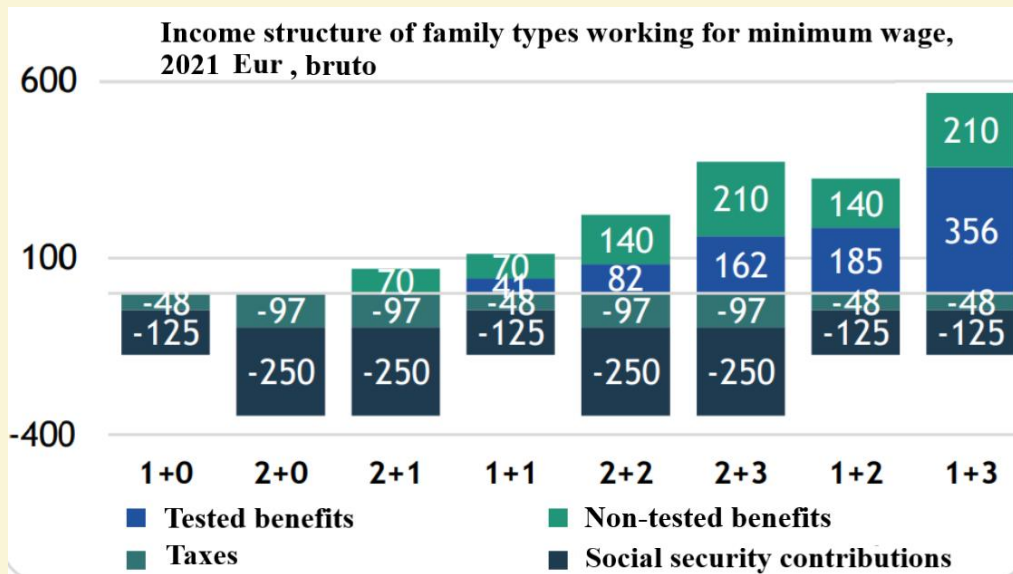
Single-Mother Families in the Context of Family Policy in Lithuania, PhD dissertation, Social Sciences, VU, Vilnius 2021, Greta Skubiejūtė



# Indicators for typical families and Monetary incentives to work, 2021

**Minimum wage** 642 Euro,  
two adults with children \*2;

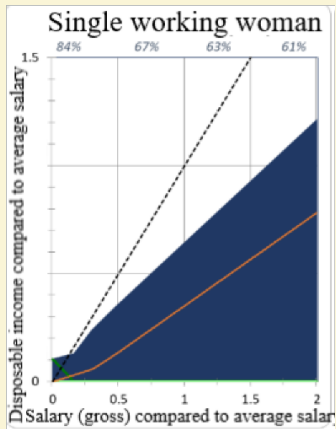
**Taxes:** 7.5% income tax and 19.5% social security contributions on employment income



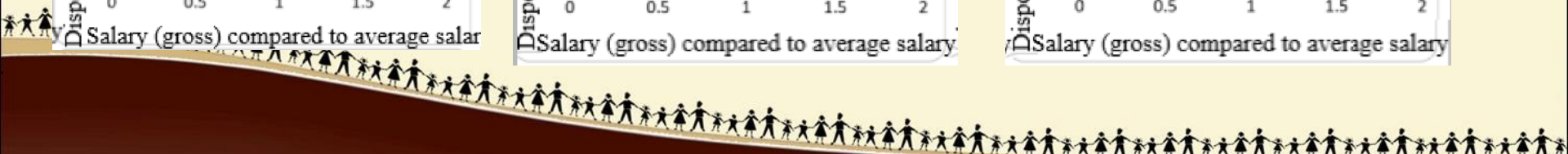
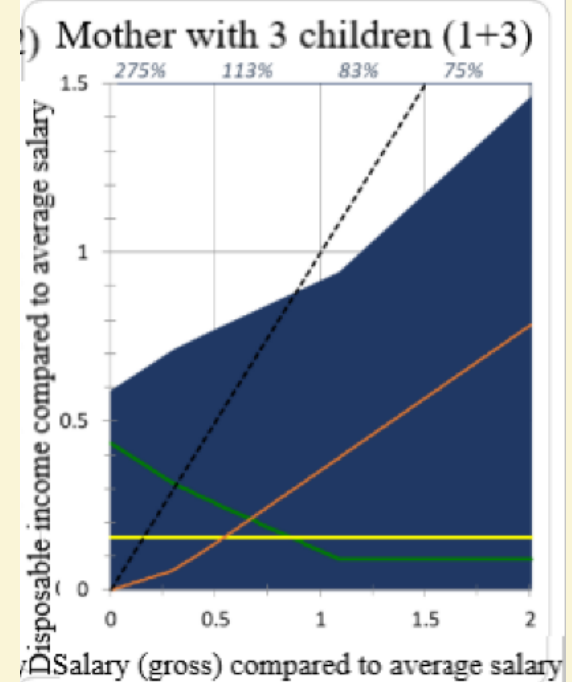
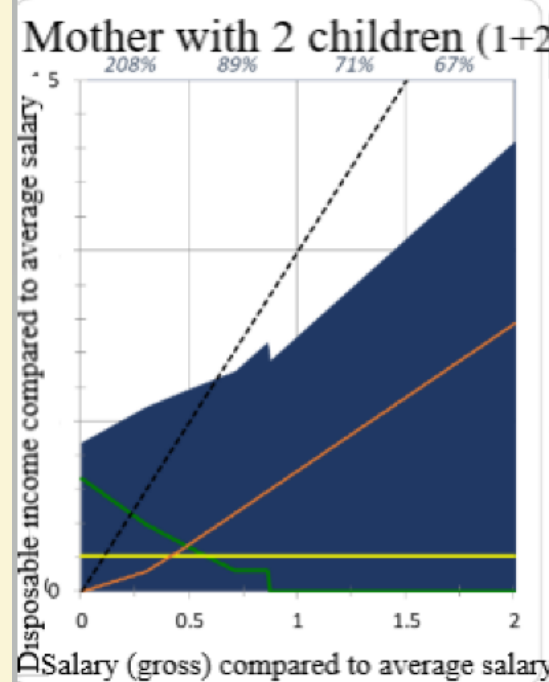
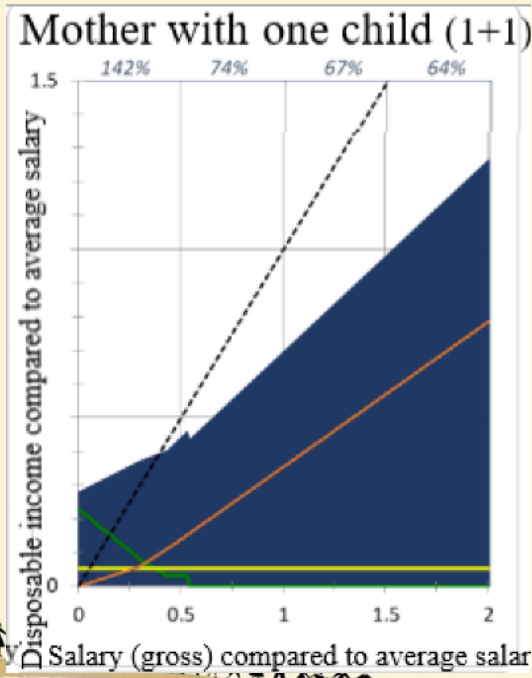
Non-tested benefits: child benefits (number of children, €70 per child);

Tested child benefit and social benefits (from Euro 41 for a single parent with 1 child to Euro 356 for a large family of one adult).

# Budget constraints for single mothers



shows how the **disposable income** of families changes when **earned income grows**



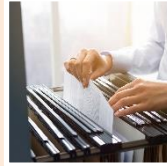


# Measures to strengthen families, by Government of Lithuania



## GOALS

- Ensure better access to services;
- Develop support measures



## PROGRAMMES

- Development Programme for Strengthening Family Policy,;
- Development Programme for Social Mobilization (most relevant to the issue of disability);
- Development Programme for Reducing Income Inequality



## RESULTS

- Single parents are not singled out as a separate target group in the programmes;
- all services and measures should be individualized and tailored to the specific needs and situation of the individual family



# State support received by single parents with children

## Support for all families

Child benefit

Maternity / Paternity / Child care Leave

Labour Code benefits for working families with children

Education services, discounts for public transport, benefits for unformal education (one), After-school day centers

Budget-financed health care services

Law on Equal Opportunities on family status

## Support for special social needs situations

Social benefits

Orphans', Disability benefits

Birth benefits; for twins

Support for large families ; Family card

Housing rent compensation, Social housing

## Support for the raising children alone

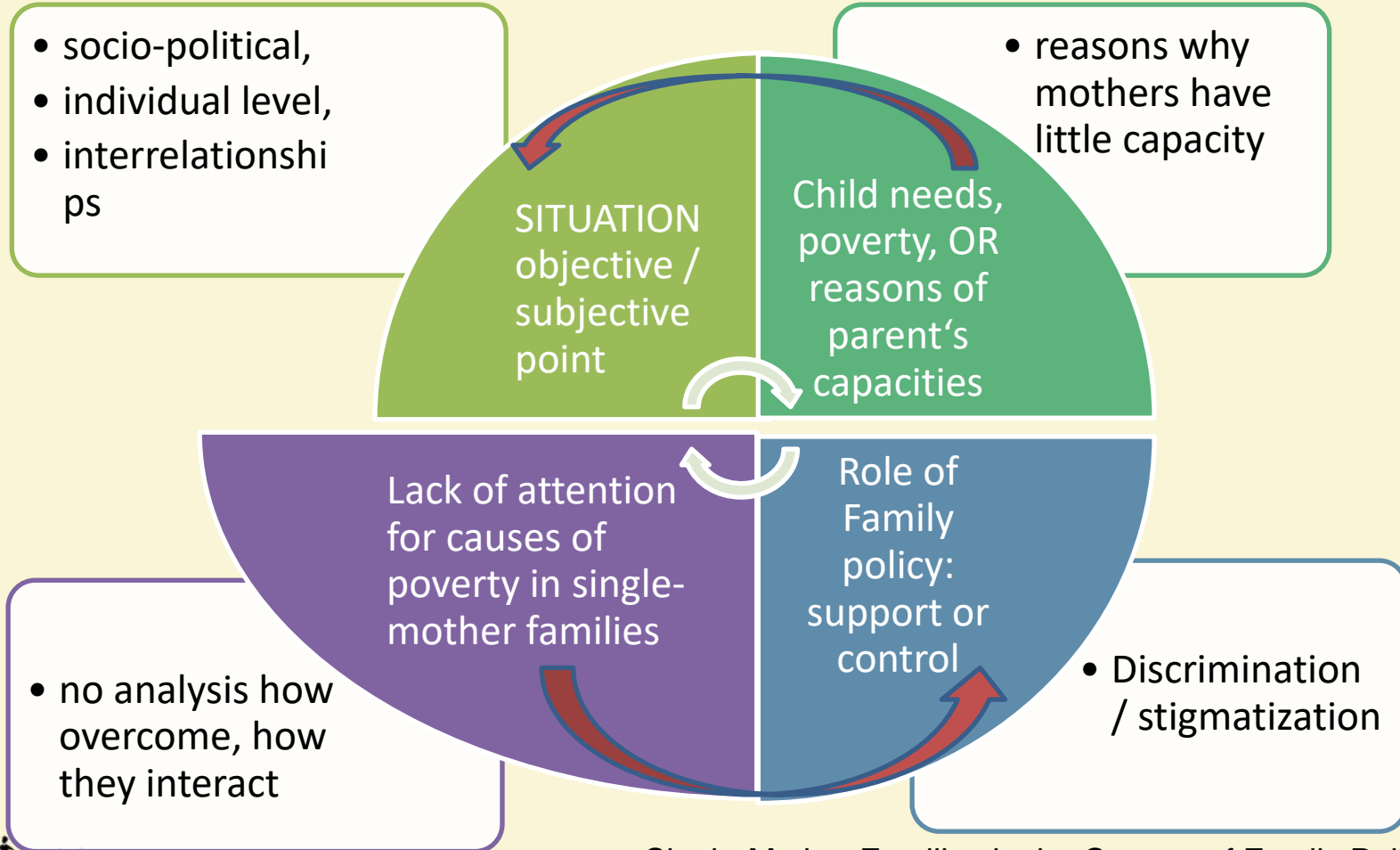
Child support Fund (benefit if father does not pay alimony)

In some cases, access to a discount at school

Labour Code obligation for employer / special measures



# Weaknesses in changing the situation of single parents



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*Thank you for your attention.*

