

# Cross-country studies of the role of policy on health inequalities

Different approaches and different inequality dimensions

Christophe Vanroelen

[cvroelen@vub.ac.be](mailto:cvroelen@vub.ac.be)

Interface Demography  
Department of Sociology  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

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# Typologies or Macro data?

## Advantages a **macro data** approach

- *Real* data (avoid artifact effects of summarizing)
- Detailed analyses of policies, efforts and results
- Dynamic analyses (e.g. change over time)
- Modeling cross-level interactions

## Advantages a **typological** approach

- Upstream policy entrances (distal causes, theory driven)
- From analyses of policies to analyses of politics
- Taking into account complex and durable constellations
- Sensible solution for (sparse) cross-national data

# Typology studies

Some challenges of typological analyses:

“ There are **no one-size-fits-all-typologies**

- Specific populations (migrants, employed women, young workers, ...)
- Specific policy domains (integration policies, work-family balancing, active labour market policies)
- Specific outcomes (all-cause mortality, specific disorders, healthy life style factors)

“ **Internal consistency:** outliers and escapers

- The Netherlands: structure of the (female) labour market
- Sweden: deterioration of welfare state outcomes (e.g. poverty)

“ Disentangling **country/typology** and **time** effects

- Spain: crisis effects on a flexible labour market → decreasing temporary employment

# Cross-country policy analysis in SOPHIE

## “ Different **domains** of study:

- Labour market and quality of work
- Housing and built environment
- Migration policies
- Gender and work and family reconciliation policies

## “ Different **axes** of social inequality:

- Social class
- Gender
- Immigrant background

# Example: evolution of “job strain” 1995-2010

➤ **Job Strain** (= high work demands & low job control) is a sensitive “upstream indicator” of work-related health (inequalities).

BUT

Huge **inter-European** variation:

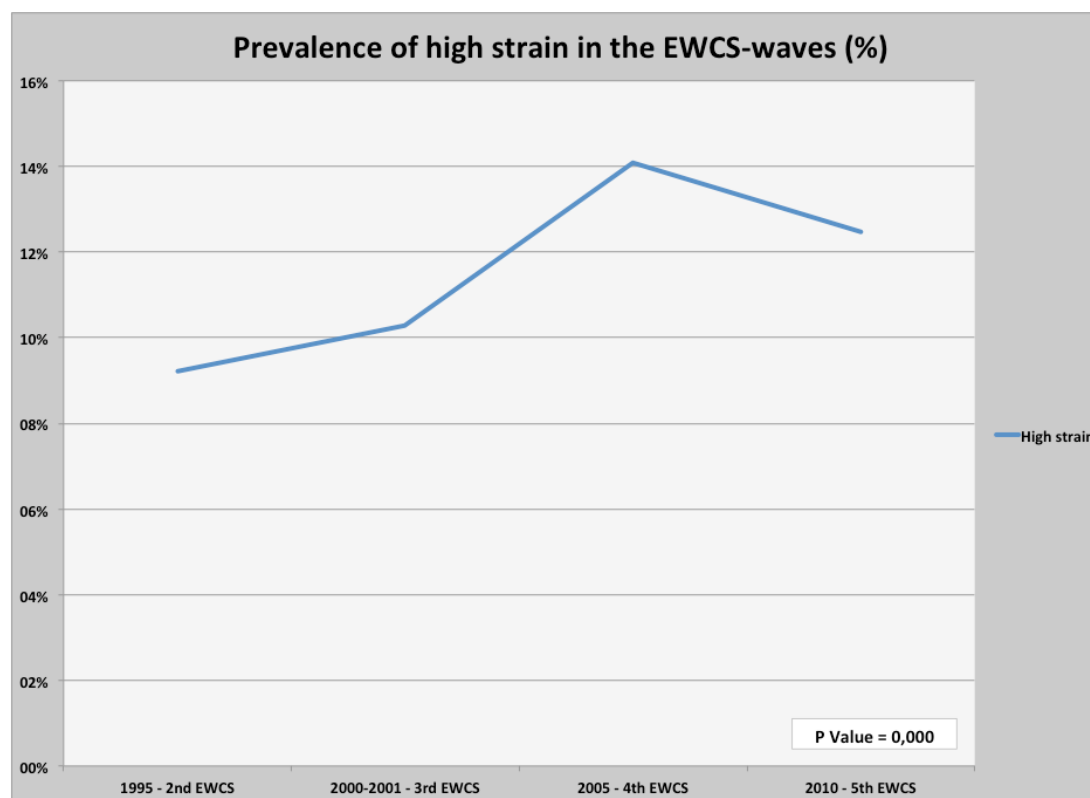
- Denmark 2010: 5% (EWCS 2010)
- Greece 2010: 18% (EWCS 2010)

AND

Important evolutions **over time**:

Mean score EU15:

- EWCS 1995: 9.2%
- EWCS 2010: 14.1%



# Example: evolution of “job strain” 1995-2010

Alternative typology:  
**Employment regimes** (Gallie, 2011): Production regime (Hall and Soskice, 2001) + Wage bargaining regimes (Gallie, 2007):

“Nordic:

- Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden;

“Continental Coordinated:

- Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria;

“State coordinated:

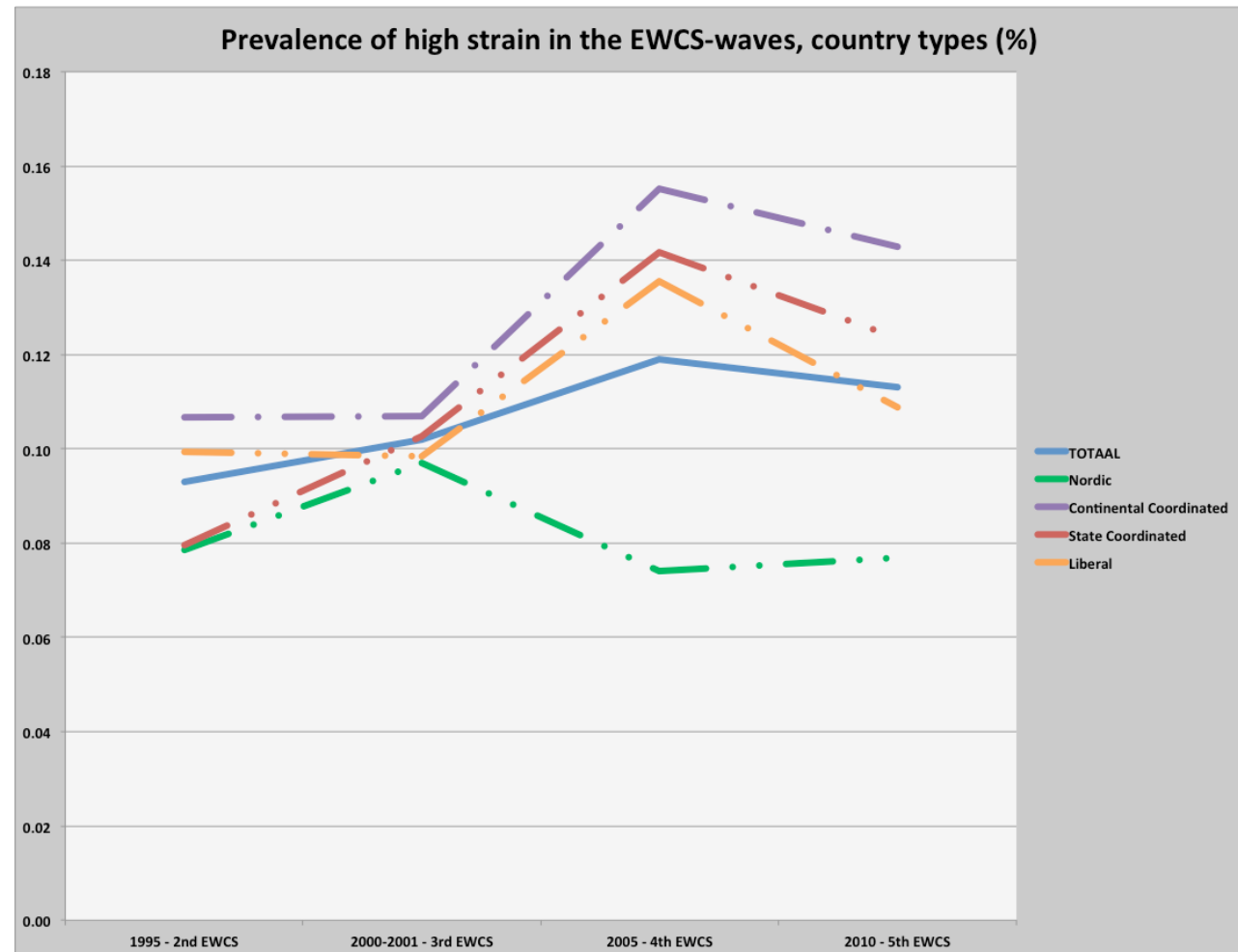
- France, Italy, Spain, Portugal;

“Transition:

- Eastern Europe (not included here)

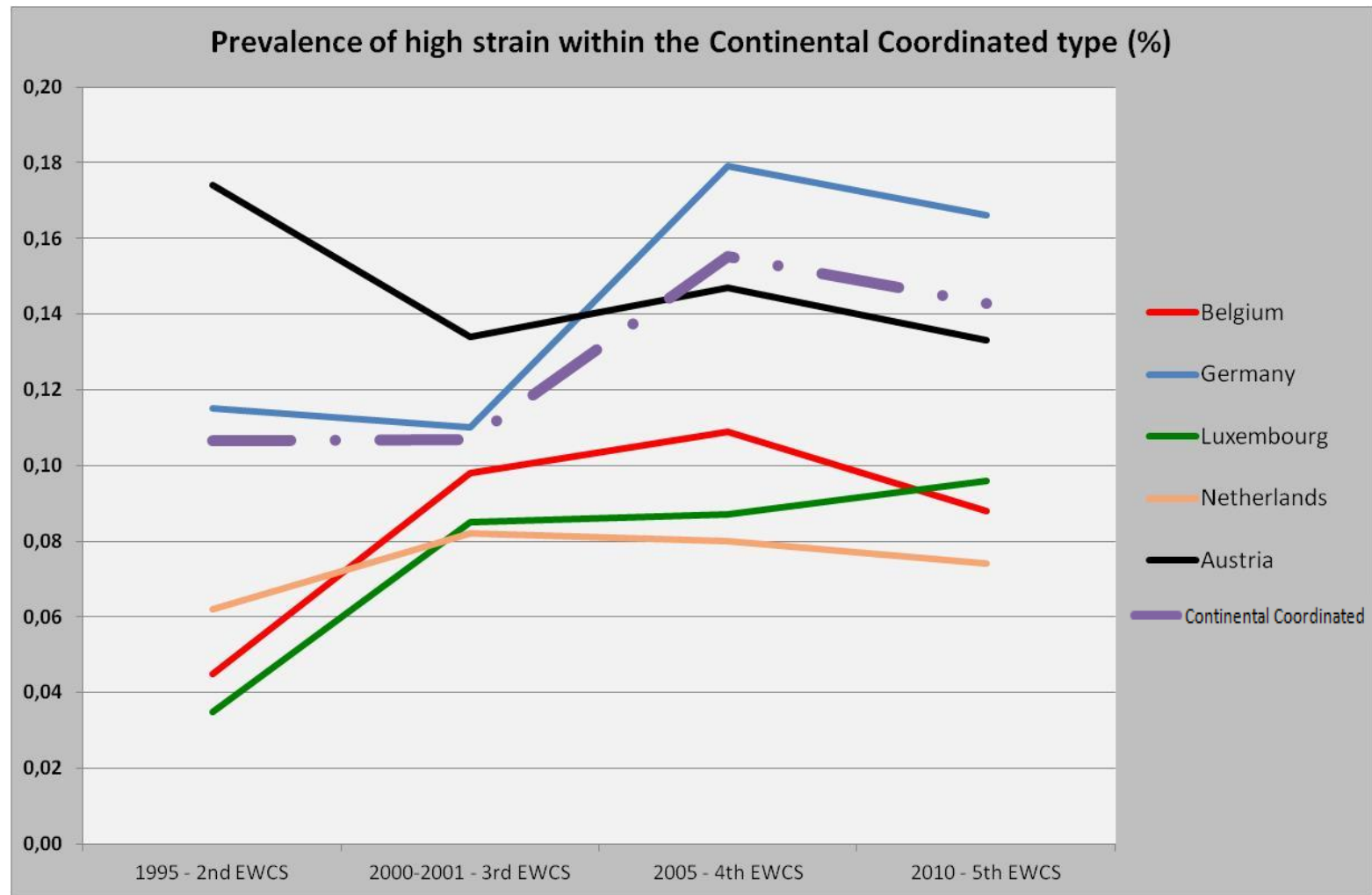
“Liberal:

- UK, Ireland;



P Value = 0.174 (Nordic); 0.000 (All others)

# Example: evolution of “job strain” 1995-2010



# Innovative approaches: constructing empirical typologies

## MIPEX – Migrant Integration Policy Index

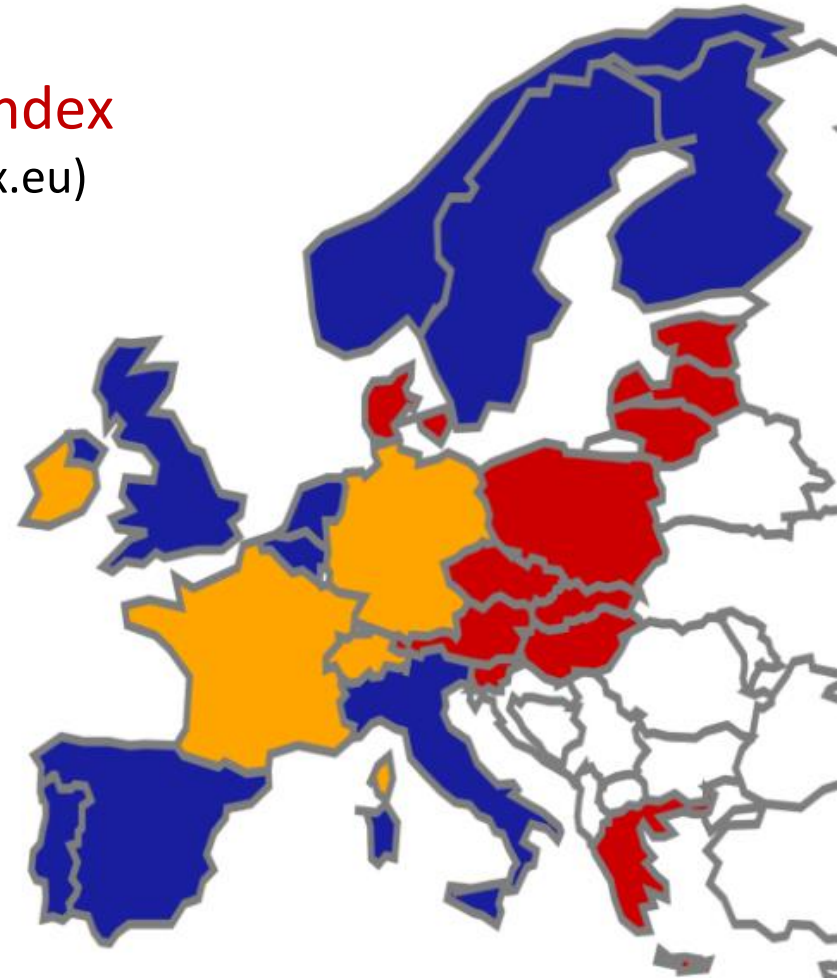
Based on 140 different indicators ([www.mipex.eu](http://www.mipex.eu))

### Dimensions of integration policy

- Access to nationality;
- Political rights;
- Socio-economic rights;
- Cultural rights;
- Anti-discrimination legislation

**Latent Class Analysis** of dimensions scores  
(Meuleman & Reeskens 2008)

- Blue=Multiculturalist
- Orange=Assimilationist
- Red= Exclusionist



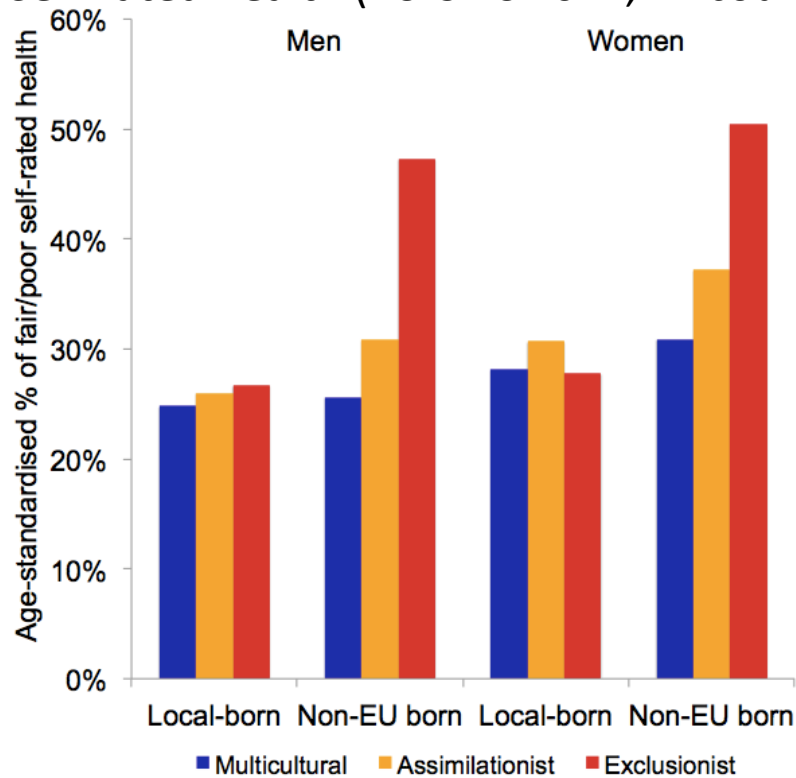


# Innovative approaches: constructing empirical typologies

Application of MIPEX-based Meuleman's typology of integration policy to study cross-national differences in self-rated health and mortality among migrants and non-migrants

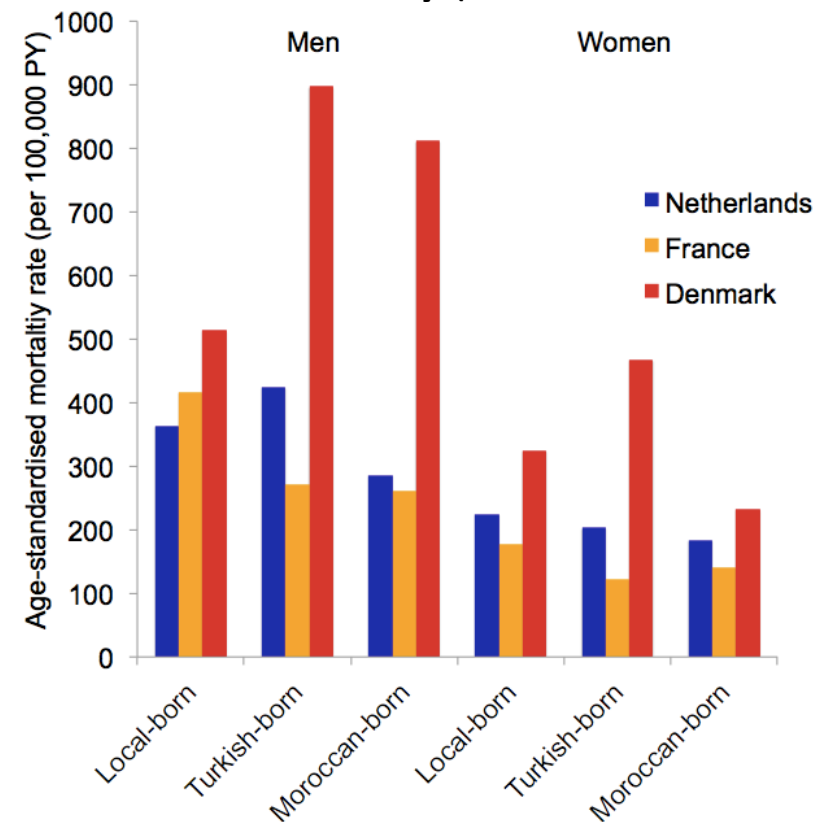
Malmusi, D. (2014). *Eur J Public Health* cku156

**Self-rated health** (EU-SILC 2011, 11 countries)



Ikram, U. et al. (2014). *EPH conference C.3*

**All-cause mortality** (MEHO, 3 countries)



# Innovative approaches: including typologies and macro indicators

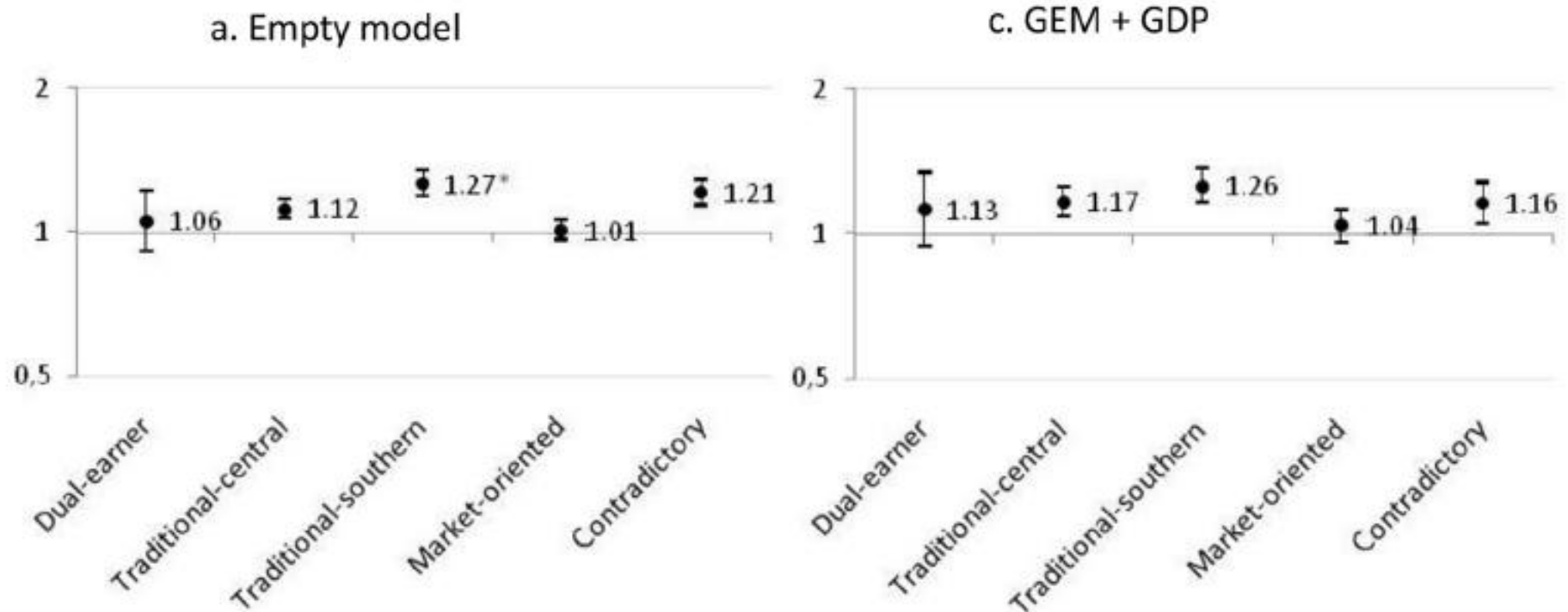
**Application of Korpi's family policies model to study cross-national differences in gender inequality in self-rated health** (In: Palencia et al. (2014). *ScoSciMed*, 117: 25-33)

Category	Countries	Description
<b>Dual-earner</b>	Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden	Public policies enable a transfer of childcare from the family to the public sector and stimulate fathers to take more active part in caring for their minor children.
<b>Traditional-Central</b>	Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands	These countries have traditional family policies with high support to all families, as for example: child allowances for minor children, part-time day-care services, home care allowances or marriage subsidies.
<b>Traditional-Southern</b>	Cyprus, Spain, Greece, Portugal	These countries have residual family policies with lack of support to families and rely on unpaid help. Spain, Greece and Portugal have had a long period or right-wing dictatorship
<b>Market-oriented</b>	Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ireland	Absence of strong action to support households, the market is the principal institution governing individuals' and families' access to resources
<b>Contradictory</b>	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ukraine	Simultaneously attempts to both preserve a highly gendered division of domestic labour and support the dual earner family. Consist of former socialist countries where family policies have changed after the transition (before they were more supporting to women's labour force participation).

Typology adopted from: Korpi et al.,2013; Ferrarini and Sjørberg, 2010

# Innovative approaches: domain-sensitive typologies

Application of Korpi's family policies model to study cross-national differences in gender inequality in self-rated health (In: Palencia et al. (2014). *ScoSciMed*, 117: 25-33)



Multilevel associations between gender and self-perceived in each country typology (PR: prevalence ratios and 95%CI: 95% confidence intervals). GEM= Gender Empowerment measure; GDP= Gross Domestic Product

# Summary: challenges and possible solutions

## “ Alternative domain-specific typologies

- Korpi – Gender policy
- MIPEX – Migration policy
- Gallie – Employment regimes

## “ Recalibration and (re)construction of (updated) typologies

- LCA
- Fuzzy set analysis

## “ Mixing typological and (multilevel) macro-approaches

- Including a typology variable in multilevel models with macro indicators
- Fairbrother’s approach: disentangling institutional and time effects  
(Fairbrother & Martin, 2013. *Social Science Research*, 42: 347-360)