



- Social and economic equality in Norway:

Country facts

Brief history

Development of welfare state

Key economic facts

Present challenges



Country facts

- 324.000 km². Arctic climate, 5 m.inhab./80% urb.
- Biggest city 500.000, average municipality 10.000
- Rich country for 2 main reasons:
 - Oil since 1972 – 4% to state budget, 96% to pension fund
 - High employment rate: Low unemployment rate: 3-4 %
- Relatively high birth rate: 1.9 BR



Very brief history : from poor to rich country

- 1000 Vikings
- 1500-1905: province/colony under Sweden/Denmark
- 1814: Constitution (and abolishment of nobility)
- 1837: Local Government Act
- 1905: Independence – and election of new king
- 1930: Development of tripartite dialogue
- 1940-45: Occupation by Germany

- 1970 :Oil

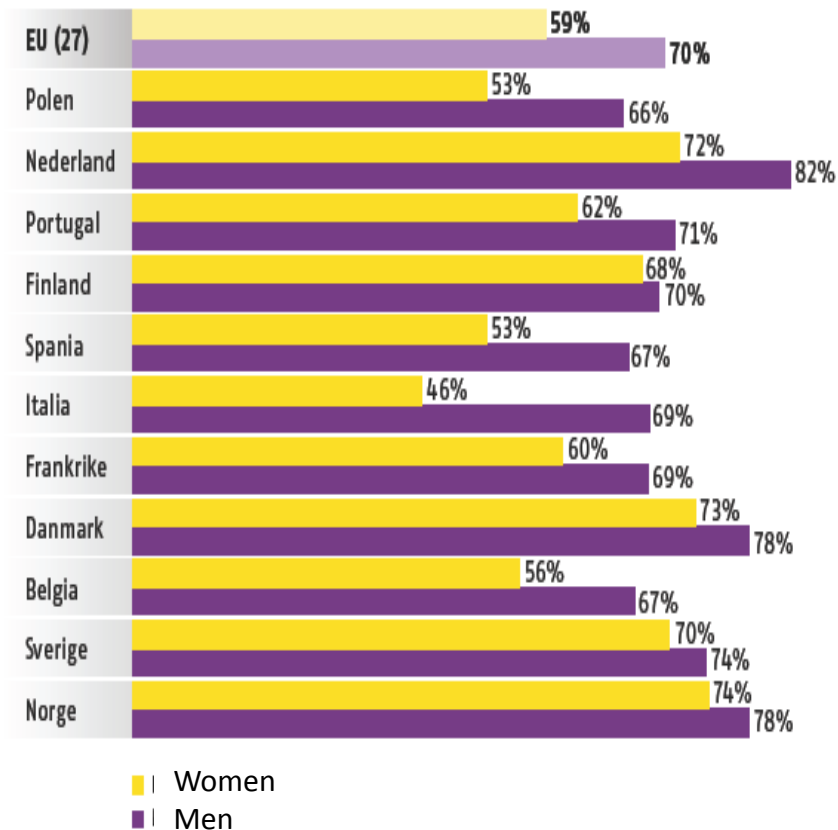


Development of the welfare state

- Social democratic governm.1945-1963
- SD majority 1963-2013
- Priority: ec./social stability, industry, social equality
- Extensive welfare state, e.g. ch.grant 1946, univ. pension 1967
- Welfare state before oil wealth!

- Positive link between employment rate and Gross Nat. Prod.
- Portugal: Employment rate women 62%, men 71% (2010)
- Norway: Employment rate rate 74/78%
- High emp.rate means more to Norwegian economy than oil

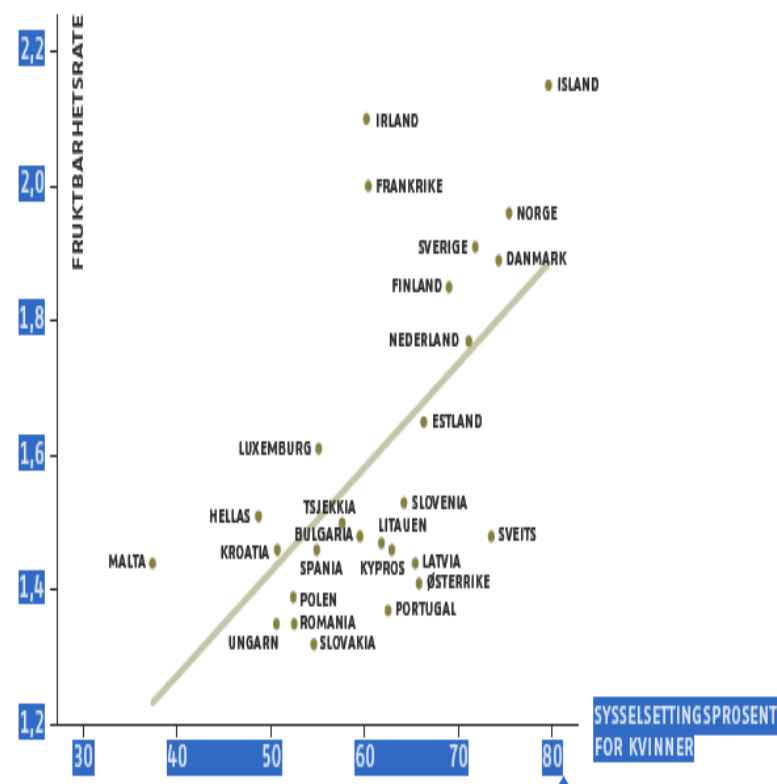
Employment rate for men and women 15-65 yrs. in selected countries. Eurostat 2010.



- Sustainable birth rate is 2.1.
- The rates in Europe vary between 1.2 and 2.2.
- Low birth rate means economic problems in next generation: few productive adults - many elderly
- Portugal 1.3, Norway 1.9.

Birth rate and female employment rate in Europe.
Eurostat 2010

Kilde: Eurostat 2010



FIGUR 2.7



Present changes.....

- 40 years of increasing salaries, pensions, fortunes
- Positive for 75/80% of the population
- Wish for individual solutions, choices?
- Decrease of solidarity?
- Widening economic differences – groups/generations
- Very high immigration rate – Africa, Asia, Europe
- 2013: Conservative /»right wing government«
- Relative: US Amb:»All N. pol. Parties are SD«