

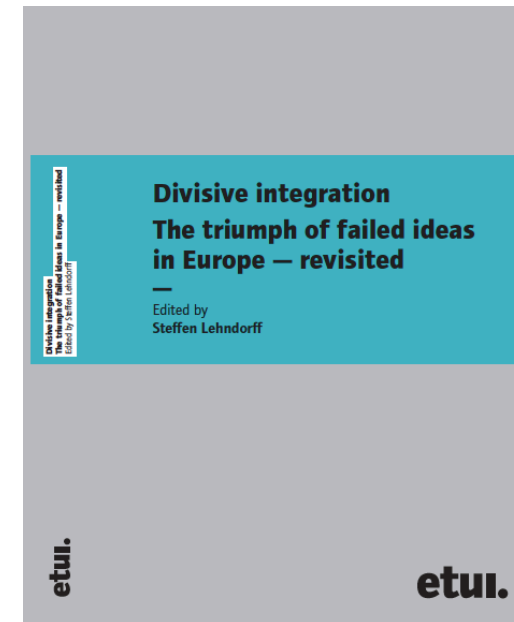
# From economic to political disintegration: No way out of the EU crises?

Left strategies vis-à-vis Europe  
in times of multiple crises

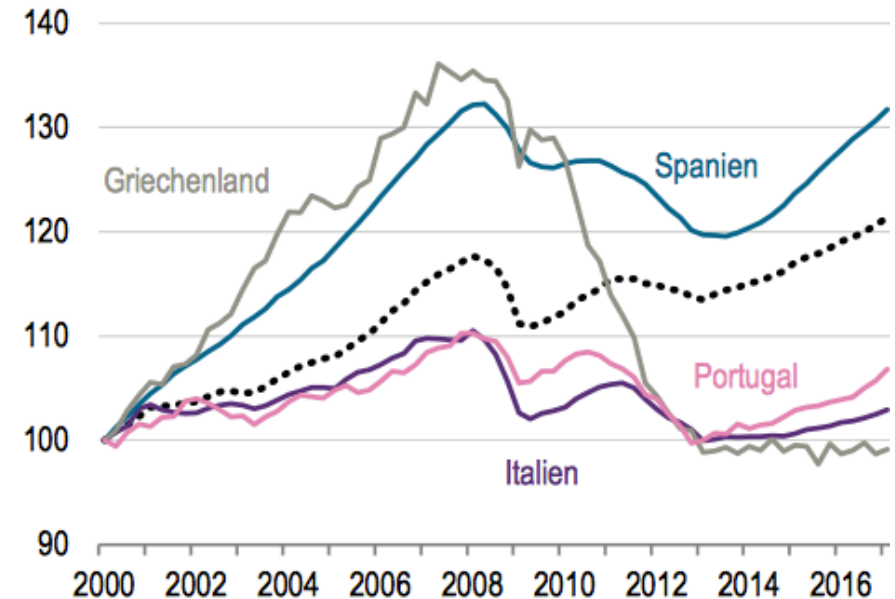
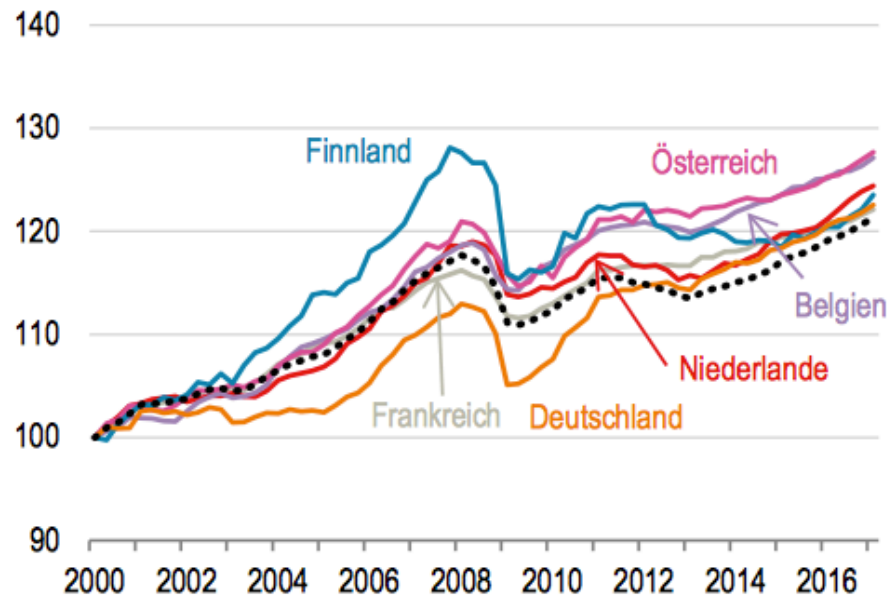
Vienna

16 October 2017

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## GDP, Eurozone + selected countries (2000q1 = 100)



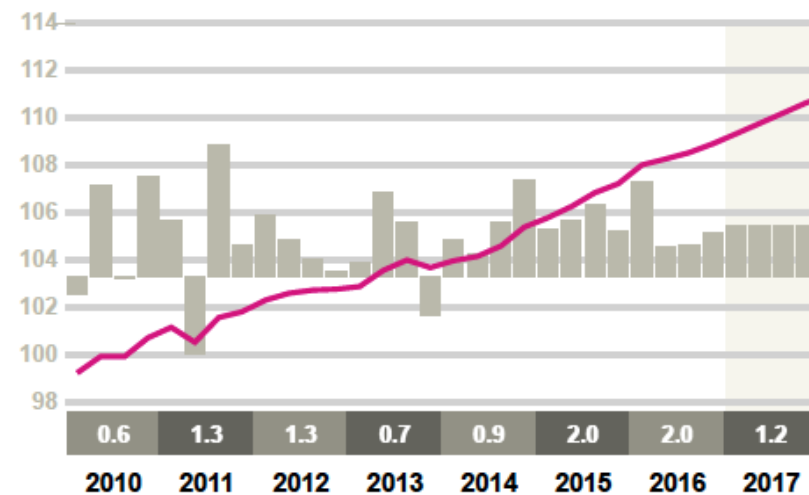
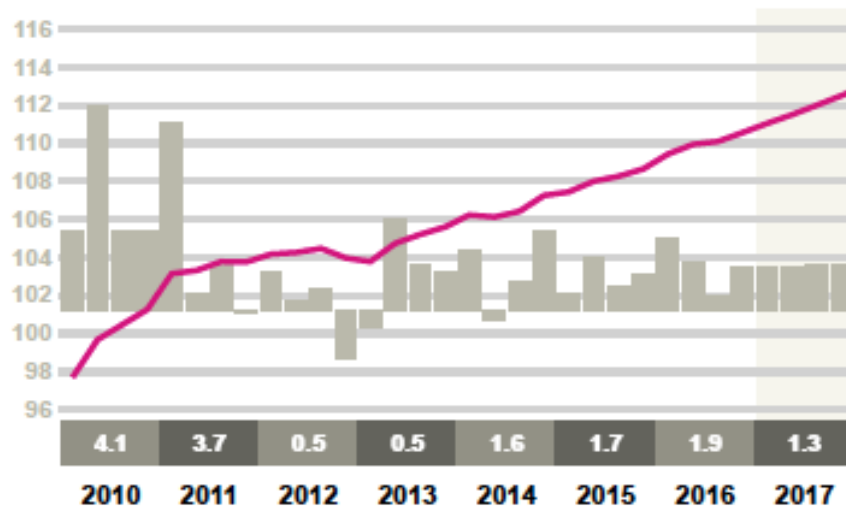
..... Euroraum

Source: IMK Report 128, 2017

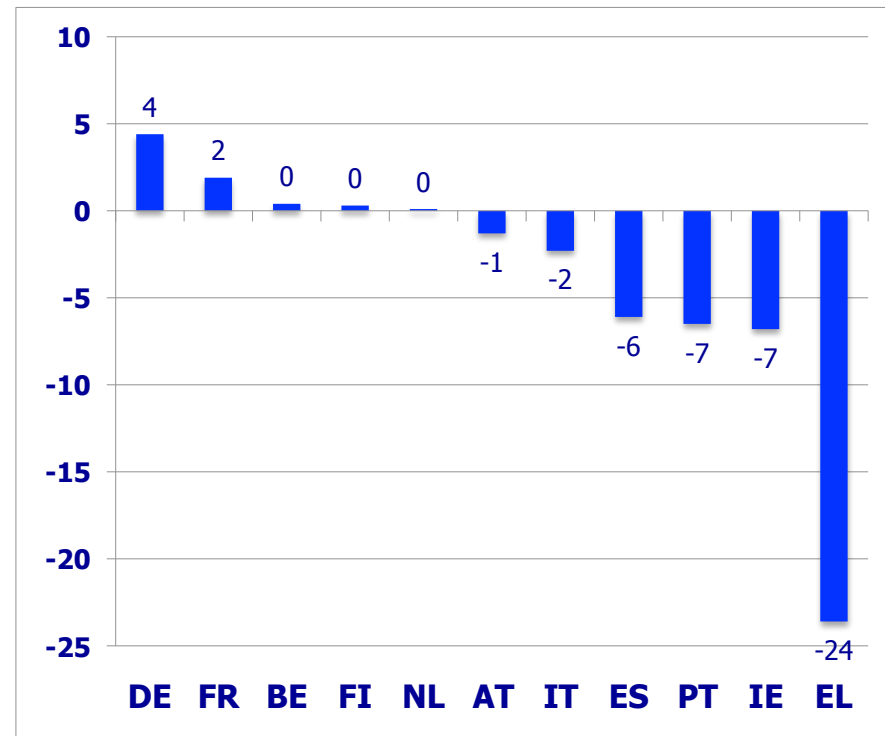
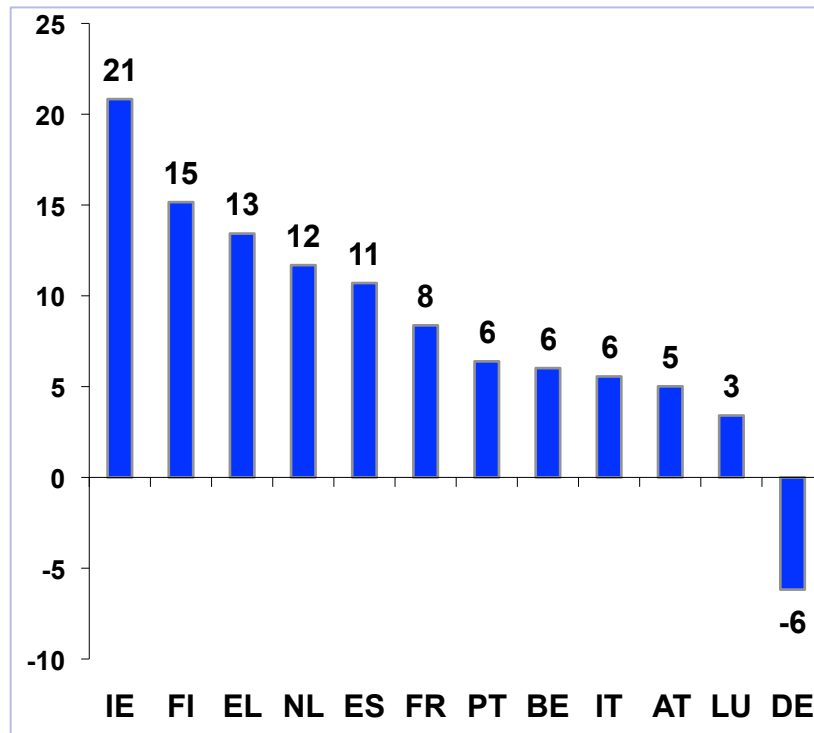
## GDP and household consumption, Germany (2010 = 100)

### GDP

### Household consumption



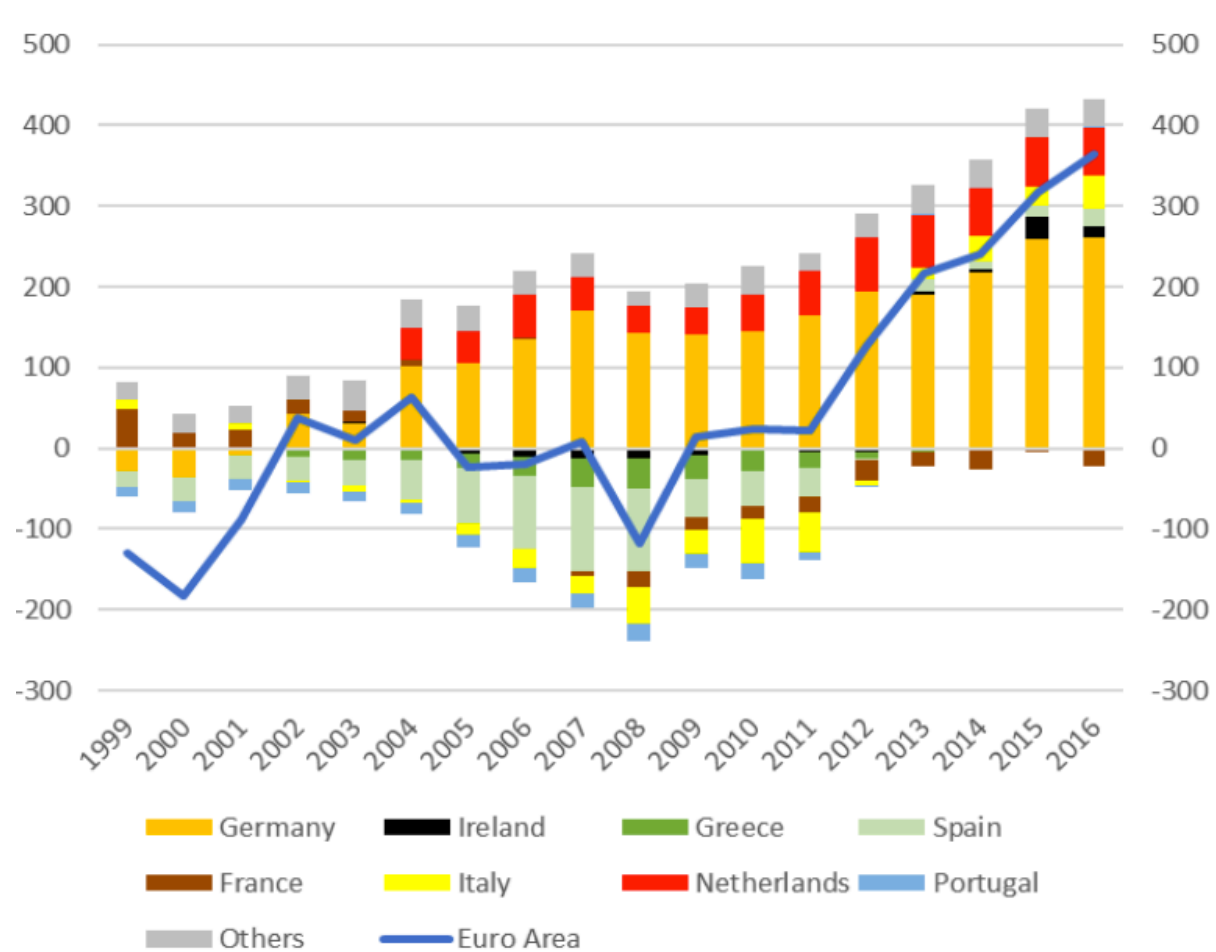
## Changes in real wages\* per employee 2001-2009 (left) and 2010-2014 (right) (in %)



\*Nominallöhne deflationiert um den nationalen Verbraucherpreisindex; ausgewählte Länder der Eurozone

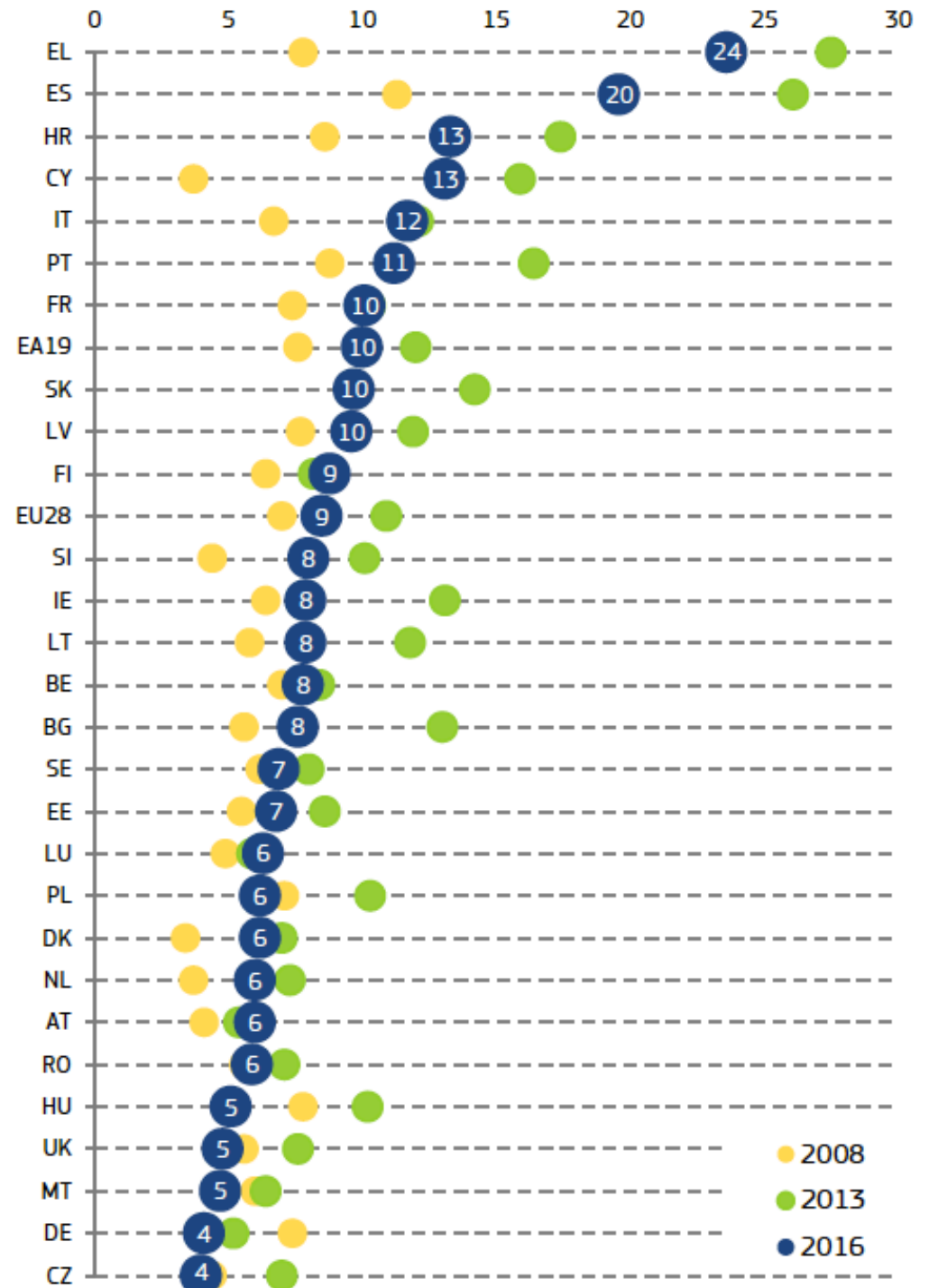
Source: Schulten and Müller (2015)

## Current account balances, Eurozone, 1999-2016 (bn. €)



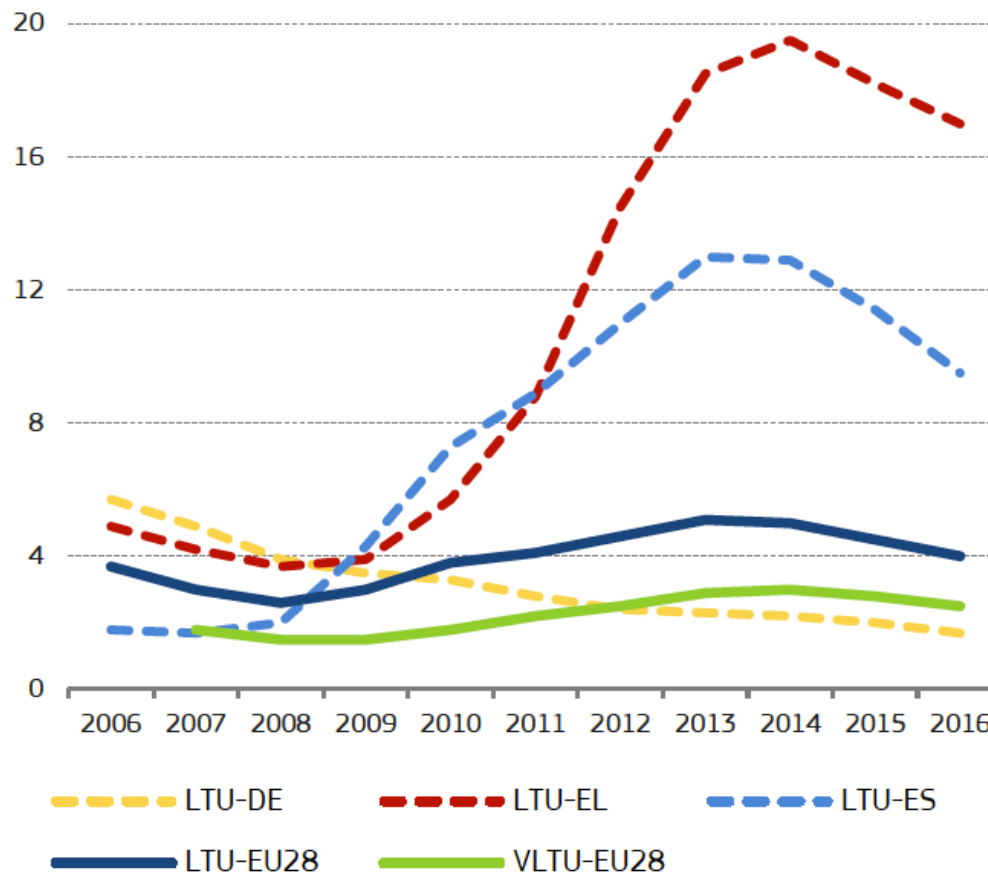
Source: AMECO (Priewe 2017)

# Unemployment rates (% of labour force), 2008/2013/2016



Source: Eurostat (Employment and Social developments in Europe 2017)

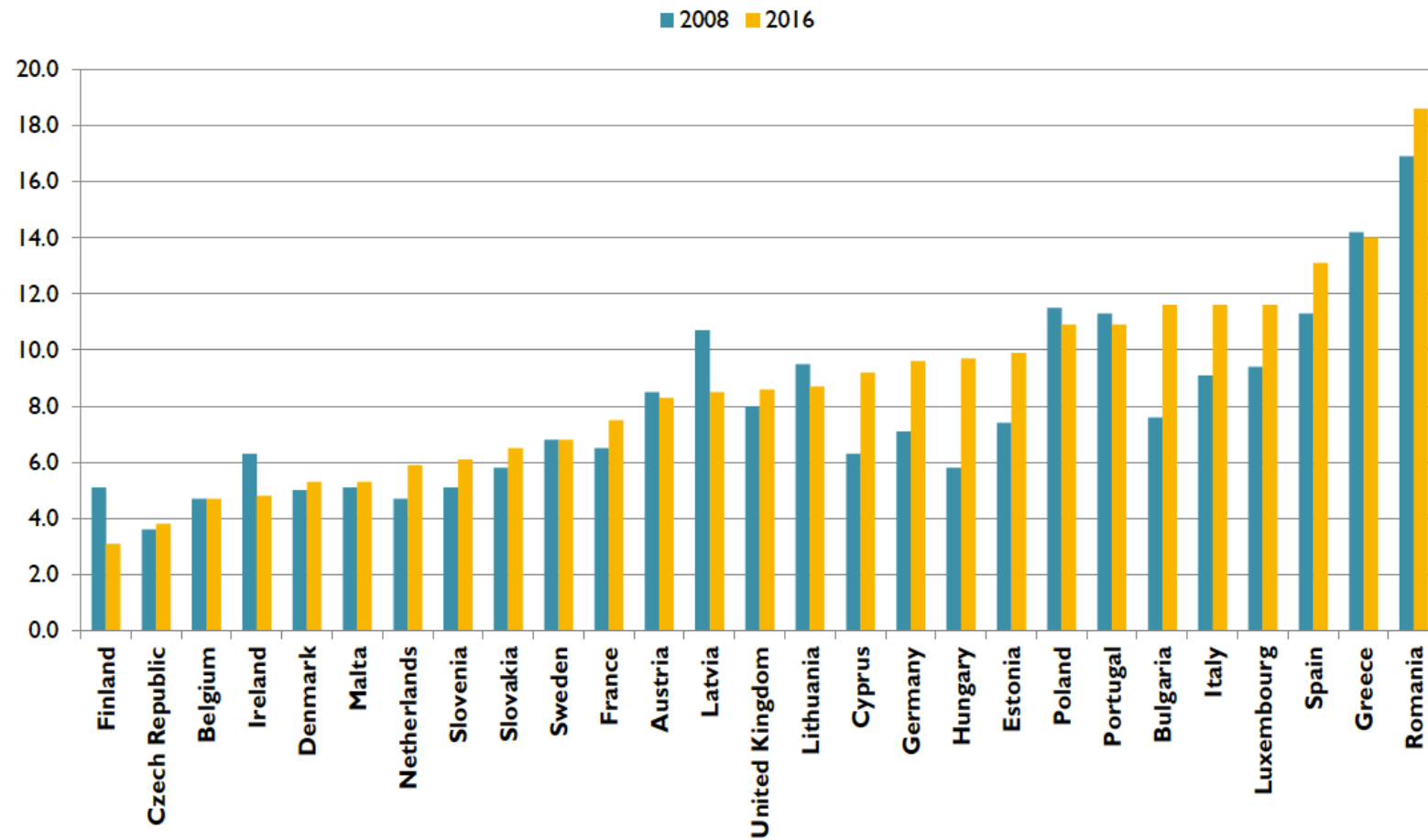
## Long-term unemployment (> 1 year\*)



\* > 2 years = very long-term (VLTU)

Source: Eurostat (Employment and Social developments in Europe 2017)

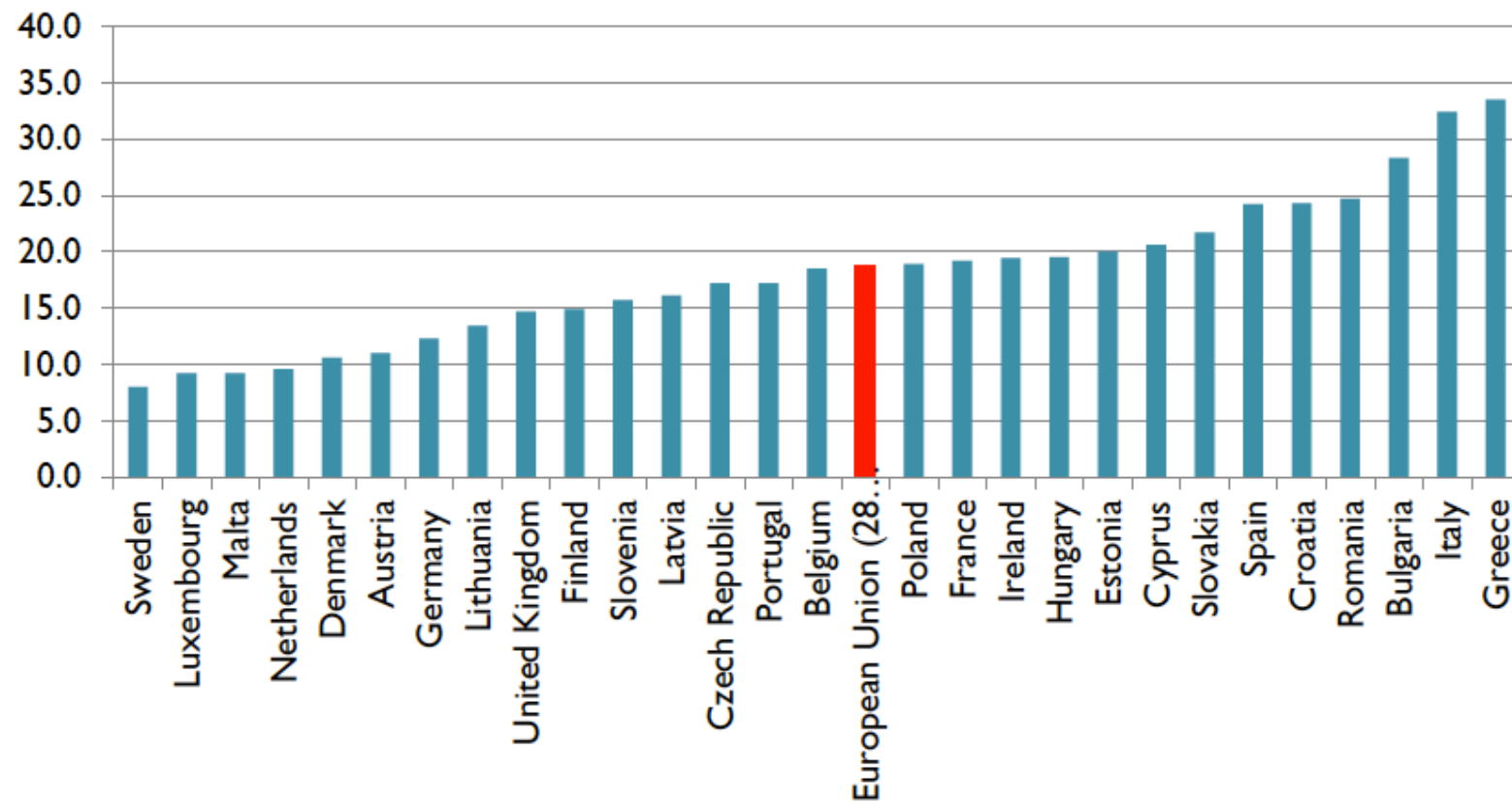
## In-work poverty rate in the EU 2008, 2016



Source: Eurostat (Karamessini 2017)

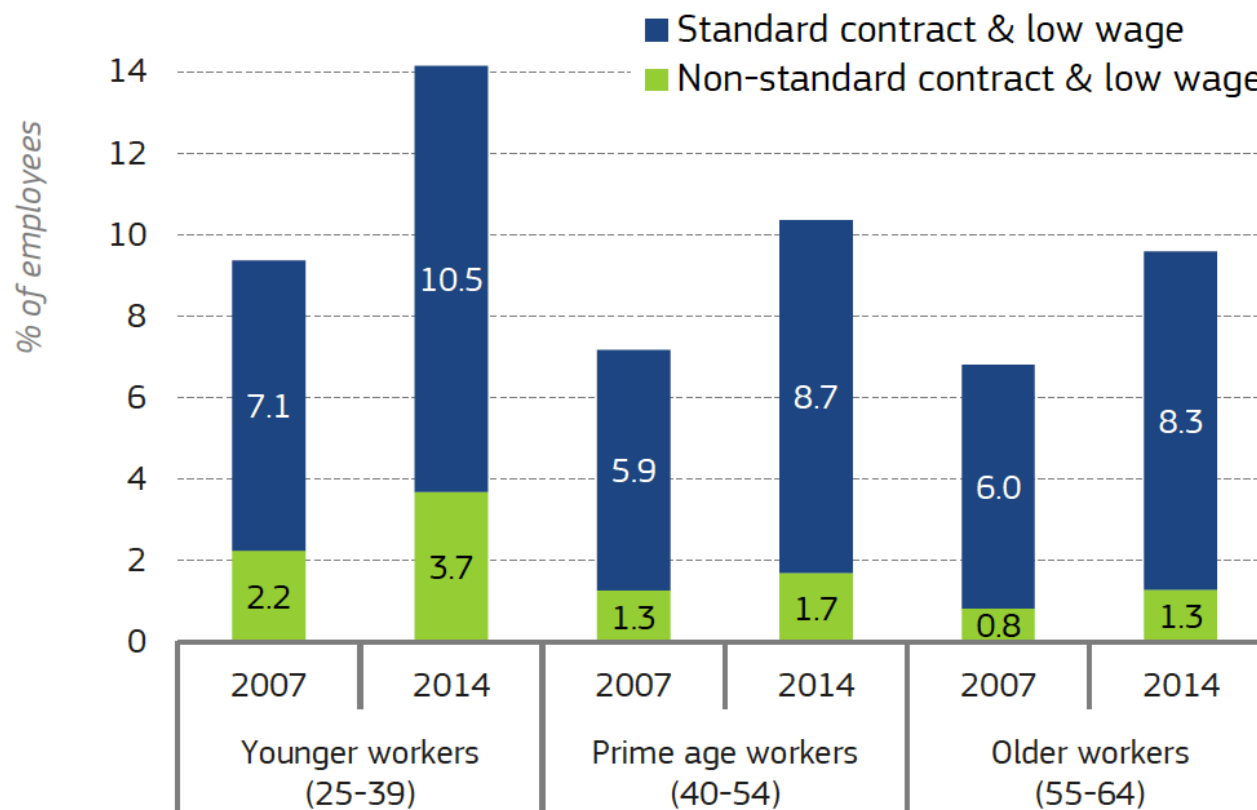


## NEET rates for young people (25-29 years), 2016



Source: Eurostat (Karamessini 2017)

## Low-wage workers by contract type (employees), 2007-2014, EU



\* Green (blue) bars show the proportion of low wage earners among non-standard (standard) employees.

Source: EU-SILC (Employment and Social developments in Europe 2017)



Quelle: Harm Bengen

## Between crumbling and „window of opportunity“: Three levels of EU ruling elites' debate and action

1. Big politics
  - *How to hold the shop together?*
  - Focus: Institutional reforms within the treaties
2. Symbolic staging
  - *How to make the EU more attractive?*
  - Focus: „Social dimension“
3. „Technocratic“ continuity
  - *How to carry on deregulation in the Single Market?*
  - Focus: widely unnoticed directives etc.

Progressive stance: Escape into „reset“ mode  
or *promotion of reform momentum* ?



Source: Harm Bengen

Crucial challenges:

- Create links between national-level and EU-level reform agendas
- Democracy