Portugal:
Southern or Eastern European Country?

The evolution of period fertility and the economic constrains.

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CIDEHUS

Aim of study

- The objective of our work is to describe and evaluate the Portuguese fertility patterns in the recent decades (1990-2011) and to understand if period fertility behaviour, and its context, are analogous to the countries of South or East Europe.

- The aim of this study is also to understand if the economic and labour market indicators *reflect in the same direction* for the two European regions in analysis.

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  - Such high unemployment appears to have discouraged the young adults from entering in the labour market and, as consequence, the family's formation decreased and childbearing is being postponed.

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- The non-democratic or dictatorial background is one of the similarities between Portugal (South Europe) and the East European countries.
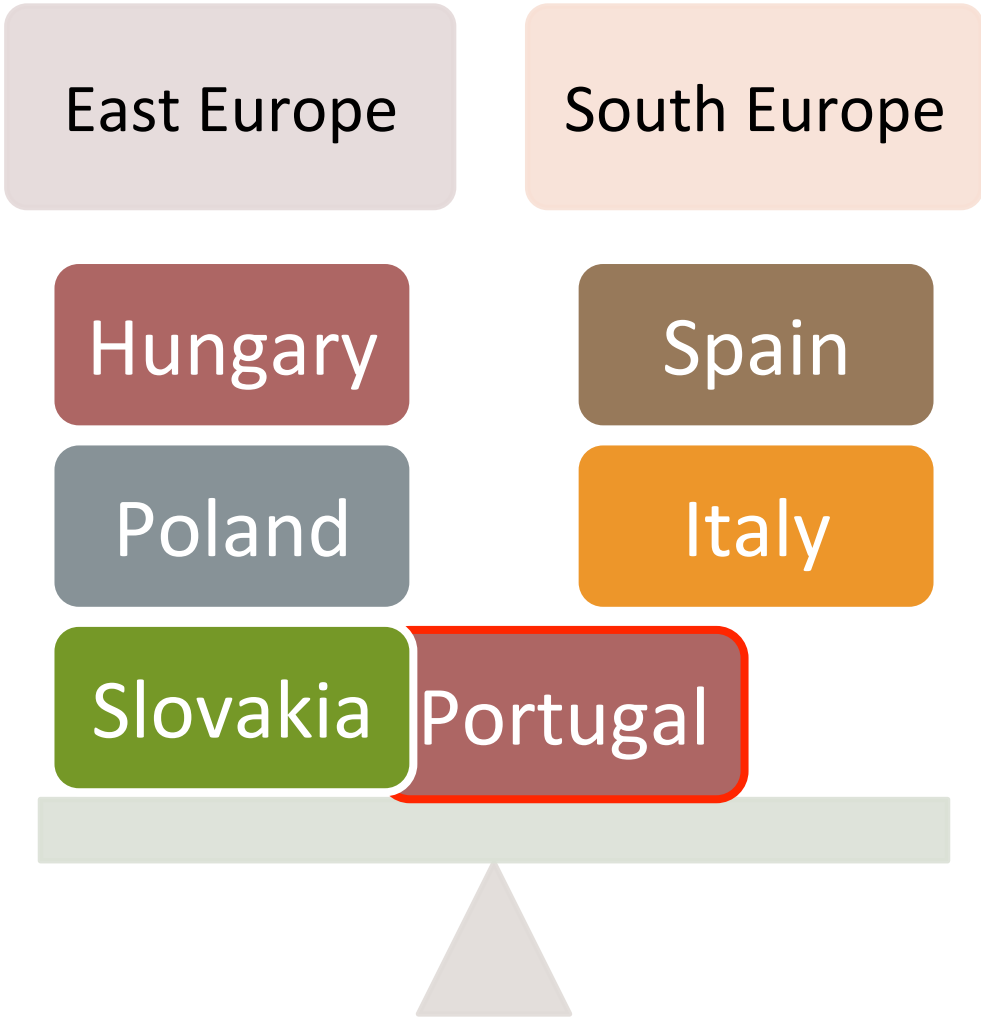
Motivation

Motivation

East Europe

South Europe

Hungary

Poland

Slovakia

Portugal

Spain

Italy
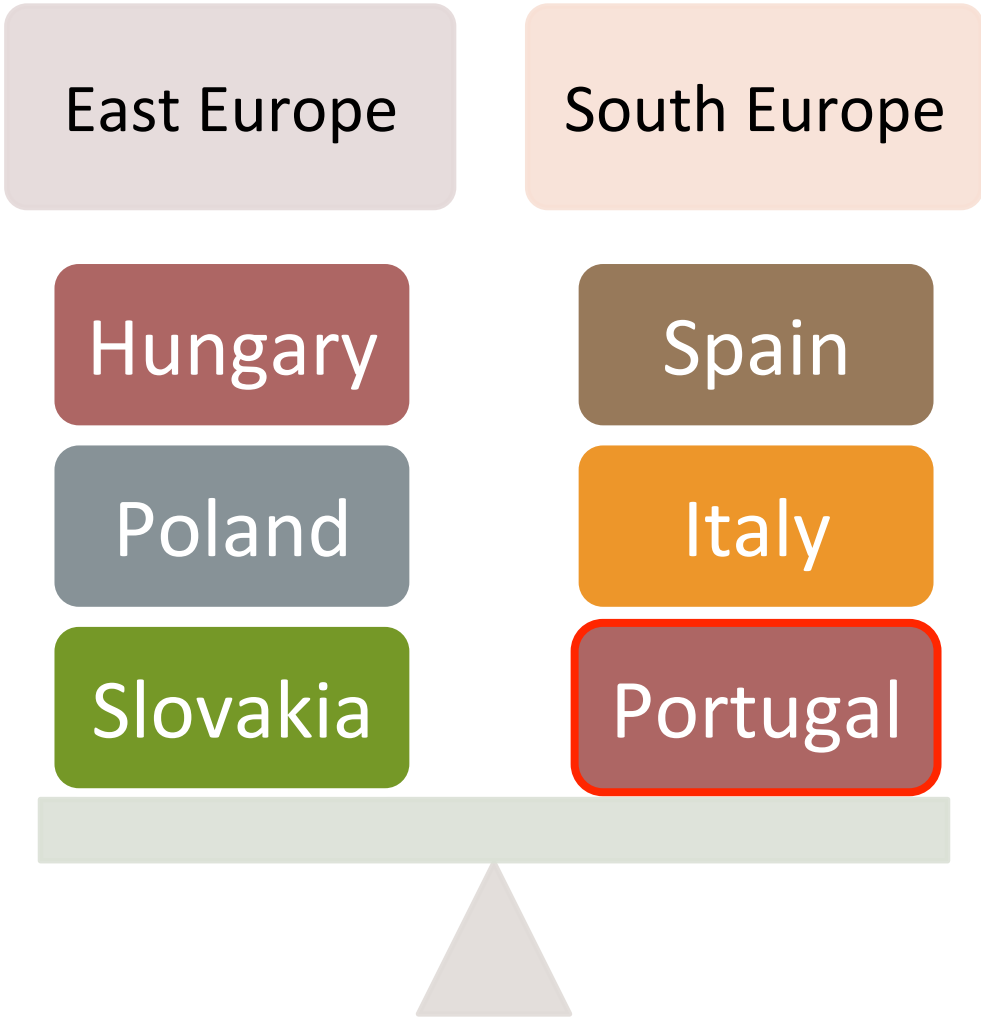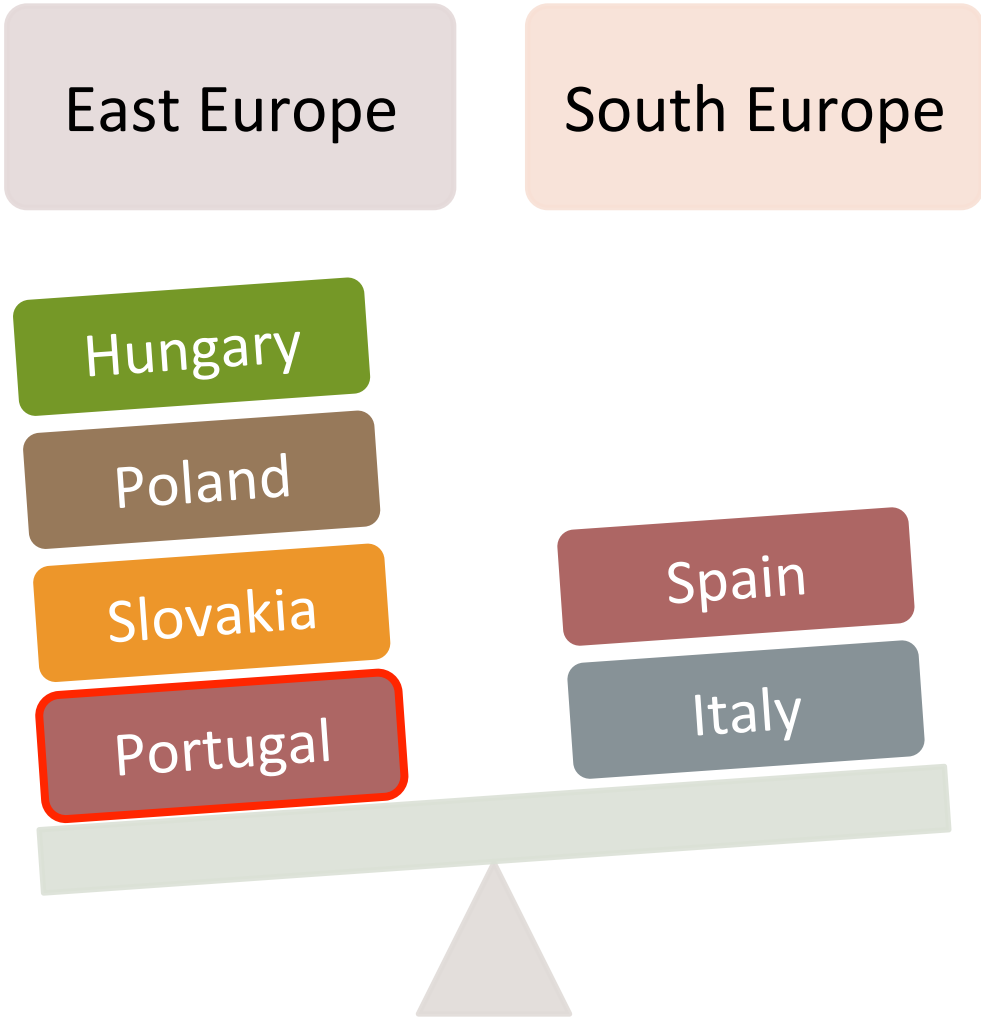
Motivation

Data & Methods

- Descriptive analysis:
  - Total Fertility Rate (TFR);
  - Mean age at childbearing (MAC);
  - *adjusted TFR*;
  - proportion of extramarital births.

- Regression analysis:
  - Total Fertility Rate (TFR);
  - Mean age at childbearing (MAC);
  - female employment rates age 15-24;
  - female employment rates age 25-54;
  - GDP.

# Evolution of TFR between 96-00, 01-05 & 06-10 for selected countries with values below 1.5

	1996-2000 (a)	2001-2005 (b)	2006-2010 (c)	Dif % (b)-(a)	Dif % (c)-(b)
Bulgaria	1.22	1.25	1.46	3	20.76
Cz.Republic	1.16	1.20	1.45	4	24.90
Estonia	1.34	1.41	1.62	7	20.75
Germany	1.36	1.35	1.37	-1	1.97
Greece	1.26	1.29	1.46	2	17.00
Hungary	1.35	1.29	1.31	-6	2.18
Italy	1.22	1.29	1.39	7	9.55
Lithuania	1.46	1.27	1.42	-19	15.24
Portugal	1.47	1.43	1.35	-4	-8.32
Poland	1.45	1.25	1.35	-20	10.00
Slovakia	1.39	1.21	1.32	-17	10.89
Slovenia	1.25	1.23	1.46	-2	23.89
Spain	1.18	1.30	1.41	11	10.80

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Evolution of TFR for South and East European countries between 1990 & 2011
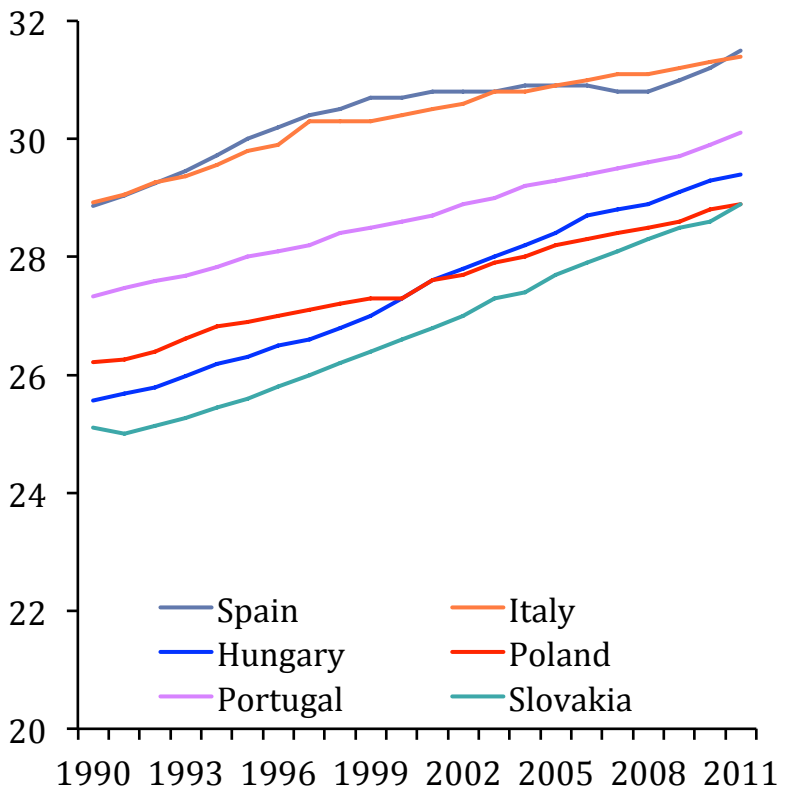

Evolution of TFR – South Europe
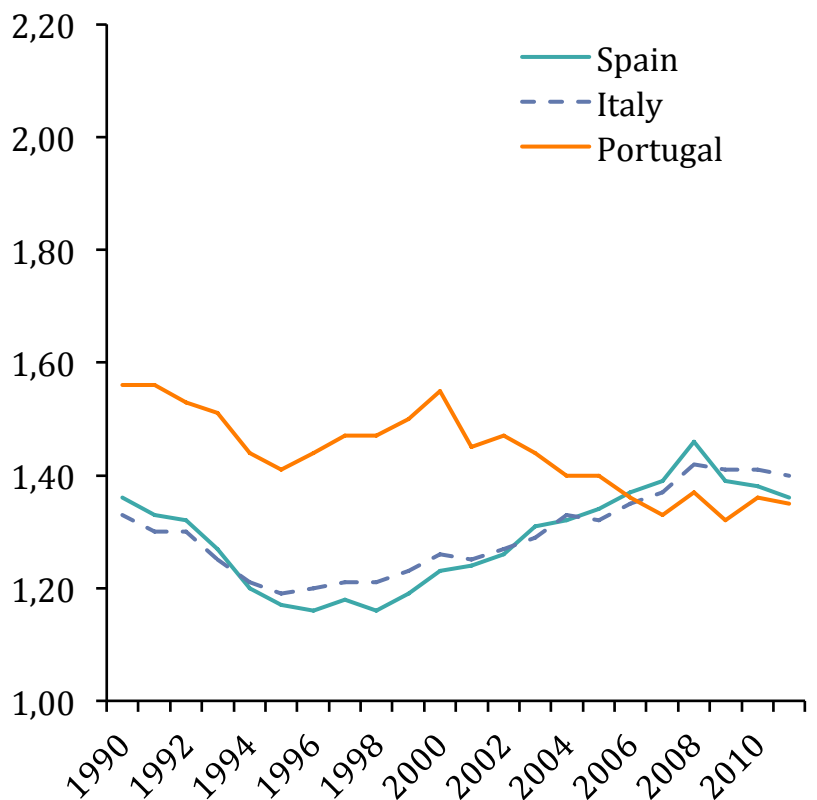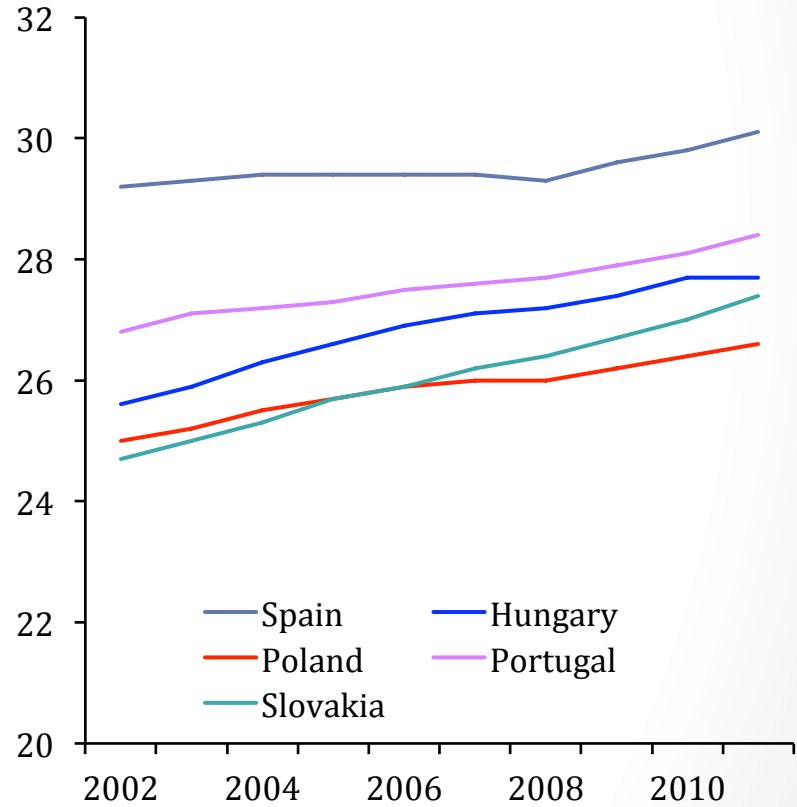
Evolution of TFR – East Europe
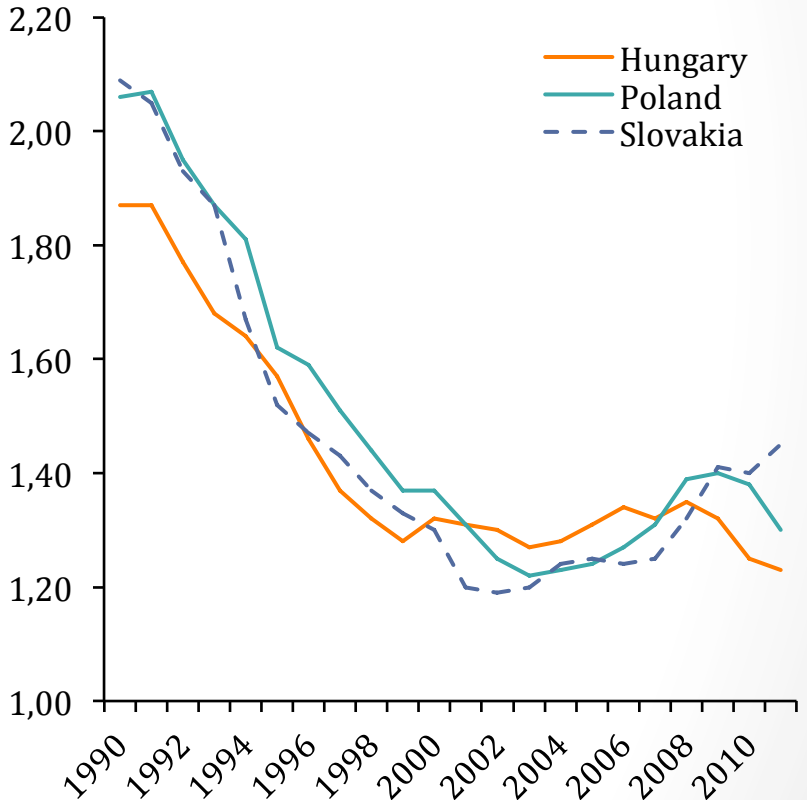
Evolution of MAC for South and East European countries between 1990 & 2011
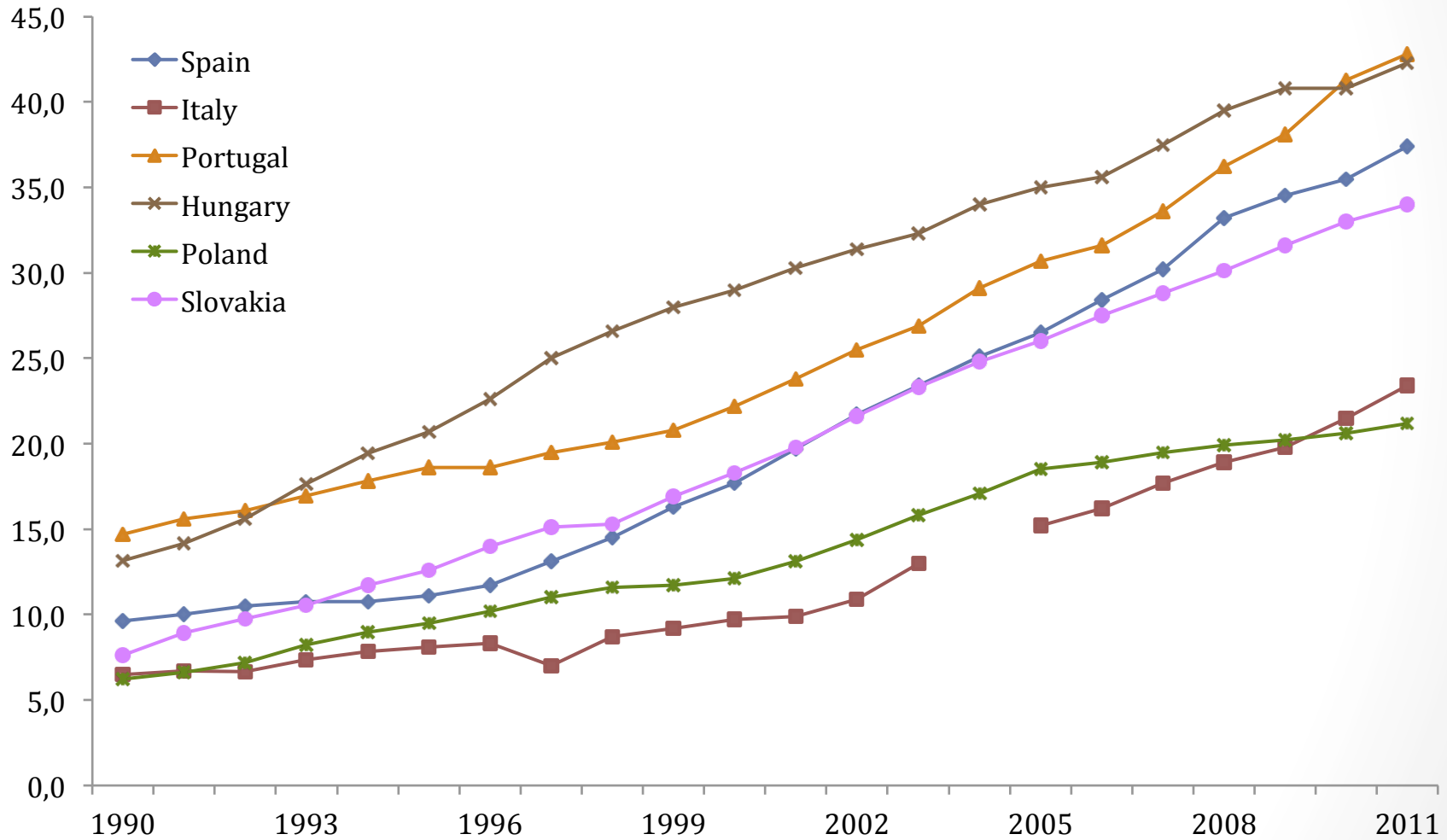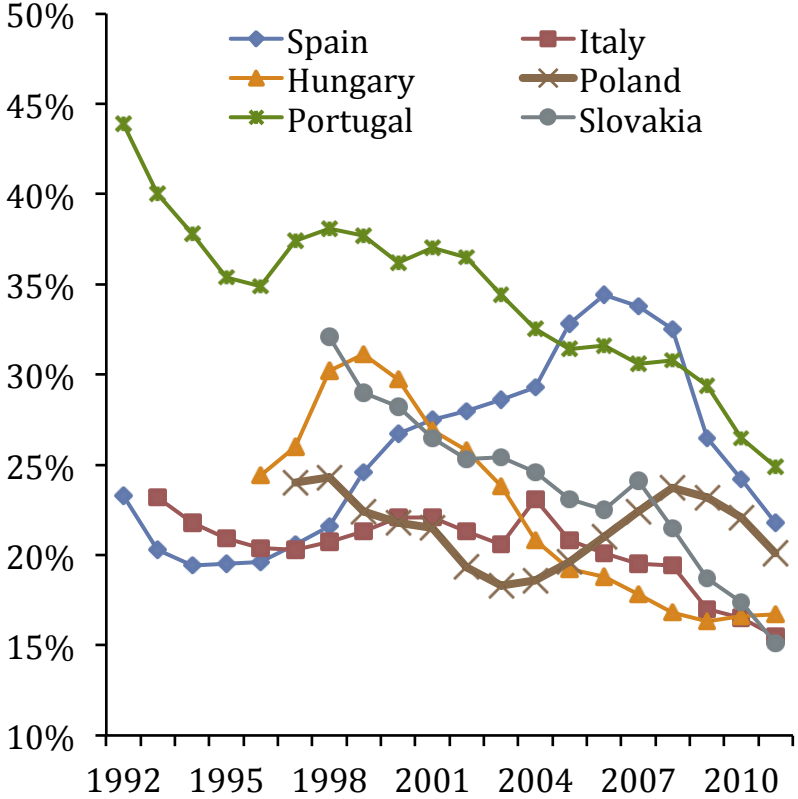
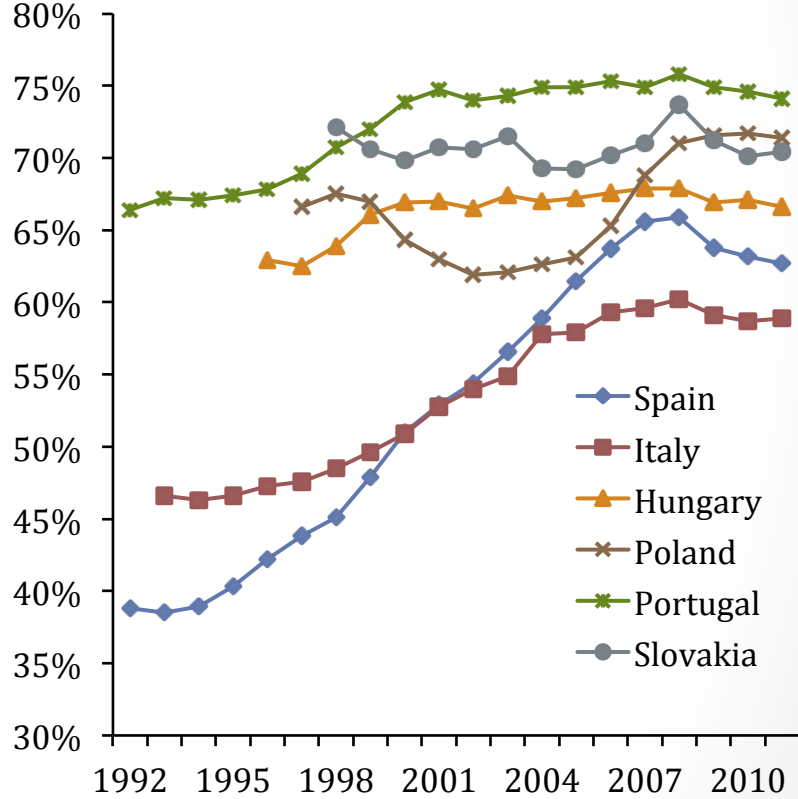# Proportion of live births outside marriage for selected countries between 1990 and 2011

Evolution of female employment rates, between 1992 and 2011

Female employment rates age 15-24

Female employment rates age 25-54

Evolution of GDP to selected countries between 1992 and 2011
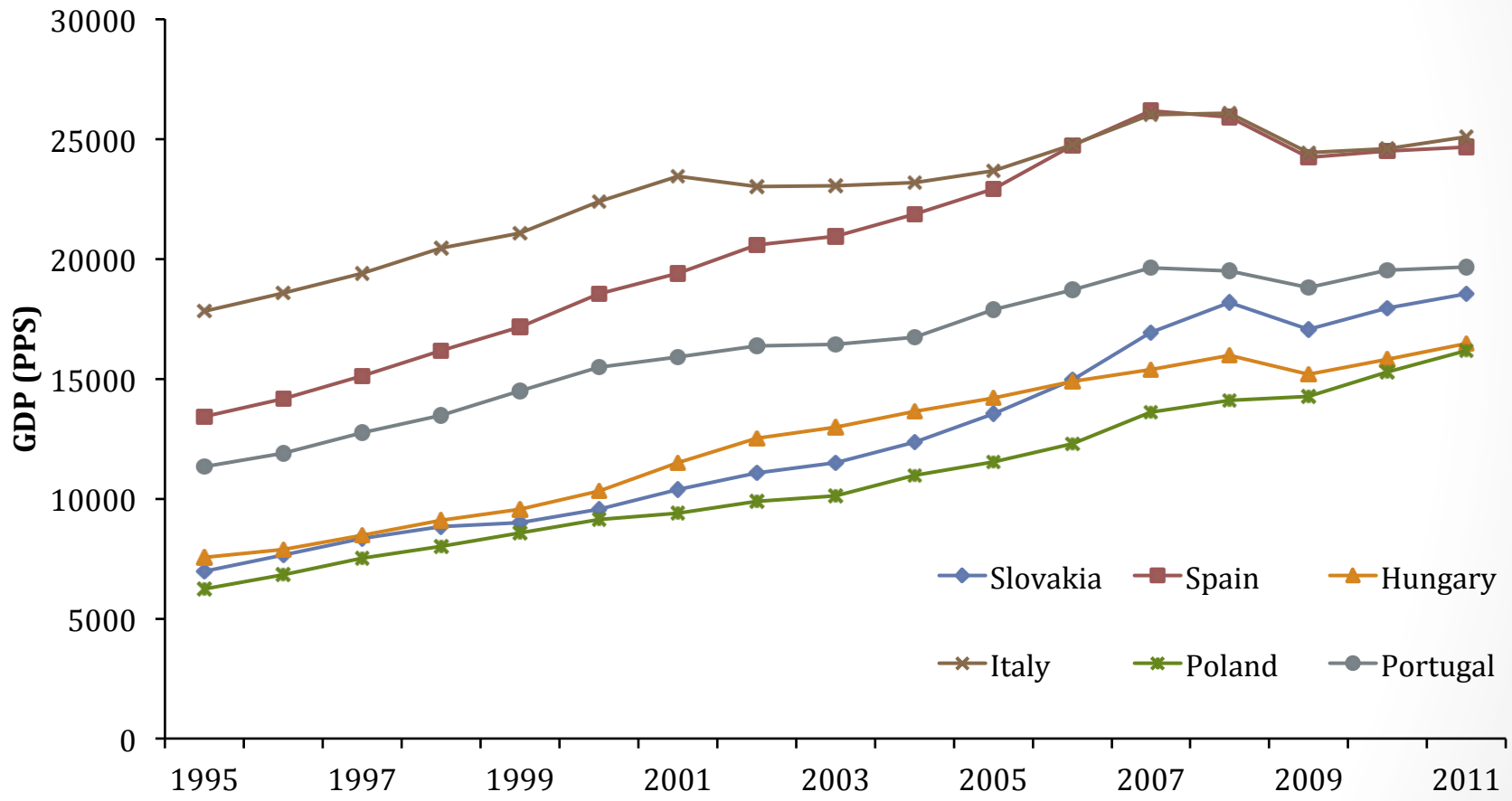
Final model with TFR as dependent variable and by country

	Spain	Portugal	Italy	Poland	Hungary	Slovakia
Year	-0,0219*	-	0,0164***	-	-	-
Employment rate between age 15 and 24	-0,0115**	0,0181***	-	0,0366***	-	-
Employment rate between age 25 and 54	0,0279***	-	-	-	-0,0180***	-
GDP (ppt)	-	-	-	-	-	-
R²	0.9898	0.8815	0.9781	0.9606	0.3658	-

Note: 0 '***' 0,001 '**' 0,01'*' 0,05 ',' 0,1 ' ' 1

Final model with MAC as dependent variable and by country

	Spain	Portugal	Italy	Poland	Hungary	Slovakia
Year	0,0600***	0,1242***	0,0897***	0,1321***	0,1427***	-
Employment rate between age 15 and 24	-	-	-	-	-	-0,0652***
Employment rate between age 25 and 54	-	-	-	-	-	-
GDP (ppt)	-	-	-	-	0,0001***	0,0002***
R^2	0,7995	0,9983	0,9818	0,9952	0,9993	0,992

Note: 0 '***' 0,001 '**' 0,01'*' 0,05 ',' 0,1 ' ' 1

Final remarks

- The comparative analysis conduced in this paper revels that Portugal is still in a fertility transition moment, between the rate levels from the Southern and Eastern countries.

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- In the period under review, and between 1997 and 2008, Portugal was the country with the highest fertility rates with 1.5 children per women on average.

- The social and economic changes in European societies had change fertility and family patterns. The response to the new dynamics had significant impact at the reproductive level with later childbearing and family formation, fertility decline and changes at childbearing time.

Final remarks

- Although in our analysis was possible to identify, from the descriptive analysis more specifically, the high female participation in the labour market, specially for Portugal, the true is that the regression models were not statically significant.

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- The transitional patterns are the constant characteristic for Portugal. Being still, the country that is leading in the female employment rates and yet is not the country with the highest mean age at birth, and fertility rates are not increasing.

Final remarks

- Yet, further research is needed to better understand the evolution of Portuguese fertility and the implications from the economical recession and the tremendous evolution of female education after the 80s.

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