



# GLOBAL TRENDS IN FAMILY MIGRATION IN THE OECD

Adapting to Changes in Family Migration: the Experience of  
OECD Countries

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## Outline

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- What is family migration?
- How many family migrants are there?
- What do we know about the characteristics of family migrants



# There are many forms of family migration...

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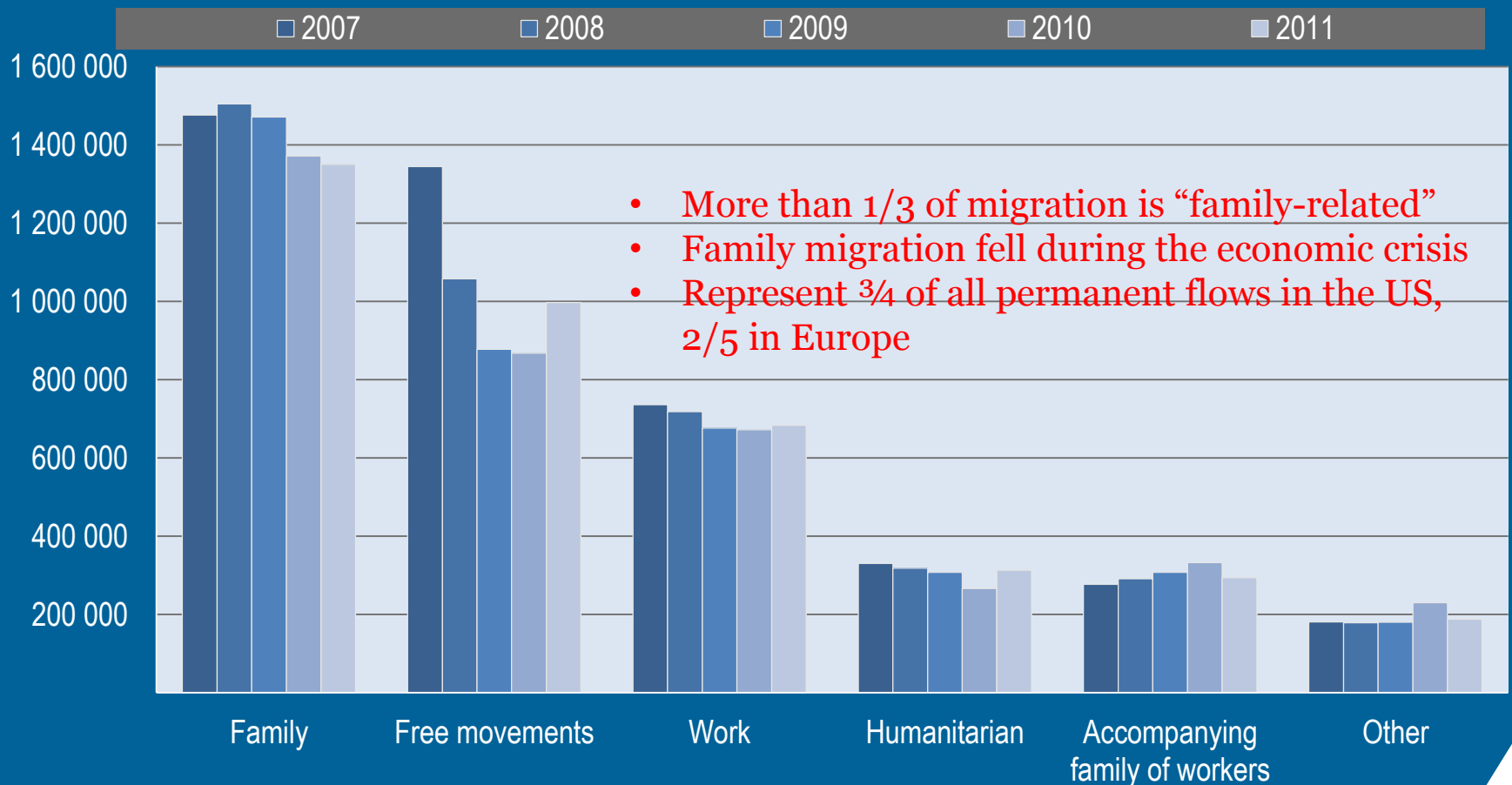
## People who migrate due to family ties

- reunification with earlier migrated family members
- family accompanying principal migrant
- marriage between a migrant and a national
- marriage between a migrant and a foreigner living abroad
- international adoptions



# Family migration is the single largest component of total migration flows in OECD countries

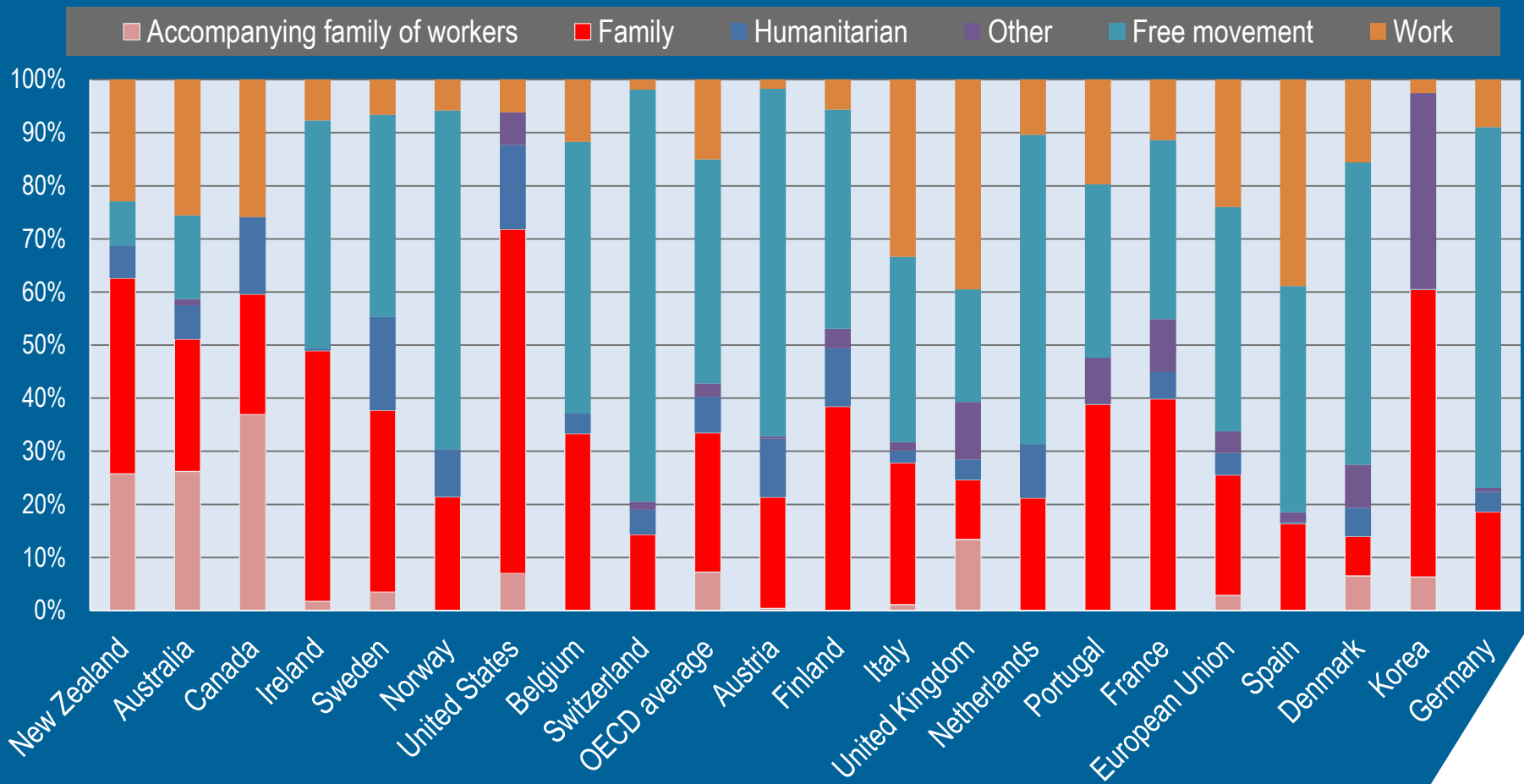
Permanent immigration in OECD countries by category of entry or of status change, standardised statistics, 2007-2011





# The relative weight of family migration varies from one OECD country to another

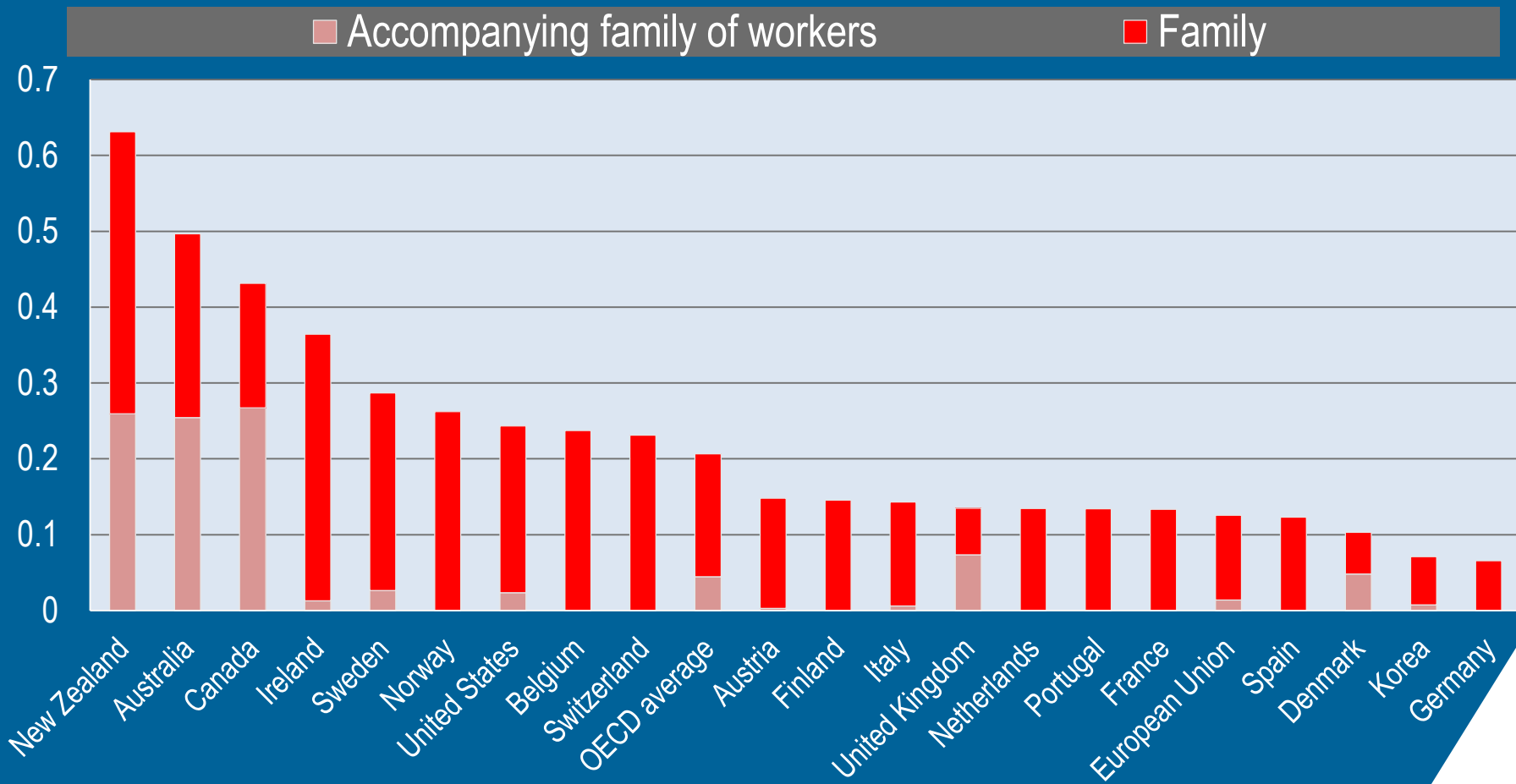
Permanent immigration into selected OECD countries, share by category of entry or of status change, 2011





# In settlement countries family migration is a significant contribution to population growth

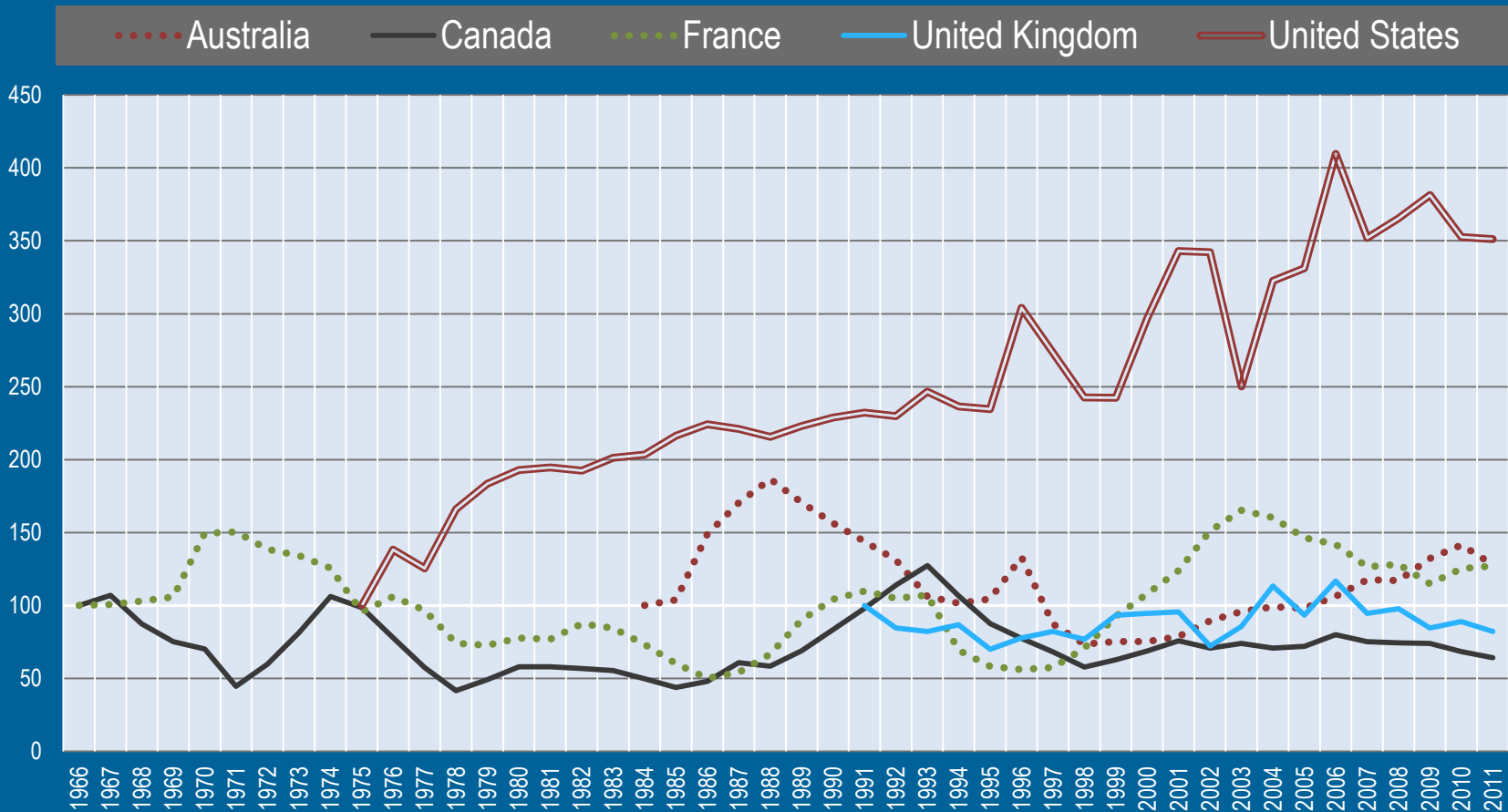
Permanent immigration for family reasons into selected OECD countries, share by category of entry or of status change, 2011, Percentage of the total population





# Family migration flows vary over time

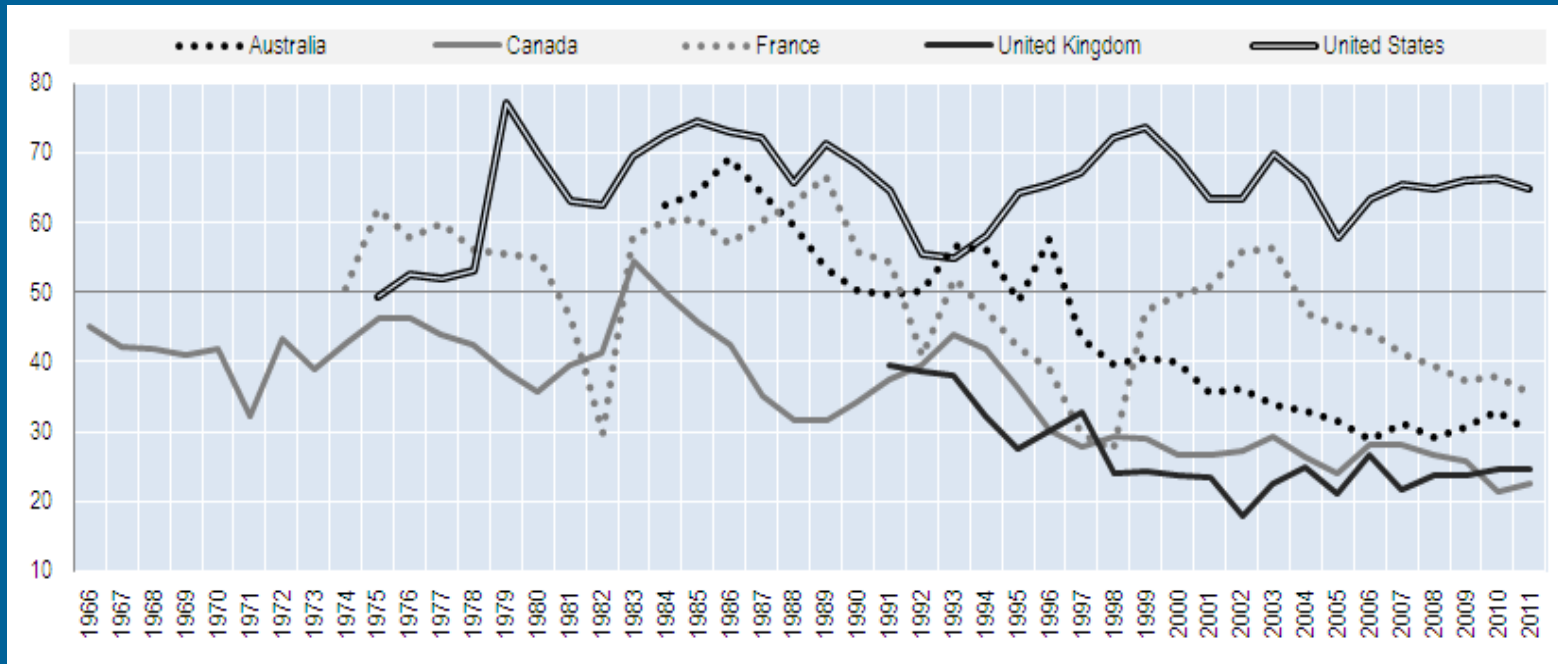
Family-based migration flows in selected OECD countries, 1966-2011  
Index=100 in the first available year





# ...also relative to labour migration

## Share of family-based migration flows among total labour and family flows in selected OECD countries



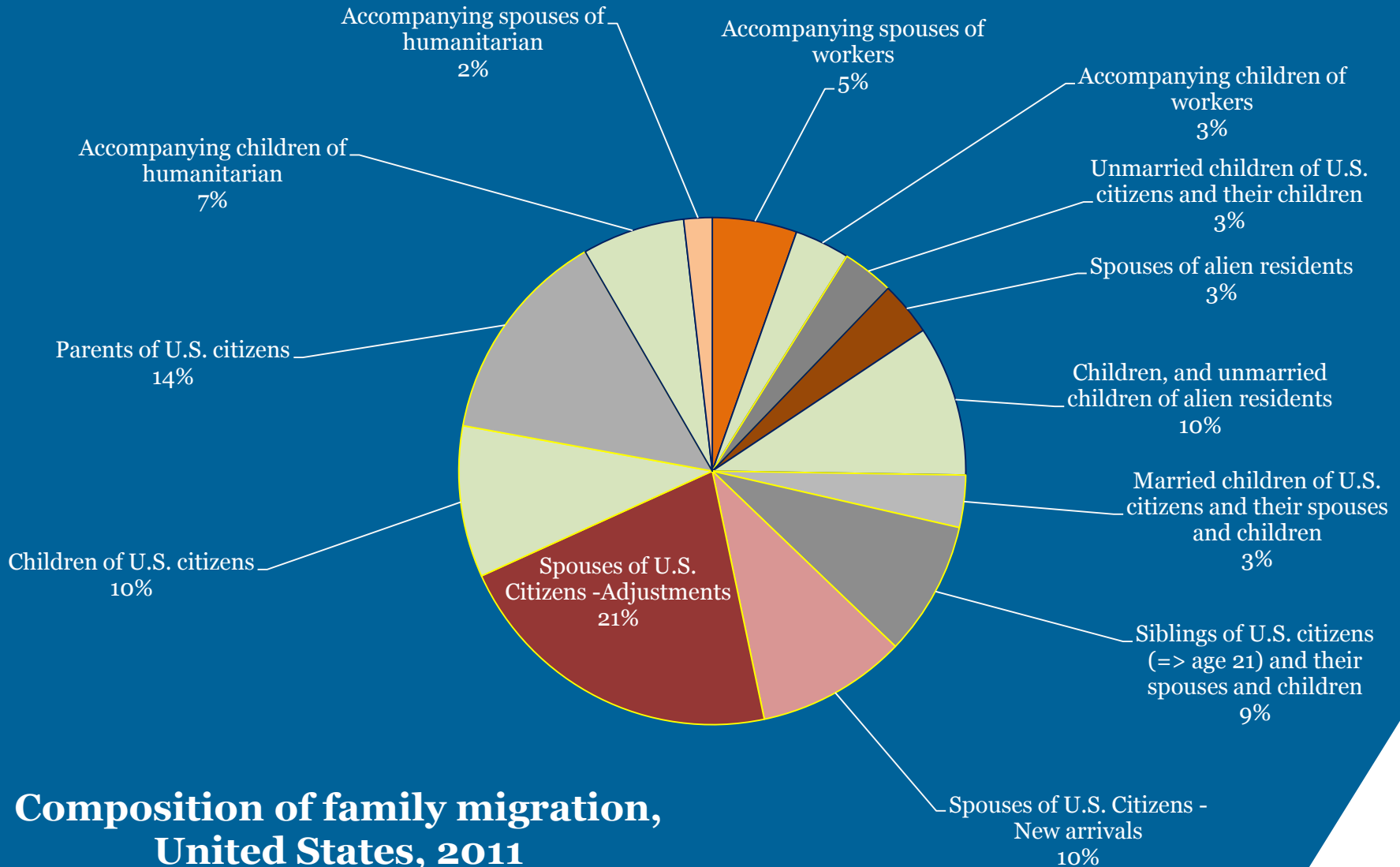
Notes: The data for Canada exclude the dependents of self-employed/entrepreneurs and the assisted relatives. The data for family migration in France exclude: the family members of French nationals before 1987, the European family members who benefit of the free movement, and the non-wage workers.

Sources: Australia: Department of Immigration and Citizenship Historical Migration Statistics Database; Canada: Statistics Reports 1966-1996; Citizenship and Immigration Canada (1997-); France: French Office for Immigration and Integration and OFPRA; United Kingdom: International Passenger Survey; United States: Department of Homeland Security, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.





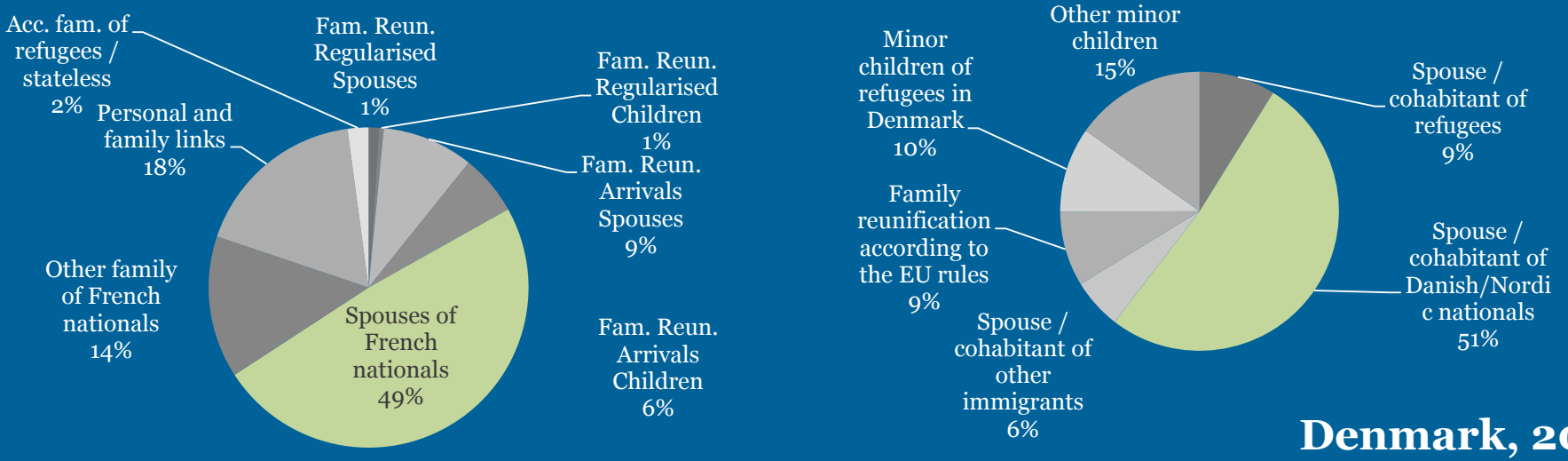
# Every country counts family migrants differently



**Composition of family migration,  
United States, 2011**



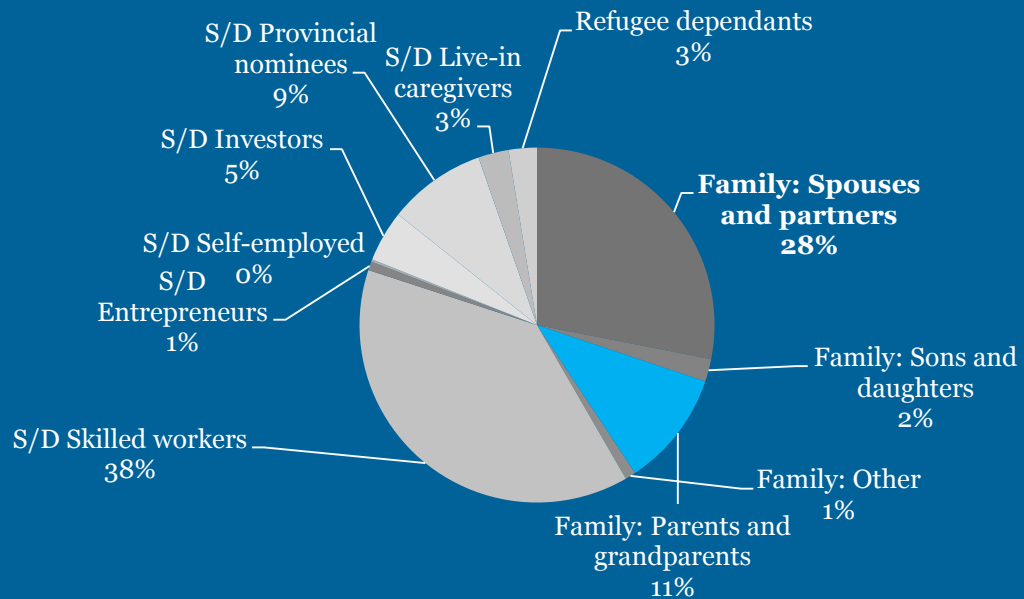
# ... but the main groups are usually spouses of nationals



**Denmark, 2011**

**France, 2012**

**Canada, 2011**

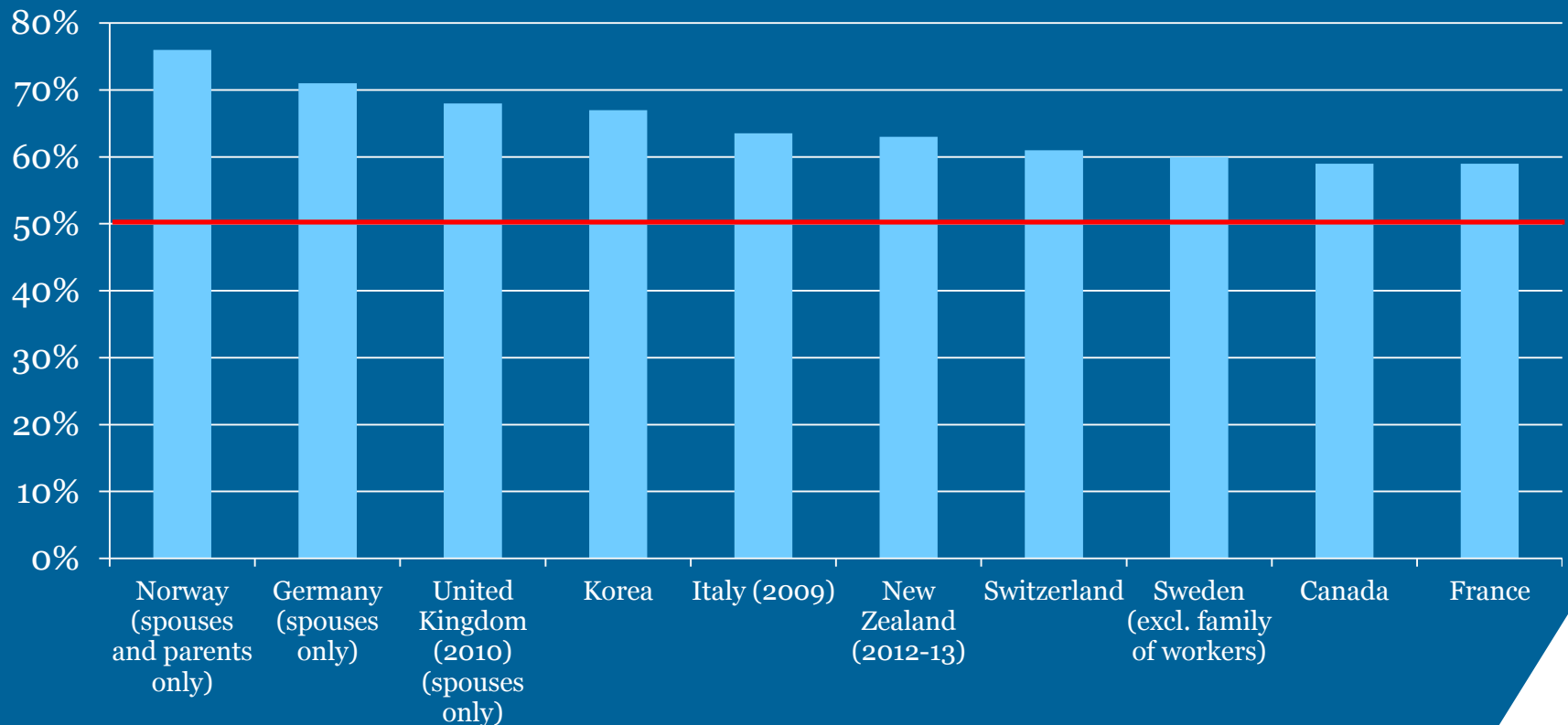




# Most family migrants are women (and most sponsors are men)

- Women make up two-thirds of all family migration, on average

Distribution of “family” migrants by gender, 2011 or latest year available

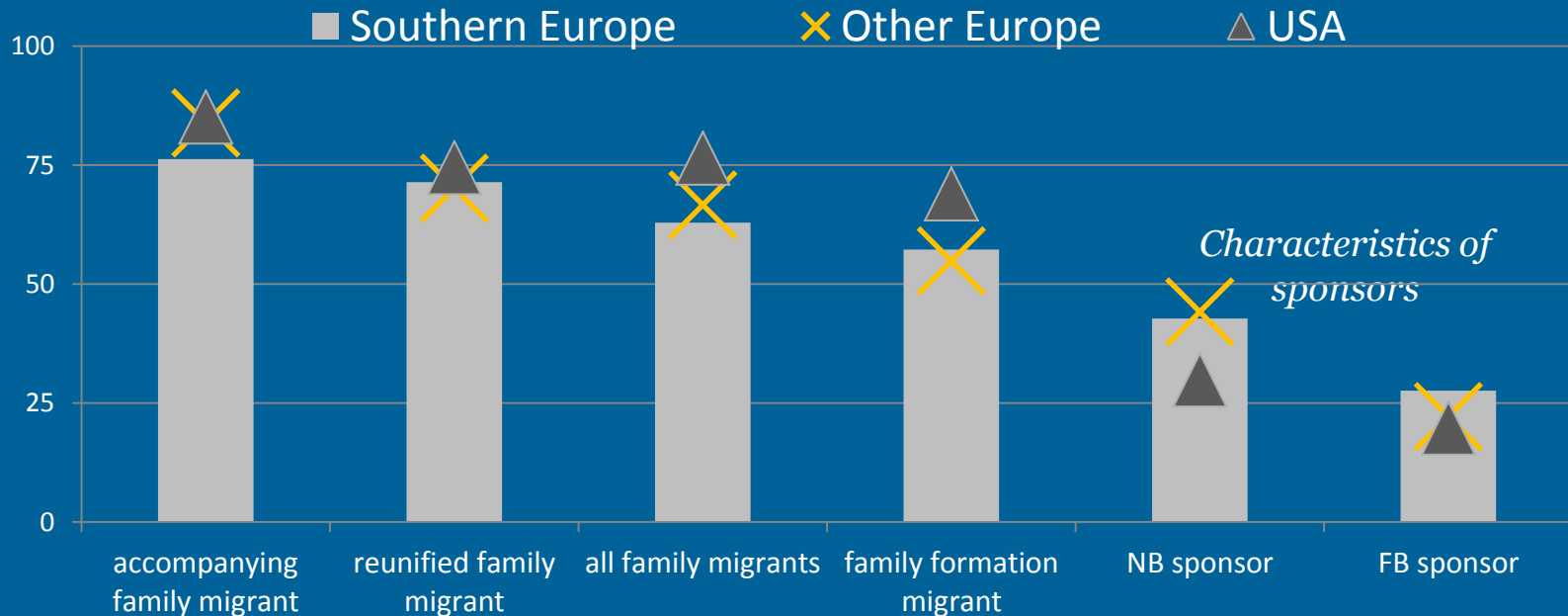




# Characteristics: women predominate in family migration flows

- More women in all types of family migrants
- Sponsors are usually men especially when foreign-born
- The flip side to a predominantly male labour and humanitarian flow
- also reflects family formation by non-immigrant nationals

## Share of women by family migration type and host region

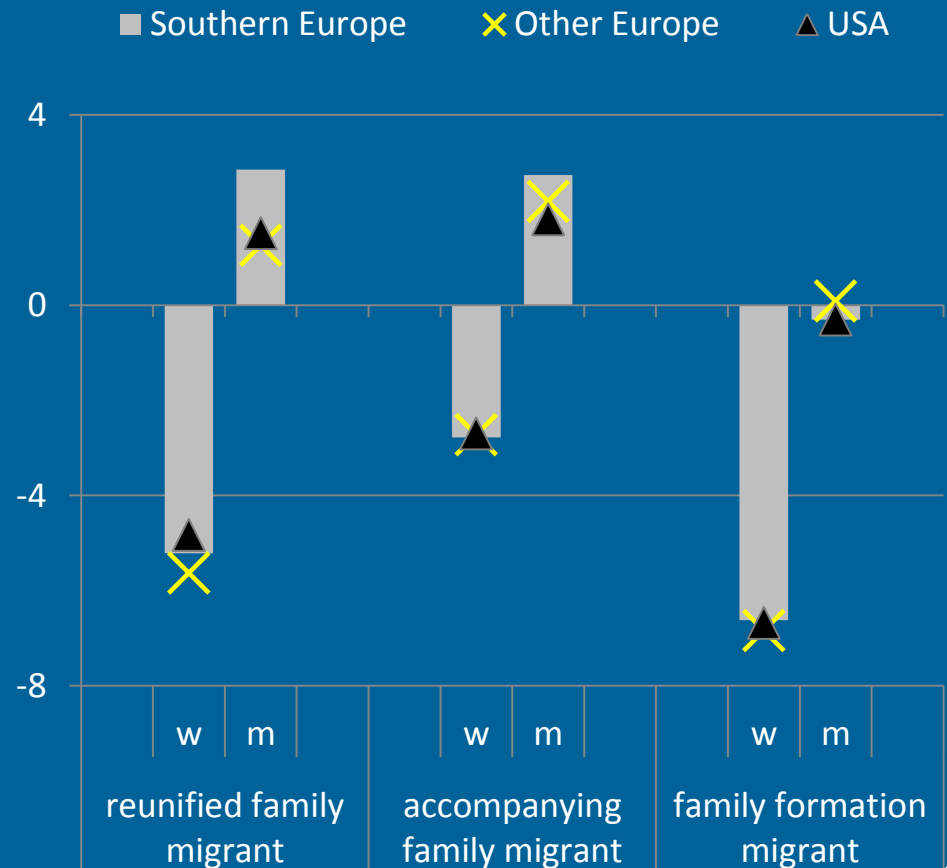




# Female sponsors and migrants are typically younger than men

- The age gap between sponsor and family migrant is negative for women
  - positive/zero for men
- The gap is largest for family formation
  - smallest for accompanying family

## Age gap between spouses, Europe and USA

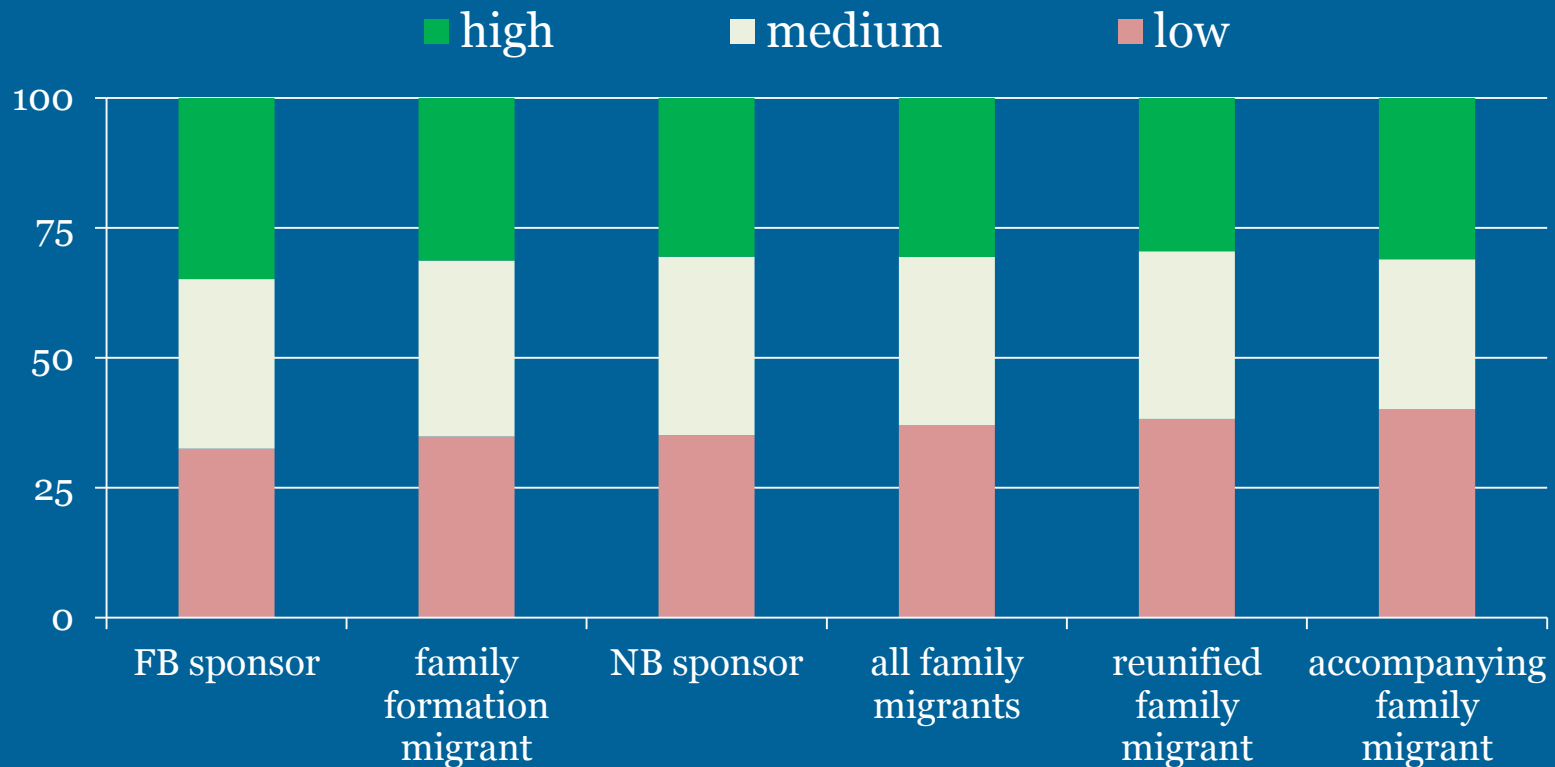




# Family reunification has the largest share of low-educated migrants

- Family formation by immigrants brings higher educated immigrants than family formation by natives

Share of family migrant spouses by type and education level, Europe and USA, 2000s

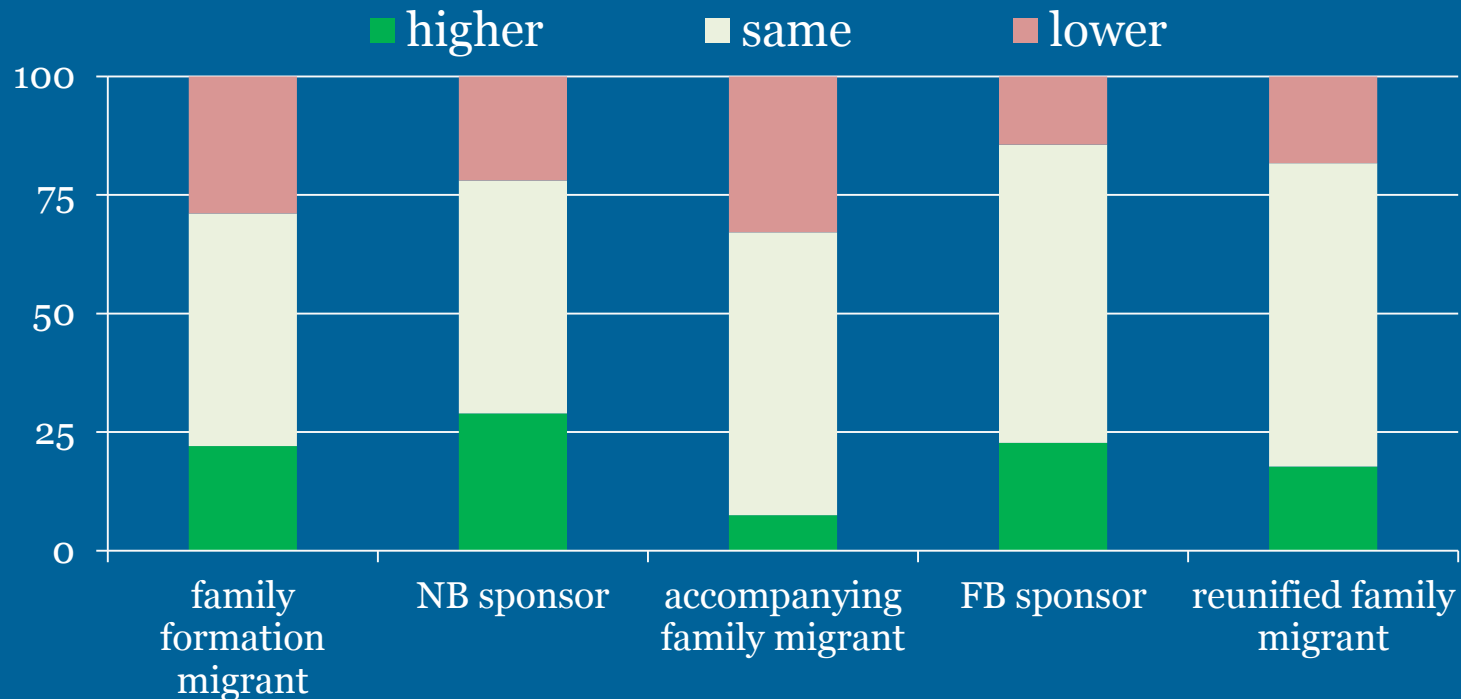




# Family migrants tend to have the same education level as their sponsors

- Family migration multiplies education composition effect of other types of migration

**Share of family migrant spouses by type and whether education level was the same as the sponsor, Europe and USA**

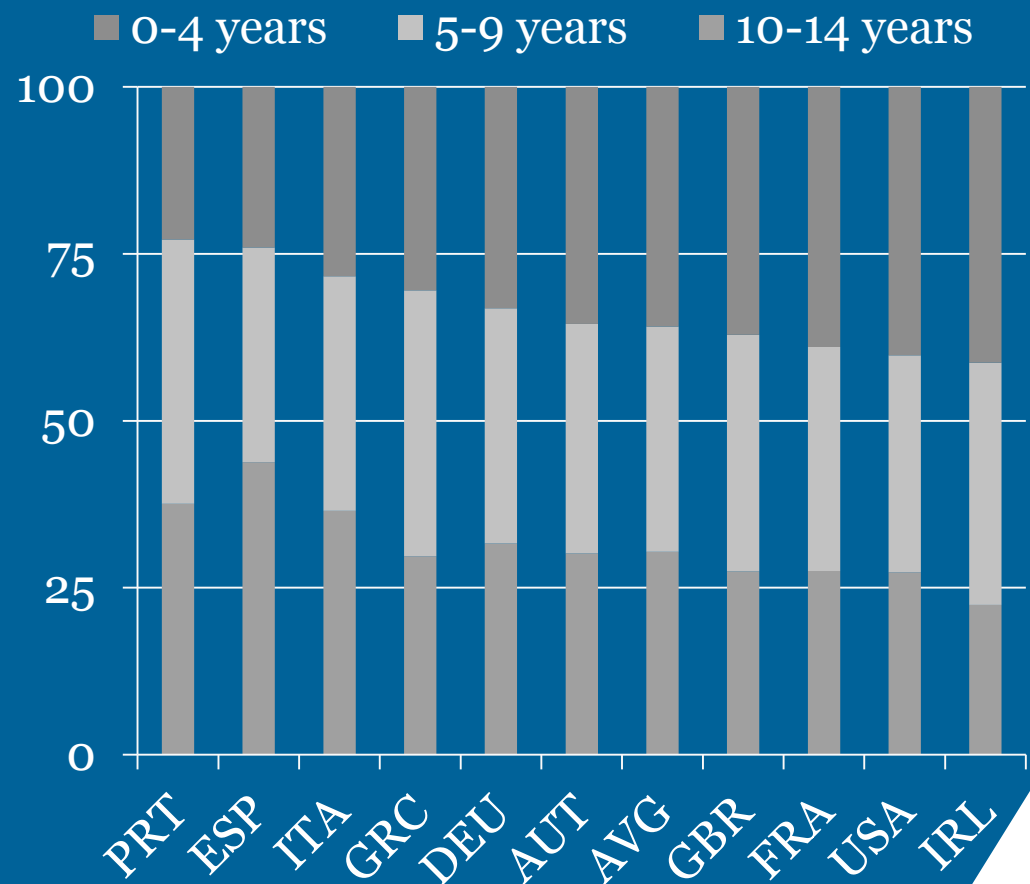




# Children are relatively young at arrival

- 36% of child migrants were below the age of 4 at arrival
- Age at arrival was higher in Southern Europe
- Related to type and time lag between initial migration of parent and eventual migration of child

Age at arrival of children, by country

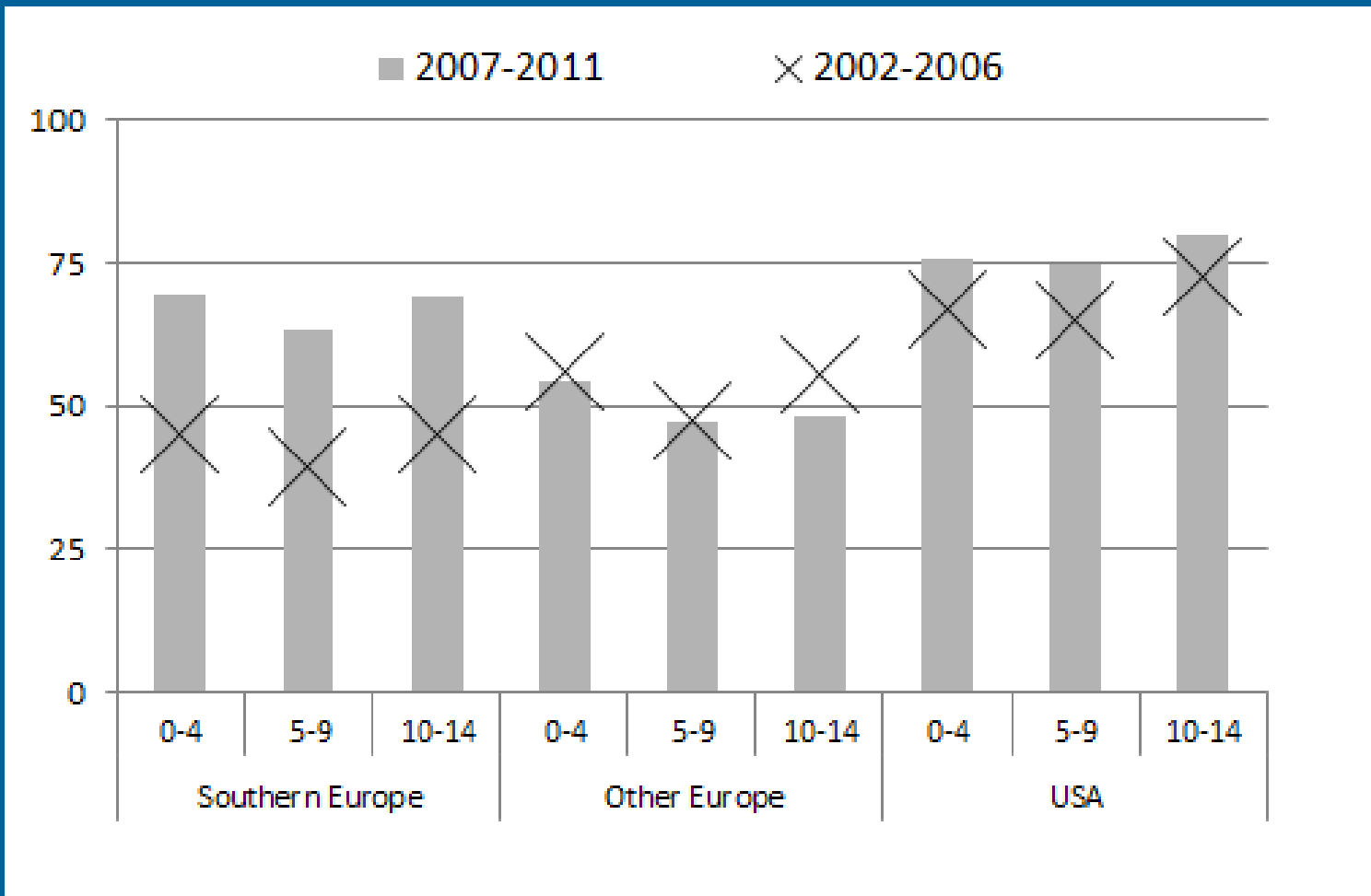






When not accompanying the first parent, it is more likely that children arrive more than 3 years later

### Age at arrival of children, by country





## Summarising...

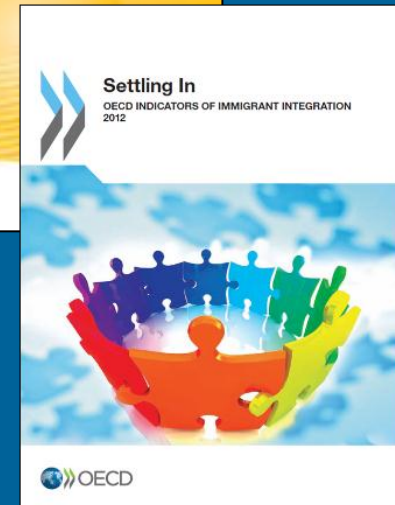
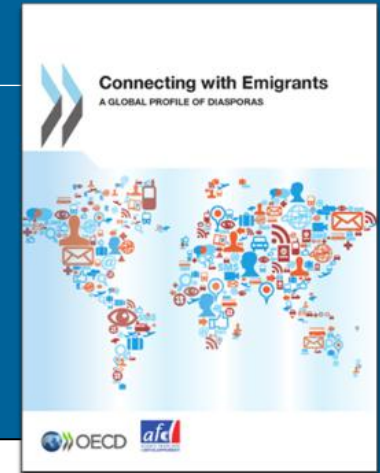
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- Family migration is the single largest category...
- ... but contains many realities
- Since family migrants are usually similar to their sponsors...
- ... it mirrors the characteristics of other migration flows.



*Thank you for your attention!*

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# To cover more countries, we use labour force surveys

We test a new approach using existing annual data (Eurostat LFS, USA ACS)

## Identification of adult family migrants

Accompanying family	Family reunification	Family formation
<p>newly arrived FB married to newly arrived FB, not in school <u>AND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•only the other member of the couple is employed, or</li> <li>•only the other member of the couple is in the LFS, or</li> <li>•the other member of the couple has an income which is higher or</li> <li>•the other member of the couple has a higher educational attainment level.</li> </ul>	<p>newly arrived FB married to FB arrived more than 1 year prior to the survey, married and not in school</p>	<p>newly arrived FB married to NB, not in school</p> <p><i>Thus excludes FB/FB marriage migration which is considered family reunification</i></p>

## Identification of migrant minors

Accompanying family	Family reunification
<p>newly arrived FB child (0-14) arriving in the same year as the first parent or in the same year as both parents</p>	<p>newly arrived foreign-born child (0-14) arriving in a year which is after the year of entry of the first entered parent</p>

