



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid  
en Milieu  
*Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport*

# Are trends in healthy life expectancy at age 85 in European countries disappointing?

AHP Luijben, RIVM  
D Deeg, VUmc  
H Galenkamp, VUmc



## BACKGROUND

- Increasing life expectancy
- Increasing years lived with morbidity
- What happens with the number of years lived without activity limitations?



## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Are the healthy life years of the oldest old increasing?

### Trends

- Life expectancy
- Healthy life years

### Differences between

- Men and women
- countries



## DATA

- European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), since 2004
- Activity limitations: Global Activity Limitation Instrument (GALI)
  - 'For at least the past 6 months, to what extent have you been limited in activities people usually do because of health problems?'
  - Yes, strongly limited
  - Yes, limited
  - No, not limited
- 27 Countries that were member of the European Union in 2011



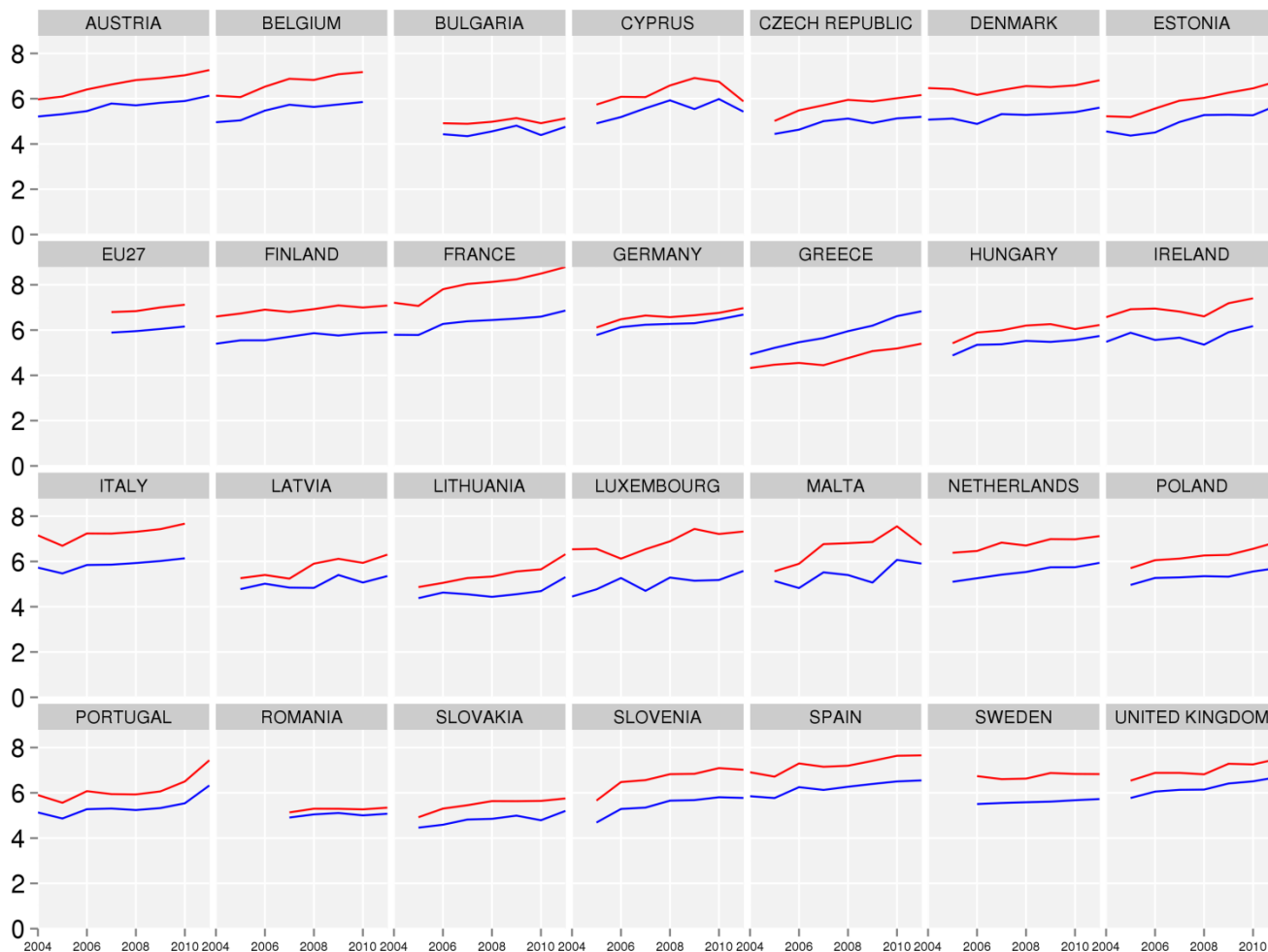
# ANALYSIS

## Health indicators

- Healthy life years at age 85
  - without activity limitations
  - with moderate activity limitations
  - with severe activity limitations
- Prevalence (age 85+)
  - of chronic morbidity
  - of moderate activity limitations
  - of severe activity limitations

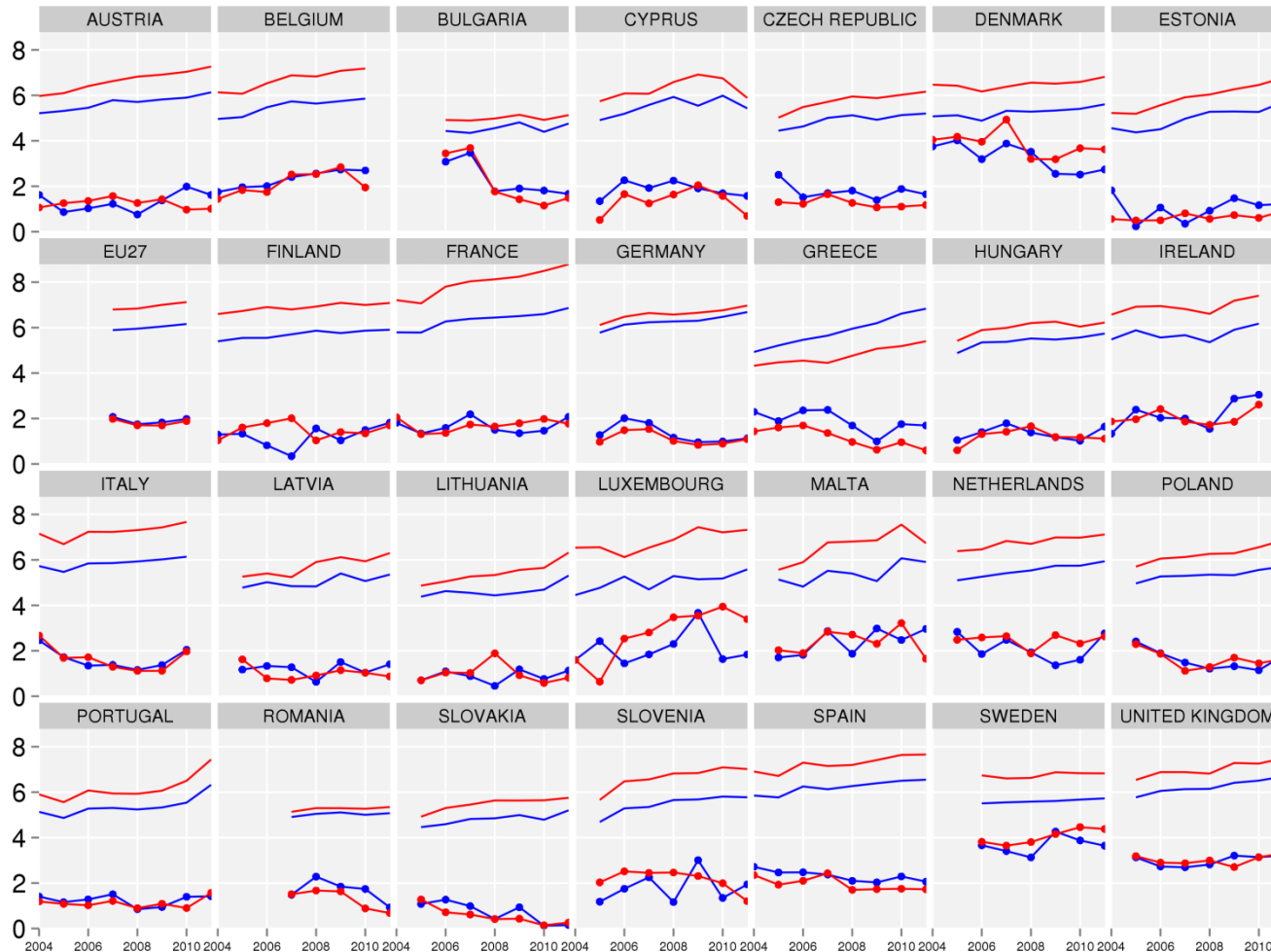


Life expectancy at age 85, by EU-country, by sex, 2004-2011



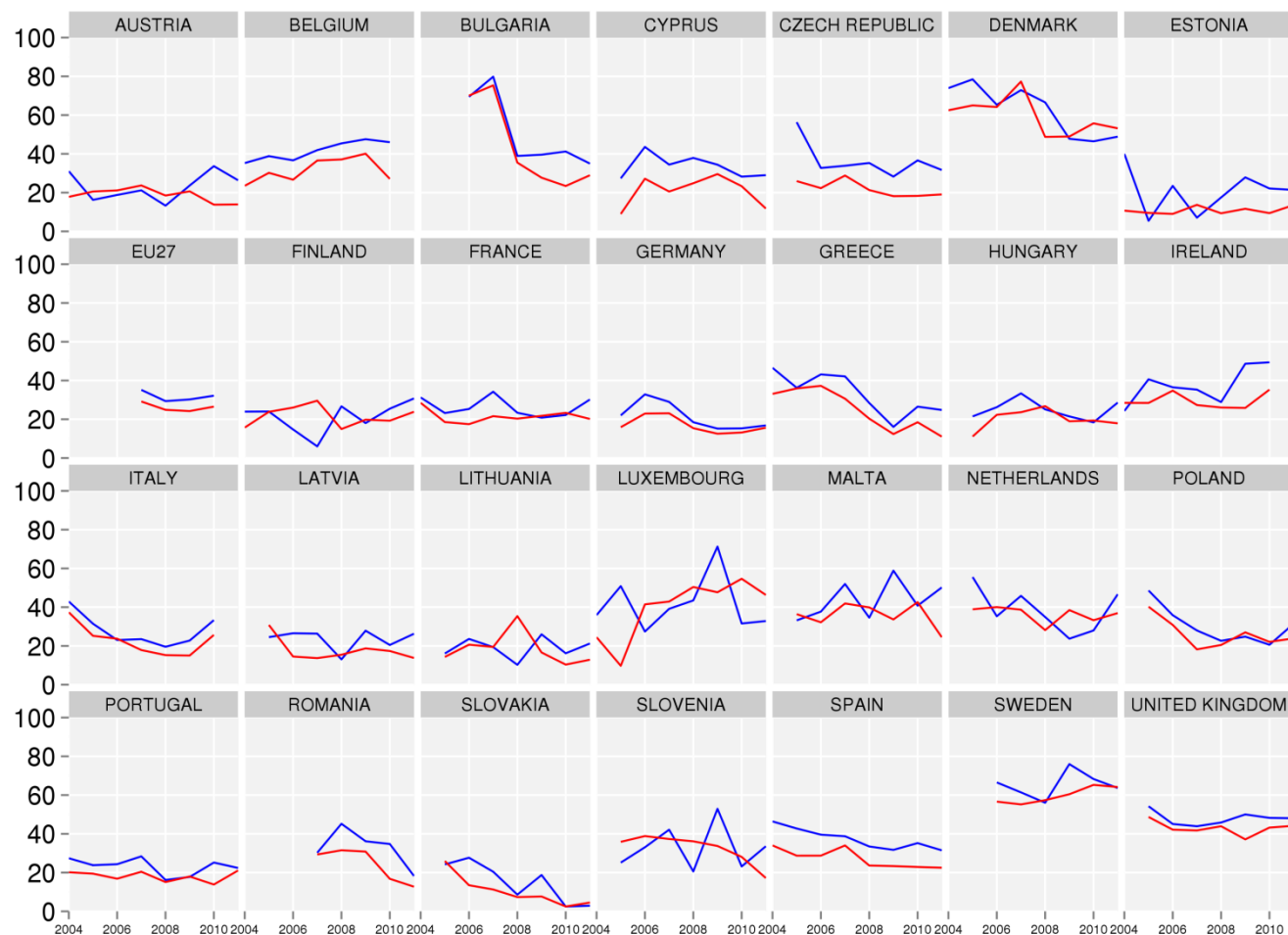


Life expectancy and Healthy life expectancy at age 85, by EU-country, by sex, 2004-2011





Percentage of life expectancy spend without activity limitations, at age 85,  
by EU-country, by sex, 2004-2011







# Indicator trends for men and women at age 85

Indicators →	Life Expectancy at age 85				Prevalence (ages 85+)		
Countries ↓	Life Expectancy	LE without activity limitations	LE with moderate activity limitations	LE with severe activity limitations	Morbidity	Moderate activity limitations	Severe activity limitations
AUSTRIA	5,9	2,0	1,8	2,1	68,5	30,2	36,2
BELGIUM	5,9	2,7	1,7	1,5	41,2	28,4	25,6
BULGARIA	4,4	1,8	1,6	1,0	67,9	36,7	22,1
CYPRUS	6,0	1,7	1,2	3,1	80,6	19,5	52,3
CZECH REPUBLIC	5,1	1,9	1,8	1,4	70,5	35,6	27,8
DENMARK	5,4	2,5	2,3	0,6	28,2	42,9	10,6
ESTONIA	5,3	1,2	1,9	2,2	81,1	36,7	41,2
FINLAND	5,9	1,5	2,5	1,9	83,0	42,4	32,2
FRANCE	6,6	1,5	2,4	2,7	76,4	36,2	41,6
GERMANY	6,5	1,0	2,9	2,6	79,1	44,7	40,0
GREECE	6,6	1,8	2,1	2,8	82,1	31,1	42,3
HUNGARY	5,6	1,0	2,6	1,9	88,4	47,2	34,4
IRELAND	6,2	3,0	1,7	1,4	57,7	27,8	22,9
ITALY	6,1	2,0	2,4	1,7	60,2	39,1	27,6
LATVIA	5,1	1,0	1,9	2,2	79,4	37,0	42,5
LITHUANIA	4,7	0,8	2,2	0,8	83,2	46,4	37,4
LUXEMBOURG	5,2	1,6	1,5	2,1	52,2	28,0	40,4
MALTA	6,1	2,5	2,3	1,3	81,7	38,5	20,7
NETHERLANDS	5,7	1,6	2,2	1,9	62,0	38,4	33,6
POLAND	5,6	1,1	2,1	2,4	84,9	36,9	42,5
PORTUGAL	5,5	1,4	2,4	1,8	69,9	42,8	32,0
ROMANIA	5,0	1,7	1,4	1,9	56,5	27,8	37,4
SLOVAKIA	4,8	0,1	1,9	2,7	84,9	40,6	57,0
SLOVENIA	5,8	1,3	2,3	2,1	82,0	40,5	36,4
SPAIN	6,5	2,3	2,8	1,4	67,2	42,5	22,3
SWEDEN	5,7	3,9	0,7	1,1	51,2	12,2	19,5
UNITED KINGDOM	6,5	3,1	1,8	1,5	70,7	28,0	23,8

Indicators →	Life Expectancy at age 85				Prevalence (ages 85+)		
Countries ↓	Life Expectancy	LE without activity limitations	LE with moderate activity limitations	LE with severe activity limitation	Morbidity	Moderate activity limitations	Severe activity limitations
AUSTRIA	7,0	1,0	2,3	3,7	79,8	33,2	53,0
BELGIUM	7,2	1,9	2,4	2,8	58,0	33,2	39,7
BULGARIA	4,9	1,2	2,2	1,5	73,1	45,4	31,2
CYPRUS	6,8	1,6	1,9	3,3	80,7	28,3	48,4
CZECH REPUBLIC	6,0	1,1	2,2	2,8	82,4	35,9	45,7
DENMARK	6,6	3,7	2,2	0,7	44,7	33,3	11,0
ESTONIA	6,5	0,6	2,3	3,6	88,7	35,6	55,0
FINLAND	7,0	1,3	3,0	2,6	93,2	43,1	37,7
FRANCE	8,5	2,0	2,4	4,1	74,5	28,0	48,7
GERMANY	6,8	0,9	2,2	3,7	75,7	32,8	54,1
GREECE	5,2	1,0	1,5	2,7	82,1	29,2	52,3
HUNGARY	6,0	1,2	2,2	2,7	81,4	36,2	44,4
IRELAND	7,4	2,6	2,4	2,4	78,0	32,3	32,4
ITALY	7,7	2,0	2,8	2,9	65,5	36,8	37,5
LATVIA	5,9	1,0	2,7	2,2	84,1	46,0	36,6
LITHUANIA	5,6	0,6	2,7	2,4	86,5	47,7	42,0
LUXEMBOURG	7,2	3,9	2,3	1,0	54,1	31,3	14,0
MALTA	7,6	3,2	2,3	2,0	64,7	30,4	27,0
NETHERLANDS	7,0	2,3	3,2	1,4	52,5	46,3	20,4
POLAND	6,6	1,4	2,3	2,8	86,6	34,6	43,3
PORTUGAL	6,5	0,9	2,5	3,1	75,8	38,1	48,1
ROMANIA	5,3	0,9	1,6	2,8	75,5	31,0	52,2
SLOVAKIA	5,6	0,1	1,5	4,0	85,9	27,1	70,4
SLOVENIA	7,1	2,0	2,3	2,8	68,9	33,0	38,9
SPAIN	7,6	1,7	3,3	2,6	71,2	42,6	34,5
SWEDEN	6,8	4,5	0,9	1,4	47,5	13,6	21,2
UNITED KINGDOM	7,3	3,1	1,6	2,6	70,4	21,6	35,2

	No clear trend or stable
	Decreasing LE or HLE/ Increasing prevalence
	Improving trend: increasing LE or HLE/ decreasing prevalence



## CONCLUSIONS

1. Across all EU27 countries, LE at age 85 has significantly increased between 2007 and 2010.
2. This improvement was not accompanied by an improvement in healthy life years.
3. Most countries showed no trend in HLY at age 85. Only in Greece and Slovakia HLY at age 85 changed significantly for women (decreased) and only in Belgium for men (increased).
4. Most countries showed no trend in the percentage of years lived without disability limitations.



## DISCUSSION

- Can we expect that people that are older than 85 have no activity limitations?
- Do people expect to have no activity limitations?
- Data: changes in the wording of the question



## PROJECT

- Mobilising the potential of active ageing in Europe
- Funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme



## Report published on MOPACT website

- <http://mopact.group.shef.ac.uk/research-posts/findings-6/>

