

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH



The Social Portrait of Greece

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1. The National Centre for Social Research (EKKE)

The National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) is the continuation of the Centre for Social Sciences, which was founded in 1959 under UNESCO auspices.

EKKE operates as a Legal Entity under Public Law and its headquarters are in the center of Athens. It falls under the jurisdiction of the General Secretariat of Research and Technology of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports. EKKE is the only public agency in the area of social research.

The research personnel of EKKE is comprised of scientists of various fields of expertise: sociologists; anthropologists; political scientists; geographers; economists; demographers; criminologists; statisticians; etc. The nature of its scientific work is assured through the assistance of administrative and specialized technical personnel, some of which are employed in the fully equipped Computer Centre.

The Institute of Social Research - ISR

The ISR was created in 2012, after the merging of the three pre-existing Institutes (Institute of Social Policy, Institute of Urban and Rural Sociology and Institute of Political Sociology) into one Institute.

At the moment, 69 individuals are employed at the National Centre for Social Research (42 are researchers and research scientists).

The Institute carries on the aforementioned scientific tradition. In addition, new areas of knowledge and research interests have appeared, reflecting the development of national and international scientific thought.

The social utility of the Centre activities concerns the understanding and interpreting of social structures and transformations in Greece. It is also heavily linked to the dissemination of research findings towards policies promoting social justice and cohesion in areas such as poverty, social exclusion, employment, health, education, etc.

Research Orientation

- Social Exclusion
- Poverty and Social Indicators
- Social Welfare and Care Family
- Youth Problems
- Elderly and Social Policy
- Labor Market Policies
- Education- Training –Life long learning
- Social Policy and Social Protection
- Demographic Trends (fertility, population ageing)
- The Social Economy Sector
- Political Culture and Political Behavior
- Social Transformations in the Urban and Rural Contexts, etc.
- Immigration

2. The Social Portrait of Greece: introductory presentation*

The publication “Social Portrait of Greece” is the product of the collective effort on behalf of the researchers of the (then) Institute of Social Policy, in view of highlighting the ongoing social situation in Greece. The original analyses presented by the authors of the publication draw upon official statistical data, research projects’ results and literature reviews of a wide range of topics in the area of social policy.

The “Social Portrait” is published every 2-3 years and is geared towards the needs of the academia, policy makers and the wider public, in an attempt to foster the understanding of some important social and economic challenges faced by contemporary Greek society.

So far, five issues have been published (in Greek).

[* Further information at: <http://www2.ekke.gr/main.php?id=382>]

3. The authors and the topics covered

The issues concerned by the authors are: income distribution, poverty and social exclusion, the aging population, marriage, fertility, immigration, the labor market, education and health inequalities, social economy, etc.

Each edition is unique, but shares some common principles with previous editions.

Usually, three or four main topics are covered (in Part I), while there is a Part II or more Parts with special topics.

Only researchers from the National Centre for Social Research are to submit articles for publication. In some cases one researcher with a collaborative scientist from another institution or with a university professor could be co-authors of an article.

4. The editors

The editors are strictly selected from the Institute of Social Policy. Usually they are experienced scientists with a good command of the Greek language.

They set the time schedule and are responsible for the final editing and dissemination of the publication, in close collaboration with the Institute's director.

5. Dissemination procedure

A press conference is typically organized and the Social Portrait is presented to the public, to students, academics, journalists etc. For the scope of the presentation one or more renown scientists are invited to give their view on the edition.

In the last two editions the presentation was attended by over 100 individuals, which can be explained by the following reasons:

1. Free distribution of the publication during the presentation.
2. The crisis brought to prominence issues covered by the Social Portrait.
3. Many university departments used the Social Portrait as a supplementary text book and as a source of concrete data and analysis.
4. The portrait is simple as it is addressed to the wider public. The press and journalists used it extensively and thus accelerated its dissemination.

6. Short presentation of the fine editions (contents)

- The social Portrait of Greece 2001
- The social Portrait of Greece 2003-2004
- The social Portrait of Greece 2006
- The social Portrait of Greece 2010
- The social Portrait of Greece 2012

The Social Portrait of Greece 2001

Part I

Introduction

1. Demographic developments

- Fertility
- Population aging
- Population age structure and household composition

2. Immigration movements

- Immigrants in Greece

3. Economic and social inequalities

- Income distribution and poverty in Greece
- Access inequalities in tertiary education

4. Welfare state and social policy

- Characteristics of the welfare state
- The profile of the health and social care sector

5. Employment and unemployment

- Development in the labor market institutional framework, 1990-2001
- Recent development in the labor market
- Woman employment

The social Portrait of Greece 2001

Part II: special topics

- Family transformation
- Equality between sexes: The female position in public and private space
- Employment relations and social dialogue in Greece: the difficult route from state charge to the autonomy
- The social economy sector in Greece under the prism of contemporary international developments
- The drop out of the nine years compulsory education and the student employment livelihood
- Youth and drugs
- Child poverty: the future's present
- Children with special needs in Greece
- Violence in schools
- Female criminality and re-inclusion
- Immigrant women trafficking
- Second demographic transition or chaos: the case of Greece

The Social Portrait of Greece 2003-2004

Preface

- Views of the Social Issue in modern Greece: Economic modernization and social transformation

Part I: Population Developments and Migration in Greece

- Population Developments in Greece: A brief review
- Family crisis and demographic transformations: Theoretical enquiries and empirical data
- Creation and Dissolution of family relations in Greece
- Migration in Greece: Basic characteristics of immigrant population
- The basic characteristics of the migrant population

Part II: Modern Developments in labor market

- The Labor Market in Greece: Economic efficiency and structural characteristics
- New ways of time management (working and non-working): the European experience and the Greek reality
- Local actions for employment promotion

The Social Portrait of Greece 2003-2004

Part III: Poverty, Exclusion and Social Inequalities

- Poverty, Exclusion and Social Inequalities: Presentation of basic results of the “Research on Income and Living Conditions of the Households” (EU-SILC 2003)
- Conceptual and methodological complications of poverty
- Poverty and deprivation in relation to living conditions: an approach beyond the conventional poverty limits
- Trends of diversification of inequalities in access in Higher Education in Greece during the period 1984-2000

Part IV: Social Dimensions of Exclusion of Selected Population Groups

- The elderly people in Greece. Views, policies, prospects
- Third Age: Is the system of social care able to face its needs?
- Child with disabilities: Interview with parents

The Social Portrait of Greece 2003-2004

- From the first to the second generation of migrants: From illegality to legitimacy
- A holistic approach of psychotropic substances abuse
- Prisoners' leaves: the social dimension
- Trends and dimensions of the imprisonment rate in postwar Greece

Part V: Research Infrastructure in Social Research

- Social Data Sources: Needs, Developments and Prospects

The Social Portrait of Greece 2006

Preface

Part I: Methodological Approaches and Empirical Indications

- Economic inequality, poverty and social exclusion: methodological and empirical indications
- Dimensions and characteristics of poverty in Greece: studies overview and longitudinal developments
- The level of social development of the regions of Greece
- The scientific interest on minorities in Greece

The Social Portrait of Greece 2006

Part II: Dimensions of Social Exclusion and Integration Policies

- Inequalities in access to higher education differentiations in undergraduate and postgraduate level
- Children of immigrants: issues of integration in education and society
- The poor children in Greece: search of policies
- The SOS children's villages: a "child care" model
- Career development and employment prospects of the disabled in conditions of globalization
- Considerations on the issue of socio-professional integration of mental health services users in Greece

Part III: Aspects of Contemporary Demographic Reality

- The demographic ageing in Greece: Coarse elements by prefecture and region
- The implementation of an overall demographic policy to address the low birthrate in Greece
- The elderly and the family: ethical and deontological issues
- Comprehensive care for the elderly

Part IV: The New Landscape of Labor and the Welfare State

- The efficiency of social policy in Greece: The implications of social allowances in the fight against poverty
- For a “tax credit” focusing in families
- The policy of minimum guaranteed income in the Greek welfare state
- A proposal for the implementation of a complete Program of Social Support & Minimum Guaranteed income- *Working group*
- The working poor in Greece
- Flexibility with security: an asymmetrical relationship?

Annex: Research programs of Social Policy Institute during the period 2004-2006 and Laboratory of Monitoring Social Cohesion Policies

The social portrait of Greece 2010

Introduction

Part I: Poverty and Social Inequalities

- Poverty in Greece, comparative elements with other countries of European Union
- Poverty, deprivation and inequalities in health: challenges and policies
- Child Poverty in Greece: “small place, big problems”
- The wealth of disquisitions over poverty. Diachronicity, universality, treatments and mutations

Part II: Employment and Labor Market

- Developments in the labor market during the period of recent economic crisis of 2008-2009
- The “new proletariat”: precarious workers- the pariahs of modern labor market

The social portrait of Greece 2010

Part III: Strategies and Policies for Social Integration

- Combating discrimination: a preliminary approach
- Family- demographic policies in countries of the European Union, cost- benefit analysis for Greece
- Strategy for the development of social policy in the level of Local Government
- The multicultural reality in schools. Necessity of a new strategy in training of teachers
- Disability: issues of terminology
- New approaches for the social and economic integration of the mentally ill: The case of Social Cooperatives of Limited Liability
- The issue of the homeless people: A first approach
- Objectives and policies to combat poverty and promote social inclusion in Greece

The social portrait of Greece 2012

This edition is characterized by three new elements:

- a) Interviews with distinguished scientists- experts on issues concerning the financial crisis
- b) Qualitative interviews with poor people
- c) Articles focused on the crisis

Part I – Interviews with:

- Nikos Mouzelis, Professor Emeritus of Sociology. London School of Economics
- Vassilis Panayiotopoulos, Historian, Emeritus Director of Research National research Institution
- Stergios Babanasis, Professor Emeritus in University of Athens, President in the Institution of Mediterranean Studies
- Anna Fragoudaki, Professor Emeritus in University of Athens
- Elias Katsoulis, Professor of Political Sociology

The questions stated to the scientists:

The interviews, where conducted during the period February – May 2012. In particular the questions concerned:

- a) the factors that played a major role in the advent of the current crisis (historical, political, social, economic, etc.)
- b) analysis and criticism dealing with the management of the current crisis, in Greek and European level
- c) the main consequences of the crisis for the present and the future of the country and of Europe, in relation to the welfare State, the labor market, social rights and, more generally the institutions
- d) the conditions necessary and speculated that will lead towards recovery and exit from the crisis

The social portrait of Greece 2012

Part II. – Articles

- In the altar of “competitiveness”: the deregulation of the labor market and labor relations in the period 2010-2012 and its implementations on the prospects of recovery
- Labor Market, registered unemployment and labor flows during the current economic recession
- The developments in the labor market during the period 2010-2011
- Participation of the second generation immigrants in the educational system and their integration in the labor market
- Portraits of poverty in Greece of crisis

Social portrait of Greece 2012, some summary results

1. Interviews:

Nikos Mouzelis argues that there are three main reasons that explain the Greek crisis and the difficulties in overcome it:

- the neoliberal globalization that has led to the dominance of the financial capital and the inability to control the movement of capital at a national level
- the euro zone. which on one hand leads to an unbalanced trade between the European North and South. while on the other hand intensifies the recession through the imposition of fiscal policy, and
- the Greek clientelistic political system

According to Mouzelis, the basic precondition that would lead Greece out of the crisis is the transition from a neoliberal to a Socialist, neo-Keynesian strategy.

Social Portrait of Greece 2012: some descriptive results. interviews

- *Vassilis Panayiotopoulos* states that the only way to exit the crisis is by rethinking the limits of participation in the global economy through specialization and the exploitation of comparative advantages.
- *Anna Fragoudaki* states that in order to exit the crisis, there should be implemented an economic policy model of classical social democracy. that will maintain the welfare state and the state that intervenes towards the wider audit of capital, on balancing inequalities and on preventing extreme exploitation.
- *Elias Katsoulis* indicates that there has been a new discussion in the scientific literature, on the view that the basic "neoliberal" efficiency market hypothesis is no longer valid.

Finally, *a poor man* in a semi structured interview stated that:
"I do not deny [...] as Greece we owe, I say, that's honest and that is correct, since you took the money we should give them back. But, with a reasonable interest rate and a repayment period that would at the same time allow us to live".

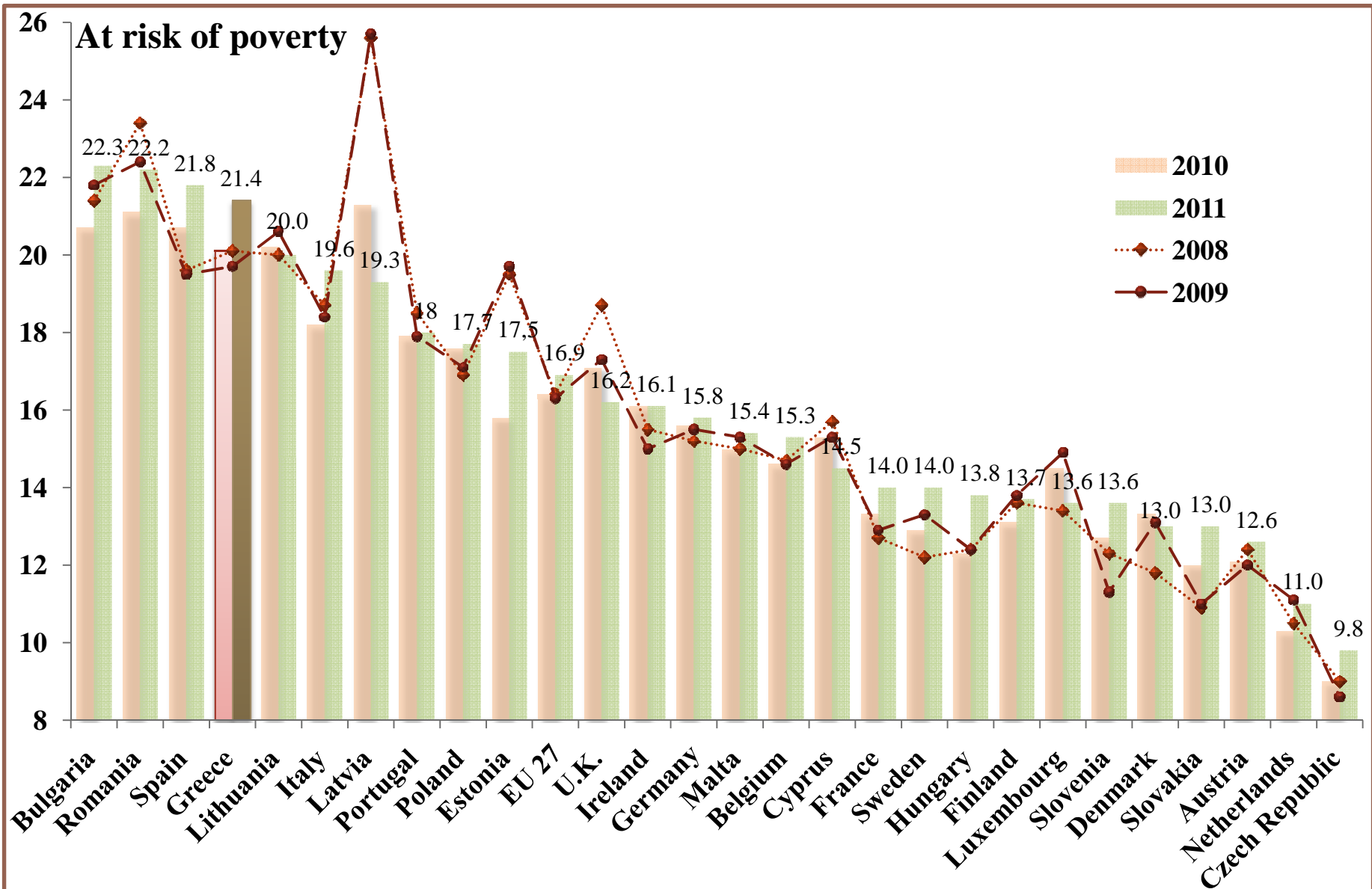
Social Portrait of Greece: Some descriptive statistics

Selected demographic indicators	2010	2011	2012	EU 27
Median age	41.7	42.1	42.6	41.5 (2012)*
Proportion of population aged 65 years and more	18.9	19.3	19.7	17.8 (2012)
Proportion of population aged 0-14 years	14.4	14.4	14.4	15.6 (2012)
Age dependency ratio**	49.9	50.7	51.7	50.2 (2012)
Fertility rate	1.51	1.42	-	1.57 (2011)
Mean age of women at childbirth	30.3	30.4	-	30.0 (2011)
Proportion of live births outside marriage***	7.3	7.4	-	39.5 (2011)
Life expectancy (both sexes)	79.9	80.0	-	79.7 (2011)
People with citizenship of a foreign country (%)	8.6	8.5	8.4	4.1 (2012)

EU 27 Member States by contribution of natural change and net migration to population growth/ decline, 2009*

Demographic drivers	EU 27 Member States
Growth, due to	
Only natural change	IE, PL
Mostly natural change	CY, ES, FR, NL, SK, UK
Mostly net migration	BE, CZ, DK, EL , LU, SI, FI, SE
Only net migration	IT, AT, PT
Decline, due to	
Only natural change	HU, EE
Mostly natural change	BG, DE, LV, RO
Mostly net migration	LT
Only net migration	MT

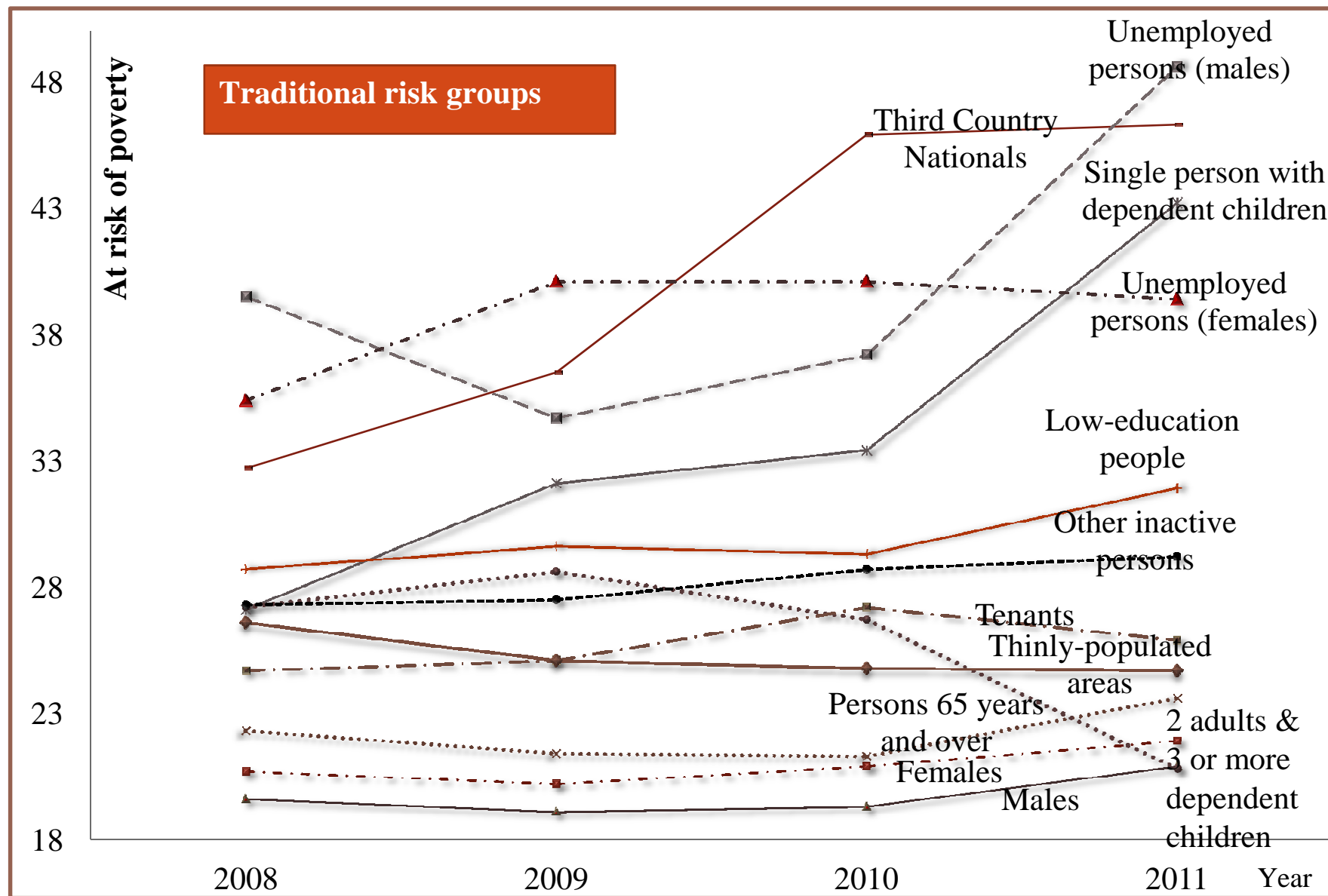
Poverty 2009-2011, EU27 countries



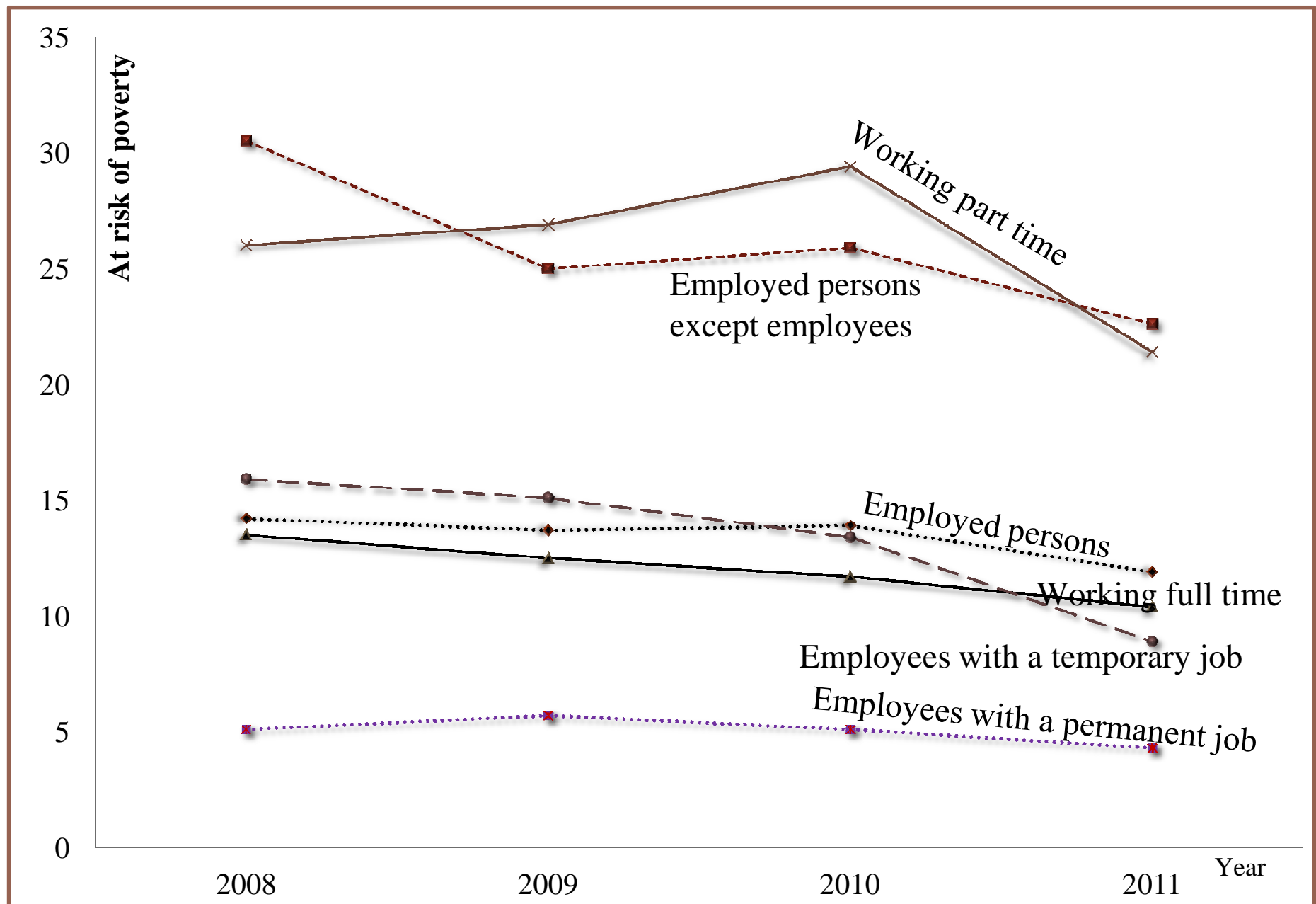
Data values refer to year 2011.

*For Ireland we put for 2011 the value for the previous year.

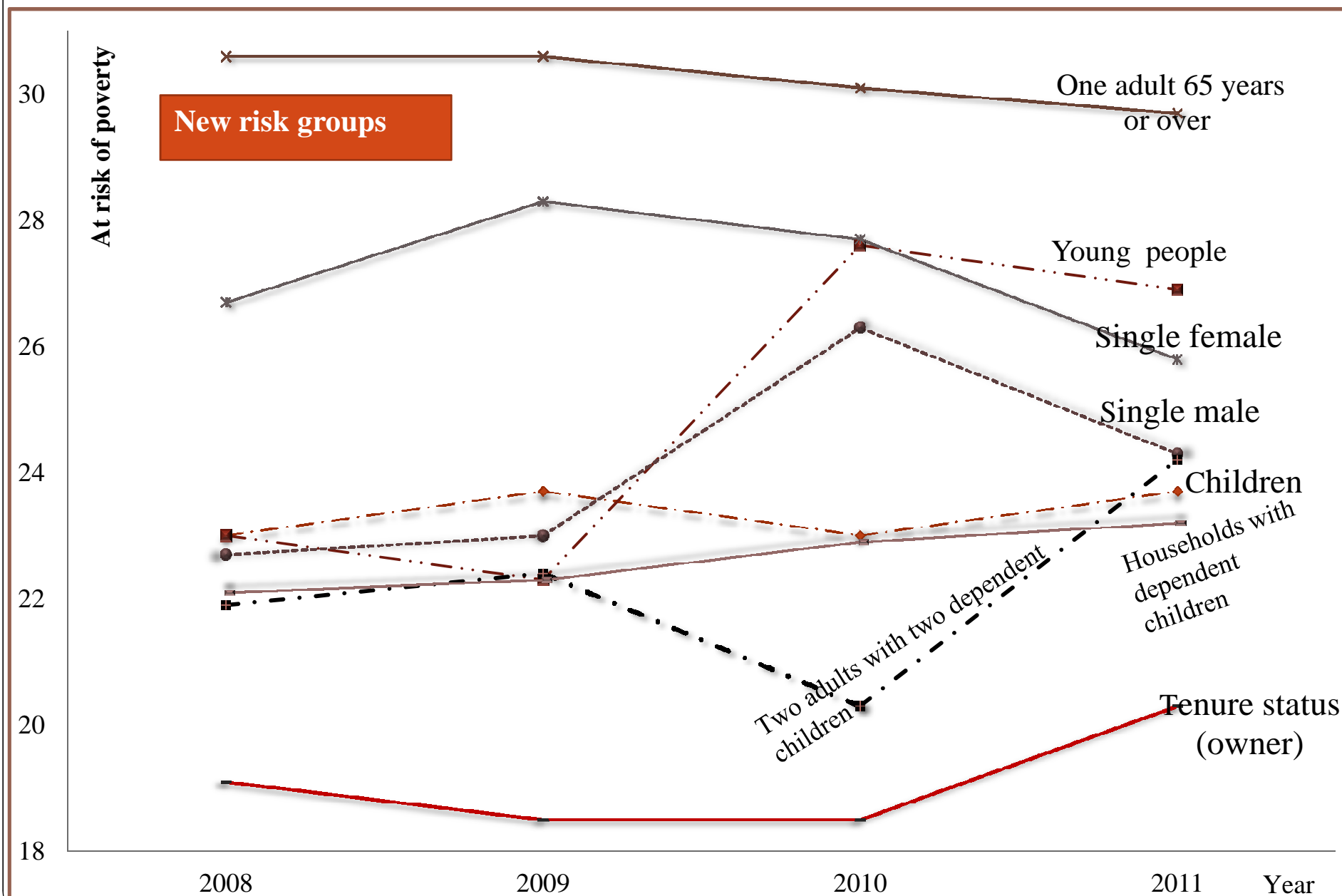
High risk groups of poverty, Greece 2008-2011



High risk groups of poverty, Greece 2008-2011



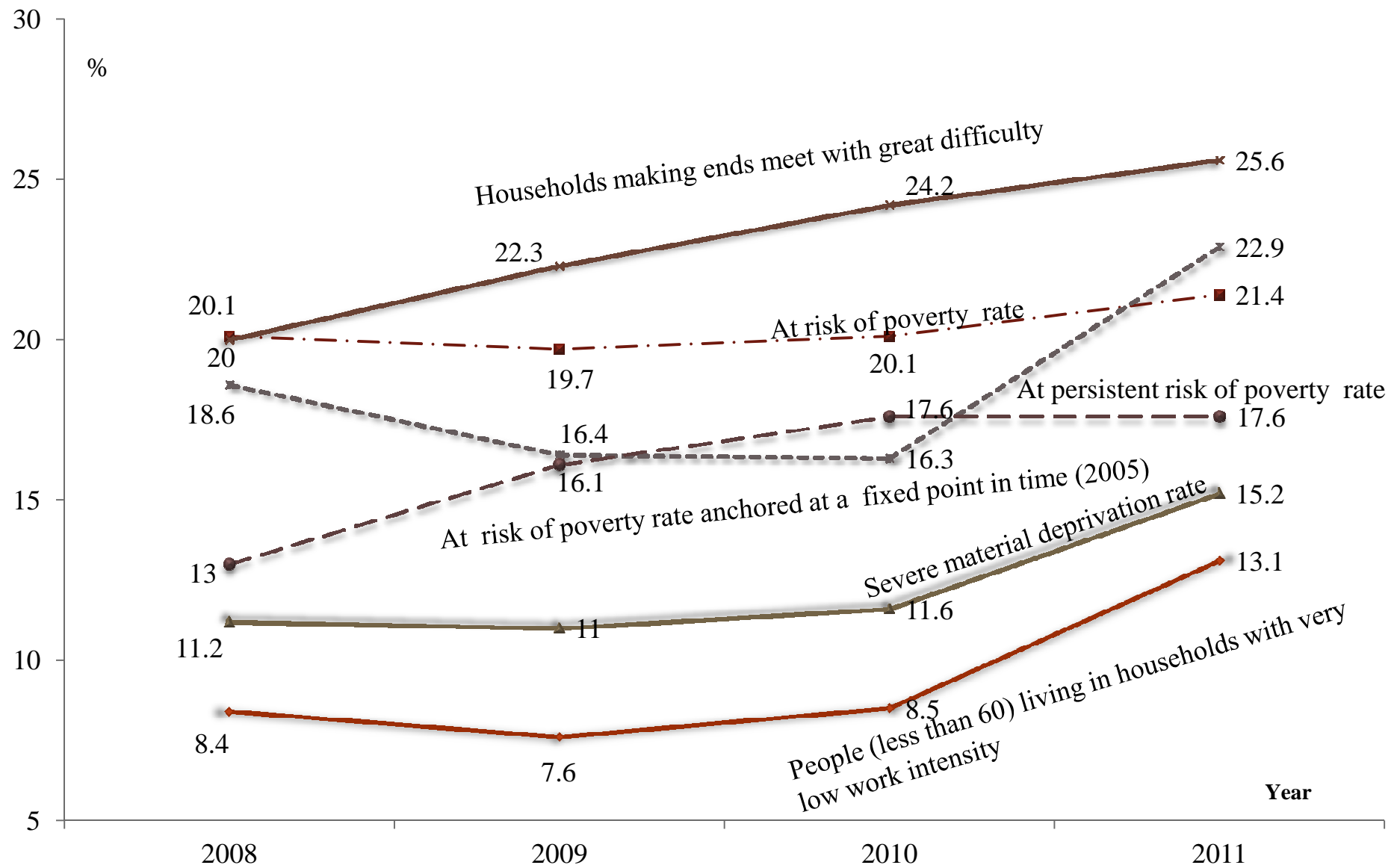
High risk groups of poverty, Greece 2008-2011



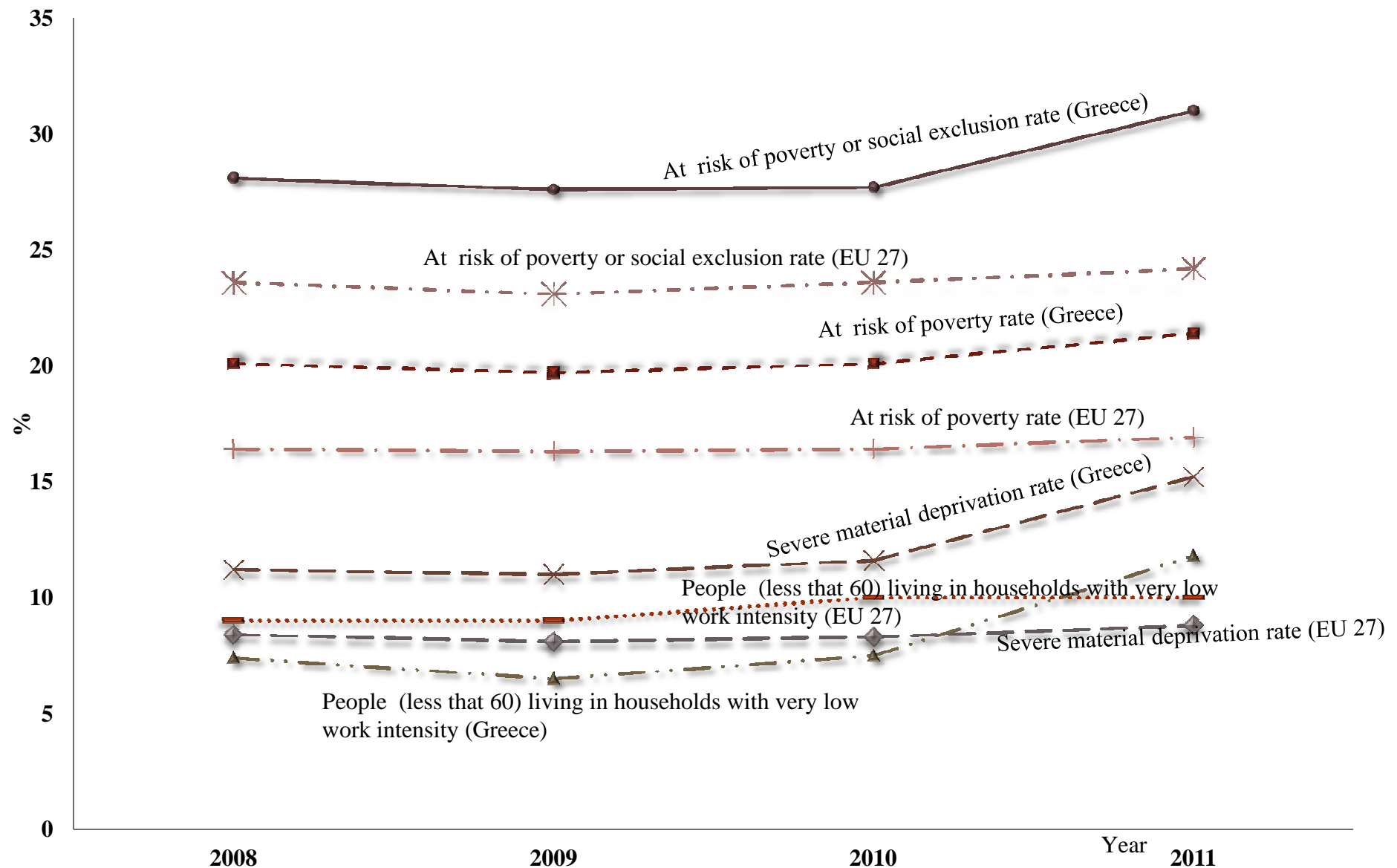
Material deprivation rate and selected deprivation items **for poor and non-poor, Greece 2008-2011**

		2008	2009	2010	2011
Material deprivation rate (3 items or more)		21.8	23.0	24.1	28.4
Material deprivation rate (4 items or more)		11.2	11	11.6	15.2
Inability to keep home adequately warm	poor	29.9	36.8	38.4	38.8
Inability to keep home adequately warm	non-poor	11.8	10.5	9.7	13.2
Inability to afford paying for one week annual holiday away from home	poor	73.6	76.5	83.5	87.2
Inability to afford paying for one week annual holiday away from home	non-poor	43.8	38.9	37.0	41.4
Inability to afford a meal with meat. chicken. fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day	poor	29.9	24.0	22.7	42.2
Inability to afford a meal with meat. chicken. fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day	non -poor	1.4	3.6	4.2	0.3
Inability to face unexpected financial expenses	poor	54.3	57.1	63.4	69.3
Inability to face unexpected financial expenses	non-poor	19.6	19.1	19.3	25.0
Arrears on mortgage or rent payments	poor	12.6	13.8	15.2	22.9
Arrears on mortgage or rent payments	non poor	3.7	7.3	8.9	7.7
Arrears on hire purchase installments or other loan payments	poor	17.2	15.7	17.3	22.2
Arrears on hire purchase installments or other loan payments	non-poor	10.7	12.6	12.3	11.1
Arrears on utility bills	poor	29.5	37.1	38.0	41.3
Arrears on utility bills	non-poor	12.4	14.4	14.0	18.4

Evolution of selected poverty and deprivation indices, Greece 2008-2011



Evolution poverty, material deprivation and social exclusion indices, Greece and EU 27, 2008-2011



Conclusions, some key challenges 1/4

Greece is an ageing country, as the percentage of people 65 years and over are almost 20%, while the proportion of population aged 0-14 years is stable for the last three years (14.4%).

Fertility rate is well below replacement level, with women having on average 1.42 children in 2011. Studies shows that women are starting families later in life because they are spending longer in education.

Greek young people leave their parental home very late, i.e. males at the age of 30 and females at the age of 28.

During the last decades the Greece has been transformed from a sending to a receiving immigrant country. Immigrants face high poverty risk.

Conclusions, some key challenges 2/4

Although the dual-earner family model is quite common, combining work and family responsibilities remains difficult for Greek parents. Qualitative upgrading of childcare services is required.

Due to the crisis a two-fold problem emerges:

- a) an inefficient welfare state and
- b) the collapse of informal support networks which supplemented the Greek welfare policy.

Poverty is a dynamic and multidimensional phenomenon which is more difficult to analyze amid the financial crisis. More than one simple measure is needed in order to achieve a wider analysis and to reflect its multidimensional nature.

Conclusions, some key challenges 3/4

The traditionally poor social groups are severely affected and mark the highest rates and extreme poverty (Third Country Nationals, the unemployed, low-educated individuals, people living in rented homes, households with dependent children, single parents, households in scarcely populated areas, etc).

New poor groups emerge, which, hadn't it been for the crisis, they would have remained untouched:

- the working poor (mainly employees and part-time workers) (It becomes evident that employment is no more a safety net against poverty)
- households with children and no employment
- young people (18-24 years old)
- single households
- households with two dependent children
- homeowners

Conclusions, some key challenges 4/4

During the recession the one-breadwinner (medium work intensity) fail to protect children from poverty.

In 2011, 31% of the population, in Greece were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE)*, compared with 27.76 % in 2010. In 2007 the rate was also 27.6 %.

Poverty becomes more or less a chronic phenomenon. The persistent-at-risk-of-poverty indicator for the period 2008-2010 follows an increasing trend: 13% in 2008. 16.1% in 2009 and 17.6% in 2010.

The situation is expected to worsen during the next years as the informal network in Greece are collapsed, the crisis has raised the demand for social protection, but the supply of social benefits has been reduced rather than increased.