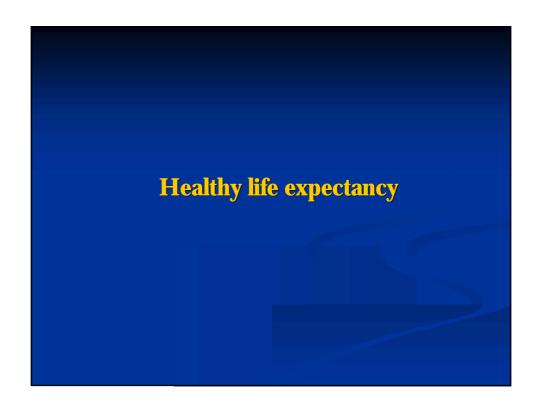
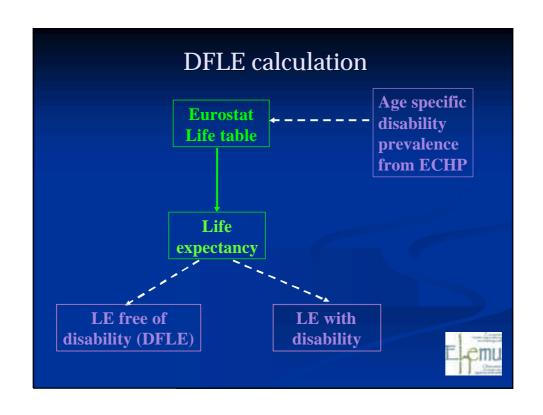
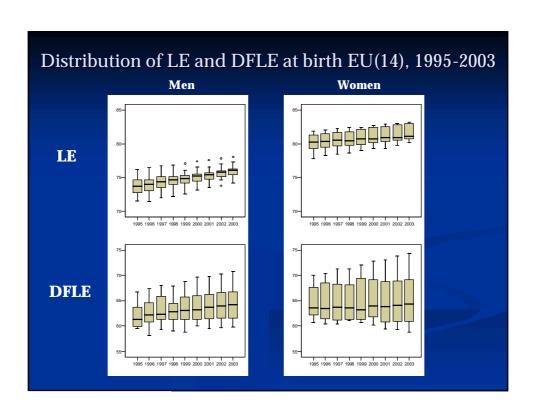


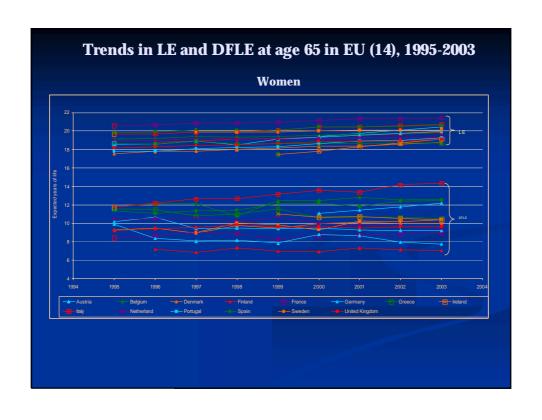
Conclusions for LE

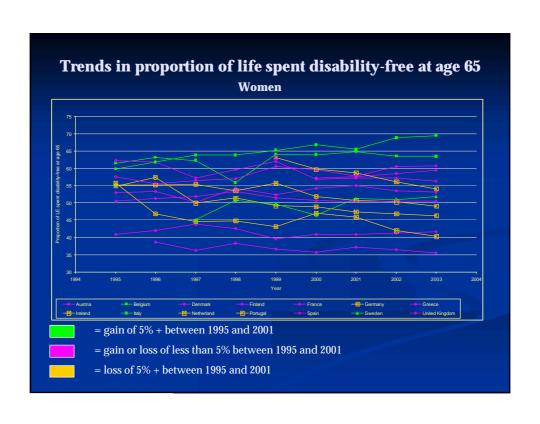
- ▼ The deviations in life expectancy are considerable within the European Union (reaching a maximum of 12 years for men at birth)
- ✓ The current trends do not suggest that life expectancies are converging
- **✓** Monitoring changes in life expectancy is crucial for the EU











Trends in the proportion of life spent disability-free at age 65

Men

- ↑ Austria, Belgium, Italy, ↑ Belgium, Italy, Finland, Germany
- **↓** Denmark, Portugal, Netherlands, Sweden. UK

Women

- Sweden
- ↓ Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, **Portugal**

Trends in DFLE using the ECHP

Life expectancy:

- Small variation in LE between these 14 MS
- Increase between 1995-2003

Disability Free Life Expectancy and %DFLE/LE

- Large variation in DFLE between these 14 MS
- Diverging trends over 1995-2003: reduction / stagnation / increase in the proportion of life with reported disability at age 65 while LE increases
- Gender differences in trends

Conclusions

- Population aging has a different impact in the 14 Member States in Europe:
 - different levels of reported disability (larger dispersion than LE)
 variation in the magnitude of the gender difference

 - different trends over time
- Need to improve cross-national comparisons in self-reported disability to ensure differences are not an artefact:

 - improved harmonisation of the instruments
 using different levels of severity
 documenting differences in reporting
 documenting differences in selection in the surveys

The main current summary measures of population health

- The WHO summary measure: Health Adjusted Life Expectancy
 - (HALE) Since 2000, estimated from three kinds of information: the fraction of population surviving to each age; the prevalence of each type of disability at each age; and a weight assigned to each type of disability.
- The US Healthy People summary measure: Years of Healthy Life (YHL) 'No single measure can adequately incorporate all aspects of health and mortality. A set of summary measures including both mortality and various aspects of morbidity or health that can be calculated from existing or collectable data should be proposed for healthy People 2010.' Including YHL defined as life without disability.
- The EU structural indicator: Healthy Life Years (HLY) In the European Union, the Commission selected in 2005 the Healthy Life Years (HLY), defined as disability-free life expectancy, as one of the Structural Indicators to be examined every year, during the European Spring Council.

Robine JM. Oxford Handbook of Public Health Practice, In press



