

# Working life in Europe | Benefits & issues of reducing working hours.

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# What if everyone had a shorter working week?



Wouldn't we'll be  
healthier  
& happier?  
Wouldn't society be  
less unequal &  
more sustainable?

As stated in a research published by the medical journal,  
TheLancet.

"People working long hours are more likely to have a stroke, according to analysis of more than half a million people."

# Benefits of reducing working hours

## UNEMPLOYMENT

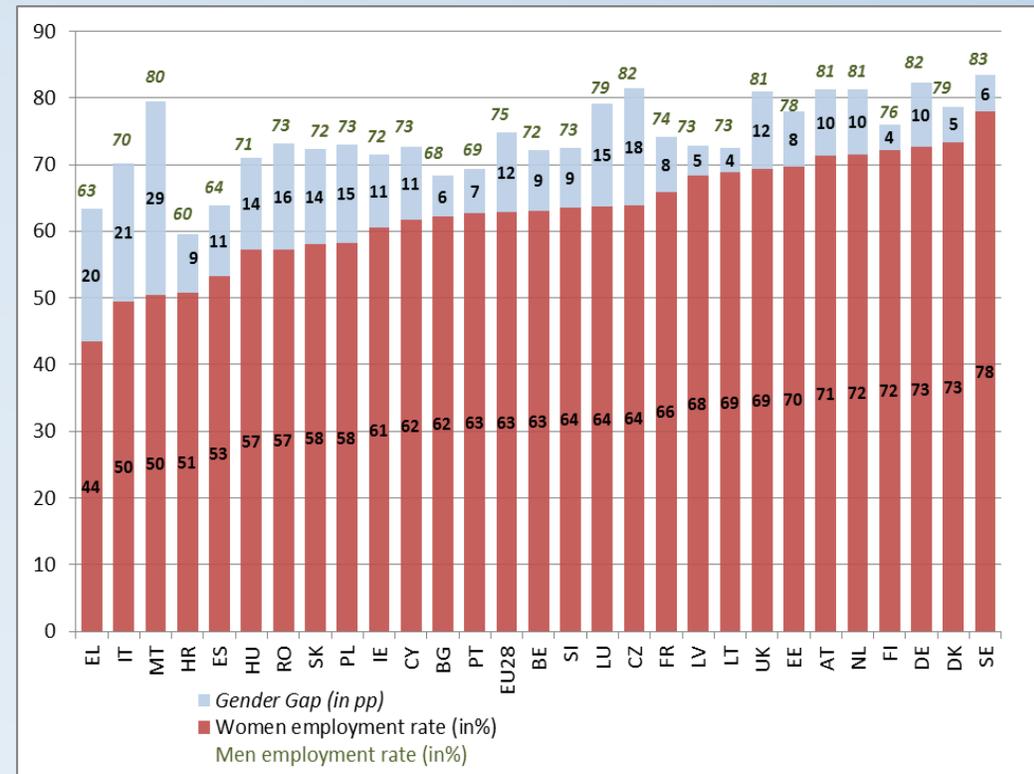
- A shorter working week would reduce the number of people working far too many hours, and also the number with no work at all.

## GENDER EQUALITY

- It would help with gender equality too, as men would have more time to look after the kids and the house. (Female and male employment rates and the gender gap in the employment rate, people aged 20-64, Eurostat)

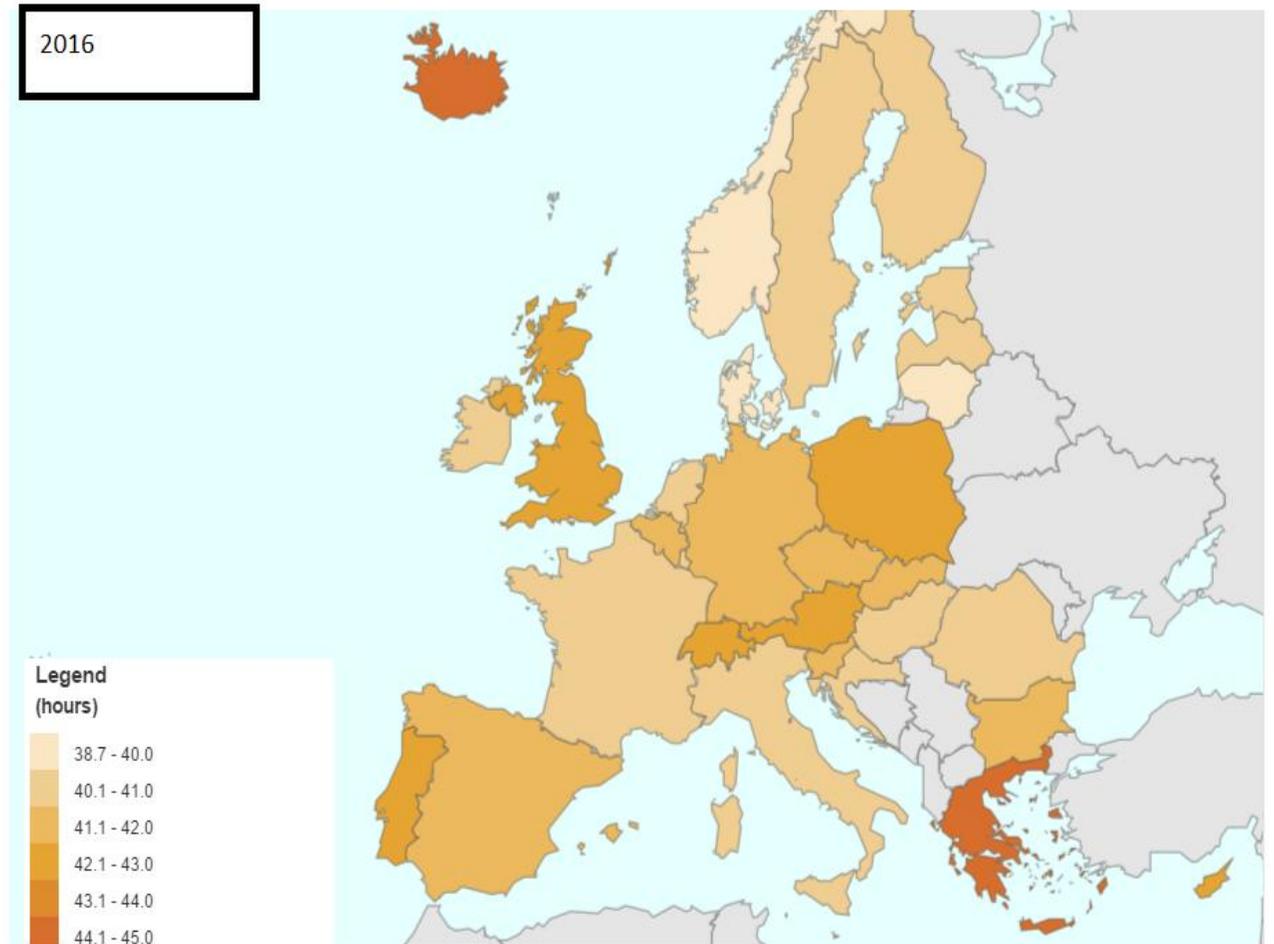
## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- According to a research of the CEPR (Center for Economic and Policy Research) of the US working less hours can help mitigate climate change.



# Average number of weekly working hours

Denmark	38.7
Norway	39.0
Lithuania	39.7
Finland	40.1
Romania	40.4
France	40.5
Italy	40.6
Sweden	40.7
Spain	41.2
Germany	41.3
Portugal	42.1
Cyprus	42.2
Austria	42.8
United King.	42.8
Greece	44.6
Iceland	45.0



(Average number of weekly working hours 2016, Eurostat)

## Issues of reducing working hours

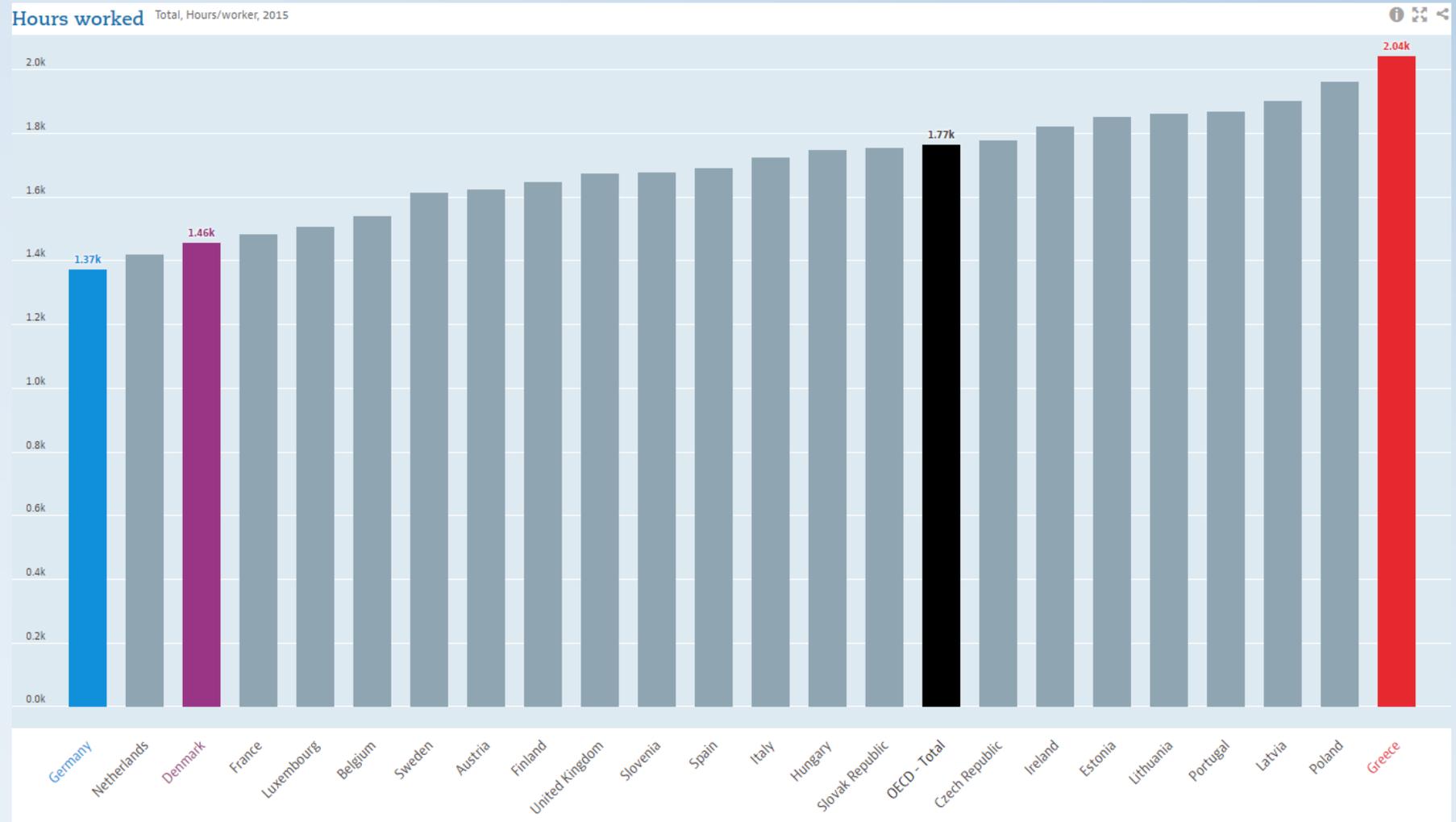
With all these benefits would the economy fall apart?

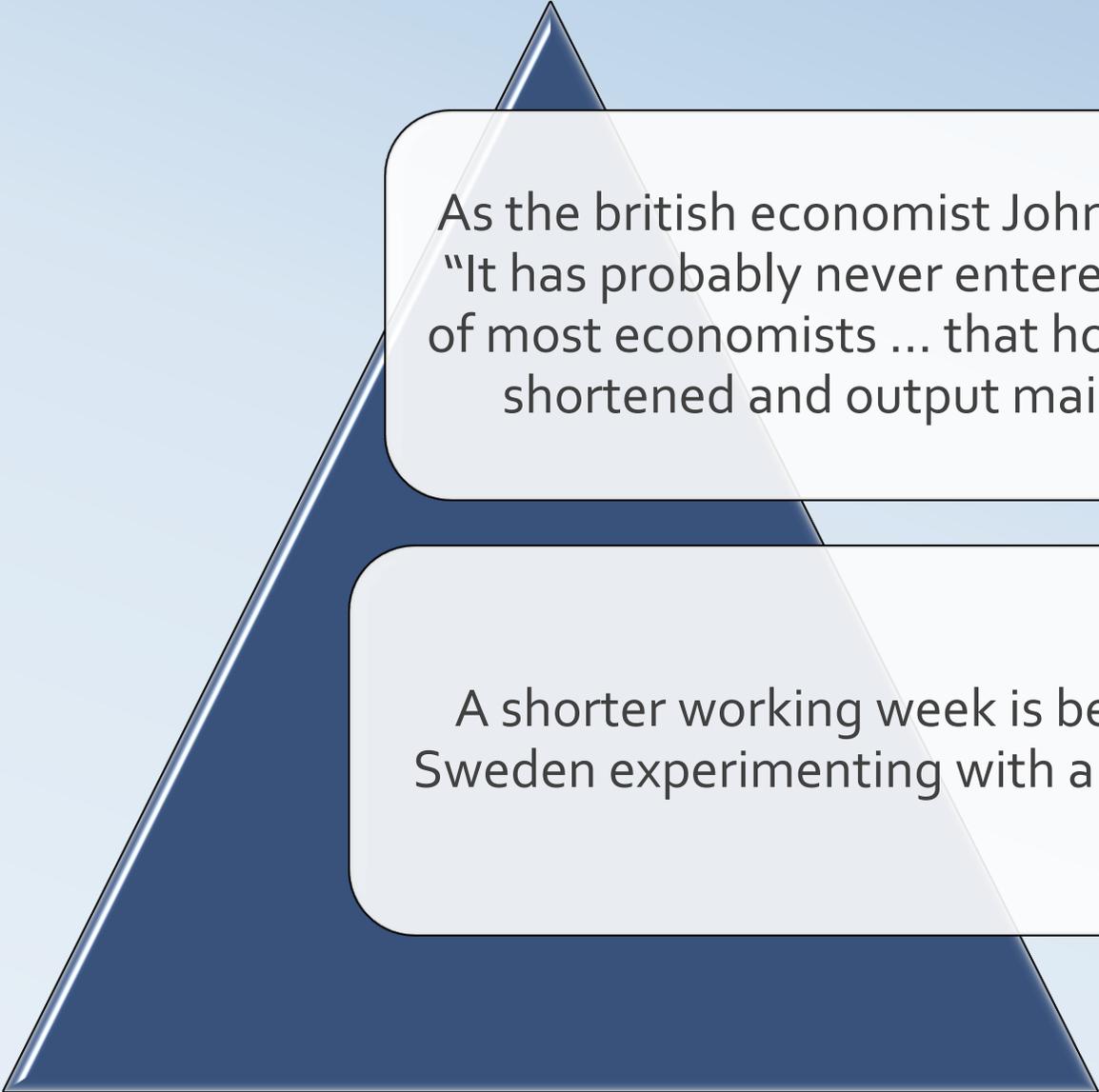
Are we going to become lazier ?

# Average number of working hours graph



- If we look in the graph of OECD below





As the British economist John Hicks said :  
"It has probably never entered the heads  
of most economists ... that hours could be  
shortened and output maintained."

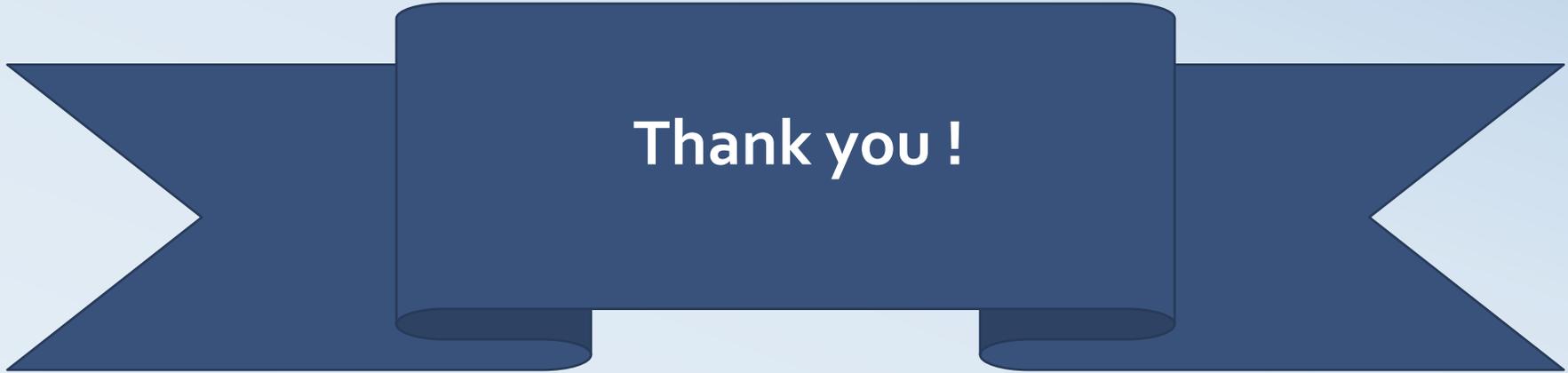
A shorter working week is being tried in  
Sweden experimenting with a six-hour day.

John Maynard Keynes in the 1930s wrote an essay called "Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren" where he predicted that his grandkids would work just 15 hours a week.

It's about time we got on with it.

## Sources

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**Thank you !**